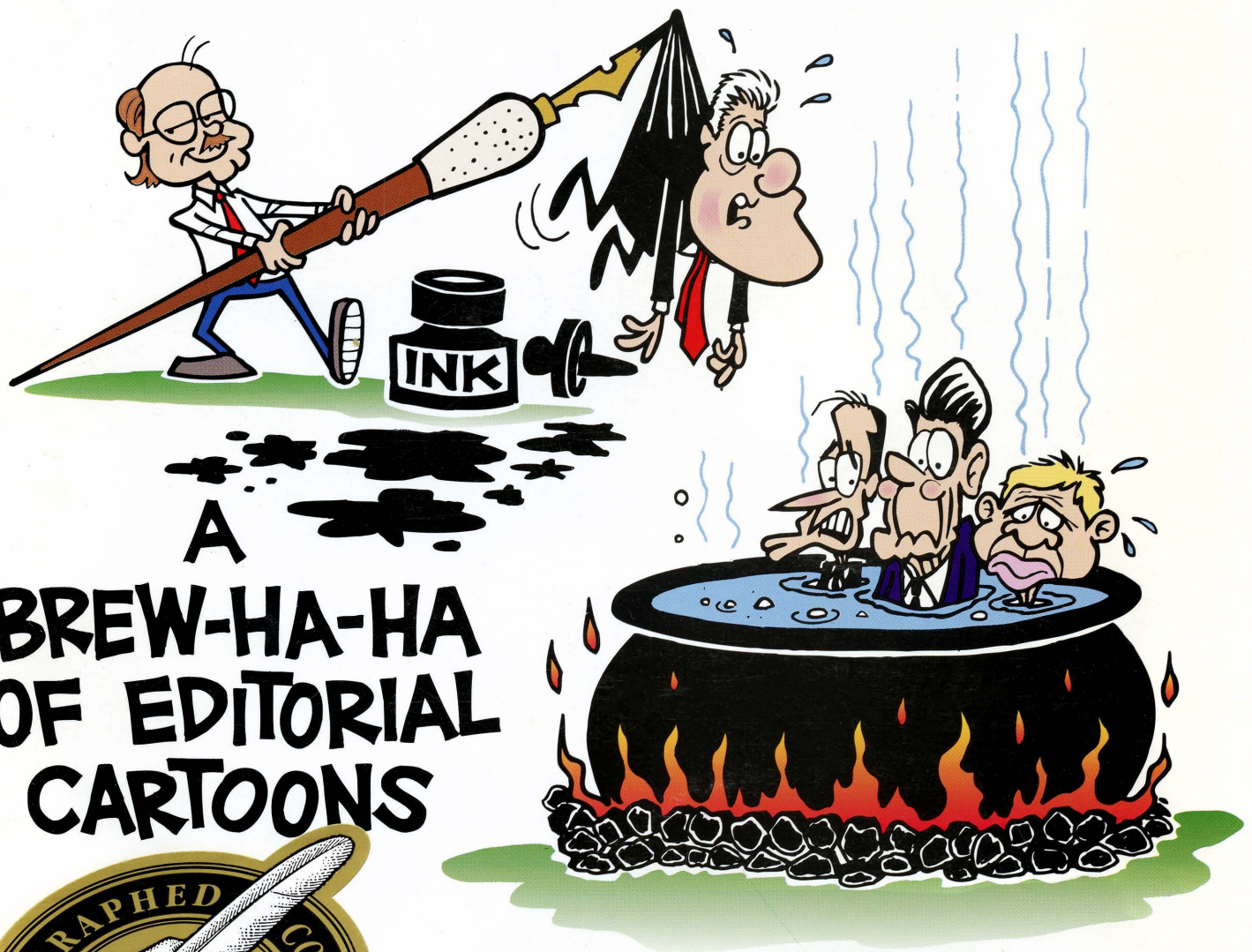
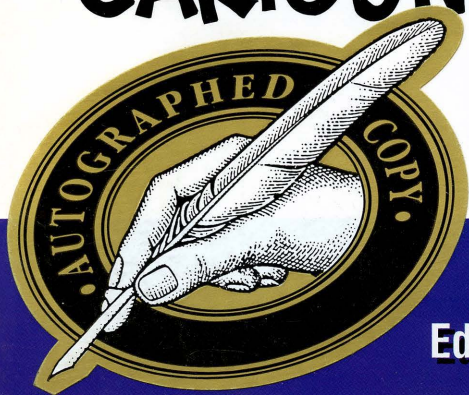


# WICKED WICKS OF THE WEST



A  
BREW-HA-HA  
OF EDITORIAL  
CARTOONS



By **RANDY WICKS**  
Editorial Cartoonist for The Signal



WICKED

WICK

OF THE WEST

To Learn  
from WICK



From A DONKEY  
TO AN ELEPHANT !!

A publication of The Signal

The Santa Clarita Valley's Daily Newspaper Since 1919



WICK

Dedicated to my Mom and Dad, who let  
an Iowa farm boy follow his cartoon dreams...

Published by The Signal, the daily newspaper of The Santa Clarita Valley, Santa Clarita, California

For additional copies or information, call or write:  
The Signal, P.O. Box 801870, Santa Clarita, Calif., 91380-1870; (805) 259-1234

Layout and Design by Tim Whyte, Managing Editor, The Signal

The cartoons in this book originally appeared in The Signal, copyright 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995, by The Signal and Randy Wicks.

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# WICKS' WORLD

I'd better be careful here. I wouldn't want to say the wrong thing about Randy Wicks, because I've seen what the man can do with a pen.

He is, indeed, the Wicked Wicks of the West.

He's lampooned the best and the worst of them, from local politicians all the way up to the president of the United States. Heck, he even drew a caricature of God.

The man has no fear.

And, as a journalist, that's perhaps his most endearing quality. Through his cartoons, Wicks speaks his mind — as it says on the New York Times masthead, "Without fear or favor."

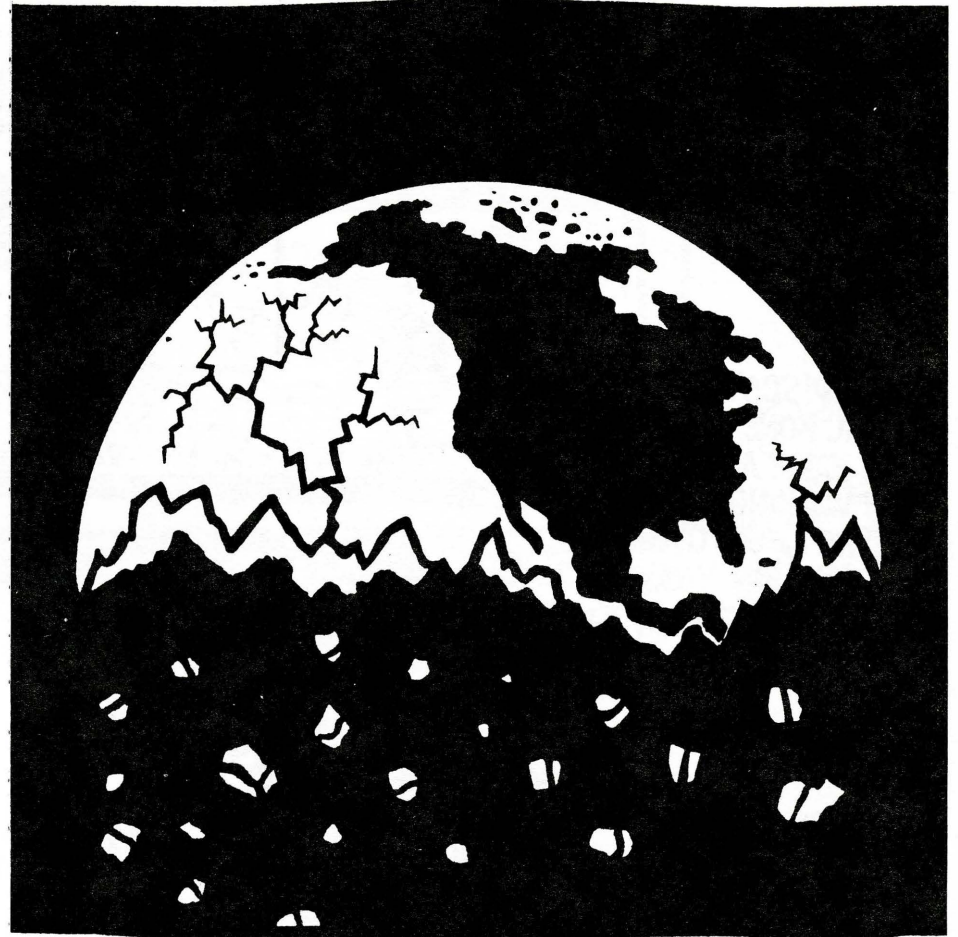
His cartoons are sometimes good for a belly laugh, or a smirk or even a cringe and sigh of relief that it's not you who is the target of the day. Other days, Wicks will make a poignant statement that brings a tear to your eye.

It's an emotional roller coaster, let me tell you. And I'm proud to have known and worked with Wicks for the past half-dozen or so years. His take-no-prisoners approach to cartooning notwithstanding, he's a kind soul who cares deeply for those around him. He sticks to his principles, liberal as they are relative to Santa Clarita, the valley of Republicans. He has the intellectual stamina to read three newspapers per day, and as a result of this remarkable feat, he knows *everything*. If a reporter comes to me with a tough question about history or current events, I'll invariably look thoughtfully at the ceiling until enough time has passed so it appears as if I've given deep thought to the question, then I'll say, "I don't know. Ask Wicks."

I have to admit, I still feel a bit of celebrity shock when I run into Wicks at the office. When he first started at The Signal, I was in eighth grade at Arroyo Seco Junior High School. I'd already heard of Wicks through my grandfather, who worked in the dormitory at California Institute of the Arts, where Wicks was studying animation. Wicks and Grandpa worked together one summer, and Randy credits Grandpa with teaching him how to clean toilets.

A valuable and humbling lesson in life, don't you think?

Soon after graduating from CalArts, Wicks became The Signal's full-time cartoonist after cajoling then-editor/publisher/owner Scott Newhall into giving



him a try.

The rest is history. Wicks became one of the best-known names in Santa Clarita.

Wicks, 41, recently celebrated his 15th anniversary as The Signal's resident poison pen. During that time, he's won 17 state and national awards and aggravated more than a few politicians. And get this: He's gone 15 years without taking a single sick day.

Cal Ripken Jr., eat your heart out.

So there you have it. He's out there every day. Watching. Waiting. And, most importantly, thinking.

I know you'll enjoy this collection of Wicks' work. We're serving it up in three parts. First, we'll take a look at "Wicks' World," a compendium of Wicks' commentary about national, international and even celestial issues. He makes some perceptive observations about society and how it's changing. We live in a world where kids tote guns, sports franchises know no loyalty, yuppies pervade

rock concerts and millions of people could use a helping hand. Through it all, Wicks consistently reminds us of our instinct for survival, and the fact that we need to take care of this little blue planet we call home.

Then, in Part 2, Wicks Goes Local — a collection of Wicks' best pokes, caresses and jabs at the Santa Clarita Valley, which Wicks, an Iowa native, has adopted as his second home. And finally, we take a look back at some of Wicks' Blasts from the Past — sort of an all-time greatest hits from The Wicked One himself.

It may make you laugh, or cry, or kick your cat in misdirected anger. But one thing's for sure: Randy Wicks' cartoons are guaranteed to make you *think*.

Just stay on his good side.

— Tim Whyte  
Managing Editor, The Signal  
Santa Clarita, Calif.  
Sept. 24, 1995

WOODSTOCK  
1969

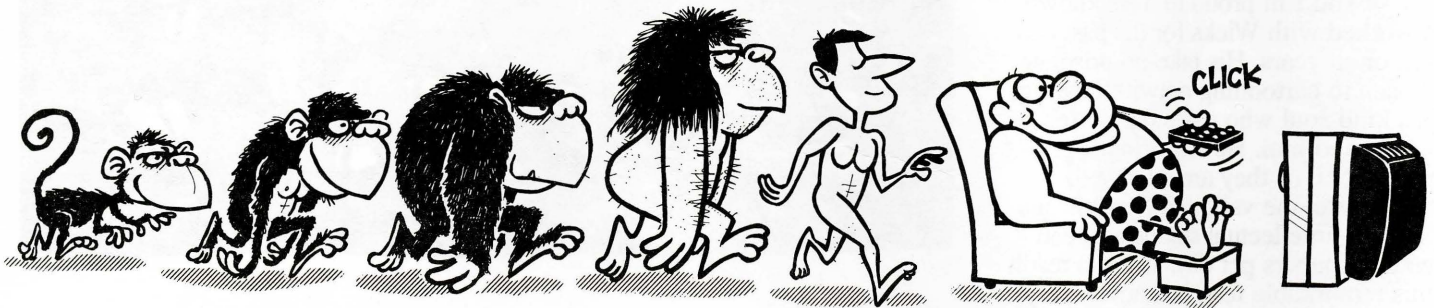


WOODSTOCK  
1994

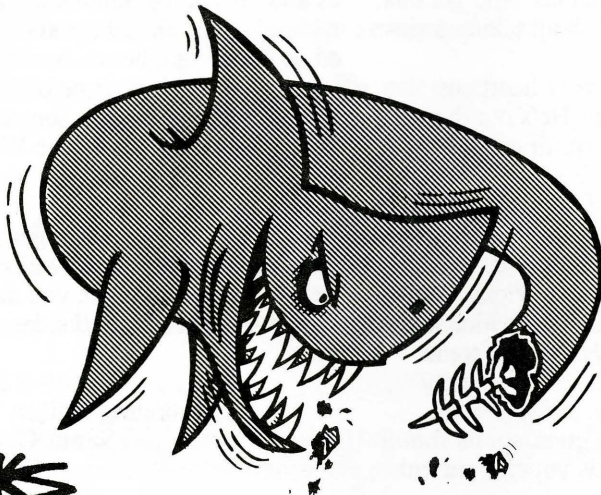


**WICKS**  
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NEWLY DISCOVERED  
FOSSIL BONES SHOW  
MAN'S EARLY ANCESTORS  
WERE WALKING UPRIGHT  
ON TWO LEGS OVER  
FOUR MILLION YEARS  
AGO AS WE BEGAN THE LONG EVOLUTIONARY MARCH TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY

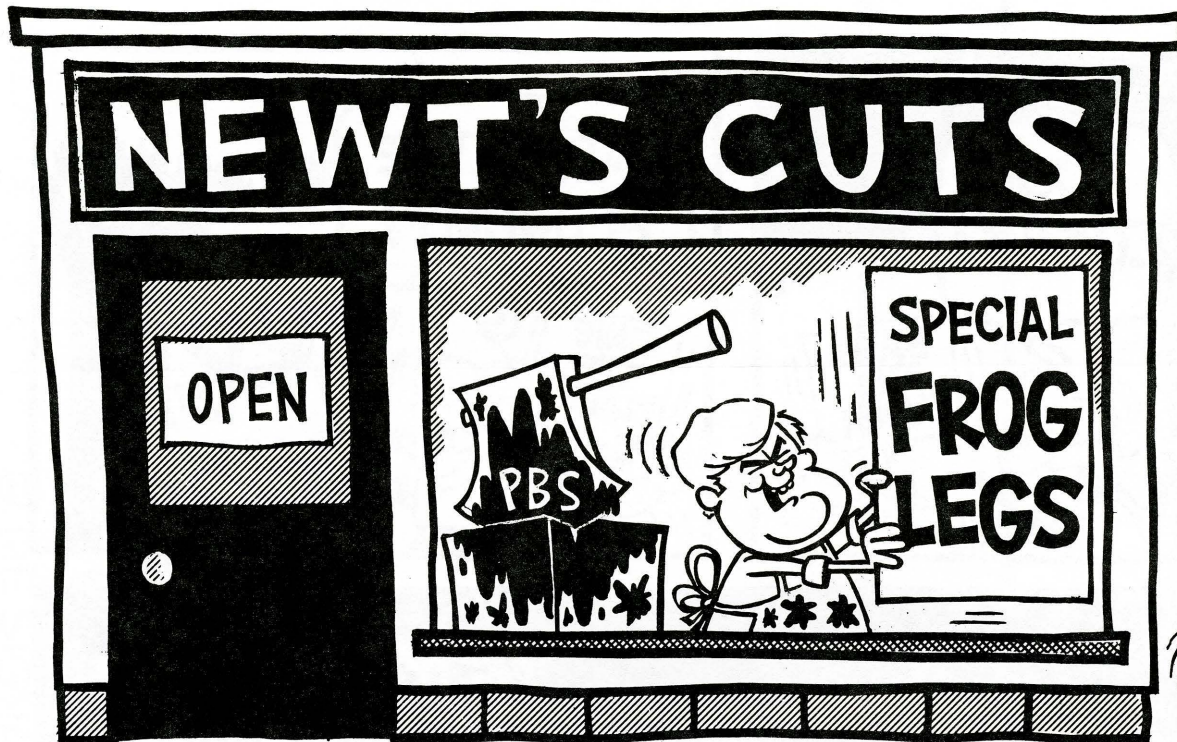


A FISH CALLED  
RWANDA



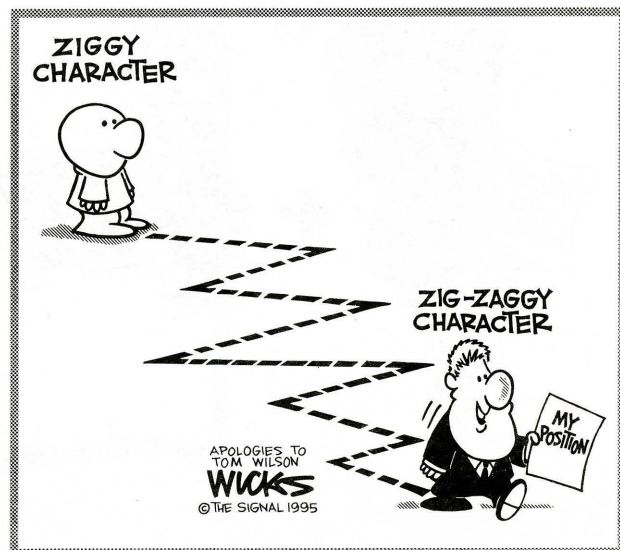
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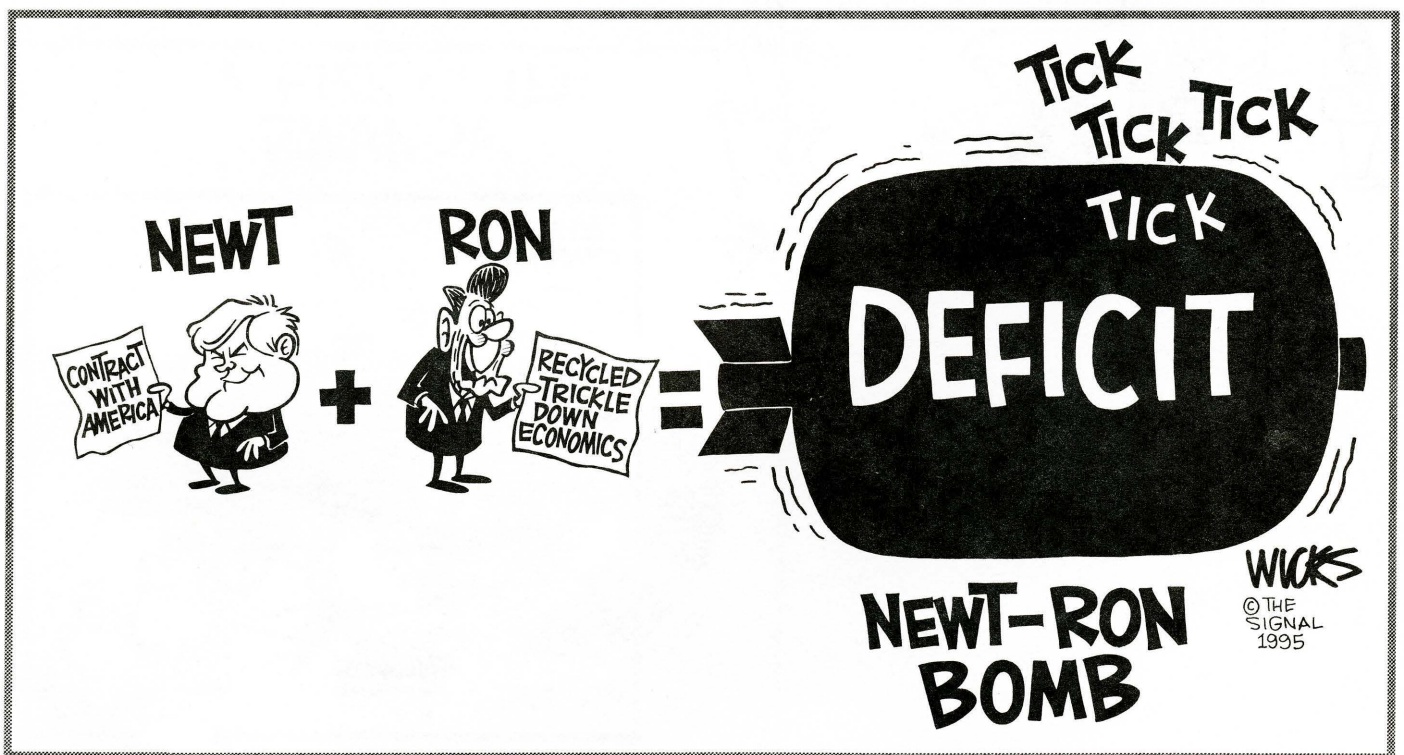




**WICKS**  
©THE SIGNAL 1995



THAT KINDA  
THINKIN' WILL  
PUT US OUTTA  
BUSINESS, KID!!



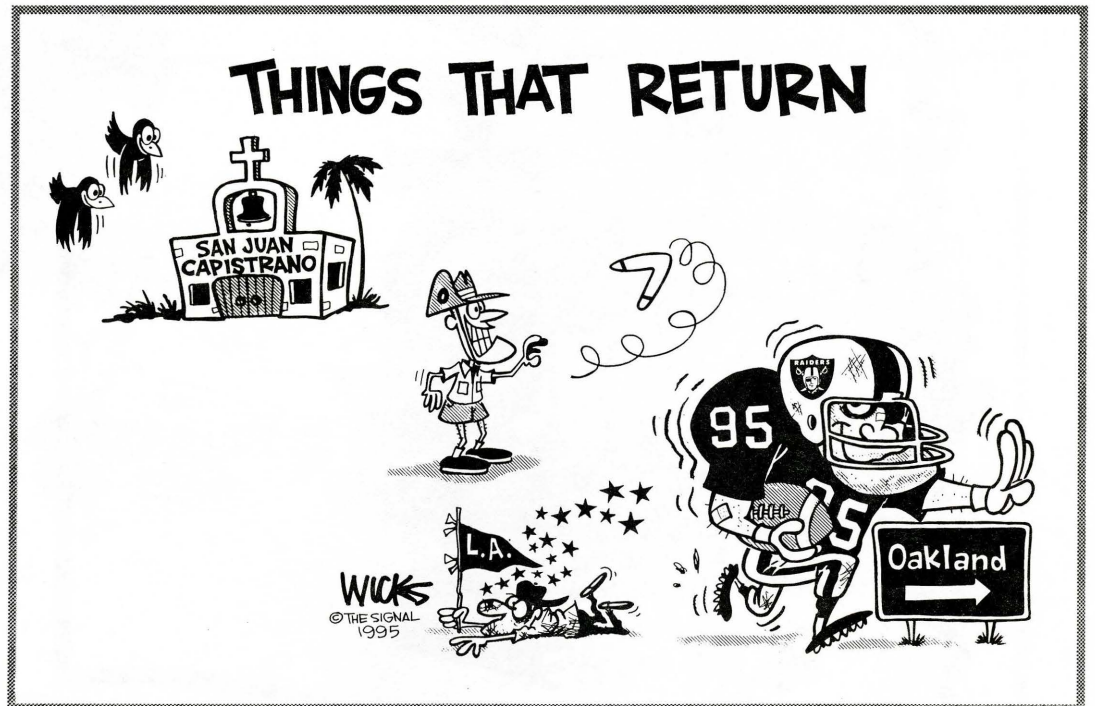
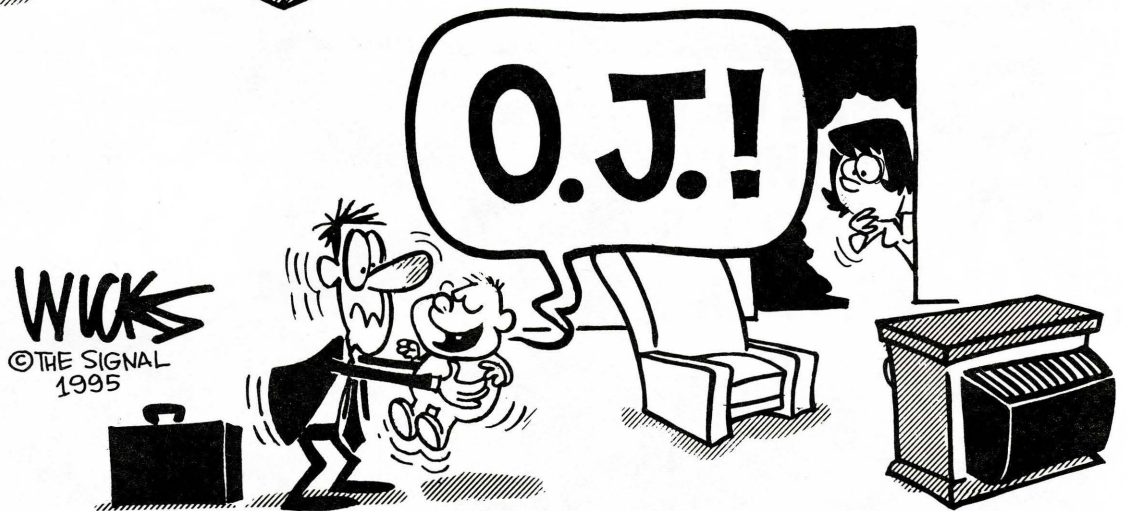


**LAHOMA**



**WICKS**

© THE SIGNAL 1995



# NIXON'S 'STAMP'



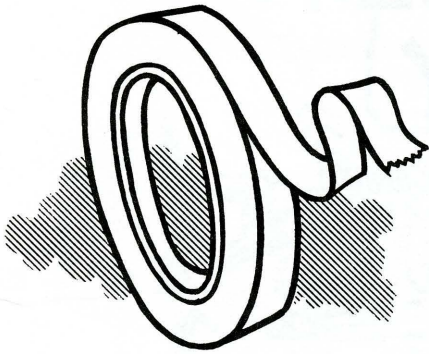
## HIROSHIMA'S LEGACY

**WICKS**

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# STICKY TAPES



**MASKING**

**UNMASKING**



**WICKS**

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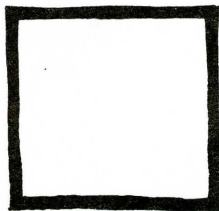
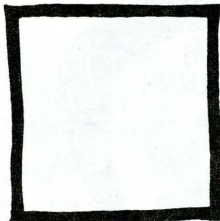
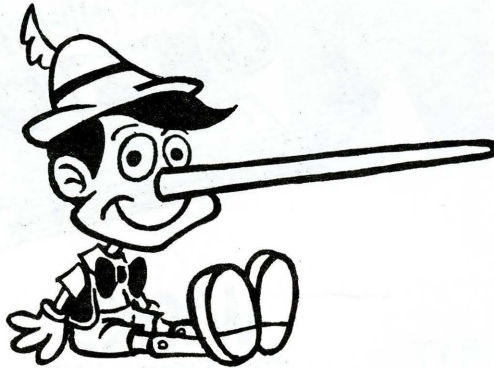
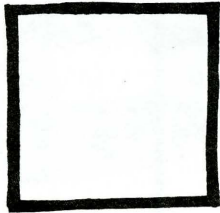
**CAL RIPKEN  
MARCHES  
TO THE BEAT  
OF A  
DIFFERENT  
DRUMMER**



**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL  
1995

# RANK THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER OF THEIR CREDIBILITY

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1995

WHAT WAS  
THE FIRST  
RODNEY  
KING  
VERDICT?



IT WAS AN  
ABERRATION!

HOW ABOUT THE  
REGINALD DENNY  
VERDICT?



AN  
ABERRATION!

THE MENENDEZ  
BROTHERS?



ABERRATION!

AND THE  
O.J.  
SIMPSON  
VERDICT?



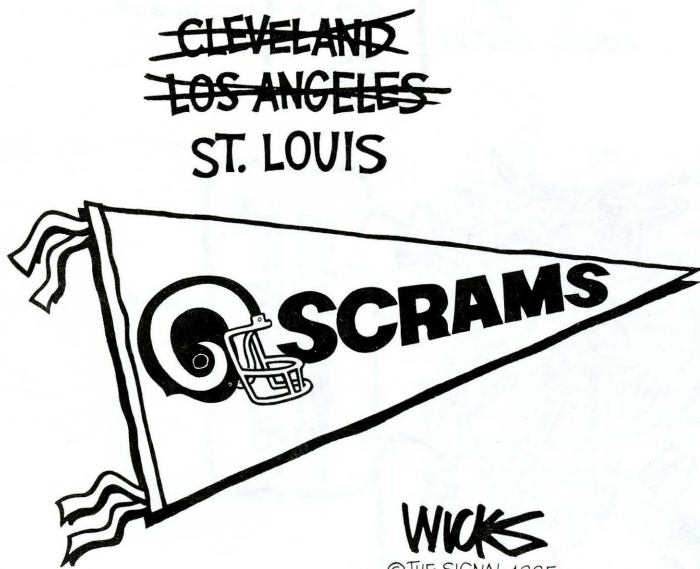
ANOTHER  
ABERRATION!

OOPS... LOOKS LIKE  
YOU STEPPED ON  
SOME ABERRATION...



WICKS

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# BEFORE

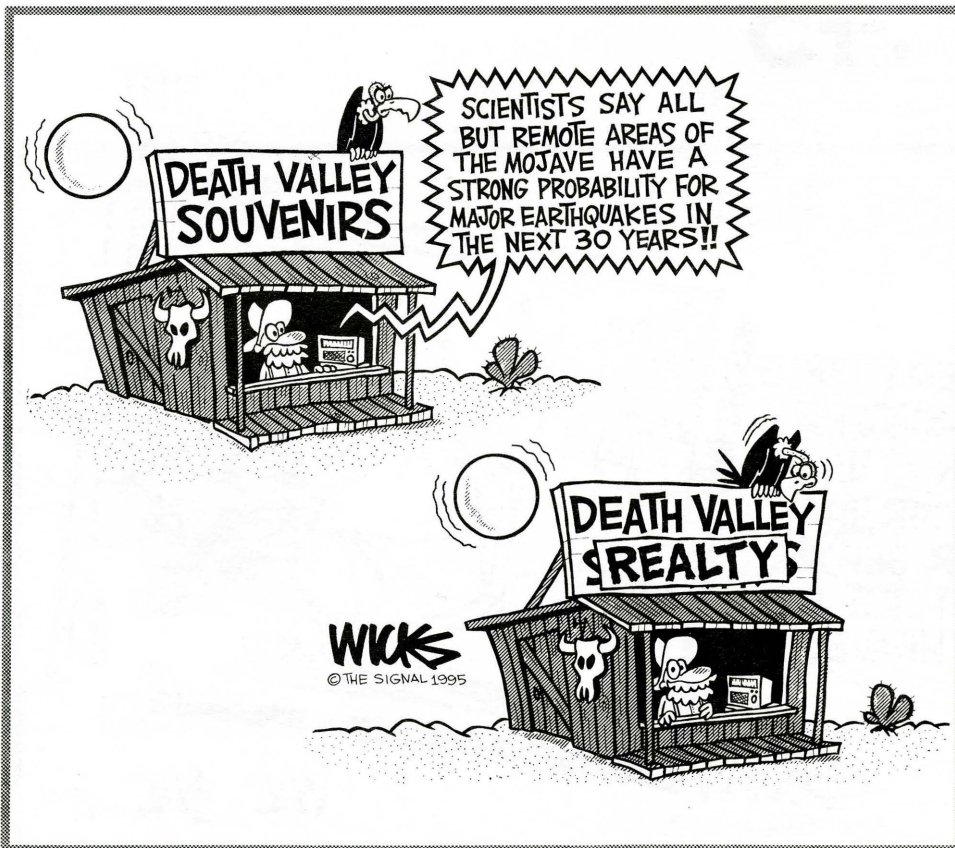


# AFTER



**WICKS**

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**WICKS**  
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**CULT .45**

FIXED HUBBLE  
TELESCOPE  
BRINGS US A  
CLOSER THAN  
EVER BEFORE  
PICTURE OF  
THE HEAVENS



**WICKS** ©THE SIGNAL  
1994

# THE LYING KING



**WICKS**

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THE  
TEFLON  
PRESIDENT



THE  
VELCRO  
PRESIDENT



**WICKS**

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WE'LL BE BACK WITH  
INTERVIEWS WITH A  
WINNER AND A LOSER  
IN THE BIG ELECTION  
OF 1994...

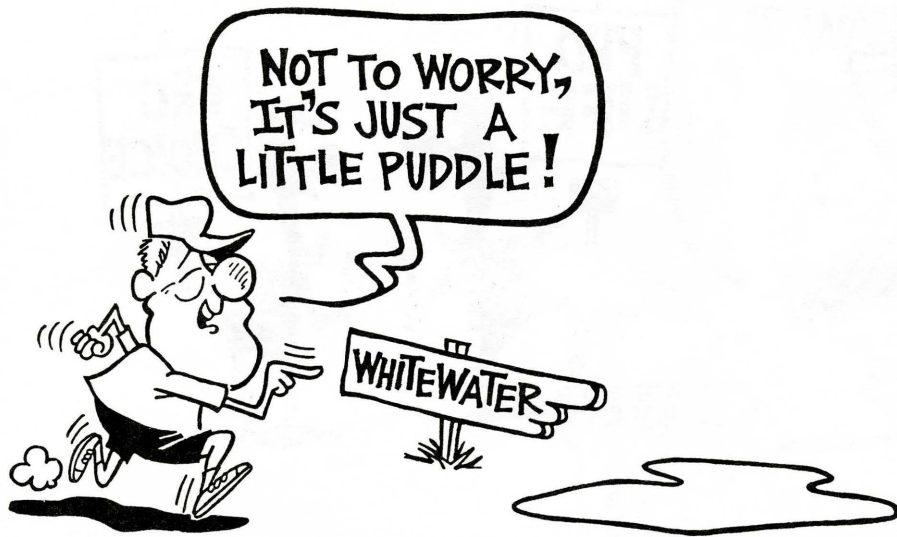


AS SOON AS WE  
HOSE THEM OFF  
SO WE CAN TELL  
WHICH IS WHICH!



**WICKS**  
©THE SIGNAL 1994

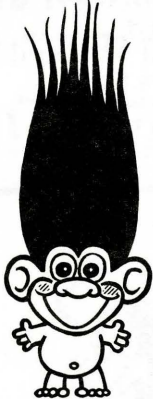




**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1994



LITTLE OBNOXIOUS  
CHARACTER THAT  
KEEPS COMING BACK

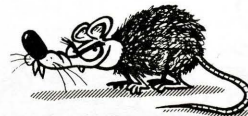


DITTO



**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1993

HARD TO GET RID OF



A RAT

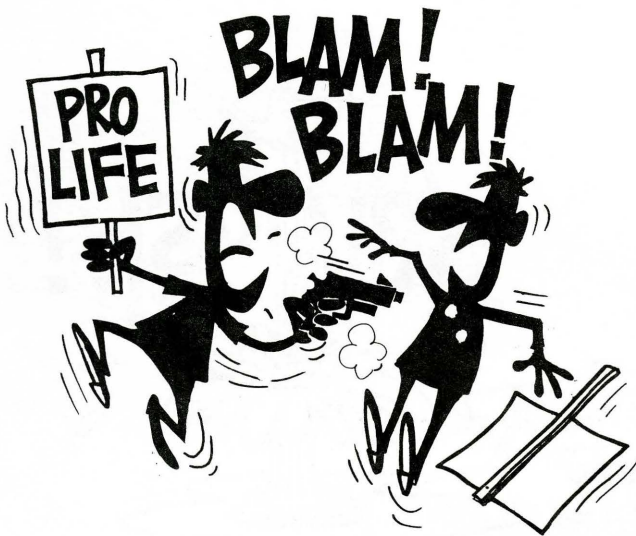


A ROACH



IRAQ

**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1994



© THE SIGNAL  
1993



**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1994

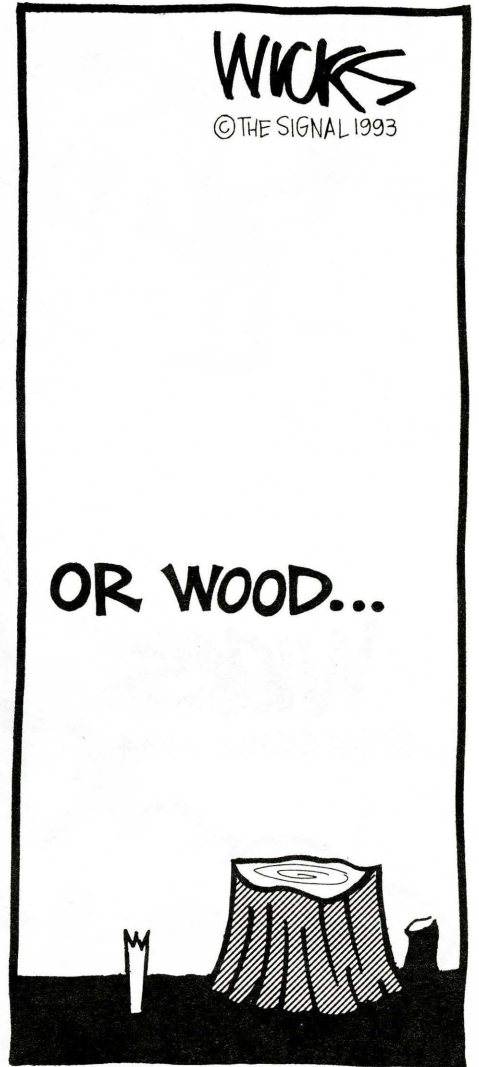
I WAS CALLED  
'HONEST ABE',  
HOW ABOUT  
YOU?

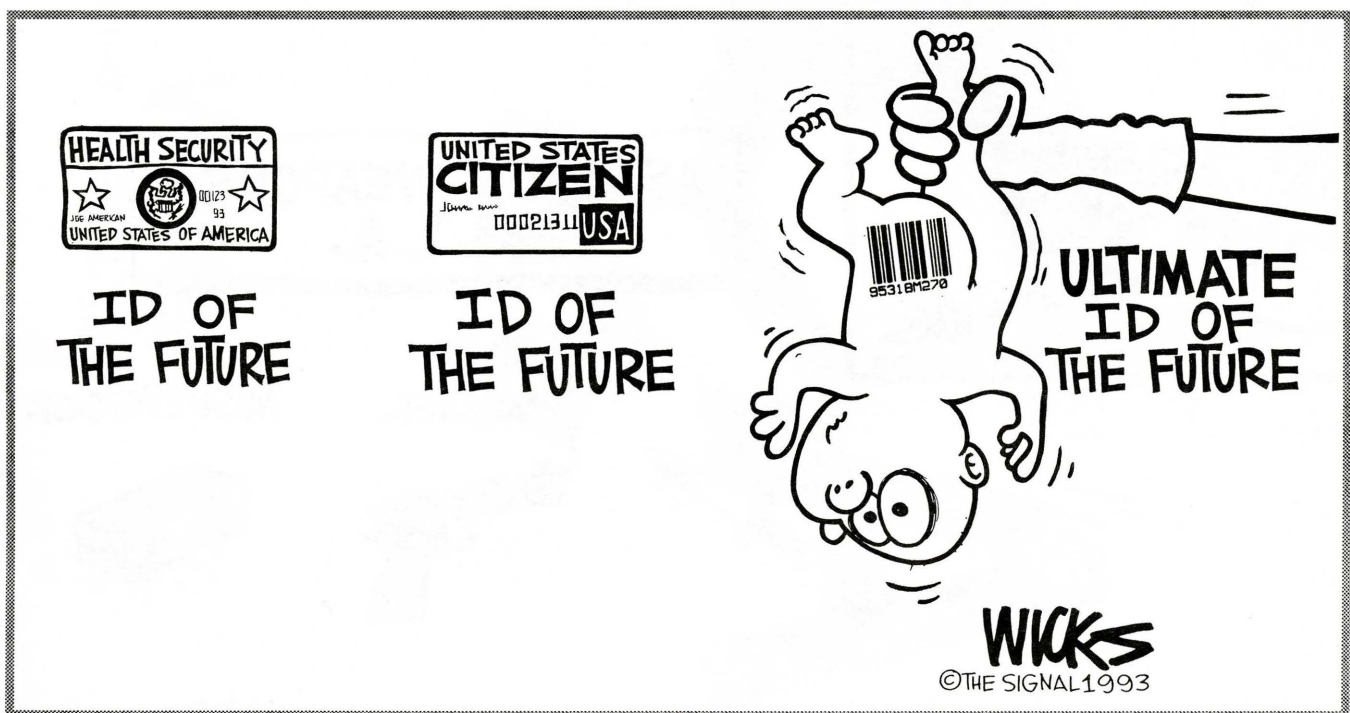
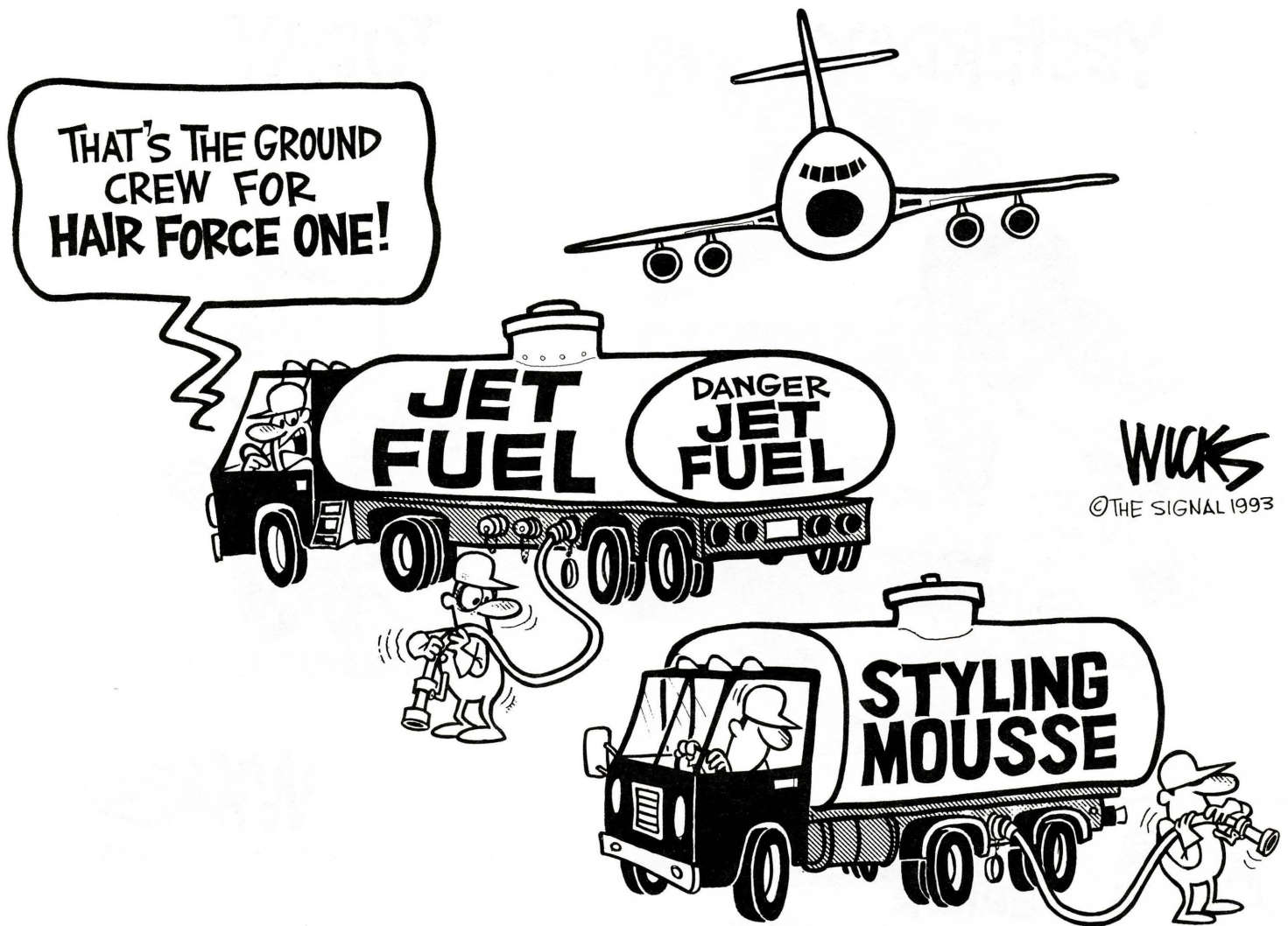


WICKS

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# YESTERDAY



# TODAY


**WICKS**

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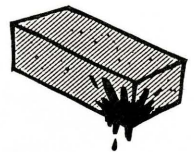

**CLERICAL  
ERROR**

**CLERICAL  
TERROR**
**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1993

**ASSAULT WEAPONS  
IN L.A.**
**MEAN**

**MEANER**

**MISDEMEANOR**

**WICKS**

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# AFRICA



**WICKS**

© THE SIGNAL 1994



### SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE SMOKING AREAS



### MIDWEST FARM EQUIPMENT

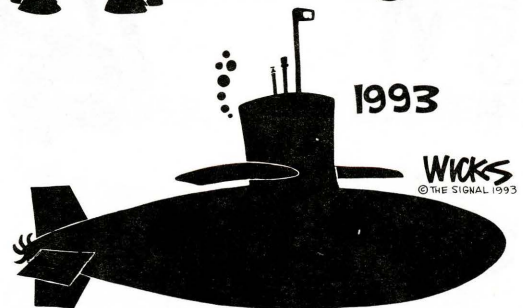
1893



1943



1993



**NEVER  
AGAIN!**



**NEVER  
AGAIN!**



**NEVER  
AGAIN!**



**NEVER  
AGAIN!**



**NEVER  
AGAIN!**

**THIS  
SPACE  
AVAILABLE  
SOON...**

**Wicks**  
© THE  
SIGNAL  
1993

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1993

# WICKS GOES LOCAL



**S**anta Clarita, unlike most communities its size, isn't immune to the barbs of a big-time cartoonist.

Wicks takes the same philosophy that he uses on the nation and the world, and applies it to his adopted hometown with nary an adjustment.

Local politicians and gadflies routinely find themselves turning on the same Wicks-spun spit as the president. Wicks reminds all Santa Claritans that they live in a lively town with its own quirks, foibles and charms.

Thank goodness.

# POST-EARTHQUAKE L.A. COMMUTER KIT



A FEW  
SNACKS

SOMETHING  
TO READ



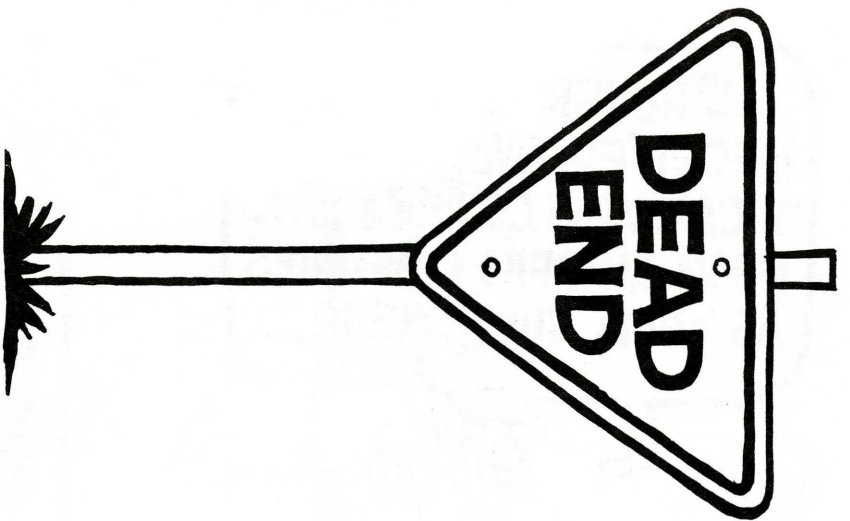
AND...



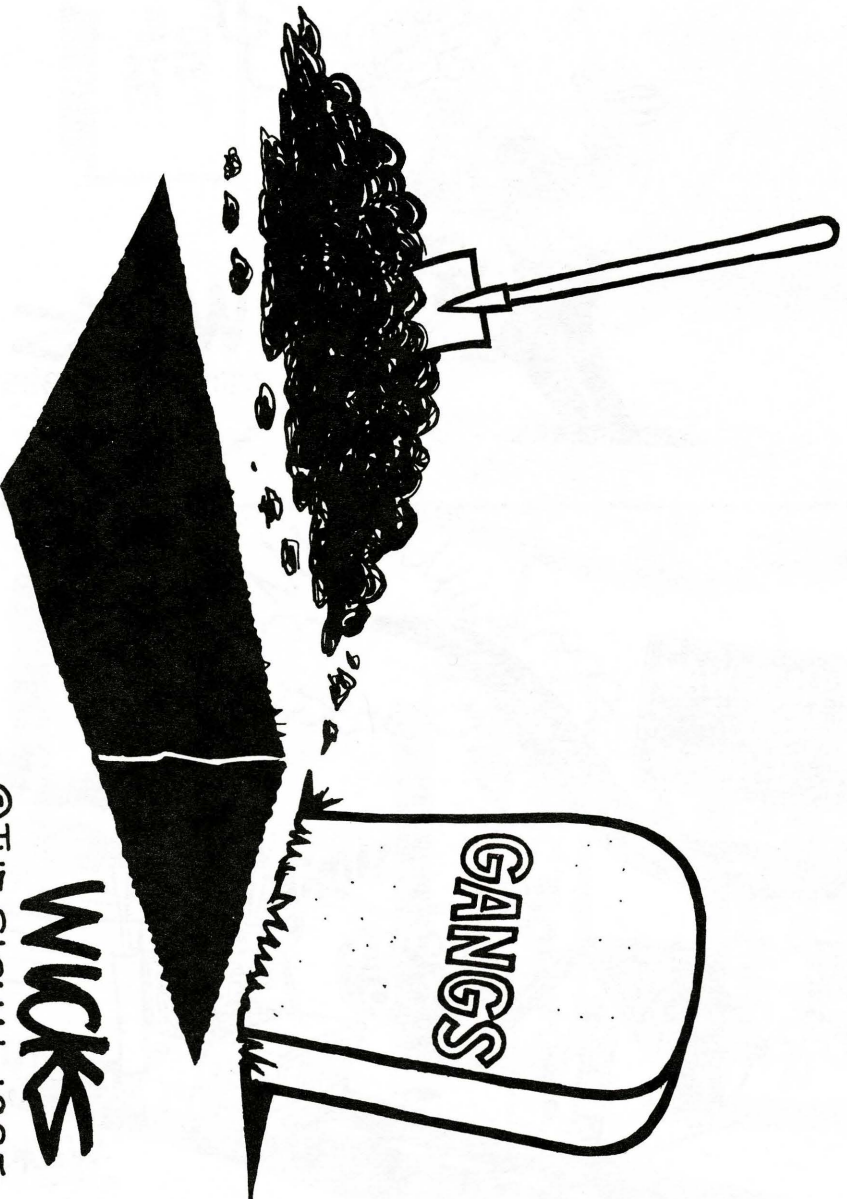
**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1994





DITTO.



**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1995

ALTHOUGH I HAVE  
RECEIVED OVER \$14,000  
IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM LANDFILL COMPANIES  
AS YOUR SUPERVISOR...



IT HAS NO  
EFFECT ON  
MY POSITION!

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1995

HOW A NEW  
EAST/WEST  
SCV ROAD  
MIGHT LOOK  
TO SOME...



HIGHWAY  
TO  
HEAVEN

AND HOW IT  
MIGHT LOOK  
TO OTHERS

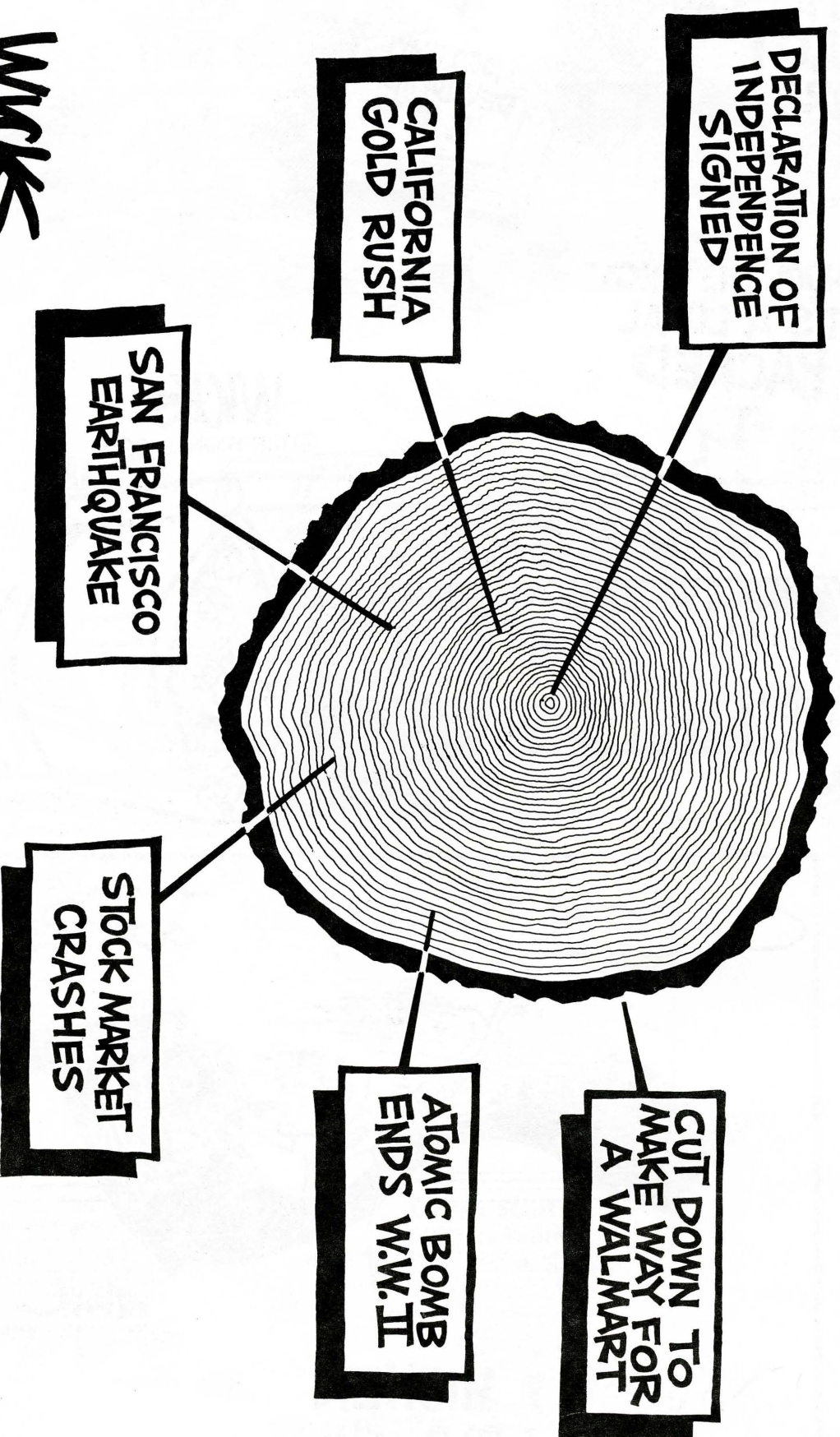


ROUTE  
666

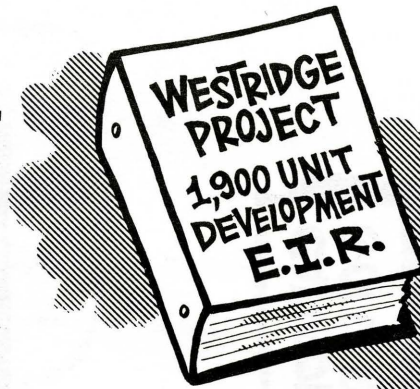
HONK

**WICKS**  
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# OAK TREE RINGS



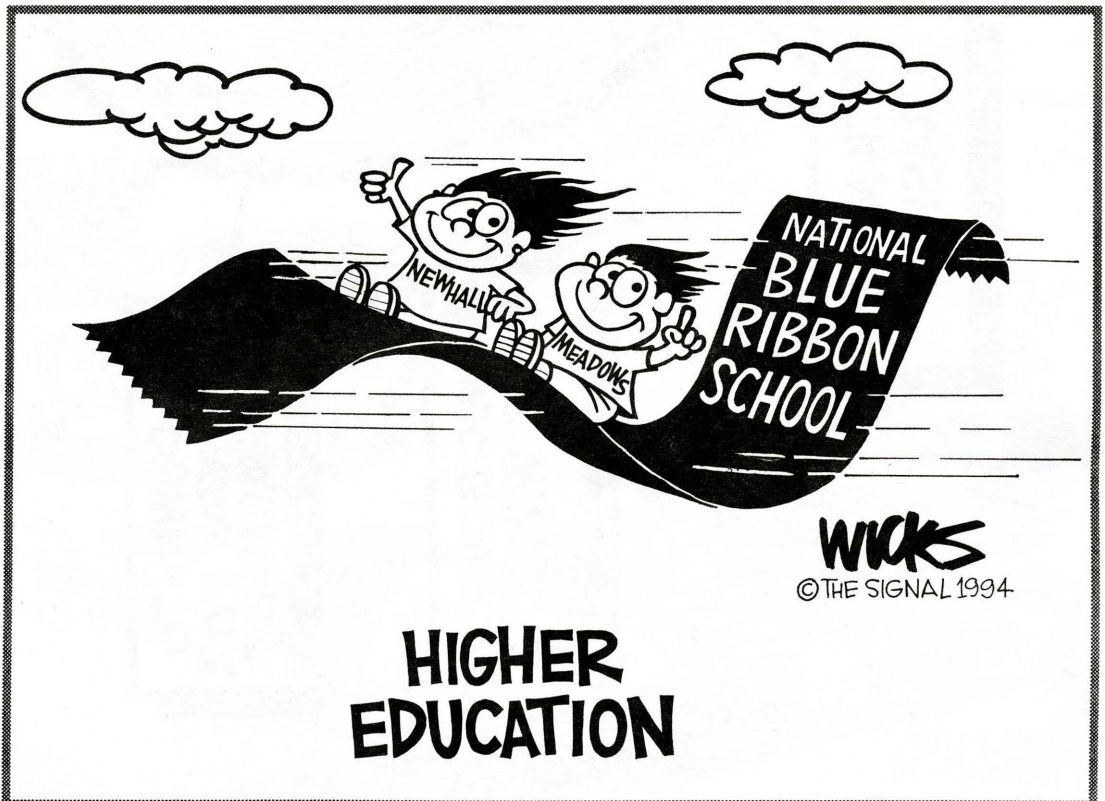
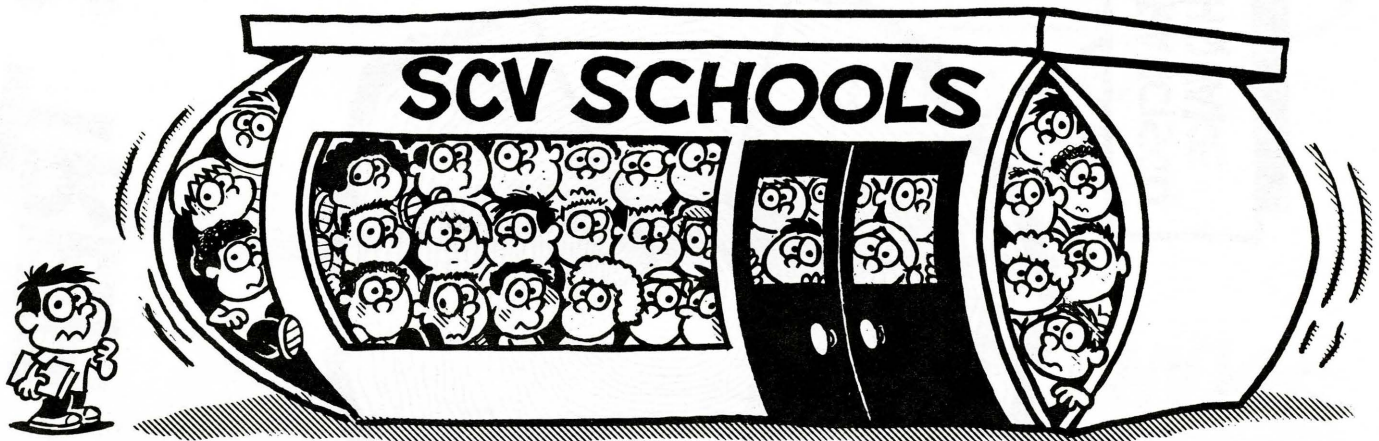
LOCAL DEVELOPER  
SAYS IT'S A LOCAL  
**IMPACT**  
REPORT



LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SAYS IT'S A LOCAL  
**I.M. PACKED**  
REPORT

**WICKS**

© THE SIGNAL 1995



**WICKS**

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**HIGHER  
EDUCATION**

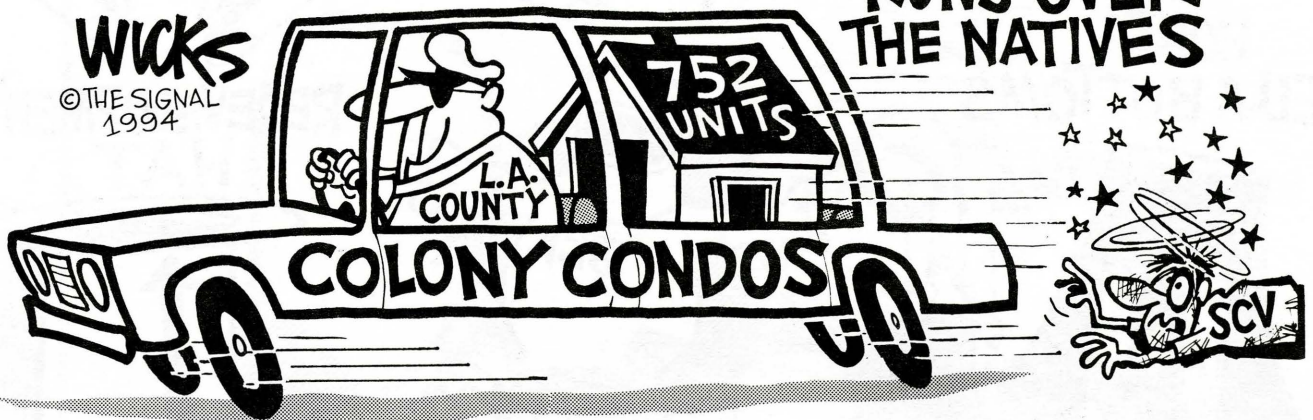
**THIS COLONY  
OVERRUNS  
THE NATIVES**



**THIS COLONY  
RUNS OVER  
THE NATIVES**

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL  
1994



I'M UPSET  
ABOUT THE  
CLAS TEST  
GIVEN IN SCHOOL!



INSTEAD OF ASKING  
MULTIPLE CHOICE  
& TRUE OR FALSE  
QUESTIONS...



I HEAR THAT  
THIS TEST ASKS  
THE STUDENTS  
WHAT THEY  
THINK!



I DON'T WANT  
MY KID LEARNING  
THAT KINDA STUFF  
IN SCHOOL!



**WICKS**  
©THE SIGNAL 1994

# IF 'VALENCIA WEAR' STARTS A LOCAL TREND...

PLACERITA  
NO PARKA

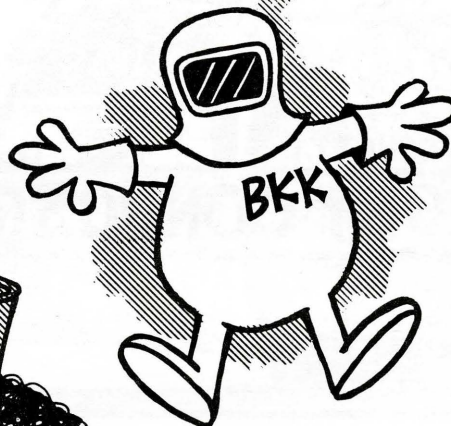


PORTA  
BELLA BOTTOMS



**WICKS** © THE SIGNAL 1995

MATCHING CLWA/CITY  
LAWSUITS

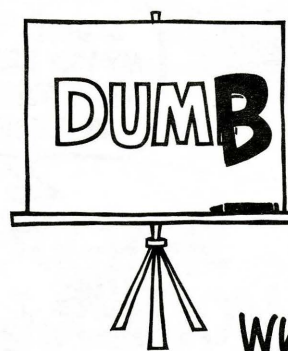
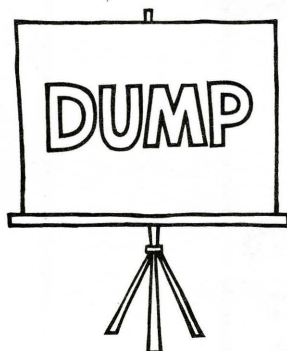


ELSMERE  
DESIGNER  
DUMPWEAR

REDEVELOPMENT  
HAT

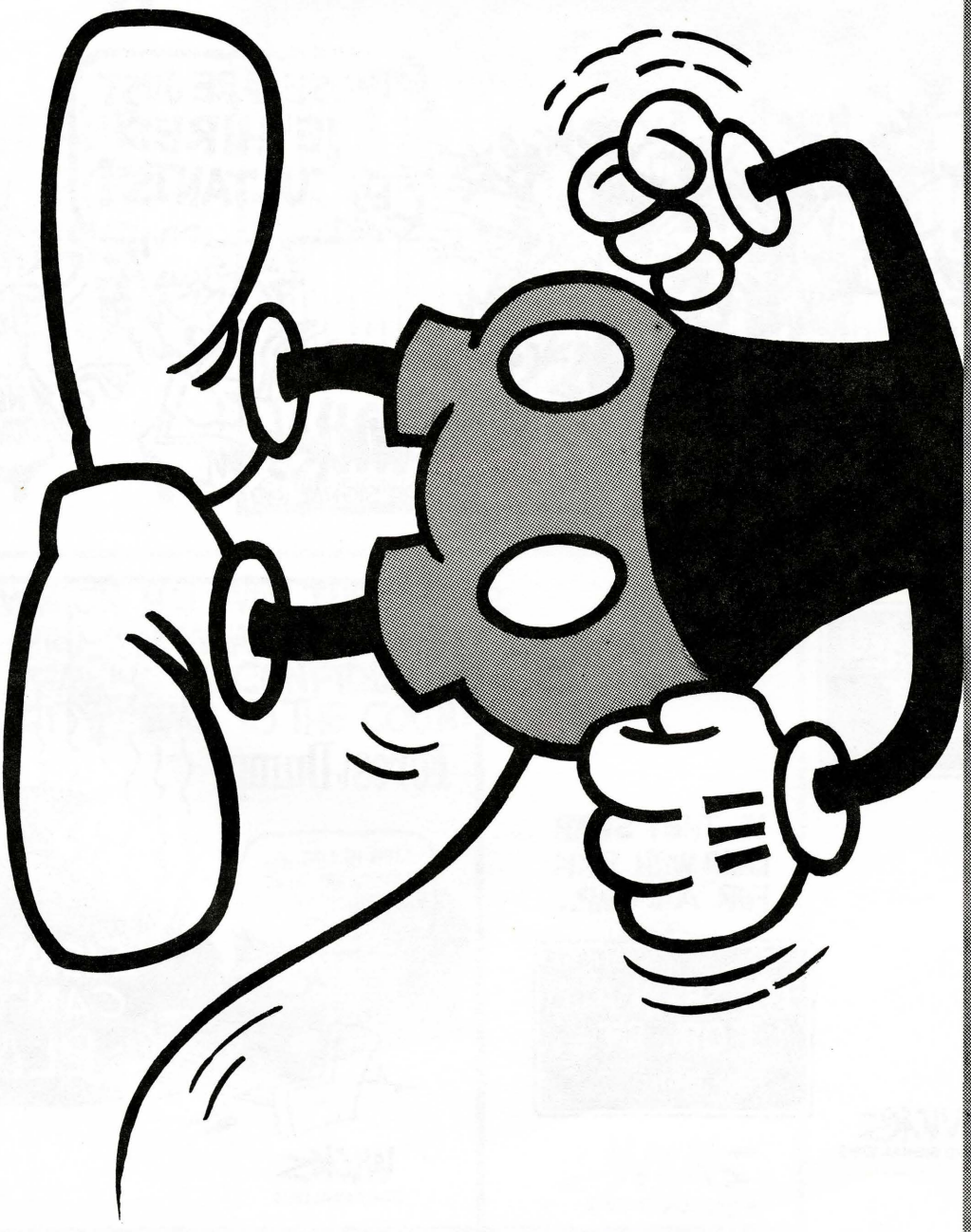
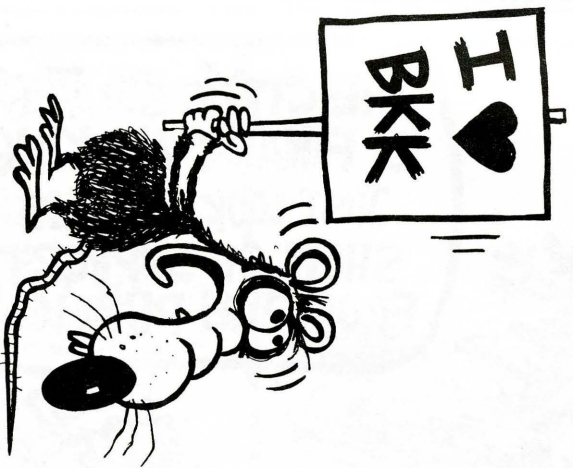


SCV RESIDENTS  
FINALLY GOT TO  
FORMALLY RESPOND  
TO THIS PLAN



**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1995

CORPORATE GIANT  
JOINS LOCAL  
OPPOSITION TO  
ELSMERE LANDFILL



WICKS  
©THE SIGNAL  
1995



THE CITY'S STRATEGY  
IS FINALLY WORKING!  
JUST LOOK AT THIS  
SHOW OF SUPPORT  
FROM THE PUBLIC!!



DUMP  
THE  
DUMP



THOSE ARE JUST  
THE HIRED  
CONSULTANTS!



DUMP  
THE  
DUMP

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1994

NATIONAL  
FOREST  
next right

IF THEY SWAP  
LAND WITH BKK  
FOR A DUMP...

TRASH ON ALL  
FOREST  
next blight

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1995

Forest Dump

LIFE IS LIKE A  
LANDFILL, YOU NEVER  
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
GOING TO GET...



ELSMERE  
CANYON  
PLAN

ANGELES  
NATIONAL  
FOREST

**WICKS**

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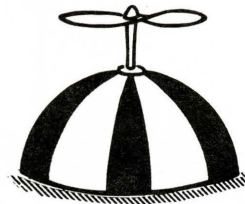
SHOWER AND  
LAUNDRY FOR  
HOMELESS  
OFFERED BY  
THE INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL



SHOWER AND  
LAUNDRY FOR  
HOMELESS  
OFFERED BY  
THE CITY  
COUNCIL



WHICH HAT WAS THE MAYOR  
PRO-TEM WEARING WHEN  
FAXING A CONFIDENTIAL  
CITY MEMO TO THE COUNTY?



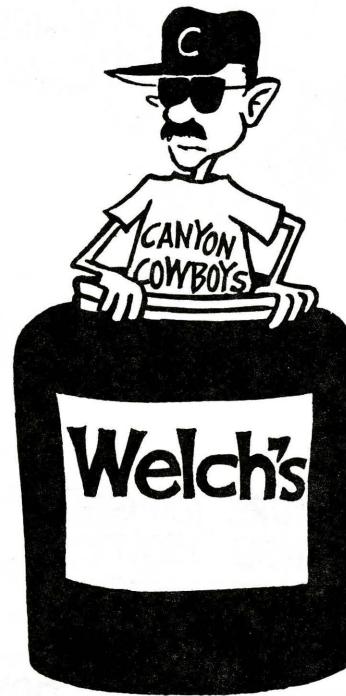
**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1994



**WICKS**  
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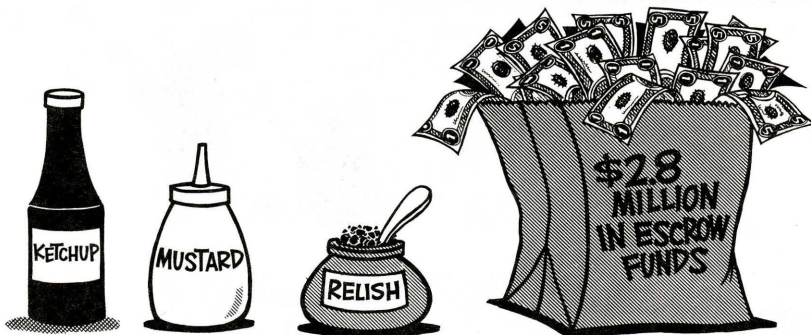


WHERE MOST  
TEAMS GOT  
THEIR JUICE



WHERE ONE  
TEAM GOT  
ITS JUICE

WHAT DO THESE HAVE IN COMMON?



ALL OF THEM HAVE  
GONE WITH WIENERS

**WICKS**  
©THE SIGNAL 1994

HOME, HOME ON  
THE RANGE,  
FOR EIGHTY-THREE  
GRAND N' CHANGE.



THREE DAYS OF  
WAXIN' POETIC  
ON THE JOY OF  
WESTERN AESTHETIC.



BEFORE YOU GET  
TENSE 'BOUT  
THE PUBLIC'S  
EXPENSE,



DON'T WORRY  
OR SCREAMA  
WE'RE APPLYIN'  
TO FEMA!



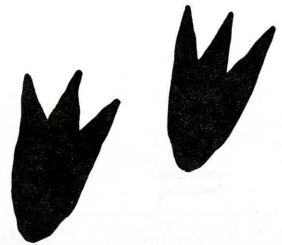
**WICKS**  
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1994

## TRACKS OF THE EXTINCT

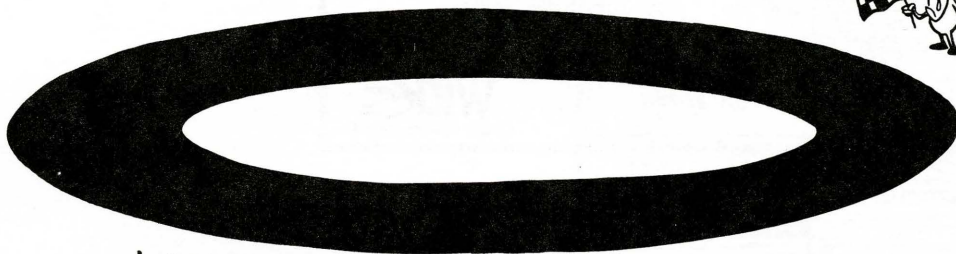


PASSENGER  
PIGEON

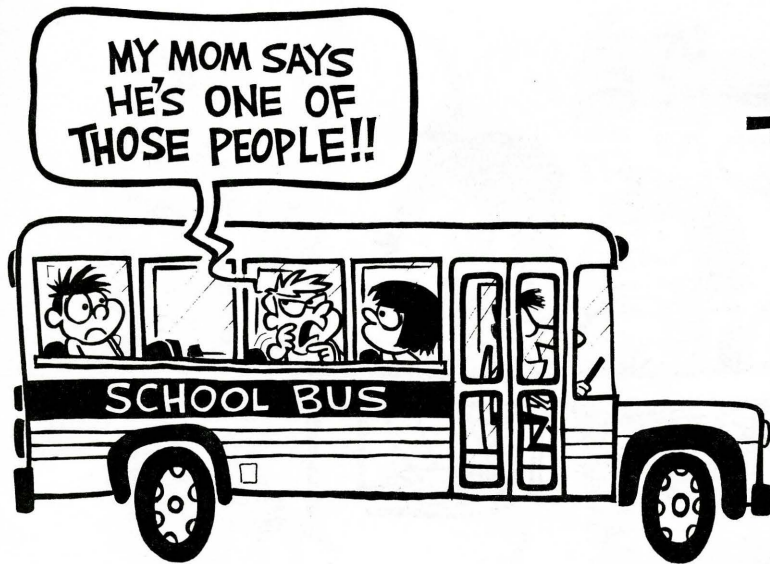
JURASSIC  
DINOSAUR



SAUGUS SPEEDWAY



**WICKS** © THE SIGNAL 1995



# THE BACK OF THE BUS



**WICKS**  
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1994

BEFORE  
RESTRAINING  
ORDER



AFTER  
RESTRAINING  
ORDER

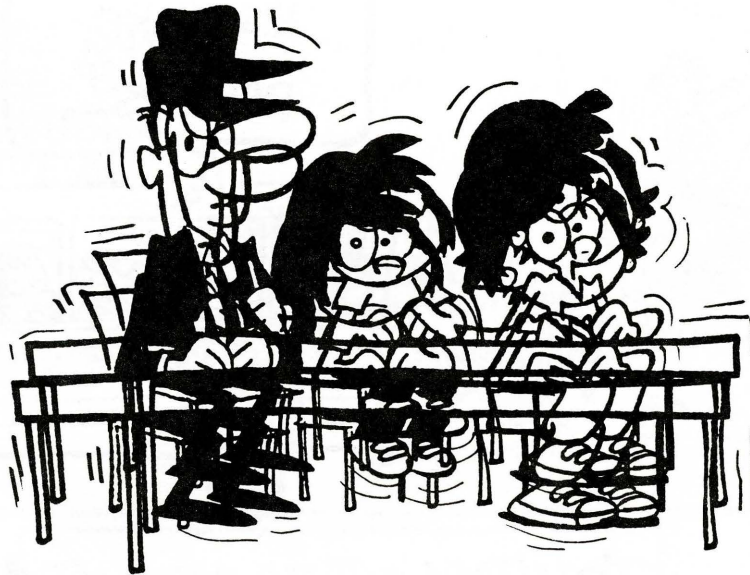


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1994

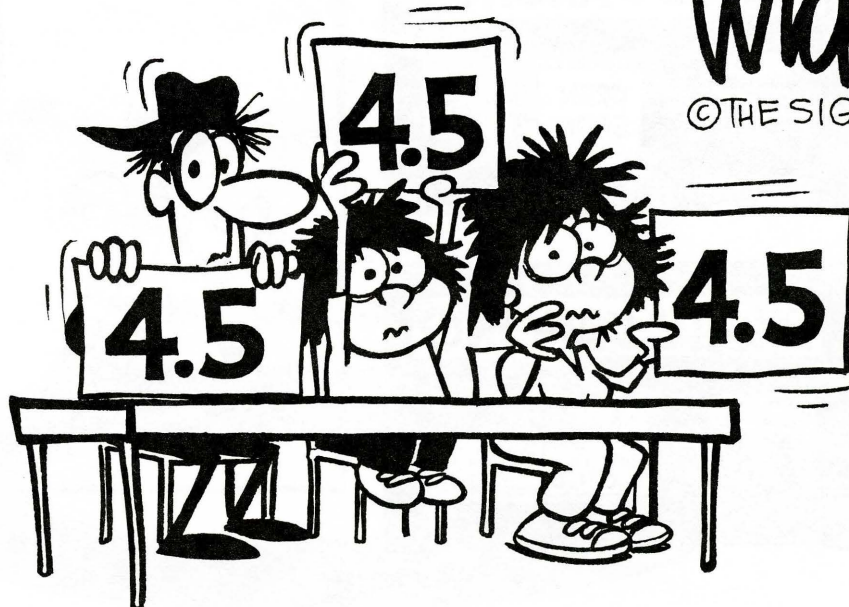


**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1994

SINCE WE'VE  
EXPERIENCED  
SO MANY  
AFTERSHOCKS



WE'RE NOW  
EXPERTS AT  
JUDGING  
THEM



**WICKS**  
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SCOTT NEWHALL  
ISN'T GONE...

HE'S JUST  
RAISIN' HELL IN  
ANOTHER NEWSROOM.



**WICKS**

© THE SIGNAL 1992

# PULL APART

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1994

# PULL TOGETHER

# WICKS' BLASTS FROM THE PAST

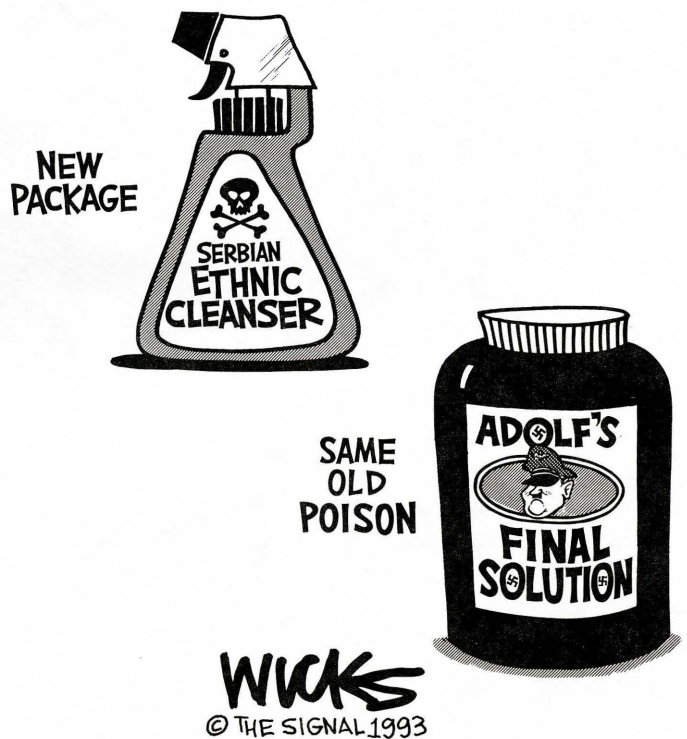
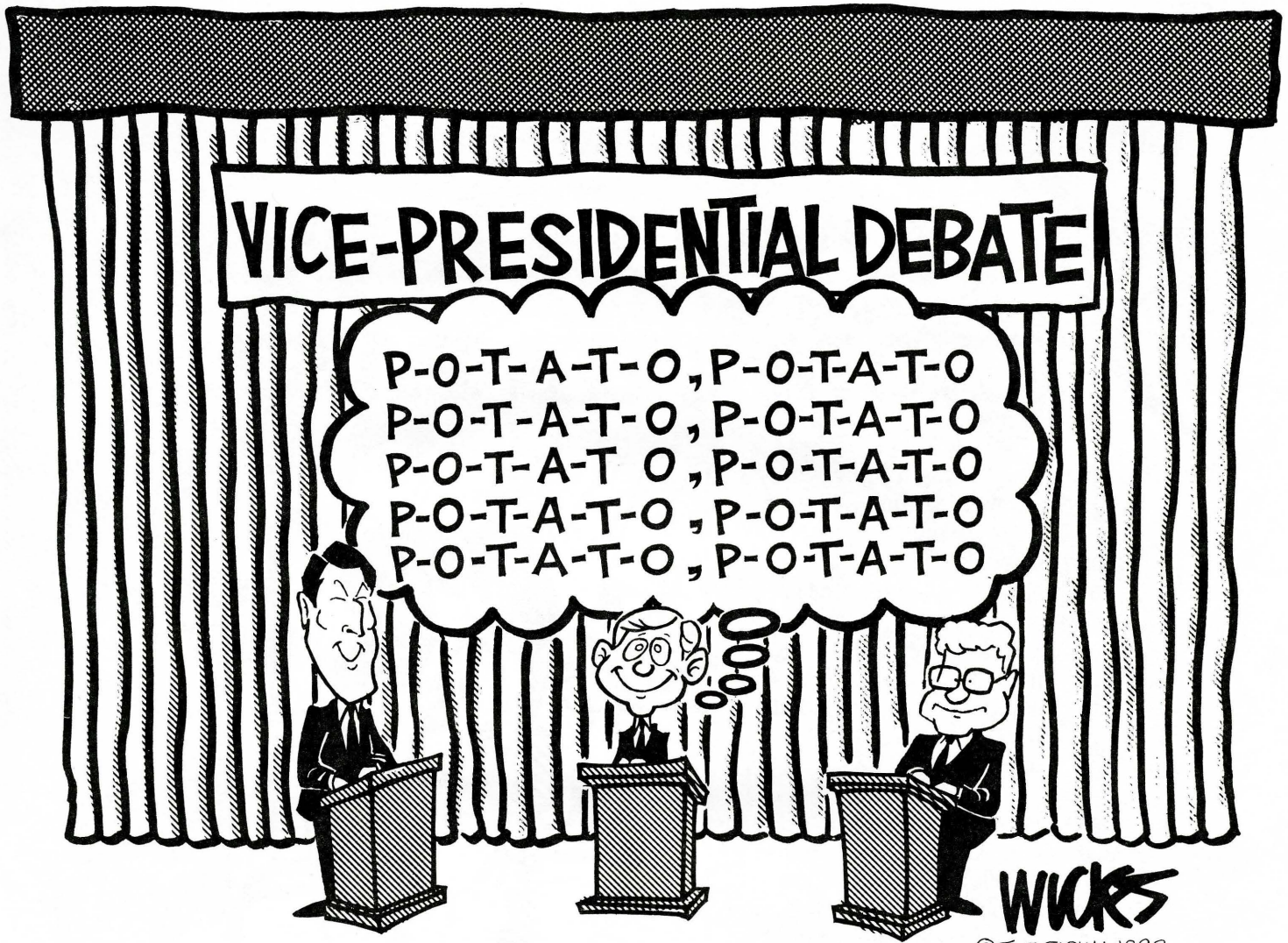
**I**magine having a job where you draw a cartoon every day, six days a week, and after 15 years, somebody asks you to pick out the best, oh, hundred or so.

Trust us, it's not an easy task.

In the following pages, we go a little further back into Wicks' career as The Signal's editorial cartoonist. Call it the "greatest hits" section.

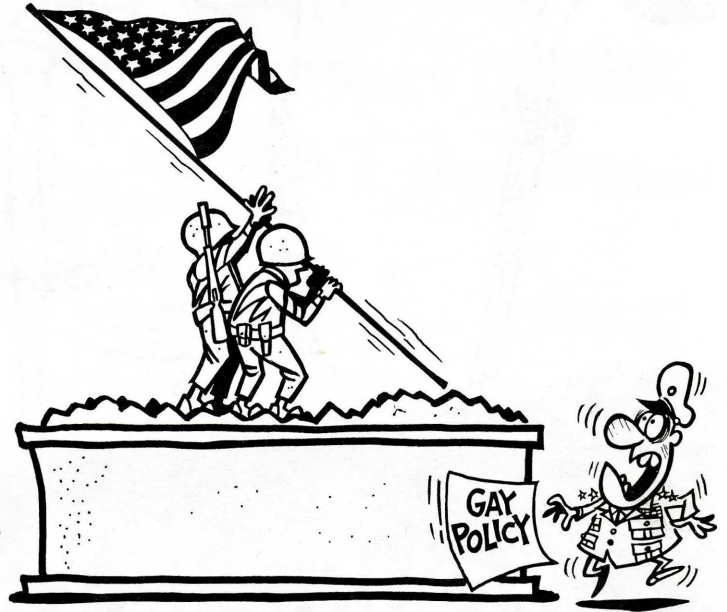
It's a must for any look back at Wicks' work of the past decade and a half. After all, we couldn't give you Wicked Wicks of the West without including a poke or two at The Reagan Years, could we?





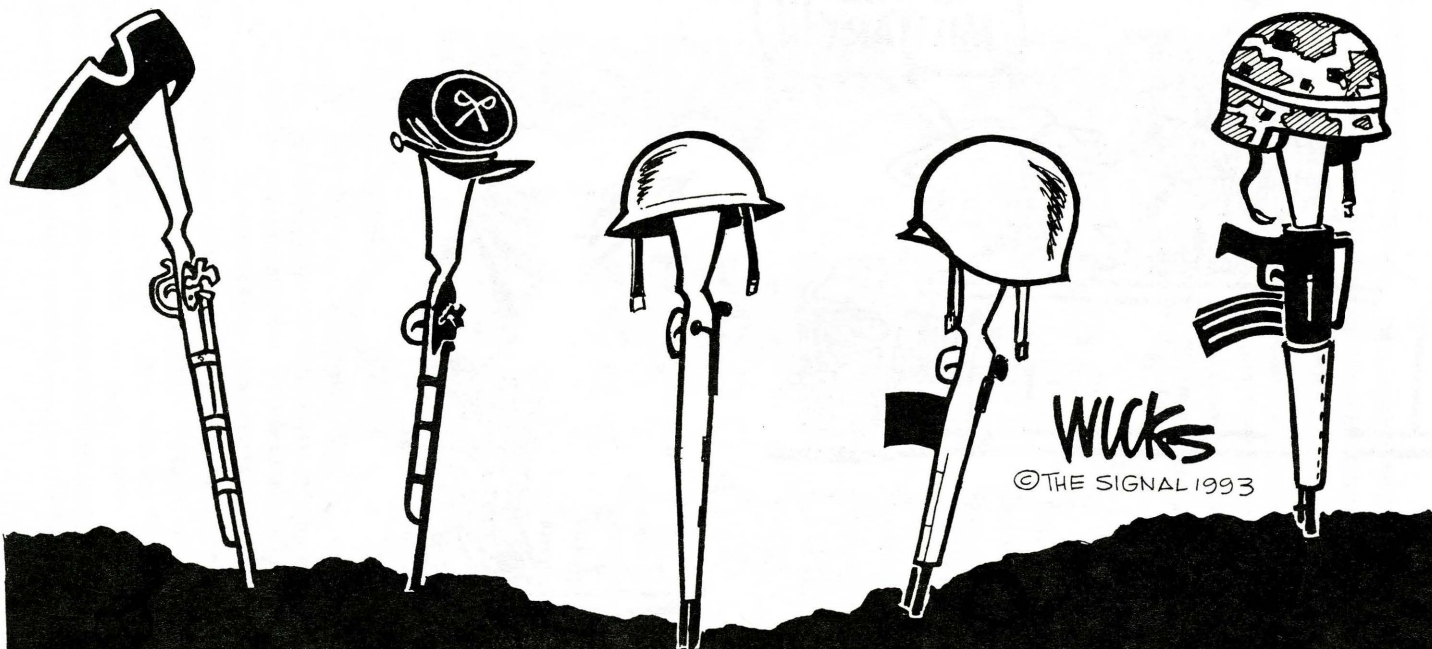


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# LOST IN OUR BATTLES



# FOUND IN OUR HEARTS

THERE'S A LITTLE  
FROG IN ALL OUR  
THROATS TODAY...



JIM HENSON  
1936-1990

**WICKS**  
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O beautiful for noxious fumes,  
For somber dumps of shame;  
For purple mounds of PCB's;  
Amidst the acid rain.  
America, America,  
Don't get that stuff on me.





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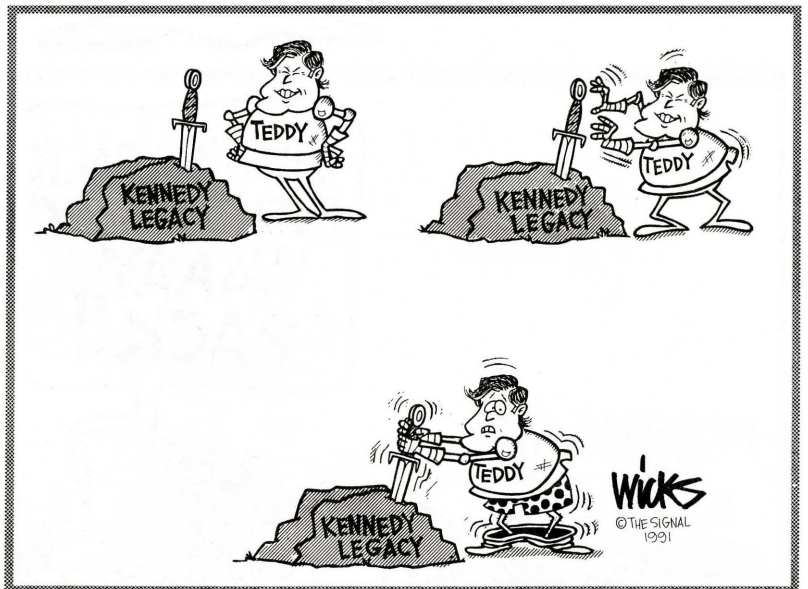


IN THEORY

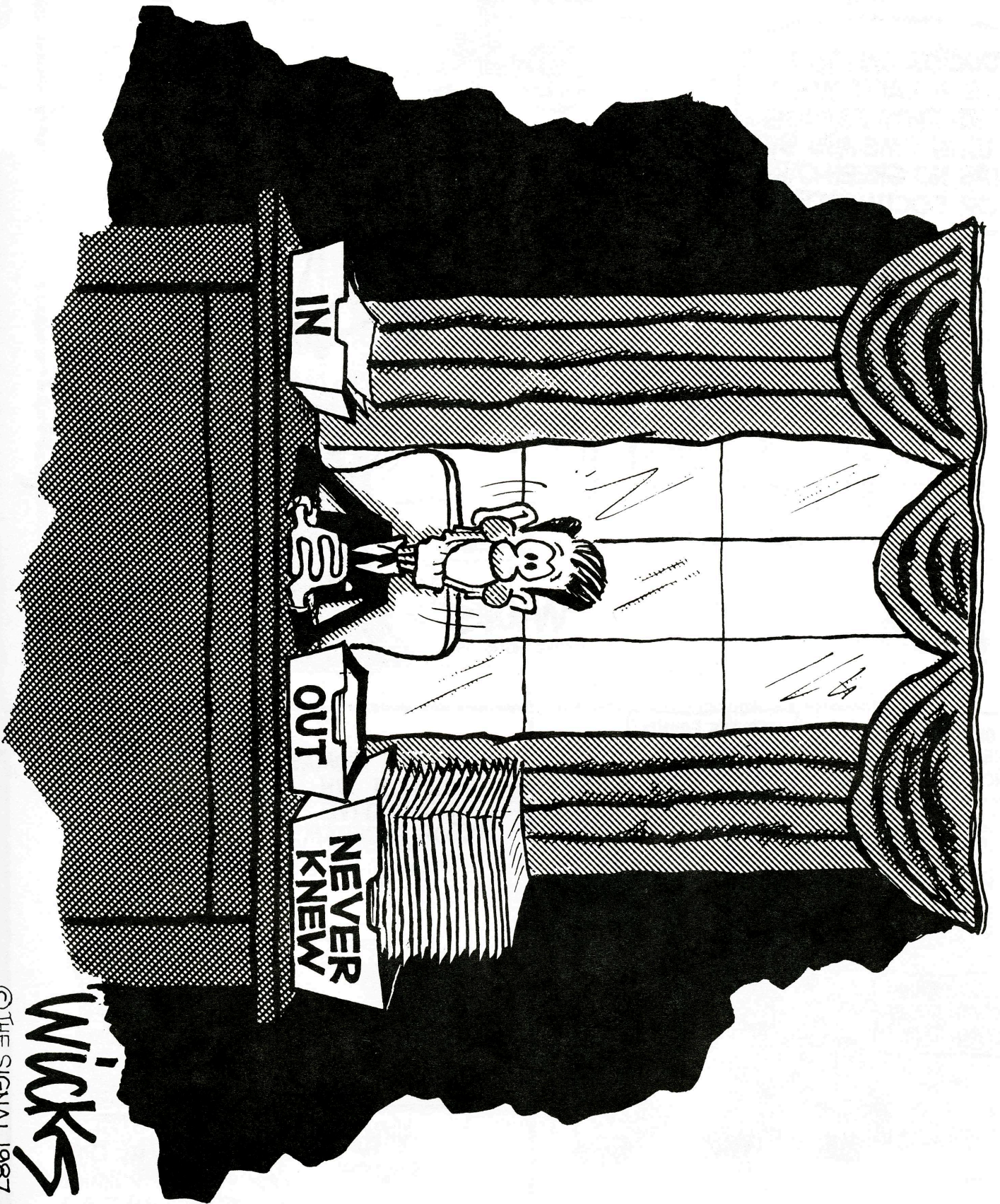
**WICKS**  
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IN REALITY



**WICKS**  
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**Wicks**  
© THE SIGNAL 1987

# IF PROPOSITION 187 PASSES...

DOCTOR CAN YOU  
SEE A LADY WHO  
CAME FROM FRANCE  
A LONG TIME AGO BUT  
HAS NO GREEN CARD  
OR DOCUMENTS



SORRY...



**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1994

THE ONLY BLACK  
SUPREME COURT  
JUSTICE RETIRED...



... SO I'VE FOUND  
ANOTHER BLACK  
TO REPLACE HIM!



RACE HAD NOTHING  
TO DO WITH IT AND  
YOU CAN QUOTA ME!



QUOTE ME,  
I MEANT  
QUOTE ME!!

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1991

CLARENCE THOMAS'  
POSITION ON  
AFFIRMATIVE  
ACTION PROGRAMS

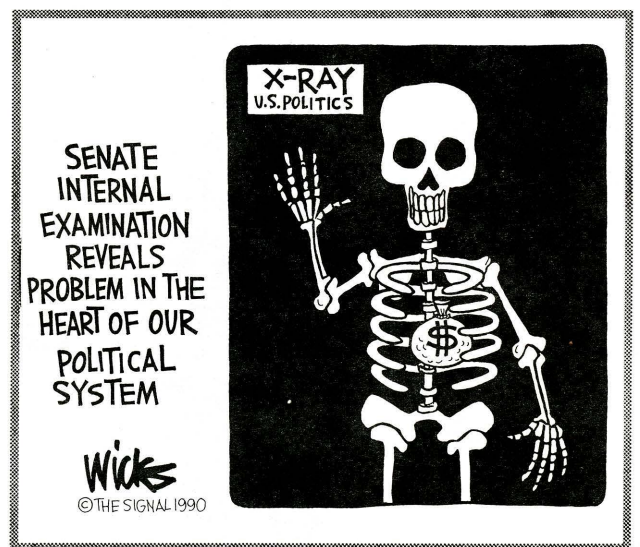
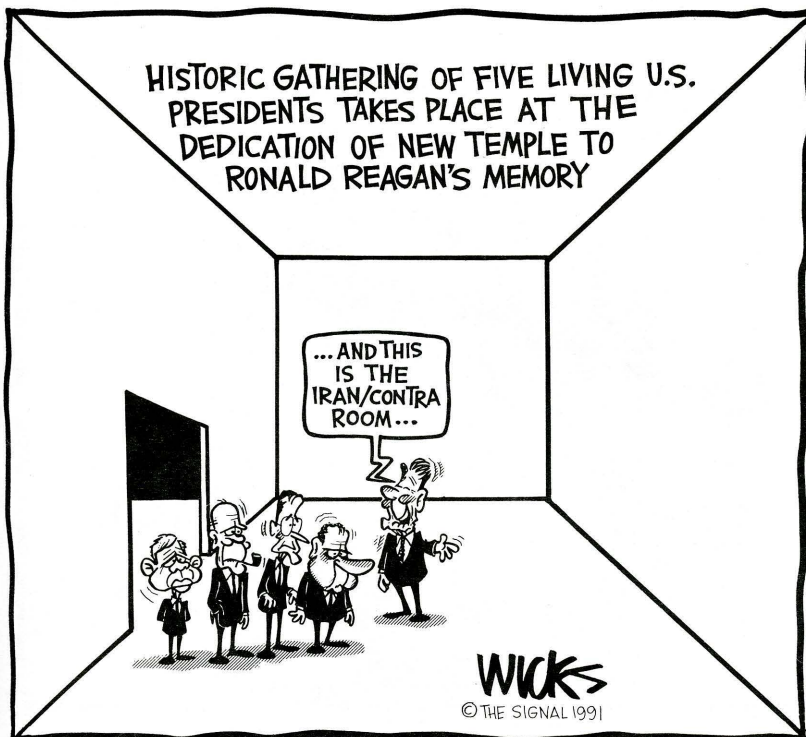
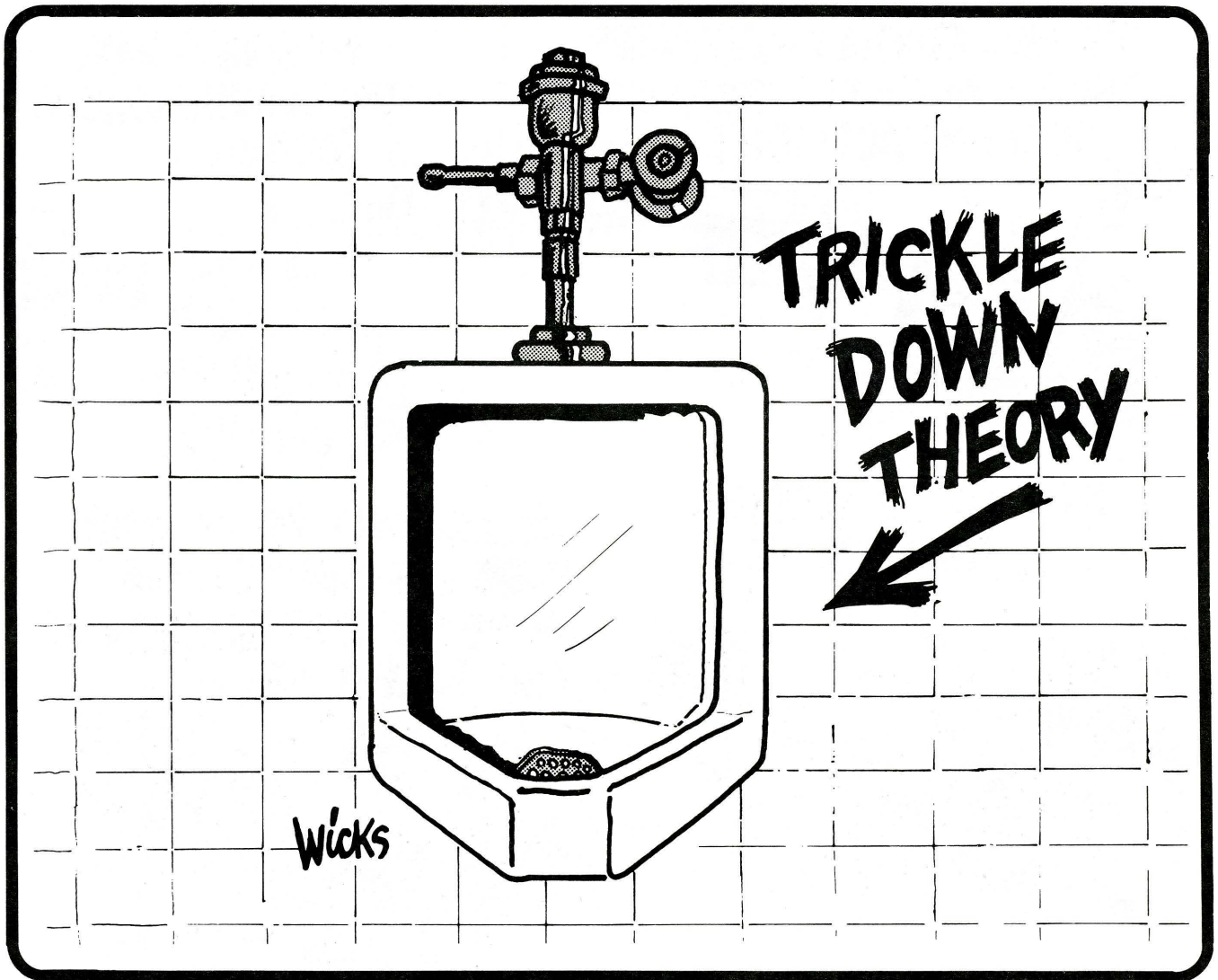


**WICKS**

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1991



HOW HE GOT  
INTO POSITION  
TO HAVE A  
POSITION



THE WEST GREATLY EXAGGERATES  
THE EXTENT OF THE CHERNOBYL  
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

CCCP-TV



WE SOVIETS HAVE  
EVERYTHING UNDER  
CONTROL...

CCCP-TV



NOW FOR THE WEATHER  
IN EASTERN EUROPE...



UNSEASONABLY HOT IN SOME  
AREAS WITH COBALT SHOWERS &  
IODINE FLURRIES THROUGHOUT  
THE HALF-LIFE...



**WICKS**  
©THE SIGNAL 1986

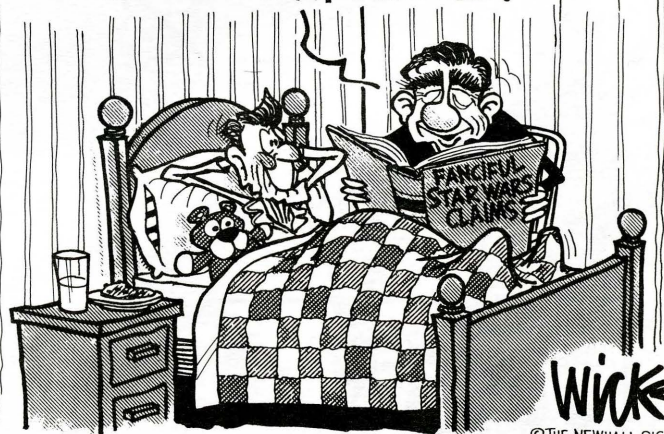
TIME HEALS  
ALL WOUNDS

THE SCAR  
SERVES AS  
A REMINDER



**WICKS**  
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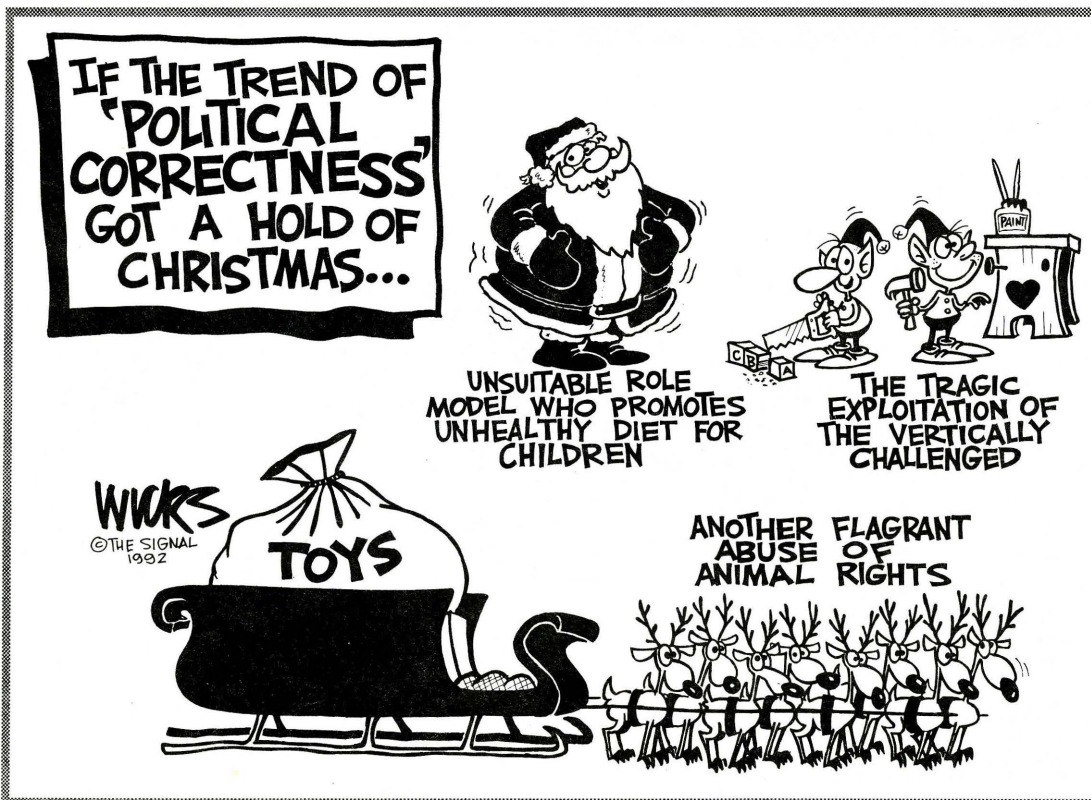
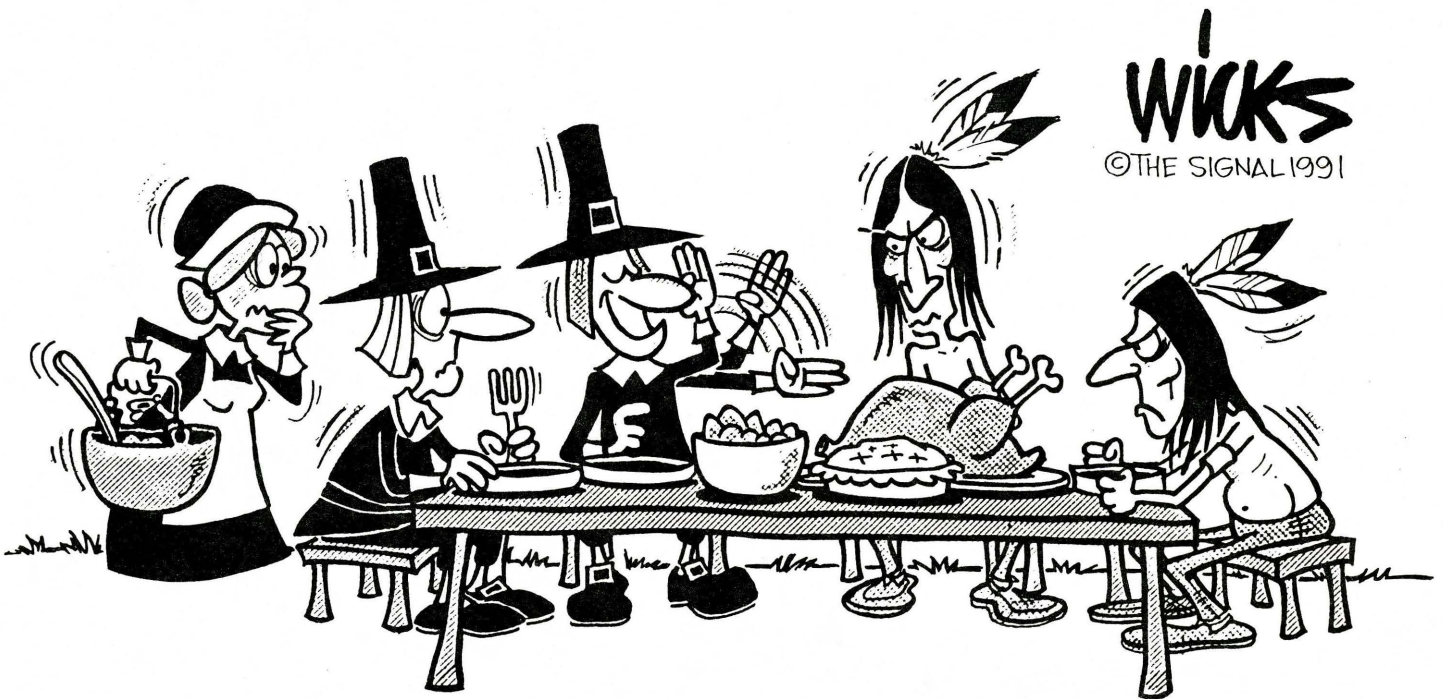
...AND THEN THE NICE NEW  
X-RAY LASER BEAM DESTROYED  
ALL THE BAD ENEMY MISSILES!



**WICKS**  
©THE NEWHALL SIGNAL 1988

BEDTIME STORY TELLER

EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE  
AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING  
UNTIL MILES STANDISH DID  
THE TOMAHAWK CHOP

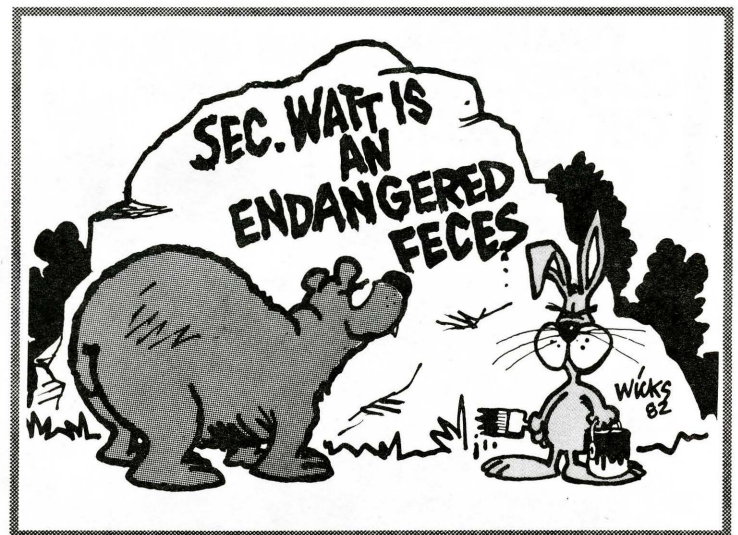
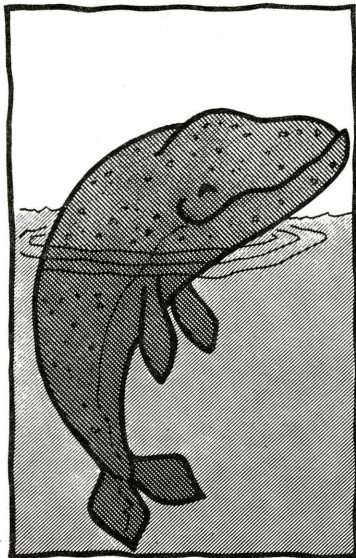


# WICKS

©THE NEWHALL  
SIGNAL 1989



WHICH OF THESE MAMMALS  
IS MORE INTELLIGENT?





**LIVE  
AID**



**FARM  
AID**



**CONTRA  
AID**

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1986

JUST FILL OUT THIS  
FORM THAT SAYS YOU'RE  
NOT SOME KINDA NUT  
AND YOU'RE ALL SET...

**GUNS GALORE**



**WICKS**

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**LUSTING  
HEART**



**HART  
LUSTING**

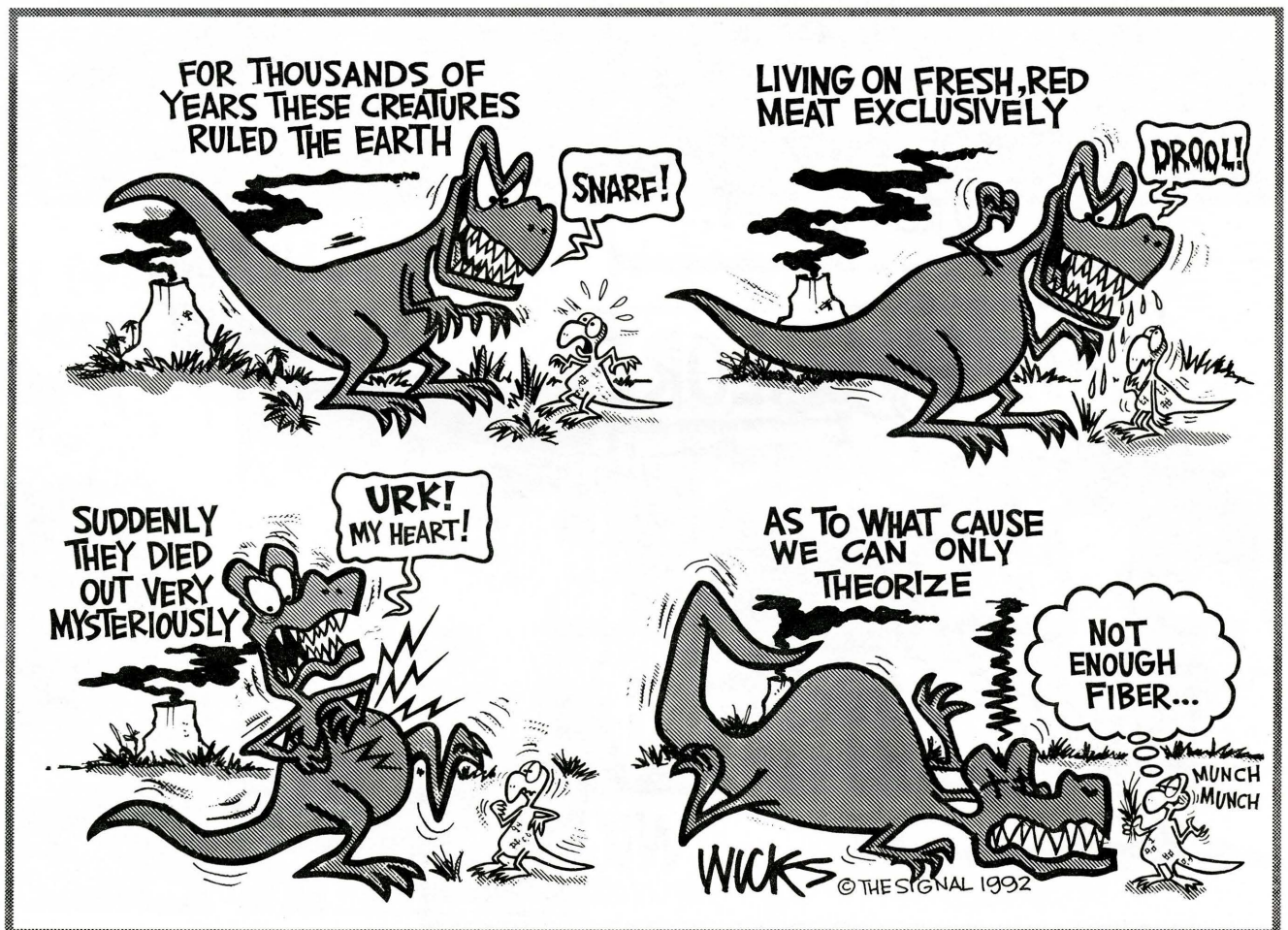
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**WICKS**

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**IF THE STATE  
WAS SPLIT  
INTO THREE...**

**WICKS**  
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FOR GAYS,  
LIBERALS &  
SPOTTED  
OWLS



FOR BIG  
GROWERS  
& LITTLE  
PICKERS



FOR THE  
PEOPLE WHOSE  
PEOPLE CALL  
YOUR PEOPLE

**CALIFAUXNIA**



ZOOLOGISTS SAY  
THERE WILL BE AN  
ADJUSTMENT PERIOD  
FOR THE FIRST PAIR  
OF CALIFORNIA CONDORS  
RETURNED TO THE WILD.

—NEWS ITEM

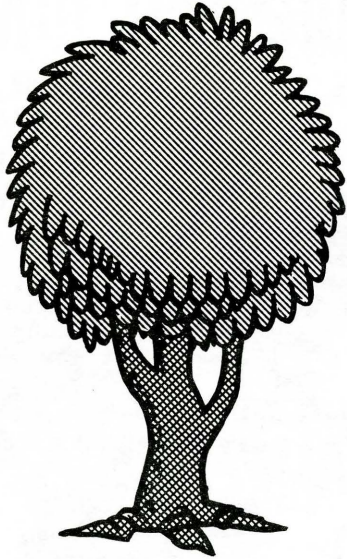
UH, OH...  
NO CABLE!



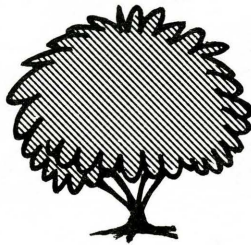
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# EARTH QUIZ:

WHICH ONE EMITS GASEOUS  
FUMES HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT?



TREE



SHRUB



BUSH

**WICKS**  
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JUSTICE THOMAS  
HAS VOLUNTEERED  
TO SHOW YOU  
SOME SUPREME  
COURT BRIEFS...



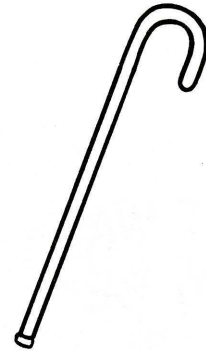
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USED BY LAPD  
AS SEEN ON  
VIDEOTAPE



A BLACK  
BATON

USED BY JURY  
WHO SAW THE  
VIDEOTAPE



A WHITE  
CANE

**WICKS** ©THE SIGNAL 1992

EVERY 9 SECONDS  
ANOTHER AMERICAN  
IS THE VICTIM OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**WICKS**

©THE SIGNAL 1995



BEFORE IT WAS  
TRENDY TO BE  
SENSITIVE TO OUR  
ENVIRONMENT  
THERE WAS ONE  
GROUP OF  
AMERICANS...

...WHO BELIEVED  
THE EARTH WAS  
A LIVING BEING  
DESERVING TO  
BE TREATED WITH  
CARE AND RESPECT.

**WICKS**  
© THE SIGNAL 1990



WE CALLED  
THEM  
SAVAGES



# 'Wicked WICKS of the West'



Photo by Kevin Karzin

**R**andy Wicks has been the editorial cartoonist for The Signal, the Santa Clarita Valley's daily newspaper, since 1980.

During that time, he has won 17 state and national awards and has earned a reputation as a no-holds-barred observer of politics, world events and human nature.

Wicks, 41, tells it like it is.

He and his three sisters were raised on their parents'

family farm near Belmond, Iowa. He moved to Santa Clarita to attend California Institute of the Arts in 1976. He graduated from CalArts in 1980, and soon thereafter became the full-time cartoonist for the local paper in his adopted hometown.

Wicks is a self-described "information junkie" who reads three newspapers per day. In his spare time, he roots for his beloved Chicago Cubs — a pastime that he

describes as "foolish."

Wicks, who most admires his parents, always strives to give readers an honest interpretation of events in the world and in Santa Clarita.

"I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't say the emperor has no clothes, because a lot of times his heinie is hanging out," says Wicks. "Whether readers agree or disagree with me, it's not that important. As long as I make them think."