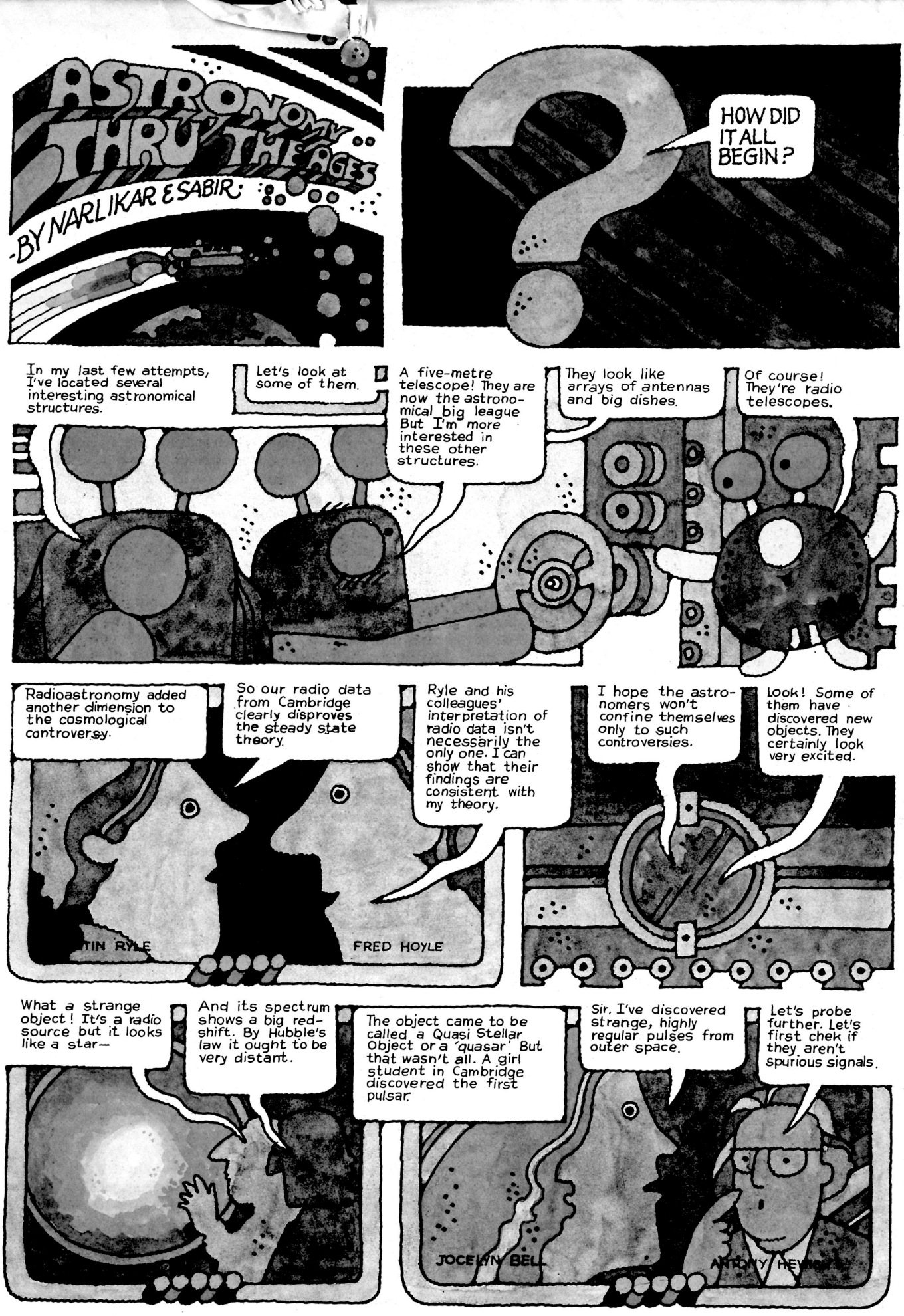
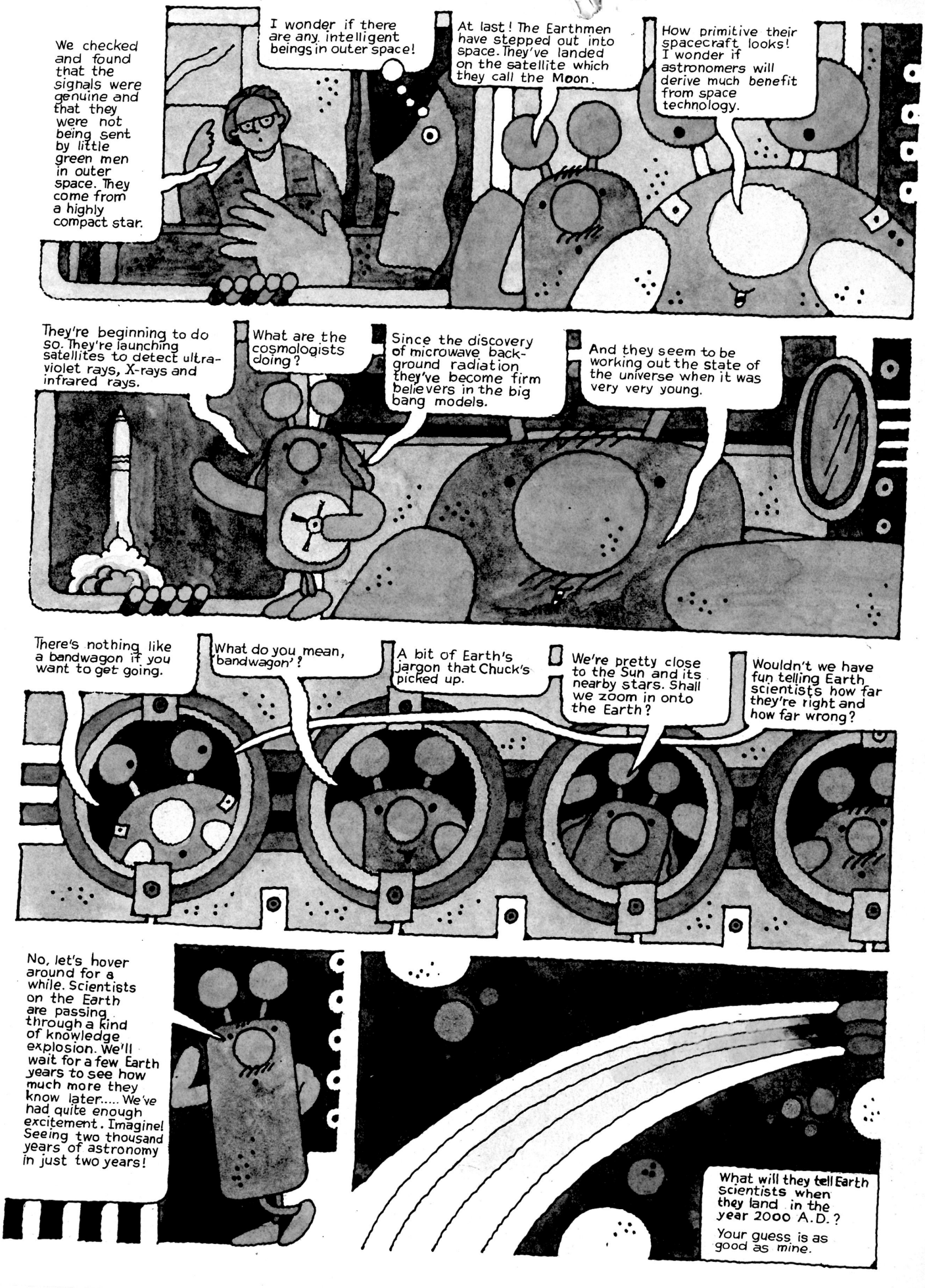

ASTRONOMY THRU THE AGES
-BY NARLIKAR & SABIR
HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?
In my last few attempts, I've located several interesting astronomical structures.
Let's look at some of them.
A five-metre telescope! They are now the astronomical big league But I'm more interested in these other structures.
They look like arrays of antennas and big dishes.
Of course! They're radio telescopes.
Radioastronomy added another dimension to the cosmological controversy.
So our radio data from Cambridge clearly disproves the steady state theory.
Ryle and his colleagues' interpretation of radio data isn't necessarily the only one. I can show that their findings are consistent with my theory.
I hope the astronomers won't confine themselves only to such controversies.
Look! Some of them have discovered new objects. They certainly look very excited.
TIN RYLE
FRED HOYLE
What a strange object! It's a radio source but it looks like a star—
And its spectrum shows a big red-shift. By Hubble's law it ought to be very distant.
The object came to be called a Quasi Stellar Object or a 'quasar' But that wasn't all. A girl student in Cambridge discovered the first pulsar.
Sir, I've discovered strange, highly regular pulses from outer space.
Let's probe further. Let's first chek if they aren't spurious signals.
JOCELYN BELL
ANTONY HEWISH


We checked and found that the signals were genuine and that they were not being sent by little green men in outer space. They come from a highly compact star.
I wonder if there are any intelligent beings in outer space!
At last! The Earthmen have stepped out into space. They've landed on the satellite which they call the Moon.
How primitive their spacecraft looks! I wonder if astronomers will derive much benefit from space technology.
They're beginning to do so. They're launching satellites to detect ultra-violet rays, X-rays and infrared rays.
What are the cosmologists doing?
Since the discovery of microwave back-ground radiation they've become firm believers in the big bang models.
And they seem to be working out the state of the universe when it was very very young.
There's nothing like a bandwagon if you want to get going.
What do you mean, 'bandwagon'?
A bit of Earth's jargon that Chuck's picked up.
We're pretty close to the Sun and its nearby stars. Shall we zoom in onto the Earth?
Wouldn't we have fun telling Earth scientists how far they're right and how far wrong?
No, let's hover around for a while. Scientists on the Earth are passing through a kind of knowledge explosion. We'll wait for a few Earth years to see how much more they know later..... We've had quite enough excitement. Imagine! Seeing two thousand years of astronomy in just two years!
What will they tell Earth scientists when they land in the year 2000 A.D.?
Your guess is as good as mine.