

Bye-bye, Brad



The Convention Hall Auditorium Pipe Organ in Atlantic City, New Jersey, is the loudest musical instrument ever built. It has 33,112 pipes in 455 ranks and manual and pedal reeds that are under 100 inches of wind pressure. But what puts this organ in a class by itself is its 184-foot long Diaphone Basso Profunda, a pipe so big that even the 41,000 seat auditorium can't accommodate it. Instead, it exits through a hole in the west wall of the mezzanine and empties at the base of the building near a "Beware Of Loud Sounds" sign. An Atlantic City middle school science teacher once theorized that air pressure from the business end of the pipe created a powerful mesovortex, but he didn't know *how* powerful. Could it, say, launch a relentlessly misbehaving fourth grade pupil named Brad three blocks to the ocean? He wasn't sure, but he was determined to find out!