

## Expletive deleted - solution

Each of the characters depicted is a character from fiction which has profanities (or curses) that exist specifically in their universe. Each character is using symbol swearing (as oft used in comics in lieu of profanity) that translates using a straight substitution cipher as follows:

Velma (from Scooby Doo) → jinkies = \*!#

Shaggy (from scooby doo) → zoinks = ) \*!

A rabbit (from Watership Down) → silflay hraka = \* @!

Ace Rimmer (from Red Dwarf) → smeghead = !##^

Mal Reynolds (from Firefly) → gorram = ) @ @ @

Conehead → mep = #

Smurf → smurfing = !@\*

Dwarf (from Discworld, note the bread) → b'zugda hiara = !^ \*@

Conan the Barbarian → crom = \$@ )

William Adama (from Battlestar Galactica) → frakking = @!!\*

Mork from Ork → shazbot = )

Draco Malfoy (from Harry Potter) → mudblood = ^% ) ) ^

This gives us the following key:

A =   
B = %  
C = \$  
D = ^  
E = #  
F =   
G =   
H =   
I = \*  
J =   
K = !  
L =   
M =   
N =   
O = )  
P =   
R = @  
S =   
T =   
U =   
Y =   
Z =

Throughout the text of the puzzle, there are words used that describe/define (for some definition) certain of the symbols used:

A = = smoking  
B = % = mod  
C = \$ = buck  
D = ^ = power

E = # = pound  
 I = \* = times  
 K = ! = not  
 O = ) = moon  
 P = / = knife  
 R = @ = at  
 S = & = and  
 Z = % = shock

The usages of these words are highlighted in the copy of the text below:

THE TRAGEDY OF "THE MYSTERY OF THE SURPRISINGLY DANGEROUS BUTTER **KNIFE**" IS FINALLY OVER. %\*!#&, WHAT DO WE WANT TO CALL OUR NEW TEAM?

%)\*&!&, LIKE, A TRIBUTE TO THE OLD TEAM IS WHERE IT'S **AT**, MAN. LIKE, MAYBE, "THE DOG **POUND**"...

DOG??!/? WHERE? OH, I SEE... &\*!@!@! @!@!. WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PLAY "**SHOCK** THE BUNNY"? IT ISN'T FUNNY, YOU KNOW.

HEH HEH... NO, I STILL LAUGH **AT** IT, YOU &!#%#%^, NO MATTER HOW MANY **TIMES** HE DOES IT. YOU SHOULD SEE YOURSELF QUIVER...

**BUCK** UP, LITTLE BUDDY I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM ANY %)\*@!@! MEAN NASTY PUPPIES. NOW, TRY THIS ONE ON FOR SIZE: "THE MEN FROM NANTUCKET."

!#/. UNACCEPTABLE. I AM **NOT** FROM NANTUCKET.

WHAT ARE YOU **SMOKING**? HE DOESN'T REALLY MEAN THAT, HE'S JUST BEING &!@!%\*! CHILDISH.

LISTEN, YOU %!%!^! %\*!@!, I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF SOME STUNNING BREAD I FOUND **AT** A BAKERY ON NANTUCKET. NOTHING CHILDISH ABOUT THAT.

GUYS, HOW ABOUT "THE **POWER** RANGERS"? SOUNDS MANLY, BY \$@)!.

NO, THAT'S ALREADY TAKEN. BEFORE YOU !@!!\*!% SAY IT, SO ARE "THE LITTLE RASCALS", "THE A-TEAM", **AND** "THE **MOD** SQUAD."

&!% %)!%, I HAVE IT! THE PERFECT NAME, ONE THAT YOU WILL ALL LOVE! "**MOON** UNIT'S TRUSTY SATELLITES!"

WHAT... I DON'T EVEN... YOU'RE AN IDIOT **AND** WORSE THAN A !!^ %!)) ^ **AND** I AM OUT OF HERE.

Taking these definitions in the order they appear in the puzzle and replacing them with the corresponding letter from the cipher, you get

PREZRICKARDSBOSS

This refers to Boss Smiley (from comics about Prez Rickard), so the answer is SMILEY.

(Note: fonts used for text/symbols are free fonts available for non-profits from blambot.com, specifically SmackAttack BB and PottyMouth BB)