

ROADS OF DOOM

*CARTOONS VERSUS
MOTORWAYS*

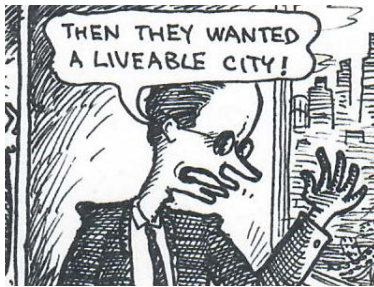


LES ROBINSON

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.

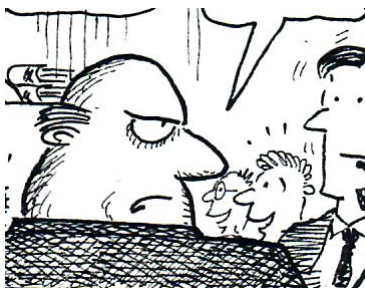
- LES ROBINSON



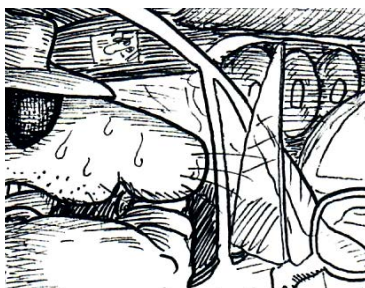
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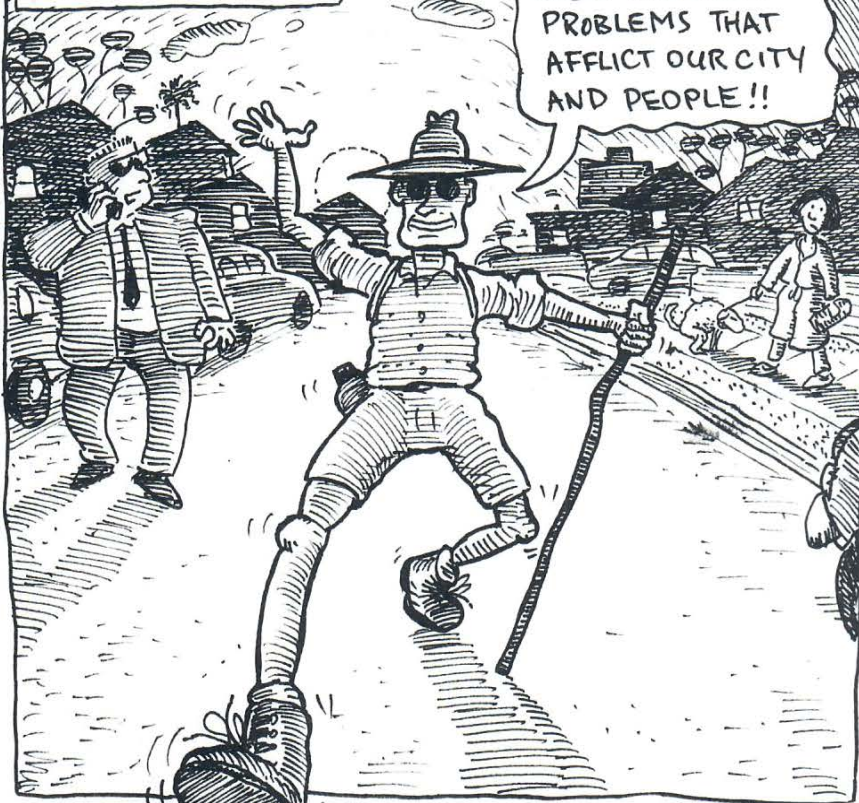
PREMIER BOB HEADS WEST!

DAWN IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS!

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

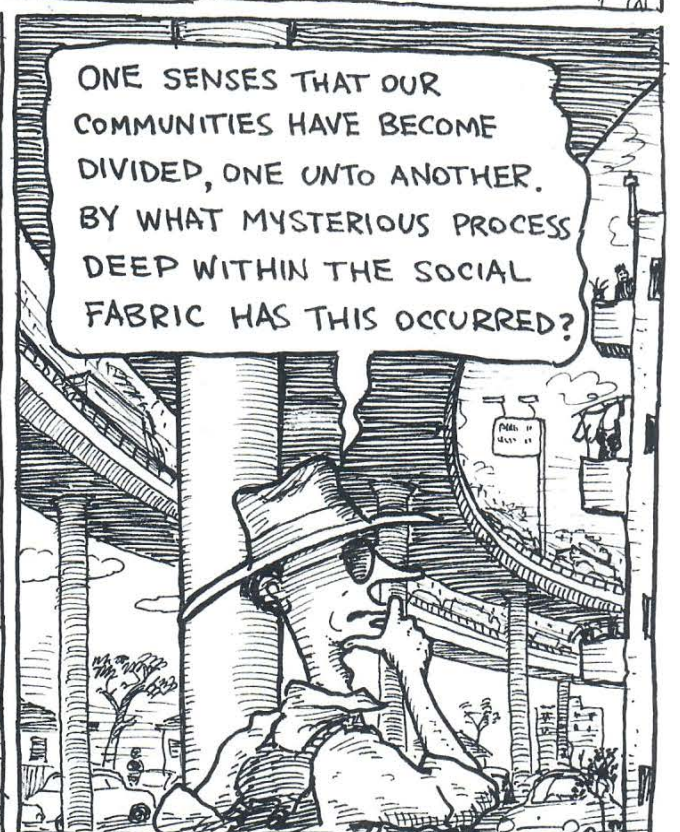
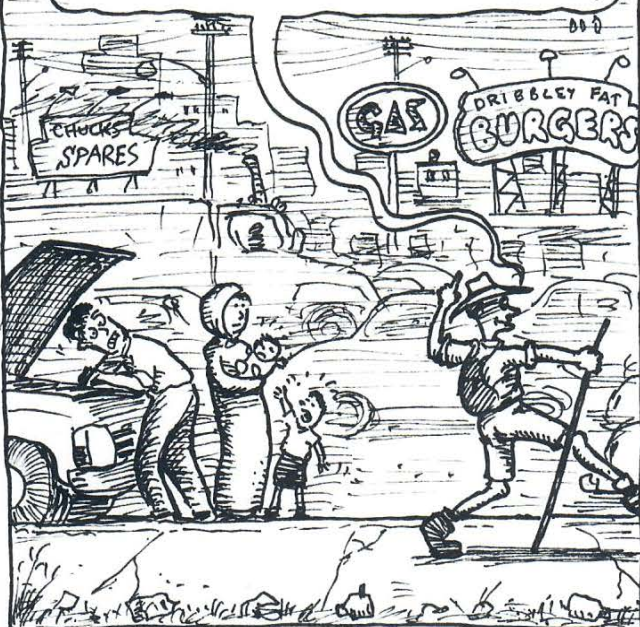
AHH! WALKING! THE PATH TO CONTEMPLATION AND INSPIRATION... WHEN THE MIND IS FREE TO RANGE OVER THE GREAT PROBLEMS THAT AFFLICT OUR CITY AND PEOPLE!!

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?

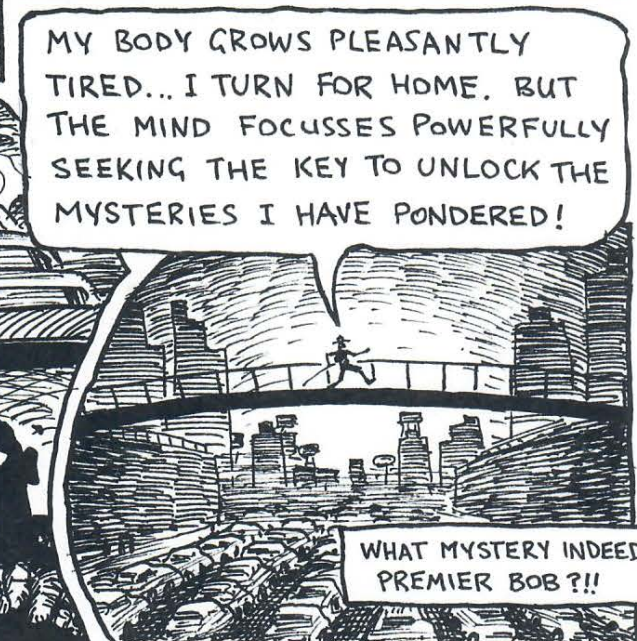
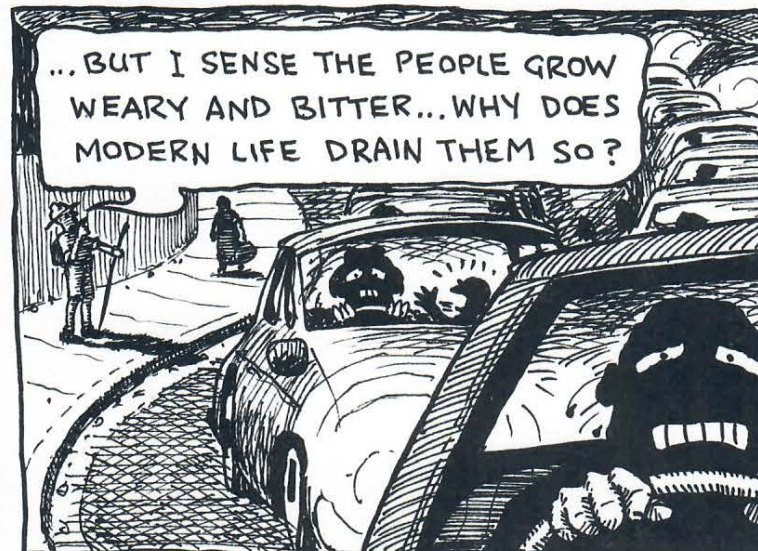
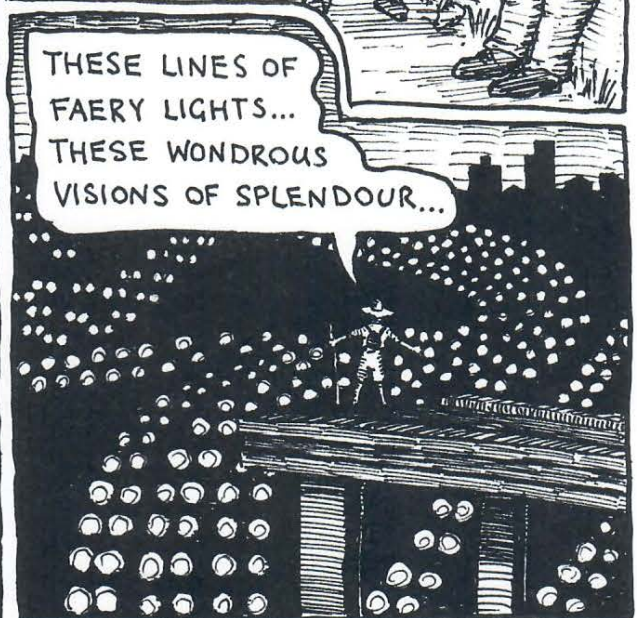
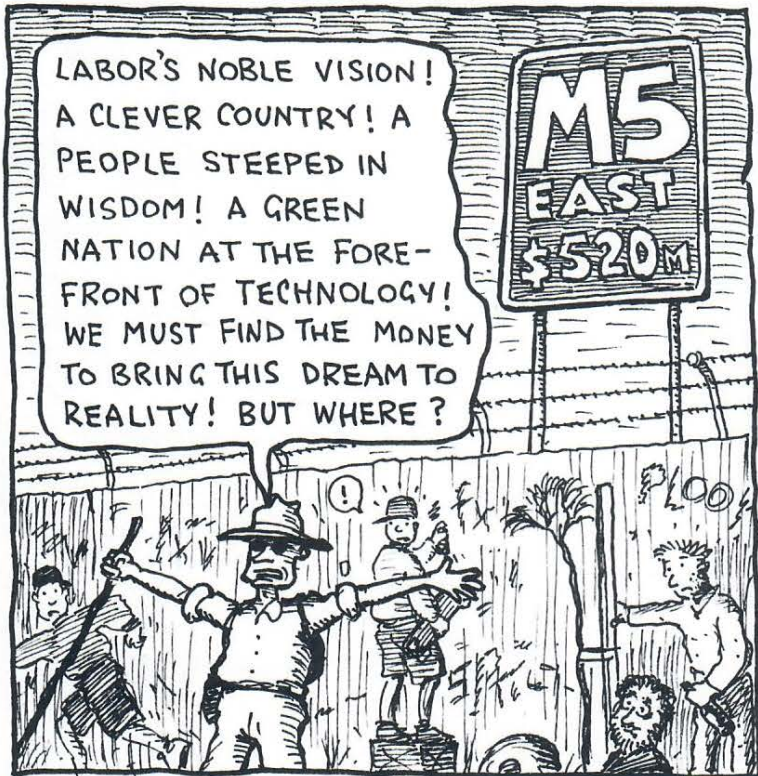
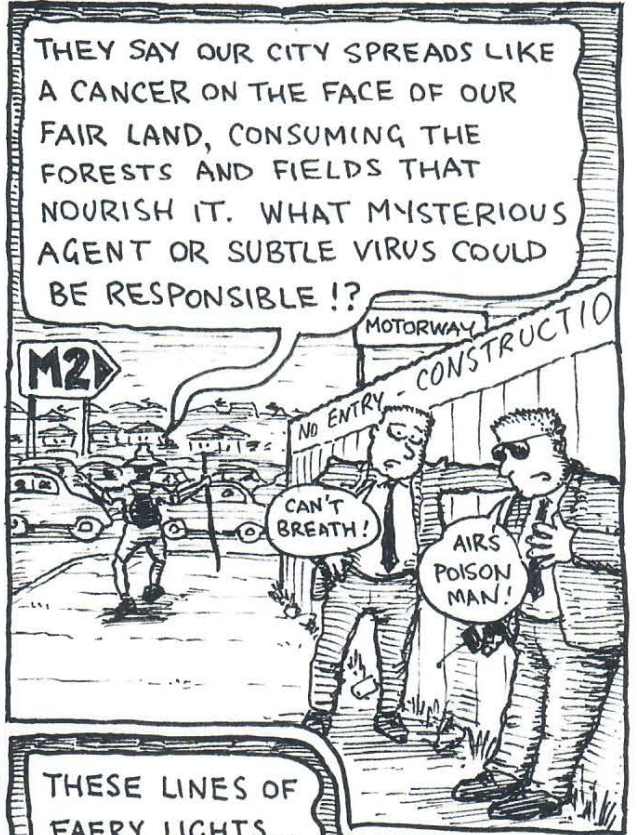
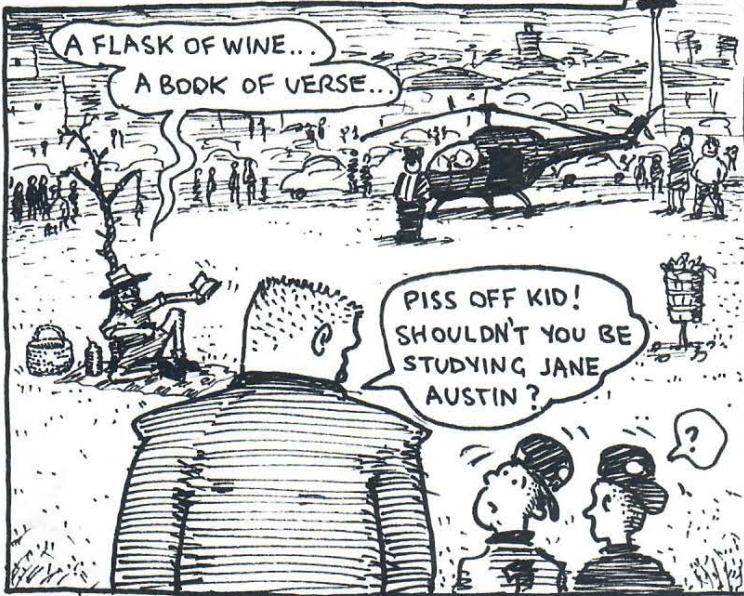


WHY DO THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR POORER?... COULD WE BE, AS HORACE OPINED "JUST STATISTICS...BORN TO CONSUME"?

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



BOB PAUSES FOR SUSTENANCE...

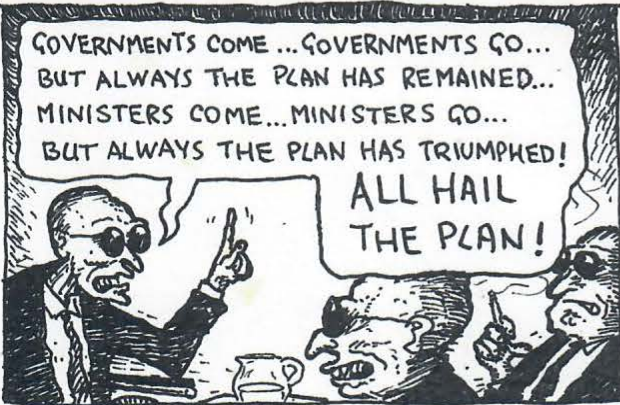




HI POSSUMS! EVER WONDER HOW THE REALLY BIG DECISIONS GET MADE? WELL, COME WITH ME AND WE'LL HAVE A PEAK BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MIGHTY

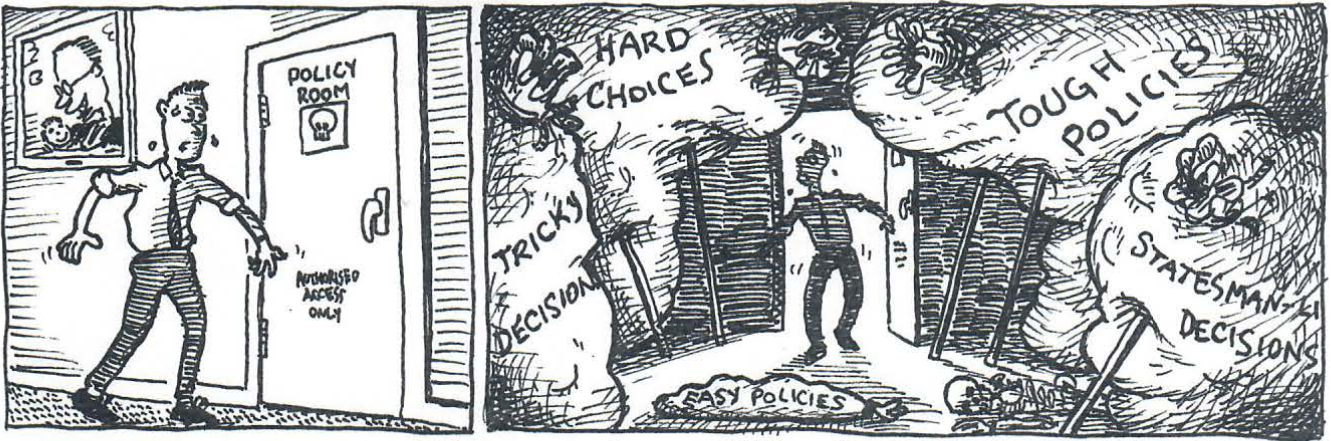
SHIP OF STATE!

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



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





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...

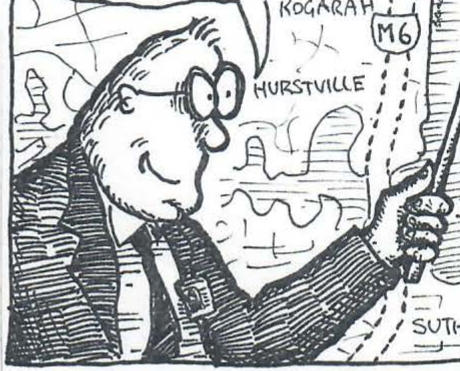
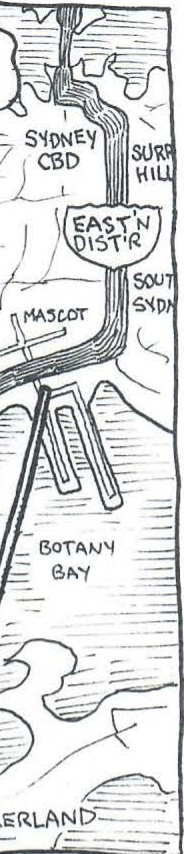
GOOD MORNING GENTLEMEN! THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE FINAL PHASE OF OUR STRATEGY..

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

RTA
NO ENTRY
DANGER ARMED DOOR



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 YUPIES 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...

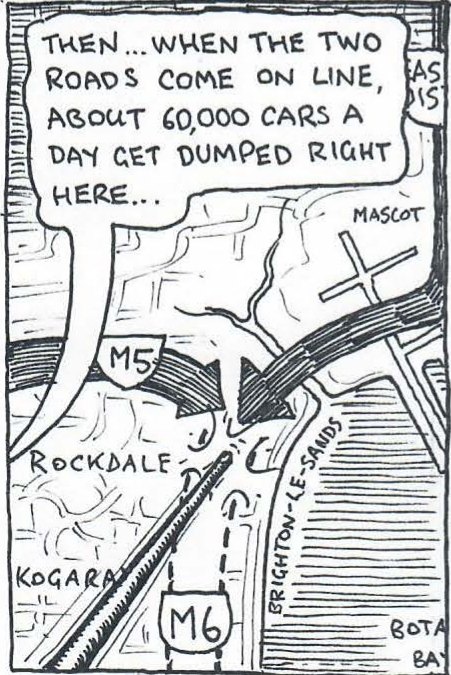
ROCKDALE WILL BE SWAMPED IN TRAFFIC!

THEY'LL BEG US TO BUILD THE M6!

YES SIR, IT'LL BE A DISASTER!

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

MONEY WILL BE NO OBJECT!





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



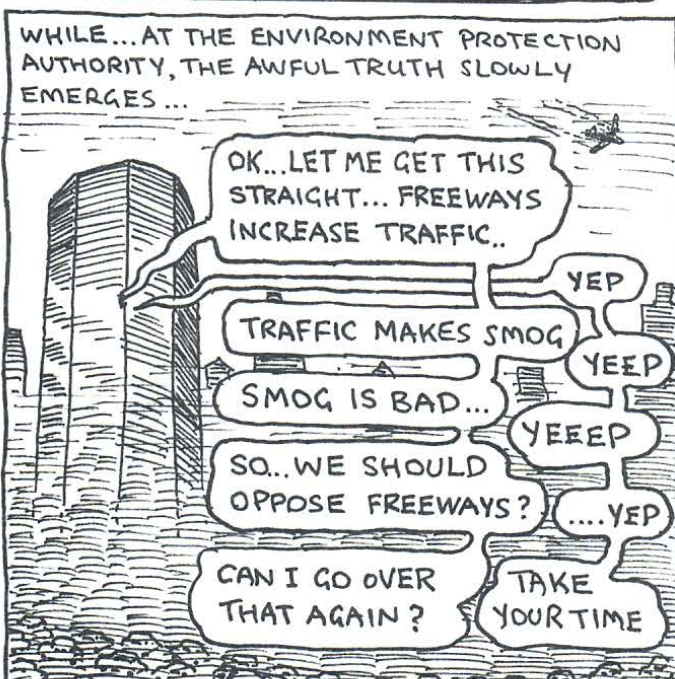
THIS, OBVIOUSLY, IS AN ORBITAL ROAD SYSTEM, DESIGNED TO ROUTE TRAFFIC AROUND CONGESTED INNER SUBURBS...



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...



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!

AFTER 6 MONTHS EXPERT EVIDENCE... I CONCLUDE THIS FREEWAY IS NOT JUSTIFIED ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! GET ME THE PREMIER, FLAK!

YESSAH!

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

M55

AN OZZIE BANK PROJECT

COUGH!

HACK!

GASP!

WEEZE!

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

ARE YOU SURE THIS TOLLWAY IS A GOOD IDEA?

ABSOLUTELY MINISTER! BY THE WAY...HOW ARE YOUR OIL SHARES?

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

EXPAND PUBLIC TRANSPORT?...WHAT'S THE POINT?

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

OH GOD! IT'S SO LOVELY... WIMPER... SLURP... SUCK.

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

OUR SHARES ARE ALMOST WORTHLESS!

NOW..NOW DAVE..WE CAN'T HAVE THAT... WILL \$50 MILLION SEE YOU OVER?

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

MINISTER...THIS \$400 MILLION STATE-OF-THE-ART RAIL SYSTEM WILL SOLVE SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS.

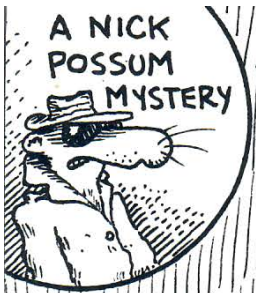
NICE IDEA BUT WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD IT.

HEY BOB...WE NEED \$400 MILLION TOWARDS OUR NEW TOLLROAD!

NO WORRIES AL!

THANK GOD IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE!

A NICK
POSSUM
MYSTERY



JUST
\$2!

ROADS of DOOM



TOLL
CORP

CLONE
INDUSTRIES

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

DRIVE A

CLODDER & SONS

AUCTION
CLOSED

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

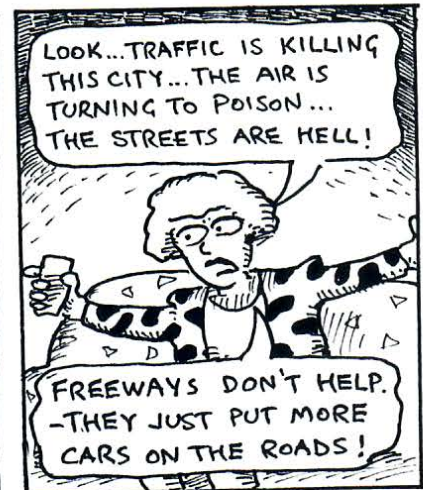
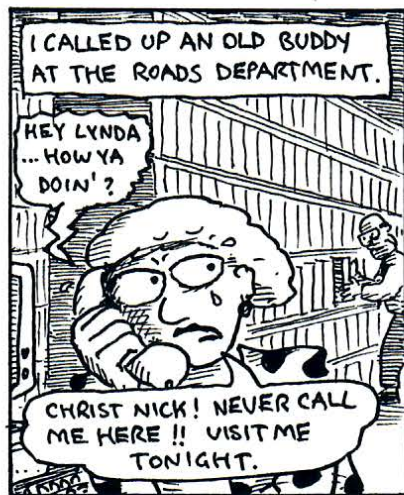
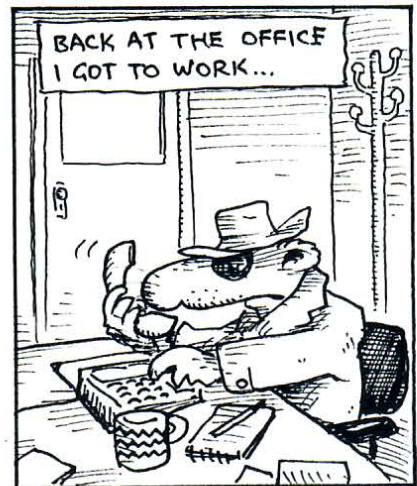
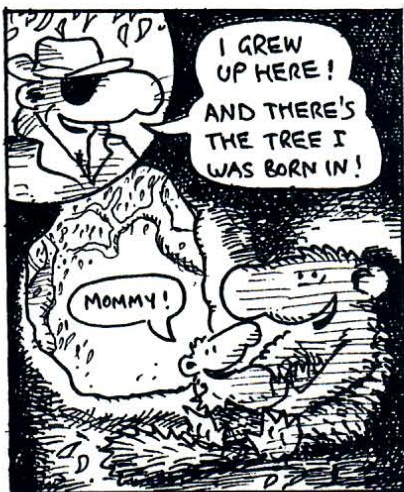
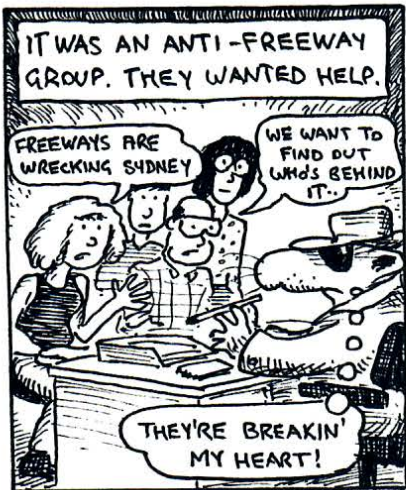
ONE DAY, ONLY A FEW YEARS FROM NOW...

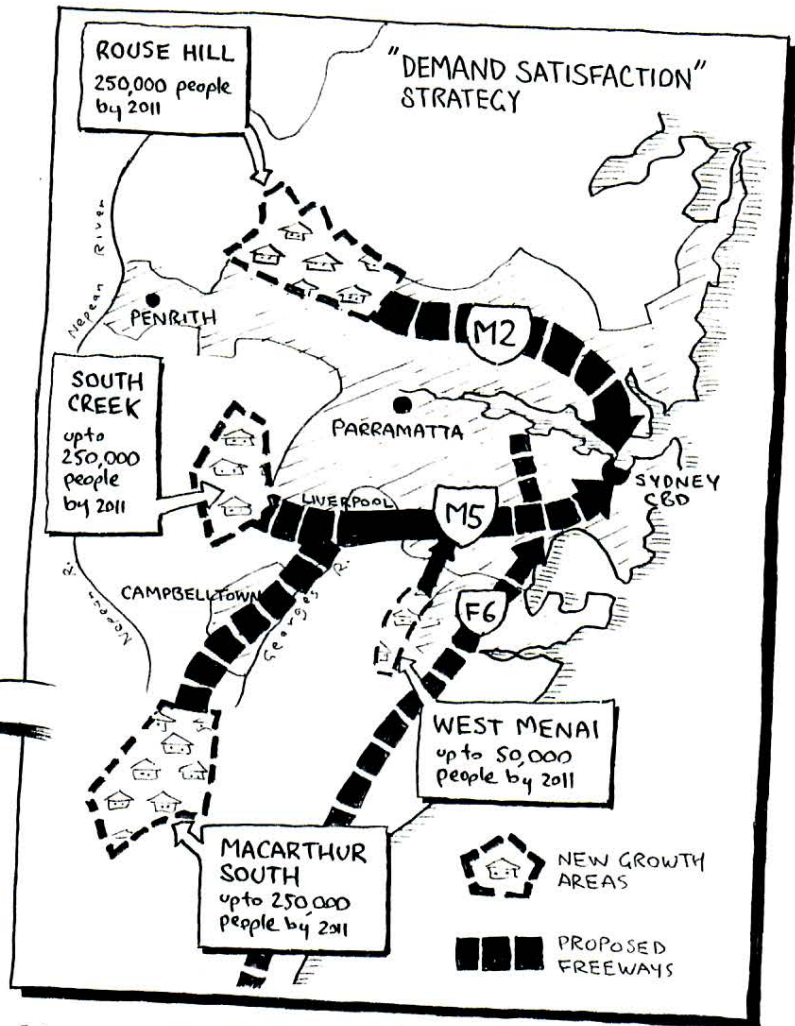
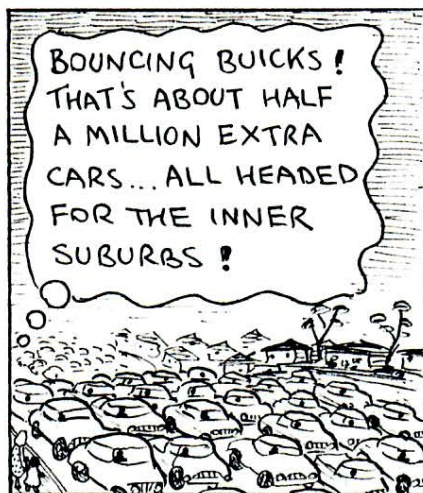
MINISTER...HOW DO YOU ANSWER CLAIMS THAT FREEWAYS MAKE TRAFFIC WORSE BY MAKING MORE PEOPLE CAR DEPENDENT?

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

COUGH!!

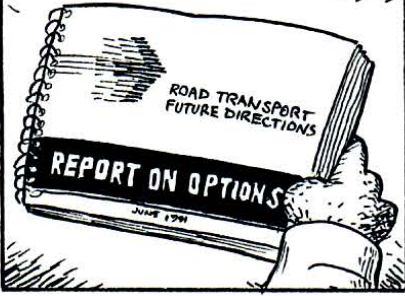
SHARE THE SPIRIT





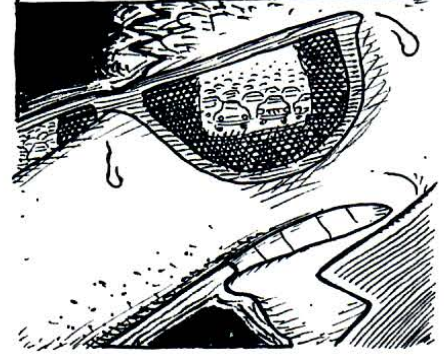
* THE REPORT, CALLED 'ROAD TRANSPORT-FUTURE OPTIONS', REALLY EXISTS! WHEN THE RTA REALISED IT HAD NO STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, IT COMMISSIONED A MAJOR STUDY BY RESPECTED CONSULTING FIRMS. THE REPORT, FINISHED IN 1990, SO EMBARRASSED THE RTA THAT IT SHELVED IT FOR MANY MONTHS. FINALLY 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.

THE OTHER DOCUMENT WAS AN OFFICIAL REPORT...IT PREDICTED THE RESULTS IF THE FREEWAYS WENT AHEAD...



■ Congestion in Sydney (time lost) increasing	+600%
■ Carbon Dioxide (Greenhouse) emittants increasing	+23%
Other emittants (air quality) increasing	+36%
■ Fuel Consumption by	+23%

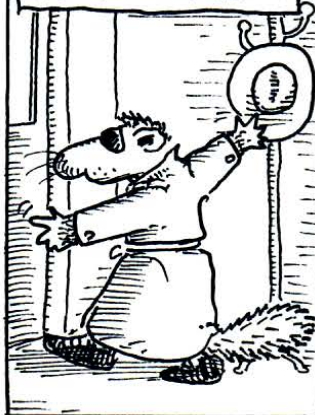
AND HERE'S THE PUNCHLINE - TRAFFIC CONGESTION UP 600% ! THAT'S GRIDLOCK !!



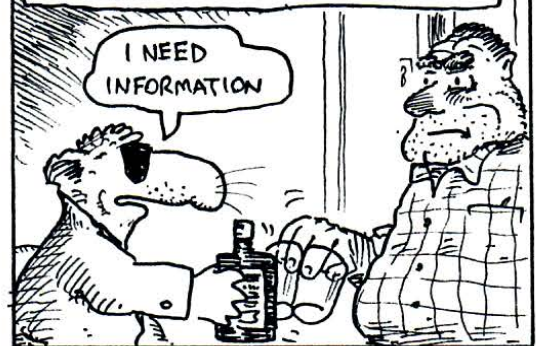
I COULD SEE THIS STUFF WAS DYNAMITE... BUT IT STILL DIDN'T TELL ME WHO WAS PULLING THE STRINGS...



I DECIDED TO TRY ANOTHER ANGLE...



DAVE'S AN EX-TRUCKIE... HE KNOWS THE SYSTEM... I PUT A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH ON THE TABLE...



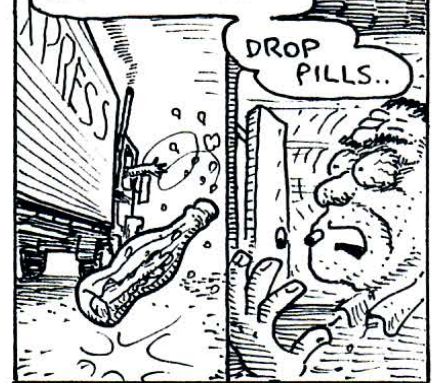
I'VE SEEN THE TRUCKIE'S LIFE GO DOWNHILL...



NOW GUYS PAY A MILLION BUCKS FOR A RIG... THEN CUT EACH OTHER'S THROATS TO SURVIVE...



PISS IN COKE BOTTLES AND CHUCK THEM OUT THE WINDOW...



IT'S DOG EAT DOG... ONLY THE BIG COMPANIES ARE WINNING... AND THE TRUCKER'S UNION WENT RIGHT ALONG WITH THEM!



OK..OK..BUT WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH FREEWAYS?

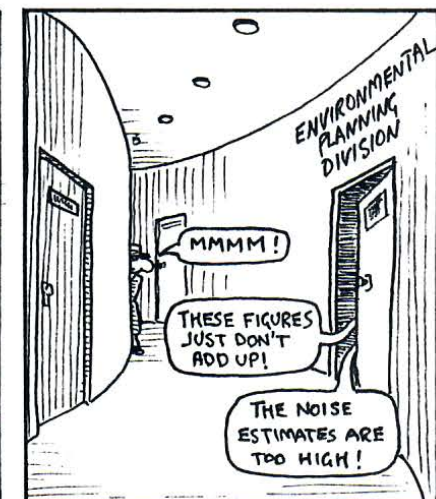
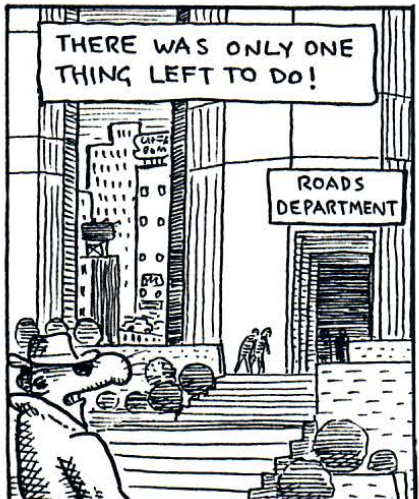
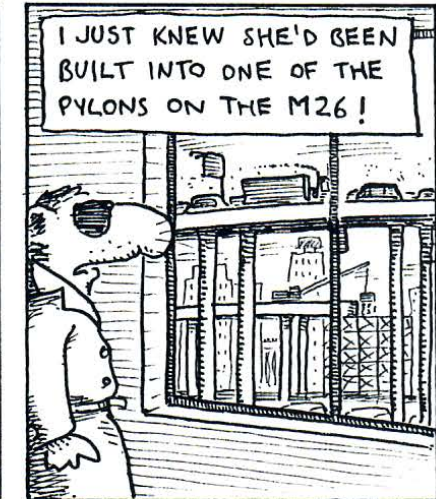
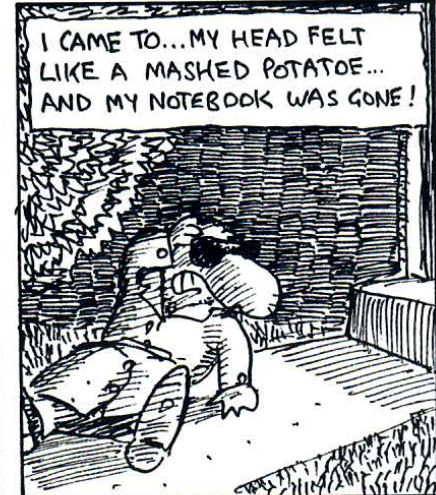
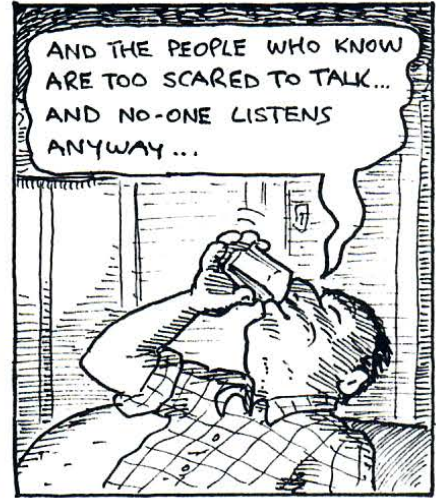


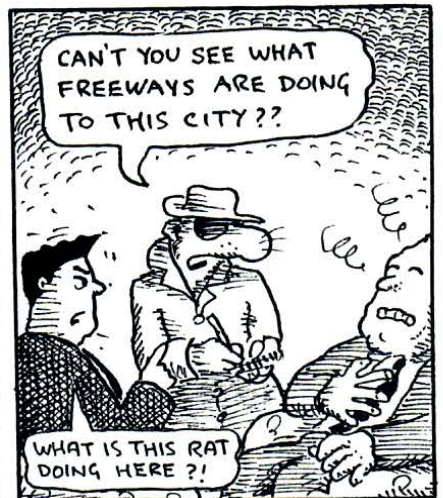
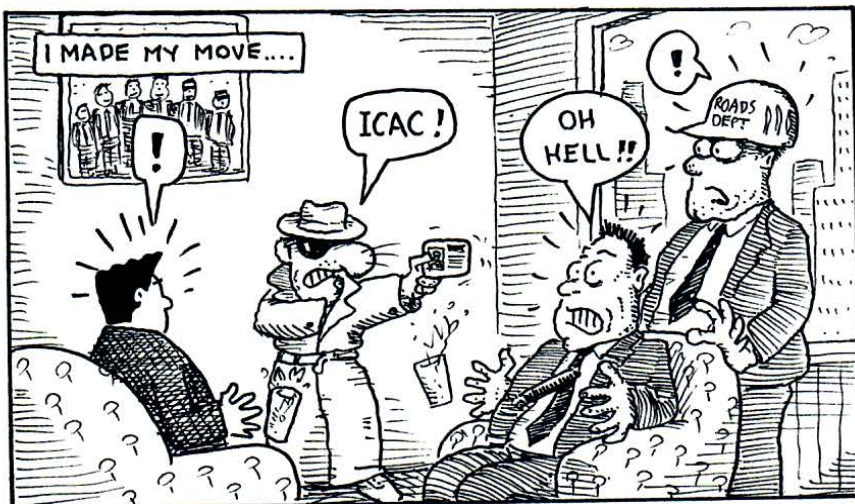
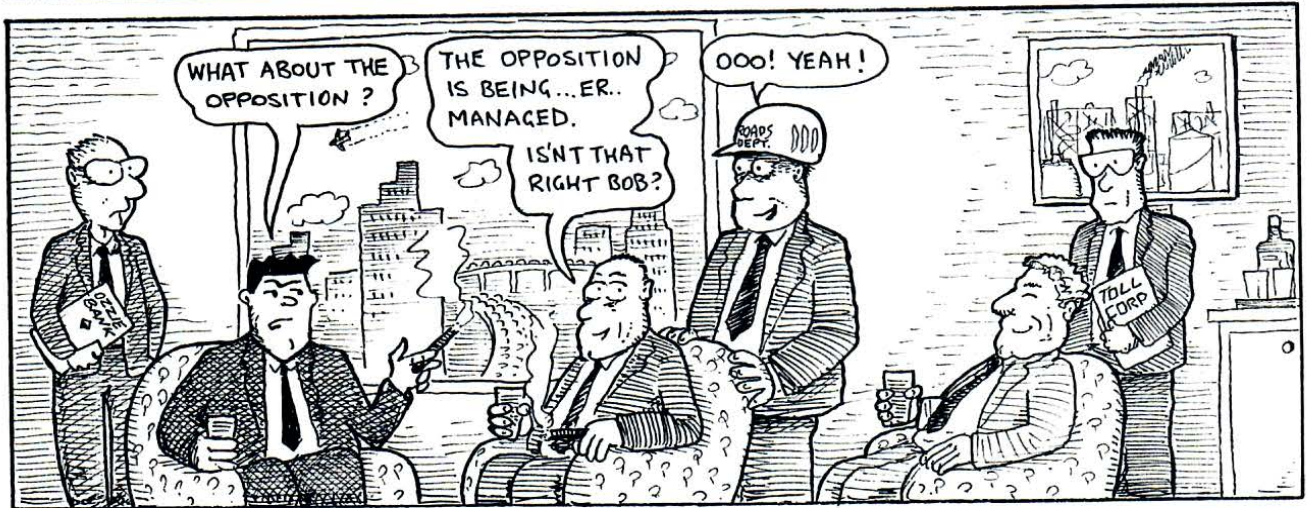
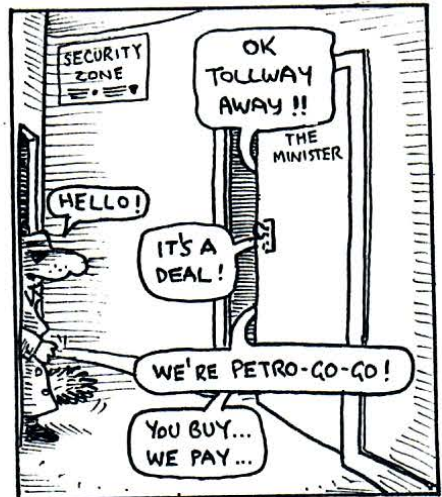
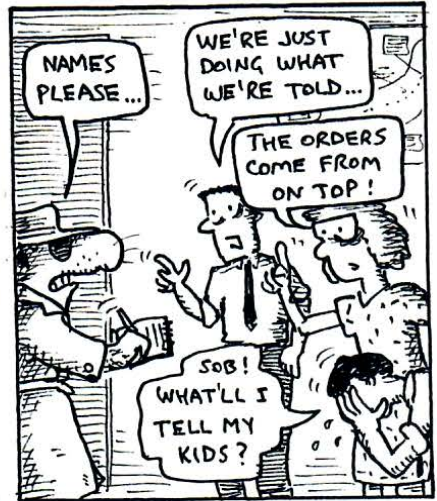
EVERYTHING !! THE TRUCKING LOBBY HAVE GOT THE EAR... ..AND THE REST... OF THE POLITICIANS!

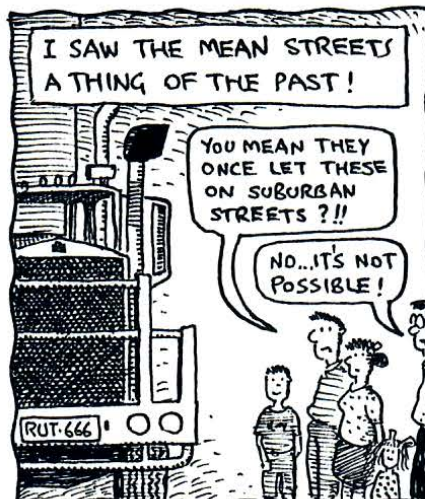
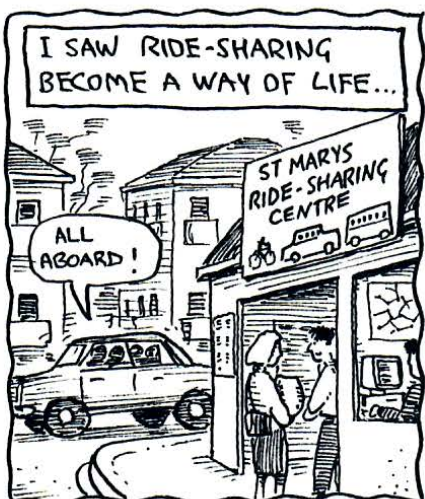
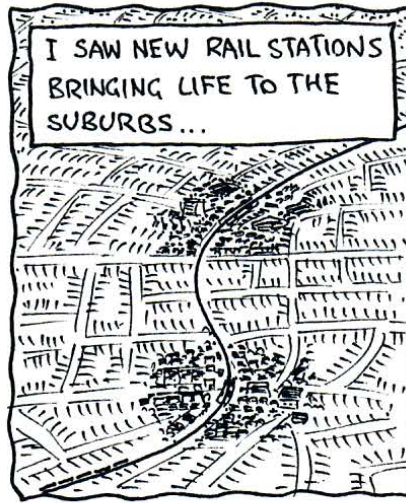
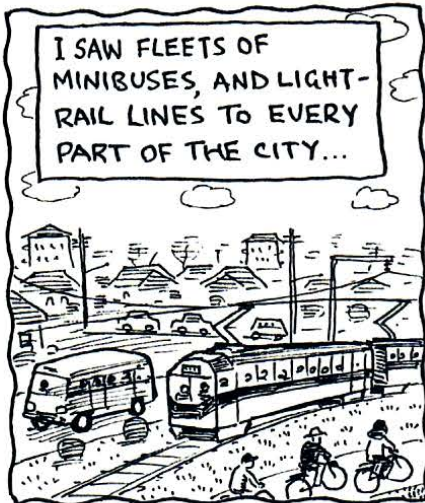
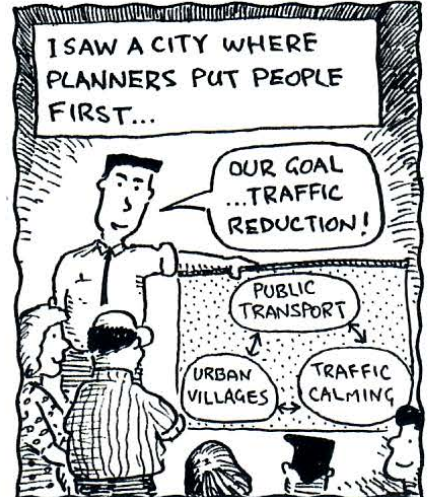
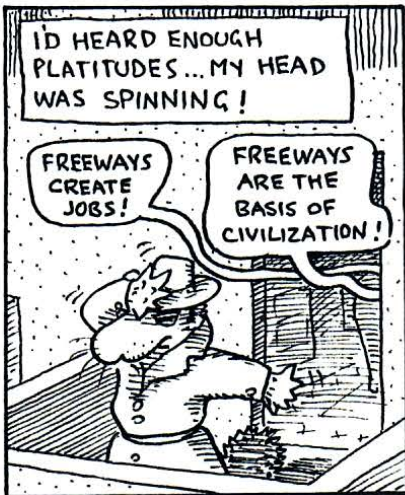
YOU DON'T WANT ANOTHER BLOCKADE?

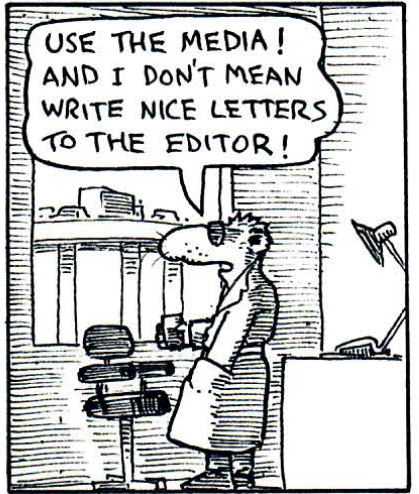
BIG TRUCKS ARE GOTTA ROLL!











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.

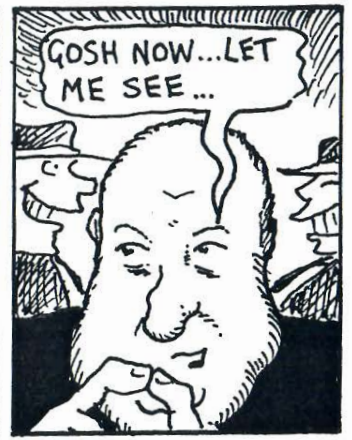
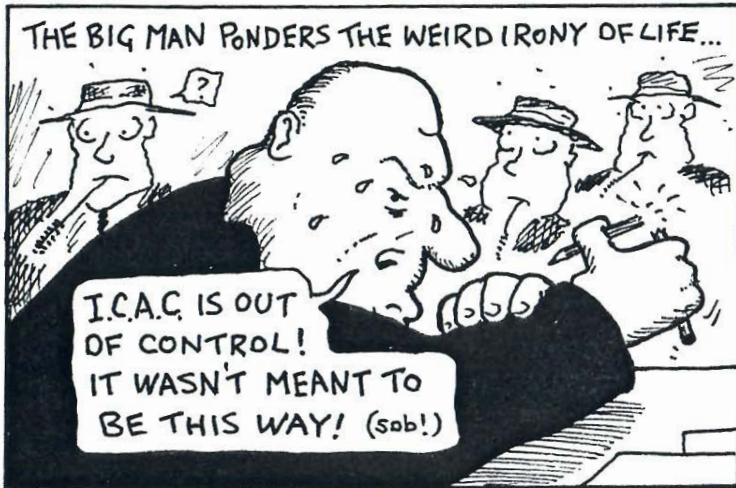
3 WRITE TO YOUR POLITICIANS.
 ► DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT SOLUTION THEY PROPOSE TO TRAFFIC AND SMOG IN SYDNEY.
 ► TELL THEM YOU WANT TO SEE PROPOSED FREEWAYS & TOLLWAYS REPLACED WITH RAIL SYSTEMS.

DO IT NOW!



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

N S W inc.



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

