# **ENTERTAINMENT**

Technique • Friday, February 21, 2003

### Nothing to do?

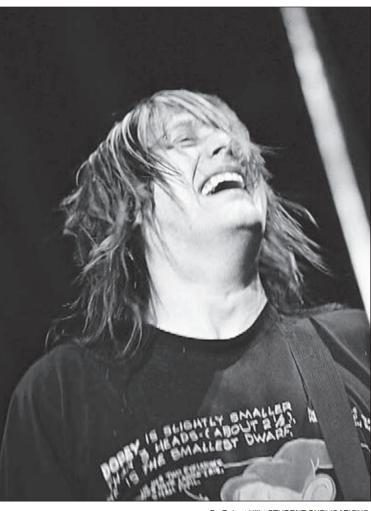
We've got an abundance of concert listings, so you don't have to sit at home every night. Find a band and go ssee a show. Page 19

### **Baseball is back!**

It's that time of year again. No not spring break—baseball season. Turn to the sports section to get a preview. Page 28

# Goo Goo Dolls visit Atlanta on tour with Bon Jovi

Art Seavey talks with bassist Robby Takac about the tour, their newest album, and the Buffalo roots of the band



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Robby Takac (above), bassist for the Goo Goo Dolls, performed last week with his band at Philips Arena. They are currently touring with Bon Jovi.

By Art Seavey Staff Writer

College students rue the waking hours, but when the phone rings and Robby Takac, bassist of the Goo Goo Dolls, is on the other end, there is a bit more motivation to throw off those covers. Being a longtime fan of the Goo Goo Dolls, I couldn't wait to dive into conversation with

A 38-year-old man with a husky figure and raspy, rock star voice greeted me good morning. Robby is an affable, upbeat guy with plenty to say. The twenty or so minutes we spent speaking together are definitely a highlight of my Technique career. I started with the basic questions.

"We got in last night and went to my absolute favorite Japanese restaurant in the entire United States, which is in a little strip mall by a Kroger here in Buckhead, and had a drink and went to bed," he recalled.

The band was in town with Bon Jovi. They had a show at the Philips arena that night.

"Everybody's getting along, nobody's seem to have killed each other or anything, it's going well," he laughed.

"It's a little bit different than what we're used to...We sort of evolved through the clubs and things like that up to a level where we're sort of comfortable with ourselves in the theaters, you know, and smaller arenas and stuff like that. But with these guys it's 20,000 people a night—pretty intense. Nearly every show is sold out; it's just crazy. "

"I guess from my perspective growing up and paying more attention to the Ramones, and Hüsker Dü than I did, you know, Bon Jovi and Poison I guess. It's pretty amazing, like, how big [Bon Jovi] is right

"I remember when I got my first electric guitar...going, 'Oh my God! I have been given the power."

**Robby Takac** Bassist, Goo Goo Dolls

They are traveling across the country in a caravan of busses and a truck. We've been out 40 weeks on this Gutterflower record already, so we're pretty much in tour mode here."

Robby, at the age of twelve, was given a gift that truly set his future course. "I remember when I got my first electric guitar...I just remembergoing, 'Oh my God! I have been given the power.' You feel like superman when you're a kid," he joyfully reminisced.

"And then I discovered that there were no bass players around. And you know being a kid that couldn't hit a baseball to save my life...it was crucial for my social situation to get in a band." We had a good laugh at

Robby grew up just outside of Buffalo, New York. He sees it as a "neat" place to spend the early years. It was there that he met Johnny Rzeznik, front man of the band.

"[Johnny] was in a band with my cousin, and I was in a band with our original drummer George. I went and filled in some shows playing rhythm guitar with my cousin's band and I kind of met John through that channel. So we spent the majority of our twenties getting hammered together and trying to finish college and stuff.'

Robby explained to me that the nature of Buffalo played a key part in getting the Goo Goo Dolls started. "It was an easy place to get noticed locally...I guess the lack of clubs and such was sort of the catalyst for us to get out of the city and start to play around a little bit more back in '86-'87 when we started out, which I think probably helped us out a real lot in the long run.

See Dolls, page 16

### Generals realistically showcases Civil War battles

By C. Jason Mabry Contributing Writer

Title: Gods and Generals Starring: Robert Duvall, Stephan Lang, Jeff Daniels, Mira Sorvi-

Director: Ronald F. Maxwell Rating: PG-13 Runtime: 229 minutes Score: 4 out of 5 stars

Gods and Generals, the latest movie from Ted Turner, is the prequel to the 1993 drama Gettysburg and the second installation of the Civil War trilogy based on the novels written by Jeff Shaara and father Michael Shaara. The film focuses on the founding of the armies of the North and South and follows the action through the Battle of Fredericksburg. Movie highlights include the epic battles of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.

The action revolves around the rise and sudden fall of General Stonewall Jackson, adeptly portrayed by Stephen Lang, who depicted Major General George E. Pickett in Gettysburg.

The cast plays an interesting mix of historical and fictional characters. While the movie focuses on historical commanders,

side plots involving townspeople and military men flesh out the action and bring the gruesome reality to the forefront. During the intense battle of Fredericksburg, a southern Irish unit is fortified behind a stone wall, and a northern Irish unit is commanded to breach the wall. The attackers and defenders realize the painful predicament yet remain helpless, and thus epitomize the internal conflict of the Nation during the era.

The imagery is intense, and the action sequences are not typical Hollywood-style. One has the feeling of being a townsperson watching as the war trudges through the streets. The movie appears to be very accurate and a realistic representation of the conditions and hardships present during the nation's most difficult toil. In parts, the movie drags, leaving the viewer with the impression of observing the entire Civil War, but it takes on a playlike atmosphere, engrossing and engaging the viewer.

The film does not indicate that one side is in the right, one cause more just, but pits both contingents against one another in a struggle of determination to

See Gods, page 17

# School provides a raucous college ride



By Richard Foreman / © 2003 DreamWorks LLC

Frank (Will Ferrell, above) reverts to the raucous behavior of his younger, untamed alter ego "Frank the Tank" when he joins an off-campus fraternity with his buddies Mitch (Luke Wilson) and Beanie (Vince Vaughn).

By C. Iason Mabry Contributing Writer

Title: Old School Starring: Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn, Ellen Pompeo, Juliette Lewis **Director: Todd Phillips** Rating: R Runtime: 91 minutes Score: 4 out of 5 stars

Mitch Martin, played by Luke Wilson, is a working man in his early thirties without much going on in his life. Suddenly, he loses what little is going right when he walks in on his girlfriend in an awkward situation.

A few days later, he buys a house near a college campus and his friends throw a blowout party. His friends include the about-to-be-married

Frank (Will Ferrell) and the married-with-children Beanie (Vince Vaughn). The next day, the college dean (played by Jeremy Piven), whom the friends picked on while in school, requisitions the house strictly for college use.

When all appears over, the friends concoct what is at best an impracti-

See School, page 17

## Dark Blue depicts L.A. crime scene

By Amy Schmisseur Contributing Writer

Title: Dark Blue
Starring: Kurt Russell, Ving
Rhames, Scott Speedman, Brendan Gleeson
Director: Ron Shelton
Rating: R
Runtime: 113 minutes
Score: 3 out of 5 stars

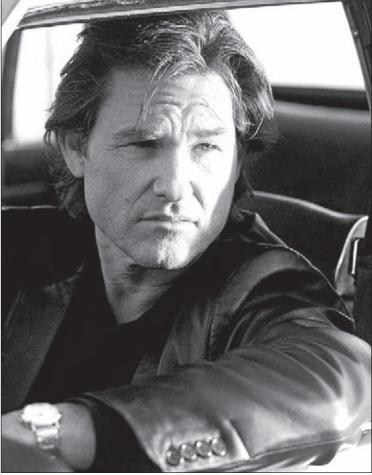
Opening with the violent beating of Rodney King and closing with the aftermath of the trial's verdict, this movie allows one to see Los Angeles in a very different light. No longer portraying the stereotypes of glamour and wealth, this movie shows the world the real L.A.

During this racially-charged time, the Los Angeles Police Department's elite Special Investigations Squad (SIS) is assigned a low-profile homicide investigation. SIS veteran Eldon Perry (Kurt Russell) and his new partner Bobby Keough (Scott Speedman) are out on the case.

Perry quickly tests Keough's principles, from lying to shooting boards to killing a man in cold blood, Keough is asked to risk it all. Jack Van Meter, head of SIS, is controlling their every move.

Meanwhile, black Assistant Chief Holland threatens to end Perry's unique brand of "vigilante justice." While pursuing the ruthless murderers, Perry and Keough must face their own personal problems, which have the ability to destroy them even more than the criminals they pur-

Perry comes from a family of "gunslingers"—both his father and grandfather were LAPD cops. He knows how to follow orders, and he knows how to work the system. What he learns is that every man must make choices, every man must decide why he does what he does. He sees the world in terms of good and



© 2003 United Artists

Kurt Russell, above, stars as Eldon Perry in the crime drama *Dark Blue*. The movie focuses on racial crimes, including the Rodney King trial, in L.A.

evil and does not care what crime someone committed, as long as they are "evil."

The good-versus-evil theme in this movie is over dramatized and over-simplified by making the "bad cops" appear to have no morals and the "good cops" to be overtly righteous. This movie also contains a lot of violence, obscenities, and unnecessary nudity.

However, the actors have amazing screen chemistry and the movie does provide many poignant scenes.

The aftermath of the acquittal of the four white cops is shown in horrifying detail. Robbery, homicide, and arson abound.

The movie progresses at a good pace. Its scenes are constructed well and flow together. Above the general fare of Hollywood, this movie offers another level of complexity.

While *Dark Blue* is not a movie for the faint of heart, nor is it a particularly good date movie, it is a wonderful movie for coming to grips with reality.

**Dolls** from page 15

He talked about how Buffalo has taken a downturn since the steel industry pulled out. Robby has invested in the city and cited the conviction of the people. He has even opened up a studio primarily for recording commercials.

"I have a studio in my house in L.A., as does John," he said. This allows the two to write and experiment whenever they need to. Robby, despite his main role as the band's bassist, usually writes and sings a handful of songs on each album.

I wanted to know exactly how a Goo Goo Dolls song gets from Robby's head to the studio to my CD player.

"John's got the bulk of the songs on the record so once we sort of figure out where he's going we start picking through my stuff and eventually we look at each other and go, 'Wow, I think we've got a record.' And if it was better than the last one then everybody gets to hear it."

"Usually the demos are done in kind of odd forms, you know, because we're doing them mainly on our own just sitting in our little home studios. We bring it in usually with no lyrics and just kind of bang it around with the band for a while."

"I'm wickedly

my...bones."

**Robby Takac** 

addicted to bath tubs.

I need to be in a tub

every day and soak

Bassist, Goo Goo Dolls

He then gave mean insight into the studio atmosphere. "It starts out very seriously, you know, "There's gonna be no f——— around this time, positively.' And before you know itwe've built a bar and we're having parties and the whole thing." He let out a huge laugh.

laugh.
"Within two months we're in doing basic guitar, basic drum, we take a good listen at that and figure out where we need to go with stuff."

"We did this record at Capitol Records in Los Angeles and it's like a super, super, old-school studio. No health club, no Jacuzzi, basically in the basement of an office building. So there wasn't a whole lot to do there aside from making your music, which I think is a concept that gets lost in a lot of these A-list recording studios. They're a little bit more of a resort than they are a recording studio, sometimes. "

One of the best songs to come off that album is "What a Scene." "I've heard John explain that as a sort of realization that you're living in L.A, and all the wackiness that comes along," he said.

"That's a really cool song for us to play live...because everybody ends up singing along...it's cool."

I was a little wary to confront him with the fact that his songs have, well, flopped. They have never received any noticeable airplay. He just shrugged it off and laughed.

"I'm a bit of a tether for the band, I think. I kind of cling a little bit more to our roots. John tends to reach out in an awful lot of directions, which really ends up with some amazing results, but I prefer to keep my head down, and swing it around," he said, referring to his punk roots.

Wediverged into his view of music today. With the influence of P2P sharing, he explained that the industry has become singles-driven again. A listener is able to go out

and find the one song they want. According to Robby, this shelters them, however. "You're not going to find a lot of the nuances and subtleties that bands have to offer, which makes an interesting band, as opposed to one interesting song."

He agreed with the idea that a majority of society latches onto the source of the music rather than its substance. "To most people, music is just that distraction that gets them from the office back home and maybe the 7-11. They shut the radio off and they're done with it."

"It's weird when you're not holding a record in your hand. Like when I was a kid...it was all vinyl...you hold that record in your hand. Same thing with a CD—you look at it, you soak up every bit of information you can about it and it really sparked an interest. But now, you know, it's like, 'Hey, Those are a nice pair of pants!' and that's the end of it. If the song happens to be good then that's sort of a bonus I guess...it's an odd time in music now, man."

I was hoping another video would be made from *Gutterflower*, but was only met disappointment.

"To spend 250,000 dollars making a video doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to a lot of people anymore."

He loves to make videos, but explains that the

explains that the industry has just fallen out. MTV and VH-1 have been "cool" to Goo in the past, but Robby sees them as less and less relevant today. "Maybe that's because they play less and less music, I guess," he said. With Gut-

*terflower*, the band conceived the concept for the album art. The girl featured on the cover brings jokingly terrible memories back for Robby.

"It was kind of obvious she didn't want to be there considering she spent most of the day kicking people in the nuts and throwing food. There's a flower in her hand on the record and we had to superimpose the flower in from another shot because she kept eating them.

"I'm not kidding you, dude. She was a terror, man... As we were leaving after a long day of shooting...I saw her mom dragging her out and she threw a bowl of spaghetti on the wall, and I was just like, 'You know what? That girl just does not want to be here.'" It took a while for us to stop laughing after that.

Robby gave me insight into his quirks, strange as they may be. "Embarrassingly enough...I can't play with my shoes on." After fifteen years of performing without shoes he is scared to wear them on stage. "I'm wickedly addicted to bath tubs. I need to be in a tub every day and soak my rum-soaked bones...I know it's weird, very very odd."

The Goos are scheduled to tour with Bon Jovi until mid-April. After that, Robby expects to go back to the song writing process again. Another tour is also in the works for this summer.

I wished him luck with the concert and hung up the phone. My venture into the world of rock with Robby Takac came to an end. There's no desire to get back in bed after an interview like that.

### **Technique Crossword:** Heaven on Earth

### By Joey Katzen Staff Writer

#### Across

1. Foggy drizzle

5. Recede

8. Cain's captive

12. Globe

15. Toward **16.** Ga-400 pastime

18. BAL's adjacent knob

19. LA Activity

21. Custard cake

23. Red-flowered shrub

24. Formerly French Indochina

26. Eves' opposites
27. Noah Wylie drama

28. Choral group

31. Spigot
33. Vegas machine

34. Apple brews

37. War god

**39.** Tasty Indy prize?

41. Tie holder

42. They bring good things to life

43. BTW

45. Death's messenger Grim

**46.** Damascus country

**48.** Be boisterous

51. Norma Desmond's address

56. London pub-crawls

57. Chieftain (var.)

**59.** Calm

63. Celebrity TV show

**64.** Graduate lecturer

66. Comedian Carvey

67. Truncates **69.** Fortuneteller

71. Quake forerunner 72. Composer Stravinsky

73. Long bar

75. Pro-bono 77. Jordan's famous direction

**78.** Dull

**80.** Throw up, colloquially

82. Islam sect

85. Reach

87. Cher film

90. Kiddie baseball equipment91. A single cat or dog?

93. Françoise's aha! instigator 94. Rocket suffix of Disney fame

95. Nick Cage movie: Guarding

96. Attempt

**97.** Luck

Down

1. Isn't listening intently enough

2. Weaves between

3. Doc Livingston, to friends

4. Ripped

**5.** Extended period

**6.** ODK president, affectionately

7. Property entrustee

8. Lingo

9. Deg. not available at Tech

10. Chicken precursor, or not

11. Sporting mates 12. Share an area with

13. Pre-Jamestown settlement

14. Gust

17. Genetic block

20. Choke 22. Puccini Opera

25. Calloway center, for a few months

more at least

29. Straggle **30.** Builds

32. Reads through code

35. Taupe

36. Largest human organ 38. Brussell's goodies?

**40.** Superman actor Christopher **44.** Matzo-ball drowner

**47.** Fish jelly

49. Latin: "From itself"

**50.** Protestant county

52. Sea duck

**53.** "It's

World"

54. Politician Janet 55. Condemns publicly

58. Dead stumps

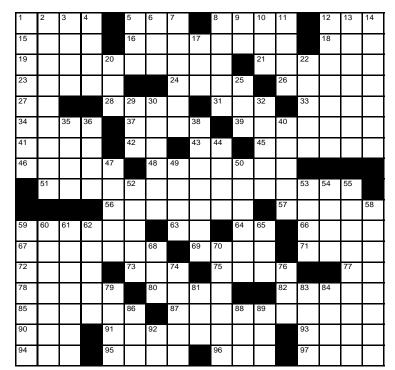
**59.** Secluded

**60.** Estate inheritor

61. Oliver Twist's new father

**62.** Roman senate

65. Exist



**68.** "Boo hoo"

**70.** Try

74. Curses to hell

76. Exists, to Jacques

79. Mud precursor

81. Carpet grass

83. Relating to pee

84. Nekkid

**86.** Engineering org.

88. Neither's correlator

**89.** Eavesdrop

92. Exists

Solutions on page 26

School

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cal plan. They turn the house into a fraternity. Three grown men and a host of recruits ranging from age 20 to age 80 share a house, and the situation degenerates from that point.

Think Animal House versus Meet the Parents. Do not expect good, clean fun. Do not anticipate that the situation must improve. Be prepared for the painful comedy so rampant in Meet the Parents, and the outlandish humor of Animal House,

and the picture grows clearer.

While the trailer fully conveys a cheap, slapstick-riddled entourage of bathroom humor, the movie delivers many hilarious situations that escalate throughout the film. One almost cringes in horror at the predicaments, and even the most hardened will have difficulty stifling the laughter.

The movie really begins hitting about halfway through, as previous situations come full circle with even greater impact than the first occurrence. The acting by Luke Wilson leaves a little to be desired, but is more than covered by the screen chemistry between Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn. Will Ferrell's presence brings a decidedly *Saturday Night Live*-quality to the film, adding yet another degree of humor.

The movie will lighten spirits and provide an evening of joviality. Some may balk at the more explicit moments, but the overall comedic value is not to be argued. Expect to be entertained.

Gods

from page 15

succeed. Throughout, the audience observes the mettle of the commanders and the combatants, and receives the impression the other side garners of those in difficulty. One obtains the sense that each group pities the other as much as themselves, for the sorrows they have experienced, and those yet to come.

The movie is quite long, running three hours and 49 minutes. However, the screening offered a

much-welcomed 12-minute intermission. The second half is decidedly more action-driven than the first, and in turn, even more engrossing. The climax arrives with the ambush of Jackson, and follows the downfall of General Lee's hopes. Lee's insistence on the survival of his right-hand man is moving, and culminates leaving the audience in a quiet stupor. The movie ends with the funeral procession, a solemn foreshadowing of the events to come in the remainder of the war.



#### Echo Lounge (551 Flat Shoals Rd.) (404) 681-3600

www.echostatic.com/echolounge
2/21 The Legendary Shack Shakers
2/22 Osaga/Genetic/Figure 1.1
2/24 Alejandro Escovedo/No River City
2/25 DJ Vadim & the Russian Percussion
2/27 The Good Life/Rilo Kiley/Mayday
2/28 The Black Keys/The Soledad Brothers
3/1 Paper Lions/The Close/Je Suis France

3/3 The Scene Creamers/Electric Eel Shock

#### Cotton Club (152 Luckie St.) (404) 688-1193

www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp 2/21 Dirty Dozen Brass Band 2/22 CKY 2/24 Greenwheel 2/27 Doubledrive

2/28 Oteil/Colonel Bruce Hampton 3/1 Maroon 5

3/2 Lyricist Lounge

The Earl (488 Flat Shoals Ave.)

(404) 522-3950

www.badearl.com 2/21 Keith & the Satellites 2/22 Keith & the Satellites/The Blue Velvets 2/26 Oneida/Victory Girls/Untied States 2/27 Sound of Humans/Ladies Night 2/28 A Fir-Ju Well/The Lucky Guns 3/1 Grupofantasma/Tag Team

Variety Playhouse (1099 Euclid Ave.) (404) 521-1786 www.variety-playhouse.com 2/21 Keller Williams

2/22 Steve Earle & the Dukes 2/28 Kinky 3/1 King Crimson Masquerade (695 North Ave.) (404) 577-2007

www.masq.com 2/28 Clutch/Plank Road Chain Gang

Star Bar (437 Moreland Ave.) (404) 681-9018

www.starbar.net

2/21 Gargantua/Dragstrip Syndicate 2/22 The Helgas/The Needles 2/25 DJ Romeo Cologne 2/26 Slackdaddy/Floodcity

2/27 Dwayne 2/28 The Evils/Artimus Pyledriver

CJ's Landing (Buckhead Ave.) (404) 237-7657

www.cjslanding.com 2/21 Alterstate/Karma Lingo 2/28 The Likes of Which/Vynl

3/1 Big Sky/Runaway Cab

Smith's Olde Bar (1580 Piedmont Ave.) (404) 875-1522

www.smithsoldebar.com

2/21 The Weary Boys/The Rockin'Pontoons 2/22 Juice/Tishamingo 2/23 Dolls & Therapy/Brian Sofer 2/24 The Rich McCulley Band/Beanpole 2/25 The Asylum Street Spankers 2/26 The Damn Wells 2/27 Joseph Arthur/Ian Webber 2/28 Graham Colton/Antigone Rising 3/1 Mofro/Skydog/Hobex 3/3 Downright/The Starch Martins

Roxy Theatre (3110 Roswell Rd.) (404) 233-7699

www.atlantaconcerts.com/roxy.asp
2/22 Susan Tedeschi

# ..101010101...Two Bits 1010101...

I would like to dedicate this edition of Two Bits to the roommates with whom I have shared my college experience. As you might imagine, it takes a lot to tackle the daily functions of life alongside yours truly. And the Two Bits man is indeed proud of those who have braved the journey with a light heart and a solid character. It is by the grace of their sacrifices that the Two Bits man can now share with you his tried and tested compilation of the best ways to harass your roomie.

The job market is suffering at the moment. If you share my disposition and are about to depart this fine institution, you're probably looking to find employment. The Two Bits man finds it a rather hilarious venture to call up one's roommate pretending to be from the personnel department of their first choice placement position and inform them that they have the job.

Explain to your roommate that he is to appear at Centennial Park for a confirmation interview at exactly 1:07a.m. the following Friday evening and to bring a change of clothes. If he questions you, ask him if he is the kind of person who enjoys tetherball. The Two Bits man knows that this may sound a bit strange, but trust me, it works.

The Georgia Department of Safety currently holds the recommendation that you should wait at least two weeks after pranking your roommate before doing it again. After all, you can only buy so many tooth-

brushes to replace those defiled by yourroommate's vengeance. But after he's had some time to recoup, he'll once again be ripe and ready for targeting.

Timing is critical when attempting this next operation, but if executed correctly, the results are brilliant. But be careful in how far you go here—this stunt is not for the squeamish and must be performed delicately in a responsible, mature manner.

First, all the factors must be in place. It's not too uncommon for a mutual friend of yours to stagger around the dorm looking for time to waste and end up in your room. Your roommate is absent and you're typing a paper on your computer, so said acquaintance just plops down on your roommate's desk chair and begins to idly fidget with a game of solitaire or something.

Now if your roommate is like a lot of Tech students who enjoy the limitless exploitation of the Ethernet by maintaining a constant "I will die before I sign off" presence on AOL instant messenger, then all factors are in place. Sign on AIM with an anonymous screen name and prepare to keep the straightest face. It's time to send a message to our unsuspecting visitor.

(Anonymous Screen Name): hey Don't give him much time to respond.

(Anonymous Screen Name): I know it's been awkward but I was wondering if we were going to meet

again tonight.

Now if your nosy wandering visitor was looking for entertainment he's surely found it and will likely egg on the conversation by impersonating your roommate.

At this point you have a wonderfully diverse set of options such as, 1.) (Anonymous Screen Name): I know 50 bucks is a little steep, but a girl's got to make a living.

2.) (Anonymous Screen Name): I understand if you don't want to, but you know, we're just two guys in college experimenting. It's not like we're, you know...

3.) (Anonymous Screen Name): I'm going to wear my Thunder Cat underwear, how 'bout you?

Any of these one-liners can be fun, or for those creative types, you can even make up one of your own!

Moving on... in order to perform this next prank you will need to acquire a can of shaving cream and one small- to medium-sized ferret.

Oh, but alas, we're out of space for this week. That's okay, the Two Bits man trusts that the imaginations of his readers will take flight here to sum up this anthology.

Remember, there are simply no limits to imagination, no boundaries to fantasia, and there's nothing wrong with wearing Thunder Cat underwear. The Two Bits man never meant to imply that there was. Now as for abusing ferrets, I'll leave that up to your individual discretion. This is truly Tech's own Two Bits man, and boy are my arms tired.

