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*The
Consumed
Issue*

QUEEN OF THE HILL

Mother, writer, award-winning substitute Spanish teacher, Boggle champion, softball pitcher, girls' wrestling coach: Peggy Hill has embraced many roles over the past 13 seasons of *King of the Hill*, Mike Judge's animated series about the small Texas town of Arlen. Peggy, voiced by actress and activist Kathy Najimy, has been an advocate for sex education, and lets her son, Bobby, experiment with unconventional gender pursuits like cooking, sewing, and playing with dolls. She's alternately been a cattle rancher, founded her own woman-run roller derby team, played guitar with guest star Ani DiFranco, and befriended a drag queen who considered Peggy a woman of strength and substance, someone to be admired and emulated.

But as *King of the Hill* ends its final season, we must say goodbye to Peggy Hill—the most empowered and progressive of cartoon women—with a look back at just a few of her definitive moments. As Peggy would say, “Ho yeah!”

—Jennifer K. Stuller

Square Peg (1.2)

In the series's second episode, Peggy takes on the job of teaching sex education to her son's grade-school class—against the wishes of the majority of the community and, at first, her husband. Since she learned about the birds and the bees from a book of flower illustrations given to her by her mother, Peggy herself has some learning to do and some shame to overcome. She plods ahead, bolstered by her award for substitute teacher of the year and her stalwart commitment to education. As she practices the formerly taboo vocabulary of comprehensive sex ed, she's eventually able to drop the “hap” from the word “happiness” and with confidence move on to say both “penis” and “VaaaaaaaaaaaaGINA!”

Memorable Dialogue

Peggy [to her sexually confident niece]: “Luanne, honey, tell me, what is it like to live without shame of any kind? Is it a good feeling?”

Luanne: “Yeah, it is.”

Joust Like a Woman (6.5)

The local Renaissance Faire turns out to be the site of Peggy's most feminist acts and outrageous rebellions. Believing a Renaissance Faire is a perfect fit for a Renaissance woman such as herself, Peggy takes a part-time position as a cleaning wench. She quickly becomes interested in correcting historical inaccuracies and pay inequalities—much to the displeasure of the Faire's owner and resident king. When she asks him to explain why “the wenches make 70 cents on the dollar, and the village idiot gets full dental,” it sets off a battle of the sexes that culminates in Peggy jousting with the king. She wins, and inspires the other wenches to file a class-action lawsuit for unfair wages and sexual harassment. “Hey, King Make-Believe,” she gloats, “you just got beat by a girl!”

Memorable Dialogue

Peggy: “I just wish I had been born 500 years ago. I could have single-handedly saved woman-kind forever!”

Bobby Slam (2.10)

Peggy takes a gig as a substitute teacher for girls' gym, where it's assumed by the male coach that she's only there to teach the girls about their “monthlies.” Instead, she's left to teach “General Sports”—which Peggy describes as “a special program that combines the thrills of wrestling with the skills of basketball.” Unfortunately, the equipment is faulty and the girls need a new basketball. When Bobby joins the wrestling team, and his girlfriend, Connie, decides she wants to as well, Peggy is forced to choose between loyalty to her son and women's rights. Compelled by memories of the sexism she faced as a young athlete herself, Peggy enlists Luanne and Connie's mother, Minh, to train Connie in wrestling—and invokes Title IX to get her accepted on the team.

Memorable Dialogue

Connie: “Maybe sports wasn't such a good idea. Maybe I should do yearbook instead, or chess club.”

Peggy: “Connie, don't you say that. Yearbook is a shameful, squalid waste of time.”



“I just wish I had been born 500 years ago. I could have single-handedly saved woman-kind forever!”