

# 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?

CONT'D.

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

"WHITE STUFF, GREEN STUFF"

BILL GRIFFITH

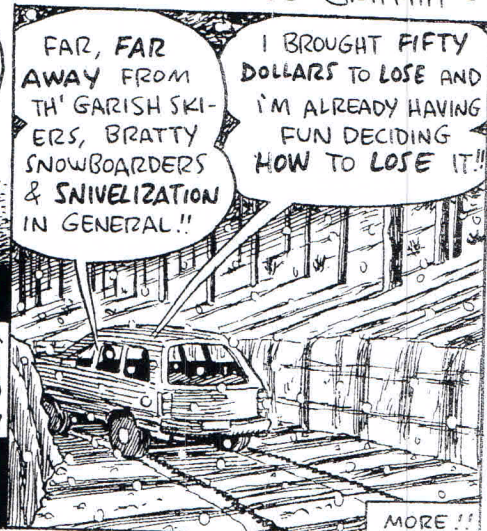


LAKE TAHOE! CAESAR'S! HAR-RAH'S! MARIE CALLENDER'S!!

IT'S STARTING TO SNOW..NOTICE HOW TH' FLAKES CREATE A HYPNOTIC VORTEX...

SOON WE'LL BE TRUDGING UP TO PAIGE MEADOWS, EXHAUSTED BUT EXHILARATED BY TH' VIEW OF TH' LAKE!!

THIS TIME, WHEN I PLAY BLACKJACK, I'M GOING TO REMEMBER NOT TO YELL "GO FISH"!!



FAR, FAR AWAY FROM TH' GARISH SKIERS, BRATTY SNOWBOARDERS & SNIVELIZATION IN GENERAL!!

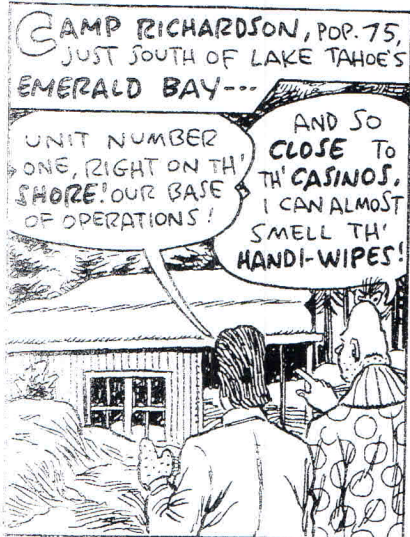
I BROUGHT FIFTY DOLLARS TO LOSE AND I'M ALREADY HAVING FUN DECIDING HOW TO LOSE IT!!

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

MORE !!

"DOME-DA-DOME-DOME"

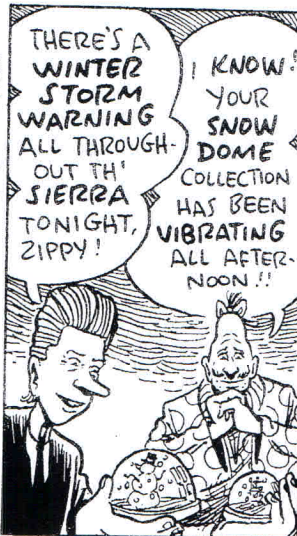
BILL GRIFFITH



CAMP RICHARDSON, POP. 75, JUST SOUTH OF LAKE TAHOE'S EMERALD BAY---

UNIT NUMBER ONE, RIGHT ON TH' SHORE! OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS!

AND SO CLOSE TO TH' CASINOS, I CAN ALMOST SMELL TH' HANDI-WIPES!

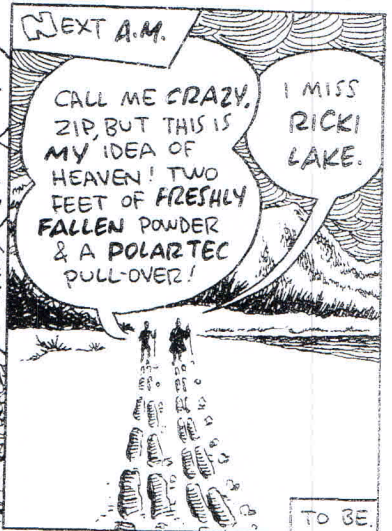


THERE'S A WINTER STORM WARNING ALL THROUGH-OUT TH' SIERRA TONIGHT, ZIPPY!

I KNOW! YOUR SNOW DOME COLLECTION HAS BEEN VIBRATING ALL AFTER-NOON !!

MY FAVORITE IS THIS SCENE OF WAIKIKI IN A HEAVY BLIZZARD!!

WIPE-OUT IN A WHITE-OUT!!



NEXT A.M.

CALL ME CRAZY, ZIP, BUT THIS IS MY IDEA OF HEAVEN! TWO FEET OF FRESHLY FALLEN POWDER & A POLARTEC PULL-OVER!

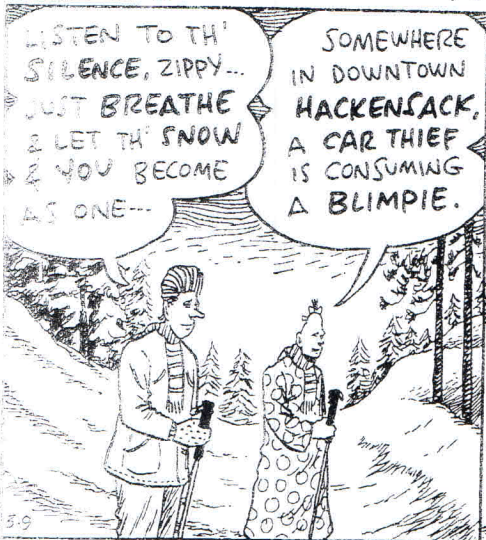
I MISS RICKI LAKE.

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

TO BE

"PARTAKE OF THE FLAKE"

BILL GRIFFITH



LISTEN TO TH' SILENCE, ZIPPY... JUST BREATHE & LET TH' SNOW & YOU BECOME AS ONE--

SOMEWHERE IN DOWNTOWN HACKENSACK, A CAR THIEF IS CONSUMING A BLIMPIE.



LET TH' ALL-ENVELOPING STILLNESS WASH OVER YOU... ABSORB ALL ABERRANT IMAGES...

IT'S HARD TO STOP THINKING ABOUT NEW JERSEY!



I USE TH' OLD MEDITATION TRICK-- I DON'T RESIST ANY EXTRANEUS THOUGHTS, I SIMPLY WATCH THEM COME & GO... COME & GO... COME & GO...

GROOVY. CAN YOU WATCH MINE, TOO?

39

© 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' TEMP-ERATURE 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!!

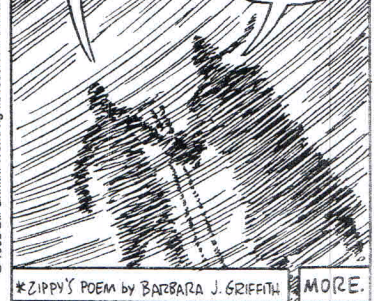
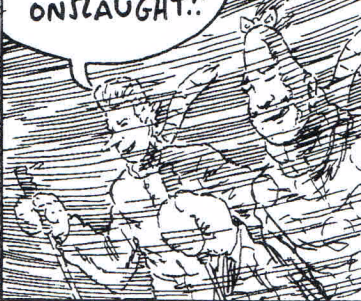
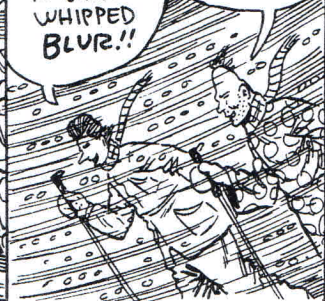
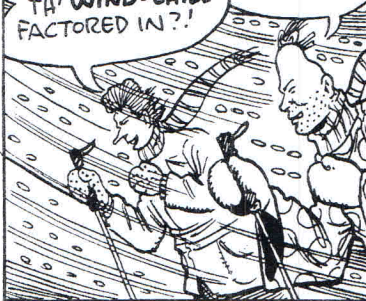
"GOES GRIFFY IN SEARCH OF SNOW..."

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!"



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

\*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!!

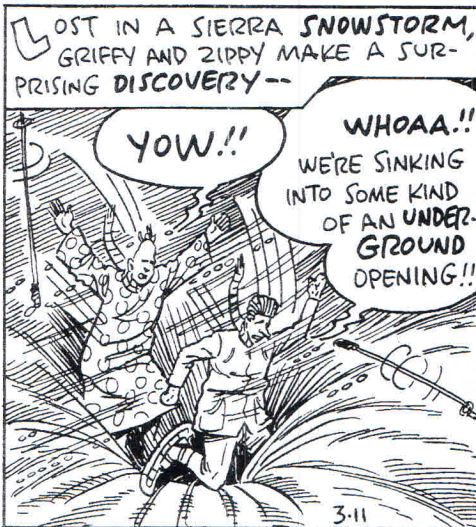
WHOOA!! WE'RE SINKING INTO SOME KIND OF AN UNDERGROUND OPENING!!

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!!



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

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!!

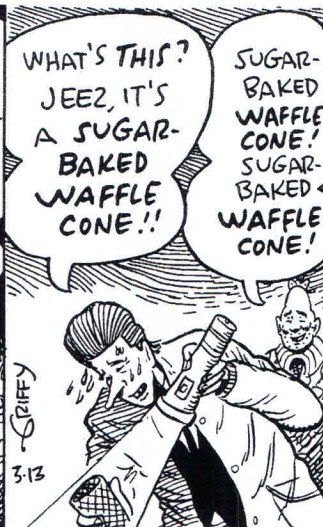
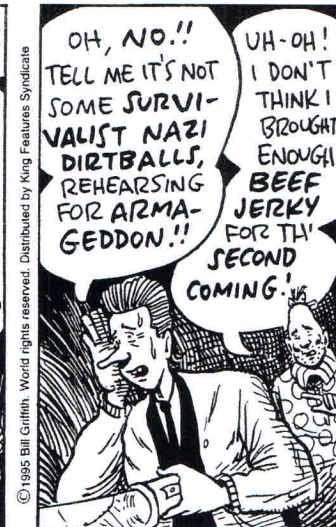
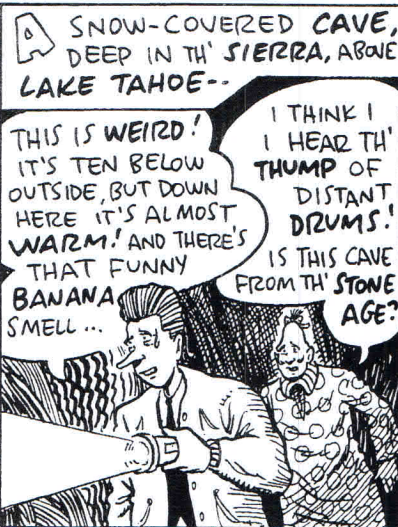
UH-OH! I DON'T THINK I BROUGHT ENOUGH BEEF JERKY FOR TH' SECOND COMING!

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!!

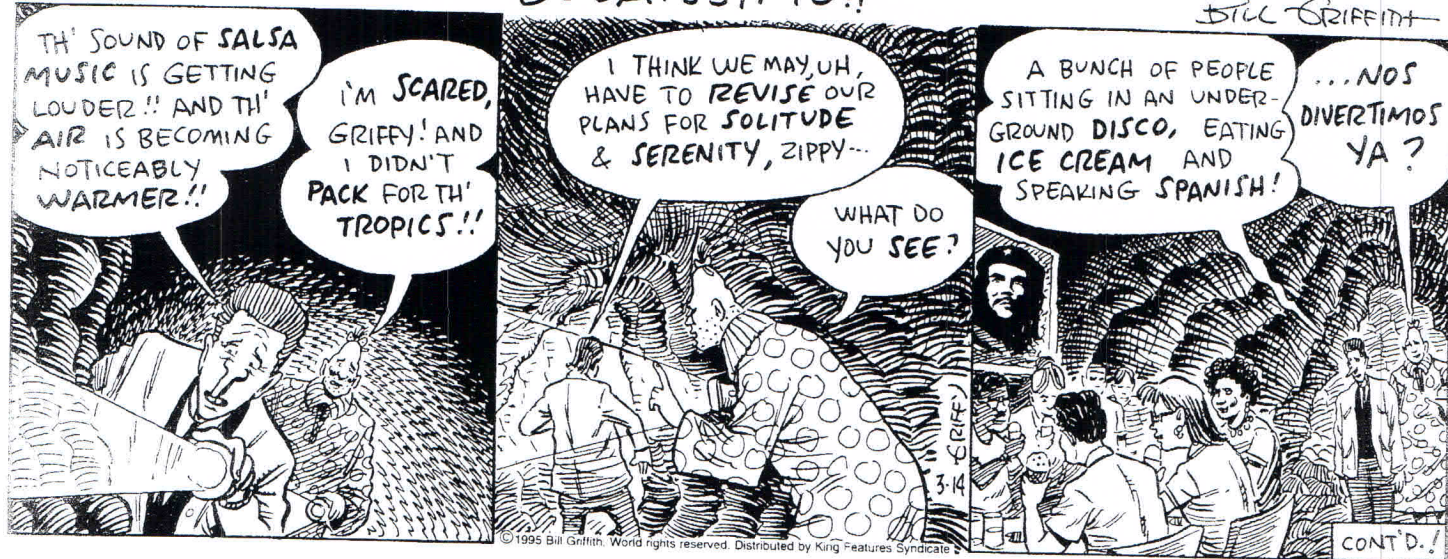
WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW MR. SOFTEE PRE-DATED RE-CORDED HISTORY!



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

GRIFFY

T.M.W.



TH' SOUND OF SALSA MUSIC IS GETTING LOUDER!! AND TH' AIR IS BECOMING NOTICEABLY WARMER!!

I'M SCARED, GRIFFY! AND I DIDN'T PACK FOR TH' TROPICS!!

I THINK WE MAY, UH, HAVE TO REVISE OUR PLANS FOR SOLITUDE & SERENITY, ZIPPY...

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

A BUNCH OF PEOPLE SITTING IN AN UNDERGROUND DISCO, EATING ICE CREAM AND SPEAKING SPANISH!

...NOS DIVERTIMOS YA?

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

CONT'D.!



GRIFFY & ZIPPY EMERGE FROM THEIR SIERRA SNOW CAVE A LITTLE FURTHER SOUTH THAN EXPECTED--

THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL SPEAKING SPANISH! MINE'S PRETTY RUSTY.. I HOPE SOMEONE SPEAKS ENGLISH!!

I HOPE SOMEONE SAVED ME SOME CHOCOLATE!

PERDÓNEME, SEÑOR... ¿HABLA USTED INGLES?

SI, LO HABLO UN POQUITO..

¡BUENO! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE WE ARE?

AND IS BOX CAR WILLIE STILL PLAYING HARRAH'S?

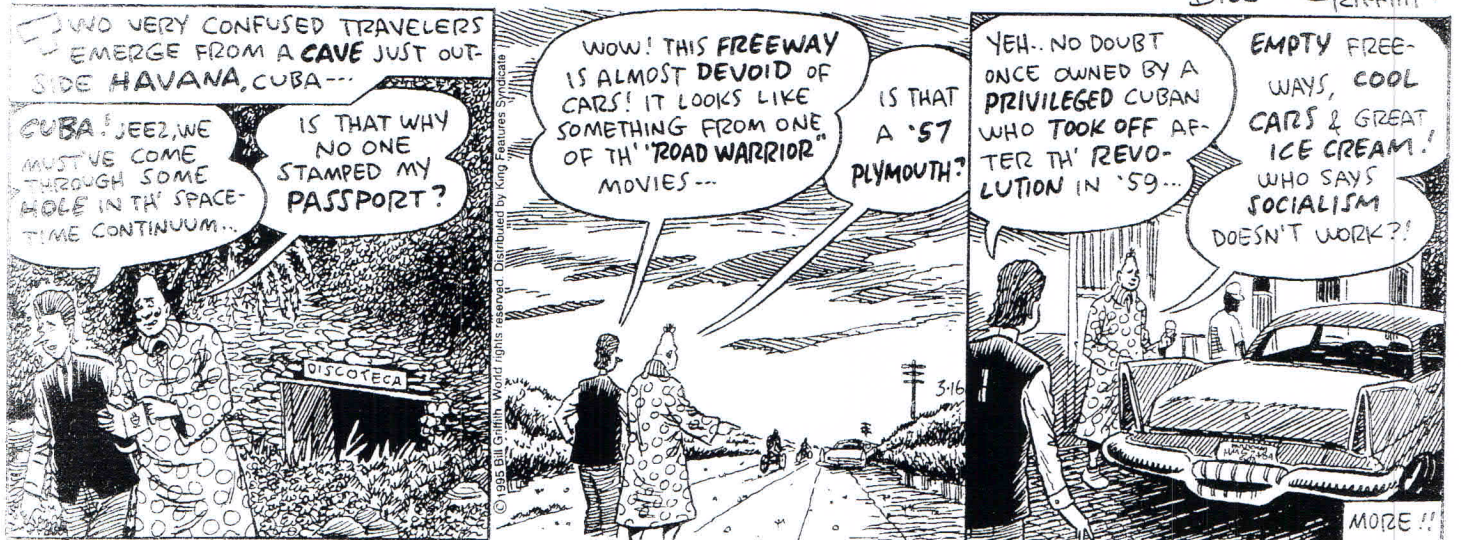
YOU ARE IN CUBA, MI AMIGOS!

CUBA?

WHERE CUBISM IS FROM?!

¡MAÑANA!

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



TWO VERY CONFUSED TRAVELERS EMERGE FROM A CAVE JUST OUTSIDE HAVANA, CUBA--

CUBA! JEEZ, WE MUST'VE COME THROUGH SOME HOLE IN TH' SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM..

IS THAT WHY NO ONE STAMPED MY PASSPORT?

WOW! THIS FREEWAY IS ALMOST DEVOID OF CARS! IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING FROM ONE OF TH' "ROAD WARRIOR" MOVIES--

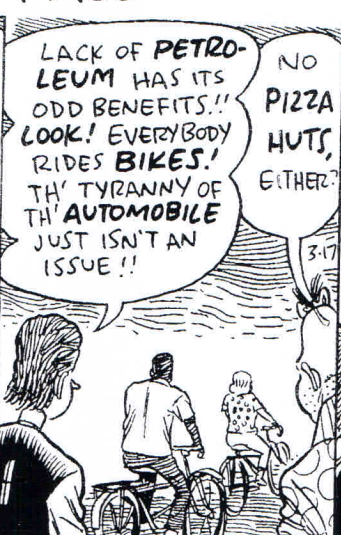
IS THAT A '57 PLYMOUTH?

YEH.. NO DOUBT ONCE OWNED BY A PRIVILEGED CUBAN WHO TOOK OFF AFTER TH' REVOLUTION IN '59...

EMPTY FREEWAYS, COOL CARS & GREAT ICE CREAM! WHO SAYS SOCIALISM DOESN'T WORK?!

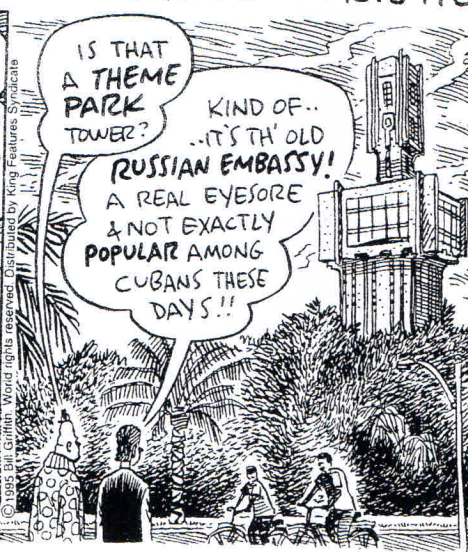
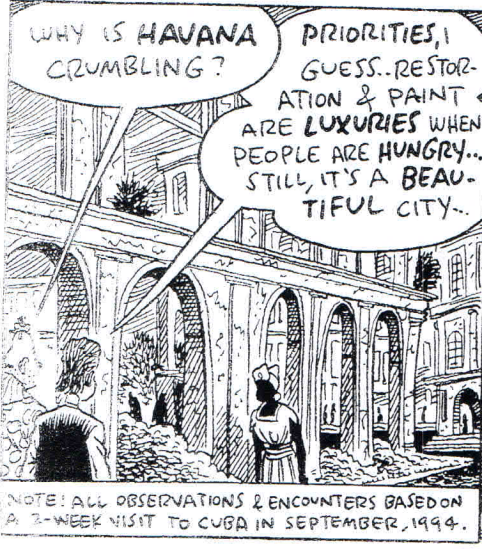
© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

MORE !!



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

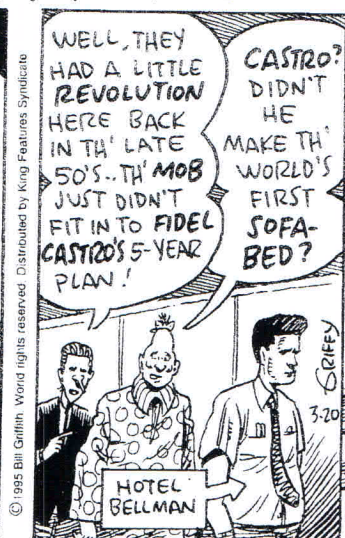
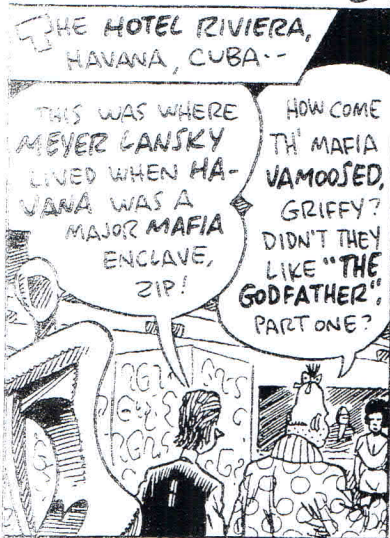
CONT'D.



NOTE: ALL OBSERVATIONS & ENCOUNTERS BASED ON A 3-WEEK VISIT TO CUBA IN SEPTEMBER, 1994.

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

TO BE...



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

NOTE: ALL TRANSLATIONS COURTESY OF GUIDE CATHERINE MURPHY.

MORE!

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

HOLA, 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!

\*"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 PURCHASE CIGARS!

WELL, I COULD USE A DAIQUIRI..

WATER--

THAT WAS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED! SHE DID JUST WANT TO DISCUSS HEMINGWAY & GO SHOPPING! 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?

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

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!!

\* RAFTERS

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 "RICKI LAKE" OR "COURT TV"?

TH' ECONOMY IS IN SHAMBLES, ZIPPY-- STATE SOCIALISM JUST DOESN'T WORK --, WITHOUT OUTSIDE AID, ITS WEAKNESSES ARE ALL TOO APPARENT!

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

"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!

GREGORIO FUENTES, 97, WAS TH' 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?

ALL QUOTES VERBATIM.

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 TH' UNITED STATES?

-- AND MARIEL?

GREGORIO DIPPED HIS BREAD IN A GLASS OF BEER..

IT REALLY HURTS ME WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH TH' BLOQUEO! BUT I WANT TO BE A BROTHER 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 SEEING THEM?!

WOW!

\*THE BLOCKADE, OR, EMBARGO.

MORE!

BACK IN HAVANA, GRIFFY & ZIPPY JOIN TH' ICE CREAM LINE AT COPPELIA PARK..

CUBA IS HAVING AN EFFECT ON ME, ZIP.. -SUCH A COM-MINGLING OF HOPE & DESPAIR..

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A COMMINGLING OF STRAWBERRY & CHOCOLATE!

¿EL ÚLTIMO?



I COULDN'T HELP OVER-HEARING-- ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.. JUAN ANTONIO BLANCO.. --ARE YOU AMERICANS?

HI.. YES.. WE'RE HERE ON.. UH.. VA-CATION... --THIS IS OUR FIRST TASTE OF.. --UH.. COMMU-NISM..

FORGET ABOUT THE "ISMS"! WHAT CUBA NEEDS IS AN ETHICAL REVOLUCION! BUT FIRST, CLINTON MUST END TH' BLOCKADE & ENCOURAGE CULTURAL EXCHANGE!

DON'T YOU THINK AN END TO TH' EMBARGO MIGHT ALSO BE A DANGEROUS TIME FOR CUBA?

YUM!



JUAN ANTONIO IS DIRECTOR OF THE FELIX VARELA CENTER, A THINK TANK CONCERNED WITH TRANSITION & REFORM.

OF COURSE-- --ALL THAT U.S. MONEY POURING INTO OUR ECON-OMY, NOT TO MENTION TH' POSSIBLE RETURN OF TH' MIAMI CUBANS.. BUT WE ARE PRE-PARED FOR IT..

I BEG TO DIFFER-- DO YOU REALLY THINK TH' GOOD THINGS YOU'VE ACHIEVED CAN STAND UP TO AN INVA-SION BY-- COLONEL SANDERS?



CONT'D.

CUBAN REFORM ADVOCATE JUAN ANTONIO BLANCO & GRIFFY CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION--

I THINK TH' CUBAN REVOLUCION SERVED A REAL PURPOSE, BUT IT NEVER LED TO DEM-OCRACY... AND NOW CASTRO IS MORE A LIABILITY THAN AN ASSET--

WE ARE NEVER GOING TO REDESIGN SOCIAL SYS-TEMS UNLESS WE PUT ETHICS ON TH' CENTER STAGE!



I REALLY DO WISH CUBA WELL, BUT MY NATURAL CYNICISM MAKES ME WORRY THAT 35 YEARS OF BAD BLOOD BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERN-MENTS WILL NOT END WITH-OUT MORE SUFFER-ING...

HEY, WHEN WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY SAYS IT'S TIME TO CHANGE POLICY TOWARD CUBA, IT MIGHT BE COMING SOON!!



OUTSIDE, ON TH' AVENIDA--

UH, PERDÓNEME, COMPAÑERA, BUT CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO TH' TROPICANA NIGHTCLUB?

YOU GUYS ARE AMERICANS, AREN'T YOU? I'M A TRAN-SLATOR! I HAPPEN TO LIVE NEAR TH' TROPICANA, JUST FOLLOW ME-- & YOU'RE IN LUCK! I'VE ALREADY BEEN WAITING SINCE MORN-ING FOR TH' BUS-- IT SHOULD BE HERE ANY HOUR!!



MAÑANA!

GRIFFY & ZIPPY ARE WEL-COMED INTO AN "AVERAGE" CUBAN HOME IN HAVANA'S "PLANA" DISTRICT--

¿COMO ESTÁ USTED? I'M LAZARO! YOU'RE NOW STANDING IN A TYPICAL CUBAN KITCHEN!

MUCHO GUSTO!



LAZARO WAS A COLONEL IN THE CUBAN ARMY--

I MANAGE A DOLLAR STORE, BUT I'M STILL A MARXIST AND A REVOLUCIONARY! HAVE A BAVARIAN BEER!

GRACIAS.. HOW IS IT THAT YOU REMAIN SO LOYAL DURING THIS "SPECIAL PERIOD"?



\* TH' CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S EUPHEMISM FOR TH' CURRENT CRISIS.

I AM OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE CASTRO... WE MUST NEVER RETURN TO THAT DEG-RADATION! WE'VE MADE TOO MANY GAINS!

I RE-SPECT YOU, LA-ZARO.. & POLITICS ASIDE, I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE!



LACK OF PURIFICATION CHEMICALS MEANS DRINKING WATER MUST BE BOILED.

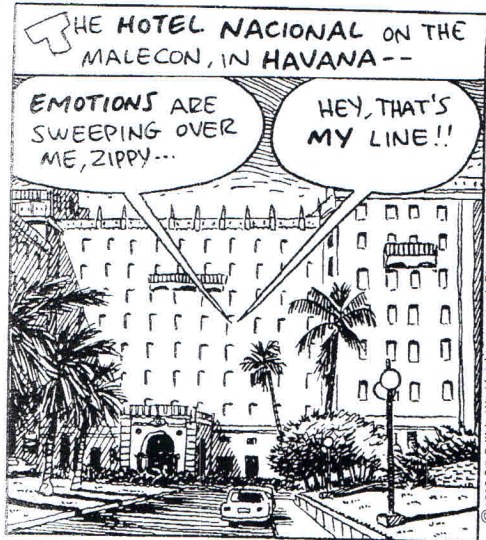
THEY DRANK BEER & RUM & TALKED DURING A 2-HOUR "APAGON" (A BLACK-OUT), COM-MON THROUGHOUT CUBA DUE TO TH' OIL SHORTAGE--

EXPLAIN MICHAEL JACKSON TO ME, POR FAVOR.. DID HE REALLY MARRY ELVIS' DAUGHTER? AND WHY?

LAZARO, THERE ARE SOME CULT-URAL GUESSES TOO GREAT TO BRIDGE!!

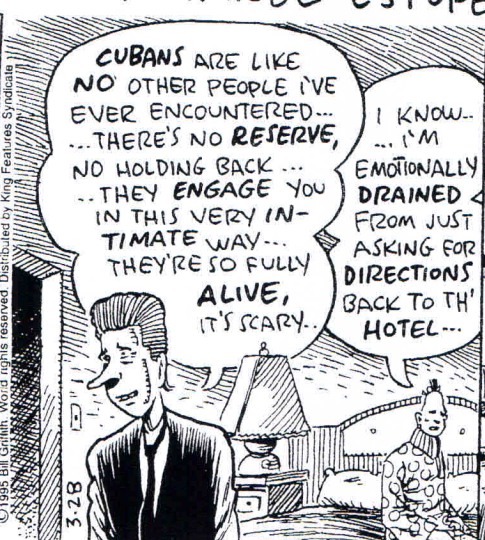


MORE..



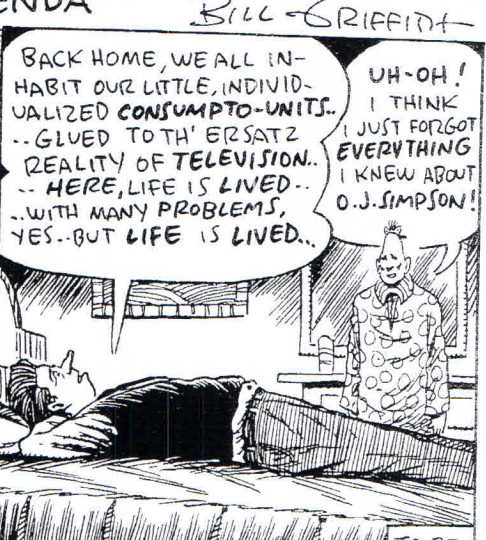
EMOTIONS ARE SWEEPING OVER ME, ZIPPY...

HEY, THAT'S MY LINE!!



CUBANS ARE LIKE NO OTHER PEOPLE I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED... THERE'S NO RESERVE, NO HOLDING BACK... THEY ENGAGE YOU IN THIS VERY INTIMATE WAY... THEY'RE SO FULLY ALIVE, IT'S SCARY.

I KNOW... I'M EMOTIONALLY DRAINED FROM JUST ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS BACK TO TH' HOTEL...



BACK HOME, WE ALL INHABIT OUR LITTLE, INDIVIDUALIZED CONSUMPTO-UNITS... GLUED TO TH' ERSATZ REALITY OF TELEVISION... HERE, LIFE IS LIVED... WITH MANY PROBLEMS, YES... BUT LIFE IS LIVED..

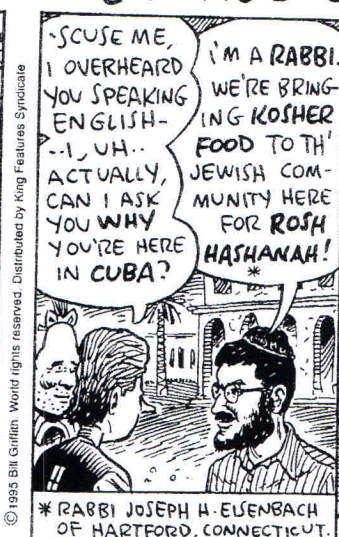
UH-OH! I THINK I JUST FORGOT EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT O.J. SIMPSON!

TO BE.



WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET A CUBAN CARTOONIST, ZIPPY-- AS USUAL, I'M LOST... I'LL ASK THAT GUY...

HAVANA, DECAYING RAPIDLY, STILL GLOWS WITH BEAUTY...



SCUSE ME, I OVERHEARD YOU SPEAKING ENGLISH-- I, UH.. ACTUALLY, CAN I ASK YOU WHY YOU'RE HERE IN CUBA?

I'M A RABBI. WE'RE BRINGING KOSHER FOOD TO TH' JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE FOR ROSH HASHANAH!

\*RABBI JOSEPH H. EISENBACH OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.



I'VE HEARD THAT CASTRO IS QUITE TOLERANT OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF-- IS THAT TRUE IN YOUR OPINION?

DEFINITELY! AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'RE HOPING TO PRESENT HIM WITH A MENORAH NEXT WEEK!



GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRAVELS!

SHALOM, RABBI! YOU FORGOT TO ASK HIM!

ASK HIM WHAT?

WHERE THERE'S A GOOD DELI IN HAVANA??

T.M.W.



ONE OF THE NEW FARMER'S MARKETS IN OLD HAVANA--

THIS LITTLE EXPERIMENT IN TH' FREE MARKET HAS BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY POOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND--

HI, CATHERINE!

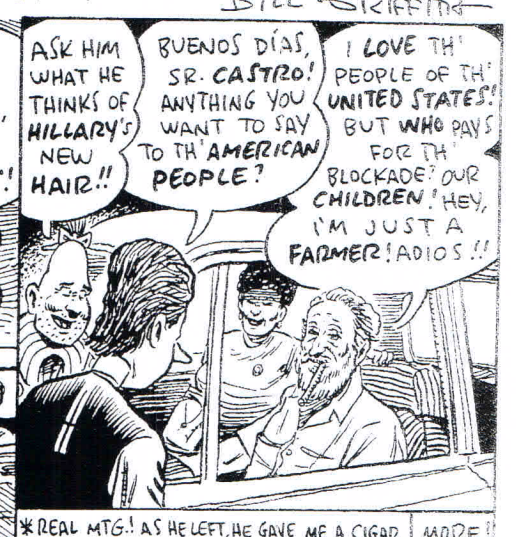
HI, ZIPPY! HI, BILL! ISN'T THIS GREAT?!



NOW PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO SPEND A HUGE AMOUNT OF TIME GOING OUT TO TH' COUNTRY TO BUY FOOD-- HEY, LOOK! THERE'S RAMON CASTRO!

RAMON? FIDEL'S OLDER BROTHER! JEEZ, HE'S A DEAD RINGER FOR "EL COMANDANTE"!

RAMON! LOVE TH' BEARD, BABE!



ASK HIM WHAT HE THINKS OF HILLARY'S NEW HAIR!!

BUENOS DIAS, SR. CASTRO! ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO TH' AMERICAN PEOPLE?

I LOVE TH' PEOPLE OF TH' UNITED STATES! BUT WHO PAYS FOR TH' BLOCKADE? OUR CHILDREN! HEY, I'M JUST A FARMER! ADIOS!!

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



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, "IAY, VECINOS!"

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

PAQUITA ARMA'S 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.

UHA-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 PIZE-CASTRO QUIPS AND ENJOY MANY TROPICAL BEVERAGES!!

UH.. 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? DID YOU THINK OF "LITTLE TUBBY"?

ME GUSTA MUCHO "TUBBY"!

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...

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

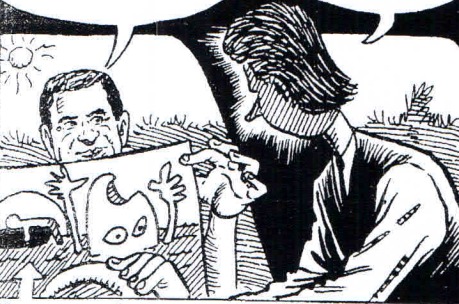
HOP IN! HEY, ARE THOSE PICASSO PAINTINGS UNDER YOUR ARM??

TO BE..

GRIFFY PICKS UP A HITCHHIKER ON HIS WAY OUT OF HAVANA --

I AM JOSÉ FÚSTER! CERAMIST & PAINTER! I AM TH' PICASSO OF TH' CARIBBEAN!

CUBISM!! AND ONLY 90 MILES FROM U.S. SHORES!!



PAINTING ON THE THEME OF CUBANS LEAVING FOR FLORIDA.

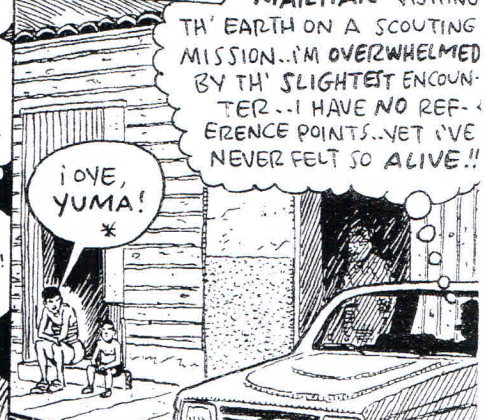
MY MOTHER MUST HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENED BY "DEMOISELLES D'AVIGNON" WHILE I WAS STILL IN TH' WOMB!

...EVERY PERSON... EVERY PLACE... EVERY EXPERIENCE IS SO INTENSE IN THIS CRAZY COUNTRY.. MY CIRCUITS ARE OVERLOADED!



HERE'S YOUR CORNER! ¡HASTA LUEGO!

DRIVING THROUGH A RURAL VILLAGE... .. I FEEL LIKE A MARTIAN VISITING TH' EARTH ON A SCOUTING MISSION.. I'M OVERWHELMED BY TH' SLIGHTEST ENCOUNTER.. I HAVE NO REFERENCE POINTS.. YET I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALIVE!!



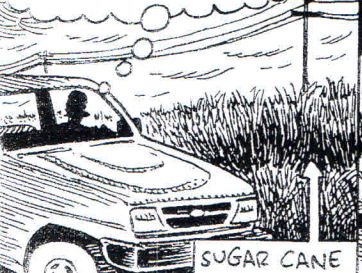
i OVE, YUMA! \*

\* HEY, GRINGO! MORE..

CUBA IS KIND OF LIKE A TROPICAL IRELAND.. -- LUSH, GREEN & POPULATED BY OPEN, FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHOSE WARMTH AND LACK OF EMOTIONAL DISTANCE ARE ALMOST FRIGHTENING..

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME HERE? WHY AM I SO MOVED BY THEIR EMOTIONAL INTENSITY? IS IT ALL TOO MUCH FOR MY MEDIA-SOAKED, REPRESSED YANKEE SOUL?

I KNOW THEIR SOCIAL SYSTEM IS FAR FROM IDEAL.. --AND CASTRO'S STUBBORNESS IS LEADING CUBA INTO A POTENTIALLY TRAGIC "END GAME" WITH CAPITALISM.. BUT TH' PEOPLE ARE SO GODDAMN HUMAN!!



SUGAR CANE



TRUCKS ROUTINELY PICK UP DOZENS OF HITCHHIKERS.

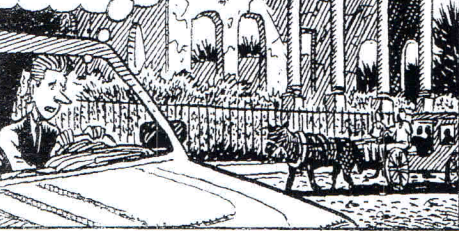
AM I ROMANTICIZING THEM? WAS MY DESIRE FOR "SOLITUDE" IN TH' SNOW A SIGN OF MY EMOTIONAL ISOLATION FROM MY FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS? IS THIS A "REBIRTH" OF SOME KIND? WILL I EVER STOP ANALYZING EVERYTHING & JUST ENJOY TH' RIDE?!



ON TH' ROAD TO CIENFUEGOS... CONT'D.

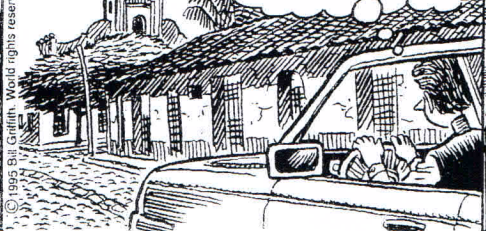
CIENFUEGOS, CUBA'S MAJOR PORT CITY ON THE SOUTHERN COAST..

I FIND MYSELF WORRYING ABOUT TH' FUTURE OF CUBA AFTER CASTRO.. -- WILL U.S. CORPORATIONS & MIAMI MONEY OVERWHELM & DESTROY TH' BENEFITS OF THEIR REVOLUTION?



THE TOWN OF TRINIDAD, ONE OF TH' OLDEST IN TH' HEMISPHERE (FOUNDED 1514)

WILL TH' TOURISM THEY'RE SO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING EVENTUALLY BRING WITH IT TH' DREADED MEDONALDIZATION OF THEIR CULTURE? WILL THEY BE ABLE TO RESIST ITS SHINY "ALLURE"?

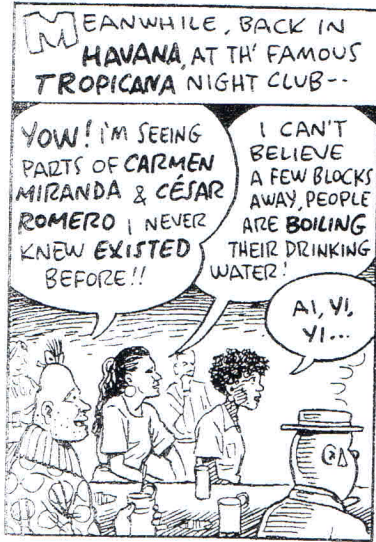


PLAYA GIRON (THE BAY OF PIGS), SCENE OF TH' THWARTED U.S. INVASION IN 1961.

I KEEP MEETING CUBANS WHO ARE EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, BUT STILL REMAIN IDEALISTIC ABOUT SOCIALISM.. ARE THEY JUST KIDDING THEMSELVES? AND WHY DO I HAVE THIS BIG LUMP IN MY THROAT?



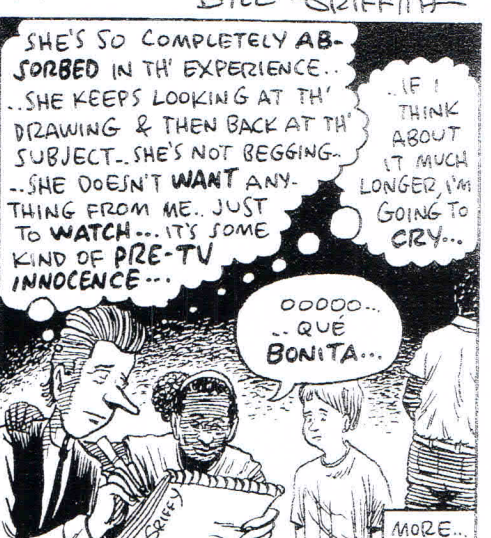
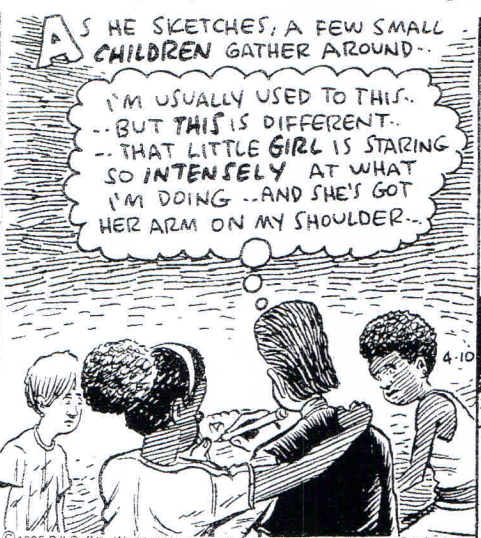
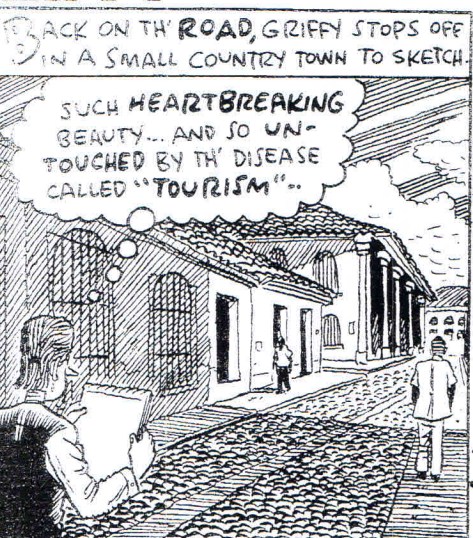
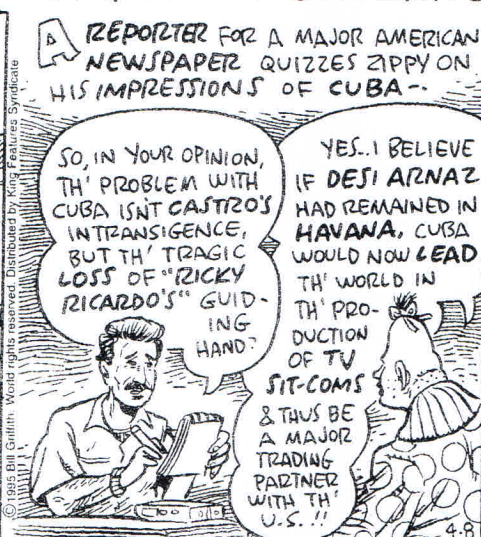
T.M.W.



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



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

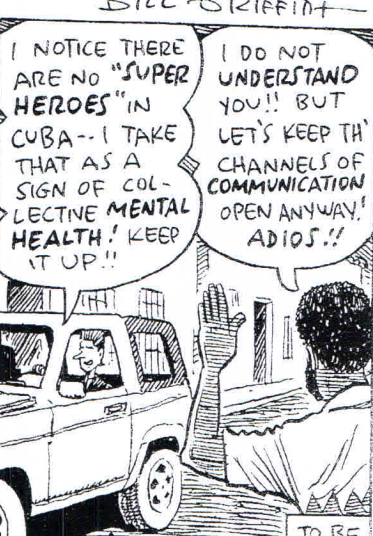
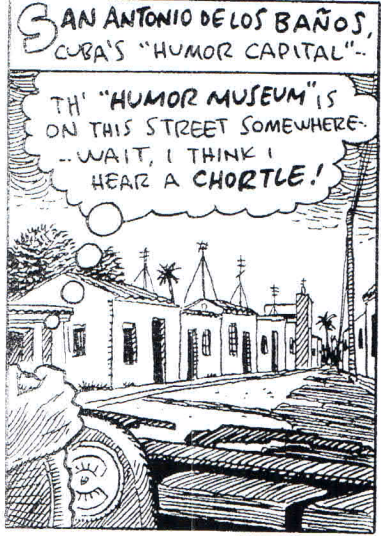


© 1995 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

# ZIPPY

## "¿ES DIVERTIDO, NO?"

Bill Griffith



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

EVELIO ARANGO, DIRECTOR OF TH' "MUSEO DE HUMOR"

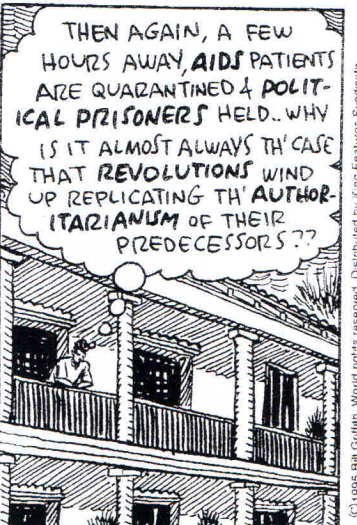
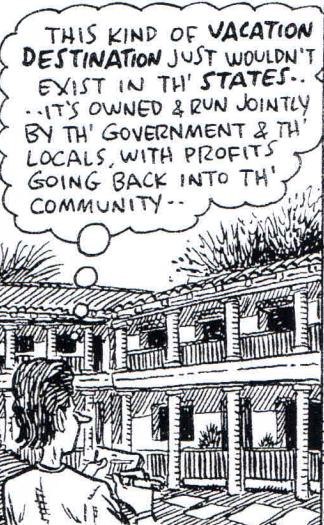
\* HUMORISTIC EXPLANATION: "NO HAY" = "DON'T HAVE", A PUN ON TH' SHORTAGES DURING TH' "SPECIAL PERIOD"

TO BE

# ZIPPY

## "AIRE ACONDICIONADO Y SOCIALISMO"

Bill Griffith



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

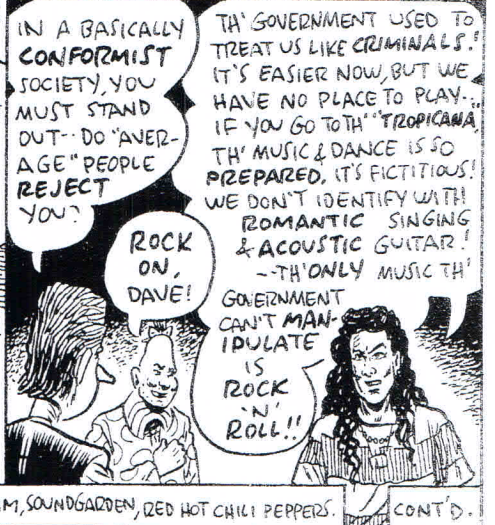
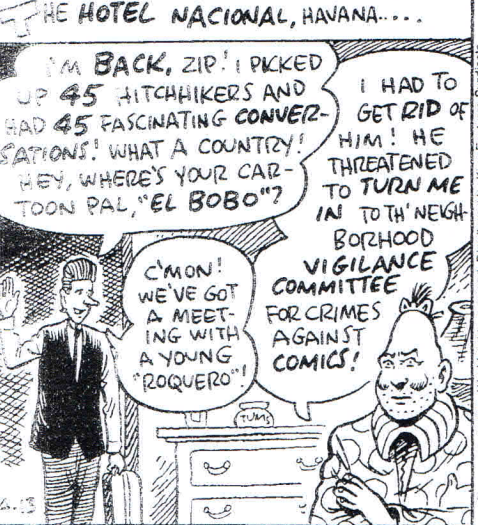
4-12

TO BE

# ZIPPY

## "¿A QUÉ HORA EMPIEZAN LAS ATRACCIONES?"

Bill Griffith



© 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.

JEEZ, THERE'S ONE THING THAT REALLY WORKS IN CUBA-- **BASEBALL!** NOT TOO MANY ALIENATED YOUTH HERE!!

I HOPE THEY LET ME IN-- -- I FORGOT TO WEAR MY **SALARY CAP!**

ESTADIO LATINO

ADMISSION TO GAMES IS 1-3 PESOS (5¢)

BASEBALL FIRST CAME TO CUBA IN 1860.. BY TH' 1890'S, WE WERE PLAYING WITH YOUR MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS!

I UNDERSTAND TH' PLAYERS HOLD OTHER JOBS IN TH' OFF SEASON..

MANUEL LIERMO, VICE-DIRECTOR OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN STADIUM.

SÍ.. PLAYERS EARN NO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE-- OUR MOST FAMOUS PLAYER, **OMAR LINARES**, DRIVES A '53 CHEVY & SITS IN TH' NATIONAL ASSEMBLY!

HEY! DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT GUY STOLE HOME, BARRELED IN TO TH' CATCHER THEN THEY BOTH STOOD UP & SHOOK HANDS!

BALK! BALK!

YES, & FANS IN TH' STANDS THROW BACK **FOUL BALLS.** -- YOU TWO AREN'T SCOUTING FOR TH' GIANTS, ARE YOU??

NO, BUT WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE NORMALIZED, MAYBE WE CAN ALL PLAY BALL TOGETHER!!

SLIDE, FIDEL, SLIDE!!

MORE!

AT THE "BODEGUITA DEL MEDIO" RESTAURANT IN OLD HAVANA--

I'LL HAVE TH' "MORZOS Y CRISTIANOS" \* -- AND PLEASE LEAVE OUT TH' PORK, I'M A PSEUDO-VEGETARIAN.

¡COMPAÑERO! ARE YOU SICK? SHOULD I BRING SOME CHAMOMILE TEA?!

I'LL HAVE TH' PORK-BURGER, DOUBLE CHEESE!

\* "MOORS & CHRISTIANS", SLANG FOR RICE & BEANS.

NO, I'M NOT SICK.. -- I JUST DON'T EAT MUCH MEAT. -- ALSO, A COFFEE, BUT PLEASE LEAVE OUT TH' SUGAR..

NO MEAT? NO SUGAR? WHAT ABOUT VITAMINS? YOU WILL BE MALNOURISHED ON A DIET OF JUST RICE & VEGETABLES!

AND ANYTHING DEEP FRIED!

MY RELATIVES IN MIAMI SEND ME & MY FAMILY VITAMINS EVERY MONTH! WITH TH' PORK SHORTAGE, WE WORRY ABOUT PROPER NUTRITION!

I DON'T SUPPOSE IT WOULD DO MUCH GOOD TO DISCUSS TH' BENEFITS OF TOFU... \*

ARE WE HAVING FLAN YET?!

\* TH' CUBAN GOVT. TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PROMOTE SOY PRODUCTS. TH' CUBANS' RESPONSE WAS "SOCIALISMO O MUERTE!" (SOY OR DEATH).

CONT'D.

WOW, LOOK AT THAT CROWD IN "THE PARK OF LAMENTATIONS" ACROSS FROM TH' U.S. INTEREST SECTION!

I'M INTERESTED!

MANY CUBANS WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THEIR ISLAND & JOIN RELATIVES IN TH' U.S.

I'M STUDYING ASTRONOMY! THERE ARE NO JOBS FOR ME HERE!

ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH WHAT CASTRO IS DOING?

TH' REVOLUTION HAS GIVEN US MANY THINGS.. -- HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES.. -- BUT WE ARE TIRED OF TH' SACRIFICES!

WE ARE STILL PATRIOTIC! BUT HOW LONG SHOULD WE SUFFER WHILE TH' REST OF TH' WORLD PROSPERS?

TH' UNITED STATES IS NO UTOPIA EITHER, I HATE TO TELL YOU!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO LINE UP ALL DAY FOR TOILET PAPER! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD IN A PREVIOUS LIFE TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN TH' UNITED STATES!

OV..TH' GUT-WRENCHING AMBIVALENCE.. I FEEL LIKE A PAMPERED OPPRESSOR!

I WAS ONCE CLEOPATRA'S HAND-MAIDEN!

PLEASE TAKE THIS LETTER TO MY COUSIN IN MILWAUKEE!

TO BE.

HAVANA IS A SEDUCTIVE CITY... I HOPE TH' POLITICAL SITUATION IS RESOLVED BEFORE IT CRUMBLES INTO RUINS...

I AM AFRAID THAT, IF TH' CRISIS TIME COMES, WE WILL LOSE TH' CITY TO FOREIGN CAPITAL... I AM AFRAID CUBANS WILL SAY, "COME, AMERICA & SWALLOW ME, I DON'T CARE!"

MIGUEL COYULA, ARCHITECT, OF TH' GROUP FOR TH' INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF HAVANA.

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

THROUGH AMERICAN MOVIES, WE ARE BEING SUBLIMINALLY AFFECTED BY AMERICAN CULTURE. HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROTECT OUR VALUES? WE CAN'T FOLLOW TH' AMERICAN MODEL. IT HAS NO RELEVANCE FOR US.

I AGREE... -IRONICALLY, AN END TO TH' EMBARGO COULD MEAN TH' BEGINNING OF A NEW SET OF TROUBLES.

4-18

JEEZ, HERE'S TH' ENGINE OF TH' U-2 SPY PLANE SHOT DOWN OVER CUBA DURING TH' "MISSILE CRISIS" IN '62...

WE MUST PROTECT OUR VALUES, NOT JUST OUR PHYSICAL BORDERS... I LOVE MY CITY... SOME SAY ITS SHAPE IS LIKE A STOMACH... TO ME, HAVANA IS LIKE AN OPEN HAND.

I DIDN'T KNOW "BONO" WAS WITH TH' C.I.A.!

OUTSIDE TH' MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION.

CONT'D.

ON THE MALECON, HAVANA'S WATERFRONT PROMENADE --

IT'S FUNNY... EVEN IN THEIR "STURM UND DRANG", CUBANS ARE MORE HUMAN TO ME THAN MOST OF MY COMPATRIOTS BACK HOME...

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

I'M A VORTEX OF SWIRLING THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS!

JOIN TH' CLUB!

SEÑOR'S IMPERIALISTAS  
NO LIS TENENOS ABSOLUTAMENTE!  
NINGUN MIEDO!

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

FOR TH' FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I DON'T FEEL ALIENATED!!

BILLBOARD ABOVE SAYS, "MR. IMPERIALISTS WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FEAR OF YOU!"

I MIGHT CONSIDER MOVING HERE IF IT WEREN'T FOR TH' HEAT, HUMIDITY & DICTATORSHIP OF TH' PROLETARIAT!

A REVOLUTION IS NOT A TUPPERWARE PARTY!

MORE...

STREET ENTREPRENEURS ARE NOW COMMON IN HAVANA, SINCE TH' RELAXATION OF RULES AGAINST PRIVATE ENTERPRISE...

THAT GUY'S REFILLING BIC LIGHTERS... IS HE TH' HARBINGER OF CAPITALISM?

CAN KMART BE FAR BEHIND?

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

THEN THERE'S TH' RETURN OF PROSTITUTION & BEGGING... WHAT'S NEXT? CASINO GAMBLING & TH' MAFIA?

WE MUST NOT ALLOW MEYER LANSKY'S GRANDCHILDREN TO REOCCUPY TH' HOTEL RIVIERA!

SPARE DOLLARS, SEÑOR?

4-10

HOW MUCH LONGER CAN CUBA RESIST TH' ECONOMIC PRESSURE FROM TH' UNITED STATES? TH' FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK...

ON SECOND THOUGHT, HAVANA MIGHT MAKE A NEAT THEME PARK...

Capri

GEORGE RAFT'S PRE-REV. HQ QTRS.

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?

OYE!

OYE!

4-21

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 ...! HAVEN'T SEEN A BIG MAC IN WEEKS!

CONT'D.

© 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?

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

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

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

4-22

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!!

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!

REPORTER FOR A MAJOR U.S. DAILY.

4-24

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--

REAL INTERCHANGE!!

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!!

CONT'D.

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

