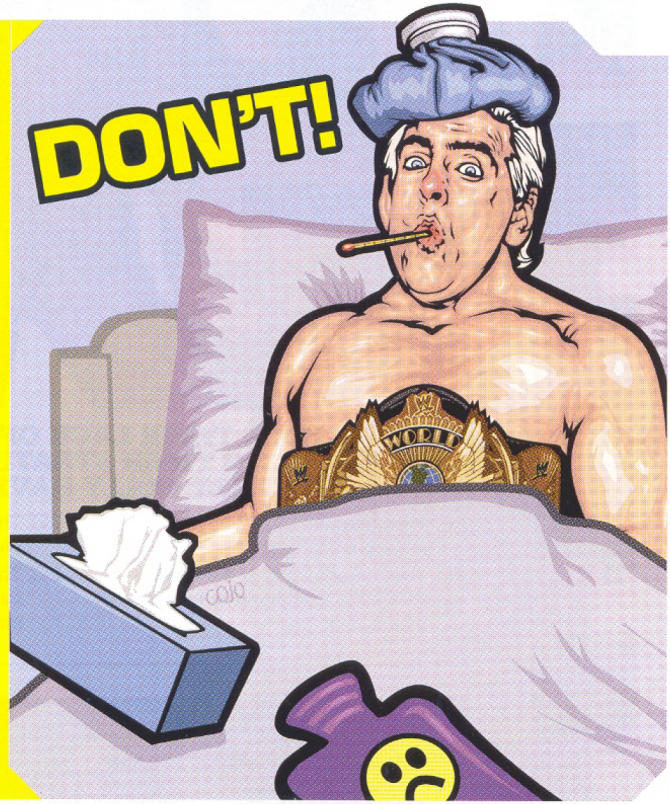


# RIC FLAIR'S CHAMPIONSHIP ETIQUETTE

Who better than a 16-time World Champion to impart the finer points of holding the title?

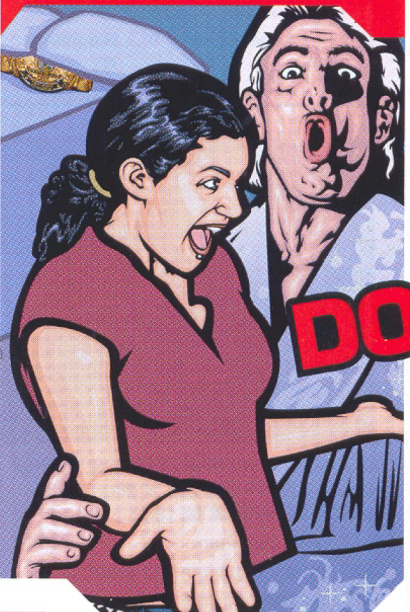
**Don't Miss a day of work. Ever. (Almost.)**

"One of the things I pride myself on when I was the World Champion, and I have held the title 16 times, is that I missed only three days of work in 34 years. One time I had a 105° fever for two days, and I just couldn't take myself to the airport. Another time Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard were getting a bum deal and I couldn't let that happen to my friends. The last time I was watching my son's wrestling match and bad weather canceled my flight. So when I was sick, I worked. When I was tired, I worked. When I was exhausted, I worked. The job of being a great champion comes first. Everything else comes second."



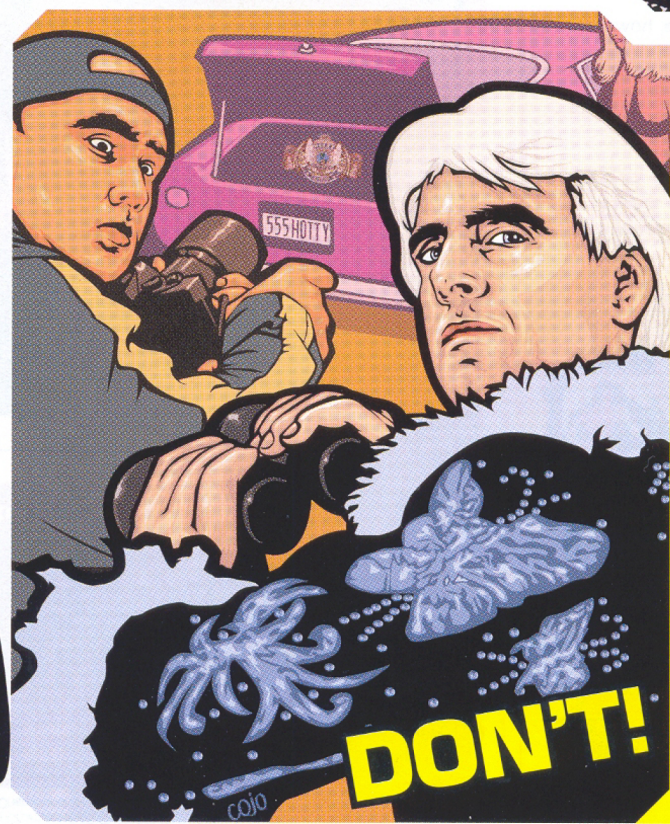
**Do Hide the title at raucous parties.**

"I've often had people drink beer in my room after the bar closes. In these instances I recommend hiding the title. I always hide that...and my Rolex."



**Do Encase the belt in quality luggage.**

"I carried the title in a Halliburton briefcase. Never check it. It should become almost like an appendage."

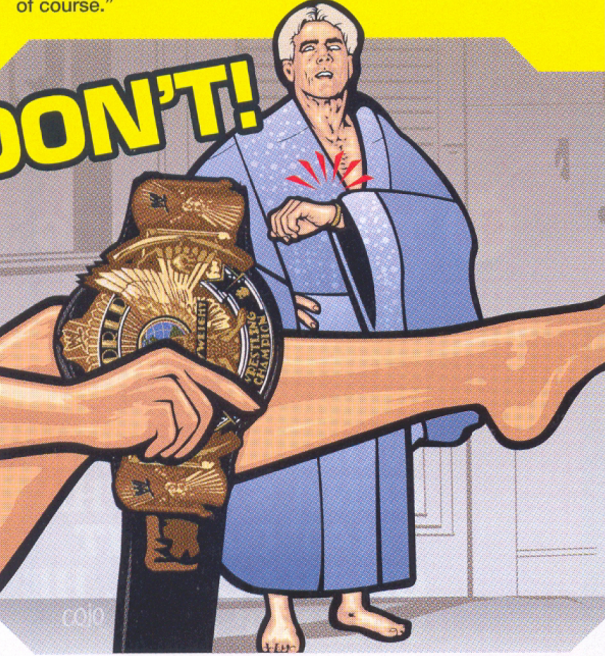


**Don't Lose that luggage.**

"I was in Houston, and I went to a party. I left my bags with the title in them in the trunk of a girl's car. In the course of the evening she took off not knowing about her cargo. I didn't have her number and I had to leave the next day. I had only 24 hours to track down the belt, so I used a private eye to find the girl. I was getting worried because word was getting out. I knew that my boss, Jim Herd, a guy I can't stand, was driving down from Atlanta for a TV taping the next day. When I walked in the door he asked, 'Are you missing something?' He was looking for a way to stick it up my ass. He said, 'I heard you lost your luggage.' I said, 'No, you heard wrong,' and I opened my bag and said, 'It's right here.'"

**Don't Let others wear the title.**

"I let fans touch the title, but never let them put it on. OK, I let a few girls wear it, just for a moment or two, in my youth. I went as far as letting them put it on for 15 seconds. Behind closed doors, of course."



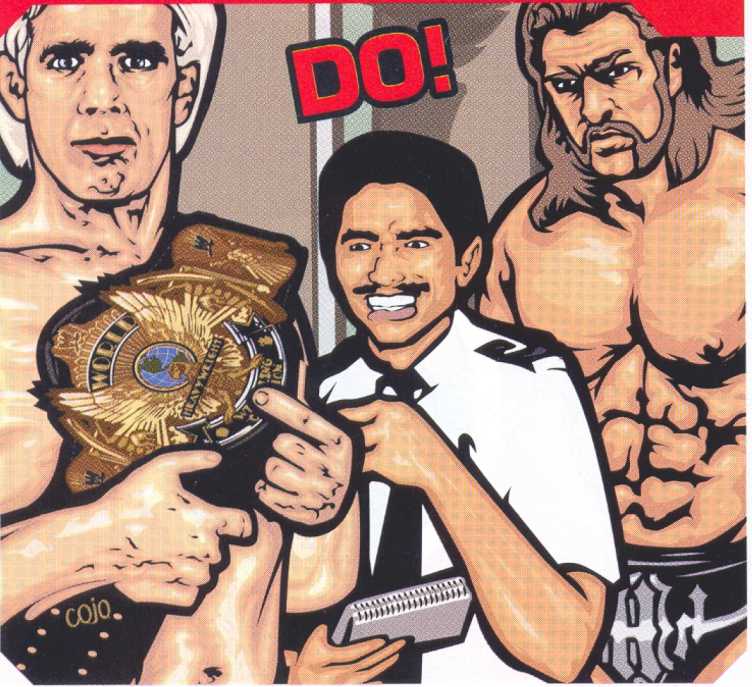
**Do Buy the bar a round. Or five.**

"I liked David Arquette. In my opinion, he represented the title a lot better than some other guys. Everybody was mad about him winning the WCW Championship. But David was nice and respectful. Only the idiot in charge, and you know whom I'm talking about, would put the title on a 160-pound actor. The night he won the title he asked me, 'What do I do as a World Champion?' I told him, put it on, wear it down to the bar and buy everybody drinks all night long. And he did."



**Do Hold your ground with airport security.**

"Airport security will harass you, but also ask if they can touch the title. They forget to do their job and then take the liberty to ask for an autograph. I've never had to carry the title since 9/11, but I've traveled with Hunter, and he's man enough to say, 'Absolutely not.' They're not allowed to touch crap."



**Don't Use the title as a cummerbund.**

"It's improper to show up to a formal wedding wearing the title. Besides, at least two of the groomsmen have seen it at the bachelor party already."

