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Happy holidays and welcome to another exciting edition of my newsletter! It's been over two years since my last newsletter and a lot has happened since then.

THE HOUSE

To go with the burnt orange tile in the master bath, I got tiger striped bedding for the waterbed. The only thing missing is a giant poster of tiger eyes over the bed. I saw it in a catalog but it was discontinued when I went to order it! I had a 70's-themed house-warming party as well as a 40th birthday party this year.



THE JOBS

I last reported the layoff from Hollywood Video HQ and my start at Timberline Software with the cool boss with skulls tattooed on his arm. Well, he got promoted and my new boss was so overly concerned about image that she created her own dress code especially for her department and particularly me! She didn't like my cartoon shirts. Then I volunteered to help out at a job fair and for

my efforts received a Timberline denim shirt. With this gift, however, came special instructions from my overly image-conscious boss - wear the shirt only on Tuesday or Thursday, as she got the same shirt and her days were Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I thought she was kidding. Anyhow, I was conducting a meeting in the boardroom and thought that would be a good day to wear my one company shirt. So did she. It was downhill from there. I left the company for another job. Including me, three out of eight project managers gave notice within two weeks of each other and she was fired two months later. ☺

NEXT

I started working for Chrome Data managing projects for General Motors in addition to Chrome's flagship product, Chrome Carbook. Go to Cars.com and configure a vehicle and you are using Chrome Carbook. Go into any GM dealership in the US and Canada and they are using GM Autobook from Chrome to configure and order vehicles. This was cool stuff, though the company had some "interesting political challenges" that created a rather stressful environment, not to mention the 80 hour work weeks. After a GM cycle finished, I volunteered for another project hoping for more sanity and I got it. In fact we finished the project early and I was laid off, along with about a third of the company. They had to reach profitability by the year's end for some higher-ups to get bonuses...

AND NOW

As you probably know, Oregon has had the highest unemployment in the entire U.S. for most of the past two years. Many of the lost jobs were in the hi-tech sector. We were booming during the dot-

com era, and we busted during the dot-bomb era. I have been unemployed since August of 2001! I ate through a month of severance, 6 months of unemployment, then 6 months of Federal extensions and 13 weeks of State extension. Things I've been doing to make some money:

- Selling off some of my toys.
- Fry's Iomega in-store rep for a few weekends.
- Working in a warehouse for a couple days.
- Hired Santa for an office party.
- Hired Broccoli Man for a farmer's market.
- I play a doctor on TV! (more on that later).
- An extra in a lottery commercial.
- And selling eyeball toys (still not profitable).

On the bright side, I passed the project management certification exam this month and hopefully will have an easier time getting a job now.

WEB UPDATE

The Plastic Eyeball Museum™ has had a name change to the Eyeball Museum™ (afterall, they're not all plastic), and now features over 170 different eyeball eye-tems™ for sale! I also added an art gallery with original works by featured artists. Check it out at www.eyeballmuseum.com. I also created a new Shkolnik family website! Check it out at www.shkolnik.org.

BROCCOLI MAN!

Well, it's hard to top shaking hands with the President, but since last time I have also met Jesse Ventura and I have been interviewed on over a dozen radio stations, including one in New Zealand. I have also been in three magazines now! The



biggest win for Broccoli Man this year was winning "best alien" at the baseball game on "Alien Night". The prize was a trip to Roswell, but I got them to convert it to Las Vegas. Check it out at www.broccoliman.com. If only I could make money from this!

THE OLD HEARSE

You may recall I mentioned the sale of my hearse in the last newsletter. The new owners painted it black. Here's a photo:



THE NEW CAR

I got a proposed bill for over \$3000 for work on the old Chrysler Town & Country minivan, so I traded it in on a new PT Cruiser! Woohoo! I love my PT. It's basically a mini-minivan, but without the stigma! I haven't turned it into a hearse. Yet...

HALLOWEEN '02

This year was rather interesting for Halloween. I got a two page spread in the local paper for reviewing haunted houses! That led to a spot on the news, which led to a spot on AM Northwest! I am now the local authority on reviewing haunted houses! Some of the haunted house owners aren't thrilled, but hopefully they will pay attention and do a better job next year! Again, if only I could make money at this! A friend of mine known as "Extremo The Clown" had a costume contest and I won one of his original paintings for my pirate clown costume.

SURVIVOR?

I have tried out for survivor twice and will be trying a third time. You can see my survivor videos at www.madmartian.com/acting. Check back for more acting-related stuff.

A DOCTOR ON TV!

I figured my chances of getting acting jobs are no worse than my chances of getting normal jobs in this lousy economy, so I signed up with a local agent and got a couple parts. I was an extra in a lottery commercial (I am a dot in the lower left of the screen) and I play a doctor on "We The Jury". On this show, I am getting sued for turning a pregnant woman in to the police for drinking during pregnancy. Yes, they gave me a very serious role, even though I auditioned for a more comical one. The episode hasn't aired yet. It's in syndication, so check your listings - it's supposed to air on Feb 3rd and the title of the episode is "Dr Stool Pigeon". I also played the announcer in a community production of "Bleacher Bums".

BUT I DID GET SUED!

In this case, art imitated life. Before appearing in the faux court room as a doctor, I was sued by Monster Cable Products - yes, the makers of audio cables found in most stereo stores - for registering the web site www.monster.biz. It seems Monster Cable thinks that their company is such a household name that most folks would associate the word Monster with their product. See details at

www.madmartian.com/legal. Read my response to their apology and Disney's response to their lawsuit against "Monsters, Inc".

VISION EXPO

In yet another attempt to make money this year, this time supporting the web site, I turned my free trip to Roswell into a trip to the Vision Expo in Las Vegas. I made a giant eyeball costume and handed out flyers for the web site. I received ONE - yes ONE order as the result of my efforts. Perhaps optometrists, ophthalmologists, and other op-ists are not particularly interested in eyeball toys. It was fun, though.



SINGLE AGAIN

After 2.3 years with the same gal (a record for me), I broke up with Julie. Nothing in particular happened to cause the breakup, but after a certain point it's time to either get married or move on, and we just weren't a great match.

CLOSING

Well, that's about it for me. Please let me know what you've been up to. If you received this via mail, that means I don't have your email address. Please drop me an email at mike@madmartian.com so I can update my records.