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COMICS
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SIMPSONS

COMICS



MATT
GROENING/
MORISON

The Perplexing Puzzle of **SPRINGFIELD PUMA**

AH, FEARLESS PUMA
STATUE -- SYMBOL OF
ETERNAL VIGILANCE,
UNSLEEPING GUARDIAN OF
OUR HALLWAYS...

...THE STUFF THAT
SCHOOL SPIRIT IS
MADE OF.

A MATT GROENING PRODUCTION

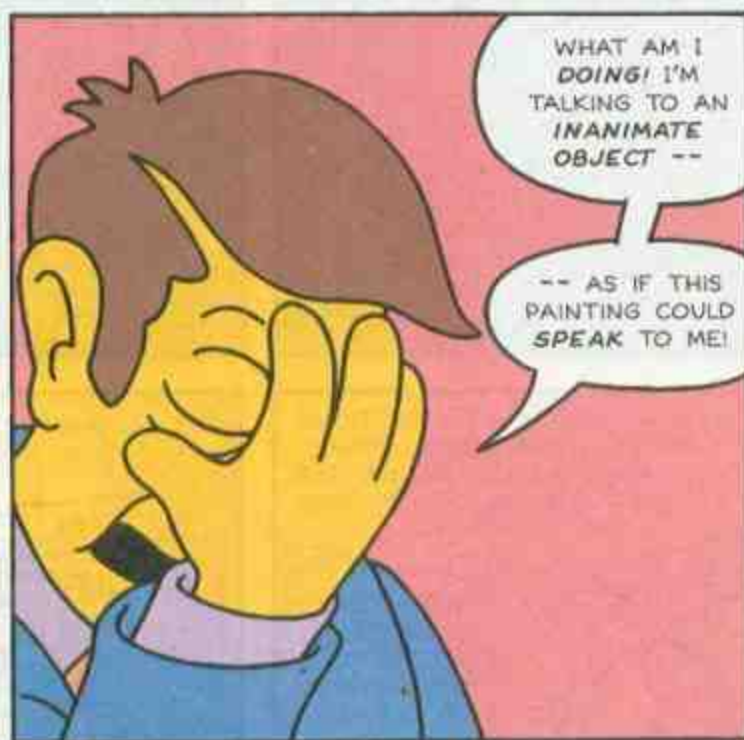
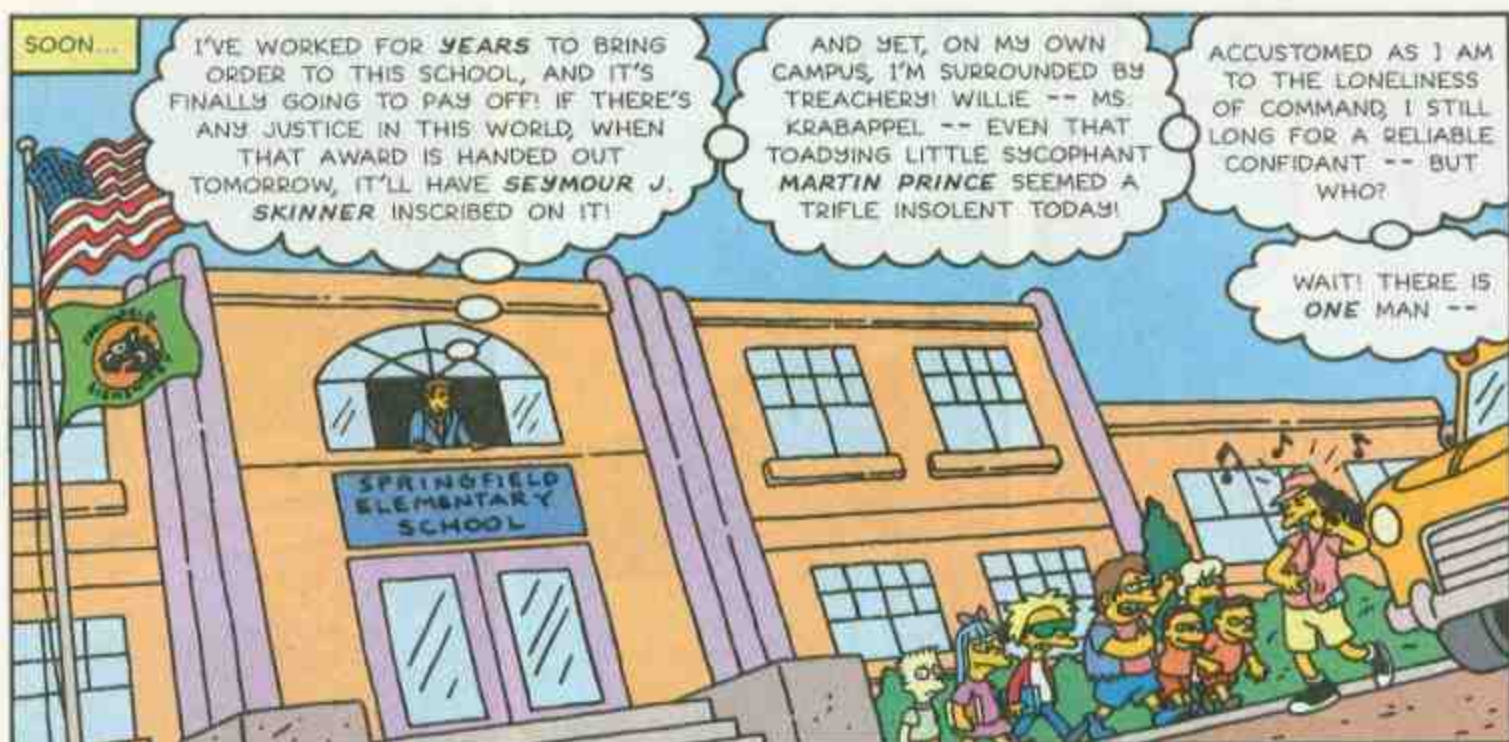
STEVE VANCE BILL MORRISON CINDY VANCE TIM BAVINGTON
SCRIPT, PENCILS FINISHED ART CO-SCRIPT, COLORS ADDITIONAL INKS

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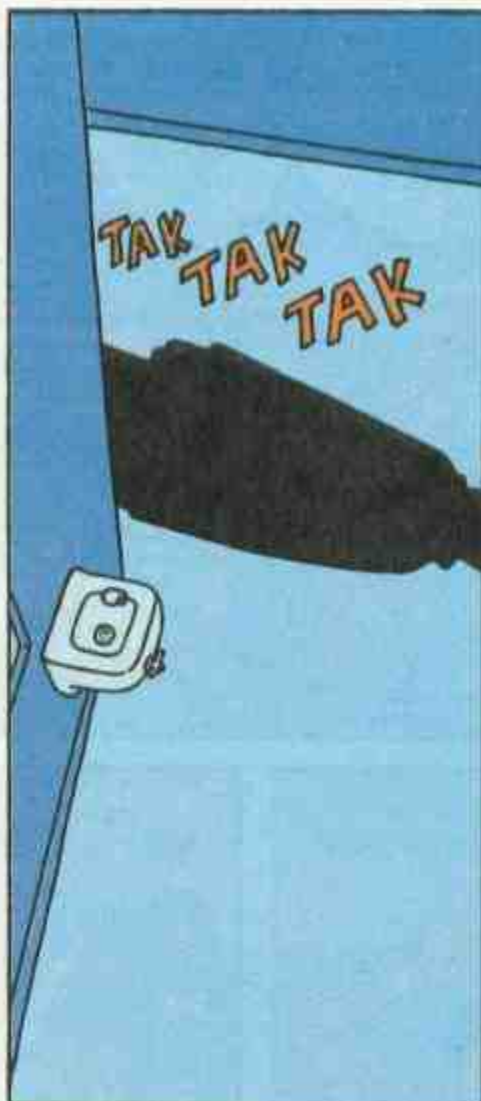
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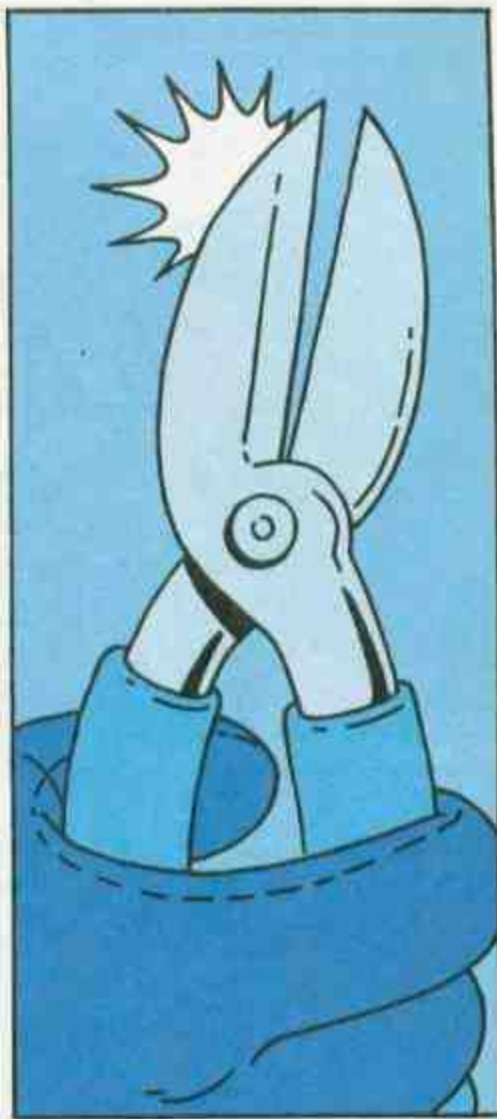
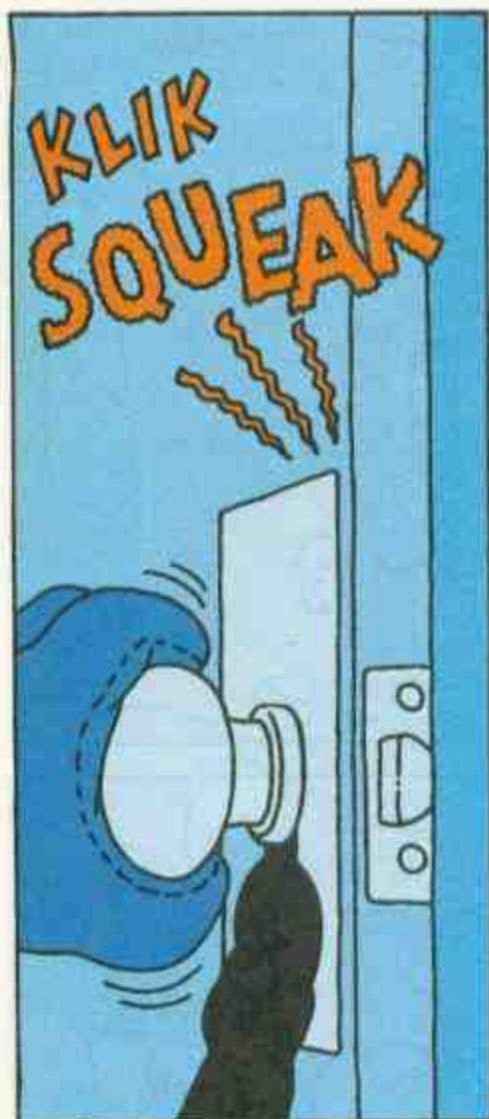


LATER, AS DARKNESS
DESCENDS ON SPRINGFIELD...



IT IS SEVERAL MINUTES PAST THE
HOUR AT WHICH JIMBO, DOLPH,
AND KEARNY HABITUALLY ENTER
THIS ESTABLISHMENT TO BADGER
MY CUSTOMERS!













MEANWHILE...

BOY, AM I GLAD WE MANAGED TO SQUIRM OUT OF THOSE ROPES BEFORE MS. KRABPEL AND WILLIE GOT BACK! THEY'RE GONNA BE **REALLY MAD** -- I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THEY'LL DO TO US **TOMORROW!**

DON'T WORRY, THIS WILL HAVE ALL BLOWN OVER BY THEN!

...BUT JUST IN CASE IT **DOESN'T**, I'D BETTER START PRACTICING MY **FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS!**

HEY, YOU!

HUH? WENDELL! WHAT TH -- ?!

THE **FAT BOY** WANTS TO SEE YA, PAL -- YER COMIN' WIT' ME!

SAYS **WHO** -- ?! ZULP!!

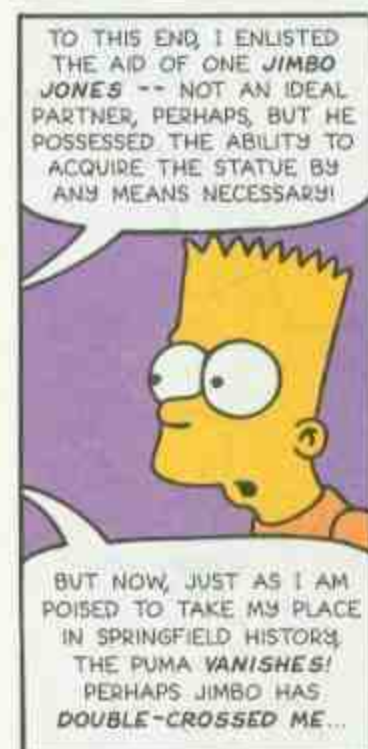
SAYS MY PAL **ROSCOE** HERE! MAKE UP YER MIND **QUICK** -- MY TRIGGER FINGER'S GETTIN' **ITCHY!**

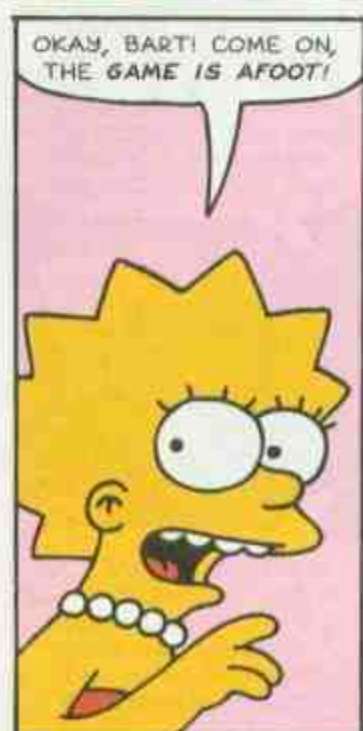
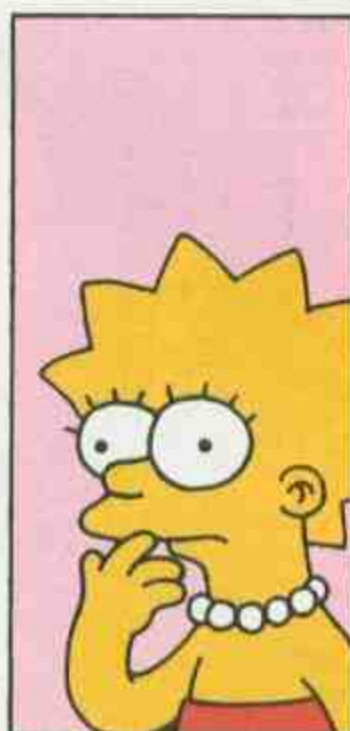
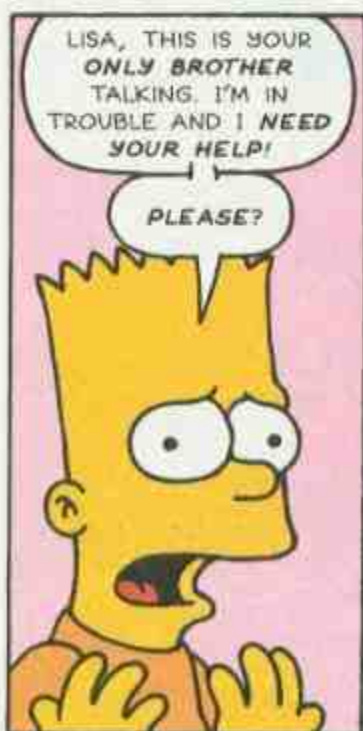
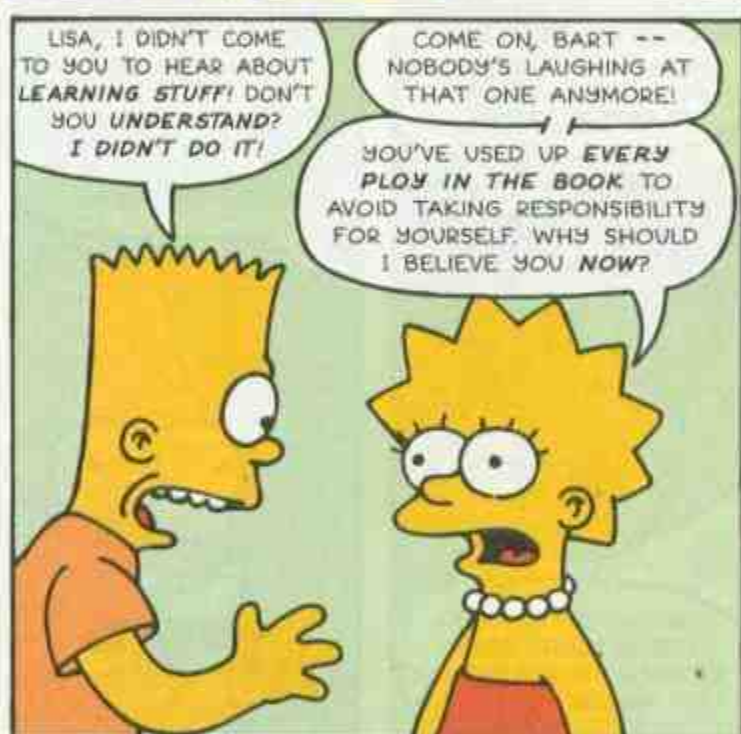
OH, MAN! THE **CHEAPER** THE **CROOK**, THE **GAUDIER** THE **PATTER** -- **WHATEVER** THAT MEANS!

SOON...

COME IN, MR. SIMPSON, COME IN!

YOU -- THE **FAT BOY!** I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!





THE FIRST THING WE'VE GOT TO DO IS FIGURE OUT WHO OUR **SUSPECTS** ARE AND START GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES **LAST NIGHT**, WHEN THE PUMA WAS **STOLEN**!

KWIK-E-MART

JIMBO, DOLPH, AND KEARNY ALWAYS HANG OUT HERE! SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT!

RIGHT!

'EVENING, APU, MY MAN! GIMME THE USUAL!

ONE JUMBO RED SYRUP SQUISHEE -- SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED -- COMING RIGHT UP!

AND HERE COME OUR **PRIME SUSPECTS**, RIGHT ON TIME! THIS WILL BE **EASY** -- THESE GUYS WILL NEVER SUSPECT THEY'RE **BEING FOLLOWED**!

...I JUST HOPE LISA'S DOING OKAY

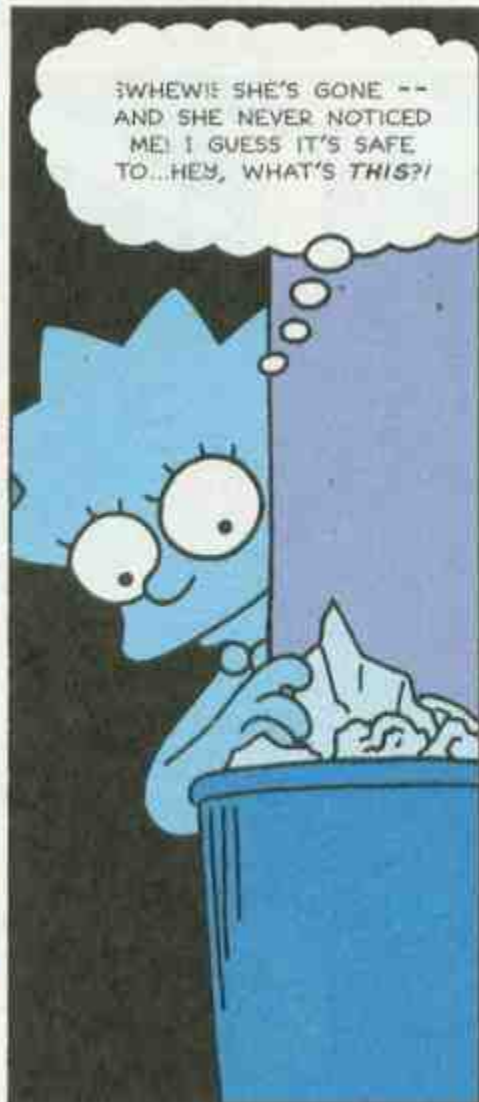
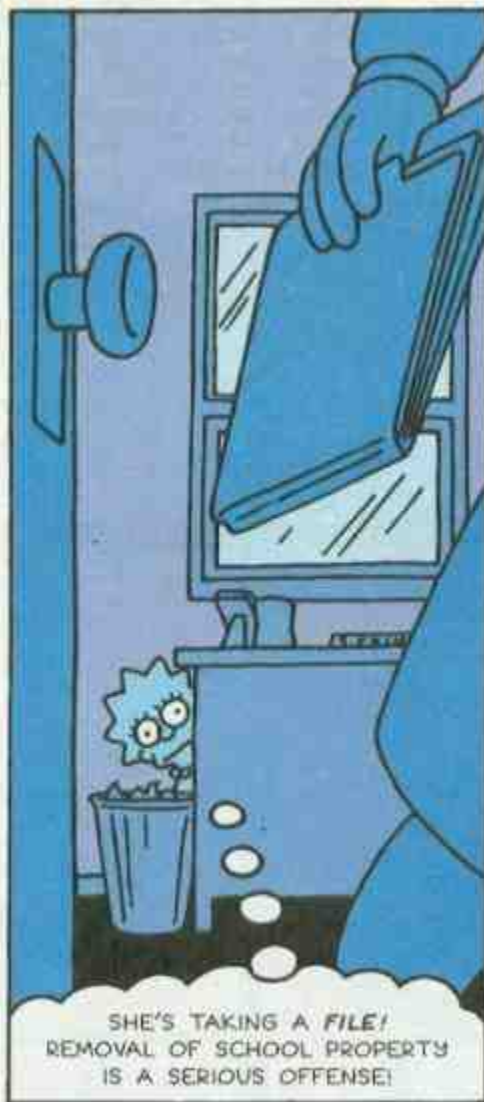
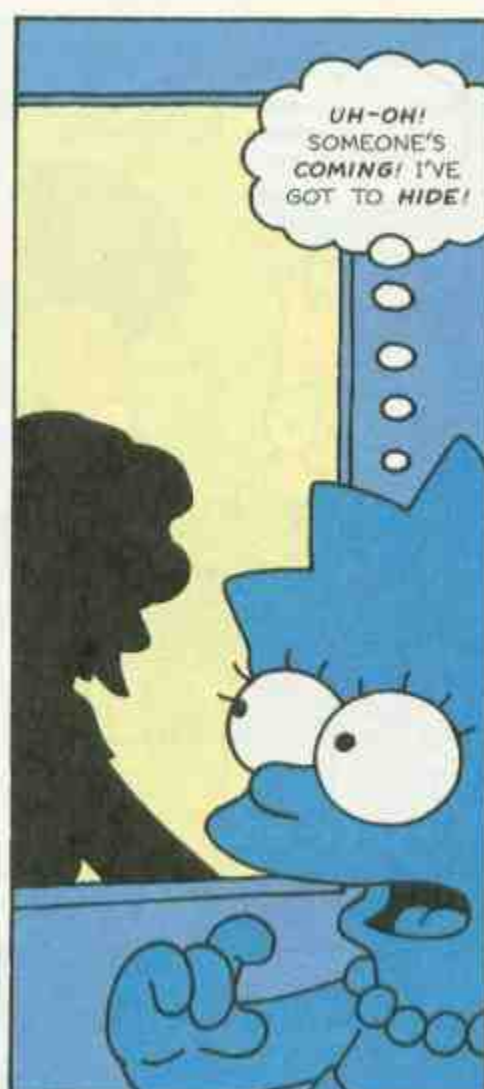
SKREEEE

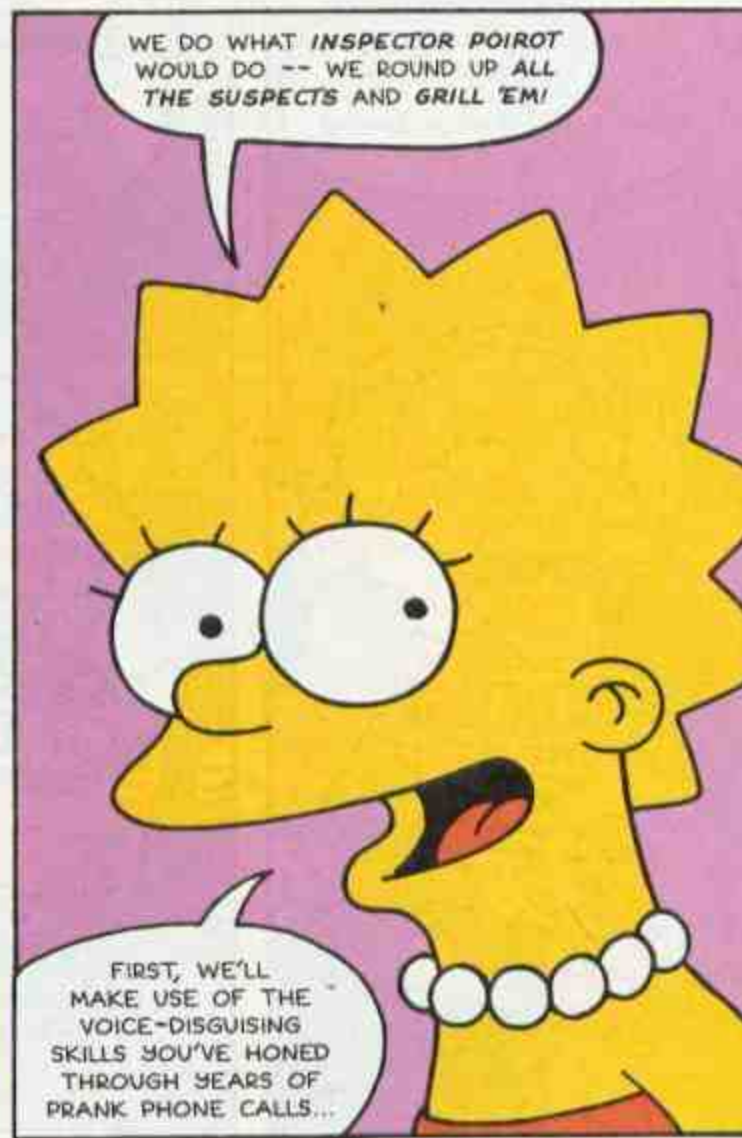
SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HERE'S THE **BROKEN WINDOW** BART HEARD ABOUT! I FIGURED THE WHEELS OF THE BUREAUCRACY WOULD GRIND TOO SLOWLY FOR IT TO HAVE BEEN **REPAIRED**!

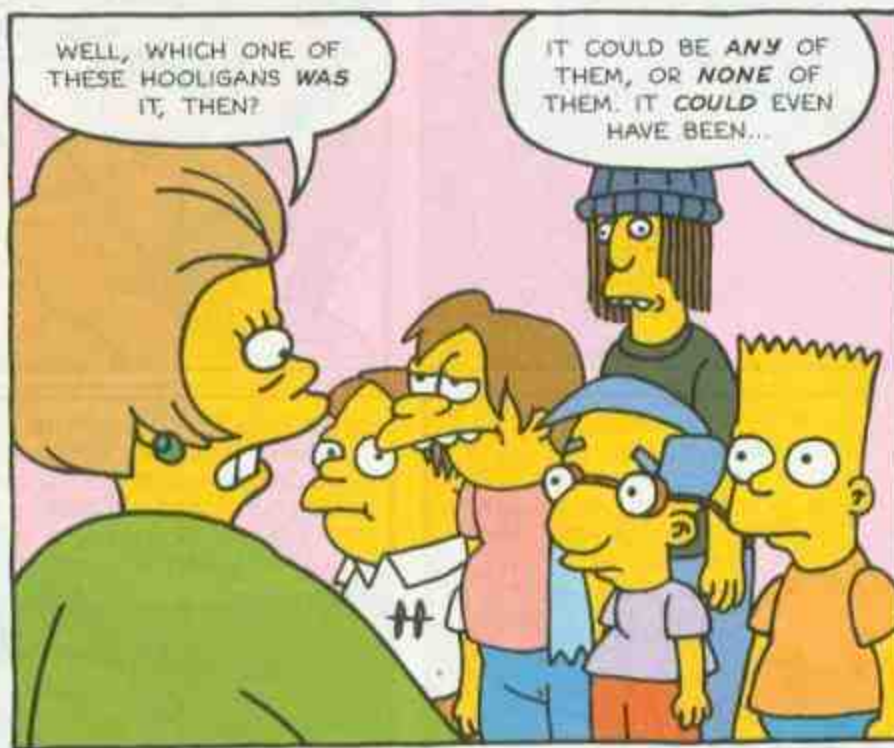
NOW LET'S SEE IF SKINNER **HIMSELF** HAS ANY EVIDENCE TO SHOW WHO WOULD'VE TAKEN HIS PUMA!

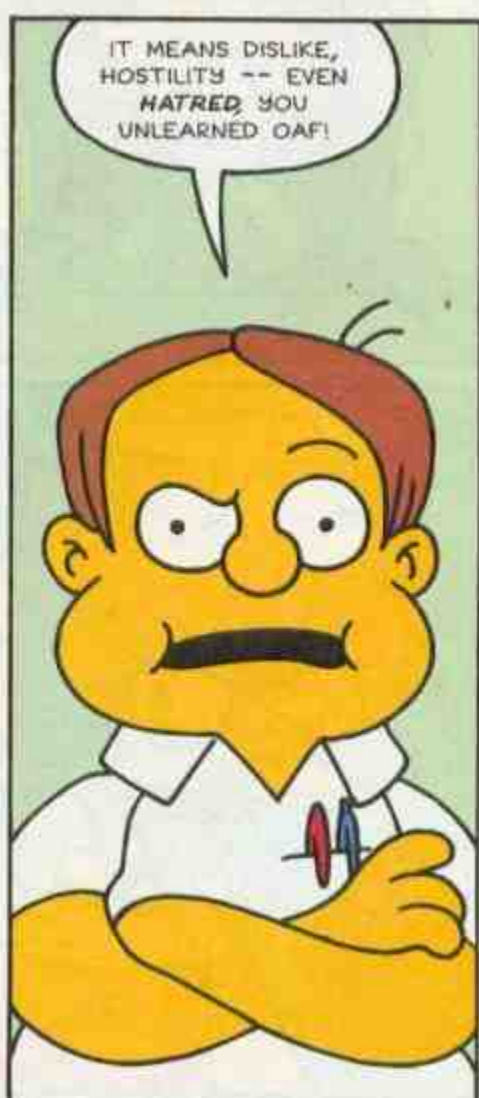
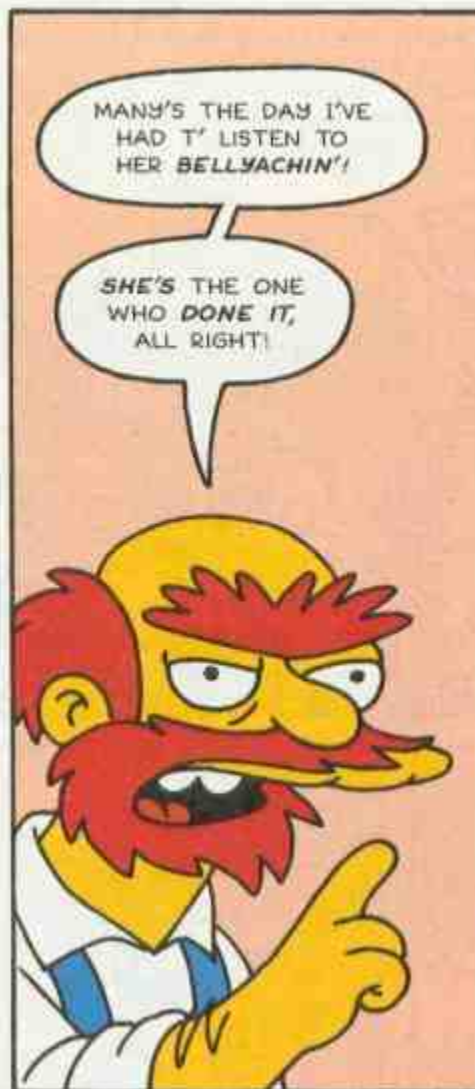
SEYMOUR SKINNER
PRINCIPAL











AS FOR **YOU**, MARTIN, YOUR KNEEJERK RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY WOULD SEEM TO **RULE YOU OUT** AS A SUSPECT -- AT **FIRST GLANCE!** BUT BART HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SCHEME...



...AND ABOUT **YOUR INVOLVEMENT**, JIMBO!

I DON'T KNOW NOTHING -- 'CEPT THAT THIS PUNK **DIDN'T DELIVER!**



AND YOU, MISS HOOVER -- I CHECKED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMPUTER DATABASE AND LEARNED WHAT WAS IN THAT FILE YOU STOLE! IT WAS **YOUR OWN PERSONNEL RECORD**...

B-BUT...

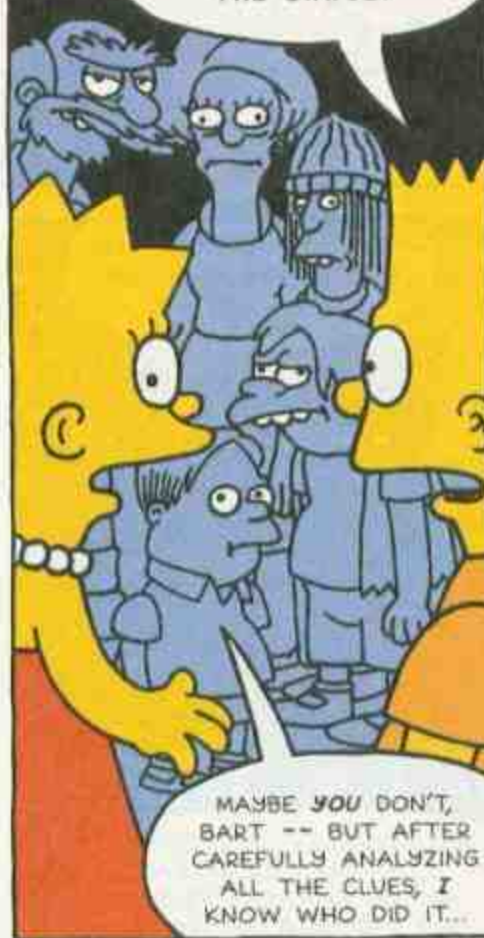


...INCLUDING THE FACT THAT YOUR BELOVED **GREAT AUNT WAS MAULED BY A PUMA** WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD!

PERHAPS YOU SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPOSE OF OUR SCHOOL MASCOT, AN EVER-PRESENT **REMINDER OF THAT AWFUL TRAGEDY**.



UH, LISA -- YOU'VE GONE ALL THE WAY AROUND THE ROOM AND WE **STILL DON'T KNOW WHO TOOK THE STATUE!**



MAYBE YOU DON'T, BART -- BUT AFTER CAREFULLY ANALYZING ALL THE CLUES, I **KNOW WHO DID IT...**

...AND THAT PERSON IS...

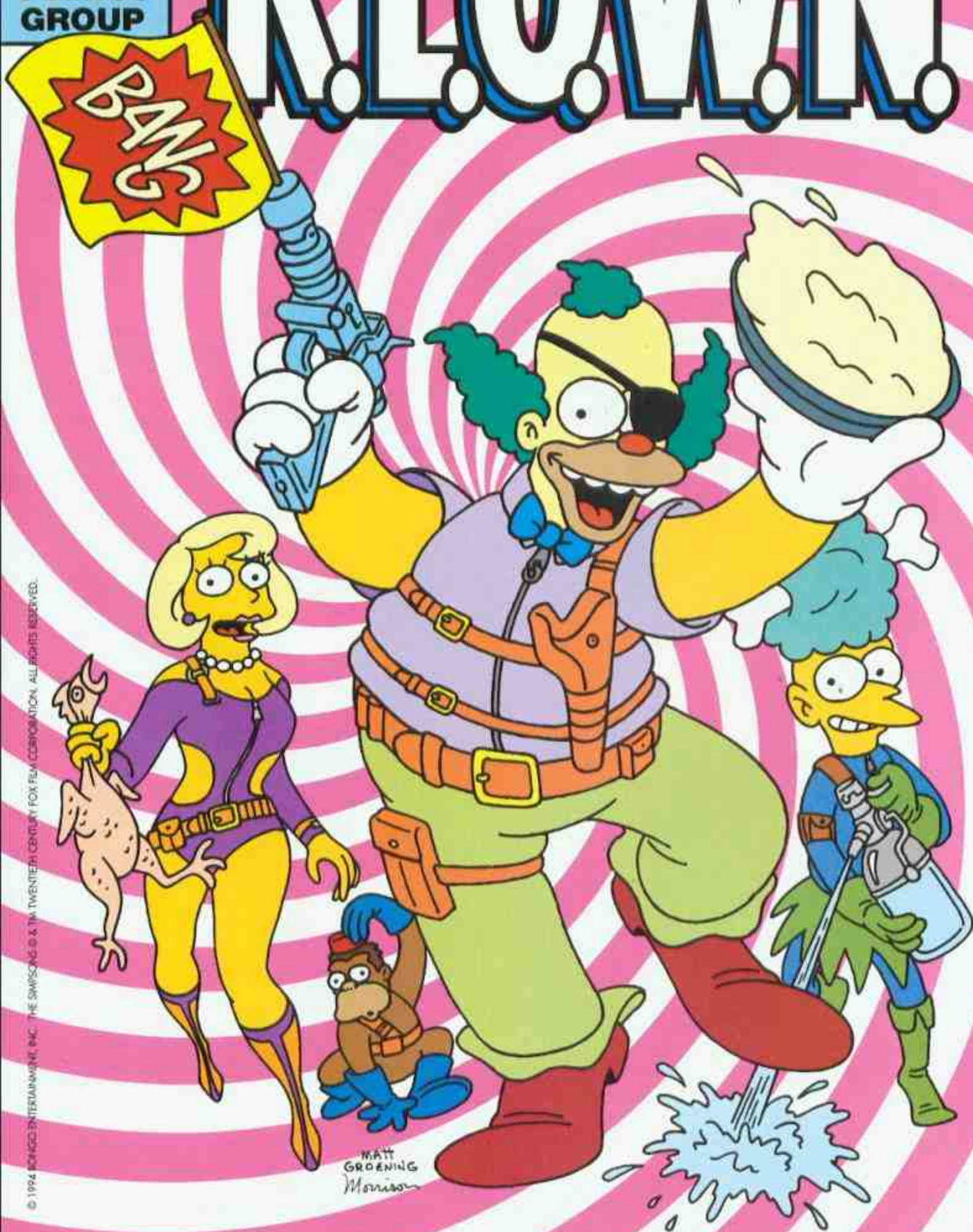






**BONGO
COMICS
GROUP**

KRUSTY, AGENT OF KLOWN!



KRUSTY, AGENT OF KLOWN!

KEEPING LAW & ORDER WITH NOVELTY ITEMS

MR. TEENY -- NO!
DON'T TOUCH THAT
SWITCH! IT OPENS
THE --

YAAAAAAA!!

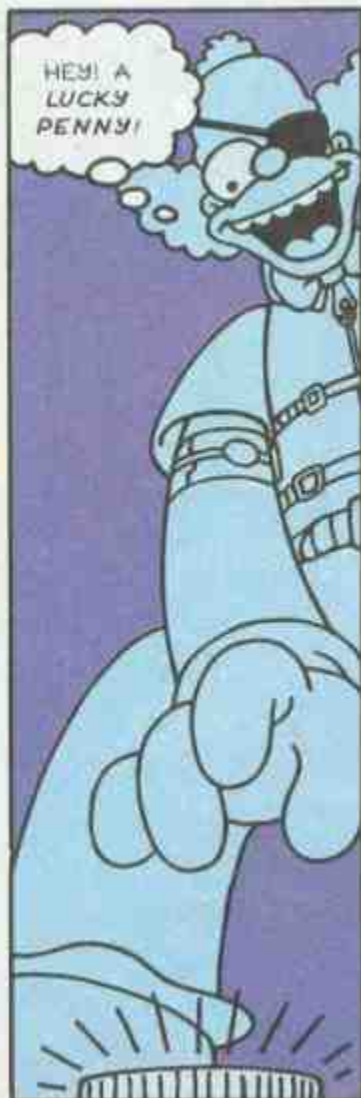
[WHEW!
LUCKY I'M WEARIN'
MY A.C.R.O.N.Y.M.*
SUIT! WITH THESE
WINGS, I CAN GLIDE
TO SAFETY!]

A GROENING ☆ CASTELLANETA
LACUSTA ☆ VANCE ☆ MORRISON
BAVINGTON ☆ VANCE PRODUCTION

*AERIAL CONTROLLED RUDDERLESS
ORDNANCE NODE -- YEAH, MAN!



GOOD THING WE WERE RIGHT ABOVE THE KLOWN TESTING TOWER! I CAN JUST LAND ON THE ROOF!



HEY! A LUCKY PENNY!



WOOO! A COSMIC ENERGY CREAM PIE CANNON! IF I HADN'T BENT DOWN, I WOULD'VE BEEN CREAMED!

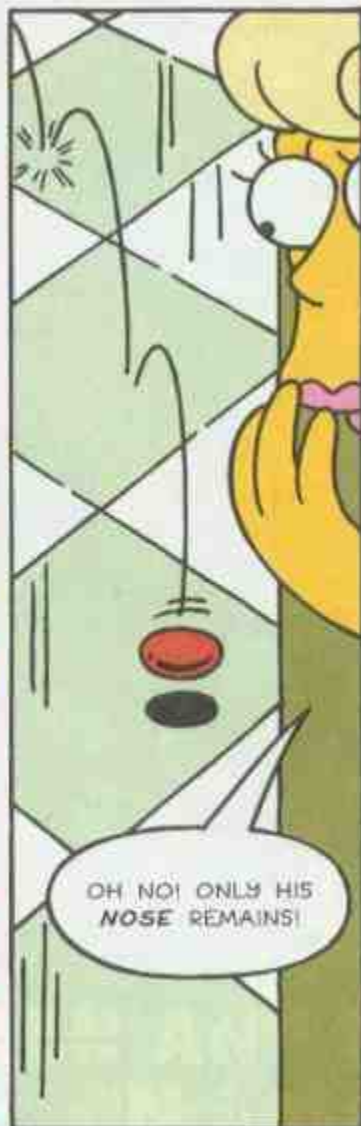
VOONK!
VOONK!

SPLAT!



IT'S FIRIN' TOO FAST -- CAN'T KEEP UP --!

VOONK!



OH NO! ONLY HIS NOSE REMAINS!



MUST IT COME TO THIS?! THE ONE WHO MADE US LAUGH NOW MAKES US CRY?!

AHH, QUIT CRYIN' OVER SPILT CLOWN!

KRUSTY!
YOU'RE ALIVE!



OF COURSE! THAT BLOWN-UP HUNK O' JUNK WAS JUST AN L.M.N.O.P.!

YOU MEAN THE NEW ROBOT DOUBLE DESIGNED TO TAKE YOUR PLACE ON DANGEROUS MISSIONS?!

WHAT DANGEROUS MISSIONS? I WAS JUST GONNA HAVE HIM SUBSTITUTE ON MY TV SHOW SO'S I COULD GO TO THE TRACK! BELIEVE ME, THE WAY THE AUDIENCE HAS BEEN LATELY, THAT'S DANGEROUS ENOUGH!

*LIFE MODEL, NOT OFFICIAL PERSON!

TWO HOURS LATER, AT
KRUSTY'S SPRINGFIELD PAD...



LATER, AT K.L.O.W.N. HEADQUARTERS...

I GOT YOUR SIGNAL ON MY **SECRET NOSE PHONE**, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT! WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

YOUR ARCH-ENEMY **GABBO**, THE POWER-MAD VENTRILOQUIST'S DUMMY, AND HIS EVIL ORGANIZATION **W.O.O.D.*** ARE PLOTTING TO **TAKE OVER THE WORLD!** IT'S UP TO YOU TO STOP 'EM! THIS COULD BE THE **MOST DANGEROUS THREAT** K.L.O.W.N. HAS EVER FACED!

ER -- DON'T I HAVE SOME **VACATION TIME** COMING UP RIGHT ABOUT NOW?

SIDESHOW MEL HAS DEVELOPED SOME SUPER-SOPHISTICATED NEW WEAPONS FOR YOU TO USE ON THE MISSION. HE'S WAITING FOR YOU OVER IN **ARMAMENTS DIVISION**.

*WORLD ORDER OF DUMMIES

SAY, KRUSTY -- WHAT'S WITH THE **EYEPATCH?**

EYEPATCH?!
WHAT TH -- ?!

WELL WHADDYA KNOW?! **NO WONDER** EVERYTHING LOOKED SO **FLAT!** MR. **TEENY** MUST'VE STUCK IT ON ME WHILE I WAS TAKING A NAPI!

SOON, IN THE K.L.O.W.N. **ARMAMENTS DIVISION**...

HERE'S YOUR FIRST NEW DEVICE. IT'S CALLED A **FLOWER!**

THE OL' **SQUIRTING BOUTONNIERE**, EH? MISS **PENNYCANDY** LOVES THESE THINGS!

SNIFF
SNIFF

BAM!

ACTUALLY, THIS ONE **EXPLODES** WHEN **SNIFFED!**

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF I **THREW IT?!**

*FOLIAGE-LIKE OBJECT WITH EXPLOSIVE RIGGING



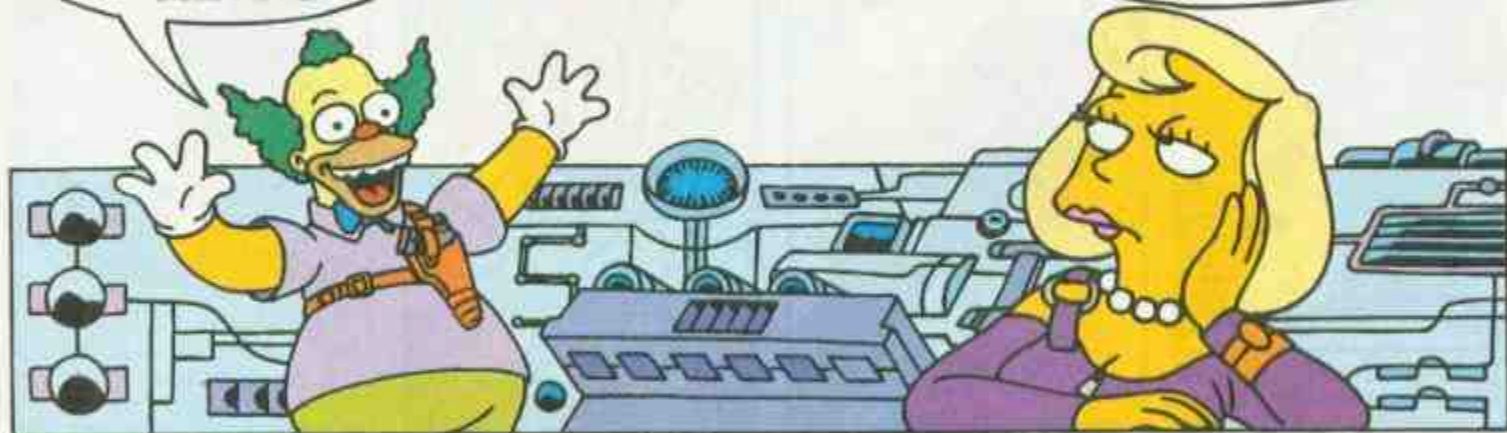
THEN, WITH EVERY FIBER OF HIS STOMACH FEELING QUEASY, THE DYNAMIC K.L.O.W.N. RAMROD HURTTLES OUT TO SEA...



...THEN, IN THE NEXT INSTANT, OUT OF NOWHERE, A POWERFUL **TRACTOR BEAM**, MADE OF SOMETHING SO SECRET I CAN'T EVEN **THINK IT**, SUCKED ME INTO A HIDDEN **AQUA-GELATINOUS** OPENING, MUCH LIKE WHEN **WHATSISNAME** PARTED THE RED SEA IN THAT BIBLE MOVIE!

I WAS HELD CAPTIVE BY **GABBO** IN HIS SECRET ISLAND FORTRESS! THEN YOU, **SIDESHOW MEL**, **MR. TEENY**, AND **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** BURST IN TO **RESCUE ME** IN THE **KLOWN KAR**! THEN OUR 1000-CLOWN ARMY JUMPED OUT OF THE **KLOWN KAR**, BUT **GABBO'S** ROBOT MARIONETTES MASSACRED 'EM!

THEN **GABBO'S** ORBITING SPACE STATION CRASHED INTO THE ISLAND! **KA-BOOM!** IT WAS SPECTACULAR! WE ESCAPED IN THE **KLOWN KAR** AND WATCHED THE FORTRESS SINK INTO THE ABYSS! THE OCEAN BUBBLED UP ALL THESE AIR BUBBLES! YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN IT!



I **DID** SEE IT -- I WAS **THERE**, REMEMBER?

WELL, THAT'S IT! HOW ABOUT IT, GUYS?

THAT WAS THE **WORST** PILOT FOR A TV SHOW I'VE EVER SEEN!

FORGET THIS **SPY STUFF**, KRUSTY! STICK WITH WHAT YOU **KNOW** -- STAY WITH **COMEDY!**

WHY DIDN'T WE GET TO SEE ALL THAT **ACTION** YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?



WE RAN OUTTA **MONEY** -- THOSE **FREAKIN' HELICOPTER SHOES** COST A **BUNDLE!** BUT REALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

WE DIDN'T WANT IT BEFORE --

-- WE DON'T WANT IT **TWICE AS MUCH** NOW!

WE WON'T EVER WANT IT!

THEY'RE **GONE** -- AND SO IS MY HOPE FOR A **NEW SHOW!**



MY **NOSE PHONE** IS RINGING! HEH HEH...LITTLE DO THEY SUSPECT --

...AND RETURN THAT **NOSE PHONE** TO THE **PROP DEPARTMENT!**

#@%&*@!!!



THE END!