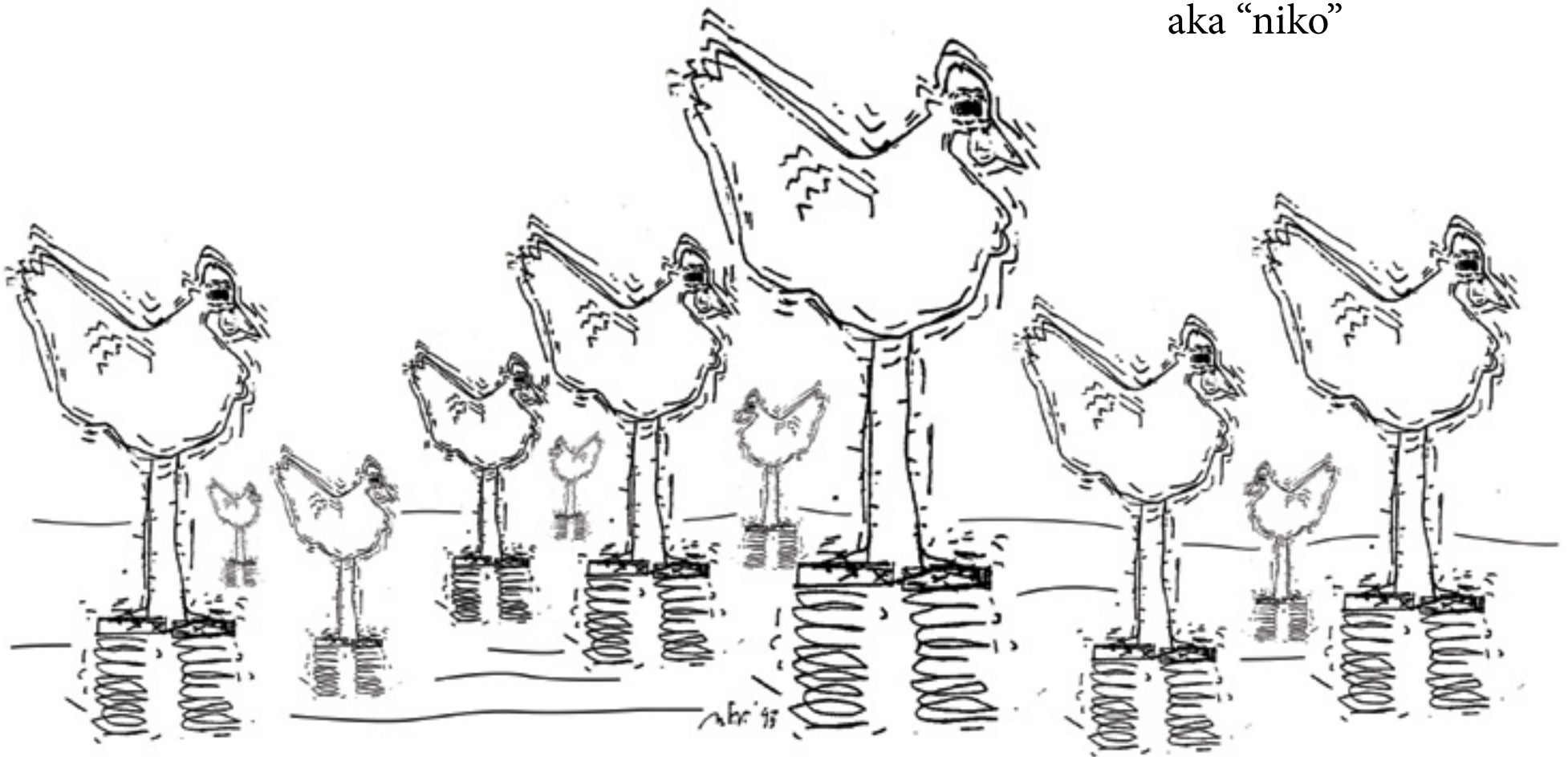


Spring Chicken Cartoons

2018 Special Edition Coloring Book

by Nicholas Rayder
aka "niko"



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2018 Special Edition Coloring Book

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1. Introduction

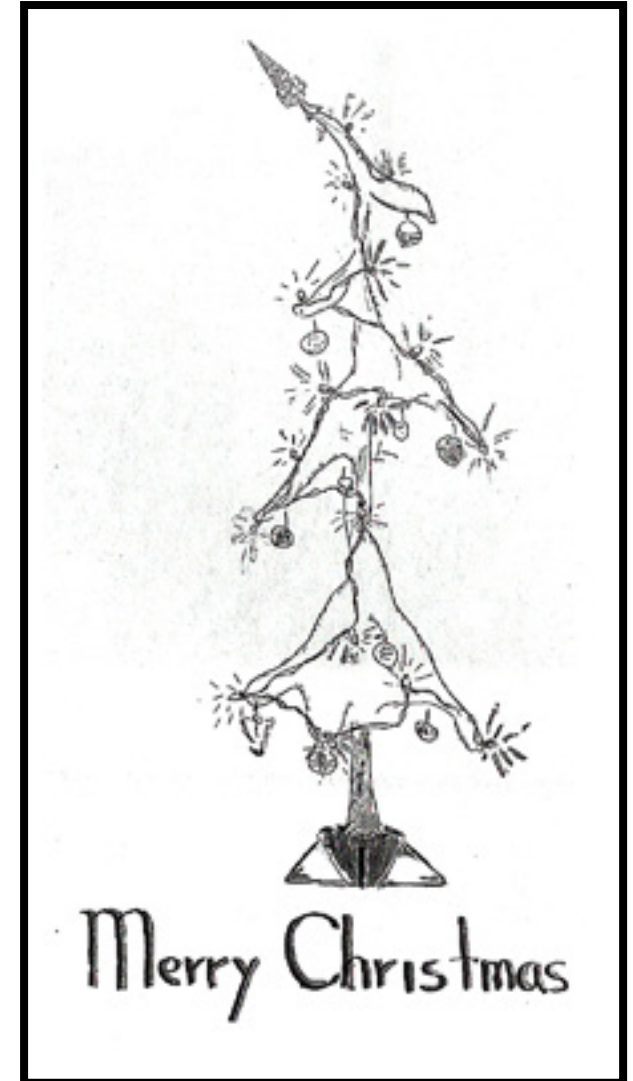
In 2005 I put the cartoons I created into a small spiral bound booklet titled “Spring Chickens”.

I’ve decided to reprint those cartoons and include the latest set of funny, witty, and hilarious cartoons. I hope they ‘knock your socks off’!!! Does anyone still wear socks? In this latest edition the cartoons are larger, clearer, and the captions easier to read and they can be colored!

I signed each cartoon with my cartoon name “niko”. When the idea came from someone else, I acknowledge their input in the signature. For example, my brother Edward came up with the ideas for several cartoons. They are signed “ednick” to indicate his contribution.

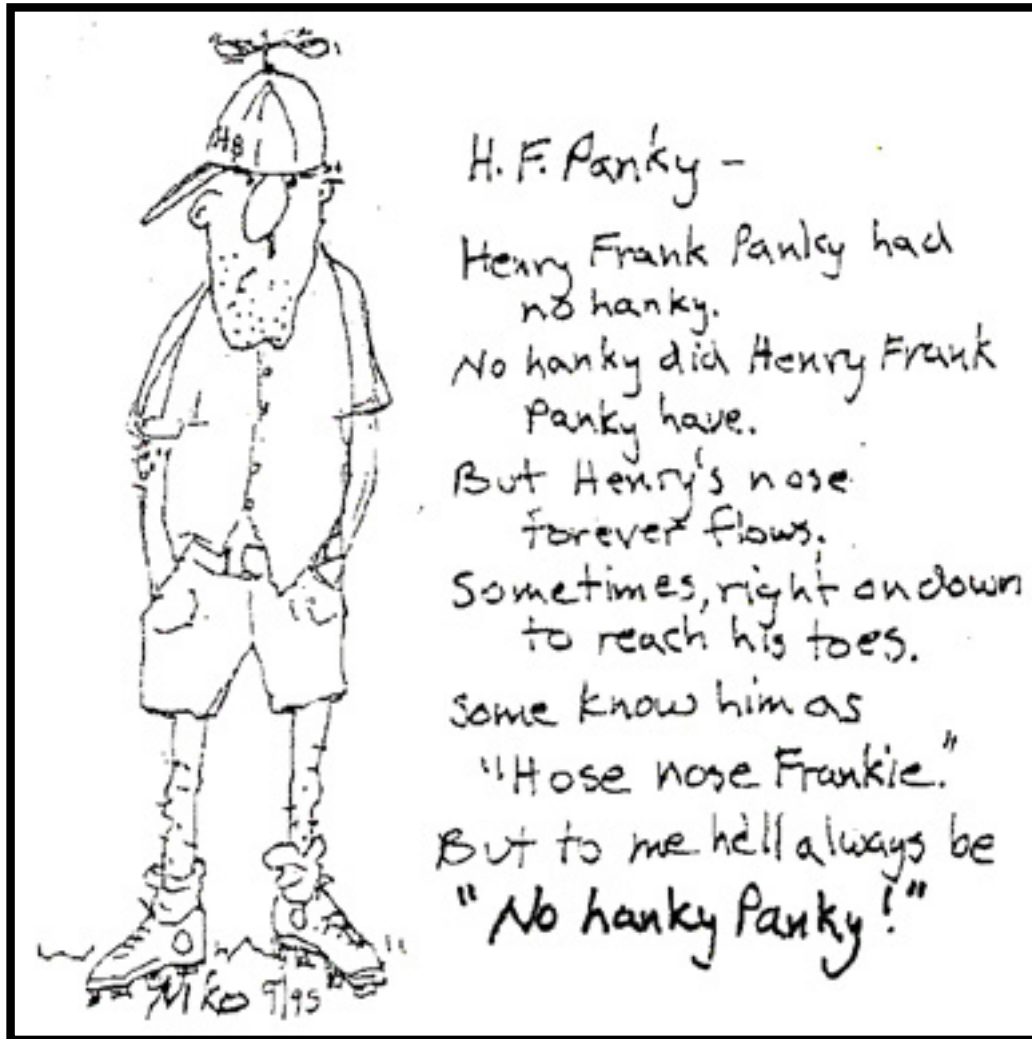
2. Start

The first cartoon I remember drawing was in High School. It was of a man holding a undecorated scraggly Christmas tree that nobody in their right mind would buy. Inside the card, I drew a picture of the tree decorated.

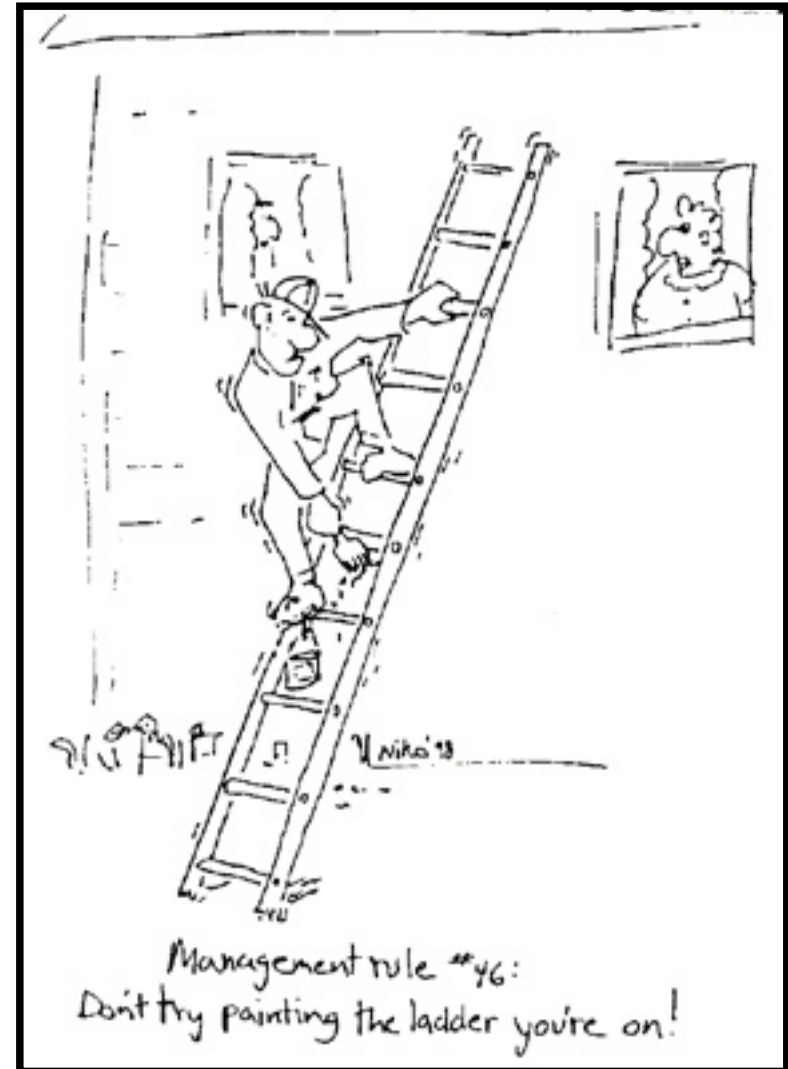


3. Cartoons of my daughter, Tara Zoe and my brother, Edward

When my daughter, Tara Zoe, was young I would sit at her bedside and send her off to sleep with silly poems and stories I would create. 'H.F.Panky' was one of my favorites.



After college, Tara began a profession in marketing. Like a good parent I would frequently give her advice like not to 'Take the Office Home With Her', or would tell her she was trying to do too many things at once and make her a card like 'Management rule #46'.



Once when I visited Tara in New York City where she was working as an event planner, we went to the MOMA (Museum of Modern Art). While sitting in the garden having lunch we heard a small plane flying overhead and looked up to track it. After we realized what the plane was doing, there was a short pause, then we simultaneously roared with laughter. 'Pulling a Banner Through the Sky' is a good way to advertise a product...in Kansas!



I also drew a cartoon depicting creative 'Store Front Signs' that she might use in small towns like Gunnison, Colorado.



Edward, my younger brother, is really a creative person... with a personality and ability to set up a little roadside stand like 'Mom and Pop Produce' and sell anything to anybody! I thought he should go big. The 'Raw Egg Peeler and Slicer' cartoon is my attempt to capture his unique creative spirit.



'The Bad Humor Man' was another of Ed's ideas I put to sketch.

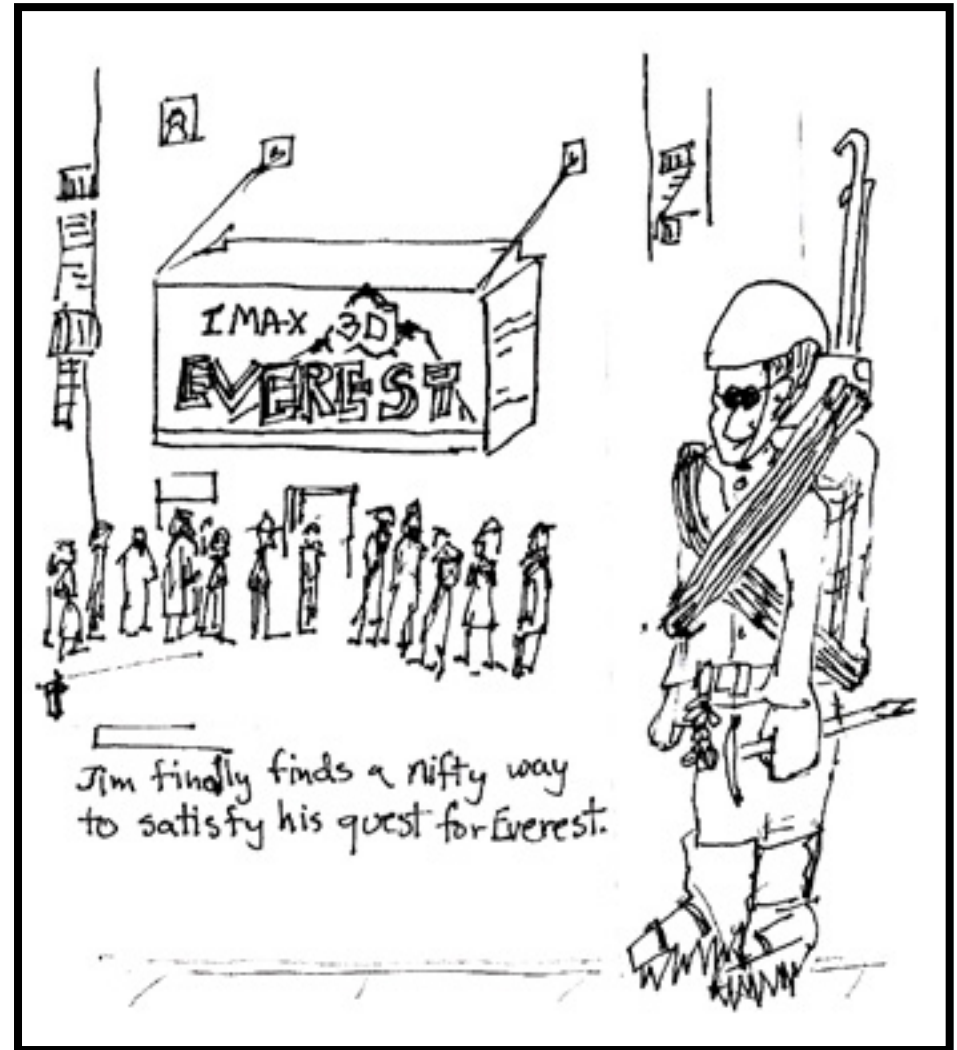
you remember the Good Humor Man?
well, things have changed! ➡



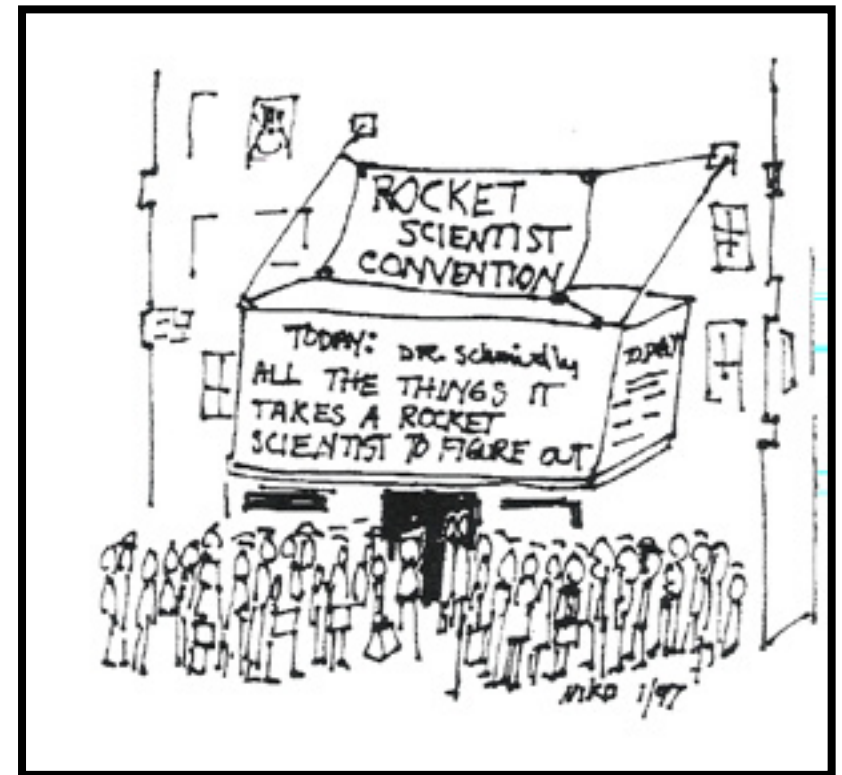
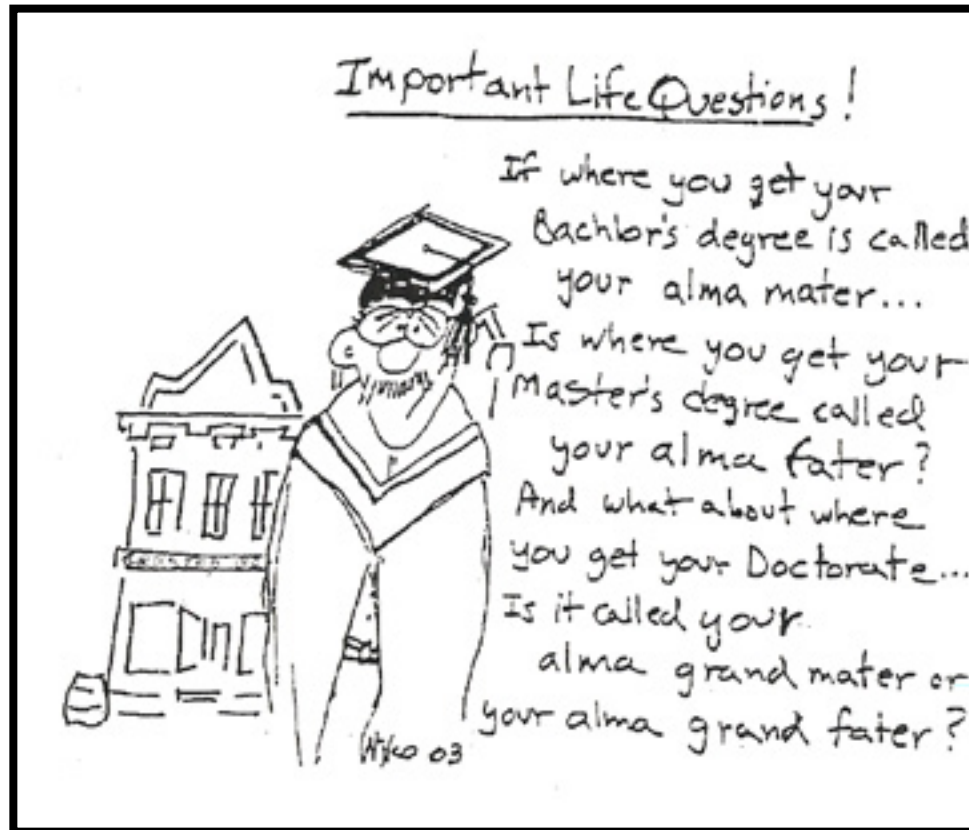
4. Life Planning, Teaching, and English As A Second Language

In 1996 I wrote a book with Sandy Fails called 'The Leap of Faith The Dance of Change, Life-Planing Workbook'. The book described a process that I developed and used effectively to guide individuals to identify and pursue what Thomas Merton referred to as the 'true self'. The process was a stretch for many and could become quite taxing, so I created several cartoons to use in Life-Planning sessions to lighten the load and make it more enjoyable.

Once we choose to engage in self-renewal and seek our true self, we first have to be careful not to 'Point Out Faults In Others'. And we don't actually need to quest things to appreciate their excitement, eg. 'Climbing Everest'.



And you don't have to have a PhD to discern 'Important Life Questions', or attend a 'Rocket Scientist Convention' to learn all the things you need to figure out.



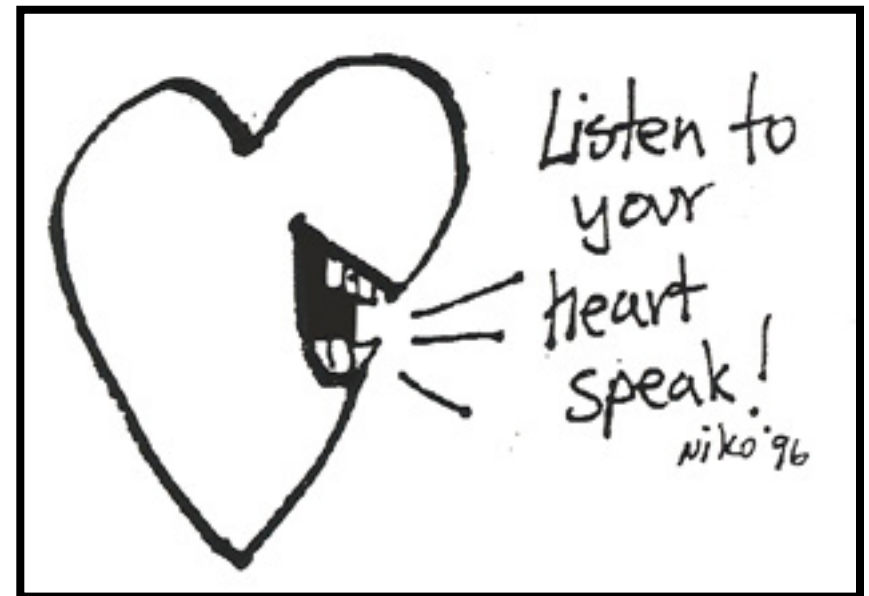
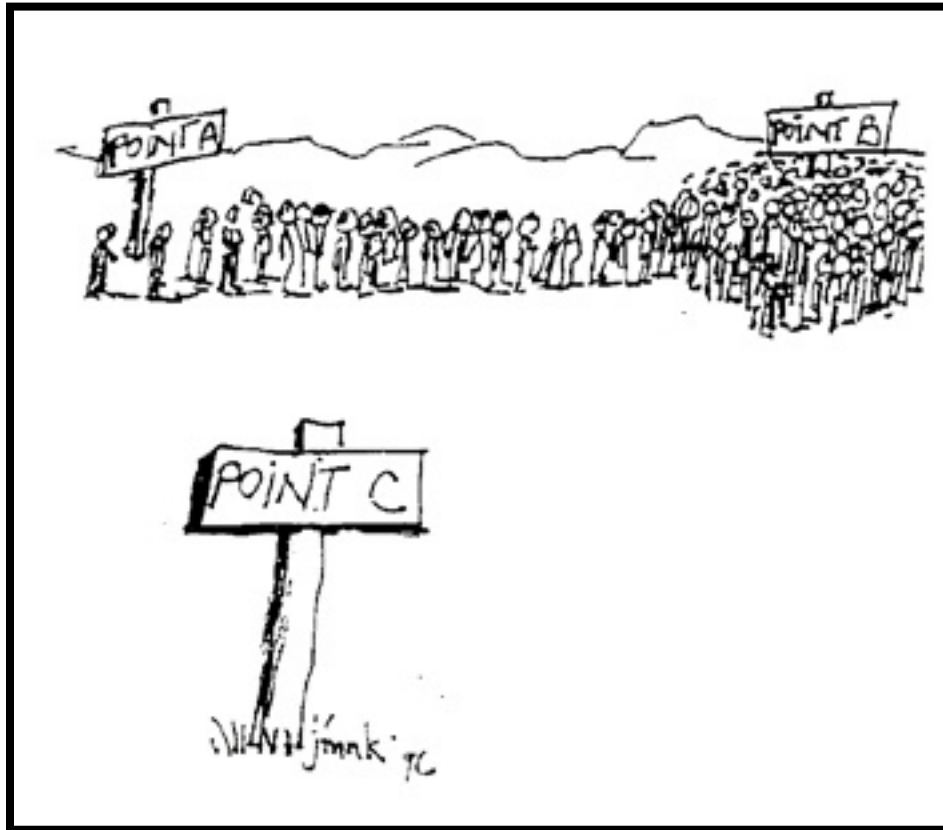
We have to follow what Wayne Muller espouses in his wonderful book, Legacy of the Heart: 'Life is Not a Problem to Solve But a Gift to be Opened'.



Some, like Herb, miss the point of 'Finding His True Essence'!



To reveal our unique self we have to make a concerted effort not to follow the crowd, but to get to that unique place, 'Point C'. Finally, we must always "Listen To Our Heart"!

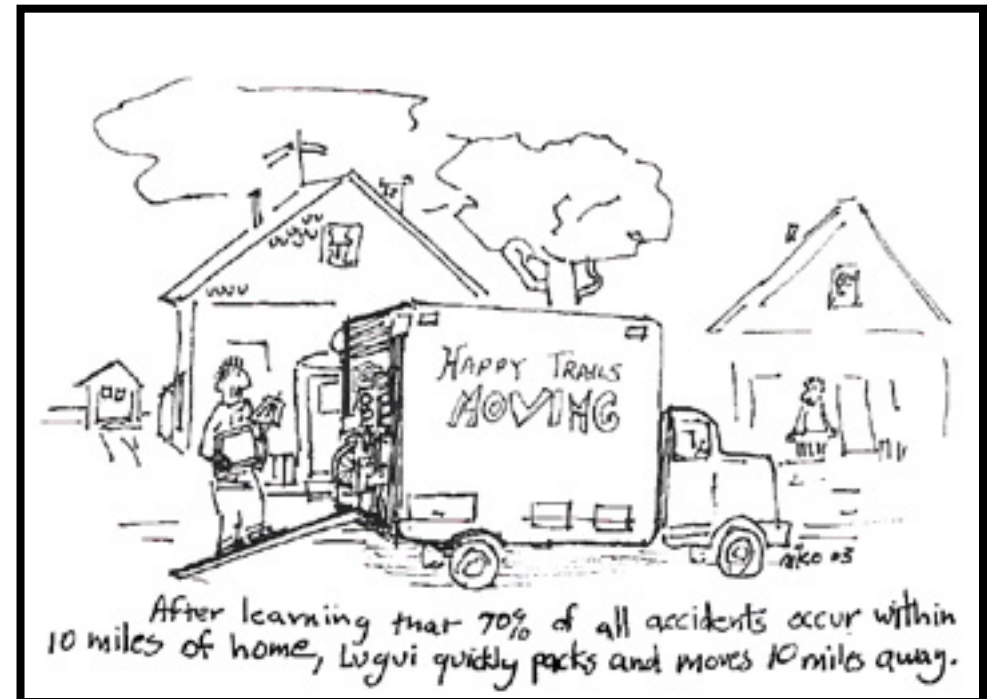
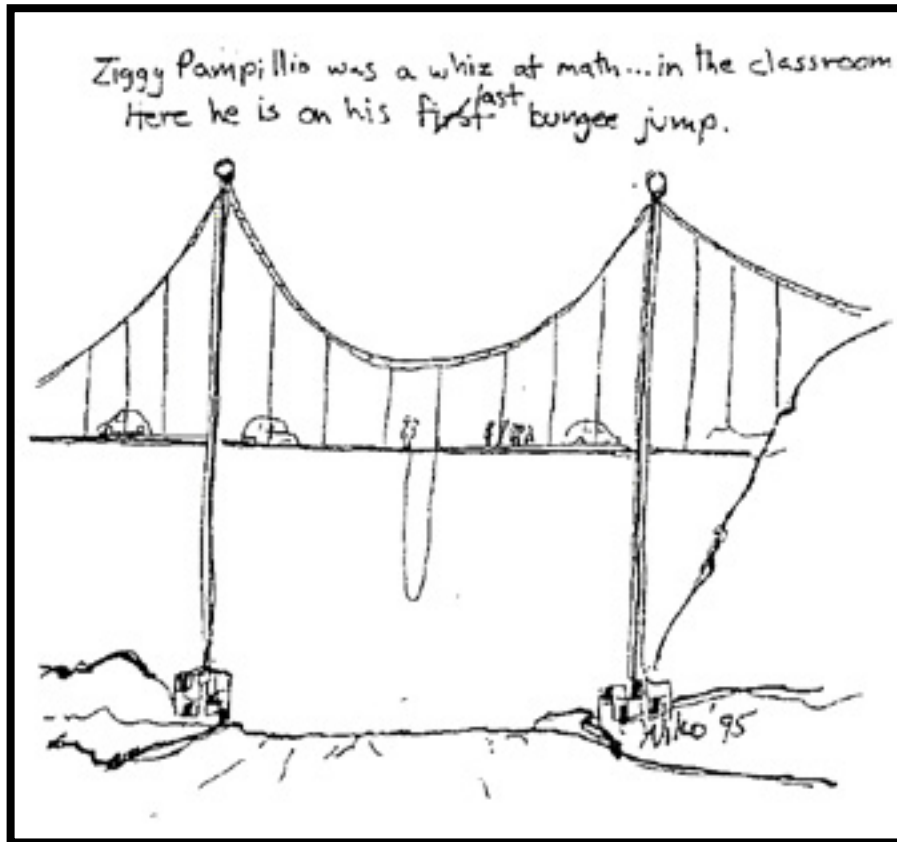


When I taught statistics it was a challenge to diffuse student stress. So I came up with cartoons like 'Flying With A Bomb' to introduce probability theory. My lecture on developing standardized tests undoubtedly led to the 'Italian IQ Test' cartoon.

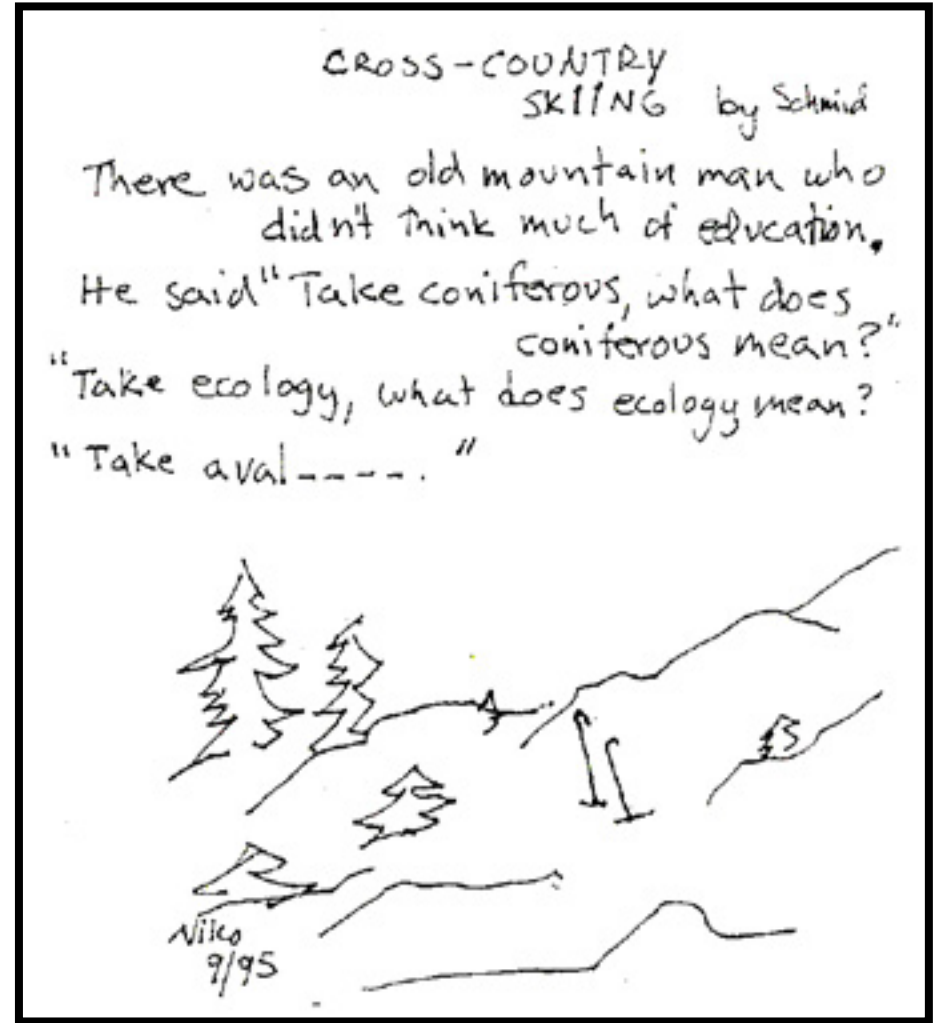
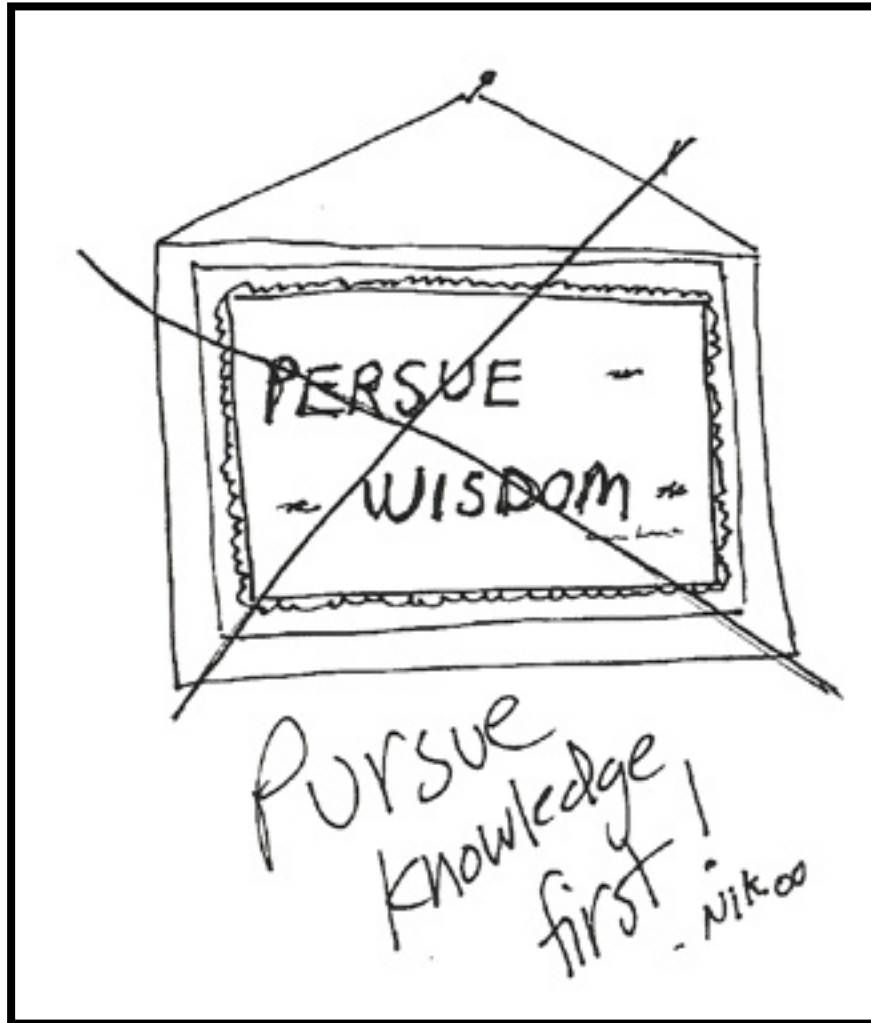


Answer: 'None of the above!'
He's Jack, she's Jane, and the guy
in the middle is Guido Caducci.

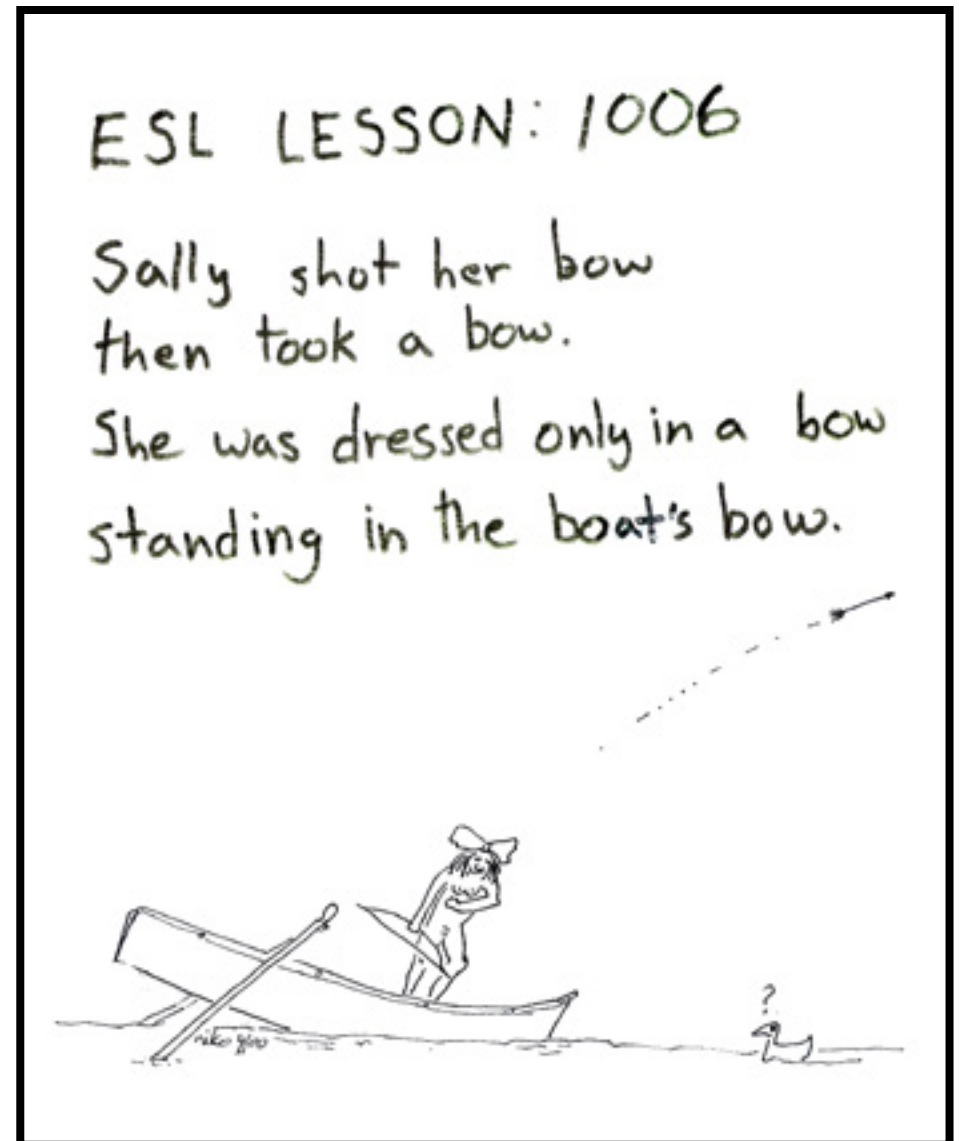
I probably also used the 'Budgie Jumper' and 'Luigi moves 10 Miles From Home' to highlight some other measurement concepts I was explaining.



As we go through life we should pursue knowledge first before we 'Persue Wisdom'. And we should learn the definition of important words like in 'Cross Country Skiing' to keep us out of trouble.



In working with several Hispanic friends, I developed a deep appreciation of how hard it is to learn English as a Second Language (ESL). 'ESL Lesson #104' and 'ESL Lesson 1006' highlight this challenge.



5. Truths and Frustrations

I created several cartoons to reflect various 'truths' in life. 'Work is For People Who Don't Know How To Fish' is one.



And 'Cigaretts Lifetime Guarantee' is another!



According to women, 'The Real Difference Between Men and Women' is that men give knee-jerk responses before they think.



I don't know how many of you are turned off by loud music. I am! So, I created a 'truth' about 'Listening to Loud Rock Music'. I also get frustrated about all the personal information, codes, pin numbers, passwords, etc., that I have to remember and especially, how I get treated by someone asking for that information like in 'Now For Some Harder Questions'.



6. Life in Crested Butte, Dogs, and Scottsdale

I first visited Crested Butte, Colorado in 1970 fell in love with the town and moved there in 1982. Now, I spend summers there and winters in Scottsdale, Arizona. Crested Butte is a small, historic mountain town, with 1,600 full-time residents and is known for its incredible skiing, pristine beauty, friendly people, and more dogs than residents!

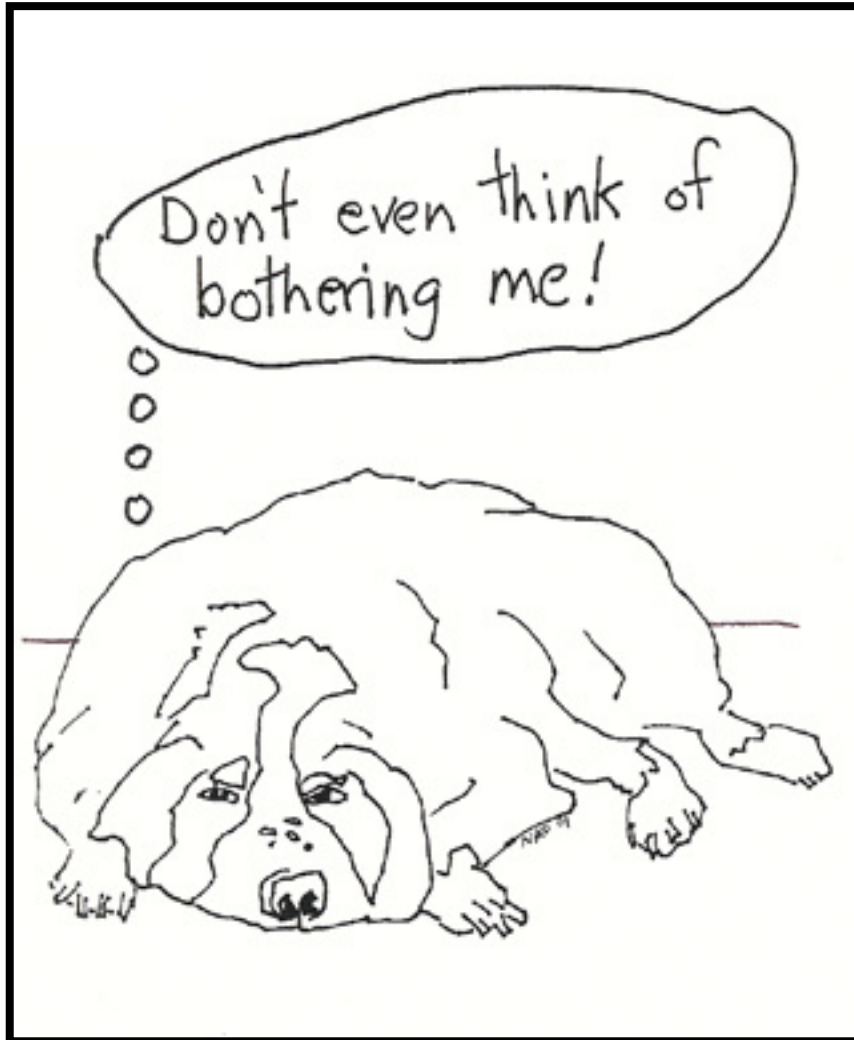
In Crested Butte, a 'Drive-by Shooting' usually occurs daily during high tourist season.



And there's the town's 'Annual Cleanup Day' that could be expanded to its residents.



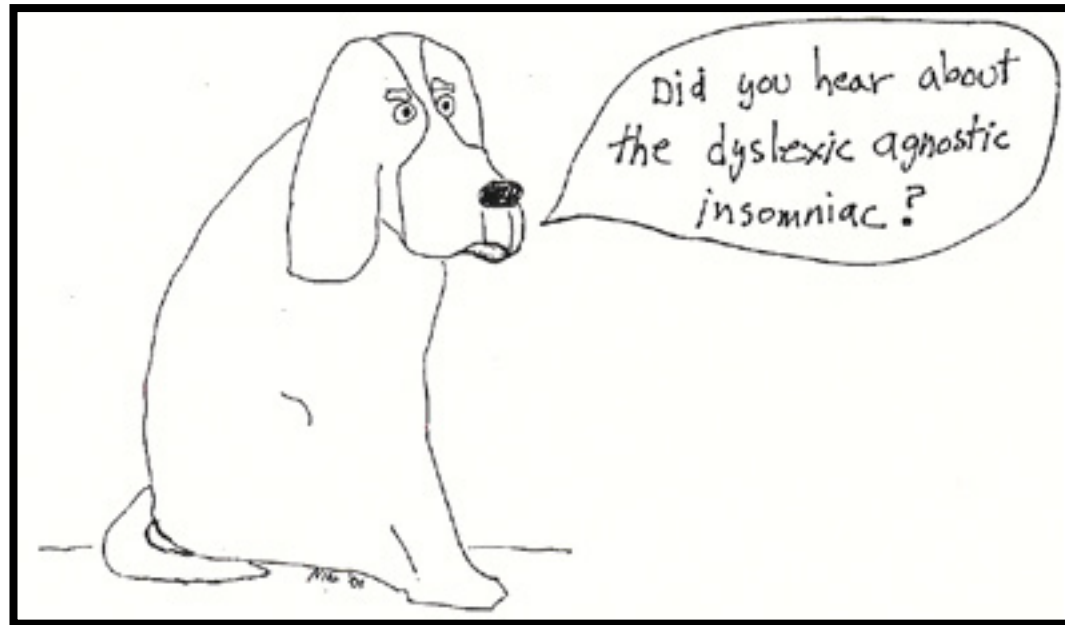
Crested Butte is renowned for being a heaven for dogs. My dog of choice was 'Charlie', a 120 lb. Greater Swiss Mountain breed. He became one of the town's favorite mascots. At home, his demeanor and facial expressions reminded me 'Not to Bother Him' and to remember that 'It's a Dog's World'.



...and the dogs in town are known to 'Gang Up' from time to time.

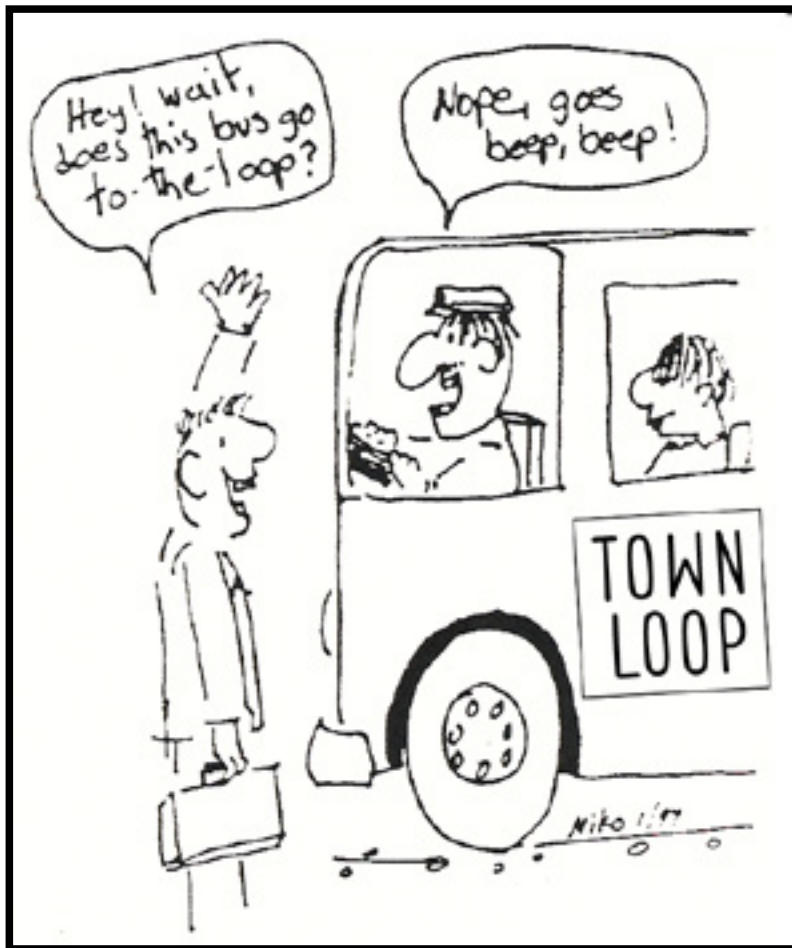


The 'Dyslexic Dog' card sums up my life with my wonderful mutt and the fun we had together.



My good buddy from high school, 'Tuck', now a CB legend, drove the town bus and tells of stupid questions asked by tourists like: 'Does This Bus Go To The Loop?'

Eating-out in Crested Butte is a culinary delight. Once, while dining at a restaurant the waitress checked on my friend Jim asking: 'How Is Everything?' Jim's response was classic and made a good cartoon.



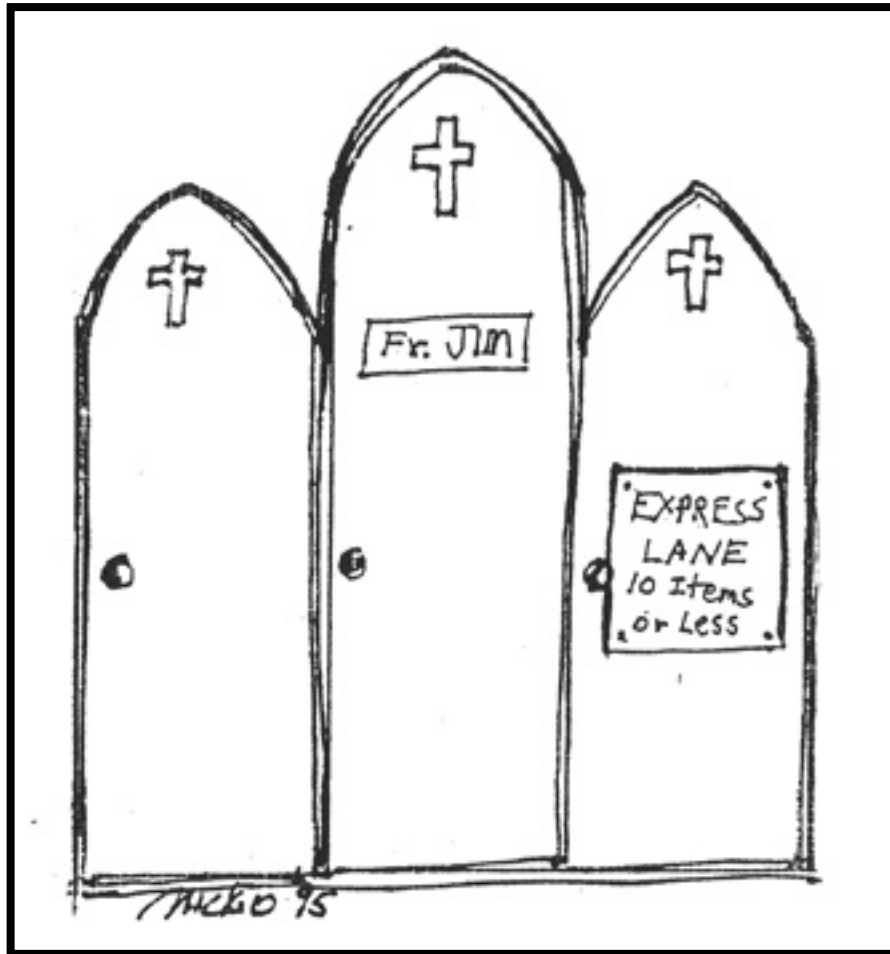
In the Fall, the highways are thick with hunters packing enough gear to build a small town. The elk see them coming and 'Maude and Ralph Travel' out of town.



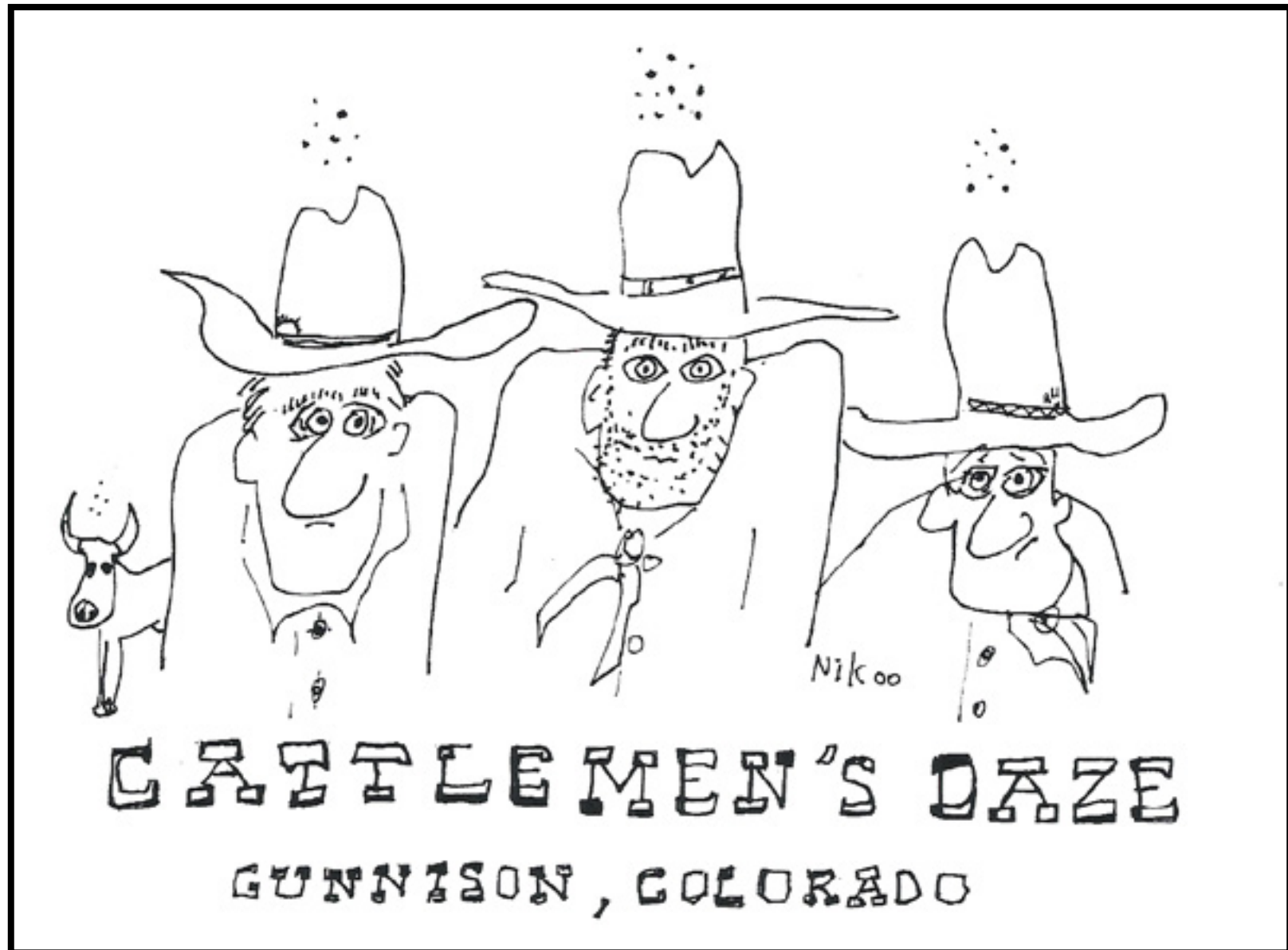
During the cold winter months in Crested Butte, many of the locals hibernate and spend inordinate amounts of time 'Evaluating Their Poker Hands' and determining 'Who To Believe'.



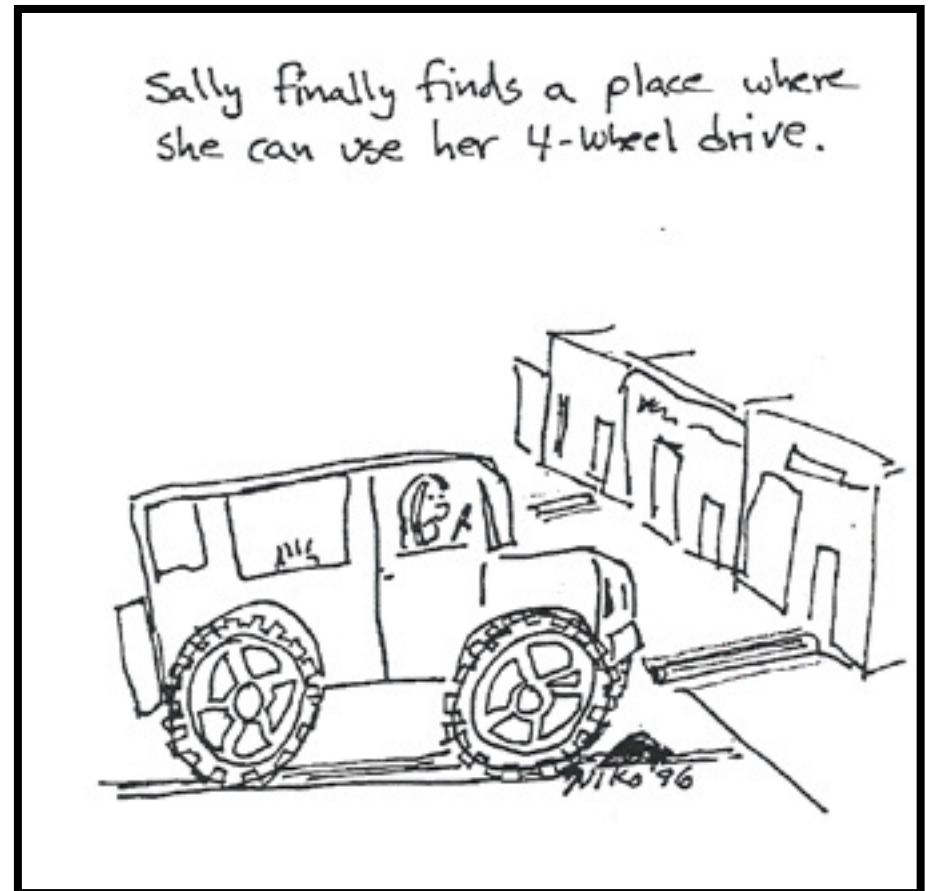
When I lived in Crested Butte we were blessed to have Father Jim as the local pastor. I used his name on the 'Confessional' cartoon. I did a cartoon about Herb who misread the ad to 'Play The Organ In Church'.



When the snows melt, during the one weekend in August, the local cowboys and cowgirls gather in Gunnison to hold the 'Cattleman's Days' parade and rodeo. Here's my take on the event.



Some Arizona cartoons.



When in Scottsdale Arizona, I attend the Franciscan Renewal Center (CASA) and enjoyed listening to the meaningful spiritual messages delivered by the hilarious priest Alonzo.



7. Religion

I was brought up Catholic and found religion to be a good source for humor. I did two cartoons about how a child might misinterpret the Catholic liturgy: like 'Seeing The Zig Heil Salute' and 'Praising the Nazi Nation'.

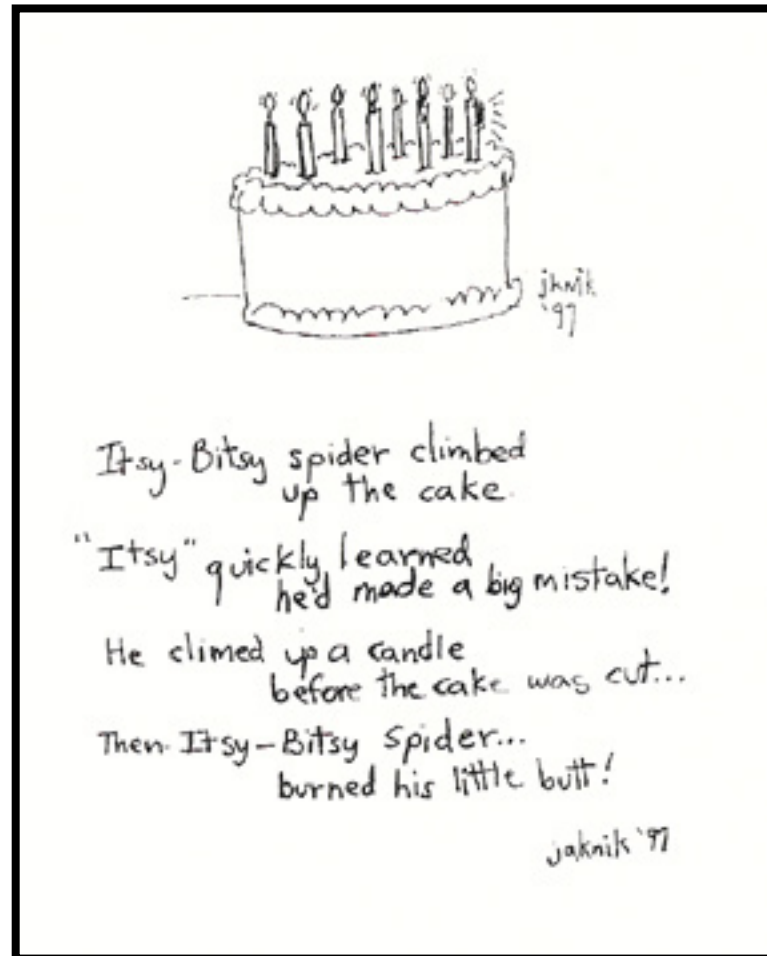


'How to make God laugh' is a cartoon I frequently used in the Life-Planning workshops.



8. Holiday Greetings

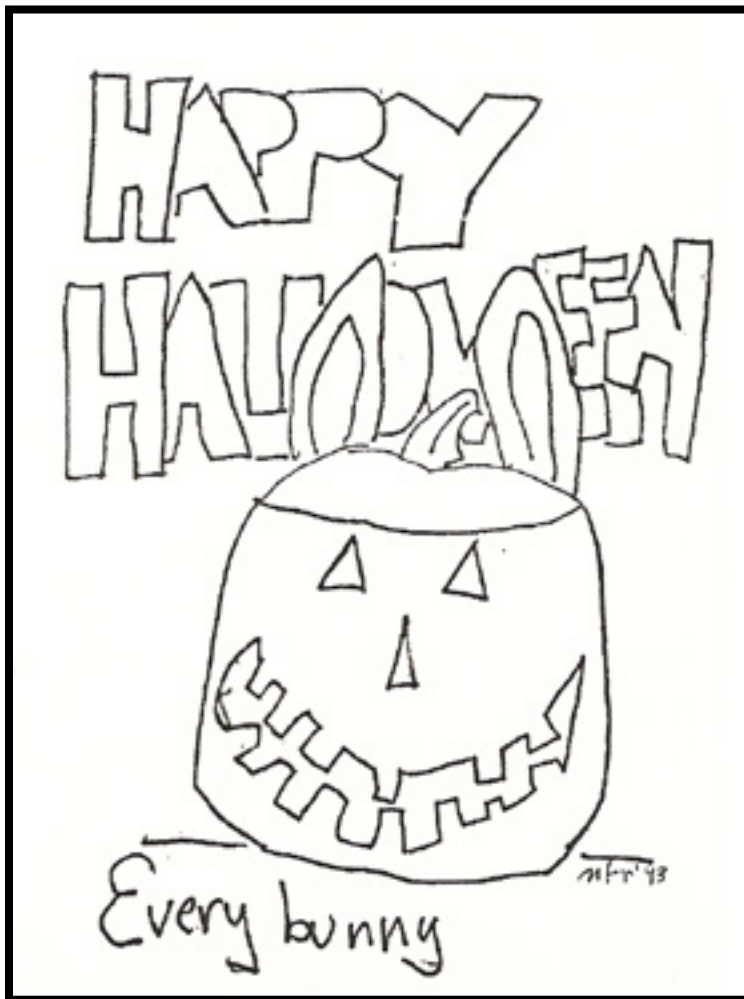
I created several cartoons to celebrate holidays. For birthdays, I send notice to my aging friends that no matter how hard they try, nor how innovative they are, they are no 'Spring Chicken'. I am more gentle with others and send them my 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' birthday poem.



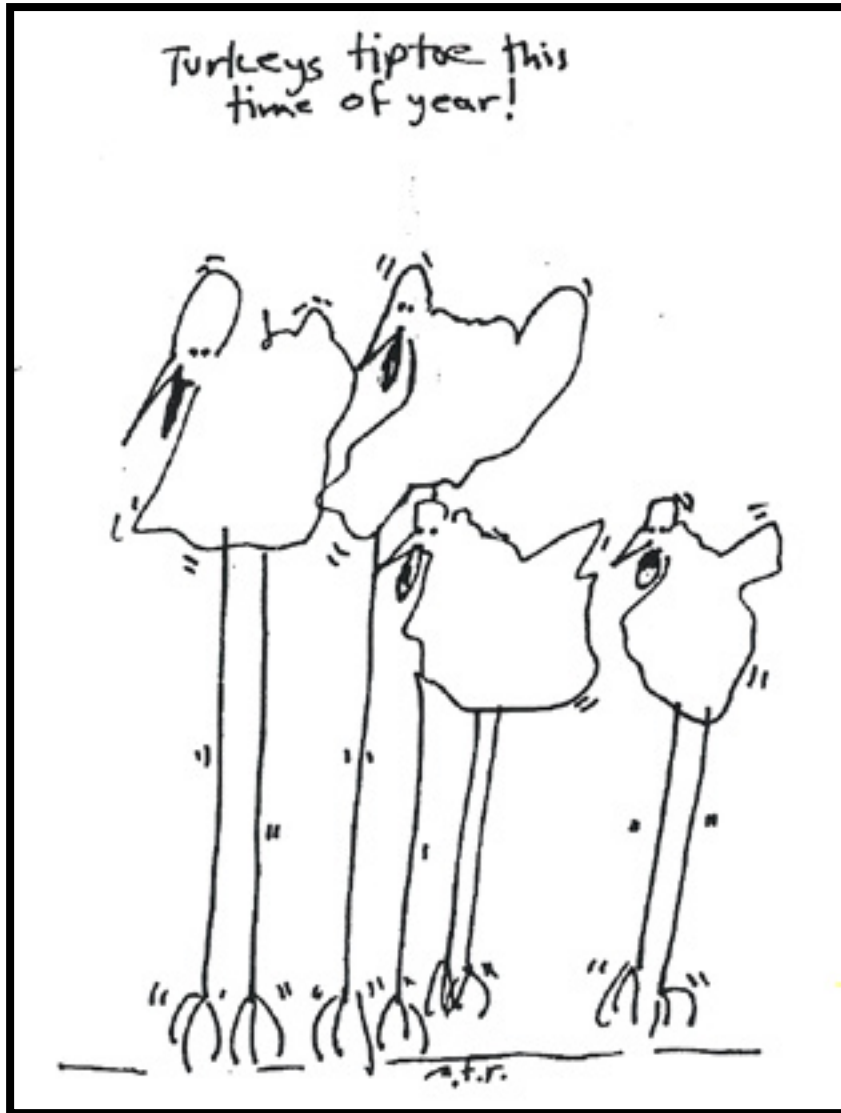
I made sure I was inclusive in my Easter greeting.



At Halloween I created cards sending wishes to 'Every Bunny' and drew a card that depicted a variety of human faces that reminded me of pumpkins.



The turkey was the focus of my Thanksgiving cartoons. Being cautious to avoid the axe meant 'Turkeys Tip-Toe This Time of Year'. They also suffer from the psychological syndrome called 'Turketo Nervoso'!



'Consider The Turkey' is how I felt about the bird as a symbol of Thanksgiving, and concluded that the bird had a higher purpose.

Consider the TURKEY
What a stupid bird a Turkey is.
And it's weird to watch one
eat and work the farmyard.
They are stupid, weird, and, on
top of that, ugly! They smell,
have poor manners, and
generally muck-up the world.
So why are they the meal
of choice at Thanksgiving?

maybe it's the wishbone
they provide ...



Christmas is my favorite holiday and I had a blast creating cards. 'The Whole Team' is one of my favorites. 'Tinking of You' makes me smile, and I think is one of my best.

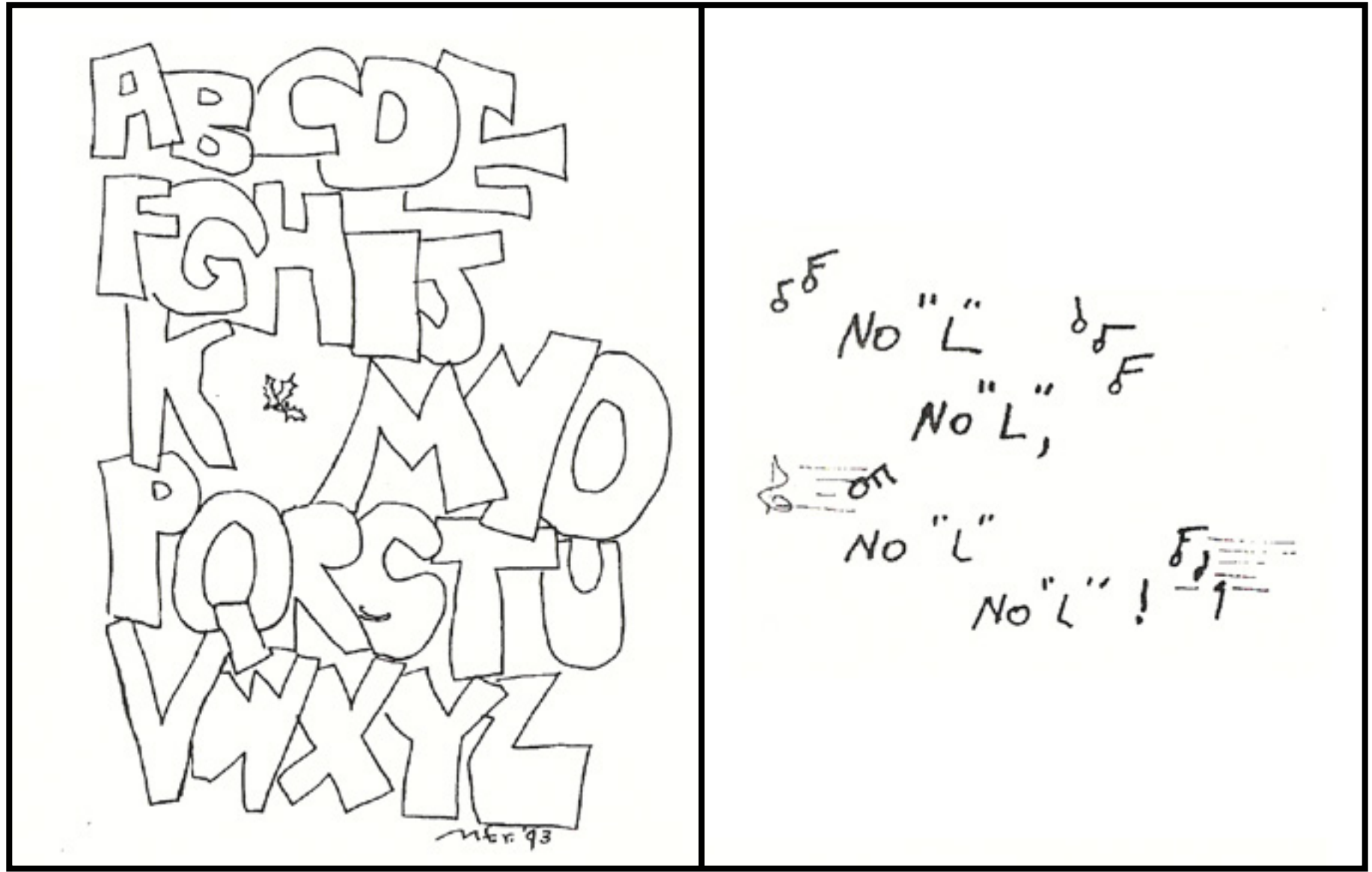


I created the 'Toasting Chess Players' to make the receiver ponder and work for the complete message.



♫ ♪
Chess nuts toasting
on an open fire...
♫

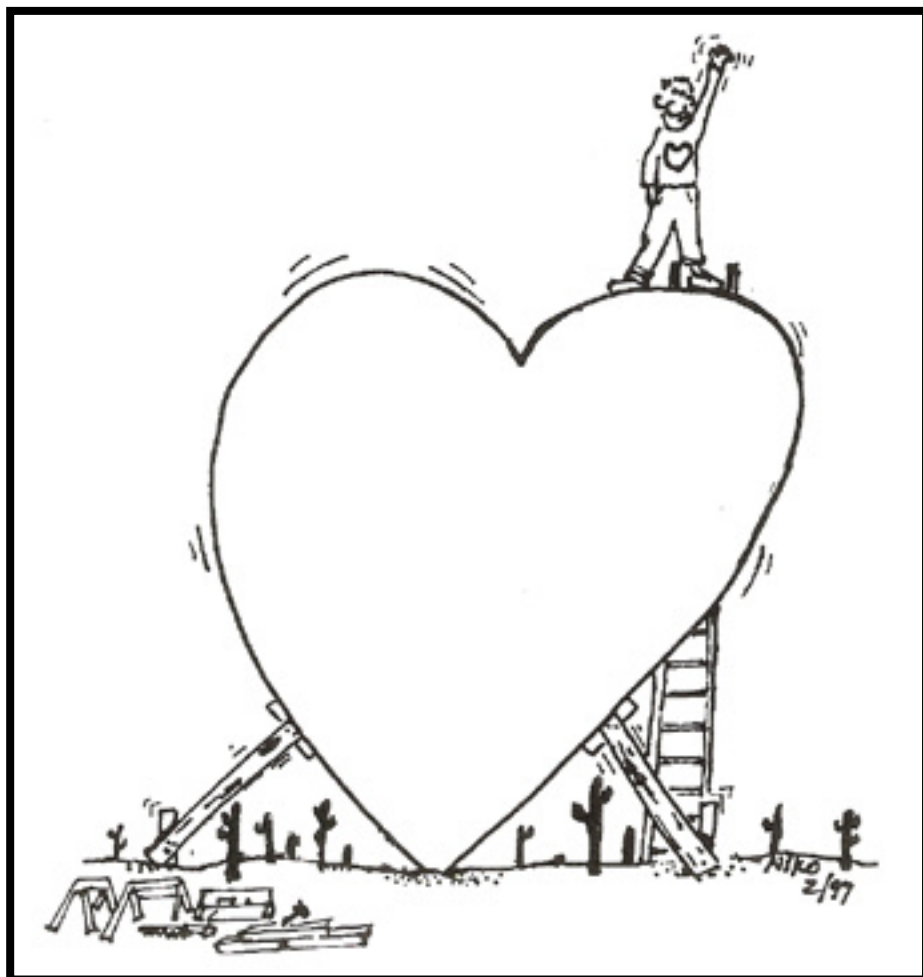
...and I left the 'L' out of a card to send another hidden Christmas message.



For Valentine's Day I gave a clear warning:



Or, I would write a special message on the heart I constructed in the desert... I might even send a little poem.

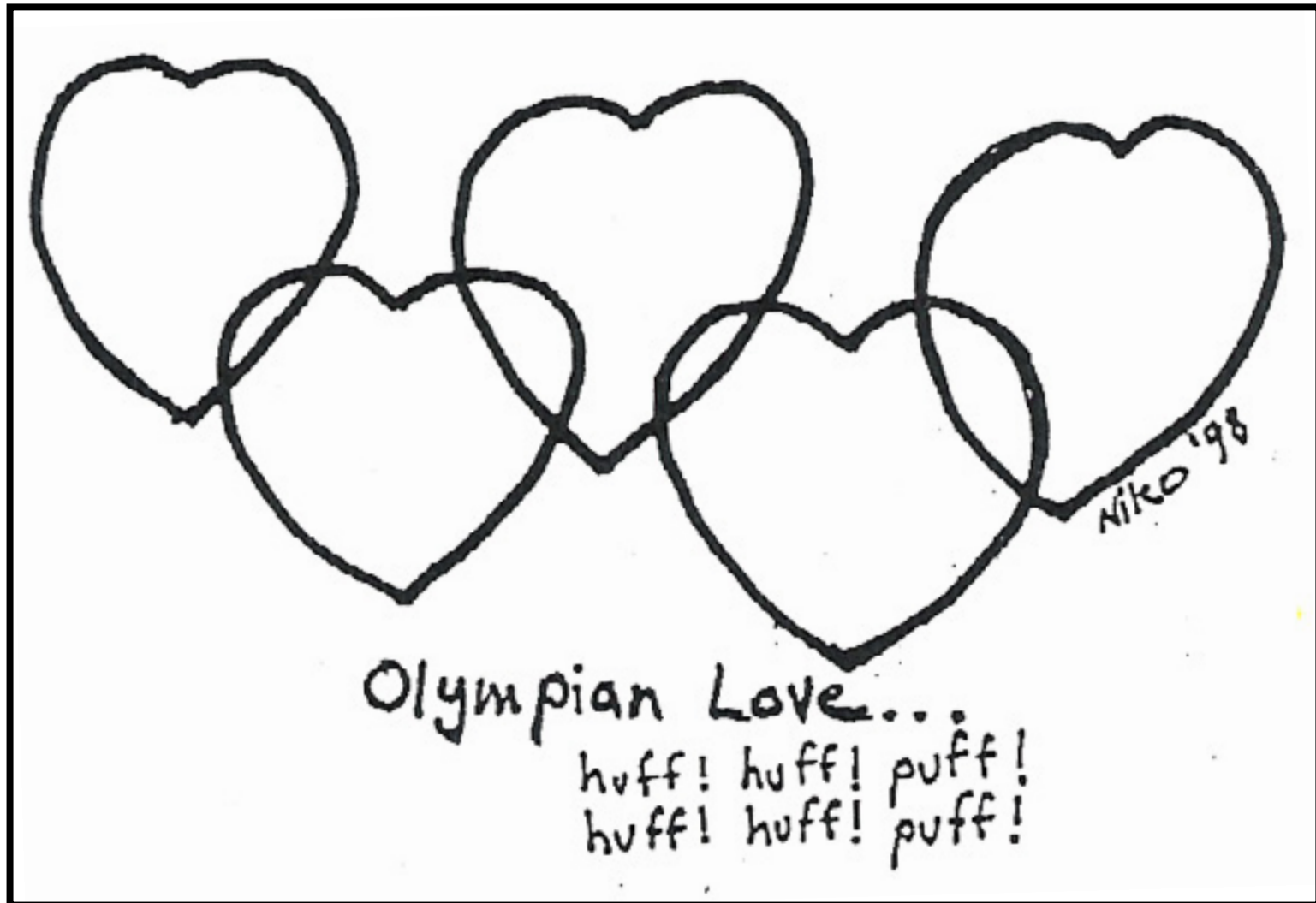


My heart misses you !

So do my feet 
and my eyes 
and ears 
and fingernails 
and nose hairs 
and belly button fuzz 

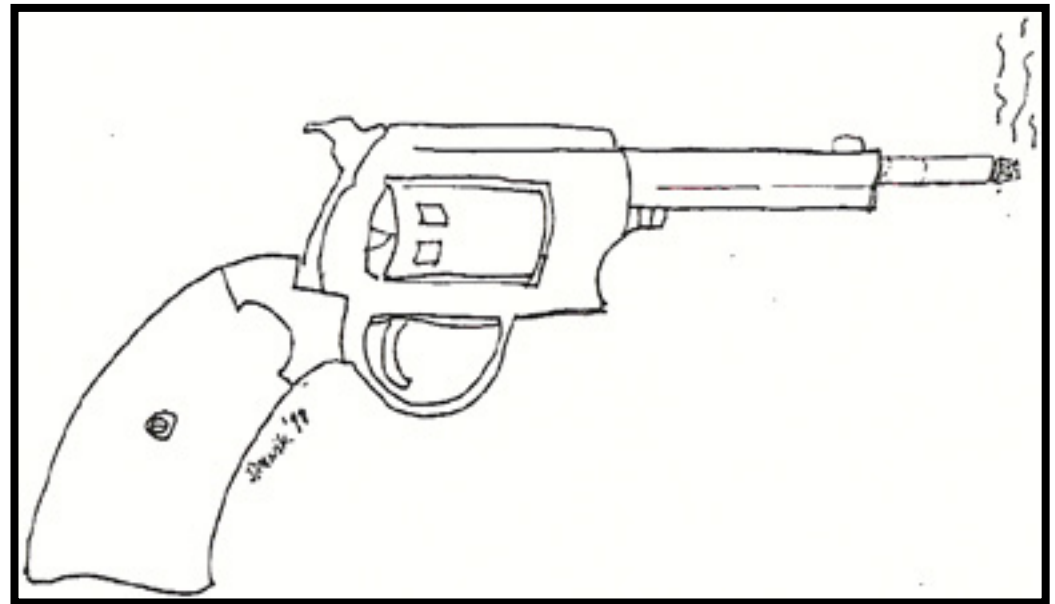
Niko 1/97

My 'Olympic Hearts' Valentine's Day card would send a strong message of love, especially when the USA was competing in the Olympics.



9. Punny Humor

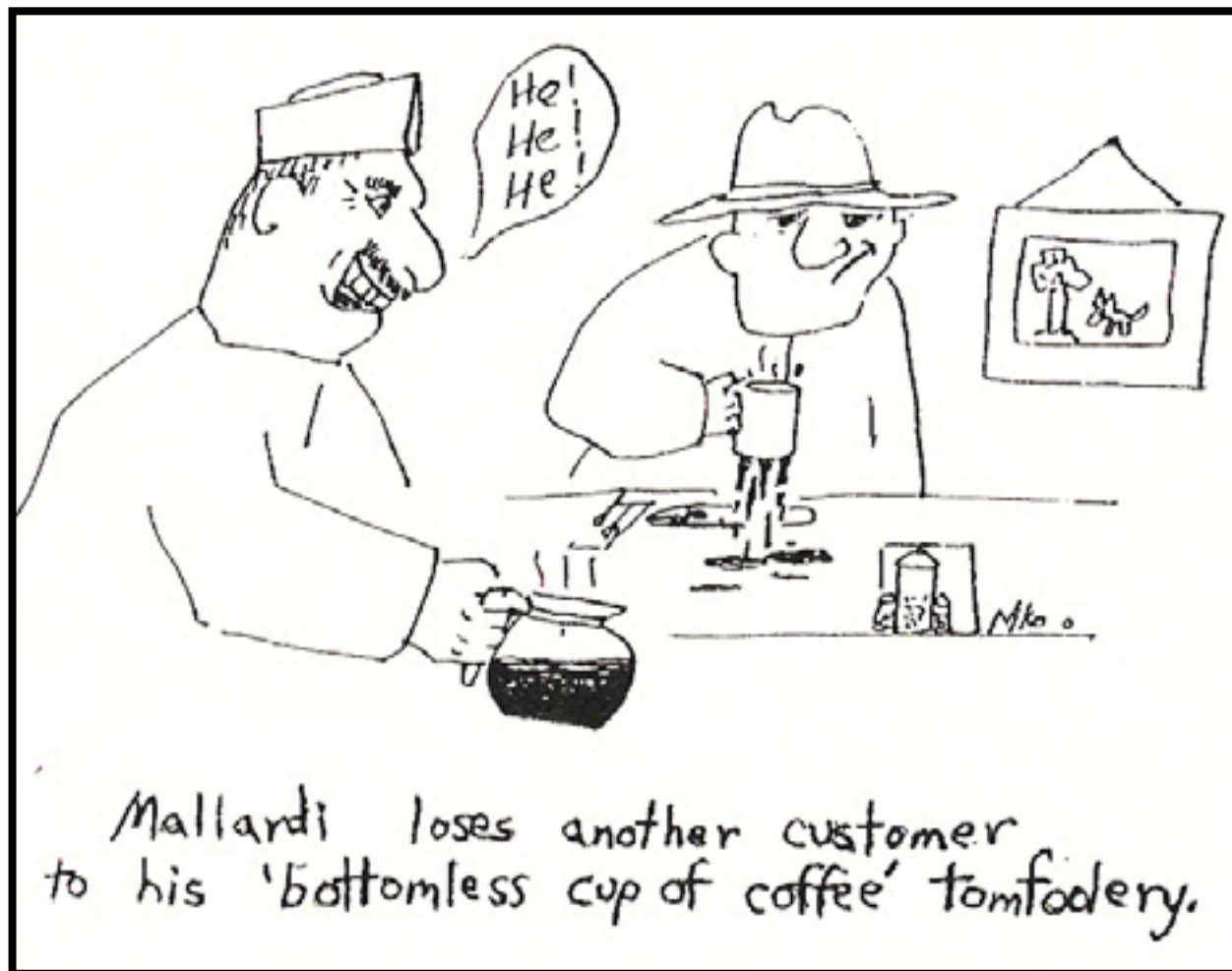
I like cartoons that play on words, involve miss communication, or use puns. One time I was driving across Nevada my way from Berkeley to Crested Butte on highway U.S.50, known as 'The Loneliest Road in America'. I went through a small town around graduation time. I spotted two young drivers, obviously recent high school graduates with an emblazoned new, spiffy, tassel hanging from their car mirror. I smiled, paused a bit, then realized that I Just witnessed a 'Rhodes Scholar'! Now, every time I see an auto with a tassel, I smile. Recently I read in the paper about a 'Political Smoking Gun' situation and created one.



When someone did something nice for me I would send them a note: 'Many Tanks'. Or, if they were celebrating a special event I would suggest they go 'Tie One On'.

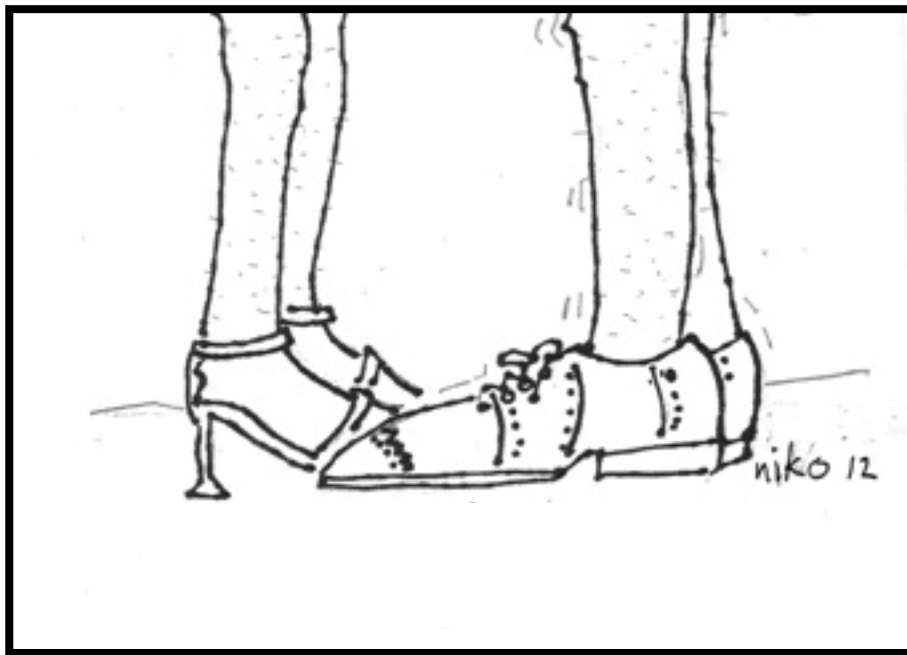


When I first created the 'Bottomless Cup of Coffee' cartoon, the character serving coffee resembled Tom Malardi, a long-time Crested Butte friend. I asked permission to use his name on the card. He looked at it, chuckled in his unique way, approved of my request, then mentioned that his first job in Crested Butte was as a waiter. Tom passed away shortly after we talked. It feels good inside that I made a card that made him chuckle. The card was used as part of his memorial celebration!

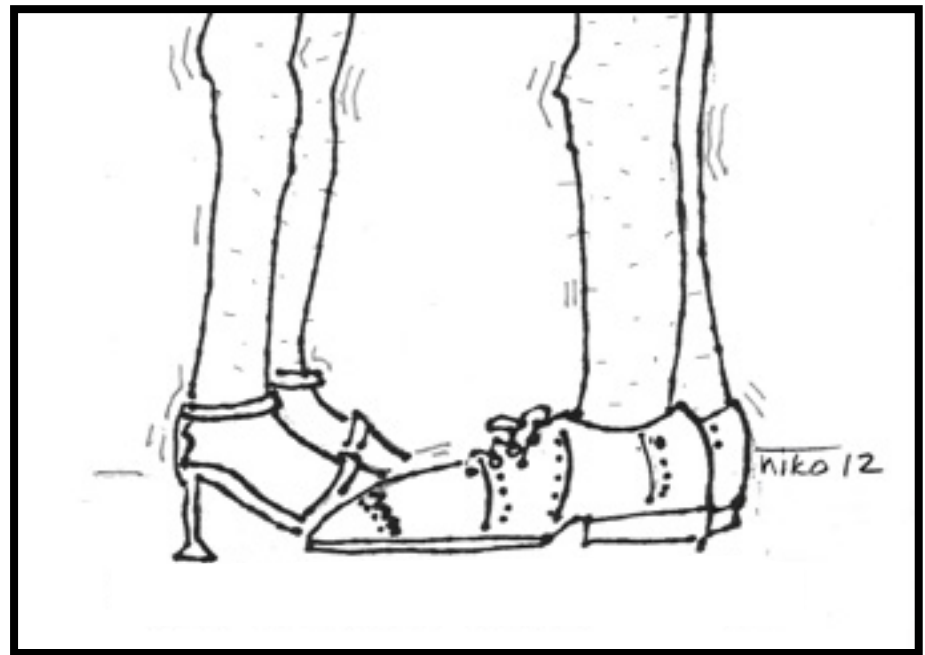


10. My Latest Cartoons

The latest cartoons I drew depict the dating saga of 'Eddie-Two-Shoes'. Before he got married, my brother Edward was given the moniker of 'Eddie-Two-Shoes'. He's really a creative, funny guy - high on life and always ready with a joke or two. So I began the saga of Eddie-Two Shoes.



Eddie 'two shoes' makes a
move on Sally!

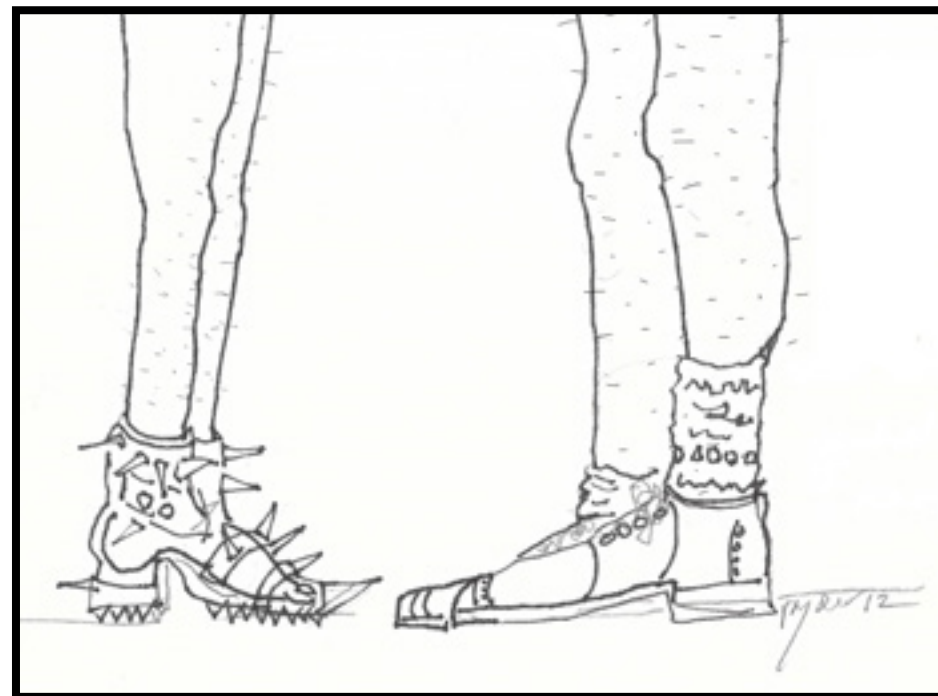


Eddie two shoes' dances with Sally!

I continued the saga with these two cartoons



Eddie-Two Shoes built platforms for Sally so they can dance cheek to cheek!



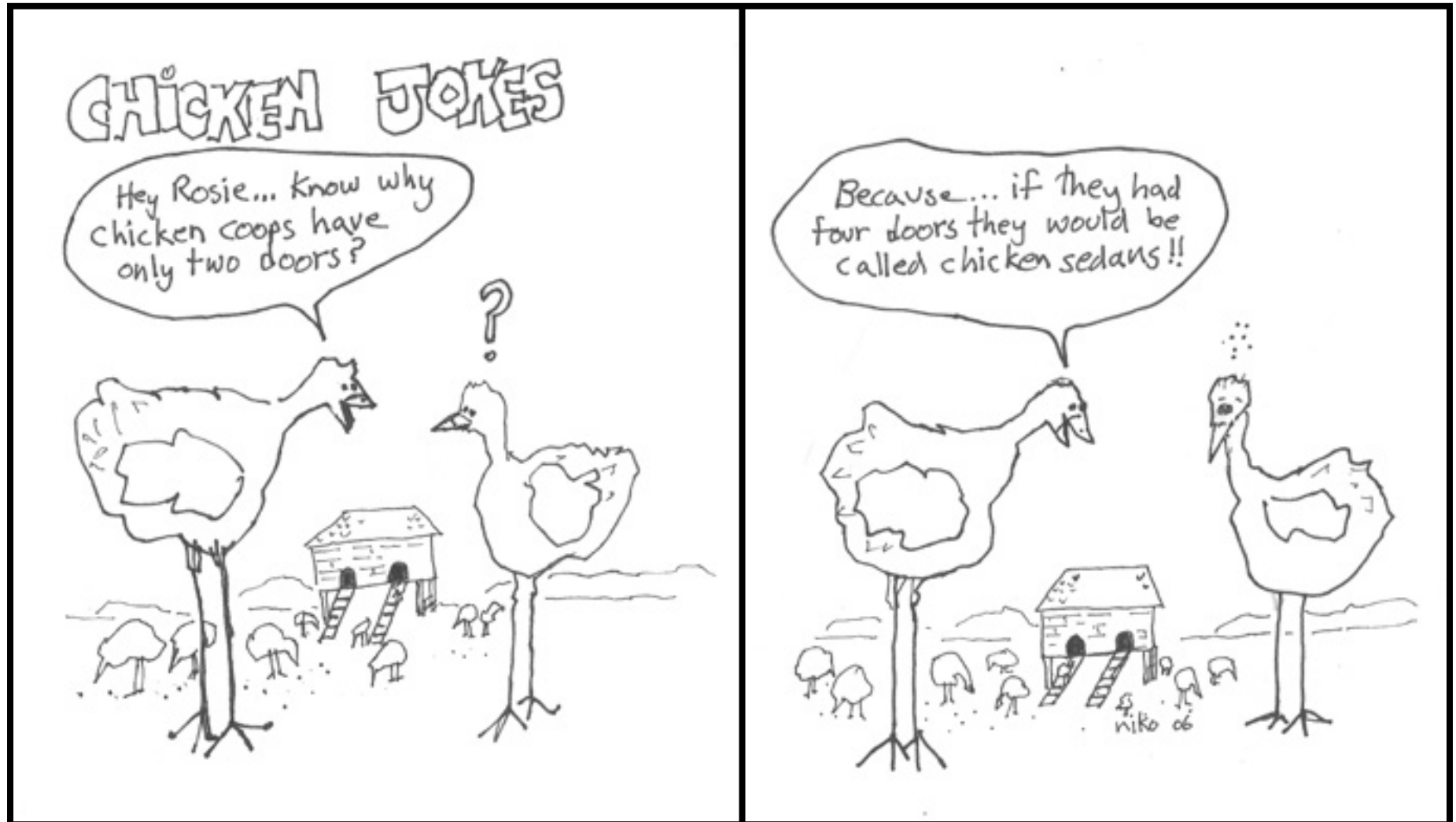
Lucky for him, before he asked Bertha to jitterbug, Eddie-Two Shoes learned that she hates men!

Ed came up with this idea and I put it to pen- In his quest to help more people and save the world - Eddie-Two-Shoes puts on a hood, mask, cape and his special Flagg Flyer shoes and becomes the next super hero:

* * MEATBALL MAN!!! * *



I enjoyed drawing cartoons with animals, especially chickens. Here's one I did for my wonderful sister, Rose Marie.



Sometimes men ask simple questions that require simple answers.



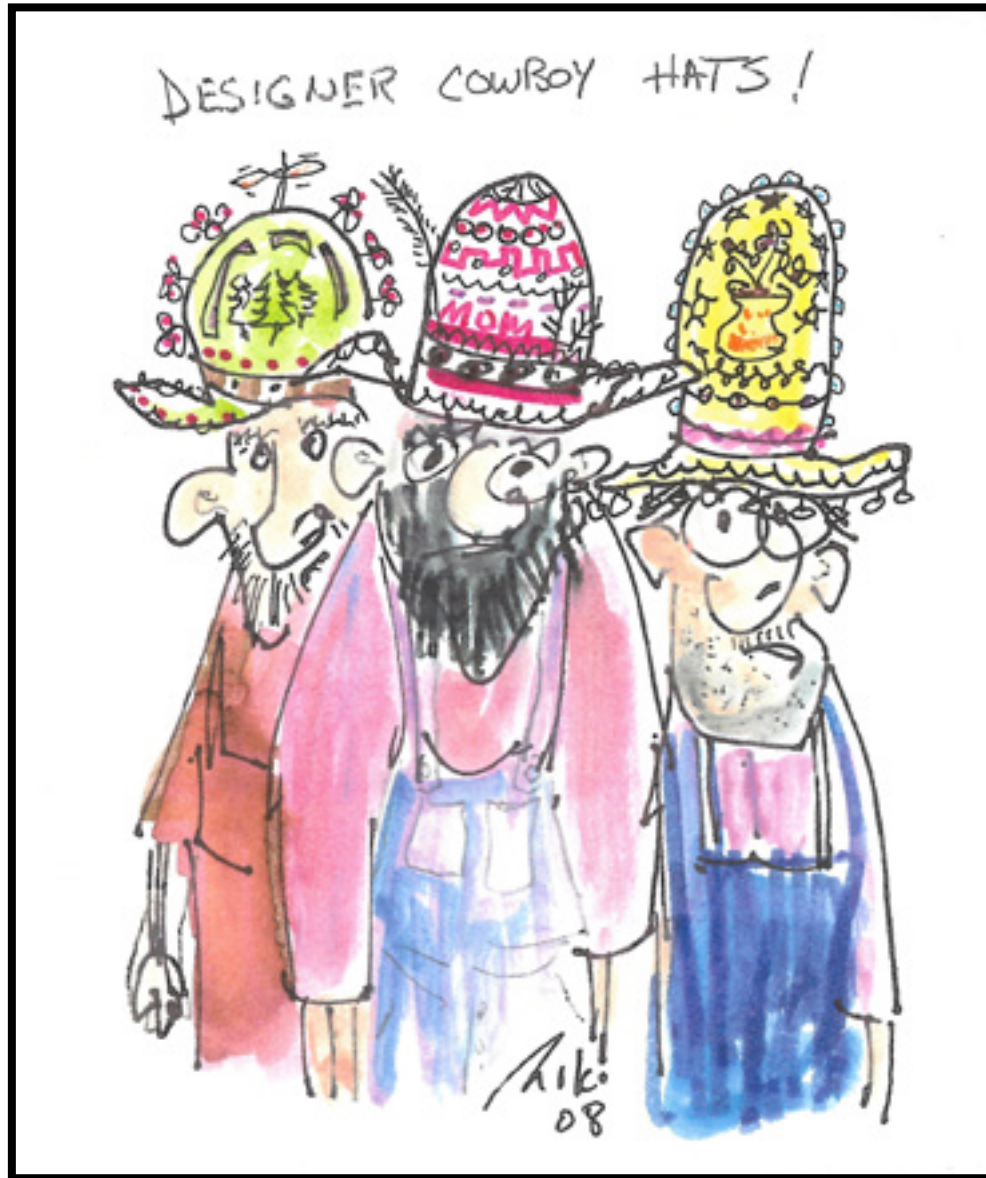
This one I created of 'Alvin Training his Son' makes me laugh.



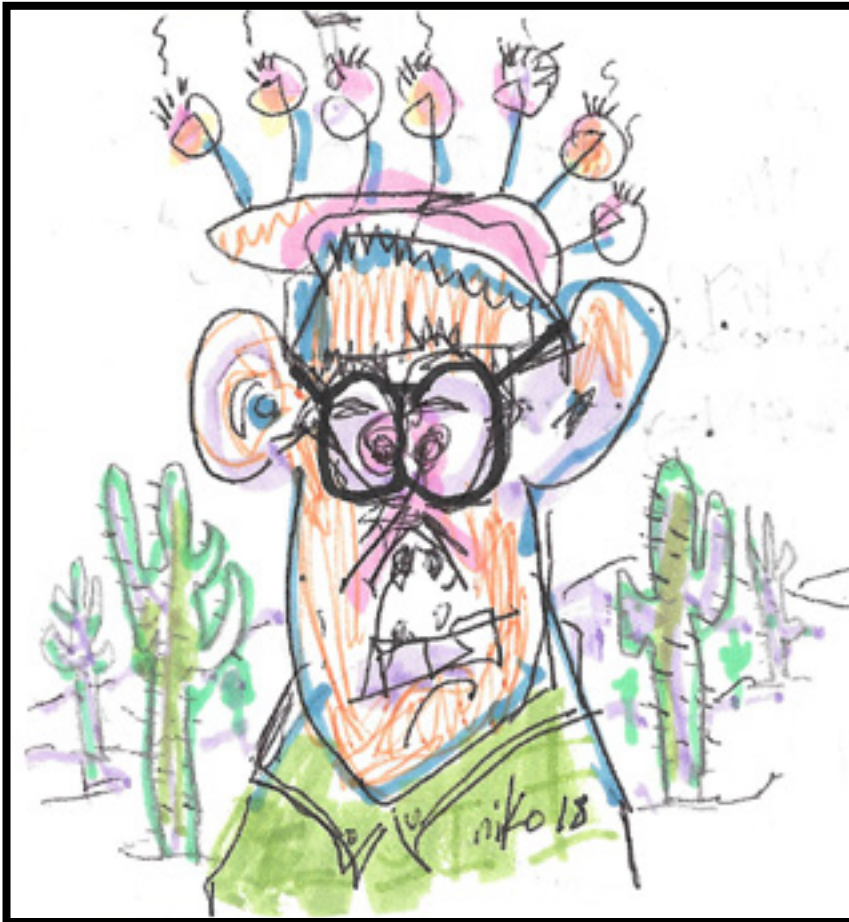
Dr. Jack Schmid, was a special person in my life who mentored me through graduate school. He was not only brilliant but was also funny. Here's his response to seeing my GMC when I visited him and his dear wife Jean several years after I graduated.



When I'm in Colorado during the summer I think about how I can start a business selling unique products like: 'Designer Cowboy Hats!'



Lately, when I'm on the phone, I doodle and come up with some strange looking characters. Maybe they're part of my shadow!!? Any ideas for captions?



I have to admit, I enjoy creating greeting cards but get frustrated when I'm about to finish with one holiday and another occurs. I can't seem to catch up. So, I thought of creating 'One Holiday Card' that covers them all. That way my greetings are never late and always early!



And for the last of this new crop of cartoons, I end with a cartoon of my daughter, Tara, and my neat British son-in-law, Chris. They are naturalists and spend much of their free time with my grandchildren, Jake and Rawley, exploring the planet. Below, Tara admonishes us to 'Be Sensitive and Careful How We Treat Our Environment'. A good message for all.



11. Closing

So, that's it folks!! Who knows what cartoons are still incubating in my head ready to be transferred to pen. I'll be sure to keep you posted (pun intended)! Color some of the cartoons and send me a photo of your work or an idea for a cartoon.

Peace to you, remember to do random acts of kindness and have at least two deep belly laughs every day.

Niko

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Go to my website www.nicholasrayder.com if you want to view my art and learn more about other fruits of my labor.