

Entertainment

Franken's Smalley a self-help guru's dream

by SCOTT WILLIAMS

NEW YORK (AP) — Stuart Smalley is not a licensed therapist.

He is, however, a member of several 12-step recovery groups, including Overeaters Anonymous, Debtors Anonymous, Al-Anon and Adult Children of Alcoholics. He broke up with his rage-aholic girlfriend, Dale, more than a year ago. It's been tough.

Still, he's managed to get his own self-help and daily affirmation program on cable TV, which airs on NBC's Saturday Night Live every now and then. And he's on the cover of this month's *Sober Times* magazine.

Stuart is obtuse, vaguely narcissistic, shy, hopelessly neurotic and co-dependent, and yet he has a certain sweetness and dumb courage. He fails and yet, each time, he picks himself up and resumes his journey of recovery.

Stuart also is fictional. He's the creation of SNL writer-producer-performer

Al Franken, who also wrote a Dell paperback of Stuart's daily affirmations: I'm Good Enough, I'm Smart Enough, And Doggone It, People Like Me!

"It's a long title — but that's OK!" Franken insists, lapsing into Stuart's character. "It's catchy."

Last week, Franken conducted a three-hour satellite tour of 25 cities, talking live with news anchors and reporters about his book. Actually, it was Stuart who did the interviews.

"There were just a couple who couldn't accept that Stuart was there, not Al," Franken said. "One of them asked me, 'Now, Stuart, what does Al Franken do in his spare time?'"

The short answer is that Al Franken has no spare time. His job at SNL is full time. He co-wrote and co-produced Sunday's election special Saturday Night Live's Presidential Bash.

Franken also has a screenplay in development with co-writer Ron Bass, which is a comedy titled *Disgruntled Former Employee*. The final draft should use up his Christmas break.

Franken is a little shy and very delighted when a critical reader compliments his book.

"I think it's the best thing I've ever done," he said. "It has a lot of (12-step) program wisdom, like 'denial is not just a river in Egypt.' And it has handy survival tips for people from dysfunctional families."

"One affirmation is: 'When I go home to visit my family, I will stay at a motel.' The book's only been out a week, but I've been told that has saved several lives."

Franken, a Harvard alumnus secretly proud of scoring 800s on his math SATs, acknowledges that Stuart is an "extreme example" of the recovery program mentality. That's what makes him funny."

LIFE, CAREER BACK ON TRACK

Cocker remains pure Joe

by MARY CAMPBELL

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Cocker's voice may remind some people of Ray Charles' but he grew up in a house where his father listened to Mario Lanza.

When he first started recording, his producer would say: "A bit more of the Ray and less of the Lanza, please."

Years later, Cocker's persona easily is distinguished from the rhythm and blues superstar or opera singer. Cocker's intense, soulful style itself has provoked imitators and sendups—like the late John Belushi's overwrought impersonation on Saturday Night Live.

Cocker's latest album, *Night Calls*, was released by Capitol Records in July. He began his latest tour in January, selling out 64 shows in 13 European countries.

"I've got a new manager, Roger Davies, and we committed ourselves to making this a full-tilt year," said Cocker. "Roger turned Tina's (Turner) life around. He's very single-minded... I found myself thinking one day, 'I don't want to retire tomorrow morning. I've got a bit of energy left in me. Let's go for it.'"

He fondly recalled some of his European concerts, particularly in Slovenia, where he played to 30,000 people. "They have 18 per cent beer there. They were stomping. It took me back to the '60s," he said.

The BBC interviewed him recently about *With a Little Help from My Friends*, the hit title track from Cocker's first album in 1969. "The woman inquired if I could give recollections of the session. I said, 'I can't remember a bloody thing about it.'"

"Somebody said, 'If you can remember anything about the '60s, you weren't there.'"



Joe Cocker poses backstage following a performance in New York's Radio City Music Hall recently. Cocker says he has worked harder this year than ever before and what keeps him going is knowing that next year he won't go on the road.

These days, Cocker has eliminated 1960s substances in favor of alcohol. During the nighttime interview at a hotel bar, Cocker is looking like his scruffy, burnt-out image. Actually, he's just tired after a day of promoting his album at radio stations.

The 48-year-old Cocker, who started performing at 12 in his native Sheffield, England, first played the United States in 1969, including Woodstock. The next year came the Mad Dogs and Englishmen tour, which wiped him out mentally, physically and financially.

The last 20 years have included

a 1974 hit, *You Are So Beautiful*; the performance of *So Glad I'm Still Standing Here* with the Crusaders at the 1981 Grammy Awards; the duet *Up Where We Belong*, with Jennifer Warnes (his first U.S. No. 1 record, which won them a Grammy in 1983); and the 1990 hit *When the Night Comes*.

The new album includes *Five Women*, a blues number by Prince, who played all of the instruments on the demo tape he sent to Cocker.

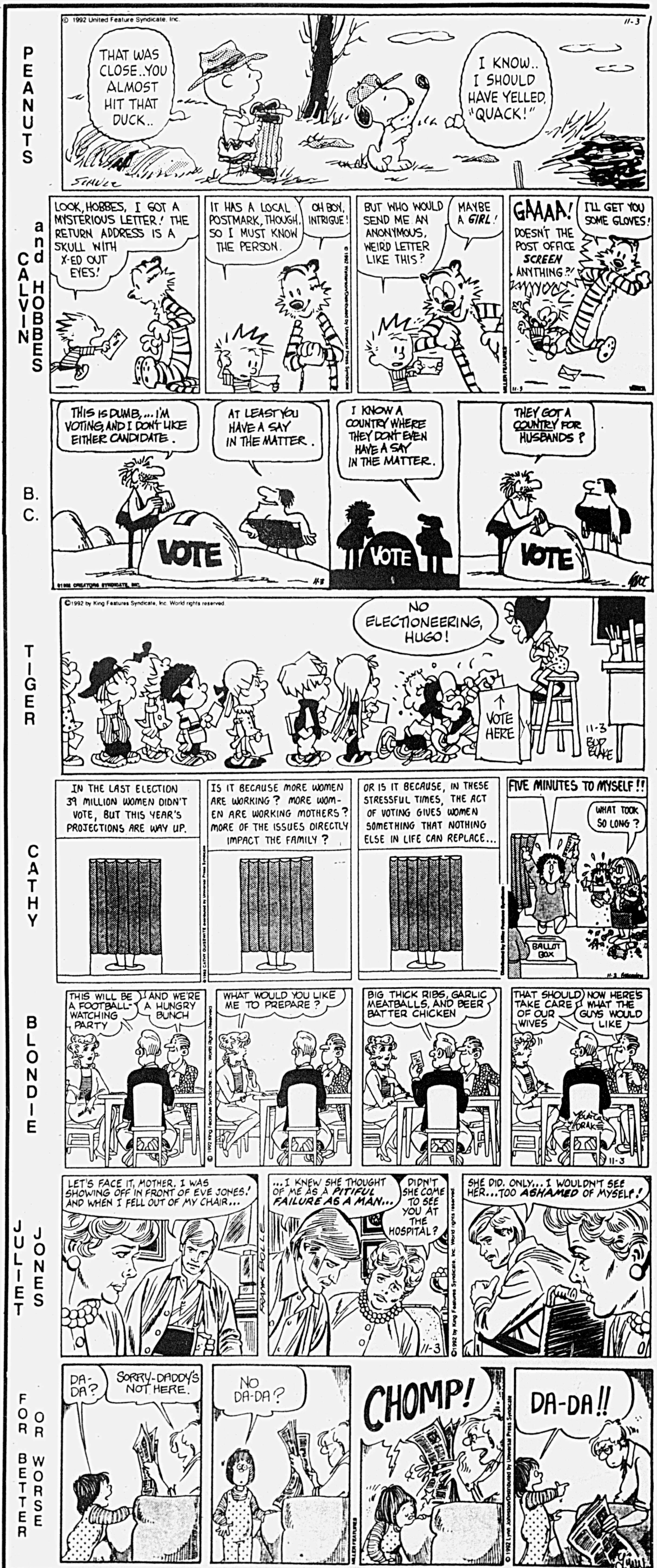
"My management asked Prince for a song. I'm told he did write it with me in mind," Cocker said.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Ornithology 101 field trips



Canadian Diabetes Association Association canadienne du diabète Your money has punch. Fight Diabetes. Supported by The Prince George Citizen

JACKPOT
649
\$2.3 MILLION

FIRST LITRE PUB
KARAOKE EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 8:00 p.m. - Midnight
Live Band Friday/Saturday
Cold Beer & Wine Store
Relaxed, Warm, Country Atmosphere
PUB 564-2233 BEER STORE 564-2323
1724 STRATHCONA AVE., PRINCE GEORGE

SEAFOOD TUESDAYS
LIVE LOBSTER
BROUGHT IN ON TUESDAY JUST FOR YOU!
Includes Salad Bar
A pound of clams for only..... \$5.95

Try our fresh catch of the day... ask your server for the sealicious details! Scallops, Shrimp, Crab, Mussels, Fresh Fish, Clams, Lobster and more, cooked in many new and exciting ways as only the Keg can do it! Dinners, Appetizers and more!!

Players
DJ & KARAOKE SERVICES
Great Sound - Friendly Service
GRAND OPENING RATES 561-6754

HALF PRICE TUESDAYS! Based on Adult Admission
CINEPLEX ODEON CINEMA GUIDE

ADMISSION \$2.50
ODEON CINEMAS
355 VANCOUVER STREET • 562-2935
THE MIGHTY DUCKS
SHOWTIMES NIGHTLY: 7:05 & 9:10 P.M.
R.C. Warning: Frequent violence
A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT
SHOWTIMES NIGHTLY: 7:00 & 9:15 P.M.
R.C. Warning: Occasional nudity & coarse language
UNDER SIEGE
SHOWTIMES NIGHTLY: 7:10 & 9:25 P.M.
R.C. Warning: Frequent violence
GIFT CERTIFICATES NOW ON SALE