

Q&A IS WRITTEN BY FIN MARTIN. PLEASE NOTE: Q&A IS UNABLE TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS PERSONALLY.

**? Fans have been loudly booing John Cena for six years now. Why doesn't WWE bow to public demand and turn Cena heel to capitalise on the hostility?**

**Matt Tennant**  
*Via e-mail*

One word: money. A Cena heel turn would deter many young children from following the WWE product, which would result in a sharp decline in Cena-related merchandise sales and adversely effect ticket sales, pay-per-view orders and other aspects of the business too.

One could argue that a heel Cena would be far more interesting and versatile than the current version, and that a villainous/cool Cena character would enable WWE to achieve growth in ways that would offset most if not all of the aforementioned decreases.

Some have even theorised that the existing Cena character, who dresses like a six-year-old and sells like SpongeBob Squarepants, is holding the company back, and a heel Cena could attract a whole new audience to WWE. However, WWE earns so much money from babyface Cena merchandise (and has done since 2005) that it is not willing to take the risk of turning him.

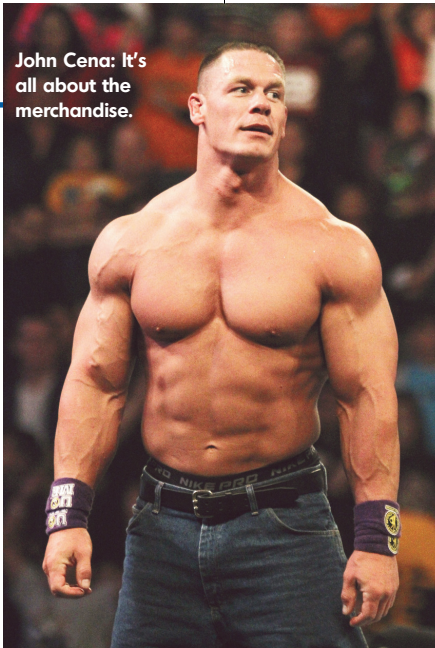
If WWE can create another character whose merchandise sells in similar quantities as Cena-related goods, then a Cena heel turn might be feasible. Until then, basic economics dictates that it will not happen.

**? Whatever happened to WWE Superstar Al Snow?**

**A.R. Mottley**  
*Oldham, Lancashire*

Al Snow works as a road agent in TNA.

In his duties as an agent, Snow (Allen Sarven) helps the wrestlers lay-out their matches and occasionally participates in televised angles/pull-aparts. D-Lo Brown, Terry Taylor and Pat 'Simon Diamond' Kenney also work as road agents in TNA.



**John Cena: It's all about the merchandise.**

**? In Issue 200, you wrote that Jose 'Invader' Gonzales was acquitted of the murder of Frank 'Bruiser Brody' Goodish in 1988 on grounds of self-defence. Did Invader continue wrestling after the trial?**

**George Clark**  
*Glasgow, Scotland*

Actually, Jose 'Invader' Gonzales — who was the WWC booker and part-owner in 1988 — returned to WWC shortly after he had killed Goodish, and was working as booker while he was awaiting trial. Worse still, WWC in the run-up to the trial used its television programme to portray Gonzales as an all-round nice guy and loving family man in an attempt to cleanse his image to the public.

According to the book *Brody* by Larry Matysik and Brody's widow Barbara Goodish, "The [murder] investigation and subsequent legal proceedings were a fiasco.

"There were no witnesses for the prosecution [at the trial] other than the two doctors who [had] treated Frank", and their "testimony was dismissed as hearsay". The book stated that lawyers defending Gonzales "painted [Goodish] as the bad guy".

It is also reported in *Brody* that "Gonzales stated that he was defending himself against a much bigger man who had a 'known reputation' for violence and was allegedly 'crazed' . . . The jury returned with a verdict of 'not guilty' because they had been led to believe the incident was a case of self-defence. This was a travesty of justice."

Following his acquittal, Invader returned to the ring and, by his own hand, received a push as a babyface: he held the WWC tag team, WWC Caribbean and, in 1992, the Universal title, WWC's top championship.

There are not words to describe how repugnant the whole situation was.

**? How did Haku and Randy Savage become King in the WWF in 1988 and 1989 respectively when neither won the King Of The Ring tournament?**

**Joel Jessop**  
*Via e-mail*

Allow us to backtrack here: Harley Race was the first official King of the WWF. He was presented with the nickname and crown in a ceremony at a television taping on August 5, 1986. It was said that he had earned the title of "King" by winning the King Of The Ring tournament on July 14 that year.

It should be noted that the King name was not treated at the time as a transferable entity which could be won or lost: it was simply Race's gimmick. Harley remained King of the WWF after Randy Savage had won the King Of The Ring tourney on September 4, 1987 on a house show in Providence, Rhode Island.

Race was sidelined in March 1988 after he had suffered a ruptured intestine in a match with Hulk Hogan. He would not return to action until November 1988. While he was recovering, the WWF on June 21, 1988 decided to award the King gimmick to Haku.

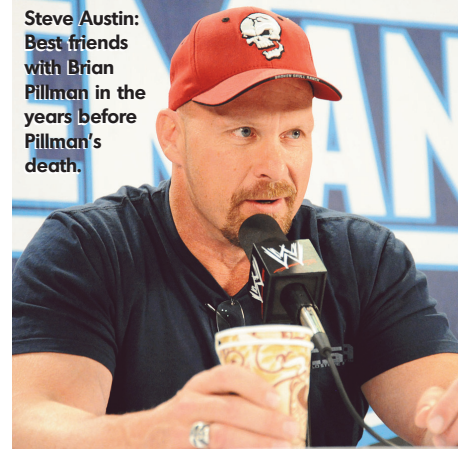
From there, the King name was occasionally defended as if it were a championship: for example, Haku retained it against Harley Race, the former King, at Royal Rumble on January 15, 1989.

Haku lost the King title to Jim Duggan in April 1989. On August 30 that year, King Duggan was succeeded by Randy Savage: defeating Duggan, Savage became the Macho King, managed by Queen Sherri.

The King gimmick was abandoned by the WWF in 1991.

**? Did Steve Austin really injure Brian Pillman's ankle when he wrapped it in a chair at a WWF television taping in October 1996 or was it just an angle?**

**Richard**  
*Via e-mail*



**Steve Austin: Best friends with Brian Pillman in the years before Pillman's death.**

It was pure story line.

Pillman had suffered a badly broken ankle in a Humvee accident on April 15, 1996.

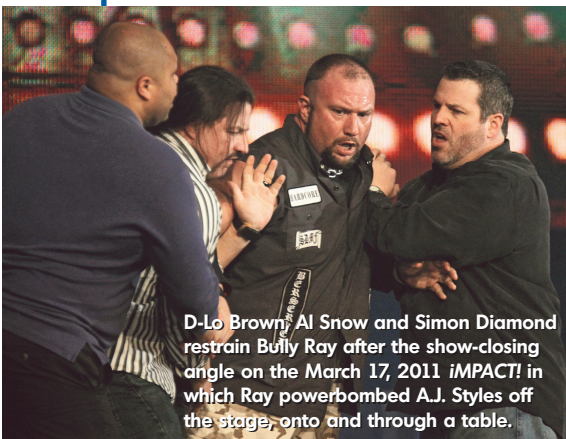
Pillman's doctor discovered that his ankle was not healing properly during a routine check-up in October of that year, and recommended that the ankle be surgically rebroken and repinned and reset. Reluctantly accepting his doctor's advice, Pillman made arrangements to go under the knife.

As the cover story for Pillman's operation and resultant absence from television, the WWF booked Steve Austin to attack Pillman with a cane and a chair at the October 22, 1996 *Superstars* taping in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Austin did not injure Pillman in the angle.

Pillman underwent surgery on his ankle the next day. Unfortunately, surgeons in the process discovered that the damage to his ankle was so severe that they had to fuse it in a walking position. Consequently, Pillman was very limited when he returned to action in May 1997. He was also in constant pain.

Brian Pillman died of a heart attack on October 5, 1997, aged 35.



**D-Lo Brown, Al Snow and Simon Diamond restrain Bully Ray after the show-closing angle on the March 17, 2011 iMPACT! in which Ray powerbombed A.J. Styles off the stage, onto and through a table.**

# Q&A

**For answers to all those pro wrestling-related questions, write to:**

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