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# Tanjong Life

Back to the 90s



by AZMI HUSSIN

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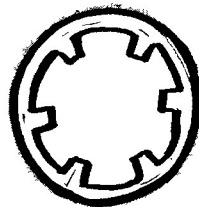
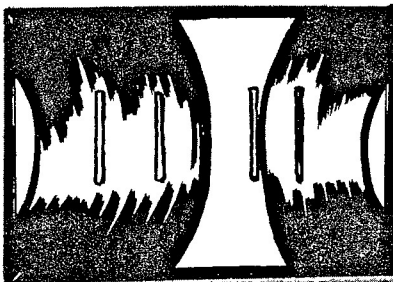
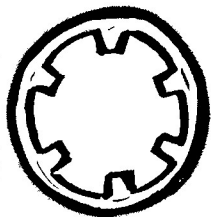


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by AZMI HUSSIN



PUSTAKA PERDANA



1013763

PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

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**GEORGE  
TOWN**  

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**FESTIVAL**  
PENANG • MALAYSIA

This book is presented by

**GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL**

First held in 2010, George Town Festival is an annual festival held in Penang, Malaysia in honour of George Town's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. The annual festival celebrates the state's diverse arts and culture scene encompassing dance, music, theatre, visual art, film, photography and more. Generally held in historic buildings, back alleys, theatres and other unique spots in the city, the annual festival has grown into a prominent event connecting festival-goers with local and international creatives.



## ABOUT AZMI HUSSIN

Azmi Hussin is a Penang-born cartoonist best known for capturing the nostalgia of growing up and living in Penang with his pen. Although he draws inspiration from his idol and mentor, the legendary Malaysian comic artist Datuk Lat, Azmi continues to showcase the breadth of his talent - from comics to still-lives and portraits - through the years. And as new styles emerge, it becomes apparent that Azmi does not stray away from one common theme - his love for the state. Keen to promote Penang's cultural stories through his work, Azmi's creations often highlight elements unique to the state.

Azmi has made it into the Malaysia Book of Records for the most caricatures drawn in 24 hours (2017), the longest coffee painting (2019), and the longest single comic strip (2021). His sophomore book, *The Little Mamak*, which the National Book Council listed as one of 50 "Malaysia Best Titles" represented Malaysia at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany. For his contributions in the industry, he received the PeKOMIK Kembara Award by Persatuan Penggiat Komik (PeKOMIK) Malaysia (2018) and was named Tokoh Kartunis Negeri Pulau Pinang (2021 and 2022).

# INTRODUCTION

Remember when we did not need fancy gadgets or the Internet to have fun; when we took the time to send postcards instead of making long video calls? The 90s children sure had a sweet and uncomplicated time growing up, a time when human connection was more important than network connection!

Technologically speaking, the 90s was one of the most transformative decades in human history - it was the bridge between the analog and digital eras. In the early 90s, people stopped at payphones to call loved ones and in long car rides, cassette tapes and FM radios were loyal companions. By the end of the decade, these people were sending text messages, downloading songs into their computers, and using dial-up Internet to perform Yahoo or Ask Jeeves searches!

Want to relive the 90s? Follow the funny adventures of Joe G - a buck-toothed, true-blue Penangite character created by Penang-born cartoonist Azmi Hussin - as he shares a taste of what made the 90s so memorable, from playing the same music on a coin-operated jukebox in a kopitiam to riding the iconic ferry!

For all the advancements we know today, the 90s was still the best decade to grow up in, especially if you were in Penang.

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## Today's Sophisticated World

Today, we live in a sophisticated world and are equipped with various facilities for daily living. Mobile phones are no longer just a tool of communication, but they have become more intelligent than us, so much so that human lives now depend on them.

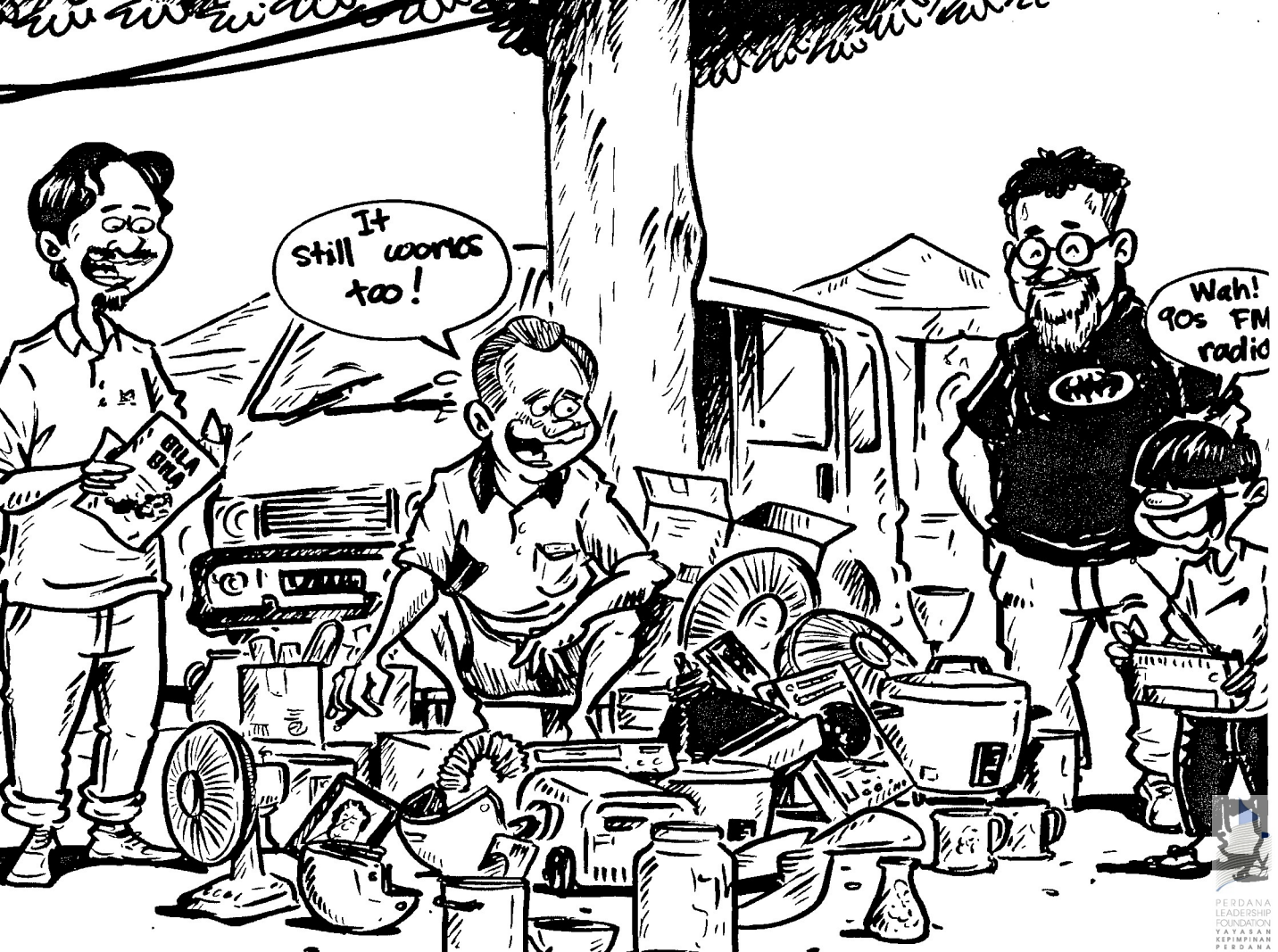


That's nice

Daddy, I got an A in art!

## Craving for "Likes" and "Shares"

We are so busy with social media updates, fake news, and celebrity stories that we ignore the real world. In pursuit of the praise and reaction from our audience and followers till we forget that not everything we see on social media is genuine and true, and that it's not worth ignoring our loved ones who need more attention and care from us.



It still works too!

Wah! 90s FM radio

## The Good Old Days

Sometimes when I see some objects from the 90s, it will bring my mind right back to the good old days when we weren't constantly distracted by social media and life was more valuable. We appreciated people in real life and also we valued a lot of small things.



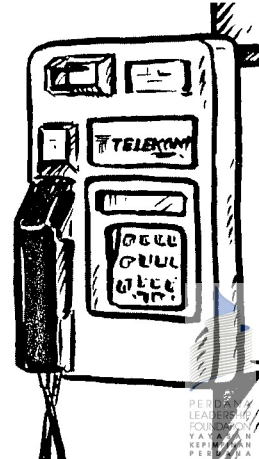
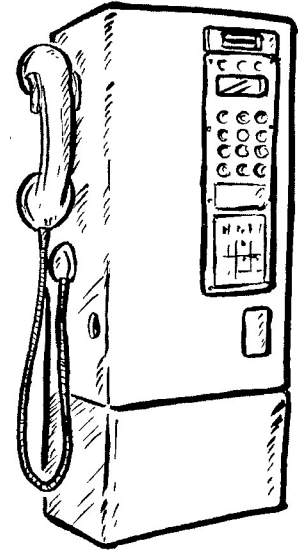
Brother!  
Are you done  
yet?

Ha ha ha...  
Yes Sayang...  
Sure, Sure!

Telefon

## Public Phones

Growing up in the 90s, public telephones played an important role in connecting people. There were only limited public telephone facilities in some areas, so the public had to queue to wait their turn. Sometimes, we had to wait very long! There were two types of public telephones: one used coins, and another used a phone card purchased at grocery stores





Mr Lover Lover  
Mr Lover Lover... Ummm...

He plays  
the same  
song so many  
times

Chadberg  
milk \_\_\_\_\_  
juice \_\_\_\_\_  
coffee \_\_\_\_\_  
soda \_\_\_\_\_  
tea \_\_\_\_\_  
water \_\_\_\_\_

## Kopitiam Jukebox

Kids these days can listen to music on their various electronic gadgets, but we had the joy of hanging out at kopitiams to listen to the coin-operated jukebox - select a song and then drop in the required coins. We would listen to our favourite song over and over again while the adults discussed current events over their coffee.



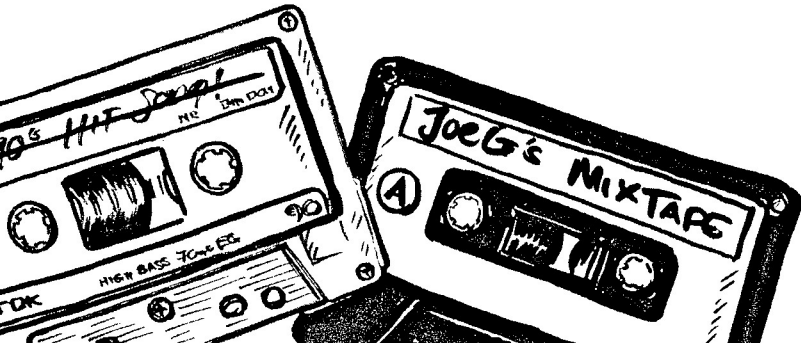
Look, Lefty!  
It comes with lyrics!

Platinum  
Best Seller  
18 Weeks on Top

LYRICS

## Cassettes

There was nothing better than sitting in front of the radio player, singing along to songs by reading the lyrics from the cassette cover, but do you also remember having to manually rewind the tape - with a pencil or a pen - when the reel got stuck? Also, kids these days have it easy too as they can play any song, anytime! Back then, we had to rewind or fast forward the tape to hear our favourite songs!





KOM  
VIDE



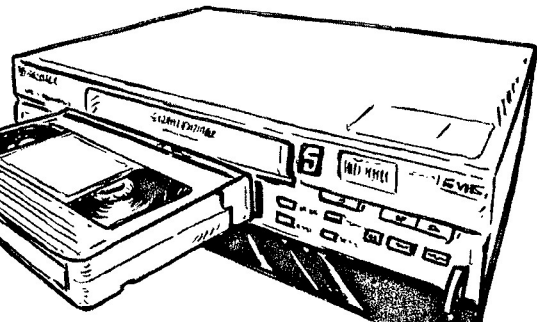
Boss,  
I want the  
latest WAF  
Series

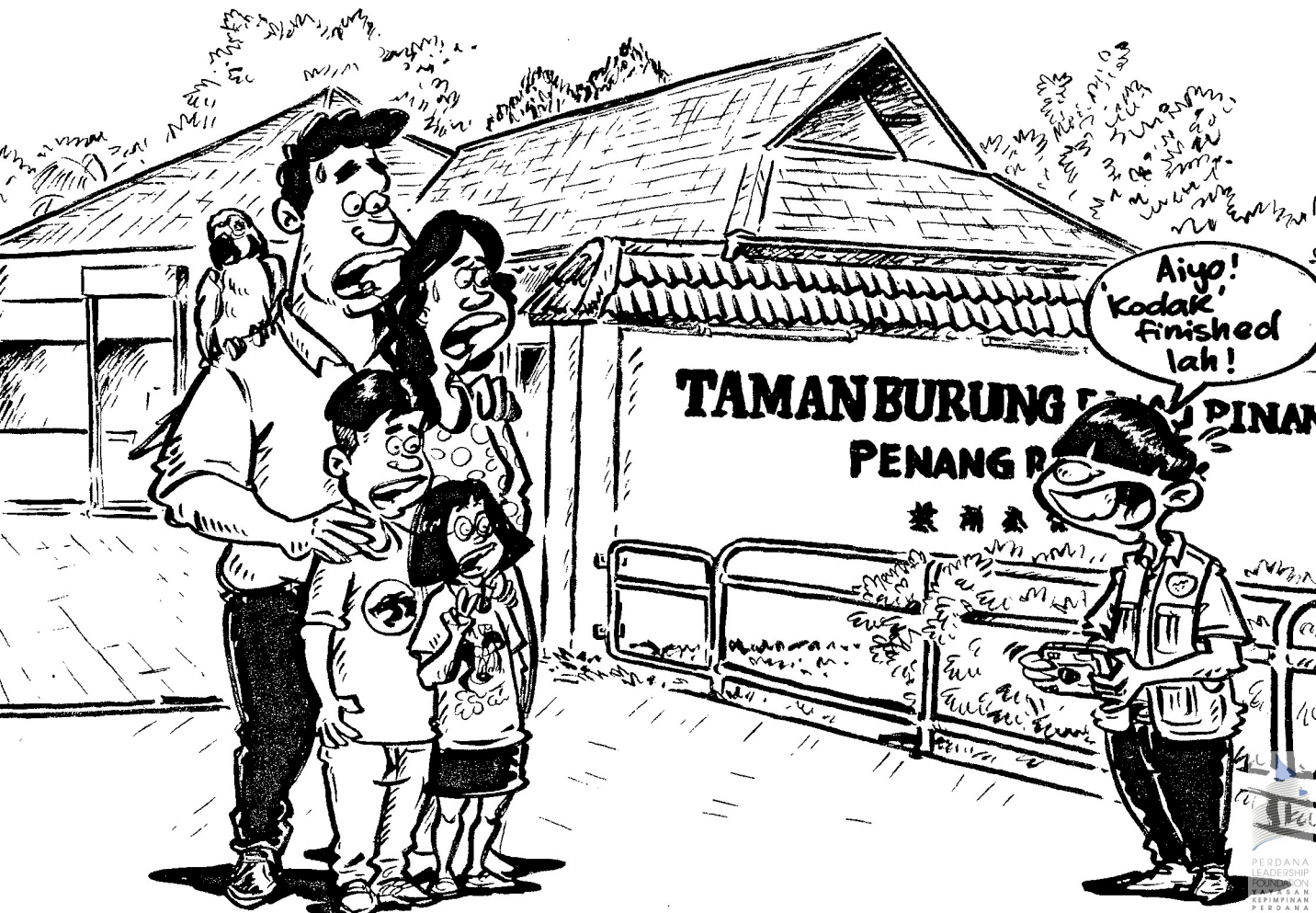
You  
already  
return the  
old ones  
or not?



## Renting VHS Tapes

Before the days of on-demand streaming, we would rent video tapes from VHS tape rental stores to watch at home. The rent of each tape was between RM2 to RM3 and the tape can be kept for up to a week. Just like borrowing books from a library, the rent will be logged in a book, and we would have to return the tapes before renting new ones. Ah, those were the good ol' days.



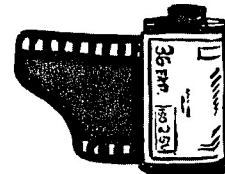
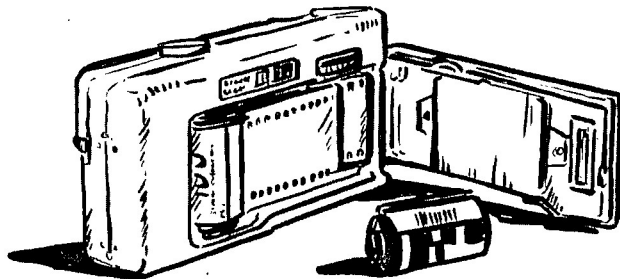


Aiyo!  
Kodak  
finished  
lah!

TAMAN BURUNG PENANG PINANG  
鳥園

## Film Camera

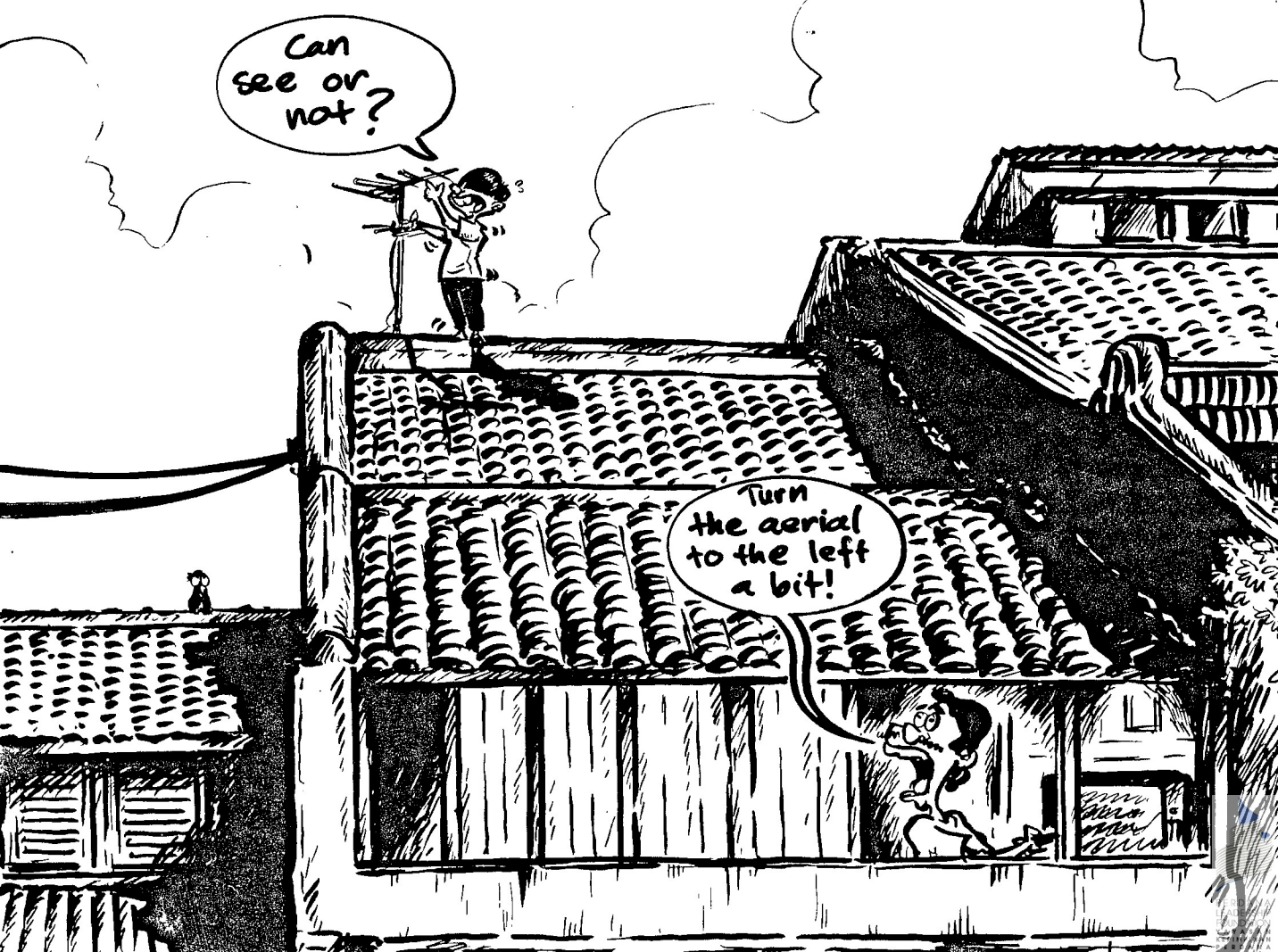
There was nothing like snapping photos with the good ol' film camera. We couldn't view the photos instantly and we couldn't simply delete ugly photos - we just had to live with them! Film cameras used film rolls to store up to 36 captured images each, which then were sent to a camera shop to be developed. When we picked them up a few days later, it was always a surprise to see how many actually came out splendidly, or blurry.



Can see or not?

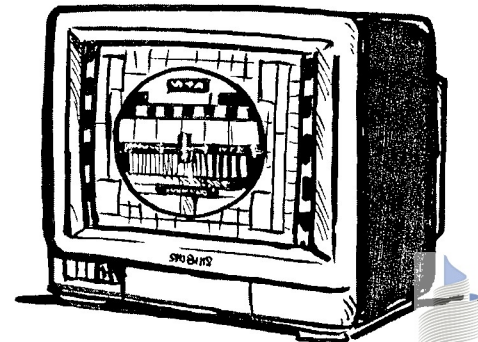


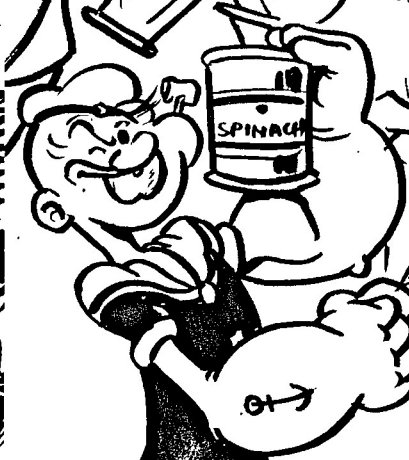
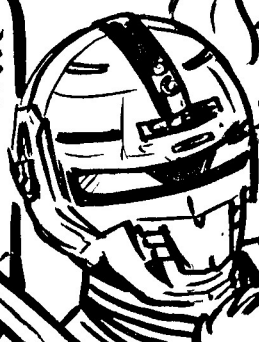
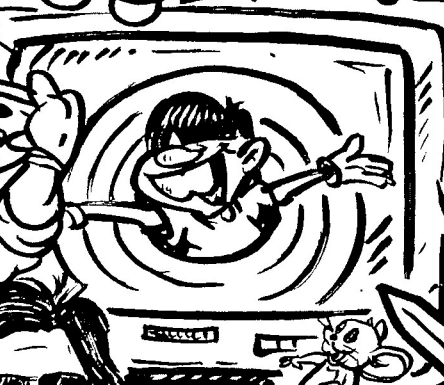
Turn the aerial to the left a bit!



## Limited TV Channels

Way back before anyone had Netflix, people had to - shockingly - actually survive on limited TV channels. TV shows ran on RTM1, RTM2, and TV3 from 6am to 12pm daily. Sometimes, when the TV display turned fuzzy, it meant the TV antenna must be readjusted, so agile family members would climb onto the rooftop to get the job done! Meanwhile, today's generation are dissatisfied despite having hundreds of channels and tv programs to choose from at the click of a button.





## Scheduled TV Shows

Instead of watching limitless shows whenever we wanted, we had to wait for a specific slot to watch scheduled cartoons and television series. Weekday evenings and Saturday mornings were for cartoons like “Popeye”, “Thundercats”, “Ninja Turtles”, “Ultraman”, “Tom and Jerry”, “Doraemon”, and many more. Prime time slots were for adults, screening shows such as “Airwolf”, “MacGyver”, and “Knight Rider”. Looking back, there was something quite sweet about knowing all our friends would be watching the same thing at the same time.

**A**

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