

Distractions

STARSTRUCK
by Peter Bailey

TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE BY A H'KALIK RECONNAISSANCE TEAM WHO STUN ALMOST THE ENTIRE GROUP AT THE WRECK OF THE SPACECRAFT, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO HOPE FOR QUEEN VISTIL!

CRAP! IF EVERYTHING VISTIL SAID IS TRUE WE'RE IN MAJOR TROUBLE. AND ONCE THEY GET HER AWAY - YIKES! THE H'KALIKS WILL PROBABLY TURN US INTO CHARCOAL!!!

AH, YOUR PRECIOUS DEFENSE CIPHERS! BUT I'D HATE TO SEPARATE THEM FROM YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS - SO WE'LL JUST BRING YOU BACK WITH THEM TO THE WARTHROX.

ARGH? NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

HEY-I GOT AN IDEA - WAIT! DO I HAVE A DEATH WISH OR SOMETHING? OH, HECK! DAMN THE TORPEDOS, HERE GOES NUTHIN'.

OH, I GET IT! SO THEY THINK THAT THOSE ARE THE REAL CIPHERS! PRETTY CLEVER, I'D SAY!

YOU! STUPID FOOL! SHOW ME WHERE THEY ARE!

OH, NOT LORD, I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE! OH LORD, PLEASE DON'T LET THIS BIG, BAD, UGLY, STINKING, CRAZY ALIEN BOOGER-HEAD HURT ME!

SHADDUP! ONE FLINCH OF MY WRIST AND YOU'RE A TOASTED MARSHMALLOW!

RIGHT HERE!

OKAY, THE CASE IS UNDER THERE.

NO TRICKS! KEEP YOUR HANDS UP! ARE YOU SURE IT'S THIS ONE?

YES, I'M SURE THE SEAT JUST BELOW THE-

LOOSE PANEL! OOPS! SILLY ME!

A FEW MINUTES LATER... LIEUTENANT, WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY!

CAPTAIN, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

HEY! WHAT'S THE HOLD THAT POSE!

YOU! I TURNED MY HAND INTO JELLY-O!

THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! STEVEN, YOU PROBABLY SAVED OUR LIVES! HOW DID YOU THINK OF IT?

MY HERO!

PROBABLY FROM TOO MUCH "EDDIE MURPHY AND "HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA." OUCH!

WHATEVER, IT WAS PRETTY CLEVER, I MUST ADMIT.

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THOSE TROOPS' SHIP MUST BE NEARBY.

WITH A FEW MODIFICATIONS WE COULD TAKE THEIR SHIP TO GET BACK TO ALLIANCE-CONTROLLED SPACE AND BRING BACK HELP!

THEY PROBABLY LANDED IN A NEARBY CLEARING!

WHICH WOULD BE THE ROAD BACK THERE!

EXCELLENT!

TRUDGING THE SHORT DISTANCE BACK TO THE ROAD, THEY FIND THE H'KALIK RECON CRAFT.

FANTASTIC! IT'S EVEN GOT SOME DETECTION AVOIDANCE EQUIPMENT! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE IT SOMEWHERE TO WORK ON IT. WE'RE LIABLE TO GET A LOT OF ATTENTION HERE, LOCAL AND H'KALIK!

WE CAN PROBABLY FIND A PLACE AROUND FREDERICTON CITY LIMITS, WHERE I WAS HEADED ORIGINALLY.

I HATE TO LEAVE THE OTHERS, BUT WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION. THEY'LL WAKE UP IN SIX HOURS. THE H'KALIKS USED A HEAVY STUN SETTING.

BUG, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. I'LL NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE SHIP'S COMPUTERIZATION!

OH, LUCKY ME!

AND THERE'S AN EXTRA SEAT FOR YOU, YOUR MAJORITY!

FORGET IT! I'VE HAD MY FILL OF FLYING FOR TODAY!

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I RIDE TO "FREDERICTON" WITH YOU IN YOUR LAND-CAR?

BOOST ME HIGHER!

SUGH! EVER TRY DIETING?

UH, NO PROBLEM.

WHAT'M I GOING TO SAY? WALK?

SO OFF THEY GO FOR FREDERICTON!

CLANG

LEAVING ONLY ONE SMALL ITEM LAYING BEHIND THEM!

To be Continued....

ACROSS

1. Gala party : slang
5. Item to stop the presses
10. Capri or Man
14. Opera song
15. Ling-Ling, for one
16. "High —," Gary Cooper classic
17. "Gimme a Break" actress : 2 wds.
19. Discover by chance
20. Girl
21. Singer Guthrie
22. Flagstaffs
23. Singer, Paul —
24. Carnival
26. Texas city
29. Last month
33. Perfect
34. Horses' male parents
35. According to : 2 wds.
36. Low pain sound
37. Bridges
38. Writer Ambler
39. Do wrong
40. Slopes
41. "Divine Comedy" author
42. Punishment, as of a court
44. Profits "partner"
45. Poker stake
46. A great number

MR. JONES

BY BRIAN LINKLETT

WHERE WERE YOU GUYS FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS?

WE WERE FIGHTING A TERRIBLE WAR!

A LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE!

A GLORIOUS BATTLE FOR FREEDOM!

A JOLLY GOOD TIME!

A JUST AND UPRIGHT CONFLICT IN THE NAME OF GOD, QUEEN AND COUNTRY!!

WOW! WHO WERE YOU FIGHTING?

THE "FEMINISTS", LEAD BY THEIR SUPER WARRIOR, "FEMBO"!

AND SHE WAS ON MORAL HIGH GROUND, TOO.

I.C.U.

BY CHRIS KANE

PUFFIN, YOU NEED A HAIRCUT.

NO WAY, REALLY? WHICH ONE, MAN?

SNATCH!

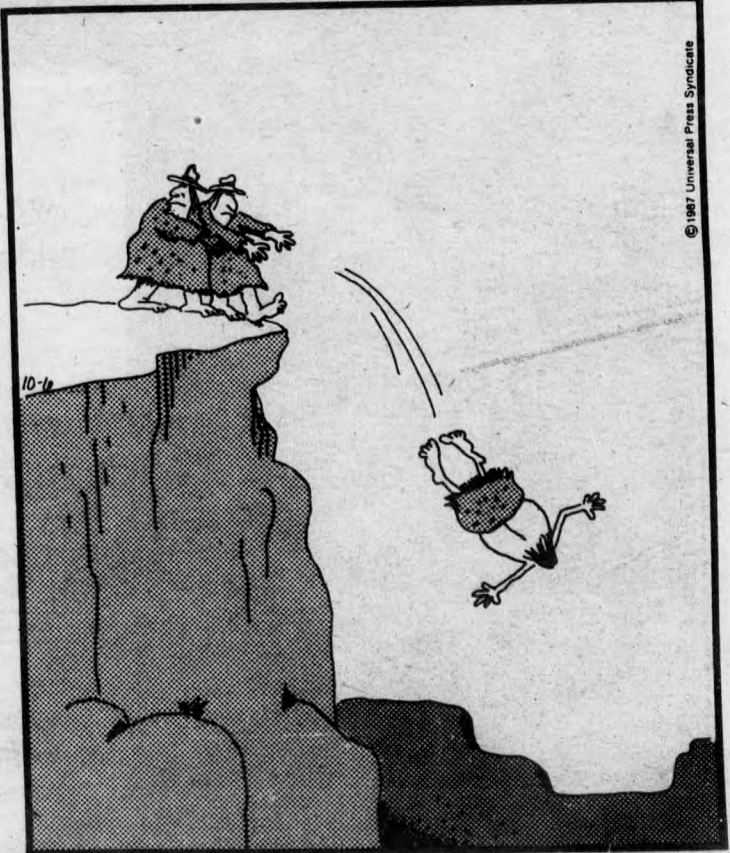
SPANG

GRRR...

NEVER... NEVER GET SARCASTIC WITH AN OVER-SENSITIVE HAWK...

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Although their descendants firmly deny this, Neanderthal mobsters are frequently linked with the anthropological treasures of Olduvai Gorge.