

Teens and Twenties

# New Year Special

## On Behalf of the Tigers

by Rumana Tasmin Khan

**A**NIMAL rights protest animal testing of cosmetics as much as they protect captive animals from cruelty. The basic criteria of animal rights is that animals be treated with respect as an individual with inherent value.

At present most of us fail to reward animals with rightful respect. But when we kill such animals for the purpose of taking revenge or harming another one of our own species, we violate animal rights. Such violation has already occurred in the Mirpur zoo, three tigers and an endangered wild cat has been poisoned to death.

On the 9th of November of tiger died at the Mirpur zoo, presumably of brain-haemorrhage. On the 11th it followed that two more tigers died at the zoo, the first of old age, after spending 20 years in the cage, the second, suspected, by poi-

laboratory prepared specimen of the contents was applied, nothing happened. But on applying the contents from the viscera of the tigers, the mice were found dead.

However, other signs at the zoo pointed to the same method of death. Two more tigers fell sick at the zoo shortly after the death of the three tigers. When they were treated with the antidote Aetropin Sulphate, they regained normal conditions. This gave rise to the thought that these tigers were poisoned as well.

Unfortunately, the sad tale of losing cats did not end there. On the 13th, two days after the second incident, a tiger cub died of overeating, followed by the death of a nearly extinct jungle cat, on the 18th, due to suspected poisoning. When an autopsy was carried out, the doubts were confirmed as the jungle cat was found to have

lied, when the curator was asked if the incident about the death of tigers was reported to the police, he answered that it was not part of their routine to do that.

In 1994 a 1.3 million Tk worth x-ray machine was bought on the purpose of treating animals of Mirpur zoo. At the same time 0.1 million Tk worth x-ray films had been bought. After nearly three years the machine has been found to be unused, because there did not seem to be any trained technician to have used it. And the films have, by now, disappeared. This leads one to think that the zoo has turned into a playground of corruption.

The five membered probe body, constructed to analyse the situation, suspected that the incident was the product of a sabotage. But searching for reasons, one would find quite a few. At the beginning it was

matter contained internal conflict among those. The surgeon on duty at the Mirpur zoo, on the 11th, directly denied the death of the two tigers and at the attempt of avoiding the journalists fled away almost at once. The zoo officials had been upset about the reporters that had been gathering information from the zoo staff. Some outsiders, terrorists, threatened to transfer and kill one of the employees for leaking information.

After the case had been handed over to the detective police, nine zoo staff members were arrested, including animal caretakers, guards and security officers.

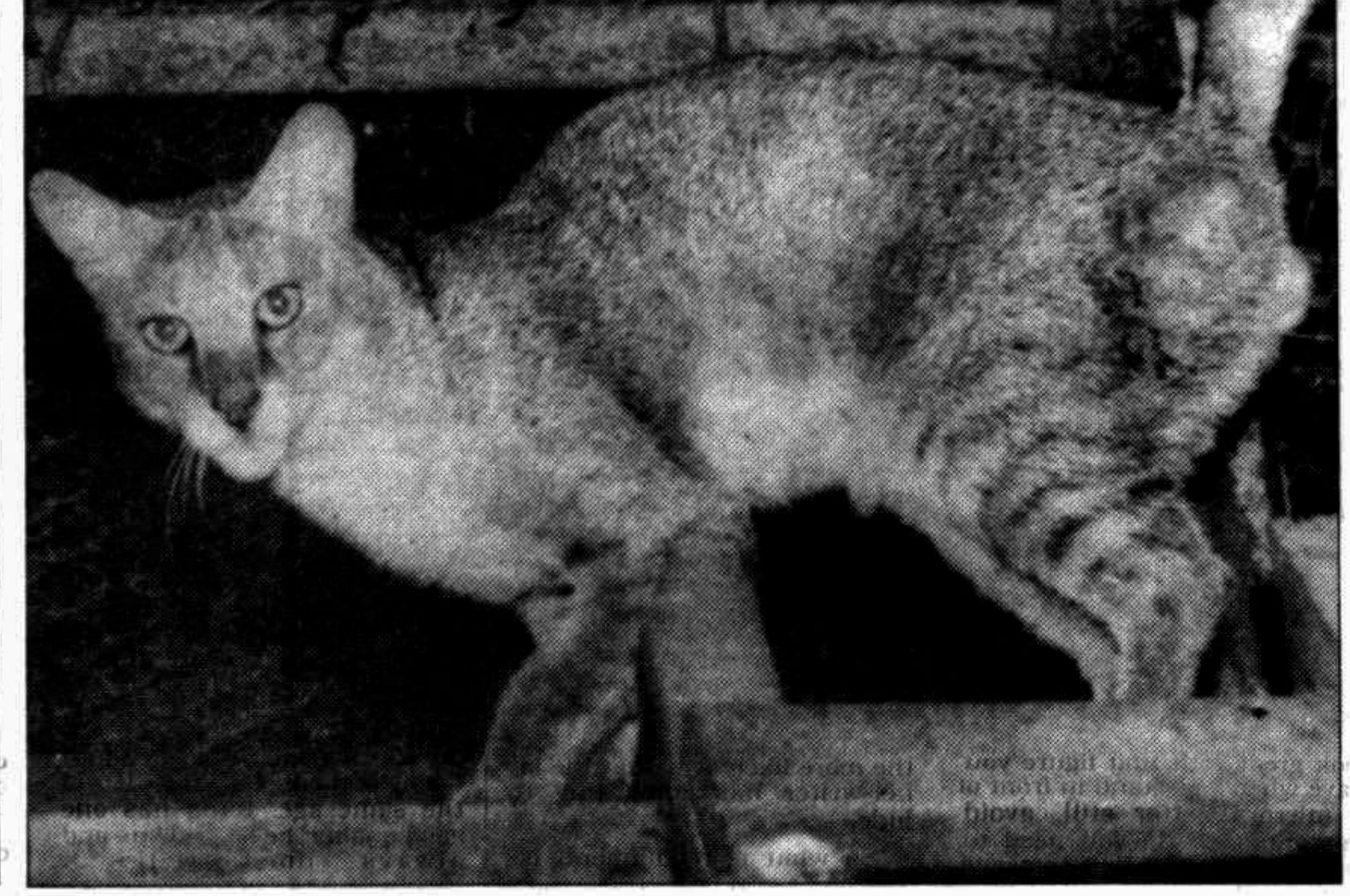
The teams of detectives got to learn that after the present curator had decided to transfer a number of old staff the conspiracy started. When the recently posted animal doctor began his work at the zoo, much of the conspiring team's plans had been exposed. Their plans included harming some other endangered and monkey species.

The detectives also found out that the doctor conducting the autopsy of the tigers received a threat if he repeated the case of poisoning. But on 28th November, Alec Mia (one of the nine persons arrested) confessed about their plans to poison the tigers and the fact that a newly posted officer was making the

Initially, it was declared that the death of the tigers was mysterious. Even the day before death, the tigers were found to be normal in behaviour. Later it was seen that all the tigers carried extensive injury marks on their necks, chests, elbows and abdomen. The autopsy carried out by the Central Disease Investigation Laboratory found no trace of poisoning. But nearly ten days later it was confirmed from the viscera and blood report, by the Government Chemical Testing Laboratory at Mohakhali, that they died of poisoning.



The left photo shows three cubs with no mother while the right one shows a frightened 'wild' cat. These are simple portrayals of our Dhaka Zoo. If preservation means preserving animals with their natural characteristics, then is our zoo indeed an ideal sanctuary? Photo: Star File



soning. Before this there used to be a total of 20 tigers at Mirpur zoo-10 male, 6 female and 4 cubs.

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The doctors came to this decision after injecting white mice with pulled stomach contents of the tigers. When the

died of poisoning.

Severe examples of negligence and effortlessness could be gathered about the zoo officials and staffs concerning this incident. According to the rules and regulations, the cow bought for the tigers should be checked by an officer in charge before slaughtered. This 'usual procedure' does not usually take place and the cows bought, produce low quality meat. Theft occurs during the process of slicing meat only to save some for personal beneficiary and present the tigers with a mixture of meat only to save some for personal beneficiary. While facing some journalists, the curator of the Mirpur zoo attempted to defend 'allegations of providing insufficient food', although there is no other logical reason behind the malnutrition of zoo's carnivorous species. Ear-

thought that tender was the reason behind poisoning. By showing that at the death of the three tigers there was a 'crisis' of Bengal Tigers, the other officers probably had it in their minds to get hold of a big amount of money. There is clear evidence that showing the excuse of buying an endangered species, one of which died few years back, a huge amount of money was taken by some zoo officials.

By now it has been known that among the 3rd and 4th class employees there has been a certain quarrel that might have resulted in poisoning the tigers. It is believed now that the killings were to remove an officer in charge because he was making the work of the meat supplier difficult.

The fact that a certain need of secrecy was expected by some zoo officials is proof that the

food supplying for tigers difficult. He also mentioned about an internal conflict between two groups of staff related to illegal incomes.

So far all investigations have been successful. But it is yet to be decided who exactly are to be blamed for the deaths of the precious three tigers and the jungle cat. After that the 'disposal' of the guilty personnel is to be done. With fair trial and the co-operation of others it all can be worked out. But the casualties still remain, four tigers and one jungle cat have been lost for good.

It is upto us to see that the whole procedure is maintained, for we Bangladeshis are taught, and we believe that the Bengal Tiger is our pride. On behalf of the tigers, only we are left to fight for their rights and that of the entire animal kingdom.

## Trapped

by Usaila Alam

**C**USTOMS have come down through generations, and has developed so that the society can retain its cultural heritage through the passage of time. But it is rather unfortunate that holding on to customs in our country have only resulted in injustice and the majority of the sufferers have been women.

Women have always helplessly endured all the cruelties of life. Discrimination at home and at work, humiliation of being a 'spinster', a 'divorcee' or a single mother. Then there are also those who are trapped in marriages from where if they should dare to come out, there is a society waiting for them who will blame them for the sins they haven't committed. The question remains, where will they go? So they seal their mouths, discard their identity and go on with life because there is no other way.

The untold tales of women are almost endless. Everytime a woman speaks out there are a few sympathetic sighs, a frown or two and then things become normal again. But this is hardly the right way to deal with difficulties. A woman has to realize that life doesn't end with the death of a husband, her desires should not necessarily be over with the passage of time and she shouldn't be left alone in her nest when her chicks have flown away. She should learn to wake up to the calls of her heart irrespective of what the society says. A woman should learn to say "no" when the social community compels her to say "yes". She should learn to defy the world and say "I dare to" when the world expects her to say "I cannot".

It is hard to fight against the constricted rules of a society that is absolutely adamant to hold on to its customs.

## The Millionaire Next Door

by Marc Rice

**S**O you got that big promotion and raise. You're thinking about buying a luxury car. You need to sharpen your wardrobe with some snazzy new suits. Maybe it's time to move into a bigger house, reports AP.

There's something else you should do, says Thomas J. Stanley, STOI!

Stanley, who has become a millionaire by studying the habits of millionaires, says the key to being rich is holding onto the money. And that means consumption takes a back seat to doggedly cultivating financial security and independence.

The real problem for people that make good or moderate or high incomes that don't accumulate wealth is they spend money on things that have absolutely no value," he said.

Stanley said the public image of high-living, ultra-rich moguls distorts the truth about millionaires. The typical US millionaire — there are an estimated 3.5 million of them — has a net worth of \$1.3 million, probably owns a small business and doesn't show many outward signs of being rich, he said.

The fact is, you don't have to wear a \$10,000 watch, you don't have to have an expensive car," Stanley said.

What's the point of being rich, then?

"It's not to be a miser. It's to say to yourself, 'I do not have to rely on somebody else for 15 or 20 years for my livelihood,'" he said. "People say it's dull. You know what's dull? Dull is waking up each morning and worrying that you might lose your job."

Stanley has profiled the typical millionaire in a series of books aimed at business-

- Portrait of A Typical Millionaire:
- A 57-year-old man, married with three children.
  - Self-employed.
  - Involved in "dull-normal" business, such as welding contractor, pest controller or paving contractor.
  - Average annual income of \$247,000.
  - Average household net worth of \$1.3 million.
  - Homeowner, with average property value of \$320,000.
  - First-generation affluent.
  - Lives below means, wears inexpensive suits and drives US-made car.
  - Has enough money saved to live about 10 years without working.
  - Attended public school, but children attend private schools.
  - Works 45 to 55 hours a week.
  - Invests about 20 percent of taxable income each year.
- Source: "The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. — AP

that seek to identify and attract well-heeled clients.

But his new book, "The Millionaire Next Door," written with researcher William D. Danko of Albany, New York, is directed instead at individuals and families who want to become rich.

The major point of the book, published this month by Long Street Press, is summed up in one of its chapter titles: "Frugal Frugal."

Among that chapter's findings: After MasterCard and Visa, which also are the most popular credit cards with the general public, the most widely held card among wealthy households is the Sears card. About twice as many millionaires have a Sears card as a

Neiman Marcus card, according to Stanley.

Further, the most popular car brand among millionaires is Ford, the authors found.

"For every luxury car buyer that's a millionaire, there are six that are not millionaires," Stanley said. "So it's the higher-income, low-net-worth person that's driving a luxury car."

Stanley recalled one millionaire to whom friends planned to give a Rolls Royce for his 65th Birthday. The man found out and put a stop to it.

"He said, 'It's totally incompatible with my lifestyle. What he was saying was: If you have the car, you've got to change the house. You change the house, you've got to have a rug that's compatible with it, you've got to

**TAG Announcement**

This is to inform you that The Teenage Awareness Group has decided to extend the deadline for submitting the essay on the topic, "71: what I know about it!", to January 15, 1996. This extension, we believe, will provide an opportunity to the teenagers who were enthusiastic about the program but were unable to send their essays due to time constraints.

## Board Games From Monopoly to Trivial Pursuit

**S**INCE the launch in 1935 of the world's all-time best-selling board game, Monopoly, only a handful of titles have proved strong enough to become part of the industry's "golden eternals".

Now the big names—Risk, Cluedo and Scrabble — have been joined by Trivial Pursuit, which is bidding to re-write the industry's record books.

Since its low-key launch in 1980, the game has sold 70 million sets worldwide. That is still far from Monopoly's record of 160 million worldwide sales, but the former's figures have been achieved in only a fraction of the time Monopoly has been on the market.

Trivial Pursuit's inventors are two Canadian journalists, Chris Haney and Scott Abbot, who now earn rock-star royalties.

The formula is a remarkably unremarkable concept: a moderately-difficult general-knowledge quiz based on six topics: sport, politics, literature, history, science and entertainment. The person who answers the most questions accurately and more quickly than other players wins the game.

The key ingredient is the obnoxious, the humour or the off-beat nature of the questions, such as "What did Marilyn Monroe wear in bed?" The answer: "Nothing."

Each country has its own specially-tailored set of questions, designed to appeal to local knowledge and avoid offending religious sensibilities.

The other recognition of regional taste is in the name of the box. In France, for example,

**Board Games**

by Peter Hayes

the name Trivial Pursuit was "considered too obscure and the game was launched a Remuneration (Confusion).

The game originated in 1980, when Haney, picture editor on The Gazette newspaper in Montreal, and Canadian Press sports writer Abbot enjoyed nothing more than an evening playing the word-game Scrabble.

After a while, the games disintegrated into light-hearted cheating with valuable letters regularly disappearing into players' pockets.

As a result, the central Scrabble set had to be replaced six times, prompting Abbot to remark: "I wish I had the Scrabble copyright royalties."

Inspired by that off-hand comment, Haney and Abbot set about inventing their own game. They claim it took them only 45 minutes.

Encouraged by the fun they had playing early versions of the game with enthusiastic friends, they came to believe they were on to a winning idea.

Roping in Chris's brother, John, they raised \$40,000-some of it from colleagues and friends. Those who helped have also cashed in on the subsequent commercial success, while those who declined sceptically now rue their decision.

A company, Horn Abbot, was formed, but manufacturing the game was expensive and the creators lacked a proper distributor. Sales were restricted to specialist games shops. As a result, the company began losing money.

Their big break came in 1982, when the trio met Richard Selchow, then president of Selchow and Righter—which had made a fortune with Scrabble—at a Montreal trade show.

Not particularly impressed with the simple-minded game, but won over by their enthusiasm, he agreed to investigate their product further.

Eventually, his company road-tested the product in the general market, with an initial print run of less than 100,000.

After a sluggish start, the game got good word-of-mouth promotion and won a reputation as a fun game for adults.

By 1983, it had sold more than four million sets in Canada and the United States.

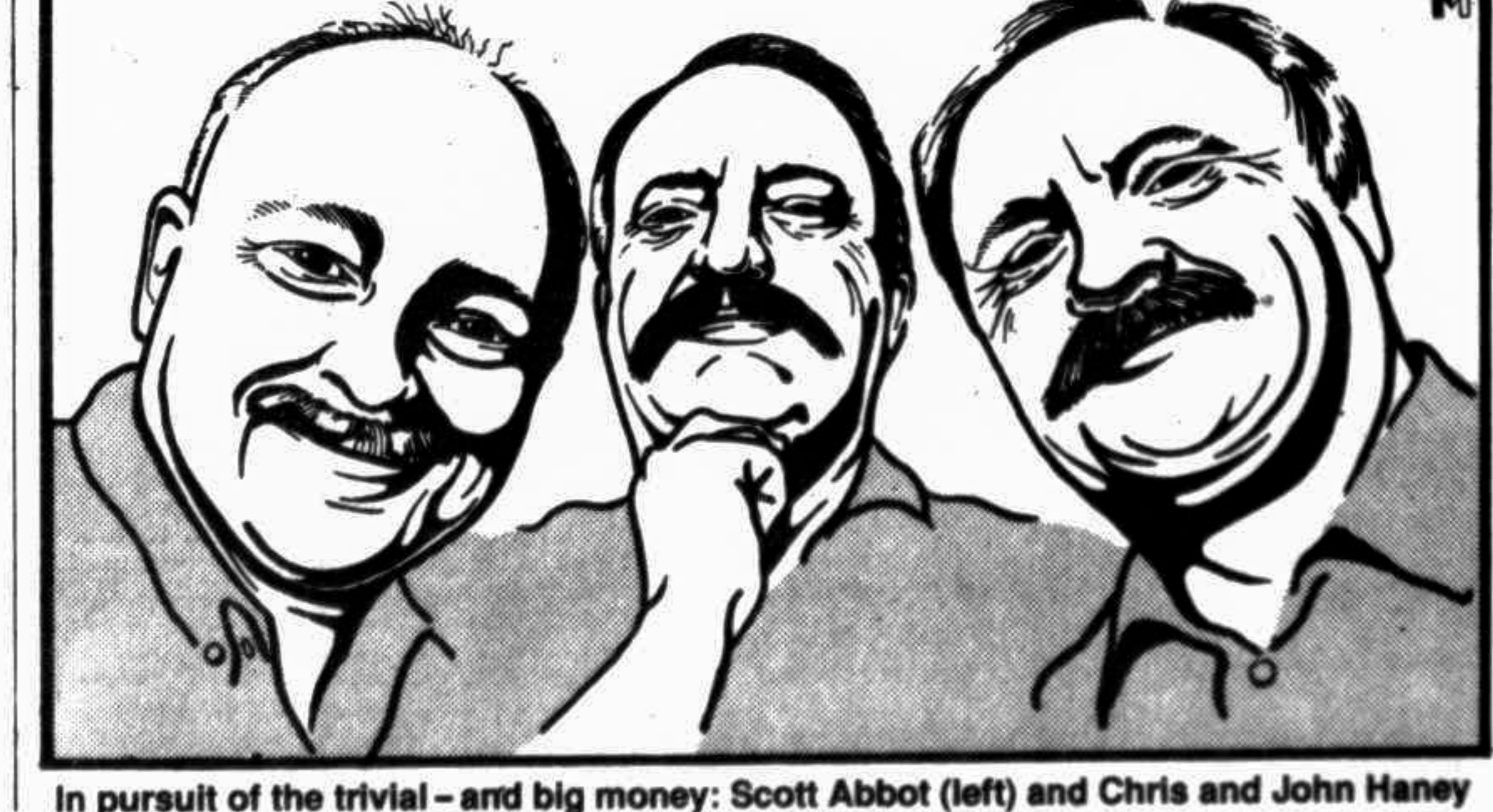
A European sales boom followed, and from then on, the game spread rapidly around the world. There are editions in 17 languages.

Then came new developments: the sequels. Extra question cards and special editions were produced, aimed at particular age groups and themes.

Today there are television and radio Trivial Pursuit shows, travel and pocket versions, a computer game and now CD-ROM.

Continuing international promotion and the addition of more and more "specialty sets" means more questions and answers to research and check. All the major "question formulators" are treated to an annual all-expenses-paid convention, usually in the Caribbean, where the founders spend part of their year.

—Gemini News



In pursuit of the trivial — and big money: Scott Abbot (left) and Chris and John Haney