the essential Stinky

vol I

by jason w. kotecki

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Be careful when reading this material while drinking coffee or any sugary soft drink. You may experience sudden laughter, causing you to spew your beverage on your computer's keyboard and/or monitor. Not good.

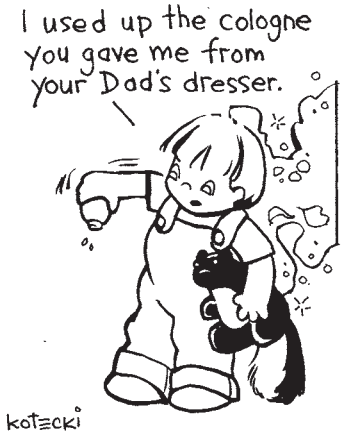
Old Spice

What a disappointment for a child to get a stuffed skunk, only to realize that it doesn't come with the "natural" scent one would expect. Enter Kim's decision to raid her father's night stand to saturate her new friend with an entire bottle of aftershave. Perhaps the fact that Stinky smells like Old Spice is hilarious only to me. Perhaps it would have been even funnier if I'd had Kim use English Leather, or some other $2 bottle of cologne I remember getting as a wee lad. (I also remember that stuff smelling slightly better than unleaded gasoline.)

The early attempts at Stinky were hesitant and varied, as I struggled to help him find his voice. I wasn't sure he'd even have a voice, actually. But once I gave him a platform, he wouldn't shut up. It didn't take long for Stinky to establish himself as quite an opinionated little skunk. A skunk that smelled of Old Spice.

Lookit what Boompa got me! My own little skunk!
What's his name?

stinky!
GAK! I'll say


I used up the cologne you gave me from your Dad's dresser.
kotecki

Honey, I think you're over-doing it on the aftershave...
What?

I don't need a **real** animal for a pet. A pretend pet is just as good.

Fetch, Stinky!

Sigh.
kotecki

C'mon Stinky!

Jason and me are all ready for the Halloween Parade.

You get to go ride in my candy wagon!

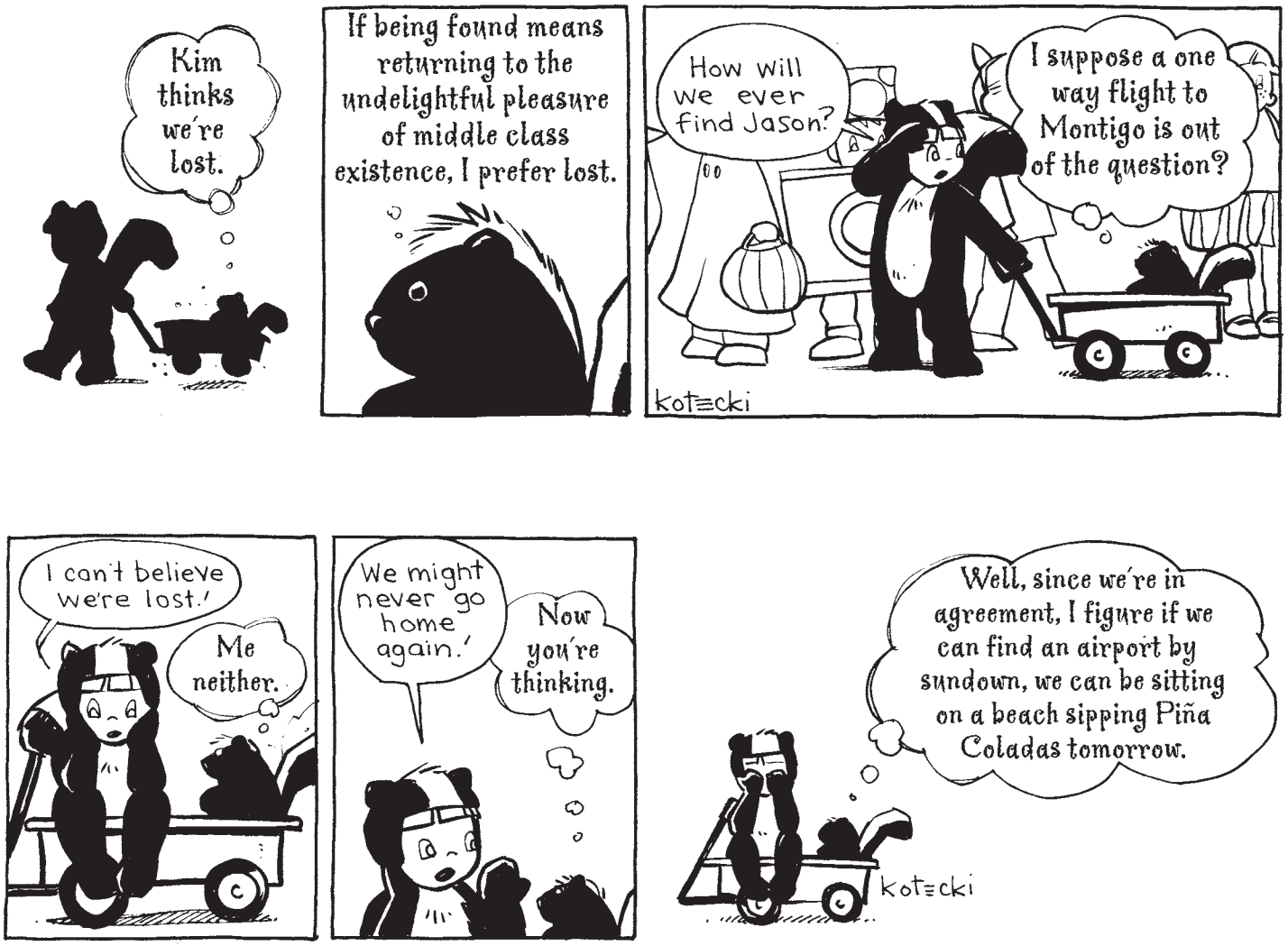
Oh joy.
kotecki

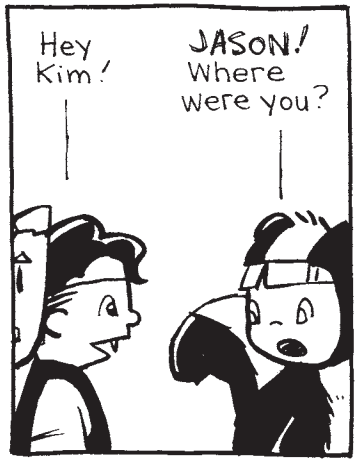
Boy, there sure are a lot of kids here at the parade, aren't there, Jason?

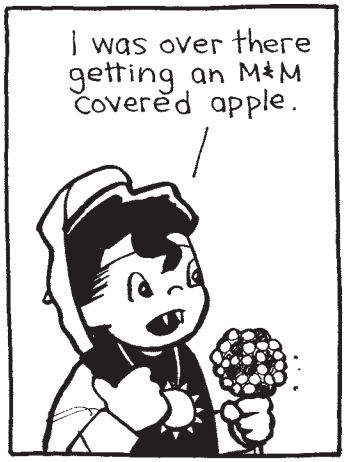
Jason?
kotecki

OH NO! Stinky, I think we're lost!

We're not lost. We're just one step closer to freedom...


Kim thinks we're lost.
If being found means returning to the undelightful pleasure of middle class existence, I prefer lost.
How will we ever find Jason?
I suppose a one way flight to Montigo is out of the question?
kotecki
I can't believe we're lost.!
Me neither.
We might never go home again.!
Now you're thinking.
Well, since we're in agreement, I figure if we can find an airport by sundown, we can be sitting on a beach sipping Piña Coladas tomorrow.
kotecki


Hey Kim!
JASON! Where were you?

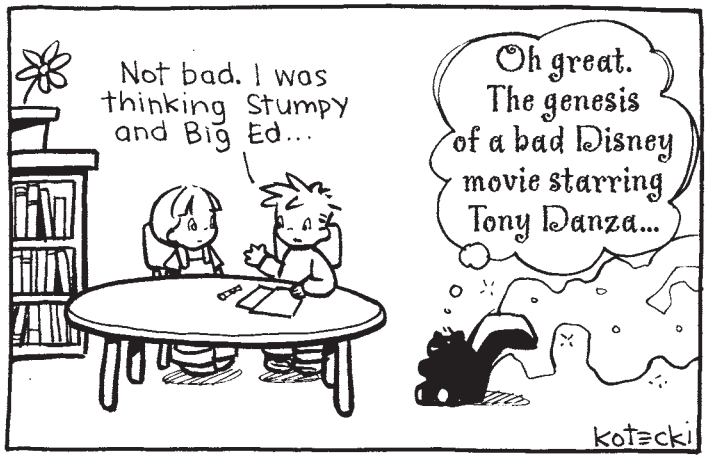

I was over there getting an M&M covered apple.

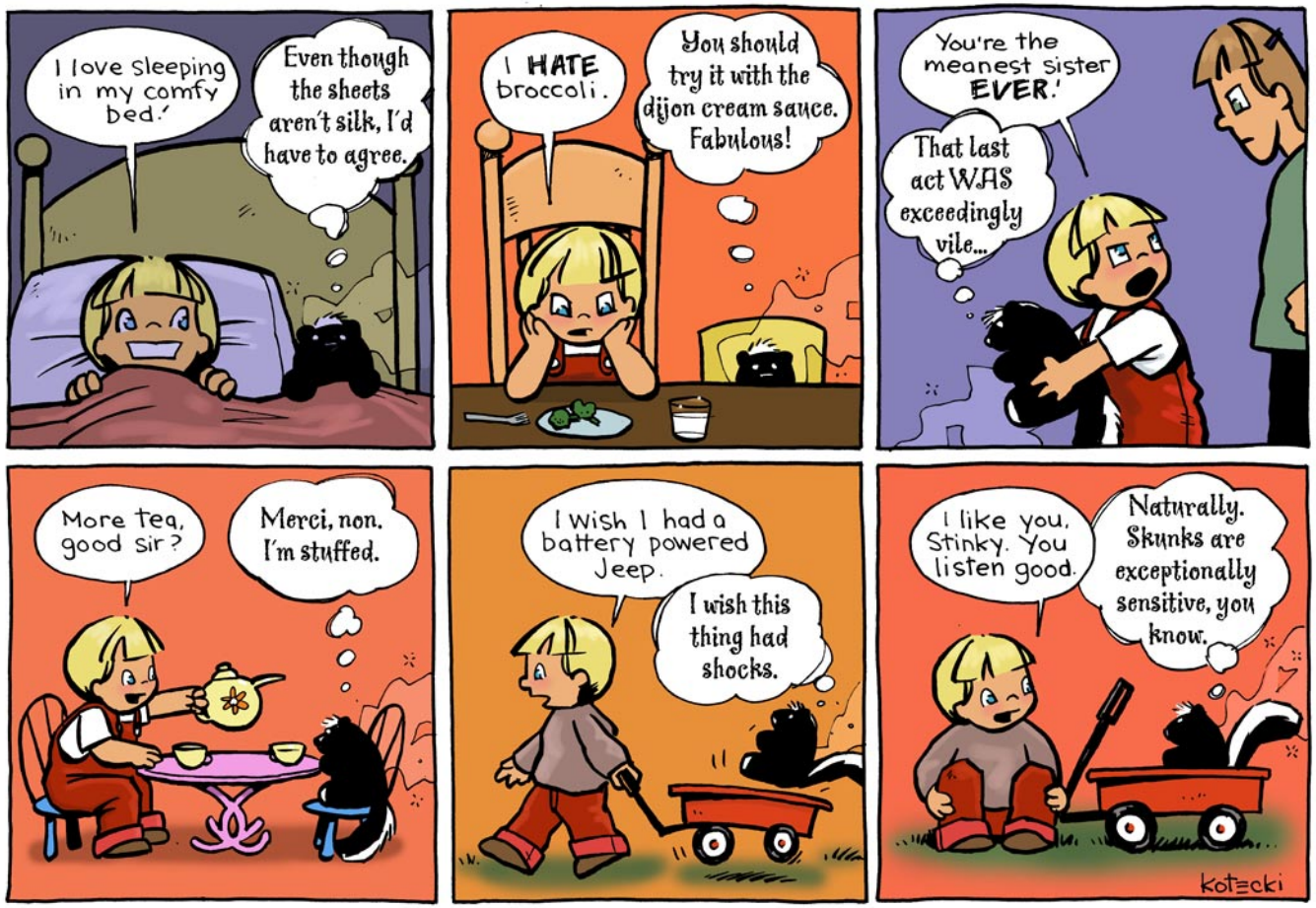
What a relief! Stinky and I thought we were lost!
Drat.
kotecki

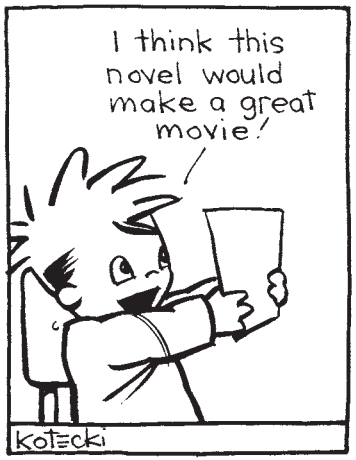
If only we had turned left at the kid in the hippo suit.

Our characters in our book need names. Any ideas?

How about Vanessa and Charles?

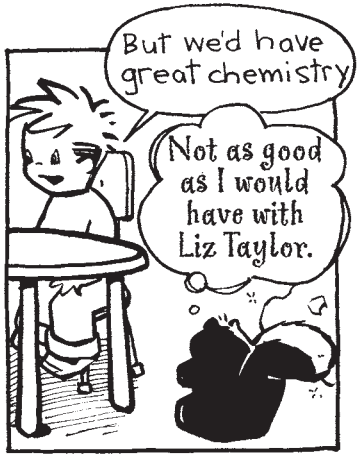

Not bad. I was thinking Stumpy and Big Ed...
Oh great. The genesis of a bad Disney movie starring Tony Danza...
kotecki


I love sleeping in my comfy bed.
Even though the sheets aren't silk, I'd have to agree.
I HATE broccoli.
You should try it with the dijon cream sauce. Fabulous!
You're the meanest sister EVER!
That last act WAS exceedingly vile...
More tea, good sir?
Merci, non. I'm stuffed.
I wish I had a battery powered Jeep.
I wish this thing had shocks.
I like you, Stinky. You listen good.
Naturally. Skunks are exceptionally sensitive, you know.
kotecki


I think this novel would make a great movie!
kotecki

Oh yeah? Who would be in it?
Me, of course. And Mia Hamm.

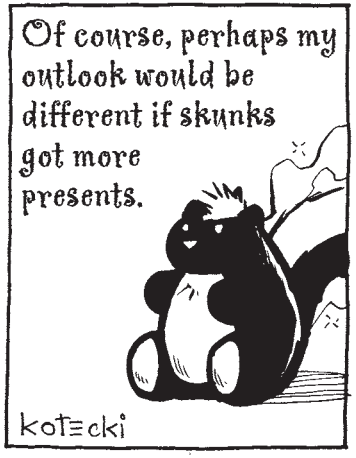
The soccer player? But you two aren't even actors!


But we'd have great chemistry
Not as good as I would have with Liz Taylor.

I loathe Christmas.

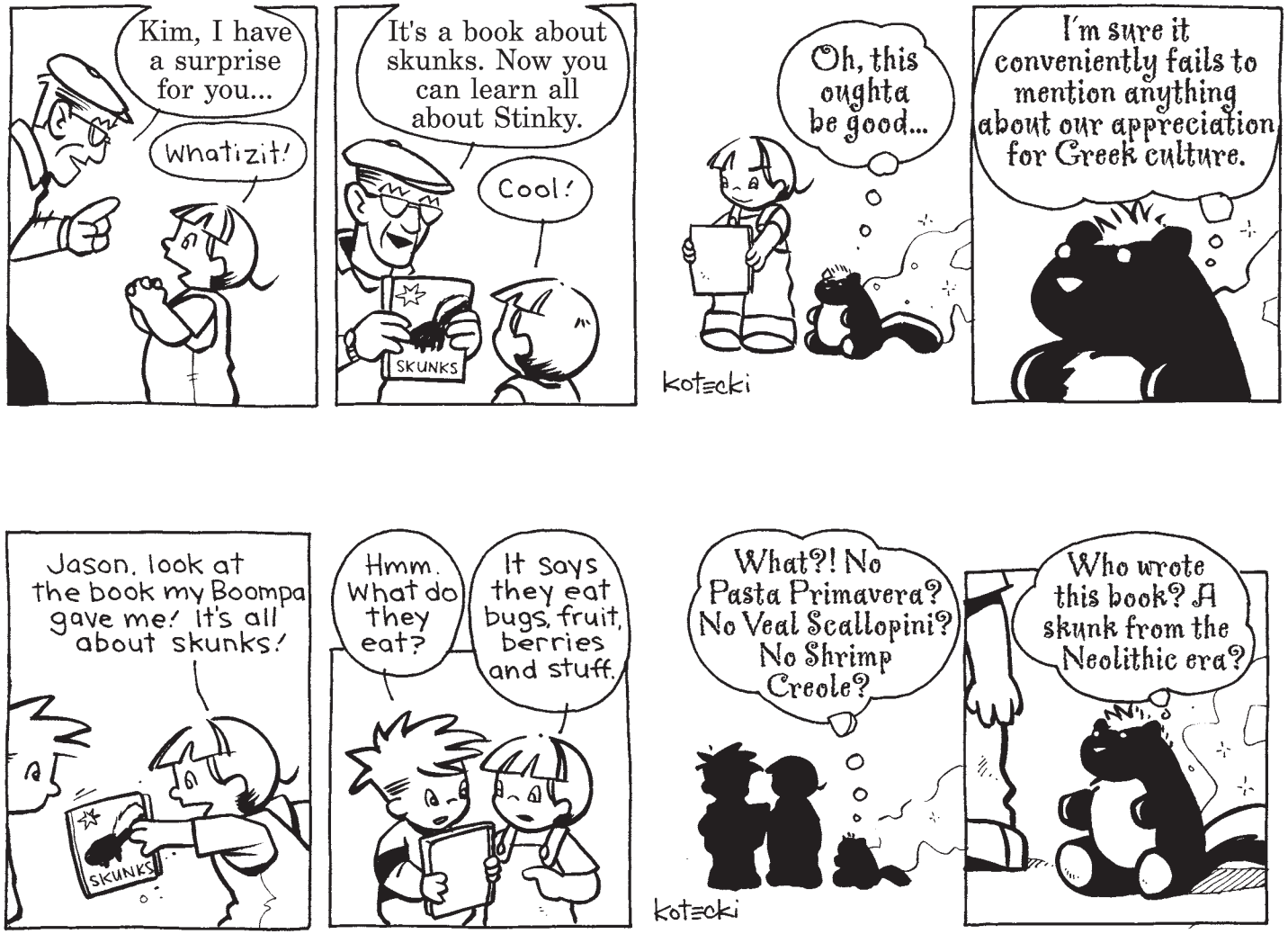
It's an over-hyped holiday designed to feed capitalism's unquenchable appetite.

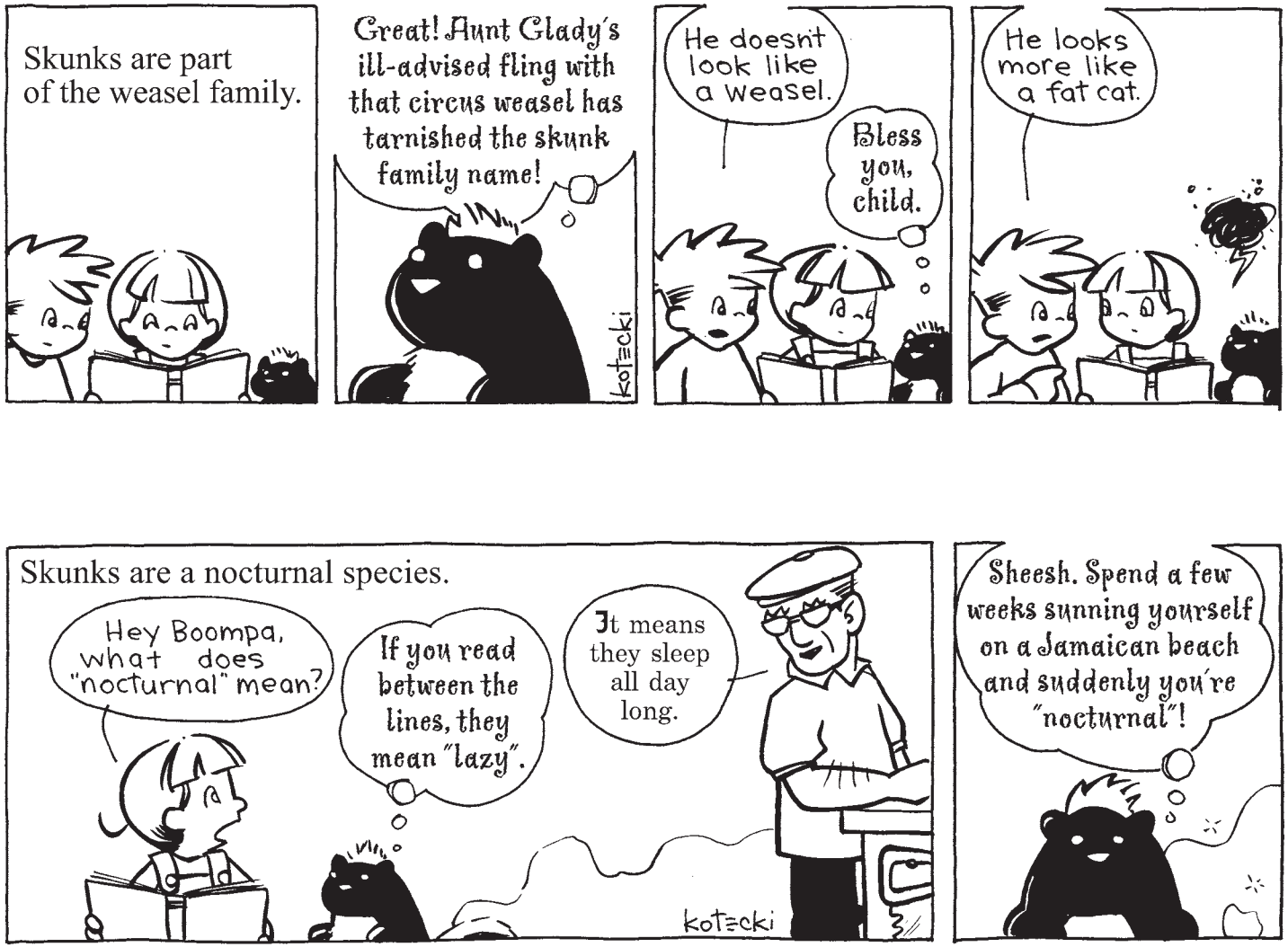
Clever marketing and pushy ad campaigns have taken the joy out of Christmas.

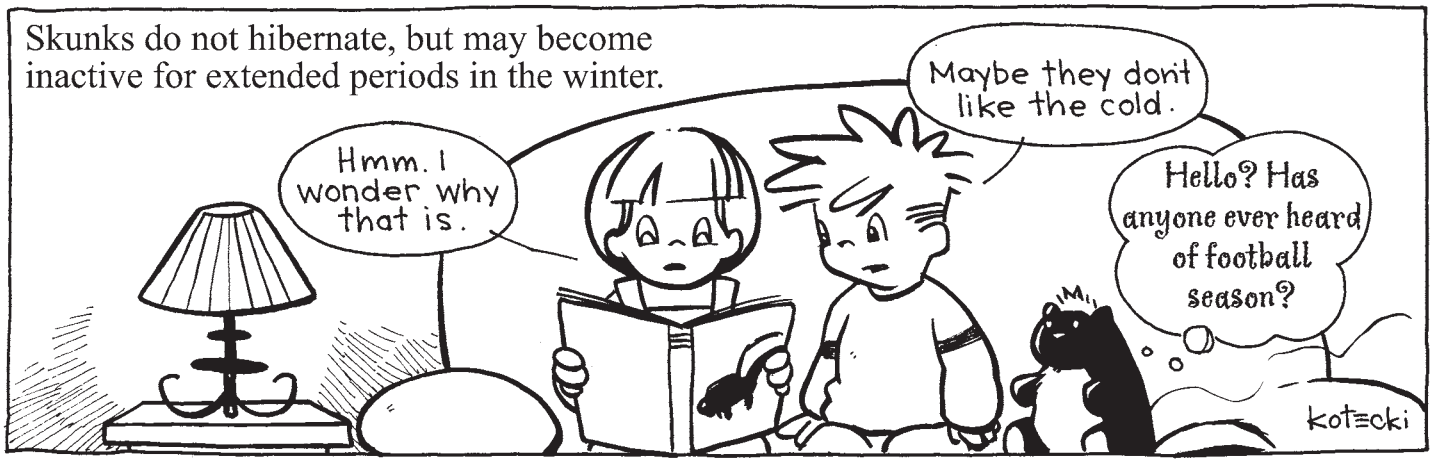

Of course, perhaps my outlook would be different if skunks got more presents.
kotecki

I hate broccoli.
I wonder if skunks ever have to eat stuff they don't like.
kotecki
Well I've never been a big fan of beetles...
But I believe most species can agree on pizza!
I don't want to do the luge. It looks scary.
Me neither. HEY! We should put Stinky on it to test it out.
Well Ok.
Um, perhaps we should discuss the fact that I'm allergic to dangerously high speeds...
WHOOO
SH!
kotecki
Oooh... That's gotta hurt.
He should've steered around that parked car!

I wonder what silver is made out of.
I wonder how many endorsements I'll get.
If I melt this down, I wonder if I could afford a weekend in Barcelona...
kotecki


Kim, I have a surprise for you...
Whatizit!
It's a book about skunks. Now you can learn all about Stinky.
Cool!
SKUNKS
Oh, this oughta be good...
I'm sure it conveniently fails to mention anything about our appreciation for Greek culture.
kotecki
Jason, look at the book my Boompa gave me! It's all about skunks!
SKUNKS
Hmm. What do they eat?
It says they eat bugs, fruit, berries and stuff.
What?! No Pasta Primavera? No Veal Scallopini? No Shrimp Creole?
Who wrote this book? A skunk from the Neolithic era?
kotecki

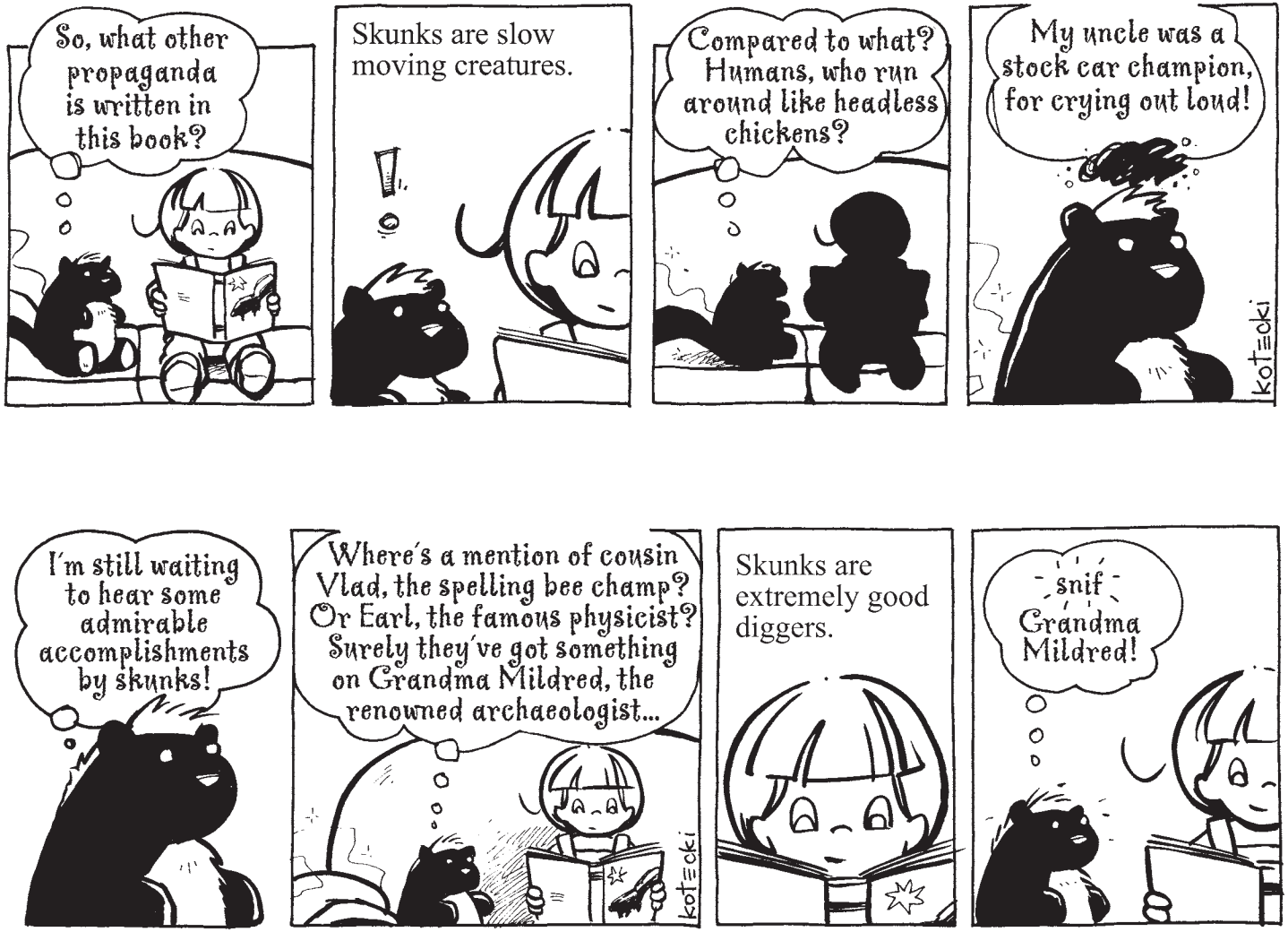

Skunks are part of the weasel family.
Great! Aunt Glady's ill-advised fling with that circus weasel has tarnished the skunk family name!
kotecki
He doesn't look like a weasel.
Bless you, child.
He looks more like a fat cat.
Skunks are a nocturnal species.
Hey Boompa, what does "nocturnal" mean?
If you read between the lines, they mean "lazy".
It means they sleep all day long.
kotecki
Sheesh. Spend a few weeks sunning yourself on a Jamaican beach and suddenly you're "nocturnal"!

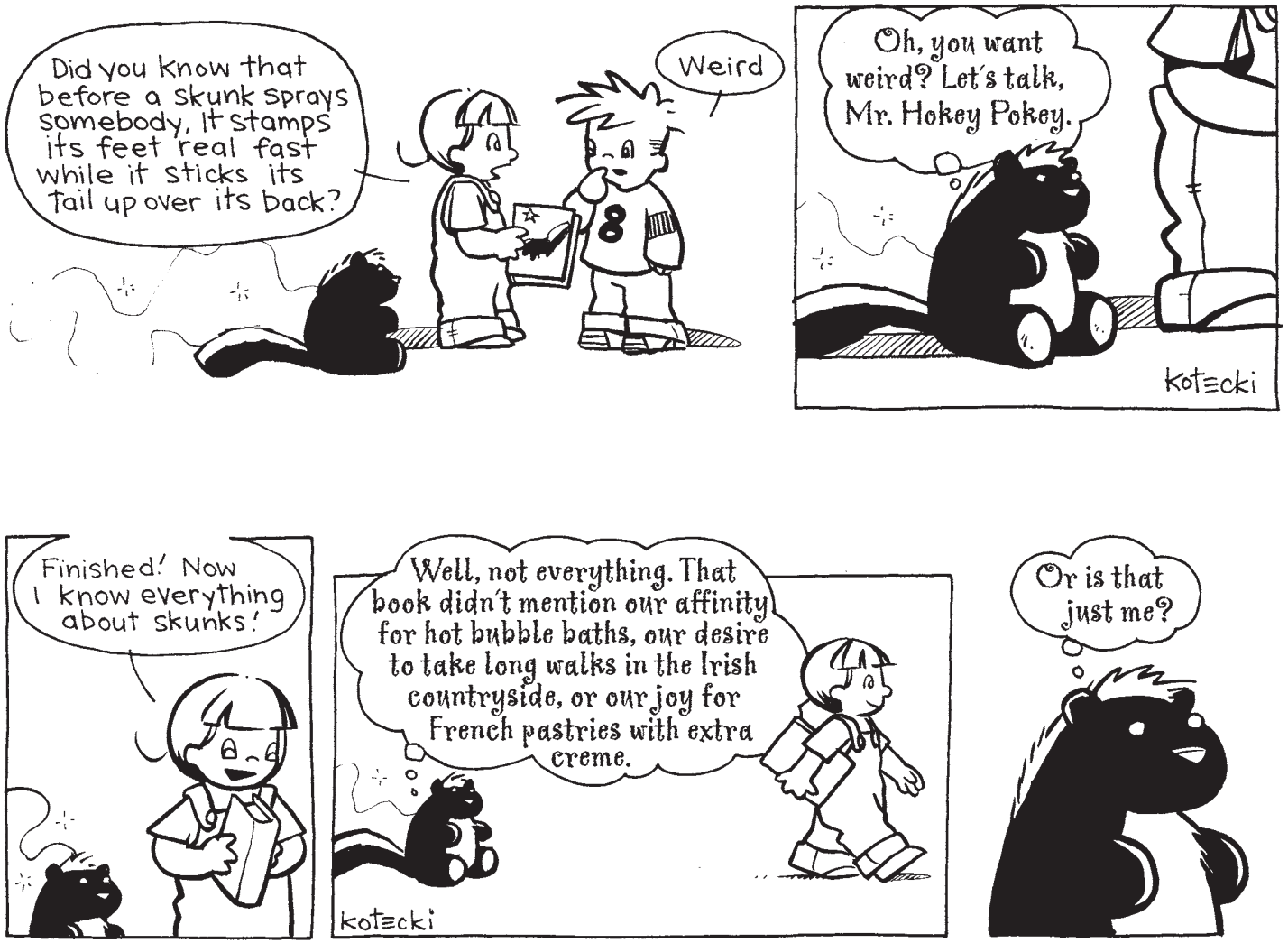

Skunks do not hibernate, but may become inactive for extended periods in the winter.
Hmm. I wonder why that is.
Maybe they don't like the cold.
Hello? Has anyone ever heard of football season?
kotecki

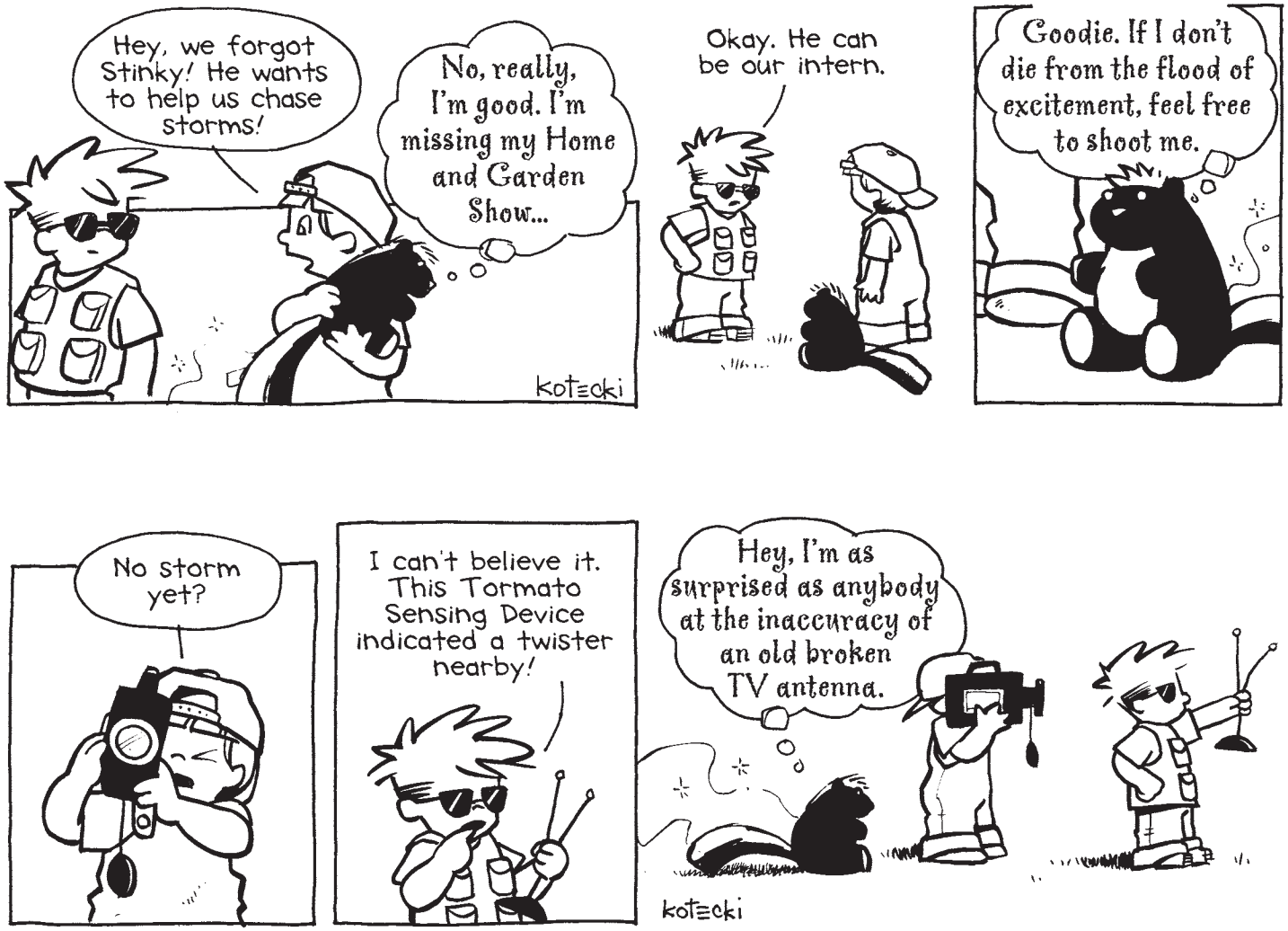
A book about skunks, huh? Does it say how those pests dig up people's lawns and gardens to look for food?

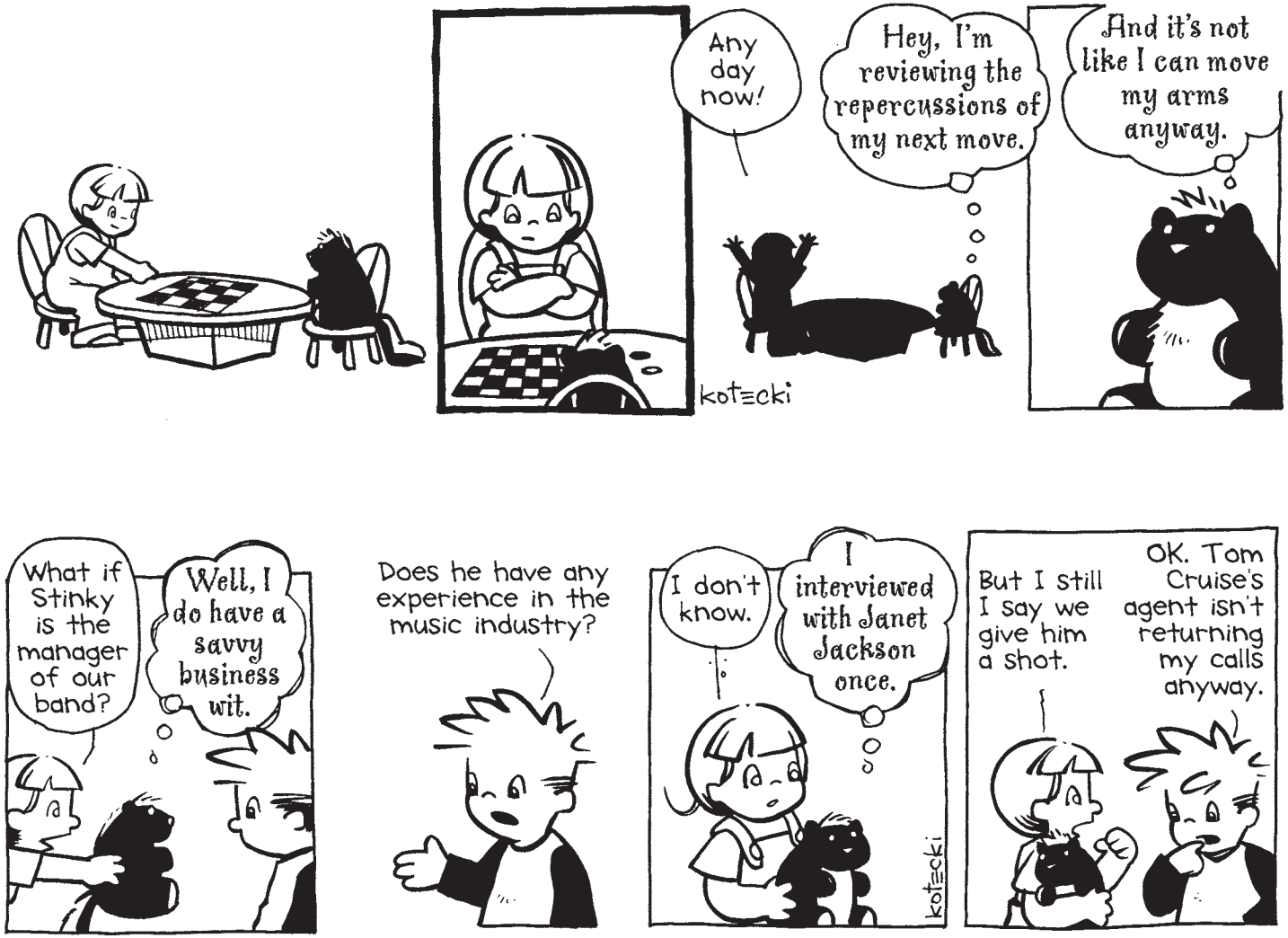
I didn't get to **that** part...
Excuse us for not having access to your highly advanced system of Chinese takeout.
kotecki

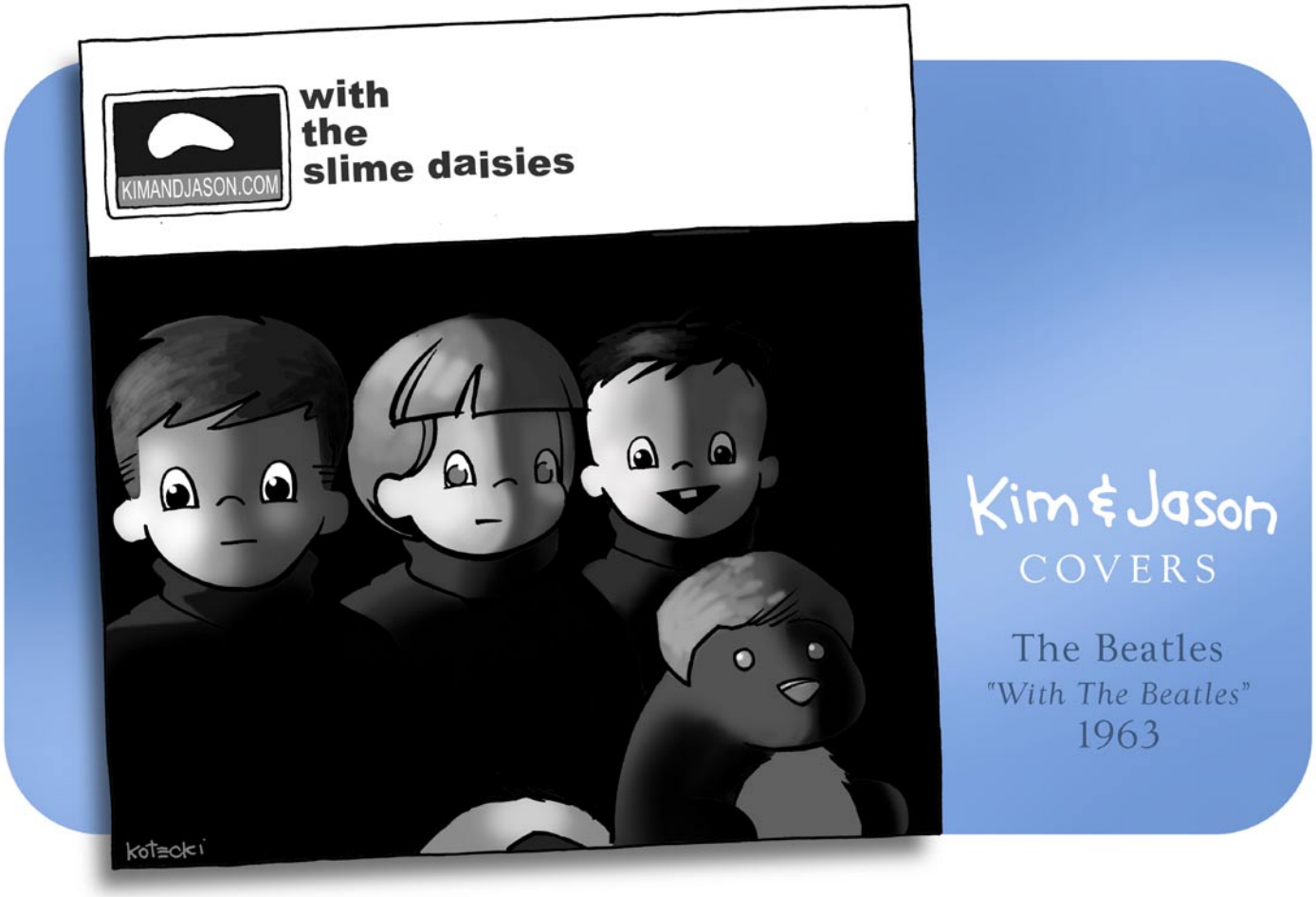
Skunks can be tricky to spot here in the Outback.
I think I spotted one, mate!
Here let ME have a lookie!
Oooh! He's beauoootiful! A real lookah!
Let's go have a closer look at this beaut!
By crocky, he's a stinkah!
Now what?
Shouldn't you jump on his back and wrestle in the mud or something?
Oh brother. How about a commercial break?
kotecki

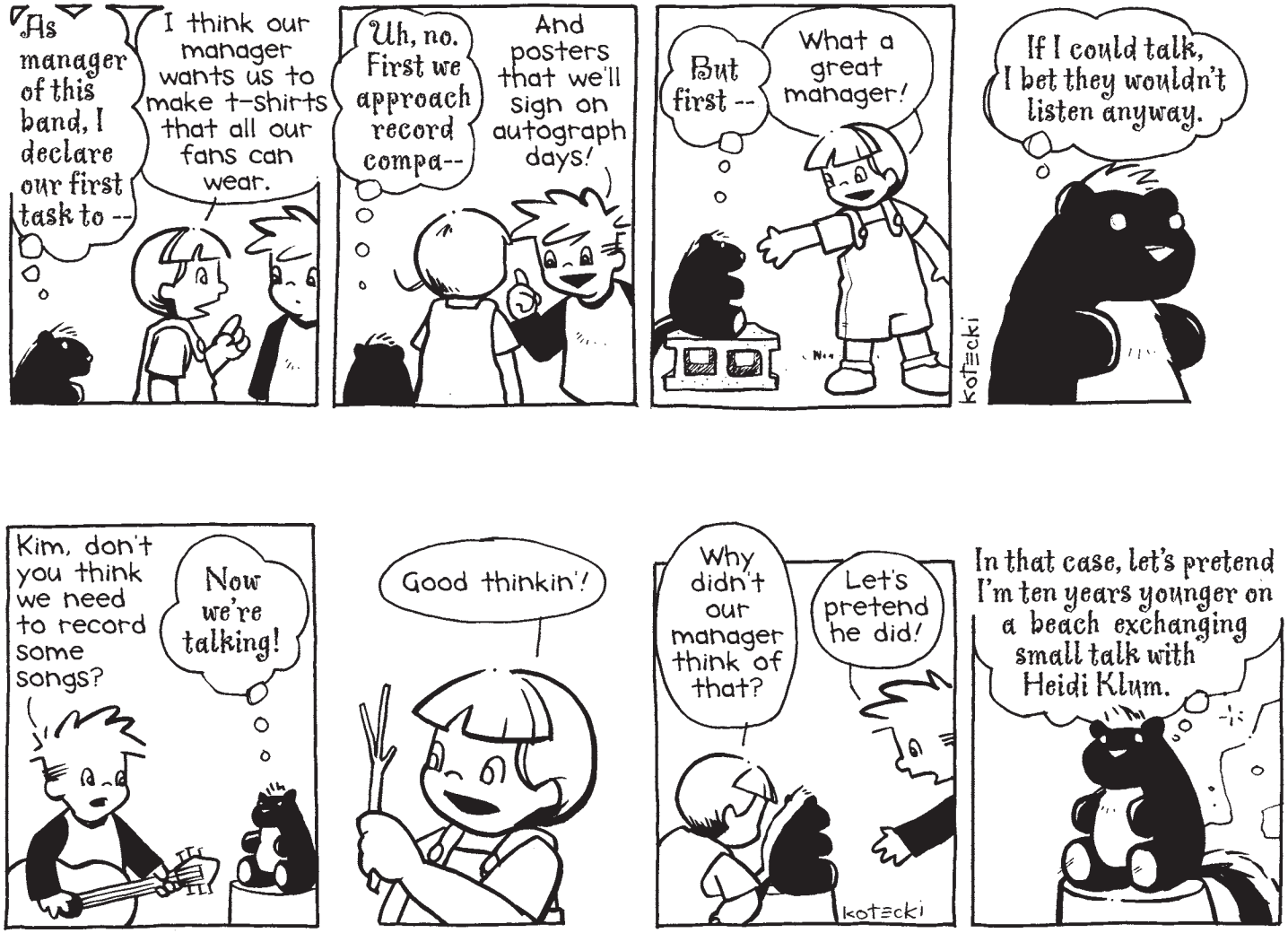

So, what other propaganda is written in this book?
Skunks are slow moving creatures.
!
Compared to what? Humans, who run around like headless chickens?
My uncle was a stock car champion, for crying out loud!
kotecki
I'm still waiting to hear some admirable accomplishments by skunks!
Where's a mention of cousin Vlad, the spelling bee champ? Or Earl, the famous physicist? Surely they've got something on Grandma Mildred, the renowned archaeologist...
kotecki
Skunks are extremely good diggers.
snif
Grandma Mildred!


Did you know that before a skunk sprays somebody, it stamps its feet real fast while it sticks its tail up over its back?
Weird
Oh, you want weird? Let's talk, Mr. Hokey Pokey.
kotecki
Finished! Now I know everything about skunks!
Well, not everything. That book didn't mention our affinity for hot bubble baths, our desire to take long walks in the Irish countryside, or our joy for French pastries with extra creme.
kotecki
Or is that just me?


Hey, we forgot Stinky! He wants to help us chase storms!
No, really, I'm good. I'm missing my Home and Garden Show...
kotecki
Okay. He can be our intern.
Goodie. If I don't die from the flood of excitement, feel free to shoot me.
No storm yet?
I can't believe it. This Tormato Sensing Device indicated a twister nearby!
Hey, I'm as surprised as anybody at the inaccuracy of an old broken TV antenna.
kotecki


Any day now!
Hey, I'm reviewing the repercussions of my next move.
And it's not like I can move my arms anyway.
kotecki
What if Stinky is the manager of our band?
Well, I do have a savvy business wit.
Does he have any experience in the music industry?
I don't know.
I interviewed with Janet Jackson once.
kotecki
But I still I say we give him a shot.
OK. Tom Cruise's agent isn't returning my calls anyway.


KIMANDJASON.COM
with
the
slime daisies
kotecki
Kim & Jason
COVERS
The Beatles
"With The Beatles"
1963


As manager of this band, I declare our first task to --
I think our manager wants us to make t-shirts that all our fans can wear.
Uh, no. First we approach record compa--
And posters that we'll sign on autograph days!
But first --
What a great manager!
kotecki
If I could talk, I bet they wouldn't listen anyway.
Kim, don't you think we need to record some songs?
Now we're talking!
Good thinkin'!
Why didn't our manager think of that?
Let's pretend he did!
kotecki
In that case, let's pretend I'm ten years younger on a beach exchanging small talk with Heidi Klum.

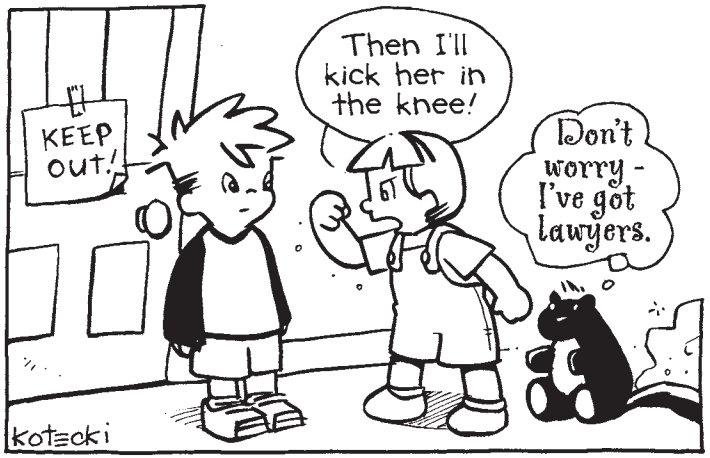
Manager Stinky says we should ask Katie to use her stereo to record our songs.
I did?

Our first record deal? Cool!
kotecki

I told you Stinky would be a great manager!
I prefer "genius".

I'm a little nervous.

This could be our big break! What if Katie doesn't let us use her tape recorder?


KEEP OUT!
Then I'll kick her in the knee!
Don't worry - I've got lawyers.
kotecki

Katie, can we use your stereo to record our number one song?

Let me think...

No. Now take your flea-ridden skunk and short little friend out of here before I get medieval on you.
kotecki

Ouch. The music business IS ruthless.

So where should we start our big tour?
I vote for the Cayman Islands.

I think we should start in our home town.

Okay, but we better make sure we hit Australia.
I want to make sure Russell Crowe can come.
kotecki

Just let ME do the talking.
Don't miss out - come see the greatest band since the rubber band!
kotecki
You'll be flabergasted, fantastigasted, amazified, and excitified!
Boompa, will you watch our band play?
Sure!
Still got it.

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