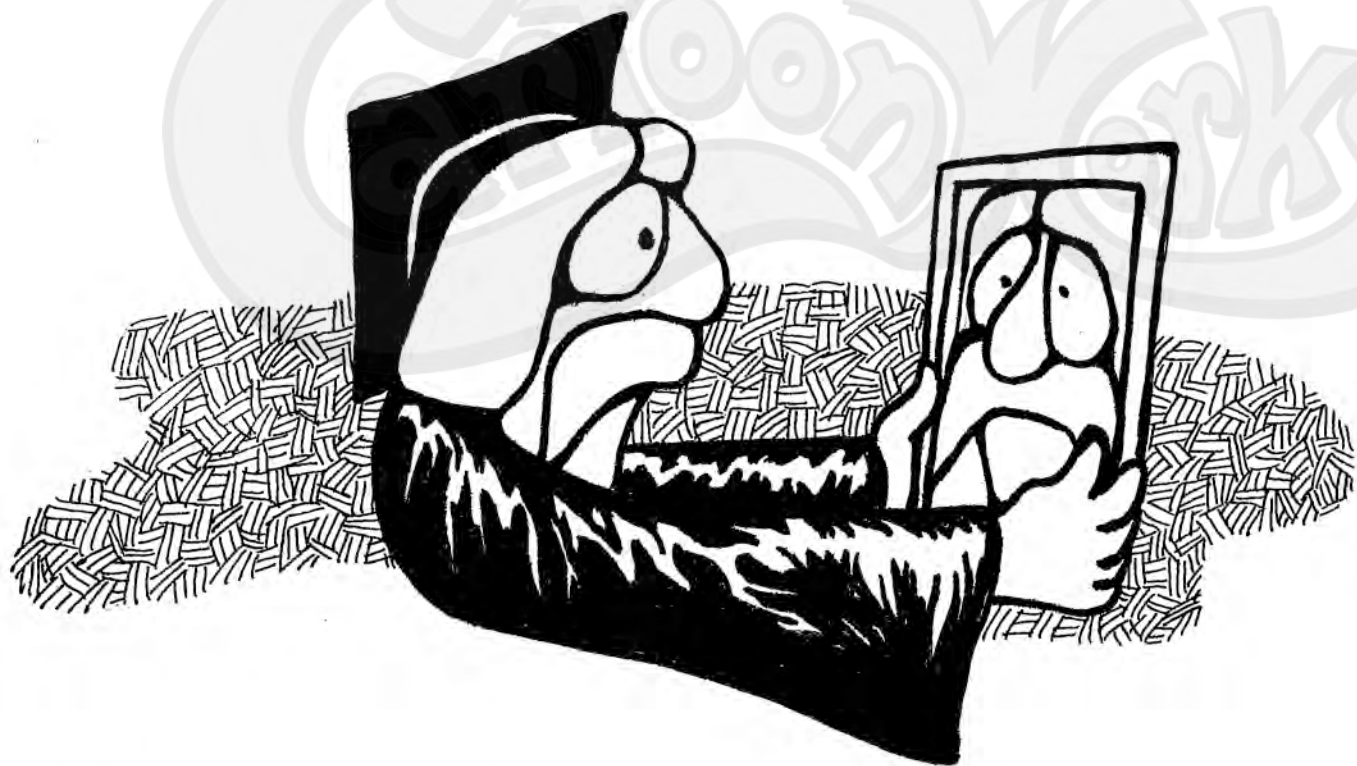


**ON MAY 25,
A MAN
WAS BORN...**

**...A 6FT, 175 LB
BOUNCING
BABY MAN.**



HE WAS BORN A HEALTHY WHITE MALE.
SOME SAID IT WAS A CURSE.
OTHERS CALLED IT A BLESSING.
BUT TO HIM, IT WAS THE ONLY
PART OF HIS IDENTITY HE WAS
TOTALLY CERTAIN ABOUT.



CRAVING THE RETURN OF HIS WOMB,
THE FIRST WORD HE UTTERED WAS...

COLLEGE!

UNIVERSITY





BUT TO HIS DISMAY, RUNNING
NAKED THROUGH SORORITIES
AND PASSING OUT ON BAR ROOM
FLOORS WERE NO LONGER THE
THRILL THEY USED TO BE.





HE KNEW IT
WAS TIME TO MOVE ON.

SO HE LANDED A JOB
IN THE BIG CITY,

AND WENT THERE IN
SEARCH OF THE TRUE
IDENTITY OF...

WHAT IS RALPH'S FATE?

WILL HE STICK IT OUT?

WILL WIDGETS BITE IT OFF?

WILL MOOSE CAUSE RALPH
TO FORGET ABOUT NANCY?

WILL RALPH CAUSE MR. FIBBLEMIND
TO FORGET ABOUT WIDGETS?

WILL A BUTTER KNIFE CAUSE
MR. TURNER TO FORGET ABOUT RALPH?

WILL RALPH CAUSE U.P.S.
TO FORGET ABOUT RON WHEELER?

THE ANSWERS TO THESE AND
OTHER QUESTIONS CAN BE FOUND
BY SENDING ONE LUCRATIVE
CONTRACT TO: RON WHEELER,
RT 1 BOX 38 , ROBERTSVILLE, MO.

A NEW CITY...
A NEW JOB...
A NEW CHALLENGE.

IT SURE FEELS GOOD
TO BE TOTALLY
SELF-SUFFICIENT.

YES SIR. I'M ON MY OWN,
NOW. I'M TOTALLY
INDEPENDENT.

JUST ME
AND TEDDY.



OH M'GOSH!
THE ALARM DIDN'T
GO OFF!



I'VE GOT TO
HURRY!



IT'S TOO LATE
TO TAKE MY
CAR.



IF I'M GOING TO GET
TO WORK ON TIME,
I'LL HAVE TO WALK.



I'M CERTAINLY
GLAD I FOUND AN
APARTMENT CLOSE
TO WORK.

THAT WAY I CAN
ZIP RIGHT HOME IN
A MERE FOUR HOURS.





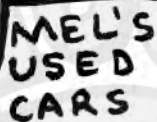
AND THE KCBC
TRAFFIC REPORT SAYS
RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC
IS FLOWING
SMOOTHLY ON ALL
FREEWAYS
TONIGHT.



BALONEY! I'VE BEEN
STUCK HERE STARING AT
THAT BUMPER AHEAD
OF ME FOR A HALF HOUR,
NOW.



WAIT A
MINUTE...



MEL'S
USED
CARS



HOW DID I GET IN
THIS USED CAR LOT?



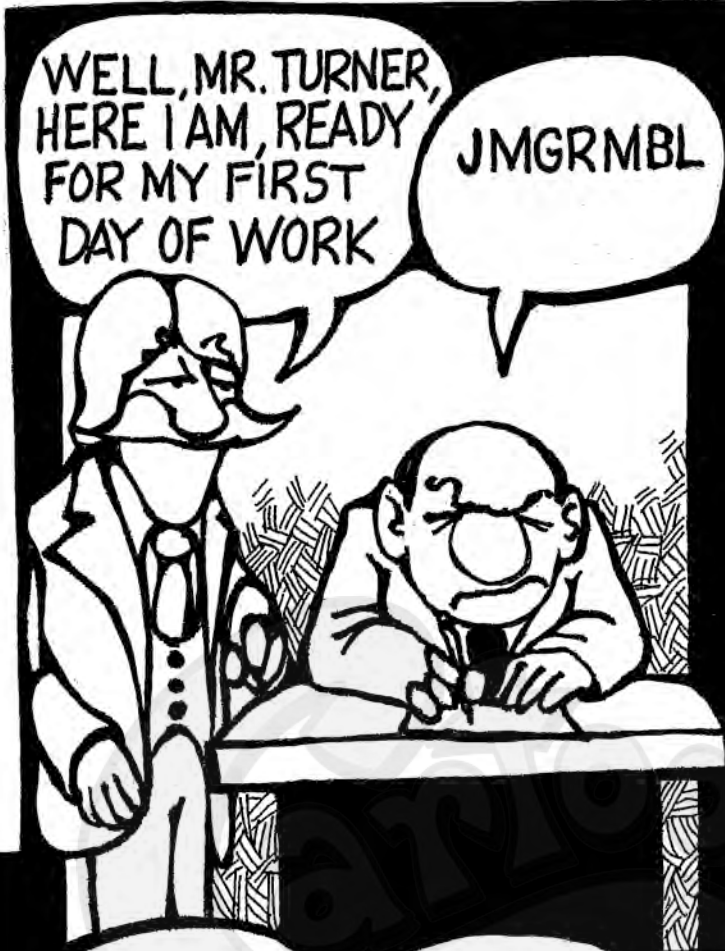
I'LL GIVE
YOU \$800
FOR THAT
JUNK.



\$1500



\$800



WELL, MR. TURNER,
HERE I AM, READY
FOR MY FIRST
DAY OF WORK

JMGRMBL



GRNMBLFRMPLGLT



IS THERE
ANYTHING
WRONG MR.
TURNER?

MBLFRMPL
(SIP)
GRKMFLGL



WELL! WELL!
RALPH CRABTREE!
WELCOME ABOARD!
HAVE A SEAT!
HOW'S IT GOING?

DECIDING TO WORK
FOR WIDGETS INC.
WAS A WISE
CHOICE, RALPH.



WE ARE THE
INDUSTRY
LEADER.



CAN YOU IMAGINE
WHERE THIS COUNTRY
WOULD BE WITHOUT
WIDGETS?

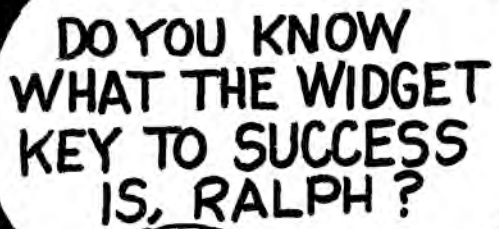


I SHUDDER
TO EVEN
THINK OF IT.



GOD
BLESS
WIDGETS.

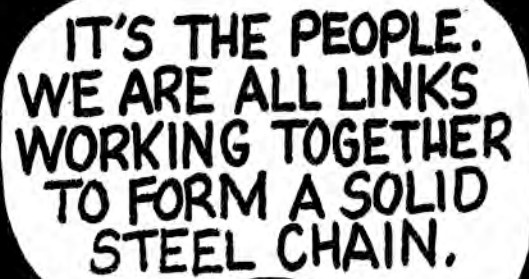




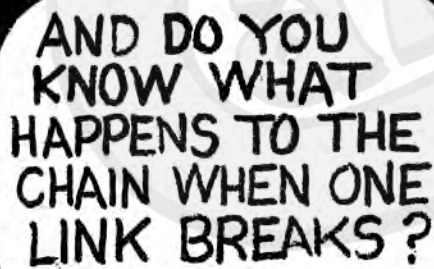
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THE WIDGET
KEY TO SUCCESS
IS, RALPH?



NO,
MR. TURNER,
WHAT?



IT'S THE PEOPLE.
WE ARE ALL LINKS
WORKING TOGETHER
TO FORM A SOLID
STEEL CHAIN.



AND DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS TO THE
CHAIN WHEN ONE
LINK BREAKS?



SURE!
THEY JUST
MOLD ANOTHER
LINK.



IT COLLAPSES!

RALPH,
I LIKE
YOUR
ATTITUDE.

WHY?
BECAUSE I
HAVEN'T SAID
ANYTHING
ALL MORNING?



I KNOW
YOU'LL FIT IN
WELL HERE.

THEN
WHY DO
I WISH I
WAS STILL
IN COLLEGE
?



NOW I'D LIKE YOU
TO MEET YOUR
NEW SECRETARY.



OH, MOOSE!

MOOSE?





HERE'S YOUR
OFFICE,
CRABTREE.

I'VE SEEN
LARGER PHONE
BOOTHS.



NO
WINDOWS!
WHERE'S MY
WINDOW?

ALL OF THE
WINDOWS
WERE BOARDED
UP TO SAVE
ENERGY....



...AND TO KEEP
PEOPLE FROM
JUMPING OUT
OF THEM.

WOW! HERE I AM
AT MY FIRST JOB.

I STUDIED FOR
SEVENTEEN
YEARS TO GET TO
THIS POINT.

SO, THIS IS WHAT
THE INSIDE OF A
PIGEONHOLE LOOKS LIKE.



MR. TURNER, IS THERE ANY WORK YOU'D LIKE ME TO DO?

WORK?

OH, YES... WORK.

NOW, FOR YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT, HERE IS A TASK THAT WILL REQUIRE DRIVE AND DETERMINATION.

GEE!

THIS REPORT NEEDS STAPLING.

WOW! WHAT A CHALLENGE!

I'M NOT GOING TO SPEND
ANOTHER DAY ROTTING
IN THIS OFFICE.



IF THEY DON'T NEED
ME, WHY DID THEY
HIRE ME?



CRABTREE!

OH
BOY!



MY STAPLER
NEEDS
REFILLING!

GEE!
IT'S
GREAT
TO BE
NEEDED.

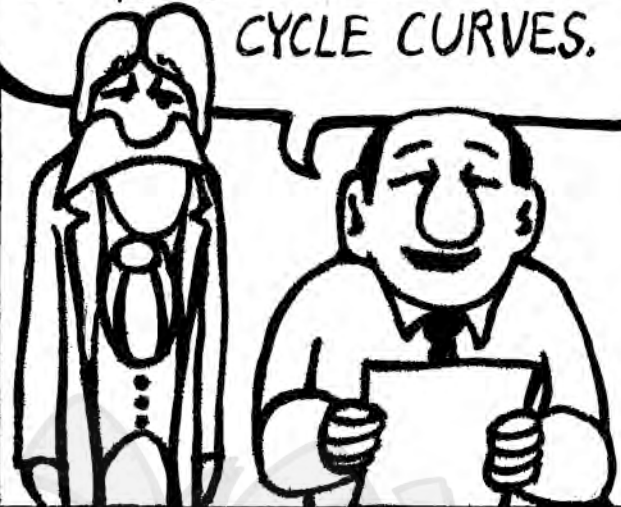


MR. TURNER, I THINK I'M
READY FOR SOMETHING A
LITTLE MORE CHALLENGING
THAN FILLING
STAPLERS.



ALL RIGHT,
TRY THIS.

USE THE TREND ANALYSIS
METHOD TO DETERMINE
THE ANNUAL PROJECTION
OF THESE WIDGET PRODUCT
CYCLE CURVES.



ANY
QUESTIONS?

JUST
ONE.



HOW MUCH
DOES UNEMPLOYMENT
PAY EACH WEEK?





GOOD MORNING,
MOOSE.

YOU'RE
LATE,
CRABTREE.

GEE! I'M SORRY!
MY ALARM
DIDN'T GO OFF!
IT WON'T HAPPEN
AGAIN! I
PROMISE!

WELL...
SEE
THAT
IT
DOESN'T.

NOW, GET INTO
YOUR OFFICE AND
GO TO WORK!

I SHOULD BE
ASHAMED
OF MYSELF.

I'M
WORKING!
I'M
WORKING!

MOOSE, WHY ARE YOU SO INTIMIDATING?



BECAUSE I WANT TO BE SURE MY PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIAL SKILLS AREN'T TAKEN FOR GRANTED.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



SURE! SHARPEN THESE PENCILS FOR ME, WILL YA?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.



AT LAST!
MY FIRST BIG
ASSIGNMENT.



SAY, RALPH,
HERE'S ANOTHER
PROJECT I
NEED DONE
TODAY.

I NEED
YOUR
PLANNING
SCHEDULE
THIS
AFTERNOON,
CRABTREE.



THIS COULD GET OLD
REAL FAST.



MAN!
AM I SWAMPED!



IT WILL TAKE YEARS TO
SORT THROUGH THIS MESS.



EVERYTHING IS NEEDED
RIGHT AWAY. I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
TO START.

GO TO LUNCH.



THERE'S ONLY
ONE THING
TO DO.





YOU UP FOR
SOME LUNCH,
MR. TURNER?



I'M TAKING
OUT A CLIENT
TODAY. WANNA
JOIN US?



ME?
WITH A CLIENT?



IS MY HAIR COMBED?
IS MY TIE STRAIGHT?
IS THIS SUIT OKAY?
HOW'S MY BREATH?



THIS IS LUNCH
RALPH, NOT
SPRING FORMAL.

I'VE NEVER MET A CLIENT BEFORE. WHAT DO I SAY?

IF YOU FEEL UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT TO SAY, DON'T SAY ANYTHING.

MR. FIBBLEMIND, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET RALPH CRABTREE, A NEW EMPLOYEE WITH WIDGETS INC.

PLEASUED TO MEET YOU, MR. CRABTREE.

SAY HELLO, RALPH.

HELLO, RALPH!





HERE'S YOUR
MARTINI,
RALPH.

MARTINI?

HOW'S YOUR
STAMP
COLLECTION
COMING, MR.
FIBBLEMIND?

OH, WONDERFULLY!
I RECENTLY
PURCHASED A
STAMP FROM
NEW ZEALAND.

GEE! I'VE
NEVER
HAD A
MARTINI
BEFORE.

WOW!
THAT'S
GREAT!

ISN'T IT THOUGH?
AND IT'S SUCH A
RARE STAMP, TOO!





A COUPLE
MORE MARTINIS,
WAITER.

...AND I PICKED
UP A GEM OF
A STAMP IN
IRAN FOR \$500.

REALLY?

BUT MY
BOLIVIAN
STAMP
IS WORTH
\$800.

THE
PRICE OF
POSTAGE IS
RIDICULOUS!

DID YOU KNOW THAT
I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD
TO SEND A LETTER
HOME WITH THE SALARY
THIS JERK PAYS ME?


REALLY!

COOL
IT,
RALPH.





UH...LET'S TALK ABOUT WIDGETS FOR A MOMENT, MR. FIBBLEMIND.



SAY! DID YOU KNOW HALF OF OUR WIDGETS MAY GET RECALLED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

REALLY?

OH, MY GOD!



IT'S ALL A BIG SECRET SO DON'T TELL ANYBODY.

OH, NO! I WON'T.

I WONDER IF I CAN SLASH MY WRISTS WITH A BUTTER KNIFE.

BOY! I REALLY MADE
A FOOL OF MYSELF
AT LUNCH TODAY.



MAYBE I'M NOT GEARED
FOR THIS KIND OF WORK.



WHAT AM I SAYING?
I'M NO QUITTER!
I'M AN ACHIEVER!



YEP! THROWING
UP ON A CLIENT'S
SHOES IS QUITE
AN ACHIEVEMENT.







WHAT A
LONG DAY!



AND, MAN,
AM I GLAD
IT'S OVER
SO I CAN
GET OUT
OF HERE!



THIS IS MY FIRST
DAY AT WIDGETS
INC., YOU KNOW.



IT MUST BE
BECAUSE I'M
HAROLD WIDGETS SR.,
FOUNDER OF
WIDGETS INC.



AND YOUR
NAME IS WHAT?

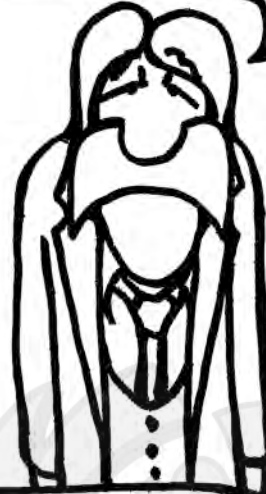


MUD!

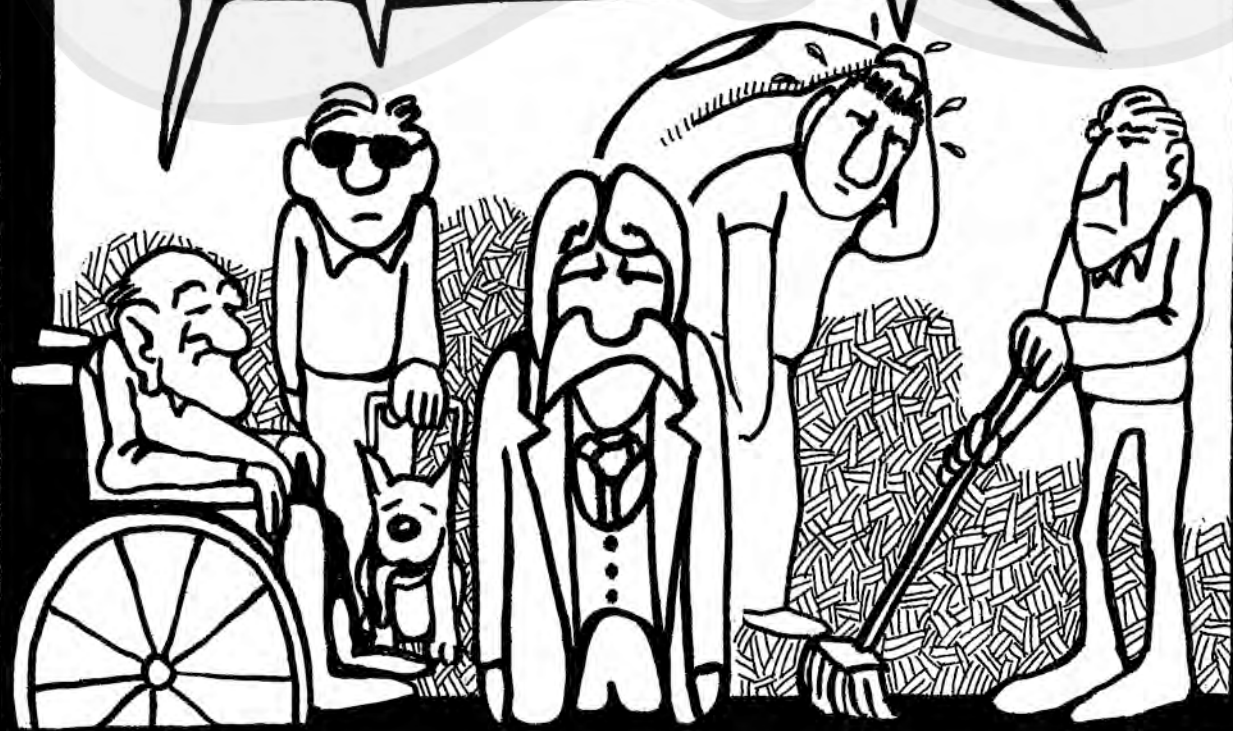
PROBLEMS! PROBLEMS!
PROBLEMS! AN UNCERTAIN
JOB, AND AN UNCERTAIN
FUTURE, IN AN UNCERTAIN
CITY.



WHY ME?



GEE! THAT'S TOO BAD, FELLA.



I'VE BEEN SO BUSY TRYING TO GET SETTLED IN MY NEW JOB, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO UNPACK ANYTHING, YET.



LET'S SEE...MY TOOTHBRUSH GOES HERE....



THERE, NOW. I'M ALL UNPACKED.



SITTING IN THIS BARE APARTMENT MAKES ME KIND OF HOMESICK.



I MISS MY GIRLFRIEND.

I HOPE I DIDN'T BREAK HER HEART TOO MUCH WHEN I LEFT.



MEANWHILE...

RALPH?
RALPH WHO?



I REMEMBER NANCY
AND I DATED FOR
QUITE AWHILE.

I DIDN'T WANT HER TO
GET TOO ATTACHED TO
ME, THOUGH, BECAUSE I
KNEW I WOULD LEAVE
TOWN AFTER
GRADUATION.

**RALPH!
RALPH!
DON'T
LEAVE!**

I'M
JUST GOING
TO THE STORE.

I KNOW. WILL
YOU CASH IN
THESE BOTTLES
FOR ME?



ALTHOUGH NANCY IS FAR AWAY, MY HEART WILL ALWAYS BE WITH HER.



BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY WE DIDN'T HAVE OUR SHARE OF ARGUMENTS, THOUGH.



TAKE THAT, YA LILY-LIVERED FUR-FACE!

DRY UP, YA BOWL LEGGED RUNT!



COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M NOT SURE THAT I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY, YET.

