

MAXIM

WHAT GUYS WANT



HOTTEST
**NEW
TECH**
2013



BEST OF MAXIM

39 Pages of
Our Greatest
Geeky Hits

Best Comic
Book Flicks

Sexiest Women
of Instagram

Online Poker
Millionaires

And More!

Let our cover girl, Hometown Hotties finalist Bobbie Grei, be your sexy tech guru.

Contents



5 BEST NEWTECH

We hit the floor of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas to bring you to the bleeding edge of brand-spanking-new tech. Ouch!



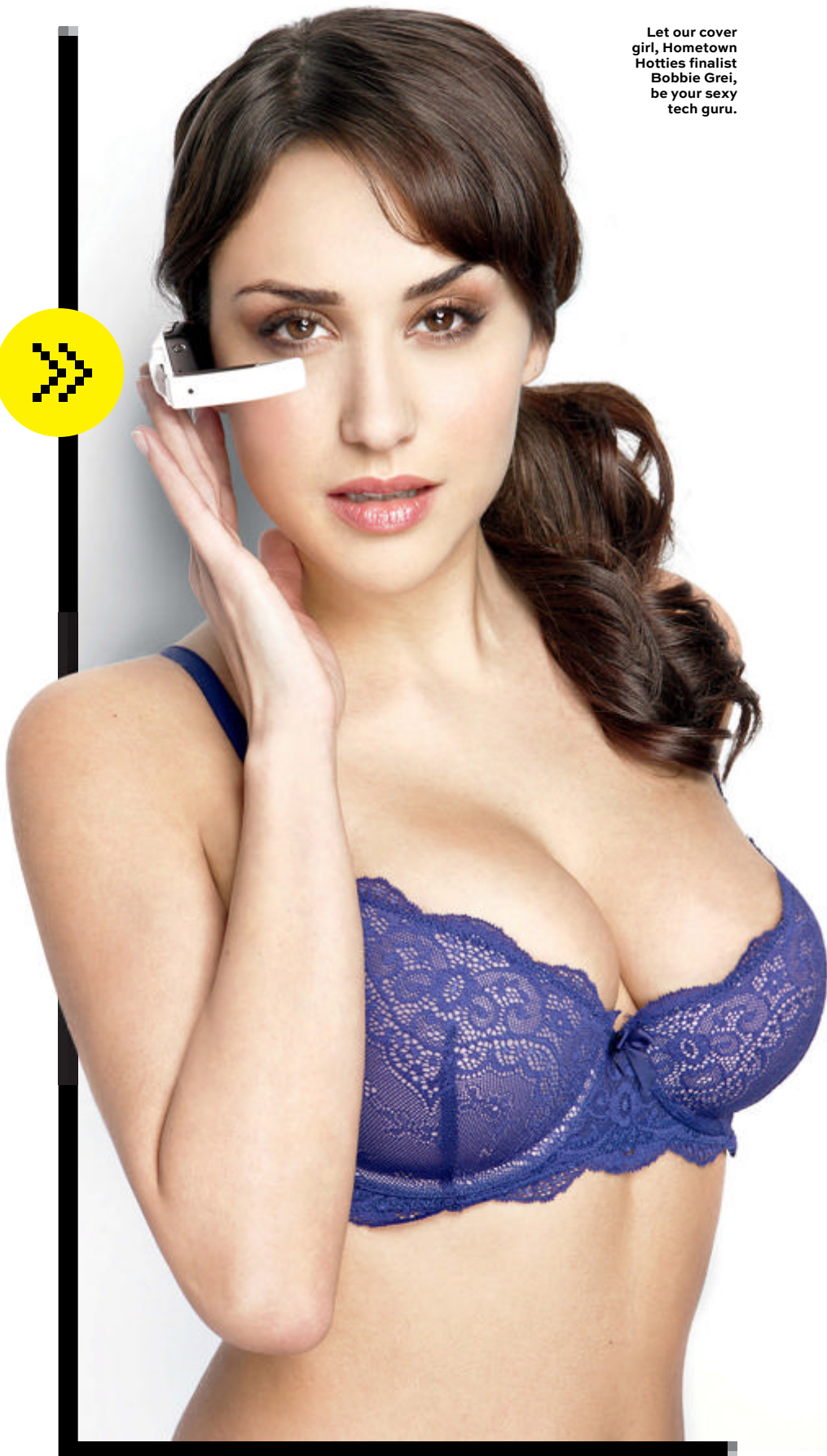
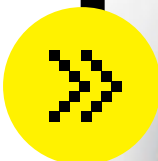
33 WOMEN WITH TOOLS!

No, not a bunch of photos of your ex and her new boyfriends; it's very sexy ladies posing with very awesome tools. Get those safety glasses on!



48 GEEKY GREATEST HITS

Nerd out on the geekiest movies, cleverest poker players, slickest Bond gadgets, and darkest comic books. Plus: Get-rich secrets of the world's coolest dorks.



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*Maxim on Xbox 360 requires an Xbox LIVE Gold membership (sold separately).

MAXIM'S
HOTTIE HOST
HAS YOUR
DAILY DOSE
OF SEXY.



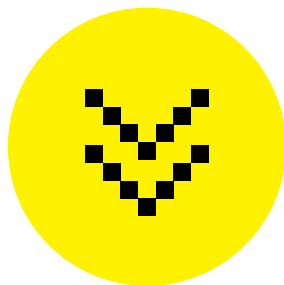
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HOTTEST NEW TECH 2013



Are you obsessed with gadgets?

Do robots make you horny? Are you reading this on some sort of electronic device *right now*? We hit the

2013 INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

in Vegas and came back with cutting-edge intel on all things that beep. And here to guide you on your journey is Hometown Hotties finalist Bobbie Grei. Enjoy!

by **SETH PORGES**

Just a few
more sleek
and shiny
reasons
never to
get off the
couch again.

Future of TV



SAMSUNG UN85S9 85-INCH TV



Here's the deal with new "4K Ultra-High-Def" TVs, like the **85-inch Samsung** set that's coming later this year: By filling your flat-screen with four times as many pixels as your 1080p TV, they're capable of creating a positively windowlike viewing experience. And while the television industry shouts that this tech is the future of TV, unless you're a Stark heir you'll probably want to wait to pick one up. They currently cost a ridiculous amount of money, suffer from a severe lack of compatible content, and are guaranteed to have the horrifying effect of bringing out each pore and pockmark on every Real Housewife. But still, they're pretty damn amazing!

\$TBA, samsung.com

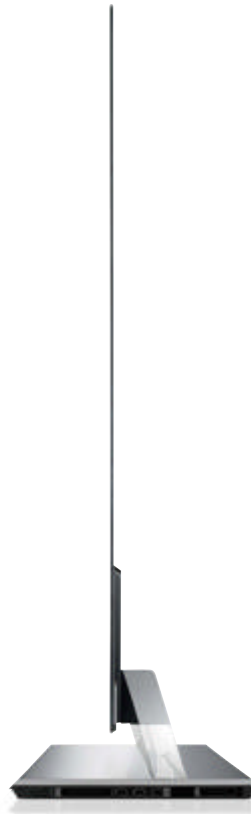


Future of TV

LG 55EM9700 OLED TV



Woohoo! Another futuristic TV tech that may someday be affordable to the plebes: newfangled OLED screens offering a clarity and contrast ratio that will make you want to junk your plasma. Here's one of the first OLED big-screen sets you can actually buy...and it'll only cost you as much as a Kia! **\$12,000, lg.com**



SAMSUNG HW-F750



This wireless home theater sound bar's use of an old-school vacuum-tube amp makes its sound not suck. Ironic. **\$TBA, samsung.com**



**Future
of TV**

SONY
XBR-X900A
SERIES 4K TV



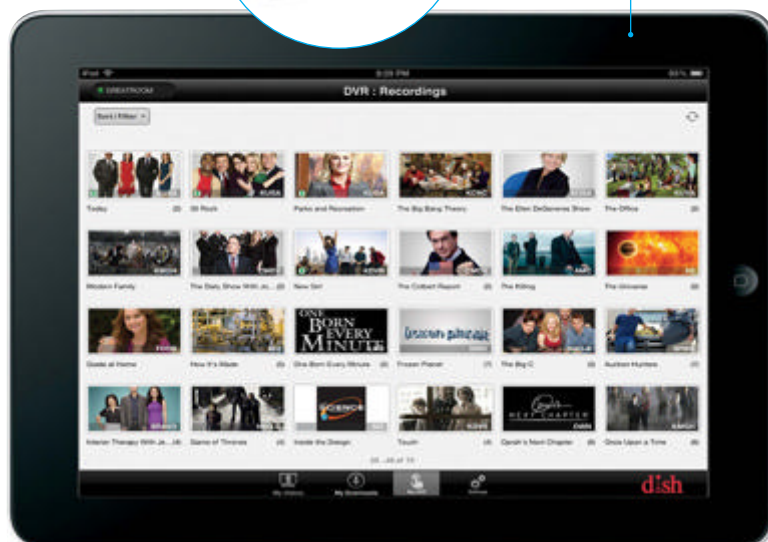
This 4K TV set features a “magnetic fluid speaker” that was designed to work in the space station. Yep, even astronauts need their weekly dose of *Hoarders*.
\$TBA, store.sony.com



DISH
HOPPER
DVR WITH
SLING



Not just a DVR but also a magic show-moving machine! Leave the comforting cradle of your couch’s butt imprint and this box tosses a half-dozen episodes to your iPad for on-the-go (or on-the-sitting-somewhere-else) viewing.
Free with two-year Dish contract, dish.com



Considering you share your entire life with your high school wrestling coach thanks to Facebook, why not make it look good?

Smarter Shooting



POLAROID IM1836 ANDROID INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA



Because this camera is loaded with the Android operating system, you can use it to upload your shots to Facebook, Instagram, YouTube...or just about any other photo-sharing app. Crown yourself king of the Instagram! **\$349, polaroid.com**

Uh, we think you should turn that camera around.



Smarter Shooting

SAMSUNG NX 45MM F1.8 2D/3D LENS



Just flip a switch and this lens—which is designed to pop onto Samsung's new NX300 interchangeable-lens camera—transforms from a 2D shooter to a 3D moviemaker. *Avatar* sequel, coming up! **\$500, samsung.com**



CANON POWERSHOT N



If you're gonna have a point-and-shoot, it might as well be a ridiculously pocketable, square-ish 12.1-megapixel megabeast. **\$300, usa.canon.com**



Tech to use
when you
are sweating
on purpose.

Fitness and Adventure



SONY W SERIES SPORTS WALKMAN



Most gym-ready headphones are designed to suffer through a good sweat. These Phelps-friendly earbuds are submergible enough to swim laps. But wait, there's more! Their built-in MP3 player means you can keep your iPhone in the locker with your spare jock strap. **\$100, store.sony.com**



Fitness and Adventure

FITBIT FLEX



By keeping tabs on your physical activity (and sleep!), current fitness trackers egg on your urge to stay active. But most have a serious Achilles' heel: You gotta manually sync them. Not this one. It automatically beams your stats to your smartphone. The lazy man's way to stay active! **\$100, fitbit.com**



2.00 in



LIQUID IMAGE EGO MINI



Oversize action cams can make it hard for us to get as extreme as we'd like. When it drops later this year, this two-inch-tall POV camera will be just about the smallest one ever. **\$200, liquidimageco.com**

0.955 in



Fitness and Adventure

SCOSCHE BOOMBOTTLE



Your bike's water bottle holder is good for exactly three things: holding water, holding hoagies, and holstering this shock-absorbent Bluetooth wireless speaker, which can boom its beats while you bike for up to 10 hours on a charge. **\$150, scosche.com**



MOPHIE OUTRIDE



Like an Iron Man suit for your iPhone, this case and mount system transforms it into a GoPro-esque waterproof, shockproof action camera. **\$150, mophie.com**

Holding things is so last millennium. Try on these pieces of tech for size.

Wearable Tech



What she's not doing: Googling us.



VUZIX SMART GLASSES M100



There's exactly one reason to pick up this wearable hands-free display for smartphones, designed to tether to Android phones: to trick folks into thinking you have early access to the nobody-has-it-yet Google Glass.

\$TBA, vuzix.com



GOOGLE GLASS



Presenting our nomination for the best piece of tech to take along with you in a time machine if you want to frighten people of the past (or use your mastery of magic to establish yourself as supreme ruler). Google hasn't set a release date yet for its insane augmented-reality glasses, but if the demos we've seen are any indication, its ability to give us an in-your-face voice-activated computer that superimposes data over the world around us might make it worth the shame of looking like we're dressed as the Borg at a *Star Trek* convention.

\$TBA, plus google.com/+projectglass



GUNNAR OPTIKS DIGITAL PERFORMANCE GLASSES



It doesn't take Stephen Hawking to realize our eyes weren't meant to handle 10-hour *Assasin's Creed* seshes. Because these computer glasses give your 'balls a buffer from the screen, they help you subtract the strain. **from \$79, gunnars.com**

**Almost as hot as
your middle school
AV club moderator**



That sound
you just
heard is your
12-year-old-
self's brain
exploding.

Gaming Goods



NVIDIA PROJECT SHIELD HANDHELD GAMING SYSTEM



Yeah, this portable gaming system may look like somebody stapled an Xbox controller to a five-inch LCD screen, but it's the guts that have us excited. When it comes out, this totable titan will pack enough processing prowess to pummel your PS3—and exponentially increase your odds of getting mugged on the subway.

\$TBA, shield.nvidia.com



RAZER EDGE GAMING TABLET



Behold the Lance Armstrong of gaming tablets! It's stuffed with an insane amount of power under the hood and pairs with docking station and game-pad accessories that endow it with controllers. This 10.1-inch tablet is the first that views games as something other than DMV time killers. **from \$999, razerzone.com**



EA SPORTS MVP CARBON BY MONSTER GAMING HEADPHONES



Put away your paltry earbuds. These from-the-ground-up gaming headphones pack an explosion: an amplifying 30 mm driver that could cause CoD to give you PTSD. **\$270, monster.com**

STERN TRANSFORMERS PIN MACHINE



Unless you live on the Neverland ranch, you aren't filling your home with full-size pinball machines. This home-centric machine is half the weight and half the price of the arcade standbys. **\$2,700, sternpinball.com**



OCULUS RIFT



Sci-fi movies from the '80s and '90s promised us three things: hoverboards, sneakers with power laces, and virtual-reality headsets that didn't suck. Thanks to this insanely immersive face-hugger—which is being made with the multiple millions of dollars it pulled off the crowd-funding site Kickstarter and promises support from some big-league game makers—we may finally get the latter. Still, where the hell are those sneakers? **\$TBA, oculusvr.com**



It's time to get even closer to driving in Doc Brown's DeLorean.

Smarter Rides



GARMIN PRESTIGE NÜVI 3597 LMTHD GPS



When you're Tokyo drifting, it ain't easy keeping an eye on street signs. Finally there's a GPS that uses landmarks to give its directions a sense of...sense. Instead of just telling you to "turn left in 20 feet," it tells you to "turn left at McDonald's."

\$380, garmin.com

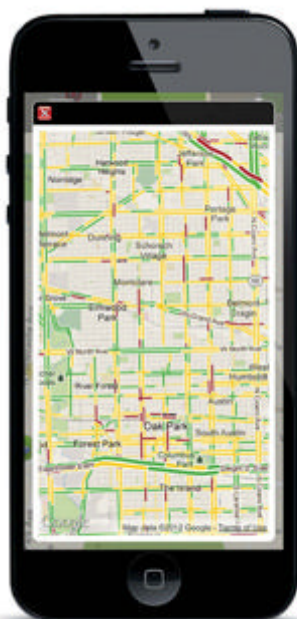
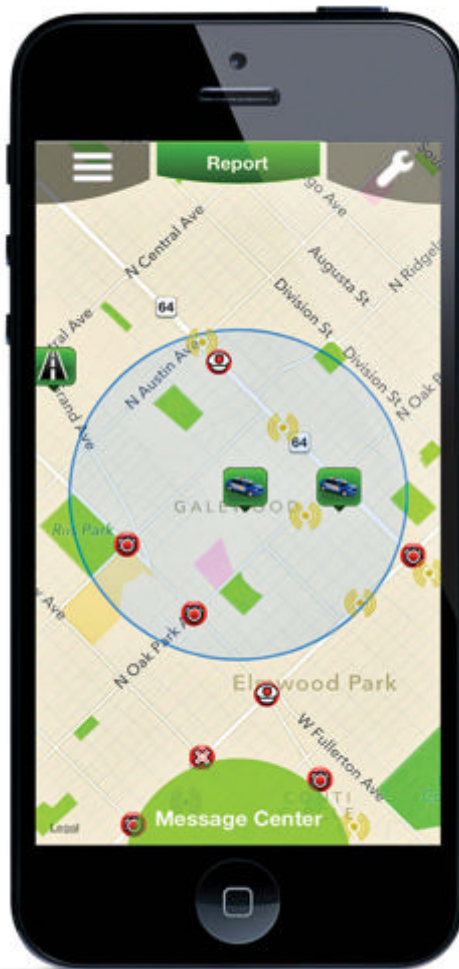


Smarter Rides

COBRA iRADAR S-SERIES



In your quest to evade Johnny Law, the only thing better than a radar detector is a completely invisible radar detector. This phantom ticket-eraser (which hits this summer) stays stashed out of sight in your engine compartment and uses Bluetooth to beam its data to your phone. **\$300, cobra.com**



Pick these up and you'll be just one insanely hot Russian chick away from being 007.

Tracking Devices



KENSINGTON PROXIMO



Use this tiny tool to keep tabs on your keys. Whenever they drift too far from your phone, it beeps. Prediction: Within a year a clause regarding these things will be added to every restraining order in the country. **\$60, kensington.com**



Tracking Devices

TRAKDOT LUGGAGE TRACKER



Sometimes the luggage carousel feels like a roulette wheel. This cellular tracker sends you a text or e-mail if your Timbuk2 ends up in Timbuktu. **\$50, globatrac.com**



CASIO G-SHOCK GB-6900AA BLUETOOTH WATCH



Not just a Bluetooth watch that shows you when your phone is getting messages, it's also a tracker that alerts you if you left your gadget back at the bar or in a bear's stomach. **\$180, gshock.com**



Because, like porn, technology doesn't always fit into neat little categories.

Random Awesomeness



ION PARTY ROCKER



Show up to your next house party with this combo Bluetooth speaker, karaoke machine, disco ball, and you'll make up for that "upper decker" incident from last time. **\$TBA, ionaudio.com**



Random Awesomeness

SONY XPERIA Z



Every year toilets claim the lives of thousands of smart-phones. This five-inch super-phone (which also happens to have one of the best cameras of any phone ever) is totally water-, beer-, and toilet-proof. **\$TBA, sonymobile.com**



MICROSOFT SURFACE WINDOWS 8 PRO



It's probably the only tablet that can actually replace a laptop, thanks to an optional snap-on keyboard cover and a formidable amount of under-the-case power. **\$900, microsoftstore.com**



Random Awesomeness

GOAL ZERO YETI 150 SOLAR GENERATOR KIT



When disaster strikes, you're gonna want two things in your corner: Bill Paxton and an emergency generator. Because this generator uses solar panels, it can give you 50 hours of light for a lantern—or 15-plus full phone charges if you're not Igor—while nixing the noise and fumes that come from gas. Take that, carbon monoxide! **\$400, goalzero.com**



LENOVO IDEA- CENTRE HORIZON TABLE PC



Some folks look at this 27-inch Windows 8 tabletop tablet and see an iPad with a donut eating problem. We see the world's best *Ms. Pac-Man* table. **\$1,700, lenovo.com**



**Random
Awesomeness**

SONY SRS-BTV5
BLUETOOTH
SPEAKER



This tiny Bluetooth speaker ball
doubles as the most high-tech
cue ball ever. **\$69, sonystyle.com**



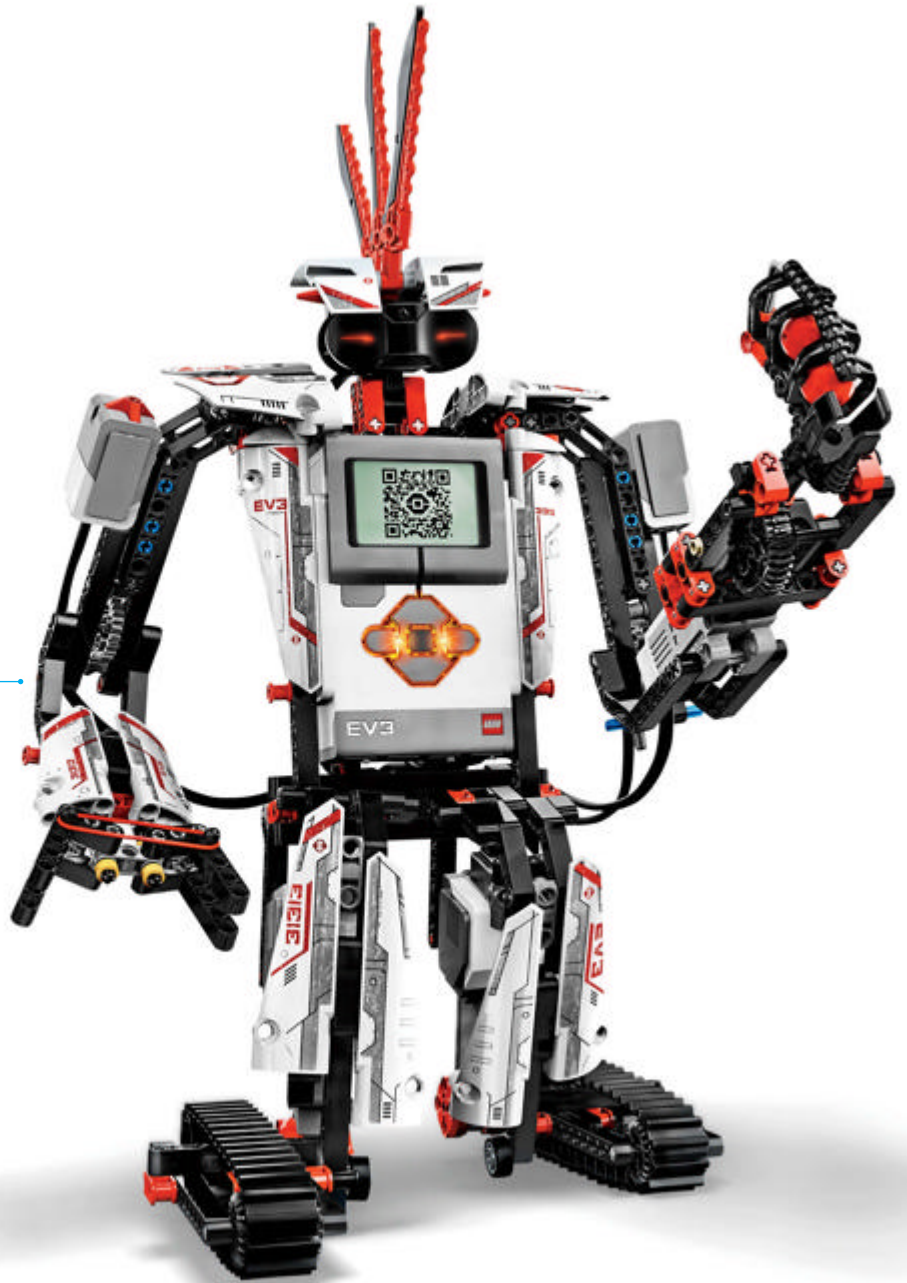
Loudest round
object since
Snookie

**Random
Awesomeness**

LEGO
MINDSTORMS
EV3



They're the crazy high-tech Legos you never knew you needed. Plop these basic blocks together and you get a robot you can control with your iPhone or Android. We welcome our new Lego overlords! **\$350, lego.com**



Run, Gobots,
he looks pissed!



Random
Awesomeness

POLK AUDIO
WOODBOURNE



Your wireless speaker doesn't have to look like a brick. This booming box (which gets its sounds from wi-fi, Airplay, or Bluetooth) features a drawing-room-grade wood veneer that'll pair nicely with your 16th-century tapestry. **\$600, polkaudio.com**



SEAGATE
WIRELESS
PLUS



Because it can beam up to a terabyte of movies or media straight to your phone or tablet without an Internet connection, this battery-powered wireless hard drive provides your device with seemingly endless storage. Save all 57,000 snaps of your sleeping puppy with no worries! **\$200, seagate.com**

Even the most
hardcore
tech-heads
need to draw
the line
somewhere...

Unnecessary Tech



LUMOBACK POSTURE MONITOR



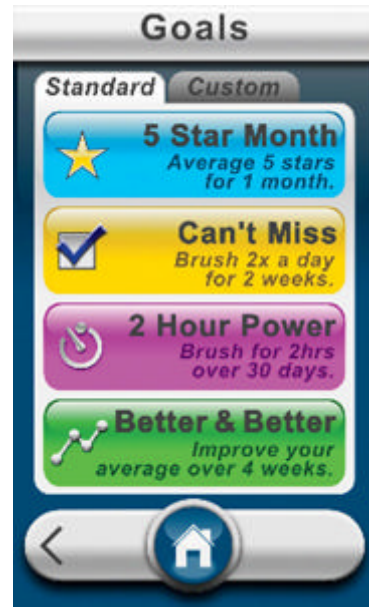
The digital equivalent of a
nun with a ruler: This strap-
app combo alerts you when
your posture starts slacking.
\$149, lumoback.com



BEAM APP-CONNECTED TOOTHBRUSH



Problems with plaque? This Bluetooth toothbrush uses an app to make sure you're doing your daily dental duty. What fun!
\$50, beamtoothbrush.com



HAPILABS HAPIFORK



This fork vibrates when you're eating too fast. The accompanying potential eating disorder comes free. **\$99, hapilabs.com**

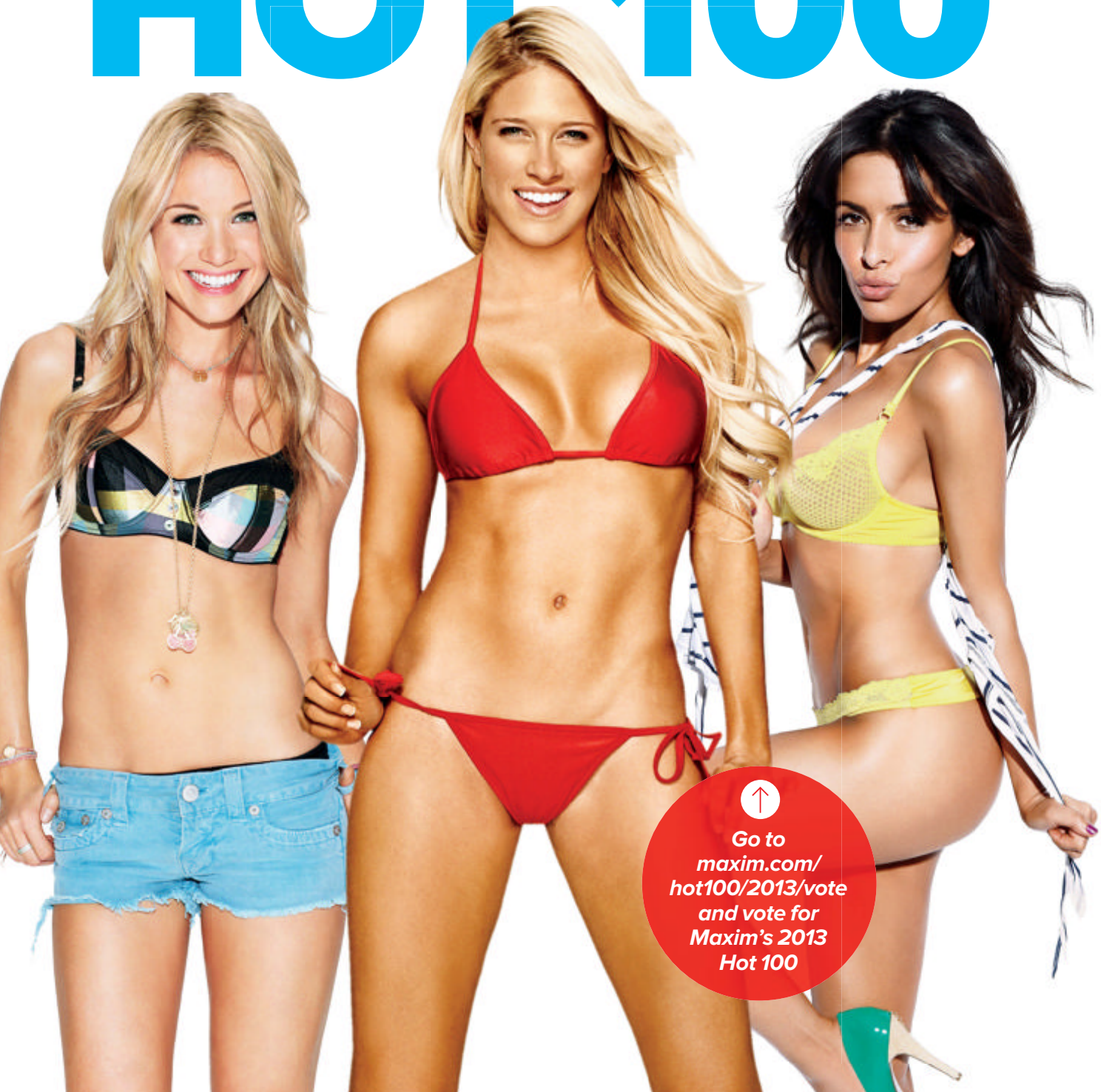
PARROT FLOWER POWER



Budding botanist? Stick this in the soil and it beams an app to let you know when your precious plants need attention, also providing you with the absolute lamest excuse to leave the bar early. **\$TBA, parrot.com**



VOTE FOR YOUR 2013
HOT 100

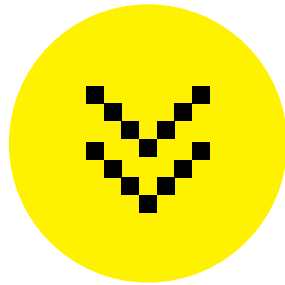


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hot100/2013/vote](http://maxim.com/hot100/2013/vote)
and vote for
Maxim's 2013
Hot 100

Your vote will help decide who takes the #1 spot on this year's definitive list of the world's sexiest women. Democracy has never been sexier! (All apologies, George Washington.)

MAXIM

MAXIM'S GREATEST GEEKY HITS



From Women With Tools to the Ultimate Comic Book Movies

to the lives of online poker pirates, the following pages represent our favorite computer-y, spandex-y, black-rimmed glasses-y stories from issues past.

Have at it, nerds!

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Woman With a Tool



The Bush Cuts



Is your bush overgrown? Introduce yourself to the **Ryobi Lithium-Ion 40V Cordless Hedge Trimmer**. This shrub-shredder runs off a super-powerful battery that fuels a 24-inch dual-action blade, making it easy to chop off or shape excess growth. (May we suggest a herd of Edward Scissorhands-style dinosaurs or, better yet, a *Shining*-inspired hedge maze?) And because it's battery-powered, it's super quiet and there are no nasty fumes to make your head spin. The only downside: It's super quiet and there are no nasty fumes to make your head spin.

\$160, ryobitools.com



Next up: our
editor-in-chief's
back hair.



Blades of Glory



For those of us who don't have mystical command of an army of hedge-clipping garden gnomes, lawn work can be a tedious necessity of suburban existence. Hay fever, crushing boredom, rabid neighborhood dogs—all threats to the modern mowing man. While the **TB350 XP self-propelled mower from Troy-Bilt** won't curb that pooch problem, its S-shaped steel blade will crush your crabgrass conundrum. And the variable transmission hooked to a 175 cc Briggs & Stratton engine can push this yard beast to an impressive top speed of 3.5 mph. Plus, you'll free yourself from bag duty with a 2.3-bushel rear clippings container. All that's missing are some sweet spinners for the 11-inch rear wheels. Dirty South rappers, that's your cue. **\$360, troybilt.com**

We asked for a hot girl, a sweet ride, and a ton of grass for our birthday.



Woman With a Tool

Wet Hot American Summer



Shock and awe your neighbors with the **Nelson Fireman's Style High-Flow Nozzle**. With 300 percent more water flow than a standard spigot, the Nelson delivers H₂O at a garden-destroying 250 psi. Laugh maniacally as you wield your die-cast-zinc water cannon against friend, foe, and flower alike. Tame the beast with the metal restrictor valve or simply use the adjustable spray pattern to lessen the aqua torrent...if you hate freedom. **\$35, [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)**

We worry that firewomen dressed like this will just encourage arsonists.



Woman With a Tool

Buzz Worthy



When a man finds himself compelled to go to serious work on his wood, a simple handsaw just isn't gonna get him off. What he needs is a heavy-duty table saw like the **Bosch GTS1031 10-incher**. The compact frame makes it relatively light and portable (and super easy to store), but it packs four horsepower's worth of blade-spinning muscle. Of course, there's also blade-guard and anti-kickback technology to keep unplanned amputations to a minimum. **\$399, boschtools.com**



Not the safest
way to give yourself
a manicure.



Woman With a Tool

Whip It Good



Most weed whackers run on a mix of oil and gasoline, which makes Captain Planet cry tears of glacier water. Because the **Fiskars Smart-Power Propane 4-Cycle Trimmer** is fueled by canisters of clean-burning propane, it effectively combines our twin interests: decimating Mother Earth (the 25 cc engine pumps out 40 percent more weed-destroying power than electric trimmers) and loving Mother Earth (its exhaust beats EPA emissions standards for carbon monoxide by 75 percent). And unlike its oil-chugging brethren, this whipper-snipper doesn't require priming, choking, and stroking to get started. But it still whacks just fine, thanks. (Weeds, that is.)
\$260, fiskars.com

We've never felt the urge to do some whacking like we do now.



Woman With a Tool

Seriously Hammered



Is it possible for us to describe a hot new jackhammer without resorting to sexual innuendo? We're giving it a shot with the **Makita HM1214C Demo Hammer**, which stands out from the pack for two hard-to-beat reasons. One, antivibration technology brings earthquake engineering science to the power tool world. AVT's a groundbreaking (get it?) counterbalance system that directs the 14-amp motor's energy at the busted porch you're breaking, rather than at you, for three times less vibration, lower noise, and higher efficiency than other models. Two, the Makita's 27-pound weight and user-friendly in-line design let you hammer away in both horizontal and vertical positions like...Ron Jeremy. Damn, almost made it.
\$939, makita.com



It's OK, she's wearing steel-tipped panties.



Woman With a Tool

Have a Blast



So you say your neighbor's dog uses the end of your driveway as a toilet every morning? Bust out **Generac's 3,000 PSI power washer**. Its high-performance spray gun is connected, via a 30-foot hose, to two three-quarter-gallon on-board detergent tanks and powered by a 212 cc OHV engine, which is more than enough power to blast the nastiness off your property and back into the offender's yard. Once you've got that cleared up, use the gun to wash away oil puddles, mud, and any other unwanted liquids. (We won't ask questions.) **\$399, generac.com**

Pays for
itself after
the 200th
enema.



Woman With a Tool

Chop Shop



The **Worx JawSaw** may not look like a chain saw, but it sure works like one. Wrap its toothy maw around a firm piece of wood and a quick squeeze of the trigger causes the spinning blade to emerge like Gene Simmons' tongue, dismembering the branch with a satisfying flurry of sawdust and sound. Bonus: An optional telescoping handle lets lazy landscapers reach up as high as 12 feet for ladderless aerial chopping. It's like hiring Mister Fantastic to take care of your yard. worxtools.com, \$119

Meet the newest
team on *Dancing
With the Tools*.



Woman With a Tool

Big Friggin' Wrench



When a lady wants to see your pipe spanner, do you shrink in inadequacy? Well, we've got good news, Tiny Tim! Made for serious plumbing jobs in the oil and farm industries (that applies to you, right?), the **Ridgid 60-inch straight pipe wrench** turns more than heads. It's comparable in size to a large child—five feet—with jaws bigger than a pit bull's. Your pipes will be crying for mercy when they feel its serrated wrath, and you'll be the envy of your less-well-endowed pals. ridgid.com, \$326

All items in
this photo are
actual size.



Can you change
that lightbulb
while you're up
there?



Time to Bounce



Springs? Springs?!? We don't need no stinkin' springs! **The Bellicon trampoline** cans the classic coils in favor of elastic bungee bands that offer a gentler recoil. The result is a softer, more pillowy bounce that cuddles your joints as you hop through long workouts and short show-off sessions. Or as our testers put it: "Whee-e-e-e!" **from \$630, bellicon-usa.com**



Woman
With
a Tool

Rolling Thunder



Perhaps historians will look back at 2013, when, in our innocence, we believed the **RapidRoller** from **Black & Decker** was merely the smartest paint applicator ever, a refillable roller that freed us from drippy trays. That its kickstand was just a bonus that made it easy to rest the roller for sandwich and porn breaks. We couldn't possibly know it was, in fact, the first salvo of the impending tool apocalypse. Or that the rollers had started... thinking. But robot Armageddon or not, this baby is sweet! \$35, blackanddecker.com

This is one precise roller! (Really—this girl was topless when she started.)



Woman With a Tool

Snow Biz



Did you know that snow-shovel-related injuries land 100,000 people in the ER every year? Yep, turns out lifting and tossing the white stuff is seriously dangerous business—what with the combination of slippery surfaces, bad backs, and exhausting manual labor. By subbing out the dumping motion for a pushing one (you're basically a human plow), the **Garant YPSS26U Yukon 27½-inch Ergonomic Sleigh Shovel** clears driveways faster than old-fangled shovels, cuts down the chance you'll end up a cold-weather casualty, and makes it easy to build the most awesome snow fort ever. **\$80, [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)**



“Delivery for
Mr. Sheen!”



Woman With a Tool

Strong Finish



Problem: During extended home improvement benders, too much hammering can drive your overworked muscles straight to sore city.

Solution: the **Bostitch GFN1564K 15-gauge finish nailer**, a semiautomatic striker that will have you wasting wainscoting, conquering crown molding, and housing hardwood cabinets, all before lunch. This 4.2-pound magnesium masterpiece is more than just a brute beater.

An adjustable depth guide can precisely control how deep you're nailing; oil-free operation ensures you won't leave stains behind; and a lockout function even prevents misfires. Only after you've nailed all the trim in the house will they be able to pull this gun from your warm, not overly fatigued hands.

\$309, [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The carpenters
union wants to know:
Got wood?





**The Obsessive,
Argument-Solving,
Only Mildly Embarrassing
Guide to**

The Ultimate Geek Movies





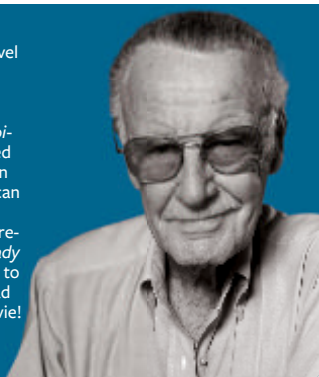
SCI-FI, FANTASY, SUPERHEROES. These are all genre films, and genre films have become our modern mythology. The purpose of mythology in the past was to decode our world and make sense of it, and in some ways that is what these movies do: We see a hero who confronts problems, and we hope that hero is us. But geek culture goes beyond the movies. It's a lifestyle, a way of being. When you go home and put on your *Star Wars* pajamas, it's like the movie never ends. I mean, nobody gets a tattoo of a romantic comedy, but in my office I have a photo of a guy with a giant King Leonidas tat from *300* on his shoulder. Sure, it's really a tattoo of Gerard Butler, but it means something to this guy. It's interesting that it's no longer embarrassing for grown men to be into comic books and robots and wizards. It shows that adolescence doesn't have to end, that we're all chasing the high of that first fix, looking for that *Star Wars* feeling.

INTRODUCTION BY ZACK SNYDER, DIRECTOR OF *300*, *WATCHMEN*, AND THIS SUMMER'S *MAN OF STEEL*
PHOTOGRAPH BY F. SCOTT SCHAFER

WISDOM FROM A GEEK GOD

Stan Lee on Cameos

I'm a big ham, and I love being in the Marvel movies, and I think a lot of the fans get a kick out of spotting me here and there. I was heartbroken about not being in the *Wolverine* movie. But my favorite was *Spider-Man 3* when director Sam Raimi asked me to say to Peter Parker a line I've said in comics for years: "Sometimes one man can make a difference." Nuff said." That was terrific. But I don't think I can match the record of Hitchcock. I was watching *The Lady Vanishes* the other day because I wanted to see how the son of a gun did it, and he had not one but two cameos in the same movie! So I've got to try and top Hitchcock now. I'm going to try for three.



Comic Book Guy's Reviews



Most intelligent film critic. Ever.



1. Spider-Man
"I can't respect a man who'd kiss a girl upside down. Or right-side up. Or in any fashion whatsoever."



2. The First Hulk Movie
"The most boneheaded adaptation I'd ever seen—until the second *Hulk* movie came out. Maybe by *Hulk 9* they'll get a clue."



3. Superman Returns
"This describes what people did with the DVD after they bought it."



4. Sin City
"Michael J. Fox gave a truly courageous performance in the face of...e Oh, wait, that's *Spin City*. Never mind."

GREEPIEST INTERSPECIES HOOKUP



This chick is bananas, he thought.

ENEMY MINE 1985

Dear Annie Proulx, author, *Brokeback Mountain*: Come clean, sister—you know you stole the plot of *Enemy Mine*. Aside from the setting of planet Fyrine IV (Fire Island?), it's the same friggin' story: Boy meets boy. Boys share forbidden love "as brothers." Boy dies

having nasty alien baby. Busted! Although the sight of Dennis Quaid and alien Louis Gossett Jr. getting it on was much hotter.

Runners-up:

- *Planet of the Apes* (above) 1968
- Tony Shalhoub and Missi Pyle (alien) in *Galaxy Quest* 1999
- *Avatar* 2009

MOST DYSTOPIAN FUTURE

MAD MAX 1979

Three decades ago it was apparent that postapocalyptic society would resemble one of two things: the dark, teeming metropolis of *Blade Runner* or the cracked, desiccated outback of *Mad Max*. Either way, the future *su-u-u-cks*, but life with a bunch of mongoloid Aussies is worse.

Runners-up:

- *Blade Runner* 1982
- *Escape From New York* 1981
- *Soylent Green* 1973



- *Children of Men* 2006
- *Logan's Run* 1976
- *The Book of Eli* 2010
- *Brazil* 1985
- *I Am Legend* 2007
- *A Clockwork Orange* 1971

→ HARDEST LINES TO SAY WITH A STRAIGHT FACE: "HERE'S YOUR SUBZERO. NOW, PLAIN ZERO!"—SCHWARZENEGGER, *THE RUNNING MAN* →



"Do you think the rhinestone clasp is too much?"

ROCKIN'EST GEEK FREAK

DAVID BOWIE IN *Labyrinth* 1986

Rock stars have given us some memorable movie moments, and what they lack in acting chops, they make up for in harebrained hairdos. Exhibit A: Bowie as the Goblin King. If Glenn Close circa *Fatal Attraction* stuck her finger in an electric socket and then mated with a rabid lion, the resulting hair-baby might approach Bowie's in this tweaked fantasy. But as creepy as his relationship with a teenage Jennifer

Connelly is, how can you knock a film that brought together Jim Henson, George Lucas, and Ziggy Stardust?

Runners-up:

- Sting in *Dune* 1984
- Mick Jagger in *Freejack* 1992
- Tina Turner in *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* 1985
- Grace Jones in *Conan the Destroyer* 1984
- Ringo Starr in *Caveman* 1981
- Rihanna in *Battleship* 2012

MOST EVIL OF EVIL ROBOT

IAN HOLM AS ASH IN *Alien* 1979



Disregard for life? Check. Monotone British accent? Check. Seems human till he sweats milk and chokes Sigourney Weaver with a titty magazine? Check. The man who would be the first Bilbo Bag-

gins is easier to destroy than, say, the T-1000, but Holm's victory was sealed with this line, delivered by his severed head: "I can't lie to you about your chances, but...you have my sympathies."

Runners-up:

- HAL 9000 in *2001* 1968
- Yul Brynner in *Westworld* 1973
- Sentinels in *The Matrix* 1999
- Robert Patrick in *Terminator 2* 1991
- ED-209 in *RoboCop* 1987
- Evil Bill & Ted in *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* 1991

BIGGEST SELLOUT

LAURENCE OLIVIER IN *Clash of the Titans* 1981

He's been called the greatest thespian of all time, so who better to don Zeus' toga in the original *Clash of the Titans*? Olivier's arch-Shakespearean take on the deity may win the prize, but he's not alone: Brando was paid \$3.7 million for *Superman* (that's \$16.2 million today). Not bad for 10 mumbly minutes.

Runners-up:

- Liam Neeson (as Zeus) in *Clash of the Titans* 2010
- James Earl Jones in *Conan*



the *Barbarian* 1982

- Frank Langella in *Masters of the Universe* 1987
- Robert De Niro in *Stardust* 2007

GEEK GODDESSES: JESSICA ALBA IN *SIN CITY*

5



Jessica Alba as a snake-hipped stripper? Yes, please! Sadly for the lovelorn Marv, there was no sex in the Champagne Room.

WISDOM FROM A GEEK GOD

Lou Ferrigno on CGI






When I heard about Ang Lee's *Hulk*, I wanted to reprise the role, but apparently they wanted to do CGI. So basically they spent \$175 million where they could have spent maybe a tenth of that, used me, and made way more money. There's no comparison between the CGI Hulk and the human Hulk. The big difference? No feelings. The original Hulk, it shows feelings. It was human. The CGI Hulk still looks rubbery, not real.



→ ■ "COME ON, GOD, A LITTLE HELP. IT'S ALL I'M ASKING."—BRUCE WILLIS, *ARMAGEDDON* ■ "I HAVE COME HERE TO CHEW BUBBLEGUM AND KICK ASS..." →

Lingua Dorka

Match the fictional language to the translation.

1	2	3	4	5
"Hab SoSll' Quch!"	"Kal kek m'al shol'va."	"Goopta mo bossa."	"Dole lohst leen."	"Khrokon! Khrokon!"
				
Klingon <i>Star Trek</i>	Goauld <i>Stargate</i>	Huttese <i>Star Wars</i>	Sindarin <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	Gelfling <i>The Dark Crystal</i>

Translations:

"Where is your God now?"	"Emperor! Emperor!"	"Your mother has a smooth forehead!"	"May your mind not evaporate."	"Your head is empty."
A	B	C	D	E

Answer key: 1:C, 2:A, 3:D, 4:E, 5:B

Battledork Galactica

We put the biggest fans in the galaxy head-to-head to see once and for all which rules: *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*.

Jonathan Lane
Star Trek

Former chief of communications, STARFLEET (sfi.org) fan club



v

Mark Fordham
Star Wars

Former president, goist Legion (goist.com) fan club



THE SHIPS

"If the *Millennium Falcon* fought the *Enterprise*, well, the *Falcon* has lasers, which, you know, were, like, 100 years before Kirk. We've got phasers! And as far as I know, there are no photon torpedoes on the *Falcon*. Ha!"

"That's not a fair comparison! The *Falcon* is a very small vehicle. It could dodge whatever the *Enterprise* threw at it, sure, but it would be hard-pressed to do any damage. An Imperial Star Destroyer would be a better match."

Edge: *Star Wars*

THE FEMALES

"*Star Wars* has only two, but *Trek* has something for everyone. There's Seven of Nine from *Voyager*, T'Pol in *Enterprise*, and Jadzia Dax from *Deep Space Nine*, to name a few. And the new Uhura, Zoe Saldana? I would *not* kick her out of bed...but my wife would."

Edge: *Star Trek*

"Two words: metal bikini. Ah, Princess Leia, what a wonderful character. But there are more than two. There's Padmé, of course; Anakin's mother; Aunt Beru; the Tusken females..." [Jonathan interjects: "Sand People? You're reaching pretty deep there."]

THE CREATORS

"Gene Roddenberry presented a vision of the Earth's future, one in which we've gotten beyond war and racial strife. Plus, I'm not sure *Star Wars* will be able to constantly reinvent itself past George Lucas."

Edge: *Star Trek*

"Lucas isn't caught up in a futuristic vision. He's a storyteller looking for ways to tell stories. If you're looking for a getaway, what better way to disconnect from reality than to be thrown into someone else's life galaxies away?"

WINNER: STAR TREK (ED. NOTE: WE ALL KNOW THAT STAR WARS IS THE REAL WINNER.)



OK, maybe it is a tumor.

SCARIEST NEAR-DEATH SCENE IN SPACE

TOTAL RECALL 1990

As Ahnold suffocates in the Red Planet's thin air, his face and eyes bulging and inflating into an orange-tinted Jiminy Glick in Paul Verhoeven's epic of cheesy mind-fuckery, we're forced to stifle our inherently nerdy need to shout at the screen with our

nasally voices: "Bullshit! There's no screaming on Mars!"

Runners-up:

- *Outland* 1984
- 2001: *A Space Odyssey* 1968
- *Mission to Mars* 2000
- *Sunshine* 2007
- *Deep Impact* 1998

BIGGEST INTERGALACTIC ASSHOLE

GENERAL ZOD 1980

Superman II's supervillain isn't as merciless as Ming, nor is he as complex as loony Lord Whorfin. But as played by *The Limey*'s Terrence Stamp, Zod is the ultimate triple threat of terror. He reduces our POTUS to tears, kicks the snot out of Superman, and unabashedly rocks that sexy disco-era backup-singer getup. Bonus: He owns the greatest one-liner in all of sci-fi-dom (yell it with us): "Kneel before Zod!"

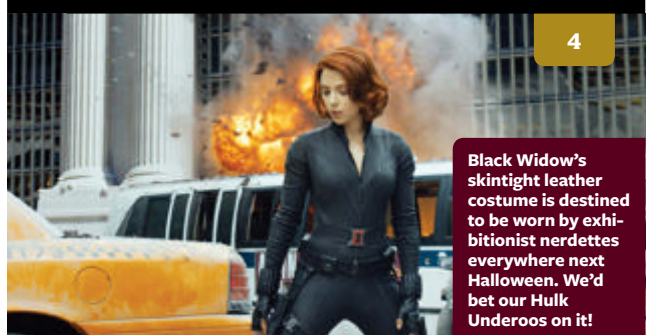
Runners-up:

- Gene Hackman as Lex Luthor in *Superman* 1978
- John Lithgow as Lord Whorfin



- in *Buckaroo Bonzai* 1984
- Max Von Sydow as Ming the Merciless in *Flash Gordon* 1980
- Heath Ledger as the Joker in *The Dark Knight* 2008
- Ian McKellen as Magneto in *X-Men* 2000

GEEK GODDESSES: SCARLETT JOHANSSON IN THE AVENGERS



Black Widow's skintight leather costume is destined to be worn by exhibitionist nerdettes everywhere next Halloween. We'd bet our Hulk Underoos on it!

→ AND I'M ALL OUT OF BUBBLEGUM."—RODDY PIPER, *THEY LIVE* ■ "TODAY WE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE."—BILL PULLMAN, *INDEPENDENCE DAY* →

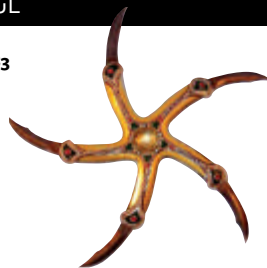


"Glaive, will you marry me?"

WEAPON OF CHOICE

THE GLAIVE IN *KRULL* 1983

Like the four-eyed love child of *Star Wars* and *The Lord of the Rings*, 1983's *Krull* was a perfect storm of geekiness. So it's only fitting that it should have the baddest weapon in the fanboy universe. Colwyn's boomerang-like glaive makes lasers, phasers, and sabers of all kinds look like Nerf. Why would a thrown, bladed weapon disintegrate aliens from the future invading a planet in another galaxy that's somehow populated by humans and cyclopes? We don't know. But it's so awesome, we just don't care.



Runners-up:

- Zorg's ZF-1 in *Fifth Element* 1997
- The chainsaw in *Army of Darkness* 1982
- Double-bladed lightsaber in *The Phantom Menace* 1999
- Thor's hammer in *Thor*, 2011

Your DIY Comic-Con Costume



With *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* debuting next month, Erik Beck, an effects expert on *Hubooom! Action Testers*, tells how to rock out as Snake Eyes.



1 Muscle Shirt: Part 1

Cut out your new muscles—deltoids, biceps, and abs—from a sheet of two-inch-thick foam. "A turkey carver will cut through the foam like butter," Beck says. Spray-glue it to a long-sleeve shirt.



2 Muscle Shirt: Part 2

Take full-body dancing tights and pull them around the suit. Look ripped by spray-gluing the tights down and firmly pressing on the divots between the muscles. Cover with black spray paint.



3 Mask

Tape down a series of thin, horizontal lines on the visor of a motorcycle helmet. Then spray black. When you pull off the tape, you'll be able to see through those lines. Kind of. Glue visor to a ski mask.



4 Weaponry

Douse a toy sword in chrome spray paint. Guns are a different story. "Toy guns look fake, so get an Airsoft gun—they're where it's at," Beck says. Now you know. And knowing is half the battle.

Joss Whedon: Seven Things I Love About Sci-Fi



The brain behind *Buffy*, *Angel*, *Serenity*, and *The Avengers* on what's good in the intergalactic 'hood.



1/ Spaceships in Trouble

Nothing—and I mean nothing—gets me into a theater faster than a torn-up ship with a resourceful crew. The breathtaking scope and the cramped, mundane interiors—it's like crack. Just thinking about what is going to happen in the airlock (and something will) makes me giddy.



2/ Tough Women

Remember the scene in *Working Girl* where Sigourney Weaver kicks that alien's ass? No, you sure don't. Long before little Buffy picked up a stake, women in science fiction were getting it done. And now we have Milla. Dear, dear Milla.



3/ Famous Actors in the Ghetto

Christian Bale in *Equilibrium*. Hurt and Oldman in *Lost in Space*. Sir Ben in... Well, damn, this goes all the way back to *Slipstream*. Either their star is (perhaps temporarily) on the wane, or they wanted a paycheck, or they dig sci-fi, but it's fun to see the big guns in the little movies.



4/ Lightsabers

Whatever else he did wrong, George gave us the most cinematic, mythical, elegant, and oddly comforting tool in sci-fi history.



5/ Robots

Who are we? Where do we come from? What is love? Is humanity worth saving? Who monitors the birds? We all ask these questions, but none more poignantly than people who can remove their own faces. Also, they can remove their own faces. And occasionally ours. 'Bots rule.



6/ Locations

The sign of a cheap sci-fi movie (and those are the best ones) is a good location. They can't afford to build anything, so the future is some Bauhaus monstrosity or desert village. Tarsem's vastly underrated *The Fall* is probably the best. It's all about the (pun!) space.



7/ Kurt Russell

Soldier didn't add up, but check out Kurt holding the screen with all of 15 words in the film. Then check out his deep comedy chops in the masterful *Sky High*. Then check out his entire Carpenter oeuvre. He is the King of the B's and up to anything else that gets thrown at him. The real deal.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ANDY PARK

→ ■ "IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SMELLED BEAUTIFUL."—VIN DIESEL, *CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK* ■ "WELL, MY LITTLE FRIEND, YOU'VE GOT" →

GEEK GODDESSES: JENNIFER LAWRENCE IN X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

3



Shape-shifting blue mutants will inevitably break your heart, but that doesn't mean we wouldn't take this freaky man-trap on a hot date to T.G.I. Friday's.



"Wake up, Mr. Frodo. I'm about to ride you like a Pegasus."

3 MOST CONSPICUOUSLY GAY DUO

FRODO AND SAMWISE IN THE LOTR TRILOGY 2001-03

These two furry-footed "friends" don sweater capes and go on a camping trip, sharing approximately 9.3 hours of screen time exchanging doe-eyed looks. And if the fact that the climax of one of the most successful franchises in movie history (\$3 billion at the box office, 17 Oscars) is Sean Astin carrying Elijah Wood like newlyweds crossing the threshold

wasn't enough to set off our gaydar, dialogue like the following would: "Do you remember the Shire, Mr. Frodo? Do you remember the taste of strawberries?" Awww.

Runners-up:

- Batman & Robin 1997
- C-3PO & R2-D2 1977
- Xerxes and King Leonidas 2006
- Spock and Kirk 1979-91; 2009

3 LAZIEST TITLE

IT 1990

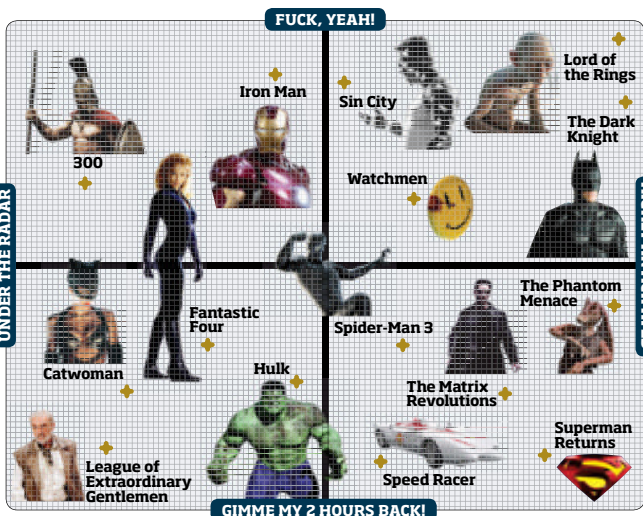
What is it that compels directors to shoot for the lowest common denominator when it comes to naming their "masterpieces"? Pronouns, initials, and numerals just don't cut it. Come on, *It*? Seriously, it's almost like they gave up in the middle of typing the actual titl...

Runners-up:

- *Them* 2006
- *The Thing* 1982, 2011
- *Ghost* 1990
- *A.I.* 2001
- *E.T.* 1982
- *Alien* 1979
- *300* 2006
- *Star Wars* 1977

Disappointment Matrix

Charting the peaks and valleys of our nerd boner.



3 THE PINOCCHIO SYNDROME

DARYL IN D.A.R.Y.L. 1985

With some notable exceptions (T-1000, HAL, the Sentinals—OK, a lot of exceptions), Hollywood has taught us that, much like our favorite pencil-dicked marionette, robots want to be real boys! And none more so than Daryl, who tugs at our heart strings. Unlike *A.I.*, with its wan-faced Haley Joel Osment, this story avoids using a heavy-handed Blue Fairy to get its point across. A litany of government agencies intervene to prevent "Data-Analysing Robot Youth Lifeform," played by Barret Oliver in between his roles in *The Never-Ending Story* and *Cocoon*, from realizing his human potential. But you know how good the government is at fixing things (see your 401(k), for starters). We'd like to think that Daryl eventually settled down and raised a couple of micro-machines with that little minx from *Small Wonder*.



Runners-up:

- Robin Williams in *Bicentennial Man* (above) 1999
- Johnny 5 in *Short Circuit* 1986
- Haley Joel Osment in *A.I.* 2001
- Sonny in *I, Robot* 2004

→ SOMETHING JAMMED IN HERE REAL GOOD.—MARK HAMILL, *STAR WARS* ■ "WHENEVER INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILT, IT'LL BE MY FATHER'S BLOOD..." →



The worst thing to happen to New York since *Smash*.

➤ MOST DESTRUCTIVE N.Y.C. DESTRUCTION

CLOVERFIELD 2008

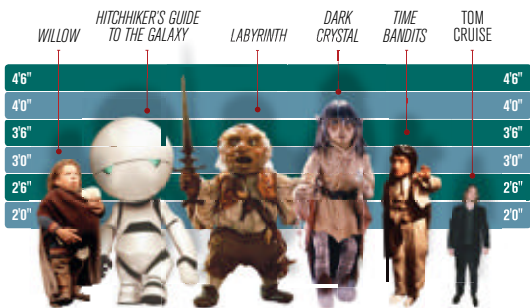
You'd think that in the post-9/11 world, the Big Apple might be spared, but there's something about seeing a bustling metropolis full of immigrants, minorities, and corporate fat cats getting snuffed that seems to strike a chord with the rest of the world. Whereas some movies spend a few scenes wrecking N.Y.C., this whole goddamn movie is about

destroying the place. All of it—Brooklyn, too. Hell, those nasty aliens even invade the friendly subway tunnels. What did we ever do to you, J.J.?

Runners-up:

- *The Avengers* 2012
- *Ghostbusters* (tastiest) 1984
- *Armageddon* 1998
- *Independence Day* 1996
- *Deep Impact* 1998

➤ BEST USE OF LITTLE PEOPLE



WARWICK DAVIS

Fantasy movies have done more for "little people" than stepladders, booster seats, and TLC combined: They've given tiny thespians a steady paycheck. And no one has gotten more work than Warwick Davis, a British dwarf who has starred in the *Leprechaun* movies, *Willow*, *Labyrinth*, *Time Bandits*, the *Harry Potter* franchise, *Return of the Jedi*, and dozens of, um, smaller roles. So what's it like being the biggest little person in the biz? "Several times a day I get, 'Hey, were you in *Willow*?'" Davis

says. "The people who recognize me from the *Leprechaun* movies are slightly deranged. You can see them from 50 feet away, strangely dressed, with long hair. Some have parties where they watch *Leprechaun* movies all day and drink green beer. I suggest taking your brain out and putting it in the fridge beforehand." Hey, whatever you say, little buddy!

Runners-up:

- *The Dark Crystal* 1982
- *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* (Master Blaster!) 1985
- Tom Cruise in *Legend* 1985

Anatomy of the Flux Capacitor



Can you turn a DeLorean into a time machine?

Doc Brown's Flux Capacitor in *Back to the Future* was genius, sure. But to really bend time you need more than some swiped Libyan plutonium, a DeLorean, and a weird relationship with an impressionable high school boy. Namely, you need way more power, says Lawrence Krauss, author of *The Physics of Star Trek* and director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University. "Doc was on track, in that you need a great burst of energy to create the wholly separate form of energy that's required

for time travel. This new energy is the theoretical negative energy. Unlike regular energy, which is sucked in by gravity, negative energy is repelled by gravity and, if harnessed, could push you through time or a wormhole in space," says Krauss. Got that? Good. So, will 1.21 jigawatts give us the bang we need? "Well, one gigawatt, a billion watts, could light a small city, but it wouldn't even take you back to last year, not even in a Ferrari," says Krauss. "Ultimately, you'd need the power output of about a trillion suns."

GEEK GODDESSES: MEGAN FOX IN TRANSFORMERS

2



It was worth listening to Shia LaBeouf scream, "No, no, no, no, no, no!" to see Earth's hottest human chased by giant robots.

→ AND YOU'LL FIND ME." —NICOLAS CAGE, *GHOST RIDER* ■ "THIS IS A ZANDO-ZAN. AN INTERSTELLAR HIT-BEAST. COURTESY OF XUR." —ROBERT →

GEEK GODDESSES: CARRIE FISHER IN RETURN OF THE JEDI

1

The gold bikini that ruined countless Stormtrooper uniforms still haunts our dreams.



WISDOM FROM GEEK GODS

Star Trek Writers Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci on Nerding Up

Surf: Thinkgeek.com. A gold mine of unusual and totally necessary geek hardware. **Read:** Chris Ware, creator of *Jimmy Corrigan* and *The Acme Novelty Library*. One of the few original geniuses working today in any art form. **Dress:** 8stees.com. Artifacts from the era when modern geekdom was born. Don't be afraid. **Learn:** Script-o-rama.com. If you want to be a screenwriter, read every script you can. **Hang:** Drewstruzan.com. From *Back to the Future* to *Better Off Dead*, if a Struzan poster graced the theater lobby you knew it'd be a good summer.



Super Matrix

Analyzing the probability of powers with the help of *Becoming Batman* author E. Paul Zehr.

Character	What's Realistic	What's Not Realistic	Plausibility Rating
Batman	Physical superiority and fighting prowess	Should be crippled by injuries, concussions, and the shame of his codpiece	2
Iron Man	Brain interface with robotic exoskeleton	A billionaire doing anything but hunting white tigers with ivory handguns	3
Captain America	Gene doping and steroids to increase strength	Cap's shield and his unrealized man-love for sidekick Bucky	3-7
Daredevil	Skilled martial artist and gymnast with sensory deficit	Echolocation radar tracking; unlikelihood of Braille ransom notes	4-2
Wolverine	Bonding strengthening materials to bone	Rapid/instantaneous healing; hairiness	1 million

(0=most plausible, 10=a unicorn)



Not ashamed to pay for sex.

MOST UNNECESSARY SIDEKICK

JON CRYER IN SUPERMAN IV 1987

Somewhere between his roles as a New Wave nerd in *Pretty in Pink* and a single-dad nerd in *Two and a Half Men*, Jon Cryer played Lenny Luthor, the whiny, punky, and, yes, nerdy nephew of Lex. The guy already had the greatest right-hand man a supervillain could ask for in Ned Beatty's Otis, making Cryer's turn (in a se-

quel that rivals *Batman & Robin* and *Matrix Revolutions* in sheer crapitude) all the more painful.

Runners-up:

- Rob Schneider in *Judge Dredd* 1995
- Sandra Bullock in *Demolition Man* 1993
- Jar Jar Binks in *The Phantom Menace* (above) 1999

OUR FAVORITE MARTIAN

TIE: E.T. IN E.T. (BENEVOLENT DIVISION) 1982
ALIEN IN ALIEN (MALEVOLENT DIVISION) 1979

Whether they're out to win our hearts or attach to our faces, plant an embryo in us, then burst through our rib cage as we eat Chinese food, all our favorite aliens have something in common. Something phallic. Think E.T.'s telescoping neck and long, throbbing finger. Or the Alien's tumescent head. Kind of gets us in the mood for an anal probing.

Runners-up:

- Paul in *Paul* 2011
- Underwater aliens in *The Abyss* 1989
- Bugs in *Starship Troopers* 1997
- Kim Basinger in *My Step-mother Is an Alien* 1988

BEST WRESTLER IN SPACE!

ROWDY RODDY PIPER IN THEY LIVE 1988

If there's a place a juiced-up, oddly coiffed pituitary case with a taste for spandex can feel at home, it's here. And the king of the ring is Rowdy Roddy Piper, as a construction worker who stems an alien invasion...with the help of his magic sunglasses. "Brother, life's a bitch," Piper intones. "And she's back in heat." Poetry!



Runners-up:

- Jesse Ventura in *Predator* 1987
- Andre the Giant in *The Princess Bride* 1987
- The Rock in *Doom* 2005
- Tyler Mane in *X-Men* 2000
- Macho Man in *Spider-Man* 2002
- Triple H in *Blade: Trinity* 2004

- Big John Studd in *Hyper Space* 1984
- Terry Funk in *Timestalkers* 1987
- Hulk Hogan in *Muppets From Space* 1999

CONTRIBUTORS: DAN BOVA, JESSE BRUKHIM, PATT CARONE, MIKE DAVISON, MARIA FONTOURA, BREKKE LITTECHER, DAVID SWANSON, CHRIS WILSON, JADAM WINNER

→ PRESTON, *THE LAST STARFIGHTER* ■ "YOU'RE A GODSEND, A SAVIOR." "NO, I'M A POSTMAN."—KEVIN COSTNER, *THE POSTMAN*

M




THE
POKER



EXILES



W

A photograph of a silver laptop on a green poker table. The laptop screen displays text about online poker. To the left of the laptop are stacks of red and white chips. To the right is a glass of whiskey with ice and a cigar. The background shows a tropical beach with palm trees and a sunset sky.

WHEN THE FEDS BANNED ONLINE POKER,
A BAND OF YOUNG CARD SHARKS PACKED UP THEIR
COMPUTERS AND HEADED FOR PARADISE.
NOW THEY MAKE UP TO \$30,000 A DAY, WITH TIME
LEFT OVER FOR PARTYING ON THE BEACH.
MEET THE ONLINE OUTLAWS.

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ by DAVY ROTHBART ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

photograph by KENJI TOMA illustration by JOE MCKENDRY

The morning of April 15, 2011 was one of those perfect mornings at the beach, the kind of day when all seems right in the world.

JC Alvarado in his room in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. He won \$1 million at a tournament in August.



Aaron Been, a rising star in the burgeoning world of online poker, was splashing in the surf with his new girlfriend, Katherine, and a few of their friends on a visit to St. George Island off the Florida Panhandle. When they clambered ashore, a friend of Been's approached with a look of concern on his face and asked, "Hey, did you hear the news?" The friend told him there was something on the radio about all of online poker getting shut down. Been shook his head and said, "No, that can't be right." His friend wasn't a poker player, and Been guessed that he was simply confused; false rumors of online poker's demise had circulated often enough over the years that Been had learned to ignore them. Still, for Been, a quiet, nagging sense of uneasiness began to darken an otherwise beautiful day.

Hours later, when Been got back to his Tallahassee apartment, opened his laptop, and logged on to PokerStars.net, he was greeted by a message from the Department of Justice declaring that the domain had been seized for violation of the Illegal Gambling Business Act. Stomach churning, he quickly went to the Full Tilt Poker and Ultimate Bet sites. Both bore the same stark message. The online poker forum Two Plus Two was awash in panicked postings. Frantic instant messages from friends in the poker world began to flash across his screen. Many of them had tens of thousands—for some, hundreds of thousands, even millions—of dollars in online poker accounts that could now be the property of the U.S. government. For all of them, online poker was their livelihood, their day job, and their consuming passion. Overnight, their lives had been thrown into turmoil.

If someone could read between the lines and explain what was happening,

Been figured, it would be his close friend JC Alvarado, the talented Mexican-born poker prodigy who'd been his roommate for the previous couple of years in Las Vegas. Alvarado—olive-skinned and athletic, known to be kindhearted and gregarious—got right to it. “Game over,” he told his friend. “The poker world as we know it has come to an end.” Alvarado’s gut feeling was dead-on: April 15 soon became known as Black Friday, as life-altering for poker players as stock-market crashes had been for traders, bankers, and corporate investors. But before hanging up, Alvarado gave Been a few words of reassurance: “Don’t worry, we’ll come up with a plan. Remember, we’re down but not out.”



BLACK FRIDAY WAS not the first time JC Alvarado had been knocked to the mat. Five years earlier, at the age of 20—long before he was sponsored by Full Tilt and Poker Stars and won million-dollar tournaments—Alvarado had crawled back to his hometown of McAllen, Texas, dead broke. His mom, who’d brought him to the United States from Mexico City when he was a grade-schooler and had raised him alone on a secretary’s wages, was disconsolate at the path he’d taken: dropping out of film school in L.A. to play poker full time and promptly losing all his money. She thought his plan to make a career out of gambling was insane.

In fact, while Alvarado had yet to strike it rich, online poker was big business, with millions of Americans—both amateur hobbyists and hardcore pros—logging in daily to test their skills and make some cash. And Alvarado was convinced he could make a go of it. After his mother picked him up from the airport, they talked deep into the night. He detailed poker’s mathematical intricacies and explained that it wasn’t the same as buying scratch-off tickets or shooting dice. The trouble was, he’d gone bust, and in poker you need money to make money. After his mom’s tears had dried, she disappeared, and then returned carrying a thick stack of cash. All in all, it was close to \$5,000—her life savings. “Consider this a loan,” she said. “When you win enough money, you can pay me back.”

Alvarado’s eyes were wet as he hugged her and said good night. He went into his childhood bedroom, set the cash on his desk, flipped on his laptop, and squeezed the last 11 bucks from his online poker account to enter a tournament. By dawn, he’d won the whole damn thing. He burst

into his mom’s bedroom and shook her awake. “Mom!” he cried. “I just won \$18,000!” He handed back her money. Two days later he entered another tournament and won that one, too, cashing a pot for 21 grand. In a flash, the life he’d envisioned as a professional poker player had arrived. Next stop: Las Vegas.



PANORAMA TOWERS, a cluster of luxury condo high-rises set directly opposite I-15 from the Vegas Strip, were built at a cost of \$600 million in 2006; Hollywood stars like Leonardo DiCaprio were rumored to be among their initial tenants. The Towers’ proximity to surrounding casinos attracted Aaron Been, who back home in Florida had been thriving in online poker games, eventually turning \$11 in free chips into a \$100,000 stack. With his interest in academics flagging, he quit college, and in spring 2007 he moved to Vegas and signed a lease for an apartment in Panorama Towers. There he met Alvarado and a young poker player from the Carolinas named Steve O’Dwyer.

The three began pooling their knowledge, learning from each other’s strengths and weaknesses as their bankrolls soared. Close at hand were

Online poker also allowed them to play multiple hands at once. Often they’d play 20 tables at the same time, their computer screens a dizzying mélange of whirling clubs, hearts, diamonds, and spades. Live poker, by contrast, seemed to proceed at a glacial pace.

It was an exciting, chaotic time, Alvarado recalls. “Imagine a high-rise luxury frat house,” he says. “We’d play poker online all day and then party all night. I left my apartment door wide-open 24 hours a day. I’d wake up at 4 P.M. and find 10 guys in my living room smoking weed and playing Xbox.” While the Panorama Towers management had imagined creating a haven for businessmen and Hollywood types, the buildings were soon home to a strange blend of poker geeks and high-class strippers. “In the lobby at 5 A.M.,” Alvarado says, “you’d be as likely to find a drunk, half-naked stripper gluing her high heels back together as a drunk, half-naked poker nerd carting in a giant box of Magic the Gathering cards.”

Along with all the dorm-style antics, the Panorama Towers became a poker Hogwarts, where the world’s best young players compared notes, honed their skills, and debated strategy. Superstars like Justin Bonomo, Ike Haxton, and

“DON’T WORRY, WE’LL
COME UP WITH A PLAN.
REMEMBER, WE’RE
DOWN BUT NOT OUT.”

the enticements of Vegas’ 24-hour playground—bright lights, limousines, world-class restaurants, and nightclubs. For 21-year-olds who’d suddenly found themselves with deep pockets, the city was like a dream come true.

“Vegas is like no other place in the world,” says O’Dwyer, who’d moved to town following a stint at East Carolina University. “In college there were times I’d have trouble finding people to play poker with. In Vegas, poker finds you.”

Still, they always preferred online action to live poker. “I’ve never felt that playing poker in person is much fun,” Been says. “The higher the stakes, the more pressure, the less fun it is. To be honest, it’s unpleasant to be around angry people who are losing their money.”

Scott Seiver emerged. After feeling like outcasts, many of the poker players at Panorama Towers were experiencing the powerful sense of community that came with meeting people just like themselves. Which explains how devastating Black Friday was to all of them.

“One day life was normal,” says Been. “And by normal, I mean it was great. The next day the whole world was turned upside down.”



ACCORDING TO THE Department of Justice, PokerStars, Full Tilt, Absolute Poker, and the other major poker sites were allegedly guilty of massive bank fraud, money laundering, and violating gambling laws. Its solution: an overnight





Aaron Been
on the beach

“IT WAS PROBABLY THE BIGGEST RUSH I’VE HAD PLAYING POKER,” SAYS BONOMO OF HIS \$2 MILLION WIN.

shutdown of virtually every site, federal charges against their operators, and an outright ban on online poker. To run a poker site inside the United States was now illegal. Been, Alvarado, the whole Panorama Towers crew, and thousands of players like them across the country found themselves stripped of their livelihoods, along with large chunks of their fortunes. “It was like getting fired by complete surprise,” says Been, “and at the same time having all your friends get fired on the same day as you.”

Poker pros weren’t the only ones upset. Then U.S. Congressman Barney Frank, a Democrat from Massachusetts and an avid poker player himself, said that targeting poker sites was a waste of resources. “We should go after the people responsible for empty houses, not full houses,” Frank said. “What are we protecting the public from—the scourge of inside straights?”

Despite the outcry, authorities allege that some of the poker sites were guilty of malfeasance ranging from minor carelessness to epic Bernie Madoff-style highway robbery. While PokerStars, which is headquartered off the coast of Ireland, quickly reimbursed its players for any money they had in their online accounts, made amends with the Department of Justice, and was permitted to resume business, its competitors haven’t fared so well.

Full Tilt Poker, for instance, appears to have been a giant Ponzi scheme whose leadership lined their own pockets with hundreds of millions of dollars they’d raided from player accounts. The company’s former CEO, Ray Bitar, has been charged with financial crimes and is facing serious jail time; in July PokerStars reached a deal to purchase the company, agreeing to reimburse its former customers to the tune of \$550 million. “I’d like to get my money back,” says Ike Haxton, who had more than a million dollars frozen, “but I have little faith in that happening.”

In the months following Black Friday, the online poker community edged toward a plan of action: If the U.S. wouldn’t allow online poker, they would have to move abroad. Panorama Towers became a flurry of activity as books, bongos, and furniture were boxed and stored, and airplane tickets were bought for exotic locales.

One night in mid-July, a dozen players sipped drinks at a quiet patio bar at the Artisan Hotel. They reminisced about crazy parties, crazier Vegas acquaintances, and hilarious high jinks from the past few years. The vibe was both weary and hopeful, triumphant and bittersweet.

Though none of them were eager to separate, they were bound for far-flung corners of the planet—Haxton to Malta,

Bonomo to Toronto, O’Dwyer to Ireland, and Seiver to Europe. Others were headed to Costa Rica, Thailand, and Argentina. As for Been, who’d always loved the ocean, he was tagging along with Alvarado to a tropical paradise called Playa del Carmen back in Alvarado’s native land, an hour south of Cancún. Black Friday had created the ultimate irony: an American moving to Mexico to find work.



A YEAR HAS passed. On a summer afternoon Been, Katherine, Alvarado, and a Finnish poker player named Retu are picking their way through the Mayan ruins of Tulum, a short ride from Playa del Carmen. Beyond the ruins, the four head down a steep bluff toward a remote beach to cool off for a while in the ocean before hitting a beachfront bar. This is life as online poker’s refugees.

But as sunny and placid as paradise can be, the transition hasn’t been completely smooth. Alvarado moved first, renting a spacious condo in a community of luxury villas that were swamped during peak season and barren in the off months. “I’d go a week at a stretch without talking to anyone,” he says. “To the grounds crews, I must have seemed like a vampire, up all night playing poker, sleeping all day. At times I thought I might be going crazy.”

Relief finally came when Been bought a



NUMBERS GAME

10 Million

Number of U.S. online poker players on April 14, 2011

Zero

Number of U.S. online poker players on April 15, 2011

Five

Number of countries that have banned online gambling

\$16 Billion

Annual amount Americans were betting on online poker before April 15, 2011

49 Million

Number of members on PokerStars.com (Americans, you can bet only with play money. That’s still fun, right?)

\$4.18 Million

Amount 21-year-old Brian Hastings won in a single online poker session in 2009

one-way plane ticket out and joined him, followed by Katherine a couple of months later. Having friends around made all the difference. And while Been faced the kind of small daily challenges that come with living in a foreign land, Playa del Carmen also offered a welcome chance to set aside some of the habits of excess he'd developed in Vegas. He was drinking less, eating better, and exercising steadily for the first time in years, dropping 40 pounds in a matter of months.

While going into exile has fragmented their community geographically, Been and Alvarado agree that it's created more balance in their lives. "At Panorama," Been says, "my life was all poker. Now I read more, I swim, I go snorkeling, I've learned to cook." He and Katherine even take weekly trips to explore the jungle.

"We're more curious than we ever used to be about health and fitness," says Alvarado. He's gotten into MMA and become a student of nutrition. "I've learned there's more to life than just playing cards." The sun dangles low in the sky, and he looks out across the glittering sea for a moment. "Of course," he says with a grin, "don't get me wrong. I'm only 27. That's not too old to rumble."



THERE HAD BEEN talk in many circles that these online studs would falter once the poker ban steered them back toward live tournaments. The online game and the live game were considered vastly different, and their skills online, people felt, were unlikely to translate. Slowly and steadily, though, the former Panorama Towers crew began to prove everyone wrong. First O'Dwyer came up big, winning more than \$250,000 in Las Vegas. Soon after, Seiver struck gold in Vegas as well, with a \$1.6 million win. The next spring, Bonomo, playing a tournament in Monte Carlo, took home more than \$2 million. "It was probably the biggest rush I've ever had playing poker," says Bonomo. "Of course, I'd still like to win a [World Series of Poker] bracelet." Been, though yet to cash in big, says he's playing some of the best poker of his life. As for Alvarado, in August he won \$1 million at a tournament in Barcelona, his biggest win ever.

What does the future hold for American online poker? It's hard to know for sure. In one scenario, all the laws forbidding it will soon be scrubbed away, ushering in a new golden age with millions of new, poorly skilled players—prime bait for card sharks. This kind of purely speculative optimism leaves Aaron Been skeptical.

"Yes, that's one possible outcome," he says. "Another outcome is that they don't legalize it. Or that they legalize it, but the casual players don't return. Who knows?" The loss of American players seems to have had a domino effect. According to one market tracker, in the past year online-poker traffic has declined worldwide by at least 23 percent.

For now the poker exiles are doing the best they can. Been's and Alvarado's greatest sympathies lie with the thousands of Americans who never reached their level of poker success but still relied on online poker to supply or supplement their modest incomes. "After Black Friday," says Been, "these people didn't have the resources to just pick up and move to an island somewhere."



BACK FROM THE beach, Been and Alvarado squeeze in a few hours of cards online before going out to hit the town. Been enters one tournament with a \$1,000 buy-in, along with a couple dozen with \$25 to \$50 tags. Watching someone play 25 poker tables at once is kind of like watching a surgeon simultaneously operate on 25 patients—Been's movements, calm and assured, are so lightning-quick, it's almost impossible to follow the action. Though he goes bust in the big tournament, he takes first place in one of the smaller ones and finishes up with \$6,000, not bad for a few hours' work.

Alvarado has netted only \$1,800, but he's been distracted by the Manny Pacquiao vs. Timothy Bradley boxing match. With no clear rooting interest, he's bet \$650 on Bradley; when Bradley is controversially declared the winner, Alvarado—three grand richer—lets out a surprised whoop and cries, "It's bar time!"

Dressed casual but cool, Been, Katherine, and Alvarado hit the streets, wading through packs of drunk, sunburned tourists. At a club called Coco Maya, they meet up with some fellow poker refugees and head on to the Jack Daniels Club, where a dozen more friends are hanging out, watching an energetic band blast covers of '90s alternative-rock songs—Nirvana, Sublime, Radiohead.

A strange thing has happened in Playa, Alvarado explains. Several months ago he posted on the Two Plus Two message boards, describing life as poker players in paradise and inviting others to join them. A trickle soon appeared, and before long the trickle had become a flood. Oddest of all, players were coming not only from the U.S., where online poker was banned,

TALK A GOOD GAME

Bluff them with pro poker lingo.



Ace Rag

An ace with a weak kicker

Pocket Rocket

A pair of aces in the hole

Walking Sticks

A pair of sevens

American Airlines

A pair of aces

Cowboys

A pair of kings

Sailboats

A pair of fours

Bicycle

The A-2-3-4-5 straight

Fish

An inexperienced player

Broadway

An ace-high straight

Canine

A king and a nine

Biscuit

A \$100 bet

Ducks

A pair of deuces

but also from Europe and other places around the world where gambling on poker remains completely legal. Without really intending to, Alvarado and Been had created a worldwide poker destination for the second time, just as they'd done at the Panorama Towers. More than 40 players now call the town their home, gathering for massive beach-volleyball games in the afternoons and wild, drunken revelry at Playa's all-night clubs.

Still, living in paradise is like a vacation that lasts for years—at some point you just want to return to the real world. Alvarado, for his part, has started to think about moving on to Mexico City, where there are fewer poker players but a greater cross-section of artists and thinkers.

That point may be just around the bend, but tonight it hasn't quite arrived. The band starts into a slow number—Radiohead's "High and Dry." Alvarado throws an arm over Been's shoulder: "This is how I felt after Black Friday," he laughs. "High and dry as fuck. But it all turned out OK. Am I right?"

"You're right," Been replies, and they clink their whiskey glasses, chug down what they can, and sway to the music.

Tomorrow there will be more time for the beach, more time to swim, more time to read, and surely more time for poker. Tonight, though, there's "High and Dry," and in just a minute, there will also be time for one more round. ♠

MAXIM EXCLUSIVE

MOORE



ON

BOND

ROGER MOORE PLAYED THE ROLE OF JAMES BOND MORE TIMES THAN ANYONE ELSE (IF YOU DON'T COUNT CONNERY IN *NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN*, AND WE DON'T). SIR ROG WEIGHS IN ON THE FRANCHISE'S HIGHLIGHTS.



BEST BOND “Obviously, **Sean Connery**. But I thought Timothy Dalton was very interesting; it was a new slant on Bond. When I was about to leave, I suggested three people: Sam Neill, the Australian actor; Pierce Brosnan; and Timothy Dalton. Daniel Craig hadn't even been born then...He is a wonderful Bond, though, a bloody fantastic athlete. I reckon he did more in the first five minutes of *Casino Royale* than I did in my whole 14 years as Bond, in terms of jumping around.”

BEST Q GADGET

“The best gadget of all is the **magnetic watch** in *Live and Let Die*. It unzipped Madeline Smith's dress, except it didn't really work. The prop man was up her skirt with a wire pulling the zip down, because there's no such thing as a magnetic watch. And it was shit at telling the time.”



BEST BOND VILLAINS



“I thought **Yaphet Kotto** in *Live And Let Die* was excellent, as both Mr. Big and Kananga. ‘Kananga’ was a real fellow— Ross Kananga, who ran the alligator farm we shot on. His father was eaten by one of the buggers; he pointed out the one that got him. We liked him so much that we called the villain Kananga. **Christopher Walken** in *A View to a Kill* was great, too, a very laid-back actor and very funny.”

“What time is it?” “Time to die, Mr. Bond! Oh, sorry, I mean, uh, nine minutes past 10.”





BEST BOND CAR “I wasn’t really associated with any one car. I had a lot of different ones. I think Sean had wrecked them all by the time I got there. But the best car in the Bond films was the **Aston Martin** Sean had [a 1963 DB5 prototype in *Goldfinger*]
—you know, with the spikes coming out of the tires.”



- 1. Headlight machine guns
- 2. Battering rams
- 3. Revolving license plates
- 4. Door-mounted telephone
- 5. Dashboard radar receiver
- 6. Passenger ejector seat
- 7. Rear bulletproof shield
- 8. Nail spreader, oil sprayer
- 9. Smoke screen
- 10. Tire shredder

BEST BOND FILM

“Of all the ones I did, I would definitely say **The Spy Who Loved Me**, because I adored Lewis Gilbert, who directed it. He had a terrific sense of humor and was great fun to be around. I liked all of Sean’s ones, of course, and *Casino Royale* I loved. *Quantum of Solace* I didn’t quite understand.”



BEST BOND STUNT

“The best Bond stunt was the ski-jump **parachute opening** at the beginning of *The Spy Who Loved Me*. That was brilliant. The one that was hell to do was flying around Paris in a **Renault with no windshield** in *A View to a Kill*. The police were riding in front waving little flags to stop traffic, but I never saw anyone take notice of those bloody flags!”



BEST-DRESSED BOND

“Obviously, I had the best fashion sense. I love when people take the piss on blobs or blogs or whatever you call them on the Internet, making fun of the **safari suit** from *Moonraker*. I thought it served its purpose very well. Thank God I had it in some of the places we were shooting, like Brazil and Argentina. I don’t still wear it—I couldn’t even get my waist in the chest, let alone in the whole suit!”





“That guy looking at us just took his pants off. I’ll cover us till he turns the page.”

BEST EVIL HENCHMEN



“I loved the two gay waiters in *Diamonds Are Forever*, Mr. Wint and Mr. Kidd. That film was really funny. The way Mr. Wint goes, ‘Whoooo!’ as Sean pushes him over the edge of the boat! And **Tee Hee** [the henchman with the metal claw in *Live and Let Die*]—that was great stuff.”



FUNNIEST BOND MOMENT

“My favorite was an ad-lib in *Octopussy* where **a tiger leaped out at me**, and I just said, ‘Sit!’ Another was a Tom Mankiewicz line in *The Man With the Golden Gun*, when Bond goes to the gunsmith to get information from him. **I lower my rifle toward his nether regions** and say, ‘Speak now or forever hold your piece.’ That’s a good line.”



BEST BOND GIRLS

“The sexiest, I suppose, was **Barbara Bach** in *The Spy Who Loved Me*. Being Bond, you win all the fights and you get all the girls. But if you get a girl too early, you know she’s going to get killed, argh! You read the script, and, uh-oh, she’s for the high jump. Now, **Jane Seymour** started off as a villain in *Live and Let Die*, but then, she hadn’t yet seen a little bit of James Bond’s hickory-dickory!”



↓
Sir Roger Moore’s *Bond on Bond: Reflections on 50 Years of James Bond Movies* is out now. \$30



Max. Little Max.

WATCHMEN

An inside look at making the prequel to the most important comic of all time.

In 1986 writer Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons rocked the comic book world with their legendary 12-issue series, *Watchmen*. Later collected into one volume, it sold over two million copies, was hailed by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 best novels ever written, and was made into a commercially, if not critically, successful film. Nearly 30 years later DC Comics began a series of *Before Watchmen* prequels. Here we look at how the first issue of one of them, *Rorschach*, was made, with commentary from the writer and artist team of Brian Azzarello and Lee Bermejo.

After falling out with DC Comics over the rights, Alan Moore severed all ties with the company. The move got vocal support from fans and left Azzarello and Bermejo holding a very hot potato. "My first thought was, 'You've got to be kidding me!'" says Azzarello. "In a good way, and an apprehensive way." While questions about the legitimacy of Moore's beefs are politely batted aside, both seem OK about proceeding without his blessing. "DC was going to do this anyway," says Azzarello. "Our egos reared their ugly heads and said, 'We better do it or it won't be any good!'"



RORSCHACH'S JOURNAL.
(JULY 14, 1977)
I HATE THIS PLACE.
HAVE SINCE I WAS
A CHILD.

MY MOTHER (MAY SHE ROT
IN HELL) CALLED IT THE
GREATEST CITY ON EARTH.
ONE NEW YEAR'S EVE SHE TOOK
ME OUT OF THE FIRE ESCAPE
AND TOLD ME THAT I WAS
LUCKY TO LIVE HERE.

AND THAT I OWED
HER THAT.

IT WAS ONE OF THE
FEW TIMES SHE EVER
SMILED AT ME.

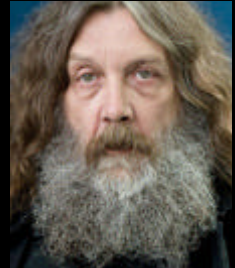
THEN SHE WAS CALLED
BACK TO BED, BY ONE
OF MY UNCLES.

I STAYED OUTSIDE IN MY
PATAMAS, HOLDING ONTO
THE COLD METAL RAIL.
THE SNOW FELL.
MY FINGERS TURNED
BLUE, AND MY TOES
PURPLE, THEN BLACK,
AS THE SUN ROSE.

SHE WASN'T SMILING
IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
SHE WAS SPITTING.
CURSING. ASKING ME
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE
TO RUIN EVERYTHING?

HEEE WHAT MADE
YOU THIS WAY?

RETURNS



He's Alan Moore, and he does not approve this message.



THE PROCESS

1 Everything begins with the script. "I outline it, then write a 'beat sheet' of where things are going to go," explains Azzarello. "To me every page has to have a point—that's 24 beats. When you break the script down to panels, that's just getting the flow of the pacing and the action down."

2 The action, in the case of *Rorschach*, takes place in a particularly grimy world. "I wanted to get really street-level with it," says Azzarello. "There are two cases going on: a serial killer and a drug deal. The lack of emotion and the presence of some badass shit make Rorschach a challenging character to write. He's not a good person to be in the head of." And how does he get into the right mind-set? "I read the newspaper..."



Brian Azzarello (left) and Lee Bermejo: Still watching the *Watchmen*.



The collected *Before Watchmen* will be available from July 16.

3

The initial drawing process is known as penciling: “I do a lot of it on the Cintiq, which is basically a computer monitor you can draw on,” says Bermejo. “Brian’s panel descriptions are pretty sparse, which makes it a lot more fun for me, because I have a hand in everything else, from set dressings to particulars of people.”

“The panel description here was simply, ‘Enter Rorschach!’” admits Azzarello. “If Lee’s image conveys something I wanted said, I’ll get rid of the words. A certain expression says, ‘Go to hell.’ I don’t need the character to say it.”

4

“The process of penciling and inking—taking a brush and ink and making forms clearer and more precise—generally takes me about three days for every page,” says Bermejo. “I know some guys who it comes to easily. I’m not one of those guys!”





5 Once a panel is inked, the colors are added. “Coloring is at least 50 percent of the work,” Bermejo explains. “There’s a language to colors, an atmosphere you can’t 100 percent achieve with your art. The colorist has to finalize it. You could have the same book colored by two different people and have two different experiences.” “We wanted it to look like it was filmed in the late ’70s,” adds Azzarello. “So the color is saturated and washed out at the same time.”

6 Once the art is finished, the writer’s words are placed in the dialogue balloons and captions, and “sound effects” are added. “I’ll sit in front of the computer and sound out what an arm breaking sounds like,” laughs Azzarello. “It’s like when I write dialogue, I’m talking all the time. That’s why I have a hard time working in public—I look like a nut!”

THE LEGACY

“What’s enduring about *Watchmen* is its humanity, not its superheroes,” says Azzarello. Adds Bermejo, “What impressed me most was that it seemed like a near perfect orchestration of a comic book. The pieces fell into place very much like a puzzle.” As for how their contribution to the series’ legacy will be received, “That’s for readers to judge,” says Azzarello.

NEARLY WON!



**MARCH
ISSUE**



**SNEAK
PEEK!**

THE GET-PAID (AND GET-LAID) SECRETS OF THE MOST POWERFUL WIZARDS OF TECH, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND THE WEB.

#whydidntwethinkofthatfirst #couldhavebeenrich #beingdumbblows ✂ illustrations by DKNQ STUDIOS

#TheComicConqueror

Geeking Out With Jimmy Fallon

The host of *Late Night* embraces his inner computer dork.

Late Night was the first show to make gaming and social media integral elements, but even back when you were on Saturday Night Live, you always seemed connected to tech stuff.

Yeah, I was one of the first cast members to say we ought to embrace geek culture and technology, whether it was playing the IT guy or doing “Jarret’s Room,” which was basically a *Wayne’s World* rip-off with a Webcam. Back then I remember people saying, “Do kids really do this?” I’m like, “Yeah! There are people doing Web shows from their dorm rooms all over the country!”

So that was all a part of your world?

I was a computer science major in college, and my dad worked at IBM, so I grew up in a computer family, but I wasn’t a total geek. I was friends with everyone: the burnouts, the jocks, the geeks. I think that’s natural for a comedian: You’re

so desperate for everyone to like you that you become friends with everybody.

Are you a gadget freak?

Oh, yeah. When I was on *SNL*, I was rocking the Motorola clamshell. I saved up money for a Palm Pilot and was like, “You guys, this is the future! We’ll all be drawing letters!” Now I use an iPad, I have a Kindle, I have a Nintendo 3DS to keep my mind sharp. But the iPod was the single most important invention of my life. It blew my mind. I put all my CDs on my computer and gave them to my sister. That just changed everything.

You took a pretty interesting approach to relaunching *Late Night*.

Lorne Michaels, our executive producer, has always been ahead of the curve, so when we started, he was like, “You should start the show online and grow from there,” because we didn’t have a studio yet. So I just



Megabyting humor

started filming these little Webisodes and tweeting them. We knew when we first started we wanted to involve the Internet and social media as much as possible. And early on it was a fun way to get feedback immediately and for the audience to get to know me, and vice versa, as much as possible. Because people were like, “Oh, I know Jimmy Fallon; he’s the dude who laughs at himself on *SNL*.”

What kind of effect has technology had on late-night TV shows?

Back in the day, as a viewer you used to have an hour with a talk-show host every night. But with social media now, you can practically live with them if you want to. Twitter was just starting when we launched the show; we were actually on it before we even *had* the show. Other late-night shows were making fun

#SmartTalk

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM BIG COOL BRAINS



“The good thing about science is that it’s true whether you believe in it or not.”
—Neil deGrasse Tyson, renowned astrophysicist and frequent late-night guest

of it, and I was like, “Trust me, this thing is going to be here for a while.” Back then I would look and see that we had 30 followers, and that meant 30 more people were watching the show—that would get me seriously excited! Now it’s four years later, and we have 6.7 million followers. Our show is very modular, so we can break it down with, say, a three-minute monologue, then a three-minute comedy sketch or an interview or a musical performance. So you don’t have to watch the whole hour like you did when Johnny Carson was around. It’s changing everything.

You seem to have mastered the art of the viral video. What’s the secret?

You never really know what’s going to go viral, so you just try to do stuff that the audience hasn’t seen before, like President Obama slow-jamming the news or Tom Hanks reading slam poetry about *Full House*. One thing we try to do is, if we think something could go viral, we’ll put it up on YouTube immediately, before the show even airs. Like when Justin Timberlake and I did “The History of Rap.” I assumed that would be a big thing. I remember getting a call from Justin after it aired, saying, “You’re on the cover of a French newspaper.” And I go, “You’re kidding. They know who I am in France?” And he goes, “No, they know who I am. I’m Justin Timberlake.”

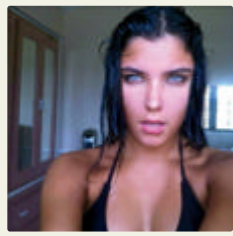
Given that you’ve been into this tech world for so long, have you been able to cash in at all?

We did an episode of “Jarret’s Room” with Seann William Scott back in 2001, which was about the freshman facebook and making fun of all the new students. And this was before Facebook even existed! So I need to hook up with the Winklevoss twins and get some of that Zuckerberg money.

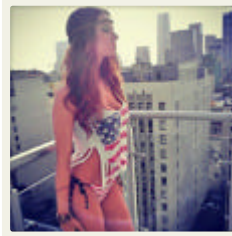
#InstaHotties

Hot Pics All the Time!

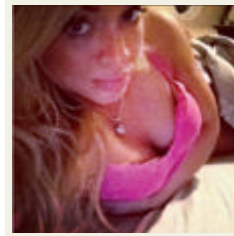
Thanks to the wonders of Instagram, we get to ogle beauties like these without the pesky Tasers. Sweet!



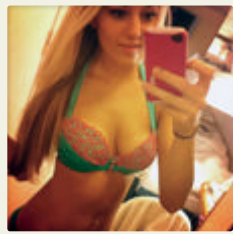
Noelia Santos
@noeliasantos
43,221 followers



Amanda Gift
@amandagift
20,294 followers



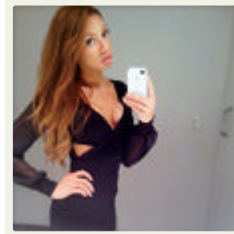
Kristen Weatherbee
@kristenbrooke1
1,038 followers



Kelsey Okerstrom
@kelsey_lianne
1,416 followers



Alana Blanchard
@alanarblanchard
328,202 followers



Denice Wimbush
@denicewim
5,494 followers

#TheGuffawGod

Lords of the LOL

Funny or Die cofounder Adam McKay on the Web’s wackiest wonders.



I mostly make movies and produce some TV, but guess what? I also like the Twitter, the Funny or Die, the YouTube (I like to put “the” in front of everything, like the Maxim). Here are five people who make me laugh consistently. Enjoy!



ROB DELANEY
Rob is pretty well known on Twitter, but damn it, he makes me laugh every day. [@robdelaney](#) I just invented a new sex position called the *Fragrant Apache*. DM me for details if you’re a plus-size model and/or have a car.



DAVID REES
First in a comic strip, then in animated shorts for *Huffington Post*, Rees has been doing “Get Your War On” for a while, using clip-art characters who talk like ’roided-up jingoistic boneheads. They always make me laugh.



ALEX BAZE
Alex writes the jokes you love on *SNL*, for “Weekend Update.” He can be funny in one sentence, which is really hard. [@bazecraze](#) Lance Armstrong was doping?? I swear I will never watch cycling before!



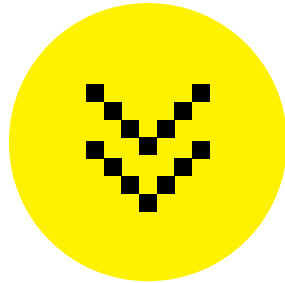
SARAH BEATTIE
Do you like raunchy, insane jokes? I do. Plus, she dresses up like obscure anime characters. It’s a winning combo. [@nachosarah](#) I like the phrase “bury the hatchet” because it implies someone was trying to resolve an argument with a fucking hatchet.



RYAN PEREZ
Ryan is a writer-director as well as an actor on *Funny or Die*. He’s been banging out original hilarious videos for a few years now.

Follow the Adam on Twitter [@ghostpanther](#).

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Credits



p.2: Sony Vusix, Ben Ritter; Woman with a Tool, Tom Corbett; *Planet of the Apes*, 20th Century Fox Film Corp./Everett Collection.

pp.6–31: Man snowboarding, Lee Cohen/Corbis; *The Jetsons*, Everett Collection; Planet Earth rising and astronaut floating, Corbis (2); model with camera, Ben Ritter; model wearing Fitbit Flex, Ben Ritter; Quarter, iStockphoto.; model wearing Vuzix glasses and Gunnar Optiks, Ben Ritter (2); *Back to the Future*, Everett Collection; police car, iStockPhoto.; keys, iStockphoto.; woman with luggage, Fotodesign Holzhauser/Getty Images; model wearing Casio watch and Microsoft Surface Pro, Ben Ritter (2).

pp.35–47: Hedge trimmer, Terry Doyle; lawnmower, Hose Nozzle, Tom Corbett (2); table saw, Terry Doyle; trimmer, Zoe McConnell; jackhammer, Tom Corbett; power washer, Terry Doyle; JawSaw, Tom Corbett; wrench, Zoe McConnell; trampoline and paint roller, Tom Corbett (2); snow shovel, Ben Goldstein; nail gun, Tom Corbett.

pp.48–55: Space, Quincy Dein/Shutterstock; Stan Lee, Michael Buckner/Getty Images; *Planet of the Apes*, 20th Century Fox Film Corp./Everett Collection; *Simpsons* comic book guy, Fox; *Spider-Man* and *Hulk* covers, courtesy Marvel; *Superman Returns*, Hulton Archive/Getty Images; *Sin City* cover, courtesy Dark Horse Comics; *Mad Max*, Everett Collection, *Labyrinth*, Jim Henderson Productions/The Kobal Collection; *Sin City*, Alba, 2005, Dimension Films/courtesy Everett Collection; *Alien*, 20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Clash of the Titans*, Everett Collection; *The Incredible Hulk*, Universal TV/The Kobal Collection; *Star Trek*,

Paramount/The Kobal Collection; *Stargate*, Double Secret/Gekko/Stargate Sg-1/The Kobal Collection; *Star Wars*, Lucasfilm/20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Star Wars*, Lucasfilm/20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Lord of the Rings*, Everett Collection; *The Dark Crystal*, Henson/Universal/The Kobal Collection; *Superman 2*, Everett Collection; *The Avengers*, Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/Courtesy Everett Collection; Krull, Ken Marshall, Columbia/courtesy Everett Collection; *Dollhouse*, Whedon, Fox/courtesy Everett Collection; *Starship Troopers*, courtesy Everett Collection; *Alien*, 20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; Blanshard, Richard (N); *Star Wars Episode III*, Lucasfilm/20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Robocop 2*, Orion/The Kobal Collection; *The Fall*, Deep Films/The Kobal Collection, *Sky High*, Walt Disney/The Kobal Collection; *X-Men: First Class*, 20th Century Fox/Marvel/The Kobal Collection; *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, New Line/courtesy Everett Collection; 300, Warner Bros./Legendary Pictures/The Kobal Collection; *Iron Man*, Robert Downey Jr., Paramount/courtesy Everett Collection; *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, Gollum, New Line Cinema/courtesy Everett Collection; *Catwoman*, Warner Bros./The Kobal Collection; Fantastic Four, 20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Spider-man 3*, Marvel/Sony Pictures/The Kobal Collection; *Watchmen*, Warner Bros./The Kobal Collection; *The Dark Knight*, Bale as Batman, Warner Bros./courtesy Everett Collection; *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, 20th

Century Fox/The Kobal Collection/Vollmer Jurgen; *The Hulk*, Universal/courtesy Everett Collection; *The Matrix*, Warner Bros./The Kobal Collection; *Speed Racer*, Warner Bros./The Kobal Collection; *The Bicentennial Man*, Touchstone/The Kobal Collection; *Willow*, MGM/courtesy Everett Collection; *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Touchstone/Spyglass Entertainment/The Kobal Collection; *Labyrinth*, TriStar Pictures/courtesy Everett Collection; *The Dark Crystal*, Jim Henson Productions/Zuma Press; *Time Bandits*, ©20th Century Fox, all rights reserved, courtesy Everett Collection; Cruise, Murray Andrew/Corbis Sygma; Megan Fox in *Transformers*, Jaimie Trueblood; *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*, Lucasfilm/20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, Lucasfilm/The Kobal Collection; Alex Kurtzman and Robert Orci, Kevin Winter/Getty Images; Rowdy Roddy Piper, Matthew Peyton/Getty Images. **pp.62–65:** *A View to a Kill*, Mary Evans/ Everett Collection; Sean Connery, The Kobal Collection; *Live and Let Die*, Everett Collection; Yaphet Kotto, Everett Collection; Christopher Walken, The Kobal Collection; Aston Martin, The Kobal Collection; *The Spy Who Loved Me*, AF Archive/Alamy; Lewis Gilbert, Mary Evans/Paramount Pictures/Ronald Grant/Everett Collection; Safari suit, Everett Collection; Barbara Bach, /The Kobal Collection; Jane Seymour, Alamy; Tiger, Getty Images. **p.67:** Alan Moore, Colin McPherson/Corbis. **pp.71–72:** Tyson, Neilson Barnard/Getty Images; McKay, Columbia Pictures/Everett Collection

