

# Gnuff

CRITTERS

No. 40

\$2.00

(\$2.50 in  
Canada)



**A  
MIDSUMMER  
NIGHT'S  
ENCHANTMENT**

**FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS**

# Critters

FEATURING

## Gnuff

**Freddy Milton's "Gnuff"** had already chalked up a number of album-length stories in Europe before its American premiere in *Critters* #2. For, you see, despite his extremely American monicker, Milton is a Danish citizen, best known for his work on European Disney and Walter Lantz comics.

So far, the American version of the "Gnuff" saga comprises six 46-page stories. "The Gnuffs Move In," chronologically the series opener (*Critters* #2-5), brought the Gnuff family to its current residence. "Animal Graffiti" (#7, 9-11) chronicled Gnuff's descent into neurotic vandalism, while "For the Love of Gnellie" (#13-14, 16) went back to the time of the settlers. "The Giant Trees" (#19-22), "Maestro Gnicky" (#23-26), and "The Big Sneeze" (#30-33) all followed in short order.

Since the "Love of Gnellie" episode, "Gnuff" has been translated by Dwight R. Decker. A short "Gnuff" episode will appear in *Usagi Yojimbo Color Special* #, colored by Mike Kazaleh. Incidentally, Freddy Milton was interviewed in *Amazing Heroes* #129.

Send to: CRITTERS LETTERS, 7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115

*No big news this time; I just want to point out that the lovely cover coloring job this issue is from Tom Luth, who is currently busy coloring the Usagi Yojimbo Summer Special.*

*Zac van Note writes to inform us that his ProFolio will be publishing the future exploits of "Lizards," still written by John Holland but drawn by a new artist; the Holland/Wilber team will also be represented, however, with "Joe Bushkin," an opus Zac says "almost approaches the comedic genius of Sam and Max Freelance Police—it's that good!" Write to ProFolio at P.O. Box 21694, Albuquerque, NM 87154-1694 for details.*

*The current issue of Amazing Heroes, the Swimsuit Special, includes a lot of art that should be of interest to Critters readers—including pin-ups by Donna Barr, Jim Groat, Mike Kazaleh, J.P. Morgan, Steve Purcell, Kyle Rothweiler, Stan Sakai, Tom Stazer, Ty Templeton (of Teddy Payne, no less!), Anthony Van Bruggen, Reed Waller, Deal Whitley, Ron Wilber, and many more! Don't miss it!*

*The illustration on this page is by the aptly-named David Cannon, whose letter leads off the section.—Kim Thompson*

Dear Kim,

You asked a question about the military/funny-animal connection in issue #22's letter column. Putting on my Navy slow-interface thinking cap, I think I've

come up with a wee bit of reasoning as to why.

First would probably be tradition in the military of assigning various animal type names to military hardware. Take the F-14 "Tomcat" Fighter Jet, and "Seasparrow" or "Sidewinder" missiles, for example. Squadron, Division, and departments of various commands also like to have designating logos of funny-animal design, to be unique from another.

Second would be monikers applied to military people in a command. Take mine, for example, where sailors are called "squids" or "deck apes." This also applies in that an aircraft carrier such as mine would be called a "bird farm," and crew living areas aboard are called "coops."

Third, and definitely not least, is the fact that frequently people aboard a ship like mine actually behave like animals. Neat things happen like:

(1) An individual is handcuffed and stuffed into a laundry bag by a few of his buddies, and then deposited on a master chef's rack (bed).

(2) Needle-gun duels (don't ask!).

(3) Hat destroying contests (usually chain reaction).

(4) An individual falls asleep in his chair, is tied to it by his shipmates, and left that way.

(5) People having a birthday beware, because that usually involves spankings,

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 24]

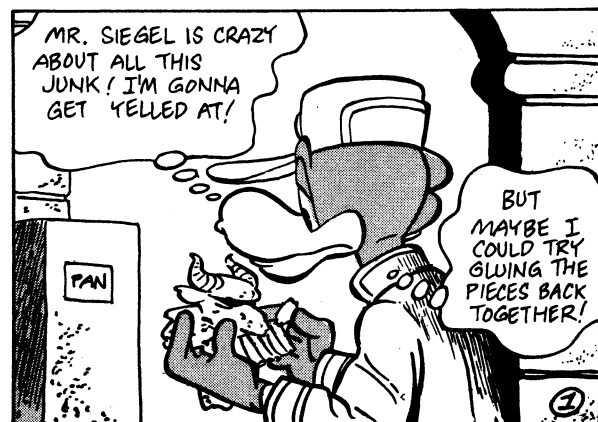
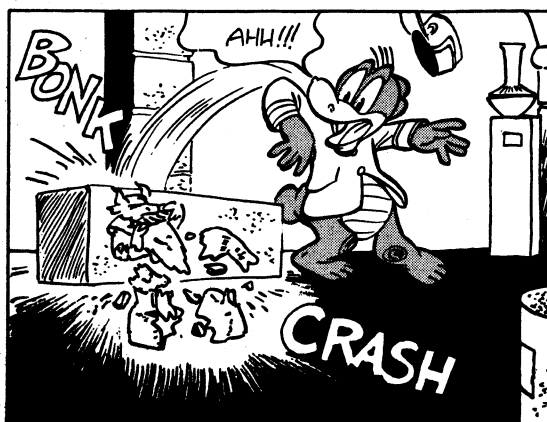
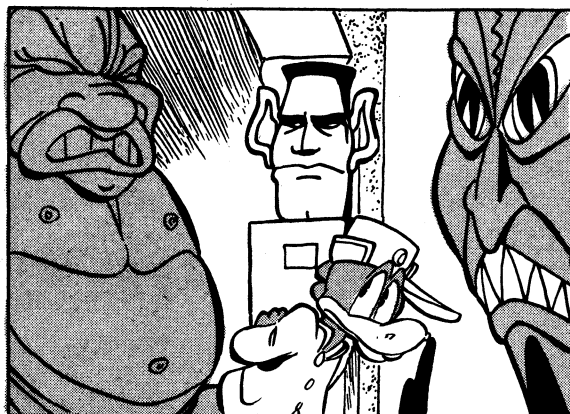


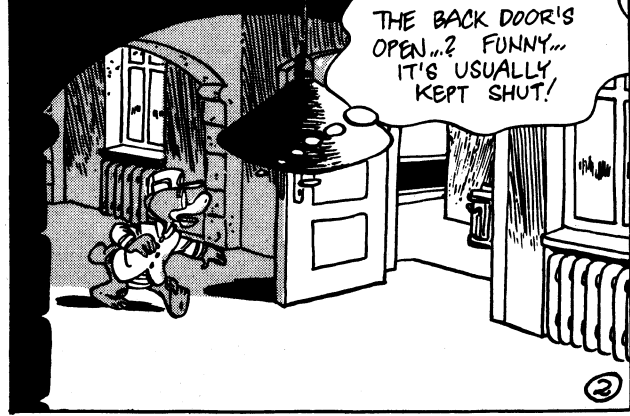
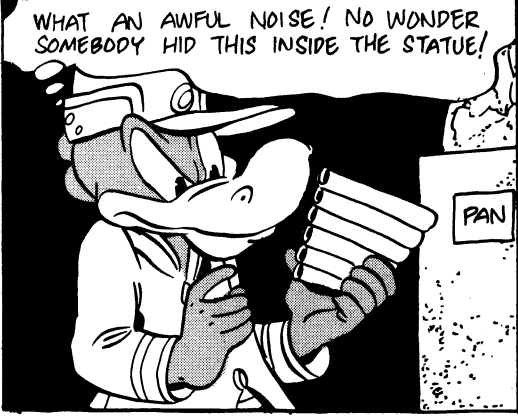
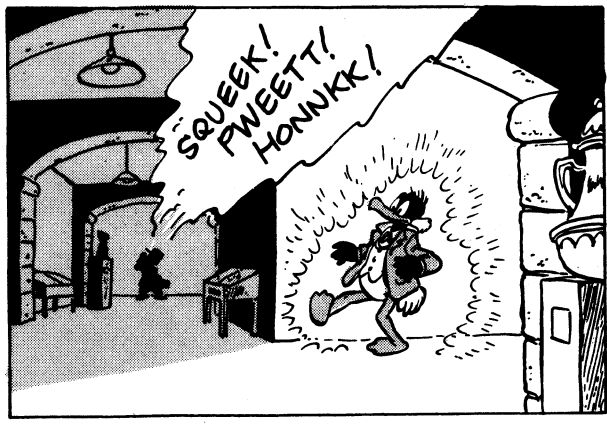
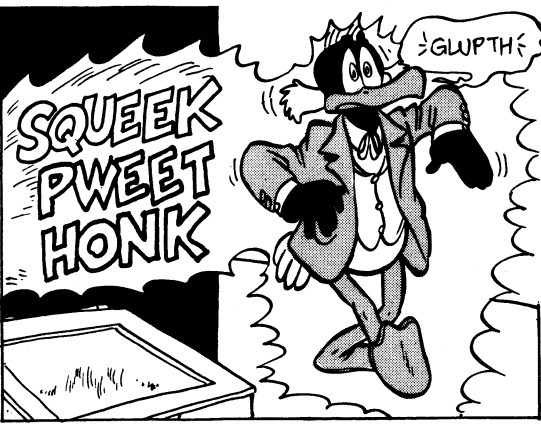
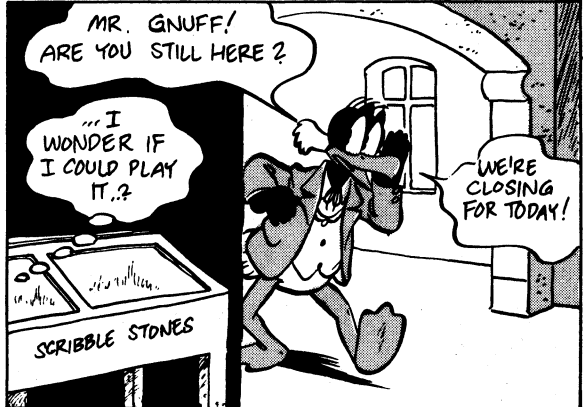
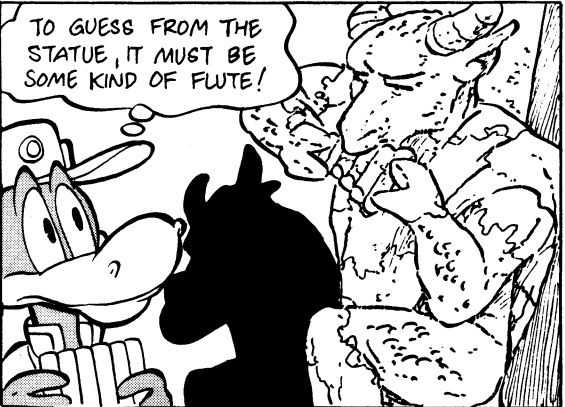
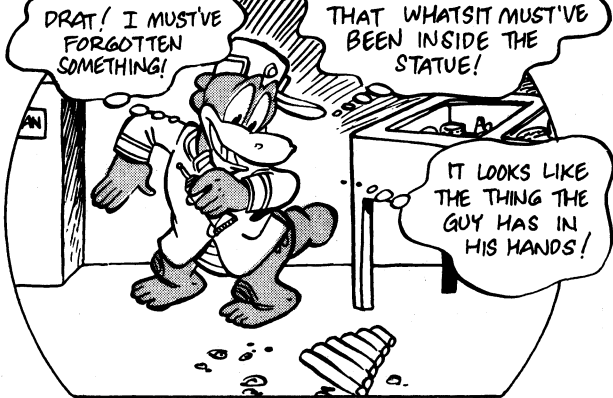
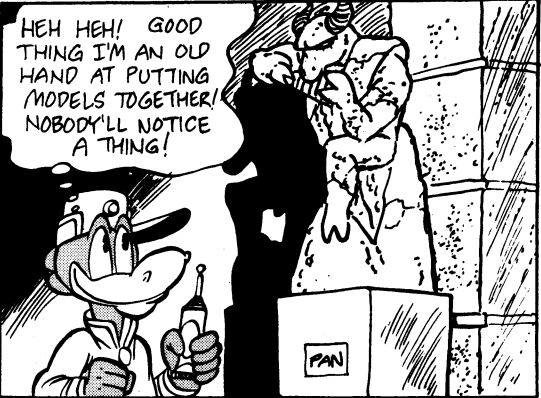
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# Freddy Milton's Gnuff

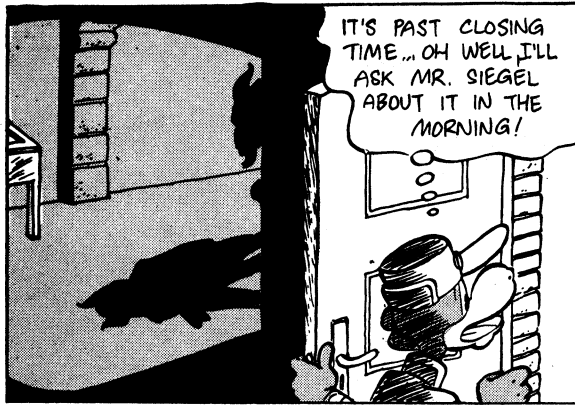
## "THE PUZZLING PIPES OF PAN"

GNUFF IS WORKING AT  
CITY HALL, WHERE THERE'S  
AN EXHIBIT...







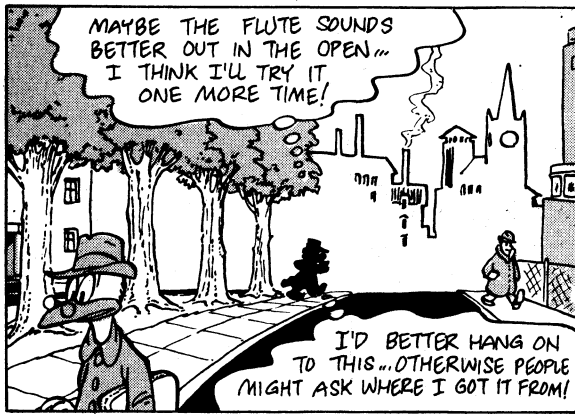


IT'S PAST CLOSING TIME... OH WELL I'LL ASK MR. SIEGEL ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING!



I'LL JUST GO OUT THIS WAY AND LOCK IT AFTER ME... MR. SIEGEL'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MAIN ENTRANCES!

PHEW!  
BOY, AM I GLAD TO GET OUT OF THAT DUSTY PLACE!



MAYBE THE FLUTE SOUNDS BETTER OUT IN THE OPEN... I THINK I'LL TRY IT ONE MORE TIME!

I'D BETTER HANG ON TO THIS... OTHERWISE PEOPLE MIGHT ASK WHERE I GOT IT FROM!



SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK



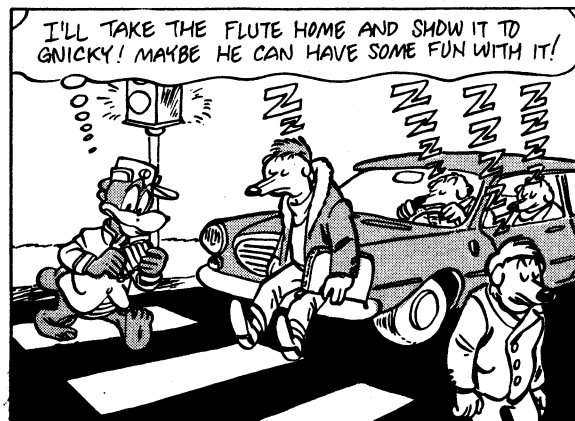
SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK



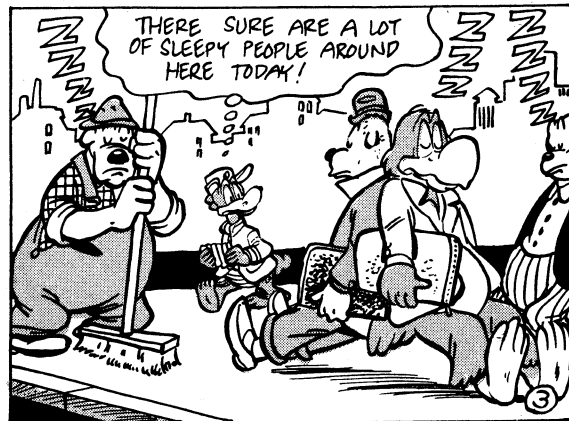
NO, THIS THING IS HOPELESS!

HMM... THEY MUST'VE HAD A HARD DAY!

Z Z Z Z Z

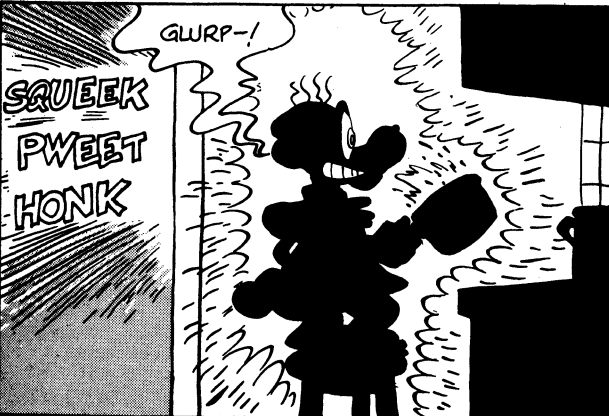
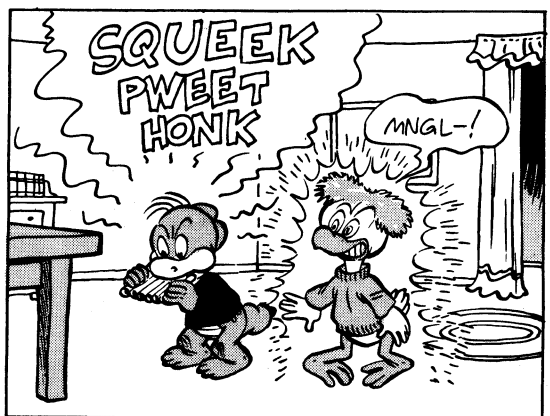
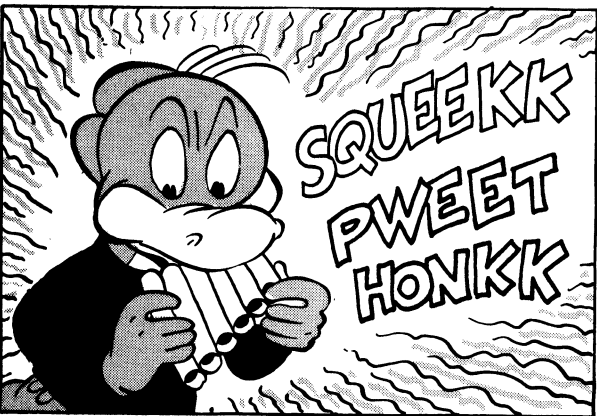
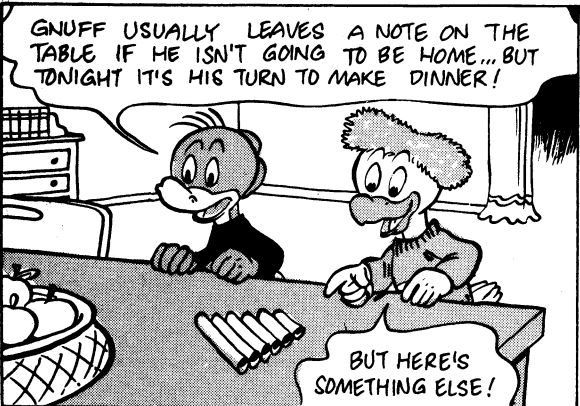
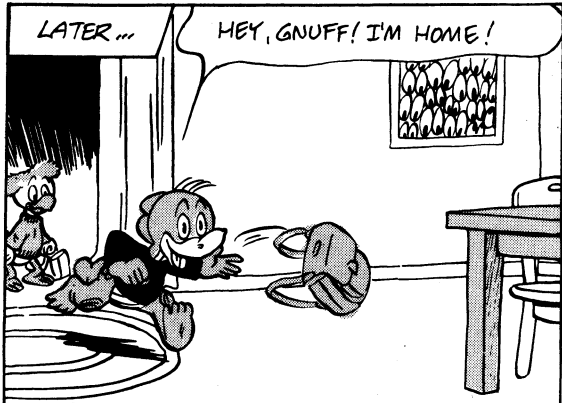
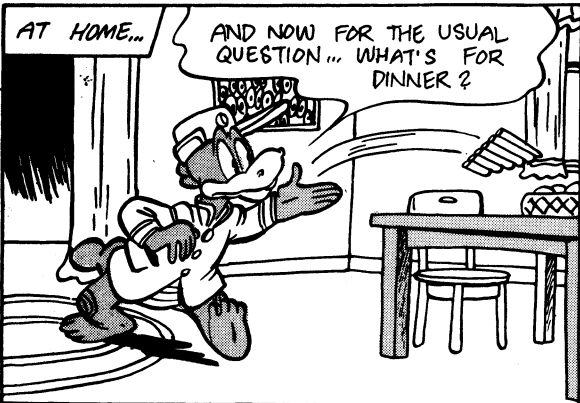


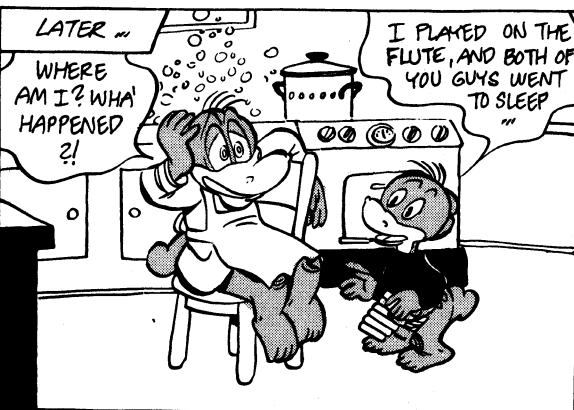
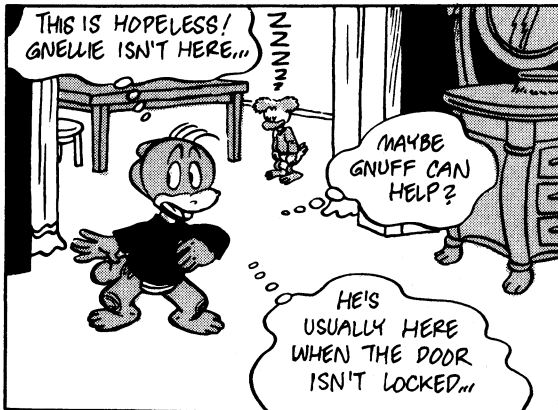
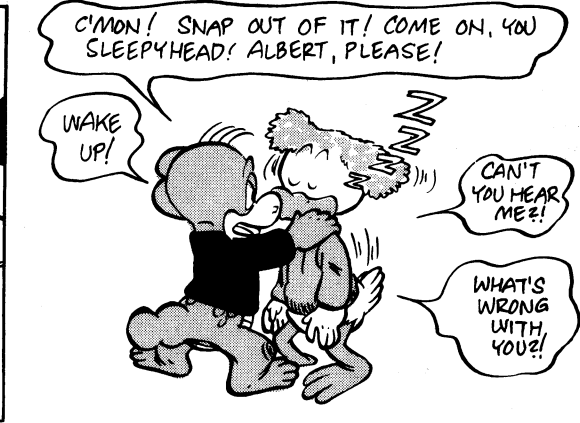
I'LL TAKE THE FLUTE HOME AND SHOW IT TO GNICKY! MAYBE HE CAN HAVE SOME FUN WITH IT!



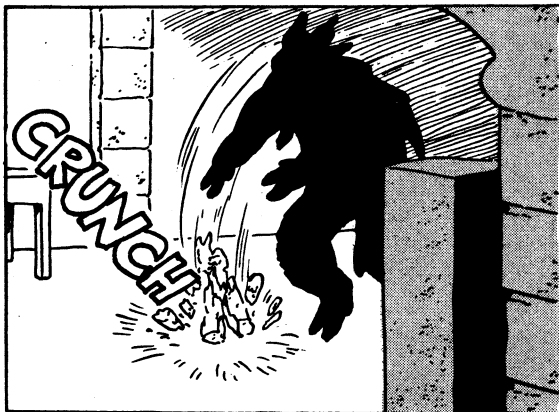
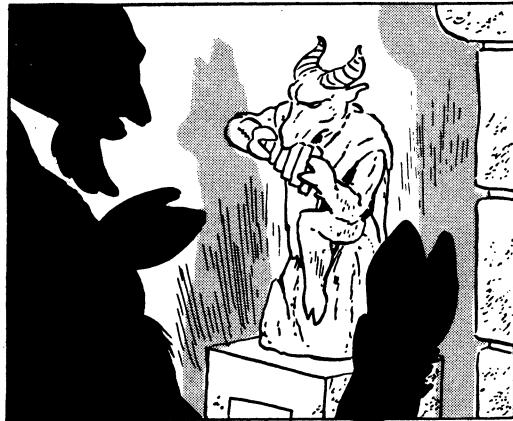
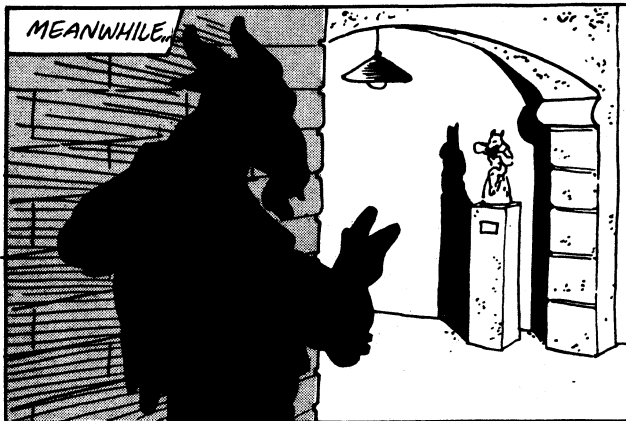
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF SLEEPY PEOPLE AROUND HERE TODAY!

Z Z Z Z Z



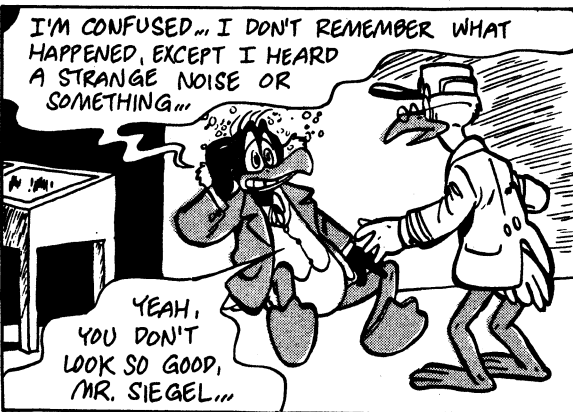


MEANWHILE...



WHY, MR. SIEGEL! HOW COME YOU'RE SITTING HERE ASLEEP?!

I'M CONFUSED... I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED, EXCEPT I HEARD A STRANGE NOISE OR SOMETHING...



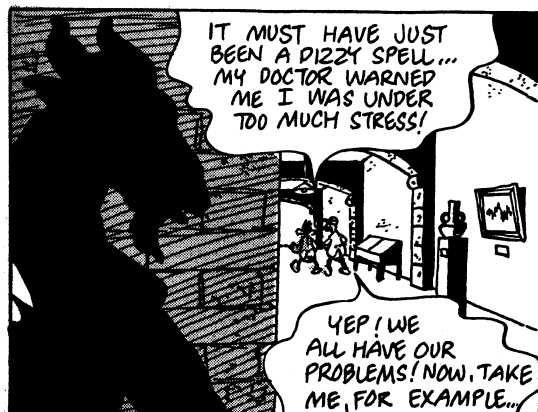
HMM... NOTHING SEEMS TO BE MISSING! MR. GNUFF WAS ON WATCH BEFORE ME... HE LIVES ON GEORGE STREET... SHOULD I CALL HIM UP?

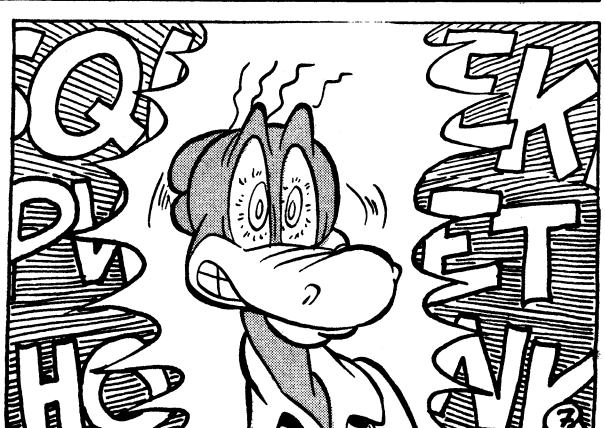
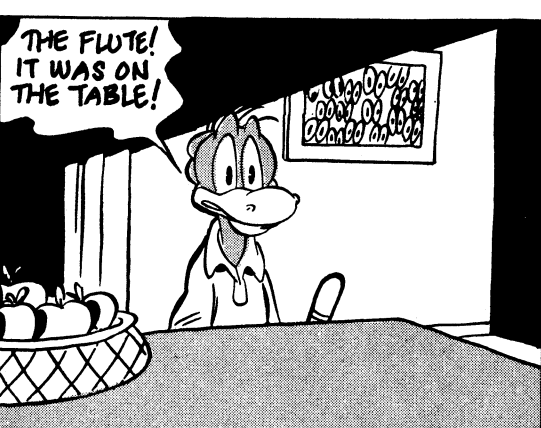
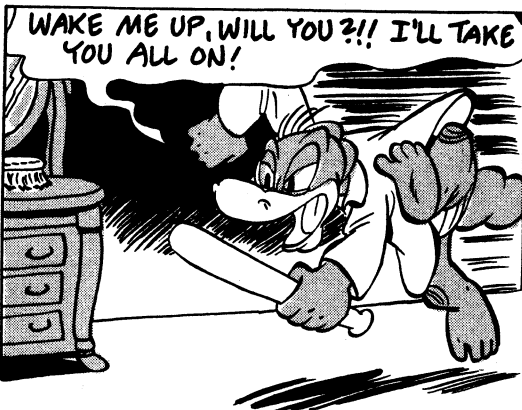
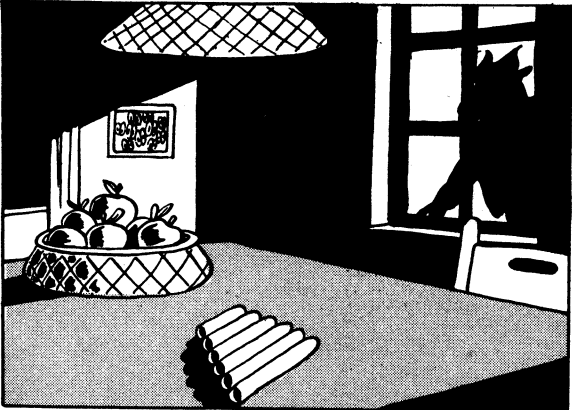
NO, NO... IT CAN EASILY WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW!

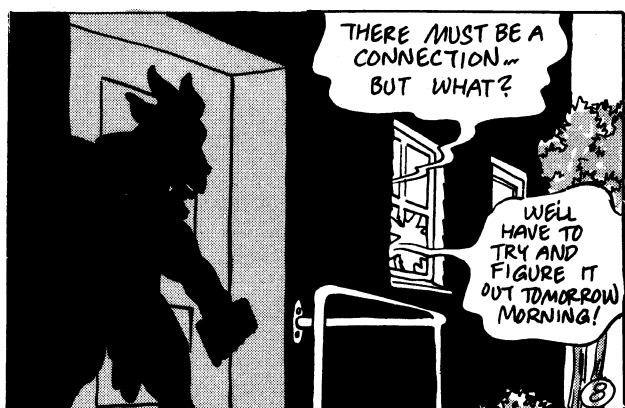
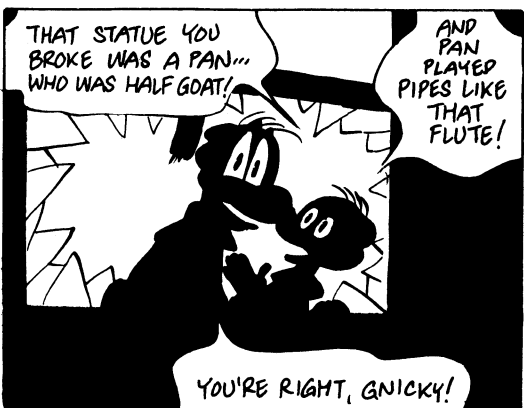
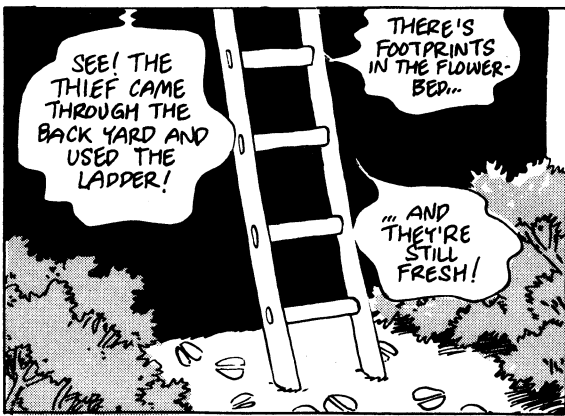
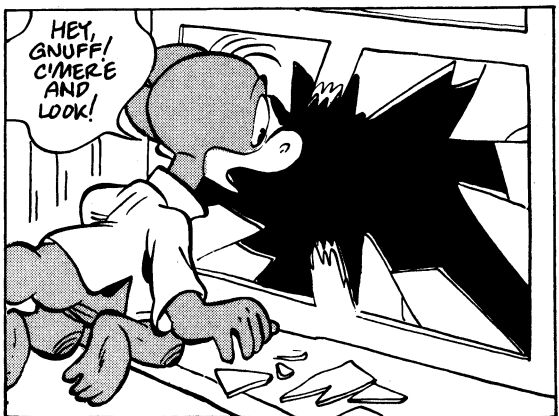
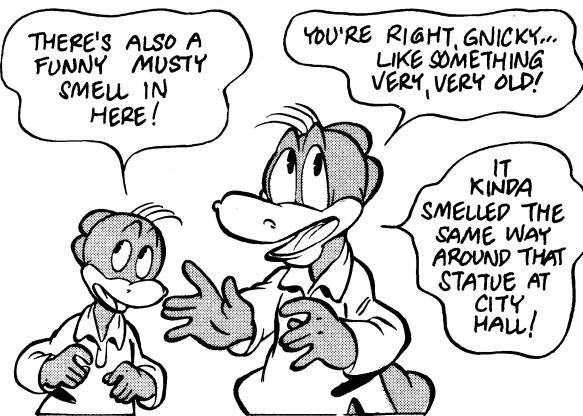
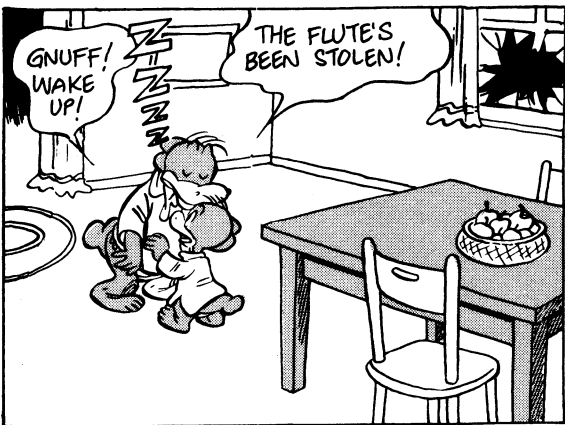


IT MUST HAVE JUST BEEN A DIZZY SPELL... MY DOCTOR WARNED ME I WAS UNDER TOO MUCH STRESS!

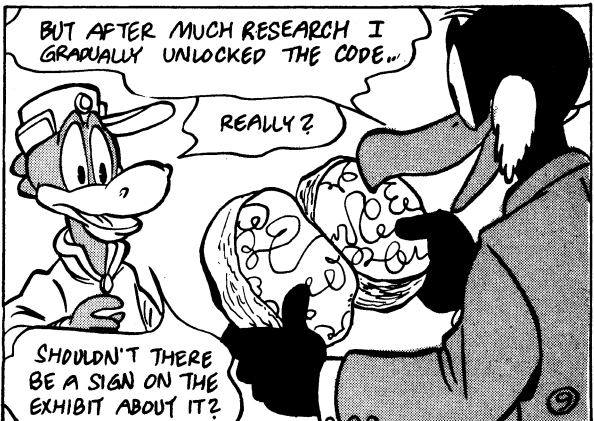
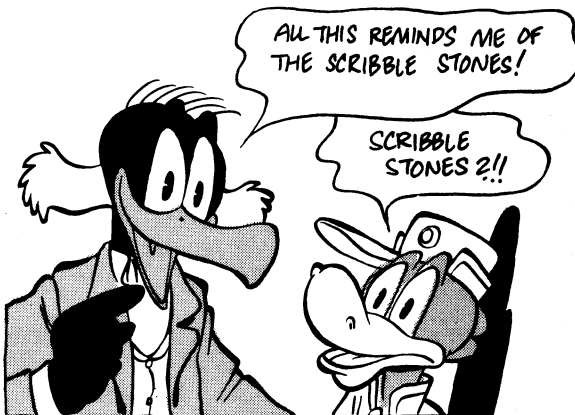
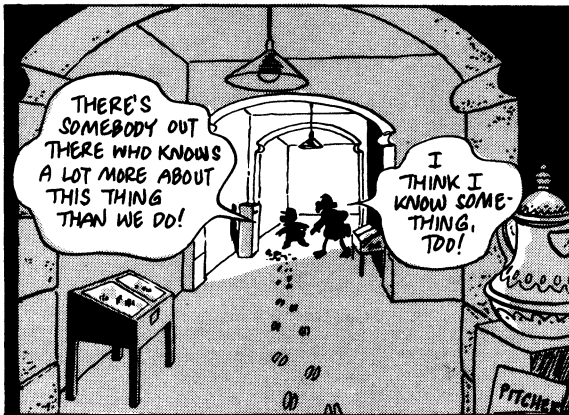
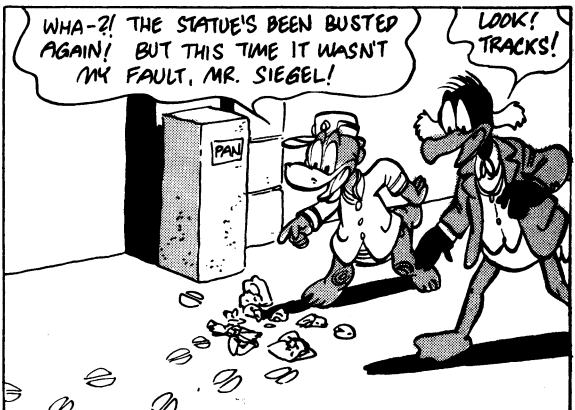
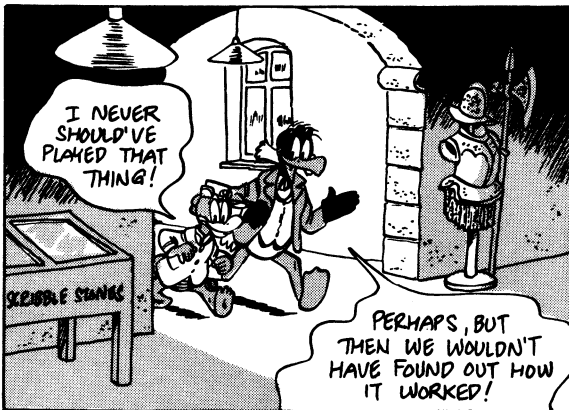
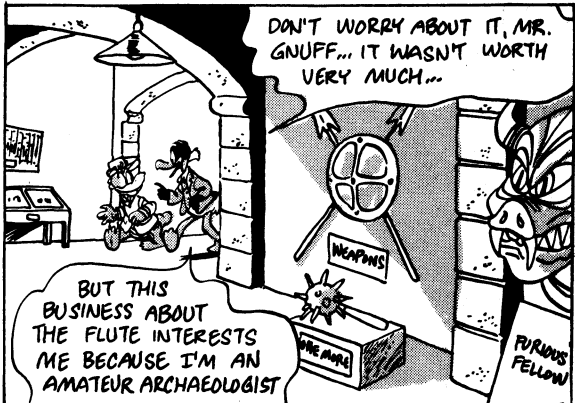
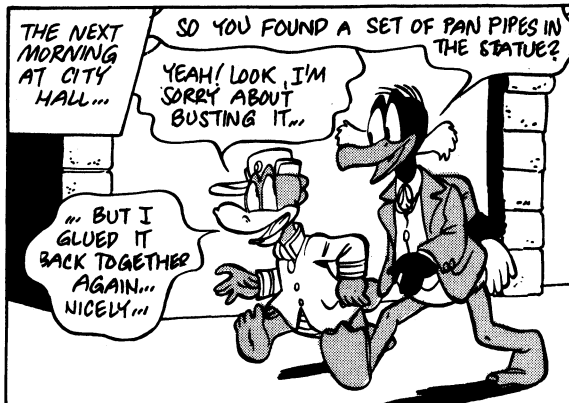
YEP! WE ALL HAVE OUR PROBLEMS! NOW, TAKE ME, FOR EXAMPLE...







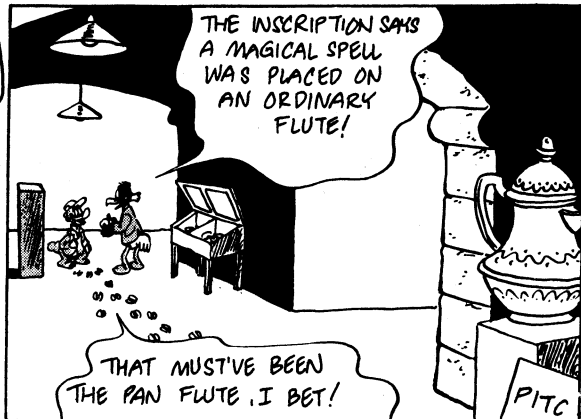






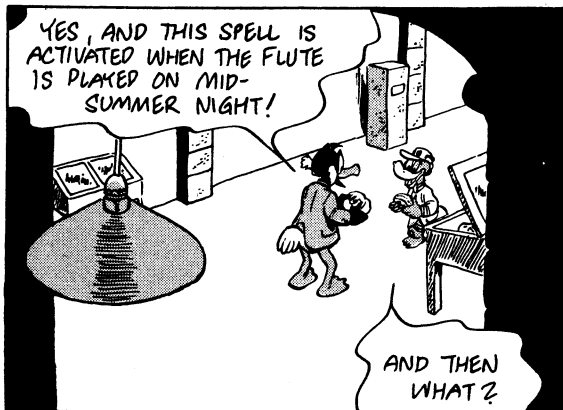
I WANTED TO WRITE IT UP FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNALS FIRST! BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG! I'M JUST AN AMATEUR IN THIS FIELD!

WHAT DO THE STONES SAY



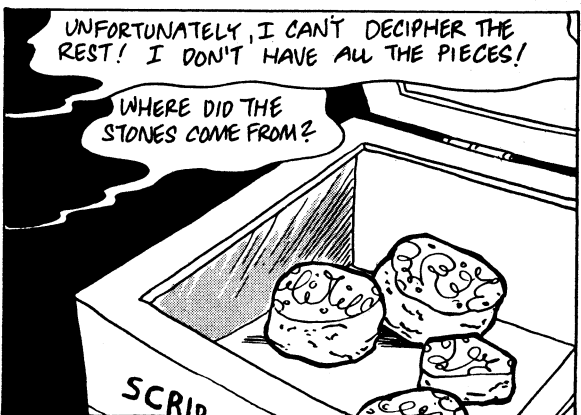
THE INSCRIPTION SAYS A MAGICAL SPELL WAS PLACED ON AN ORDINARY FLUTE!

THAT MUST'VE BEEN THE PAN FLUTE, I BET!



YES, AND THIS SPELL IS ACTIVATED WHEN THE FLUTE IS PLAYED ON MID-SUMMER NIGHT!

AND THEN WHAT?



UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T DECIPHER THE REST! I DON'T HAVE ALL THE PIECES!

WHERE DID THE STONES COME FROM?



I FOUND THEM MYSELF ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO NEAR THAT ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND UP IN THE BIG WOODS!

THE STATUE CAME FROM THERE, TOO, BUT IT ISN'T QUITE SO OLD!



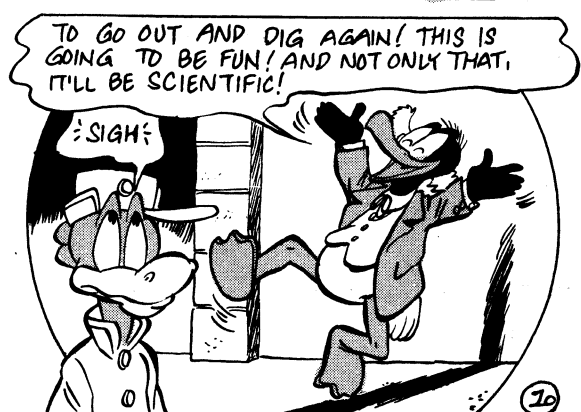
MR. GNUFF! YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ARCHAEOLOGY! WHY DON'T WE SPEND MIDSUMMER NIGHT THIS YEAR AT THE BURIAL GROUND IN THE BIG WOODS? THAT WAY, WE MIGHT FIND OUT SOME MORE ABOUT THIS AFFAIR!

⚡ GULP ⚡



WELL... GNUCKY WILL LOVE IT, BUT FOR ME ON MY SALARY (COUGH, COUGH) THIS'LL BE THE ONLY VACATION WE CAN AFFORD THIS YEAR!

GREAT! GOING BY YOURSELF INTO THE BIG WOODS CAN BE DANGEROUS!



TO GO OUT AND DIG AGAIN! THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN! AND NOT ONLY THAT, IT'LL BE SCIENTIFIC!

⚡ SIGH ⚡

# Freddy Milton's Gnuff

## "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S MYSTERY"

IT'S MIDSUMMER, AND GNUFF, GNICKY AND ALBERT ARE SPENDING A FEW DAYS IN THE BIG WOODS WITH CITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SIEGEL...

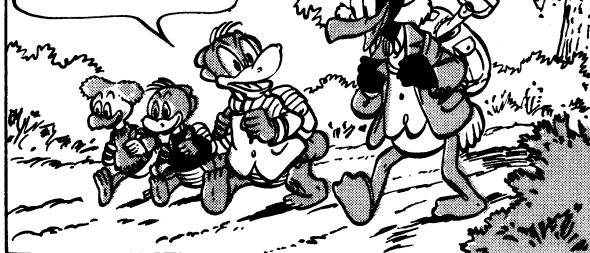
WHAT'S THE POINT IN VISITING THE PLACE WHERE THE FLUTE WAS FOUND IF THE FLUTE'S GONE?

I'M AN AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGIST...



"... AND I DECIPHERED AN INSCRIPTION THAT SAID YOU SHOULD PLAY THE FLUTE ON MIDSUMMER NIGHT!

YEAH, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN THEN!



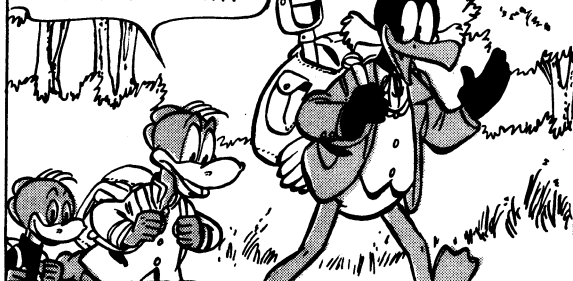
WELL... IT COULD BE THAT SOMETHING JUST MIGHT HAPPEN IF WE VISIT THE EXCAVATION SITE IN THE BIG WOODS AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME!

RIGHT! AND WHAT'S BOTHERING ME IS JUST WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!



DON'T WORRY! I'VE BEEN ON DIGS HERE BEFORE AT MIDSUMMER! THERE'S NOTHING DANGEROUS ABOUT IT, MR. GNUFF!

OKAY, OKAY! I JUST HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!



I'VE ARRANGED TO MEET RANGER FOGARTY...

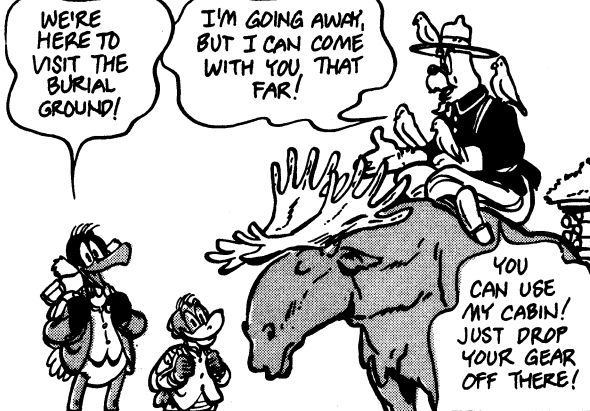
WELL... AT LEAST HE SHOULD BE A REASONABLE PERSON!



WE'RE HERE TO VISIT THE BURIAL GROUND!

I'M GOING AWAY, BUT I CAN COME WITH YOU, THAT FAR!

YOU CAN USE MY CABIN! JUST DROP YOUR GEAR OFF THERE!

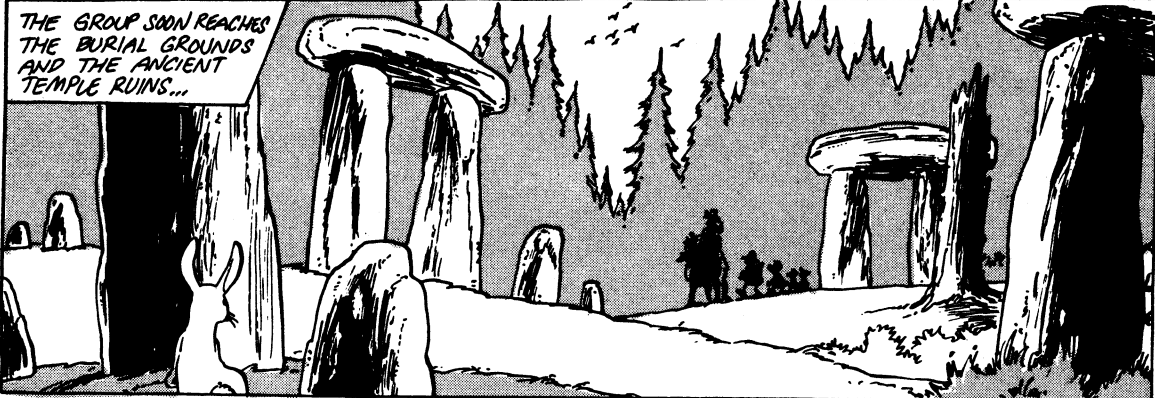


HMM... WHY DID YOU BRING THE BOYS ALONG?

THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO SEE THE PLACE! BESIDES, IT IS THE ONLY VACATION WE CAN AFFORD THIS YEAR!



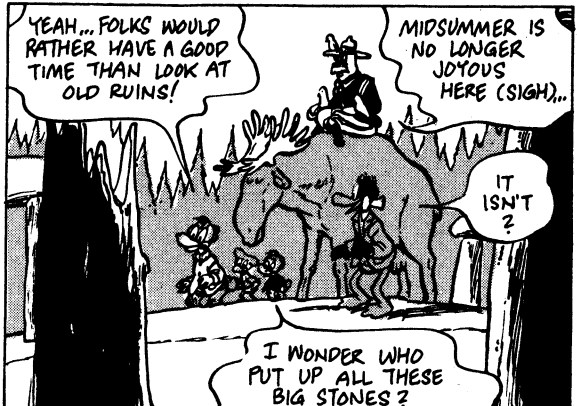
THE GROUP SOON REACHES THE BURIAL GROUNDS AND THE ANCIENT TEMPLE RUINS...



IT'S STRANGE THAT WE'RE THE ONLY ONES HERE!

ISN'T IT AN IMPRESSIVE SIGHT, MR. GNUFF?

PEOPLE DON'T COME HERE ON MIDSUMMER NIGHT!

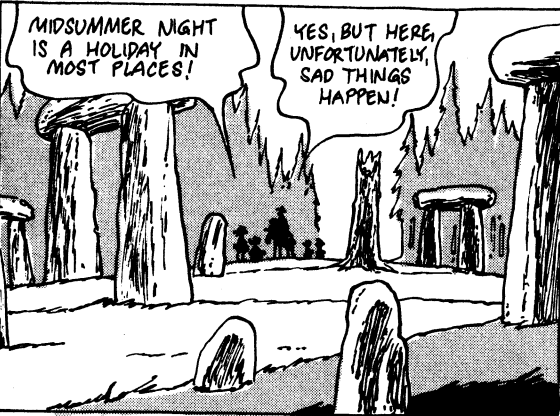


YEAH... FOLKS WOULD RATHER HAVE A GOOD TIME THAN LOOK AT OLD RUINS!

MIDSUMMER IS NO LONGER JOYOUS HERE (SIGH)...

IT ISN'T?

I WONDER WHO PUT UP ALL THESE BIG STONES?



MIDSUMMER NIGHT IS A HOLIDAY IN MOST PLACES!

YES, BUT HERE, UNFORTUNATELY, SAD THINGS HAPPEN!



THE BURIAL GROUND IS HAUNTED IN MIDSUMMER!

HAUNTED?!!



PEOPLE IN THESE PARTS STAY INDOORS AT NIGHT!

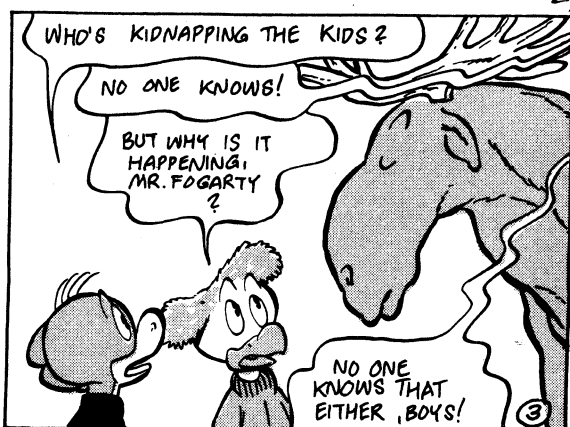
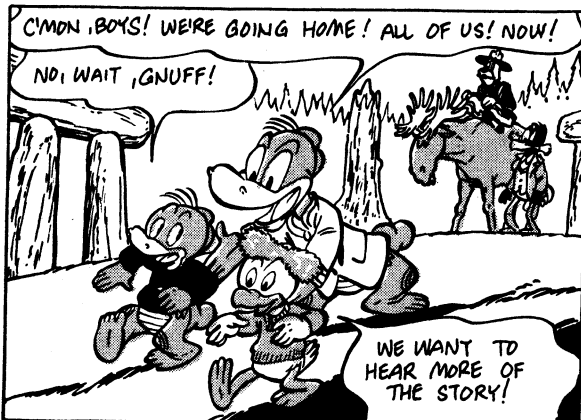
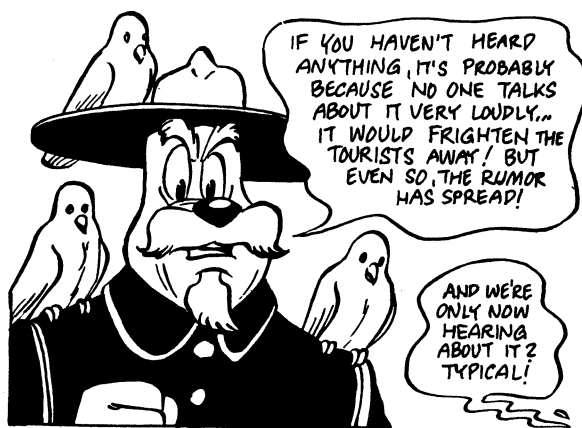
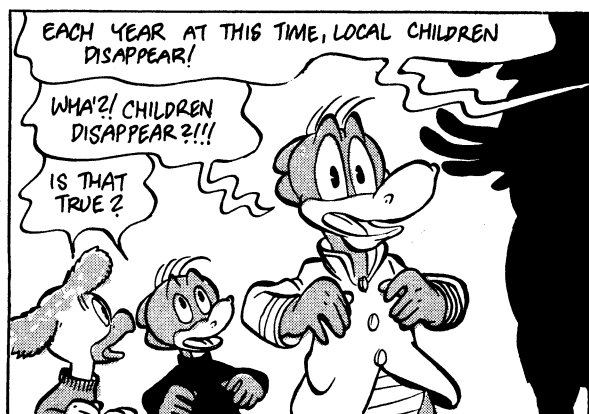
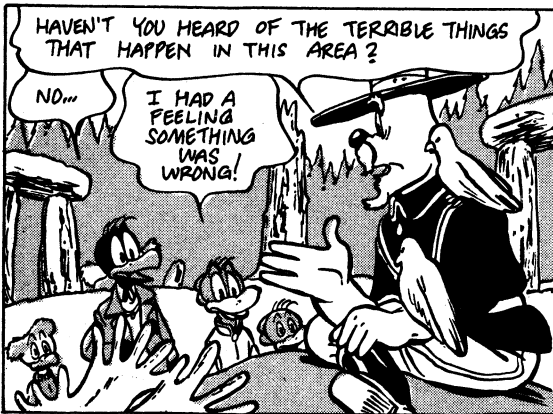
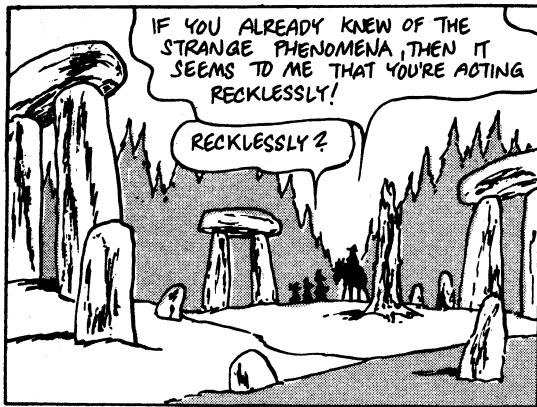
THAT SOUNDS MYSTERIOUS! IT ALSO MEANS WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

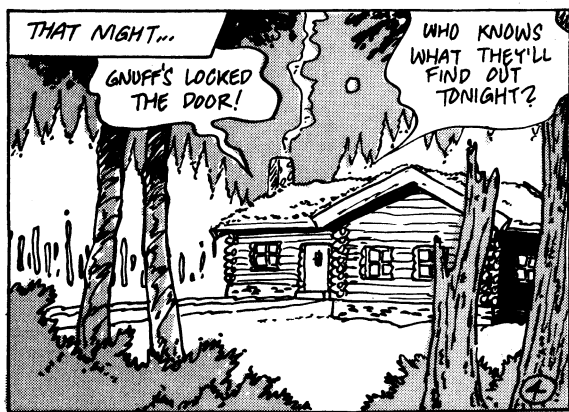
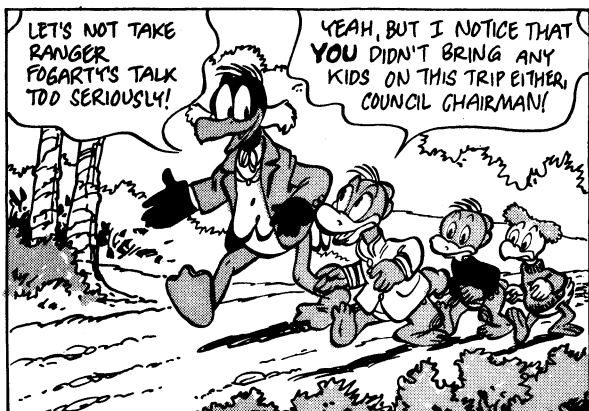
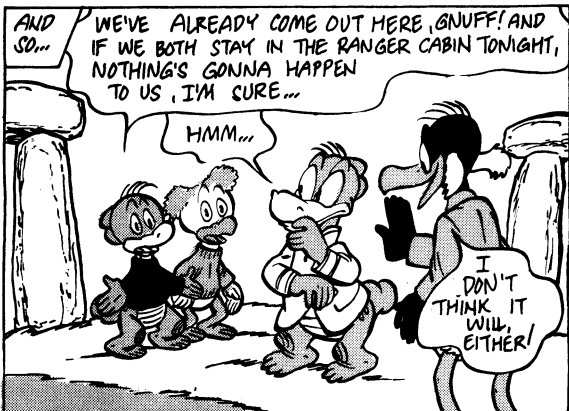
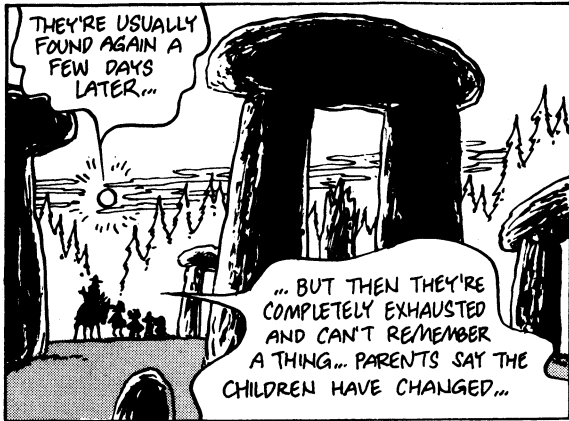


WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING JUST AS STRANGE - A MISSING MAGIC FLUTE THAT PUTS PEOPLE TO SLEEP WHEN YOU PLAY IT! WE FOUND THAT OUT IN THE CITY!

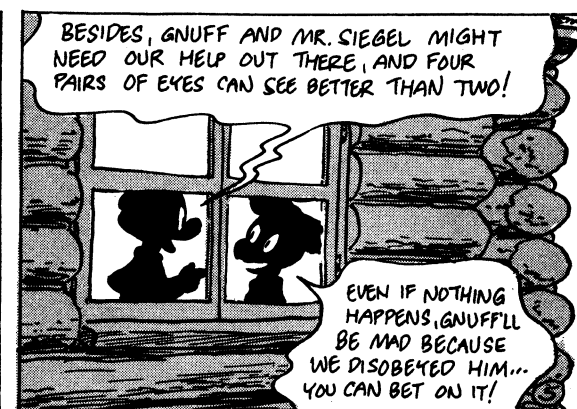
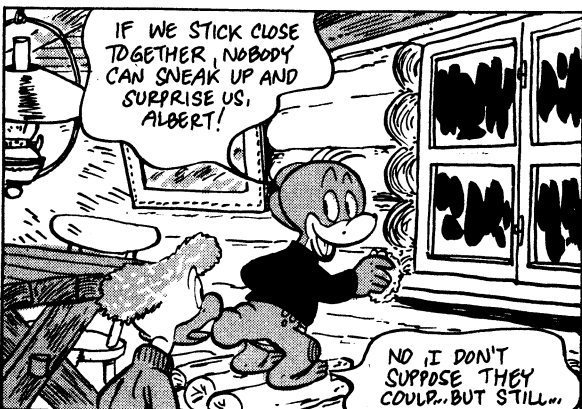
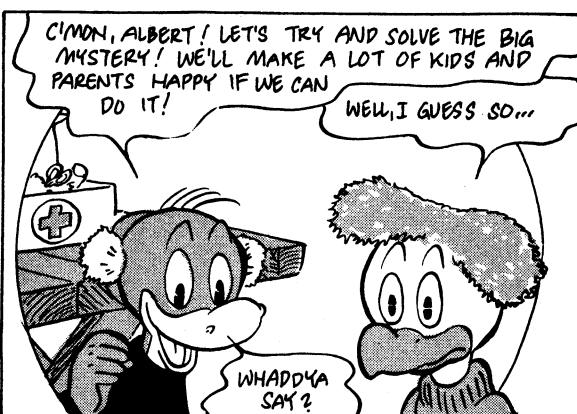
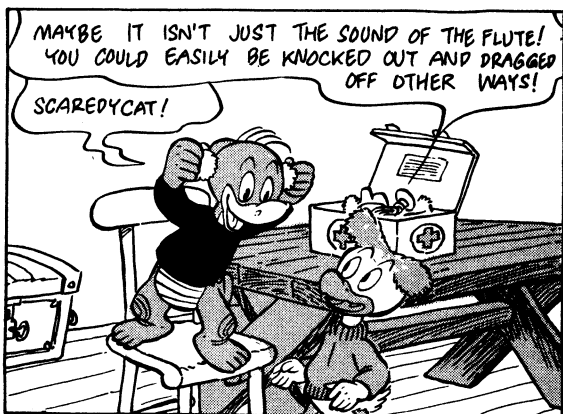
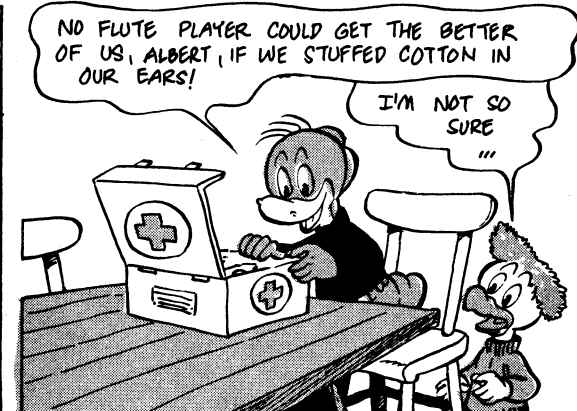
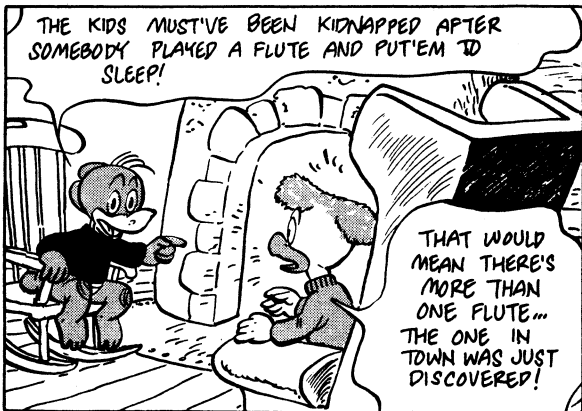
BUT IT WAS FOUND OUT HERE!

I SEE!

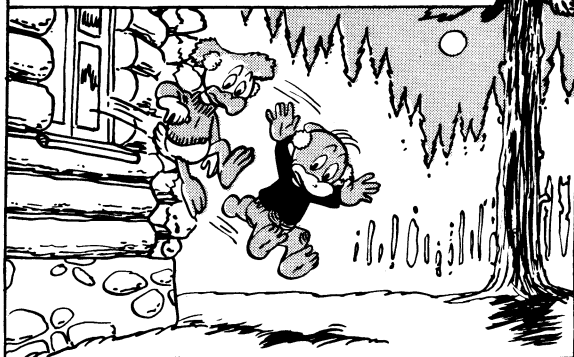








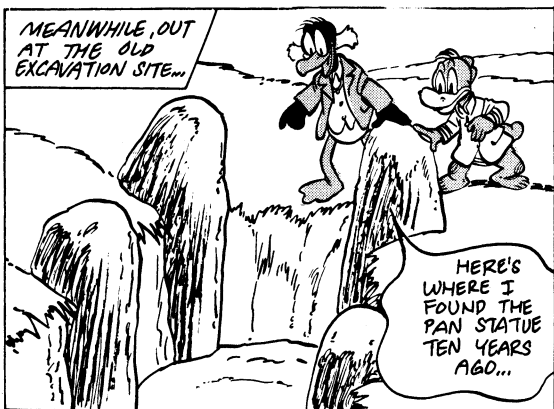
AND SO, WITH COTTON WADDLED IN THEIR EARS, THE BOYS JUMP FROM THE WINDOW...



... AND DASH OFF INTO THE MOONLIT MIDSUMMER NIGHT...



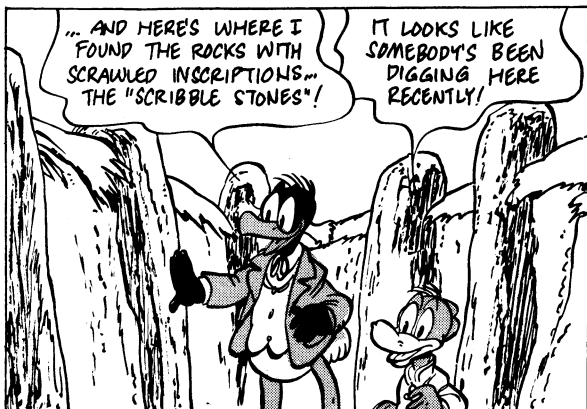
MEANWHILE, OUT AT THE OLD EXCAVATION SITE...



HERE'S WHERE I FOUND THE PAN STATUE TEN YEARS AGO...

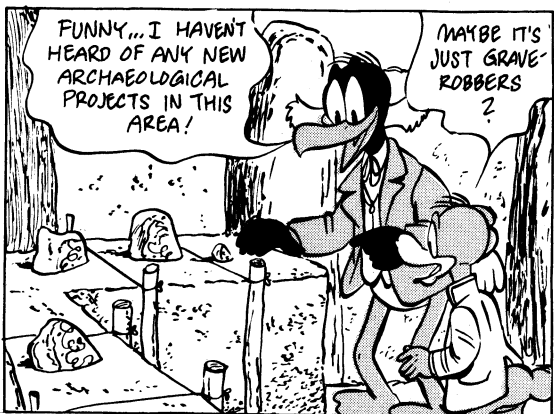
... AND HERE'S WHERE I FOUND THE ROCKS WITH SCRAWLED INSCRIPTIONS... THE "SCRIBBLE STONES"!

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S BEEN DIGGING HERE RECENTLY!



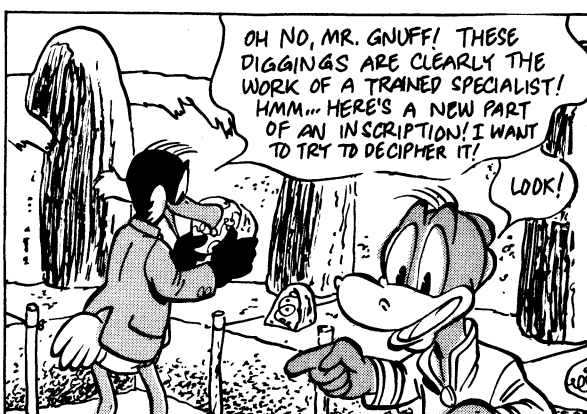
FUNNY... I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANY NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS IN THIS AREA!

MAYBE IT'S JUST GRAVE-ROBBERS?



OH NO, MR. GNUFF! THESE DIGGINGS ARE CLEARLY THE WORK OF A TRAINED SPECIALIST! HMM... HERE'S A NEW PART OF AN INSCRIPTION! I WANT TO TRY TO DECIPHER IT!

LOOK!

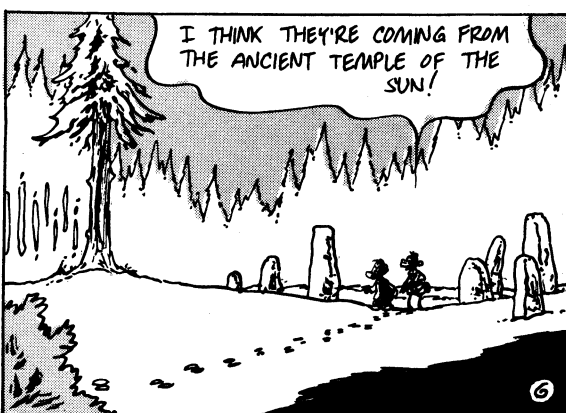


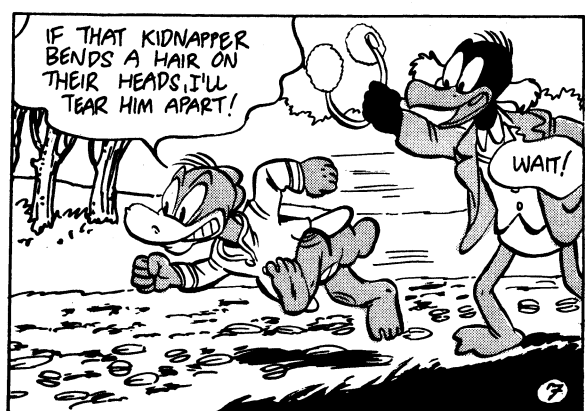
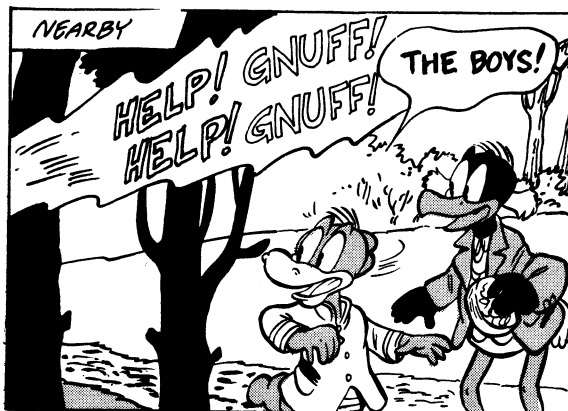
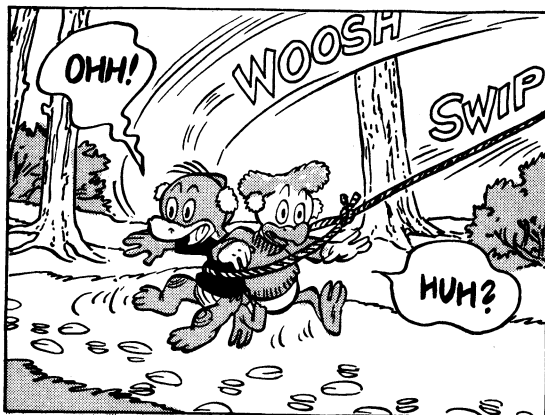
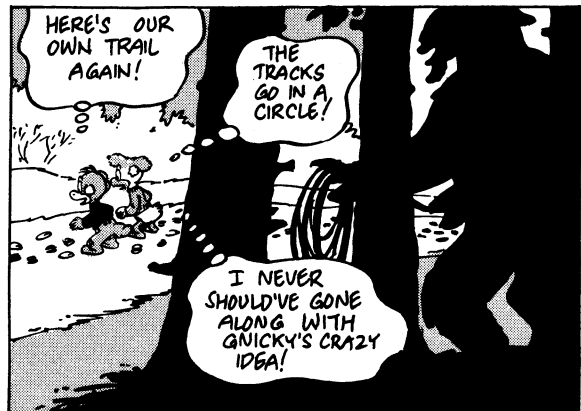
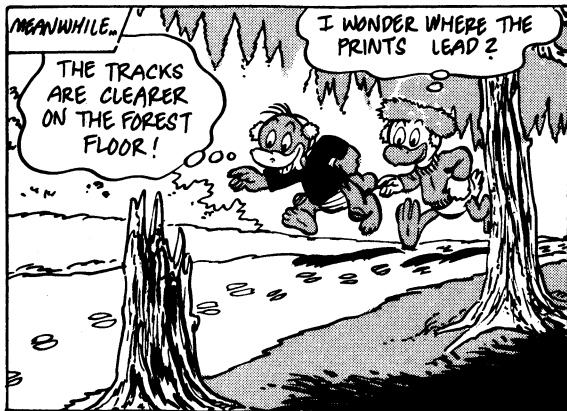
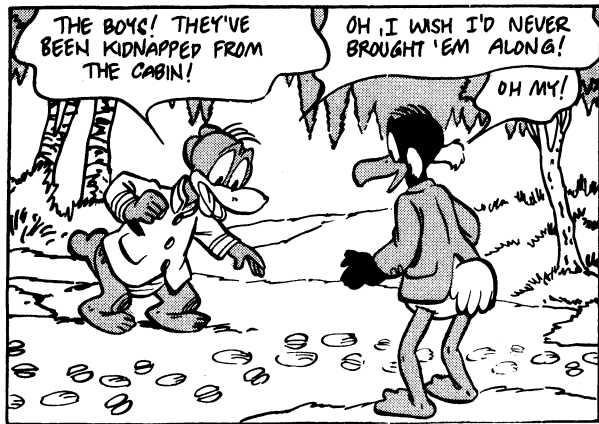
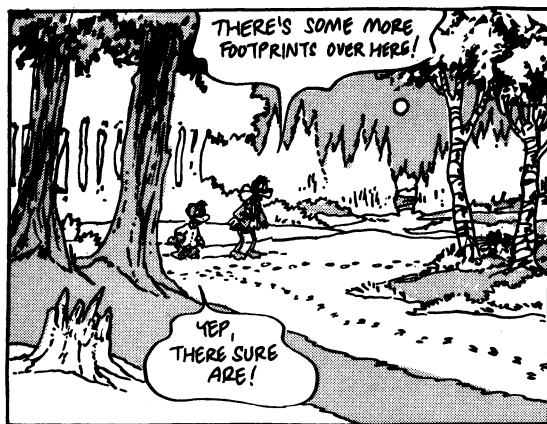
HOOFPRINTS! JUST LIKE THOSE WE FOUND IN TOWN!

LET'S TRY FOLLOWING THEM!



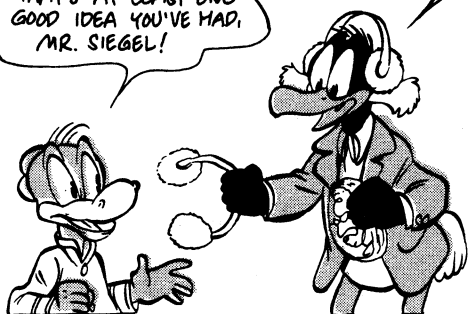
I THINK THEY'RE COMING FROM THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF THE SUN!



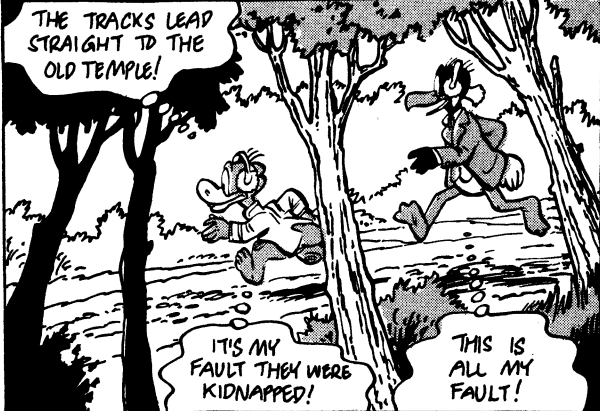


HERE! PUT THESE EARMUFFS ON! I BROUGHT THEM ALONG FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, MR. GNUFF!

THAT'S AT LEAST ONE GOOD IDEA YOU'VE HAD, MR. SIEGEL!



THE TRACKS LEAD STRAIGHT TO THE OLD TEMPLE!



IT'S MY FAULT THEY WERE KIDNAPPED!

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

WHEN THEY REACH THE MOONLIT TEMPLE RUINS...

GOOD HEAVENS!

SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK  
SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK

A LIVING PAN!!!



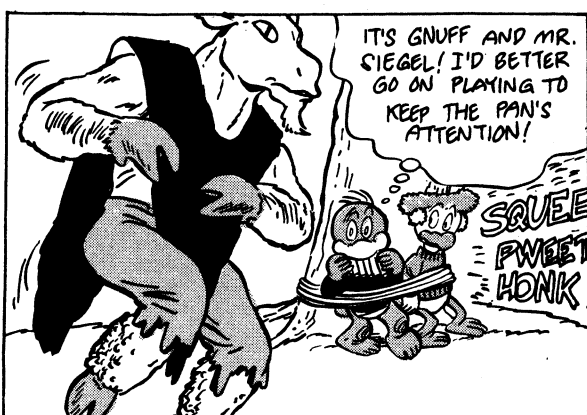
THE PAN MUSTN'T SEE US!

SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK

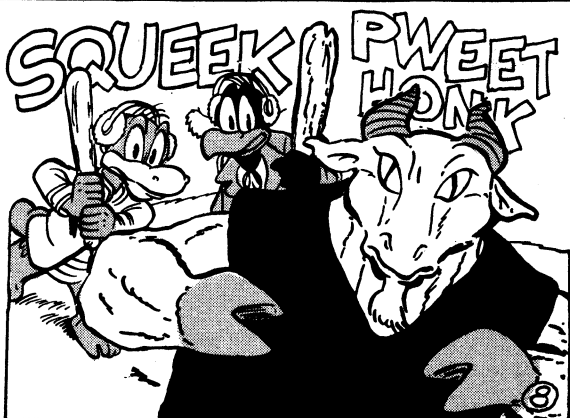
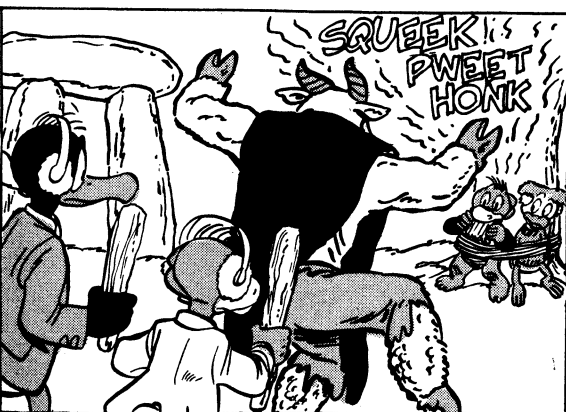


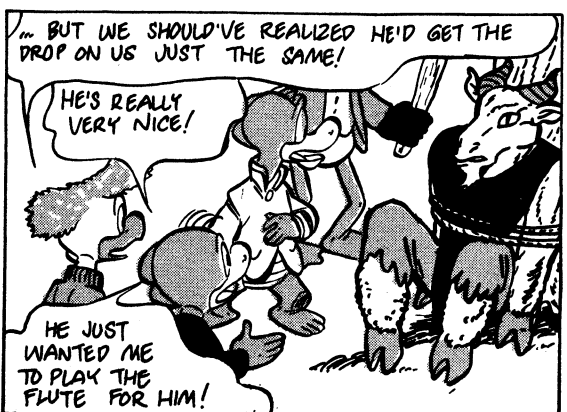
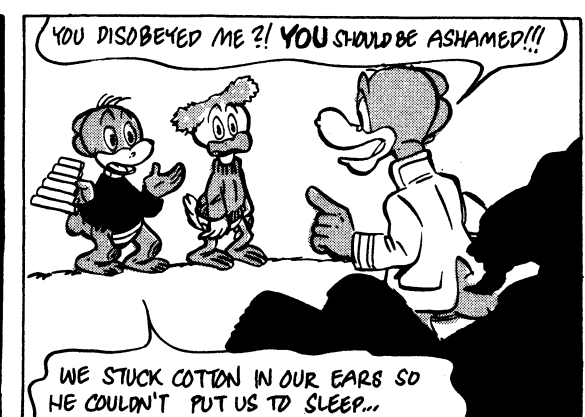
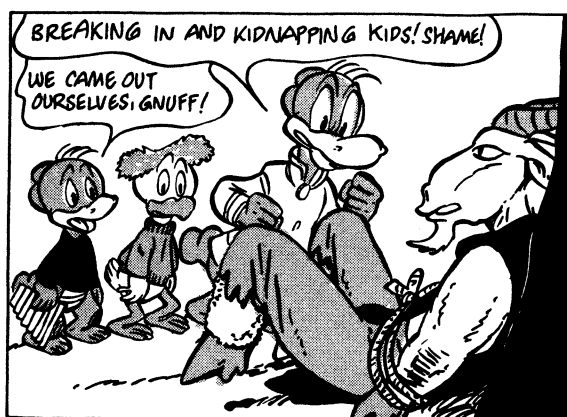
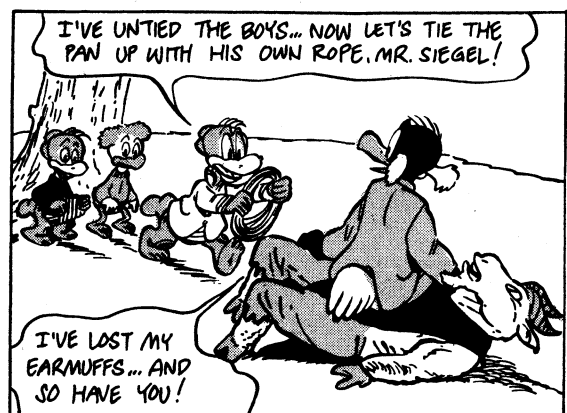
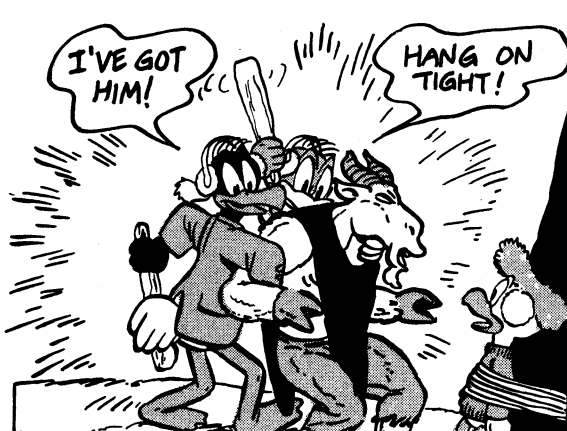
IT'S GNUFF AND MR. SIEGEL! I'D BETTER GO ON PLAYING TO KEEP THE PAN'S ATTENTION!

SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK



SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK





BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BUT I'M AN ARCHAEOLOGIST MYSELF, THOUGH FROM THE LAST CENTURY!



I WAS HERE ON A DIG WHEN I UNCOVERED THE ANCIENT PAN FLUTE! I TRIED PLAYING IT, BUT IT SOUNDED JUST HIDEOUS!



WELL, I WAS A STUBBORN SORT AND KEPT ON PRACTICING WITH IT! THEN ONE DAY I FOUND OUT TO MY HORROR THAT I HAD TURNED INTO A PAN!



I RECALLED AN ANCIENT LEGEND, KNOWN ONLY IN FRAGMENTS, ABOUT A MAGICAL PAN FLUTE! THIS HAD TO BE IT!



TO PREVENT ANYONE ELSE FROM FALLING VICTIM TO THE SAME SPELL, I MOLDED A CLAY STATUE AROUND THE DANGEROUS INSTRUMENT!



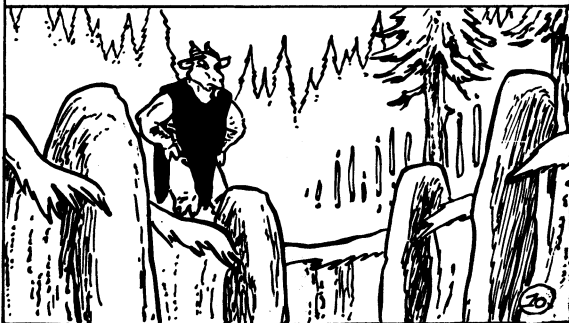
I BURIED THE STATUE WHERE I HAD FOUND THE FLUTE! SEVERAL DECADES WENT BY, BUT I REMAINED UNDER THE FLUTE'S SPELL!



I STAYED HIDDEN IN THE DEEPEST PART OF THE BIG WOODS, WHERE PEOPLE SELDOM VENTURED! I SOUGHT CONSTANTLY FOR A WAY TO BREAK THE SPELL, BUT IN VAIN...



ONE DAY I DISCOVERED THAT SOMEONE HAD FOUND THE STATUE, BUT I DIDN'T CARE! THE FLUTE WAS GONE AND I FELT IT WAS FOR THE BEST!





SEVEN YEARS AGO, I SUCCEEDED IN DECIPHERING SOME INSCRIPTIONS ABOUT THE SPELL! TO BREAK IT, A CHILD WOULD HAVE TO PLAY THE PAN FLUTE ON MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT!



EACH MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, I'VE GOTTEN A CHILD TO PLAY FOR ME ON A FLUTE I MADE MYSELF...



... BUT WITHOUT ANY SUCCESS! THEN I FOUND A NEWSPAPER A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND I SAW MY STATUE WAS ON DISPLAY IN TOWN...



SO I WENT INTO THE CITY TO GET IT! I BELIEVED THAT ONLY THIS PARTICULAR PAN FLUTE COULD BREAK THE MAGIC SPELL!



BUT EVEN HAVING THE RIGHT FLUTE DIDN'T HELP! I MUST RESIGN MYSELF TO MY FATE...

WHAT A SAD STORY!

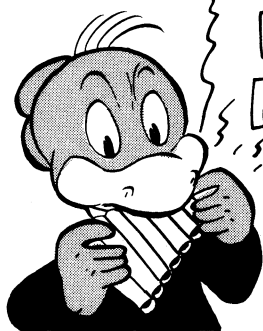


IF EVERYBODY'LL HOLD THEIR EARS WHILE I PLAY, I'LL BE GLAD TO TRY AGAIN!



IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD! I'VE TRIED AND HOPED FOR SO LONG... WE MIGHT JUST AS WELL GIVE UP!

SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONKK



SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONK



**SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONKK**



**SQUEEK  
PWEET  
HONKK**



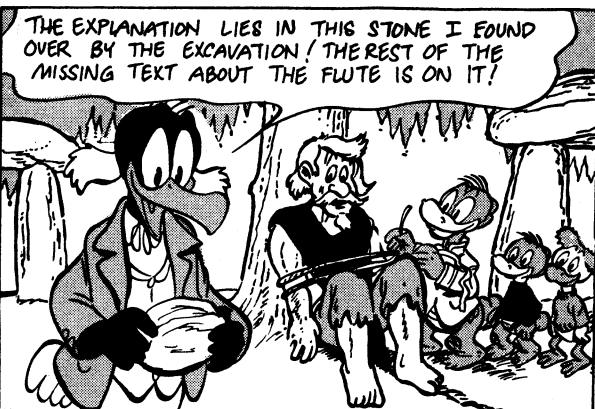
AND THEN SOMETHING  
MIRACULOUS HAPPENS...  
THE ARCHAEOLOGIST  
BECOMES HIS  
OLD SELF AGAIN!



THANK HEAVENS! THE SPELL IS BROKEN! A  
THOUSAND THANKS, EVERYONE! BUT I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND HOW...  
OR WHY?!



THE EXPLANATION LIES IN THIS STONE I FOUND  
OVER BY THE EXCAVATION! THE REST OF THE  
MISSING TEXT ABOUT THE FLUTE IS ON IT!



IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DANCING PAN  
THE FLUTE IS TO BE PLAYED BY A CHILD  
WHO **WISHES** FOR THE SPELL  
TO BE LIFTED!



THAT WAS THE STONE I FOUND, BUT I COULDN'T  
MAKE OUT THAT MYSTERIOUS DETAIL ABOUT  
THE CHILD HAVING TO WISH FOR THE  
SPELL'S BREAKING!



THAT'S NOT SO STRANGE! YOU'RE AN  
ARCHAEOLOGIST FROM A CENTURY AGO, AND  
THE LAST PIECE OF THE SCRIBBLE STONES'  
CODE WAS DECIPHERED ONLY RECENTLY...  
— BY ME! HEH HEH!



I'VE HEARD THAT AN ARCHAEOLOGIST  
DISAPPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY SOMETIME IN  
THE LAST CENTURY... WOULD YOU BE HIM?

I HOPE YOU'VE HIDDEN THE MAGIC FLUTE...?

YES, IT'S IN MY BACKPACK, AT THE REAR OF THIS CARRIAGE!

A black and white cartoon illustration. On the left, a boy with a large backpack is walking away from the viewer. The backpack is open, revealing a magic flute inside. On the right, a boy with a single backpack is walking towards the viewer, holding a magic flute. He is looking at the flute with a surprised expression. The background is a simple line drawing of a carriage interior with wooden seats and a window.

**SQUEEK PWEET HONK**

**SQUEEK PWEET HONK**



... AND SOMEWHERE  
OR OTHER THERE  
IS A LITTLE BOY  
RUNNING ABOUT  
AND PLAYING  
A MAGIC  
PAN FLUTE...

pinkbellies, mass beatings, and other nastiness.

I lie not. If you doubt me, enlist in the Navy or any other armed service and find out for yourself. All but #1 of the above has happened to me.

As for myself, I just plain prefer the funny-animal genre of comic book (like *Critters*) and prefer to draw funny-animals. I have had people come up to me and ask, "Hey! Draw a picture of me!" I reply, "What for? I see your face at work every day. Why would I want a picture of it?" I rest my case.

I'm tired and going to bed.

**FCI David P. Cannon**

F.P.O. New York, NY 09538

PS: Mark Martin's "Radical Dog" in issue #30 is a dead ringer for one of my shipmates. His nickname is "fat-cat."

● *Be all you can be, huh? If this letter prevents just one Critters reader from enlisting...* —KT

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I'm afraid the decision to go single-feature with *Critters* may have the opposite effect on me. You see, with me it's because, with several choices each month, there's usually one that's worth the price of the cover. But the others often enough aren't something I'd buy. So, you see, you may lose 2/3-3/4 of my normal sales volume. I hope there's not too many others like me... I'd hate to lose such a terrific magazine as *Critters*!... me being one of the faithful since the beginning.

Actually, if there's enough who like *Critters* as an anthology instead of a feature, you may decide to change your mind back.

Sincerely,

**Trevor Woofenden**  
Haydenville, MA

● *So far, sales have picked up a wee bit with the non-anthology format, so the prognosis for our staying this way is good. I do plan a Christmas return to the anthology format, but that's a ways away, isn't it?*

*Now for a letter from a one-time contributor to Usagi Yojimbo.* —KT

Aloha Kim,

I get a charge out of Kyle Rothweiler's "Duck 'Bill' Platypus." What an original and refreshing off-the-wall strip! His little asides in the panels, i.e., Cloud Neon, Two Left-Over Feet, Fakir Oats, etc. (*Critters* #36) are reminiscent of the marvelous *Smokey Stover* by Bill Holman. I love a good funny strip that tickles the intellect as well as the ribcage. Congrats to Kyle on that score!

**Dave Thorne**  
Kailua, HI

● *You know, it's a funny thing, but while Kyle's work has met with a lot of resistance among part of the readership, his fellow cartoonists love his work—almost to a man! I think this means I'm onto something here, and I hope the reluctant*

*readers will pick up the next issue, which is an all-"Platypus" issue.* —KT

Dear Kim,

Let me apologize for calling Andrea Feldman a man. That was completely my mistake. When I wrote the letter about *Omaha the Cat Dancer* all I remembered was two letters that didn't like it. I mean, in comic fandom the chances that they were both male were pretty good, don't you think? But that is no excuse and I'm sorry I confused the gender of Ms. Feldman.

As for the violent attack on me because I defended *Omaha*, I have to take the Fifth. I went back and re-read the letter in question, thinking maybe I wrote some terrible, hate-filled message. But I found the letter I remembered writing. A tongue-in-cheek plea for people to read *Omaha* and hopefully like it. I wasn't ugly or mean anywhere in the letter. Can Ms. Feldman say the same in her letter?

I'm sorry if this isn't the letter that Ms. Feldman wanted, but I refuse to apologize for something that I didn't write. I'm sorry she took it the wrong way.

**John F. Holland**  
Westwego, LA

● *You guys don't fool me—it's love at first sight, isn't it? Anyway, here's another letter from Holland.* —KT

Dear Mr. Thompson,

After reading *Critters* #31, I finally decided to write you a letter. About one year ago I did not know that a comic book like *Critters* existed (I collect quite a lot of comics, but mostly Marvel, DC, and Gladstone Disney comics) until Fred Milton answered a fan letter and wrote me that his strip "Gnuff" was being published in *Critters*, and being a big fan of his work I ordered your comic through my local shop. The first I got was #24.

After reading 8 issues I can tell you what I think of *Critters*: it's great!

Although the best strip is still "Gnuff," "Fission Chicken" and "Angst" are also fantastic! When I first read "Lizards" I did not like it very much, but after a few more stories I'm really starting to like them.

"Lionheart" can't get me really excited; there is nothing wrong with the art, but the story is not always that comprehensible for someone from Holland (I follow the main items of your politics, but some of the political jokes are hard to understand, but I did get the Ollie North jokes!)

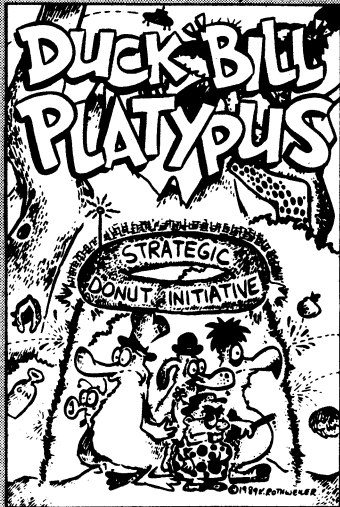
"The Blue Beagle" strip has also some political satire, but this strip is, in my opinion, much better than "Lionheart."

**Rene Stoops**  
Tubahof 15  
4876ZM Etten-Leur  
The Netherlands

● *Rene requested that we print his whole address, which sounds suspiciously like a plea for pen pals to me. See you next month!* —KT

# COMING NEXT ISSUE

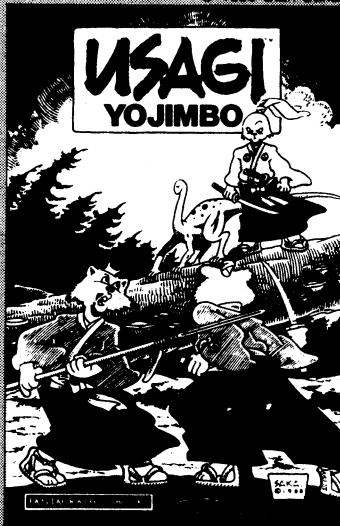
© 1989 Kyle Rothweiler



*Critters* #41. By popular demand (half the *Critters* creators demanded it!) Kyle Rothweiler's wacky "Duck 'Bill' Platypus" gets a full 22-page story. ON SALE IN MID-MAY.

# ALSO ON SALE NEXT MONTH

© 1969 Stan Sakai



*Usagi Yojimbo* #17. The cataclysmic finale to the "Dragon Bellow Conspiracy" saga, as characters die, characters survive, and the storm clouds finally clear. Another full issue of Stan Sakai's samurai rabbit warrior! ON SALE IN EARLY JUNE.

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