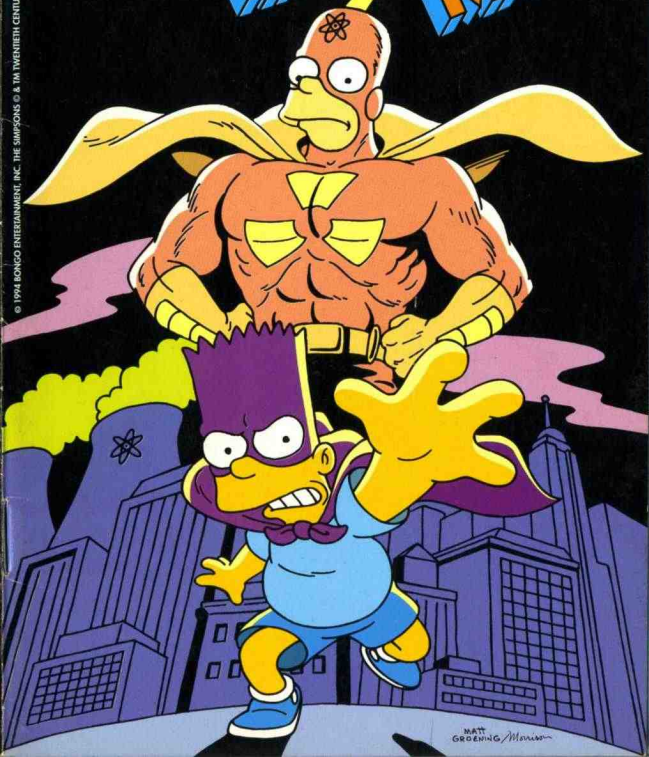




#1

BARTMAN AND RADIOACTIVE MAN



MATT GROENING/Marvel

WELCOME TO BARTMAN, MAN

Over the several years that the Simpsons have been cavorting on TV (since 1987 if you count the prehistoric shorts on the *Tracey Ullman Show*), we've gotten the kinds of compliments that cartoonists crave hearing: you're setting a bad example, you're corrupting youth, you're frightening Americans about nuclear power, you're hastening the downfall of western civilization.

But my favorite prissy outrage at Simpsonian subversion was in 1990, when school principals, busybodies, and petty government officials across the land flipped out because of

the Bart Simpson underachiever T-shirts — you know the ones, with Bart saying, "And proud of it, man!"

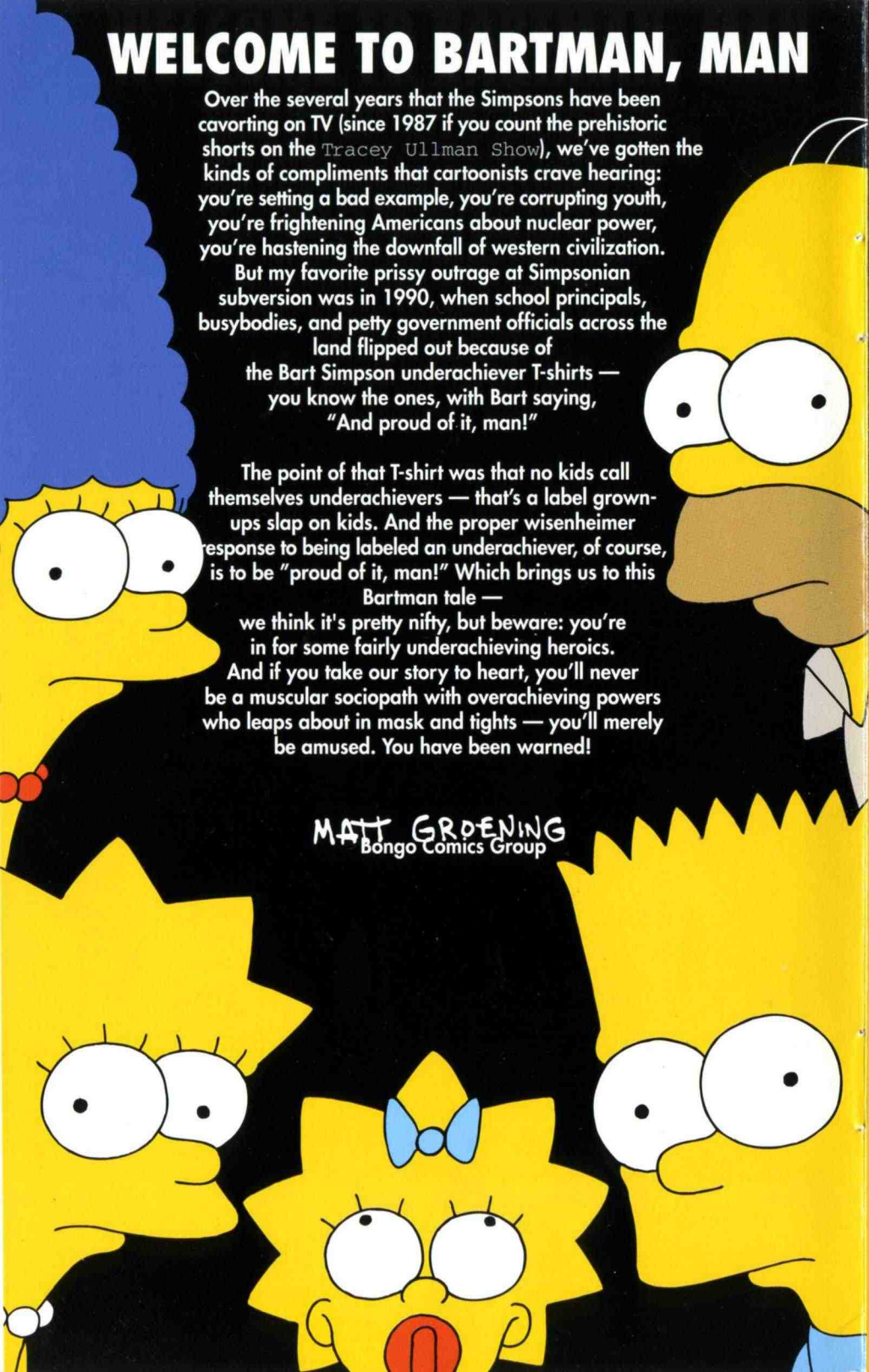
The point of that T-shirt was that no kids call themselves underachievers — that's a label grown-ups slap on kids. And the proper wisenheimer response to being labeled an underachiever, of course, is to be "proud of it, man!" Which brings us to this

Bartman tale —

we think it's pretty nifty, but beware: you're in for some fairly underachieving heroics.

And if you take our story to heart, you'll never be a muscular sociopath with overachieving powers who leaps about in mask and tights — you'll merely be amused. You have been warned!

MATT GROENING
Bongo Comics Group



LO, THERE SHALL COME... **A BARTMAN!!**

-- AND IT MAY TAKE THIS
SMALL TOWN MONTHS TO
CLEAN UP AFTER THIS
DISASTER. AND SPEAKING OF
CLEANING UP --

2.50
3.00 CAN
OCT.
456
AA

RADIOACTIVE MAN

FALLOUT BOY --
HELP! THIS PARTICLE
BEAM IS DRAINING
MY SUPERPOWERS!

SORRY, CHUMP!
I'M DR. CRAB'S
PAL NOW!

BY MY SIDEKICK
BETRAYED!

A Jazmy MATT GROENING
Production

☆
John STEVE VANCE
Script / Layouts / Inks

☆
Merthful CINDY VANCE
Complot / Colors

☆
Mefarious BILL MORRISON
& Jazzy MIKE ANDERSON
Inks / Embellishing

BARTMAN is published three times a year by Bongo Entertainment, Inc., 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067. (310) 788-1367, Fax (310) 788-1200. © 1994 Bongo Entertainment, Inc. The Simpsons © & TM Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved. Neither this comic book nor any portion of it may be used or reproduced for any purpose whatsoever without the express written permission of Bongo Entertainment, Inc.

-- YOUR MOTHER MAY HAVE THROWN AWAY A **TREASURE TROVE** WHEN SHE CLEANED OUT YOUR CLOSET ALL THOSE YEARS AGO. IT SEEMS THOSE **COMIC** ARE NOW FETCHING **FABULOUS PRICES** FROM GROWN-UP COLLECTORS.



A CASE IN POINT IS THIS WEEKEND'S **SPRINGFIELD COMIC CONVENTION**. FANS ARE COMING FROM MILES AROUND TO BUY AND SELL THEIR GARISH PIECES OF NEWSPRINT NOSTALGIA.



FEATURED AT THE CONVENTION WILL BE **ARNOLD LEACH**, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE **RADIOACTIVE MAN** COMIC BOOK. ON SUNDAY HE'LL BE RECEIVING THE COVETED "**GOOD GUY**" AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN RAISING THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF THIS LOWBROW ENTERTAINMENT MEDIUM.



HEY, HOMER, GIVE ME SOME MONEY TO BUY SOME LOWBROW ENTERTAINMENT AT THE COMIC CONVENTION TOMORROW.



DON'T FORGET, YOU TWO, TOMORROW'S THE DAY FOR OUR SEMI-MONTHLY VISIT TO **GRAMPA SIMPSON**.



HUH? COMIC CONVENTION? WILL FLIP WILSON BE THERE?

AYE CARUMBAI!

D'OH!

THE NEXT DAY, AT THE SPRINGFIELD RETIREMENT CASTLE...

...AS IF MAH-JONGG WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, NOW I'M PAIRED WITH THAT JERK IN THE **PARCHEE'S!** TOURNAMENT, TOO.

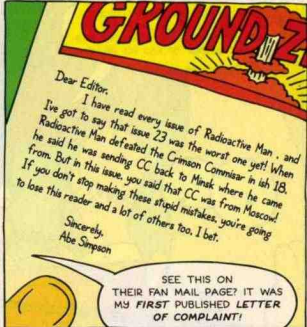
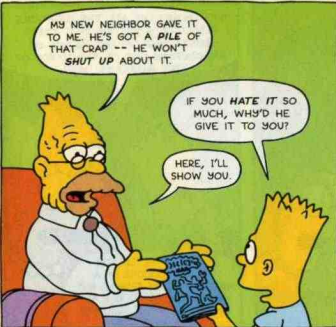


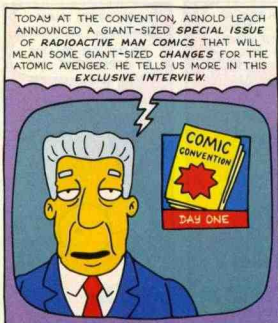
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STUCK HERE WHEN I COULD BE AT THE CONVENTION SPENDING HOMER'S HARD-EARNED CASH. HEY, WHAT TH--?

IT'S A NEAR-MINT COPY OF ISSUE 271 **RADIOACTIVE MAN**'S LAST BATTLE WITH DR. CRAB -- BEFORE DR. CRAB MUTATED!



WHOA! WHERE'D YOU GET THIS, GRAMPA?





SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS
FOR THIS GIANT-SIZED ISSUE?

I FIGURE WE NEED TO MAKE
SOME **CHANGES** -- SHAKE
THINGS UP A LITTLE, SO --

ARNOLD LEACH / COMIC BOOK PUBLISHER

-- WE'RE
GONNA KILL
HIM.

MARK MY
WORD, SALES
WILL
SKYROCKET.

IT'S AN **EPIC!** FROM CHAPTER 1, "IF A FOE DOTH SLAY
ME!" TO CHAPTER 8, "THE READING OF... THE WILL!"
KIDS WILL LOVE IT.

THEY'RE KILLING
HIM OFF, MILHOUSE!
WHAT ARE WE
GONNA DO?

I DON'T KNOW, BART --
BUY EXTRA COPIES AND
DOUBLE-BAG 'EM?

LATER THAT NIGHT...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THEY'RE **MURDERING** MY HERO!
YEARS FROM NOW, THIS IS
PROBABLY THE MOMENT I'LL BE
TELLING MY PAROLE BOARD ABOUT.

WELL, IN TIMES OF TROUBLE,
MEN HAVE OFTEN FOUND
COMFORT IN **THE CLASSICS** --
IN THIS CASE, A VINTAGE COPY
OF **RADIOACTIVE MAN #418**.

OH, BABY, WHAT A
MASTERPIECE OF **GRAPHIC
STORYTELLING!** RADIOACTIVE
MAN DEFEATS THE MENACE
OF THE **KING OF CRIME!**

LATER THAT NIGHT...

ACCORDING TO MY IRRADIATED SENSES, THE KING OF CRIME'S LAIR IS NEARBY!

THIS IS IT! THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT -- OF COURSE! I'LL JUST SWOOP DOWN AND PAY HIM A LITTLE SOCIAL CALL!

WHAT BITTER IRONY -- BENEATH THIS FACADE OF REFINEMENT BEATS THE HEART OF A VAST EMPIRE OF CORRUPTION AND EVIL!

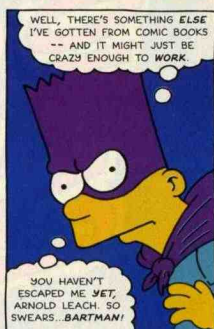
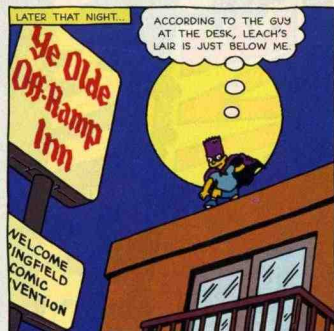
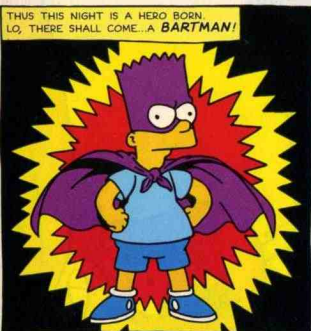
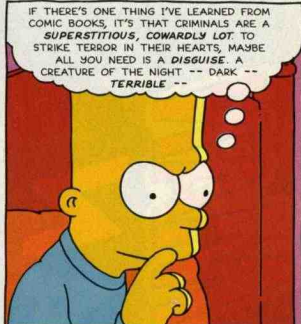
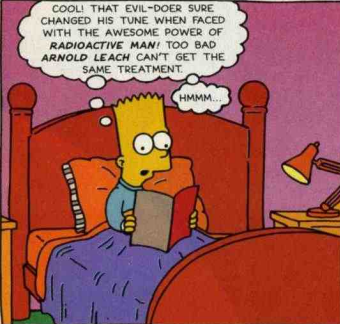
WHAT TH--?! WHO'S THERE?

IT'S THE FIRE MARSHALL, KINGY. DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT IT'S DANGEROUS TO SMOKE IN BED?

IT'S LUCKY FOR YOU I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN HURT!

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MMM--ULPI!

W-WAIT A MINUTE! MAYBE WE CAN MAKE A DEAL! JUST DON'T HIT ME!



RADIOACTIVE MAN

MEETS

BARTMAN



MATT
GROENING

THE NEXT DAY...

THIS IS KENT BROCKMAN, CHANNEL 6 EYE ON SPRINGFIELD. WE INTERRUPT THE SUPERBOWL TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL LIVE COVERAGE OF THE SPRINGFIELD COMIC CONVENTION: DAY TWO. IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, ARNOLD LEACH WILL BE RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS **GOOD GUY AWARD** IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY --



MEANWHILE, BACKSTAGE...

"IT IS WITH DEEP HUMILITY THAT I ACCEPT THIS RICHLY-DESERVED AWARD..." YEAH, THAT'S NOT BAD.

"MY FELLOW CONNOISSEURS OF THE COMIC BOOK ARTS..."



HOW ABOUT "MY FELLOW RATS?"

HUH? WHO'S THERE?

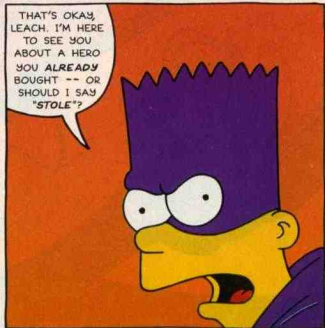


I'M BARTMAN.

CUTE COSTUME, KID -- BUT I'M NOT BUYING ANY NEW SUPERHEROES TODAY.



THAT'S OKAY, LEACH. I'M HERE TO SEE YOU ABOUT A HERO YOU ALREADY BOUGHT -- OR SHOULD I SAY "STOLE"?



AND HERE'S
THE MAN YOU
STOLE HIM
FROM!



WELL, WELL...MORTY MANKIEWICZ.
COME TO WATCH YOUR OLD BOSS
GET HIS GOOD GUY AWARD, EH?
AND ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT
YOU WERE DEAD



I MIGHT AS WELL BE, FOR ALL YOU
CARE. I GAVE YOU RADIOACTIVE
MAN -- THE FOUNDATION OF
YOUR WHOLE COMPANY -- AND
YOU TOSSED ME ASIDE! YOU FIRED
ME OFF MY OWN STRIP!



...ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU SPARE
RADIOACTIVE MAN.

DON'T KILL MY CREATION.



NOT YOUR CREATION, MORTY --
MINE! ACCORDING TO THE CONTRACT
YOU SIGNED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO,
BOFFO COMICS CREATED RADIOACTIVE
MAN. IF YOU WERE STUPID ENOUGH
TO SIGN AWAY ALL YOUR RIGHTS,
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.



JUST ASK ANY GOOD COPYRIGHT
LAWYER. I OWN RADIOACTIVE
MAN. I CAN DO WHATEVER I
WANT WITH HIM --



-- AND I
WANNA SNUFF
HIM!

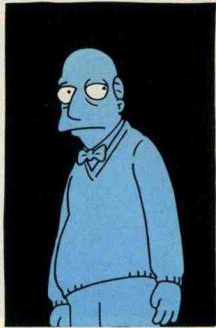
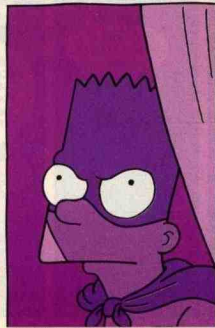
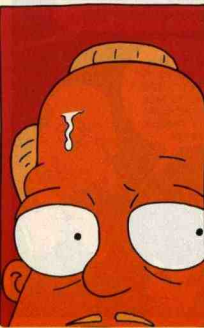


GREETINGS, COMIC FANS...

OOPS! IT'S BEEN
SWELL, MORTY, BUT
I GUESS IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO FACE
THOSE MORONIC
LITTLE FANBOY
GEEKS.



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LEACH! I'VE BEEN RECORDING THIS ENTIRE MEETING -- WITH THE **SPYMASTER JR. TAPE RECORDER** I ORDERED FROM THE BACK OF ONE OF **YOUR COMICS!** WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF THIS TAPE FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE **MEDIA** -- OR OF **"THOSE MORONIC LITTLE FANBOY GEEKS"?**



MY FELLOW CONNOISSEURS OF THE COMIC BOOK ARTS -- SINCE I ANNOUNCED THE SPECIAL "DEATH OF RADIOACTIVE MAN" ISSUE YESTERDAY, THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN TRULY **OVERWHELMING**. DISTRIBUTORS HERE AT THE CONVENTION HAVE ALREADY ORDERED A **RECORD NUMBER OF COPIES**.



I HAVE ALSO MET WITH -- UH -- **REPRESENTATIVES OF COMICS FANDOM**, WHO EXPRESSED **GREAT AFFECTION** FOR RADIOACTIVE MAN.



I'M TOUCHED BY THIS OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOR OUR BELOVED ATOMIC AVENGER, SO I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A SPECIAL **NEW LIMITED SERIES**, TO BE CALLED --



-- "**THE RETURN OF RADIOACTIVE MAN!**"

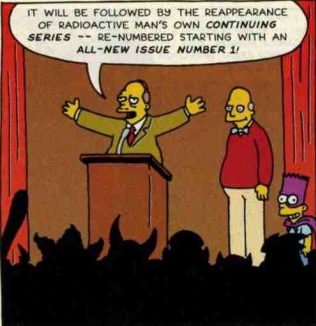


IT'LL BE WRITTEN BY THE GUY WHO KNOWS HIM BEST -- RADIOACTIVE MAN'S CREATOR, **MORTY MANN!**

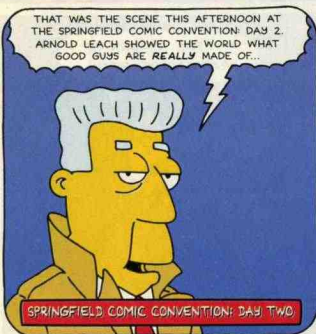
YAAAAAAAY!



IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE REAPPEARANCE
OF RADIOACTIVE MAN'S OWN *CONTINUING*
SERIES -- RE-NUMBERED STARTING WITH AN
ALL-NEW ISSUE NUMBER 1!

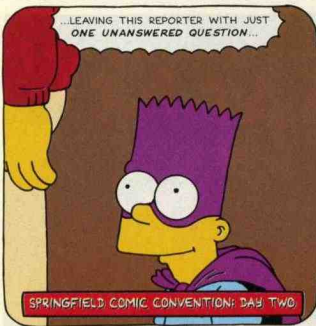


THAT WAS THE SCENE THIS AFTERNOON AT
THE SPRINGFIELD COMIC CONVENTION: DAY 2.
ARNOLD LEACH SHOWED THE WORLD WHAT
GOOD GUYS ARE REALLY MADE OF...



SPRINGFIELD COMIC CONVENTION: DAY TWO

...LEAVING THIS REPORTER WITH JUST
ONE UNANSWERED QUESTION...



SPRINGFIELD COMIC CONVENTION: DAY TWO

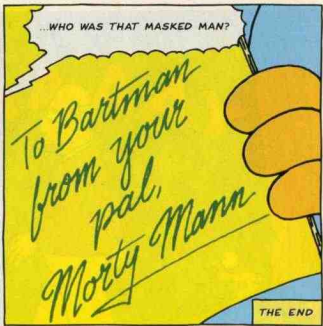
-- EIGHT DIFFERENT COVERS
-- MUTANT GUEST-STAR
CROSSOVERS -- POLYBAGGED WITH
A TRADING CARD AND POSTER
-- BLAH BLAH BLAH --



...AND GAVE A
CERTAIN RADIOACTIVE
HERO'S TRAGIC TALE
A HAPPY ENDING...



...WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?



THE END



*Apu Nahasapeemapetilon,
successful entrepreneur, says:*

"SO YOU ARE WANTING TO START A SMALL BUSINESS!"

Congratulations, my friend, on taking your first step on the road to opportunity! Now I, as proprietor of one of Springfield's most successful convenience-oriented retail establishments, am offering to you many helpful clues for the purpose of beginning an enterprise you may call your own.

Now available for the first time anywhere outside of the Indian subcontinent is APU'S COURSE OF HOME STUDY FOR WOULD-BE ENTREPRENEURS. In 17 easy-to-understand chapters, the course covers everything you need to know in order to liberate yourself from the dismal life of a wage slave.

Topics include:

- **"How Many Lottery Tickets Would You Care to Purchase, Sir or Madame?"** and other money-making questions with which to badger your customers.

- **Turning Video Games into a Profit Center.** Includes simple instructions for resetting 30 popular models so they will no longer give free games.

- **Your Gun vs. His:** When to Freeze, When to Fire.

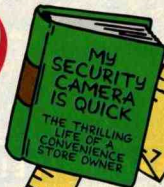
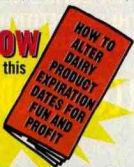
- **From Simple Geometric Shapes to Incarceration:** Learning to Draw Robbery Suspects in Your Spare Time.

- **2¢ of Flavoring and a Penny's Worth of Ice:** The Squishee Miracle.

- Special chapter by noted psychologist Dr. Marvin Monroe, **"Stress Reduction for Convenience Store Operators,"** will hone your skills in dealing with the retail public.

You will find all this and many other closely guarded secrets of the retail trade in this program. By studying diligently the information provided to you, you could perhaps find yourself one day in a position of public trust such as my own. Good luck!

ACT NOW
and receive this
most handy
brochure
FREE!



- 385-page book, **MY SECURITY CAMERA IS QUICK: THE THRILLING LIFE OF A CONVENIENCE STORE OWNER**, written in Apu's own inimitable literary style!

- Life-size photo of uniformed policeman to place next to pastry display. Deterrence value incalculable!

- Large-print, easy-to-read ruler to place at side of door. Most useful for determining height of fleeing suspects!

YES! Tell me more about the world of wonder that awaits me as proprietor of my own small business!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I understand that if I am not completely satisfied, it is my own damn problem

FOR FASTER SERVICE, CALL

(900) QUIZ-APU



HERO #13

ILLUSTRATED

EXCLUSIVE!

Original Bernard Chang Cover



EXCLUSIVE!

"X" Comic Book w/ Quesada Cover



EXCLUSIVE!

"MADMAN" 9-Piece Trading Card Set



LUCKY 13!



HERO INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR
OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRA-
TION! ISSUE #13 IS PACKED WITH
TONS OF GREAT STUFF, INCLUDING:

ORIGINAL BERNARD CHANG VALIANT COVER!
EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL EDITION JOE QUESADA COMIC!
"SUPER COUPON" GOOD FOR MADMAN CARD SET!
OVER \$1,000 IN CONTEST PRIZES!

HERO ILLUSTRATED TOOK THE WORLD BY
STORM ONE YEAR AGO AND THE BEST IN THE
BIZ JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER. EVERY ISSUE
DELIVERS THE HOTTEST COMICS NEWS
MONTHS BEFORE THE COMPETITION AND
COMES PACKED WITH EXCELLENT PREMIUMS!

RESERVE YOUR COPIES TODAY!





**SIMPSONS COMICS • RADIOACTIVE MAN
ITCHY & SCRATCHY COMICS • BARTMAN**



HERO
ILLUSTRATED

RADIOACTIVE MAN

MEETS

BARTMAN



MATT
GROENING