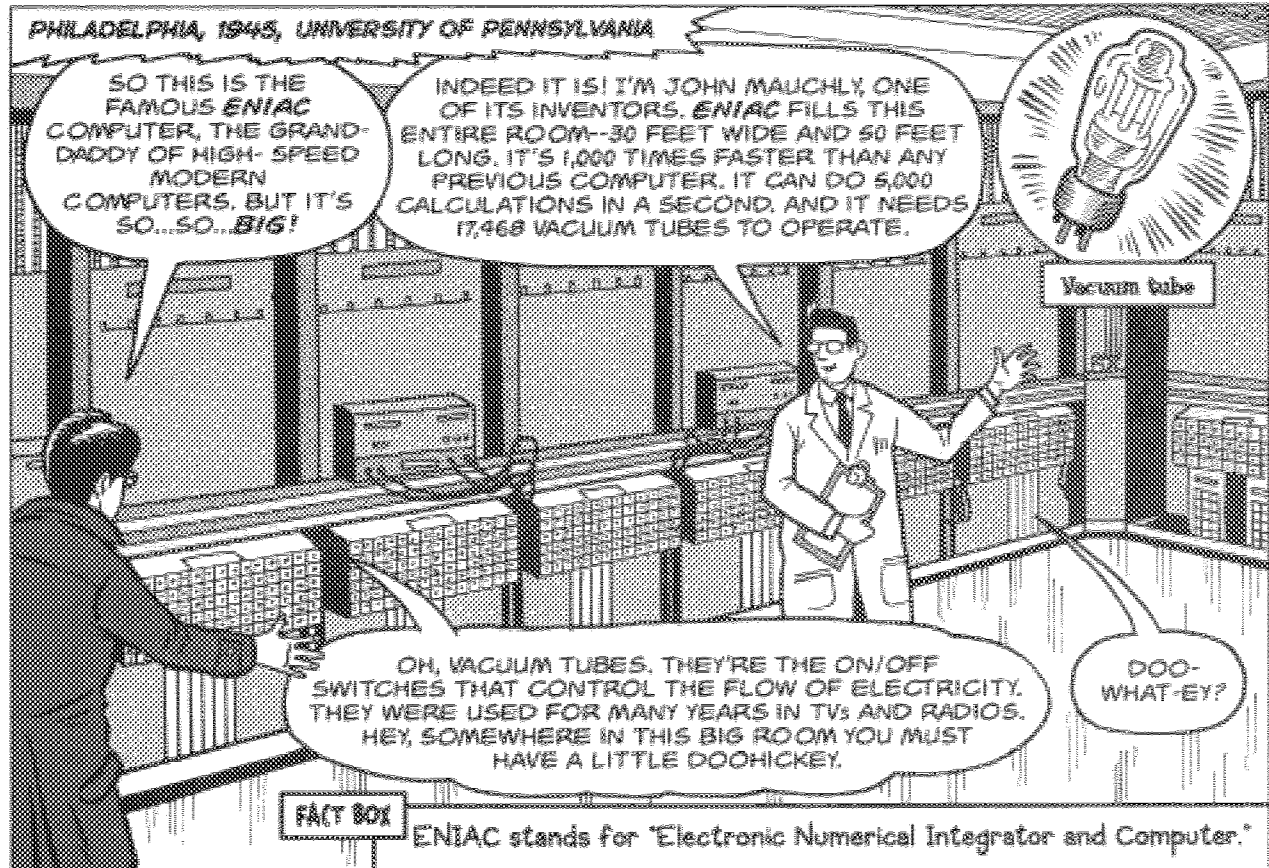
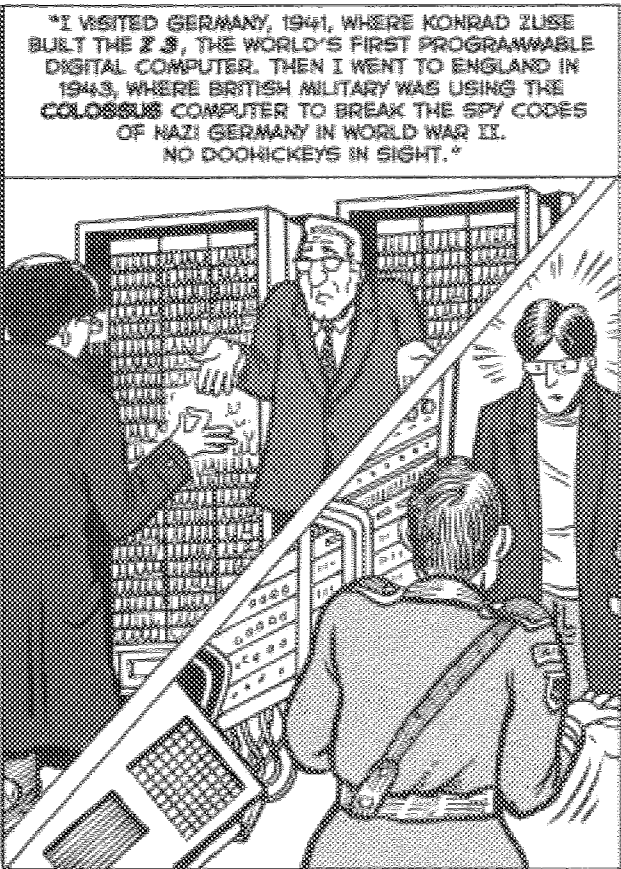


Time Traveler Scooter McGinty in...

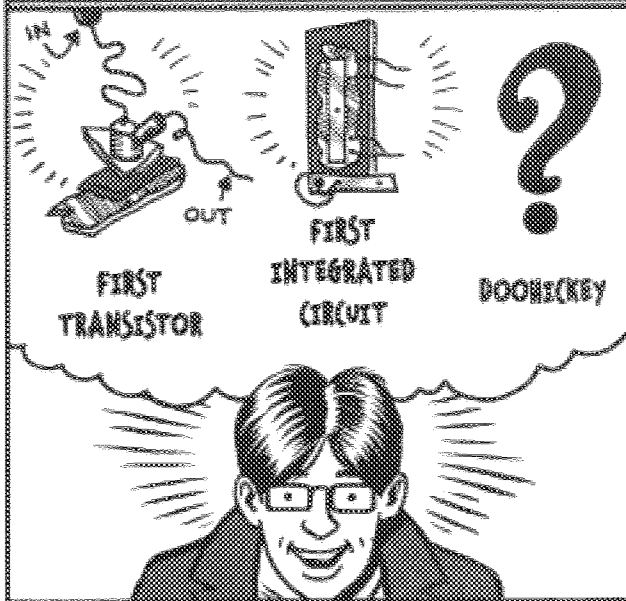
# COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

SOMEWHERE IN THE FUTURE!

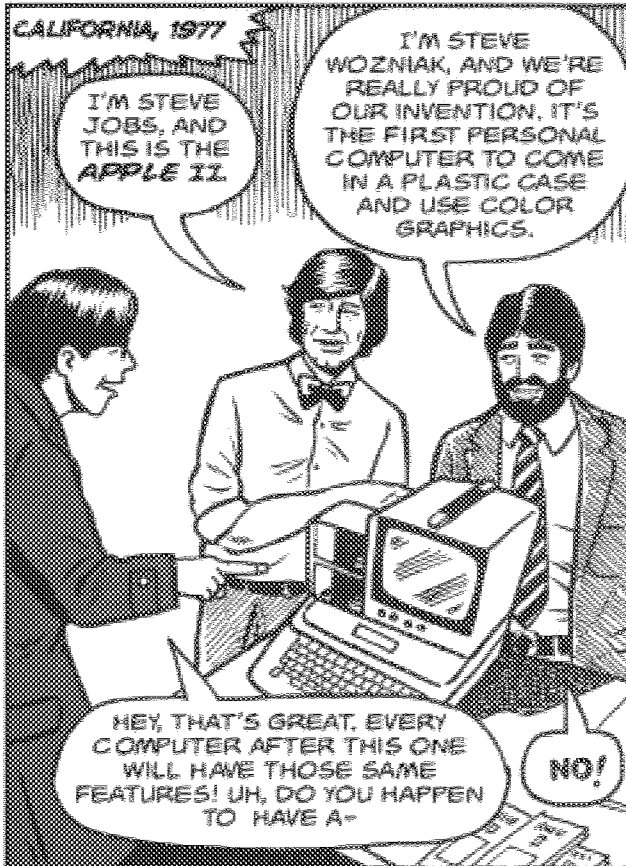
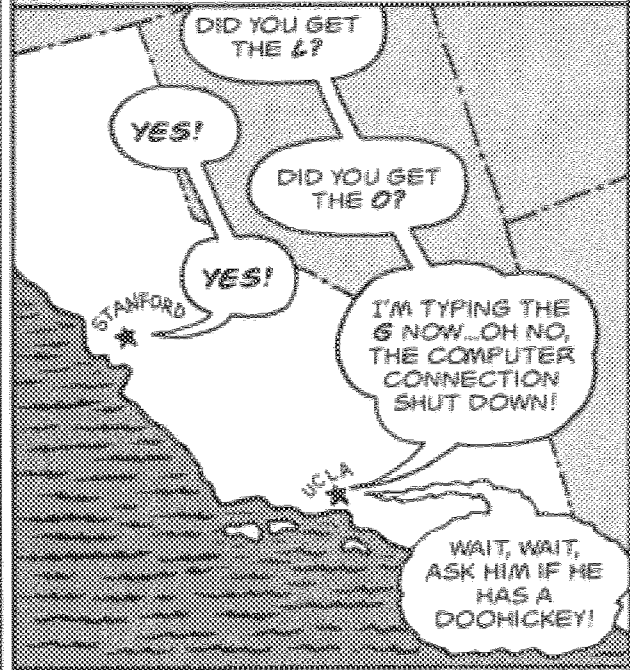




NEXT I WENT TO NEW JERSEY IN 1947, BIRTHPLACE OF THE TRANSISTOR, WHICH REPLACED THE VACUUM TUBE. ELECTRICITY WENT IN ONE SIDE, AND A GREATER CHARGE CAME OUT THE OTHER. THEN I JUMPED TO TEXAS, IN 1958, TO SEE THE FIRST INTEGRATED CIRCUIT, OR CHIP, WHICH HOLDS MANY TRANSISTORS. THE FIRST CHIP AND TRANSISTOR WERE EACH ABOUT A HALF-INCH LONG. TODAY, WE CAN FIT MILLIONS OF TRANSISTORS ON A CHIP THE SIZE OF A FINGERNAIL. STILL, I FOUND NO DOOHICKEYS.



IN THE 1960S AND 70S, SCIENTISTS STARTED DEVELOPING THE SYSTEM THAT WOULD BECOME THE INTERNET: A NETWORK OF LINKED COMPUTERS. THE FIRST COMPUTERS TO "TALK" TO EACH OTHER WERE AT TWO CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITIES. A STUDENT AT ONE COMPUTER TRIED TO TYPE IN THE FIRST MESSAGE, "LOG IN," AND SPOKE ON THE PHONE TO MAKE SURE THE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED.



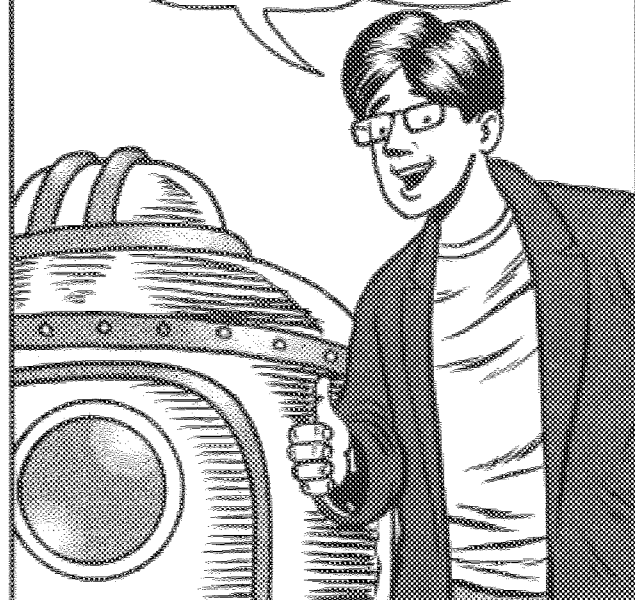
IN THE 1980s, SALES OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS SOARED AS MACHINES GOT SMALLER, FASTER, AND CHEAPER. BY 1984, 8 OUT OF EVERY 100 U.S. HOMES OWNED A COMPUTER. BY 2000, THE NUMBER HAD JUMPED TO 51 OUT OF 100!



IN THE 1980s AND 1990s, COMPUTER NETWORKS BECAME BIGGER AND BIGGER. IN 1991, A BRITISH SCIENTIST NAMED TIM BERNERS-LEE LINKED TOGETHER THESE NETWORKS TO INVENT THE WORLD WIDE WEB. SURFING THE INTERNET, SENDING E-MAIL, AND INSTANT MESSAGING BECAME A NATURAL PART OF AMERICAN LIFE. BY 2000, 42 OUT OF 100 U.S. HOMES HAD INTERNET ACCESS, AND THE NUMBER CONTINUES TO GROW AND GROW...



COMPUTERS ARE CONTINUALLY GETTING FASTER, SMALLER, AND SMARTER. SCIENTISTS ARE ALREADY WORKING ON THE NEXT CHALLENGE: CREATING COMPUTERS THAT CAN "THINK" LIKE HUMANS DO. AND WAIT 'TIL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE YEAR 3016! BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME. OH WELL, I'D BETTER GET HOME. I'LL SEE YOU IN THE FUTURE!



## SCOOTER'S QUICK QUIZ

1. What was the name of the first high-speed computer that was so big it took up an entire room?
2. What two inventions allowed computers to become faster and smaller?
3. What does it mean for two computers to be networked?
4. Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs are not the only two American computer giants. Research and describe the contributions of Bill Gates and Paul Allen. What other Americans made major strides in the field of computers?
5. How do you and your family use computers now? Can you imagine how you might use computers 10 years from now? Fifty years from now?