



## ESQUIRE IN REAL LIFE

My friend Tom was reading the July issue on the ride down to New Orleans for his bachelor party when he came across Rule No. 712: "Men with eye patches make great drinking partners." Tom was sober as a state trooper, and still he found this rule sublimely funny. Later that night, he noticed redness in his right eye. By morning, the swelling was so bad, we took him to an urgent-care clinic, where he was diagnosed with a corneal abrasion and prescribed drops and gauze. And a patch. At first Tom worried that he looked like a gay pirate. Eventually, however, he deferred to the infallibility of the Rules. I can now confirm that walking the French Quarter with a huge-ass beer and a one-eyed man indeed makes for a fantastic night of drinking. Ladies were curious and sympathetic. They approached us. And steroided pricks who'd otherwise be looking for a fight steered well clear. The only downside: Seemingly everyone we passed felt the urge to yell. *Arrrrrrgh!* —JOE OESTREICH

nationals after World War I could contribute to false conclusions about the Munich debacle.

I would not doubt that **younger children**<sup>4</sup> are brighter than in past generations: Advances in nutrition and more-enlightened ideas about child rearing are two probable explanations. But the lack of knowledge base and concomitant critical faculties among younger adults is egregious and not refutable

## CONTEXT-FREE HIGHLIGHT FROM A LETTER WE WON'T BE RUNNING

"I remember butt-sweat puddles on bus seats."

through spurious pieces of "evidence" such as rises in the Stanford-Binet.

PERRY WEINER  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

## A COMFORTABLE SHIRT FOR JAY ANDERSON

I'm trying to find shorter-length polo shirts (without the drop tennis tail) that do not fit as if they're made for a ten-year-old. Everything I've seen so far has been too tight. There have to be shorter-length polos that have a relaxed fit.

JAY ANDERSON  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Senior fashion editor Wendell Brown responds: Try Calvin Klein Sportswear, which is sold at many department stores. It's reasonably priced and has a relaxed fit. Other good options include Uniqlo, H&M, and Fred Perry.

## ELSEWHERE IN THE MORE-COMPLIMENTARY-THAN-USUAL BIN

As a Desert Storm veteran, I have often wished I had a way to communicate to kids coming home today what they will face and what they can expect as time passes and their memories don't fade. So when I read Daniel Woodrell's fiction ("Night Stand," June), it hit me like a ton of bricks. He managed to convey so directly, succinctly, and completely what is so hard to explain, especially to those who've never experienced war.

JASON HOGAN  
Arnold, Md.

Earlier, as I sat here thinking about some article I'd read on a plane a few

months ago, I thought I'd check to see if you offered it online. I was quite pleased to see that it was available—and without my having to deal with a registration or access fee. Your magazine and writers are some of the finest I've read, and I'm thrilled to know I can add your Web site to my list of regular online destinations.

DAVID JOHNSON  
West Haven, Conn.

The whole time I've been in Iraq, I've kept your magazine with me. It's a great escape from the **lovely landscape**<sup>5</sup> here into life, style, and important issues. Thanks for being there. Well, here.

HM3 JOSEPH SMITH  
Fallujah, Iraq

In one of your Rules (Man at His Best, July), you say, "Never eat breakfast at a place with a neon beer sign in the window." Obviously you've never worked an off shift. I work third shift, and there is nothing I love more than going down to my favorite bar (Rex's Rendezvous) and having breakfast with a pint of Guinness. But I must warn you: Once you've had a good breakfast at a place that serves beer, anywhere else will pale in comparison.

DAVE HORVATH  
Walkerton, Ind.

Letters to the editor may be mailed to The Sound and the Fury, P.O. Box 1704, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. Also, Esquire encourages the use of e-mail (to [esquire@hearst.com](mailto:esquire@hearst.com) or via the Web at [esquire.com](http://esquire.com)/talk) and fax (212-649-4305). Include your full name, address, and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. For subscription questions, please go to [service.esquire.com](http://service.esquire.com).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR BOOKSHELF

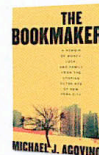
"This segment ended with [radio-talk-show host Eddie] Cantor asking his guest star: 'There is one thing I always wanted to know. What makes you call yourself Gorgeous?' To which George answered: 'Honesty.'"

—From *Gorgeous George: The Outrageous Bad-Boy Wrestler Who Created American Pop Culture* (Harper Entertainment, \$26). John Capouya's biography of George Wagner, an early wrestler who inspired such macho posturers as Muhammad Ali and James Brown



"Besides the Yankees—the Yankees made him an American, he told me this, more than being born in East Harlem did—he never had favorite teams. Gamblers and bookmakers can't get attached, can't afford to, but he had a thing for the Raiders."

—From *The Bookmaker* (HarperCollins, \$25). Michael J. Agovino's deeply evocative, pitch-perfect memoir of growing up the son of a bookie in Co-op City in the Bronx in the '70s and '80s



(4) People more and more likely to suffer the perils of adulthood, like the kid in *Where the Wild Things Are*. Or *Mary-Kate Olsen*. See page 64 for an explanation.  
(5) What you should have in your front yard if you want to attract women. For the flora most likely to get you a date, turn to page 70.