



Centipede™

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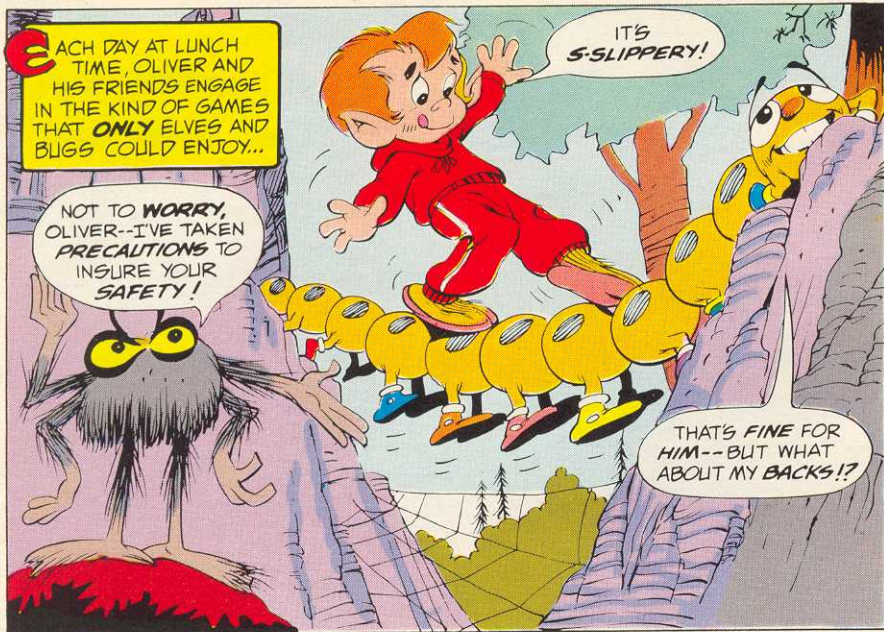
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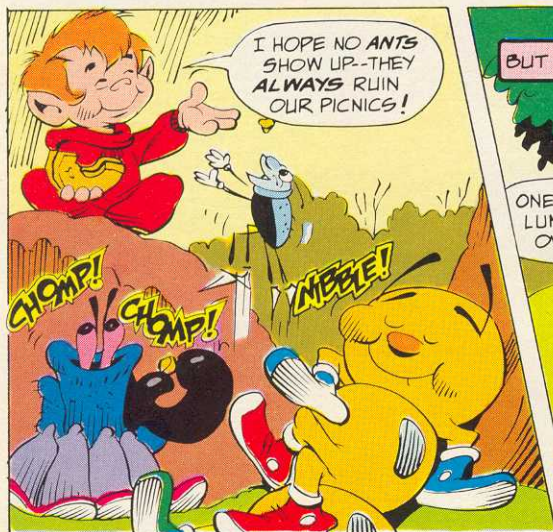
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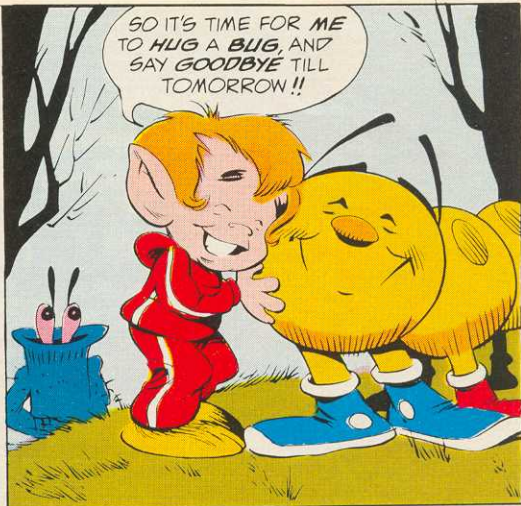


DEEP IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST LIVES A BAND OF LITTLE ELVES. OLIVER IS THE LITTLEST OF THEM ALL ... BUT DOES THAT BUG HIM ? NO WAY ! NOT WITH SECRET FRIENDS LIKE THESE : SPIDER, FLEA, SCORPION, AND OF COURSE ... CENTIPEDE !!



AND, AFTER SOME MORE GOOD CLEAN FUN, OLIVER SHARES HIS LUNCH WITH HIS MANY-LEGGED FRIENDS...OF COURSE, THE MENU IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST IS RATHER LIMITED, SINCE BERRY JAM AND MUSHROOM BREAD IS ALL THAT ELVES EAT!





WITHIN MOMENTS, OLIVER ARRIVES AT HIS HUMBLE ABODE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE, THERE TO BEGIN THE HARVESTING OF THE WINTER'S MUSHROOM SUPPLY.

BUT IT IS DESTINED TO BE A BITTER HARVEST...

FOR, HIGH ON MT. MUSHMORE, A PARTICULARLY EVIL WIZARD HAS A PARTICULARLY EVIL PLAN...

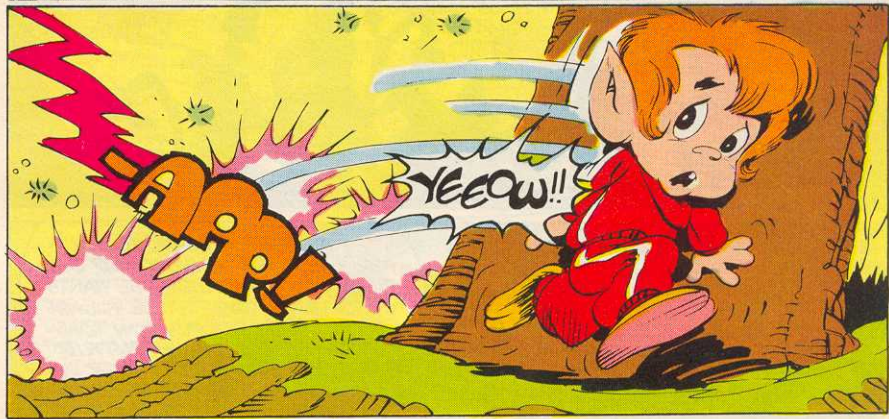
heh heh...NOW THERE'S AN ESPECIALLY NICE-LOOKING MUSHROOM PATCH...

...JUST RIPE FOR ROTTING!!

THIS BLAST OUGHTA REALLY SHAKE 'EM!

AND WITH ONE BROAD STROKE OF HIS GNARLED HANDS, THE WIZARD'S "FRIGHTENING ROD" SENDS OUT A BOLT OF TERROR-FIED ENERGY--

WHICH, NOT-SO-COINCIDENTALLY, BLASTS ONE BEAUTIFUL MUSHROOM PATCH TO SMITHEREENS, AND SCARES ONE INNOCENT ELF SILLY!!



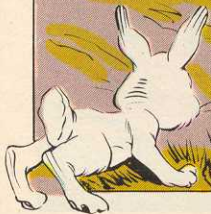
WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, A **GRUESOME** TRANSFORMATION IS REVEALED TO OLIVER AND HIS PARENTS!

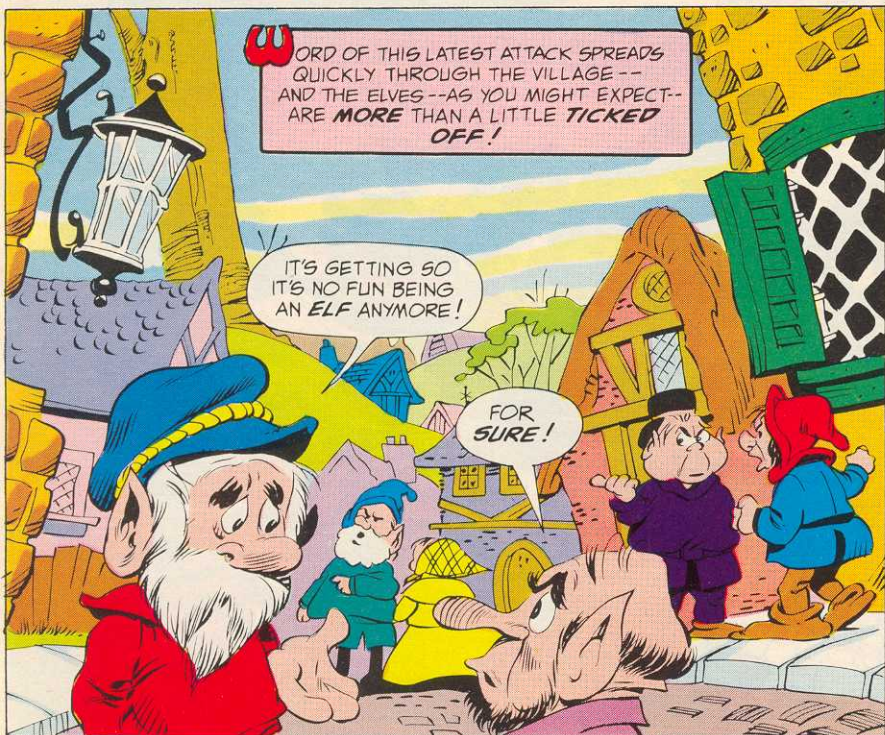
OLIVER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

LOOK, DEAR! OUR MUSHROOM PATCH HAS BEEN TURNED TO **MUSH!**

NOT JUST **MUSH, DAD--**
TOADSTOOLS!!

AND THEY'RE NOT JUST **TOADSTOOLS** EITHER, OLIVER--THEY'RE THE **SMELLIEST, YUCKIEST, GROSSEST** TOADSTOOLS EVER MADE--A PIECE OF **BLACK MAGIC**, COURTESY OF THAT **WILY WIZARD!**







AS ONE, THE ANGRY ELVES RACE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN TO SEE THE NEWEST BATCH OF TERRIBLE TOADSTOOLS AND PLAN THEIR NEXT MOVE.

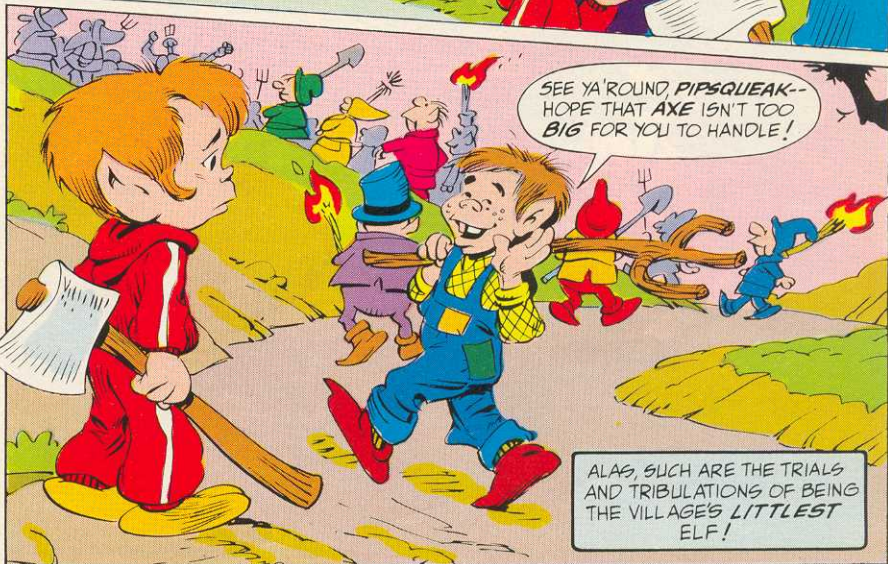


THE ELDERS DECIDE THAT THE WIZARD MUST BE STOPPED-- AND THAT EVERYONE MUST HELP--

WELL...ALMOST EVERYONE...

BUT WHY CAN'T I GO, DAD?

BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO LITTLE--AND THE WIZARD ESPECIALLY *DISLIKES* LITTLE ELVES! YOU STAY HERE AND CHOP DOWN THE TOADSTOOLS--WE *MUST* TRY TO REPLANT BEFORE WINTER--OR WE *MAY STARVE!!*



SEE YA'ROUND PIPSQUEAK--HOPE THAT AXE ISN'T TOO BIG FOR YOU TO HANDLE!

ALAS, SUCH ARE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF BEING THE VILLAGE'S LITTLEST ELF!

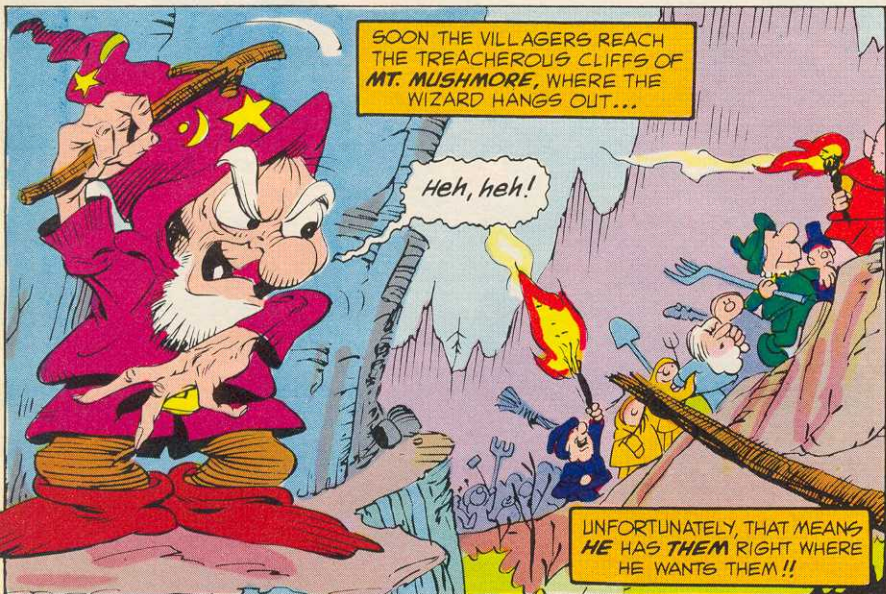


THE VILLAGERS BEGIN THEIR TREK UP THE NARROWLY WINDING MOUNTAIN PATH IN SEARCH OF... **EVIL WIZARDS!**



WHILE DOWN IN THE ONCE-FERTILE VALLEY, **OLIVER** PREPARES TO TAKE A WHACK AT THE **TOADSTOOL** PROBLEM...

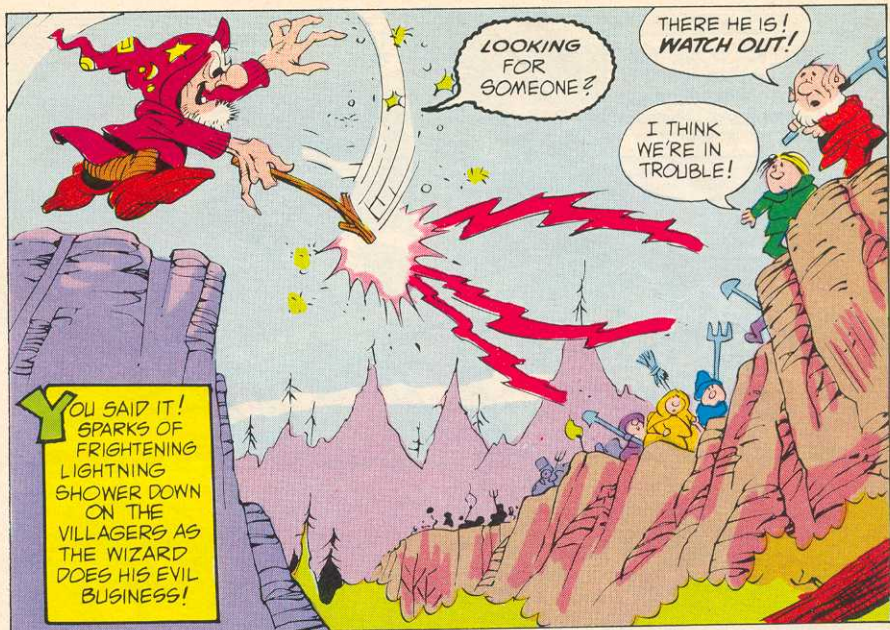
...EVEN IF I **AM** THE LITTLEST ELF!!



SOON THE VILLAGERS REACH THE TREACHEROUS CLIFFS OF **MT. MUSHMORE**, WHERE THE WIZARD HANGS OUT...

Heh, heh!

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS **HE** HAS **THEM** RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS THEM!!



YOU SAID IT! SPARKS OF FRIGHTENING LIGHTNING SHOWER DOWN ON THE VILLAGERS AS THE WIZARD DOES HIS EVIL BUSINESS!

AND, ONCE AGAIN, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS--YOU GUESSED IT--TOADSTOOLS!!

AT LAST I'VE TRIUMPHED!

Hee Hee! NO MORE ELVES! TONS OF TOADSTOOLS! I LOVE IT!!



TROLLING DOWN THE TOADSTOOL-LADEN PATH, THE WIZARD ADMIRES HIS DIRTY WORK...

IT MAY LACK IMAGINATION, BUT IT GETS THE JOB DONE!



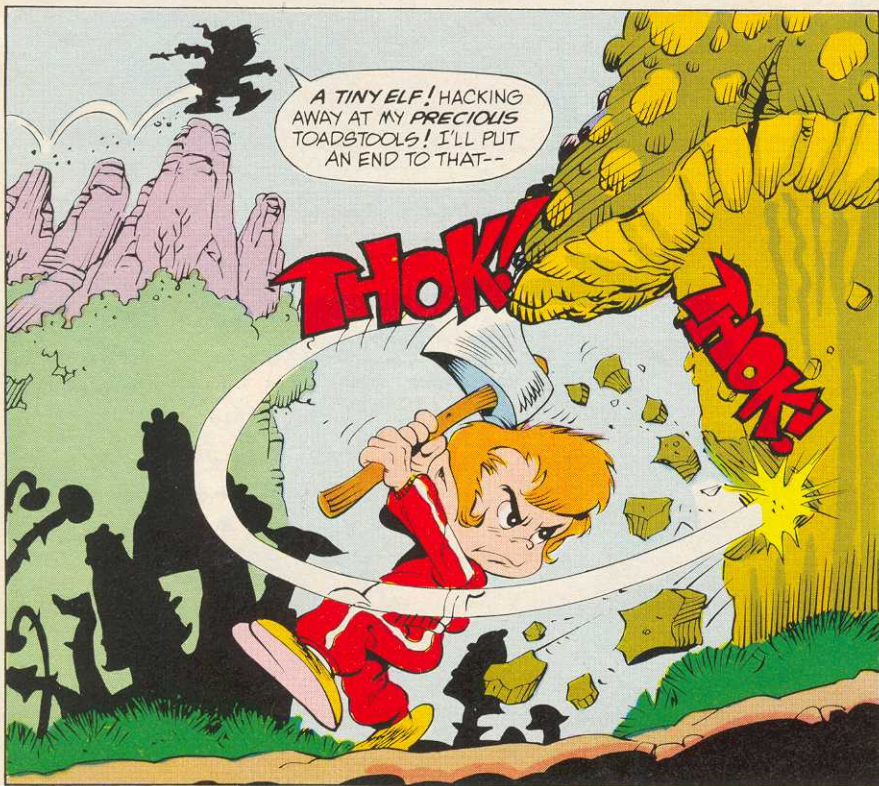
BUT SUDDENLY...



eh?

THOK! THOK!

A TINY ELF! HACKING AWAY AT MY PRECIOUS TOADSTOOLS! I'LL PUT AN END TO THAT--





ONE EX-
ELF--
COMING UP!

AND DOWN
BELOW...

Whew! THIS
SURE IS HARD
WORK!

I'LL SWOOP IN
CLOSE AND TURN
HIM INTO A
TOADSTOOL--
A LITTLE ONE,
BUT A TOADSTOOL
STILL!

DOWN, DOWN THE WIZARD
PLUMMETS, HIS ONLY
THOUGHT...

**IT'S
TOADSTOOL
TIME!!**

AS THE
WIZARD'S
SIGHTS
FOCUS ON
THE FEAST
BELOW, HE
MUTTERS THE
TRADITIONAL
BAT-WING
INCANTATION--
AND PREPARES
TO DIVE!



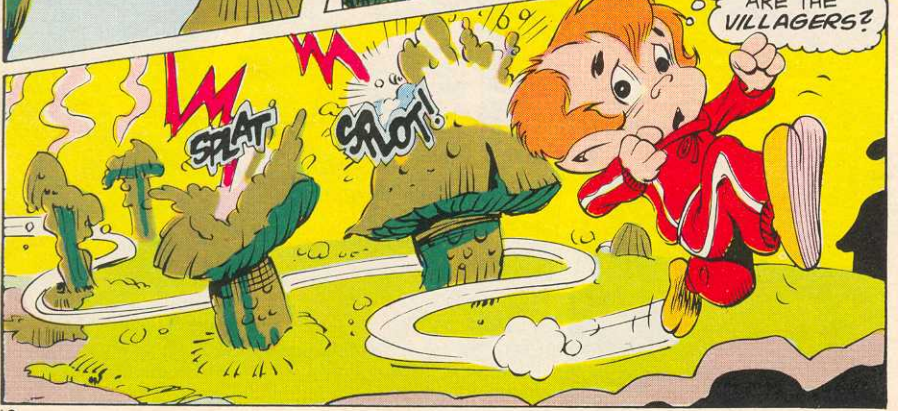
BUT, AS THE EVIL SORCERER PREPARES TO FINISH OFF THE UNKNOWING ELF, HIS WICKED SHADOW GIVES HIM AWAY!

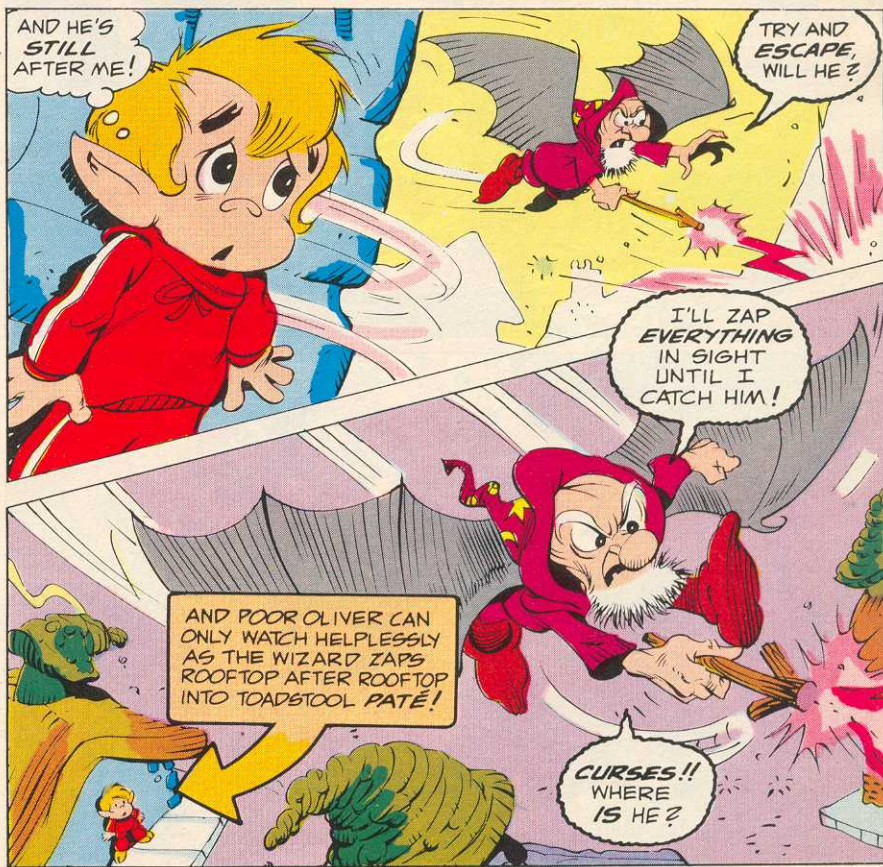


NOT A SECOND TOO SOON, OLIVER DROPS HIS AXE AND RUNS AS FAST AS HIS FURRY LITTLE FEET CAN CARRY HIM!



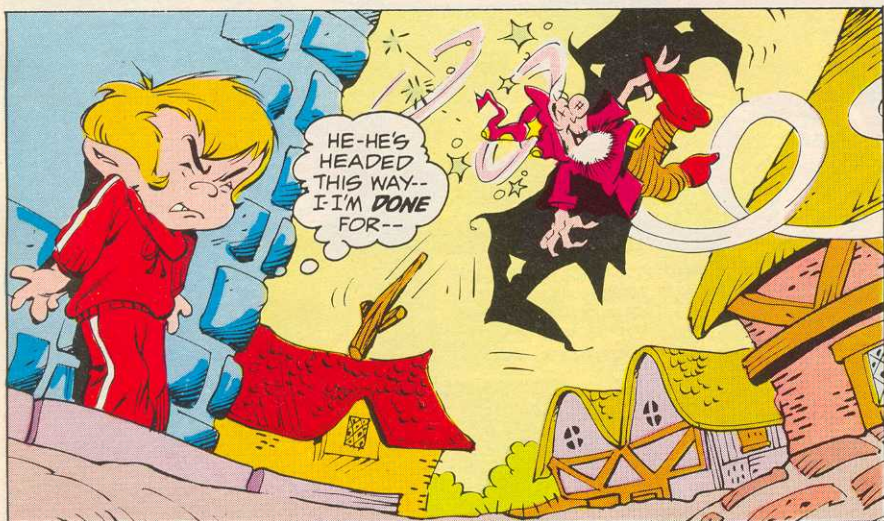
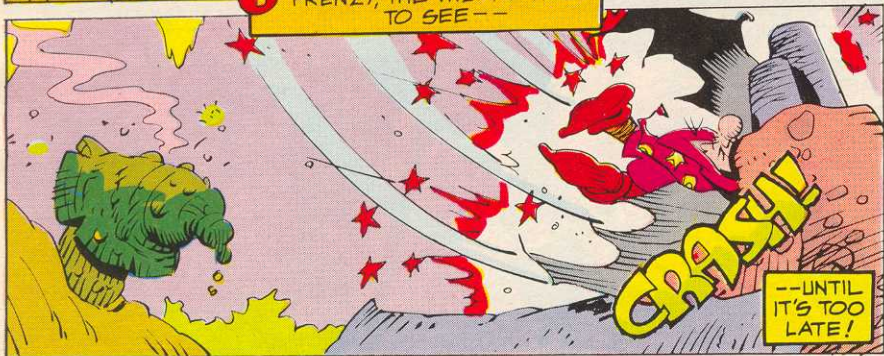
THE WIZARD! BUT WHERE ARE THE VILLAGERS?!



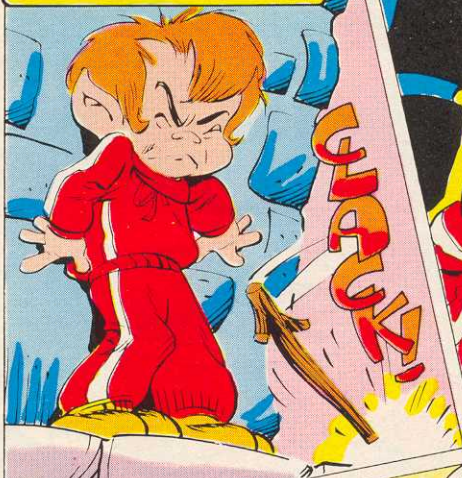




BUT, LOST IN HIS DESTRUCTIVE FRENZY, THE WIZARD FAILS TO SEE --

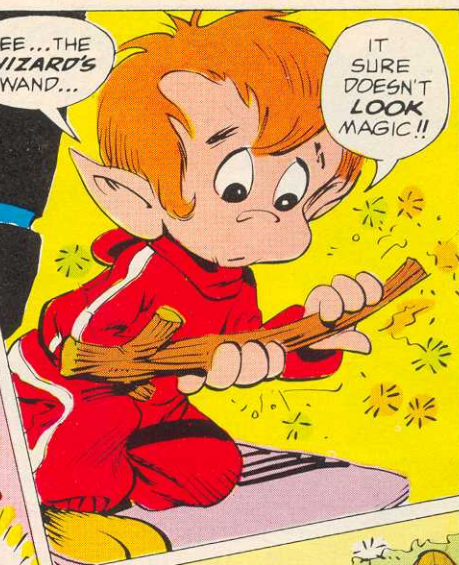


H EY OLIVER!! OPEN YOUR EYES--THE WIZARD'S "FRIGHTENING ROD" IS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!!



GEE...THE WIZARD'S WAND...

IT SURE DOESN'T LOOK MAGIC!!

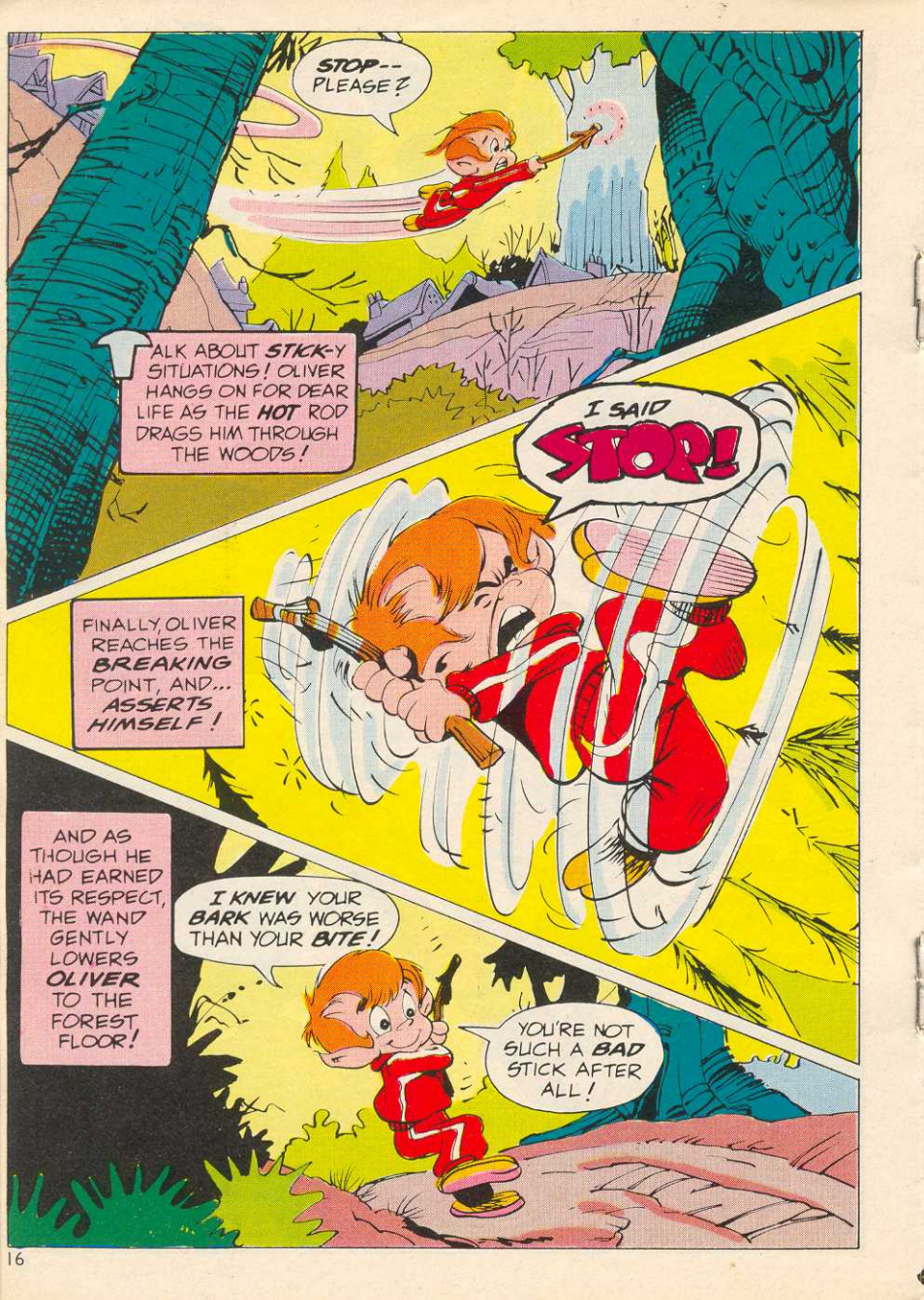


HELP!

I DON'T THINK IT--
YEOW!



AS IF RESENTING OLIVER'S THOUGHTS, THE MAGIC STICK BLASTS OFF!!!



STOP--
PLEASE?!

TALK ABOUT *STICK-Y* SITUATIONS! OLIVER HANGS ON FOR DEAR LIFE AS THE *HOT ROD* DRAGS HIM THROUGH THE WOODS!

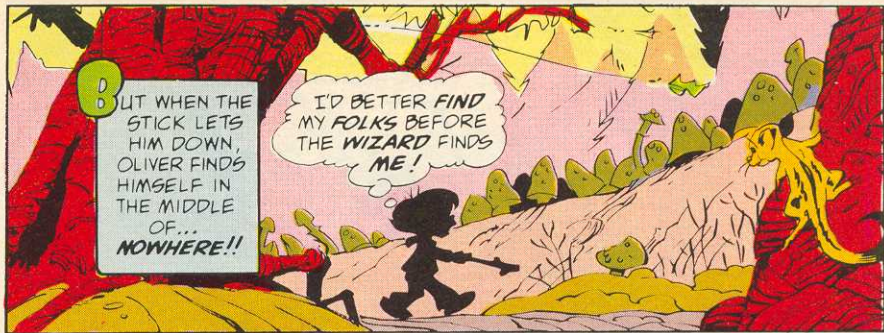
I SAID
STOP!

FINALLY, OLIVER REACHES THE *BREAKING POINT*, AND... *ASSERTS HIMSELF!*

AND AS THOUGH HE HAD EARNED ITS RESPECT, THE WAND GENTLY LOWERS OLIVER TO THE FOREST FLOOR!

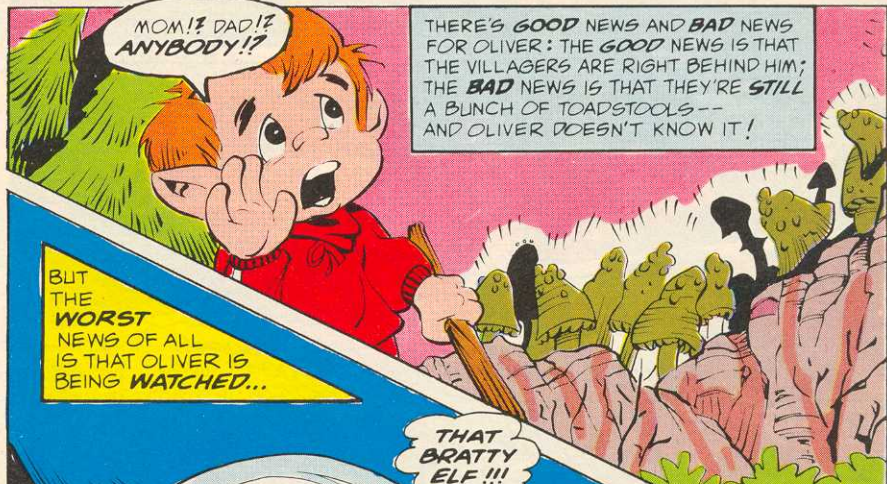
I KNEW YOUR *BARK* WAS WORSE THAN YOUR *BITE!*

YOU'RE NOT SUCH A *BAD STICK* AFTER ALL!



BUT WHEN THE STICK LETS HIM DOWN, OLIVER FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF... NOWHERE!!

I'D BETTER FIND MY FOLKS BEFORE THE WIZARD FINDS ME!



MOM! DAD! ANYBODY!?

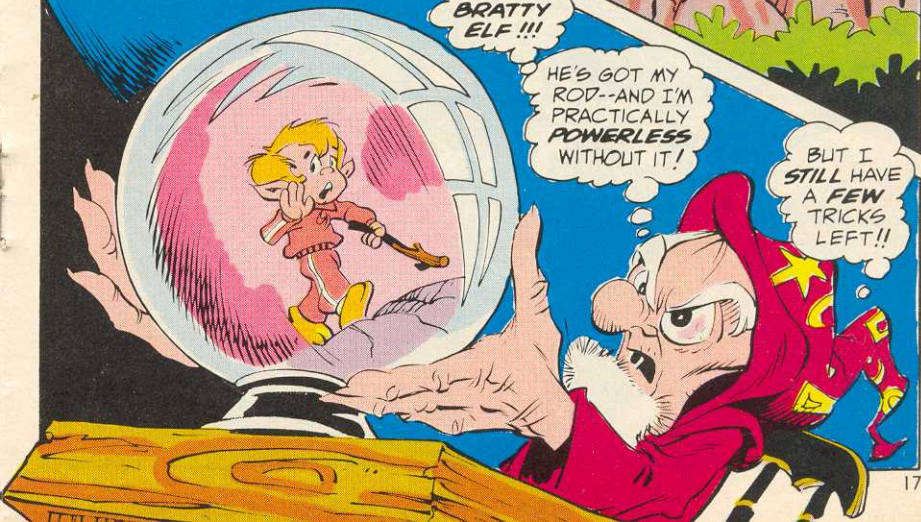
THERE'S **GOOD NEWS** AND **BAD NEWS** FOR OLIVER: THE **GOOD NEWS** IS THAT THE VILLAGERS ARE RIGHT BEHIND HIM; THE **BAD NEWS** IS THAT THEY'RE **STILL** A BUNCH OF TOADSTOOLS-- AND OLIVER DOESN'T KNOW IT!

BUT THE **WORST NEWS** OF ALL IS THAT OLIVER IS BEING **WATCHED...**

THAT **BRATTY ELF**!!!

HE'S GOT MY ROD--AND I'M PRACTICALLY **POWERLESS** WITHOUT IT!

BUT I **STILL** HAVE A **FEW TRICKS** LEFT!!



THE EVIL WIZARD JOURNEYS DEEP INTO THE FOREST TO THE **E.B.S.C.** (**ENCHANTED BUGS SOCIAL CLUB**) TO PUT "OPERATION STICK RETRIEVAL" INTO EFFECT!

A GREAT WIZARD LIKE ME RELYING ON **INSECTS** FOR HELP--THAT **REALLY** BUGS ME!

ANYBODY HOME? CAN I COME IN?


ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

TO WHAT DO WE **HUMBLE BUGS** OWE THE HONOR OF THIS VISIT?

HUMBLE BUGS?-- HUMBBUG! I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU!





GET MY WAND BACK FROM OLIVER, THAT ELFEN RUNT, AND I SHALL REWARD YOU WITH YOUR WEIGHT IN TOADSTOOLS!

WE DON'T NEED ANY TOADSTOOLS--IN FACT, WE HATE THEM!

BESIDES--WE LIKE THAT "ELFEN RUNT!"

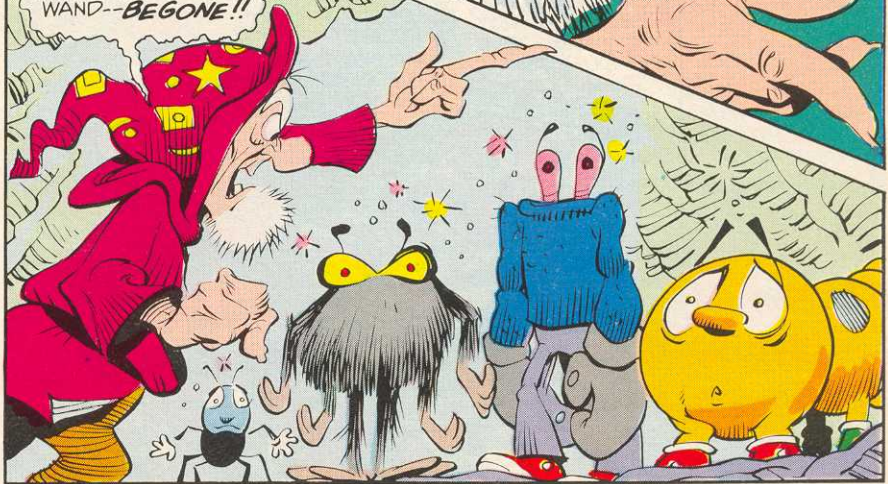
SO BUG OFF--OR SIT IN ON THE CARD GAME!!

SO YOU REFUSE? I HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU DO MY BIDDING--PERHAPS A LITTLE HYPNOSIS WILL DO THE TRICK!

ZAP!



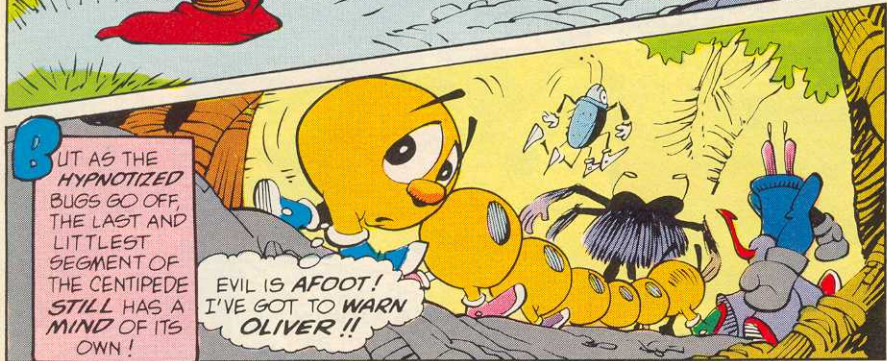
NOW--heh heh--GO FIND THE ELF--AND RETRIEVE MY WAND--**BEGONE!!**





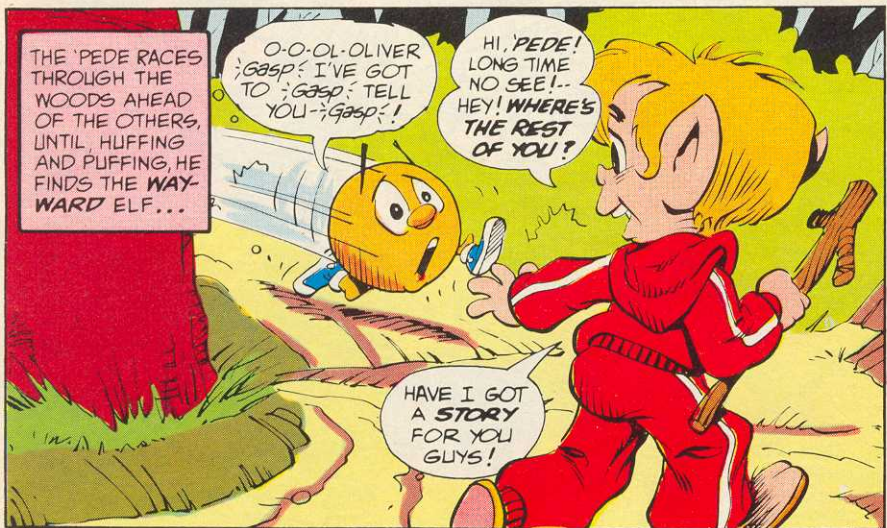
AND I'LL BE FOLLOWING YOU GUYS--SO NO FUNNY STUFF!

NOW--GET CRAWLING!!



BUT AS THE HYPNOTIZED BUGS GO OFF, THE LAST AND LITTLEST SEGMENT OF THE CENTIPEDE STILL HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!

EVIL IS AFOOT!
I'VE GOT TO WARN OLIVER!!

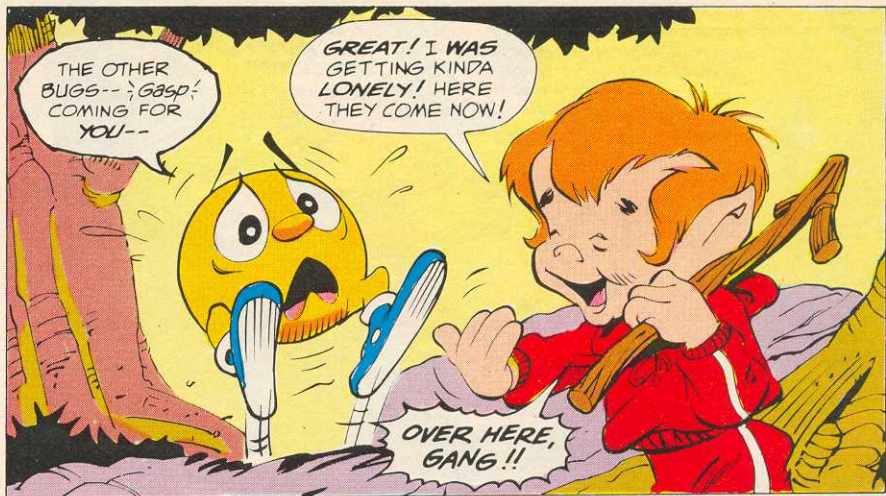


THE 'PEDE RACES THROUGH THE WOODS AHEAD OF THE OTHERS, UNTIL HUFFING AND PUFFING, HE FINDS THE WAY-WARD ELF...

O-O-OL-OLIVER
;Gasp; I'VE GOT TO
;Gasp; TELL YOU--
;Gasp;!

HI, 'PEDE!
LONG TIME NO SEE!--
HEY! WHERE'S THE REST
OF YOU?

HAVE I GOT A STORY FOR YOU GUYS!



THE OTHER
BUGS-- ;Gasp!
COMING FOR
YOU--

GREAT! I WAS
GETTING KINDA
LONELY! HERE
THEY COME NOW!

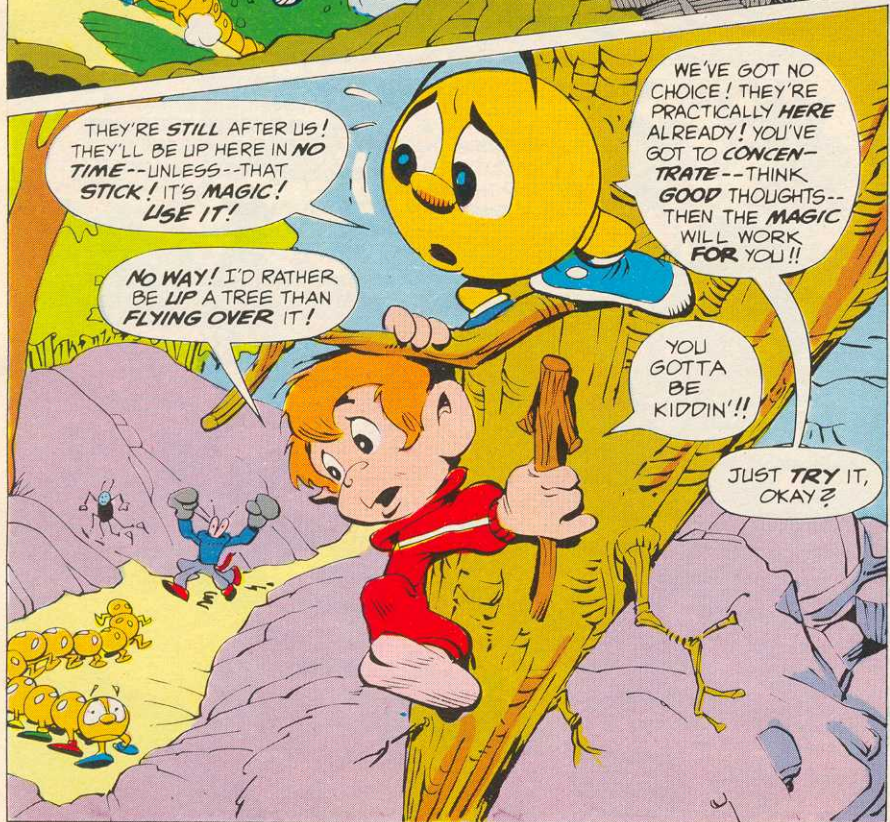
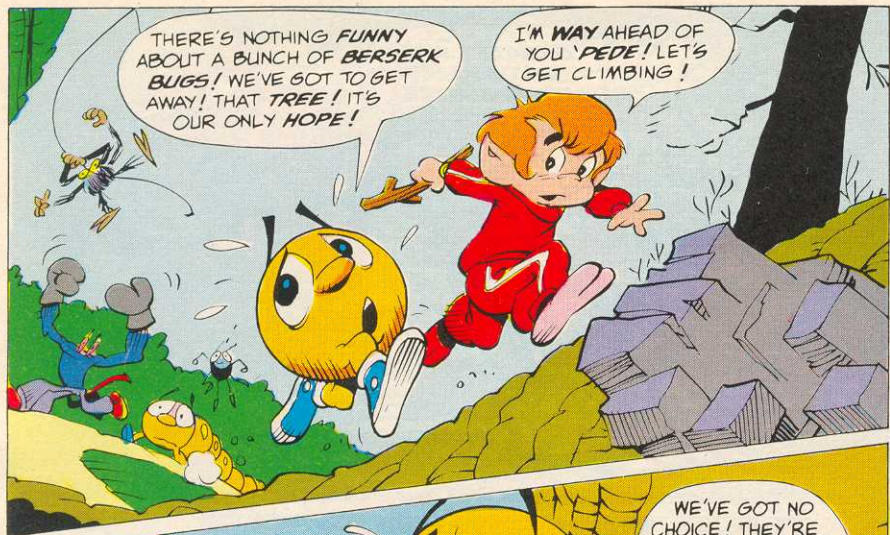
OVER HERE,
GANG!!

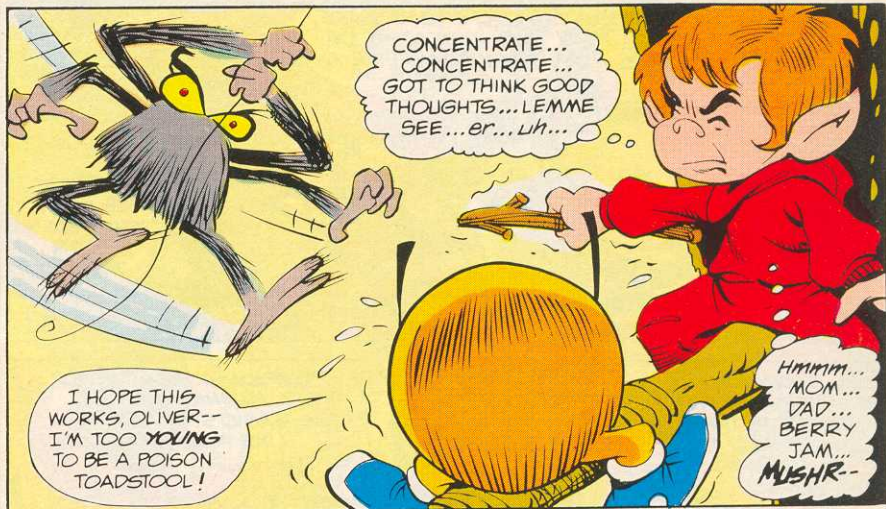


BUT THE WIZARD'S
HYPNOTIZED THEM!
THEY'RE OUT TO GET
YOU AND THE WAND!
RUN FOR IT!!!

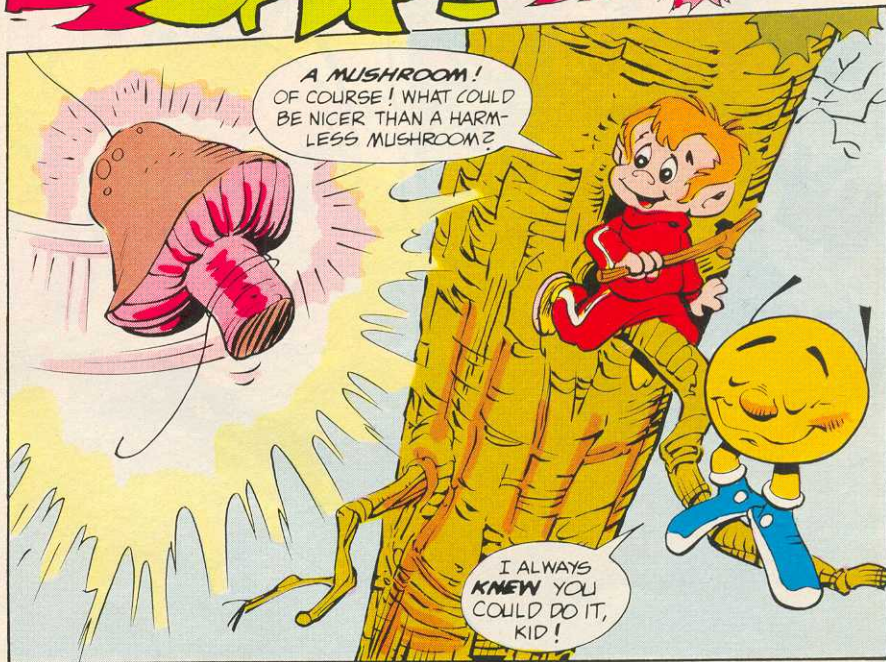
Hmmm... NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT, THEY DO
SEEM TO BE ACTING
KIND OF FUNNY!!

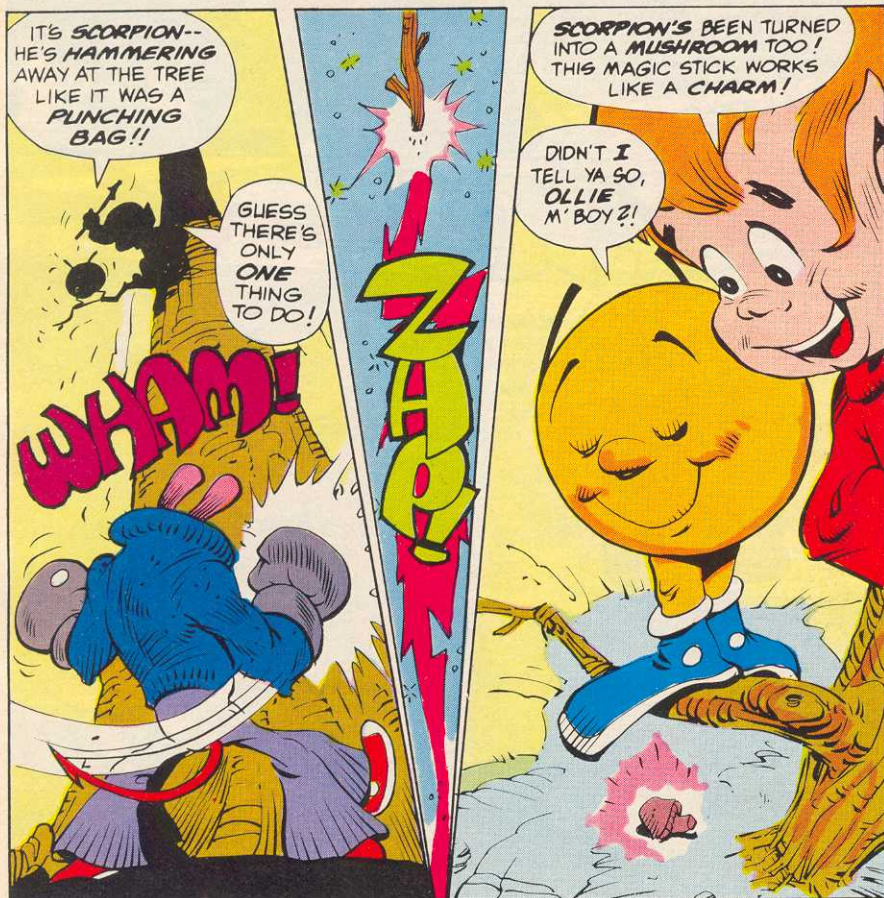
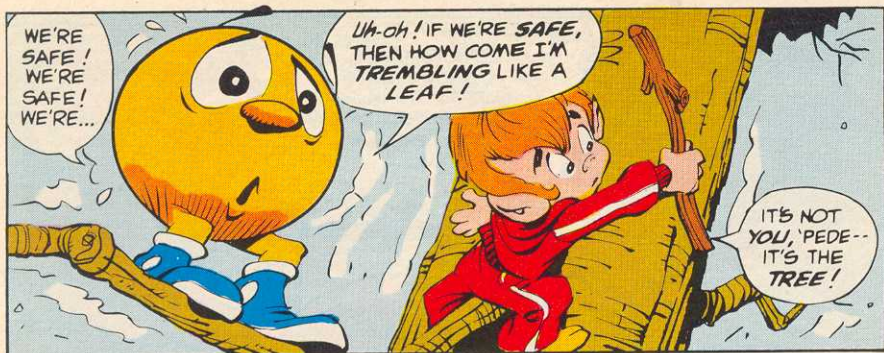
BAM!





ZAP!

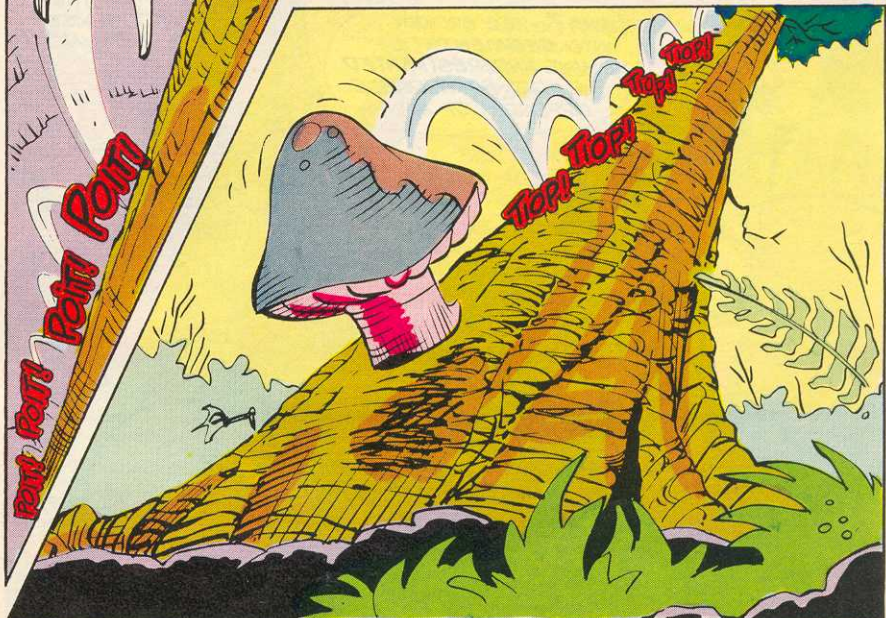


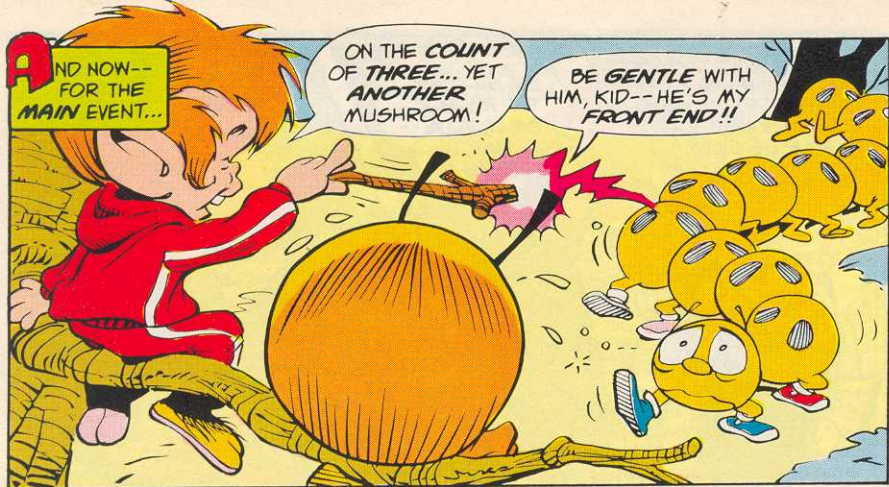


OLIVER! HERE COMES FLEA! GIVE HIM A GOOD ZAP BEFORE HE GETS CLOSE ENOUGH TO TICKLE US SILLY!

I'M GETTING THE KNACK OF IT, PEDE-- WATCH THIS!!

FLEE, FLEA!

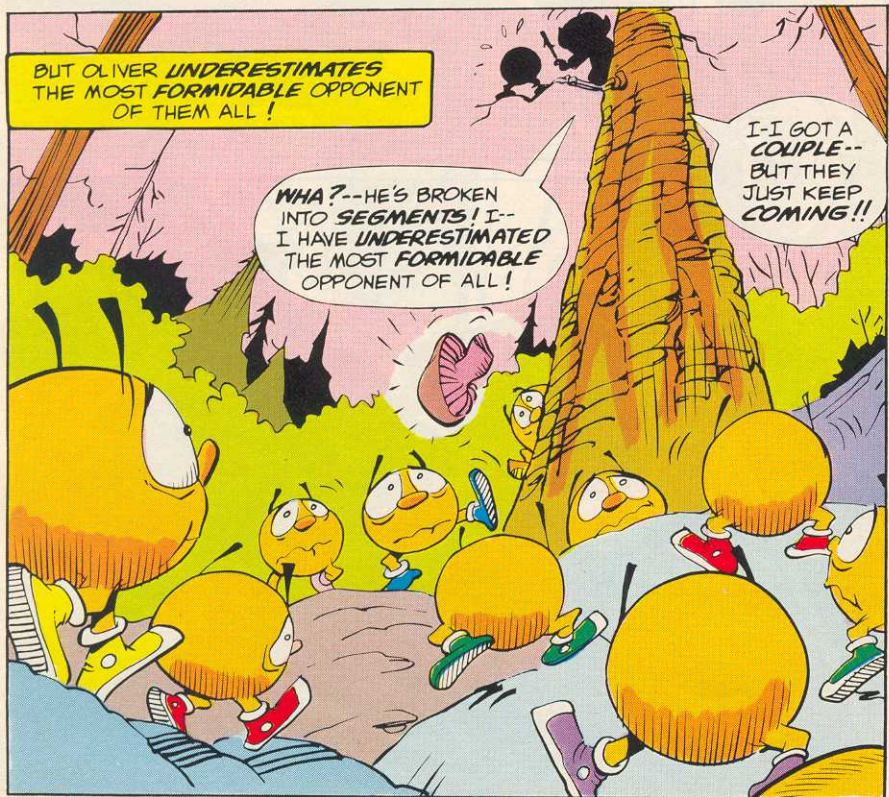




AND NOW--
FOR THE
MAIN EVENT...

ON THE COUNT
OF THREE... YET
ANOTHER
MUSHROOM!

BE GENTLE WITH
HIM, KID-- HE'S MY
FRONT END!!



BUT OLIVER UNDERESTIMATES
THE MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENT
OF THEM ALL!

WHA?--HE'S BROKEN
INTO SEGMENTS! I--
I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED
THE MOST FORMIDABLE
OPPONENT OF ALL!

I-I GOT A
COUPLE--
BUT THEY
JUST KEEP
COMING!!



BY NOW, THE WIZARD HAS COME ON THE SCENE TO RETRIEVE HIS ROD IN VICTORY!

Heh heh! THE CENTIPEDE IS ALL BROKEN UP!

I CAN'T ZAP THEM ALL!

WE'RE DOOMED!

THE WIZARD'S CELEBRATION BEGINS--ALBEIT A BIT PREMATURELY!



HA HA! I LOVE IT WHEN I WIN!

NOT SO FAST, WIZARD! YOU MAY BE LIGHT ON YOUR FEET, BUT I'M ONE JUMP AHEAD OF YOU!!

QUIT BLUFFING, KID--IT'S ALL OVER FOR US!

THIS IS NO
BLUFF,
PEDE--
WATCH
THIS!!

ZOOOP!

ZOOOP?

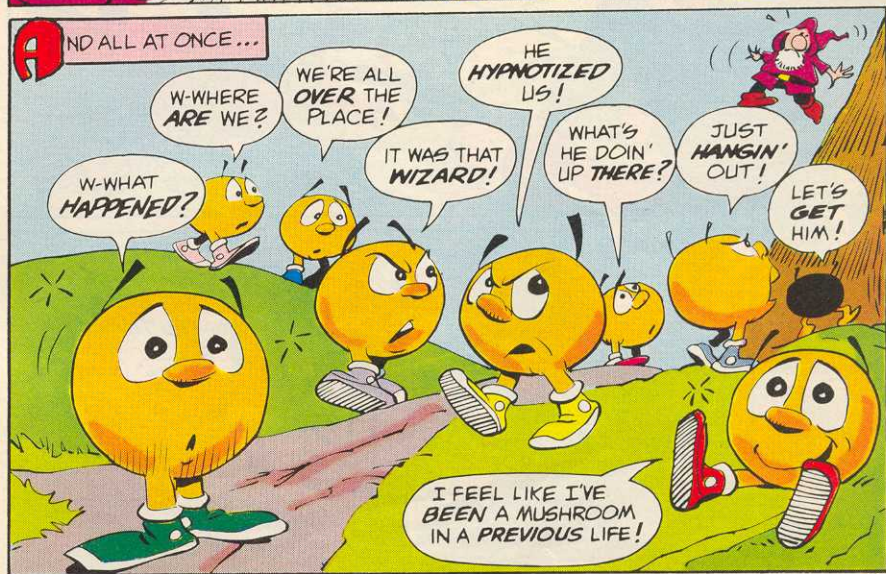
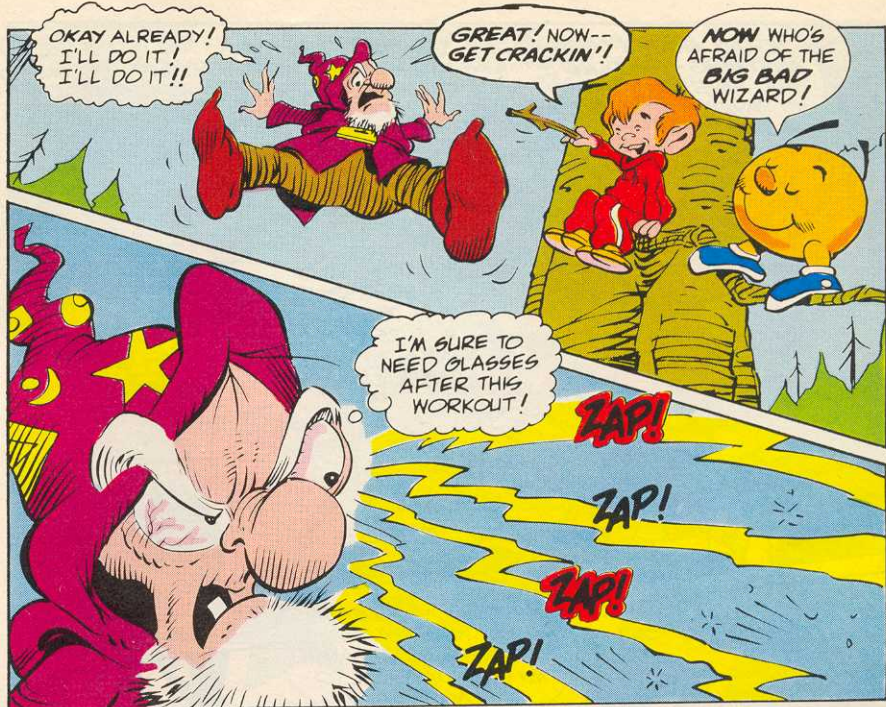
S UDDENLY,
THE EVIL
WIZARD IS
SUSPENDED
IN MID-AIR!!

UN-HYPNOTIZE
THOSE PEDE PARTS,
OR I'LL TURN YOU
INTO A MUSHROOM
TOO!!

NO! NO! NOT A
MUSHROOM! ANY-
THING BUT THAT!!*

LET HIM HAVE IT,
KID-- RIGHT
BETWEEN THE
EVIL EYES!!

* FOR A TOADSTOOL-LOVING
WIZARD, ENDING UP AS A
MUSHROOM IS THE
ABSOLITE PITS !!



BEFORE ANYONE DOES ANYTHING-- WIZARD!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY PARENTS AND THE OTHER VILLAGERS?

I-er-uh-TURNED THEM INTO POISON TOADSTOOLS... I-er- DON'T SUPPOSE AN APOLOGY WOULD HELP A GREAT DEAL?

TSK!
TSK!

WHAT A CREEP!

YOU SAID IT!

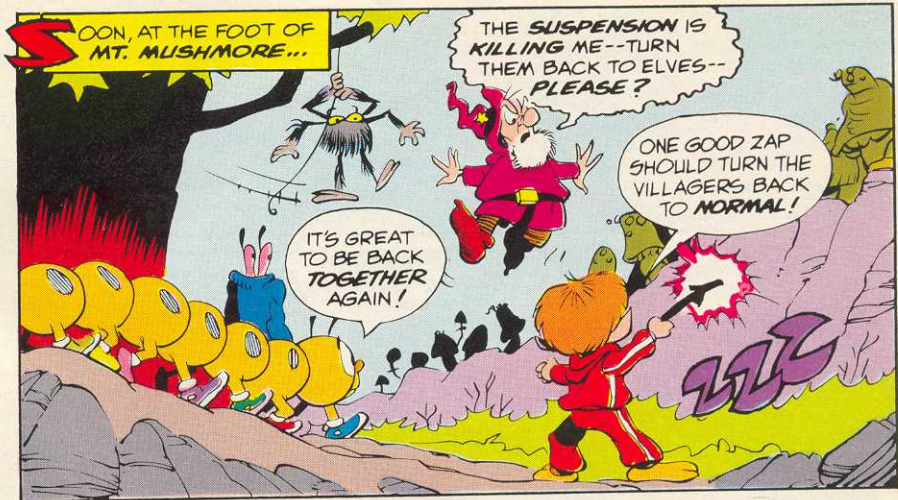
YOU'RE GONNA LEAD ME TO THEM, WIZARD-- BUT FIRST, I'LL CHANGE MY FRIENDS BACK TO NORMAL!

SCORPION...

...FLEA...

...AND SPIDER MAKES THREE!

AND WITH YET ANOTHER WAVE OF HIS WAND, THE THREE MUSH-KETEERS ARE TRANSFORMED BACK INTO...

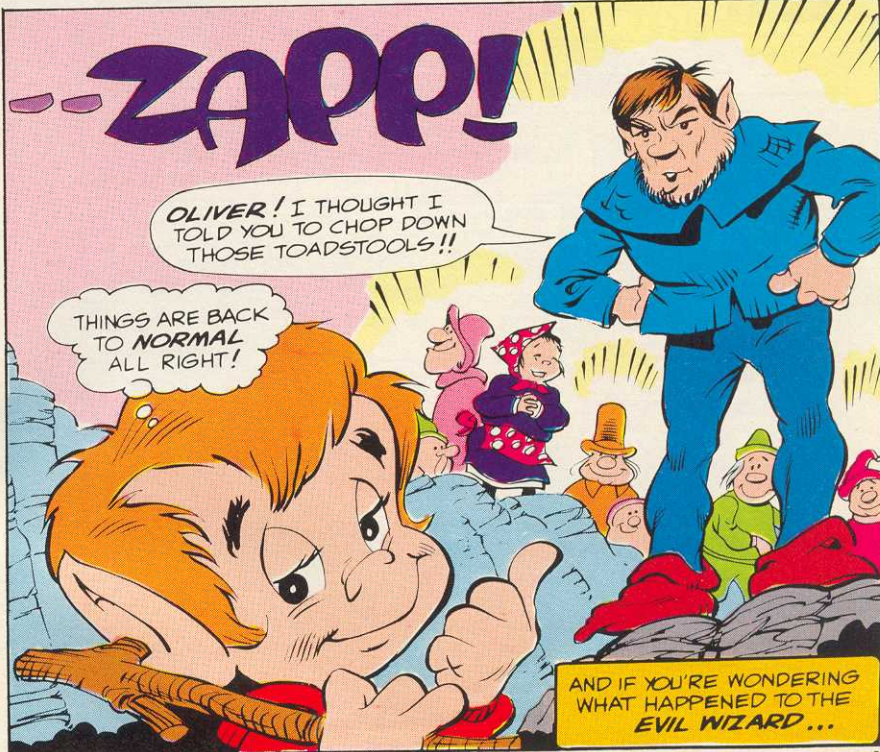


SOON, AT THE FOOT OF
MT. MUSHMORE...

THE *SUSPENSION* IS
KILLING ME--TURN
THEM BACK TO ELVES--
PLEASE?

ONE GOOD ZAP
SHOULD TURN THE
VILLAGERS BACK
TO *NORMAL*!

IT'S GREAT
TO BE BACK
TOGETHER
AGAIN!



--ZAPP!

OLIVER! I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU TO CHOP DOWN
THOSE TOADSTOOLS!!

THINGS ARE BACK
TO *NORMAL*
ALL RIGHT!

AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
EVIL WIZARD...

LIVER GAVE HIM
SUCH A ZAP..

ZAP!

NO NO!
DON'T SHOOT!

SORRY,
WIZ--
THIS IS
ONE STORY
THAT'S
HEADED
FOR A
HAPPY
ENDING--
AND THAT
INCLUDES
YOU TOO!

WHY
YOU
LITTLE...

ER-UH-I-
THAT IS--
GULP!

I DO HOPE I'LL GET
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
HELP YOU FINE ELVES
WITH YOUR MUSH-
ROOM HARVEST!

WITH THE HELP OF HIS NEW AND IMPROVED
"NOT-SO-FRIGHTENING ROD" OLIVER TURNED
ALL THE TOADSTOOLS BACK INTO MUSHROOMS...

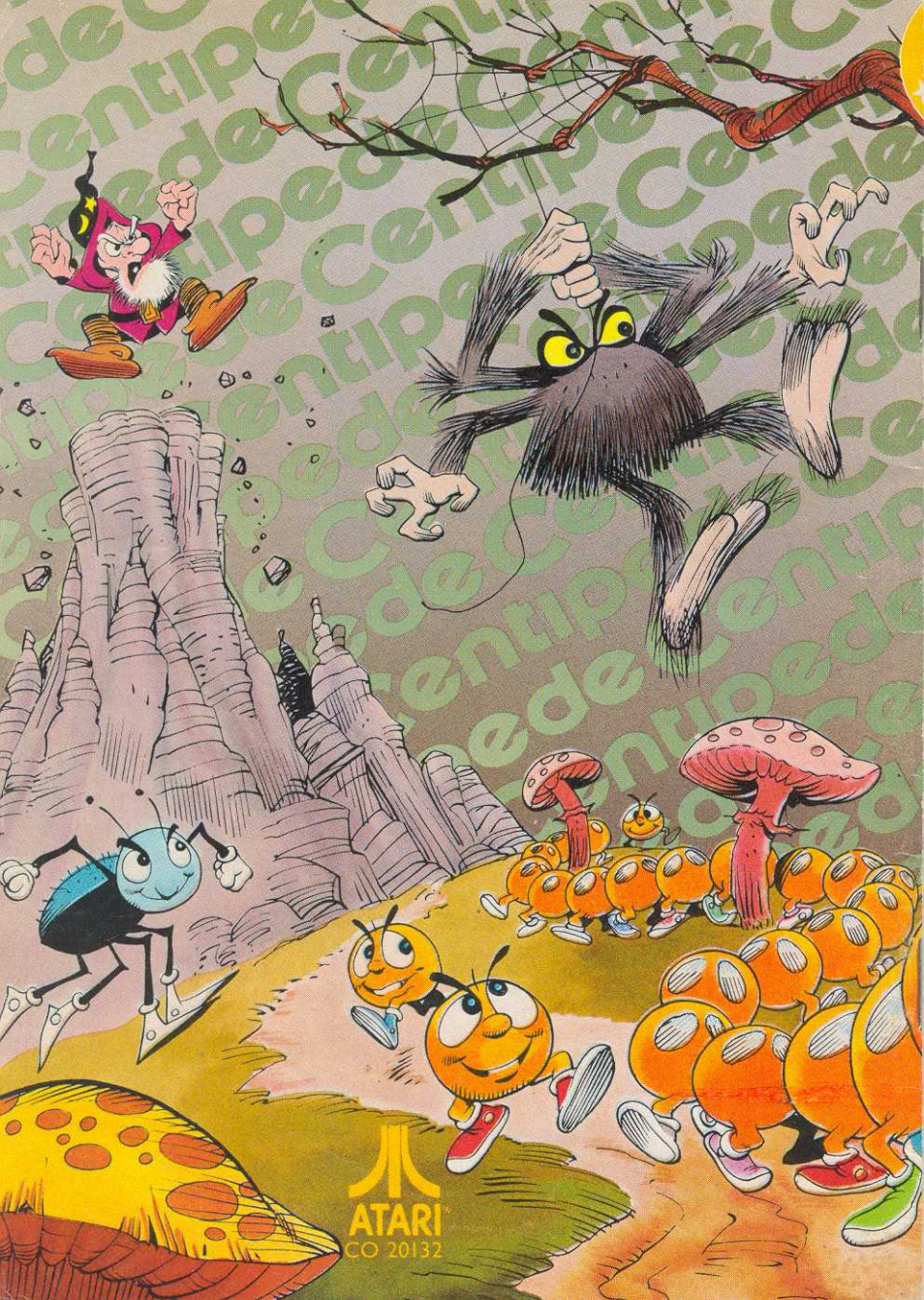
FOR HIS HEROIC DEEDS, OLIVER WAS
VOTED ELF OF THE YEAR, WHICH, AS
EVERYONE KNOWS, IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT
IN MUSHROOM BREAD--
NOT BAD FOR THE
LITTLEST ELF OF
ALL!

THAT'S
MY BABY!

THINK I'LL QUIT
WHILE I'M A
HEAD!!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLEST 'PEDE? HE WAS SENT TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE, WHERE HE GUIDES THE OTHER 'PEDES TO THIS VERY DAY!

THE END



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