

MONTY PYTHON

Douglas L. McCall

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MONTY PYTHON

A Chronology, a History,
the Troupes' Lives and Careers,
and Articles and Reviews about them
1949-1969

MONTY PYTHON

Douglas E. McCall

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MONTY PYTHON

*A Chronological Listing of
the Troupe's Creative Output,
and Articles and Reviews about Them,
1969-1989*

by

Douglas L. McCall



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*To the memory of
Graham Chapman*

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Introduction

Few comedy groups have been as influential and as consistently hilarious as Monty Python. The popular British group—consisting of Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin—are now celebrating more than twenty years of Python television shows, films, records, books, etc. As part of that celebration, I have put together this helpful guide to the Pythons' many activities—both together and on their own—from 1969, when *Monty Python's Flying Circus* first appeared, to 1989, the year of Graham Chapman's death.

Finding the exact dates for every entry in this book would have been very difficult. I have tried to narrow down all dates, if not to the day, then to the month, season or year. There is some guesswork here and there, but most of the dates are quite reliable.

The information in this book has been taken from Python-related books, magazine and newspaper articles, and television shows, all of which are cited within the book. A great deal of valuable information was taken from the following sources: *The London Times* and *New York Times*; three excellent books that every Python fan should have—*Life of Python* by George Perry, *The First 200 Years of Monty Python* by Kim “Howard” Johnson and *Monty Python: The Case Against* by Robert Hewison; the press kit from *The Meaning of Life*; Sheila Gibson's delightful fanzine *It's*; Tom Connolly, my Python contact in Connecticut; The Museum of Broadcasting; and Video Arts, whose catalogue helped me come up with a lengthy (though still incomplete) list of John Cleese's business-training films.

Other sources include: *All Together Now* by Harry Castleman and Walter J. Podrazik, *The Beatles Forever* by Nicholas Schaffner, *Daily Variety*, *Halliwel's Film Guide* by Leslie Halliwell, *Rolling Stone* magazine, *Saturday Night* by Doug Hill and Jeff Weingrad, *Television 1970–1980* by Vincent Terrace, *TV Guide* magazine, *TV Movies and Video Guide* by Leonard Maltin; *Video Movie Guide* by Mick Martin and Marsha Porter; *Video* and *Video Times* magazine.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

I hope all Python fanatics will enjoy reading this book as much as I've enjoyed putting it together. Happy anniversary Monty Python!

Douglas L. McCall
Fall 1991

The Chronological Listing

1 January 12–February 16, 1969

The Complete and Utter History of Britain (London Weekend Television). **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones** first series of their own presents historical events and personalities in a modern, television-style manner: 1) From the Dawn of History to the Norman Conquest; 2) Richard the Lionheart to Robin the Hood; 3) Edward the First to Richard the Last; 4) Perkin Warbeck to Bloody Mary; 5) The Great and Glorious Age of Elizabeth; 6) James the McFirst to Oliver Cromwell. Starring **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**, with Wallace Eaton, Colin Gordon, Roddy Maude-Roxby, Melinda Maye, Diana Quick; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; directed by Maurice Murphy; produced by Humphrey Barclay.

2 February 19–May 14, 1969

Do Not Adjust Your Set (Thames). The second series of the children-oriented comedy show. Starring Denise Coffey, **Eric Idle**, David Jason, **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin** and the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band; written by **Eric Idle**, **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin**; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; directed by Adrian Cooper; produced by Ian Davidson.

3 March–May 1969

The Magic Christian, which **John Cleese** and **Graham Chapman** wrote for and also appear in, is filmed at Twickenham Studios, England.

4 May 11, 1969

A meeting to discuss the start of a new comedy show is held at **John Cleese**'s Basil Street flat, after a recording of *Do Not Adjust Your Set*.

5 May 23, 1969

Graham Chapman, **John Cleese**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Eric Idle**, **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin**, Ian MacNaughton, John Howard Davies and Barry Took gather together in a conference room of the BBC to discuss an idea for a new comedy show, which would become *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

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6 July 1969

The Best House in London opens in U.S. Film—released by MGM/105 min. Farce about a government-sponsored brothel in Victorian London. Receives an “X” rating. Starring David Hemmings, Joanna Pettet, George Sanders, Dany Robin, Warren Mitchell, William Rushton and **John Cleese**; directed by Philip Savile; produced by Philip Breen and Kurt Unger.

7 July 7, 1969

Eric Idle marries Lyn Ashley, an Australian actress.

8 July 12, 1969

Doctor in the House (London Weekend Television). “Why Do You Want to Be a Doctor?” by **John Cleese** and **Graham Chapman**; the first episode of one of London Weekend’s most successful comedy series. Starring Barry Evans; based on the novel by Richard Gordon; directed by David Askey; produced by Humphrey Barclay.

9 August 30, 1969

The recordings for the first series of *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* begin.

10 October 5–26, November 23, 1969–January 11, 1970

The first series of *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* is aired. This groundbreaking comedy programme features a hilarious mixture of sketches, filmed sequences and animation. Unused show titles include *Owl Stretching Time*; *Bunn*, *Wackett*, *Buzzard*, *Stubble and Boot*; *A Horse, a Spoon and a Basin* and *Gwen Dibley’s Flying Circus*; and the chosen theme music is Sousa’s “Liberty Bell” march. The first series consists of 13 shows which contain many memorable sketches, like “The Pet Shop,” “Nudge, Nudge,” “Self-Defense Against Fresh Fruit,” “The Restaurant Sketch,” “The 127th Upper-Class Twit of the Year Show,” “Crunchy Frog,” “Albatross” and “The Lumberjack Song.” This series’ shows begin with **Michael Palin**’s hermit character saying, “It’s . . .”

11 October 5, 1969

Monty Python’s Flying Circus (BBC-1). The first show of the first series includes: “It’s Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,” “Italian Language Lessons,” “Whizzo Butter,” “It’s the Arts: Edward Ross, Arthur ‘Two Sheds’ Jackson, Picasso on a Bicycle” and “The Funniest Joke in the World.” Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman**, **John**

MONTY PYTHON : 1969

Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin; with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

12 October 12, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The second show of the first series includes: "Flying Sheep," "Two Frenchmen," "A Man with Three Buttocks," "Musical Mice," "Marriage Counsellor," "Coal Miner Son," "The Epilogue," "Baby Carriage" and "The World Around Us: The Mouse Problem." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

13 October 19, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The third show of the first series includes: "How to Recognize Different Types of Trees: The Larch," "Courtroom/Dim of the Yard," "Bicycle Repair Man," "Storytime," "The Restaurant Sketch," "Milkman Collecting," "Stolen Newsreader" and "Nudge, Nudge." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Ian Davidson; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

14 October 26, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The fourth show of the first series includes: "Live from the Cardiff Rooms, Libya," "Art Gallery," "Art Critic," "Taking Your Clothes Off in Public," "Self-Defense Against Fresh Fruit," "My Last Operation/Hand Carriage" and "Lemming of the BDA." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Dick Vosburgh, Carol Cleveland, Katya Wyeth; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

15 October 27, 1969

John Cleese turns 30.

16 November 1969

The Cry of the Banshee — opens in U.S. Film — released by American International Pictures/87 min. Horror tale about a 16th-century British magistrate cursed by a witch who sends a servant of Satan

MONTY PYTHON : 1969

to destroy him. Starring Vincent Price, Elisabeth Bergner, Patrick Mower; animation title sequence by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Gordon Hessler.

17 November 16, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The fifth show of the first series includes: "Confuse-A-Cat," "Clock Smuggler," "Interview with a Duck, a Cat, and a Lizard," "Man in the Street Interviews," "Police Raid," "Newsreader Arrested," "Romantic Highlights," "Muscle Building," "Management Training Course Interview" and "Encyclopedia Salesman." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

18 November 23, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The sixth show of the first series includes: "It's the Arts: Johann Gambolputty," "Jewelry Heist," "Crunchy Frog," "The Dull Life of a City Stock-Broker," "The Theatre Sketch," "A Scotsman on a Horse," "Twentieth Century Vole" and "Movie Writers." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Ian Davidson; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

19 November 30, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The seventh show of the first series includes: "Camel-Spotting," "Sentiment in Big Business," "Science Fiction Sketch: Scotsmen, Blancmanges, Angus Pudgorny, Wimbledon, Mr. and Mrs. Brain-Sample." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Donna Reading; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

20 December 7, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The eighth show of the first series includes: "Full Frontal Nudity," "Leaving the Army/Protection Money," "Art Critic," "Buying a Bed," "Two Hermits," "The Pet Shop," "Flasher" and "Hell's Grannies." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Kathja Wyeth, Rita Davies; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

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21 December 12, 1969

The Magic Christian — world premiere in London. Film — released by Commonwealth United/Grand Films/95 min. A comedy about an eccentric millionaire and his son who go about proving that people will do anything for money. Starring Peter Sellers, Ringo Starr, Richard Attenborough, Lawrence Harvey, Christopher Lee, Spike Milligan, Yul Brynner, Roman Polanski, Raquel Welch, Wilfrid Hyde White, Fred Emney, John Le Mesurier, Dennis Price, Patrick Cargill, with **John Cleese** as a director of Sotheby's and **Graham Chapman** as an Oxford stroke; screenplay by Terry Southern, Joseph McGrath and Peter Sellers, with additional material by **John Cleese** and **Graham Chapman**; directed by Joseph McGrath; produced by Dennis O'Dell.

22 December 14, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The ninth show of the first series includes: "Llamas," "A Man with a Tape Recorder Up His Nose," "Mountaineering Expedition," "The Barber," "The Lumberjack Song," "Night Club Announcer," "Hunting" and "The Visitors." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Connie Booth, The Fred Tomlinson Singers; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

23 December 21, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The tenth show of the first series includes: "Bank Robber," "It's a Tree," "Vocational Guidance Counsellor," "Ron Obvious," "Taking in the Terrier," "Gorilla Librarian" and "Vera's Lovers." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Barry Cryer, Carolae Donoghue, Ian Davidson; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

24 December 28, 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The eleventh show of the first series includes: "World of History," "Tired Undertakers," "The Detective Sketch," "Jimmy Buzzard Interview," "Interesting People" and "A Reenactment of the Battle of Pearl Harbor." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Ian Davidson, Flanagan; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

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25 1969

Beauty and the Beast. Pantomime—for Watford Palace Theatre. Written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**.

26 1969

Terry Jones and his future wife Allison buy a three-story Victorian house in London's Grove Park between Camberwell and Dulwich, and have lived there ever since.

27 1969

Graham Chapman writes three more *Doctor in the House* episodes with Barry Cryer and five more with Bernard McKenna.

28 1969

Diversions. Record(LP)—Pye/NPL 18216. Barry Booth sings songs like "He Was Very Good with His Hands." With **Terry Jones**.

29 January 4, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The twelfth show of the first series includes: "Falling from Building," "Spectrum," "Boarding House/The North Minehead Bye-Election," "Speaking in Higher and Lower Registers," "The 127th Upper-Class Twit of the Year Show," "Ken Shabby" and "Minister in a Crevice." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Connie Booth, Flanagan; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

30 January 11, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The thirteenth and last show of the first series includes: "Intermission," "Couple in Restaurant," "La Gondola Restaurant," "Albatross," "Stolen Wallet," "Me, Doctor," "Historical Impersonations," "Police Fairies," "A. T. Hun" and "A Psychiatrist and Surgeon." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, David Ballantyne; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

31 January 12, 1970

Late Night Line Up (BBC-2). Presented by Joan Bakewell, Michael Dean, Tony Bilbow and Sheridan Morley; guests: **John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle**, Carol Cleveland; produced by Mike Fentiman.

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32 January 28, 1970

The Magic Christian premieres in the U.S.

33 February 7, 1970

TV Guide. Magazine (U.S.)—“How to Offend Everybody” by Robert Musel, pp. 36–9. Article on British TV this season, including *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*.

34 Summer, 1970

The Pythons’ first record, titled *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*, is recorded at the BBC Paris Studio. The group is not happy with the way the BBC produces it, and resolve to make their own records from now on.

35 June 25, 1970

The recordings for the second series of *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* begin.

36 August 1970

The Pythons form their own company, Python Productions Ltd., which will represent the group’s joint financial interests. It will be managed by John Gledhill.

37 Fall 1970

Monty Python’s Flying Circus starts running on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

38 Fall 1970

Monty Python’s Flying Circus. Record(LP)—BBC Records/REB 73M. Material from the show’s first series. Includes: “Flying Sheep,” “Television Interviews,” “Trade Description Act,” “Nudge, Nudge,” “The Mouse Problem,” “Buying a Bed,” “Interesting People,” “The Barber,” “Interviews,” “More Television Interviews,” “Children’s Stories,” “The Visitors,” “The Cinema,” “The North Minehead Bye-Election,” “Me, Doctor,” “Pet Shop” and “Self Defense.” Produced by Ian MacNaughton.

39 September 15–29, October 20–December 22, 1970

The second series of *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* is aired. It consists of thirteen shows which contain many of Python’s most memorable sketches, such as “The Ministry of Silly Walks,” “The Spanish Inquisition,” “World Forum,” “Bruces,” “Penguin on the TV,” “Fish License,” “Spam,” “The Piranha Brothers,” “The Architect” and “The Undertaker.” Most of

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this series' shows begin with **John Cleese** behind a desk saying, "And now for something completely different," then the hermit saying, "It's. . ."

40 September 15, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The first show of the second series includes: "Face the Press," "The New Gas Cooker Sketch," "Dirty Ad," "The Ministry of Silly Walks," and "Ethel the Frog: The Pirahna Brothers." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with David Ballantyne, John Hughman, Stanley Mason; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

41 September 16, 1970

The Times. Newspaper (London) — "Bargain for the BBC" by Stanley Reynolds, p. 13. Reynolds gives a good review of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, saying that it would "still be an incredible bargain to the BBC at twice the price."

42 September 22, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The second show of the second series includes: "The Spanish Inquisition," "Novelty Salesman," "Taxing Things," "The Semaphore Version of 'Wuthering Heights'" and "Charades Trial." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Marjorie Wilde; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

43 September 29, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The third show of the second series includes: "Flying Lessons," "Polite Hijacker," "The Poems of Ewen McTeagle," "Psychiatric Dairy," "Complaints" and "It's the Mind." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Jeanette Wild; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

44 October 20, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The fourth show of the second series includes: "Caterpillar," "The Architect Sketch," "The Bishop," "Poets in the Home" and "The Naughty Chemist." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle,**

MONTY PYTHON : 1970

Terry Jones, Michael Palin; with Sandra Richards, Stanley Mason; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

45 October 27, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The fifth show of the second series includes: "Blackmail," "The Royal Society for Putting Things on Top of Other Things," "Accidents Sketch," "School Production of 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'," "The Rude Butcher" and "Ken Clean-Air System." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Carol Cleveland, Ian Davidson, Connie Booth, Mrs. Idle; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

46 November-December 1970

And Now for Something Completely Different, the first Python film, is shot over a five-week period on various locations, with most of the interiors filmed in a former milk depot in north London, on a low budget of £80,000.

47 November 1970

John Cleese is elected rector of St. Andrews University. He polled 1,072 votes, and the runner-up, Alistair Cooke, polled 656 votes. **Cleese** succeeds Lord Constantine.

48 November 1970

The Rise and Rise of Michael Rimmer—opens in England. Film—Warner Rendezvous/101 min. Satirical comedy about an efficiency expert who, after taking over an advertising agency, soon becomes an MP, a cabinet minister, and eventually prime minister. Released after a long delay. Starring Peter Cook, Vanessa Redgrave, Arthur Lowe, Denholm Elliott, Ronald Fraser, **John Cleese** as an advertising executive, **Graham Chapman;** screenplay by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese,** Peter Cook and Kevin Billington; directed by Kevin Billington; produced by Harry Fine; Executive Producer: David Frost.

49 November 3, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The sixth show of the second series includes: "It's a Living," "Award Ceremony," "The Films of L. F. Dibley," "Book-of-the-Month Club," "Timmy Williams Coffee Time," "Raymond Luxury-Yacht," "Marrying Each Other," "The Spot" and "Election Night Special." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman,**

MONTY PYTHON : 1970

John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin; with Rita Davies, Ian Davidson; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

50 November 10, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The seventh show of the second series includes: "The Attila the Hun Show," "Minister Burlesque," "Political Groupies," "The Ratcatcher," "Killer Sheep," "The News for Parrots," "Village Idiots," "Test Match/Epsom Furniture Race" and "The Blow on the Head." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Carol Cleveland, Ian Davidson; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

51 November 17, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The eighth show of the second series includes: "BBC Previews," "Archaeology Today/Flaming Star," "An Appeal for Sanity/National Truss," "Registrar of Marriages," "Dr. Darling," "Eggs Diamond," "The Gits," "Mosquito Hunters," "The Judges" and "Beethoven/Mozart." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

52 November 22, 1970

Terry Gilliam turns 30.

53 November 24, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The ninth show of the second series includes: "Bikini-Clad Women," "How to Recognize Different Parts of the Body," "Bruces," "Contradicting," "Nose Operation/Camping Holiday," "Silly Army Drills," "Killer Cars," "Verifast Plaine Co.," "A Reenactment of the First Heart Transplant," "Underwater Productions," "The Death of Mary Queen of Scots/Penguin on the TV" and "Murder Investigation/Sgt. Duckie's Song." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin;** with Carol Cleveland, The Fred Tomlinson Singers, Vincent Wong, Roy Gunson, Alexander Curry, Ralph Wood, John Clement; animations by **Terry Gilliam;** produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

54 December 1, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The tenth show of the second

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series includes: "Rubbish Dump," "Scott of the Antarctic/Sahara," "Conrad Poohs and His Dancing Teeth," "Fish License" and "Football." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Mrs. Idle; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

55 December 8, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The eleventh show of the second series includes: "Conquistador Coffee," "Assistant Editor Interview," "American Defense/Crelm Toothpaste/Shrill Petrol," "Murder Solved by Train Schedules," "Theatre Critic," "Dental Appendages," "Crackpot Religions" and "How Not to Be Seen." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

56 December 14, 1970

The Times. Newspaper (London)—"The Rise and Rise of Monty Python" by Stanley Reynolds, p. 6. Article on Python's growing success and popularity. Includes a piece of **Terry Gilliam's** art.

57 December 15, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The twelfth show of the second series includes: "The Black Eagle," "The Tobacconist/Courtroom," "World Forum," "Ypres 1914," "Art Strike," "Royal Hospital for Overacting," "Gumby Flower Arranging," and "Spam." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with The Fred Tomlinson Singers; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

58 December 22, 1970

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The thirteenth and last show of the second series includes: "The Queen Will Be Watching," "The Coalminers of Wales," "The Toad Elevating Moment," "Fish Club," "Collecting Bird-Watchers' Eggs," "The Insurance Sketch/Queen," "Hospital Run by RSM," "The Exploding Version of 'The Blue Danube'," "The Naughtiest Girl in School," "Women in Sub," "Lifeboat" and "The Undertaker." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Ian Davidson; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

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59 December 22, 1970

Late Night Line-Up (BBC-2). Presented by Joan Bakewell, Michael Dean, Tony Bilbow and Sheridan Morley; guests: Monty Python, who repeat "The Undertaker" sketch at the start of their appearance; produced by Mike Fentiman.

60 1970

Doctor in Trouble. Film—released by Rank Films/90 min. Comedy about a doctor's misadventures on an ocean liner. Seventh film in the "Doctor" series. Starring Leslie Phillips, Harry Secombe, James Robertson Justice, with **Graham Chapman** as Roddy; directed by Ralph Thomas; produced by Betty Box and Ralph Thomas.

61 1970

Terry Jones marries Alison Telfer, who works as a technician in the Botany Department of London University. She has since become a successful biochemist specializing in photosynthesis at Imperial College in London.

62 1970

The Statue. Film—released by Cinerama/89 min. Comedy about a language professor who becomes angry at his sculptress wife when she makes an 18-foot statue of him— with someone else's private parts. Starring David Niven, Virna Lisi, Robert Vaughn, Ann Bell, with **John Cleese** as Harry, a renegade psychiatrist, and **Graham Chapman**; directed by Rod Amateau; produced by Anis Nohra.

63 1970

Graham Chapman writes eleven more *Doctor in the House* episodes with Bernard McKenna.

64 January 8, 1971

Graham Chapman turns 30.

65 February 1971

John Cleese's daughter, Cynthia, is born.

66 February 1971

Monty Python's Flying Circus is taken off the CBC, despite massive protest demonstrations in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

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67 April 1971

Montreux Special Programme. This Monty Python special compiled from several shows is the BBC entry at the Montreux Television Festival. It wins the Silver Rose, an honor that helps to secure a third Python series.

68 April 21, 1971

John Cleese is installed as rector of St. Andrews University. Conferred upon him is the honorary degree of LL.D.

69 May 1971

While doing some filming for Python on location in Devon, England, **John Cleese** and group stay at the Gleneagles Hotel near Torquay which has a manager who, as **Cleese** put it years later, "was wonderfully rude." **Cleese** uses this character in a *Doctor in the House* episode written by him in 1972, and then, of course, in his hilarious situation comedy series *Fawlty Towers*.

70 June 10, 1971

The Laughtermakers. Book – by David Nathan/Peter Owen (U.K.). A great British book tracing influences on postwar comedy. It devotes a chapter to Python, Chapter 10 – "Monty Python's Flying Breakthrough," p. 182.

71 September 1971

The Monty Python team shoot an instructional short film for the Labour Party.

72 September 28, 1971

And Now for Something Completely Different – opens in London. Film – released by Columbia Pictures/A Kettle drum-Python Productions Film/89 min. Monty Python's first feature film is an anthology of some of the better sketches from the first two Python series. Includes: "How Not to Be Seen," "A Man with a Tape Recorder Up His Nose," "The Tobacconist/Courtroom," "Marriage Guidance Counsellor," "Baby Carriage," "Nudge, Nudge," "Self Defense," "Hell's Grannies," "Silly Army Drills," "The Spot," "Mountaineering Expedition," "Bikini-Clad Women," "Stolen Wallet," "Flasher," "American Defense/Crelm Toothpaste/Shrill Petrol," "Twentieth Century Frog," "Conrad Poohs and His Dancing Teeth," "Musical Mice," "It's the Arts: Edward Ross," "Milkman Collecting," "The Funniest Joke in the World," "The Killer Cars," "The Pet Shop," "The

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Lumberjack Song," "The Restaurant Sketch," "Bank Robber," "Falling Past the Window," "Caterpillar," "Vocational Guidance Counsellor," "Blackmail," "A Reenactment of the Battle of Pearl Harbour," "Romantic Interlude" and "The 127th Upper Class Twit of the Year Show." Written by and featuring **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; directed by Ian MacNaughton; produced by Patricia Casey.

73 October 1971

Who's There? Film – produced by the Labour Party. An instructional short film from Monty Python for Labour Party workers on canvassing for votes. **John Cleese**, who was asked to do the film by friend Peter Davis, and the rest of the group gave their services free. The film premieres at the party conference in Brighton. Starring **John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Terry Jones, Michael Palin** and Carol Cleveland; directed by Mike Wooler.

74 October 8, 1971–January 14, 1972

The Marty Feldman Comedy Machine (ATV). Comedy show featuring contemporary and slapstick humor. Starring Marty Feldman; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; directed by John Robins; produced by Larry Gilbert; Executive Producer: Colin Clews.

75 November 1, 1971

Monty Python's Big Red Book. Book – edited by **Eric Idle**/designed by Derek Birdsall/Methuen (U.K.), Warner Books (U.S., 1975). The Pythons' first book (which, of course, has a blue cover) is a hilarious collection of sketches and animation stills, some of it original, but mostly from the show. Includes: "Letters of Endorsement from Television Newscasters," "Page of Classified Ads," "Juliette: Featuring Ken Shabby and Rosemary – A True Love Story of Our Times," "The End," "Animation," "Why Accountancy Is Not Boring by A. Putey," "Naughty Pages," "Page of Ads," "Campaign Literature for the Silly Party," "Keyhole," "Batley Ladies' Townswomen's Guild," "E. D. Silly's Page," "Spam Song," "Sports Page – with Jimmy Buzzard and Ken Clean-Air System," "Arts Page – with Shunt's Utopia and How to Make Films," "Horace Poem," "The World Encyclopedia of Carnal Knowledge," "Australian Page," "Children's Page (Storytime)," "Blackmail," "Uncle Sam," "A Song for Europe – 'Bing Tiddle Tiddle Bong'," "The Importance of Being Earnest – A New Version by Billy Bremner," "Sir Kenneth Clarke – Are You Civilized?," "Le Pouffe Celebre," "Madame Palm Writes," "Elephant Animation," "Family Tree Page," "The Greatest Upper Class Twit Race in the

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World," "Lumberjack Song," "Do-It-Yourself Story," "Goats' Page," "Hello O.N.s Everywhere—A. Hitler and Friends," "The Whizzo Chocolate Assortment," "English-Hungarian Phrasebook," "How to Walk Silly," "Johnson's Novelties," "Be a Modern Hermit," "The Poems of Ewen McTeagle," "The Pirahna Brothers," "Python Literary Guild," "Letter Retracting the Endorsement of the Book" and "Bibliography."

76 December 1971

John Cleese helps form, with Anthony Jay, Video Arts Ltd., a company that produces training films for commerce and industry. Out of the initial capital investment of \$10,200, he put up \$3,800.

77 December 1971

The Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins. Film—Tigon/107 min. A ragbag collection of comedy sketches. Starring Bruce Forsyth, Joan Sims, Roy Hudd, Harry Secombe, Leslie Phillips, Julie Ege, Harry H. Corbett, Ian Carmichael; written by Bob Larbey, John Esmonde, Dave Freeman, Barry Cryer, **Graham Chapman**, Graham Stark, Marty Feldman, Alan Simpson, Ray Galton, Spike Milligan; produced and directed by Graham Stark.

78 December 3, 1971

New Statesman. Magazine (England)—"Christmas Books: *Monty Python's Big Red Book*" by Matthew Coady, pp. 794–5. Coady writes, "Not all the Python funnies work. Some are frankly tedious. . . . Even so, the *Big Red Book* embodies that consistently savage view of the universe which characterises the programme at its devastating best."

79 December 4, 1971

The recordings for the third series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* begin.

80 1971

Another Monty Python Record. Record(LP)—Charisma/CAS 1049 (U.K.), Buddah (U.S., 1972). Material mostly from the show's second series. Includes: "Apologies," "Spanish Inquisition," "World Forum," "Gumby Theatre," "The Architect," "The Pirahna Brothers," "Death of Mary Queen of Scots," "Penguin on the T.V.," "Comfy Chair/Sound Quiz," "Be a Great Actor," "Theatre Critic," "Royal Festival Hall Concert," "Spam," "The Judges," "Stake Your Claim," "Still No Sign of Land" and "The Undertaker." Produced by **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin**; recorded at Marquee Studios, London.

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81 1971

The Least Bizarre of Monty Python. Record(EP) – Charisma/CMP-EP (U.K.). The six-track promo album is a sampler of *Another Monty Python Record*. Includes: “Spam,” “Royal Festival Hall Concert,” “Stake Your Claim,” “World Forum,” “Death of Mary Queen of Scots,” and “Penguin on the T.V.” It has a black and white picture sleeve showing a cartoon Gumby.

82 1971

Monty Python performs live on stage for a series of midnight shows at the Lanchester Festival, Coventry.

83 1971

Monty Python in Deutschland (WDR-West Germany). The Pythons’ first TV-film for Bavaria Atlier, Munich. They did it entirely in German, but since none of the Pythons spoke much German, they had to be taught their lines phonetically. It is fifty minutes long, and was filmed entirely in Germany. Includes: “Woman Announcer,” “Olympic Torch Runner,” “Albrecht Durer/The Merchant of Venice/Torch Runner,” “Frenchman/Farmer Breeding Doctors/Durer,” “The Merchant of Venice/Animal Shakespearean Productions,” “Little Red Riding Hood/Arab/Torch Runner,” “Olympic Shopping/Silly Olympics/Durer,” “Stake Your Claim/Lumberjack Song,” “One-Man Wrestling,” “Fresh Fruit/Nobleman,” “Bavarian Restaurant,” “The History of the Joke” and “Woman Announcer Again.” Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; directed by Ian MacNaughton; animations by **Terry Gilliam**.

84 1971

Michael Palin’s son, William, is born.

85 1971

Graham Chapman becomes guardian to John Tomiczek, a teenage runaway from Liverpool whom he met on a London street.

86 January 14, 1972

Comedy Playhouse (BBC-1). “Idle at Work.” The first play of the show’s new series. Starring Ronnie Barker; written by **Graham Chapman** and Bernard McKenna; directed by Harold Snoad; produced by James Gilbert.

87 February 1, 1972

Terry Jones turns 30.

MONTY PYTHON : 1972

88 Summer 1972

The Great Western Pop Festival. Stage Show—**John Cleese**, **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin** perform sketches at this concert held in Lincolnshire before more than 35,000 people, with the aid of large video screens.

89 June 1972

Rentadick opens in England. Film—released by Rank Films/Paradine-Virgin/94 min. A private-eye spoof about Rentadick, Inc. which is hired to track down the criminals who stole an experimental nerve gas. Starring James Booth, Richard Briers, Julie Ege, Donald Sinden, Ronald Fraser, Michael Bentine, Roy Kinnear, Spike Milligan; written by **John Cleese** and **Graham Chapman**; directed by Jim Clark; produced by Ned Sherrin.

90 July 1972

The first Video Arts film is shot.

91 August 1972

And Now for Something Completely Different is released in the U.S. The film, which was originally intended to introduce the Pythons to an American audience, does little business in the States.

92 August 23, 1972

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Screen: British Comedy” by Howard Thompson, p. C33. Review of *And Now for Something Completely Different*. Thompson writes, “. . . where’s the wit? Certainly not in a stale Joe Miller sex gag about a marriage counselor and another about a milkman. One portion about a bird shop is as dead as the parrot in question . . . compared to this, *The Beverly Hillbillies* seems downright Shakespearean.”

93 August 26, 1972

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Current Cinema: *And Now for Something Completely Different*” by Penelope Gilliatt, p. 60. Gilliatt writes, “. . . a battily funny film . . . nothing is sacrosanct, least of all patriotism and any sort of bigotry.”

94 August 28, 1972

New York. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: *And Now for Something Completely Different*” by Sally Beauman, p. 47. Beauman writes, “A mad mix of review, whimsy and satire. . . . Extremely funny and should be seen.”

MONTY PYTHON : 1972

95 September 4, 1972

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: Goons vs. Blimps” by Paul D. Zimmerman, p. 81. Review of *And Now for Something Completely Different*. Zimmerman writes, “. . . *Different* dances gleefully on the grave of upper-crust English institutions and moribund Establishment mores. . . . It comes at a good time, when the supply of good comedy is so low here that, unfortunately, we must import it.”

96 September 23, 1972

The New Republic. Magazine (U.S.)—“Films: *And Now for Something Completely Different*” by Stanley Kauffmann, p. 244. Kauffmann writes, “The best quality in the film is its youthful brashness . . . any film by bright people that tries for 100 minutes to make you laugh ought to succeed some of the time, and this does.”

97 October 1972

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: *And Now for Something Completely Different*” by Bruce Williamson, p. 28. Williamson writes, “. . . Marx Bros. zaniness . . . lives up to its title . . . comic boners and solid belly laughs.”

98 October 12, 13, 1972

Monty Python's Previous Record is recorded at Radio Luxembourg, London.

99 October 19–December 21, 1972, January 4–18, 1973

The third series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* is aired. The tension within the group was at its peak with this series, due to **John Cleese's** increasing boredom with doing Python for television (this would be his last series) and the growing threat of censorship. The series consists of 13 shows which contain many memorable sketches, like “The Argument Clinic,” “Dennis Moore,” “The Cheese Shop,” “Bishop on the Landing,” “The All-England Summarize Proust Competition,” “The Travel Agent,” “Putting Down Budgies,” “Spot the Looney” and “Sam Peckinpah's ‘Salad Days’.” Most of this series' shows begin with organ fanfare by **Terry Jones' Nude Organist** character, then **John** and the hermit.

100 October 19, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The first show of the third series includes: “Njorl's Saga,” “The ‘I'm Sorry' Murder Trial,” “Bodily Investigation,” “Icelandic Saga/North Malden,” “Courtroom: Defendant in

MONTY PYTHON : 1972

Body Cast," "Stock Market Report," "Putting Down Budgies/Mr. and Mrs. Sartre" and "Whicker's World." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Mrs. Idle, Connie Booth, Rita Davies, Nigel Jones, Frank Williams; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

101 October 26, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The second show of the third series includes: "Mr. and Mrs. Brian Norris' Ford Popular," "Massive Stock Exchange Deals in Public Schools," "How to Do It," "Minister for Overseas Development," "Farming Club Presents Tschaikovsky," "Trim-Jeans Theatre Presents," "The Fish Slapping Dance," "Women and Children First," "BBC in Liquidation" and "It's." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Julia Breck; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

102 November 2, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The third show of the third series includes: "The Money Programme," "Erizabeth," "Bishop on the Landing," "Jungle Restaurant/Lost Worlds," "Ken Russell's Gardening Club," "British Explorer's Club," "Being Filmed" and "The Argument Clinic." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Rita Davies, Carol Cleveland, The Fred Tomlinson Singers; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

103 November 9, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The fourth show of the third series includes: "Blood, Devastation, Death, War and Horror," "Merchant Banker," "Survival in Nature," "The House Hunters," "Army Recruitment Sketch," "Mr. Horton," "The Bols Story," "BBC Announcer/News" and "The Pantomime Horse Is a Secret Agent." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

104 November 16, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The fifth show of the third series includes: "The All-England Summarize Proust Competition," "Hairdressers on Everest," "A Magnificent Festering," "Fire Brigade/Eamonn

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Comes Home," "Party Hints by Veronica Smalls," "Communist Revolutions/'Puking Peter' Doll," "Instruction Tapes," "The Travel Agent" and "Thrust: Miss Anne Elk." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, The Fred Tomlinson Singers; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

105 November 23, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The sixth show of the third series includes: "Housewives of Britain," "Gumby Brain Surgery," "Speaker on the Meaning of Life," "Mollusk Documentary," "Today in Parliament/Classic Serial/Tuesday Documentary/Children's Story/A Party Political Broadcast/Religion Today/Match of the Day," "Politicians: An Apology," "The Royal Navy" and "Mr. Badger Interview." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Mrs. Idle; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

106 November 30, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The seventh show of the third series includes: "Biggles Dictates a Letter," "Climbing the Uxbridge Road," "Newhaven Lifeboat," "Storage Jars," "Watching TV," "The Show So Far," "The Cheese Shop," "Sam Peckinpah's 'Salad Days'" and "Interlude." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Nicki Howorth; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

107 December 1972

Teach Yourself Heath. Record(EP)—One-sided Flexi-disc, with humorous picture sleeve, included in an issue of the British rock magazine *Zigzag*. Using actual bits of Edward Heath's speeches, **Eric Idle** lampoons the prime minister's vocal mannerisms. Introduced by **Michael Palin**.

108 December 7, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The eighth show of the third series includes: "The Cycling Tour: Mr. Pither, Mr. Gulliver/Clodagh Rogers/Trotsky, Smolensk, Bingo-Crazed Chinese, Russian Firing Squad and 'Jack in a Box'." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**;

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Monty Python's The Meaning of Life. From left: Two obstetricians (John Cleese, Graham Chapman) show off their latest achievement—and new equipment—to a worker (Eric Idle), the hospital administrator (far right: Michael Palin) and other passers-by.

with Carol Cleveland; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

109 December 14, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The ninth show of the third series includes: "Scotsman Hijacker," "New Housing Developments/Mystico/Janet," "Mortuary Visit," "The Olympic Hide and Seek Finals," "The Cheap Laughs from Next Door," "Probe: Bull-Fighting" and "Algon." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Marie Anderson, Mrs. Idle; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

110 December 21, 1972

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The tenth show of the third

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series includes: "Tudor Job Agency/The Life of Sir Philip Sidney/Gay Boys in Bondage," "Disturbing Vicar," "The Free Repetition of Doubtful Words," "Is There?," "Thripshaw's Disease" and "Sherry-Drinking Vicar." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, The Fred Tomlinson Singers, Rosalind Bailey; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

111 1972

Funny Game, Football. Record(EP)—Charisma/CB 197 (U.K.). An EP from "The Group"; music by Neil Innes; and features **Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Bryan Pringle, Arthur Mullard**, and writers Joe Steeples, Bill Tidy and Michael Wale.

112 1972

The Great Gas Gala. Commercial(TV)—Ad for the British Gas Board. Animated by **Terry Gilliam**.

113 1972

Eric the Half-A-Bee. Record(single)—Charisma/CB 200 (U.K.). Single off Python's *Previous Record*.

114 1972

The Love Ban/It's a 2'6" Above the Ground World. Film—released by British Lion/96 min. Comedy about a Roman Catholic couple who go on the pill. Starring Hwyl Bennett, Nanette Newman, Milo O'Shea, Russell Lewis and **John Cleese**; directed by Ralph Thomas; produced by Betty Box and Ralph Thomas.

115 1972

Monty Python's Previous Record. Record(LP)—Charisma/CAS 1063 (U.K.), Buddah (U.S., 1973). Material from the show and original material. Includes: "Embarrassment/A Book at Bedtime," "Dennis Moore," "Money Programme," "Australian Table Wines," "Argument Clinic," "How to Do It," "Putting Down Budgies," "Eric the Half-A-Bee," "Radio Quiz Game," "Travel Agency," "A Massage/Silly Noises," "Miss Anne Elk," "We Love the Yangtse," "A Minute Passed," "Eclipse of the Sun/Alastair Cooke," "Wonderful World of Sound" and "A Fairy Tale." Produced by Andre Jacquemin, **Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Alan Bailey**; recorded at Radio Luxembourg, London.

116 1972

Graham Chapman is co-founder of *Gay News* newspaper.

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117 1972

Monty Python Blodeln fur Deutschland (WDR-West Germany). The Pythons' second TV-film for Bavaria Atelier, Munich. This one was performed in English and later dubbed, much to the team's relief. It is fifty minutes long, and was filmed entirely in Germany. Includes: "Superbutcher/Linkman," "Sycophancy Show," "Frank Tutankhamun/Mice/Great Chicken Rush of '49," "International Philosophy," "Learning to Swim," "International Philosophy Update," "Hearing Aid/Contact Lenses" and "A Fairy Tale (Happy Valley)." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; directed by Ian MacNaughton.

118 January 3, 1973

Afterschool Special (ABC). "William." An introduction to William Shakespeare. With Lynn Redgrave, Sir John Gielgud, Sir Ralph Richardson; title sequence by **Terry Gilliam**.

119 January 4, 1973

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The eleventh show of the third series includes: "Boxing Tonight," "Dennis Moore," "Horoscopes," "Doctors Collecting Money," "Ambulance," "The Great Debate," "George I, Part III," "The Ideal Loon Exhibition," "Catching Poetry," "Prejudice" and "Losing Judges." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Noshier Powell; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

120 January 11, 1973

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The twelfth show of the third series includes: "Party Political Broadcast," "A Book at Bedtime," "Kami-Kaze Highlanders," "No Time to Lose," "2001," "Frontiers of Medicine: Penguins," "The Unexploded Scotsman Disposal Squad," "Spot the Looney," "Microphone Stealing" and "New Comedy Programmes." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

121 January 18, 1973

Monty Python's Flying Circus (BBC-1). The thirteenth show of the third series includes: "The British Show Biz Awards," "Oscar Wilde and

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Friends," "Charwoman," "Pasolini's 'The Third Test Match'," "Buying a Brain," "Blood Bank," "Wife-Swopping" and "The Dirty Vicar Sketch." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Caron Gardner; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

122 January 18, 1973

Comedy Playhouse (BBC-1). "Elementary, My Dear Watson." A Sherlock Holmes comedy. Starring **John Cleese** as Sherlock Holmes, and William Rushton as Dr. Watson; directed by Harold Snoad; produced by Barry Took.

123 February 1973

The Society of Film and Television Arts names *Monty Python's Flying Circus* as Best Light Entertainment Programme.

124 February 3, 1973

Doctor at Large (London Weekend Television). "No Ill Feelings." Episode of the Doctor series, featuring Timothy Bateson as a Basil Fawlty prototype. Written by **John Cleese**; directed by Alan Wallis; Executive Producer: Humphrey Barclay.

125 March 29, 1973

Eric Idle turns 30.

126 April–May 24, 1973

Monty Python's First Farewell Tour. Stage Show Tour of the U.K.—The Pythons put together a fast-paced stage show that combines live action, film clips and music, and take it on the road for a three-week tour of Britain for SRO tours. Augmented by musician-composer Neil Innes, they play a series of one-nighters, doing 30 shows in 13 different towns. The places they play include Southampton, Birmingham and the Hippodrome Theatre in Bristol. Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Neil Innes.

127 May 4–10, 1973

Time Out. Magazine (England)—"Monty Python's London Guide," No. 167. Includes reviews of restaurants and films.

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128 May 5, 1973

Michael Palin turns 30.

129 Summer 1973

Monty Python's First Farewell Tour. Stage Show Tour of Canada—an extensive and much more grueling tour than the British one, taking them from one side of the large country to the other, performing at a variety of venues. Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Neil Innes.

130 Summer 1973

John Cleese starts making TV commercials as a way of life.

131 June 28, 1973

The Tonight Show (NBC). Monty Python's first, but not very successful, appearance in the U.S. At the end of their Canadian tour, the Pythons (without **John Cleese**) swung down to California and made an appearance on this show before returning to England. Sketches performed include "News for Parrots" and "Putting Down Budgies." Guest-Host: Joey Bishop; produced by Fred DeCordova.

132 August 14, 1973

Secrets (BBC-2). Black and Blue series. This hilarious television play, the first in this series, concerns a chocolate factory where some men fall into a mixing vat and end up as fillings for chocolates. The play upon which the 1988 film *Consuming Passions* is based. Starring Warren Mitchell, Brian Wilde, Hilda Barry, Gretchen Franklin; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; directed by James Cellan Jones; produced by Mark Shivas.

133 August 18, 1973

The Times. Newspaper (London)—"Oliver Trimble and the Jelly Hound" by Ken Whitmore, p. 6. **Terry Gilliam** provides a wonderful illustration for this first prize winner in the adult section of *The Times*/Jonathan Cape Children's Story Competition.

134 October 1973

Terry Gilliam marries Maggie Weston, the makeup artist on the fourth Python series, in Belsize Park. Her later makeup credits include **Gilliam's** and Python films.

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135 October 6, 1973

Monty Python's Fliegende Zirkus (BBC-2). The Python's second show for Germany is shown by the BBC with the subtitle "Schnapps with Everything." Produced by Thomas Woitkewitsch of Bavarian Atelier GmbH Munich for WDR.

136 October 14, 1973

Laughter—Why We Laugh (BBC-2). Written and presented by Barry Took, with **John Cleese**, Les Dawson and Peter Black; produced by Vernon Lawrence.

137 1973

The Monty Python Matching Tie and Handkerchief. Record (LP)—Charisma/CAS 1080 (U.K.), Arista/AL 4039 (U.S., 1975). Material from the show and some very funny original material. The record's label reads: "FREE RECORD Given Away with the Monty Python Matching Tie and Handkerchief." It is a three-sided record, that is, one of the sides contains two sets of grooves, each containing different material. Includes: "Bishop on the Landing," "Elephantoplasty," "Wide World of Novel Writing," "Word Association," "Bruces," "Adventures of Ralph Melish/Hot Dogs and Knickers," "The Cheese Shop," "Tiger Talk," "A Great Actor," "The Background to History," "World War Noises in 4," "The Fight of the Century," "The Minister for Overseas Development," "Oscar Wilde and Friends," "Taking in the Terrier" and "Phone-In."

138 1973

Eric Idle's son, Carey, is born.

139 1973

The Brand New Monty Python Bok. Book—edited by **Eric Idle**/Methuen (U.K.), Henry Regnery Co. (U.S., 1976). The second Python book is an ambitious collection of original material, with only a few television-derived bits. The white cover has some realistic inky thumb-smears on it, and the title beneath the dust jacket is *Tits and Bums, A Weekly Look at Church Architecture*. Includes: "Safety Instructions," "The Old Story Teller," "Biggles Is Extremely Silly (1938)," "Biggles and the Naughty Things (1941)," "Notice of the Availability of Film Rights to Page Six," "Llap-Goch, the Secret Welsh Art of Self-Defense," "Edward Woodward's Fish Page," "The Python Book of Etiquette," "Famous First Drafts," "Page 71 Coming Soon, My Garden," "A Puzzle," "The Bigot," "The London Casebook of Detective Rene Descartes, Wallpaper," "16

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Magazine," "Masturbation," "Coming Soon, Page 16," "Python Panel," "The Adventures of Walter the Wallabee," "Mr. April," "Competition Time," "World Record Page," "Invitations," "The Oxford Simplified Dictionary," "Unfinished Drawing," "Film Review with Phillip Jenkinson," "Rat Recipes," "Chez Rat," "Overland to the World," "Colour Page," "Contents," "African Notebook," "How to . . .," "15 Pages to Page 71," "Norman Henderson's Diary," "Sex-Craft 'For Happy Sexual Relationships'," "Join the Dots," "The Stage Directory," "The British Apathy League," "Let's Talk About Bottoms," "Do You Sincerely Want to be Conned?, Hobbies," "Page 71," "Reviews of Page 71," "Alice in Wonderland," "The Hackenthorpe Book of Lies," "Masturbators of History," "Once Upon a Time," "Ferndean School Report for God," "The Stratton Indicator," "Cheeseshop," "The Official Medallie Commemoration of the History of Mankind," "The Anagrams Gape," "Anagram-Haters Page," "Your Stars," "Hamsters: A Warning" and "Teach Yourself Surgery."

140 March 1974

Python Live at Drury Lane. Stage Show – Monty Python performs at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London for what was originally a two-week engagement, but is extended to four weeks. They perform many Python television classics as well as sketches like "Secret Service" from Cambridge Circus and "Fairy Tale" written by **John Cleese** and **Connie Booth**. Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with **Neil Innes**; staged and presented by Monty Python.

141 March 18, 1974

William Jordan, the deputy chief veterinary officer of the RSPCA, attends tonight's performance of Monty Python at Drury Lane to see the "Cocktail Bar" sketch in which a barman kills a duck to make a cocktail. Four people complained to the RSPCA, thinking it was a real duck.

142 April–May 1974

Monty Python and the Holy Grail, the first Python-produced feature film, is shot in five weeks on a low budget (some of the money being contributed by the rock groups **Pink Floyd** and **Led Zeppelin**) entirely on location in Scotland at **Doune Castle, Castle Stalker, Killin, Glen Coe, Arnhall Castle, Bracklinn Falls, Sherriffmuir**, and completed at **Twickenham Film Studios, England**. One scene, "The Black Knight" sequence, is shot in a forest outside London.

143 May 1974

Monty Python Live at Drury Lane. Record(LP)—Charisma/Class 4. Recording of some of Python's best bits performed at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. Includes: "Introduction," "Llamas," "Gumby Flower Arranging," "Secret Service," "Wrestling," "Communist Quiz," "Idiot Song (N. Innes)," "Albatross," "Colonel," "Nudge Nudge," "Cocktail Bar," "Travel Agent," "Spot the Brain Cell," "Bruces," "Argument," "Four Yorkshiremen," "Election Special," "Lumberjack Song" and "Parrot Sketch." Recorded on the L.M.S. Mobile by Alan Bailey; mixed and edited by Andre Jacquemin and Dave Howman at Sunrise Studios.

144 May 1974

Monty Python's Tiny Round Black Thing. Record(single)—Flexi-disc, included with an issue of the British rock magazine *New Musical Express*. Side One—"Election '74," Side Two—"Lumberjack Song." From *Live at Drury Lane*; it includes a new intro by **Michael Palin**.

145 May 5, 1974

The Do-It-Yourself Film Animation Show (BBC-1). Programme 3: "Table Top and Cut-Out Animation." Guest: **Terry Gilliam**; presented by Bob Godfrey; directed by Anna Jackson; produced by David Hargreaves.

146 Summer 1974

Dean Martin's Comedy World (NBC). Features performances by new comedy talent from around the world. One show includes some clips from Python (including "A Scotsman on a Horse"). Directed by John Moffitt; produced by Greg Garrison.

147 July 1974

Monty Python's Flying Circus is shown for the first time in the U.S. on KERA, the PBS station in Dallas, Texas, where the manager, Ron Devillier, had become a convert.

148 September 1974

Sporting Relations. Book—by Roger McGough/Illustrated by **Terry Gilliam**/Methuen (U.K.)/64 pp. One of **Gilliam's** few contributions to a book not his own or Python's. He provides eighteen illustrations.

149 October 1974

The Brand New Monty Python Papperbok. Book—edited by **Eric Idle**/Methuen (U.K.), Warner Books (U.S., 1976). Paperback reissue of

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The Brand New Monty Python Bok. Practically the same, except the quotes from the dust jacket of the hardcover book are on the back cover, and there is no mention of *Tits and Bums*.

150 October 1974

The first series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* premieres in the U.S. on fifteen PBS stations in the Eastern Educational Network.

151 October 12, 1974

The recordings for the fourth series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* begin.

152 October 26–November 1, 1974. *Radio Times*. Magazine (England)—“Monty Python: Who Are These People, Anyway” Feature, p. 6. A look at Python as they begin their fourth series. Great cover art by **Terry Gilliam**. The magazine is held by **Eric Idle** in the “Mr. Neutron” episode of that series.

153 October 31–December 5, 1974

The fourth and last series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* is aired. This series is different from the first three in that: it consists of 6 shows rather than 13; the shows were made without **John Cleese**, though some written material of his was used; and the words “Flying Circus” were dropped from the title. Best stiches include “The Most Awful Family in Britain,” “Bogus Psychiatrists,” “Teddy Salad of the Yukon,” “Batsmen of the Kalahari,” “Woody and Tinny Words,” “The Ant Counter” and “The ‘Anything Goes’ Courtroom.”

154 October 31, 1974

Monty Python (BBC-2). The first show of the fourth series includes: “The Golden Age of Ballooning: The Beginnings,” “TGAOB: The Montgolfer Brothers in Love,” “TGAOB: The Great Day for France (George III),” “Party Political Broadcast on Behalf of the Norwegian Party,” “TGAOB: Ferdinand Von Zeppelin – Pioneer of the Airship (German Couple)” and “The Golden Age of Colonic Irrigation/The Mill on the Floss.” Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Peter Brett, Frank Lester, Bob E. Raymond, Stenson Falke; song: “George the Third” by Neil Innes; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

155 November 7, 1974

Monty Python (BBC-2). The second show of the fourth series includes: "Michael Ellis: The Ant Counter," "Tiger and other pets," "University of the Air," "Ant Poetry," "The Toupee Hall," "Complaints and Show Endings." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese** (writer credit only), **Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, John Hughman; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

156 November 10, 1974

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Monty Python's Flying Circus—A Souffle of Lunacy" by John J. O'Connor, p. B33. Article describing the show which has just come to the U.S.

157 November 14, 1974

Monty Python (BBC-2). The third show of the fourth series includes: "Up Your Pavement," "Banter," "Trivializing the War," "The 'Anything Goes' Courtroom," "Two Old Ladies/TV Programmers/M2 Motorway," "Woody and Tinny Words," "Show-Jumping" and "When Does a Dream Begin?" Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Bob E. Raymond, M. Mould; song: "Where Does a Dream Begin?" written and sung by Neil Innes; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

158 November 21, 1974

Monty Python (BBC-2). The fourth show of the fourth series includes: "Hamlet/Bogus Psychiatrists," "Nationwide," "Building a Boat in Bed," "The Champ," "Piston Engine" and "A Room in Polonius' House: Epsom, Jockeys, The Queen Victoria Handicap Race." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Jimmy Hill, Bob E. Raymond, Connie Booth, K. Joseph; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

159 November 28, 1974

Monty Python (BBC-2). The fifth show of the fourth series includes: "Mr. Neutron: New Post Office Box," "Neutron in Suburbia," "F.E.A.R.," "Teddy Salad of the Yukon," "British Prime Minister," "Mrs. Scum," "A Man from the Radio Times" and "Conjuring Today." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones,**

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Michael Palin; with Carol Cleveland, Bob E. Raymond, Sloopy; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

160 December 5, 1974

Monty Python (BBC-2). The sixth and last show of the fourth series includes: "The Most Awful Family in Britain," "Icelandic Honey-Seller," "Stabbed Patient," "Brigadier and Bishop," "An Appeal for Rich People," "Finishing Sentences," "The Walking Trees of Dahomey," "The Batsmen of the Kalahari" and "Ursula Hitler." Conceived, written and performed by **Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Bob E. Raymond, Peter Brett, Douglas Adams, Neil Innes; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; produced and directed by Ian MacNaughton.

161 December 6, 1974

In Vision (BBC-2). William Hardcastle talks with Monty Python members about five years of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, with clips of some of their best and worst moments. With **Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; produced by Peter Foges; edited by Will Wyatt.

162 1974

The Miracle of Flight. Short film—a five-minute animated short, used in some of the Python stage shows. Directed by **Terry Gilliam**.

163 1974

Romance with a Double Bass. Film—Anton Films/41 min. Based on a story by Anton Chekhov, this charming film tells of the romance that ensues when a musician named Smychkov and a princess find themselves stranded in a lake, their clothes stolen. Starring **John Cleese** and Connie Booth, with Graham Crowden, Desmond Jones, Freddie Jones, Jonathan Lynn, Andrew Sachs; screen adaptation from Chekhov by **John Cleese**, with Connie Booth and Robert Young; directed by Robert Young.

164 1974

Terry Jones' daughter, Sally, is born.

165 1974

Bert Fegg's Nasty Book for Boys and Girls. Book—by **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin**/Methuen/62 pp. Contains such items as "Soccer—My Way by The Supremes," "The Famous Five Go Pillaging," "Conjuring—

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by Feggo," "Depravo the Rat," "The Nasty Babysitter," "1001 Things to Do with String" and "Pass the Bengal Tiger."

166 Spring 1975

While the Python group are in the U.S. promoting *Holy Grail*, they also visit some of the public television stations showing Python, including the stations in Chicago (WTTW), Washington, D.C. (WETA) and New York (WNET), to help solicit money from viewers.

167 Spring 1975

Monty Python and the Holy Grail: "Coming Attraction" Trailer. The hilarious promotional clip for the film. A good announcer, a bad reader, a Gumby, and a Chinese man audition for clip narration. The Chinese man wins and informs us that *Holy Grail* is one of "the more run-of-the-mill films like *Herbie Rides Again* and *La Notte*," and that it is playing only 4 minutes from a Chinese restaurant.

168 Spring 1975

Hello Sailor. Book — by **Eric Idle**/Weidenfeld and Nicolson, Futura (paperback) (U.K.)/169 pp. **Idle's** first novel is a hilarious satire on sex and politics. It includes: the British prime minister who is a "bachelor gay"; a dead foreign secretary who functions as efficiently as before with the aid of a taxidermist; Astronaut Sickert who tests a contraceptive in space; a character who seduces the daughters of the entire Cabinet; and much more.

169 March 1975

Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones and Michael Palin attend the world premiere of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* at the Filmex Theater at the Los Angeles International Film Exposition. They also stop by the local PBS station in L.A. to help out during their pledge week. While in the U.S., they also visit New York, Dallas, and Philadelphia. The group starts touring the U.S. again next month to promote *Holy Grail*.

170 March 1975

Monty Python and the Holy Grail — world premiere in Los Angeles. Film — released by Almi-Cinema 5/A Python Pictures-Michael White Film/90 min. Monty Python's second feature film is a collection of Medieval sketches loosely strung together by King Arthur's quest for the Holy Grail. Includes: "Moose Titles," "The Swallow," "Bring Out Your

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Dead," "Political Peasant," "The Black Knight," "The Test of a Witch," "The Book of the Film," "The Knights of the Round Table," "God," "The French Problem," "The Tale of Sir Robin: The Three-Headed Knight," "The Tale of Sir Galahad: The Castle Anthrax," "Scene 24," "The Knights Who Say 'Ni'," "The Tale of Sir Lancelot: Swamp Castle," "Roger the Shrubber," "Tim the Enchanter," "The Rabbit of Caerbannog," "The Black Beast of Arrrghhh," "The Bridge of Death," "The Castle Arrrghhh" and "The Final Attack." Written by and featuring **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Connie Booth, Carol Cleveland, Neil Innes, Bee Duffell, John Young, Rita Davies, Avril Stewart, Sally Kinghorn; animations by **Terry Gilliam**; songs by Neil Innes; directed by **Terry Gilliam** and **Terry Jones**; produced by Mark Forstater; Executive Producer: John Goldstone.

171 March 29, 1975

The Times. Newspaper (London)—"The Complete and Utter **Palin** and **Jones** in a Two Man Python Team" by Sheridan Morley, p. 6. Great article, with **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones** talking about Python, *Holy Grail*, and some of their past history. The interview took place in a recording studio above a Chinese take-out restaurant where the two were working on the *Holy Grail* soundtrack.

172 March 31, 1975

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Pythonmania" by Harry F. Waters, pp. 72-3. Good article on Monty Python's background, sketches and invasion of the U.S.

173 April 3, 1975

Monty Python and the Holy Grail opens in London.

174 April 4, 1975

New Statesman. Magazine (England)—"Films: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*" by John Coleman, p. 458. Coleman writes, ". . . the wanton promise of their title is unexpectedly fulfilled. . . This *Python* is often hilarious.

175 April 6, 1975

The second series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* begins running in the U.S. on more than fifty PBS outlets.

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176 April 25, 1975

A.M. America (ABC). Guests: **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin**, **Eric Idle**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Graham Chapman**, promoting *Holy Grail*; Donald Sutherland.

177 April 26, 1975

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Monty Python's Flying Circus Is Barnstorming Here" by Michael T. Kaufman, p. 29. The Pythons (without **Cleese**) talk about their beginnings and influences; from an interview with them yesterday at Central Park Zoo.

178 April 27, 1975

Monty Python and the Holy Grail opens in New York. The Pythons attend the premiere, giving out coconuts. **Eric Idle** and **Terry Gilliam** then go off to L.A. for the film's West Coast premiere, and **Graham Chapman** and **Terry Jones** attend the film's Midwest opening in Chicago.

179 May 1975

A farewell party for Monty Python, who were in New York for the opening of *Holy Grail*, is held at The Relaxation Plus, a massage parlor in New York's Commodore Hotel. Guests include Robert Plant, Jimmy Page, Dick Cavett, Andy Warhol, Julie Newmar, Clive Davis, Tom Wolfe, Taj Mahal and Maureen Stapleton. **Terry Jones** was the only guest to get a massage.

180 May 3, 1975

America. Magazine (U.S.)—"Communications: Python, Python, Burning Bright" by Richard A. Blake, pp. 348-49. Review of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. Blake writes, "*Flying Circus* threatens to become an authentic hit with American audiences. . . . It is a voyage into the absurd on a Humean raft. Experience means nothing, since all laws of logical sequence have been suspended."

181 May 5, 1975

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Current Cinema: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*" by Penelope Gilliatt, pp. 115-17. Gilliatt writes, ". . . a cheerfully loused-up reworking of the legend of King Arthur's Grail hunt. . . . The whole film, which is often recklessly funny and sometimes a matter of comic genius, is a triumph of errancy and muddle."

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182 May 8, 1975

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Horse Bites Python, Python Bites Back" by Larry Sloman, p. 18+. Article on the Pythons' visit to New York, and some of their mishaps: **Terry Gilliam** nearly getting bounced from the Plaza Hotel bar; **Graham Chapman** getting roughed up at the Le Jardin Discotheque; and **Terry Jones** getting mugged by a horse. Includes a photo of them answering phones at WNET, the PBS station in New York.

183 May 9, 1975

Arts Forum (WNYC-FM, New York). Radio show—interview with Monty Python members, promoting *Holy Grail*.

184 May 10, 1975

The Washington Post. Newspaper (U.S.)—"A Python in the Center Ring" by Tom Zito, p. D1-2. Great Monty Python article, with a good photo of the visiting **Chapman, Palin, Gilliam** and **Jones** taken by Ken Fell, and other items.

185 May 12–June 16, 1975

Rutland Weekend Television (BBC-2). The first series of **Eric Idle's** weekly half-hour comedy show, featuring studio interviews, filmed inserts, and musical items by Neil Innes. Based on the small English county of Rutland which vanished in an organizational shuffle. Starring **Eric Idle**, Neil Innes; written by **Eric Idle**; directed by Andrew Gosling; produced by Ian Keill.

186 May 12, 1975

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Talk of the Town: *Monty Python's Flying Circus*" pp. 35–36. Article describing the individual members of the group and how Python first started catching on in the States.

187 May 17, 1975

TV Guide. Magazine (U.S.)—"Review: *Monty Python's Flying Circus*" by Cleveland Amory, p. 32. Amory writes, "... nothing is once over lightly here. Everything is done at least twice—and heavily ... the cast seems to have a longer boring point than we do ... there are funny ideas coming up here ... But don't get your hopes up unless this show gets a new—and tough—writer-editor-critic."

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188 May 19, 1975

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: Holy Grail!" by Paul D. Zimmerman, pp. 90-91. Review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* in epistolary form. Zimmerman writes, "...delightful performances by the members of the Python troop, especially **Graham Chapman's** wonderfully earnest King Arthur ... marvelously zany."

189 May 24, 1975

The New Republic. Magazine (U.S.)—"Films: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*" by Stanley Kauffmann, p. 20 + . Kauffmann writes, "What's up for teasing here is the whole body of Arthurian legend, and the basic leg-pull is of the sanctity of that legend and of British sanctimoniousness toward it ... mostly sustained and just moves along in a comic temperament without much actual laughter."

190 May 26, 1975

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Show Business and Television: Killer Joke Triumphs, Legendary Lunacy" by Richard Schickel, pp. 58-59. Good Python article and review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Schickel writes of the film, "*Grail* is as funny as a movie can get, but it is also a tough-minded picture—as outraged about the human propensity for violence as it is outrageous in its attack on that propensity."

191 May 31, 1975

Saturday Review. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Quest of Monty Python" by Hollis Alpert, p. 44 + . Review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Alpert writes, "The Pythons have taken on the entire King Arthur legendry and smashed it into gorgeous bits and skits ... Join them in their entirely fruitless, irreverent, ridiculous, madly insane search for the Holy Grail."

192 May 31, 1975

America. Magazine (U.S.)—"Communications: One More Coil of the Python" by Richard A. Blake, pp. 428-29. Review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Blake writes, "Much of the satire is witty, inventive and genuinely funny ... There are no values, and nothing is taken very seriously. In *Holy Grail*, death is only an illusion: dismemberment provides a good laugh; murder and restoration are merely contiguous bits of stage business."

193 June 1975

Parents. Magazine (U.S.)—"Family Movie Guide: *Monty Python*

and the Holy Grail” by Judith Ripp, p. 48. Ripp writes, “Anyone who has seen a major film epic about merry old England and King Arthur will be able to appreciate this satire of Medieval romance and adventure. . . The Python’s technique is really more lunatic than satiric.”

194 June 1975

Andy Warhol’s Interview. Magazine (U.S.)—“And Now for Something Completely Different . . . Monty Python’s Flying Circus” by R. Hayes, pp. 32–33. An interview with the Pythons.

195 June 1975

Let It Rock. Magazine (England)—“Films: Nuts on the Loose” by John Ingham and David Jenkins, No. 30, p. 46. Reviews of *Young Frankenstein* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Of *Grail* they write, “. . . the film inspires only a chuckle here and a chortle there, and a sad lack of uproarious gut-churning mirth . . . to the fan it gives both pain and delight, for the hilarious fragments don’t make up for the longeurs. Typically British, it’s a good loser.”

196 June 6, 1975

Commonweal. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Screen: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*” by Colin L. Westerbeck, Jr., p. 182. Westerbeck writes, “Sacred and profane, Romantical and Classical, heroical and pathetic, Rowan and Martin: it’s got all the really big combos in there. . . Monty Python has restored comedy for movies to its true extent.”

197 June 8, 1975

Monty Python and the Holy Grail opens in Chicago. **Graham Chapman** and **Terry Jones** attend the premiere, giving out coconuts.

198 June 9, 1975

The Chicago Tribune. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Now Comes King Arthur to Cut ‘Em Off at the Pass” by Gene Siskel, sec. 3, p. 22. Review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Siskel writes, “For my money, I wasn’t particularly knocked out by *Holy Grail*. For me, it contained about 10 very funny moments and 70 minutes of silence. Too many of the jokes took too long to set up. . . I guess I prefer Monty Python in chunks, in its original, television revue format.”

199 June 13, 1975

The Chicago Tribune. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Zeroing in on the

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Zanies” by Bruce Vilanch, sec. 3, p. 5. **Terry Jones** and **Graham Chapman** talk about Monty Python.

200 June 17, 1975

The Washington Post. Newspaper (U.S.)—“. . . Python’s Arthurian Knights” by Gary Arnold, p. C1+. Review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Arnold writes, “I happened to see *Holy Grail* the day after seeing *Love and Death*, and the former certainly suffered in comparison. . . . The Allen comedy seemed sharper, faster, and more consistently funny.”

201 June 19, 1975

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—“Review: Monty Python on the Silly Grail” by P. J. O’Rourke, p. 16. Review of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. O’Rourke writes, “*Holy Grail* is an enormous relief from every kind of movie and TV humor . . . it’s a better movie than *Blazing Saddles* or *Young Frankenstein*.”

202 July 1975

Esquire. Magazine (U.S.)—“Monty Python’s American Diary (notes on our country by an all-wise visitor from utter space)” by **Michael Palin**, pp. 88-89+. **Michael Palin**’s diary account of Python’s visit to America in March. This hilarious account tells of Fly-Eezi—“the airline that can’t afford to crash,” the group’s trashing of their New York hotel room and an American game show called *Gimme the Money You Bastard, Or I’ll Strangle You*, among other things. Reprinted on the back cover of the *Monty Python Live at City Center* album.

203 July 1975

After Dark. Magazine (U.S.)—“Films: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*” by Norma McLain Stoop, p. 85. Stoop writes, “If this sort of inspired idiocy is your cup of tea, your cup will run over. . . . *Holy Grail* is an insanely hilarious, iconoclastic garland of giggles that debunks everything from legends to opening credits to itself with light-hearted savagery.”

204 July 1975

Vogue. Magazine (U.S.)—“Monty Python Exposed” by L. Lerman, pp. 82-83. Good Python article, with photos.

205 July 25, 1975

The Christian Science Monitor. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Film: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*” by David Sterritt, p. 22. Sterritt writes,

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“...happily, crazily ridiculous... I found some of it—well, silly—but much of it is very funny.”

206 Fall 1975

The Album of the Soundtrack of the Trailer of the Film of Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Record(LP)—Charisma/CAS 1103 (U.K.), Arista/AL 4050 (U.S.). Film soundtrack, with a good deal of original material. Includes: “Executive Announcements,” “Live at the Classic, Silbury Hill,” “Premiere of Film, Live Broadcast from London,” “Bring Out Your Dead,” “Political Peasant,” “The Test of a Witch,” “A Professional Logician,” “Camelot,” “God,” “The French Taunter,” “Bomb Threat,” “The Story of the Film So Far,” “The Tale of Sir Robin,” “The Knights Who Say ‘Ni’,” “Marilyn Monroe,” “Swamp Castle,” “Tim the Enchanter,” “Great Performances,” “Holy Hand Grenade,” “Sir Kenneth Clark” and “French Taunter Again.” Recorded and produced at Sunrise Music and Recording Ltd. by Andre Jacquemin, Dave Howman, **Michael Palin**, **Terry Jones**, **Terry Gilliam**; original film soundtrack recorded by Garth Marshall and mixed by Hugh Strain.

207 September 1975

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—“Monty Python’s Flying Circus,” pp. 184–85. An interview/article on Monty Python.

208 September 19–October 24, 1975

The first series of *Fawlty Towers* is aired. The legendary BBC situation comedy stars **John Cleese** as Basil Fawlty, the hilariously rude owner of a Torquay hotel with the ability to turn a small problem into a major catastrophe. This series consists of six shows, and also features **Cleese**’s wife and writing partner Connie Booth as Polly the maid, Prunella Scales as the always-in-control Sybil Fawlty, and Andrew Sachs as the abused Spanish waiter. **Cleese** and Booth created the show after he had finished with Python and they were eager to write together. It has become **Cleese**’s most popular and successful non-Python effort.

209 September 19, 1975

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). “A Touch of Class.” Basil, who wants to attract a higher class of clientele to the hotel, is delighted when a Lord Malbury checks in. He is given the royal treatment by Basil until it is discovered that the guest is a confidence trickster. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Michael Gwynn, Robin Ellis, Ballard Berkeley, Martin Wyldeck, David Simeon, Terence Conoley,

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Lionel Wheeler; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

210 September 26, 1975

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "The Builders." While he and Sybil are away, Basil hires O'Reilly, an amateur builder, to do some construction on the hotel, against strict orders of Sybil. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Ballard Berkeley, David Kelly, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, James Appleby, George Lee, Michael Cronin, Michael Halsey; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

211 October 1975

The third series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* begins running on PBS stations in the U.S.

212 October 1975

Seventeen. Magazine (U.S.)—"Read This at Your Own Risk" by Edwin Miller, pp. 104-05 + . Good overview of Monty Python that spotlights the individual members as well as the group.

213 October 2, 1975

The Christian Science Monitor. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Monty Python Invades U.S. Commercial TV" by Arthur Unger, p. 22. Article on ABC's *The Monty Python Show* and Python humor.

214 October 3, 1975

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "The Wedding Party." After Sybil gives a room to an unmarried couple, Basil tries to throw them out, while being caught in compromising situations with Manuel. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Ballard Berkeley, Yvonne Gilan, Conrad Phillips, Diana King, Trevor Adams, April Walker, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Jay Neill; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

215 October 3, 1975

Wide World of Entertainment (ABC). "The Monty Python Show." A compilation of three Python shows—"The Golden Age of Ballooning," "Mr. Neutron" and "The Most Awful Family in Britain." ABC, needing to fill this 90-minute time slot, bought the rights to the fourth Python series—

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Monty Python's The Meaning of Life. The Pythons (from left: Terry Jones, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle, Michael Palin) meet on the battlefield of Rorke's Drift in the Boer War.

which consists of six half-hour shows — with the intention of running them in two groups of three. But with commercials, there is only 66 minutes of actual programming left.

216 October 6–November 24, 1975

The Selling Line (BBC-2). Series of business-training films from Video Arts Ltd: 1) Who Sold You This, Then?; 2) It's Alright, It's Only a Customer; 3) The Competitive Spirit; 4) In Two Minds; 5) Awkward Customers; 6) More Awkward Customers; 7) I'll Think About It; 8) How Not to Exhibit Yourself. Starring **John Cleese**; written by **John Cleese** and Tony Jay.

217 October 10, 1975

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "The Hotel Inspectors." Hearing that there are some hotel inspectors in the area, Basil gives royal treatment to two guests (one is an annoying spoon seller) whom he believes to be the inspectors. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Bernard Cribbins, James Cossins, Ballard Berkeley, Gilly Flower, Renee

MONTY PYTHON : 1975

Roberts, Geoffrey Morris, Peter Brett; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

218 October 17, 1975

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "Gourmet Night." Basil's grand plan for a gourmet night at the hotel turns into disaster when the new chef gets drunk and falls in love with Manuel. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Andre Maranne, Steve Plytas, Allan Cuthbertson, Ann Way, Richard Caldicot, Betty Huntley-Wright, Ballard Berkeley, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Jeffrey Segal, Elizabeth Benson, Tony Page; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

219 October 24, 1975

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "The Germans." Sybil's in the hospital, leaving Basil to hang a moosehead, organize a fire drill, and host German guests. **Cleese** even does a Python-like silly walk in this hilarious episode. Sixth and last show of the first series. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Ballard Berkeley, Claire Davenport, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Brenda Cowling, Louis Mahoney, John Lawrence, Iris Fry, Willy Bowman, Nick Kane, Lisa Bergmayr, Dan Gillan; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; produced and directed by John Howard Davies.

220 November 1975

Nancy Lewis, Monty Python's American manager, takes a tape of the *Wide World of Entertainment* special (aired October 3 on ABC) which featured heavily-edited Python shows to London to show the group. The Pythons are horrified at the heavy censorship. The 22 minutes of cuts were not made to tighten the shows up or make them funnier, but to remove what the network saw as "offensive" material. The Pythons decide to take ABC to court.

221 November 14, 1975

Lumberjack Song/Spam Song. Record(single) – Charisma/CB 268 (U.K.). "Lumberjack Song" (3:17). Arranged by Fred Tomlinson with the voices and feet of the Fred Tomlinson Mounted Singers and Monty Python; by Monty Python; produced by George "Onothimogen" Harrison.

222 November 22, 1975

Cue. Magazine (U.S.)—“Review: *The Monty Python Matching Tie and Handkerchief*,” p. 55. The reviewer writes, “Both sides of the disc are labeled side two, and one of them has parallel grooves. Depending on where the needle falls, the listener gets either of two programs. Alternatively dry, madcap, outrageous, blase and malignant!”

223 December 1975

Audio. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Column: *The Album ... Holy Grail*” by Jon Tiven, p. 89. Tiven writes, “Python devotees will not be disappointed with this record.”

224 December 15, 1975

Monty Python file suit in Federal District Court to prevent ABC-TV from broadcasting the second *Wide World* compilation of edited Python shows on December 26, claiming that ABC has “substantially altered the artistic nature” of their material “by deleting substantial” portions and that the remaining excerpts do “not truly represent the entertainment talents” of the group.

225 December 19, 1975

Monty Python v. American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. Court Case—**Michael Palin** and **Terry Gilliam** appear at the United States Courtroom in Foley Square, in New York to represent Python in their case against ABC. After viewing ABC’s first installment of *Wide World of Entertainment*, the Pythons have filed a million dollar lawsuit, for unfair competition against their own unedited shows and copyright infringement, and a permanent injunction against ABC. They also applied to the Federal District Court for a temporary injunction preventing the airing of the December 26th show. The judge is Morris E. Lasker; the Pythons’ chief counsel is Robert Osterberg; and ABC’s lawyer is Clarence Fried. After a hearing that goes from morning till night, the judge rules that an injunction preventing the broadcast of the second show would cause ABC to suffer an unreasonable financial loss. Lasker does order, however, that the show carry a disclaimer indicating that the Python episodes have been edited without the approval of the Pythons. The group appealed and, several months later, succeeded in keeping their shows from ever being aired by ABC again, and also established their ownership of the copyright in their scripts.

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226 December 26, 1975

Christmas with Rutland Weekend Television (BBC-2). Christmas special. Starring **Eric Idle**, Neil Innes; written by **Eric Idle**; directed by Andrew Gosling; produced by Ian Keill.

227 December 26, 1975

Wide World of Entertainment (ABC). "The Monty Python Show." A compilation of three Python shows—"Up Your Pavement," "Hamlet" and "Michael Ellis." The show is aired with a three-second disclaimer: "EDITED FOR TELEVISION BY ABC" shown at the beginning.

228 December 31, 1975

Three Men in a Boat (BBC-2). TV film of Jerome K. Jerome's classic account of three men holidaying on the Thames in the 1890s. Starring **Michael Palin**, Tim Curry, Stephen Moore; screenplay by Tom Stoppard; directed by Stephen Frears; produced by Rosemary Hill.

229 1975

Graham Chapman writes more *Doctor* shows with Bernard McKenna and David Sherlock.

230 1975

Radio 5 (BBC Radio 1). Comedy radio series. Written by and starring **Eric Idle**.

231 1975

Who Do You Do? (ITV). **John Cleese** appears on this show.

232 1975

Michael Palin's daughter, Rachel, is born.

233 1975

The Single. Record(Single)—Arista/AS 0130 (U.S.). A promotional single for the *Matching Tie and Handkerchief* album. Includes: "Elephantoplasty," "Minister for Overseas Development" and "Taking in the Terrier."

234 1975

Graham Chapman fills in between acts for "Pink Floyd" at Knebworth.

235 1975

Eric Idle and Lyn Ashley get a divorce.

236 1975

The Rutland Weekend Songbook. Record(LP)—BBC Records/REB 233 (U.K.), ABC/Passport Records/PPSD-98018 (U.S., 1976). Collection of items from the BBC series *Rutland Weekend Television*. Includes: "L'Amour Perdu," "Gibberish," "Wash with Mother," "Say Sorry Again," "The Rutles in 'Rutles for Sale'," "Twenty-Four Hours in Tunbridge Wells," "The Fabulous Bingo Brothers," "In Concrete," "The Children of Rock and Roll," "Startime," "The Song O' the Insurance Men," "Closedown (with Nicholas Parsons)," "Testing," "I Give Myself to You," "Communist Cooking," "Johnny Cash Live at Mrs. Fletchers," "The Old Gay Whistle Test," "Accountancy Shanty," "Football," "Boring," "Good-afternoon," "Disco," "Closedown (with the Two Nobbies)." Written and produced by **Eric Idle** and Neil Innes; musicians appearing: Roger Rettig, John Halsey, Brian Hodgson, Billy Bremner, Zoot Money, Andy Roberts, Dave Richards, Roger Swallow; recorded at The Rutland Weekend Television Centre, Argonaut Studios, and Sunrise Studios, London.

237 January 7, 1976

Tomkinson's Schooldays (BBC-2). Pilot for the *Ripping Yarns* series. The story is set in 1912 at a posh public school called Graybridge where students are nailed to walls and tied in sacks, and where a professional school bully is allowed to have unmarried Filipino women in his room. Starring **Michael Palin**, with **Terry Jones**, Gwen Watford, Ian Ogilvy, John Wentworth, Sarah Grazebrook, Chai Lee, Terence Denville; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Terry Hughes.

238 January 10, 1976

Out of the Trees (BBC-2). A one-shot special made up of Python-like material. There was some talk of it becoming a series, but it never happened. Featuring **Graham Chapman**; written by **Graham Chapman**, Bernard McKenna, Douglas Adams; produced by Bernard Thompson.

239 February 20, 1976

Superspike, Parts 1 and 2. Record(single)—Bradley/7606 (U.K.). "The Superspike Squad," with Bill Oddie and **John Cleese**. Released as part of the International Athletes' Club's new "Superspike" fund-raising campaign. The record is backed by a film starring **Cleese** as a manic

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commentator, with a host of international athletes; shown at Wembley Pool in April. **Cleese** and **Oddie** gave their services free to the I.A.C.

240 March 28, 1976

Terry Jones takes part in a rehearsal, at Jonathan Miller's home in Primrose Hill, for the upcoming Amnesty International benefit.

241 March 29, 1976

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—“Onward and Upward with the Arts: Naughty Bits” by Hendrik Hertzberg, pp. 69–70+. This excellent article is a long and detailed account of the Python v. ABC case; with many examples of the kind of cuts that were made on the *Wide World* specials.

242 April 1976

To Tell the Truth (NBC). **Terry Gilliam** appears as a contestant on this perennial game show. Directed by Lloyd Gross; produced by Bruno Zirato.

243 April 1–3, 1976

A Poke in the Eye (with a Sharp Stick). Stage show—British comedians come together on stage at Her Majesty's Theatre, London in this benefit show for the human-rights organization Amnesty International. Starring **Graham Chapman**, **John Cleese**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin**, Peter Cook, Alan Bennett, Carol Cleveland, Jonathan Miller, Graeme Garden, Barry Humphries, Neil Innes, Jonathan Lynn, Eleanor Bron, John Bird, Bill Oddie, John Fortune, Tim Brooke-Taylor; directed by Jonathan Miller.

244 April 6–May 5, 1976

The Monty Python troupe stays in New York City for a month, performing at Manhattan's City Center. During their stay, the Pythons attend two parties hosted by their record company, Arista. The first is at Orson's, near Central Park; the second is at a theater, the New York Experience, where the guests include Chevy Chase, John Belushi, and Leonard Bernstein.

245 April 14–May 2, 1976

Monty Python Live! Stage show—the Pythons perform at the City Center in New York City for three weeks. They perform many Python classics from television as well as college sketches like “Custard Pie” and “One Man Wrestling,” aided by film and animation (taken mostly from

Pythons in Deutschland). Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**, with Carol Cleveland and Neil Innes; filmed sequences directed by Ian MacNaughton; staged and presented by Monty Python.

246 April 16, 1976

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Stage: Screaming and Intact, *Monty Python Live!*" by Clive Barnes, p. 11. Barnes writes, "Pure adulterated madness. . . Monty Python truly is the snake in the garden of modern Eden—a child of our time, a reptile of truly significant immediacy. . . there is nothing to beat it since Genghis Khan."

247 April 18, 1976

The New York Times Magazine. Magazine (U.S.)—"And Now for Something Completely Different" by Thomas Meehan, pp. 34–36. Good Python article, containing many descriptions of their television sketches.

248 April 19, 1976

John Cleese is named as BBC television personality of the year by the Radio Industries Club.

249 April 21, 1976

Today (NBC). Hosted by Barbara Walters and Jim Hartz. Guests: Monty Python, promoting the City Center show; Mary Carson, Bishop Paul Moore.

250 April 26, 1976

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Theater: Comic Karate" by T. E. Kalem, p. 67. Review of *Monty Python Live!* Kalem writes, "No matter how high the brow or how low, *Monty Python Live!* creases it with jet-propelled mirth."

251 May 1976

Monty Python Live at City Center. Record(LP)—Arista/AL 4073 (U.S.). Recording of some of Python's best bits performed at the City Center in New York. Linked by **Michael Palin**. Includes: "Introduction/The Llama," "Gumby Flower Arranging," "Short Blues (N. Innes)," "Wrestling," "World Forum," "Albatross/Colonel Stopping It," "Nudge Nudge," "Crunchy Frog," "Bruces Song," "Travel Agent," "Camp Judges," "Blackmail," "Protest Song (N. Innes)," "Pet Shop," "Four Yorkshiremen," "Argument Clinic," "Death of Mary Queen of Scots," "Salvation Fuzz" and "Lumberjack Song." Produced by Nancy Lewis.

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- 252** May 1976
The Royal Television Society Programme Awards for 1976. Award Ceremony—**John Cleese** receives the award for Outstanding Creative Achievement for *Fawlty Towers*.
- 253** May 3, 1976
The Pythons appear at Sam Goody's, a record store in Rockefeller Center, New York, promoting their recently released *Live at City Center* LP.
- 254** May 3, 1976
Sherrye Henry (WOR-AM, New York). Radio show—guests: **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin**, promoting the *Live at City Center* LP.
- 255** May 3, 1976
Eric Idle attends *Paul Simon in Concert*, a benefit concert at Madison Square Garden to raise money for the New York Public Library. Phoebe Snow, Jimmy Cliff, The Brecker Brothers, and Chevy Chase also appear.
- 256** May 9, 1976
King Biscuit Flower Hour (WNEW-FM, New York). Radio show—Dave Herman interviews Monty Python, with excerpts from the *Live at City Center* LP. Presented by DIR Broadcasting Corporation.
- 257** Summer 1976
While scouting locations for *Jabberwocky*, **Terry Gilliam** gets the inspiration for his 1985 film *Brazil*. It is at Port Talbot, a steel town in Wales, on a coal dust-covered beach at sunset.
- 258** June 3, 1976
Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Review: Monty Python Lays It on with a Trowel" by Chet Flippo, p. 21. "Random Notes," p. 24. Review of *Monty Python Live!* Includes a photo from the show of George Harrison joining the Pythons in the mounctie chorus. Flippo writes, "Many of the revue's funnier moments are familiar from TV . . . but work just as well on stage. . . Unlike many comedians, their humor can be vulgar without being malicious." There's also a brief Python article, with a photo of **Gilliam**, **Jones** and Clive Davis.

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259 July–September 1976

Jabberwocky, a medieval comedy directed by **Terry Gilliam** and starring **Michael Palin**, is filmed on location in Wales and London, and at Shepperton Studios, England.

260 July 1976

John Cleese learns to drive a car.

261 August 16, 1976

Festival 40 (BBC-2). A special edition of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, and David Gillard interviews **Graham Chapman** about Python.

262 September 1976

The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book. Book—written and edited by **Eric Idle**/Methuen/Two Continents. A collection of material based on **Idle**'s BBC comedy series. The title beneath the dust jacket is *The Wonderful World of Prince Charles*. Includes appearances of Neil Innes and a guest page by **Michael Palin**. Also included is "The Vatican Sex Manual," "The Rutland TV Times," "The Cretin Club," "Who's Who in Rutland," "Rutland Stone," "The Wonderful World of Sex" and "New Publications from Rutland University Press."

263 September 1976

Celebrity. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python: The Jagged Madness of the Flying Circus" by Ned Beaumont, p. 40. Python article, including a talk with **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin**.

264 • October–November 1976

Eric Idle tours Canada promoting *The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book*, after his *Saturday Night Live* appearance.

265 October 2, 1976

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Hosted by **Eric Idle**; with Joe Cocker. **Idle** appears in a "Killer Bees" sketch, a "Rutles" clip, a "Dragnet" send-up, "Baby Conversions," and attempts singing "Here Comes the Sun." Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Chevy Chase, Jane Curtin, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner, Garrett Morris; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

266 October 2, 1976

Eric Idle attends the *Saturday Night* party at the 1/5 restaurant

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on Fifth Avenue following the show. Other guests include Mike Jagger, Ronnie Wood, Jack Nicholson and Paul Simon. **Idle** gives out copies of his new book, *The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book*.

267 October 29, 1976

John Cleese appears at a meeting of business executives in London who are discussing how to improve the quality of their meetings. **Cleese** shows them a recently made Video Arts training film dealing with meeting improvement.

268 November 1976

Esquire. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python's Regards to Broadway—The Wacky Adventures of Seven Men and a Girl on a British Airways Three Week 'Make-U-A-Star' Bargain Holiday" by **Michael Palin**, pp. 80–83. **Michael Palin**'s diary account of Python's visit to America in April to perform at New York's City Center.

269 November 1976

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Vatican Sex Manual" by **Eric Idle**, pp. 134–35. An excerpt from *The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book*.

270 November 1976

Crackerbox Palace. Short film—hilarious promotional film of the George Harrison song, from his new album *Thirty-Three and a Third*. It stars Harrison as a basket case. Directed by **Eric Idle**.

271 November 1976

True Love. Short film—promotional film of the George Harrison song, from his new album *Thirty-Three and a Third*. Directed by **Eric Idle**.

272 November 3, 1976

This Song/Learning How to Love You (George Harrison). Record (single)—Dark Horse/DRC-8294. In "This Song," Harrison's single about the "My Sweet Lord"/"He's So Fine" lawsuit, **Eric Idle** dubs in two arguing voices saying, "Sounds like 'Sugar Pie Honey Bunch'"; "Naw! Sounds more like 'Rescue Me'!"

273 November 12–December 24, 1976

Rutland Weekend Television (BBC-2). The second series of **Eric Idle**'s comedy show. Featuring **Eric Idle**, Neil Innes; written by **Eric Idle**; directed by Andrew Gosling; produced by Ian Keill.

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274 December 1976

The first concerted writing session on *Life of Brian*, originally starting with the title: "Jesus Christ, Lust for Glory."

275 December 1976

Eric Idle spends Christmas in Barbados with *Saturday Night Live* producer Lorne Michaels, who persuades **Idle** to make a TV-film about The Rutles.

276 1976

Pleasure at Her Majesty's. Film – concert film of the 1976 Amnesty International benefit, that also captures the backstage atmosphere. Starring Alan Bennett, John Bird, Eleanor Bron, Tim Brooke-Taylor, **Graham Chapman**, **John Cleese**, Carol Cleveland, Peter Cook, John Fortune, Graeme Garden, **Terry Gilliam**, Barry Humphries, Neil Innes, **Terry Jones**, Jonathan Miller, Bill Oddie, **Michael Palin**; stage show directed by Jonathan Miller; directed by Roger Graef.

277 1976

John Cleese and wife Connie Booth separate.

278 1976

A Poke in the Eye with a Sharp Stick. Record(LP) – Transatlantic/TRA 331 (U.K.). Recording of the 1976 Amnesty stage show featuring **Graham Chapman**, **John Cleese**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin**, Carol Cleveland, Neil Innes, Alan Bennett, John Bird, Eleanor Bron, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Peter Cook, and more. Includes: "A Brief Introduction," "Asp," "Happy, Darling?," "The Last Supper," "Telegram," "Funky Gibbon," "Appeal," "Courtroom," "Portraits from Memory," "You Say Potato," "Baby Talk," "So That's the Way You Like It" and "Lumberjack Song."

279 1976

Terry Jones starts a brewery called Penrhos in Hereford, with Richard Boston.

280 1976

Dr. Fegg's Nasty Book of Knowledge. Book – by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**/Berkeley Medallion/95 pp. American reissue of *Bert Fegg's Nasty Book for Boys and Girls*.

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281 1976

Monty Python's Flying Circus becomes the top-rated TV show in Japan, where it is renamed the *Gay Boys Dragon Show* and followed by a round-table discussion.

282 1976

Python on Song. Record(singles)—Charisma/MP 001 (U.K.). A two-record set containing “Lumberjack Song” (produced by George Harrison), “Spam Song,” “Bruces Song” (from *Drury Lane*) and “Eric the Half-A-Bee.”

283 1976

Terry Jones' son, Bill, is born.

284 1976

Their Finest Hours. Stage plays—two short plays specially written for the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. “Underhill's Finest Hour” deals with a doctor who is more interested in listening to cricket than delivering a baby; “Buchanan's Finest Hour” takes place entirely inside a large crate. Future Python-collaborator Charles McKeown appears in both of them. Written by Michael Palin and Terry Jones.

285 1976

Graham Chapman fills in a bit for “The Who” at Hammersmith Odeon.

286 1976

The Worst of Monty Python. Record(LP)—Buddah Records/BDS 5656-2 (2 record set). A combined reissue of *Another Monty Python Record* and *Monty Python's Previous Record*.

287 January 4–February 15, 1977

The Punch Review (BBC-2). A series from the magazine's contributors; with Robin Bailey and Julian Holloway. Including material by Michael Palin and Terry Jones; produced by Roger Race.

288 January 28, 1977

Midnight Special (NBC). Hosted by Helen Reddy; A fourth anniversary show, with Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam performing “Children's Story” and “Nudge, Nudge,” with a clip of the “Silly Olympics”; produced by Stan Harris.

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289 February 1977

The Strange Case of the End of Civilization As We Know It, a TV film starring **John Cleese**, is shot.

290 February 20, 1977

Live from the Mardi Gras, It's Saturday Night on Sunday (NBC). The Mardi Gras in New Orleans is the setting for this special prime-time edition of the late-night live comedy show. With **Eric Idle**, Henry Winkler, Penny Marshall, Cindy Williams, Buck Henry, Randy Newman; cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtin, Garrett Morris, Bill Murray, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

291 February 25, 1977

Monty Python and the Holy Grail premieres on American television as The CBS Late Movie. The film was accidentally sold to CBS, who cut out much of the film's bad language and blood. When the Pythons regained the rights to the film, they sold it to PBS, who showed it uncut.

292 April 12, 1977

Three Piece Suite (BBC-2). "Every Day in Every Way." The last in a series of playlets starring Diana Rigg. Starring Diana Rigg, **John Cleese**; written by Alan Coren; produced by Michael Mills.

293 April 15, 1977

Jabberwocky—opens in U.S. Film—released by Almi-Cinema 5/A Michael White Presentation/An Umbrella Entertainment Production/101 min. **Terry Gilliam's** first solo-directorial effort, vaguely based on Lewis Carroll's poem, concerns a young cooper's apprentice who ends up saving a medieval kingdom by killing a terrifying monster that's been ravaging the countryside. An astonishingly detailed view of the Middle Ages that places a humorous emphasis on the murkiness and ignorance of the times, through an onslaught of filth, blood, excrement, smoke, dismemberment, gore and everything else grotesque. The fine performances, particularly by **Palin** and Wall, the wonderfully disgusting Jabberwock (designed by Valerie Charlton and Clinton Cavers, following Tenniel's blueprint), and the superb medieval atmosphere make this an impressive work. Starring **Michael Palin** as Dennis Cooper, Max Wall, Harry H. Corbett, John Le Mesurier, Warren Mitchell, Deborah Fallender, Annette Badland, Bernard Bresslaw, John Bird, Neil Innes, Graham Crowden, Paul Curran, **Terry Jones** as a poacher, and **Terry Gilliam** in a cameo; screenplay by Charles

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Alverson and **Terry Gilliam**; directed by **Terry Gilliam**; produced by Sandy Lieberson; Executive Producer: John Goldstone.

294 April 16, 1977

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Jabberwocky—Monster Film with Heart" by Vincent Canby, p. 14. Canby writes, "... the most marvelously demented British comedy to come along since *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* . . . a wickedly literate spoof of everything from *Jaws* through *Ivanhoe* to *The Faerie Queen* . . . The movie's gags are nonstop, both verbal and visual . . . *Jabberwocky* is very funny, yet it looks like an epic."

295 April 23, 1977

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Hosted by **Eric Idle**; with Neil Innes, Jeanette Charles, Alan Price. **Idle** helps raise money to "save Great Britain" in a television sketch, with Charles appearing as Queen Elizabeth II. **Idle** also appears in "The Heavy Wit Championship," "Plain Talk," "Body Language (film)" and "The Nixon Interviews with David Frost," among other sketches. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtin, Garret Morris, Bill Murray, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

296 April 23, 1977

Eric Idle meets American model Tania Kosevich, his future wife, at a party she gave in New York following **Idle's** *Saturday Night Live* appearance.

297 May 1, 1977

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"A Python Comes to Grips with Lewis Carroll" by Leticia Kent, p. D15+. **Terry Gilliam** talks about his life and *Jabberwocky*; from a recent interview with him at the Algonquin.

298 May 8, 1977

An Evening Without Sir Bernard Miles. Stage show—this second Amnesty International benefit show offers a good deal of music, as well as comedy. Starring **John Cleese**, **Terry Jones**, Connie Booth, Julie Covington, Jonathan Miller, Peter Ustinov, Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, The Bowles Brothers; directed by **Terry Jones** and Jonathan Miller.

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299 May 9, 1977

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: **Gilliam** the Questionable" by Richard Schickel, p. 89. Review of *Jabberwocky*. Schickel writes, "**Gilliam** finds it impossible to sustain, let alone develop anything like a consistent comic tone. In the end, the director is mostly making dour social commentary on the society he invented. He is never able to connect it either with our own or with the historical period that apparently inspired him. . . It really is marked-down Pythonism."

300 May 9, 1977

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Current Cinema: *Jabberwocky*" by Penelope Gilliatt, pp. 124-26. Gilliatt writes, "*Jabberwocky* deserves its Lewis Carroll association; he would have rejoiced in its nincompoop wit and the blue-sky reaches of its nonsense. Not often has the rude been so recklessly funny."

301 May 21, 1977

The Nation. Magazine (U.S.)—"Films: *Jabberwocky*" by Robert Hatch, pp. 633-34. Hatch writes, ". . . though I won't pretend to have foreseen every jape and contretemps in *Jabberwocky*, they have about them a sort of retrospective predictability that I found sobering. . . I was pleased by the *Jabberwock* itself. . . Unhappily, the star of the film appeared only in the closing sequences."

302 Summer 1977

All You Need Is Cash, **Eric Idle's** Beatle parody featuring the fictional rock group The Rutles, is filmed in Liverpool, London, New York, and New Orleans.

303 July 1977

The first series of **John Cleese's** *Fawlty Towers* begins playing on public television stations in the U.S.

304 July 1977

The first draft of Monty Python's next film, *Life of Brian*, is completed.

305 August 4, 1977

Circus. Magazine (U.S.)—"Jabberwocky on the Loose" by James Delson, p. 48. An interview with **Terry Gilliam** and **Michael Palin**, with **Gilliam** telling how the monster was done.

306 September 1977

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (book). Book – edited by **Terry Jones**/designed by Derek Birdsall/Methuen. An amazingly comprehensive book on the making of *Holy Grail* that tells a lot about filmmaking itself. It includes the first and final drafts of the script, production notes, daily continuity reports, stills and snapshots taken during filming, **Gilliam** scribbles and animation artwork, correspondence, and a complete statement of the production costs.

307 September 1977

Eric Idle attends The White Party, an elegant lawn party in the Hamptons. It was an all-day affair with more than a hundred guests all wearing white. The party was hosted by Paul Simon and Lorne Michaels of *Saturday Night Live*, and held just before the start of that show's third season.

308 September 18, 1977

The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It (London Weekend Television). A TV-film comedy about the descendants of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson who come up against a descendant of the tricky Moriarty. Starring **John Cleese**, Arthur Lowe, Connie Booth, Ron Moody, Stratford Johns, Joss Ackland, Denholm Elliott, Irene Handl; written by **John Cleese**, Jack Hobbs and Joseph McGrath; directed by Joseph McGrath; produced by Humphrey Barclay.

309 September 20–October 25, 1977

The first series of *Ripping Yarns* is aired. The **Michael Palin-Terry Jones** comedy series affectionately parodies the adventure stories the pair grew up with – tales of British spies, sports heroes, and Indian princes. The first series includes a war story, a murder mystery, and a horror tale, among others.

310 September 20, 1977

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Tomkinson's Schooldays." The pilot show is repeated to begin the first series. Originally aired January 7, 1976. Starring **Michael Palin**, with **Terry Jones**; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Terry Huges.

311 September 27, 1977

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "The Testing of Eric Olthwaite." A spoof of stories about the members of England's mining communities in which a

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young man's parents run away from home because he's so boring. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Barbara New, John Barrett, Anita Carey, Liz Smith, Reg Lye, Petra Markham, Kenneth Colley, Roger Avon, Anthony Smee, Peter Graham; song: "The Ballad of Eric Olthwaite" by Andre Jacquemin and Dave Howman; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Jim Franklin.

312 October 3, 1977

Publishers Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"New Python (Book) a Treat for Both Film and Design Buffs" by Paul Doebler, p. 78+. Good article on the contents and making of the *Monty Python and the Holy Grail (Book)*.

313 October 4, 1977

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Escape from Stalag Luft 112B." P.O.W. Phipps, a stalwart WWI officer, has several plans of escape from a German prison camp, including building an airplane out of 1,400 toilet paper rolls. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Roy Kinnear, John Phillips, Timothy Carlton, David Griffin, Julian Hough, David English, Roland Macleod, Nicholas Day, Hugh Janes, Philip Graham, James Charles, Glen Cunningham, David Machin; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Jim Franklin.

314 October 11, 1977

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Murder at Moorstones Manor." A spoof of Agatha Christie murder mysteries that tells the tale of the wealthy Chidingfold family and their deadly mansion. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Isabel Dean, Iain Cuthbertson, Frank Middlemass, Harold Innocent, Candace Glendenning, Anne Zelda; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Terry Hughes.

315 October 18, 1977

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Across the Andes by Frog." A British explorer, equipped with a legion of frogs, sets out on the first amphibian assault on the Andes. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Denholm Elliott, Don Henderson, Eileen Way, Louis Mansi, Charles McKeown, John White, Alan Leith, Kevin Moran, Brian Nolan; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Terry Hughes.

316 October 21, 1977

The Muppet Show (ATV). **John Cleese** joins Kermit the Frog and

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the other Muppets on their variety show. He takes over the starship Swinetrek and refuses to sing "To Dream the Impossible Dream." Taped in London. Guest-star: **John Cleese**; directed by Philip Casson; produced by Jim Henson.

317 October 25, 1977

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "The Curse of the Claw." A man tries to return a cursed claw to its rightful owners in this gothic tale of Oriental magic. Last show of the first series. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Hilary Mason, Tenniel Evans, Keith Smith, Aubrey Morris, Nigel Rhodes, Judy Loe, Bridget Armstrong, Michael Stainton, Vanessa Furse; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Jim Franklin.

318 November 25, 1977

The Evening Standard. Newspaper (England)—"Fawltly Squash with **Cleese**" by Michael Plummer. Article containing a false report about **John Cleese**, who was then practicing for *The Pro-Celebrity Squash Challenge*, causing him to write a series of letters to the paper's editor.

319 December 1977

The Pro-Celebrity Squash Challenge. Benefit event—**John Cleese** takes part in this pro-celebrity competition being sponsored by Rank Xerox. Other celebrities playing include Tommy Steele, Leonard Rossiter and William Franklyn, and the squash pros include Hiddy Jahan, Bruce Browlee and Mohibullah Khan. Matches are played at Woking Leisure Centre on December 8, at the Heathfield Club, Hampstead on December 13, at Claridges, Manchester on December 22, and the final is played at Wembley on April 25, 1978.

320 December 1977

Graham Chapman stops drinking—cold turkey—and recovers in a hospital, bringing an end to years of alcoholism which had given him the d.t.'s and a failing liver.

321 1977-1980

Sony. Commercials (radio)—**John Cleese** does a series of thirty (very funny) British radio commercials for the Sony Corporation.

322 1977

Jabberwocky. Book—by Ralph Hoover/Pan Books (U.K.). Paperback adaption of the film script written by Charles Alverson and **Terry Gilliam**.

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323 1977

The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It. Book — by **John Cleese**, Jack Hobbs and Joseph McGrath/A Star Book/Shearwater Productions, 128 pp. The script of the London Weekend Television film, with stills from the film. The two editions that are published are the same except that one has a photo on the cover and the other has a drawn cover.

324 1977

Fawlty Towers. Book — by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth/Futura/Contact Publications/oversized paperback, 224 pp. The scripts of “The Builders,” “The Hotel Inspectors” and “Gourmet Night” from the first series. Illustrated with many photos.

325 1977

Mermaid Frolics. Record(LP) — Polydor/2384101. Recording of the 1977 Amnesty show, with skits by **John Cleese** and a song by **Terry Jones**, with Connie Booth, Julie Covington, Jonathan Miller, Peter Ustinov, The Bowles Brothers.

326 1977

The Odd Job, starring, co-written and co-produced by **Graham Chapman**, is filmed on location in London, England and at Shepperton Studios, Shepperton, Middlesex, England.

327 1977

Video Arts films are distributed in the U.S. by Xicom Inc., Tuxedo, New York.

328 1977

Terry Gilliam's daughter, Amy Rainbow, is born.

329 1977

To See Such Fun. Film — 90 min. A compilation of film clips from British screen comedy from 1930 to 1940. Included in the many clips are phone gags, puns, student-teacher skits, wild car rides and men in drag. Starring Peter Sellers, Marty Feldman, Benny Hill, **Eric Idle**, Margaret Rutherford, Alec Guinness, Dirk Bogarde, Spike Milligan, Norman Wisdom, George Formby, Tony Hancock, Charlie Drake; directed by Jon Scofield.

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330 1977

Prince of Denmark. **Graham Chapman** writes for this sitcom starring Ronnie Corbett.

331 1977

Ripping Yarns wins the Broadcasting Press Guild's award for Best Comedy or Light Entertainment Programme of 1977.

332 1977

The Monty Python Instant Record Collection. Record(LP)—Charisma/CAS 1134 (U.K.). A collection of some of Python's best bits. The record cover folds out into a record box. Includes: "Introductions," "Alistair Cooke," "Nudge Nudge," "Mrs. Nigger Baiter," "Constitutional Peasants," "Fish License," "Eric the Half-A-Bee," "Australian Table Wines," "Silly Noises," "Novel Writing," "Elephantoplasty," "How to Do It," "Cherry Orchard," "Oscar Wilde," "Argument Clinic," "French Taunter," "Summarize Proust," "Cheese Shop," "Funerals at Prestatyn," "Camelot," "Word Association," "Bruces," "Dead Parrot" and "Closing."

333 January 7-21, 1978

The Pythons spend two weeks in Barbados in the West Indies to complete the rewrites on *Life of Brian*. They also do some swimming and water-skiing, and are joined by Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall, Peter Rudge, Keith Moon, Alan Price, Des O'Connor and **Idle's** girlfriend Tania Kosevich.

334 Spring 1978

EMI agrees to back *Life of Brian* with a budget of \$4.5 million. **Terry Jones** and **Terry Gilliam** fly off to do some scouting in Tunisia where the film is to be shot while production and costume designs are turned into reality. Shooting is scheduled to begin in April.

335 Spring 1978

EMI withdraws financial backing for *Life of Brian*. The film is saved by George Harrison, of the Beatles, and Denis O'Brien with the formation of Handmade Films.

336 Spring 1978

The Muppet Show, guest-starring **John Cleese**, is shown in the U.S. on NBC-TV.

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337 Spring 1978

Rutlemaniacs International, the official Rutles fan club, is founded by David Rosenbaum, with the help of *Newsday* writer Marvin Kitman and the Warner Bros. publicity department.

338 March 1978

The Rutles: All You Need Is Cash. Record(LP)—Warner/K 56459 (U.K.), Warner Bros./HS 3151 (U.S.). Contains 14 Rutles classics written by Neil Innes. Includes: “Hold My Hand,” “Number One,” “With a Girl Like You,” “I Must Be in Love,” “Ouch!,” “Living in Hope,” “Love Life,” “Nevertheless,” “Good Times Roll,” “Doubleback Alley,” “Cheese and Onions,” “Another Day,” “Piggy in the Middle” and “Let’s Be Natural.” The full-color, twenty-page booklet included with the album highlights the Rutle years with many photos and excerpts from the film. Album/booklet conceived and written by **Eric Idle**; produced by Neil Innes; recorded at Chappell Studios, London.

339 March 1978

Let’s Be Natural/Piggy in the Middle. Record(single)—Warner/K 17180 (U.K.). Single from the Rutles soundtrack album.

340 March 1978

I Must Be in Love/Doubleback Alley. Record(single)—Warner Bros./WBS 8560 (U.S.). Single from the Rutles soundtrack album.

341 March 1978

I Must Be in Love/Cheese and Onions/With a Girl Like You. Record(EP)—Warner/K 17180 (U.K.). A 12-inch promotional EP from the Rutles soundtrack album.

342 March 1978

The Rutles. Record(EP)—Warner Bros./E723 (U.S.). A 12-inch promotional EP on yellow vinyl from the Rutles soundtrack. Includes: “I Must Be in Love,” “Doubleback Alley,” “With a Girl Like You,” “Another Day” and “Let’s Be Natural.”

343 March 22, 1978

All You Need Is Cash (NBC). A hilarious TV film-documentary that spoofs Beatle-mania. It chronicles the rise of the fictional rock group The Rutles (Dirk McQuickly, Ron Nasty, Stig O’Hara and Barry Wom) from their beginnings at the Rat Keller in Hamburg, through their appearance

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on Ed Sullivan, concert at Che Stadium and films (*A Hard Day's Rut* and *Ouch!*), to their breakup and many lawsuits. With excellent cameos by real-life rock legends and *Saturday Night Live* cast members. Repeated on December 10. Starring **Eric Idle**, Neil Innes, Rikki Fataar, John Halsey, **Michael Palin**, George Harrison, Mick Jagger, Paul Simon, Bianca Jagger, John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Gwen Taylor, Ron Wood, Terence Bayler, Henry Woolf, Jeannette Charles; conceived and written by **Eric Idle**; music and lyrics by Neil Innes; directed by Gary Weis and **Eric Idle**; produced by Gary Weis and Craig Kellem; Executive Producer: Lorne Michaels.

344 March 27, 1978

All You Need Is Cash (BBC-2) is shown in England. Repeated on May 27. Besides the U.S. and Great Britain, the film is sold to Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Japan, Iceland, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

345 March 27, 1978

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Television: Help" by Frank Rich, p. 102. Review of *All You Need Is Cash*. Rich writes, "*All You Need Is Cash*, a frantic spoof of Beatlemania, is 90 minutes long and has about three genuine laughs. . . *Cash* is an invitation to take a nap . . . it's just British undergraduate silliness. . . The four Rutles are virtually indistinguishable, and their performances are morbidly charmless."

346 March 27, 1978

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Television: And Now, Rutlemania" by Harry F. Waters, p. 78. Review of *All You Need Is Cash*. Waters writes, ". . . a take-off on the Beatle legend that, wondrously enough, is almost as much fun as the original. . . As a spoof of Beatlemania, *All You Need Is Cash* will appeal primarily to those who have acquired the taste for a peculiarly British brand of zaniness. . . But as a send-up of the entire TV documentary form, and that's really its primary target, the special should tickle just about everyone."

347 April 8, 1978

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Host: **Michael Palin**; with Eugene Record. **Palin** appears in the sketch "Nerd Piano Lessons," among others. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtain, Garret Morris, Bill Murray, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

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348 May 1978

While Dan Aykroyd and Rosie Shuster are staying at **Eric Idle's** house in London, **Idle** suggests they go visit George Harrison at his castle. When they arrive, it turns out that Harrison's father had died that day, but he graciously insists they stay anyway.

349 Summer 1978

Snavelly (ABC). The pilot for a series based on **John Cleese's** BBC comedy *Fawlty Towers*. Viacom bought the format rights to the BBC show, but after the failure of this pilot, the series never comes about. Starring Harvey Korman.

350 Summer 1978

Terry Jones writes *Fairy Tales* for his daughter Sally, published for Christmas 1981.

351 August 1978

John Cleese and Connie Booth get a divorce.

352 August 1978

Kim Howard Johnson interviews **John Cleese** at his Holland Park home and **Graham Chapman** at his Highgate, London home for vol. 3 of his publication *The Complete Monty Python*.

353 Fall 1978

The Odd Job. Book—by Bernard McKenna and Colin Bostock-Smith/Arrow Books (U.K.)/205 pp. Novelization of the film starring **Graham Chapman**.

354 September 7, 1978

Keith Moon, drummer for The Who and good friend of **Graham Chapman**, dies from an overdose of the prescription sedative Haminevrin at the age of 31. He was set to do some acting in *Life of Brian*, which starts filming in only a week.

355 September 16–November 12, 1978

Monty Python's Life of Brian, the group's third film about a man in biblical times who is mistaken for a messiah, is filmed entirely on location in Tunisia; a 41-day shoot. **Terry Jones** directs and **Terry Gilliam** is the production designer.

356 October 1978

The Odd Job—released in England. Film—released by Columbia Pictures/86 min. Black comedy based on a television play by Bernard McKenna about an unsuccessful suicide who hires an odd job man to finish the job. The film had suffered almost from the start. Rock star Keith Moon was going to play the odd job man but had commitments with The Who, and Cliff Owen, who was set to direct it, had to be replaced when he broke a thigh. The film is not given much of a release. Starring **Graham Chapman** as Arthur Harris, David Jason, Diana Quick, Simon Williams, Edward Hardwicke, Bill Paterson, Michael Elphick, Stewart Harwood, Carolyn Seymour, Joe Melia, George Innes; screenplay by Bernard McKenna and **Graham Chapman**; directed by Peter Medak; produced by Mark Forstater and **Graham Chapman**; Executive Producers: Tony Stratton Smith and Steve O'Rourke.

357 October 1978

Animations of Mortality. Book—by **Terry Gilliam** with Lucinda Cowell/Methuen (U.K.), Routledge, Chapman and Hall (U.S., 1979). A wonderful collection of **Gilliam's** artwork beautifully reproduced in oversized color. Includes a great deal of his Python artwork, as well as some of his earlier and later works. Brian the Badger takes the reader through the animation process.

358 November–December 1978

Post-production on *Life of Brian* is done in London. The last scene shot is a sequence where **Graham Chapman** is inside a spaceship. To film it, **Chapman** flew from L.A. to England where, for tax purposes, he could stay for only twenty-four hours, eight of which he spent in a box being shaken about.

359 November 30, 1978

Ripping Yarns. Book—by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**/Methuen (U.K.), Pantheon (U.S., 1979)/188 pp. The scripts of the six shows from the first series: "Tomkinson's Schooldays," "The Testing of Eric Olthwaite," "Escape from Stalag Luft 112B," "Murder at Moorstones Manor," "Across the Andes by Frog" and "The Curse of the Claw." The book is illustrated with many stills from the shows.

360 December 9, 1978

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Host: **Eric Idle**; with Kate Bush. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtin, Garret Morris, Bill Murray,

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Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

361 1978

Penthouse. Magazine (U.S.)—"Stiff Upper Lips and Surgical Goods: How **Michael Palin** Revived the British Empire" by Mick Brown, Vol. 13 No. 8, p. 22 (International Edition only). Good article concentrating on **Michael Palin** and *Ripping Yarns*.

362 1978

Eric Idle works on producing his own version of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

363 1978

Ging Gang Goolie/Mr. Sheene. Record(single)—EMI/2852 (U.K.). Single from Dirk and Stig (**Eric Idle** and Rikki Fataar) of The Rutles.

364 1978

The Complate Monty Python: Vol. 1. Book—written and published by Kim Howard Johnson. Includes: Origins of Monty Python, The First Thirteen Shows, Python on Record, The Official Monty Python Quiz, The **Michael Palin** Interview and Profiles of **Terry Gilliam** and **Terry Jones**, with a brief autobiography of **Jones**.

365 1978

The Complate Monty Python: Vol. 2. Book—written and published by Kim Howard Johnson. Includes: More Python on Record, A Talk with BBC Producer Barry Took, Python! Live on Stage, The Second Thirteen Shows, The **Terry Gilliam** Interview, A Chat with Charles Alverson, Profiles of **Michael Palin** and **Eric Idle**, The *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* Word Search, Python on Film, and a look at *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

366 1978

T'anks for the Mammaries. Record(LP)—Kornyfone/bootleg. This bootleg anthology collection includes "Get Up and Go" by The Rutles.

367 1978

All You Need Is Cash. Record(LP)—Rut 46/bootleg. Bootleg album that features the entire TV program, and includes the songs: "Get Up and Go," "Goose Step Momma," "Made for Each Other (Between Us),"

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“Looking Good” and “You Need Feet,” which are not included on the official album.

368 1978

Indian Rope Trick (a.k.a. *Spiritual Regeneration*). Record(LP)—bootleg. This Beatles bootleg includes “Cheese and Onions” (The Rutles) which is credited as a John Lennon outtake. Also on the album is “The Pirate Song,” an original song by George Harrison and **Eric Idle**.

369 1978

The Rutles: All You Need Is Cash. Nearly 100,000 albums sold in the U.S. It received a silver disc in England for sales of more than £150,000, and the album is nominated for a Grammy award for Best Comedy Recording of 1978.

370 1978

General Accident. Commercials (TV)—**John Cleese** appears in a series of British ads for the General Accident Insurance Company. In one ad, **Cleese** and another man hit each other when they try to back their cars into the same parking spot. While the other man becomes furious, the insured **Cleese** stays calm and walks off with a blonde.

371 1978

Graham Chapman learns to drive a car.

372 1978

25 Years of Recorded Comedy. Record(LP)—Warner Bros. A comedy compilation including “The Argument Clinic” by Monty Python.

373 January–March 20, 1979

The second series of the **John Cleese**-**Connie Booth** situation comedy *Fawlty Towers*, consisting of six shows, is taped.

374 January 27, 1979

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Host: **Michael Palin**; with The Doobie Brothers, Father Guido Sarducci. **Palin** appears in the sketches “More Nerd Piano Lessons” and “Miles Cowperthwaite, Part One,” among others. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtain, Garrett Morris, Bill Murray, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

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375 February 19–March 26, October 25, 1979

The second series of *Fawlty Towers* is aired. This last series consists of six shows, making twelve episodes of classic comedy altogether.

376 February 19, 1979

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). “Communication Problems.” When Basil secretly bets on the horses and a senile old woman staying at the hotel loses some money, great complications arise. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Joan Sanderson, Ballard Berkeley, Brian Hall, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Robert Lankesheer, Johnny Shannon, Bill Bradley, George Lee, Mervyn Pasco; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; directed by Bob Spiers; produced by Douglas Argent.

377 February 26, 1979

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). “The Psychiatrist.” Basil becomes nervous when a psychiatrist checks into the hotel, and gets caught in compromising situations with a young Australian girl staying there. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Nicky Henson, Basil Henson, Elspet Gray, Ballard Berkeley, Brian Hall, Luan Peters, Aimee Delamain, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Imogen Bickford-Smith; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; directed by Bob Spiers; produced by Douglas Argent.

378 Spring 1979

Eric Idle spends five weeks in a suite in Los Angeles, working day and night, to put together the elaborate book of Monty Python’s upcoming film, *Life of Brian*.

379 March 5, 1979

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). “Waldorf Salad.” Basil must prepare dinner for a demanding American who checks in after 9 p.m. when the kitchen is closed. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Bruce Boa, Claire Nielson, Norman Bird, Stella Tanner, Terence Conoley, June Ellis, Brian Hall, Anthony Dawes, Ballard Berkeley, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Beatrice Shaw, Dorothy Frere; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; directed by Bob Spiers; produced by Douglas Argent.

380 March 12, 1979

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). “The Kipper and the Corpse.” When a

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guest dies in his sleep, Basil tries to prepare the room for the next occupant, but moving the body proves more difficult than he thought. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Geoffrey Palmer, Mavis Pugh, Richard Davies, Elizabeth Bensen, Ballard Berkeley, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Brian Hall, Derek Royle, Robert McBain, Pamela Buchner, Raymond Mason, Charles McKeown, Len Marten; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; directed by Bob Spiers; produced by Douglas Argent.

381 March 26, 1979

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "The Anniversary." Basil plans an elaborate surprise anniversary party for Sybil, but problems begin when she unexpectedly leaves the hotel. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, Ken Campbell, Una Stubbs, Robert Arnold, Pat Keen, Roger Hume, Denyse Alexander, Christine Shaw, Ballard Berkeley, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, Brian Hall; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; directed by Bob Spiers; produced by Douglas Argent.

382 March 26, 1979

Publishers Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"PW Interviews: **Michael Palin**" by Sally A. Lodge, pp. 6-7. **Palin** talks about Monty Python and the *Ripping Yarns* book just released in the U.S.

383 May 1979

Feature. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python's **Chapman**: Jesus Is Just All Right" by R. Lacayo, p. 17 + . **Graham Chapman** talks about *Life of Brian*.

384 May 1979

The BBC entry at the 19th Golden Rose Festival of Montreux is the *Fawlty Towers* episode "The Kipper and the Corpse," which is shown unsubtitled.

385 May 11, 1979

Good Morning America (ABC). Guests: **Michael Palin**, Howard Jarvis, Marian Mahoney.

386 May 12, 1979

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Host: **Michael Palin**; with James Taylor, Father Guido Sarducci. **Palin** appears in the sketch "Miles

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Cowperthwaite, Part Two," among others. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtin, Garrett Morris, Bill Murray, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

387 Summer 1979

The Complete Monty Python: Vol. 3. Book – written and published by Kim Howard Johnson. Includes: Python on Record Part Three, The Third Thirteen Shows, More Python on Television, Python Ink, Python in Magazines, The **Graham Chapman** Interview, The Rutles, Profiles of **Chapman** and **John Cleese**, Video Arts Films by **Cleese**, *Fawlty Towers* Index, The **John Cleese** Interview, Bits of *Brian*, The *Ripping Yarns* Book, Monty Python Puzzle, The Carol Cleveland Interview, Neil Innes and The Bonzo Dog Band, and The Fourth Season.

388 June 2, 1979

Two previews of *Monty Python's Life of Brian* are shown in L.A. this weekend.

389 June 16–22, 1979

Radio Times. Magazine (England) – “Monty Python: They Think Therefore They Are” Back Feature. Article on Monty Python’s 10th anniversary and the BBC documentary *The Pythons*.

390 June 20, 1979

The Pythons (BBC-1). A documentary film celebrating the tenth anniversary of Monty Python, the “best known British comedy group in the world.” It was filmed last year in Tunisia on the set of *Life of Brian*, where the Pythons talk about each other and the origins of the group. Includes some vintage Python clips. Produced and narrated by Iain Johnstone.

391 June 27–30, 1979

The Secret Policeman's Ball. Stage show – The 1979 Amnesty International Comedy Gala at Her Majesty's Theatre, London. Organized by **John Cleese**. Starring **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin**, **Terry Jones**, Rowan Atkinson, Ken Campbell, Peter Cook, Pete Townsend, John Williams, Eleanor Bron, Tom Robinson, Neil Innes, Billy Connolly, John Fortune; stage direction by **John Cleese**.

392 June 29, 1979

The Times. Newspaper (London) – “Theatre: Python Humour Falls a Bit Flat on Stage” by John Barber, p. 15. Review of *The Secret*

Policeman's Ball, with a photo of **Palin** and **Cleese** in the "Cheese Shop" sketch. Barber writes, "...I could have done with more satire and less dead-pan zaniness... It is curious to see how much these comics depend on absurdist humour, now quite out of date in the theatre."

393 July 8, 1979

The Washington Post. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Funny 'Fawlties' of British TV" by Bart Mills, sec. L, p. 2. A talk with **John Cleese** in London about *Fawlty Towers*.

394 August 1979

The British Board of Film Censors passes *Monty Python's Life of Brian* without cuts, awarding it an AA certificate, which means it is restricted to those over 14. In the U.S., despite religious protests, Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America, grants the film an "R" rating, allowing those under 17 to see it if accompanied by an adult. Valenti points out that "the function of the rating system is not to place values or take a moral position, but to place the responsibility for guidance on parents."

395 August 17, 1979

Monty Python's Life of Brian—world premiere in New York. Film—released by Warner Bros-Orion Pictures/Handmade Films/91 min. Monty Python's most controversial film will probably offend those who see it as a comedic assault aimed at Christ. But it is really aimed at his followers. It's an attack, not on faith, but on closed minds not prepared to question faith. The film follows Brian of Nazareth (**Chapman**), a contemporary of Christ, through many hilarious adventures. Includes: "Mandy at the Manger," "Big Nose," "Stoning," "The Ex-Leper," "Day at a Roman Amphitheatre," "Romans Go Home," "Peoples Front of Judea Meeting," "The Raid on Pilate's Palace," "Ben, the Old Prisoner," "Pontius Pilate," "A Passing Spaceship," "Harry the Haggler," "Brian, the Prophet," "Brian, the Messiah," "Morning Masses," "Pilate's Passover Address," "Biggus Dickus/Nisus Wettus/Mr. Cheeky" and "The Crucifixion." Written and featuring **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Terence Baylor, Carol Cleveland, Ken Colley, Neil Innes, Charles McKeown, Gwen Taylor, John Young, Sue Jones-Davis, Peter Brett, John Case, Chris Langham, Andrew MacLachlan, Bernard McKenna, Spike Milligan; songs: "Brian" music by Andre Jacquemin and David Howman, "Bright Side of Life" music by **Eric Idle**; design and animation by **Terry Gilliam**; directed by **Terry Jones**; produced by John Goldstone; Executive Producers: George Harrison and Denis O'Brien.



Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*. The fattest man in the world (Terry Jones) orders a light snack of everything on the menu.

396 August 17, 1979

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Film: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Vincent Canby, p. C15. Canby writes, "It is the foulest-spoken biblical epic ever made, as well as the best-humored—a nonstop orgy of assaults, not on anyone's virtue, but on the funnybone."

397 August 26, 1979

Three Jewish organizations—the Rabbinical Alliance of America, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, the Rabbinical Council of Syrian and Near Eastern Sephardic Communities of America—representing 1,000 rabbis, denounce *Life of Brian* as "blasphemous" and "a crime against religion." Rabbi Abraham B. Hecht, speaking for the organizations, says that the film "is a vicious attack upon Judaism and the Bible and a cruel mockery of the religious feelings of Christians as well" and that "its continued showing could result in serious violence."

398 August 27, 1979

In response to the recent protests to *Life of Brian*, Warner Bros., the film's distributor, issues a statement: "The public has been enthusiastic, having flocked to every theater now playing the picture. It is entertainment and, to many, *Monty Python's Life of Brian* is an enjoyable movie experience. It was never our intention to offend anyone's beliefs, and we certainly regret having done so. The film is a satire, it is a spoof, and it should be viewed in that context."

399 August 27, 1979

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Current Cinema: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Veronica Geng, p. 74. Geng writes, "It is fun to see the troupe in Biblical costumes. Their stock British policemen, provincials, salesmen, housewives, and politicians transpose nicely to ancient Judeans and Romans. . . *Life of Brian* is of the sustained variety, and it is somewhat oversustained."

400 August 27, 1979

The Village Voice. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Film: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by J. Hoberman, p. 46. Hoberman writes, "*Brian* should delight Python addicts . . . the finale may be the most transcendently tasteless musical number since Mel Brook's 'Springtime for Hitler'."

401 August 28, 1979

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York deplores *Life of Brian* as "a mockery of Christ's life." Spokesman Eugene V. Clark says, "The picture holds the person of Christ up to comic ridicule and is, for Christians, an act of blasphemy." Rev. Kenneth Jadoff, a second spokesman for the archdiocese, says, "This is the most blasphemous film I have ever seen and it pretends to be nothing else."

402 Fall 1979

Monty Python's Life of Brian. Record(LP)—Warner Bros./K 56751 (U.K.), BSK 3396 (U.S.). The original soundtrack recording, which includes the songs "Brian" and "Bright Side of Life." Eric Idle helps Graham Chapman link the bits together. Produced by Eric Idle and Graham Chapman.

403 Fall 1979

Monty Python's Life of Brian. Book—Ace Books (U.S.). A small-size paperback containing the complete film script.

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404 Fall 1979

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life/Brian. Record(single)—Warner Bros./K 56751 (U.K.). Single off the *Life of Brian* soundtrack.

405 Fall 1979

Monty Python Examines the Life of Brian. Record(LP)—Warner Bros./WBMS 110. Promo album. Dave Herman interviews **Michael Palin**, **Graham Chapman**, **Terry Jones**, **Eric Idle** and George Harrison. Produced by Drea Besh; a Monumental Blunders Production.

406 Fall 1979

Monty Python tour the U.S. promoting their new film, *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

407 September 3, 1979

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: Brian Cohen of Nazareth" by David Ansen, pp. 65–66. Review of *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. Ansen writes, ". . . this British troupe of zanies has made its most sustained movie yet. . . *Life of Brian* fortunately skips along at such a frenzy that the lulls are barely noticed. Though the pious will blanch, Pythonmaniacs should find this film a treasure-trove of unborn-again humor."

408 September 15, 1979

America. Magazine (U.S.)—"Current Comment: Parody and Pluralism" p. 102. Small article on the *Life of Brian* controversy.

409 September 16, 1979

A variety of religious groups gather to protest *Life of Brian* outside the Warner Communications building at the Rockefeller Center in New York, and then march on Cinema One.

410 September 17, 1979

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: Bright Side" by Richard Schickel, p. 101. Review of *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. Schickel writes, "The Pythons' assault on religion is as intense as their attack on romantic chivalry in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. . . The movie is occasionally undone by the Pythons' resistance to comic coherence. . . Adolescents are flocking to *Brian*, as if it were another *Animal House*. But it is a richer, funnier, more daring film—too good to be left solely to the kids."

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411 September 19, 1979

Monty Python's Life of Brian begins being shown across the U.S. by the General Cinema Corporation.

412 September 22, 1979

The New Republic. Magazine (U.S.)—"Films: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Stanley Kauffmann, p. 40. Kauffmann writes, "I read the script after seeing the film and doubled up all over again. . . Even when I wasn't laughing, I was happy, which to me is a sign of really good comedy."

413 October 4, 1979

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Coming Attractions: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Kurt Loder, p. 29. Small article on the film's controversy.

414 October 6, 1979

The Nation. Magazine (U.S.)—"Films: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Robert Hatch, p. 314. Hatch writes, ". . . they (Monty Python) have developed a few routines which they think irresistibly risible and they hammer away on them at length. . . I won't object on religious grounds. But there are still problems of taste, to say nothing of humor."

415 October 10-24, 1979

The second series of *Ripping Yarns*, the **Michael Palin-Terry Jones** send-up of stories considered typical of British literature and culture, is aired. This last series consists of only three shows.

416 October 10, 1979

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Whinfrey's Last Case." A spy adventure featuring suave Gerald Whinfrey, who must save Britain from Germany's plans to instigate WWI, even though it coincides with his vacation. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Maria Aitken, Antony Carrick, Edward Hardwicke, Richard Hurndull, Jack May, Gerald Sim, Ann Way, Michael Sharvell-Martin, Charles McKeown, Anthony Woodruff, Roy Sampson, Phillip Clayton-Gore, Patrick Bailey, Steve Conway; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Alan J. W. Bell.

417 October 17, 1979

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Golden Gordon." The story of a loyal soccer supporter in the 1930s whose team hasn't won a game in six years. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Gwen Taylor, Bill Fraser, Teddy Turner, David

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Leland, John Berlyne, Ken Kitson, Roger Sloman, David Ellison, Colin Bennett, Matthew Scurfield, Charles McKeown, Margot Lawson, Danny O'Dea, Charles Marcelle, Gillian McClements, Peter Graham, members of Salts, Saltaire Football Club, Yorkshire and **John Cleese**; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Alan J. W. Bell.

418 October 18, 1979

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Persecution of *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Paul Gambaccini, p. 52 + . Great article on *Life of Brian*. The Pythons talk about the film, the controversy surrounding it, and the history of the group.

419 October 20, 1979

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Hosted by **Eric Idle**; with Bob Dylan, Andy Kaufman, Father Guido Sarducci. **Idle** does his opening monologue while laying on a stretcher. Cast: Jane Curtin, Garrett Morris, Bill Murray, Laraine Newman, Gilda Radner; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Lorne Michaels.

420 October 24, 1979

Ripping Yarns (BBC-2). "Roger of the Raj." This spoof of Rudyard Kipling-type stories traces the early years of Roger Bartlesham in 20th-century India. Last show of the series. Starring **Michael Palin**, with Richard Vernon, Joan Sanderson, Roger Brierley, John Le Mesurier, Jan Francis, Allan Cuthbertson, David Griffin, Charles McKeown, David Warwick, Michael Stainton, Ken Shorter, Douglas Hinton, Dorothy Frere; written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; produced and directed by Jim Franklin.

421 October 25, 1979

Fawlty Towers (BBC-2). "Basil the Rat." Manuel's pet hamster turns out to be a rat and becomes loose in the hotel, just before the health inspector arrives. Last show of the series. Starring **John Cleese**, Prunella Scales, Andrew Sachs, Connie Booth, John Quarmby, Ballard Berkeley, Brian Hall, Gilly Flower, Renee Roberts, David Neville, Sabina Franklyn, James Taylor, Melody Lang, Stuart Sherwin; written by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth; music by Dennis Wilson; directed by Bob Spiers; produced by Douglas Argent.

422 October 26, 1979

National Review. Magazine (U.S.)—"Didja Hear the One

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About . . . ?” by William F. Buckley, Jr., p. 1387. Article on *Life of Brian*, in which *Time* movie reviewer Richard Schickel is criticized for saying in his review of the film that adults occasionally need to have their basic premises offended.

423 October 26, 1979

Commonweal. Magazine (U.S.)—“Screen: Belief as Banana Peel” by Colin L. Westerbeck, Jr., pp. 596–97. Review of *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*. Westerbeck writes, “. . .that it treats the life of Christ with indifference. His life is used as an expedient here, a story in the public domain which is therefore convenient as a hook to hang the satire on. The lack of malice is worse than the malice itself would have been because the movie, as it is, is funny. Malice would have been a bore.”

424 October 27, 1979

John Cleese turns 40.

425 October 28, 1979

Sunday Spectacular (NBC). **Graham Chapman** appears on this show, with *Life of Brian* clips.

426 October 29, 1979

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—“Monty Python’s **Graham Chapman** Doesn’t Walk on Water, and the Devout Call His *Brian* Spoof All Wet” by Sue Reilly, p. 50 + . Article on **Chapman**’s life and the *Brian* controversy.

427 November 1979

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Gospel According to Monty Python” by Reg Potterton, p. 161 + . Good interview with all six Pythons on *Life of Brian*. Included with the interview is a great illustration of the Pythons by Kinuko Y. Craft.

428 November 1979

Monty Python’s Life of Brian/MONTYPYTHONSCRAPBOOK. Book—edited by **Eric Idle**/designed by Basil Pao/Methuen (U.K.), Fred Jordan Books-Grosset and Dunlap (U.S.)/oversize, 128 pp. The first half of this elaborate book of the film contains the complete film script, which includes the “Pilate’s Wife” and “Otto” scenes cut from the film. *MONTYPYTHONSCRAPBOOK* is made up of photographs, **Gilliam** artwork, letters, cartoon strips and unused material from the first and second drafts of

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the film. Includes: "About the Book," "How It All Began—The Story of Brian," "How It All Kept on Beginning . . .," "How It Really All Began," "Heron Bay Diaries—by **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin**," "Monty Python's First Ten Years—A Tribute by the Queen," "What to Take on Filming—by A. Film Star," "Brian Meets the Psychopath," "Python Cinema Quiz—Introduced by Lewis Frogg," "Dear Lorne," "Python Cinema Quiz—by Olaf Odd," "Brian Feeds the Multitude—Overleaf," "'Forced Sex, I Say'," "What to Do If You Win . . . a Granny," "Research, Costume and Makeup," "Big Nose," "Sharing—Sharing a Caravan with **John Cleese**—by **Michael Palin**," "The **Gilliam** Collection of Famous Film Titles," "Two Creatures," "An Intergalactic Struggle Set in 33 A.D.," "Chap. XXI," "The Healed Looney," "Jerusalem Advocate—Sports," "Otto," "**Cleese** v. The Evening Standard," "Solidarity," "The Pythons," "A Sermon by Brian Cohen," "The Dead Sea Photos: How They Were Discovered," "Solly and Sarah," "Doc **Chapman's** Medical Page," "Pythons in the Nude," "Monty Python's Flying Circus—An Appreciation by Graham Greene," "The Bruces' Philosophers Song," "A Letter About the Title," "Public School," "Martyrdom of St. Brian," "All Things Dull and Ugly," "Monty Python's Life of Brian—Art and Credits," "Cast," "What to do After the Movie," "A Message to the World" and "How to Increase the Value of Your Book."

429 November 1979

Monty Python's Life of Brian. Commercial (radio)—Muriel Cleese, **John's** mother, reads off a heartrending appeal in which she reveals that she is 102 years old and lives in an old age home at her son's expense, and that unless the public keeps him wealthy by seeing his new film, she will be forced out on the streets and die. Written by **John Cleese**.

430 November 1979

Parents. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: *Monty Python's Life of Brian*" by Judith Ripp, p. 132. Ripp writes, "Though this off-the-wall satire by the Monty Python group may offend some with its seeming irreverence, others will enjoy the free-wheeling spirit, the sense of fun, the high-level intelligence and the debunking of hypocritical religious, political and social conventions."

431 November 1979

Terry Gilliam abandons the new film script (*Brazil*) he had recently been writing when suddenly struck by a different film idea (*Time Bandits*).

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- 432** November 1979
After Dark. Magazine (U.S.)—“More Films: *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*” by Martin Mitchell, p. 78. Mitchell writes, “The film’s humor is joyously outrageous . . . this is the best of the Python pictures, refreshingly and comprehensively irreverent.”
- 433** November 1979
Monty Python’s Life of Brian opens in London.
- 434** November 1979
The first series of the **Michael Palin-Terry Jones** comedy *Ripping Yarns* begins playing on Public Television Stations in the U.S.
- 435** November 5–9, 1979
Hollywood Squares (Synd.). **Graham Chapman** makes a week-long appearance on this game show.
- 436** November 5, 1979
Film 79 (BBC-1). Includes a preview of *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*.
- 437** November 9, 1979
Friday Night, Saturday Morning (BBC-2). Presented by Tim Rice. A heated discussion between **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin**, Malcolm Muggeridge, and Dr. Mervyn Stockwood (Bishop of Southwark) about *Life of Brian*. Directed by John Burrowes; produced by Iain Johnstone.
- 438** November 9, 1979
The Times. Newspaper (London)—“Films: A Fake in the Manger” by Patrick Gibbs, p. 15. Review of *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*. Gibbs writes, “. . .sophisticated schoolboy sort of humour expected of this team . . . it is **Michael Palin** who gets most of the laughs, and most easily, as a Pontius Pilate unable to pronounce his ‘Rs’.”
- 439** November 9, 1979
New Statesman. Magazine (England)—“Films: Cross Purposes” by John Coleman, p. 737. Review of *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*. Coleman writes, “. . .an incorrigible delight . . . this wildest story ever told runs a gamut from fourth-form snook-cocking through inspired, tangential lunacies and fine parodies of the Christ-movie genre right up to high satire.”

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440 November 22, 1979

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Scraps from History's Table" by **Michael Palin**, p. 23. Funny article in the form of excerpts from Puritan Gordon Ottershaw's diary recounting the first Thanksgiving Day.

441 December 1979

Commentary. Magazine (U.S.)—"Tory Wit" by Richard Grenier, pp. 75-79. Good article on *Life of Brian* and the controversy surrounding it.

442 1979

The Secret Policeman's Ball. Record(LP)—Island/ILPS 9601. Recording of the 1979 Amnesty Show featuring **John Cleese**, **Terry Jones**, **Michael Palin**, Peter Cook and Rowan Atkinson. Includes: "Interesting Facts," "How Do You Do It?," "The Names the Game," "Stake Your Claim," "Cheese Shop," "Four Yorkshiremen" and "The End of the World."

443 1979

The Secret Policeman's Ball. Film—Document Films/Amnesty International/91 min. Concert film of the 1979 Amnesty International Comedy Gala. Starring Rowan Atkinson, Ken Campbell, **John Cleese**, Peter Cook, **Michael Palin**, Pete Townshend, John Williams, **Terry Jones**; stage direction by **John Cleese**; directed by Roger Graef; produced by Roger Graef and Thomas Schwalm; Executive Producers: Martin Lewis and Peter Walker.

444 1979

Fawlty Towers. Record(LP)—BBC Records/REB 377. The original television soundtrack of "Communication Problems" and "The Hotel Inspectors." Co-ordinated by John Lloyd, Derek Goom and William Grier-son.

445 1979

Away from It All. Short film—Taylor-Hyde International/Python (Monty) Pictures/13 min. A spoof travelogue, narrated by Nigel Farquar-Bennet (**John Cleese**). Directed by Clare Taylor and **John Cleese**.

446 1979

Not the 9 O'Clock News (BBC-2). Includes a parody of the *Friday Night, Saturday Morning* discussion of *Life of Brian*, in which a film about

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Jesus Christ is accused of being a blasphemous attack on Monty Python. With Rowan Atkinson, Pamela Stephenson, Mel Smith; written by Colin Bostock-Smith.

447 1979

Fawlty Towers Book 2. Book – by **John Cleese** and **Connie Booth/Weidenfeld** and **Nicolson**. Contains the scripts of the remaining three shows from the first series: “A Touch of Class,” “The Wedding Party” and “The Germans.”

448 1979

To Norway: Home of Giants (Nrk-Norwegian Broadcasting Co.). Norwegian Montreux programme. This farcical travelogue examines the eccentricities of Norwegian life, including sports such as skull-bumping; samples of some inedible native delicacies. Hosted by **Norman Fearless (John Cleese)**.

449 Early 1980

Chaucer's Knight: The Portrait of a Medieval Mercenary. Book – by **Terry Jones/Weidenfeld** and **Nicolson** (U.K.), University of Louisiana Press (U.S.)/319 pp. With a great love for Chaucer and for the Middle Ages in general, **Jones** wrote this provocative book on the knight in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. By studying his subject in historical, rather than literary, terms he has concluded that the knight was not the idealized figure of chivalry as normally depicted, but was instead a bloodthirsty, professional killer. A controversial, well-researched and impressive work, written in a very readable style.

450 Early 1980

Terry Gilliam convinces **Michael Palin** to join him in writing a script based on last November's inspiration; the project is given the working title of “*Time Bandits*.”

451 January 26, 1980

Economist. Magazine (England) – “Books: Something Completely Different,” pp. 103–04. Review of *Chaucer's Knight*. The reviewer writes, “Leaving Monty Python far behind him, **Terry Jones** shows himself to be an historian of impressive competence. . . It is a masterly and exciting book.”

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452 March 4–May 27, 1980

The Big Show (NBC). A weekly variety show on a grand scale featuring comedy, singing, dancing and skating. The show has a different pair of hosts each week, along with a regular comedy ensemble. 11 programs. Hosts include: Steve Allen, Gary Coleman, Marie Osmond, Gavin MacLeod, Dean Martin, Tony Randall, Sarah Purcell, Gene Kelly; regulars: **Graham Chapman**, Mimi Kennedy, Charlie Hill, Owen Sullivan, Adolfo Quinones, Joe Baker, Paul Grimm, Edie McClurg, Pamela Myers, Shabba-Doo, The Dick Williams Singers, The David Winters Dancers; directed by Walter C. Miller, Steve Binder, Tony Charmoli; produced by Nick Vanoff.

453 April 1, 1980

Original *Time Bandits* script is completed, written by **Terry Gilliam** and **Michael Palin**.

454 Summer 1980

Time Bandits is filmed throughout the summer at Lee International Studios and on location in England, Wales and Morocco. Shooting is completed just before Monty Python's appearance at the Hollywood Bowl.

455 Summer 1980

The Monty Python troupe spends thirteen weeks writing their next film. They write about an hour's worth of sketches, but have trouble finding a central theme to tie it all together.

456 June 1980

Jonathan Miller directs **John Cleese** as Petruchio in the BBC version of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. **Cleese** spent five weeks rehearsing for the role.

457 June 22, 1980

The Observer. Newspaper (England)—“The Taming of **John Cleese**” by Tom Davies, p. 40. Interview with **Cleese** on his role as Petruchio in BBC's *Shrew*.

458 August 1980

Michael Palin travels 654 miles from Euston, London to Kyle of Lochalsh in Scotland aboard a variety of classic trains. The 4-day train journeys is filmed by the BBC for an episode of *Great Railway Journeys of the World* to be shown later this year.

459 Fall 1980

Monty Python's Contractual Obligation Album. Record(LP)—Charisma/CAS 1152 (U.K.), Arista/AL 9536 (U.S.). This 24-cut album is the first collection of material the Pythons have created expressly for a record, and it relies more on songs than sketches. The album, which the Pythons owed to its American label, Arista, is their first to get into the Top Twenty Chart. Includes: "Sit on My Face," "Announcement," "Henry Kissinger," "String," "Never Be Rude to an Arab," "I Like Chinese," "Bishop," "Medical Love Song," "Farewell to John Denver," "Finland," "I'm So Worried," "I Bet You They Won't Play This Song on the Radio," "Martyrdom of St. Victor," "Here Comes Another One," "Bookshop," "Do What John," "Rock Notes," "Muddy Knees," "Crocodile," "Decomposing Composers," "Bells," "Traffic Lights," "All Things Dull and Ugly" and "A Scottish Farewell." Produced by **Eric Idle**; recorded at Redwood Recording Studios.

460 Fall 1980

The Contractual Obligation Songbook. Book—EMI Music Academy manuscript. A 23-page book of the words and music from *Monty Python's Contractual Obligation Album*.

461 Fall 1980

I Like Chinese/Finland/I Bet You They Won't Play This Song on the Radio. Record(single)—Charisma/CB 374 (U.K.). Songs from *Python's Contractual Obligation Album*.

462 September 1980

Dr. Demento. Radio show—**Michael Palin**, **Terry Jones** and **Graham Chapman** are interviewed throughout the month before their Hollywood Bowl appearance.

463 September 1980

The Pythons decide to abandon the writing for their next film, perform at the Hollywood Bowl for some money and relaxation, and return to writing next September.

464 September 1980

Terry Jones is interviewed by *Dark Star* magazine at his home.

465 September 1980

Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl: Official Programme.

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Concert Programme—includes “About the Programme—by Biggles,” “What to Do After the Show,” “The Python Story,” and folds out to a “Bruces’ Philosophers Song” poster.

466 September 1980

John Cleese is introduced to his future wife Barbara Trentham at a party while performing with the Pythons at the Hollywood Bowl. A five-month courtship ensues.

467 September 1980

John Cleese attends yoga class with Raquel Welch.

468 September 26–29, 1980

Python Onstage. Stage show—Monty Python performs live at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, California for four nights before an audience of 8,000 people. Like their Broadway show, they perform many Python classics from television as well as college sketches like “Custard Pie” and “One Man Wrestling,” aided by film and animation (taken mostly from *Pythons in Deutschland*). The group is doing this show as a way of having a holiday and making some money after three months of writing for their next film. Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**, with Carol Cleveland and Neil Innes; filmed sequences directed by Ian MacNaughton; staged and presented by Monty Python.

469 October 1980

Terry Gilliam’s daughter, Holly Dubois, is born.

470 October 1980

A Liar’s Autobiography, Vol. VI. Book—by **Graham Chapman** (co-authorship credits go to David Sherlock, Alex Martin, David Yallop and Douglas Adams)/Methuen/240 pp. **Graham Chapman’s** semi-autobiography is a mostly factual account of his life, though it does contain many hilariously extravagant lies and multiple annoying footnotes to confuse things. **Chapman** says he first started writing the book because he thought he may not live much longer due to heavy alcohol abuse.

471 October 1980

More Ripping Yarns. Book—by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**/Methuen. Contains the scripts of the three shows of the second series:



Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*. The headmaster (John Cleese) tries to get his students' (from left: Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Graham Chapman, Terry Jones) attention during a lecture on sex.

"Whinfrey's Last Case," "Golden Gordon" and "Roger of the Raj." Illustrated with stills from the shows.

472 October 1980

From Fringe to Flying Circus: Celebrating a Unique Generation of Comedy 1960-1980. Book—by Roger Wilmut/Methuen (U.K.), Heinemann Educational Books (U.S., 1985)/205 pp. A painstaking history of the "university comedians." It is full of fascinating facts, photos and snippets from seminal scripts and routines. Provides a full history of the Pythons and their predecessors.

473 October 16, 1980

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Random Notes: *Monty Python's Contractual Obligation Album*" p. 42+. Small article on the album, Hollywood Bowl and *Life of Brian*.

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474 October 22, 1980

Parkinson (BBC-1). Guests: **John Cleese** and Jonathan Miller, promoting tomorrow night's BBC-2 presentation of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

475 October 23, 1980

The Taming of the Shrew (BBC-2). "BBC Television Shakespeare" series. Jonathan Miller's production of William Shakespeare's classic comedy about the opportunist Petruchio who comes to Padua to woo and wed the shrewish Katrina. **John Cleese** successfully performs the role of Petruchio in a less declamatory, dashing-cavalier style than usually performed. Starring **John Cleese**, Sarah Badel, John Franklyn-Robbins, Susan Penhaligon, Simon Chandler, Anthony Pedley, David Kincaid; produced and directed by Jonathan Miller.

476 November 1980

The radio commercial for *Life of Brian*, written by **John Cleese** and read by his mother Muriel, wins an award for the best radio entertainment commercial of the year.

477 November 1980

John Cleese's scene in *The Great Muppet Caper* is filmed in a day-and-a-half. He and Joan Sanderson play an old British couple whose home is used by Miss Piggy to impress Kermit.

478 November 13, 1980

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python's Holiday in the Sun" by Steve Pond, pp. 20-21+. Good article on Python's appearance at the Hollywood Bowl. The group also talk about their next film and the *Contractual Obligation Album*. Includes a great group photo taken by Bonnie Schiffman.

479 November 17, 1980

Earth News. Record(LP)—promo. Promo interview album, containing interviews with **John Cleese** and Dave Davies.

480 November 22, 1980

Terry Gilliam turns 40.

481 November 27, 1980

Great Railway Journeys of the World (BBC-2). "Confessions of a Train-Spotter." Fourth show in a series of seven. Aboard a variety of

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classic trains including the famous "Flying Scotsman" steam locomotive and the "Inter-City 125," **Michael Palin** travels from Euston, London to Kyle of Lochalsh in Scotland on a route that includes visits to the National Railway Museum in York and the grand railway hotels in Edinburgh. Written and presented by **Michael Palin**; produced by Ken Stephinson; series produced by Roger Laughton.

482 December 1980–January 1981

Dark Star. Magazine (England)—"A Pepperpot Speaks: The **Terry Jones** Interview" by Cliff Ash, No. 25, pp. 13–20. Great interview with **Jones** which was done at his Camberwell home in September 1980.

483 1980

John Cleese makes commercials in the U.K., Australia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Holland.

484 January 2, 1981

Publishers Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"PW Forecasts: *A Liar's Autobiography*" by Genevieve Stuttaford, p. 42. Stuttaford writes, "...irredemably dull fantasy... **Chapman** has produced an altogether tedious mad-hatter's romp."

485 January 8, 1981

Graham Chapman turns 40.

486 January 26, 1981

The Shakespeare Plays (PBS). "The Taming of the Shrew." The series' third season begins with this Jonathan Miller production starring **John Cleese** in the lead role of Petruchio. Starring **John Cleese**, Sarah Badel, John Franklyn-Robbins; produced and directed by Jonathan Miller.

487 February 1981

John Cleese marries Barbara Trentham, an American film director. They get married at her house in Los Angeles.

488 February 24, 1981

Laverne and Shirley (ABC). As a British tax-dodge, two English rock stars seek American citizenship by marrying Laverne and Shirley. Guest appearances: **Eric Idle**, Peter Noone, Stephen Bishop; with Penny Marshall, Cindy Williams, Michael McKean, David L. Lander; song:

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“Love, Love, Love” lyrics by Stephen Bishop and **Eric Idle**; music by Stephen Bishop.

489 Spring 1981

Graham Chapman tours the U.S. promoting his book *A Liar's Autobiography*.

490 Spring 1981

Cambridge Review. Magazine (England)—“The Myth of Progress” by **Terry Jones**. By looking at medieval times and supposedly more enlightened modern times, **Jones** concludes that the concept of progress is “distinctly chimerical.”

491 March 2, 1981

Graham Chapman attends a screening at Facets Multimedia in Chicago. He addresses the audience and answers questions, giving him the idea of doing lecture tours of the U.S. He goes on one this year of 23 U.S. college campuses.

492 March 18, 1981

Dick Cavett (PBS). **Graham Chapman** is interviewed.

493 March 22, 1981

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Marital Tips for Charles” by **Michael Palin**, p. E19. Humorous article giving marital tips to Prince Charles before his marriage to Lady Di.

494 June 1981

The Great Muppet Caper. Film—released by Universal Pictures/95 min. The Muppets' second film has them involved in a mysterious London jewel robbery. Starring Charles Grodin, Diana Rigg, with **John Cleese**, Robert Morley, Peter Ustinov, Jack Warden; directed by Jim Henson; produced by David Lazer and Frank Oz.

495 June 3–July 15, 1981

Terry Jones hosts the new series of *Paperbacks* on BBC-1, previously hosted by Robert Kee. The series consists of seven shows.

496 June 3, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**; guests: authors Fidelis

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Morgan, J. L. Carr, Paul Theroux; directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

497 June 10, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**, who undergoes hypnotic regression with the aid of Joe Keeton. Other guests include author Michael Moorcock. Directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

498 June 17, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**. The topic is erotica, with guests: authors Angela Carter, Jill Tweedie, Reay Tannahill. Includes a look at a photograph book about Bombay brothels by Mary Elen Mark. Directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

499 June 17, 1981

Live from Two (Thames). Includes a segment on **Michael Palin**.

500 June 24, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**. The themes are the power of multinationals and the threat of nuclear war, with guests: authors Charles Levinson, E. P. Thompson, Robert Neild. Directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

501 July 1981

Time Bandits opens in England.

502 July 1, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**. Interviews with Rupert Bear artist Alfred Bestall and pop-up book author Jan Pienkowski. Directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

503 July 8, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**; Guests: Iris Murdock, Paul Theroux. Includes a look at the latest travel books. Directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

504 July 15, 1981

Paperbacks (BBC-1). Hosted by **Terry Jones**. Guests: poet Peter

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Porter, and authors Robert Blythe, Quentin Skinner. Includes a look at Scott Fitzgerald. The last show of the series. Directed by Nick Brenton; produced by Rosemary Bowen-Jones and Julian Jebb.

505 July 31, 1981

Good Morning America (ABC). **Graham Chapman** is interviewed from London.

506 August 1981

John Cleese, dressed as Queen Elizabeth I, promotes *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball* benefit concert in September.

507 September 1981

The Pythons return to writing their next film, which is still without a central theme or title.

508 September 9–12, 1981

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball. Stage show – The 1981 Amnesty International Gala at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London. Organized by **John Cleese**. Starring **John Cleese**, **Graham Chapman**, Rowan Atkinson, Alan Bennett, Billy Connolly, John Fortune, Alexei Sayle, Pamela Stephenson, John Wells, Sting, Phil Collins, Chris Langham, Victoria Wood, Donovan, Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Bob Geldof, Neil Innes, John Bird, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Griff Rhys Jones, David Rappaport; co-directed by **John Cleese**.

509 September 28, 1981

The Innes Book of Records (BBC-2). Comedy/music series starring Neil Innes. Special guest: **Michael Palin**; produced by Ian Keill.

510 October 1981

John Cleese gets George Burns' autograph.

511 October 1981

The Complete Works of Shakespeare and Monty Python: Volume One – Monty Python. Book – Methuen (U.K.). A combined reissue of *Big Red Book* and *Brand New Monty Python Bok*.

512 October 1981

Fairy Tales. Book – by **Terry Jones**/illustrated by Michael Foreman/Pavilion Books (U.K.), Schocken Books (U.S., 1982)/128 pp. A

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beautifully illustrated volume of thirty highly original fairy tales that combine fantasy and morality and are particularly suitable for reading aloud. The stories, which **Jones** originally wrote for his daughter Sally in the summer of 1978, prove him to be a master of the genre.

513 October 1981

A Liar's Autobiography, by **Graham Chapman**, is published in paperback by Magnum Books.

514 November–December 1981

Film Comment. Magazine (U.S.)—"Bandit" by Anne Thompson, pp. 49–54. An interview with **Terry Gilliam** on his life and *Time Bandits*.

515 November 4, 1981

Terry Gilliam and **Michael Palin** attend the Gala U.S. Premiere of *Time Bandits* in New York. Other stars attending include Shelley Duvall and Katherine Helmond.

516 November 6, 1981

Time Bandits—opens in U.S. Film—released by Handmade Films/110 min. A delightful tale about an English schoolboy and six manic dwarves who travel back in time with a stolen map that charts holes in the universe. Their travels through many different eras bring them in contact with such historical figures as Napoleon and Robin Hood, and climaxes with a lengthy battle between good and evil. The film does only moderate business in Britain, but it becomes a hit in the U.S. Starring Sean Connery as Agamemnon, Ian Holm as Napoleon, **John Cleese** as Robin Hood, Ralph Richardson, David Warner, Katherine Helmond, Peter Vaughan, Craig Warnock, David Rappaport, Shelley Duvall and **Michael Palin**; screenplay by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Gilliam**; music by George Harrison; produced and directed by **Terry Gilliam**; Executive Producers: George Harrison and Denis O'Brien.

517 November 6, 1981

Friday Night . . . Saturday Morning (BBC-2). Hosted by **Terry Jones**. The first of a new series, with **Jones**' guests including Helen Mirren and author Richard Mabey. Produced by Frances Whitaker.

518 November 9, 1981

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: Help!" by Richard Corliss, p. 98. Review of *Time Bandits*. Corliss writes, ". . . the movie undercuts any

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involvement in the tale by stopping dead for long derisory skits featuring Napoleon, Robin Hood and Agamemnon. . . Murk swirls through every setting with Bruegelesque squalor and Boschian doom; as a traveler on this time flight, the viewer is less welcome than ignored."

519 November 9, 1981

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: A Merry, Scary Chase" by David Ansen, p. 92. Review of *Time Bandits*. Ansen writes, "The sheer technical accomplishment—sets, costumes, special effects—is dazzling. . . *Bandits* can be very funny in a Pythonesque way . . . a teeming and original stew that stirs in many genres and moods . . . the sheer bric-a-brac inventiveness of the endeavor is a delight."

520 November 15, 1981

The Washington Post. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Terry Gilliam: On the Trail of *Time Bandits*" by Gary Arnold, p. K1+. Good interview with **Gilliam** about his new film.

521 November 16, 1981

New York. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: *Time Bandits*" by David Denby, p. 116+. Denby writes, "The film is all extravagant imagery, but it's imagery without the cumulative emotion, the building of suspense, identification, and pathos that we always thought kids needed."

522 November 19, 1981

Dick Cavett (PBS). An interview with **Michael Palin**.

523 November 25, 1981

Steve Martin's Best Show Ever (NBC). **Eric Idle** writes for and appears in this Steve Martin special.

524 November 26, 1981

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Random Notes: **Gilliam** Wraps *Time Bandits*," p. 43. Small article on **Terry Gilliam's** current projects and admiration for Stanley Kubrick.

525 December 1981

Whoops Apocalypse (London Weekend Television). A very expensive and controversial six-part comedy produced by London Weekend Television. A situation comedy about the end of the world which, in a very televisionesque skit style, relates the events that lead to World War III, and

offers wicked parodies of U.S., Soviet and British leaders. Starring **John Cleese** as Lacrobat, John Barron, Richard Griffiths, Peter Jones, Bruce Montague, Barry Morse, Geoffrey Palmer, Ed Bishop; written by Andrew Marshall and David Renwick; directed by John Reardon; produced by Humphrey Barclay.

526 December 1981

Video Arts wins the Queen's Award to Industry for Exports.

527 December 4, 1981

Merv Griffin (CBS). Guests: **Graham Chapman**, Tom Wolfe, Eva Gabor.

528 December 21, 1981

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Only Yank in Monty Python Stares Down Critics as His *Time Bandits* Steals \$24 Million" by Jerene Jones, p. 50+. Article on **Terry Gilliam's** life and latest film. Includes a nice photo of **Gilliam** with a Victorian gargoyle.

529 1981

Time Bandits: A Screenplay. Book—by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Gilliam/Hutchinson** (U.K.), Dolphin Books (U.S.). The original, unexpurgated script of the film. It also contains 16 glossy pages of color photos, bad drawings, black and white photos, off-camera shots, and a funny glossary of the script's technical terms. The script includes the "Spider Ladies" scene cut from the film.

530 1981

The Monty Python Instant Record Collection. Record(LP)—Arista/AL 9580 (U.S.). A collection of some of Python's best bits, taken from *Matching Tie and Handkerchief*, *The Album . . . Holy Grail*, *Live at City Center* and *Contractual Obligation Album*. Includes: "The Executive Intro," "Pet Shop," "Nudge Nudge," "Premiere of Film, Live Broadcast from London," "Bring Out Your Dead," "How Do You Tell a Witch," "Camelot," "Argument Clinic," "Crunchy Frog," "The Cheese Shop," "The Phone-In," "Sit on My Face," "Another Executive Announcement," "Bishop on the Landing," "Elephantoplasty," "The Lumberjack Song," "Bookshop," "Blackmail," "Farewell to John Denver," "World Forum," "String," "Wide World of Novel Writing," "Death of Mary Queen of Scots" and "Never Be Rude to an Arab." Project co-ordinated by Dennis Fine; mastered at Sterling Sound, New York City.

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531 1981

Video Arts films are distributed in the U.S. by Visucom Productions, Redwood City, California.

532 1981

Fawlty Towers: Second Sitting. Record(LP)—BBC Records/REB 405. The original television soundtrack of “Basil the Rat” and “The Builders.” Produced by William Grierson.

533 1981

Eric Idle marries Tania Kosevich, an American model he met in 1977. They marry in Paul Simon’s New York flat.

534 1981

The Secret Policeman’s Other Ball. Record(LP)—Island/HAHA 6003. Recording of the 1981 Amnesty Show featuring **John Cleese**, **Graham Chapman**, Rowan Atkinson, Alan Bennett, Billy Connolly, John Fortune, Alexei Sayle and Pamela Stephenson.

535 1981

The Secret Policeman’s Other Ball. Book—Methuen (U.K.). A book of scripts and photos from the Amnesty stage show, with program notes throughout by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**. Python-related material includes “Introduction,” “Beekeeping,” “Top of the Form” and “Clothes Off.” Proceeds are donated to Amnesty International.

536 1981

Michael Palin writes his next film, *The Missionary*.

537 1981

Time Bandits. Book—by Charles Alverson/Arrow Books (U.K.). Novelization of the **Terry Gilliam** film.

538 1981

Monty Python: The Case Against. Book—by Robert Hewison/Methuen (U.K.), Grove (U.S.)/96 pp. A thorough, well-documented account of the Pythons’ various fights against censorship, from the early battles on *Flying Circus* to the later ABC court case and *Life of Brian* controversy. Includes script excerpts from the material objected to.

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539 January 1982

The Monty Python troupe travels to Jamaica to complete *The Meaning of Life* script, originally titled *Monty Python's Fish Film*, spending two weeks.

540 January 1982

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Soaring: *Time Bandits* and Scene Stealers" by David Gerrold, No. 54, pp. 52-53+. Good interview with **Terry Gilliam**.

541 January 26, 1982

Pass the Butler. Stage play—**Eric Idle**'s first stage play opens at the Globe Theatre, in London's West End, where it has a disappointingly short run. It has already played in other areas of England, including Warwick, Darlington, Brighton and Cambridge. The play is a satirical look at British social and political mores, set at the country home of the Minister of Defense. Written by **Eric Idle**; starring Willie Rushton.

542 February 1982

Pass the Butler. Book—by **Eric Idle**/Methuen/81 pp. The script of **Idle**'s first stage play.

543 February 1982

Time Bandits. Comic book—Marvel Comics Group. The official comics adaption of the **Terry Gilliam** film.

544 February 1982

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Time Bandits: A Color Portfolio," No. 55, pp. 49-51. A three-page film pictorial.

545 February 1, 1982

Terry Jones turns 40.

546 February 3, 1982

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guest: **Terry Gilliam**, promoting *Time Bandits*.

547 Spring 1982

The Missionary, written, co-produced by and starring **Michael Palin**, is filmed on a £2 million budget at Lee International Studios and on location in England, Scotland and Kenya.

548 March 1982

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball. Film—released by United International Pictures/Amnesty International/99 min. Concert film of the 1981 Amnesty International Gala. Starring Rowan Atkinson, Alan Bennett, **Graham Chapman**, **John Cleese**, Billy Connolly, John Fortune, Alexei Sayle, Pamela Stephenson, John Wells; guest appearance by **Michael Palin** as a janitor at the end; stage show co-directed by **John Cleese**; directed by Julien Temple; produced by Martin Lewis and Peter Walker.

549 March 1982

Twilight Zone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *Time Bandits*" by Gahan Wilson, pp. 10–12. Wilson writes, "...an excellent and unpretentious entertainment. . . My guess is that this is going to be one of those films that keeps hanging around, like *The Wizard of Oz*, *Top Hat*, or *Pyscho*."

550 April 1982

Two episodes of **John Cleese's** *Fawlty Towers* series, distributed as training films by Video Arts, win the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

551 May 1982

Monty Python: Complete and Utter Theory of the Grotesque. Book—edited by John O. Thompson/British Film Institute (U.K.), University of Illinois Press (U.S.)/58 pp. Great book containing 48 bits and pieces of Python grotesquerie from "An Astonishingly Dirty Period" to "**Cleese's** Body: Visual Gestalt Of." Also includes a Pythonography.

552 May 1982

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball. Commercial (TV)—**Graham Chapman** does a thirty-second commercial for the Amnesty International film. Playing the spokesman for the Oral Majority, he says, "I wish to complain strongly about this disgusting new comedy movie. . . This movie must be banned before it turns us all into weirdos." He then rises from behind his desk to reveal he is wearing a pink tutu, fishnet stockings and garters. NBC refused to air the spot, claiming that it misused the American flag as a backdrop.

553 May 1982

Twilight Zone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Terry Gilliam: Finding Comedy on 'the Dark Side of the Coin'" by James Verniere, pp. 18–23. An interview with **Gilliam** on his life and *Time Bandits*.

554 May 1982

Privates on Parade, starring **John Cleese**, is filmed.

555 May 1982

Eric Idle directs Robin Williams and Teri Garr in his own screenplay, *The Tale of the Frog Prince*, for cable TV (Showtime/A Lions Gate Production).

556 May 21, 1982

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball—opens in U.S. Film—released by Mirimax Films/Amnesty International/91 min. The American version of the Amnesty International concert film. Unlike the British film, this American version features edited highlights from *The Secret Policeman's Ball* (1979). Starring **John Cleese**, Peter Cook, Pete Townshend, **Michael Palin**, Eleanor Bron, **Terry Jones**, Rowan Atkinson, John Williams, Pamela Stephenson, Sting, Chris Langham, Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Victoria Wood, **Graham Chapman**, John Bird, John Fortune, Griff Rhys Jones, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Phil Collins, Alexei Sayle; guest appearance by **Michael Palin** as a janitor at the end; stage show co-directed by **John Cleese**; directed by Roger Graef and Julien Temple; produced by Martin Lewis and Peter Walker.

557 May 22, 1982

Saturday Night Live (NBC). **Graham Chapman** appears with a clip of the *Ball* commercial. After this show, the demand for the film becomes great. Directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Dick Ebersol.

558 June 24, 1982

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Graham Chapman**, **Terry Gilliam**, promoting *Hollywood Bowl*; Ted Nugent.

559 June 25, 1982

Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl—opens in U.S. Film—released by Handmade Films and Columbia Pictures/77 min. Concert film of Python's performance at the Hollywood Bowl. It was originally produced on videotape, and then transferred to film. Includes: "Sit on My Face," "Wrestling," "Never Be Rude to an Arab," "The Pope," "Silly Olympics (film)," "Bruce's Song," "The Ministry of Silly Walks," "Camp Judges," "World Forum," "Urban Spaceman (N. Innes)," "Crunchy Frog," "Albatross," "Nudge Nudge," "Philosopher's Soccer Match (film)," "Four Yorkshiremen," "Argument Clinic," "How Sweet to Be an Idiot (N.

Innes),” “Flasher Love Story (film: animation),” “Travel Agent,” “Custard Pie,” “Little Red Riding Hood (film),” “Salvation Fuzz” and “The Lumberjack Song.” Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**, with Neil Innes and Carol Cleveland; filmed sequences (from *Pythons in Deutschland*); directed by Ian MacNaughton; staged and presented by Monty Python; produced and directed by Terry Hughes; Executive Producers: George Harrison and Denis O’Brien.

560 July–August 1982

American Film. Magazine (U.S.)—“Python’s Progress” by Yolande Reid, p. 12. A brief article on the Pythons’ current projects.

561 July 12, 1982

Principal photography on *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life* begins. The filming location is the International University of Europe, Bushey, Hertfordshire on the outskirts of London. The scene filmed is the rugby match between the boys and masters of St. Anselm’s School. Filming continues throughout the summer at a variety of exotic locations in England and Scotland as well as within the shelter of EMI’s Elstree Studios, Borehamwood, England.

562 July 12, 1982

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: Funnier Than Hegel” by David Ansen, p. 76. Review of *Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl*. Ansen writes, “. . . *Hollywood Bowl* may not reach some of the surreal heights of *Holy Grail* and *Life of Brian*, but it’s more consistently uproarious than either of those features.”

563 July 20, 1982

Us. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movie Views and Reviews: *The Secret Policeman’s Other Ball*” by Stephen Schaefer, pp. 71–72. Schaefer writes, “This performance film has the amiability and look of a home movie and the ribald richness of a lusty banquet.”

564 July 20, 1982

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—“British Comedy Has a Ball for Amnesty International” by Michael Sragow, p. 36. An interview with producer Martin Lewis about *The Secret Policeman’s Other Ball*.

565 August 2, 1982

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Bio: Monty Python" by Lewis Grossberger, pp. 46-48+. A great six-page Python history with many pictures, including one of the group posing like statues in London's Regent's Park.

566 August 12, 13, 1982

The Battle of Rorke's Drift scene from *The Meaning of Life* is filmed on a wet and windy mountain top near Strathblane in Scotland. On the first day, the 150 local black students recruited to play the Zulus refused to do it and had to be bussed back home again. On the second day, the scene was shot at 5:00 p.m. after spending all day blacking up and putting wigs on 100 white Glaswegians.

567 August 13, 1982

The Sun. Newspaper (England)—"Day the Angry Zulus Blacked John Cleese" by Sun reporter. Article containing a false quote by Cleese, causing him to write a series of letters to the paper's editor.

568 August 17, 1982

Us. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movie Views and Reviews: *Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl*" by Stephen Schaefer, p. 71. Schaefer writes, "Hysterically amusing, this performance film should have you laughing out loud—if not falling out of your seat. . . Python's *Bowl* is an indescribably vicious, minutely nutritious comedic canape."

569 August 29, 1982

Kup's Show (PBS). Guests: **Graham Chapman**, Quentin Crisp.

570 September 1982

The Tale of the Frog Prince (Showtime). Faerie Tale Theatre series. A very beautiful, and very vain, young princess rejects all the princes in the land, but is finally charmed by a witty frog who is in fact a bewitched prince. One of Faerie Tale Theatre's best productions, due to **Eric Idle**'s screenplay and the fine performances by Garr and Williams. Starring Robin Williams, Teri Garr, Rene Auberjonois, Candy Clark, Roberta Maxwell, Michael Richards, Donovan Scott; written, narrated and directed by **Eric Idle**; produced by Jonathan Taplin; Executive Producer: Shelley Duvall.

571 September 1982

Small Harry and the Toothache Pills. Book—by **Michael Palin**/Methuen. A children's book.

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572 September 2, 1982

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: *Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl*" by Michael Sragow, p. 34. Sragow writes, "This is yet another fine concert film from the frenetic British farce group—masters of intellectual slapstick, cosmic japes and surreal puns, and inventors of the comedy of anti-manners."

573 October–December 1982

Yellowbeard, a star-studded pirate spoof starring **Graham Chapman** (who also co-wrote it), **John Cleese** and **Eric Idle**, is filmed in England and Mexico with an \$8 million budget. Shooting goes smoothly until the last week of filming, in Mexico, when Marty Feldman suffered a fatal heart attack.

574 October 1982

Twilight Zone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball*" by Ron Goulart, p. 8. Goulart writes, "Unless you are a fan of both the Python crew and contemporary rock people, there are going to be lulls in this movie for you. Lord, earpiercing lulls, in my case . . . if there's a *Secret Policeman's Other Ball II*, I don't think I'll attend."

575 October 1982

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: *Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl*" by Bruce Williamson, p. 36. Williamson writes, "The lads are in fine form . . . in some of their classic skits."

576 October 30, 1982

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Hosted by Michael Keaton; with **Michael Palin**, Joe Jackson. **Palin** appears in the hilarious sketch "A Sense of Fear," among others. Cast: Robin Duke, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Mary Gross, Brad Hall, Tim Kazurinsky, Gary Kroeger, Eddie Murphy, Joe Piscopo; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Dick Ebersol.

577 November 1982

Privates on Parade. Film—released by Handmade Films/100 min. Film of the Royal Shakespeare Company stage hit by Peter Nichols. **John Cleese** plays the pompous, dim-witted Major Giles Flack, who commands a strange song and dance platoon in 1948 Malaysia. The platoon consists of a group of campy entertainers led by the aging drag-queen Captain Terry, played by Denis Quilley. Flack is the first role **Cleese** has played throughout an entire film. Starring **John Cleese**, Denis Quilley, Michael

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Elphick, Nicola Pagett, Patrick Pearson, Joe Melia; screenplay by Peter Nichols; directed by Michael Blakemore; produced by Simon Relph; Executive Producers: George Harrison and Denis O'Brien.

578 November 1982

Michael Palin promotes *The Missionary* at the University of Maryland, and wins a Turtle Award.

579 November 2, 1982

Good Morning America (ABC). Guest: **Michael Palin**, promoting *The Missionary*.

580 November 4, 1982

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *The Missionary*, Tony Lupo, Robert Klein.

581 November 5, 1982

The Missionary — opens in U.S. Film — released by Handmade Films and Columbia Pictures/93 min. A delightful light comedy about a clergyman who, upon returning from Africa, is assigned by the Bishop of London to set up a shelter for fallen women in London's East End. But he must get the money from the lusty Lady Ames, who is set on changing her stifling upper-class life. It is a beautifully photographed film with many good performances, especially Hordern's as an aged butler. Starring **Michael Palin** as Rev. Charles Fortescue, Maggie Smith, Trevor Howard, Denholm Elliott, Michael Hordern, Graham Crowden, David Suchet, Phoebe Nicholls, Neil Innes; screenplay by **Michael Palin**; directed by Richard Loncraine; produced by **Michael Palin** and Neville C. Thompson; Executive Producers: George Harrison and Denis O'Brien.

582 November 8, 1982

New York Magazine (U.S.) — "Movies: *The Missionary*" by David Denby, p. 62+. Denby writes, "... a high-style British comedy about virtue and lust ... a calm, steady, beautifully photographed movie, an aesthetically pleasing object that is also very funny. . . . This tradition-laden movie is marked by nostalgia for a gentler period of comedy, nostalgia for the beauty as well as the ripe absurdities of class-ridden, sinful Edwardian England."

583 November 8, 1982

Newsweek Magazine (U.S.) — "Movies: *Missionary Position*" by

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Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*. An elderly couple (from left: Graham Chapman, Eric Idle) have a philosophical discussion on contraception.

David Ansen, p. 90. Review of *The Missionary*. Ansen writes, "... a comedy as crisp and satisfying as a good English biscuit, **Palin** has finally left his mark... *The Missionary* is that rare comedy that never strains for a laugh."

584 November 10, 1982

The Missionary, according to *Variety*, is the second top-grossing film in the U.S. and Canada this week.

585 November 17, 1982

Merv Griffin (CBS). Guests: **Michael Palin**, Phyllis and David York, Lee Greenwood.

586 December 1982

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life is shown to small groups in rough-cut form. As a result of these screenings several changes are made,

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including the removal of **Terry Gilliam's** pirate sequence from the middle of the film, and making it into a separate, preceding featurette.

587 December 1982–March 1983
Eric Idle winters in Australia.

588 December 3, 1982
Good Morning New York (ABC). Guests: **Terry Jones**, promoting *Fairy Tales*, Jane Alexander.

589 December 3, 1982
Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guest: **Terry Jones**, promoting *Fairy Tales*.

590 December 9, 1982
The Rupert Bear Story (Channel Four). An affectionate tribute to Alfred Bestall, the man who has drawn the much-loved bear in the woolly sweater and plaid trousers for the *Daily Express* since 1936. Directed and narrated by **Terry Jones**; produced by Elizabeth Taylor-Mead.

591 1982
Fawlty Towers at Your Service. Record(LP)–BBC Records/REB 449. The original television soundtrack of “The Kipper and the Corpse” and “The Germans.” Produced by Andrew Sachs and William Grierson.

592 1982
Terry Jones takes a month to write *The Saga of Erik the Viking* for his son Bill.

593 1982
Terry Gilliam picks up the script he abandoned in November 1979, and begins writing again, this time with Tom Stoppard.

594 1982
Chaucer's Knight paperback is published by Eyre Methuen.

595 1982
Great Railway Journeys of the World. Book—by Michael Frayn, Ludovic Kennedy, Miles Kington, **Michael Palin**, Eric Robson, Brian Thompson, Michael Wood/BBC Publications (U.K.), Dutton (U.S.)/182

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pp. This book of the BBC-2 series is a collection of seven great writers' railway journeys throughout the world. It includes a delightful chapter by **Palin** called "Confessions of a Train-Spotter," from his episode of the series. The book, which includes many maps and photos, becomes a best-seller in Britain.

596 1982

The Laughing Stock of the BBC. Record(LP)—BBC Records/LAF 1. This specially produced, limited edition compilation of British comedy includes "Nudge, Nudge" by *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and the parody of the *Friday Night, Saturday Morning* discussion of *Life of Brian* by *Not the 9 O'Clock News*. Compiled by William Grierson.

597 1982

Fairy Tales. Audio Tape—recording of stories from **Terry Jones'** children's book, read by Bob Hoskins and Helen Mirren, among others.

598 1982

Callard and Bowser. Commercials (radio)—**John Cleese** does this series of six American radio spots—by Lord, Geller, Federico, Einstein, New York—for the British candy, Callard and Bowser. The first ad actually did not mention the candy's name.

599 1982

No More Curried Eggs for Me. Book—edited by Roger Wilmut/Methuen (U.K.). A collection of comedy script excerpts ranging from the Marx Brothers to Python-related material, including *At Last the 1948 Show* ("Bookshop"), *Fawlty Towers* ("The Germans") and Python ("Parrot").

600 January–February 1983

Horizon. Magazine (U.S.)—"Films: The Canvas Syndrome" by David A. Fryxell, p. 12. Review of *The Missionary*. Fryxell writes, "...no heart (and disappointingly little humor) beats at the core of **Palin's** handsome period piece. . . **Palin** never really goes for the belly laughs, nor does he let the film rocket off into the bizarre reaches explored by his old Monty Python chums."

601 January 16, 1983

The New York Times Book Review. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Children's Books: *Fairy Tales*" by Carol Van Strum, p. 22. Van Strum writes, "As a storyteller, Mr. **Jones** is a wizard. . . **Jones**, with his exuberant command

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of the genre, ingeniously weaves contemporary values into the imagery of his tales... **Jones** and Michael Foreman have conspired to produce a volume of highly original fairy tales that is beautiful to look at and great fun to read aloud."

602 January 25, 1983

Privates on Parade opens in England.

603 January 29, 1983

Wogan (BBC-1). Hosted by Terry Wogan; guests: **John Cleese**, talking about *Private on Parade*, Sir Geraint Evans; produced by Marcus Plantin.

604 January 31, 1983

Film 83 (BBC-1). Hosted by Barry Norman; includes a preview of *Privates on Parade* starring **John Cleese**; produced by Jane Lush.

605 February 1983

A preview of *The Meaning of Life* is arranged at a shopping mall cinema in Yonkers, New York to see how the public reacts to it. Seventy-five percent of the audience consists of 15 to 18 year-old high-school kids. Out of 400, 18 of them walk out in disgust. Much of the film is cut out for a second screening.

606 February 1983

American Express. Commercials (TV) — **John Cleese** begins appearing in commercials — by Ogilvy and Mather, New York — for American Express, as a snooty Englishman whose butler qualified for an American Express card while he did not.

607 February 1983

The Missionary. Book — by **Michael Palin**/Methuen. The screenplay of the film, with photos.

608 February 1, 1983

Good Morning Britain (TV-am). Presented by Robert Kee, Anna Ford and David Frost. Guest: **John Cleese** in his pyjamas.

609 February 5, 1983

Sunday, Sunday (ITV). Guests: **John Cleese**, promoting *Privates on Parade*; Julie Walters; Spike Milligan.

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610 February 7, 1983

Film 83 (BBC-1). Hosted by Barry Norman. Includes a report from Rye on the making of **Graham Chapman's** *Yellowbeard*. Produced by Jane Lush.

611 February 10–March 24, 1983

Amanda's (ABC). A short-lived American series starring Bea Arthur and based on **John Cleese's** BBC comedy *Fawlty Towers*. 6 shows.

612 February 16, 1983

Tim Rice (BBC-1). The first of a new seven-show series. Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *The Missionary*, Bonnie Tyler. Produced by David F. Turnbull.

613 February 26–March 4, 1983

The Times Saturday. Newspaper (England)—“Vicarious Thrills of **Palin's** Pleasures” by Geoff Brown, p. 7. Article, with photo, on **Micheal Palin's** *The Missionary*.

614 February 28, 1983

Film 83 (BBC-1). Hosted by Barry Norman. Guest: **Michael Palin**, talking about *The Missionary*. Produced by Jane Lush.

615 Spring 1983

Monty Python's The Meaning Life. Record(LP)—MCA Records/MCA-6121. The original film soundtrack, which includes all the great songs: “The Meaning of Life,” “Galaxy Song,” “Accountancy Shanty,” “The Not Noel Coward Song,” “Christmas in Heaven” and “Every Sperm Is Sacred.” Linked by **Michael Palin**, with a few words from **Terry Gilliam**. Produced by Andre Jacquemin and **Michael Palin**; engineered, mixed and edited by Andre Jacquemin at Redwood Recording Studios, London, England.

616 Spring 1983

Galaxy Song/Every Sperm Is Sacred. Record (single)—CBS Records/WA 3495. An over-sized, fishbowl-shaped picture disc released with *Meaning of Life*.

617 Spring 1983

Standby . . . Lights! Camera! Action! (Nickelodeon). Hosted by Leonard Nimoy. Includes a look at the making of *The Meaning of Life*.

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- 618** March–April 1983
Monty Python tour the U.S. promoting their latest film, *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*.
- 619** March 3, 1983
Strictly Private (ITV). Iain Johnstone gives us a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the new British film *Privates on Parade*, starring **John Cleese** and Denis Quilley.
- 620** March 4, 1983
The Times. Newspaper (London)—“Cinema: Great British Comic Acting” by David Robinson, p. 7. Review of *The Missionary*. Robinson writes, “. . . a superior comedy, as British comedies go, and enormously enjoyable for its performances.”
- 621** March 10, 1983
The Times. Newspaper (London)—“And Now for Something Completely Different” by Chris Peachment, p. 9. Good interview with **Michael Palin**, who talks about his life and *The Missionary*.
- 622** March 12, 1983
Four of the Pythons (**Chapman, Gilliam, Idle, Jones**) are interviewed in Los Angeles by Randy L'Officier. The interview is printed in the April 1984 issue of *Fantasy Empire*.
- 623** March 14, 1983
Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guest: **John Cleese**, promoting *The Meaning of Life*.
- 624** March 22, 1983
Late Night with David Letterman (NBC) Guests: **Eric Idle**, promoting *The Meaning of Life*; Ray “Boom, Boom” Mancini, Stanley Anderson.
- 625** March 28, 1983
Time. Magazine (U.S.)—“Cinema: A Fine Kettle of Fish” by Richard Schickel, p. 62. Review of *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*. Schickel writes, “. . . most of the film is designed to offend somebody at the very moment it is making someone else fall helplessly about with laughter. . . In their assaults on conventional morality, they generate a ferocious and near Swiftian moral gravity of their own . . . an exhilarating experience.”

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626 March 29, 1983
Eric Idle turns 40.

627 March 30, 1983

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life—opens in U.S. Film—released by Universal Pictures/103 min. Monty Python's last film returns to the sketch format and contains something to offend everyone. It's targets include the medical profession, birth control, sex education, consumerism, greed, religion, American tourists, halibut, and just about everything else. The film is preceded by a 16-minute short feature called *The Crimson Permanent Assurance*, directed by **Terry Gilliam**, with cameos by **Gilliam** and **Michael Palin**. The film is divided into seven parts: "Part 1, The Miracle of Birth: Delivering a Baby, Sperm Musical, Protestantism and Sex"; "Part 2, Growth and Learning: School Chapel, Sex Lesson, Rugby Match"; "Part 3, Fighting Each Other: Gifts in Battle, a Yelling RSM, the First Zulu War"; "The Middle of the Film: Find the Fish"; "Part 4, Middle Age: Two American Tourists"; "Part 5, Live Organ Transplants: Liver Donor, Vocalist in Pink, the Very Big Corporation of America"; "Part 6, The Autumn Years: Penis Song, Mr. Creosote, The Meaning of Life"; "Part 7, Death: Arthur Jarret, Falling Leaves, The Grim Reaper, Heaven"; and "The End of the Film." Written and performed by **Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin**; with Carol Cleveland, Simon Jones, Andrew MacLachlan, Mark Holmes, Valerie Whittington, Patricia Quinn, Judy Loe; songs: "Accountancy Shanty" lyrics and music by **Eric Idle**, "The Meaning of Life" lyrics by **Idle** music by **Idle** and John du Prez, "Oh Lord Please Don't Burn Us" lyrics by **John Cleese** and **Graham Chapman** music by **Idle** and John du Prez, "Every Sperm Is Sacred" lyrics by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones** music by Andre Jacquemin and Dave Howman, "Galaxy Song" lyrics by **Idle** music by **Idle** and John du Prez, "Penis Song" lyrics and music by **Idle**, "Christmas in Heaven" lyrics by **Jones** music by **Idle**; director of animation and special sequence: **Terry Gilliam**; directed by **Terry Jones**; produced by John Goldstone.

628 April 1983

Psychology Today. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*" by James Delson, photos by David Appleby, pp. 60-65. Includes many script excerpts and color photos from the film.

629 April 1, 1983

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *The Meaning of Life*, Nick Lowe, Teri Garr.

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630 April 4, 1983

Entertainment Tonight (NBC). Includes a segment on Monty Python and *The Meaning of Life*.

631 April 4, 1983

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: Montyphysics” by Katrine Ames, p. 74. Review of *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*. Ames writes, “. . . the best movie to date from England’s satirical sextet . . . their satire has never been more incisive—they’ve become savagely hilarious observers of the human condition.”

632 April 4, 1983

New York. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*” by David Denby, pp. 73-74. Denby writes, “. . . their humor is more fervently violent and obscene than ever . . . The sick-up business has been getting out of hand of late, and this (the French restaurant scene) should certainly put a stop to it.”

633 April 6, 1983

Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life, according to *Variety*, is the fifth top-grossing film in the U.S. and Canada this week.

634 April 7, 1983

20/20 (ABC). Hosted by Hugh Downs. Includes a report on the Pythons filming *The Meaning of Life*.

635 April 11, 1983

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—“Screen: *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*,” p. 10+. The reviewer writes, “There are a few moments when bad taste is raised to high comic art . . . too many of the sketches drag on interminably or harp repetitively on the British stiff-upper-lip theme . . . viewers of *The Meaning of Life* will be more apt to double over in disgust than in laughter.”

636 April 11, 1983

Maclean’s. Magazine (Canada)—“Films: Laughing in the Face of Absurdity” by Lawrence O’Toole, p. 69. Review of *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*. O’Toole writes, “. . . *Life* is satire of Swiftian proportion: scathing, endlessly inventive and as giddy as a room filled with laughing gas. Structurally it is the most sustained and persuasive work from the off-the-wall ensemble, and visually the most sophisticated.

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637 April 13, 1983

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Graham Chapman**, promoting *The Meaning of Life*, Harry Anderson.

638 April 13, 1983

Merv Griffin (CBS). Guests: **Graham Chapman**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Terry Jones**, promoting *The Meaning of Life*.

639 April 18, 1983

The New Republic. Magazine (U.S.)—"Films: *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*" by Stanley Kauffmann, pp. 24-25. Kauffmann writes, "*Life* is not their most consistently funny film, but it's the one that is most free in fantasy and most savage, with the special MP savagery that blends humane rage with cruel means, under the license of comedy. . . They are the most dangerous madmen at large, ruthlessly perceptive and torrentially gifted."

640 April 25, 1983

John Cleese's complaint against *The Sun*, which falsely attributed an offensive joke to him in August 1982, is upheld by the Press Council.

641 April 28, 1983

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Random Notes: *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*—A Gill's Eye View of the World," p. 54. Small article, with comments by **Michael Palin**.

642 May 5, 1983

Michael Palin turns 40.

643 May 16, 1983

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Star Tracks: Fat City" photo by Peter C. Borsari, p. 81. Photo of Mr. Creosote model from *The Meaning of Life*.

644 May 19, 1983

At the 36th Annual International Cannes Film Festival, *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*, which was a British competition entry, is awarded the Special Jury Prize, the festival's second highest honor. The Pythons attend the Festival held in Cannes, France. At the closing-night ceremony, **Terry Jones** thanked the jury members by name and quipped, "Your money is behind the wash basin."

645 Summer 1983

Sight and Sound. Magazine (England)—“On Now: *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*,” p. 220. The reviewer writes, “. . . the old firm is holding its audience, especially overseas, and has not mellowed with fame: they are, if anything, ruder, more anarchic, more inventive now the shackles of television are off.”

646 June 1983

Group Madness: The Making of Yellowbeard. A behind-the-scenes look at the making of the comedy *Yellowbeard*, featuring **Graham Chapman**, **Eric Idle**, **John Cleese**, **Marty Feldman**, **Peter Boyle** and **Madeline Kahn**.

647 June 1983

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*” by Bruce Williamson, p. 27. “Roving Eye: You Were Expecting Sense from Monty Python?” photos by David Appleby, pp. 264–65. Film review and two-page film pictorial. Williamson writes, “Certainly the most ambitious and sumptuous comedy the Pythons have ever made . . . screamingly funny . . . there is no company of social satirists to match Monty Python for savagery, effrontery, freewheeling irreverence and throwaway wit.”

648 June 1983

Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life. Book—designed by James Campus/stills photography by David Appleby/Methuen (U.K.), Grove Press (U.S.). The complete film script, with many photos and animation stills. Includes “The Adventures of Martin Luther” and “Diana the Waitress,” scenes cut from the film.

649 June 10, 1983

The Times. Newspaper (London)—“Python’s Meaning of Life Is That Life Makes No Sense” by Michael Watts, p. 12. Great interview with **John Cleese**, who talks about *The Meaning of Life*, among other things. Includes a large photo of **Cleese** and a look at how the film came about.

650 June 15, 1983

The News Is the News (NBC). A limited-run series, live from New York, that satirizes the news. This first show includes an analysis of the British elections by the show’s opening-night guest reporter **Michael Palin**.

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Starring Simon Jones, Michael Davis, Charlotte Moore, Trey Wilson; produced by Herb Sargent.

651 June 20, 1983

Good Morning Britain (TV-am). Presented by **Terry Jones** and Anne Diamond.

652 June 23, 1983

Monty Python's The Meaning of Life opens in London.

653 June 24, 1983

Yellowbeard—opens in U.S. Film—released by Orion Pictures/A Seagoat Production/A Hemdale Film/101 min. A mediocre send-up of pirate movies, with a large cast of zanies in pursuit of buried treasure. **Graham Chapman** is in the title role as a foul, incorrigible buccaneer who wants to reclaim his booty. Some funny individual performances, especially **Chapman's**, but the film doesn't work as a whole. Marty Feldman's last film. Starring **Graham Chapman**, Peter Boyle, Cheech and Chong, Peter Cook, Marty Feldman, Martin Hewitt, Michael Hordern, **Eric Idle**, Madeline Kahn, James Mason, **John Cleese**; screenplay by **Graham Chapman**, Peter Cook and Bernard McKenna; directed by Mel Damski; produced by Carter DeHaven.

654 July 1983

Prevue. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python: Is Meaning of Life Their Last Laugh Together?," no. 52. Good Python article, with many photos.

655 July 11, 1983

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *Yellowbeard*," p. 10. The reviewer writes, "They (the cast) all average about a laugh apiece, which, if it doesn't make this film a treasure chest of humor, does make it funnier than most film comedies these days."

656 August 1983

Prevue. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Confessions of **Terry Jones**" by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 53, pp. 24-25. **Jones** talks about *The Meaning of Life*.

657 August 12, 1983

Comic Roots (BBC-1). The first in a four-part series of documentaries

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about the formative years of four British comedians. It traces **Michael Palin**'s early life and the roots of his comic talent through biographical information, film clips, and interviews with old friends, teachers and relatives. It looks at his early years in Sheffield, at Brasenose College, Oxford, the Edinburgh Festival, and the influence of the Goon Show on his comedy. Starring **Michael Palin**, Spike Milligan; produced by Tony Laryea.

658 September 1983

The Saga of Erik the Viking. Book—by **Terry Jones**/illustrated by Michael Foreman/Pavilion Books (U.K.), Schocken Books (U.S.)/144 pp. The story, which **Jones** wrote for his son Bill, follows a group of Norse sailors on an odyssey to find “the land where the sun goes at night.” Each chapter brings another adventure that’s guaranteed to delight children. **Jones**' second children's book.

659 September 4, 1983

The Washington Post. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Now for Something Completely Different” by Michael Schrage, p. G1+. Article on **John Cleese**'s work in commercials. Includes a good photo of **Cleese** by Fred Sweets.

660 September 26, 1983

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—“Monty Python's **John Cleese** Pursues a Not-So-Silly Walk of Life—Making Business-Training Films,” pp. 83–84. Article on **Cleese**'s involvement with Video Arts.

661 September 28, 1983

The Times. Newspaper (London)—“How a Python Shed His Tortured Skin” by Paul Nathanson, p. 10. Good interview with **John Cleese**, who talks about *Families*. . . and his years in psychotherapy.

662 September 29, 1983

Families and How to Survive Them. Book—by Robin Skynner and **John Cleese**/Methuen (U.K.), Oxford University Press (U.S., 1984). A seriously funny question-and-answer book outlining Skynner's theories and techniques on dealing with problems of marriage, babies, children and family relationships.

663 October 30, 1983

The New York Times Book Review. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Children's Books: *The Saga of Erik the Viking*” by Carol Van Strum, p. 26. Van Strum

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writes, "Giants, ogres, graceful mermaids and savage wolves leap from a landscape of mythic grandeur. . . As in *Fairy Tales*, their first collaboration, Mr. **Jones** and Mr. Foreman fashion from traditional materials a tale of high deeds and adventure that is startlingly fresh."

664 November 1983

Heavy Metal. Magazine (U.S.)—"Nahallywood: **Graham Chapman** Interview" by Ed Naha, pp. 11-12. **Chapman** talks about Python and the problems with *Yellowbeard*.

665 November 7, 1983

Advertising Age. Magazine (U.S.)—"Look! **Cleese** Likes His Ads" by Howard Sharman, p. 50+. Article on **John Cleese's** involvement with commercials.

666 November 14, 1983

Live at Five (NBC). Guests: **Terry Jones**, promoting his book *The Saga of Erik the Viking*, Mariel Hemingway, in New York.

667 November 17, 1983

Latenight America (PBS). Live talk show hosted by Dennis Wholey. Guest: **Terry Jones**, promoting his book *The Saga of Erik the Viking*.

668 December 1983–August 1984

Brazil, **Terry Gilliam's** nightmare fantasy, is filmed on a \$15 million budget at Lee International Film Studios in Wembley, England and on location in London and Cumbria, England and Marne-Le-Vallee, France.

669 December 1983

The Life of Python. Book—by George Perry/Pavilion Books (U.K.), Little, Brown and Company (U.S., 1984)/192 pp. Presenting the history of Monty Python, this very informative book examines British humor, each individual Python member, and the group as a whole. It also contains a Pythonography by Lucy Douch, and is illustrated with many rare photos. Perry is a journalist and friend of the Pythons.

670 December 19, 1983

Take 30 (CBC). Guest: **Terry Jones**, promoting his book *The Saga of Erik the Viking*.

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671 January 21, 1984

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Hosted by **Michael Palin**, with his 80-year-old mother Mary Palin, with The Motels. Cast: Jim Belushi, Robin Duke, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Mary Gross, Brad Hall, Tim Kazurinsky, Gary Kroeger, Eddie Murphy, Joe Piscopo; directed by Dave Wilson; produced by Dick Ebersol.

672 February 1984

Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Videodisc—RCA/03040/1974/1 hr. 36 min. The original British video version of the film, imported by RCA Videodiscs. It includes the hilarious “coming attraction” trailer and a bonus 24-second sequence (found during “The Tale of Sir Galahad”) never seen before in the U.S.

673 February 6, 1984

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Mad, Mad World of Monty Python’s **Terry Jones** Is Not for Adults Only” by Andrea Chambers, pp. 102–03. Article on **Jones**’ writing for children.

674 Spring 1984

John Cleese is allowed into the Metropolitan Museum in New York on a Monday, when it’s usually closed to visitors, although a guard is assigned to him.

675 April 1984

Fantasy Empire. Magazine (U.S.)—“Monty Python—*The Meaning of Life* Interview” by Randy L’Officier, pp. 30–35. Great interview with four of the Pythons—**Chapman, Gilliam, Idle, Jones**, with a pre-recorded **Palin** on tape—done in Los Angeles on March 12, 1983.

676 April 1984

Esquire. Magazine (U.S.)—“God Save **John Cleese**” by Laurence Shames, pp. 60–62+. A great, and lengthy, interview/article on **Cleese**’s life. Includes a full-page photo of **Cleese** by Clive Arrowsmith.

677 April 1984

Video Movies. Magazine (U.S.)—“Gagathon” by Scott Carter, pp. 36–43. Reviews of the twelve funniest films of all time, including *Holy Grail* and *Meaning of Life*, with many color photos.

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678 April 1984

Entertainment Tonight (NBC). Includes a segment on **John Cleese** and *Privates on Parade*.

679 April 3, 1984

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **John Cleese**, promoting *Privates on Parade*, Kathleen Turner.

680 April 13, 1984

Privates on Parade, starring **John Cleese**, opens in the U.S.

681 April 16, 1984

New York Magazine (U.S.)—“**John Cleese’s Animal House**” by Rhoda Koenig, p. 34. Good **Cleese** article.

682 May 1984

Fantasy Empire Magazine (U.S.)—“And Now for Something Completely Python” by John Peel, pp. 56–61. The history of Monty Python, with listings of the group’s and individual members’ achievements.

683 May 1984

John Cleese’s American Express commercial wins a Clio award at the 25th annual Clio Awards.

684 May 29, 1984

The Young Ones (BBC-2). “Nasty.” The boys rent a VCR and nasty videos. Starring Adrian Edmondson, Rik Mayall, Nigel Planer, Christopher Ryan, Alexei Sayle, and **Terry Jones** as the vicar; produced by Paul Jackson.

685 Summer 1984

A Private Function, starring **Michael Palin**, is filmed in England.

686 Summer 1984

Kronenbourg. Commercials (radio)—**John Cleese** lends his voice to this series of four American radio spots—by Levine, Huntley, Schmidt and Beaver, New York—for Kronenbourg beer, in which he lampoons the “better not bitter” slogan.

687 August 13, 1984

Advertising Age Magazine (U.S.)—“Star Presenter **Cleese** Taps

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U.S. Funny Bone” by Sean Milmo, p. 1+. Article on **John Cleese’s** involvement with commercials, and on his being selected by *Advertising Age* as its Star Presenter for 1984. He was chosen from among more than sixty celebrities; previous winners include John Houseman, Robert Morley and Bill Cosby.

688 Autumn 1984

Sight and Sound. Magazine (England)—“Oh, to Be in England” by John Pym, pp. 262–63. Article on the filming of *A Private Function*.

689 September 13, 1984

Advertising Age. Magazine (U.S.)—“Kronenbourg Puts the Accent on Humor” by Ed Zotti, p. 14. Article on **John Cleese’s** involvement with Kronenbourg beer radio ads.

690 October 1984

The Golden Skits of Wing Commander Muriel Volestrangler FRHS and Bar. Book—by Muriel Volestrangler/Methuen (U.K.)/128 pp. A compilation of sketches, ranging from Cambridge to Monty Python, written and co-written by **John Cleese**. Includes sketches like “Architect Skit,” “The Last Supper Skit,” “Undertaker Skit,” “Cheese Shop Skit,” “Merchant Banker Skit,” “Crunchy Frog Skit,” “Argument Skit” and “Dead Parrot.”

691 October 3, 1984

There’s Life (ITV). Presented by Miriam Stoppard; last show of the series. Guests: **John Cleese** and Robin Skynner talk about *Families*. . . and why our emotions can get us into trouble.

692 November 1984

Dr. Fegg’s Encyclopedia of All World Knowledge. Book—by **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin**/Peter Bedrick Books (U.S.)/96 pp. A revised reissue of *Dr. Fegg’s Nasty Book of Knowledge*.

693 November 1984

A Private Function. Book—by Alan Bennett/Faber and Faber (U.K.)/160 pp. Novelization of the film starring **Michael Palin**.

694 November 1984

Fantasy Empire. Magazine (U.S.)—“**Terry Jones** of Monty Python Is Turning the World Upside Down” by Neil Gaiman, pp. 23–26+. “**Terry**

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Gilliam's Brazil by Bart Mills, pp. 6-7+. Great **Jones** article and a look at **Gilliam's** next film. *The Meaning of Life* photo is on the front and back cover.

695 November 1984

The Courage to Change: Hope and Help for Alcoholics and Their Families. Book—by Dennis Wholey/Houghton Mifflin (U.S.)/306 pp. A collection of conversations with 20 well-known personalities about their battles with alcohol. PBS talk show host Wholey (himself an alcoholic) presents the accounts of such celebrities as Pete Townshend, Doc Severinson and **Graham Chapman**.

696 November 16, 1984

Opinions (Channel Four). **Graham Chapman** talks about the dangers in worrying too much about what the neighbors say.

697 November 18, 1984

Good Morning Britain (TV-am). David Frost interviews **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**.

698 November 18, 1984

Sunday, Sunday (ITV). Hosted by Gloria Hunniford. Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *A Private Function*, Christopher Biggins, Hannah Gordon, Martin Shaw.

699 November 21, 1984

A Private Function, starring **Michael Palin** and Maggie Smith, has a Royal Charity Premiere in England in aid of the Save the Children Fund.

700 November 22, 1984

A Private Function is shown at the London Film Festival.

701 November 27, 1984

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **John Cleese**, promoting *Families* . . . , Eva Gabor.

702 November 30, 1984

A Private Function opens in England.

703 1984

Compaq Computers. Commercials (TV)—**John Cleese** appears in a

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series of American ads – by Ogilvy and Mather, New York – for Compaq Computers, in which he plays a businessman who makes the wrong decision to buy other well-known computers, without considering Compaq.

704 1984

John Cleese's daughter, Camilla, is born.

705 1984

Terry Gilliam and family move into a 16th century, three-story house in Highgate Village, north of London. The house, also known as the Old Hall, lies above Highgate Cemetery and next door to St. Michaels, Church of England.

706 1984

The Secret Policeman's Private Parts. Videocassette – Media/M295/1976, 1977, 1979, 1981/77 min. A compilation of comedy and music taken from the four Amnesty International benefits between 1976 and 1981. Starring **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin**, **Terry Jones**, **Graham Chapman**, **Terry Gilliam**, Peter Cook, Pete Townshend, Phil Collins, Donovan, Bob Geldof, etc.; directed by Roger Graef and Julien Temple; created and produced by Martin Lewis.

707 1984

The Dress. Short film – released by Paramount British Pictures/Forever Films-National Film Finance Corp.-Channel Four. A man finds his wife beautiful again when she wears the dress he bought for his mistress. Starring **Michael Palin**, Phyllis Logan, Derrick Branche, Dave Hill, Vivienne Ritchie, John Westbrook, Elisabeth Croft, Rachel Palin; screenplay by Robert Smith; directed by Eva Sereny.

708 1984

WXRT, 93 FM. Commercial (TV) – **Michael Palin** compares this Chicago radio station's records with other stations' pizza-like discs.

709 Early 1985

Silverado, a western directed by Lawrence Kasdan in which **John Cleese** plays an English sheriff, is filmed in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

710 January 1985

Terry Gilliam delivers *Brazil* to its U.S. distributor, Universal, 17 minutes too long. The studio demands that he reduce it from its length of

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2-hr. 22-min. to the contracted 2-hr. 5-min. They compromise on a 10-min. cut.

711 January 1985

Audio-Visual Communications. Magazine (U.S.)—"Learning: A Laughing Matter" by Michael Gates, p. 27. Article on Video Arts training films starring **John Cleese**.

712 January 1, 1985

Merv Griffin (CBS). Guests: **John Cleese** and Robin Skynner, promoting their book *Families and How to Survive Them*, recently released in the U.S., Gallagher.

713 January 12, 1985

TV Guide. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cleese: Mind Over Comedy," p. 19. Small article on **John Cleese** co-authoring *Families*.

714 February 1985

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Science Fiction, According to Monty Python, Part One," by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 91, pp. 21-24. Good article on sci-fi in the Python shows. Sketches looked at include "Science Fiction Sketch," "Bicycle Repairman," "Scott of the Antarctic," "Algon" and "Mr. Neutron."

715 February 1985

After a month of recutting, **Terry Gilliam** delivers his film at 2-hr. 11-min., but Universal wants to keep cutting. The "Battle of *Brazil*" begins.

716 February 1985

A Private Function is nominated for five British Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actress.

717 February 22, 1985

Brazil, **Terry Gilliam**'s nightmare-fantasy, opens in England. The film's European distributor is Twentieth-Century Fox.

718 February 22, 1985

The Times. Newspaper (London)—"Cinema: A Collision Between Mitty and Kafka" by Philip Strick, p. 19. Review of *Brazil*. Strick writes, "Gilliam's jokes are black and gory, but his plot is intricately coiled with spectacular adventures and wild fantasies. It's so astonishing to watch. . ."

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- 719** February 27, 1985
Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *A Private Function*, Carol Channing. **Palin** talks about the film and makes sausages on this special “morning” edition.
- 720** March 1985
A Private Function is shown at the San Francisco Film Festival. **Michael Palin** attends the screening.
- 721** March 1985
Hot Properties (Lifetime). Hosted by Richard Belzer. Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *A Private Function*, Hector Elizondo. **Palin** talks about the film and answers some phone calls from viewers.
- 722** March 1985
Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—“Hello, *Brazil*” by Kim Howard Johnson, pp. 54–56. Good article on **Terry Gilliam**’s latest film.
- 723** March 1985
Live at Five (NBC). Guest: **Michael Palin**, promoting *A Private Function*, in New York.
- 724** March 1985
Fish Tales. Book—by Al Levinson/Signford, **Michael Palin**’s publishing company.
- 725** March 1985
The British Academy Awards. Award ceremony—*A Private Function*, starring **Michael Palin**, wins three awards, for Best Actress (Maggie Smith), Best Supporting Actor (Denholm Elliott) and Best Supporting Actress (Liz Smith).
- 726** March 1, 1985
A Private Function premieres in the U.S.
- 727** March 9, 1985
A Private Function—opens in U.S. Film—released by Island Alive/93 min. A British comedy about a meek, small-town foot doctor and his socially ambitious wife who become involved with the black market when they steal an illegal pig during the food rationing days of post-war England. Starring **Michael Palin**, Maggie Smith, Denholm Elliott, Richard Griffiths,

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Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*. A variety of participants (from left: Terry Jones, Graham Chapman, and friend) play "Find the Fish."

Liz Smith, John Normington, Bill Paterson; written by Alan Bennett; directed by Malcolm Mowbray; produced by Mark Shivas.

728 March 18, 1985

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: *A Private Function*" by Richard Corliss, p. 84. Corliss writes, "This is an *Animal Farm* that could have used a taste of *Animal Crackers*."

729 March 18, 1985

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: A Pig in a Poke" by David Ansen, p. 71. Review of *A Private Function*. Ansen writes, "This droll allegory puts one in the mind of the classic Ealing comedies of the past, without ever quite matching their hilarity."

730 March 22, 1985

Merv Griffin (CBS). Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *A Private Function*, Tony Danza.

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- 731** April 1985
Wogan (BBC-1). Hosted by Terry Wogan. Guest: **John Cleese**, talking about *Silverado*.
- 732** April 1985
Labyrinth, which **Terry Jones** wrote the screenplay for, begins filming.
- 733** April 1985
Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Science Fiction, According to Monty Python, Part Two" by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 93, pp. 43-46. Good article on sci-fi in the Python films. Includes the words to "The Galaxy Song."
- 734** April 18, 1985
The Tonight Show (NBC). Hosted by Johnny Carson. Guest: **Michael Palin**, promoting *A Private Function*.
- 735** April 29, 1985
People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *A Private Function*" by Scot Haller, pp. 13-14. Haller writes, "...this movie is as angry about the class struggle as any modern English drama, but seldom has indignation been so imaginatively packaged. **Palin** and Smith, who were well matched in *The Missionary*, again work together marvelously."
- 736** June 2, 1985
Clockwise, starring **John Cleese**, begins filming in Hull, England.
- 737** July 1985
Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"John Cleese: 'Why Is *Starlog* Interviewing Me?'" by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 96, pp. 88-90. **Cleese** talks about his life and current projects.
- 738** July 1985
SF MovieLand. Magazine (U.S.)—"Report from the British Scene: *Brazil!*" by Bart Mills, no. 31, pp. 57-61. Article on **Terry Gilliam's** new movie, with many photos.
- 739** July 19, 1985
Silverado—opens in U.S. Film—released by Columbia Pictures/132 min. Sprawling Western about four unlikely comrades who band together

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to fight injustice in the 1800s town of Silverado. A fast-moving, pistol-whipping homage to Western films of the past. Starring Kevin Kline, Scott Glenn, Rosanna Arquette, **John Cleese** as Sheriff John Langston, Kevin Costner, Brian Dennehy, Danny Glover, Jeff Goldblum, Linda Hunt; produced and directed by Lawrence Kasdan.

740 August 1985

National Lampoon's European Vacation—opens in U.S. Film—released by Warner Bros./95 min. Clark Griswald and family stumble through Europe in this mostly unfunny sequel to the hilarious 1983 hit *Vacation*. Starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Dana Hill, Jason Lively, and **Eric Idle** as a very polite (and funny) British bicyclist; directed by Amy Heckerling; produced by Matty Simmons.

741 Fall 1985

John Cleese speaks at the Islington Sixth Form Centre in England. Other visitors to the school include Claire Rayner, Cardinal Basil Hume and Brian Redhead.

742 September–October 1985

Prevue Magazine (U.S.)—“**Terry Gilliam's** New Nightmare Comedy Takes Jonathan Pryce and Robert DeNiro from Bureaucratic Hell to *Brazil*” by Stewart Vindt, no. 61, pp. 52–55. Film preview, with many color photos.

743 September 13, 1985

Newsnight (BBC-2). Includes a report on Charles Crichton's collaboration with **John Cleese** on Video Arts films.

744 October 1985

Nicobobinus. Book—by **Terry Jones**/illustrated by Michael Foreman/Pavilion (U.K.), Peter Bedrick Books (U.S.)/176 pp. A children's story (**Jones'** third) about Nicobobinus, whose feet, hand and neck have been turned to gold. He sets off with his friend Rosie to find a cure, and has many adventures, facing dragons, pirate monks, and others.

745 October 1985

The Limerick Book. Book—by **Michael Palin**/Hutchinson Publishing/79 pp. An original collection of limericks.

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746 October 1985

Terry Gilliam places a full-page plea in *Daily Variety* to the president of Universal's parent company, MCA: "Dear Sid Sheinberg: When are you going to release my film, *Brazil*?"

747 November 1985

Comedy Music Videos. Videocassette—Vestron/60 min. A video compilation of 13 comic song performances. Includes "Piggie in the Middle" by The Rutles.

748 December 1985

Terry Jones attends a sex party hosted by Cynthia Payne at her house in Amble-side Avenue, Streatham in south-west London, as part of his research for his next film, *Personal Services*.

749 December 3, 1985

A Party Political Broadcast (ITV/BBC-2). **John Cleese** appears in this party political broadcast on behalf of the Social Democratic Party. Although it is only 10 minutes long, **Cleese** spent 14 hours at Shepperton Studios recording it, due to camera problems.

750 December 4, 1985

Breakfast Time (BBC-1). Guest: **John Cleese**, talking about the SDP broadcast.

751 December 6, 1985

Spies Like Us—opens in U.S. Film—released by Warner Bros./103 min. Comedy about two bumbling government agents sent as decoys on a counter-espionage mission. Starring Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd, Donna Dixon, with a cameo by **Terry Gilliam** as a German doctor; directed by John Landis; produced by Brian Grazer and George Folsey, Jr.

752 December 9, 1985

Wogan (BBC-1). Guests: **John Cleese**, talking about *Silverado*, Whitney Houston.

753 December 14, 1985

The Los Angeles Film Critics vote *Brazil* Best Picture of 1985, along with Best Director (**Terry Gilliam**) and Best Screenplay (by **Gilliam**, Tom Stoppard and Charles McKeown). After this, Universal releases **Gilliam's** own re-edit of the film for one week in New York and Los Angeles to

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qualify for Oscar consideration. **Gilliam** travels around the country promoting it.

754 December 16, 1985

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"In Hollywood, the Battle of *Brazil* Goes On" by Cathleen McGuigan, p. 82. An article on the battle to release **Terry Gilliam's** film.

755 December 17, 1985

Film 85 (BBC-1). Presented by Barry Norman. Includes a review of *Silverado*, starring **John Cleese**.

756 December 18, 1985

Brazil—week-long showing in New York begins. Film—released by Universal Pictures/131 min. Described by **Terry Gilliam** as "a post-Orwellian view of a pre-Orwellian world" and "Walter Mitty Meets Franz Kafka," the film concerns a day-dreaming Ministry of Information Retrieval clerk in a bleak futuristic society who risks his career and personal freedom to save the girl of his dreams from a fateful bureaucratic blunder. **Gilliam** has created a nightmarish and visually dazzling Art Deco, totalitarian world. Starring Jonathan Pryce, Kim Greist, Robert DeNiro, **Michael Palin**, Katherine Helmond, Ian Holm, Bob Hoskins, Peter Vaughan, Ian Richardson, Jim Broadbent, Charles McKeown, Barbara Hicks, Derrick O'Connor, Kathryn Pogson, Bryan Pringle, Sheila Reid; screenplay by **Terry Gilliam**, Tom Stoppard and Charles McKeown; music by Michael Kamen; directed by **Terry Gilliam**; produced by Arnon Milchan.

757 December 20, 1985

Pebble Mill at One (BBC-1). Guest: **Michael Palin**.

758 December 25, 1985

The week-long showing of *Brazil* in Los Angeles begins.

759 December 30, 1985

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: Happy Ending for a Nightmare" by Richard Corliss, p. 84. An article on the battle to release *Brazil*.

760 1985

Cineaste. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python Strikes Again" by Lenny Rubenstein, vol. XIV, no. 2, pp. 6-9. Interview with **Michael Palin**.

761 1985

A Private Function is voted best film in the competition at the 16th International Film Festival in Taormina, Sicily. Maggie Smith and Liz Smith are voted Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress.

762 1985

Terry Gilliam's *Brazil* is screened at the Deauville Film Festival in France.

763 1985

Graham Chapman begins rewriting, with David Sherlock, the film script for *Ditto*, which he and **John Cleese** wrote several years ago. The film is meant to be **Chapman's** directorial debut, but the project is never realized.

764 1985

The Pied Piper of Hamelin (Showtime). Faerie Tale Theatre series. This wonderful cable TV adaption of Robert Browning's famous poem has **Eric Idle** (who replaced original star David Bowie) playing both the poet Browning and the medieval piper. As the piper, he is hired to rid Hamelin of its rats. But when the mayor refuses to pay him his fee, the mystical piper spirits the town's children away as well. Starring **Eric Idle**, Tony Van Bridge, Keram Malicki-Sanchez, Peter Blais, Peter Boretski; written and directed by Nicholas Meyer; produced by Bridget Terry and Fredric S. Fuchs; Executive Producer: Shelley Duvall.

765 January 1986

John Cleese appears before a large gathering of businessmen and personnel trainers at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel to announce that the 13-year-old Video Arts is opening up an office in Chicago and going after the American training-film market.

766 January 1986

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Bye, Bye, *Brazil*?" by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 102, pp. 46-47. Article on **Terry Gilliam's** struggle to get the film released.

767 January 27, 1986

New York. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: Back to the Future" by David Denby, pp. 55-56. Review of *Brazil*. Denby writes, "The finest things in the movie are just weird comic riffs, and when **Gilliam** turns to plot, he

loses his edge. . . *Brazil* goes on and on, and after a while, **Gilliam's** not having anything to say becomes a handicap."

768 February 1986

Terry Jones attends another sex party at Cynthia Payne's house, as part of his research for the film, *Personal Services*.

769 February 10, 1986

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Current Cinema: *Brazil*" by Pauline Kael, p. 106+. Kael writes, "What **Gilliam** presents is a vision of the future as the decayed past, and this vision is an organic thing on the screen—which is a considerable accomplishment. . . Yet I must admit to a feeling of relief when the film was over. . . This image-maker leaves you with nothing but images."

770 February 14, 1986

Brazil opens in the U.S. nationwide.

771 February 17, 1986

Industry Week. Magazine (U.S.)—"Industrial Training—Corporate Comedy" by M. Much, pp. 21-22. Video Arts article.

772 February 17, 1986

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *Brazil*" by Peter Travers. Travers writes, ". . . **Gilliam's** most daring, demented and demanding film. . . **Gilliam** paints his bleak universe with the most astonishing visuals since *Metropolis*. . . But the undeniable power of the film is the way its images keep digging into your memory."

773 March 1986

Photoplay. Magazine (England)—"Fawltly Goods" by N. Norman, pp. 4-6. An interview with **John Cleese**.

774 March 1986

Video Times. Magazine (U.S.)—"Popcorn: Time-Killing Bandit" by Bonny O. Van Orman, p. 12. "Keynote Reviews: *A Private Function*" by Ellin Stein, p. 34. Small article on Sean Connery in *Time Bandits* and video review.

775 March 1986

Clockwise: A Screenplay. Book—by Michael Frayn/Methuen/99 pp. The screenplay of the film starring **John Cleese**.

- 776** March 3, 1986
The Times. Newspaper (London)—“Struggling to Escape from a Familiarly Fawly Image” by Paul Nathanson, p. 8. Good interview with **John Cleese** about *Clockwise* and his other current projects.
- 777** March 12, 1986
The 1985 BAFTA Craft Awards (Channel 4). Introduced by David Frost; Mark Shivas, Peter Barkworth and **Terry Jones** discuss the works of the award show’s winners.
- 778** March 14, 1986
Clockwise, a new film starring **John Cleese**, opens in England.
- 779** March 17, 1986
Wogan (BBC-1). Guests: **Michael Palin**, Sir Geraint Evans, Eugene Lambert.
- 780** March 17, 1986
People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—“With an Eye Out for Trouble, **Terry Gilliam** Does Battle Over *Brazil* and Wins an Oscar Nod” by Jeff Yarbrough, pp. 141–43. Article on **Gilliam’s** life and struggle with Universal.
- 781** March 18, 1986
Film 86 (BBC-1). Presented by Barry Norman. Includes a review of *Clockwise*, starring **John Cleese**.
- 782** March 19, 1986
Pebble Mill at One (BBC-1). Guest: **John Cleese**, talking about his film career since Python.
- 783** March 22, 1986
Aspel and Co. (ITV). Guests: **John Cleese**, Yoko Ono, Boy George.
- 784** March 24, 1986
Wogan (BBC-1). Guests: **Terry Gilliam**, Maria Aitken, Paul Shane.
- 785** March 24, 1986
The 58th Annual Academy Awards. Award ceremony—**Terry Gilliam’s** *Brazil* is up for two Oscars, Best Original Screenplay (**Gilliam**, Tom Stoppard, Charles McKeown) and Best Art Direction (Norman Garwood, Maggie Gray), but loses in both. Broadcast live on ABC.

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- 786** March 27, 1986
Jackanory (BBC-1). **Michael Palin** reads his book *Small Harry and the Toothache Pills*.
- 787** April 1986
Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Jonathan Pryce: The Boy from *Brazil*" by Adam Pirani, pp. 51-54. Article on the star of the **Terry Gilliam** film.
- 788** April 1986
Spin. Magazine (U.S.)—"Kicking Ass" by Jack Mathews, pp. 97-98. Article on **Terry Gilliam's** fight for *Brazil's* release, with good photos of him by Josh Cheuse.
- 789** April 1, 1986
Women's Hour (BBC Radio). **Terry Jones** presents this show on April Fool's Day, the first time it is presented by a man.
- 790** April 4, 5, 6, 1986
Comic Relief. Stage show—British comedians and musicians perform live at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London to support the work of Save the Children and Oxfam in the Sudan and Ethiopia. Starring The Young Ones, Ben Elton, Rowan Atkinson, French and Saunders, Billy Connolly, Kate Bush, Bob Geldof, Midge Ure; with **Graham Chapman**, **Michael Palin**; stage show directed by Rowan Atkinson.
- 791** April 7–May 1986
Personal Services, directed by **Terry Jones**, is filmed on location in London, Spain, and at Jacob Street Studios in London.
- 792** April 23, 1986
Wogan (BBC-1). Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting his *Limericks* book, Stephen Fry.
- 793** May 1986
Sports Aid. Benefit event—**Graham Chapman** participates in a "dangerous sport" as part of the Bob Geldof sports benefit show held in Hyde Park in England. He was put into a climbing harness and popped into the air "130 feet or so, where I floated around for what seemed like an age," he remembers.

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794 May 1986

Sales and Marketing Management. Magazine (U.S.)—“**John Cleese: Selling His Brains Out**” by Cathryn Jakobson, pp. 42–45. Article/interview on **Cleese**’s life and involvement with business-training films for Video Arts. He was interviewed at the Ritz Carlton on Manhattan’s Central Park South. He is also featured on the cover with a Video Arts sticker on his forehead.

795 May 1986

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—“**Terry Jones: Creating the Wonders of Labyrinth**” by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 106, pp. 32–33 + . Good article on **Jones**, who talks about how he became involved with the film, among other things. Includes a photo of him surrounded by Goblins from the film.

796 May 30, 1986

The home of Cynthia Payne, the celebrated British madam upon whom **Terry Jones**’ *Personal Services* is based, is raided a second time during a sex party on the night **Jones** is shooting the 1978 raid sequence for the film.

797 June 1986

East of Ipswich, a TV-film written by **Micheal Palin**, is filmed in Southwold, England.

798 June 1986

Town and Country Planning. Magazine (England)—“Public Transport—Indignation, Despair and Hope” by **Michael Palin**, pp. 180–181. Humorous article on public transportation.

799 June 1986

Twilight Zone. Magazine (U.S.)—“Screen: *Brazil*” by Gahan Wilson, pp. 88–90. Wilson writes, “*Brazil* is a Monty Python version of *Brave New World* and *1984*, dear readers, and it works; it works terrifyingly well . . . it does seem to be the strongest signal yet, and it comes atop a most encouraging pile of other signals, that we could be headed for an extraordinary new era of creativity in films dealing with fantastic humor.”

800 June 27, 1986

Labyrinth—opens in the U.S. Film—released by Tri-Star Pictures/Henson Associates, Inc. and Lucasfilm Ltd./101 min. Charming fantasy

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about a teenage girl whose baby brother is kidnapped by the King of the Goblins and in order to rescue him she must navigate a devilish labyrinth. From Muppet creator Jim Henson. Starring David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly, Toby Froud; screenplay by **Terry Jones** (and Elaine May); directed by Jim Henson; produced by Eric Rattray; Executive Producer: George Lucas.

801 July 1986

Cinefantastique. Magazine (U.S.)—"Reviews: A Dark, Difficult Nineteen-Eighty-Floor Show" by Thomas Doherty, p. 46+. Review of *Brazil*. Doherty writes, "Visually beautiful and conceptually befuddled. . . any film stuffed with this much provocative content is well worth checking out. Next time around, though, **Gilliam** should aim as carefully for the heart as for the eye."

802 July 7, 1986

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *Labyrinth*" by Ralph Novak, p. 10. Novak writes, "The writer—with uncredited help from Elaine May—is Monty Python alumnus **Terry Jones**, whose affection for the perverse removes any danger that this film will turn treacly."

803 August 1986

Clockwise, starring **John Cleese**, is one of 200 films screened at the Montreal Film Festival.

804 August 1986

Video Times. Magazine (U.S.)—"Popcorn: Bye, Bye *Brazil*" by Gay Russell-Dempsey, p. 8. Small article on **Terry Gilliam's** fight with Universal.

805 August 8, 1986

The Transformers: The Movie—opens in U.S. Film—released by De Laurentiis Entertainment Group/80 min. Animated feature film starring the popular children's characters. Features the voices of Orson Welles, **Eric Idle** as Wreck Gar, Robert Stack, Leonard Nimoy, Judd Nelson, Lionel Stander; directed by Nelson Shin; produced by Joe Bacal and Tom Griffin.

806 August 24, 1986

The New York Times Book Review. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Children's Books: *Nicobobinus*" by Beverly Lyon Clark, p. 21. Clark writes, ". . . an

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irreverent, parodic, often witty romp . . . it reads rather like a Monty Python script, minus the onstage gore."

807 September–November 1986

The Mikado (or *The Town of Titipu*). Light opera—Jonathan Miller produced this unusual version of Gilbert and Sullivan's 1885 operetta for The English National Opera, performed at the London Coliseum. **Eric Idle** makes his operatic debut as Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner, in this innovative production which has shifted the operetta's setting from old Japan to a 1920s English seaside resort. Starring **Eric Idle**, Bonaventura Bottone, Lesley Garrett, Felicity Palmer, Richard Angas, Richard Van Allan, Mark Richardson, Ethna Robinson/Jean Rigby, Susan Bullock; music by Arthur Sullivan; text by W. S. Gilbert, with "Little List" rewritten by **Eric Idle**; chorus and orchestra conducted by Peter Robinson; produced by Jonathan Miller.

808 September 1986

Video Magazine (U.S.)—"Reviews: *Brazil*" by Timothy Onosko, p. 104. Onosko writes, "Despite *Brazil's* high visual invention, its story is rather obscure . . . Oddest of all are at least five false endings to the story that range from deliriously happy to utterly downbeat, played back to back."

809 September 8, 1986

People Weekly Magazine (U.S.)—"Chatter: A Python in the Opera House" by Michael Neill, p. 132. Article on **Eric Idle** in *The Mikado*.

810 October 1986

The Mirrorstone. Book—by **Michael Palin**/illustrated by Alan Lee/conceived and designed by Richard Seymour/Jonathan Cape (U.K.), Alfred A. Knopf (U.S.)/32 pp. A children's story about a young boy named Paul who is brought into another world by an evil magician scientist named Salaman, who forces him to swim through underwater danger in a quest for the priceless Mirrorstone. The book contains seven holograms.

811 October 1986

The Goblins of Labyrinth. Book—by Brian Froud and **Terry Jones**/Pavilion (U.K.), Owl Books (U.S.)/144 pp. The myriad, malevolent Goblins that populate the film *Labyrinth* are brought to life through the exquisitely imaginative drawings that fill the pages of this book by conceptual designer Brian Froud. **Terry Jones**, co-author of the screenplay, provides the witty text for this collector's item.

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812 October 1986

The Utterly, Utterly Merry Comic Relief Christmas Book. Book — Fontana Trade Paperback (U.K.)/96 pp. A comedy book for charity that includes “Biggles and the Groupies” by **Michael Palin** (with an introduction by George Harrison), “The Private Life of Genghis Kahn” from a sketch by **Graham Chapman** and Douglas Adams, and “A Christmas Fairly Story” by **Terry Jones** and Adams.

813 October 1986

The Monty Python Gift Boks. Books — Methuen (U.K.)/two vols. A repackaging of *Big Red Book* and *Brand New Monty Python Bok*.

814 October 6, 1986

Today (NBC). Guests: **John Cleese**, promoting *Clockwise*, Yoko Ono, Dwight Gooden.

815 October 7, 1986

CBS Morning News (CBS). Guest: **John Cleese**, promoting *Clockwise*.

816 October 7, 1986

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guest: **John Cleese**, promoting *Clockwise*.

817 October 7, 1986

Breakfast Time (BBC-1). Includes a report on **Eric Idle**'s operatic debut.

818 October 10, 1986

Clockwise — opens in U.S. Film — released by Universal Pictures/Cannon Screen Entertainment/96 min. Brian Stimpson, an obsessively punctual middle-school headmaster, has been named chairman of the National Headmasters Conference. His trip to the conference to make a speech is marked by a series of disasters beginning when he accidentally boards the wrong train. Starring **John Cleese**, Penelope Wilton, Sharon Maiden, Stephen Moore; screenplay by Michael Frayn; directed by Christopher Morahan; produced by Michael Codron.

819 October 11, 12, 1986

The album of Jonathan Miller's *The Mikado*, featuring **Eric Idle**, is recorded at Abbey Road EMI Studios, London.

- 820** October 20, 1986
Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Monty Python in the Boardroom" by Janice Castro, p. 65. Article on **John Cleese's** business-training films.
- 821** November 1986
Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: *Clockwise*" by Bruce Williamson. Williamson writes, "Although stretched pretty far, *Clockwise* is downright hilarious at least half the time, which earns it better than passing grades."
- 822** November 1986
Cyril and the House of Commons. Book—by **Michael Palin**/illustrated by Caroline Holden/Pavilion (U.K.). A children's book.
- 823** November 1986
Cyril and the Dinner Party. Book—by **Michael Palin**/illustrated by Caroline Holden/Pavilion (U.K.). A children's book.
- 824** November 1986
John Cleese is voted the funniest man in Britain by a poll conducted by Radio One in England. Lenny Henry was in second place, followed by Michael Barrymore, Ben Elton and Rik Mayall.
- 825** November 1986
Vogue. Magazine (U.S.)—"Say **Cleese!**" by B. Nightingale, p. 86. Article on **John Cleese**.
- 826** November 1986
Personal Services, a new film directed by **Terry Jones**, is withdrawn from the London Film Festival on the insistence of the defense lawyers for celebrated madam Cynthia Payne, who will go on trial again in January. They feel that the film, which is loosely based on Payne's life, could prejudice her case.
- 827** November 6, 1986
Breakfast Time (BBC-1). Guest: **Michael Palin**.
- 828** November 10, 1986
People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *Clockwise*" by Ira Hellman, p. 10. Hellman writes, "...a delightfully jaunty farce... With **Cleese** in top form, *Clockwise* is 96 minutes and four seconds of fun."

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829 Winter 1986–1987

Eric Idle takes singing lessons for his role as Ko-Ko in *The Mikado*, which opens for another season in the spring.

830 December 1986

The Illustrated London News. Magazine (England)—“Double Trouble” by George Perry, p. 11. Article on **Terry Jones**’ projects, *Labyrinth* and *Personal Services*.

831 December 1, 1986

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend the Royal Charity premiere of *Labyrinth*, written by **Terry Jones**, in England.

832 December 2, 1986

Labyrinth opens in England.

833 December 3, 1986

Nightlife (Synd.). Hosted by David Brenner. Guest: **Michael Palin**, promoting *Ripping Yarns* on video.

834 December 3, 1986

Paramount Home Video begins releasing *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* on video in the U.S. with three 60-minute volumes, each containing two shows linked thematically, not chronologically. Two more tapes, each priced at \$24.95, will be released about every three months. The Pythons decided to sign with Paramount after Python-representatives met with Timothy Clott, the company’s head of home video. Clott, whose carefully packaged and advertised *Star Trek* videos had been very successful, says “They were encouraged, and they were happy with our marketing plans.” All 45 episodes of the show will be released.

835 December 3, 1986

The First Monty Python’s Flying Circus Videocassette. Videocassette—Paramount/12543/1970/60 min. Includes “The Architects Sketch” and “Ministry of Silly Walks.”

836 December 3, 1986

The Second (In Sequence, Not Quality) Monty Python’s Flying Circus Videocassette. Videocassette—Paramount/12544/1972, 1970/59 min. Includes “The Argument Clinic” and “The Spanish Inquisition.”

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837 December 3, 1986

The Third (But Still Drastically Important and Absolutely Necessary to Have) Monty Python's Flying Circus Videocassette. Videocassette—Paramount/12545/1970, 1972/58 min. Includes “The Attila the Hun Show” and “Summarizing Proust.”

838 December 4, 1986

The Tonight Show (NBC). Guest host: Jay Leno. Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *Ripping Yarns* on video, Amy Irving.

839 December 5, 1986

In connection with Britain's BBC Video line, CBS/Fox Video releases all 12 episodes of *Fawlty Towers* and all 9 episodes of *Ripping Yarns* on video in the U.S. as part of the BBC's 50th anniversary celebration.

840 December 5, 1986

Fawlty Towers: Gourmet Night. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1975, 1979/90 min. Includes “Gourmet Night,” “Waldorf Salad” and “The Kipper and the Corpse.”

841 December 5, 1986

Fawlty Towers: Communication Problems. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1979/94 min. Includes “Communication Problems,” “The Anniversary” and “Basil the Rat.”

842 December 5, 1986

Fawlty Towers: The Builders. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1975, 1979/98 min. Includes “The Builders,” “The Wedding Party” and “The Psychiatrist.”

843 December 5, 1986

Fawlty Towers: The Hotel Inspectors. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1975/90 min. Includes “The Hotel Inspectors,” “The Germans” and “A Touch of Class.”

844 December 5, 1986

Ripping Yarns. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1977, 1979/91 min. Includes “Tomkinson's Schooldays,” “Escape from Stalag Luft 112B” and “Golden Gordon.”

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845 December 5, 1986

More Ripping Yarns. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1977, 1979/92 min. Includes “The Testing of Eric Olthwaite,” “Whinfrey’s Last Case” and “The Curse of the Claw.”

846 December 5, 1986

Even More Ripping Yarns. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1977, 1979/90 min. Includes “Roger of the Raj,” “Murder at Moorstones Manor” and “Across the Andes by Frog.”

847 December 6, 1986

Saturday Night Live (NBC). Hosted by Chevy Chase, Steve Martin, Martin Short; with **Eric Idle** appearing in one sketch as a British customs officer; directed by Paul Miller; produced by Lorne Michaels.

848 December 7, 1986

The New York Times Book Review. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Children’s Books: *The Mirrorstone*” by Edward Sorel, p. 77. Sorel writes, “Mr. **Palin** does a splendid job. . . *The Mirrorstone* is an exciting, handsomely produced book.”

849 December 22, 1986

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *Ripping Yarns* on video and talking about his trip to Russia, Julia Child.

850 December 26, 1986

The Times Literary Supplement. Newspaper (England)—“Children’s Books: Exotic Excursions” by Lachlan Mackinnon, p. 1458. Review of *The Mirrorstone*. Mackinnon writes, “. . . magical fantasy . . . gripping and imaginatively expansive. The book is quite good enough not to need its gimmick, seven holograms printed on to the page.”

851 1986

The South Bank Show (ITV). “**John Cleese**.” Host Melvyn Bragg offers an intimate portrait of the British comic actor. Includes an in-depth interview with **Cleese**, who reflects on his humor and the characters he has portrayed, along with clips from his films and TV series. Edited and presented by Melvyn Bragg; produced and directed by David Hinton.

852 1986

Graham Chapman joins The Dangerous Sports Club for their winter sports in St. Maritz.

853 1986

Michael Palin and **Terry Gilliam** travel to Moscow for British Film Week, with their films *Jabberwocky* and *Brazil*. They then went on to Leningrad, staying in the Soviet Union for five days.

854 1986

After **Terry Gilliam** sends a letter to British stage schools looking for a girl for his new film about Baron Munchausen, someone at a school in Northern England sees **Gilliam's** distinctive "Pooh Pooh Films" letterhead and, thinking it is a cover for a kiddie-porn organization, calls the local vice squad.

855 1986

Comic Relief: Utterly Utterly Live! Record—WEA Records/24 09321. Stephen Fry, Bob Geldof and Midge Ure perform "Merchant Banker" written by **John Cleese** and **Graham Chapman**; with The Young Ones, Billy Connolly, Kate Bush, etc.; produced by Stuart Colman and Geoffrey Perkins; recorded live at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, 4th, 5th and 6th April 1986 in the Mobil Studio.

856 January 1987

Video. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Gazette: Ministry of Silly Video" by Tom Soter, p. 20. An article about Python coming to home video.

857 January 1987

Terry Jones has trouble finding a good poster for his film *Personal Services* that the Society of Film Distributors will pass. The first of five posters tried out featured a wonderful illustration by Beryl Cook.

858 January 25, 1987

The London Evening Standard Film Awards. Award ceremony—at this awards show held at the Savoy Hotel in London, **John Cleese** receives the Peter Sellers Award for Comedy for his role in *Clockwise*. Although he couldn't make it in person, he did send a funny video message to accept it. Shown on BBC-1.

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859 January 28, 1987

Wogan (BBC-1). Hosted by Terry Wogan. Guests: **Michael Palin**, Jeffrey Archer.

860 January 31, 1987

The Times. Newspaper (London)—“Bright and Beached Memoirs” by Peter Waymark, p. 16. **Michael Palin** talks about the TV-film *East of Ipswich*, which he wrote.

861 February–April 1987

The Mikado (or *The Town of Titipu*). Light opera—Jonathan Miller’s hit production for The English National Opera stages thirteen shows for another season at the London Coliseum. Starring **Eric Idle**, Bonaventura Bottone/Stuart Kale, Susan Bullock, Ann Howard, Dennis Wicks/Richard Angas, Richard Van Allan/Ian Caddy, Eric Shilling; music by Arthur Sullivan; text by W. S. Gilbert, with “Little List” rewritten by **Eric Idle**; chorus and orchestra conducted by Martin Handley/David Drummond; produced by Jonathan Miller.

862 February 1987

Film Comment. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Bingo Long Traveling All-Star Industrialists” by Daniel M. Kimmel, pp. 41–43. An article on **John Cleese**’s and others’ involvement with business-training films.

863 February 1, 1987

East of Ipswich (BBC-2). A humorous and touching story of a teenage boy’s sexual awakening during a family vacation in seaside Norfolk in 1957. Based on **Michael Palin**’s own boring childhood vacations. Starring Edward Rawle-Hicks, John Nettleton, Pat Heywood, Dona Kirsch, Pippa Hinchley, John Wagland, Joan Sanderson; written by **Michael Palin**; directed by Tristram Powell; produced by Innes Lloyd.

864 February 3, 1987

The Variety Club awards name **John Cleese** the best film actor of 1986 for his performance in *Clockwise*.

865 February 18, 1987

Woman’s Hour (Radio 4). Hosted by Sue MacGregor; with guest of the week, **Terry Gilliam**.

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866 February 20, 1987

Wogan (BBC-1). Hosted by Terry Wogan. Guests: **Eric Idle**, talking about *The Mikado*, Jan Leeming, Boy George.

867 Spring 1987

The Mikado. Record(LP) – That's Entertainment/TER 1121 (U.K.). Studio recording of Jonathan Miller's hit production of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta starring **Eric Idle**, made less than four weeks after the show's first night. Contains the entire first act, with considerable cuts made in the second act.

868 Spring 1987

The Pythons organize Prominent Features, "an umbrella company for all our individual projects," says **Terry Jones**. The company's headquarters is to be built in Camden Town.

869 March 1987

Michael Palin attends Laraine Newman's birthday party with other *Saturday Night Live* veterans Steve Martin, Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, Lorne Michaels, Edie Baskin, Tom Schiller, Anne Beatts, and about 30 others.

870 March 1987

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball. Stage show – British and American musicians and comedians perform for four evenings at the London Palladium in aid of Amnesty International. In one comedy bit, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie present **John Cleese** with the "Silver Dick" award (named after Dick Emery) for his long service to comedy. Starring Joan Armatrading, Chet Atkins, Paul Brady, Jackson Browne, Kate Bush, **John Cleese**, Robbie Coltrane, Phil Cool, Duran Duran, Ben Elton, Stephen Fry, Peter Gabriel, Bob Geldof, David Gilmour, Lenny Henry, Nik Kershaw, Mark Knopfler, Hugh Laurie, Nick Mason, Emo Phillips, Lou Reed, Spitting Image, Ruby Wax, Youssou N'Dour; comedy stage direction by Paul Jackson.

871 March 1987

Terry Jones gives a lecture on Chaucer at Harvard University.

872 March 1987

Video Review. Magazine (U.S.) – "**Michael Palin** Spins His Yarn" by Maury Z. Levy, p. 76. An interview with **Palin** on his humour and *Ripping Yarns*.

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873 March 5, 1987

Cheers (NBC). "Simon Says." Diane persuades a noted marriage counselor to have a session with her and Sam, and then refuses to accept his prognosis for their impending marriage. Guest appearance: **John Cleese** as Dr. Simon Finch-Royce; with Ted Danson, Shelley Long, Kelsey Grammer, Woody Harrelson; directed by James Burrows; produced by David Angell.

874 March 20, 1987

Nightlife (Synd.). Hosted by David Brenner. Guests: **Terry Jones**, promoting *Personal Services* and talking about muggings and ladies' underwear, Stacey Lattisaw.

875 March 30, 1987

Graham Chapman is a guest VJ on MTV-Music Television.

876 April 1987

Graham Chapman goes on a month-long tour of colleges and clubs throughout the U.S.—lecturing, showing clips, and doing some generally silly things (like tossing dead fish into the audience and inviting them to give him "one minute of abuse" before starting).

877 April 5, 1987

Still Crazy Like a Fox (CBS). This made-for-TV film has Harry and Harrison Fox on a working holiday in London, where Harry is framed for the murder of the Duke of Trent. An offshoot of the series that ran from 1984 to 1986. **Graham Chapman** plays the serious role of Detective Inspector Palmer. Starring Jack Warden, John Rubinstein, James Faulkner, Catherine Oxenberg, **Graham Chapman**; directed by Paul Krasny.

878 April 12, 1987

The Sunday Times. Newspaper (England)—"Whipping Up a Poster Storm" by Mark Brennan, p. 51. A talk with **Terry Jones** about censorship, particularly on the trouble he had with the various *Personal Services* posters.

879 April 16, 1987

Nightlife (Synd.). Hosted by David Brenner. Guest: **Graham Chapman**, talking about The Dangerous Sports Club, among other things.

- 880** May 1987
Video. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Life of Python” by Tom Soter, pp. 50–52 + . A great overview of Monty Python, with selected videography.
- 881** May 13, 1987
The Fourth (Eagerly Awaited, Impatiently Anticipated, Ardently Sought After, Raring-to-Go and Real Good) Monty Python’s Flying Circus Videocassette. Videocassette—Paramount/12560/1970, 1972/60 min. Includes “Parts of the Body” and “The Farming Club.”
- 882** May 13, 1987
Monty Python’s Fifth (Symphony) Videocassette. Videocassette—Paramount/12561/1970, 1972/59 min. Includes “Spam” and “Gumby Brain Surgery.”
- 883** May 15, 1987
Personal Services—opens in U.S. Film—released by Vestron Pictures/103 min. This uproariously provocative film, based on the life of celebrated English madam, Cynthia Payne, pokes fun at society’s Hypocritical attitude toward sex. It’s the story of a working-class-girl-turned-madam who runs a “kinks and costume” brothel. Starring Julie Walters, Alec McCowen, Shirley Stelfox; written by David Leland; directed by **Terry Jones**; produced by Tim Bevan.
- 884** Summer 1987
The Battle of Brazil (The Real Story of Terry Gilliam’s Victory Over Hollywood to Release His Landmark Film with Annotated Screenplay). Book—by Jack Mathews/Crown/240 pp. Includes a well-documented account of the struggle between **Terry Gilliam** and Universal president Sid Sheinberg over the release of *Brazil*, as well as the film’s script and a look at its making.
- 885** Summer 1987
 The hilarious links for **Graham Chapman**’s upcoming Cinemax series *The Dangerous Film Club*, in which **Chapman** plays a variety of characters in a variety of locations, are filmed. Locations include New York Central Park.
- 886** June 1987
The Grand Knockout Tournament. Benefit event—**John Cleese** and **Michael Palin** participate in this feudal trash-sport competition for charity.

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The event, organized by Prince Edward, was held at an amusement park in Staffordshire. The 48 cavorting celebrities that attended were divided up into four teams led by Princess Anne, The Duke and Duchess of York, and Prince Edward. **Cleese** played on Prince Edward's yellow team and **Palin** on The Duke of York's green team.

887 June 19, 1987

The Grand Knockout Tournament is shown on the BBC in England.

888 July 13–September 1987

A Fish Called Wanda, written by and starring **John Cleese** with **Michael Palin**, is filmed, on a budget of \$7.3 million from MGM, at Twickenham Studios and on location in London and Oxford. Locations include Hatton Gardens, The Inns of Court, London Central Criminal Court, Oxbridge Town Hall and a pet cemetery in Surrey.

889 July 20–August 1987

Consuming Passions, based on the 1973 TV-play *Secrets* written by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**, is filmed.

890 July 20, 1987

Happy Holidays: The Golden Age of Railway Posters. Book—edited by **Michael Palin**/Pavilion (U.K.)/96 pp. A book of posters from the Railway Age.

891 August 1987

The Dangerous Film Club (Cinemax). A monthly collection of unusual clips, including home movies, animation and newsreels. The first show includes "A Trip Through the Brooks' Home" and "Dog Baseball." Starring **Graham Chapman**; directed by Paul Fuentes; produced by Mary Frances Shea and Andrea Cvirko.

892 August 1987

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball. Book—Sidgwick and Jackson (U.K.)/138 pp. This book of the Amnesty stage show contains the show's script and portraits of the cast; includes **John Cleese**'s brief appearance in the show, accepting an award.

893 August 4, 1987

The Tonight Show (NBC). Hosted by Johnny Carson. Guest:

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Graham Chapman, talking about and showing clips of *The Dangerous Sports Club*.

894 August 8, 1987

West 57th Street (CBS). **John Cleese** is interviewed by Steve Kroft, about his life and work with business-training films. Includes a behind-the-scenes look at **Cleese** making a training film. Produced by Dan Chaykin; Executive Producer: Andrew Lack.

895 August 12, 1987

The Grand Knockout Tournament is shown in the U.S. on USA-Cable.

896 Fall 1987

Eric Idle writes *National Lampoon's Vacation Down Under*, but his final script is not used.

897 Fall 1987

Michael Palin works on the script for *American Friends*, a film he hopes to start shooting by May or June of next year in Oxford, England.

898 September 1987

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball. Film — released by Virgin Films/Elephant House/96 min. The fourth filmed Amnesty International benefit, featuring British and American musicians and comedians at the London Palladium. Starring Joan Armatrading, Kate Bush, **John Cleese**, Chet Atkins, Emo Phillips, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Mark Knopfler, and more; directed by Ken O'Neill; produced by Neville Bolt and Tony Hollingsworth.

899 September 1987

The Dangerous Film Club (Cinemax). The second show includes "Snack of the Dead," "Sweet Sal" and "Hold the Mayo." Starring **Graham Chapman**; directed by Paul Fuentes; produced by Mary Frances Shea and Andrea Cvirko.

900 September 1987

When We Were Young: Memories of Childhood. Book — a Graham Tarrant Book/David and Charles (U.K.)/128 pp. A collection of childhood reminiscences of some sixty famous people, including Barbara Cartland, Roald Dahl, Princess Margaret, Twiggy, Barry Took, and **Terry Jones**,

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whose contribution is one of his first school papers titled "My Family." All profits from the book are paid to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

901 September 14, 1987–1988

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen, directed by **Terry Gilliam** and featuring **Eric Idle**, is filmed at Cinecitta Studios in Rome, Italy with miniature work done at London's Pinewood Studios, and on location in Almeria and Belchite, Spain. Originally budgeted at \$23.5 million, it ultimately came to about \$45 million. The problems during the seven-month filming include: the battle for the rights to the 1787 classic story, the film crew was speaking four different languages, African Horse Fever broke out in Spain during filming, David Puttman was fired as head of Columbia, Film Finances Inc. forced **Gilliam** to make major cuts in the script because of the spiralling budget, and Sean Connery walked off the set because of the cuts in his Moon King sequence. One bonus for **Gilliam** was his meeting with Federico Fellini, and working with Fellini veterans.

902 September 16, 1987

Monty Python's Flying Circus: Volume Six and Violence. Videocassette—Paramount/12582/1970, 1973/58 min. Includes "The Cheese Shop" and "How Not to Be Seen."

903 September 16, 1987

Monty Python's Flying Circus: Volume 7 Pipe Dreams. Videocassette—Paramount/12583/1970, 1973/60 min. Includes "Blackmail" and "Olympic Hide and Seek."

904 September 20, 1987

The 39th Annual Emmy Awards. Award ceremony—**John Cleese** wins an Emmy award for Outstanding Guest Performer in a Comedy Series for his performance on *Cheers* (March 5). He is not there to accept the award. Broadcast live on Fox.

905 October 1987

The Dangerous Film Club (Cinemax). The third show includes "Spontaneous Combustion," "Doggie Doo Check" and "Horror Brunch." Starring **Graham Chapman**; directed by Paul Fuentes; produced by Andrea Cvirko.

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- 906** October 1, 1987
MTV-Music Television begins playing *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.
- 907** October 11, 1987
The Sunday Times Magazine. Magazine (England)—“Once Upon a Time When I Was Young,” p. 40. Extracts from contributions to the NSPCC book, including **Terry Jones**' piece.
- 908** October 26, 1987
National Underwriter (Property and Casualty/Employee Benefits Ed.) Magazine (U.S.)—“Humor in Training Increases Retention” by J. Stat, pp. 30-31. Video Arts article.
- 909** October 27, 1987
Graham Chapman is a guest VJ on MTV-Music Television.
- 910** October 30, 1987
The Morning Program (CBS). Guest: **Graham Chapman** talks with Mariette Hartley about Python, The Dangerous Sports Club and the Comedy Crusade against Diabetes.
- 911** October 31, 1987
MTV Halloween Costume Party (MTV-Music Television). **Graham Chapman** appears on this MTV special dressed in a mouse costume that has “Splunge?” written across the front.
- 912** November 1987
The Dangerous Film Club (Cinemax). The fourth show includes “Brides,” “Croutons and You” and “Is We Is?” Starring **Graham Chapman**; directed by Paul Fuentes; produced by Andrea Cvirko.
- 913** November 1987
John Cleese and wife Barbara Trentham separate. **Cleese** moves into an apartment five-minutes walking distance from their Holland Park home in London. It is a trial separation.
- 914** November 2, 1987
The First Annual Comedy Crusade. Stage show—comedy clubs across the U.S. join together to kick off National Diabetes Month with this “comedy crusade.” Comedian Tom Parks heads the flagship programme at

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Washington, D.C.'s Warner Theater. Other performers include Kip Addotta, Franklyn Ajaye and **Graham Chapman**. Ticket proceeds go to diabetes research.

915 November 7, 1987

TV Guide. Magazine (U.S.)—"Insider: The Life of **Chapman**" by Paul Francis, pp. 26-27. A brief article, with a photo.

916 November 23, 1987

The filming of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* resumes after being shut down for two weeks, during which major cuts in the script were made.

917 December 1987

The Dangerous Film Club (Cinemax). The fifth show includes "The Homecoming Queen's Got a Gun" and "Pervasive Percussion." Starring **Graham Chapman**; directed by Paul Fuentes; produced by Andrea Cvirko.

918 December 1987

John Cleese attends a party, in a hotel in London's West End, celebrating the 15th birthday of Video Arts. Others attending include Stephen Fry and Prunella Scales.

919 December 12, 1987

The Times. Newspaper (London)—"Funny How People Change" by Bryan Appleyard, p. 11. Great interview with **John Cleese** on his life and philosophy; includes a large photo of him.

920 December 30, 1987

The Mikado (ITV). Jonathan Miller's 1986 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta for The English National Opera is shown on television in England. It is the first sponsored program on the ITV network. Produced for Thames Television. Starring **Eric Idle**, Bonaventura Bottone, Lesley Garrett; produced and directed for television by John Michael Phillips; Executive Producer: Ian Martin.

921 1987

Monty Python: The Final Rip Off. Record(LP/CD)—Charisma (U.K.), Virgin Records America/7 90865-7 (U.S.). A two-record collection of Python's best bits. Released by Virgin Records after they bought the rights to all the Python on record. The album has a wonderfully disgusting

cover and a hilarious Python history inside, with many pictures. All the songs have been remixed and **Michael Palin** provides some new links. Includes: "Introduction," "Constitutional Peasant," "Fish License," "Eric the Half-a-Bee Song," "Finland Song," "Travel Agent," "Are You Embarrassed Easily?," "Australian Table Wines," "Argument," "Henry Kissinger Song," "Parrot (Oh, Not *Again*)," "Sit on My Face," "Undertaker," "Novel Writing (Live from Wessex)," "String," "Bells," "Traffic Lights," "Cocktail Bar," "Four Yorkshiremen," "Election Special," "Lumberjack Song," "I Like Chinese," "Spanish Inquisition Part I," "Cheese Shop," "Cherry Orchard," "Architect's Sketch," "Spanish Inquisition Part II," "Spam," "Spanish Inquisition Part III," "Comfy Chair," "Famous Person Quiz," "You Be the Actor," "Nudge, Nudge," "Cannibalism," "Spanish Inquisition Revisited," "I Bet You They Won't Play This Song on the Radio," "Bruces," "Bookshop," "Do Wot John," "Rock Notes," "I'm So Worried," "Crocodile," "French Taunter," "Marilyn Monroe," "Swamp Castle," "French Taunter Part II" and "Last Word." Produced by Andre Jacquemin; remixed at Redwood Studios.

922 Early 1988

The Screwtape Letters. Audio tape—Audio Literature, Inc. **John Cleese** reads this three-hour, two-cassette version of the C. S. Lewis book.

923 February 1988

Business This Morning (WBBM-Chicago). This syndicated business show premieres this month. **John Cleese** will regularly appear on the show, teaching business skills with his usual brand of humor.

924 February 1, 1988

Television (PBS). "Comedy." This documentary on comedy in television includes clips from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and *Fawlty Towers*. Directed by Jack Sameth; produced by Susan Kim and Michael Winship.

925 Spring 1988

John Cleese delivers the speech "The Importance of Mistakes" to a training and personnel conference in New York. (Video Arts' Northbrook, Ill. office plans to market a tape of the entire performance, at \$95.)

926 March 14, 1988

The pilot for a new series called *Jake's Journey* begins shooting

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in England. The show is written and produced by **Graham Chapman**, who also stars.

927 April 1988

Graham Chapman goes on another month-long tour of colleges and clubs throughout the U.S.

928 April 1988

Inc. Magazine (U.S.)—"Laughing All the Way" by Paul B. Brown, p. 18. Article on **John Cleese's** involvement with Video Arts.

929 April 6, 1988

Consuming Passions. Film—released by The Samuel Goldwyn Company/Euston Films Ltd. A British, cannibalistic, black comedy about a trio of Chumley Chocolate maintenance workers who are accidentally dumped into a vat of chocolate and end up in candy bars. Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Jonathan Pryce, Tyler Butterworth, Freddie Jones, Sammi Davis, Prunella Scales, Thora Hird; based on the television play *Secrets* (1973) by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; directed by Giles Foster; produced by William P. Cartlidge.

930 April 20, 1988

Monty Python's Flying Circus: Behind the (Volume) 8 Ball. Videocassette—Paramount/12600/1970, 1973/58 min. Includes "The Queen Will Be Watching" and "Tudor Porn Merchants."

931 April 20, 1988

Monty Python's Flying Circus: Silly Party and Other Favors Volume 9. Videocassette—Paramount/12601/1970, 1972/60 min. Includes "Book of the Month Club" and "Njorl's Saga."

932 May 1988

Terry Gilliam's son, Harry Thunder, is born.

933 May 2, 1988

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"Height's Delight" by Penelope Gilliatt, pp. 41-42+. A lengthy and indepth profile of **John Cleese**.

934 May 11-23, 1988

Michael Palin and **Terry Jones** attend the Cannes Film Festival in France. **Jones** was able to find financing for his next film *Erik the Viking*.

But **Palin** could not get the finance for his film *American Friends*, the shooting of which has been postponed until next spring.

935 May 16, 1988

Forbes. Magazine (U.S.)—"No More Mistakes and You're Through," p. 126+. Excerpts from **John Cleese's** "The Importance of Mistakes" speech.

936 May 17, 1988

The Second Annual American Comedy Awards (ABC). **John Cleese** appears briefly at the beginning of this live award show. Executive Producer: George Schlatter.

937 Summer 1988

A Fish Called Wanda. Book—by **John Cleese** and Charles Crichton/Methuen (U.K.), Applause Theatre (U.S.)/112 pp. Screenplay of the film, with photos.

938 Summer 1988

Dallas Magazine. Magazine (U.S.)—"Comic Actor **Cleese** Cures Manager Ills with Ample Doses of Humor," p. 16. Article on **John Cleese** in Video Arts films.

939 June 1988

The Illustrated London News. Magazine (England)—"A Place in the Pillory," pp. 60-62. Article with comments by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**.

940 July-September 1988

John Cleese, with daughter Cynthia, and **Michael Palin** tour the U.S. promoting *A Fish Called Wanda*.

941 July 1988

Graham Chapman, with David Sherlock and other writers, begins writing more episodes of *Jake's Journey* for CBS, who have commissioned more episodes after initially shelving the show.

942 July 1988

Larry King Live (CNN-Cable News Network). Guest: **John Cleese**, talking about *Wanda*.

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943 July 1988

MacNeil-Lehrer Report (PBS). **John Cleese** is interviewed on this news programme.

944 July 1988

HBO Entertainment News: Feature Story (HBO-Home Box Office). A promotional segment for *A Fish Called Wanda*. It is a funny, five-minute, prearranged, combined interview with **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin**, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline and producer Michael Shamberg.

945 July 1988

CBS News Nightwatch (CBS). **John Cleese** is interviewed. He talks about *Wanda*, his daughter Cynthia, film-making, acting, management-training films and comedy.

946 July 6, 1988

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guest: **John Cleese** talks about British holidays, cricket, fish and *Wanda*.

947 July 7, 1988

A Fish Called Wanda has a special screening in Lincoln Center, New York. Those who attended include **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin**, Jamie Lee Curtis, Liza Minelli, Margot Kidder, Brooke Shields, Melanie Griffith, Rosanna Arquette and Deborah Harry. All the stars had high praise for the film.

948 July 7, 1988

The Big Picture (MTV-Music Television). Hosted by Chris Connelly. Guest: **John Cleese** talks about *Wanda*, *Beyond the Fringe* and Python.

949 July 8, 1988

Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). **Michael Palin** is interviewed about *Wanda* by Cheryl Washington, in New York.

950 July 13, 1988

A Fish Called Wanda has a special benefit screening at the Academy in Beverly Hills, California. Those attending include **John Cleese** with daughter Cynthia, **Michael Palin**, Jamie Lee Curtis with mother Janet Leigh, Michael Shamberg, Steve Abbott, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. After the screening, the stars attended a reception to raise money for the hearing-impaired.

- 951** July 13, 1988
Entertainment Tonight (NBC). **John Cleese**, promoting *Wanda*, is interviewed at New York's Aquarium in Brooklyn by Ahmad Rashad.
- 952** July 15, 1988
A Fish Called Wanda opens in New York.
- 953** July 17, 1988
The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Wanda: From Idea to Reality" by Benedict Nightingale, p. 23+. Good article on how *A Fish Called Wanda* evolved. Includes "After the Circus," a rundown of what the individual Pythons have been up to.
- 954** July 18, 1988
The Tonight Show (NBC). Guest-hosted by Jay Leno. Guest: **John Cleese** talks about *Wanda* and jokingly puts down the other stars of the film.
- 955** July 18, 1988
Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: Cartoonish Caper" by Richard Schickel, p. 73. Review of *A Fish Called Wanda*. Schickel writes, "...the next best thing to a Looney Tunes-Merry Melodies summerfest... The movie blithely places live actors in situations usually the exclusive preserve of drawn figures... *Wanda* defies gravity, in both senses of the word, and redefines a great comic tradition."
- 956** July 18, 1988
New York. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: *A Fish Called Wanda*" by David Denby, p. 44. Denby writes, "*Wanda* is completely uneven—uproarious in a few scenes, crude and inept in others... a noisily assertive British-American hybrid... At its core, *Wanda* is a transatlantic romantic comedy and a scruffy contrast of manners."
- 957** July 18, 1988
People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *A Fish Called Wanda*" by Peter Travers, p. 17. Travers writes, "**John Cleese** may be the funniest man on earth... the slaphappiest slapstick in years... Putting heart and heat into a film that could have easily slid by on silliness, **Cleese** proves himself a master actor."

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958 July 19, 1988

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Michael Palin** talks about the vacations of his youth, his family and Python's first U.S. appearance, Brian Setzer.

959 July 20, 1988

John Cleese, **Michael Palin**, producer Michael Shamberg and Cynthia Caylor, **Cleese's** 17-year-old daughter, meet the Boston Press at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

960 July 21, 1988

CBS strengthens its defense against the writers' strike by announcing four new writer-proof television show commitments, including the half-hour **Graham Chapman** comedy *Jake's Journey*, to fill out its depleted fall prime-time schedule. A CBS release describes the show as a "comedy/fantasy about an American teenager (Chris Young) in England with his family who discovers a parallel fantasy world and a cranky old knight named Sir George (**Chapman**)."

961 July 21, 1988

Paul W. Smith and Company (WMCA-AM, New York). Radio show — guest: **Michael Palin**, promoting *Wanda*.

962 July 21, 1988

John Cleese is a guest DJ, with Elliott Forrest, on WNCN-FM, a classical music radio station in New York.

963 July 24, 1988

The Chicago Tribune. Newspaper (U.S.)—"A *Wandaful* Life" by Iain Blair, sec. 13, p. 8. **John Cleese** talks about *Wanda* and his life.

964 July 25, 1988

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Current Cinema: *A Fish Called Wanda*" by Terence Rafferty, p. 78. Rafferty writes, "The movie has a fair number of laughs, but Crichton's direction is too drab and poky for the material. . . **Cleese**, **Curtis**, and **Palin** are all fun to watch, though, and Kevin Kline gives what must be one of the oddest comic performances ever."

965 July 26, 1988

Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). **John Cleese** is

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interviewed by Dennis Michael. He talks about *Wanda* and says there is little chance of another Python film.

966 July 27, 1988

Crook and Chase (TNN-The Nashville Network). **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin** and Jamie Lee Curtis are interviewed together by Kip Kerby, in New York via satellite.

967 July 28, 1988

Today (NBC). **John Cleese** is interviewed by Jane Pauley, in New York. He talks about names, both his and those in *Wanda*.

968 July 28, 1988

Calendar, the Boston Globe. Newspaper (U.S.)—"A Proud Father of *A Fish Called Wanda*" by Betsy Sherman, p. 14. Taken from the Parker House interview with **John Cleese**, Cynthia Caylor, **Michael Palin** and Michael Shamberg.

969 July 29, 1988

A Fish Called Wanda—opens in U.S. nationwide. Film—released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/A Michael Shamberg/Prominent Features Production/108 min. Hilarious comedy centering on four very funny characters: Archibald Leach, a reputable London barrister who feels stifled by British family life; Otto West, an American, Nietzsche-loving, psychopathic, ex-CIA operative who goes to London to take part in a jewel heist; Wanda Gershowitz, a maneuvering femme fatale who pretends to be Otto's sister and to fall in love with Archie; and Ken Pile, an animal-loving, small-time, English hood with a terrible stutter and a pet fish also called Wanda. It is a laugh-packed black comedy beautifully written to expose the love-hate relationship between the English and Americans. Starring **John Cleese**, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline, **Michael Palin**, Maria Aitken, Tom Georgeson, Patricia Hayes, Geoffrey Palmer, Cynthia Caylor; screenplay by **John Cleese**; story by **John Cleese** and Charles Crichton; directed by Charles Crichton; produced by Michael Shamberg.

970 July 29, 1988

Good Morning America (ABC). **John Cleese** and **Michael Palin** are interviewed by Chantal. They talk about *Wanda*, **Palin's** writing for children and their view of Americans.

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971 July 29, 1988

Goldmine. Newspaper (U.S.)—"The Rutles: It Was Ten and a Third Years Ago Today," by Jeff Tamarkin, p. 14. Lengthy article on the fictional story of The Rutles and the real story of **Eric Idle**'s Beatle parody. Includes a Rutles discography.

972 August 1988

Shooting begins in England of more episodes of **Graham Chapman**'s *Jake Journey*, for CBS.

973 August 1988

Beyond the Screen (Cinemax). A look at the making of *A Fish Called Wanda*.

974 August 2, 1988

Phil Donahue (NBC). The cast of *A Fish Called Wanda* are the guests. **Michael Palin** and Kevin Kline are in the studio, while **John Cleese** and Jamie Lee Curtis appear via satellite from Los Angeles. They are asked a variety of questions from the audience, and clips from the film are shown. Directed by Bryan Russo; Executive Producer: Patricia McMillen.

975 August 3, 1988

Funny People (NBC). **John Cleese**'s life is profiled through clips that are taken from the *John Cleese* special, and an interview. He also makes an awkward appearance on stage with hosts Leeza Gibbons and Rita Rudner. Produced by George Schlatter.

976 August 6, 1988

Hersey's Hollywood (WSBK-Boston). A hilarious interview with **John Cleese** and **Michael Palin** acting as schoolboys talking about their film *A Fish Called Wanda*. Hosted and written by Dana Hersey; produced and directed by Bob Ecker.

977 August 8, 1988

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Help, Help Me, Wanda," by Cathleen McGuigan, pp. 68-69. Good article on **John Cleese**'s life, including his involvement with Monty Python, business-training films, and *A Fish Called Wanda*. McGuigan writes of *Wanda*, "Cleese's unlikely casting of himself is a triumph. . . But if at moments *A Fish Called Wanda* seems to be swimming upstream, it's still well worth the plunge."

978 August 15, 1988

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"His Life May Be Fawltly, but **John Cleese** Is Reeling in Cash and Kudos with *A Fish Called Wanda*" by Michael Alexander, pp. 62-64+. Good article on **Cleese's** personal life, his career and success with *Wanda*.

979 Fall 1988

The Traveling Wilburys: Volume One. Record(LP)—(Wilbury) Warner Bros./9 25796-1. **Michael Palin** is the author of the album's liner notes telling the "history" of the group, though the notes are credited to Hugh Jampton E. F. Nort-Bitz Reader in Applied Jacket, Faculty of Sleeve Notes, University of Krakatoa, East of Java.

980 Fall 1988

Around the World in 80 Days, a six-hour TV-movie adaption of the Jules Verne novel starring **Eric Idle** as Passepartout, is filmed (in 70 days) in England, Macau, Hong Kong, Thailand and Yugoslavia; on five locations in each country with three different crews—English, Chinese and Yugoslav. **Idle** keeps a video record of the shoot for *Entertainment Tonight*.

981 September 1988-1989

Erik the Viking, an adventure-comedy written and directed by **Terry Jones** and featuring **Jones** and **John Cleese**, is filmed at Lee Shepperton Studios, England and on location in Malta, Norway.

982 September-December 1988

Michael Palin travels around the world to find out if the route described in Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days* can still be accomplished today. He will document the trip in a book and TV series for the BBC.

983 September 1988

Life. Magazine (U.S.)—"Snapshots: This Man Is Not Fishing for Compliments," p. 7. Great photo of **John Cleese** with a fish hanging out of his mouth, and a brief article.

984 September 1988

The New York based National Center for Stuttering claims that *A Fish Called Wanda*, in which **Michael Palin** plays a criminal with a bad stutter, perpetuates the myth that stutterers are unintelligent. The NCS sets up an "800" number to poll stutterers on the intentions of the film.

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- 985** September 1988
PM Magazine. **John Cleese** is interviewed.
- 986** September 2, 1988
Crook and Chase (TNN-The Nashville Network). **John Cleese** is interviewed about *Wanda* by Jimmy Carter.
- 987** September 6, 1988
Today (NBC). **John Cleese** is interviewed via satellite from Venice, Italy where he is promoting *Wanda*. David Frost is the interviewer.
- 988** September 27, 1988
Half Hour Comedy Hour (MTV-Music Television). **Michael Palin** hosts this show featuring new stand-up comics, and has some “Undersea Adventures.” Produced and directed by Bill Aiken and Eileen Katz.
- 989** October 1988
John Cleese moves back into his Holland Park home, which he moved out of last year when he and his wife separated. She is moving into a house nearby.
- 990** October 1988
John Cleese gives \$140,000 to Sussex University, England to finance a three-year study of a psychological phenomenon **Cleese** finds particularly interesting—projection and denial.
- 991** October 8, 1988
Aspel and Company (ITV). Hosted by Michael Aspel. Guests: **John Cleese**, promoting *Wanda*, Norman Tebbit, Julio Iglesias.
- 992** October 9, 1988
The Media Show (Channel 4). Presented by Muriel Gray. Includes an interview with **Terry Gilliam**, who talks about the use of *Brazil* scenes by British admen.
- 993** October 10, 1988
Film 88 (BBC-1). Presented by Barry Norman. Includes a look at *A Fish Called Wanda* starring **John Cleese**.
- 994** October 16, 1988
The Sunday Times. Newspaper (England)—“Profile: **John Cleese**—

Tormented Fawltly Finds an Analyst's Couch in Comedy," p. A15. "The *Wanda*-ful World of J Otto Cleese" by Iain Johnstone, p. C9. Great article on Cleese's life and comedy, with comments by Terry Gilliam and Graham Chapman, and a good drawing of Cleese. The second article is about Cleese and *Wanda*, with a photo of him and Charles Crichton.

995 October 18, 1988

John Cleese's First Farewell Performance (BBC-1). An in-depth profile of Cleese, made during the filming of *A Fish Called Wanda*. Directed by Iain Johnstone.

996 October 23, 1988

Number 27 (BBC-1). Michael Palin's second television play is a tragi-comedy about an evil property developer whose wicked ways are changed by a gentle 90-year-old lady. An excellent story about conflicting morals in modern Britain. Starring Nigel Planer, Joyce Carey, Helena Michell, Alun Armstrong; written by Michael Palin; directed by Tristram Powell.

997 October 28, 1988

Great Performances (PBS). This music, drama and dance showcase series' 16th season opens with The English National Opera's 1986 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *The Mikado*. Starring Eric Idle as Ko-Ko, Bonaventura Bottone, Lesley Garrett; Series Producer: David Horn; Executive Producer: Jac Venza.

998 November 1988

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—"20 Questions: John Cleese" by Dick Lochte, pp. 128-30+. Cleese is interviewed in a hotel suite in Southern California. A wonderful photograph of him in a 150-pound suit made from 400 African cichlid fish, taken by Geof Kern, is included with the interview.

999 November 1988

A tumor is found on Graham Chapman's tonsil during a dental checkup. The beginning of his fight with cancer.

1000 November 1988

Photoplay. Magazine (England)—"Review: *A Fish Called Wanda*" by Marianne Gray, pp. 38-39. Review, with many photos. Gray writes, "Marvellously looney... The best piece of comedy around for ages."

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1001 November 7, 1988

Industry Week. Magazine (U.S.)—"Humor (on Film) Works—U.S. Companies Applaud British Productions" by J. Bredin, pp. 32–33. Article on training films by Video Arts.

1002 November 17, 1988

Rolling Stone. Magazine (U.S.)—"Graham Chapman's Journey" by Jim Yoakum, p. 47+. Article on **Chapman** and *Jake's Journey*.

1003 December 1988

The Curse of the Vampire Socks. Book—by **Terry Jones**/illustrated by Michael Foreman/Pavilion Books (U.K.). An original and beautifully illustrated collection of poetry for children, written in doggerel style.

1004 December 1988

Monty Python Volume 10: Blood, Devastation, Death, War, Horror and Other Humorous Events. Videocassette—Paramount/12652/1970–1972/60 min. Includes "The Polite Hijacker" and "Pantomime Horses."

1005 December 1988

Monty Python Volume 11: Dirty Vicars, Poofy Judges, and Oscar Wilde, Too! Videocassette—Paramount/12653/1970–1973/60 min. Includes "The Dirty Vicar" and "Gay Magistrates."

1006 December 1988

Monty Python Volume 12: Kamikaze Highlanders. Videocassette—Paramount/12654/1973/60 min. Includes "Dennis Moore" and "Spot the Looney."

1007 December 1988

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen is released in Europe.

1008 December 1988

In London, England, **Terry Gilliam** starts talking to the American press about his new film *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, which Columbia Pictures has scheduled for a March release in the U.S.

1009 December 1988

Graham Chapman undergoes an operation for the tumor found last month on his tonsil.

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1010 December 8, 1988

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen opens in Germany. It earns a disappointing \$1.6 million there, where distribution costs are put at \$2.5 million.

1011 December 25, 1988

The New York Times Magazine. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cleese Up Close" by Bill Bryson, pp. 14-17+. Great, long interview-article on the life of **John Cleese**, "the funniest man in Britain." Includes many photos.

1012 1988

Attacks of Opinion. Book—by **Terry Jones**/illustrated by Gerald Scarfe/Penguin (U.K.). A collection of columns, in which **Jones** gives his opinion on a variety of timely subjects, written earlier in the year for the *Young Guardian* "input" column.

1013 1988

The Complete Fawlty Towers. Book—by **John Cleese** and Connie Booth/Methuen (U.K.), Pantheon (U.S., 1989)/333 pp. The complete and unexpurgated scripts of all 12 episodes of the celebrated situation comedy. Includes eight pages of black and white photos from the show.

1014 Early 1989

The Talking Yellow Pages. Commercials—**John Cleese** performs in this series of British TV ads, which show him in every situation, from searching for a ring to win the hand of a princess to finding a key for his parents who can not start their car.

1015 Early 1989

Public People/Private Lives (Synd.). **Eric Idle** is interviewed.

1016 January 1989

Don't Just Sit There (Nickelodeon). Guest: **Michael Palin**.

1017 January 1989

Vogue. Magazine (U.S.)—"Sharp Cleese" by Vicki Woods, p. 230+. A talk with **John Cleese** in Holland Park, London where Max Vadukul takes some pictures of him.

1018 January 2, 1989

Universal Pictures releases their own edited version of **Terry**

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Gilliam's nightmare fantasy *Brazil* on American television. Not only is 38 minutes cut from the film, but its message is completely altered. **Gilliam** starts considering a lawsuit.

1019 January 9, 1989

Today (NBC). Includes a look at the making of *Erik the Viking*, with talks with director **Terry Jones** and **John Cleese**, who has a cameo appearance in the film.

1020 January 15, 1989

The 10th Annual ACE Awards. Award ceremony—**Michael Palin** wins an ACE award (Award for Cable Excellence) in the Writing for a Movie Or Miniseries category for *East of Ipswich*, which has been shown on the Arts and Entertainment cable channel. The awards are given out by the National Academy of Cable Programming.

1021 January 25, 1989

John Cleese wins libel damages from *The Daily Mirror*. In August 1987, the newspaper quoted an unidentified “friend” as saying that **Cleese** had increasingly come to resemble his *Fawlty Towers* character, Basil Fawlty—a claim that **Cleese's** lawyer, Roderick Dadak, calls absurd. In an out-of-court settlement approved by the High Court, he received undisclosed “substantial” damages from publisher Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers to be donated to a charity of his choice. The newspaper group also agreed to pay **Cleese's** legal costs and publish an apology.

1022 January 28, 1989

The 46th Annual Golden Globe Awards. Award ceremony—**John Cleese** and Jamie Lee Curtis attend the Golden Globe Awards, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for excellence in motion pictures and television, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California. His film *A Fish Called Wanda*, nominated for Best Motion Picture Comedy, loses to *Working Girl*; **Cleese** and Curtis, nominated for Best Performance by an Actor and Actress in a Motion Picture Comedy, lose to Tom Hanks and Melanie Griffith. Broadcast live on TBS.

1023 January 31, 1989

The Directors Guild of America announces this year's nominees for its film directing award. Charles Crichton (*A Fish Called Wanda*) is one of the five nominees. He was nominated once before in 1952 for *The Lavender Hill Mob*.

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1024 February 1989

A Fish Called Wanda, moving across Europe and the Far East after extended runs in the U.K. and Australia, has grossed a formidable \$38 million to date for the distributor, United International Pictures. It is expected to gross even more overseas than its impressive \$60 million in the U.S.

1025 February 1989

The Variety Club awards name **John Cleese** the best film actor of 1988 for his performance in *A Fish Called Wanda*.

1026 February 1989

Terry Gilliam promotes *Baron Munchausen* in Madrid, Spain.

1027 February 13–25, 1989

The Museum of Broadcasting in Manhattan, New York presents *Twenty Years of Monty Python*, a two-week retrospective of the British comedy group, as part of the museum's New York World Television Festival.

1028 February 13, 1989

Terry Jones, **Terry Gilliam** and **Eric Idle** attend a party at New York's Hard Rock Cafe, kicking off the Museum of Broadcasting's ten-day salute to Monty Python on their 20th anniversary. Other guests attending include Malcolm Forbes, Uma Thurman, Lauren Hutton and Penny Marshall.

1029 February 13, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python. Seminar—"A Monty Python Seminar." The Museum's salute to Monty Python begins with a seminar with **Terry Gilliam**, **Eric Idle** and **Terry Jones**, who screen highlights of their Python and pre-Python shows, and answer questions from the audience.

1030 February 14, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—continues. Screenings—"Pre-Python." A compilation of early work by the Pythons, including **Graham Chapman** with the Cambridge Circus (1964); a **John Cleese** sketch on *The Frost Report* (1966); a complete episode of the surreal variety series *At Last the 1948 Show* (1967) with **Cleese** and **Chapman**; and *Do Not Adjust Your Set* (1968) with **Michael Palin**, **Terry Jones** and **Eric Idle**.

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1031 February 14, 1989

The New York Times. Newspaper (U.S.)—"Celebrating Two Mad Decades of Pythonmania" by Glenn Collins, p. C1. Article on the Python Seminar at the Museum of Broadcasting.

1032 February 15, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—continues. Screenings—"Python Highlights and Remembrances." A compilation of interviews with the Pythons, with highlights of their work sprinkled throughout. Screened in its entirety is the BBC documentary *The Pythons* from 1979.

1033 February 15, 1989

The 1988 Academy Award nominations are announced, and *A Fish Called Wanda* is up for three Oscars: Supporting Actor (Kevin Kline), Director (Charles Crichton) and Original Screenplay (**John Cleese** and Charles Crichton).

1034 February 17, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—continues. Screenings—"The German Monty Python." The American premiere of the two Monty Python specials, entitled *Monty Python's Fliegende Zirkus*, produced for German television.

1035 February 18, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—continues. Screenings—"The Monty Python Marathon—Part One." The Museum screens episodes 1–22 of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. The screenings follow the sequence in which the programs were originally broadcast in Great Britain.

1036 February 21, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—continues. Screenings—"More Pre-Python." More early work by the Pythons, including film inserts by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones** for *Twice a Fortnight* (1967); sketches from the **Palin-Jones** series *The Complete and Utter History of Britain* (1969); another episode of *Do Not Adjust Your Set* (1968); and rare animation work by **Terry Gilliam**.

1037 February 22, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—continues. Screenings—"Post-Python." A two-hour compilation of post-Python projects, including a complete episode of **Eric Idle's** *Rutland Weekend Television*; **John Cleese's**

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training film "Managing Problem People," directed by Charles Crichton; "Roger of the Raj" from *Ripping Yarns* (1979) by **Michael Palin** and **Terry Jones**; and assorted guest appearances on American television.

1038 February 23, 1989

A Fish Called Wanda. Videocassette—CBS/Fox/1988/108 min. The film is preceded by **John Cleese** in a hilarious commercial message for Schwepps.

1039 February 25, 1989

Twenty Years of Monty Python—concludes. Screenings—"The Monty Python Marathon—Part Two." The Museum screens episodes 23–45 of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

1040 February 27, 1989

A Fish Called Wanda, according to *Daily Variety*, has made \$127,276,951 to date worldwide.

1041 February 27, 1989

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"People: Betting on the Baron" by Howard G. Chua-Eoan, p. 84. Small article on the MB anniversary celebration of Monty Python and the budget of **Gilliam's Munchausen**.

1042 February 27, 1989

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Star Tracks: photo of **Terry Jones**, **Eric Idle** and **Terry Gilliam** at anniversary party" taken by Robin Platzer, p. 48.

1043 February 28, 1989

Late Night with David Letterman (NBC). Guests: **Terry Gilliam** talks about his animation, Python and *Baron Munchausen*, Shelley Long.

1044 Spring 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. Book—by **Terry Gilliam** and Charles McKeown/Methuen (U.K.), Applause Theatre (U.S.)/220 pp. Novelization of the film.

1045 Spring 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen: The Screenplay. Book—by **Terry Gilliam** and Charles McKeown/Methuen (U.K.), Applause Theatre (U.S.)/128 pp. The script of the film, with photos and 25 pages of material cut from the film.

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1046 Spring 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. Record(LP)—WEA/925826-1 (U.K.), Warner Bros./925826-2 (U.S.). The original film soundtrack by Michael Kamen.

1047 Spring 1989

Terry Gilliam announces that his next project will be directing *Watchmen*, based on the comic book, for producer Joel Silver, to be released in the summer of 1990. **Gilliam** says, "There really is a climate now for these comic book properties."

1048 March–April 1989

A Fish Called Wanda is the number one home video rental in the U.S.

1049 March 1989

American Film Magazine (U.S.)—"Earth to **Gilliam**" by Jack Mathews, pp. 34–39 + . Good article on **Terry Gilliam** and *Baron Munchausen*.

1050 March 1989

Beyond the Screen (Cinemax). A look at the making of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. Includes comments by **Terry Gilliam**, **Eric Idle**, John Neville, Sarah Polley, and includes many good film and behind-the-scenes clips.

1051 March 1989

The British Academy Film Awards. Award ceremony—**John Cleese** receives the Best Actor award for *A Fish Called Wanda*, while **Michael Palin** receives, in person, the Best Supporting Actor award. Also, *Wanda* director Charles Crichton receives the Michael Balcon Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema.

1052 March 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen is the number one film in France, which Columbia Tri-Star Film Distributors credit to the print and broadcast appearances by **Terry Gilliam** and Uma Thurman in Paris. **Gilliam** has also appeared in Belgium to promote the film.

1053 March 1989

Photoplay Magazine (England)—"*The Adventures of Baron*

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Munchausen” by Timothy Robins, pp. 16–19. A talk with the film’s special effects supervisor Richard Conway. Good article with many photos.

1054 March 1989

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—“‘True Facts’ About the World’s Greatest Lies” by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 140, pp. 45–48 + . Article on Charles McKeown’s involvement with *Baron Munchausen* and *Erik the Viking*.

1055 March 1989

PBS promos—spots showing **Michael Palin** asking viewers to give money to PBS are shown during Public Broadcasting Stations’ fundraising.

1056 March 4, 1989

Hersey’s Hollywood (WSBK-Boston). **Terry Gilliam** is interviewed about *Baron Munchausen*, *Brazil* and selling a movie idea to a studio. Hosted and written by Dana Hersey; produced and directed by Bob Ecker.

1057 March 8, 1989

Crook and Chase (TNN-The Nashville Network). Includes **Terry Gilliam** talking about *Baron Munchausen*, with film and behind the scenes clips.

1058 March 8, 1989

Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). Includes **Terry Gilliam** talking about *Baron Munchausen*, with film clips.

1059 March 8, 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen—U.S. premiere at the 32nd San Francisco International Film Festival. Film—released by Columbia Pictures/Prominent Features (London)—Laura Films (Munich)/125 min. **Terry Gilliam**’s big-budget, spectacular fantasy about the 18th-century adventurer and teller of tall tales, Baron Karl Friedrich Hieronymus von Munchausen. In the film, the 80-year-old baron, accompanied by young Sally Salt, rounds up the super-human companions of his youth to save a baroque European city under siege by the Turks. Their many adventures include: a trip to the moon in a balloon made of ladies’ knickers; a visit with the lusty war god Vulcan in the heated bowels of Mount Etna; an aerial waltz with the love goddess Venus in a waterfall ballroom; being swallowed by a giant sea monster; and an escape from a mechanized three-

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headed griffin. Starring John Neville, **Eric Idle** as Berthold, Sarah Polley, Oliver Reed, Uma Thurman, Jonathan Pryce, Valentina Cortese, Robin Williams (uncredited), Winston Dennis, Jack Purvis, Charles McKeown, Bill Paterson, Peter Jeffrey, Sting; song: "The Torturer's Apprentice" by Michael Kamen and **Eric Idle**; screenplay by Charles McKeown and **Terry Gilliam**; directed by **Terry Gilliam**; produced by Thomas Schuhly.

1060 March 10, 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen opens in the U.S.

1061 March 10, 1989

Good Morning America (ABC). **Terry Gilliam** is interviewed about *Baron Munchausen*.

1062 March 12, 1989

Entertainment Tonight (Synd.). Includes a look at *Baron Munchausen*, with **Terry Gilliam** and **Eric Idle**.

1063 March 13, 1989

Newsweek. Magazine (U.S.)—"Movies: Marvels Upon Marvels" by Jack Kroll, p. 69. Review of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. Kroll writes, "*Munchausen* is flawed for fascinating, a Pythonesque fantasy with awesome special effects . . . truly astonishing. . . **Gilliam** is one of those rare directors who can create an entire world."

1064 March 13, 1989

Time. Magazine (U.S.)—"Cinema: Lying with a Straight Face" by Richard Corliss, p. 82. Review of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. Corliss writes, "A few episodes test the viewer's patience. . . But anyone with an educated eye and a child's love of hyperbole can take delight in **Gilliam's** images and incidents. . . Everything about *Munchausen* deserves exclamation points. . . A lavish fairy tale for bright children of all ages. Proof that eccentric films can survive in today's off-the-rack Hollywood."

1065 March 13, 1989

The New Yorker. Magazine (U.S.)—"Python Scholars" pp. 28-29. Article on the marathon showing of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* episodes at the Museum of Broadcasting.

1066 March 13, 1989

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *The Adventures of*

Baron Munchausen” by Scot Haller, p. 15. Haller writes, “From its Felliniesque palaces to its Dickensian streetscapes, the film is a visual wonderland. . . Its intellectual intent and the physical production seem disconnected, leaving a film that bedazzles the eye even as it bedevils the mind.”

1067 March 14, 1989

The Village Voice. Newspaper (U.S.)—“Film: *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*” by J. Hoberman, p. 57. “Off Screen: Designing Men” by Deborah Auld, p. 61. Hoberman writes, “Droll and clamorous, **Terry Gilliam**’s latest epic suggests the overamplified confluence of Federico Fellini and Ronald Searle, a gibbering, capering merry-go-round, full of wacky wigs, funny accents, and throwaway grottness.” Also, an article on *Munchausen*’s designer, Dante Ferretti.

1068 March 14, 1989

John Cleese receives the 12th Annual Jack Benny Award for his comedy career. The award, whose past recipients include George Burns, Johnny Carson, Robin Williams and Steve Martin, was presented to him by the University of California (UCLA) in Los Angeles. He accepted it thanking everyone from Diana Ross and the Supremes to Wile E. Coyote. He is in Los Angeles also for the Oscar ceremony later this month.

1069 March 15, 1989

Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). Includes a report on **John Cleese** receiving the Jack Benny Award.

1070 March 15, 1989

Entertainment Tonight (Synd.). Includes a report on **John Cleese** receiving the Jack Benny Award.

1071 March 17, 1989

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen opens in England.

1072 March 17, 1989

Entertainment Tonight (Synd.). Includes a segment on **John Cleese**’s new series of British TV commercials. **Cleese**’s comments on them are taken from ET’s talk with him at the Jack Benny award show.

1073 March 20, 1989

Us. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: *The Adventures of Baron*

Munchausen” by Chris Chase, p. 63. Chase calls the film “wonderful and boring all at once.”

1074 March 29, 1989

The 61st Annual Academy Awards. Award ceremony—**John Cleese** attends the Academy Award gala at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. *A Fish Called Wanda* is up for three Oscars. **Cleese** and Charles Crichton lose the Best Original Screenplay award to Ronald Bass and Barry Morrow for *Rainman*, and Crichton loses the Best Director award to Barry Levinson for *Rainman*. But Kevin Kline wins the Best Supporting Actor award and thanks those who worked on *Wanda*, including **Cleese** and **Michael Palin**, and Phoebe Cates, whom he recently married. The award show is produced by Allan Carr and broadcast live on ABC.

1075 April 1989

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—“**Terry Gilliam’s** Marvelous Travels and Campaigns” by Kim Howard Johnson, no. 141, pp. 37-40 + . Great article on *Baron Munchausen*, with many pictures. John Neville riding the cannonball is shown on the cover.

1076 April 1989

Video. Magazine (U.S.)—“Programming: *A Fish Called Wanda*” by John Walker, p. 59. Walker writes, “. . . a certified sleeper . . . **Cleese** and veteran British director Charles Crichton have fashioned a charming (if slightly flat) flashback to a genre that thrived during the ’50s and ’60s.”

1077 April 1989

Theatre Crafts. Magazine (U.S.)—“News: Going for Baroque” by John Calhoun, p. 18. Article on the production side of *Baron Munchausen*.

1078 April 1989

Spin. Magazine (U.S.)—“The Edge: **Gilliam’s** Island” by Graham Fuller, pp. 84-85 + . Article on **Terry Gilliam** and *Baron Munchausen*.

1079 April 1989

Premiere. Magazine (U.S.)—“Bye, Bye *Brazil*” by Michael Shulan, pp. 98-102. Shulan’s account of his visit to the set of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, with many color photos.

1080 April 1989

Playboy. Magazine (U.S.)—“Movies: *The Adventures of Baron*

Munchausen" by Bruce Williamson, p. 22. Williamson writes, "Wondrous is the word for *Munchausen*, a one-of-a-kind movie that slightly jaded children might recommend to incurable innocents of all ages."

1081 April 3, 1989

Us. Magazine (U.S.)—"Idle Time" by Bridget Byrne, pp. 40-43. Article on **Eric Idle** and his current projects, with many color photos.

1082 April 6, 1989

Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). **Eric Idle** talks about his current projects; interviewed by Dennis Michael in Hollywood.

1083 April 8, 1989

A Fish Called Wanda opens in Japan. It has already grossed more than \$75 million overseas since its release last October.

1084 April 10-June 1989

Nuns on the Run, starring **Eric Idle** and Robbie Coltrane, is filmed in England at Lee Shepperton Studios, Hampstead and Heath; for Hand-Made Films on a budget of \$7 million.

1085 April 10-May 1, 1989

Nearly Departed, a new NBC comedy series starring **Eric Idle**, is aired. **Idle** plays Grant Pritchard who, with his wife Claire, is killed in a car accident and forced to share his home with its new residents, the ill-mannered Dooley family. Four of the six episodes taped are aired.

1086 April 10, 1989

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Take One: Silly Walks Back" by Pamela Lansden, p. 55. "Tube: *Nearly Departed*" by John Stark, p. 10. Article on an upcoming Python reunion, and a review of **Eric Idle's** new TV series.

1087 April 10, 1989

Nearly Departed (NBC). In the series' opener, Grant and Claire have a hard time adjusting to the afterlife, but they discover that they can communicate with the Dooleys' grandfather. Starring **Eric Idle**, Caroline McWilliams, Stuart Pankin, Wendy Schaal, Jay Lambert, Henderson Forsythe, Janet Dubois, Hank Garrett, Robina Ritchie, Jason Zahler; Executive Consultant: **Eric Idle**; directed by John Rich; produced by Jack Seifert; Executive Producer/created/written by John Baskin and Roger Shulman.

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1088 April 13, 1989

Entertainment Tonight (Synd.). Includes a report from **Eric Idle**, with videocamera, on the set of *Around the World in 80 Days* in Macau during its filming; the first in a series of segments by **Idle** for *ET*.

1089 April 14, 1989

Entertainment Tonight (Synd.). Includes a second report from **Eric Idle**, with videocamera, on the set of *Around the World in 80 Days* in Hong Kong during its filming.

1090 April 15, 1989

Entertainment This Week (Synd.). Includes a third report from **Eric Idle**, with videocamera, on the set of *Around the World in 80 Days* during its filming.

1091 April 16, 1989

Around the World in 80 Days (NBC). A lavish, three-part, TV-movie adaption of Jules Verne's 1873 novel about Phileas Fogg, a meticulous, enigmatic Englishman who goes on an around-the-world trek after a boastful wager. Accompanied by his resourceful French valet, Passepartout, Fogg travels by hot-air balloon, steamship, train and elephant caravan—rescuing a beautiful Indian princess and being pursued by the relentless Detective Fixx, who is convinced that Fogg robbed the Bank of England to fund his journey. A colorful miniseries featuring cameos by 19 stars. Starring Pierce Brosnan, **Eric Idle**, Julia Nickson, Peter Ustinov, with Roddy McDowall, Robert Morley, Lee Remick, Arielle Dombasle, Gabriele Ferzetti, John Hillerman, Christopher Lee, Patrick Macnee, Simon Ward; directed by Buzz Kulik; produced by Renee Valente.

1092 April 16, 1989

Michael Palin attends the London showing of the film *City Lights*, celebrating the 100th birthday of Charlie Chaplin.

1093 April 17, 1989

Entertainment Tonight (Synd.). Includes a fourth report from **Eric Idle**, with videocamera, on the set of *Around the World in 80 Days* in Thailand during its filming.

1094 April 17, 1989

Nearly Departed (NBC). Problems arise when Grandpa asks Grant

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to babysit Derek who invites a girl over to “study.” Starring **Eric Idle**, Caroline McWilliams, Stuart Pankin, Wendy Schaal, Jay Lambert, Henderson Forsythe, Shonda Whipple, Randy Irwin, Al Berry; Executive Consultant: **Eric Idle**; directed by John Rich; produced by Jack Seifert; Executive Producer/created/written by John Baskin and Roger Shulman.

1095 April 17, 1989

Around the World in 80 Days (NBC). Part 2. After doing battle with kidnapping bandits in Burma, Fogg and company go on a perilous sea voyage to Japan. Starring Pierce Brosnan, **Eric Idle**, Julia Nickson, Peter Ustinov; with Jack Klugman, Roddy McDowall, Robert Morley, Jill St. John, Robert Wagner, John Hillerman, Christopher Lee, Patrick Macnee, Simon Ward; directed by Buzz Kulik; produced by Renee Valente.

1096 April 17, 1989

New York Magazine (U.S.)—“Television: Golden Globe” by John Leonard, p. 75. Review of *Around the World in 80 Days*. Leonard writes that the film “usually enjoys itself, and so did I. . . . But what it should have been is a musical.”

1097 April 17, 1989

People Weekly Magazine (U.S.)—“Tube: *Around the World in 80 Days*” by John Stark, p. 13. Stark writes, “this six-hour miniseries seems more like *Around the World in 80 Years* . . . overall, this *80 Days* presents a rather flat view of the world.”

1098 April 18, 1989

Around the World in 80 Days (NBC). Conclusion. Crossing the U.S., Fogg and company have close encounters with Jesse James and Indians. Starring Pierce Brosnan, **Eric Idle**, Julia Nickson, Peter Ustinov; with Roddy McDowall, Darren McGavin, Robert Morley, Stephen Nichols, Henry Gibson, Rick Jason, Christopher Lee, Patrick Macnee, Sir John Mills, Pernell Roberts, James B. Sicking, Simon Ward; directed by Buzz Kulick; produced by Renee Valente.

1099 April 19, 1989

The Prince's Trust: A Rock and Royal Gala. Stage show—the annual benefit concert, featuring comedy and music, at London's Palladium. Master of ceremonies: Sean Connery; hosted by **Michael Palin**, Rosanna Arquette, Jools Holland, Jerry Hall, Frank Bruno, Daniel J. Travanti; appearances by Debbie Gibson, Paula Abdul, Steven Wright, Erasure, Wet Wet Wet, T'Pau, Rita Rudner, Charles Fleischer.

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1100 April 24, 1989

Nearly Departed (NBC). Claire becomes upset when she discovers that Grant was still married to his first wife on their wedding day. Starring **Eric Idle**, Caroline McWilliams, Stuart Pankin, Wendy Schaal, Jay Lambert, Henderson Forsythe, Robert Rockwell, Brian L. Green, Courtney Gebhart, Will MacMillan, Curtis Taylor, Ed Burke, Pamela McMyler; Executive Consultant: **Eric Idle**; written by Sy Dukane and Denise Moss; directed by John Rich; produced by Jack Seifert; Executive Producers and created by John Baskin and Roger Shulman.

1101 April 24, 1989

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Puzzling Out His Post-Python Life Leaves **Eric Idle** with Hands Full" by Susan Schindehette and Michael Alexander, p. 59+. Good article on **Idle**'s life and current projects.

1102 May 1989

Terry Gilliam is seen at the Da Fortunato restaurant in Rome with Italian artists—costume designer Gabriella Pesucci, cinematographer Giuseppe Rotunno and art director Dante Ferretti—who worked with **Gilliam** on *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, which is scheduled to be released in Italy in September.

1103 May 1989

Cinefantastique. Magazine (U.S.)—"The Adventures of Baron Munchausen," pp. 24–28+, "Munchausen: The Historical Facts," p. 29+, "Munchausen: Special Effects," pp. 32–33, "Munchausen: The Budget Debacle," p. 37+, by Alan Jones. Excellent articles covering every aspect of the film, with many photos throughout.

1104 May 1, 1989

Nearly Departed (NBC). When Derek is pushed around by the school bully, Grant and Claire decide to pay a visit to the junior high. Last show aired. Starring **Eric Idle**, Caroline McWilliams, Stuart Pankin, Wendy Schaal, Jay Lambert, Henderson Forsythe, Bobby Jacoby, Anita Dangler, Michael Bacall, Ryan Tonet, Aron Mandelbaum; Executive Consultant: **Eric Idle**; written by Neil Alan Levy; directed by John Rich; produced by Jack Seifert; Executive Producers and created by John Baskin and Roger Shulman.

MONTY PYTHON : 1989

1105 May 25, 1989

The Big Picture (MTV-Music Television). Includes a behind-the-scenes look at *Nuns on the Run*, starring **Eric Idle**.

1106 Summer 1989

Comedy Greats. Book—by Barry Took/Equation Books (U.K.). An entertaining celebration of some 20 of the world's greatest comic geniuses, past and present, including **John Cleese**. Took was the BBC comedy producer who helped form Monty Python in 1969.

1107 June 1989

Monty Python Volume 13: I'm a Lumberjack. Videocassette—Paramount/12736/1969/60 min. Includes “The Lumberjack Song” and “The Killer Joke.”

1108 June 1989

Monty Python Volume 14: Chocolate Frogs, Baffled Cats and Other Tasty Treats. Videocassette—Paramount/12737/1969/60 min. Includes “Confuse-a-Cat” and “Crunchy Frog.”

1109 June 1989

Monty Python Volume 15: Dead Parrots Don't Talk and Other Fowl Plays. Videocassette—Paramount/12738/1969/60 min. Includes “The Pet Shop” and “The Science Fiction Sketch.”

1110 June 1989

Monty Python Volume 16: A Man with Three Cheeks Or Butt Naught for Me. Videocassette—Paramount/12739/1969/60 min. Includes “Flying Sheep” and “Vocational Guidance Counsellor.”

1111 June 1989

Monty Python Volume 17: The Upper-Class Twit Competition. Videocassette—Paramount/12740/1970/60 min. Includes “Albatross” and “The Upper-Class Twit of the Year Show.”

1112 June 3, 1989

John Cleese wins a David Donatello award for Best Original Screenplay for *A Fish Called Wanda* in Italy's version of the Academy Awards.

MONTY PYTHON : 1989

1113 June 18, 1989

The Sunday Times. Newspaper (England)—“Who’s Reading Whom: **Michael Palin**,” p. G2. **Palin** comments on the books he has been reading, Patrick Leigh Fermor’s *A Time of Gifts* and John Updike’s *Self-Consciousness*.

1114 July 1989

Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—“Those Notorious Norsemen in Their Luxurious Long Ships” by Kim Howard Johnson, pp. 55–59. “Confessions of the World’s Greatest Liar” by Lynne Stephens, no. 144, pp. 73–75+. Great articles on **Terry Jones’ Erik the Viking** and John Neville of *Baron Munchausen*, with many color photos from each film.

1115 July 1989

Graham Chapman undergoes a second operation, this time for a tumor on his spine that has affected his legs and left him in a wheelchair.

1116 July 1989

John Cleese’s First Farewell Performance. Videocassette—Parkfield Entertainment (U.K.)—49 min. A look behind the scenes at the making of *A Fish Called Wanda*. A run-up to the British video release of *Wanda*.

1117 August 1989

Terry Jones’ Erik the Viking, delayed by post-production, is withdrawn from the 43rd Edinburgh International Film Festival opening August 12.

1118 August 30–September 2, 1989

The Secret Policeman’s Biggest Ball. Stage show—British comedians and musicians perform at the Cambridge Theatre for Amnesty International. The show, which is the fourth *Ball* benefit in ten years, is filmed for television. Starring **John Cleese**, Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Lenny Henry, Robbie Coltrane, Dawn French, Ben Elton, Mel Smith, Griff Rhys-Jones, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, **Michael Palin**, Eleanor Bron, Willie Rushton, John Williams, Jeff Beck, Nigel Planer, Helen Lederer, Jim Broadbent, Patrick Barlow, Rory Bremner, Adrian Edmondson, Spitting Image; directed by **John Cleese** and Jennifer Saunders.

1119 Fall 1989

Erik the Viking: The Screenplay. Book — by **Terry Jones**/Methuen (U.K.), Applause Theatre (U.S.)/192 pp. The script of the film, with photos.

1120 Fall 1989

A management buyout of the business-training film company Video Arts makes **John Cleese** (one of the firm's co-founders) £12 million (or \$19.3 million) richer.

1121 September 1989

The Pythons come together to tape a television special in celebration of their 20th anniversary. The special will be released later this year.

1122 September 1989

The Big Picture — opens in U.S. Film — released by Columbia Pictures. A romance-fantasy-satire about the life of a college film graduate in Hollywood. Starring Kevin Bacon, Emily Longstreth, J. T. Walsh, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and **John Cleese** in a cameo as a bartender; directed by Christopher Guest; produced by Michael Varhol.

1123 September 1, 1989

Erik the Viking, written and directed by **Terry Jones**, has its world premiere in Stockholm, Sweden at the Svensk Film-Industri Look cinema.

1124 September 20, 1989

Terry Jones' *Erik the Viking* opens in England.

1125 September 22, 1989

Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). Lorne Michaels, Chevy Chase, Martin Short and **Eric Idle** are interviewed by Bill Tush during rehearsal for the upcoming *Saturday Night Live* anniversary special.

1126 September 22, 1989

Erik the Viking — U.S. premiere at the Cinetex Film Exposition at Bally's Casino Resort in Los Angeles. Film — released by Orion Pictures/John Goldstone-Prominent Features/103 min. A Pythonesque fantasy/adventure/comedy that draws on elements of Norse and Celtic mythology. The story concerns Erik, a Viking who believes there must be more to life than raping and pillaging. To bring an end to the dark and violent Age of

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Ragnarok, he and his crew must travel to the land of Hy-Brasil and find the Horn Resounding. By blowing the Horn three times, peace, love and the sun will return. Meanwhile, certain businessmen and arms manufacturers who find Ragnarok to be profitable set out to stop the expedition. Starring Tim Robbins, **Terry Jones**, Eartha Kitt, Cary Cady, Mickey Rooney, **John Cleese**, Tsutomu Sekine, Antony Sher, Imogen Stubbs, John Gordon Sinclair, Samantha Bond, Freddie Jones, Tim McInnerny; music by Neil Innes; written and directed by **Terry Jones**; produced by John Goldstone.

1127 October 1989

Monty Python's Flying Circus: Just the Words. Book – Methuen (U.K.), Pantheon (U.S.)/two vols./325 pp. A two-volume collection of the scripts of all 45 Python shows. Published in celebration of the group's 20th anniversary. The American title is *The Complete Monty Python's Flying Circus: All the Words*.

1128 October 1989

Around the World in 80 Days? Book – by **Michael Palin**/BBC Books/(U.K.). **Palin's** account of his round-the-world trip recreating the Jules Verne story.

1129 October 1989

The First 200 Years of Monty Python. Book – by Kim Howard Johnson/A Thomas Dunne Book (St. Martin's Press)/288 pp. A celebration of the Python group's 20-year career that includes exclusive interviews, detailed guides to the Python shows, films, books, records, and stage shows, many rare photos, and individual profiles of each group member.

1130 October 1989

The Third International Film Festival in Leeds, England presents a special 20th anniversary tribute to Monty Python.

1131 October 1, 1989

Sunday, Sunday (LWT). Hosted by Gloria Hunniford. Guests: **Terry Jones**, John Sessions, Susan Hampshire.

1132 October 4, 1989

Graham Chapman dies at the age of 48 from cancer of the throat and spine at Maidstone Hospital near London, England. By his side were **Michael Palin** and **John Cleese**. He had undergone two operations after the

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disease was detected more than a year ago and was thought to be recovering. Only three weeks previously he took part in a Python reunion TV special. Memorial services were to be held in London sometime within the following few weeks, and perhaps also in New York and Los Angeles. **Chapman's** last wish was that those who admired his work contribute money in his name to the cancer research organization of their choice. It is a very sad day in Python history. His death came on the eve of the group's 20th anniversary.

1133 October 5, 1989

Monty Python's 20th anniversary. It was 20 years ago today that the first episode of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was aired on the BBC.

1134 October 8, 1989

The Sunday Times. Newspaper (England)—“Missing That Talent to Amuse” by Iain Johnstone, p. C9. Brief tribute to **Graham Chapman**.

1135 October 11, 1989

Wogan (BBC-1). Hosted by Joanna Lumley. Guests: **Michael Palin**, promoting *Around the World in 80 Days*, Douglas Adams.

1136 October 11–November 22, 1989

Around the World in 80 Days (BBC-1). A seven-part series in which **Michael Palin** travels around the world, following the route of Jules Verne's fictional character, Phileas Fogg. In his attempt to prove that the trip can still be accomplished today, he travels only with a five-man film crew and without the use of airplanes. Starring **Michael Palin**.

1137 October 13, 1989

Family and friends gather at a small brick crematorium chapel in Maidstone, Kent in England for the funeral of **Graham Chapman**. Flowers were sent by The Rolling Stones with “thanks for all the laughs,” and there was a large boot-shaped floral arrangement from “the other five Pythons with all our love. P.S. Stop us if we're getting too silly.”

1138 October 16, 1989

U.S. News & World Report. Magazine (U.S.)—“Now for Something Completely . . .” by Alvin P. Sanoff, p. 105. An interview with **John Cleese**.

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- 1139** October 27, 1989
John Cleese turns 50.
- 1140** October 27, 1989
Erik the Viking opens in the U.S.
- 1141** October 27, 1989
Showbiz Today (CNN-Cable News Network). Guest: **Terry Jones** talks with Bella Shaw in Hollywood about *Erik the Viking*, and pays tribute to **Graham Chapman**.
- 1142** October 28, 1989
Saturday Night at the Movies (ITV). Presented by Tony Slatterey; includes **Terry Gilliam** taking his pick of the Bristol Animation Festival.
- 1143** October 28, 1989
The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball (ITV). The fourth fundraising show for Amnesty International is shown on television in England. This edited version of the show includes Python's ever-popular "Dead Parrot" sketch, with a new 1989 punchline. Starring **John Cleese**, **Michael Palin**, Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Lenny Henry, Robbie Coltrane, Dawn French, Ben Elton, and many more.
- 1144** October 30, 1989
People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Mourning Monty Python Lays to Rest Silly, Brave, Unique **Graham Chapman**" by Susan Schindehette and Janine Di Giovanni, pp. 52-54. Great tribute to **Chapman**, with nice photos.
- 1145** November 1989
Starlog. Magazine (U.S.)—"Viking Times" by Kim Howard Johnson, pp. 65-68. "Liner Notes" by David McDonnell, no. 148, p. 74. Great colorful article on **Terry Jones** and *Erik the Viking*, and an article on Kim Howard Johnson's new book on Python.
- 1146** November 1989
Prevue. Magazine (U.S.)—"Terry Jones Whips Up a Wild Hurricane Film Fantasy . . . *Erik the Viking*" by Stan Timmons, no. 77, pp. 28-29+. Interview with **Jones**, who talks about his latest film.

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1147 November 7–15, 1989

The Art of Travel (BBC-2). **Michael Palin** appears in a new series of imaginary journeys which are based on famous railway posters of the 1920s. **Palin** is able, through video magic, to step into the posters and share their world. The series consists of six ten-minute shows.

1148 November 11, 1989

The Film Club (BBC-2). **Terry Jones** introduces a new season, celebrating the work of writer-director Preston Sturges, beginning with his film *Sullivan's Travels*.

1149 November 18, 1989

20 Years of Monty Python (Parrot Sketch Not Included) (BBC-1). A special programme celebrating Monty Python's 20th anniversary. It includes footage from the four series and of **Graham Chapman** with the other Pythons shot just before his death.

1150 November 20, 1989

People Weekly. Magazine (U.S.)—"Screen: *Erik the Viking*" by Ralph Novak, p. 27+. Novak writes, ". . . **Jones** seems to be driving clumsily at a moral. . . Going back and forth between preaching and parody is tiring, though—those quantum leaps are rough on the concentration span—and **Jones** neither makes his point nor gets the laughs this film could easily have earned."

1151 December 11, 1989

Regis and Kathie Lee (Synd.). Guest: **Michael Palin**, promoting *Around the World in 80 Days*. Live.

1152 December 14, 1989

The Tonight Show (NBC). Hosted by Johnny Carson. Guests: **Michael Palin**, talking about his trip in *Around the World in 80 Days*, Jon Serl.

1153 December 22, 1989

Walkie Talkie (Channel 4). Host Muriel Gray talks with guest **Eric Idle** as they stroll around Stratford-upon-Avon.

1154 December 27, 1989

Woman's Hour (Radio 4). "Shivering Peaks" written by Sue Limb; with Monica Dickens, Sarah Greene, Jeremy Hardy and **Terry Jones**.

MONTY PYTHON : 1989

1155 Late 1989

Nuns on the Run. Film—released by HandMade Films. Comedy about a couple of bank robbers, Brian and Charlie, who want to go straight. After escaping a shoot-out with a million quid, they find themselves hiding out in a convent disguised as nuns, which provides some interesting surprises. Starring **Eric Idle**, Robbie Coltrane, Janet Suzman, Camille Coduri, Doris Hare, Lila Kaye, Robert Patterson, Robert Morgan; written and directed by Jonathan Lynn; produced by Michael White and Simon Bosanquet.

1156 1989

Life and How to Survive It. Book—by Robin Skynner and **John Cleese**/Methuen (U.K.). A follow-up to their 1983 book on families. This book examines psychology in the business world.

1157 1989

The Film Life of George (ITV). Documentary on the history of George Harrison's production company Handmade Films, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Includes clips of *Life of Brian* and other Python-related films, and interviews with the Pythons. Produced and directed by Charles Brand.

Appendix:

John Cleese's Business-Training Films for Video Arts, 1972-1989

- All Change, Part 1: Change for the Better* (act./28 mins)
All Change, Part 2: The Shape of Things to Come (act./25 mins)
Awkward Customers (act., co-sc./24 mins)
The Balance Sheet Barrier (act./30 mins)
Budgeting (act./30 mins)
Can We Please Have That the Right Way Round? (act./22 mins)
Can You Spare a Moment? (act., co-sc./25 mins)
The Cold Call (act./24 mins)
The Competitive Spirit (act./29 mins)
The Control of Working Capital (act./26 mins)
Cost, Profit and Break-Even (act./23 mins)
Decisions, Decisions (act./28 mins)
Depreciation and Inflation (act./17 mins)
How Am I Doing? (act./26 mins)
How Not to Exhibit Yourself (act./30 mins)
How to Lie with Statistics, Part 1: The Average Chap (act.)
How to Lie with Statistics, Part 2: The Gee-Whiz Graph (act.)
Humour Is Not a Luxury (act., sc.)
I'd Like a Word with You (act./27 mins)
I'll Think About It (act./23 mins)
The Importance of Mistakes (act., sc./33 mins)
In Two Minds (act., co-sc./18 mins)
It's Alright, It's Only a Customer (act./29 mins)
Managing Problem People: Rulebound Reggie (act./12 mins)
Managing Problem People: Moaning Minnie (act./15 mins)
Managing Problem People: Bigmouth Billy (act./16 mins)
Man Hunt (act., co-sc./31 mins)

FILMS FOR VIDEO ARTS

- The Meeting of Minds* (act., co-sc./15 mins)
Meetings, Bloody Meetings (act., co-sc./30 mins)
More Awkward Customers (act., co-sc./31 mins)
More Bloody Meetings (act./27 mins)
Prescription for Complaints (act./21 mins)
Return on Investment (act./20 mins)
The Secretary and Her Boss, Part 1: Try to See It My Way (act./28 mins)
The Secretary and Her Boss, Part 2: We Can Work It Out (act./28 mins)
The Show Business (act./23 mins)
So You Want to Be a Success at Selling?, Part 1: The Preparation (act./26 mins)
So You Want to Be a Success at Selling?, Part 2: The Presentation (act./25 mins)
So You Want to Be a Success at Selling?, Part 3: Difficult Customers (act./25 mins)
So You Want to Be a Success at Selling?, Part 4: Closing the Sale (act./29 mins)
Telephone Behaviour: The Power and the Perils (act./29 mins)
The Unorganized Manager, Part 1: Damnation (act./24 mins)
The Unorganized Manager, Part 2: Salvation (act./26 mins)
The Unorganized Manager, Part 3: Lamentations (act./20 mins)
The Unorganized Manager, Part 4: Revelations (act./29 mins)
When I'm Calling You . . . (act./16 mins)
When Will They Realise We're Living in the Twentieth Century? (act.)
Who Sold You This, Then? (act., co-sc./23 mins)
Why Do People Work? (act./3 mins)
. . . Will You Answer True? (act./16 mins)
You'll Soon Get the Hang of It (act., co-sc./29 mins)

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