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Cartoon Network
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ATTN: Project Evaluation Team

Dear Cartoonists:

I first need to tell you that I love cartoons! I cannot remember when it was that I found out the truth about the Easter Bunny, but I very distinctly remember when my mom and sister explained to me that Bugs Bunny was not a real rabbit doing all those crazy things to a real Elmer Fudd. Even after that revelation from them, it took me a good while to fully understand the truth about Bugs and his pals. I was crushed when I found out this reality, but I never stopped loving cartoons. Maybe this is why I liked the Roger Rabbit movie so much with the combination of both worlds and the crossover between them.

My friends, I am not a cartoonist and I cannot draw to save my life. I always liked art class, but my God given talents were simply in other areas. I used to draw pretend comic strips with my sister about a family of super heroes when I was about 10 years old, but they were certainly not very good! My sister, Jhoh, could draw well. She still can. But we had conflicting ideas about who had ultimate control over the 'intellectual property' so we each ended up drawing and writing our own comics independent of the other. Hers were definitely better illustrated, but I have to say that my story lines were superior.

I still cannot draw to this day, but that doesn't stop the creative juices in my head. I have an idea for a new cartoon character, but I need some advice in creating and marketing him. Do most new cartoon characters start out as still framed comic strips or can I jump straight to full animation? Also do you have any suggested cartoonists or animators that I can proposition? I have a picture of my new character in my mind's eye, so maybe I should hire a police sketch artist to get the true look.

Before I get much further, let me give you some details of my new character. Keep in mind that he is still in the early stages of development, so I haven't fleshed out many supporting characters or full story lines yet.

So here's my idea: **Mushroom Man**. He's a fun guy! Just trying to get along in the forest and not get eaten by the birds and animals that live there. His father, Mushroom Dad, died when a

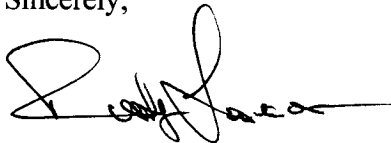
troll ate him in a fit of rage over some riparian water rights in the forest stream. Mushroom Dad left a bad taste in the troll's mouth that even the fresh spring water couldn't wash away. The troll has sworn a vow that he would always be the mortal enemy of all of Mushroom Dad's family. Mushroom Man was only a boy at the time, but he has grown into a mushroom man with special powers. He will use his powers to fight crime and injustice in the forest, but he will always be at odds with his nemesis the troll. I think that this will be a fine way to teach children about the societal ills we face in everyday life. The forest will be a loose analogy of the real world that we all live in. It will teach them about good and evil.

This is as far as I've gotten to this point. I still don't know what special powers are befitting of a mushroom. But I figure I can flesh out some of Mushroom Man's history in a few panels either as a dream sequence or just a flashback themed strip. This will allow me to later do other flashback cartoons to explain other parts of Mushroom Man's psyche as those are more fully developed when he takes a more definite shape. I believe that it's always a good idea to create an 'out' early on to explain those kinds of things when they crop up later. So I will make use of the dream sequencing early on in the development of Mushroom Man.

Now that I am an adult and I have seen the cutthroat world of business. I want to get my idea to someone who might turn it into a reality before someone else steals it and copyrights it. I also want to make sure that the folks at Veggie Tales don't already have a mushroom super hero character on their drawing board. Can you tell me who I should contact about this?

I am not worried about whether this will infringe on Mushmouth of the Cosby Kids.

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any Cartoon Network baseball caps? If so please send me a free one.

LOVE THE CARTOON NETWORK! I WOULD LOVE A FREE CARTOON
NETWORK BASEBALL CAP! R