



THE CARTOON LOUNGE

ROMANTIC COMEDY-CON

Posted by *Drew Dernavich*

Right now I'd love to be attending the Comic-Con, the huge yearly comic book convention in San Diego, along with many of my fellow cartoonist friends. Unfortunately, I was sent to cover this year's Romantic Comedy-Con, held—where else?—at the top of the Empire State Building, the place where Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks finally met in “Sleepless in Seattle.” It's a little crowded for a convention, but it's being catered by—who else?—Katz's Deli, the scene of Meg Ryan's famous “orgasm” in “When Harry Met Sally.” Every joker up here thinks it's so funny to eat a grilled cheese and then do their best fake moaning scene, and it's getting tiresome.

When people go to the Comic-Con, they make these elaborate costumes and attend as Spider Man or Ninja Turtles or Darth Vader, so I thought I'd try and attend the Romantic Comedy-Con in the same spirit. I'm dressed up as Jeremy Piven in “Serendipity” (John Cusack's sidekick friend). I'm wearing jeans and a dark T-shirt. It's spot-on, but I don't think anybody has noticed. Anyway, the conference is pretty lame, but the highlights so far have been:

- A booth offering a dating service where Nora Ephron promises to cast you in a movie role where you'll finally meet someone
- At last night's cocktail party, Renee Zellweger acted out a scene from “Jerry McGuire,” then gained thirty pounds and acted out a scene from “Bridget Jones' Diary”
- Steven Hawking's fascinating lecture entitled “A Quantum Physicist Assesses the Conundrum of Time in ‘Sliding Doors’: Exhaustive Proof that Gwyneth Paltrow Did, in Fact, Catch the Tube That Day”
- Due to a crazy mix-up, everybody accidentally got the wrong swag bag, and at first everyone got really angry, but then, when everyone went to exchange it for the right one, everybody accidentally bumped into the person whom they are now going to spend the rest of their life with, so it all turned out O.K. in the end
- All of the proceeds from the merchandise sold here are being donated to a charity: Jennifer Aniston's movie career
- Speaking of merchandise, I was forced to wear this T-shirt:

There's a rumor that on the last night of the conference, everybody is going to try to act out a scene from the greatest romantic comedy of all time. They wouldn't say what it is, but it's obviously “Romeo and Juliet,” right? So I'm thinking everybody here is going to poison him or herself, which means no Romantic Comedy-Con next year! Maybe there's still time for me to cut out early and fly to San Diego.

