

CUBA UNCOVERED

THERE ARE NOT MANY
OTHER THINGS IN LIFE
YOU CAN MEASURE
LIKE A FISH.



OR: HAVANA IS CLOSER TO PEORIA THAN I THOUGHT

ZIPPY

"ALPINING AWAY"

Bill Griffith

GRIFFY AND ZIPPY PREPARE
FOR A TRIP INTO THE
MOUNTAINS...

SAUTZEE, PAR-
CHEESI, REDDI-
WIP, POWER
RANGERS...

THERMAL
UNDERWEAR,
SNOWSHOES,
GLOVE LINERS,
TRAIL MAPS...

SIGH... THERE'S
NOTHING LIKE
A LATE WINTER
TREK INTO TH'
SNOW TO RE-
VIVE TH'
SPIRITS!!

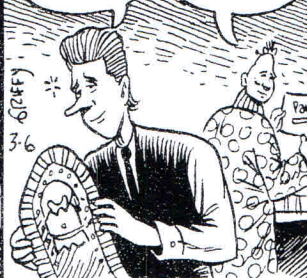
WILL
TH'
"CATS"
REVUE
STILL BEAT
CAESAR'S?

WE'RE GOING
TO TH' SIERRA
TO ESCAPE
TH' "GRID,"
ZIPPY!! NOT
TO PUMP
QUARTERS
INTO SLOT
MACHINES!

BUT A
PROGRESSIVE
JACKPOT
IS A
TERRIBLE
THING TO
WASTE!

TH' SERENITY
& SOLITUDE OF
AN UNTRAMMELED
MEADOW AT
7,000 FEET...

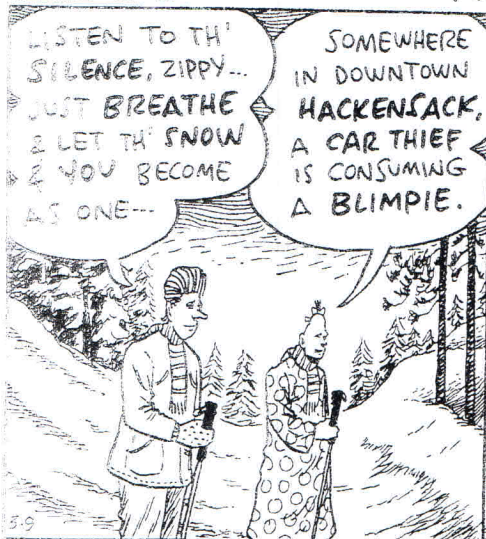
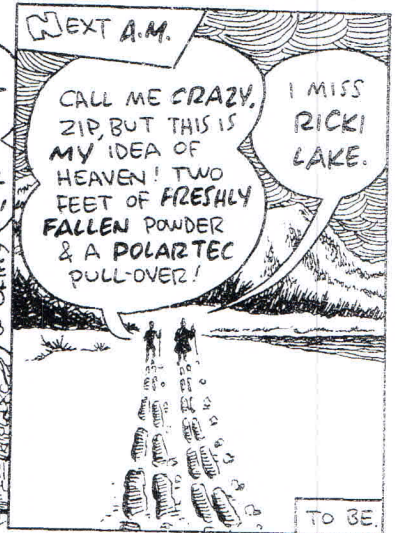
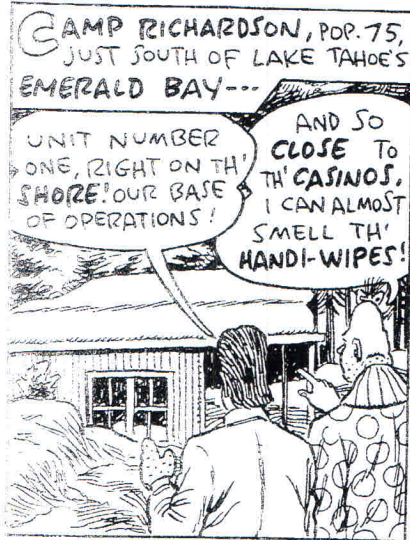
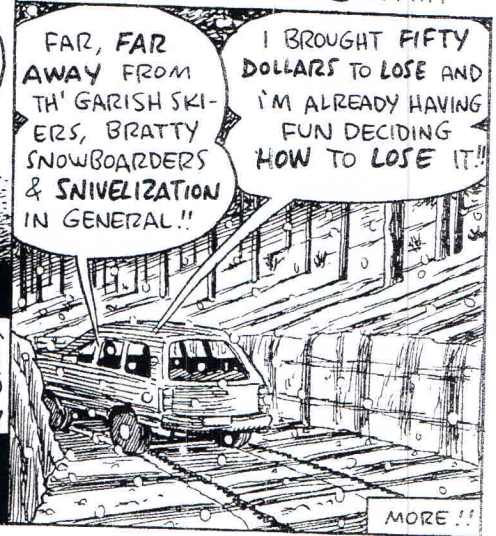
WILL
OUR
SNOW-
MOBILE
HAVE
PURPLE &
GREEN
RACING
STRIPES?



© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



CONT'D.



ZIPPY

"CATCHING THE DRIFT"

Bill Griffith

THE BOYS FIND THEMSELVES IN TH' CENTER OF A SUDDEN **SIERRA STORM** --

EXCITING, ISN'T IT? I WONDER WHAT TH' **TEMPERATURE** IS, WITH TH' **WIND-CHILL** FACTORED IN?!

"INTO THE MOUNTAINS WHEN **WINTER** COMES..."

IT'S A **BLINDING** WHITE-OUT, ZIPPY!! **EARTH & SKY** ARE A WIND-WHIPPED **BLUR**!!

"GOES GRIFFY IN SEARCH OF **SNOW**..."

I HAVE NO **IDEA** WHERE WE ARE OR WHETHER WE'LL **SURVIVE** THIS **ARCTIC** **ONSLAUGHT**!!

"NAUGHT CAN IMPEDE HIS **URGENT** **NEED**..."

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO **HAPPY** IN MY ENTIRE **LIFE**!!

"TO EXPERIENCE **TEN** **BELOW**!!"

*ZIPPY'S POEM by BARBARA J. GRIFFITH MORE.

ZIPPY

"SPEAKING OF SPELUNKING"

Bill Griffith

LOST IN A **SIERRA SNOWSTORM**, GRIFFY AND ZIPPY MAKE A SURPRISING **DISCOVERY** --

YOW!!

WHOOA!! WE'RE SINKING INTO SOME KIND OF AN **UNDERGROUND** **OPENING**!!

IT'S A **CAVE**! JEEZ, IT'S A **BIG** **ONE**, TOO!!

I FEEL A **WARM** **BREEZE**!!

YEH, ME TOO!! IT'S COMING FROM THIS **DIRECTION**! AND WHAT'S THAT **SMELL**? IT'S STRANGELY **FAMILIAR**!

FRIED BANANAS!!

TO BE!

ZIPPY

"NEOLITHIC DOUBLE SCOOP?"

Bill Griffith

A **SNOW-COVERED CAVE**, DEEP IN TH' **SIERRA**, ABOVE **LAKE TAHOE** --

THIS IS **WEIRD**! IT'S **TEN** **BELOW** OUTSIDE, BUT DOWN HERE IT'S ALMOST **WARM**! AND THERE'S THAT FUNNY **BANANA** **SMELL**...

I THINK I HEAR TH' **THUMP** OF **DISTANT** **DRUMS**! IS THIS CAVE FROM TH' **STONE** **AGE**?

OH, NO!! TELL ME IT'S NOT SOME **SURVIVALIST NAZI** **DIRTBALLS**, REHEARSING FOR **ARMAGEDDON**!!

UH-OH! I DON'T THINK I BROUGHT ENOUGH **BEEF** **JERKY** FOR TH' **SECOND** **COMING**!!

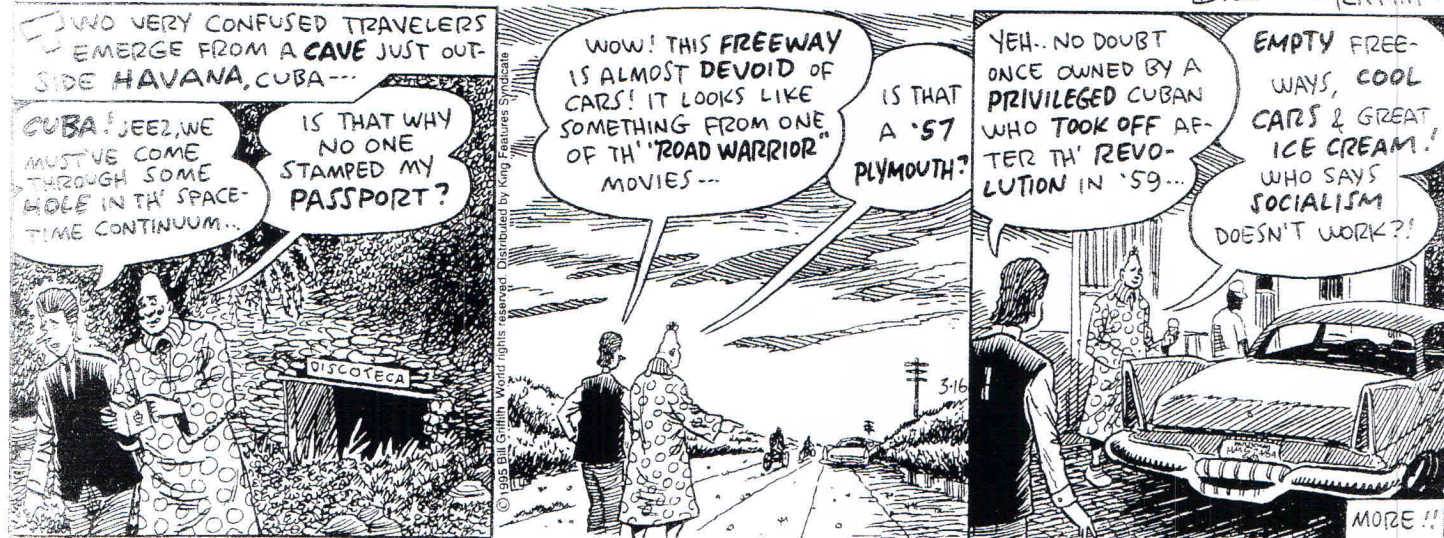
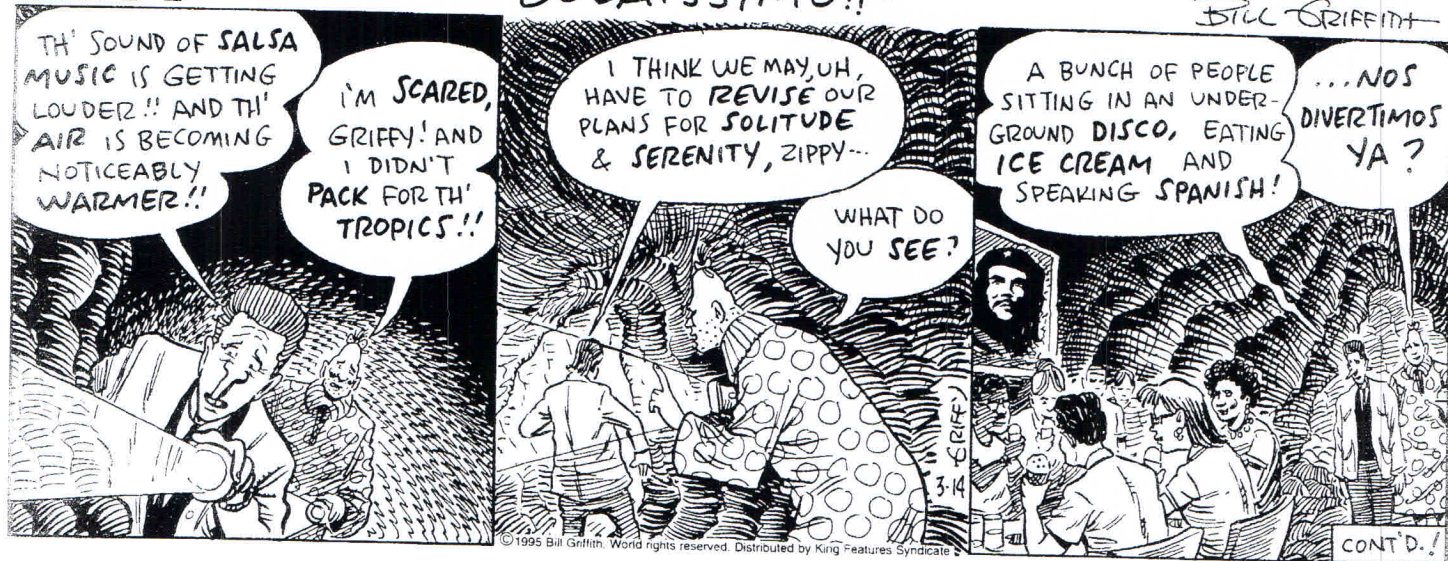
WHAT'S THIS? JEEZ, IT'S A **SUGAR-BAKED** **WAFFLE** **CONE**!!

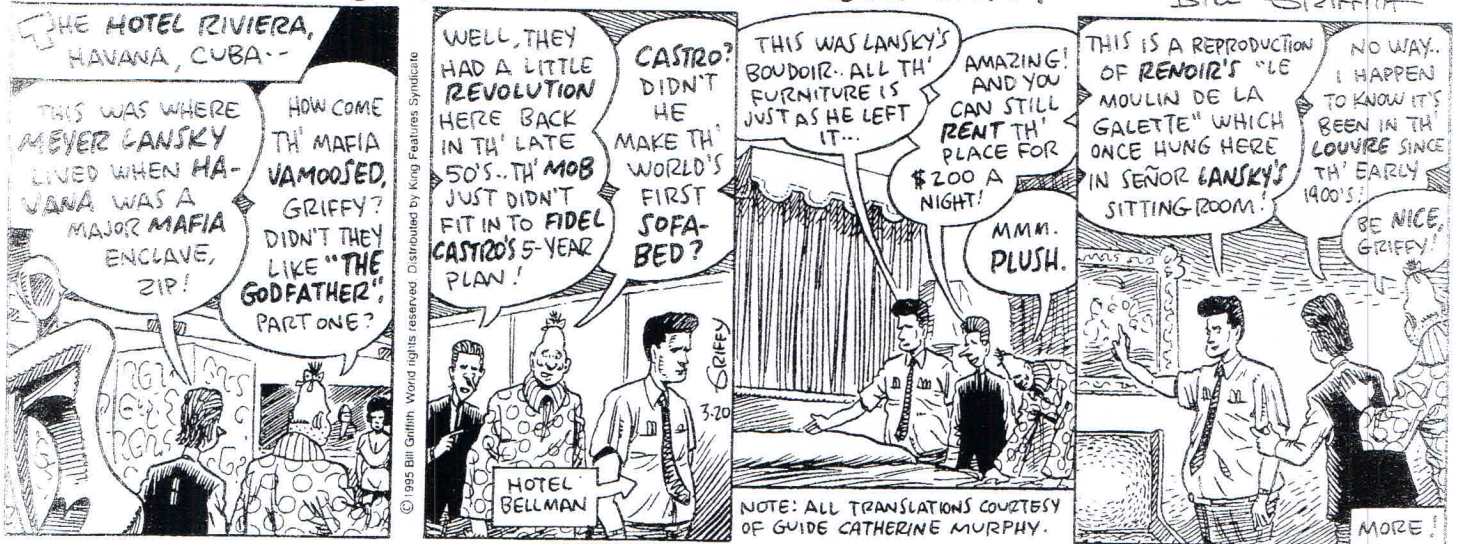
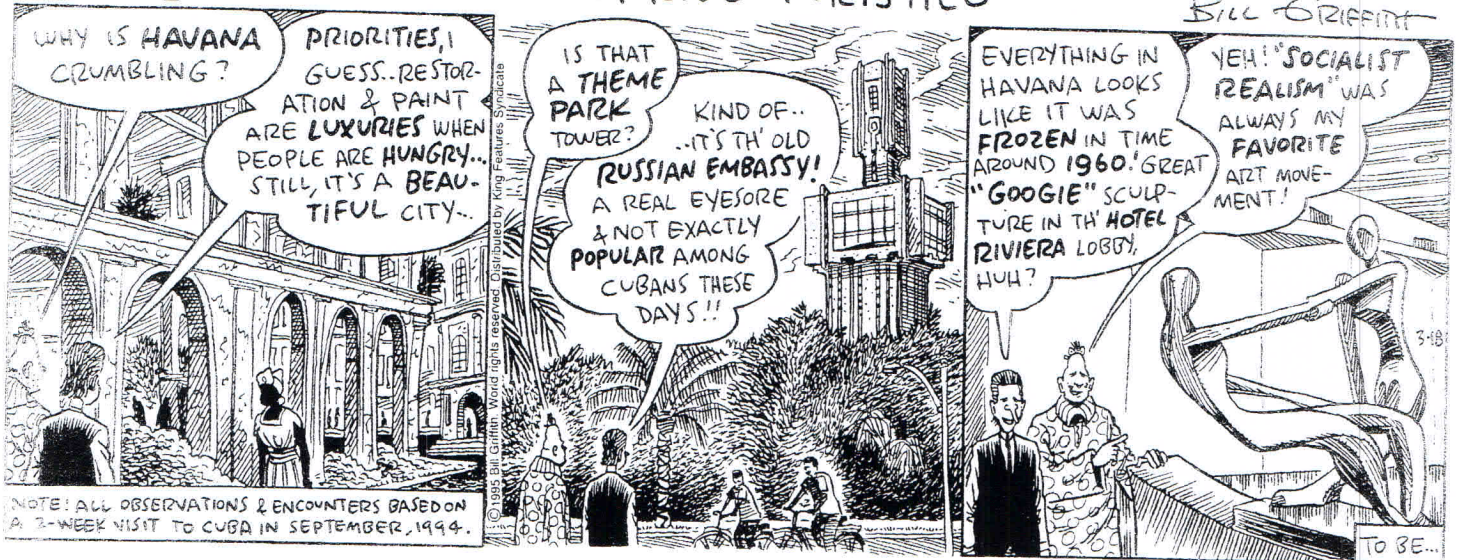
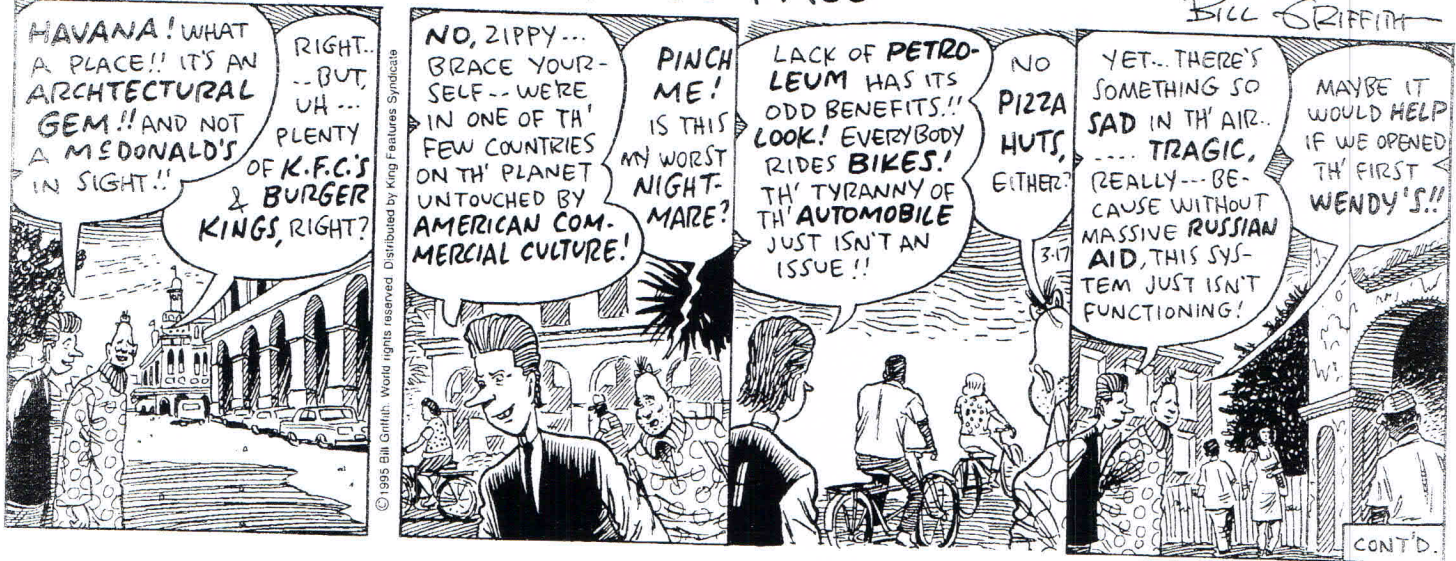
SUGAR-BAKED **WAFFLE** **CONE**! **SUGAR-BAKED** **WAFFLE** **CONE**!

THERE'S A **FAINT** **LIGHT** UP AHEAD!! AND TH' **SOUND** OF A **SALSA** **BAND**!!

WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW MR. **SOFTIE** **PRE-DATED** **RECORDED** **HISTORY**!

TMW.





ZIPPY & GRIFFY STROLL ALONG TH' MALECON, ON HAVANA'S WATERFRONT.

HOLÁ, BOYS!
YOU'RE CUTE!
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BUY
ME DINNER?

SURE! BUT TH' NEAREST CURLY FRIES ARE 90 MILES AWAY, IN MIAMI BEACH!

JEEZ, A COMMUNIST HOOKER!

JEEZ, A
COMMUNIST
HOOKER!
*

*"JINETERA" IN CUBA,
LITERALLY A "JOCKEY".

TAKE ME TO
TH' FLORIDITA
WHERE HEMINGWAY
DRANK, AND THEN
SHOPPING! ARE
YOU BOTH FROM
CANADA??

OKAY! WE
COULD DISCUSS
"THE OLD MAN
AND THE SEA"
& THEN PUR-
CHASE CIGARS!

WELL, I COULD
USE A
DAIQUIRI..

WATER-

THAT WAS NOT
WHAT I EXPECTED!
SHE DID JUST WANT
TO DISCUSS HEM-
INGWAY & GO SHOP-
PING! PLUS, SHE
HAD A DEGREE
IN ENGINEERING!

I ENJOYED IT!
I'VE NEVER FELT
SO COMPLETELY-
CANADIAN!!

I HAVE A
COUSIN
IN NEW JERSEY..
COULD YOU
TAKE HIM
THIS
LETTER?

I NOTICED THAT THE BARTENDER AT THE FLORIDA WORE BOTH CHE GUEVARA & PLAYBOY PINS ON HIS VEST

ZIPPY

"PUNTOS DE INTERÉS"

BILL GRIFFIN

THE BEACH AT COJIMAR,
JUST EAST OF HAVANA--

THIS IS WHERE
THOUSANDS OF
"BALSEROS" * LEFT
FOR FLORIDA,
ZIPPY... NOT
ALL OF THEM
MADE IT...

McDONALD'S
ISN'T
THAT
GOOD!!

MOST OF THEM WERE MACHO, ADVENTUROUS YOUNG MEN, BUT ENTIRE FAMILIES LEFT, TOO..

IS CUBA
SO BAD?
I MEAN,
ASIDE FROM
TH' FACT
THAT YOU
CAN'T GET
"CKI LAKE"
2 "COURT
"?"

TH' ECONOMY
IS IN SHAM-
BLES, ZIPPY..
.. STATE SO-
CIALISM JUST
DOESN'T WORK
→ ... &, WITHOUT
OUTSIDE AID, &
ITS WEAKNES-
SES ARE ALL
TOO APPARENT

YEH, OUR
SYSTEM
IS SO MUCH
BETTER!
PLUS, NOW WE
HAVE TH'
NEW
WORLD
ORDER!!

00 [LAS TERRAZAS" RESTAURANT. NEARBY -

THIS IS WHERE
HEMINGWAY'S OLD
FISHING BOAT
CAPTAIN HANGS
OUT! HE'S 97
YEARS OLD--
...THERE HE IS
NOW! GREGORIO
SEÑOR FUENTES!

DON'T FORGET
TO ASK IF
HE CAN GET
US MARIEL'S
AUTOGRAPH

SEÑOR FUENTES!

ZIPPY

" EL HOMBRE VIEJO "

Bill Griffin

GREGORIO FUENTES, 97, WAS THE CAPTAIN OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S FISHING BOAT, THE "PILAR"...

WE LIVED TOGETHER! WE
WENT TO WAR TOGETHER!
I'VE READ 50,000 BOOKS, BUT
I LIKE HEMINGWAY'S BEST!!

EVER TAKE
FIDEL OUT
FISHING. GREGORIO.

WHAT ABOUT MARIEL?

SURE, I'VE TAKEN
FIDEL OUT. HE
CAUGHT A FISH
THAT HEMINGWAY
GOT A PRIZE FOR!
FIDEL DOESN'T
COME ANY
MORE...

WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF THE
UNITED
STATES?

.. AND
MARIEL?

IT REALLY HURTS
ME WHAT'S HAPPEN-
ING WITH TH'
*BLOQUEO! BUT I
WANT TO BE A BRO-
THER TO TH' AMERICAN
PEOPLE! I'M A
CONSCIOUS PERSON.
WHERE'S MY DINNER?
IT'S
SEVEN

WHAT ABOUT MARIEL
HEMINGWAY? DO
YOU KNOW HER?

SHE COMES HERE
EVERY YEAR! I'VE
SEEN ALL HER FILMS.
HOW COULD I GET
AWAY WITH
NOT SEE-
ING THEM?

WOW

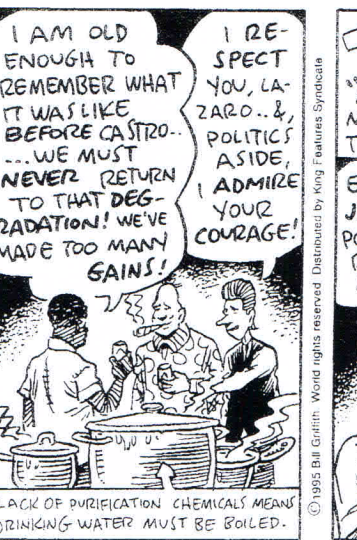
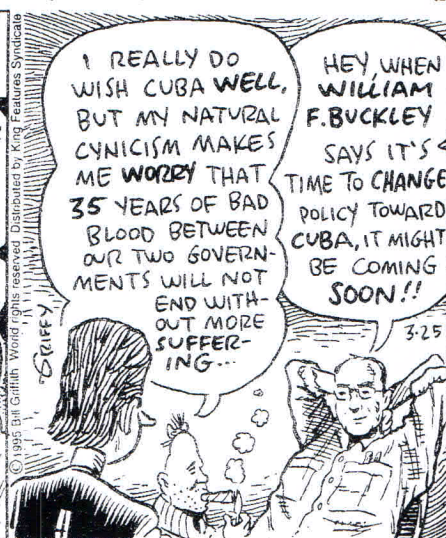
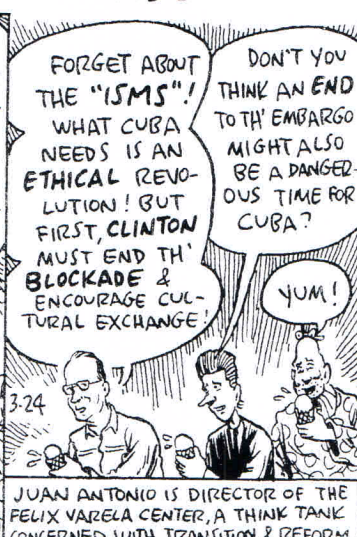
GREGORIO DIPPED HIS
BREAD IN A GLASS OF BEER..

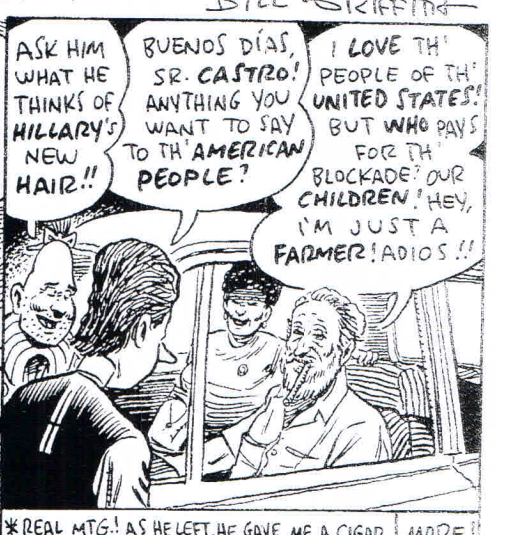
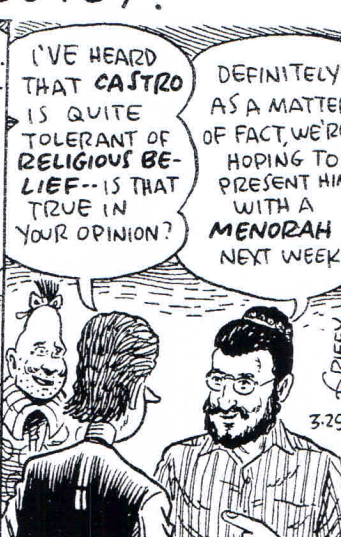
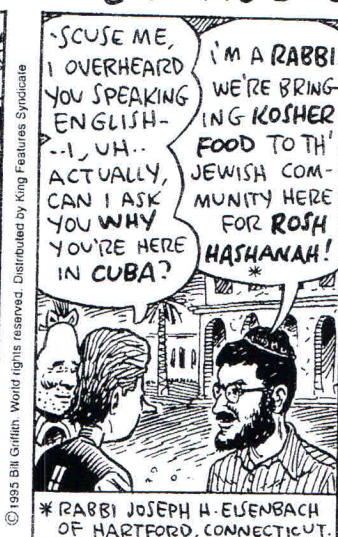
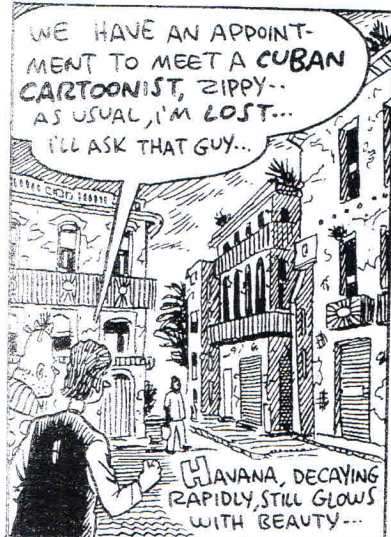
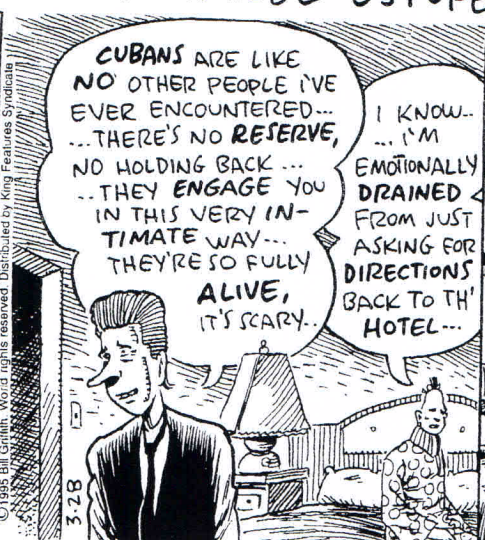
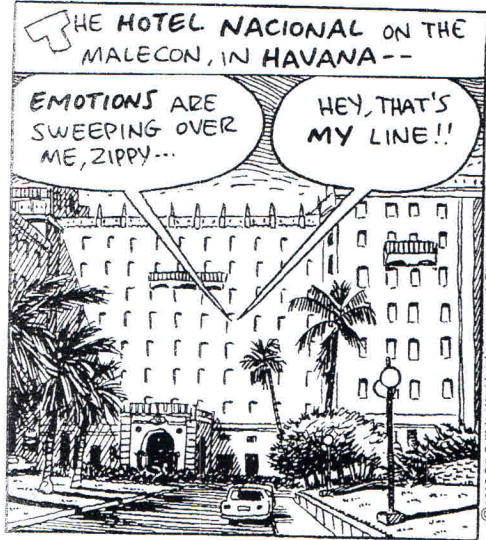
* THE BLOCKADE, OR, EMBARGO

A MORE

ALL QUOTES VERBATIM.

3.23





*REAL MTG!! AS HE LEFT, HE GAVE ME A CIGAR. MORE!

AT THE CUBAN JOURNALISTS UNION - A GATHERING OF CARTOONISTS, EDITORS AND WRITERS --

TH' RUSSIANS TOLD CUBA, "THE COMIC STRIP IS AN IMPERIALIST ART FORM". THEY ASSOCIATED IT WITH HEARST, YOU KNOW.

WELL, THEY WERE RIGHT TO BE AFRAID OF COMICS! COMICS ARE SUBVERSIVE BY NATURE.

FRANCISCO BLANCO, CREATOR OF TH' LONG-RUNNING STRIP, "¡AY, VECINOS!"

3-31

TH' PROBLEM IS THAT SOCIALISM FORGOT ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY. EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS DIFFERENT NEEDS. TRYING TO MAKE EVERYONE UNIFORM HAS BEEN TH' GREAT ERROR!

PAQUITA ARMA, FORMER EDITOR OF "PABLO", THE MAJOR CUBAN COMICS MAGAZINE.

IN CUBA, WE ARGUE ABOUT EVERYTHING! BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN REFLECTED IN TH' CUBAN MASS MEDIA. WE BROKE A TRADITION OF POLEMICS HERE AFTER TH' REVOLUTION!

OUR LEADERS ARE NOT GODS. THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS.

HOW HAS TH' "SPECIAL PERIOD" AFFECTED PUBLISHING HERE?

AFTER 30 YEARS, I RETIRED IN '91. WHEN ALL TH' PAPER DISAPPEARED. WE USED TO PRINT 200,000 COPIES OF OUR MAGAZINES EACH MONTH. NOW, I MUST DO CARICATURES OF TOURISTS AT TH' BEACH RESORTS TO EARN A LIVING.

CONT'D.

FRANCISCO BLANCO, A CUBAN CARTOONIST, NOW MAKES HIS LIVING BY DOING CARICATURES OF TOURISTS. THERE IS ALMOST NO PUBLISHING GOING ON IN CUBA DUE TO THE PAPER SHORTAGE.

BEFORE I START MY CARICATURES, I INFORM THEM AS TO WHO I AM & WHAT I'VE DONE. I WILL NOT BEGIN UNLESS THEY KNOW I AM FRANCISCO BLANCO.

OH-HUH..

OOH! LOOK!! "EL BOBO"!

GO AHEAD..

THEY MUST KNOW I AM A WELL-KNOWN CARTOONIST WITH A LONG CAREER BEHIND HIM. IN THIS WAY, I KEEP MY DIGNITY, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

* "EL BOBO" WAS CUBA'S MOST FAMOUS CARTOON CHARACTER C. 1930'S-1950'S. (AUTHOR: EDUARDO ABELE.)

ALL THIS WORK, AND IT'S COMPLETELY UNKNOWN IN TH' UNITED STATES..

PERHAPS ONE DAY, I WILL BE INVITED TO YOUR SAN DIEGO COMIC BOOK CONVENTION!

LET'S GO, "EL BOBO"! WE CAN TRADE PIZ-CASTRO QUIPS AND ENJOY MANY TROPICAL BEVERAGES!!

OH.. COMIC BOOK CONVENTION? --YEH.. WELL, UH..

I MUY COMICO!

MORE!

ZIPPY GOES OFF WITH BELOVED CUBAN CARTOON CHARACTER, "EL BOBO"!

JEEZ, I'M DIZZY FROM ALL THIS EXOTIC INPUT! MY POOR INTROVERT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM IS IN SHOCK!!

BOBO! WHA? D'YOU THINK OF "LITTLE LULU"?

ME GUSTA MUCHO "TUBBY"!

GRIFFY

GRIFFY RENTS A JEEP & HEADS OUT OF TH' CITY.

GOTTA GET A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE--SEE MORE OF TH' COUNTRY SIDE-- JEEZ, LOOK AT ALL THESE PRE-REVOLUTION MANSIONS!

* HAVANA'S MIRAMAR DISTRICT, WHICH MANY EXILED MIAMI CUBANS WOULD LIKE TO REOCCUPY.

WELL, TRAFFIC CERTAINLY ISN'T A PROBLEM... IT'S A STRANGE FEELING TO BE ONE OF TH' FIRST AMERICAN "TOURISTS" --I FEEL EVERYONE IS STARING AT ME!

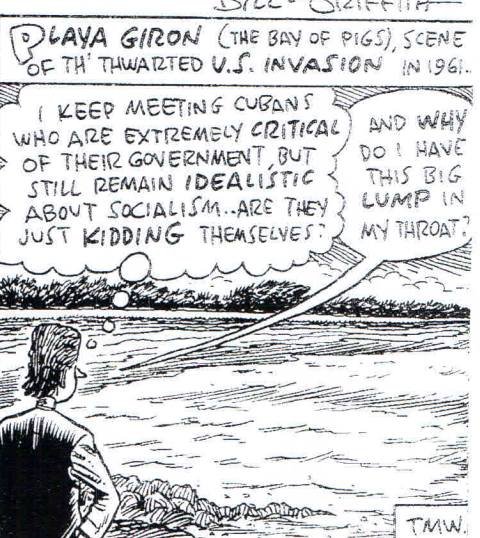
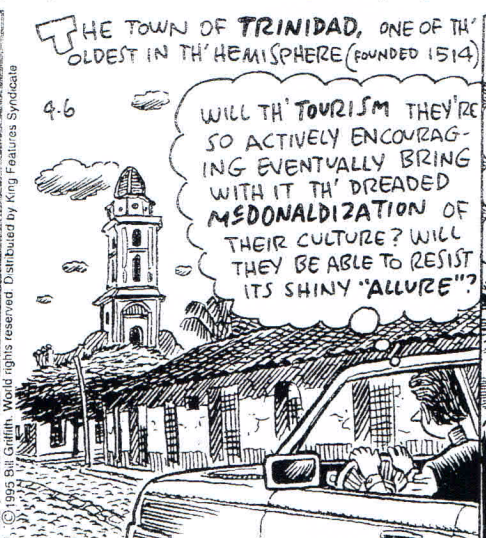
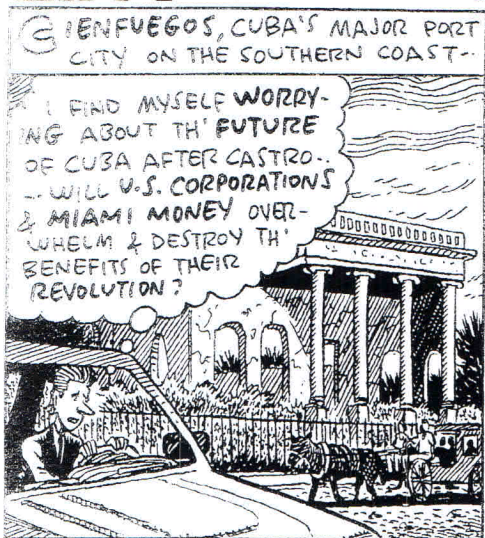
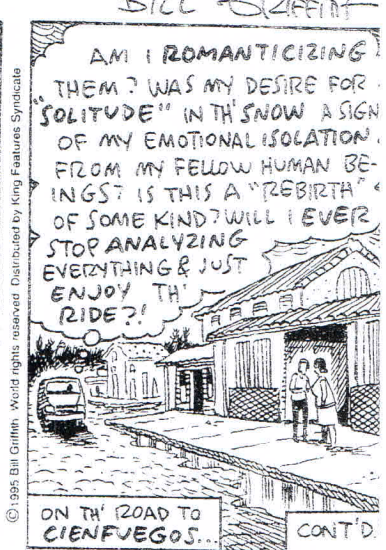
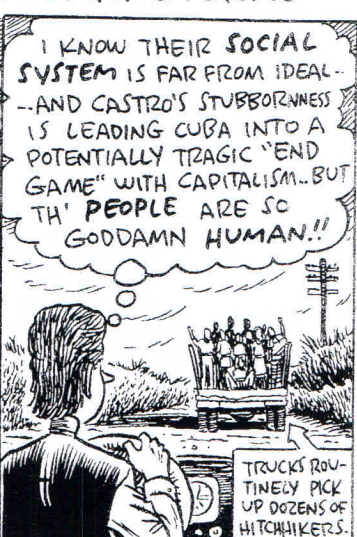
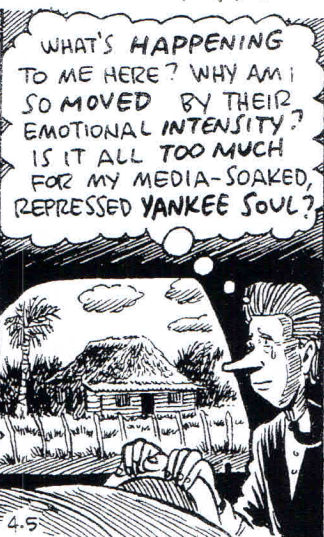
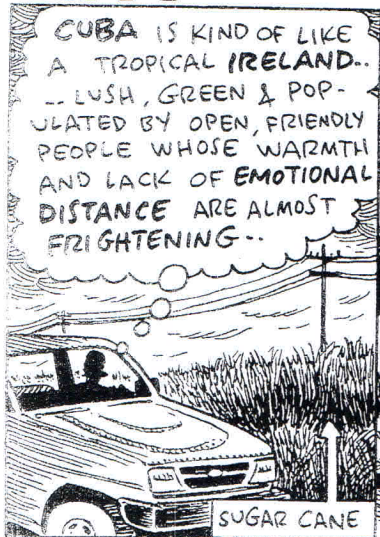
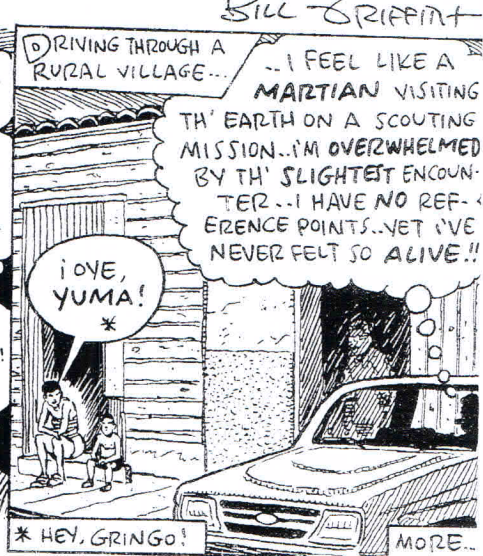
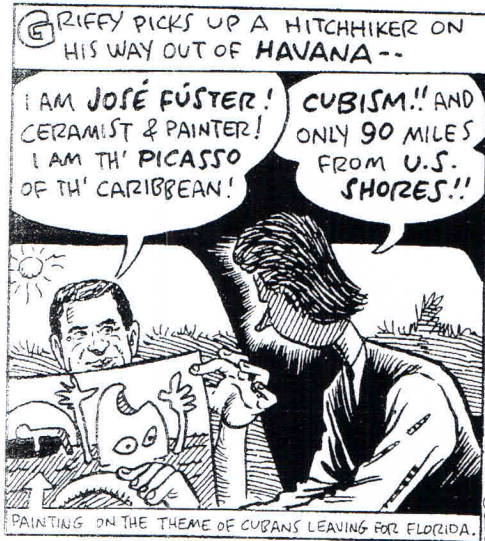
MAN, THERE ARE A LOT OF HITCHHIKERS! GUESS I'LL PICK ONE UP...

4-3

GRACIAS, COMPANERO!! I'M JUST GOING A FEW KILOMETERS!

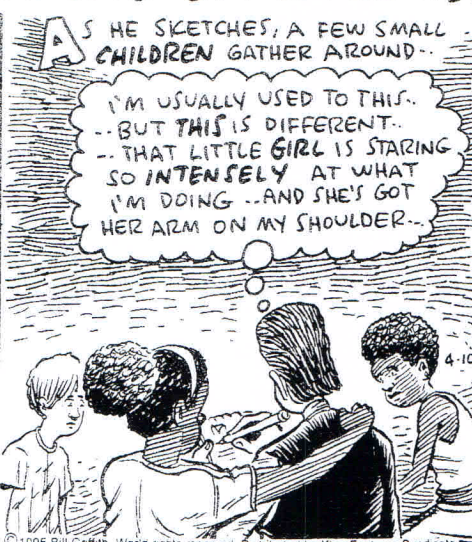
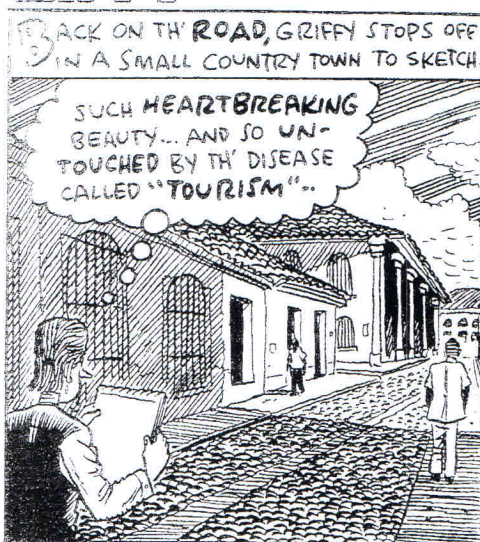
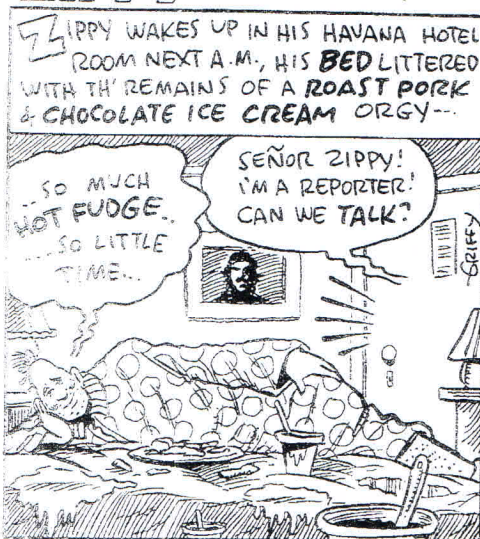
HOP IN! HEY, ARE THOSE PICASSO PAINTINGS UNDER YOUR ARM??

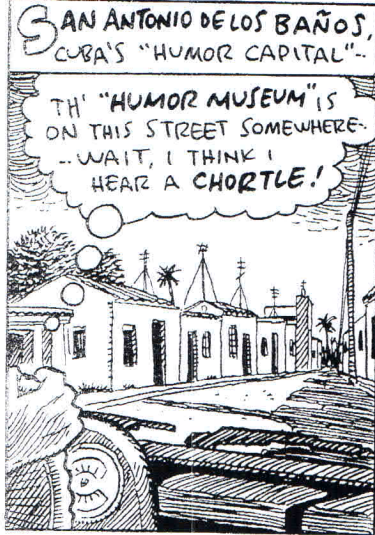
TO BE..



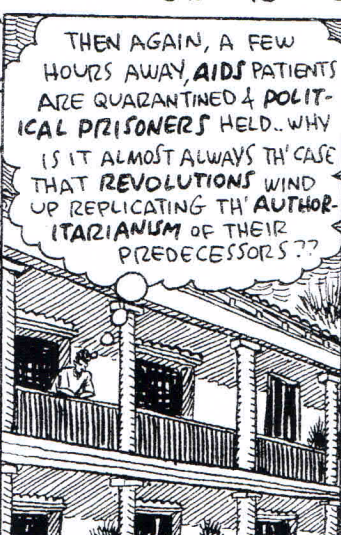
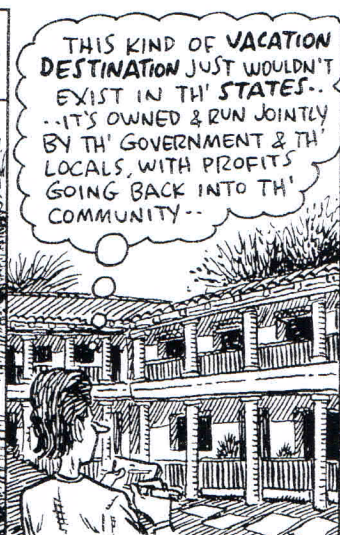
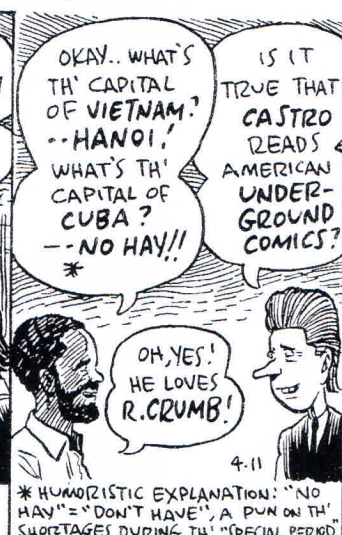


ZIPPY'S AMIGAS: CATHERINE, ANA AND, OF COURSE, "EL BOBO".

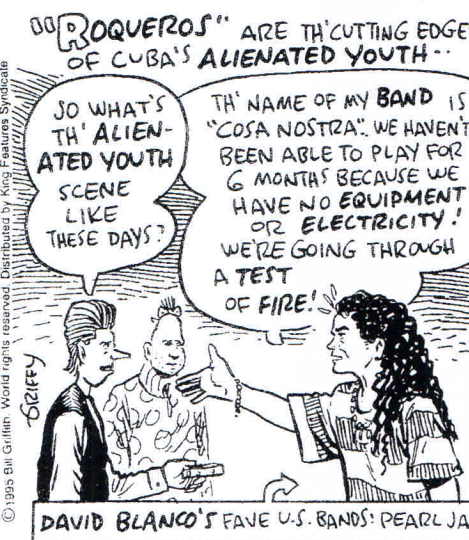
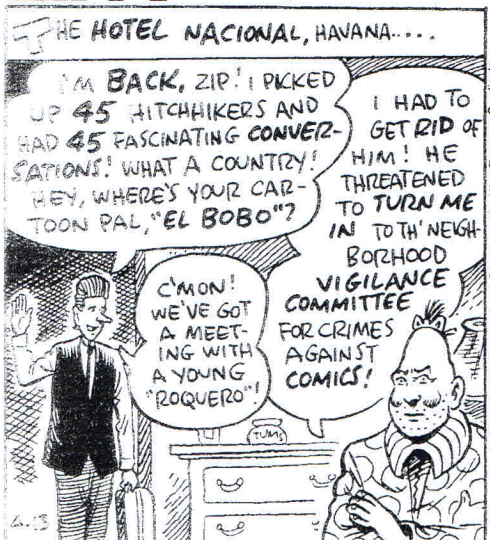




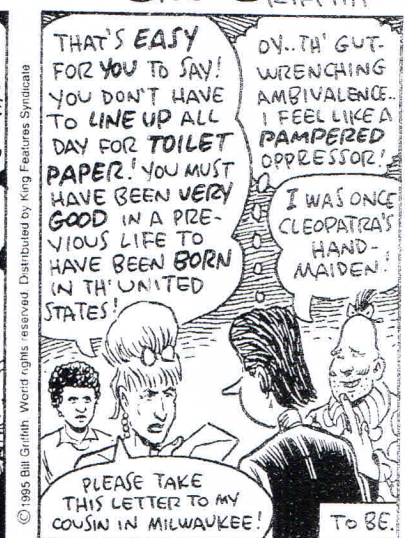
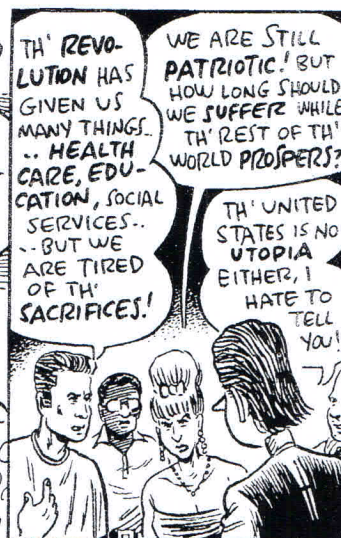
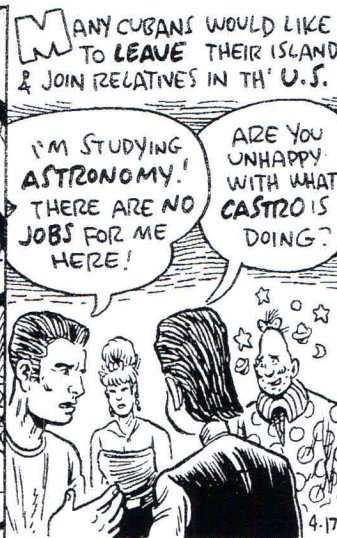
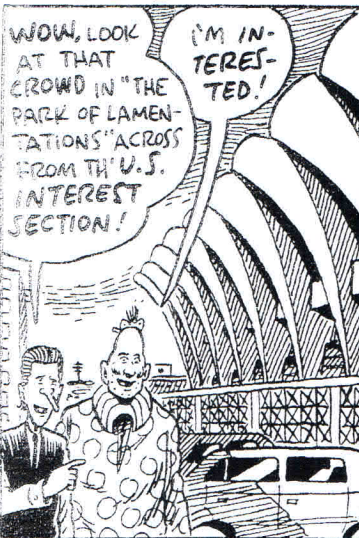
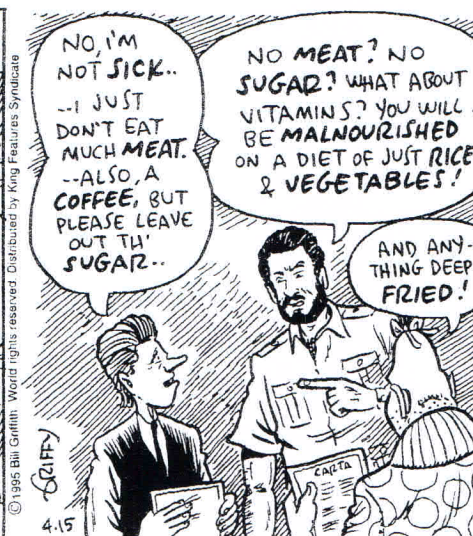
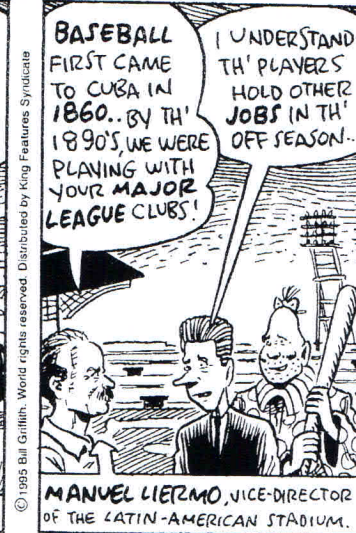
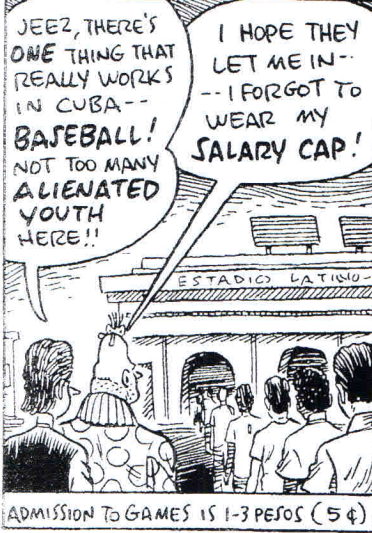
© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

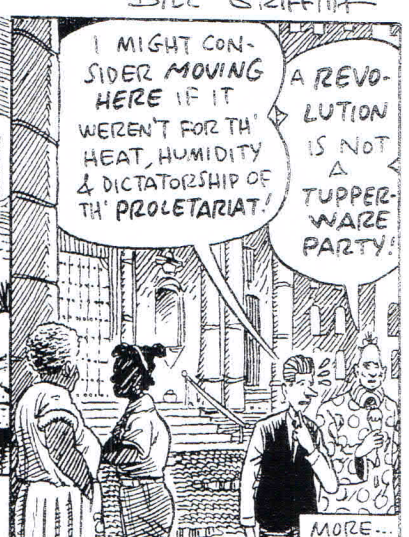
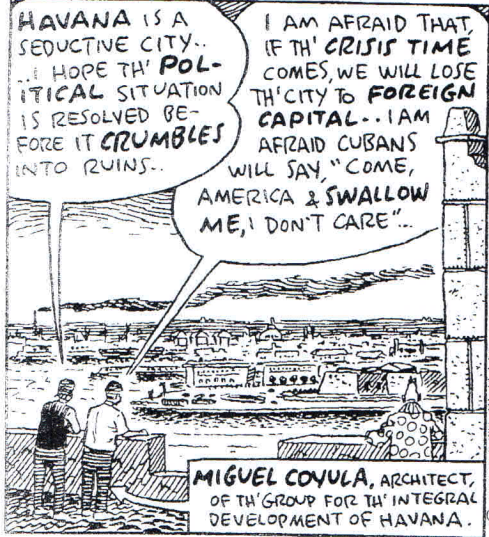


© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



DAVID BLANCO'S FAVE U.S. BANDS: PEARL JAM, SOUNDGARDEN, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS. CONT'D.





ZIPPY

"EL COLOR DE DINERO"

Bill Griffith

IS RACISM, AT LEAST IN TH' U.S., A RESULT OF ECONOMIC, MORE THAN PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES?

¡GANAREMOS! *

OYE... LUCHAMOS * WE SHALL OVERCOME!

A "FOOD WORKERS" MARCH...

BECAUSE IN CUBA, WHERE TH' VAST MAJORITY OF TH' PEOPLE SHARE TH' SAME ECONOMIC CONDITION, THERE SEEMS TO BE VIRTUALLY NO RACISM...

GRIFFY, WAS THERE SLAVERY IN CUBA?

YES, UNDER SPANISH COLONIAL RULE... --SO THAT FACT ALONE IS NOT NECESSARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR BIGOTRY AND FEAR--

OYE! OYE!

AFRO-CUBANS MAKE UP 70% OF TH' ISLAND'S POPULATION.

IT'S A STRANGE FEELING... TO SENSE NO RACIAL TENSION IN EVERYDAY HUMAN CONTACT... ZIPPY WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE...

...! KNOW -- I HAVEN'T SEEN A BIG MAC IN WEEKS!

© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

ZIPPY

"MUCHAS GRACIAS POR TODO, TATO"

Bill Griffith

THE AFRICAN-BASED YORUBAN RELIGION HAS A STRONG APPEAL FOR CUBANS--

WILL THERE BE A CEREMONY TODAY, GOD-FATHER?

AH... I AM SORRY... --NOT UNTIL NEXT WEEK... YOU MUST COME BACK AND I WILL TELL YOU YOUR COLORS.

YORUBA INCORPORATES BOTH WEST AFRICAN & CATHOLIC RITUALS & BELIEFS--

EACH CATHOLIC SAINT HAS A YORUBAN EQUIVALENT... MARY IS PROMINENT BUT JESUS CHRIST IS OF NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

DIFFERENT COLORS FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS...

MANY CUBANS WEAR PRESCRIBED COLORED BEADS UNDER THEIR CLOTHING.

MIGUEL COYULA

LEOPOLDINA SANDRINO, 91, IS A YORUBAN PRIESTESS. SHE TEACHES LOCAL PEOPLE TRADITIONAL SONGS & DANCES. TH' RHUMBA WAS ORIGINALLY A YORUBAN DANCE--

AS SLAVES, WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO USE OUR TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, SO WE IMPROVISED WITH BOXES, TEASPOONS, BOTTLES & DONKEY JAWS!!

FRANCISCO CASTANEDA (A.K.A. "TATO") IS A YORUBAN "GODFATHER". HE DISPENSES ADVICE FROM HAVANA'S POOR "ATARES" DISTRICT.

IN AMERICA, WE CALL THEM "SHRINKS" MORE

© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

ZIPPY

"¿CUBA SE VENDE?"

Bill Griffith

ZIPPY & GRIFFY RETURN TO TH' HOTEL NACIONAL...

THIS PLACE USED TO BE TH' HEAD-QUARTERS OF TH' MAFIA BEFORE TH' REVOLUTION!

NOW, IT'S TED TURNER'S PLAY-GROUND!!

ON TH' HOTEL LOBBY--

YEH, IT'S ALWAYS FULL OF RE-PORTERS AND JET SETTERS LOOKING FOR TH' "NEW CUBA"...

HEY, LISTEN, CAN YOU CASH A CHECK FOR \$5,000?

THAT'S A LOT OF FRIED BANANAS!

I KNOW IT'S A LOT, BUT TH' CHECK'S GOOD! I JUST NEED TH' CASH PRONTO!

JEEZ, I'VE GOT A COUPLE HUNDRED IN MY MONEY BELT, BUT THAT'S IT... SORRY...

LATER, TH' MYSTERY IS CLEARED UP BY ANOTHER AMERICAN STAYING AT TH' HOTEL--

OH, SURE, FOREIGNERS ARE ILLEGALLY BUYING VACATION HOMES FROM CUBANS LIKE CRAZY! YOU CAN GET A 6-ROOM PLACE ON TH' BEACH FOR \$5,000!!

OF ALL TH' SLEAZY, SLIMY...

CAN I GET A CONDO FOR THIS KODAK?

IT'S ILLEGAL TO OWN OR SELL PRIVATE REAL ESTATE IN CUBA. THESE PEOPLE ARE GAMBLING CASTRO WILL FALL SOON!!

REAL INTERCHANGE!!

CONT'D.

© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

