



AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

26 June 98

John Q. Adams,
97 Willow St. #4
Lockport, NY
14094-4856

Dear John:

Well, what a surprise.

THE BEAVERS came about back in 1976 or so when I was trying to flog a comic strip to the local newspaper, the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. I had been trying for some time and actually got to the point of being a thorn in the side of Sandy Baird who had been a senior editorial guy and then became publisher as I recall. I gave him some sample strips and some roughs and he told me, "Look, I could give you a shot, but my experience has been that a guy will do these things for a while and then he gets bored after a month or two and stops doing the strip and then the paper gets egg on its face because it looks as if we cancelled it."

Well, this was the time when I wouldn't take "no" for an answer, having sold my comic-book collection to get an \$1800 nest egg and taken a job at Now & Then Books that paid me \$75 a month and an apartment that cost \$120 a month. So I promptly went home and pencilled and lettered a year's worth of strips (52 weekly instalments) and talked Gene into inking them on a trip up to Gananoque. He was doing his weekly editorial cartoon "Cap'n Riverrat" for the Gananoque Reporter in exchange for free photocopying but he used to get paid (I believe) \$5 a week. My argument was that I was going to self-syndicate the strip and he would get half of the \$7 or whatever it was that I would charge each paper that took the strip.

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Adams...page 2

So, I walked into Sandy Baird's office and dropped 52 finished strips on his desk. What could he say? I think he said "yes" just so he'd never have to see my face again.

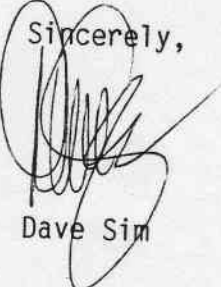
I sent out flyers to every weekly newspaper in...Ontario? Canada? It was a little over a hundred anyway. No response apart from three rejection letters. I'm probably exaggerating the number of letters. Anyway, so much for Gene's cash cow on the side. I needed the money a lot more than he did, so I think he just told me to keep it. The second year's worth I did on my own. By the looks of it, inking with a speedball nib (Gene used a brush as he did on just about everything).

By the time 1978 was rolling along, I had already started CEREBUS and was doing commercial work on the side and the 5 or \$10 a week I was getting for each strip just didn't warrant the two or three weeks it would take to do another 52 so the strip came to an end after 104 instalments. Either that or they told me they didn't want it anymore. I prefer to think that I quit rather than being fired.

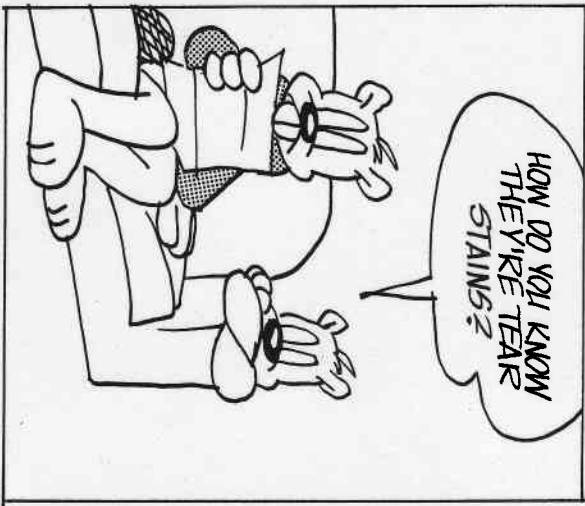
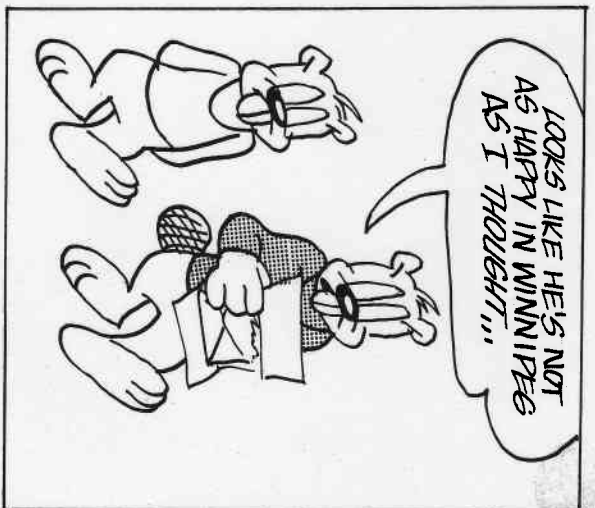
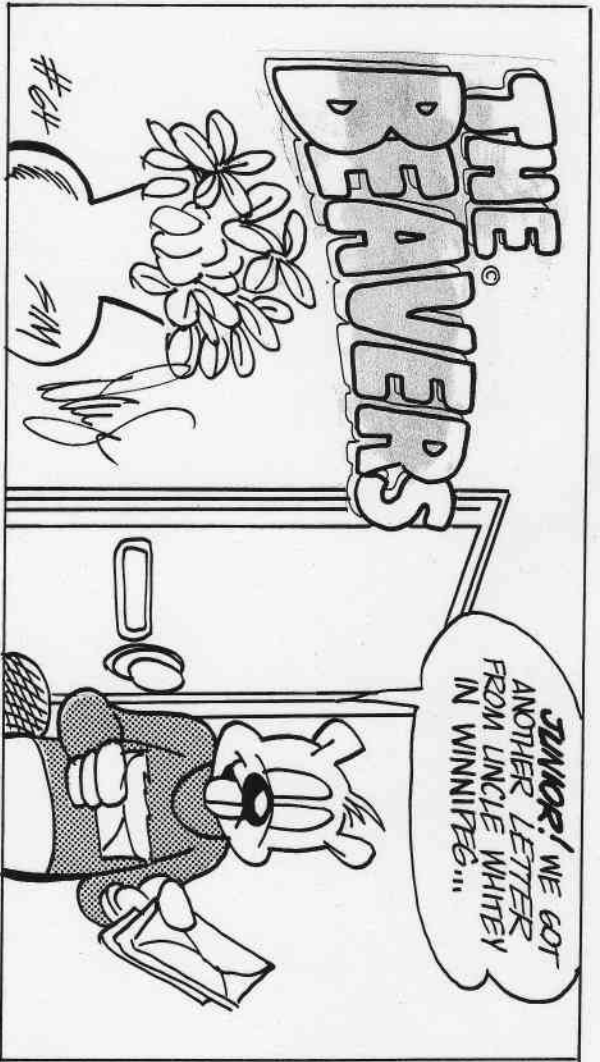
The characters were Red, Whitey and Junior (colours of the Canadian flag, get it?). The relationship of Red and Whitey was brothers as I recall. Junior actually turned up in a strip I didn't have the guts to actually submit when the Record was involved. An unidentified caller shows up on Red's doorstep and says something along the lines of "Congratulations, we understand that you have signed a petition against abortion. Owing to your courageous moral stand, we'd like to present you with this child which was not aborted..." Red sputters his protest as the caller walks away. In the last panel he's looking down at Junior who is saying, "Don't look at me. I'm not the one who signed a stupid petition."

As to selling CEREBUS artwork, Carol is doing an inventory right now which is the first step towards however we're going to manage it when we do sell artwork. My best advice would be to watch the book for an announcement.

Sincerely,



Dave Sim





I SAW AN AD FOR THIS GARDEN CENTRE-- LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK ...

THE BEAVERS

SIM

#68



I'LL WAIT OUT HERE-- YOU GO IN AND HAVE A LOOK ... IT'S YOUR GARDEN, NOT MINE ...



LOOK AT THE MARVELOUS BIRD-BATH I PICKED UP FOR ONLY TWENTY DOLLARS ...



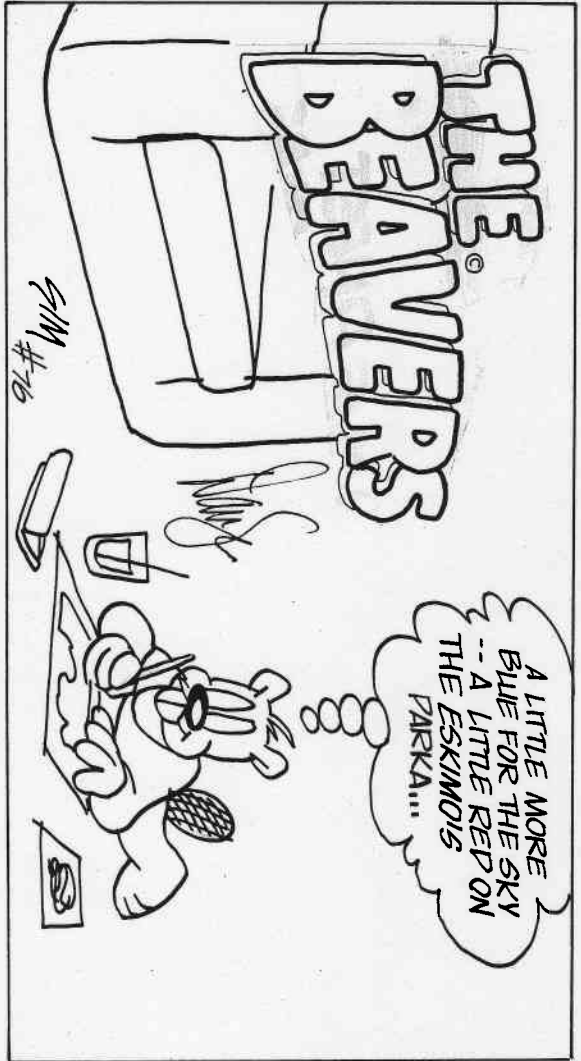
IT EVEN HAS ITSY-BITSY PLATFORMS FOR THE BIRDS TO STAND ON ...



FOR TWENTY DOLLARS, IT SHOULD HAVE ITSY-BITSY ATTENDANTS WITH ITSY-BITSY TOWELS ...

SHADDAP!

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THE BEAVERS

SIM #82

Simon

WELL -- THIS IS A SURPRISE! UP EARLY, AND MAKING YOUR BREAKFAST

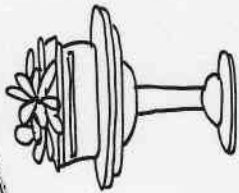
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE COOKING?

PANCAKES

AREN'T THEY A LITTLE BHT... uh... BROWN?

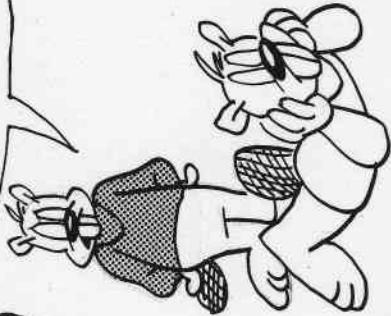
MY OWN RECIPE "I MAKE THEM WITH CHOCOLATE MILK..."

THE BEAVERS

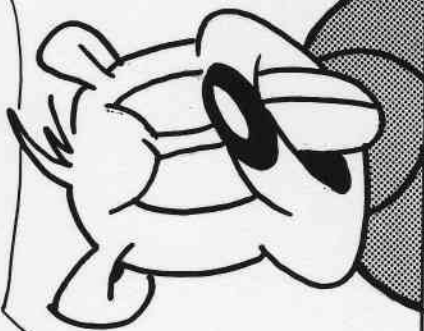


SIM #85

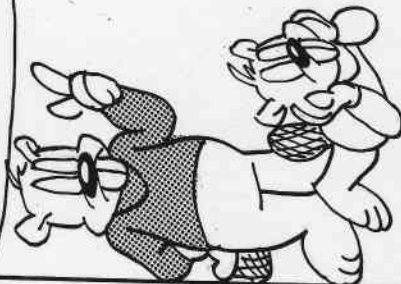
ARE YOU WATCHING
CARTOONS AGAIN? I
TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT
THERE ARE BETTER THINGS
ON TV



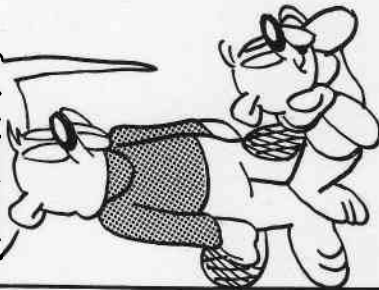
YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING
THAT NICE NATURE PROGRAM
ON CHANNEL TWELVE,
INSTEAD OF THESE...



HAS IT STARTED YET?
WHICH ONE ARE THEY
SHOWING FIRST?

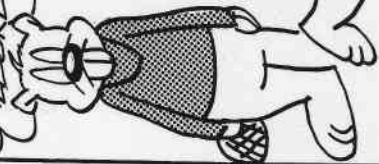


IT'S DAFFY
"DUCK IN
"DUCK
AMLUCK!"



OBOY!

WHY DO I ALWAYS
END UP FEELING
LIKE SIMON
LEGREE?



WATCH FOR
THE PART
WHERE HE
TRIES TO
SKI...

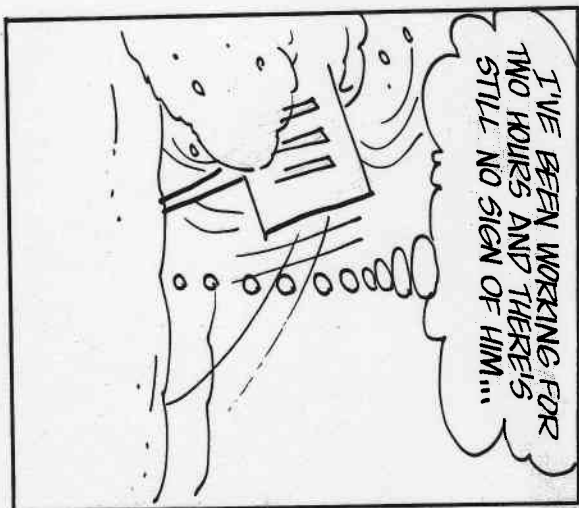
©1978 DAVE SIM



THE BEAVERS

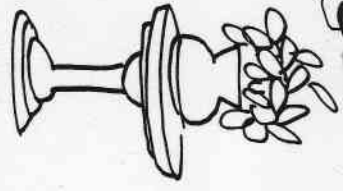
SIM #53

I DON'T GET IT-- HE SAID HE WANTED TO SHOVEL SOME SNOW TONIGHT...



THE BEAVERS

SIM #61



SATURDAY MORNING TV SURE HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS A KID...

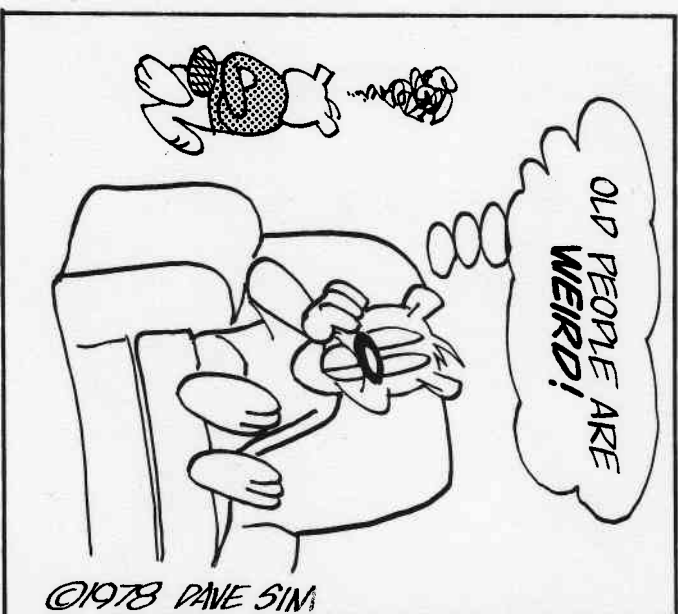


WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THOSE GREAT, OLD PROGRAMS, I WONDER?



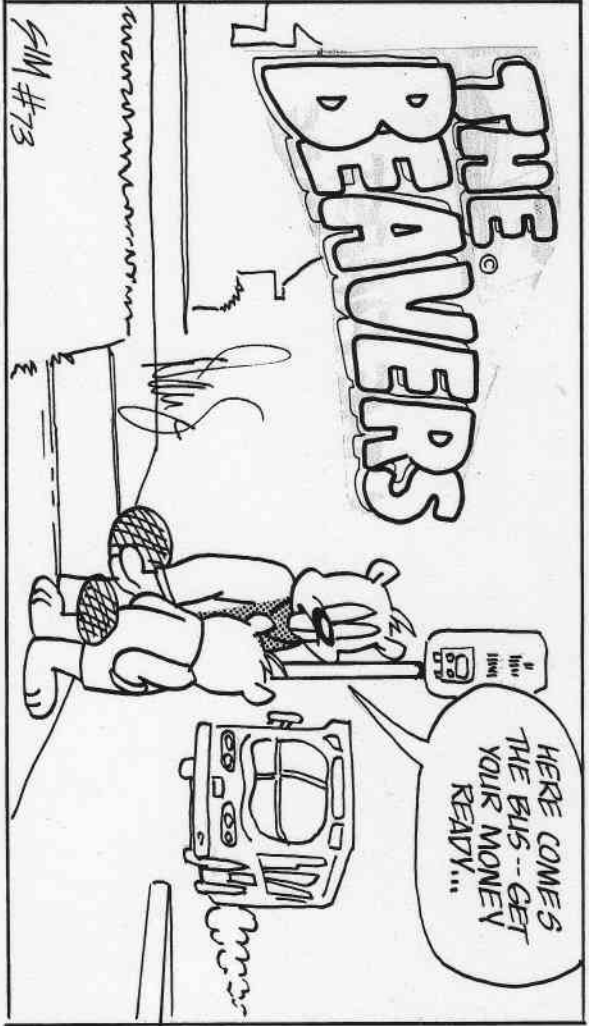
I REMEMBER GETTING UP TO WATCH ROY ROGERS...

ROY WHO?



OLD PEOPLE ARE WEIRD!

THE BEAVERS



HERE COMES THE BUS -- GET YOUR MONEY READY...

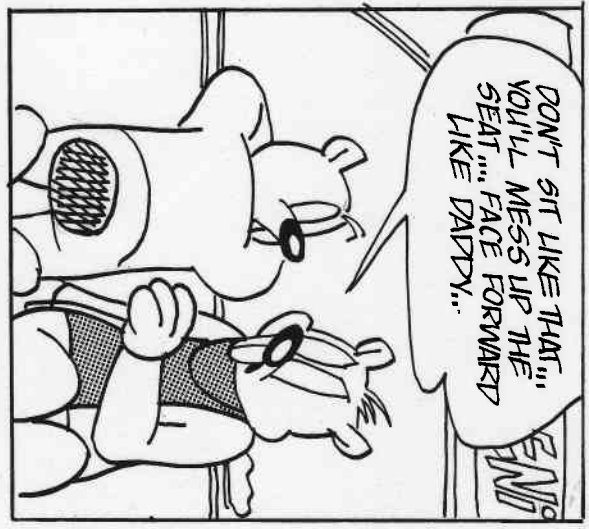


DON'T WALK SO SLOWLY -- I'VE GOT A LOT OF SHOPPING TO DO...

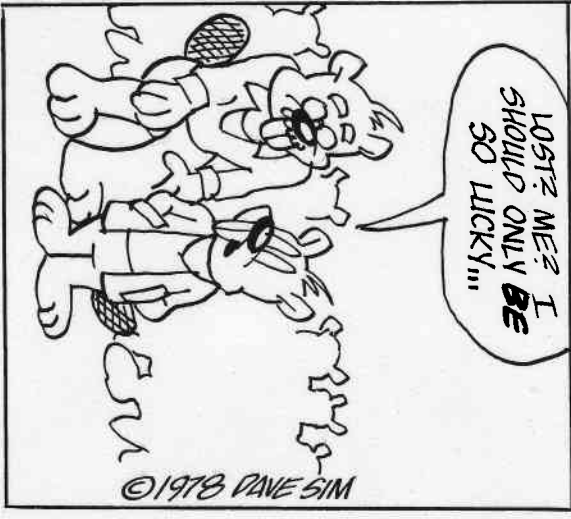
FAREWELL



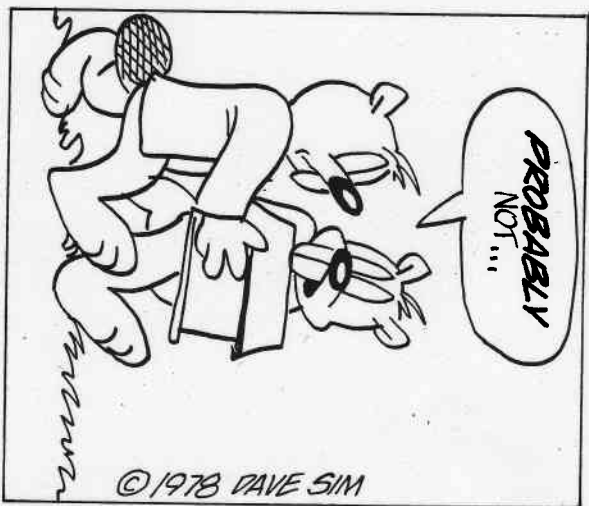
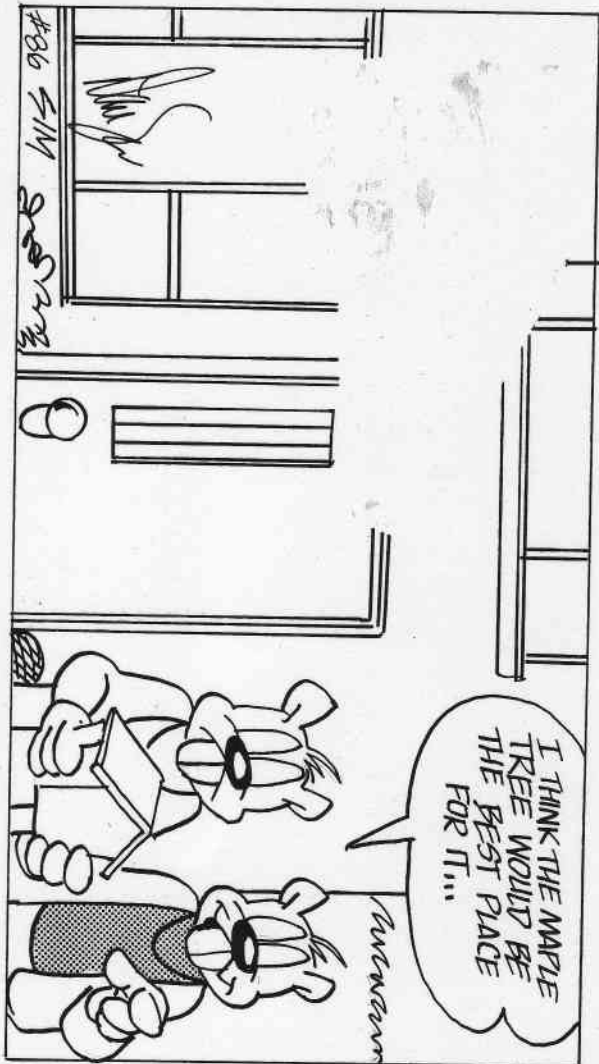
NOW WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR ME AND DON'T MOVE... I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC...



DON'T SIT LIKE THAT... YOU'LL MESS UP THE SEAT... FACE FORWARD LIKE DADDY...



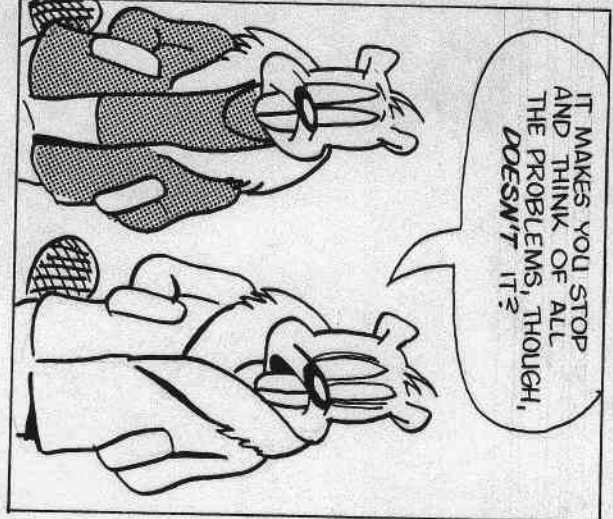
LOST? ME? I SHOULD ONLY BE SO LUCKY...



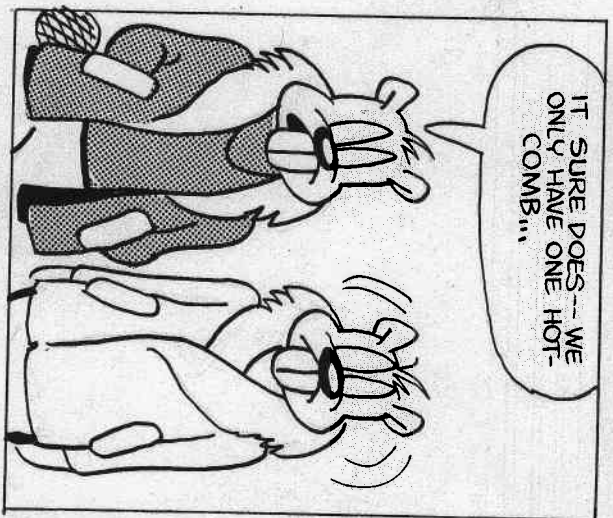


YOU'RE WHAT?!

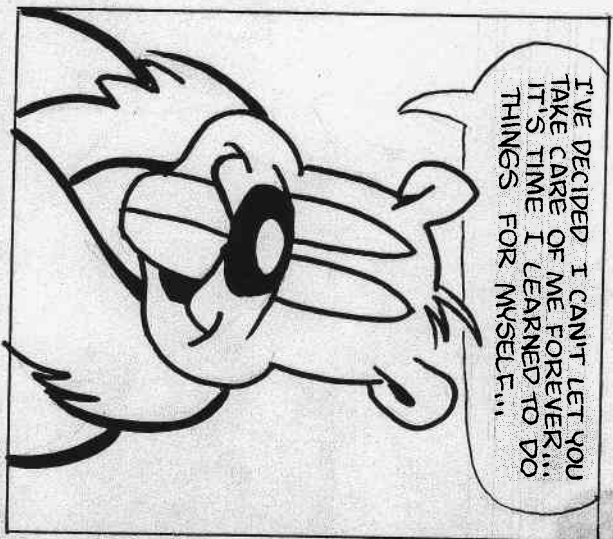
I'M MOVING OUT ON MY OWN... I'VE GOTTEN A JOB OFFER IN WINNIPEG...



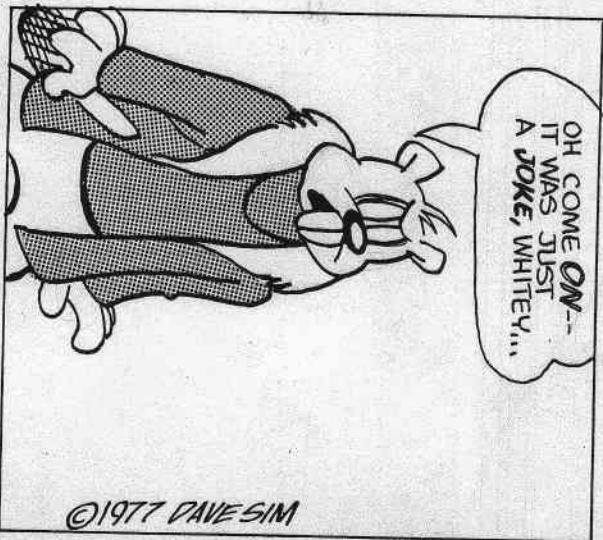
IT MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK OF ALL THE PROBLEMS, THOUGH, DOESN'T IT?



IT SURE DOES-- WE ONLY HAVE ONE HOT-COMB...



I'VE DECIDED I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE CARE OF ME FOREVER... IT'S TIME I LEARNED TO DO THINGS FOR MYSELF...



OH COME ON-- IT WAS JUST A JOKE, WHITEY...

THE BEAVERS

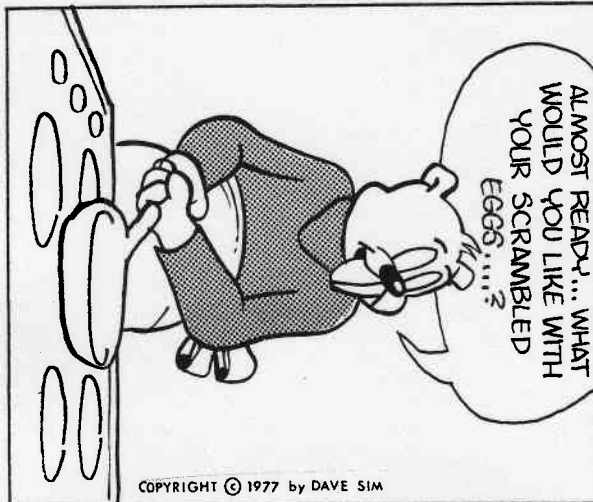
SIM & DAY



I'M MAKING MY SPECIALTY FOR BREAKFAST..... SCRAMBLED EGGS FRIED IN BUTTER...



I BELIEVE ALL GOOD COOKING SHOULD INVOLVE AN ELEMENT OF ADVENTURE....



ALMOST READY!... WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE WITH YOUR SCRAMBLED EGGS....?

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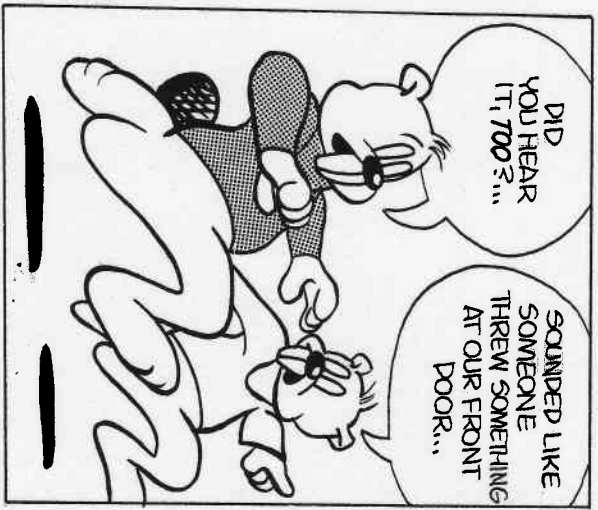
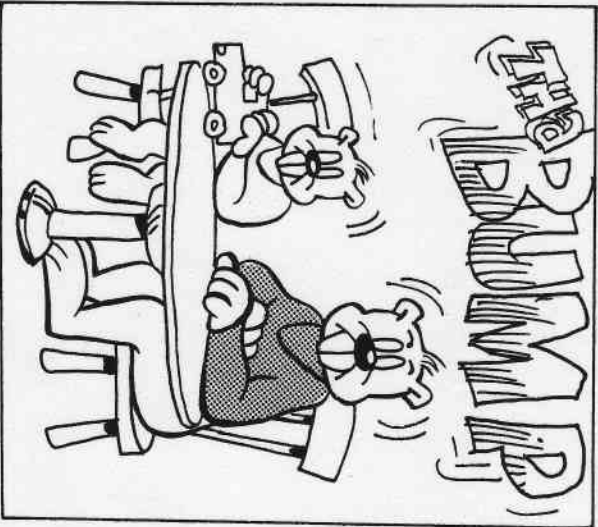
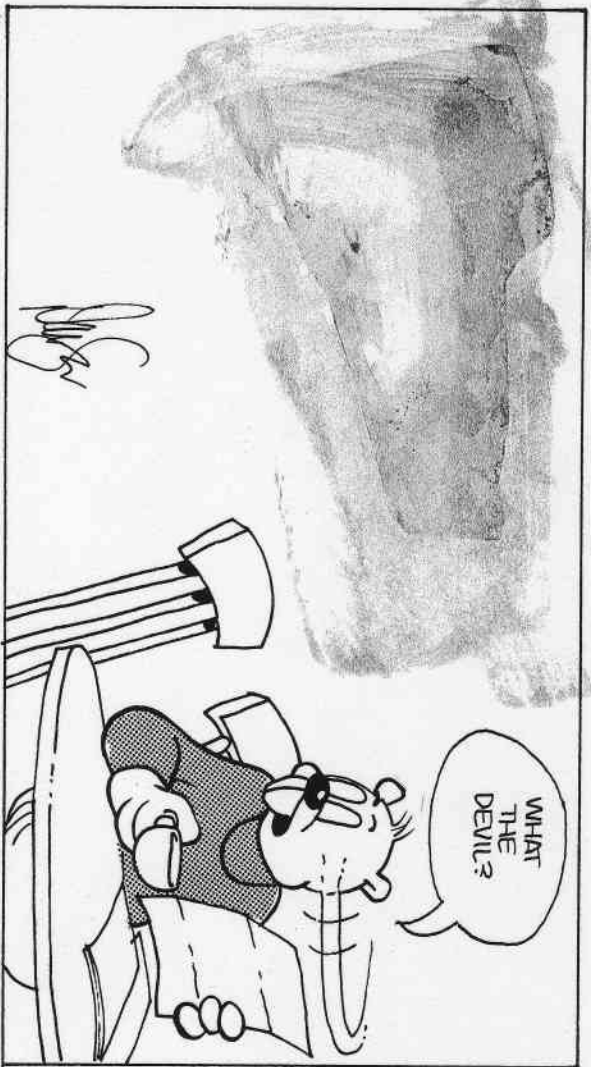
I'VE ADDED JUST A TOUCH OF RED WINE FOR THAT **EXTRA** - SPECIAL FLAVOUR...



A LITTLE LESS ENTHUSIASM WOULD BE NICE...

SHADDUP!

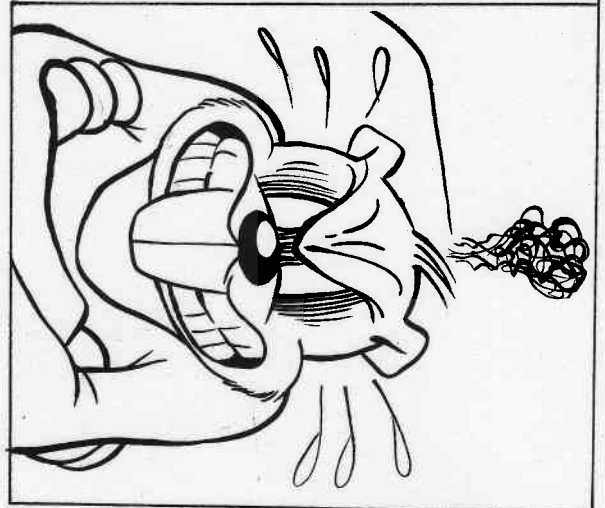
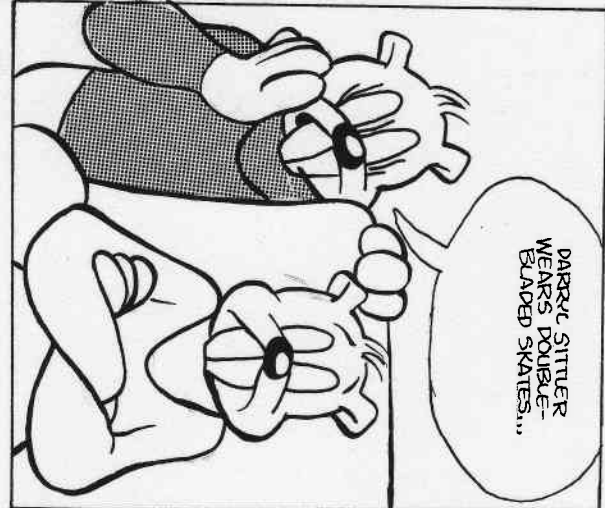
Murphy





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April 14



THE BEAVERS



UP KIND OF LATE
AREN'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU
READING?



... AND EATING SOME
SOGGY FROSTED
FLAKES...



≡ SIGH ≡

SIM & DAY

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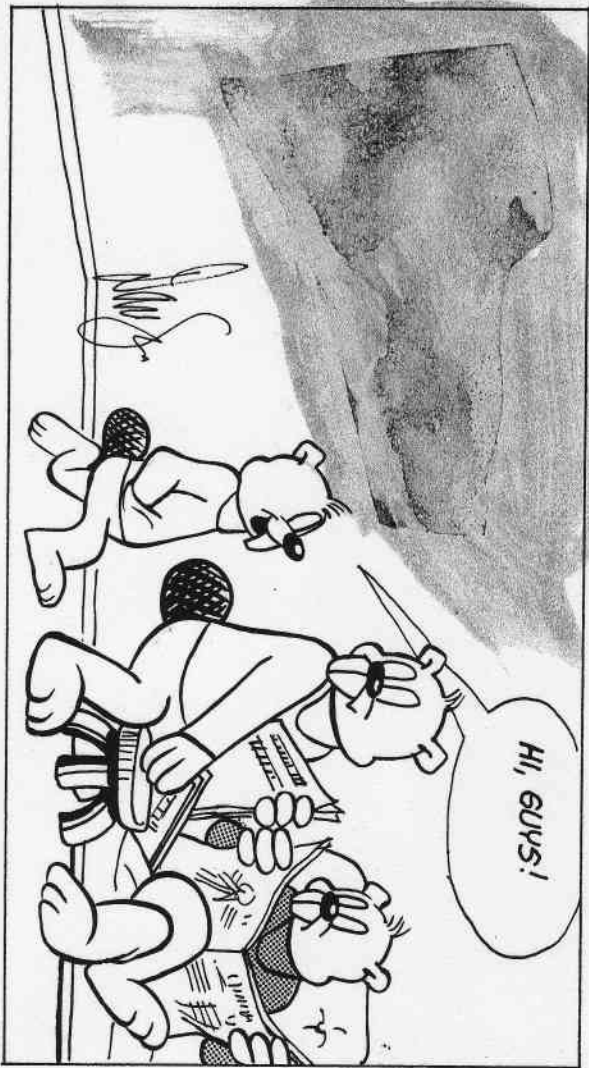
I WAS JUST HAVING
A LOOK THROUGH MY
OLD HIGH SCHOOL YEAR-
BOOK...



AND I HAVE
A SUDDEN URGE
TO HEAR PAUL ANKA
SING "PUPPY LOVE"

THERE'S A
LOT OF IT
GOING
AROUND...

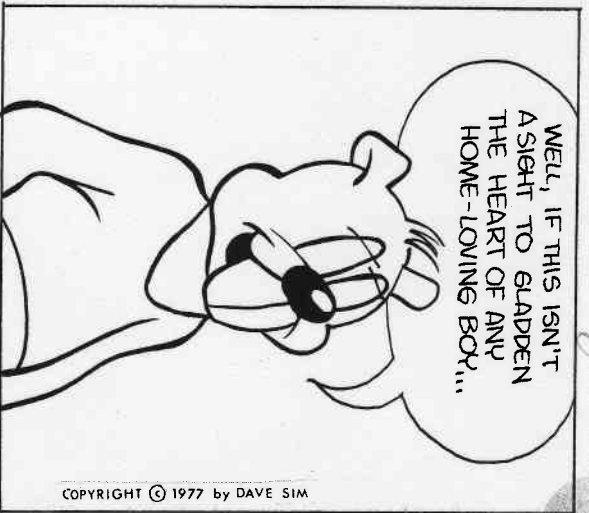
Mary S



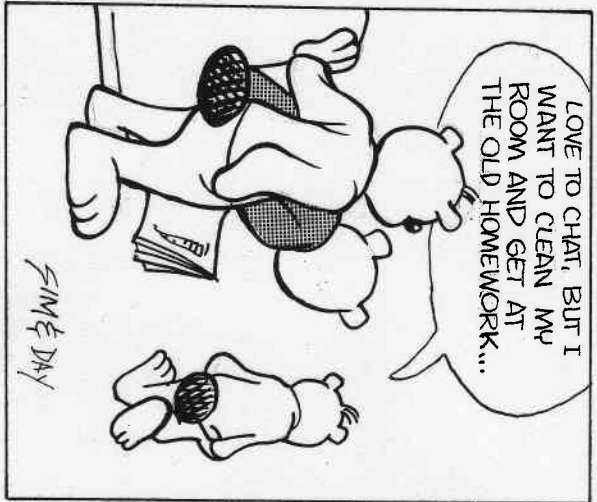
Hi, guys!



HIS FAMILY ALL TOGETHER, ENJOYING BEING WITH EACH OTHER...



WELL, IF THIS ISN'T A SIGHT TO GLADDEN THE HEART OF ANY HOME-LOVING BOY...



LOVE TO CHAT, BUT I WANT TO CLEAN MY ROOM AND GET AT THE OLD HOMEWORK...

SIM & DAY

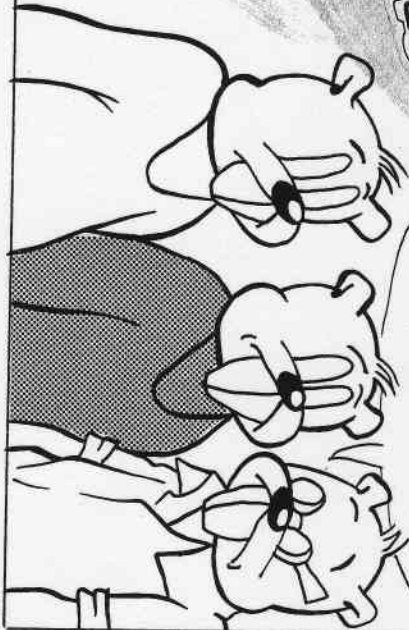


YOU TOLD HIM WE'RE SENDING HIM TO SUMMER CAMP...

NOT A WORD, I SWEAR!...

June 2

THE BEAVERS



HEY-I REALIZE I HAVEN'T BEEN THE EASIEST HOUSE GUEST IN THE WORLD, WITH ALL MY TALK ABOUT TORONTO..."



"SO JUST TO SHOW YOU MY HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE, I GOT YOU A PRESENT TODAY..."

August 4



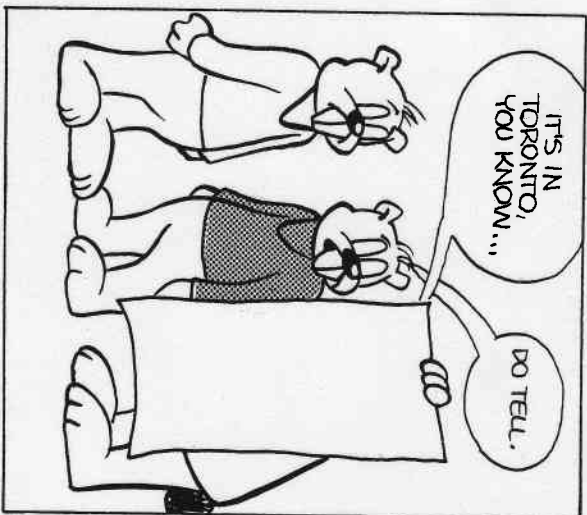
WELL, I MUST SAY THIS IS VERY NICE OF YOU, COUSIN HENRY..."



A FIVE FOOT POSTER OF THE CN TOWER!

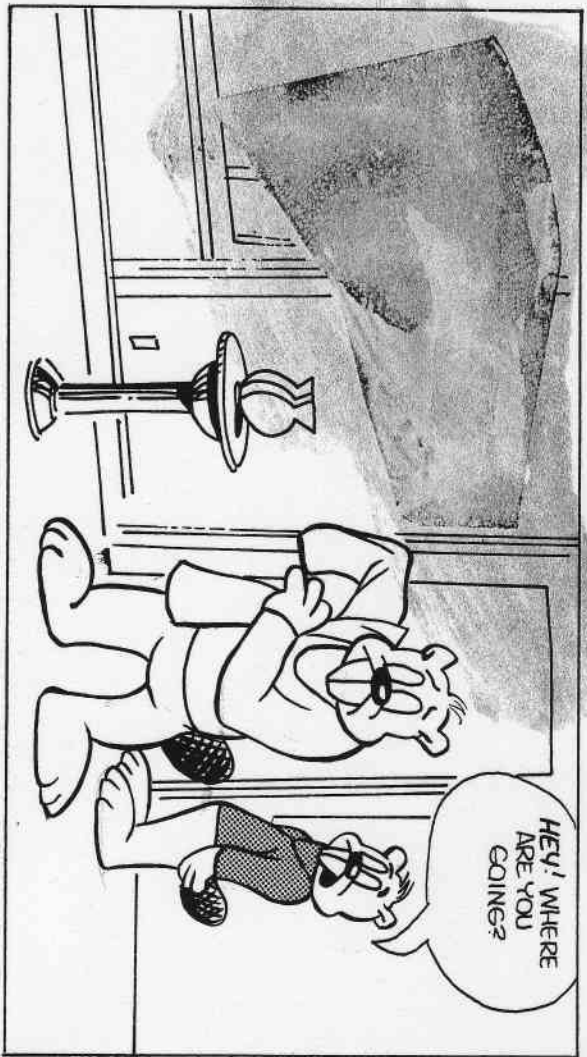
SAM & DAVE

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IT'S IN TORONTO, YOU KNOW..."

DO TELL.



HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



OH WELL - HE PROBABLY JUST WANTS TO GIVE YOUR TEETH A GOOD CLEANING....

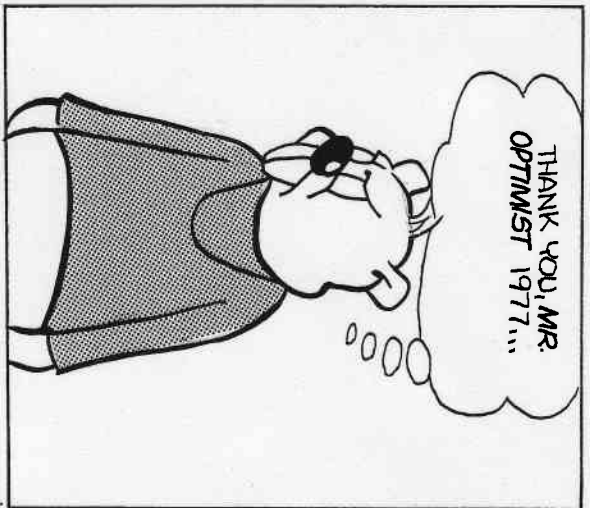


"OR DO SOME EXTENSIVE ROOT CANAL WORK..."

SAME DAY

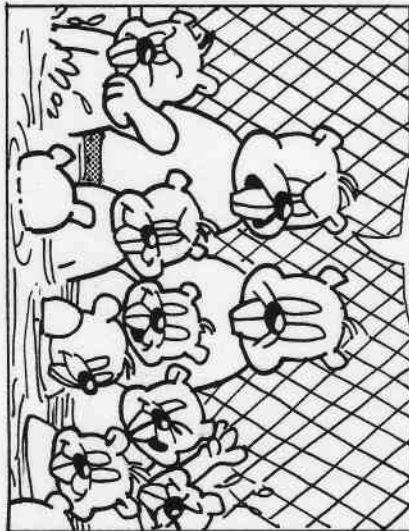
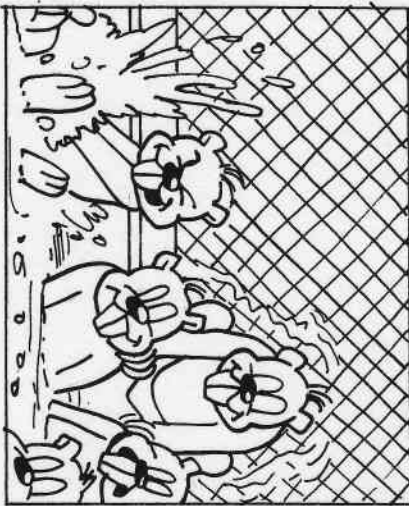
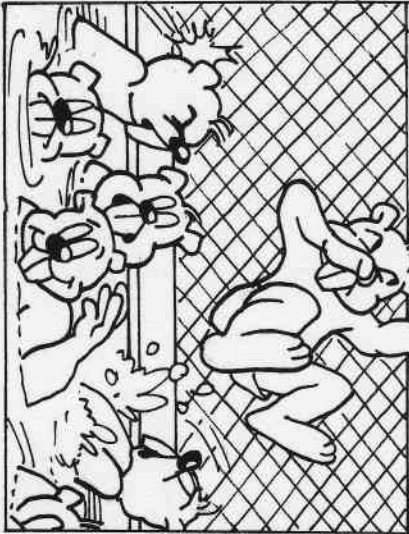


THE DENTIST CALLED AND ASKED ME TO COME IN... SOMETHING ABOUT MY X-RAYS...



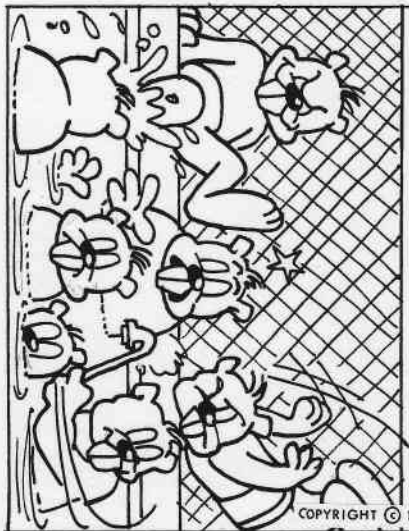
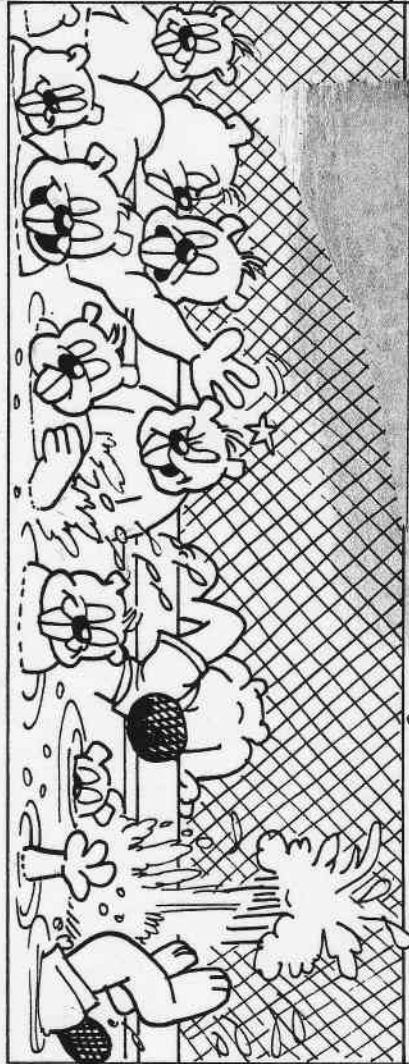
THANK YOU, MR. OPTIMIST 1977...

sep 1



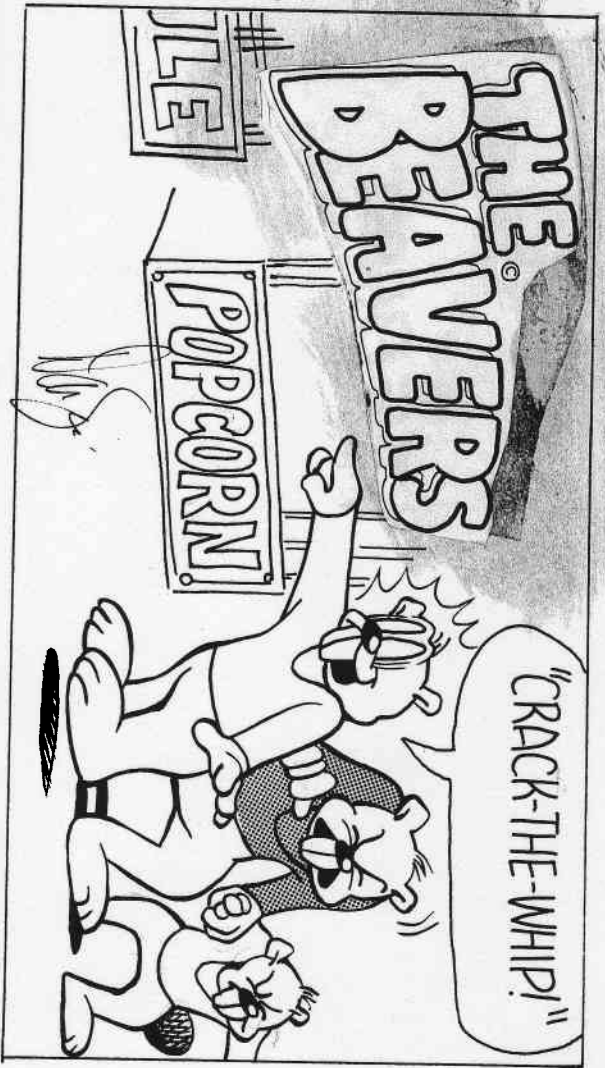
SIM & DAY

"LET'S GO TO THE POOL TODAY!" YOU SAID.
"IT WON'T BE CROWDED ON A THURSDAY IN THE AFTERNOON!" YOU SAID..."

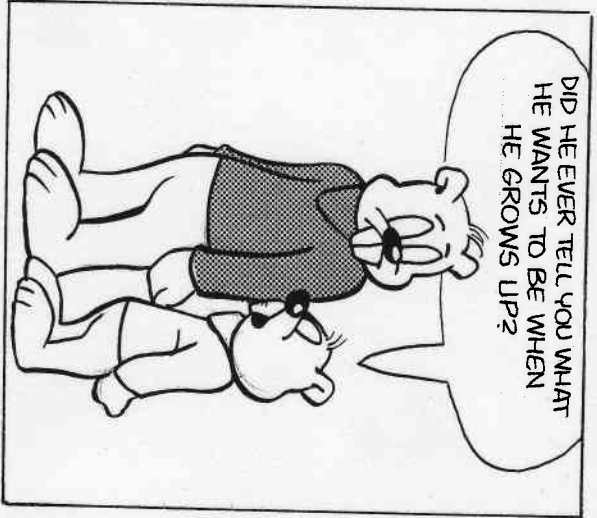
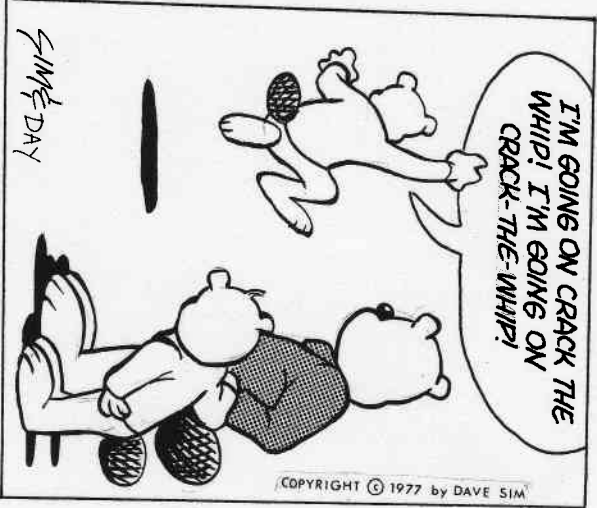


Handwritten signature

July 4



August 1





WHITNEY? OH YES
HE'S FINE-- THE
PICTURE OF HEALTH...

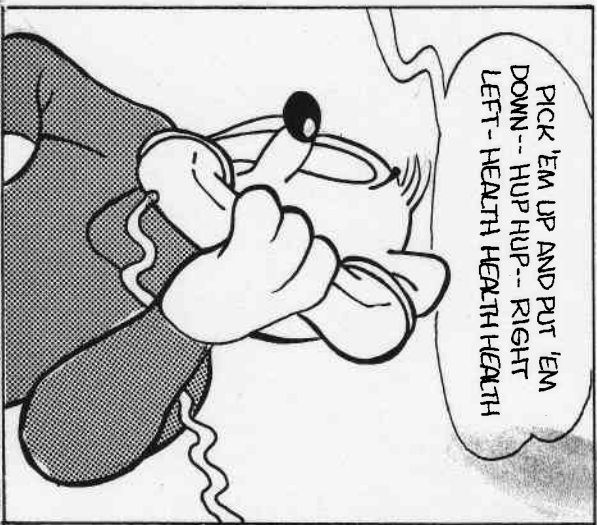


OH YES... HE'S STILL
AT IT... HE'S UP TO FIVE
MILES A DAY... SAYS HE'S
NEVER FELT BETTER...

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RUN-- GOTTA KEEP MOVING
... EXERCISE MY HEART
AND LUNGS...



PICK 'EM UP AND PUT 'EM
DOWN-- HIP HIP-- RIGHT
LEFT- HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH



IT'S LIKE LIVING WITH
A PARTICIPATION
COMMERCIAL...

