

CELEBRITY SPOKESPERSON

- I want to be a celebrity.
- I want people to ask me my opinions about things and for those opinions to be taken seriously.
- I want little kids to act stupidly because of something I said to a reporter.
- I want parents to be angry with me, and to call up talk shows and complain about me.
- I want other celebrities to be asked to respond to my opinions.
- And I want the questions to be phrased in such a way that it will be easy for the celebrity being asked the question to condemn me.
- And I want the celebrity being interviewed to avoid naming me directly or to simply tap dance around the question because I can make it hard for him or her in *The Business*.
- I want a percentage of the gross.
- I want final approval over scripts.
- I want to complain about the post-concert buffet.
- I want my manager to defend me when I overturn the not-to-my-liking buffet.
- I want dozens of fresh flowers delivered to every one of my performances.
- 12 dozen: 12 is my lucky number.
- I want my picture taken during my five-minute stay at a children's hospital.
- I want to be photographed with my arms around smiling kids in wheelchairs.
- I'll allow the picture to appear on a fund-raising flyer. Free of charge.
- I want to be a celebrity spokesperson.
- I want to make a video-recorded plea on behalf of a charity.
- But I'll only let them film one side of my face. The good side.

THEORISTS AT THE BARBECUE

- "A theorist is another name for a bullshitter," I said.
- "Einstein was a theorist," my brother said.
- "Exactly," I said. "What did he do? Helped create the atom bomb and came up with $E = MC^2$. What practical use is that?"
- "Well," my father said, "if you left earth travelling at twice the speed of light, when you got to Mars you'd be younger than when you left."

Silence

"Einstein was a genius," my brother said.

"The theory of relativity," my father said.

"He had a great hair-do and looks good on a stamp,"
I said.

— Paul Agostino

Holbrook NY

THE FAMOUS

it's always struck me as
funny who Americans select
as their heroes.

think of all the people
that are famous because a
magazine put them on a cover
and said they're famous.

think of all the people
that are famous by simply
being famous or having famous
names or famous relatives.

think of all the famous
that get rich and famous by
doing a TV series and then
proclaim they would rather be
singers or doing little theatre
in the midwest.

think of all the famous
that can't stay famous because
they're not doing TV or they're
too old.

think of all the famous
that died in obscurity because
their death came in a year
when somebody more famous
died.

think of all the famous
that do commercials, talk shows,
game shows, and celebrity sports
to keep their hand in.