

SIMPSONSTM

COMICS

BONGO[®]
COMICS

#197
\$2.99



bongocomics.com

DIRECT EDITION



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MATT
GREENING

HOMER FRIES!

GAAAH!

I *KNEW* THIS
WOULD HAPPEN
ONE DAY!

MATT
GROENING

IAN BOOTHBY
SCRIPT

PHIL ORTIZ
PENCILS

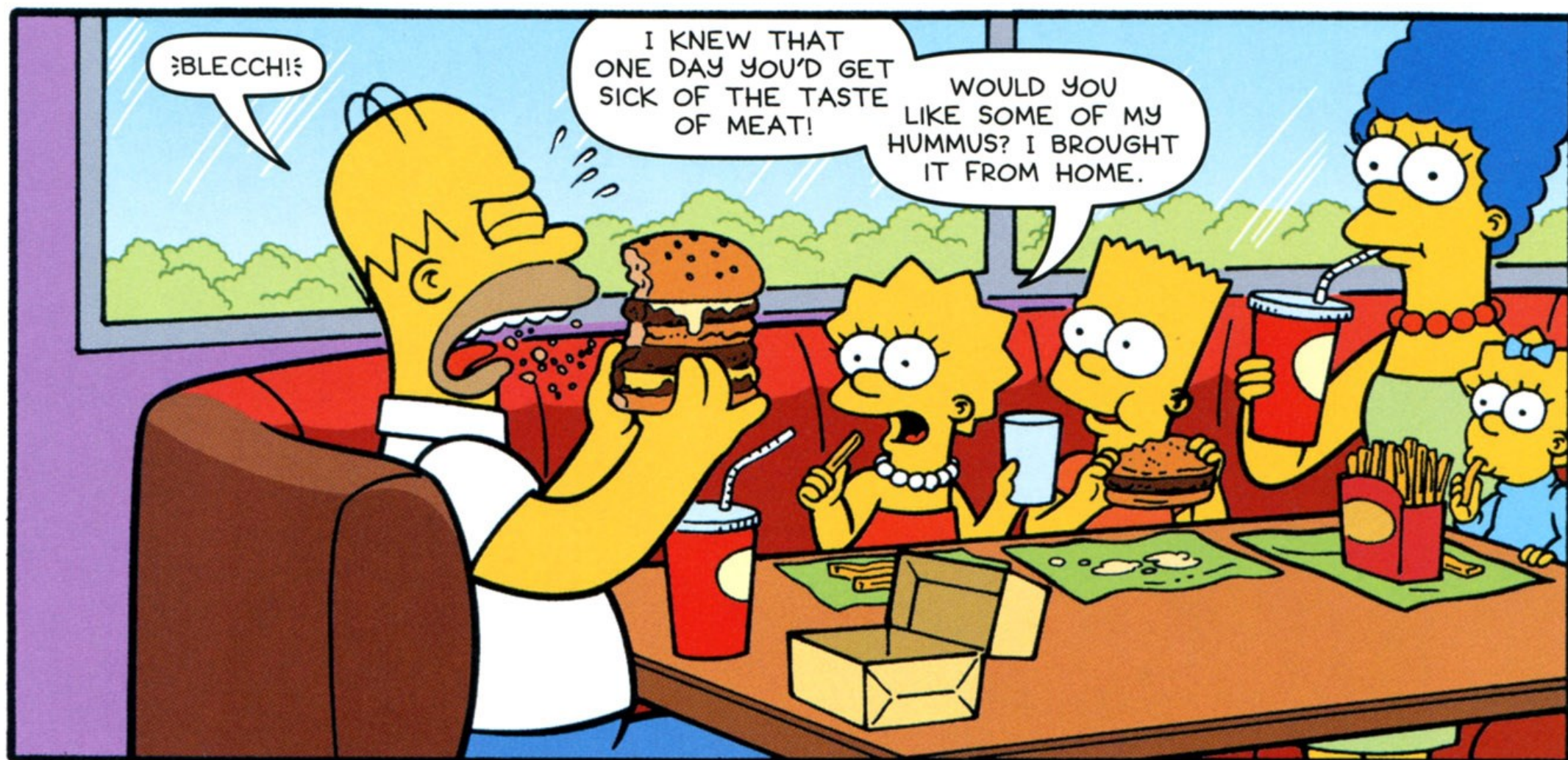
MIKE DECARLO
INKS

ART VILLANUEVA
COLORS

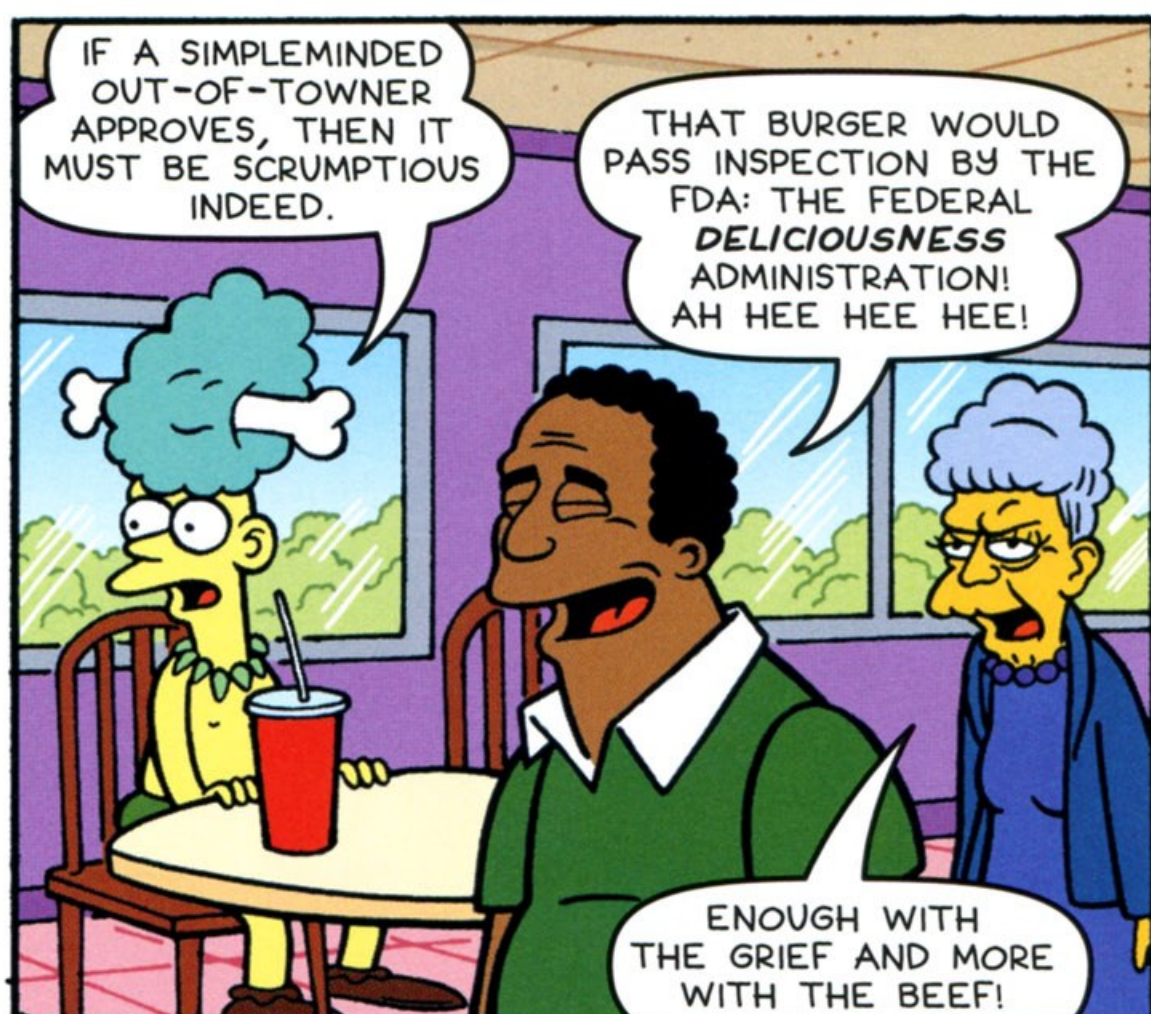
KAREN BATES
LETTERS

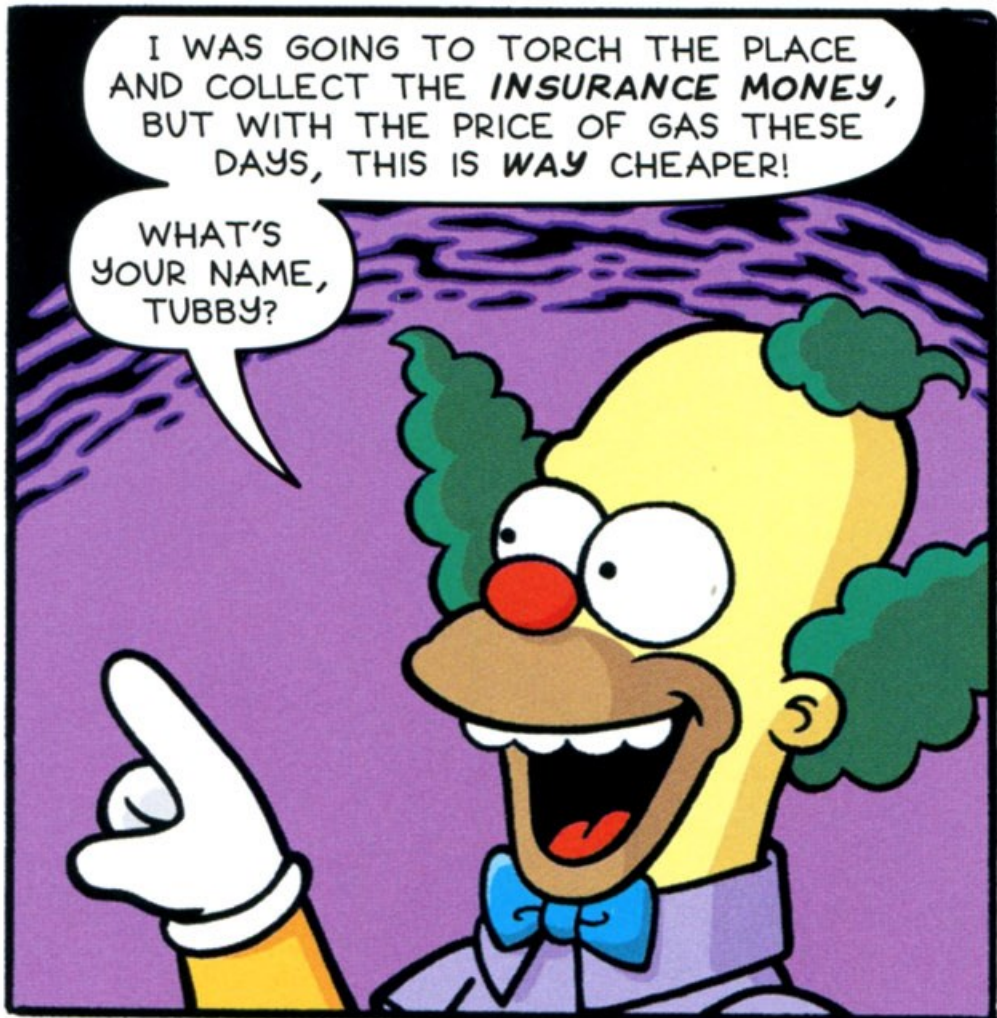
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EDITOR

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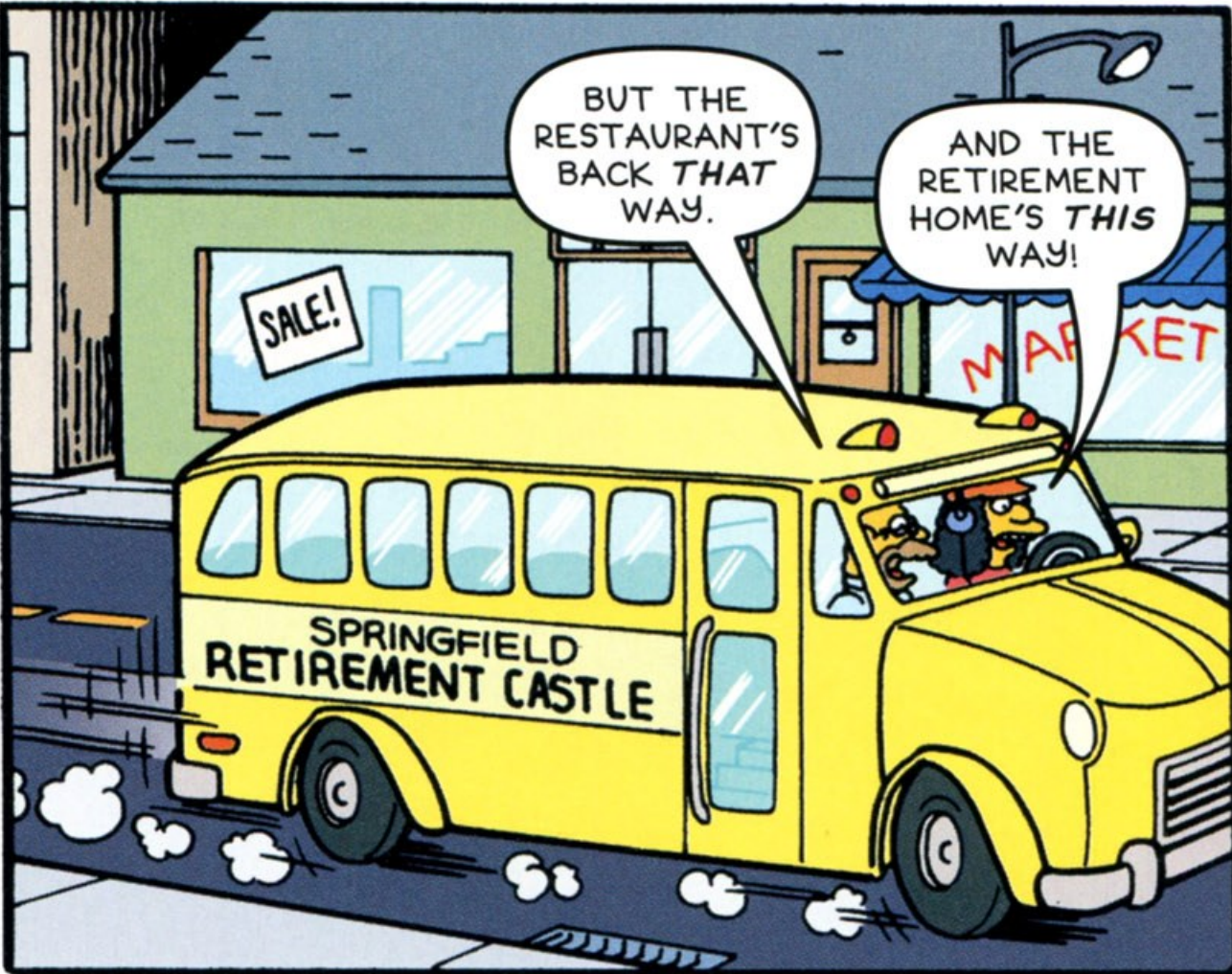










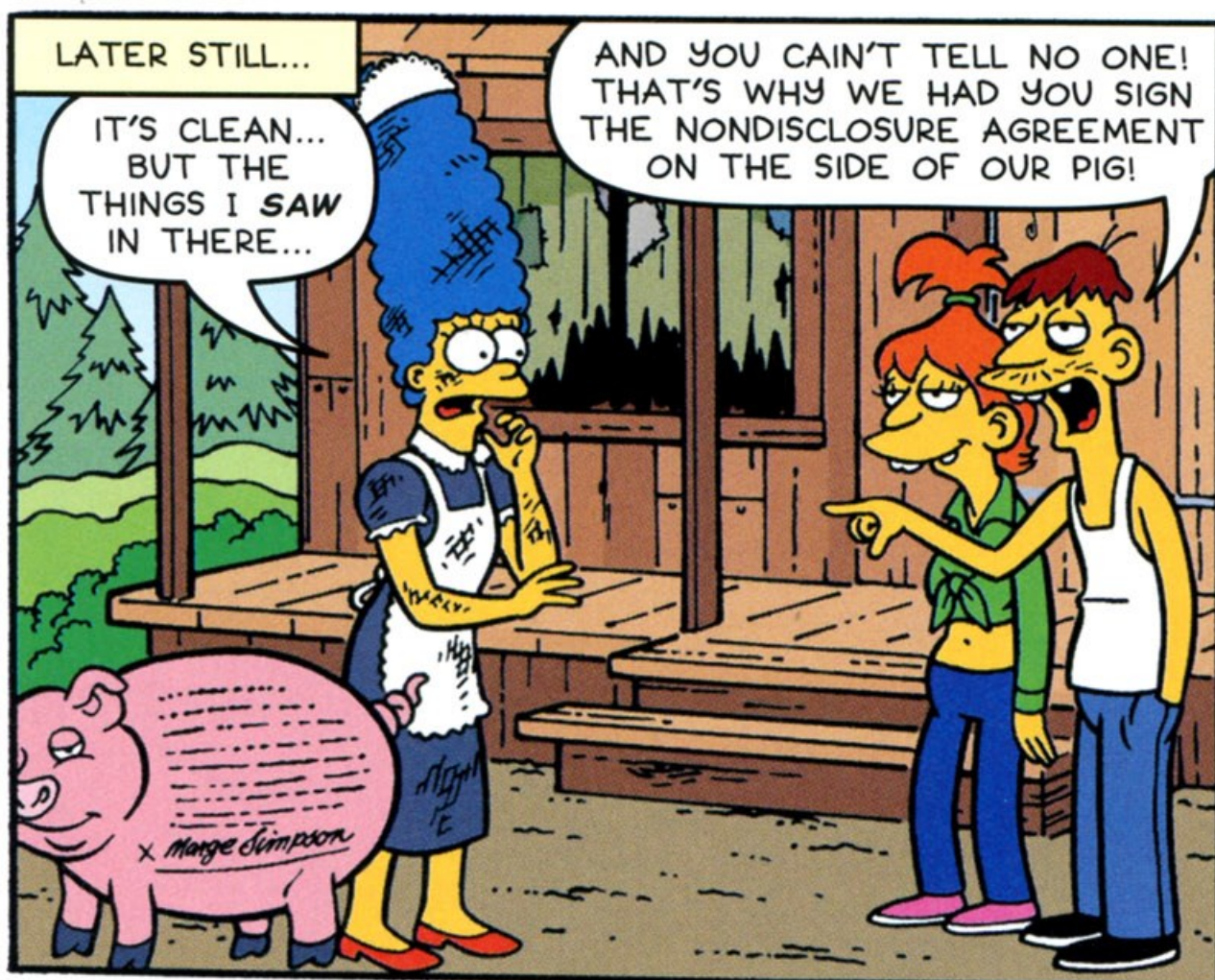




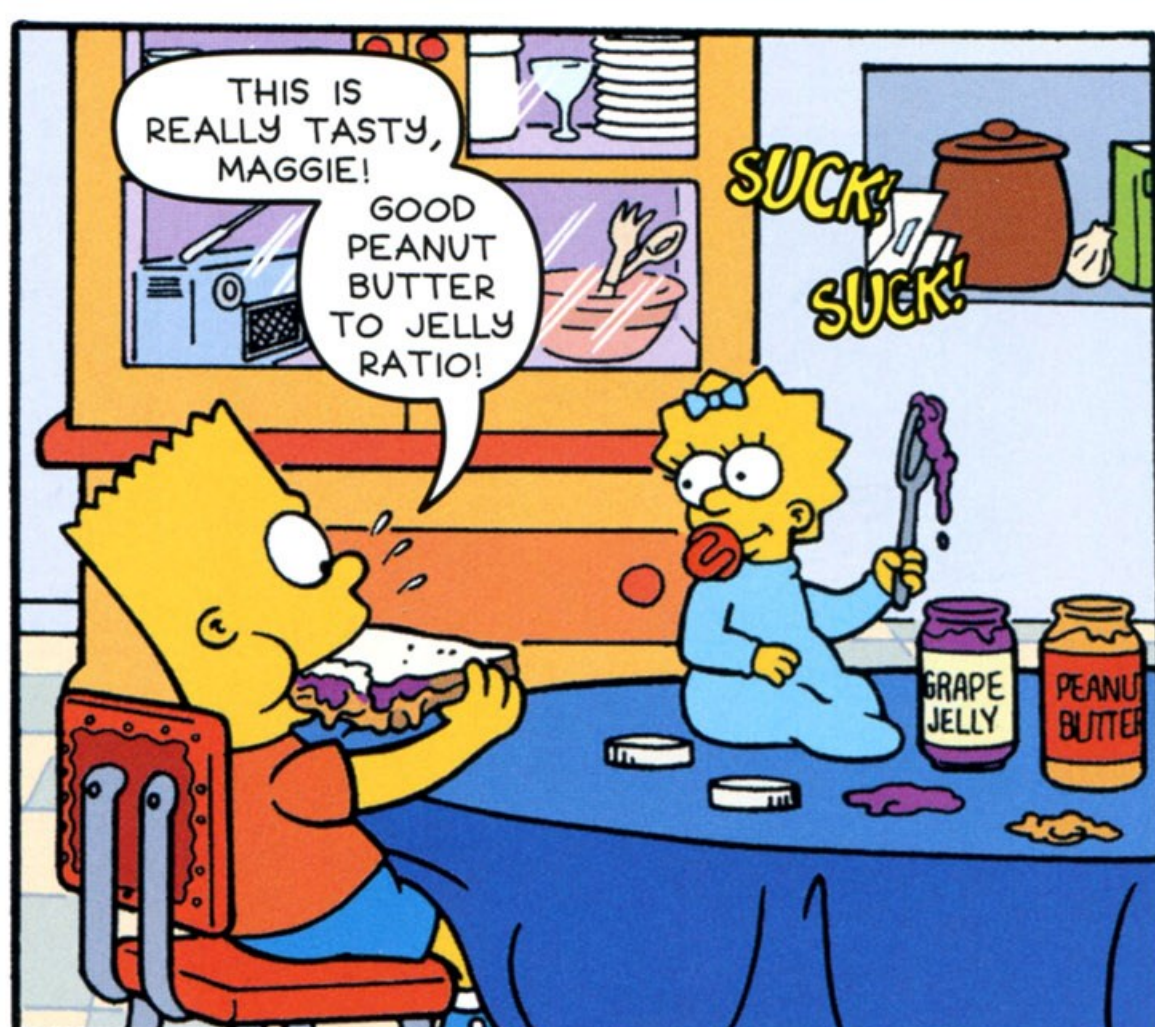
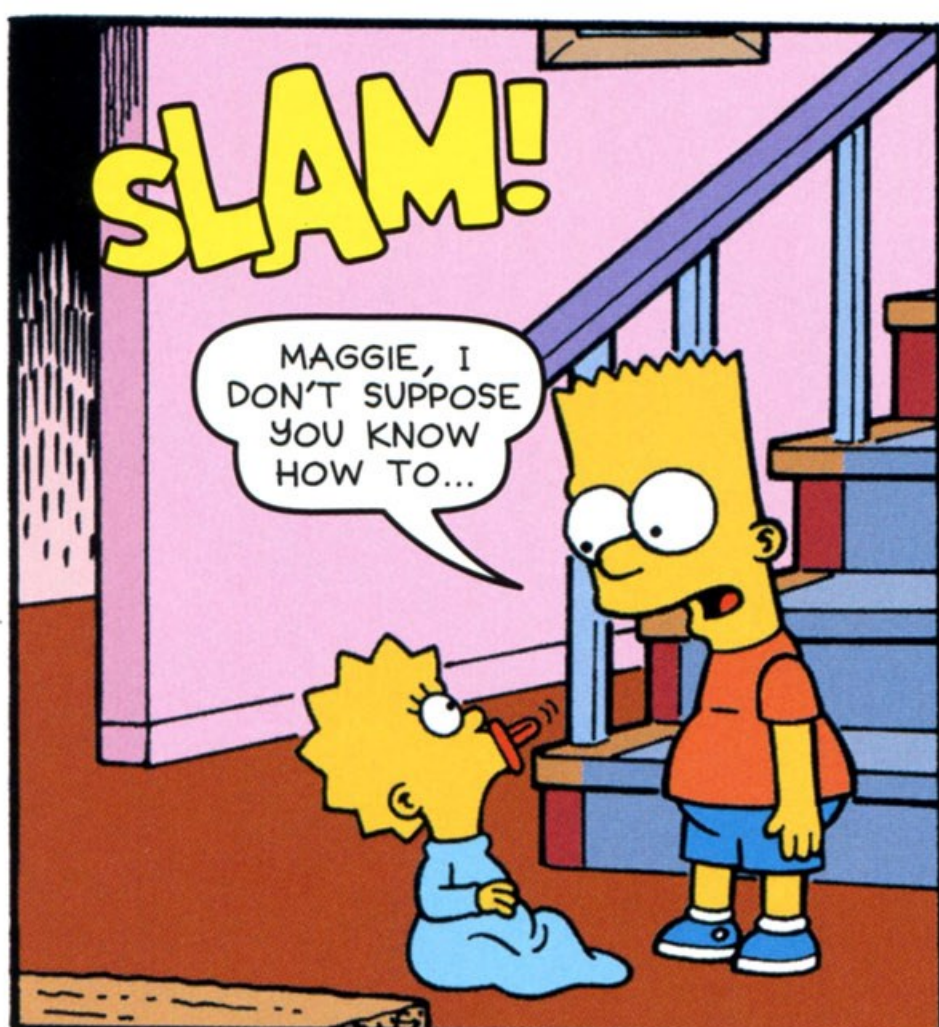
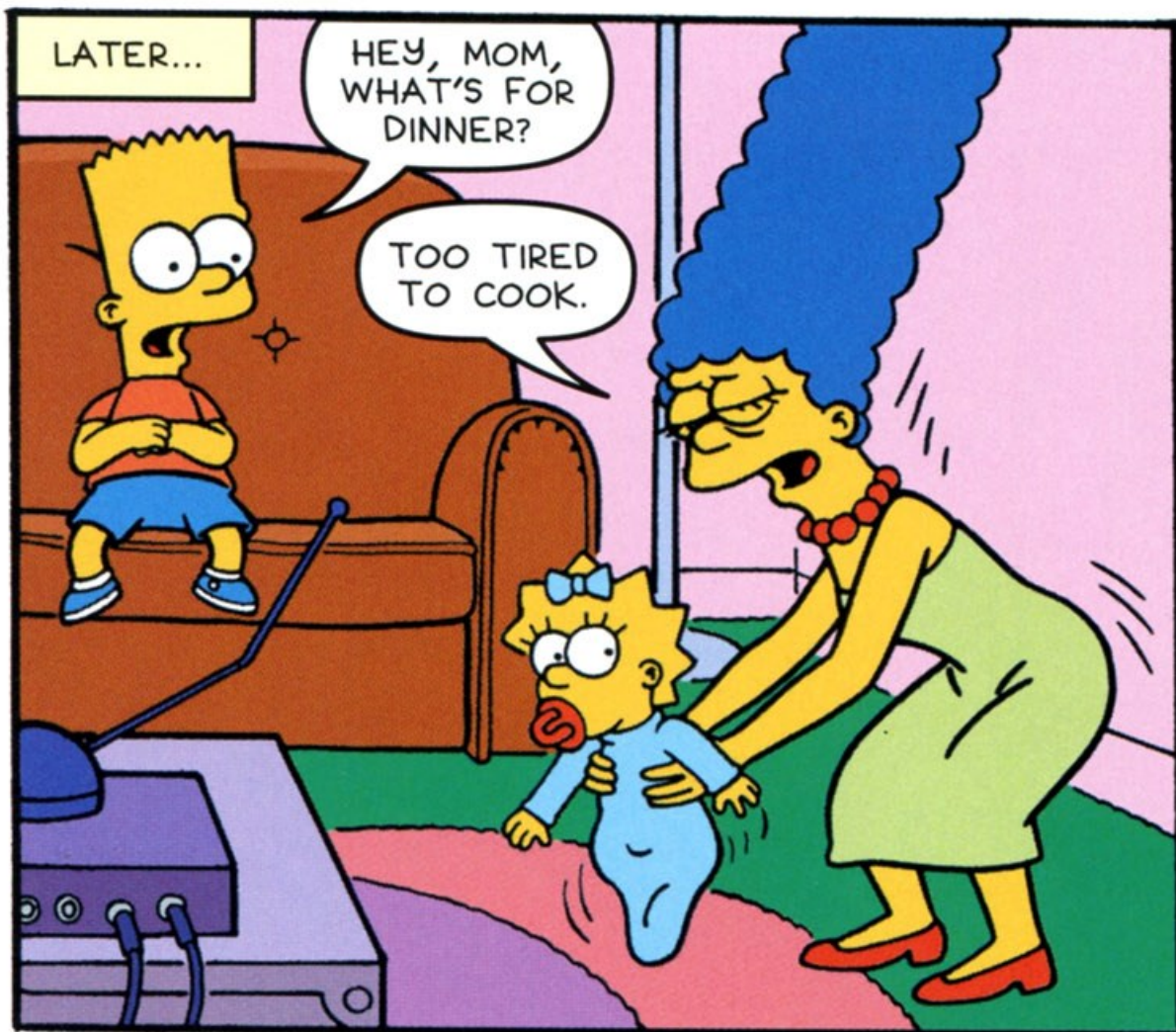


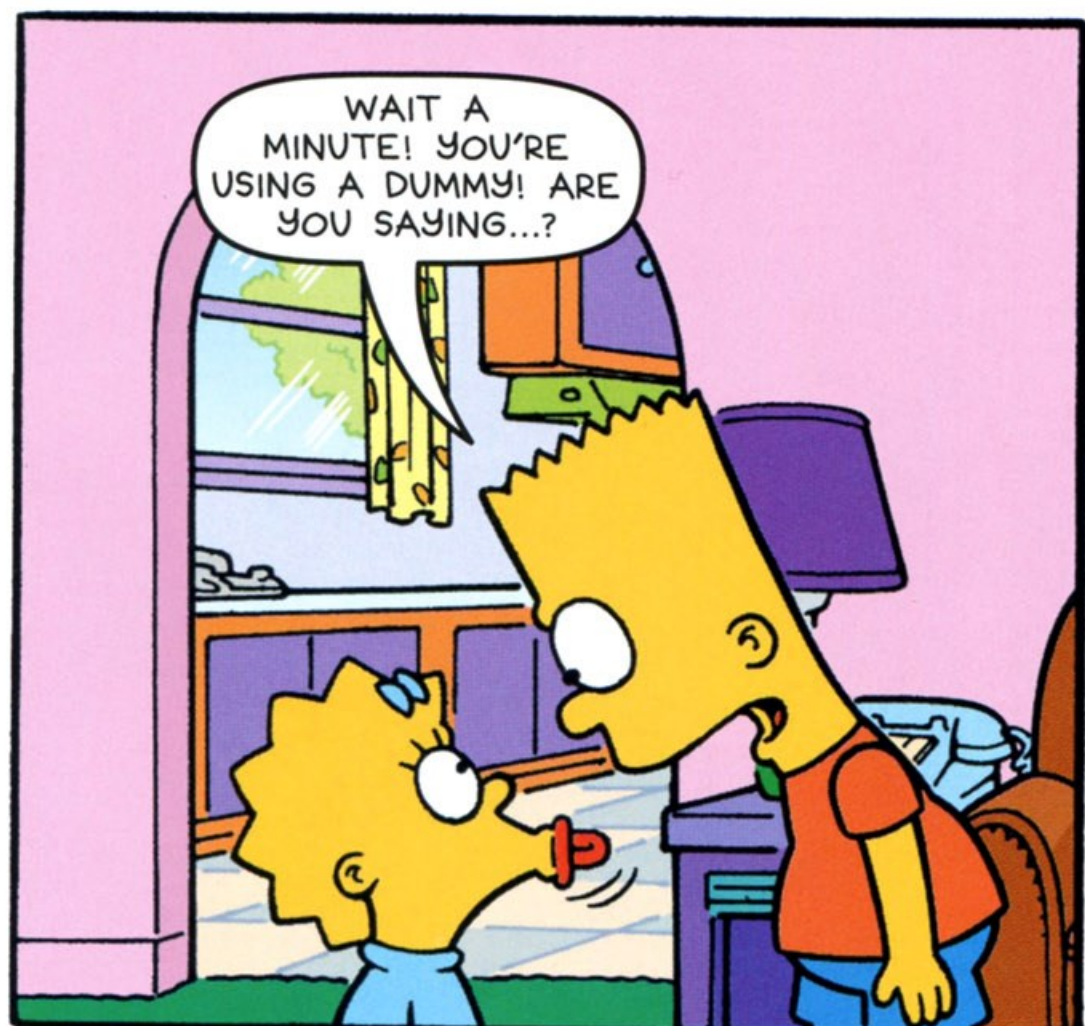
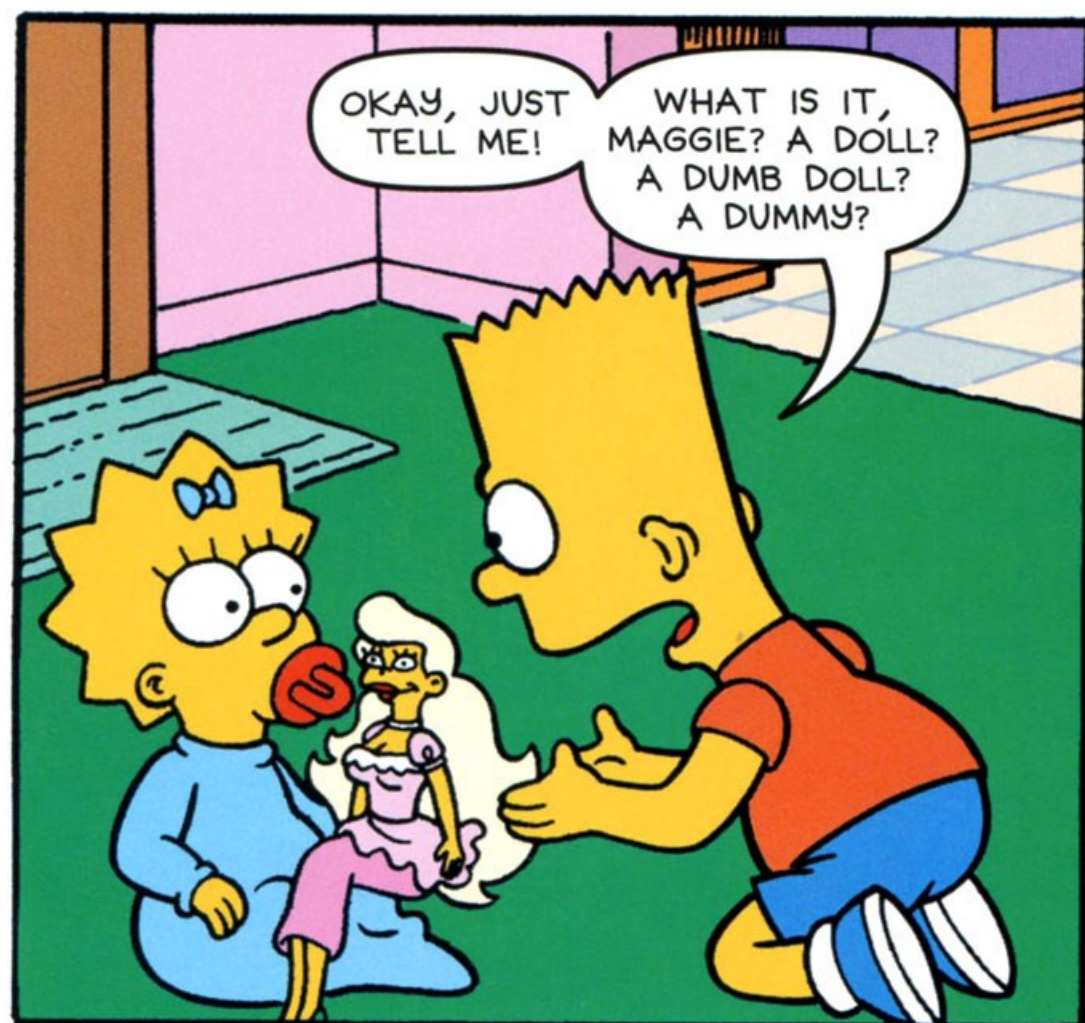


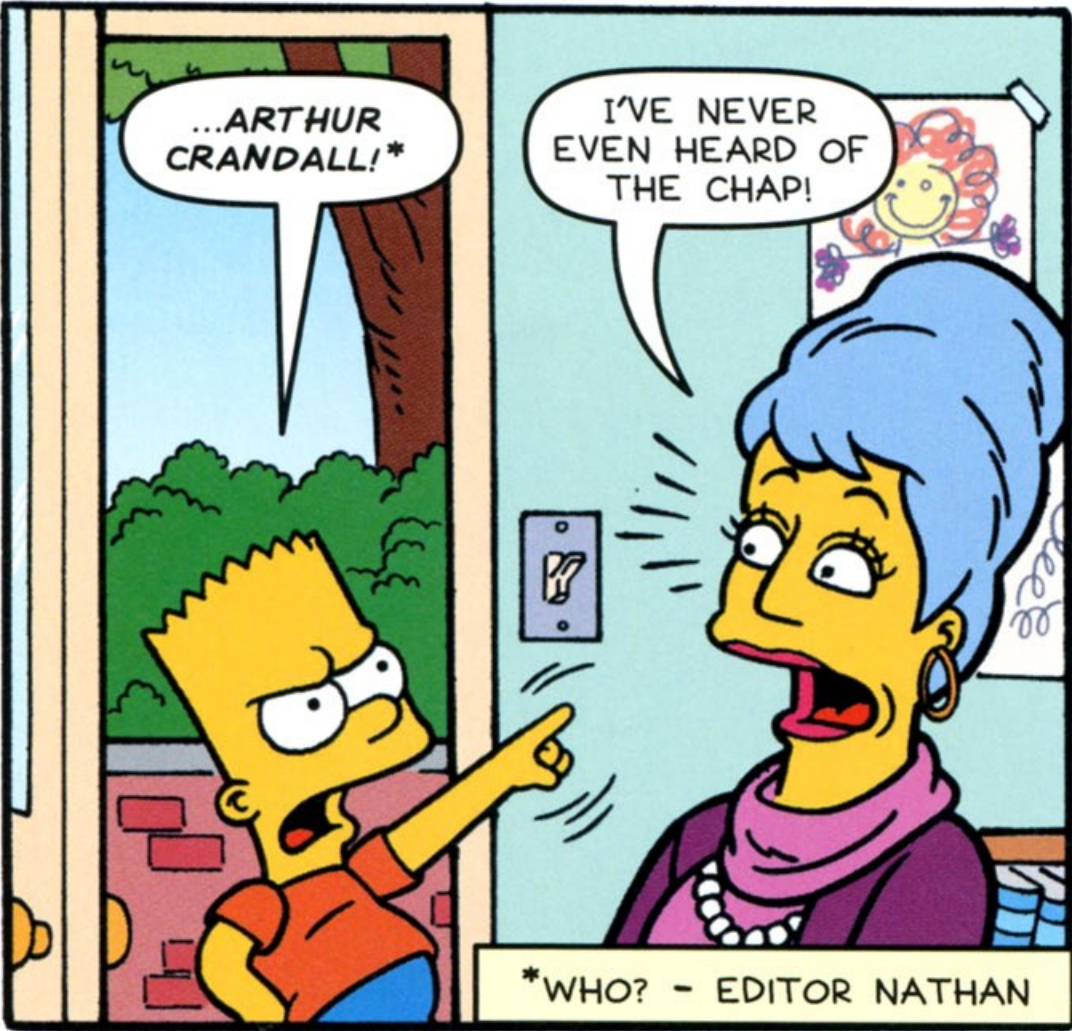








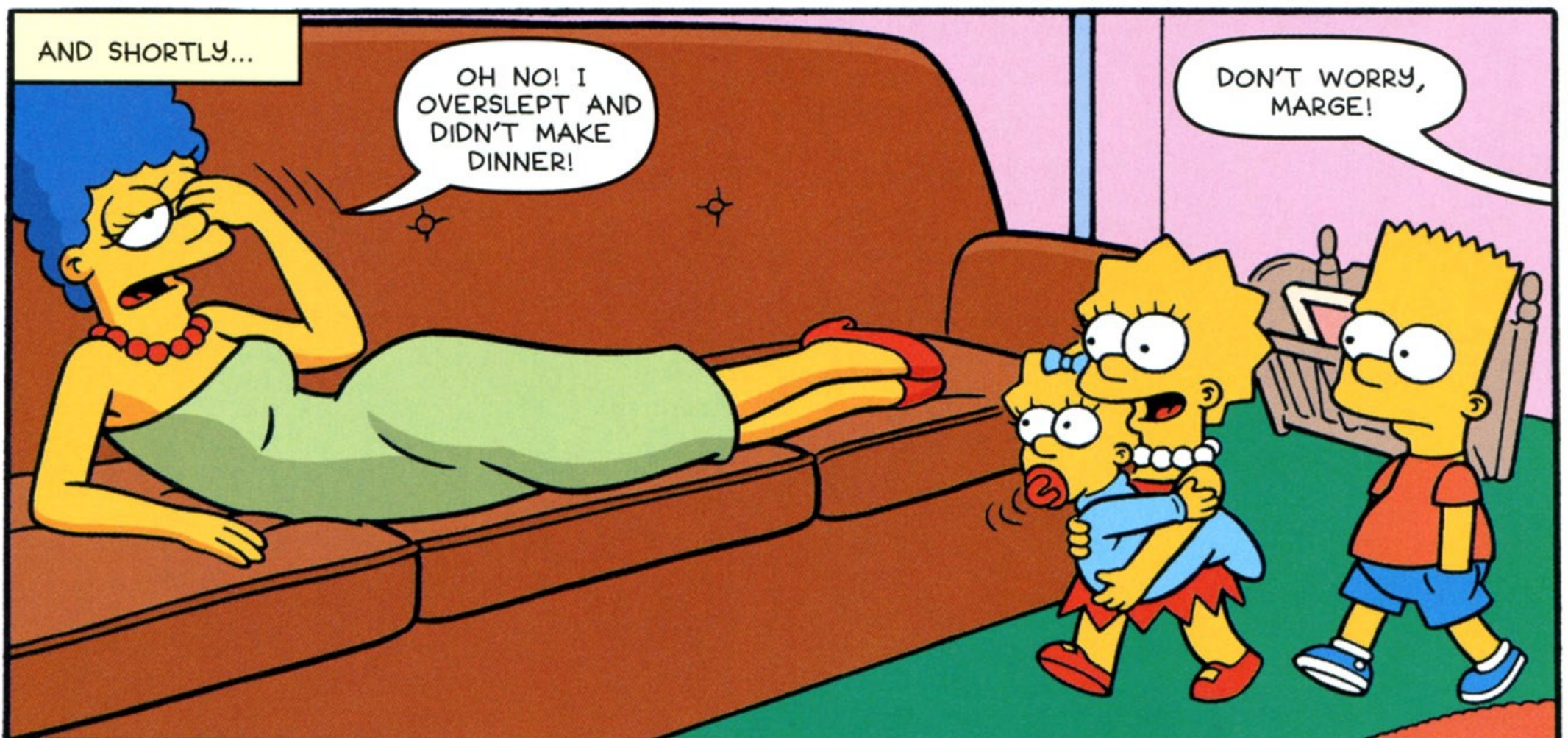


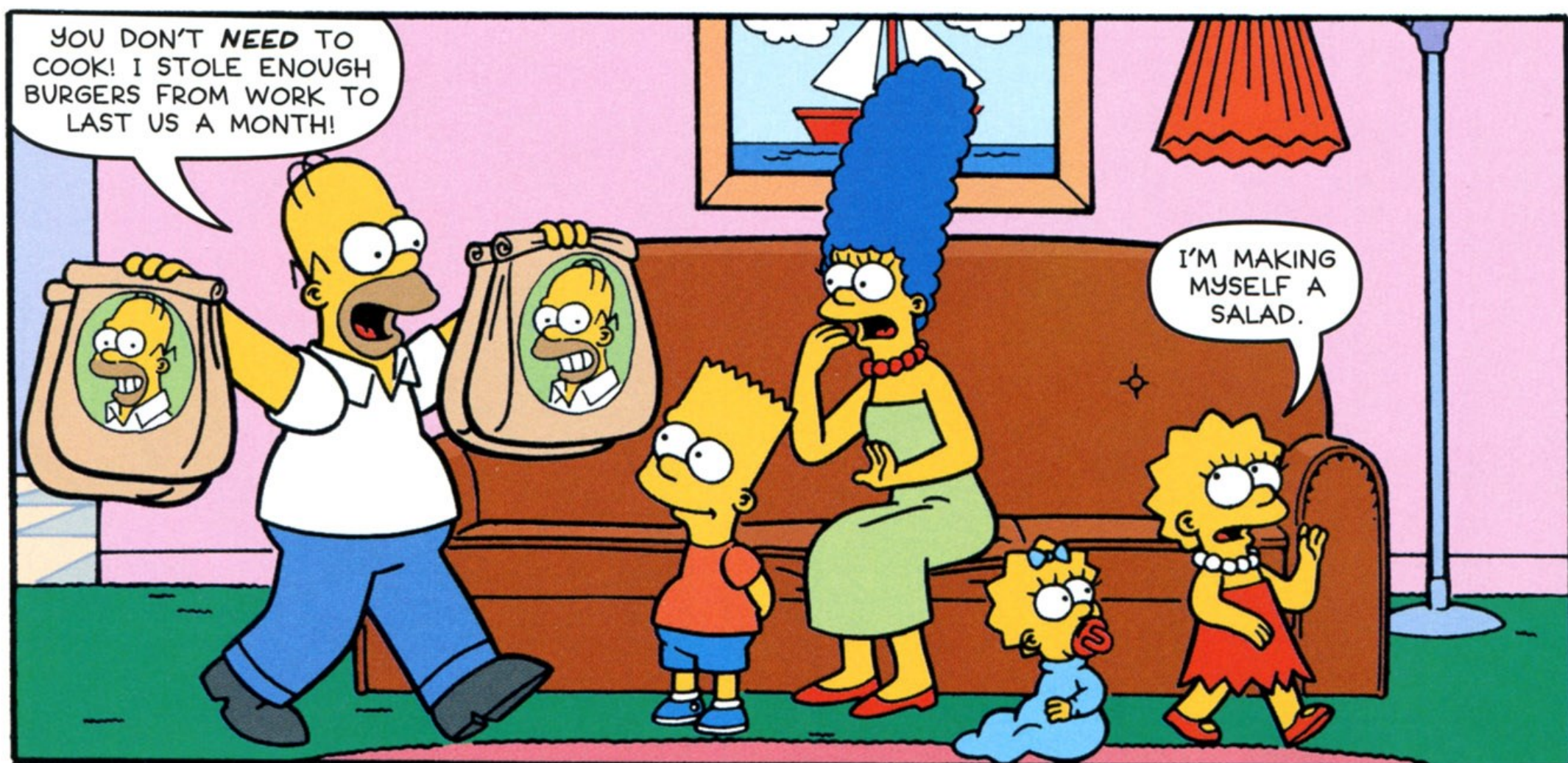


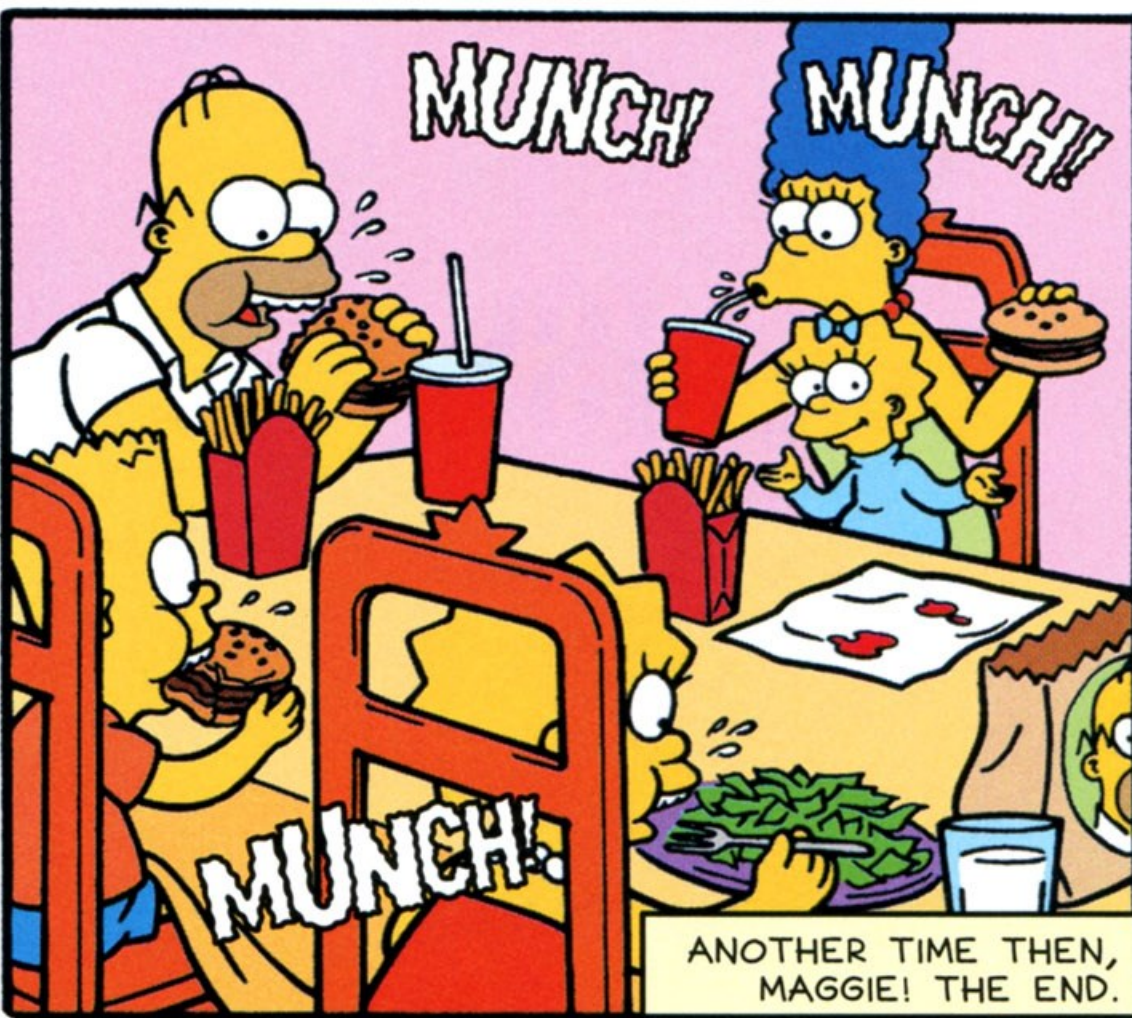














THE BONGO BEAT

by Louis Lane

International Flavor

Hey, Bongoheads! We know you love your *Simpsons* Comics with all the intensity of a million white-hot suns, but did you know people all over the globe feel the same way? That's right! I'd even venture to say that love of "The Simpsons" will eventually unite the world and usher in an era of peace and happiness that would make Ned Flanders squeal with delight.

Case in point? The very issue that you hold in your hands right now is also available (or soon will be) in stores all across the planet! Bongo's comics have cropped up in the United Kingdom, Germany, Lithuania, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, and Ireland. We're in negotiations with the country of Latveria, but that's proving to be a little more difficult...

As the Bongo intern, one of my first duties was to file away the international editions for archival purposes. When I first laid eyes on all the different languages and countries represented in our vault, I started singing "It's a Small World (After All)." I felt it was apropos and helped pass the time as I worked diligently. After a few hours of this, I found myself unable to stop singing. I just continued on and on...hour after hour. I was actually getting a little worried until a vicious, but mercifully brief, beating by the rest of the Bongo crew solved the problem. Those guys are the best!

One of the perks of seeing these international editions is the sweet premiums attached to some of them. I've seen such swag as water pistols,



Some Simpsons goodies from around the world. See anything you like?

whoopee cushions, beach balls, umbrellas, plastic spiders, inflatable Spider-Pigs, skateboarding Barts, basketball hoops, and the much-loved, yet enigmatic, hopping eyeball. Other than not being printed in English, a lot of Bongo comics look exactly the same as in the U.S.; however, in the UK, comics are about one-and-a-half times larger. Conversely, Australian editions are a petite digest-size. They fit easily in your back pocket or inside the pouch of the nearest wallaby.

With the same comic published in so many different languages, Bongo's international library is a veritable Rosetta Stone! A few months back, I attempted to read an issue in English and then the reread the same issue printed in German...just to try and pick up some vocabulary. It was much more difficult than I imagined, and I just couldn't retain anything. I soon gave up as the whole experience only

filled me with *weltschmerz*.

So if you're ever traveling abroad, share your love of "The Simpsons" and Bongo with your host country. Even if that doesn't usher in a new Age of Enlightenment, you may learn how to say "Eat my shorts" in Swahili...and that just may be good enough.

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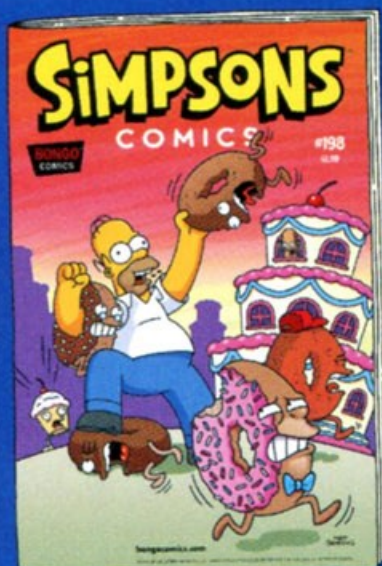
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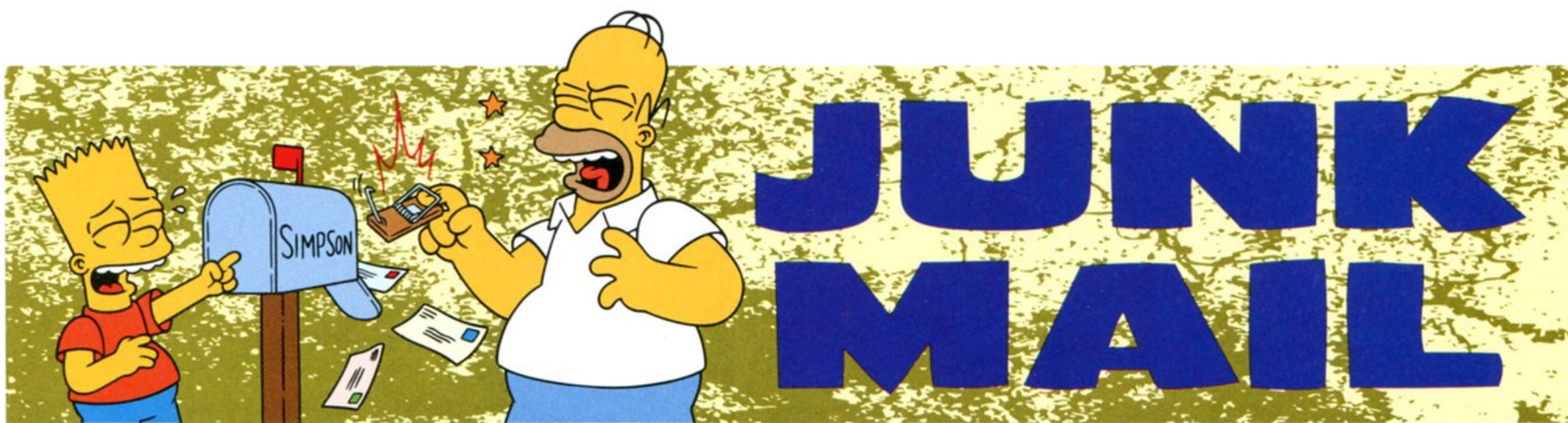
NEXT ISSUE!

SIMPSONS COMICS #198

The search is on for the newest Lard Lad Donut Kid of the Year is on! Lisa joins the competition to earn college scholarship award, while Bart (with more than a little encouragement from Homer) is in it for the free year's supply of donuts. However, representing Lard Lad Donuts for a whole year may not be all glaze and sprinkles.



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Do you have a question? A query? A quixotic conundrum? We've got your answers to all things Bongo and more! Send your letters, artistic renderings, photos, and whatnot to: JUNK MAIL, Bongo Comics Group, P.O. Box 1963, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1963, or contact us online at bongoheads@bongocomics.com. If you wish to have your letter or artwork published in our comics, you need to include the following statement in your letter or attached to your artwork: "For consideration for publication in Bongo Comics. I agree if you publish my submission it becomes your property." and sign your name. Unfortunately, because we require your signature, we cannot publish emails at this time. (That instruction comes courtesy of our watchful legal eagles.)

THANK YOU, COME AGAIN

Hey Bongo!

In the Bartman/Arkham Asylum parody (in *Treehouse of Horror* #18), Apu was seen as "Mr. Squishee." How does he breathe in that helmet full of Squishee?

J.T. Blanchard
Louisville, KY

The Squishee is heavily watered down, so as to increase both the oxygen content and the profit margin. In this month's issue of Bart Simpson (#78), Apu will be taking on yet another villainous alter ego as he and his eight babies turn into the fiendish DOCTOR OCT-UPLETS!

Louis Lane

DEVILISH DELIGHT

I made the mistake of reading the new *Treehouse of Horror* before bedtime. Late night is probably not the best time to indulge in spooky stories. I got chills at the gruesome ending to "Eerie Beery." My only/main complaint is that the actual Devil made an appearance in "Margemary's Baby," and not Devil Flanders. More Devil Flanders!

Signed,
Amber "Son of Kong" Smith

Amber, thanks for using your personalized *Treehouse* nickname! Fits you perfectly. Sadly, Devil Flanders (the Beel-ze-diddlyest-bub around) was too busy to appear in this year's *Treehouse*. His schedule was filled

with heck-raising and pitchforking. We'll try to book him early for next year's THOH #19.

LL

SHOWSTOPPER

My favorite character in "The Simpsons" is Cletus. When he saves Homer in *Simpsons Comics* #195, I thought it was great. I have a question. How many children does Cletus have? Will they ever get a mega-size family reality show like "Cletus and Brandine plus Eighteen?" I'd watch it. Make it happen, Bongo!

Trey McDaniels
Dallas, TX

The number of Cletus' offspring is wildly disputed around the Bongo offices. Whenever we reach a consensus, it seems Brandine has another baby, so your guess is as good as ours, Trey. As for your other request...it sounds like a great idea. Have your people pitch it to our people!

LL



Hey Bongoheads!

Are you wondering who that tall, dark and winsome stranger was on pages 3 & 4? Why, it was none other than **Sam Young**, the winner of our *Ralph Wiggum* #1 contest.

Simpsonized Sam will now live forever in comic book form!

Congrats, Sam! We hope you eventually find your way out of Springfield, but not before stopping off for a Shirley Temple at Moe's Tavern!



Can't get enough Bongo Comics? We've got you covered. Like us on Facebook to share your thoughts, post a review, and chat with the Bongo Bigwigs! Fun stuff added all the time, so come see what everyone's talking about!



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THE BIG, BAD, BONGO CHECKLIST

ON SALE THIS MONTH!



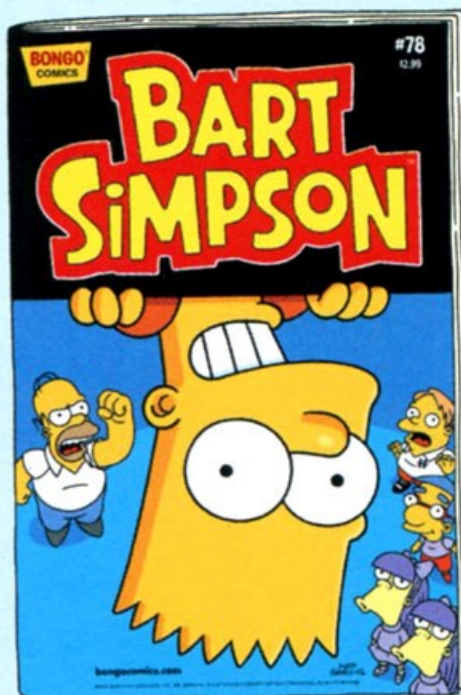
SPONGEBOB COMICS #15

Patrick would make a great substitute fry cook, right? If you think so, then the horrible chaos and destruction rampant in the story "Pat the Temp" may surprise you. And in "Trash Stalkin'" Squidward teaches SpongeBob about that most magical of all creatures, the Garbage Fairy. All this plus Gary at a snail show, Patrick at Jellyfish Fashion Week, and Mr. Krabs as the torso of a giant transforming robot!



FUTURAMA COMICS #64

Professor Farnsworth sends the Planet Express crew to Neptune to shut down Robot Santa's naughty or nice tracking system, which is spreading embarrassing personal information about everyone across the Internet. However, an overload of so much secret information may very well destroy Earth unless Robot Santa can bring a little peace on Earth and goodwill to all men.



BART SIMPSON #78

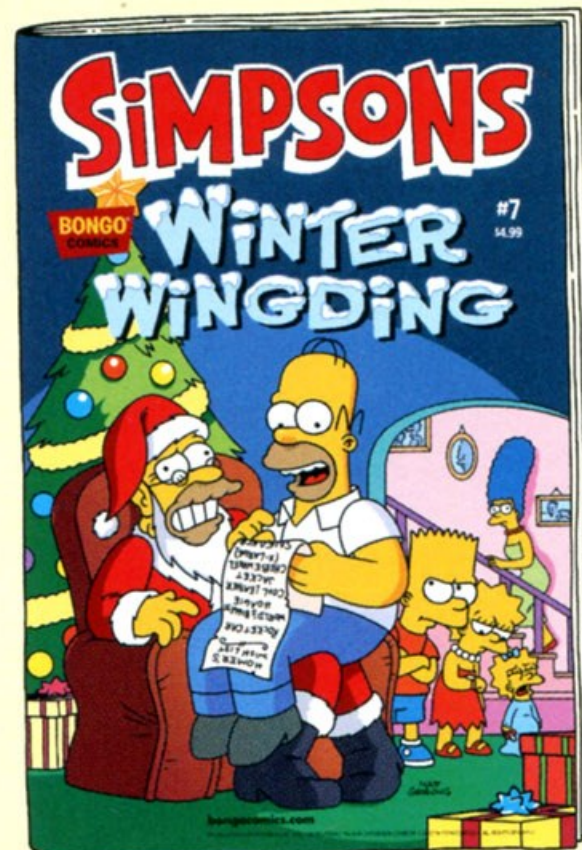
Bartman tangles with a new villain when a bleary-eyed Kwik-E clerk has a freak accident with a hot dog warmer, transforming him into the eight baby-wielding Dr. Octuplets. Then, the Springfield Elementary girl's basketball team is headed for the city championship until it's star player, Lisa Simpson, gets injured. How far will Principal Skinner go to beat the team from Shelbyville?



SUPER SPECTACULAR #16

Bartman discovers a Japanese comic book at the Android's Dungeon depicting some of his greatest exploits in manga form. And then in a crisis of discontinuous continuities, Plasmo taps into a neighboring dimension to find a replacement for a fallen Superior Squadron comrade, causing a calamitous chain reaction and a world overpopulated with duplicate heroes and villains.

THE SIMPSONS WINTER WINGDING #7



Springfield is ready to celebrate the holiday season, but the weather just isn't cooperating, and it's up to Lisa to find out what's keeping winter away. Then, all the girls at Springfield Elementary try to capture Bart beneath the mistletoe and steal a Christmas kiss. Will they succeed or will Bart remain cootie-free? And when Homer once again ruins Ned Flanders' annual holiday party, Ned is pushed past his breaking point. Can Homer make amends or is this the end of their relationship? Finally, during a snowball fight gone awry, Bart, Milhouse, and Martin find themselves caught in a trap set by Jimbo and his cronies. Can Bart and his friends turn the tables on their tormentors? Plus: three more helpings of the questionably accurate "Grampa's Christmas Origins" and a toasty Itchy & Scratchy treat.

