

Cartoonist's career pumping up

Body builders get the barb in national magazine

Only a year ago, John Gleneicki took a friend's advice and sent a cartoon about muscle building to a Brampton-based body building and fitness magazine.

Today, he is the featured cartoonist in *Muscle and Fitness Magazine*, which is perhaps the most popular magazine of its kind in the world. Every month, millions around the world see Muscledhez.

His Muscledhez cartoon is now a 1993/1994 calendar. In addition, he's doing sports cartoons and has designed the logo for a new Canadian magazine called *Sports Canada* that debuts this month.

Under the alias, Jagster, he has just had published his first four-page spread of 10 cartoons for *FLEX Magazine*, another large circulation U.S. publication.

He also designed the new logo for Cawthra Park Secondary School, his alma mater.

"I left the school before it became an arts school, but I was always doing cartoons, as long as I can remember," the 28-year-old Tucana Court resident said.

"I used to do caricatures when I was 10. My favorite was Fred Flintstone in a Superman costume. Don't ask me why, but I drew it all the time."

He took an illustration course at Sheridan College but went into music. His band, Jag, made many friends but never reached star status like contemporaries Rush and Triumph.

"I used to see a lot of air brushed posters and I was blown away. I knew someday I was going to learn how to do that," he said.

"I realized a few years ago that music wasn't taking me anywhere and it was time to get out. That's

when I decided to learn how to use an air brush and that led to doing cartoons."

His studio is a solarium in a luxury condominium building where he works at two drafting tables. At one table he does original work in pen and ink. At the other table the artist has his air brush set up to do the coloring before sending his work off to various American magazines.

"Why a cartoon on muscle building? My brother was into it and I sort of knew the terms," he said. "A good friend of mine suggested I send cartoons to *MAX*, a magazine about body building located in Brampton.

"I did and they liked my work and it sort of went from there."

He gets his inspiration from reading the magazine he works for.

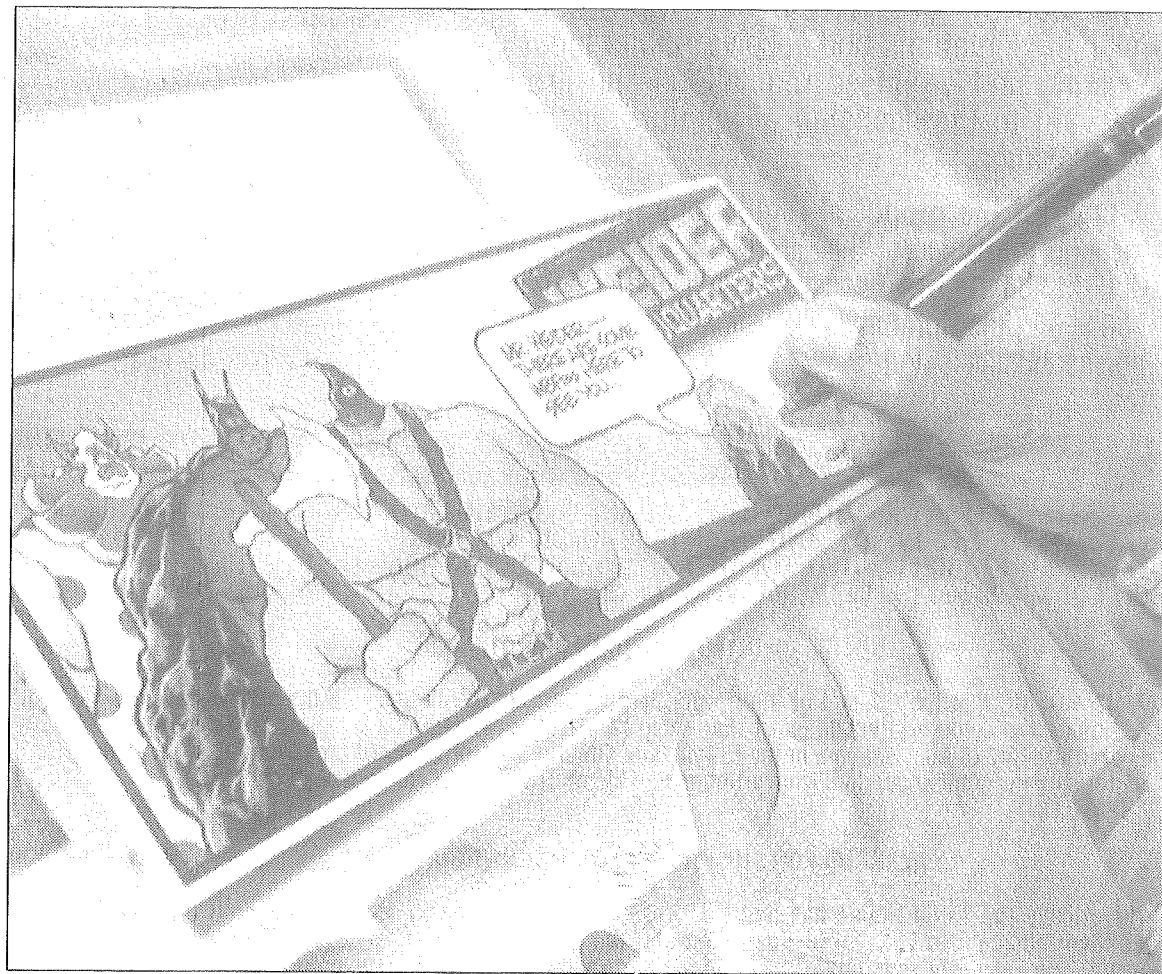
"I get a lot of my ideas from reading about the sport," he said. "Everything is governed by rules and regulations and I find it funny what they have to go through.

"In competitions, body builders must be hairless. That's funny. I imagine some guy with huge muscles trying to remove the body hair with a little razor, or something like that."

Gleneicki said once he gets an idea, "I can see it in my mind and I sketch it on paper quickly. Then I get down to doing the first draft improving as I go. It takes me about eight hours to get one panel done and colored."

He is now doing one sports cartoon and says he wants to expand in that direction.

"I have a lot of ideas. They come from everywhere. I'd like to be doing more of this kind of work a year from now," he said.



Staff photo by Chris Horobin
John Gleneicki finishes of another Muscledhez cartoon before shipping it off to *Muscle and Fitness Magazine* in the U.S. The strip pokes fun at body builders.