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Cover ng 1. Prize Chapter 5

pg 28. Mr. Cement, P.E. Teacher ngs 32. Star Fucker ng 39. War Master ngs 48-54. Won Ton Not Now ng 57. F.U. pg 64. DMRT

www.LuckyNakazawa.com @LuckyNakazawa



Plex Lowery ng 19. "Battles"

www.KnifeXLife.com



Cole Case pg 23. He Walks Among Us

@cuzminnie



Mathew Digges ng 24. Real-Life Robot

www.sequential-life.blogspot.com www.awesomehospital.com @SequentialMatt



Stephen Platt ng 27. Pin-Un



Daniel Kusunoki pg 34. Let Me In



Josh Barnett

ng 38. Enter The War Master. MMA fighter and pro wrestler interviewed by Lucky Nakazawa.

www.JoshBarnett.tv @JoshLBarnett



Jay Tan

ng 46. Cousins Once Removed: The Blood Ties Between Pro Wrestling and MMA in Japan

www.TanDynsty.com @JayTan716

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ALL THE FIGHTERS WERE TRAINING. PREPARING.









ALRIGHT ISAO YOU WANT ME TO SWING IT OVER LIKE THIS?

YEAH JUST TIME IT OFF MY JAB.

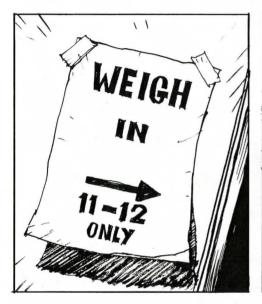


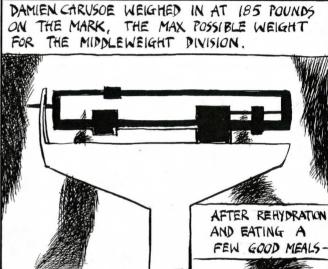


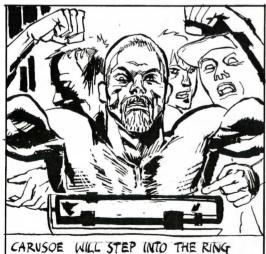




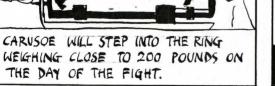








THE DAY OF THE FIGHT.







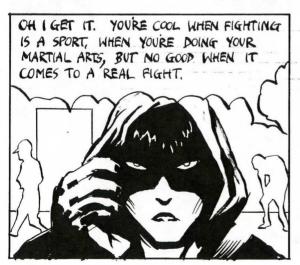












































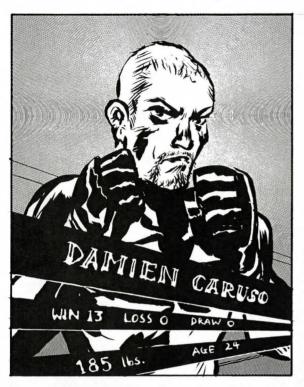


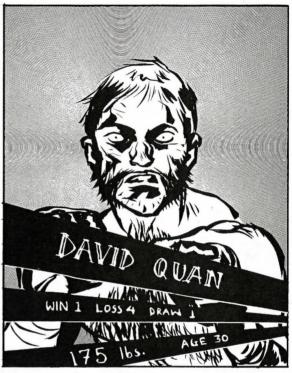


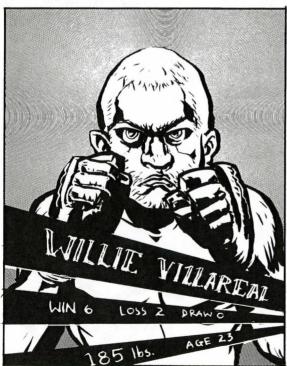


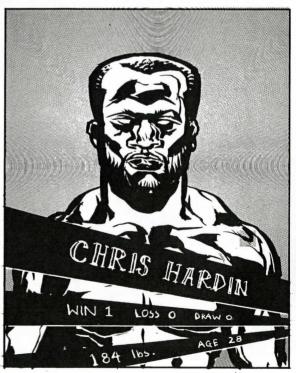


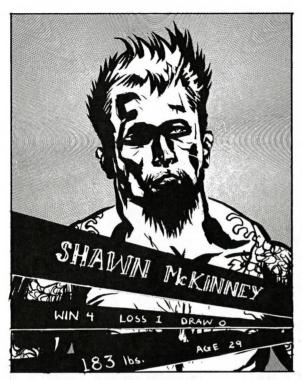


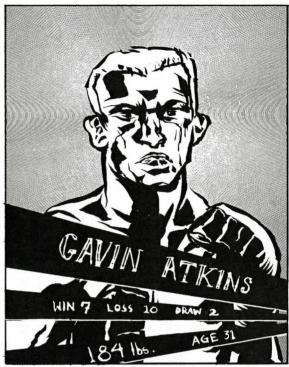


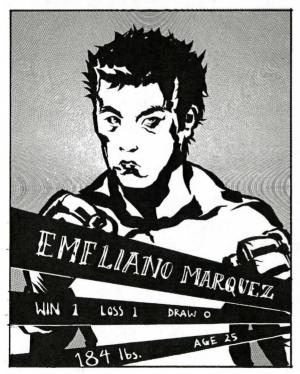




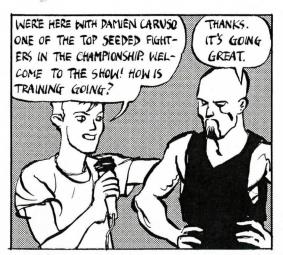


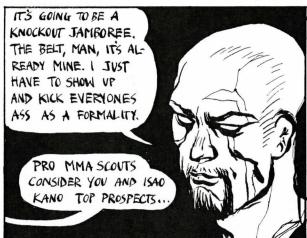






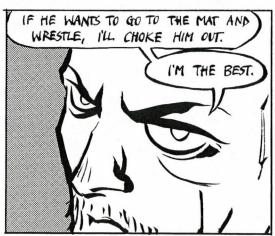
















THE EIGHT MAN TOURNAMENT CONSISTS OF FOUR QUARTERFINAL MATCHES. TWO SEMIFINAL MATCHES AND ONE FINAL MATCH TO DETERMINE THE MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION. EACH FIGHTER MUST WIN TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT MATCH,

EACH MATCH CONSISTS OF THREE FIVE MINUTE ROUNDS.



West Coast Invitational Mixed Martial Arts Championship Middleweight Tournament

WAYS TO WIN

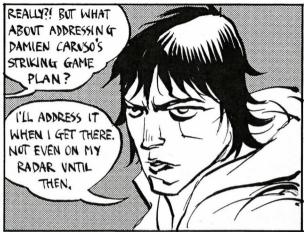
- BY KNOCKOUT (KO) BY TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT (TKQ)
 - REFEREE STOPPAGE
 - DOCTOR STOPPAGE
 - CORNER STOPPAGE
 - -IF A FIGHTER DECIDES THEY CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE DURING OR BETWEEN ROUNDS.
- BY SUBMISSION
 - WHEN A FIGHTER TAPS OUT ON THEIR OPPONENTS BODY OR THE FLOOR
- BY VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENT
- - IF THE FIGHT GOES THE DISTANCE OF ALL THREE ROUNDS A WINNER WILL BE DECIDED BY THREE JUDGES
- BY DISQUALIFICATION (DQ)
 - IF A FIGHTER COMMITS AN ILLEGAL MOVE, FOUL OR REFUSES TO OBEN THE REFEREE'S INSTRUCTIONS THEY WILL RECEIVE A PENALTY. THREE PENALTIES IN A FIGHT WILL RESULT IN A IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.

ILLEGAL MOVES INCLUDE

- HEADBUTTING
- BITING
- GOUGING OF ANY KIND
- FISH- HOOKING
- ATTACKS TO THE GROW
- STRIKES TO THE BACK OF THE SKULL
- STRIKES TO THE SPINE
- SMALL JOINT MANIPULATION
- HOLDING THE ROPES OF THE RING

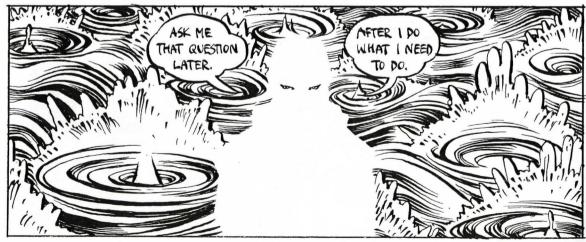












To be concluded...



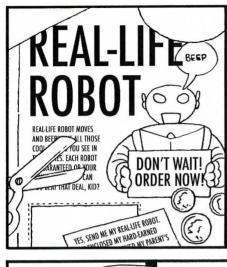




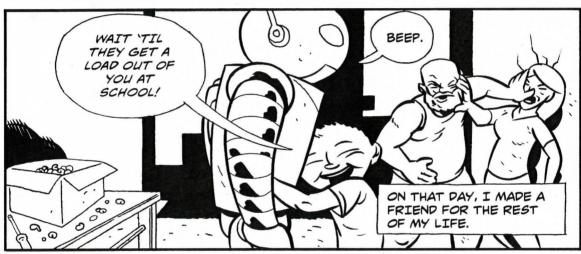




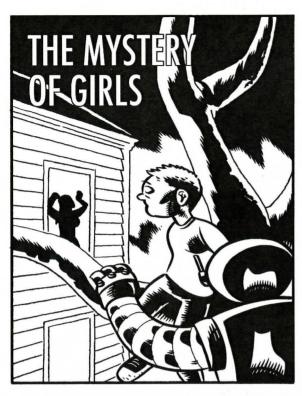


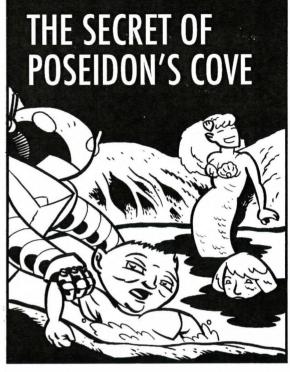


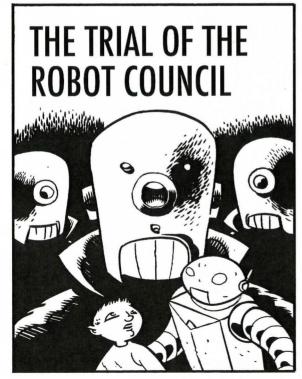
















TIME TO
SAY GOODBYE, MY OLD
FRIEND.

CHOOSE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, DEAR READER!

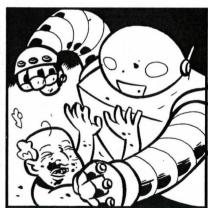




















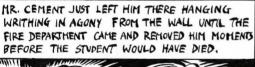




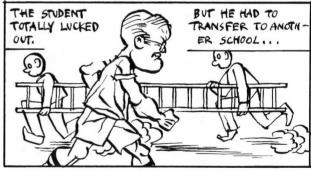












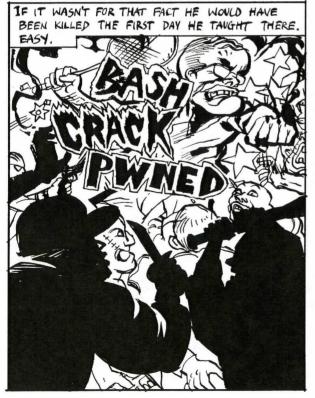
...TO GET AWAY FROM MR. CEMENT WHO TOLD THE KID THAT IF HE EVER SAW HIM AGAIN, HE WOULD TOTALLY KILL HIM ON THE SPOT.



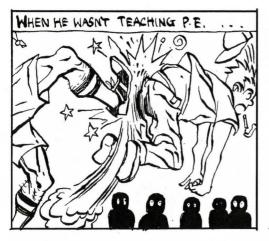






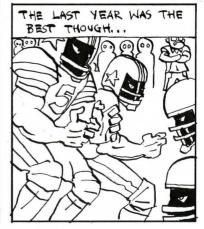






...MR.CEMENT ALSO
COACHED OUR FOOTBALL TEAM. HE
TOOK OUR TEAM
TO FINALS ALL
THREE YEARS.





... BECAUSE HE BROUGHT HOME THE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

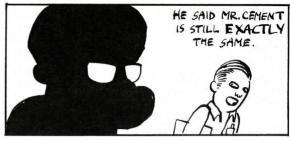


IN A ACT OF UNBRIDLED CELEBRATION
ALL THE STOKED PLAYERS DUMPED THE
GATORADE COOLER ONTO MR. CEMENT.
BUT THERE WAS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

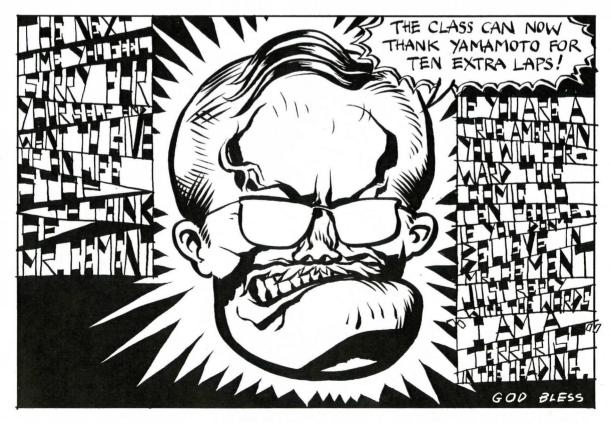
THE DISPENSER WAS ACCIDENTALLY FILLED WITH
BOILING ACID !!!













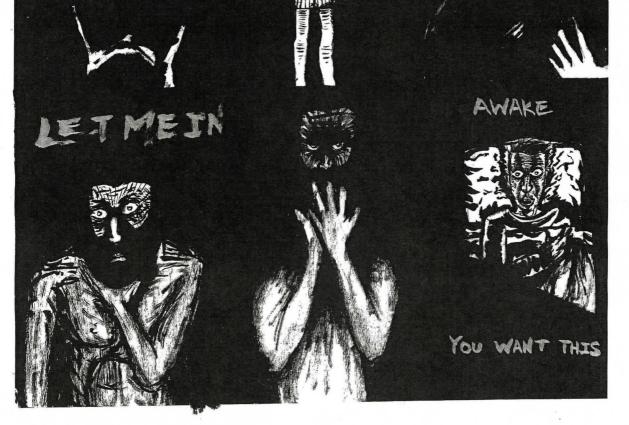


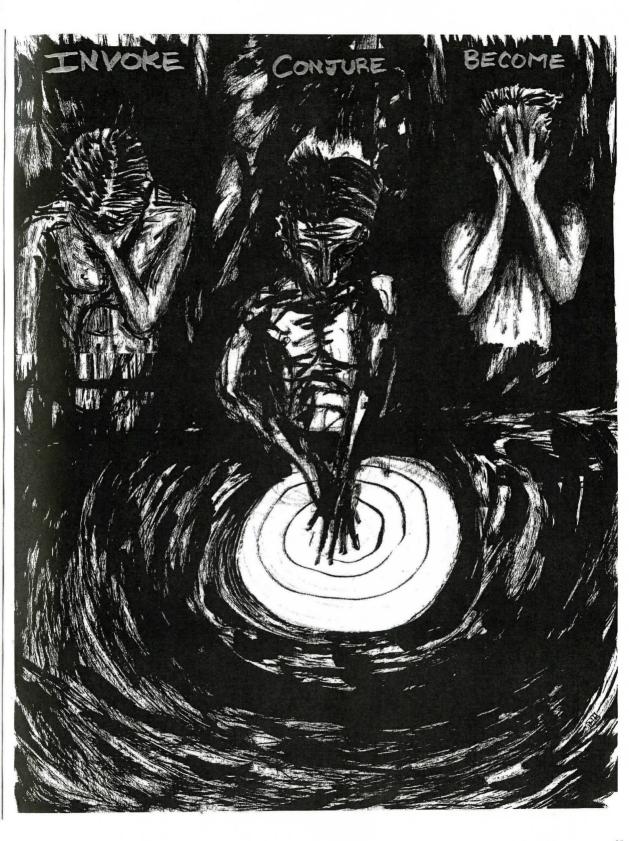
LET ME IN





You can HEAR ME





You're awake aren't you DON'T YOU WANT THIS CONJURE YOU INVOKE YOU LET ME GIVE IN NEED IT LET ME IN LET ME IN CONTURE INVOKE LET ME IN CAN'T YOU GIVE ME LETMEIN METN BECOME You ME



BABY-FACED ASSASSIN

Josh Barnett is an American Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

heavyweight fighter who burst on the scene in 1997 at 20 years of age. One win was put after the other by way of catch wrestling submission techniques but KO's and TKO's were not uncommon in his near perfect record. Barnett crowned a just beginning super star career with a historic victory over then reigning UFC Champion Randy Couture in 2002 making him the youngest fighter ever to win the Heavyweight Champion title at only twenty four years young cementing his nick name of The Baby Faced Assassin. Any parade for the new champion was quickly rained upon as a drug test came back positive resulting in him being stripped of his championship belt and a suspension of his license to fight. Barnett took his career over seas to Japan where he was met with success and fan fare doing both MMA and pro wrestling shows. His ability to speak Japanese and operate within the customs and cultural references of another country on top of his MMA skills positioned him once again for stardom and achievements including winning the King of Pancrase championship belt by defeating Yuki Kondo and most notably his career with Pride Fighting Championship, the biggest MMA organization in the world outshining even the UFC until Pride's demise in 2007. Since then Barnett has fought for various MMA promotions including Dream, World Victory Road and Affliction yet wherever he went in the states the controversy followed. It isn't uncommon to find discussions about him in the blogosphere or any MMA discussion board where his name is said in the same breath with words like "disgust", "phony" and "cheater" due to failed tests. With a personality that has been called "arrogant" and also "highly intelligent" he has polarized the media's views on him in a love/hate relationship that only seems to fuel Barnett's desire to fight and remain in the spotlight of international MMA relevancy.

This interview was conducted June 26, 2011 one week after his win over Brett Rodgers at Strikeforce:Overeem vs Werdum which marked his return to fighting in the states after a 2 year abscence due to suspensions and complications with the Athletic Commissions. The fight was not the come back of The Baby Faced Assassin, but the inauguration of a new beginning of a career where he has shed the old moniker and re-created himself as "The War Master". He is scheduled to fight Sergei Kharitonov in September for the Strikeforce Heavyweight Grand Prix Tournament semifinals.

Special credit and thanks goes to Jay Tan for the original interview proposal and official introduction to Josh Barnett.

Drunken Master: I have this strange feeling that you're going to take this tape recorder away from me and cut a promo.

Josh Barnett: You have a strange feeling in my presence? Is it in your loins?

DM: Yes it's in my loins and it's making me nervous.

JB: Because you're a little excited. You didn't expect that you'd be so intoxicated by my beauty.

DM: yes, and handsomeness.

JB: Handsomawesity.

DM: Kick-assery and handsomawesity. In all seriousness this is the first legit MMA interview for Drunken Master so this does make me nervous.

JB: This is probably the first legit interview for Drunken Master zine period (laughter). We'll fix that. We don't want your readers to be disappointed.

DM: I had a bunch of smaller questions but...

JB: I don't deal with the smaller questions. Just kick those off to my publicist.

DM: Yeah, let's just go straight into it. There is so much controversy with MMA, the sport, the fighters and the legalization – MMA is not a PE sport. Do you think that MMA can be compared to football, basketball, football or soccer? Do you think that MMA fighters are a breed apart from other professional athletes?

JB: I stepped up on the stage once and said "You know what? When these guys go out there and they play football, they play basketball , they play baseball – there is no play fighting. This is not a game. Fighting is a different mentality, it's a different mind set. Fighters, especially those true born and bred fighters, those kinds of guys might play something like football , or tennis or golf or anything really, but the ability for them to go and become a fighter is very unique. The ability for them to go and become a football player, not as much. And controversy exists in all facets of life. A lot of it is man made to be perfectly honest. It's more interesting to sit back and negate or try to have a contrary opinion than it is to just accept something for what it is. People are often afraid of that which is different (than) how they think, feel or used to. But also having all

ENTER

"Part of my drive is to make people who don't like me even more unhappy."

the controversy that comes with MMA is good because it keeps people talking and interested in hating and loving and concerned and crying and laughing. (These emotions) arise from a pivotal situation that can bring emotion out of people; for it to be white bread *THX 1138* white room with nothing in it but Robert Duvall – who wants that?

DM: On that tangent focusing on the fighter part, how different are fighters? Do you see the people you compete against as a breed apart? Beyond being tough and beyond being well trained do you think there is something else that makes a fighter that is not translated for the average viewer?

JB: Yes and no. Not every body that necessarily gets into the ring is like the fiercest competitor you might find somewhere else. They might have the ability to go out there and fight another human being purposefully and without any sort of provocation but... to be honest there have been situations where I have just looked at (another fighter) and been like "Look , dude, you are running your mouth too much I'm going to fuck you up." And they're like "Hooohhhh Nooonononono. We're Ok I don't wanna fight. I don't wanna fight" 'I thought you were a fighter?' Right? If it's out of the ring, if it's down to the bare basic bones; I don't need any referees or rules or reasons or anything like that. 'We are going to fight now and I just don't care. And this is OK by me. There is no reason not to fight you considering what boundaries you may have stepped over.' There are a lot of fighters in this game that getting into a confrontation like that is scary and unusual and frightening. But (when they are given) the control factors that come with a ring fight it is a different story. So even amongst the fighters; not all of them are, in my opinion, truly the hardest of hard, great, down to the bones fighters.

DM: Do you think you were born a couple thousand years too late?

JB: I'd like to say that but then I would not have been able to see all the cool Japanese Sentai shows and kaiju shows. I like PS3, they're pretty awesome, and cell phones and who knows? We just watched on Youtube this horrible Korean Hokuto no Ken. Then I found a Korean knock-off of Street Fighter drama and it was some of the worst stuff put to celluloid ,in fact the directors fingers burned off just from God's rage alone. These are the things that come with technology. But there is a part of me that thinks 'You know what? I probably would have fit in pretty well with the Vikings back in the day.' I am very very thankful for toilet paper, running water, plumbing and things like that. It could be difficult to get rid of those things. Plus Brazilian waxing.

DM: Brazilian waxing on your self?

JB: Of course! Who did you think I meant? (Laughter) I like my girls full figured and butt shaven.

DM: At the time of this interview your record is 30 wins, 5 losses and 0 draws. Your 5 losses are credited to only three men: Pedro Rizzo, Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira and Mirko "Crocop" (mispronouncing)

Filipovic ...

JB: Falopian tube.

DM: Pedro Rizzo you avenged in a later match with a devastating knockout, Nogueira you beat in a different fight so you can look at it as paid back in full or maybe go for a rubber match, but Crocop beat you three out of three times- the one man on God's green earth who can claim this. If Crocop were here right now is there anything you would like to say to him?

JB: 'Watch your back.' 'Luca Brasi sleeps with the fishes.' Naw really, I know Mirco fairly well. He's a decent enough guy as far as having a personal relationship. When it comes to fighting, the first time I dislocated my shoulder in a fluke deal, the second time I shouldn't have tried to have gotten back in the ring so quickly, I wasn't ready to at that level and I went out there and fought him anyways. No excuses, that was my poor decision but I still went in the ring and I still believed I could win. When I look back on it there was ways I could have won but ... you gotta be smarter than that sometimes. So that night ... didn't beat 'em. The last time I got a shot, you know there was always something, every time I had a chance to fight Mirco I never got to do it in the best of conditions but I still went out and still fought him anyways. I never backed out from an opportunity to take that win and what's the worst he could have done to me? Kill me? That's fine.

DM: Did you establish a friendship with him after words?

JB: Uh huh, yeah. I gave him some good wars.

DM: That was one of my favorite ongoing battles in Pride.

JB: Knowing that and how tough of a fighter he was in his prime, seeing him in the UFC is only a shell of what he used to be for reasons I don't understand. This current crop of MMA fans think they know what Mirco Crocop is about. They have no idea. The Mirco Crocop we used to fight in Pride would not only annihilate the Crocop now but annihilate all those guys in the UFC I'm sure. My managers dog's name is Mirco. What a little shit. He's lucky I haven't kicked it.

DM: In the liver (Laughter). One of the terms thrown around a lot in MMA is "best pound for pound fighter"...

JB: I thought you were going to say "Bro" or "Dude". "It's gonna be a war bro. Dude."

DM: Do you think the sport is about finding out who the best pound for pound fighter is or is it about who can sell the most tickets?

JB: Both. Because, see, at the end of the day we're not fighting in front of nobody, we're fighting in front of as many people as possible. Somebody's put up the money to create the stage for us to go out there and they are going to want a return on their investment. We, as

fighters, decide to sign in on that business model of making our living as professional athletes. We have responsibilities that we have to upkeep. I have fought people bare-knuckle with no one to ever watch it, for no money and that was fine too. If they took MMA away as a business model I'd still fight people. There is no way you can keep me from bashing fist to skull. (If there was fighting without business) I know that other people would be signing up to be a part of it. For people like us it's not that traumatic of an occurrence. It's just being alive. The business side of it wants you to have social networking accounts, they want you to do signings and do this and do that. We sell the space on our back for logos and sponsors. We negotiate our contracts and our rights and how you can use our appearance or likeness and voice. It all wraps into something. It's all quite confusing and frustrating honestly most of the time.

DM: On that subject you have been cutting promos like nobodies business recently for your American MMA comeback. There has been buzz about the promos you cut for your fight with Rodgers. It seems you have been able to recreate your personae.

JB: I liked in Pride that when we got done with a fight they would just give you the mic and let you talk and then got you out of there. The effect that they wanted was that it was about the fighter. The fighters opportunity, the fighters time to shine, the fighters one or two minutes to introduce themselves and say how they feel; not be led around by some interviewer because somebody has this idea to stick a microphone in their face after a fight and ask them 'Oh, how did you win?'. If you want to see how I won just hit fucking rewind. Everyone's got a DVR now days. Nobody gives a shit to hear what I got to say right then, that's not interesting. They don't' need me to give a step by step recreation of what just happened paint by numbers.

DM: It seems like you have really taken it upon yourself to turn your career around .

Pride FC president Sakakibara (L), Barnett (R) and NHB Champion of the post-apocalypse Kenshiro.

JB: Yes, this is a big important push. There are a lot of opportunities and things that are going to come from this. Not just on the business end of things. I love what I do. I want to enjoy it as much as possible so even grabbing the mic and speaking my mind, saying something to the audience ... is (important) because 1. I want them to be entertained. They paid their good money and they deserve to get something interesting. Whether they hate it or love it at least they'll feel something about it. And 2. I'm having a good time. I'm enjoying it. This is what I like to do. When I'm out there it's my 15 minutes and I'm going to use it. I'm not going to sit back and let someone else tell me what to do with it or take it for themselves. I'm going to use it. I'm going to use my window to get on stage to make a fool of myself because I'm really not afraid of that. (laughter)

DM: During the time of your career in Japan you were strongly associated with Kenshiro the action hero of Hokuto no Ken a popular manga and anime written by Buronson and illustrated by Tetsuo Hara. Your entrance music (the song played while a fighter walks to the ring right before they fight) in Japan was the anime's theme song. You were well known to quote lines from the comic in Japanese during pre fight and after fight interviews. When they reported on how you won your fights in Japan they would say "Josh Barnett used the Fist of the North Star Technique." Correct?

JB: Yes. "He used Hokuto Shin Ken."

DM: You aren't trying to be funny when you do all this. You actually are a big Hokuto no Ken fan, right?

JB: Yes, massive. Ever since I found out about it when Viz and Shueisha, with their manga partnership, brought it over with translations back in the late eighties. Playing the video game on the Nintendo. Watching the movie, the anime, in Japanese, twenty-some times through one year. I continued to rent it at this Japanese video store and continued to watch it and watch it and watch it. Just falling in utter love with it. I

am a massive Fist of the North Star fan. The video games, the characters, the figures, the toys, everything! I've seen it all! Every little rare thing - pachinko! I'm crazy about it. In America some of the hard-core fans still want me to make that association here in the states but I know that it would be lost on the populace at large. Honestly if I want to spread the love and the interest of Hokuto no Ken around the world, probably the best thing is to just grab the biggest slice that I can and then integrate into that or do my interviews and say "Hey if you think this is cool you should check this out."

DM: You weren't just walking into the ring with the theme song playing you were even singing the words. In Japanese! When I saw that you knew the words I couldn't believe it.

I'm a huge fan as well. It has had a huge influence on my love of manga, comics, anime and art.

JB: It's like the biggest testosterone filled melodrama ever.

DM: It's a violent soap opera. There are a couple other fighters who have taken on manga/anime like personas including Ikuhisa Minowa who now goes by Minowaman a la Kinnikuman and Carlos Newton who uses the Dragon Ball Z technique of fighting. I propose a MMA Grand Prix tournament where only fighters who know manga fighting techniques, including yourself, are allowed.

JB: That would be hard for my opponents because if their heads start exploding and their joints get blown off ...

DM: I think you might be top seeded. Do you know any other fighters who have a similar appreciation or angle?

JB: Sakuraba once did a whole promotion as Duke Togo from Golgo 13. I have the picture still.

DM: Did he have to put on fake eye brows?

JB: No, but he had the M-16 and a white suit. But a manga or otaku referenced fighter? I know Yuki Kondo is a big fan of Kamen Rider, it's the reason why he bought a motorcycle. I know that Sato Hikaru does cos-play stuff sometimes. He does stuff as a maid, he's a pretty funny guy. I know he has some otaku flavor. Sakurai "Mach" Hayato is a fan of the first Gundam and Galaxy Express 999.

DM: So is it true that you are the worlds toughest otaku (Otaku is a Japanese term used to refer to people with obsessive interests, particularly anime, manga, or video games. Yes I pulled this from Wikipedia)?

JB: Yes. I haven't had any nerds challenge me yet. I usually just throw Twinkies and 20 sided die down . I always make my "saving throws".

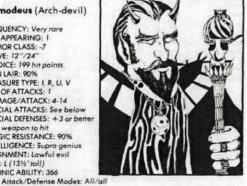
DM: Who did you have to beat to earn the title?

JB: The person who owned Jolt Cola. Turns out he's actually Asmodeus from the Advanced Dungeons and Dragons Monster Manual and I had to beat him. I had to fight, like, three Beholders (and) he was riding Tiamat (Laughter).

DM: Does anyone at CSW (Erik Paulsen's Combat

Asmodeus (Arch-devil) FREQUENCY: Very rare NO. APPEARING: I ARMOR CLASS: -7 MOVE: 12"/24" HIT DICE: 199 hit points % IN LAIR: 90% TREASURE TYPE: I, R, U, V NO. OF ATTACKS: 1 DAMAGE/ATTACK: 4-14 SPECIAL ATTACKS: See below SPECIAL DEFENSES: +3 or better weapon to hit MAGIC RESISTANCE: 90% INTELLIGENCE: Supra genius ALIGNMENT: Lowful evil SIZE: L (131/5" tall)

PSIONIC ABILITY: 366



Submission Wrestling in Fullerton California where Barnett trains and instructs) even understand what "Worlds Toughest Otaku" means? It's on their wall!

JB: Not so much. No. So if I walk in and I had a Rust Monster with me, no one would notice.

DM: This is like having multiple belts. Like in boxing. You also have the Otaku Belt.

JB: I don't have a physical otaku belt but I think if I connected all my Warhammer 40k figurines together I could make a belt out of that.

DM: At the time of this interview you are one of the remaining 4 fighters in the Strikeforce heavyweight Grand Prix 8 man single elimination tournament. Fedor, Werdum, Rodgers and Arlovsky have been eliminated. There hasn't been this much international anticipation on a MMA tournament since perhaps the Pride Absolute HW Grandprix. The line up makes it a Pride Fighting reunion in a way. The logistics of the tournament have brought to attention your prior license suspension by the California State Athletic Commission. Would you be willing to talk about your 2009 fail to pass and how you now seem to be fighting a whole other battle with the Commissions?

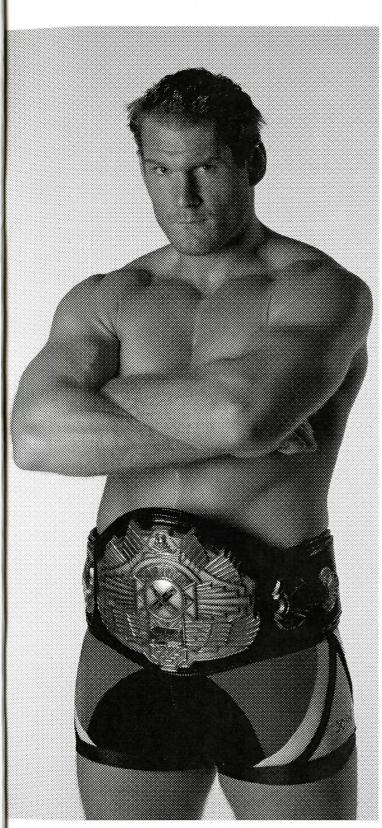
JB: Yes. They denied the license but I went and tried to go through the appeal process but things on their end were very slow to get me information that was requested (while) I'm still going on trying to have a career training and fighting and all that. By the time everything went through and we could have met at some point to even try to revoke it or fight against it, it was already served. It didn't make sense now to go after it. Nothing will ever change. You can get every commission out there and every person that said a crass word about it to repeal every word they said about me, it won't matter. The damage is already done. It's like if someone is accused of rape, even after they are proven innocent the accusation stays forever. It stains you.

DM: In certain regards I don't like to bring up this subject because ...

JB: I threatened you with a knife? Taped to a chainsaw? With a laser beam on it? (laughter)

DM: ... because it's become the one location of your career that the haters on the internet constantly zero

JB: It sucks that it's easy for them to have that, but if it wasn't that it'd be something else. Truly, to understand what it's like to be in that situation ... I've got a few different ways of looking at it. One, if that is the worst thing I can ever get accused of in my entire life, I didn't do to bad. There are a lot of horrible things a person could do. There are a lot of ways in which you could do some terrible things to yourself and to your family and the people in your life that, to me, carry a lot more weight. Also any mistakes in handling press or anything that comes with the entire deal of getting accused of taking PED (Performance Enhancing Drugs) never goes away and I have to just eat it. I have to take it. You can't run after people, you can't get pissed. You can't do anything but sit back and think 'What are you going to do now?' You got that and you can sit on it and let it eat at you and be the thing that minds you the most. Or you can try to ... consider everything from that point onward-think 'What can you do with this opportunity?



With this next leap – be the best that I can. Try to make the most of what's left of my career. Even though I could save a million babies from a burning building and they would just say I did it all on Deca. (laughter) It's just how it goes.

DM: I did a little research on the subject and it's strange how of all the fighters that have been accused or had their license revoked the media has singled you out.

JB: Oh I know. The whole story isn't so straight forward. I can go on and on and on and it wouldn't matter. If I were to push any angle from my end about why I felt there may have been some wrong doing, foul play or what not isn't going to help me. It's not going to make it go away. If anything it will only give the people the power to make my life more miserable want to do so.

DM: It's amazing some of the things people will say to you like the guy who tweeted before your Rodgers fight that they hoped you would die in the Gulf of Mexico.

JB: Yeah. However that gave me some ammunition to have fun at someone else's expense.

DM: Do you get off on making people eat their words?

JB: I do. I also get off on hot chicks with short haircuts (laughter). I enjoy conflict and confrontation. For this guy to go on twitter, follow people and then harass them already says his mental state is questionable. That your I.Q is likely not to high and you are quick and impulsive to do stupid things. Therefore it is that much easier and more fun to fuck with you, make fun of you and turn you into a joke. You've invited it upon yourself in the first place to come out and hang on my every word and then try to harass me about it. My managers always like 'Please stop. Stop going out there and talking about peoples mommas and making fun of their profile pictures and all this stuff.' As much as I understand his position it's just too much fun to not fuck with them. I got comebacks and I intend to use them.

DM: Do you have to respond to every hater?

JB: No I don't. A lot of these guys I had them hate on me back in the Myspace days only to have me take their verbal assaults, poke fun of them, be self deprecating yet also insult them for whatever. Some guy sent me an angry email with his profile pic attached that was the most ridiculous shirts-off-with -a-bunch-of-dudes picture. I was like 'What was your point with this thing?! I'm not sure what your goal is? Do you want me to kiss you? Kill you? Be concise.' After a little back and forth all of a sudden they're like 'Oh dude, you're really funny. This and that. I was just hating on you.' Basically they just wanted attention. If I wanted attention I wouldn't be like 'Fuck you!'. When I met Simone Legno I wasn't all 'Hey I love Toki Dok! You fucking Wop! Ahhhhh!!!! (laughter). I didn't see the Mixed Monster Arts t-shirt, walk up to it and throw a piece of shit

"All competition is a watered down form of war."

at it, tear it down, pee all over it just because I wanted to meet you. The internet breeds a whole different sort of individual.

DM: What about music? You're known as a huge music fan.

JB: Yes I am such a huge fan of country western and blue grass.

DM: That's exactly where I was going with this.

JB: Korean Pop music.

DM: That's what the internet said.

JB: The internet never lies. If you read it on the internet, it has to be true.

DM: I was just re-watching some of your fights, after one fight in particular you carried your sponsor flag out and on the flag was the band Bolt Thrower's logo.

JB: That was my fight for Dream and my fight for Affliction.

DM: I have never seen anyone with a sponsor flag have such an amazing reference.

JB: Very esoteric to some degree but also that's subculture, that's hard-core right there. That's metal. That's a big fucking 100 meter tall robot of heavy metal. You can't miss that.

DM: I will make a wild guess and say that perhaps they are on your sponsor flag but didn't pay to be there but that actually it's more like a reverse sponsor flag. Did you put them there?

JB: Yeah. I met them through the power of the internet actually, through email. They were really surprised that this fighter was writing them and talking about how much he loves their music. That if we could do anything together in the future, I would love to. So I met them all in Maryland at the Death Fest in 07 I think it was. You know how you say some people are nice? Well they are nicer than that. They are soo nice! Nicest people ever. I watched them just destroy the Death Fest. Hands down better than every other band that played that weekend. I hung out and got to know them personally. I have been listening to Bolt Thrower since I was a twelve thirteen year old kid, for so long. Being such a huge fan and being able to meet them just endears you to them that much more. They still send me support for my fights in terms of messages and you know they gave me the nick name 'The War Master'. Before the benefit concert that I put on at the House Of Blues for the Red Cross and Japanese Relief I got an email from the guys wishing me luck, great success and saying what a great thing it is. I always know they have my back. There are all kinds of little sponsors I could hunt down for a few thousand dollars here or a few thousand there but I have no interest in selling me to stuff that sucks, is mundane or generic. I'm not here to be like anyone else. I'm here to enjoy this opportunity . I'd rather give that space

away and let the world know that Bolt Thrower backs me and I back Bolt Thrower. Go buy their albums. Go listen to this music. Because it's the most bad-ass, crushing heavy metal music and I love it and I want you to love it too. Before every single fight I listen to ... For Victory from their album For Victory. Every fight, every time. I sit in my locker room, I listen to it and when I'm done, that's it – let's go.

DM: You are usually a very active person on social networks and generally well known for being friendly, funny and approachable but the morning of the Rodgers fight you went radio silent and handed your Twitter account to actress Katee Sackhoff to do the play by play tweets of the event and your fight. Before a fight do you have to go somewhere mentally that is the exact opposite of being personable and social?

JB: I'm trying to remember. The last thing I tweeted was like "This is it. No more tweets. Now just me and death go walking hand in hand." (note: exact tweet was "No more tweets. No remorse and no mercy. Hand in hand I'll walk with Death and look to the abyss. 'I'd rather fight for my life than live it'"). I don't have any regard for anyone at that point. I'm borderline hateful but mostly just unfeeling and unemotional.

DM: Is it difficult to go there?

JB: No. It's really easy to go there actually.

DM: Is it more of a skill to not go there in life in general?

JB: Yes. It's more of a skill to know that the bad exists and not let it out. When I was a little kid I was pretty friendly but if you taunted me or made fun of me I didn't understand why you would do such a thing if I am an equal to you. Then I would just flip it. And I was very violent when I would get in little street fights. I had one of my best friends underneath me, I don't even know why we got in a fight, I mounted him, I'm swinging on him. We're on the playground and I see broken glass next to us, because we grew up in the city, so I grab a handful and I try to throw it at his face.

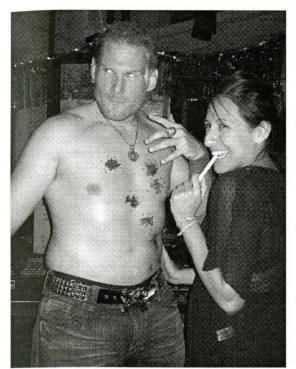
DM: Wow. How old were you?

JB: Seven. Or getting into fights with older kids and one kid came after me with a stick or something so I grabbed garbage can lid and a log that was sitting there and I way-laid him. Or beating this kid up and grabbing his bicycle and smashing him with it until he stopped moving. I'm not in a blind rage I know what I'm doing but I don't feel any compulsion to stop unless I decide to. Or if a guys sister is near by screaming and howling and begging for me to stop and all I do is smile and keep kicking him.

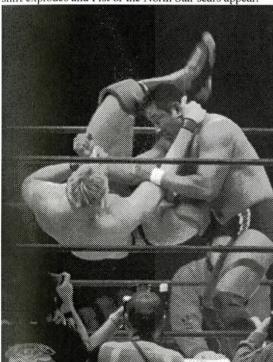
DM: That's the place you have to go for a fight?

JB: I just let it come out. Every fighter is different. I don't get nervous before a fight I never have. But I know people that need to be nervous before a fight. Some people need to be ultra nervous, scared or angry.

Barnett interview continued on page 54



Mix equal parts Josh Barnett, Drunken Master's Round Table, his 33rd birthday, Zury Ponce, Sharpie marker and the band Internal Corrosion. Mosh (not stirred) until t-shirt explodes and Fist of the North Star scars appear.



Barnett (air) throws a flying arm-bar on Yuji Nagata during a 2003 pro wrestling match in Japan.

Josh Barnett, The World's Toughest Otaku, offers his quick hit list of some of his favorite things.

Bands

- Bolt Thrower
- Lair Of The Minotaur
- Demiricous
- The Black Dahlia Murder
- Kvelertak
- Toxic Holocaust
- Black Breath
- Revocation
- Internal Corrosion
- Animals As Leaders

Manga

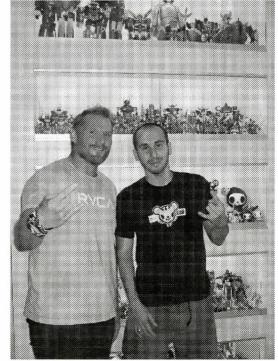
- Appleseed
- Legend of Kamui
- Battle Angel Alita
- Baoh
- Space Pirate Cobra
- Heavy Metal Warrior: Xenon
- Crying Freeman
- Ashen Victor
- Grey
- Gunsmith Cats

Anime

- Berserk
- Kikaider The Animation
- Bubblegum Crisis
- Yamato movies
- Genesis Climber Mospeada
- Ideon
- Fist of The North Star gaiden movies
- Armor Hunter Mellowlink
- Armored Trooper Votoms
- Shigurui

Comics

- Rogue Trooper
- Warlord
- Preacher
- Scalped
- Parker, The Hunter
- Elektra Assassin GN by Frank Miller
- X-Force (current)
- Love and Rockets
- Conan Dark Horse series
- Hard Boiled by Frank Miller



Barnett (L) and Simone Legno (R) AKA Toki Doki pose for a picture despite the ban from the Toy Commision.

Cousins Once Removed: The Blood Ties Between Pro Wrestling and MMA in Japan

By Jay Tan

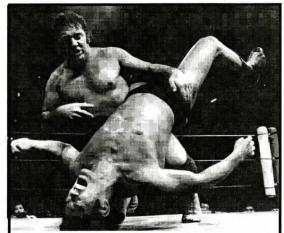
The reality of mixed martial arts – the combat sport that combines stand-up fighting concepts like, punching, kicking, knees and elbows with grappling principles of locks, joint hyperextension, chokes, clinches, and overall body control, is that this has existed for as long as humanity has fought. Of course, it wasn't until the 1990's when organizations started defining rules and standards to make it a sport commonly reffered to as MMA. Geographically, Japan, the US, and Brazil were the most important countries to contribute to MMA's development.

In the 1990's, pro wrestling in Japan was enjoying its heyday. New Japan Pro Wrestling and All Japan Pro Wrestling were the Coke and Pepsi of Japan, with almost the same level of mainstream popularity. The choreographed spectacle enjoyed an acceptance and appreciation that exceeded the cartoonish self-satire that the US product suffered. Wrestlers in Japan regularly appeared in commercials and on talk shows, and wrestling events were broadcast on network stations, often in prime time. With this popularity came the freedom to experiment and evolve.

STRONG STYLE

Stylistically, Japanese pro wrestling had its own distinct "strong style," characterized by a much stiffer, more realistic set of moves and holds. Legendary wrestler promoter Antonio Inoki is credited by many as having developed the style based off his training under German wrestler Karl Gotch, and with wrestlers such as Jumbo Tsuruta, Yoshiaki Fujiwara, Tatsumi Fujinami, Akira Maeda, and Satoru Sayama popularizing it. Aspiring pro wrestlers were forced to learn amateur wrestling if they didn't already have their own credentials, and wrestlers or boxers with Olympic or legit world championships were promoted above others. With a second generation of wrestlers like Riki Choshu, Shinya Hashimoto, Masahiro Chono, Keiji Muto, Mitsuharu Misawa, Toshiaki Kawada, and Kenta Kobashi, the style became synonymous with Japanese pro wrestling. To that end, Strong Style pro wrestling set the groundwork for MMA to evolve in Japan.

Amidst this style evolution, politics in pro wrestling abounded, and in the 1990's, the Japanese pro wrestling community saw several smaller promotions start up. They all had varying degrees of popularity and success, as well as different levels of "work" (choreographed moves and / or predetermined endings) or "shoot" (real fighting, with nothing held back and no predetermined endings). Some, like Fujiwara's Universal Wrestling Federation (and its various incarnations), were pro wrestling promotions whose identity was based on a realistic sense of fighting. Others, like RINGS, were a mix of worked and shoot matches (usually the top matches were worked so as to protect the promotion's more valuable stars). Others, like Shooto and Pancrase (both of which still exist today), were legit shoot organizations founded by pro wrestlers.



Billy Robinson (top) vs. Antonio Inoki (bottom) in a 1975 pro wrestling match in Japan. Robinson taught catch wrestling to Kazushi Sakuraba and Josh Barnett, successful fighters who would go on to have both pro wrestling and MMA careers.

SHOOTO

Shooto may be one of the best examples of Japanese pro wrestling's influence on MMA. The promotion was formed in 1985 by Satoru Sayama, the first pro wrestler to don the famous 'Tiger Mask' identity. Sayama is considered one of the most legendary high flying pro wrestlers of his time, yet he was fascinated by the idea of applying pro wrestling moves in real-life scenarios, and set out to create his own fighting system, naming it 'Shooto,' based off the term "to shoot.' The group held their first amateur event in 1986 and their first pro event in 1989. It's roots are based in catch and sambo wrestling, judo, jiu jitsu, and kickboxing.

Over the years, Shooto has modified its rules to reflect the popular changes in MMA, such as eliminating the standing eight-count knockdown rule and disallowing strikes to the back of the head. Initially, it did not include punches to the face of a grounded opponent. The style has imported itself throughout Europe, and attempts as popularizing it in the US have continued throughout the years (although with little success).

MMA BEFORE THERE WAS MMA

Ironically, one of the most famous early MMA matches took place by accident, and several decades before the term "mixed martial arts" was even coined. On June 26, 1976, Antonio Inoki faced boxer Muhammad Ali in a boxer vs. wrestler match which was supposed to be a work. Inoki was fascinated with the style vs. style concept, and had faced numerous fighters from other disciplines and countries. But Inoki vs. Ali was "The Big One." After months of buildup and rule negotiations, Ali arrived in Japan for their bout, only to have second thoughts days beforehand as rules continued to alter.

Frustrated, rule discussions broke down, and the two men entered the ring with no specified ending, making it an unintended shoot.

The match itself proved to be lackluster, with Ali standing over Inoki, who stayed on his back in a defensive position and kicked away at Ali's legs for all 15 rounds. The match was ruled a draw, and in retrospect is considered one of the earliest MMA matches in modern history.

PRIDE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIPS: JA-PAN'S MMA LEGACY

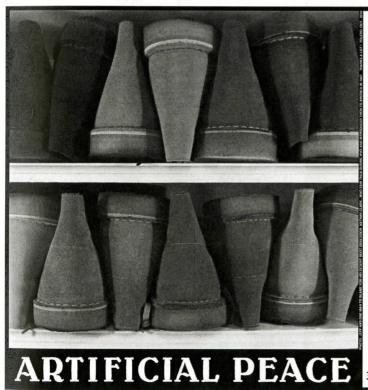
When one thinks of Japanese MMA, the first words that come to mind are 'PRIDE Fighting Championships.' PRIDE FC had their first event in 1997, pitting popular pro wrestler Nobuhiko Takada against Rickson Gracie, the tost of Gracie III. Literage Constitution of the control of the toast of Gracie Jiu Jitsu and son of innovator Helio Gracie. Much like the UFC's success several years earlier, the first PRIDE event was a big hit, drawing a reported 41,000 fans to the Tokyo Dome and paving the way for a series of MMA events that would draw the top fighters from around the world and hosting legendary matches

TEN PRIDE FC MATCHES YOU SHOULD SEE:

In the 15-20 year modern-day era of Japanese MMA, PRIDE FC had the best international exposure. To their credit, the promotion delivered some of the most memorable matches in MMA history. Here's a few worth tracking down, in no particular order:

- Kazushi Sakuraba vs. Rovce Gracie (PRIDE **Grand Prix 2000 Finals, May 1, 2000)**
- Don Frye vs. Yoshihiro Takayama (PRIDE 21. June 23, 2002)
- Bob Sapp vs. Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira (PRIDE Shockwave, August 28, 2002)
- Josh Barnett vs. Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira (PRIDE Final Conflict Absolute 2006, September 10, 2006)
- Fedor Emelianenko vs. Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira (PRIDE 25: Body Blow, March 16, 2003)
- Wanderlei Silva vs. Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson (PRIDE 28: High Octane, October 31, 2004)
- Takanori Gomi vs. Tatsuya Kawajiri (PRIDE Bushido 9, September 25, 2005)
- Takanori Gomi vs. Nick Diaz (PRIDE 33: The Second Coming, February 24, 2007)
- Mirko Cro Cop vs. Antonino Rodrigo Nogueira (PRIDE Final Conflict 2003, November 9, 2003)
- Dan Henderson vs. Wanderlei Silva (PRIDE 33: The Second Coming, February 24, 2007)

*



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Juan Tan Jan Jan By KIYOSHI NAKAZAWA





















In/ng



KLYOSHI IS LETTING ME MAKE AN ENTIRE EPISODE OF WON TON NOT NOW! THIS IS MY COMIC ABOUT SEXY LAMES!



YOU KNOW WHAT I LOVE? WHEN A LADY WEARS A MENS SUIT WITH A FEDORA HAT, EVERYTHING IS ALL OPEN AND SEXY. TOTALLY SMOKIN'.



OR HOW ABOUT WHEN A REALLY SEXY LADY WEARS A "WIFE BEDTER" TANK TOP WITH BLUE JEANS? THE OUTSIDE SAYS "I'M ONE OF THE DUDES." BUT UNDERNEATH SAYS "SEXY



ANY MAN WOULD PITCH A TENT (CAMPING) WHEN HE SEES A SEXY LADY IN A CARHARTT HORK COAT, FLANNEL SHIRT AND BACKWARDS BASEBALL CAP. I MEAN, DUDE!





DON'T FORGET THE COMBAT BOOTS. JUST LIKE MANCY SINATRA, SEXY. YERY SEXY.



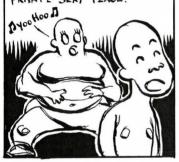
DORA LOVES BOOTS! Y







THE BAIT +SWITCH,
GO UP TO THE GUY WHO HAS A
MAJOR CRUSH ON YOU, TELL HIM
YOU HAVE A NEW TATTOO IN A
PRIVATE SEXY PLACE.
HOO!

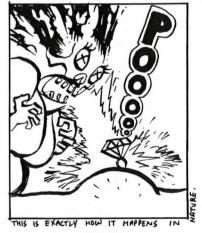










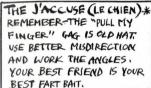


THE CROP DUSTER. FIND A GATHERING OF PEOPLE IN A
TIGHT AREA LIKE A HALLWAY OR CHURCH PEWS. SLOWLY
WALK THROUGH THE CROWD SILENTLY UNLEASHING HELL
FROM YOUR BUMBUM.

GOOD

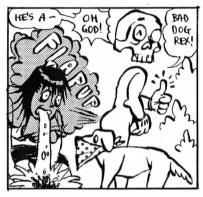
TO DO THE CROWD SILENTLY UNLEASHING HELL
FROM YOUR BUMBUM.

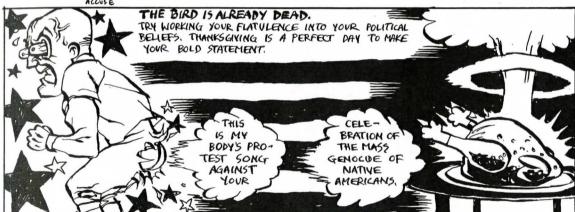




















CUT THIS COMIC OUT, PUT IN YOUR WALLET AND USE AS PROTECTION FOR WHEN YOU GET LUCKY

HELLO LADIES I'M ROMEO REALITYCHECK VALENTINES IS THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR BUT FOR SOME REASON I ALWAYS GET MY HEART BROKEN.



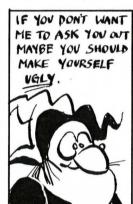
OUCH! THAT HURTS! WHY DO THE WORDS "NEVER CONTACT NE AGAIN." ECHO IN MY EARS? IF I'M NOT SUP-POSSED TO BE TAKEN BY YOUR FEMININE CHARMS THEN STOP MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH ME.



MAYBE I'LL STOP BEING

SO ATTRACTED TO YOU

IF YOU WERE A



MAYBE I'LL STOP LALLING ON THE PHONE IF YOU QUIT SHAYING YOUR ARM PITS + BRUSHING YOUR TEETH AND GROW A MUSTACHE.



MAYBE I'LL STOP SEND ING YOU DESPERATE E-MAILS IF YOU STOP SUGGESTING ANATOMY UNDER-NEATH YOUR CLOTHE

MAYBE I'LL STOP FOLLOWING YOU AROUND TOWN IF YOU STOPPED TELEPATHICALLY ELLING ME TO

I THINK REALLY OPEN COMMUNICATION IS WHAT MAKES

THIS COMIC

ALL RIGHT, I'M GOL

LET YOU FINISH

READING IT BE BEST COMIC

WANTON NOTNOW

MY BUDDY DAN KUSUNOKI + I WERE AT A BAR BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN DRINK. HE WAS MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS WHEN A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION

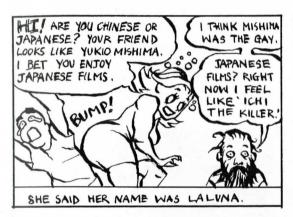


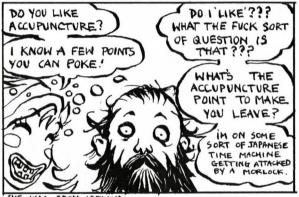
SHE WAS PERSISTENT + WOULD NOT BE IGNORED, SHE POINTED TO HER CIGARETTES AND THE DOOR . DAN LIFTED HIS WATER IN RESPONSE.



THAT WAS HER 'IN' AND DAN'S LAST MISTAKE.











LET ME TE TRUE LOVE Everybody's got their process which they use to go out and fight. I know one guy he said 'Man I go out there and get going and I just go black. I just fight.' There are people like that. I am unique in that I actually get off on violence. If you hit me that's fine because it just gives me that much more satisfaction when I hit you back harder and more so. Or if your friends and family come in I get to hit them. I really don't need a reason to annihilate somebody other than just to do it.

DM: It seems that for some fighters MMA is not about violence but rather the sporting aspects.

JB: I can appreciate that. I really can. It's not always about violence, it's about being the king shit and proving you're the best guy and being in the most competitive kind of environment you can come across. All competition is a watered down form of war. It's just that nobody gets hurt if you're playing tennis. In soccer you have your armies out there, you have your people in their positions – they're all just watered down versions of battle so that people can compete against each other and see who's best. I understand the camaraderie and I feel that as well to an extent but I also feel that I don't need to be anybody's friend. Just the idea that I can fight that person is enough for me and no one is going to stop me.

DM: Is that why you fight? That you get this opportunity to go there and have this war and no one will stop you?

JB: Yes. Fighting is the part in my life in where I feel the most alive in the entire world. There is no circumstance where I will not fight.

DM: Do you think that there is an act of facing personal demons in the ring? Is it a form of exorcism for a fighter?

JB: Not in my case. For me it's just about taking all the shackles off that society wants to throw on top of you. Everything that everyone tells you to be or do, act, or behave and what's acceptable. It's saying 'I'm done with all that now I'm going out and be who I really am.'.

DM: Do you think that part of your desire to fight is to be unforgettable regardless of winning or losing?

JB: That's true, nobody wants to lose.

DM: But I mean the idea to want to live forever in history. Beyond whether you won or lost but to become unforgettable.

JB: This is true. I did once say something to the effect of 'I train, I bleed, I sweat, endure pain in the arena and all that so that I may live on forever.' And I believe I will live on forever by going into the cage or the ring or the parking lot or whatever. People will talk of it and it will spread and it will stay. It will change, maybe it'll get bigger. I hope I become an eight foot black man, 400 pounds with spinning heel kicks (laughter). You know that's not likely to happen though.

DM: That is a great conclusion to this talk. Really quick, since you are the King of Pancrase do you think Abraham Lincoln would have made a good Pancrase fighter?

JB: I think Abe Lincoln had a good reach. To grow that beard and face society at large takes a lot of steel in someone's personality.

DM: I heard he was good at leg locks.

JB: Oh, could be. He could be the 1800's version of Semmy Schilt.

DM: If you could pick anyone in history to fight in a no holds barred no time limit match who would it be?

JB: That's a tough question because it brings up the idea of beating up someone who was a villain in history. How do you choose that? In one hand you're like 'Choose Hitler. Beat him until he dies.' On the other end I start thinking Aleksander Karelin the wrestler I grew up idolizing. Karelin was the Russian Greco Roman multiple Olympic gold medalist wrestler from the 80's and early 90's. He used a reverse lift and he would chuck everybody.

DM: Is he still alive?

JB: Yeah he's still alive but he doesn't compete any more it's been a long time.

DM: Now's your chance!

JB: (Laughter) Yeah I'll fly out to Siberia and clip him in the leg when he's not looking.

DM: I really appreciate your time ...

JB: Ahh I don't believe that. Let's not fool people here. (Laughter) I appreciate learning about Sid Brown and the Immortal Lee County Killers from you. I appreciated the Drunken Master's Round Table, that was an ... awesome time. **

The artwork on the cover of this issue of DM was originally used as a event poster and promotional image for a heavy metal benefit show for Japan, 'The Sun Forever Rising', at the House Of Blues, Hollywood May 26. The event was created and presented by Josh Barnett. All proceeds went to the American Red Cross Japanese relief effort to help those struck by the April 6 earthquake and tsunami disaster. Bands who performed were All Shall Perish, Animals As Leaders, Cattle Decapitation, Abysmal Dawn, Internal Corrosion and Thrown Into Exile.





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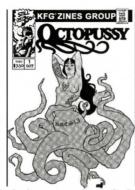
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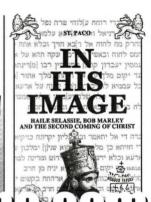
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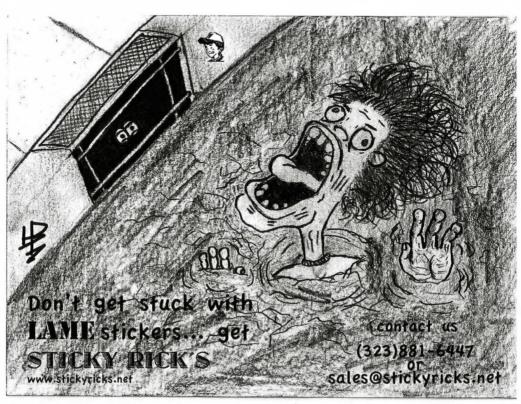
















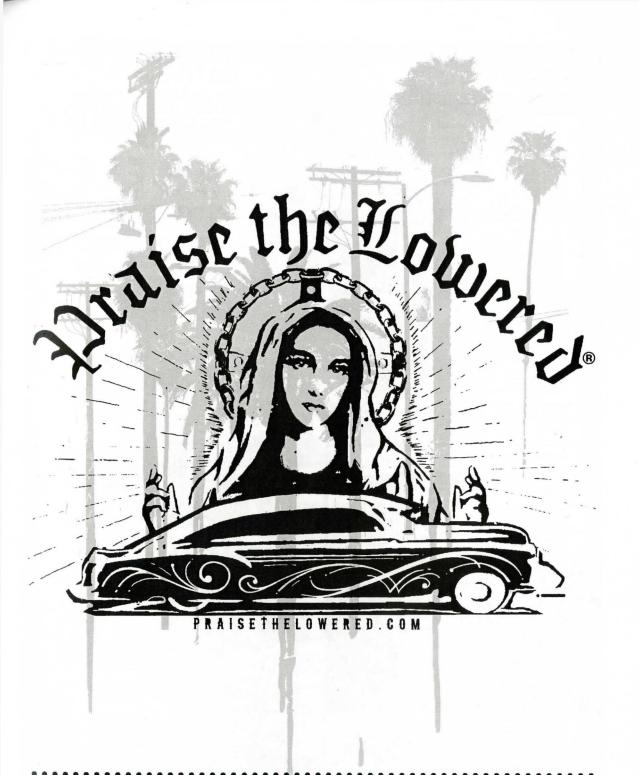




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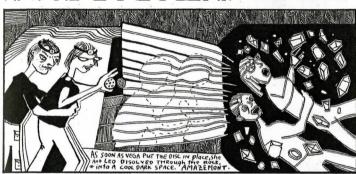




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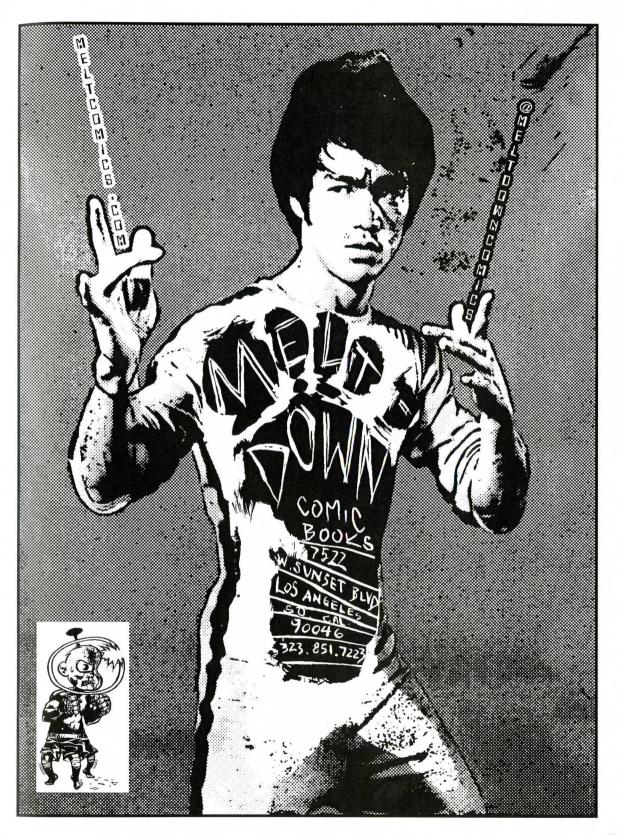




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