

The First Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry

by David Mudrick



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Reston, Virginia

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To readers who started the adventure within the last twenty years and have been patiently waiting for its complete publication... Both of you

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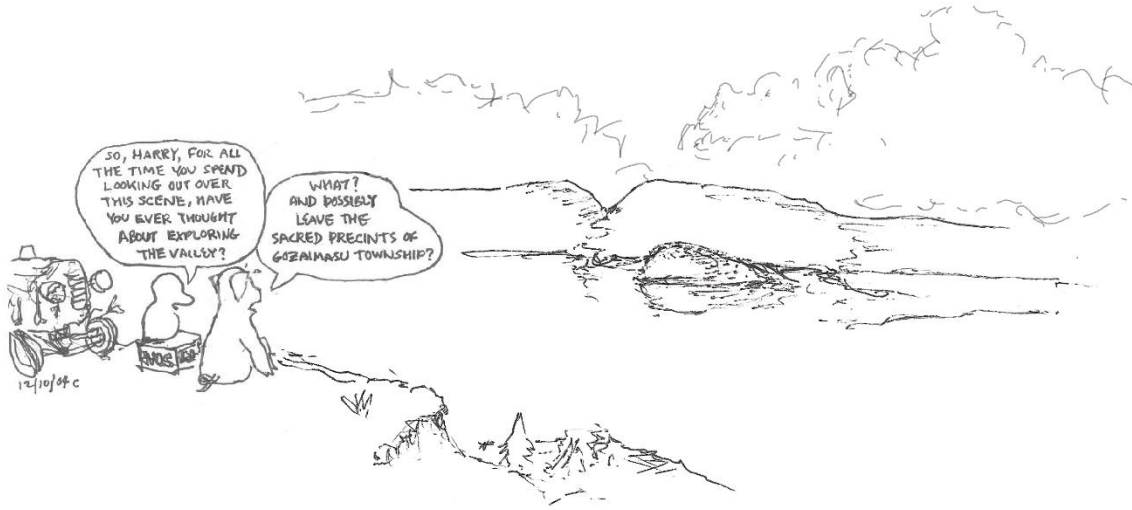
Forward

Tom Duck and Harry, a pig, reside at Cow Manor, the home of African American farmers Al and Ellie MacDonald, a short hop as the duck flies from the hamlet of Gozaimasu, Ohio. Harry was born on the farm and has never traveled other than to the nearby town, but he has a broader, if questionable, world view gleaned from the *Southern Ohio Bugle* and radio and television broadcasts captured on the MacDonalds' front porch. Tom, a former resident of New York City, has fled the rat race to find relief in this pastoral setting. Although content with his new life, he thinks an exploration of the nearby lake and its environs would be educational for him and his porcine pal. The ensuing adventure with its unforeseen events and unusual acquaintances, sometimes bordering on the bizarre, proves enlightening, if not life changing, for both of them.

If the plot seems to be unscripted and the drawings look like they were executed on the cartoonist's lap while commuting by public transportation, you are correct. Although originally drafted in 2004 and 2005, the adventure was not completely published for twenty years, in May 2025, which may be an auspicious time to let us know that things could always be worse.

Day 1 - Down the River

Tom strikes a nerve when he proposes a local trip to Harry.
What follows is an epic historic-hysteric journey.





TOM, TELL ME AGAIN WHY THIS TRIP DOWN TO THE VALLEY IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA

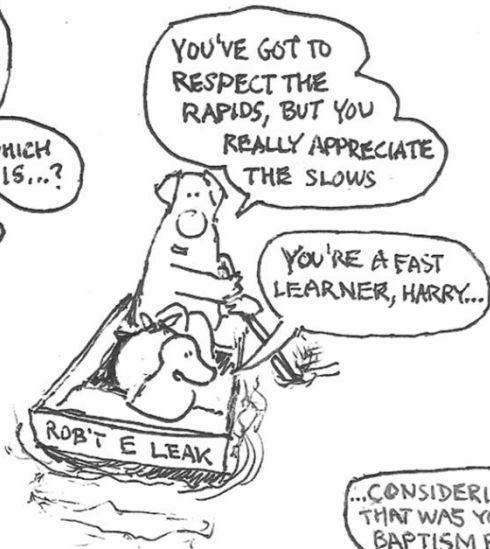
WELL, HARRY, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, JUST THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY

HOW DOES THAT COMPARE WITH THE THRILL OF HOT SWILL ON A COLD MORNING?

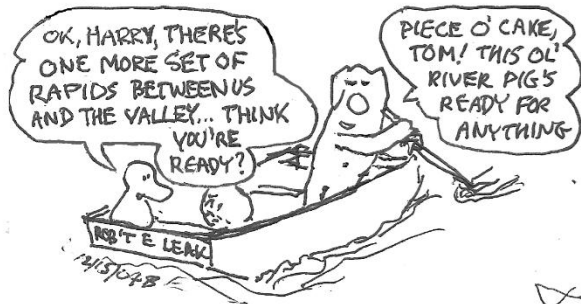
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T SPEAK TO THAT, BUT HOLD ONTO YOUR POLE... WE'RE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF OUR FIRST SET OF RAPIDS!













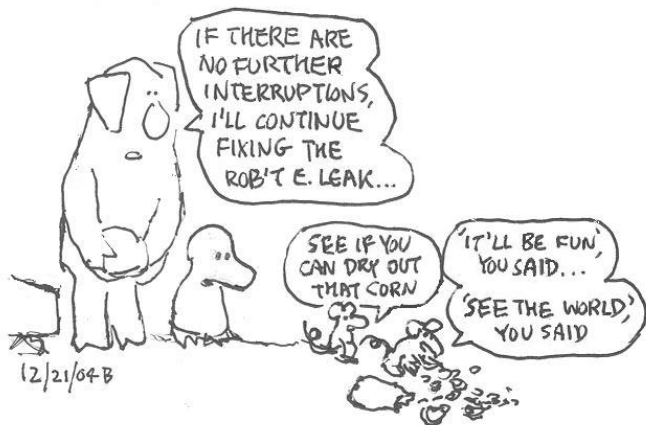








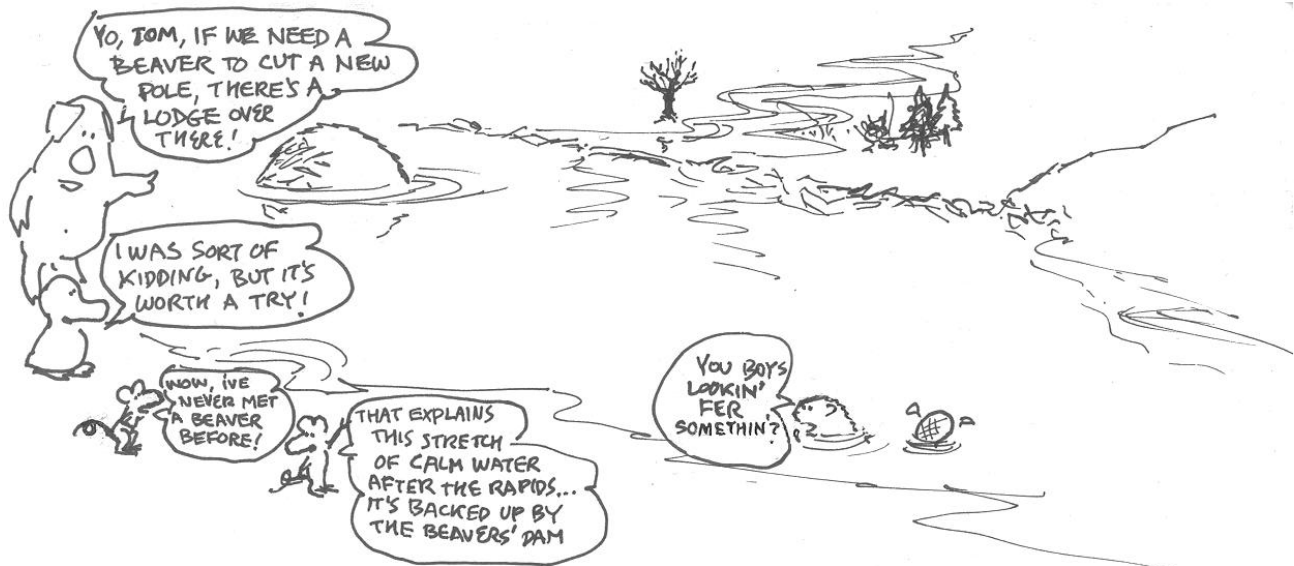




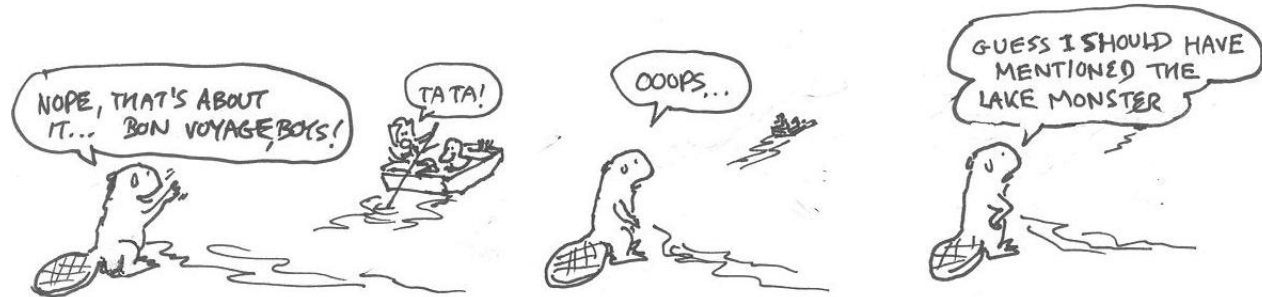


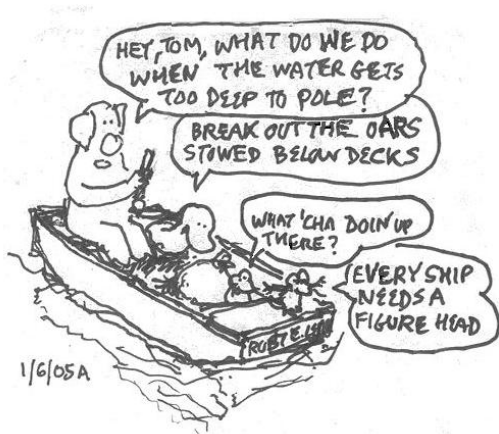
Day 2 - Strange Trip to Pine Island

Tom and Harry, accompanied by the erstwhile stowaway rats, set out for the iconic island they have seen on every trip up Tractor Hill. The unexpected and startling nature of their progression to the island leaves them unnerved on the beach.

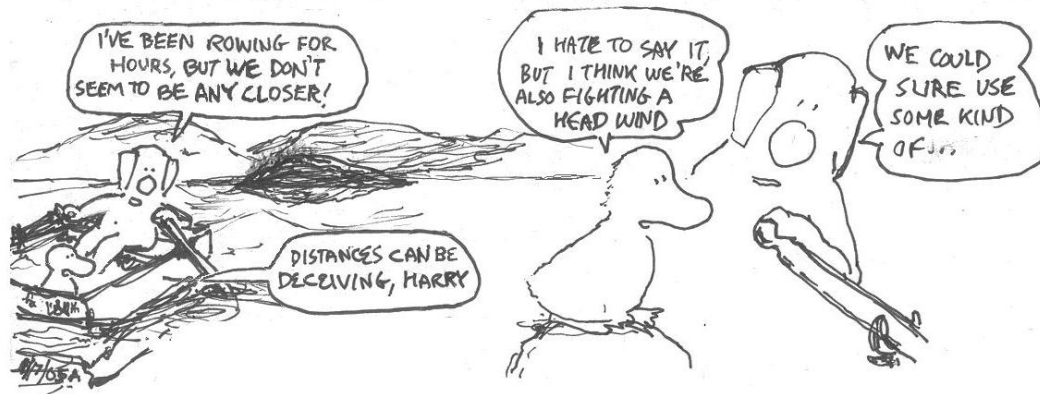


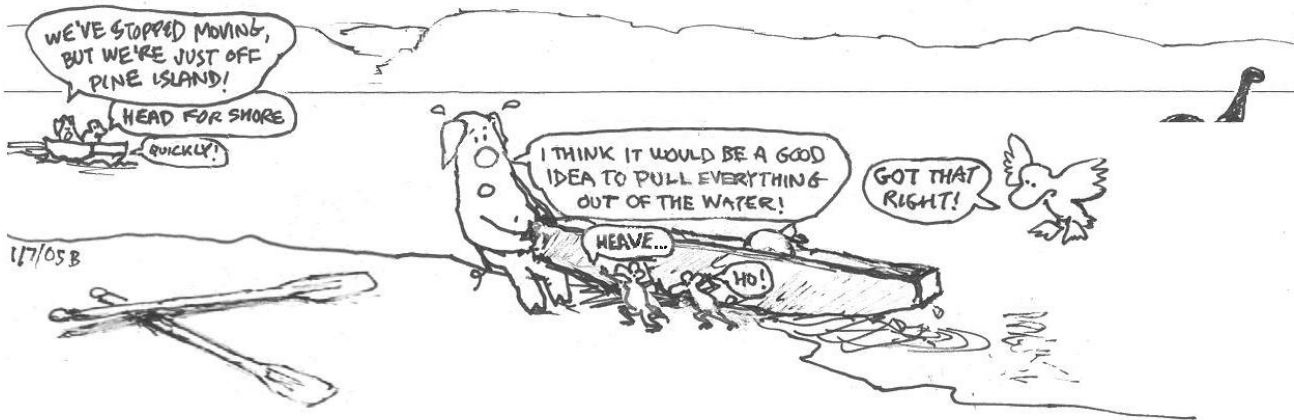
12/28/07-A

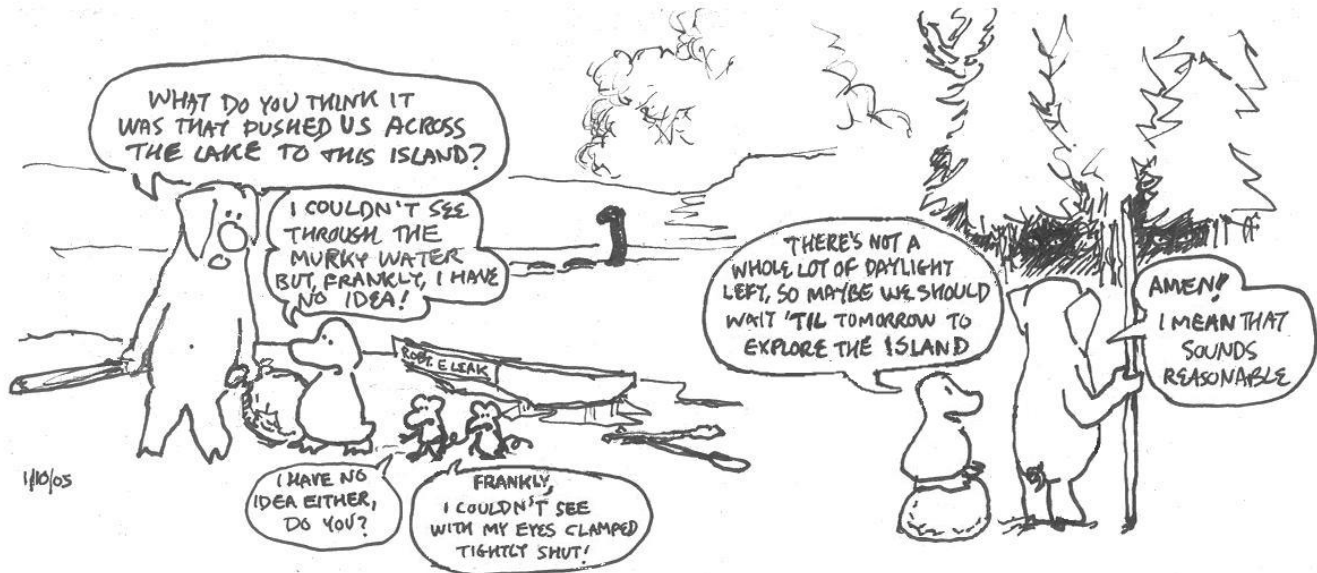












Day 3 - Into the Woods

The Corps of Discovery plunges into the piney woods only to find that reaching the summit is truly an uphill struggle.



A hand-drawn sketch of a forested island. The island is covered in dense, scribbled trees. A small boat is on the water in the foreground, with a person inside. A speech bubble from the person in the boat says "HEY!". Another speech bubble from a person on the island says "I HEAR PINE ISLAND IS UNINHABITED... NOW". A third speech bubble from the person in the boat says "WHAT'D HE MEAN BY 'NOW'?!". The date "1/11/05" is written in the bottom left corner.

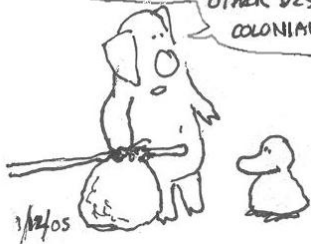
I HEAR
PINE ISLAND IS
UNINHABITED...
NOW

HEY!

WHAT'D
HE MEAN BY
'NOW'?!

1/11/05

YOU'RE RIGHT, TOM, NO ONE LIVES ON PINE ISLAND NOW, BUT ACCORDING TO THE SOUTHERN OHIO BUGLE, IT WAS ONCE A HANGOUT FOR SMUGGLERS AND OTHER DESPERADOS IN COLONIAL TIMES...



"LEGEND SAYS THEY WOULD LURE SHIPS AGROUND WITH FALSE LIGHTS ON STORMY NIGHTS... THEN ATTACK THE CREWS AND PLUNDER THEIR CARGOS! THAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE 'PINE ISLAND GHOST LIGHTS' PEOPLE STILL CLAIM TO SEE OCCASIONALLY"



HOW COME WE'VE NEVER SEEN THEM?



OUR CARTOONIST WASN'T THINKING THAT FAR AHEAD

LIKE WITH THE CARS



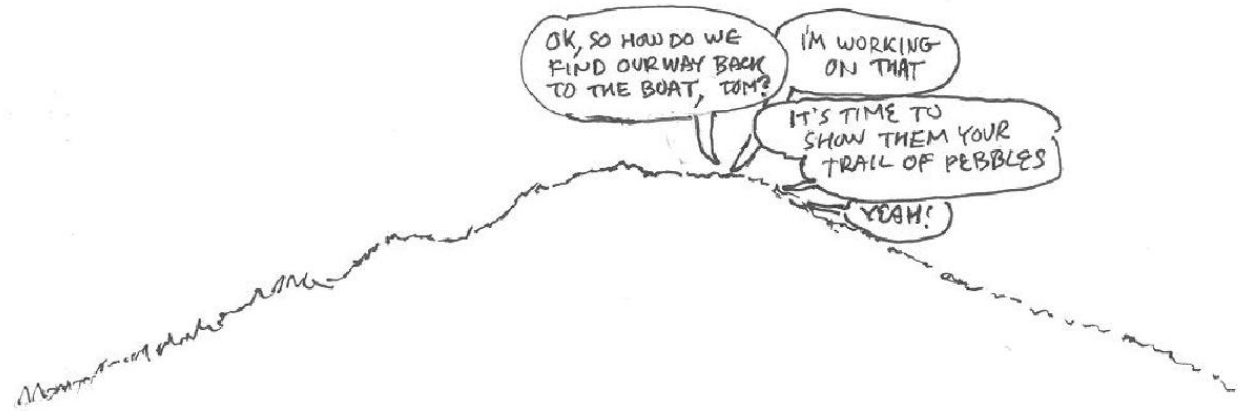
1/18/05A

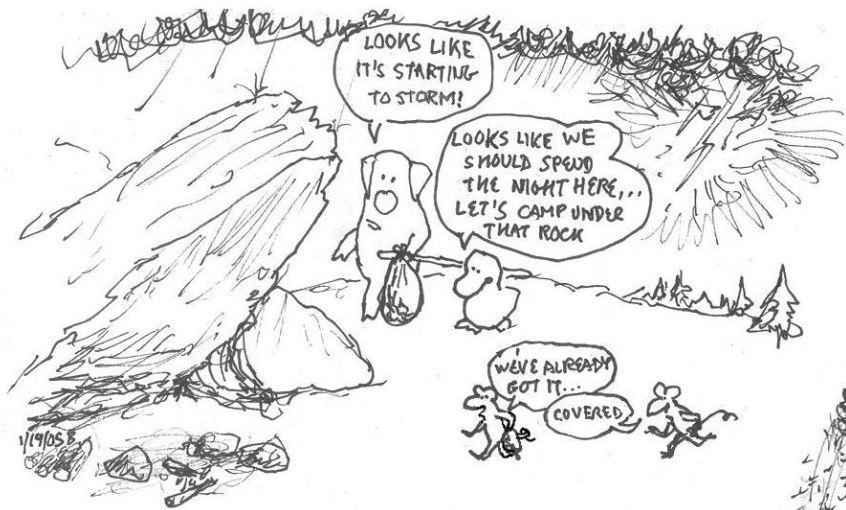














Day 4 - The Belly of the Beast

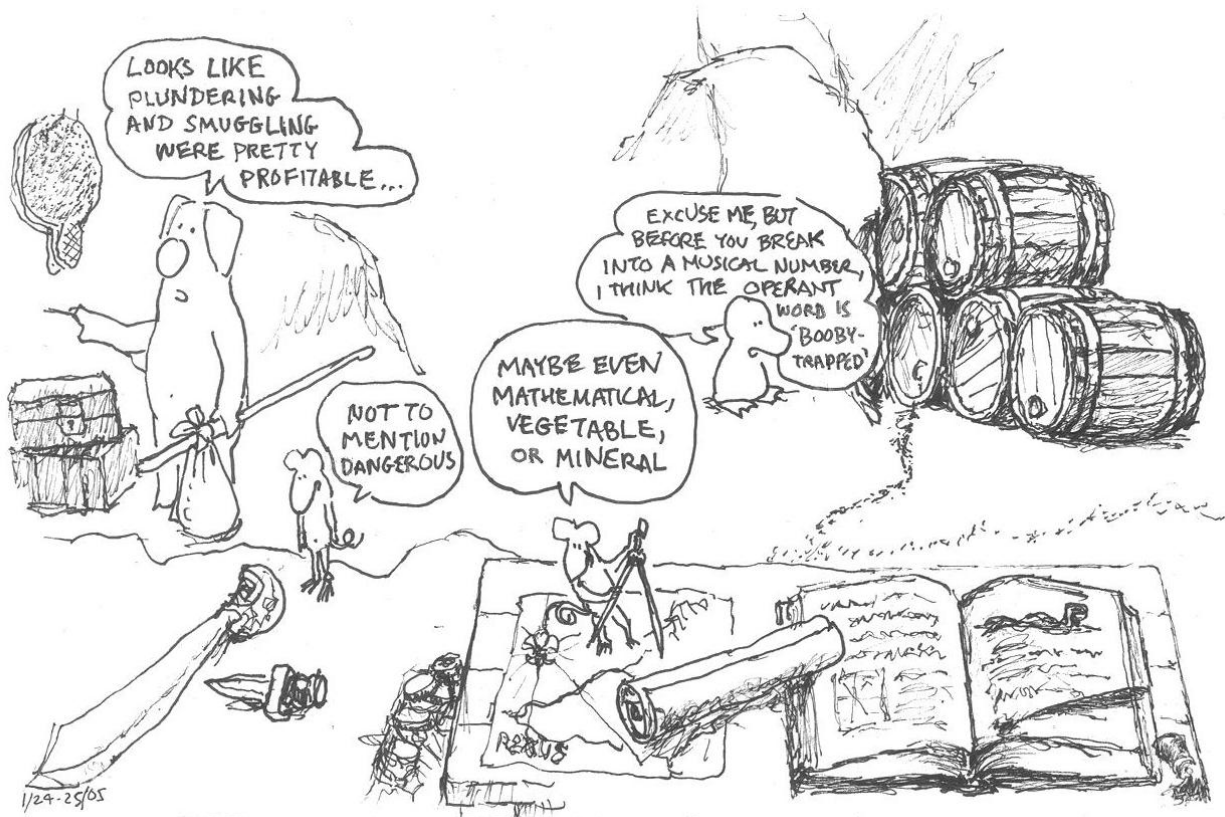
Our intrepid band literally delves into the secret of Pine Island, but can they reemerge?

MORNING FINDS OUR CREW
HARD AT WORK!

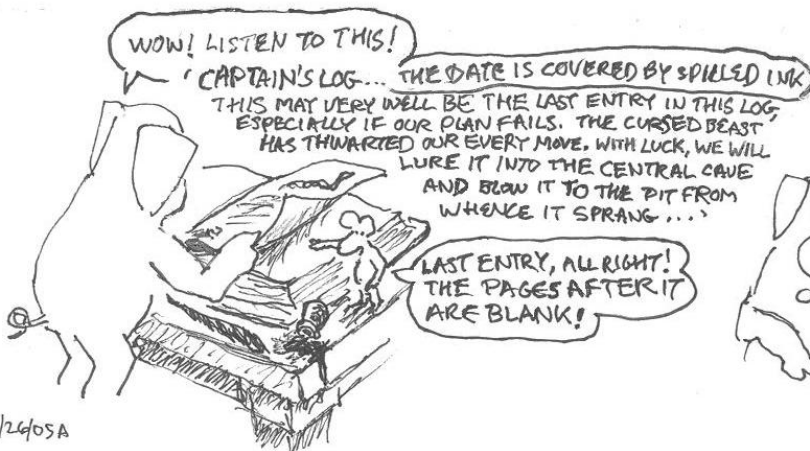


1/2/05









A SEA SERPENT
ON A LAKE IN
SOUTHERN OHIO...
ISN'T THAT A
BIT OVER THE
TOP?



UH, HAS ANYONE
ELSE NOTICED IT'S GETTING
DARKER IN HERE? MAYBE
WE SHOULD SPEED THINGS UP
BEFORE WE HAVE A...

1/26/05B

BOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?!
WELL, DEAR READER,
COULD THIS BE THE
END OF TOM DUCK AND
HARRY THE PIG... AND
THEIR LITTLE RATS, TOO?

WORSE LUCK...
WE'RE BACK

BA-BOOM



THERE'S ANOTHER, IF SMALLER! YOU THINK A LIGHTNING STRIKE COULD SET OFF ALL THIS BLACK POWDER?

I DOUBT IT BUT LET'S NOT STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT!

YEAH, LET'S FIND OUR WAY OUT!



ROGER THAT!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

A BOOM OF THUNDER

I THOUGHT OUR GOOSE WAS COOKED, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION

IT'S OK... HE'S A DUCK

1/26/05c



TOM, THE FURTHER
WE GO INTO THE
CAVE, THE DARKER

-BOINK- OUCH!
IT GETS

FEEL THE
AIR FOR
CURRENTS...
THEY SHOULD
BE FLOWING
IN OR OUT OF AN
ENTRANCE

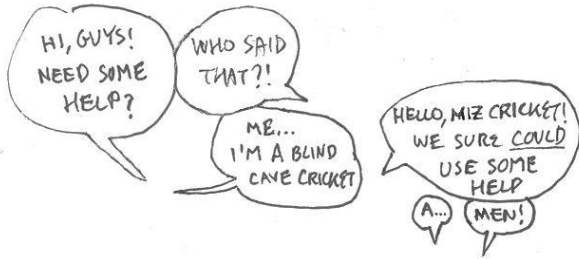
DID YOU GET
THE FEED BAG?

YES, ALONG
WITH A SHINY
THING TO REFLECT
LIGHT, BUT THERE
ISN'T ENOUGH TO SEE

BOOM-M-M

BA-BOOM

1/27/05B



1/27/05c





HEY, I THINK
I CAN SEE A GLIMMER
AHEAD!

THAT'S RIGHT!
JUST FOLLOW THE
LIGHT!

1/27/65 D

THANKS SO
MUCH, MIZ
CRICKET!

OH,
BY THE WAY, THE
LAKE MONSTER
SAYS, 'HELLO'







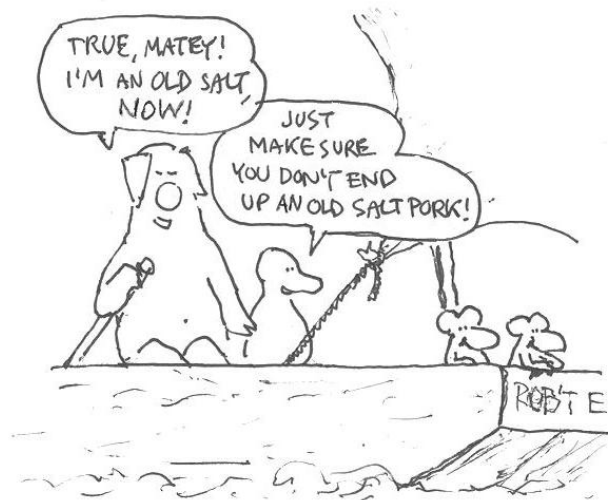




WELL DONE, CAP'N STYGH!
THIS SAIL MADE FROM THE
FEED BAG, OAR, AND POLE SHOULD
MAKE THE GOING EASIER...

KEEP A SHARP EYE
OUT FOR SEA SERPENTS...
ESPECIALLY LAKE MONSTERS!

2/2/05A





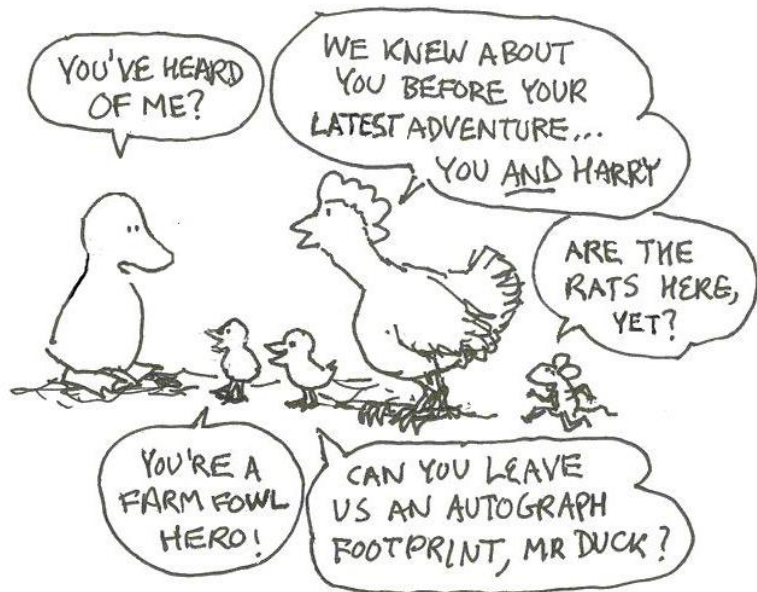


2/4/05A





2/6/05A



AND SO, ON A SMALL FARM ON A LAKE IN SOUTHERN OHIO, A PARTY GOES ON LATE INTO THE NIGHT...

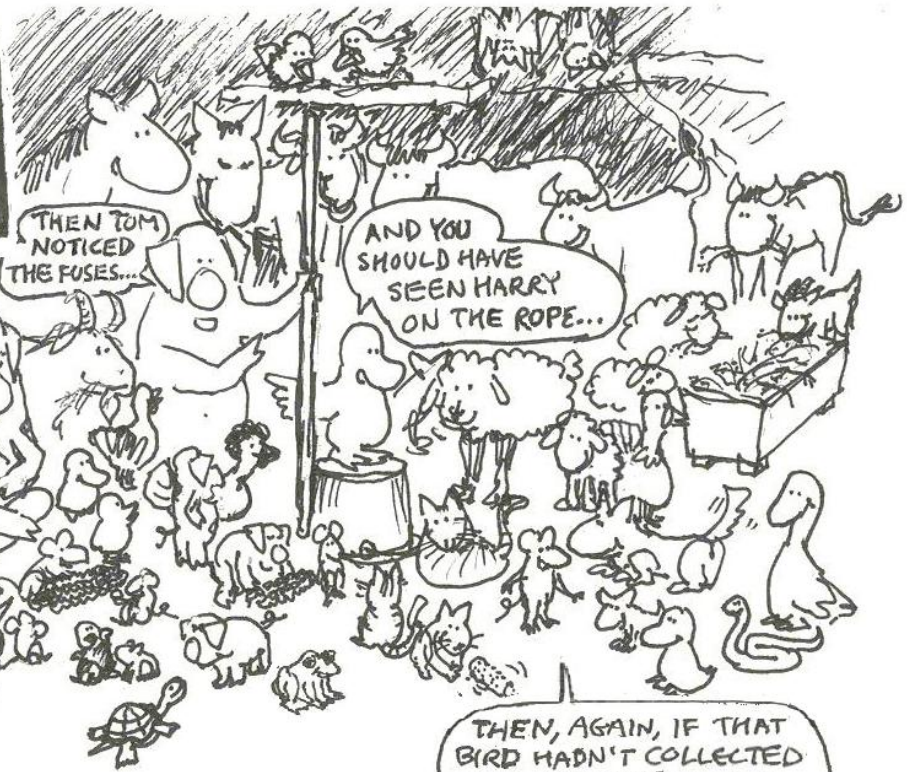
THEN TOM NOTICED THE FUSES...

AND YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HARRY ON THE ROPE...

OF COURSE I WAS SCARED, BUT WE WENT ON

THEN, AGAIN, IF THAT BIRD HADN'T COLLECTED OUR PEBBLE TRAIL, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE...

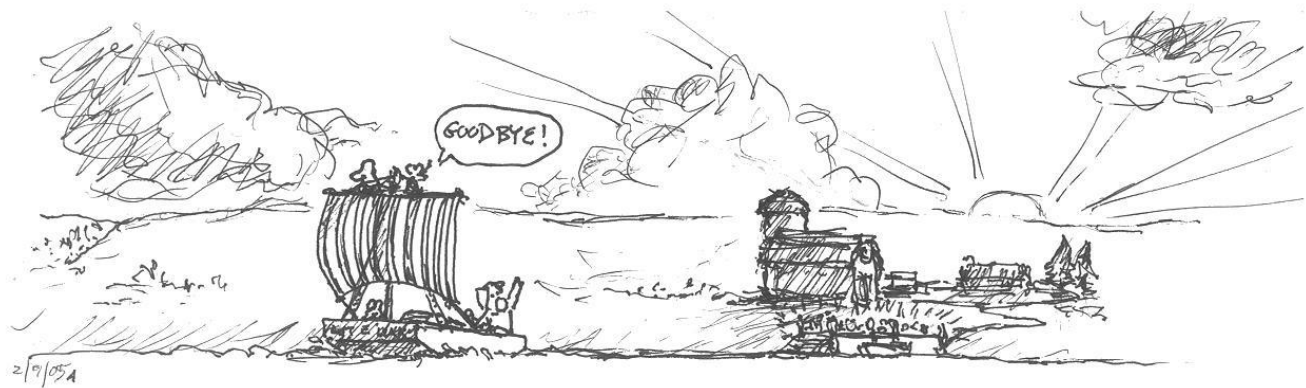
2/6/05B



Day 5 - Long Day's Journey into the Sewer

The next morning, our crew sets sail for further adventure, again not knowing where night will find them.







APLOGIES TO WINSLOW HOMER

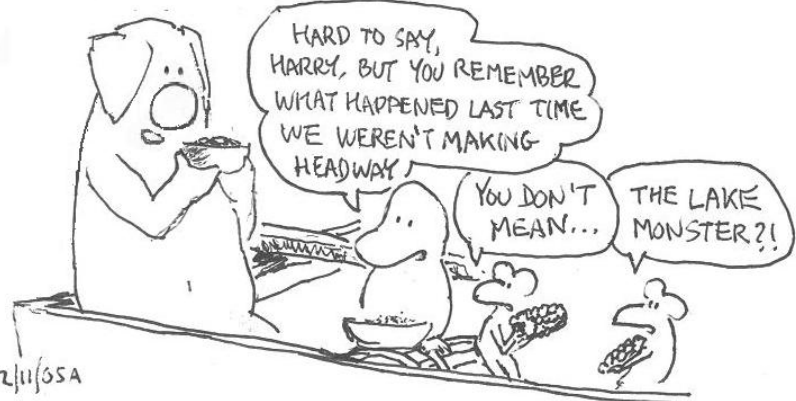


2/10/05



2/10-11/05

WITH YOUR WEATHER BEAK,
TOM, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK
THESE DOLDRUMS WILL LAST?

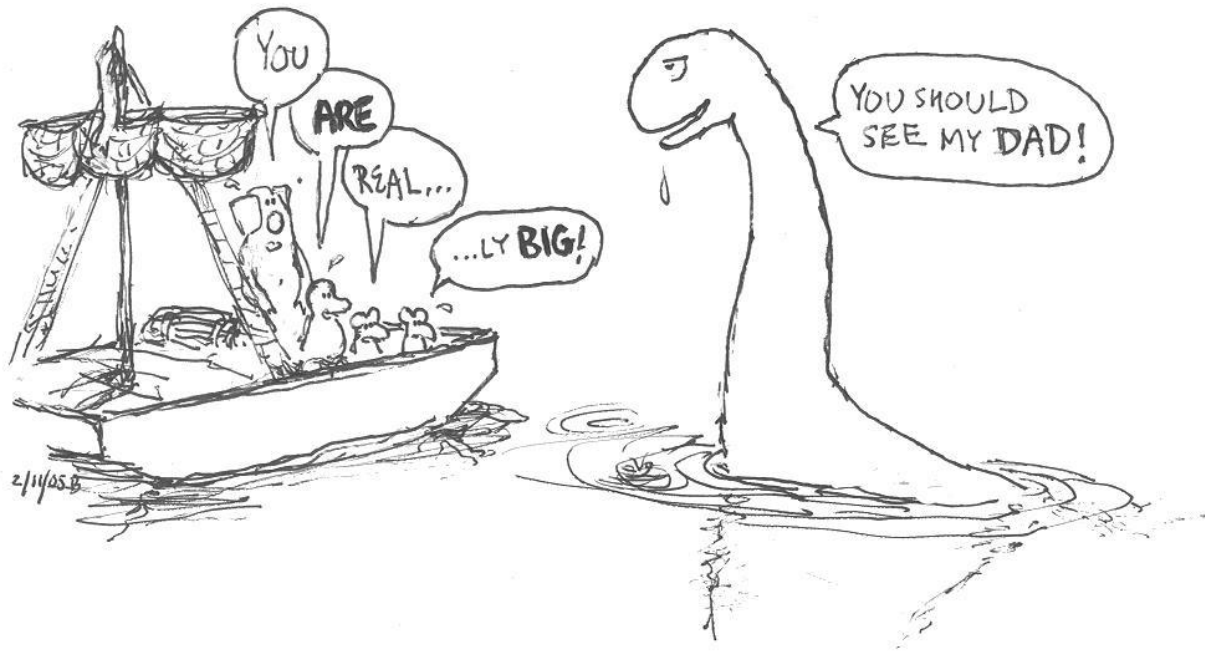


HARD TO SAY,
HARRY, BUT YOU REMEMBER
WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME
WE WEREN'T MAKING
HEADWAY!

YOU DON'T
MEAN...

THE LAKE
MONSTER?!

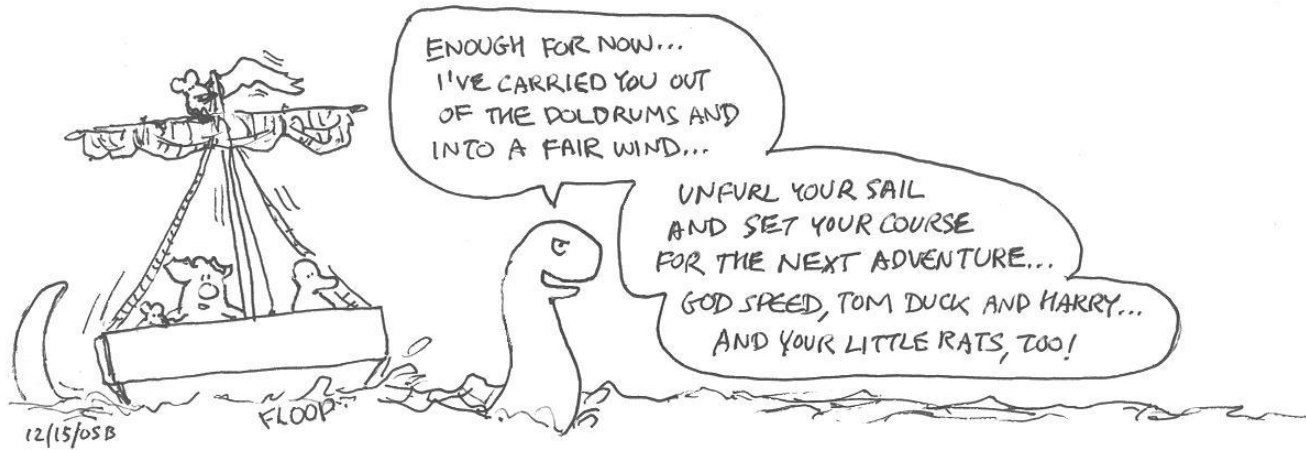
ARE YOU BOYS IMPLYING
THAT I'M NOTHING MORE
THAN A CHEAP DEVICE
TO MOVE THE PLOT ALONG?

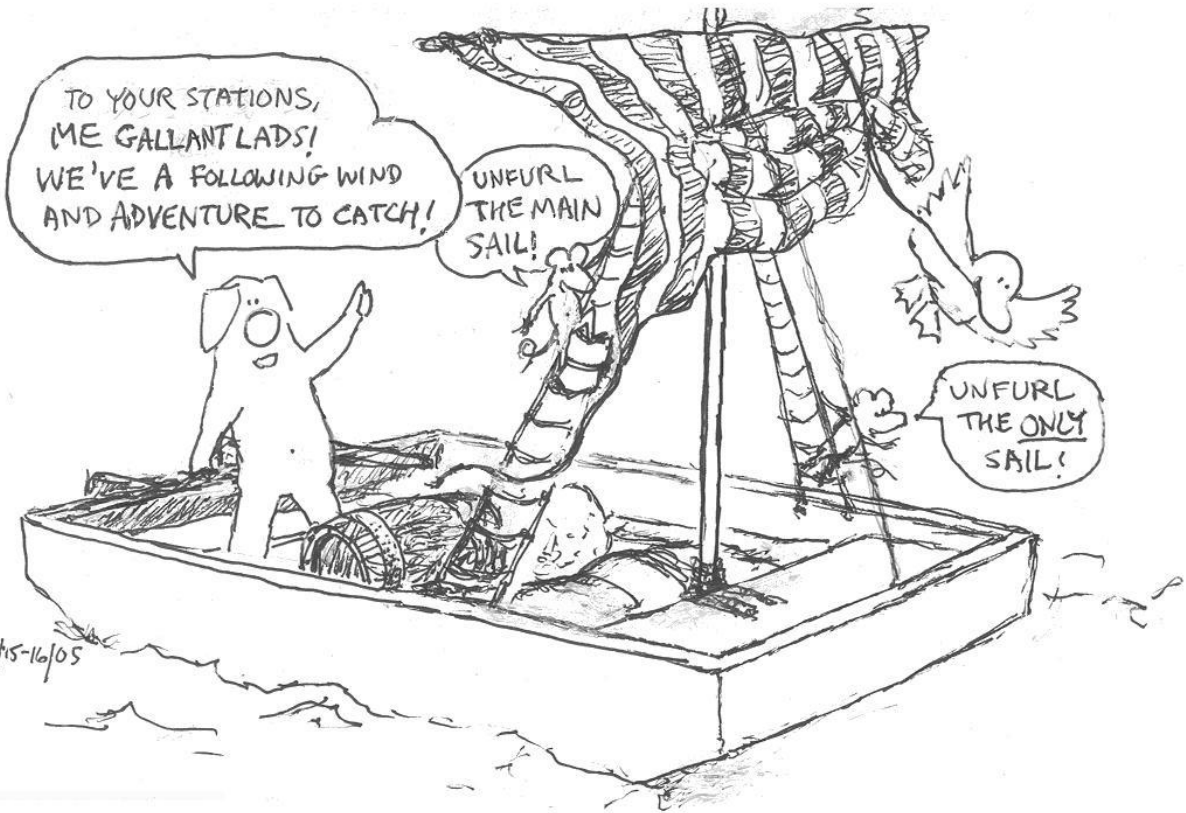












TO YOUR STATIONS,
ME GALLANT LADS!
WE'VE A FOLLOWING WIND
AND ADVENTURE TO CATCH!

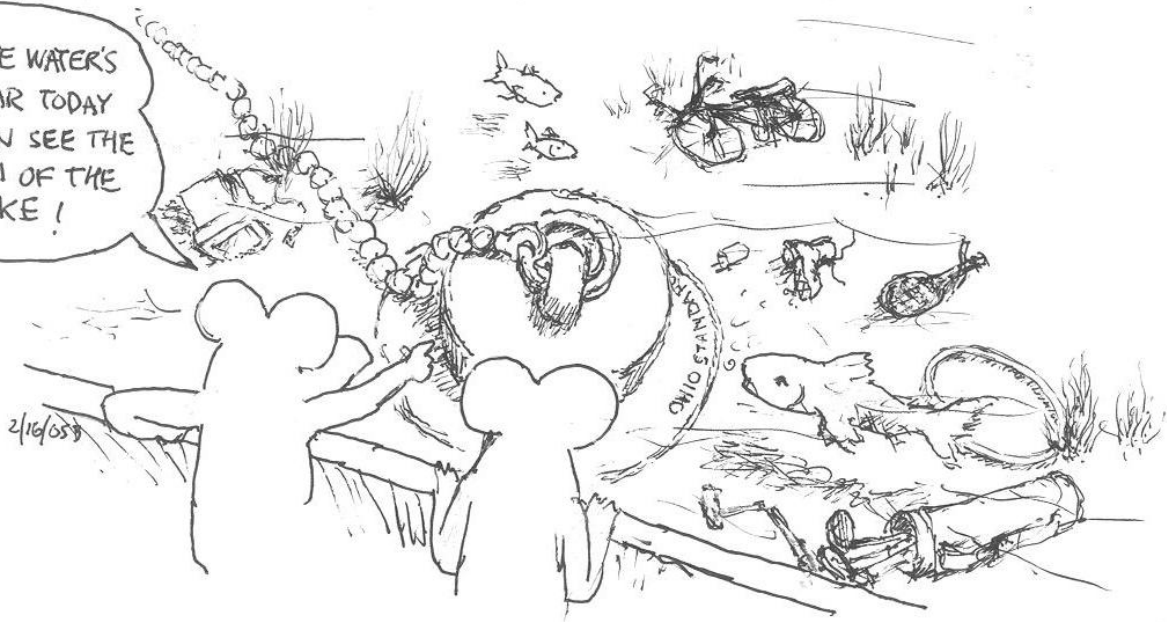
UNFURL
THE MAIN
SAIL!

UNFURL
THE ONLY
SAIL!

2/15-16/05



BOY, THE WATER'S
SO CLEAR TODAY
YOU CAN SEE THE
BOTTOM OF THE
LAKE!











2/22/05 B





TOM AND HARRY TAKE
A BACK SEAT AT THE
ENSUING MEETING WITH
THE HEADS OF THE
RAT COUNCIL

HAVE YOU
CONSIDERED
GROWING YOUR
OWN FOOD IN
THE FACE OF
DIMINISHING
HABITAT?

THAT'S THE LONG-TERM
SOLUTION, OF COURSE,
BUT WE'RE SEWER RATS...
NOT EVEN THE AGED
LIKE ME POSSESS ANY
FARMING EXPERIENCE

2/23/05

THAT'S WHERE
WE FARM RATS
COULD HELP

IF YOU COULD TEACH
US, WE ARE FAST
LEARNERS AND HARD
WORKERS



Day 6 - Pig in the City

After an overnight stay with the sewer rats, Tom and Harry continue their explorations, this time footloose in an urban setting.

AND SO, THE NEXT DAY,
THERE'S A TRANSFER OF
PROVISIONS AND A FOND
'FARE THEE WELL'

WE'VE DRYDOCKED
THE ROBT'E LEAK
FOR OUR VISIT
TO THE CITY...

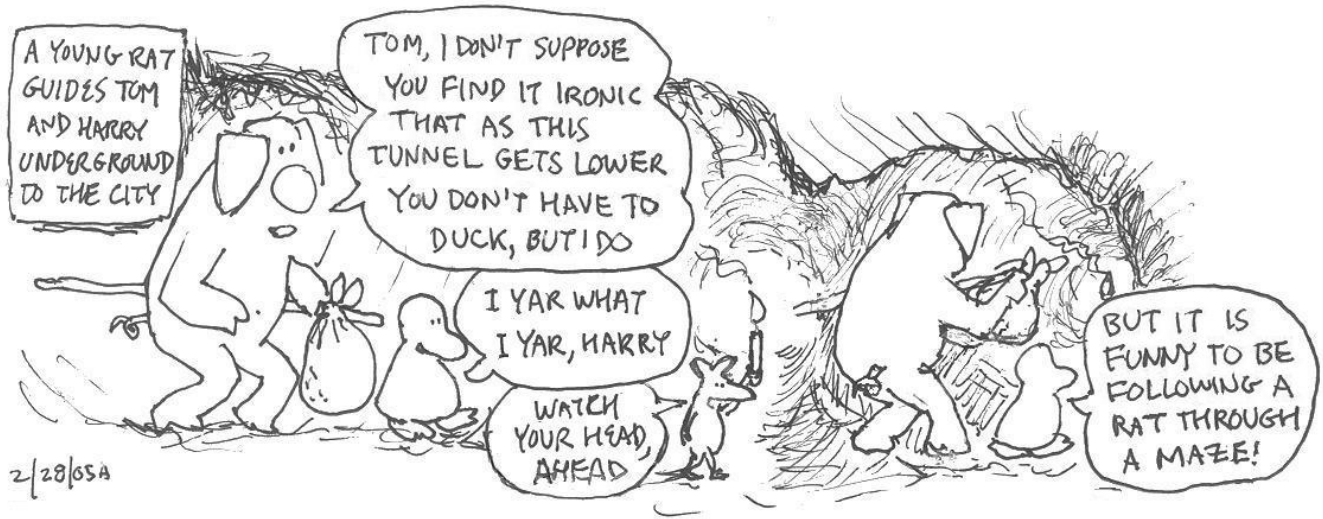
AND WE'VE
DRY STOCKED
YOUR SEED CORN
IN THESE OLD
PLASTIC MILK
JUGS... KEEP
THE LIDS TIGHT

ONCE THEY'RE
LOADED ONTO
THE 'RATMOBILE'
HERE, THEY'LL
BE HAULED TO
A DRY SECTION OF
THE SEWER

WHEN WE
WORK TOGETHER,
WE'VE GOT A
LOT OF PULL!

ONE SMALL TUG
FOR A RAT...
A TUG-O-WAR FOR
RATKIND





2/28/05A



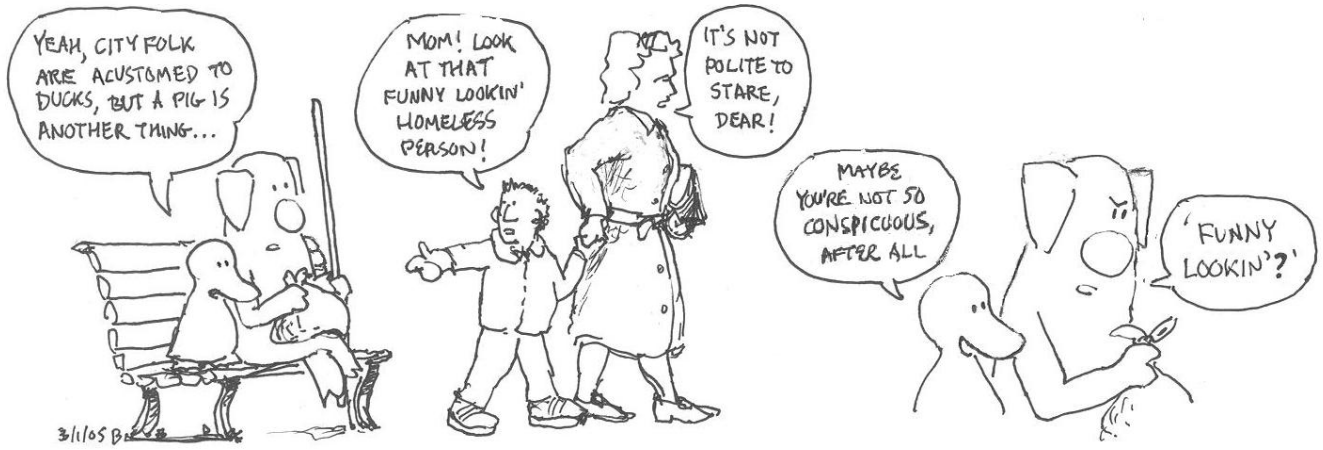
*Action before thought





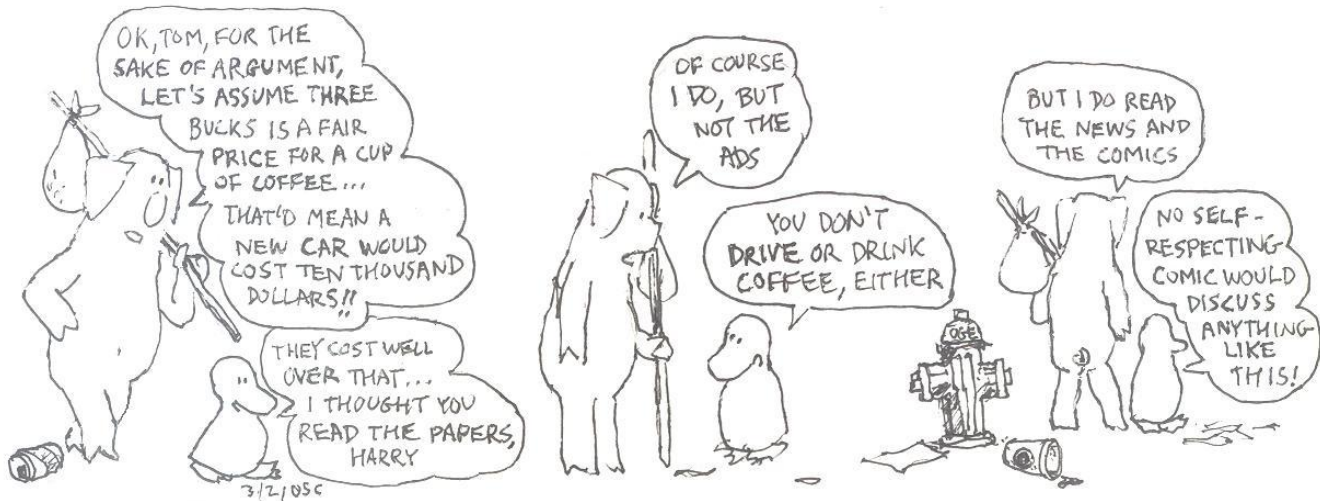


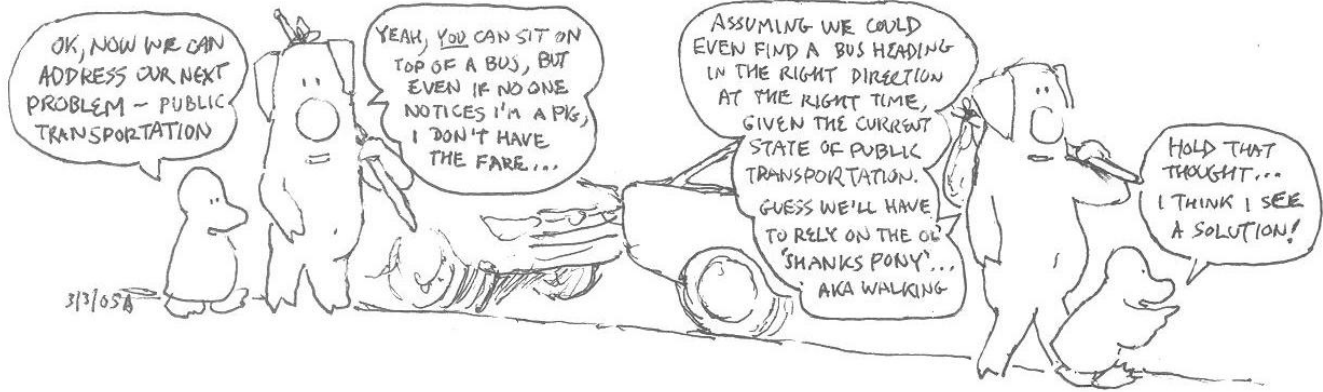
3/1/05A



















WELL, HARRY, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE CLUB DISTRICT OF THIS CITY... WHICH SHOULD GIVE US A TASTE OTHER THAN TARBUCKETS COFFEE SHOPS

IF IT'S HIP HOP THEY WANT, I'VE GOT THE HIPS...

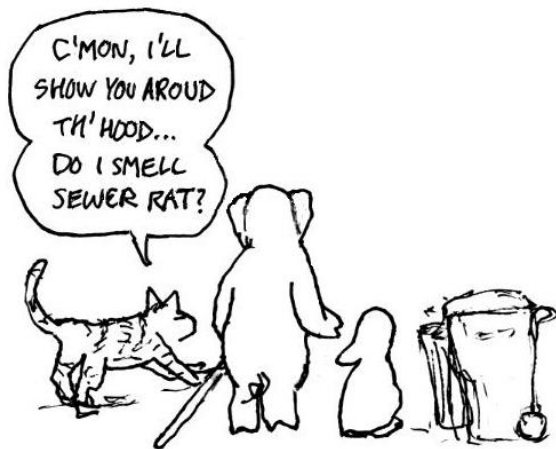
BUT IF RAP BE YOUR RAP, DEN I GOT DA LIP!

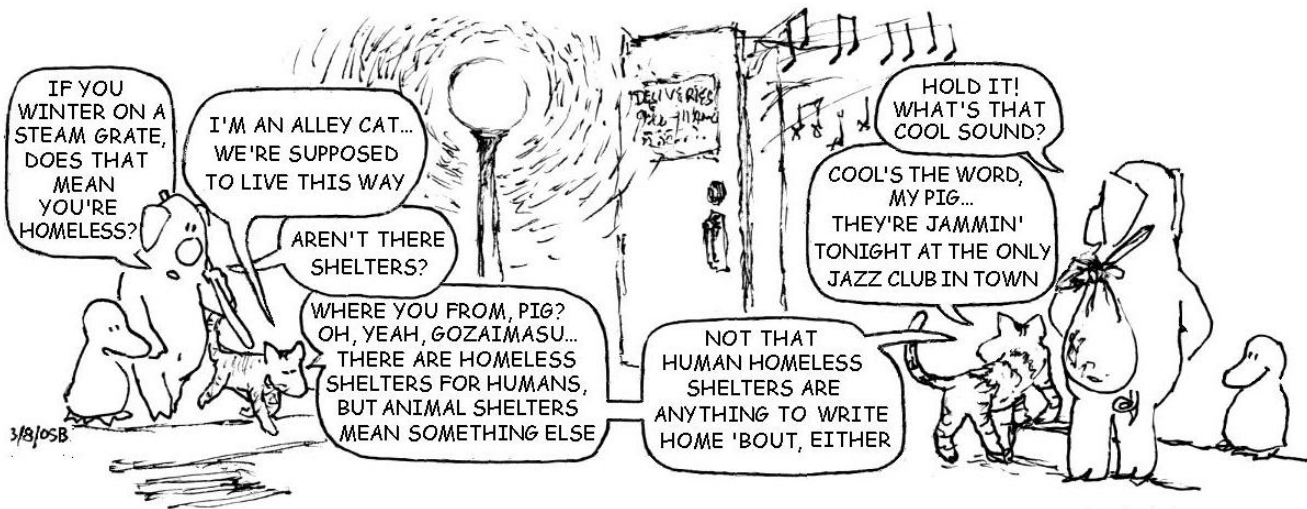
AND WHEN IT'S TIME TO SLIDE, WE GIVE 'EM DA SLIP!

YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME

3/7/05A







IF YOU WINTER ON A STEAM GRATE, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE HOMELESS?

I'M AN ALLEY CAT... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LIVE THIS WAY

AREN'T THERE SHELTERS?

WHERE YOU FROM, PIG?
OH, YEAH, GOZAIMASU...
THERE ARE HOMELESS SHELTERS FOR HUMANS, BUT ANIMAL SHELTERS MEAN SOMETHING ELSE

NOT THAT HUMAN HOMELESS SHELTERS ARE ANYTHING TO WRITE HOME 'BOUT, EITHER

HOLD IT! WHAT'S THAT COOL SOUND?

COOL'S THE WORD, MY PIG...
THEY'RE JAMMIN' TONIGHT AT THE ONLY JAZZ CLUB IN TOWN

3/8/05B



NOTHIN' LIKE
A LITTLE COLTRANE
TO FIRE THE SPIRIT
AND SOOOTHIE THE SOUL

BUT HOW
DOES SUCH
GOOD MUSIC
END UP IN A
BACK ALLEY?

NOW THAT,
MY PIG, IS THE
RIGHT QUESTION!

OR DO YOU HAVE
TO LIVE LIKE THIS
TO PLAY LIKE THAT?

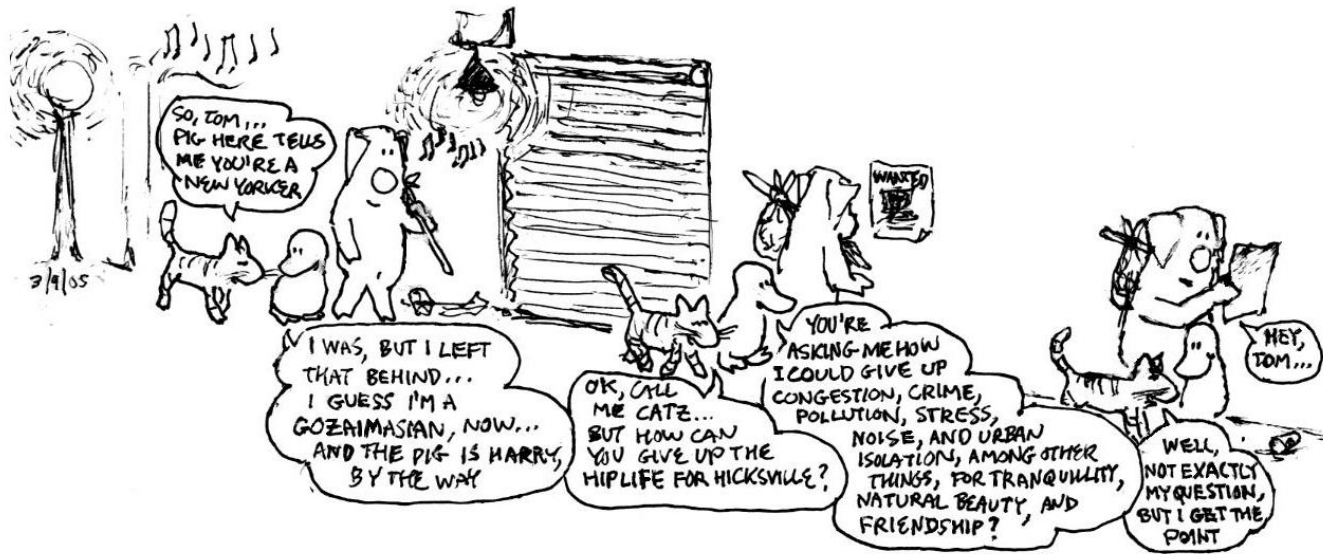
EASY DOES IT!
TOO DEEP TOO FAST!

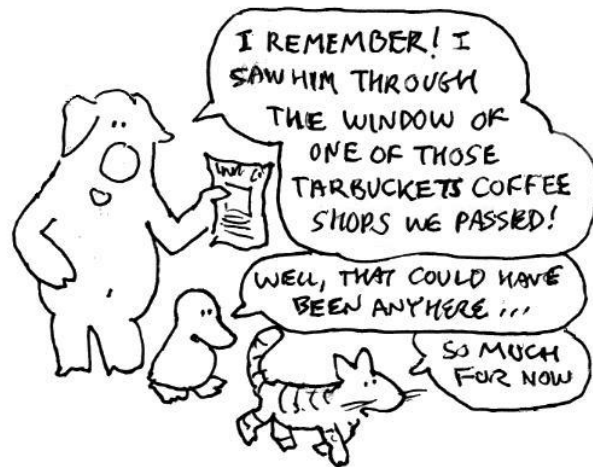
BUT WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
SILENT PARTNER,
THERE... IS HE
PLAYIN' IT COOL?

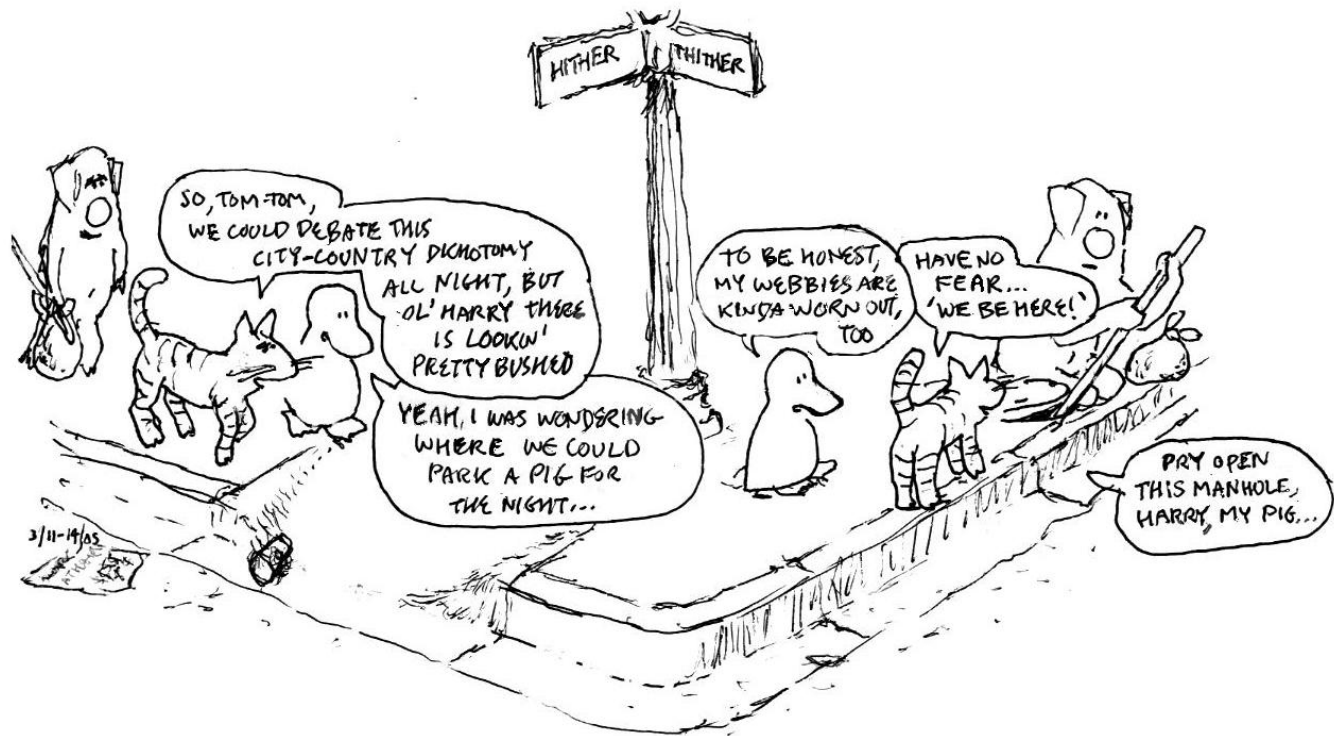
WHO, TOM?
OH, NO! WELL...
HE'S COOL BUT
HE'S NOT PLAYIN'
IT... PROBABLY
REMINISCING
ABOUT NEW YORK
CITY

HE'S FROM NEW
YORK CITY?! WELL,
DON'T THAT MAKE
ME THE COUNTRY
BUMPKIN!

3/8-9/05







SO, TOM-TOM,
WE COULD DEBATE THIS
CITY-COUNTRY DICHOTOMY
ALL NIGHT, BUT
OL' HARRY THERE
IS LOOKIN'
PRETTY BUSHED

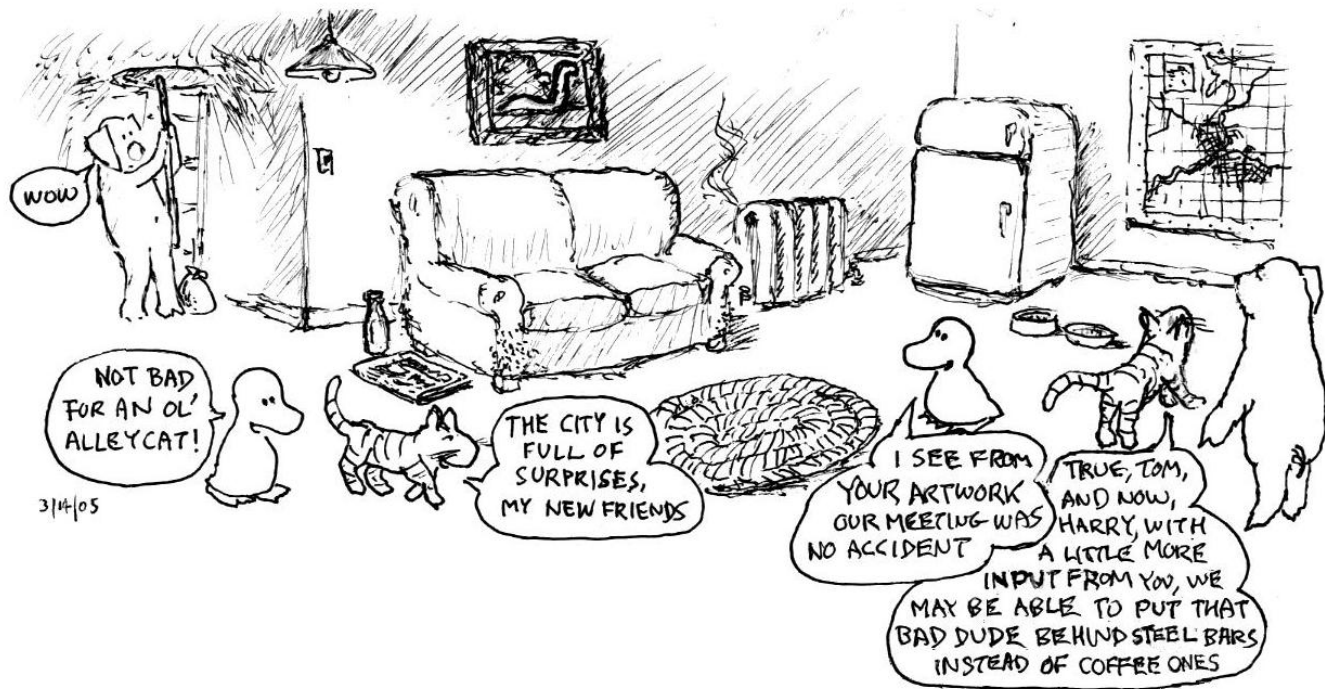
YEAH, I WAS WONDRING
WHERE WE COULD
PARK A PIG FOR
THE NIGHT...

TO BE HONEST,
MY WEBBIES ARE
KINDA WORN OUT,
TOO

HAVE NO
FEAR...
'WE BE HERE!'

PRY OPEN
THIS MANHOLE,
HARRY, MY PIG...

3/11-14/05

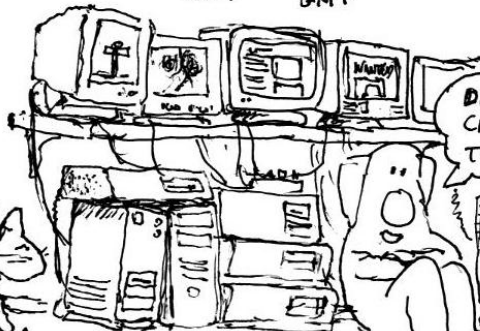




AND I
COUNTED NINE
MORE ON OUR TRIP
HERE, BUT HE WAS IN
ONE WITH A BENT
AWNING

3/15/05

DIYTON LONDON
7 ^
OFT GMT

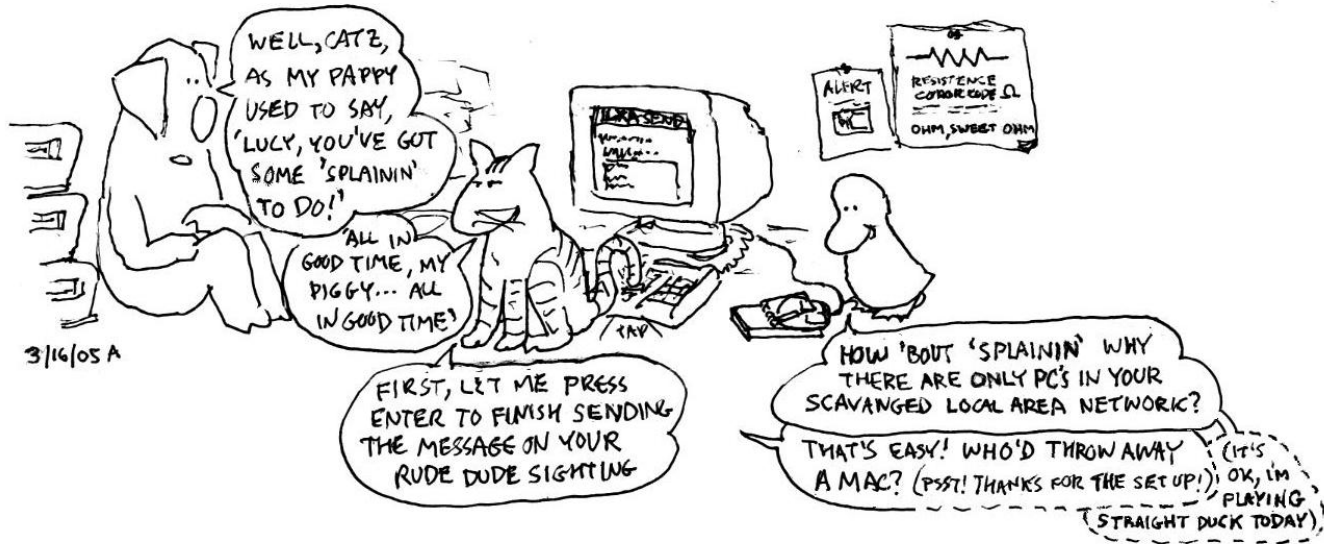


DON'T YOU GET
CAT HAIRS IN
THE KEYBOARD?

I BRUSH
THEM OUT
WITH MY
TAIL

COME INTO TH' WAR ROOM...
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOCATE
THAT SHOP PRETTY QUICKLY

EVER WONDER
WHERE ALL THOSE
OLD COMPUTERS LEFT
BY THE CURB GO?



AND I SAY,
BEFORE I DO
ANY MORE
'SPAININ',
WE ALL NEED
TO CATCH
SOME Z'S...
HARRY, THE
COUCH IS YOURS,
I'LL CURL UP ON
THE RADIATOR, AND
TOM, YOU CAN PICK
WHEREVER YOU
LIKE... EXCEPT IN
MY WATER DISH



3/16/05 B

AND SOON...

zzzzz

zzzz

zzzz

Day 7 - The League of Extraordinary Animals

-or-

Mutiny on the Leaky

What started out as a random adventure becomes a critical mission to save Gozaimasu, the lake, and all the area residents.

...WHO BOLTED FOR A REAR EXIT AS POLICE CLOSED IN, MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED BUT TRIPPED OVER A GUIDE DOG THAT SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY...



3/17/05A



GOOD MORNING, HARRY! YOU SHOULD FIND THE NEWS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING

GOOD THING THAT GUIDE DOG JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE

YES, WASN'T IT... ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY'RE THE ONLY ANIMALS YOU'LL FIND IN TARBUCKETS



HEY! DON'T FORGET THE ODD RAT!



ANOTHER
STOWAWAY?!

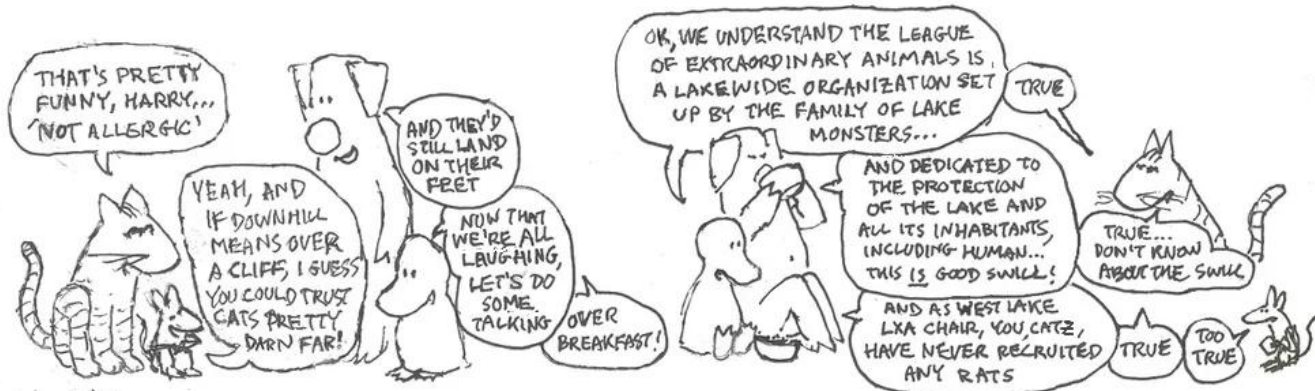
I THOUGHT
I SMELLED A
SEWER RAT!

YOU ALLEYCATS
ARE NO BOUQUET
OF ROSES, EITHER...
AND, PIG, HOW DO
YOU STOMACH THIS
DRIED SWILL?!

HERE WE
GO, AGAIN;
BUT THIS
TIME IT'S A
RAT WITH A TUDE.

3/17/58



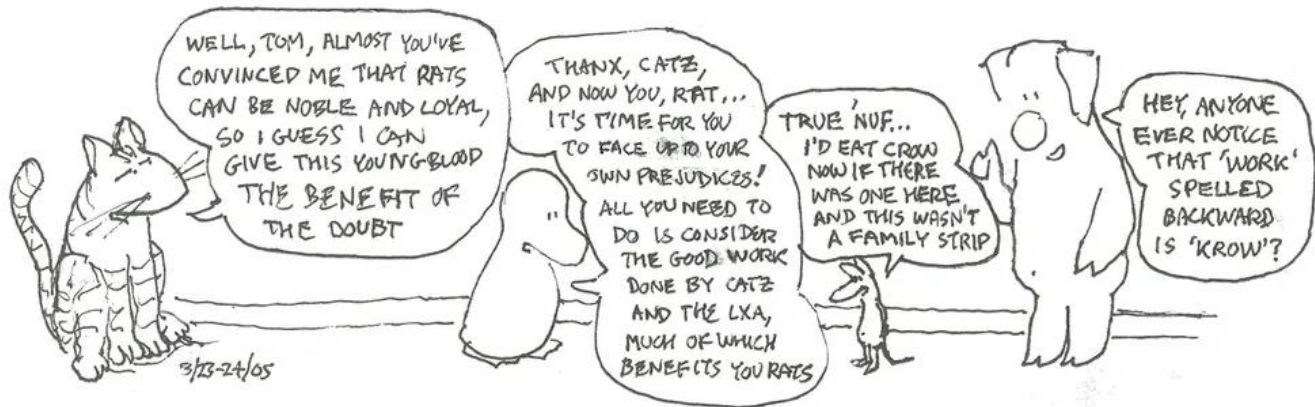


2/18-21/05



TOM, WITH HARRY AS HIS WITNESS, RELATES THE STORY OF THEIR EAST END OF THE LAKE ADVENTURES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE COURAGE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF TWO FARM RATS...





WELL, TOM, ALMOST YOU'VE CONVINCED ME THAT RATS CAN BE NOBLE AND LOYAL, SO I GUESS I CAN GIVE THIS YOUNG BLOOD THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

3/13-24/05

THANK, CATZ, AND NOW YOU, RAT,... IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FACE UP TO YOUR OWN PREJUDICES! ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS CONSIDER THE GOOD WORK DONE BY CATZ AND THE LXA, MUCH OF WHICH BENEFITS YOU RATS

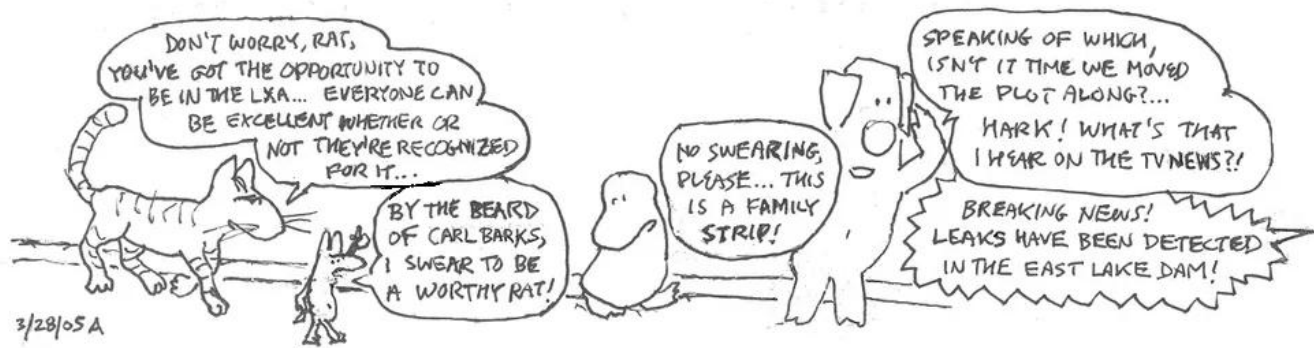
TRUE 'NUF... I'D EAT CROW NOW IF THERE WAS ONE HERE AND THIS WASN'T A FAMILY STRIP

HEY, ANYONE EVER NOTICE THAT 'WORK' SPELLED BACKWARD IS 'KROW'?





CARTOONIST'S NOTE: IF YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS STORY AND YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE ME, YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING, "WHERE THE HECK IS ALL THIS GOING?" SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CLUE. I CAN TELL YOU THIS: NO ANIMALS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN THE PRODUCTION OF THIS STRIP, ALTHOUGH A WHOLE LOT OF INK HAS BEEN WASTED



EASTLAKE...
TECHNICALLY
THAT'S OUT OF
MY DISTRICT

'BREAKING NEWS'
JOE? WHAT A CLEVER
LEAD-IN TO A
STORY ABOUT A
DAM LEAK!

THANKS, SHARON, ISN'T
IT GREAT HOW ANY DULL NEWS
STORY OR TRAGEDY CAN BE
MADE MORE ENTERTAINING
WITH THE RIGHT PUN?

EASTLAKE DAM! THAT
THREATENS THE
ENTIRE TOWN OF
OLD GOZAIMASU!

WE'LL BE BACK
WITH DETAILS RIGHT
AFTER TRAFFIC AND WEATHER
— AND, OF COURSE, SEVENTEEN
OBNOXIOUS ADS FOR WHICH WE'LL
JACK UP THE VOLUME —
SO DON'T GO AWAY... UNLESS
YOU'RE DOWNSTREAM FROM THAT
DAM... HA HA!

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
HARRY!
WE NEED TO
GET BACK
TO THE
ROBT E
LEAK RIGHT
AWAY!

WHO ARE
THESE BOZOS...?

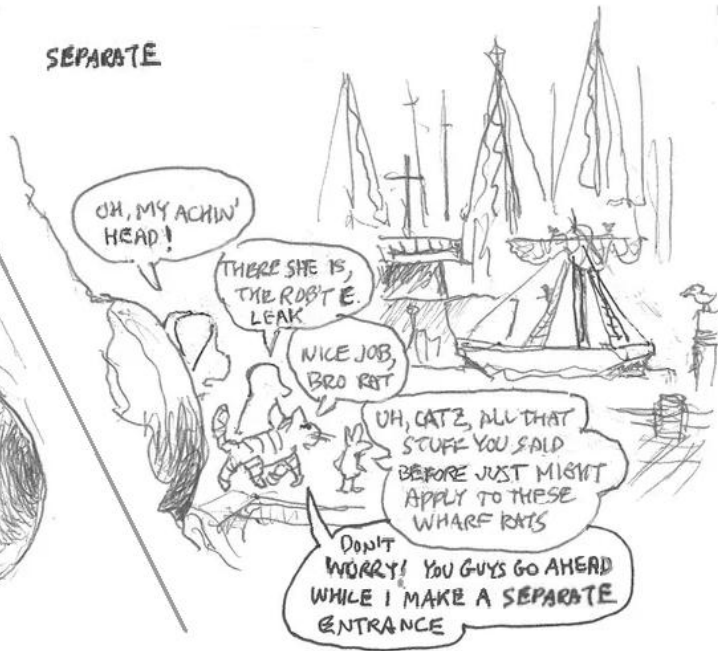
3/28/05 B



AND, SO, YET ANOTHER RAT RACE,
BUT WITH A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED
CAST OF CHARACTERS!!!



SEPARATE







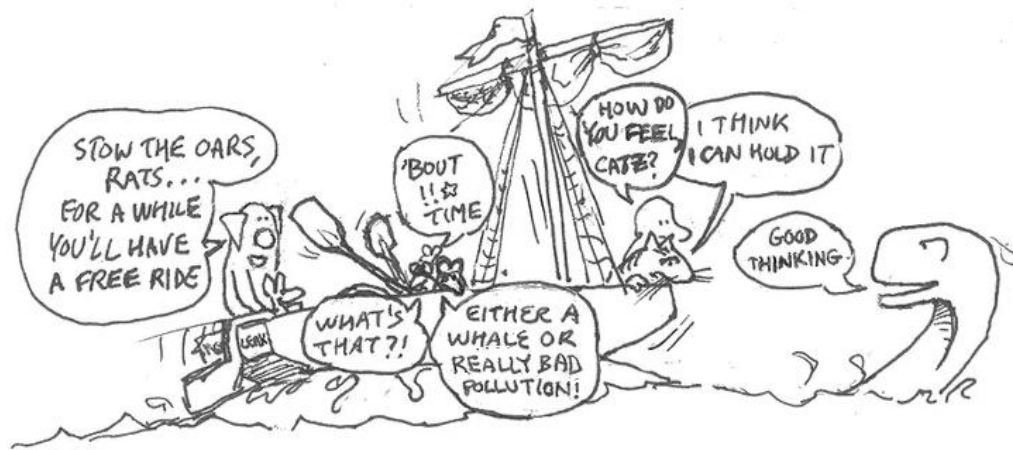
3/29-30/05







WHUMPH



STOW THE OARS,
RATS...
FOR A WHILE
YOU'LL HAVE
A FREE RIDE

'BOUT
!!\$
TIME

HOW DO
YOU FEEL
CATE?

I THINK
I CAN HOLD IT

GOOD
THINKING

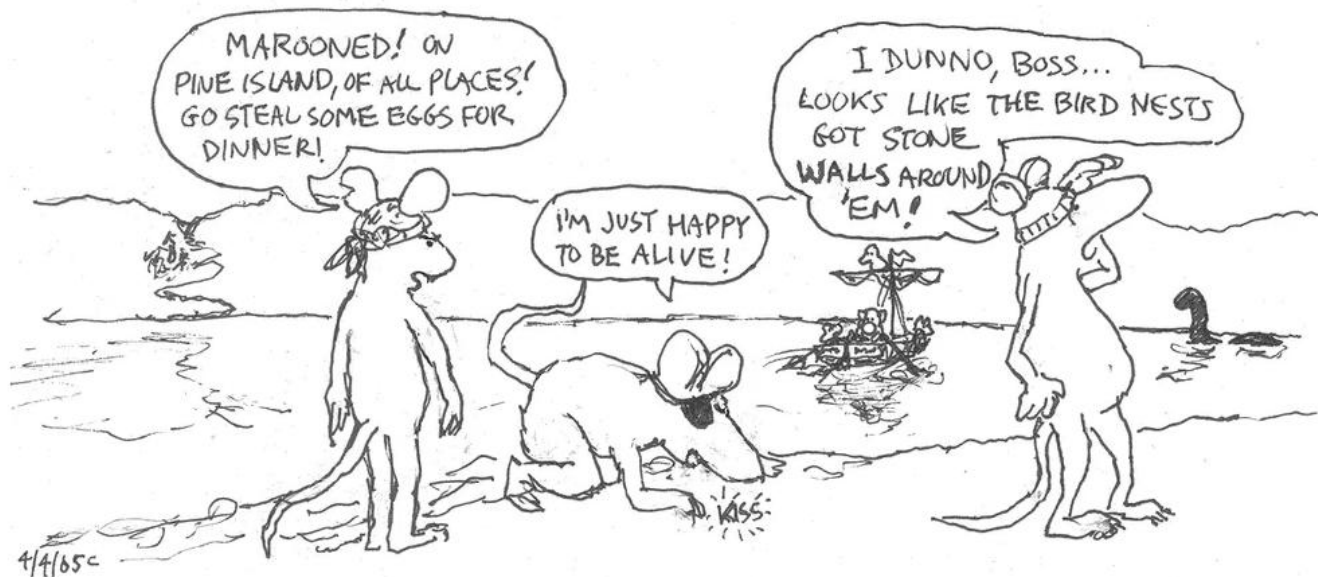
WHAT'S
THAT?!

EITHER A
WHALE OR
REALLY BAD
POLLUTION!

4/2-3/05









NOW, ON
TO SAVE OL'
GOZAIMASU!

IS IT
BIG?

BIG
ENOUGH

YOU'RE RIGHT, TOM,
IT FEELS BETTER UP
HERE

I'M CONCERNED
ABOUT WHAT THOSE
RATS WILL DO TO PINE
ISLAND...

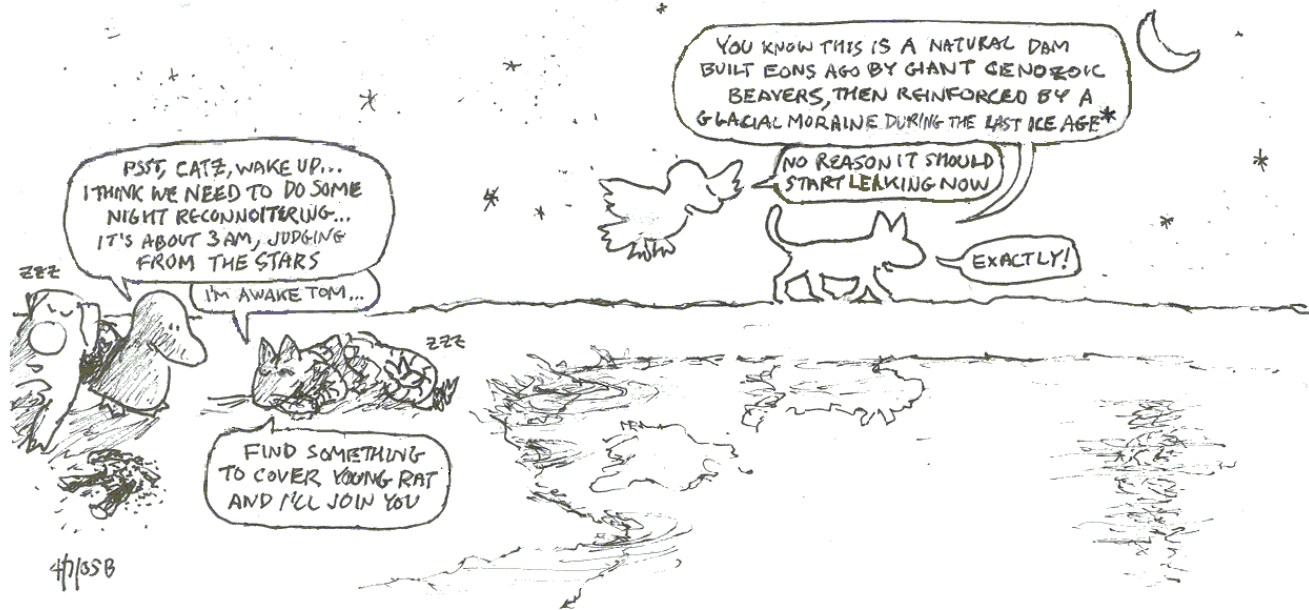
THE LOCAL FOXES
WILL KEEP THEM CONFINED
TO THE BEACH

4/15/05



4/16/05





*GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS DEPARTMENT: WHEN DRAWING THIS STRIP I REALIZED THE EAST LAKE DAM HAD TO BE NATURAL & THE LAKE WOULDN'T HAVE EXISTED IN COLONIAL TIMES; HENCE, THE GIANT PREMISORIC BEAVERS. I GUESSED CENOZOIC, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE CORRECT. IN FACT, WONDER OF WONDERS, THE

SCIENTIFIC NAME TURNED OUT TO BE CASTOROIDES OMOIENSIS! HOWEVER, ONE SOURCE SAID THESE GIANT RODENTS, AS LARGE AS A BLACK BEAR, DIDN'T FELL TREES OR BUILD DAMS!!! NEVERTHELESS, NATIVE AMERICAN LEGEND CREDITS GIANT BEAVERS WITH CREATING MASSIVE LAKES - DM

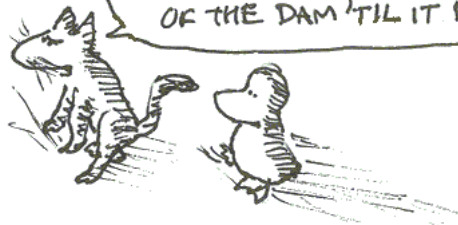
THEN THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS BEEFED
IT UP IN THE FIFTIES BY OVERLAYING IT
WITH A REINFORCED EARTHEN STRUCTURE
CAPABLE OF CARRYING AUTOMOTIVE TRAFFIC...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I SEE CAR LIGHTS
APPROACHING, NOW!

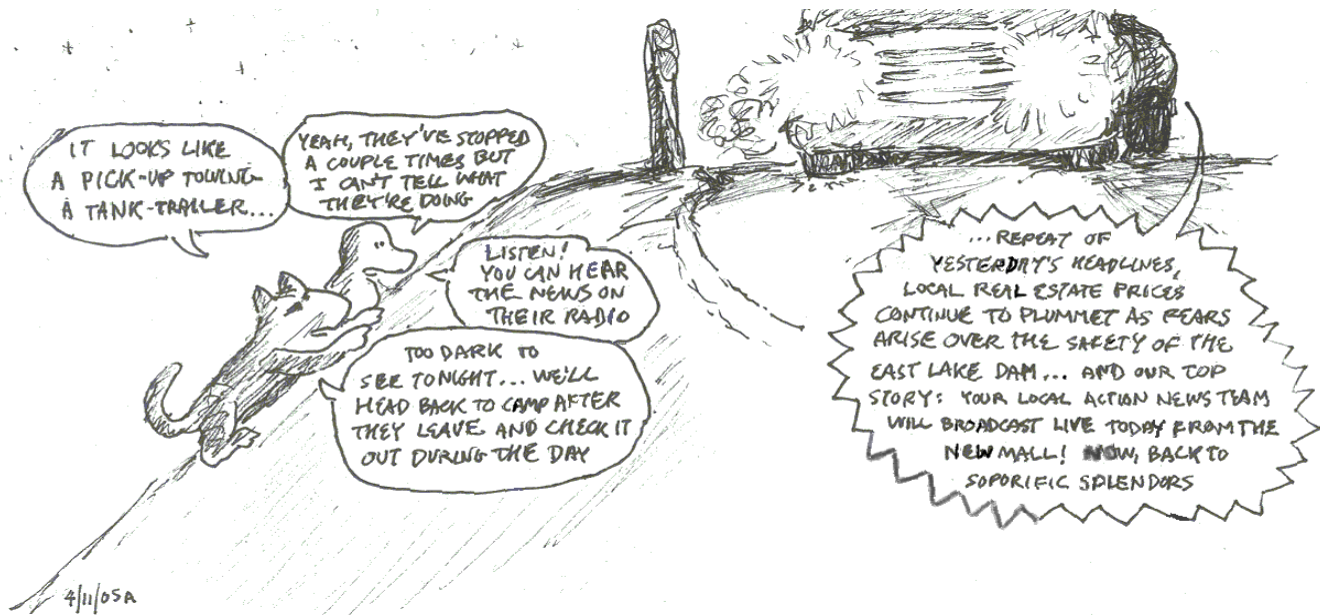


THAT'S WORTH INVESTIGATING!
NORMALLY, THERE'S NO TRAFFIC
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT OR WE'D SEE
THEIR LIGHTS FROM OLD MAC'S FARM,
COW MANOR

4/7/05C

WE'LL LIE LOW HERE ON THE FACE
OF THE DAM 'TIL IT PASSES

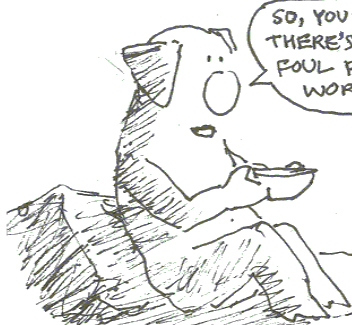




Day 8 - Return to Old Gozaimasu

Tom and Harry find themselves in Gozaimasu, but there is no time to visit the Taste Diner or take in a movie at the 1-1/2 Cinema Complex.

MORNING, AND A QUICK
BREAKFAST OF COLD SWILL,
DRY CATFOOD, PARCHED
CORN, AND ASSORTED TREATS:



4/11/05B

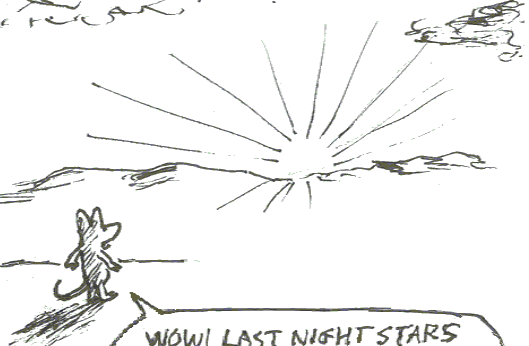
SO, YOU THINK
THERE'S SOME
POOL PLAY AT
WORK?

THAT'S HOW IT SEEMED
AT 3:30 THIS MORNING, BUT
THINGS ALWAYS APPEAR A
BIT ODD AT THAT HOUR



YEAH, AND I'M GLAD THIS IS
DRY FOOD SO I WON'T DROWN WHEN
I FALL ASLEEP IN THE BOWL...

WOW! LAST NIGHT STARS
AND THIS MORNING A SUNRISE!
YOU DON'T SEE EITHER OF
THOSE IN THE SEWER!





I THINK THIS IS WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

Century 19

BUY NOW!
LOWEST PRICES
IN DECADES!
HUGE SELECTION!

SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD
SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD

HOURS
M-F 9-5
Sat 9-12
Sun 12-4

YUP, INCREDIBLY LOW PRICES... BUT NOW TO FIND OUT WHO THE BUYERS ARE

7/13-14/05

IF IT AIN'T NEWS WE DONT PRINT
IF IT IS... WELL, MAYBE WE...

Southern Ohio Bugle

WHICH WE CAN PROBABLY GET NEXT DOOR AT THE GOOD OL' SOUTHERN OHIO BUGLE

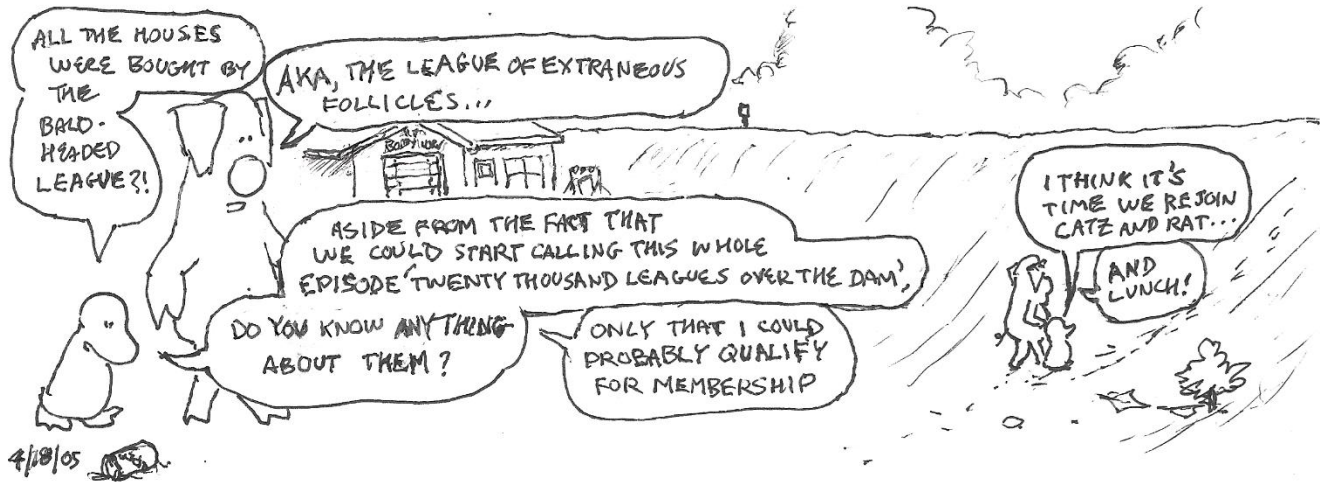
AND THERE'S THE REAL ESTATE PAGE SNAGGED IN THAT BUSH!

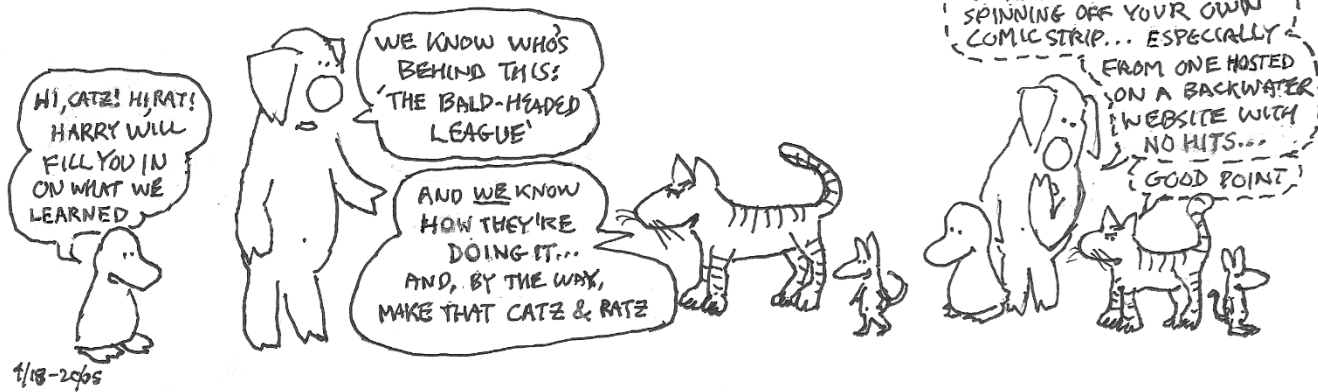




4/4-15/05

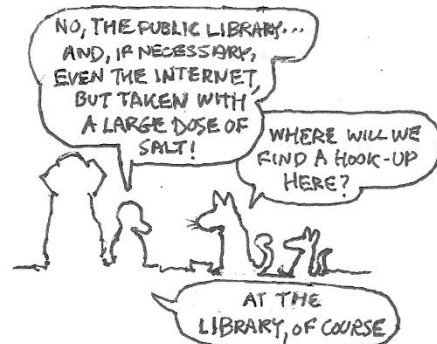








4/20-21/05



LATER, THAT EVENING...

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO BREAK IN?

WE WON'T HAVE TO... THEY LEAVE IT UNLOCKED FOR LATE NIGHT PATRONS ON THE HONOR SYSTEM

GOZAIMASU FORTNIGHTLY LIBRARY

WHEN DO WE GET TO GOZAIMASU?

WE JUST WALKED THROUGH IT

4/21/05A

WE'LL START
WITH GOOGLE...
'BALD-HEADED LEAGUE'...
NO, THAT'S A ROCKBAND;
BALDHEADED LEAGUE...
NO, ANOTHER ROCK BAND

USE DOG PILE



LATER...

TRY 'NO-HAIR CLUB FOR MEN'

NOTHING
GOOD...

TRY 'LEAGUE OF
EXTRANEIOUS FOLLICLES'

ANOTHER
ROCK BAND



LATER STILL!

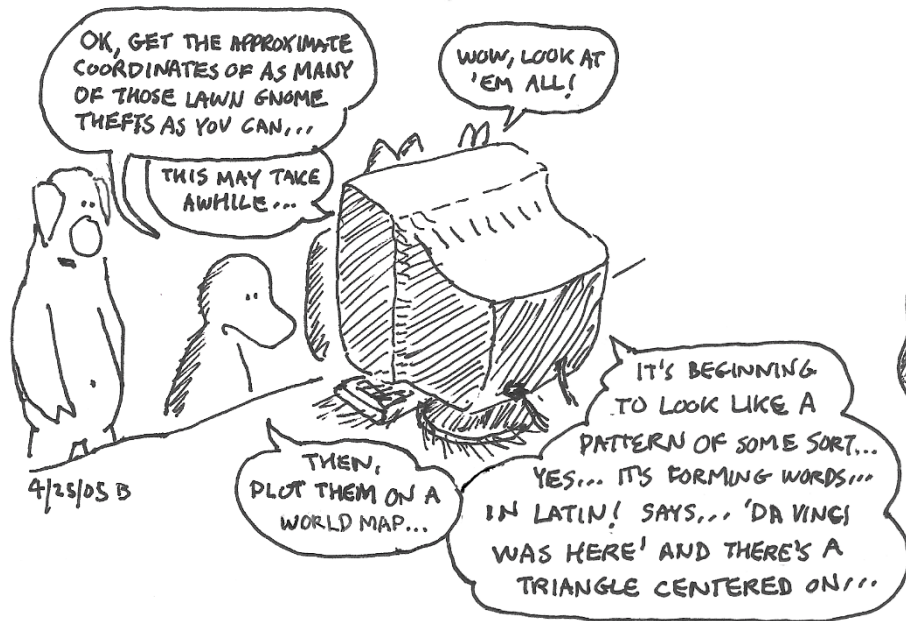
TRY THE TWO
OF CLUBS ON THE
THREE OF HEARTS

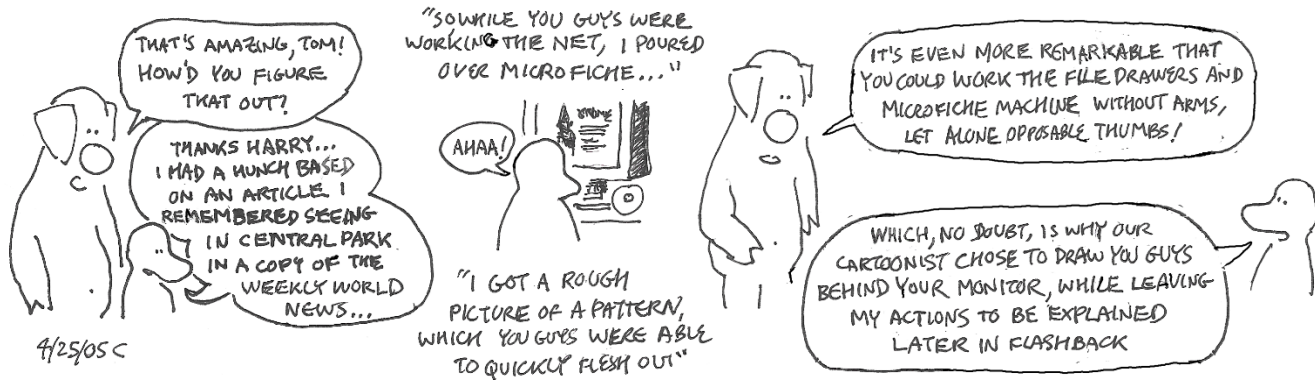
HEY
WHERE'S
TOM?



4/21/05B







NICE BIT OF DETECTIVE WORK, SHERDUCK, BUT WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LAWN GNOMES AND THE BALD-HEADED LEAGUE?

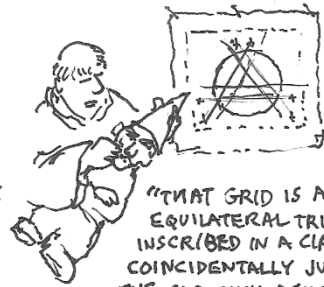


THAT'S THE RIGHT QUESTION, DR CATZON...



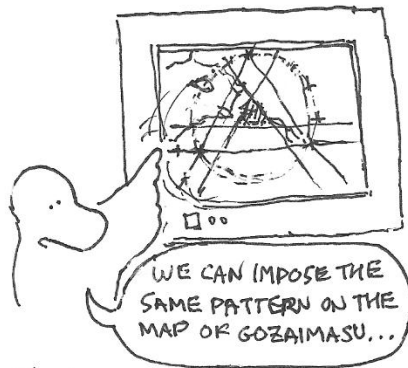
"YOU SEE, THE ARTICLE I READ SAID THAT TRUE LAWN GNOMES HAD ORIGINATED IN MEDIEVAL TIMES FROM A MONASTERY IN WHAT IS NOW RUSSIAN-ANNEXED FINLAND

"EACH GNOME WAS UNIQUELY IDENTIFIED WITH ITS OWN TWO-PART NUMBER, ALL OF WHICH FIT TOGETHER IN SOME MEANINGFUL ARRAY WHEN LAID OUT ON THE RIGHT GRID..."



"THAT GRID IS AN EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE INSCRIBED IN A CIRCLE, NOT COINCIDENTALLY JUST LIKE THE OLD CIVIL DEFENSE SYMBOL USED DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II..."

4/26/05A

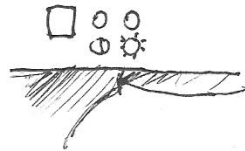
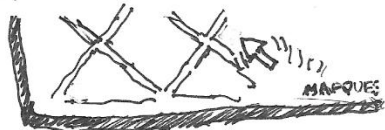


4/26/05B



AND IF WE ZOOM IN, YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THE STREETS IN GOZAIMASU ARE LAID OUT IN A TRIANGLE, A CURIOUS FACT I NOTICED BEFORE BUT NEVER KNEW WHY...

"BUT IF WE START TO LAY OUT THE PROPERTIES BOUGHT UP BY THE BALD-HEADED LEAGUE, I BET WE'LL SEE AN INTERESTING PATTERN EMERGE..."



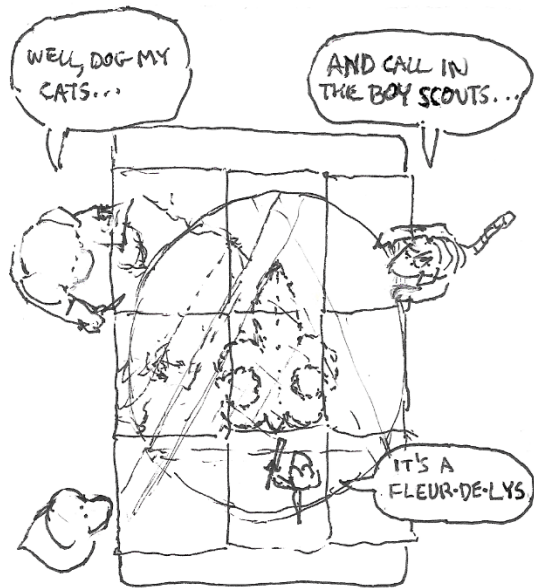
LAY OUT THE SHEETS
COMING OFF THE
PRINTER...

HERE'S
THE LAST
ONE

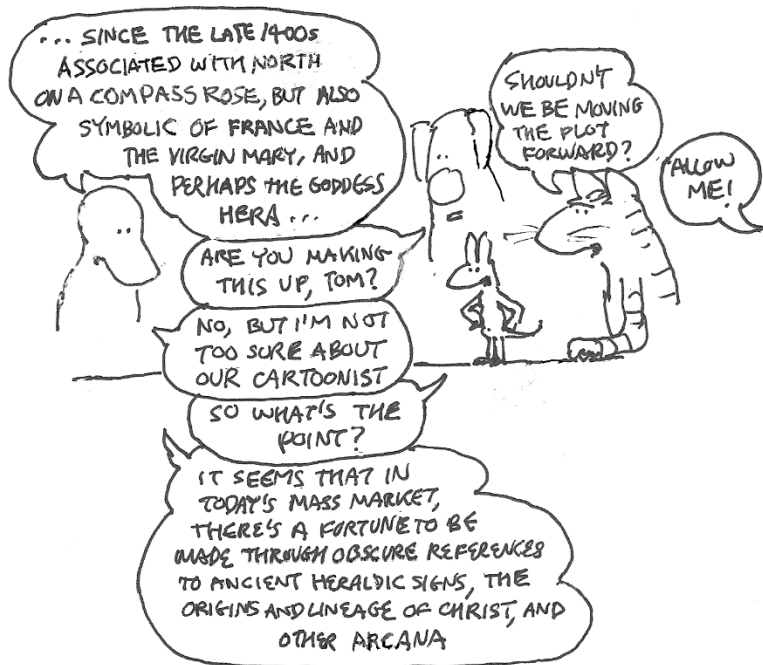
I'LL NEED A
BIT MORE ROOM ON
THIS SIDE...

4/26-28/05

OK, NOW WORK FROM
THOSE LISTS OF RECENT
HOUSE SALES FROM
THE SOUTHERN OHIO
BUGLE...



4/28/05



FWAP

I UNDERSTAND
YOU SEEK THE
BALD-HEADED
LEAGUE...

IN A MANNER OF
SPEAKING, SIR!

IT'S THE
UNIBOMBER!

WHAT'S IT
TO YOU,
DUDE?

YOU ARE DELVING INTO
MATTERS BEYOND YOUR
KEN! LOOK AROUND!
YOU HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TELEPATHICALLY

BACK TO SCANDANAVIA ON
THE VERGE OF THE
RENAISSANCE... DO
YOU STILL QUESTION OUR
POWER?

I QUESTION THE POWER OF
ANYONE WHO RESORTS TO
CHEAP SCARE TACTICS TO
MAKE PEOPLE SELL THEIR
HOMES / I QUESTION WHEN
OUR CARTOONIST STOPPED
READING UNCLE SCROOGE
AND STARTED BONE

I QUESTION WHY HE DREW US ON
THIS ROCK SLAB... DID HE GET THE
PERSPECTIVE WRONG?

I WOULD QUESTION
THE USE OF A CHEAP
JEDI MIND TRICK
WERE IT NOT FOR THE RISK
OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

4/28-29/05

FWOP!

OK, I SEE ILLUSIONS, THREATS, AND ENIGMAS
WON'T WORK ON YOU, WHICH
LEAVES THE LAST RESORT...

WHICH IS?

THE
TRUTH!

YEAH! WE
DON'T EVEN
KNOW THE
MEANING OF
ENIGMA!

I WAS HOPING
FOR PALM
SPRINGS!

THIS BETTER
BE GOOD...
WE LOST HALF
OUR READERS ON
THAT LAST FWIP-FWOP

THE MYSTERIOUS
BALD-HEADED STRANGER
BEGINS HIS NARRATIVE...

IT WAS A
DARK AND
STORMY AGE...

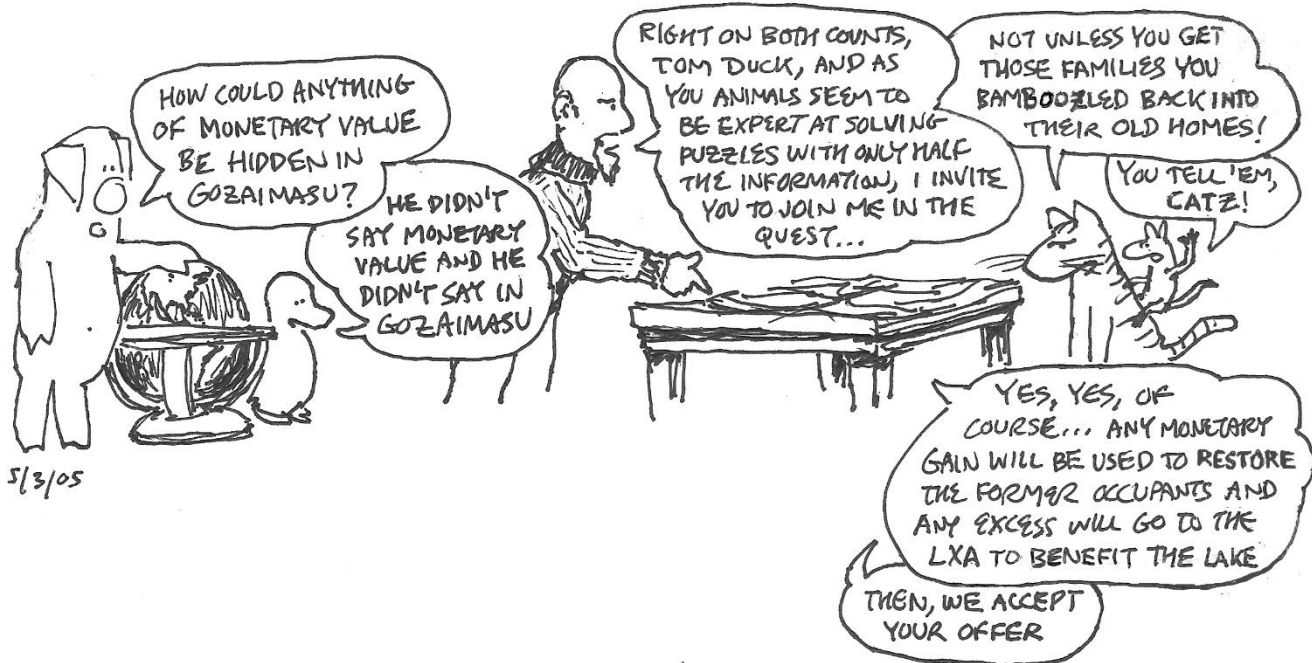
5/2/05

THE BALD-HEADED STRANGER
CONTINUES HIS EVEN STRANGER
NARRATIVE...

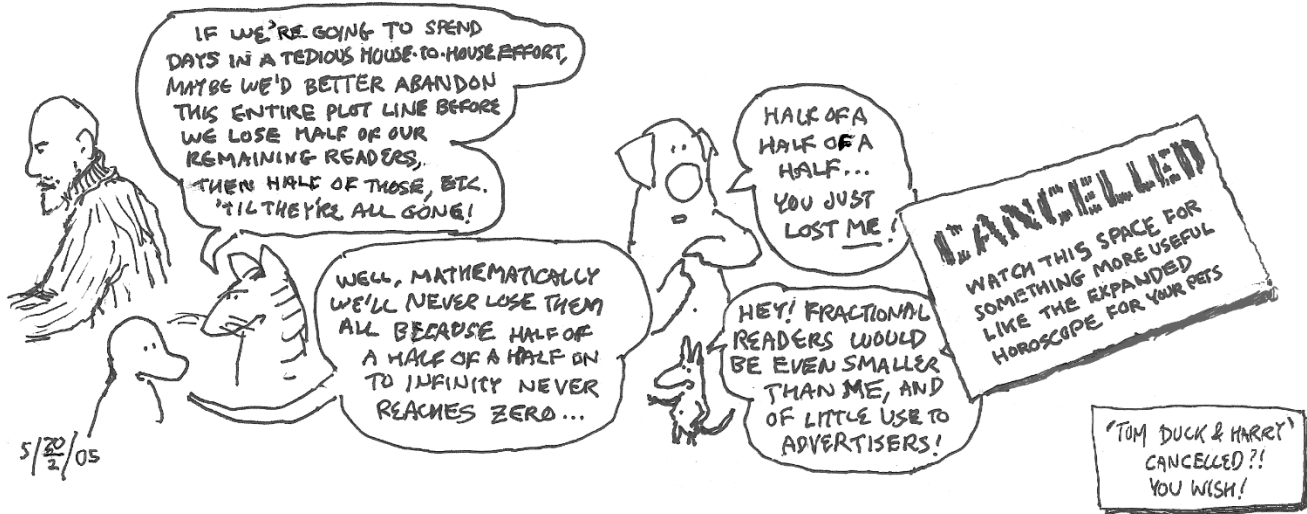
AS THE FORCES OF 'THE ENLIGHTENMENT'
SPREAD ACROSS EUROPE, SO-CALLED ARCHAIC
IDEAS LIKE LAWN GNOMES WERE SUPPRESSED
OR OBLITERATED... SO THE
MONKS SENT A LAST DITCH,
DESPERATE EXPEDITION TO
THE NEW WORLD TO PRESERVE
THEIR ANCIENT TRUTHS



"THEIR PARTY TRAVELLED WITH FRENCH TRAPPERS
DOWN THE SAINT LAWRENCE, THEN WITH INDIANS
INTO WHAT IS NOW OHIO WHERE THEY FOUND
A NATURAL LAKE IN THE ROUGH SHAPE OF A GNOME
(SINCE THEN, IT'S BEEN ENLARGED SO THE SHAPE HAS
CHANGED); AT THE "HEAD" OF THE GNOME, THEY
ESTABLISHED A TRIANGULAR AREA REPRESENTING A
GNOME'S CONICAL HAT, WITHIN WHICH THEY CREATED
A COMPLEX SECRET CODE INVOLVING MULTIPLE LAYERS
OF OBFUSCATION... WHICH EVENTUALLY WOULD BECOME
THE TOWN OF STINKVILLE, TO LATER BE RENAMED
GOZAIMASU, OHIO, BY THOSE TRYING TO LURE JAPANESE
AUTO MANUFACTURERS TO THE AREA"







Day 9 - Working the Grid

Admittedly, our plot has spiraled out of control, but what made you think it was ever planned out in advance?

WE'LL CUT TO THE CHASE BY
SUMMARIZING ALL THAT GNOME-
DIRECTIONAL ACTIVITY.*
HERE'S AN EARLY READING:



AND THAT EVENING, BACK
AT THE GOZAIMASU
FORTNIGHTLY LIBRARY...



*WATCH FOR DELETED SCENES IN THE DVD VERSION



5/12/05

NOW THAT WE THINK THAT
THE SECRET MIGHT BE UNDER MY STY
HOW DO WE WORK AROUND
FARMER MAC?



UNLIKE THE BALD-
HEADED LEAGUE, THE
LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY
ANIMALS DOESN'T TRICK
ANYONE... BESIDES, YOU
MIGHT BE SURPRIZED ABOUT
OLD McDONALD

DON'T TELL
US HE'S IN
THE LXA,
TOO!

NO, HE'S ACTIVE IN
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
AND 4-H, BUT HE WORKS
WITH THE LXA

INCRED-
IBLE!

5/13/05A

Day 10 - Stand by your Sty

Finally, we can anticipate some resolution. If you're offended by all this, you may demand some restitution, but how much did it cost you in the first place?

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING,
OUR INTREPID CREW HEADS
FOR COW MANOR...

WELL THIS TIES UP
ONE LOOSE END... WHICH IS...?



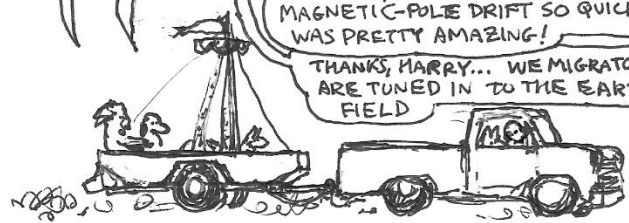
5/13/05 B

I WAS WONDERING HOW WE WERE
GOING TO GET THE ROB'T E. LEAK BACK
UP THE RAPIDS TO THE FARM

YEAH, ME TOO!

SAY, TOM, HOW'D YOU FIGURE OUT THAT
MAGNETIC-POLE DRIFT SO QUICKLY? THAT
WAS PRETTY AMAZING!

THANKS, HARRY... WE MIGRATORY WATERFOWL
ARE TUNED IN TO THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC
FIELD



YOU KNOW, WE'RE SUPPOSE TO PICK UP THE FARM RATS FIVE FULL MOONS FROM NOW

I GUESS HE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING

PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE THIS FAR OUT?

IT'S THEM AGAIN BUT WITH A SAIL... AND A CAT... AND A RAT...

MOM, MOM! I JUST SAW...

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, BILLY?

UH... NOTHIN'

BURMA-SHAVE
AND THE SPEED OFFENDER
APRIL, JUNE...

5/17/05

AND SO...

DON'T YOU FIND ALL THIS TERRIBLY IRONIC?

IF NOT MILDLY AMUSING



WE'RE GETTING SOME REMARKABLE COMPASS DEFLECTION! THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE!

YOU MAY BE SURPRIZED BY WHAT YOU FIND...

5/18-19/05



SO, ONCE AGAIN, WE DELVE
BENEATH THE SURFACE...

COW MANOR WAS AN IMPORTANT
STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND
RAILROAD IN SOUTHERN OHIO...
MANY AN ESCAPED SLAVE OWED HIS OR HER
FREEDOM IN PART
TO MY GREAT-GREAT
GRANDPARENTS

AND AS FOR YOU,
MR BALD-HEAD,
I THINK YOU'LL
FIND WHAT YOU
SEEK OVER THERE,
SAFE GUARDED FOR
OVER 300 YEARS!

LATIN FOR
'GNOME HOME!..
YES!! THIS IS
IT!!



5/23-24/05

SO, WHAT MAKES THIS PARTICULAR LAWN GNOME SO VALUABLE?



5/24-25/05

YEAH, IT'S ONLY MADE OUT OF PLASTER, NOT PLATINUM



AND HOW ARE YOU GONNA PAY BACK THE HOME OWNERS YOU HOODWINKED?



THE GNOME'S TREASURE, LOST FOR CENTURIES, IS HERE, UNDER HIS HAT... THE SECRET FORMULAS FOR PAINT AND PLASTER THAT MAKE THEM WEATHERPROOF!



YOU CAUSED ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR THAT?





5/26/05

SINCE YOU'VE PROVEN
FRAUD WITH THE DAM 'LEAK,'
THOSE FOLKS HAVE THEIR
HOMES BACK PLUS WHATEVER
THE BALD-HEADED LEAGUE
PAID THEM...

WE HAVE A GREATER
APPRECIATION OF LOCAL
HISTORY, WHILE KNOWLEDGE OF
THE LAKE MONSTER'S
EXISTENCE IS STILL
PROTECTED...



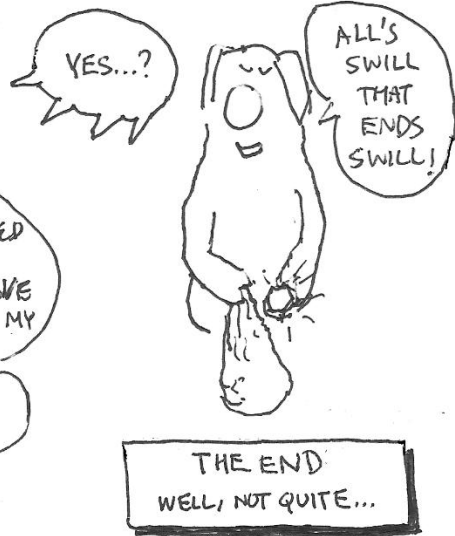
THERE'S A NEW
CRIME-BUSTING DUO ON
THE SCENE, CATZ AND RATZ...



THOSE
AWFUL WHARF
RATS ARE
CONTAINED
ON PINE
ISLAND...

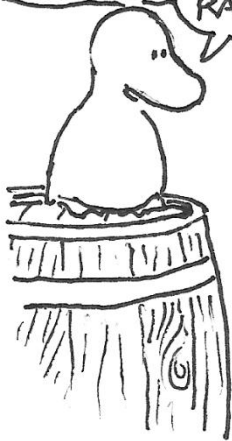


AND...



... SO WHEN FARMER MAC
DROVE CATZ AND RATZ HOME,
THEY LEARNED THAT OUR TWO FARM
RATS ARE MARRYING INTO THE SEWER
RAT COMMUNITY AND RUNNING

THEIR NEW
FOOD PLANTATION



AND HERE'S AN INTERESTING NOTE
IN THE SOUTHERN OHIO BUGLE:

"ALL AROUND THE WORLD, PREVIOUSLY
STOLEN LAWN GNOMES HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY
BEGUN TO REAPPEAR, SPORTING A NEW
COAT OF PAINT! AUTHORITIES REMAIN
BAFFLED."



SO, HARRY, HAS THE VIEW FROM TRACTOR HILL CHANGED FOR YOU SINCE OUR ADVENTURE?

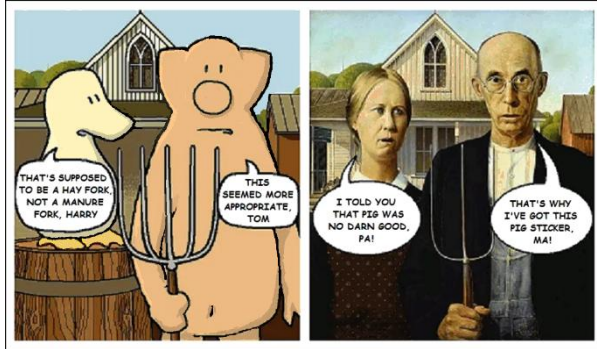
SURE, TOM, IT'S STILL BEAUTIFUL BUT NOT SO INNOCENT OR QUAIN, AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

NO... WHAT?

LOOKING BACK IT SEEMED LIKE A SHORT TRIP, BUT IT WILL BE LONG BEFORE I TAKE ANOTHER ONE!

6/2/05

Want More Tom Duck and Harry?



Check out their website, *Tom Duck and Harry: Ohio Gothic* (<https://tomduckandharry.com>), with additional Tom and Harry features, such as 150 daily and single-panel strips in the *Tom Duck and Harry Sampler*; the first nine days of *The Alaskan Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry*, which is currently stalled in British Columbia; the history of Gozaimasu, Ohio; and other comic strip backstory and trivia.

Best yet, or even worse, there are several major non pig-duck sections, including the following:

- Our Alaska cartoon books: *Too Far North* and *Living Too Far North*
- *Physics Cartoons for Photonics and Quantum Mechanics*
- *The Duck Blind, Where Mess-cellany Lurks* - odds and ends, mostly odds
- Wacky website policies and other metadata
- *The Marmaduke Files*, setting the record straight on that comic strip
- *A Return to the Dark Ages of One and One Half Wits Dot Com*

[Back cover below]

The Critics Rave/Rage about *The First Adventure of Tom Duck and Harry*

“A stunning *tour de force* among graphic novels!... Oh, I thought you were asking about the latest volume of *Bone*. In that case, a *tour de farce*.”

— *Rolling Stonehenge*

“We waited twenty years for him to finish posting this?!”

— *Journal of Idiotology*

“Thank goodness comic strips can’t be published on Audible!”

— *Audiobooks Review*

“The humor and story line are dubious. The artwork looks like it was executed on the cartoonist’s lap while riding the bus or subway.” [editor’s note: It was]

— *Washington Postage Book World*

“How come the *Rob’t E Leak* keeps changing size?”

— A reader in Ms Finley’s 3rd grade class