Computer Comics

Soft—Where?—Systems
or
Kiss the Blood off my Asp

Instructions: Hold this cover out
and your supervisor will think
you’re reading an ICM manual.

Written and Drawn by Jim Simmons
TO RECAP...
IN OUR PREVIOUS EPISODES, OLD MOTHER HUBBARD AND HER STAFF RACED TO THE SUBTERRANEAN CAVERNS BENEATH THE PALACE OF COMPUTING...

JUST BEFORE THE SYSTEM CRASH DECIMATED ALL OF COMPUTERLAND ABOVE GROUND...

AT APL IN THE CAVERNS, THEY ENCOUNTERED THAT FEARED TORTURER, THE MCCAURY DE SADE...

...WHO PROMPTLY PUT THEM INTO GREAT PERIL...

THEY WERE RESCUED BY MERRY BERMAN, WHO HAD ESCAPED THE CRASH, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE COMPUTERLAND STAFF...

...AND THEY REBUILT COMPUTERLAND IN THE CAVERNS, WITH THE AID OF LI'L ABNER MIMS...

HORRAY FOR LI'L ABNER MIMS!

YOU SAY HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BOthered?
OLD MOTHER HUBBARD CONVENE A PRINCES’ MEETING...

GENTLEMEN, WE MUST DETERMINE WHY THE SYSTEM CRASH TOOK PLACE! PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR EXPLANATIONS!

OBVIOUSLY POOR ORGANIZATION!

OBVIOUSLY ICM'S FAULT!

OBVIOUS...

MR. WIZARD, SOFTWARE SYSTEMS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! I DEMAND A BETTER EXPLANATION!

WELL, MOTHER, IT'S LIKE THIS...

I REALIZE THAT THE SYSTEM CRASHED UNDER PCB, UNDER MFT, UNDER MVT, UNDER XYZ, PDQ, AND NBC, UNDER WRAP, CRAY, AND FAP, BUT...

...but THIS time we've got the >cureall<, ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys! GOOD for what ails you! Right Here on Your Stage!

NO MORE CRASHES, NO MORE STRAIN, HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

P.T. BRIDGEPORT LIVES?
Meanwhile, in Software Systems, work is proceeding on ASP implementation at a feverish pace! Master Bates is conducting a think-tank...

Now notice, gang, that on ASP development, we missed target date 1. We bombed on target date 2, we annihilated target date 3, and our progress has fallen through the bottom of the chart! In other words, we are in better shape than on any previous conversion, and we will begin operation tomorrow!

Let's go and try our ASP on the three-sickly! By the way, Curtis Crock, where is your office-mate, Huggy-Bear Mazei? Oh, he not in yet, Massin Bates! It's only 9:00 O'clock!

Well, no matter! I'll ask Natalie Fracas how her crew is coming along...

Fine, Master Bates...

First, here's Esther Trammis! I never hear from her, so I assume she's doing her work!

Good assumption!

... and in the office of Tony Modzone and Nancy Pretty...

How do you like my new mod-suit, Nancy Baby? Isn't it just too much? Aren't my new mini-skirt and maxi-hair just out of sight, Tony Baby?
NATALIE FRACAS AND MASTER BATES COME IN...

TONY AND NANCY, HOW ARE THINGS GOING?
LIKE I WAS SAYING, NANCY, MY FELLOW CO-WORKER, ISN'T THIS NEW PROGRAM I WROTE JUST TOO MUCH?
AS I WAS SAYING, TONY, MY OFFICE PARTNER, THIS PROGRAM I WROTE WILL RUN IN MINI-TIME WITH MAXI-EFFECT!

MOVING ON DOWN THE HALL...
HELLO AGAIN, CURTIS! IS HUGGY-BEAR MAZZEI IN YET?
OH, HE NOT IN YET, MASSIH BATES! IT'S ONLY 10:00 O'CLOCK!

DAVE JACKOBS IS HAVING HIS PROBLEMS...
THOSE DARN WASPS! BUGS EVERYWHERE!

HIS OFFICE-MATE, TOM GORGEOUS, HAS SOMETHING SIMILAR PROBLEMS?...
OH, THESE PEKY GIRLS! THEY'RE ALWAYS BUGGING ME! THEY MESS MY COIFFURE!

AS USUAL, ARTIE THE CLOWN HAS NO PROBLEMS AT ALL...
I LOST THE WARP BILLING DATA AGAIN—HAR! HAR!

NO COMMENT...
I'm sure they'll lick those pesky problems! Oh, Curtis! Is HuggyBear Mazzei in yet?

Oh, he not in yet, Massuh Bates! It's only noon!

Hello, Don Cis-Low! What's the low-down on your progress?

Watch it, master Bates, or I'll punch you in the knee-cap!

Hey, Mike Earache! How is your progress on ASP?

Gee, isn't it a yo-yo trick?

Man, like, I dunno! Hey, Paula tellco! What's an ASP?

Hi, Henry Bodzekin! How is your ASP testing coming along?

Testing! What's that?

Oh, you know! First you test it on the three-sickly, then you document it!

Document?

Right! Then our users will know how to use it!

Users?

Sound like we're about ready to go?
WELL, WE'RE ALMOST READY TO GO!
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN HUGGY-BEAR MAZZEI! IS HE IN YET, CURTIS?
HECK NO, MASSUH BATES! IT'S ONLY 4 O'CLOCK!

LI'L ABNER MIMS!
WE'VE GOT TO GET HUGGY-BEAR MAZZEI HERE!
AH'LL CHECK TH' BARS, MASSUH BATES!

SHORTLY...
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, MASTER BATES?
IT'S 5:00 O'CLOCK—TIME TO GO HOME!
HELLO, HUGGY-BEAR! WE'VE GOT TO TRY OUR ASP FIRST!

EVERYBODY GET SET NOW!
READY TO START ASP!
5-4-3-2-1—

WELL, HOW DID YA LIKE IT, MASTER BATES! GOOD, HUH?
IT WAS BEAUTIFUL, HUGGY-BEAR, PERFECT! TOMORROW WE START TSS!

ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION!... THE END
FAN POSTER OF THE MONTH
MISTER WIZARD AT THE STEINWAY
SUITABLE FOR FRAMING OR TARGET SHOOTING