

the Surfboard

BY ERIC BERLIN AND ANDREW KANTOR

To sleep,
perchance
to surf...

Miniature Golf

It's not unheard of for regular contributors to popular newsgroups to have real-life "meets" to see the faces behind the posts. And so it seems absolutely natural for the folks behind a sports newsgroup to get together and, well, play sports. We would therefore like to report that the Annual Rec.Sport.Golf Golf Tournament is easily destined to join the ranks of the PGA's finest events.

But last year's tournament (held at Forest Creek, Texas) champion almost won by



default, due to so many last-minute cancellations. The r.s.g'ers are not an easily discouraged group, however, and plans for the second tournament are underway, with a course in Alabama an early favorite.

But plans have a way of changing, so we recommend you head over to the newsgroup to keep updated. And who knows—with Web pages getting sponsors, can a jump to a real-life event be far behind?

Collector's Edition

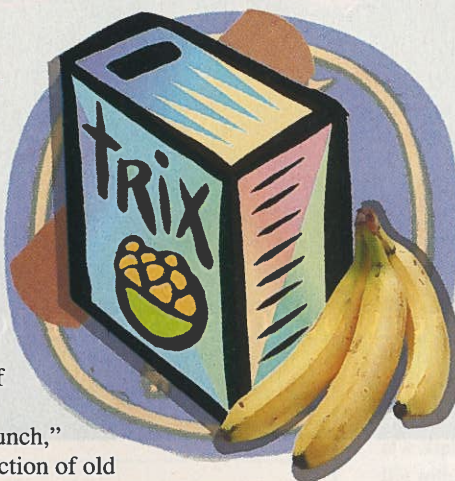
What's the point of collecting something if you're just going to keep it in your basement? Why not share it with the world via the Web? That's the thinking of several folks, not the least of which is "Crunch," whose amazing collection of old cereal boxes is kept at <http://www.ice.net/~crunch/>. This is definitely the place to go for a concentrated blast of nostalgia. (Anyone out there remember Pink Panther Flakes? How about Sir Grapefellow?)

And what's cold cereal without some fruit? John Keat's Fruit Bowl (<http://marg.ntu.ac.uk/marg/john/fruit2.html>) has grown from a collection of banana labels to include labels for apples (101 different stickers!), pears, and oranges as well as other miscellaneous fruit. You can even download fruit-sticker wallpaper for your computer.

Some collections are accidental: *Internet World* contributor Kevin Savetz happened to find a dozen Band-Aid boxes in his new home. The average person might simply throw them out, but Kevin, who recognizes history when he sees it, decided to dedicate a Web page to 50 years of Band-Aid history. Check it out at <http://www.northcoast.com/savetz/bandaid/bandaid.html>. It's worth the trip just to see Johnson & Johnson's old claim that their adhesive strips were "flesh colored." Any good collector of political incorrectness will want to add *that* one to the list.

Book of Truth

One of our favorite mailing lists is Randy Cassingham's This is True (formerly This Just In or TJI; he thoughtfully dropped the acronym for the new version). Since Eric wrote about it last January, Randy's list—which pokes fun at stories in the news—has gotten more popular. So popular, in fact, that he's compiled TJI and This is True into a book. To subscribe to the list, send a message to listserv@netcom.com with *only subscribe this-is-true* in the body. If you like what you read, buy the book; e-mail trueinfo@freecom.com with the subject **BOOK** for details.



Semper Fido

"Are 200 dogs competing in an Internet dog show Surfboard material?" we were asked. The answer is obvious.

On the Web at <http://www.idyllmtn.com/idyllmtn/dogshow/>, the Virtual Dog Show accepted entries—or, rather, photographs of entries—from all over the world, with winners chosen on November 25. The seven breed categories (plus one for mixed breeds) were even judged by real dog show judges. Prizes include hiking equipment for man and beast, gift certificates to pet supply stores, and the ever-popular "bragging rights until the next Virtual Dog show."

As we hit the presses, there were 293 dogs registered from around the world. Granted, there won't be any hoop jumping or frisbee catching, but the Virtual Dog Show has the advantage of not requiring any virtual fire hydrants.

