

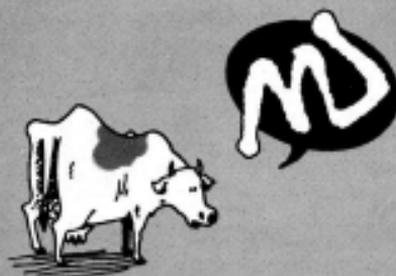


MU PRESS  
MAD  
RACCOONS  
\$2.50  
\$3.00 CAN.

BY  
GATHY HILL



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

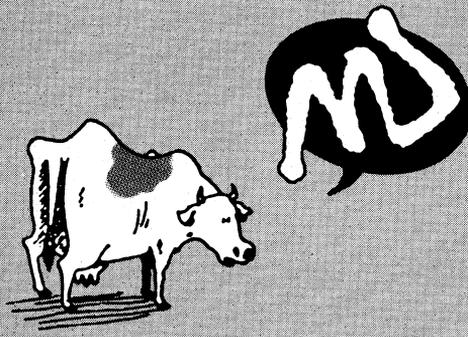
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Written & Illustrated by Cathy Hill

Produced by Edd Vick  
Art Direction by Cindy Murata



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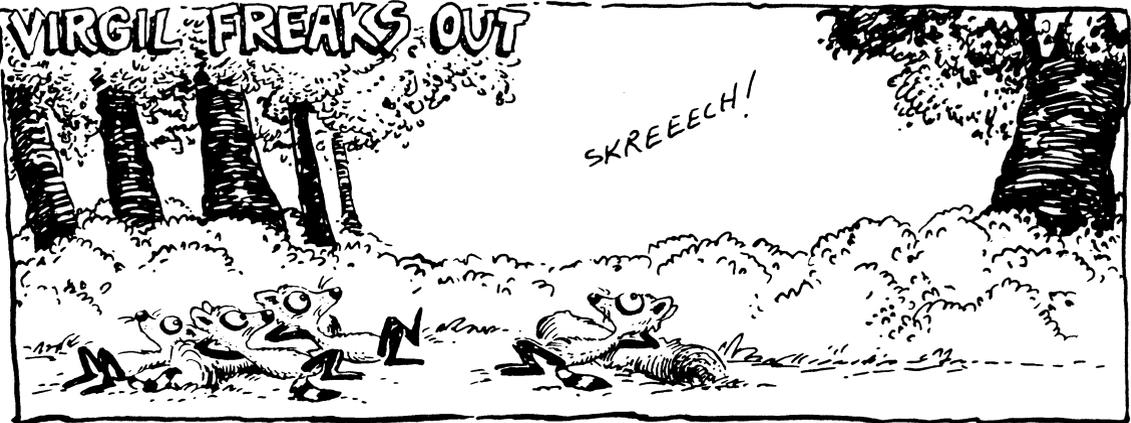
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# VIRGIL FREAKS OUT



SKREEECH!

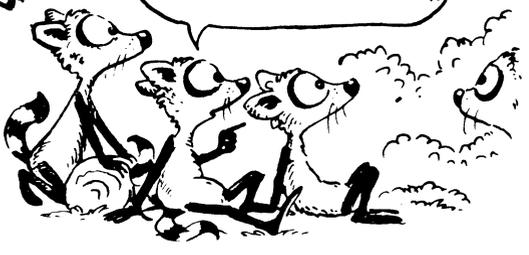
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THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD IT!  
I'M THROUGH! I'M LEAVING!  
I CAN'T STAND ANYMORE!



EEEEEEAAH! EEE

IT'S VIRGIL, HAVING  
ANOTHER TANTRUM.

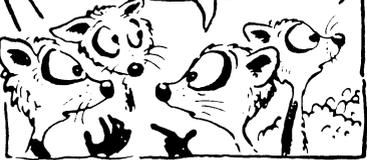


POOR VIRGIL, HE'S SO SENSITIVE

HE FEELS EVERYTHING  
MORE DEEPLY.

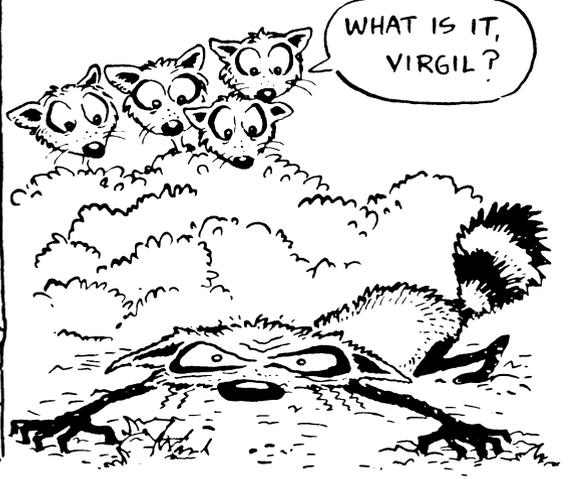
THAT'S WHY HE'S SO CREATIVE.

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.

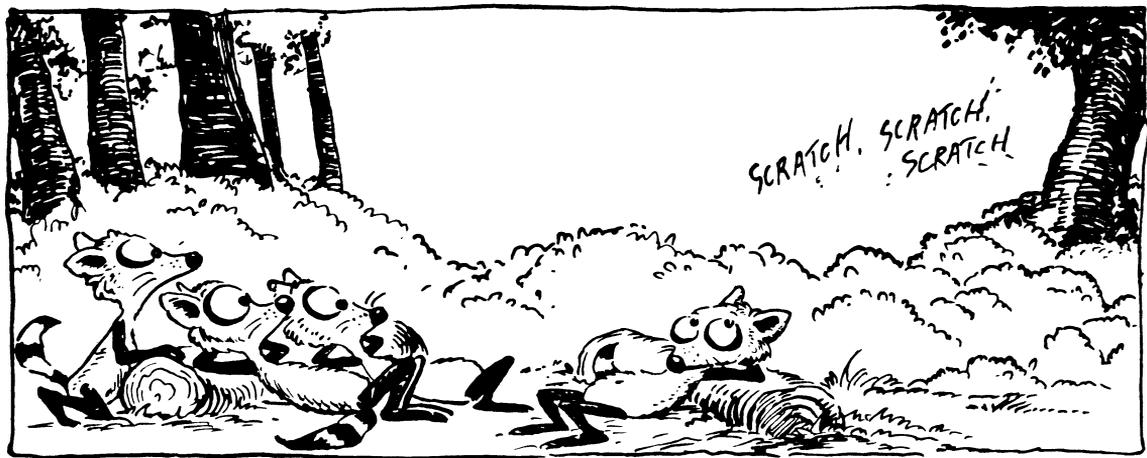
MY TEARS  
WILL SPLATTER  
ON THE GROUND  
BELOW, WATERING  
SOME NEEDY SEEDLING,  
AND MAYBE I'LL  
HAVE DONE SOME  
GOOD IN THE  
WORLD AFTERALL...

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 ANWFUL 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.

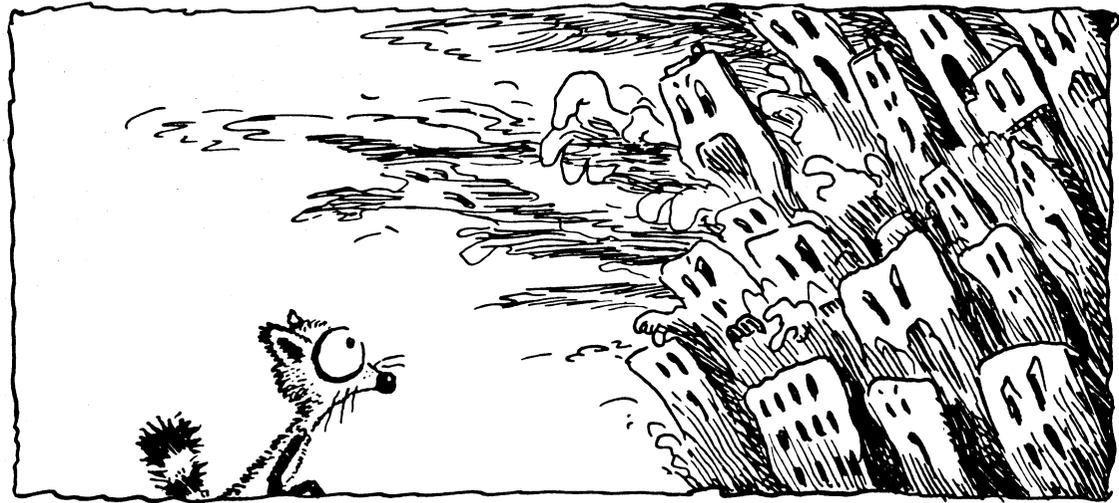
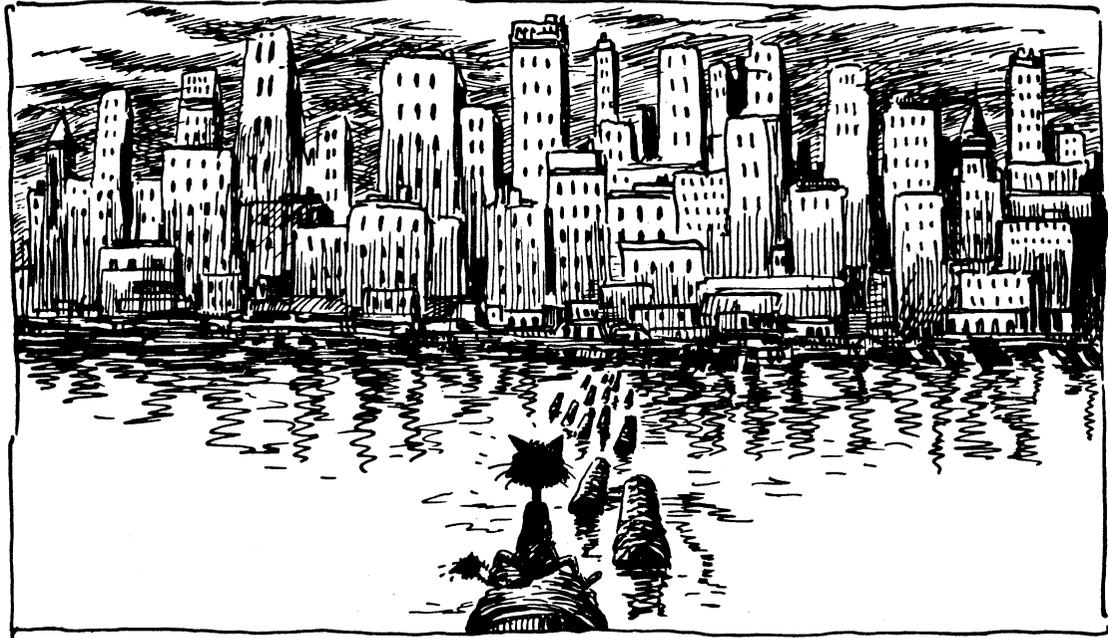
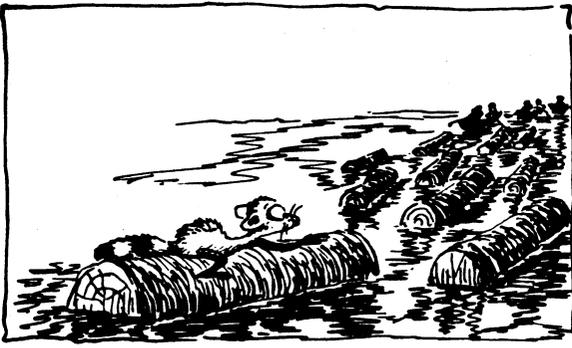
BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS.

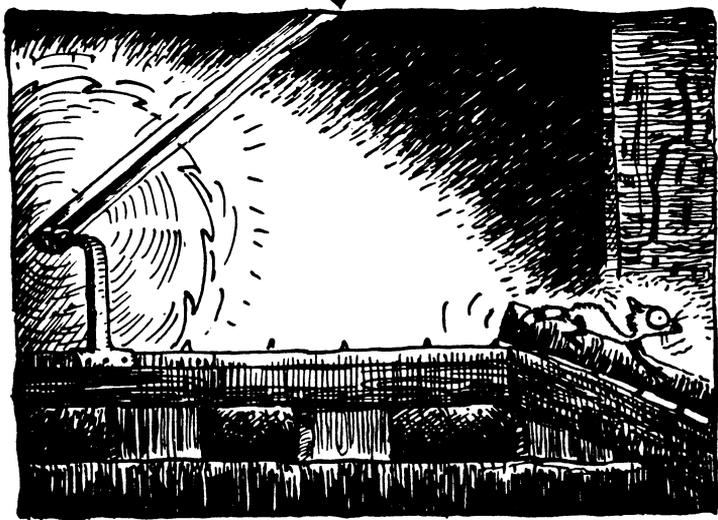
YOU'RE SO BRAVE VIRGIL.

BE CAREFUL.



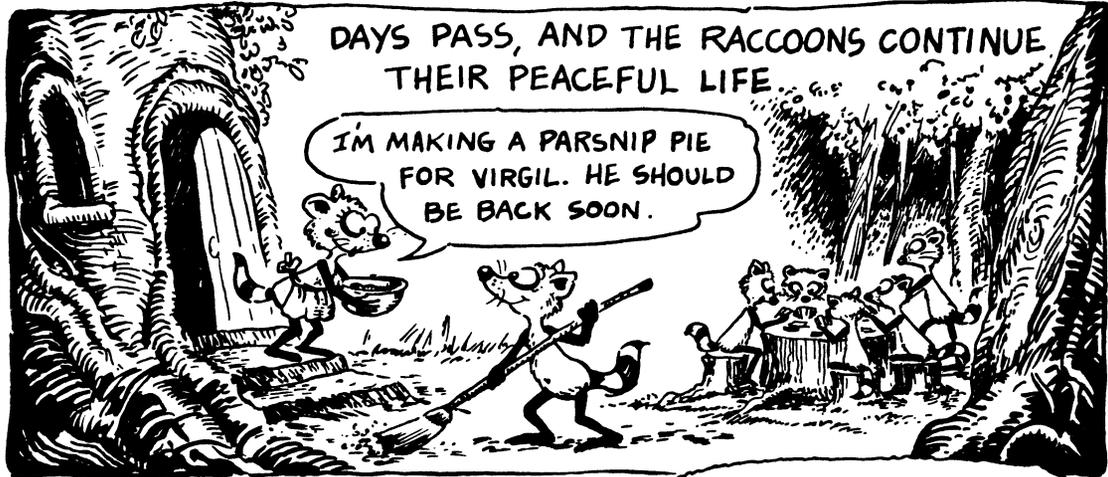




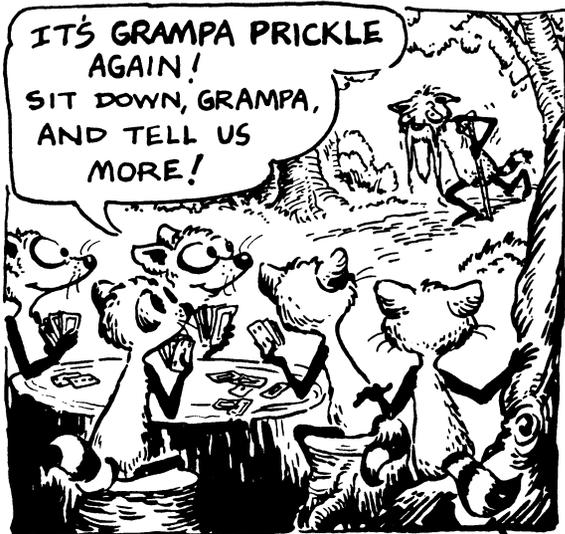


DAYS PASS, AND THE RACCOONS CONTINUE THEIR PEACEFUL LIFE

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



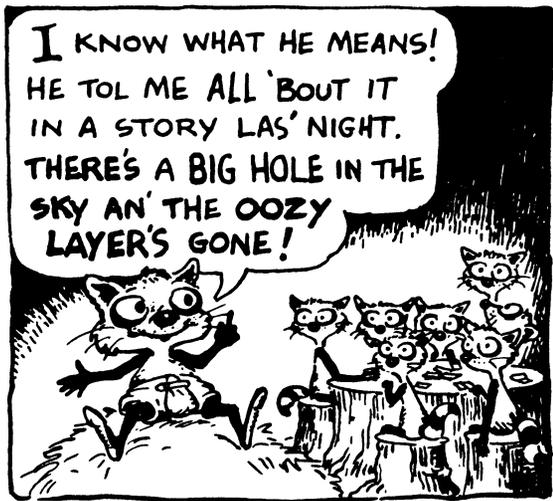
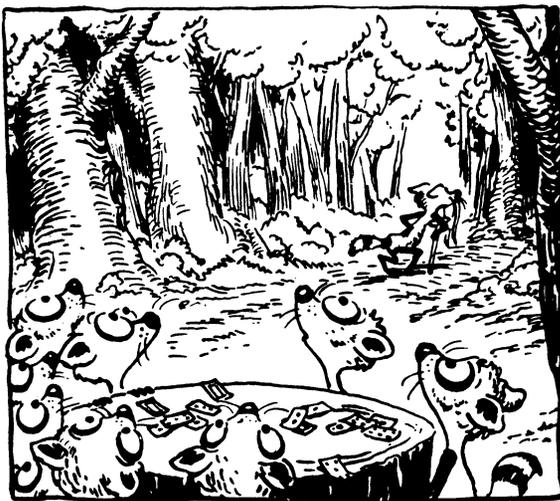
IT'S GRAMPA PRICKLE AGAIN!  
SIT DOWN, GRAMPA,  
AND TELL US MORE!



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?

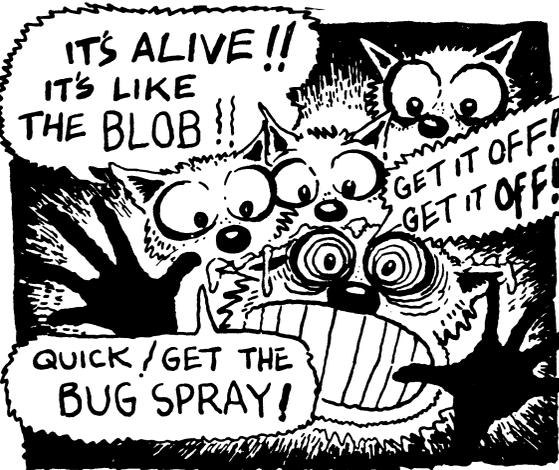
IS IT OOZY?



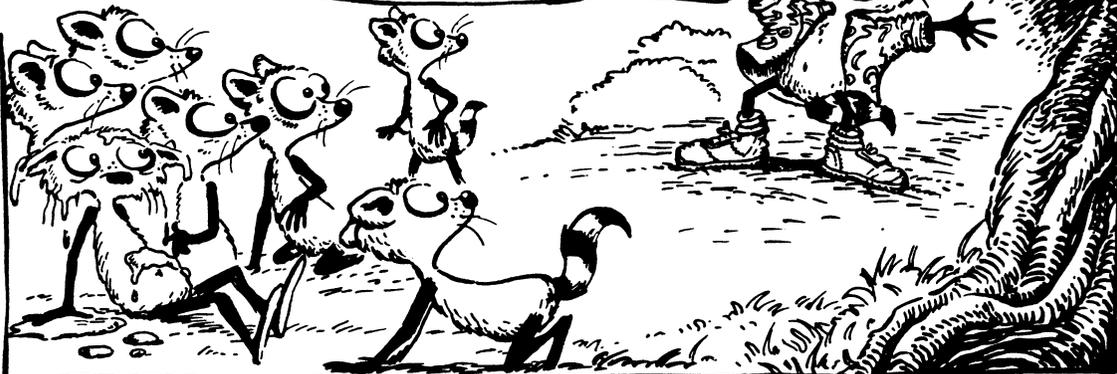
IS IT IN  
THE SKY?

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!



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



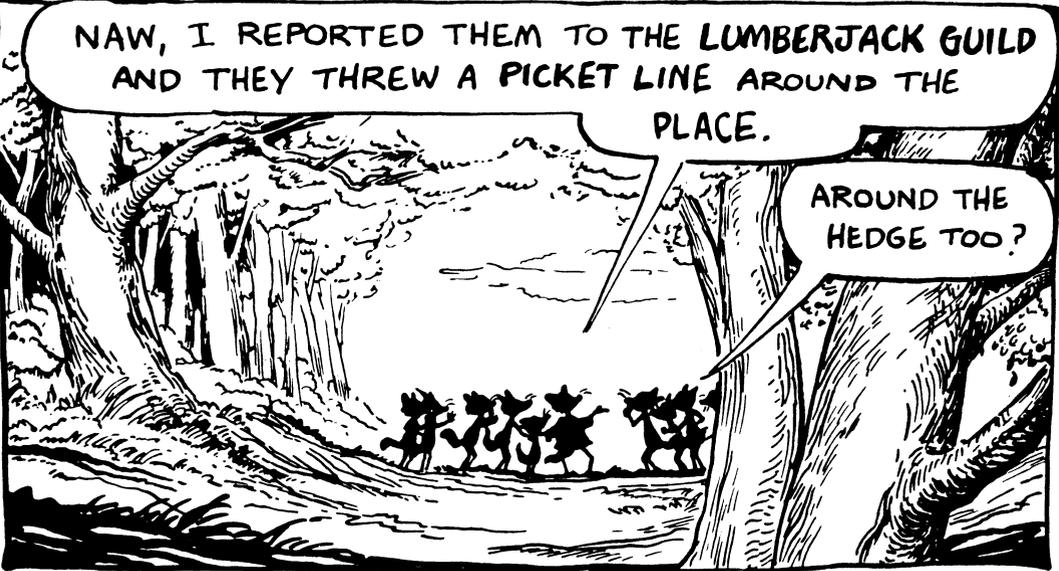
THEY SELL 'EM DOWN THE RIVER,  
KID. THEY SELL 'EM DOWN THE  
RIVER, JUST LIKE EVERYTHING  
ELSE.



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?

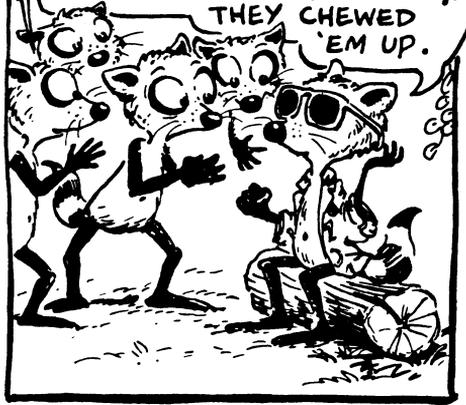
YOU KNOW, THEY MUST HAVE GOT THE HEDGE ALREADY. IT WAS ALL GONE.

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

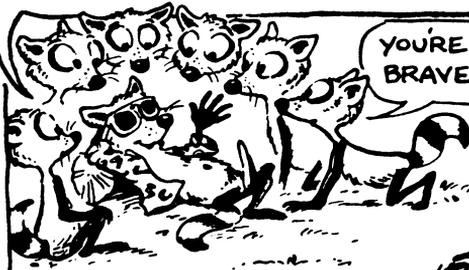


WHAT ELSE HAPPENED ON YOUR TRIP, VIRGIL!

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



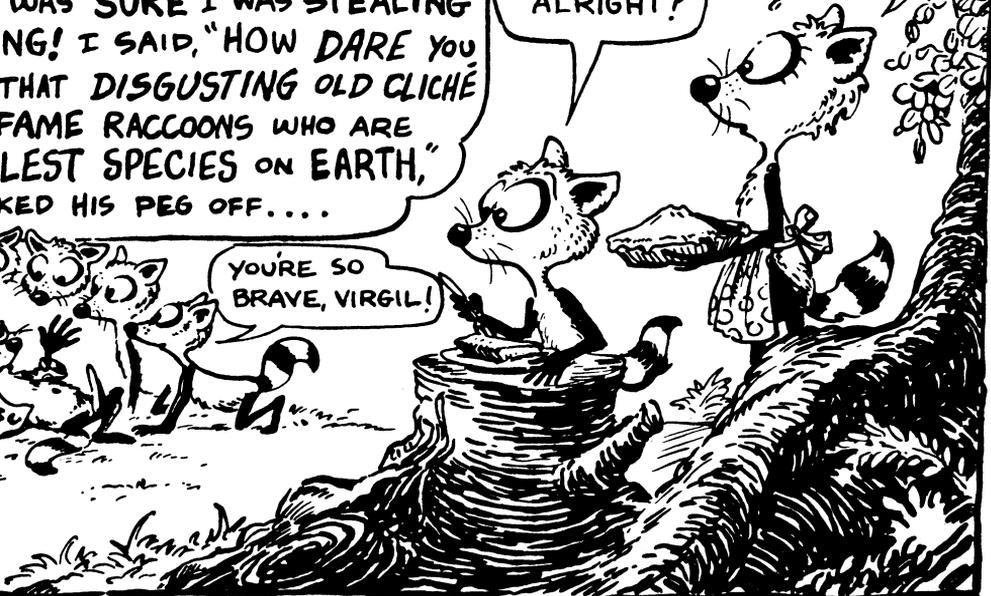
... THEN, I WAS ATTACKED BY A PEG-LEGGED MIME IN THE PARK WHO THOUGHT I WAS STEALING HIS AUDIENCE. I TOLD HIM I WAS JUST A RACCOON, BUT THEN HE SAID HE WAS SURE I WAS STEALING SOMETHING! I SAID, "HOW DARE YOU REPEAT THAT DISGUSTING OLD CLICHÉ AND DEFAME RACCOONS WHO ARE THE NOBLEST SPECIES ON EARTH,"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



YOU'RE SO BRAVE, VIRGIL!

WILL UNCLE VIRGIL BE ALRIGHT?

IT TAKES TIME TO RECOVER FROM BRAVERY.



THE END

# UNCLE ERF

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

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

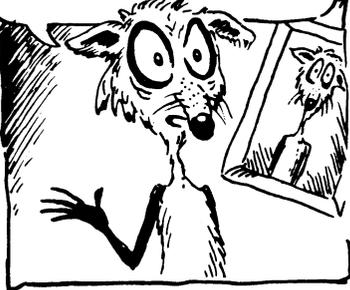
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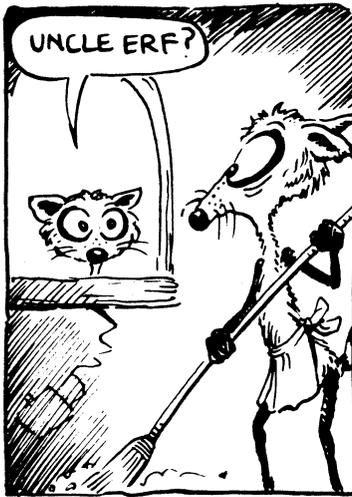
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT!  
I FORGOT TO DO A  
FEW THINGS. YOU'RE  
SO FUSSY, YOU DO IT!

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!...

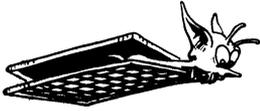
...MAYBE I'LL TELL  
FURLEY THOUGH.



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.

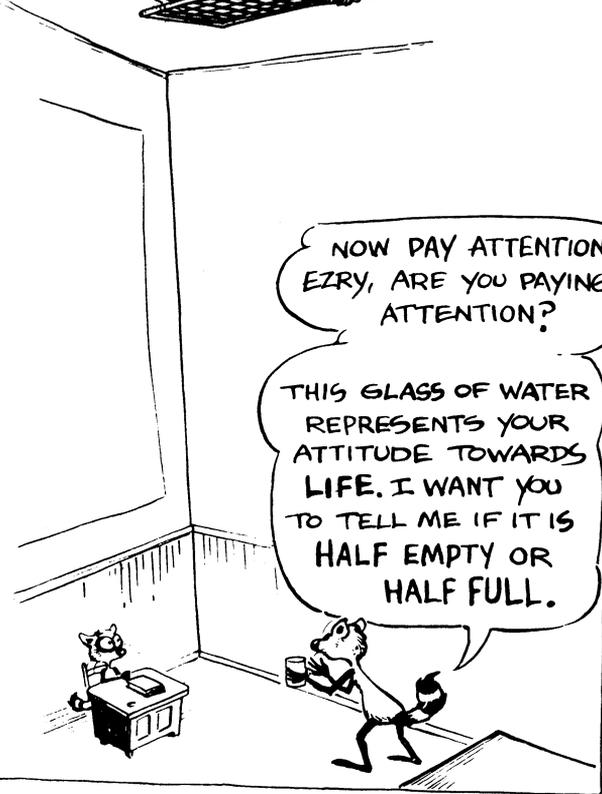


NOW PAY ATTENTION, EZRY, ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

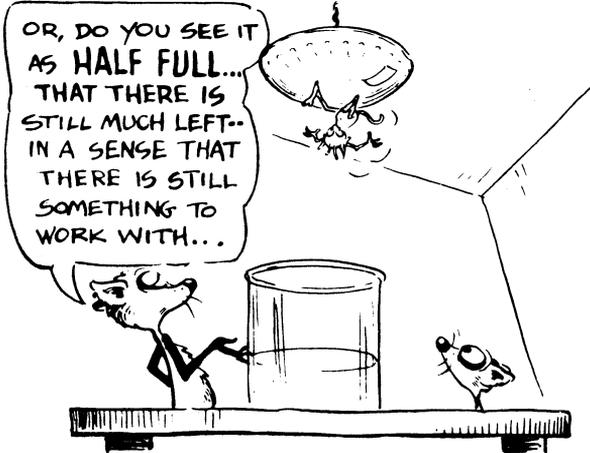
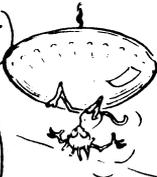
THIS GLASS OF WATER REPRESENTS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE. I WANT YOU TO TELL ME IF IT IS HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL.



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...

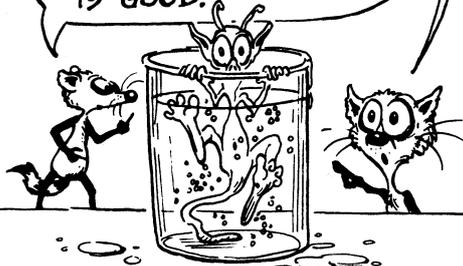


... APPRECIATIVE OF THAT WHICH STILL REMAINS...

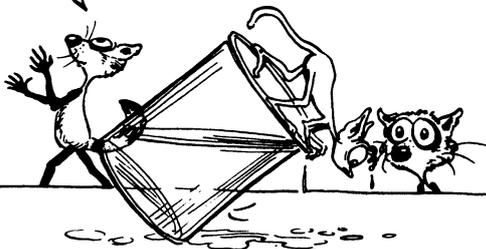


IT'S FULL!

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...

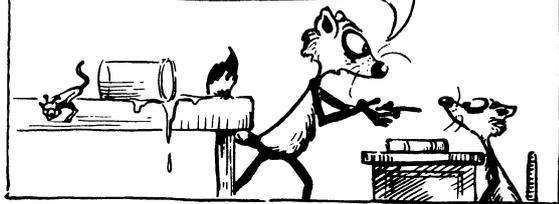


NOW CAN YOU SEE THAT  
IT IS REALLY HALF FULL  
AND STILL FEEL HOPEFUL?

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.



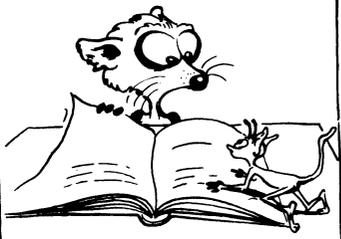
OPEN YOUR BOOK.  
TODAY, WE WILL STUDY  
NIETZSCHE.



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...

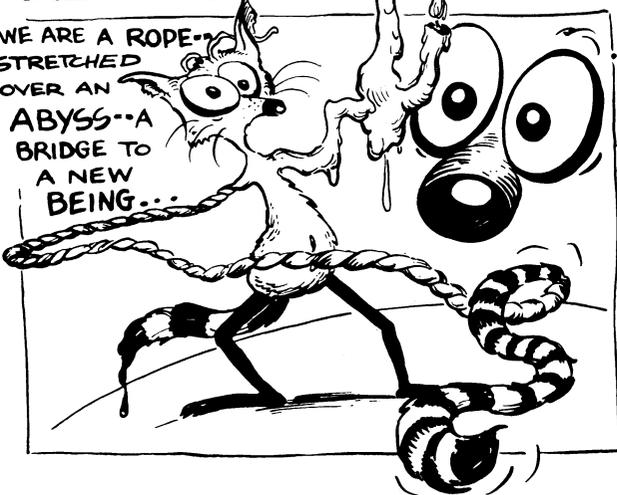


... THIS  
WILL TO  
POWER  
CAN...

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

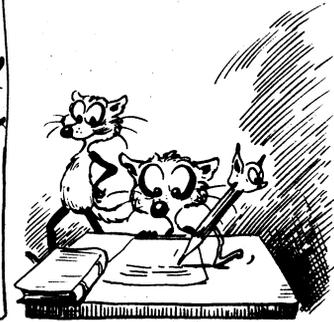
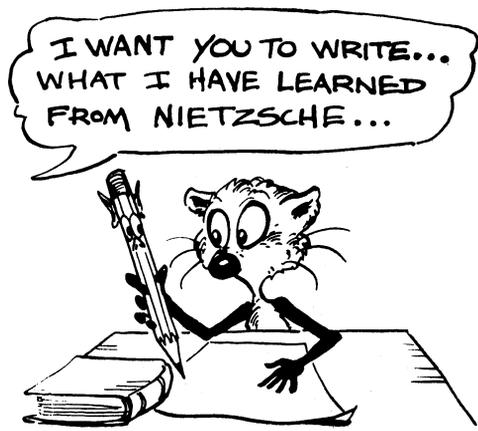
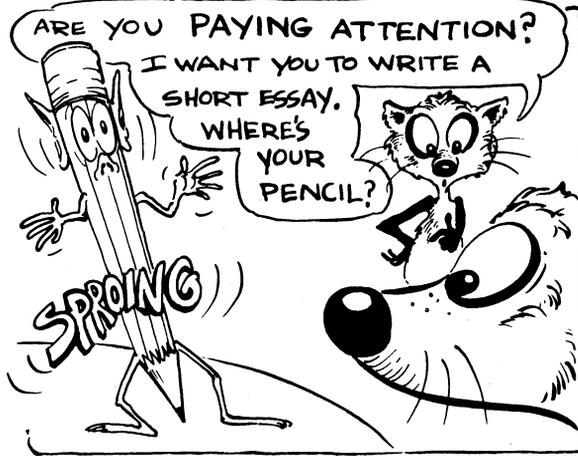


WE ARE A ROPE...  
STRETCHED  
OVER AN  
ABYSS... A  
BRIDGE TO  
A NEW  
BEING...

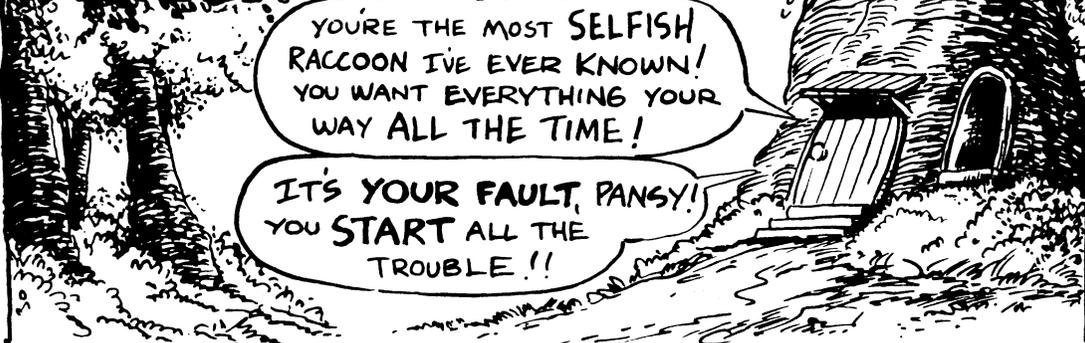


... A SUPERACCOON!





# 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!

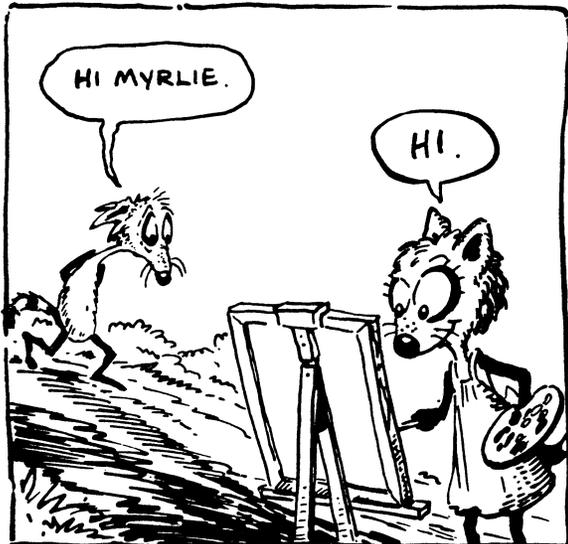


THAT DOES IT!  
GET OUT, PANSY!  
I CAN'T LIVE WITH  
YOU! YOU GO LIVE  
IN A MUSEUM  
FOR MANIACS!



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!



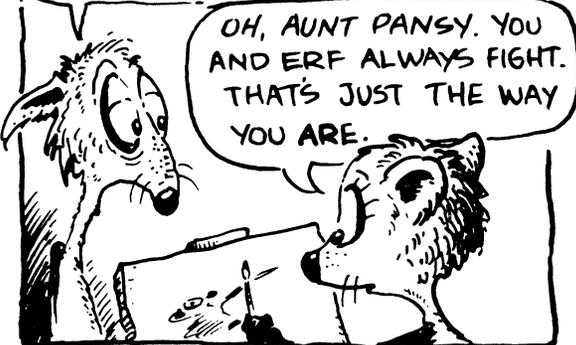
YOU LOOK SAD. WHAT'S THE MATTER?



OH, ERF AND I HAD ANOTHER FIGHT.



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



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

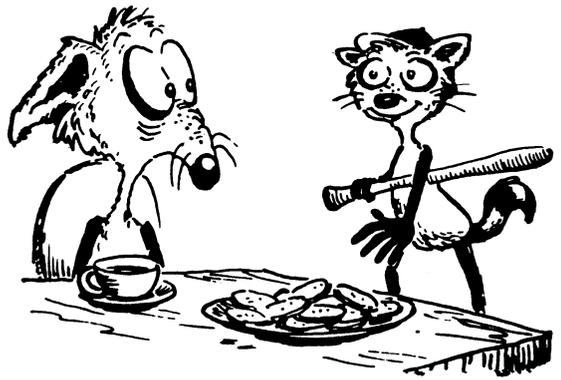
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME COOKIES... AUNT PANSY...  
... AND SOME TEA.. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER..



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?



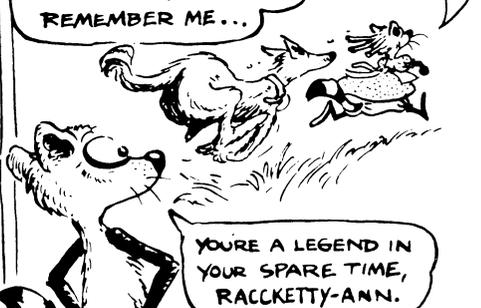
YOU MUST PRESERVE YOUR SPECIES! STAND UP FOR YOURSELF!



I SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO ABOLISH 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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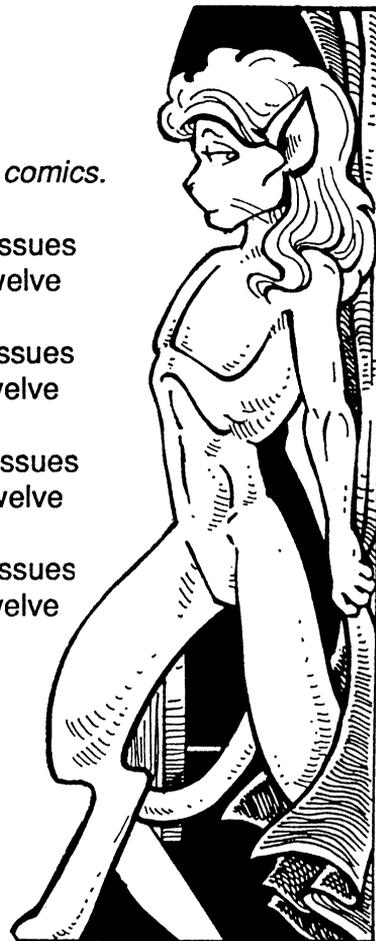
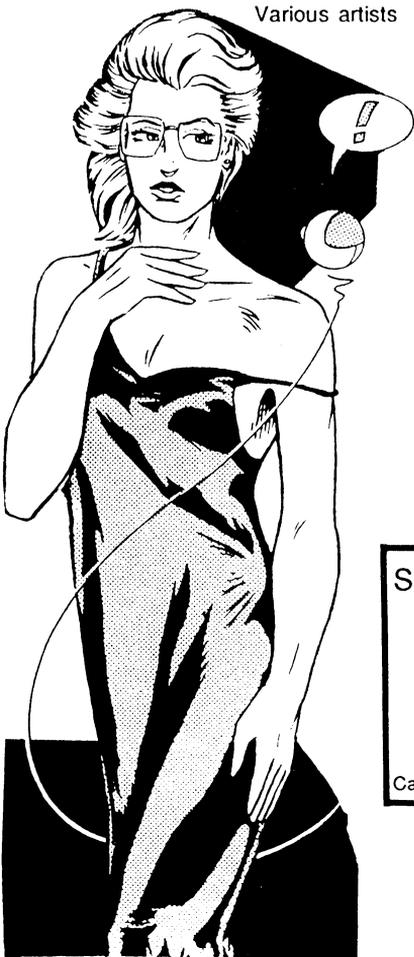
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but some animals are  
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-- George Orwell

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