



Subscribe to the VND

SUBSCRIBE NOW
&
DINNER'S ON US!

newspapers web sites magazines your town classifieds partners advertise help

Click here for advertising information || List all Advertisers

**YOUR SOURCE
FOR FAN GEAR**



Helpdesk
Contact Us
Search

CLICK
HERE

VND Home | News | Sports | Obituaries | Opinion | Community Links | Classifieds | Living | Special Reports

VND Homepage

Headlines

- Allegheny
- Armstrong
- Butler
- Westmoreland

Sports**Obituaries****Opinion****Living****Classifieds****Subscribe****Special Reports**

- Progress 2006
- Pilgrim George

Walter

- Videos From Home
- Community Guide
- Buried Legacy

Customer Care

- [Subscribe today](#)
- [Send your News](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Letters to Editor](#)
- [NIE](#)

Advertising

-

Search News

last 7 days

(Advanced Search)

Pghlive.com Index:**Apartments****AutoLIVE****Business****Classifieds****Crosswords****Cultural Guide****Employment****Events****Fanfare****Free E-mail****Forums****Grocery Coupons**

MATT SOBER
columnist



[Larger Text](#) [Smaller Text](#)

Read 'em and weep

By [Matt Sober](#)

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Friday, December 29, 2006

You know, if they really wanted to torture these suspected terrorists, they wouldn't send them to some secret CIA prison in Europe.

They'd send them to the eye doctor.

Yikes. By the time I got finished with my yearly exam a couple of weeks ago, I was ready to confess to being the 20th hijacker.

Perhaps you've endured a similar circumvention of the Geneva Conventions at your optometrist. You're escorted into a tiny, darkened room filled with large, strange-looking apparatus. They close the door behind you, sit you down in a chair and begin the interrogation.

"Do you sleep in your contacts?" "How often do you take them out?" "What kind of solution do you use?"

"Are you sure you're telling the truth?"

Then they get down to business.

"Cover your left eye."

"What, no blindfold? No barking German shepherds about to break free of their handlers?"

"Of course not. Just use your hand. Then try and read me the bottom line on that eye chart while I sit here and pretend not to be alarmed about how badly your vision has deteriorated."

You proceed to misidentify Q's as O's and E's as F's, and at that point, your spirit is broken. You'll do anything they want.

Top Stories**Local Sports**

- ▶ [Perry, Steelers go their separate ways](#)
- ▶ [Super Bowl is Dungy's reward](#)
- ▶ [Crosby pointless in All-Star debut](#)
- ▶ [Crosby receives Messier Award](#)
- ▶ [Railing on NHL's latest TV gadget](#)
- ▶ [Pens arena talks may pick up shortly](#)
- ▶ [Panthers shoot down Cincinnati](#)

[Read All Local Sports](#)**Steelers hire Tomlin**

- ▶ [Tomlin focused on Super Bowls](#)
- ▶ [Tomlin's intro strikes right chords](#)
- ▶ [Tomlin quick to learn, and to teach](#)
- ▶ [Big changes for Big Ben](#)
- ▶ [Players greet hiring with open minds](#)
- ▶ [Steelers say they](#)

[Health](#)
[Lottery](#)
[MiddleEast Reports](#)
[Movies](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Opinion](#)
[PenguinsLIVE](#)
[PiratesLIVE](#)
[Search Our Site](#)
[Screensavers](#)
[Shopping](#)
[Sports](#)
[SteelersLIVE](#)
[Tickets](#)
[TravelLIVE](#)
[Web Directory](#)
[Weather](#)

Our Newspapers:
[Tribune-Review](#)
[Pgh. Tribune-Review](#)
[Valley News Dispatch](#)
[Daily Courier](#)
[Valley Independent Leader Times](#)
[Blairsville Dispatch](#)
[KQV Radio](#)
[Gateway Newspapers](#)
[Pittsburgh Pennsaver](#)

Which is why you don't even hesitate when they order you to lean forward, rest your chin in a plastic fixture and press your face against a cold, black hunk of machinery. There is no choice but to fit your eyeballs into a pair of circular glass lenses.

"Keep your head still!" "Look straight ahead!" "No blinking!"

The tension mounts. You detect the sound of knobs clicking into position. You're not sure what's coming, but you know it's unlikely to be pleasant.

Flash! An explosion of white light knocks you backward.

No, that wasn't a supernova you just witnessed.

They just needed a picture of your eyeballs.

Disoriented -- not to mention highly vulnerable to persuasion -- you are turned to a similar apparatus situated to the left of the first one. Only this one has long, plastic pieces sticking out of it that look suspiciously like the barrels of tiny little air rifles. And by the time your head is locked into place, they're in dangerously close proximity to your eyeballs.

Poooof! Your head snaps back.

You've just been blasted at close range with enough force to lift a space shuttle from the ground. You feel like crying, but your eyes are already watering so badly that you can't.

Suddenly, however, the eye chart seems to be trying to tell you something:

C A L L T H E A C L U

Matt Sober is a copy editor for the Tribune-Review. E-mail him at msober@tribweb.com, and include the word "story" in the subject line.

► [couldn't pass on Tomlin](#)
 ► [Steelers news conference quotes](#)
 ► [Steelers 'dazzled' by Tomlin](#)
 ► [Tomlin transformed moribund defense](#)
 ► [What Tomlin brings to the Steelers](#)

[Read all Steelers archive](#)

National News

► [Ex-deputy arrested in 1964 race case](#)
 ► [Top U.S. surgeon in Iraq killed in crash](#)
 ► [New Orleans struggles to find teachers](#)

[Read All National News](#)

National Sports

► [Federer routs Roddick at Australian Open](#)
 ► [Old All-Star schools Crosby, Ovechkin](#)
 ► [Anheuser-Busch unveils Super Bowl ads](#)

[Read All National Sports](#)

Obituaries

► [Obituaries in the news](#)
 • [Former French minister dies at 78](#)
 • [Famed Austrian abstract painter dies](#)
 • [World's oldest person dies at age 115](#)

[Read All Obituaries](#)

Strange

► [Runaway Bride Story to Become Rock Opera](#)
 ► [Scientists can't get sloth to move](#)
 ► [Wash. lawmaker: Bars should allow](#)

[dogs](#)[Read All Strange](#)

Living

- ▶ [Keith Urban announces concert dates](#)
- ▶ [Garner tells how ring fell into a drain](#)
- ▶ ['Grey's' doctor is in treatment](#)

[Read All Top Living](#)

Technology

- ▶ [Wii helps Nintendo year-end profits soar](#)
- ▶ [Nintendo's Wii to provide AP news](#)
- ▶ [EBay announces aggressive buyback](#)

[Read All Technology](#)

Tools

-  [Print this article](#)
-  [E-mail this article](#)
-  [Subscribe to this paper](#)
-  [Larger / Smaller Text](#)

[Click here for advertising information](#) || [List all Advertisers](#)

Images and text copyright © 2007 by The Tribune-Review Publishing Co.
Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent from [PittsburghLIVE](#).
Have a comment about our website? [Click here](#). See a problem? [Report Bug](#)