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SIMPSONSTM

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.

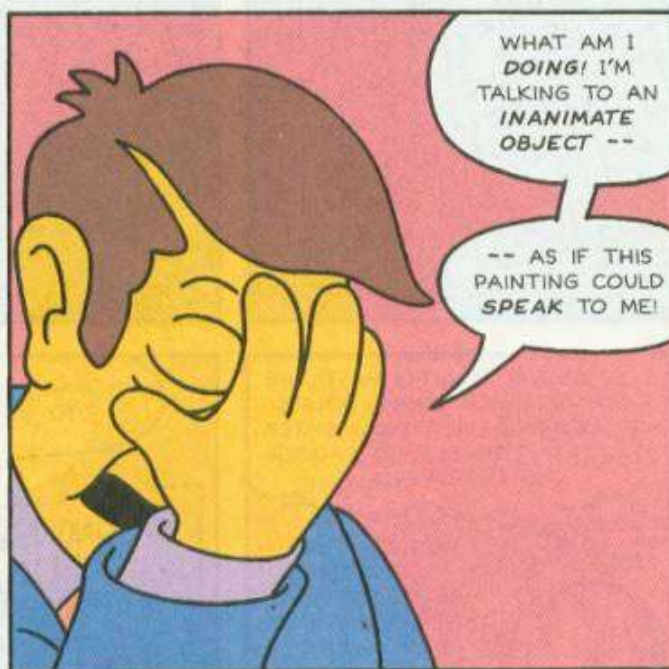
A MATT GROENING PRODUCTION

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

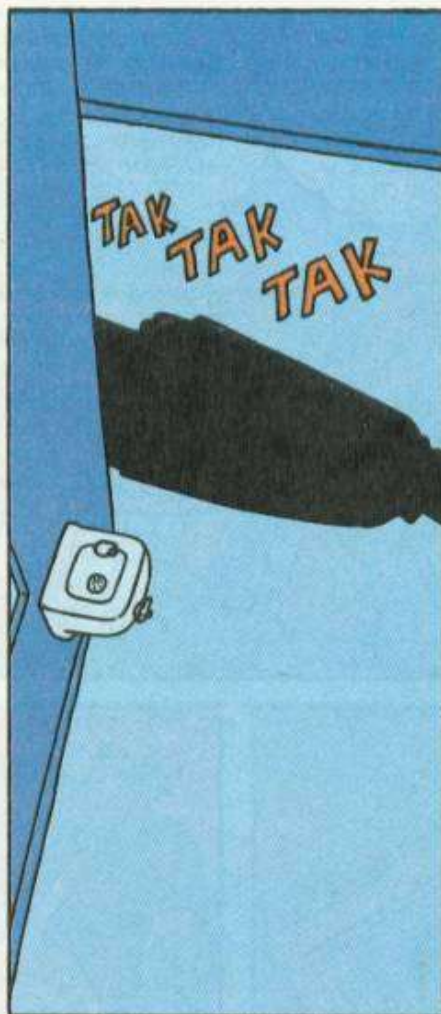
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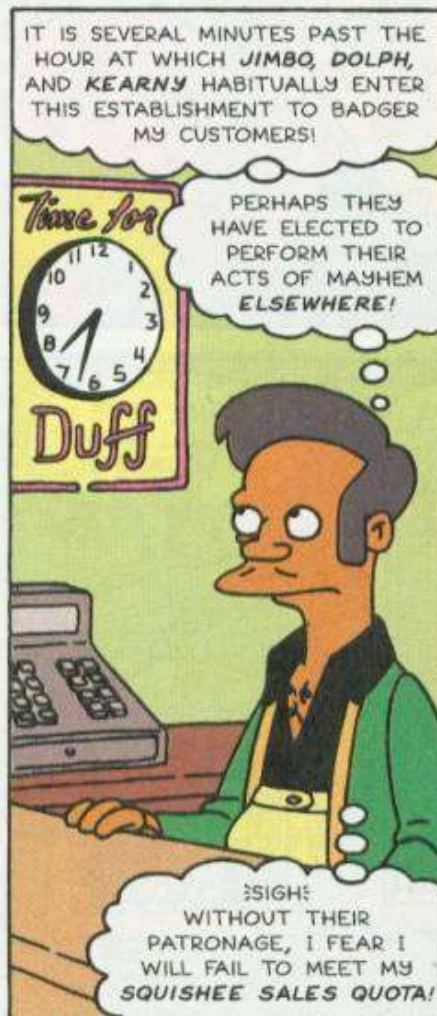


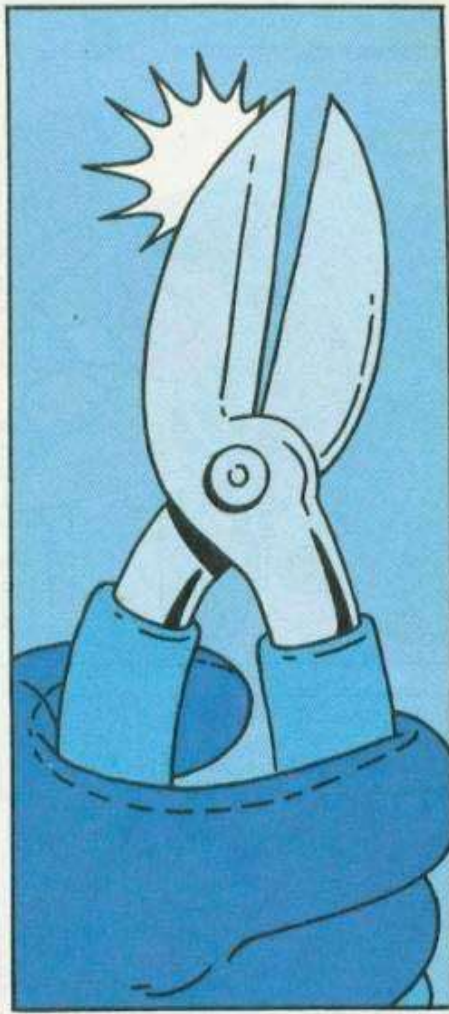
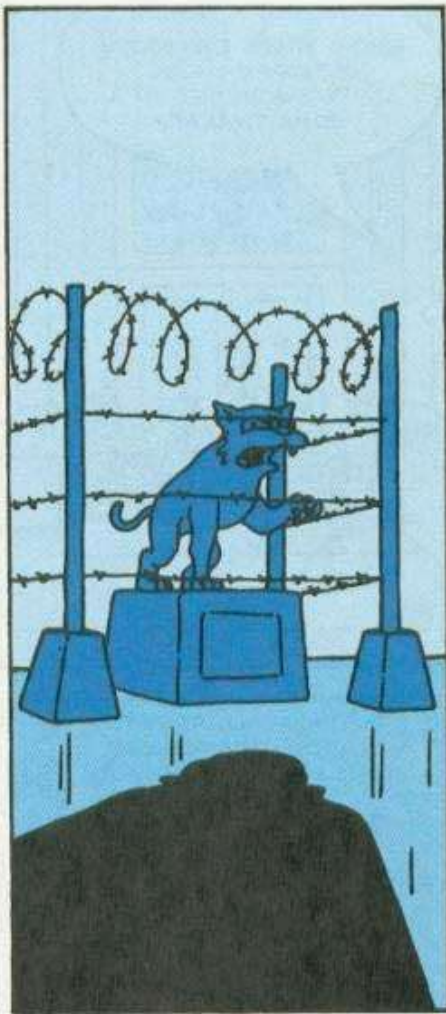
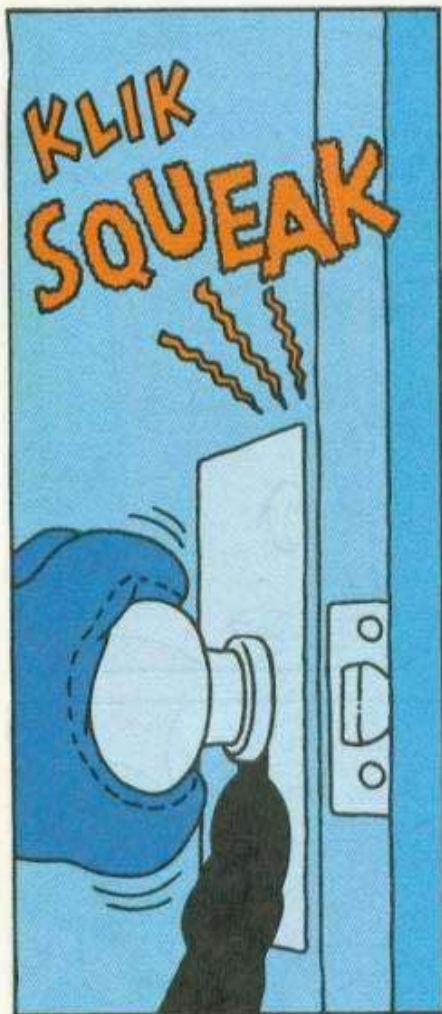


LATER, AS DARKNESS
DESCENDS ON SPRINGFIELD...



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





THE NEXT MORNING...

WHOA! WHY'S EVERYBODY OUTSIDE?! MAYBE SOMEBODY PHONED IN A BOMB THREAT!

BUT I DIDN'T -- ER, I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

SPRINGFIELD
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

YO, MARTIN --
WHAT'S GOING
ON, BRAIN-BOY?

IT'S A *DISASTER*,
BART! WITH PRINCIPAL
SKINNER ABSENT, NO
ONE CAME TO OPEN
THE BUILDING THIS
MORNING! WE'RE
LOCKED OUT!

WOOHOO! ALL RIIIGHT!
SCHOOL IS *CANCELLED*!
NOISELAND VIDEO ARCADE,
HERE I COME!

CAN THE
CELEBRATION, BART
-- HERE COMES
WILLIE WITH HIS
KEYS.

OH,
MAN...

BLASTED MULE FELL
IN TH' POOL AGAIN --
IT TOOK ME HALF AN
HOUR T' HAUL TH'
BULLET-RIDDLED
CARCASS OUT O'
THERE!

NEVER MIND
THE COLORFUL
ANECDOTES,
WILLIE -- JUST
OPEN THE DOOR
SO WE CAN
START CLASS!

WOOHOO!
ALL RIIIGHT!

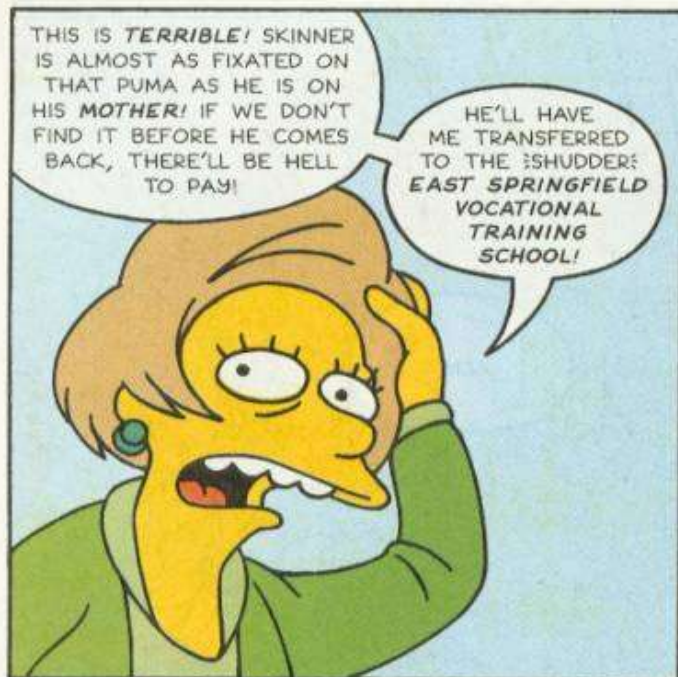
!GASP!

AYE
CARUMBA!

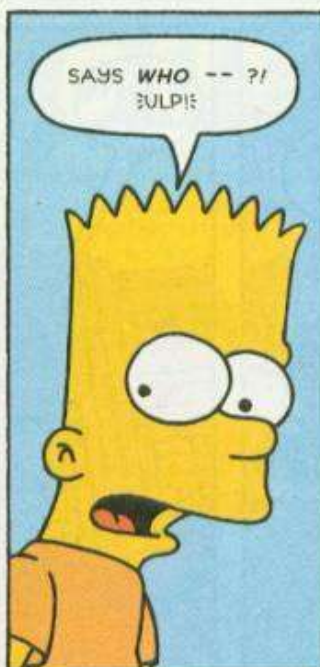
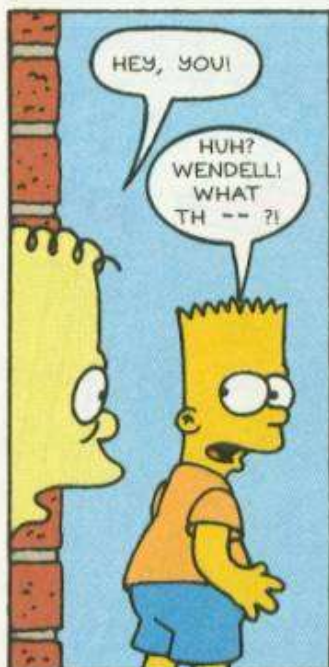


SOMEONE'S
STOLEN THE
PUMA!

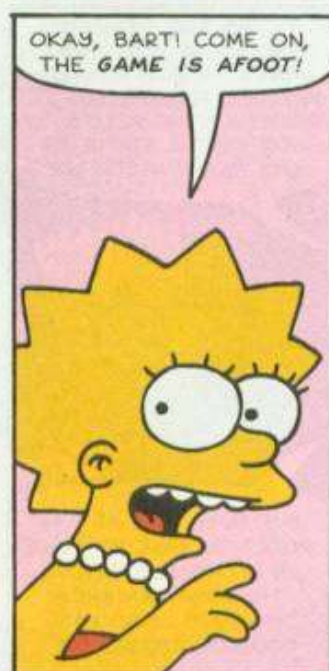
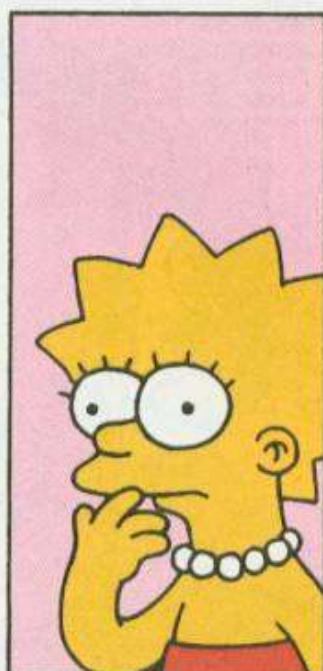
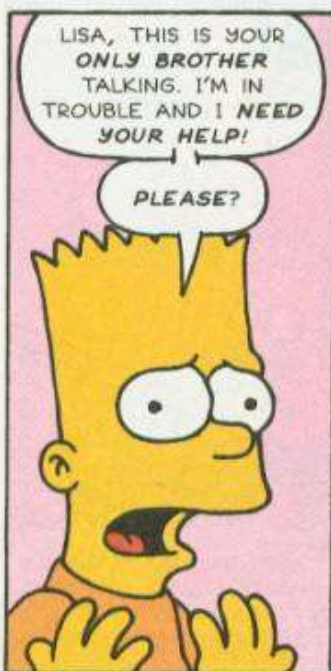
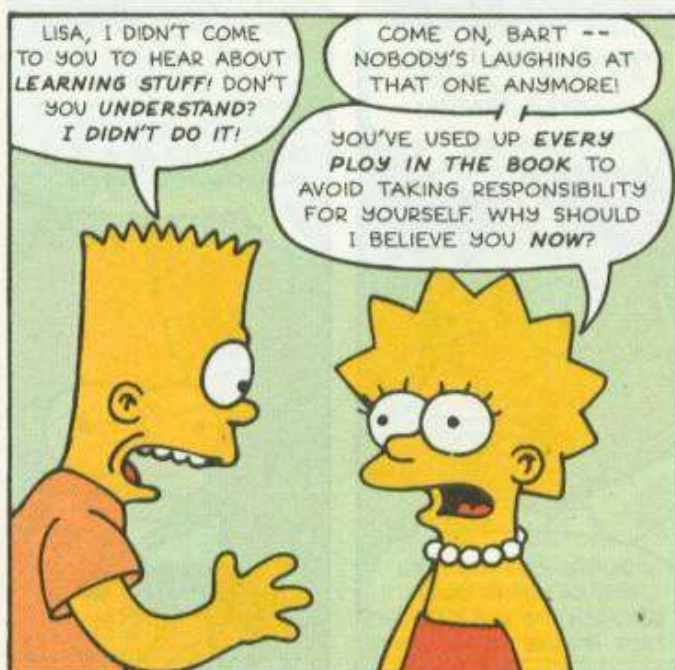
ACH!



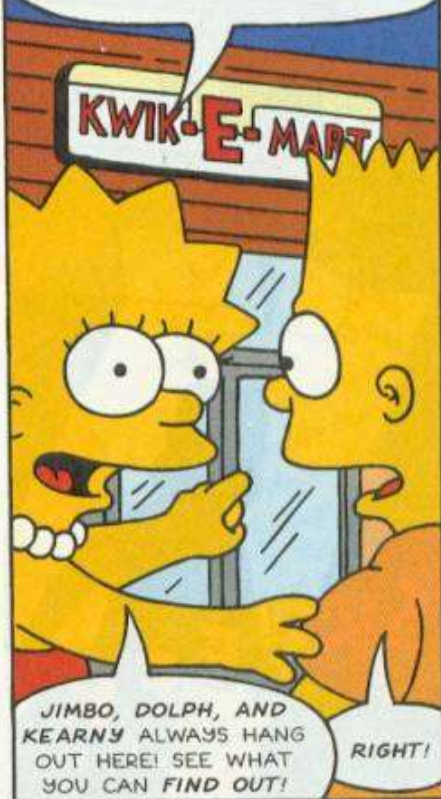








THE FIRST THING WE'VE GOT TO DO IS FIGURE OUT WHO OUR **SUSPECTS** ARE AND START GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES **LAST NIGHT**, WHEN THE PUMA WAS **STOLEN**!



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!

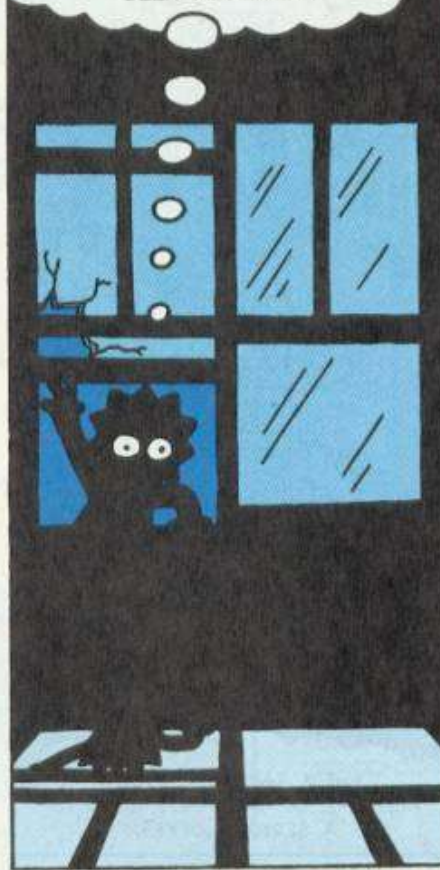
AND HERE COME OUR **PRIME SUSPECTS**, RIGHT ON TIME! THIS WILL BE **EASY** -- THESE GUYS WILL NEVER SUSPECT THEY'RE **BEING FOLLOWED**!



"...I JUST HOPE LISA'S DOING OKAY."

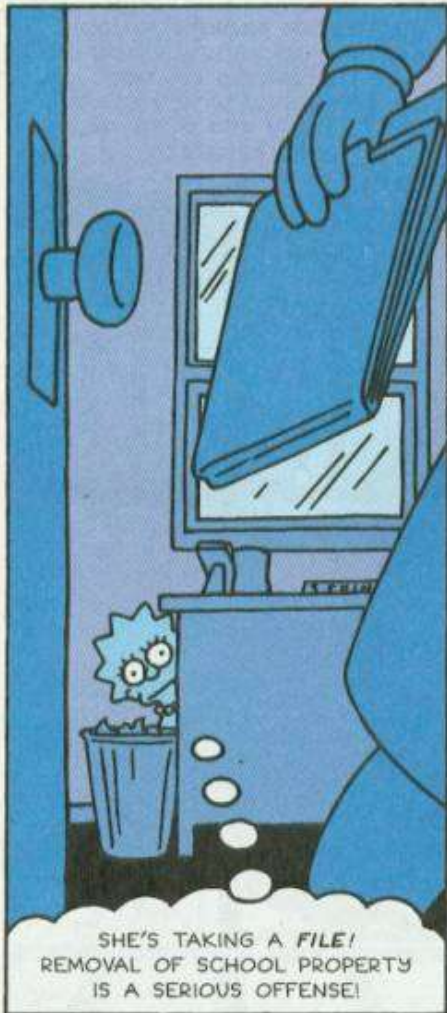
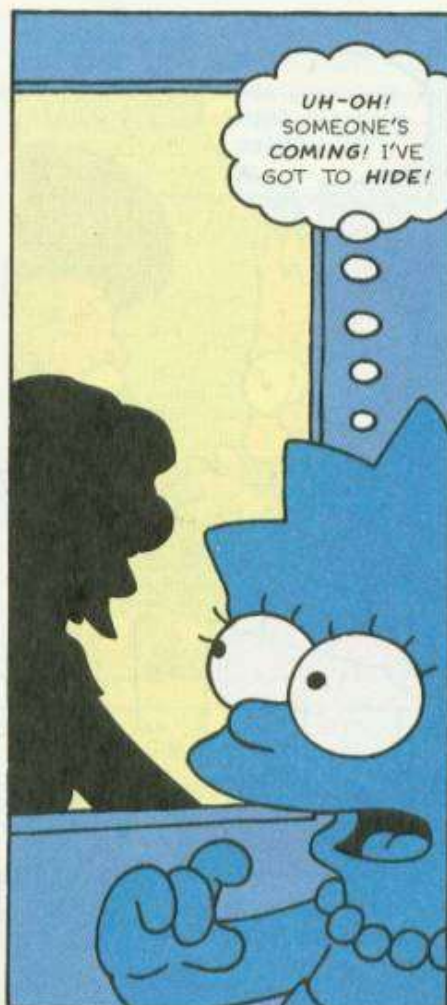


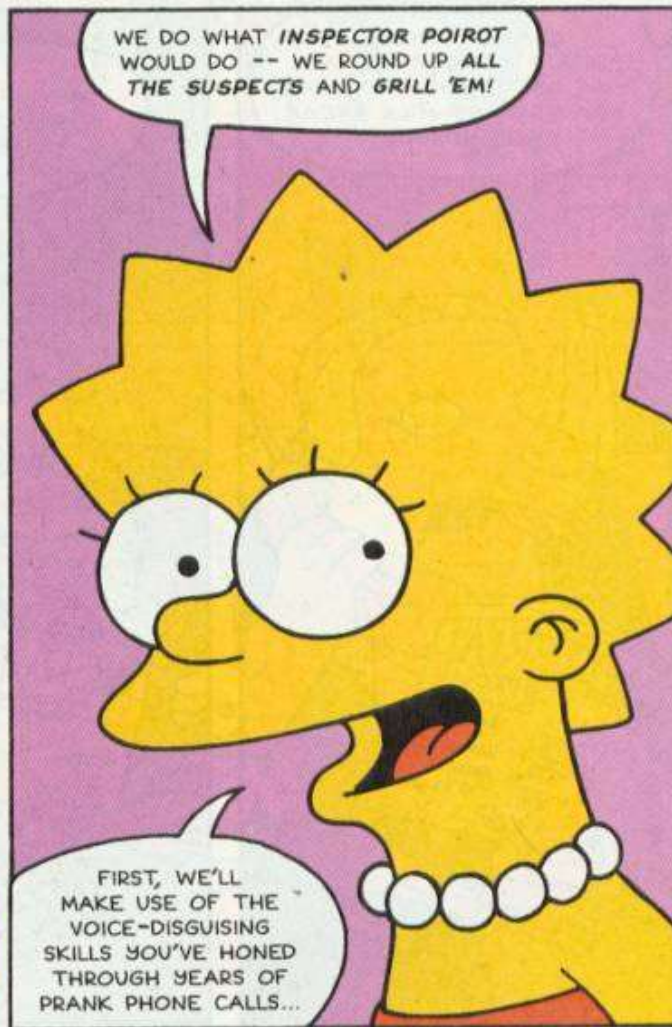
HERE'S THE **BROKEN WINDOW** BART HEARD ABOUT! I FIGURED THE WHEELS OF THE BUREAUCRACY WOULD GRIND TOO SLOWLY FOR IT TO HAVE BEEN **REPAIRED**!

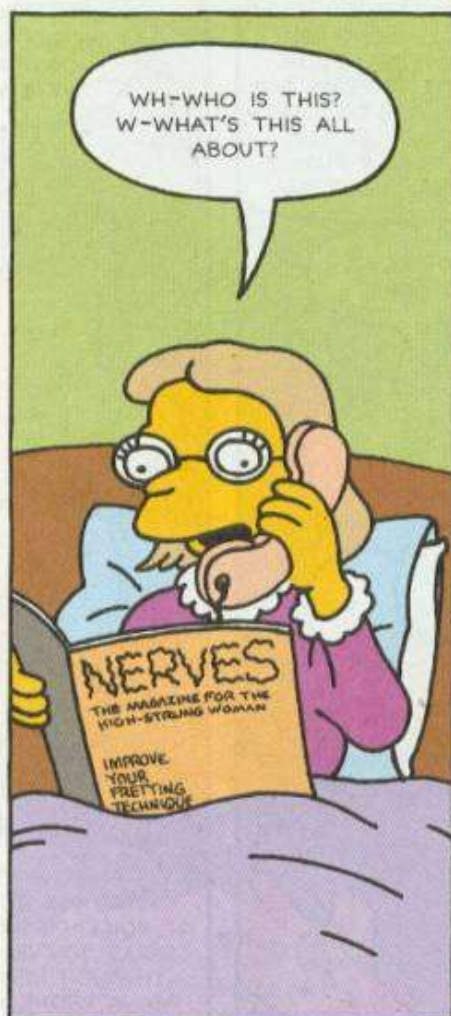


NOW LET'S SEE IF SKINNER **HIMSELF** HAS ANY EVIDENCE TO SHOW WHO WOULD'VE TAKEN HIS PUMA!









THE NEXT MORNING...

ALL RIGHT, BART -- THIS IS YOUR **LAST CHANCE!** PRINCIPAL SKINNER WILL BE BACK **ANY MINUTE** -- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THAT **PUMA**?!

I DIDN'T...

WAIT!



BART ISN'T THE **ONLY** SUSPECT HERE, MS. KRABAPPEL.



WELL, WHICH ONE OF THESE HOOLIGANS WAS IT, THEN?

IT COULD BE **ANY** OF THEM, OR **NONE** OF THEM. IT **COULD** EVEN HAVE BEEN...



...YOU, MS. KRABAPPELI

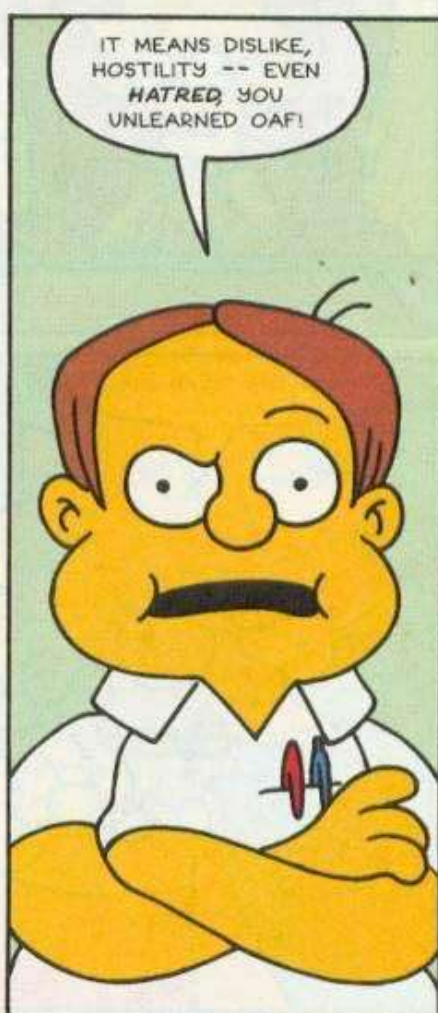


WHY, OF ALL THE -- THAT'S **OUTRAGEOUS!**

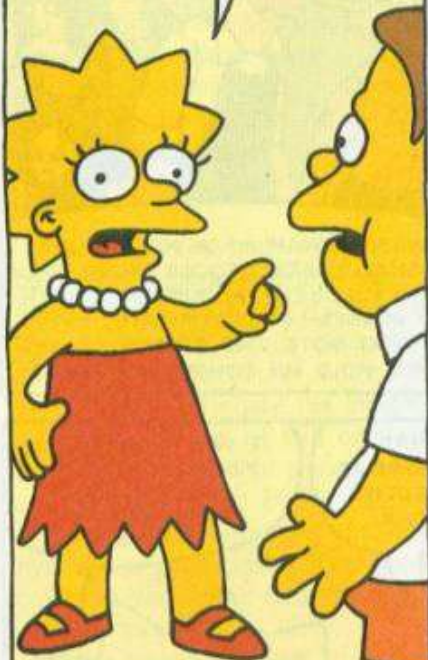
NO, IT ISN'T. WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO ESTABLISH WHERE **ANY** OF YOU WERE AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME -- AND **EVERYONE** IN THIS ROOM HAD A **MOTIVE** FOR STEALING THE PUMA!

WHAT MOTIVE?! WHY WOULD I DO SUCH A THING?





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!



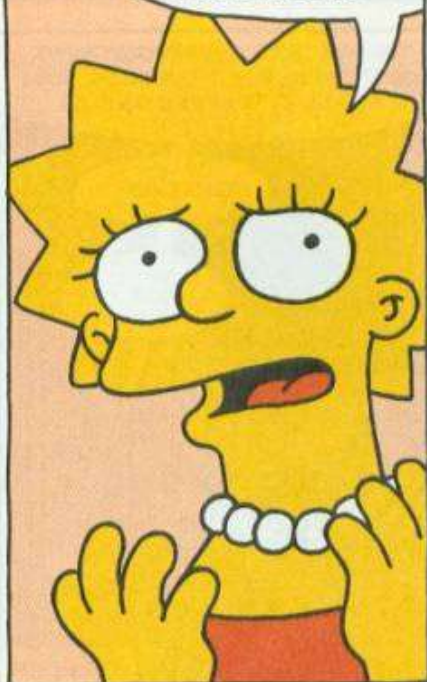
AND YOU, MISS HOOVER -- I CHECKED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMPUTER DATABASE AND LEARNED WHAT WAS IN THAT FILE YOU *STOLE!* IT WAS *YOUR OWN PERSONNEL RECORD...*

B-BUT...

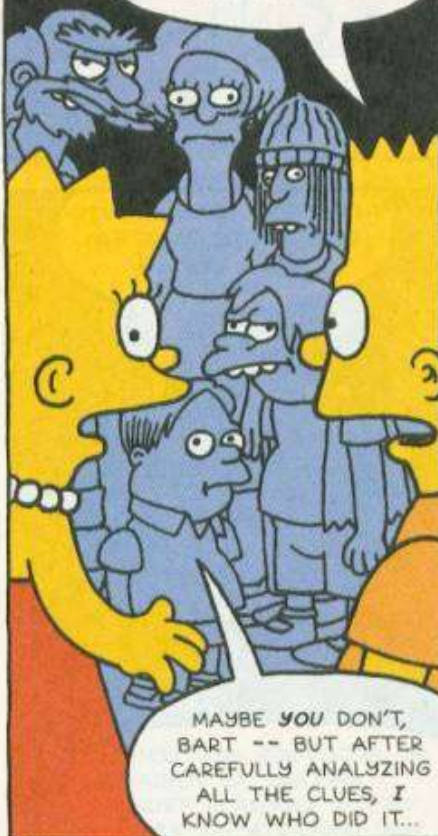


...INCLUDING THE FACT THAT YOUR BELOVED *GREAT AUNT* WAS MAULED BY A PUMA WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD!

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!



MATT
GROENING
Morrison

KRUSTY, AGENT OF K.L.O.W.N.

KEEPING LAW & ORDER WITH NOVELTY ITEMS

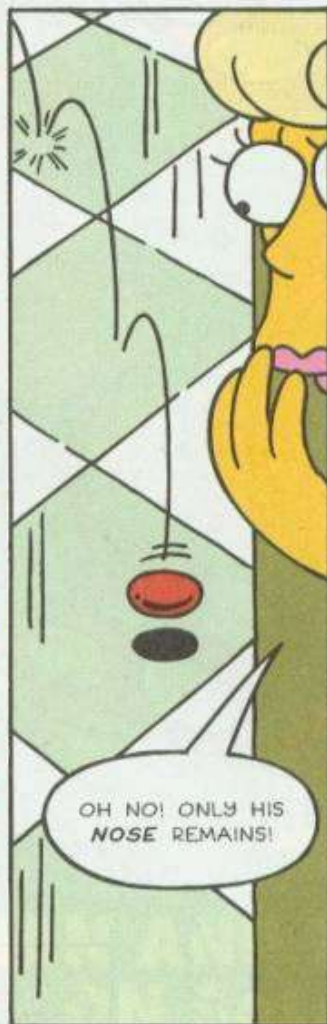
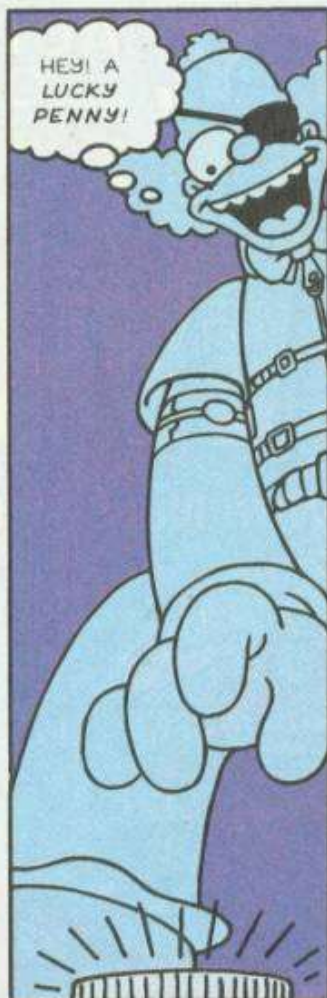
MR. TEENY -- NO!
DON'T TOUCH THAT
SWITCH! IT OPENS
THE --

YAAAAAAA!!

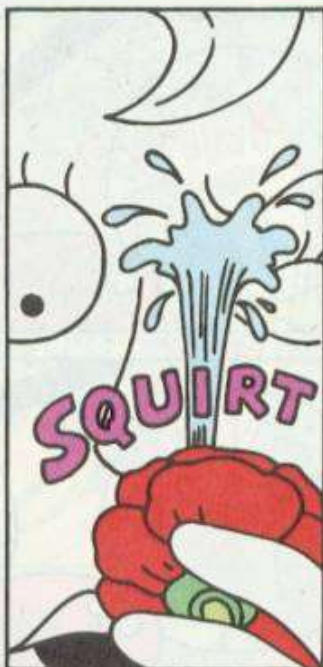
WHEW!
LUCKY I'M WEARIN'
MY A.C.R.O.N.Y.M.*
SUIT! WITH THESE
WINGS, I CAN GLIDE
TO SAFETY!

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

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



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
PLOTING 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
F.L.O.W.E.R.*!

*FOLIAGE-LIKE OBJECT
WITH EXPLOSIVE RIGGING

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?!



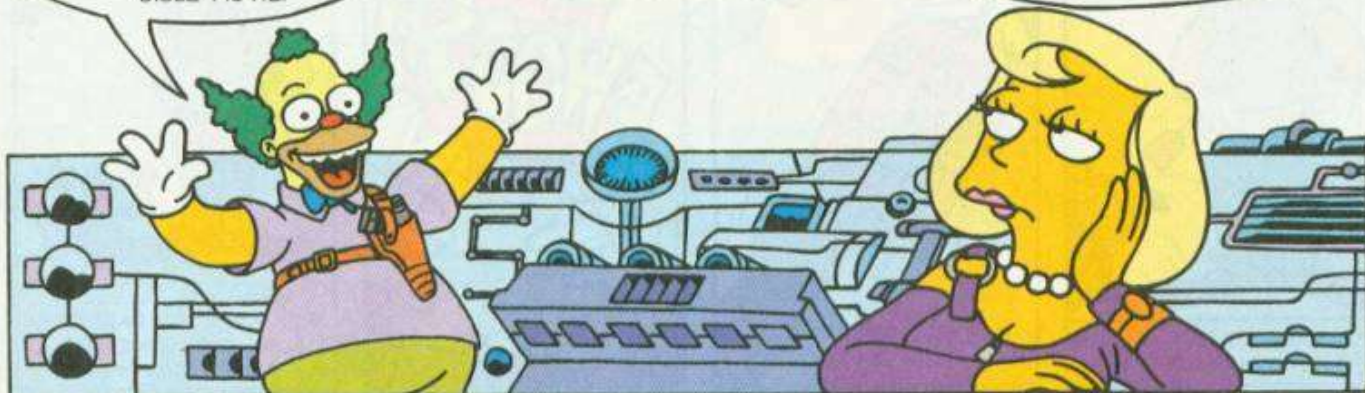
THEN, WITH EVERY FIBER OF HIS STOMACH FEELING QUEASY, THE DYNAMIC K.L.O.W.N. RAMROD HURTTLES OUT TO SEA...



...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 WHATSISSNAME 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**!

VEED!
VEED!

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

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

#@%*^&!!!

THE END!

