

write turn

Words from beyond *The Confluence*

"**THERE THEY ARE**, those Angels, on top by one game in the mild, mild West despite the fact that they can't hit and, when they happen to put bat on ball, they don't do it with a lick of power. The Angels aren't simply offensively inept. They're offensively missing."

— John Donovan, *sportsillustrated.com*

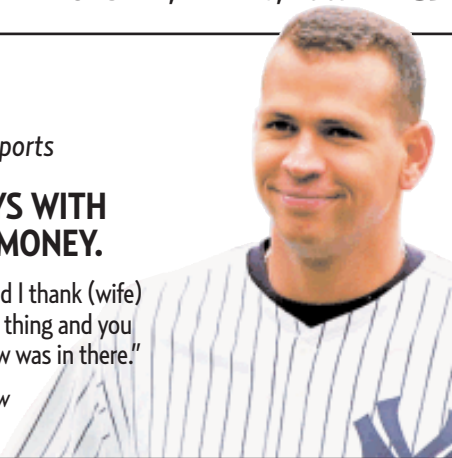


somebody said ...

Significant chatter from the *Unreality of Sports***EVERYBODY HURTS, EVEN GUYS WITH TALENT, LOOKS AND LOTS OF MONEY.**

"I think it's a different life that I've discovered, and I thank (wife) Cynthia for that because therapy is an incredible thing and you might get to know someone you didn't even know was in there."

— *Alex Rodriguez*, who told the television show "Extra" that he now sees therapists regularly.



MONDAY: hot zone

| TUESDAY: sports warp

| WEDNESDAY: down & distant

| THURSDAY: sports warp ii

| FRIDAY: strange but true

| SATURDAY: popped, not cultured

walk on

Picture it: October 11, 1992, a certain Pirates pitcher shutting down the Atlanta Braves in what is surely one of the greatest postseason performances in Pittsburgh baseball history. As if you didn't know: **Bob Walk** rules! And this is the spot on **The Flip Side** where he speaks... on anything, just because he can.

BASEBALL'S VADER

"I guess the popular choice would be [New York Yankees owner] George Steinbrenner, but I think the guy that everybody really loves to hate has got to be Barry Bonds. And right now for Barry is kind of like right after 'Episode IV: A New Hope,' when they've blown up the Death Star. Barry is reeling a little bit and everybody is wondering if he's going to be able to recover from this last setback.

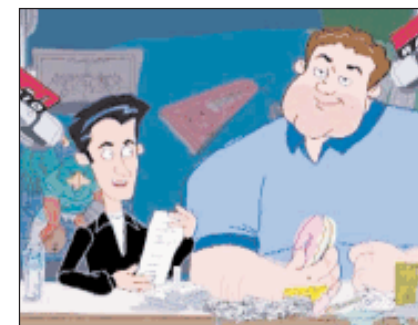
"When he was younger, Barry was a lot like Anakin Skywalker. He was different, a combination of cocky and happy-go-lucky... but there was always that angst. And now he's surly, angry and wearing black body armor. Maybe he is Darth Vader.

"I really enjoyed the first three 'Star Wars' movies... or the last three I guess. But I never wanted to dress up like a character from the movies. Though, when the kids were small I did think it was kind of cool to play with their plastic lightsabers."

Bob Walk has broadcasted Pirates games for KDKA Radio and FSN Pittsburgh since 1994. He has, uh, walked on **The Flip Side** since 2003 and will continue to do so throughout the baseball season.



sports warp ii: Cartoon Networked



ESPN's Mikes, Greenberg and Golic, had experienced a lot during their time together as co-hosts of the ab-fab "Mike & Mike Morning Show" (heard locally on ESPN Radio 1250-AM from 6 to 10 a.m.). Still, even they weren't ready for what the Bristol folks had in mind — specifically, taking bits from the program and turning them into a sports cartoon for ESPN.com. The process for animating Mike & Mike takes about a month per installment; their going Out of Bounds on **TFS** took decidedly less time...

TFS: So, what does getting your cartoon on say about the careers?

Golic: I do believe that when you become a cartoon, you've achieved the pinnacle — everything starts going downhill after that.

Greenie: I don't know if (the cartoon) speaks highly or lowly, but it does speak volumes about our chemistry. That they're able to take bits we've done and turn them into something as entertaining as these cartoons really illustrates — sorry — the fact that we have a naturally good time doing the show.

Golic: Plus, folks have been saying that we are caricatures of ourselves for years. This just proves they've been right all along.

TFS: Who are some of your animated influences?

Golic: The Incredible Hulk, The Thing, Tank McNamara — any large, muscular, beast-types. Greenie would probably say that my biggest influence was Fat Albert.

Greenie: I probably would say that. And Golic would tell you that my influence was Jessica Rabbit — because of the eyebrow waxing.

TFS: Not that there's anything wrong with that.

Golic: No, there's everything wrong with that.

Greenie: I'm a big fan of 'The Flintstones,' so my initial thought on an animated influence goes to The Great Gazoo — which works for me because he likes to instigate and then run away. That's my style, too.

TFS: Any plans for future episodes?

Golic: Consider this my open plea to the animators that I get to physically hurt Greenie.

Greenie: No, no, no, Golic — I would win in an animated fight because cartoons have a great pain threshold.

Golic: But you don't.

TFS: He does willingly let somebody pour hot wax onto his eyebrows and then peel off the hair.

Greenie: Exactly!

TFS: Hot wax.

Golic: Whatever.