

FROM OFF THE STREETS OF CLEVELAND COMES: \$2.00

NO. 5

AMERICAN SPLENDOR

ALL STORIES BY:
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ART BY:
R. CRUMB
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I'M WRACKING MY
PRAIN TRYINK TO FIND
CHOKES ZAT YOU CAN
POOT IN YOUR BOOK,
BUT YOU DON'T LIKE
ANY OF ZEM!

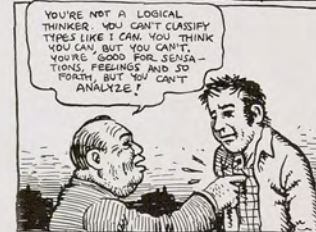
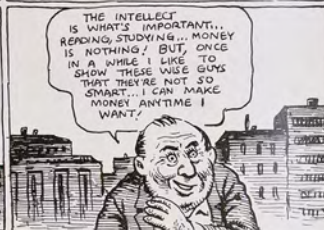
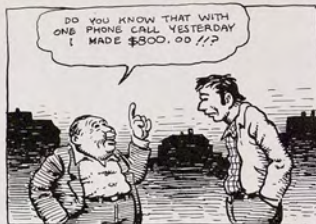
NAH, NAH, SOME OF
'EM ARE GOOD! JUST
BECAUSE I DON'T LAUGH
OUT LOUD DON' MEAN
I DON'T LIKE 'EM!

THERE ISN'T ROOM
FOR HIM INSIDE THIS
BOON, BUT WATCH
FOR HIM IN THE NEXT
ONE. HE'S A TUMMLER
IF EVER THERE WAS
ONE!!

*In This
Issue:*
STORIES ABOUT
SICKNESS
and OLD
PEOPLE

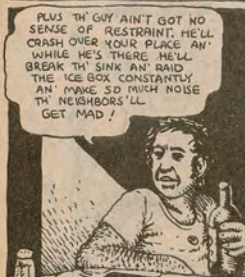
EXCERPT

STORY BY:
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FREDDY VISITS for the WEEK END

STORY BY HARVEY PEKAR
ART BY R. CRUMB
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I WAS SO SHOOK UP I THOUGHT ABOUT SEEING ANOTHER ENT SPECIALIST, EVEN THOUGH I'D JUST SEEN ONE AND KNEW I WASN'T GOING TO LEARN ANYTHING NEW. I GOT MY WIFE T' START MAKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR ME, BUT I WAS BUGGING HER, GOING THROUGH CHANGES WHILE SHE WAS ON THE PHONE.

NAW WAIT, HANG UP, MAYBE I BETTER, NOT SEE A DOCTOR HERE. IT'LL BE A WASTE A' MONEY. MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT TILL WE GET BACK T' CLEVELAND.



C'MON, HARVEY, MAKE UP YOUR MIND. YOU'VE CHANGED IT ABOUT TEN TIMES IN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES.

FINALLY THE TIME CAME TO GO HOME. WAS I GLAD! EVEN IF I COULDN'T TALK, I'D FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE BACK IN CLEVELAND. BUT EVEN THE PLANE RIDE WAS A DRAG. WE GOT HELD UP BY BAD WEATHER IN CHICAGO. ONE OF MY BUDDIES LIVED THERE, AND HE CAME TO THE AIRPORT T' SEE ME BETWEEN PLANES. I'LL TELL YA, IT'S GOOD T' HAVE FRIENDS LIKE THAT.

YEAH MAN, DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE OK SOON.



GOOD MEETIN' YA, LARK.

I FINALLY DID DECIDE T' SEE A DOCTOR IN SEATTLE, BUT WHEN I DID I BUGGED HER, TOO, BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T GUARANTEE THAT I'D BE OK SOON.

SIR, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU IS PROBABLY NOT SERIOUS, BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY 100% ASSURANCES. SEE A GOOD ENT DOCTOR WHEN YOU GET HOME AND HAVE HIM FOLLOW YOU.



WHEN THE PLANE FINALLY GOT BACK TO CLEVELAND, IT WAS TOO LATE TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ALL THE WAY HOME. MY WIFE AND I TOOK THE RAPID TRANSIT DOWNTOWN AND WAITED FOR A FRIEND TO GIVE US A RIDE.



WE FINALLY GOT BACK TO OUR PLACE AT ABOUT 2:00 AM. I FELT BETTER LYING ON MY OWN BED AFTER HAVING TRAVELED AROUND THE WEST COAST FOR THREE WEEKS WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO TALK. I EVEN STARTED FEELING OPTIMISTIC.

YEAH, HONEY, I CAN TALK A LITTLE EASIER T'DAY. MAYBE I'M STARTIN' T' GET BETTER.



BUT THE NEXT DAY I WAS STILL HAVING TROUBLE. I MADE AN APPOINTMENT AT THIS HOSPITAL I HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE AT T' SEE A DOCTOR.

A WEEK, COULDN'T I SEE HIM SOONER?



SORRY, THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO.

A COUPLA DAYS LATER I WENT BACK TO WORK. IT WAS A REAL DRAG EXPLAINING TO MY FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS WHAT'D HAPPENED T'ME.

YEAH MAN, I LOST MY VOICE THE FIRST DAY A' MY HONEYMOON.



WOW, WHAT A BUMMER.

NOW THE DOCTOR I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH, DR. X, WAS A GUY I KNEW ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T REMEMBER ME. YEARS AGO HE'D WORKED AS A RESIDENT IN THE SAME HOSPITAL I WORKED AT. HE WAS A REAL SHIT, ALWAYS YELLING AT THE NURSES AND SECRETARIES. BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, I HADDA SEE HIM IF I WANTED T' GET SEEN SOON.



MR. BOATS' MIRACLE CURE

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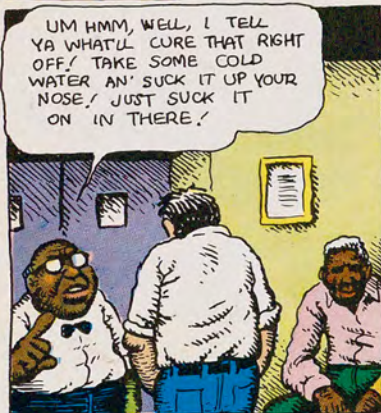


ACHOO!!

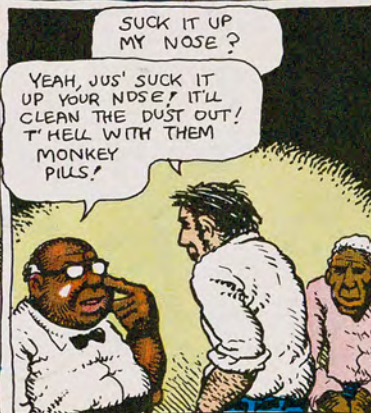


GOT A COLD?

NAH, AN ALLERGY...

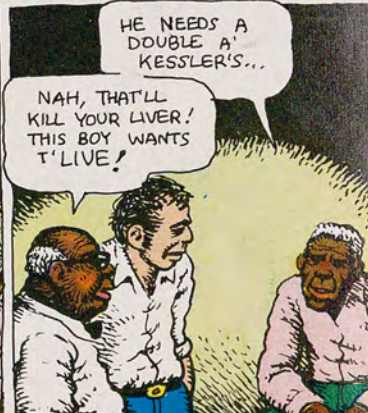


UM HMM, WELL, I TELL YA WHAT'L CURE THAT RIGHT OFF! TAKE SOME COLD WATER AN' SUCK IT UP YOUR NOSE! JUST SUCK IT ON IN THERE!



SUCK IT UP MY NOSE?

YEAH, JUS' SUCK IT UP YOUR NOSE! IT'LL CLEAN THE DUST OUT! T'HELL WITH THEM MONKEY PILLS!



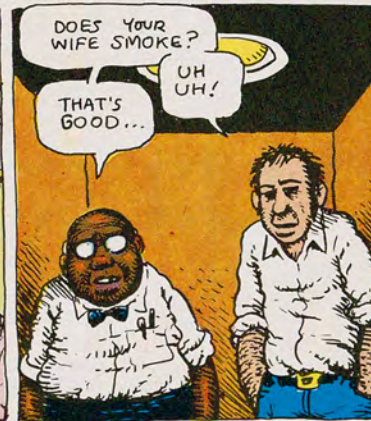
HE NEEDS A DOUBLE A' KESSLER'S...

NAH, THAT'LL KILL YOUR LIVER! THIS BOY WANTS T'LIVE!



MAYBE YOU'RE SLEEPIN' ON A FEATHER PILLA... YOU GOT A FEATHER PILLA?

NOPE...



DOES YOUR WIFE SMOKE?

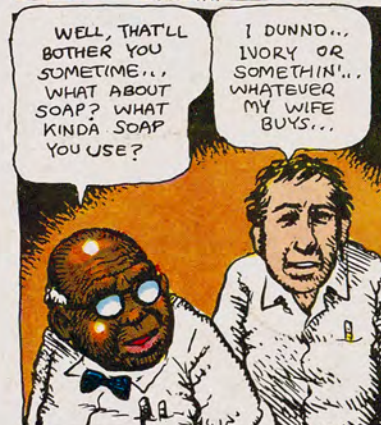
THAT'S GOOD...

UH UH!



HOW 'BOUT RUGS? YOU GOT RUGS ON YOUR FLOORS?

SOME OF 'EM...



WELL, THAT'LL BOTHER YOU SOMETIME... WHAT ABOUT SOAP? WHAT KINDA SOAP YOU USE?

I DUNNO... IVORY OR SOMETHIN'... WHATEVER MY WIFE BUYS...



WELL, YOU BE SURE TO WIPE IT ALL OFF... THAT'LL MAKE YOU SNEEZE...



NOW, YOU TRY WHAT I TOLD YOU T'DO AN' LEMME KNOW HOW IT WORKS OUT!