

Doonesbury Cast Bios ^{1/}



Alex Doonesbury

A true child of the media, Alex Doonesbury was born in real time on cable television. At the time, her mother, J.J., was a performance artist/taxi driver, and her father Mike Doonesbury was a chronically underemployed advertising "consultant." In her early years, Alex was cared for by nanny Zonker Harris, with few apparent side effects. When her parents split up Alex and her father settled in Seattle, where she attended great public schools and became a seriously competent hacker before she reached puberty. She played a key role in successfully bringing the Boomer and Gen-X worlds together, represented by her father and coder extraordinaire Kim Rosenthal. Throughout the dotcom boom the three played hardball with software, searching for the Killer App. In the post-bubble world they now run myVulture.com, for whom Alex aggressively acquires the intellectual assets of failed dotcoms.



In her spare time Alex maintains the phenomenally successful Alex-cam web site, and issues tickets to SUV's for "violating the public good." She has serious issues with her father over file-sharing, which he deplors. Her mother JJ, an intermittently successful sculptor, lives nearby, co-habiting with Zeke, whose name Alex mispronounces as "Uncle Stupidhead."

Alice P. Schwartzman

Alice has traveled a long and increasingly open road, from New York debutante to doyenne of the Washington homeless. She put in long years as a seamstress in Manhattan's garment district, and for a time, during her barfly years, was profoundly acquainted with a particular stool in a neighborhood pub. On the streets for nearly 15 years, she makes it a point to return to New York's Roseland Ballroom for her annual spin as a taxi dancer. A master of the soft touch, she has made panhandling a sophisticated survival skill, peddling subscriptions to the National Review, and developing a monthly contribution program, with buttons to identify paid-up donors. Her knowledge of weather and her urban camping techniques are unparalleled. Her husband and grill-mate Elmont is unhinged.



^{1/} This document was shamelessly compiled from the www.doonesbury.com web site by Lars T. Soeftestad in April 2008 – whose only defense and claim to fame in this connection is that he is a avid Doonesbury fan – in total disregard of American and Norwegian copyright law, possibly in a vain effort to emulate long-time heroes Zonker and Uncle Duke – the former unable to understand and follow accepted norms of behavior, and the latter with a deep-set disregard (matched only by an equally large inability) for living on the right side of the law. URL: www.supras.biz/links/personal.html.

But for all her street savvy Alice has nearly frozen to death several times – a dramatic photo of her, unconscious, buried in a snowdrift, appeared on the front page of *The Washington Post*. More recently, Alice was befriended by Congresswoman Lacey Davenport, who was gradually succumbing to Alzheimer's and mistook her for her long-dead sister Pearl. In her will, Lacey left her estate to Alice, whose husband Elmont blew it all day-trading just as they were making the transition to a roofed existence.

B.D.

College football star, Vietnam Vet, third-string quarterback for the Rams, Gulf War reservist, California Highway Patrol officer – B.D. has worn many helmets over the years. He and his wife, starlet Barbara Ann Boopstein, share many memories of the 70s and their years at Walden Commune – she posing for Playboy, he volunteering for Vietnam to get out of writing a term paper. Though captured by a Vietcong terrorist named Phred and wounded by a beer can, B.D. left the Nam relatively unscathed.



In his subsequent role as Boopsie's hardheaded Hollywood manager, B.D. exhibited minor skills and major attitude, a combination that did not help extend her list of credits. Their main production was Samantha, born in 1992. Better suited to life in uniform, B.D. was called to serve in Desert Storm, and later as a CHIP officer, but a diagnosis of Gulf War Syndrome left him sidelined and bitter.

A return to Vietnam helped him bury old demons and dig up several old war buddies – including Phred, now a mover and shaker in the new Vietnam. Hired by his alma mater to coach the football team he once quarterbacked, B.D. has come full circle, he and Boopsie once again living in the house at Walden where they first met.

Reactivated for a second Gulf War, B.D. was shipped out to Kuwait, leaving the Fighting Swooshes in Acting-Coach Boopsie's care. He serves as a public affairs officer at Camp Blowback, embedding journalists in frontline army combat units.

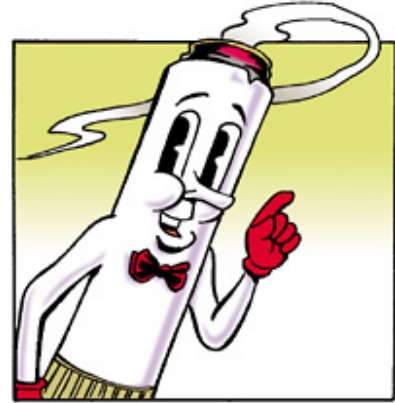
Barbara Ann Boopstein

During her Hollywood heyday, Barbara Ann Boopstein was called "the drinking man's Meryl Streep." Stardom has thus far eluded the Divine Miss B, but she knows it's only a matter of lifetimes. She speaks with a certain authority: in a previous incarnation she was Lorna Doone. Her theatrical credits thus far include numerous exercise videos and several teensploit flicks. She was featured in the swimsuit issue of *Sports Illustrated*, played Barbara Bush in the made-for-TV movie *Poppy: The War Years*, and was mentioned in Andy Warhol's diary. Activities in service to her country include co-hosting the Times Square victory parade marking the end of the Cold War, posing for a popular pinup poster for the Desert Shield troops, and working with the Malibu Military Family Support Group. She served on the California State Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem, and, on the personal front, was delighted to be Babe of Honor at Hugh and Kimberly Hefner's wedding. Regrettably for her fans, she did not make the cut in "Survivor" tryouts. But her body, bit-mapped and scanned, lives on in a variety of media, generating royalties as the template for Lara Croft in "Tomb Raider" and Julia Roberts' breasts in "Erin Brockovich". Having concluded a longtime association, Boopsie no longer shares her body with the channeled 25,000-year-old warrior Hunk-Ra. Along with college sweetheart and Fighting Swooshes football coach B.D., daughter Sam and nanny Zonker Harris, she once again calls Walden home.



Mr. Butts

Self-appointed spokesperson for the tobacco industry, Mr. Butts is a walking, talking, rebuke to common sense – the odious and odoriferous figment of adman Mike Doonesbury's compromised imagination. Besides his work in advertising, and his perjury before Congress, he is perhaps best known for his work with children and his recruiting efforts in the field during Desert Storm. Now a Gucci Gulch lobbyist, Mr. Butts resides with his lovely wife, Mrs. Butts, in an unnamed Washington suburb.



Duke

Some people regard "Uncle" Duke, a rabid controlled-substances buff, as "the High Lord of Inner Space." But in fact he has a long record, some of it involving public service. Few writers at Rolling Stone have been able to move on to something as substantial as Governor of American Samoa, which led to a post as Ambassador to China. Following his triumph in Peking, Mr. Duke enjoyed a brief career as a laetrile farmer. After applying for jobs as President of Yale and head of ABC News, he made a name for himself as General Manager of the Washington Redskins. His experience packing heat led him to serve as a lobbyist for the NRA, followed by some sensitive work in Iran for Universal Petroleum. After bargaining for his life before a firing squad, Mr. Duke disappeared for 17 months, then surfaced as "the 53rd hostage." Upon release he settled down as a drug smuggler in Florida, a career cut short by an ill-fated sightseeing cruise to the Falklands War. Following his rescue from Matagorda Island, Duke became entangled in Hollywood politics, the John DeLorean story, and a major cocaine bust.



Abruptly moving to Haiti, he opened the Baby Doc College of Offshore Medicine. Discovered more inert than usual one morning, he was pronounced dead, which led the *St. Petersburg Times* to run a full obituary. Fortunately it turned out that Duke was not dead, only zombified and sold into slavery. A friend noted, "Frankly, he could use the discipline." After losing his condom company to John Gotti over a bad loan, Duke took a much-deserved rest in Bellevue, returned to active duty as captain of the Trump Princess, then rescued his former translator and devoted love-slave Honey Huan from China.

Tapped by George Bush to serve as Maximum Proconsul in post-invasion Panama, he moved on to smuggle guns to the Kuwaiti resistance, then opened Club Scud, a popular wartime watering hole in Kuwait City. After working on David Duke's campaign, he moved into the "nonprofit" sector, opening Nothing But Orphans. One of his first charges, according to DNA test results, was a long-lost son, Earl. Abandoning the orphans and Ms. Huan, father and son lived in a trailer in Las Vegas, pursuing the gaming arts and trafficking in stolen Beanie Babies.

His stint as a key advisor to Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura led Duke to make a run at the White House. The "Duke2000 – Whatever It Takes" campaign, headquartered in a motel in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, was a resounding failure, despite the efforts of campaign manager "Mini-D" and corporate sponsorships by heavy hitters Lipton Tea and Absolut Vodka. A successful business trafficking in stem cells was followed by a lucrative involvement in the messy fallout from the Enron scandal. As conflict with Iraq loomed, Duke made a return to government work, taking up a post as Viceroy-in-Waiting.

Elmont

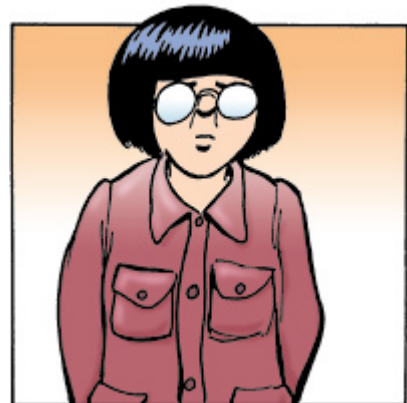
Prominent for many years in the Washington, D.C. homeless community, Elmont is best known as the band leader and sax player for Elmont and the Dumpster Divers, whose perfor-

mance is usually the highlight of the Thanksgiving Day feast in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House. Elmont delivers innovative lectures on the state of the nation at various venues, and is often taken for a raving lunatic. Evidence of his sanity, however, was his 1985 marriage to Alice P. Schwartzman, with whom he currently resides in a duplex purchased with Alice's inheritance from the late Lacey Davenport. He has been interviewed on NPR's *Urban Home Companion*, and served as their floor reporter at the 1996 Democratic National Convention. He is proud of the fact that he refused to participate in the 1990 national census. His tattoo: "Music is my life." His address: lunatic@streetlevel.org.



Honey Huan

A graduate of Peking University (Class of 1974), Honey Huan has had a distinguished if largely inexplicable career. Her service as translator to U.S. Ambassador to China Duke inspired her to attend Georgetown University in Washington DC, where she studied with Henry Kissinger. Her association with Mr. Duke resumed when they co-founded a small business working the waters off the Florida coast. Subsequently she helped him found the Baby Doc College of Physicians, serving as dean, and later president.

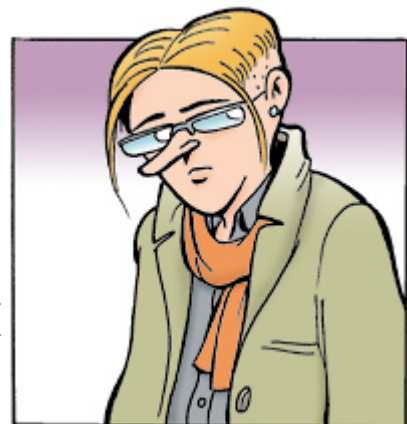


After working for the Dr. Whoopee condom company, and pursuing some personal business with the Gambino family, she became Social Director aboard Donald Trump's yacht, Trump Princess. Returning to Peking for a college reunion led to her inadvertent involvement in the Tiananmen Square uprising: She sought refuge in the U.S. Embassy after being named one of China's 25 most-wanted hooligans. Secreted out of the country by then-husband former-Ambassador Duke, she went on to serve as his sub-Maximum Pro-Consul in post-invasion Panama. Although no longer married, they also worked together to develop Club Scud, a hub site in Kuwait City during and after the Gulf War, and, after peace was restored, went on to found the Nothing But Orphans home for foundlings.

She and Duke played a critical role in organizing inaugural festivities for Jesse "Mind over Body" Ventura. And it was Ms. Huan's counsel which led to Duke's fascinating and futile 2002 run for the White House. Most Honey-watchers agree that Ms. Huan is the only person standing between Duke and permanent incarceration, having devoted her considerable talents to the thankless task of protecting her imagined paramour from himself.

Jeff Redfern

The son of social activist and former Justice Department lawyer Joanie Caucus and Washington Post journalist Rick Redfern, Jeff Redfern was born in December 1982. He showed an early predilection for prepositions such as "although", "and", "but" and "unless". Despite difficult passage through the day care years – largely the result of his inability to speak the native language of his caregivers – Redfern was outed as a gifted child at four and sent to nerd school. Despite this training he was nonetheless able to nurture a gift of extreme hand-eye coordination to achieve a high level of mastery of Doom. By the time he reached puberty he was a veteran of Camp Cyberpines.



Heavily recruited by Walden College as an academic ringer, he was awarded a full football scholarship and is a first string benchman for the Fighting Swooshes. When not playing videogames and helping plan the

annual Walden Riot, Redfern has actually gotten serious about his studies. Along with roommate-teammate Zipper Harris, he co-founded myVulture.com and sold it to entrepreneur Mike Doonesbury. Recruited by the CIA as a summer intern, Redfern managed to accidentally launch a Hellfire missile from a Predator drone, taking out an Al-Qaeda ammo dump. He was subsequently assigned to study Arabic in Spook School and sent back to SW Asia for Gulf War II.

Jimmy Ray Thudpucker

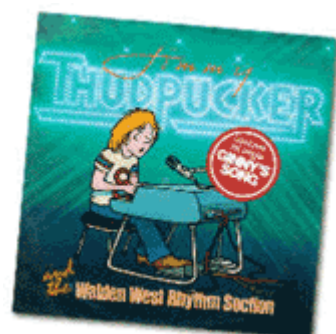
For over three decades, James Ray Thudpucker has cast a mesmerizing light from his polestar position in the pantheon of rock stars.

In his various incarnations – as wunderkind, megastar, anti-star, has-been and been-there elder pop statesman – JT has always been the Voice of His Generation, even as that particular demographic has sunk out of sight. He is, as his publicist once put it in a moment of rare insight, “a legend’s legend.”



Thudpucker burst out of session-man obscurity and onto the national scene in the late 60s with a heart-stopping performance at Newport, followed by a galvanizing set at the Vietnam Moratorium march in Washington DC. The young bluesman’s album “So Long” was a chart-topper – and offered a trenchant post-mortem of U.S. policy in Indochina.

The album’s first single, “Ginny’s Song,” written for an unknown but sincere California Congressional candidate, made Thudpucker a household name in more than 30 states, a fan base that Jimmy methodically built on with subsequent albums like “Fool’s Gold” (double platinum) and “Growing as an Artist” (triple platinum with oak clusters).



His career as a mainstream sensation peaked in 1978 with the release of “Jimmy Thudpucker’s Greatest Hits,” which landed him on the cover of *Rolling Stone* for the second time.

Refreshingly modest in an era before even false modesty was fashionable, Jimmy made a point of crediting much of his success to the studio rats in his backup band, the legendary Walden West Rhythm Section, featuring Steve Cropper, Donald “Duck” Dunn, David Foster and Jay “Wah-Wah” Graydon.

Never entirely comfortable with the trappings of godhood, Thudpucker became known for walking out of recording sessions to be home in time for dinner. Indeed, such was his ambivalence about fame that he retired following 1979’s “Greatest Hits” Pacific Basin tour. In a move that stunned associates and inspired at least several other musicians, he returned to college, where he majored in English.

Thudpucker emerged from retirement only twice in the ‘80s, both times for a worthy cause; he issued “Egg Man,” a tribute album for murdered pal John Lennon, and in 1985, was lured by Michael Jackson to Quincy Jones’ studio to contribute five key words to the legendary “We Are The World” session. Typically, JT followed through on this commitment by traveling to Addis Ababa on behalf of USA for Africa, before returning to family life.



In 1993, he re-emerged on the music scene as Jimmy Ray Thudpucker, making a controversial move to the country category. The stylistic change was soon followed by a geographic one. By the mid-90s he had established himself in Vietnam as the premier American song stylist, performing lite classics with his band Hearts & Minds. His album of Vietnamese oldies endeared him to the in-country audience, especially after the issue of his cover hit, “He Who Comes to Cu Chi, the Bronze Fortress in the Land of Iron, Will Count the Crimes Accumulated by the Enemy.”

In October, 1999 JT recorded "Too Poor", an anthem written for NetAid, a global Internet and broadcast event to raise awareness and support for UN efforts to end extreme poverty. Rough tracks and weekly diary entries were posted on the Web site as the song evolved, and the final mix and video were Web-only releases.

By 2002 Thudpacker was acknowledged as the most-downloaded artist in history. An outspoken champion of file-sharing, he regards it as offering an historic opportunity to liberate artists from the hierarchical tyranny of record sales. Applauding the possible demise of the music industry as we know it, he looks forward to a post pop-star model where music is free, and performers make a modest living through touring.

Now back stateside, Jimmy and his wife Jenny currently live in southern California.

J.J.

Child victim of a Midwestern suburban divorce, J.J. Caucus managed not only to track down and reconcile with the mother who had abandoned her, but went on to fall in love with her mother's old friend Michael J. Doonesbury. After spending her college years under the bell jar of Michael's asphyxiating affections, J.J. emerged to celebrate her womanhood in terms that even he could not ignore. Casting about for an avocation worthy of her ebullience, she ultimately settled on performance art, with mixed results. Amid the booming Soho art scene of the late 80's, J.J. thrived – her 9-hour performance piece "Welcome to Artville," her urinal installation at Club Stop 'N' Bop, and her ceiling murals on the yacht *Trump Princess* were uncritically acclaimed. Her most successful piece was a live birthing of daughter Alex on cable television, an event which, fortunately, strengthened her marriage.



After some initial difficulties, her maternal instincts kicked in ("Oh sure, breast-feed her. What do I look like, a National Geographic cover girl?"), and once nanny Zonker Harris signed on board the sailing smoothed. But life with a chronically unemployed adman was not easy. Though J.J. made driving a taxi a kind of rolling therapy, telling every fare ad nauseum, "I'm really an artist," the marriage eventually collapsed. Inspired by *The Bridges of Madison County*, J.J. ran off with ex-flame Zeke Brenner. Settling in Seattle, she finally achieved remarkable and inexplicable success with her pricey assemblages and sculptures. When the couple finally married in an online webcast, the nuptials were streamed in Quicktime and other leading video formats. As she arrived at the age of 40, J.J. was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. She and Zeke continue to live in Seattle, where she sculpts with renewed enthusiasm and shares the lighter end of custody of daughter Alex.

Joanie Caucus

Joanie Caucus' life has paralleled those of a whole generation of women who, if not able to have it all, at least wanted the chance to try. Liberating herself from a disastrous marriage, Joanie joined the denizens of Walden Commune and regrouped, running a day care center and providing inspiration for the next generation of baby women. She headed West and attended law school at UC Berkeley, in the course of which she also ran a Congressional campaign for her roommate Virginia Slade. Slade lost, but the experience won Joanie a job in Washington, working for the victor, Lacey Davenport.



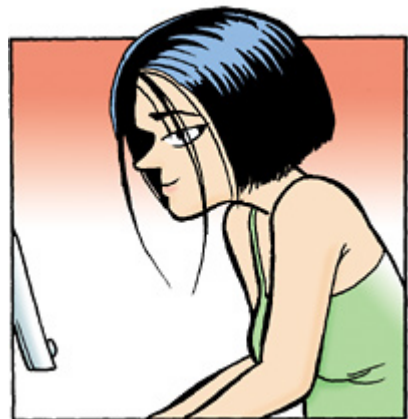
Joanie's two unsuccessful romances, one with a priest, one with a gay man, were followed by a successful pairing with reporter Rick Redfern. A long cohabitation, followed by protracted negotiations, led to an outdoor marriage ceremony. Staff work in Congresswoman Davenport's home district in San Francisco led to a renewed friendship with old friend Andy Lippincott, cut short by his dying of AIDS.

Slipping her husband the occasional confidential report, serving as her daughter J.J.'s Lamaze coach, helping to negotiate for the release of a zombified American former Ambassador – Joanie's harried Beltway life as a Justice Department attorney is typical of her generation of career women. The fact that the birth of their child Jeff occurred in the midst of birth class made it that much more special. She and her husband have struggled with the modern insight that two full-time jobs and parenthood are not fully compatible. As she once put it to Rick: "I think you should quit your job."

Similar instructions were decisively delivered to her by her employer, the federal government, with the onset of the Bush era. Joanie's sudden transition from player to civilian was made even more difficult by the fact that husband Rick did not make it easier. Resuming private practice just as the stock market tanked, Joanie finds herself at retirement age with no reasonable expectation of retirement. Son Jeff is now in college, well-launched into his post-nest phase, and Joanie shares a close relationship with granddaughter Alex, the two having bonded over the strangeness of daughter J.J.

Kim Rosenthal

One of the orphans airlifted out of Vietnam in 1973, Kim Rosenthal was raised as a Vietnamese-Jewish-Southern-Californian American. An honor roll student in high school, she aced college and walked out on a Computer Science PhD at MIT to begin her professional career as a Gen-X hacker. While employed by Bernie's Byte Shack of Seattle, Washington, Kim met Mike Doonesbury, a geek elder and divorced father of one. After their turbulent cross-generational relationship was rent by a stint that saw her working for game mavens Fou Chien in Paris, Kim and Mike were reunited in business and united in marriage. Kim and stepdaughter Alex share passions for Skittles, ice-skating, and writing code.



President King

As the administrative head of Walden College, an east coast hotbed of student unrest during the turbulent sixties, President King made a reputation through his creative handling of difficult situations, from student occupations, to the disruptions surrounding the Black Panther trial and the school's being heralded by *Time* as "a leading outpost of the New Hedonism". By the late 70s things had quieted to the point where King found himself focused on fundraising, a difficult process explored on NPR in a segment entitled "Sucking Up To Alumni".

In 1982 King won national attention for his testimony before Congress regarding the dramatic and dangerous influx of preppies. In the years that followed King was forced to deal with widespread anti-apartheid protests. By 1988, faced with the smallest freshman class in Walden's history, King pioneered an aggressive marketing program. Working in collaboration with the Dr. Whoopee Foundation, King also initiated a widely-copied "safe sex" program, equipping student dorms with condom dispensers. By the early 90s safe language had become the pre-eminent campus concern, and King led the way, creating a comprehensive Glossary of Forbidden Speech.

In 1993 Walden received national attention when it was hit with a \$5 million lawsuit by a student allegedly stigmatized by a low grade. As a result, King decisively ended grade inflation by making straight A's mandatory.



Mark Slackmeyer

Few aging agitators are as unreconstructed as Walden Commune Alumnus Mark Slackmeyer, and fewer still are as proud of it. Known as "Megaphone Mark" during his campus activist

years, he was on the national organizing committee for the Vietnam Moratorium, and was interviewed after the massive anti-war demonstration by Dick Cavett. Adopting the on-air moniker "Marvelous Mark," Slackmeyer created a distinctive campus radio program that was influential during the Watergate period, though he was widely censured at the time for some of his editorial comments. After stints as a bricklayer, a computer operator, and a part-time bartender, Slackmeyer returned to broadcasting with a post at WBBY. Sensing there was nothing wrong in Nixon's America that wouldn't become even more deplorable in Reagan's, he chose to stay permanently and professionally mad, and went to work for National Public Radio. Activist folklore is the richer for it. Still making waves on air, he combines probing interviews with



"Lite 'n' Easy Rock," for the generation that still gets down but can't catch up. Mark is the only major FM disc jockey known to have outed himself on the air. He and his life partner – conservative commentator Chase Talbott III – appear together on NPR's *All Things Being Equal*.

Mike Doonesbury

Disabused early in his Walden College career of the conviction that he was "God's gift to women", Mike Doonesbury gave up on dating and founded Walden Commune in 1972. That summer he and sidekick Mark Slackmeyer embarked on a classic cross-country road trip to San Francisco, the most fortuitous benefit of which was his friendship with Joanie Caucus, whom they picked up hitchhiking near Denver and brought home to Walden.



Years later, working with Joanie on the Anderson campaign, Mike finally met her daughter JJ, which led in short order to romance, graduation, marriage, a computer, and a job in advertising. The pinnacle of Mike's career: a much-praised anti-tanning spot for the American Cancer Society. Low-points: his campaign to sell Ronald Reagan to black voters, and the inexplicable creation of Mr. Butts, spokesperson for the tobacco industry. Also difficult was the 80s haircut, his stint as "The Subway Avenger," and separation from budding performance artist JJ. The marriage was band-aided back together when daughter Alex was born in 1989, but did not survive JJ's fling with Zeke Brenner.

Lifted from post-JJ depression by a summer fantasy come true, Mike found a new life, a new coffee habit, and a new career as marketing director for a Seattle software company run by his college roommate Bernie. To both his and daughter Alex's delight, he was wowed by and wooed Gen-X coder Kim Rosenthal. The three, united by both nuptial vows and a business plan, now run a mom 'n' pop 'n' pre-teen software startup. To the regret of his employees Mike nobly passed on the chance to be bought by Microsoft, which led to being run out of business by them. The financially stripped-down family went on to buy myVulture.com, a startup whose business plan calls for feasting on the remains of other dotcom casualties.

Like many Americans, Mike had a personal connection to the 9-11 tragedy. His former boss, Mr. Bellows, was among the WTC victims, leading Mike to return to Manhattan for a memorial service in the jittery post-attack days. In an effort to help the slumping economy and prepare for the invasion of Iraq during the way-harsh winter of 2004, he purchased his first big-screen TV.

Phred Nguyen

A native of Hue, Vietnam, Phred Nguyen carried on a long family tradition of fighting Western imperialists, seeing action in Hue, Da Nang, the 1968 Tet offensive, and the 1972 siege of Quang Tri. Considered to be the top terrorist in Cu Chi province, he served for five years with a cadre based in the tunnels outside Saigon. In his spare time, Nguyen made a name for

himself locally as an independent winemaker, and gained a reputation for quality with Chateau Phred, known as “the Delta’s finest”. After the 1973 cease-fire, Phred opened the first souvenir shop in the region, which he operated until he was drafted. After difficult contract negotiations, he was put on waivers and traded to the Pathet Lao. A vacation trip in November, 1973 led to his taking up the cause of 300,000 Cambodian refugees, leading a delegation to Washington, D.C. to testify before a senate subcommittee.



When his option with the Pathet Lao was not renewed, Phred returned to his native country and was awarded a Phord Foundation grant in 1974. By the time Saigon fell the following May, he was once more in the military, serving as aide-de-camp to General Tran-Huu Tang in Ho Chi Minh City. During the following years Phred taught at the Vietnam People’s Re-Education Center, leading a re-education seminar for former petty bourgeoisie. In 1978 he was appointed as ambassador to the United Nations, and moved to New York City. The highlight of his UN service was his June 1978 speech on ending the arms race.

Phred Nguyen now works as one of Vietnam’s numerous “directors”, well-connected facilitators who enable foreign businesses to become established. His projects in that capacity have included work with Nike, and with the 1990 NetAid fundraising event, which featured U.S. expat rocker Jimmy Ray Thudpucker. He is also a co-founder of the China Beach Arms resort.

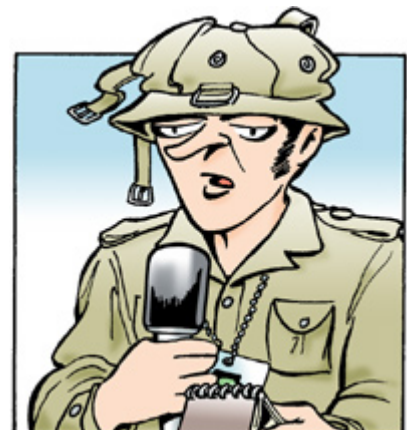
Rick Redfern

Although his resume includes a stint working the “Chatter” section of People magazine, Rick Redfern is best known as a hard-hitting investigative reporter for The Washington Post. He’s broken numerous major stories over the years, from the Washington Redskins drug scandal to the Brett Kimberlin affair. His high profile interviews with heavyweight newsmakers like Baby Doc Duvalier won Redfern his own profile in David Halberstam’s epic tome *Creme de la Creme*. But gutsy ground-level reporting is his strength – from the award-winning series based on his time undercover with Washington’s homeless, to his frontline reporting from the sands of Saudi Arabia, and his tour of duty in the gritty chad-pits of Florida. A reporter’s reporter, Redfern is also a boy’s dad and, until Dubya took the oath of office, a Washington insider’s husband. Married to Clinton appointee Joanie Caucus, he had the guts to try to spend more time with his son by working at home, and the good sense to realize it wasn’t working out.



Roland Hedley

A man of many talents, none of them of any use to a journalist, Roland Burton Hedley III nonetheless began his career at *Time* magazine, and was assigned to the Saigon bureau, where he covered sports. Deciding to add his mellifluous baritone to the cacophony of American broadcasting, he joined *ABC Wide World of News*, and has made a name for himself by travelling constantly to the world’s hotspots, stopping briefly at laundromats between assignments. He has covered numerous presidential campaigns and world tours, mercilessly badgering officials with probing questions and inane queries alike. He attracted a good deal of attention for his field coverage of rebel forces in the mountains of Afghanistan – most of it from snipers. Without a doubt Hedley is best known for his 1980 election-eve



expedition into Reagan's brain. Six years later he mounted a déjà vu follow-up expedition in an effort to jar loose presidential Iranscam memories. But the assignment which left a lasting personal scar was the 1988 GOP convention in New Orleans. While on the convention floor interviewing the Governor of Vermont, Hedley's headset caught on fire: trapped in his helmet, he was badly burned. Hedley bounded back and made international headlines when he broke an exclusive story which explained the mysterious perpetual three-day beard of PLO chairman Yassir Arafat.

After 20 years with ABC, Hedley made the move to narrowcasting, becoming chief content provider and portal correspondent for AOL-Time-Warner-CNN-Yap!com. Traveling incognito in Afghanistan he was captured by the Taliban, wounded by Spam in a U.S. food drop, then rescued by the CIA. Shortly thereafter, he scored a second Yassir Arafat coup with a live interview from the besieged Palestinian leader's compound, conducted entirely by flashlight.

Rev. Scot Sloan

In the late 60s the Rev. Scot Sloan was a dedicated and inspiring social activist, described by *Look* magazine as "the fighting young priest who can talk to the kids." In the vanguard of a new breed of campus clergy, he dedicated himself to setting up community programs, including tutoring for neighborhood kids. Thus he met Walden College student Mike Doonesbury, who at Sloan's urging, tutored – and in turn was clued-in by – a black elementary school student named Thor. Some years later, when the denizens of Walden Commune were forced by graduation to abandon their idyllic rural abode, it was Rev. Sloan who saved it from the wrecking ball, re-christening it first as a sanctuary for Central American refugees, then as a community church. In recent years the social activities have overwhelmed the liturgical – there may be an occasional service but it's hard to find it among the aerobics and twelve-step programs. He occasionally looks wistfully back to the period when he dated a lawyer-to-be named Joanie Caucus, but in the here and now Sloan is married to his work – the thoroughly modern minister/enabler. And he has married many of his friends, including Joanie and Rick, Mike and J.J., Alice and Elmont, and most recently, J.J. and Zeke.



Sid Kibbitz

A fixture in the Los Angeles entertainment community, Superagent Sid Kibbitz almost defies description, though a reporter requesting a resume once received a 250-page document. Widely acknowledged as the first agent to use the car fax, Kibbitz is also admired for his persistent, though unsuccessful, efforts to package former President Reagan in a "buddy picture" with Tom Cruise. Mr. Kibbitz represented Duke in negotiations for the DeLorean project *Fast Lanes*, *White Lines*, and has paid special attention to the career of Barbara Ann Boopstein, landing her numerous roles and tirelessly pushing her New Age epic, *Hard Bodies*, *Soft Minds*. The son of a rabbi, Mr. Kibbitz is also a fully ordained minister in the Christian Order of Immaculate Pacifism.

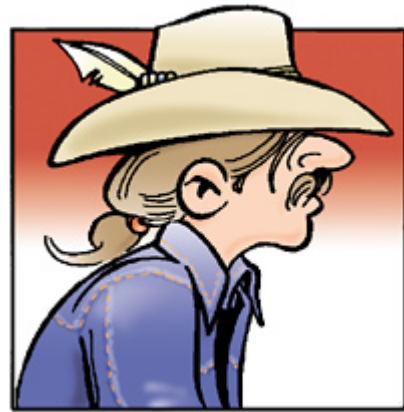


Zeke Brenner

Zeke Brenner, one-time fiance of J.J., is a man of great resources, mostly borrowed from other people. For many years he was caretaker of Owl Ranch, Duke's Colorado spread. When his employer was listed as missing in Iran, Brenner seized a career opportunity by having him declared dead. Quickly hiring a ghost writer to pen Duke: Portrait of a Mentor, Brenner promoted the book nationwide, appearing on the Phil Donahue show. When Mr. Duke returned he promptly pumped several bullets into Mr. Brenner, which may or may not have been related

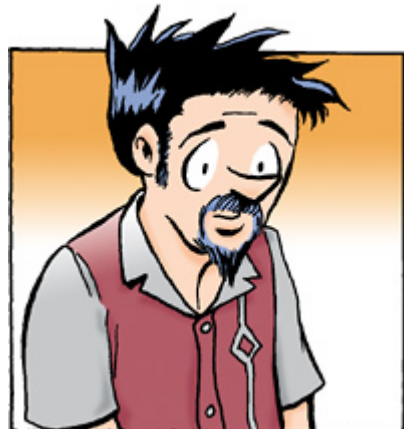
to the fact that Brenner had managed to burn the Owl Ranch to the ground. Subsequent to the shooting Brenner, wisely, sought other employment.

A star-crossed chance reunion with J.J. at an art exhibit quickly led to adultery, an extended road trip, cohabitation, and eventually marriage, the ceremony artfully consummated as an online pay-for-view event. The couple lives in Seattle, where Zeke is known as the guy who lives with the Art Princess of Puget Sound.



Zipper Harris

Unlike his uncle, the renowned Malibu tannist Zonker Harris, Zipper was born and raised in Northern California. Thanks to a legacy scholarship, and following a family tradition now two generations old, he is currently a receiver on the Walden College football team. In a radical break with his forbearer and hero he is, however, occasionally dating. Zipper was co-founder, along with roommate Jeff Redfern, of myVulture.com. He made an unsuccessful attempt to download and license the real time wireless output from Dick Cheney's defibrillator. Harris maintains a blog primarily devoted to his stop sign collection.



Zonker Harris

Few young Americans have so thoroughly savored the joys of college – which he once referred to as “the best nine years of my life” – as Californian-American Zonker Harris. Known for his wheat patch and his explorations of Walden Puddle, Harris was a founding member of Walden Commune. Following graduation Harris swiftly rose to national prominence on the professional tanning circuit. Two-time Grand National Tanning Champion, he also won the Jack Ford Medal for Best Tan at the 1980 Gerald R. Ford Pro-Am Summer Biathlon and the bronze medal at the Sonny Bono Indoor Tan Fest. Retiring from competition in 1981, Harris reversed field and appeared in an influential series of public service ads on skin cancer.

Although he may not have been aware of it, he was briefly involved romantically with a woman (Marcia Feinbloom) during the late 80s. In recent years, when not living with his parents, Harris has devoted himself to the field of professional childcare, nannying and surf-mentoring Boopsie and B.D.'s daughter Samantha.

During an election-year sabbatical, Zonker moved to Coon Rapids, MN and served as spin doctor on the unsuccessful Duke2000 presidential campaign. Today, when not caring for his young charge, he commutes to Malibu to work with his longtime mentor, Old Surfer Dude, in the campaign to maintain public access to California's beaches. When no one else is using the oven, he bakes and delivers marijuana brownies to AIDS patients.

