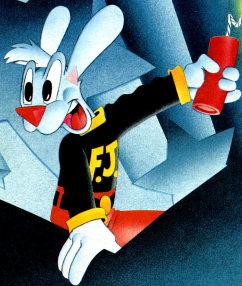


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critters

No. 8 Jan., 1987

LETTERS

Send to: CRITTERS, 4359 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301

Small change in plans this time around. Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, Mark Armstrong was unable to finish the "Firecracker Jack" story promised for this issue. But we've come up with a pretty decent substitute: we're reprinting the original "Jack Bunny" story (same character, different name) that appeared in *Charlton Bullseye* five years ago. It was my first exposure to Mark's work, and I think it's a story well worth preserving.

In the course of rummaging through his files looking for that tale, Mark also came up with a number of other stories, including a delightful 10-pager featuring his duck character Chuck, which we'll be using in our Christmas issue, and a short "History of Surfing" piece which should pop up in early 1987. And someday, the muses willing, Mark will finish off that second "Firecracker Jack" story and we'll slam it into print as fast as humanly possible.

I was going to talk a little about Ty Templeton's story in this issue, but why bother? It stands so perfectly well on its own, that would just be redundant. So let me just:

(1) welcome Tom Stazer back to the pages of *Critters*;

(2) mention that next issue will be an all-Halloween issue of sorts, featuring "Gnuiff," "Lionheart," and (in a *Critters* premiere) Steve Lafler's outrageous "Dog Boy";

(3) warn you that *Critters* #11, our special Christmas issue, is going to be big. Check out our subscription hype this issue for an idea of just how huge it will be;

and (4) mention that the Usagi story in *Doomsday Squad* #3 turned out ghastly because of an inept color separator. My apologies to Stan Sakai and colorist Tom Luth—we'll reprint that story someday and make it come out right, guys!

That's all for now. Let's read some letters. —KIM THOMPSON

Dear *Critters*,

I've never written a letter to criticize or comment on a comic book before, but I think that this really needs to be said: *Critters* is one of the best comics on the market today! With stories by people like Stan Sakai, Freddy Milton, and Steven A. Gallacci, what else could it be?

I just picked up *Critters* #5 today, and it's probably one of the best so far. The conclusion of the "Gnuiff" story was filled with great surprises and action and I hope to see them back very soon! Stan Sakai's "Nilson Groundthumper" was really good. It's amazing how Sakai can fit a good, well-written, quality story into just four pages. And as always, Steven A. Gallacci proves that "funny animals" don't necessarily have to be funny to be good with another chapter of "Birthright." This dramatic story provides an interesting break from the more lighthearted stories like "Gnuiff," "Captain Jack," and "Nilson Groundthumper" (not that there's anything wrong with them).

All in all, this is a great book and I hope it stays around for years to come! The only thing wrong with it is that it's not in color, but I'd rather have black-and-white critters than no critters at all! Keep up the good work!

Your devoted fan,
Aaron Huffman
Alexandria, VA

We're working on some color critters at this time, Aaron. I'll keep you posted. And be sure to pick up *DOOMSDAY SQUAD* #5, which features a spectacular "Captain Jack" story in blazing color.

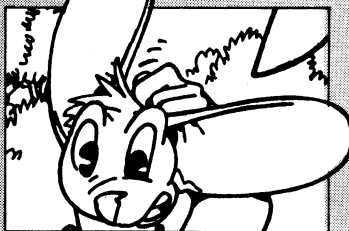
—KT

Dear *Critters* people,

My congratulations on an excellent first five issues. I have

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 30]

CONTENTS



Page 3

JACK BUNNY

"Rocket Rabbit"

by MARK ARMSTRONG

Jack Bunny (a.k.a. Firecracker Jack) takes a wild ride on a rocketship in this Demand Classic from 1980.



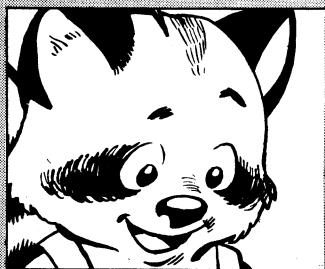
Page 11

LIONHEART in:

"Detour"

by TOM STAZER

A couple hundred miles from nowhere, Lionheart encounters some very strange fellow travelers...



Page 22

SPECIAL FEATURE:

"The Ol' Treasure Map Story"
by TY TEMPLETON

The instigator of *STIG'S INFERNO* brings us a tribute to one of the greatest comic strips of all time.



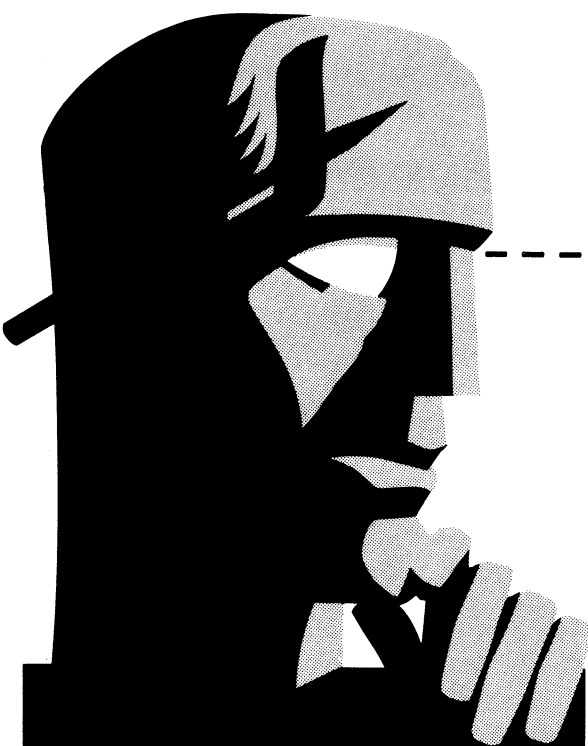
Page 32

RODNEY ROADHAWK in:

"Car Tuner"

by MARK ARMSTRONG

Look Sharp!



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ALEC STEVENS



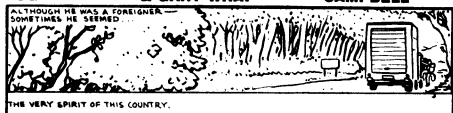
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MARK ARMSTRONG PRESENTS

Jack Bunny

IN

ROCKET RABBIT

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PSSST!
COME'RE
A MINUTE!



IS THIS
IMPORTANT ?

IT'S A
MATTER OF
NATIONAL
SECURITY !

I'M ON MY
WAY TO A
CLUB MEETING
TO GIVE A
SPEECH !



YOU SEE,
I'M HERE TO
TEST A NEW
ROCKET FOR
THE DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT,
AND...

HEY!
WHAT KIND
OF GAG
IS THIS ?



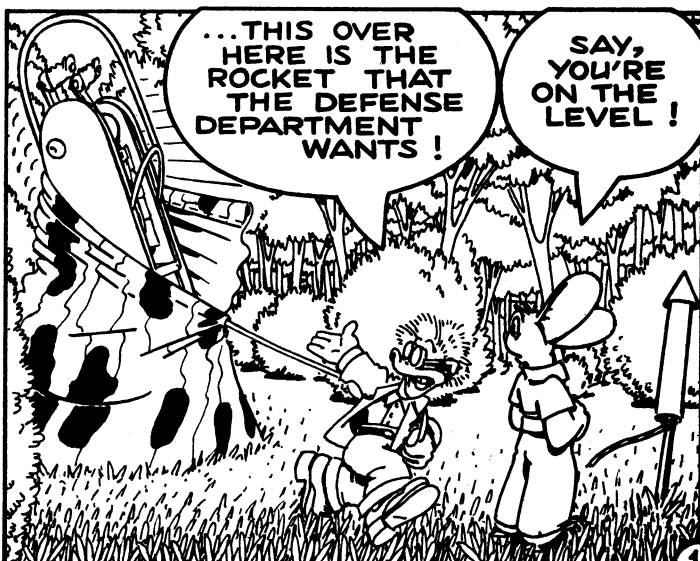
THIS IS
JUST AN
ORDINARY
FOURTH OF
JULY
SKYROCKET !

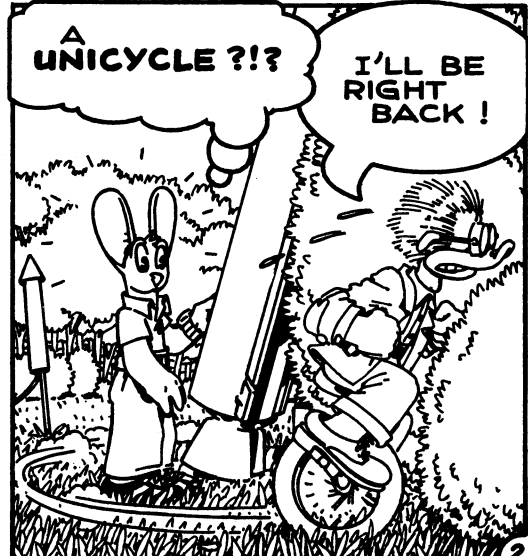
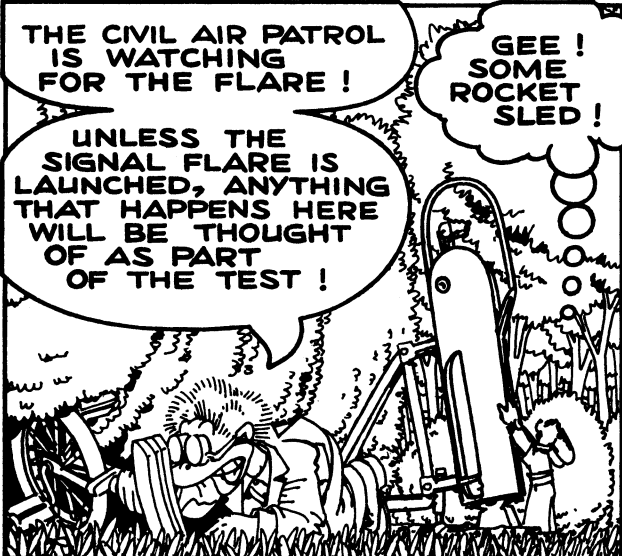
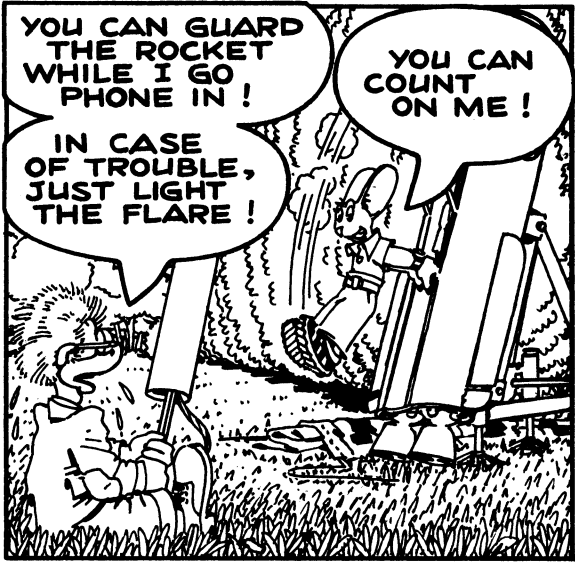
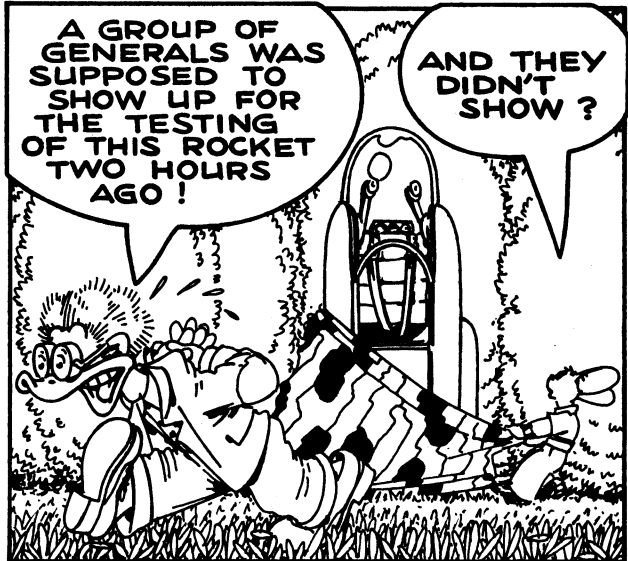
ACTUALLY,
THIS
IS A
SIGNAL
FLARE...



...THIS OVER
HERE IS THE
ROCKET THAT
THE DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT
WANTS !

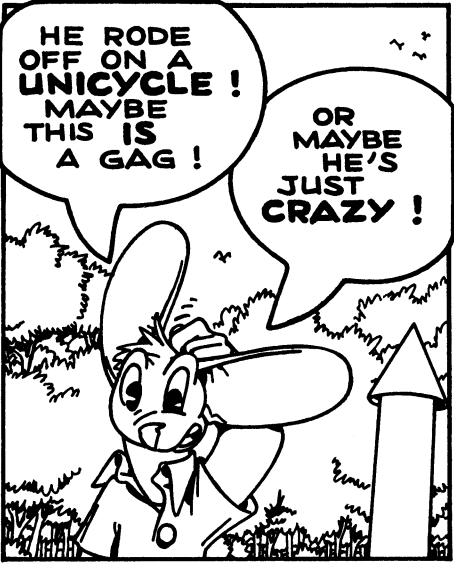
SAY,
YOU'RE
ON THE
LEVEL !



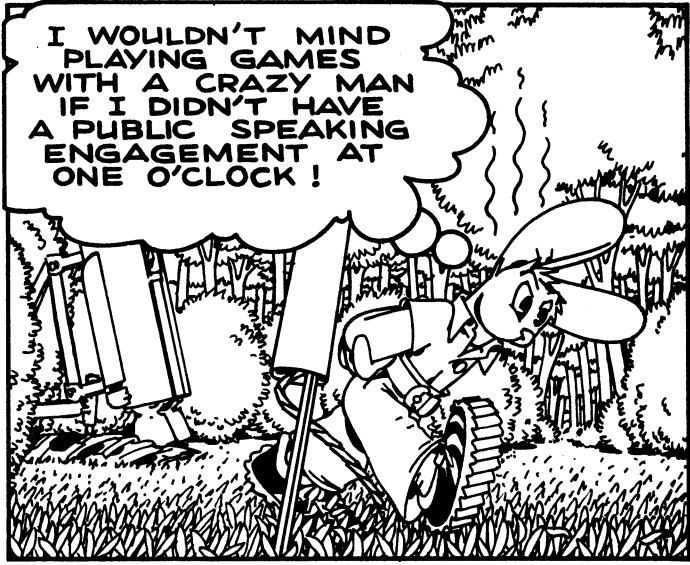


HE RODE
OFF ON A
UNICYCLE !
MAYBE
THIS IS
A GAG !

OR
MAYBE
HE'S
JUST
CRAZY !

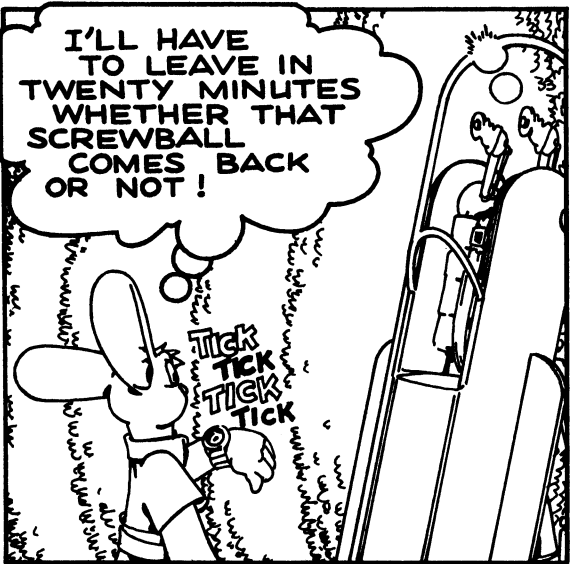


I WOULDN'T MIND
PLAYING GAMES
WITH A CRAZY MAN
IF I DIDN'T HAVE
A PUBLIC SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENT AT
ONE O'CLOCK !



I'LL HAVE
TO LEAVE IN
TWENTY MINUTES
WHETHER THAT
SCREWBALL
COMES BACK
OR NOT !

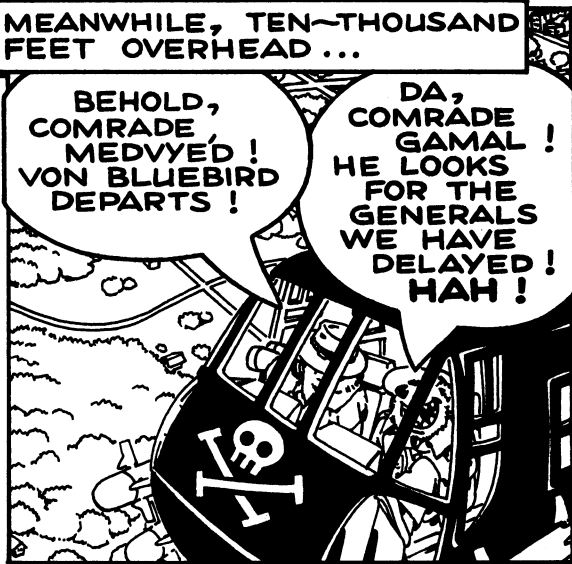
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK



MEANWHILE, TEN-THOUSAND
FEET OVERHEAD ...

BEHOLD,
COMRADE
MEDVYED !
VON BLUEBIRD
DEPARTS !

DA,
COMRADE
GAMAL !
HE LOOKS
FOR THE
GENERALS
WE HAVE
DELAYED !
HAH !



THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
A HELICOPTER
APPROACHING ...

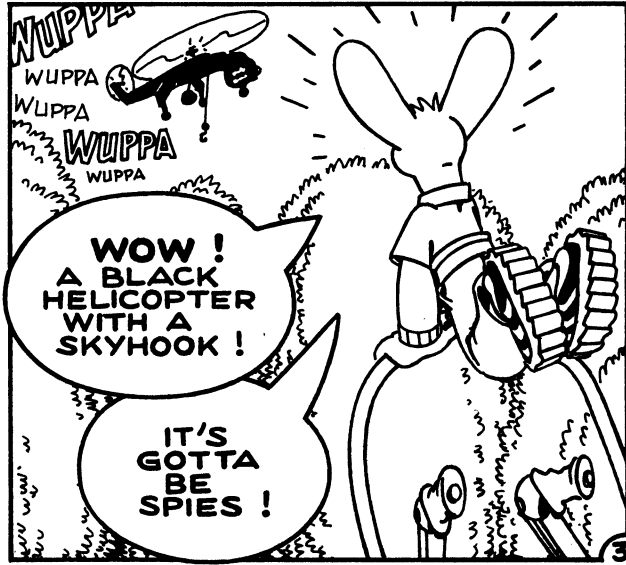
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA

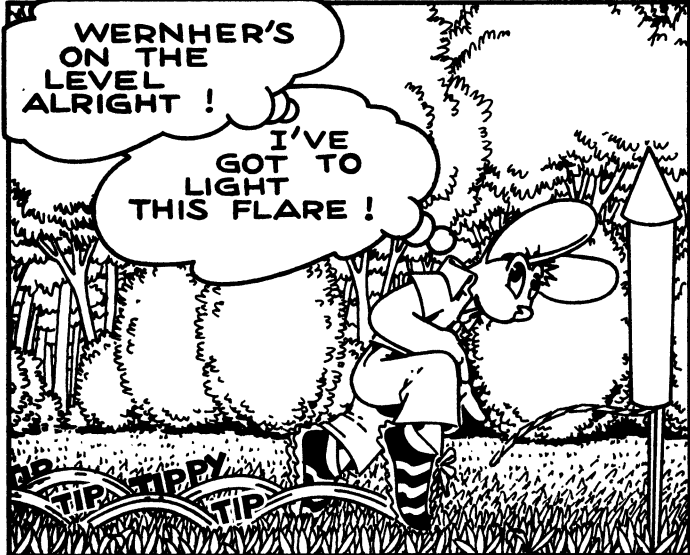


WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA

WOW !
A BLACK
HELICOPTER
WITH A
SKYHOOK !

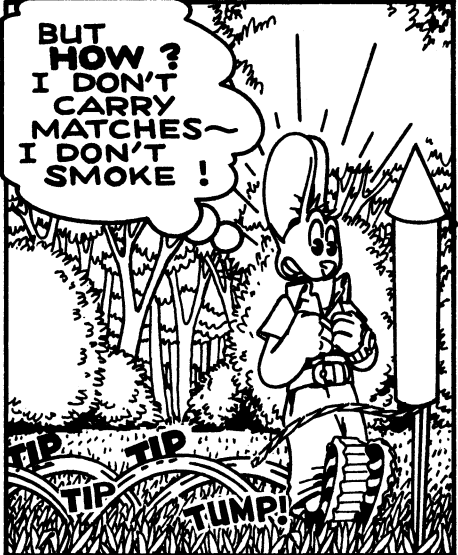
IT'S
GOTTA
BE
SPIES !





WERNHER'S
ON THE
LEVEL
ALRIGHT !

I'VE
GOT TO
LIGHT
THIS FLARE !



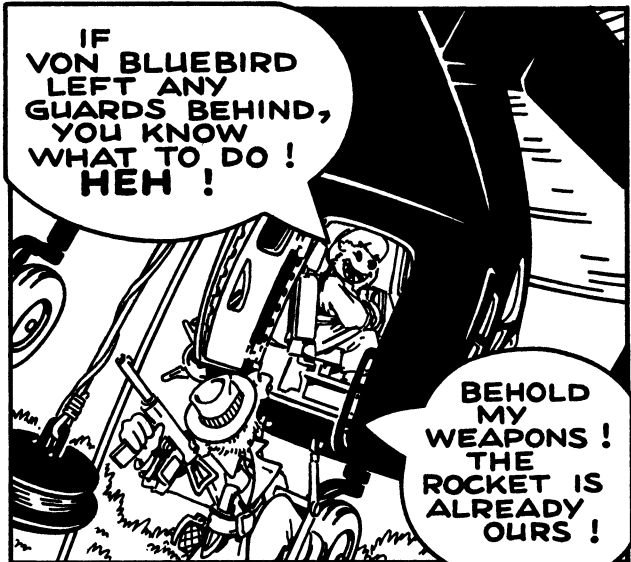
BUT
HOW ?
I DON'T
CARRY
MATCHES~
I DON'T
SMOKE !



IF I DON'T
DO SOMETHING,
THOSE SPIES
WILL GET THE
ROCKET SLED...

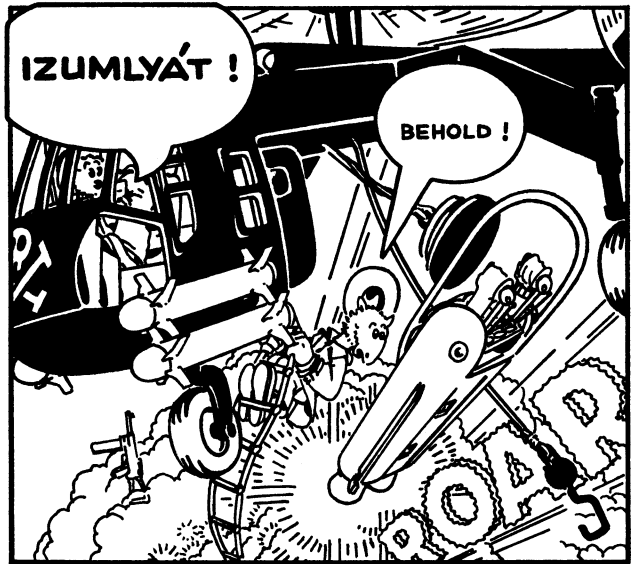
BUT WHAT
CAN
I DO ?

WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA
WUPPA



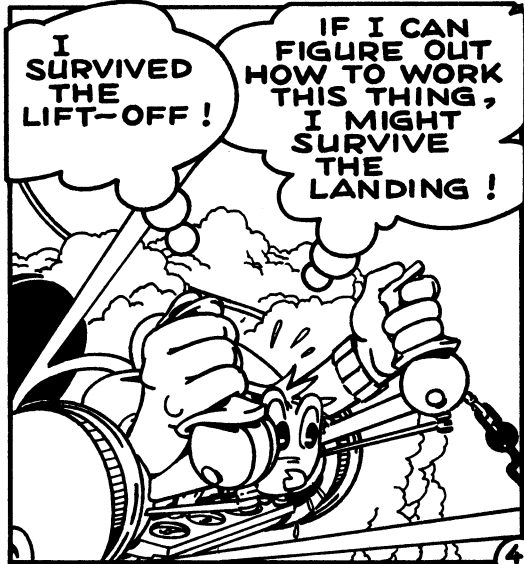
IF
VON BLUEBIRD
LEFT ANY
GUARDS BEHIND,
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO !
HEH !

BEHOLD
MY
WEAPONS !
THE
ROCKET IS
ALREADY
OURS !



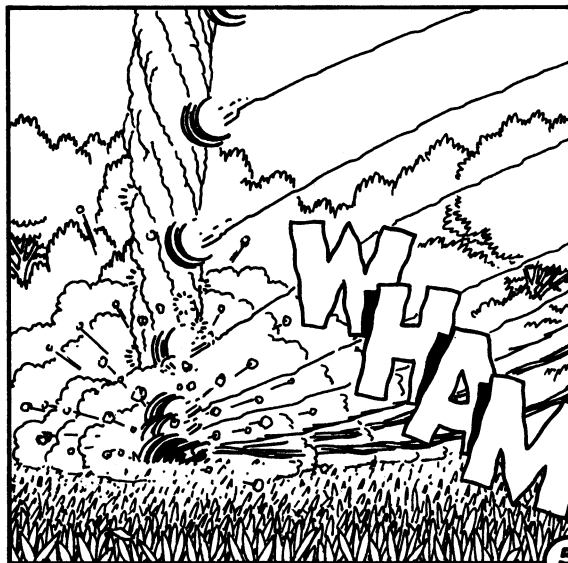
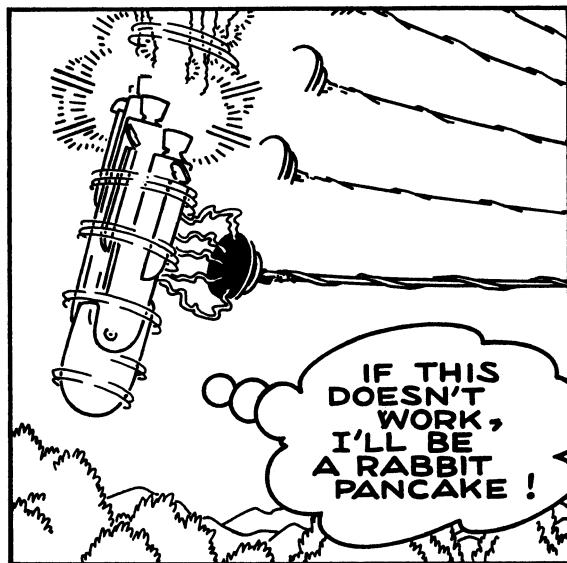
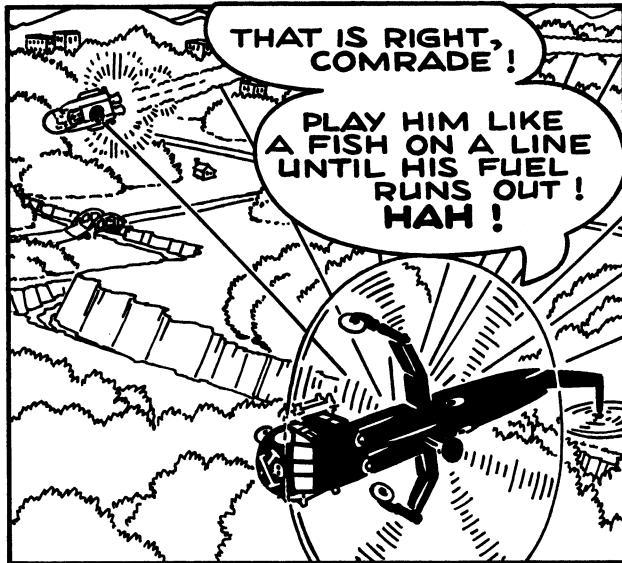
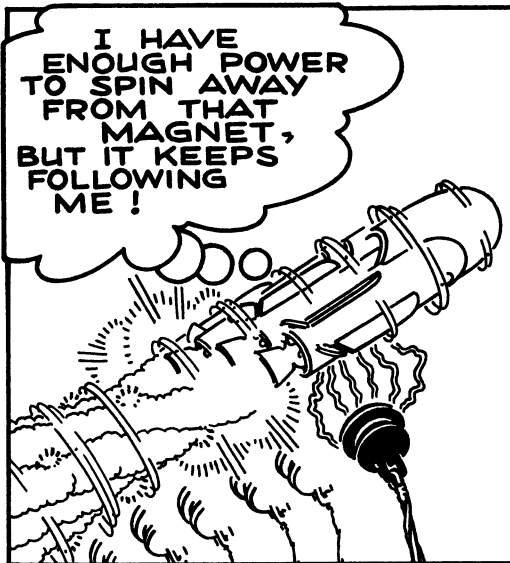
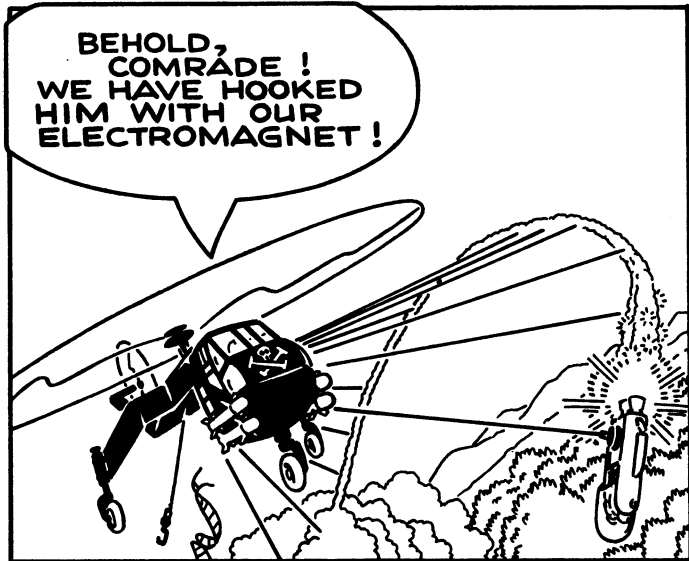
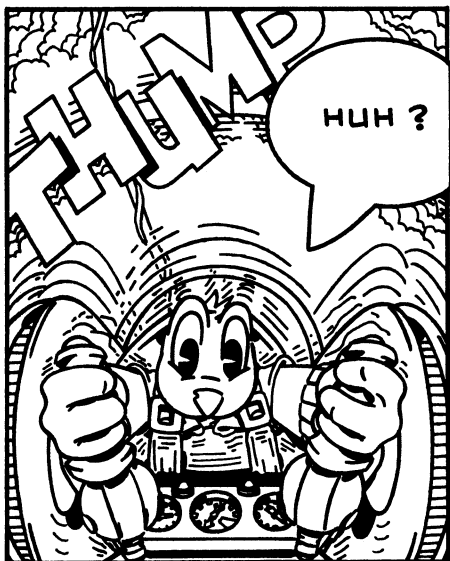
IZUMLYÁT !

BEHOLD !



I
SURVIVED
THE
LIFT-OFF !

IF I CAN
FIGURE OUT
HOW TO WORK
THIS THING,
I MIGHT
SURVIVE
THE
LANDING !

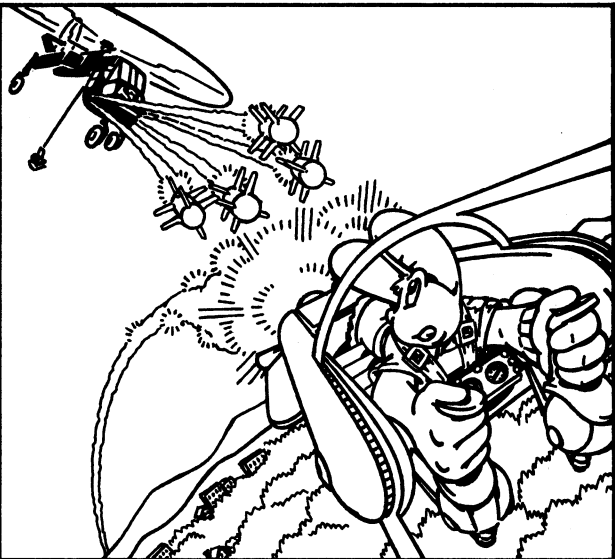


WAHOO!
I CAUGHT
THE MAGNET
ON THE EDGE
OF THAT
CLIFF!

**REEL IN
THE MAGNET,
COMRADE!**

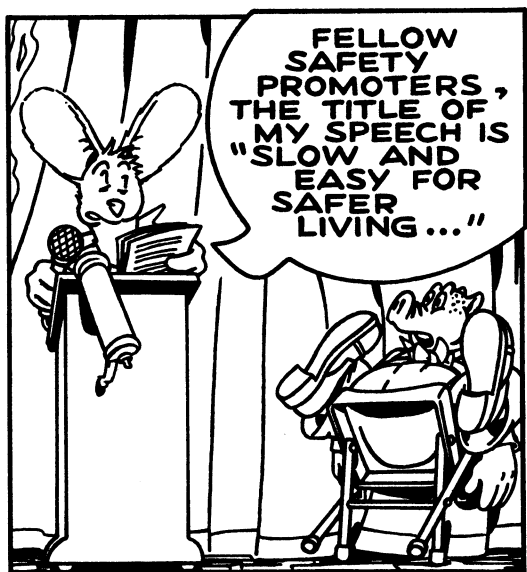
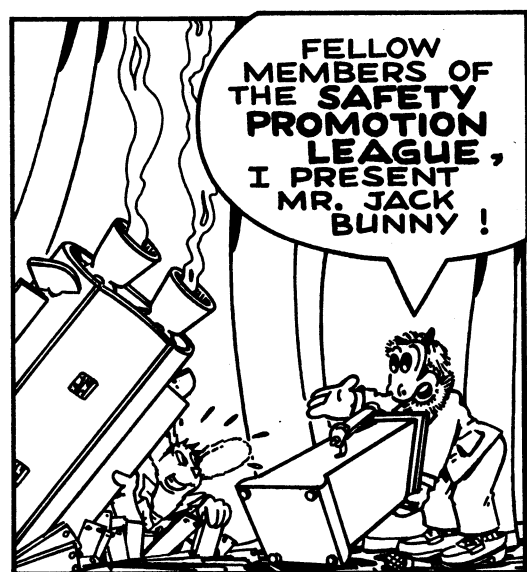
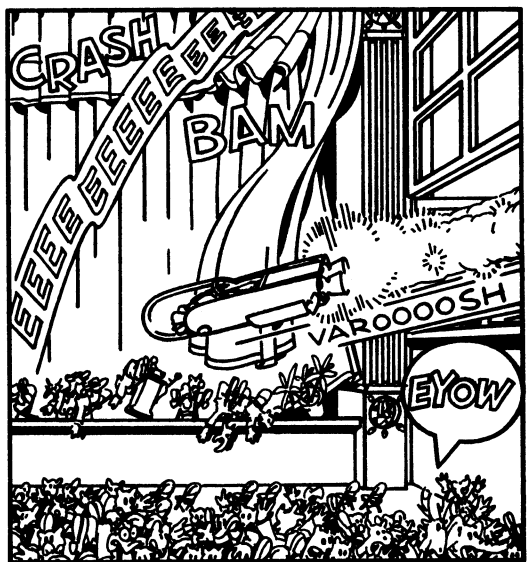
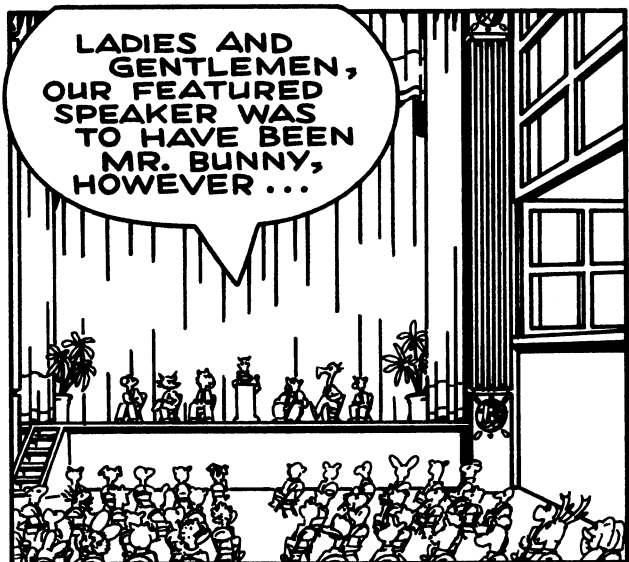
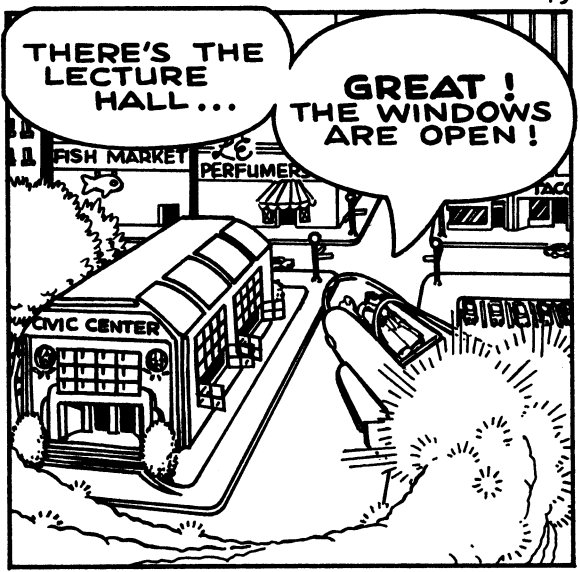
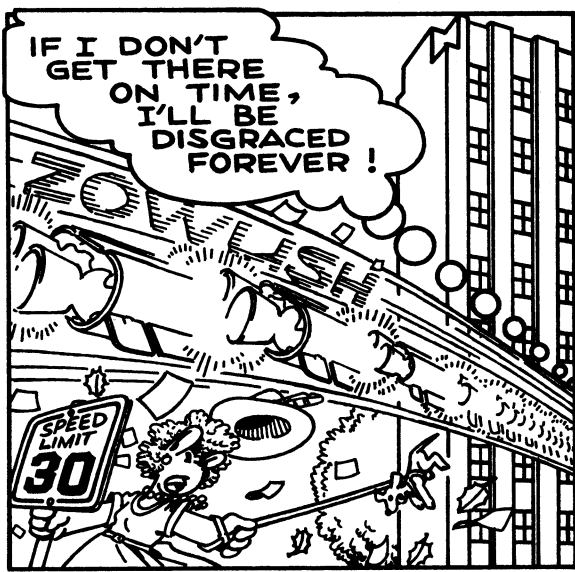
**IF OUR
DICTATOR
CANNOT
HAVE THE
ROCKET SLED,
THEN NEITHER
SHALL THESE
FREEDOM~
MONGERS!**

**FIRE THE
AIR~TO~AIR
MISSILES,
COMRADE!**



COMRADE!
DID YOU
TURN OFF THE
ELECTRO~
MAGNET?

HUH?

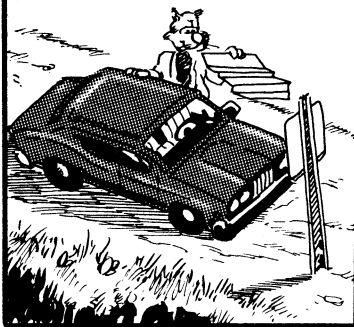


"YOU'RE OVERWROUGHT," MY EDITOR SAID, "YOU'LL ENJOY THIS ASSIGNMENT. IT'S A CHANCE FOR YOU TO RELAX, GET SOME GOOD CLEAN AIR AND SUNSHINE!"

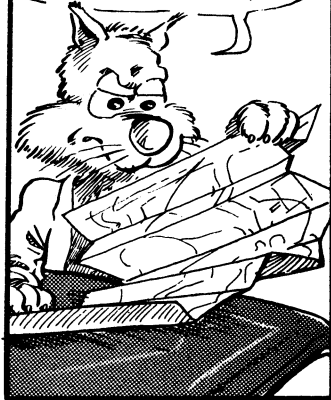


HE NEGLECTED TO MENTION THE RAGWEED POLLEN AND BLOOD-BLOATED MOSQUITOES.

HE ALSO FORGOT TO TELL ME THAT TO FOLLOW THE ROAD MAPS YOU HAD TO BE CLAIRVOYANT.



LE'SEE... FARM ROAD 532 WEST, EXIT 35B ... IS THAT A '3' OR AN '8'? WHAT'S THIS ROAD HERE? KNUP-REE? KNUP-ERR? FOR PETE'S SAKE!



HONKHONKHOOOONK!



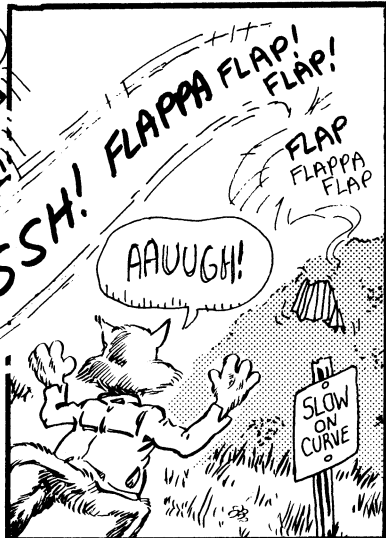
NO, NO! NOT THE MAP!



FLAPPA FLAP! FLAP!

FLAP FLAP FLAP

AAUUGH!

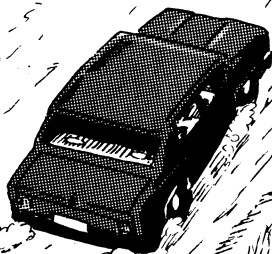


GREAT, I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO FEEL RELAXED NOW!

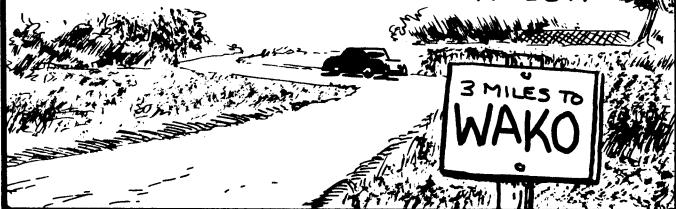


DETOUR

I HURLED A FEW **CHOICE EXPLETIVES** AT THE OFFENDING VEHICLE AND RETURNED TO MY CAR. I TURNED BACK IN THE DIRECTION I'D JUST COME.



THERE WAS AN EXIT A FEW MILES BACK... I NEEDED TO BUY ANOTHER MAP, OR GET DIRECTIONS TO THE **OKTOBERFEST**.



I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE NAME THEIR TOWN **WAKO**?

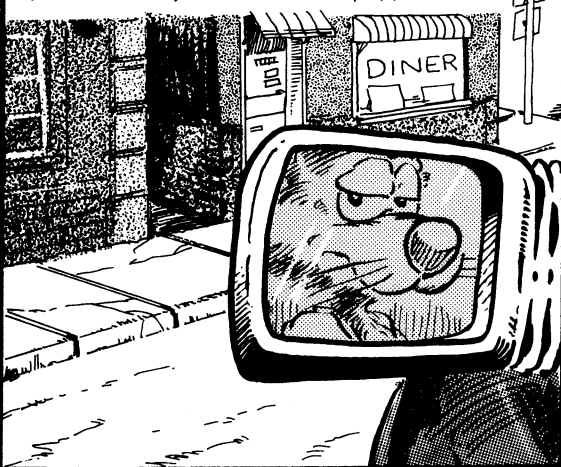


THE DRIVE TO WAKO WAS FAR FROM A **SCENIC DELIGHT**... THE ROADSIDE WAS DECORATED WITH **RUSTING** AUTO PARTS AND VACANT HOUSES.



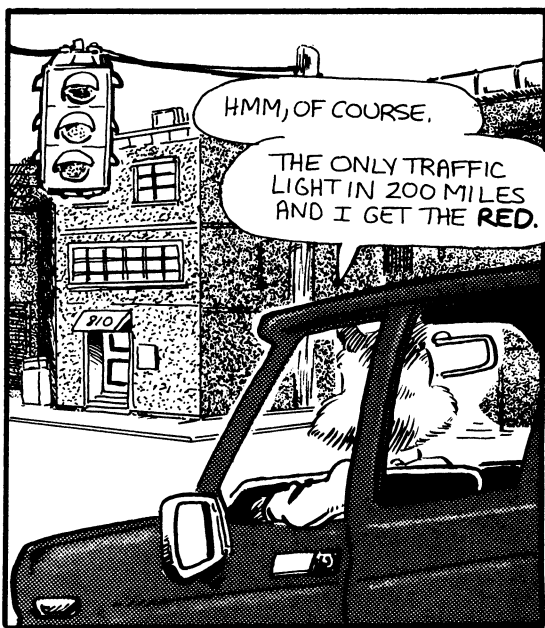
FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT I WAS IN A **GHOST TOWN**.

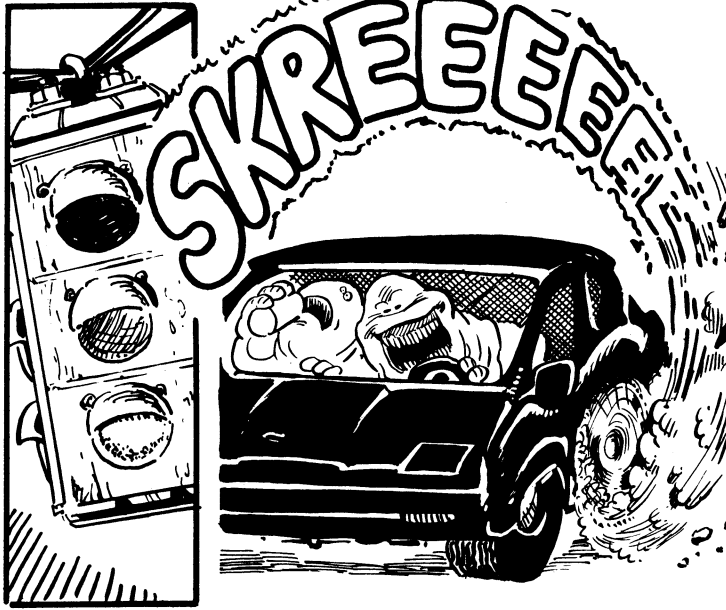
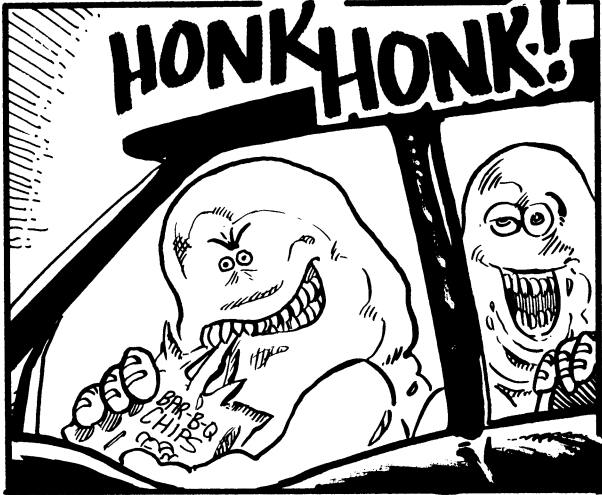
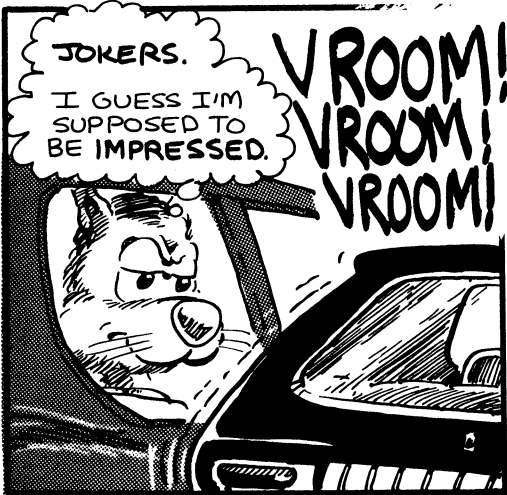
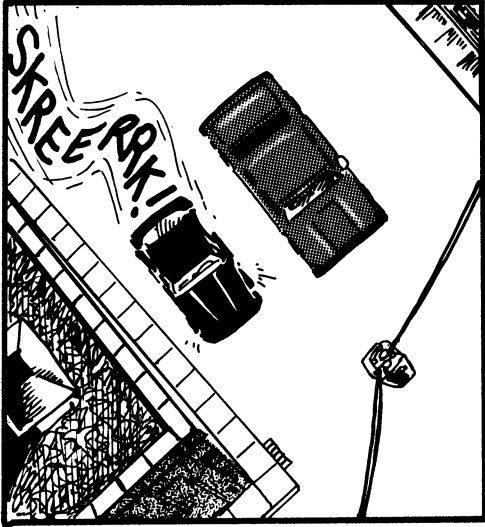
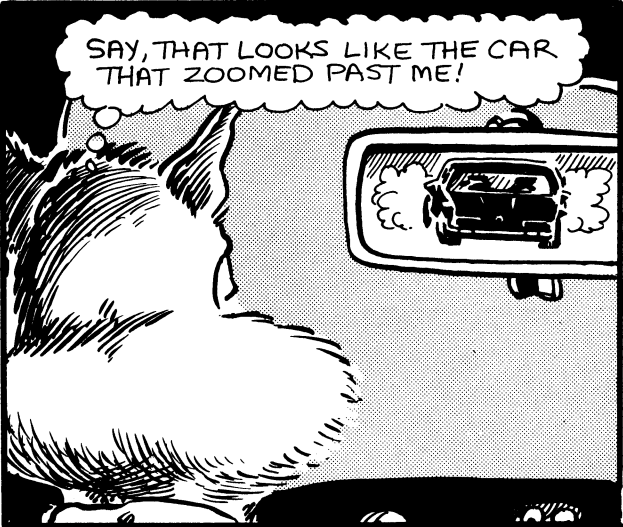
EVENTUALLY I CAME TO **WAKO PROPER**, COMPLETE WITH A POST OFFICE, A SHOE SHOP, AND EVEN A HOTEL... ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED LIKE IT HAD BEEN A **WHILE** SINCE ANYONE **VACATIONED** HERE.

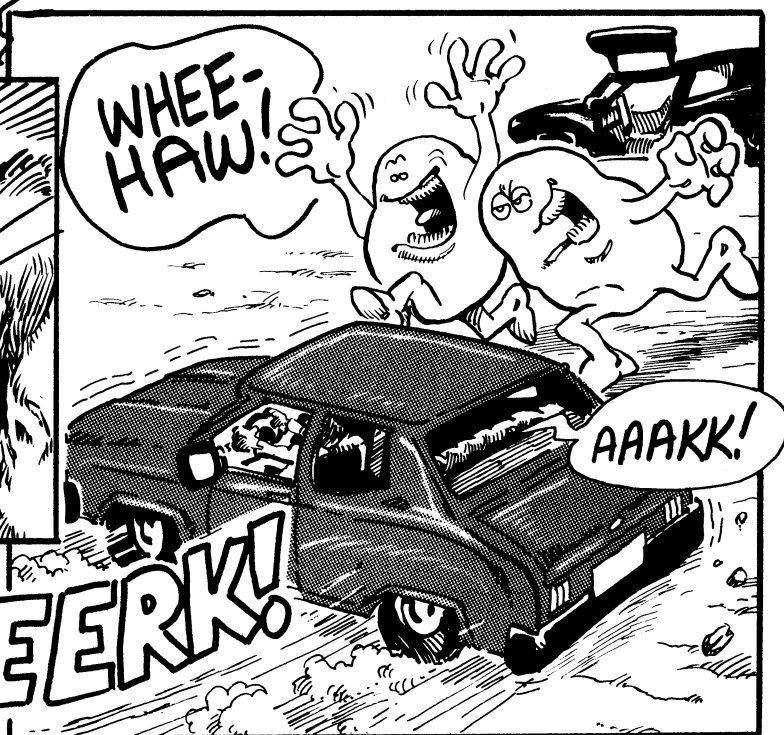
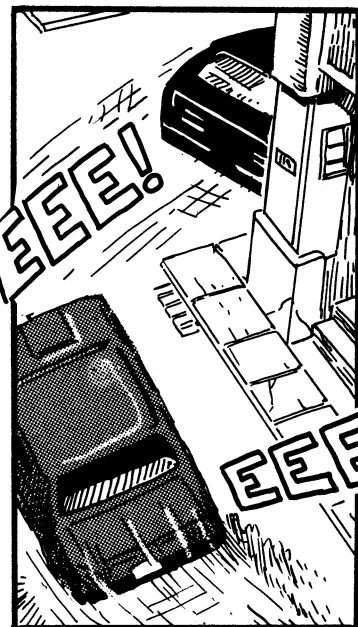
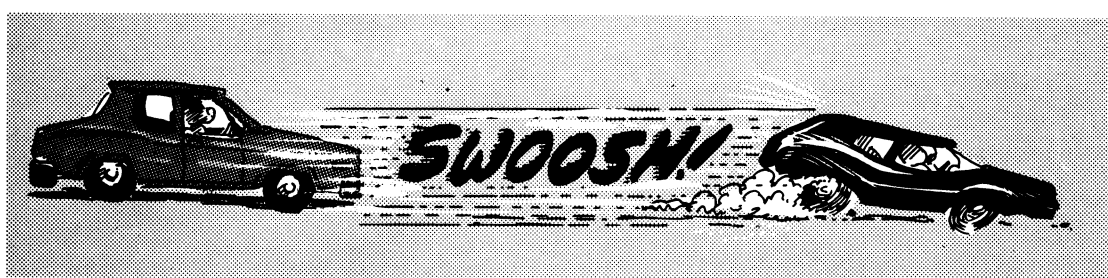


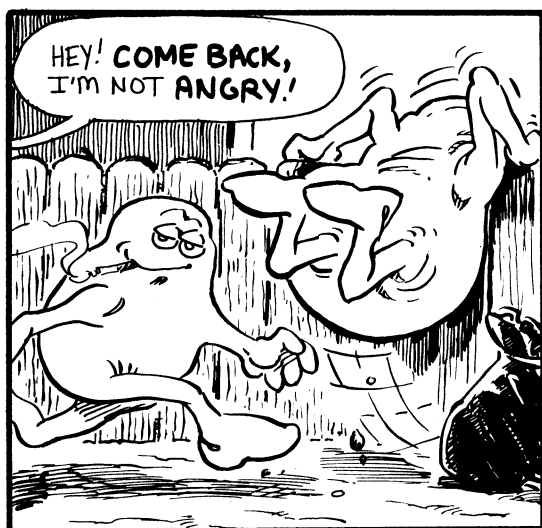
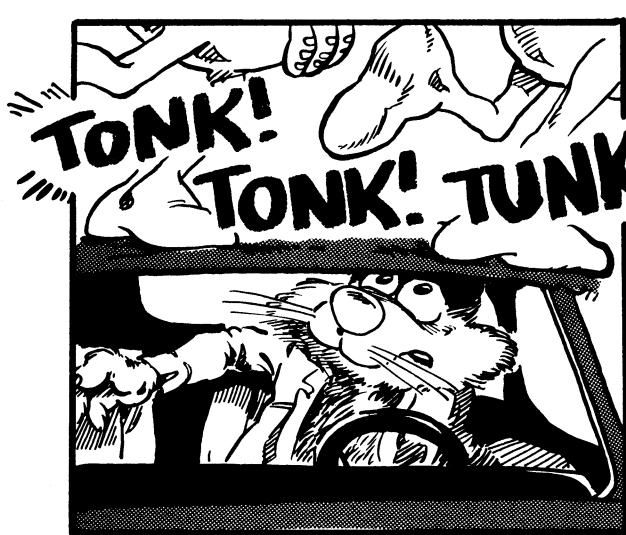
HMM, OF COURSE.

THE ONLY TRAFFIC LIGHT IN 200 MILES AND I GET THE **RED**.

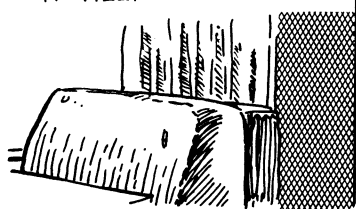








I DROVE AROUND TOWN FOR A WHILE, HOPING I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL I'D JUST SEEN... OR IF I'D REALLY EVEN SEEN IT AT ALL!



BUT, YOU CAN ONLY DRIVE AROUND THIS TOWN SO MANY TIMES... THERE ARE ONLY NINE STREETS. EVENTUALLY, I STOPPED AT THE DINER TO RELAX.

MY FAVORITE KIND OF RELAXATION COMES IN TWELVE-OUNCE CANS.



YESSEH?

YEAH, I NEED A BEER. UH, MAKE THAT TWO.



WELL...

SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?



Y'KNOW, I JUST SAW THE DAMNDEST THING...

THAT IS, UH... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN TWO... SORT OF... GREEN... PUFFY... GUYS...



AHEM!

NO, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T HAVE...

...JUST WONDERING...

YOU'RE A STRANGER TO THESE PARTS, FELLA. YOU, UMM... LEAVING TOWN SOON?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK. SOON AS I GET DIRECTIONS TO NORTH HEDGECLIFF I'LL BE ON MY WAY!

I THINK I'VE GOT A MAP IN BACK... I'LL GO LOOK. BACK INNA JIF.

THEN YOU CAN GET MOVING!

BOY, THEY SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE STRANGERS FEEL WELCOME AROUND HERE.

LOUSY BEER, TOO.

HMM, A PHONE... I WONDER IF I SHOULD CALL THE OFFICE AND TELL THEM I'M LOST IN WAKO.

HEY...

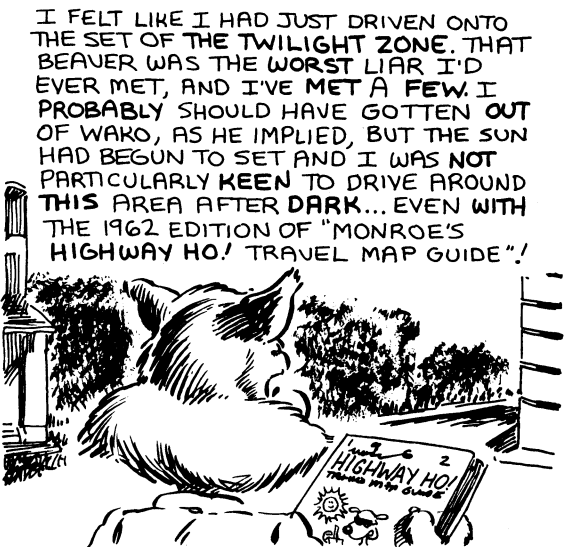
THAT PHOTOGRAPH ON THE BACK WALL.

IS THAT?...

IT IS!

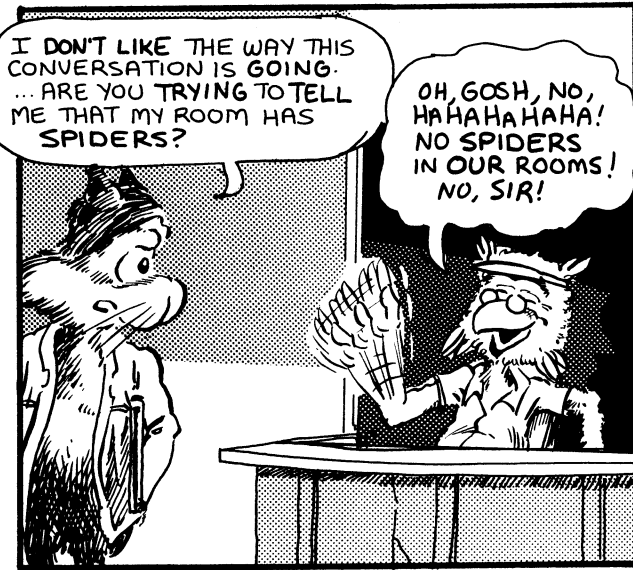
IT'S THEM! THOSE ARE THE GUYS I SAW ON THAT PHOTO!

WHAT ARE THOSE GUYS!!

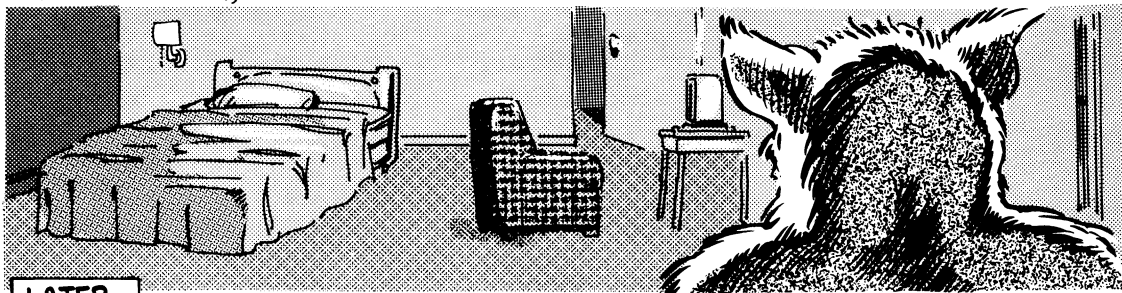


IT WAS A NICE RATIONALIZATION, BUT I KNEW THE REAL REASON I DECIDED TO STAY WAS THE HOPE THAT I MIGHT FIND MORE EVIDENCE OF MY TWO IMPOSSIBLE FRIENDS.





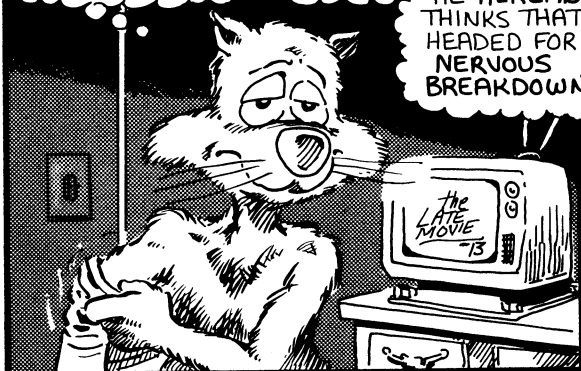
THE ROOM ACTUALLY WASN'T HALF BAD... A LITTLE OLD AND CREAKY, BUT WELL-KEPT ... KIND OF COZY. I DIDN'T KNOW IF THAT OLD BIRD WAS PULLING MY LEG OR NOT, BUT THE FIRST THING I DID WAS CLOSE THE BATHROOM DOOR.



LATER...

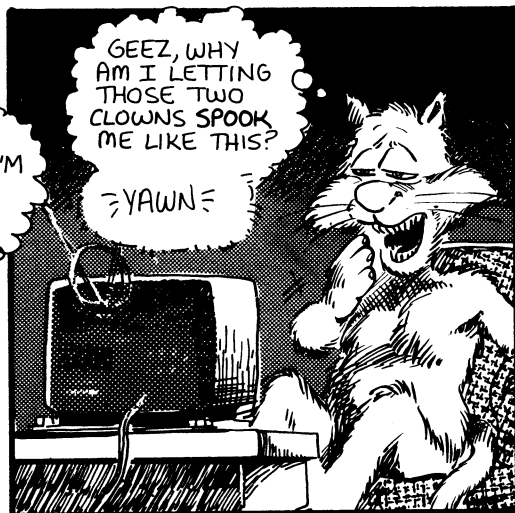
THIS HAS BEEN ONE STRANGE DAY ... IN ONE STRANGE TOWN. I COULD CALL LOU AND TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED, BUT HE'D PROBABLY JUST SAY I HAD IMAGINED IT.

HE ALREADY THINKS THAT I'M HEADED FOR A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.



GEEZ, WHY AM I LETTING THOSE TWO CLOWNS SPOOK ME LIKE THIS?

YAWN



MAYBE THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO A COSTUME PARTY...

OR MAYBE THEY WERE JUST REAL UGLY DOGS.



YEAH. THAT'S IT.

REAL UGLY DOGS MADE OF SILLY PUTTY!

SHIT.



YAWN

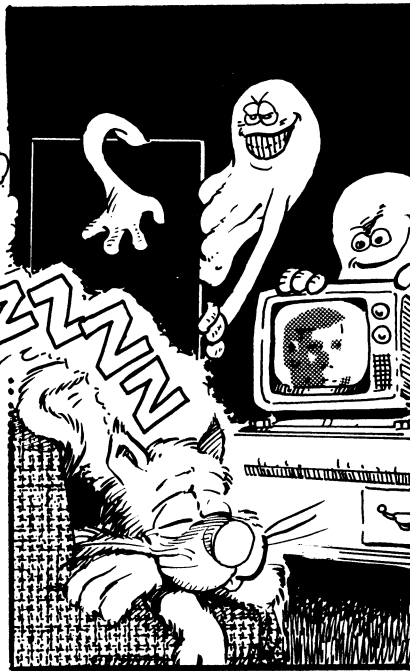
WHAT AM I WORRIED ABOUT...

I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN...

ZZZZ



ZZZZZZZZ



NEXT: A HAUNTING!

PARTICLE

Dreams



Some things are dangerous, y'know?



THAT SOUNDS PRETTY CONVINCING, OL' STEEP.
YOU'D BEST LET A SCHOLARLY FRIEND
EXAMINE IT FOR YOU.



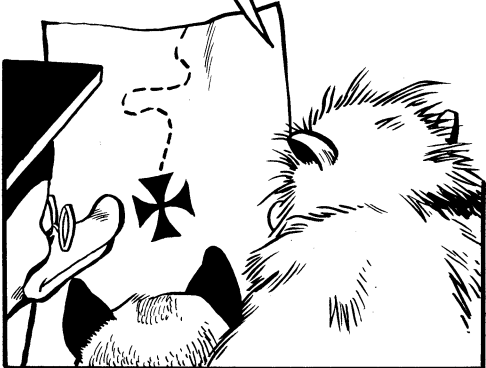
COULD WE GET BACK
TO THE BIT ABOUT THE
PRESERVES?

THERE'S HARDLY A MOMENT
TO LOSE! QUICKLY, GATHER UP
ALL THE EXCAVATING TOOLS
YOU CAN FIND. WE LEAVE
IMMEDIATELY ON A
SECRET EXPEDITION.



TO WHERE?

THERE'S NOTHING ON
THIS MAP BUT A DOTTED
LINE AND AN "X" THAT
COULD EASILY BE A
JAM STAIN.



AWFULLY FEATURELESS,
ISN'T IT?

QUITE WITHOUT THE SORT
OF THINGS ONE GENERALLY
FINDS ON TREASURE
MAPS... NO DIABLO
CANYONS OR TREES
OR ANYTHING.

NICE LOOKING "X"
THOUGH. I'M HAVING
NO TROUBLE READING
IT.



HEY! A LAKE!!



NOPE. NO
LAKES
NEITHER.

NO! NO! DON'T YOU SEE?
A LAKE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY
FEATURES, NO DIABLO
CANYONS, NO TREES...

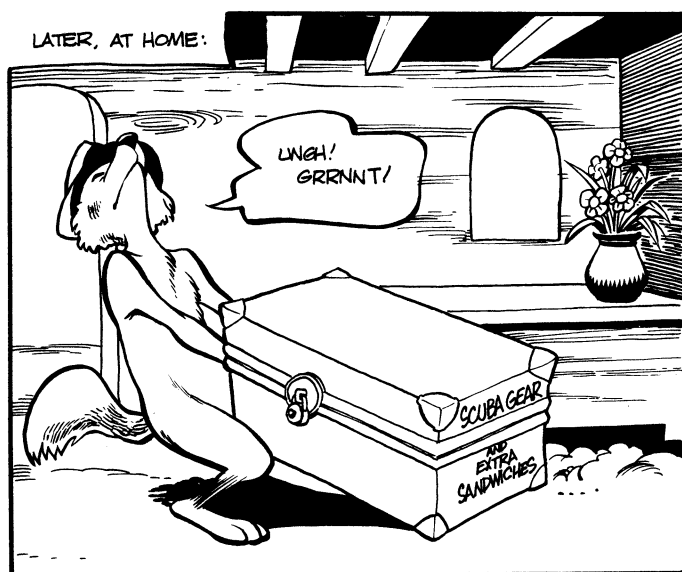
THIS IS A DRAWING
OF THE MIDDLE OF
A LARGE BODY
OF WATER.

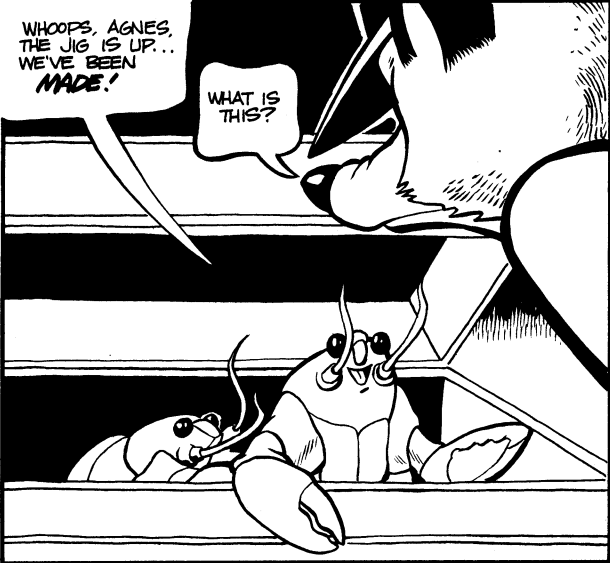


I MEAN, OTHER
THAN WAVES, ITS
PRETTY DARN
FEATURELESS
OUT IN A LAKE.

LOOKS LIKE A
SUNKEN
TREASURE!







WHOOOPS, AGNES,
THE JIG IS UP...
WE'VE BEEN
MADE!

WHAT IS
THIS?



HOW'D YOU GET INTO MY FOOT LOCKER?

WE FOLLOWED YOU HOME
FROM THE SURF 'N' TURF
A FEW WEEKS BACK.

YOU LOOKED SO
PERSONABLE
AND ALL.



WELL, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, WE GOT STUCK
IN YOUR LOCKER, SURVIVING FOR COUNTLESS DAYS
ON NOTHING BUT HOPE ... AND A PILE OF
TUNA SANDWICHES.

IT SMACKED OF
CANNIBALISM BUT WE
FELT THE SITUATION
WARRANTED EXTREME
MEASURES.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY GEAR?
MY DIVING HELMET? MY VIDEOS OF
SEA HUNT!?!

I KNEW THIS WAS
GOING TO COME UP!
IT'S REALLY QUITE
AMUSING ACTUALLY...



DON'T BOTHER, JAKE. LET'S LAM ON OUTTA HERE!

AWP! GET BACK
HERE YOU THIEVING
CRUSTACEANS!!

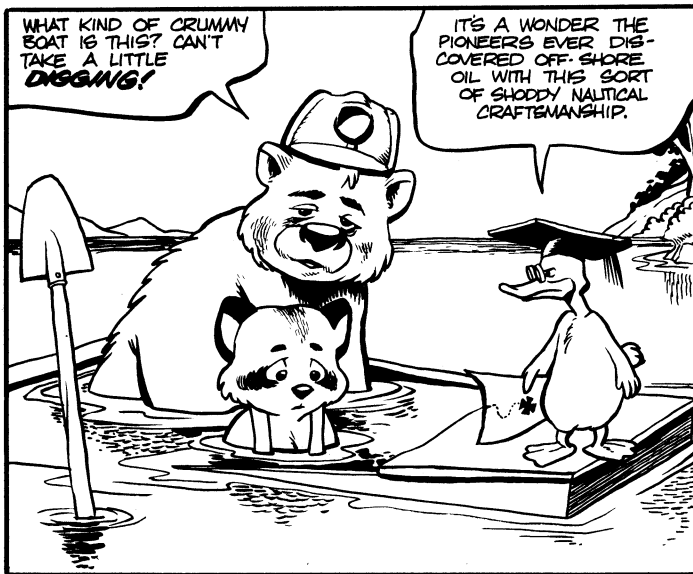
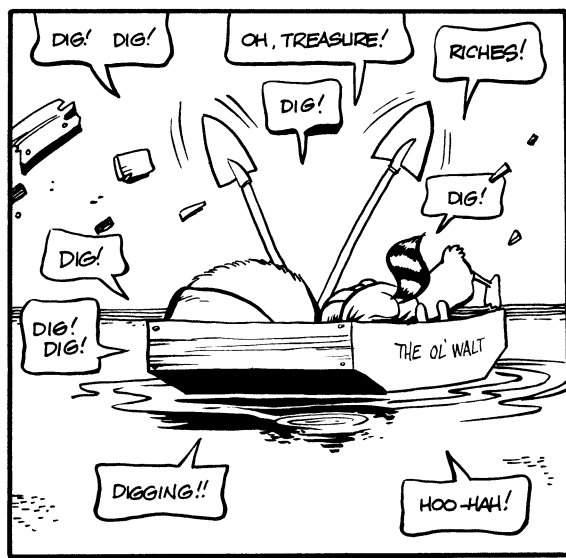
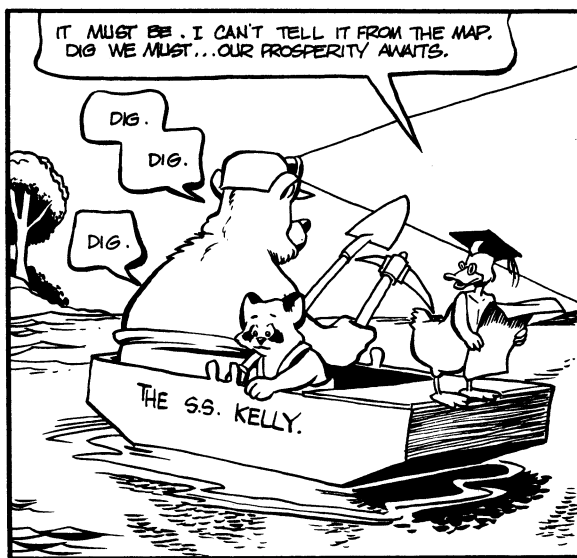
COOH! HE'S GOT A
NASTY LOOK IN
HIS EYE.

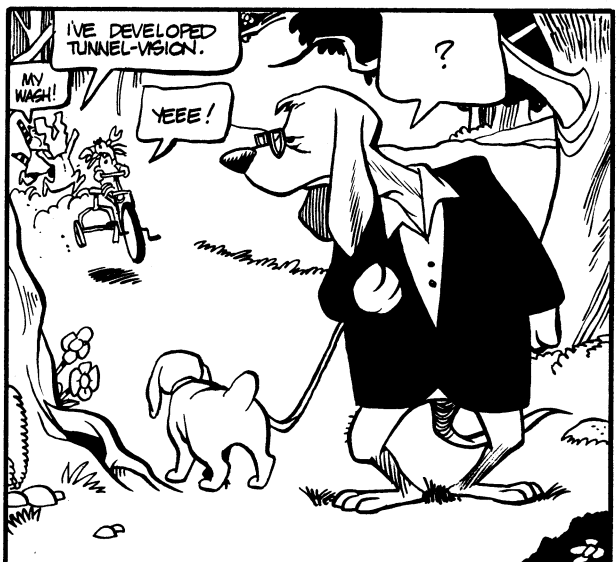
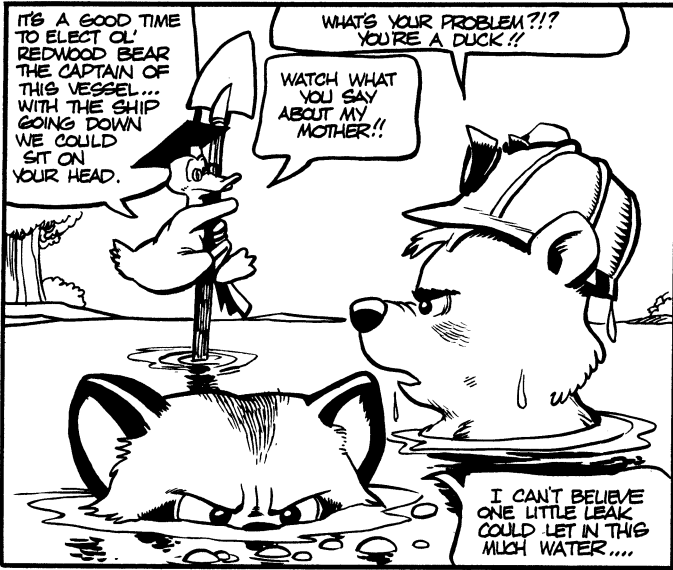


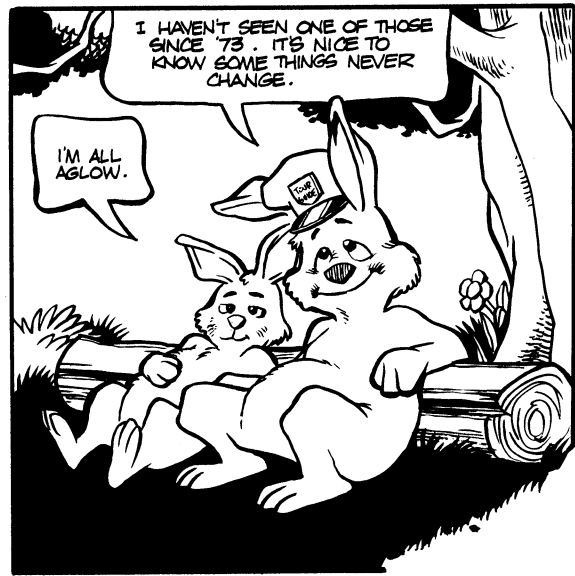
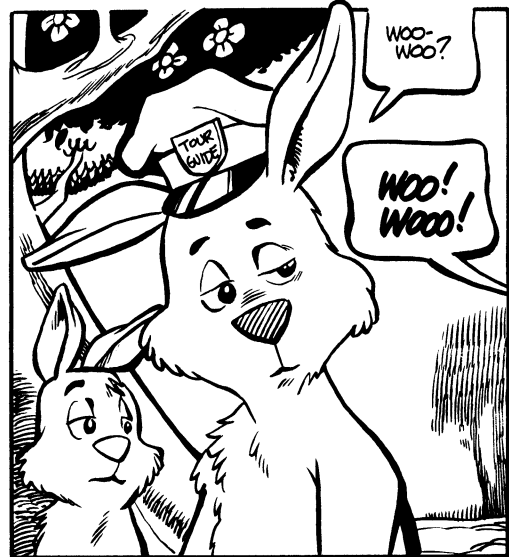
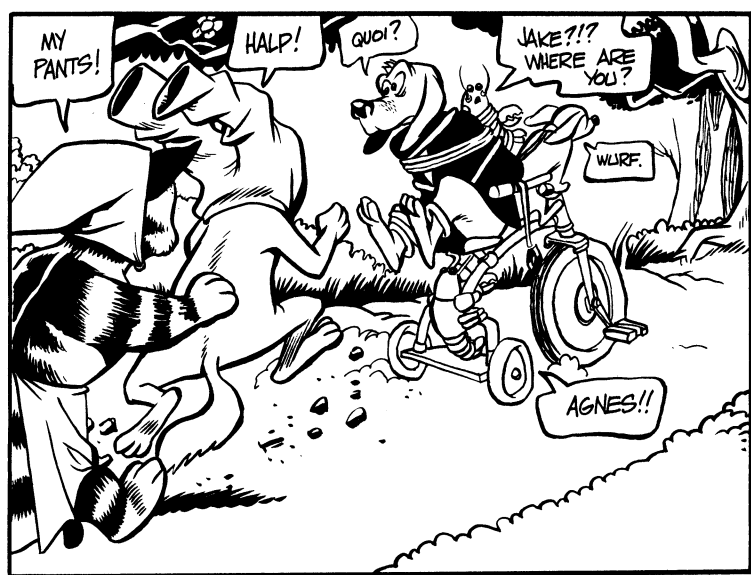
WHOEVER SAID "FEAR
LEADS WINGS TO TIRED
FEET" WAS OBVIOUSLY NEVER
A LOBSTER. WE WON'T
LOSE HIM THIS WAY.

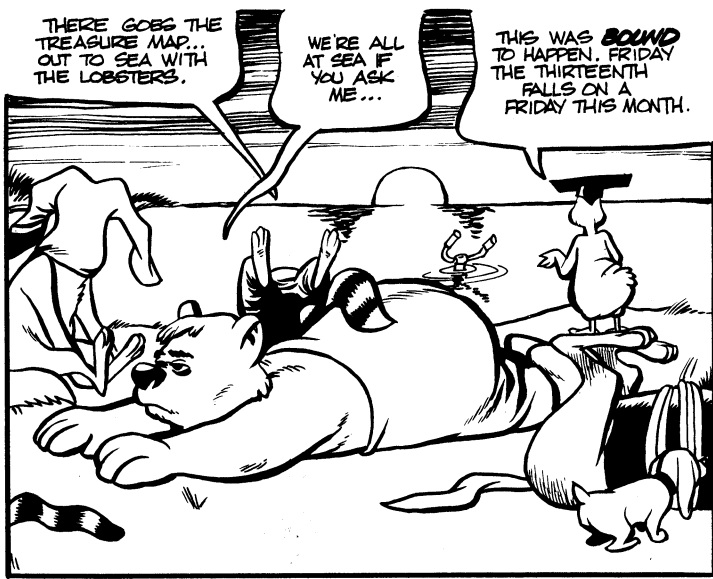
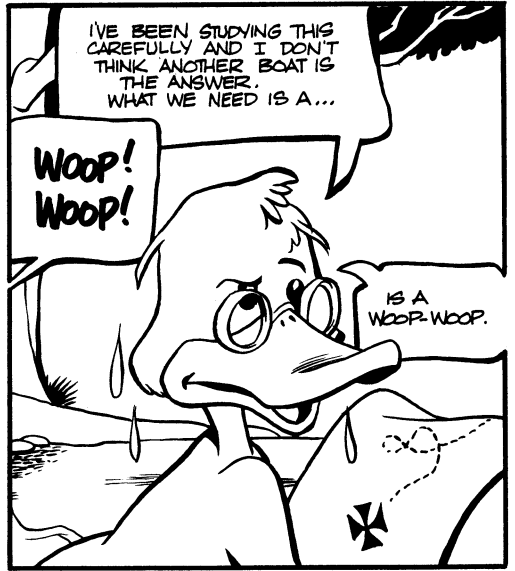
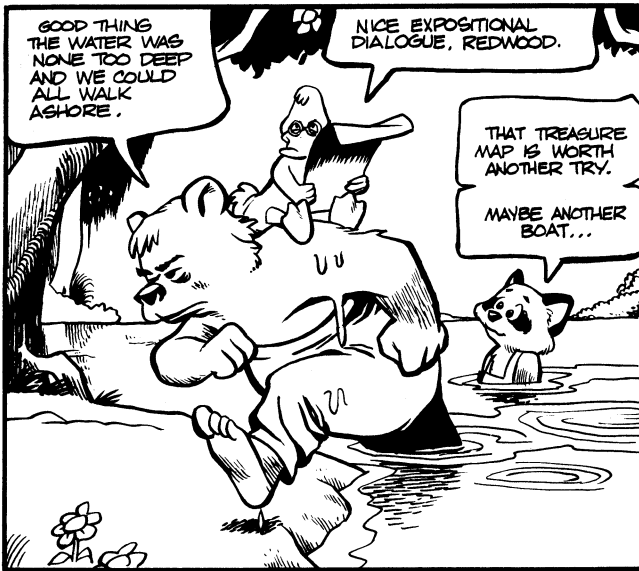
LOOK!
OVER
THERE!

HEY!









FOR KLAUS AND WALT- WHO TAUGHT ME TO DRAW-

[CONT'D FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER]
totally enjoyed the fine stories
and art and eagerly await many
fine issues to come.

I picked up **Critters #2** because
of the Steve Gallacci cover and
story and found I enjoyed every-
thing about the book. I haven't
missed an issue yet and don't
intend to in the future. Steve is
one of my favorite author-artists
because of his interesting and
thought-provoking stories in
Albedo. He hasn't let me down
one bit with "Birthright." It has
an action and attitude that
makes you take notice and think
about what's happening and
what could happen. I'll hate to
see it end, even for four issues,
but everything must come to an
end, especially Toslu tyranny.

I have enjoyed the "Gnuiff"
story and the social commentary
it has contained. My guess as to
why Dragons have to keep their
wings hidden is that others are
jealous of their ability to fly and
so they hide them to try and fit
in. I also like Councilman
Siegel. He's such a stereotypical
politician that I can't help but
sympathize with him. I wish
him luck.

Stan Sakai's stuff is always
entertaining and interesting. His
art is just great but his style
changes so much between
"Groundthumper" and "Yojimbo"
that it's hard to think of him as
one person. I like his lizards,
though; they stay the same.

"Captain Jack" was funny and
entertaining but it's not my style
so I'll just take his appearance
in **Critters** and leave it at that. I
do like Beezlebub, however.

In closing, I'd like to say that I
don't mind your editorials. I find
them informative and fun, and I
for one, don't mind if you take
up a little letter space to tell
your views and other types of
information, but only a little.

Mark Anderson
Sandy, UT

How's this?

-KT

Dear Kim,

Since five issues of **Critters**
have now been published (a
number that most "indies" never
reach), I felt it was about time
to drop a letter.

Before I give my views I think
you should be praised for
getting **Critters** out on a monthly
basis. Since most of the stories
in any given issue are part of a
serial, it would be very
annoying to have to wait longer
between chapters. With some
books published by other pub-
lishers, it has become a joke
with the long delays between
issues. (All of Neal Adams's
comics come to mind, for
instance.) I also like the large
letter section. It beats the hell
out of a house ad anytime.

As for the stories in #5, well,
first the bad news. I have waited
four issues to pass judgment,
hoping the strip would grow on
me, but I still have yet to enjoy
"Gnuiff." While Freddy Milton
may be compared to Carl Barks,
one quick read through a Glad-
stone Comic makes it evident
that his "Gnuiff" is lacking. The
characters are simply not as
likeable and interesting as the
Disney World of Barks. Kim, you
seem to enjoy his work a lot.
You have seen more of it. How
about printing a non-Gnuiff
piece of Milton's to compare? I
don't want to knock him down
without giving him another
chance to get up.

How about "Nilson Ground-
thumper and Hermy"? Well, if I
had the choice between "Usagi
Yojimbo" and "Groundthumper" I
would definitely take Usagi.
"Groundthumper" was cute, but
too predictable. But, if there are
no options, bring it on. Any Stan
Sakai is better than none.

On to "Birthright." It has
constantly been one of the
highlights of **Critters**. This issue
was no exception. I, for one, will
miss it when it is concluded.
When it is over, I wish you
would collect the saga into a
graphic novel form.

"Birthright" is an example of
why I do not care at all that
Critters is in black-and-white.
The fine shading that distin-
guishes "Birthright" would be
obliterated by any coloring. Let
Critters remain in black-and-
white and maybe produce color
reprints of certain features, or a
color annual of other features.
But keep Steven A. Gallacci's
work in black-and-white.

While the poem was amusing
and I wouldn't mind seeing
more in the future, I'd rather
have a full story from the hands
of Lela Dowling. That brings me
to what I would like to see in
Critters in the future. I echo E.E.
Dinkins's request to convince
Michael T. Gilbert to do a new
Wraith story. Tell him that if he
doesn't Usagi might take his
sword to Mr. Monster. (Hmm. An
interesting idea for a crossover.)
I also suggest the inclusion of
Scott Shaw! and Ken Macklin
and Reed Waller within these
pages.

One last thing. In response to
Brent Winter's letter knocking
the use of non-funny animals, I
have to disagree. I support what
Robin Reed wrote in his/her
letter, but have to add that the
marketplace, in recent months,
has been flooded with "funny"
(sic) funny animal books that
feature the adventures of
mutated animals. Mr. Winter
can go get his fill from the
latest Monsterized Mutilated
Midget Manlike Moronic Mam-
mals. **Critters** is different and

should be. Let drama and humor
share these pages. It makes a
good balance.

J. Alexander Hall
Santa Clara, CA

We're working on a project to get some of
Freddy's much-praised "Woody Wood-
pecker" work in print over here. (It seems
silly, for one thing, to have some of the
best work featuring a classic American
character unavailable to American
audiences, doesn't it?) Sorry the first
"Gnuiff" story didn't grow on you—I hope
the second one, which started last issue
and resumes next issue, is more to your
liking.

We will eventually reprint "Birthright"
as a graphic album. I promise—probably
next summer. Ken Macklin will provide
another cover to **CRITTERS** in the near
future (#11, to be exact). And I wouldn't
be surprised to see Scott Shaw! pop up in
the new **USAGI YOJIMBO** bi-monthly next
spring. —KT

To the staff:

I am happy to find out that
Mr. Gallacci's characters from
"Birthright" will be back in
Critters #11. I still think that it
would make a great animated
film. Mr. Gallacci should call
the people at Disney, and if they
are too busy, then call Don
Bluth Productions. It's what kids
of today need, rather than My
Little Pony, Go Bots, and the
Transformers movies, which are
TRASH.

Zack Mays
Griffin, GA

Thanks for the feedback, Zack, but do
you read anything in **CRITTERS** beside
"Birthright"? Just curious. —KT

Dear Kim,

A little note to those jerks who
are saying that "Birthright" is
the right story, but in the wrong
format—Put a sock in it!!!

One never says that an artist/
writer has to conform to what
others think he should—he/she
must go with what he wants
himself, or he fails to be what
he is! [Muh? —KT] I know from
experience! An artist must be
free to express himself or he
dies a proverbial death! A
perfect example is Wendy Pini's
Elfquest. She was told it would
never go anywhere by some of
the same weak-minded nose-
pickers that are so heavily
criticizing Gallacci! But just look
what happened!

Bravo Steve!
Mike Higgs, President
Fantasy Studios Unltd.

So there. This is great... I used to insult
people in letters columns. Now I can sit
back and have others do it for me. This is
what being an executive means, I guess.

This next letter comes from Daan
Hippes, a fine Dutch cartoonist whose
work you've seen on the covers to most of
the Gladstone comics. He's also an old
friend (and collaborator) of Freddy
Milton's... —KT

The other week I bought **Critters**
#5 on one of my monthly

excursions to the two nearest comic book stores, experiencing the conclusion of the first Gnuiff story. I like the pace of that story very much, something you rarely find in comics nowadays. It's all intended to grab the reader, either by ever-contrasting graphics from one panel to the other, or jerky points-of-view. There is the constant "unrest" that permeates the reading experience.

One thing that let me down in that particular episode was in the plot: All those devices in the cellar of the apartment house that were to make us and the dragons believe were the cause of those so-called supernatural occurrences. That points in the direction of a carefully planned scheme by the badger to get rid of the dragons. It's very implausible to "marry" that with what we learn in the epilogue about him; that he is a bewildered guy, on medication, and believes he is possessed by the doings of poltergeists. Then why all the make-believe?

Daan Hippos
Tarzana, CA

I did, in fact, study the phenomena around poltergeists before writing the story, and it seems there is always a hypersensitive person present. Psychologically, that person is a schizophrenic-type of the more complicated kind, longing for attention and care from his surroundings, but not getting it in the natural way. The poltergeists are then "arranged" by this person to achieve the attention, and it works: He gets it—all that mystery! But (and here's the point): The "normal" identity does not, of course, approve of all these arrangements (the normal identity being that of an overly polite, nice and obedient personality) so he has to EXPEL the disobedient personality from his mind by willfully "forgetting" about it—and he actually succeeds in doing so... And if you don't believe this, you please consult any tcherman speaking sychologist in your neighborhood. He will most surely kunnfirm this annalist!

—FRED MILTON

Hello Critters:

I enjoyed #2 completely. "Birthright" is great. (I also collect Albado and if Steve Gallacci did 100 comics a month I would collect them all.) I hope "Gnuiff" stays this good because I know it can't get any better. But (yes, there's always a but) "Captain Jack" was a disappointment. Not that I didn't like "Captain Jack," because I do, it's just his own comic came out this month and I would have preferred a "Usagi Yojimbo" story.

I will collect Critters as long as you publish it.

Chris Brumfield
Baton Rouge, LA

Okay. Got anything else planned for the next decade and a half?

Here's another tidbit of news: The ubiquitous Stan Sakai will be contributing a short piece to the upcoming TURTLE SOUP from Mirage Studios. And has everyone got his copy of COMMAND REVIEW, Steve Gallacci's handsome reprinting of early ALBEDO material?

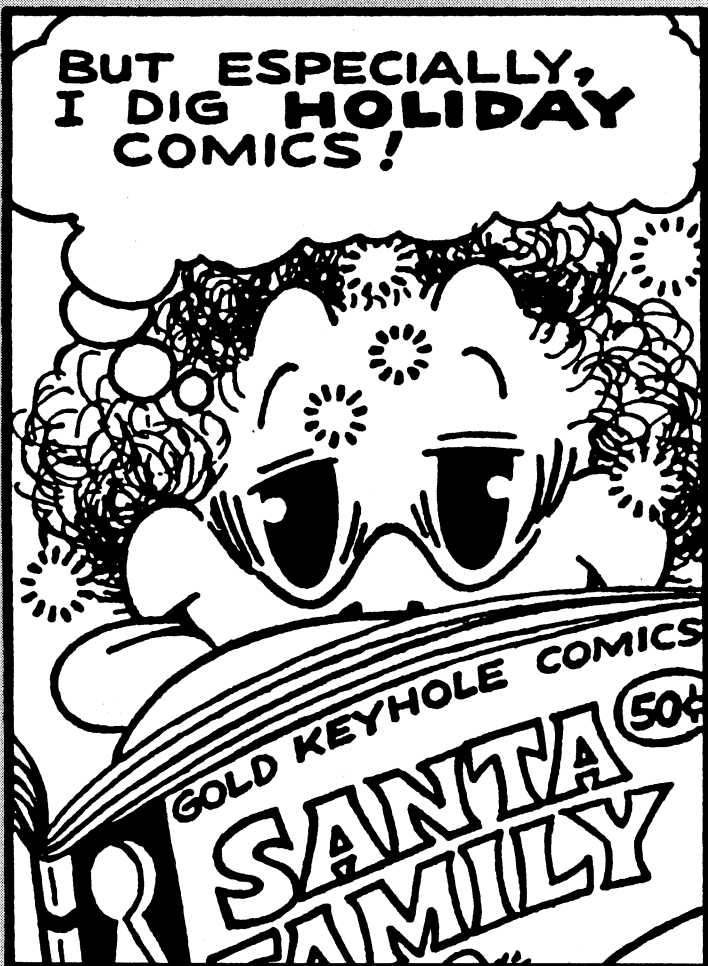
See you in 30 days!

—KT

CREDITS: "Jack Bunny" and "Rodney Roadhawg" were written and drawn by **Mark Armstrong**. "Lionheart" was written and drawn by **Tom Stazer**. "The Ol' Treasure Map Story" was written and drawn by **Ty Templeton**. The cover was executed by **Mark Armstrong**. Color separations by **Impact Productions**. Production by: **Tom Mason**, art director, and **Teresa Moore**, production assistant. Typesetting by **Inez M. Gorell**. **CRITTERS** is edited by **Kim Thompson** for **FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS** and is printed at **Port Publications**.

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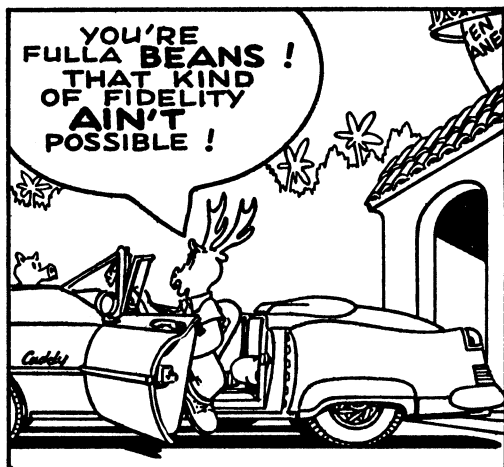
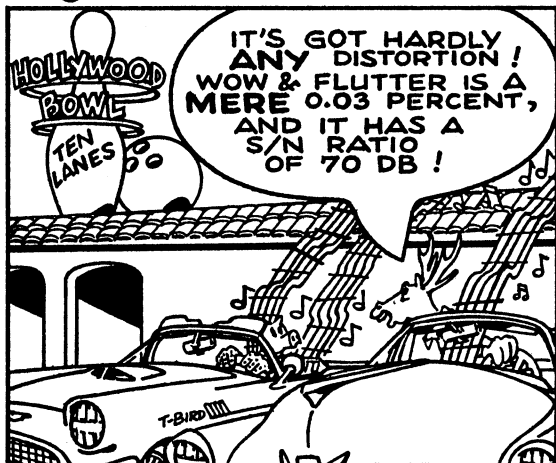
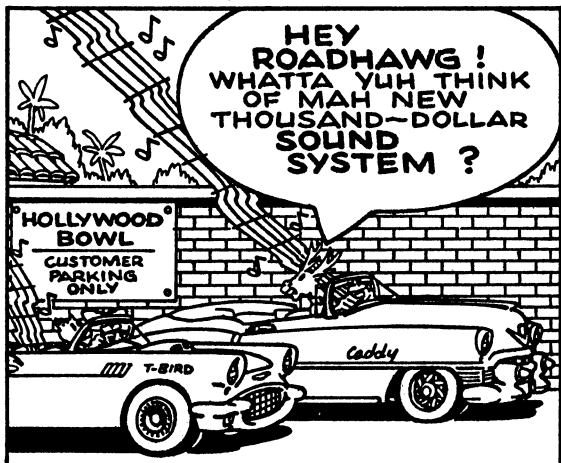
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RODNEY ROADHAWG

in "CAR TUNES"

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TWO CAN PLAY AT THIS GAME



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Then Alan Moore, Britain's answer to H.P. Lovecraft, reminisces about his pastoral childhood, as illustrated by Peter Bagge, America's answer to Big Daddy Roth (it's okay, they're still friends.)

After that, Phil Elliott and Eddie Campbell come back again to unfold the heart-warming conclusion of their comic strip epic, "Rodney: The Autobiography Of The Man Who Will Blow Up The World." Phil and Eddie do some stuff on their own this issue, too.

J.R. Williams ("Bad Boys"), Marc Hempel ("It's Spring"), Bob Boze Bell ("Class Reunions"), J.D. King, David Miller, Glenn Dakin, and Brian James Riedel do some work of their own. That's okay. Sometimes you need to be by yourself.

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