

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OF GIRLS IN AFRICA

Motivating through comic strips
— an example

By

Yanna Billé

Section for Science and Technology Education
Section for Technical and Vocational Education
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Contact:

Anna Maria Hoffmann-Barthes
Programme Specialist
Section for Science and Technology Education
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris 07SP
Fax. +33-145685622
Email AM.BARTHES@UNESCO.ORG

SPECIAL PROJECT ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OF GIRLS IN AFRICA

UNESCO's current Medium-Term Strategy (1996-2001) designated Women and Africa as priority target groups for action. In this context, a six-year *Special Project on Scientific, Technical and Vocational Education of Girls in Africa* was launched in 1996, with the aim to reduce gender disparities in this field. This is a joint project of the Section for Science and Technology Education and the Section for Technical and Vocational Education, undertaken in close cooperation with field offices of the region.

The overall objectives of the project are:

1. To improve the access of girls to scientific, technical and vocational education (STVE);
2. To break the barriers for girls in secondary school, notably by improving the quality and effectiveness of STVE;
3. To make an impact on the attitudes and stereotypes of teachers, which prevent girls from taking advantage of current opportunities in science and technology;
4. To promote a positive image of women in scientific and technical careers;
5. To sensitize policy makers, parents, employers and the general public about the ways in which women's full participation in science and technology can make a positive difference for current and future generations.

The importance of awareness raising

Socio-cultural barriers have been identified as being among the greatest impediment to women's access to scientific and technological education, often due to unconscious influences in the home from parental/family opinions, cultural and social norms.

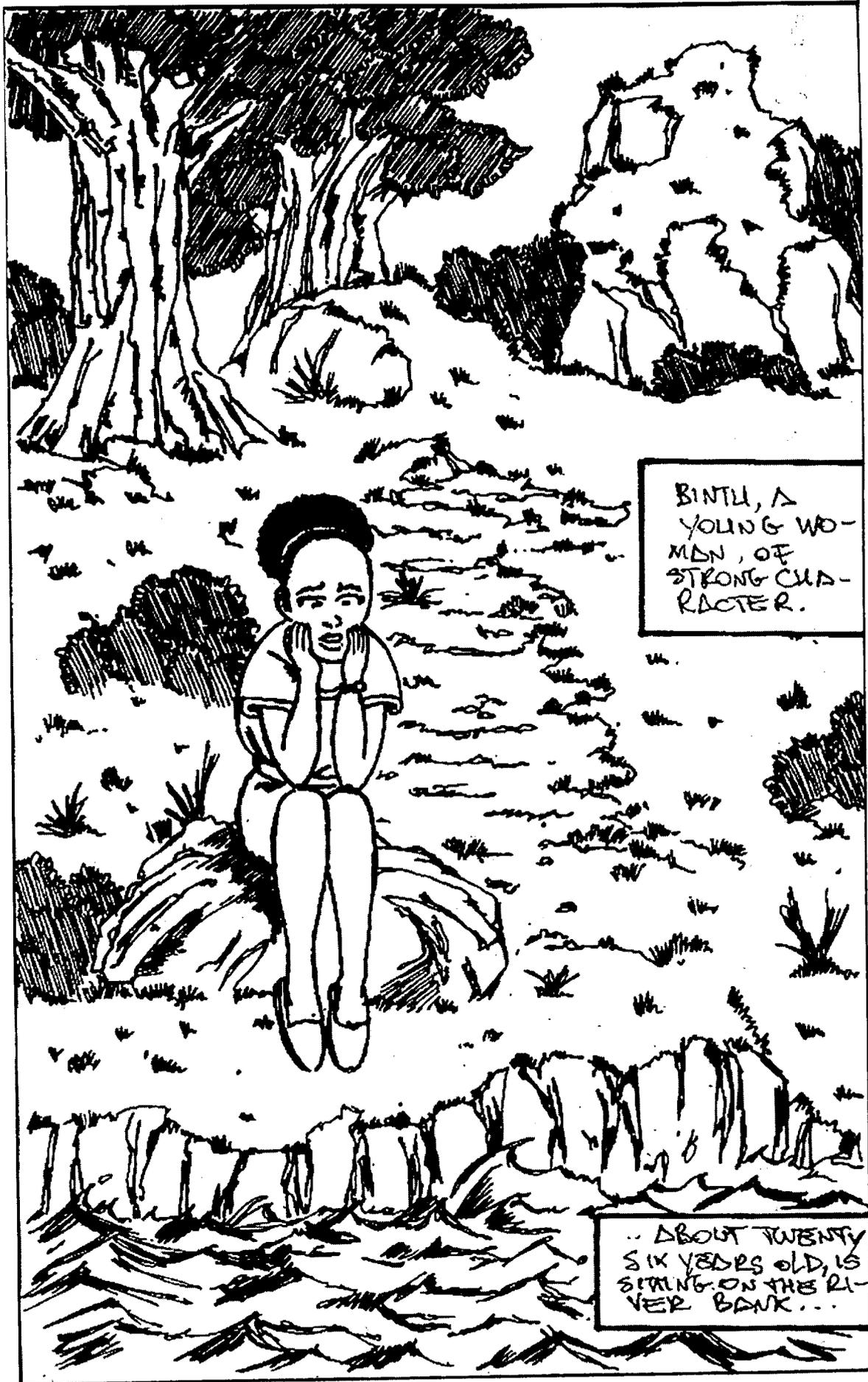
In general, the education of boys is given preference over that of girls economically troubled families preferring to invest their limited resources in the education of boys rather than of girls, since girls might eventually marry and thus transfer their knowledge, prestige and income to the family into which they marry.

The ability of girls and women is called into question: girls are discouraged from taking scientific and technical courses, since it is generally thought that they are too difficult and therefore appropriate only for men.

The general attitude of society is not supportive of women scientists, and there are stereotyped images of scientific and technical careers being incompatible with a mother's role and which, therefore, jeopardize women's chances of getting married.

These negative social attitudes create a lack of self-confidence among girls and women in their ability and motivation to opt for science. It has therefore been recommended that specific campaigns be organized to motivate girls and help them in building confidence in their ability in and attitude towards scientific and technical education and related careers.

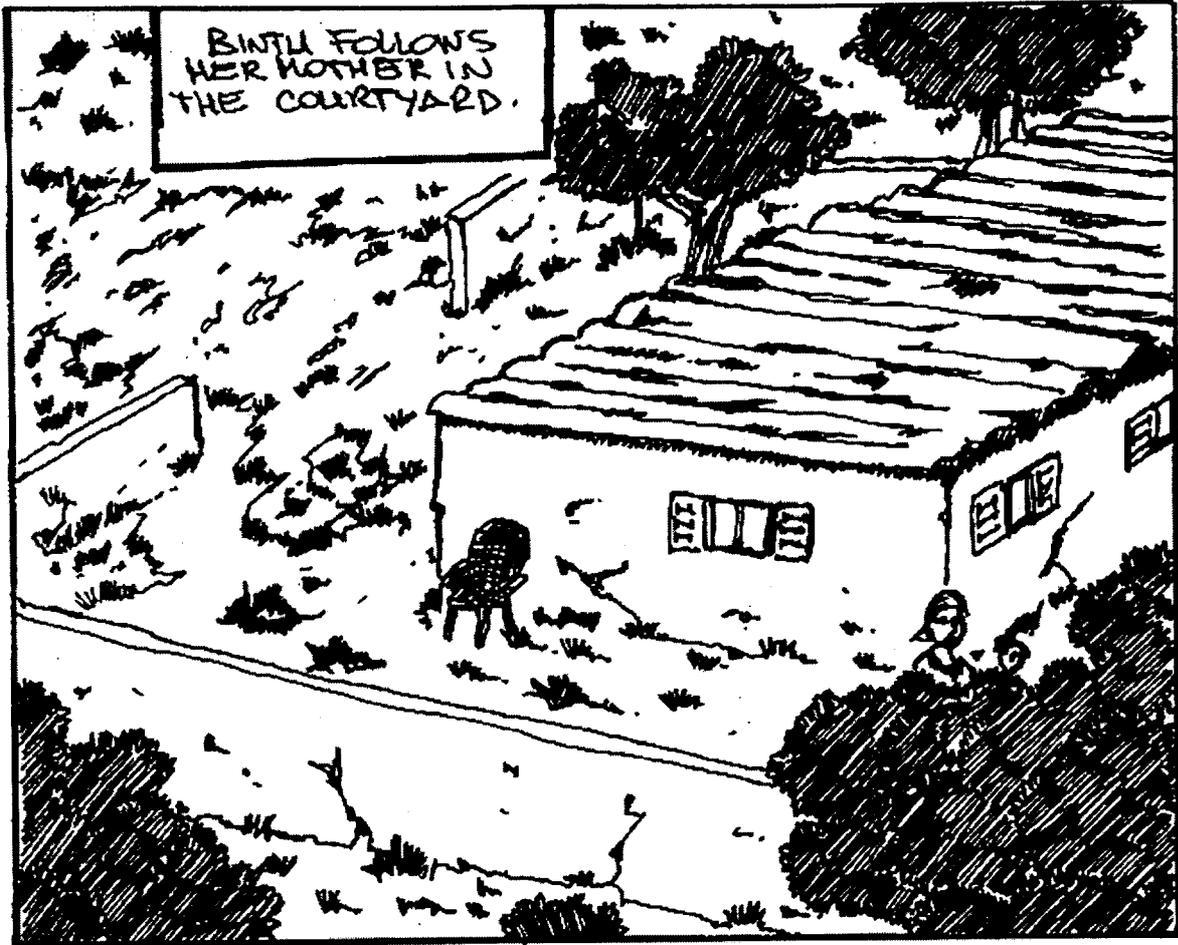
This document shows one example that could be used in this respect – awareness-raising among young girls through comic strips. The document has been elaborated by Ms Yanna Billé in the framework of the activities of an association of young Africans in France “ Mouvement Africa”.



BINTU, A
YOUNG WO-
MAN, OF
STRONG CHA-
RACTER.

... ABOUT TWENTY
SIX YEARS OLD, IS
SITTING ON THE RI-
VER BANK...







YES BUT I WANT TO HELP YOU A LITTLE . IS CAN...

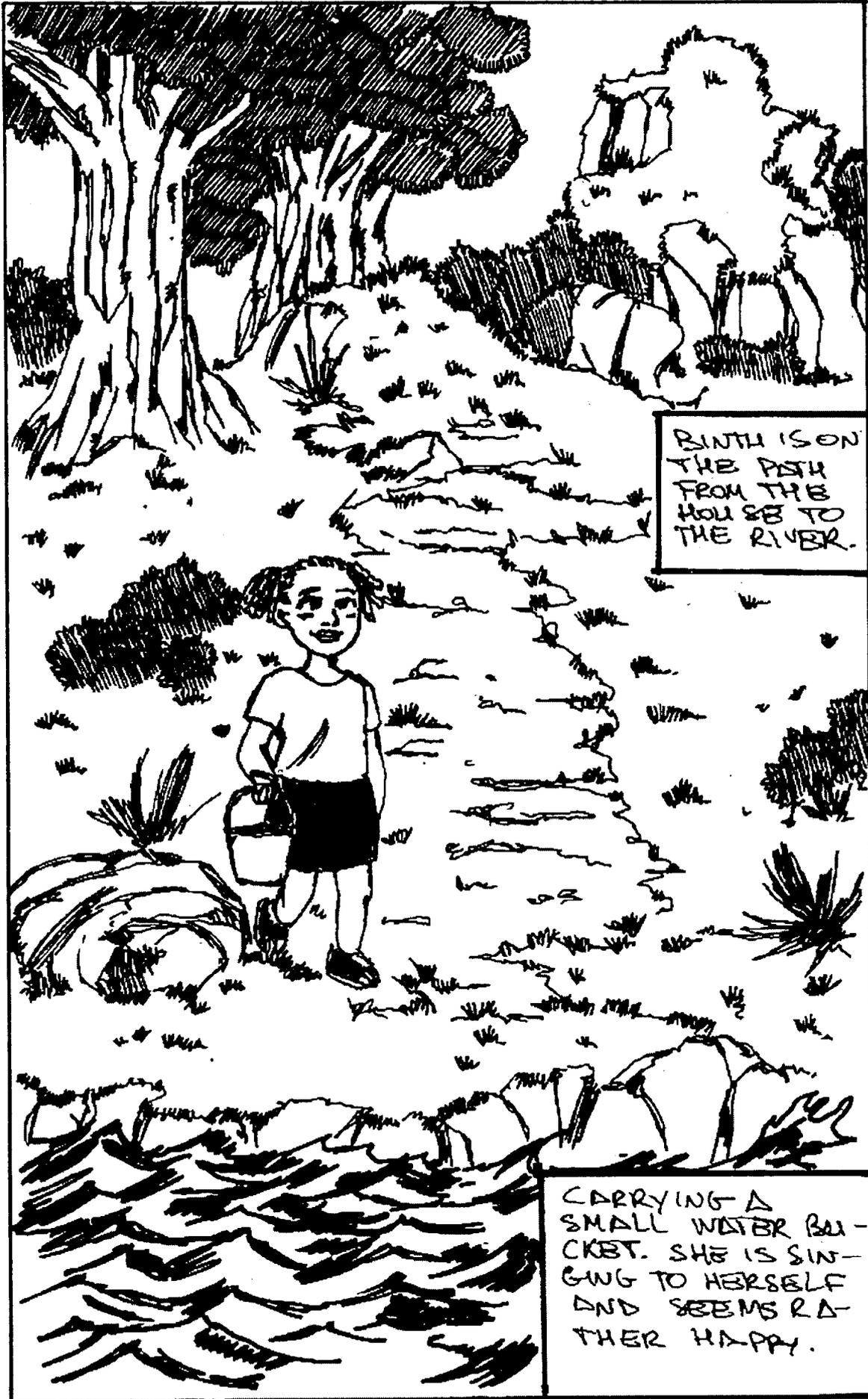


NOW, STOP IT, BINTU YOU'RE TIRING ME!



MOM, I...

OKAY, GO AND FETCH SOME WATER IF YOU WANT, BUT DON'T LINGER!



BINTH IS ON THE PATH FROM THE HOUSES TO THE RIVER.

CARRYING A SMALL WATER BUCKET. SHE IS SINGING TO HERSELF AND SEEMS RATHER HAPPY.



BIRTH COMES TO THE RIVER PUTS DOWN HER BUCKET, SITS ON THE EDGE OF THE WATER ...

AND STARTS TAKING OUT SOME OF THE CLAY FROM THE RIVER.



SHE GETS SOME SHELLS TO DECORATE THE CLAY HOUSE

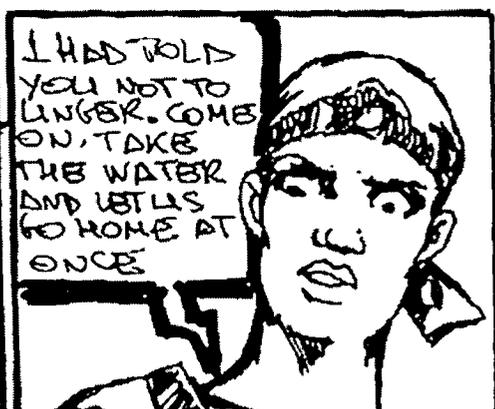
THEN SHE STARTS TO BUILD A LITTLE CLAY HOUSE WITH SURROUNDING INSIDE PLANTS BRINGING WATER FROM THE RIVER DIRECTLY TO THE HOUSE.



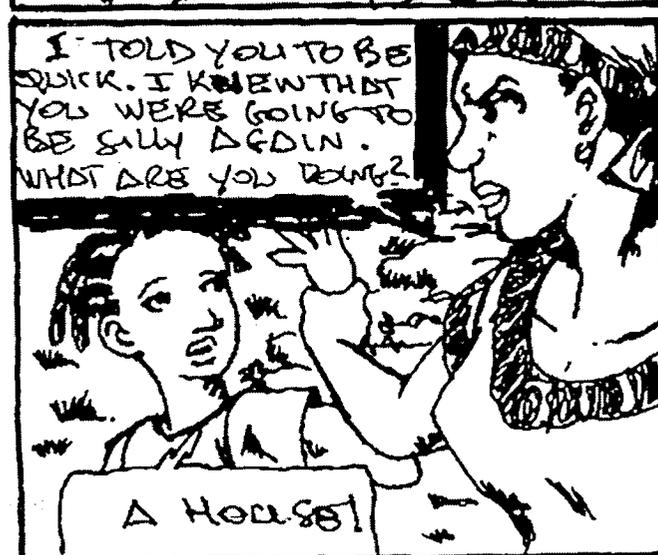
BIRTH IS HAVING FUN AS THE SUN SETS.



A LITTLE MORE WATER HERE ... A SHELL IS VERY BEAUTIFUL ...



I HAD TOLD YOU NOT TO LINGER. COME ON, TAKE THE WATER AND LET US GO HOME AT ONCE



I TOLD YOU TO BE QUICK. I KNEW THAT YOU WERE GOING TO BE SILLY AGAIN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

A HOUSE!





WHAT KIND OF HOUSE IS THIS, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HOUSE LIKE THIS?

INSTEAD OF DOING YOUR HOMEWORK, YOU BUILD CLAY HOUSES. ISN'T YOUR OWN HOUSE ENOUGH?

YOU ARE BEGINNING TO ANNOY ME BIRTH. I'D A GOING TO SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER. YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIMES AT THE RIVER SIDE!

BEFORE DINNER -
TIME, BINTU'S BRO-
THERS AND SISTERS
ARE PLAYING IN
THE COURTYARD.



SOME OF HER BROTHERS
AND SISTERS RUNNING
ALL OVER.



BINTU ALONE
IN A CORNER,
IS MAKING SO-
ME DRAWINGS
ON THE FLOOR.



PUSH HER
AND TORN-
OVER HER
DRAWINGS.



BINTU
STARTS
SOBBING
SHE IS
FURIOUS,
GETS UP
AND SHOUTS
AT HER BRO-
THERS AND
SISTERS...



.. WHO PAY NO
NOTICE, THEY
DONT CARE
ABOUT HER.



THEIR
FATHER
SEES ALL
THIS



HE
COMES
UP TO
HER

AND
COMFORTS
HER

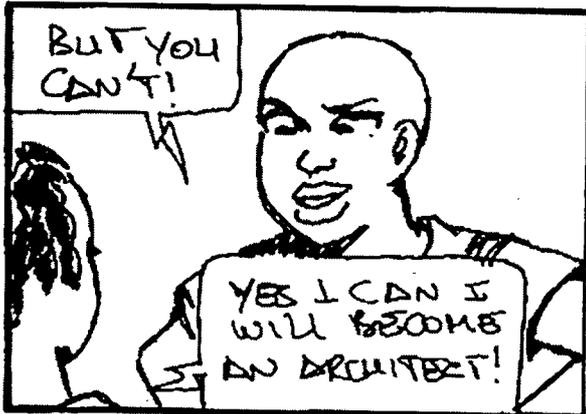


I AM GOING
TO HELP
YOU. WE
WILL DO IT
AGAIN.
WHAT DID
YOU DRAW?

THE QUEEN'S
PALACE WITH
SURROUNDING
HOUSES AND
ROADS,
LOOK...

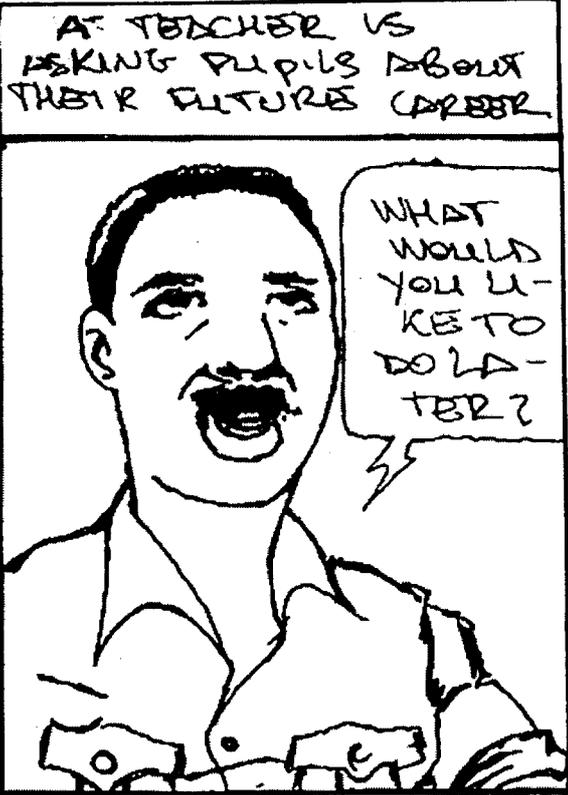
TOMORROW AT THE
PLAYGROUND'S SCHOOL







SOME YEARS HAVE PASSED, BINTU IS FOURTEEN. SHE IS IN THE 9TH GRADE.



A TEACHER IS ASKING PUPILS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE CAREER

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO LATER?

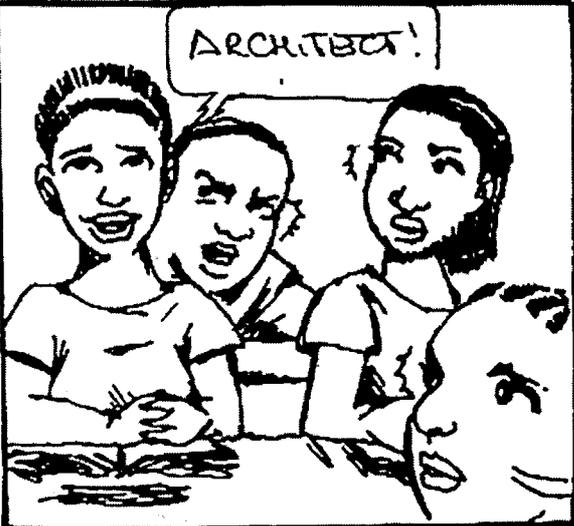


SECRETARIST!

COMMERCE!

HAIR-DRESSING!

DRESS MAKING!



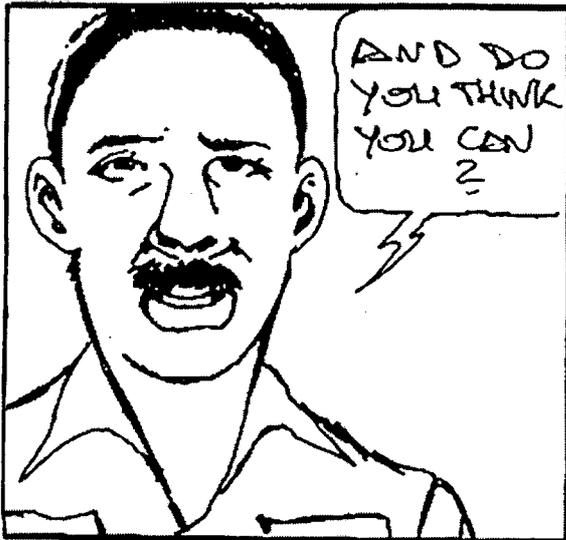
ARCHITECT!



OH... REBUK?



YES SIR!



AND DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ?



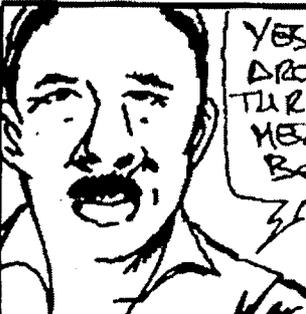
IT'S WHAT I LIKE, SIR. MY DREAM IS TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT !



BUT THIS IS A DREAM MY GIRL. REALITY IS DIFFERENT I DON'T THINK THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR IT. SCHOOLS IN EUROPE ARE EXPENSIVE!



THERE ARE ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS IN AFRICA!



YES, BUT ARCHITECTURE IS MEANT FOR BOYS!



WHY?

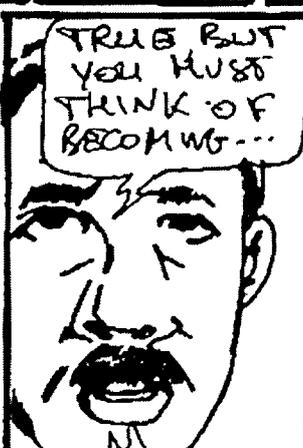


BECAUSE SCIENCE IS TOO DIFFICULT AND DOES NOT INTEREST GIRLS!



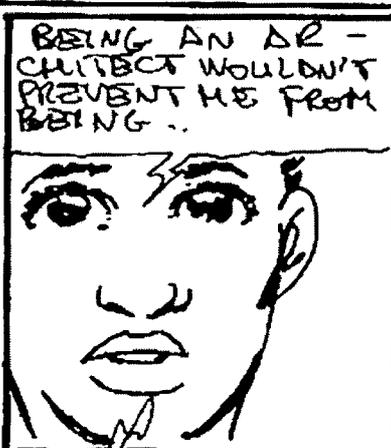
BUT I LIKE SCIENCE!

AND I HAVE VERY GOOD MARKS!



TRUE BUT YOU MUST THINK OF BECOMING...

A GOOD MOTHER

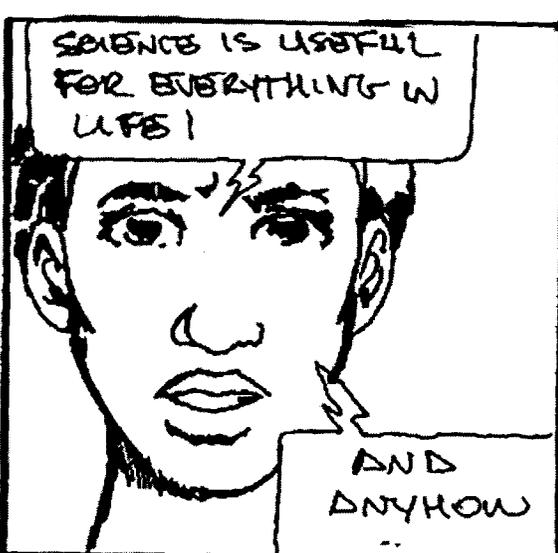


BEING AN ARCHITECT WOULDN'T PREVENT ME FROM BEING ..

A GOOD MOTHER!

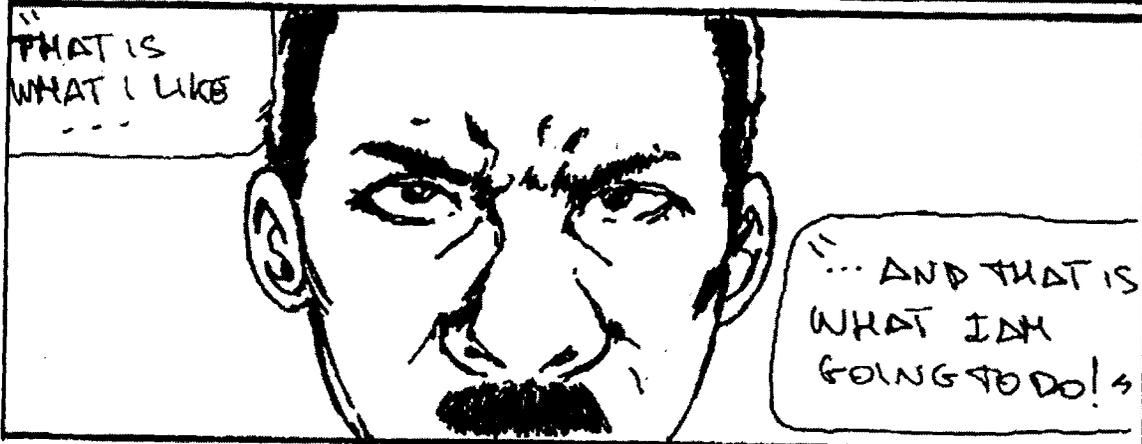


I DON'T SEE
WHAT GOOD
SCIENCE WOULD
DO FOR!



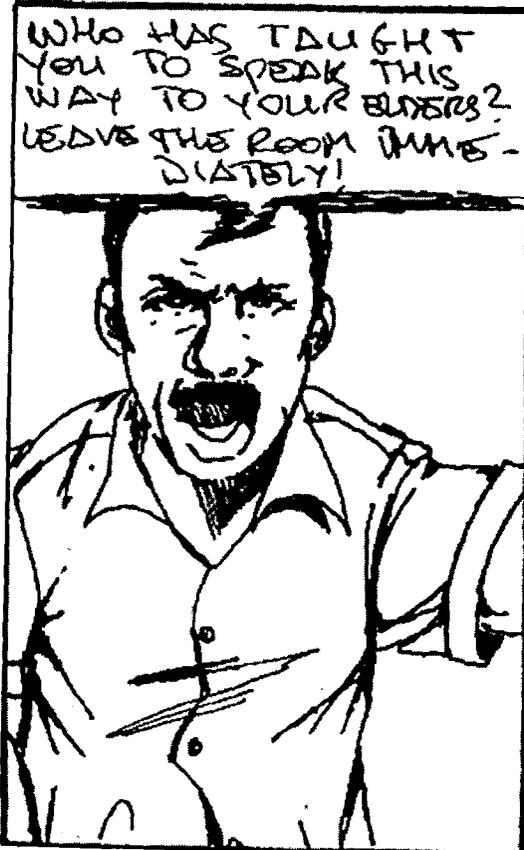
SCIENCE IS USEFUL
FOR EVERYTHING IN
LIFE!

AND
ANYHOW



THAT IS
WHAT I LIKE

... AND THAT IS
WHAT I AM
GOING TO DO!



WHO HAS TAUGHT
YOU TO SPEAK THIS
WAY TO YOUR ELDERS?
LEAVE THE ROOM IMMEDIATELY!



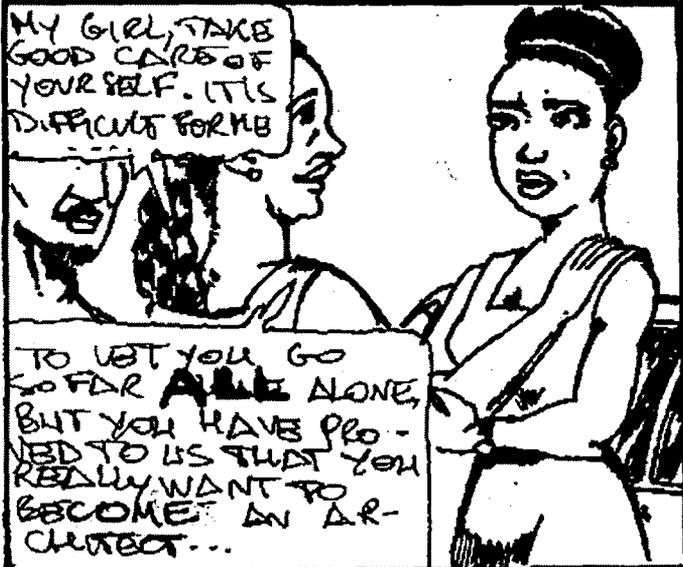
YOU DREAM
TOO MUCH. YOU
WANT TO BITE
OFF MORE THAN
YOU CAN CHEW.
YOU'RE CRAZY!

BINTU IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD. SHE IS SITTING IN CAR SURROUNDED BY HER FAMILY.

BINTU HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED HER A-LEVEL, AND HAS BEEN AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP TO DO ARCHITECTURE. SHE IS LEAVING FOR THE CITY.



MY GIRL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME



TO LET YOU GO SO FAR ~~ALL~~ ALONE, BUT YOU HAVE PROMISED TO US THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT...



... AND I SUPPORT YOU IN THIS!

YOU ARE LUCKY THAT YOUR UNCLE CAN LOSE YOU!



SO BEHAVE LIKE A WELL BROUGHT UP GIRL!

OKAY, BUT DON'T WORRY. YOU WILL BE PROUD OF ME!



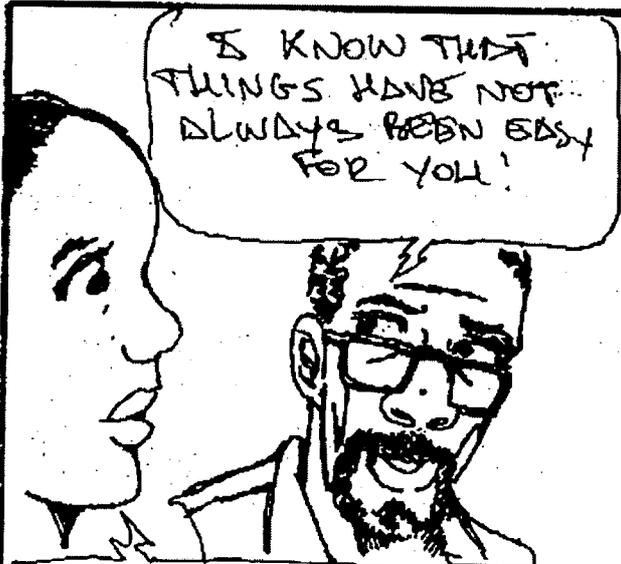
BINTU HAS DONE EXTREMELY WELL IN HER ARCHITECTURE STUDIES. LIFE WASN'T ALWAYS EASY. IN ORDER TO PURSUE HER STUDIES SHE HAS HAD TO DO JOBS TO EARN HER LIVING. IN ADDITION SHE HAS KNOWN LONELINESS AND ALL THE ACCOMPANYING DIFFICULTIES.



SIX YEARS LATER, SHE IS BACK WITH A DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE.

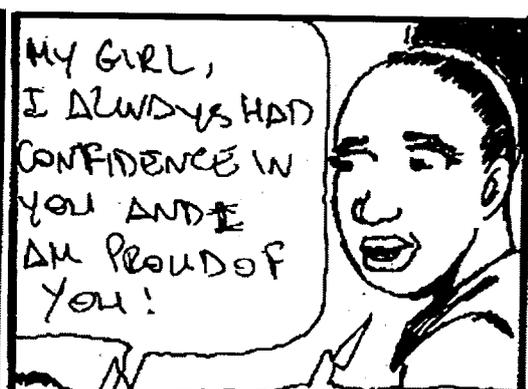
I AM HAPPY THAT YOU ARE BACK!

HER FATHER COMES AND SITS DOWN BY HER SIDE

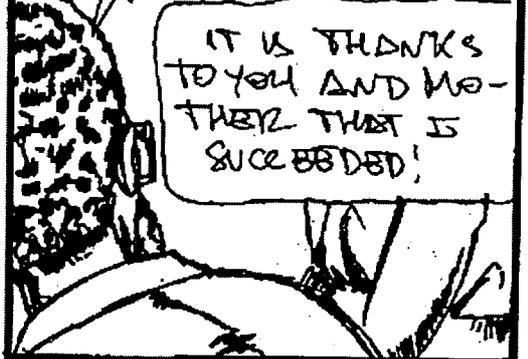


I KNOW THAT THINGS HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN EASY FOR YOU!

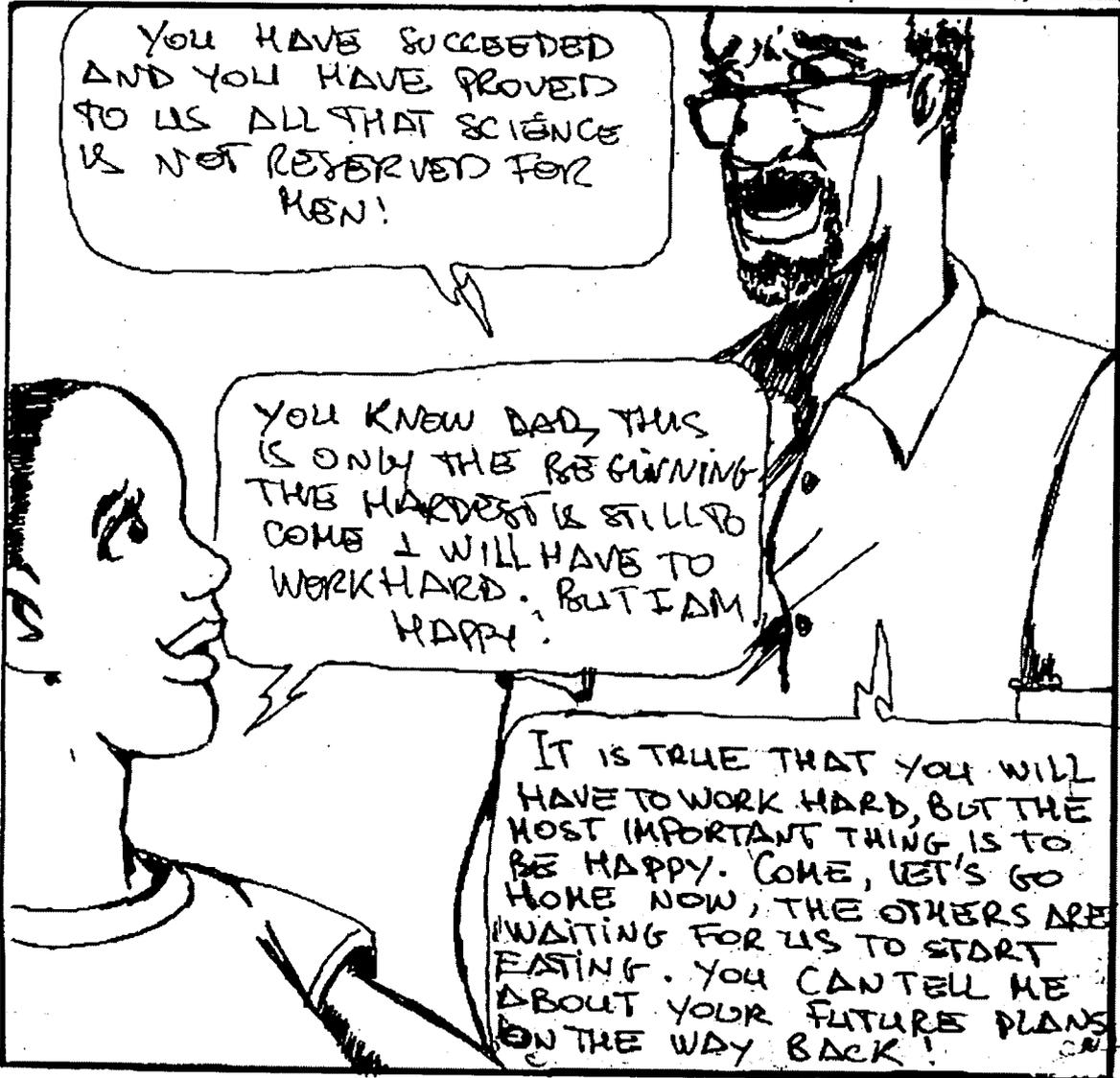
IT IS TRUE THAT I HAD TO BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY IN MY DREAMS TO SUCCEED!
- DED!



MY GIRL, I ALWAYS HAD CONFIDENCE IN YOU AND I AM PROUD OF YOU!



IT IS THANKS TO YOU AND MOTHER THAT I SUCCEEDED!

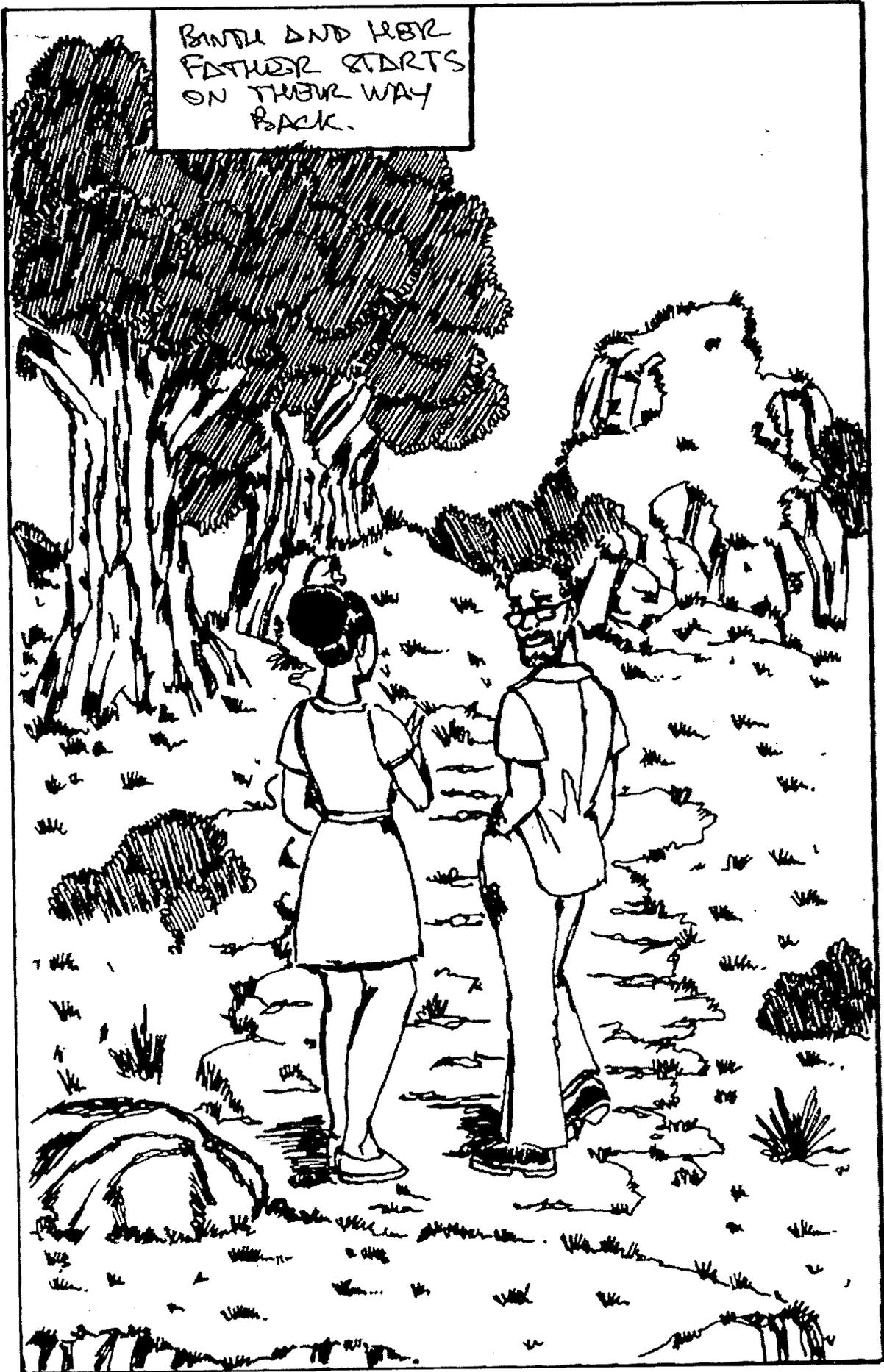


YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED AND YOU HAVE PROVED TO US ALL THAT SCIENCE IS NOT RESERVED FOR MEN!

YOU KNOW DAD, THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING THE HARDEST IS STILL TO COME I WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD, BUT I AM HAPPY!

IT IS TRUE THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE HAPPY. COME, LET'S GO HOME NOW, THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR US TO START EATING. YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS ON THE WAY BACK!

BINTU AND HER
FATHER STARTS
ON THEIR WAY
BACK.



Motivating
through
comic strips

FORMATION SCIENTIFIQUE, TECHNIQUE ET PROFESSIONNELLE DES JEUNES FILLES EN AFRIQUE

Motiver à l'aide des bandes dessinées
– un exemple

Par
Yanna Billé

Section de l'enseignement des sciences et de la technologie
Section de l'enseignement technique et professionnel
Document de travail 1999

Contact :

Anna Maria Hoffmann-Barthes

Spécialiste de programme

Section de l'enseignement des sciences et de la technologie

UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy

75352 Paris 07 SP

Fax. +33-145685622

Email AM.BARTHES@UNESCO.ORG

PROJET SPECIAL SUR LA FORMATION SCIENTIFIQUE, TECHNIQUE ET PROFESSIONNELLE DES JEUNES FILLES EN AFRIQUE

L'actuelle Stratégie à moyen terme de l'UNESCO (1996-2001) désignait les femmes et l'Afrique comme groupes cibles prioritaires. Dans ce contexte, un Projet spécial de six ans sur la formation scientifique, technique et professionnelle des jeunes filles en Afrique a été lancé en 1996 en vue de réduire les disparités entre les sexes dans ce domaine. Il s'agit d'un projet conjoint de la Section de l'enseignement des sciences et de la technologie et de la Section de l'enseignement technique et professionnel, réalisé en étroite coopération avec les bureaux hors Siège de la région.

Les objectifs globaux de ce projet sont les suivants :

1. assurer aux jeunes filles un meilleur accès à l'enseignement scientifique, technique et professionnel ;
2. supprimer les obstacles que rencontrent les jeunes filles dans l'enseignement secondaire, notamment en améliorant la qualité et en renforçant l'efficacité de l'enseignement scientifique, technique et professionnel ;
3. influencer sur les mentalités et les préjugés des enseignants qui empêchent les jeunes filles de tirer parti des possibilités actuellement offertes dans les domaines de la science et de la technologie ;
4. promouvoir une image positive de la femme scientifique ou technicienne ;
5. sensibiliser les responsables des politiques, les parents, les employeurs et le grand public aux possibles effets positifs d'une pleine participation des femmes aux activités scientifiques et technologiques pour les générations actuelles et futures.

L'importance de la sensibilisation

Il a été constaté que des facteurs socioculturels comptent parmi les principaux obstacles à l'accès des femmes à l'enseignement scientifique et technique. Ils s'expliquent souvent par des influences subies inconsciemment au sein même du foyer et liées aux opinions des parents ou de la famille ou à des normes culturelles et sociales.

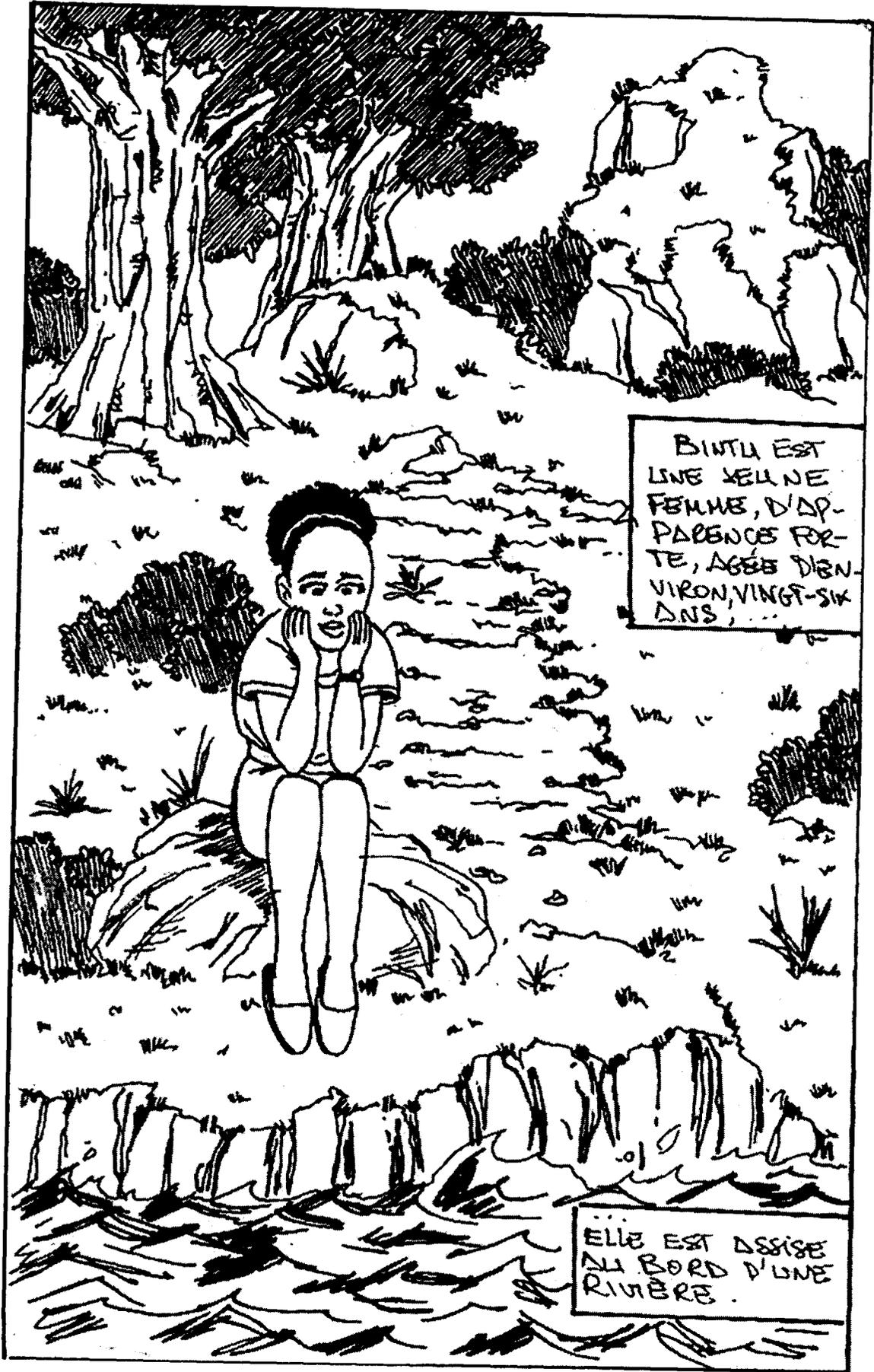
En général, les familles qui sont confrontées à des problèmes financiers préfèrent investir les maigres ressources dont elles disposent dans l'éducation des garçons plutôt que dans celle des filles, celles-ci étant à terme susceptibles de se marier et, dès lors, de faire bénéficier leur nouvelle famille de leurs connaissances, de leur prestige et de leur revenu.

L'aptitude des jeunes filles et des femmes est mise en cause : on les dissuade de suivre un enseignement scientifique et technique généralement considéré comme trop difficile et ne convenant donc qu'aux garçons.

Les femmes scientifiques ne trouvent dans l'ensemble aucun appui dans la société, d'autant plus qu'on s'imagine que les carrières scientifiques et techniques sont incompatibles avec le rôle de mère et diminuent par conséquent les chances de se marier.

Ces attitudes sociales négatives font douter les jeunes filles et les femmes de leur capacité de se consacrer à la science et tendent à les démotiver. Il a donc été recommandé que des campagnes spécifiques devraient être organisées pour motiver les jeunes filles et les aider à aborder avec confiance et intérêt la perspective d'études scientifiques et techniques et de carrières dans ces branches.

Ce document tente de montrer un exemple d'une activité de sensibilisation dans ce sens – la sensibilisation des jeunes filles à l'aide des bandes dessinées. Il a été élaboré par Mlle Yanna Billé dans le cadre de l'action d'une association des jeunes Africains en France « Mouvement Africa ».

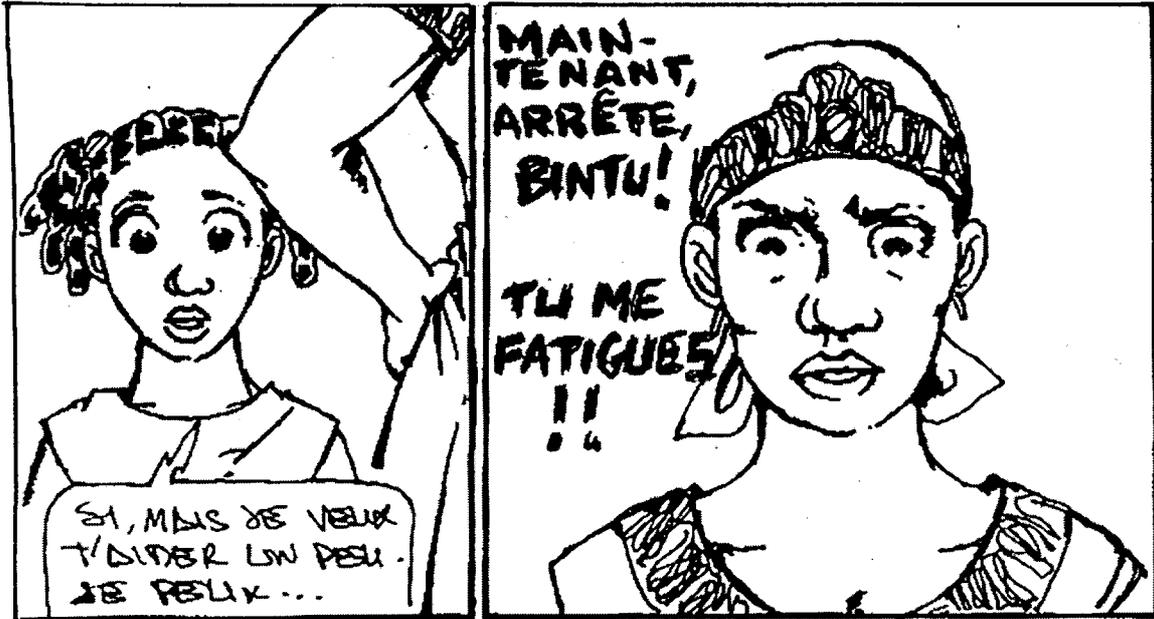


BINTU EST
UNE JEUNE
FEMME, D'AP-
PARÉNCES FOR-
TE, AGÉE D'EN-
VIRON, VINGT-SIX
ANS, ...

ELLE EST ASSISE
AU BORD D'UNE
RIVIÈRE.









BINH A
PRIS LE SENTI-
ER QUI MÈNE
DE LA MAISON
À LA RIVIÈRE.

ELLE TRANSPORTE
UN PETIT SEAU
D'EAU. ELLE EST
PLUTÔT JOYEUSE
ET CHANTONNE
CHEMIN FAISANT
BINH DREME À LA
RIVIÈRE



ELLE DÉPOSE SON PETIT SEAU, S'INSTALLE AU BORD DE L'EAU ET SE MET À PRENDRE DE L'ARGILE

...DANS LA RIVIÈRE ET EN MET SUFFISAMMENT SUR LE BORD.



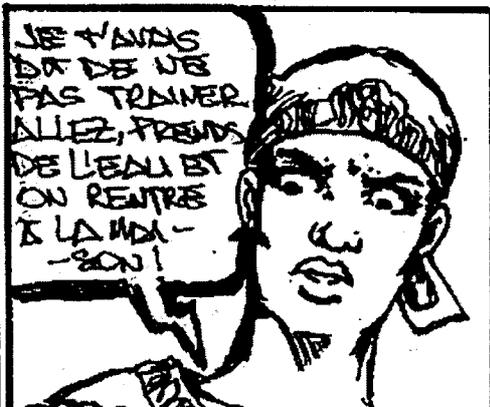
ELLE RECUIT DES COQUILLAGES ET ORNE SA MAISON.

ENSUITE ELLE SE LANCE DANS LA CONSTRUCTION D'UNE MAISON ET INSTAURE DES SYSTEMES QUI AMÈNENT L'EAU DE LA RIVIÈRE À SA MAISON SANS LA DÉTRUIRE

BIEN S'AMUSÉ BIEN, LE SOLEIL SE COUCHE



UN PEU PLUS D'ÉDUCATION... UN COQUILLAGE C'EST TRÈS BEAU...



JE T'AVAIS DIT DE NE PAS TRAINER ALLEZ, PRENDS DE L'EAU ET ON RENTRE À LA MAISON!



JE T'AVAIS DIT DE FAIRE VITE JE SAVAIS QUE TU ÉTAIS ENCORE EN TRAIN DE FAIRE DES BÊTES MAIS QU'EST CE QUE TU FAIS

L'UNE MAISON!





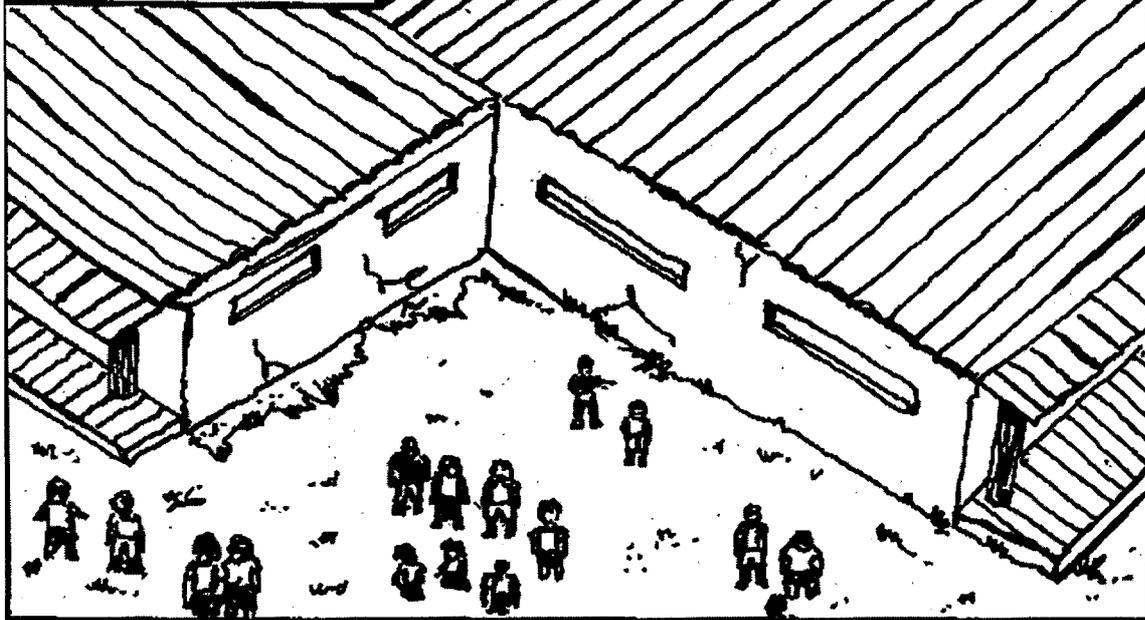
LIVE MAISON,
QUELLE MAISON, TU
AS DÉJÀ VU DES
MAISONS COMME
ÇA ?

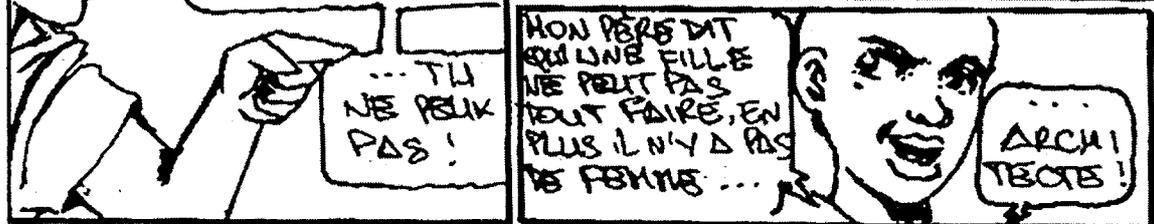
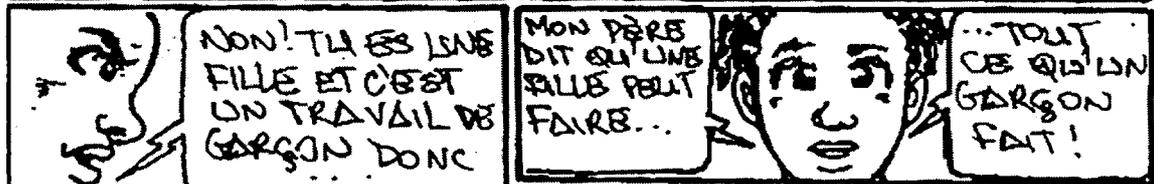
AU LIEU DE FAIRE
TES DEVOIRS TU
FAS DES MAISONS
CELLE DANS LA-
QUELLE TU VIS
NE TE SUFFIT PAS ?

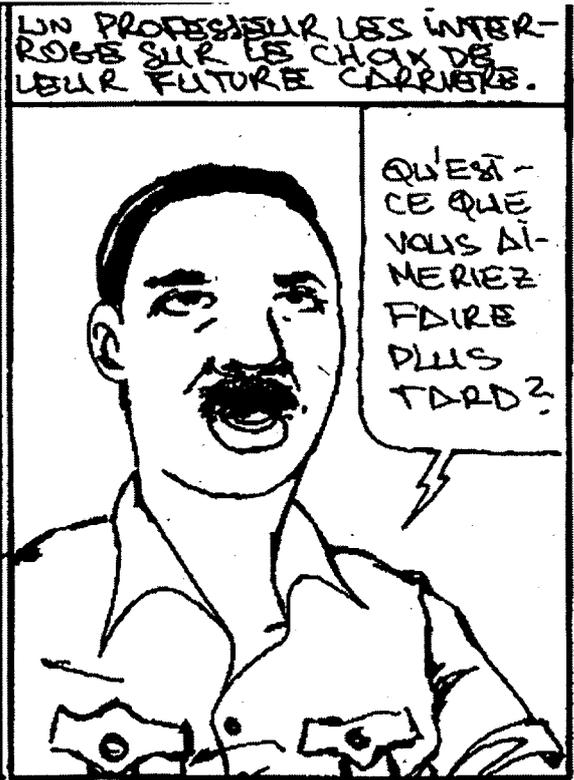
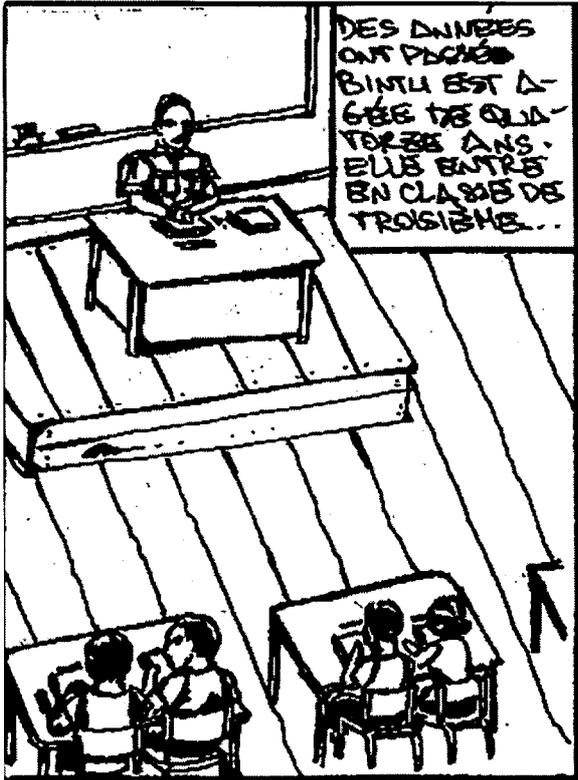
JE VAIS FINIR
PAR EN PARLER
À TON PÈRE, TU
AS BESOIN DE
TEMPS À LA RIVI-
ÈRE !

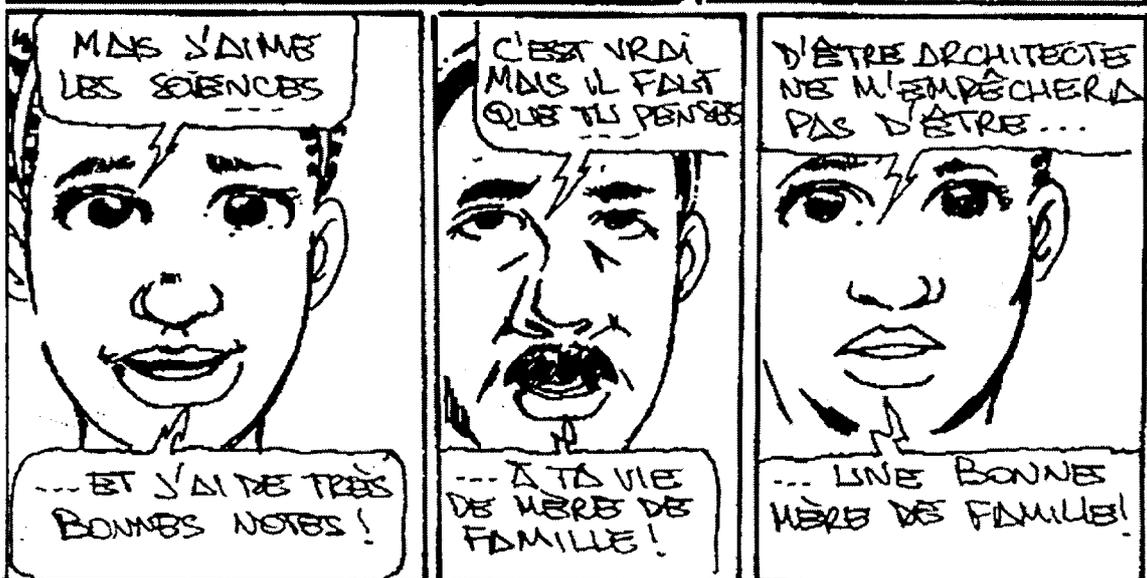
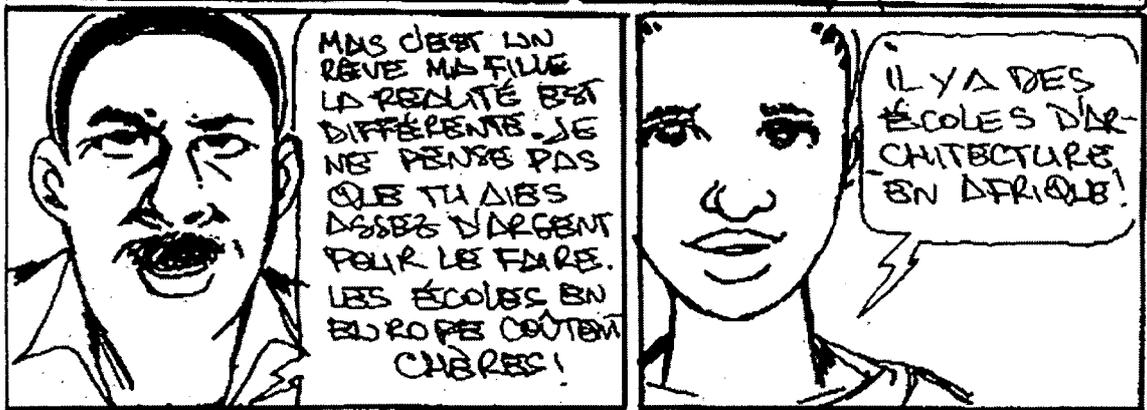


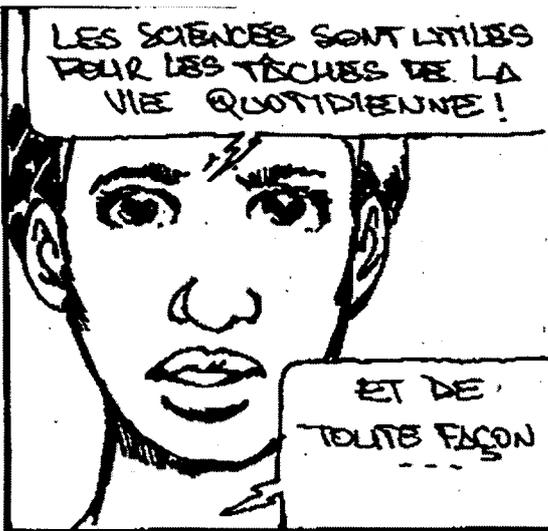
LA COUR DE L'ÉCOLE
LE LUNDI MATIN.

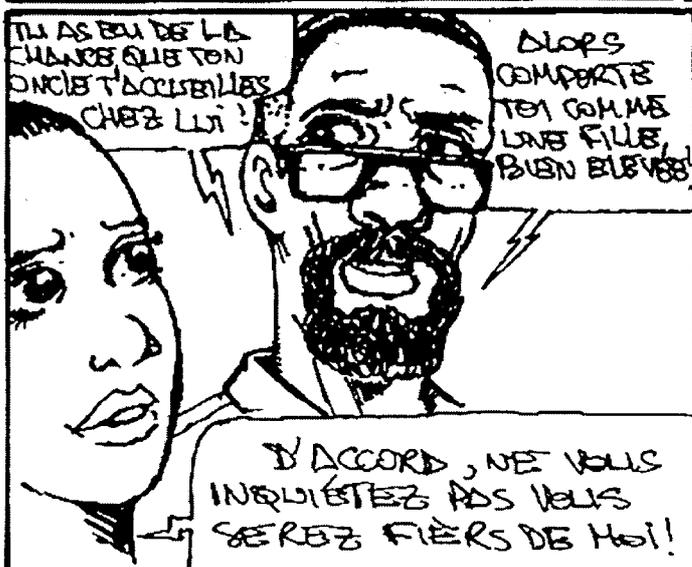
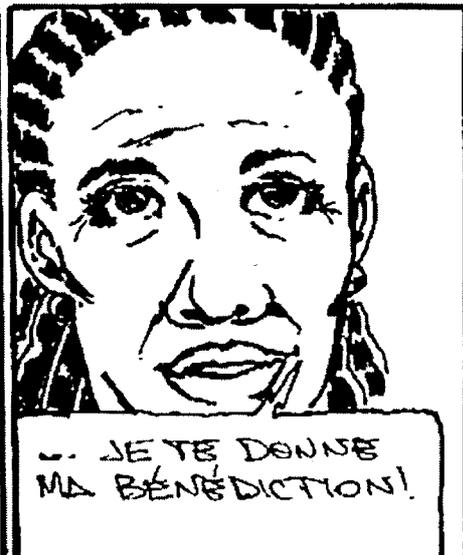
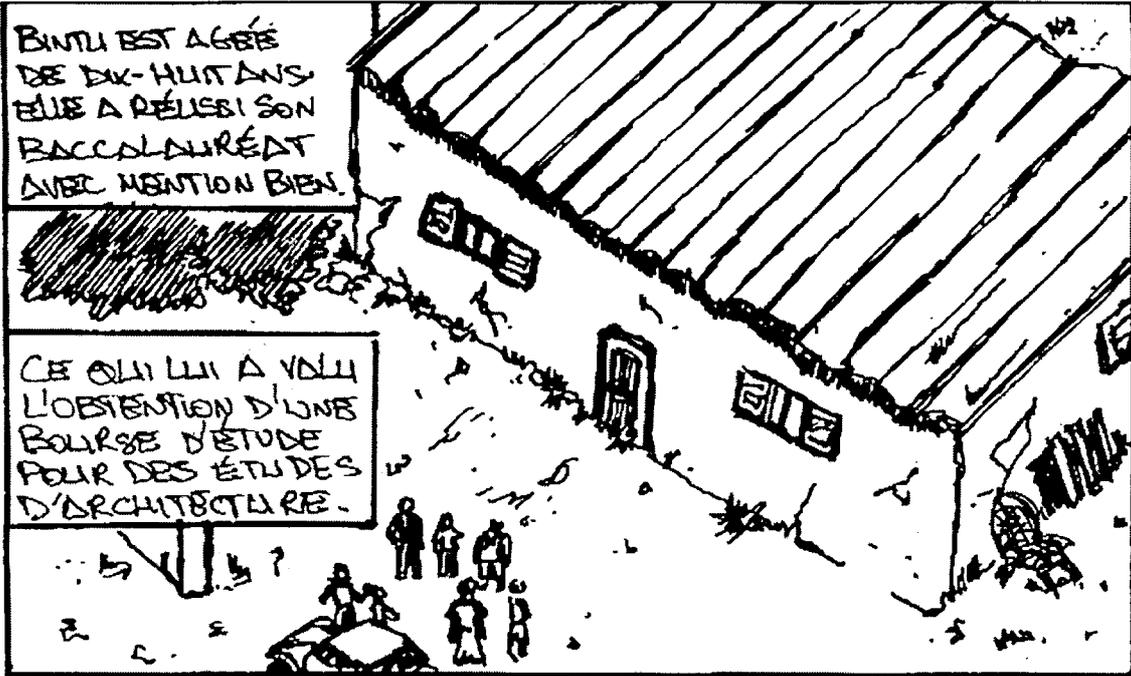












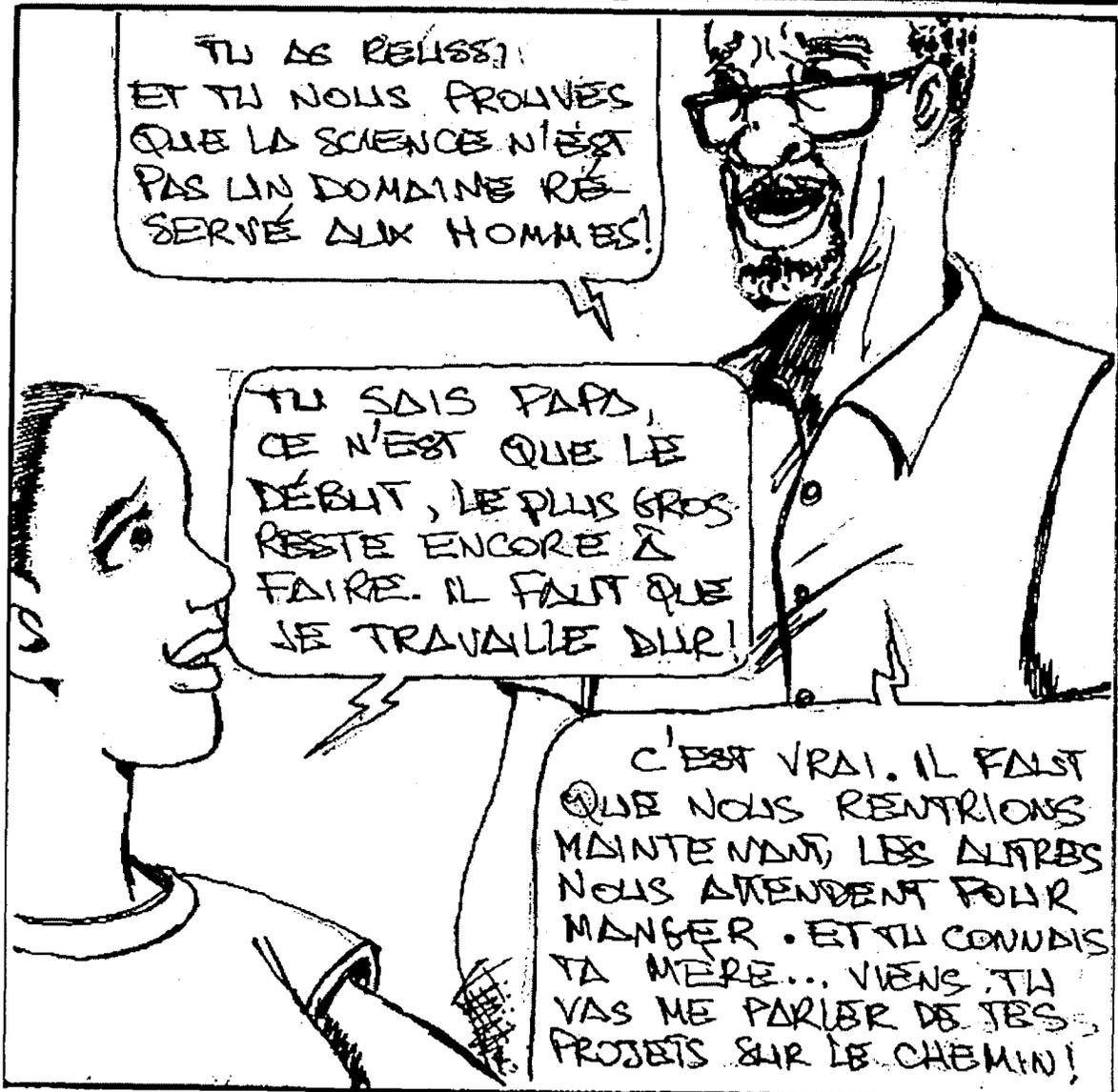
BINTU A FAIT DE BRILLANTES
ETUDES D'ARCHITECTURE. LA
VIE NA PAS TOUJOURS ETE
FACILE POUR ELLE EN
POUR SUIVANT SES ETU-
DES ELLE A DU FAIRE
NOMBRE DE PETITS JOBS
POUR SUBVENIR A SES
BEGONS QUOTIDIENS,
EN PLUS ELLE A CONNU LA
SEULTE ET TOUTES LES
DIFFICULTES QU'UNE
FILLE SEULE PEUT AFRONTER



SIX ANS PLUS
TARD ELLE
EST DE RE-
TOUR CHEZ
ELLE AVEC
UN DIPLOME
D'ARCHITECTU-
RE.

" JE SUIS
CONTENT
QUE TU SOIS
DE RETOUR!

SON PERE VEUT
LA REJOINDRE
ET S'ASSIED A
SES COTES.



BINTU ET SON PERE
PRENNENT LE CHEMIN DU
RETOUR.



Motiver
à l'aide
des bandes
dessinées