



Vol. I  
Issue 5  
July 2008

"Putting the zine back in laziness"



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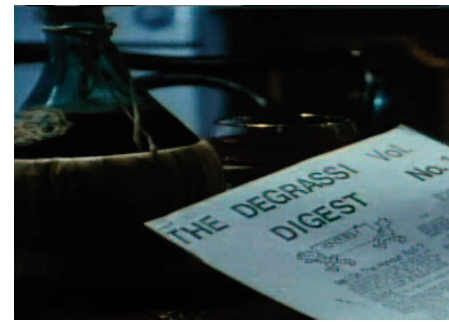
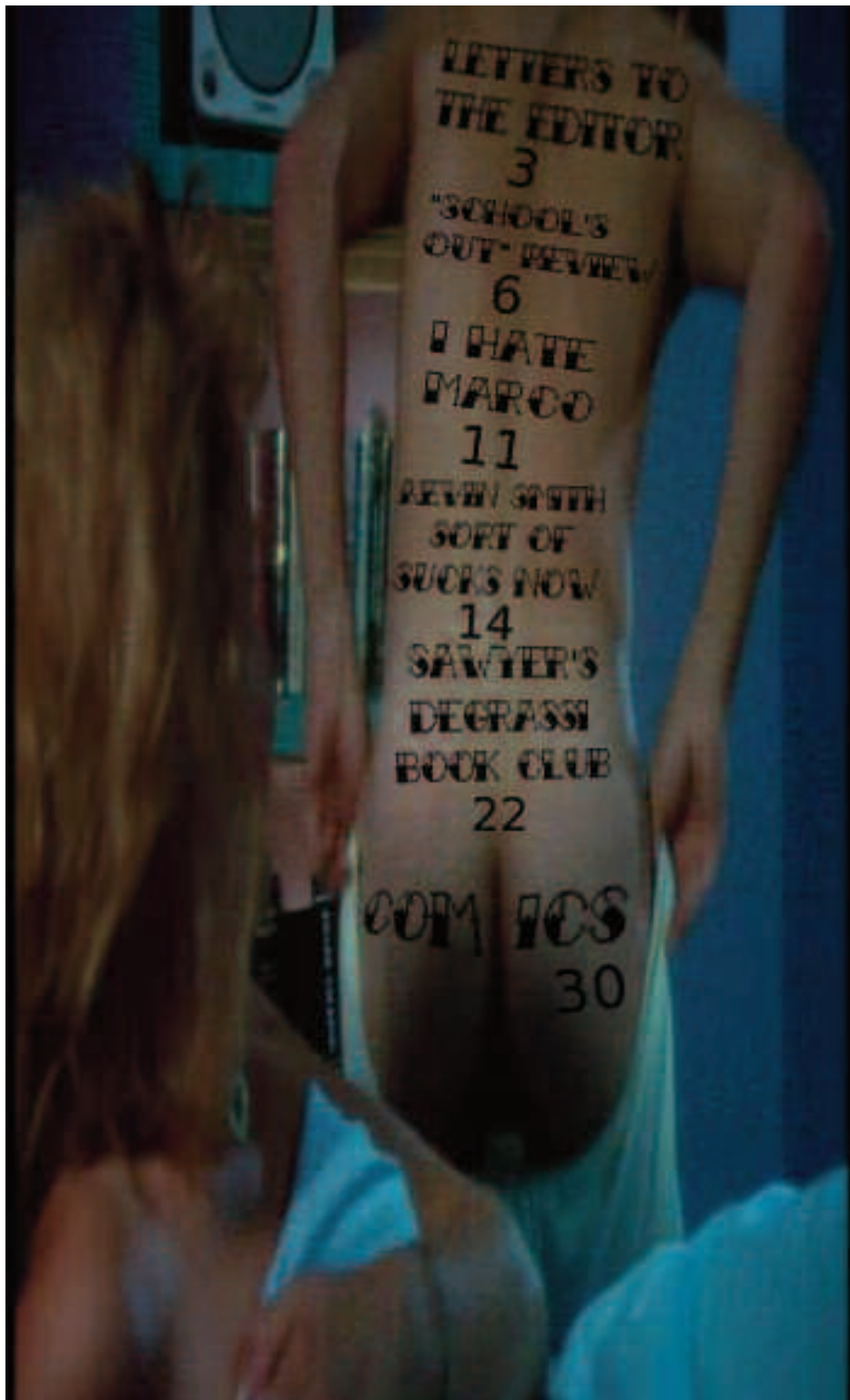
Postcards from Degrassi St.

Hey everyone. THANKS for checking out this issue of the Digest. Degrassi has reemerged as a powerful force in my heart lately, so i guess i'm sort of psyched to be doing another one of these issues. I know everyone (including myself) was pretty down on season 6, but season 7 has been pretty intense so far. I'm into it...actually no, I'm totally lying to you now. I'm making all of this up to try and reinforce a positive attitude towards this series. The reality of the situation is that I sort of can't stand watching these people and their dead eyes anymore. I download the new

episodes, but I'm going through the motions at this point. I wouldn't describe my intentions towards watching as IRONY, it is not so bad that it is good...at this point, it's more like punishment. PUNISHMENT for an ill-spent quarter age of my life. For some reason (probably buried deep within an abnormal psychology book) writing about the horrors that I see on the screen makes me feel a little bit better though. I guess there's something comforting about watching cliché adolescent issues be played out over and over again when you the benefit of hindsight and the dreamed up confidence to be judgmental. So, here we are...

Hey thanks to: Sassy and Cleo. Sarah and Joe. Veronica Chambers. My brand new bike. The "over 21" Degrassi community. Psilo Design. Happy hour (and pinball) at the Alleyway. The Portland Pinball League. And, as always, beautiful Portland Oregon...a place where liquids are produced with a higher quality.





## --LETTERS TO THE EDITOR--

If you don't write me a letter, we have NO chance of falling in love. Save us both... Please send your emails to [thezitremedy@gmail.com](mailto:thezitremedy@gmail.com). Send your tangibles to P.O. Box 56551 Portland OR 97238. Do it for our kids.

Matt from New Jersey writes...

Thanks again. I got it three days ago...I don't think I've read everything from the Degrassi zines yet, but I've read almost everything, and really enjoyed doing so--I laughed out loud many times. I'm not sure I can praise them in a way that does them justice (part of the reason for the delay writing back), but they're all great, full of unique and fun takes on Degrassi and life in general. The hardcopies make it a lot easier for me to go from page to page than the online copies--I'm always screwing up reading those--so I really appreciate having them.

I haven't read much of the one on the cats yet, but that looks good, too. The pins and pics were a nice surprise.

So you saw my pic on the Internet, did you? Yeah, my name's all over the place on the Net, I think. I used to contribute a fair amount to the Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences (the site where that picture is), but haven't done so in a while.

There's some more about me on my MySpace profile--I'm going to send Degrassi Digest a friend request in a moment. (It doesn't say so on my profile, but I'm also a fan of Match Game--too bad I don't get GSN anymore, though!)

Thanks again and best regards,  
Matt

P.S. This is about the most miscellaneous question I could ask...but I noticed that in your Top 10 Drug Moments list, you gave the TNG moments all the the odd numbers, and the pre-TNG moments all the even numbers. Was this intentional, or

just coincidence? Just wondering...

If I included every letter I got that said "oh My god, you (and your Degrassi enthusiast's Magazine) are SO awesome", that would be the ONLY thing IN these zINES. SO, I have to be picky these days. I included this letter for a couple reasons...1) Matt illustrates the value in tracking DOWN hardcopies of these zINES. I honestly believe they read MUCH better when there is NO click-ing INVOLVED. 2) Matt is a totally awesome Math person and PICKS up ON pat-terns that others do NOT. There are patterns in these zINES. THANKS Matt.

Chevelle from P-Land O writes...

hello mr. degrassi digest,

last summer I was looking for a birthday present for my friend and I stumbled across a free (!! )degrassi digest in Reading Frenzy. Absolutely amazing shit! I read the whole thing and decided to keep it. For my friends birthday I let them borrow it, but told them that I definitely wanted it back. It was the issue that dealt with JTs death. To be honest, I always felt like he was possibly the love of my life, besides Chris (who the degrassi digest TOTALLY has a mini-comic of), and his death was shattering. Maybe one day I'd love to contribute. Sadly, I've been out of the degrassi loop for a while. I own the dvd box set of degrassi junior high, and have seen all of those episodes a few times (maybe I just said that to brag). Anyways, you're totally sweet for making such an awesome zine. Lately I've been thinking a lot about a degrassi themed pin-ball game. I can't imagine why they haven't made this yet! I've lived in Portland for about 2 years, and since moving here I've had a hard time finding people who equally understand degrassi (or have even heard of it). Finding your zine was relieving, almost like therapy.

Is this a weird fangirl letter? I hope not. I honestly live a totally normal life outside of degrassi. I rent movies and other tv shows, eat good food, live a cool life, and have mostly friends who have no idea what degrassi is. I'm glad some people still do though. catch you later, chevelle

Chevelle is super cool, so I feel weird taking her to task for this...but JT is a totally gross love of your life. I guess I can sort of UNDERSTAND the appeal of Chris. He seems like he'd try to "do right by you" MOST of the time...and, when you can actually UNDERSTAND what he's saying, it seems like he'd be

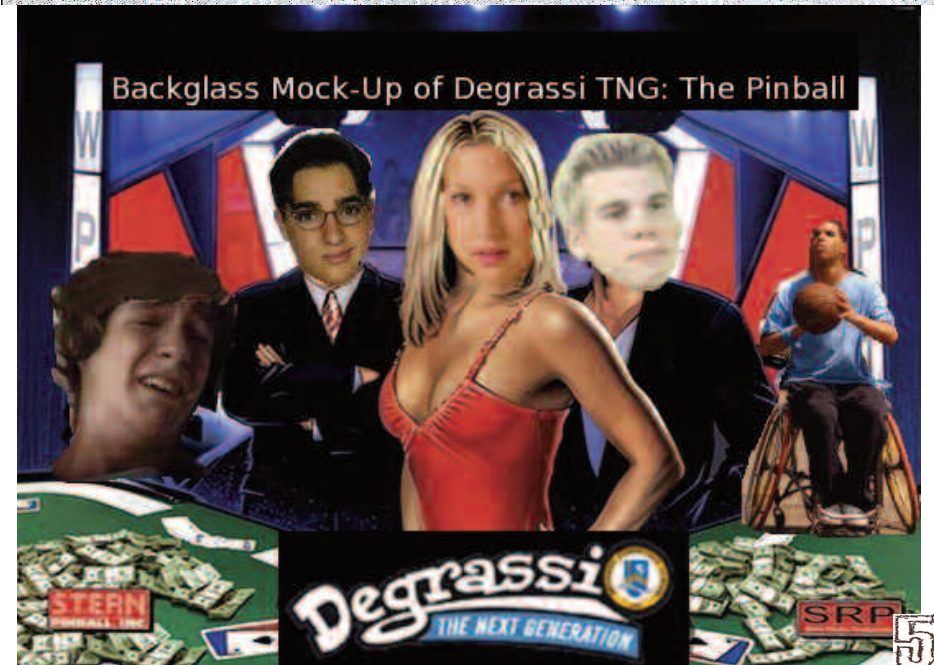
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the sort of guy to compliment your outfits and NOT feel weird about that. JT is just gross and clownish...a man who is clearly trying to cover his trail of insecurity by making light of every possible situation. Him getting stabbed was like when Tom Cruise shined some sunlight on Tim Curry in Labyrinth. I actually heard angels sing while JT was slumping down. It's NOT really my business to judge a lady's choice in gentlemen though.

Degrassi themed pinball sounds like the best pinball related idea I have heard in MONTHS...and I typically hear one to three pinball related ideas a day from my roommate. "Steal the candy" hurry up bonuses, "Spinner" spinners, 1-ball spinner multi-ball, Spinner "captive ball" captive balls, Emma's lazy eyes as drop targets, Zit Remedy video mode...I could go ON forever about this, but I doubt many people holding this zine right now care too much about pinball.

THANKS for your kind words, Chevelle. ANYONE reading this should DEFINITELY check out Chevelle's rap songs. She sings really good rap songs under the name "Oven Mitts". Myspace page? Myspace page....

<http://www.myspace.com/ovenmitts> THANKS Chevelle.



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So, essentially everyone with working eyeballs has had this experience...you are powering through every single episode of Degrassi Jr. High and Degrassi High...you've given up eating anything that can't be delivered to your front door...you are peeing in a jar, and your mom is at home crying because you never call her anymore. We've all had this experience, so it's sort of cool that every human being with the gift of sight has shared the same disappointing moment that is "the conclusion" of Degrassi High. We've all been there. We've seen the final school dance where Dwayne lets the HIV flag out and special ed students are dancing with the principal and the school is getting shutdown for remodeling and the credits roll and that's IT. The "stars" of the show were in their junior year of high school, so why did the show even end? Well, after what I imagine was a two year bender of drugs and hanging out in libraries wearing sweatpants, Yan Moore returned with a totally fantastic TV movie that ALMOST wraps things up. Maybe it'd be sort of fun to watch that and we can all talk about how it made us feel. Let's do.



Their cold, dead eyes pain me.

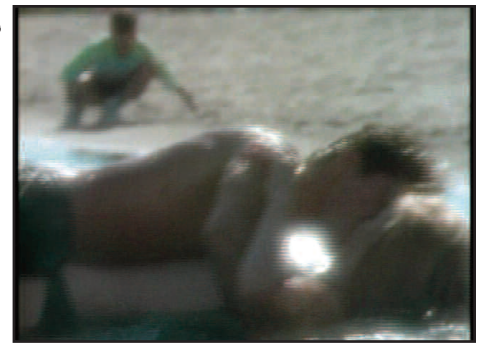


Dicks

I guess you should know upfront that this movie follows the familiar "tale of three cities" story structure...where-in the audience is subjected to the misadventures of the Zit Remedy bandmen. This show has a revolving cast of thousands, but always seems to fall back on the excitement surrounding Joey, Snake, and Wheels. I'm going to honour the

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pattern of shame that Yan Moore has created and just focus this review on the goings on of these three scoundrels. Can these things that I write even be considered reviews? These are more "plot summaries" than anything else. Let's jam on this plot summary. Yes?



Making out in front of little kids...

## THE TALE OF JOEY JEREMIAH

So, we start out with a little montage of Joey picking out an engagement ring...overlayed with the core group of Degrassi assholes graduating from

school. What you need to understand about this scene is that Joey is going to ask Caitlin to marry him because she is graduating a year early and is totally getting on with her life and Joey is a loser that comes across like maybe he has good intentions but he is ACTUALLY really ill-intentioned and selfish and probably sees Caitlin as his



Crying directly after sex...

one chance to be a stay at home dad and get a free pass on life. I don't even care if sentences are run-ons because I get really angry sometimes and it makes me feel better to get it all out in one go. OK? Joey will spend the rest of this movie alternating between putting his body parts "inside" (still hate that phrase) Tessa Campenelli, and trying to do something similar with Caitlin Ryan. Does he succeed? The answer to this question is yes. Joey Jeremiah has a lot of sex during his summer vacation. He sleeps with Tessa during a number of amazing montage scenes and totally gets her pregnant. He sleeps with



Hand all up in skirt...

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Caitlin once, and the act ends up causing her to cry pretty intensely afterwards. We've all been there right? Crying after sex? Just kidding, we have not all been there and it is totally weird. Joey covers up the awkward moment by saying "it's OK to be emotional", which is pretty much the best thing I've ever heard another human being say. He manages to cheat on Caitlin for months, and only gets caught during the last 15 minutes of the movie. Caitlin cries, and I don't really feel bad about that at all...she is learning a valuable lesson about the realities of trusting another human being. I hate that you are a character that exists in people's minds, Joey Jeremiah. I hate that you aren't real...because that means that I can't pay to have you beaten.

## THE TALE OF DEREK "WHEELS" WHEELER



Uncanny resemblance in both stature and character...

Does anyone like this guy? I don't think anyone does. Wheels spends the entire summer working on his 250 Canadian dollar car, and drinking a ton of beer. I watched this with Jayson Marston and he made the very astute observation that, at times, Wheels looks exactly like Aileen Wuornos (the serial killer that was friends with Christina Ricci). He also looks strikingly similar to Eric Stolz in Mask.

So, Wheels spends a lot of his time being very

greasy looking and saying the word "YEAH" really loud in response to discussion about sex with girls. Wheels concludes his summer by getting really drunk and smashing his car into a family (killing at least a couple of them). He ends the movie in jail, so justice is finally served. I hate everything about you, Wheels. I hate that you gave up trying to be a good person because your adopted family died.



Not nearly as heartwarming a character as Rocky was.

## THE TALE OF ARCHIBALD "SNAKE" SIMPSON

Snake has, what I consider to be, the most interesting summer out of the three of these guys. He gets the least amount of screen time and still manages to portray a misery that is so intense, it almost seems to give off a faint smell...IRL. Snake spends his summer trying to have sex with girls. He decides that pursuing the career of lifeguard is going to be the quickest way off the V-train. Is this true? Are teenaged lifeguards more sexually active than most? I cried during drownproofing, in front of the whole 5th grade, and I haven't had much call to be by a swimming pool since then. I hated that gym teacher, but clearly not as much as the writers hate Snake...up until the last 15 minutes of the movie, the only scenes he has are filled with sad trombone.com moments involving girls rejecting him, toddlers hitting on him, and friends having fun at his expense. It's rough. It gets rougher too. At the end of the movie, Snake finally has his moment in the positivity spotlight when Allison almost drowns in a pond and Snake totally saves her. To me, this was the most compelling scene in the entire run of the Degrassi TV family of shows. Snake's reaction to being the total hero was to basically cry and be really freaked out. It was one of the few moments of my Degrassi career when I actually felt sorry for one of the characters. Snake is utterly freaked out, and I really can't figure out why. Is it adrenalin? Is he flashing back to when he found Claude's body? Is he bummed that he built up this fantasy of saving a girl and having her makeout with him (Mid-Save)...and it totally didn't play out that way? This is definitely one of the questions I'd like to ask Yan Moore.



Do people seriously put that white stuff on their noses?



Snake often looks like he has to do a #2...





Wheels leaves with a bloody nose...



Lucy leaves blind and unable to walk...



Spike leaves with the gnarliest brows ever...

So, that's basically it. The series "ends" (it would restart in about 10 years with TNG) with another dance scene fade-out. It's weird that we never get a definite resolution about Tessa's abortion. Sure, she made the appointment, but we never see her go to it. There is a very real chance that Joey Jeremiah has a love child floating around, and I think that is pretty much the grossest thing I've heard today...and today has been sort of a gross day for me.

## DEGRASSI DIGEST GIVES YOU: Fun facts about this fun film



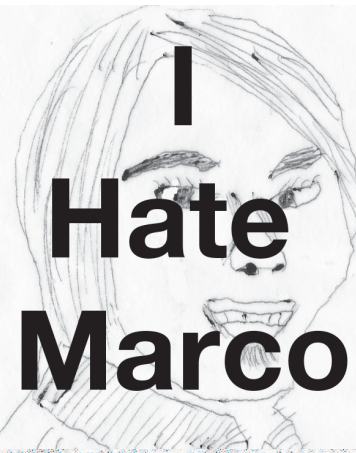
STEFAN (SNAKE) was the first Canadian actor to use the F word on Canadian primetime television.



There were a lot of phone calls about the movie after it aired, but the only complaint that parents seemed to have was that Lucy demonstrated how to put a condom on by using a banana.



Did you notice that the soundtrack for this movie totally rules? Me too. A man named "Lawrence Gowan" had a couple zingers on it. I especially recommend "Moonlight Desires." This man would later go on to become lead singer of a little band called STYX. Domo arigato, Joey Jeremato.



By Jayson Marston

If the title confused you I will repeat myself; I FUCKING HATE MARCO ! I hate him with the kind of hatred that makes me wonder how I could hate a person so much? Easily. There are so many reasons to hate Marco: First and foremost is his hair. At some point his hair stylist showed him a flat iron and Marco lost control. Did we learn nothing from Emma's crimping iron phase? Marco is the modern day Claude when it comes to unfortunate hair. Why does his hairdresser hate him so much? That is just simple petty hatred. The real reason to hate Marco is that he is the most boring character on the entire show. How the hell can you be lamer than Paige? Here is how; first you waste a whole season fretting about coming out, then you date Dylan and then he dumps your ass. You then perpetually whine for the next seven million episodes about how he broke your heart. Jesus Christ, Marco, if this is what being gay in Canada means, then bring a book.

Marco is a to the core modern day fop. He is broken hearted, broke and he has a self-harming fag-hag ex-beard best friend to boot. No wonder Ellie cuts herself it's not because her mom is a drunk; she does it because Marco is boring as hell. At least drunk moms are fun, especially at parent teacher night. If he did not spend all of his money on hair products he wouldn't be broke all the time. He



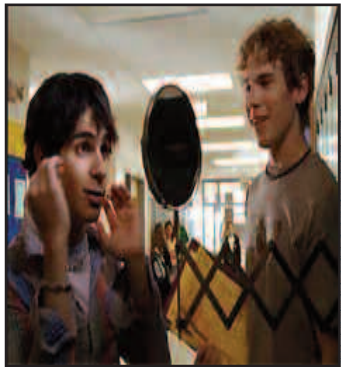
Undeniably fopish



should have turned that trick in the car, at least he would have had some gay sex action and a little cash in his pocket. Perfect Marco would never do anything so seedy. I would love to see Marco go to the White Party in Palms Springs and get hooked on meth, then become an escort, but no boring old Marco never has a sense of adventure. Fuck, even Paige managed to get an exposure to HIV and all Marco got was a gambling problem. And what the hell are he and Ellie always studying they should have PHDs in about seven fields by now. But the real question is: why does the one token gay main character on any show always have to suck and why does Marco have to super suck? Marco is just another TELEVISION EUNACH that never gets laid and pines for a lost love. They should just throw a tux with rainbow tails on his ass, some white gloves on his hands and market him as some long lost gay minstrel; Swishy McBoring. Marco should be a role model for young gay youth that face social issues that they can relate to. Marco should be troubled by such things as amyl nitrate burns on his nose and which pic shows his ass best on his myroom page; and how the hell can he get Dylan's hockey team to take turns on him. These are real issues a young gay man in college would encounter. God even Emma managed to get to third base before Marco, though she did get clap in her throat. Here are ten brief



He spends most of the series with this look on his face.



Who has those little Ikea mirrors on their lockers? SERIOUSLY?!?!?!?

story lines that I think would make Marco worth the film and face time he gets on DeGrassi.

1. Marco installs a sling in the living room and becomes a power bottom. This cuts in to Ellie's study time and her grades drop. She becomes a cutter again and Marco finally gets some action and an STD. Manny gets another abortion and moves back in Emma's basement.

2. Marco slips Spinner a roffie and takes advantage of him. Marco confirms

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that Spinner is uni-testi. Darcy and Spinner bond over being violated. They re-join the Church Youth Group and exchange Promise Rings.

3. Paige gets crabs from the toilet seat in their apartment and blames Ellie. Marco is actually to blame but never speaks up. Ellie becomes a cutter again. Snake finally dies.

4. Marco develops a huge cocaine problem and maxes out his credit card on rent boys and cash advances for drugs. He borrows the money from Ellie for his credit card bills. Now he and Craig really have something to bond over; blow and screwing over Ellie.

5. Marco cuts off his goddamn faux hawk in a Britney fit and finally loses his rooster with its tongue in an electrical socket hairdo. Now that he does not look like an ass, he actually gets some action. Ellie finds the scissors he cut his hair off with and she becomes a cutter again; though she does still use her trusty old compass from math class. Emma becomes anorexic again, this time teaching Liberty how to reach her summer weight.

6. Marco gets caught having an affair with Heather Sinclair's father and we finally see Heather when she catches her dad doing the deed with Marco. Marco gets gay married and leaves the show forever.

7. Marco dies.

8. Dylan comes back and starts sleeping with Ellie. Marco freaks out and moves away. With out her fruit the fruit fly begins cutting again. DeGrassi burns to the ground again, damn Lakehurst kids.

9. Never write him any lines again; ever.

10. Marco gets a life and moves away from his high school friends and only returns for three minutes during the holiday special. He can only get more time if he is doing blow with Craig and Manny. Come on even Liberty got some action. I wish those kids from Lakehurst stabbed Marco in the aorta. Nobody has died this season, but I know who has my vote!

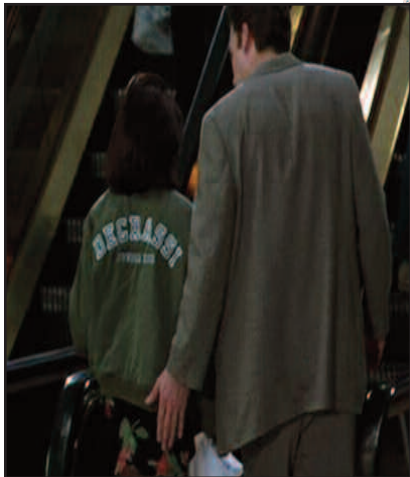


Remember when he wore this mask thing? Oh my god...

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Quite frankly, I was worried that I would have to have a lot of conversations about this guy when I set out to do this zine of mine. Mercifully, the discussions have been few and far between. In a really messed up sense, Kevin Smith is the America figurehead of this television series. Some background for those of you who haven't been exposed to this man's tirades: Kevin Smith likes Degrassi. Him and his buddy Jason Mewes (Jay) used to hang out at a video store in New Jersey and watch Degrassi High. He put some Degrassi-centric material in a couple of his movies and now he basically gets to be on "Next Gen" whenever he wants to. Below, in bulleted form, I have listed the Degrassi tributes that Kevin Smith has placed in his films. I have done this so you can be totally caught up on the back story of this man before I begin some really deep analysis about my feelings towards him.



**Ben Affleck playing grabass.**



Caitlin Bree, from the movie "Clerks", is named after the Degrassi character Caitlin Ryan.



Shannen Doherty's character, Rene, wears a Degrassi letterman's jacket in the movie "Mallrats"



Scene from Chasing Amy: Ben Affleck has just asked Jason Lee to go out dancing on a Saturday Night. Jason Lee says that he's just going to stay home and watch Degrassi Jr. High. Affleck: "You've got a weird thing for Canadian melodrama." Lee: "I've got a weird thing for girls who say 'about'". I'll admit, this is funny. Not as funny Smith seems to

think though. He tries to recycle this joke into his lines on "Next Gen" at least five times.

OK, as you can see...Kevin Smith is a Degrassi fan. So, why does it bother me so much that he got to guest-star in 5 episodes of this show? Maybe it's because I was a young nerdling totally in love with Clerks and Mallrats...and as I grew up, I saw this guy produce Shittier and Shittier movies that became totally dumb and made no attempts to be clever and just leaned on dick humor and blah blah blah. I am a person, for better or worse, that likes to check up on who his peers are every now and then. I don't like being associated with this Kevin Smith humor every time I tell someone that I'm a Degrassi fan. That's the crux of my beef with him.

My little brother bought me the unrated version of this DVD for Christmas two years ago...and I just got around to giving it an exhaustive review...so, maybe let's check that out, OK? No big deal.



**Shameless huckster**

Although there are a total of 5 episodes that feature these dickheads, there are only 3 of them on this DVD. Let us begin by reviewing those...WITH THE COMMENTARY TRACK ON. I'm going to focus more on what is said in that rather than the actual episode...

**West End Girls...episode 4x20** <---GET IT???? GET IT???? I hate you, Kevin Smith. Stop cheapening marijuana.  
\*commentary track people: Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes, Aaron Martin (the writer), Jim Jackman (associate producer), and Stacy Mistycyn

The whole ordeal begins with Kevin Smith telling the audience to "get some beer and get comfortable". I'm unclear as to whether I think it's cool to hear language like this on an officially licensed Degrassi product, or if I just feel like a victim of Kevin Smith trying to show everyone how "down" he is and how we can all relate to him because WE DRINK BEER TOO and, oh my gods, it's so awesome that he just told me to do that! I'm going to drink some beers and watch this and then tell everyone how wasted I was





and aren't I quirky because I get drunk and watch Degrassi!?!? I drank a beer while I watched it, but I wasn't happy about that...

I sort of expected Kevin Smith to make wacky "potty mouth" statements during the course of this audio track, and I wasn't disappointed. The way he casually uses the word "pussy" is disgraceful. I typically don't engage in "locker room" talk. I have never told anyone that I "got some pussy" or will be trying to "get some pussy". Even if I WERE inclined

Kevin Smith made Manny cry...and that is NOT ok...

to say things like that, I certainly wouldn't be saying them in front of Stacy Mistycyn. Disgraceful. Like I said, I expect this from Kevin Smith, but I expect more from the cast and crew of Degrassi. While the opening credits are rolling, the head writer talks about how "shitty" the old theme song was. He also talks quite a bit about blowjobs and herpes and stuff...which, you know...I dunno. I don't want to come off as Susie Safety here, but I just don't think overtly crass humor is that funny. That is pretty much all that this DVD was.

The blathering on the commentary track goes on for a while. I sort of tuned in and out of it. Degrassi was still on in the background...and there was this weird Pavlov's dog thing happening in my brain where I would divert all attention to wherever Emma Nelson was. During a commentary tune-out, I caught the scene where the cheerleading team purposefully drops Paige during some sort of catch move. I've seen this scene many times, but today I noticed something new. So...Paige falls to the ground from like 8 feet up and immediately starts crying and grabbing her leg. I will admit, it is a little bit funny. What's sort of horrifying though...is that if you look in the background of this scene, you can see Manny doing the celebratory dance move known as "stirring the pot." That just seems like overkill



"stirring the pot." That just seems like overkill

This is lol funny..  
Not roflmao funny... 1/6

for an expression of joy stemming from something that could easily have killed her classmate. You know, I watched this a couple times and I don't remember them talking about much of anything. I learned one or two things from listening to them talk for 26 minutes though, so I'm bullet pointing them below.

## WHAT THIS COMMENTARY TRACK TAUGHT ME ABOUT DEGRASSI



According to the head writer, all "girl issues" on the entire series are all written by one person. Does that strike anyone else as sort of weird? He then goes on to explain that girl issues pretty much means "blowjobs" and "cat fights". I am totally serious...that is what he said. I know, right?



Kevin Smith couldn't do anything other than "act" on the show, because he isn't Canadian...and the way funding works for this stuff in Canada makes it so that it has to be written by Canadians. Kevin Smith makes the following joke..."I wanted to fuck my wife up the ass, but she said that I couldn't because I'm not Canadian." Is that funny? I don't think it's really that funny of thing to say at all. I mean, seriously dude...I don't consider myself to be a "prude" or "uptight"...but just mindlessly tossing around highly sexualized and stupid comedy gets to me. I think this is the core of my issue with Kevin Smith. I think he USED to be clever with this stuff, but now he's just trying to be offensive or shocking. Wonder Showzen is funny, this guy is NOT funny.

### West End Girls...episode 4x20 Part II

*\*commentary track people: Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes, Aaron Martin (the writer), Jim Jackman (associate producer), and Stacy Mistycyn*

Yeah, there is ANOTHER commentary track for this episode. This one is basically a 26 minute commercial. Seriously. It's the same people just talking about how awesome the show is and why everyone should watch it all the time. I agree with that sentiment...but the presentation of it felt like a commercial staying long past its welcome. I will NOT allow this to perpetuate in the Digest, so there will be NO further discussion of this commentary track.

## Going Down the Road...episode 4x21

*\*commentary track people: Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes, Aaron Martin (the writer), Jim Jackman (associate producer), and Stacy Mistycyn*

Three items SUM up the entirety of this commentary track.



At one point Stacy says the F word. That should have been a cool moment, but the way she said it just reeked of "tryin' to keep up with the guys"...and I just felt really bad for her. There are a couple more moments like this scattered around.



Stacy starts talking about the time she got a viral infection while on the Degrassi set and everyone quickly talks over her and yells out "WHAT? VAGINAL INFECTION?" Kevin Smith then says to Stacy "your diaphragm goes down below, NOT in your throat". He said this to Caitlin Ryan. Upon hearing these words, I yelled out "WHAT?" so loudly that my cats left the room...they NEVER do that.



People comment on how bad Spinner's hair looks. This is true...but do you think it's fair/funny to say that he looks like he's in a gay hair commercial, and that when he shakes his head, "cum goes every which way"? Kevin Smith thinks this is fair AND funny to say.

## WHAT THIS COMMENTARY TRACK TAUGHT ME ABOUT DEGRASSI



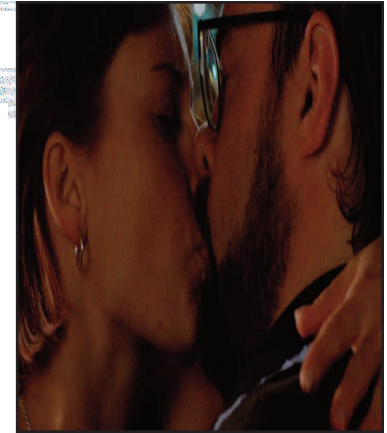
Most of the extras that you see on the show are actually crew members...SOUND people, etc..



The TV channel "Noggin" BECAME "The-N" because Degrassi was doing so well that they wanted to rebrand the channel to appeal to the Degrassi demographic. Seriously dudes, this TV show changed the entire destiny of a TV channel. Ausgehseitnit!

## DVD BONUS FEATURES

You KNOW how when you just finish watching some awesome movie on DVD and you don't want it to be over and you are maybe hanging out with someone that you don't feel equipped to talk to at the moment...so you want a couple extra minutes to "extend out" the movie experience that you just underwent? ....so maybe you can have a few more precious moments of not talking to each other yet so you can gather your thoughts? I know this feeling really well. The bonus features on this disc are pretty much bullshit, but my brother bought me this for Christmas and I'll be damned if I'm not going to fully explore it.



I couldn't finish my falafel after seeing this...and I LOVE falafel.

## Kevin Smith & Jason Mewes intro rant

There's a brief little videoclip with these two assholes talking about their interest in the show. I think this was shot shortly after Jason Mewes got out of rehab, and he does NOT appear to be in good shape. I mean...I'm not trying to be down on the guy because he went to rehab or anything...I'm just pointing out that he looks visibly affected by the world. Jason doesn't really say much during any of the features on this DVD. He asks Kevin Smith which Degrassi character he would have "fucked"...to which Kevin Smith replies "Ellie." Inappropriate, Kevin Smith..

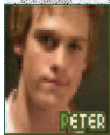
## Kevin Smith Interview

During the course of the interview...



Kevin Smith says that being on the Degrassi set was like visiting Mecca. Duh. He also claims that it was MORE exciting than visiting Skywalker Ranch...and I think that is a completely bullshit statement.





KEVIN SMITH MAKES up some ground in my book by relating this story...apparently when he finally started getting some money from making Clerks, he paid WGBH Boston \$4000 for the entire run of Degrassi on video cassette. I think that is a pretty legit move...and I salute him for this.

These were the "pre-dvd-internet" days, so that shows a lot of dedication to the series.

...after this, he pretty much just relates the answers to all his questions over to the fact that he'd like to be a permanent cast member of the show. The joke is not funny and the interview ends with me wishing that I had gone to the park with my friends instead of watching it.

## Bloopers

There really aren't any funny bloopers here. There's a bunch of bleeped swear words made by cast members who flub their lines, but that's about it. The only potential prize is seeing a take of the scene where Craig gets mugged by the Squeegee Kid that ends with Jake Epstein ACTUALLY getting punched in his stupid face.

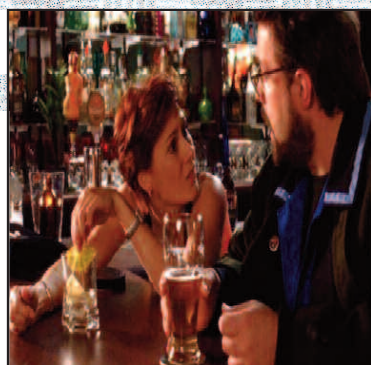
## Canadian Promo

For some reason, they also include footage of their attempts to film a promo clip of the episode for Canadian TV. I guess Kevin Smith must be directing it or something, because he spends like five minutes ordering Stacy Mystysyn around. It is really painful to watch. It's basically this jerk yelling at Stacy and her sort of backing down and kiss-

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Squeegee kid moves to the front of the "my favourite people" line with this move. Check out his victory arms!



He's totally undeserving of this massive honour.

ing his ass. This DVD could potentially make good people into bad people.

## How to film a ninja scene

Are you interested in seeing the raw footage of the superlame "Ninja fight" scene that they shot in the gym? Me either...

## Album: Jay & Silent Bob Go Canadian, Eh?

Why do DVD making companies do this? Why do they have still shot "photo gallery" type things on their DVDs sometimes? This is so dumb. You are trying to make it look like your DVD has a ton of content, and I totally see through all of your posturing. In this bonus feature, you will find still photos of wacky things happening on the set of Degrassi...while Kevin Smith's rapist eyes stare coldly into you.

## DEGRASSI PHOTO ALBUM

This bonus feature was basically the same thing as the crap that I just talked about, except the photos in the gallery appear to have nothing to do with this series of episodes. This appears to be just a collection of promo shots for the series as a whole. As a fan, I felt insulted at this lack of effort.

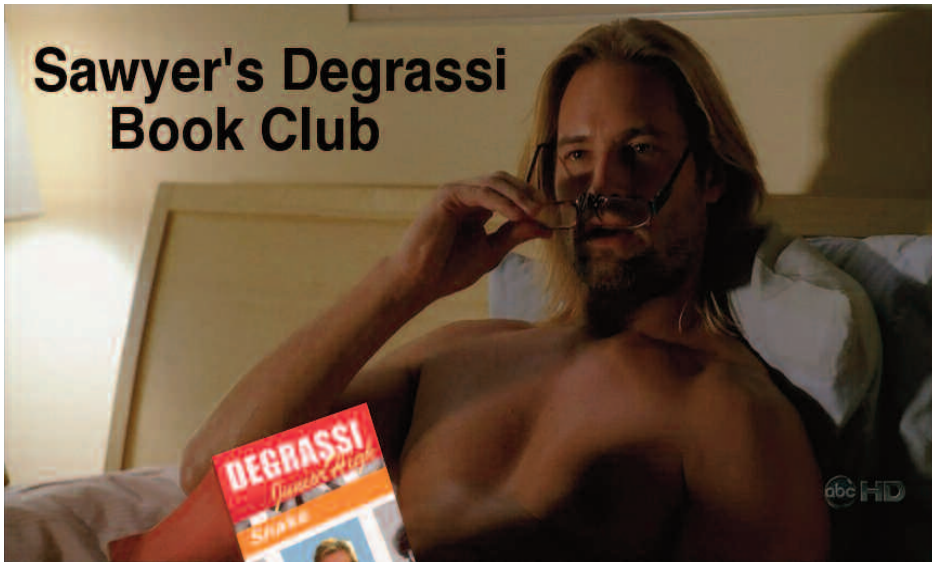
And, that's it. This DVD now sits proudly on my Degrassi shelf. I would only recommend this DVD to people that wear those garish hypercolour t-shirts that feature a scene of the Incredible Hulk fighting Wolverine. D-



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# Sawyer's Degrassi Book Club



**\*DISCLAIMER\*** Holy shit guys....hoooooooooly shit. I have to put a disclaimer ON this one, so bear with me for a second. I'm just worried that some naive wonderment may be taken the wrong way. I just want to make it known that the Degrassi Digest has absolutely NO problem with bisexuality or homosexuality. Absolutely NONE whatsoever. You people are typically thoughtful dressers and are usually pretty polite. You are great and there's nothing wrong with the LGBT community at all.

OK, that's out of the way. Did that pump you up at all? Did you get a little psyched maybe...because it's sort of weird to make a disclaimer like that? Hold onto those feelings...because there's some news coming that might blow your mind.

So, the book I'm reviewing here is called "Snake". It was a part of a series of books that were written in the early 90s. Each featured a main character of the show and told some sort of "inner monologue" backstory type thing about the kids. In short, they are filler...things that might brighten your day if you were 13 and saw them in a school bookfair catalogue. The books were

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Do not want...

written by various staff writers of the TV show though, so I propose that they are also "cannon", and should be examined more carefully. Let's do that now, shall we? I know it's sort of cheating to go directly to the bullet points, but this book is honestly ultra-boring and I can't bring myself to pretend that there is some fascinating storyline happening here. If I were a bisexual 13 year old, I could imagine this being my "Are you there God? It's me, Margaret", but this is not the case...so a lot of the deeper impact of the story is lost on me. Whoops, I guess I just let it slip that Snake is totally bi-sexual...let's see how one can come to this conclusion.



Potential Zit Remedy man-love? Yes, potential..



Snake spends a lot of time talking about some girl named Tamara (who I don't recall seeing on the TV show). He is super into the fact that she has "swaying breasts".

Snake takes a shower after gym class... "Snake looked up to see Tom Schenk, the team captain, glaring down at him, wearing nothing but a little towel wrapped around his waist. Snake has never seen well-developed muscles on a 14 year old before. Snake watched out of the corner of his eye as Tom dropped his towel and sauntered over to the shower, obviously proud of his body. Only when Tom turned on the shower did Snake allow his body to relax."



Behold...the ravages that twenty years of non-stop self pleasuring can bring...



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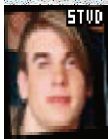
Snake later says...."The guy was good looking, in a California surfer way; he had longish blonde hair and icy blue eyes."



Snake is taking a shower with his friend ALONZO...the following happens: "Snake glanced down to see his penis sticking straight out in front of him." We're talking about Snake's penis here...total high school gym class erection country.



Snake goes back to thinking about Tamara again...."In his dreams, his hands caressed her face, her back, her breasts. Oh, those breasts! It took all his strength not to glance down at them when he saw her."



Later, by some act of elder demon-god, Snake is in Makeoutsville with Tamara. He finds himself unable to get it up. "He wished the ache between his legs would come back."



After this unsuccessful sex foray with Tamara, Snake has a dream about his friend ALONZO... "Don't stop," said Alonzo. "It feels great." His hands started to edge towards Snake's groin. He pulled Snake's face towards his, and they started to kiss again, and it still felt good, just as good as it had with Tamara.

That's pretty much all I'm going to say about this book. There is some kind of plot line going, but it's not really important. Snake basi-



If Snake had an online "handle", it'd be "*Dionysus - God of Ecstasy 69*"



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Snake's cool gay brother.

cally hooks up with anything that can walk (sorry Maya). He wins MVP of some basketball game. He goes on gay bashing field trips with the basketball team to prove how "ungay" he is. The book ends with Snake talking to his brother Glenn (who, as you may or may not recall, is gay) about how gay he feels. He says....

***"Sometimes I'm really attracted to girls...but sometimes I feel attracted to guys..."***

...and there you have it everyone. Snake is bi-sexual, right? I mean, I'm no expert, but that seems pretty definitive to me. This never really came up on the TV show at all, which is sort of a weird move. Obviously this is (or should be) a "so what" conclusion to come to. Snake is totally bi-sexual, whatever. I just think it's interesting that this is explored pretty deeply in a 183 page tome, but never gets brought up on the TV show.

Unrelated bonus factoid: Stefan Brogan (Snake) has written and starred in a short "film" and posted it to youtube. Seriously. It's called "Disgusting Bastards: Fighting Words", and it's available for viewing here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8Zjw1VTQFE> It's basically a shitty Kevin Smith movie that has been watered down and shortened to 11 minutes (it's actually not that bad...I just can't bring myself to say nice things about Degrassi stars unless it's in ( )s).



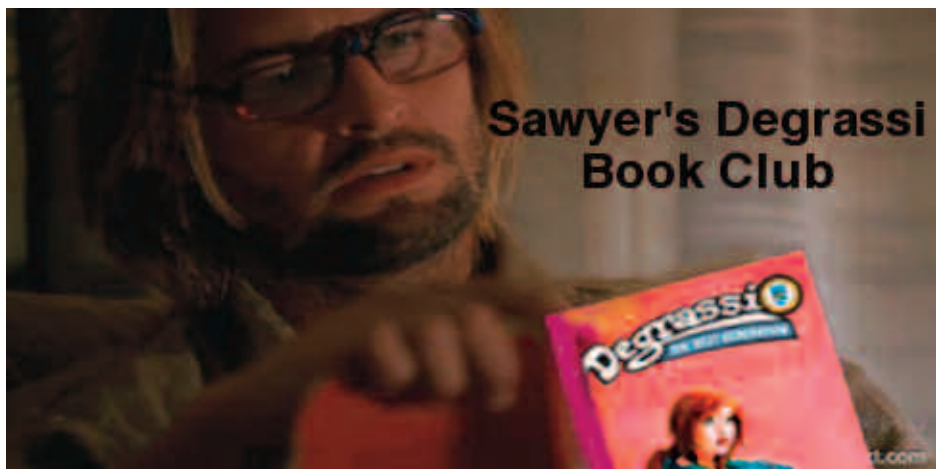
Flagrant acts of homophobia are put into new context with the information presented in this book.



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MAN...you know what I can't stand? ANIME. I can't stand anime. I grew up ON cartoons like GI Joe, He-Man, Jem, and the Smurfs. Although it's almost a for sure thing that the majority of the production work ON the visuals for these shows was done in a Korean sweatshop, the writing was all-American. This is the root of my complaint with Japanese animation: I think it LOOKS cool, but I can't relate to a single thing that is happening in 99% of it. From what I've seen (and I've been collecting comics and generally been a huge Nerd since 4th grade, so trust me...I've been exposed to A LOT of anime), it's all big robots, schoolgirls, talking animals, and inappropriate laughter. I KNOW that there are people that disagree with this...but I'll let you in ON a little secret, those people are just desperately trying to identify with something "outside of the mainstream." I understand the appeal of something that has a built-in uniform (in this case, a shitty t-shirt with lots of pink and blue in it), soundtrack (REALLY awful instrumental tracks with some guy droning ON about winning "the final battle of love"), and itinerary (watching hours upon hours of mindless screaming and energy discharges). Seriously, I understand the appeal of that...but if any of these people are born and raised in this United States, then there is NO possible way for them to TRULY identify with "tee hee" laughter followed by an ENORMOUS teardrop thing forming above character's heads (this is something that happens in basically all anime). Forget all this complaining though, the point here is that the "De-



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Your anime peers await...

grassi The Next Generation" series of graphic novels has, unfortunately, been rendered in the style of Japanese animation. I think this is bullshit. I'm going to review the first issue though, so get ready for that.

Before we get too deep into this, you should know that the events of this comic take place after JT Oded on Oxycotin, but before he got totally stabbed and killed (via stabbing). As an avid reader of "NON-cannon" Star Wars comic books, it appeals to me that the people making this book are ATTEMPTING to provide the viewers some new storylines that don't really affect the main storylines, but are still interesting to read. Remember that first stormtrooper that walks through the door to board Princess Leia's ship at the beginning of "A New Hope"? The guy that gets totally blasted? There's an entire comic book about that guy, and it is riveting...so I was hoping for a similar effort from J. Torres. Did he succeed? Absolutely not, but let's check out the two little stories that he threw together between writing scripts for terrible DC Comics titles.

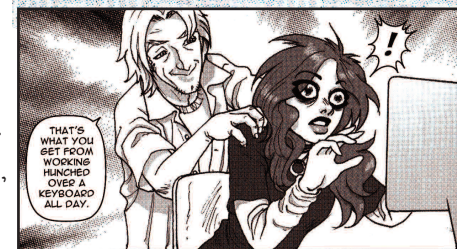
## Degrassi The Next Generation : Extra Credit #1

Written by J. Torres

Art by Ed Northcott

*A bunch of crap that happened to Ellie*

Remember when Paige asks Ellie how her internship at "the comic book company" went over the summer? Well this comic explores the events of that internship. As regular readers of the Digest know, I am a big fan of Ellie Nash. She seems like she has her shit relatively together



It was reassuring to see that Ellie did not fall for this joker's game. (I consider the cutting to be an honest reaction to misery...and therefore, "together") and I could totally see 15 year old me standing awkwardly next to her whenever possible...all the while trying to think of a way to spark up conversation. My boyish dreams of fictional romance past were dashed after reading this book though. She spends the whole comic being sexually harassed by some guy, and writ-

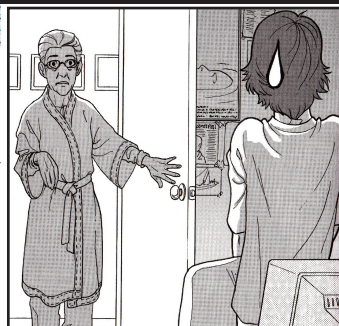
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ing FLASH, which she tries to pass off as website development. I KNOW this is a very short-sighted "slashdot" thing of me to say...but Flash is total garbage and NO ONE that uses it should be allowed to call themselves a web developer. Do we really need more floating/spinning text and wacky sound effects and images that you can't right-click on? Ellie's part in this story is to be sexually harassed, have stupid dreams about ninjas, and generally be victimized by older men. It was a total waste of her talents and left me feeling cheated.

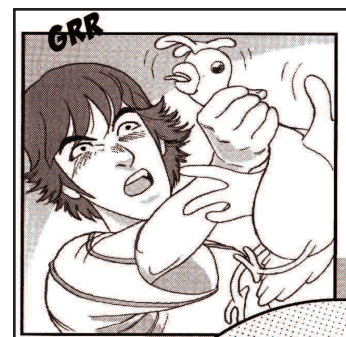
## Some junk that rolled up into JT's business...

JT's entire storyline is basically about his horrible addiction to masturbation. He's been doing it non-stop to take his mind off the fact that he almost killed himself and now Liberty hates him. Pretty good idea for an entire storyline, right? There's not enough frank discussion about teenage masturbation in this world...at least outside of a



We have teardrop...

porno context. So, in this capacity, I think the comic completely succeeds in

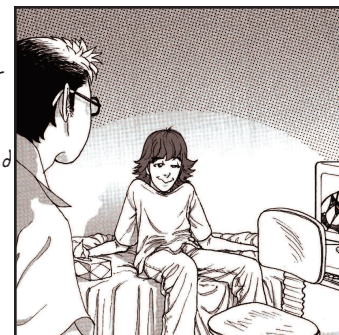


There was this girl in my high school that used to carry around a rubber chicken all the time. She would talk to it and stuff. I thought she was just doing it for attention, but it turned out that she was schizophrenic. True story.

blazing new trails. I have three funny stories about teenage masturbation that I want to write down and get out of my head...

**1** One time, when I was like 13...my sister and I got in a fight about something (can't remember what) and she said to me "You don't think I know what you are doing in your room at night? I can hear what you are doing over there." It may have been a bluff on her part...but I'll never forget the way my mom stepped into the conversation and said "HEY! Hey..." to her, and that was that. It was at this moment that I knew I was doing something that wasn't "OK", but also wasn't "wrong."

**2** Another time, also around the age of 13. My mother and grandmother had a conversation right in front of me...that was obviously staged...where-in my grandmother complained about her toilet getting plugged up because she was flushing tissue paper down there and how one should never do this. It was very obviously directed at me...and I was once again left with a gentle feeling of shame.



We came dangerously close to "slashfic" here.

**3** When I was 15, I accidentally left an issue of Penthouse Magazine (a gift from a friend that was stolen from his uncle) in my parent's bathroom. I know, right? Well...the magazine later showed up on my bed and I had to have a conversation with my mom about it. It was a completely awkward moment...but in retrospect...I think my mom handled it in a very cool way. She was probably just surprised that I wasn't gay though.

OK there, wow, that's a load off my mind...tossed out into the ether. My stories are sort of better than JT's is here. He honestly just wanders around his neighborhood, comes home...masturbates. Goes to the grocery store with his grandmother, comes home, masturbates. Invites Toby to come over, and masturbates...finishing mere seconds before Toby opens his door. There is really no moral to this story. I think it's just here to make the young men part of the audience feel more comfortable with what they are doing behind locked doors. The only other noteworthy thing about this part of the story is with the way Toby is drawn. Toby gets the royal treatment on his 'brows in this comic. Never before have I seen them so obscene and in my face.

## My overall feelings here

It's hard for me to call this book bad, it's just not my deal, OK? Sometimes this Degraffi stuff strikes a chord with me, sometimes it doesn't. This time it didn't. I recommend buying it for your younger brother. Anime blows. D-

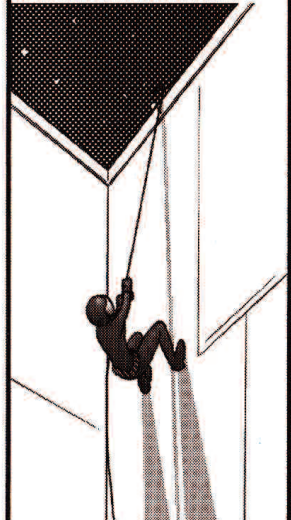




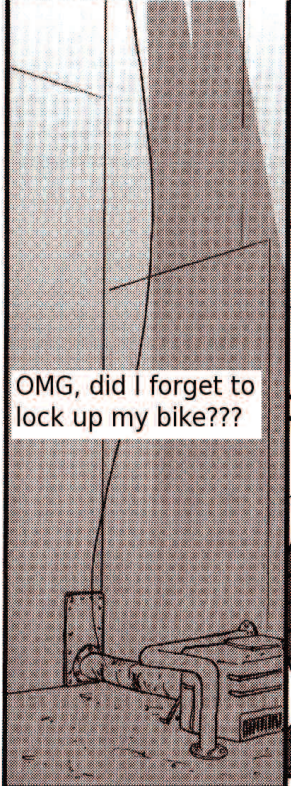
Previously on kickass Degrassi comics that have words in them theatre: Ellie got all hit on by some turd that probably plays accoustic guitar in his dorm room. Then, a bunch of idiots sat in the cafeteria, talked about Gauntlet, then got hired to fight a battle. Guess what though...Ellie totally hates dancing and so everyone has to listen to her talk about that and pretend that they care. After a night of dancing, the battle begins.



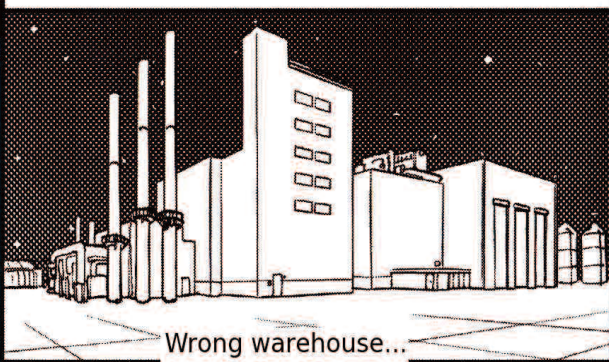
This Snake Eyes outfit I'm wearing is so uncomfortable...



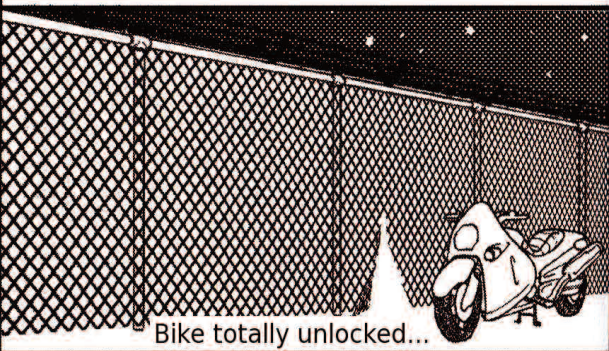
Christ, I hope that this is the right abandoned warehouse...



OMG, did I forget to lock up my bike???



Wrong warehouse...



Bike totally unlocked...



Oh shit, a window! I fucking HATE windows...

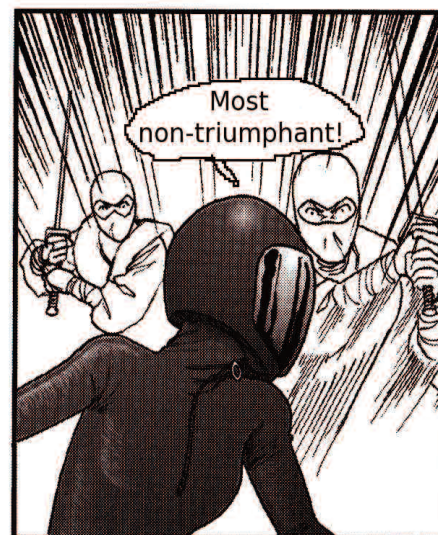
Breathe Snake Eyes, concentrate on the mission...



No, it's too late! I'm too pissed off to ignore this window...



Window, I hate you so much that the only possible way for me to express this is to defenstrate myself THROUGH you!



And so, Snake Eyes fought the Stormshadows...as Snake Eyes are wont to do.

