

[4/11/2009 5:04:11 PM] *** Call to **smalltownpeople**, no answer. ***

[4/11/2009 5:04:13 PM] *** Call ended ***

[4/11/2009 5:37:07 PM] **smalltownpeople**: hey chris, you around?

[4/11/2009 5:37:17 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: HELLO NEW YORK CITY!

[4/11/2009 5:37:17 PM] **smalltownpeople**: no projection just yet

[4/11/2009 5:37:32 PM] **smalltownpeople**: quick question -- if people want to buy your stuff -- what e-mail should they paypal money too?

[4/11/2009 5:37:34 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Sorry if that came off all, "Springsteen."

[4/11/2009 5:37:34 PM] **smalltownpeople**: *to?

[4/11/2009 5:38:27 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: That's a weird combination of characters! I say.

[4/11/2009 5:39:22 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: chris@achewood.com

[4/11/2009 5:39:31 PM] **smalltownpeople**: hello Chris - This is Ruthie, i run 303GRAND. just wanted to say thanks so much for doing this tonight! :)

[4/11/2009 5:39:32 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: that's the paypal address we use

[4/11/2009 5:39:37 PM] **smalltownpeople**: your work is amazing

[4/11/2009 5:39:48 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hi Ruthie, thanks so much for hosting me. are we on the projector yet or chatting privately?

[4/11/2009 5:40:00 PM] **smalltownpeople**: projector :)

[4/11/2009 5:40:14 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: ah so! Then I hope you have a great turnout. Tell me about the event so far.

[4/11/2009 5:40:41 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ``so we just had an hour long Q&A which went awesomely/hilariously great

[4/11/2009 5:40:50 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Did Ryan do OK? He is from Canada.

[4/11/2009 5:40:52 PM] **smalltownpeople**: and now there are 145 people watching us chat.

[4/11/2009 5:41:02 PM] **smalltownpeople**: haha yeah Ryan was great. Tim gave him alot of shit

[4/11/2009 5:41:15 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ok im signing off..letting the next person come along! :)

[4/11/2009 5:41:19 PM] **smalltownpeople**: good luck!

[4/11/2009 5:41:37 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Good! Good. I hope Ryan's brother has been OK. He gets hurt a lot up in Canada. I had a chicken dinner with them both not three months ago and it's pretty alarming to hear the ways his brother gets hurt up in Canada.

[4/11/2009 5:42:21 PM] **smalltownpeople**: hi chris!

[4/11/2009 5:42:24 PM] **smalltownpeople**: how are you?

[4/11/2009 5:42:33 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I am lovely. Who is this?

[4/11/2009 5:42:45 PM] **smalltownpeople**: i'm wyna. i'm a huge achewood fan!!

[4/11/2009 5:43:00 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Thank you. What can I do for you? Did Ryan do OK?

[4/11/2009 5:43:23 PM] **smalltownpeople**: yes! he did very well. the q&a was very informative

[4/11/2009 5:43:29 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: So you heard about his brother.

[4/11/2009 5:43:29 PM] **smalltownpeople**: how does his brother get hurt?

[4/11/2009 5:43:44 PM] **smalltownpeople**: just from reading your chat on the projector

[4/11/2009 5:44:01 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Any way he can find. I think if you put him in a padded cell with a bag of frozen peas and some shoes he'd find a way to turn it into a CSI episode.

[4/11/2009 5:44:18 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Chris! This is Zach.

[4/11/2009 5:44:25 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Zach who? Wait. No.

[4/11/2009 5:44:35 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Does it irritate you when people try to email or talk to you in Roast Beef's "voice"?

[4/11/2009 5:44:42 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Wait. Let's clear up which Zach.

[4/11/2009 5:44:55 PM] **smalltownpeople**: How many Zachs are there?

[4/11/2009 5:44:59 PM] **smalltownpeople**: This is the one and only.

[4/11/2009 5:44:59 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Oh god. It's you.

[4/11/2009 5:45:08 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Well... wait a minute.

[4/11/2009 5:45:16 PM] **smalltownpeople**: If it's bad, I'm not that one.

[4/11/2009 5:45:16 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I can't do this. Where is Skype's hang-up button. esc...atm0

[4/11/2009 5:45:25 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Oh! You're not?

[4/11/2009 5:45:30 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Damn, Chris. Don't do me like that.

[4/11/2009 5:45:42 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Just a regular fan, no worries.

[4/11/2009 5:45:47 PM] **smalltownpeople**: I even buy stuff.

[4/11/2009 5:46:01 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: You...you're not the sandwich duel guy.

[4/11/2009 5:46:12 PM] **smalltownpeople**: From the New Yorker? OH HELL NO.

[4/11/2009 5:46:14 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: 'Cause he never buys anything.

[4/11/2009 5:47:03 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: You should hear his Roast Beef voice. He thinks Roast Beef sounds like the Swedish Chef. You know how when people lack the imitate-accent gene, they always sound like the Swedish Chef?

[4/11/2009 5:48:03 PM] **smalltownpeople**: BUT E SWEDISH CHEF IS THE HEIGHT OF HILARITY

[4/11/2009 5:48:27 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Zach, 1983 called, and I have to come in and get off my bike and watch the Swedish Chef.

[4/11/2009 5:48:38 PM] **smalltownpeople**: I mean to ask a serious question about your appropriation of Northern Californian dialect.

[4/11/2009 5:48:54 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: There is no more serious subject. Proceed.

[4/11/2009 5:50:08 PM] **smalltownpeople**: It appears that you've done much to promote a very distinctive form of CA talk out here... "hella"... a guy to my left just mentioned that the first time he heard/read it was in Achewood

[4/11/2009 5:50:29 PM] **smalltownpeople**: But you've also developed very unique mannerisms in each of the characters, linguistically speaking

[4/11/2009 5:50:39 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I am aghast that you'd never heard that before. What did you say growing up in New Jersey? "Wicked-slimey"?

[4/11/2009 5:50:54 PM] **smalltownpeople**: This is the guy to his left

[4/11/2009 5:51:02 PM] **smalltownpeople**: I AM from New Jersey

[4/11/2009 5:51:12 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: (I don't have a cam, I will have to trust you on your orientation to this man)

[4/11/2009 5:51:29 PM] **smalltownpeople**: And we grew up saying "I wish I lived in Northern California. I wonder what there slang was like? Lets go hit the wawa."

[4/11/2009 5:51:43 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Hey! Is Ray's place ever coming back?

[4/11/2009 5:51:52 PM] **smalltownpeople**: I reread the archives and adjusted my life accordingly

[4/11/2009 5:51:53 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Here's my best Jersey: "'Ey Nicky! Jackie da Knife just got kicked in da 'sckavones by Big Ruby Nate!"

[4/11/2009 5:51:56 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Now I have alcohol poisoning

[4/11/2009 5:51:59 PM] **smalltownpeople**: thanks

[4/11/2009 5:52:31 PM] **smalltownpeople**: We mostly just move from one convenience store to the next

[4/11/2009 5:52:36 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Not a lot of kicking

[4/11/2009 5:52:41 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Ray's place is fallow for now. I put my heart and soul into answering college sophomores' questions about which cheap vodka to pour on their brains and never saw the return on the investment.

[4/11/2009 5:53:01 PM] **smalltownpeople**: You should come visit. oyu can stay at my parents. I live in brooklyn now. My room has some cool stuff though. star wars posters, etc. 7th grade chic.

[4/11/2009 5:53:23 PM] **smalltownpeople**: My girlfriend wold lik to know, before i yield the floor, the story behind the david byrne acrylic painting.

[4/11/2009 5:53:28 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Thanks, and I am a big fan. adios

[4/11/2009 5:53:43 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It was nice to know you while I could, guy on the left of Zach.

[4/11/2009 5:53:52 PM] **smalltownpeople**: sean

[4/11/2009 5:54:11 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Zach again. Rumors of an Achewood film? Do tell.

[4/11/2009 5:55:16 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: STRONG rumors. Script, though. Different animal entirely, it turns out. They wanted the script before the movie. I had to finish moving six thousand dressers five thousand miles to Oregon before I could finish the screenplay. It took nine thousand months. I am here now, though. It is lightly drizzling.

[4/11/2009 5:56:01 PM] **smalltownpeople**: So there is a draft screenplay?

[4/11/2009 5:56:22 PM] **smalltownpeople**: animated? puppets? creepy live action?

[4/11/2009 5:56:36 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Yeah, but it's horrible. Half of the time Roast Beef is called Toast Beef, because I had this Korean studio write it.

[4/11/2009 5:57:07 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Live action. We were admonished not to write it for animation by basically every studio.

[4/11/2009 5:58:39 PM] **smalltownpeople**: hopefully in the vein of Air Bud or Beethoven Part II

[4/11/2009 5:59:21 PM] **smalltownpeople**: How is Portland informing your latest material?

[4/11/2009 5:59:29 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I have not seen those but with those titles there is no way they could be anything other than box office gold.

[4/11/2009 5:59:30 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Certainly a different vibe from the Yay Area.

[4/11/2009 5:59:38 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It is not. Have you been here?

[4/11/2009 5:59:47 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Portland? Yeah.

[4/11/2009 6:00:04 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Portland needs to lose the beard and put on some weight.

[4/11/2009 6:00:17 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Then grow the beard back. When it's *earned* it.

[4/11/2009 6:00:33 PM] **smalltownpeople**: I have a question. More Phillip!!

[4/11/2009 6:00:45 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I don't have a character by that name. Do you mean Ray?

[4/11/2009 6:00:57 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Because SISTER YOU GOT IT!

[4/11/2009 6:01:03 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Filip?

[4/11/2009 6:01:09 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay, I think this chat is over.

[4/11/2009 6:01:19 PM] **smalltownpeople**: I meant that talking clip art dinosaur.

[4/11/2009 6:01:24 PM] **smalltownpeople**: i really like him, you should stay with that.

[4/11/2009 6:01:30 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Yeah, the one with the hapless brother? He's the bomb.

[4/11/2009 6:02:16 PM] **smalltownpeople**: what he is trying to say is that he wants more HERE COMES A SPECIAL BOY

[4/11/2009 6:02:42 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: He wants me to write those words and put them near some talking ankle weights or Wii controllers?

[4/11/2009 6:02:55 PM] **smalltownpeople**: very much

[4/11/2009 6:03:16 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay. I have added that to my longhand notes of this discussion. "More Fleep."

[4/11/2009 6:03:29 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Chris. How many books is your deal with DH for?

[4/11/2009 6:04:16 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Two for now. It's book-by-book. I'm small-timey; I can't just kick out another Tommyknockers whenever some date comes due.

[4/11/2009 6:05:20 PM] **smalltownpeople**: As an alum of the Chaparral, how do you feel about Cal's humor magazines?

[4/11/2009 6:05:36 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I feel like they could be good if they had them.

[4/11/2009 6:05:45 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Lots of bright kids there.

[4/11/2009 6:05:47 PM] **smalltownpeople**: The Heuristic Squelch?

[4/11/2009 6:05:57 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: See now, that masthead is overwrought.

[4/11/2009 6:06:26 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I get so confused, I just have to put it down and look down Telegraph as some guy with beads implanted under his forehead scowls at me for not giving him five dollars.

[4/11/2009 6:06:30 PM] **smalltownpeople**: It's "funny".

[4/11/2009 6:06:56 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Oh, like Palo Alto is the bomb.

[4/11/2009 6:07:24 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Do I trot around waving the Palo Alto flag? Same problem, other end of the spectrum.

[4/11/2009 6:07:54 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Some guy with a line in his nose scowls at me for not venture-funding his vlogging-timeshare software. BUH

[4/11/2009 6:08:25 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Oh, but Berkeley is definitely a disgusting latrine hole that a whole army just used. Palo Alto is pretty and clean.

[4/11/2009 6:10:06 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Wow, tough crowd! Didn't know there were so many East Bay expats in the house.

[4/11/2009 6:10:18 PM] **smalltownpeople**: It's Nor Cal or No Cal.

[4/11/2009 6:10:36 PM] **smalltownpeople**: what is your favorite white wine?

[4/11/2009 6:11:17 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: The white wine that makes this all go away, baby. The white wine that makes this all go away. Right now, I'm diggin' on some Screaming Eagle.

[4/11/2009 6:11:40 PM] **smalltownpeople**: is that like Thunderbird?

[4/11/2009 6:12:12 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I don't have any, but I dig on it. It costs more than my car. I guess it's the "opposite" of T-bird, which I've enjoyed many a youthful ruckusy eve.

[4/11/2009 6:12:46 PM] **smalltownpeople**: What are your top two youthful regrets?

[4/11/2009 6:13:22 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: That I had low self esteem and a smokin' bod.

[4/11/2009 6:13:30 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Wait.

[4/11/2009 6:14:11 PM] **smalltownpeople**: What's a cute thing your kid did?

[4/11/2009 6:14:12 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hey, how come my life has to be all regret-based?

[4/11/2009 6:14:24 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I'll tell you a cute thing my kid did.

[4/11/2009 6:15:10 PM] **smalltownpeople**: because there are five million of us here egging one person on to ask you inappropriate personal questions

[4/11/2009 6:15:11 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: She explained something to me, and I said, "I can see what you're saying." She looked up at me in that honest literal way of kids and said, "How can you see my words?"

[4/11/2009 6:15:31 PM] **smalltownpeople**: there are machines for that

[4/11/2009 6:15:31 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It's all good. My daughter just brought me a glass of water, which I thought was pretty cute as well.

[4/11/2009 6:15:39 PM] **smalltownpeople**: a budding cartoonist

[4/11/2009 6:15:55 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: God I hope not

[4/11/2009 6:15:56 PM] **smalltownpeople**: girls just said 'awwww'

[4/11/2009 6:16:15 PM] **smalltownpeople**: chris would you be upset if your daughter grew up to be a "jive-ass cartoonist"?

[4/11/2009 6:16:27 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: guys just said, 'dude whatever shit be wilted'

[4/11/2009 6:16:52 PM] **smalltownpeople**: yes there was a person like that

[4/11/2009 6:17:05 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I will only be upset if my daughter starts smoking and thinks she can hide it by flushing her exhales down the toilet. I would see right through something like that.

[4/11/2009 6:18:03 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Chris, akhurgin@amherst.edu here. How is your family with the move? Are ou gonna start using Oregonian street-speak in the strips?

[4/11/2009 6:18:50 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I have detected no discernible Oregonian patois other than their charming habit of calling everyone "sir."

[4/11/2009 6:19:12 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Did you switch off your mom's credit card yet, Alex?

[4/11/2009 6:19:39 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ...yes. That was an embarrassing thing now made public to all these peoples. The girls I was working on have left.

[4/11/2009 6:20:00 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hey, good for you for casting a wide net. Hit return like fifty times and start the chase anew.

[4/11/2009 6:20:09 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: For the record, Alex has been a Knucklehead since like 2001.

[4/11/2009 6:20:25 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Knucklehead = a guy who was a supporter since the day

[4/11/2009 6:20:28 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Street-cred recovered. Thank you.

[4/11/2009 6:20:32 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: phew
[4/11/2009 6:20:34 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: dap
[4/11/2009 6:20:39 PM] **smalltownpeople**: dap
[4/11/2009 6:21:01 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: wig-nug
[4/11/2009 6:21:09 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: pro-nip
[4/11/2009 6:21:17 PM] **smalltownpeople**: pre-nup?
[4/11/2009 6:21:40 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hey, is this an impostor? Jesus.
[4/11/2009 6:22:09 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hey, ask me a question or something. I'm missing dinner for this!
[4/11/2009 6:22:18 PM] **smalltownpeople**: No, the stream has merely been hijacked. So, Mr. Onstad, any hope for another verse of Sullivan's Bear and Dried Bird?
[4/11/2009 6:22:40 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Recite even one line of that here to all assembled
[4/11/2009 6:22:45 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: And it shall be so
[4/11/2009 6:23:34 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Mostly it was musical notation, and a scholarly digression on the chemical composition of achewater. Few actual lyrics as yet
[4/11/2009 6:23:47 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Here's the next few lines:
[4/11/2009 6:24:19 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: In the early morning rain, with a dollar in my hand

With an aching in my heart and my pockets full of sand

I'm a long way from home, and I miss my loved one so

In the early morning rain with no place to go

[4/11/2009 6:24:44 PM] **smalltownpeople**: nice, we see you went to an Iron Maiden fansite and cribbed some lyrics.

[4/11/2009 6:24:50 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Philistine.

[4/11/2009 6:25:03 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: How old are you?! How old are your PARENTS?!

[4/11/2009 6:25:06 PM] **smalltownpeople**: haven;t heard that album

[4/11/2009 6:25:27 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: *How old are your PARENTS?!* is not the name of an album.

[4/11/2009 6:25:48 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Does no one know that verse?

[4/11/2009 6:26:01 PM] **smalltownpeople**: we all just did a "haha"

[4/11/2009 6:26:18 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPnLK1WnXxg>

[4/11/2009 6:26:37 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Kill that after about ten seconds or you'll clear out the party

[4/11/2009 6:26:46 PM] **smalltownpeople**: there are restrictions on this computer that making watching the video impossible

[4/11/2009 6:26:57 PM] **smalltownpeople**: is it a dude's butt?

[4/11/2009 6:27:06 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Ok, probably for the best. PS that is a weird restriction on a modern computer?

[4/11/2009 6:27:20 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Yeah, it's a dude's butt singing Peter Paul and Mary.

[4/11/2009 6:27:26 PM] **smalltownpeople**: small-town restrictions for **smalltownpeople**

[4/11/2009 6:27:39 PM] **smalltownpeople**: the dude from A Softer World wants to know what you're wearing

[4/11/2009 6:27:48 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Oh good! I prepared for this one:

[4/11/2009 6:27:57 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Socks, black, two days old.

[4/11/2009 6:28:06 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Jeans, Indigo, ten days old.

[4/11/2009 6:28:34 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: A shirt with drums and guitars.

[4/11/2009 6:28:42 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: An ancient green hoody.

[4/11/2009 6:28:45 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Already, an orgasm epidemic has put half the room out of commission.

[4/11/2009 6:28:46 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: And finally...

[4/11/2009 6:29:05 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: EYEGASSES THAT HELP ME SEE

[4/11/2009 6:29:13 PM] **smalltownpeople**: everyone has died

[4/11/2009 6:29:15 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Oh, and, like, a wedding ring. Sorry, ladies.

[4/11/2009 6:29:34 PM] **smalltownpeople**: the dudes are not deterred

[4/11/2009 6:29:46 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Then bring it, dudes. Dudes never did care about the jewelry.

[4/11/2009 6:30:10 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Dudes live in the MOMENT. Like a SCHNAUZER with a HARD ON.

[4/11/2009 6:30:12 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Serious question: Are you working on any animated things?

[4/11/2009 6:30:15 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: SORRY NYC

[4/11/2009 6:30:18 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: No

[4/11/2009 6:30:33 PM] **smalltownpeople**: rock hard...dog cock

[4/11/2009 6:30:40 PM] **smalltownpeople**: we see you're expanding your horizons

[4/11/2009 6:30:42 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I'd rather steer toward books than animation right now.

[4/11/2009 6:30:51 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Yeah, I had a lot of time to think while on the road recently.

[4/11/2009 6:31:43 PM] **smalltownpeople**: new edition of the cookbook in the works?

[4/11/2009 6:31:43 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I have to edit something I said a little while back.

[4/11/2009 6:31:52 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Then I will answer your cookbook question. Okay?

[4/11/2009 6:31:55 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay?

[4/11/2009 6:32:00 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ok

[4/11/2009 6:32:05 PM] **smalltownpeople**: :(

[4/11/2009 6:34:25 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Dudes live in the MOMENT. Like a SCHNAUZER...never mind. Yeah, I've got another one in the works. The holdup is that whereas the first cookbook was sort of a "breaking the seal" on the cooking concept, after that you're in wide-open water and constantly learning. The focus of the book has been a perpetually moving target. It's been hard to nail down exactly what the trope of it is.

[4/11/2009 6:35:10 PM] **smalltownpeople**: A stupid question, Mr. Onstad: ou have on the wall a picture described as "Roast Beef in Confederate Cap." As the picture is a

pencil sketch, one could easily mistake it for a Union forage cap. Is there any particular reason Mr. Kazinzakis is identified with the losing side?

[4/11/2009 6:37:32 PM] **smalltownpeople**: this guy was a Civil War major in community college

[4/11/2009 6:38:03 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Did everyone get so bored of that answer that everyone immediately ran off to Bobby Flay's Mesa Grill?

[4/11/2009 6:38:07 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Nineteenth-Century History, Please

[4/11/2009 6:38:19 PM] **smalltownpeople**: actually, Creative Writing

[4/11/2009 6:39:12 PM] **smalltownpeople**: And yes, jockeying for the keyboard has led to a fistfight

[4/11/2009 6:40:51 PM] **smalltownpeople**: what's your favorite rap song?

[4/11/2009 6:41:57 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Guess I answered my own question.

Goodnight, room full of chairs. Goodnight, Tom Waits stumbling past the gallery window, looking briefly in, and thinking up his saddest song yet.

[4/11/2009 6:42:04 PM] **smalltownpeople**: is this thing on?

[4/11/2009 6:42:26 PM] **smalltownpeople**: There were a bunch of messages marked "pending" I dunno

[4/11/2009 6:45:33 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Is it wrong to give kisses to another man, or do you agree that it is OK?

[4/11/2009 6:46:01 PM] **smalltownpeople**: forget it, we have built our own Chris Onstad out of debris.

[4/11/2009 6:47:09 PM] **smalltownpeople**: hello hello?

[4/11/2009 6:48:50 PM] **smalltownpeople**: hi i

[4/11/2009 6:48:55 PM] **smalltownpeople**: sweet we're back on

[4/11/2009 6:48:58 PM] **smalltownpeople**: GO AHEAD

[4/11/2009 6:49:03 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: YES

[4/11/2009 6:49:15 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I had like a whole spaghetti dinner during the radio silence. Best of both worlds.

[4/11/2009 6:49:34 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay, let's just start fresh here.

[4/11/2009 6:49:41 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ok. Who are you?

[4/11/2009 6:49:53 PM] **smalltownpeople**: a/s/l

[4/11/2009 6:50:11 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: asian/spanish/latino?

[4/11/2009 6:50:33 PM] **smalltownpeople**: There are three minority groups here waiting eagerly for your choice.

[4/11/2009 6:50:47 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay, I'll tell you my ethnicity.

[4/11/2009 6:50:51 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It's pretty good.

[4/11/2009 6:51:02 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Ready?

[4/11/2009 6:51:08 PM] **smalltownpeople**: no

[4/11/2009 6:51:12 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay. Ping me.

[4/11/2009 6:51:13 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ok, now, yes

[4/11/2009 6:51:21 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Okay. Here it comes. All together now...

[4/11/2009 6:51:26 PM] **smalltownpeople**: had to get thee 3-D glasses on

[4/11/2009 6:51:30 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: WHITE GUY WITH GLASSES

[4/11/2009 6:51:43 PM] **smalltownpeople**: SHIT me too

[4/11/2009 6:51:51 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hello, brother.

[4/11/2009 6:51:51 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: dap

[4/11/2009 6:52:00 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Seven daps

[4/11/2009 6:52:07 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Read Harper's last month?

[4/11/2009 6:52:16 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Yeah, me too.

[4/11/2009 6:52:17 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Literally half the people in the audience are of the same ethnicity

[4/11/2009 6:52:33 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: We really should get a flag...no. Strike that from the transcript, Barbara.

[4/11/2009 6:53:32 PM] **smalltownpeople**: CHRIS which US president would you most like to see die in a fire?

[4/11/2009 6:53:37 PM] **smalltownpeople**: If they were now alive

[4/11/2009 6:53:40 PM] **smalltownpeople**: And unburned

[4/11/2009 6:53:53 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: See, or hear? It's two very different questions.

[4/11/2009 6:54:16 PM] **smalltownpeople**: See/hear/smell then. Three different questions.

[4/11/2009 6:54:36 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Well, then. I have an answer! Ready?

[4/11/2009 6:54:47 PM] **smalltownpeople**: no! I mean yes sorry

[4/11/2009 6:54:56 PM] **smalltownpeople**: 3D glasses on

[4/11/2009 6:55:18 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I'm going to get political. I don't usually do that.

[4/11/2009 6:56:03 PM] **smalltownpeople**: members of the Washington press have taken out new notebooks for this. Go on

[4/11/2009 6:56:19 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: PJ O'Rourke once said something along the lines of, "If you're young and you're not a Democrat, you have no heart, but if you're old and you're not a Republican, you have no brain." That being said,

[4/11/2009 6:57:20 PM] **smalltownpeople**: You got the quote right, but it was DJ Tanner from Full House, not PJ O'Rourke

[4/11/2009 6:58:06 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Last Year's Model.

[4/11/2009 6:59:15 PM] **smalltownpeople**: what is your favorite rap artist / song?

[4/11/2009 6:59:33 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: The Clash. Next question.

[4/11/2009 6:59:45 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Who's your fav president/rap artist?

[4/11/2009 7:00:10 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: James K. Polker In The Front, Liquor In The Back

[4/11/2009 7:00:22 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Who is your favorite short story writer?

[4/11/2009 7:00:28 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Sorry that was supposed to be B.A.C.K.

[4/11/2009 7:00:39 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Cheever, but just for the drinking. I've never read any.

[4/11/2009 7:01:16 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Favorite foreign language curse?

[4/11/2009 7:01:39 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Kupekler Meyeh Yemez!

[4/11/2009 7:01:54 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It's Turkish. Phonetic approximation. Does anyone know it?

[4/11/2009 7:02:08 PM] **smalltownpeople**: the one Turkish lady in attendance just fainted

[4/11/2009 7:02:19 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It must have afflicted her father.

[4/11/2009 7:02:34 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It means, "May Your Dog Only Eat Fruit!"

[4/11/2009 7:02:44 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: (It's a curse that should give you a weak dog)

[4/11/2009 7:03:36 PM] **smalltownpeople**: You wrote that one strip about dog penis ointment or somesuch. Was that about your childhood?

[4/11/2009 7:03:56 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: No, that one was more literal. Which is curious, when you consider that I have a girl dog.

[4/11/2009 7:04:23 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: When I compliment her, I don't say, "Good dog!" I say, "Good girl dog!" I'm old-school.

[4/11/2009 7:04:36 PM] **smalltownpeople**: that's sort of PC

[4/11/2009 7:05:07 PM] **smalltownpeople**: how do you handle the fact that many people love your work, to the point of obsession.

[4/11/2009 7:05:09 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ?

[4/11/2009 7:06:05 PM] **smalltownpeople**: not, Hinckley/Jodie Foster style, don't worry.

[4/11/2009 7:06:23 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: It goes a couple ways when people get really far into something. Either they stay happy and develop a healthy relationship with it, or they burn out and start hating it when it doesn't get them high anymore. It depends upon which receptor the comic locks into in their brain.

[4/11/2009 7:06:57 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: And of course, the work changes over time, both in seasonal cycles and overall cycles, so we win some and we lose some.

[4/11/2009 7:07:42 PM] **smalltownpeople**: But how does it affect you?

[4/11/2009 7:09:32 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: There's an asymptote. You never really get used to being broken up with, but at this point I've seen so many patterns and cycles of folks getting into it and getting out of it (think of your relationship with shows you used to love), I can more or less shrug it off.

[4/11/2009 7:10:14 PM] **smalltownpeople**: but the same thing would have happened had like Nabokov done some serialized thing.

[4/11/2009 7:11:23 PM] **smalltownpeople**: people would have ben awed at the skill and the innovation, and then gotten turned off. Lucky for him, he only published a work every few years. And not to say you are Nabokov, but there are people here who see you as something that transcends the rest of the medium.

[4/11/2009 7:12:04 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Well, we're not really a strip. We're a big hairy mess that has different parts of itself light up at different times each year.

[4/11/2009 7:12:06 PM] **smalltownpeople**: ...basically, this boils down to, when are you going to write Lolita 2.

[4/11/2009 7:12:45 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I wrote Lolita 2 this afternoon when I stopped off at one of Portland's finest Revues on my way to buy cheese and flour for Easter.

[4/11/2009 7:13:49 PM] **smalltownpeople**: do you do, or are compelled to do, any creative writing apart from the strip? There are purists here who think computers are just a fad.

[4/11/2009 7:14:17 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hey, who says you can't do creative writing on a computer?

[4/11/2009 7:14:57 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I'm compelled to, but when I have inspired periods I try to put it all into Achewood. I've built it up for so long, I want to see it continue to grow.

[4/11/2009 7:15:33 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: If you had a kid who was 7, you wouldn't just leave him at a soccer match one afternoon, I'm saying.

[4/11/2009 7:16:00 PM] **smalltownpeople**: you'd want that kid to live until like 9, understood

[4/11/2009 7:16:09 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: *exactly*

[4/11/2009 7:16:15 PM] **smalltownpeople**: whoo, the crowd has attenuated, just Alex left

[4/11/2009 7:16:32 PM] **smalltownpeople**: oh, and this other erudite gentleman

[4/11/2009 7:16:34 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: phew

[4/11/2009 7:16:41 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: all that *scrutiny*

[4/11/2009 7:16:57 PM] **smalltownpeople**: they were all looking up your wikipedia page to find inconsistencies

[4/11/2009 7:17:06 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Story of my adult life

[4/11/2009 7:17:21 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: So the gig is winding down?

[4/11/2009 7:17:58 PM] **smalltownpeople**: there's actually a thing with the other creators here. They're doing a spontaneous drawing project.

[4/11/2009 7:18:19 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Oh yeah, I wanted to be a part of that but Skype doesn't have robotic incubator arms that can hold a pen.

[4/11/2009 7:18:48 PM] **smalltownpeople**: you can give instructions that we can shout out to the group

[4/11/2009 7:19:07 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Aw, that's just be goofy. Best let you all get to the next part of the event.

[4/11/2009 7:19:08 PM] **smalltownpeople**: "Draw a woman graduating from college!"

[4/11/2009 7:19:27 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I always hated when people said stuff like that to me during signings. I'm not an illustrator, people.

[4/11/2009 7:19:33 PM] **smalltownpeople**: All right, sir, we have greatly enjoyed your companionship.

[4/11/2009 7:19:46 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Hey, it's been fun, and nobody had to get on a plane.

[4/11/2009 7:20:05 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Have a lovely evening and see what else NYC has for you. Try not to get kicked in the 'sckavones.

[4/11/2009 7:20:06 PM] **smalltownpeople**: and watch Bring It On 4 over a hot pocket

[4/11/2009 7:20:18 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I will try to figure out what that is!

[4/11/2009 7:20:24 PM] **smalltownpeople**: we love it, Onstad!

[4/11/2009 7:20:42 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I feel it. I can literally taste your love.

[4/11/2009 7:21:08 PM] **smalltownpeople**: You will get like 50 e-mails later of people's "love projectors"

[4/11/2009 7:21:20 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I want to know what that means as well! Tonight has been a new horizon.

[4/11/2009 7:21:23 PM] **smalltownpeople**: Thanks for everything.

[4/11/2009 7:21:48 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: My pleasure, my pain, my joy, my sedentary lifestyle. All for you, dear readers.

[4/11/2009 7:22:05 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: Now go forth and I shall endeavor to get another strip up this weekend.

[4/11/2009 7:22:34 PM] **smalltownpeople**: This goodbye ritual will continue on into perpetuity. It will be like the Dancing Plague of 1512 or the Laughing Epidemic of Tanganyika.

[4/11/2009 7:22:46 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: I know! We need a Goodbye Code.

[4/11/2009 7:23:22 PM] **smalltownpeople**: SYNTAX ERROR - CONNECTION TERMINATED

[4/11/2009 7:23:43 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: ATM0 - EOL - WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DAVE

[4/11/2009 7:23:53 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: TELL MY WIFE I LOVE HER VERY MUCH

[4/11/2009 7:23:58 PM] **hellochrisonstad**: SHE KNOOOOOWWWWWWSSSSSSS