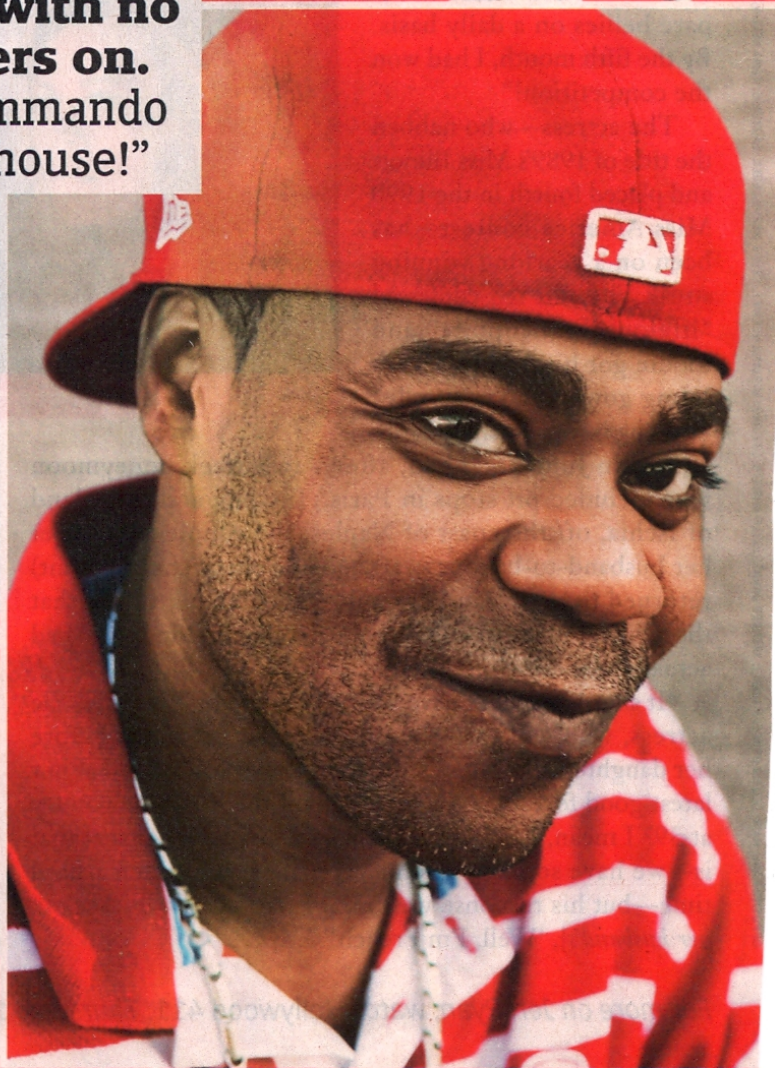
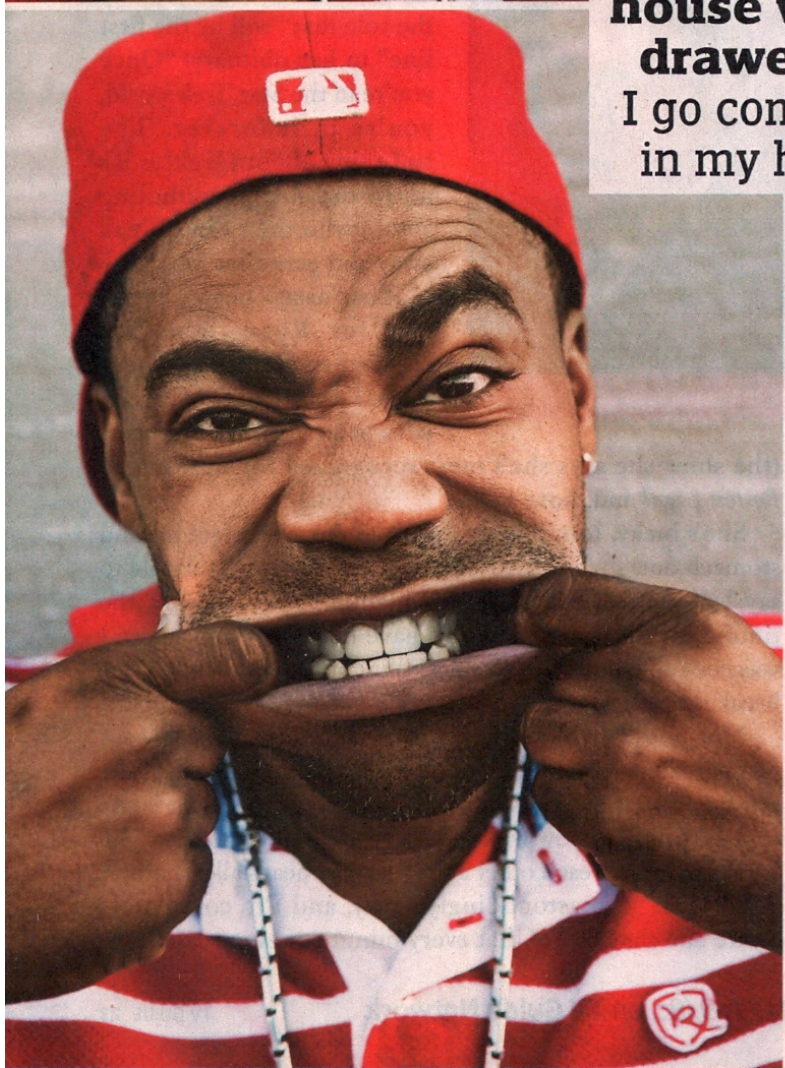


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Tracy Morgan

The 30 Rock wild man on his painful divorce, DUI ankle-bracelet woes and...playing Scrabble with "First Sunday" costar Ice Cube?

So let's get this out of the way first: 2007 was rough for you. What was your lowest point?

When me and my wife separated. Twenty-one years is a pretty long walk in the park with someone. So for us to come to this conclusion, it was like a death in the family.

Are you getting a divorce? Yeah, I'm going through it, man. It's very hard. But we're good friends. We stay in contact every day. She's still my business partner.

Were you embarrassed about being arrested for drunk driving? Yeah. I never wanted to be a poster boy for that type of behavior. Drinking and driving is not a cool thing.

You were sentenced to wear an alcohol-monitoring bracelet for six months. What was that like? I was like the Man in the Iron Mask! It had hair all over it from my leg when I took it off.

What was the most annoying thing about it? Sores. It's metal up against raw skin. Also, I'm diabetic. If I get a little scratch, it's hard for it to heal.



Morgan belts one out with *30 Rock* costars (from left) Kevin "Dot Com" Brown, Jane "Jenna" Krakowski and Grizz "Grizz" Chapman

How liberating was it to get it off? Well, it felt great not to be monitored. I'm a grown man. But it also felt weird. Because I had to live without alcohol for six months. So now it's like, I can drink if I want. But do I want to? No. So I know it did good.

Did Lindsay Lohan or other celebrity alcohol-monitoring bracelet wearers get in touch with you? No. Most people don't want that information out there. So they do their time quietly. It's like going to prison. You're not going to write anybody and go, "Yo, I'm in jail!"

You made fun of the bracelet on an episode of *30 Rock* you shot before the strike. Was that your idea?

I learned a lot of stuff at *Saturday Night Live*, man. Some things are too painful to make fun of right then and there. But once the wound heals, you need to make fun of it. I learned how to do that when we did that show after 9/11. Eventually we were able to laugh again. So the bracelet came off and we made fun of it.

Speaking of the strike, how have you been passing the time? I'm just sitting around the house. I have a girlfriend now, and I've been getting on my woman's nerves. I get on my kids' nerves. That's what I do.

You have three kids. Do they let you be funny at home? What do you mean "let me"? I'm Dad! I do what I want to do! I walk around buck nekkid. My kids hate it, but I walk around the house with no drawers on. I go commando in my house!

Do they think you're funny? Hell, yeah! Especially when they look at their bank account.

In the new movie "First Sunday," you and Ice Cube play guys who plot to rob a church. Have you ever stolen anything? Yeah. My friend's girlfriend back in the ninth grade!

Did you and Ice Cube have fun on the set? Yeah, but we were just working. You don't play games with Ice Cube. It wasn't like, "Hey, Ice Cube, you want to play Scrabble?"

You recently dissed Jimmy Fallon for giggling during *SNL* sketches. I love Jimmy Fallon. I think he's a very talented person. I didn't mean to hurt him or anything.

I hear that he's put out a hit on your life, though. Yeah, he's like 50 Cent. Jimmy—call it off. I don't want to be sent for. Don't send for me, man! I don't want to get whacked. Come on. I'm a good guy.

You're turning 40 in 2008. Are you prepared? I'm just chillin'. I'm layin' back. I'm heading into my middle age, and it feels good. I did the crazy Tracy stuff already. Now I'm mellowing out.

What is a more mellow Tracy Morgan like? No more taking off your shirt in public? No, I'm still taking off my shirt. Just in a mellow way now. —*John Sellers*

FUN FACT



Sadly, you won't be hearing the immortal words "I'm Brian Fellow!" coming out of Tracy Morgan's mouth at your local movie theater anytime soon. He's wary of moving *SNL*'s ignorant "Safari Planet" host to the big screen. "I want to take the same path that Eddie [Murphy] did," he says. "I never saw the Gumby movie. I never saw the Buckwheat movie. So I want to leave it right where it is—where people just loved it." That's crazy!

30 Rock THURSDAYS, 8:30/7:30c, NBC
(also online via video.tvguide.com)