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Jibba Jabber

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VERSUS:
Everybody knows you never mess with Texas or a carnie, but who would win in a match between ISU football coach Dan McCarney and the dude running the Ferris wheel?

McCarney
Carnie

Preferred Clothing Label

Big Pussy's Mafia-style warm-up suits.

Farm & Fleet rope/sack combo.

Winner: McCarney. Neither has the elegance of the mock turtleneck, but clothes should ideally have sleeves and leg holes.

Wife Beater

Has been accused of being one.

Has been accused of wearing one.

Winner: Carnie. Keep in mind, though, neither have been convicted of any under-shirt-related offenses. In this state.

The Big One

Can't win it.

Won't let you win it.

Winner: McCarney. All I want is the switchblade comb, you greedy bastard, and I'm willing to spend whatever it takes!

Stomping Grounds

Jack Trice Stadium.

Wherever the booze is at.

Winner: Carnie. Now if we're talking booze at Jack Trice Stadium, that's a different story.

Major Cause of Discomfort

His boss, BVDV (Bruce Van De Velde).

His underwear, BVDs circa 1972.

Winner: McCarney. There's nothing good that could ever be truthfully said about old grunts.

Favorite Song

"It's Raining Men."

"Dueling Banjos."

Winner: Carnie. After hearing the banjo, all other string instruments fade in comparison. Except for all the popular ones and the sitar.

Dislikes

Rainy days, dishonest people and the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Soap, those damn kids and their dog and the widespread acceptance of statutory rape laws.

Winner: McCarney. Who doesn't hate a whiny, wet Hawk fan?

OVERALL WINNER

Coach Mac comes through in the end to win 4-3. Not enough wins to qualify for the Versus Bowl, but he probably saved his job for at least one more issue.
Meeting in a cozy office in the bowels of the Boheme, 2900 West St., with its owner, Pete Sherman, is a little like talking one-on-one with a philosophy professor, though he actually is an aerospace engineer and statistics professor at Iowa State University. The professor has been in the news lately for trying to get his business recognized as a private club to circumvent the smoking ban. Here are some excerpts of the conversation Sherman had with Ethos.

Ethos: What do you like about teaching?
Sherman: Being in touch. We could wax philosophically here and say there's only one thing and that's the energy, however you want to define that. You can use the big bang if you want. I think that all of life is getting in touch, reconnecting with that one energy. Teaching is a nice medium for doing that.

E: I was going to ask you later what your philosophy of life is. Did you just give it to me?
S: I'd like to say in the dualistic framework I believe in the big bang theory. If you believe in the big bang theory, if you could extrapolate everything back to time zero, then everything came from one thing and hence is that one thing.

E: What's a better medium for reaching people? Owning a bar and making a connection behind it or teaching in a classroom? Or can't you tell?
S: The answer is yes. Whatever medium fate puns you in, the one you should be using. I've done it with my teaching. I've done it with family. I've done it here as a restaurant owner. It's just different mediums for doing the same thing. When you say which one is better, then the ladies and some select dudes, a very tempting-looking Hayden Christensen doing the Jedi thing (the few scenes are enough to make you hope he keeps that black helmet at bay a little longer). Sure it's brief, but it's all we have to sustain us until we can see the real thing in May 2002.

— Kate Kompass

E: What reasons are the police department giving you for why a private club wouldn't work?
S: A number of things. One is that we're a bar just like any other campus bar. I would disagree with that. I would admit that's a fair perception on their part. They don't come here. They don't know what it's like. They come in and check us out once in a while like they do People's or other places. OK, we look like we're a bar. We're serving, people are dancing. My perception is that we're far more than a bar, and I have a lot of evidence to support that like the fact that we have no drink specials. We don't have penny pitchers; we don't have $5 all-you-can-drink. I think that type of activity is socially negligent. It's not caring about people. You don't expect people to drink two glasses of beer when you're getting pitchers for a penny.

E: What would it take for the Florida Marlins and Tampa Bay Devil Rays to survive?
S: If you spring for a skybox, you can drink beer in the stadium at ISU football games. First the rich get the best parking spots and seats and now they get the booze, too? Can't they sneak a flask in like the rest of us peasants?

E: What would it take for the federal government to outlaw secondhand smoke?
S: Constitutional is number one. This is an activity that the federal government has been very much involved with for many years now. They do have warnings on cigarettes. Apparently, the federal government has decided that it's not quite as deadly as plutonium, and we shouldn't outlaw it completely. Then the city comes along with some strong constitutional advocates that say not only is smoking bad but anything to do with smoking is bad, including secondhand smoke. The giveaway in that argument is the portion of the ban that prohibits smoking outdoors. When you're trying to argue health effects of secondhand smoke outdoors, to me that's a gross intution to intelligence. If I'm supposed to honestly believe that it's a health issue and not just a personal dislike for the activity, then you're barking up the wrong tree.

E: At which level? Trying to argue health effects of secondhand smoke outdoors?
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