



MU PRESS
MAD
RACCOONS
\$2.50
\$3.00 CAN.

BY
CATHY HILL



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MU Press welcomes you to the world of Cathy Hill's *Mad Raccoons*.

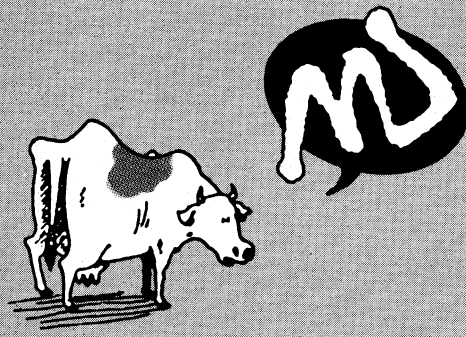
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Written & Illustrated by Cathy Hill

Produced by Edd Vick
Art Direction by Cindy Murata



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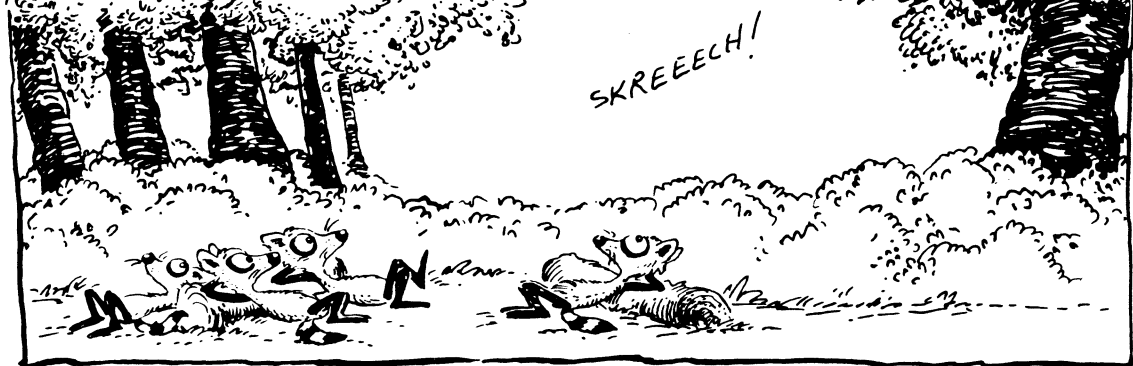
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VIRGIL FREAKS OUT



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THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD IT!
I'M THROUGH! I'M LEAVING!
I CAN'T STAND ANYMORE!



EEEEEEAAH! EEE
IT'S VIRGIL, HAVING
ANOTHER TANTRUM.



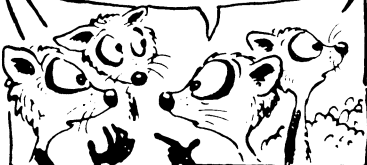
POOR VIRGIL, HE'S SO SENSITIVE

HE FEELS EVERYTHING
MORE DEEPLY.

THAT'S WHY HE'S SO CREATIVE.

HE SHOULD JUST LET
EVERYTHING RUN OFF HIS
BACK LIKE EVERYBODY
ELSE.

SNARL
GROWL



WHAT IS IT,
VIRGIL?



IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?

NO!

WHAT HAPPENED?

NOTHING!

WHY
ARE YOU UPSET?

I'M NOT!

OKAY...

I NEVER WANT TO SEE OR HEAR
ANOTHER LIVING CREATURE
AGAIN FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE!!

IT'S
HOPELESS!
I CAN'T COPE
WITH ANY
OF IT!

I'M GOING AWAY! AWAY!
NONE OF YOU WILL EVER HAVE
TO PUT UP WITH ME AGAIN!
EVER! EVER! EVER!

I'M GOING
TO GO AND
LIVE IN
THE TREES
LIKE A LEAF
UNTIL I
DROP.

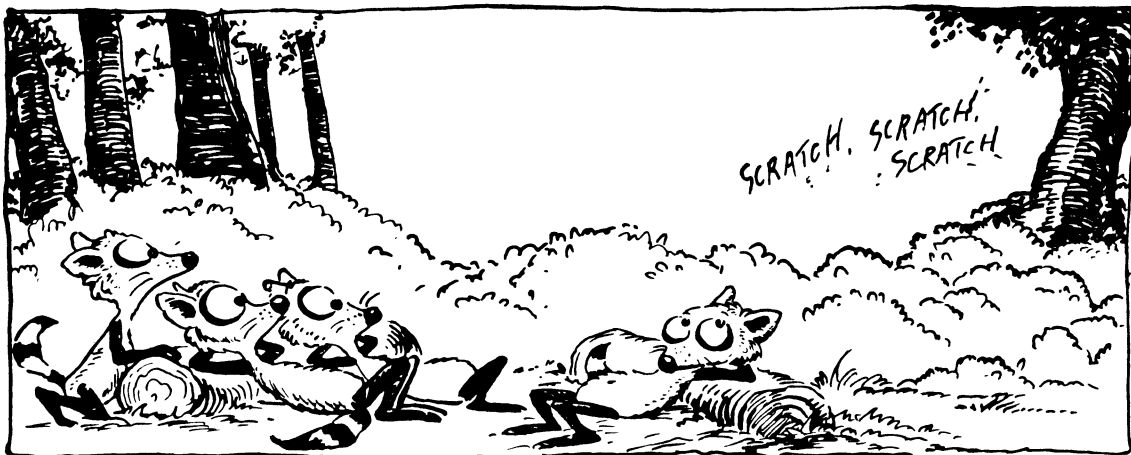
MY TEARS
WILL SPLATTER
ON THE GROUND
BELOW, WATERING
SOME NEEDY SEEDLING,
AND MAYBE I'LL
HAVE DONE SOME
GOOD IN THE
WORLD AFTERALL...

VIRGIL'S SO POETIC WHEN THIS HAPPENS.

THAT'S SO SAD.

HE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE
TO WRITE THAT ONE DOWN.

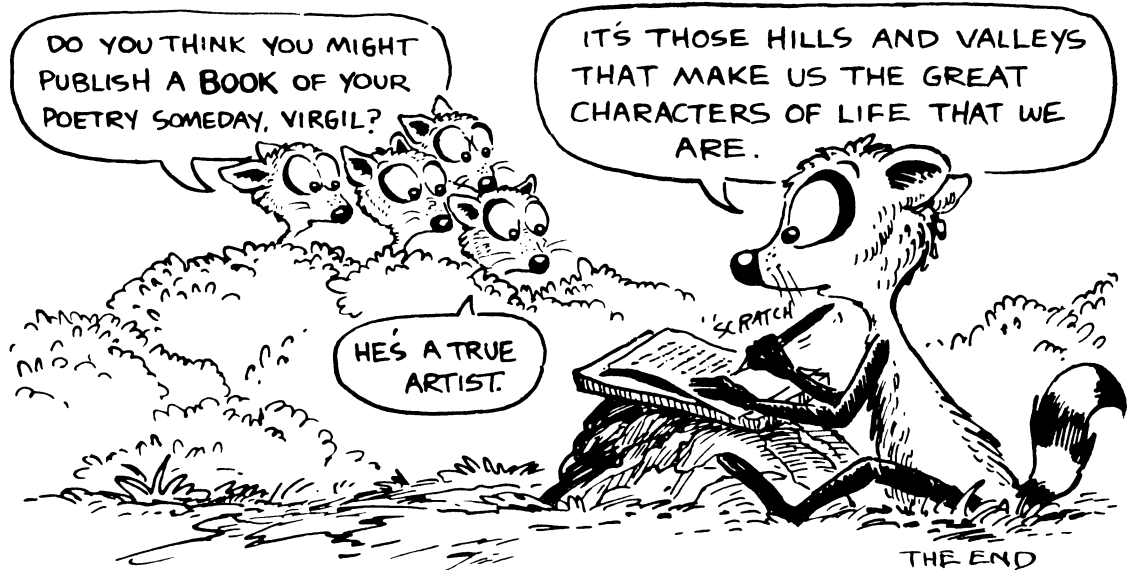
WE SHOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE.



DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT
PUBLISH A BOOK OF YOUR
POETRY SOMEDAY, VIRGIL?

IT'S THOSE HILLS AND VALLEYS
THAT MAKE US THE GREAT
CHARACTERS OF LIFE THAT WE
ARE.

HE'S A TRUE
ARTIST.



THE END

THE NATURAL RACCOON

RACCOONS APPRECIATE THE WONDERS OF NATURE
AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEIR WOODS.

THEY BELIEVE IN
THE NATURAL RHYTHM
OF THE UNIVERSE
AND IN STAYING IN
STEP WITH IT.

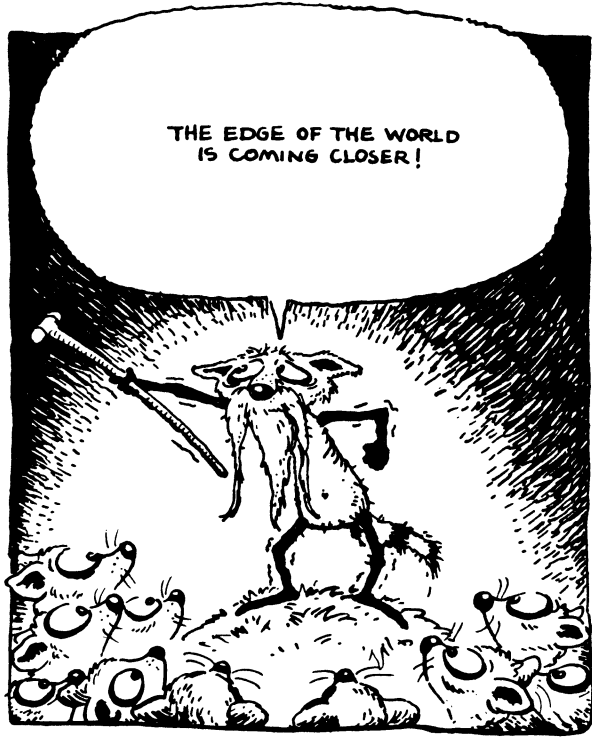


■ RACCOONS ALWAYS HAVE
RESPECT FOR THEIR ELDERS
AND LISTEN TO THEIR VALUED
VOICE OF EXPERIENCE.

GRAMPA PRICKLE!
HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU!
SIT DOWN AND TELL
US SOME WORDS
OF WISDOM!



THE EDGE OF THE WORLD
IS COMING CLOSER!



WHAT DID HE SAY?
THE HEDGE OF THE WORLD?

HE WANTS US TO CUT THE
HEDGE? WHAT HEDGE?

THERE'S A
HEDGE BEHIND
VIRGIL'S HOUSE.

HE POINTED THAT
WAY. MAYBE WE
SHOULD GO LOOK.



SO THE RACCOONS WALKED FOR SEVERAL MILES
LOOKING FOR THE MYSTERIOUS HEDGE.

WHEN SUDDENLY...

EEK! WHAT'S
THAT?

SOMEONE'S CUTTING
DOWN THE TREES!
WHY WOULD
ANYONE DO
THAT?

WE'LL CLIMB THIS
TREE AND GET A
LOOK.

DO YOU
SEE THE
HEDGE?

IT'S THE WARLORDS!
THOSE AWFUL WARLORDS!

THEY'RE CHOPPING DOWN THE TREES AND ROLLING THE LOGS FAR AWAY! DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE?

NO!

LOOK! NOW THEY'RE LEAVING!

AND TAKING THE WOOD!

ARE THEY CUTTING DOWN THE HEDGE TOO?

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

IT LOOKS UGLY!

IT LOOKS AWFUL!

I WANT TO GO HOME.

I HAVE AN IDEA!

I'LL FOLLOW THEM AND SEE WHERE THEY GO - AND WHY THEY'RE DOING THIS!

BUT VIRGIL, THE WARLORDS ARE TERRIBLE! REMEMBER HOW THEY CAPTURED OUR ANCESTORS!

THEY'RE DANGEROUS!

THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME. I'LL SWING FROM THE TREES.

AND SO... THE BRAVE VIRGIL LEAVES THE OTHER RACCOONS AND FOLLOWS THE WARLORDS.

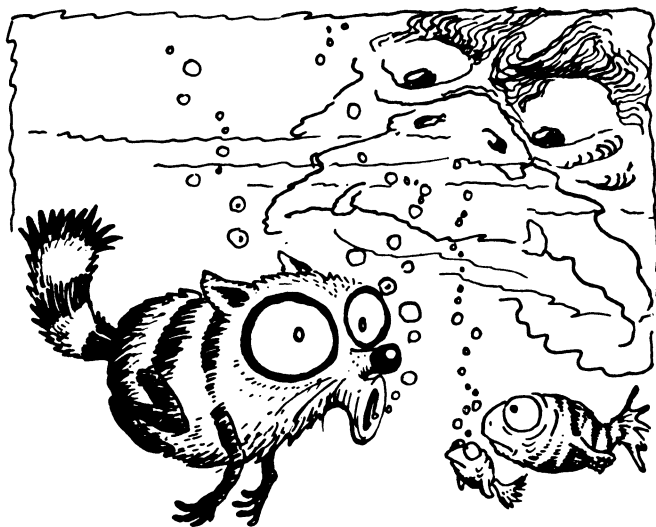
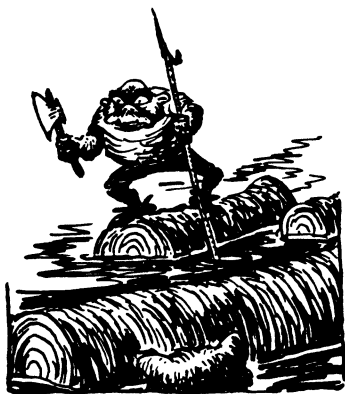
BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS.

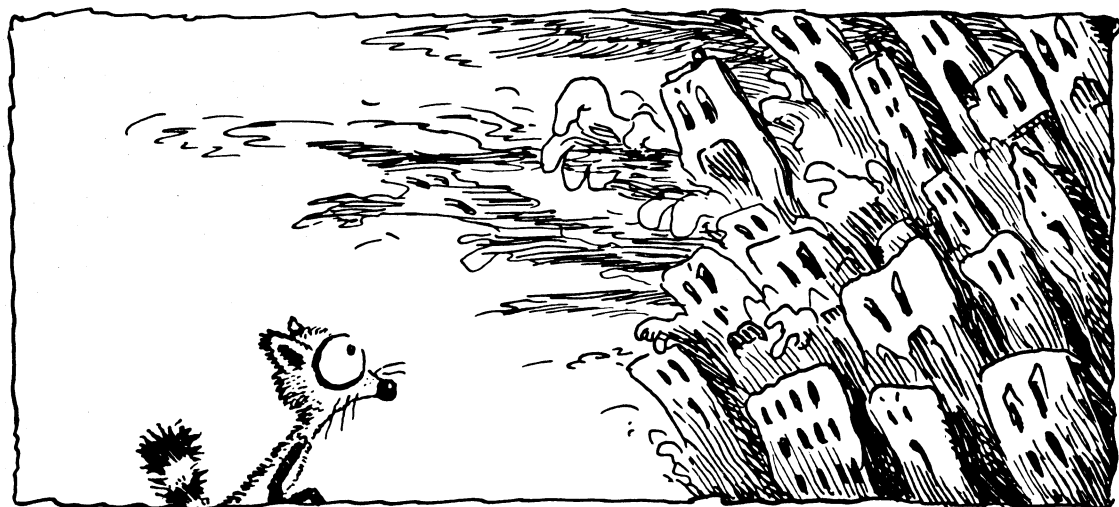
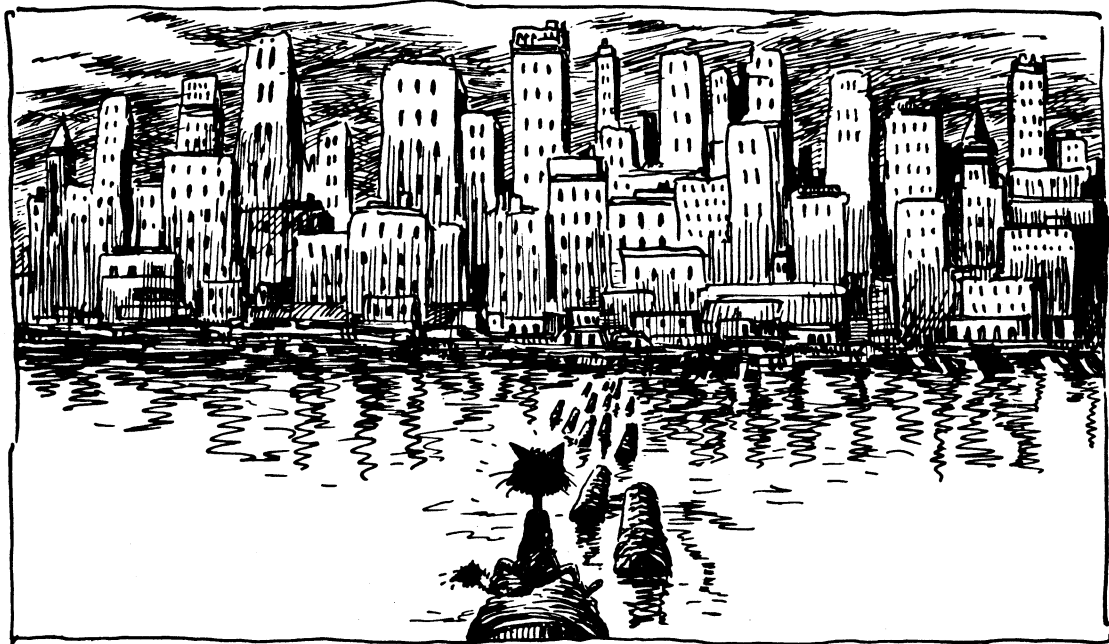
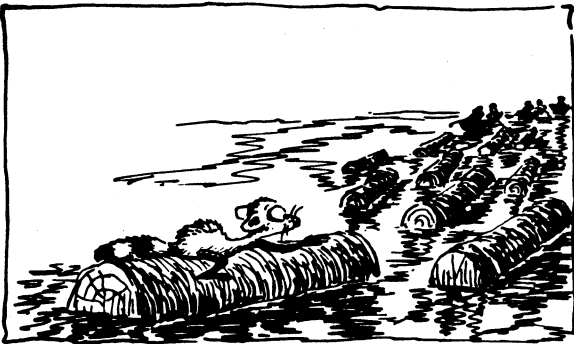
YOU'RE SO BRAVE VIRGIL.

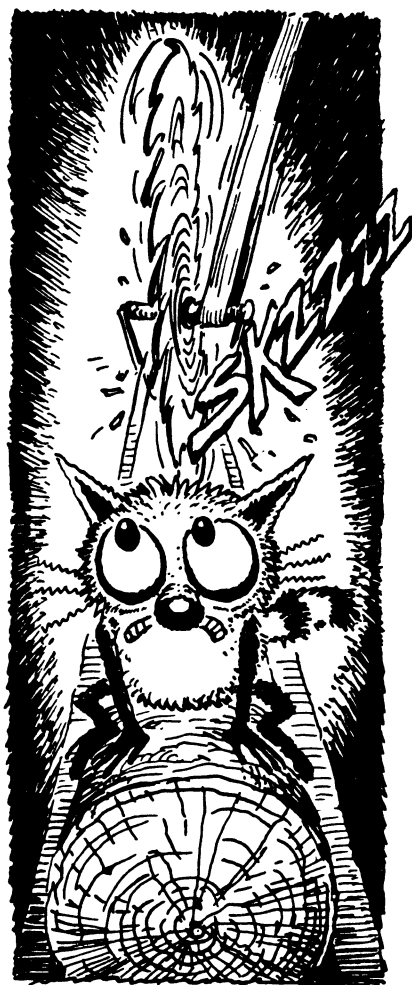
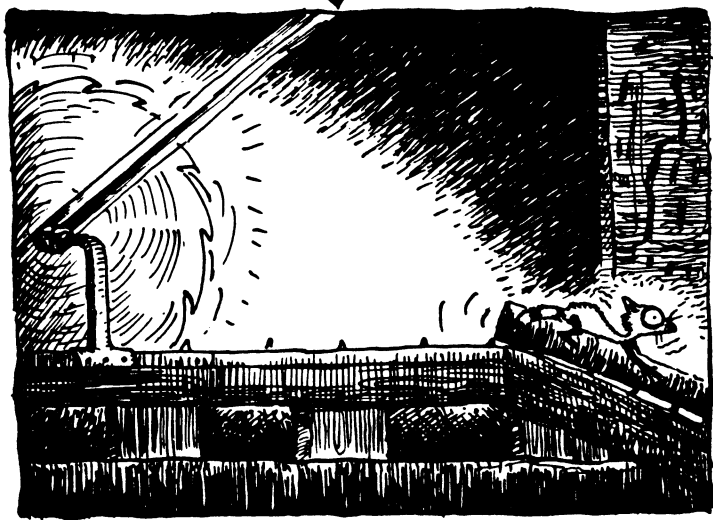
BE CAREFUL.



DID YOU SEE ONE OF
THOSE RATTY LITTLE
RACCOONS BACK THERE?





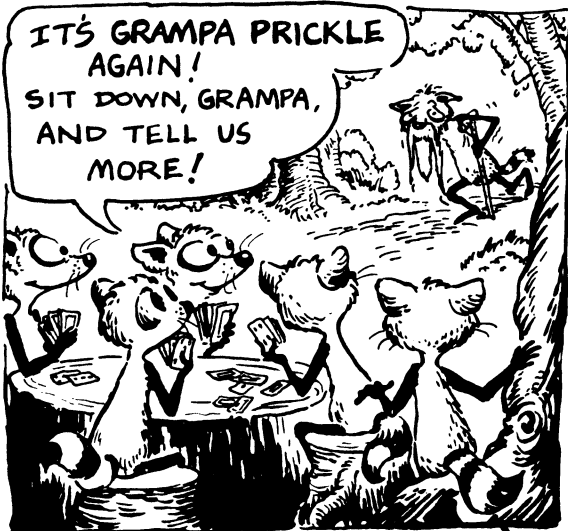


DAYS PASS, AND THE RACCOONS CONTINUE
THEIR PEACEFUL LIFE

I'M MAKING A PARSNIP PIE
FOR VIRGIL. HE SHOULD
BE BACK SOON.



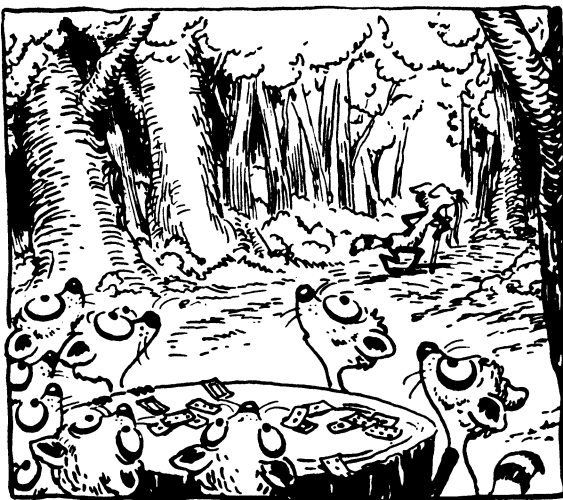
IT'S GRAMPA PRICKLE
AGAIN!
SIT DOWN, GRAMPA,
AND TELL US
MORE!



THE SKY IS FALLING!



I KNOW WHAT HE MEANS!
HE TOL ME ALL 'BOUT IT
IN A STORY LAS' NIGHT.
THERE'S A BIG HOLE IN THE
SKY AN' THE OOZY
LAYER'S GONE!

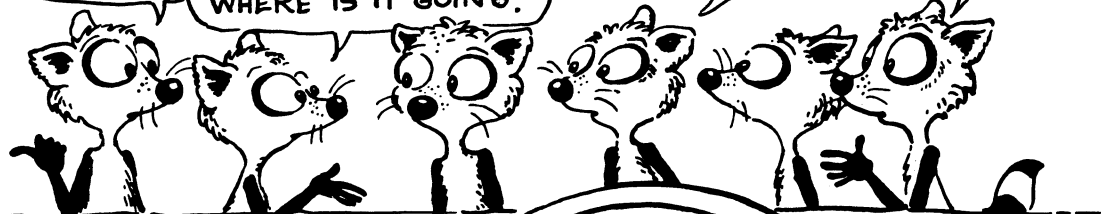


THE OOZY LAYER? IS THAT
LIKE THE SLUDGE ON THE
POND?

WHY IS IT GONE?
WHERE IS IT GOING?

IS IT STICKY?

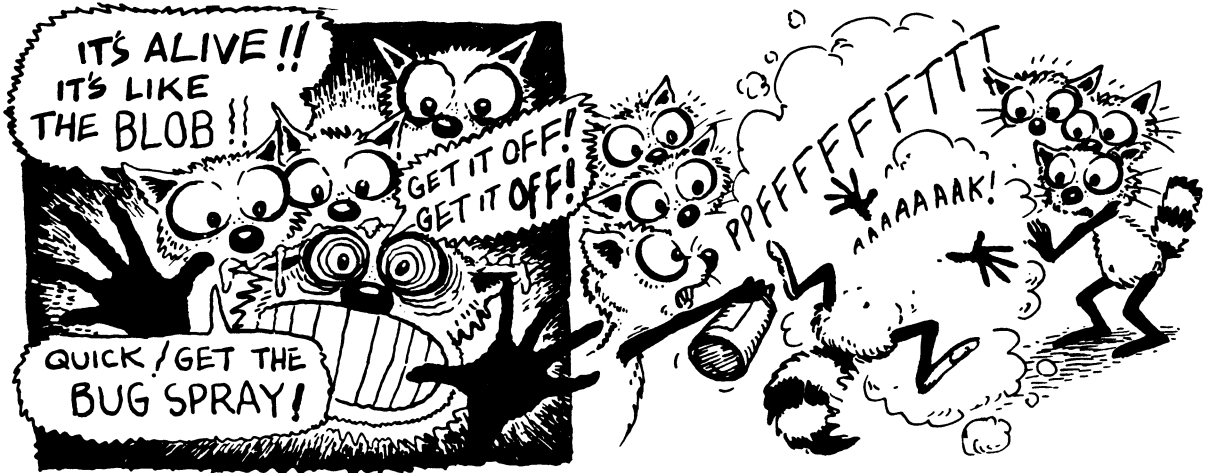
IS IT OOZY?



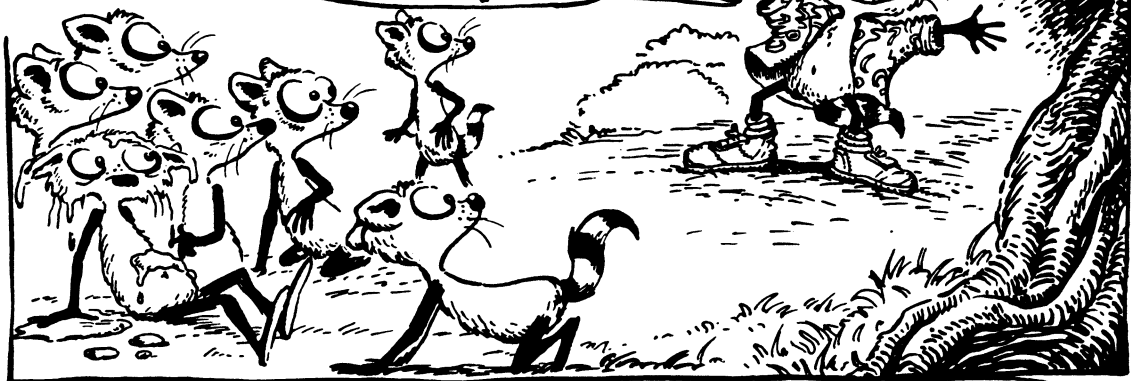
IS IT IN
THE SKY?

IS IT
FALLING?





I AM RETURNED!



VIRGIL! VIRGIL!

WE'RE SO GLAD
TO SEE YOU!

YOU'RE HOME
SAFE!

YOU'VE BEEN
GONE FOR DAYS!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

WHAT DID YOU
SEE?



WHAT DID
I SEE?



IT'S A HARD, CRUEL WORLD OUT
THERE. ONE MUST QUICKLY
BECOME TOUGHENED TO THE
COLD LIFE IN THE CITY. VAST
MONOLITHS HOVER OVER YOUR
HEAD — SLABS OF GLASS
AND CEMENT THREATEN TO
SUFFOCATE YOU....

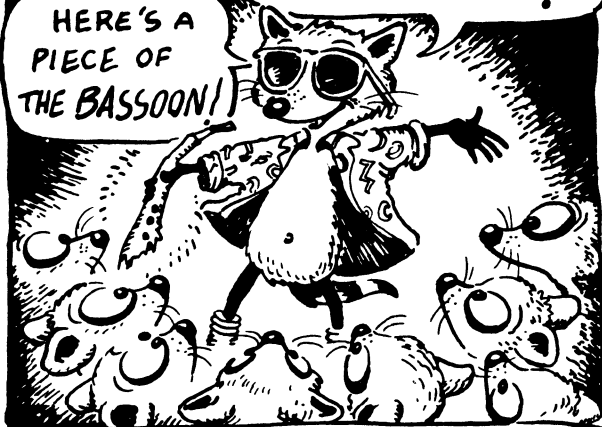


...SOULLESS BEINGS WITH
NOT A DROP OF THE MILK OF
RACCOON KINDNESS WANDER
AIMLESSLY IN CIRCLES, DEVOID
OF HOPE.... MEANING....



AN' I WENT TO THE ROCKSY!
AN' SAW THE FIREHOSE FIVE
MINUS NINE!

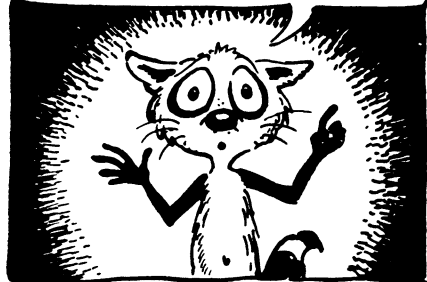
HERE'S A
PIECE OF
THE BASSOON!



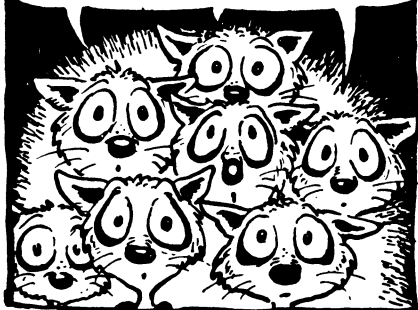
THEY SELL 'EM DOWN THE RIVER,
KID. THEY SELL 'EM DOWN THE
RIVER, JUST LIKE EVERYTHING
ELSE.



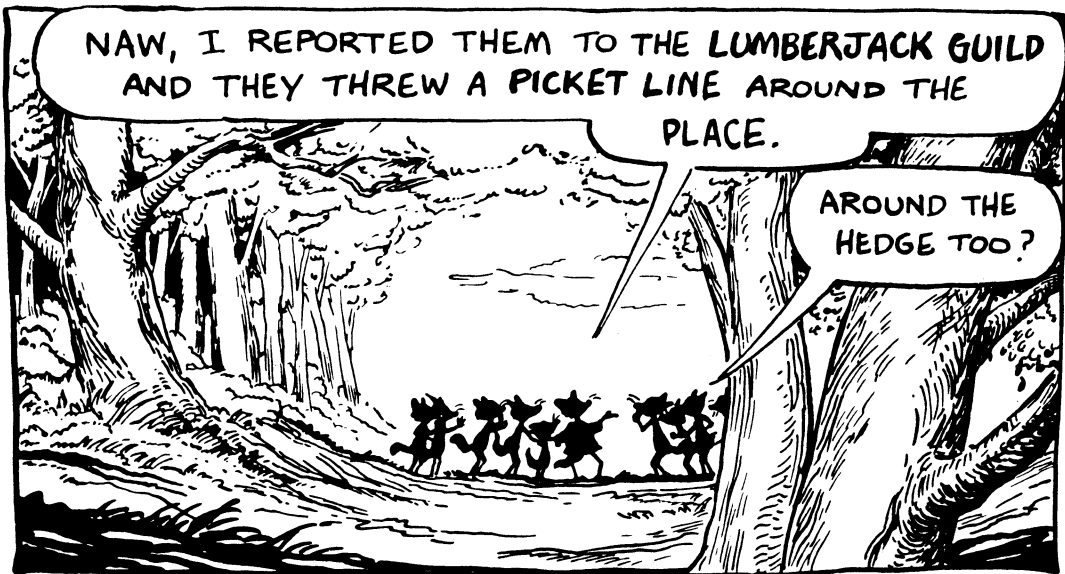
BUT UNCLE VIRGIL...
WHAT ABOUT THE TREES?
WHY DID THEY CHOP
DOWN THE TREES?



ARE THE WARLORDS
STILL GOING TO CHOP
DOWN THE TREES?



NAW, I REPORTED THEM TO THE LUMBERJACK GUILD
AND THEY THREW A PICKET LINE AROUND THE
PLACE.



AROUND THE
HEDGE TOO?

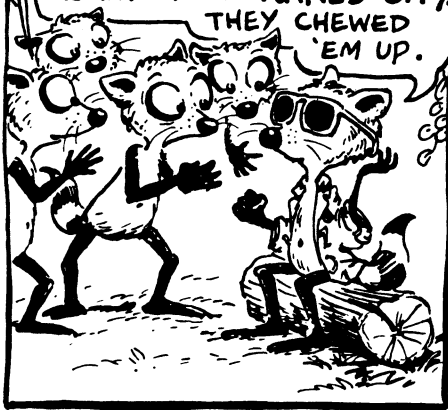
YOU KNOW, THEY MUST HAVE GOT THE HEDGE ALREADY. IT WAS ALL GONE.

WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE WARLORDS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'LL TRY NEXT!

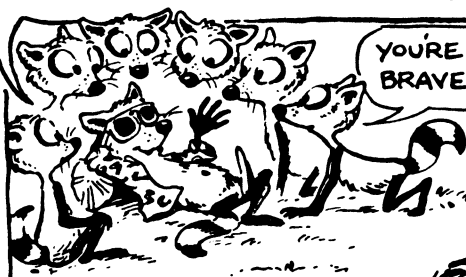


WHAT ELSE HAPPENED ON YOUR TRIP, VIRGIL!

I'LL TELL YOU, I FOLLOWED THOSE LOGS RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THE NAKED CITY. THEY CHEWED 'EM UP.



... THEN, I WAS ATTACKED BY A PEG-LEGGED MIME IN THE PARK WHO THOUGHT I WAS STEALING HIS AUDIENCE. I TOLD HIM I WAS JUST A RACCOON, BUT THEN HE SAID HE WAS SURE I WAS STEALING SOMETHING! I SAID, "HOW DARE YOU REPEAT THAT DISGUSTING OLD CLICHÉ AND DEFAME RACCOONS WHO ARE THE NOBLEST SPECIES ON EARTH," AND KICKED HIS PEG OFF....



YOU'RE SO BRAVE, VIRGIL!

WILL UNCLE VIRGIL BE ALRIGHT?

IT TAKES TIME TO RECOVER FROM BRAVERY.



UNCLE ERF

THE HOUSE IS A MESS.
IT'S GOTTA BE
CLEANED.

NO, IT'S NOT.
I CLEANED IT
YESTERDAY.

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NO YOU
DIDN'T.

I DID TOO, ERF.
I TOOK OUT THE
GARBAGE AND WASHED
ALL THE DISHES.

IT'S STILL A MESS!
THERE'S STUFF ALL
OVER THE PLACE!

WELL, I DID
CLEAN IT.

IT'S NOT
CLEAN!
AND IT
WAS YOUR
TURN
THIS
WEEK!

BUT I WASHED
ALL THE
DISHES!
AND YOU
SHOULD
HAVE SEEN
THAT
PILE!

IF YOU THINK IT'S
CLEAN, SHOW IT TO
ME, PANSY!
LET'S GO
LOOK AT
IT!

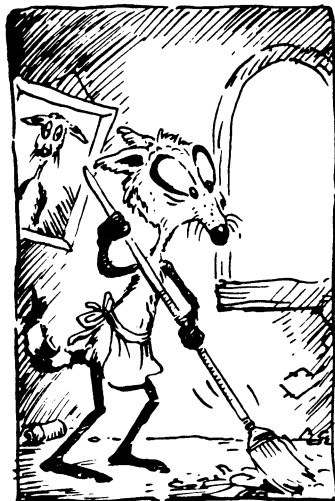
OKAY!

SEE?

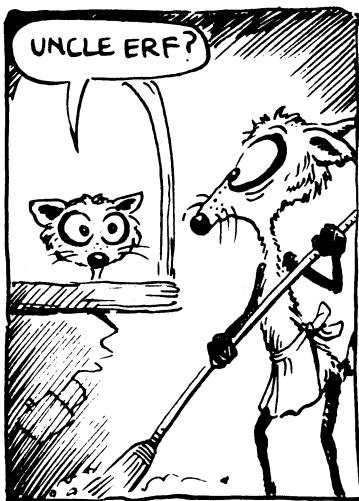
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT!
I FORGOT TO DO A
FEW THINGS. YOU'RE
SO FUSY, YOU DO IT!

I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT!
IN FACT, I'M LEAVING UNTIL
YOU GET IT DONE!

OKAY, OKAY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE A FIT....



UNCLE ERF?



UNCLE ERF'S NOT
HERE RIGHT NOW, EZRY.

WHEN WILL HE BE
BACK, AUNT PANSY?

OH, HE'S
MAD AND
WON'T BE
BACK TIL
I CLEAN
THIS PLACE
UP.

OKAY. WE JUST WANTED
TO INVITE YOU AND ERF
AND FURLEY AND ALL
TO THE PICNIC THIS
AFTERNOON.
CAN YOU COME?

WHY THANK
YOU, EZRY.
YES.

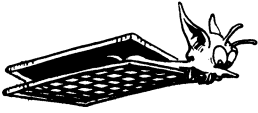
JUST FOR THIS, I'M NOT EVEN
GOING TO TELL ERF ABOUT THE
PICNIC. HE CAN JUST MISS IT!...

...MAYBE I'LL TELL
FURLEY THOUGH.

THE END

THE PHILOSOPHY OF RACCOONS

RACCOONS ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC. THEY ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE AND TEACH THE YOUNG ONES THIS SAME HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.



NOW PAY ATTENTION, EZRY, ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

THIS GLASS OF WATER REPRESENTS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE. I WANT YOU TO TELL ME IF IT IS HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL.

DO YOU SEE IT AS HALF EMPTY? DO YOU FEEL THAT HALF OF IT IS GONE?



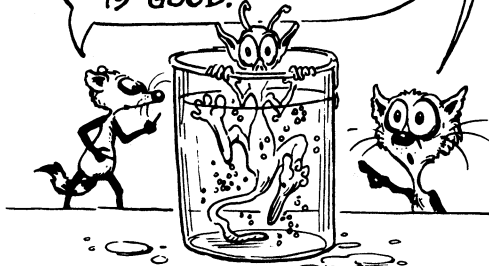
OR, DO YOU SEE IT AS HALF FULL... THAT THERE IS STILL MUCH LEFT-- IN A SENSE THAT THERE IS STILL SOMETHING TO WORK WITH...

... APPRECIATIVE OF THAT WHICH STILL REMAINS...

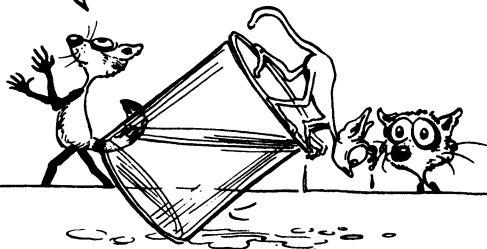


IT'S FULL!

FULL! INTERESTING.
A LITTLE OVER-OPTIMISTIC,
BUT... YOUR ATTITUDE
IS GOOD.



ON THE OTHER HAND, IT
IS IMPORTANT TO FACE
REALITIES -- RECOGNIZE THE
WORTH AND THEN THE
POTENTIAL...

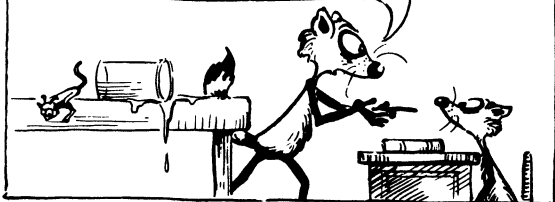


NOW CAN YOU SEE THAT
IT IS REALLY HALF FULL
AND STILL FEEL HOPEFUL?

WELL, IT'S REALLY
EMPTY, NOW...



EZRY, EZRY, WE MUST LEARN
NOT TO BE DISCOURAGED SO
QUICKLY. LEARN TO EVALUATE A
SITUATION. OBSERVE IT CLOSELY
AND THEN STICK TO YOUR OPINIONS--
NOW, PAY ATTENTION.



OPEN YOUR BOOK.
TODAY, WE WILL STUDY
NIETZSCHE.



NIETZSCHE TELLS US THAT SALVATION
LIES IN THE ARISTOCRATIC PRINCIPLE--
IN COURAGE, STRENGTH AND
DARING...



"... WE HAVE CONTROL
OVER OUR LIVES..."

"... THE STRONG INDIVIDUAL
WHO CREATES HIS OWN
FREEDOM MAKES HIS OWN
LAW, AND THUS..."

"...SHAPES HIS OWN
DESTINY."

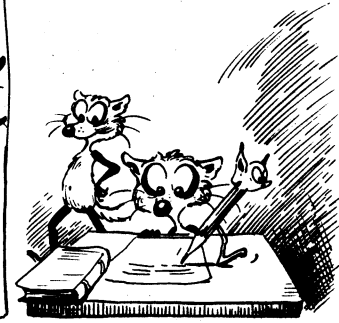
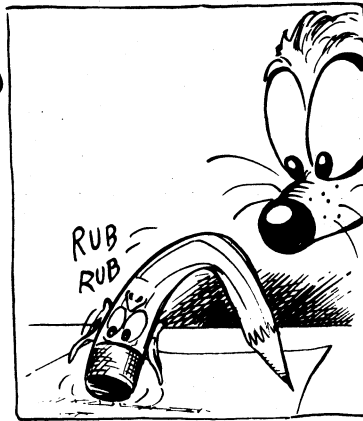
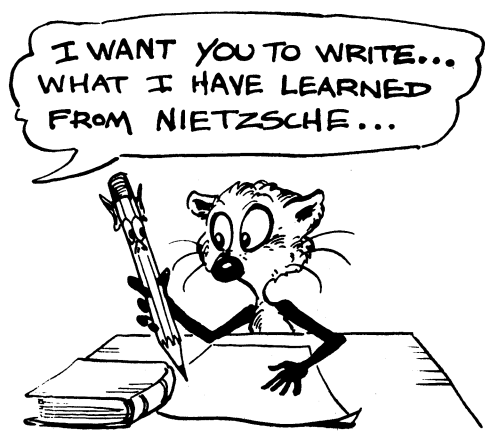
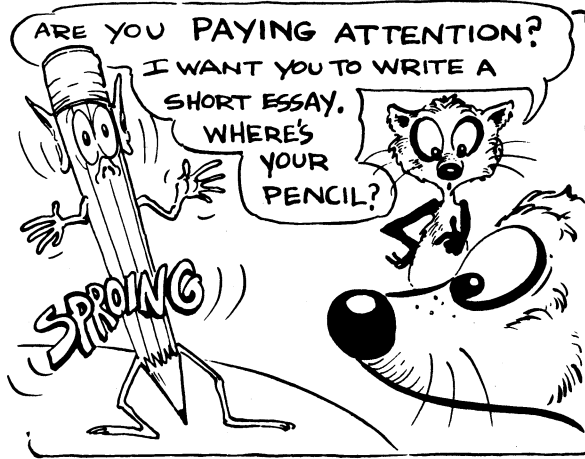
"NIETZSCHE
EXPLAINS THAT
WE MUST FREE
OURSELVES
FROM THE SLAVE
MORALITY
AND
BECOME WHAT
WE
WANT
TO BE..."

"...THIS
WILL TO
POWER
CAN..."

"...TEACH US
TO BE
SELF-MADE
RACCOONS..."

"WE ARE A ROPE...
STRETCHED
OVER AN
ABYSS...A
BRIDGE TO
A NEW
BEING..."

"...A SUPERACCOON!"



UNCLE ERF PART 2

YOU'RE THE MOST SELFISH
RACCOON I'VE EVER KNOWN!
YOU WANT EVERYTHING YOUR
WAY ALL THE TIME!

IT'S YOUR FAULT, PANSY!
YOU START ALL THE
TROUBLE!!

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I CAN'T EVER PLEASE
YOU AT ALL!
NOTHING'S EVER
RIGHT IS IT?

THAT'S ALL
WRONG!!
YOU'RE CRAZY!!

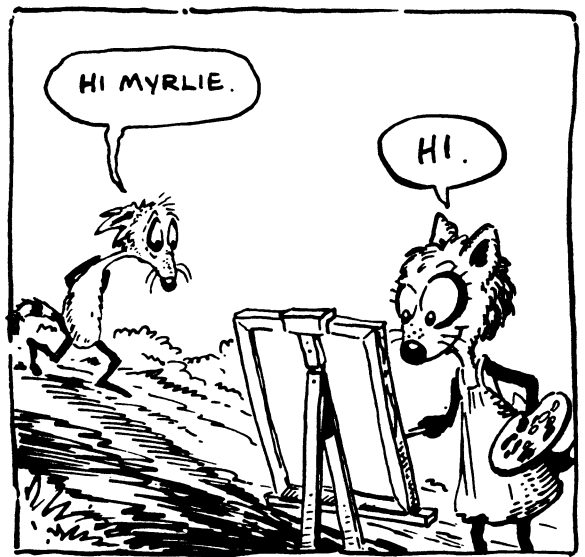
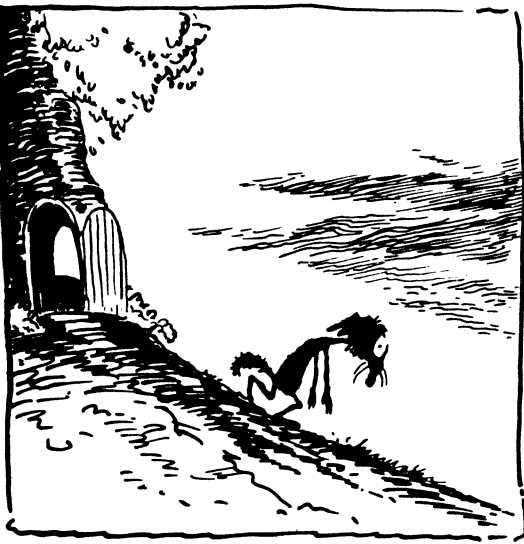
SEE? I'M WRONG AGAIN! I'M
ALWAYS WRONG, AREN'T I ERF?
... AND YOU'RE PERFECT! YOU'RE
ALWAYS PERFECT! YOU SHOULD BE IN
A MUSEUM OF RARE ODDITIES!

A PERFECT
SPECIMEN
WHO'S
ALWAYS
RIGHT!

THAT DOES IT!
GET OUT, PANSY!
I CAN'T LIVE WITH
YOU! YOU GO LIVE
IN A MUSEUM
FOR MANIACS!

OKAY! I'LL GET OUT! I'LL BE HAPPY TO GET OUT!
YOU CAN STAY HERE AND WALLOW IN
YOUR PERFECTION!

THAT'S A LAUGH! I'LL WALLOW IN
PEACE AND QUIET WITH YOU GONE!



YOU LOOK SAD. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

OH, ERF AND I HAD ANOTHER FIGHT.

THAT'S TOO BAD...

IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A FIGHT THIS TIME... I THINK WE'RE THROUGH.

OH, AUNT PANSY. YOU AND ERF ALWAYS FIGHT. THAT'S JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

YES, BUT THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT. ... HE THREW ME OUT.

HE THREW YOU OUT?

HE THREW ME OUT.... IN THE COLD..
...TO WANDER THE STREETS...
TO STARVE... HE DOESN'T CARE...

NOW, NOW, AUNT PANSY.
YOU'LL PATCH IT UP.
YOU ALWAYS DO.

NOT THIS TIME! HE THREW
ME OUT!..OF MY OWN HOME!!
HE'S A BEAST!! BY GOD, I
WANT A DIVORCE!!!!

A
DIVORCE?!

HE CAN'T TREAT ME
THIS WAY! I'LL SHOW
HIM! HE'LL HAVE TO
STRUGGLE
ALONG
WITHOUT
ME !!!

WAIT 'TIL HE GETS THE DIVORCE
PAPERS! HE WON'T EVEN BE
EXPECTING IT, AND HE'LL GET
THEM IN THE

MAIL ONE
DAY!
THAT'LL
SHOCK
HIM!!

BUT AUNT PANSY, WHAT ABOUT
LITTLE FURLEY.

YES... POOR LITTLE FURLEY...
.... A BROKEN HOME....

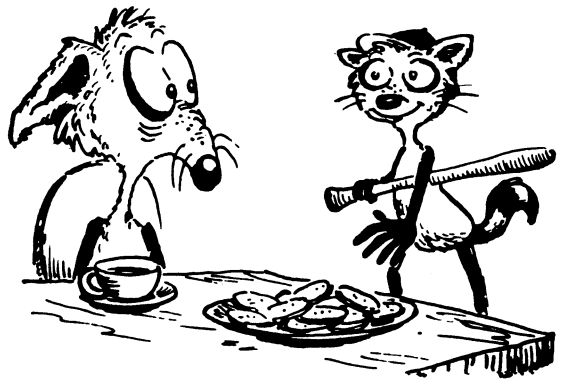
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME COOKIES... AUNT PANSY...
... AND SOME TEA.. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER..



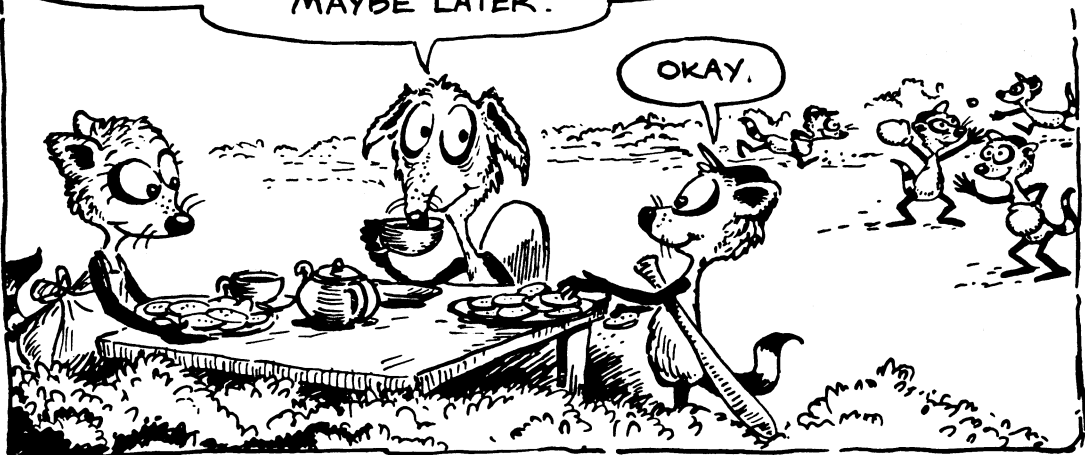
COME AND GET SOME
COOKIES, EZRY !



CAN FURLEY COME OUT AND
PLAY? WE NEED A SHORTSTOP.



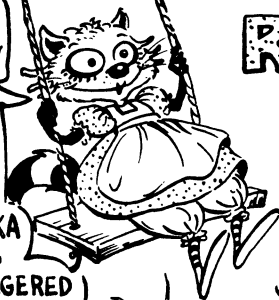
NOT NOW, EZRY. WE'RE HAVING TEA...
MAYBE LATER.



OKAY.

The Adventures of RACCKETTY ANN AND BLA BLA

YOU KNOW, BLA BLA, IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WHEN WE MET AND YOU RESCUED ME FROM THAT PACK OF WILD WOLVES IN THE WILDERNESS OF ALASKA WHERE I WAS DOING RESEARCH ON ENDANGERED SPECIES... OF COURSE, THEY WERE SOME OF YOUR UNRULY RELATIVES...

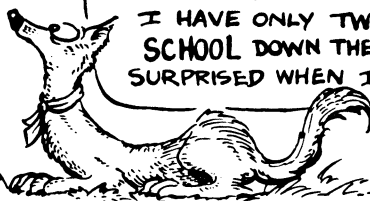


LUCKY FOR ME, YOUR MOTHER WAS A GERMAN SHEPHERD WHO TAUGHT YOU MANNERS! WE'VE BEEN PRACTICALLY INSEPARABLE EVER SINCE THEN, AND I CAN'T IMAGINE MAKING MY TRAVELS ALL OVER THE WORLD WITHOUT YOU. ARE YOU ALL SET TO GO BACK TO

ARGENTINA WITH ME, BLA BLA?

I HAVE ONLY TWO MORE YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL DOWN THERE. WON'T EVERYONE BE SURPRISED WHEN I COME BACK A DOCTOR?

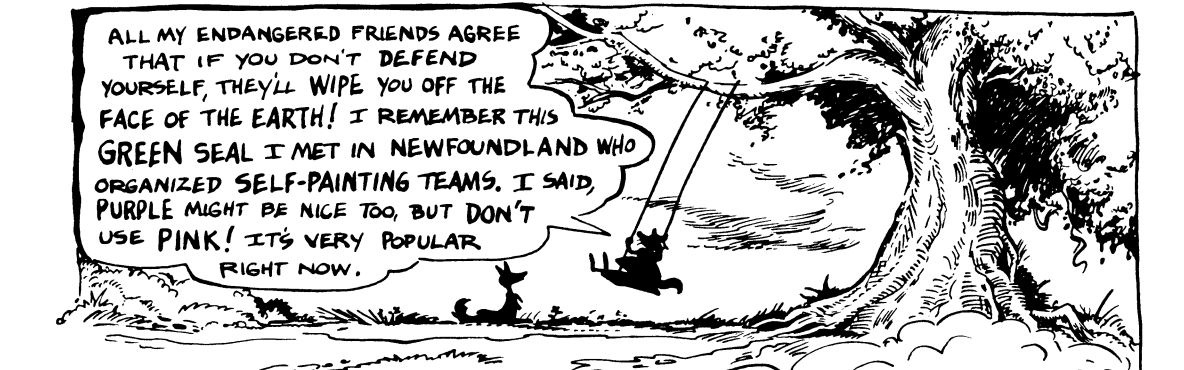
I KNOW YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, BLA BLA.



I TRY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE BUT RACCOONS ARE SUCH GOSSIPS! AND THEY'RE SO PASSIVE! NOW, SKUNKS HAVE SPUNK! ALL MY BEST FRIENDS THESE DAYS ARE SKUNKS! THEY DON'T MIND BEING OFFENSIVE!



YOU KNOW, THAT REMINDS ME OF WHAT I WAS TELLING THE HAVASUPAI BURROS WHILE WE WERE CLIMBING DOWN THE GRAND CANYON TOGETHER... I SAID, "DON'T LET THEM LEAD YOU AROUND! YOU MUST FIGHT FOR YOUR LAND."



ALL MY ENDANGERED FRIENDS AGREE THAT IF YOU DON'T DEFEND YOURSELF, THEY'LL WIPE YOU OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH! I REMEMBER THIS GREEN SEAL I MET IN NEWFOUNDLAND WHO ORGANIZED SELF-PAINTING TEAMS. I SAID, PURPLE MIGHT BE NICE TOO, BUT DON'T USE PINK! IT'S VERY POPULAR RIGHT NOW.




WHEN I GET MY DEGREE, I WILL BE A MORE EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS AND WILDLIFE RESCUE. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS FUN DOING EVEN LITTLE THINGS LIKE GETTING SIGNATURES FOR PETITIONS, WASN'T IT, BLA BLA?




YOU MUST PRESERVE YOUR SPECIES! STAND UP FOR YOURSELF!

I SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO ARM BEARS



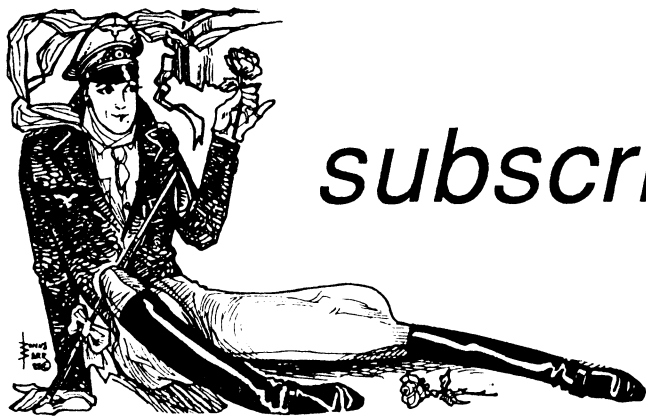
RACCKETTY-ANN! RACCKETTY-ANN! YOUR PLANE IS GOING DOWN THE RUNWAY! YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN!



QUICK, GET MY SUITCASE, BLA BLA! YOU'LL HAVE TO RIDE IN THE BAGGAGE DEPT. AGAIN. I KNOW YOU HATE THAT. I HOPE IT'S NOT THE SAME CREW AS LAST TIME WHEN THEY HAD TO STOP THE PLANE AND WAIT - THEY MIGHT REMEMBER ME...

YOU'RE A LEGEND IN YOUR SPARE TIME, RACCKETTY-ANN.

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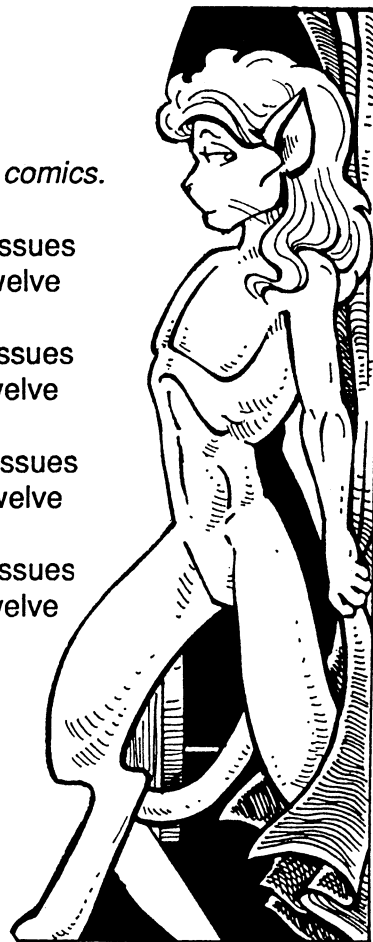
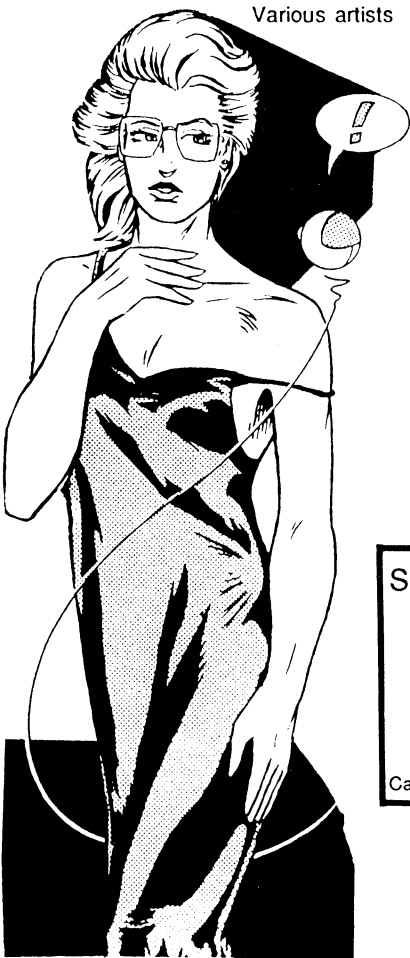
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-- George Orwell

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