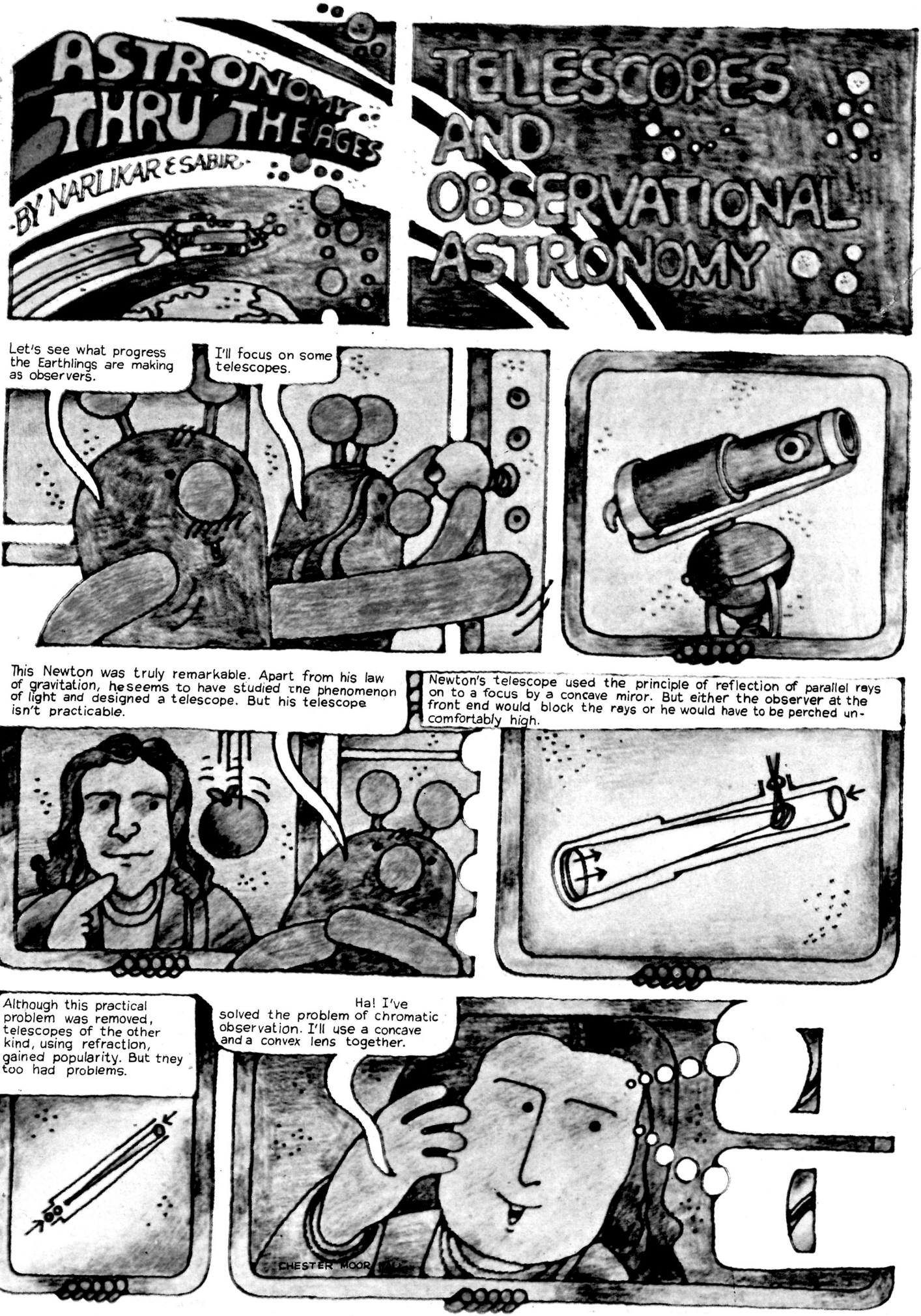
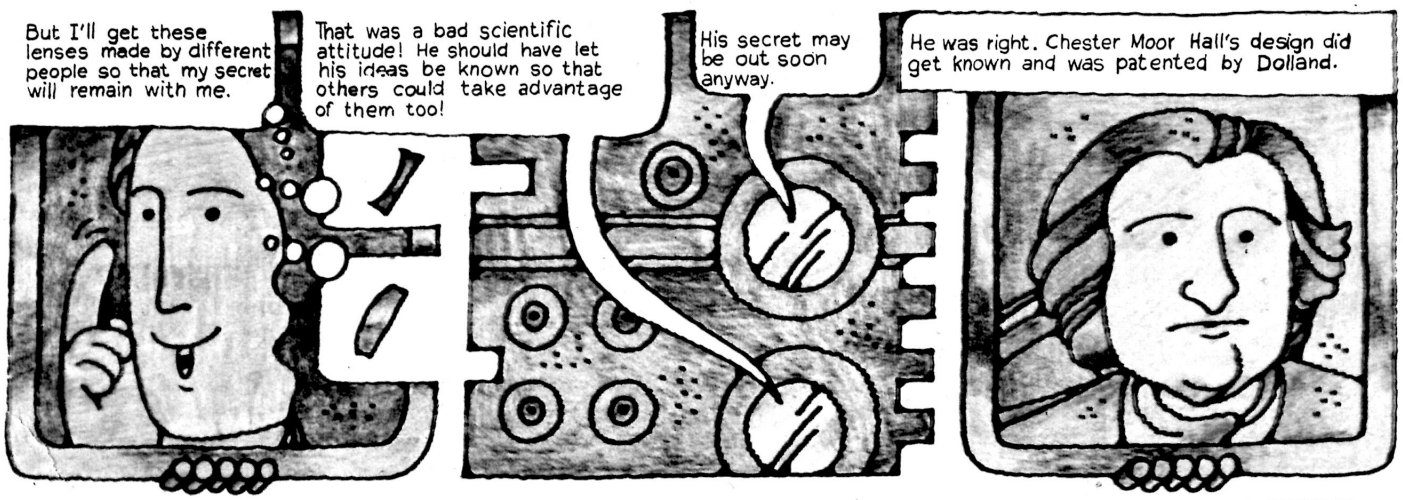
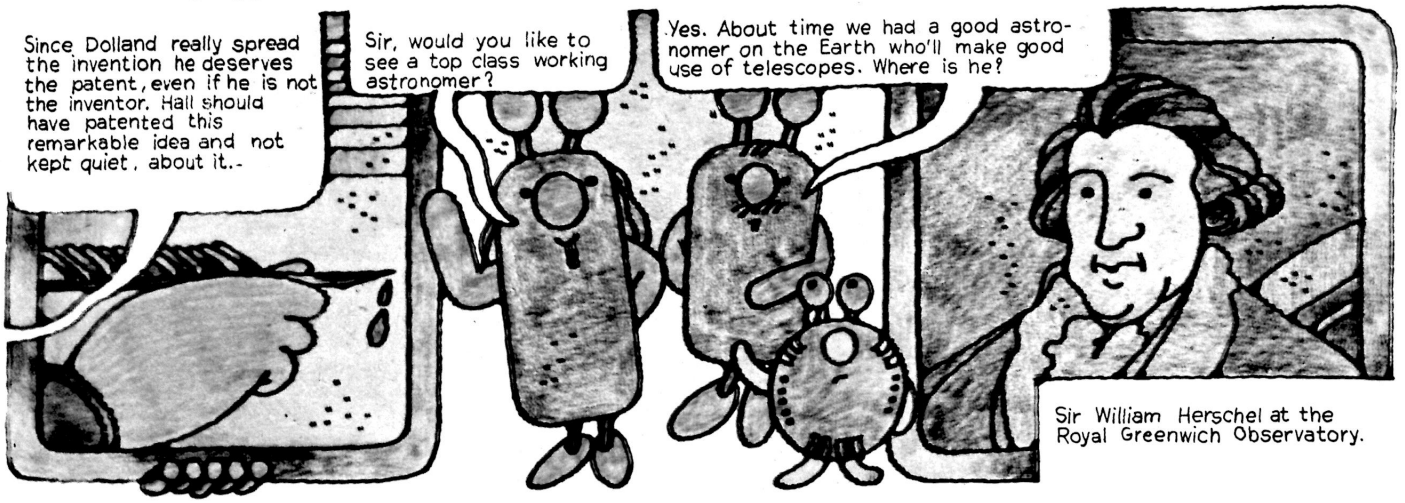
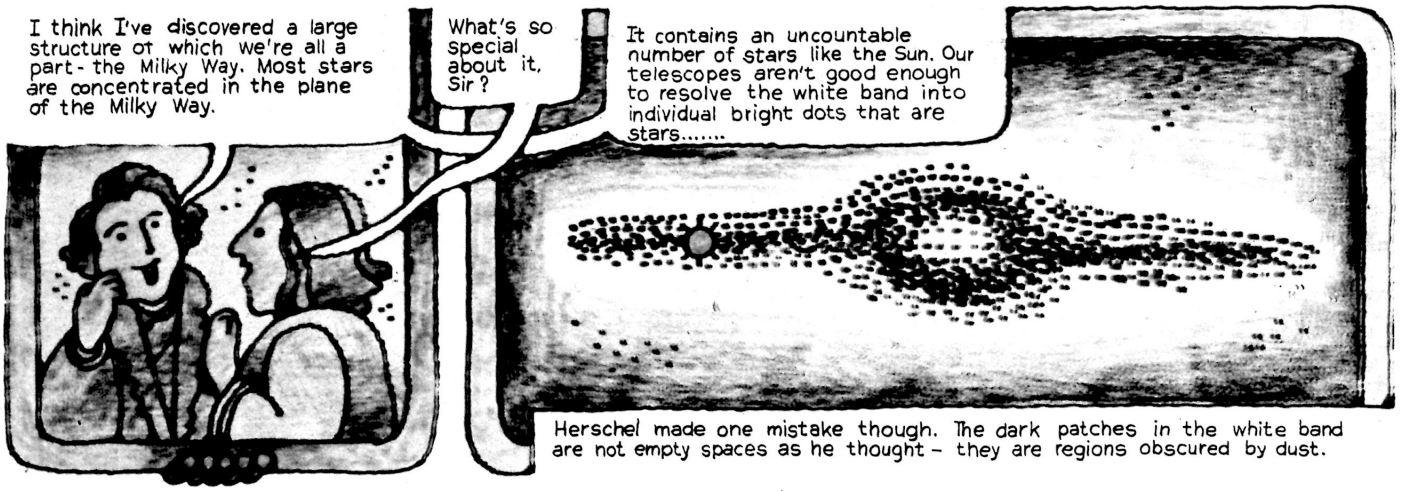
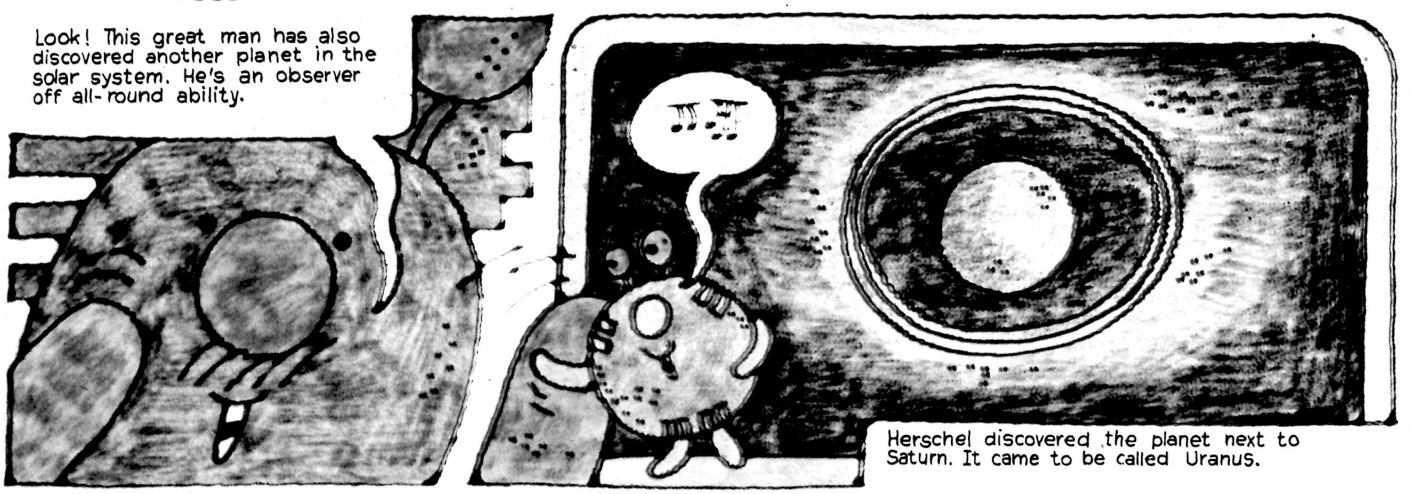

ASTRONOMY THRU THE AGES
BY NARLIKAR & SABIR
TELESCOPES AND OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY
Let's see what progress the Earthlings are making as observers.
I'll focus on some telescopes.
This Newton was truly remarkable. Apart from his law of gravitation, he seems to have studied the phenomenon of light and designed a telescope. But his telescope isn't practicable.
Newton's telescope used the principle of reflection of parallel rays on to a focus by a concave miror. But either the observer at the front end would block the rays or he would have to be perched uncomfortably high.
Although this practical problem was removed, telescopes of the other kind, using refraction, gained popularity. But they too had problems.
Ha! I've solved the problem of chromatic observation. I'll use a concave and a convex lens together.
CHESTER MOOR


But I'll get these lenses made by different people so that my secret will remain with me.
That was a bad scientific attitude! He should have let his ideas be known so that others could take advantage of them too!
His secret may be out soon anyway.
He was right. Chester Moor Hall's design did get known and was patented by Dolland.


Since Dolland really spread the invention he deserves the patent, even if he is not the inventor. Hall should have patented this remarkable idea and not kept quiet, about it.-
Sir, would you like to see a top class working astronomer?
Yes. About time we had a good astronomer on the Earth who'll make good use of telescopes. Where is he?
Sir William Herschel at the Royal Greenwich Observatory.


I think I've discovered a large structure of which we're all a part - the Milky Way. Most stars are concentrated in the plane of the Milky Way.
What's so special about it, Sir?
It contains an uncountable number of stars like the Sun. Our telescopes aren't good enough to resolve the white band into individual bright dots that are stars.....
Herschel made one mistake though. The dark patches in the white band are not empty spaces as he thought - they are regions obscured by dust.


Look! This great man has also discovered another planet in the solar system. He's an observer off all-round ability.
Herschel discovered the planet next to Saturn. It came to be called Uranus.