



In a move to insert more relationship comedy into the strip, I took the ominous warning from "The Ring" and parlayed it into true domestic horror - ring around the bathtub! Pity Tom, for he must employ "The Scrubbing Bubbles."

The framed picture of Naomi Watts on the wall of the first panel was a nod to Berkeley Breathed's "Bloom County" - a newspaper strip I never fully understood growing up, but one that I always enjoyed. I own all of his collected works and I think he's a brilliant illustrator. Certainly one of my greatest influences in terms of abstract humor.

In fact, if I remember correctly, he lives in Iowa City, Iowa. Certainly a point of pride for a denizen of the same flyover state.



Here's another comic referencing a movie no one saw. "Forumla 51" was one of those Samuel L. Jackson movies that he made when he thought no one else was looking. Films like "The Red Violin" or "The Caveman's Valentine" also fall under this category. Haven't heard of any of those movies? My point, exactly.

But in "Forumla 51," Jackson was sporting a pretty daring look with the cornrows and the kilt and I felt it was too strong a visual not to attempt to parody. Plus the whole confusion with household cleaner Formula 409 felt funny to me.

I actually started calling Jared "Mr. Wetpants" for a while after this strip, but he asked me to stop when no one understood the reference in mixed company.



Drew Barrymore's sequel to The Wizard of Oz has yet to emerge and at this stage of her career, I doubt it ever will.

The reference in the comic came about by trying to stay ahead of the curve when it came to production deals and rumors. In this case, I got bit in the ass since nothing ever materialized. If the move HAD been made, I would have looked like friggin' Nostradamus!

Still, you get a half-decent boob joke out of the whole sorrid mess, so you can't really complain...



I like how the second panel of this strip looks like it could have been lifted from an actual freeze frame of "Jackass." I think it has to do with the lettering of "wake up call." It just looks right.

Really enjoying the the blur effect on the air horn here, too. I think this is when I started to experiment more and more with Photoshop as I started to become more comfortable with the illustrative process.

It used to take me hours to draw, ink and color a comic. After a while I got fast enough where I could start adding more effects. I haven't gotten much faster these days because it seems for every new trick I master, I add another trick to the stable. Thus, continually extending my time putting a comic together.