

= Trash of the Titans =

" Trash of the Titans " is the 22nd episode of The Simpsons ' ninth season . The 200th episode of the series overall , it originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 26 , 1998 . The episode , which was written by Ian Maxtone @-@ Graham and directed by Jim Reardon , sees Homer Simpson run for the job of Springfield 's Sanitation Commissioner . Steve Martin guest stars as Ray Patterson , the incumbent commissioner , while U2 play themselves after requesting an appearance on the show .

Inspired by a friend 's experience in politics , Maxtone @-@ Graham decided to have Homer run for Sanitation Commissioner , although one draft of the episode saw him running for mayor . The staff also wanted the episode to be about trash , and created the concept of " Love Day " as a means of generating waste . The episode 's resolution was discussed extensively by the staff , with one proposed idea being that Springfield would be raised up and the excess rubbish swept underneath it . The episode also features a parody of the song " The Candy Man " and an incident involving comedian Redd Foxx .

" Trash of the Titans " won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Animated Program (For Programming One Hour or Less) , something the staff believe was due to the environmental message at the end . Over ten years after the original broadcast , an airing of the episode in the United Kingdom courted controversy when it was aired on Channel 4 in April 2008 before the 9pm watershed , with the word " wanker " left unedited .

The episode is dedicated to the memory of Linda McCartney , who appeared alongside her husband Paul in the episode " Lisa the Vegetarian " .

= = Plot = =

A local department store announces the formation of a new August holiday intended to boost sales : Love Day . The Simpsons celebrate it , but the vast amount of packaging it produces causes the garbage to build up . When Homer eventually takes it out , he is infuriated with the garbage men as they drive away without collecting the Simpson family 's trash . Angered by their ignorance , Homer insults the men by calling them " trash @-@ eating stinkbags " , but this only angers them into a fight with Homer , and as a result , the family 's garbage service is cut off , leading to the Simpsons ' garbage piling up on their front lawn .

Homer awakens one morning to find that the pile of trash at the front of the house has been removed . He proudly boasts that he beat city hall only to learn that Marge had written a letter of apology to the Springfield Sanitation Commissioner , forging Homer 's name . Homer then goes to see the Sanitation Commissioner Ray Patterson , demanding the apology letter to be returned . Despite returning the letter , Patterson tries to be civil with Homer , but Homer insists he will get in a fight with the sanitation department . Eventually Homer decides that he will run for Sanitation Commissioner , remaking it into his image .

Homer begins to promote his campaign . It starts off badly with Homer being beaten up after interrupting U2 's PopMart Tour concert , but picks up when Homer thinks of a slogan for his campaign : " Can 't someone else do it ? " Homer spreads his message to the town and promises expensive services such as round @-@ the @-@ clock garbage service and having the sanitation workers do all the cleaning , leading to his landslide victory in the election . After being sworn in to the office , he shows what he plans to do by singing a parody of " The Candy Man " entitled " The Garbage Man " .

However , fulfilling his promises proves quite costly and after Homer 's mass spending spree , Mayor Quimby denounces him for spending the Sanitation Department 's yearly budget of \$ 4 @. @ 6 million in only a month . To solve the budget crisis and pay the workers for their services , Homer gets cities all over the United States to pay him to store their excess garbage into the abandoned mine shaft on the outskirts of Springfield . Eventually , despite the budget crisis having ended and the workers receiving their salaries as promised , the garbage builds up underground and begins to erupt , pouring trash all over the town . At a town hall meeting , Homer gets fired from his post and

replaced with Ray Patterson , but Patterson declines reinstatement to the position . With no one else to fill for Sanitation Commissioner to clean up the trash , Quimby then takes extreme measures by moving the entire town five miles down the road .

= = Production = =

The production team wanted the episode to be about trash , and show runner Mike Scully pitched the idea that Homer should run for office . Writer Ian Maxtone @-@ Graham had a friend who had made their way in Chicago politics , through the Sanitation Commission , and so he decided that Homer should run for Sanitation Commissioner . They then spent a lot of time trying to get to the point that Homer would have an " over filled trash can " , and through its extensive use of packaging , the concept of Love Day was formed . Originally the episode saw Homer running for mayor , but this idea was abandoned . The ending was talked about for a while , with the original idea being that the whole town would be raised up and the rubbish be swept underneath . The ending was not intended to carry an environmental message , but it played well and is what the staff believe won the episode an Emmy .

U2 contacted the show about doing a guest spot , rather than the other way around . The writers immediately wrote them one , in case they changed their minds . The band 's head of Principal Management Paul McGuinness and Susie Smith , an employee of Principal Management , also make brief appearances in the episode . U2 's drummer Larry Mullen , Jr. appears in the episode , although he has no dialogue . Steve Martin guest stars as Ray Patterson .

The episode marked the first appearance of Costington 's department store , whose slogan is " Over a Century Without a Slogan " . It took " a lot of wasted man @-@ hours " to come up with both the name and slogan .

The scene where Ray Patterson is reinstated (to which he enters and exits to the Sanford and Son theme song) was a reference to a moment that occurred during a stand up show of comedian Redd Foxx (who starred on Sanford and Son) . During a show in Vegas , Redd Foxx came on stage to the Sanford and Son theme song , only to find that there were very few people in the audience . Foxx angrily stated that he refused to do a show with such a small audience and walked off the stage . The house orchestra , puzzled by Foxx 's leaving , simply played him off with the Sanford and Son theme song again . The same incident was the basis for the joke in " The Two Mrs. Nahasapeemepetilon " where Moe Szyslak walks onto the stage and , without breaking his stride , walks off .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Trash of the Titans " finished 16th in ratings for the week of April 20 ? 26 , 1998 , with a Nielsen rating of 10 @. @ 5 , equivalent to approximately 10 @. @ 2 million viewing households . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , beating King of the Hill .

This episode won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Animated Program (For Programming One Hour or Less) in 1998 . Jim Reardon won the Annie Award for " Outstanding Individual Achievement for Directing in an Animated Television Production " . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , said : " Although not a great episode , this one has a series of high points that keep you amused until the end . " In a 2006 article in USA Today , " The Trash of the Titans " was highlighted among the six best episodes of The Simpsons season nine , along with " The Joy of Sect " , " The Last Temptation of Krust " , " The Cartridge Family " , " Dumbbell Indemnity " , and " Das Bus " .

During Toronto City Council deliberations over the proposal to turn the abandoned Adams Mine in Northern Ontario into a massive dump site for Toronto 's garbage , then @-@ councillors Jack Layton and Olivia Chow surprised their council colleagues by playing " Trash of the Titans " . " It was absolutely stunning " , Layton later told The Globe and Mail . " It was so accurate to what was going on . " Layton , who would later become leader of Canada 's New Democratic Party and Leader of

the Official Opposition , called The Simpsons " the single most important influence on progressive social commentary in the world . "

= = = Controversy = = =

In 2008 , the episode caused controversy in the United Kingdom , for use of the word " wanker " . The word is first used by Adam Clayton , and later by Mr. Burns , at the end of the episode . While the word is not well known in the United States , it is considered offensive in the United Kingdom . On April 15 , 2008 , " Trash of the Titans " was broadcast on Channel 4 at 6pm , with both mentions of the word broadcast .

Ofcom , which deals with television complaints in the United Kingdom , received 31 complaints from viewers who felt that the episode should not have been shown before the 9pm watershed . Channel 4 said that the error was caused by a member of the compliance staff , who had incorrectly certified the programme as suitable to be shown from 6pm . The error was not corrected by the acquisitions department . Ofcom said that while they were " concerned " , it would not look into the incident any further because it was " an isolated incident " .