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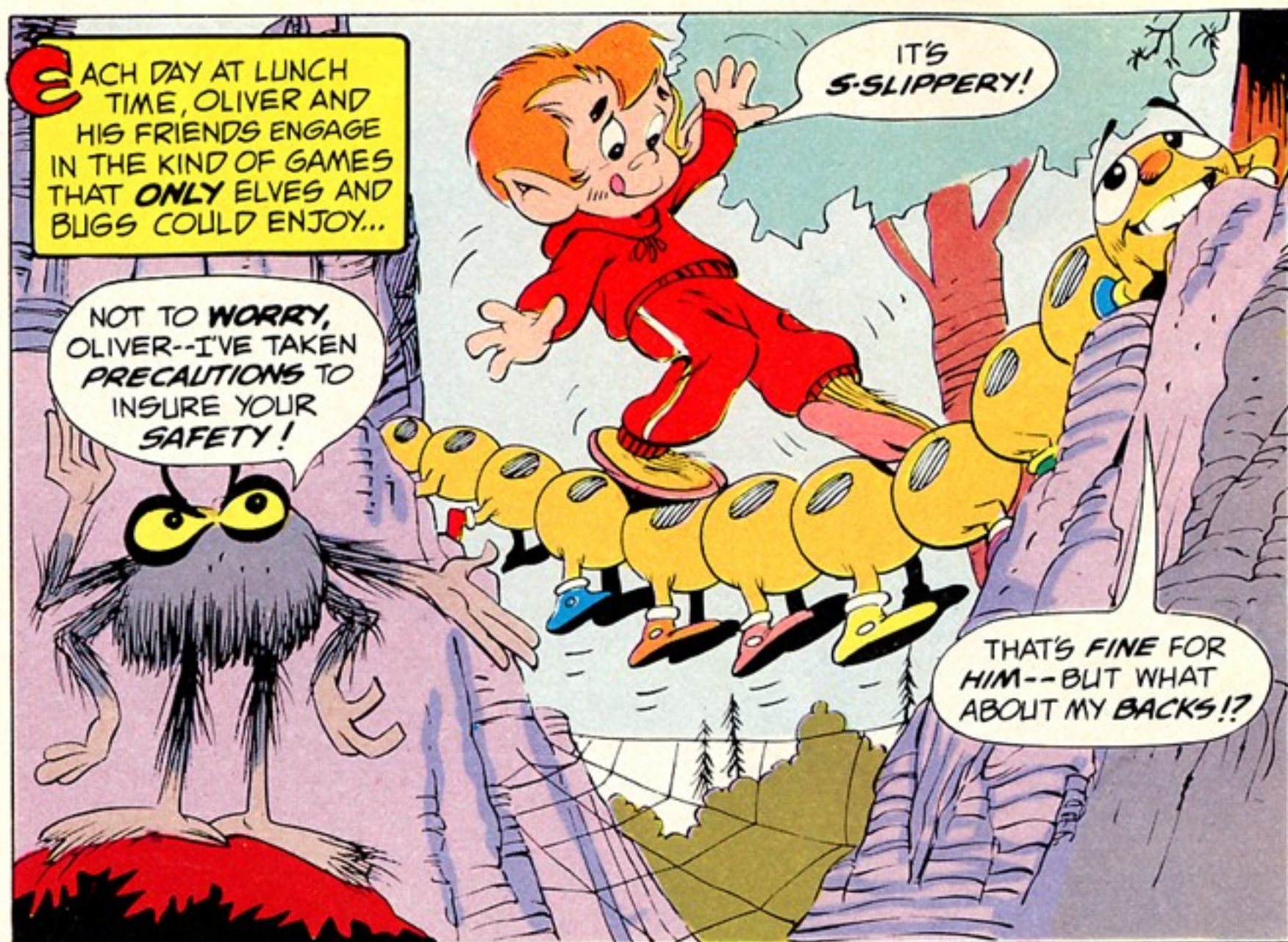


# Centipede



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

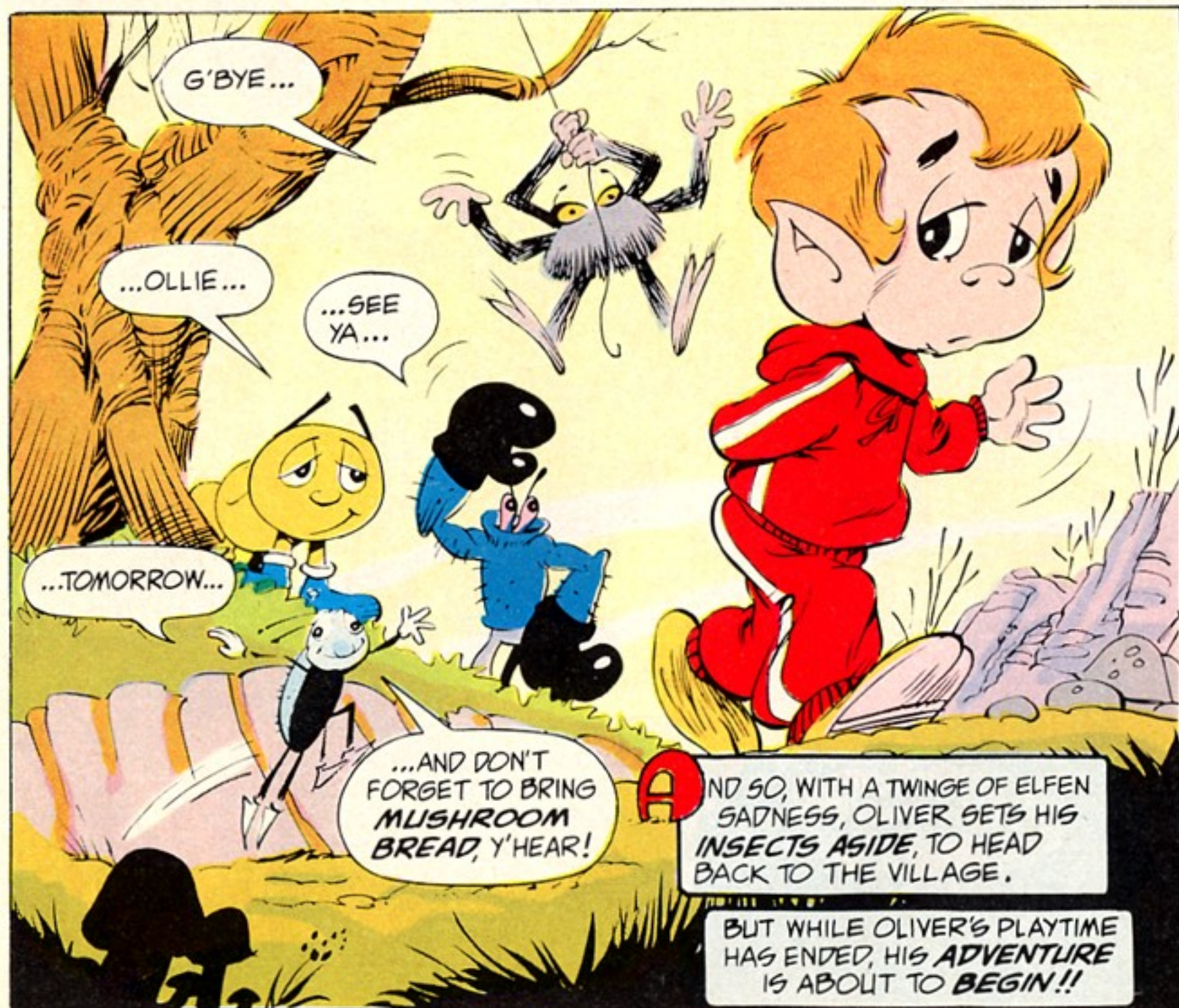




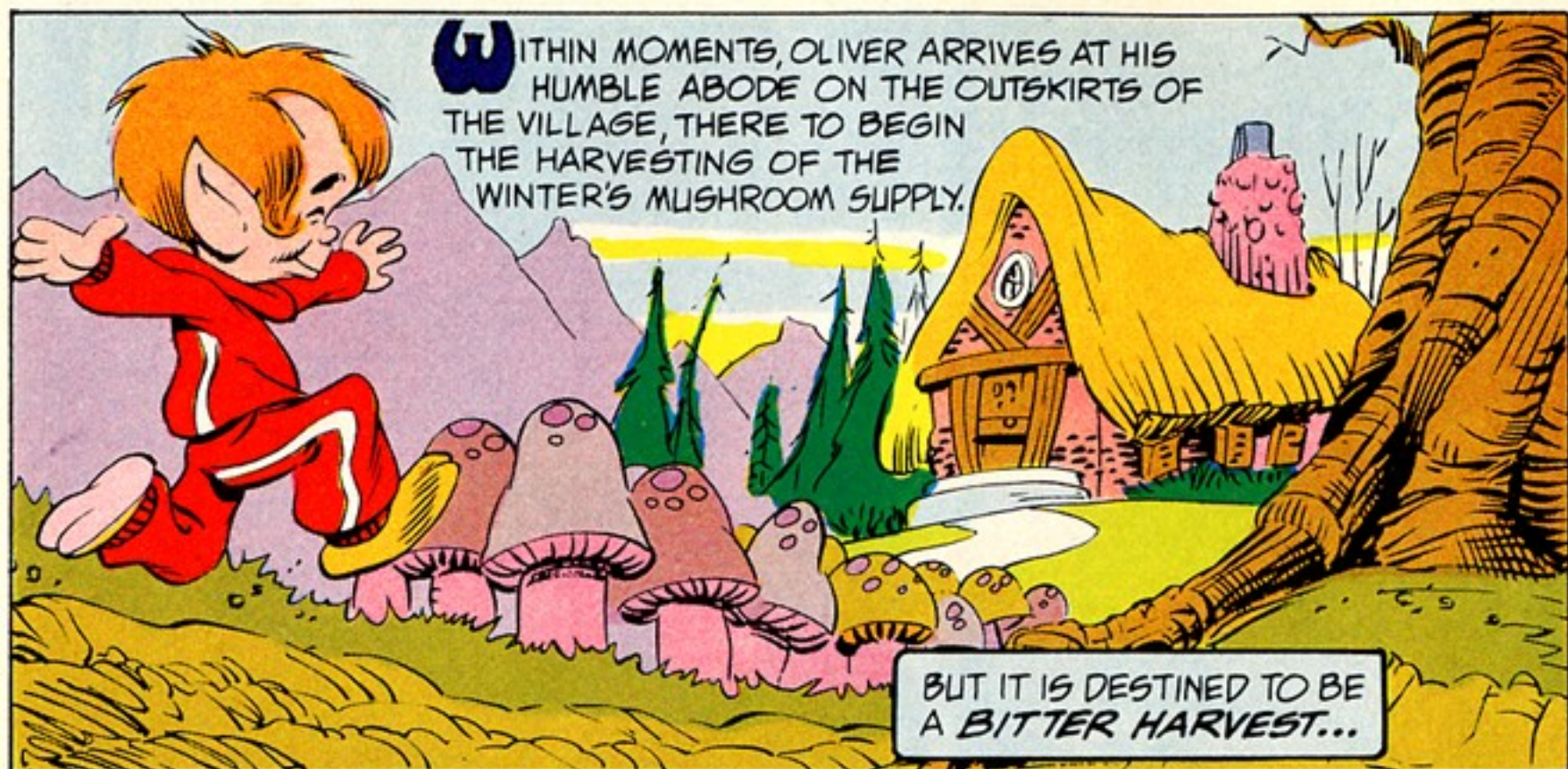
AND, AFTER SOME MORE GOOD CLEAN FUN, OLIVER SHARES HIS LUNCH WITH HIS MANY-LEGGED FRIENDS...OF COURSE, THE MENU IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST IS RATHER **LIMITED**, SINCE BERRY JAM AND MUSHROOM BREAD IS ALL THAT ELVES EAT!











**W**ITHIN 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...

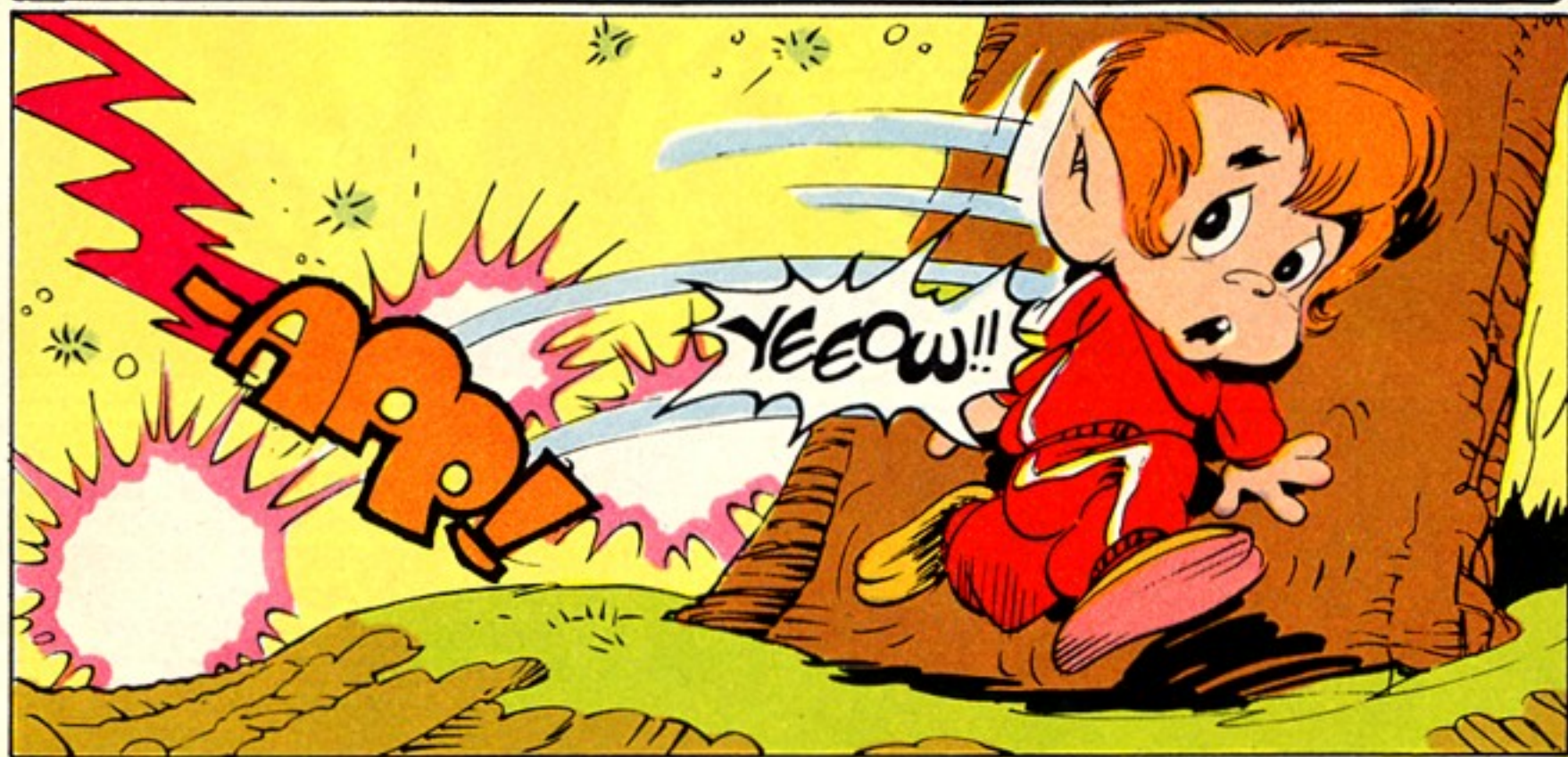
...JUST RIPE FOR ROTTING!!

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--



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



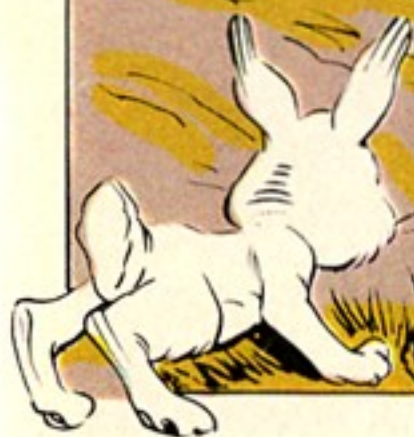
WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, A **GRUESOME** TRANSFORMATION IS REVEALED TO OLIVER AND HIS PARENTS!

OLIVER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

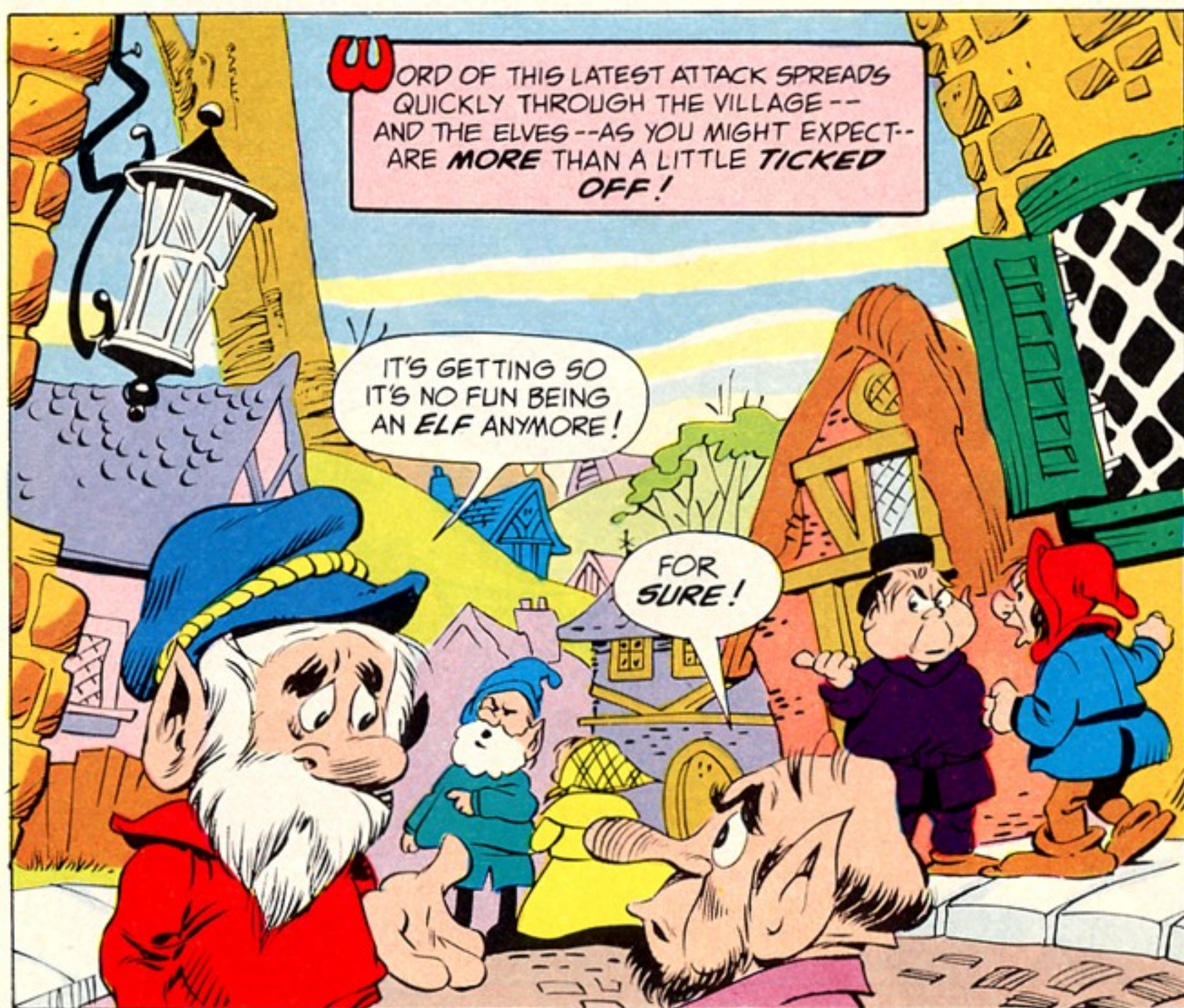
LOOK, DEAR! OUR MUSHROOM PATCH HAS BEEN TURNED TO **MUSH!**

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!**











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



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!!



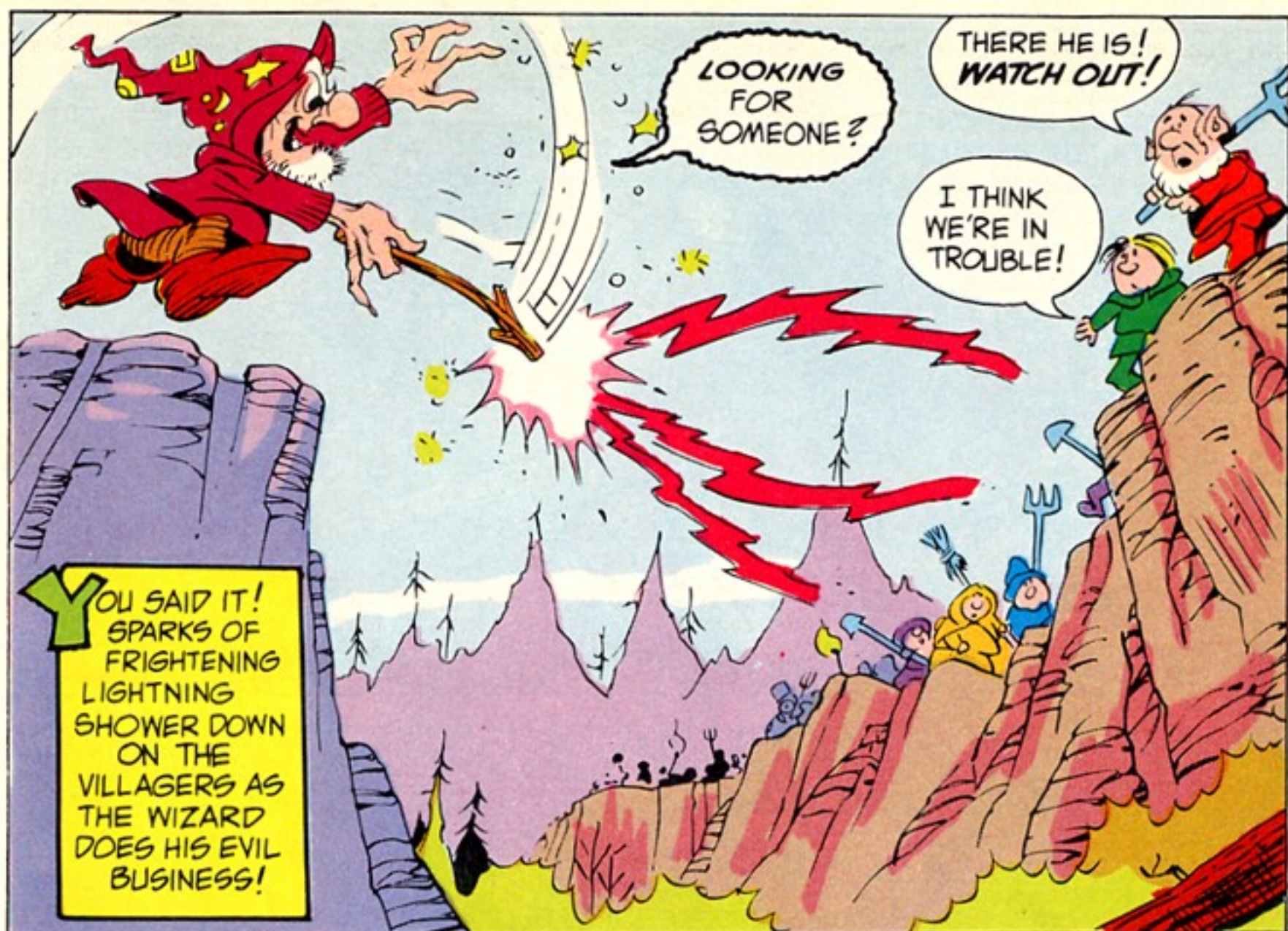
SOON THE VILLAGERS REACH THE TREACHEROUS CLIFFS OF **MT. MUSHMORE**, WHERE THE WIZARD HANGS OUT...

Heh, heh!

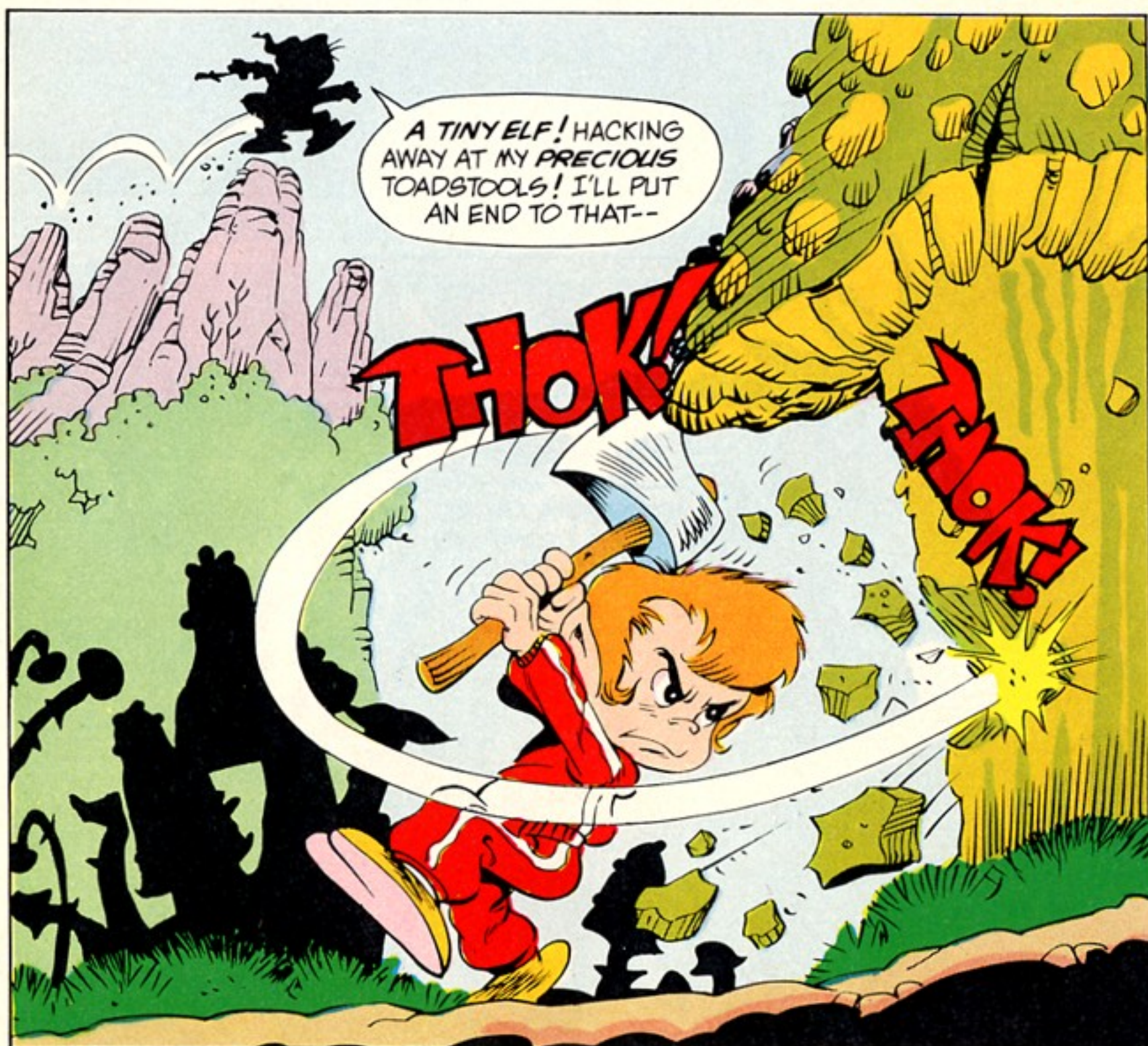


UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS **HE** HAS **THEM** RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS THEM!!











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

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

IT'S  
**TOADSTOOL**  
TIME!!

ONE EX-  
ELF--  
COMING UP!

**A**ND DOWN  
BELOW...

Whew! THIS  
SURE IS HARD  
WORK!

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



**B**UT, 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!

**SPLOOSH!**



THE WIZARD!  
BUT WHERE  
ARE THE  
VILLAGERS?



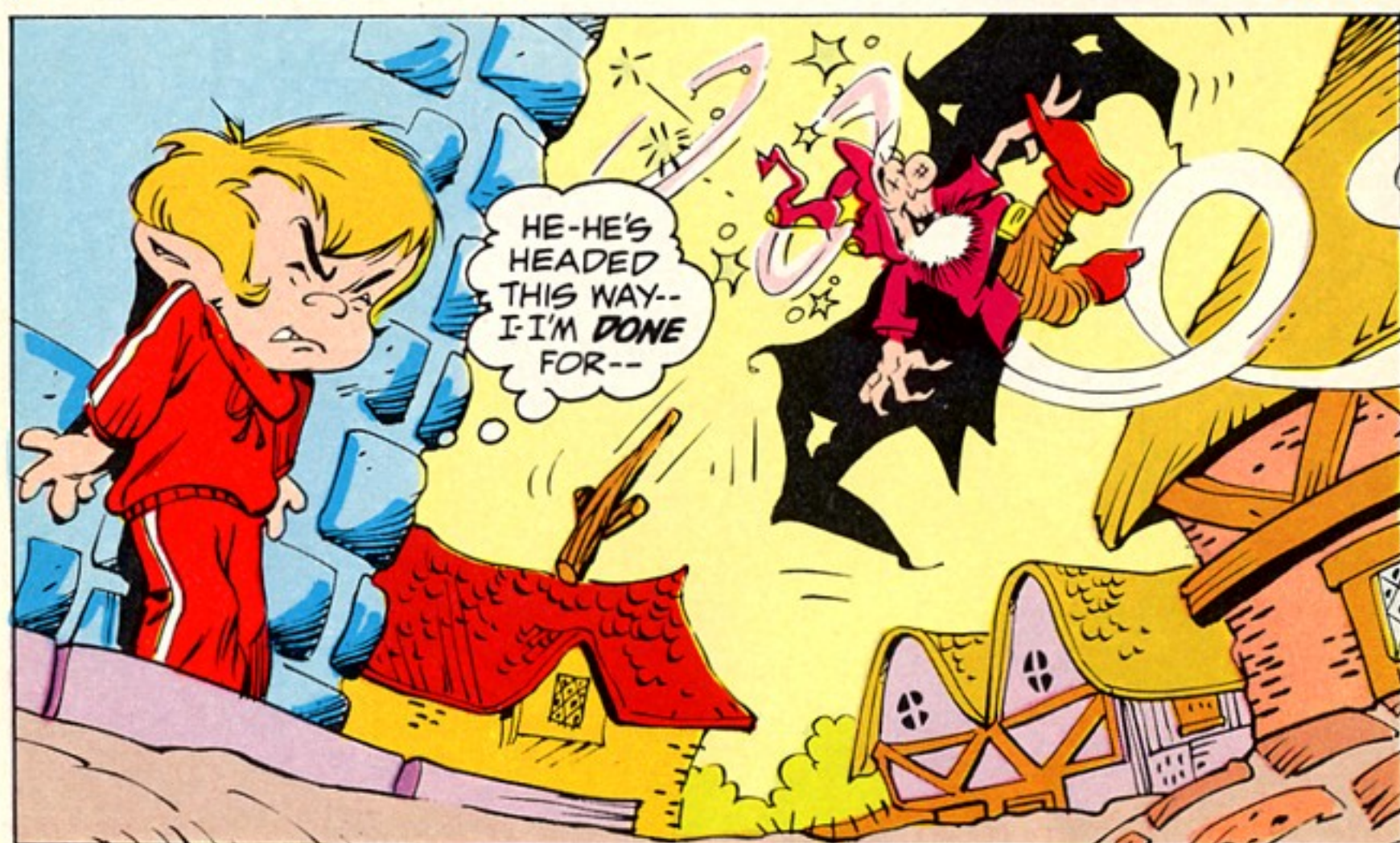








**B**UT, LOST IN HIS DESTRUCTIVE  
FRENZY, THE WIZARD FAILS  
TO SEE --





**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!!

**CRACK!**

**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!





**B**UT 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!!



**T**HE 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?


CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!

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

*HUMBLE BUGS?*--  
*HUMBUG!* 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!!**

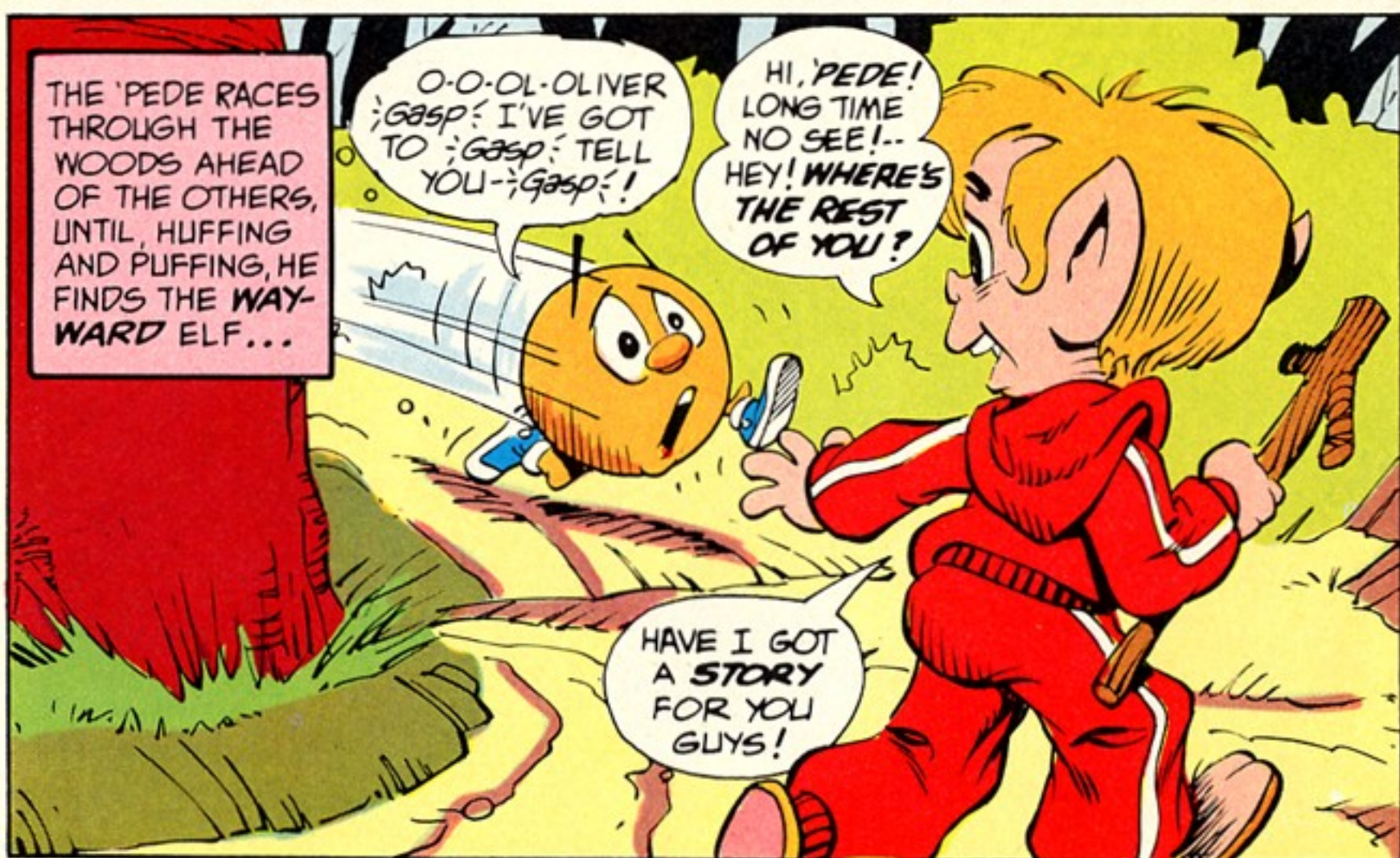
SO YOU REFUSE? I HAVE WAYS OF **MAKING** YOU DO MY BIDDING--PERHAPS A LITTLE **HYPNOSIS** WILL DO THE TRICK!

**ZAP!**

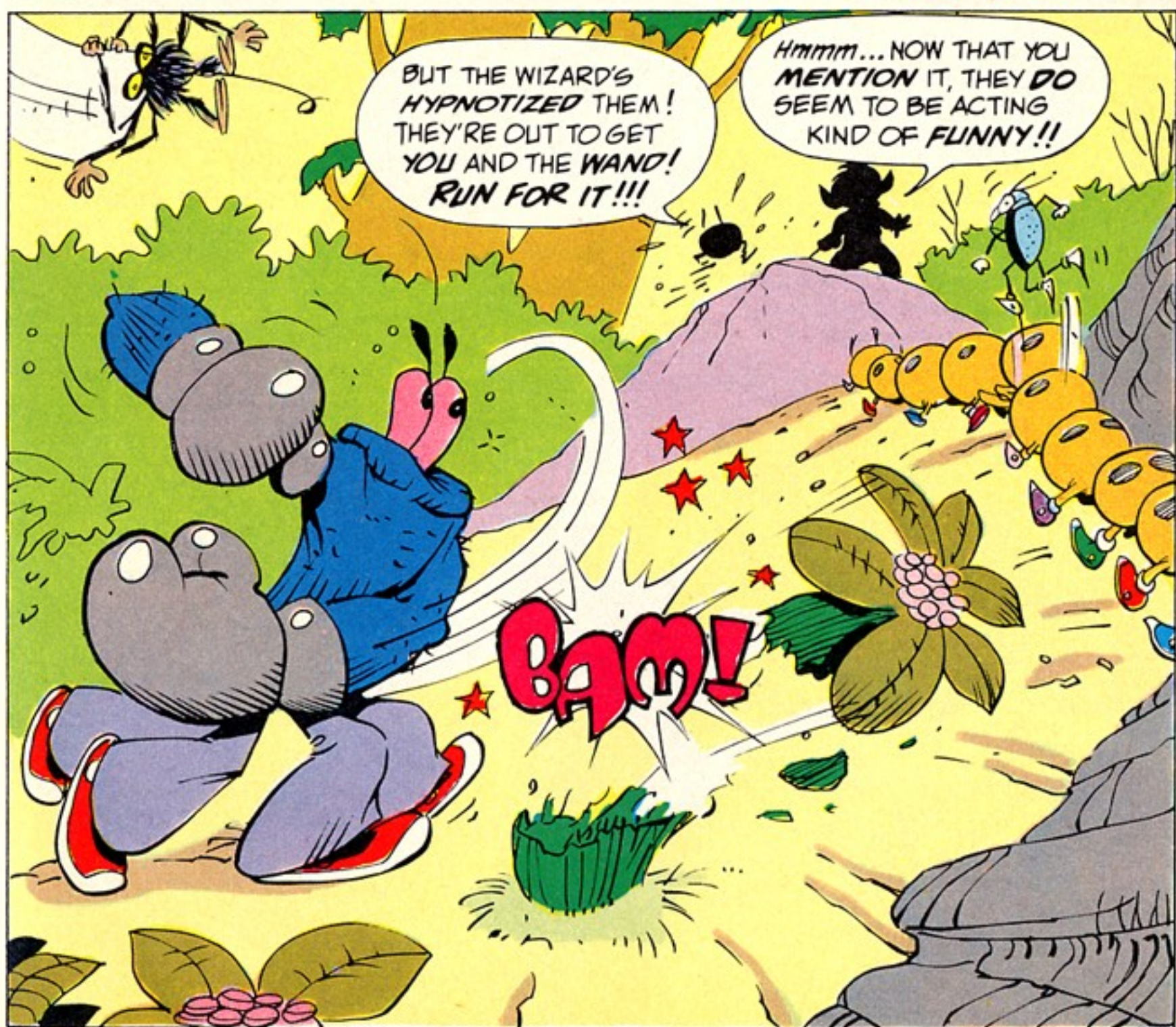
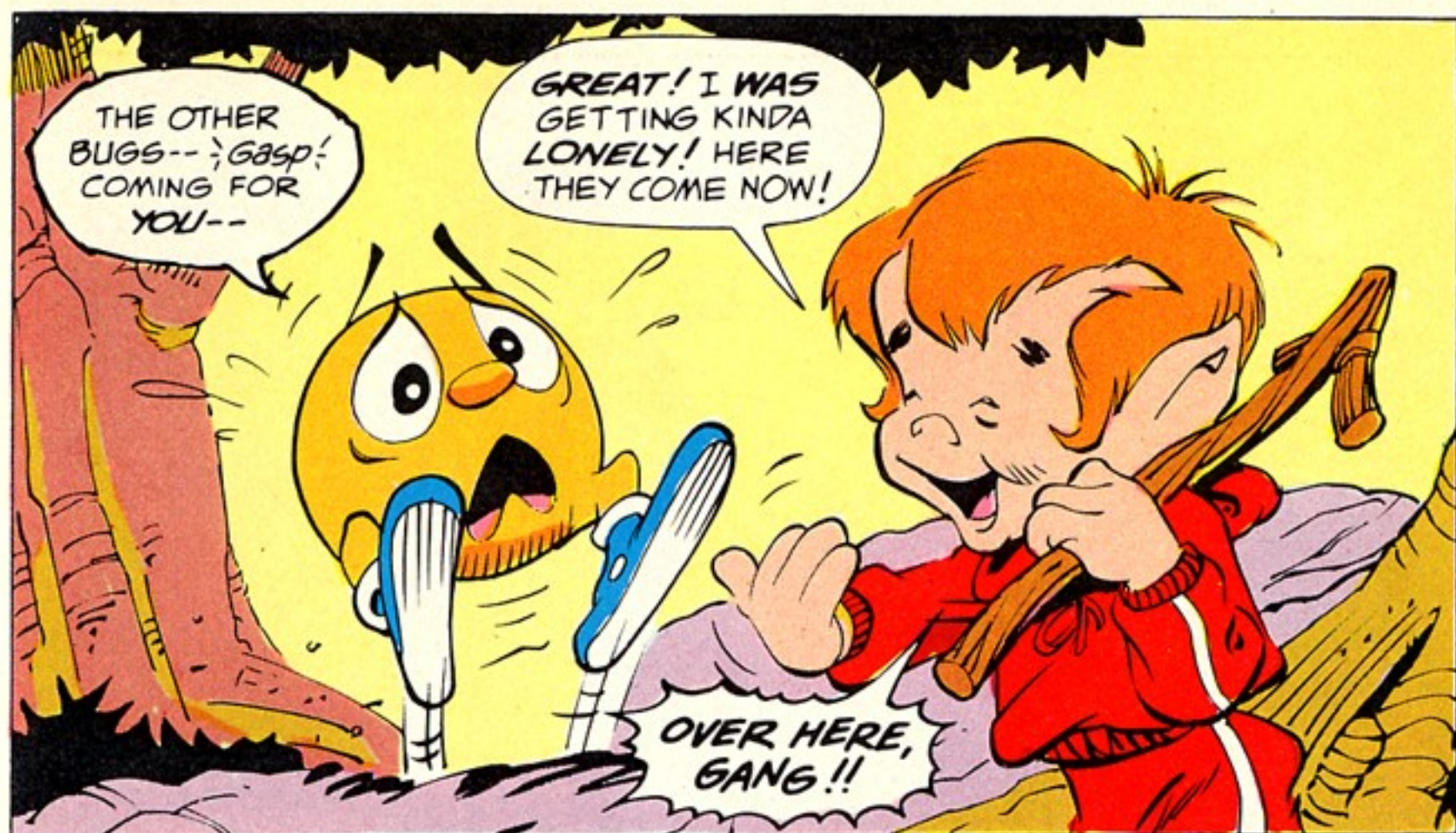
NOW--heh heh--GO FIND THE ELF--AND RETRIEVE MY WAND--**BEGONE!!**



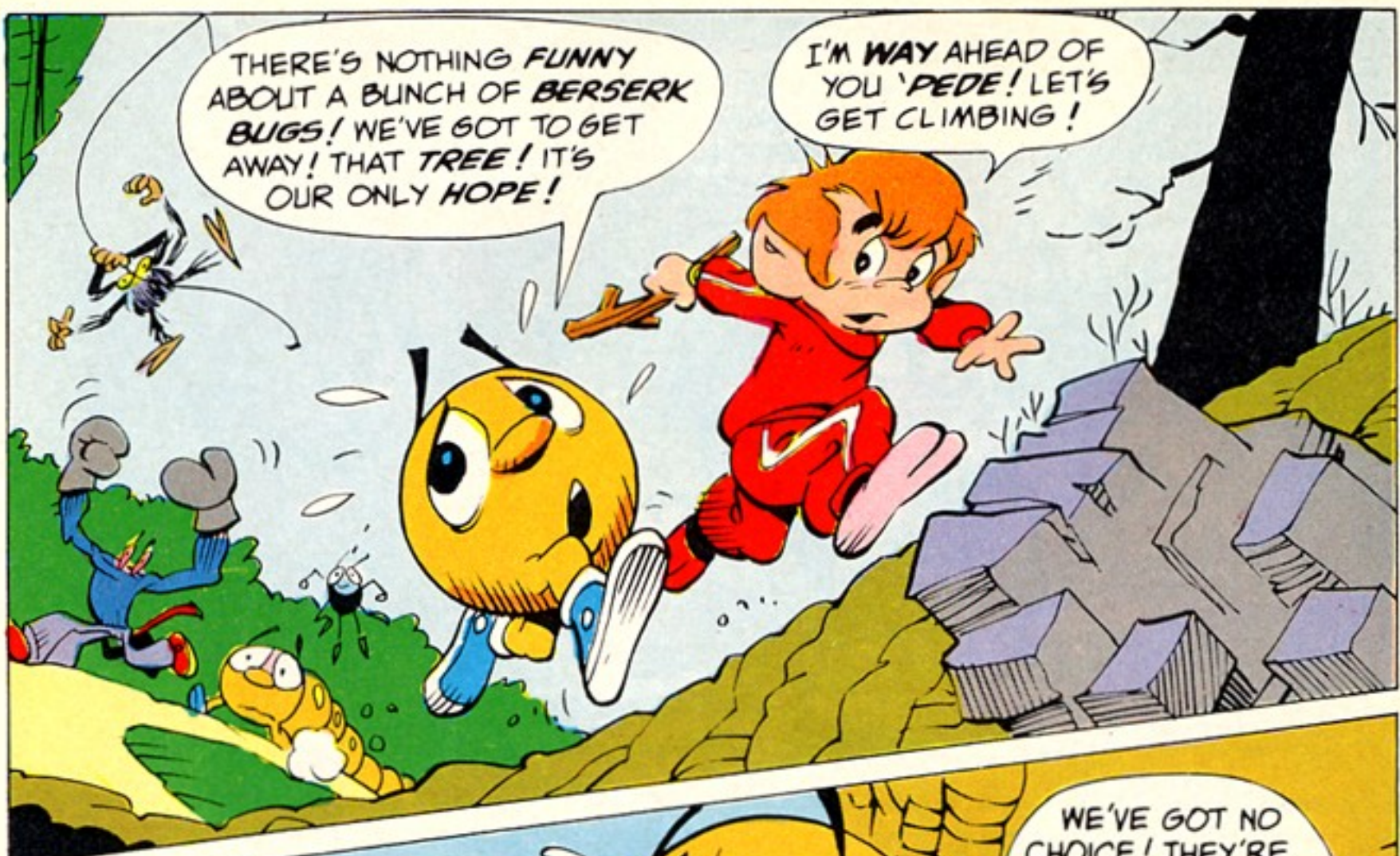






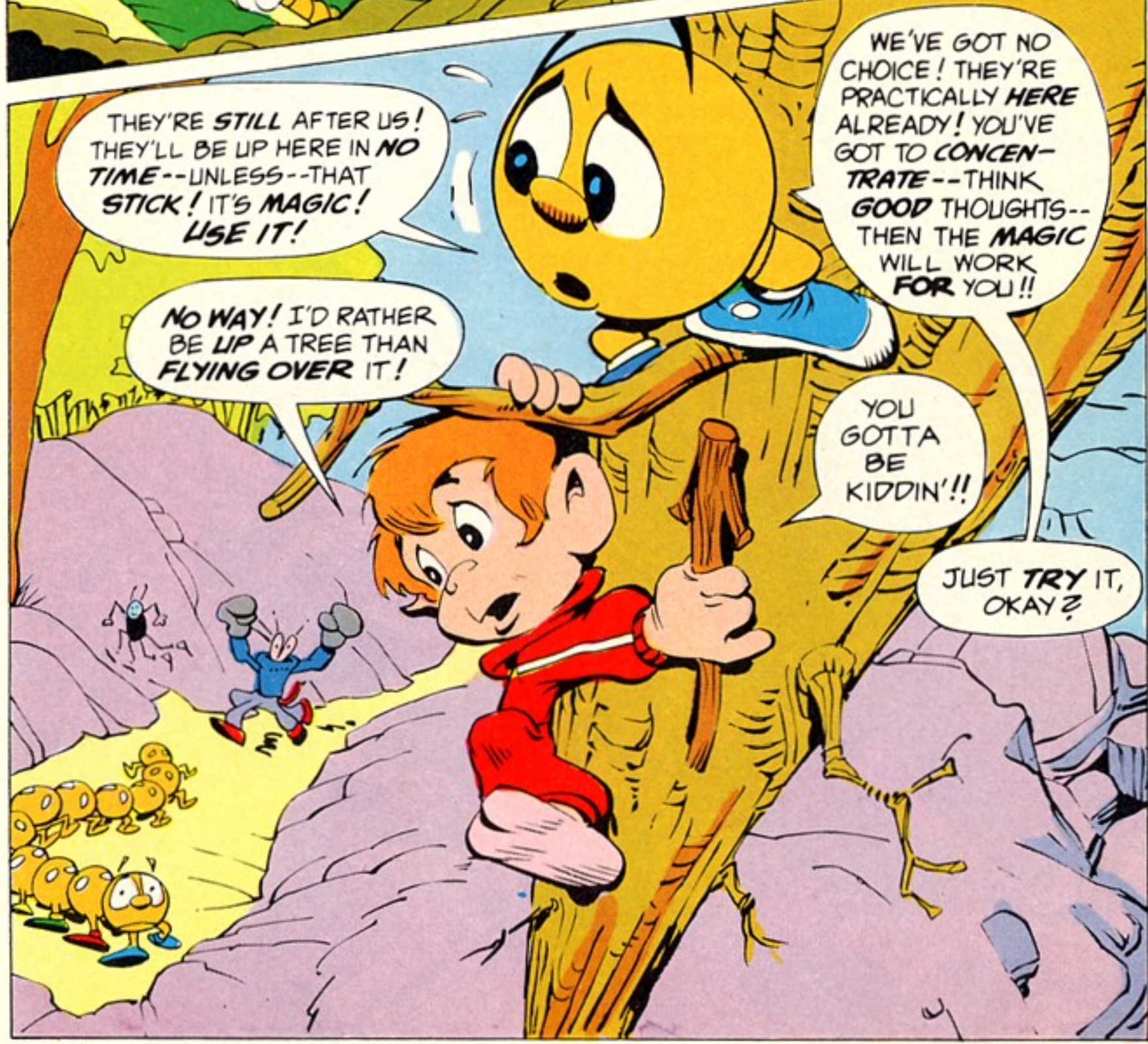






THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT A BUNCH OF **BERSERK BUGS**! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! THAT **TREE**! IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!

I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU 'PEDE! LET'S GET CLIMBING!



THEY'RE *STILL* AFTER US! THEY'LL BE UP HERE IN *NO TIME*--UNLESS--THAT **STICK**! IT'S **MAGIC**! **USE IT!**

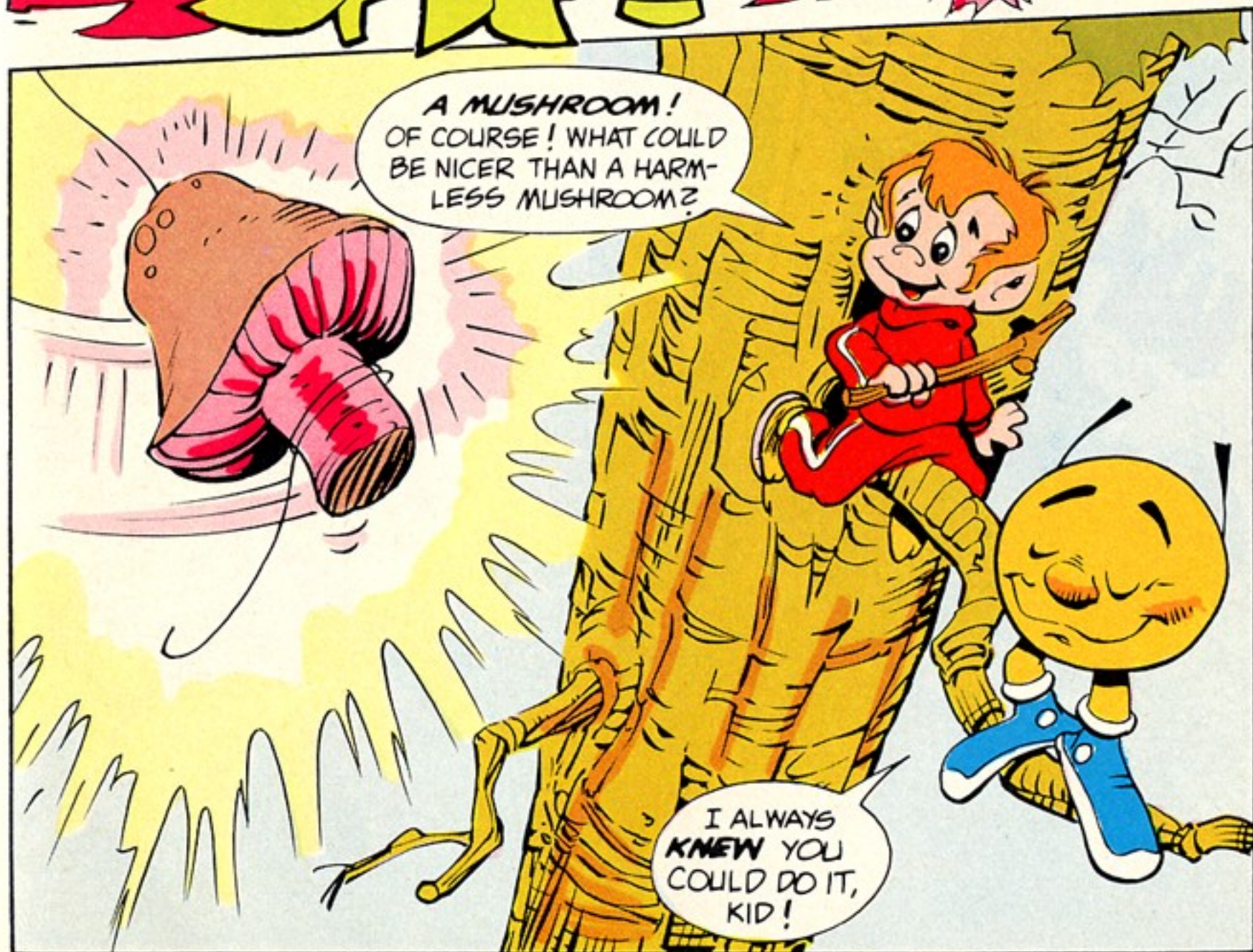
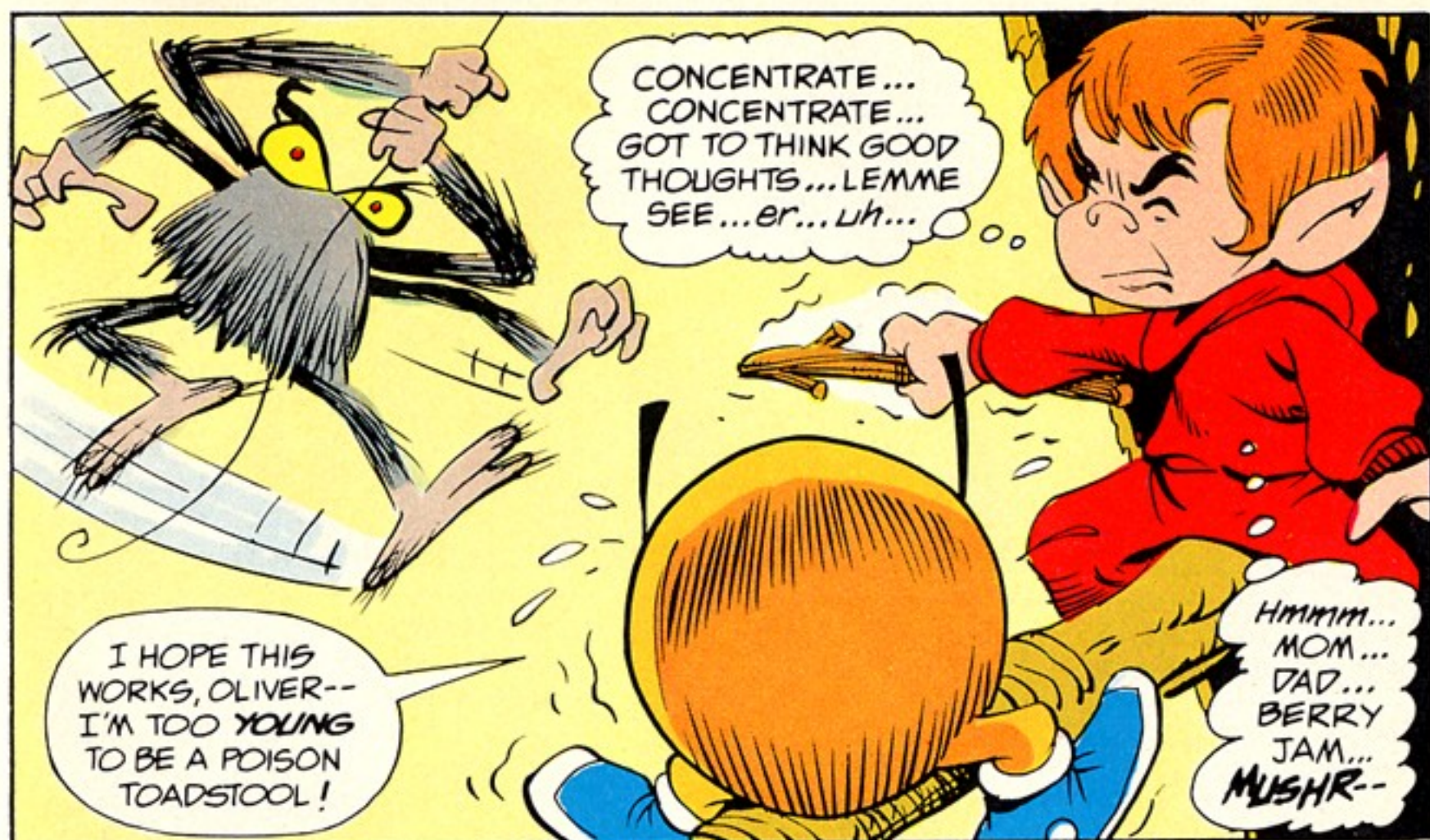
**NO WAY!** I'D RATHER BE UP A TREE THAN **FLYING OVER IT!**

WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE! THEY'RE PRACTICALLY **HERE** ALREADY! YOU'VE GOT TO **CONCENTRATE**--THINK **GOOD** THOUGHTS--THEN THE **MAGIC** WILL WORK **FOR YOU!!**

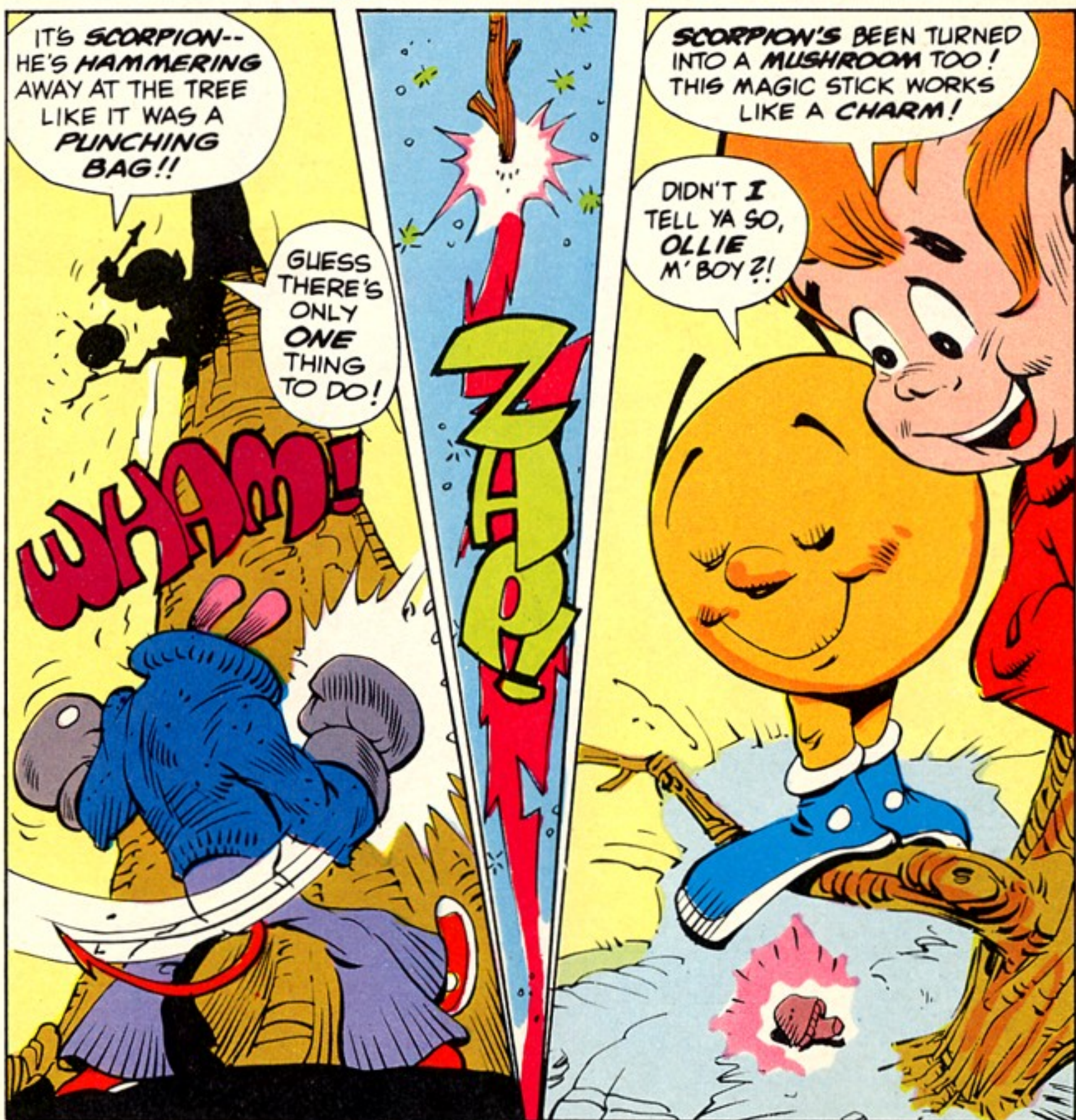
YOU GOTTA BE **KIDDIN'!!**

JUST **TRY IT**, OKAY?







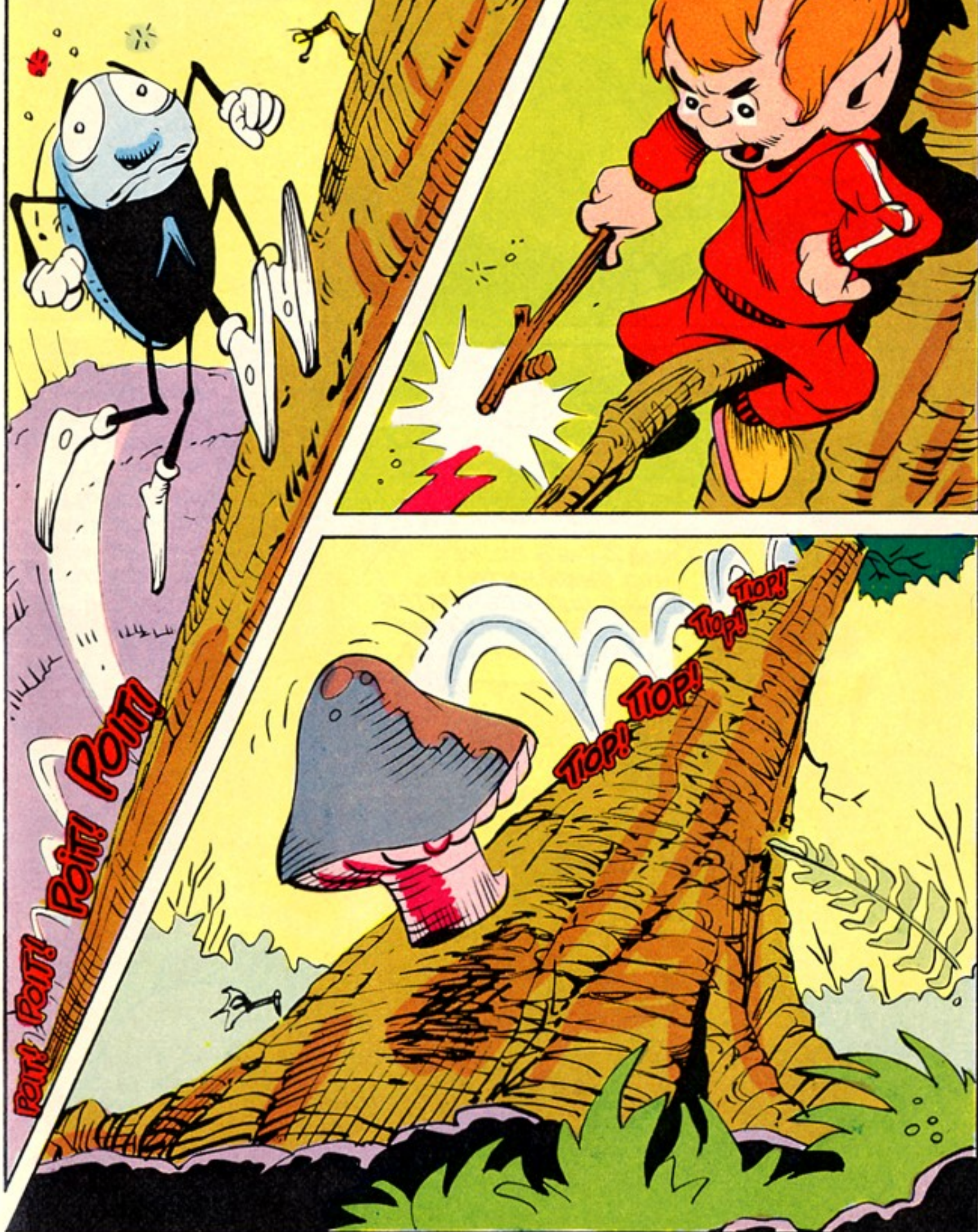




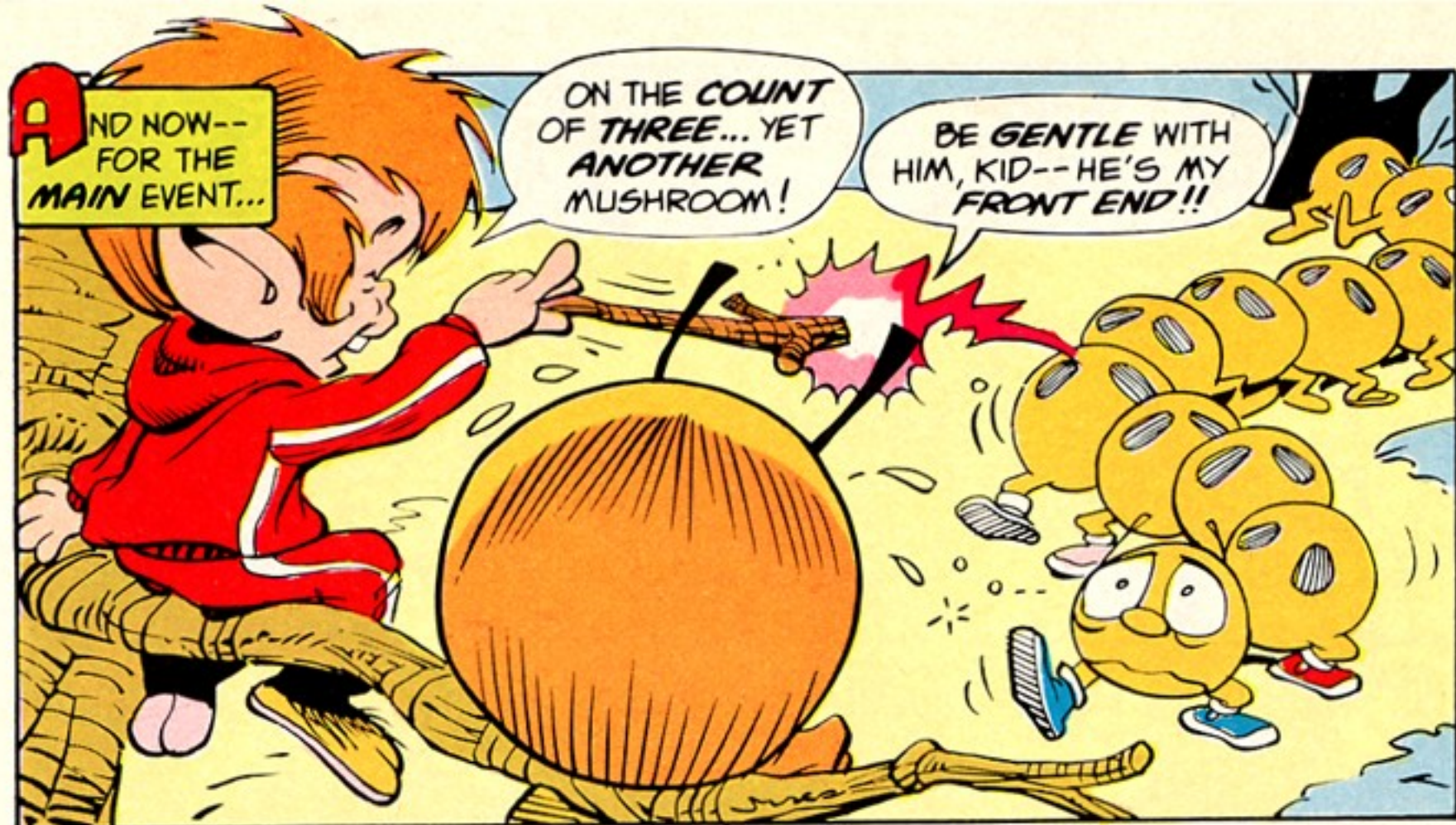
OLIVER! HERE COMES  
**FLEA!** GIVE HIM A GOOD  
ZAP BEFORE HE GETS  
CLOSE ENOUGH TO  
TICKLE US SILLY!

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

**FLEE,  
FLEA!**



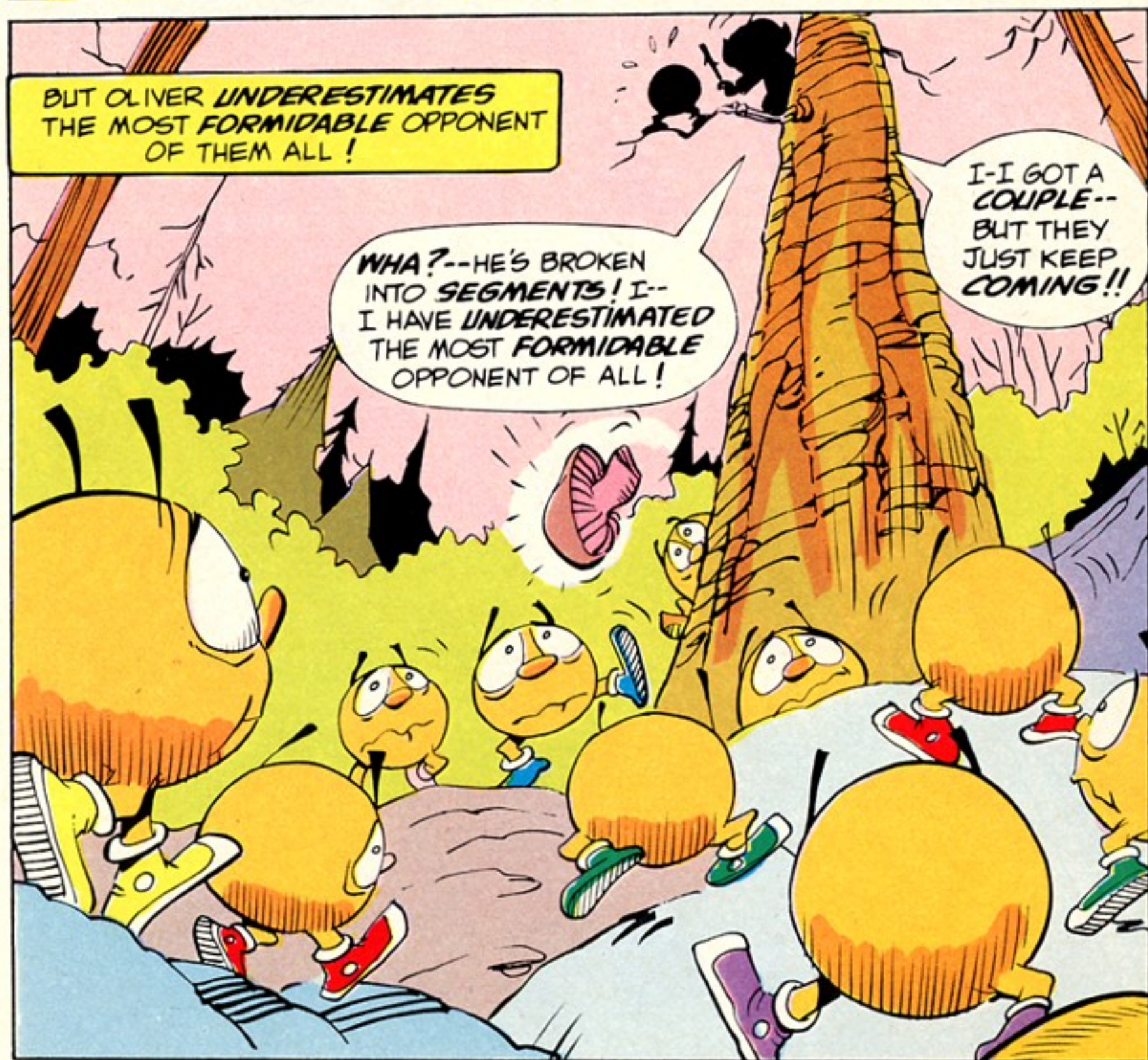




**A**ND NOW--  
FOR THE  
MAIN EVENT...

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*!!







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

**ZOOOP!**

ZOOOP?

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

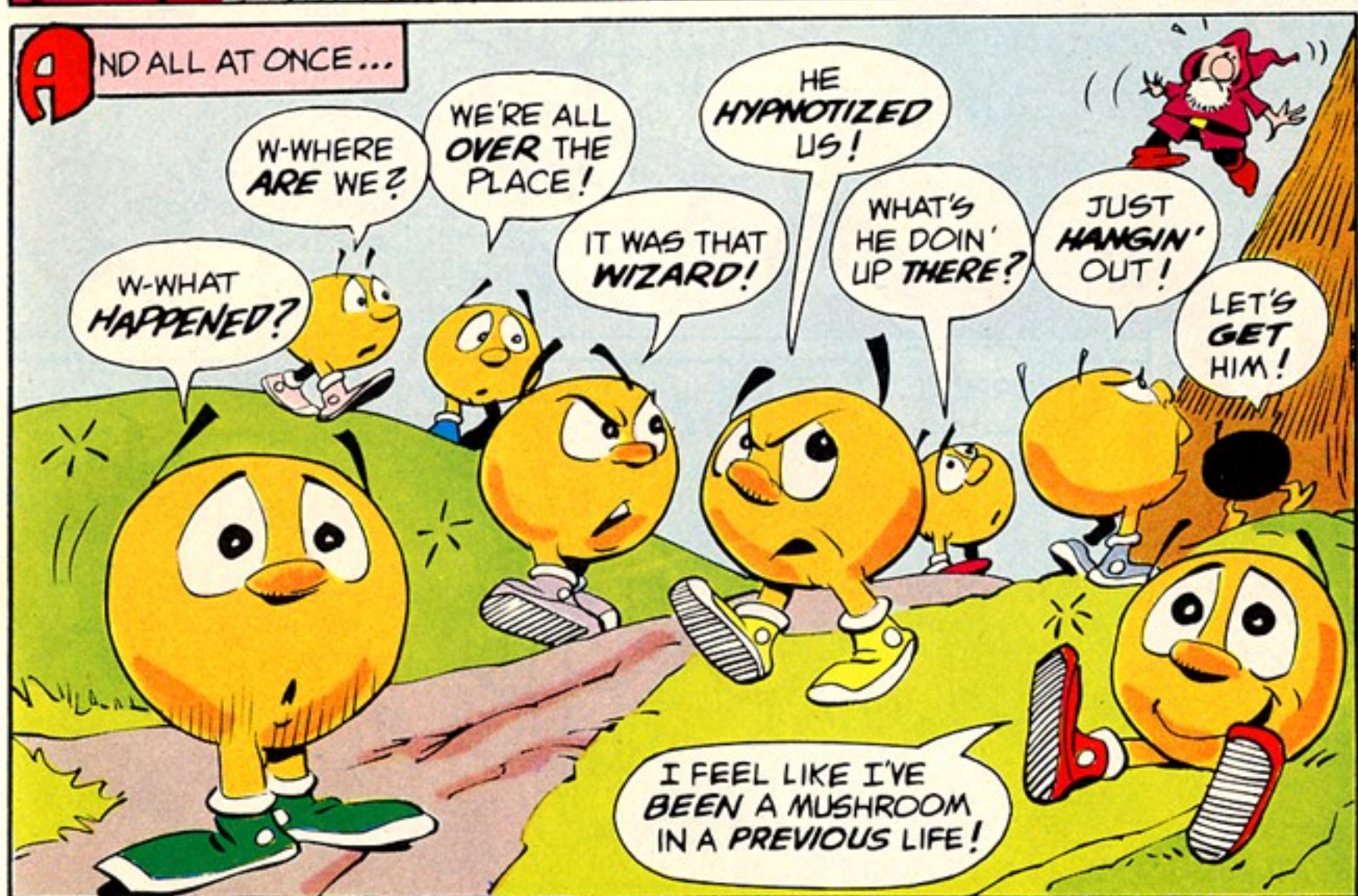
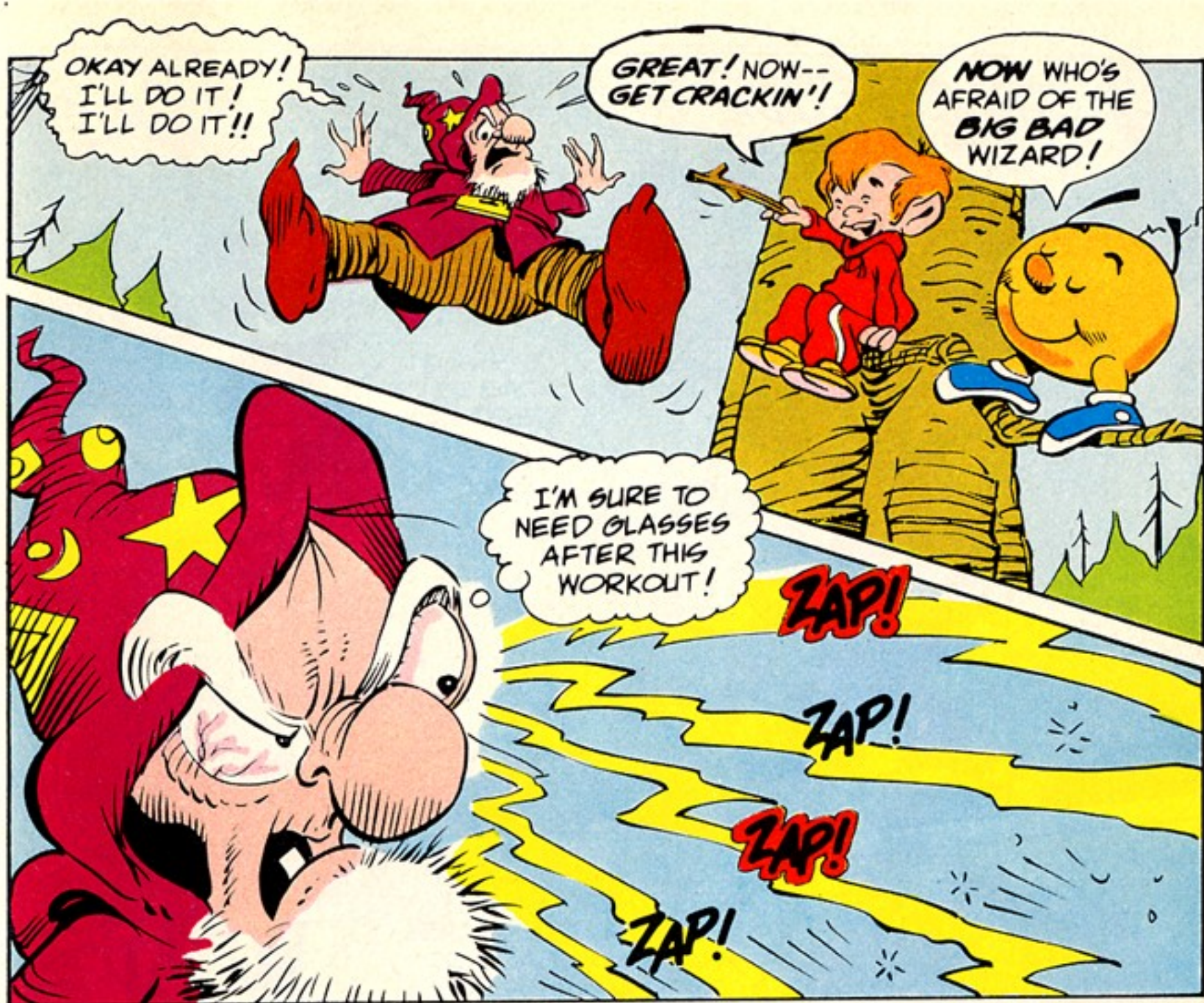
UN-HYPNOTIZE  
THOSE PEDE PARTS,  
OR I'LL TURN YOU  
INTO A MUSHROOM  
TOO!!

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  
ABSOLUTE 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!

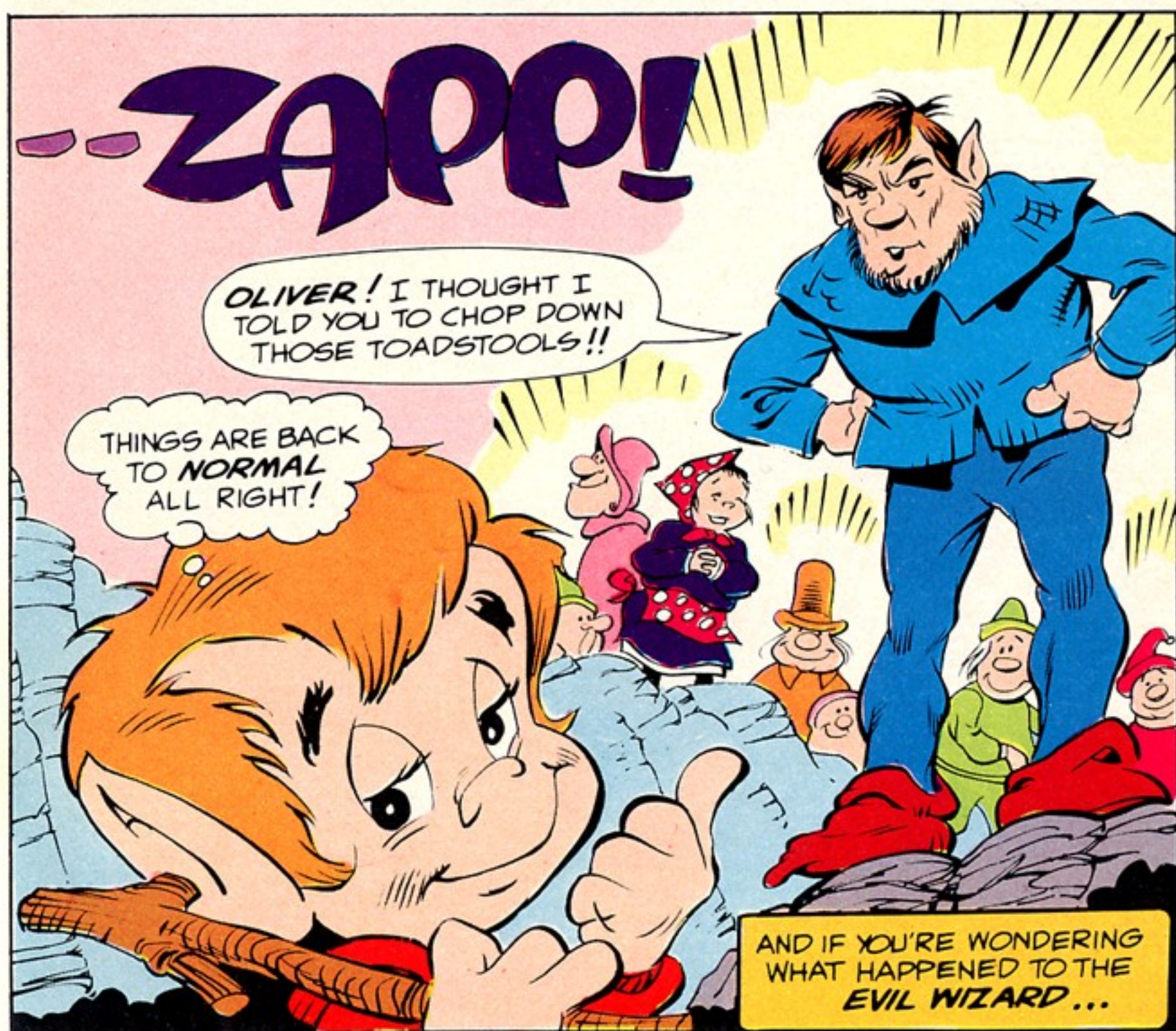
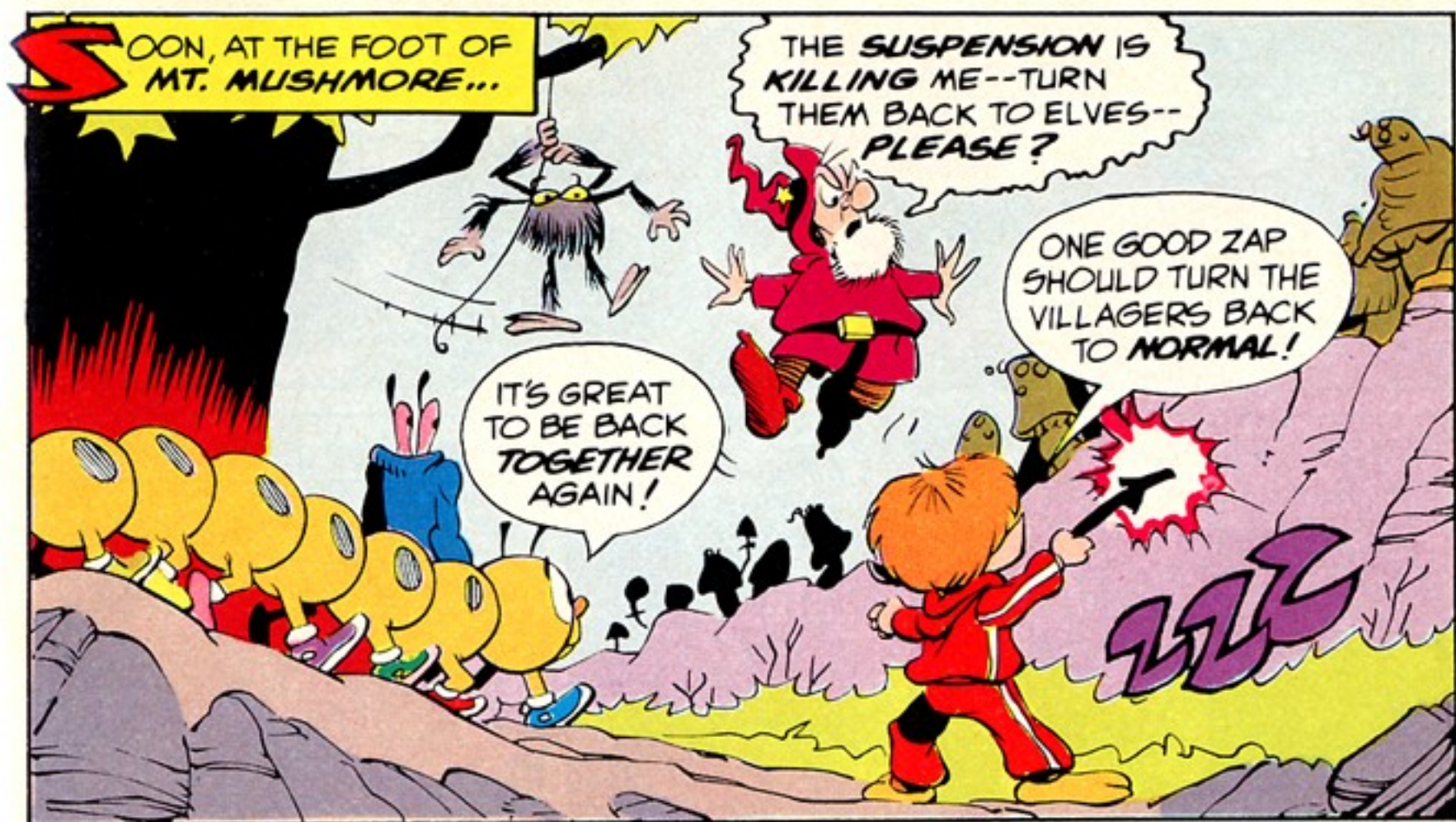
SCORPION...

...FLEA...

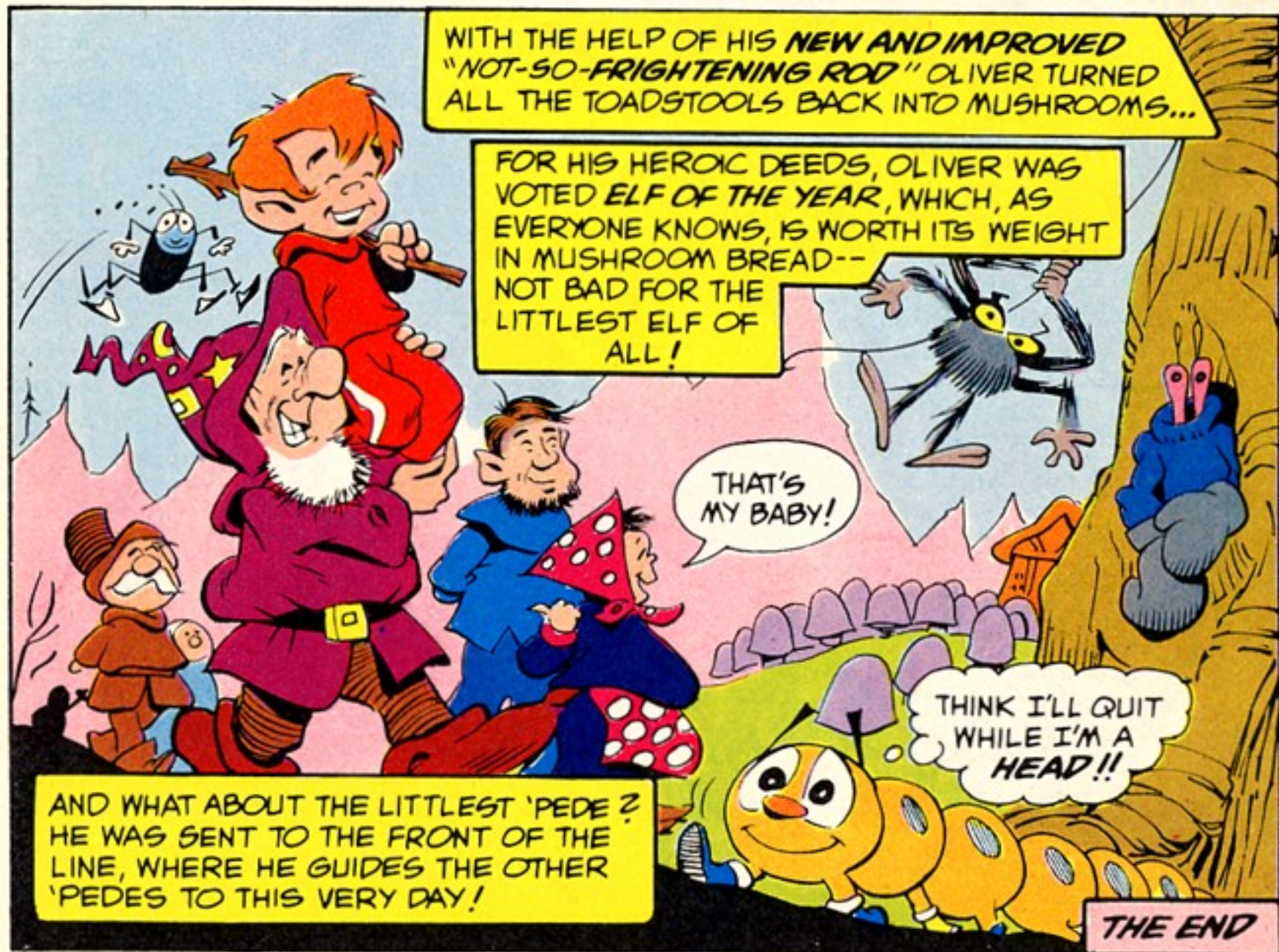
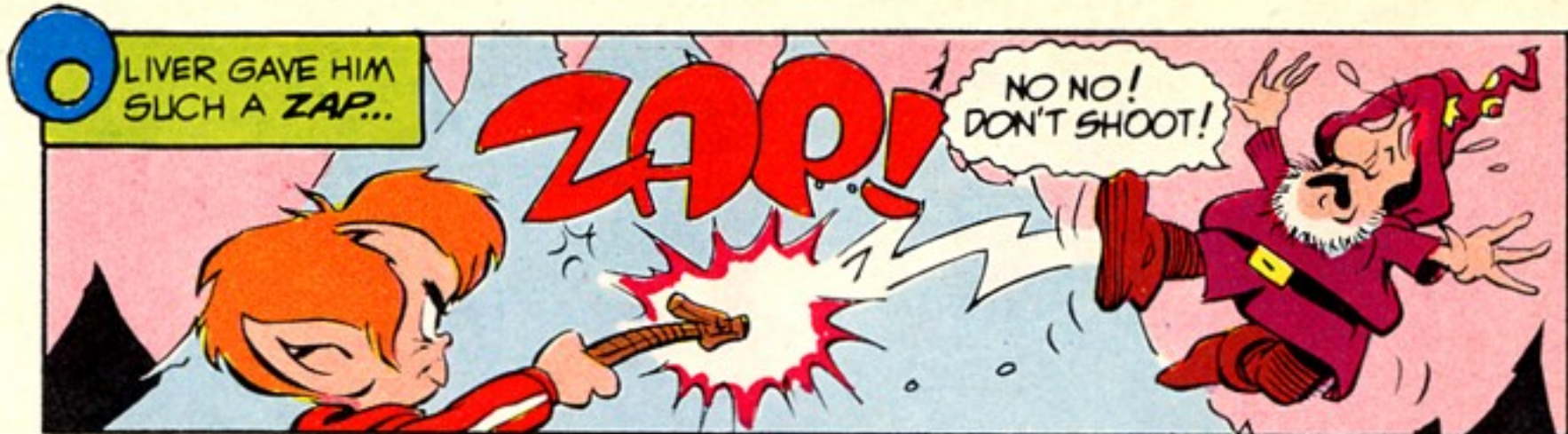
...AND SPIDER  
MAKES THREE!

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

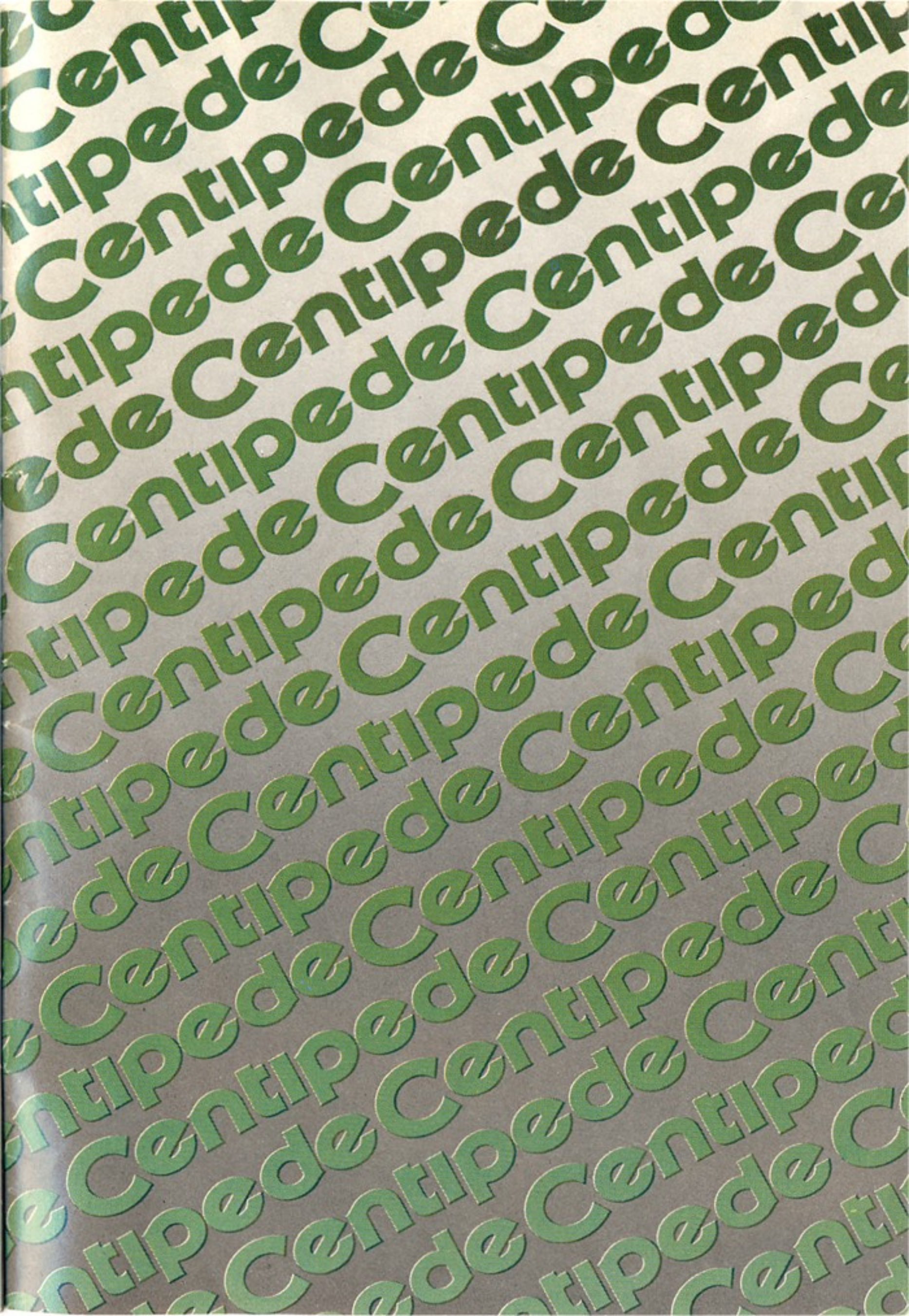




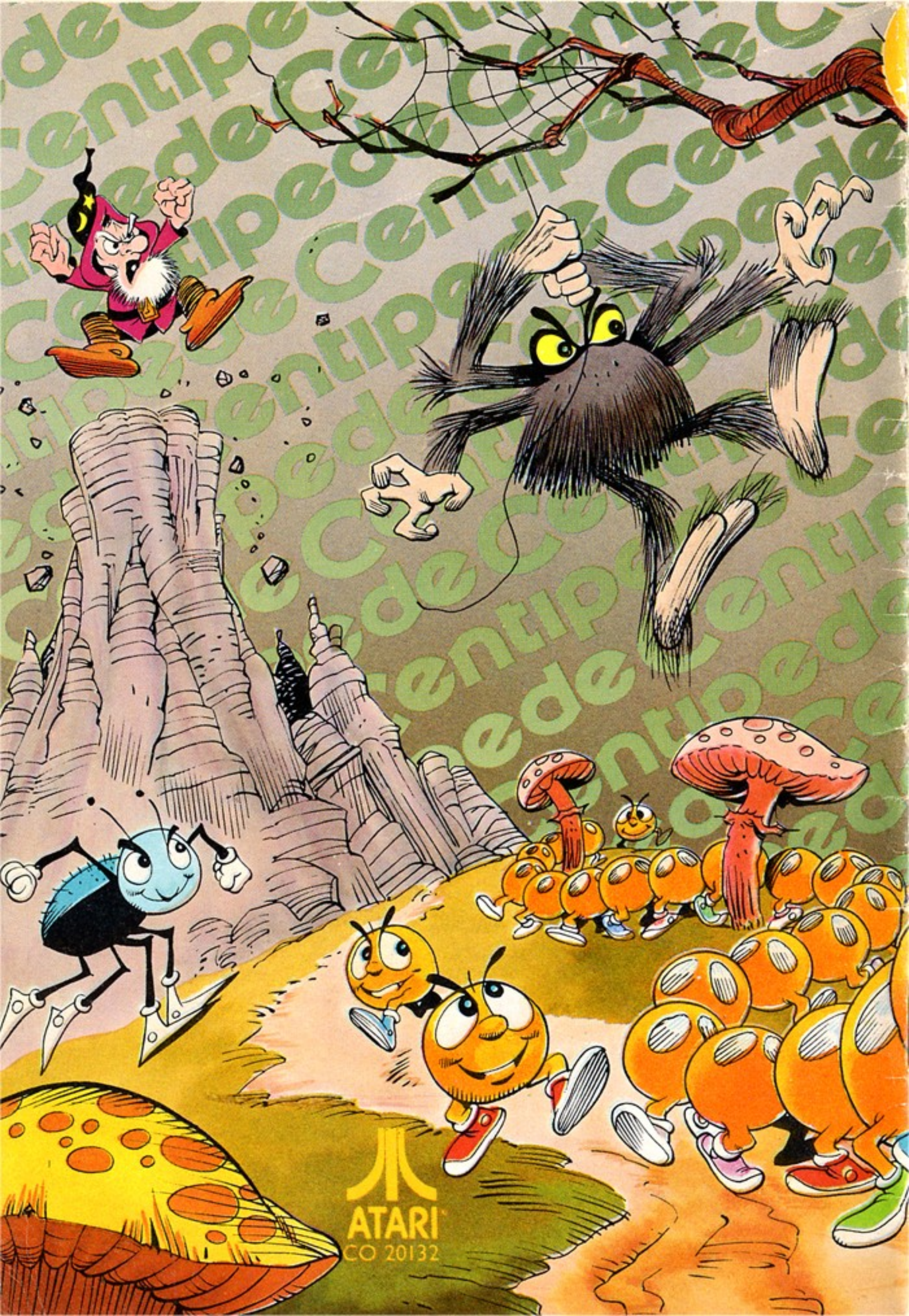












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