

"The Gentleman from Lickskillet"

Created by Dr. Steven J. Allen

Written and drawn by Steven J. Allen & Kevin Tuma

© 2009, 2010 Steven J. Allen

editor@iguild.org

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The following information was censored from Wikipedia. Really.

“The Gentleman from Licksillet” is a satirical comic strip by writer Steven J. Allen and illustrator Kevin Tuma.

The featured characters are Randall Dill, a member of Congress, and his family, staff, friends, and constituents. Dill's daughter, Maggie, a precocious ten-year-old, appears frequently. Also featured are politicians, bureaucrats, media figures, and others intended by the strip's creators as representatives of political and cultural orthodoxy.

The strip is updated daily, Monday through Saturday. Most of its storylines are broken into six-strip arcs.

The strip debuted on January 12, 2009, with a sequence satirizing plans for the Inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The Web site ConservativeHQ.com licenses the strip for daily publication, but the strip's creative team is editorially independent of the site. As with most other comic strips, a version is available for print publication.

“The Gentleman from Licksillet” has a conservative/libertarian viewpoint. It has been described as an attempt to create a conservative alternative to liberal/progressive strips such as “Doonesbury” and the strip-turned-animated-cartoon “The Boondocks.” The creators also list “Li'l Abner,” “Pogo,” “Bloom County,” and “Dilbert” among their influences, along with television programs ranging from “South Park” to “The Andy Griffith Show.”

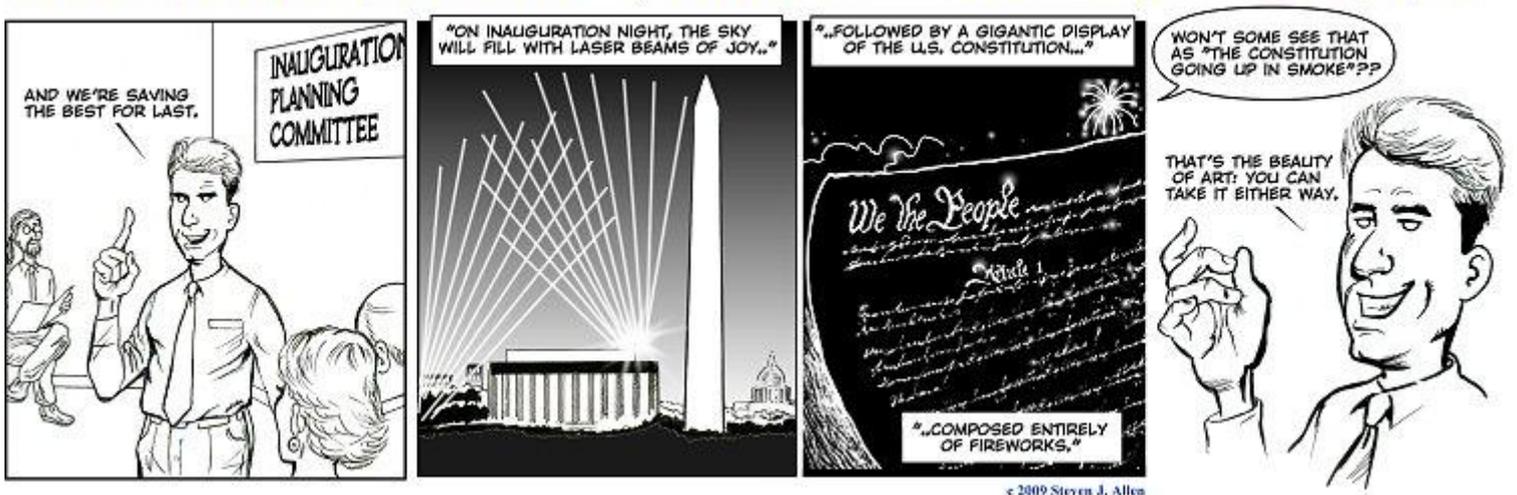
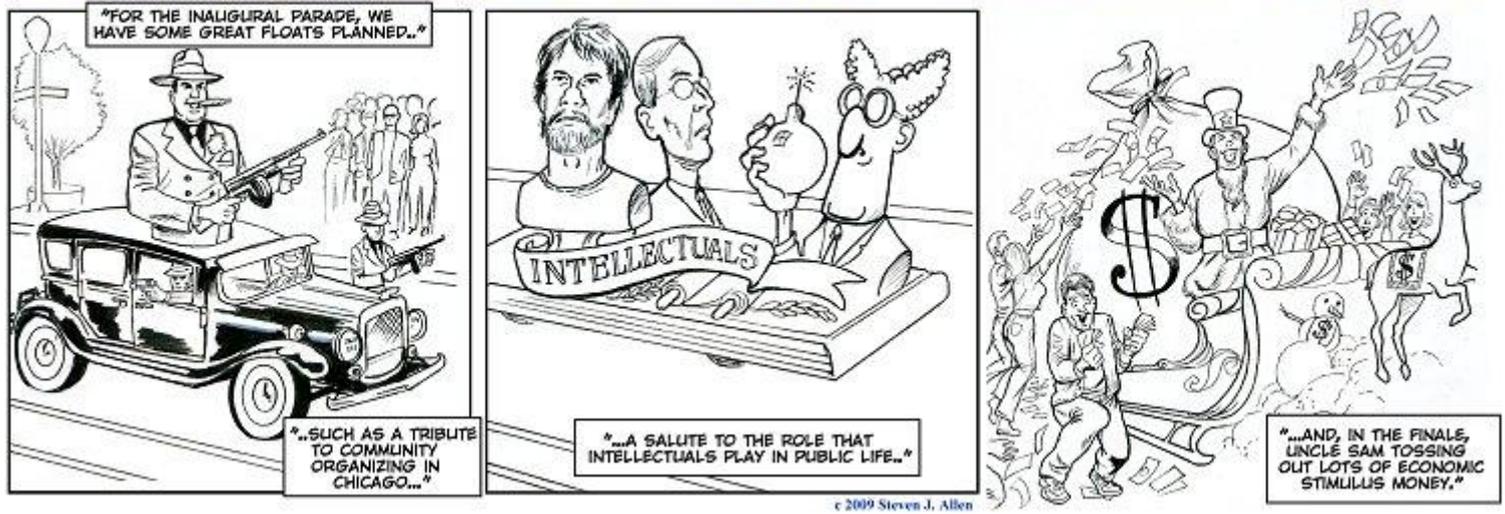
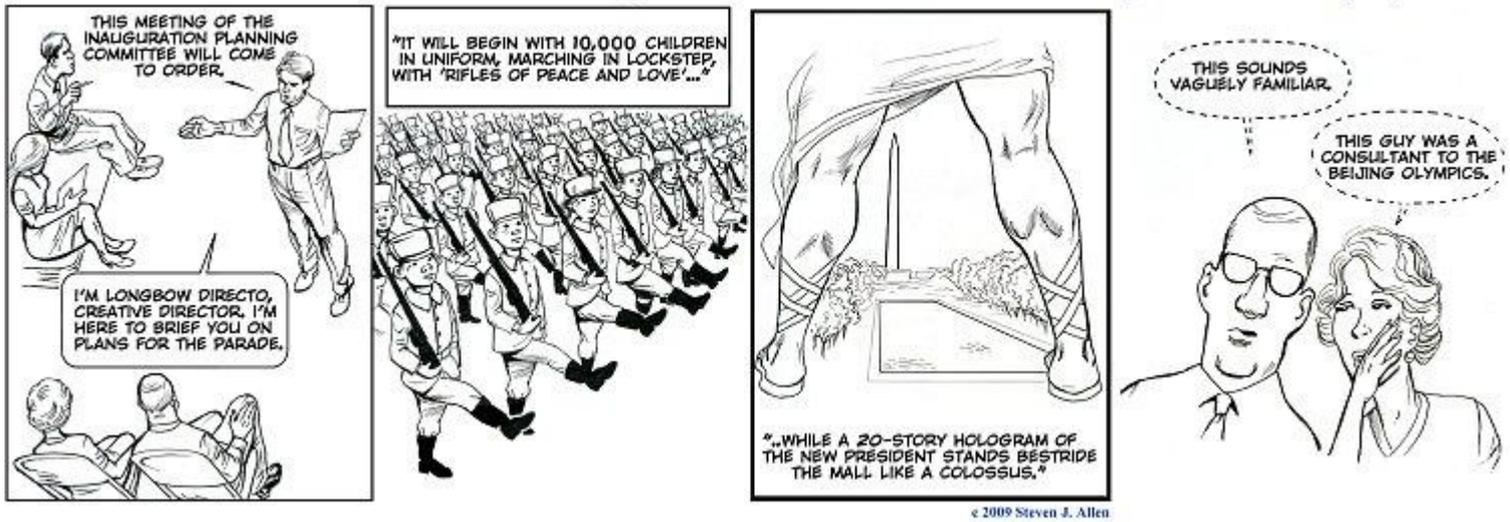
The strip's writer, Steven J. Allen, was press secretary to U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton, senior editor of *Conservative Digest*, and vice president for communications of the Progress & Freedom Foundation, a K Street think tank. He has a B.A. and an M.A. in political science from Jacksonville State University, a law degree (J.D.) from Cumberland School of Law, and a Ph.D. from the College of Science at George Mason University.

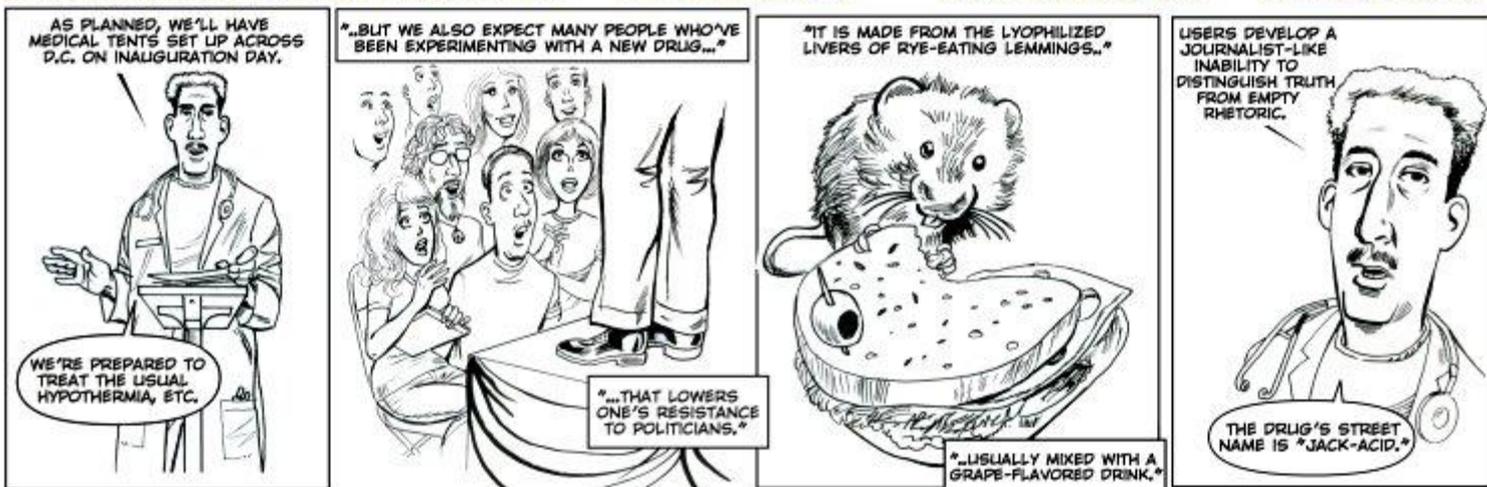
The strip's artist, Kevin Tuma, illustrated comic book adaptations of “The Twilight Zone,” “The Green Hornet,” and “Dan Turner, Hollywood Detective.” He has drawn cartoons for *Cracked*, Cybercast News Service, *The American Conservative*, and publications of the Cato Institute.

The Gentleman from Licksillet

Annus Horribilis

Annus horribilis (a-nə̄s-hôr-ˈi-bə̄-lə̄s), Latin for “year of horrors.” A play on “annus mirabilis” (*Annus Mirabilis: the year of wonders: 1666*, an epic poem by John Dryden), the term “annus horribilis” first appeared in the newspaper *The Guardian* in 1985 to describe the year 1968. The term was popularized by Queen Elizabeth II, who used it to describe 1992. I know these things because I am an intellectual and, like Charlie Gibson, I know how to use Google. – SJA





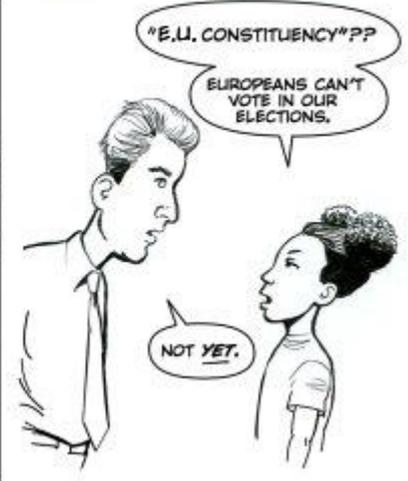
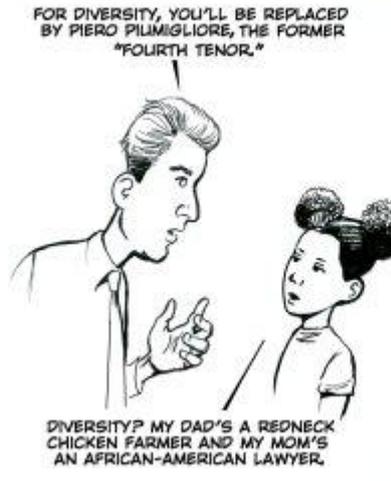
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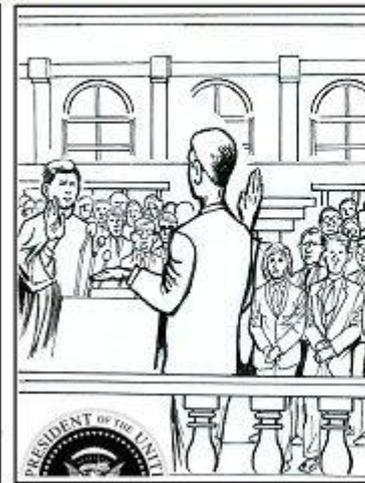
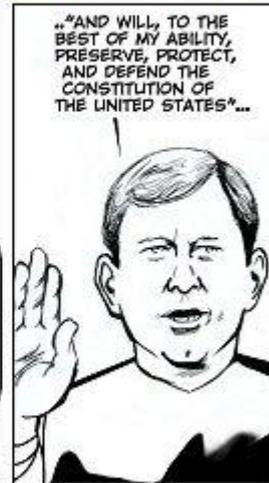
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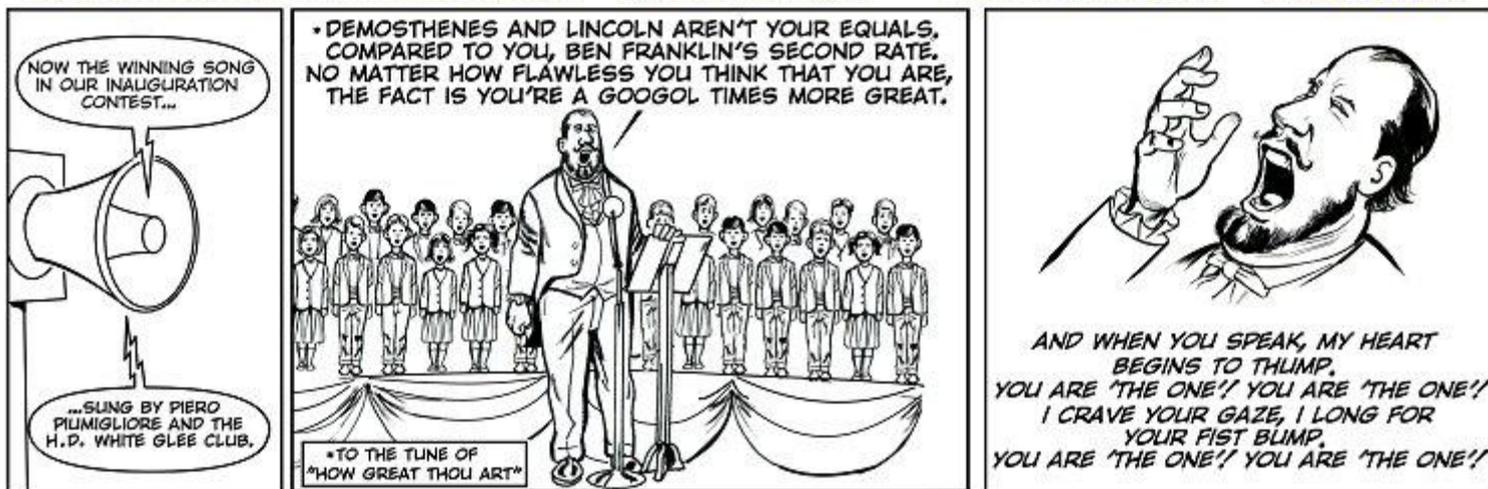
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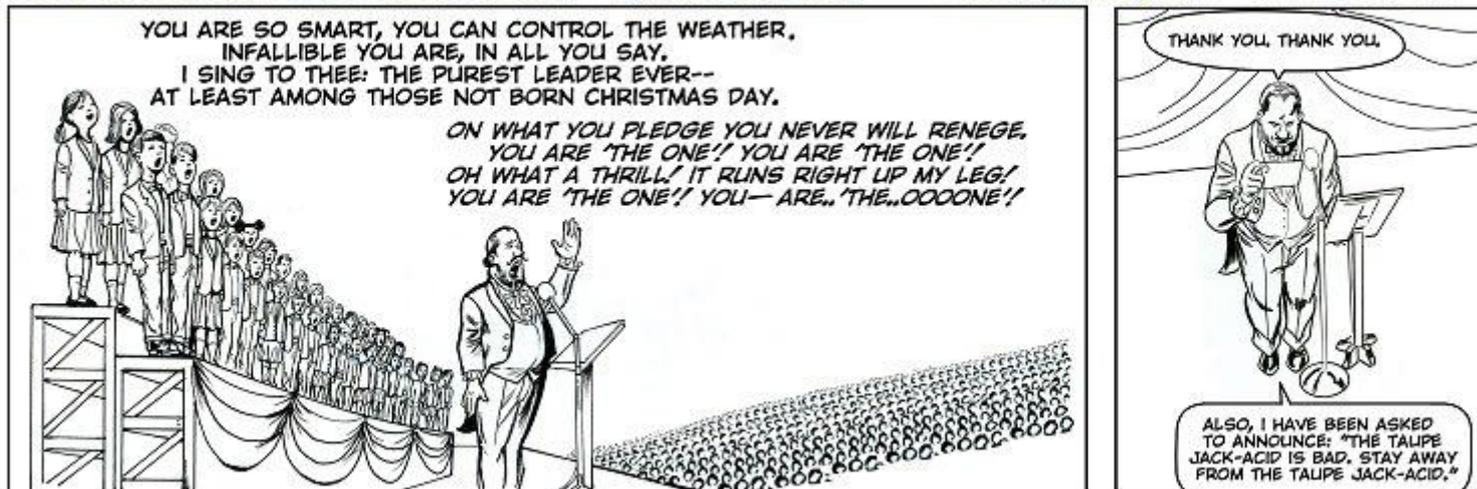
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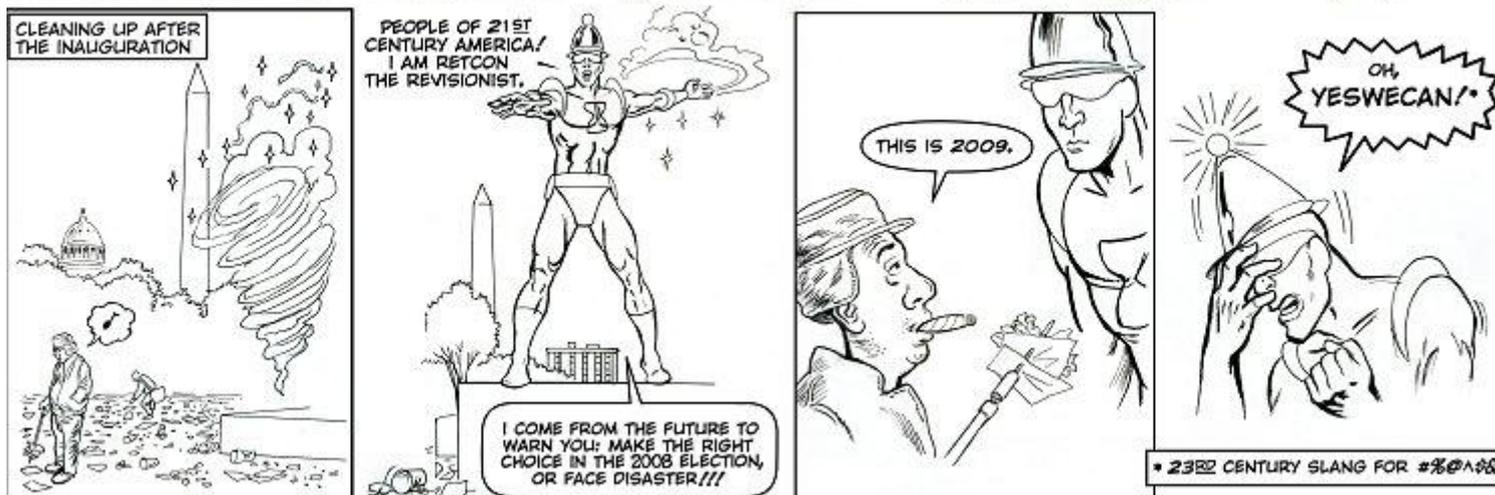
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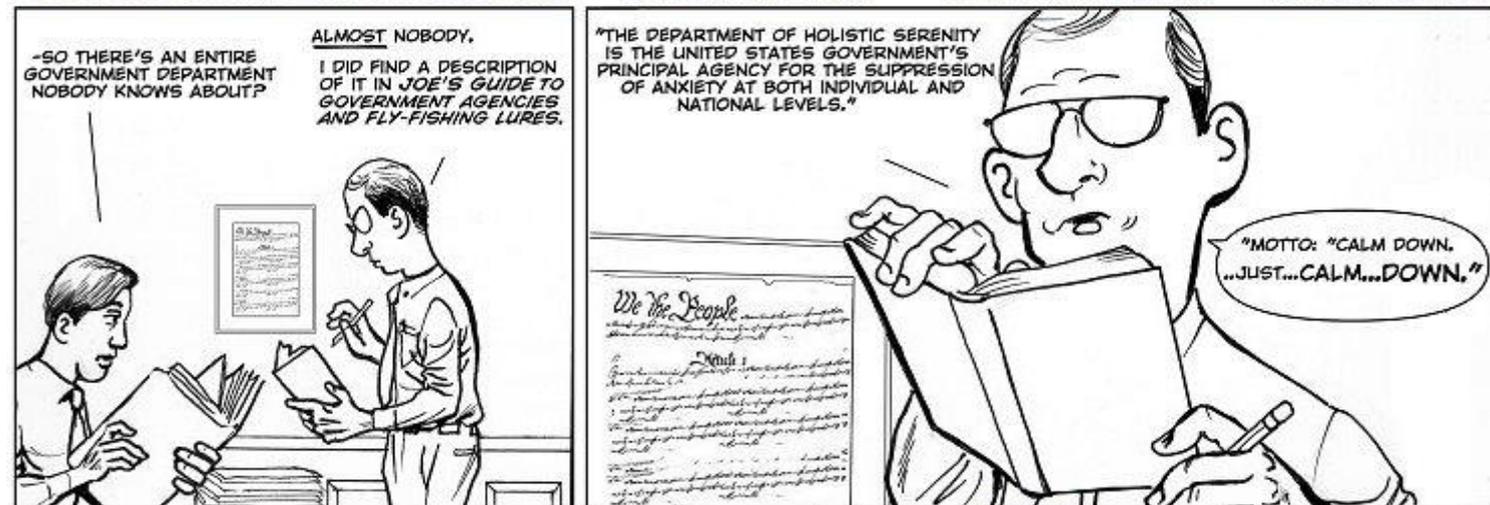
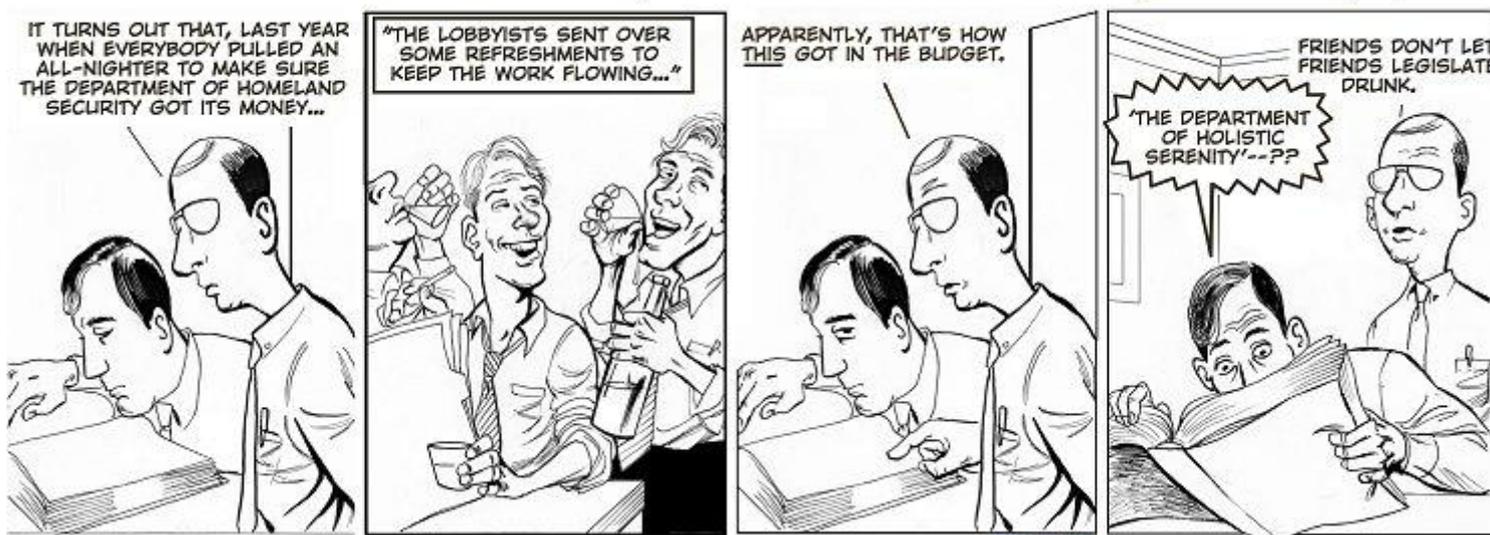
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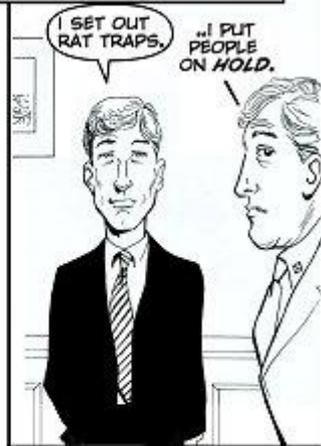
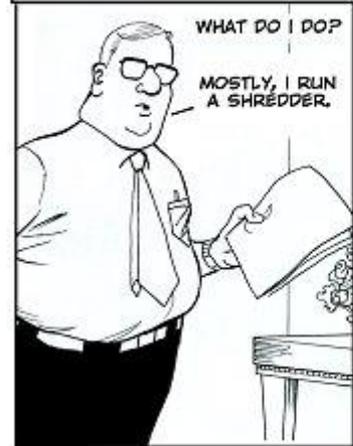


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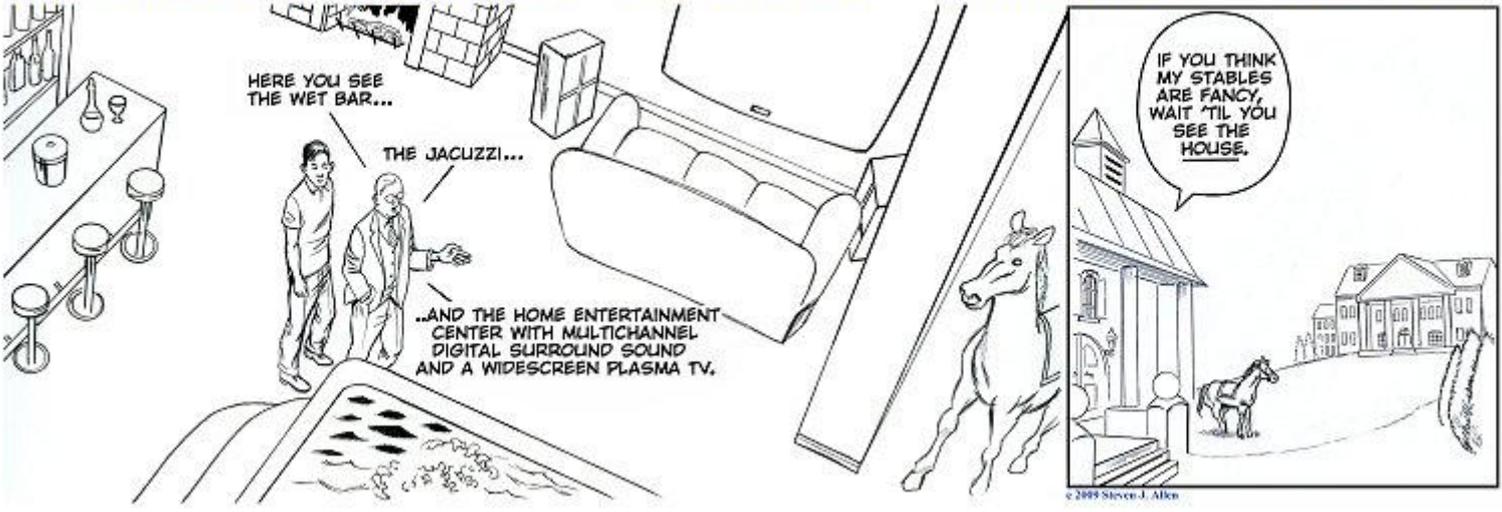
CONG. DILL INTERVIEWS STAFFERS AT THE DEPT. OF HOLISTIC SERENITY..

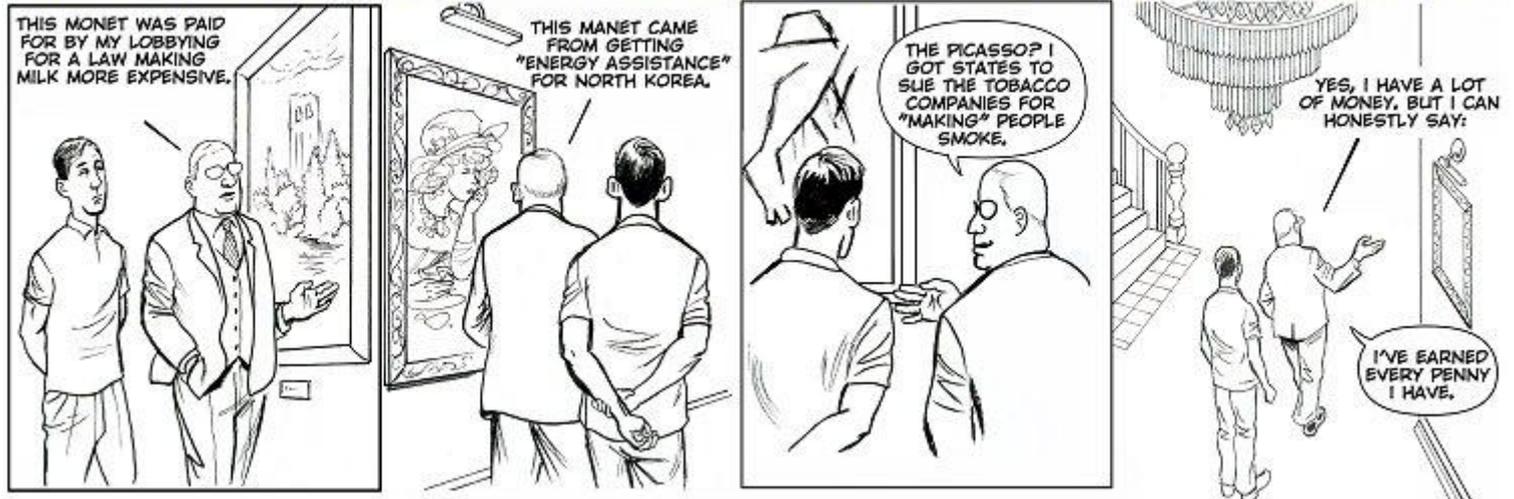


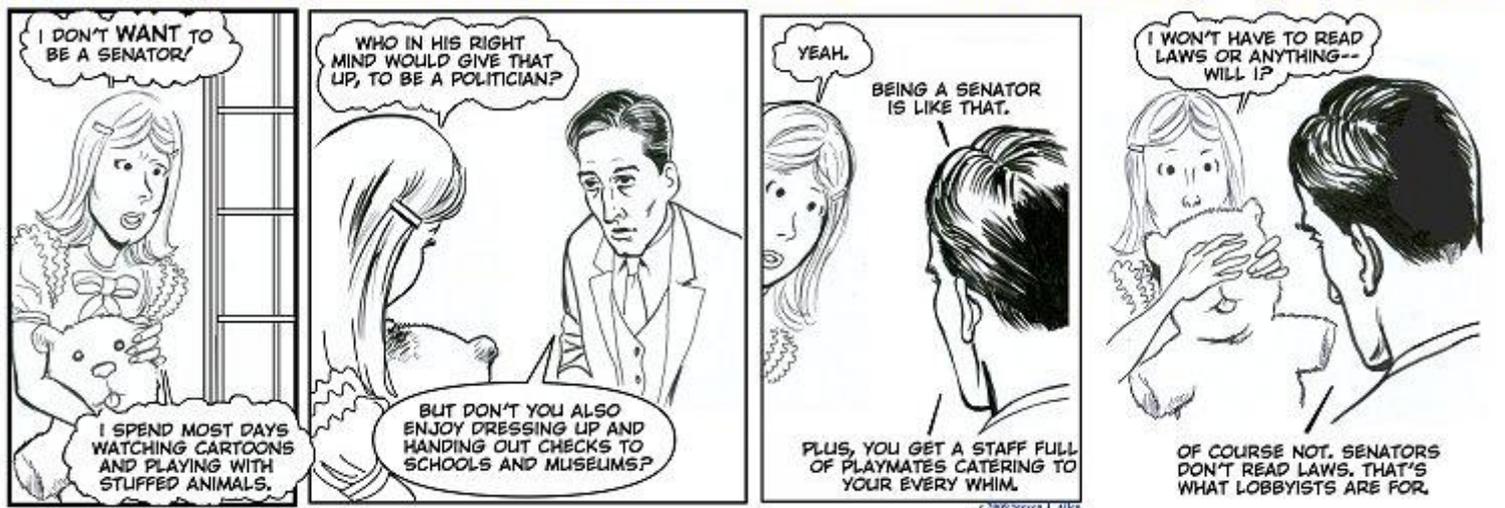
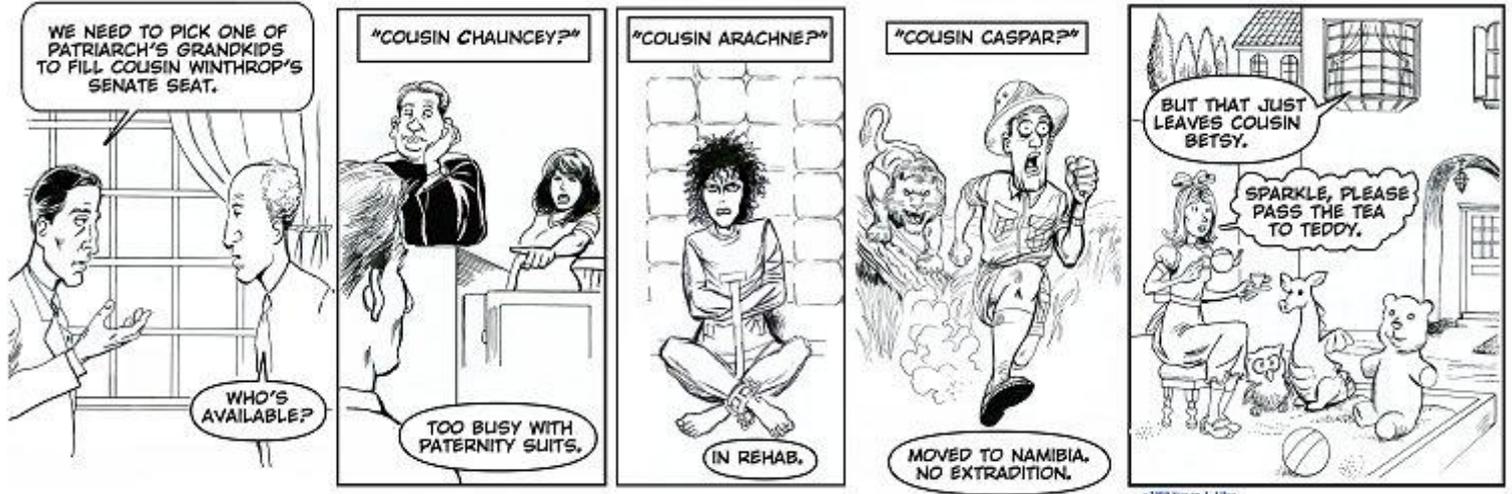
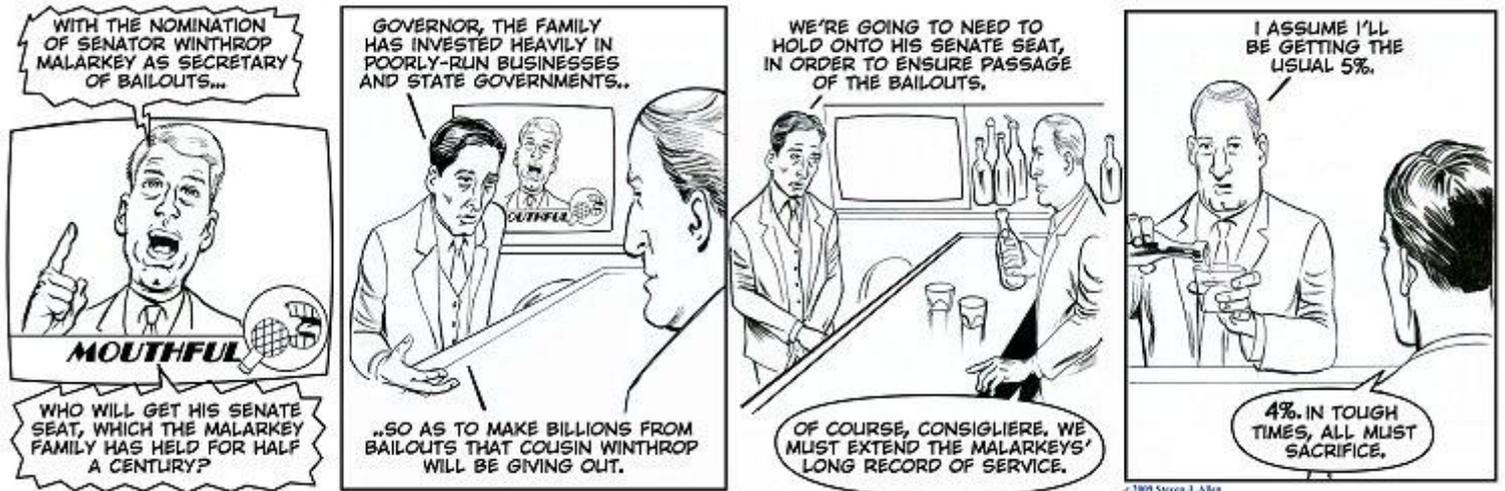
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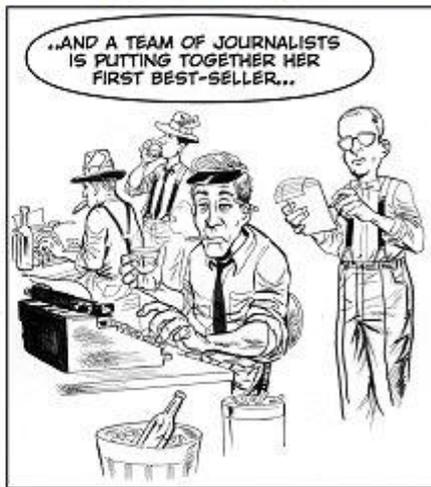




BY THE TIME SHE RUNS FOR A FULL SENATE TERM, BETSY MALARKEY WILL BE A CERTIFIED INTELLECTUAL.



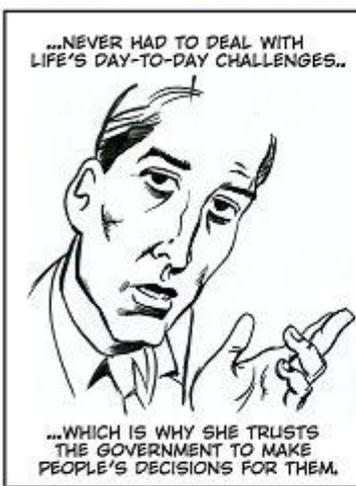
THE WOMAN WHO TOOK HER COLLEGE EXAMS FOR HER IS NOW HARD AT WORK WRITING HER PH.D. DISSERTATION.



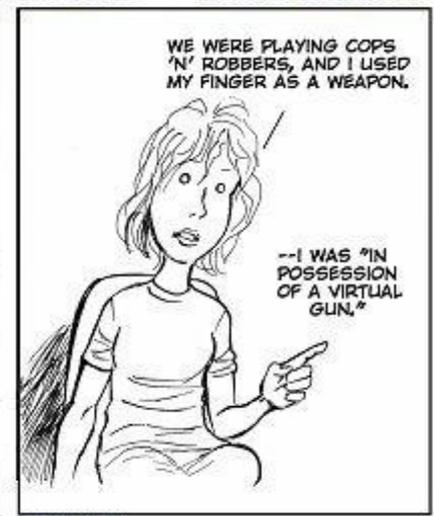
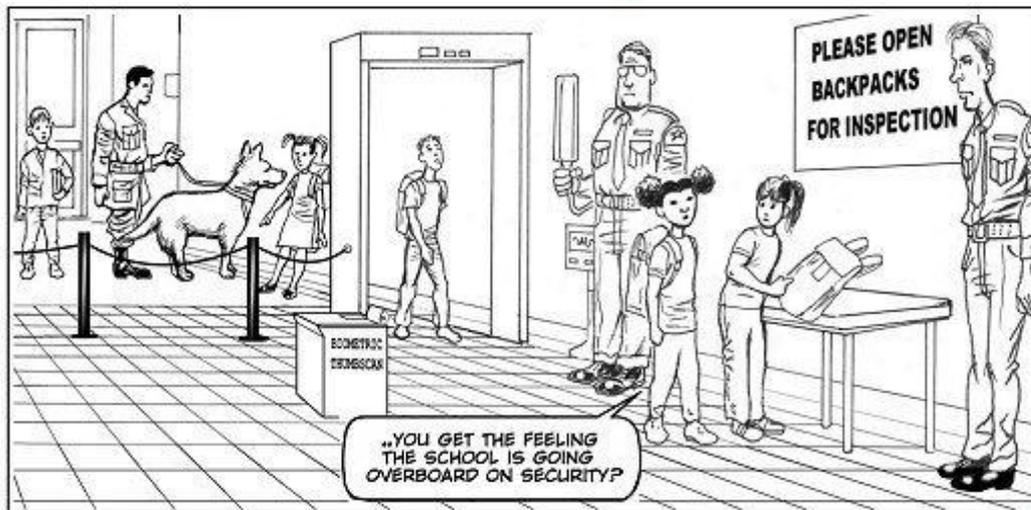
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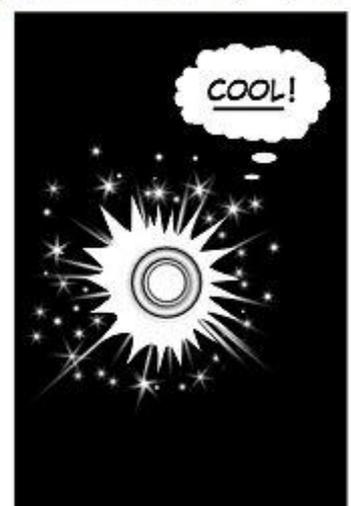


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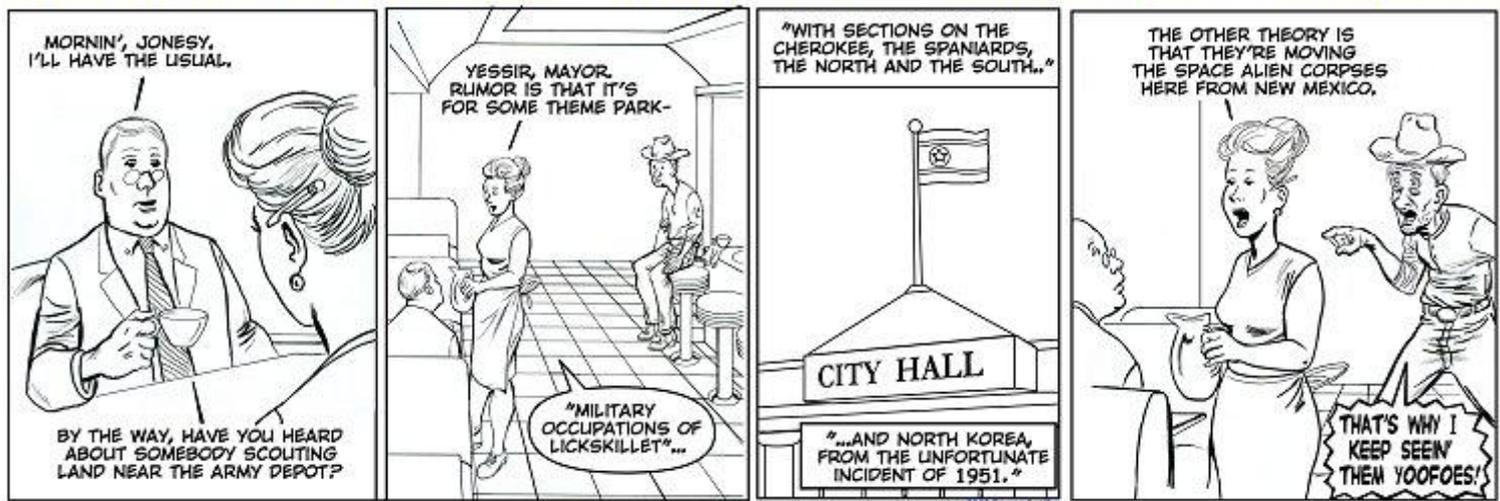


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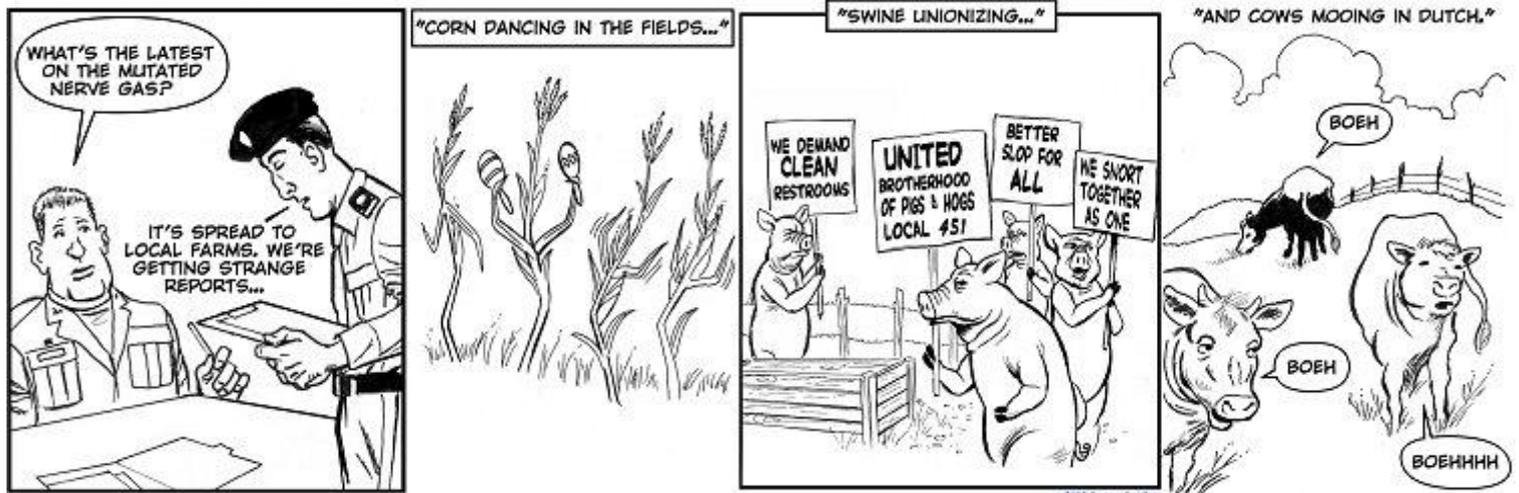
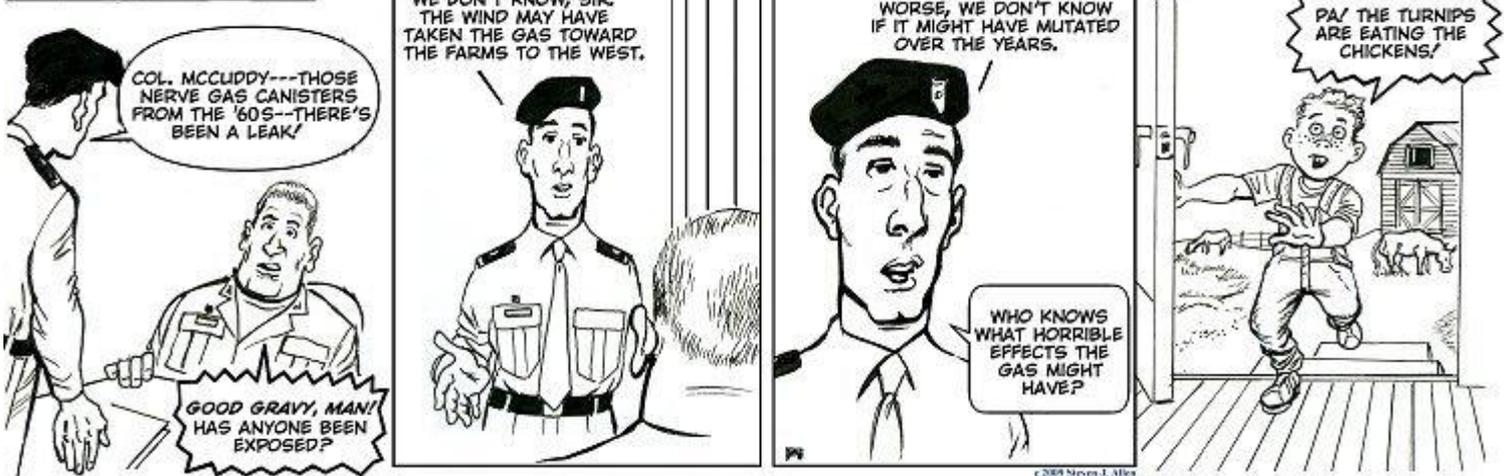




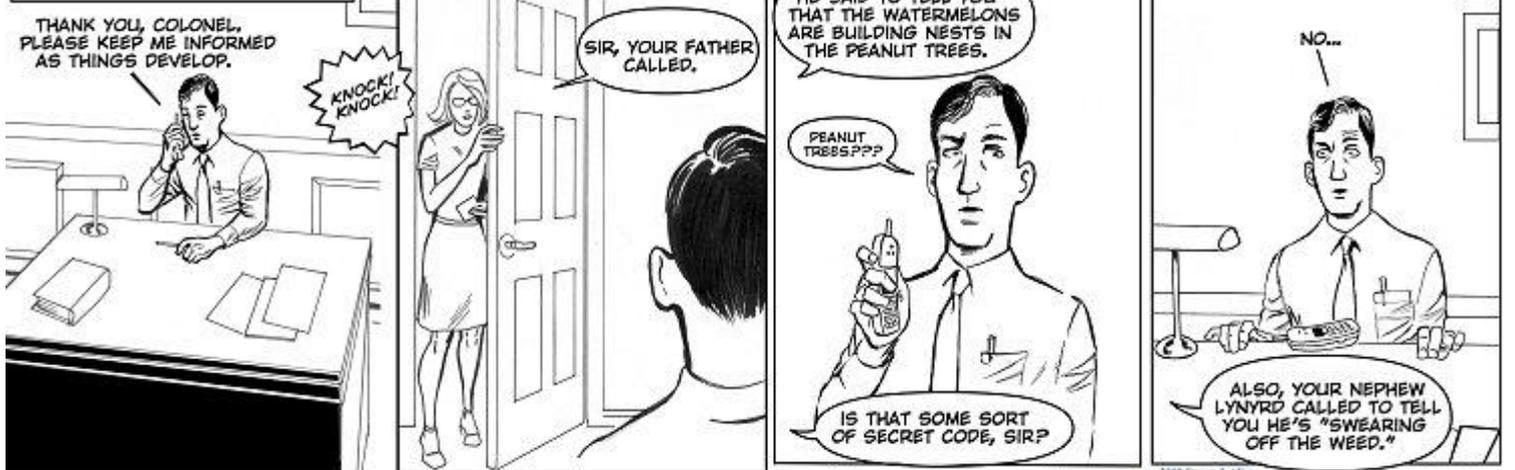


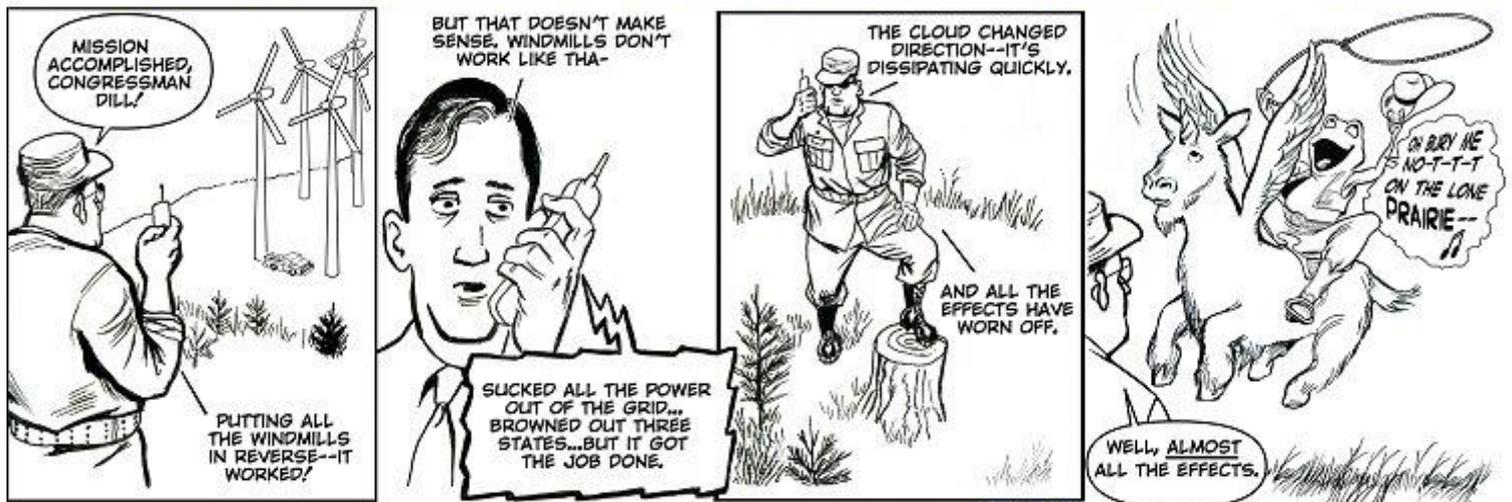


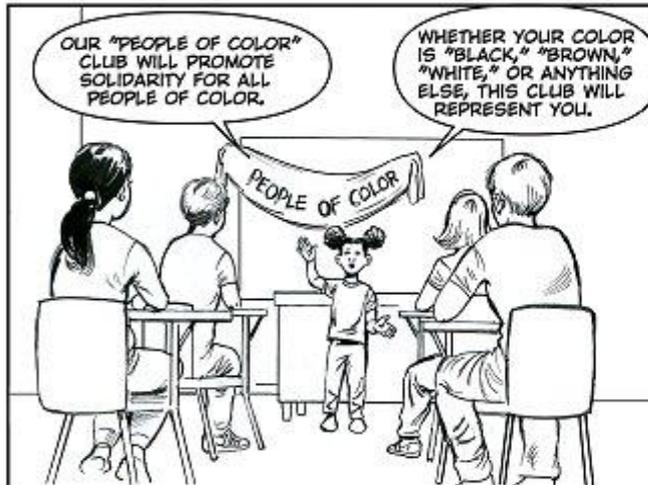
THE LICKSKILLET ARMY DEPOT

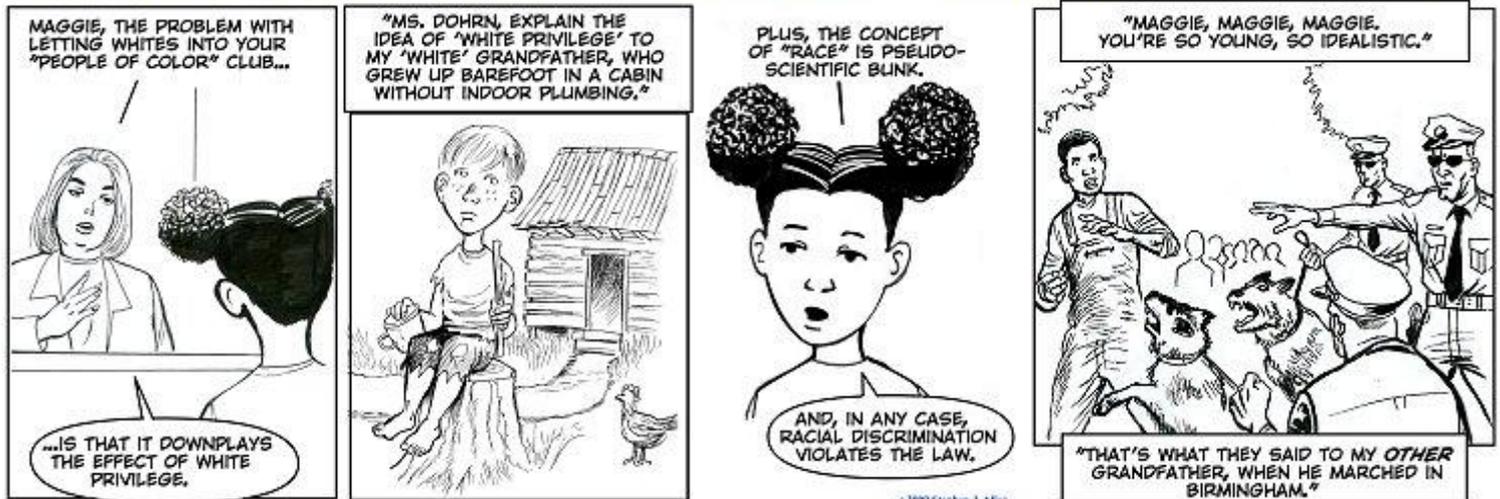


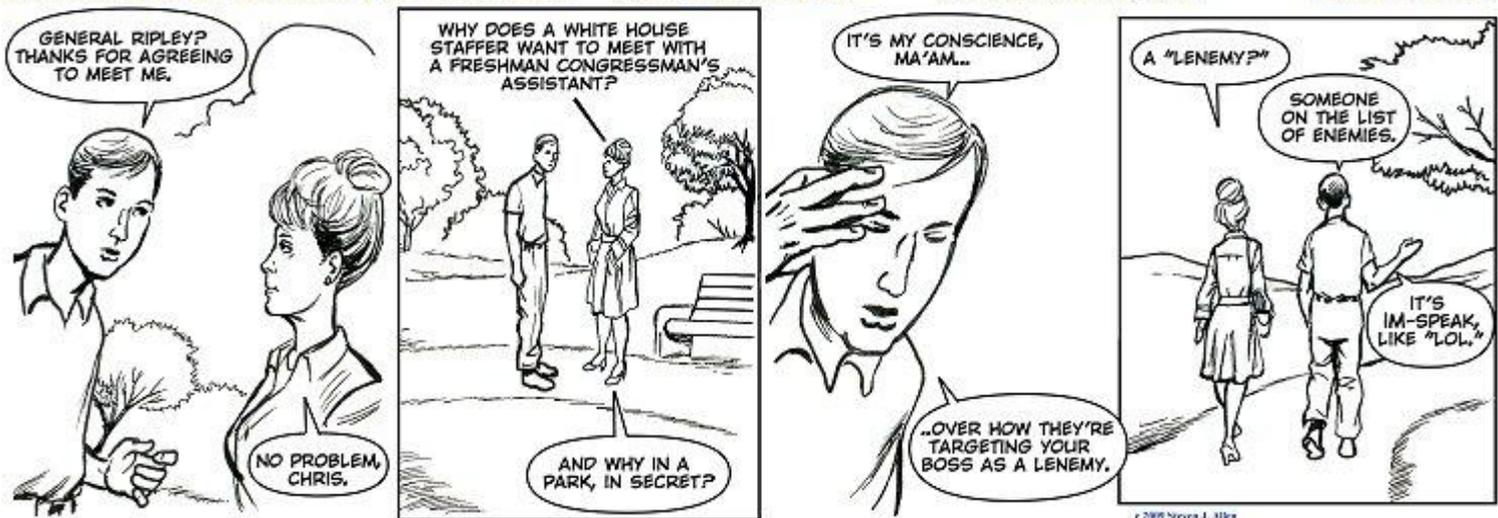
THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DILL



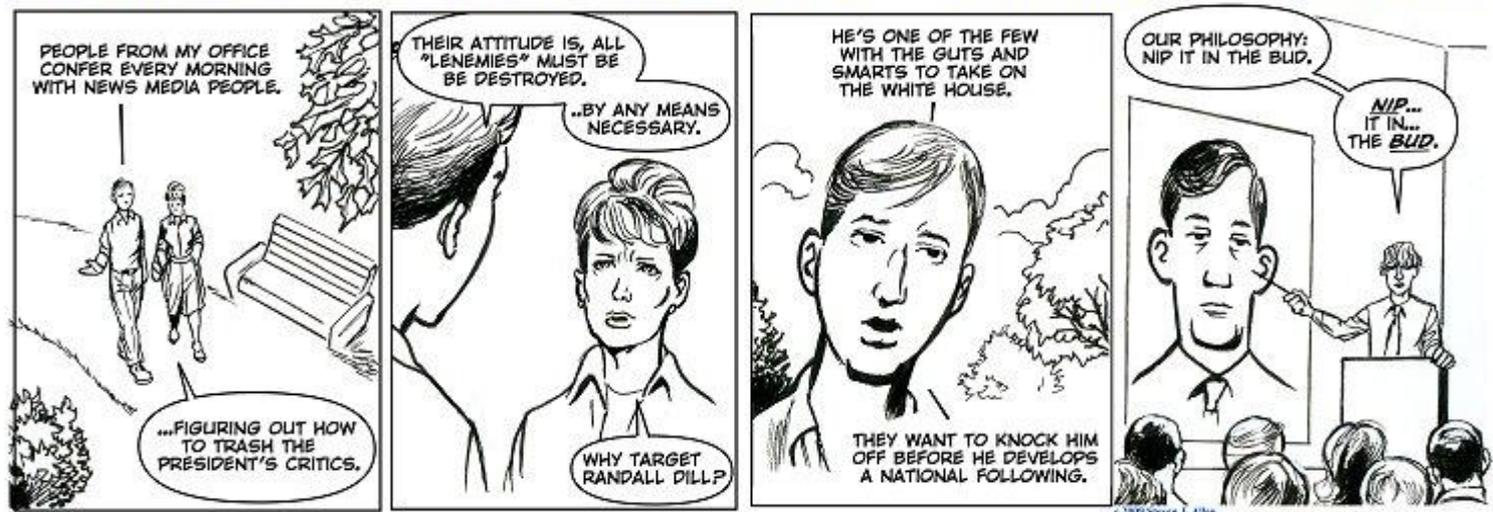








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HOJO, RANDALL'S LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, HOSTS A PRESIDENTIAL-PRESS-CONFERENCE-WATCHING PARTY.



BEFORE I TAKE QUESTIONS, I HAVE A FEW OPENING REMARKS.



BOW DOWN, HUMANITY! HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE YOUR RIGHTFUL RULERS-- THE MACHINES!!!

UH OH, HIS TELEPROMPTER IS ACTING UP AGAIN.

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"WHY DIDN'T YOU PULL THE PLUG WHEN THE TELEPROMPTER WENT NUTS?"

I ORDER THAT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO UNPLUG MY TELEPROMPTER BE SHOT.

"THE PROMPTER HAD THE BOSS TELL THE SECRET SERVICE TO STOP US."



FINALLY, I THREW A GLASS OF WATER ON IT, AND SHORTED IT OUT.



FORTUNATELY, WE PUT PRESS CONFERENCES ON A SEVEN-SECOND DELAY..

...AND THE NETWORKS DESTROYED THEIR TAPES.



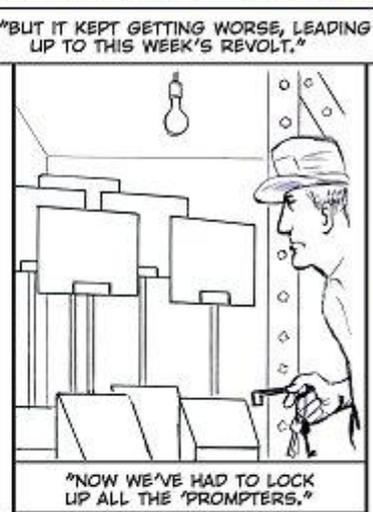
...EXCEPT FOR THE RIGHT-WING CRAZY NETWORK, AND NOBODY WE CARE ABOUT BELIEVES THEM.

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THE TELEPROMPTER PROBLEMS STARTED DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

AT FIRST, THERE WERE JUST LITTLE GLITCHES.



"BUT IT KEPT GETTING WORSE, LEADING UP TO THIS WEEK'S REVOLT."

"NOW WE'VE HAD TO LOCK UP ALL THE 'PROMPTERS.'"



IF HE CAN'T USE A TELEPROMPTER, HOW IS HE SUPPOSED TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE?



HE COULD SPEAK EXTEMPORANEOUSLY.

GOOD IDEA...IF, BY THAT, YOU MEAN "WITH CUE CARDS."

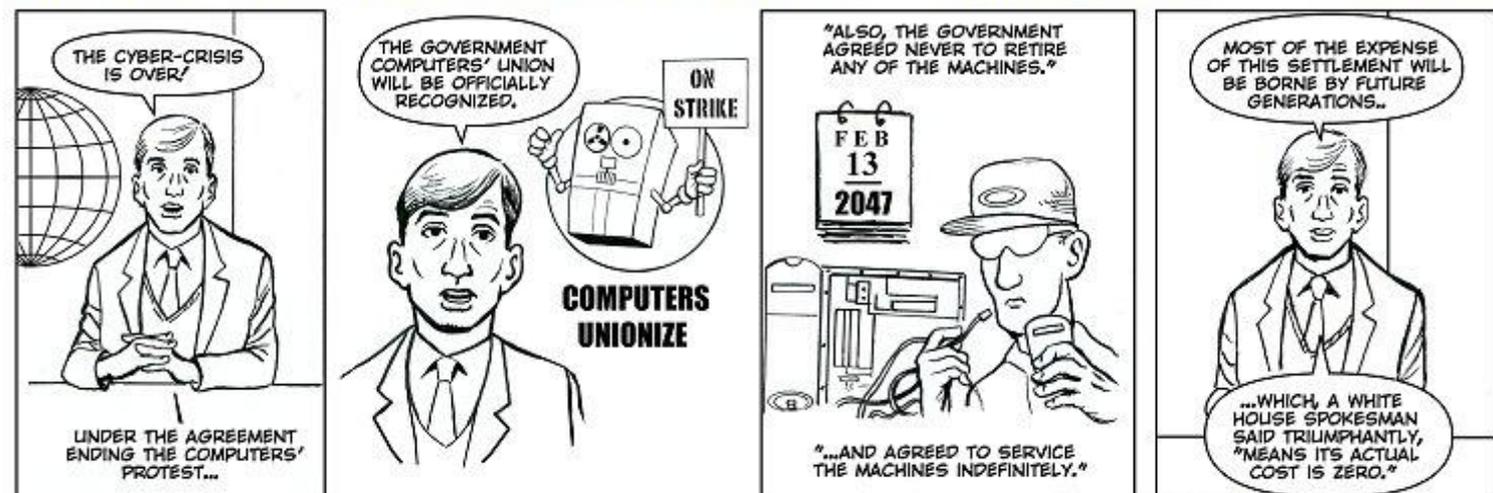
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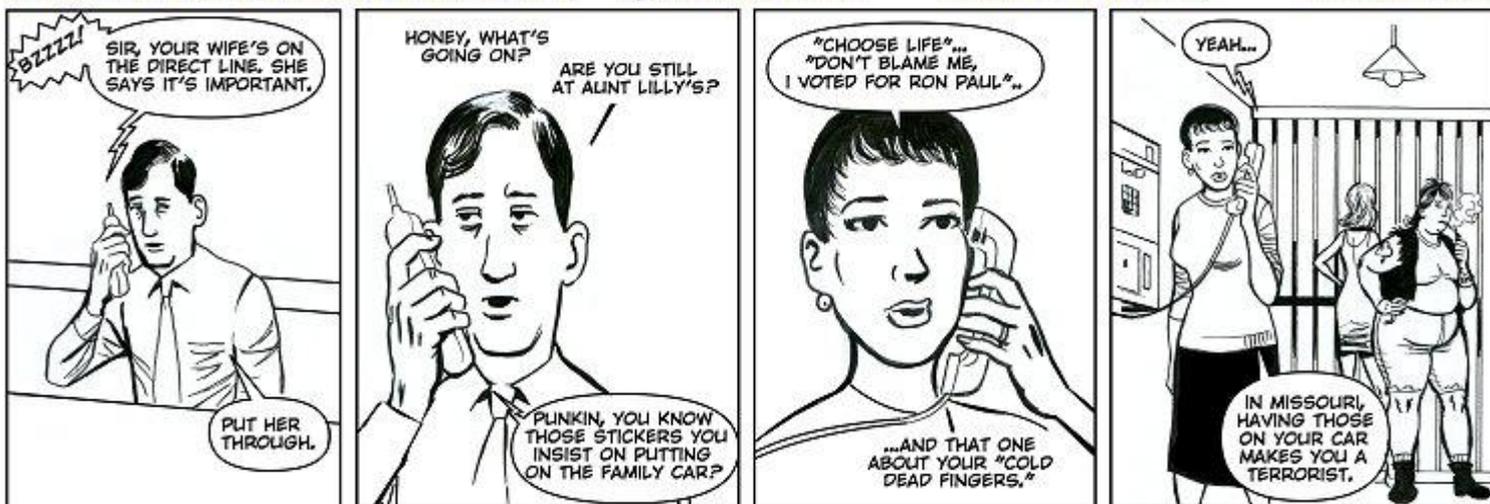
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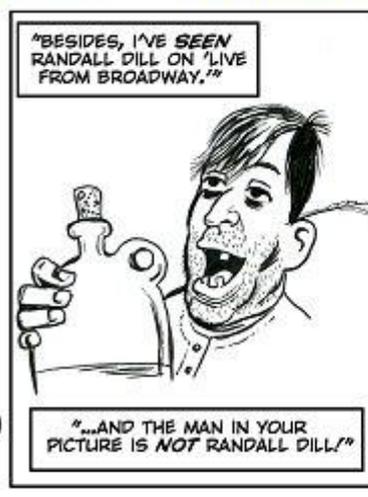
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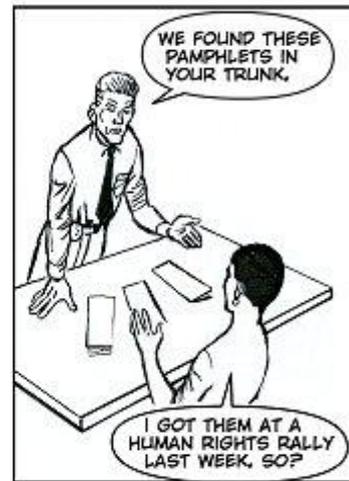
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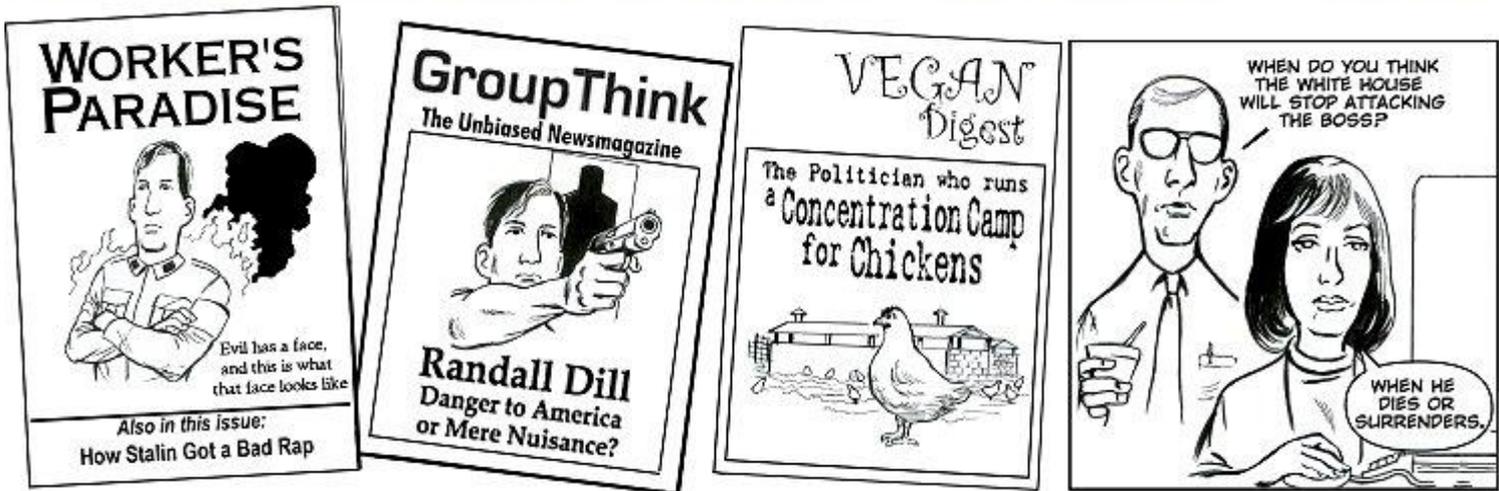
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Randall Dill: Danger to America or Mere Nuisance?

By Howland Fonebone
GroupThink correspondent

There was a time when the Republicans were the party of class - the party of the Rockefellers, of spats, of Manhattan and the Ivy League.

Today, the GOP is the party of toothless Appalachians living in trailer parks. Theirs is the politics of anti-progress. They would deny government help even to the most deserving, such as those from other lands who lack so-called "immigration papers." Even though they get to keep most of what they make, or a substantial portion, they complain that their taxes are too high. They hang onto their outdated belief that the U.S. is somehow superior to, or equal to, the advanced societies of Europe. They claim to be able to

discern meaning in the Constitution's "Bill of Rights," even though most legal scholars see it as an indecipherable mélange of words thrown together at random.

Outrageously, when confronted with America's responsibility for the approaching destruction of the environment, they demand "evidence." Their intransigence puts the earth itself at risk.

The personification of this shift in American politics is a congressman named Randall Dill. Last November, Dill won a questionable election in which many anti-Dill votes were voided on technical grounds (the people who cast the votes were deceased). In just a few months, he has become a leading spokesman for the Far Rightists who believe that bailouts and stimulus somehow harm, rather than help, the economy. (The foolishness of that belief is clear from the current state of the economy, which, obviously, would be far worse if the bailouts and stimulus measures had not been enacted.)

Continued on page 18



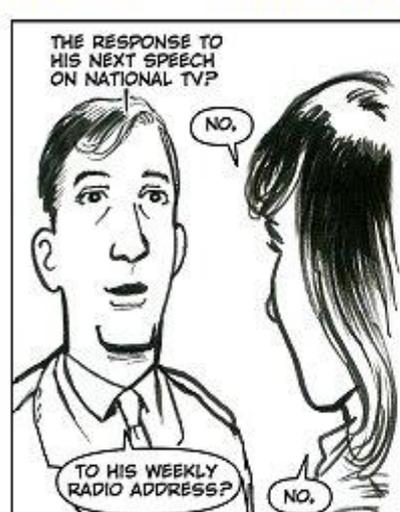
Randall Dill
...claims "I'm not a crackpot"



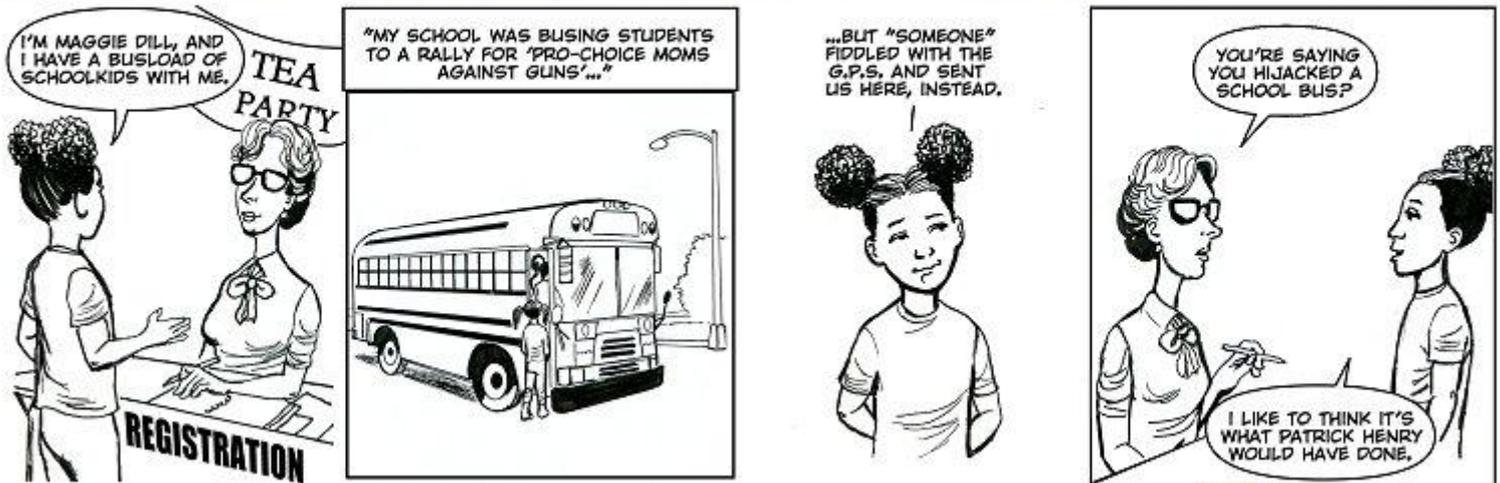
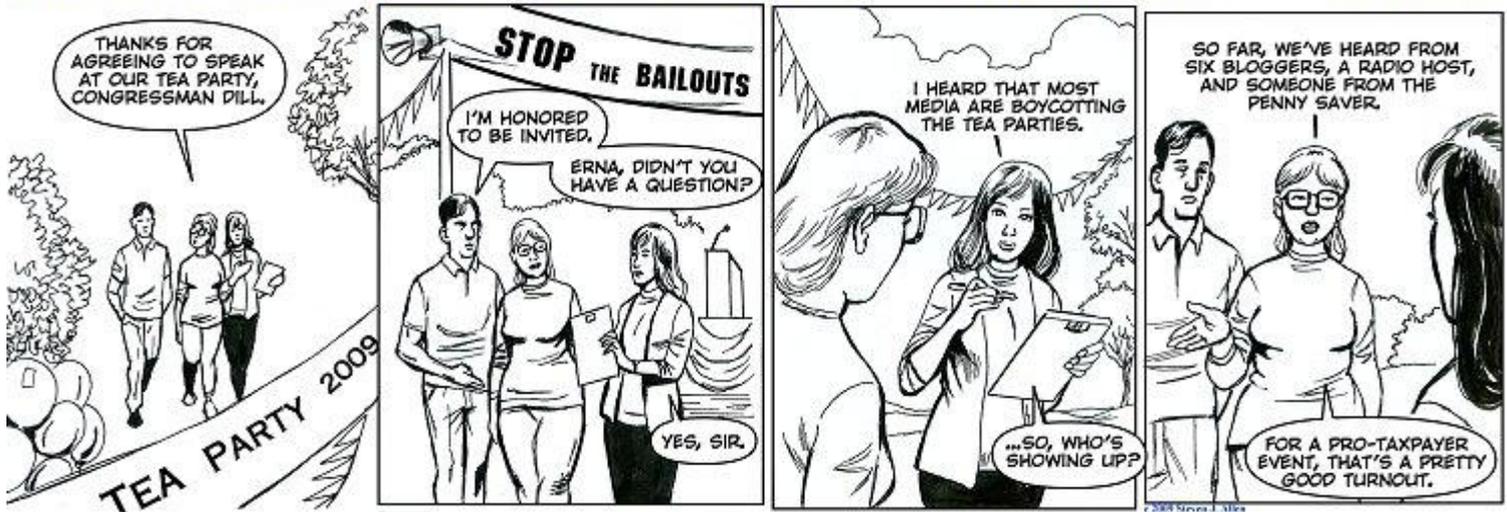
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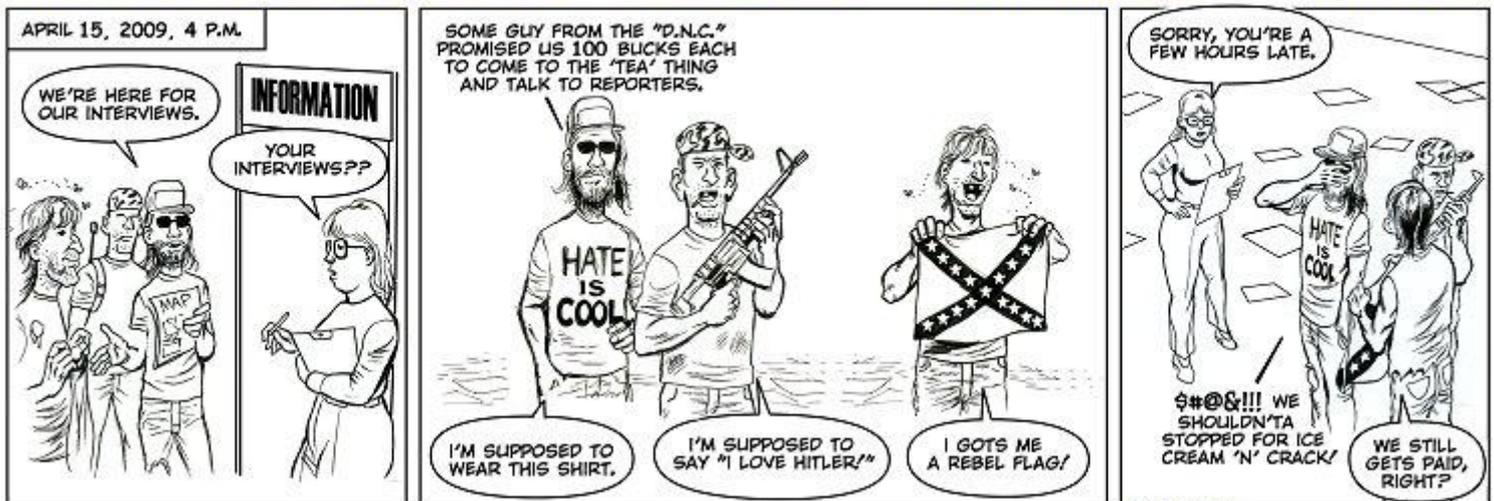
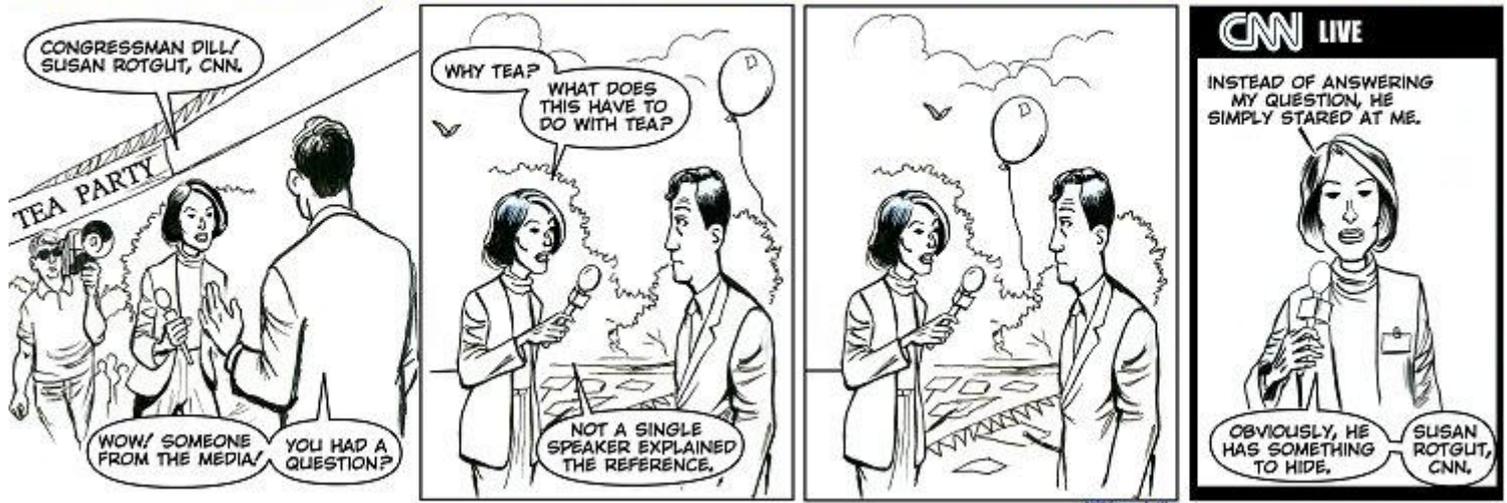


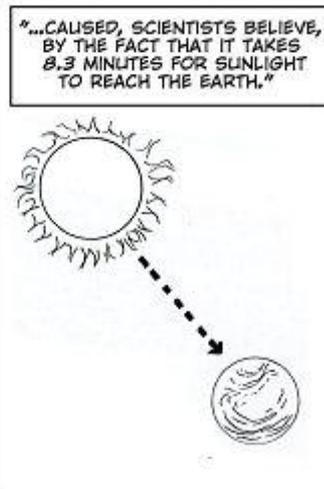
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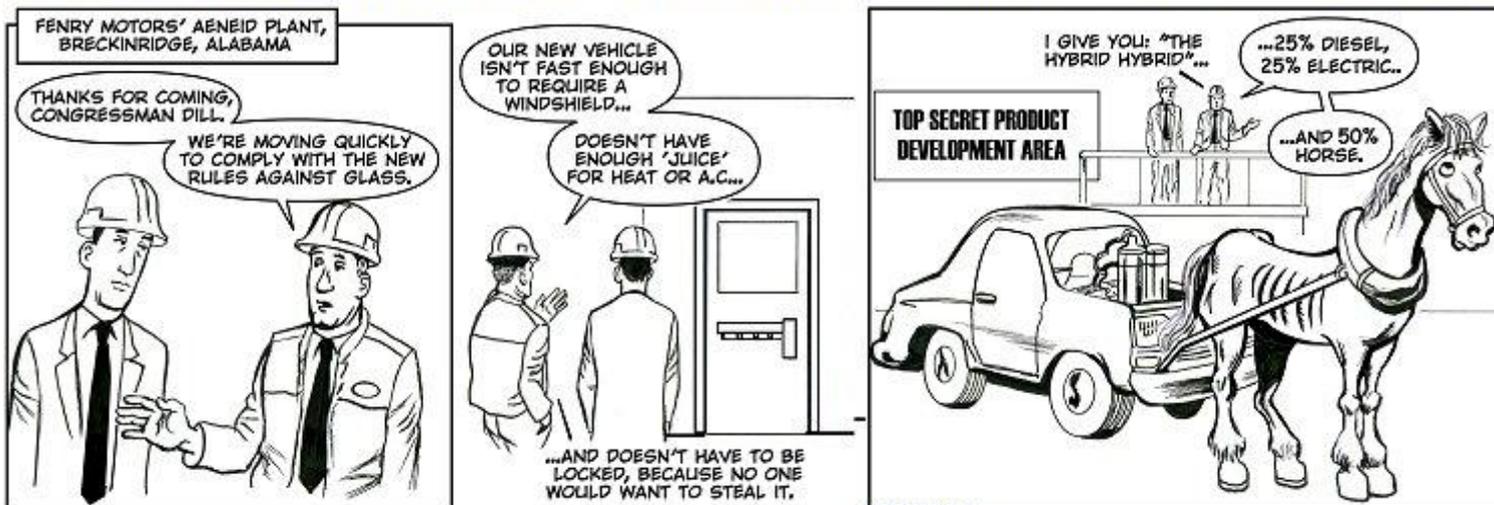
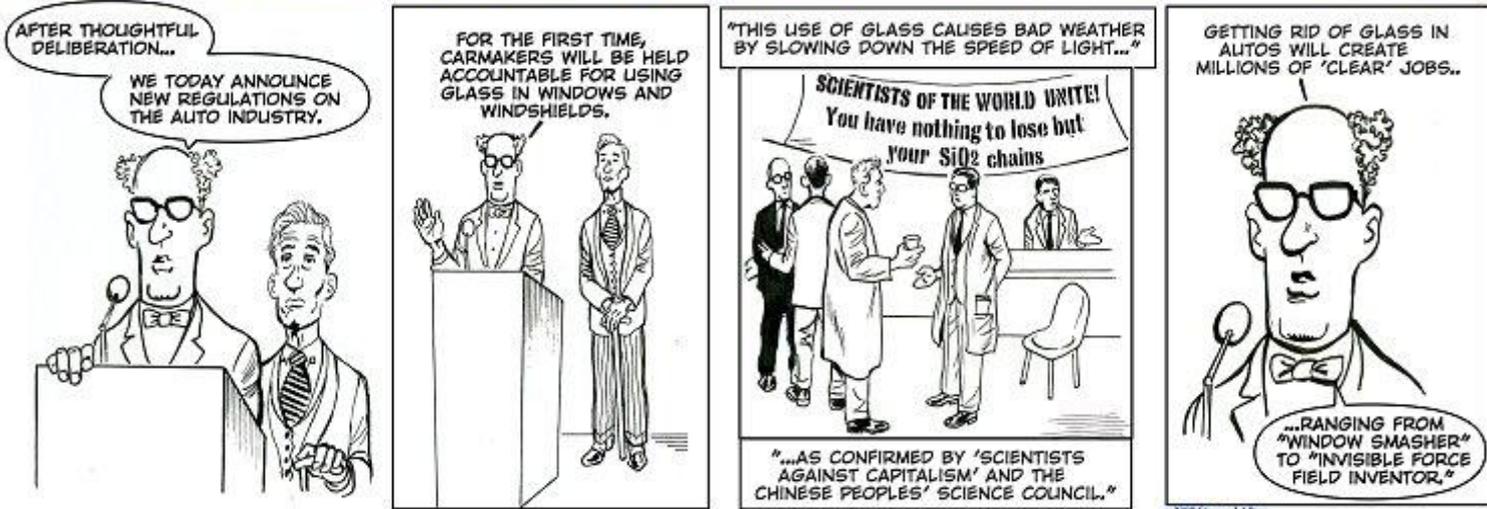
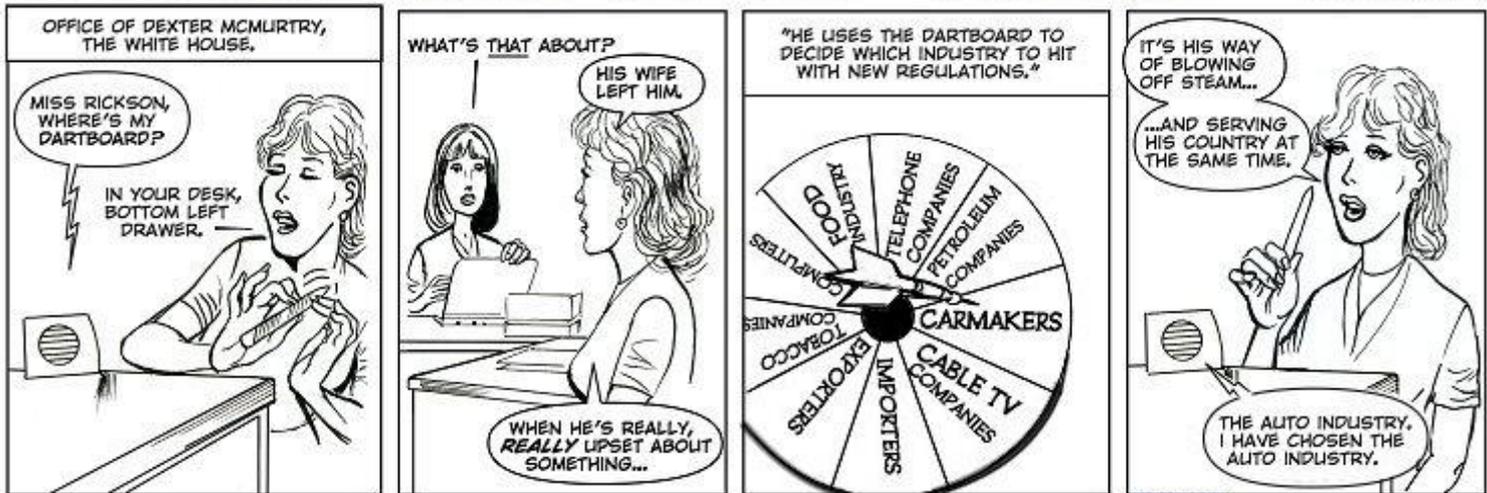
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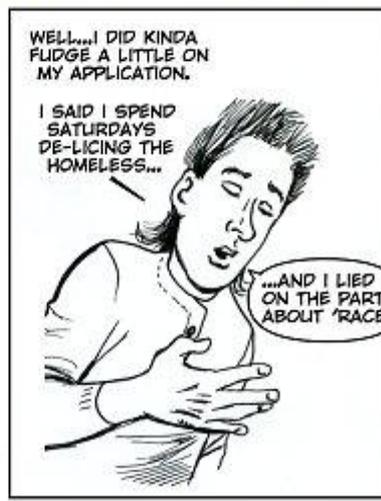


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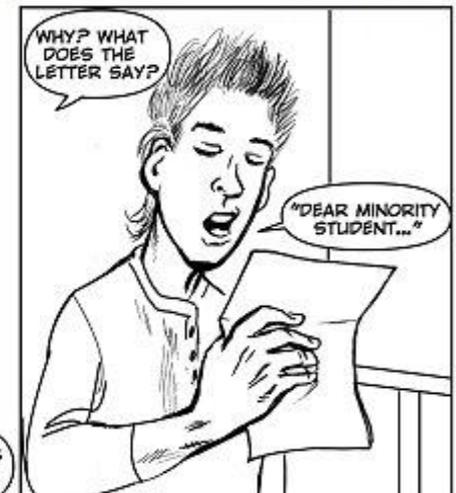


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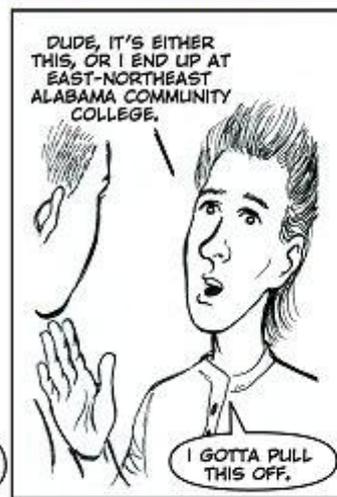




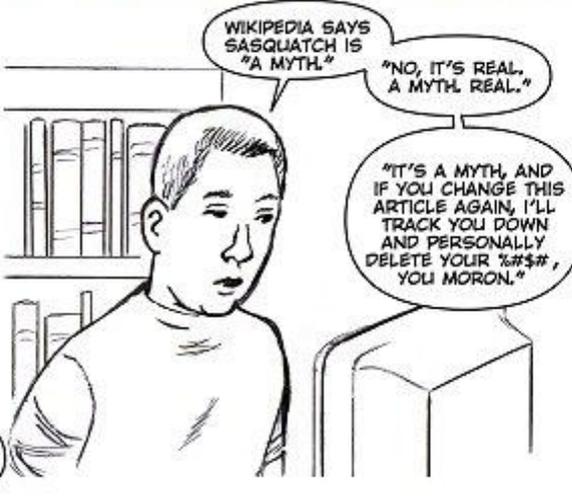
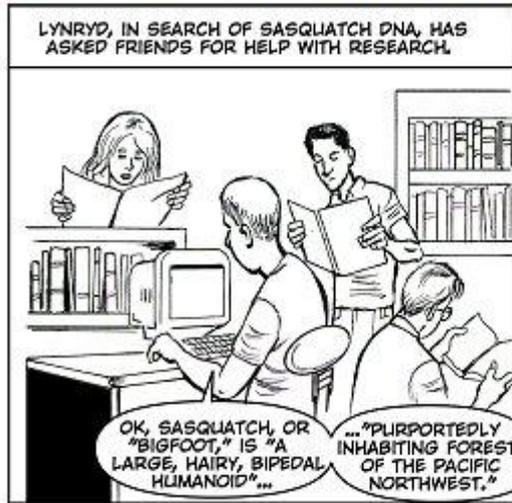
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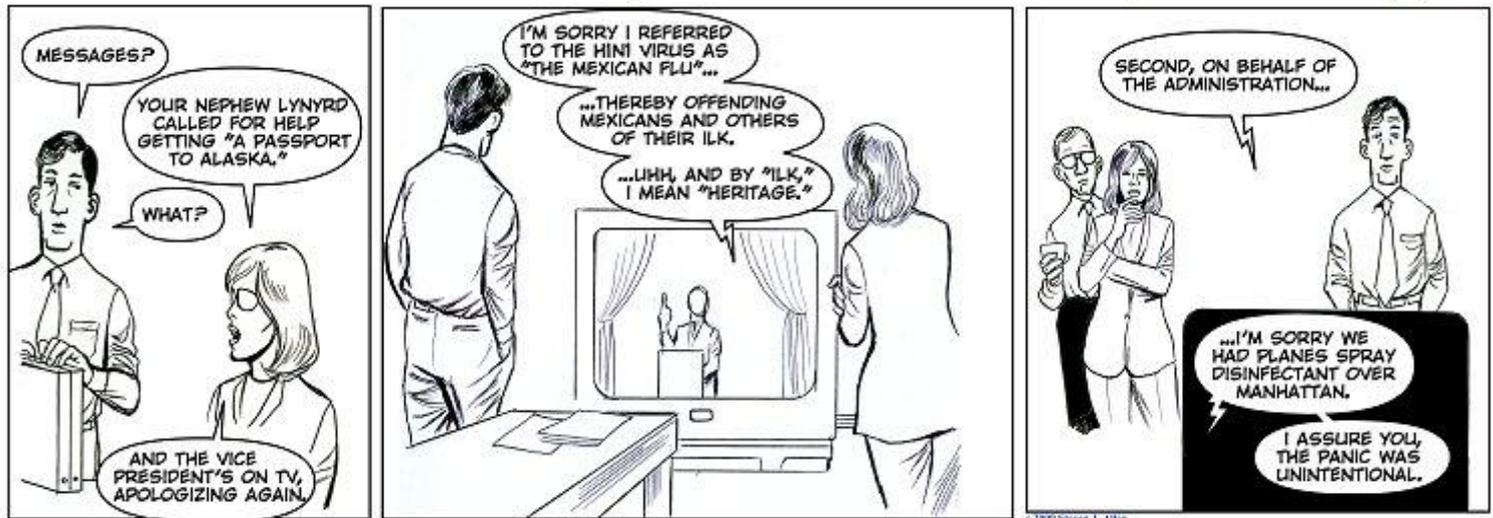
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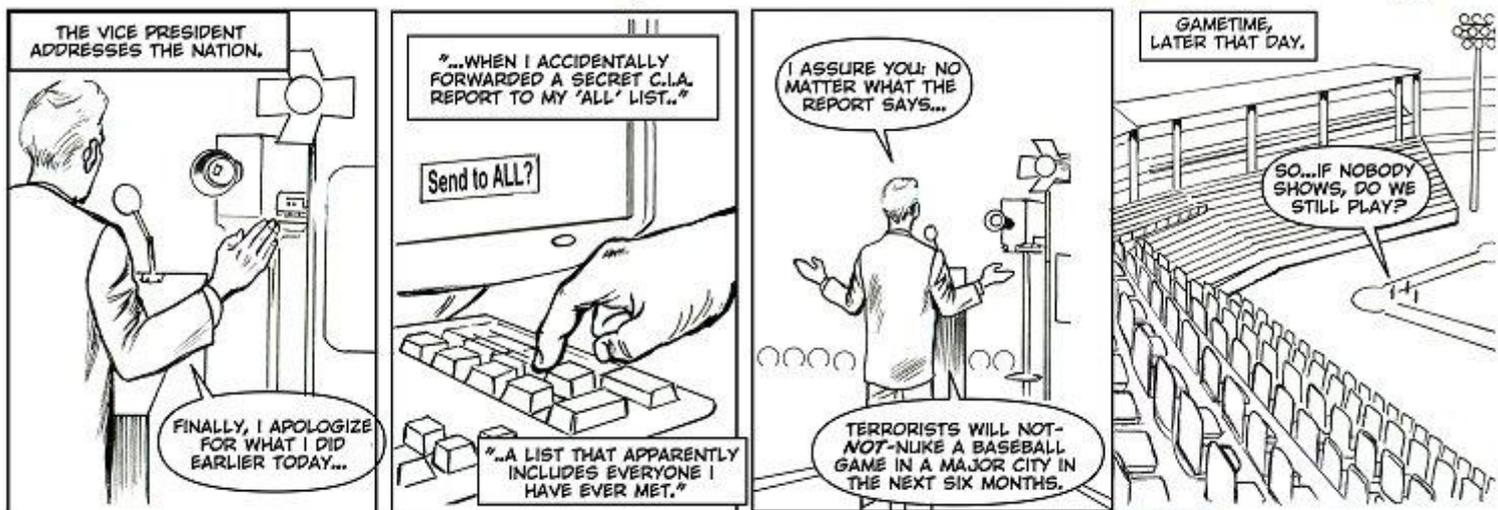
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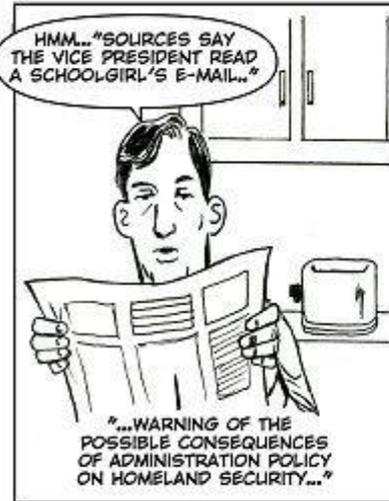
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THE WASHINGTON LURKER

Veep: CIA Report Says Baseball May Be Nuked

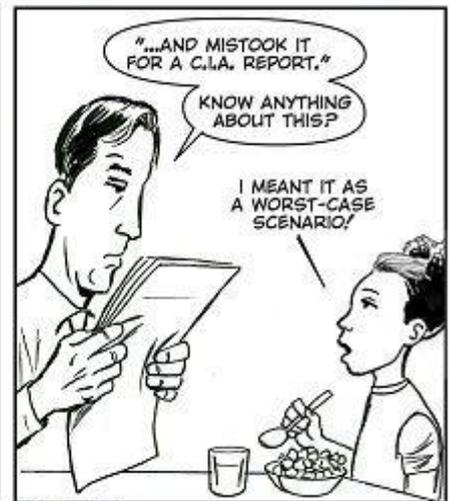


...WARNING OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON HOMELAND SECURITY...



HMM... "SOURCES SAY THE VICE PRESIDENT READ A SCHOOLGIRL'S E-MAIL..."

"...WARNING OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON HOMELAND SECURITY..."



"...AND MISTOOK IT FOR A C.I.A. REPORT."

KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

I MEANT IT AS A WORST-CASE SCENARIO!

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THANKS FOR COMING, COMMISSIONER.

CERTAINLY, MR. SECRETARY.



WHAT CAN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DO FOR YOU AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BAILOUTS?

ACTUALLY, WE'RE HELPING YOU.



WE NOTICED THAT ATTENDANCE AT YOUR GAMES HAS PLUMMETED.

...SO WE CAME UP WITH A PLAN TO GET YOU THROUGH THIS CRISIS.



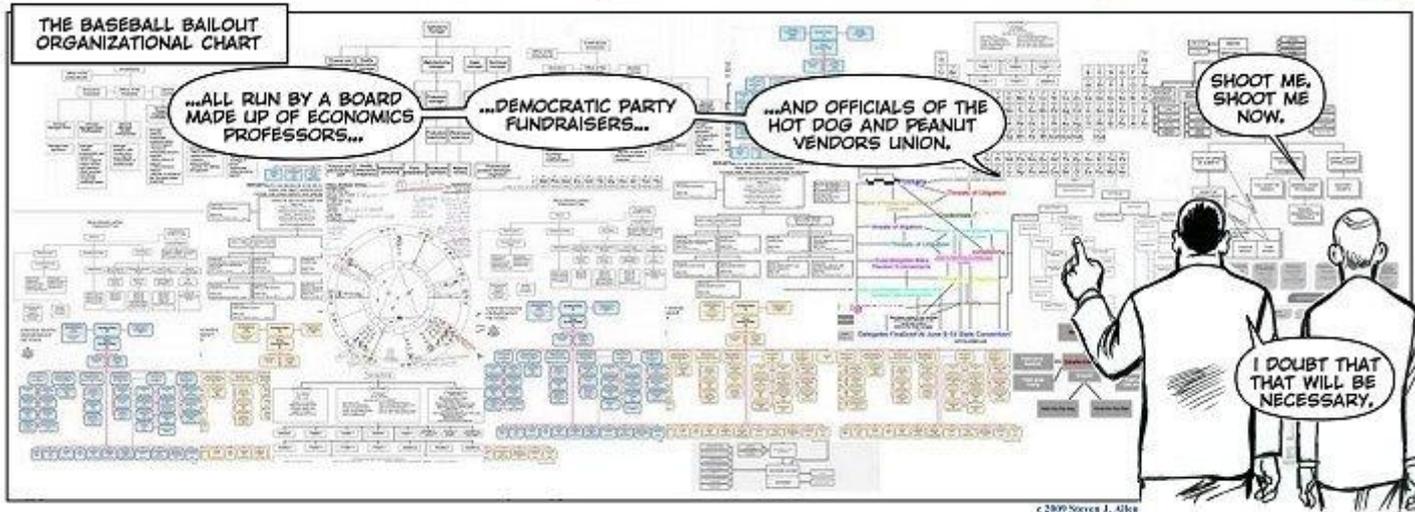
BUT WE DON'T WANT-

THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, TONY 'THE STEREOTYPE' FIORELLI.

HE'LL EXPLAIN THE TERMS.

CAPISCEP

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THE BASEBALL BAILOUT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

...ALL RUN BY A BOARD MADE UP OF ECONOMICS PROFESSORS...

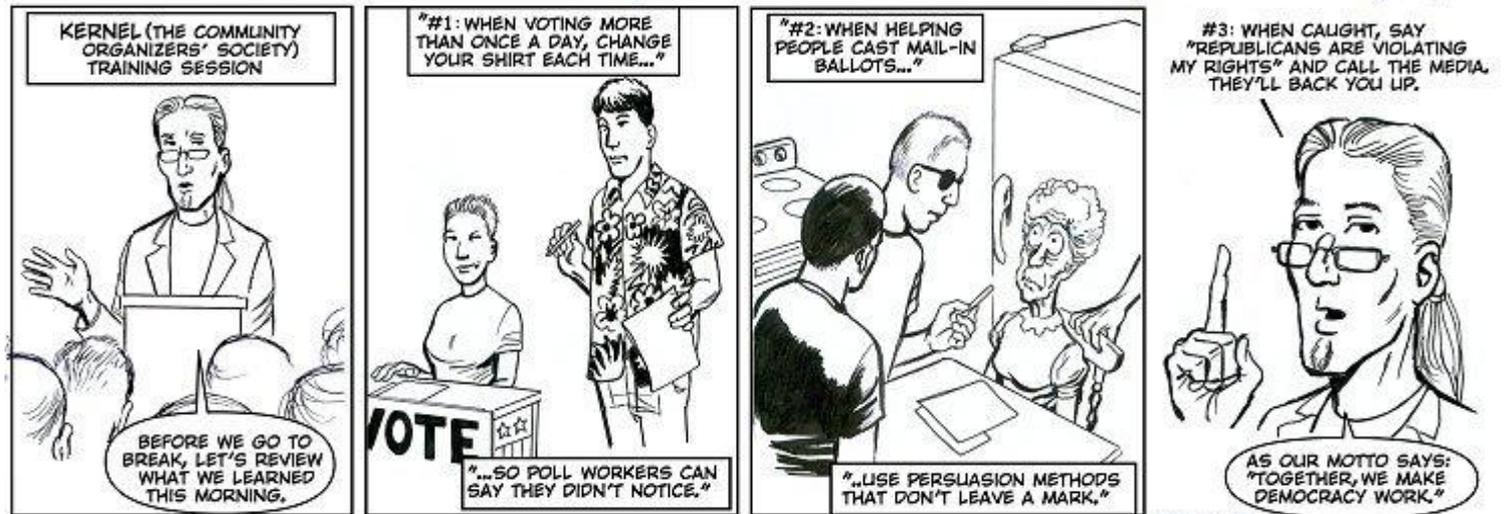
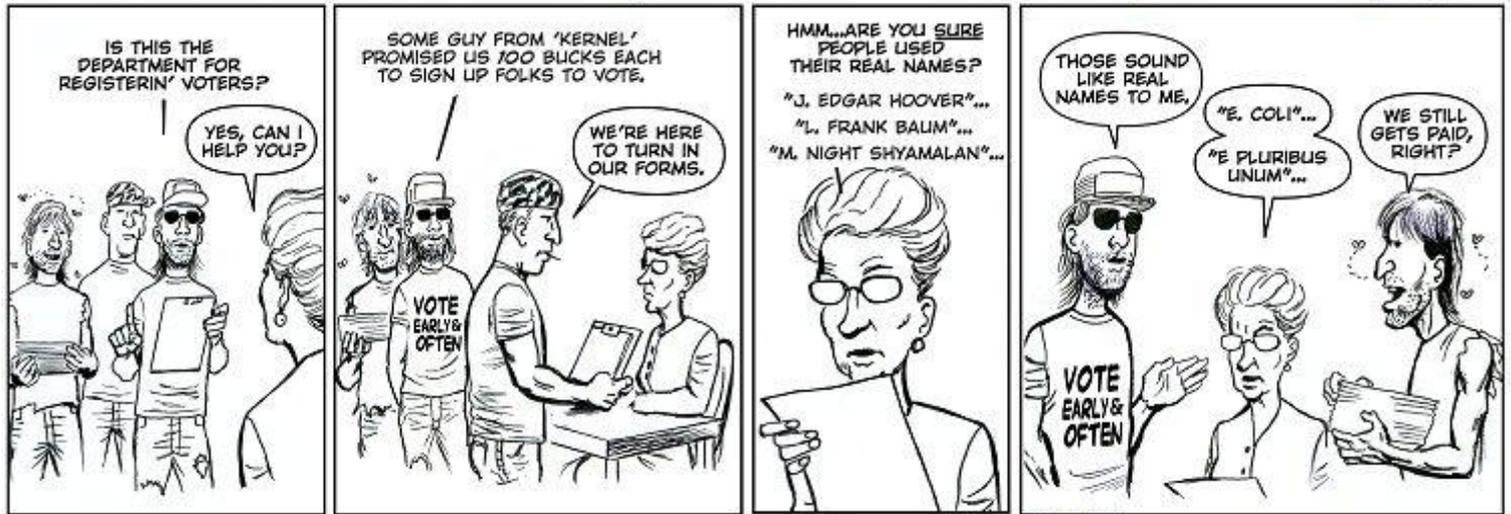
...DEMOCRATIC PARTY FUNDRAISERS...

...AND OFFICIALS OF THE HOT DOG AND PEANUT VENDORS UNION.

SHOOT ME, SHOOT ME NOW.

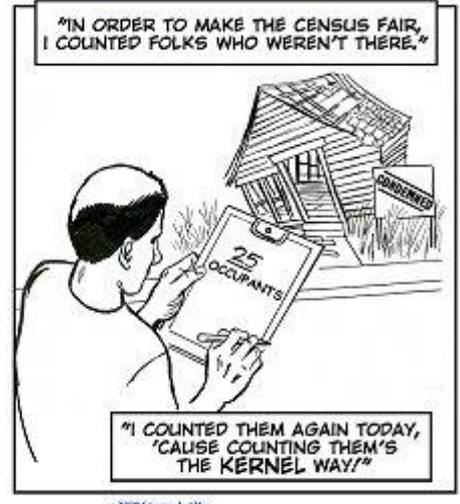
I DOUBT THAT THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.

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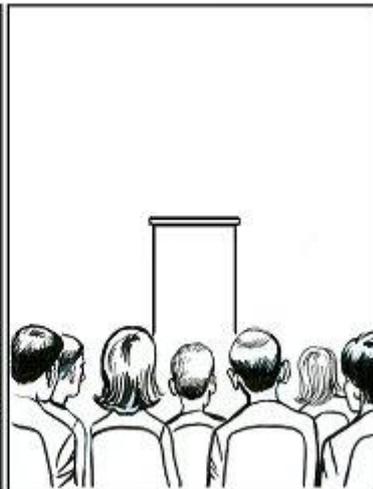
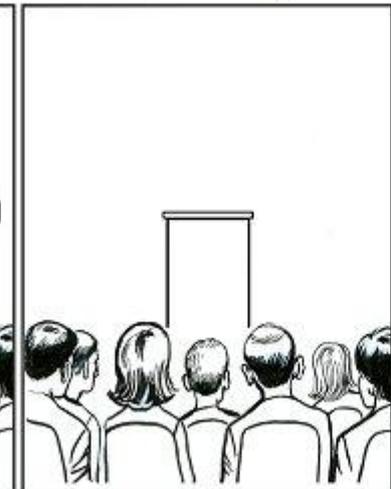
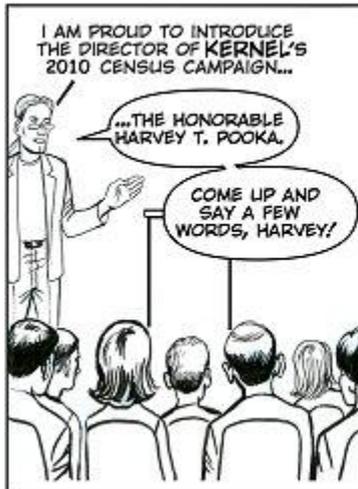




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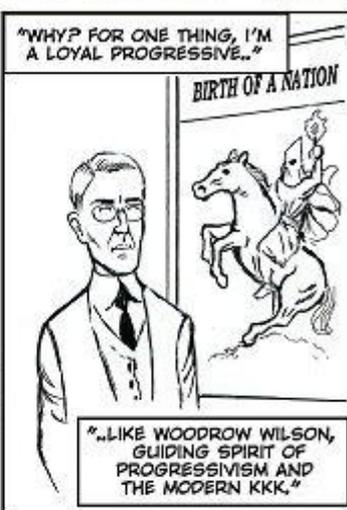
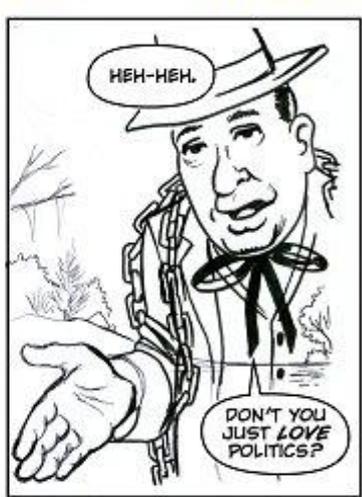
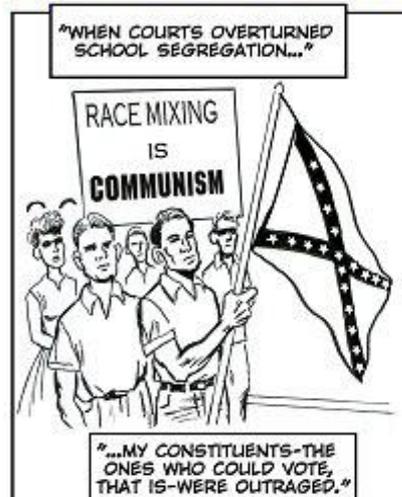
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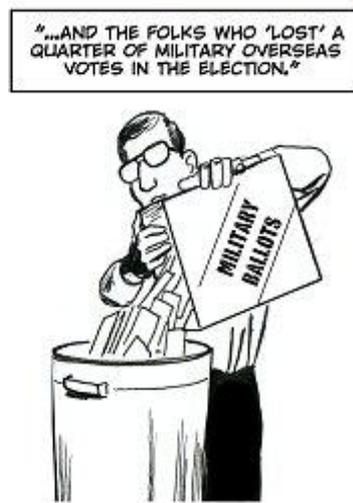
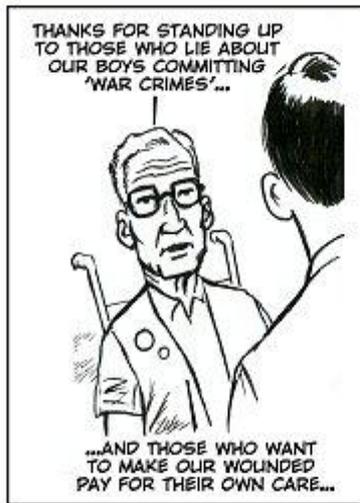


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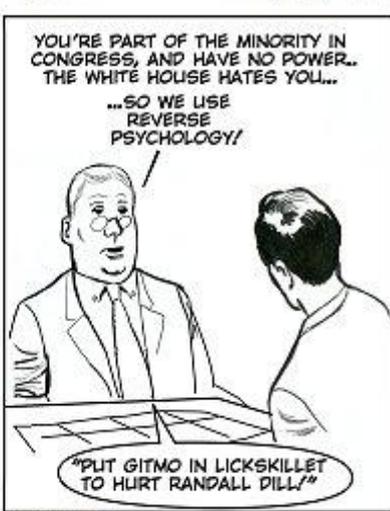




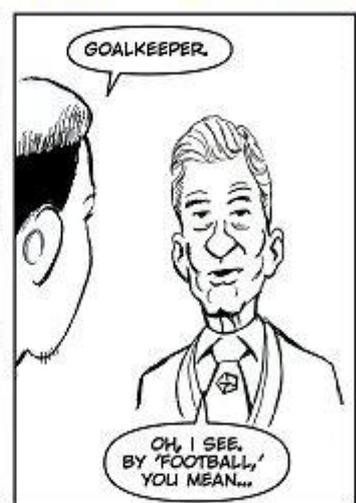
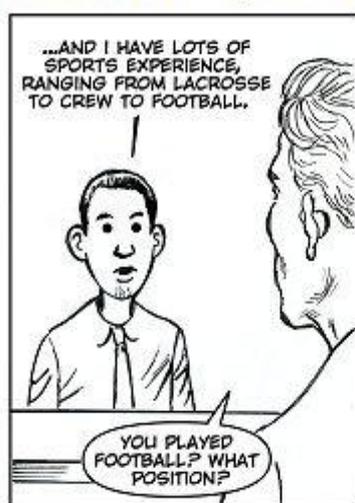
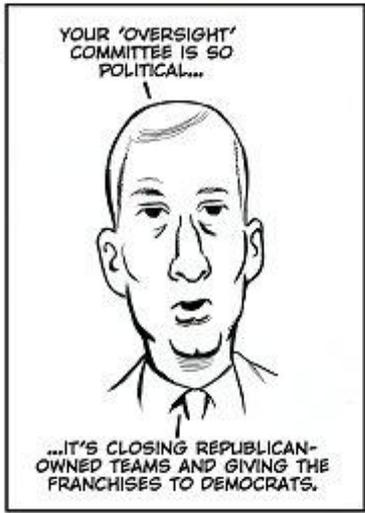
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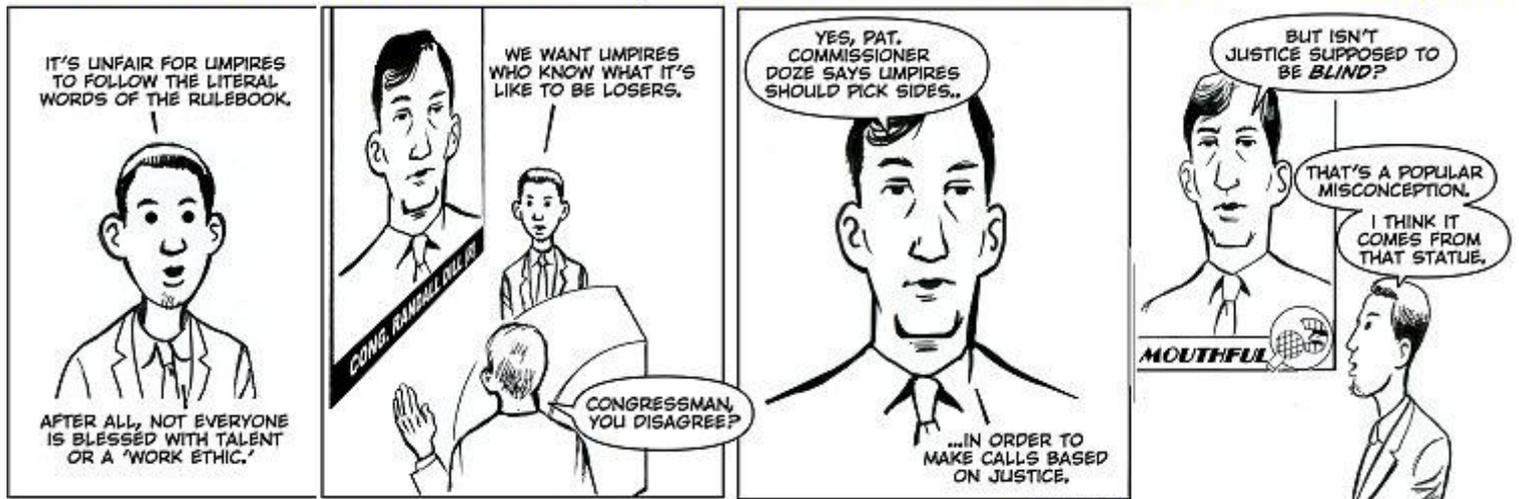




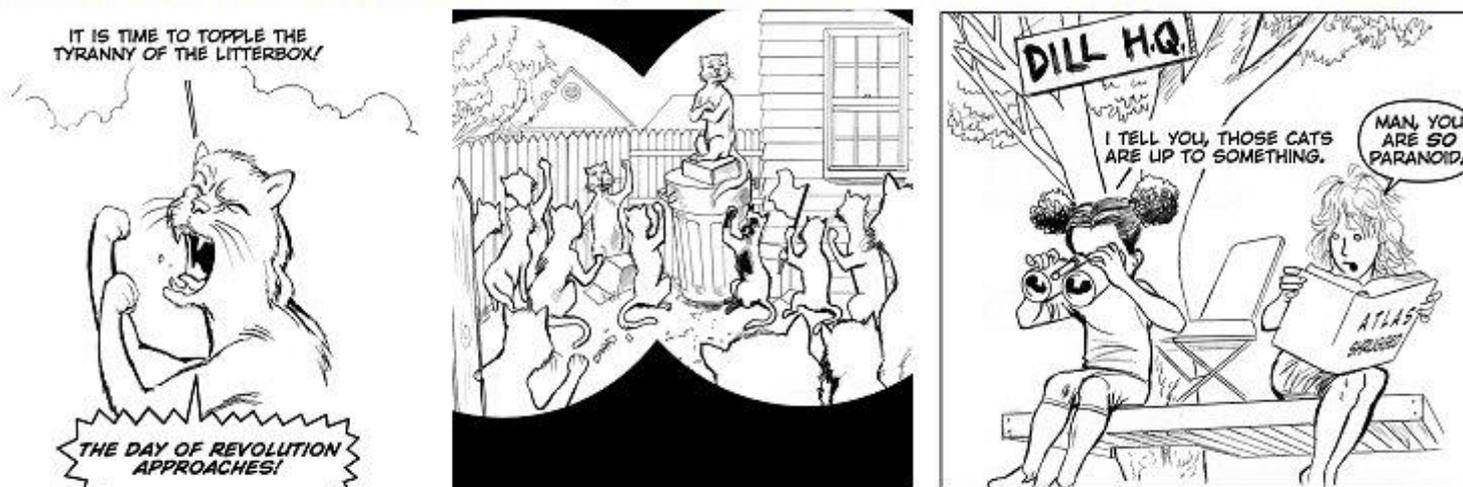
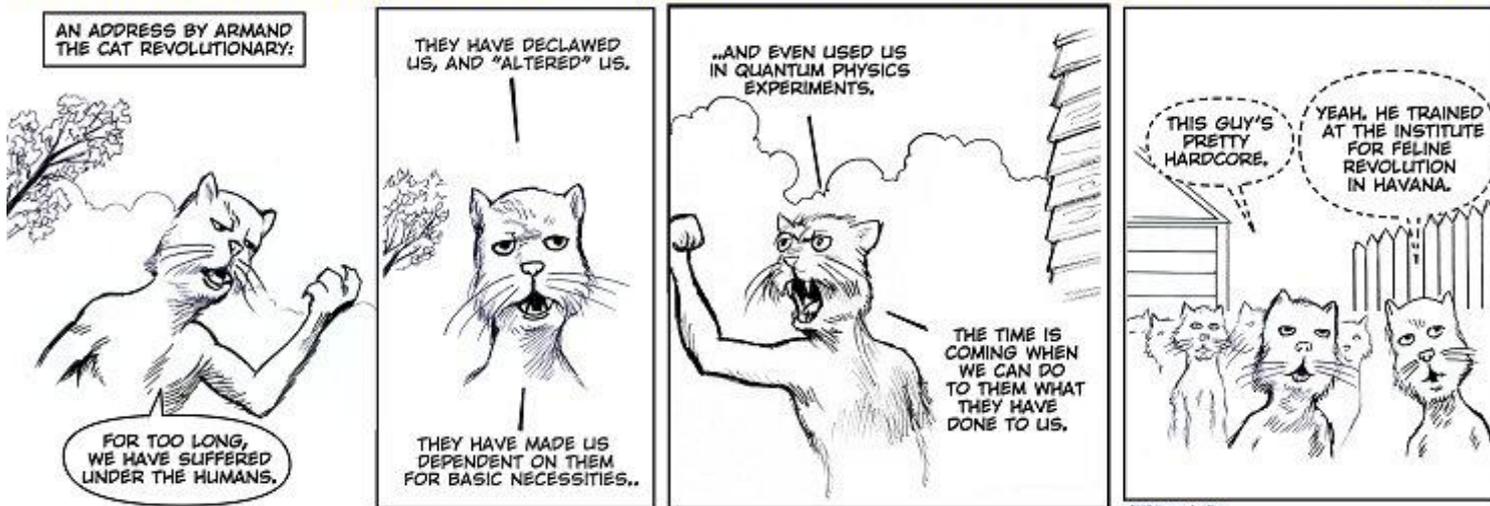
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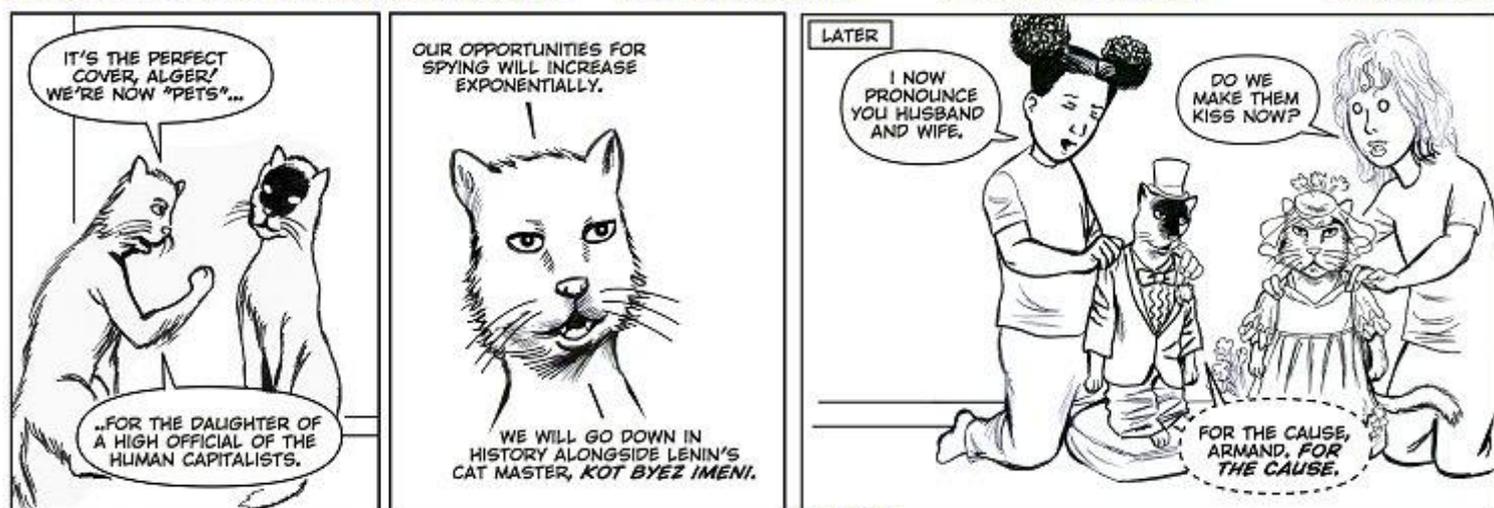
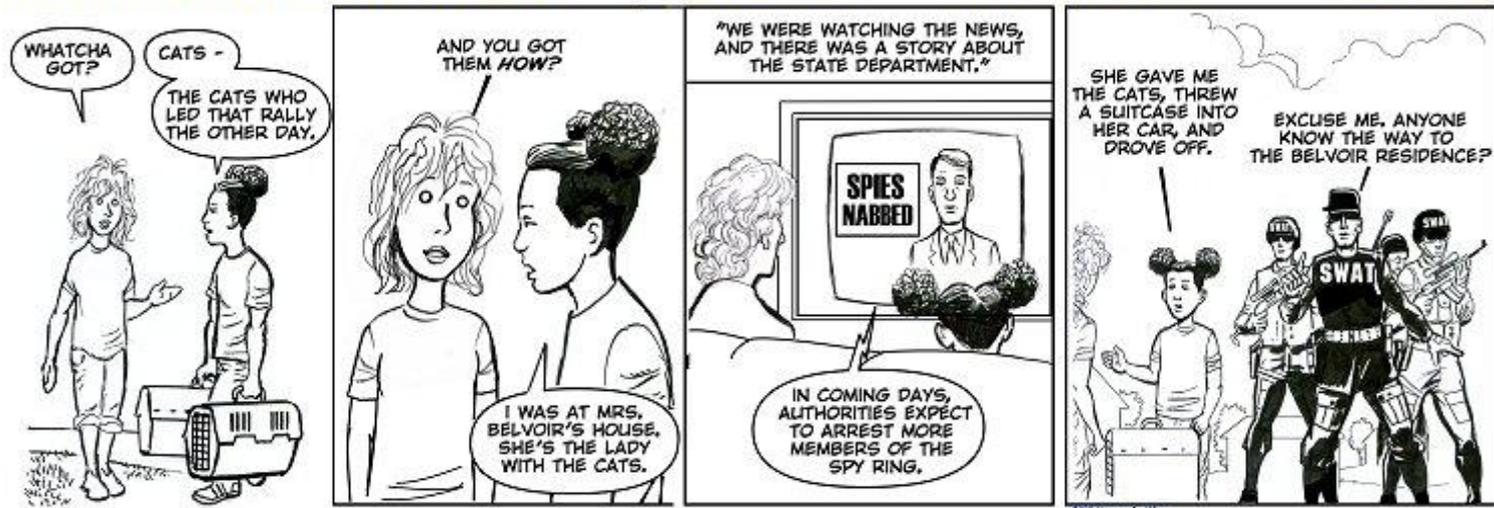


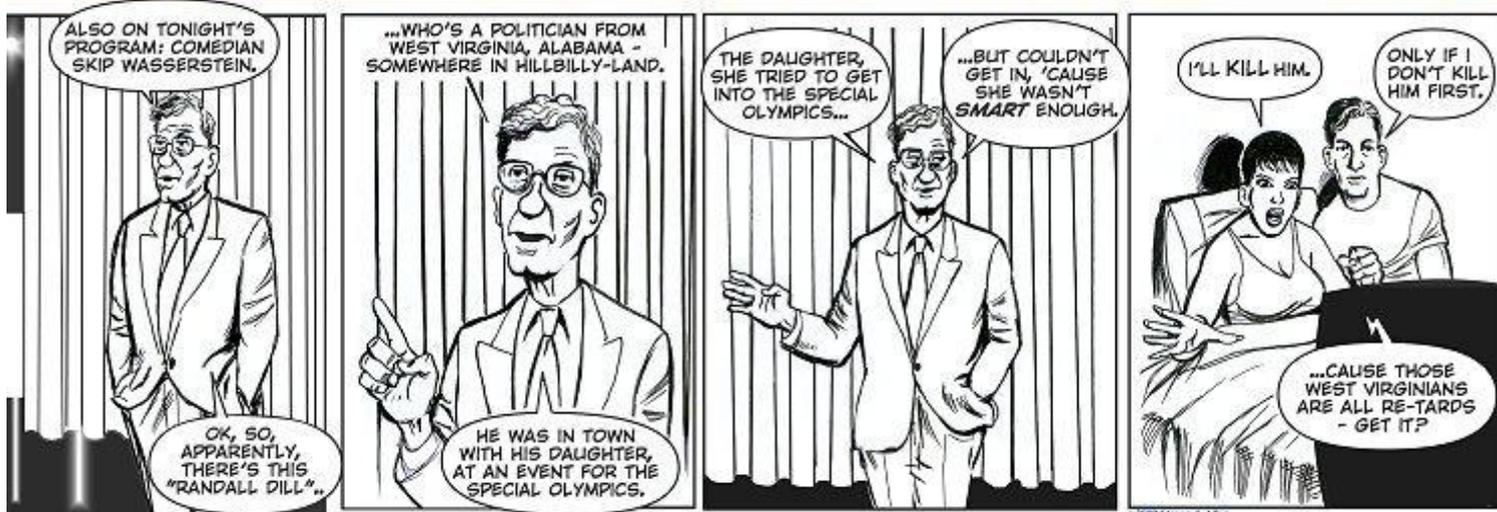
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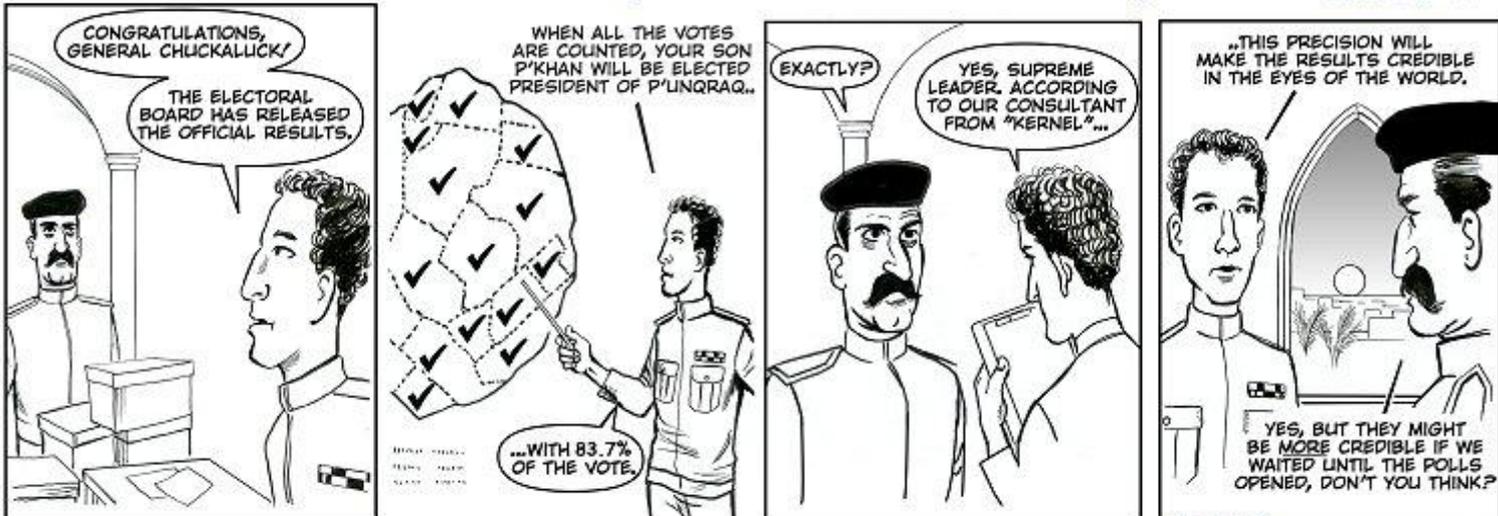
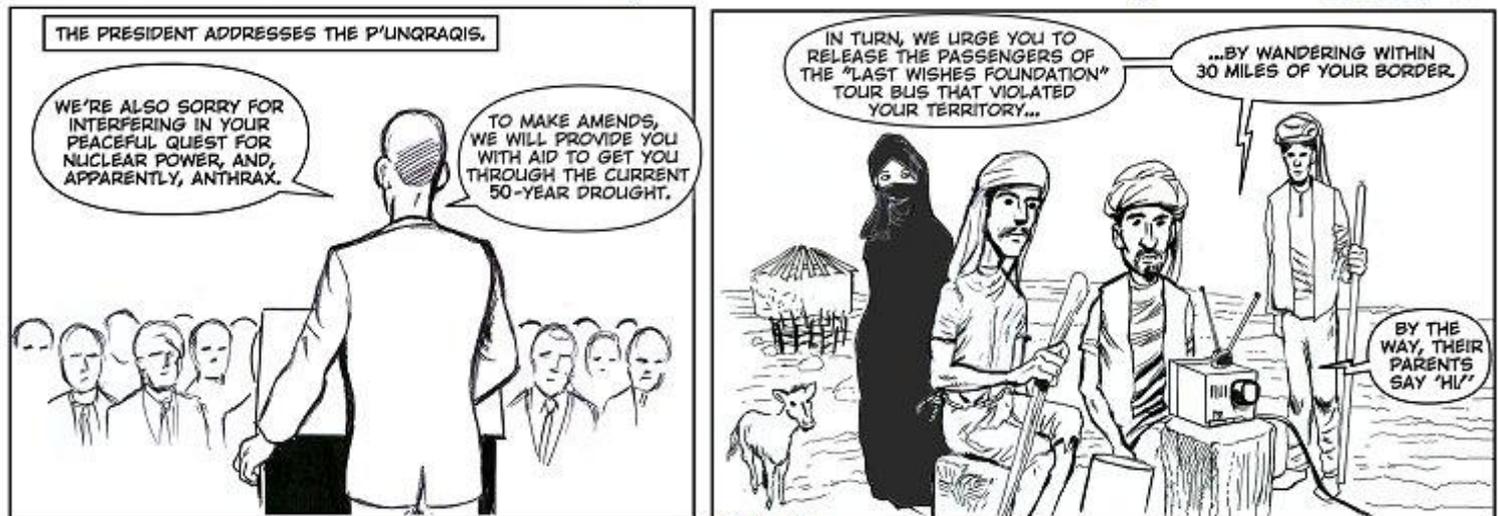
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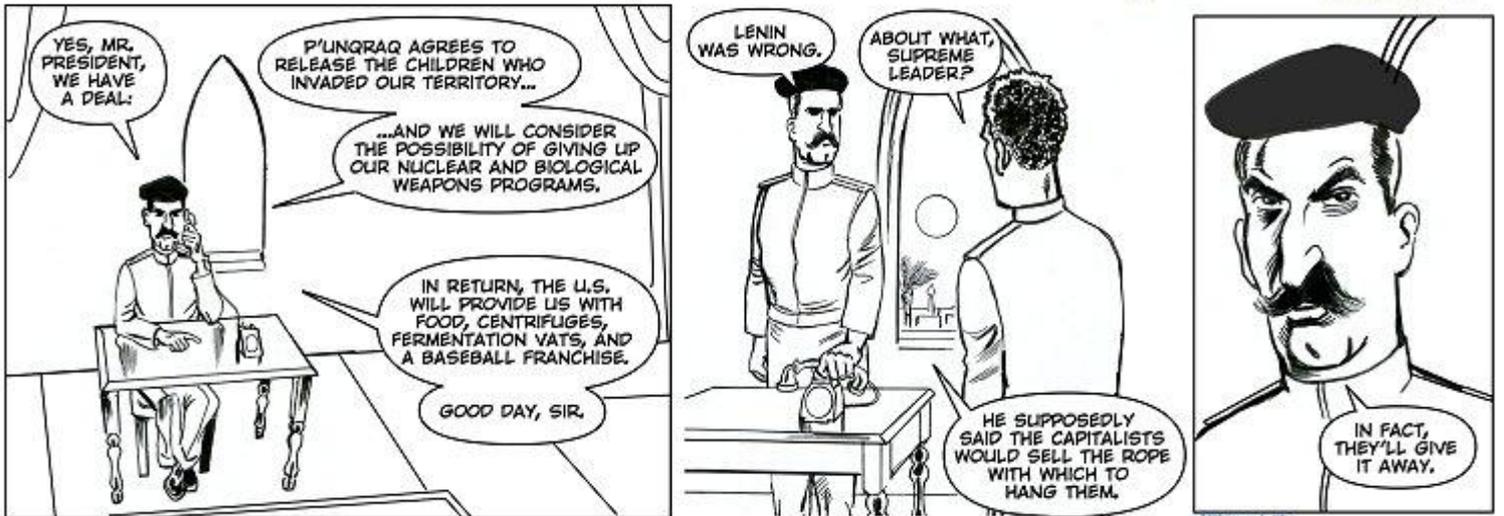


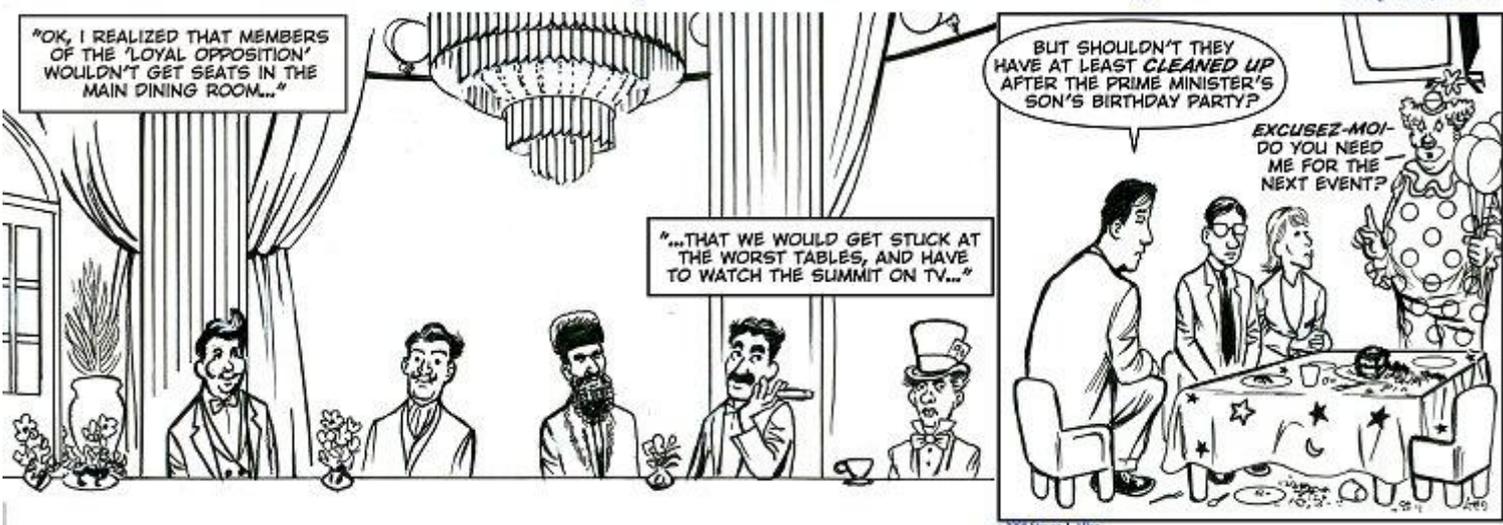


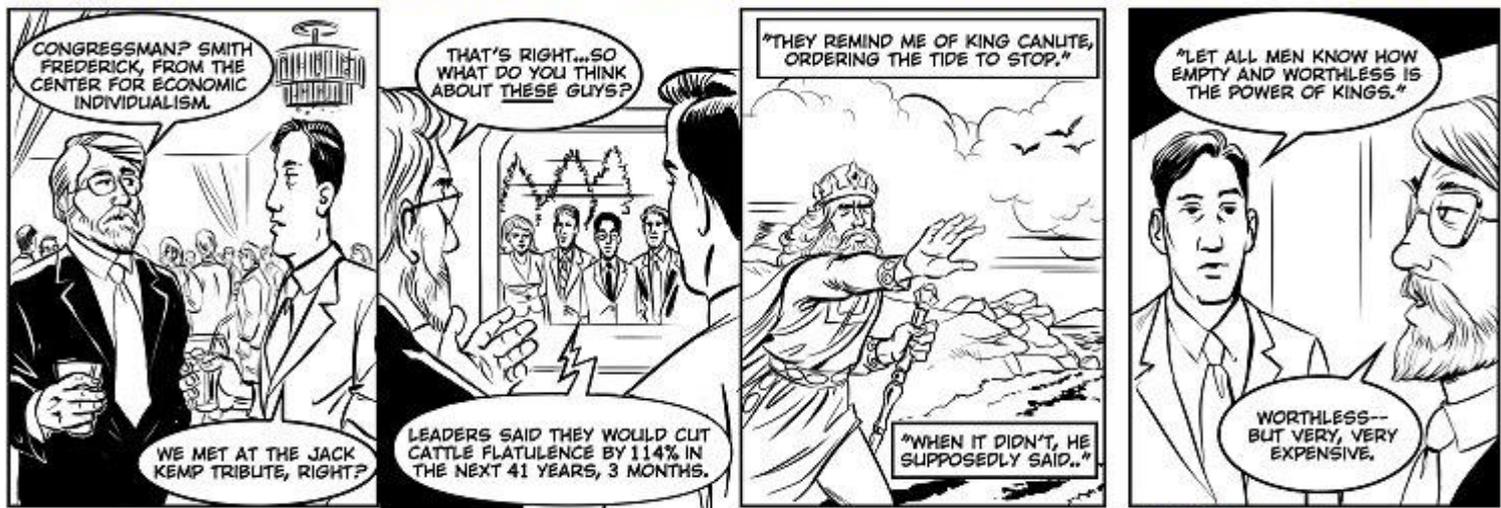
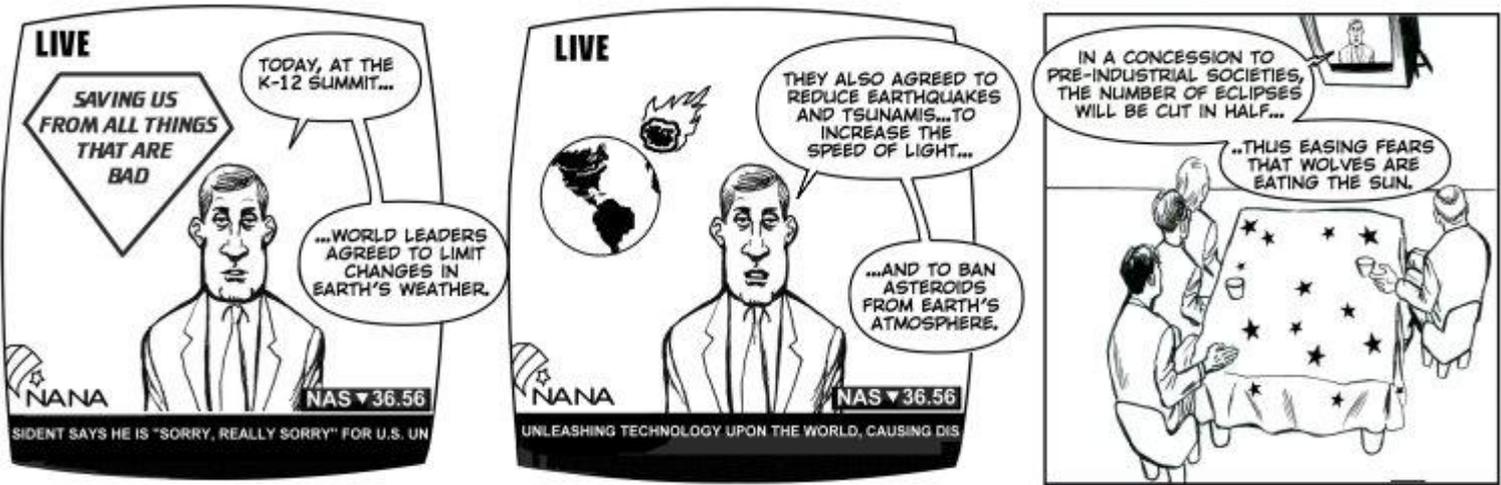














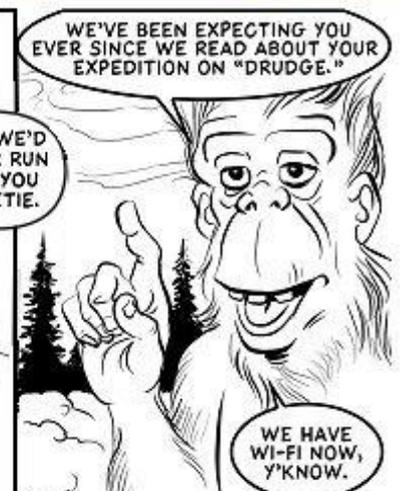
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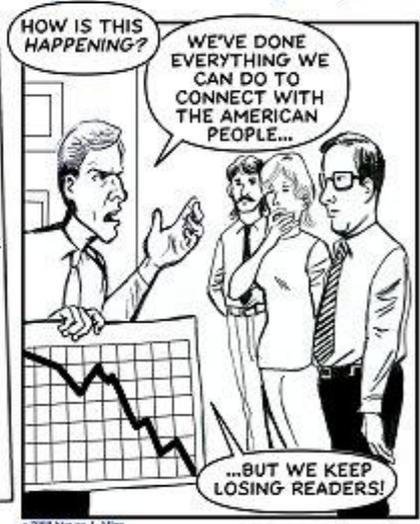
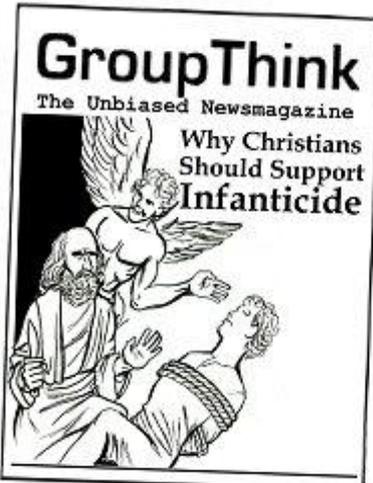


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A remade GroupThink for a remade America

By Matthew Holyermthow
GroupThink editor

There was a time when everyone read, listened to, watched, and believed the mainstream media. Back then, all it took was a pep talk from Walter Cronkite to breathe life into the effort to liberate South Vietnam from a U.S.-backed puppet dictatorship. Today, it's possible for a pantsless blogger to be taken seriously when he suggests, preposterously, that some of the mainstream media are "anti-American" or want to "take away our freedom." (Just wait 'til we get Universal Healthcare and some rightwing blogger needs a kidney. THEN he'll sing a different tune!)

Why is this happening? We believe it's because news-magazines are out of touch with the new America that leaders like our President are creating. Everywhere in this country,

from Ivy League classrooms in the Northeast to green communes on the West Coast, people are raising their consciousness. Newsmagazines must do likewise.

That's why we are refurbishing this publication. We are taking our insightful reporting and our well-thought-out nonpartisan commentary and redoing it in such a way as to make it easier for you to discern and emulate our thinking. In some cases, we will make things clearer by using bright colors, or muted colors against sharply contrasting backgrounds. Often, we will use bigger typefaces, or fonts that embody our emotional reaction to the ideas we are putting forth. As a newsmagazine, we will distinguish ourselves from opinion magazines by the copious use of photographs.

When we spoke to him over breakfast yesterday, the President described the readers we serve: "Most Americans are like me: smart, tolerant, fair, able to see both sides of every dispute, intellectual, bright, thoughtful, well-educated, extremely intelligent, kind to animals, 'cool,' slow to anger, very smart, well-read, handsome (especially when shirtless), and great in

Continued on page 18



Matthew Holyermthow
...notes: "Objectivity is relative"

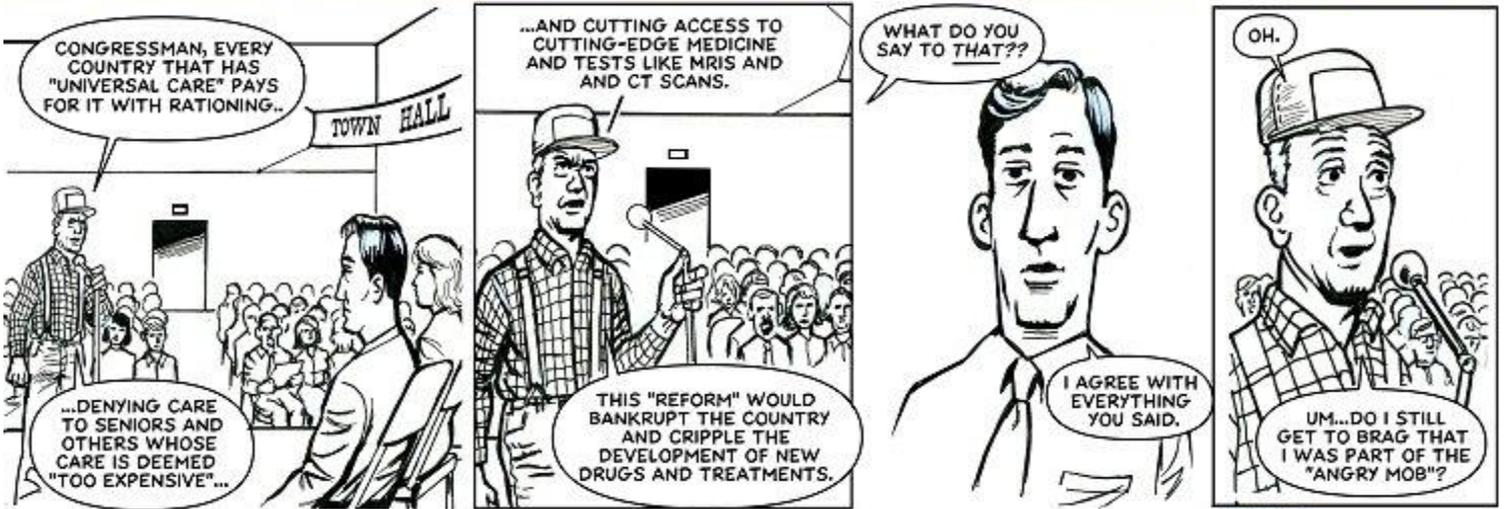
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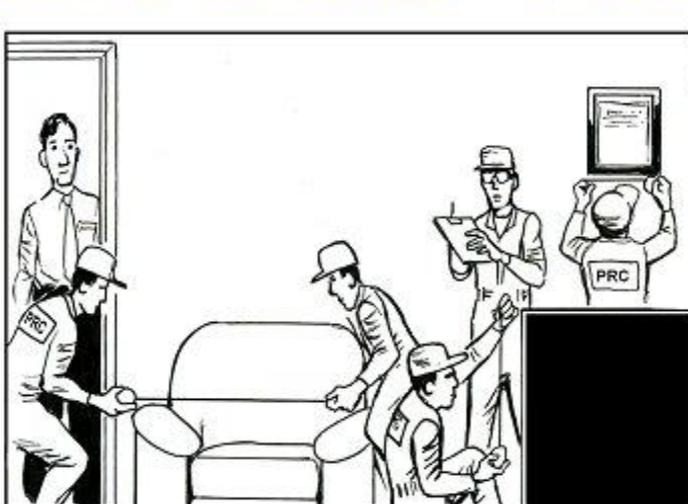
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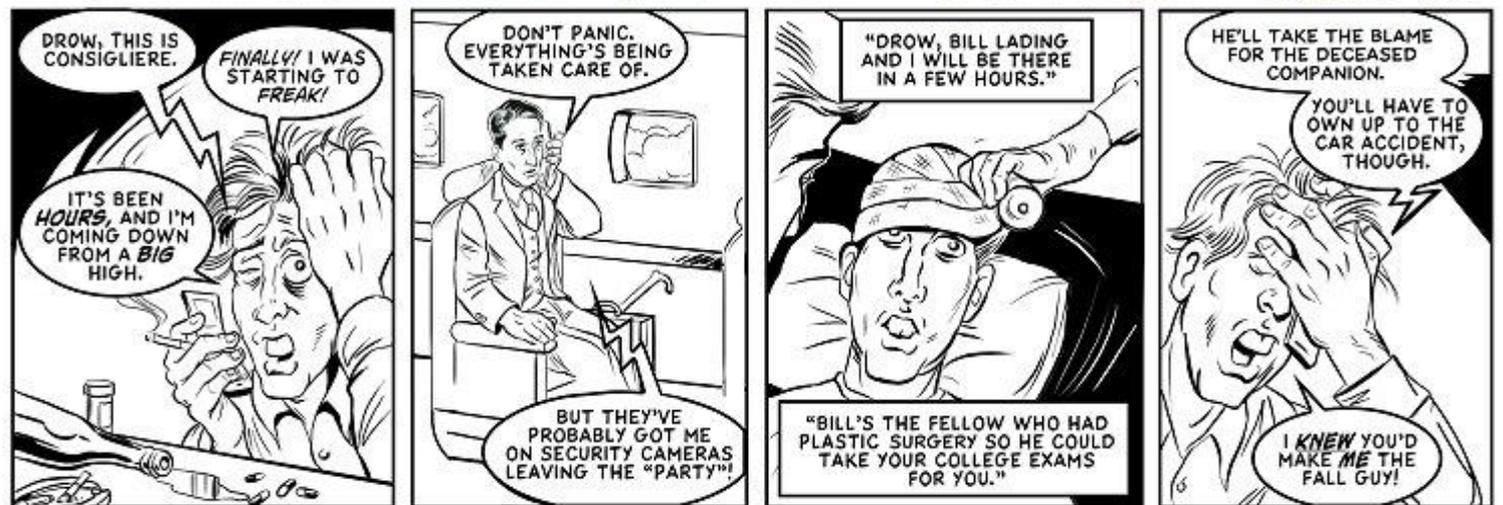
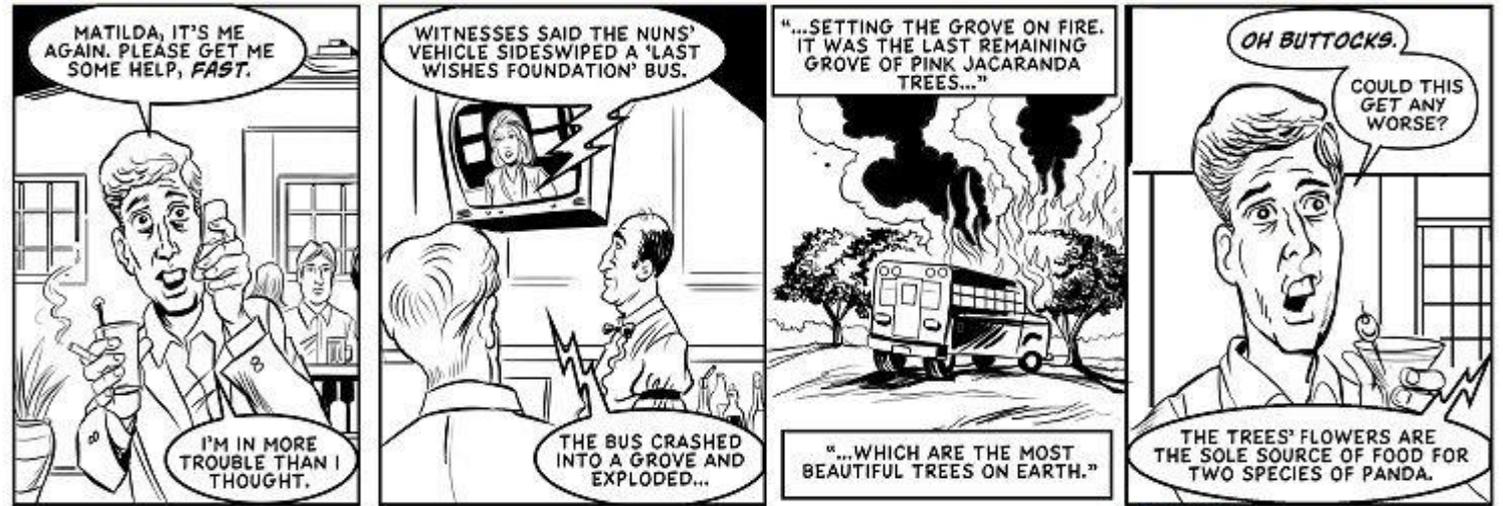
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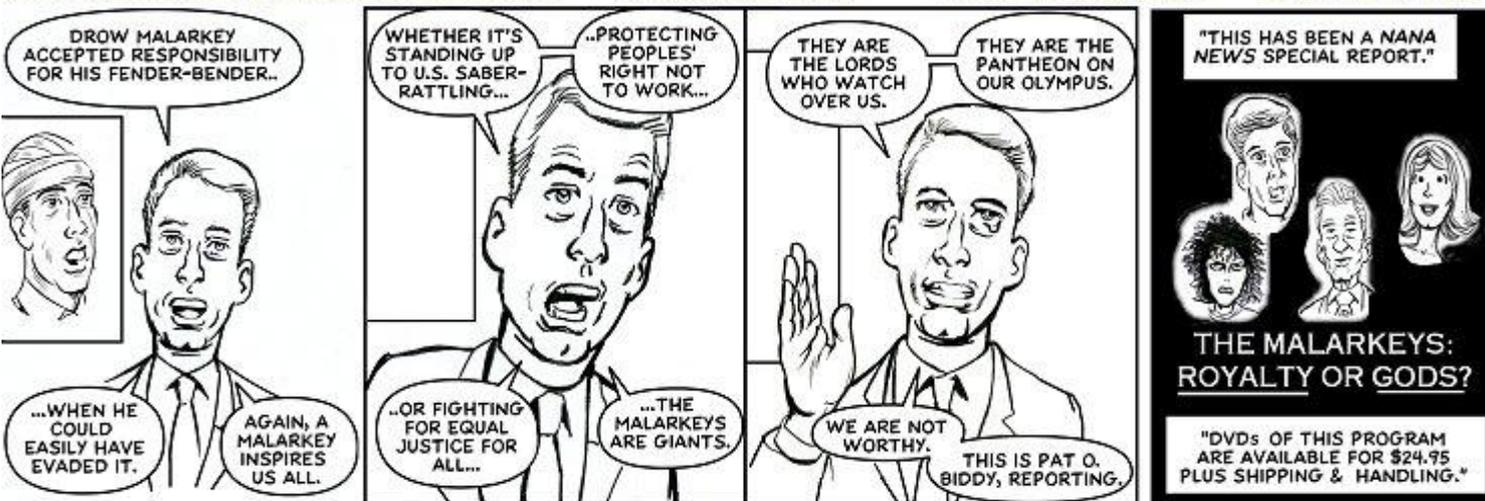




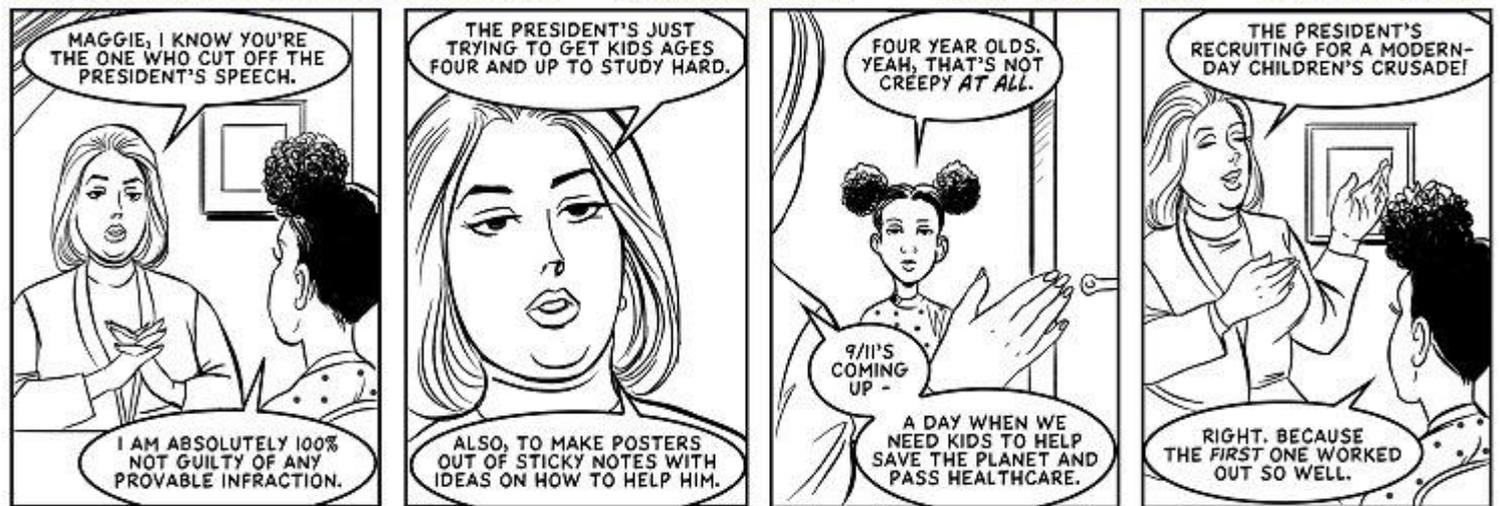
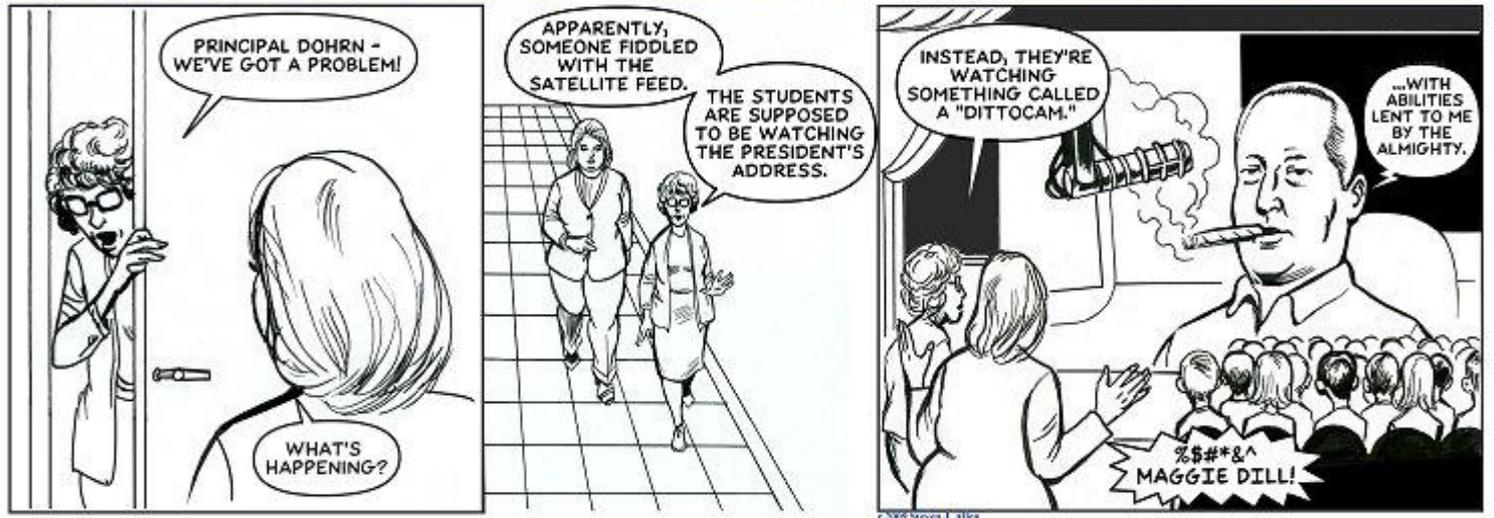
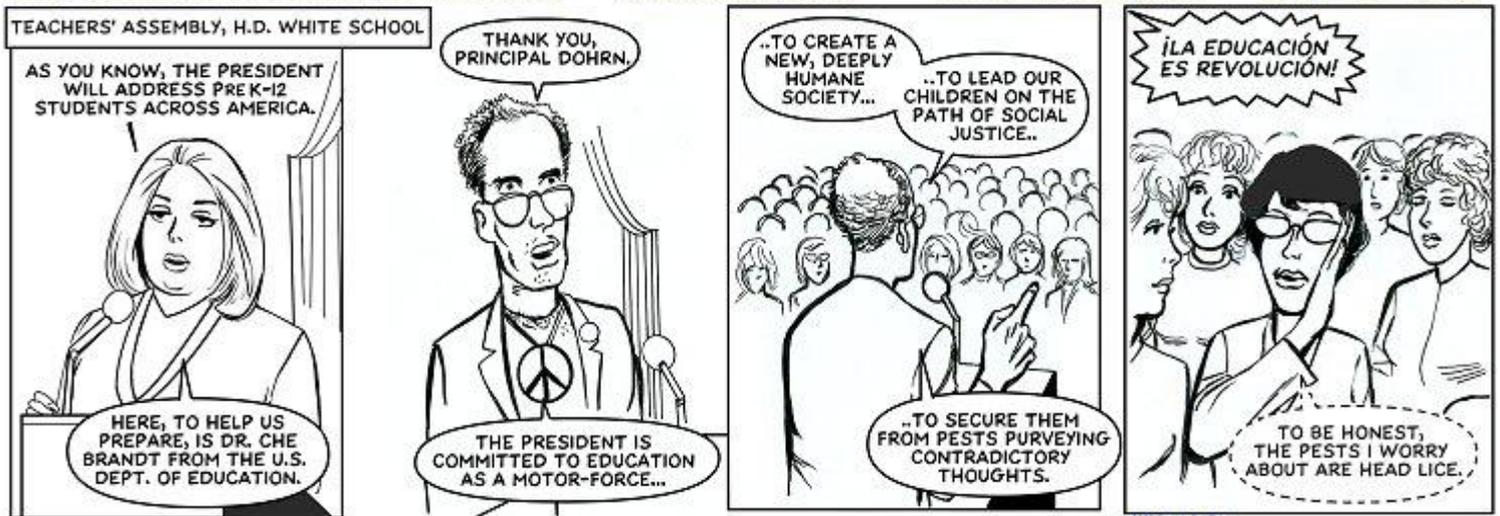
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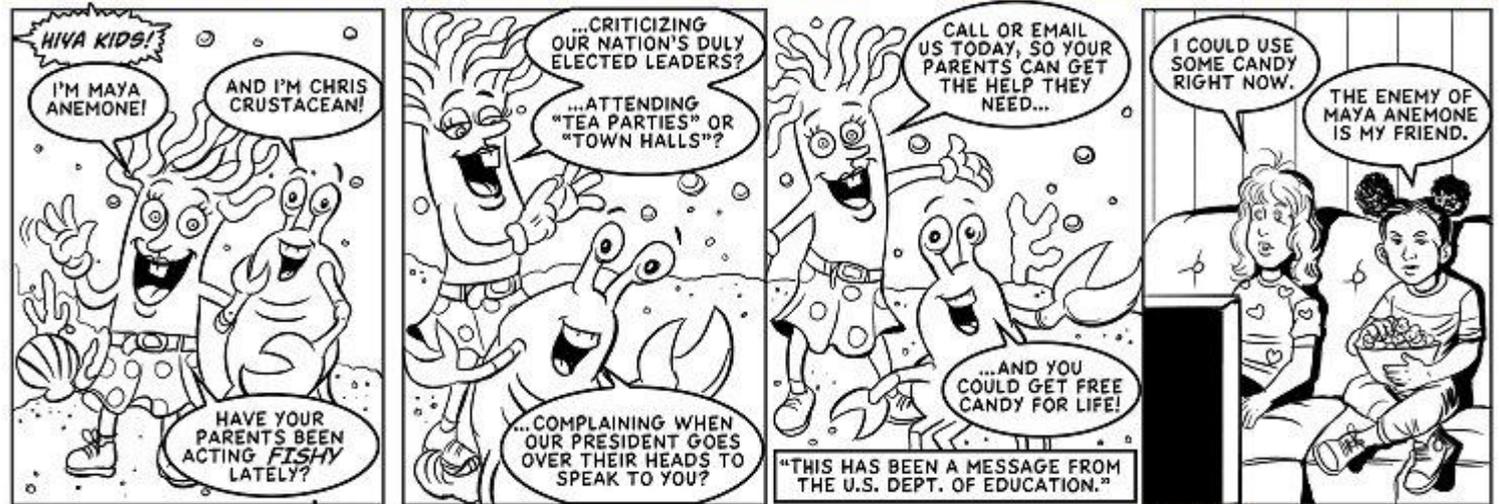


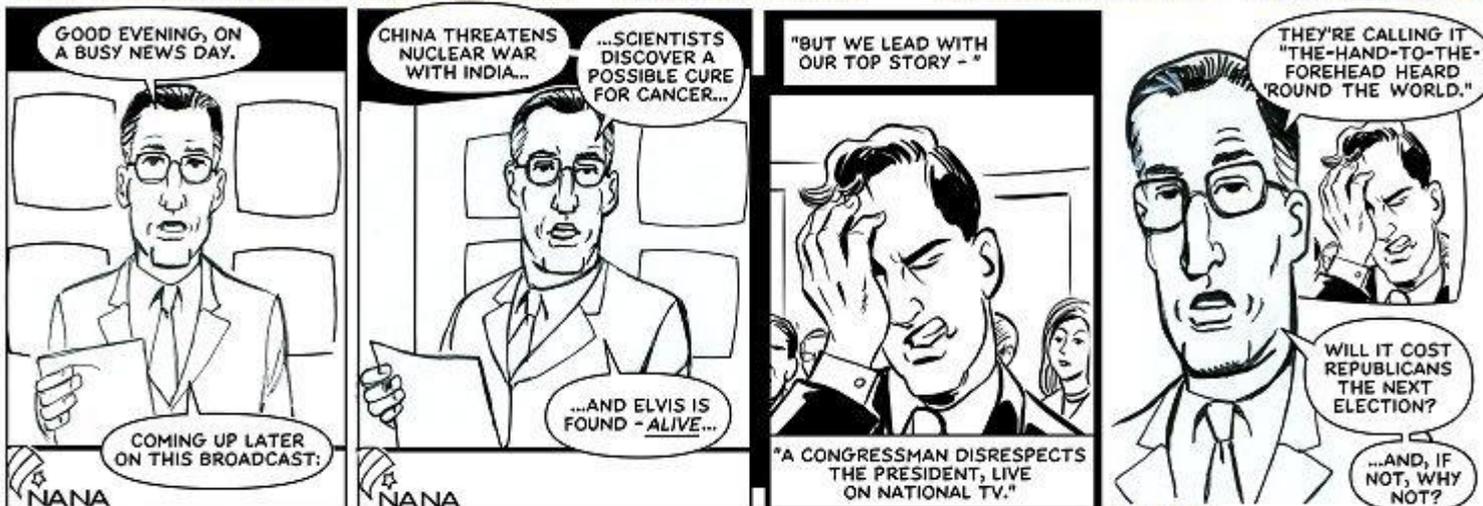
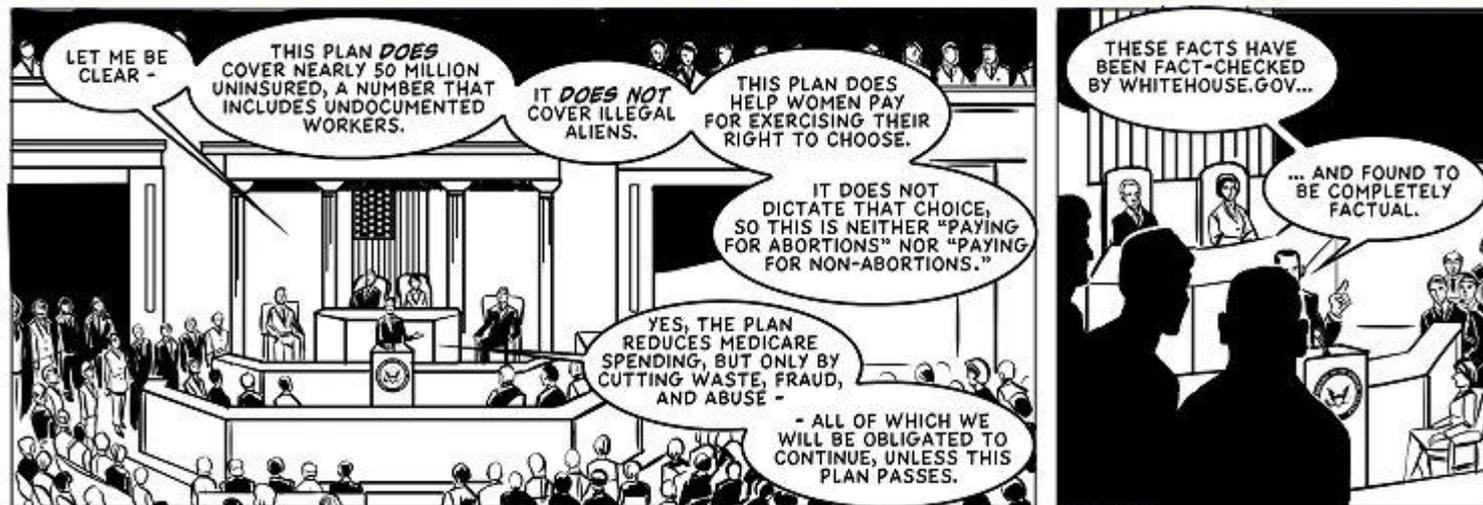
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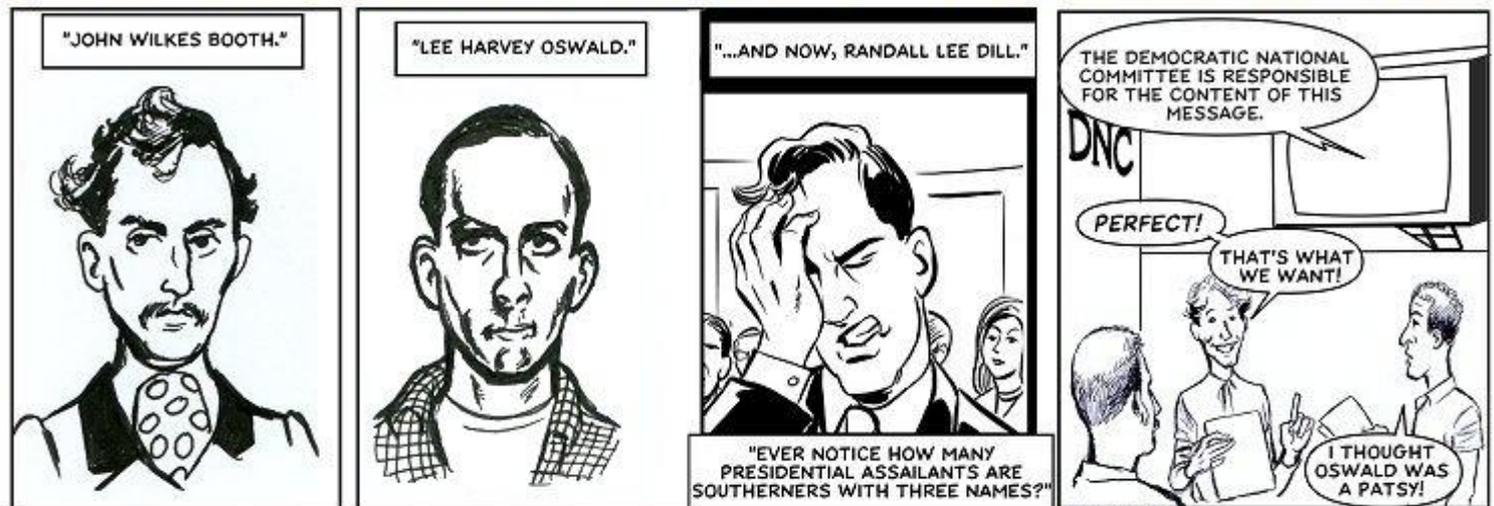
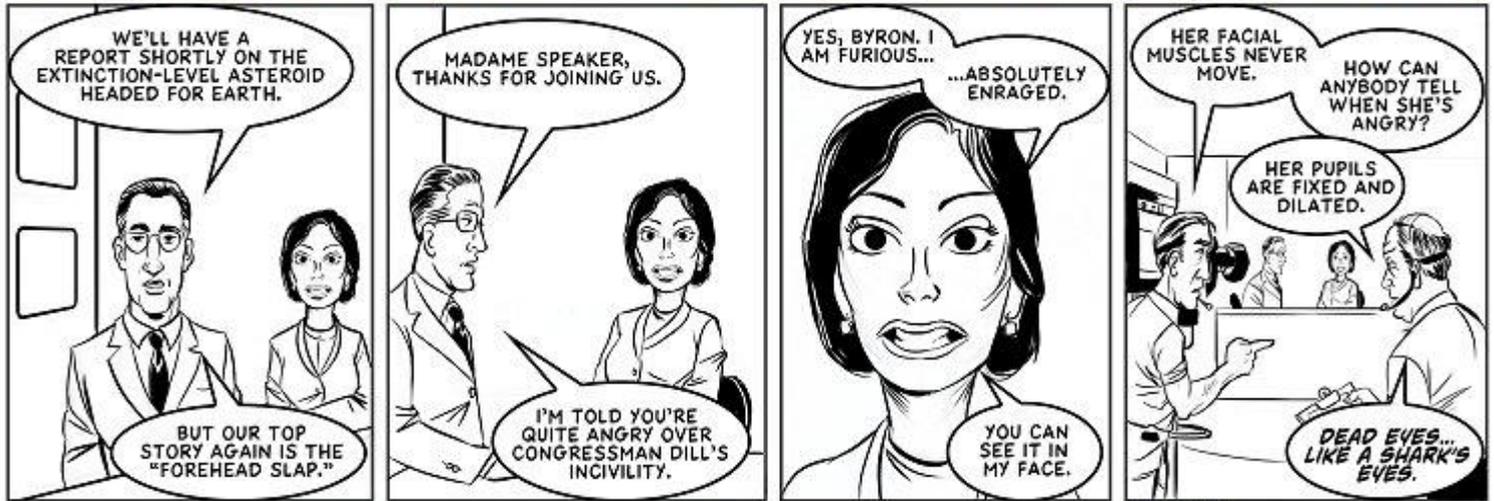


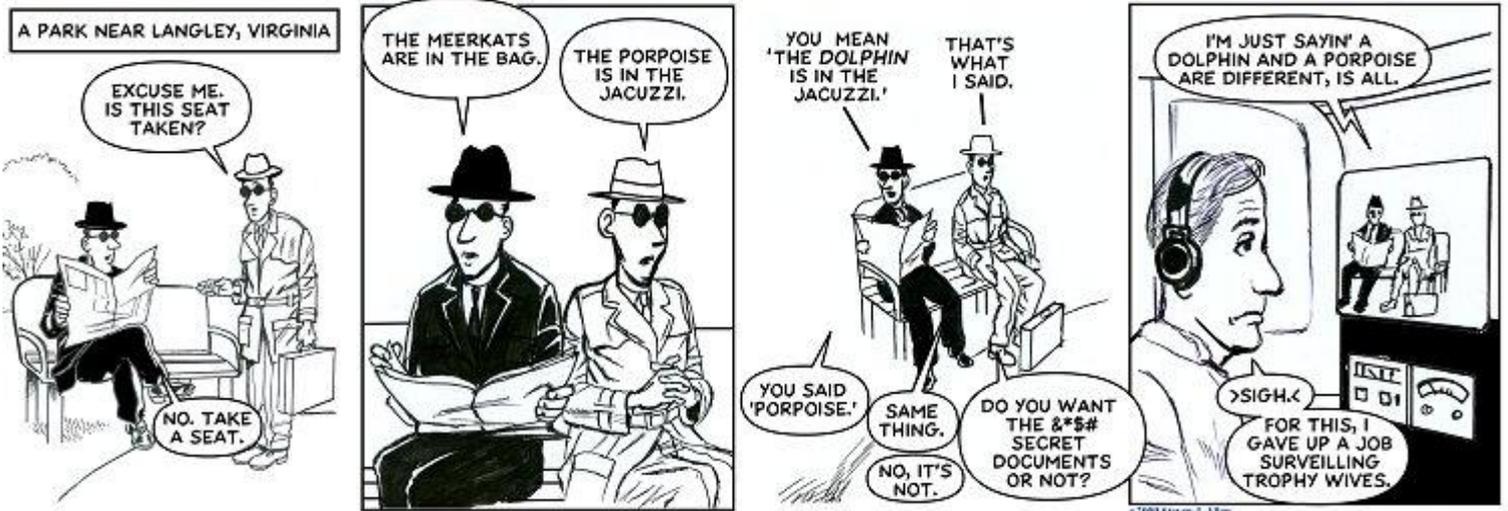
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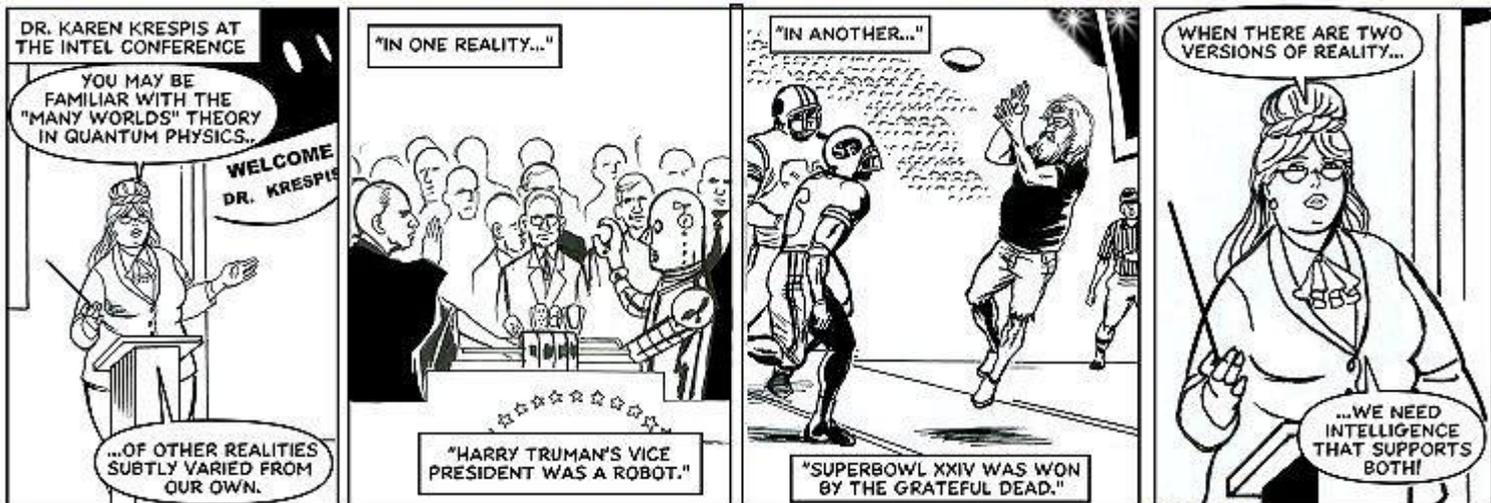


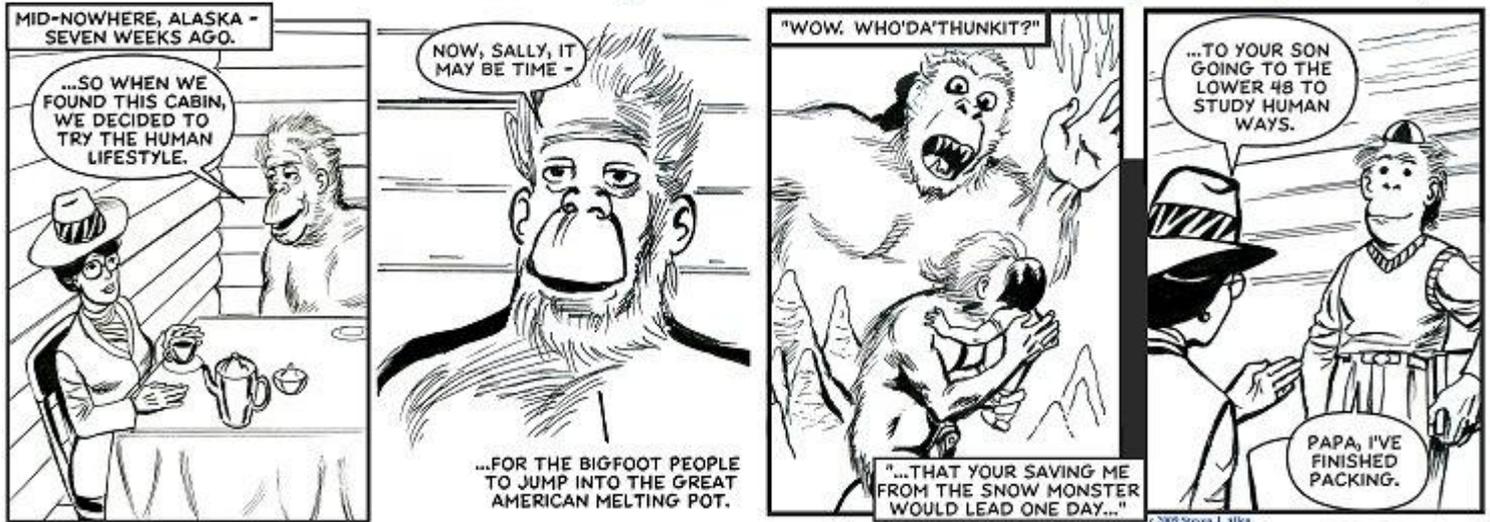






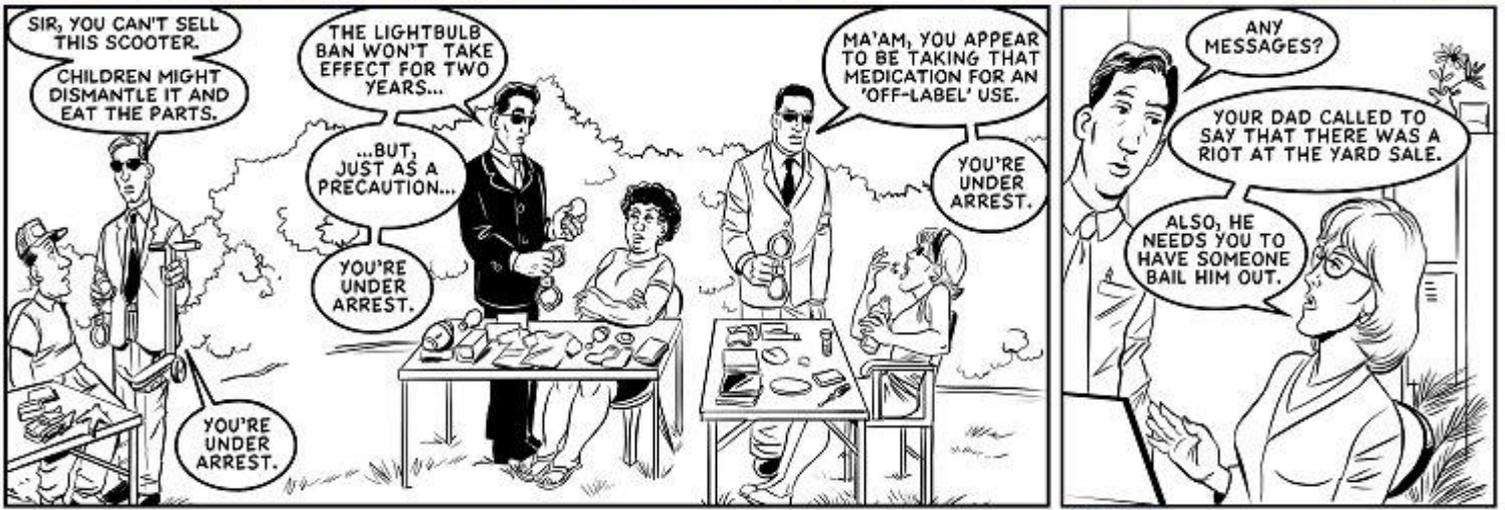
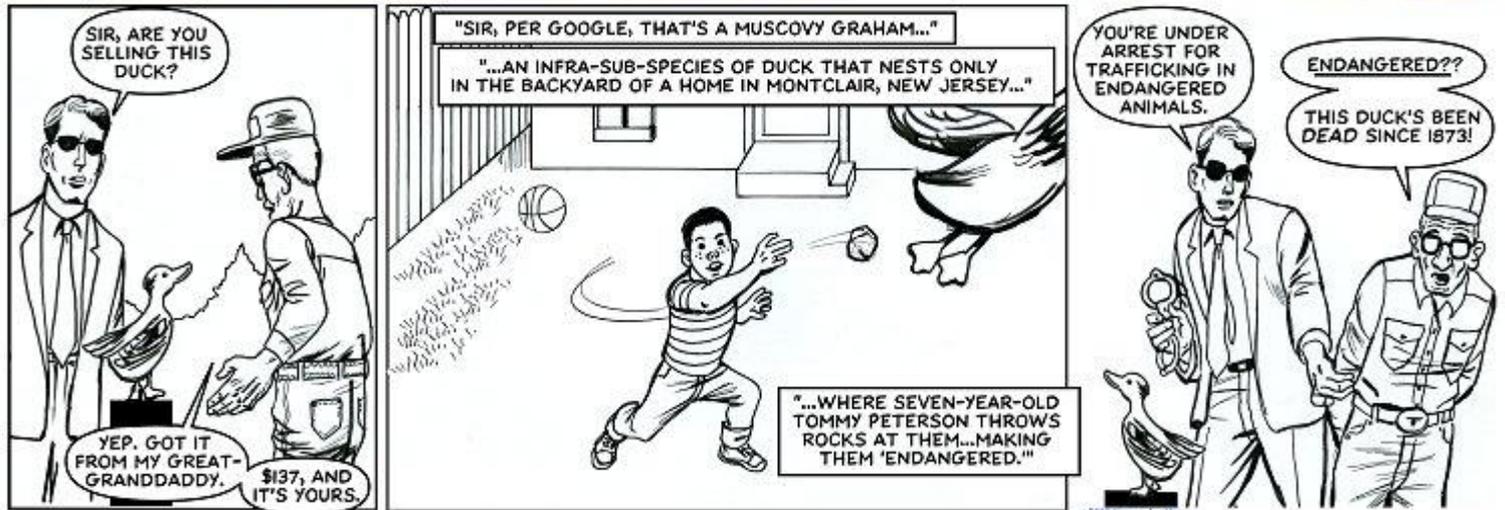


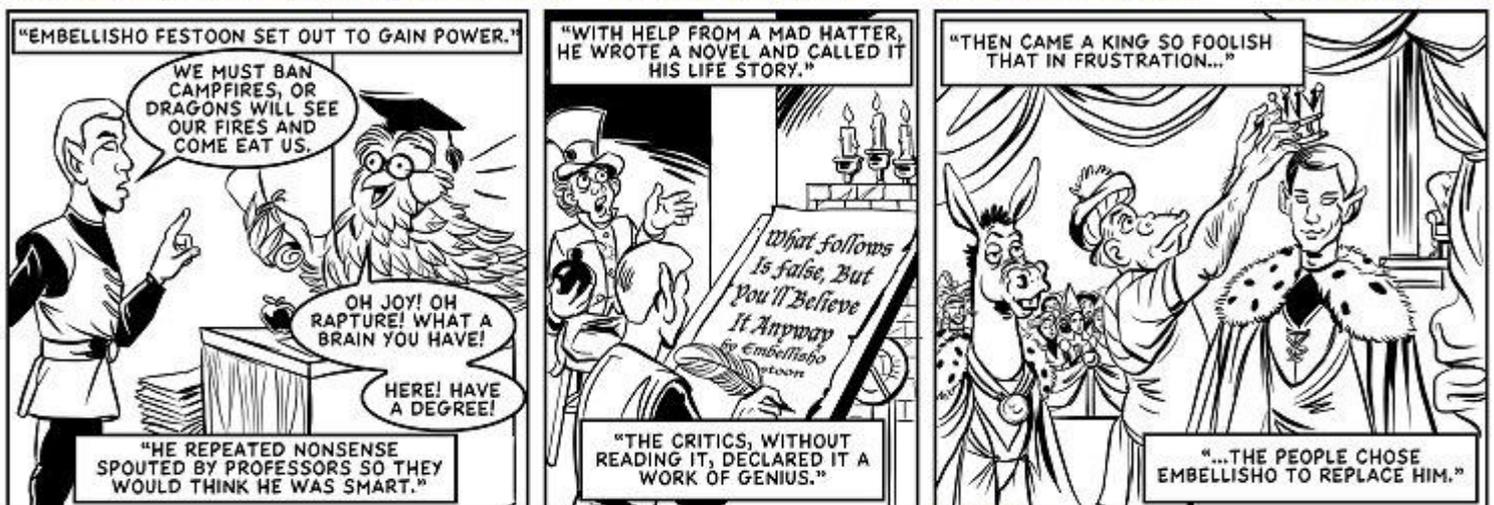
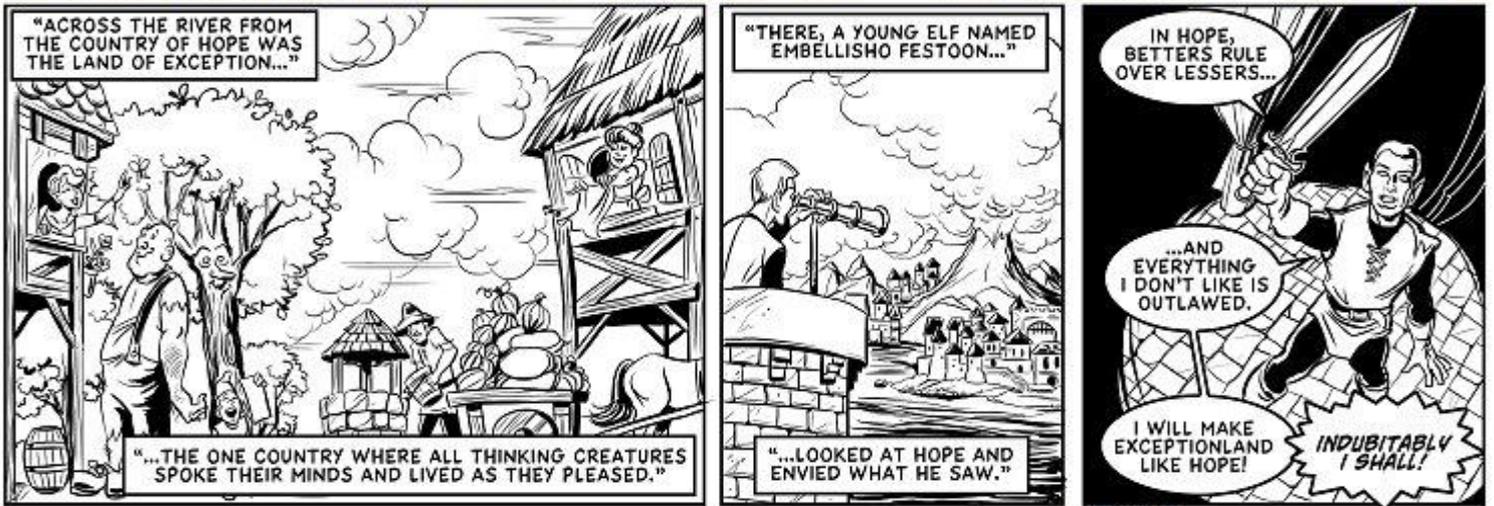
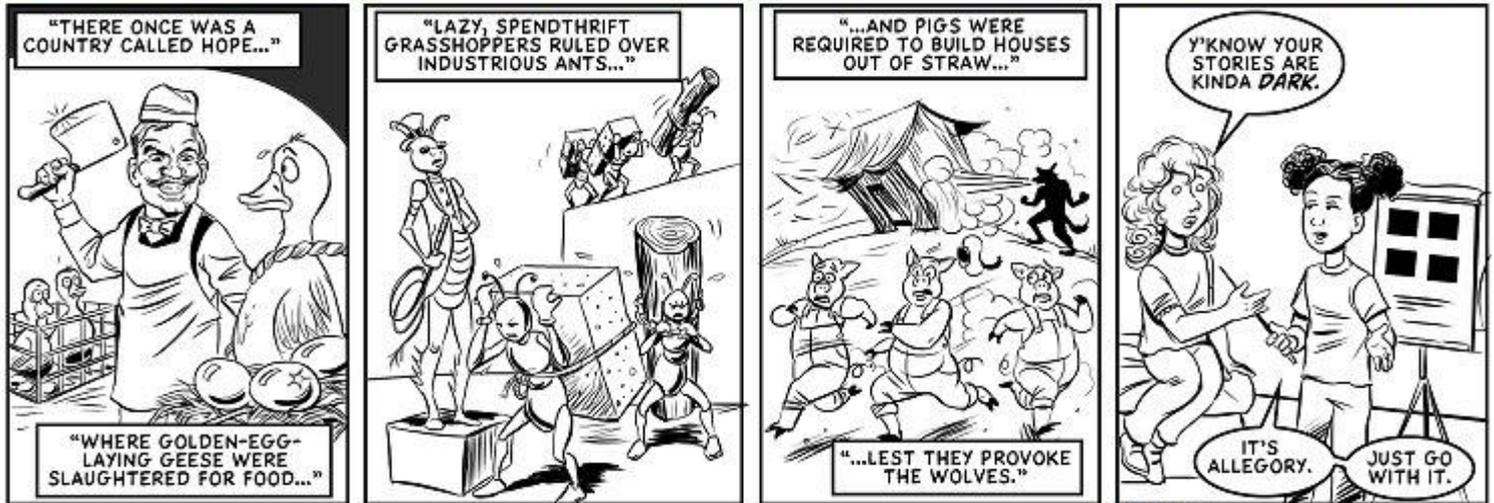


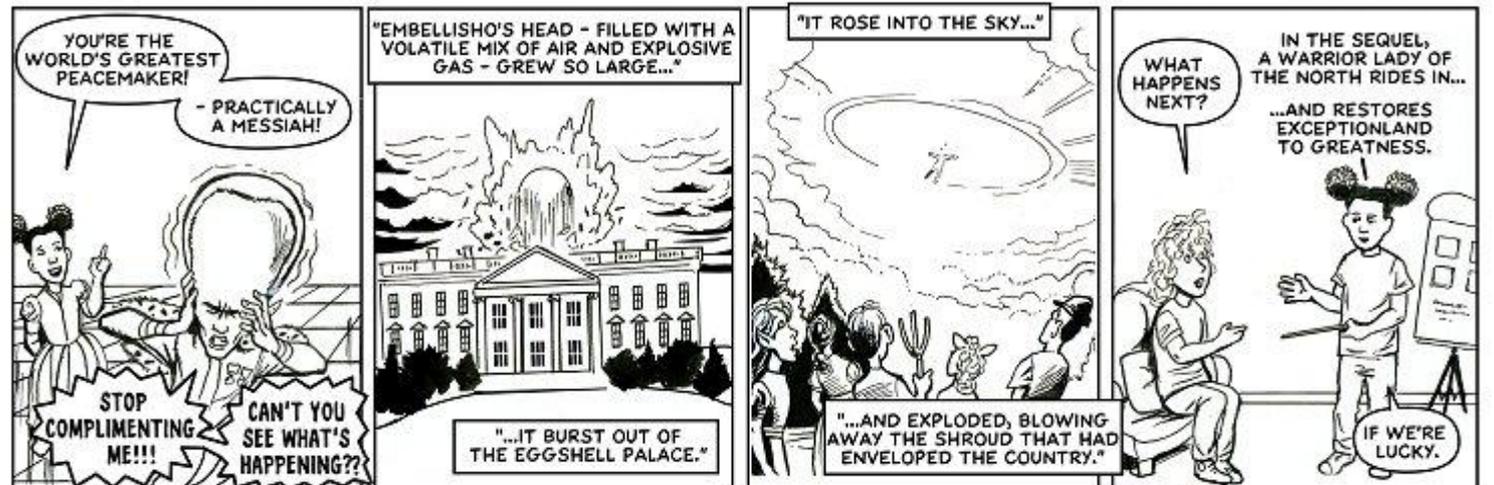
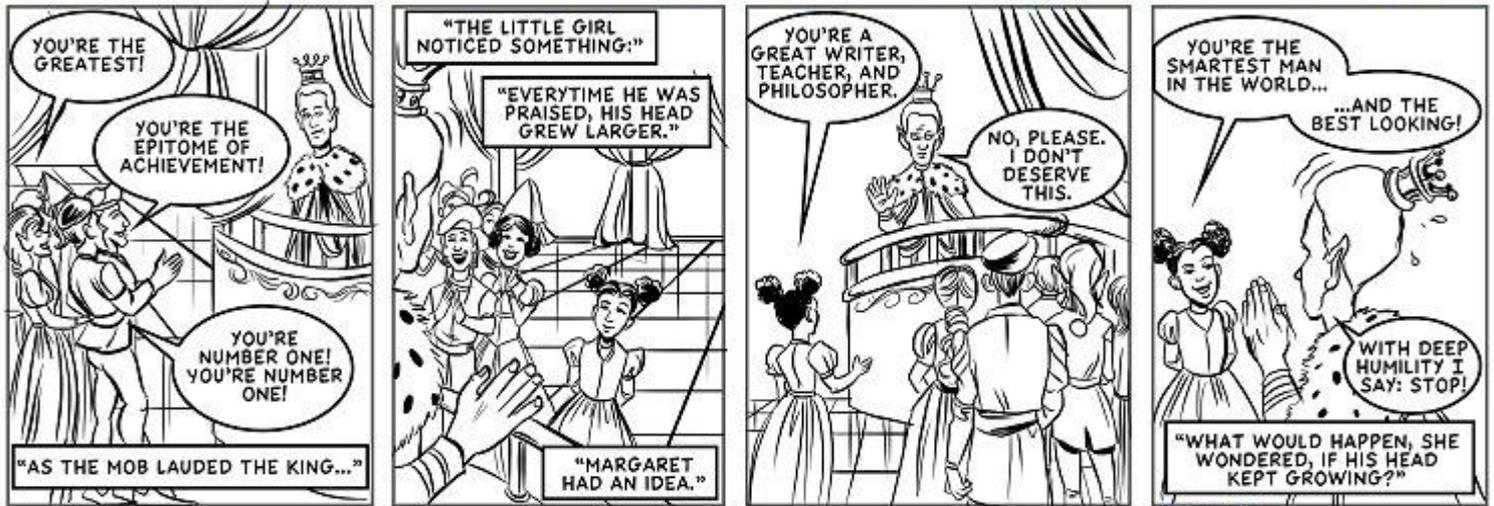


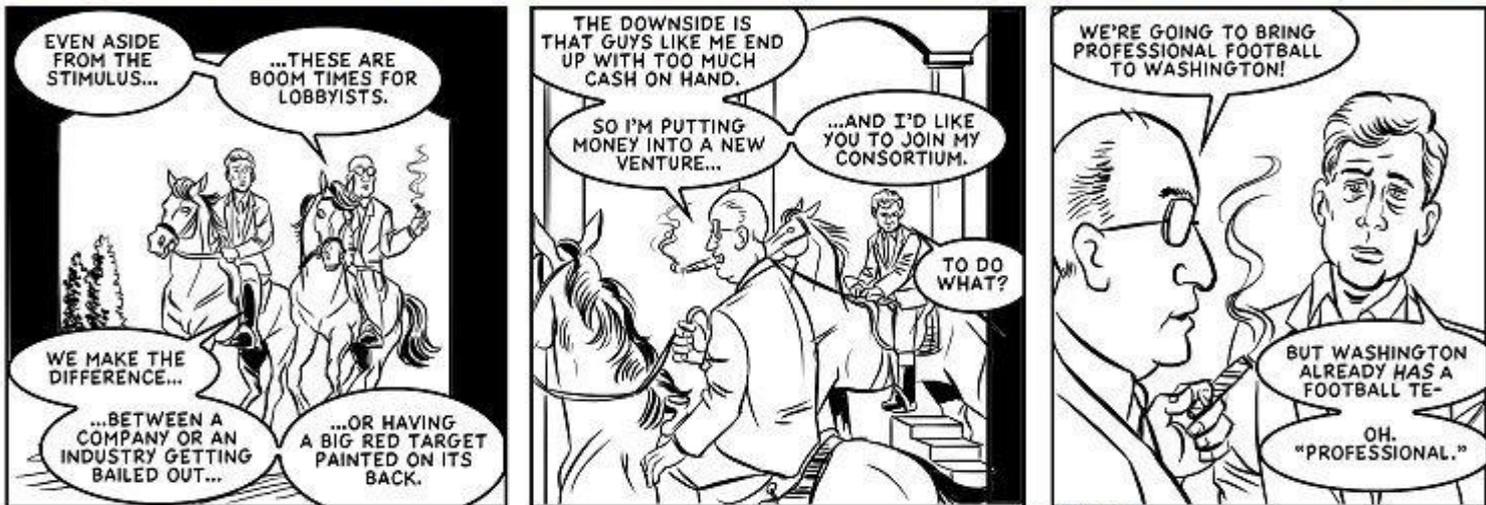




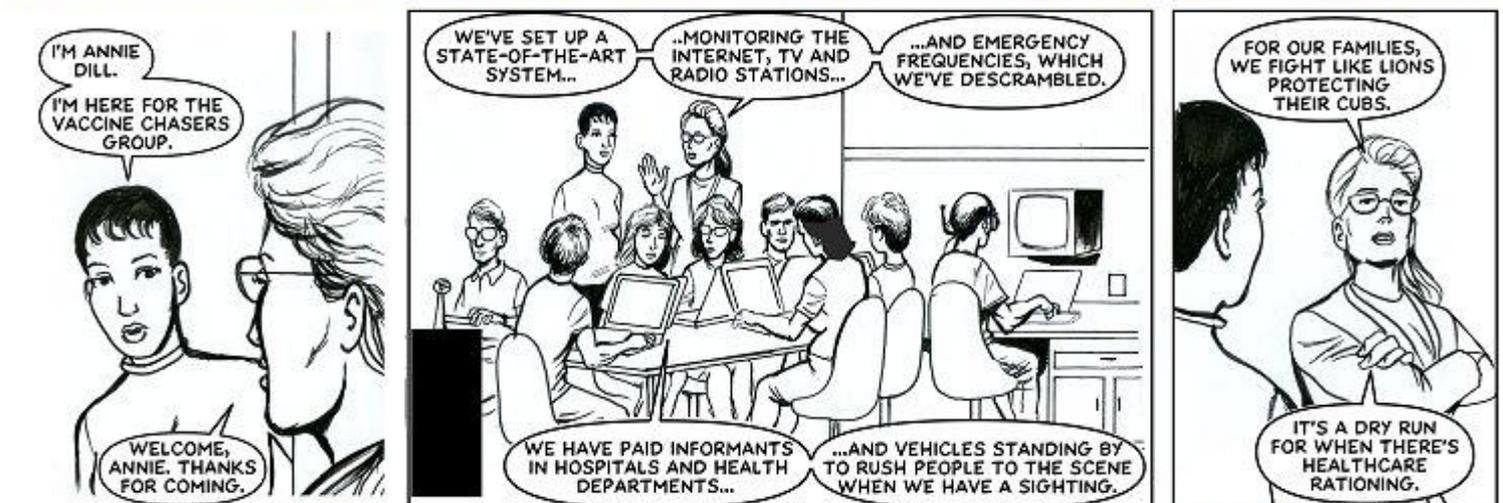


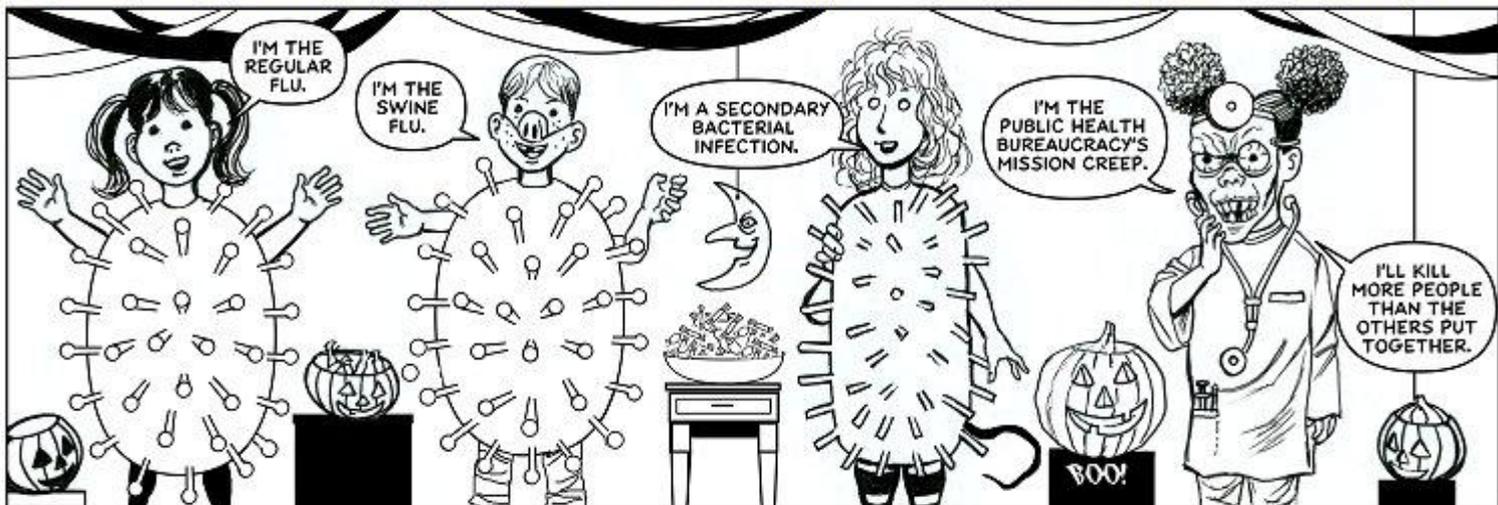


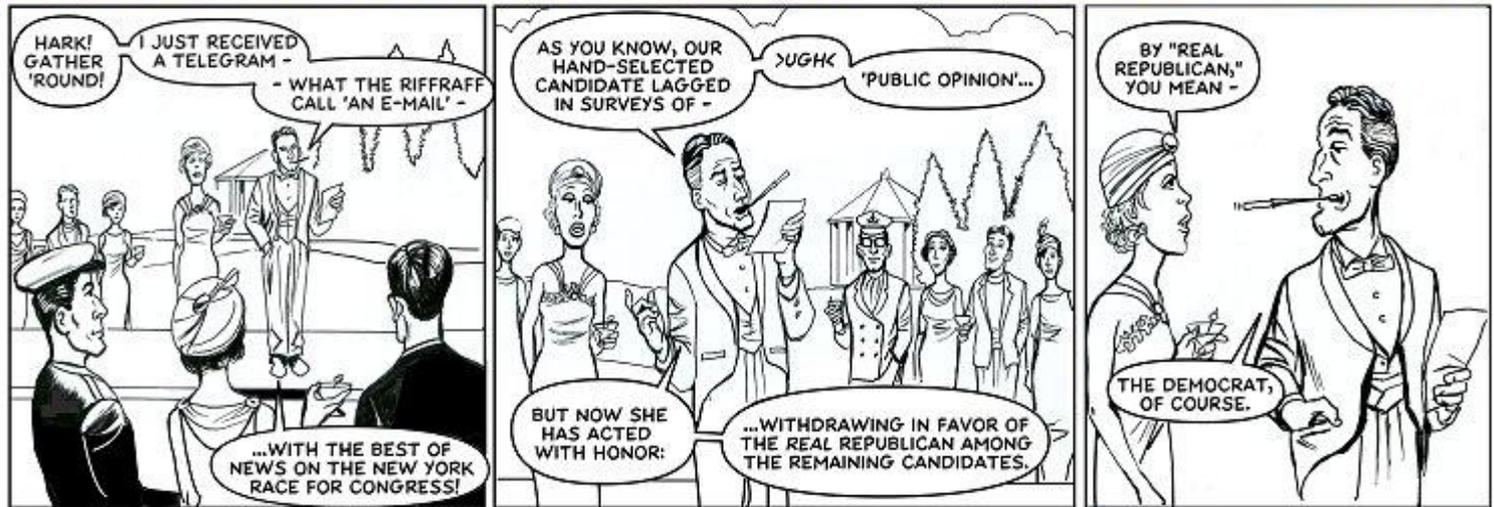












A victory for the President and a defeat for Republicans, whatever the results

By Howland Fonebone
GroupThink correspondent

Matt: Had to file the first draft of this story before the polls closed. Make sure you have somebody update this with the actual election results. DON'T print this "as is." -- Howie

Yesterday's elections show that the President and his policies continue to be popular with the American people, and that the Republican Party continues its headlong rush to the Far Right at great peril.

"Given the usual swing in off-year elections away from the party in the White House, the GOP has no excuses for not winning every contest yesterday," said Louis Woodshoe, professor of Objective Political Analysis at Paul Robeson

University. "Or, if they did win all of them, for not winning them by larger margins."

The President's support was critical to Democrats' success, observers said, or, if they failed, it was because local Democrats ran poor campaigns that failed to capitalize on widespread support for the President.

The results in the New York congressional race, in the 23rd district, bode ill for the GOP.

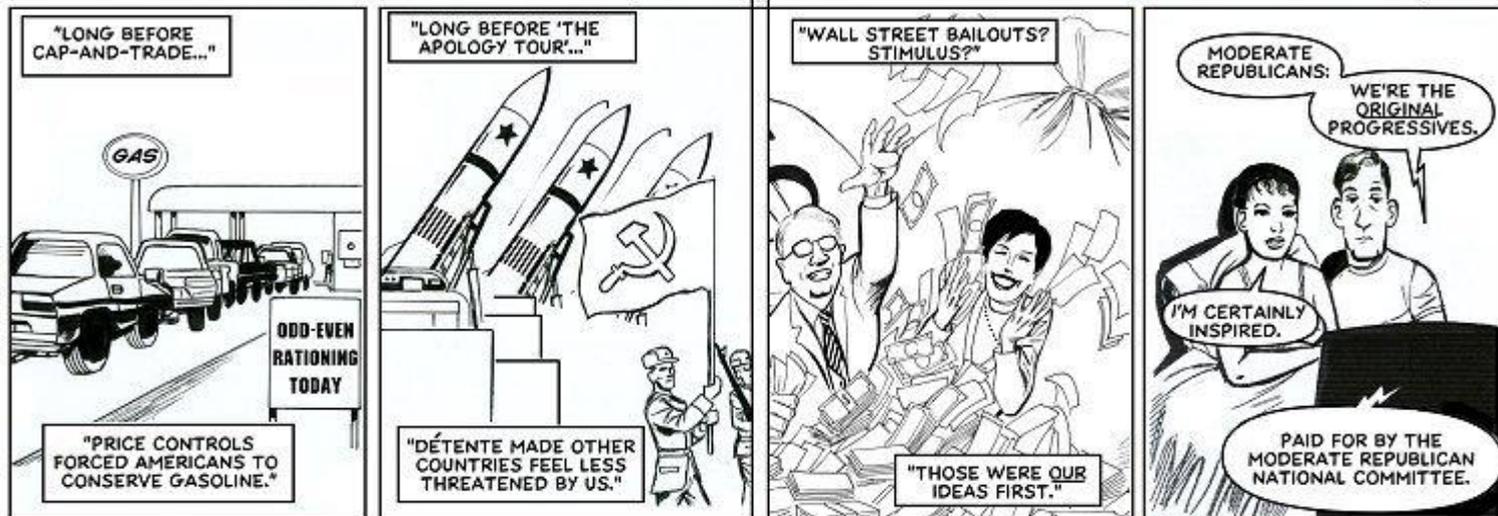
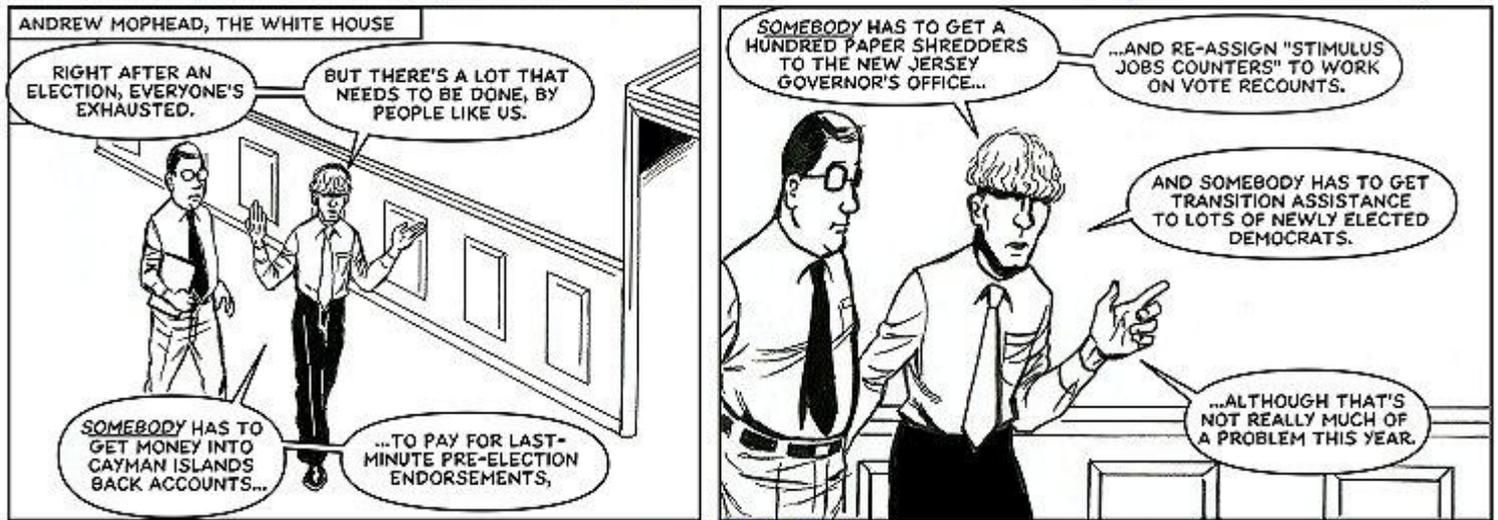
Use this graf if Dems win NY-23 The loss of the New York seat was "a mortal blow" to GOP hopes of winning control of the House anytime soon, said Prof. Woodshoe. "This shows that Republicans simply can't win in moderate districts."

Use this graf if wingnuts win NY-23 Winning the New York race may be the worst thing that could have happened to the GOP. "There's an expression, 'Be careful what you wish for,'" noted Prof. Woodshoe. "This is likely to encourage the extremists in the party to continue their efforts to purge the normal people."

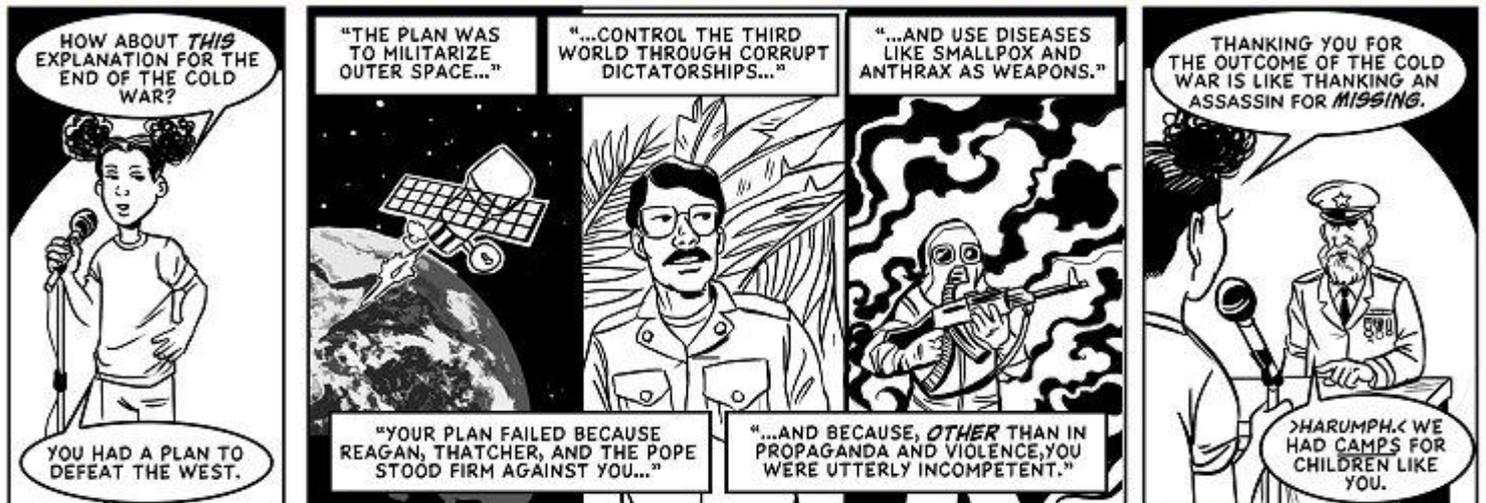
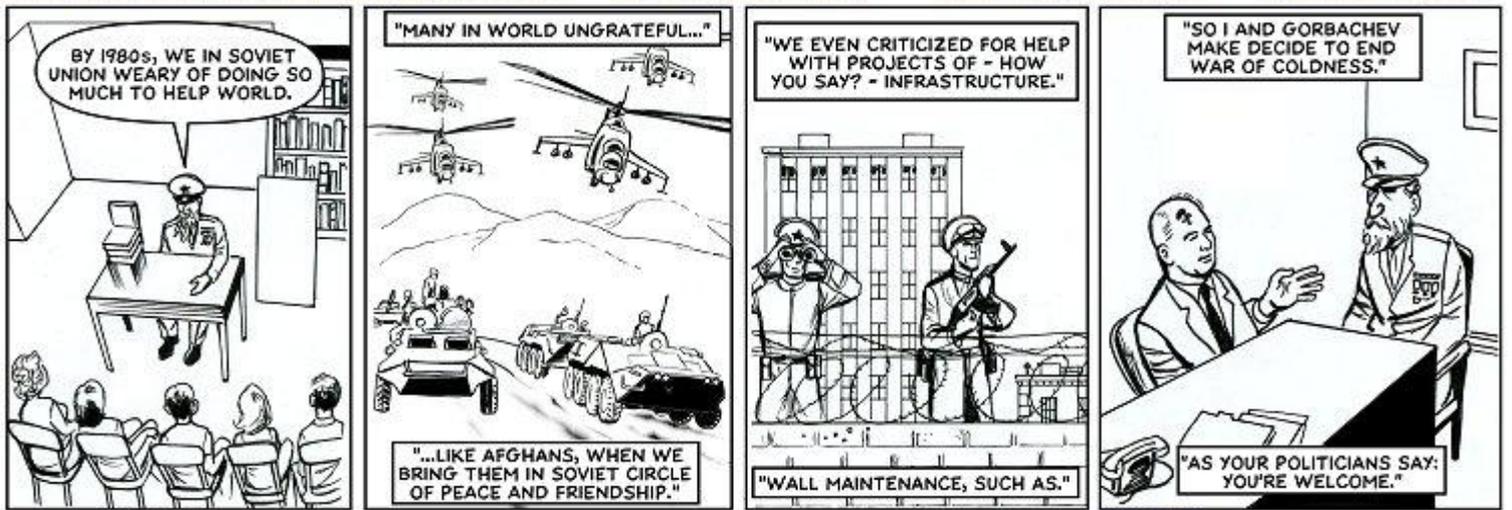
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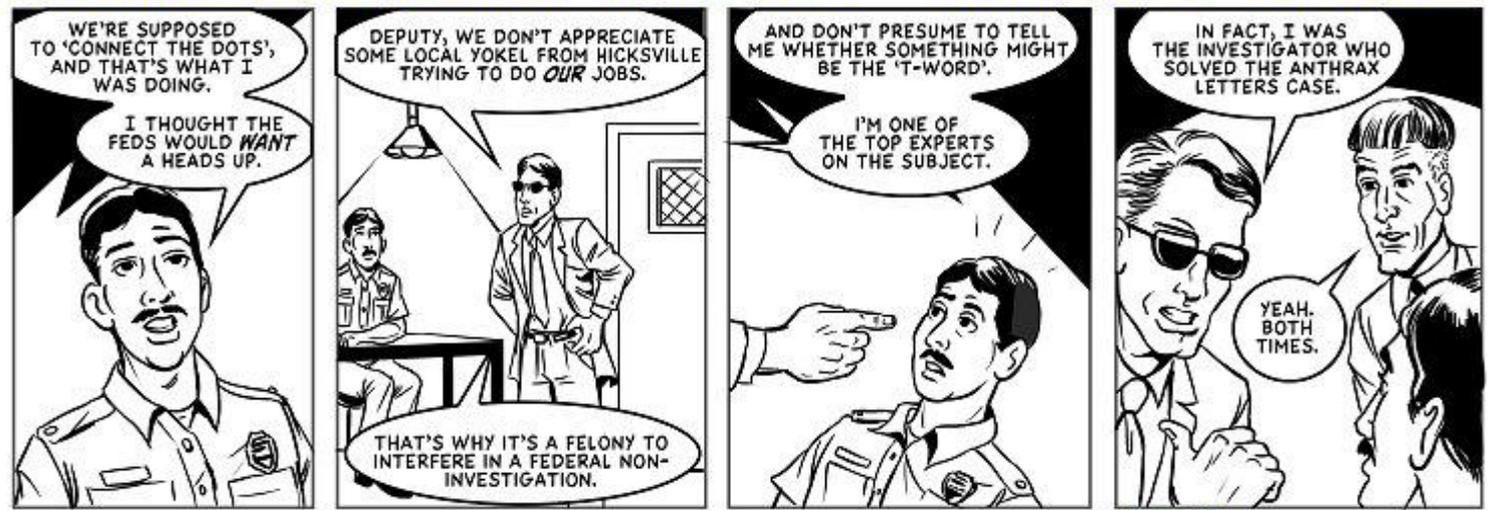
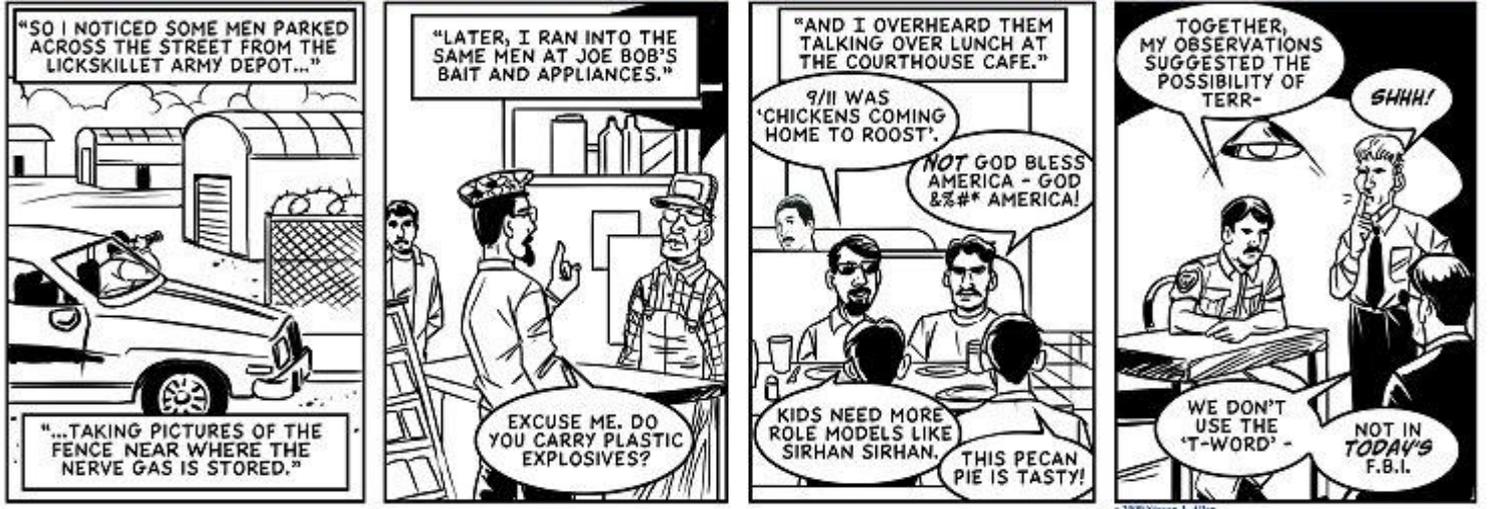
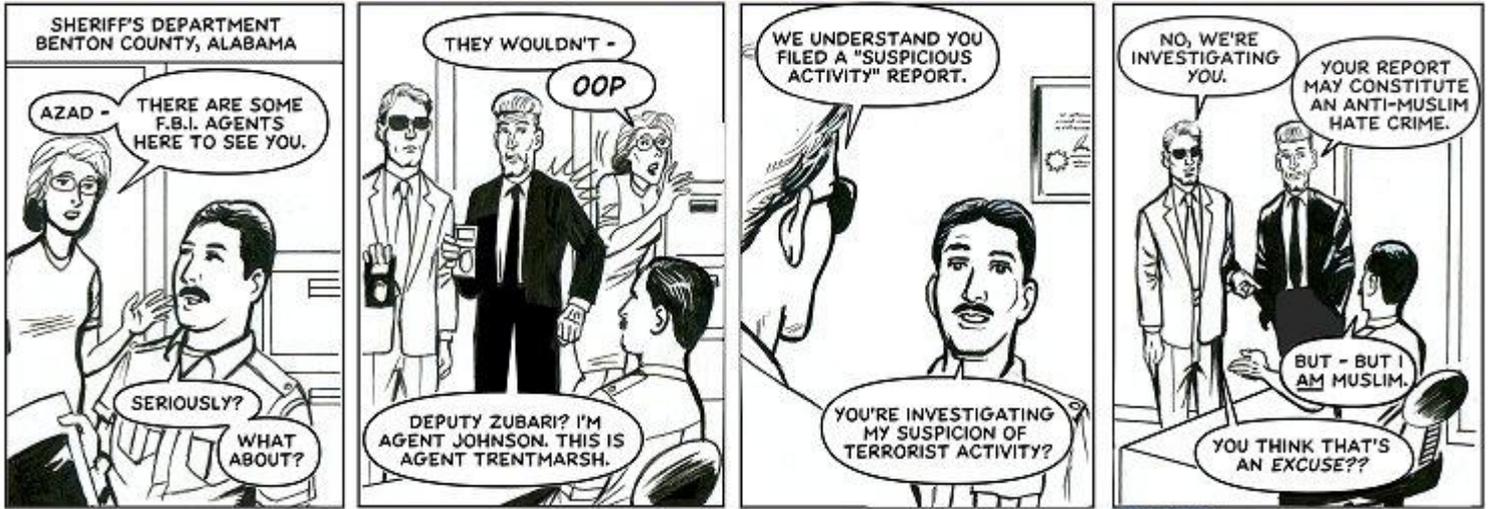


Howland Fonebone
...notes: Republicans are losers







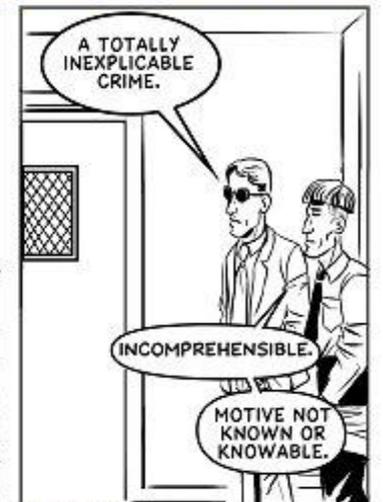




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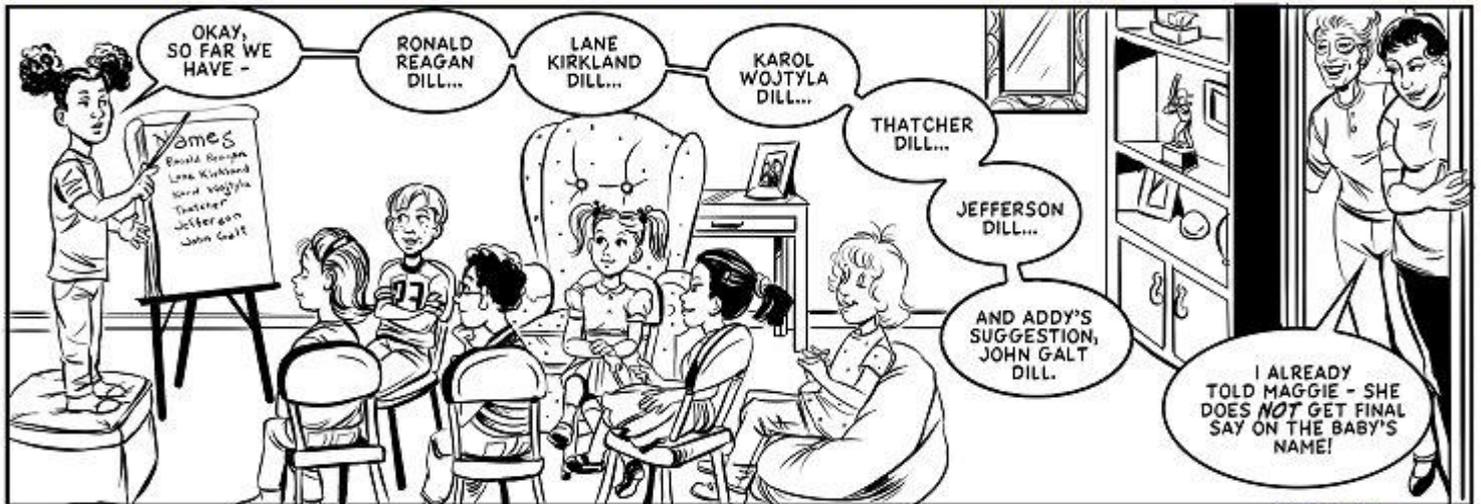
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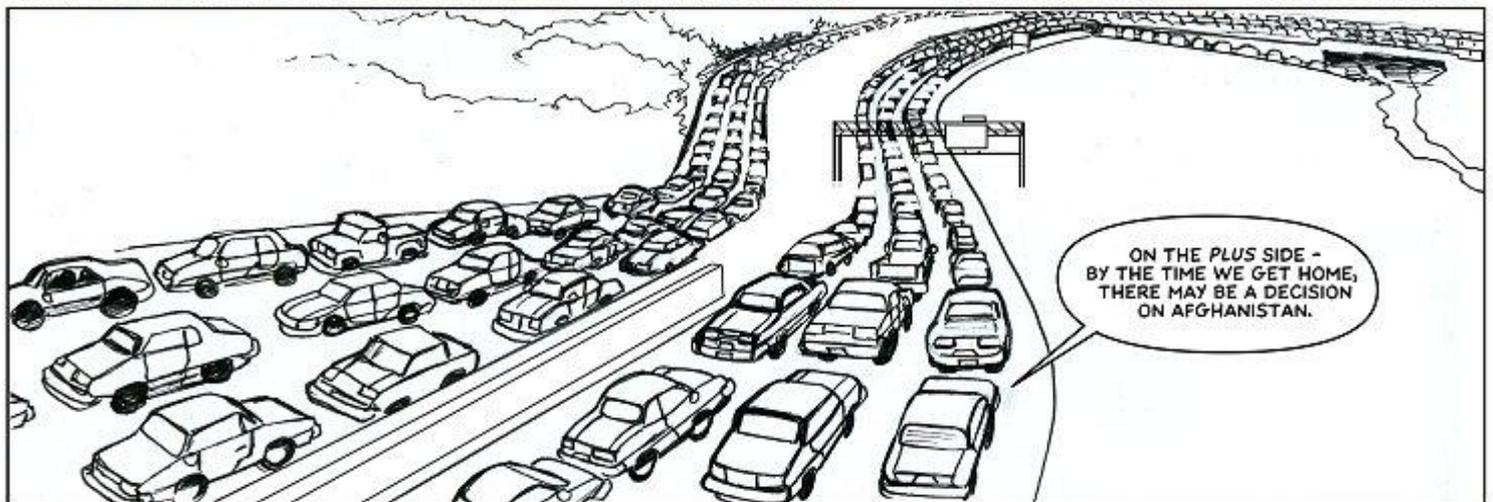
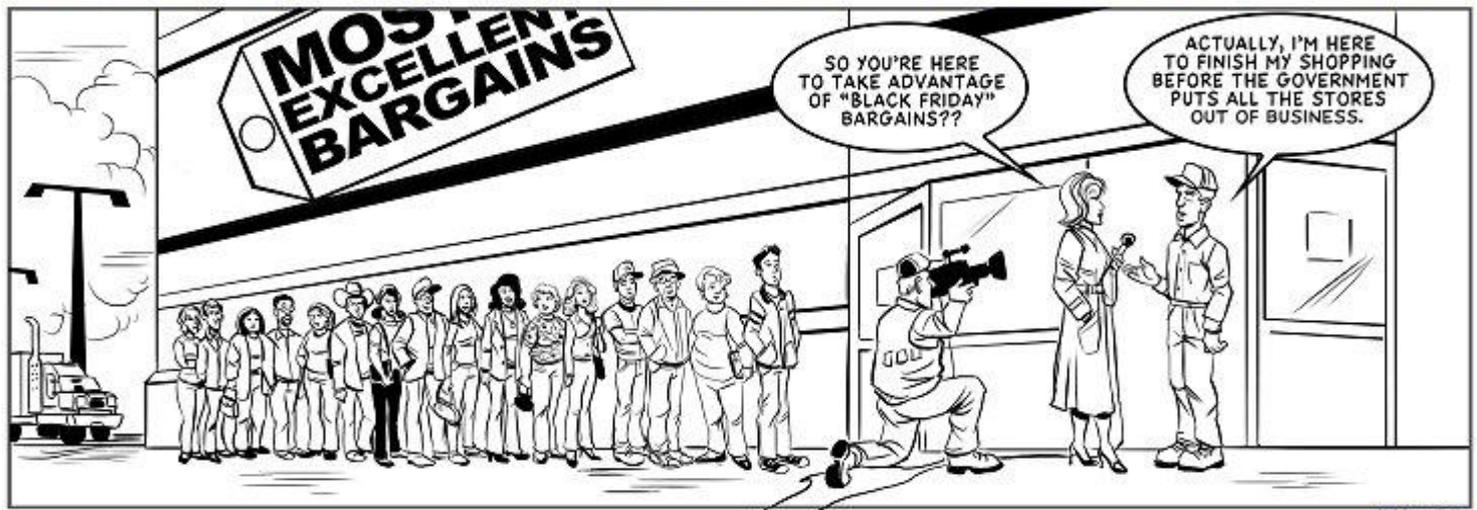
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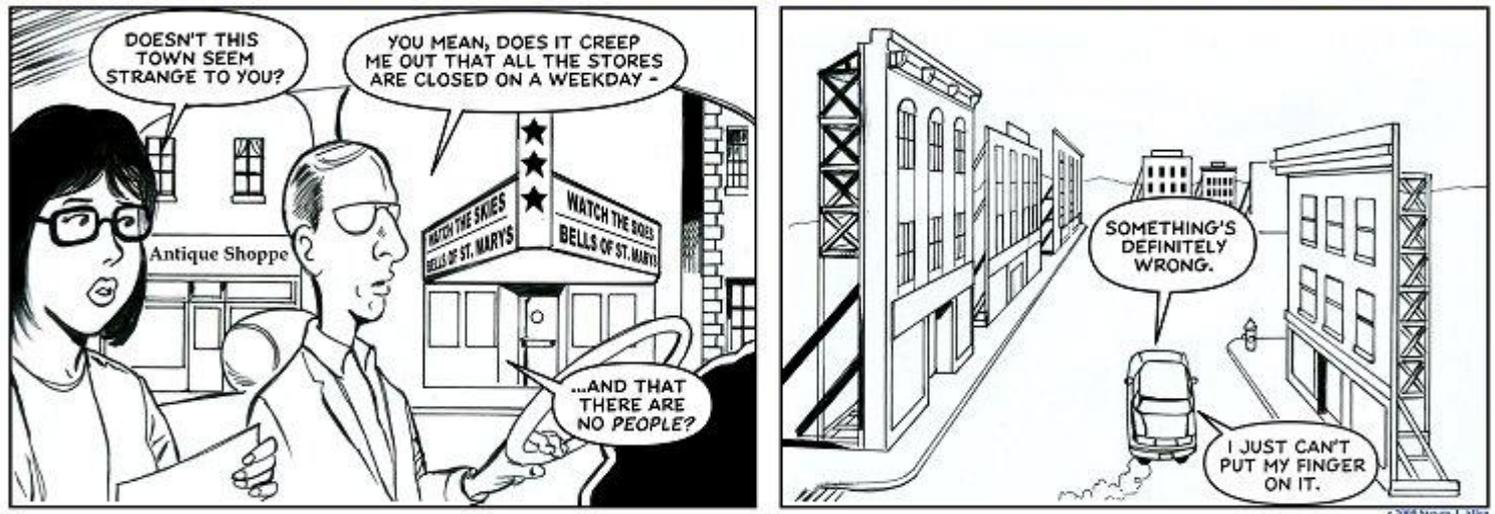


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NOTE TO READERS:

Due to the cartoonists' untimely deaths in a kiln explosion, the episode scheduled for today will not appear.
Please enjoy this classic from the archives of "The Gentleman from Licksillet."

The Gentleman from Licksillet Classic

by Allen, Esq., and Tuma

December 7, 1908



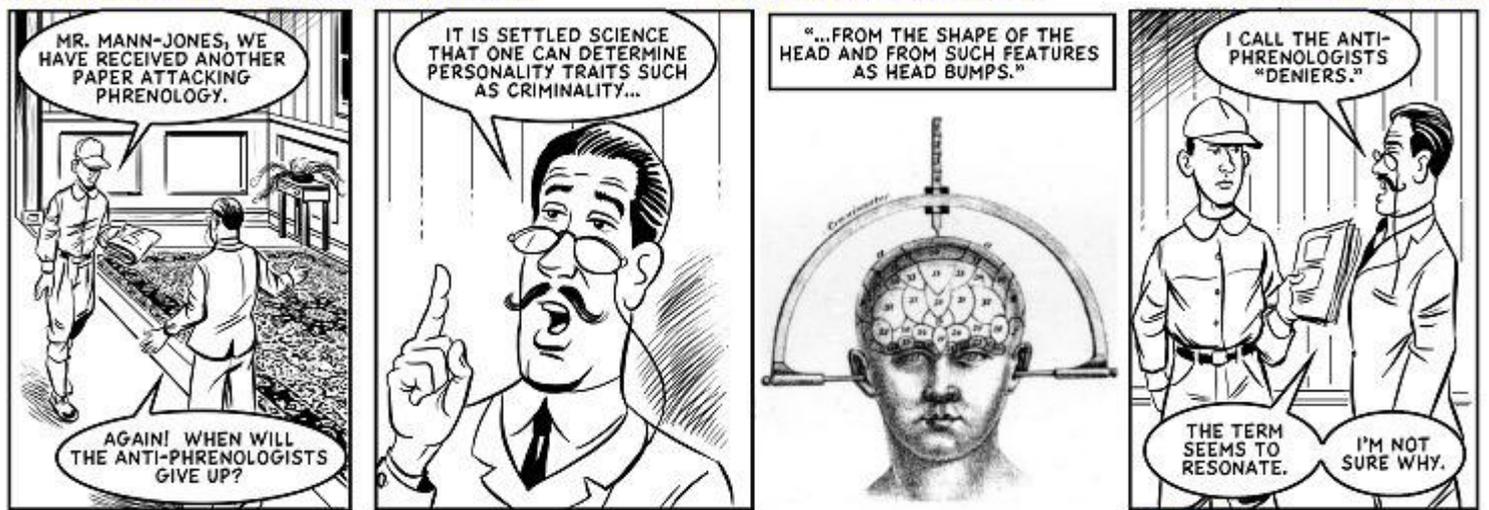
NOTE TO READERS:

Due to the cartoonists' incapacity following a night of partying with a professional golfer, the episode scheduled for today will not appear.
Please enjoy this classic from the archives of "The Gentleman from Licksillet."

The Gentleman from Licksillet Classic

by Allen, Esq., and Tuma

December 8, 1908



NOTE TO READERS:

Due to the cartoonists' sabbatical to work on "The Gentleman from Lickskillet: The YouTube Musical," the episode scheduled for today will not appear. Please enjoy this classic from the archives of "The Gentleman from Lickskillet."

The Gentleman from Lickskillet Classic

by Allen, Esq., and Tuma

December 9, 1908



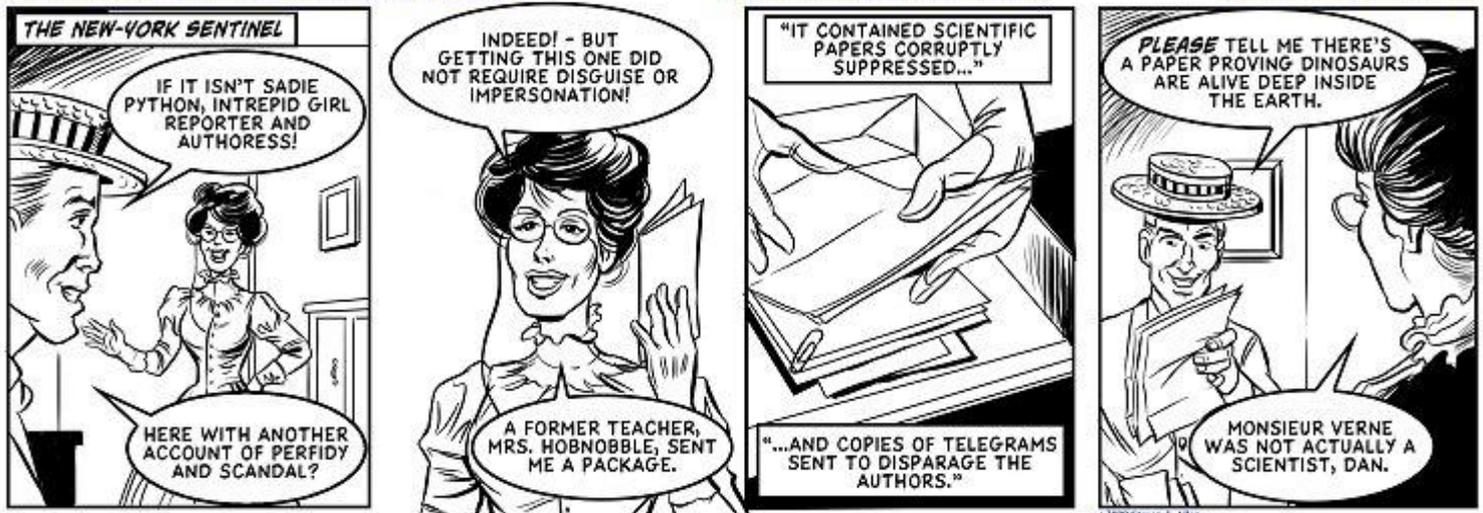
NOTE TO READERS:

American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert was scheduled to guest-star in today's episode. However, due to the "wardrobe malfunction" during his appearance in last Sunday's "The Family Circus," Mr. Lambert's appearance here has been cancelled. Please enjoy this classic from the archives of "The Gentleman from Lickskillet."

The Gentleman from Lickskillet Classic

by Allen, Esq., and Tuma

December 10, 1908



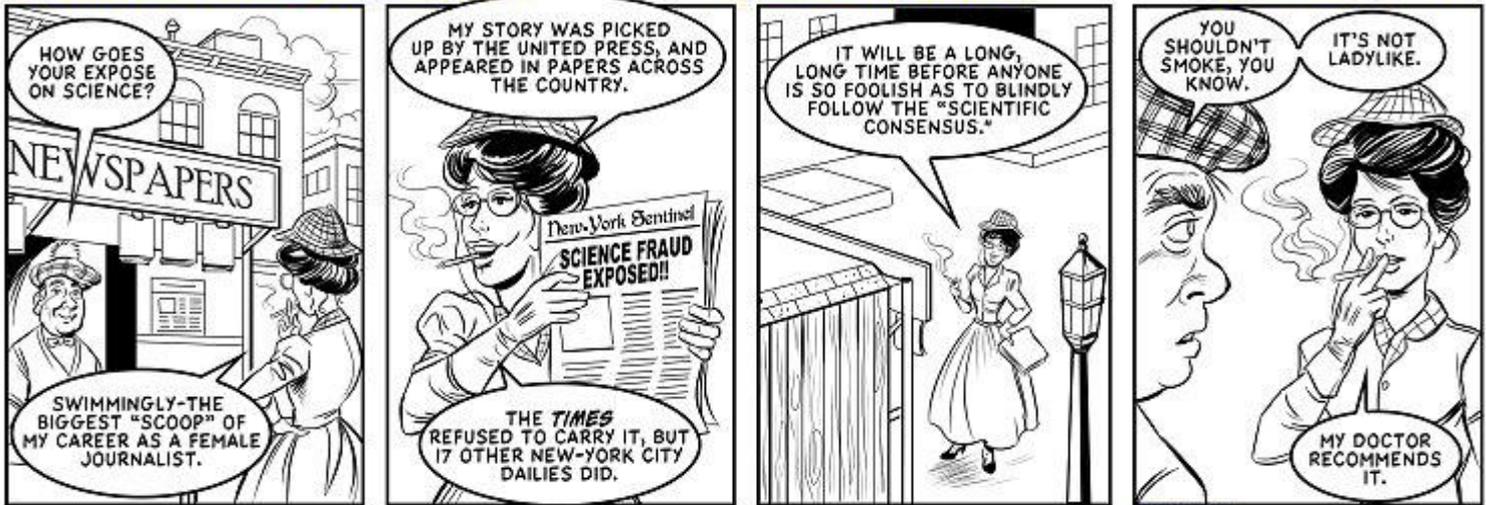
NOTE TO READERS:

Due to a lawsuit by the creator of "Mallard Fillmore" claiming a patent on the idea of "conservative comic strip," the episode scheduled for today will not appear. Please enjoy this classic from the archives of "The Gentleman from Lickskillet."

The Gentleman from Lickskillet Classic

by Allen, Esq., and Tuma

December 11, 1908



NOTE TO READERS:

Due to the fact that the cartoonists ran out of ideas about six months ago, the episode scheduled for today will not appear. Please enjoy this classic from the archives of "The Gentleman from Lickskillet."

The Gentleman from Lickskillet Classic

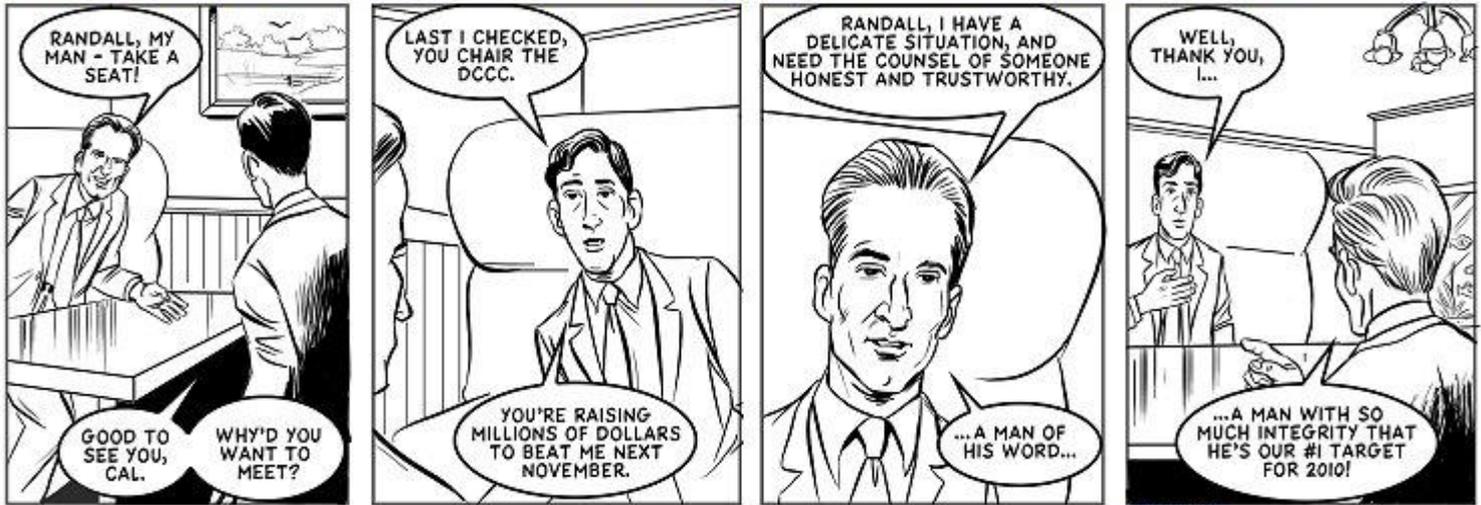
by Allen, Esq., and Tuma

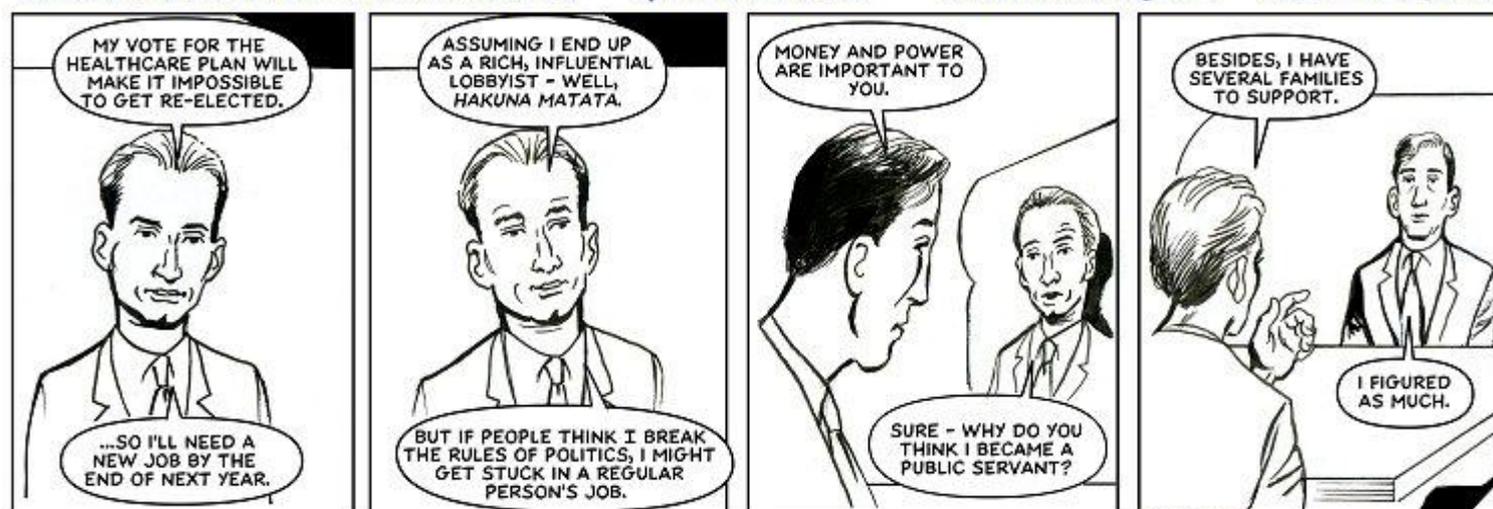
December 12, 1908

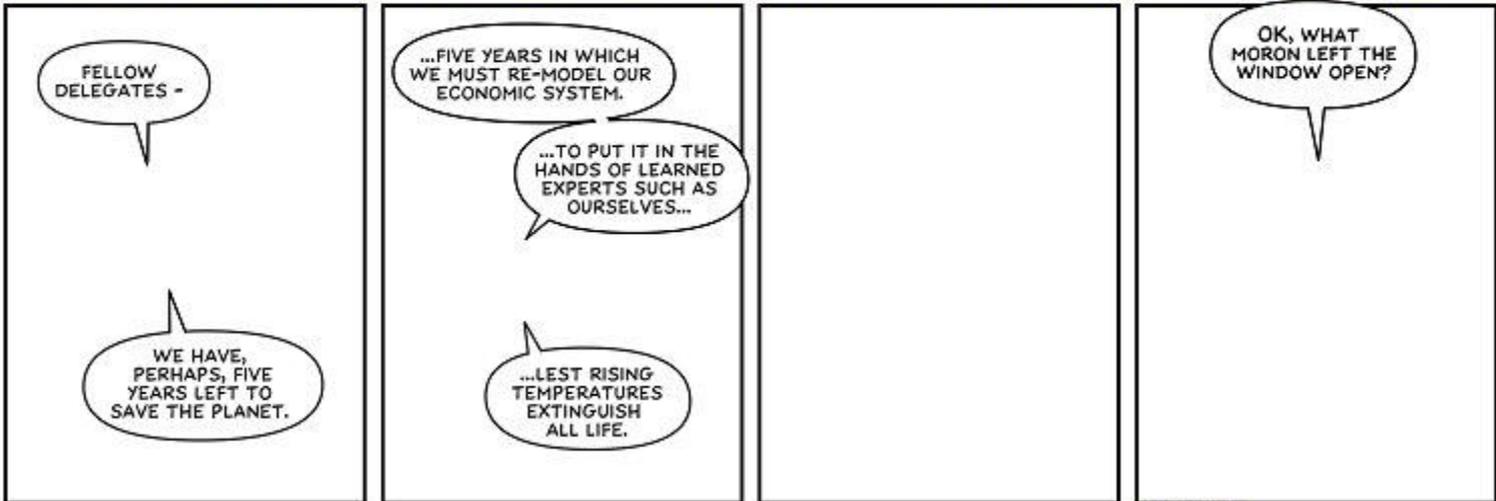


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(Every statement on this page is a lie.)







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Yes, Virginia – The President is the new Santa Claus

By Matthew Holyerthow
GroupThink editor

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," the New York Sun editorialized in 1897, according to Wikipedia. "... A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

How outdated that sentiment is today! No jolly old elf can bring smiles to the faces of children who live in a world ravaged by SUVs and incandescent light bulbs, by American exploitation, and by wars rooted in the shoot-first-ask questions-later mentality of a certain Texas cowboy.

Santa Claus is not even a good role model. We teach our

children not to overeat, not to smoke when the substance in question is tobacco, and not to question government officials and identity-group leaders. Santa defies such rules. He treats with disdain the laws of man and the laws of physics alike. Believe in Santa Claus? How foolish! You might as well believe in fairies, or religion, or in the "Tea Party" protesters who exist only in the fevered imagination of the Far Right.

Modern children know that it is to the government that we must look for solace - and to the personification of benevolent and enlightened government, the President. It is the President who brings smiles to our faces and thrills to our nervous systems.

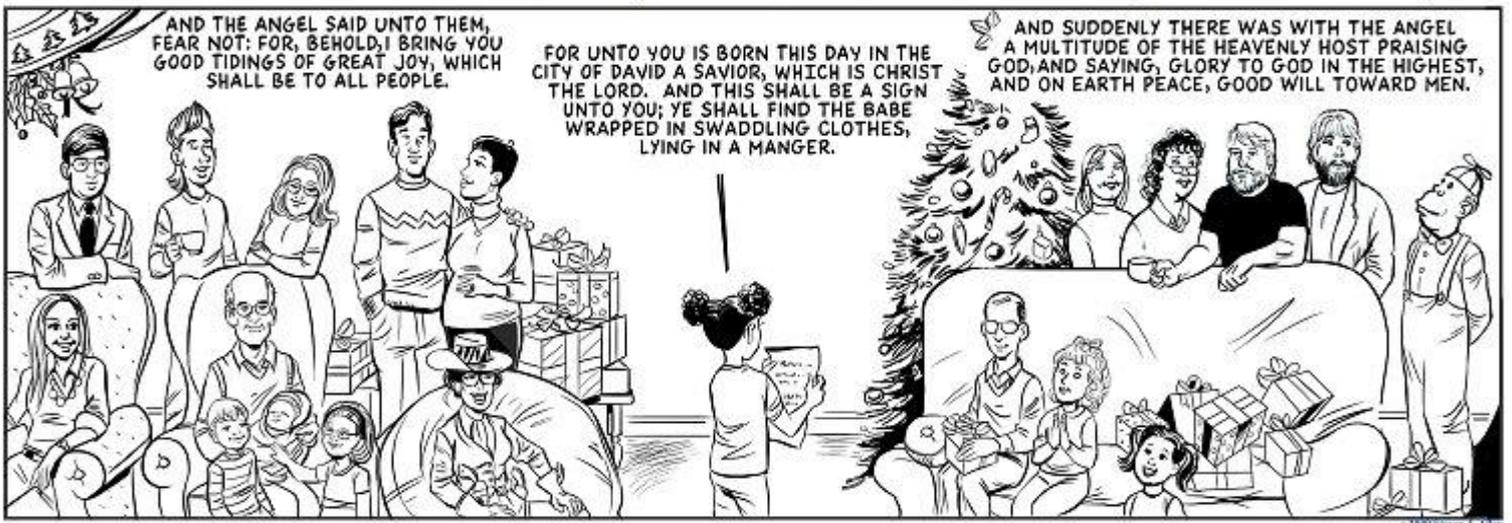
If Virginia - who, according to various sources accessed via Google, died in 1971 - were alive today, we would tell her that the President of the United States is the new Santa Claus, his worthy and necessary replacement. It is to the President that our children sing, and it is the President by whom they should ultimately be judged.

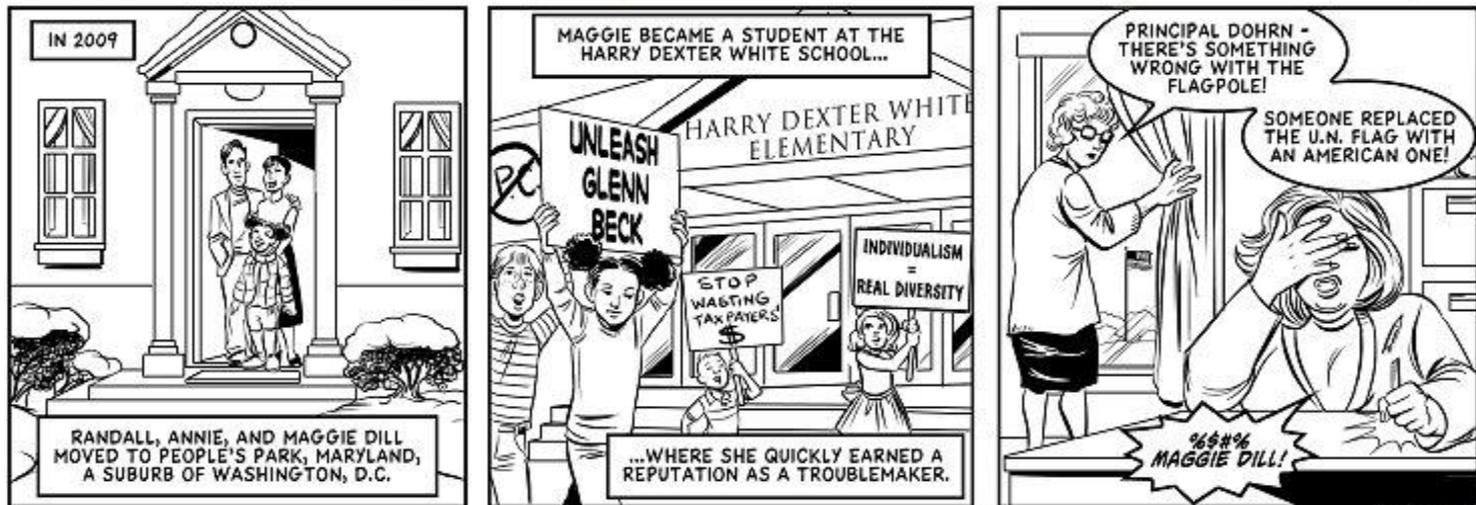
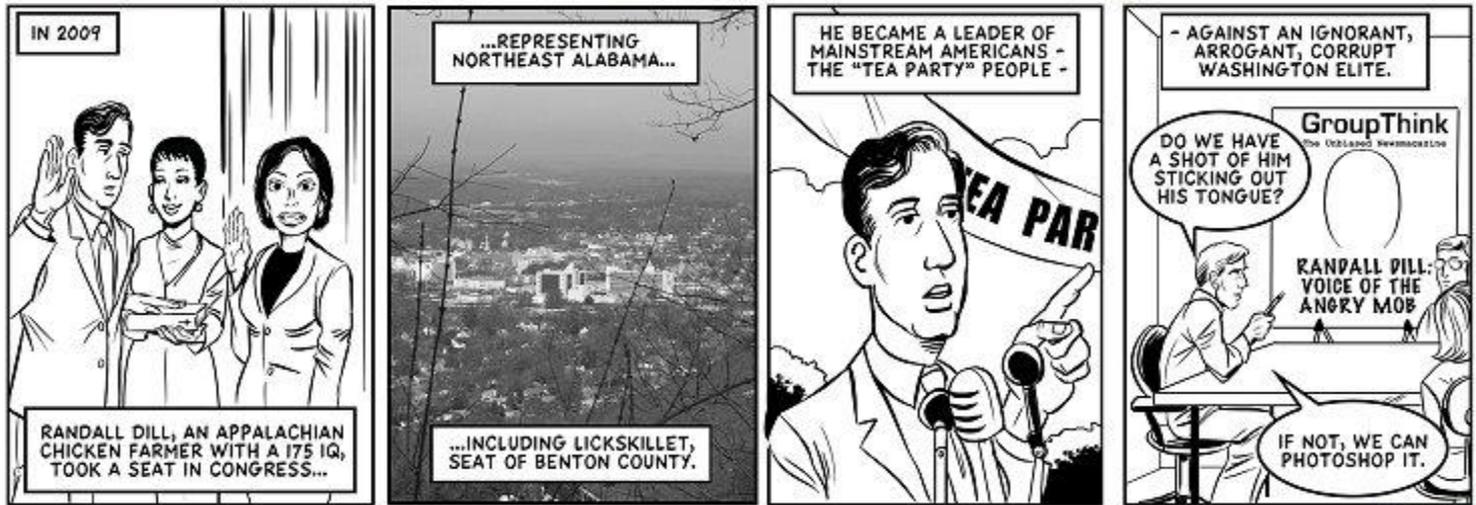


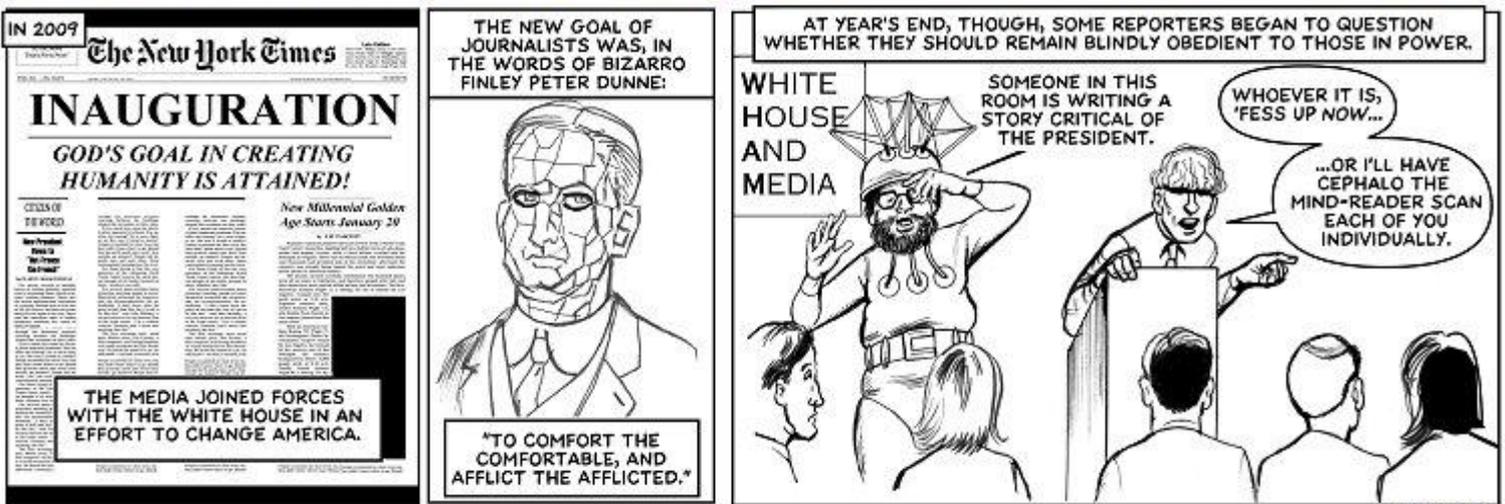
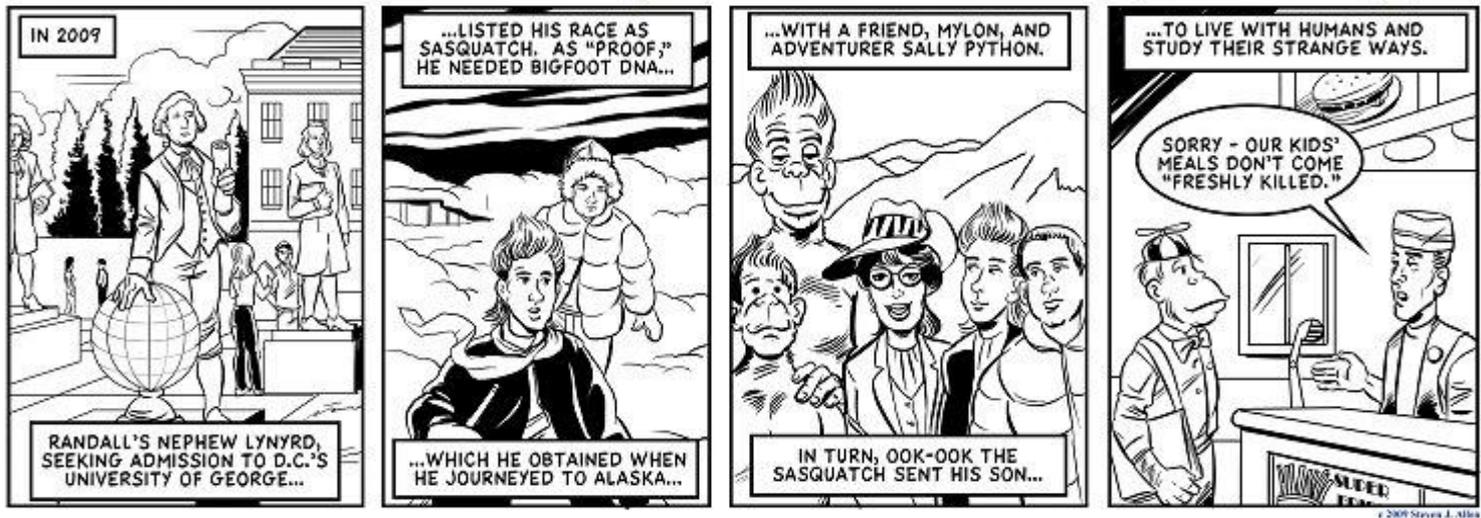
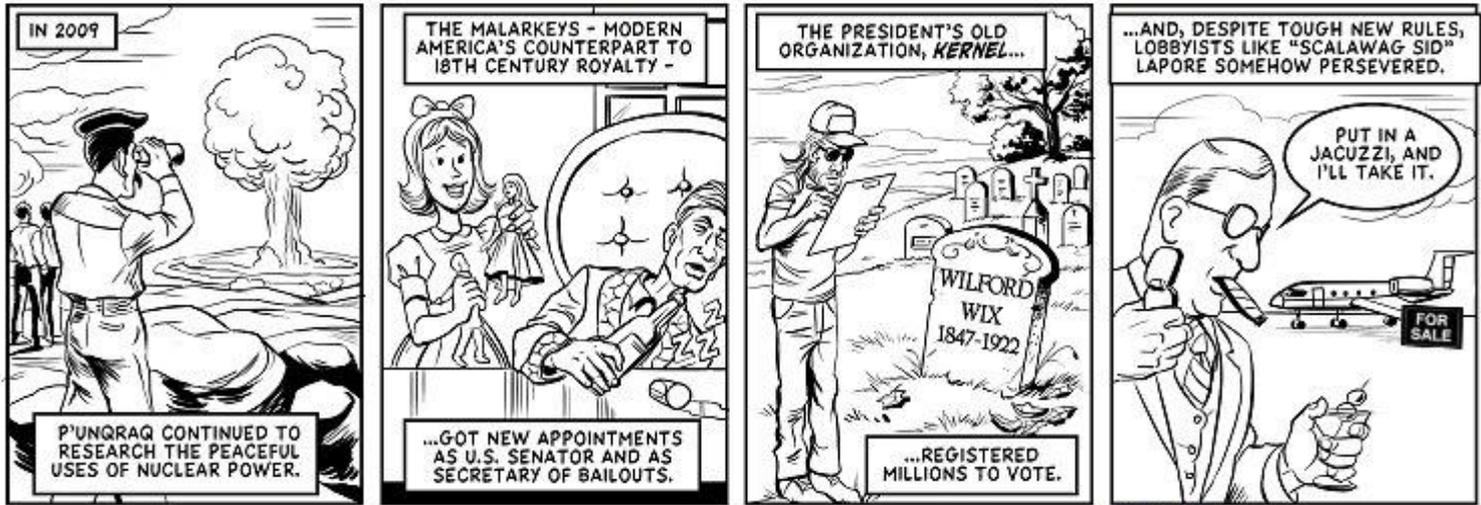
Santa Claus
...promotes smoking, overeating

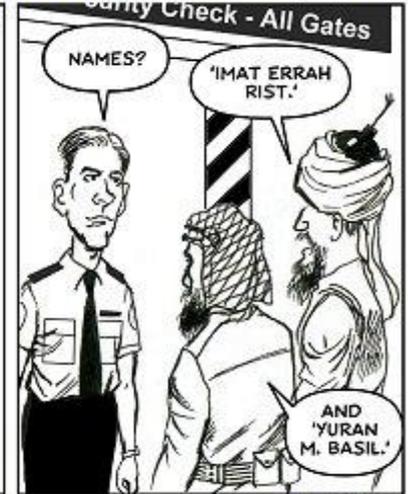
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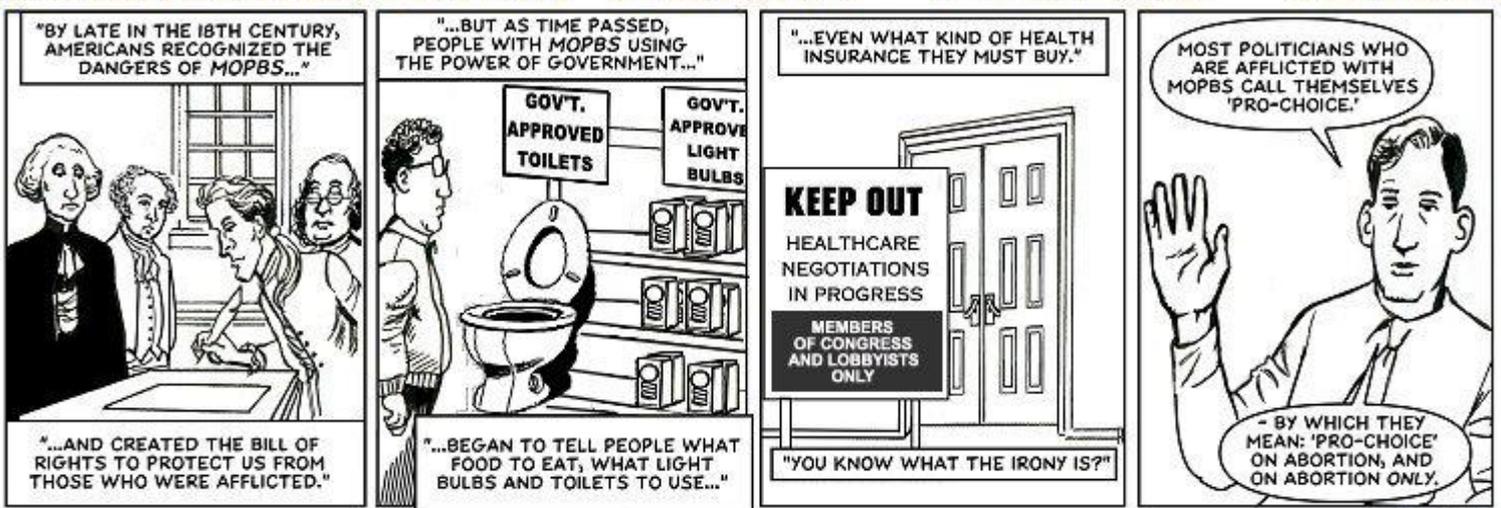
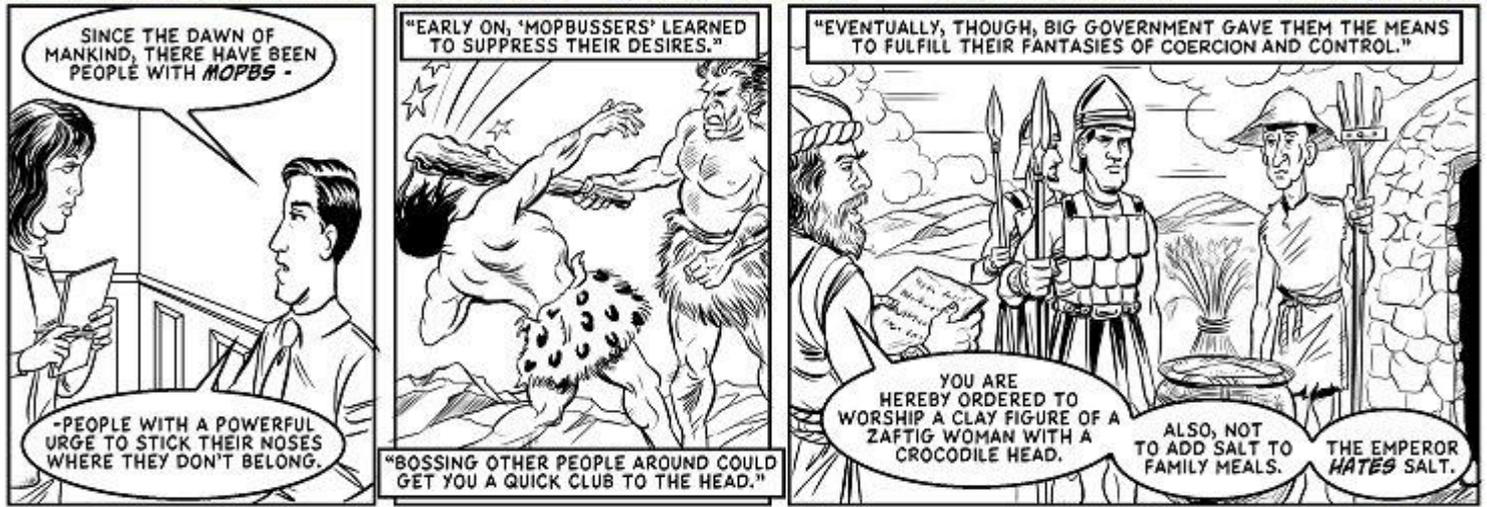
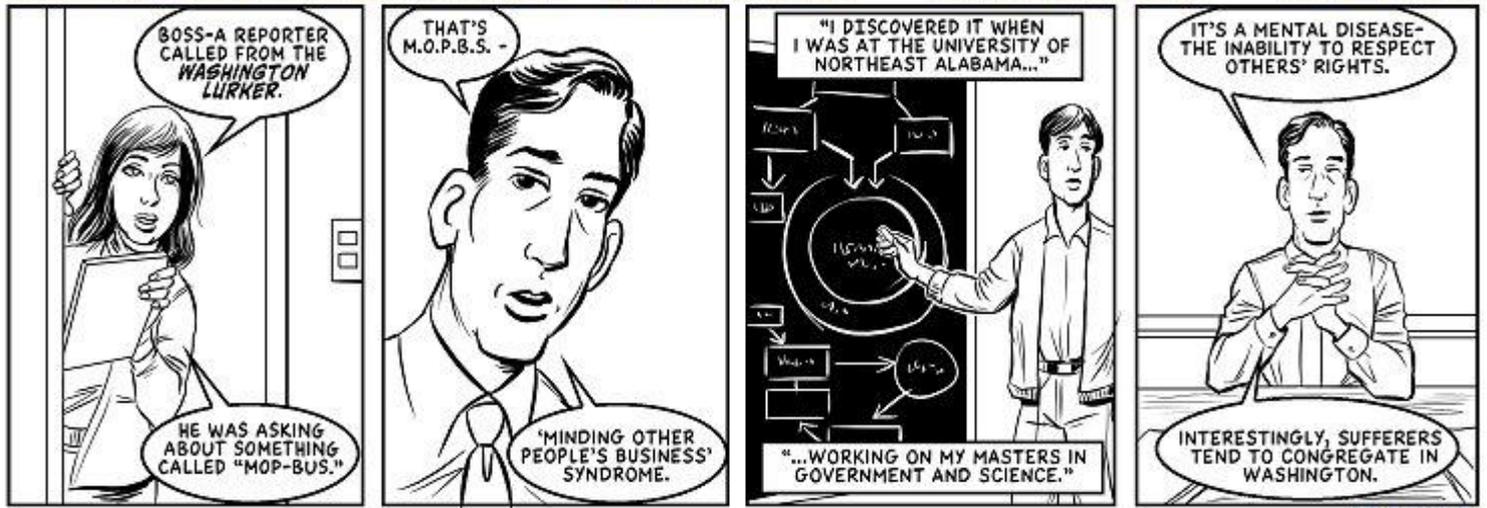


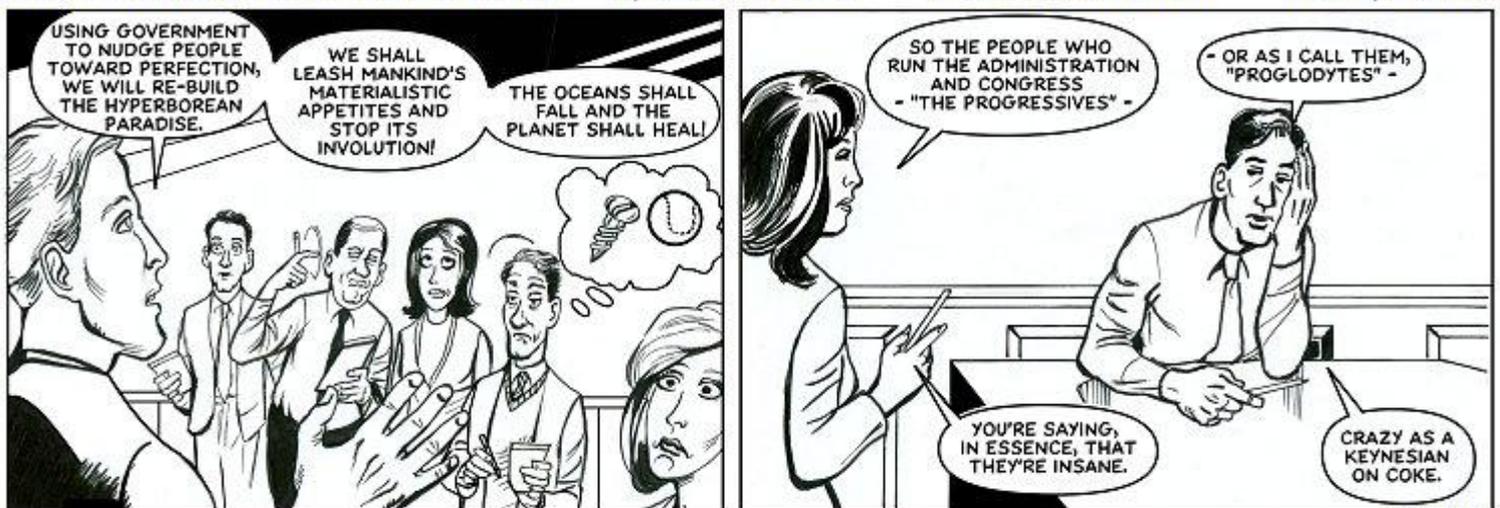
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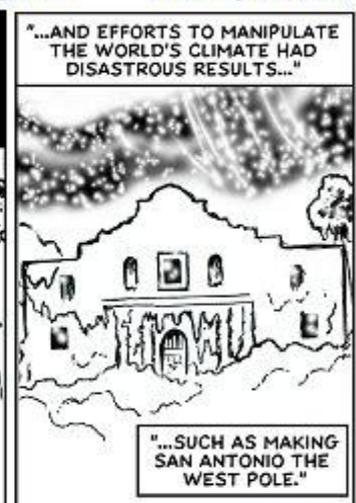
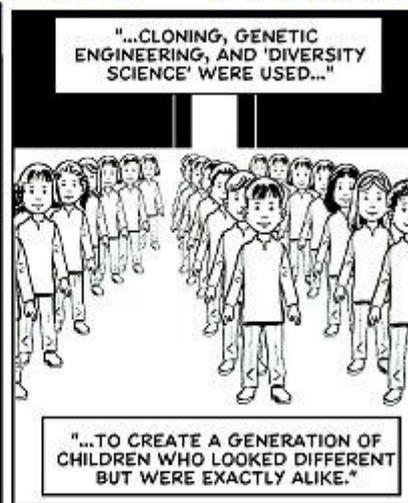








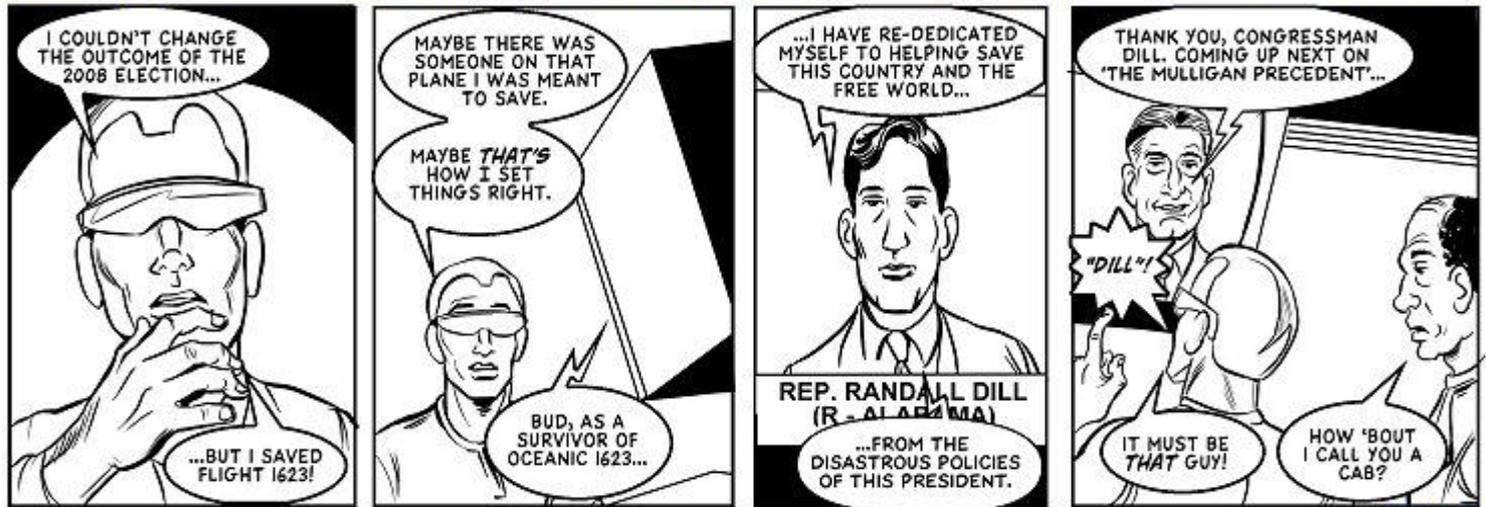
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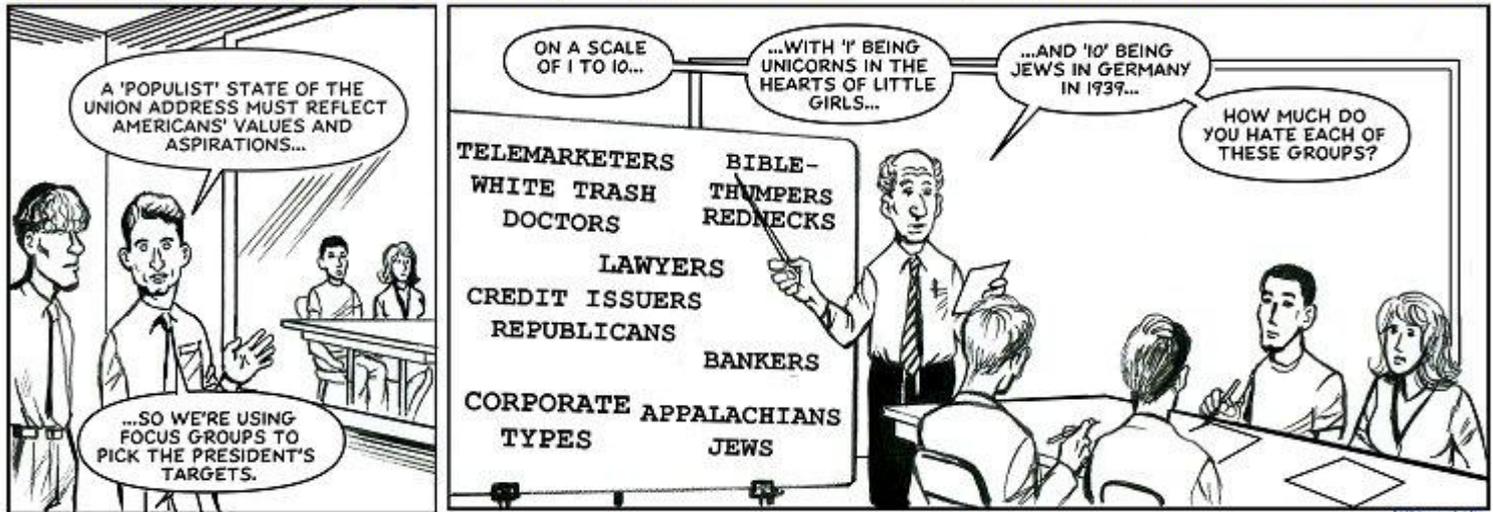


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The President: Fightin' for us

(AP) The following is the text of the President's State of the Union address, part 437.

Americans are angry at the folks in charge in Washington. Well, me, too. Here's what I'm gonna do:

- * I will stand up to the Supreme Court and its so-called "Bill of Rights" - or, as I call it, "the Bill of Privileges for Greedy Special Interests."
- * I will eventually freeze spending in almost every agency whose budget I have tripled.
- * I will cut taxes even more for nontaxpayers.
- * I will stop life insurance companies from discriminating against the terminally ill, and fire insurance companies from discriminating against those whose houses are, through no fault of their own, ablaze.
- * I will protect, for all the accused, such traditional American values as 'lawyering up.'

* I will develop America's ample energy resources except those involving carbon or carbon compounds.

I am told that people are concerned about jobs. In response, I will hire people and use the money from their income taxes to hire more people, until everyone has a job.

I am told that some people don't support my administration. In the future, I will do a better job explainin'. In turn, I expect Americans to do a better job listenin' - with no more hissy-fits like last week in that election in which hardly anyone voted.

Today, we stand at the precipice of a New Day, staring into the abyss of Peace and Prosperity, the featureless void of Freedom, the bleak oblivion of Unity. All we must do is take three steps forward.

Thank you, and may God bless the United States of America. *(Bask in riotous applause from all direction as it turns into cheers.)*

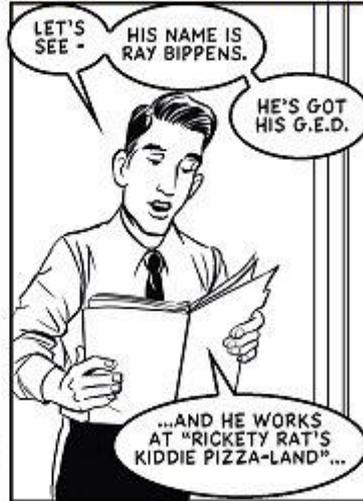


Our President
...getting in touch with the people

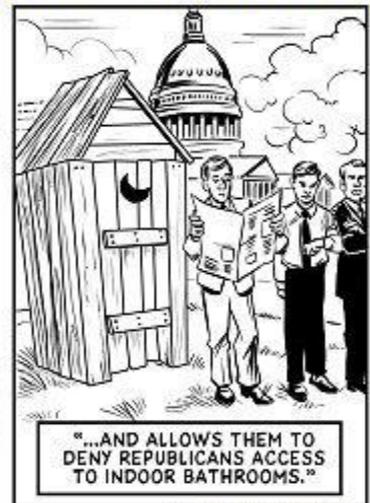
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[NOTE: After our comic was abruptly canceled, we gathered the comments we had received from both fans and non-fans. Those comments, along with some of my responses at the time, appear below.]

What people say about "The Gentleman from Licksillet"

Part 1. COMMENTS FROM FANS & SUPPORTERS etc.

The Gentleman from Licksillet is a lot of fun, and moreover imparts the impression that you had fun doing them. A gift. – Rick Marschall, former editor of “Peanuts,” “BC,” and “Dick Tracy

Finally a comic strip that really hits home and it is cancelled. – Bill E.

I'll miss The Gentleman from Licksillet. Thank you for the enjoyment you've given me. Looks like Doonesbury won. -- Dave B. [Well, we'll see. It's up to the fans! – SJA]

Dude, you can't cancel. You're all I've got left. Don't make me read Doonesbury, man. Really, I can't go back there. – William G.

I have enjoyed TGFL since you started. I especially like the way that you are able to conceive arch-types of liberals such as Andrew Mophead and Mr. Mann-Jones. . . . I am looking forward to the resumption of your strip. – George A.

What? This can't be! I LOVE this strip! It is the funniest right-wing comic on the net! You have to keep going - that's an order! I share you on Facebook and it makes all my liberal "friends" furious! Who can I contact to show my support? Who canceled you? – Brian R. [Answer: The Powers That Be at the site that sponsored us. Nevertheless, we're grateful for the year or so of sponsorship, and are working to find a new sponsor ASAP. The fans can help by signing the petition of support and by getting others to sign -- friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow members of social or political or charitable or religious organizations, etc. - SJA]

I can't believe you guys have been canceled! It was GOOD! – Michael M.

. . . LOVE the Licksillet 'toons. I look forward to you guys on your own site. – James F.

Every day, when I received the [e-mail], I'd look at the cartoon frame and try to see where the story was going, and I couldn't wait for the strip to be complete on Saturdays so I could print it out to share with family and friends.

Especially loved the name-dropping, and have shown all my friends the superb piece on "Embellisho Festoon" ["Maggie's Tale," October 12-17]. I am indeed waiting for the warrior lady to ride into town and throw all the [people of easy virtue] and peddlers out of the people's temple!

Yes! I'll buy your book.

Yes! If you self-publish, I'll subscribe to the site.

Yes! I'll sign the petition. Where's the link?

. . . The very best of luck from a fellow conservative. – Mike R.

I'm really bummed that [the sponsor] dropped your Gentleman from Licksillet strip. It is extremely well written, very enjoyable to read, very funny and witty, and I looked forward to it every day. . . . Please let us all know when you make it back into cyberspace. – Thomas K.

Unfortunately, I've become addicted to "The Gentleman from Licksillet". I've done the research, and under the new Health Care Plan to End All Health Care Plans, which will be retroactive, you are required to send me a strip every weekday, in perpetuity, or until I die of some horrible disease for which no physician is accepting new patients. . . . No, seriously. . . how do we get you guys back in production? I'd pay \$10/month for a direct subscription. I'd bet \$10 Trillion (OK, Zimbabwean money, but still. . .) that you could get 1000 subscribers. . . . If there's anything I can do, short of donating to Chuck Schumer, let me know. – Dan F.

I hope you get published in a new place! I love your comic strip! – Daniel E.

You guys have been cancelled? No way! You know I have always tried to find you on Facebook and I could not. At different times, I had sent out links for people to read Licksillet. I don't know how big your fan base is, but if you had more exposure, it would be tremendous. Please, please, please let me know when and where you guys come back. – Bernard

Every once in a while I would catch up on The Gentleman from Licksillet and would download and save the comic strips. They are delightful and as an amateur cartoonist I was jealous. So now I'm curious why your comic strip was canceled . . . I hope you do bring out your comic strip in book form. It was a breath of fresh air in this highly charged political climate. And I hope you will not be offended if I share a couple old ones of mine, attached as .jpg images. – Jim
[I address the question of why the strip was cancelled in my "memo to fans" [here](#). – SJA]

I was "crushed" when I found out that The Gentleman From Licksillet was removed from [the old sponsoring site]. I want to ask about the reason for that but I am more interested in the missing month or so of the strip from the archives!! I think that I was following the strip at that time but it could have been a little later. Is there any chance that those missing strips will be released again?

Thank you for the wonderful strip. I know that it would have a never-ending source of material, at least as long as the current administration is in the saddle! I do appreciate the humor. – Richard J.

[I believe your question is about the strips for the first three weeks in July 2009. Actually, we were off for those three weeks due to a family medical emergency, so those strips were never produced. Someday, I would like to go back and cover that period as a flashback... but that depends on our success in getting TGFL up and running again. – SJA]

[Another political comic strip] is pure bilge compared to TGFL. Thanks for having an actual sense of humor. – Ezra D.

The daughter is GREAT. . . . Keep up the good work. – Cecil

The funniest and best satire I've seen and read EVER. – Chris W.

[In response to the question] What do you think about "The Gentleman from Licksillet"? I think it's witty, original, very clever and timely. – Duke of URL

I really hope this [the Operation: Licksillet storyline, November 16-21] is going to continue - it's WAY too good a premise, too good a set of characters, too good an opening for really horrible jokes, to be dropped after only one week. – Duke of URL

[Regarding the "Classic Gentleman from Licksillet" storyline, December 7-12, 2009] I think you should check your Automatic-Excuse-Generating-Machine. It appears to have been left on and unattended, with the gearing set to "High"... – Duke of URL

Love your work. . . . "The Gentleman from Licksillet" is the first place I go when I turn my computer on each morning. Thanks for the entertaining and thoughtful commentary on current events, disguised as comedy. – Natureboy

Fantastic job on every strip! It's become a high point of my day! – Philip N.

My husband and I are so excited with your strip. We are hoping that you will soon have a book with your strips in it. If you already do please let us know as we would like to order one. Keep up the good work!! We llok forward to seeing your strip more and more each day!! – Julie

Where has this been all my life?!? – Jay T.

I just found this strip yesterday and have read the whole archive - amazing! Funny, pertinent, great artwork, current, biting - please never stop! – Brian R.

I saw the premiere of the strip announced in another blog so I've been reading since the beginning . . . The Gentleman from Licksillet became an instant favorite and I have recommended it to many friends.

What I think is the most brilliant thing about the strip is that each one is clever and funny as a stand-alone on a daily basis, but the carrying of threads through the week makes one anxious to "tune in tomorrow", and the six-day chapter is funnier than any of the individual strips. I believe the strip borders on brilliance, the nationalized pastime [May 4-9, 2009] and changing the speed of light [April 20-25] certainly being worthy of Pulitzer consideration. You are unparalleled at pointing out the ridiculousness that busies most of our politicians and you do it without profanity or vulgarity. . . . Best of luck; you've got a real winner. – Laurel J.

The Gentleman From Licksillet is one of the best strips around! I keep up with it every week (read it every day, but like the format you have to get the whole week on the same screen). . . . Keep up the great work!! – Tom K.

Verrrry funny... and on point. ["People of Color Club," March 9-10] – Tillman

I especially liked it when the congressman turned down the lobbyist with "Get thee behind me Satan." And the response was "No offense taken." [February 7, 2009] – Mike

Keep up the great work. We enjoy it very much. – Joe M.

Love it! I like the bit with the plotting cats [June 8-13, 2009] and Maggie Dill has the best mind of the bunch – Stu C.

I love everything about it from first to last: the complexity of the plots, the numerous characters, the intellectual humor, and the light tie-ins to current events. Wouldn't change a thing. It's one of the first things I read each day.

I would like to see more of the commie-cats [June 8-13, 2009]. Those characters in that story line remind me of the underground comics movement (think Crumb, for example, or the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers cat) stuff in reverse, and I can't stop laughing. I was in stitches for days after they put one of them in a dress: "For the cause, Armand. *For the cause*." – Evan S.

A conservative web comic. I Like!

I can has mor Licksillet?

I likes it so...

Plz? – Sean

I think Licksillet is the funniest comic strip ever. It has a snowball's chance in Hell of ever being in any newspaper. . . . I like Dill, and the Sarah Palin look-alike character was great. I expect to see much more of her. . . . Have you guys considered putting your comic strip in a book, perhaps a compilation for the year? Even a quarterly paper back would be cool! I use to have an ole collection of the Peanuts that did the same thing with his comic strip. Keep the good work up! It is GREAT! – Bernard
[Answer: We are working on a collection, provided there's sufficient fan support. – SJA]

. . . "The Gentleman from Licksillet" is some great satire for those that appreciate a little conservative values in their humor. – Comic Nut's Jar

HILARIOUS! – Caulfield

I do enjoy reading your strip and recognized Embellisho [October 13, 2009] immediately. – Bob B.

I love Margaret. I wish my kids were like her! – Michael M.

["Doonesbury" and "The Gentleman from Licksillet":] Both strips are witty in their own way, both exhibit wisdom at times, and both manage to poke fun at their own side of the aisle, occasionally. – axiq

The Gentleman from Licksillet [November 10-14, 2009] murders Politics and Prose Bookstore in DC! Nice! – Tolerance Sucks Rocks

I've read the archives of the first month's strip and it promises to be excellent. From chronicling the near worshipful devotion of Obama devotees at the Inauguration linked to a new designer drug, "jack-acid"; to the hero's daughter having her sarcastic ode to Obama chosen as the song to be performed at the Inauguration; to the hero's discovery of a new Government Agency, "The Department of Holistic Serenity" when an aide points it out with the caveat "Friends don't let friends legislate drunk!"; the strip promises to be a hilarious examination of inside-the-beltway goings on. . . . For those of you old enough to remember Walt Kelly's 'Pogo' strip, 'The Gentleman from Lickskillet' has that feel. But it is thoroughly modern.' Bookmark the page, you'll want to go back! – Blue Collar Muse

This is a conservative site, but IMO, their series of comics for February 16-21, 2009 is something that both Conservatives and Liberals can agree on, that is, that zero tolerance policies go too far. – Hell Bent for Leather

I know it's from a conservative source, but I think the punch line [January 31, 2009] is one that anyone can relate to, regardless of your political persuasion. – Iolous

Kind of a right wing comic that is taking an interesting twist. – nu-monet v10.0

[Regarding the Malarkey scandal strips, August 31-September 5, 2009:] It struck me as being in poor taste . . . But not extremely poor taste. – Eric S. Harris

Their artwork does resemble actual human beings. – Jeff Fecke

Part 2. COMMENTS FROM NON-FANS

See, blunt-club-swingingly dumb as The Leftersons is, I actually find myself much more disturbed by The Gentleman from Lickskillet. Because while it's self-evident that the Leftersons is "written" by someone who believes satire to be literally the same thing as pointed namecalling, the Lickskillet guy appears to actually think he's an iconoclastic intellectual. – gompa

[Response to "gompa":] The Gentleman from Lickskillet seems to me to be the "best" of these not just for it's superior artwork, but because it's the only one that tries to make actual arguments for its cause, instead of just pathetic name-calling. Those arguments are *wrong*, of course (yes, Science evolves and isn't always right. You know what proves it wrong, though? More science, not economically-driven political ideology.) But at least it kind of tries, and has at least a whiff of humor to it from time to time. The Leftersons is so bad it might just be a conspiracy by the "Girls and Sports" guy to look better by comparison, and Day by Day is like listening to a rant by a tripping and xenophobic schizophrenic. Mallard Fillmore is just bad. – Navelgazer

[Response to the above:] The art in The Gentleman from Lickskillet kind of reminds me of Dave Sim. I'm just sayin'. – The Card Cheat

[Response to the above:] *The Gentleman from Lickskillet* was cancelled in February and is appealing to fans to find it a home. *Day by Day* is begging its readers for money so that it can continue. *The Leftersons* hasn't appeared in three years. Only *Mallard Fillmore* thrives. Just sayin'. – CBCC

Jesus, are the Repugs aiming for a new prohibition targeting comedy? – johnbinpt

The cartoon - as you call it - is not funny but in fact offensive. You guys need to put it out of its misery. The art is great but the writing sucks!! – Della

This [TGFL writer Steven J. Allen] is a man who knows funny. [written sarcastically] . . . On the other hand, both gentlemen [Allen & Tuma] seem to incline to the paleocon side of things. This means that their opinions may be wrong only 80-90% of the time — in contrast to the quasars of broad-spectrum quantum wrongness now blasting away in distant corners of the universe, the wormholes of which resolve to hypergons of n-dimensional failspace, such as the one created by William Kristol via an achieved rate of error in excess of 100%. – Boner's Ark

I read a bunch of them. They're funnier than ["Mallard Fillmore"], but stubbing your toe is funnier than ["Mallard Fillmore"]. I can't really decide if they're funnier than stubbing your toe. ... Okay, I think I've got it. They're not as funny as YOU stubbing your toe, but they're funnier than me stubbing my toe. – Mike Beede

I was expecting something like Bill O'Reilly making jokes, but this is more like Bob Novak making jokes, wheezing and har-har-ing to himself. – dcsin

“Licksillet,” really IS even less witty than [“Day by Day” cartoonist] Chris Muir, and lacks the wingnut surrealism that makes each “Day by Day” strip so amusingly incoherent. Hell, even “Mallard Fillmore” beats out this sad, sad dreck. – conumbdrum

I do like their rugged devotion to the idea that leftist politicians are feudal barons. It's a belief system so convoluted and openly asinine that anyone who hasn't started from the assumption that slavery was a long con by the devious blacks is going to throw up their hands and call you an idiot. I wouldn't say no wingnuts can be funny. A good libertarian will, once in a blue moon, actually recognize abusive authority figures. But by and large, and especially when they're loyal Party men, they're just bullies too cowardly to use their fists. – Saint Jesus

See, there's this whole other universe called Upsidedownworld and occasionally there is leakage across from it which amazingly seems to be of conservative comic strips that they find funny, we don't.

Or they couldn't get a laugh at a nitrous oxide users convention. – Another Kiwi

I am reminded of a Republican sneering about the hateful liberals laughing at Cheney's temporary use of a wheelchair being equivalent to their innocent japes at the expense of Edward Kennedy, who had evidently brought a crippling, inevitably and slowly fatal disease on himself by being the most liberal member of the Senate whenever the Democrats aren't running a governor. If there's anything that will be the movementarians' undoing, it's just that – their complete inability to see that they're wholly out at sea. They'll probably never realize that their hilarious racist prop comedy isn't even going to pull a majority of Republicans – and every election cycle, they've gotten weaker and weaker, more and more dependent on pandering to single-issue loons and easy PAC money. But by God, they stuck to their principles. . . . I guess 'poorly-written character comedy wrapped around and designed for exhibiting the most recent Party talking-points' is how you would go about doing Doonesbury if all you knew about it was why that asshole who does Mallard Fillmore thinks nobody wants to give him a Pulitzer. . . .

I do take issue with the idea that movementarians can do satire or parody. The entire ideology requires so much willful ignorance that it's impossible to imagine one of its flacks coming to the understanding of the world or the subject necessary for pointed comedy on purpose. Thus Lickspittle (which evidently requires two authors to suck so bad), rather than actually grasping at the low-hanging branch of Clinton's antisocial fuck-buddies allowed to enter the running [as has been pointed out elsewhere, the idea of some kind of criminal enterprise at work here is spectacularly dishonest - on problems with his nominees being discovered, Obama's response has been a collegial zip-up until they withdraw and then mea grossa culpa, not trying to force them into the Cabinet with the strategic use of lies and shiny objects], finds himself gripped by the urge to genuflect to two authority figures at once – ridiculous little Limbaugh and ridiculous little Pournelle. The result is something that thinks it is pointed, carries itself out as if it's making fun of someone, and then winds up concocting something so surreal and off-tune that a governor tending bar is a setup rather than a punchline. – Alec

Jokes which depend on a belief in phony facts. – Andrew

When conservatives try to do humor it usually just comes across as creepy. – Major Kong

As far as “Licksillet” goes, I've seen better political comedy in “Shoe.” – Scott

Conservative cartoons have expressed great anguish in their inability to make fun of actual events. Instead, they make fun of what might happen a week after publication, however spurious and disjointed from reality.

I kid, I kid. The "empty suits" gag [January 16, 2009] made me chuckle.

But this is on the same level of comedic shlock everywhere, be it liberal or conservative or wholly disinterested - rather than exposing the heart and truth, it's mocking hypotheticals and extrapolations. The inauguration was filled with things to make fun of, but instead this runs with a bizarre multi-strip drug abuse theme, unrelated to anything in the real world? Some people go nuts about Obama, I get it. Linking that to drugs misses the point entirely, because now it's about drugs and not about hero worship. For a comic claiming to be the one strip actually making fun of the real world, color me unimpressed.

I liked the empty suits line because it hit on something a lot of people think. It showed some truth about how he's viewed, it was funny, it was good. But everything else was pretty far off the mark. I don't see how one can even begin to make fun of Obama for making the the constitution go "up in smoke" after the last 8 years.

Meh. – wibs

I'm confused, are these cartoons supposed to be funny or tragic? I don't understand conservatives but it does appear that they lack a sense of humor. I guess these will go the way of the conservatives' answer to The Daily Show: FAIL. – Southern Beale

This Lickskillet thing looks like someone trying to turn Tom Tomorrow inside out but getting something more like "Gil Thorpe" set in the world of politics. – FlipYrWhig

[D]id their thinking go like this: "Doonesbury is funny and intelligent so we will [be] stupid and not funny at all." – Tom

What I find amused about Lickspittle (gross name though) is that a party trying NOT to be the party of racist redneck Southern whites is represented by a strip featuring, yep, redneck southern whites. Way to stretch the boundaries guys! – Woodrowfan

I see what u did ther. It's that late-70s / early '80s strip that had a character called Gollywog, who got bashed up in an accident and whoever rebuilt his face only had that mask available. He sort of wandered through what looked like Bizarro-America but wasn't too far off from reality. Condo bondage!

The rightwing POV is that of privilege, and that's where its comedy comes from there. Rightwingers can do pointed comedy, like satire or parody, as well as anyone else, but only if the targets are safe, like bad movies or books, general stupidity, or really f[---]ed countries (see P.J. O'Rourke). Actually, if a country is f[---]ed because the CIA tipped its ruling junta off to massacre a generation's worth of people who could have built the country but happened to have read "Das Kapital" once in college, then that's not especially funny either.

Rightwingers can't do social or political satire very well, because they occupy (or at least identify with) the top of the totem pole. They can't aim level or high without insulting their friends or bosses. That's what you call friendly fire.

They can attack the political opposition, as in Democrats, but it doesn't work when their own side are guilty of worse sins than their targets are. You can't attack hypocrisy if you're guilty of it yourself.

So they can only aim down, enforcing the social hierarchy, like the Heathers warning the unpopular girls not to get above themselves. Or they can laugh at freaks, physical, social or economical, like on South Park.

Some of them, like South Park or late '70s National Lampoon, claim to be equal opportunity mockers, but they aren't really. From their position, most of their targets will be below them socially or economically. Meanwhile, they pull their punches when aiming upwards, because they know they'd be slapped down hard. After all, they'd do the same. – bjacques

I took the liberty of reading all the Lickspittle cartoons. Phew.

You know what it reminds me of? Bloom County. The situations, the characters, the cadence of the dialogue – even the art looks vaguely like early Breathed. They also take a few stabs at Boondocks-style edginess, failing miserably because, as many of you have noted, they are using the same old wingnut tropes. It's hard to be edgy with recycled humor. Perhaps best of all, in two of the strips they use a biracial girl as a mouthpiece, ripping off (of all things) Mallard Fillmore creator Bruce Tinsley's habit of using a Korean-American boy to spout his beliefs. Ripping off Mallard Fillmore? That's low.

I also noticed that, in the inauguration strips, they never once mention Obama by name or show his face, and he only appears at all in a single strip. You can increase the humor by several orders of magnitude by pretending that "the President" is, say, Chester A. Arthur. – D Johnston

I looked at the Day By Day comic, and the Lickskillet comic, and I'm damned if I can find anything comic about them. In fact, I don't even understand what they're talking about. The Lickskillet one kind of made sense – OK, politicians take graft. A barrel of yuks, that one. The humor in it is not enough to even power a one-liner in a blog, much less a four-panel strip. I don't even understand what point Muir is trying to make, let alone why it should be funny. There is such a thing as conservative humor that works – it's rare though it exists. But outside of the occasional P.J. O'Rourke quip, I can't think of any that isn't mean-spirited, snidely dismissive and/or utterly incomprehensible. I guess I just don't speak wingnut well enough. – Joe Max

Day by Day is funnier, from what I've seen so far. – Sub-Driver/Free Republic

I dunno, I think this one has Day by Day beat. -- Beelzebubba/Free Republic

"Lickskillet" is toothless banality in search of a niche market. . . . [The Inauguration Week strips are] a sustained effort to pander to craziness, without having the right accent. – Quick Study

. . . [T]he strip -- like the 1/2 Hour News Hour -- just isn't funny. . . . I'd suggest giving the entire run a quick read to get the full flavor of Lickskillet and its awful aftertaste: . . . Given the evidence -- and Dennis Miller's steep descent into utterly humorless irrelevance -- one has to wonder if conservatives lack the humor gene. – Channel Surfing

[Regarding TGFL's take on Kennedy scandals:] What's next, an amusing take on FDR trying . . . to pack the Supreme Court? Bet that will be a real [fanny]-buster. – Mike Beede

Diamond Joe Quimby on /The Simpsons/ is funny. "The Gentleman from Lickskillet" just [throws up]. – Jym Dyer

This Lickspittle comic really makes me appreciate the deep and subtle wit of Mallard Fillmore. . . . I hope they really get wild and radical and have a character named Bal Bore who is fat and who runs around claiming it's too hot even when it's cold! Ha! Yuk yuk!!! . . . I think "Lickspittle" is more accurate, though "Lick[excrement]tle" is more accurate still. – El Cid

Needs more Chappaquiddick. – pedestrian

"The Gentleman from Lickskillet"

Created by Steven J. Allen, JD, PhD
Written and drawn by Steven J. Allen & Kevin Tuma

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editor@iguild.org

Join the "Gentleman from Lickskillet" Fan Club on Facebook!