

mark martin

Here's yet another blind interview. This Mark Martin is NOT the American nascar (or whatever) driver.

Mark said to us... "Thanks, it was an interesting interview!"

Which made us laugh. It was interesting, and if you think so, you should meet our writer that wrote the questions. And for the Ladies out there, our writer is a he, and he is single. So start slinging those emails if you are interested, or if you wish to offer your warm lap of sympathy and you'd like to stroke his hair and make him feel better.

For now, enjoy this fine interview with Mark Martin, and remember to look online for better ones!

[As always, our writer did not know who they were writing questions for, hence, a 'blind' interview.]

Can you introduce yourself in the general interview fashion? (Name, place you're from, what you do, etc)

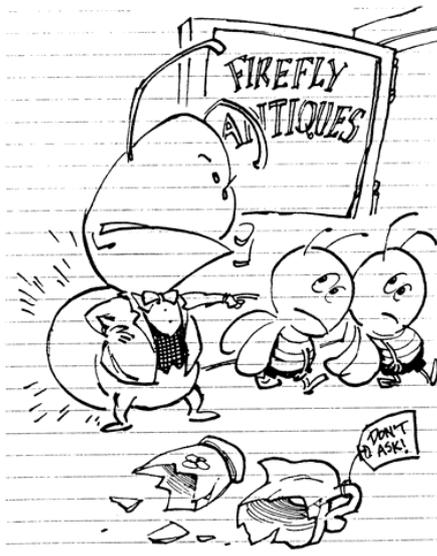
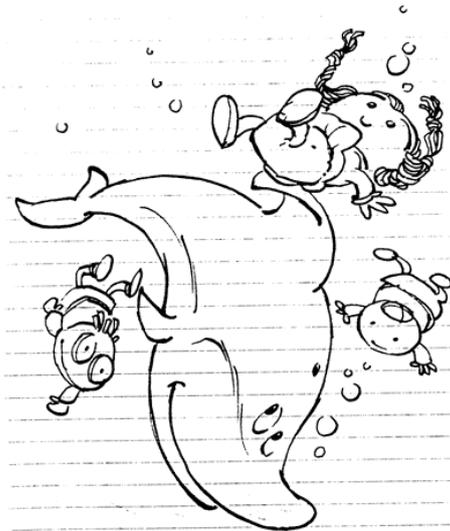
My name is Mark Martin. I'm a designer/illustrator/writer/cartoonist living in USA (but I could really be anywhere) with The World's Greatest Cook and our son and our assorted pets.

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Everyone must love work, which is why so many people do it. What is your work, and why do you love it?

I'm an artist, and I can't really explain why I love it. It makes me feel good. I feel better when I create, and I feel crappy when I do not, whether it is due to a time crunch or a creative block or illness or whatever. I would describe it like any other love - I need it.

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What was your greatest influence and motivation and how did it affect you. How has it brought you to where you are now? (For example trying to live up to your parents praise and approval.)

I think the motivation is mostly ego. Let's face it, artists are not curing cancer. I do think I bring some happiness into the world when I hear people say they enjoy my comics. And I would like to bring some sort of - uh, SOMETHING to children through children's books. That's a lifelong motivation, but so far an unaccomplished goal.

Greatest influence? Probably my dad. He's not an artistic influence, but a life influence. He's a great person.

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What do you fear the most about the society we are living in and why? (This can include possible future outcomes due to current contextual affects.)

OK, time for a clarification: A lot of these question ask what is the "most", "best", "worst" etc. And it's impossible to choose just one. Even the "greatest" influence - my grandparents shaped my core as much as my dad. So what I fear the "most", the "most" memorable experience etc is going to be just the best answer I can come up with right now.

But I'm, not even going to try to do THAT for societal collapse fears.

There's overpopulation, religious and political extremism both conservative

and liberal, moral decay, the blame game, what I call the growth paradigm - that means the worship of growth and expansion above everything else. The gross national product must always grow, housing must always grow, business must always grow... All of that made sense when the earth was empty and savage and God said "Go forth and multiply". But now that the earth is tiny and crowded, it's time to calm down.

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The most memorable experience in your life was when you...? (Like when Pink Tuscadero crashed her motorcycle. Or the night you lost all my money to those card sharks and my dad, Tom Bosley had to get it back. - Or something like that.)

That one I CAN answer, but I did not “do” anything. I only witnessed it. The most memorable experience in my life was the birth of my son.

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The most incomprehensible and most illogical thing you ever heard was...? (And most importantly by who so we can shun them.)

WAY too many to narrow down. I suppose if I had the power to actually make you shun someone, I'd make you shun Al Gore for his hypocrisy.

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What is the most nerdy/geeky thing that you do? (Note: apple™ computers and apple™ ipods™ are not nerdy or geeky.)

I still go to comic book stores sometimes.

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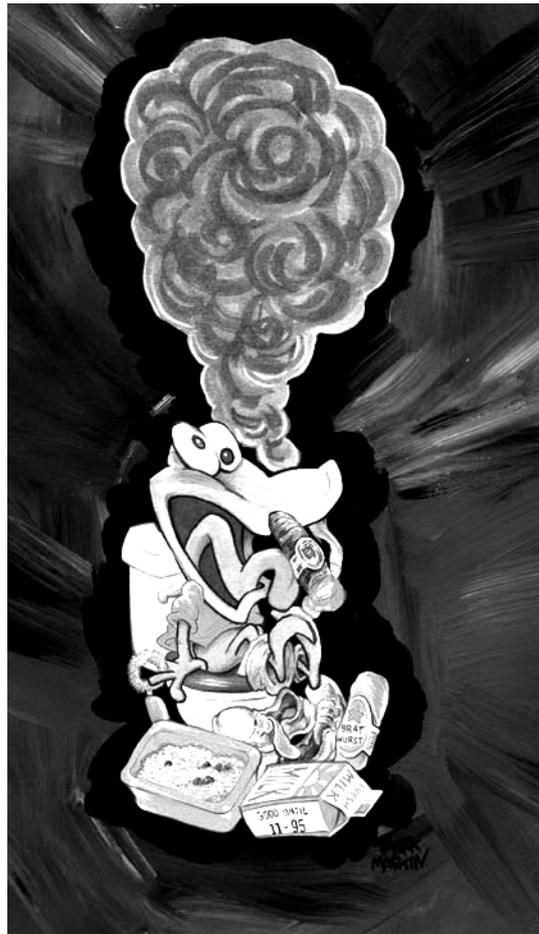
Because ipod™ ownership is up and everything is starting to become “i-everything” we are going to assume you own one of them for the time being. What do you think is so appealing about the apple™ “i-products”? Have you fallen for this faux technocracy?

No, I have not fallen. I'm not into the whole iLifestyle. I do have an iPod. It is the second one I have owned, but I have YET to ever actually USE one. Because I am obsessive about my music and I am on an endless mission to get it all perfect and THEN load it onto my iPod, which will then only be docked to a BOSE-quality player and shuffle the Music Of My Life. This is not a joke. I am not so obsessive that I am waiting until ALL of my favorite music is on it - I know that will never end. But I am so obsessive that I do not want some songs to play louder or quieter than the rest.

SO - if anybody out there reading this can tell me any kind of an automatic adjuster that ACTUALLY WORKS... please do.

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What do you think is the next big thing for television producers to push, after all the karaoke sing-a-long and dance-y shows become as dry and stale as Big Brother? (I predict the phone sex ads will end up getting their own show. What do you think?)

Honestly I cannot possibly imagine how low it can go. I suppose it will be something even more incredibly banal or more incredibly vile than phone sex ads. The sad thing is, they are going to jump on the bandwagon of whatever is hugely popular with the masses. Don't you think that's the truly scary part of it all? American Idol's ratings, and the fact that Charlie Sheen is the highest paid actor on American TV?

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Your favourite game that you play is...? (Try to convince us of its worth and maybe we can play together.)

Bocce. It's quick and fun and doesn't require a huge investment of time and equipment. It is not a contact sport, so you don't have to crash into other players or be crashed into.

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What is your favourite fictional character(s)? (Give details of what fiction they are from? What do they do? Reason(s) why? etc)

No way to narrow that down. Sherlock Holmes, Krazy Kat, Frank, Floyd the barber...

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Do you think the saying "chicks dig scars" flows both ways? Do "dudes dig scars?" (If they don't what do you think they do "dig"?)

Chicks and dudes - I don't know. I've never been tapped into what is really being "digged". Personally I dig a sense of humor and I think most people of both sexes do. But there's all this DNA-based survival-of-the-fittest / alpha-male crap going on that confuses and frustrates people. Again, it made a lot of sense when the earth was young and savage, but now it just makes everybody angry and insane.

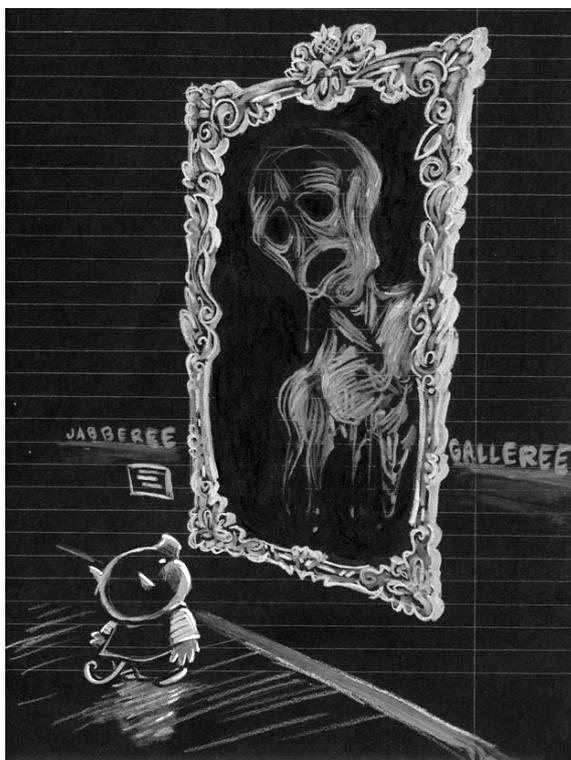
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Should dumb people be given the opportunity to breed? (By dumb people we mean people who are too irresponsible to care for children. What problems do you see as a result of this? What kind of people would you classify as unsuitable for breeding? We won't judge you on your answer, but readers may.)

I think your definition is a good beginning. If you're too stupid to nurture a child you shouldn't have one. But who decides who is worthy? Hilary Clinton? Jerry Falwell? Some equally powerful and influential Muslim? I hope not.

I think a more manageable and needed goal would be a worldwide limit to the NUMBER of kids a couple can have. HA! Like THAT'll ever catch on!

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We are all said to be unique individuals. When you discover that you are not, do you think that someone or something has stolen your thoughts & ideas; or do you just think it's just a coincidence? (Has this even happened to you?)

Has happened many times, and definitely just coincidence. I only know of two times when an intellectual property I created was truly stolen from me. One was a gag cartoon I submitted to a boob magazine in the 70s, and one was a drawing I did in high school. Doyle A was showing it to people and telling them he drew it!

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