THE CREATION OF A PAGE

TUTORIAL AND GUIDE

BY TOM HART
Inspiration came from the previous strip, where two boys find some recording equipment and interview some of the main characters in the strip. I wanted to explore this further.

Having read Gilbert Hernandez's Fear of Comics that morning, I was struck by the man posing questions to a tree.
2. SKETCHES AND PLAY

Exploring the idea via doodling and writing.
Questions and lists: What things can you do with a microphone?

100 THINGS TO DO WITH A MICROPHONE?

- Mean Gene
- Interview Sport Stars
- Celebrities on carpet
- It’s cool, great!
- I tell you Mean Gene, Hulkamania is running wild!
- Stick it in a bad place
- Record streams and other sounds
- Start a band with appliances like fax
  Albert
- Start a radio station
- Hit somebody with it
- Karaoke
- Music video

Step - Impe'o
What if
3. DEEPER EXPLORATION AND FIRST PANELS

Playing around with my favorite story structure outlines (a sort of "story circle" or adventure, left) and then imaginative writings (top right) I come to something I am mostly happy with. I begin drawing panels down below (see numbered 1-7 and 8 and 9 on the previous page.)
4. FIRST ROUGHS

Roughed on pre-printed copy paper using red prismacolor pencil. Mostly looking for compositions and gestures.
5. SECOND ROUND OF ROUGHS

Traced up on a lightbox with a mechanical pencil on pre-printed copy paper.

Still exploring solutions and ideas.
Yes! I use the Manga Pose Resource book for really crazy action poses. I used this one among others.
From a book on costumes I drew some "cigar store Indians" and from Google Images, I sketched some rats. (I was never pleased with my rat drawings in this strip...) I also sketched raccoons from a book on drawing animals.

I always sketch in red pencil, cause the waxiness makes for a quick, smooth drawing experience that makes great, pleasing gesture drawings.
8. FIRST PENCILS

Mr. Johnson, I'm with junkyard radio. Can you tell us what it's like being an insider?

I focus on the drawings that are easy and fun. The hard ones come later.

AND FINISHED PENCILS

If I get real discouraged I'll start inking before the pencils are done, but this time I didn't...
Just like with the pencils, I ink what I like first, and save the scary stuff for last.

The back view of the kid was the biggest battle on this page and took ages to get right in the inks.

I also think I might have overdone some of the hatching..

---

**Pens Used**

Gillotts 850 for 90% of the inking
Kohinoor Rapidograph Size .3 for details
Kohinoor Rapidograph Size 1.2 for outlines
Sakura Brush Pen for blacks
Hutch Owen!
Let's interview the Indian statue for our radio show!

Last week Keith and Klaus found some radio equipment.

Mr. Indian, I'm with junkyard radio! Can you tell us what it's like being an Indian?

..."

Man, this thing sucks!!

Maybe we should interview things that show up better on tape!!

So, rat! Tell us about the great junkyard rat war of nineteen ten.

Sque!

Interview that raccoon!!

4 out of 5 rodents agree!!

Woah!

So Keith, what's it like being flat on your back in a hole?

It's over-rated.

You guys are new at this, aren't you?

Hey Klaus! Get the mic!! This guy talks.

Make sure he signs a waiver!

Copyright 2004 Tom Hart and New Hat Stories