

# Lionheart

CRITTERS

No. 46

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Canada)



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

# Critters

FEATURING

## Lionheart

We told you all this stuff about Tom Stazer three issues ago. You must have a terribly short memory! Go back and read that issue and stop bothering us!

# CRITTERS LETTERS

7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Kim,

Listen, if you want a letter from me, just ask for it! I mean, printing the only letter I have ever written to *Critters* twice is a little obvious!

All right, if you want one, you're gonna get one!

First of all, I really like the one-story format, and you find yourself liking stories that you didn't like in the anthology. In my case that is "Duck 'Bill' Platypus." When it started in #34 I hated it and I didn't read the other stories. But then I received *Critters* #41. (You have to order them over here a few months before so I didn't know what story was in it.) I had paid for it so I was going to read it whether I liked it or not. So I started reading and guess what...?

I loved it! I started reading all the other stories, and now I'm hooked on "Duck 'Bill' Platypus"! Please give me more!

Onto another strip: "Tails from the Darkside." Will there ever be an entire issue devoted to this strip? And of course there is Milton's "Gnuff," the reason for buying *Critters*. Will the old stories be reprinted in a special book, like you will be doing with Fission Chicken ("Fish" to the fans)?

I will be watching you guys very carefully and you'll hear from me in a few months again, so don't print this letter twice, Kim!

**Rene Stoops**

The Netherlands

PS: Todd Bustillo should read *Critters* #41 a few times; maybe that could change his opinion about "Duck 'Bill'!"

Howdy, *Critters* folks,

This is a commentary letter all the way from Europe-Scandinavia-Finland. Hope you don't put it into the trashcan instantly. Read—and if possible, publish—it first.

First, I have to agree with Mr. J.H. Sain. According to my calculations, the most "popular" sexual action in American comic books is rape! Yes, I said American comics. Finnish comics frequently use more "usual" sexual actions. Well, we are just degenerate Europeans. On the other hand, unnecessary sex in stories is too frequent—sometimes several pages are filled by it only because no one can think of anything else. (Though I have to say I haven't read *Omaha*.)

To those who instantly start to call me a sex freak: I'm a single and virgin male.

The cover of *Critters* #40 seems suspiciously familiar. The same kind of cover was on a Woody Woodpecker album published in Finland—only on that, the characters were Woody and the walrus (the mayor, I don't know what his name is in English). I suspect something—both stories were made by Milton.

Issue #39 (Fission Chicken) was a great story. I like F.C.—though it initially reminded me of the old cartoon character

Superchicken but is definitely better! In fact, the story would be very well received in Finland—there has been lots of babbling about the negative effects of commercialism—in a way, they fear that Vortioxians have landed in Finland with satellite TV channels. Although, despite what I've heard some yankees say, Finland is not a socialistic country (not yet, anyway—let's see what the unification of Europe will make us).

See ya—or, actually, your comic books—around.

**Vesa Lehtinen**

Tampere, Finland

● Oddly enough, *Critters* seems to have had a strong following in foreign countries—this despite the fact that funny-animal comics have traditionally not been that welcome outside of America (with the exception of the Disney stuff). Odd.

As for Vesa's query: like a number of "Gnuff" stories, "Enchantment" was actually a re-worked Woody Woodpecker story. See Amazing Heroes #129 for full details on the unique history of Freddy's duck/woodpecker/dragon tales.

—KIM THOMPSON

Dear Sirs,

I have recently picked up *Critters* #44, and when I read the inside of the front cover, and found out that you were discontinuing the series, I was more than slightly aggravated. Although I have been a fan for only a couple weeks, I'm pretty sure that I'm just as enraged as if I'd been a fan for many years. The only problem is that I do not know who to be furious at!

But, on a lighter note, I was wondering if you had any pins, T-shirts, posters, and stickers for any other characters than Blue Beagle, RoboHop, or Quax Bedroom. Preferably Lionheart.

I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and all of your time to make this the best comic series I have ever read!

Thanks,

**Sam Kelso**

Hemet, CT

Dear Kim,

I could see it coming when *Critters* dropped the anthology format, but it's no less unwelcome. Damn. Well, you've carried the flag high for four years, and I hope future comics historians will be able to point to *Critters* as one of the magazines that kept funny-animals in the public eye and allowed the great resurgence of the '90s. Dream, dream.

Anyway, a great run with a great finish coming, and a pretty decent "Blue Beagle" story to accompany the bad news.

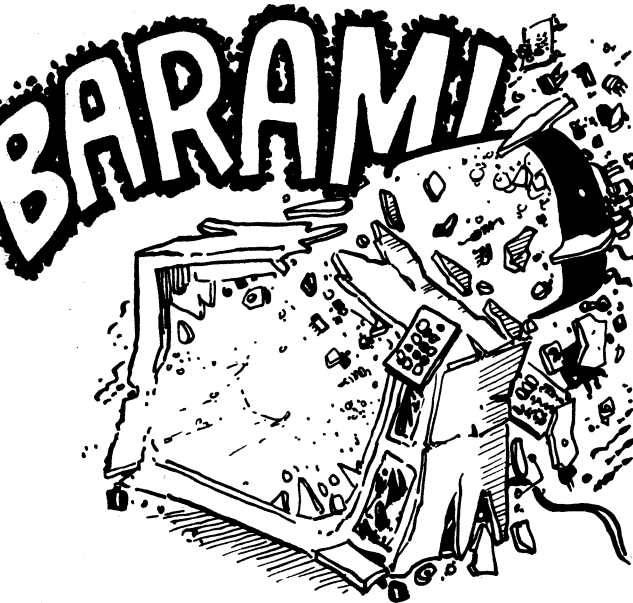
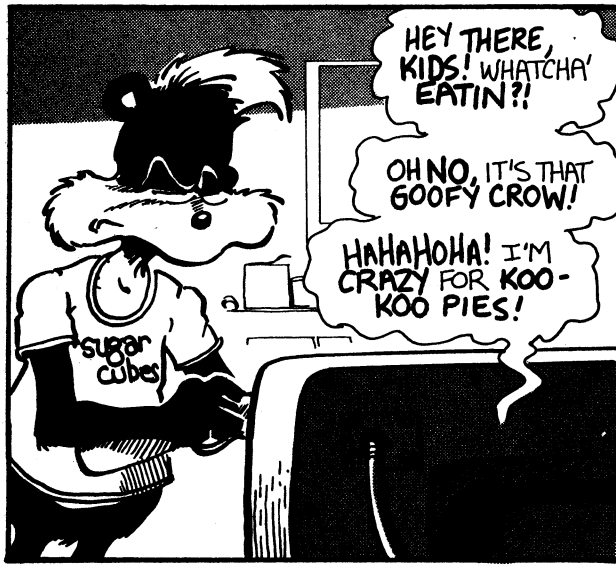
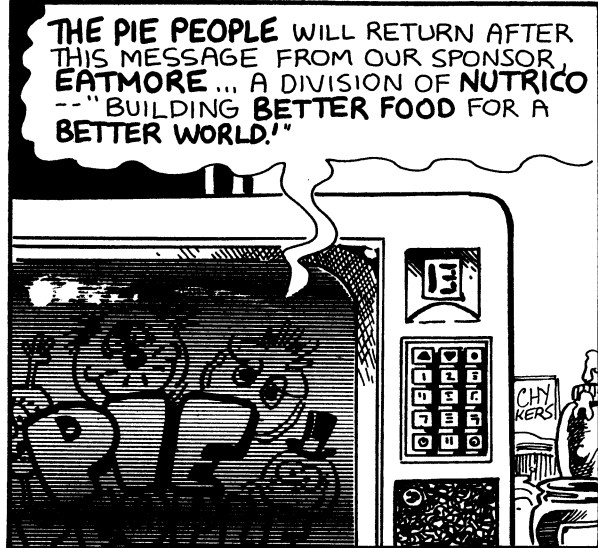
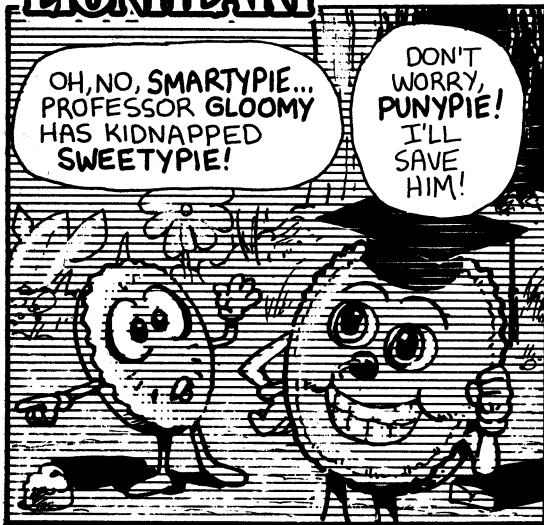
Say Fission Chicken,

**Philip M. Cohen**

West Chester, PA

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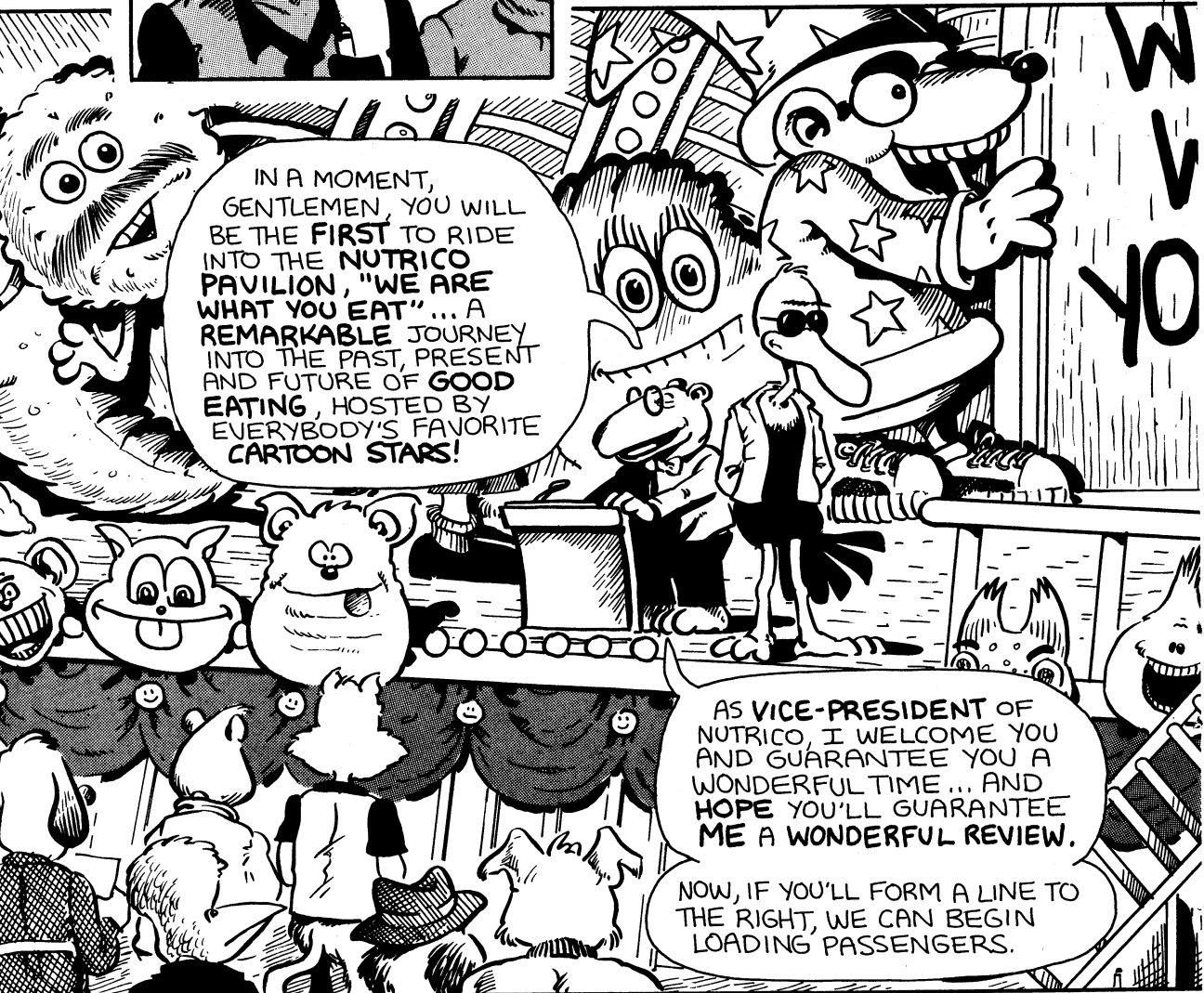
# LIONHEART



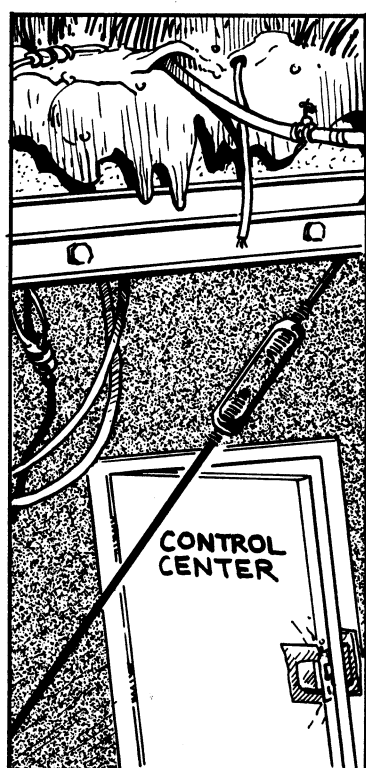
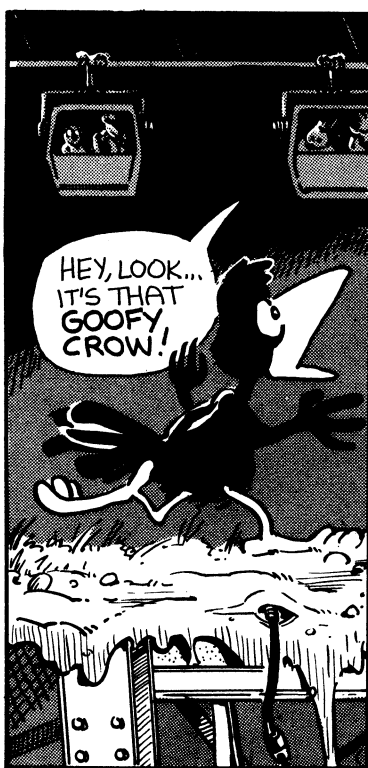
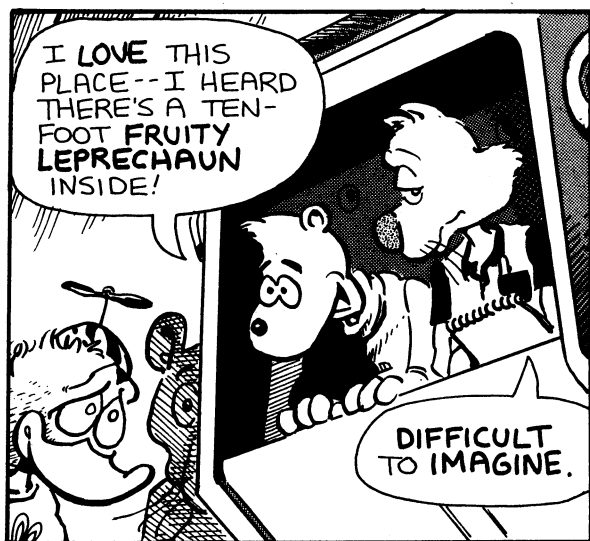
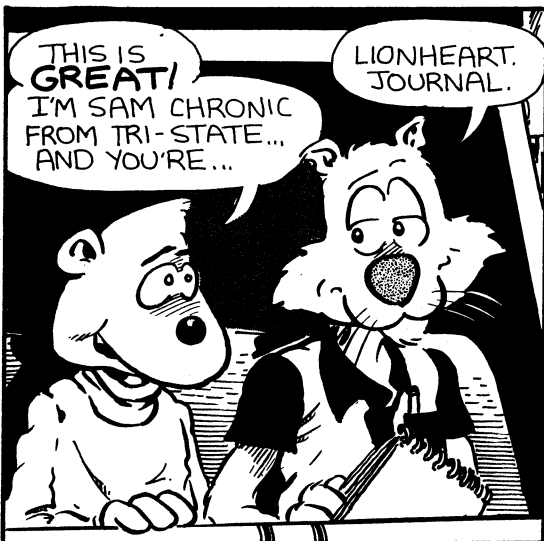
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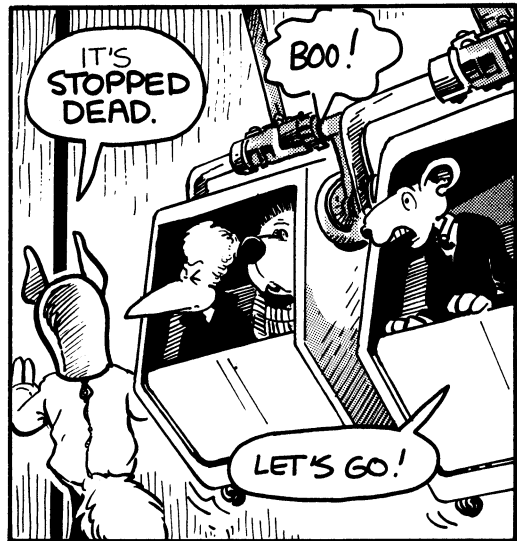
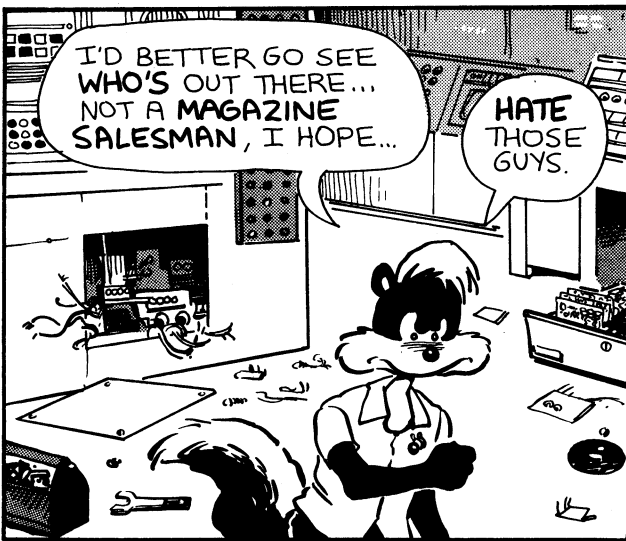
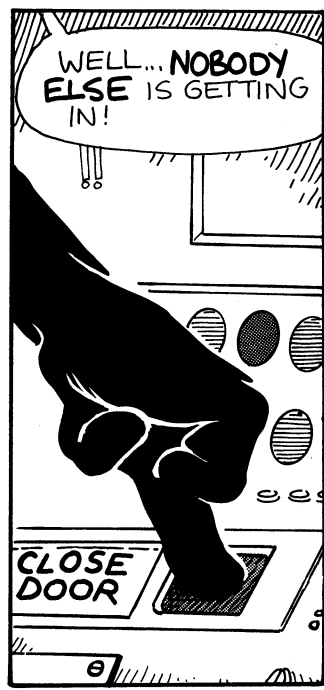
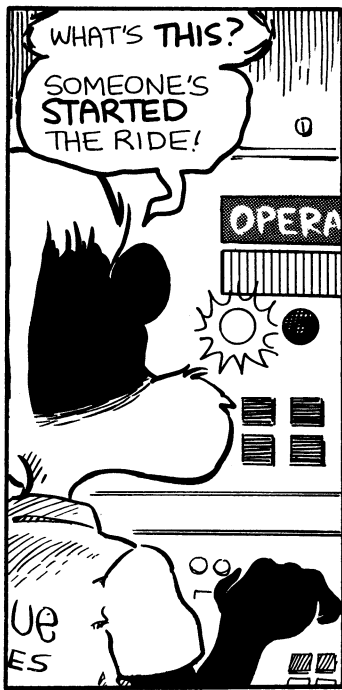


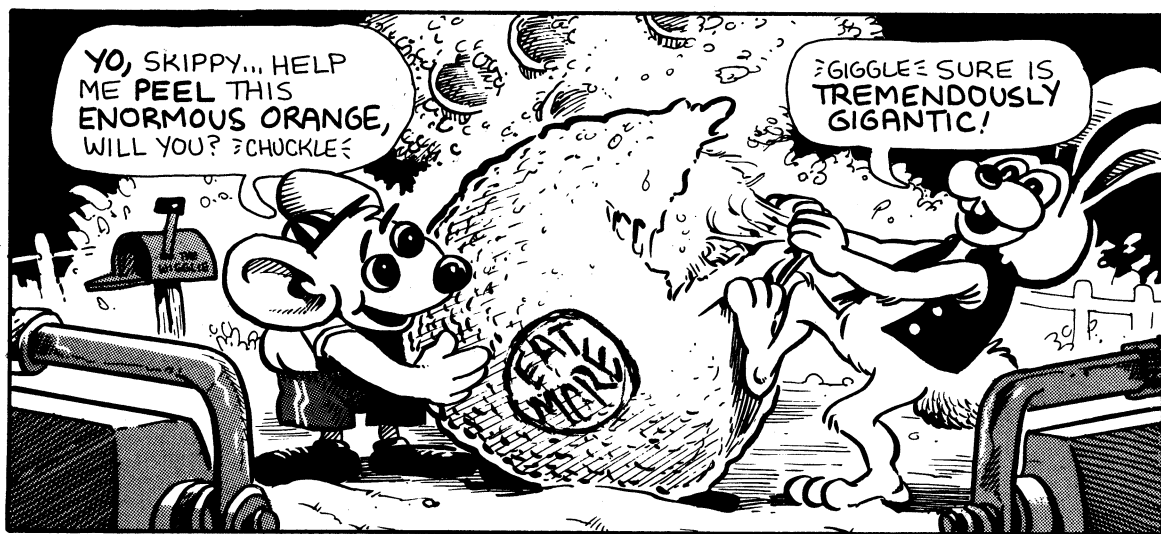
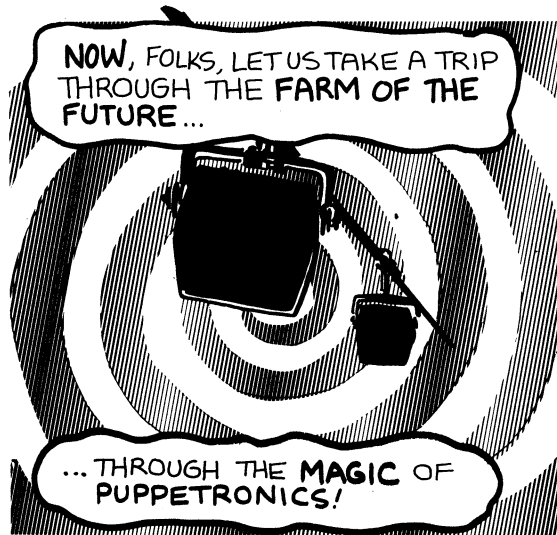
I REALLY HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT MY JOB DOES HAVE ITS GOOD POINTS. TOMORROW, WHIMSY WORLD WILL UNVEIL A SPECTACULAR NEW EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTION; SPONSORED BY THE VAST NUTRICO CORPORATION, IT IS SAID TO HAVE COST THIRTY MILLION. AS PART OF A PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN, THEY'VE INVITED LOCAL NEWSPAPERS TO SEND A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE EACH, FOR A SNEAK PREVIEW. FOR A MINIMAL BRIBE, LOU LET ME HAVE THE ASSIGNMENT.











THESE THINGS ARE REMARKABLE,  
BUT THEY'RE JUST NOT THAT  
CONVINCING.

YES, IN THE FARM OF THE  
FUTURE, PLANTS WILL FLOURISH  
WITHOUT EARTH, AIR OR SUN...

... APPLES WILL GROW IN PETRI  
DISHS, AVAILABLE IN SKINLESS,  
SEEDLESS AND DECORATOR  
COLORS!

THIS IS GOING  
WELL, DON'T  
YOU THINK?

PRICELESS P.R.  
FUNDING THIS  
PROJECT WAS A  
SMART MOVE.

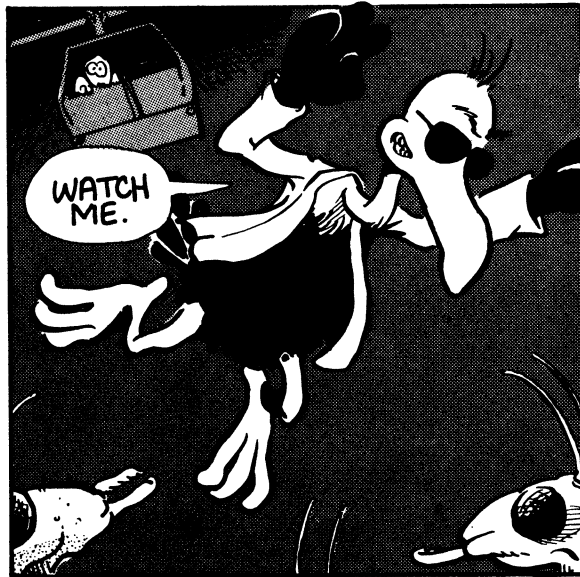
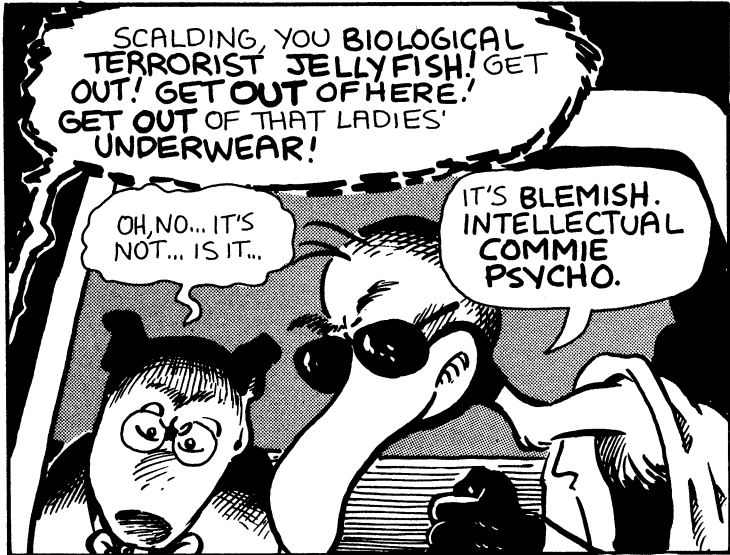
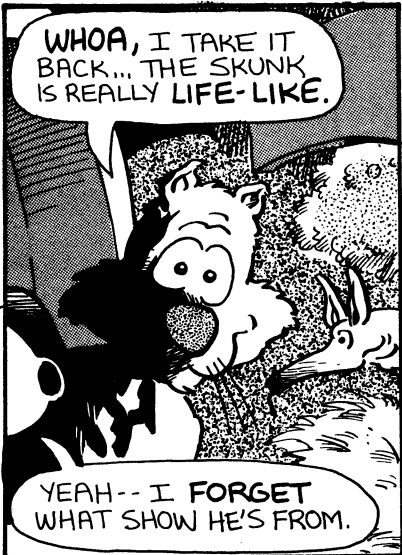


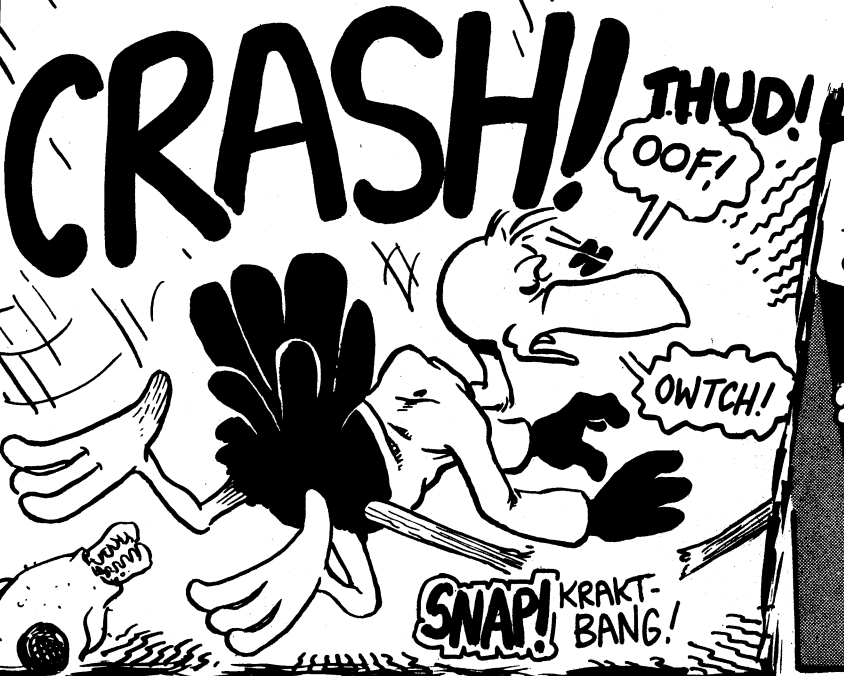
LEECH-LICKING...  
BALD-  
HEADED...

...SCHEMING TWO-FACED  
ANTICHRIST SON OF A BITCH!!

WHAT  
IN  
HELL?

SOMETHING'S  
WRONG  
HERE.





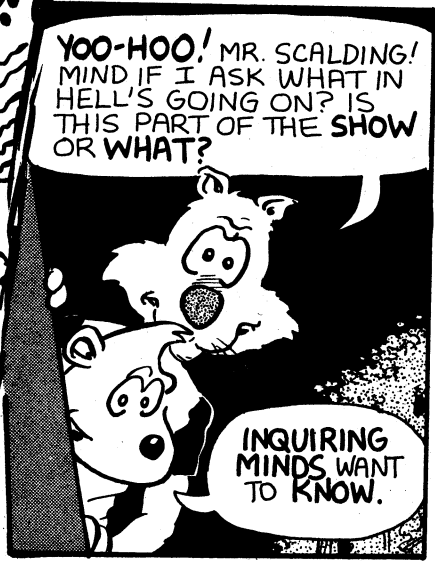
**CRASH!**

**THUD!**

**OOF!**

**OWTCH!**

**SNAP! KRAKT-BANG!**



**YOO-HOO! MR. SCALDING! MIND IF I ASK WHAT IN HELL'S GOING ON? IS THIS PART OF THE SHOW OR WHAT?**

**INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW.**



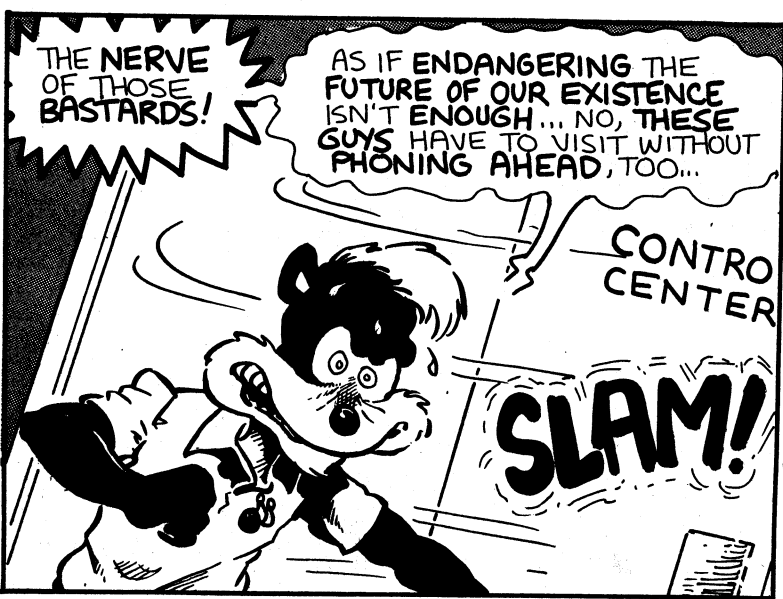
**OH CRAP! FORGOT ABOUT THE PRESS!**

**UH... SOME SORT OF PRANKSTER, NO DOUBT. BUZZ HAS GONE AFTER HIM. YOU JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE RIDE.**



**BY THE WAY ... I DON'T SEE ANYBODY FOLLOWING YOU.**

**SO I'VE HEARD... ANOTHER PRANK, I'D WAGER.**



**THE NERVE OF THOSE BASTARDS!**

**AS IF ENDANGERING THE FUTURE OF OUR EXISTENCE ISN'T ENOUGH ... NO, THESE GUYS HAVE TO VISIT WITHOUT PHONING AHEAD, TOO...**

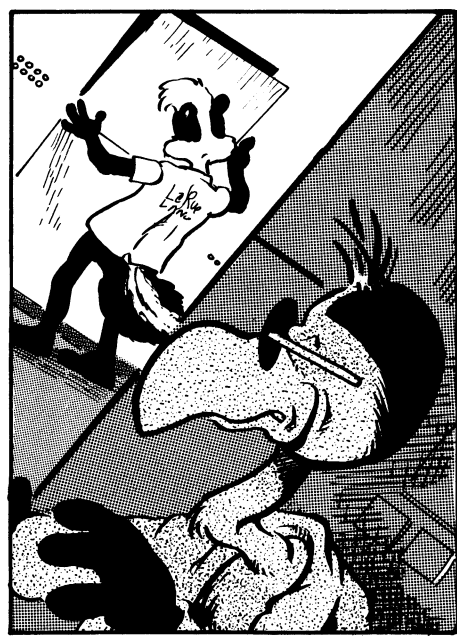
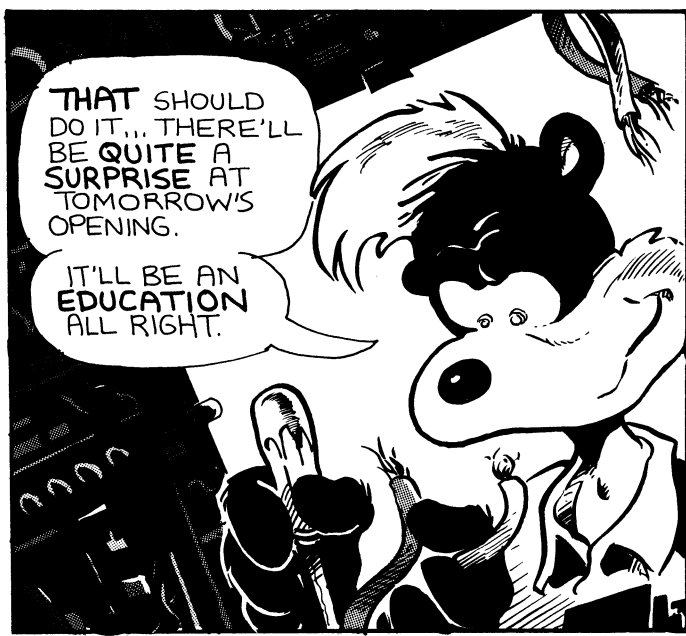
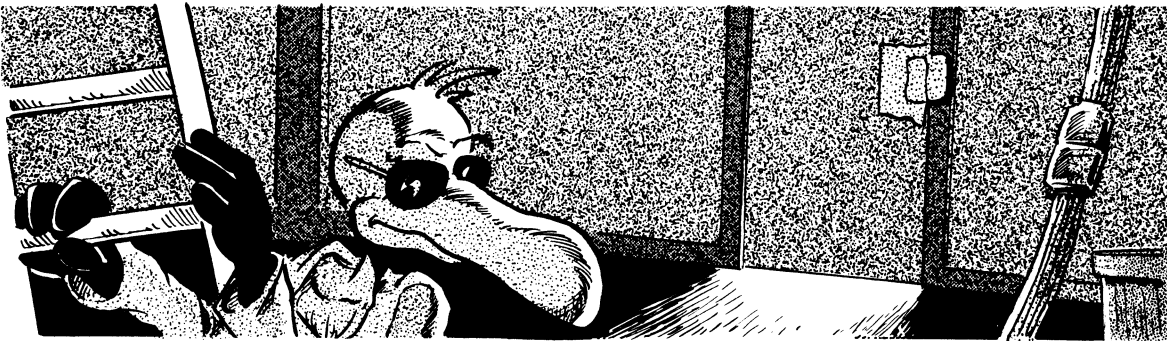
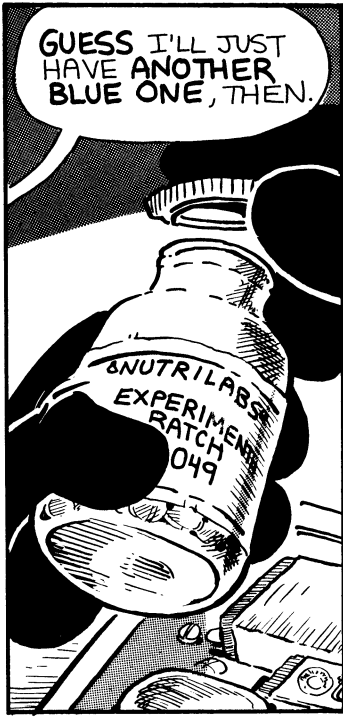
**CONTROL CENTER**

**SLAM!**



**AAAAHH, THEY'LL ALL BURN IN HELL!**





OKAY, BLEMISH  
LET'S NOT HAVE  
ANY TROUBLE.

EEEEK!  
--THE  
TERMINATOR!  
HEAD FOR THE  
HILLS!

SMASH!! RIIP!!

JEE-ZUZ!

COME BACK  
HERE, YOU  
TRAITOR!

DAMMIT!!  
I TOLD YOU  
TO KEEP YOUR  
MOUTH SHUT,  
EGGHEAD!

I TRIED, GOD KNOWS! BUT...

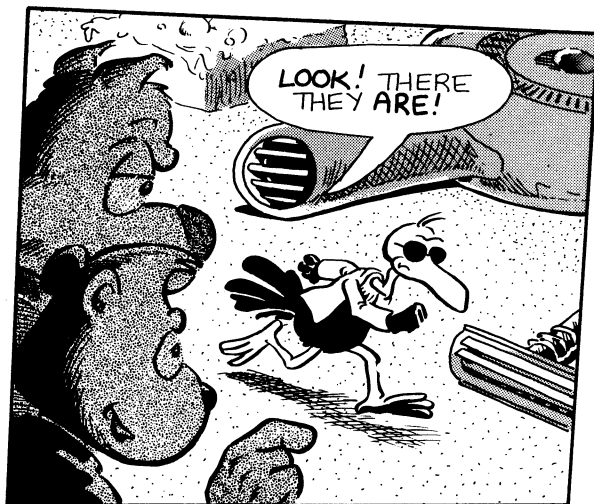
WELL, HEY, A GUY'S GOTTA EAT,  
YOU KNOW... TRY DOING THAT  
WITHOUT OPENING YOUR MOUTH  
AND MAYBE YOU WON'T BE SO  
QUICK TO JUDGE ME.

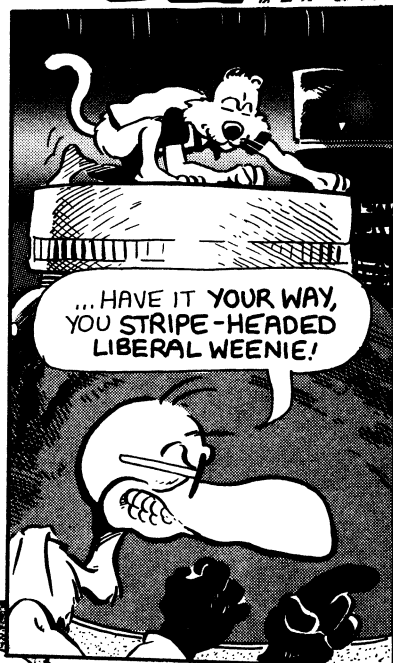
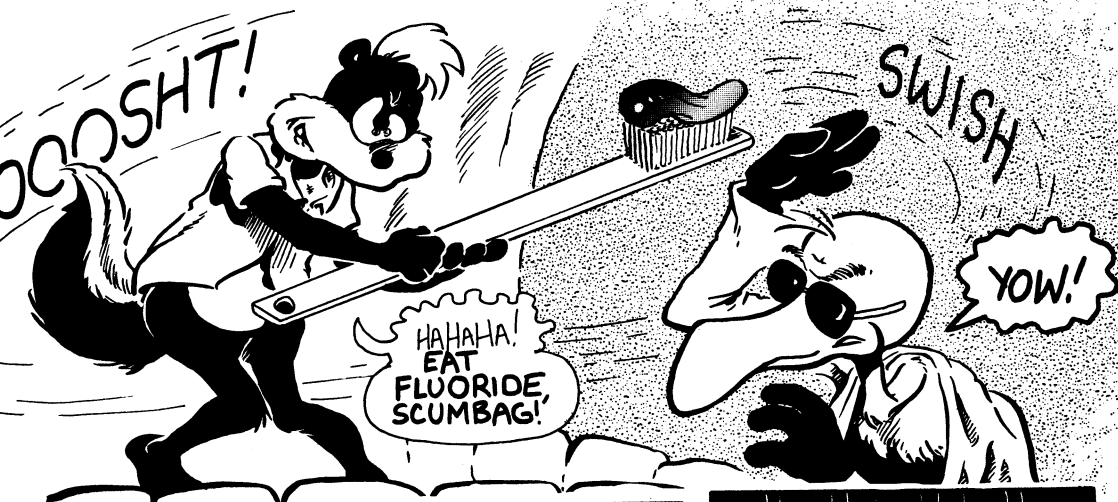
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN IN  
THE MEDICINE CHEST AGAIN...  
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT STUFF  
IMPAIRS YOUR JUDGEMENT?

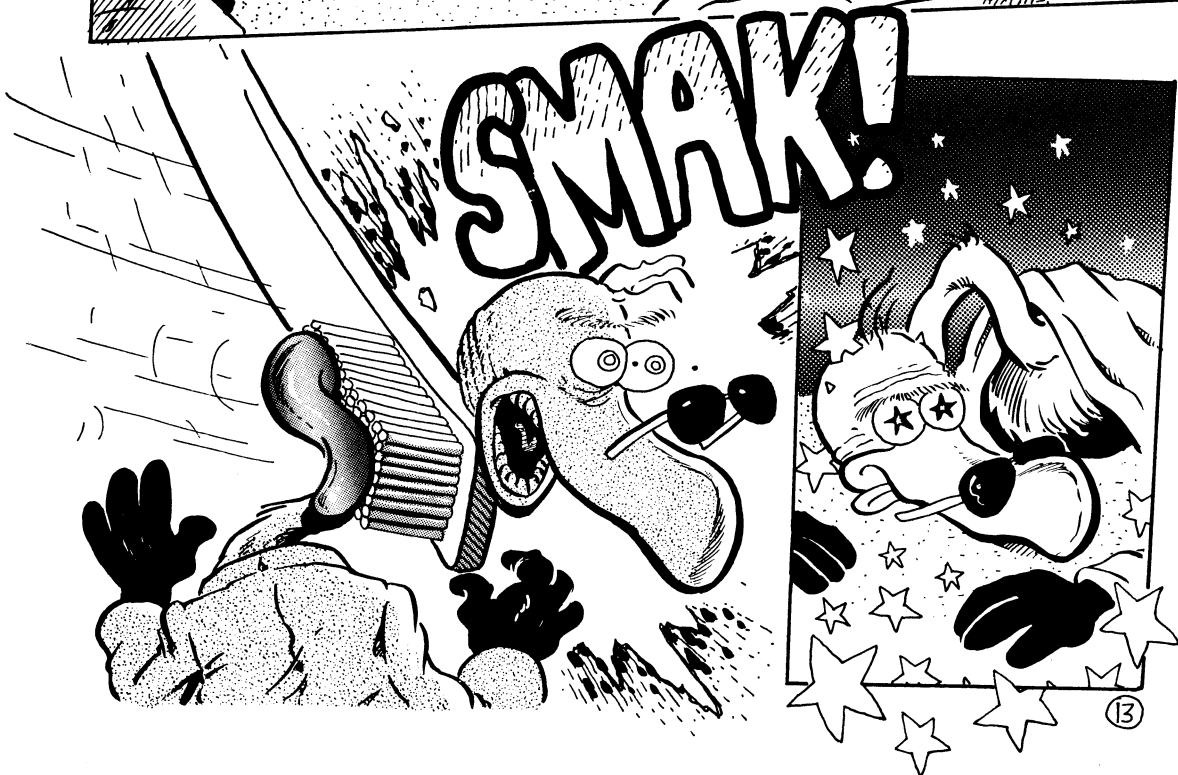
CAUTION  
TANG ON TO THE  
TEETH EXHIBIT

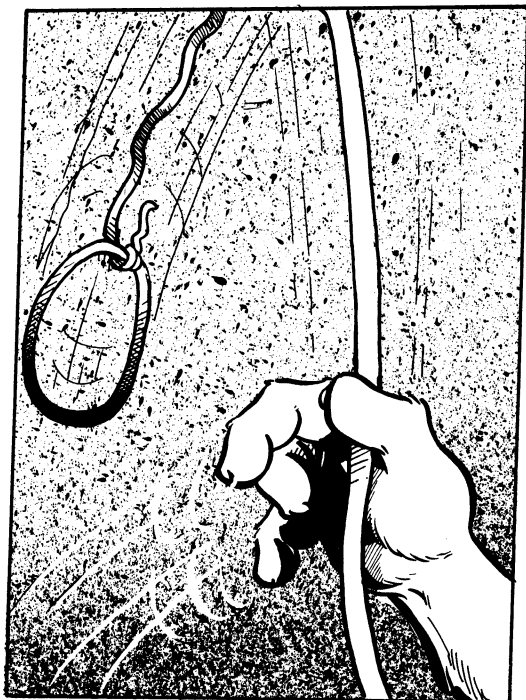
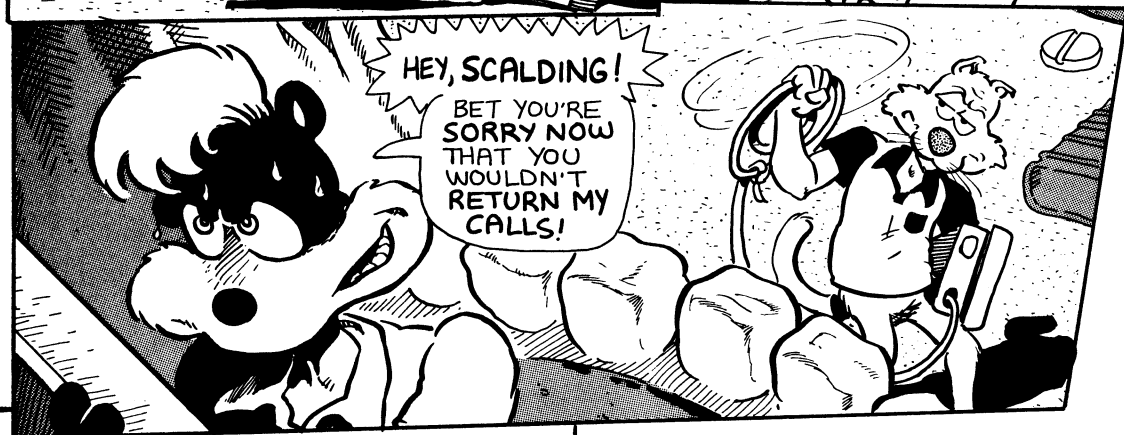
NO, NO... YOU'RE THINKING OF  
ILLEGAL DRUGS-- I'M ON A  
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED  
HIGH!

"THANKS TO EATMORE!"

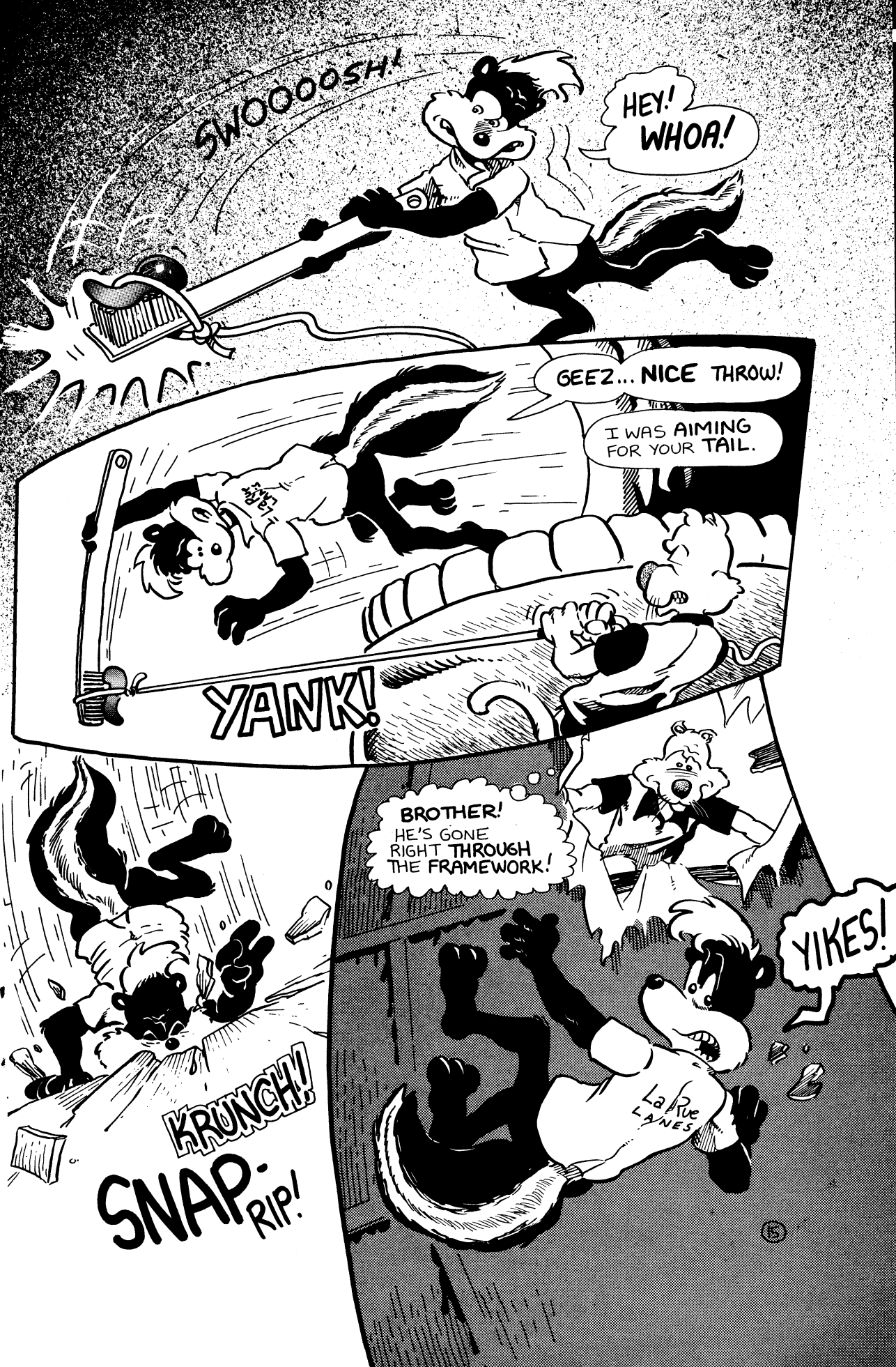












SWOOOOSH!

HEY!  
WHOA!

GEEZ... NICE THROW!

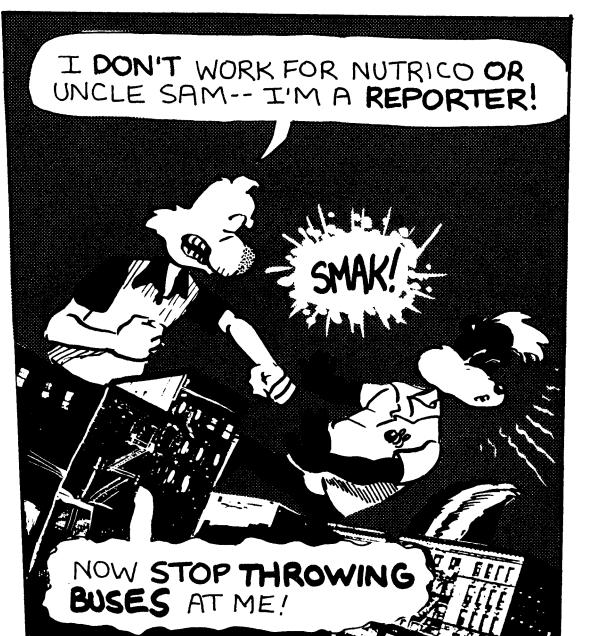
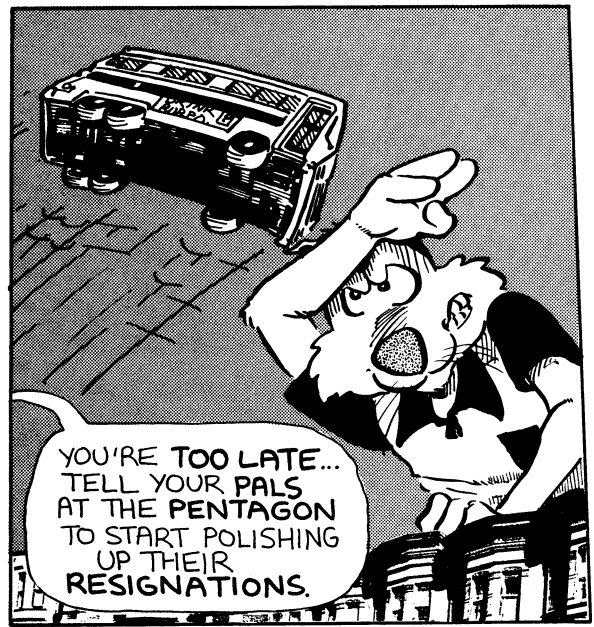
I WAS AIMING  
FOR YOUR TAIL.

YANK!

BROTHER!  
HE'S GONE  
RIGHT THROUGH  
THE FRAMEWORK!

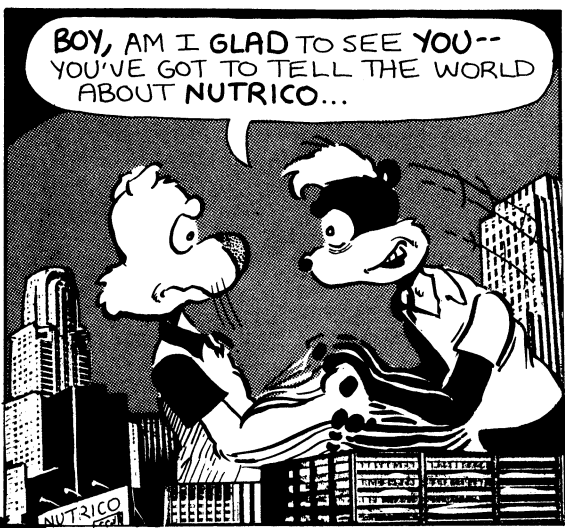
YIKES!

KRUNCH!  
SNAP-RIP!





... A REPORTER?  
YOU'RE KIDDING,  
RIGHT... A REPORTER?!



BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU--  
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL THE WORLD  
ABOUT NUTRICO...



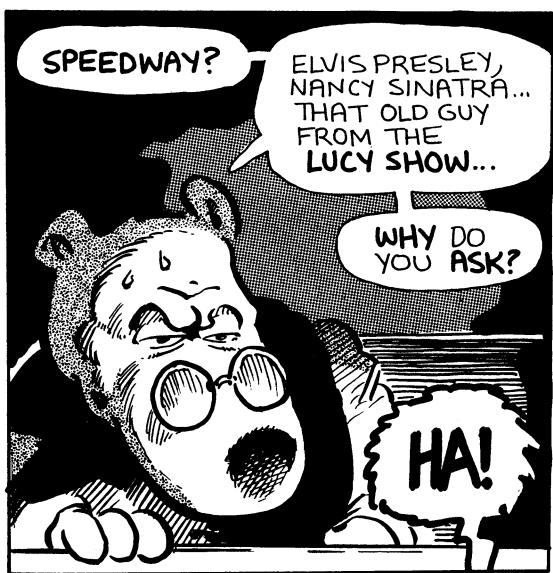
THEY MUSTN'T  
BE ALLOWED  
TO HIDE BEHIND  
A FACADE OF  
SQUIRRELS AND  
DANCING FISH!

STANDS  
TO REASON.



DON'T LISTEN  
TO HIM-- HE'S  
FANTASTICALLY  
UNBALANCED!

OH, YEAH? YOU SHOULD TALK--  
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHAT  
YOU KNOW ABOUT SPEEDWAY?

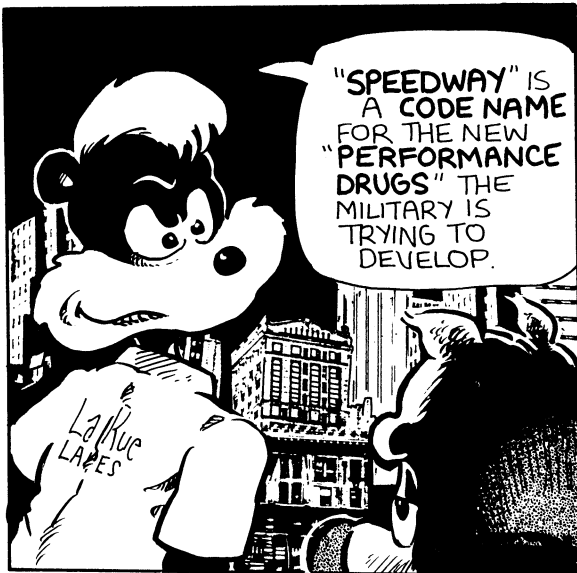


SPEEDWAY?

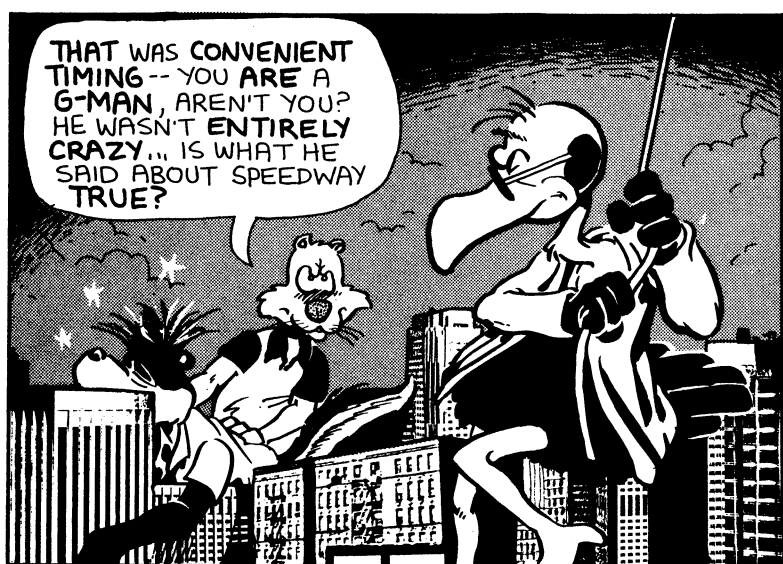
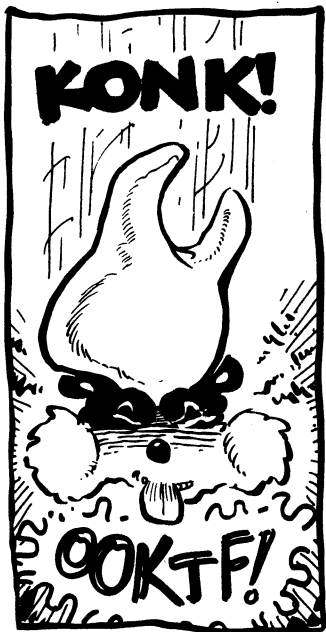
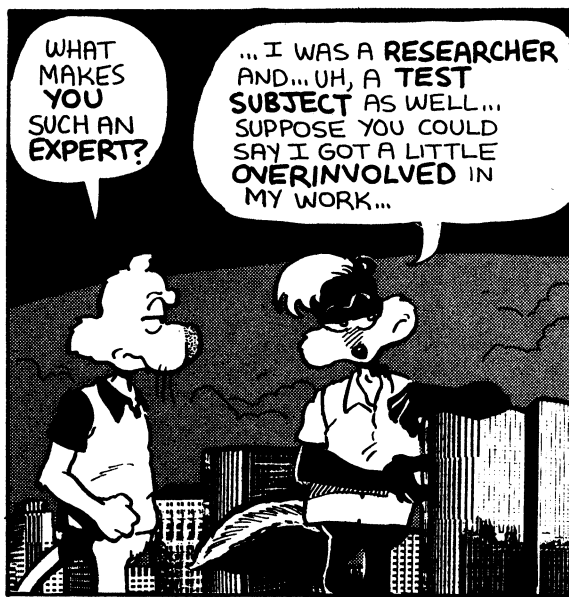
ELVIS PRESLEY,  
NANCY SINATRA...  
THAT OLD GUY  
FROM THE  
LUCY SHOW...

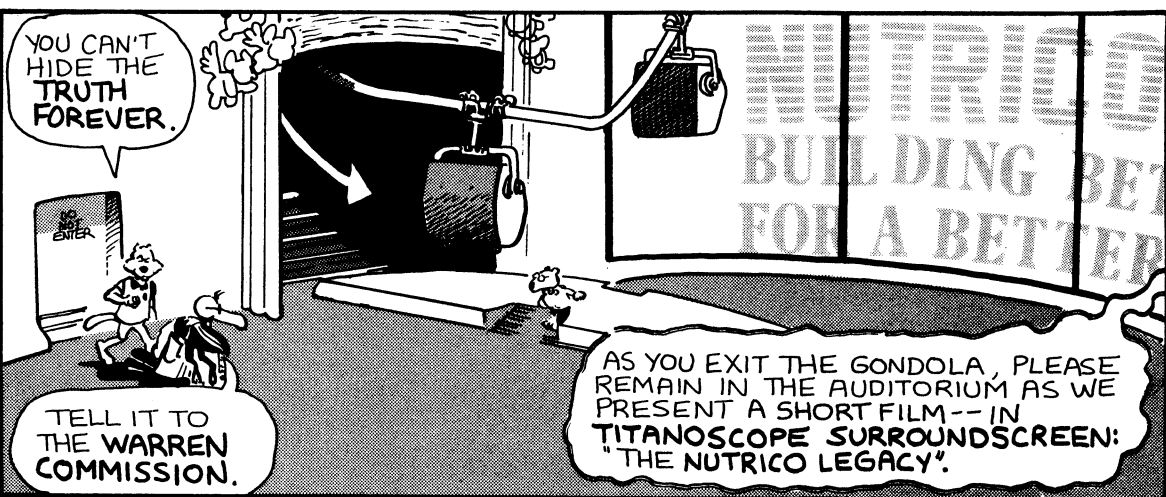
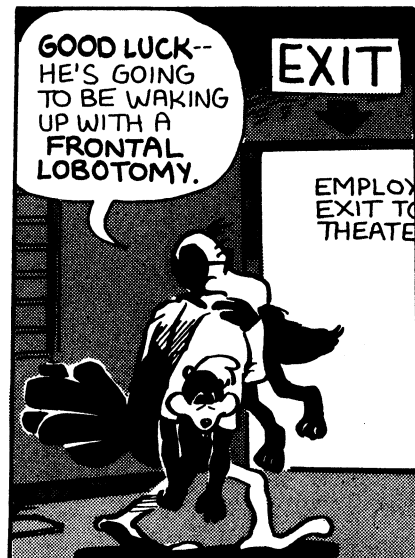
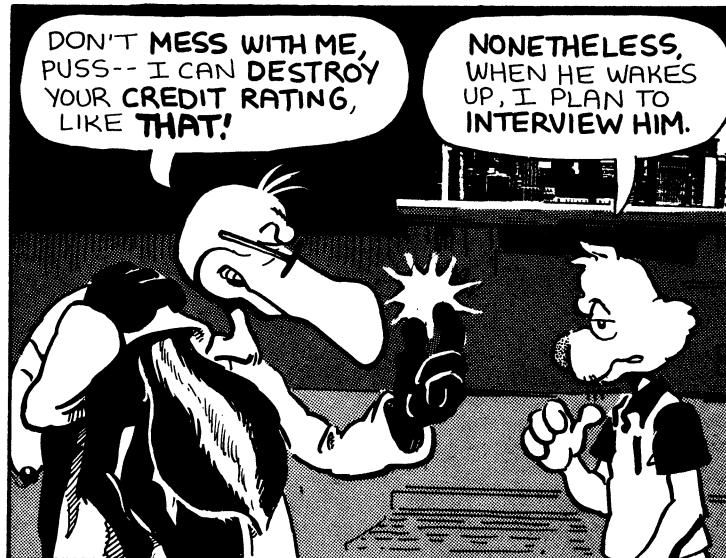
WHY DO  
YOU ASK?

HA!



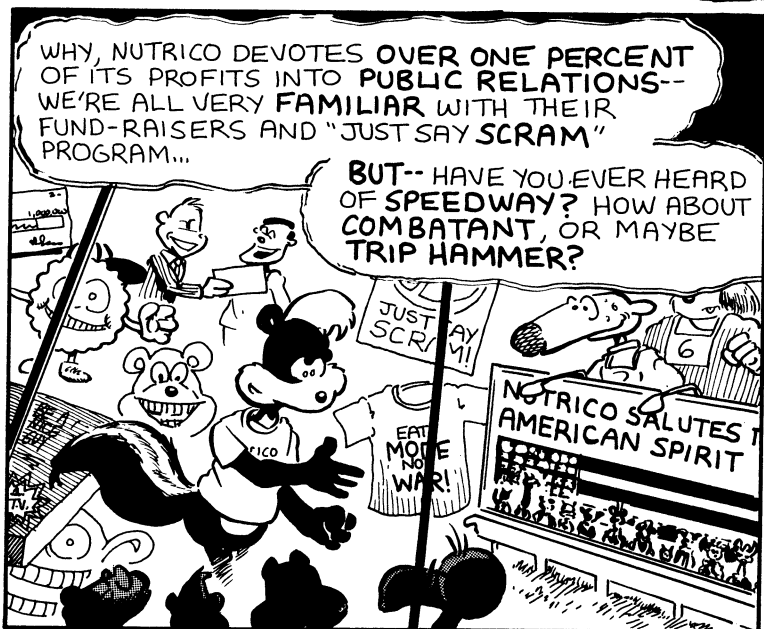
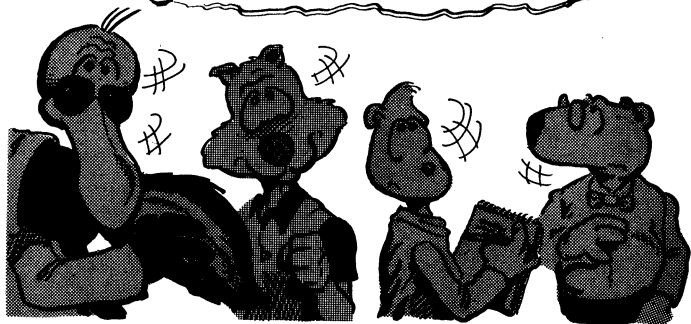
"SPEEDWAY" IS  
A CODE NAME  
FOR THE NEW  
"PERFORMANCE  
DRUGS" THE  
MILITARY IS  
TRYING TO  
DEVELOP.



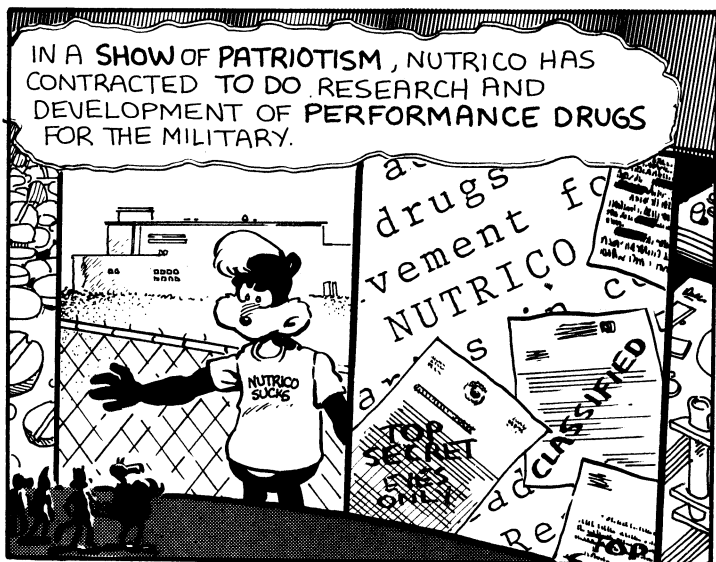
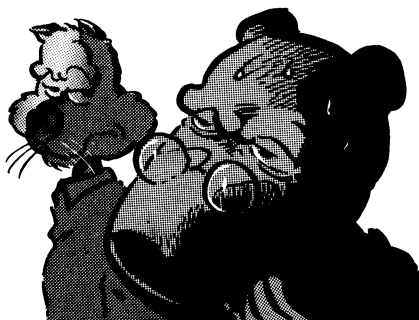




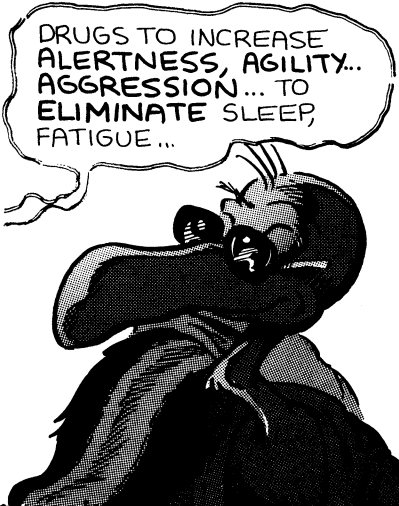
**YEAH, YEAH... WE'VE HEARD ALL THAT CRAP BEFORE... TELL US SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW!**



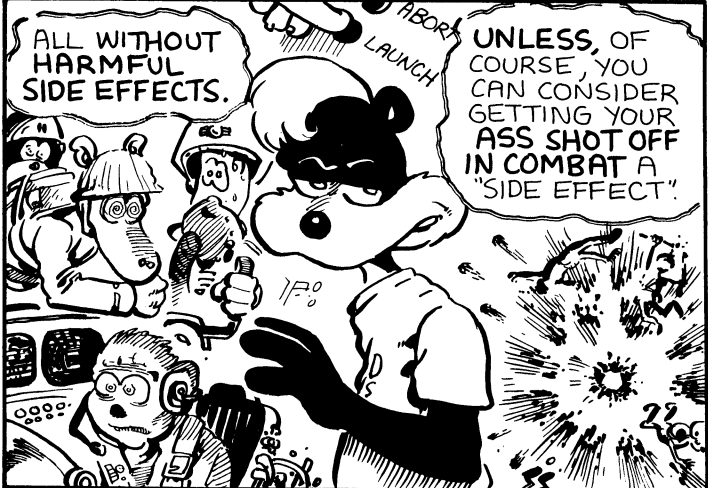
NOPE... THEY'RE NOT SCHWARZENEGGER FILMS, THEY'RE DRUGS. **DANGEROUS DRUGS** FOR A **DANGEROUS** WORLD.







DRUGS TO INCREASE  
ALERTNESS, AGILITY...  
AGGRESSION... TO  
ELIMINATE SLEEP,  
FATIGUE...

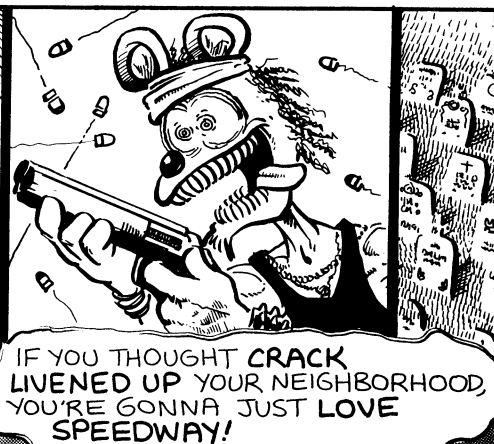


ALL WITHOUT  
HARMFUL  
SIDE EFFECTS.

UNLESS, OF  
COURSE, YOU  
CAN CONSIDER  
GETTING YOUR  
ASS SHOT OFF  
IN COMBAT A  
"SIDE EFFECT".



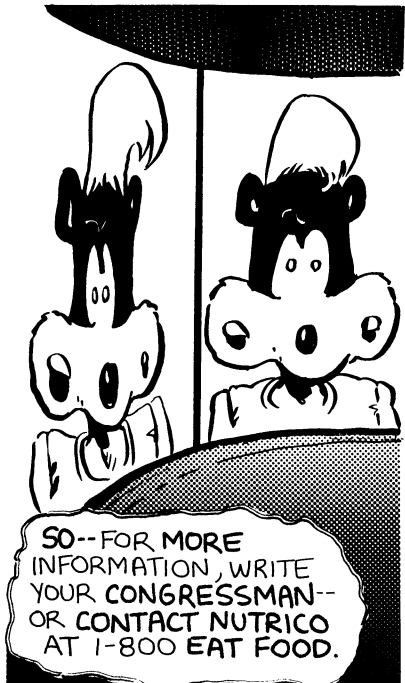
AND, LET'S BE **SERIOUS**, ONLY  
AN **IDIOT** WOULD BELIEVE SUCH  
DRUGS WOULD **STAY** IN THE  
SERVICE AND **NOT** END UP IN  
THE **STREETS**!



IF YOU THOUGHT **CRACK**  
LIVENED UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD,  
YOU'RE GONNA JUST LOVE  
**SPEEDWAY**!



DON'T BE SURPRISED  
IF THIS IS ALL NEWS  
TO YOU -- NUTRICO'S  
NOT QUITE AS PROUD  
OF THESE PROJECTS  
AS THEY ARE ABOUT,  
SAY, "THE WIGGLY  
BUDDIES EASTER  
SPECIAL".



SO--FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, WRITE  
YOUR CONGRESSMAN--  
OR CONTACT NUTRICO  
AT 1-800 EAT FOOD.



AS YOU LEAVE THE  
AUDITORIUM, LET ME  
REMAND YOU **NOT**  
TO VISIT OUR  
CONCESSION STAND  
OUTSIDE.

# Epilogue

IN THE WEEKS SINCE I BROKE THE STORY, SALES OF NUTRICO PRODUCTS HAVE **FALLEN BY TWENTY PERCENT**, AND THE CONGRESS HAS LAUNCHED YET **ANOTHER INQUIRY** INTO DEFENSE SPENDING. **SCALDING HAS BEEN RETIRED**-- NOW THE POOR GUY WILL HAVE TO **STRUGGLE ALONG** ON HIS **MILLION-A-YEAR PENSION**.



g drug

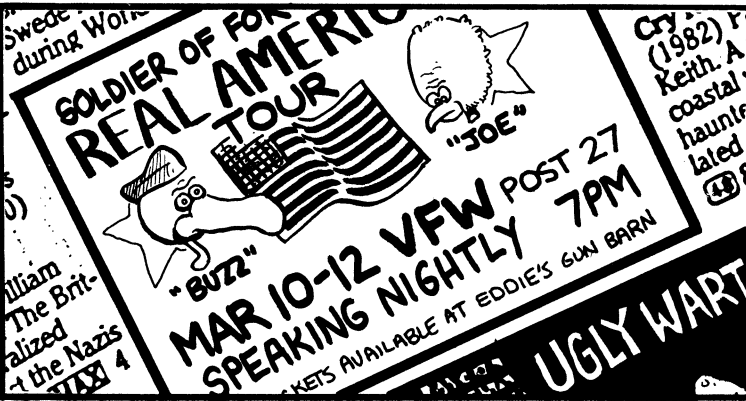
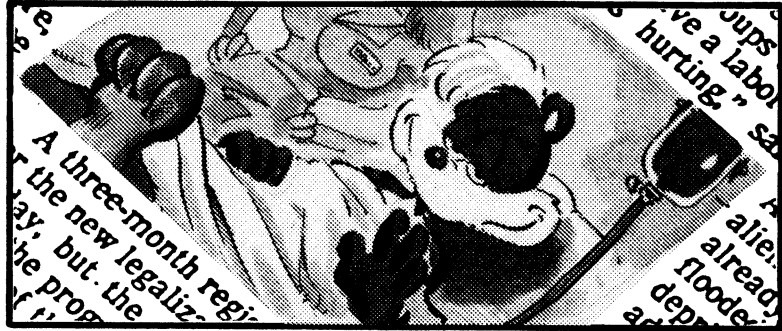
term,  
came  
rma-  
blic-

t the  
lped  
mu-

Bush pre-empts for the E

NUTRICO'S PAVILION HAS BEEN REPAIRED AND IS NOW PLAYING TO RECORD CROWDS; THEY'VE MANAGED TO KEEP PROTESTERS OUT.

BLEMISH HAS NOT UNDERGONE A FRONTAL LOBOTOMY-- BUT HE IS IN DE-TOX.

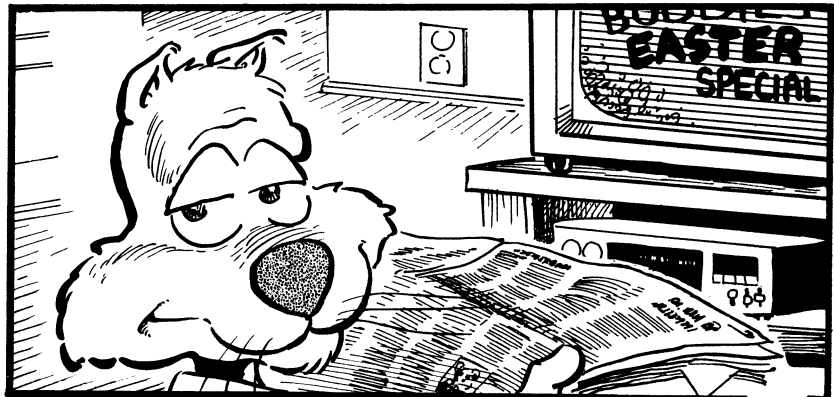


BUZZ WAS RELIEVED OF DUTY PENDING INVESTIGATION-- SO, NATURALLY, HE'S HIT THE LECTURE CIRCUIT, ON A DOUBLE-BILL WITH BEER MAGNATE JOSEPH CURS.

HIS INCOME HAS TRIPLED.

PERSONALLY, I'M PRETTY HAPPY... MY STORY HAS DONE SOME GOOD; I'VE BEEN INVITED TO A TALK SHOW, MADE A FEW HEADLINES.

AND, MUCH TO MY RELIEF, MY CREDIT RATING HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.



THE  
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AN UNSOLICITED TESTIMONY BY A COMICS EXPERT....

I TEND TO BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE WHAT I LIKE ARE SO SHORTSIGHTED THAT THEY CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT. LIKEWISE, IF PEOPLE LIKE WHAT I DON'T, THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT PERCEPTIVE ENOUGH TO SEE HOW COMPLETELY ASININE IT IS....

..IF YOU DON'T LIKE HAR-HAR COMICS, YOU'RE BLIND AS A BAT!

AND IT'S NOT A MATTER OF OPINION.



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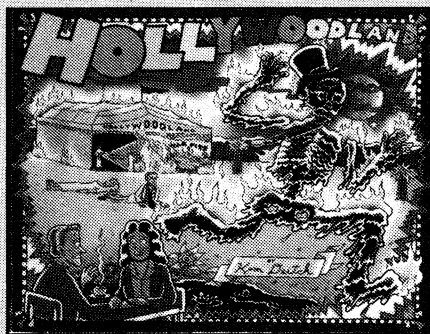
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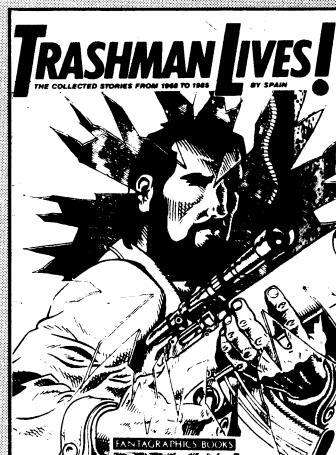
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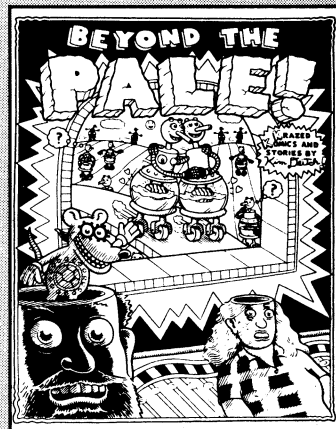
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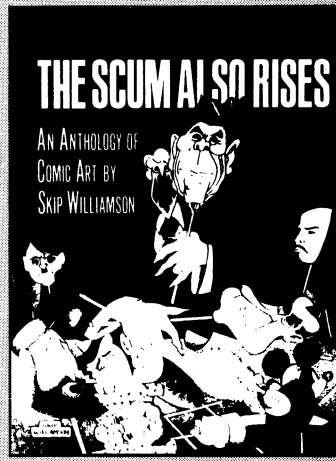
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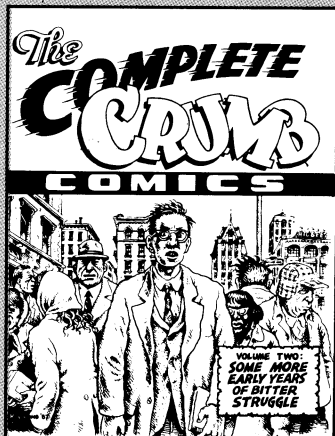
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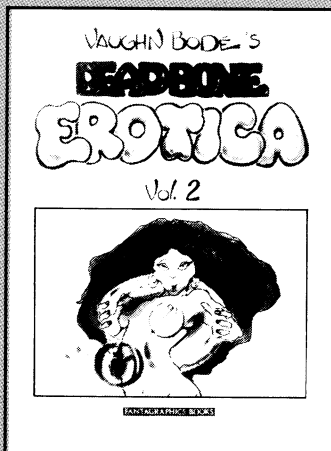


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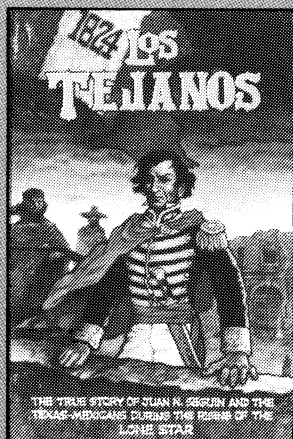
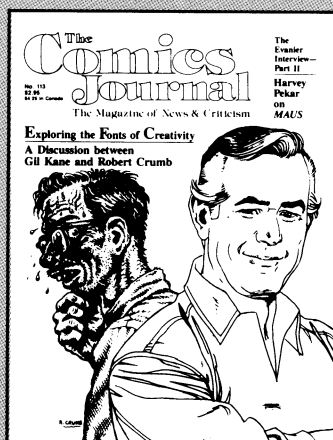


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