



bombs away!

An interview with *Get Your War On* creator David Rees

By Daniel Sinker

It would be easy to get lofty when talking about David Rees' Web comic *Get Your War On*. It would be simple to say how it exposes the absurdity of the war on terror; how his stark, repetitive approach to the strip (it's all told using clip-art images) boils down the horror of the past year's news reports, and lets you laugh in the face of your own mortality. But it's way easier to cut to the chase and say this: *Get Your War On* is fucking funny.

"The best way to dominate a situation or to own it is to make a joke about it," Rees explains. "And not to make a joke about how Osama bin Laden has sex with a camel, because that joke is not funny. You have to really dig. You have to get dark."

The darkness that fuels *Get Your War On* (www.mnftiu.cc), which Rees has updated on a sporadic basis for more than a year now, is the darkness of today—of a time when you half-expect George W. Bush to "fuckin' rip his face off and it's gonna be Ming the Merciless up under there" or for Dick

Cheney to be "the last man walking the scorched, post-apocalyptic earth." And in exposing that darkness so directly, Rees makes it a little easier to bear.

I found it hard to do work about 9/11 and the war on terror. You not only did work, but downright hilarious work. How did you manage it?

I had to get this off my chest. Late one night I was going to update my Web site with the regular, apolitical comics, and it just struck me that I just couldn't continue with business as usual. Since I was sitting at my computer with the clip-art open, it was like, "Hell, I'll make the clip-art characters say what I'm actually feeling." It wasn't like I was sitting around thinking, "God, I have to come up with a really powerful anti-war tool." I'm not an activist. I'm not coming from that background. But after September 11, I really had to come to terms with my own death—what felt like an imminent death—because I live in New York City.