

No. 32

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Critters



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

WILDER-88

GENGHIS

by DE STEFANO

AYE.



HIS PARSLEY WENT NUTS

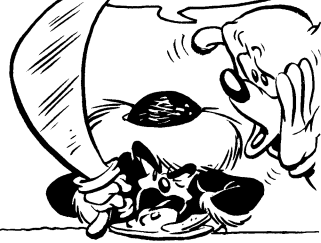


Ta-Ta-Ta-Ta!

CONSIDER YOURSELF PRIVILEGED. PARSLEY HUMOR IS A VERY OLD GENRE, DATING BACK TO THE CRO-BOBOLONEY AGE, WHEN THE GARNISH WAS SACRIFICED TO THE COMEDY GOD, MOMO....

thank you, thank you, Oh, thank you.

BEST KEEP AN EYE ON THAT MELBA TOAST!



Critters

EDITORIAL



Covers sometimes indicate "hello" here at Critters; this particular one, however, is a "good-bye" cover, as it effectively wraps up at least the first cycle of "Lizards." After illustrating something like 65 pages of the strip, Ron Wilber has elected to move on, and at this point we're not sure if John Holland will be continuing the series with a new artist; putting it on indefinite hiatus; trying to set it up as its own comic; or what. Regardless, we hope you've enjoyed the gently told, meditative "adventures" of Dweezil and his scaly friends these past few years... and we'll keep you apprised on John and Ron's future endeavors, together or separately. And thanks to Tom Luth for leaping into the breach and contributing yet another marvelous coloring job.

Another great one-pager starts off this issue, this time from Stephen DeStefano, best known for his wild work on DC Comics' *Mazing Man*; he will soon be seen in a new series from DC, *Hero Hotline*, and is guesting in the next issue of *Itchy Planet*. Buy all his comics because they're swell!

And say hello to Fission Chicken, who has rested his wings and will now be back for at least five consecutive issues—including next issue, where he gets his first full-color front cover—a thrilling watercolor job by the insuperable J.P. Morgan! Can you afford to miss it? I think not!

—KIM THOMPSON

NUMBER 32 JANUARY 1989

C O N T E N T S

Genghis by Stephen DeStefano

A dose of vegetable humor from the co-creator of *Mazing Man*: facing page!

Lizards by J. Holland and Ron Wilber

"Fear of Flying, Part Two"

Dweezil recuperates from his unfortunate encounter with the bird-creatures.....3

Gnuff by Freddy Milton

"Stranded on Achu-Achu"

Everything is relative—including, to the Gnuffs' surprise, their nemesis in this desert-island adventure.....11

Fission Chicken by J.P. Morgan

"The Chicken Duplicators, Part One"

Fission Chicken enjoys tormenting proponents of nuclear energy...until they hatch a scheme to torment him right back!.....23

Critters #32, January, 1989. *Critters* is published monthly by Fantagraphics Books, Inc., and is copyright © 1988 Fantagraphics Books, Inc. All stories © respective creators: Stephen DeStefano, Holland and Wilber, Freddy Milton, J.P. Morgan. Cover colored by Tom Luth. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission from Fantagraphics Books and the authors. No similarity between any of the names, characters, and institutions in *Critters* and those of any living or dead persons is intended, and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental. Letters to *Critters* become the property of the magazine and are assumed intended for publication in whole or in part, and may therefore be used for those purposes. First printing: September, 1988. Available from the publisher for \$2.50: Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate St. Suite #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

L E T T E R S

Lars Harthoej
Copenhagen, Denmark

Critters, att. Kim Thompson:

I picked up *Critters* around #12, primarily to keep track of Milton's "Gnuff." It ran in the Danish *Woody Woodpecker* magazine (*Søren Spætte*) from early '83 until the magazine folded in '85 (probably due to the selling of the *Woody* copyrights). For instance, only the first two episodes of the prehistoric trees story were published back then (the last ones before the magazine closed). The newer stories are currently published only in a newspaper and are collected in "albums" only after considerable time.

What a nice surprise to find so many other fine stories in *Critters*. To me they represent a really fine innovation of the funny animal genre, even though I get the impression that the idea is not all that new over on your side of the pond. I bought the back issues down to #4 relatively quickly and have bought every issue since.

I didn't like the first episode of "Fission Chicken" particularly, even though I thought the art was great—tasteless and unprofessional in a refreshing and completely charming way. No, it was the story I thought was silly. But then the marketing experts came

with a hilarious satire on the world of commercials and aggressive sales strategies. "Fission Chicken" is the best superhero parody this side of the early "Super Goof" stories by Paul Murry!

Van Horn's "Angst" is a favorite. There's no "real" action in it, but the expressions and poses of the characters make sure it's not all in the dialogue. These stories are tragic and funny at the same time, with a wonderful anecdotal feel.

I also enjoyed the new "Nelson Ground-thumper" story in #27. *Usagi Yojimbo* is a fine comic book, but it tends to be a bit too somber and tight-lipped. Nelson is a lot funnier.

As a *Pogo* fan, I'll look forward to your may-be announcement concerning this strip. I've picked up Kelly's *Christmas Classics* and *Springtime Tales*, issued by Eclipse these past months, and it seems like they have quite a bit a material to draw on there. These books also contained ads for another Eclipse book titled *Zot!* Made me realize where "Fission" got those weird metal bands around wrists and ankles.

To round things off, I have a few questions:

1) Is there a chance that you will reprint *Critters* #1, 2 and 3? Or a collected version of "Birthright I," at least?

2) A few months ago I ran across a wonderful 12-issue SF series *Fantagraphics/Upshot* published a few years back: *Dalgoda*. The local SF and comics specialty shop here in Copenhagen was all out of *Dalgoda* #4, however. Could you tell me whether there will be any sort of reprint of *Dalgoda* in the foreseeable future? (This doesn't really concern *Critters*, but who else at *Fantagraphics* should I write?)

● Well, I'd like to wait and see what happens with "Birthright III" before seriously considering a reprint of "Birthright"—and no, there are no plans to reprint early issues. (There's so much stuff on the market now, it would seem just a little greedy to glut it further by reprinting old issues on top of everything else.) As for *Dalgoda*, the issue you want is available from *Fantagraphics Books* for two bucks plus 50 cents postage and handling (or \$1.50 for air mail). I understand there is a black-and-white collection of the entire series in the works from one of our distinguished competitors (hint: the publisher used to edit *Amazing Heroes*), so keep your eyes peeled for it.

Fission Chicken's metal armbands are a pretty common funnybook costuming element and probably not borrowed from *Zot!* (which is itself derived from a number of sources).

Copenhagen, huh? Greatest city in the world: in addition to everything else, one of the few cities with a museum dedicated to a single cartoonist, the legendary Storm Petersen. (Comics fans on a whirlwind tour of Europe owe it to themselves

to check this out.) And if things keep deteriorating on this side of the Atlantic puddle, Copenhagen is definitely where you'll find me when the millennium rolls around.

Speaking of *Pogo*, all *Pogo* fans owe it to themselves to check out *The Fort Mudge Most*, a terrific *Pogo* fanzine, full of rare art, articles, and more. It's published by Steve Thompson (no relation) of *Spring Hollow Books*, 6908 Wentworth Avenue So., Richfield, MN 55423. Ten dollars will net you a year's subscription. Tell 'em *Critters* sent ya.

—KT

Roy D. Pounds II

Azusa, CA

Dear Kim,

Finally, after collecting the entire run (#1-28) of *Critters*, I promised myself that I'd write you a note to tell you how much I enjoyed your magazine.

Maybe I waited a bit too long...

Steve Gallacci's "Birthright" I & II brought my attention to the magazine, but I soon discovered that many of your other "contributors" were just as good, if not better! (Well, maybe funnier.)

I enjoy Stan Sakai's *Usagi* series, as much as the "Birthright" stories. Both are good old "Rock-um-sock-um" type adventure, with a different "twist."

Then there's the work of Ty Templeton and J.P. Morgan, which rarely fails to make me laugh hysterically. "Fission Chicken" is one of my favorites because it is so "off the wall," while Ty Templeton's "Treasure Map Story" gave me hope that there are cartoonists out there that can draw well, and be funny at the same time. (Maybe I'm being nostalgic. I remember reading *Pogo* when I was six—and that was a long, long time ago!)

Tom Stazer's "Lionheart" series is always good for a chuckle. I find his humor a bit on the "dark" side, though. Maybe it's because it's almost like watching one of the many "cop shows" that predominate the tube nowadays.

I can't help but read "too much" between the lines in Freddy Milton's "Gnuff" series. I feel kinda sorry for the "Dragons" because they seem to be reduced to a "minority" class of creatures, when once, they nearly ruled the "Earth."

Sam Kieth's comic style reminds me very much of the delicate rendering style of my friend Paul Fish's work. I think that's one of the reasons I like "De Grand Wa-zoo" series. I was annoyed in issue #23 when Sam decided to "end" it all for everyone involved. Just when it seems like we're making some progress against the nuclear madness, the sight of these gentle characters being obliterated is very disturbing. (Maybe it was a meteorite impact—oh, well.)

My favorite part of each issue though is the "letters" column where readers are en-

couraged to write their views, and illustrate them as well. As far as I know, *Critters* is the only magazine in the "funny animals" genre that does this. I like seeing the work of "up and coming" artists, all in the hope that I can someday say, "Oh yeah! I first saw his work in *Critters*!"

Well, I would like to sit and write a sentence on each strip, but I'm not a "comics critic," and I'm rapidly running out of paper space. I really enjoy your magazine and I hope you keep up the good work!

● Also, you were about to run out of quotation marks. "De Grand Wa-Zoo" and *Is* are not dead and gone—in fact, I should be announcing a special project involving these characters sometime soon.

—KT

Andrea Feldman

Providence, RI

Dear Kim,

Tim Fuller is getting better! Great cover! The thing I don't like about his stories... and the other stories in the issue... is the excessive parodying! Oliver North and Walt Disney... I'll let that pass! But... Stazer's parody of Mr. X (one of my favorite comics, don't you know!) was... no, wait. Why am I talking to Kim Thompson? I should ask Mr. Stazer himself. So, Mr. Stazer, does it bother you to practically copy other people's characters? Personally, I liked your un-parodied "Lionheart" stories better. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the issue. The stories may have been slightly unoriginal, but they were still good.

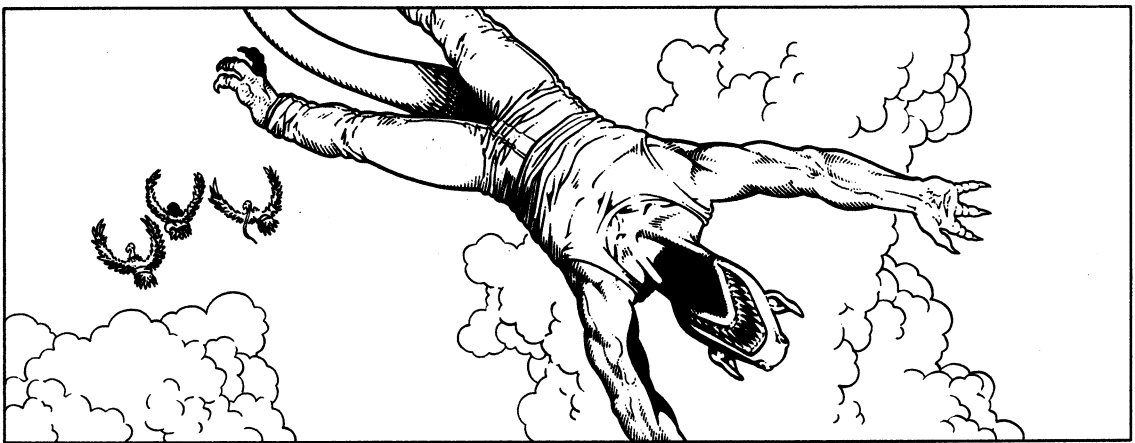
The enclosed drawings are both of my detective horse character, "Lola Dunsay." One is done on scratchboard, creating a white on black negative image—a bit of a departure from my usual stuff, but I like the effect.

● Given the political satire of that particular "Lionheart" story, the parodies just seemed to work naturally. The next *Lionheart*, which appears in *Usagi Yojimbo* #12—currently on sale, in fact—has no parody characters at all.

Thanks for the drawing of your character, which appears (assuming our printer can cope with the heavy blacks and thin white lines) below.

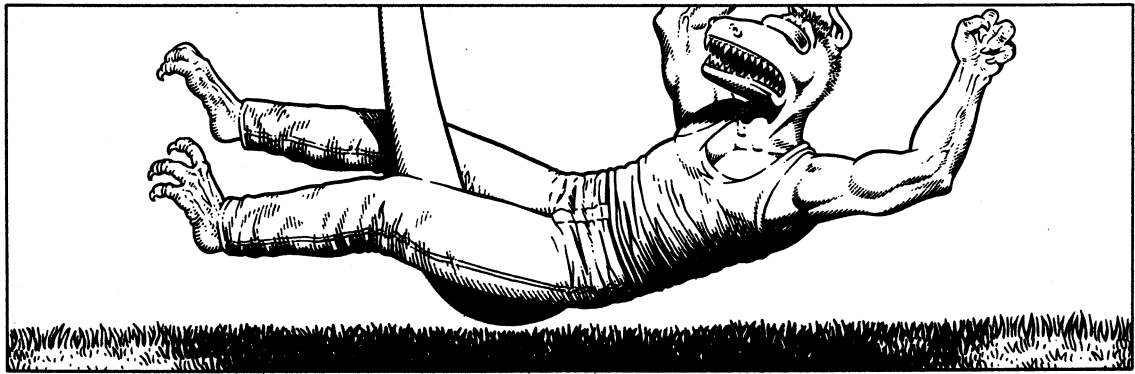
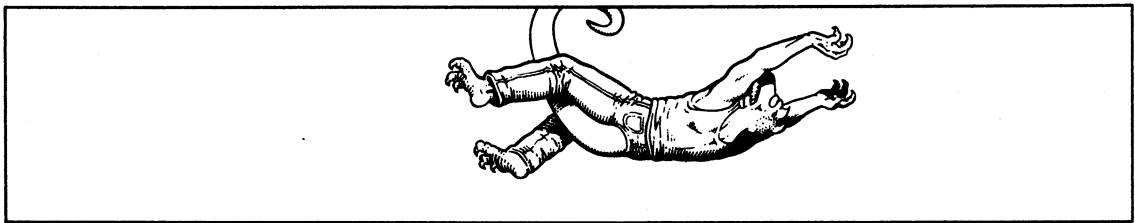
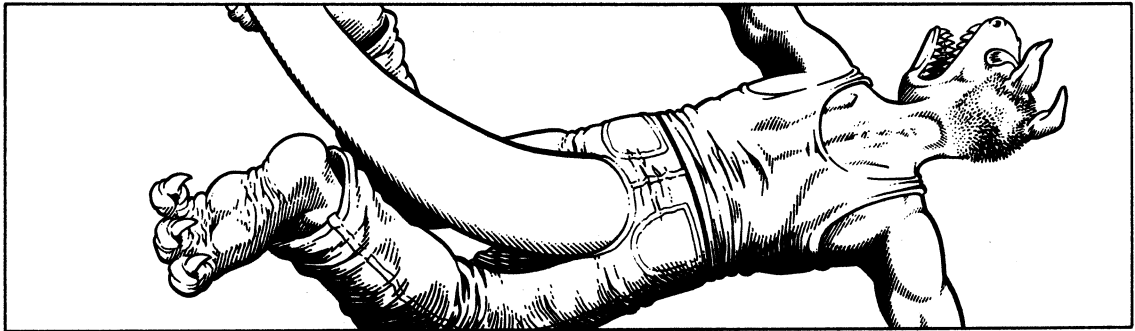
See you all in a month or so! —KT

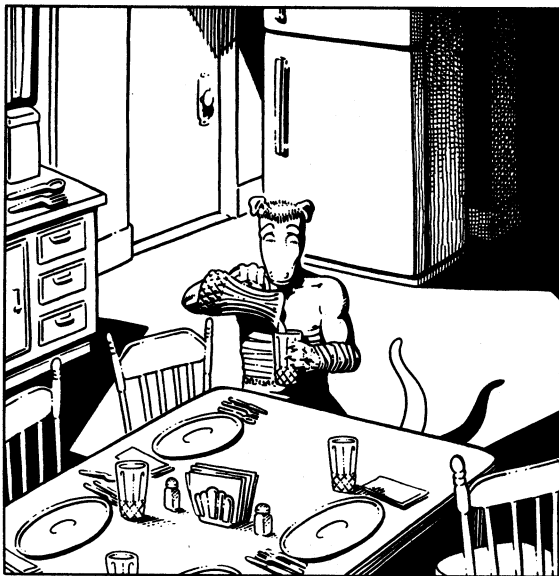
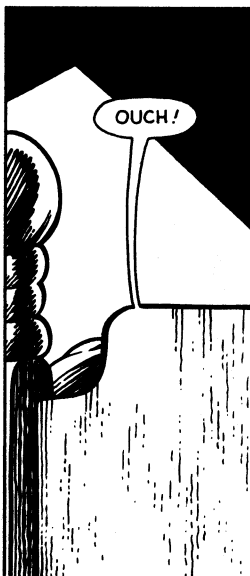
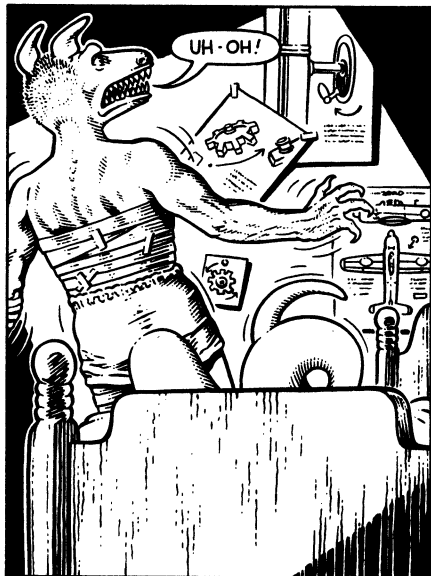


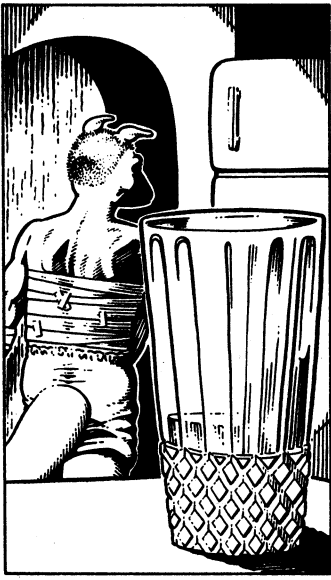


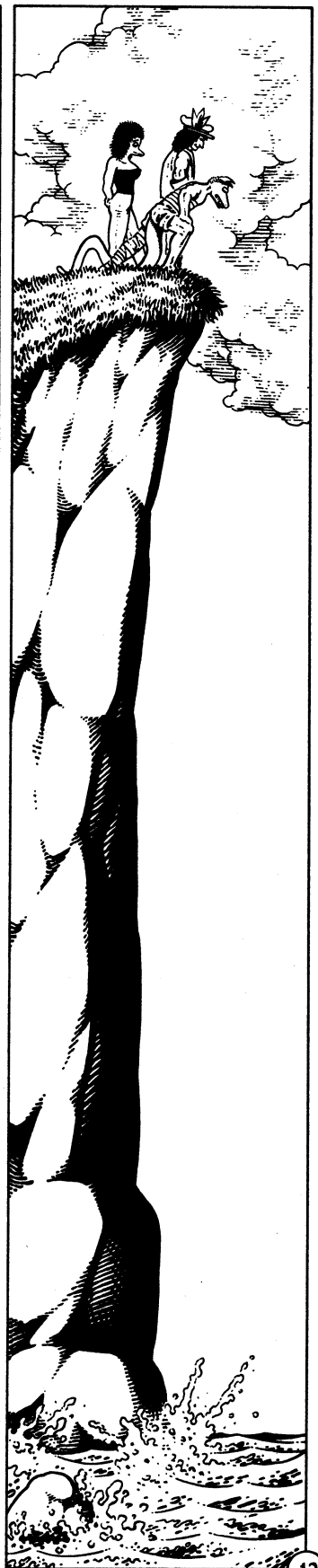
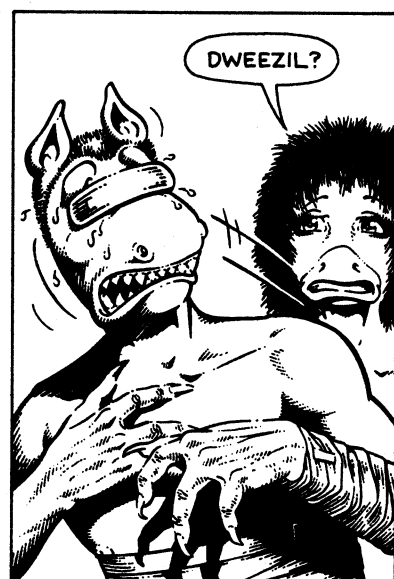
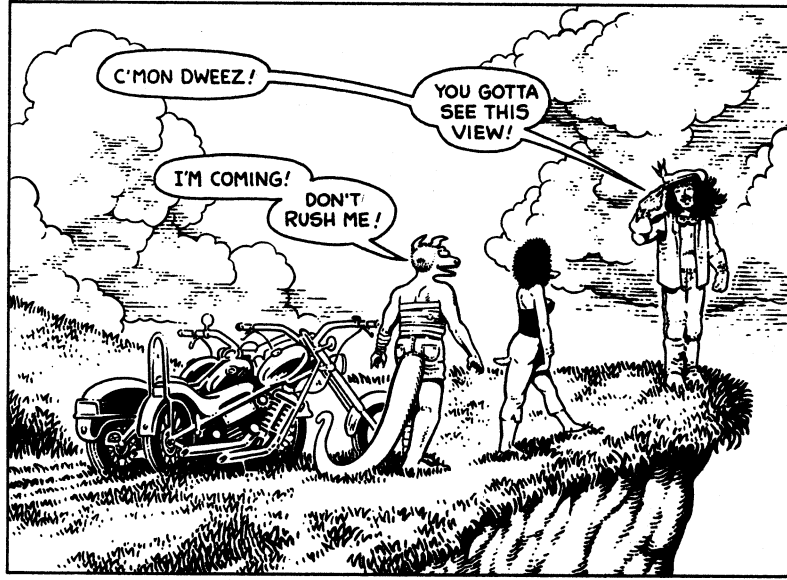
FEAR OF FLYING

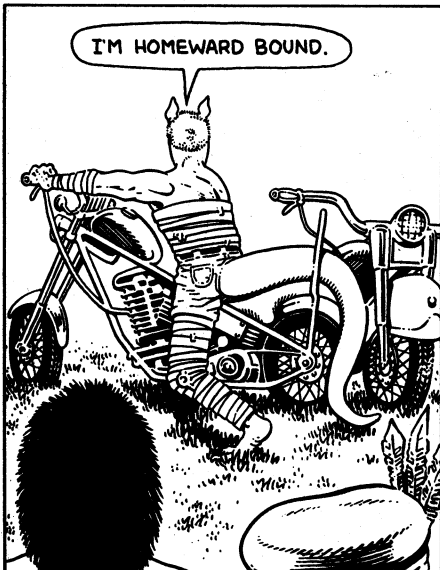
PART 2 © J. HOLLAND • STORY & R. WILBER • ART • 88

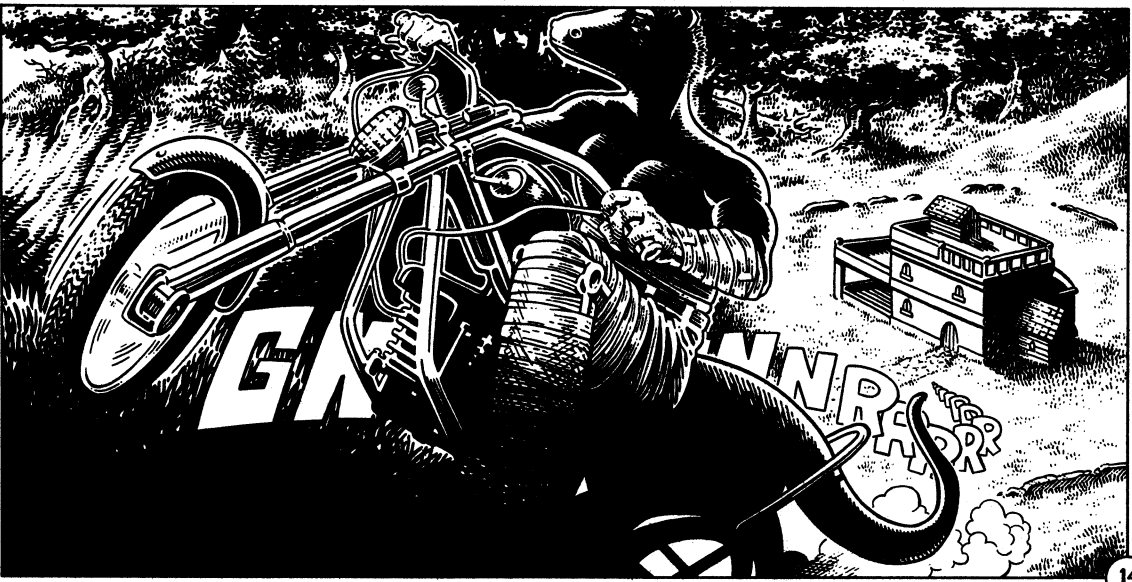


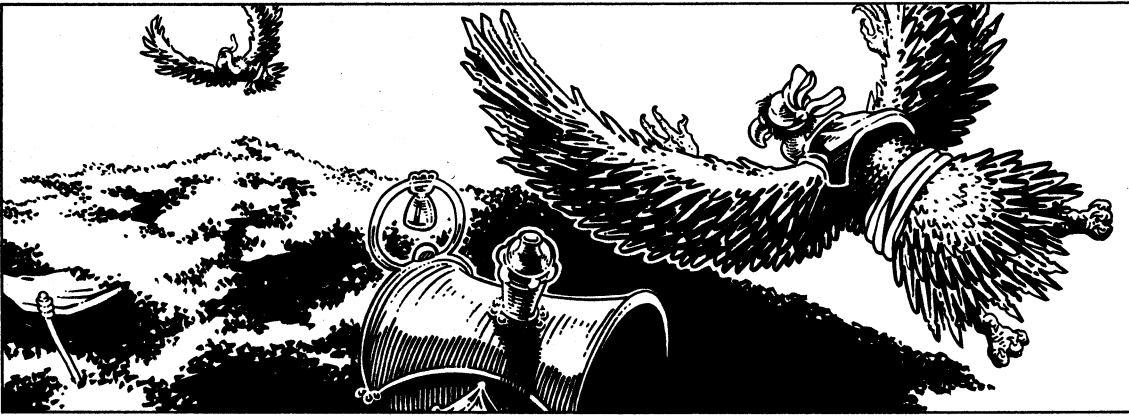
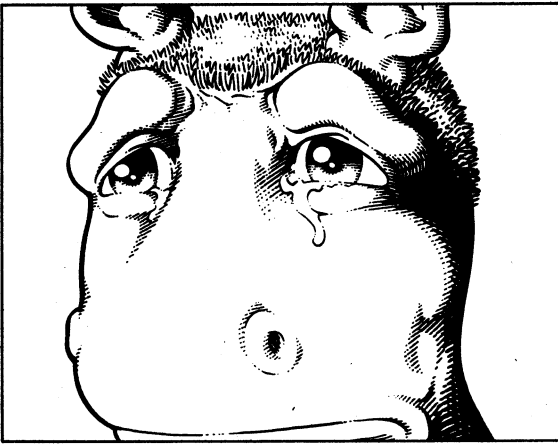
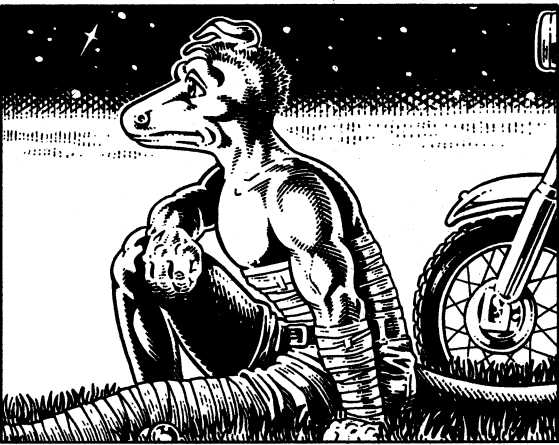
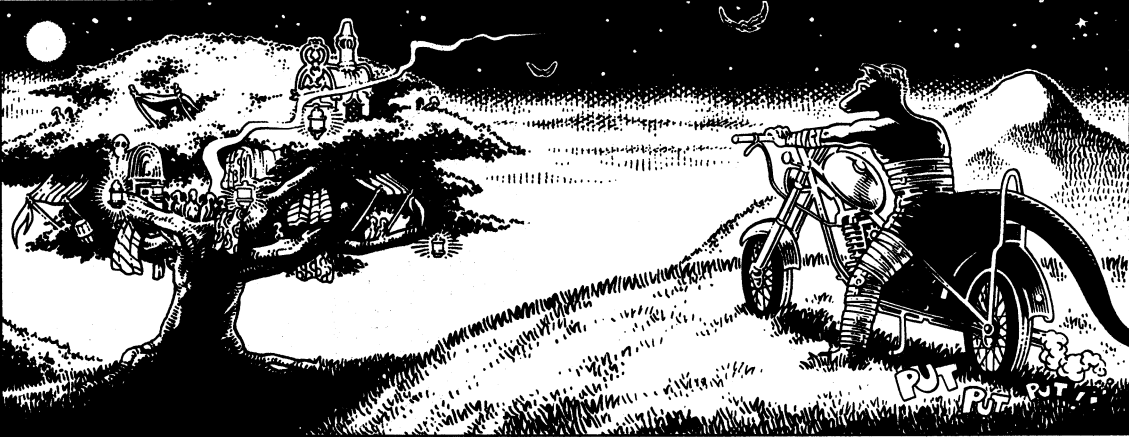


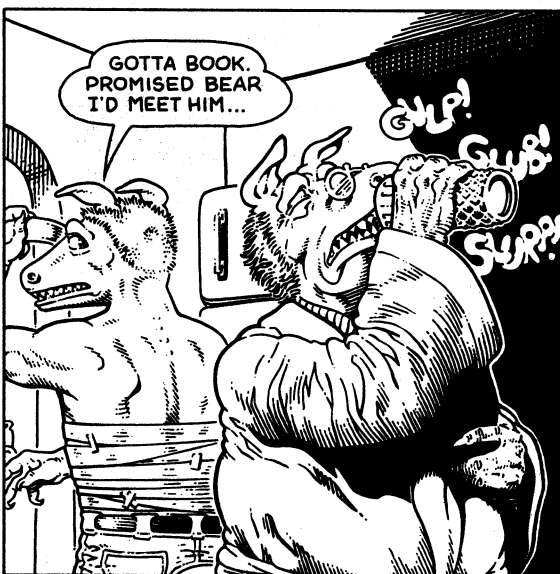












END

Freddy Milton's Gnuff

STRANDED ON ACHU-ACHU

ART &
STORY
FREDDY
MILTON

SOME EXHAUSTED CASTAWAYS
HAVE LANDED ON A DESERT
ISLAND...

SOMEBODY ELSE HAS BEEN HERE
TOO, IT SEEMS...

"...AND IF THIS
PAPER BOAT IS SOME
KIND OF TOY, THEY
ARE REALLY GIANTS!"

© MILTON

NO, THAT'S
PROFESSOR
DRYERHAUS'S
BOAT!

OH, YEAH - HE WANTED
TO SAIL ACROSS THE
NORTHSEA IN A PAPER
BOAT REINFORCED WITH
BEE'S WAX!

LOOKS LIKE HE WENT
A LITTLE OFF COURSE!

THIS IS THE ISLAND OF ACHU-ACHU! I
RECOGNIZE THE PLACE!

HAVE YOU
BEEN HERE
BEFORE?

YEP! I TRIED TO TALK THE PRO-
FESSOR INTO KEEPING HIS DIS-
COVERY OF THE FOUNTAIN
OF YOUTH HERE A SECRET,
BUT HE REFUSED!

YOU KNOW
HOW PEOPLE
WILL TRY TO
MAKE MONEY
OUT OF ANY-
THING!

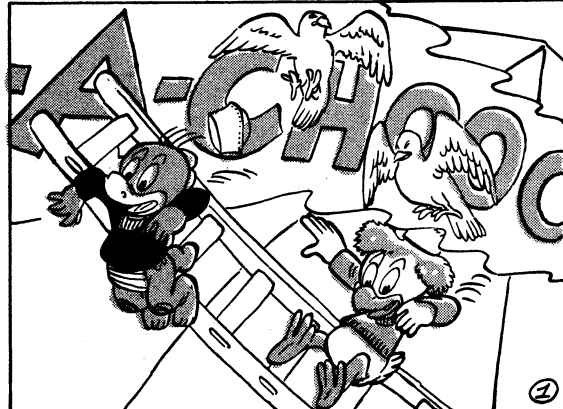
HE SAID THE WATER
WOULD LOSE ITS POWER
AWAY FROM ACHU-ACHU!

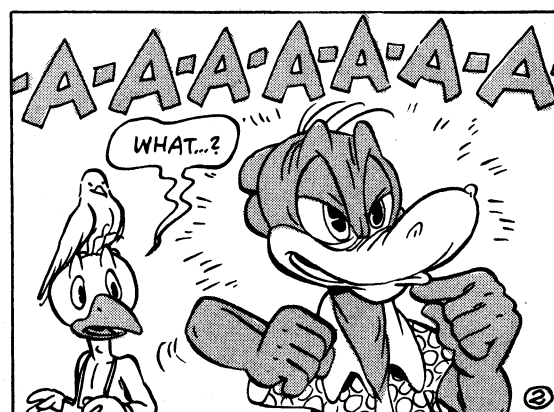
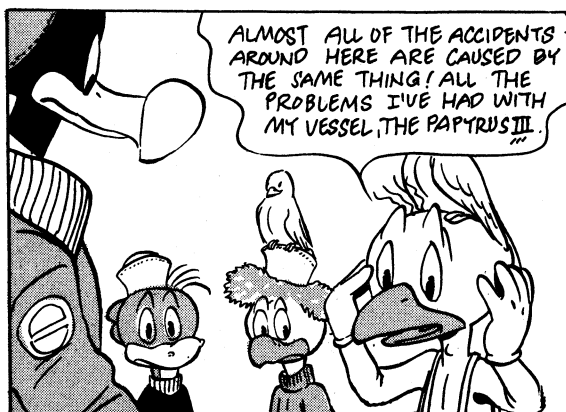
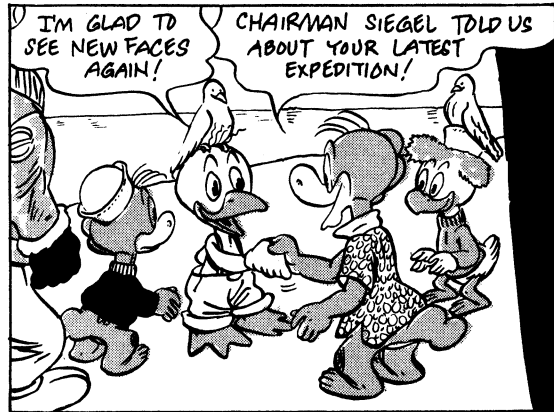
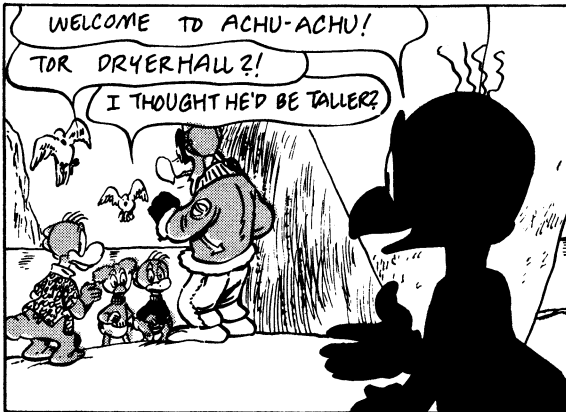
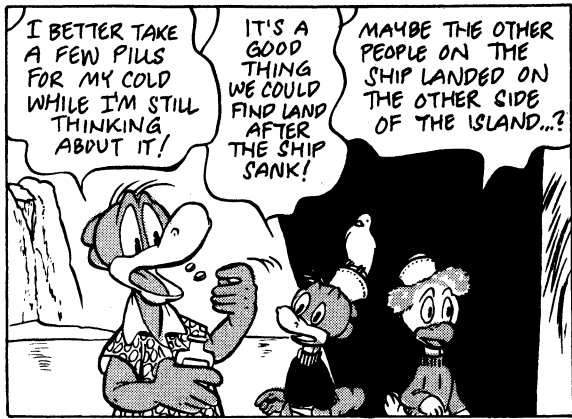
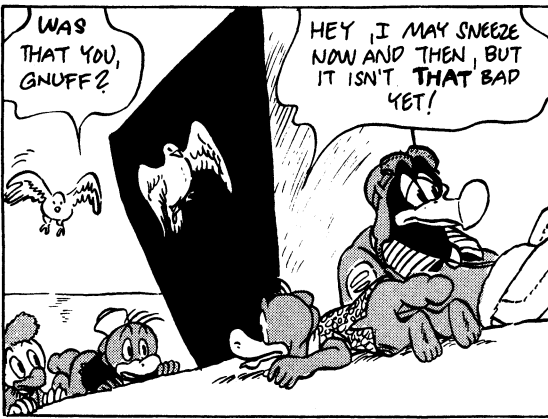
SO I SUGGESTED HE MAKE THE ISLAND INTO
A SPA FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, BUT THE STUBBORN
OLD GOAT WAS AFRAID THE PROFIT MOTIVE WOULD
TARNISH HIS IMAGE AS A SELFLESS SEEKER
AFTER SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE!

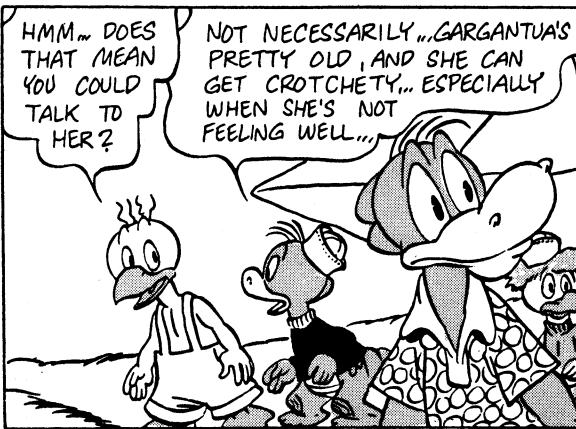
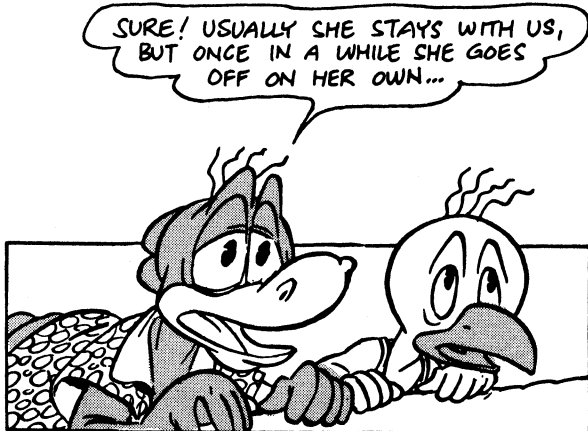
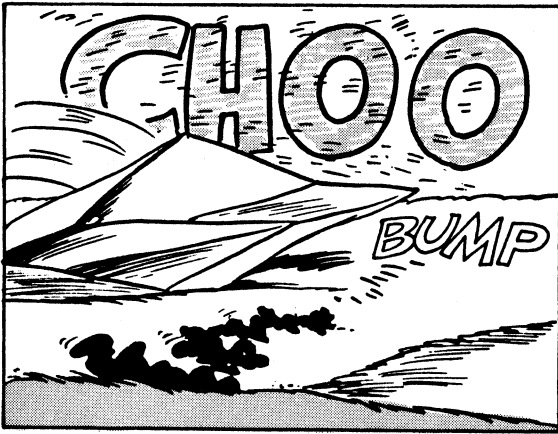
I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED
TO RESCUE
THE PRO-
FESSOR?

THIS BOAT
MUST'VE USED
UP EVERY
NEWSPAPER
IN TOWN!

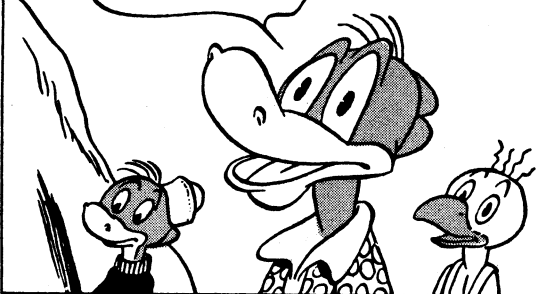
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG IN TRYING TO MAKE
A LITTLE MONEY ON THE SIDE! IT COULD HAVE
FINANCED HIS FUTURE PROJECTS! BUT WE
COULDN'T AGREE, SO I LET HIM GO HIS
OWN WAY AND...







NO, I'M AFRAID THE ONLY WAY OF DEALING WITH GARGANTUA IS TO STAY OUT OF HER WAY UNTIL SHE'S WELL AGAIN...



WELL, I'VE HAD RELATIVES LIKE THAT... BUT AT LEAST THEY WEREN'T BIG ENOUGH TO STEP ON YOU! ANYWAY, CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?



AND SO... THAT'S THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! FILL THE CANTEENS!



IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU NEED ANY!

TRUE - I'VE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH! BUT YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN WE GO OVER THE PASS!

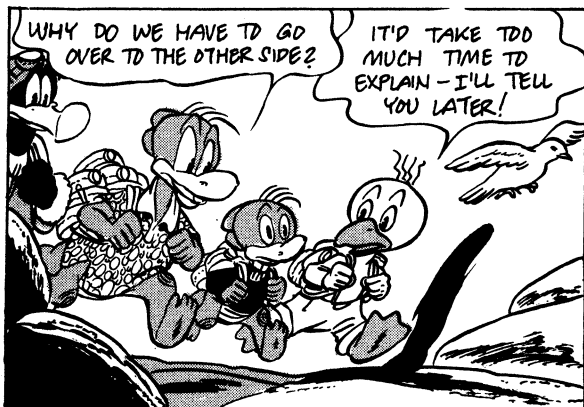


SOON AFTER, THE FIVE SAME SETS OUT ON ITS TREK TOWARDS THE PASS...



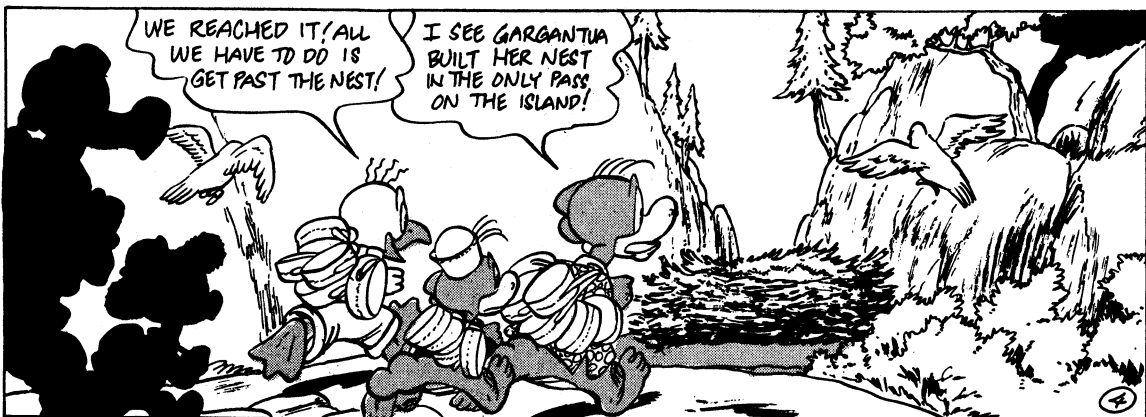
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE?

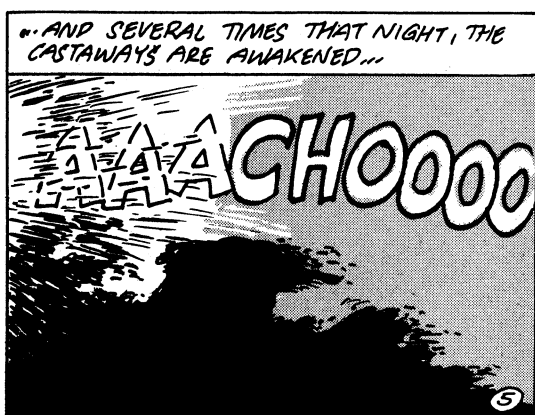
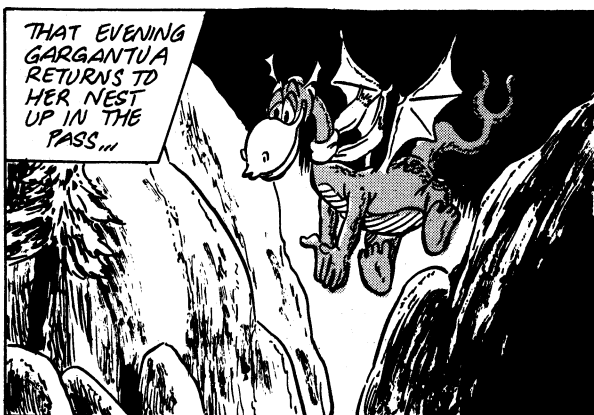
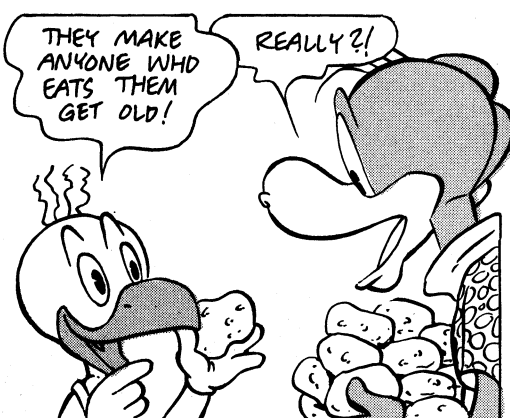
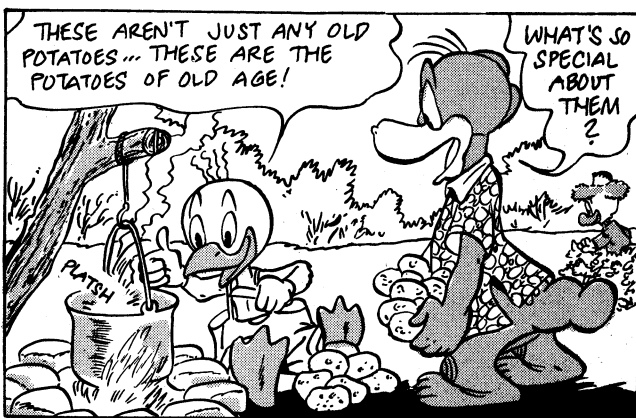
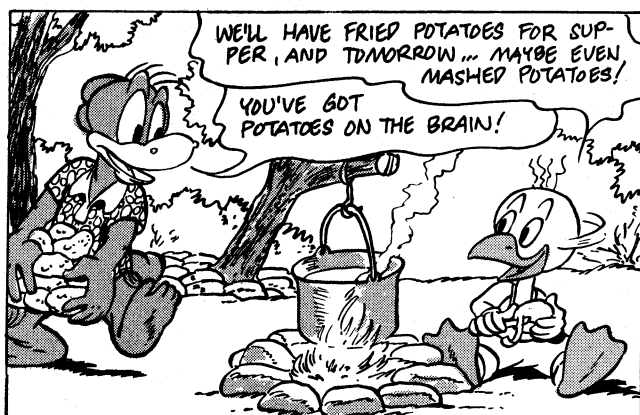
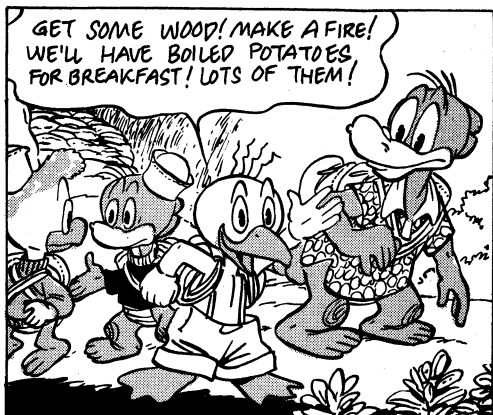
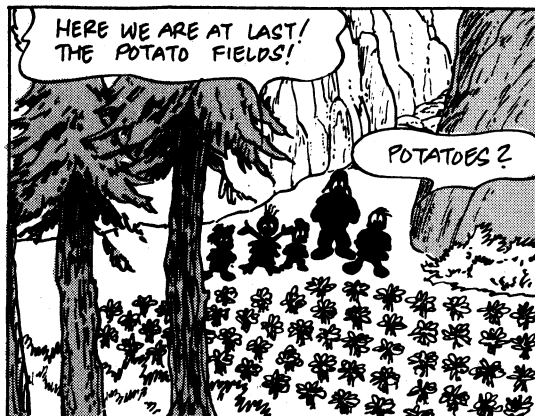
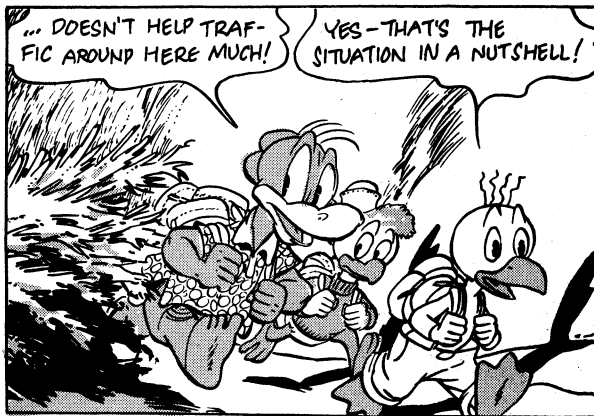
IT'D TAKE TOO MUCH TIME TO EXPLAIN - I'LL TELL YOU LATER!

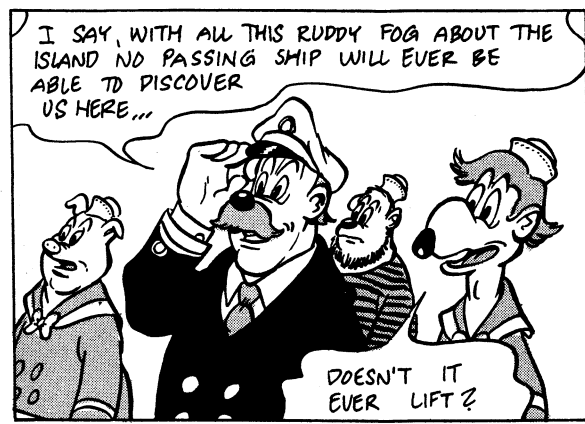
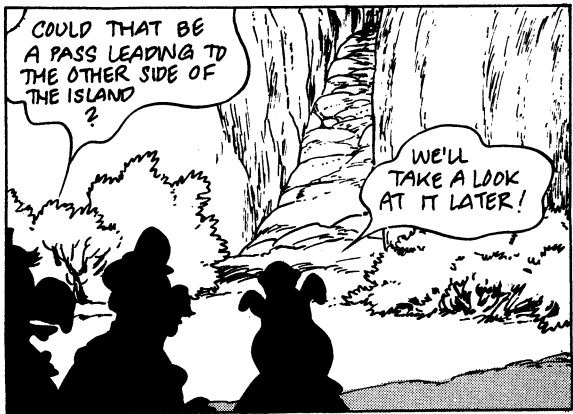
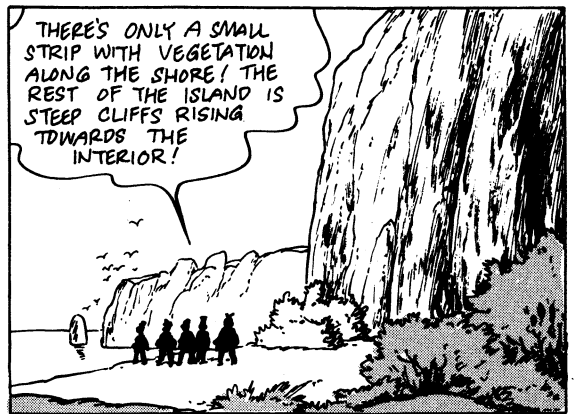
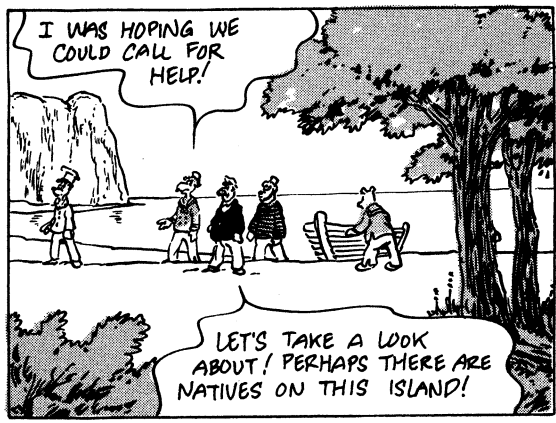
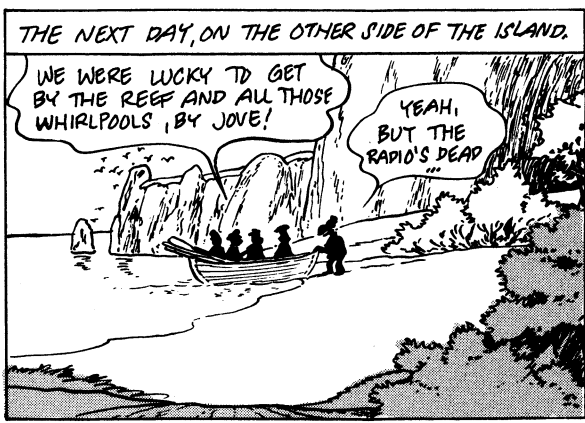
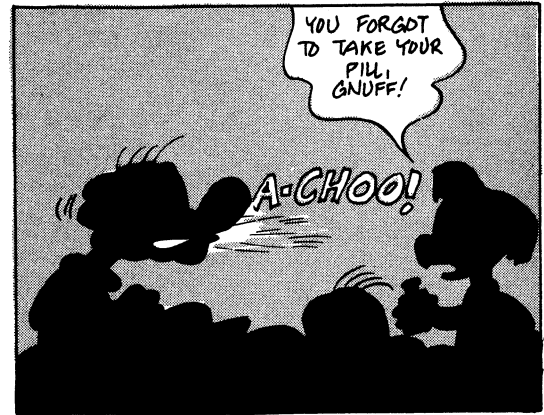


WE REACHED IT! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET PAST THE NEST!

I SEE GARGANTUA BUILT HER NEST IN THE ONLY PASS ON THE ISLAND!









WHO ARE YOU?

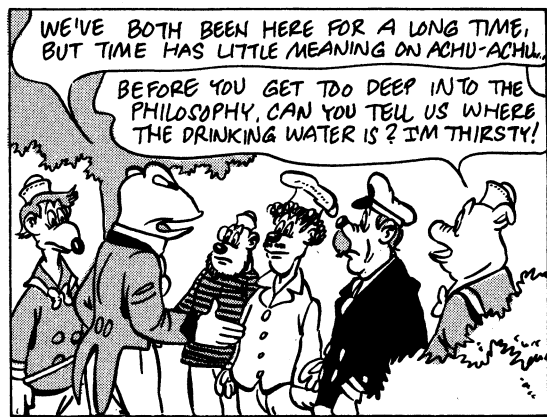
MY NAME IS J. PHINEAS PHROGG *) - I'M HERE THANKS TO THAT DRAGON UP IN THE PASS! WHO ARE YOU?



THAT SAME MONSTER ALSO SHIPWRECKED US! SINCE WE SHARE A COMMON FATE, PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THE PLACE AND SHOW US AROUND A BIT?

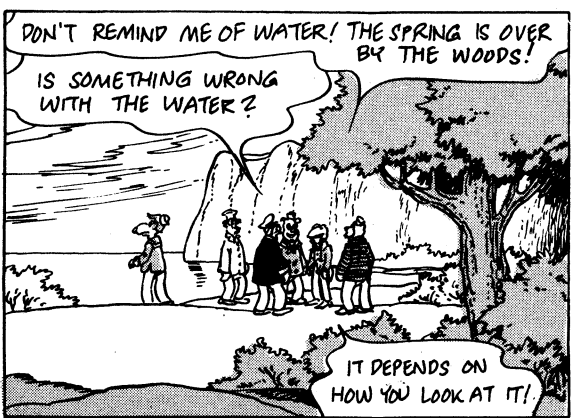


THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL! THERE'S A CRAZY EXPLORER OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND... I CAN'T STAND HIM! SO WE EACH KEEP TO OUR OWN SIDE!



WE'VE BOTH BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME, BUT TIME HAS LITTLE MEANING ON ACHU-ACHU.

BEFORE YOU GET TOO DEEP INTO THE PHILOSOPHY, CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE DRINKING WATER IS? I'M THIRSTY!



DON'T REMIND ME OF WATER! THE SPRING IS OVER BY THE WOODS!

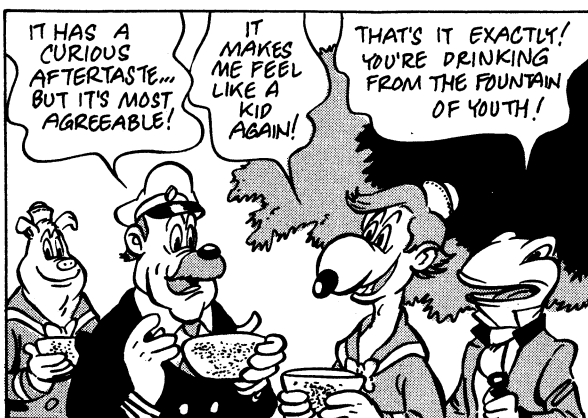
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE WATER?

IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT!



A BIT LATER...

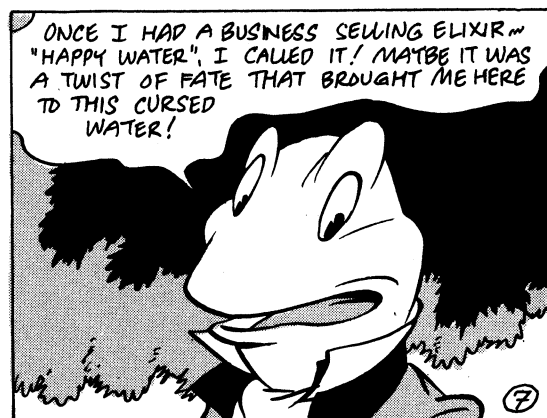
I'D SUGGEST YOU GO EASY ON THE WATER!



IT HAS A CURIOUS AFTERTASTE... BUT IT'S MOST AGREEABLE!

IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN!

THAT'S IT EXACTLY! YOU'RE DRINKING FROM THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!



ONCE I HAD A BUSINESS SELLING ELIXIR - "HAPPY WATER". I CALLED IT! MAYBE IT WAS A TWIST OF FATE THAT BROUGHT ME HERE TO THIS CURSED WATER!



WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT ?

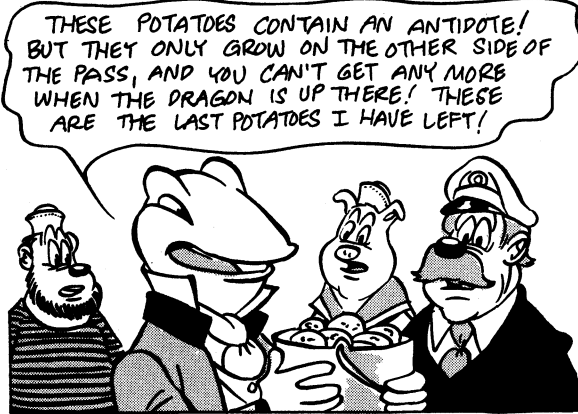
I DARE SAY WE CAN ALL STAND TO BE A LITTLE YOUNGER!



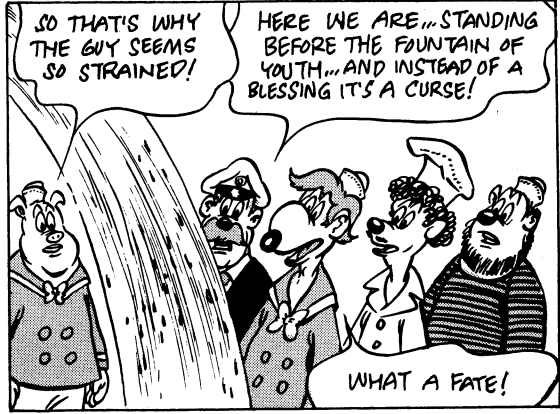
YOU CAN SAY THAT NOW, BUT JUST WAIT! YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TOO YOUNG, DO YOU ?

YOU SEEM TO BE HOLDING UP RATHER WELL!

REMEMBER - YOU'RE FORCED TO DRINK THIS WATER! THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER!



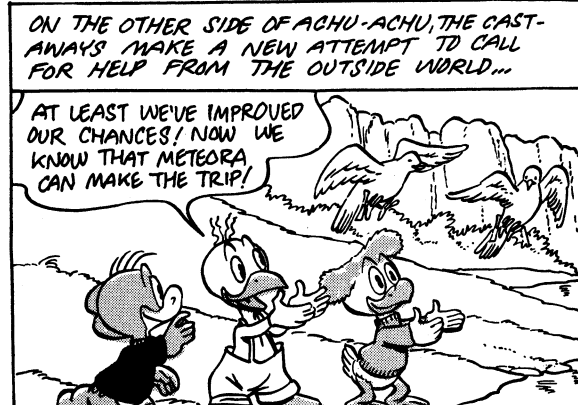
THESE POTATOES CONTAIN AN ANTIDOTE! BUT THEY ONLY GROW ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PASS, AND YOU CAN'T GET ANY MORE WHEN THE DRAGON IS UP THERE! THESE ARE THE LAST POTATOES I HAVE LEFT!



SO THAT'S WHY THE GUY SEEMS SO STRAINED!

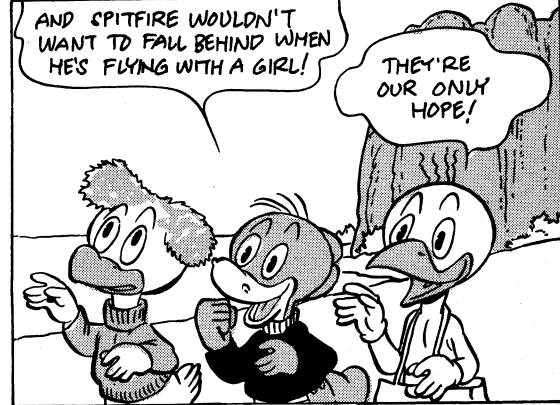
HERE WE ARE...STANDING BEFORE THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH...AND INSTEAD OF A BLESSING IT'S A CURSE!

WHAT A FATE!



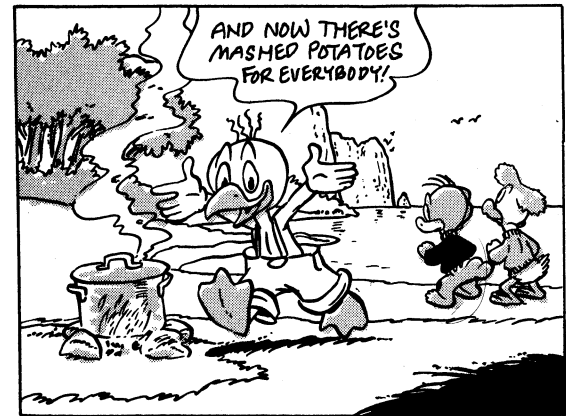
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ACHU-ACHU, THE CAST-AWAYS MAKE A NEW ATTEMPT TO CALL FOR HELP FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

AT LEAST WE'VE IMPROVED OUR CHANCES! NOW WE KNOW THAT METEORA CAN MAKE THE TRIP!

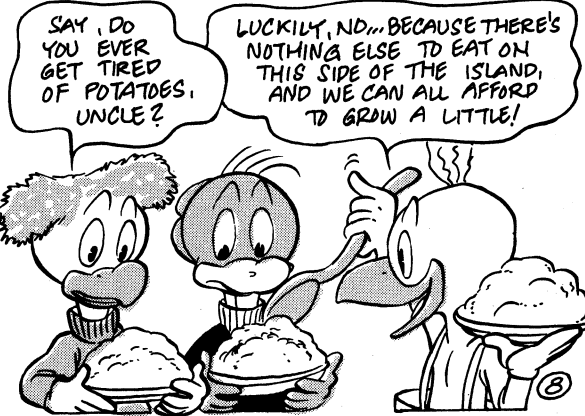


AND SPITFIRE WOULDN'T WANT TO FALL BEHIND WHEN HE'S FLYING WITH A GIRL!

THEY'RE OUR ONLY HOPE!



AND NOW THERE'S MASHED POTATOES FOR EVERYBODY!

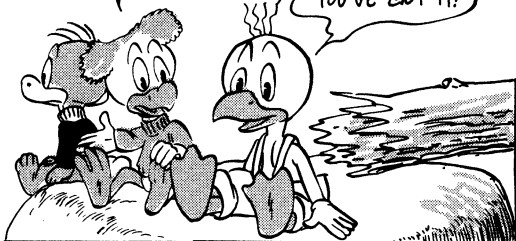


SAY, DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OF POTATOES, UNCLE ?

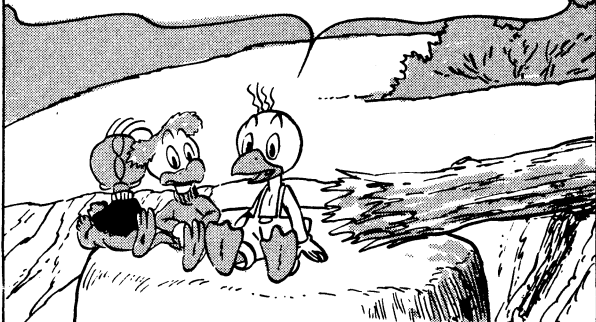
LUCKILY, NO...BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO EAT ON THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND, AND WE CAN ALL AFFORD TO GROW A LITTLE!

IF WE'VE UNDERSTOOD YOU RIGHT, THE POTATOES ON THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND MAKE PEOPLE OLD... BUT THE WATER ON THE OTHER SIDE MAKES THEM YOUNG AGAIN!

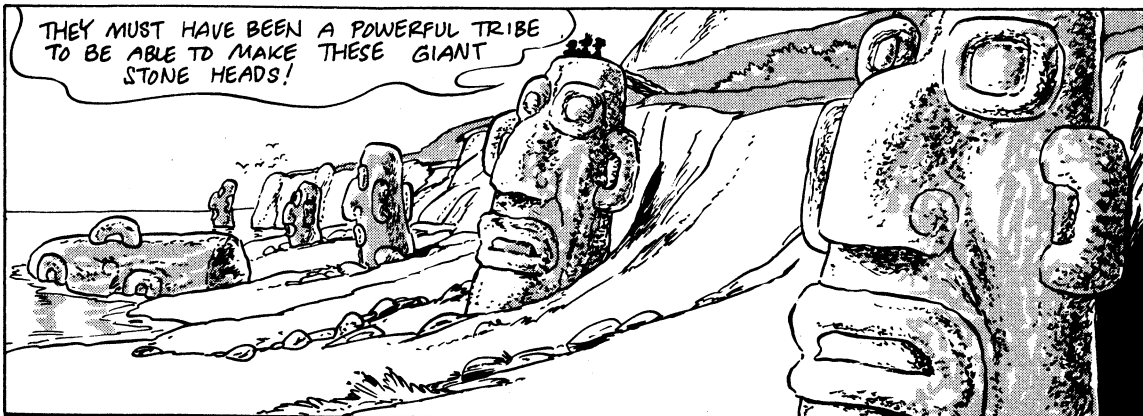
YOU'VE GOT IT!



AND THAT'S THE TRAGIC STORY OF THIS ISLAND! I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE STATUES THAT ACHU-ACHU'S NATIVES PUT UP CENTURIES AGO!



THEY MUST HAVE BEEN A POWERFUL TRIBE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THESE GIANT STONE HEADS!

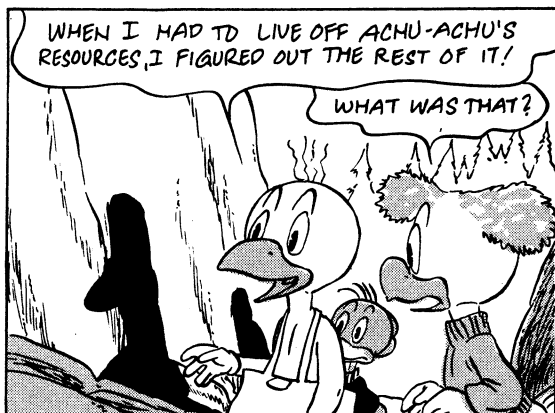


YES, AND I EVEN BELIEVE THEY WERE SET UP TO FRIGHTEN AWAY CREATURES LIKE THE ONE UP IN THE PASS!

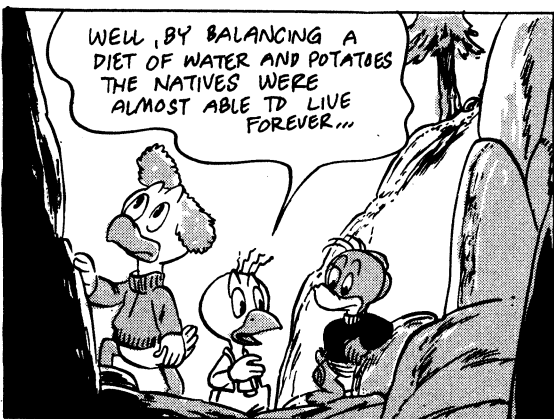


WHEN I HAD TO LIVE OFF ACHU-ACHU'S RESOURCES, I FIGURED OUT THE REST OF IT!

WHAT WAS THAT?



WELL, BY BALANCING A DIET OF WATER AND POTATOES THE NATIVES WERE ALMOST ABLE TO LIVE FOREVER...

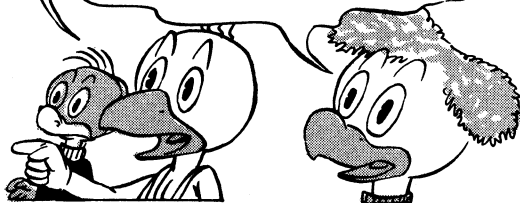


...UNTIL UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENTS THREATENED THEM!



IT SEEMS THAT THE DRAGONS BUILT THEIR NEST UP IN THE PASS CENTURIES AGO! I BELIEVE GARGANTUA MUST BE ONE OF THE LAST OF THOSE ANCIENT DRAGONS!

AND WHEN IT CAUGHT A COLD, IT CAME BACK TO ITS OLD HOME TO RECUPERATE!

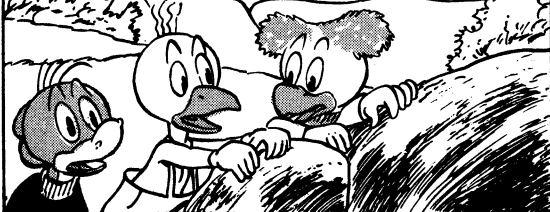


YES, AND WHEN THE DRAGONS SETTLED IN UP THERE TO BREED, THE NATIVE POPULATION WAS CUT IN TWO... JUST LIKE WE ARE NOW!

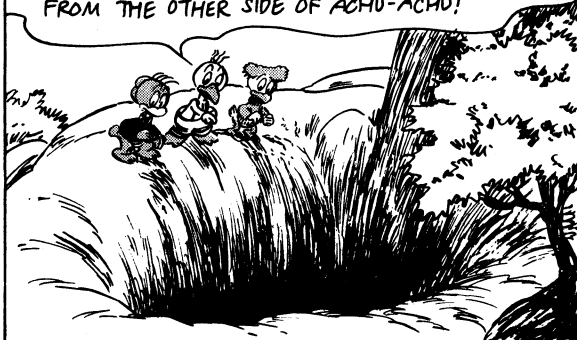


ON THIS SIDE, THEY HAD TO EAT THE POTATOES THAT ARE THE ONLY FOOD HERE, AND BECAUSE THE WATER HERE WAS NORMAL, THEY QUICKLY GREW OLD!

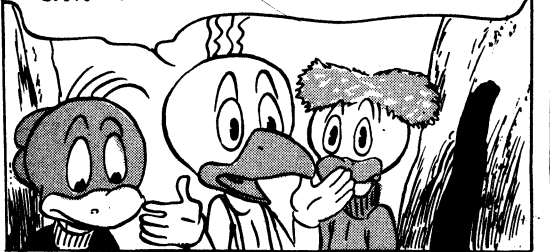
THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO BRING WATER WITH US FROM THE OTHER SIDE!



EXACTLY! I BELIEVE THESE RESERVOIRS WERE DUG TO STORE THE MAGIC WATER BROUGHT FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF ACHU-ACHU!



I'VE EVEN TRIED TO GROW POTATOES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK! THE WATER DESTROYED THE EFFECT AS THEY GREW! AND THE PEOPLE LIVING OVER THERE DURING THE CRISIS PERIOD SOON TURNED INTO BABIES!



AND YOU CAN'T GET ACROSS THE ISLAND WITHOUT TAKING THE PASS BECAUSE OF THE CLIFFS!

YES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! AND IF YOU TRY TO TAKE A BOAT YOU RISK BEING SWALLOWED UP BY THE HUGE WHIRLPOOLS! THOSE STRETCH ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE FOG BANKS, WHERE EVERYBODY GETS LOST...



WHEN THE BREEDING SEASON WAS OVER, FEEBLE OLD PEOPLE TOTTERED UP THE PASS FROM ONE SIDE AND LITTLE BABIES CRAWLED UP FROM THE OTHER... BUT ONE DAY THE NESTING SEASON LASTED A LITTLE TOO LONG! NO ONE WAS LEFT!

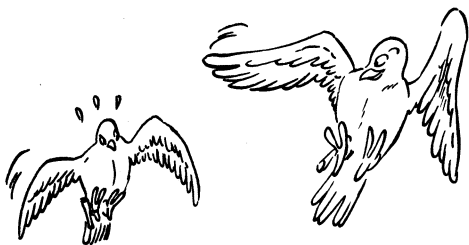


C'MON DOWN, YOU SCIENTISTS!

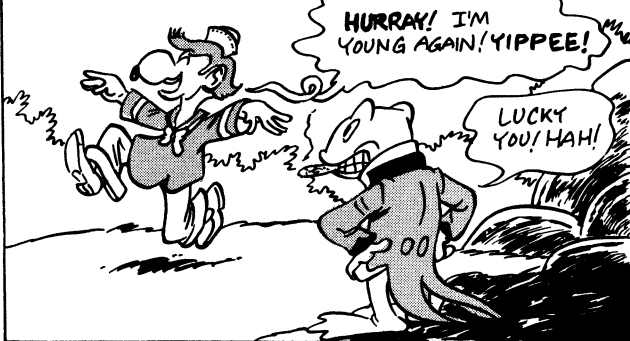
THAT CRAZY PROFESSOR'S THEORIES MUST HAVE GIVEN YOU A FEROCIOUS APPETITE!



METEORA AND SPITFIRE ARE STILL ON THEIR WAY... IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR METEORA, SPITFIRE MIGHT HAVE TAKEN IT EASIER...



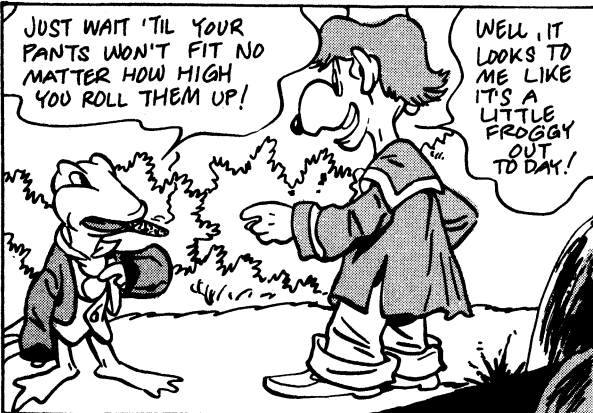
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ACHU-ACHU, SPIRITS ARE A LITTLE HIGHER...



HURRAH! I'M YOUNG AGAIN! YIPPEE!

LUCKY YOU! HAH!

JUST WAIT 'TIL YOUR PANTS WON'T FIT NO MATTER HOW HIGH YOU ROLL THEM UP!



WELL, IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE IT'S A LITTLE FROGGY OUT TO DAY!

HAHAHAHA



VERY FUNNY!

HOW DID I EVER GET ALONG BEFORE THESE WITS ARRIVED?

HEY, CAPTAIN! STOP THAT! YOU'LL OVERDOSE!

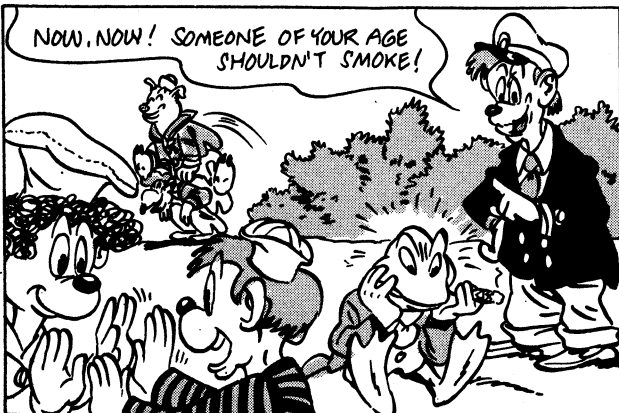


OH, I SAY—I'M THE OLDEST ONE HERE!

PRECISELY! AND SOON YOU'LL HAVE A BUNCH OF BABIES TO TAKE CARE OF! SO BE CAREFUL!



NOW, NOW! SOMEONE OF YOUR AGE SHOULDN'T SMOKE!



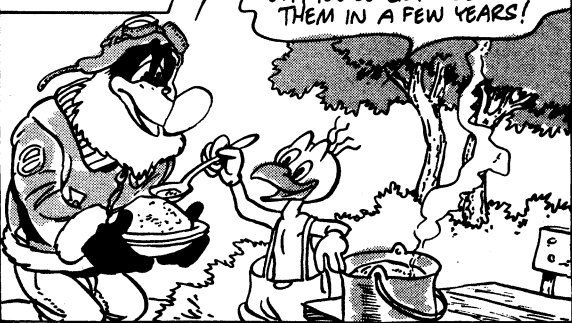
GOOD GRIEF! IT ISN'T SMOKING THAT'S KILLING US—IT'S DRINKING!



LATER... THE
MAGIC WATER
HAS BEEN
USED UP...

URG! I'M GETTING PRETTY
SICK OF POTATOES!

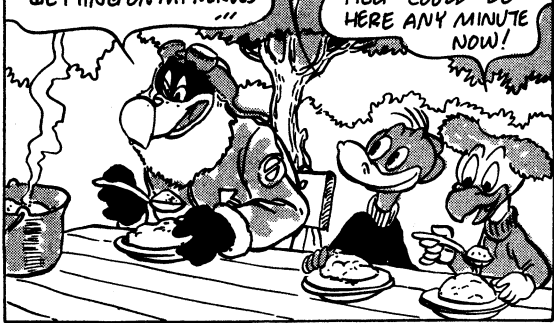
OH, YOU'LL GET USED TO
THEM IN A FEW YEARS!



YEAH, IF WE LIVE
THAT LONG! THIS
BLASTED ISLAND IS
GETTING ON MY NERVES...

SPITFIRE AND METEORA
WILL GET THROUGH!

HELP COULD BE
HERE ANY MINUTE
NOW!



THE PIGEON SCOUTS WILL SURELY SEND OUT
A SPECIAL RESCUE EXPEDITION!

WITH LOTS OF MEDALS FOR THE
VOLUNTEERS WHO COME ALONG!



THAT'LL PROBABLY JUST GET
US A BUNCH OF SHIPWRECKED
PIGEON FANATICS!

YOU'RE BEING AW-
FULLY NEGATIVE!

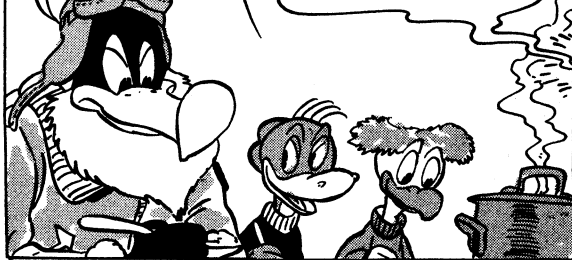
CAN'T WE EAT IN
PEACE ?!



IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE GETTING MORE AND
MORE PEEVISH AND GRUMPY, OLD MAN! I WONDER
IF IT'S A SIGN OF SENILITY?

GRMPH!

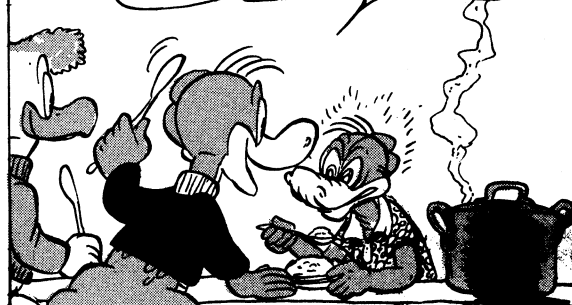
THAT'S ENOUGH
OF THAT, YOUNG FELOW!



IT'S NOT NICE TO MAKE FUN OF YOUR ELDERS!
YOU OUGHT TO SHOW MUCH MORE RESPECT
FOR THE GENERATION FORGED BY THE FIRES
OF LIFE AND STRENGTHENED BY EXPERIENCE,
MY BOY!



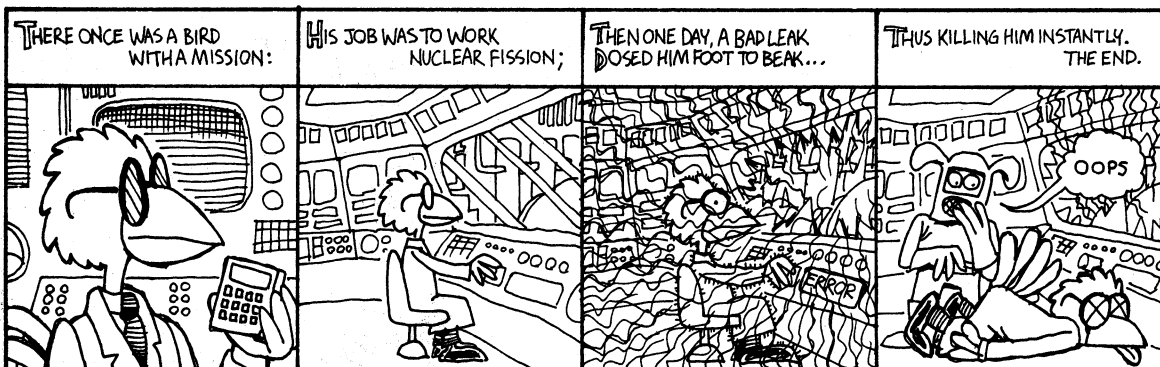
BUT WE AREN'T BOYS ANY MORE, GNUFF!!
WE'RE THE NEXT GENERATION! CAN'T YOU SEE
IT-OR ARE YOUR FACULTIES FAILING, GRANDPA?



WOULD YOU STOP CALLING ME
GRANDPA ?!!

HA HA
HA





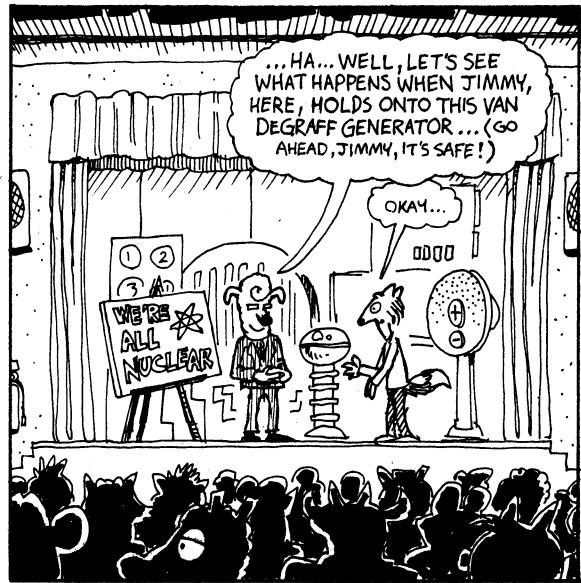
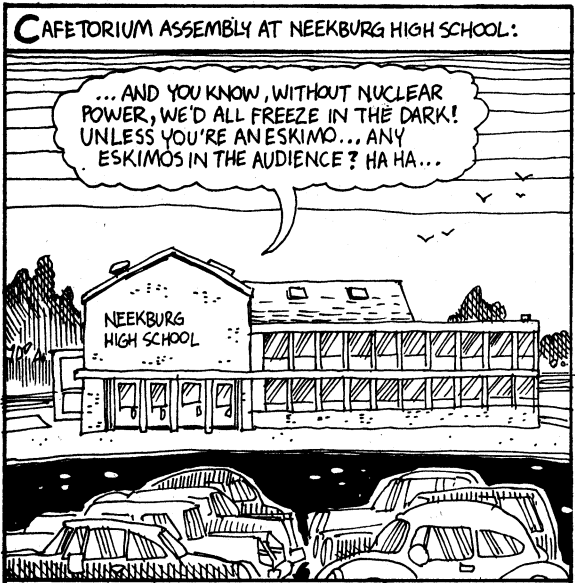
... NONE OF THE ABOVE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE STORY YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ: AN ACTION-PACKED TALE WHEREIN THE ULTIMATE CHICKEN MUST BATTLE HIS EVIL DOPPELGANGER, JUST LIKE MOST OTHER SUPER-HEROES...

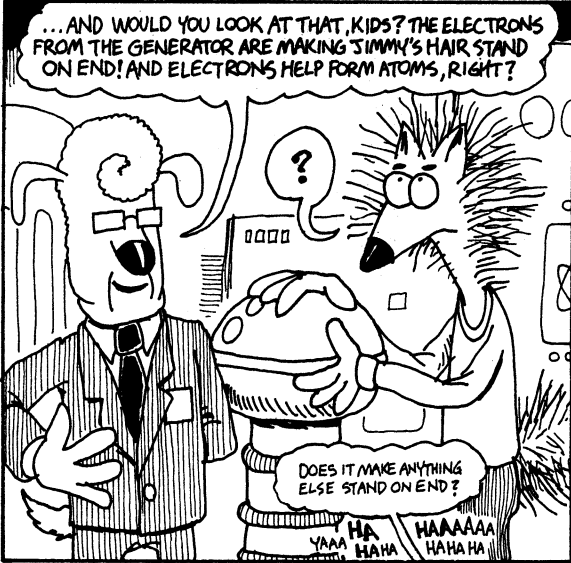
IT'S FISSION CHICKEN IN...

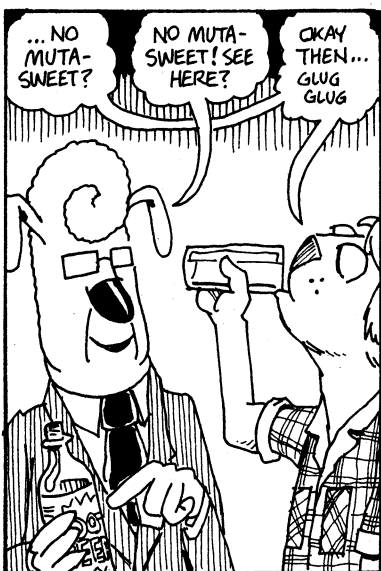
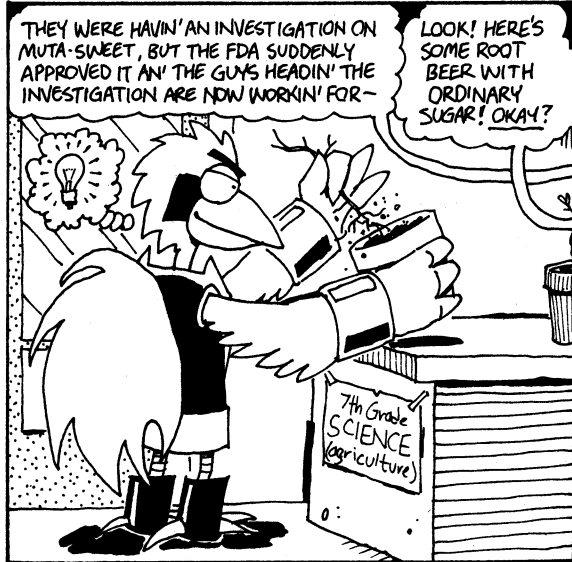
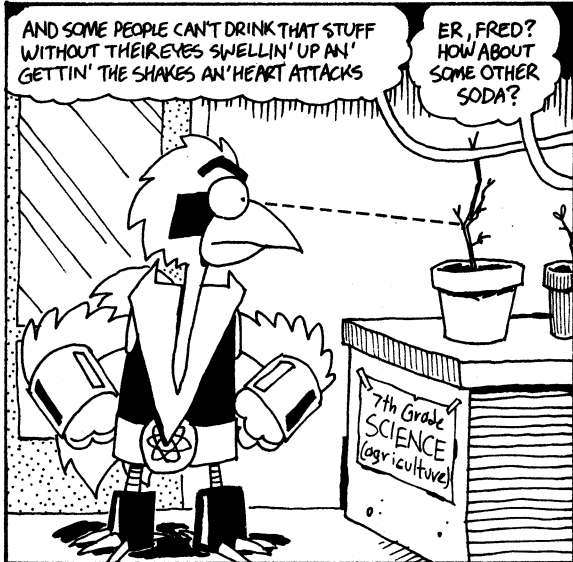
THE CHICKEN DUPLICATORS

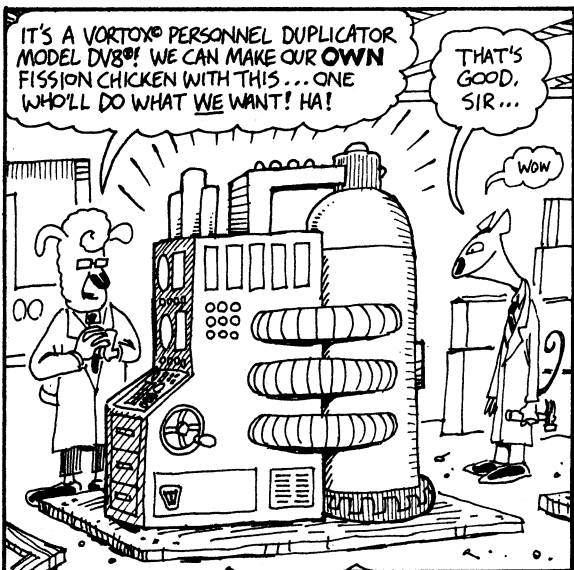
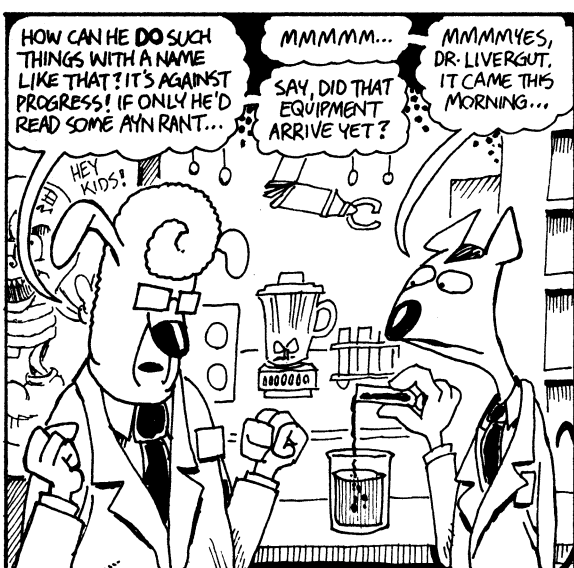
PRAY IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO... YOU!

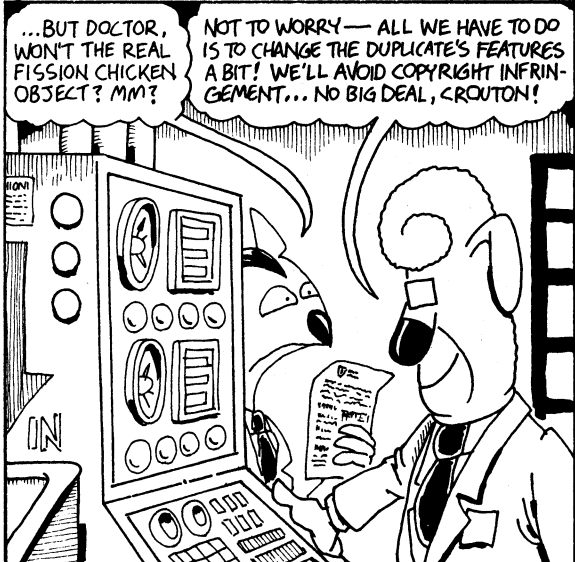
©1988 J.P. MORGAN





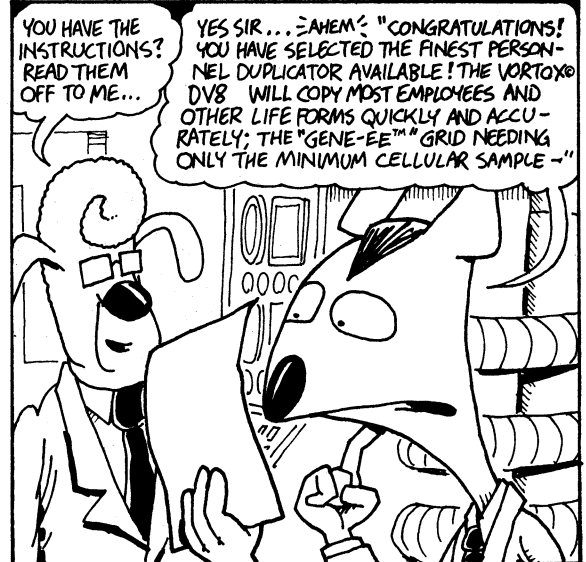






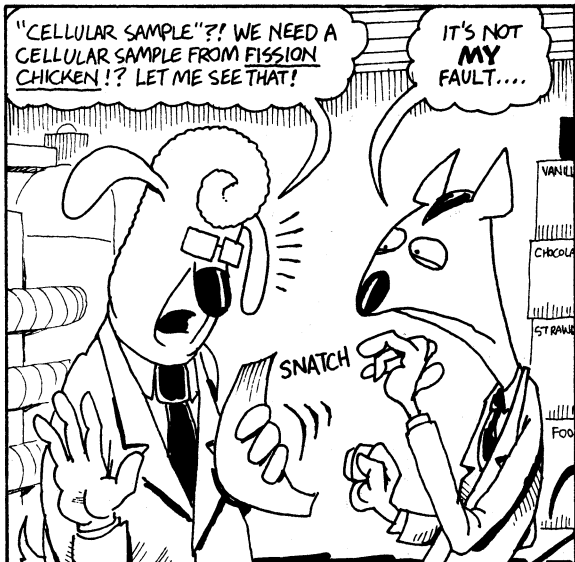
...BUT DOCTOR, WON'T THE REAL FISSION CHICKEN OBJECT? MM?

NOT TO WORRY — ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO CHANGE THE DUPLICATE'S FEATURES A BIT! WE'LL AVOID COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT... NO BIG DEAL, CROTON!



YOU HAVE THE INSTRUCTIONS? READ THEM OFF TO ME...

YES SIR... ³AHEM! "CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE SELECTED THE FINEST PERSONNEL DUPLICATOR AVAILABLE! THE VORTOX DVS WILL COPY MOST EMPLOYEES AND OTHER LIFE FORMS QUICKLY AND ACCURATELY; THE "GENE-EE"™ GRID NEEDING ONLY THE MINIMUM CELLULAR SAMPLE —"



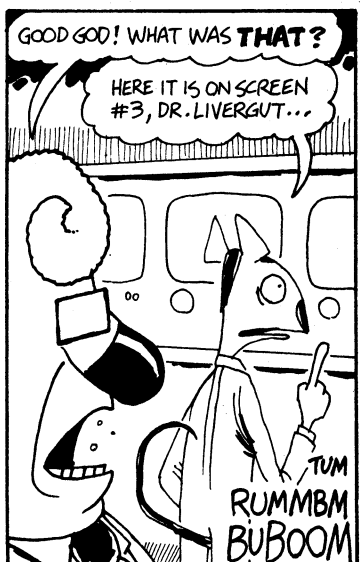
"CELLULAR SAMPLE"?! WE NEED A CELLULAR SAMPLE FROM FISSION CHICKEN!? LET ME SEE THAT!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT....



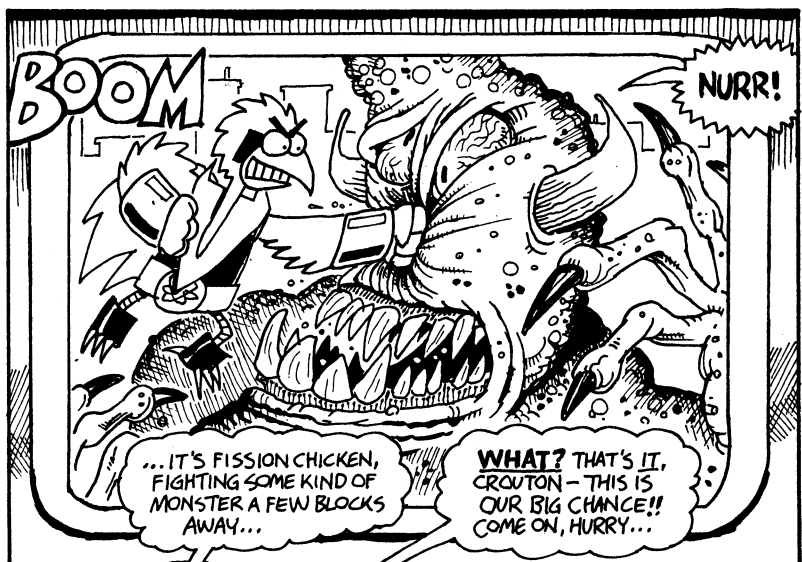
THE AD DIDN'T MENTION THIS! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET CELLS FROM —

WHOO! WHOO!!



GOOD GOD! WHAT WAS THAT?

HERE IT IS ON SCREEN #3, DR. LIVERGUT...

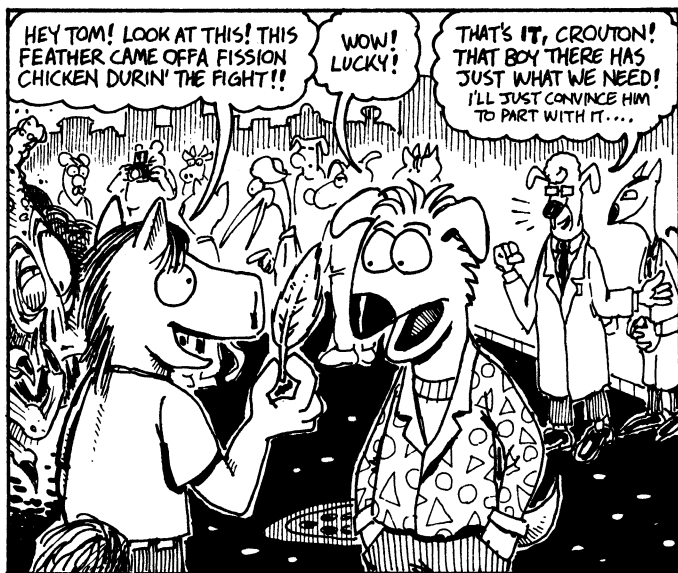


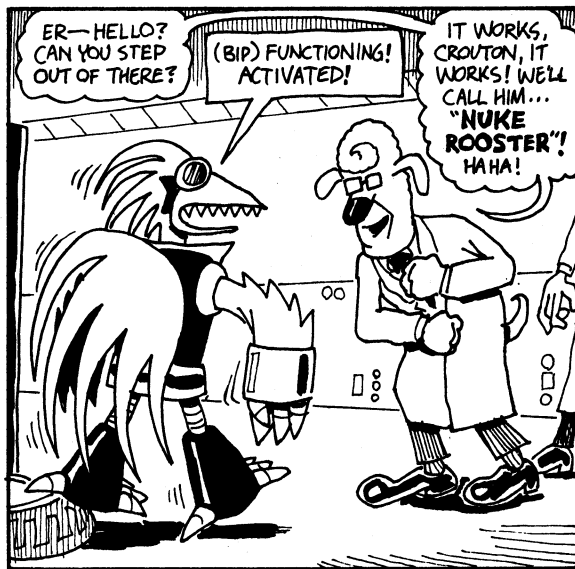
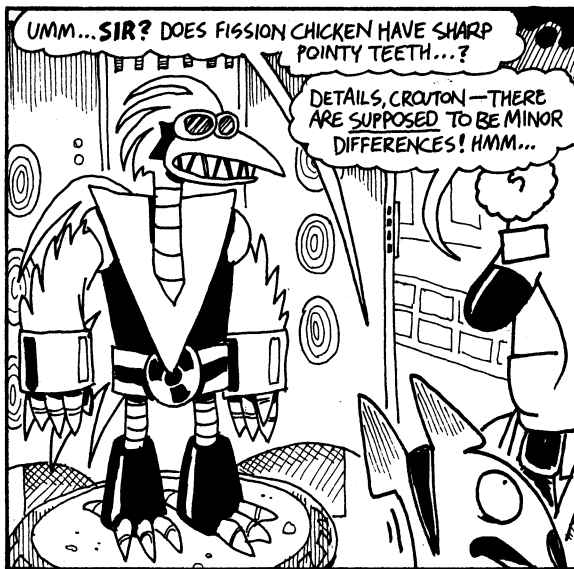
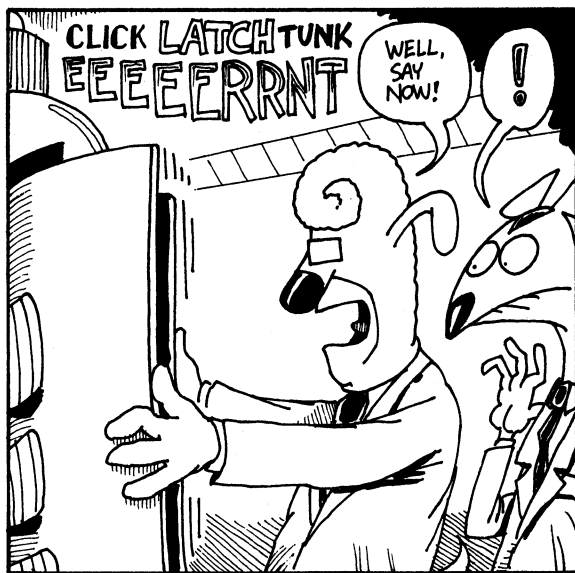
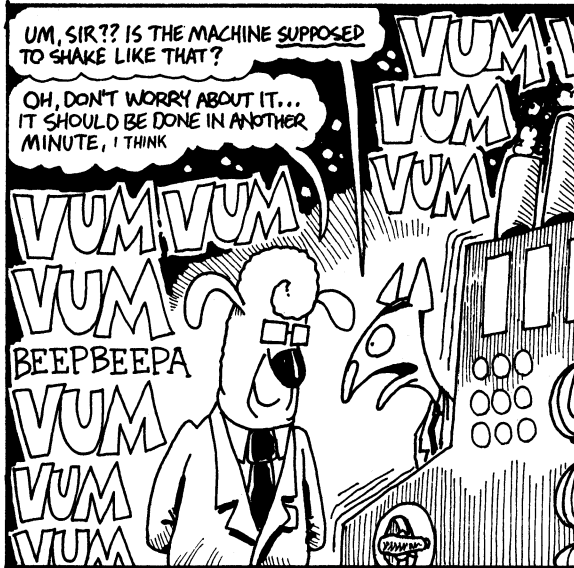
BOOM

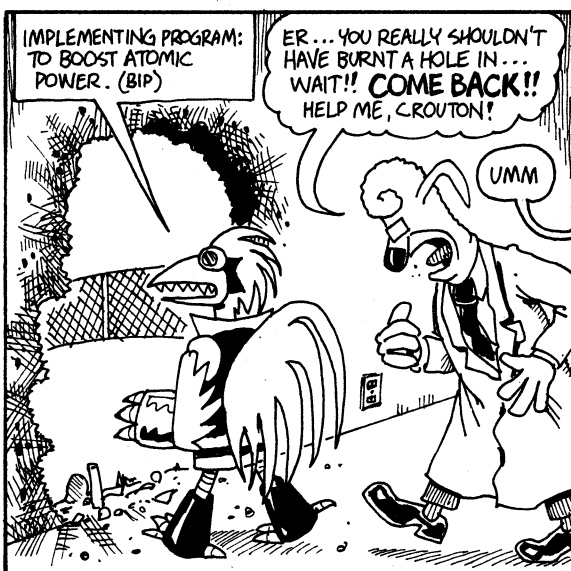
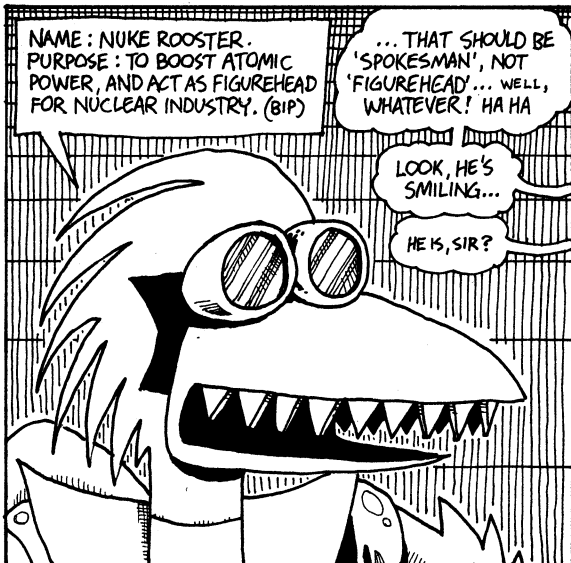
NURR!

...IT'S FISSION CHICKEN, FIGHTING SOME KIND OF MONSTER A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

WHAT? THAT'S IT, CROTON — THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE!! COME ON, HURRY...







ONCE UPON A TIME, THREE LOW-LIFE MUTANTS AND A BIRD OF QUESTIONABLE ORIGINS HELPED A YOUNG MAN CONQUER AN EMPIRE.

THEY FOUGHT OFF ONE-EYED CATS, TRIBES OF BUSHTOADS, IMPERIAL SQUADRONS, AND THE EVIL LORD GEKKUS ONLY TO COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH

THE CURSE OF THE BLOATED TOAD!

FROM THE PAGES OF **THREAT!** COMES THE MOST UNLIKELY TRIO TO EVER SAVE THE UNIVERSE. THEY'RE NUTTY, THEY'RE WACKY, YA GOTTA LOVE 'EM:

The HOLLO. Brothers

CATCH THEIR ACT!

by Jim Rohn

from

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS





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