INTRODUCING THE DODLEBUG RAG

ISSUE 1 *NUMBER 1* July/August 1988

Produced by The Revolutionary Artists and Graphics Group

50p



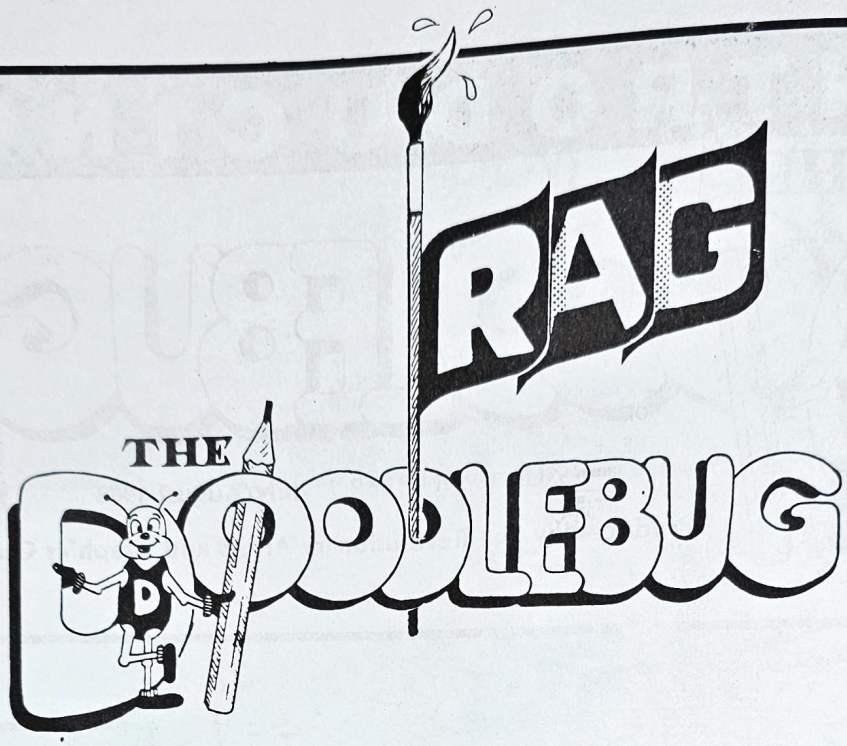
INSIDE:

Cartoon strips by Cormac, Sean, and Suzy Q

Tin Tin's adventures in Ireland

Caption competition

A profile of one of Belfasts leading mural artists



editorial

HERE IT IS! the first issue of the anti-imperialist Doodlebug comic book. I use the word 'comic' with some trepidation as much of the material will deal with issues which are anything but funny.

Having said that, the mass of the contents are the work of men and women who will attempt to bring a little bit of light relief to the much harassed people of the occupied areas.

We bear no resemblence to the DC-marvel garbage machine which churns out right-wing drivel, designed to foster the 'Rambo' image sadly prevalent among large sections of the youth.

Among our regular contributors will be the talented 'Cormac' (of *AP/RN* fame) plus some survivors from the mosquito presses over the years.

The need for such a publication has been recognised for some time but previous attempts to bring it to fruition have failed to rally enough support.

The Doodlebug will be another thorn in the side of British imperialism for just as long as you, the readers, wish it to be.

There will be no 'Holy Cows', immune from the pen and ink of Cormac and Co. Injustice and hypocrisy will be targets for the slings and arrows of our outrageous cartoonists.

To survive, and flourish the Doodlebug will need the help and talents of our readers. If you have any ideas, criticisms or indeed, a few plandits, then lets hear from you.

Our own editorial staff already recognise that this first issue is lacking in material of international value. We accept that the Reagans of this world are every bit as evil and dangerous as the Thatchers. In future issues we will attempt to broaden our scope.

So, here it is — warts and all — we hope that you will enjoy reading the Doodlebug as much as we enjoyed producing it.

— The Editor

CATHAL AND THE HELICOPTER

STORY BY 'SPIDER'... ...H-Block Prisoner

CATHAL HAD WATCHED THE FRENETIC ACTIVITY AT FORT NELSON. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE HELICOPTER

..... AS HE WALKED HOME HIS MIND WORKED OVERTIME

CATHAL'S SISTER AINE WAS WAITING AT HOME

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?

DODGING THE BRITS

I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE HELICOPTERS AND LAND ROVERS AND WONDERING WHAT THEY DO?

I MEAN, ARE THEY VITAL? ALL THEY SEEM TO DO IS DRIVE ABOUT IN CIRCLES

I BET. NOW COME CLEAN. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

WELL CATHAL, FOR ONE THING ...THEY DO **NOT** JUST DRIVE ABOUT AIMLESSLY

THE HELICOPTERS AND THE FOOT PATROLS ARE THE EYES AND EARS OF THE BRITISH WAR MACHINE

VIVA VIVA THE IRA

'THEY TAKE NOTE OF EVEN THE MOST MINUTE OF DETAILS .... '

USING THE HELICOPTER THE BRITS CAN WATCH OUR STREETS AND FIELDS

WHY DON'T THE IRA GET SAMS' LIKE THE PLO HAVE DONE?

SURE THEY HAVE LOTS OF SAMS'. BIG SAM FROM THE SHORT STRAND, WEE SAM FROM TURF LODGE, BUT SERIOUSLY..

... THESE CHOPPERS USE HIGH-TEC CAMERAS MODIFIED FROM THE 'SPY IN THE SKY' SATELLITES

WE MAY NOT HAVE THE BRITS' SOPHISTICATION BUT WE CAN USE OUR EYES AND EARS

BRITISH UNDERCOVER TEAMS ARE KNOWN TO PLANT HOMING DEVICES ON CARS. ONE SUCH BUG LED TO THE MURDER OF SEVERAL MEN BY THE RUC IN ARMAGH....

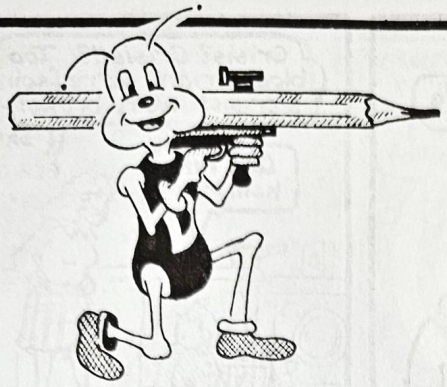
U.D.R. ASSASSINS....

ARE KNOWN TO OPERATE IN HARMONY WITH LOYALIST MURDER GANGS

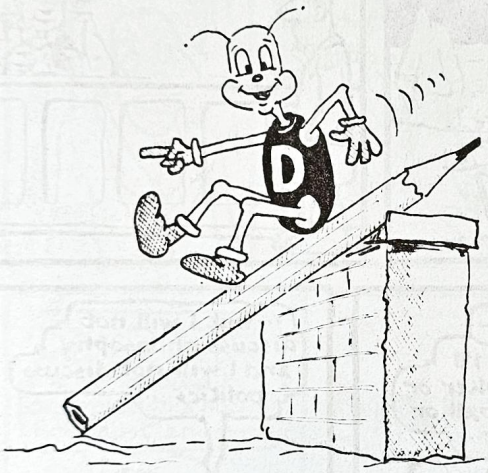
SO REMEMBER WHEN YOU SEE BRITISH PATROLS DRIVING AROUND, BE ON YOUR GUARD - THEY ARE WATCHING YOU!

The scene of the Miami Showband massacre

by Sugy Q



"DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE LOYALIST IDENTICAL TWIN WHO WANTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE"



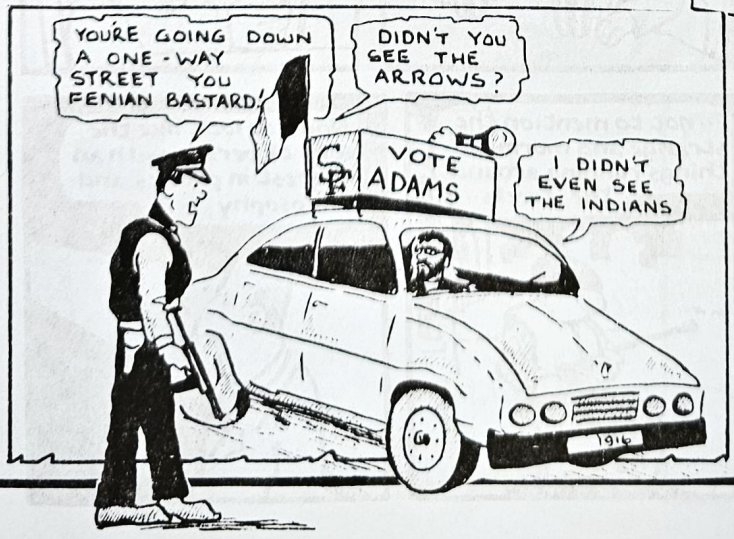
"HE KILLED HIS BROTHER BY MISTAKE BUT THE JUDGE ACQUITTED HIM WHEN HE PLEADED MISTAKEN IDENTITY"

Q. What's got an I.Q. of 144?
A. A gross of UDR men.







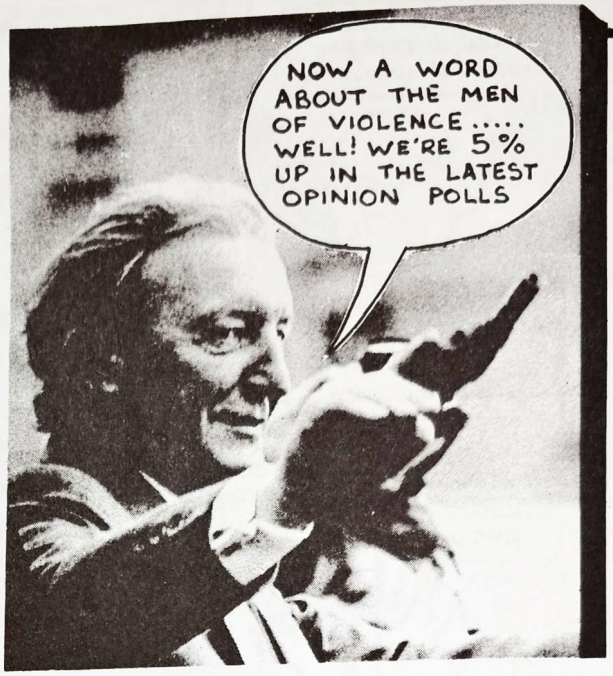





MORBID SYMPTOMS
by CORMAC
I think we're facing a crisis...
Crisis? Crisis!!?! Too bloody right we're facing a crisis! We're broke!
Give him hell, Ma..
The trouble with women is that they see everything on a personal level....
...absolutely no grasp of the wider issues...
I think we're facing a crisis...
Sorry, mate, no strup...
But men, as you know, go right to the heart of the matter...
About this crisis—
Look, mate, I'll discuss snooker or sex or football or whatever...
...but I will not discuss philosophy and I will not discuss politics....
...I have enough strange and morbid things running around my brain...
...not to mention the strange and morbid things running around the streets...
Now, you look like the sort of person with an interest in politics and philosophy...


Well, yes, I am rather interested in certain philosophical questions.
Recently I was meditating on the subject of suicide... ...I wrote the following...
To be, or not to be— that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of....
OUTRAGEOUS!!
...fortune...
Not only are you a precocious little brat but you are also a plagiarist!
Okay, so I steal a few words here and there.... Are you going to make a big thing about intellectual property?
How can you be so petty!? At any time the world could be destroyed by a nuclear holocaust and——
This is the way the world ends..... with a BIG BANG!
KABOOM!!!
What a morbid little joke...
"The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear."
THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!









During a Loyalist Rally at the City Hall Paisley — on reaching a crescendo — asked the feverish crowd —

"And who is responsible for all our troubles?"

A voice from the crowd yelled — *"The Vietcong!"*

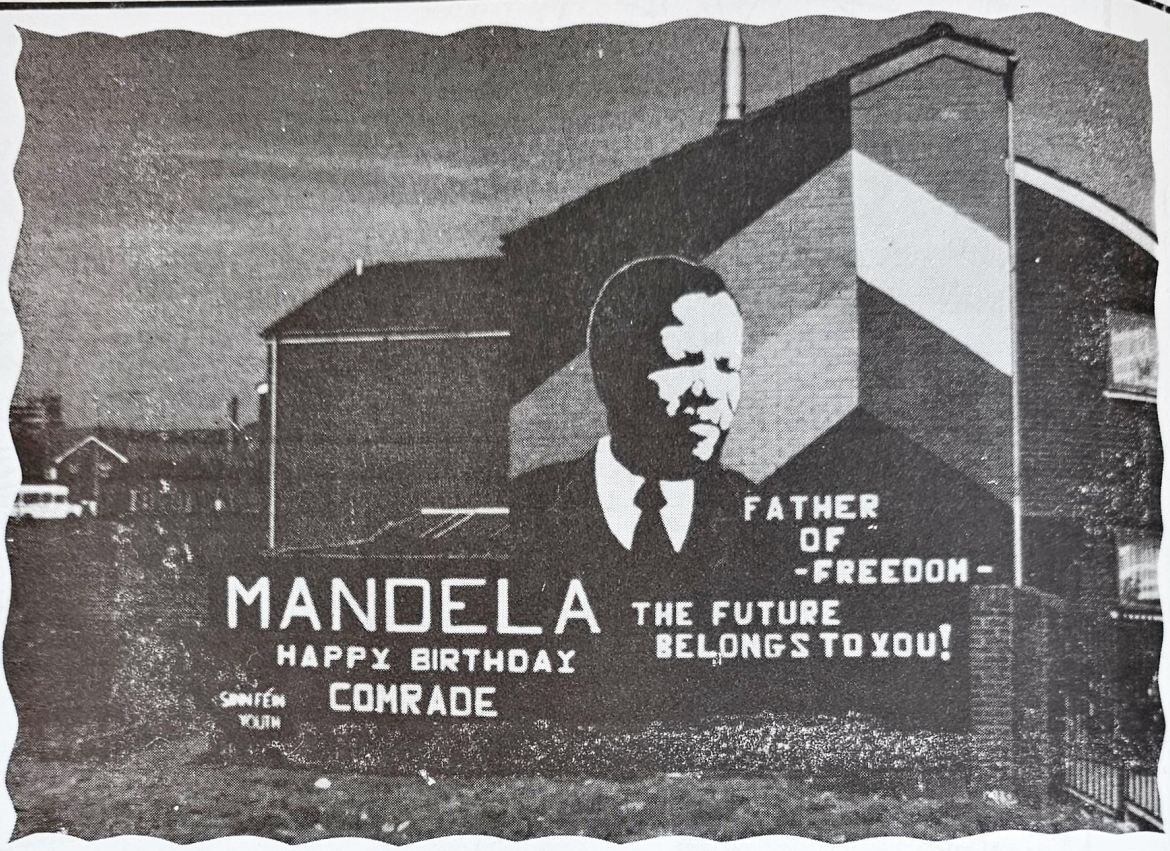
Paisley looked puzzled — *"Why the Vietcong?"* he asked

The voice retorted — *"Why the IRA?"*



WAITING FOR JUSTICE TO ARRIVE

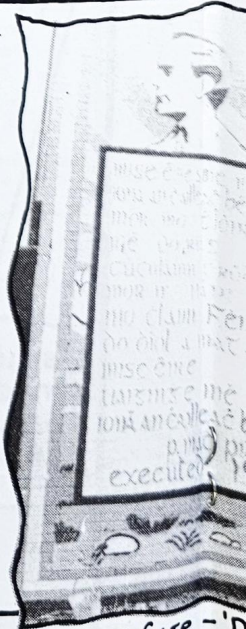

IN THE MATTER OF OUR SHOOTING THE THREE UNARMED I.R.A. MEMBERS...
... THE MEDIA HAVE BEEN DREADFULLY IRRESPONSIBLE
THEY HAVE SET THEMSELVES UP AS JUDGE JURY AND PROSECUTOR...
... AND DARED TO QUESTION THE EXECUTIONER.!
SILIM GO BHFUIL MAGGIE NÍOS DEISE LEIS AN HOOD SEO UIRTHI
WASSERMAN ©'88 THE BOSTON GLOBE DIST. BY L.A. TIMES SYNDICATE



ABOVE: Mural painted by 'Mo Chara' on Falls Road to mark the 70th birthday of the imprisoned African leader, Nelson Mandela.



- A plagiarised 'Cormac Cartoon' mural, Whiterock Road



Mise Eire - 'N

WALL WARRIOR



VISITORS to the nationalist ghetto areas of West Belfast rarely leave without taking photographs of the beautifully painted wall murals.

These murals, mainly depicting the struggle of the Irish people against British imperialism, are a constant reminder to the RUC and their military support that they are in a war zone.

Gerry Kelly, known as 'Mo Chara' (my friend) to his friends, is one of the more accomplished of the street artists. Born in the tough Ballymurphy area in 1957, Mo Chara was reared in a large family who suffered gravely from the rabid anti-Catholic sectarianism of the Orange puppet state.

"From an early age I came to understand that until the whole rotten system was smashed there would be no hope for myself or for the generations to follow."

Mo Chara's politics are firmly entrenched in the messages his murals carry. He makes no bones about his total commitment to the world-wide anti-imperialist struggle.

"I get just as enraged when I read of a child being murdered by Reagan's bombs in Nicaragua as I do at the slaughter of nationalist children by the RUC.

Gerry Kelly's murals are outstanding in their intricate detail and use of colour and shade. He freely admits to being influenced by the great Dublin cultural artist Jim Fitzpatrick.

"I plead guilty to a wee bit of plagarism after coming under Fitzpatrick's spell".

Another influence is 'Cormac', the *An Phoblacht/Republican News* **cartoonist.**

"Cormac's ability to expose and attack the hypocrisy of the British government is incredible."

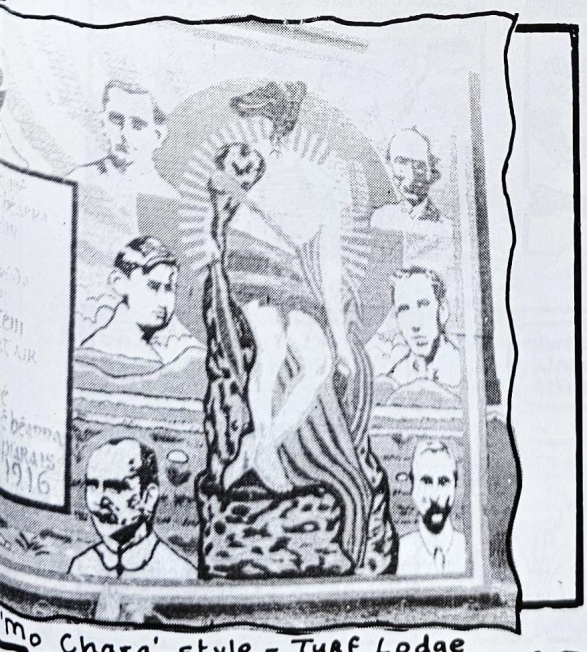
What of his future plans? Well, in the coming months murals are planned linking the struggle of the peoples of Nicaragua, Palestine etc. to the Irish fight for freedom. Already gable walls have been adorned with murals of Nelson Mandela and Bob Marley — another influence on Mo Chara's political outlook, Kelly's home has a liberal stock of Marley records and tapes. *"His music is the music of revolution and hope,"* **he told us.**

Gerry Kelly's fame has already crossed the Atlantic.

"I have an invitation from a group of left-wing publishers inviting myself and several members of RAG (The Revolutionary Art and Graphics group) to America where we will link up with friends of the Irish struggle."

So, Mo Chara and friends may soon be erecting their scaffolding and going for their paintbrushes on the streets of New York.

Anyone wishing to help with RAG work, or indeed forward a donation, (the murals are totally self financing) can contact Gerry Kelly through the 'Doodle bug'.



'Mo Chara' style - Turf Lodge

1968 AND ALL THAT....

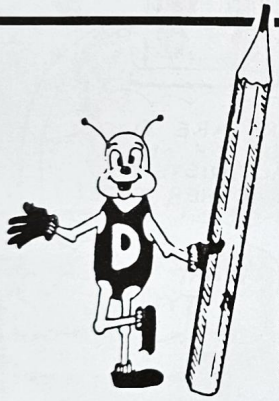



FOR 5 POINTS, WHAT IS BROWN AND BLACK AND LOOKS GOOD ON IAN PAISLEY
?
NO
GOING FOR GOLD
A DOBERMAN PINSCHER
A JOKE FROM DERRY
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SILK CUT CIGARETTE AND A ROAD IN DONEGAL?
I DON'T KNOW...
THERE'S MORE TAR IN A SILK CUT CIGARETTE!
WOMENS CENTRE
THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MEN... CHAUVINISTS AND THE OTHER TYPE!
WHAT OTHER TYPE?
THIS IS THE NEW SUPER-TANK THAT WE'RE SENDING TO THE CONTRAS ... IT HAS FIVE GEARS. FOUR OF THEM ARE REVERSE ...
THE OTHER ONE'S FORWARD IN CASE THE SANDINISTAS ATTACK FROM BEHIND
News at Ten
AND WE END WITH THE NEWS THAT MARGARET THATCHER HAS BEEN KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION ... THE POLICE WISH TO QUESTION 30 MILLION PEOPLE..

LES AVENTURES DE
TINTIN

LES HARPES de GREENMORE





In 1985 the Priotte Brothers from France paid tribute to their favourite cartoonist, Herge and to the cause of Irish Freedom when they produced a sixty page book detailing Tin Tin's Adventures in Ireland. Only a limited amount of these books were produced (in French) and are already regarded by many as collectors pieces. In the following three pages we reprint extracts from the book which we intend to serialise in future editions of the *Doodle Bug*.

This cartoon came about as a result of a double passion: for Tintin and for Ireland. To be precise: for Ireland and for Tintin.

Fans of Tintin since we were first able to look at a comic book, fans of Ireland since the first note of an Irish harp came to our ears and a drop of Guinness first found its way into our throats these consuming passions were bound to come together sooner or later.

So, here is Tintin in Ireland. Unlike other pastiches, where our heroes were too badly treated, or even ridiculed, we wished to keep the spirit of the 22 albums of the Herge collection. Tintin fans will enjoy discovering the many references, nods and winks to Herge's work. Fans of Ireland will have no problems discovering who is behind Daithy's face or an anonymous pub customer's, and recognising the real events which run through the story.

We would not claim to have done a flawless work: Tintin, Snowy, Haddock don't always have the features and expressions they would have under Herge's pen, for obvious reasons. On the other hand, the streets of Belfast do not always look exactly as they should, we admit it willingly. However, we hope that readers will have as much pleasure reading this adventure as we had writing it. Finally, we want to stress that this comic aims to be a two-fold homage. Homage to Herge who, for us and for several generations, was and will remain the generator of adventure and imagination. Homage to the population of the North of Ireland who, for generations and more precisely since 1969, has been fighting for the reunification of its country, and so that, at last, Ireland will be free. — The Pirotte Bros. France. 1985. (Translated from the French by Kate the Knife & GeGe Mac Craddoc).

LES HARPES DE GREENMORE





IRISH FARMER EAMONN O'BRADY STILL IN THE DARK ABOUT HIS NATIONALITY

The border which partitions Ireland, cuts through the middle of his house. It is a permanent headache for O'Brady who does not know if he is a subject of 'her gracious majesty' or a citizen of the Irish Republic.

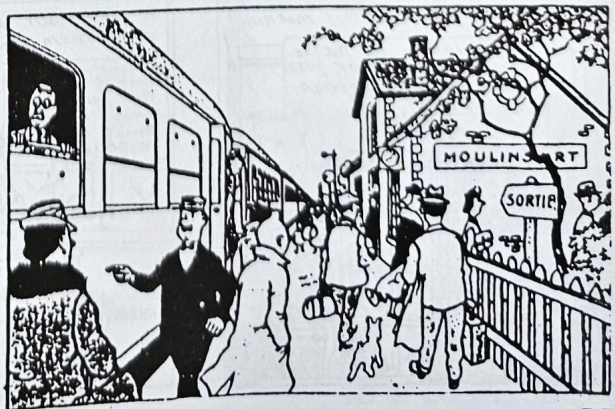


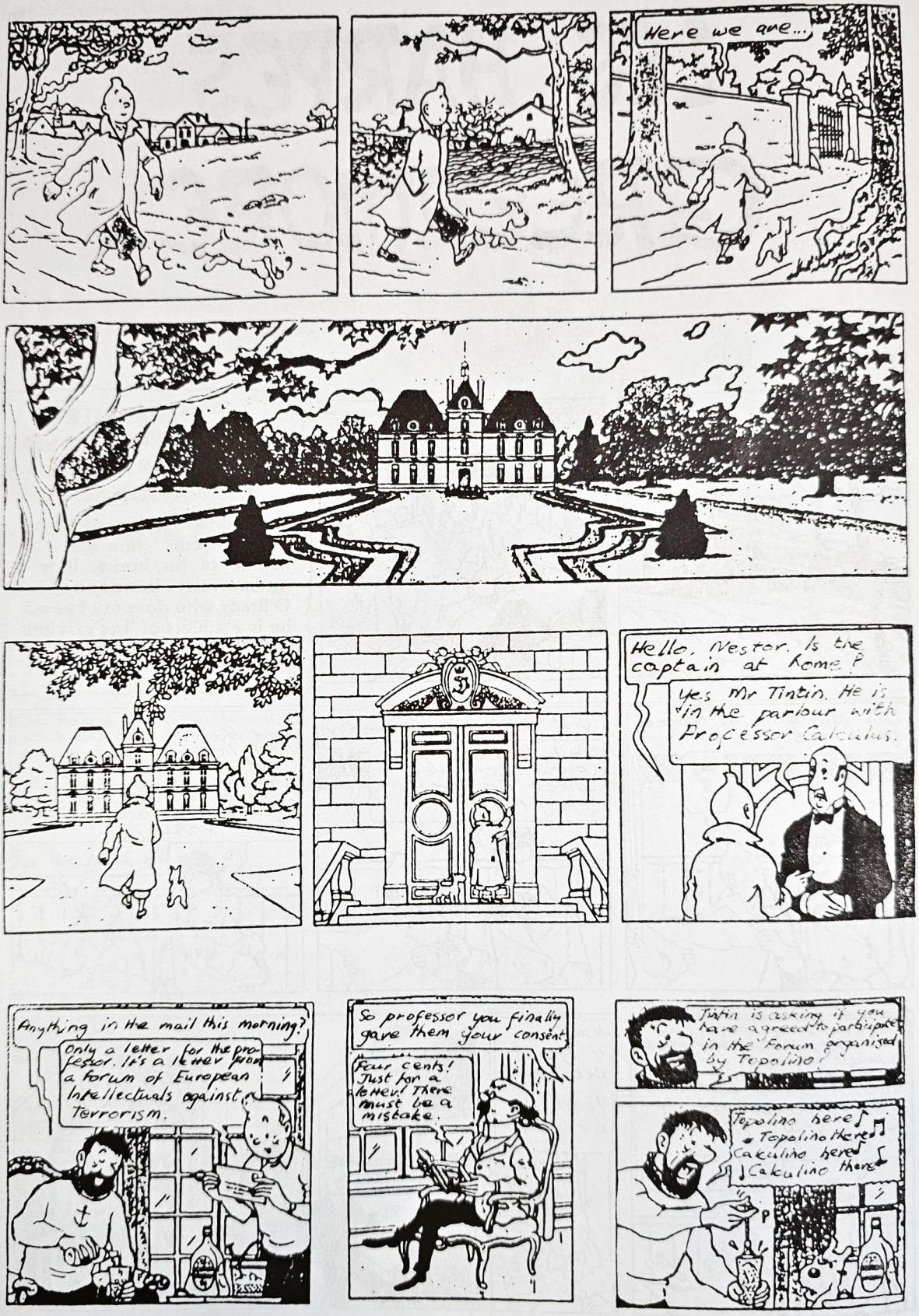











Here we are...
Hello, Nestor. Is the captain at home?
Yes Mr Tintin. He is in the parlour with Professor Calculus.
Anything in the mail this morning?
Only a letter for the professor. It's a letter from a forum of European Intellectuals against Terrorism.
So professor you finally gave them your consent.
Four cents! Just for a letter! There must be a mistake.
Tintin is asking if you have agreed to participate in the Forum organised by Topolino!
Topolino here!
Topolino there!
Calculino here!
Calculino there!


Hullo?... Yes... Glover, yes... Is that you boss?... It's worked. He's finally agreed to join our little operation.
Hullo. Very good! I only hope he doesn't guess what were up to. He's the best front we could have dreamt of. I'll inform MI6.
A few days later...
my dear friends, I'm going... I'll be back in a week.
Oh! By the way...
Ask your colleagues what they intend to do about terrorists like that Plexiglass dictator and that fascist Tapioca?
A fast ship? Oh no, I'm going by plane. It's much quicker.
I'm telling you not to forget about generals in your list of bashi-bazouks! Billious blistering barnacles!
Smuggle it?... Oh no, I wouldn't!... It's a principle of mine... I always declare everything.
Don't insist captain. You know what he's like.
Still a dreamer and as deaf as ever!
Yes. I'm surprised he's finally agreed to go to that meeting.
Watch out!... Here he comes! Get the chloroform ready.
?!
BUTCHER
E.am
Damn. That bloody butcher saw us!
TO BE CONTINUED...



COMPETITION

Granny Queen is looking rather dangerous with a pair of scissors in her dainty little hand.

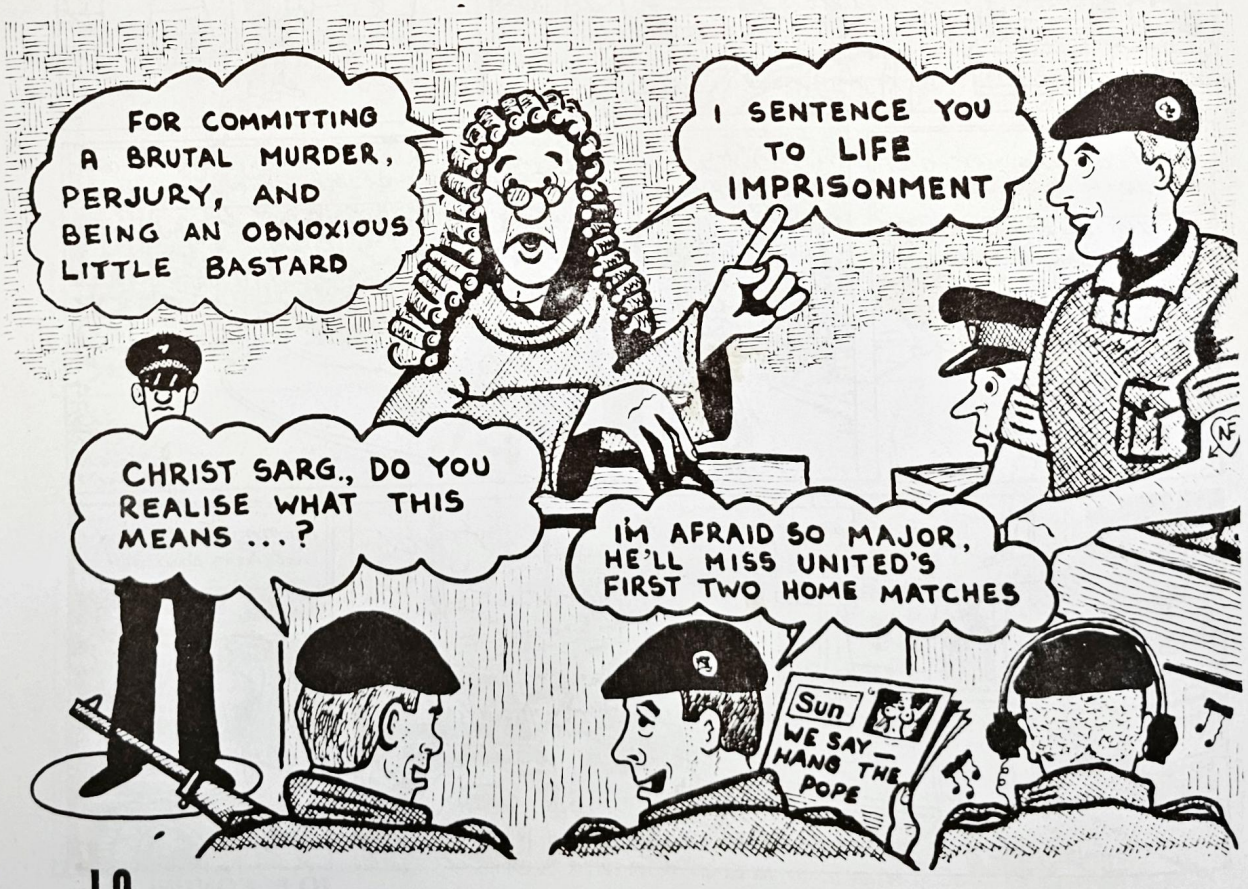
Junior is counting his piggies — what are they saying?

Bumper parcel of posters, books, pamphlets etc to the best three entries.

Send to:

Doodlebug
Caption Competition

See address back of comic





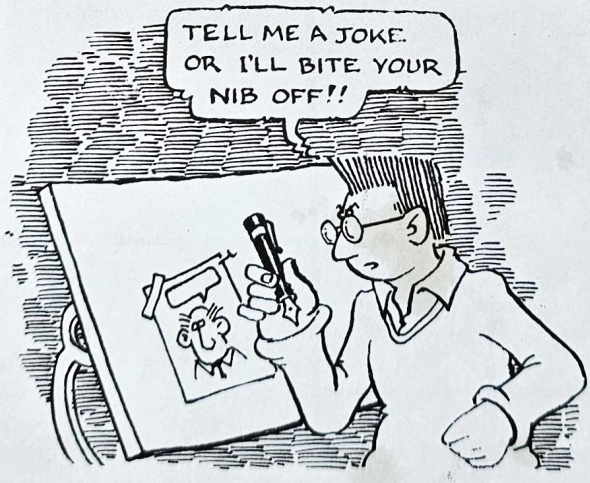
THAT OLD PARACHUTE JOKE

When this idea for a cartoon was suggested by Kev, our apprentice camera-man, both Cormac and Sean had a go at it. Who do you think is the best?

By the way, before you protest about the little old lady with the handbag ...it is, of course, Maggie Ironknickers. (Editor)

(You could have fooled me) **— Cormac.**





If you have any jokes, preferably of an anti-imperialist nature, then let's have them. If you can't draw — don't worry about it — neither can our resident cartoonists.

Please send to: The Doodlebug
C/O Conway Education Centre
5-7 Conway Street Belfast BT12

D·I·S·C·O·V·E·R

Occupied Ireland

















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