



WORDS AND PICTURES IN COMBINATION MAY NOT BE MY DEFINITION OF COMICS, BUT THE COMBINATION HAS HAD TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE ON ITS GROWTH.

com-ics (kom'iks)n. plural form, used with a singular. Juxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberate sequence, intended to convey an idea and/or to produce a response in the reader.

2. Superheroes, costumes, and villains who walk the world in recent years.



A HUGE RANGE OF HUMAN EXPERIENCES CAN BE PORTRAYED IN COMICS THROUGH EITHER WORDS OR PICTURES.



AS A RESULT -- AND DESPITE ITS MANY OTHER POTENTIAL USES -- COMICS HAVE BECOME FIRMLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE ART OF STORYTELLING.



AND INDEED, WORDS AND PICTURES HAVE GREAT POWERS TO TELL STORIES WHEN CREATORS FULLY EXPLOIT THEM BOTH.

ROMANCE
HORROR
DADA
SURREALISM

BLANK VERSE
HISTORICAL FICTION

EPIC
FOLK TALES


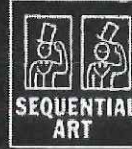
POETRY
EROTICA

SOCIAL ALLEGORY
MYSTERY

ADAPTATIONS
RELIGIOUS TOPICS

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS
SATIRE

BIOGRAPHY
SEQUENTIAL ART

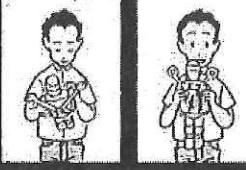



AND SO FAR, WE'VE ONLY SEEN THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG!



AS CHILDREN, WE "SHOW AND TELL" INTERCHANGEABLY, WORDS AND IMAGES COMBINING TO TRANSMIT A CONNECTED SERIES OF IDEAS.

IT'S GOT ONE OF THESE THINGS

THE DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH WORDS AND PICTURES CAN COMBINE IN COMICS IS VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED.



BUT LET'S TRY TO BREAK IT DOWN INTO SOME DISTINCT CATEGORIES.



FIRST, WE HAVE THE **WORD SPECIFIC** COMBINATIONS, WHERE PICTURES **ILLUSTRATE**, BUT DON'T SIGNIFICANTLY ADD TO A LARGELY COMPLETE TEXT.



WE STUMBLED BACK TO THE APARTMENT SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN, **VOMITING** EVERY 20 YARDS.



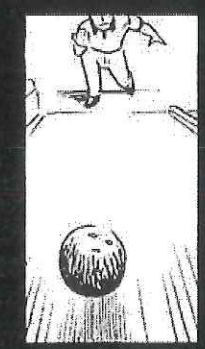
JUDY GAVE ME HER KEYS AND SMILED.



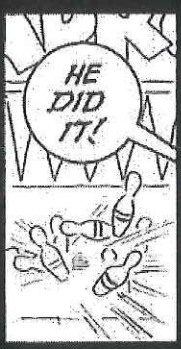
THE **UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION** WAS ADOPTED BY THE **SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS** IN 1787 AND PUT INTO EFFECT IN 1789.



THEN THERE ARE **PICTURE SPECIFIC** COMBINATIONS WHERE WORDS DO LITTLE MORE THAN ADD A **SOUNDTRACK** TO A VISUALLY TOLD SEQUENCE.



HE DID IT!



AND, OF COURSE, **DUO-SPECIFIC** PANELS IN WHICH BOTH WORDS AND PICTURES SEND ESSENTIALLY THE **SAME MESSAGE**.



GRIM-FACED, GEORGE LIFTED HIS LOLLYPOP.



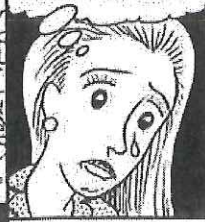
BUT THE CAPTAIN'S MIGHTY BLOW MISSES ITS INTENDED TARGET!

BLAST! HE DODGED MY PUNCH AND I STRUCK THIS **BRICK WALL!**



HA! I DODGED YOU!

I FEEL SO SAD!



...THOUGHT AMY.

ANOTHER TYPE IS THE **ADDITIVE** COMBINATION WHERE WORDS **AMPLIFY** OR **ELABORATE** ON AN IMAGE OR **VICE VERSA**.



MY HEAD FEELS LIKE A **SMASHED PUMPKIN!**



HOW D'YA LIKE MY **NEW THREADS, BABE?**



IS THIS THE SAME **JUPITER** OF MY YOUTH?



IN **PARALLEL** COMBINATIONS, WORDS AND PICTURES SEEM TO FOLLOW VERY DIFFERENT COURSES—WITHOUT **INTERSECTING**.



"TALKED TO **BILL** YET?"

"**SALLY** DID. **WHY?**"

"THE **TEST** RESULTS CAME BACK. ALL **NEGATIVE**."

"**REALLY?** THAT'S **GREAT!**"

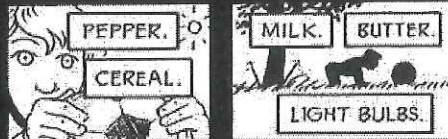
WELL...



PEPPER. CEREAL.

MILK. BUTTER.

LIGHT BULBS.



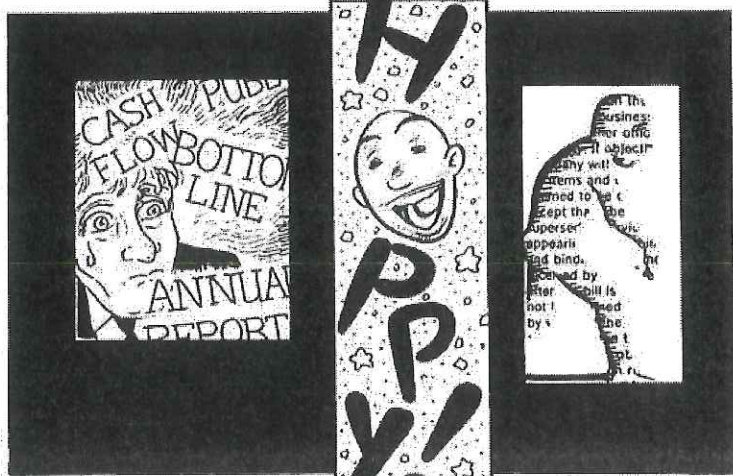
STILL ANOTHER OPTION IS THE **MONTAGE** WHERE WORDS ARE TREATED AS INTEGRAL **PARTS** OF THE PICTURE.

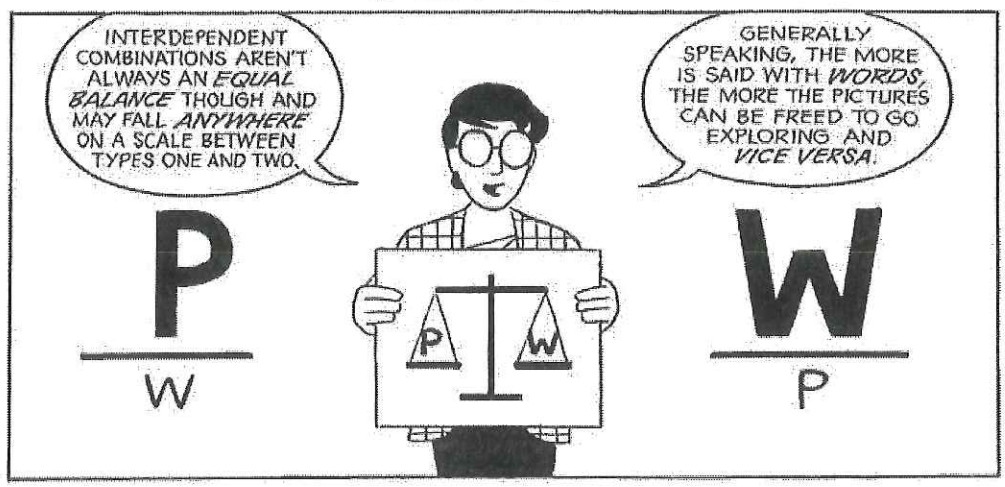


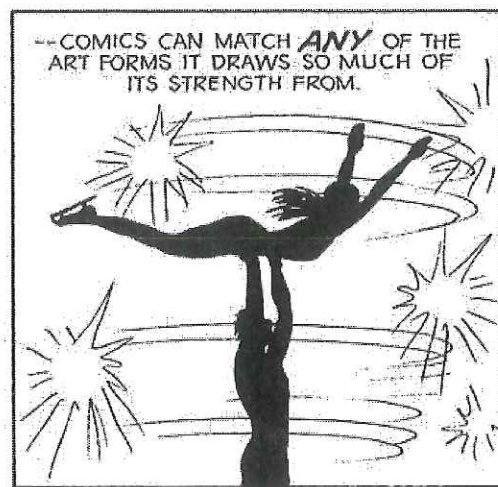
CASH FLOW PUBLISHED
BOTTOM LINE
ANNUAL REPORT

HAPPY!

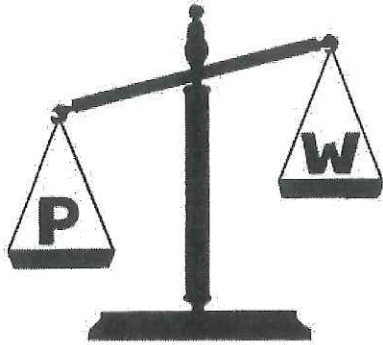
at the
business
for office
it object
any will
items and
need to be
kept the
superse
appears
and bind
covered by
after bill
not head
the
by





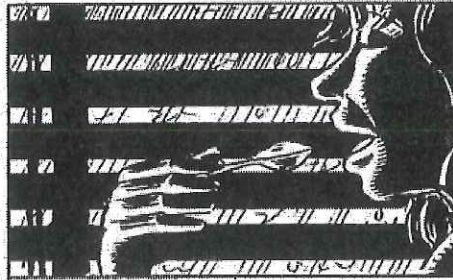
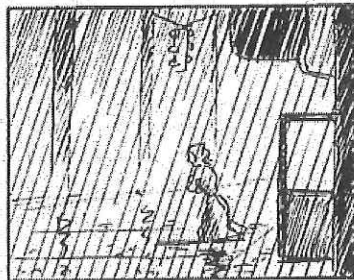
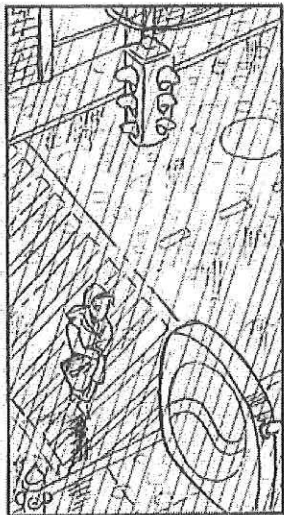


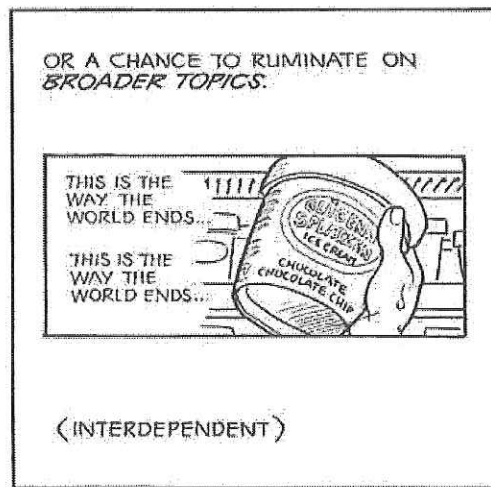
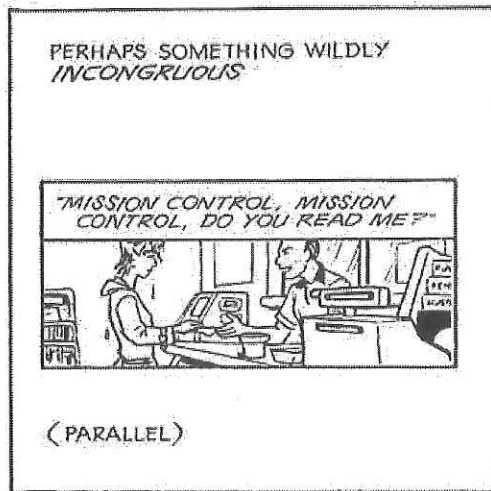
WHEN *PICTURES* CARRY THE WEIGHT OF CLARITY IN A SCENE, THEY FREE WORDS TO EXPLORE A WIDER AREA.

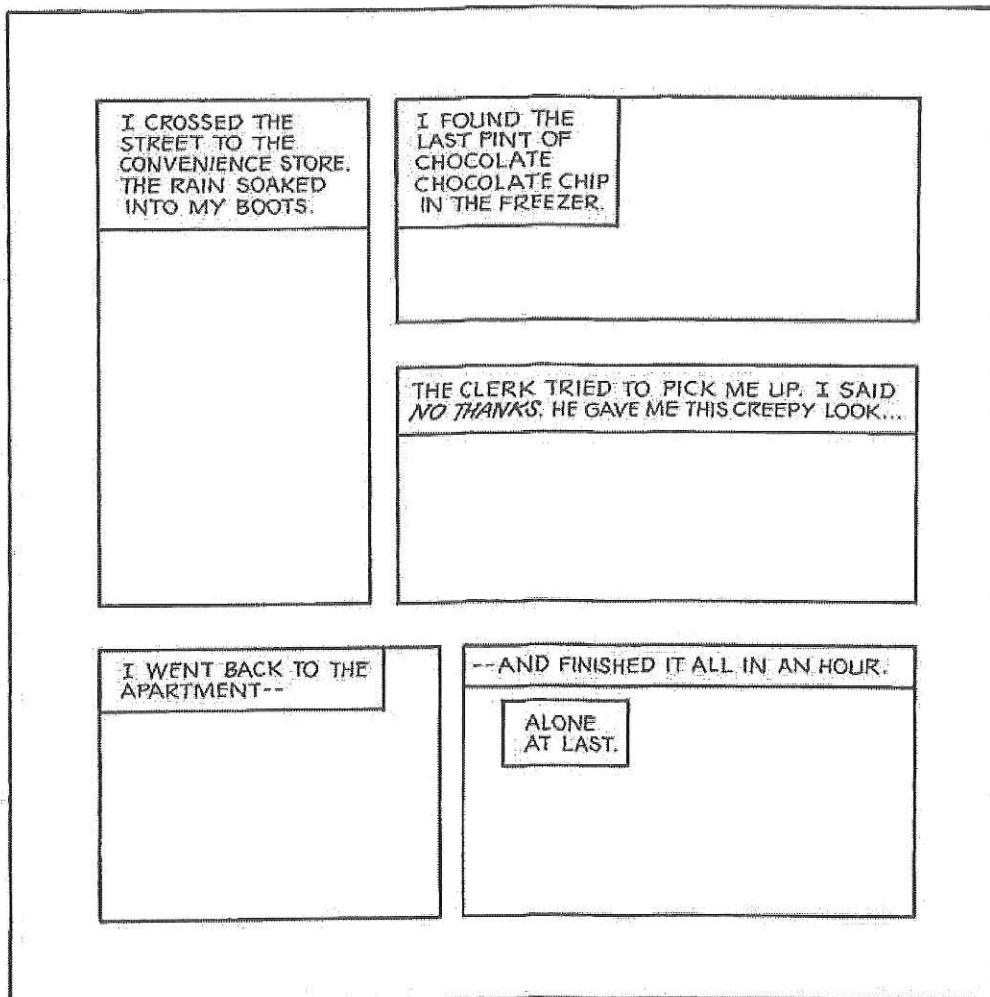
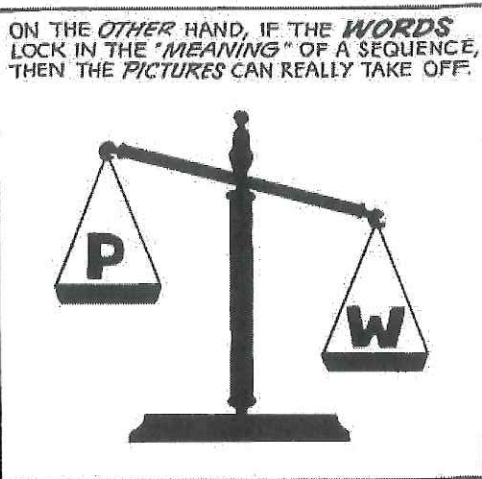


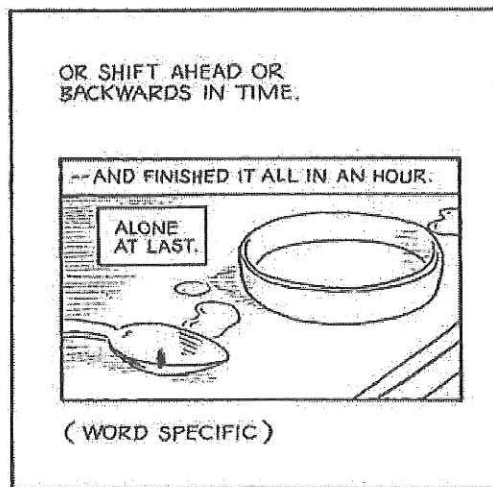
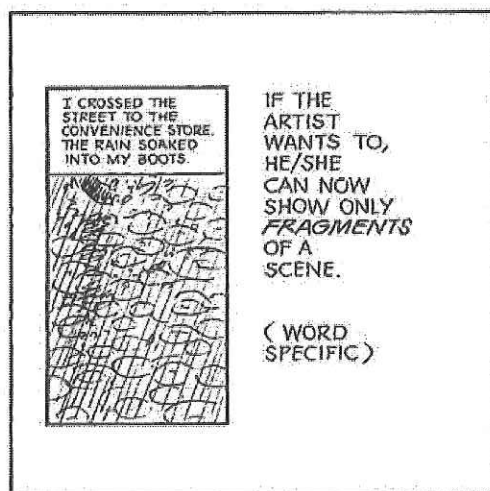
LET'S SAY I SHOW YOU A WOMAN WALKING ACROSS THE STREET IN THE RAIN, BUYING A PINT OF ICE CREAM AND EATING IT IN HER APARTMENT--

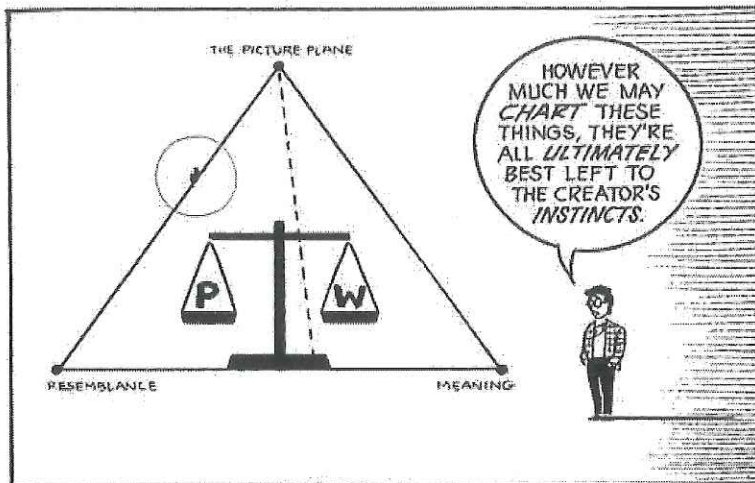
--ALL IN PICTURES.







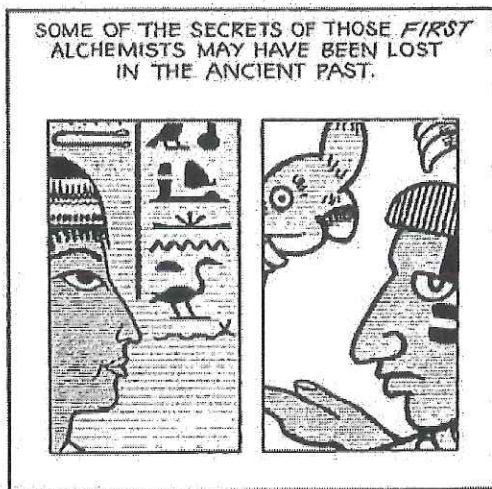




HOWEVER MUCH WE MAY CHART THESE THINGS, THEY'RE ALL ULTIMATELY BEST LEFT TO THE CREATOR'S INSTINCTS.



THE MIXING OF WORDS AND PICTURES IS MORE ALCHEMY THAN SCIENCE.



SOME OF THE SECRETS OF THOSE FIRST ALCHEMISTS MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE ANCIENT PAST.



BUT WE HAVE SOME POWERFUL MAGIC RIGHT HERE IN THE 20TH CENTURY, TOO!

THE RICHNESS OF MODERN LANGUAGE IS AN IRREPLACEABLE COMMODITY!

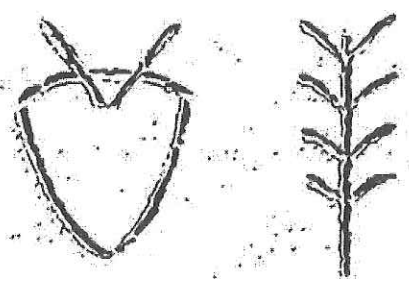


THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE MAKING COMICS, AND IN MANY WAYS I FEEL VERY LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN BORN WHEN I WAS.



STILL, I DO FEEL A CERTAIN VAGUE LONGING FOR THAT TIME OVER 50 CENTURIES AGO--

-- WHEN TO TELL WAS TO SHOW--



--AND TO SHOW WAS TO TELL.