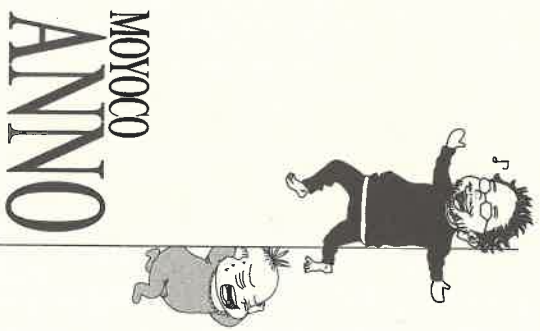


INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION



VERTICAL.

DIRECTOR BRAIN

Filled with all sorts of otaku knowledge. Can pull out famous quotes from anime and manga in any situation.

DIRECTOR MOUTH

Turns into a cat mouth when happy.

DIRECTOR SPINE

Slouched. Perfect for making the first-generation Ultraman fighting pose.

DIRECTOR STOMACH

Has a lot of dislikes. Won't take in animal protein except dairy and eggs. Hates bell peppers and onions too. Mushrooms are "bacteria" and won't accept them.

DIRECTOR HAND

Good at drawing mecha and explosions, but terrible at drawing humans and animals.

DIRECTOR HAIR

Naturally curly hair is cute.

DIRECTOR EYE

Can break down anything in the universe into 24 frames per second. But has poor vision, perhaps due to watching too much TV since childhood?

DIRECTOR BUDDAH EARS

No special abilities like radar.

DIRECTOR BEARD

No special abilities like radar.

DIRECTOR HEART

Seems sensitive at times, but pretty tough.

DIRECTOR BELLY

Something he's worrying about lately. Says it resembles the "original design Getter Robo."

DIAGRAM

**DIRECTOR LEG**

His slow walk is the model of Nausicaä's Giant Warriors.

DIRECTOR FEET

Wears sandals even in winter.

Doesn't need to bathe for weeks.

DIRECTOR SKIN

Hand-drawn
© 2007

BEFORE AFTER MAKEUP

AFTER

MAKEUP

Overgrown hair uncult since his last visit to the barber God knows when. He didn't wash his hair, so it stayed in this shape.

Regularly gets cut at a barber in Daikanyama.

Neatly trimmed beard.

WEIGHT LOSS OF 13 KG!

Wore the same sweats. Didn't shower, so wore it to sleep. The only time he took it off was to throw it away.

Wardrobe increased tenfold! (Since he only had 1 set of clothes)

Wore sandals all four seasons.

He has long limbs, so he can wear Italian brands without getting them tailored.

BEFORE

Now has three pairs of shoes.



Re-reading it in one go, I gotta say my wife's manga is awfully funny. People have histories and I recalled ours. This one-of-a-kind experience is a privilege of being her husband. And at the same time, I think my public image has changed quite a bit. Only people close to me knew how dumb I am, until now.



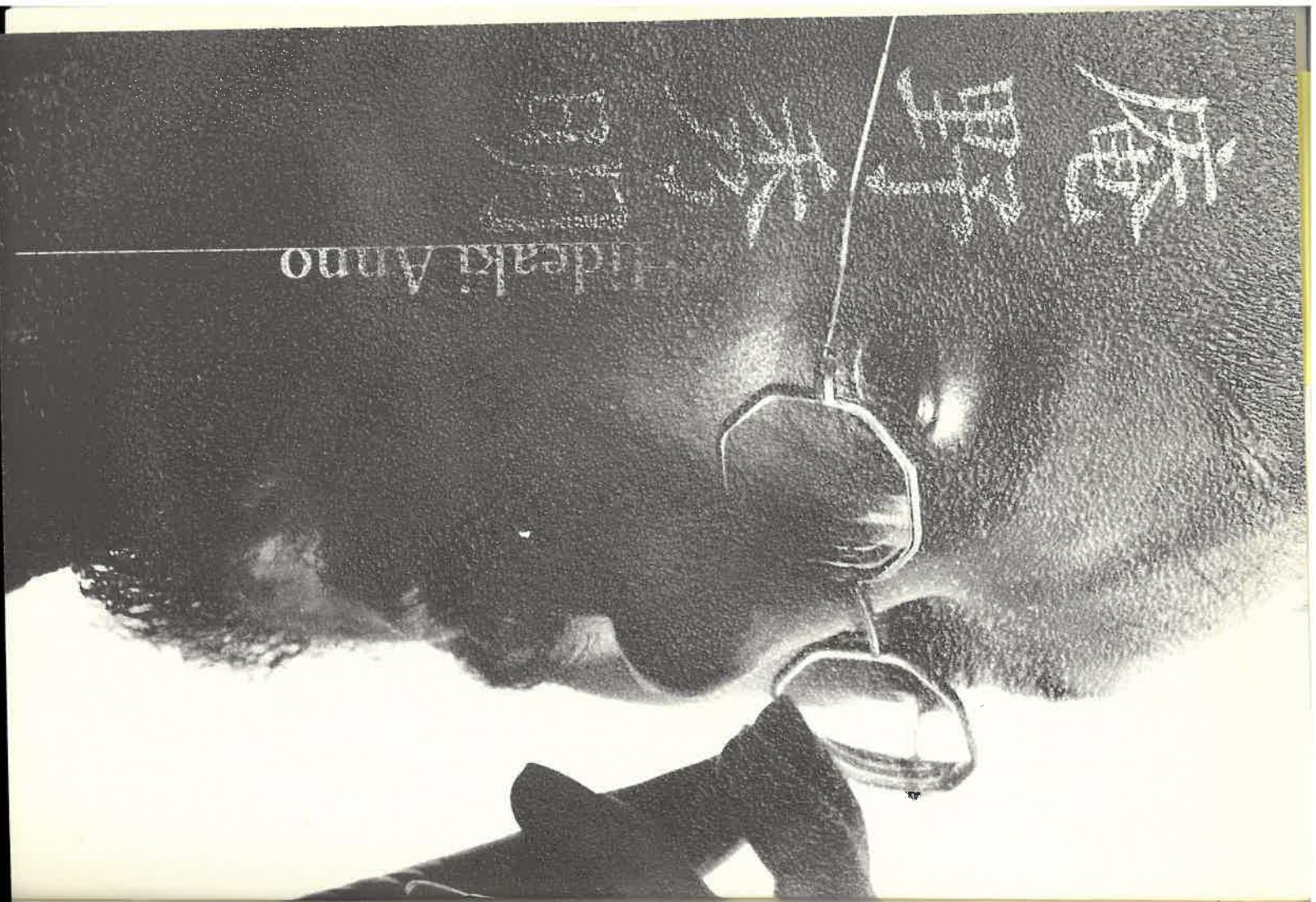
To have your life exposed to the public is the fate of anyone who marries a manga artist. It's not just manga artists; novelists and writers frequently use their family as source material too. My friend Osada (Yoshiyuki Sadamoto) was featured in his wife's (Mako Takaha) child-rearing manga *Tatakae! Okasan*, and he warned, "You'll experience it soon enough" when I told him I was getting married. So I was prepared for this.

But when you're actually drawn in a manga, it's a little embarrassing. I can objectively see how my wife views me, and her affection comes across touchingly well, but it's still embarrassing.

DISCUSSES

DIRECTOR
A
N
N
O
R
I
K
U
N

DIRECTOR



I requested the opening disclaimer “All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.” to be included as a joke. In fact, this manga is a mixture of truth and fiction. My wife took things that actually happened and arranged it to make it more hilarious and entertaining. I checked the storyboard for each chapter. It wasn’t so I could stop her from writing certain things but to help make the story even funnier. Like adding more otaku details or making the characters pose a certain way. Giving suggestions for ideas.



My wife went out of her way to keep it from turning into a generic lovey-dovey manga and always tried to put readers first. She carefully selected things that she thought readers would find entertaining to make the manga. And I tried my best to help her with that.



My wife can’t glamorize herself. She looks at us with a critical eye. This is a good thing, but also a bad thing. If the characters can’t plunge into their self-absorbed world, they can’t be catalysts for the readers’ narcissism. The real fun fails to come across in that case, and it can invite misunderstanding.



The character Director-kun is an otaku. Well, since he’s based off of me and I’m an otaku, it’s a given.

If I were to list up otakus’ characteristics: we’re introverts with poor communication skills unable to determine a suitable distance toward others; our identity is supported by our store of information and knowledge; we’re very obsessive, self-righteous and cliquy for self-preservation, and can only talk about ourselves and suck at two-way communication; we’re extremely self-conscious and can only look at things from our point of view, love narcissists, have a bloated sense of self that yearns to identify with our idols, and are sensitive to attacks... That’s a long list of negative descriptions, but I like how it’s shown as is. It’s not an idealized form of an otaku but a truthful portrait for all to see.



Currently in Japan, the economy is saturated to the point that we can allow otakus to stand tall and prosper. We have such an overabundance of information and our material civilization is full to the brim, but at the same time our spirits are impoverished, we lack imagination, and our social base is weakening. That's why I think we need manga like my wife's. I'm not being nepotistic, I promise.



What's amazing about my wife's manga is that she doesn't create any "out" from reality. Most manga these days are no more than a device to provide readers with a refuge from reality to satisfy them out there. The bigger fans they are, the more likely they'll become one with the fantasy and have difficulty accepting anything else. My wife's manga leaves a bit of energy to readers as they return to the real world. Instead of making you want to dwell in yourself, her manga makes you want to go outside and do something, it emboldens you. It's a manga for tackling reality and living among others. My wife lives like that and I think that's why she can write like that. Her manga accomplished what I couldn't do in Eva to the end. It was a big shock to me, really.



Compared to the many simplistic manga that pick up on the latest trends, she sticks to her style and originality and braves on alone. I'm amazed by my wife. I feel like she has more talent than I do, and I respect her as a writer as well, which I'm sure is why we're still together.

After Eva, there was a time when I wanted to stop being an otaku. I was sick of the stagnation of the anime industry and fans. I was filled with self-hatred back then. I was desperate.



I didn't think I would change much when I got married. But recently, I feel like I'm starting to. It's not that my core otaku-ness is diluting, but more that non-otaku aspects are being added to me. An otaku yet not an otaku. It's a different feeling I haven't felt before. Hey, it's an interesting world. And I only have my wife to thank for this.

My wife's public image is that of a strong woman, but actually she's very sensitive, fragile and weak. She constantly has to face her difficult past, and she couldn't escape the reality of having to provide for her family. It's just that she needed to don a piece of armor called "toughness" over her heart. I can sense that deep inside she battles loneliness and alienation and is barely holding her emotional balance in check. That's why I want to devote whatever time I have outside of work to my wife. That's why I got married to her, and I want to protect her with everything I have, forever.



t w e l f t h

TWELVE

EPISODE

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

INTERVIEW SERIES
"WHEN I WAS
ULTRAMAN"

DIRECTOR-KUN
SPEAKS!



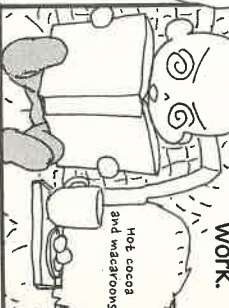
Wearing
a suit too

WH-
WHAT'S
WITH THIS
TITLES?
IT'S
BRILLIANT.

HM?

Rompers
was
checking
Director-
kun's
recent
work.

HOE COCOA
AND MEGAGROOMS





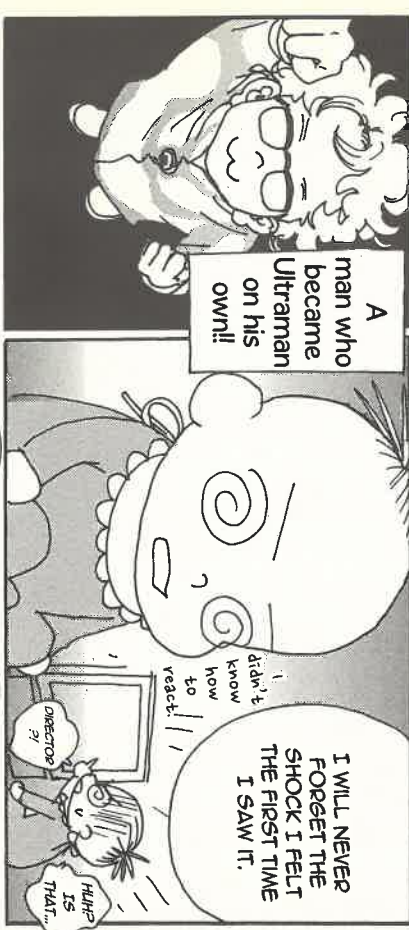
...he
**KICKS
ASS**
in the
miniature
city.

Wearing
a jacket
spray-painted
silver with
red lines...



Moving
just like
Ultraman

Director-
kun
(Himself)
fighting a
monster.



A
man who
became
Ultraman
on his
own!!

I WILL NEVER
FORGET THE
SHOCK I FELT
THE FIRST TIME
I SAW IT.

didn't
know
how
to
react.
HELP
IS
THAT...
DIRECTOR?



No
way
!!

WHO?

RYOKO
YONEKURAP?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT RYOKO
YONEKURAP'S
BEWITCHER?

Yet
Director-
kun
doesn't
know much
about
celebs.



No gags—
the story
unfolds
with
utmost
seriousness.

...was an
amateur movie
that nearly
recreated
the original
R of U by
Tsuburaya
Productions.

The
self-financed
Return of
Ultraman
(kept the title too)
he made in
college with
friends who
also liked
tokusatsu...

← Thin
He was broke
and lived on
bread crust
and milk,
apparently.

Youthful
Director-Kun

Director-
kun really
did use to be
Ultraman.



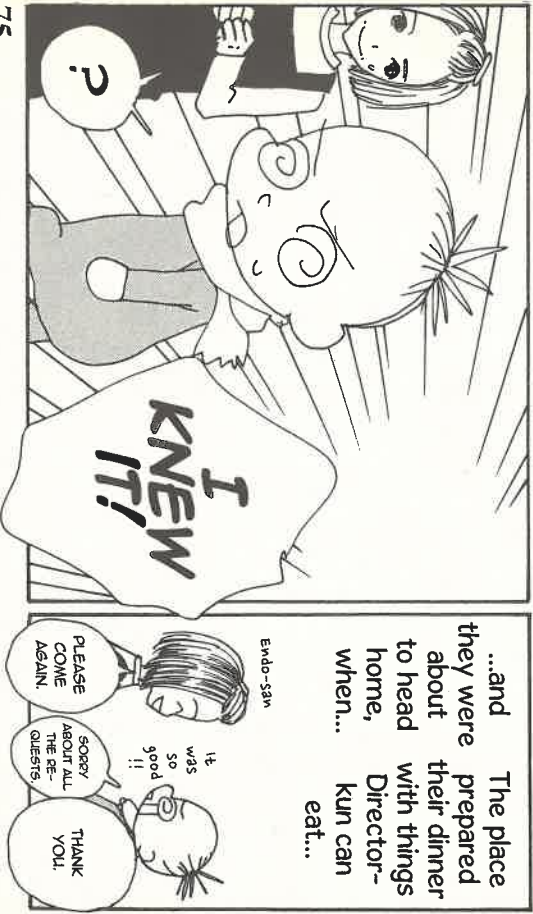
...to
trans-
form.

The hero
Trooper
Hayakawa
(one of their gang
played the role)
uses glasses
called
"Ultra Eye"...



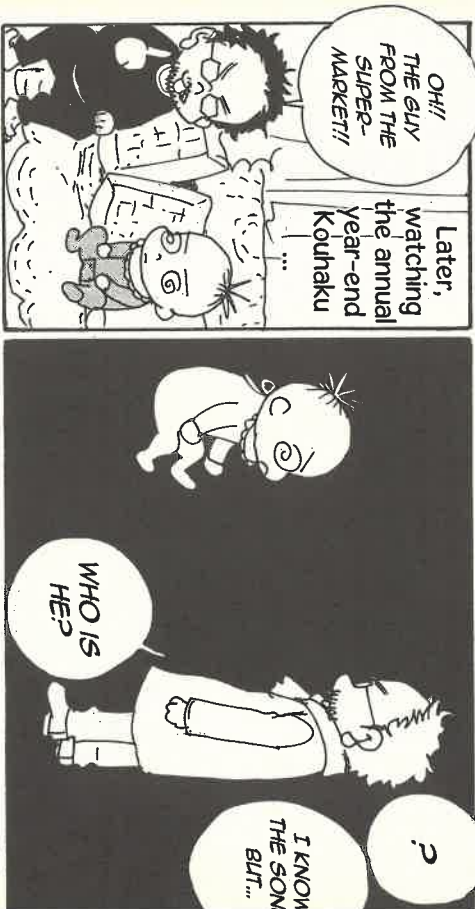
Into a
giant
Director-
kun
(Himself).

← Young



...and they were prepared about to head home, when...
The place they prepared with things Director-kun can eat...

It was so good !!
PLEASE COME AGAIN.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THE REQUESTS.
THANK YOU.



Just then !!

They were out for their Christmas dinner, chatting about such things.

JIRO TAMIYA IS EXCELLENT!!

YOU KNOW OLDER ACTOR REALLY WELL THOUGH.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

I SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR HIS AUTO-GRAPH!

IT WAS HIM!
DAMMIT!

You look CRAZY.



I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HIM, BUT I WASN'T SURE.

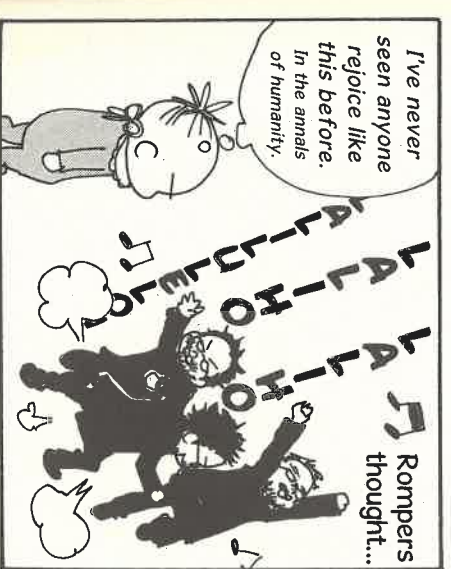
I HEARD HIS NAME DURING THEIR CONVERSATION... SO I ASKED THE BARTENDER.



I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAW HIM HERE!!

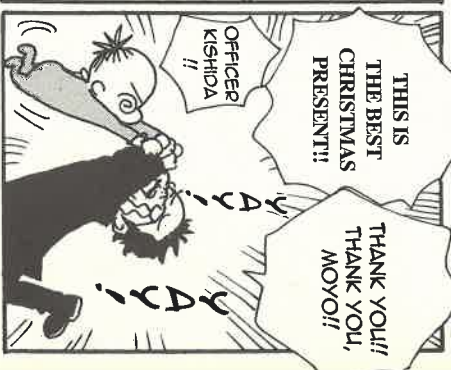
The very man who played **MAT Trooper Kishida** in *The Return of Ultraman*!!

THE OLDER GENTLEMAN WHO WAS SITTING BEHIND YOU, MOYO, WAS KEN NISHIDA.



I've never seen anyone rejoice like this before. In the annals of humanity.

Rompers thought...



THIS IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

THANK YOU!!
THANK YOU, MOYO!!

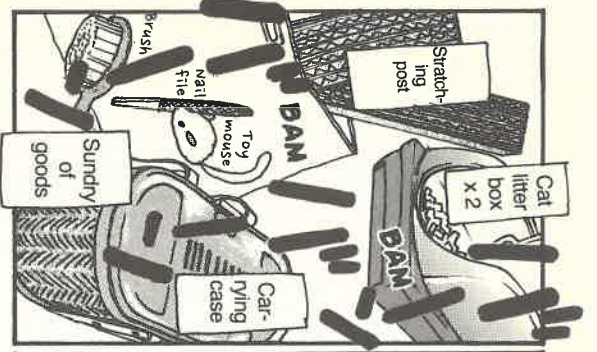
OFFICER KISHIDA!!

END



Rompers' friend found him, but the friend's own cat got so nervous that Rompers agreed to take him in. However...





...he adored the cat.

JACK ~ JACK ~

YOUR NAME IS MIGHTY JACK ANNO, OKAY?

But ...

When he was a kid, he had a cat named Jack. He was very cute and he loved to play with his toys. He was a very happy and healthy cat. He was a very good cat. He was a very smart cat. He was a very brave cat. He was a very loyal cat. He was a very loving cat. He was a very caring cat. He was a very kind cat. He was a very gentle cat. He was a very sweet cat. He was a very beautiful cat. He was a very cute cat. He was a very adorable cat. He was a very precious cat. He was a very special cat. He was a very unique cat. He was a very one-of-a-kind cat. He was a very irreplaceable cat. He was a very cherished cat. He was a very treasured cat. He was a very valued cat. He was a very loved cat. He was a very adored cat. He was a very appreciated cat. He was a very respected cat. He was a very honored cat. He was a very revered cat. He was a very worshiped cat. He was a very idolized cat. He was a very admired cat. He was a very respected cat. He was a very honored cat. He was a very revered cat. He was a very worshiped cat. He was a very idolized cat. He was a very admired cat.

WE'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO BE CRITICAL OF OTHER PEOPLE.

MYARG ?!

OH NO, WE'RE SPENDING TOO MUCH RIGHT OFF THE BAT.

Bowl's meant for human use

Grew up poor

...OUR PARENTS WOULDN'T BUY US THINGS SO WE WORKED HARD, AND NOW WE CAN...

WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP...

DON'T SPOIL CHILDREN !!

They get all the gifts they want.

Kids nowadays have six pockets.

WHENEVER THE NEWS HAS SUCH STORIES...



Uhm...

I TOOK HIM IN...

GINGER ぎんごう...

Just for now.

Asking the head of household just to be sure.

HE'S SO CUTE!! HE'S INCREDIBLY CUTE!!

WELCOME, WELCOME!

THIS KID IS OURS!!

I WOULD NEVER MAKE A GOOD PET OWNER!!

FORGIVE ME, ANIMAL LOVERS.

SO she only planned on taking him in "just for a blink."

SOB

EVEN THOUGH I HAD MY REASONS!!

The newly printed dog oya! wouldn't let go of them ever again.

Her parents loved them to pieces.

She hadn't been able to take them out for walks from working all-nighters.

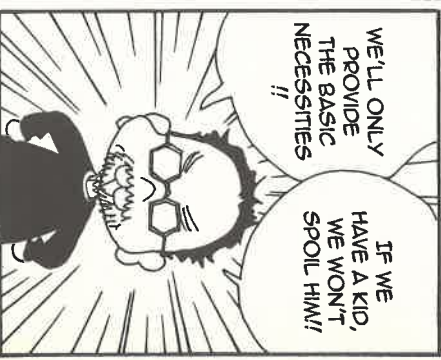
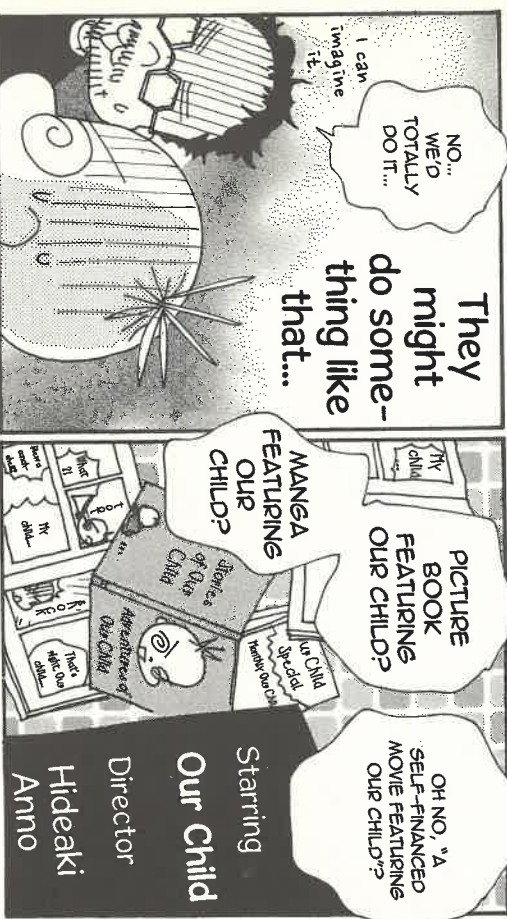
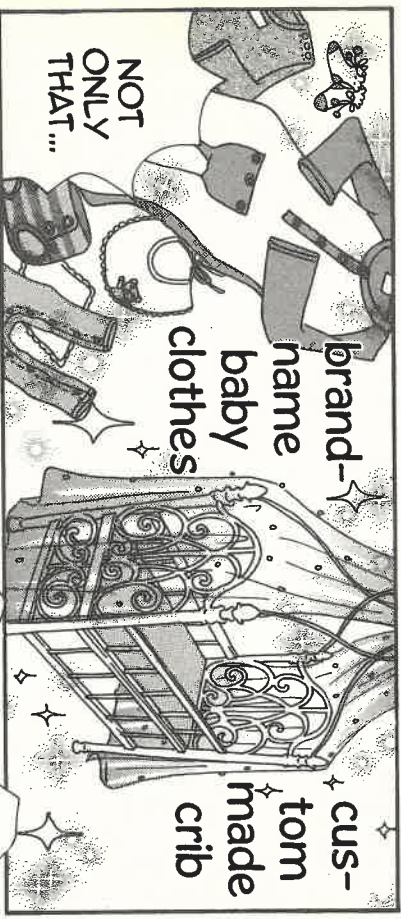
(Broke up with the boy - friend who shared the task.)

I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP PETS !!

Rompers had a painful past of sending her pets Robin and Yoyo-tan to her parents' home because she couldn't take care of them.

Wah! I'm so sorry!

Toy Poodle



INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

Translation: Satsuki Yamashita

Production: Risa Cho

Anthony Quintessenza

Tomoe Tsutsumi

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