

#4

\$1²⁵

QUACK!

LADIES WELCOME





6 June 1977
Hayward, CA

I'm in a rotten, depressed state these days (see current STAR* REACH No. 9 for a bit more detail) and the less I say out loud the better.

Three things: (1) I am NOT moving to San Diego; (2) due to a big misunderstanding about deadlines (and nobody's fault, really) Scott Shaw's You-All Gibbon story is being delayed an issue; (3) this is "On The Skids" last appearance.

I should have more to say next time. Fortunately I have some foolishness to fill up this page. Here:

SGT
H&S CO., H&S BN, 1ST FSSG
CAMP PENDLETON, CA 92055



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ANY SIMILARITY TO REAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SATIRE, IS COINCIDENTAL.

HOME ON THE RANGE, RABBIT!

OK, KIDDIES, LISTEN UP!

THIS HERE'S A STORY OF MY GREAT-GRANDDADDY. THAT'S HIM UP THERE IN THE PICTURE!

STOP SQUIRMIN', RACHEL...

THIS IS HOW HE MET UP WITH THE ORNERIEST, BADDEST QUACK OF 'EM ALL!

THE 'WANTED' POSTERS WERE GOING UP ALL OVER TOWN...



WANTED!

EL DRAGO DEAD OR ALIVE

RANGER RICK, THIS IS THE BIRD! I WANT YOU TO FIND HIM AND BRING HIM IN!



Hmmm... HE LOOKS LIKE A MEAN ONE, ALL RIGHT! A REAL TOUGH EGG!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, SHERIFF!

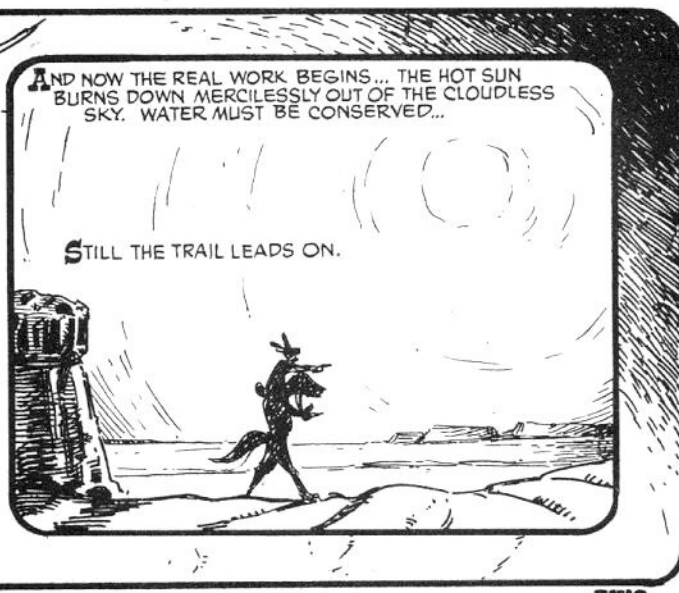
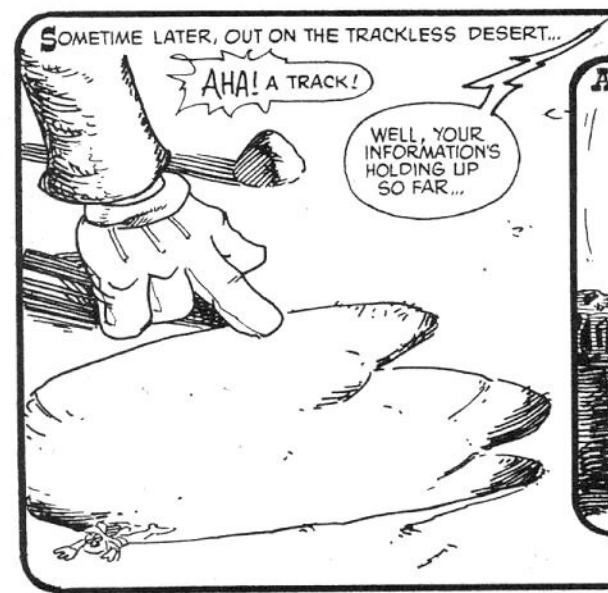
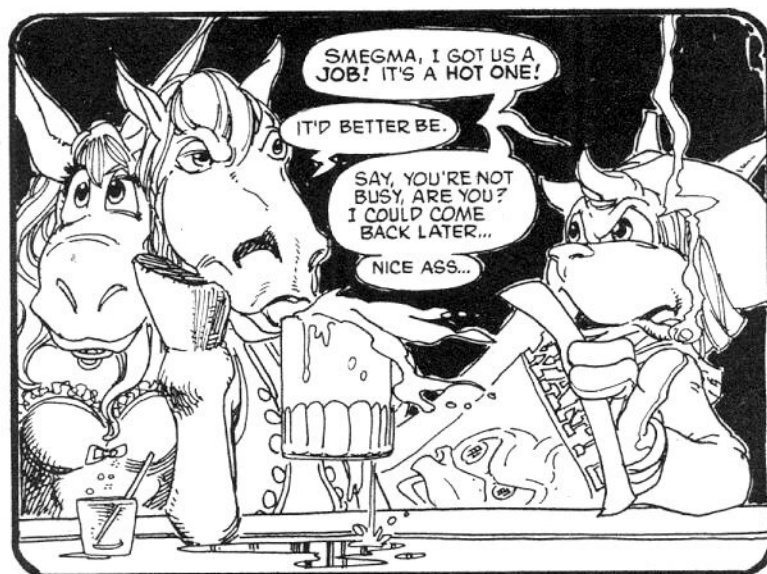
BUT FIRST....

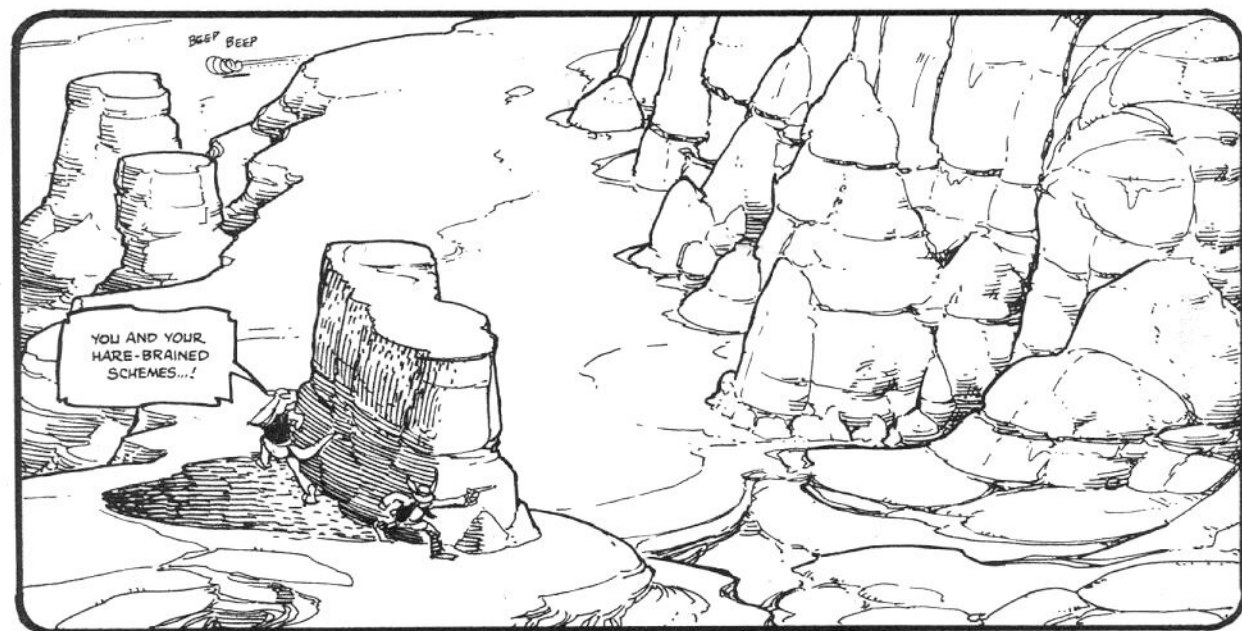


by

STEPHEN LEIALOHA LETTERS ORZ

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ARE YOU TRYING TO GET US KILLED?? CRAZY DUCK!

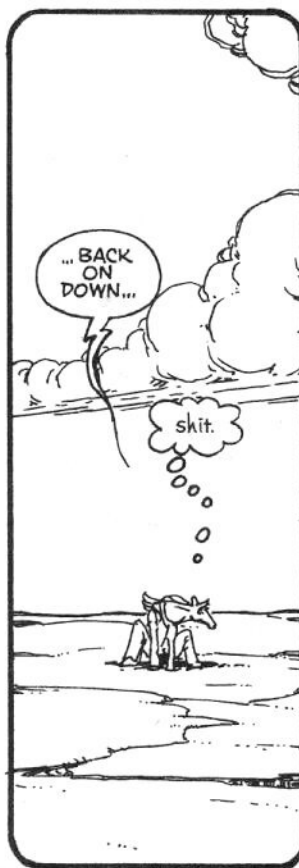


I CAN'T WAIT TILL YOU'RE BEHIND BARS! YOU'RE A MENACE TO SOCIETY!

SIX!







Meanwhile...

FLUTTER!

FLUTTER

FFLUTTER!

POOF

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, EL DRAKO!

I COULDN'T TURN YOU IN NOW.

YOU'RE A FREE BIRD, DUCK.

HACK HACK

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WON'T TURN ME IN? I WAS GONNA TURN YOU IN!

BUT YOU'RE THE WANTED CRIMINAL! I...

b-but...?

eh...?

I AM NOT EL DRAKO! EL DRAKO IS MY TWIN BROTHER! I'VE BEEN SENT TO FIND HIM... SENT BY THE QUEEN!

MY NAME IS JOHN DRAKE, SECRET AGENT. I LEAD A LIFE OF DANGER, ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE!

Ef... GLAD TA MEETCHA, I'M SHORE! I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO TOWN AND START AFRESH! I'LL GET MY HORSE!

COME, SMEGMA!



I'VE HAD IT
WITH YOU!!
YOU CAN JUST
WALK BACK
TO TOWN!

Hmf!

UP THE
CLIFF!
DOWN THE
CLIFF!

AND I'LL JUST
BET THERE'S NO
REWARD FOR
THIS TURKEY!

OK, IT'S SO
TOUGH
GETTING
GOOD HELP
THESE
DAYS!

PERHAPS
I COULD
SUGGEST
A GOOD
MANSERVANT.



OK OK, LET'S GO...
I'VE GOT A HOT DATE
WITH A CUTE LITTLE FOX
WAITING FOR ME
AT THE SALOON.

BY THE WAY, WHY'D YOU
SHOOT AT US IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

I DIDN'T SHOOT AT YOU.
YOU SHOT AT ME.

OH YEAH?!

YEAH.

BUT...

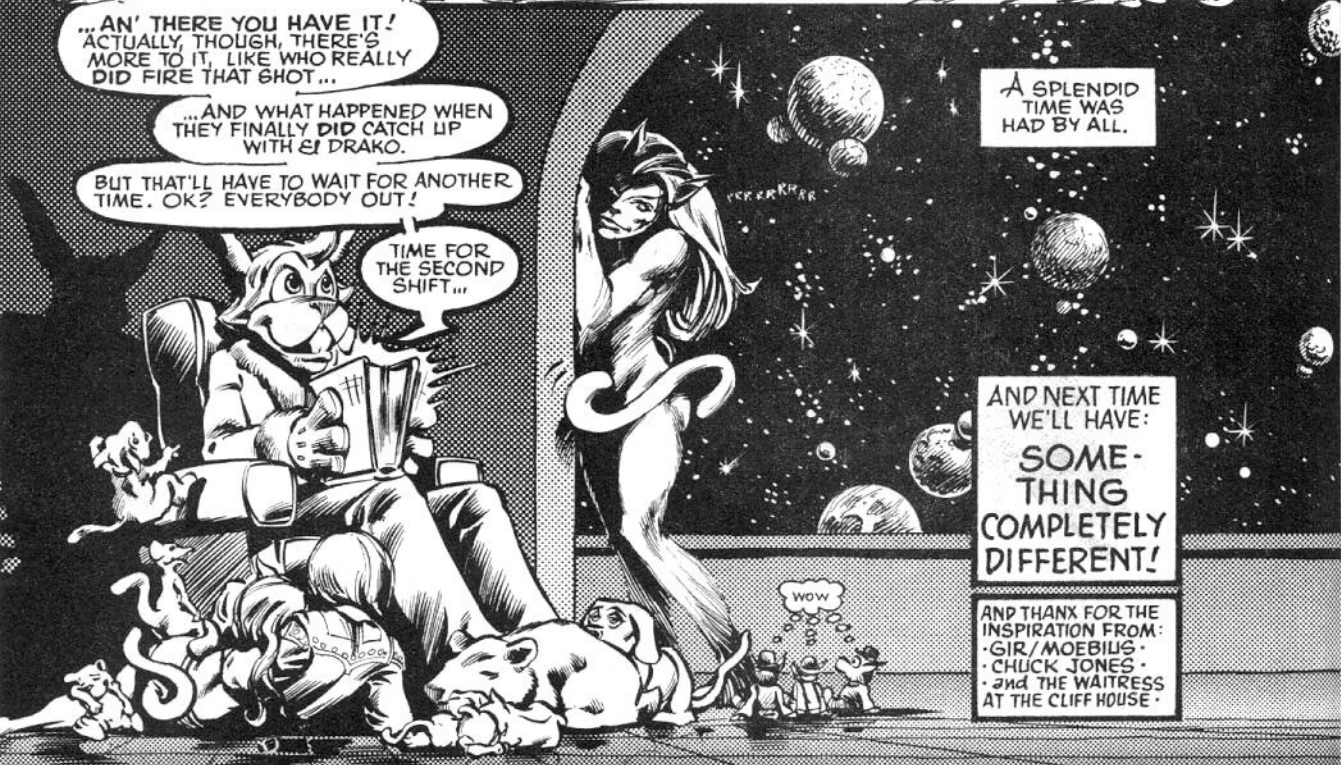
BUT...

...AN' THERE YOU HAVE IT!
ACTUALLY, THOUGH, THERE'S
MORE TO IT, LIKE WHO REALLY
DID FIRE THAT SHOT...

...AND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN
THEY FINALLY DID CATCH UP
WITH *EL* DRAKO.

BUT THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER
TIME. OK? EVERYBODY OUT!

TIME FOR
THE SECOND
SHIFT...



A SPLENDID
TIME WAS
HAD BY ALL.

AND NEXT TIME
WE'LL HAVE:
**SOME-
THING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT!**

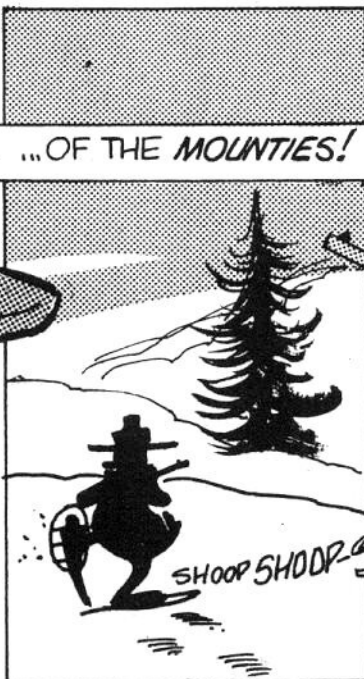
AND THANK FOR THE
INSPIRATION FROM:
• GIR/MOEBIUS •
• CHUCK JONES •
• and THE WAITRESS
AT THE CLIFF HOUSE •

A LONE FIGURE MOVES
ACROSS THE *WILDS* OF
SOUTH WESTERN *ONTARIO*...

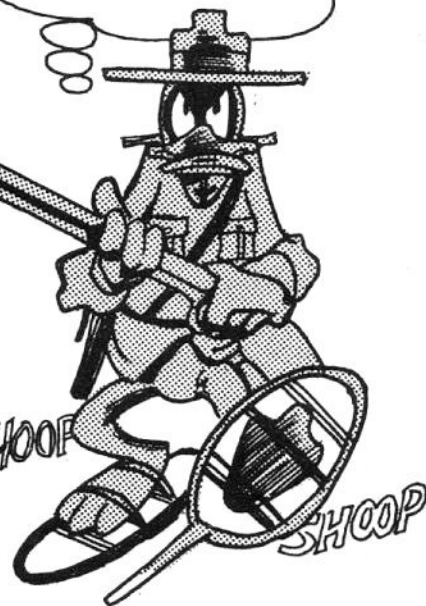
HE IS CLEAR OF *EYE*
AND PURE OF *HEART*! HE IS...



...OF THE *MOUNTIES*!



AT LONG LAST... OUR
PATHS CROSS ONCE
AGAIN...



NO DOUBT
HE THINKS HE'S
GIVEN ME
THE *SLIP*!...
BUT...

AHA!

...AS I
SUSPECTED!



THE BEAVERS

"A SEEMINGLY
DESERTED CABIN--THE
IDEAL HIDE-OUT FOR MY
ARCH-FOE, *BLACK QUAQUES*
LEBLANC!"

UNKNOWN TO
SGT. DUCK, *BLACK*
QUAQUES WATCHES HIS
STEALTHY APPROACH



WHAT'S
THIS!?



UH-OH!

ANOTHER
COMIC BOOK?!
I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU THAT
YOU...



DUCK?!?



OF THE MOUNTIES?



STEREOTYPES! THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VIEW! OH, THAT A SON OF **MINE** WOULD READ SUCH **TRIBE!**

I WAS TRYING TO WATCH **W5--** WHAT THE **DEVIL** IS ALL THE SHOUTING ABOUT?...

THIS!

IT'S A CONSPIRACY AGAINST OUR SEARCH FOR AN **IDENTITY...**

AGAINST OUR VERY **HERITAGE!**

DUCK?...

OF THE MOUNTIES...?

I HAD A **FEELING** I SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT **CONAN** INSTEAD...

FIRST **TELEVISION** --THEN COMIC BOOKS! WHAT **DEVILTRY** DO THEY PLOT FOR **TOMORROW?**

"... STEALTHY APPROACH... THERE IS A SOUND OF GLASS **BREAKING...**

WILL **NO ONE** PUT A **STOP** TO THIS **SUBTREFUGE?**

"...A SHOT RINGS OUT!" NEAT!



ANOTHER WHOLE GENERATION OF CANADIANS -- IGNORANT OF THEIR ROOTS, PURSUING THE AMERICAN DREAM...

THE TIME HAS COME TO... THE TIME HAS COME FOR... THE TIME... HAS...

"SGT. DUCK TIES HIS HANKY AROUND THE SHOULDER..."
"FORTUNATELY FOR ME, ONLY THE BONE IS CHIPPED..."



ARE YOU FINISHED THE PAGE?

NOT YET.



AHEM

OOPS!

EH--YES, AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY--I QUITE AGREE THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SCREEN THE COMIC BOOKS THAT YOU BUY MORE CAREFULLY



AND YOU'RE RIGHT, RED! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT THE MISCONCEPTIONS BEING SPREAD ABOUT OUR COUNTRY...



OH, BROTHER ...

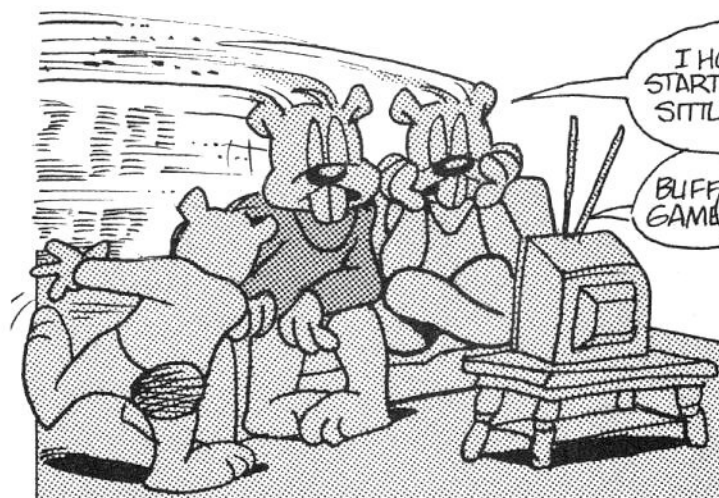
...THE IDEA THAT WE ARE A DOMINION OF RUSTIC MORONS AT THE MERCY OF KNEE-JERK REACTIONS...



EXTREME SILLINESS CALLS FOR EXTREME SOLUTIONS



OH-LOOK-A-HOCKEY-GAME -CAN-IT-BE-TRUE-I-THINK-IT-IS-THE-LEAFS-VS-THE-CANADIENS-AT-THE-FORUM-IN-MONTREAL...



I HOPE KELLY STARTS THE SITTIER LINE

MALLOVOLICH SCOTTY BOWMAN

UNDEFEATED STRING TIES

BUFF WON-LOSS RECORD

IN HOME ICE

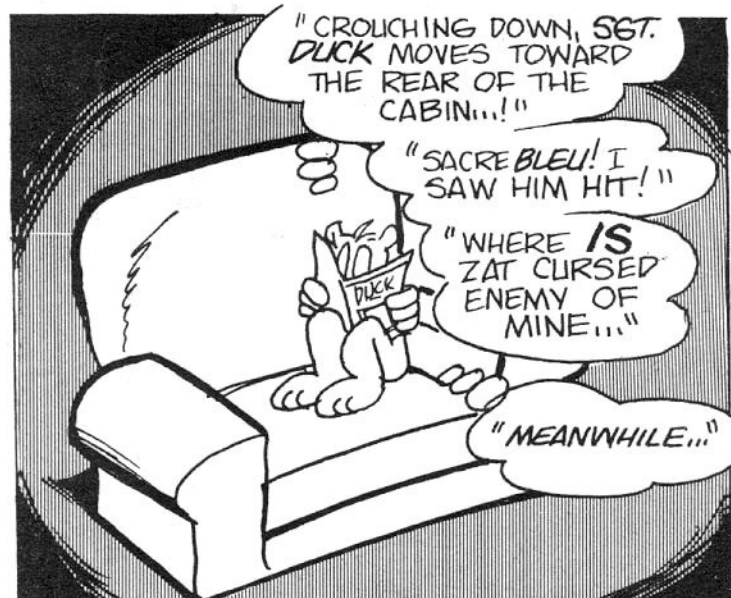
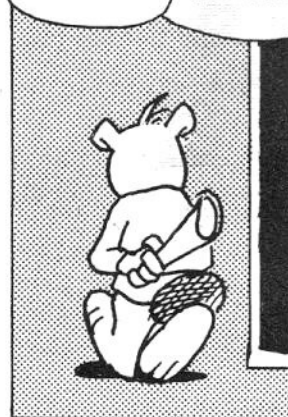
STANLEY CUP FINAL

LAFLEUR SHOTS ON GOAL

ELIMINATION ROUND TURNBULL, FIRST DRAFT

GOALS, ASSISTS, PIM'S GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE

SHUT-OUT HAT-TRICK



"CROUCHING DOWN, SGT. DUCK MOVES TOWARD THE REAR OF THE CABIN..."

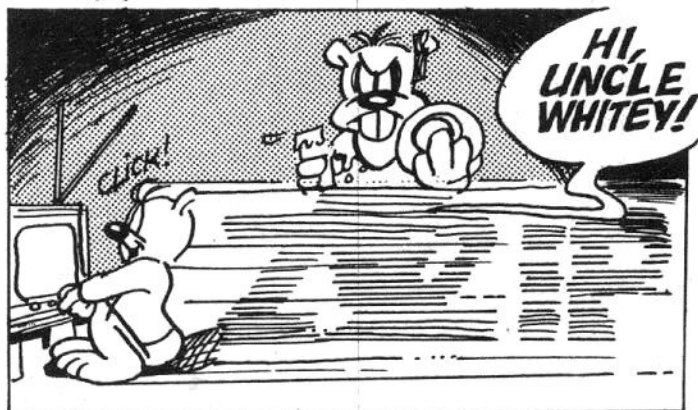
"SACRE BLEU! I SAW HIM HIT!"

"WHERE IS ZAT CURSED ENEMY OF MINE..."

"MEANWHILE..."

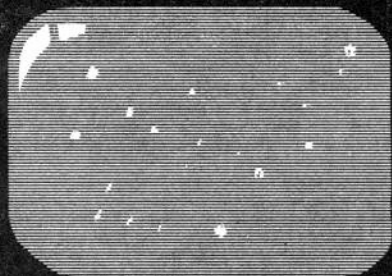


GANGWAY!

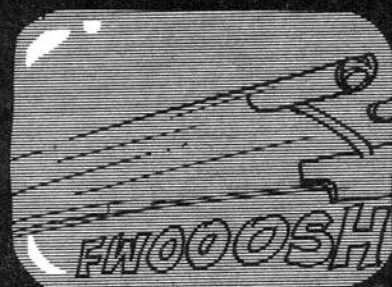


THESE ARE THE VOYAGES OF
THE STARSHIP *ENTROPIZE*

ITS FIVE-YEAR MISSION, TO EXPLORE
STRANGE NEW WORLDS - TO SEEK
OUT NEW LIFE AND NEW CIVILISATIONS



TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO DUCK HAS GONE *BEFORE...*



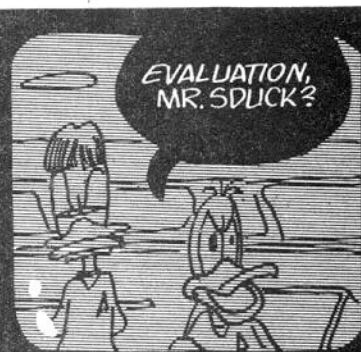
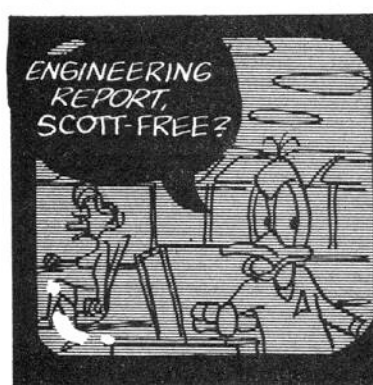
THE BEAVERS

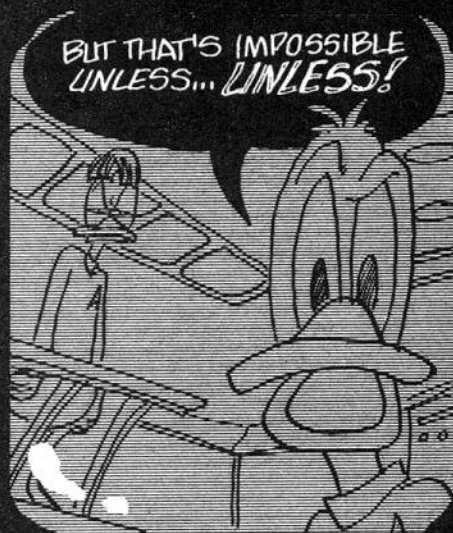
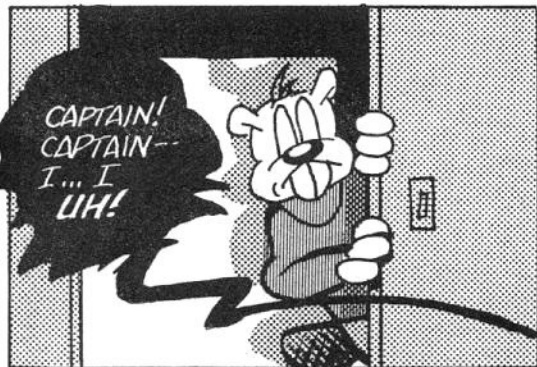


DUCK
TREK?
....

"(29) DUCK TREK -
HIGH-FLYING
ADVENTURES IN
SPACE MARK THIS
MID-SEASON
REPLACEMENT..."

REPLACEMENT?
THAT MEANS THEY
DROPPED THAT POLICE
SHOW, THE
YOUNG DUCKS...









NOW--THE THIRD
PULSE-POUNDING
INSTALLMENT OF...

ON THE SKIDS!®

INTO THE BREACH!

OR: "FOLLOW ME IF Y'GOT TH' BALLS!"

GUEST STARRING: **DING DOG DADDY** --AND DAISY!!

**DON'T TOUCH THAT
DIAL!!**

NO, YOU HAVEN'T
MISSED A THING!

THE TIME: **NOW!**

THE PLACE: **WE'RE
NOT TELLING.**

THE ACTION: **ABOUT
TO BEGIN.**

**DING DOG IT,
DAISY, YOU'RE
MESSIN' ME UP!
HOLD UP ON A--**

**OKAY--
SEQUENCE
1A 300--
ALPHA--
BETA--
GO!**

**ATTENTION: SUBJECTS
NOW IN POSITION ---
BEGIN SEQUENCE 1A 300
-ALPHA-CETA-- NOW!!**

**NEGATORY!!
NEGATORY!!
SEQUENCE 1A 300
ALPHA-CETA!!**

WRITTEN, DRAWN AND LETTERED BY THAT FUNNY ANIMAL, **ALAN KUPPERBERG**
• CREDIT • © 1977



UH...

--ARE
--WE--
DEAD?

UH...

KKKK

---NO---



PARDON
ME.

PARDON
HIM.

I MEAN, PARDON ME
FER SNATCHIN' Y'ALL
A-WAY UP HERE.

A-WAY--
UP
WHERE?!!

OH--YER IN
ORBIT--ON TH'
STARCRIUSER
DAISY--

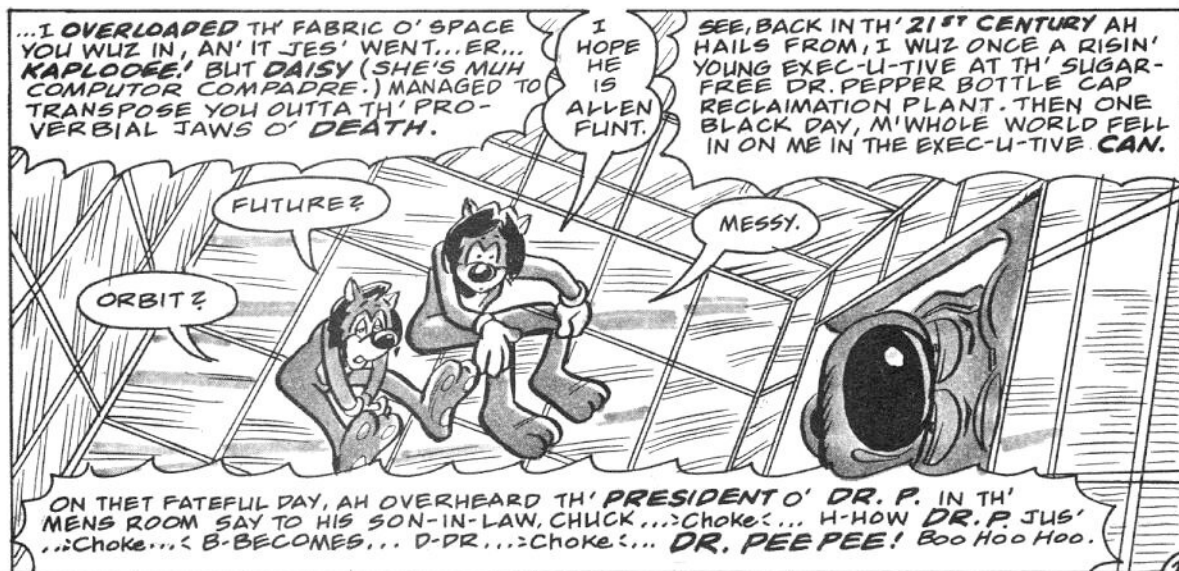
STARCRIUSER?!

OH
GOD.

YEAH--Y'SEE
I'M HERE IN YER
PAST TAPIN'
FILM FER MUH--

PAST?! OH GOD.

BUT I PUSHED TH'
WRONG BUTTON. AN--
INSTEAD O' RECORDIN'
A TAPE O' YOU GUYS...



...I OVERLOADED TH' FABRIC O' SPACE
YOU WUZ IN, AN' IT JES' WENT...ER...
KAPLOOEE! BUT DAISY (SHE'S MUH
COMPUTOR COMPADRE.) MANAGED TO
TRANPOSE YOU OUTTA TH' PRO-
VERBIAL JAWS O' DEATH.

I
HOPE
HE
IS
ALLEN
FUNT.

SEE, BACK IN TH' 21ST CENTURY AH
HAILS FROM, I WUZ ONCE A RISIN'
YOUNG EXEC-U-TIVE AT TH' SUGAR-
FREE DR. PEPPER BOTTLE CAP
RECLAMATION PLANT. THEN ONE
BLACK DAY, M'WHOLE WORLD FELL
IN ON ME IN THE EXEC-U-TIVE. **CAN.**

FUTURE?

ORBIT?

MESSY.

ON THET FATEFUL DAY, AH OVERHEARD TH' **PRESIDENT O' DR. P.** IN TH'
MENS ROOM SAY TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, CHUCK...>Choke<... H-HOW **DR. P.** JUS'
...>Choke<... B-BECOMES... D-DR...>Choke<... **DR. PEE PEE!** Boo Hoo Hoo.

BUT ALL THET'S JES' PLUTONIAN
SNO-SLUSH UNDER TH'
THERMAL HYDROLYZER.



NOW ME
AN' DAISY
PLY TH'
VAPORS
BETWEEN
TH' STARS!

TH-THEN YOU'RE
A **SPACE
PIRATE?**

NAW, SORT OF A
**COSMIC UNITED
PARCEL SERVICE!**

---AW---NUTS---Mumble---



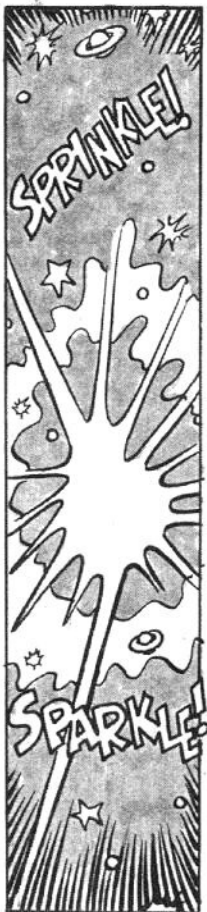
NOW WHAT'S
YOUR PROBLEM?

WE'RE
NAKED!
I'M SO
EMBARR-
ASSED!

MORON.
WE NEVER
WORE PANTS.

OH. YEAH.

LOOK, YOU
GUYS MUST BE
HUNGRY. LEMME...



LUNCH?

JEEZ, I'D
PREFER TO
TRAVEL BY
SUBWAY.



SHLISHKAS?

WHO?
WHATE?

OH, DAT'S **GROAT**,
MY CHEF, AN' AIDE D'CAMP.

AFTER
ALL THESE YEARS
--WHAT ARE
SHLISHKAS?

OH YUM.
ARCTURIAN
CROW-MEAT.

GAG!
3

AFTER THE ARCTURIAN
CROW MEAT HOUR---

LOOK, I GOTTA
CHECK M'CARGO
MANIFEST B'FORE
I DROP YOU TWO
GUYS OFF AT YER
PLACES AND
HEAD HOME
T' MUH OWN
ERA.

OKAY.

NOW BE NICE AN'
DON'T TOUCH NUTHIN'!

HE SAID DON'T TOUCH
ANYTHING.

I'M JUST
LOOKING.

HE SAID DON'T
TOUCH.

LOOKIT!

THIS THING'S
GOT YEARS
ON IT!

KEY CODE
GO

TWIZZLE!

NOW I KNEW
YOU'D TOUCH
SOMETHING!

RELAX, MAN.
HAVEN'T YOU FUCKED
UP ENOUGH IN YOUR
LIFE TO GET USED
TO IT?

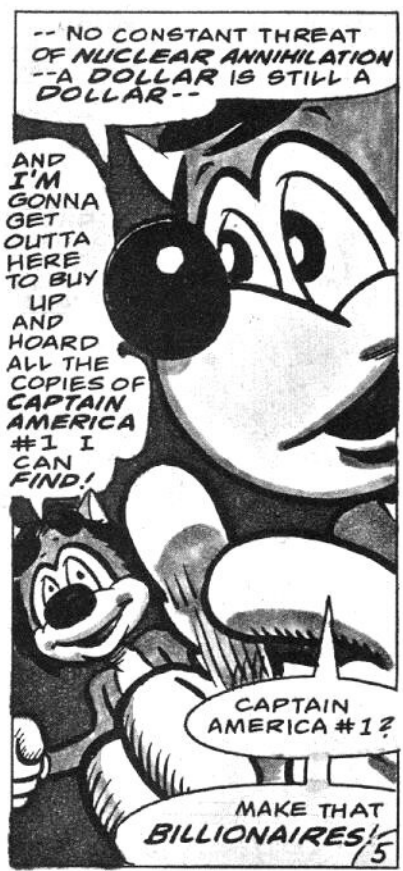
I
HAVE!

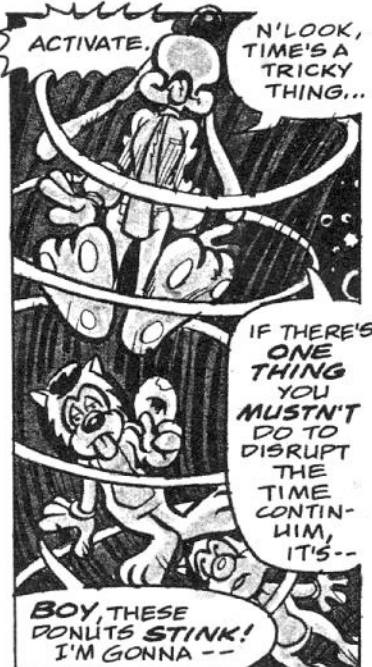
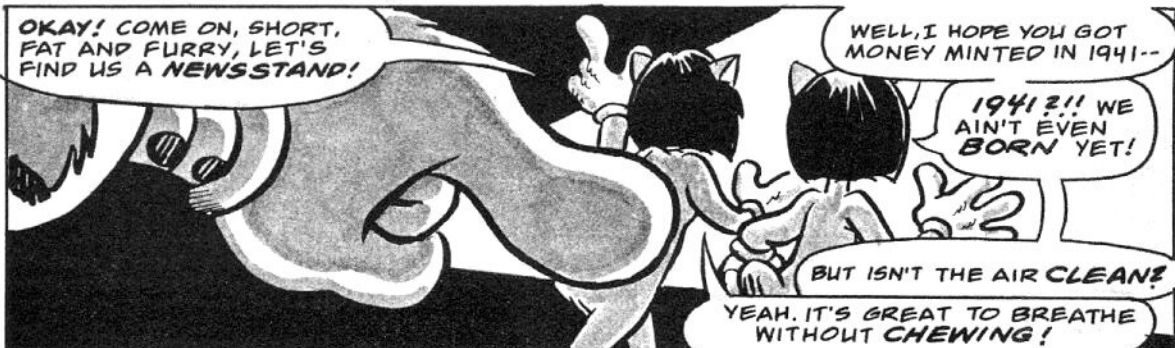
SORRY...

YAAAAA AAAAAA

ARRRR!

..IT'S JUST THAT I HATE
BEING RIPPED THROUGH TIME
AND SPACE AFTER A HEAVY
MEAL OF SHLISHKAS.







NEXT: TOP BILLING?

'FRAID NOT, GUYS, THIS IS THE END!

Tales of The OREGON BOBCAT

by Dot Bucher ©1976

"BOUNCE ON THE WILD SIDE!"

"EUGENE, OREGON --
HOME OF THE RIVER ROAD WATCH
MAKER..."



"...INTO WHOSE SHOP CAME A WILD
CREATURE ONE DAY!"

I HEARD YOU WANTED ONE OF THESE...

WHAT?!



Hiss!

WHADDA YA MEAN,
"WUNNA THESE"?!
I'M AN ORIGINAL!



HISSS

"IT WAS ME!
—GINGER! THE OREGON BOBCAT! ROWLF!"

"THOUGH THE ALIEN SURROUNDINGS WOULD STRIKE FEAR INTO ANY HEART, I PUT UP A
BRAVE, VALIANT FIGHT!"

OH, DEAR! SHE'S SCARED TO DEATH!
COME OUT, LITTLE ONE!



WAW!

HELP!

"THEY SOUGHT TO TAME ME WITH STRANGE
DEVICES!"

Ho-hum... THE BABY'S FOULED UP IN THE
SHOE-STRINGS AGAIN.

WHAT TRICKERY
IS THIS? gnash
gnash

SOMEBODY
GET HER OUT!

Oh BROTHER.



WAW!

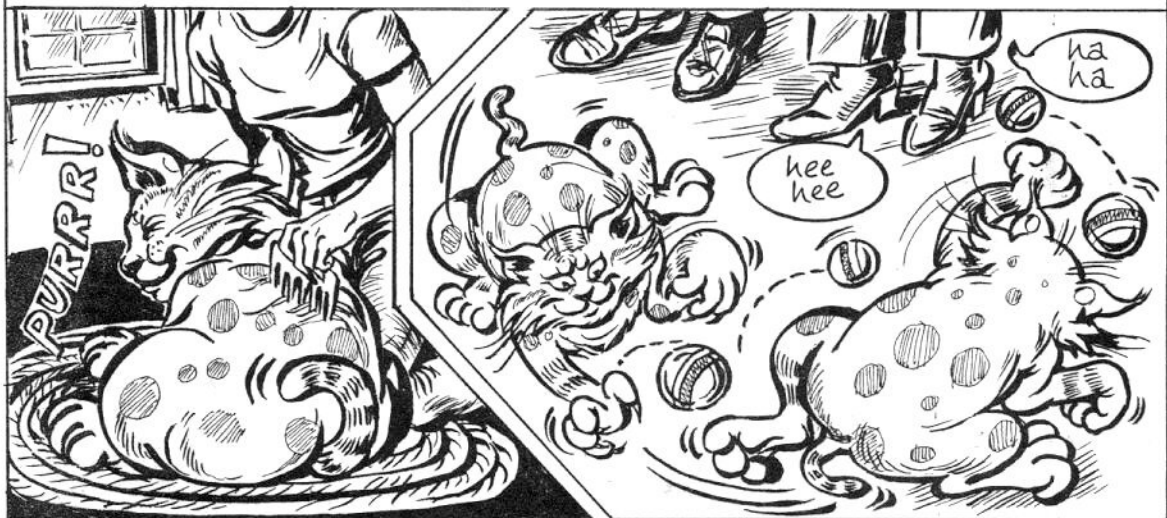
"BUT MY NATURALLY STOUT BOBCAT STRENGTH BORE ME THROUGH FAMINE..."



"... TORTURE, AND RIGOROUS TRAINING..."



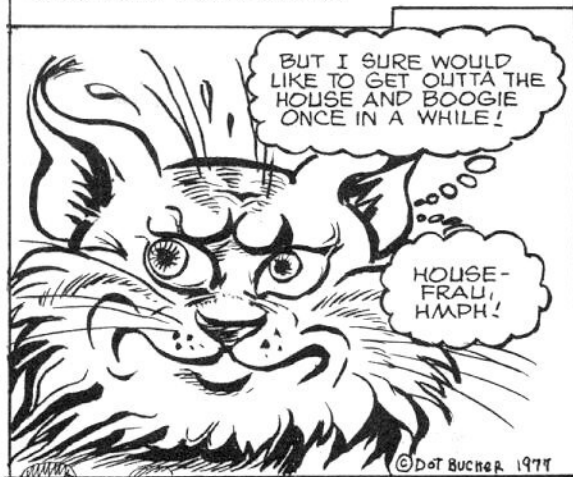
"... AND THE EVER-PRESENT DESIRE OF MY CAPTORS TO TAME ME! ... TO TURN THE WILD HEART INTO A SNIVELING, DOMESTIC LACKEY!"



"ALWAYS I LONGED FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE GREEN, VERDANT FORESTS."



"AND THOUGH THEY BARRED THE WINDOWS AND LOCKED THE DOORS, ONE DAY I WOULD STRIKE OUT TO FREEDOM!"



"MEANWHILE, I BIDED MY TIME. ADOLESCENCE AND MATURITY ARRIVED, GIVING ME STRENGTH AND VITALITY!"

LOOKS A LITTLE PUNY. BETTER TAKE HER TO THE VET FOR SHOTS.

PUNY??!!

GRRR!

"KNOWING I WAS A VALUABLE SPECIMEN OF RUFUS LYNXUS, MY KEEPERS TOOK ME TO THEIR MEDICAL PEOPLE, TO ASSURE MY FUTURE GOOD HEALTH."

THEY'RE GONNA SHOOT ME?!

"IT WAS IN THAT STRANGE PLACE THAT I ENCOUNTERED MY COMPATRIOTS... OTHER SOULS IN SLAVERY!"

ZZZZZ

TWITTER
TWITTER

SIGH...

AHH!

GATTLER

©D.J. BUCHER 1974

"WHAT A CHANCE! I WOULD ROUSE MY FELLOW CREATURES TO REBEL! ESCAPE! (AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!)"

YAWN!

WHAT A DUMB BUNCH!
NO FUN AT ALL!

"I NUDGED A DULL-EYED FELLOW,
HOPING TO INSPIRE HIM WITH WORDS
OF COURAGE!"

HEY, GRUMPY!
WANNA PLAY?

"UNFORTUNATELY, HE OVER-REACTED,
BLAMING ME FOR HIS MISERY!"

DOWN, FIDO!

ARF
ARF!

YOW!

ROWF!

"BUT MY VIGOROUS ACTIONS WOKE THE OTHERS TO CONSCIOUSNESS! SUDDENLY,
EVERYONE IN THE ROOM THREW OFF THEIR LEASHES!"

EEEK! MY
BIRD ESCAPED!

OOPS!
LI'L MORE
THAN I
FIGURED!

HOWL!

"BUT FATE DECREED OTHERWISE!
A HUGE HAND SNATCHED ME AWAY!--

YOU BAD GIRL! ☆@#&!!!

DANG! CAUGHT AGAIN!
I NEVER GET TO HAVE
ANY FUNSIES!

"--POSTPONING THE DAY OF ESCAPE!"

WHATTA BUNCH
OF SQUARES!
I WANNA
BOOGIE!

I KNOW WHY SHE'S
SO FIESTY! WE'VE BEEN
FEEDING HER MEAT!

"WHAT MY CAPTORS SAID WAS TRUE, MEAT RESTORES THE FIERCE SOUL TO THE INDIGENT **BLOB!**"

.... MEAT MAKES HER CRAZY MAD?

YES, WE CAN'T LET HER HAVE IT!

RATIONS!
YOICKS!

"- WHENCE, MEAT WAS BARRED FROM ME!
I WAS PUT ON A DIET OF ...

UGH. DRIED
CAT FOOD.

"THOSE FOLLOWING MONTHS WERE THE MOST TRYING SINCE MY CAPTURE! SEGREGATED FROM **RAW FLESH**, MY ENERGY LANGUISHED TO **NOTHING!**"

GNASH!

OH, FRUSTRATION!

"TIME CRAWLED. ONE DAY I WRAPPED MY PAWS AROUND THE USUALLY- LOCKED DOORKNOB...

BOING BOING

© DOT BUCHER 1974

"...AND I WAS IN LUCK! SOMEONE HAD FORGOTTEN TO LOCK IT!"

"**FREEDOM!** I HASTENED TO A 'PLACE OF MEAT'!"

WOW! THE SMELL COMES FROM THERE!

SUPER

SUPERMART

"NATURALLY, THE KEEPERS OF MEAT WERE LOATH TO LET IT GO...
KNOWING ITS MAGIC PROPERTIES.

© DOT BUCKER 1977

I WANT THAT ONE!



STOP THAT CREATURE!



YOW!



"THOUGH I WAS FREE, I WENT
HOME TO EAT. THE STEAK WAS
YUMMY, BUT...

THAT WASN'T AS GOOD
AS I THOUGHT!

I CAN LEAVE NOW!



— BUT — THEY NEED ME! THEY'RE SO
HELPLESS!

GINGER! YOU'RE BACK!

I'VE DECIDED IT'S MY DUTY TO
STAY, TO TEACH YOU DOILE, DULL
PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE ON THE
WILD
SIDE!



"— AND I AM! FOR NO ONE
CAN REALLY TAME A TRUE
BOBCAT!

WINK!

"WANNA TRY?" | The End.

Tales
of The

OREGON BOBCAT

by Dot Bucher ©1976

A BOOK ON BOBCATS?

"IN THE WILDS, BOBCATS
USE RUNNING STREAMS
FOR THEIR TOILETS."



WE DO? I HAVE
A CAT BOX!...

...shhh...

... BUT WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING ...

AHHH! LUXURY!

BOBCATS ARE NATURALLY
MORE CULTURED THAN
HUMANS, ANYWAY!

END

Tales
of The

OREGON BOBCCAT

by Dot Bucher ©1976

GINGER'S DREAMING AGAIN!
WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'M A HAPPY
BOBCAT...

I LIVE
IN THE
FOREST
HILL...

...I'LL BE
HAPPY
STILL!
(sigh!)

IF I STAY
IN THE
FOREST...

Ook, PHOOEY! NO HAMBURGER
IN THE FOREST! WHAT A DUMB
DREAM!

Ook! A RABBIT!

BOING!

end

THE WRAITH'S PAL, INSPECTOR MULHERRY

KNOW
WHAT'S TH'
MATTER WITH
FOLKS TODAY,
ACE?

LACK
OF REAL
COMMUNICATION
THAT'S WHAT,
M' BOY.

PEOPLE
JUST SPEND
TOO MUCH
TIME
TALKIN'.

YEAH!
IT'S...

DIG
IT BRO!
I THINK...

YEAH,
MAN, BUT
LIZZEN...

THEY
DON'T SPEND
TIME JUST
LISTENIN' TO
EACH OTHER.

I
MEAN
REALLY
LISTENIN',
Y' KNOW?

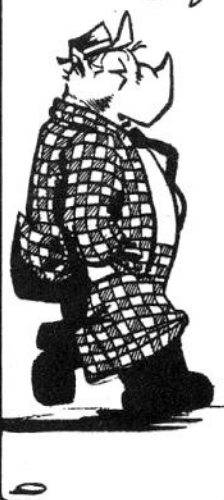
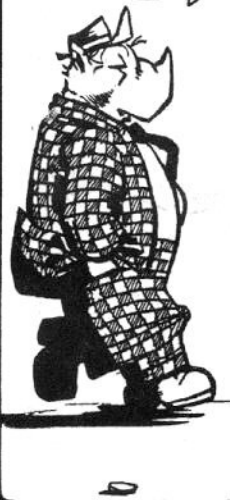
ONE
TRACK
MINDS.
Y' KNOW,
ACE?

THEY GET
STARTED ON
SOMETHIN', AND
DUNNO WHEN
TO STOP..

I
MEAN
REALLY
DRAG (A POI

SHEET!

GIVE-
ASS!!



DEATH COMES IN MANY FORMS.

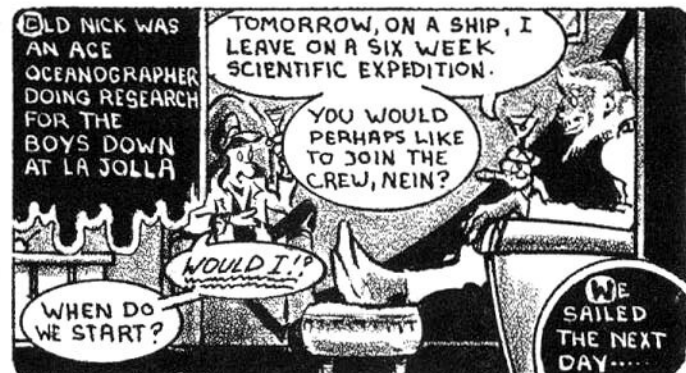
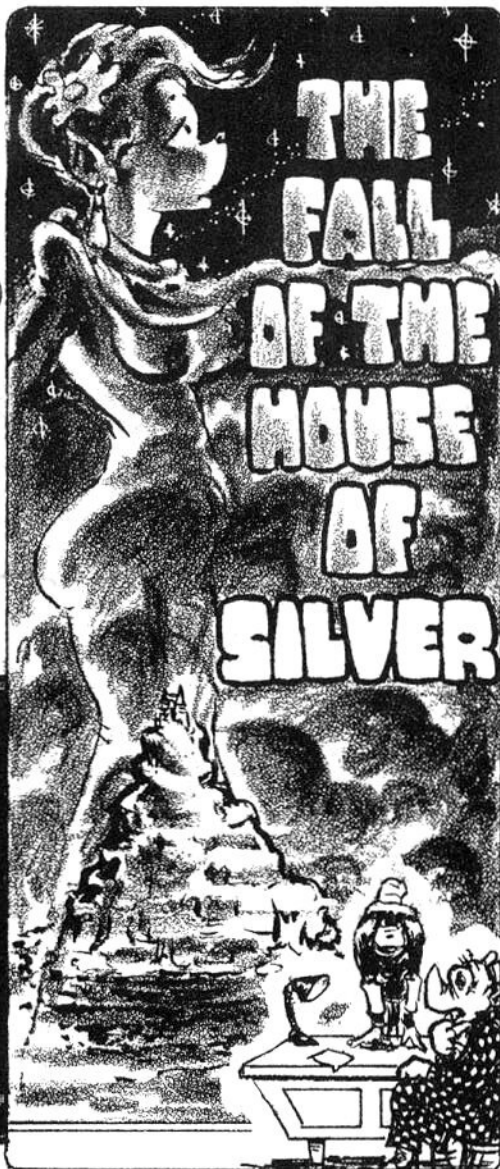
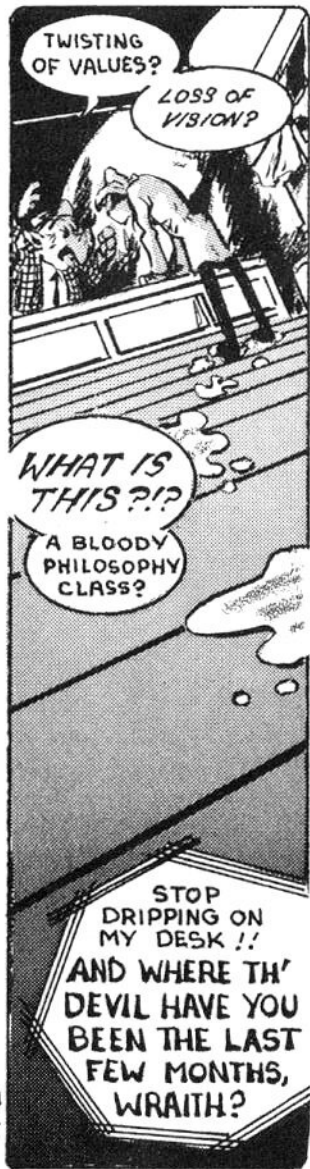
There is the physical;
The CRUSHING AND RENDING OF THE FLESH.



Then there are the more insidious forms;
The TWISTING OF VALUES, THE LOSS OF VISION.



AND WHO IS TO SAY WHICH IS THE MORE TRAGIC?



WELL OUT OF THE CITY, SURROUNDED BY THE BRINY BRINE, MY TENSIONS DISSOLVED LIKE AN OVER-RIPE FIZZIE.

VELL, FRIEND WRAITH...

YOU PERHAPS VONDER ABOUT THE DETAILS OF ZIS EXPIDITION, EH?

NOPE! MMMM! SMELL THAT BRINY BRINE.

HMM-VELL, ALLOW ME TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY.

WHAT "SIMPLE" WORRIED ME. THOSE ARE ALWAYS THE HARDEST JOBS—NEVER FAILS.

DID YA HEAR LEROY? SOME IDIOT ALMOST BROKE THE SHIP'S RUDDER YESTERDAY.

HE WAKED THE DECK-WITH HONEY?

WHO COOKED THE CHOW LAST NIGHT? THE STUFF ALMOST POISONED ME—ECHHH!!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY WRAITH? JUST HELPING OUT AROUND THE SHIP, NICE.

I KEPT MYSELF TOO BUSY TO WORRY MUCH.

IN ANY CASE, I ENJOYED THE CREW AND TH' WORK. AS WE APPROACHED THE ISLAND, MY MEAGER CURIOSITY WAS AROUSED.

OK, DOC—I'LL BITE WHO OWNS THAT HUNK OF REAL ESTATE? YOU RADIOED THEM ABOUT THE QUAKE, OF COURSE?

NO RADIO, NO TELEGRAPH, NO NUTTINK! DER OWNER, SILVER, IS A MILLIONAIRE, UND ITS PRIVACY SILVER LIKES.

EFFERY SIX MONTHS VE BRING SUPPLIES. UND IN RETURN VE GET FUNDED, YAH?

WE DOCKED & TH' CREW WENT WILD!

STRANGE PERSON ZIS SILVER. A PRIVATE FAIRYLAND VAS MADE FROM DER ISLAND. SILVER NEVER LEAVES. A SUGAR PRISON, NEIN? HO! CRAZY!

SILVER, EH?

WHO IS HE?

EAT FISHIES.

FOR YEARS, STUDYINK LIFE NEAR SILVER ISLAND I HAFF DONE SO MUCH TO LEARN!! STRANGE UND VUNDERFUL FISHIES UND ROCKS. SO MUCH FRIEND WRAITH.

RECENTLY, VILE TAKINK SEISMOGRAPHIC READINKS, MIT NEWLY DESIGNED INSTRUMENTS—SOMETHINK HORRIBLE VE HAFF DISCOVERED!

ZO! MINE INSTRUMENTS, ZEY SAY AN EARTHQUAKE VILL SOON COME UND VISIT SILVER ISLAND. A REAL LALAPALOOZA!

SOON I FEAR DER ENTIRE ISLAND MAY GET ALL DESTROYED, YAH? MAYBE VERY SOON TOO.

SO VE GO UND VARN EFFERY-ONE, YAH? UND ZEN VE FILL DER SHIP MIT ALL DER PEOPLE SIMPLE, YAH?

MY HEART STARTED POUNDING THE BRANDENBURG CONCERTO TO A CALYPSO BEAT. JADED ORBS GAZED ON SOME FRESHLY SQUEEZED CONDENSED SUNSHINE. HER NAME WAS MARIA.



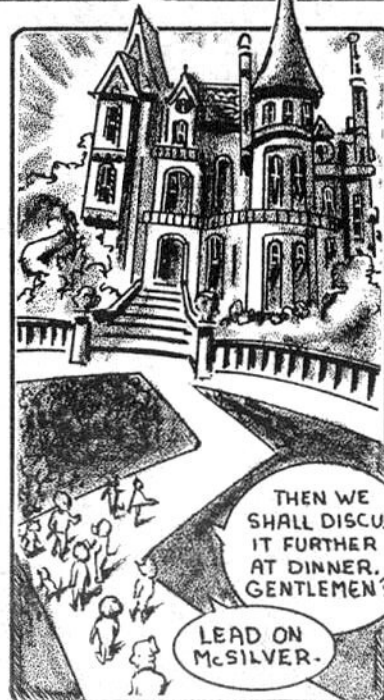
WELCOME, GENTLEMEN. I AM YOUR HOST... MARIA THERESA SILVER!

ONLY ONCE HAD I FELT THIS WAY ABOUT A WOMAN. AND THAT WAS MANY YEARS AGO.



HE?

AH! AND PROFESSOR NICKELODEAN! HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! BUT SO EARLY. I FEAR SOMETHING IS WRONG.



IN MARIA'S ORNATE DINING HALL, THE DOC BABBLED ON ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER. I WAS TOO ENTHRALLED WITH OUR HOSTESS TO NOTICE MUCH ELSE.

AN EARTH-QUAKE, DOCTOR? THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY...

A SOLID SILVER ROOM?!

REMBRANDT'S PICASSO? IT'S LIKE A MUSEUM!

BUT A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY, FRÄULEIN.

EVACUATION, UND PLENTY QUICK, I SUGGEST.

PERHAPS, SO. YOU AND YOUR MEN WILL STAY HERE AND RE-CHECK YOUR FINDINGS.

WE CAN DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER AT THAT POINT.

YOU LOOK CONTENT, WRAITH.

UMMM...DOIN' JUST FINE, MARIA.

WE TALKED FOR HOURS—TOUCHED ON EVERYTHING FROM AARDVARK TO ZEBRA.

YOU PAID FOR THIS ISLAND... IN CASH!?!
JEEESSE!

A WHIM. BUT THE OWNER NEARLY FAINTED.

HE TOLD WONDERFUL STORIES. EVEN NICK LOOSENED UP. THEN CAME BEDTIME.

GOODNIGHT, GENTLEMEN, YOU'LL BE SHOWN TO YOUR ROOMS.

DANKE. A SUPERB EVENING, MADAM.

DITTO, MARIA. ALMOST HATE TO GO...HEH!

THEN PLEASE STAY, WRAITH—FOR A BIT.

I FIND CANDLE-LIGHT QUITE SOOTHING—DON'T YOU?

I FIND YOU VERY SOOTHING, MARIA.

I LOVE SILVER ISLAND DEARLY...

DO I DETECT A "BUT" COPIING?

HOW VERY SWEET. COME CLOSER, MY GALLANT FRIEND.

UM...PRETTY WARM, HUH? "COFF"

OH? LET ME LOOSEN YOUR SHIRT.

...BUT IT CAN GET VERY LONELY AT TIMES.

YOU? LONELY? THAT'S HARD TO PICTURE.

AND PERHAPS WITH THAT HOT CANDLE OUT, WE MIGHT BOTH FEEL MORE...COMFORTABLE.

WE SLEPT LITTLE THAT NIGHT...

I HADN'T SLEPT SLEPT THAT WELL IN YEARS! AND WHAT A WAY TO BREAK MY FAST - WAKING UP SNUGLING MARIA'S WARM BREASTS MMM-MM! NOTHING LIKE IT!

WAKE UP, LAZY-BONES - CAN'T SLEEP ALL DAY.



PLEASE TO LISTEN, FRANKIE EVACUATION MUST BE DONE!

WE CAN DISCUSS IT LATER, DOCTOR.



A JUG OF WINE, A LOAF OF BREAD, AND THOU BESIDE ME, SIGN!!



CAN YOU DESCRIBE HEAVEN, INSPECTOR? DETACH THE HALO AND HARPS AND WE HAD IT! THE HOURS MERGED INTO DAYS, AND THE DAYS INTO WEEKS.

NOW REALLY, MY ENTHUSIASTIC FRIEND. DO I LOOK LIKE A PAINT PALETTE?



ATHLETE, SCHOLAR, ARTIST, BUSINESSWOMAN-SHE WAS ALL THAT AND MORE! AND, LORD, WHAT A LOVER! WE'D PLAY FOR HOURS & DAYS IN OUR OWN PARADISE.

I KNOW THAT LITTLE VOICE OF DOOM THAT POPS UP WHEN THINGS ARE TOO PERFECT? OURS BELONGED TO OLD NICK. BUT THEN... LOVE IS DEAF, OR SO THEY SEE.



SNAP OUT OF IT, WRAITH! THIS PLACE WE MUST LEAVE!!



BAH! VEN DER PUTZ GOES UP, DER BRAIN GOES DOWN.



ISN'T THIS PIECE EXQUISITE? AN ORIGINAL CELLINI.

UM-HMM. YES-IT IS

IN FACT, EVERYTHING AROUND HERE IS VERY EXQUISITE

AND RARE

AND EXPENSIVE.

DO I DETECT A NOTE OF DISAPPROVAL?

WEEKS BECAME MONTHS. SELDOM HAD I INVESTED TIME SO WELL. NICK AND THE CREW HAD A WORKING VACATION. WHAT THE HELL-SHE WAS PICKING UP THE TAB-RIGHT?

IF YOU SAY SO, BUT--SAY! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK--

WHY DO YOU KEEP THAT OLD GRUNGY DOLL IN AN EXPENSIVE SILVER CASE?

SHE FILLED ME IN ON HER CHILDHOOD. "TRUE CONFESSIONS" STUFF. ADORING FATHER KICKS OFF, FOLLOWED BY YEARS OF POVERTY. BUT HARD WORK, LUCK AND PERSISTANCE PAY OFF, FOR ONCE.

HER? THATS ANNIE. DADDY GAVE HER TO ME BEFORE HE DIED.

I LOVE HER MORE THAN ANYTHING.

LIFE WAS DAMN NEAR PERFECT... EXCEPT... SOMETHING DID MAKE ME UNEASY. HER OBSESSION WITH THINGS. THAT BUGGED ME.

NOT EXACTLY, BUT...

UH-OH. YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR HAT ON-IT MUST BE TIME FOR A LECTURE

VERY FUNNY.

BUT LOOK AROUND AT ALL THIS NEEDLESS JUNK! NOW, NOW... I'VE HAD 37 YEARS TO DEVELOP MY TASTES. JUNK IT'S NOT!

URNS OUT SHE'S KING MIDAS IN REAL ESTATE. MAKES A FORTUNE. ONLY... NO ONE'S TOLD HER Y'CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS.

IT WAS HARD - AFTER DADDY DIED.

I WAS SHY AND HAD NO FRIENDS. I WAS NEVER CLOSE TO MOTHER. MY ANNIE WAS MY ONLY FRIEND, AND THE ONLY PART OF DADDY I HAD LEFT.

OK. BUT... WHY THE CASE?

BECAUSE ANNIE IS PRECIOUS TO ME. I DON'T WANT HER HURT.

YEAH - BUT WHILE IT'S IN THERE YOU CAN'T TOUCH IT-OR PLAY WITH IT.

37! OH DEAR. THAT DOES SOUND OLD, DOESN'T IT?

SAY, YOU! I LOVE OLDER WOMEN, GRANNY.

HA! HA! SILLY!

... BUT SERIOUSLY, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH MY LIKING MY TOYS. THEY MAKE ME HAPPY AND I CAN EASILY AFFORD THEM-OR ANYTHING ELSE - FOR THAT MATTER.

GOLD, JEWELS, CHINA, FURNITURE - WHATEVER. SHE HAD TO HAVE THE BEST. SO WHAT, I GUESS? WHO WAS I TO BE PREACHING?

NO... BUT IT'S SAFE... IN THERE.

ALLEGORIES ANYONE?

ALLEGORIES? OH! YOU BRUTE!! TAKE THAT!

WOOPS!

SO SILVER ISLAND BECOMES THE ULTIMATE ACQUISITION. LOTS OF THINGS TO OWN. NICE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. NO MESSY X-FACTORS. LIKE PEOPLE, LETS SAY. SAFE. STERILE. UNTIL ME.

IF SOMETHING SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE—IT PROBABLY IS." THAT SAYING IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS IN LIFE THAT'S NEVER LET ME DOWN.

AH, MARIA! YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE MAD.

AND YOU'RE SO OBNOXIOUS WHEN YOU'RE...

WRAITH!

C'MON, BABE, LETS... HUH? ARE YOU NUTS!?! LEAVE THAT THING!

NO! ANNIE'S IN HERE.

THE FUCKIN' DOLL??

THE LOCK'S STUCK, I CAN'T LEAVE HER.

UNBREAKABLE GLASS, RIGHT?

YES

GODDAM IT, WOMAN! YOU'LL KILL US YET!

GIMME AN END!

EARTH-QUAKE!
HEAD FOR THE SHIP!

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE THE POINT. SILVER ISLAND WAS DYING. BOTH NATIVES AND CREW FLED TO THE WAITING SHIP.

OLD NICK WAS RIGHT!

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID??

CHRIST! THE WHOLE ISLAND'S SINKING!

OOOOHH, GOD! MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE.

WE'LL BE SAFE SOON. CALM DOWN, BABY.

MY ISLAND. "SOB" MY WHOLE LIFE! EVERYTHING

DESTROYED

A SHARP CRACKING...

WHAT'S ALL I REMEMBER

WE CAN'T "PUFF" REST NOW, LOVE. "GASP"

WE'RE ALMOST "PUFF" AT THE SHIP, WRAITH.

WRAITH?

I CAN ONLY GUESS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT. WE WERE NEAR THE SHIP—BUT THE ISLAND WAS SINKING FAST. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR TWO TRIPS.

IT MUST'VE BEEN A HORRIBLE STRUGGLE.

ME OR HER ANNIE.

ME OR HER CHILDHOOD FANTASIES—THE SAFETY OF HER PAST—

ME

...OR THE DOLL!!

A FEARSOME CHOICE

BUT AS I SAID BEFORE—MARIA WAS EXCEPTIONAL

LUCKILY FOR ME!

HEAVE TO, MEN!
WAIT! Someone's coming

CRASH!

RUSHING WAVES
SMASHED THE SHIP,
AS SILVER ISLE BEGAN
HER DEATH THROES.

CAST OFF,
MEN, BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!

MEIN GOTT!
WRAITH!
UND SILVER!
YOU ALIVE!
ALIVE!

DOOH?
WHA?
HAPPY?

OH MY PRECIOUS
WRAITH! YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT! "SOB"
YOU'RE SAFE NOW
HONEY!

dear
God

THE LAST OF HER STRENGTH HAD
BEEN USED ON ME!

I'M BACK
ANNIE.
DON'T
WORRY,
BABY.

MARIA!
COME BACK.
THE ISLAND'S
SINKING!!!

LEMME GO!!
MARIA!

LORD
E'S A
TOUGH
ONE
E'S!

AND THEN
AMIDST THE
CRASHING
SURF, SHE
REMEMBERED

THE DOLL!

AND BEFORE WE
COULD STOP HER...

I'M
COMING
ANNIE!

STOP
HER!

CAPTAIN
JUMPED
SHIP!

TOO
LATE!

NO NO
I WON'T
LEAVE YOU
ANNIE

ANNIE
I'M
SCARED.

"SOB"
I... I CAN'T
JUST LEAVE MY
BEAUTIFUL ANNIE
AND MY HOUSE AND
JEWELS AND MY...

THEY'RE JUST THINGS!
THINGS! THEY'RE
NOT IMPORTANT!!!

OH, ANNIE
I'M SO
SCARED

WE'RE IMPORTANT!
YOU... AND ME!!

MARIA!
I NEED
YOU!
I NEED
YOU!!

OH, WRAITH.
I WANTED IT
TO WORK.

LAY OFF,
Y' DAMN FOOL.
IT'S SURE
SUICIDE OUT
THERE!

MARIA!



AND THAT, PERHAPS...IS THE MOST TRAGIC THING OF ALL!

IMAGINE IF YOU WERE GOING TO START A COMICS COMPANY
FROM SCRATCH... WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

FIRST, I'D CUT THE WRITERS
AND ARTISTS IN ON THE ACTION,
AND GIVE THEM MORE CREATIVE
FREEDOM, SO THEY'D BE
MOTIVATED TO CREATE
THEIR **BEST WORK...**

THEN, I'D DO COMICS FOR
GROWN-UPS; STORIES WITH
INSIGHT AND INTELLIGENCE,
ART WITH EXCITEMENT AND
SENSITIVITY...

I'D MAKE COMICS
I'D ENJOY READING...

I'D MAKE
COMICS
**FUN
AGAIN!**

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WRAITH Pin-UP PAGE





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UNDERGROUND COMIX CLASSIX

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