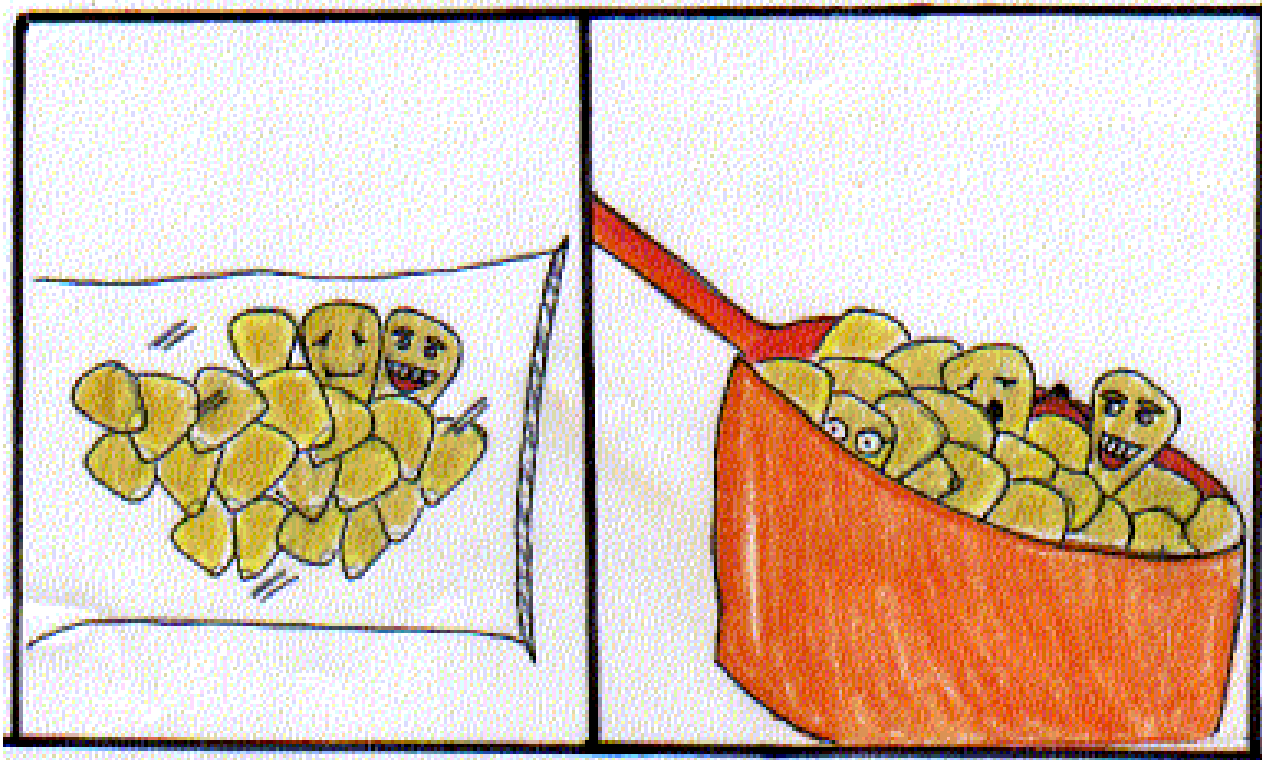


THE



HEROES



**POPCORN HEROES** by [Marie M.](#) Illustrated by [Susy Tsoupakis](#) Inspired by [Chelsea](#)

*Johnny and Roy lay with the rest of the kernels, just basking in the bag with the rest of them. Waiting to be popped. The trick was to escape to Popcorn land, not get eaten. They knew Cap, Mike and Marco were already popped and managed to escape. They were waiting in Station 51, driving their big red popcorn tubs, racing around the land.*

*Now Johnny and Roy knew their time was almost up. They were shoveled into a bin, and carted off to the movie theater in the mall. Lying with the other kernels, they held hands, not wanting to be separated.*

*Soon, they felt the shovel coming towards them.*

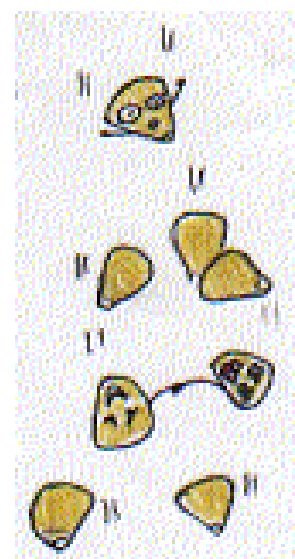
*“Hold on Junior, here we go!”*

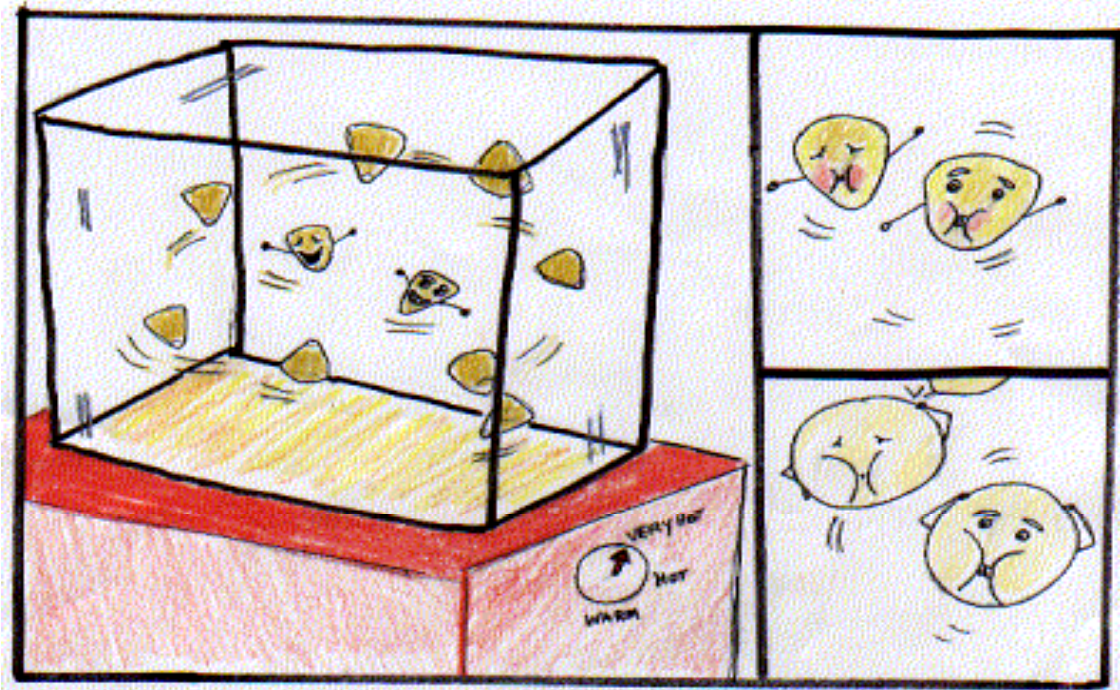
*“Right behind you Pally! WHEEEEEEE!!!!!!”*

*Falling through the air, they felt like they were flying, as they tumbled into the popper.*

*“Hey, that wasn’t so bad now, was it?” Johnny said.*

*“Now the fun begins, hold on Junior!”*





*The machine started, the hot air whirled.*

*“WHEEEEE! I’m flying!” Johnny laughed, as he was swept up into the hot air.*

*“Me, too, Junior!”*

*“I’m getting fatter! Look at me!” Johnny said, as he felt himself becoming light and fluffy.*

*“Me, too! I’m lighter than air! Wow! Now all we have to do is wait for the pop!” Roy giggled as they swirled around, going higher in the bin. “Here we go! Hold on! I’m getting hotter and started to swirl!”*

*“Me, too, Pally, hang on! This is it!”*

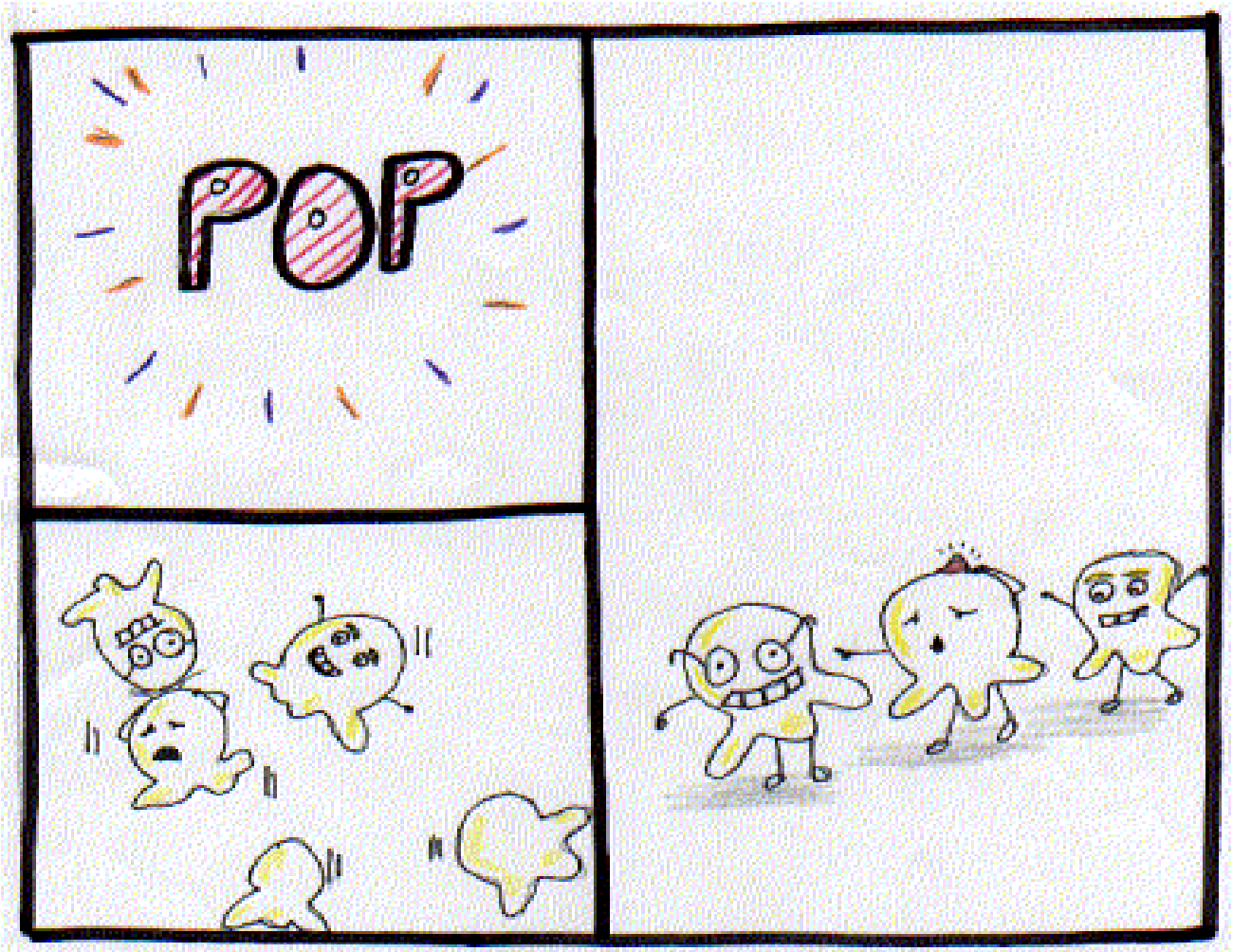
*The machine hummed faster, the air became hotter. The flew through the air, other kernels bumping into them.*

*“Ummmp,” Johnny grunted.*

*“You okay, Johnny?”*

*“Yeah! Hey, watch where you’re going! Don’t you know how to pop? I hope some big kid chomps on you!”*

*“Remember, Johnny, hold on tight, and when we get to the box, we make our break for it!”*



*"I'm right with you, Pally!"*

*"And we have to watch out for Kelly McButter! When you see him coming towards you, duck! He will drown you and you won't be able to run!"*

*"I'll follow you! WHEEEEE! Wow! I'm flying! Roy, I'm flying!"*

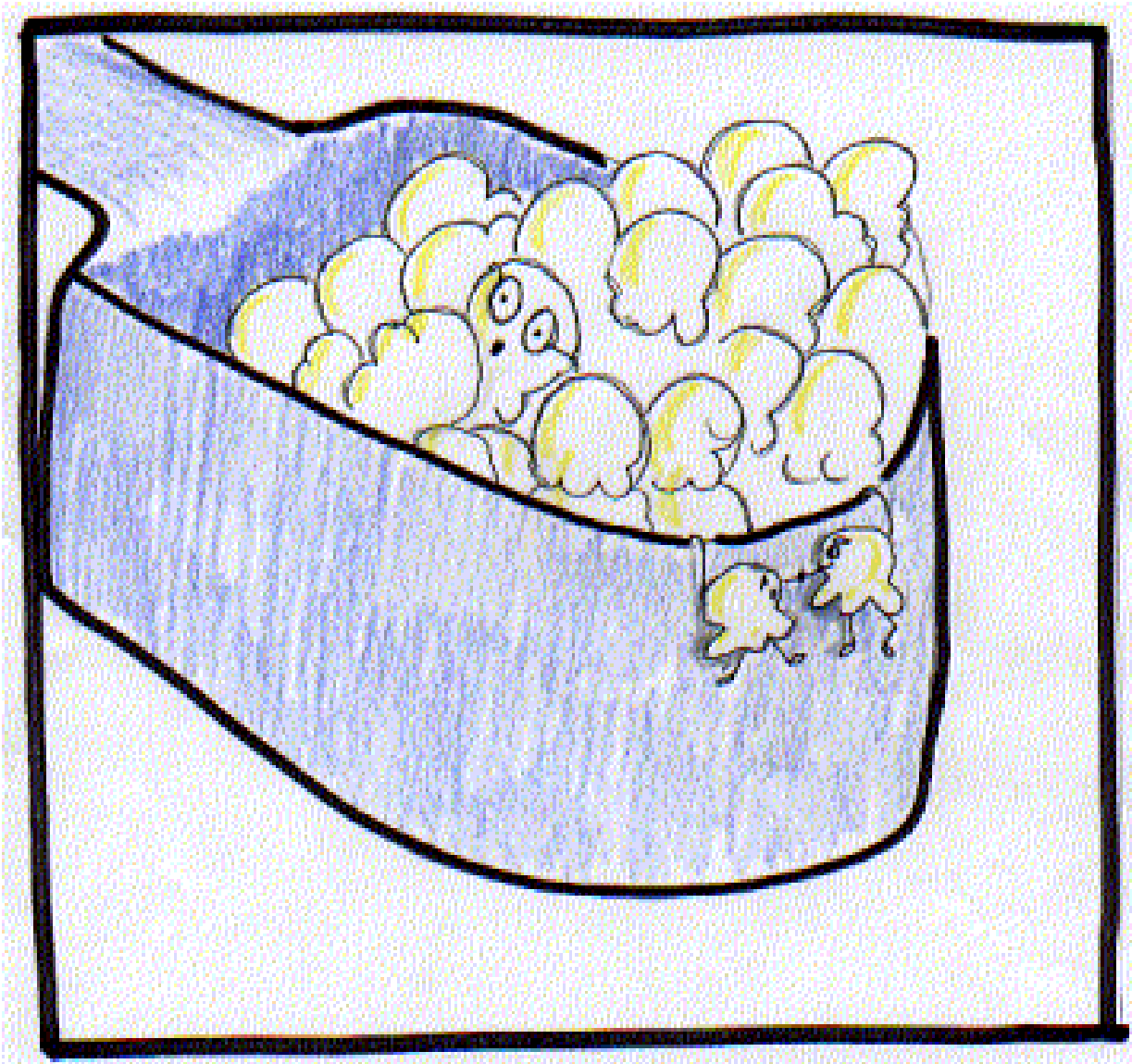
*"Me, too, Johnny! WHEEEEE!"*

*They held hands as they started to get hotter, flying higher, swirling around, and feeling like they were ready to burst.*

*"Hold on, here it comes!" Johnny yelled.*

*\*Pop!\**

*"Hey, watch where you land!" Johnny grumbled, looking up at the popcorn that landed on him. "Oh, you again! What is your name, anyway?"*



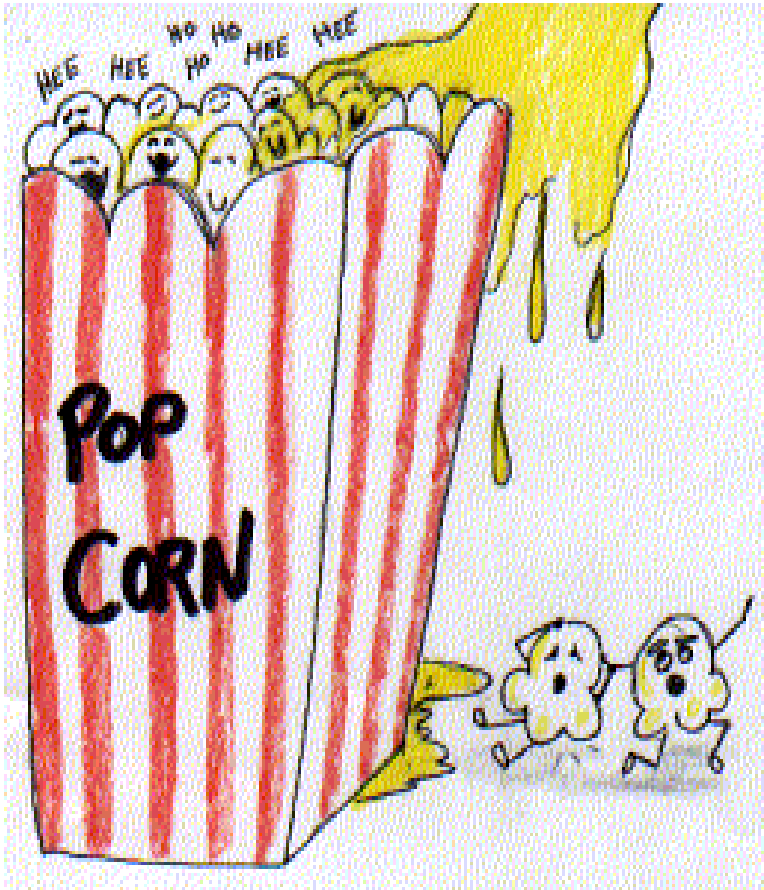
*"I'm Bricenbacher," He grinned, pushing up his black glasses.*

*"Figures, a nerd. Why do I always end up with nerds?" Johnny wondered.*

*"We have to remember to go out in alphabetical order!" Bricenbacher stated.*

*"You go in alphabetical order. Us? We're just going!"*

*They heard the lid opening and, holding hands, Johnny and Roy were scooped up into a bucket with the others. Leaning on the edge, they held on, ready to make their escape.*



*"Junior, here comes Kelly McButter! Duck!"*

*Looking up, they saw a great wall of gooey, yellow butter cascading down on them. The popcorn in the box laughed as the butter tickled them.*

*"Come on! Let's book!" Roy grabbed Johnny, and they slid down the side of the bucket.*

*"Ow!" Johnny yelped.*

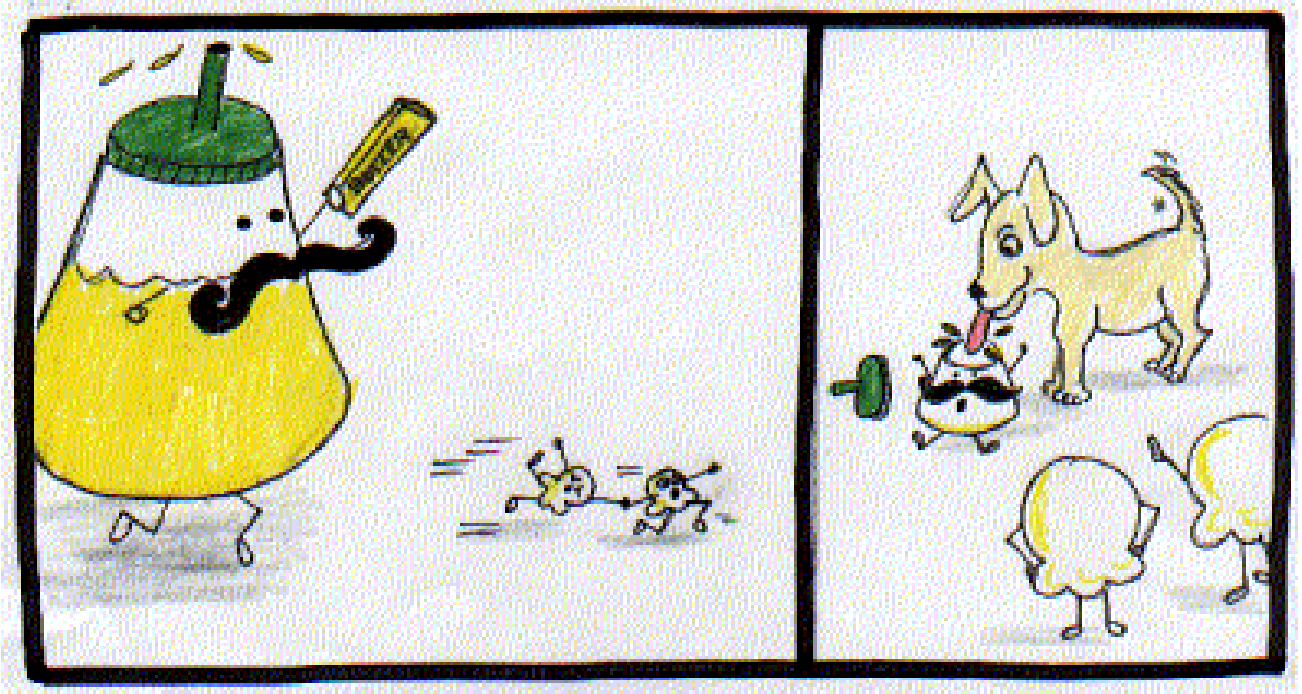
*"What's wrong?"*

*"I landed on my butt!"*

*"You're supposed to be light and fluffy, how can you hurt?"*

*"Tell that to my - -"*

*"Never mind! Roy yelled back. We gotta get out of here before that guy with the broom comes. Look! There he is! Run, Johnny! Follow me!"*



*Jumping down off the counter, they fell to the ground, grunting as they rolled over.*

*“Johnny! Watch out!” Roy pulled Johnny back, as a lady with high heels on walked over him.*

*“Phew, that was close! Thanks, Pally!”*

*“No problem. Now let’s get to the station. Look out! Here comes Kelly McButter! I’d recognize that mustache anywhere! And he’s waving a stick of butter at us!”*

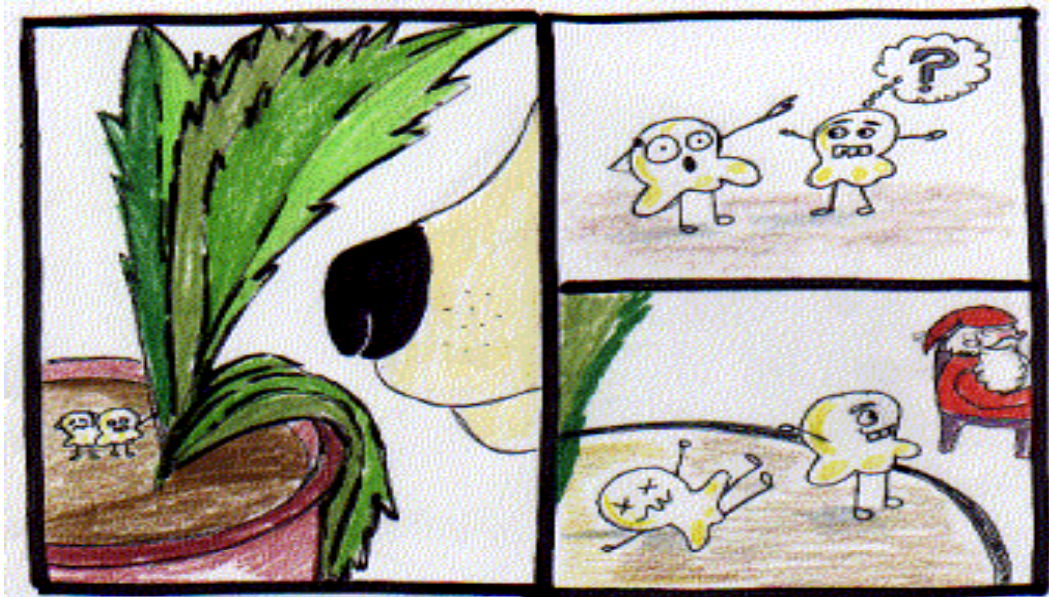
*Grabbing Johnny, Roy pulled him along as they ran through the mall, dodging all the large people walking there. They did not want to end up squashed on the bottom of someone’s shoe. Looking back, Kelly McButter was gaining on them!*

*“Come back! You need to be buttered! You can’t run from me!”*

*“Hey, look!” Johnny squealed in laughter, as a yellow puppy that escaped from a pet shop, lapped up Kelly McButter. Walking away, the puppy burped.*

*“Man, that was close. Now what?”*

*“Hold on and follow me, Junior. We’re going for a ride!” Roy squealed, as he and Johnny both slid down the railing of the banister to the floor below.*



*"Man, that was fun! Can we do it again?" Johnny begged.*

*"No, we have to get to the station! Kernel Stanley will be worried if we don't show up soon!"*

*"Ok, ok. You never let me have any fun," Johnny grumbled.*

*The whole mall stretched before them. People were walking all around and they did not want to get squashed.*

*"Hey, it's that dog again! He's going to eat us!" Johnny cried.*

*"No, quick, jump into that planter. When he walks by, we'll hop onto his back and ride him out of this place!"*

*Johnny followed Roy, feeling him pull his white fluffy body up over the edge of the planter.*

*"Gee, Johnny, for someone who's supposed to be light and fluffy, you sure weigh a lot!"*

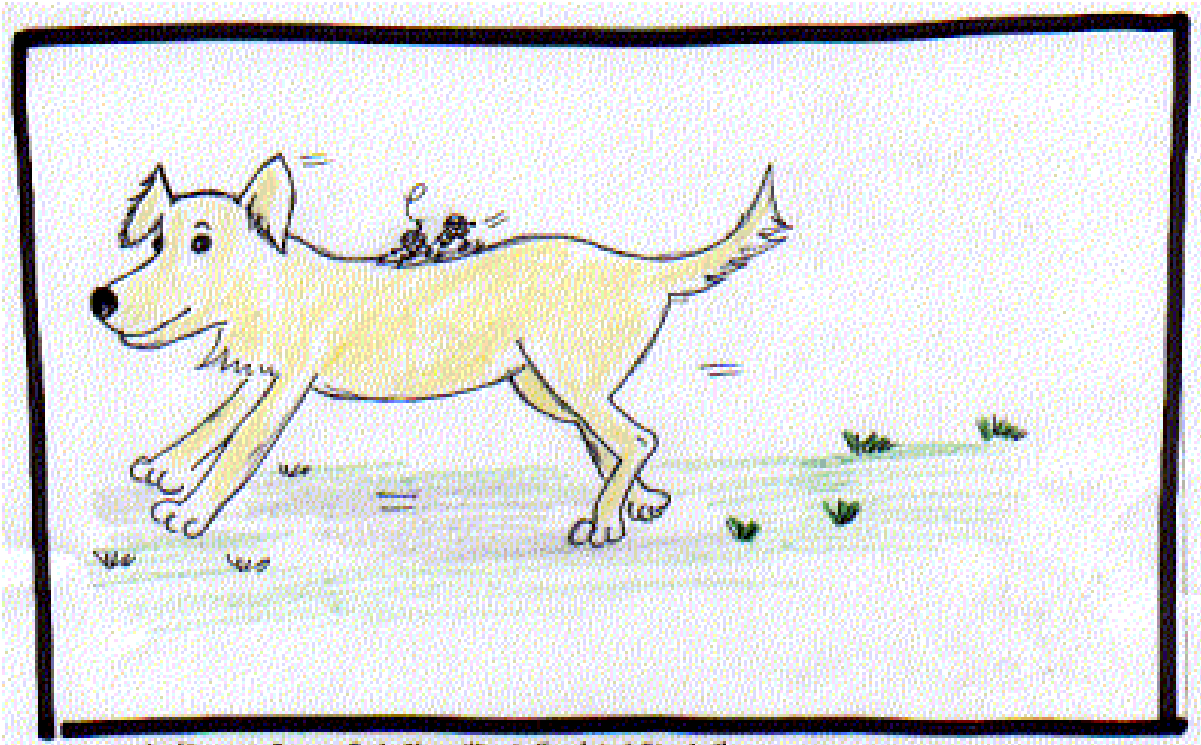
*"I guess I popped pretty good, huh?"*

*Roy groaned, seeing Johnny pat his fat popcorn belly.*

*"You will make a tasty treat for someone if you don't watch out. Johnny? Johnny?" Roy asked, seeing that Johnny wasn't paying any attention to him.*

*Johnny's mouth was wide open, and his eyes grew big. His face turned as white as his popcorn belly. He pointed over to a seat. "He does exist!" Johnny said, before he fainted.*





*Looking over, Roy saw Santa Claus sitting in the chair, talking to the children. Seeing Johnny lying there, he slapped his face, bringing him to.*

*"Come on, now you know he does exist. So what? Let's hop on that dog. Here he comes!"*

*"Wheee!" Johnny yelled, as he and Roy plopped on the back of the dog.*

*Galloping out of the mall, the dog ran through the doors, with Popcorn Johnny and Fluffy Roy holding onto his hair and riding him like a big horse.*

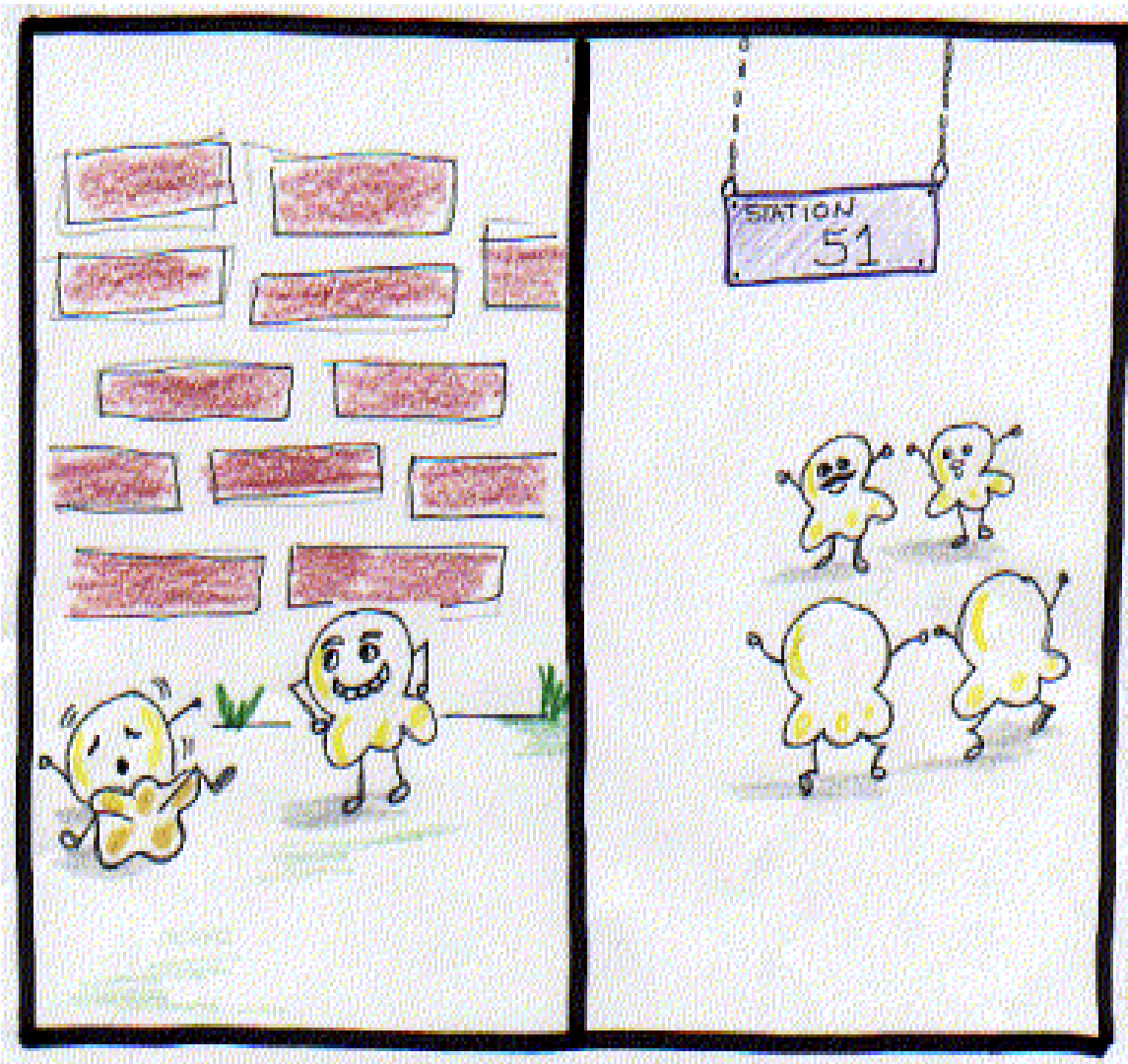
*"Giddyap horsy!" Johnny called out in glee as they galloped down the street.*

*"Oh man," Roy groaned. "Don't you ever grow up?"*

*"This is fun, Roy! YAHOOOO!" Johnny yelled, making a lasso out of a piece of dog's hair. "Got him!" He yelled triumphantly, holding up a flea.*

*"Will you quit fooling around and let him go?" Roy demanded, seeing the flea stick his tongue at Johnny as they galloped away.*

*"Look, there's the station! Come on, Johnny. This is our stop!"*



*The two slid down off the back of the dog, rolling across the sidewalk. Stopping, they bumped into the wall.*

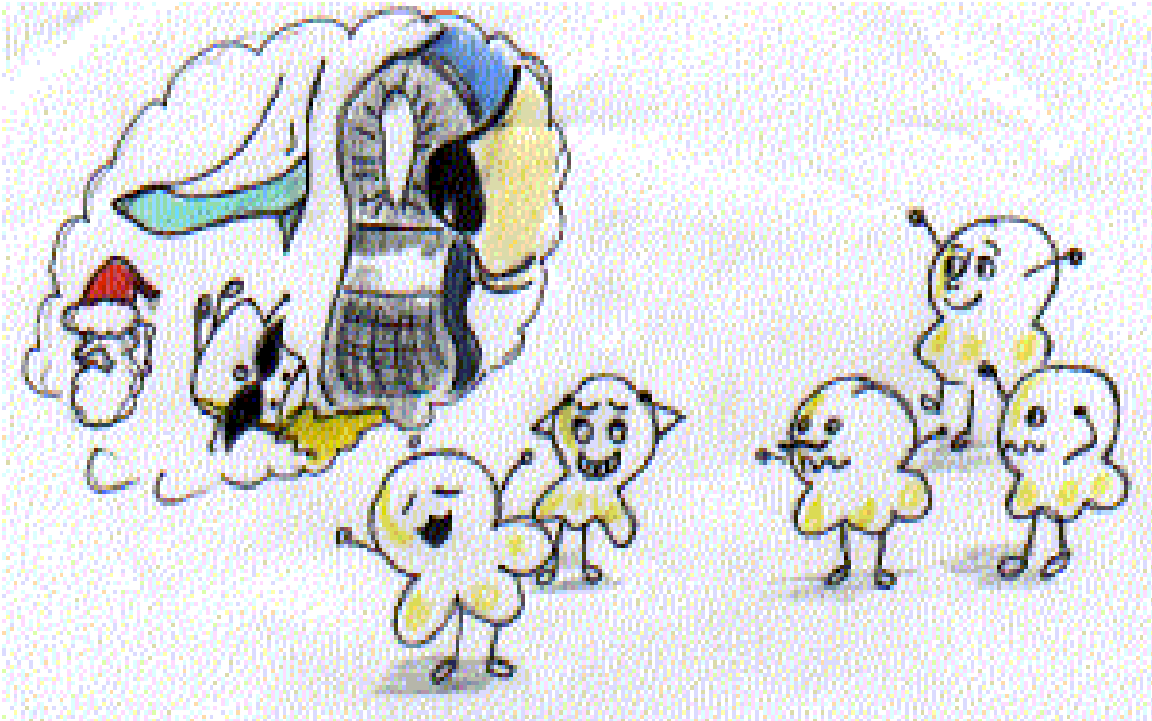
*“Uuummmpppphhh,” both grunted, as they caught their breath.*

*Roy stood up and laughed, watching Johnny roll from side to side, trying to stand. He waved his arms and kicked his legs, but still couldn’t get up.*

*“I can’t get up! I can’t get up!” He yelled until he was out of breath.*

*“Here, Junior, what would you do without me?” Roy said as he lifted Johnny up. “Let’s go.”*

*They walked into the station, yelling for everyone. Soon Popman Marco and Popengineer Mike ran out to greet them, hugging as their popcorn bodies bounced off each other.*



*"Hey, you guys look great!" Marco greeted them.*

*"Yeah, you popped nicely!" Mike said, shaking their hands.*

*"Well, well, well! It's about time you two made it!" Kernel Stanley greeted them. "Did you have any trouble?"*

*"I almost got squashed under a high heel, and we were chased by Kelly McButter," Johnny griped.*

*"Wow, Kelly McButter!" Marco whistled. "How did you get away from him?"*

*"A little yellow dog ate him!" Johnny grinned.*

*"Wow! Kelly McButter is gone! Now we don't have to have him chase us anymore!" Kernel Stanley said, proud of his men. "Johnny, Roy, once again you saved the day! Let's go have some lunch!"*

*"I'm for that," Johnny said. "All that popping made me hungry!"*

*The End*

