

ROADS OF DOOM

CARTOONS VERSUS MOTORWAYS



LES ROBINSON

I MADE THESE CARTOONS FOR TRANSPORT ACTIVISTS IN SYDNEY IN THE 1990S. THEIR ENERGETIC ANTI-FREEWAY, PRO-RAIL CAMPAIGNS LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE LIGHT RAIL REVOLUTION THAT'S TRANSFORMING OUR CITY 30 YEARS LATER.

I SPECIALLY WANT TO THANK GAVIN GATENBY AND THE CREW AT THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY FOR INSPIRING AND PUBLISHING THIS WORK.

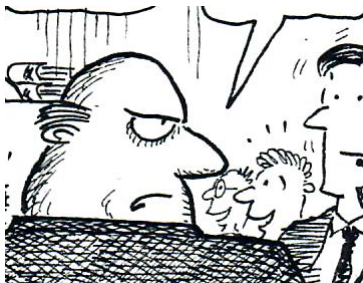
- LES ROBINSON



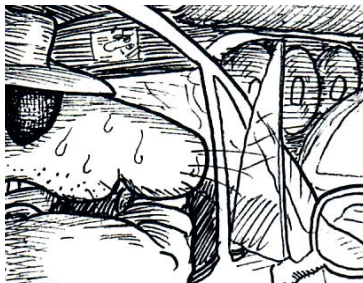
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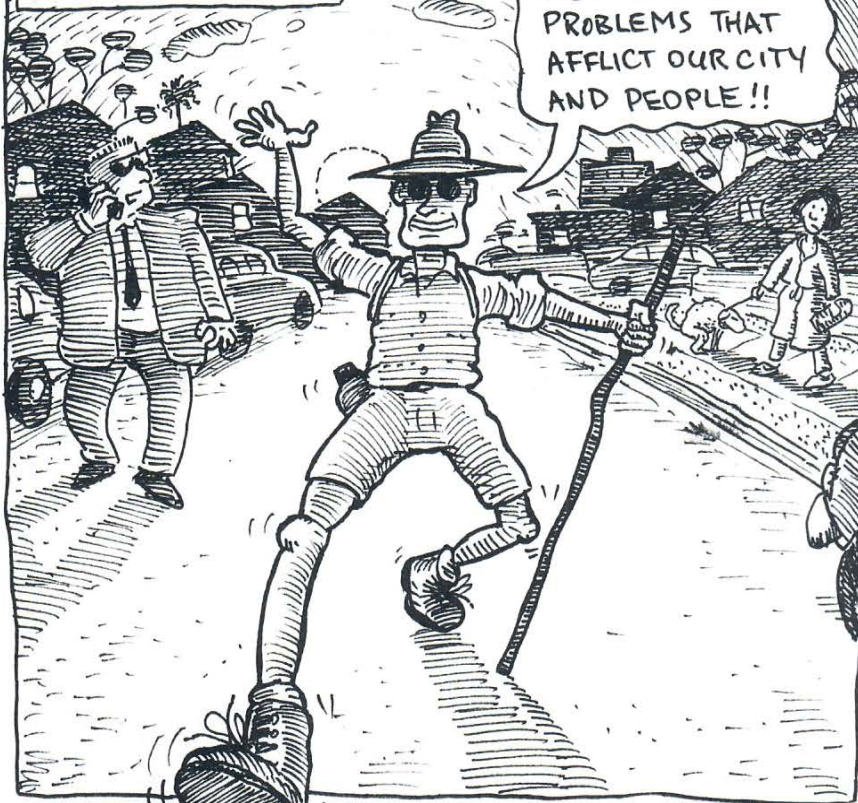
PREMIER BOB HEADS WEST!

DAWN IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS!

WEARY OF THE PETTY CUT AND PARRY OF PUBLIC LIFE, PREMIER BOB SETS OUT ON A MIND EXPANDING RAMBLE!

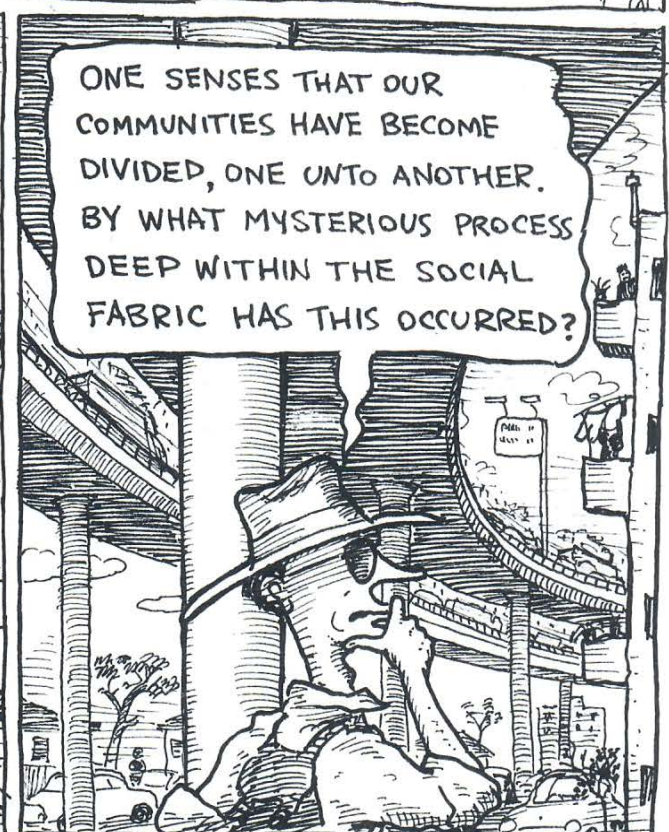
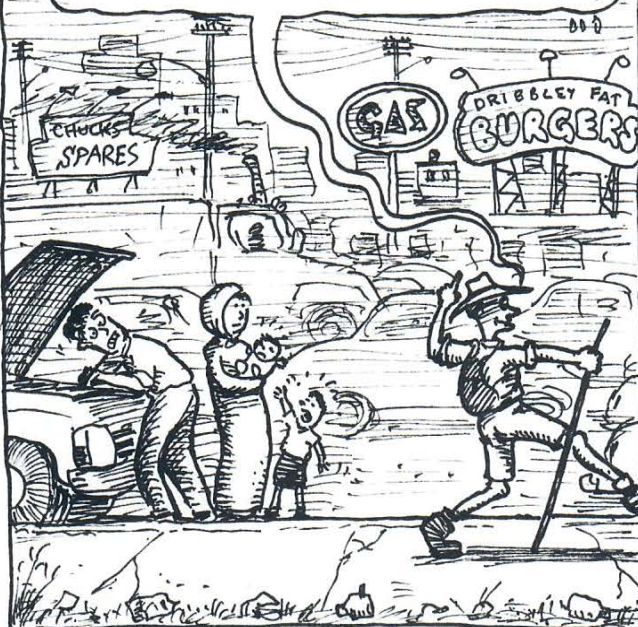
AHH! WALKING! THE PATH TO CONTEMPLATION AND INSPIRATION... WHEN THE MIND IS FREE TO RANGE OVER THE GREAT PROBLEMS THAT AFFLICT OUR CITY AND PEOPLE!!

STRIDING OUT! BREATHING RHYTHMICALLY! AS THE LUNGS FILL, THE MIND FOCUSES ON THE BIG QUESTIONS... THEY SAY THE AIR GROWS MORE POLLUTED! HOW DID THIS BLIGHT BEFALL OUR FAIR CITY?

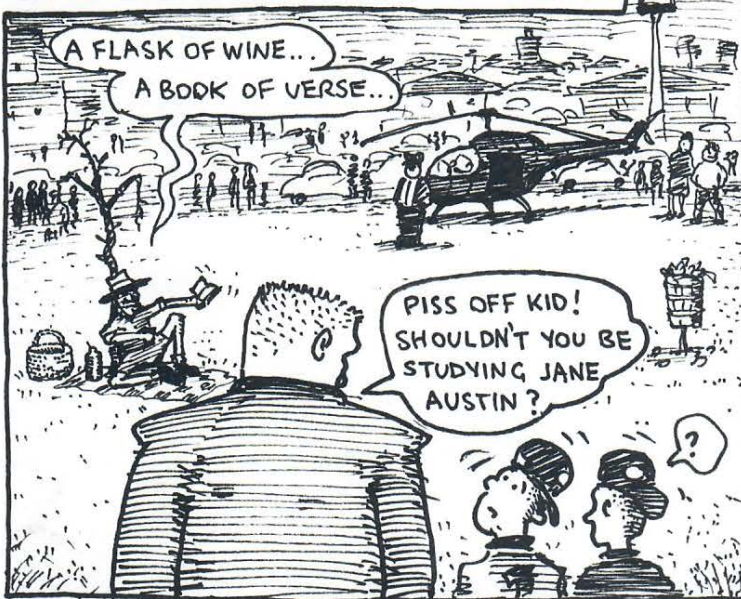


WHY DO THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR POORER?... COULD WE BE, AS HORACE OPINED "JUST STATISTICS...BORN TO CONSUME"?

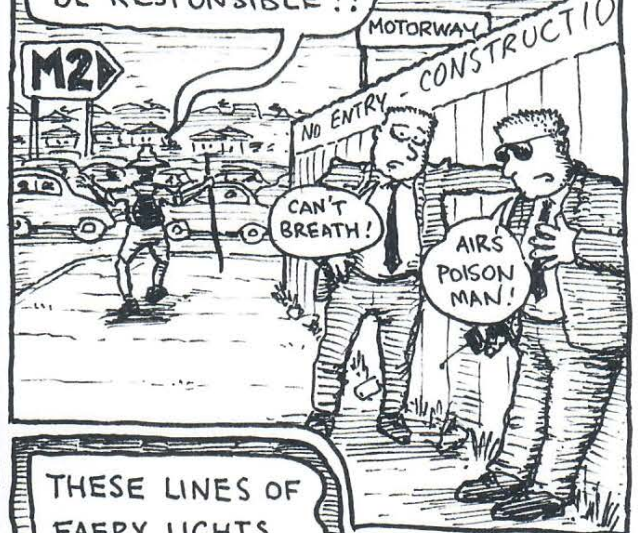
ONE SENSES THAT OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE BECOME DIVIDED, ONE UNTO ANOTHER. BY WHAT MYSTERIOUS PROCESS DEEP WITHIN THE SOCIAL FABRIC HAS THIS OCCURRED?



BOB PAUSES FOR SUSTENANCE...



THEY SAY OUR CITY SPREADS LIKE A CANCER ON THE FACE OF OUR FAIR LAND, CONSUMING THE FORESTS AND FIELDS THAT NOURISH IT. WHAT MYSTERIOUS AGENT OR SUBTLE VIRUS COULD BE RESPONSIBLE!?

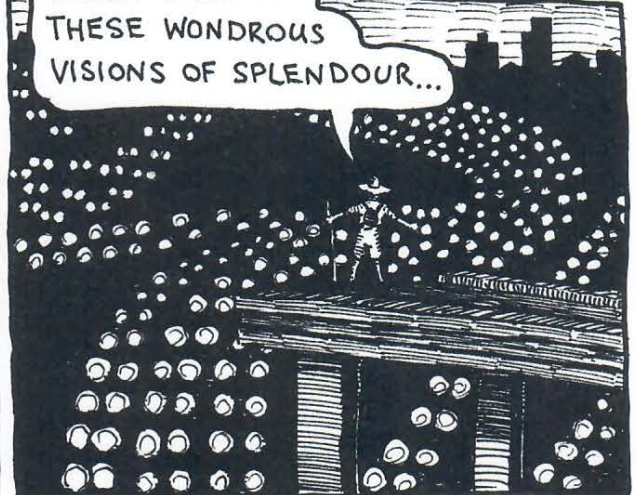


LABOR'S NOBLE VISION! A CLEVER COUNTRY! A PEOPLE STEEPED IN WISDOM! A GREEN NATION AT THE FORE-FRONT OF TECHNOLOGY! WE MUST FIND THE MONEY TO BRING THIS DREAM TO REALITY! BUT WHERE?

M5
EAST
\$520M

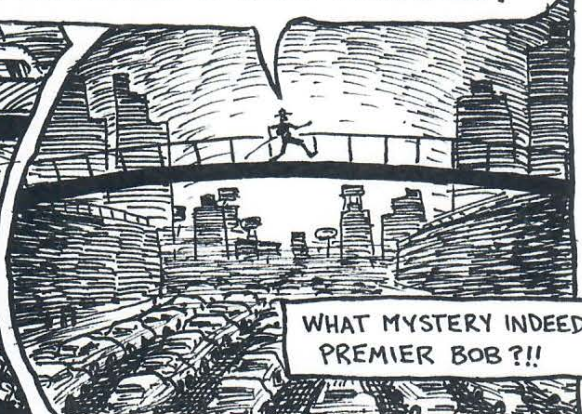
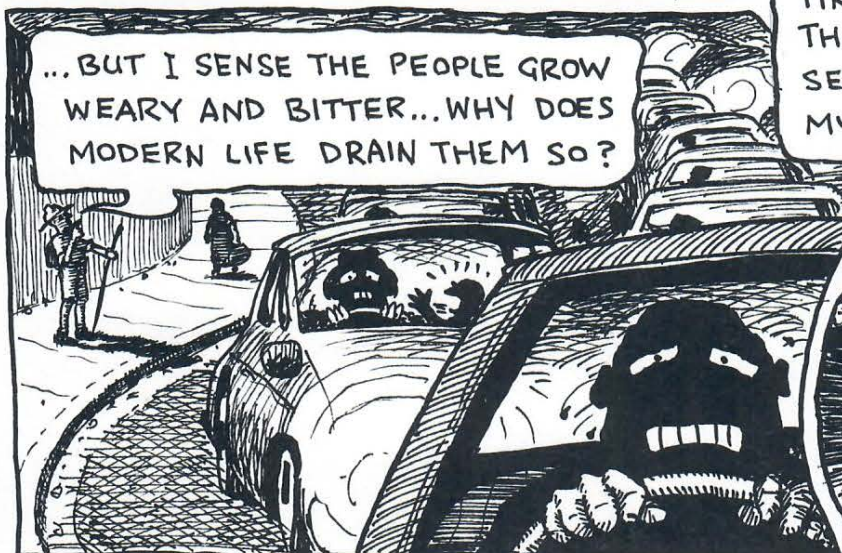


THESE LINES OF FAERY LIGHTS... THESE WONDROUS VISIONS OF SPLENDOUR...



MY BODY GROWS PLEASANTLY TIRED... I TURN FOR HOME. BUT THE MIND FOCUSSES POWERFULLY SEEKING THE KEY TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERIES I HAVE PONDERED!

... BUT I SENSE THE PEOPLE GROW WEARY AND BITTER... WHY DOES MODERN LIFE DRAIN THEM SO?



WHAT MYSTERY INDEED PREMIER BOB?!!



HI POSSUMS! EVER WONDER HOW THE REALLY BIG DECISIONS GET MADE? WELL, COME WITH ME AND WE'LL HAVE A PEAK BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MIGHTY

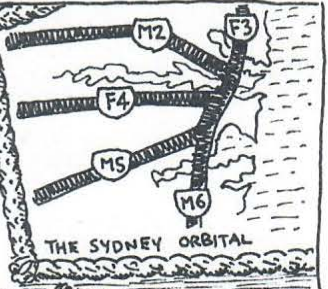
SHIP OF STATE!

BUT FIRST...IN A BUNKER DEEP BENEATH ELIZABETH STREET....

GOVERNMENTS COME...GOVERNMENTS GO...
BUT ALWAYS THE PLAN HAS REMAINED...
MINISTERS COME...MINISTERS GO...
BUT ALWAYS THE PLAN HAS TRIUMPHED!

ALL HAIL
THE PLAN!

ALL HAIL
THE
ORBITAL!!



THE SYDNEY ORBITAL

MEANWHILE...IN MACQUARIE STREET...THE INTELLECTUAL POWERHOUSE OF GOVERNMENT...

THE PEOPLE WANTED
CLEAN AIR!

...SO I MADE A SPEECH
ON CLEAN AIR!

THEN THEY WANTED
A LIVEABLE CITY!

SO I MADE
A SPEECH
ON THAT!

AND STILL
THEY WERE
NOT SATISFIED!

THEN THEY WANTED
NO TOLLS!!

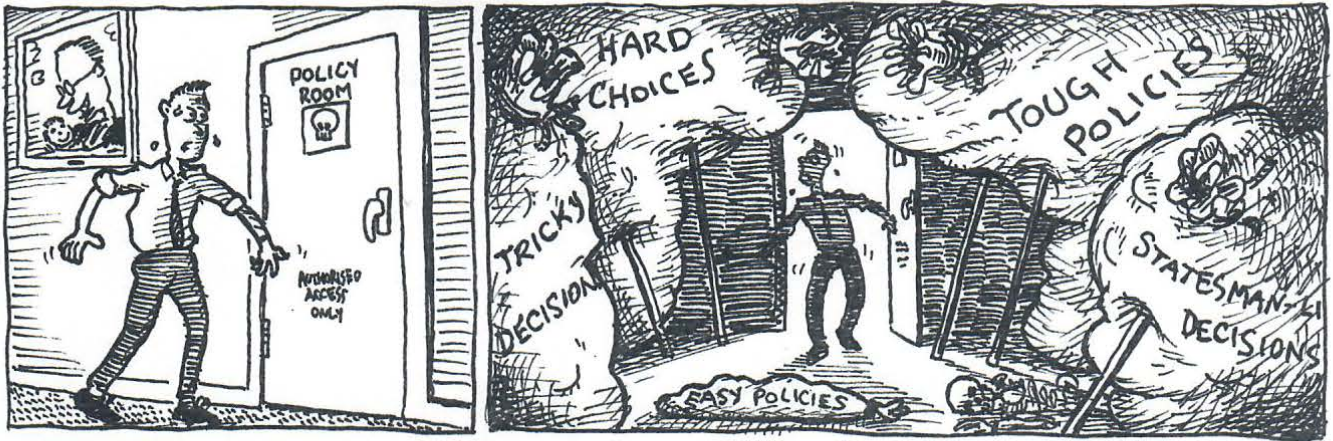
SO I GAVE THEM
NO TOLLS!

...NOW THEY
WANT A
TUNNEL!

OH MY
LEADER...
THE POLLS
HAVE DIPPED
0.01%!

AHHHHHGGCH!
WHY DO THEY HATE
ME SO!!

QUICKLY FLAK...BRING FORTH
THE BAG OF EASY POLICIES!



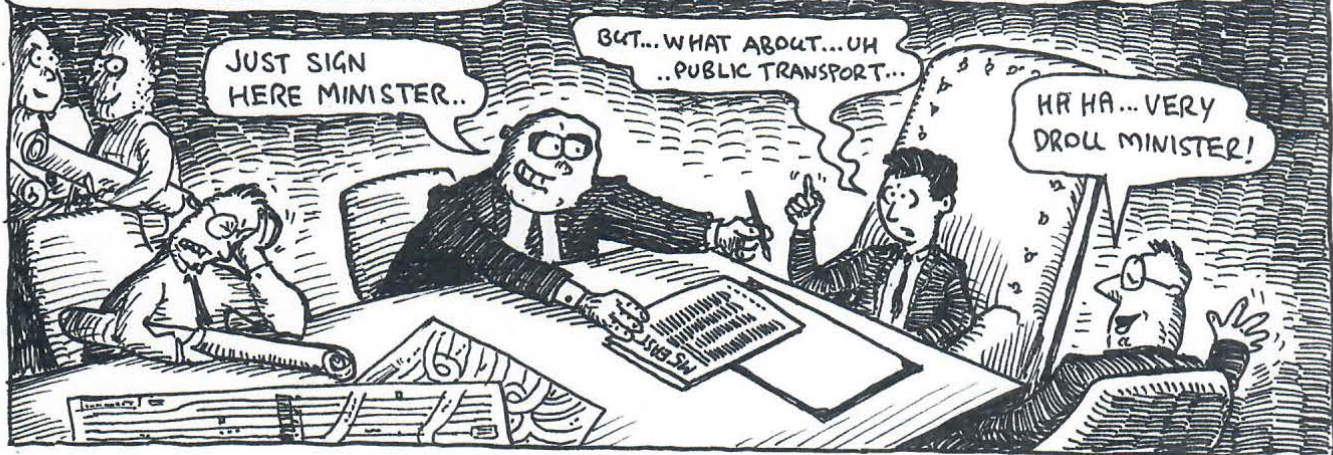
MEANWHILE ... IN THE RTA'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION...
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS 'PUBLIC RELATIONS'...)



WHILE ... DOWNSTAIRS, IN TRAFFIC ENGINEERING...



AND... IN THE NEW MINISTER'S OFFICE, YOUNG CARL SCULLY COMES TO GRIPS WITH HIS DEMANDING NEW PORTFOLIO...



MEANWHILE... BACK IN THE BUNKER...

GOOD MORNING GENTLEMEN! THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE FINAL PHASE OF OUR STRATEGY..

THIS IS OUR PLAN... AND WE THINK IT'S PRETTY SMART...

FIRST...WE HIT THEM WITH THE EASTERN DISTRIBUTOR. WE LET OUR ENGINEERS HAVE THEIR HEADS ON THIS ONE SO IT'S...AH-HEM... FRANKLY RATHER OFFENSIVE... THE YUPPIES ARE SCREAMING ABOUT THE IMPACT ON THE ART GALLERY...



IS THIS WISE?

IT'S TACTICAL SIR... THE MEDIA ARE DISTRACTED FROM THE REST OF THE ROUTE.

AND NOW THE SMART PART IS...

WE LAUNCH THE M5 EAST AT THE SAME TIME... THE MEDIA CAN'T HANDLE TWO ROADS AT ONCE...SO IT GETS LOST IN THE FINE PRINT!

EXCELLENT!

THEN...WHEN THE TWO ROADS COME ON LINE, ABOUT 60,000 CARS A DAY GET DUMPED RIGHT HERE...

ROCKDALE WILL BE SWAMPED IN TRAFFIC!

YES SIR, IT'LL BE A DISASTER!

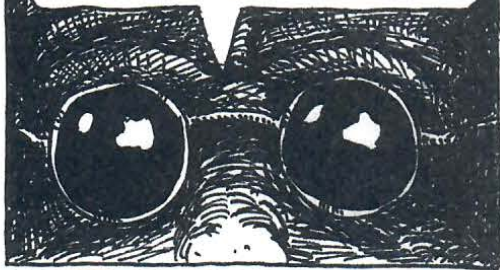
THEY'LL BEG US TO BUILD THE M6!

I'D SAY THEY'LL COME ON THEIR KNEES SIR...

MONEY WILL BE NO OBJECT!



AND THE PLAN WILL BE COMPLETE... THE ORBITAL DREAM OF OUR FOUNDERS WILL BE FULFILLED!



ALL HAIL THE ORBITAL!



HI POSSUMS! BEFORE WE CONTINUE... HERE'S A LITTLE LESSON IN THE LOGIC OF ROAD POLICY IN NSW!



THIS, OBVIOUSLY, IS AN ORBITAL ROAD SYSTEM, DESIGNED TO ROUTE TRAFFIC AROUND CONGESTED INNER SUBURBS...



THIS HOWEVER... IS THE RTA'S ORBITAL ROAD SYSTEM FOR SYDNEY... CLEARLY DESIGNED TO GRIDLOCK THE INNER SUBURBS!



FINALLY... LET'S SEE WHAT OUR FEARLESS REGULATORS AND PLANNERS ARE UP TO...

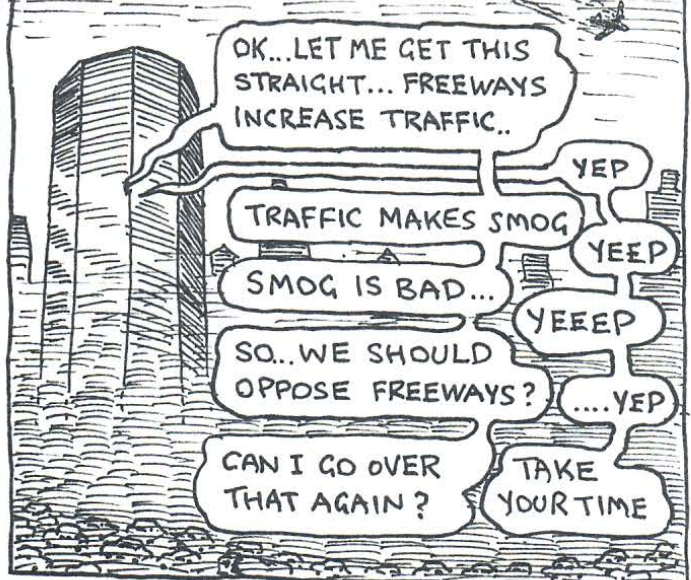
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT...



THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING...



WHILE... AT THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY, THE AWFUL TRUTH SLOWLY EMERGES...



THANK GOD THE STATE IS IN SUCH WISE, FIRM HANDS!

THE LAST THING WE NEED IS ARBITRARY DECISION-MAKING IN THE INTERESTS OF CORPORATE FINANCIERS AND FACELESS ENGINEERS!

WE ELECT LABOR GOVERNMENTS TO STAMP OUT THAT SORT OF THING!!

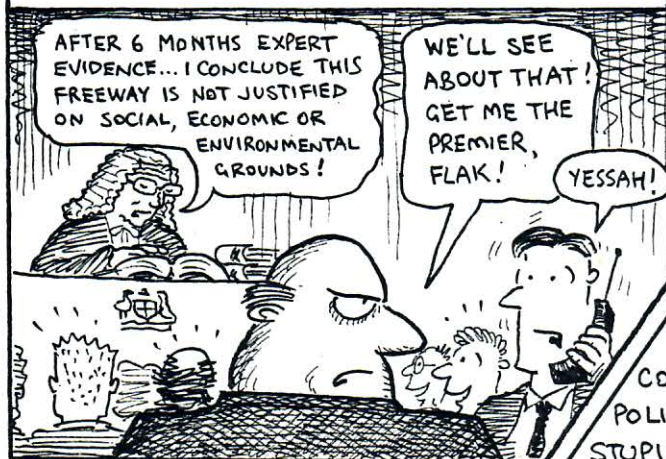


Believe it or not!



WHEN YOU SEE HOW POWER IS ABUSED IN SOME COUNTRIES..IT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN!

IN SOME COUNTRIES MASSIVE PROJECTS ARE ALLOWED TO GO AHEAD EVEN AFTER OFFICIAL INQUIRIES HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE UNJUSTIFIED OR MISCONCEIVED!



IN SOME COUNTRIES MAJOR BANKS LEND MONEY FOR PROJECTS WHICH DAMAGE THE HEALTH OF MILLIONS AND MAKE CITIES UNLIVEABLE!



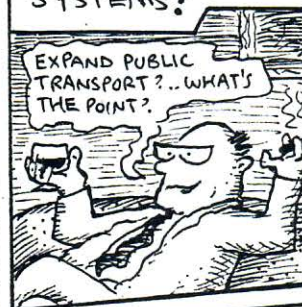
IN SOME COUNTRIES THE EGOS OF ENGINEERS ARE PANDERED TO NO MATTER WHAT THE COST TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST!



IN SOME COUNTRIES POLITICIANS ARE SO STUPID, UNINTERESTED OR CORRUPT THAT THEY ACCEPT VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING THEY ARE TOLD BY POWERFUL BUREAUCRATS!



IN SOME COUNTRIES EX-EXECUTIVES OF OIL CORPORATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN CONTROL OF ENTIRE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS!



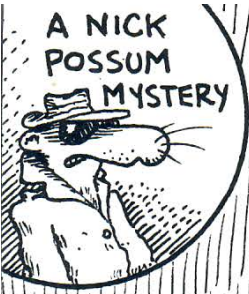
IN SOME COUNTRIES, PRIVATE TOLLWAY CONSORTIUMS WHICH MAKE BAD BUSINESS DECISIONS ARE BAILED OUT BY HUGE LOW INTEREST GOVERNMENT LOANS!



IN SOME COUNTRIES PUBLIC POLICY HAS BEEN COMPLETELY PERVERTED BY VESTED INTERESTS!

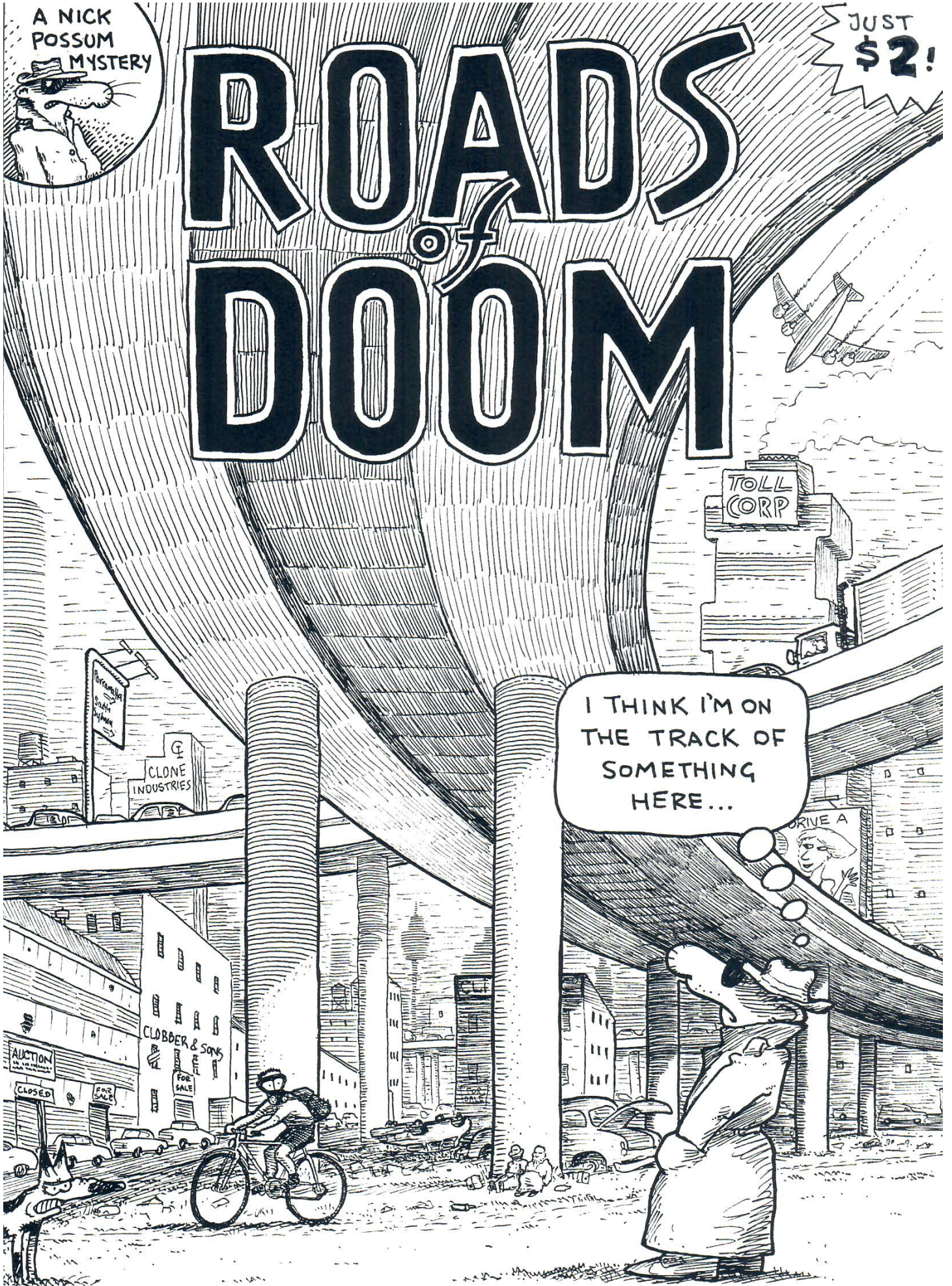


A NICK
POSSUM
MYSTERY



JUST
\$2!

ROADS of DOOM



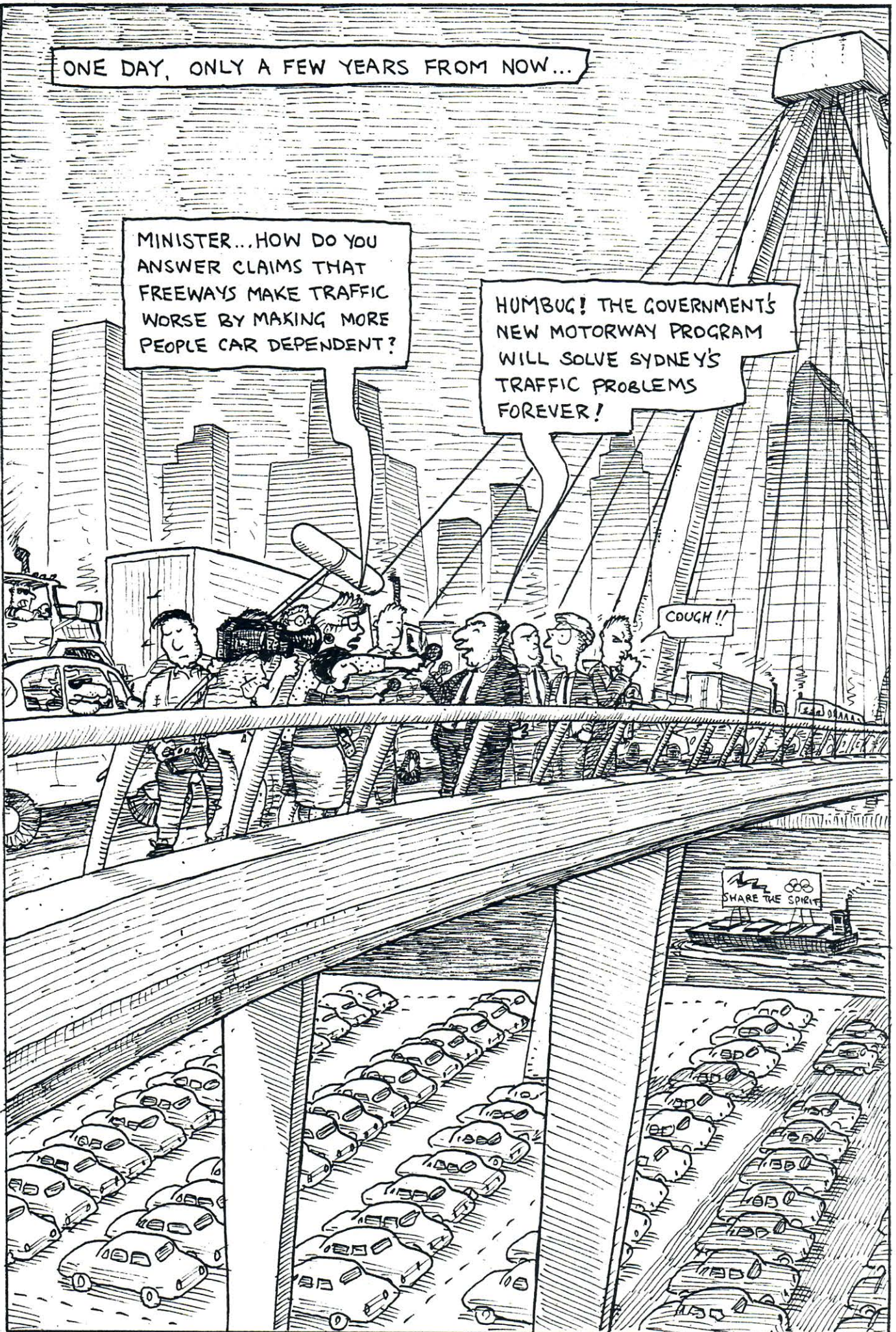
I THINK I'M ON
THE TRACK OF
SOMETHING
HERE...

ONE DAY, ONLY A FEW YEARS FROM NOW...

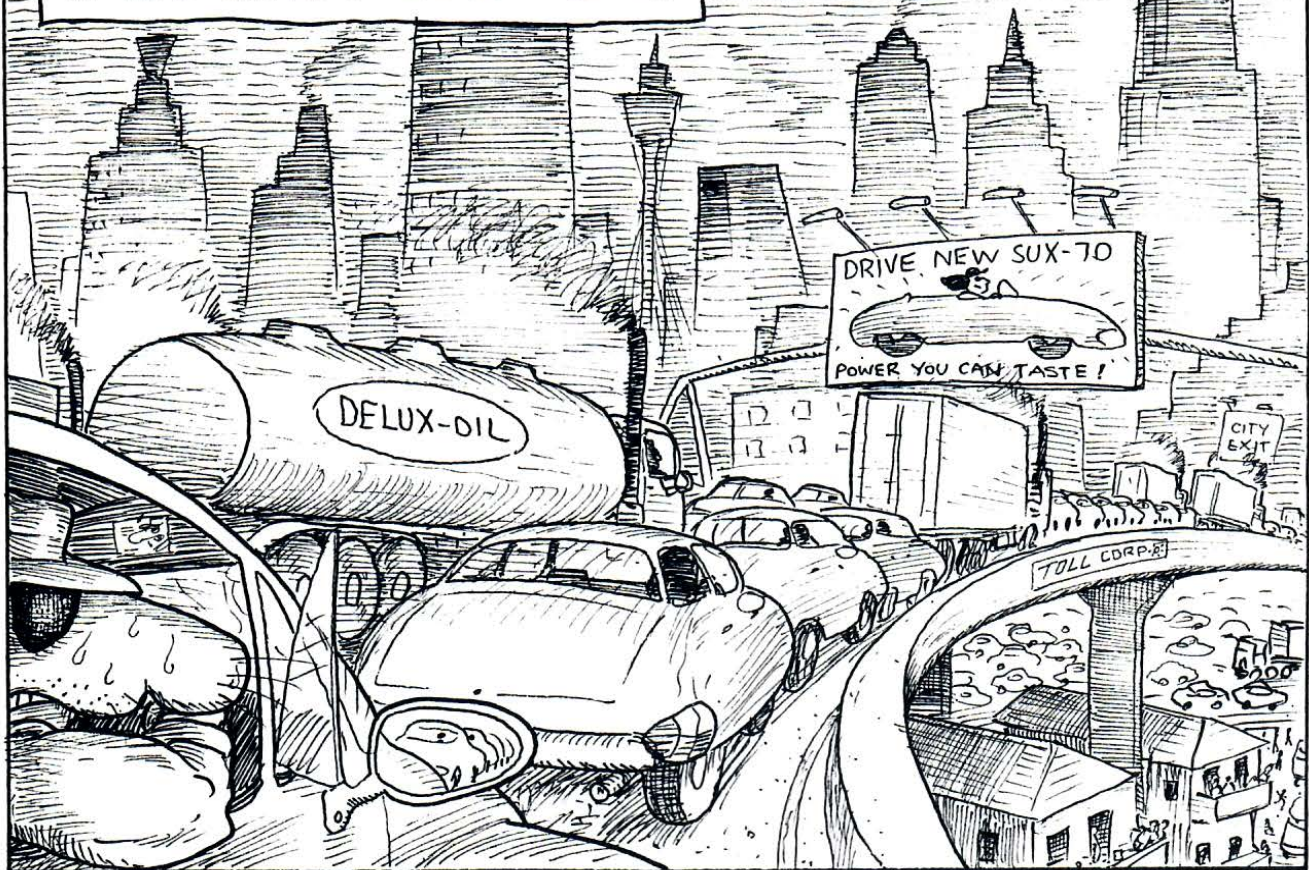
MINISTER...HOW DO YOU
ANSWER CLAIMS THAT
FREEWAYS MAKE TRAFFIC
WORSE BY MAKING MORE
PEOPLE CAR DEPENDENT?

HUMBUG! THE GOVERNMENT'S
NEW MOTORWAY PROGRAM
WILL SOLVE SYDNEY'S
TRAFFIC PROBLEMS
FOREVER!

COUGH !!



IT WASN'T GOING TO BE JUST ANOTHER BAD DAY.
IT WAS GOING TO BE A KILLER.



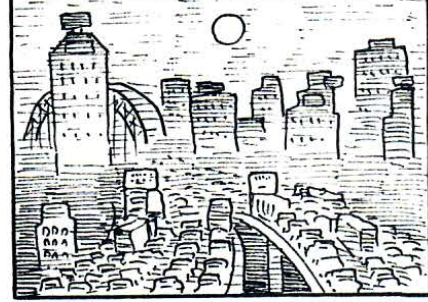
THE INVERSION LAYER HAD
SLIPPED OVER THE CITY
AND SEALED IT TIGHT AS
A KETTLE...



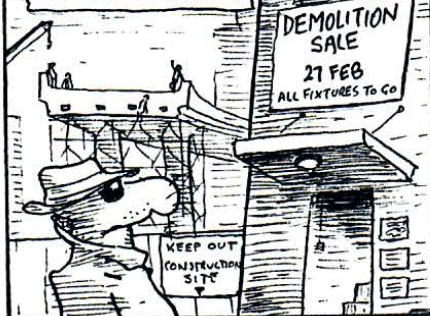
THE AIR WAS TURNING
INTO A FOUL CHEMICAL
SOUP...



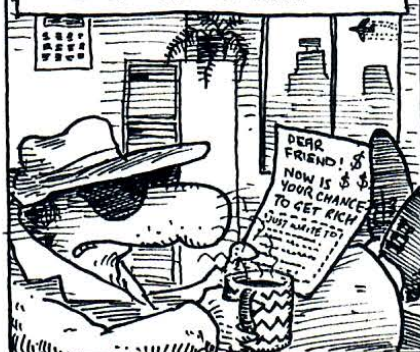
THE SUN WAS A PALE
SICKLY DISC FLOATING
IN A MUSTARD SKY. THE
STREETS WERE LIKE AN
OVEN...



MY OFFICE WAS DUE FOR
DEMOLITION. I THOUGHT
OF IT AS THE PRICE OF
PROGRESS. I DIDN'T HAVE
MUCH CHOICE.

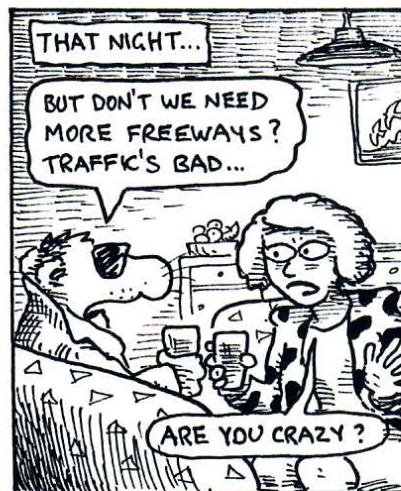
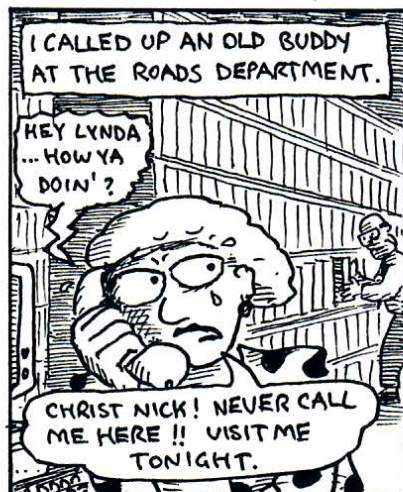
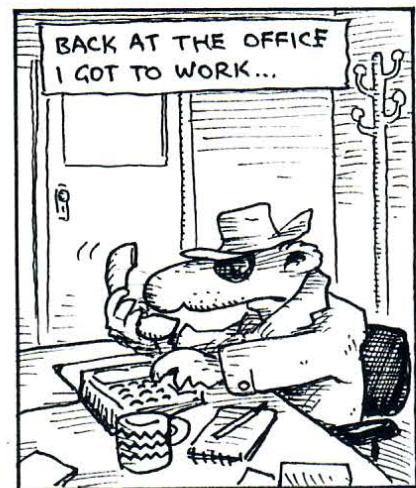
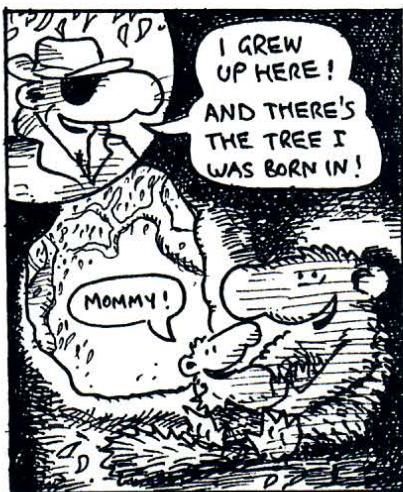
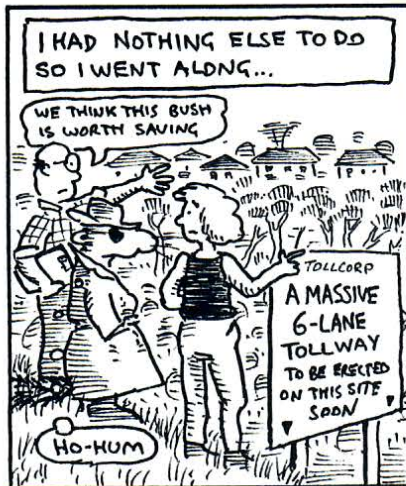
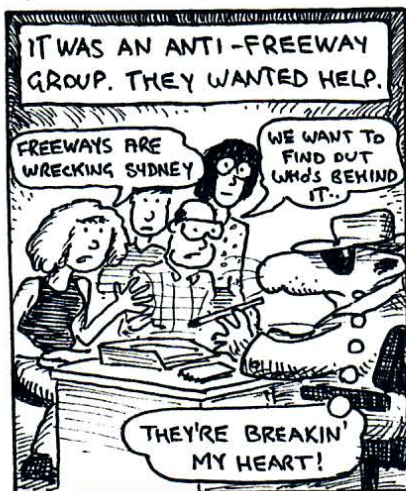


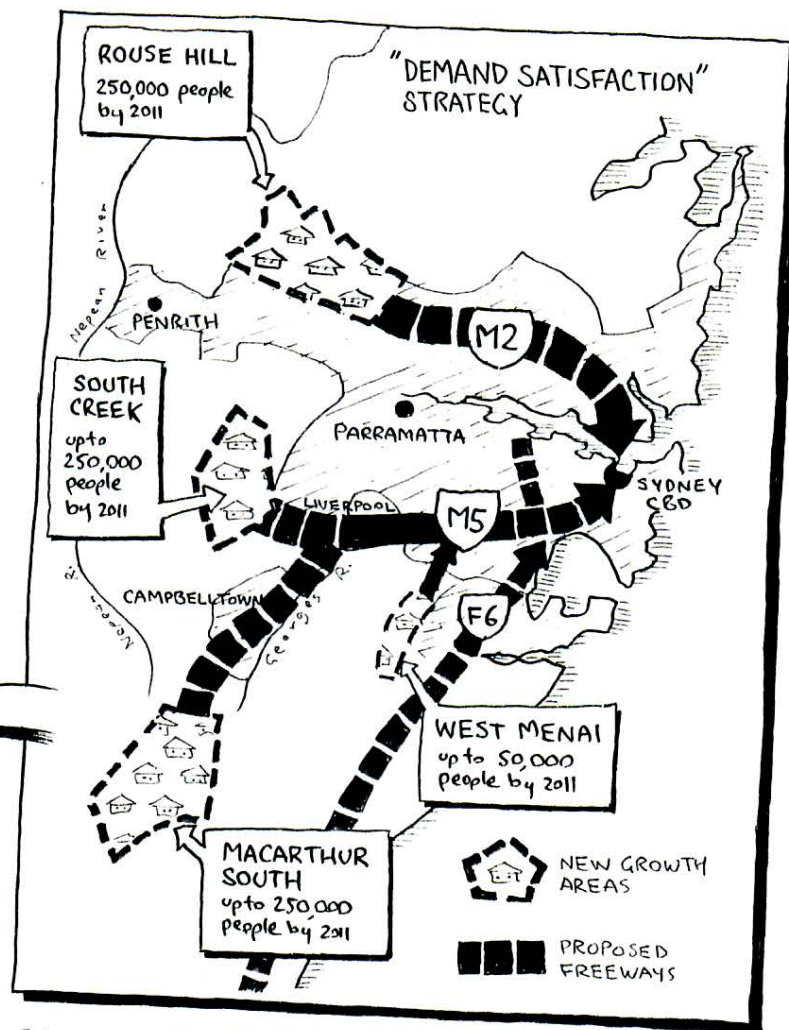
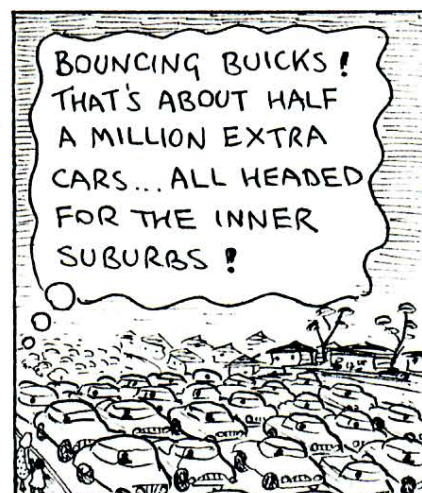
I GOT TO THE OFFICE...MADE
A STRONG BLACK & INHALED
THE FUMES, WHILE I LOOKED
THROUGH THE MAIL...



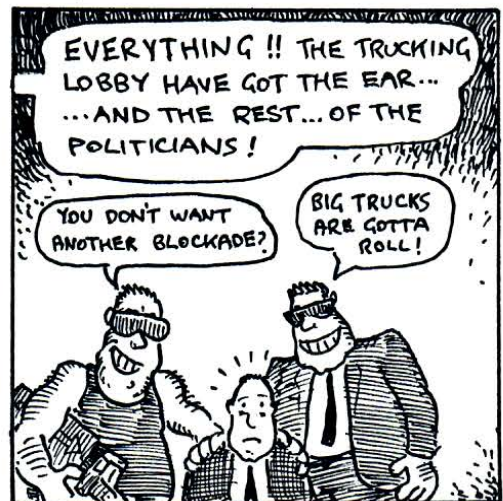
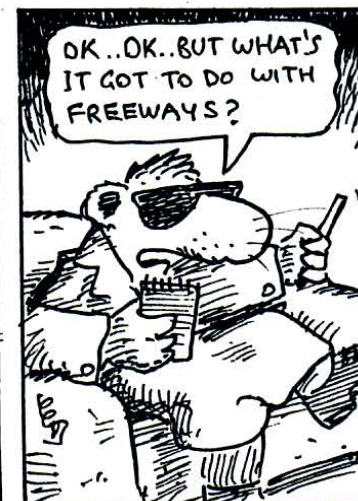
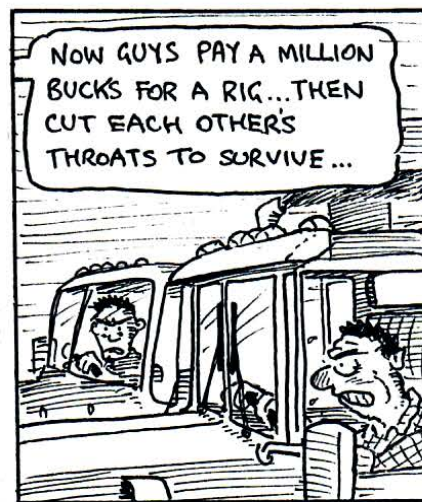
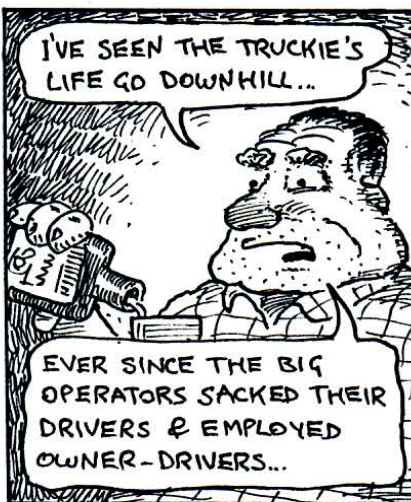
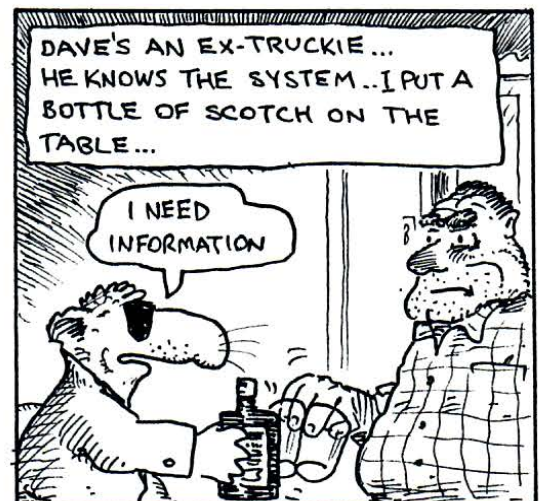
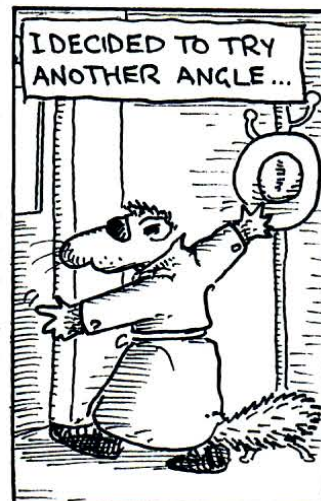
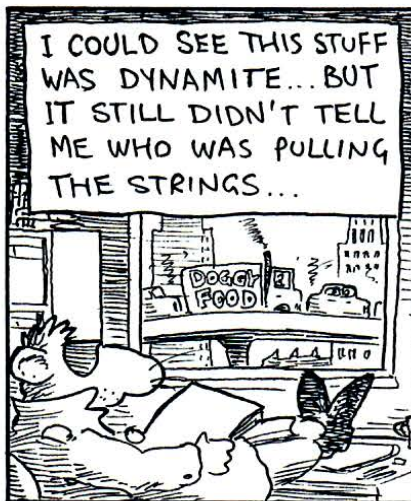
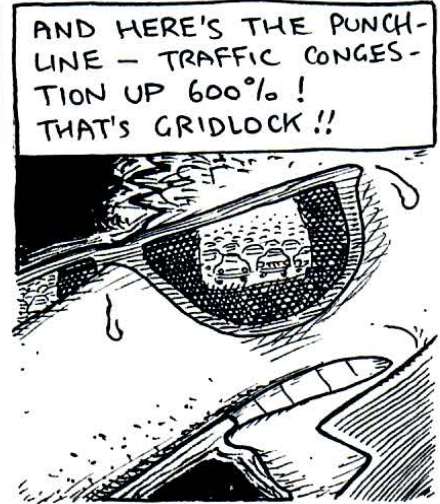
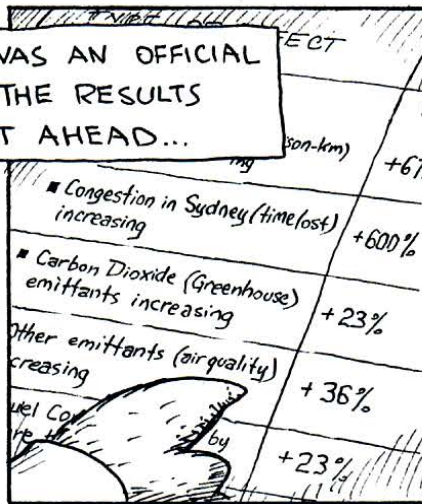
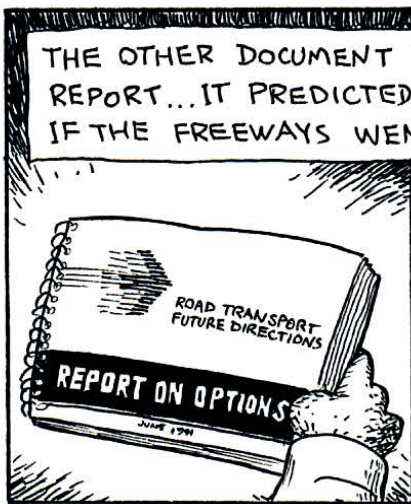
SUDDENLY THERE WAS
A KNOCK AT THE DOOR!

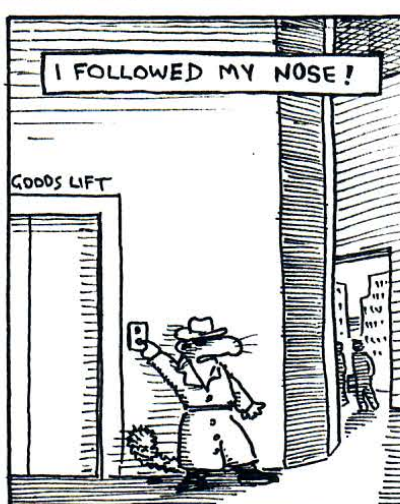
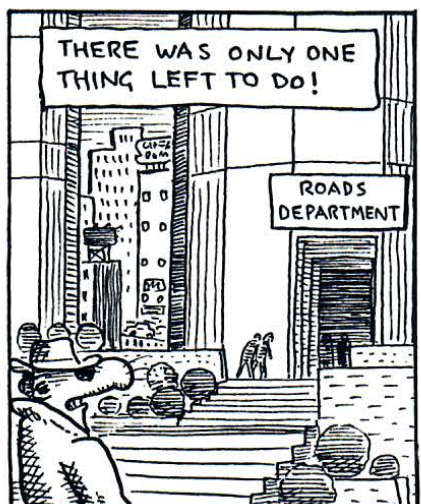
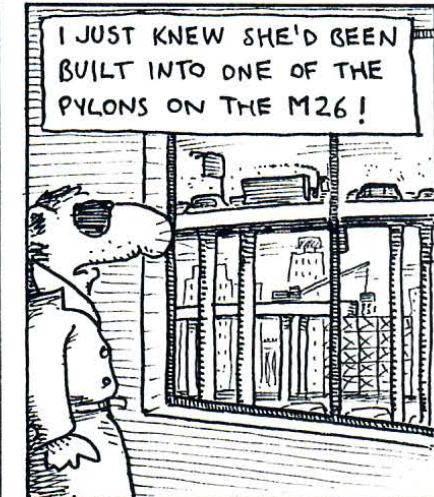
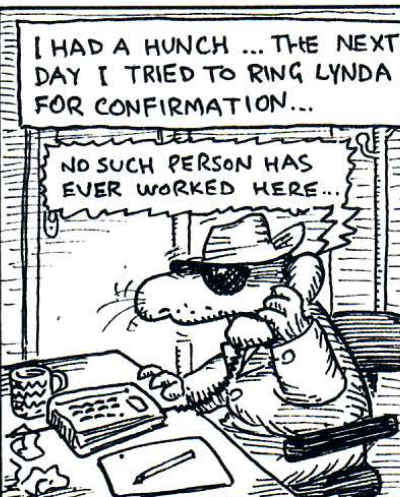
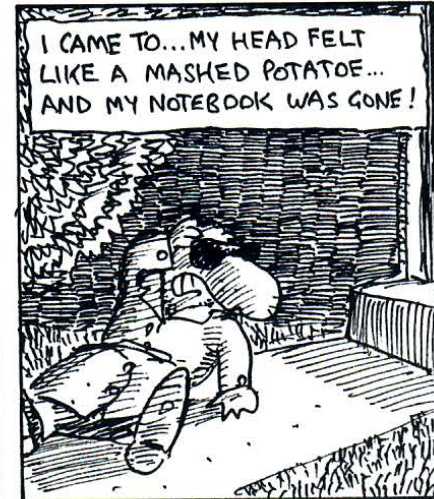
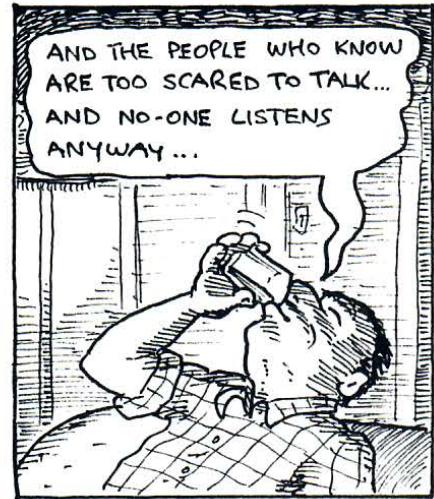


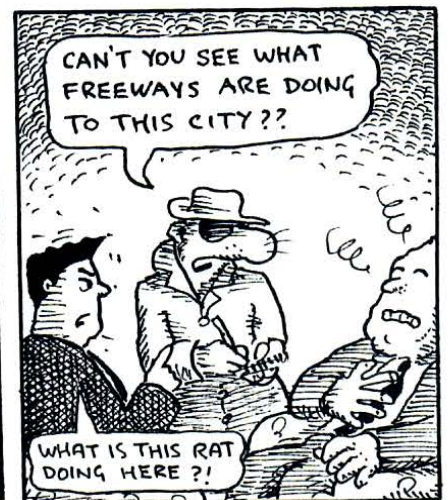
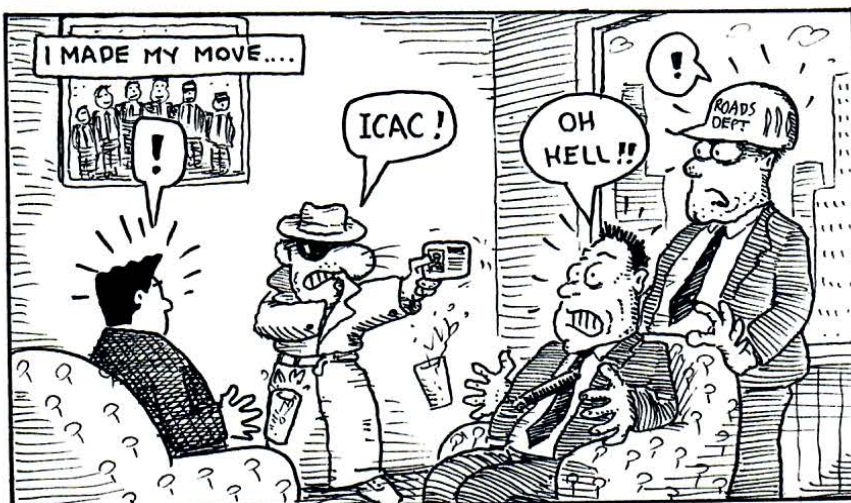
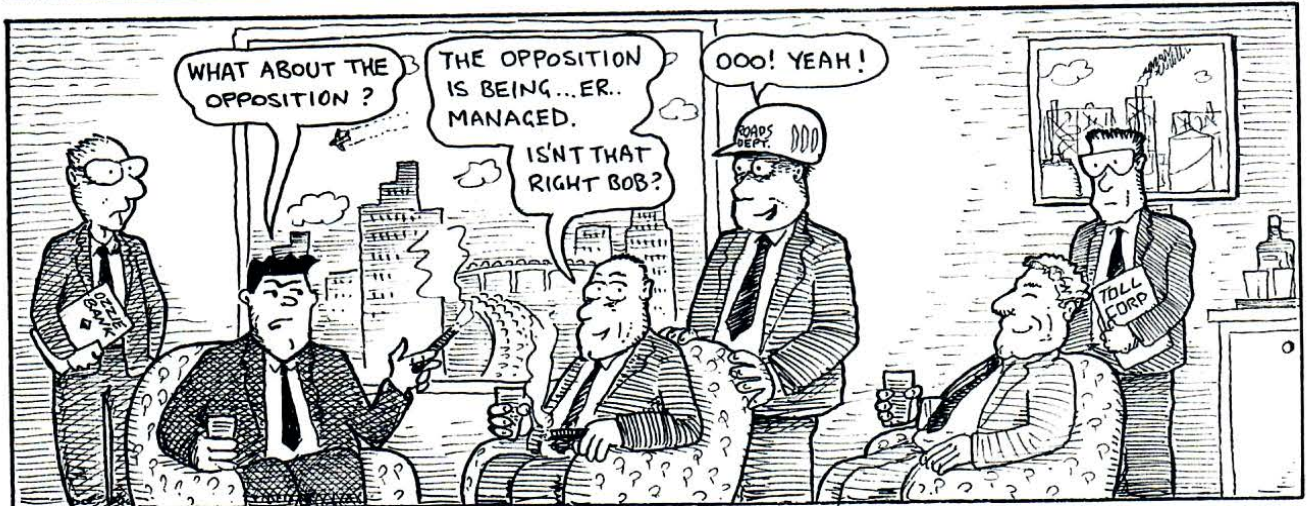
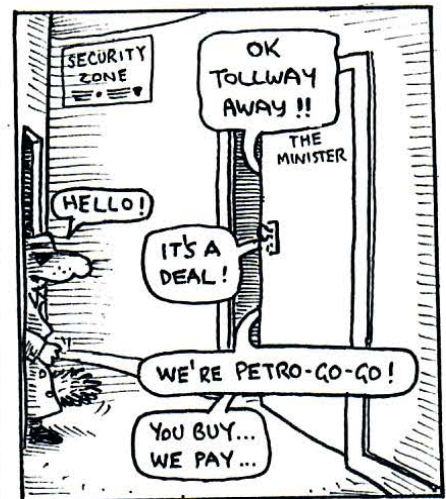
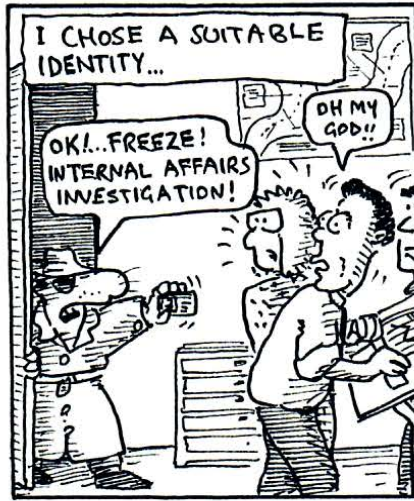


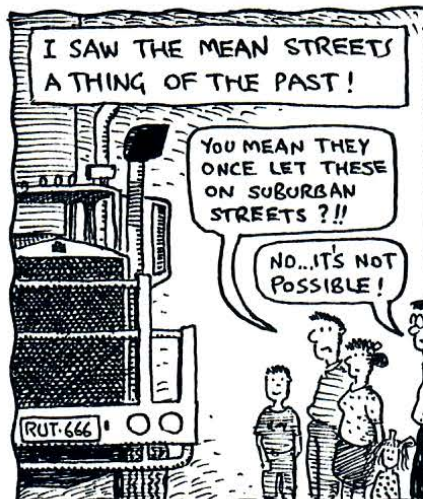
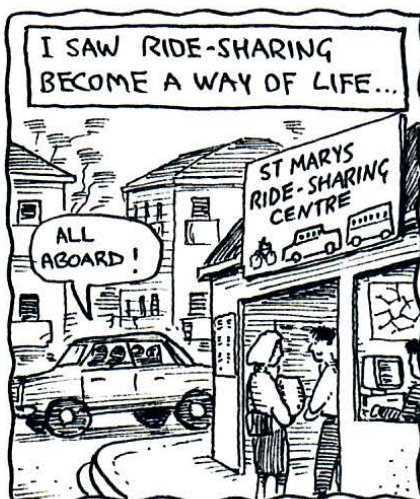
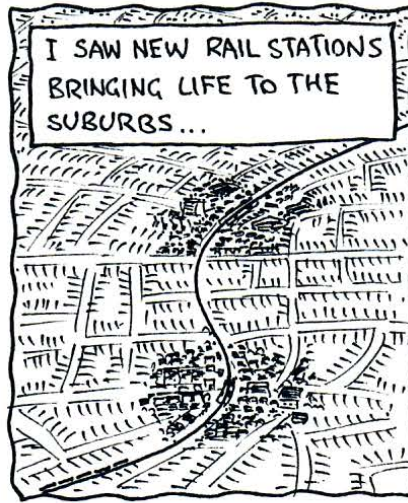
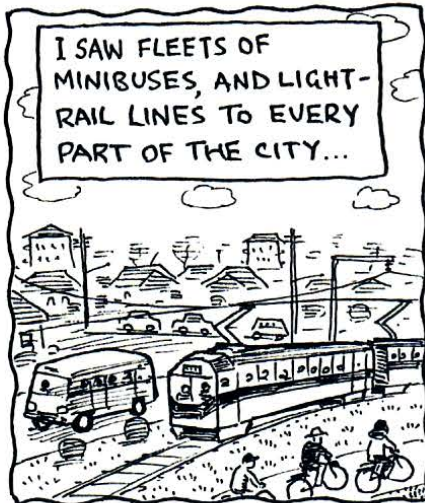
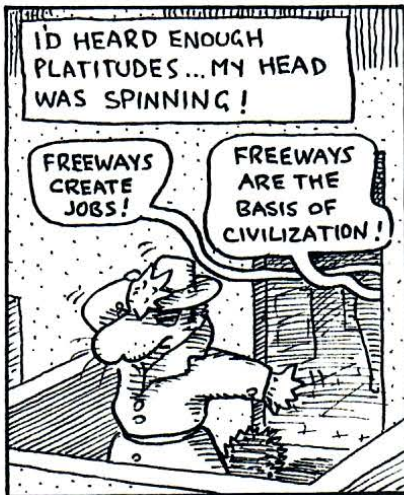


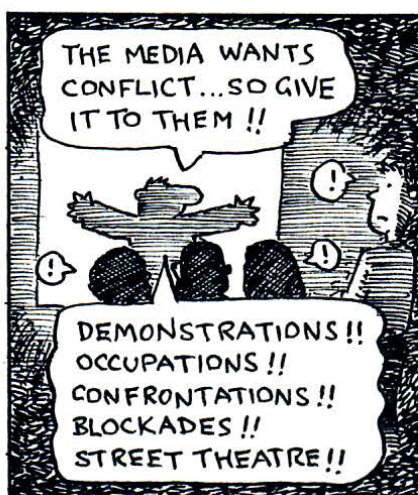
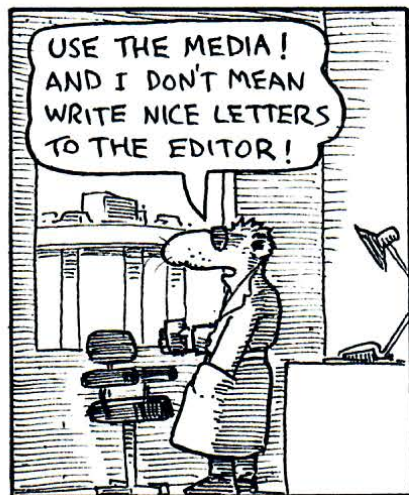
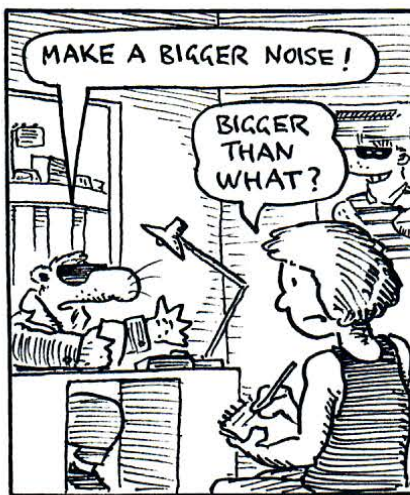
* THE REPORT, CALLED 'ROAD TRANSPORT-FUTURE OPTIONS', REALLY EXISTS! WHEN THE RTA. REALISED IT HAD NO STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, IT COMMISSIONED A MAJOR STUDY BY RESPECTED CONSULTING FIRMS. THE REPORT, FINISHED IN 1990, SO EMBARRASSED THE RTA. THAT IT SHELVED IT FOR MANY MONTHS. FINALLY AN ACTIVIST, CARON MORRISON, "LAUNCHED" IT AT A SMOG SUMMIT IN 1992. THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT "IF CURRENT TRENDS CONTINUE" (I.E. IF ROADS CONTINUE TO BE BUILT TO SATISFY DEMAND) THERE WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC INCREASES IN CONGESTION (600%) AND SMOG (36%). THESE FIGURES HAVE NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED.











HOLD IT THERE!

DON'T STOP READING - THIS STORY ISN'T OVER YET!
 SYDNEY COULD BE A LIVING HELL ... OR A NICE PLACE TO LIVE
... IT'S UP TO YOU!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP... HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- 1** JOIN THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY (OR YOUR NEAREST ENVIRONMENT OR ANTI-FREEWAY GROUP.)
 FILL IN THE FORM BELOW.

NAME
 ADDRESS
 POSTCODE
 PHONE

PLEASE JOIN ME UP. I ENCLOSE
 \$10 MEMBERSHIP FEE PLUS
 DONATION.

- 2** TALK TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & WORKMATES. EXPLAIN TO THEM WHY FREEWAYS HAVE GOT TO BE STOPPED.

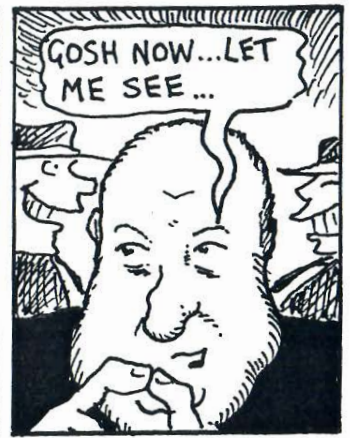
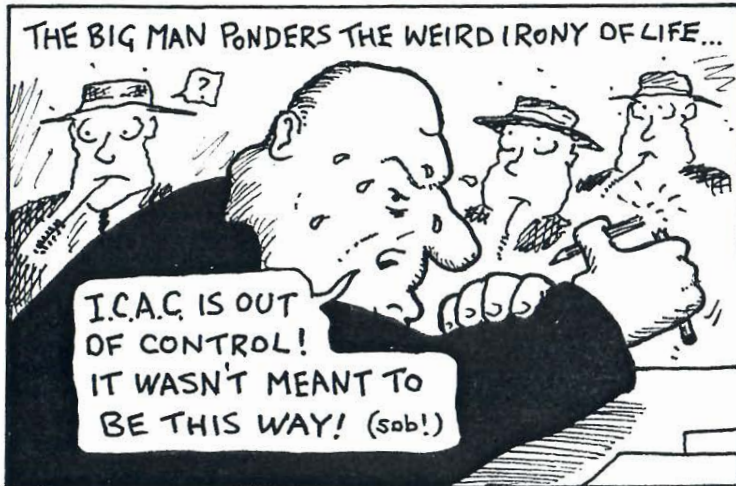
- 3** WRITE TO YOUR POLITICIANS.
 ► DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT SOLUTION THEY PROPOSE TO TRAFFIC AND SMOG IN SYDNEY.
 ► TELL THEM YOU WANT TO SEE PROPOSED FREEWAYS & TOLLWAYS REPLACED WITH RAIL SYSTEMS.

DO IT NOW!



POST TO WOLLI CREEK PRES. SOCIETY PO BOX 270, EARLWOOD 2206.

NSW inc.



SOME TIME LATER... I.C.A.C. HAS BEEN SOLD TO A MYSTERY BUYER...

