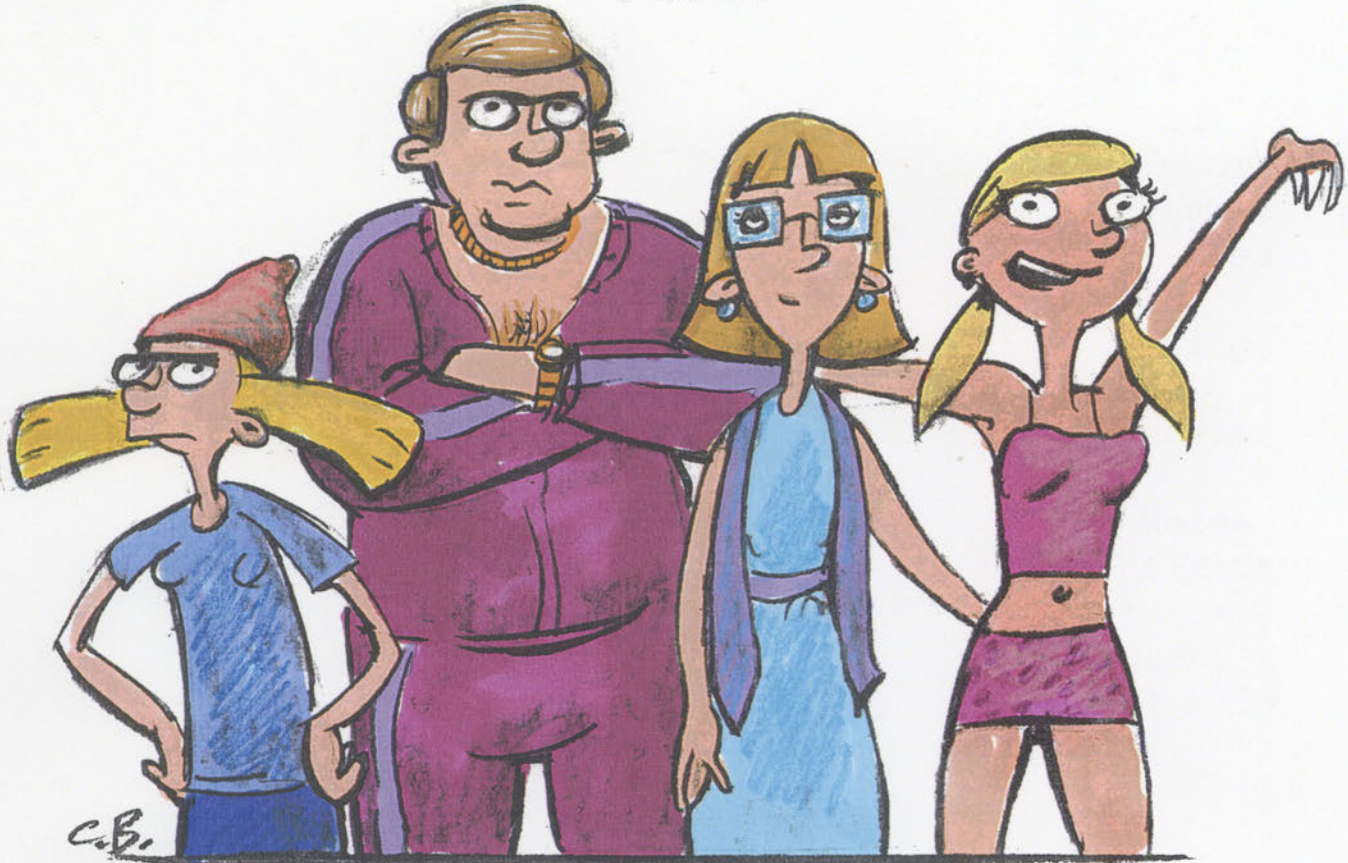


"THE PATAKIS"

mini-bible

4-21-00



WHAT IS IT?

"The Patakis" is a half-hour, animated comedy/drama about the ultimate dysfunctional family: fifteen-year-old Helga G. Pataki, her blowhard dad Big Bob, zoned-out mom Miriam, and annoyingly perfect big sister Olga.

"The Patakis" spins off the world of beloved role model Helga (from the hit kids' show "Hey Arnold!") into the late night arena.

HELGA

WHO IS SHE?

Helga is a fifteen-year-old girl who's going through that existential period in her life (she's questioning



the meaning of everything). She's extremely smart, but emotionally challenged (just look at her role models). She expresses herself through art (photography, writing, painting) that she doesn't show to anyone.

On the outside, Helga is extremely confident. With her "been there, done that" attitude, she acts like she knows it all. On the inside, however, we sense that Helga is afraid -- afraid of becoming a teenager. After all, she's pretty tomboyish.

Physically, Helga is taller and thinner than

when we last saw her. And, afraid of the inevitable blossoming of her sexuality, she dons black t-shirts, androgynous jeans with big cuffs, and chunky combat-esque boots. On her head, instead of a bow, is a grungy stocking cap (the famous pink bow is hidden underneath).



WHAT DOES SHE WANT?

Helga just wants to survive in her crazy family. As long as she can remember, Helga's wanted them to notice her (in "Hey Arnold!" they never did). In "The Patakis," she gets her wish: she's accepted into an alternative high school for smart kids, where she's a big hit -- and her family loves it. From that moment on (at least from that moment on in the pilot), Helga's world is turned completely upside down. All of a sudden her parents, who've pretty much ignored her her entire life, make her the focus of their universe. Unfortunately for Helga, she soon discovers that not only does she hate being the center of attention, she thinks it's somehow worse than being ignored.

BIG BOB

Big Bob is the character that's changed the least in the series. He's still a hard-driving salesman, but instead of the Beeper Emporium, he now runs "Big Bob's Beyond Beepers Digital Dynasty," selling everything from DVDs to digital phones, to satellite dishes for digital TV.

He's more of a blowhard than ever -- after all, his demanding demeanor is what's made him so financially successful. However, judging by his new Tony Soprano suburban house, the yacht in his driveway and his sassy velour jumpsuits, we get the sense that he's living beyond his means.



MIRIAM



During the six years we were away, Miriam hit rock bottom. The good news is, she's on the road to recovery. The bad news is, it's a long road.

One of her "sponsors" from the "program" got her an "internship" at the local TV station. The only problem is, she's a real screw-up. Hopefully, Helga's newfound success will inspire her to tap into her own potential -- that is, if she can survive the world of bitchy on-air talent and a moronic boss who's constantly firing and re-hiring her.

OLGA

Olga has finally graduated from Bennington College and recently moved back home. For now, Olga has abandoned her dream of becoming a world famous child psychologist and is trying her hand at becoming an actress.

(A natural choice since she's already an award winning over-actress.)

So far, Olga's only gotten non-paying, bit parts in off, off, off, off, off, Broadway plays. With an increased level of neediness and a different boyfriend each and every week, Helga's actually begun to view her perfect sister as a bit of a loser. In fact, we sense that even Bob and Miriam are getting a little sick of Olga's act.



OTHER CHARACTERS

PHOEBE

Helga's best friend. She too goes to the alternative smart kids high school. Only, unlike Helga who views herself as "above the brainiac freaks," Phoebe thinks it's perfect. She's finally found her niche and is about to blossom...

And, much to Helga's dismay, Phoebe is beginning to question the role of sidekick/servant. She tells Helga that she'll be her friend only if things are fifty-fifty and even-Steven. But that doesn't mean Helga won't still try to boss her around, or that Phoebe won't enable that situation.

NICK VERMICELLI

Bob's "business partner," Nick runs Vermicelli Towing and dabbles in "Waste Management." His deals are a little questionable -- he's always stumbling across truckloads of 36" televisions at "discount" prices.

HOW DO THE STORIES WORK?

Helga opens each episode by writing a letter to her soulmate Arnold. Then we flash back in time and tell the story. We end each episode with Helga finishing her letter to Arnold and then filing it away with a million other letters we see she has never mailed.

HOW DOES THE NICK AT NITE AUDIENCE RELATE?

Like "The Wonder Years" and "Malcolm in the Middle," "The Patakis" is family first, kid friendly. And, like "The Simpsons" or "All in the Family," it combines classic humor with moments of real heart.

THE SET UP (PILOT PREMISE)

It's been six years since we've checked in with America's favorite dysfunctional family. But, rest assured, everything's pretty much business as usual with the Patakis -- Big Bob's still an obnoxious blowhard, Miriam's still the epitome of untapped potential, Olga's still self-centered and annoying, and Helga's still caught in the middle of it all.

It's summer. We find fifteen-year-old Helga sitting alone in her closet darkroom (it used to house her Arnold shrines). She's writing a letter to Arnold -- her one true love who's long since moved away -- about how much her life sucks. She's got nothing in common with her family ("I'm surrounded by morons") and she's basically disappeared into the background of their lives. She wishes that things could be different, but accepts the fact that they probably never will be.

Be careful what you wish for Helga...

Next morning at breakfast, Helga's family announces their plans for the day: Olga's off to an audition, Miriam's off to her intern job at the local TV station, and Bob's off to his "Digital Dynasty." Helga of course is lost in the shuffle and ignored. She heads out to spend the last day of summer with her best friend Phoebe.

Cut to Bob's office -- his partner Nick has acquired a truckload of "discount" computers. Bob's upset: "How am I gonna unload this junk?!" He's afraid the Digital Dynasty is going to go bankrupt.

Meanwhile at the TV station, Miriam screws up again, cueing up the wrong tape for a live broadcast and is on the verge of getting fired.

And at the theater, Olga's audition is going great.

That night, a dejected Helga comes home to discover a letter in the mail: it says that she's been accepted into an alternative high school for smart kids (the same one that her best friend Phoebe is going to attend). To her amazement, Big Bob and Miriam are thrilled with the news. Suddenly Helga goes from being the ignored kid to being the center of attention. In fact, when Olga bursts in the door with the news that she "got the part," Bob and Miriam ignore her -- Bob even accidentally calls her "Helga" (the reverse of the old "Hey Arnold!" joke in which Bob always called Helga "Olga"). Olga runs upstairs in tears. Act one ends with Helga's world completely turned upside down.

Act two finds Big Bob proudly dropping his "new favorite daughter" Helga off at her new school. He schmoozes her principal, giving him his business card.

At school, Helga is happier than she's ever been in her entire life: not only is she a huge hit with her teacher and the other students, she's regarded as an "artistic, individualistic genius," one who truly "thinks outside the box." In fact, by the end of the day, she gets elected freshman class rep, and is to give a speech to the whole school on Back To School Night, the following week.

Helga comes home to dinner, utterly triumphant. She learns that her success has begun to positively affect her parents as well: Miriam, feeling inspired, saved the day at the TV station and got a promotion to "segment director." Bob solved his financial dilemma by selling off his truckload of computers to Helga's new principal. Everyone is happy. Everyone, that is, except Olga, who has gotten fired from her play. Her

new role in the family as second-best daughter has thrown her completely off her game.

Over the next week, Helga's happiness begins to fade as she realizes that her parents' enthusiasm for her success is selfishly motivated: Bob is just using her school connection to unload what Helga discovers are crappy "discount" computers; Miriam is just using her as the subject of her first TV segment titled "My Genius Daughter," interrupting class with an intrusive camera crew. Olga meanwhile grows more despondent, moping around the house in her dirty sweatpants and annoying everyone. The pressure continues to mount, and things become so weird at home that Helga goes back to being miserable. She even stops enjoying her success at school.

By the end of act two, not only has Helga's world turned upside down, but her wish has turned upside down as well: she got the attention she wanted, and now she hates it. Helga has a moral dilemma: should she trade in her happiness at school to restore happiness at home? Let us write this and find out!

POSSIBLE SPRINGBOARDS

BOB WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

Big Bob becomes obsessed with a popular TV game show, and finally gets to be a contestant. Can he stop arguing with Helga long enough to ask for her help?

MIRIAM TURNS INTO A NORA DUNN REPORTER

When Miriam has to fill in for an on-camera talent, she discovers a side of herself she never knew: a voracious egomaniac.

BOB IN ONE OF OLGA'S PLAYS

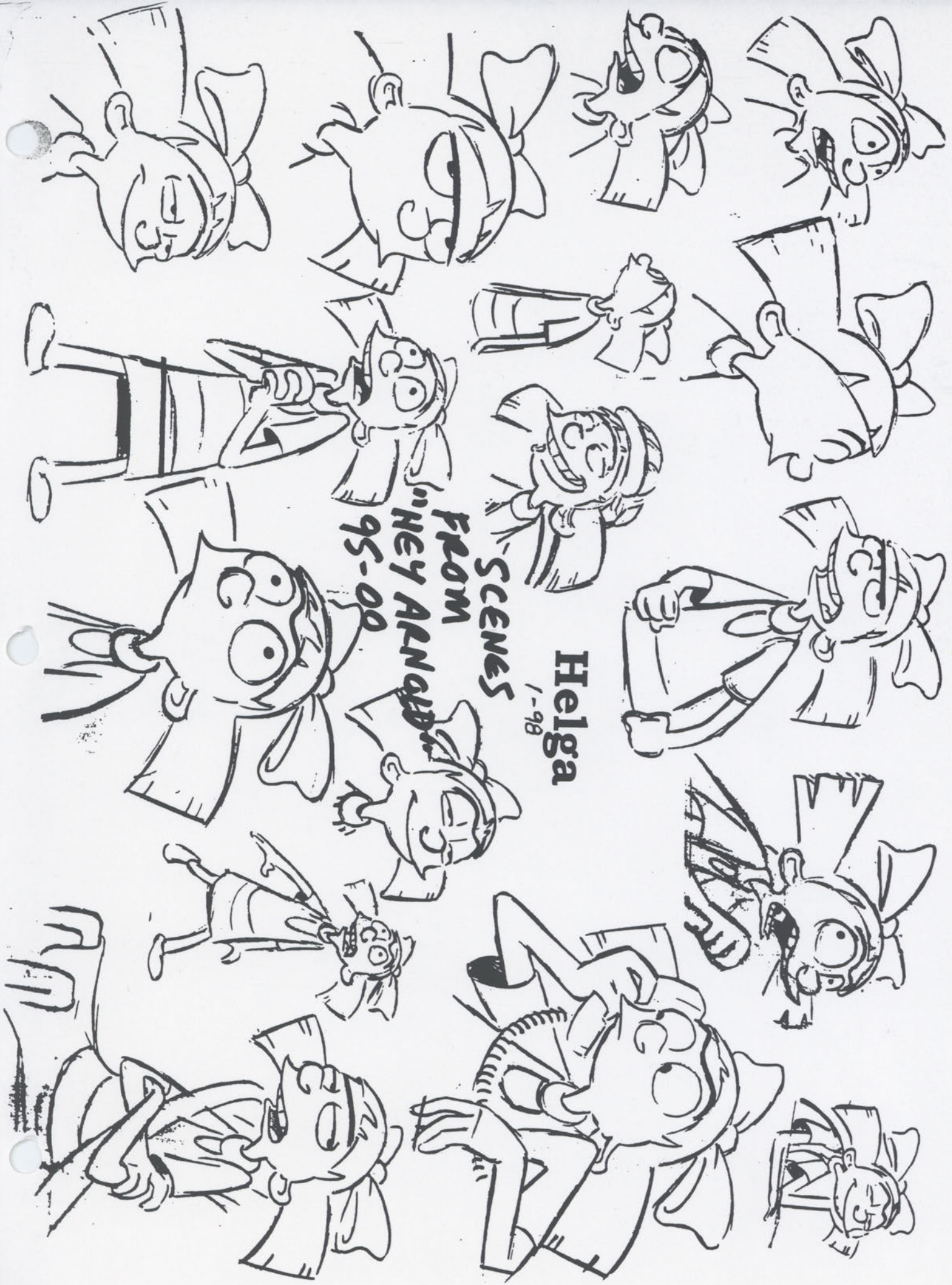
When Bob inadvertantly gets cast as the lead in one of Olga's plays, she becomes jealous and even more eccentric than usual.

HELGA AND PHOEBES' MASTER/SERVANT THING

Phoebe finally has had enough of Helga's bossiness and refuses to be her gofer. What's more important to Helga: her friendship or her dry cleaning?

OLGA AS WEATHERGIRL

Olga gets the best acting job ever: as weathergirl at Miriam's TV station. Will Miriam be able to take the heat, or go back to the kitchen?

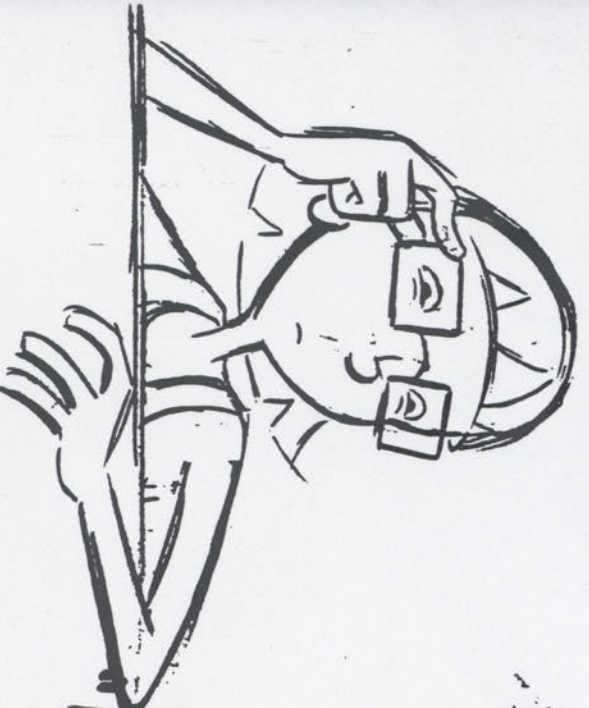
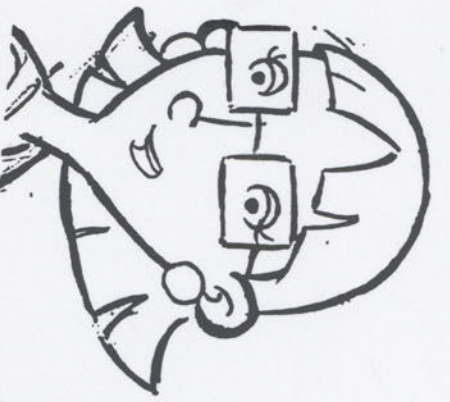


Helga
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-SCENES
FROM
"HEY ARNOLD"
95-00

SCENES
FROM
"HEY ANNUDE"
95-00

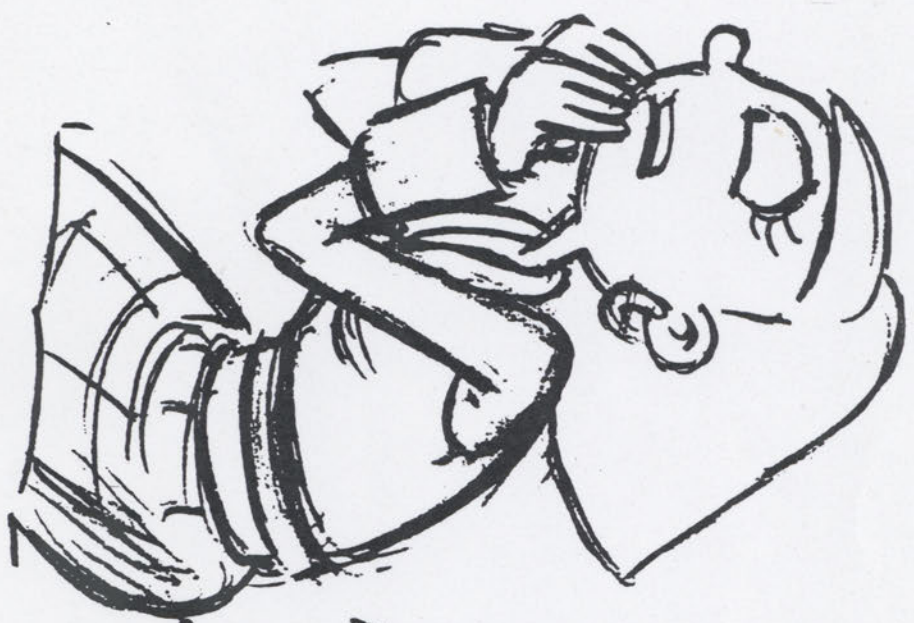
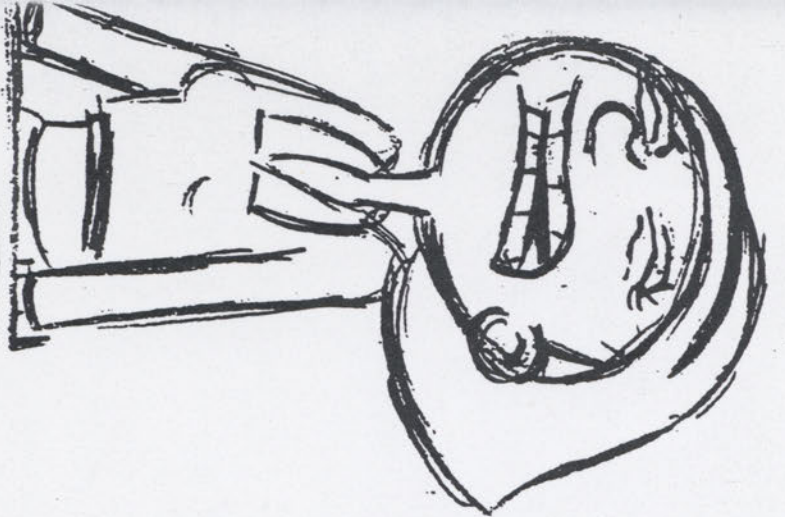


Big Bob
Pataki
1-98



Miriam
Pataki
1-98
SCENES FROM
"HEY AENOBU!"
95-00





SCENES FROM
"HEY ARNOLD!"
95-00

Olga

Pataki

1-98

