

UNENTERTAINING

Captain Gateway flies

by Michael Punter

The so-called golden age of newspaper comics strips that engulfed the 30's and 40's produced some spectacular material. Who can forget Mandrake the Magician, Tarzan, and the old Superman strip.

On the other hand, who can remember Captain Gateway.

In fact, I don't remember Captain Gateway and after reading the collected adventures of the Captain I wish I'd never heard of the jerk. To be completely honest, the only reason we're reviewing this stupid book is that the publisher slipped my editor \$50 and he said if I didn't review it I'd spend the rest of my natural life writing critiques of bad sound poem anthologies.

The first thing we have to remember about Captain Gateway is that the strip was far before it's time. The 1930's were so unprepared for Captain Gateway that no newspaper wanted to carry the outrageous hero. When little Orphan Annie was appearing in hundreds of major dailies, only a small Falher Alberta weekly (Moose Speak) was willing to print the daring adventures of the flying Frenchman.

Captain Gateway was created by the renowned artist/author John Algard, an illiterate philosophy professor from McGill University.

Algard originated the strip in 1939, creating a hero who by day was the mild-brained newspaper editor, Gilbert Gateway, of a major bi-weekly — the *Fateway* — and by night Captain Gateway, that crusading adventurer who devoted his life to fighting heartburn, getting good seats in the movies, and trying to keep from getting fired.

Captain Gateway was constantly under siege from powerful enemies: a rival paper (*the daily Grind*); vicious villains; corrupt politicians; the English language; and his own lack of intelligence.

Algard contrasted the wondrous powers of the captain with the more-than-normal Gilbert Gateway. For example, in his civilian identity, the mild-cerebral editor had his hands full just meeting deadlines, going through revolving doors and being rejected by every female in Metro-city. But as Captain Gateway he could be confused by time zones and snubbed by women from across the globe.

That's all I know about Captain Gateway, mainly because I didn't read past the preface. But take my word for it, this book is worth getting, if for nothing less than saving my job.

The Adventures of Captain Gateway
Libby-Francophone Publishing
220 pages
\$7.95



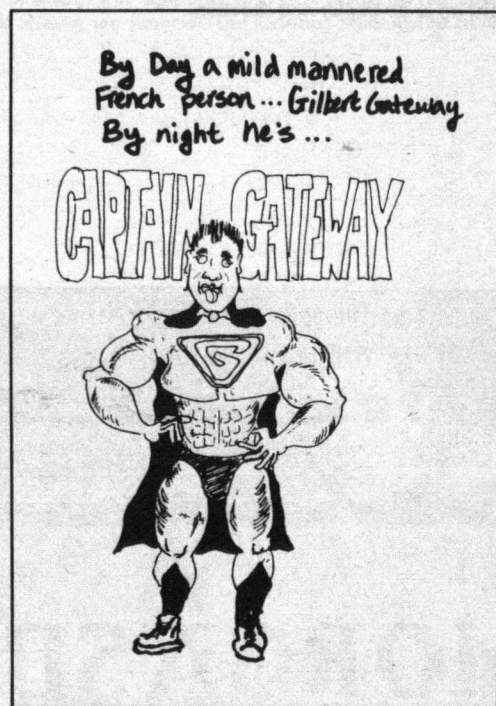
Captain Gateway gives sage editorial advice to a new volunteer.



Captain Gateway: the introspective superhero



Captain Gateway relishes verbal warfare with any opposition



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