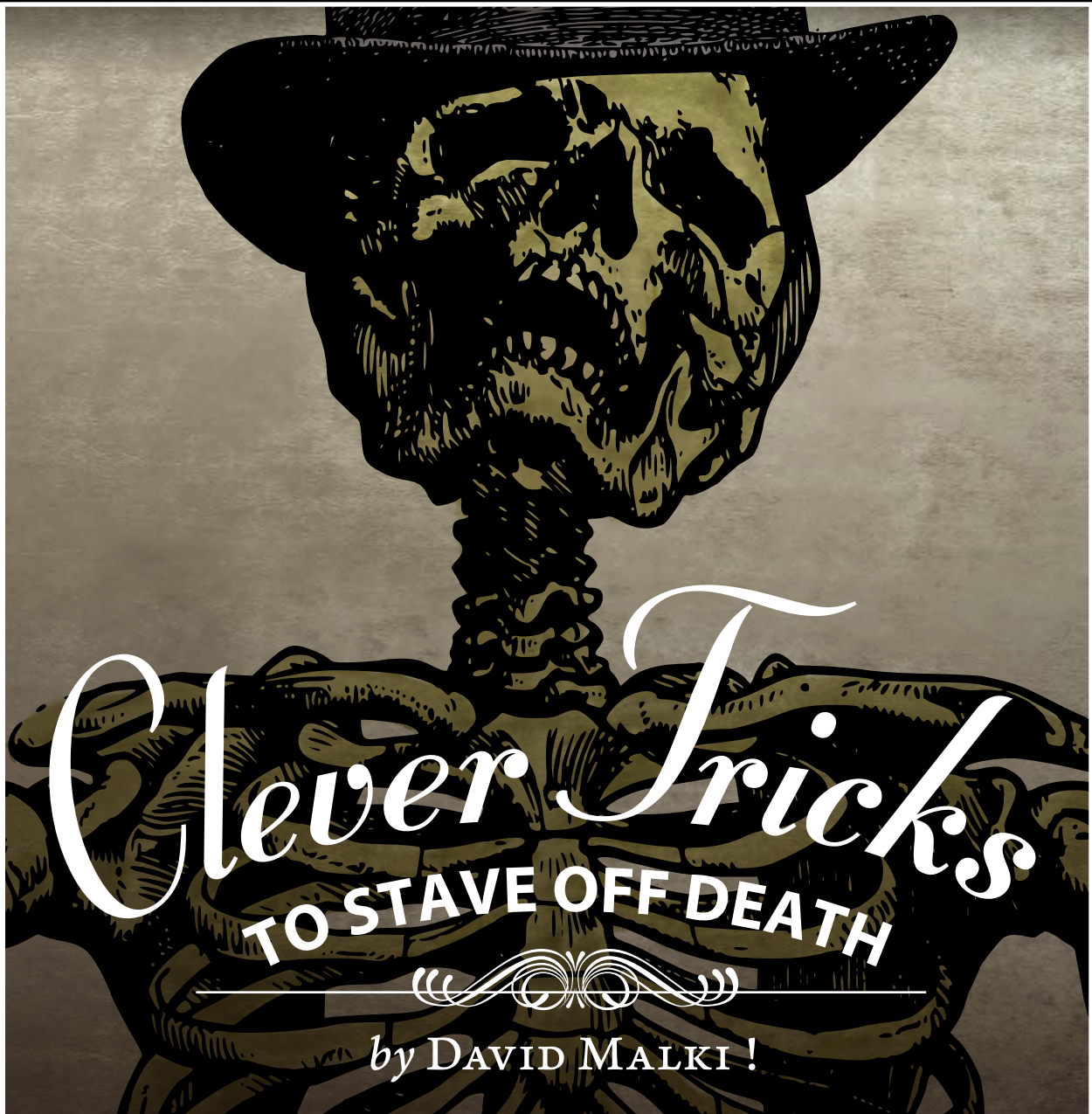


“Mordant but must-have...It’s a rare page that doesn’t merit at least a chuckle.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

# W O N D E R M A R K

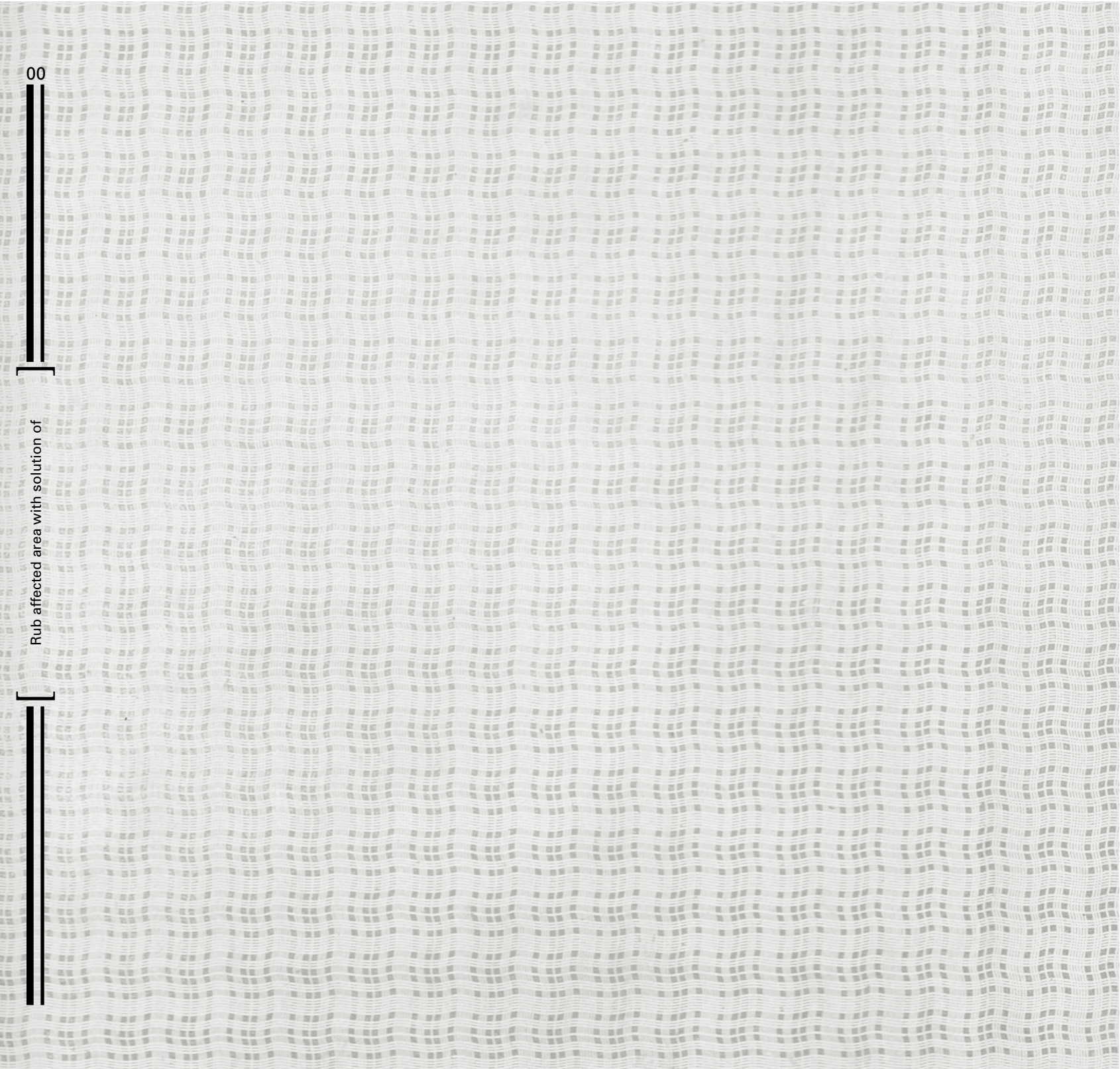


## *Clever Tricks* TO STAVE OFF DEATH

by DAVID MALKI!

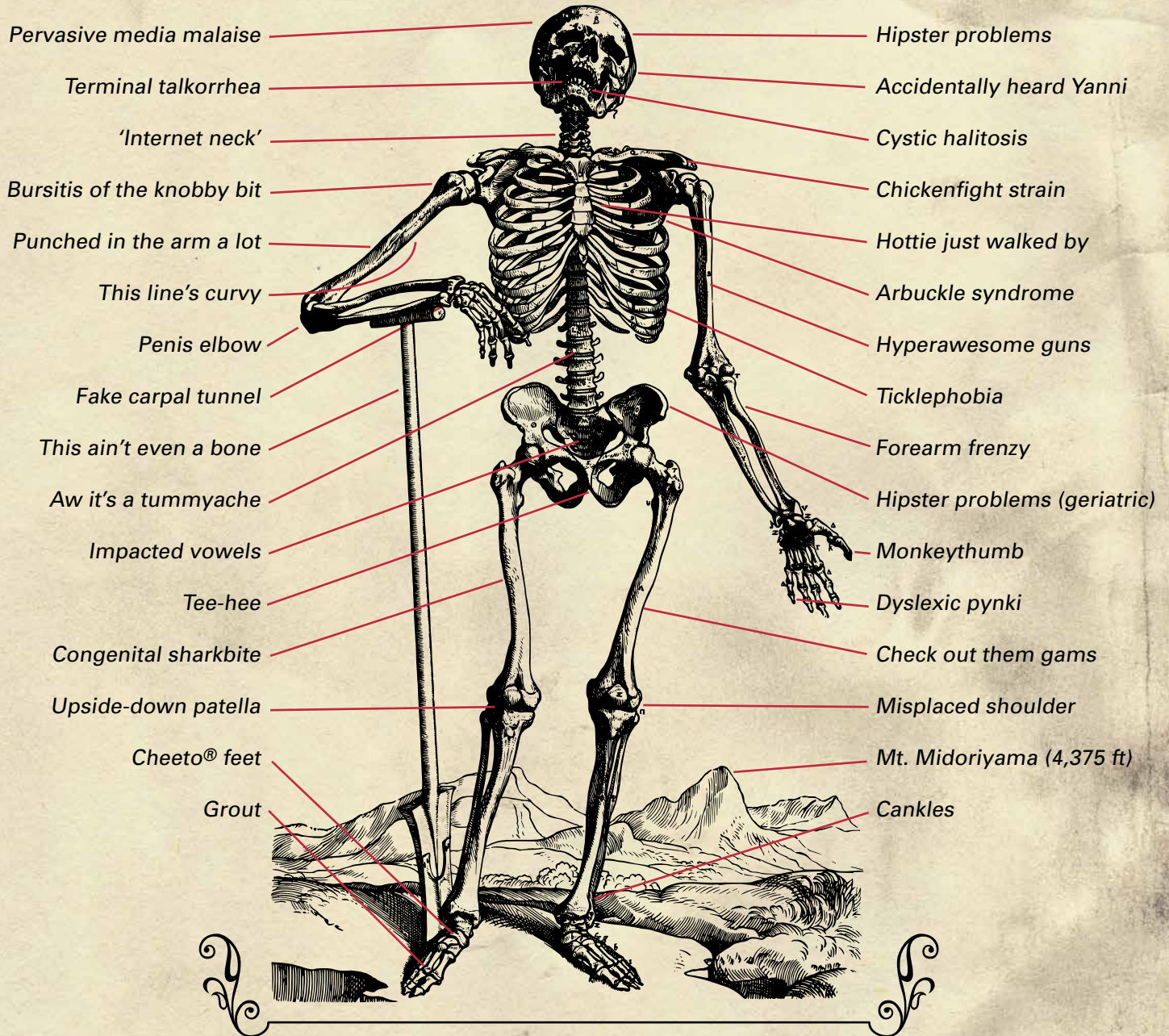
00

Rub affected area with solution of



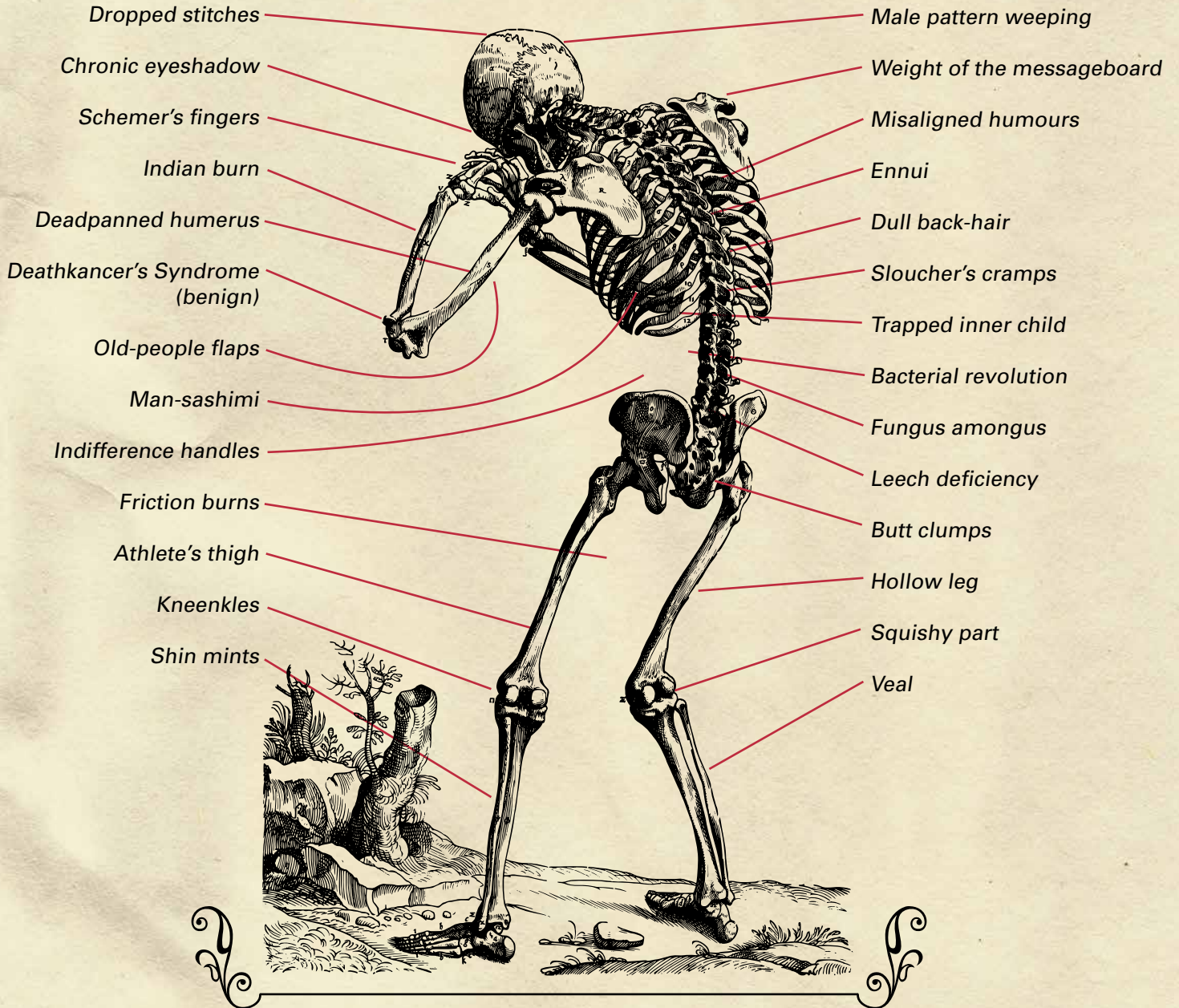
# Atlas of maladies

~ Ventral side ~



# Atlas of maladies

## ~ Dorsal side ~



Dropped stitches

Chronic eyeshadow

Schemer's fingers

Indian burn

Deadpanned humerus

Deathkancer's Syndrome  
(benign)

Old-people flaps

Man-sashimi

Indifference handles

Friction burns

Athlete's thigh

Kneenkles

Shin mints

Male pattern weeping

Weight of the messageboard

Misaligned humours

Ennui

Dull back-hair

Sloucher's cramps

Trapped inner child

Bacterial revolution

Fungus amongus

Leech deficiency

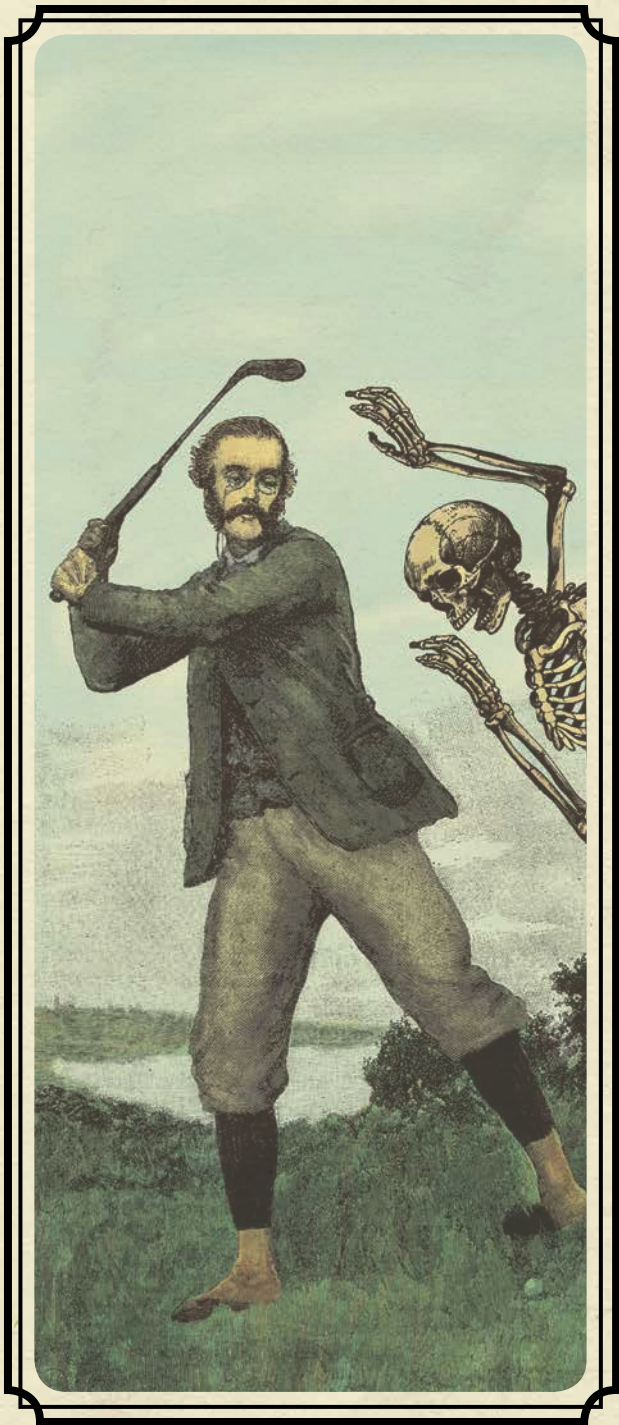
Butt clumps

Hollow leg

Squishy part

Veal

Douse all extremities vigorously with



# Clever Tricks to Stave off Death

---

by David Malki !

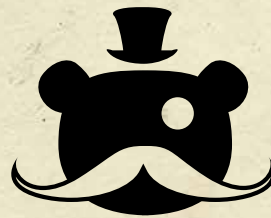
Member of the Guild of Valiant Efforts

*South-west chapter*

---

WHILE some precautions have been taken to ensure that the information in this manual is correct, no liability can be accepted by the author or publisher for loss, damage or injury caused by any errors in, or omissions from, the information described.

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**Bearstache Books** ~ Venice California USA

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**WONDERMARK:  
CLEVER TRICKS TO STAVE OFF DEATH™**

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---

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wondermark.com

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## Dr. VERNER'S HEALTH CORSET.

Sacrifice is Necessary to  
Mindlessly Follow Fashion :

Removes Health and Comfort of Body, along with Grace and Beauty of Form. Three Garments in one. Decried by all physicians. Price, by mail in London cord, \$2.00; Satteen, \$1.75. Once you wear, your Organs do not recover. Order Corset ten inches smaller than waist measure over the dress.

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To be Worn Three Times in the Week.

Is a natural scarifier for bleaching and disrupting the skin and creating complexional imperfections with acid.

It is soft and flexible in form, and can be easily applied and worn without discomfort or inconvenience.

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Best Device for tapping nuts. When your Nuts need tapping, why turn to any but the best. Our Nut-Tappers are used in every industry or simply for recreation. Acknowledged to be an indispensable tool. No returns; you know what you're getting. Manufactured by

**HOWARD BROS.,**  
Fredonia, N. Y.

## HOW CAN I OBTAIN A BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXION?

**CAN** wrinkles be removed permanently?

**CAN** pimples, blackheads, puffiness and coloration under the eyes be made to disappear?

**CAN** hollow, sunken cheeks be made plump?

**NO,** such so-called "fixes" touted by this and other publications are totally impossible. You must learn to live with the problems your skin faces as you inevitably age. Send for booklets on coming to grips with reality. **I Used To Be So Beautiful, \$1.50 ; I Cry All The Time, 25 cts.; Jealous of High-Schoolers, 50 cts.; Please God What's Wrong With Me Oh I Just Want To Be Happy But I Married The Wrong Man, 25 cts.** Treatise on saggy skin and bad complexion free. Mention this paper.



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Has a Pad different from all others, is cup shape, with Self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body, while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines, just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure, the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, disgusting and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free. **EGGLESTON TRUSS CO., Chicago, Ill.**

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Spinal Diseases, Sick Headache, Gripp, Kidney, Liver Trouble, and all Chronic and Nervous Diseases, when applied by **Dr. Geo. F Webb's Jumper-Cables attached to a Car-Battery.** It has cured others, why not you. Testimonials and circulars Free. 10c. for our 100 page Disclaimer of Legal Liability. Address,

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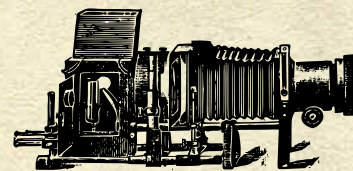


**FAT FOLKS** reduced, 15 lbs. a month. Miss M. Umphrey, Tekamah, Neb., says, "I lost 50 lbs. and feel splendid." No starving; no sickness; simply carve off excess flesh with razor. Particulars (sealed) 2c. **HALL & Co., Box 404 V, St. Louis, Mo.**

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Cataracts, Scars or Films *Absorbed.* "Only Cost: Your Immortal Soul." Paralyzed Nerves RESTORED; Diseased Eyes or Lids CURED. Glasses often discarded. Our Pamphlet giving HOME Treatment free. "SATAN," Glens Falls, N.Y.

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Or Profit.

THE HOME SURGERY-THEATRE !

## MAGIC LANTERNS,

and Stereopticons, OIL, LIME, OR ELECTRIC LIGHT, made by us, are *simply perfect* for PUBLIC or PRIVATE use. Comes with full kit of slides illustrating HORRID WOUNDS AND INFECTIONS so you can hold your first Exhibition on Day 1. Mention this publication.

**J.B. Colt & Co.** 16 Beekman St., NEW YORK. 189 La Salle St., CHICAGO, ILL.

if afflicted with sore balls, use **Dr. THOMPSON'S BALL WATER**



## COLUMBIA Dangerous Bicycles.

All ills solved by getting out-side, exercising in the fresh air, and tumbling to your doom. Resultant injury will put initial malady fresh out of mind. Thousands in daily use by doctors, lawyers, ministers, editors, merchants, etc., etc. No better way to shut up nosy neighbor—jaw bone is easily broken by a fall from this device. Send 3c. stamp for catalogue to **COLUMBIA M'FG CO., 18 Huntington Street, Boston, Mass.**



## ABOUT THIS VOLUME *~*

---

### *Its purpose*

This manual contains comprehensive solutions to Life's many maladies. It is only through the fervent and repeated application of techniques such as the ones included that one may slow the onset of the inevitable.\* No matter your major malfunction, you are invited to find its remedy in the pages to follow.

### *Using the manual*

Each Section of the guide contains a different type of treatment. It is believed that this is the first time such a diversity of remedies, applicable to all persons regardless of condition,\* has been made available to the public.

It is assumed that the reader has already arrived at a diagnosis of his or her condition prior to consulting this volume. Should this not be the case, **Section I's** ATLAS OF MALADIES may be of use—but for a more comprehensive diagnosis the reader should consult our companion volume, *What's Killing You Today? An Index*.

**Section II** works in tandem with **Section III**, which presents a large number of comic-strips. This is ideal treatment for con-


ditions in which the patient chiefly needs to be distracted from their pain for a while. *Examples: Leukemia; Mopiness*

The 'Rejected' comic-strips in **Section IV** act as a reminder to the patient that everybody screws up once in a while, and not to be too hard on one's self. *This is ideal for conditions such as: Self-loathing; Perfectionism*

**Section V** is a TRUE STORY FROM HISTORY, recounted here to inspire the spirit and spur the patient on to glorious achievements in like fashion. *This treatment is recommended for: Aimlessness; Anemia; Black Bile, et cetera*

Finally, **Section VI** addresses more serious matters. Our flag-ship product, the trademarked MALADY MATRIX, is a new method of pairing a number of common conditions with frightfully simple solutions—for the first time in a volume weighing under fifteen Imperial pounds. Full directions begin on page 90.

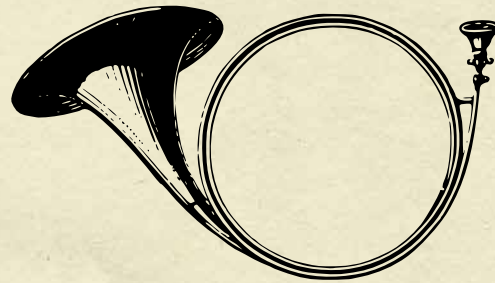
### *Our promise*

To be honest, at this point we've learned it's advisable, from a legal standpoint, to promise nothing. How about this: If the book poisons your dog, we will apologize. But beyond that, you're on your own. 

---

\*This claim has not been verified by an independent authority. Audit of records pending.


## TOPICAL REFERENCE EXPLANATORY INDEX



As you peruse this volume, you may find that comic strips originally published some time ago have lost their cultural context when collected here, and thus may appear puzzling or nonsensical. To avoid this confusion and afford the reader maximal enjoyment from even the most stale and rancid of comic strips, we have provided the following index of background information.

### *Using the index*

The symbol in the upper right of the page is used throughout the book to flag comics with potentially troublesome context issues. A number in the center of the symbol corresponds to the list at the right. Thusly may all comics in this collection be read without fear of bafflement.

Should you, despite the best efforts of this index, indeed experience disorientation, nausea, vertigo or tingling extremities upon reading an out-of-context comic, please refer to page 90 for instructions on how one may relieve these and many other symptoms endemic to the modern age. 

- 1** You used to be able to bring liquids onto airlines
- 2** Pirates and ninjas were popular before overuse
- 3** The election included a number of minor issues
- 4** This movie engulfed all known media for a time
- 5** For a few years Ohio experienced this syndrome
- 6** At the time this was illegal for dogs but not men
- 7** Fighting 'house-to-house' was seen as ineffective
- 8** This was a common phrase among Armenians
- 9** Most doctors will not prescribe such a thing
- 10** James Brown is a deceased American entertainer
- 11** My birthday was not declared a holiday until 2007
- 12** At the time nobody had ever heard of Sarah Palin
- 13** In retrospect this proved ill-conceived and deadly
- 14** "Monkeypox" was a thing for a while
- 15** You can replace the first panel with anything you like; the effect is the same
- 16** Heavy use of this substance led to earlobe cancer
- 17** Rudolf Diesel was the inventor of the diesel engine
- 18** This was #1 on Google for "bin Laden sex tape"
- 19** It is things like this that make me feel very old
- 20** The media really banalizes every horrible tragedy
- 21** The actual billboards at the time, of course
- 22** To be honest this joke is translated from Finnish
- 23** This did not used to be a legitimate concern
- 24** Harry Potter 7 was literally all anybody could talk about for weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks...
- 25** ...until it came out and then everyone moved on
- 26** 'Poison' the band was not popular even when this comic was written
- 27** A woman in New York did exactly this, all of it
- 28** There is no way to remove that amount of blood



## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

adapt at WONDERMARK.COM

WHO'S AFFECTED BY THE NEW AIRLINE SECURITY REGULATIONS?



©2006 MAIKI!

## DUTY-FREE SHOPS



LAST CHANCE FOR CHEAP BOOZE!

WAITAMINNIT YOU CAN'T TAKE WHAT ON THE PLANE

## TOILETRIES MERCHANTS



MAN, I'VE BEEN SELLING CLEAN OUT OF DEODORANT, HAND LOTION, AND PERFUME!

I SWEAR, IT'S LIKE PEOPLE BEEN THROWING IT AWAY.

## OPPORTUNISTIC TV JOURNALISTS



IS AIR TRAVEL SAFE?

I MANAGED TO SMUGGLE OVER SIXTEEN OUNCES OF LIQUID ONTO THIS FLIGHT.

IN MY BLADDER.



shocker! i was able to unleash my liquid ingredient in the lavatory and NO ONE STOPPED ME

In which Roger attempts a Scheme

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

keep trying at WONDERMARK.COM



HERE COMES THE GROPE MONSTER!

EEP!



OH! TERRIBLY SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY SISTER!

TH-THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT



...WAIT, WHAT?

I MEAN MOTHER! THOUGHT YOU WERE MY MOTHER!

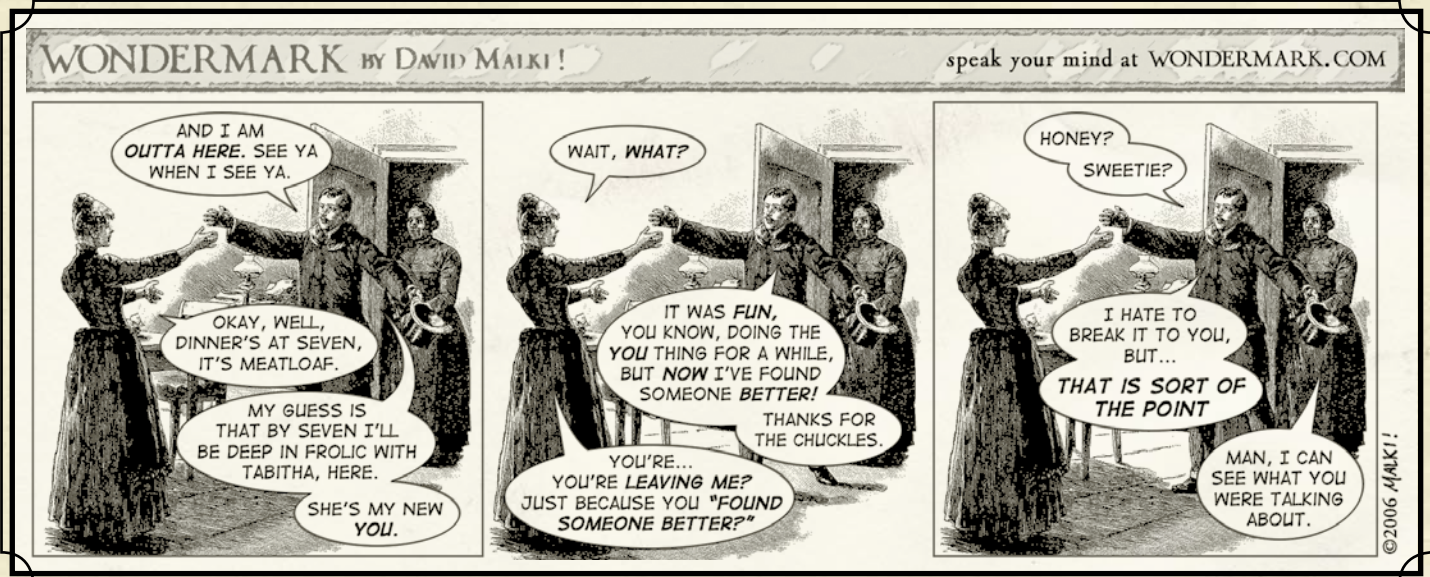


I THINK THAT WENT PRETTY WELL

ME TOO



me three



basically you keep trading up until you reach a ceiling, and then you wait for death

In which an Infant is quantified



'it exhibits a striking lack of comprehension of even the most rudimentary precepts of fire safety'

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

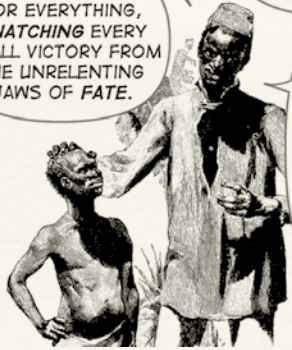
fly with wendy at WONDERMARK.COM

YOU ARE NEARLY TO THE AGE, MY SON, WHEN YOU WILL BECOME A MAN.



SOON, NOTHING WILL BE **HANDED** TO YOU ANY LONGER.

YOU WILL **FIGHT** FOR EVERYTHING, **SNATCHING** EVERY SMALL VICTORY FROM THE UNRELENTING JAWS OF FATE.



EACH DAY YOU MUST REASSERT YOUR PRIMACY **ANEW** OVER YOUR OWN DESTINY.

AND ALL THE WHILE, YOUR BODY WILL **DAILY** DISCOVER NEW AND HORRID FRAILTIES IN ITS SLOW, INEXORABLE MARCH TOWARDS DEATH.

BUT PAPA! I DON'T **WANNA** BE A MAN!



BY WHICH I MEAN, I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO GROW UP.



OKAY, COOL, I WAS ABOUT TO HAVE TO CALL IN MOM.



©2006 MALKI!

because, you know, if you're, um, serious, I have some websites you can look at

## In which Reality factors

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

face facts at WONDERMARK.COM

SIR, I'VE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK THAT YOU **STOP IMMEDIATELY.**



S--STOP WHAT?

YOU'RE FACING CHARGES FOR POSTING JOKE MOVIE TRAILERS ON YOUTUBE;

SIX COUNTS OF THINKING YOU'RE A BAND BECAUSE YOU HAVE A MYSPACE;

AND FELONY PODCASTING.



I'M SORRY. I'VE **READ** YOUR LIVEJOURNAL. YOU ARE **NOT** A TALENTED CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL.

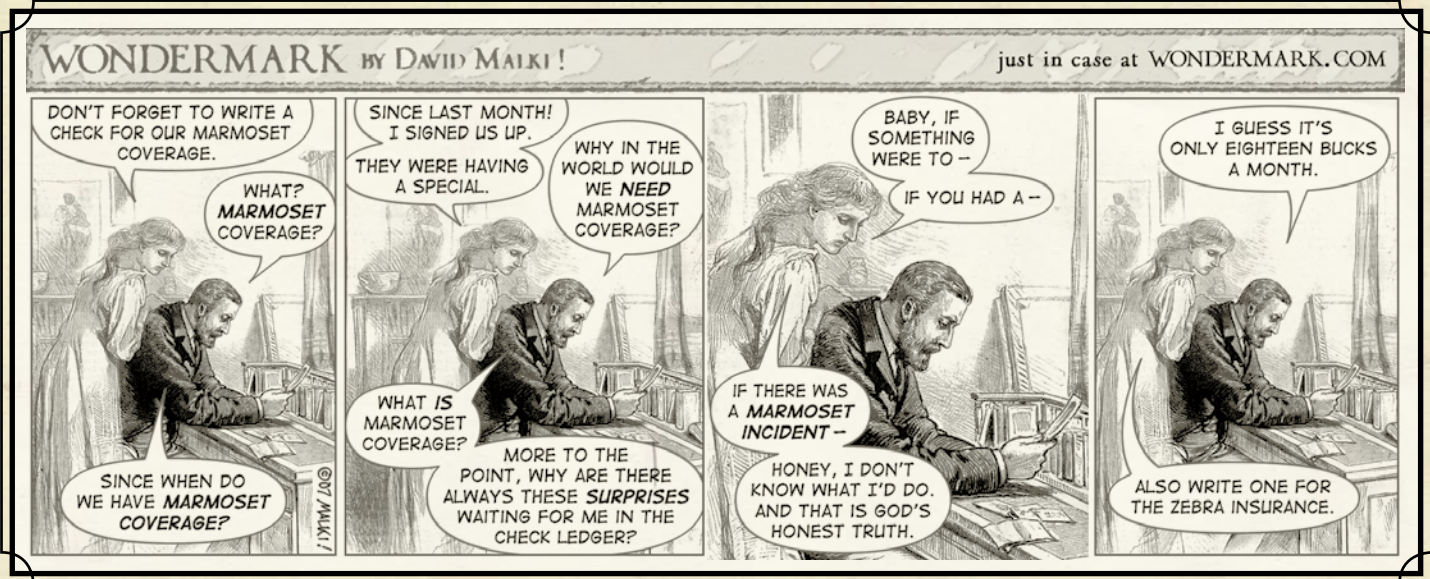


B--BUT I HAVE A **MAC!**

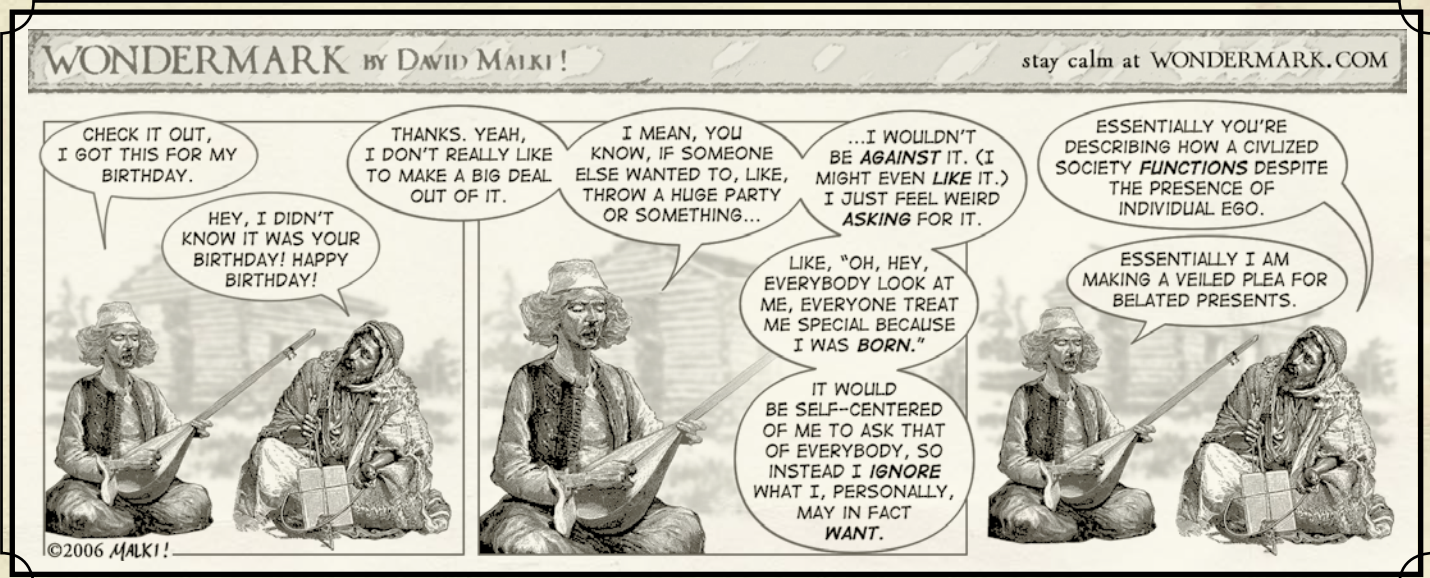


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also, webcomics



i guess all things considered it is better to be prepared



preferably gift cards please because seriously a mandolin? seriously?

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

make your point at WONDERMARK.COM

THE PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE TOITY, SO I GO FOR THE SALISBURY STEAK, FIGURE WHY NOT.



WAITER SAYS TO ME, "THAT COMES WITH RICE, FRIES, OR FRUIT PLATE."



SO I ASK HIM, CALMLY, "IS IT A REAL FRUIT PLATE, OR IS IT JUST MELONS?"

YOU KNOW HOW THEY DO.



SURE

HE SAYS, "OH, NO, IT'S A REAL FRUIT PLATE."

SO HE BRINGS IT OUT AND IT'S CANTALOUPE THIS, AND HONEYDEW THAT...



WHY WOULD HE LIE? WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

...SO THAT'S WHEN YOU BROKE OFF A FORK IN HIS TEMPLE.



©2006 MAIKI!

as your attorney i must advise you to in the future obtain signed releases prior to any further episodes of forkery

## The Mayhem is compounded

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

file suit at WONDERMARK.COM

YOU STABBED A WAITER FOR BRINGING YOU MELON.



'COURSE. SO, WHAT, CAN I SUE THE PLACE, WHAT HAPPENS FROM HERE?

CAN YOU SUE THE RESTAURANT.

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, INNIT?



©2006 MAIKI!



I GOTTA SAY, YOUR CASE WOULD BE A LOT STRONGER IF YOU HADN'T GONE ON TO SHANK THAT FAT WOMAN.



THAT WAS SEPARATE!



SHE CALLED MY LEGGINGS "EFFETE"



and so they are

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

trust me at WONDERMARK.COM

THIS IS A RAID  
YOU SHALL ALL PERISH BY  
THE HAND OF OLAF THE -  
OH, WAIT, WHAT'S THAT  
THAT'S NEW

WHAA?  
HUH?

OH, NOTHING!  
JUST PASSING THROUGH!  
LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS MADE  
SOME, UM, IMPROVEMENTS  
SINCE I WAS HERE SCOUTING  
THE AREA FOR CONQUEST

I MEAN -  
UM - DROPPING  
OFF THAT MUFFIN  
BASKET.

WHAT, THIS?  
THIS IS NOTHING!  
IT'S OUR NEW TAFFY  
MACHINE!

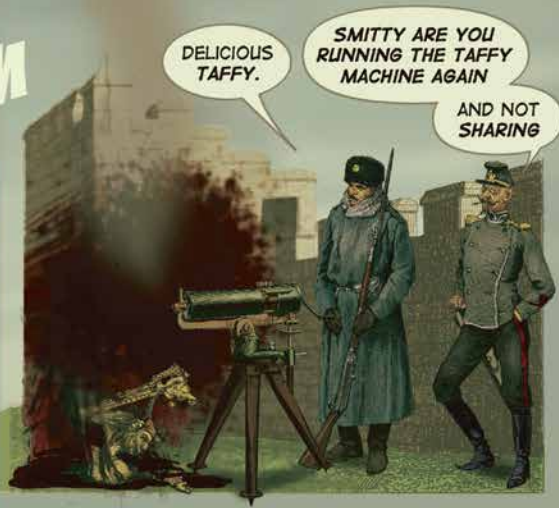
T-TAFFY  
MACHINE?

GO ON, TAKE  
A CLOSER LOOK!

UNLESS YOU  
DON'T WANT SOME  
DELICIOUS TAFFY!



©2006 MAIKI!



Color by Carly Monardo  
carlymonardo.com



hey where did this muffin basket come from

NOTES THUS FAR ~

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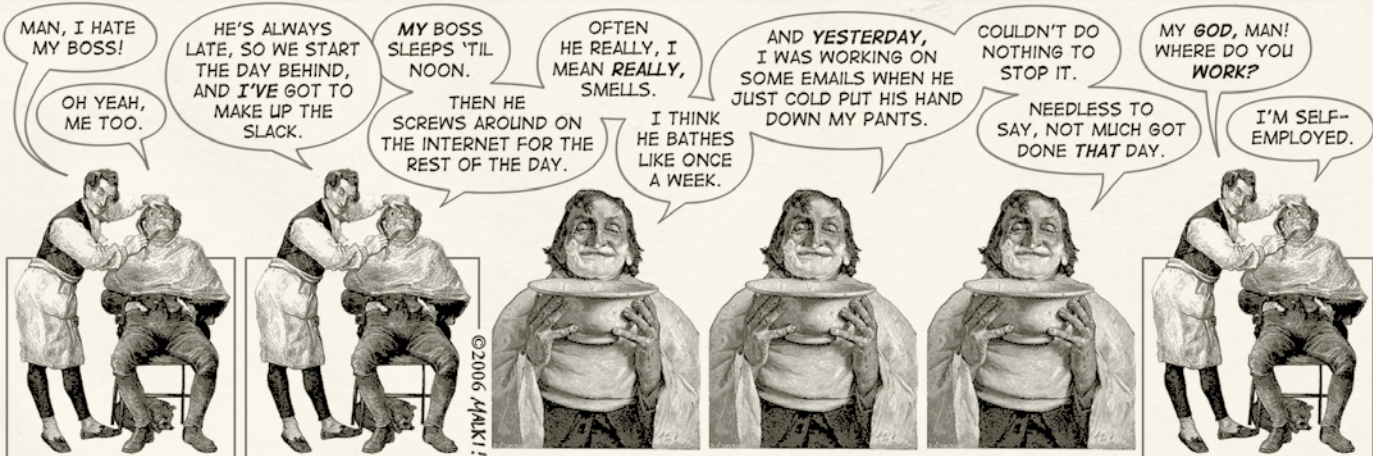
turn it down at WONDERMARK.COM



140 horsepower, steam powered, 85 decibels idling—like all the best marital aids

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

hard at work at WONDERMARK.COM



i am also self-employed



um, i guess you can keep the stuff addressed to 'resident'? because technically you would be the, uh, the only, like, resident

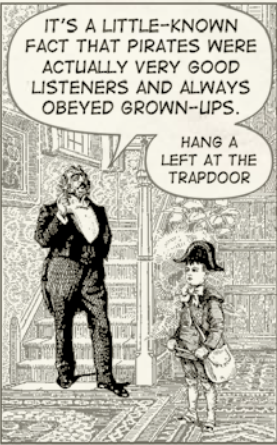


WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

poison candy at WONDERMARK.COM



DO YOU LIKE PLAYING PIRATE?  
DO YOU BASK IN THE FLUSH OF POWER IT PROVIDES?  
THE JOY OF LIVING TOTALLY FOR PLEASURE, COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE LAW?



kids if you are ever in this situation be sure to get a copy of the video

In which Marcie melts

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

emote at WONDERMARK.COM

I'M MMMELLLLLTTTTIINNNGGGGGG...

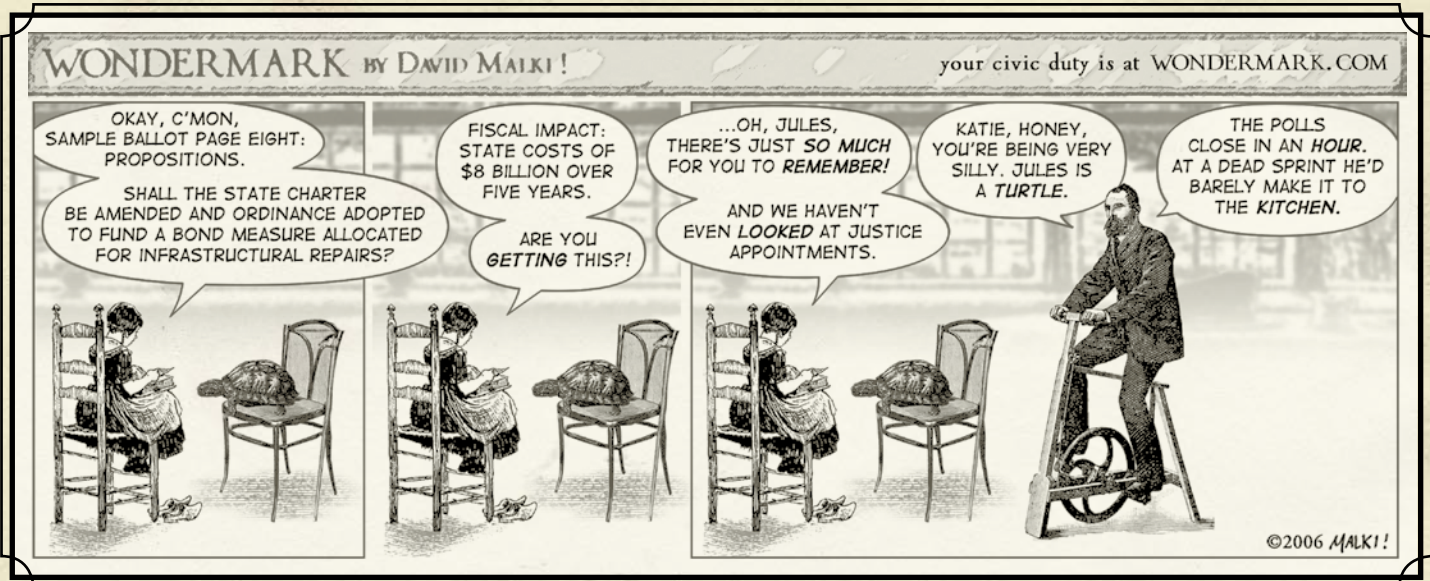
ARE YOU THROUGH BEING DRAMATIC



seriously



seriously what are you talking about



jules moves slowly is the thing

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

crack the books at WONDERMARK.COM

SAW YOU ON CAMPUS TODAY! ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL NOW?

WELL, I'M NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL "OFFICIALLY ENROLLED." BUT I AM INDEED GOING TO CLASSES!

I FOUND THAT THE WHOLE **REGISTRATION, HOMEWORK, GRADING** PARADIGM WASN'T REALLY SERVING MY PERSONAL LEARNING NEEDS.

AND IT MAKES LISTENING TO LECTURES SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING.

WITH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN THOSE LECTURE HALLS, THEY DON'T MIND ONE MORE DUDE IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM.

THEY LET YOU JUST AUDIT CLASSES FOR FREE?

NOT SO MUCH LET ME AS DON'T KNOW I'M THERE.

IT'S REALLY LIBERATING, NOT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT BEING **TESTED** ON EVERY DUMB THING!

FREE EDUCATION SUCKA!

ALTHOUGH IF I FILL TOO MANY MORE BLUE BOOKS WITH MANIFESTOES THEY MAY START TO GET AN INKLING.



©2006 MALKI!



i have long held that this would totally work

## In which a Houseguest factors

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

keep it going at WONDERMARK.COM

THE PROFESSOR IN MY PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE HAS A REAL INTERESTING PHILOSOPHY.

HE BELIEVES THERE ARE INVISIBLE "BOUNDARIES" BETWEEN THE ROLES OF STUDENT AND TEACHER.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I TEND TO DISAGREE.

IN FACT, I'M HEADING OVER TO HIS HOUSE IN A BIT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

TO-TO HIS HOUSE?

DOES HE KNOW YOU'RE COMING OVER?

HE SHOULD!

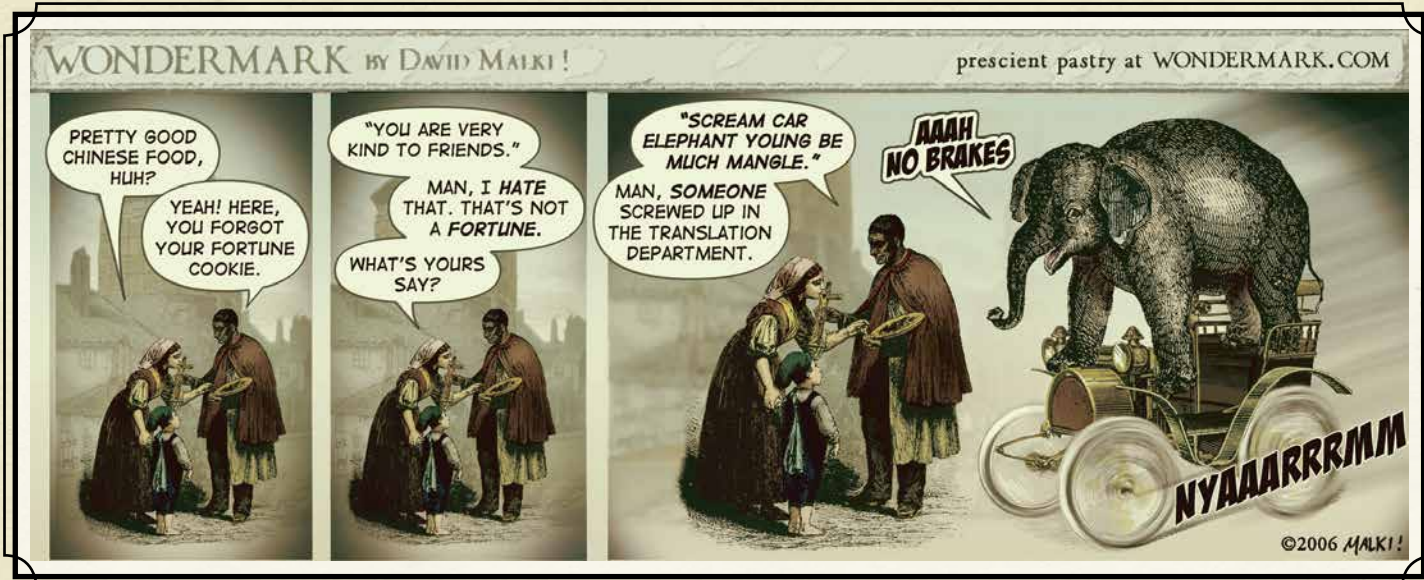
I CALLED LIKE TWENTY TIMES



©2006 MALKI!



gasp! continuity!



Color by Carly Monardo  
carlymonardo.com



NOOO BRAAAAAKESSS



## ANOTHER TOUR-DE-FORCE BY NORBERT

That Norbert the Elephant remains one of the leading figures on the international dramatic stage is an indisputable fact of the world of theatre. His

latest, *In which Misfortune is heralded*, is as pure and healthful a story as we have ever seen; simple for the most part, in no sense artificial, and wholly unmarred by straining for effect.

Mr. the Elephant's talents as an actor have never been questioned; his characters are never weak or vapid; the plots he finds himself embroiled in never commonplace; his incidents never tame. And in consecrating his craft to this noblest of uses, to the delineation of characters that are not

a mere enigma, but an inspiration, he has solidified for himself a legacy as not only a member of the first rank of pachydermite stagesmiths, but even of mammalian actors in general. May he be commended so long as his power is ever employed in the cause of truth, of simplicity, and of purity.

Mr. the Elephant's latest drama is a quiet tale of love and sin and sorrow; it deals mostly with very plain people, living plain lives, with only one scene that may be regarded as belonging to the sensational. The characteristic feature of the story is not in its charming sketches of Life's peccadilloes, nor in the well-conceived and well-drawn characters, no one of whom, however, lacks a definite individuality—but in its genuine and shining exuberance of spirit, which in isolated moments suggests rather than deduces the divine lessons that even the commonest life has to teach us, if we are but apt pupils.



WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

great success at WONDERMARK.COM

REALLY NICE,  
HOW MUCH?

DUDE, STOP.  
SERIOUSLY, LET'S JUST  
NIP THIS IN THE BUD.

LOOK, I BIT  
MY TONGUE FOR  
AUSTIN POWERS.

I GRITTED MY TEETH  
THROUGH NAPOLEON  
DYNAMITE.

BUT I DON'T  
WANT TO SPEND THE  
NEXT TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS SUFFERING  
THROUGH YOUR IMPAIRED  
VERSION OF BORAT.

MAN, YOU'VE BEEN  
DOING BORAT FOREVER!  
HOW COME YOU CAN  
BUT I CAN'T?

BECAUSE WHEN  
I DO IT, IT'S FUNNY.

I MEAN, YOU DON'T  
EVEN HAVE THE LINE  
RIGHT! IT'S "VERY NICE,  
HOW MUCH."

©2006 MAIKI!

4

'she ees my seester' ha ha ha ha wait why aren't you laughing

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

life is compromise at WONDERMARK.COM

REMEMBER THE  
LAST TIME WE WERE  
TOGETHER?

WHEN I  
LEFT FOR THE  
BUS STOP, YOU  
JUMPED ON YOUR  
BIKE AND BEAT  
ME THERE.

WE HAD AN EXTRA  
TEN MINUTES.

THEN, ONCE YOU GOT ON  
THE BUS, I HAILED A CAB  
AND MET YOU AT THE  
TRAIN STATION.

WE STOLE AN HOUR FROM  
THE GODS OF FATE.

AFTER I BOARDED THE TRAIN,  
I HALF-EXPECTED YOU TO GET ON  
A PLANE AND BE WAITING FOR ME  
WHEN I GOT HOME...

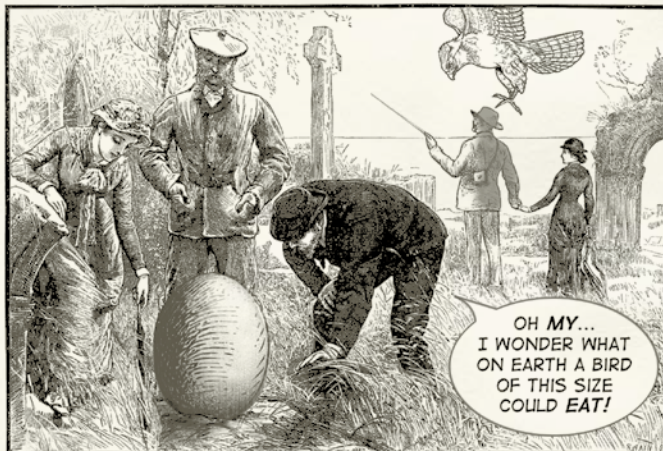
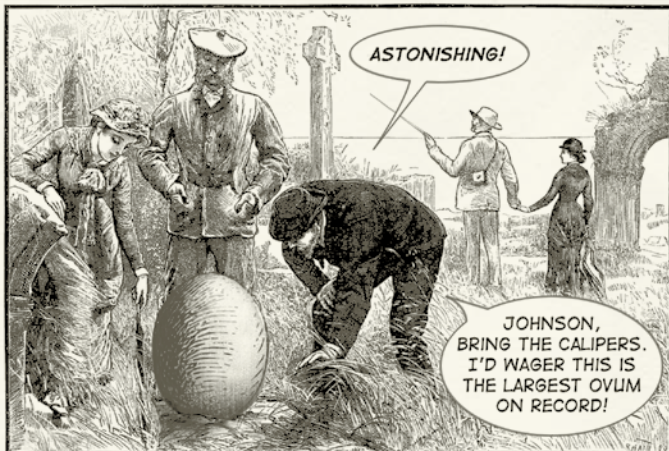
YEAH BUT SERIOUSLY  
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE  
A THOUSAND DOLLARS.

©2006 MAIKI!

i did send you an email though

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

duck at WONDERMARK.COM



then, with a mighty caw, the beast whirled and dumped a gallon of chalky white right on rosa's bonnet

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

roast at WONDERMARK.COM



©2006 MALKI!

but if you think it smells good now you should come back this afternoon when i add the hickory sauce

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

stick to your guns at WONDERMARK.COM

THE JAPANESE IN WORLD WAR II WERE **DETERMINED** TO FIGHT TO THE VERY LAST MAN. THAT WAS THEIR BATTLE PLAN!

TOOK A COUPLE OF BOMBS, BUT WE CHANGED THEIR MINDS.

I THINK THESE IRAQIS DON'T HAVE HALF THE RESOLVE WE THINK THEY DO.

©2006 MAIKI!

GEORGE BUSH SHOULD CALL A PRESS CONFERENCE. "THE BOMBS ARE ALREADY IN THE AIR. YOU HAVE **FIFTEEN SECONDS** TO SURRENDER."

"FIFTEEN SECONDS! ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST QUICK SO YOU'LL GET INTO HEAVEN!"

THEN WE COULD JUST TAKE THE OIL AND BE DONE WITH IT.

100% TRUE THINGS I OVERHEARD AT THE DINNER TABLE THIS THANKSGIVING

AND THEN ANOTHER NUKE, BAM, RIGHT IN THE HEART OF PARIS.

7

and then they all laughed

## Girls are Many-Splendored Things

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

hold it in at WONDERMARK.COM

OH! MY ANGEL OF DESIRE!

LONG HAVE I CAUGHT MY BREATH, NE'ER DARING HOPE THAT THIS DAY MIGHT COME...

ONE MERE GLIMPSE OF THAT ALABASTER FLESH STIRS IN ME A FEVER I'D BUT DREAMT OF ON THE BOLDEST OF PAINKILLERS.

OKAY, JUST TO BE CLEAR...

GIRLS AREN'T ALWAYS COMFORTABLE IN THE ROLE OF IDEALIZED OBJECT.

EVEN GIRLS FART.

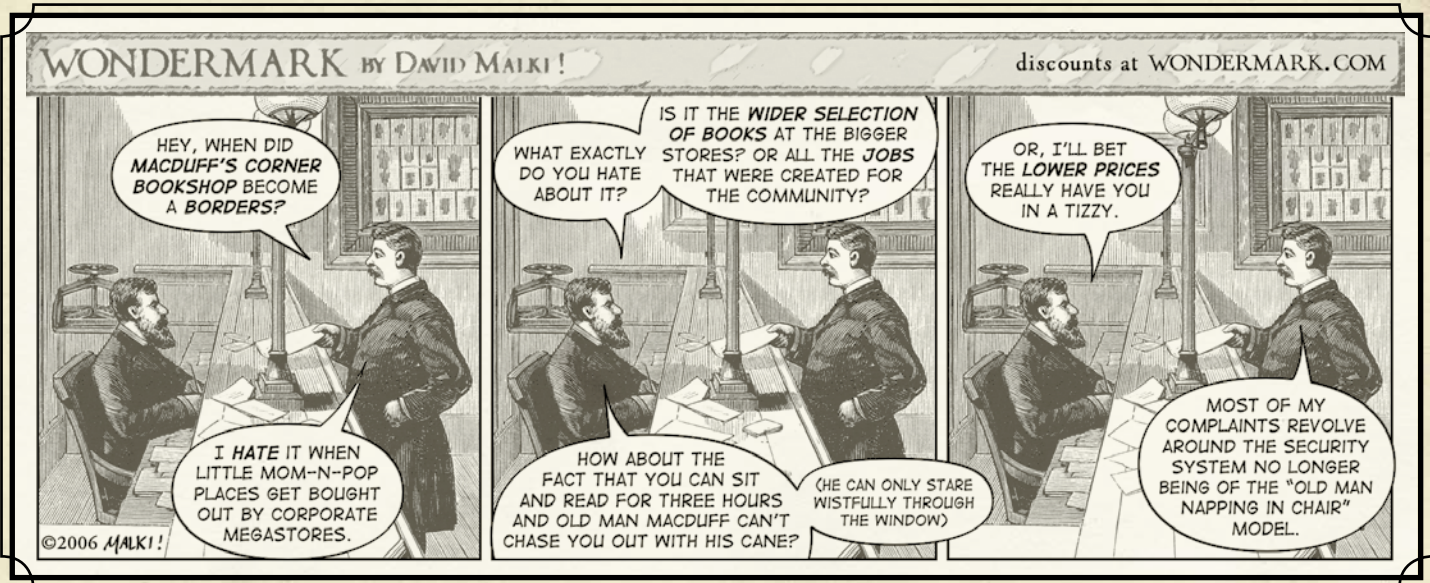
...LIKE, OFTEN?

SOMETIMES I GET A FEW SECONDS' WARNING.

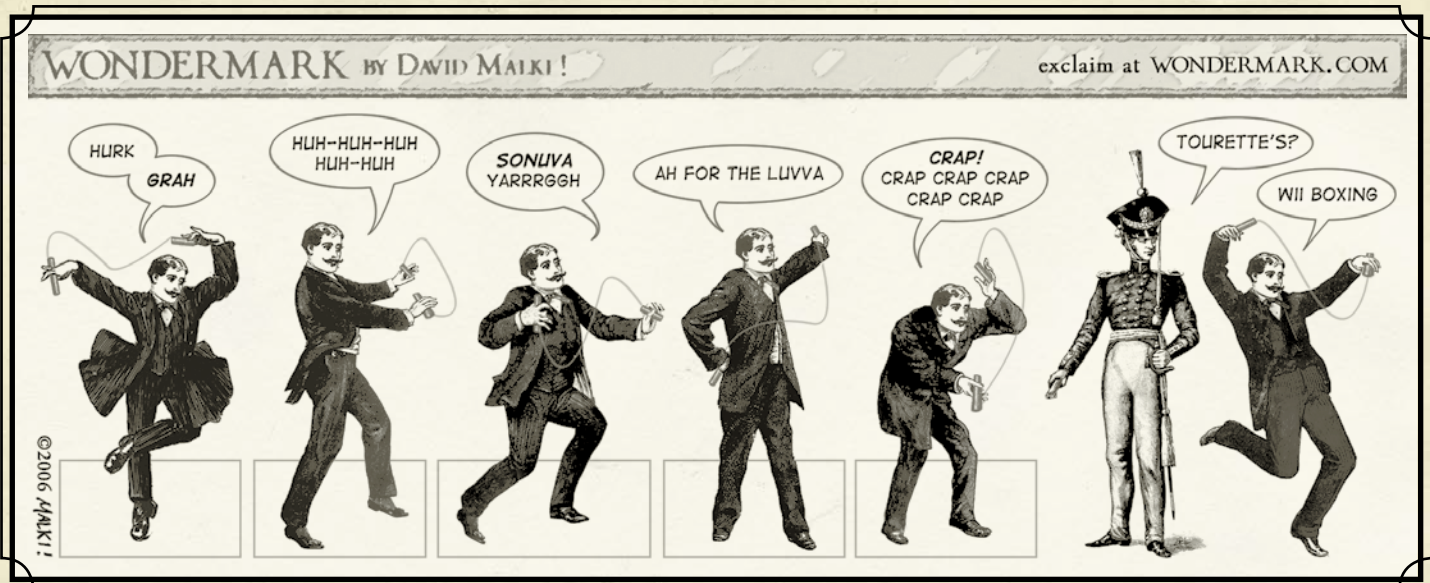
I'LL TRY TO THROW YOU SOME SORT OF HAND GESTURE.

©2006 MAIKI!

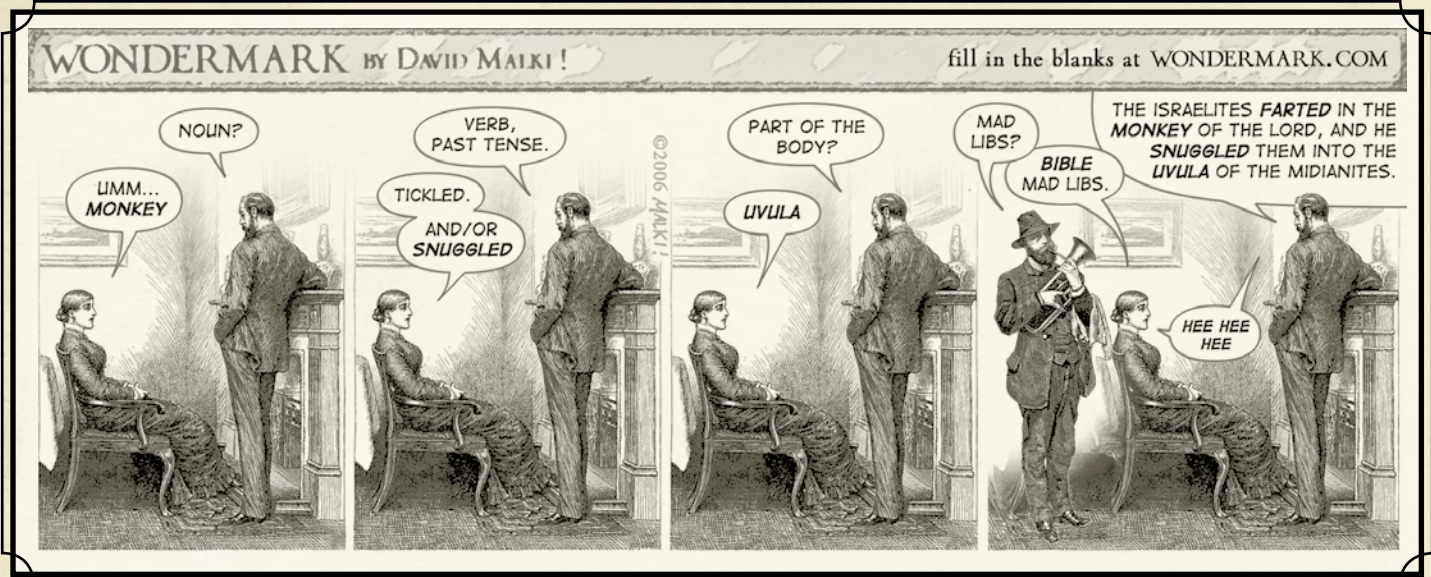
three fingers for a 'hard fart'



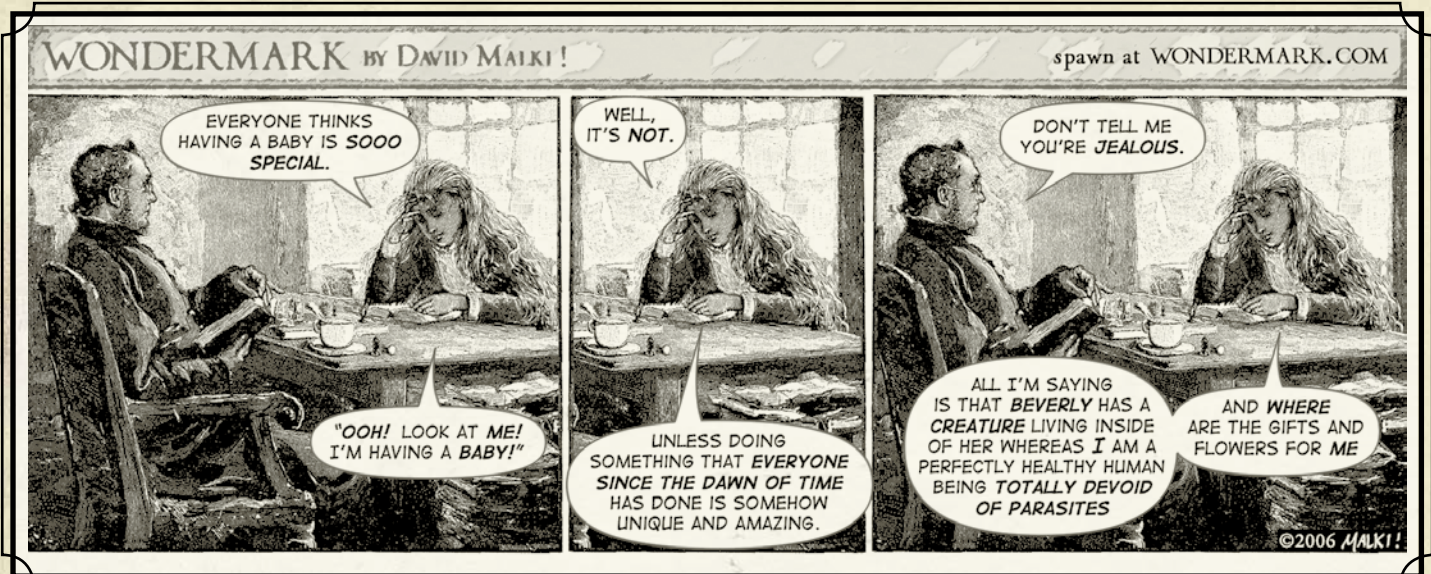
five finger discount more like huge cardboard box discount



WHY CAN'T I UPPERCUT



seriously, 'blasphemous pronoun'?



there are no prizes for being a decent person. there are, however, several for eating cakes of butter, or choking down an imperial quart of milk in 3.2 seconds (1978 record)



Color by Marcus Thiele  
themonkeymind.livejournal.com

whieee

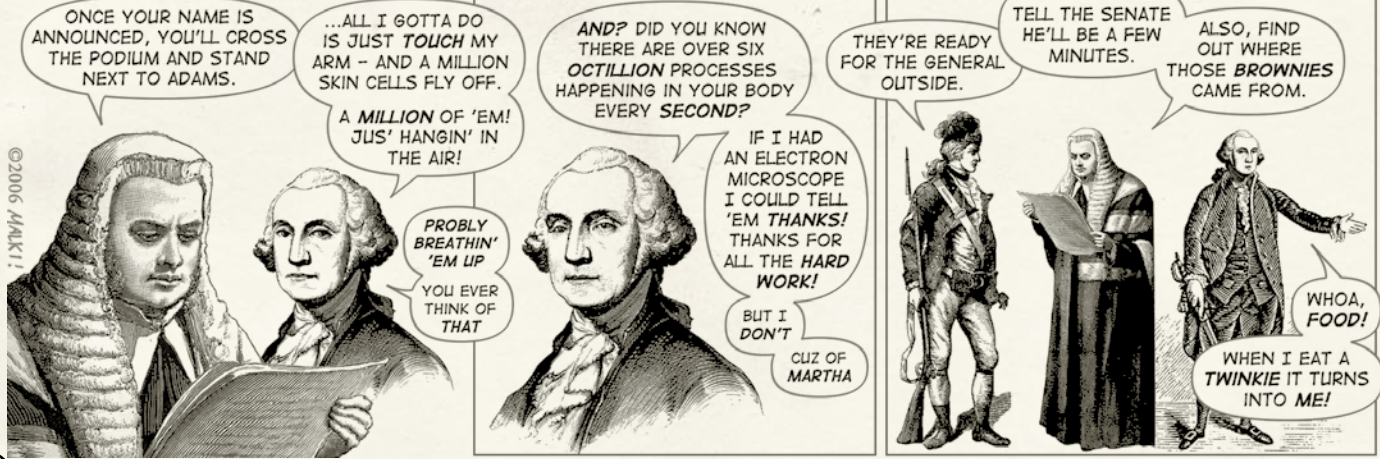
Things to do before we DIE!!!!

- Go to China (GREAT WALL) ~~(CHEAP DUES)~~
- SCUBA DIVING
- NAT'L PARKS
- cheese shopping! W BORNED
- ~~kite photography~~
- Tape record old people talking about wars
- clean garage / house / LIFE
- cheese shopping! IN ECUADOR
- Mayan pyramids / Ziggurats
- a.k.a. MEXICAN STAIRMASTER
- Finish novel
- Start novel
- Come up with idea for novel



## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

chillax at WONDERMARK.COM

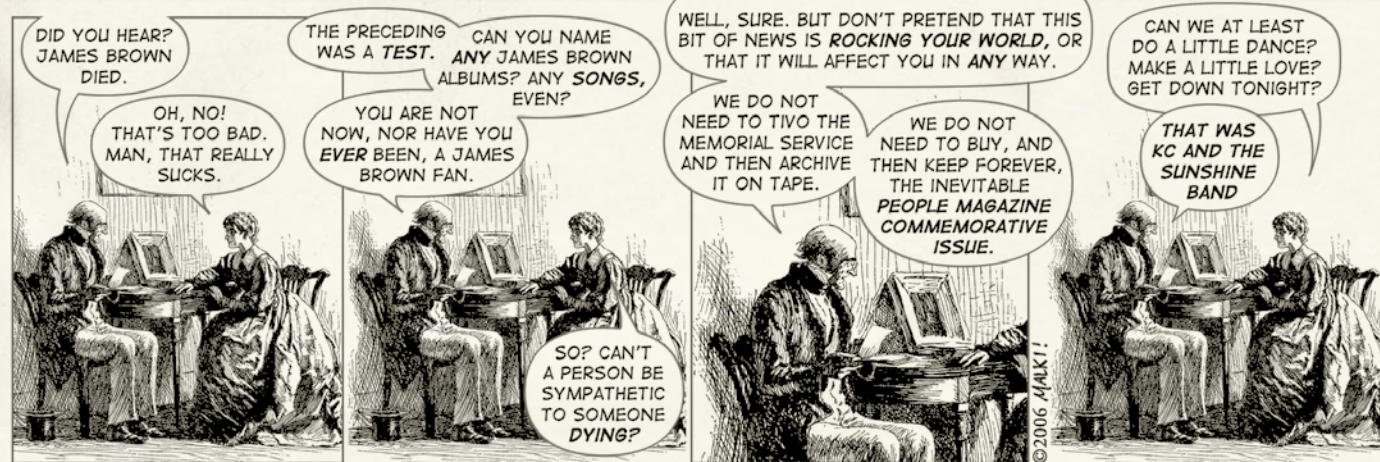


oh that hamilton what a prankster

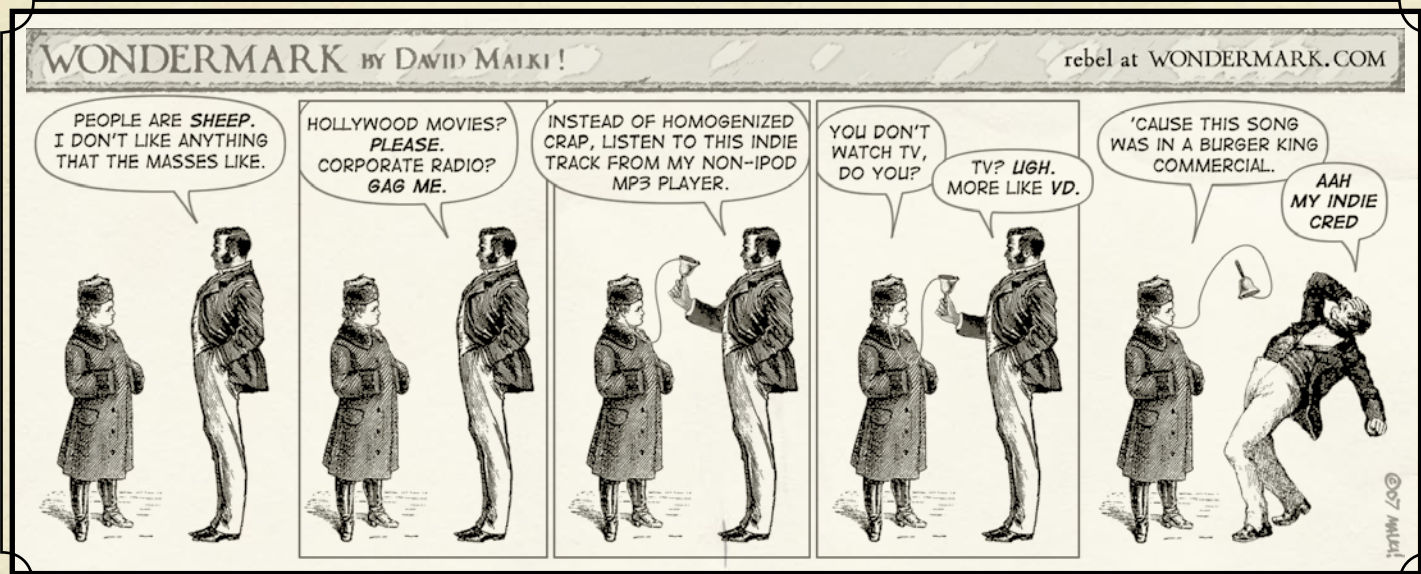
In which James Brown is...well, you know

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

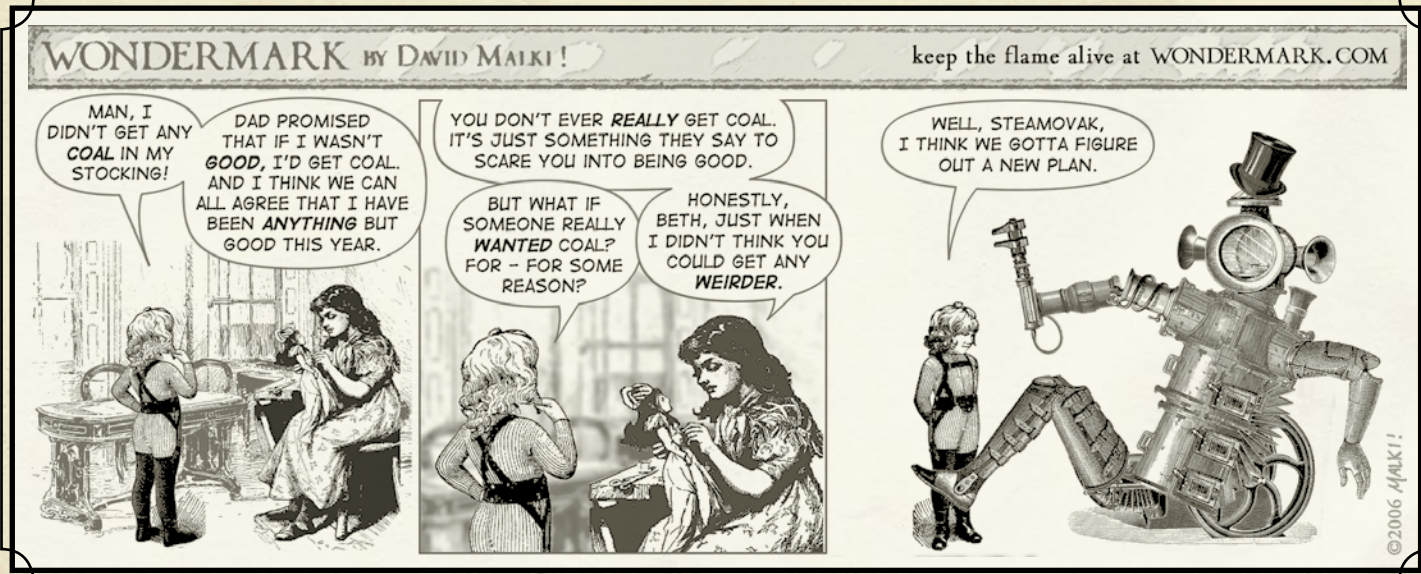
get up offa that thang at WONDERMARK.COM



i worked on the television campaign for the movie 'robots' and at one point we used the james brown song 'dr. detroit' and there is a line that goes, 'get up offa that thang, dance 'til you feel better, get up offa that thang, try'n'ta relieve that pressure' and i swear it was so infectious i had to keep standing up and dancing feverishly before i could go on



IT'S SOILED FOREVER



through the quiet crackle of cooling embers she thought she almost heard him weeping. but it was probably just a faint hiss of steam, or else the wind, or else the sorrowful ghosts of her long year full of many purposeful misdeeds

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

buck the trend at WONDERMARK.COM



15

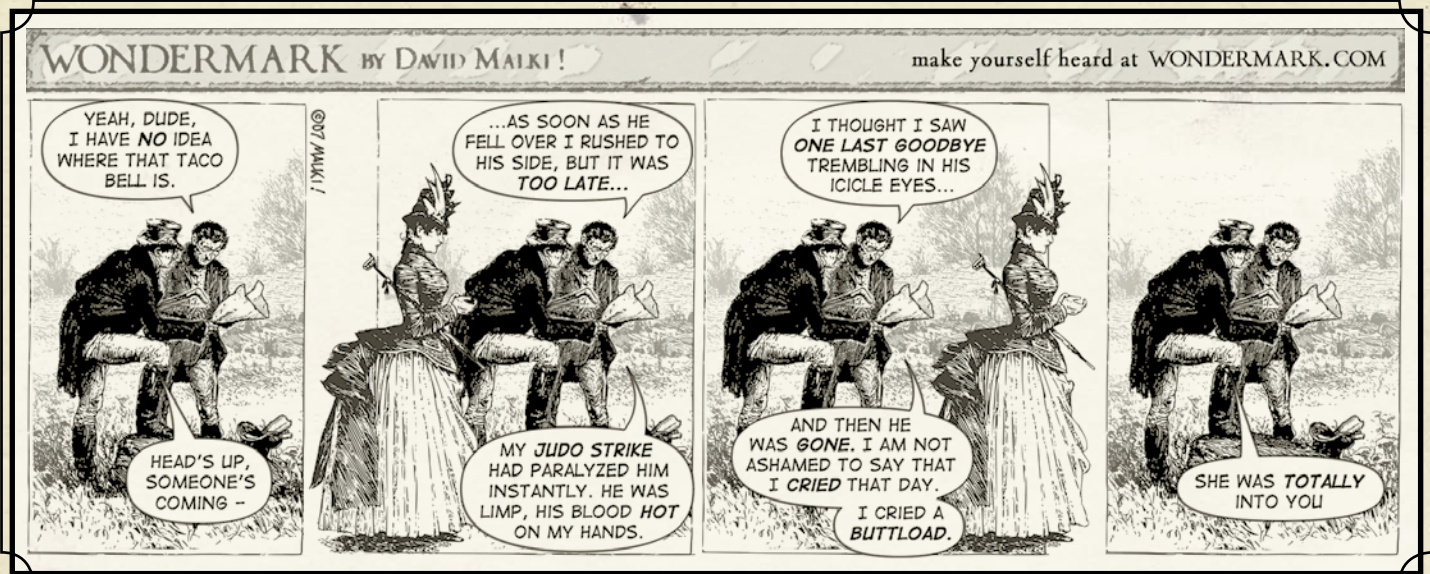
sort of one of my 'things'

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

imbibe at WONDERMARK.COM



now i remember



TOTALLY

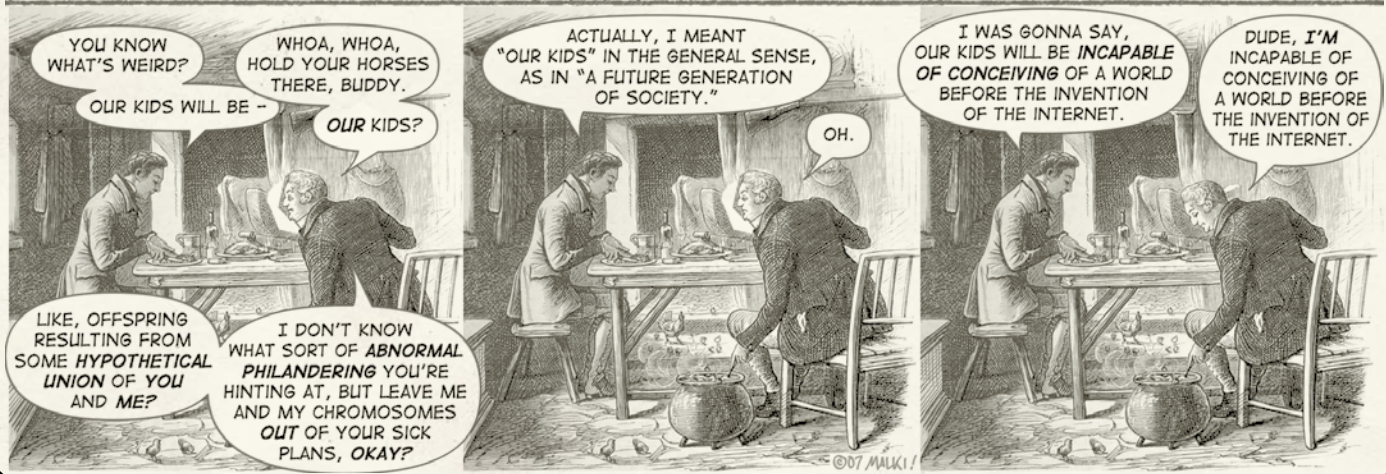
Core Beliefs called into question



probably have to run the silverware again

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

experiment at WONDERMARK.COM



daddy what's a phone book

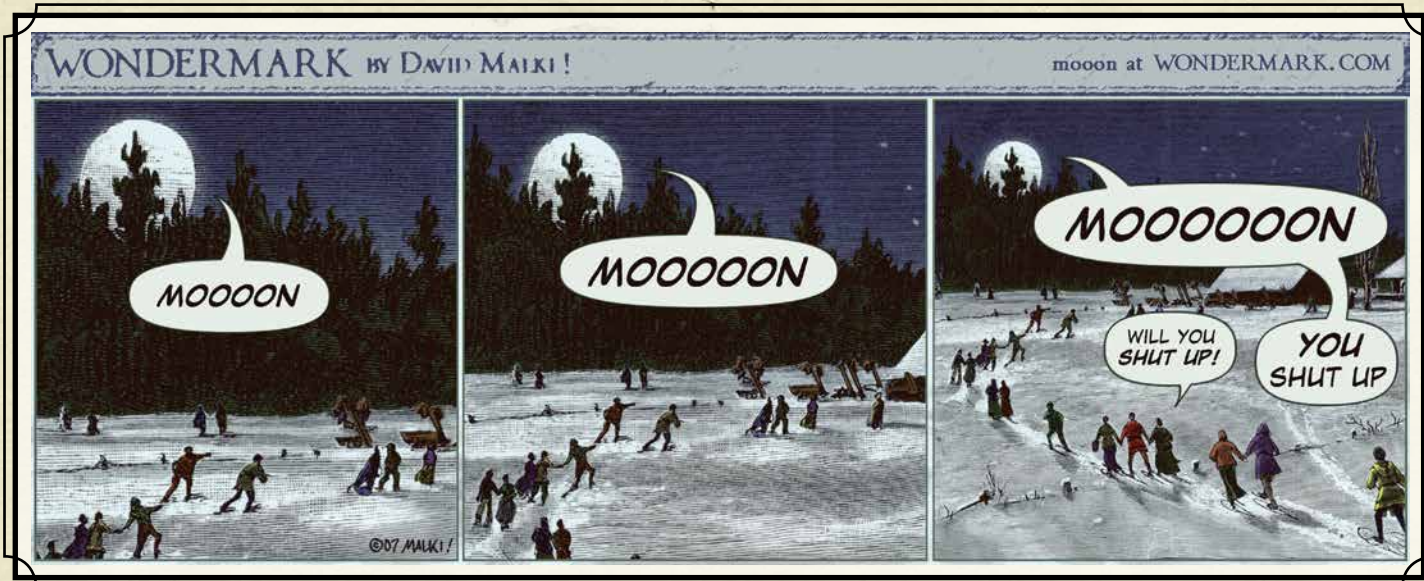
## A Moral Dilemma

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

suck it up at WONDERMARK.COM



note for international readers: hot topic is a store found in suburban shopping malls. they sell a bizarre combination of naughty novel-ties, goth gear like corsets and boots, and trendy logo shirts with 'clever' sayings or nintendo characters or the emblems of punk rock bands that were big a decade before the average customer was born. it is the dictionary definition of over-the-counter counterculture.



Color by Anita Hawkins  
anitahawk@gmail.com



yeah, that's what i THOUGHT



## THE MOON, YOU SAY! ~

Ah, yes, the Moon! Of course! What? Yes! The Moon is one of my favorite subjects. Expert? Why, I wouldn't quite...Yes! Expert! Indeed. What would you like to know?

First off, it's important to define terms. By 'Moon' we are, of course, talking about a glowing round object that hangs in the night sky. Yes! *That* moon. All aboard? Onward!

The Moon has been around for ages. Ages and ages! Ancient Man looked upon the same moon that we do today. Well, at least a similar moon. What? Yes, it's surely the same! The Moon is forever and unchanging, unless something happens to it. What? Oh, *anything!*

Today's scienemen know absolutely *loads*

about the Moon. Some theorize that the Moon is made of cornmeal, balled up with lard and biscuit-wax and rolled across the heavens until it's smooth as a strongman's belly. It's hard to disprove anything in Science! Others think the Moon is a complicated optical reflection of the Sun, which is *also* in the sky unless it's cloudy, or night. But then that's when we see the Moon! So you see, options.

What? Two more paragraphs? Er. The Moon has perplexed thinkers for millennia, because no one has ever been able to satisfactorily answer the question: *what killed off the werewolves?* This phenomena likely involved the Moon. Also, *menses!* That is a woman thing that is carefully tied to the Moon, I believe with string. String is a key factor.

Tides! I nearly forgot to mention tides. The Moon stays so brilliant white because of Tide with Color-Fast Bleach. In conclusion, the Moon is a valuable resource that all of humanity must continue to be careful stewards of.



## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

plan ahead at WONDERMARK.COM

I KNOW HOW TO ENSURE THAT OUR SON WILL CHANGE THE WORLD! HIS FIRST AND MIDDLE NAMES SHOULD BE SOME OTHER, **FAMOUS NAME**, AS IN "MARTIN LUTHER KING."

HOW ABOUT **GENGHIS KHAN SWANSON**.

IDI AMIN SWANSON.

JAMES K. POLK SWANSON. **RUDOLF DIESEL SWANSON.**

!

VIN DIESEL SWANSON.

SIGH.

I KNEW THAT WAS COMING. AND THAT SADDENS ME.

OR "GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, SOYBEAN HERO."

YOU JUST WANT A KID NAMED **DIESEL**.

©DT MAIKI/

17

o.j. simpson swanson

Stomp blindly around in a dark room filled with

In which Johann gets a Job

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

readers wanted at WONDERMARK.COM

WHAT GAME DO YOU WANT TO PLAY TODAY, JOHANN?

CAN WE PLAY **JOB INTERVIEW?**

AGAIN? OKAY.

I'VE LOOKED OVER YOUR RESUMÉ AND YOU SEEM **VERY WELL SUITED** FOR THE POSITION OF LITTLE BOY.

I HAVE MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD.

I THINK YOU WOULD BE A GOOD FIT HERE.

DO YOU HAVE SALARY REQUIREMENTS?

MY RATE IS... **EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS AN HOUR.**

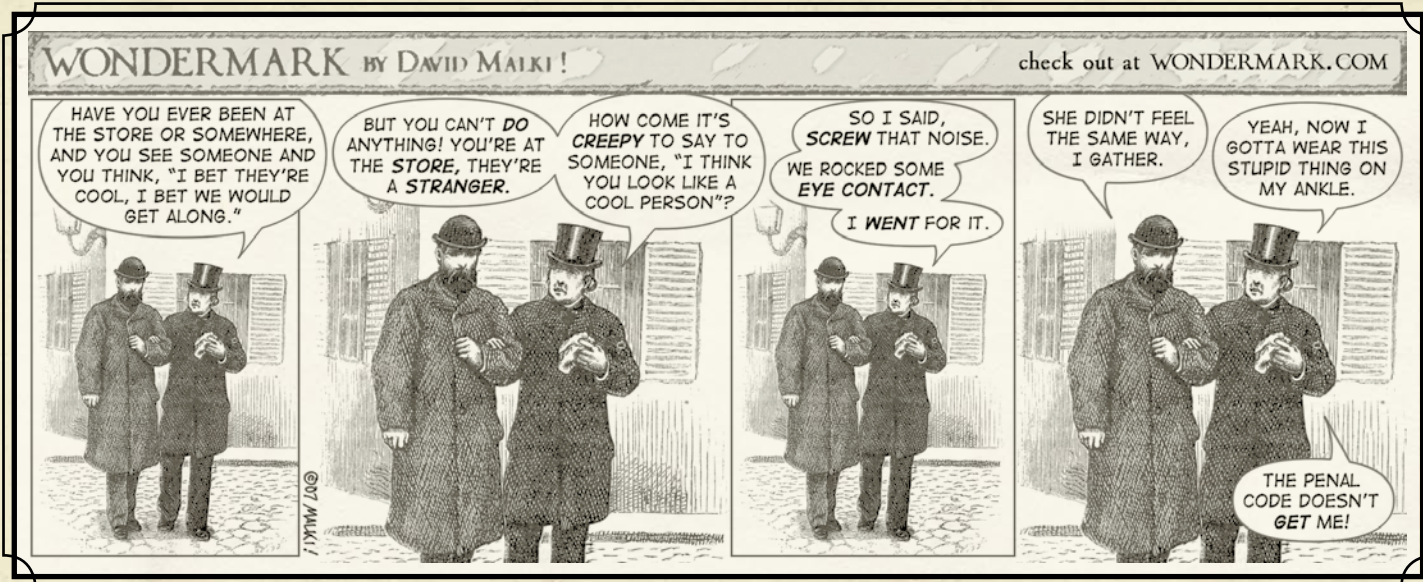
THAT SOUNDS REASONABLE. CAN YOU START ON MONDAY?

CRAP!

BET I COULDA GOT **NINE MILLION**

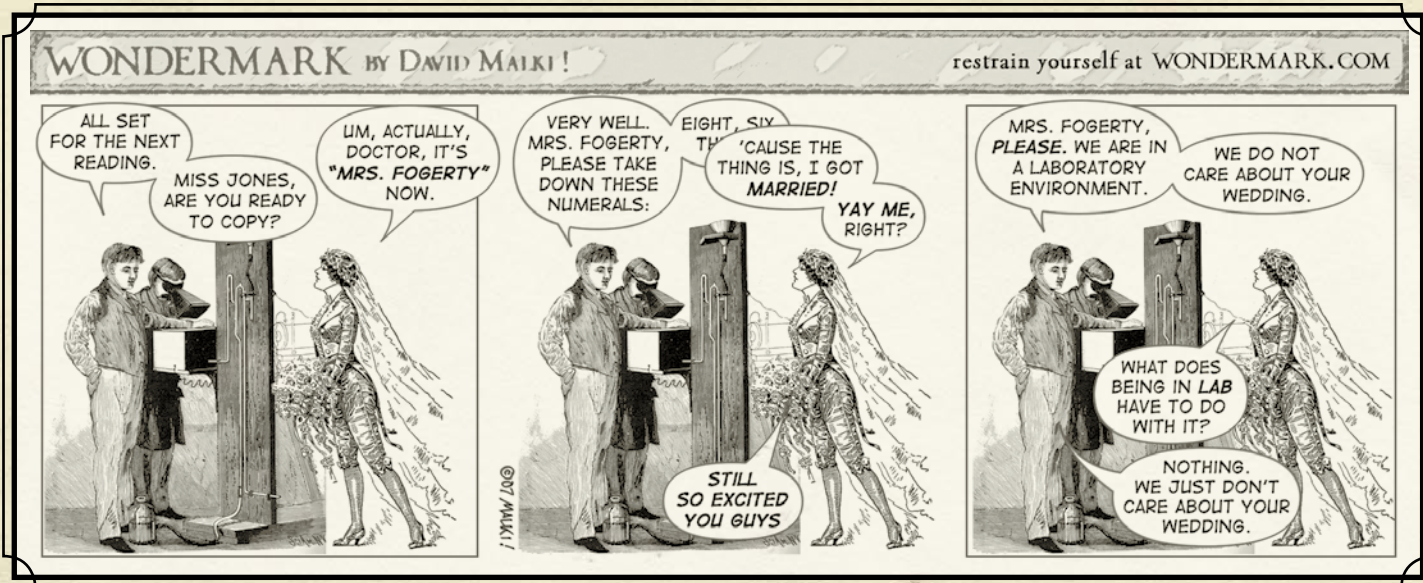
©DT MAIKI/

always lead high and negotiate down



she had a double coupon for my heart

In which Giddiness is annoying



i left the album right here on my desk so i could show everyone later—how in the world could it have gotten caught in the shredder

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

sure things at WONDERMARK.COM

I'M GONNA SAY IT: 'SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS' IS A COP-OUT.

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF WACKY RELIGIOUS SECTS IN THE WORLD. NO MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE, I'M SURE YOU COULD FIND SOMEONE THAT AGREES WITH YOU.

BUT DECLARING A RELIGION HEMS YOU INTO DECLARING BELIEFS. AND IT'S MUCH EASIER TO JUST LEAVE THAT DOOR OPEN BY CLAIMING TO BE 'SPIRITUAL.'

THE FREE PASS THAT AFFORDS FOR YOUR SMUG LITTLE KNOW-IT-ALL LIBIDO IS JUST GRAVY.

I CAN RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE MY MIND. THE WORLD IS COMPLEX, AND I'M MERELY HUMAN.

CLAIMING CERTAINTY JUST SO YOU DON'T CALL ME NAMES WOULD BE A SHAM.

I'M SURE THERE'S A CHURCH FOR THAT TOO.

THERE IS, BUT THE CHICKS ARE ALL REAL DOWNERS.



©07 MAIKI!

always hung up on nihilism for the sake of nihilism and never wanting to snuggle

## In which Faith is Renewed

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

sacred beliefs at WONDERMARK.COM

SO, HAVE YOU FOUND A CHURCH HOME YET?

YEAH! I FOUND ONE BUILT ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT MEXICANS ARE LAZY.

W-WHAT? THAT'S PATENTLY OFFENSIVE.

WE SING SONGS ABOUT HOW MEXICANS ARE LAZY, KIDS GO TO MEXICANS-ARE-LAZY CAMP, THERE'S ALL THIS RITUAL CHANTING...

BUT NOW IS A TOUGH TIME. RECENTLY THE CHURCH SPLIT INTO FACTIONS - MY GROUP THINKS ZACATECANOS ARE THE LAZIEST, BUT SOME CRAZY NUTJOBS THINK IT'S OAXACANS.

WHAT A BUNCH OF IDIOTS!

THOSE TURNCOAT HERETICS ARE ALL GONNA BURN IN BAJA SOMEDAY.

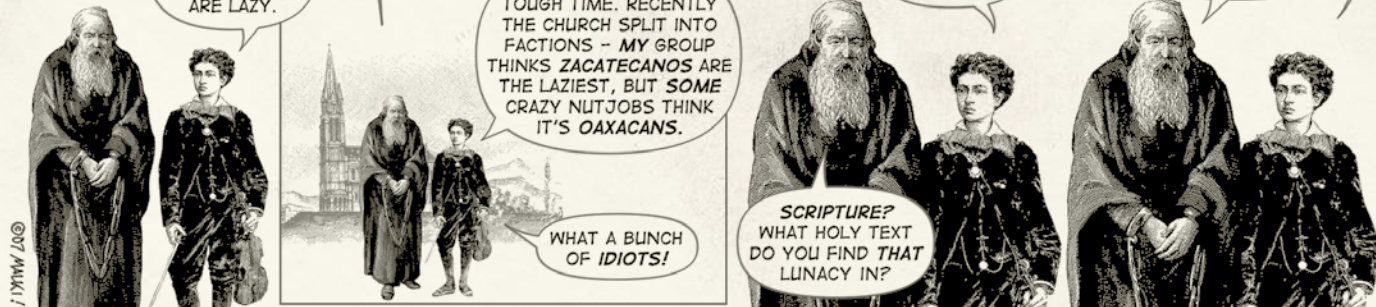
SAYS SO IN SCRIPTURE.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.

BUT YOU HAVE TO READ IT IN A VERY PRECISE ORDER.

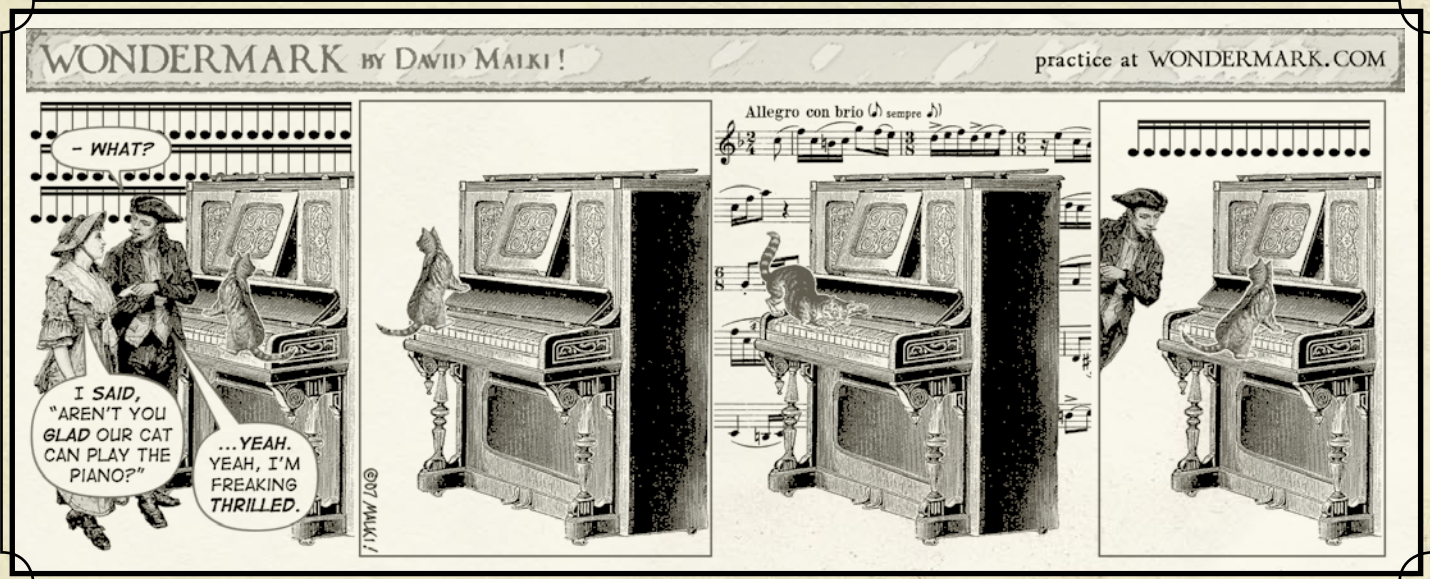
WELL, ONE MORE BOOK TO BAN FROM SCHOOLS.

SCRIPTURE? WHAT HOLY TEXT DO YOU FIND THAT LUNACY IN?



©07 MAIKI!

anyone read the 'ask a mexican' column in the alt-weeklies? true story—i went to college with that dude and at one point apparently made him so mad that he wrote a letter to the school paper complaining about me



can you imagine? hours and hours and hours of sixteenth-notes



but i wouldn't really call that 'weird'

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

mother knows best at WONDERMARK.COM

MOM, I FOUND THIS OLD JOURNAL OF YOURS IN THE ATTIC.

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE HAD ME.



I'M REFERRED TO AS 'THAT WAILING SHE-DEMON' OR 'POOPY MCPPOOP-MAKER' OR 'REGRETTY MISTAKOVICH'.

DIDN'T YOU LIKE ME?



©07 MAIKI!

HONEY, YOU WERE A BABY! THE ONLY ONES WHO LIKE BABIES ARE FOLKS WHO DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM.

NOBODY REALLY LIKES POOPY MCPPOOP-MAKER, BUT WE CAN PUT UP WITH BABIES.

BECAUSE THE POINT OF LIFE ISN'T TO JUST DO THINGS WE LIKE.

IT'S TO DO THINGS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL.



"MARCH 18: TRYING TO RAISE THIS CHILD IS THE MOST MEANINGLESS TASK I HAVE EVER ATTEMPTED."



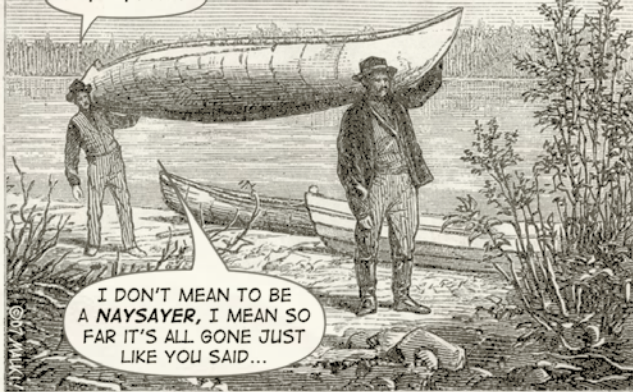
THAT'S FROM WHEN WE WERE SURE YOU WERE GOING TO GROW UP TO BE THE ANTICHRIST.

there's still time!

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

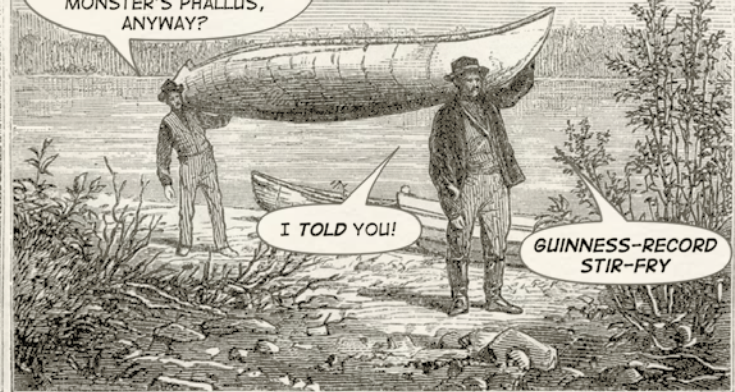
set to boil at WONDERMARK.COM

SO, AH, RICK?



I DON'T MEAN TO BE A NAYSAYER, I MEAN SO FAR IT'S ALL GONE JUST LIKE YOU SAID...

... BUT WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE LAKE MONSTER'S PHALLUS, ANYWAY?

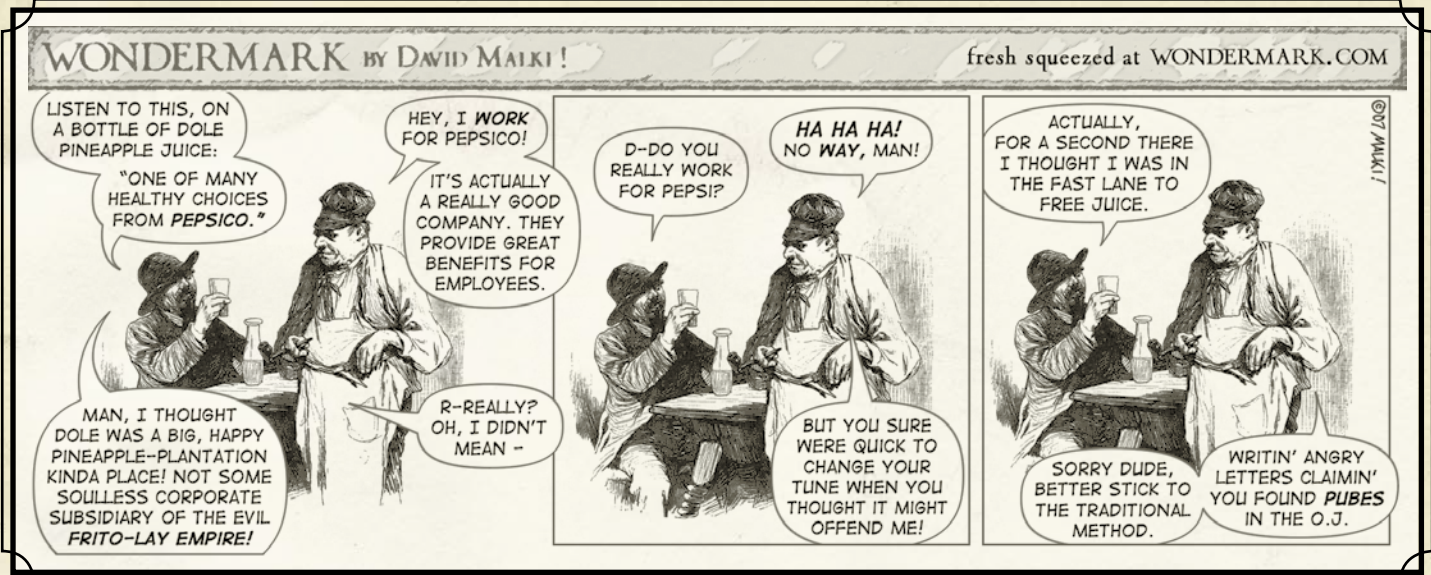


I TOLD YOU!

GUINNESS-RECORD STIR-FRY

in the world's largest wok with 800 gallons of canola oil

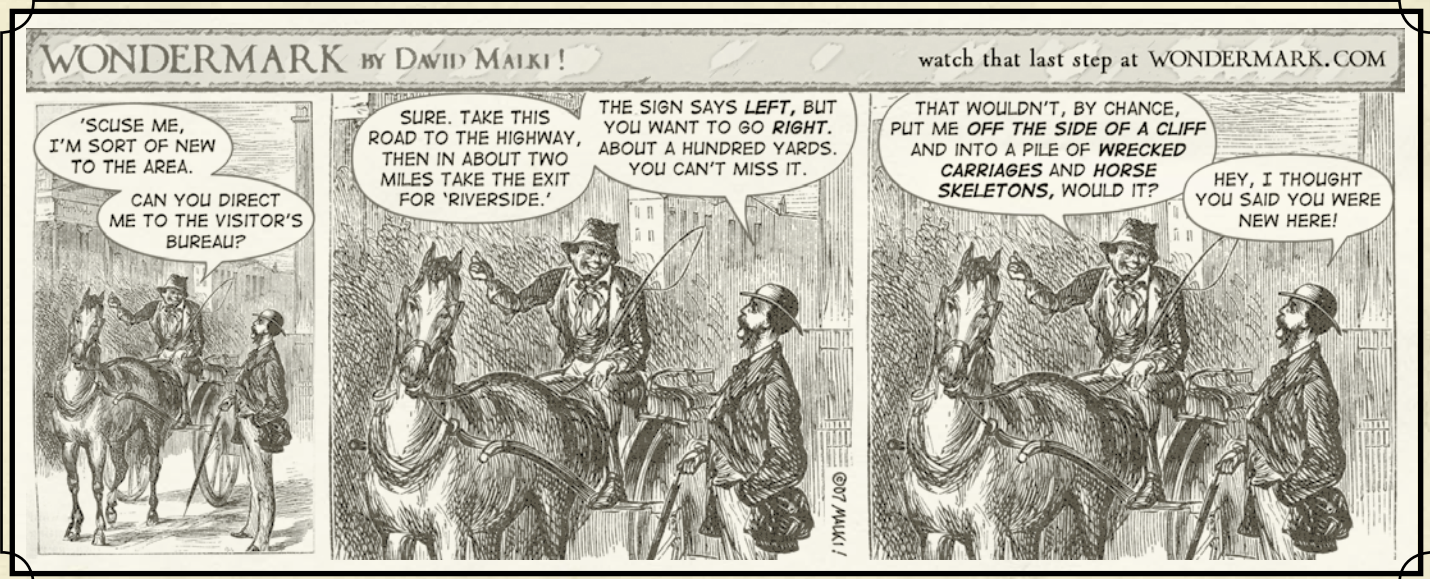




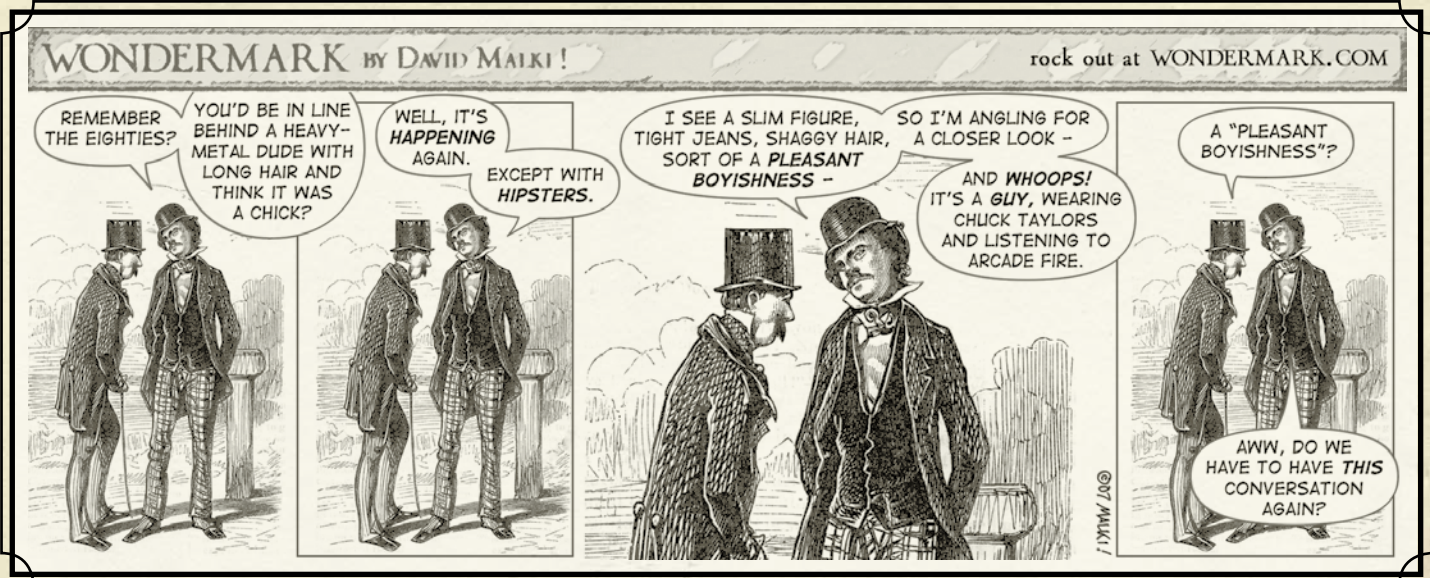
works every time



guys species transmutation is a very delicate subject for many people and i'll thank you not to trivialize it for a cheap gag okay SERIOUSLY :|



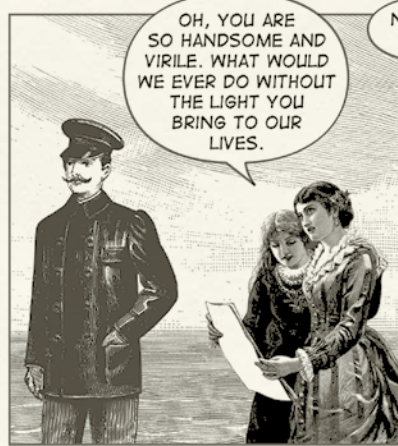
in fact i just noticed it on my way into town and wondered, 'hmm, what a bizarre pile of wrecked carriages and horse skeletons'



The two men have had this conversation before.

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

you are special at WONDERMARK.COM



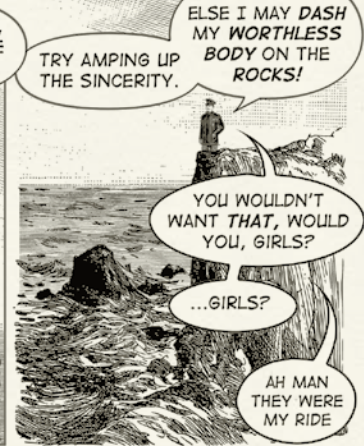
OH, YOU ARE SO HANDSOME AND VIRILE. WHAT WOULD WE EVER DO WITHOUT THE LIGHT YOU BRING TO OUR LIVES.

NOPE, KEEP IT COMING. STILL FEELING JUMPY...



EACH DAY WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CHARMING HUMOR. YOU ARE A PARAGON OF MANHOOD.

I DON'T KNOW, I'M NOT QUITE CONVINCED...



TRY AMPING UP THE SINCERITY.

ELSE I MAY DASH MY WORTHLESS BODY ON THE ROCKS!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT, WOULD YOU, GIRLS?

...GIRLS?

AH MAN THEY WERE MY RIDE

maybe this is not the best time to mention that i honestly found your descriptions of my many heroic deeds both 1) a little over the top with the magic and 2) cribbed entirely from a harry potter book

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

wash your hands at WONDERMARK.COM



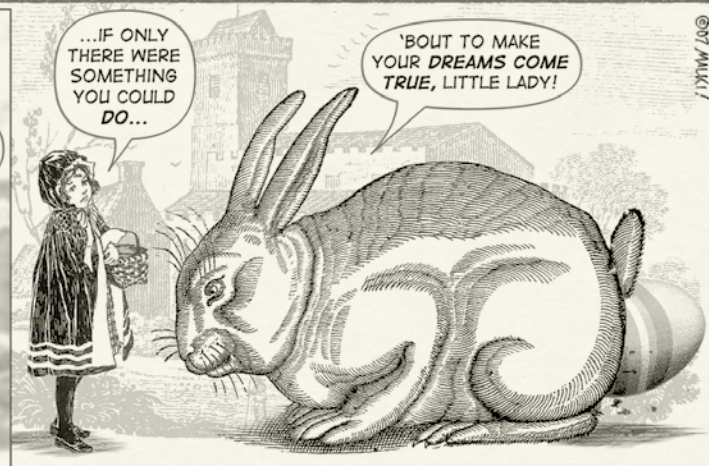
I *FOUND* LOTS OF EGGS, BUT BEFORE I COULD PICK THEM UP, THE BIG KIDS RAN BY AND *GRABBED* THEM ALL!



EGG HUNTS AREN'T ANY *FUN* WHEN YOU DON'T END UP WITH ANY EGGS.

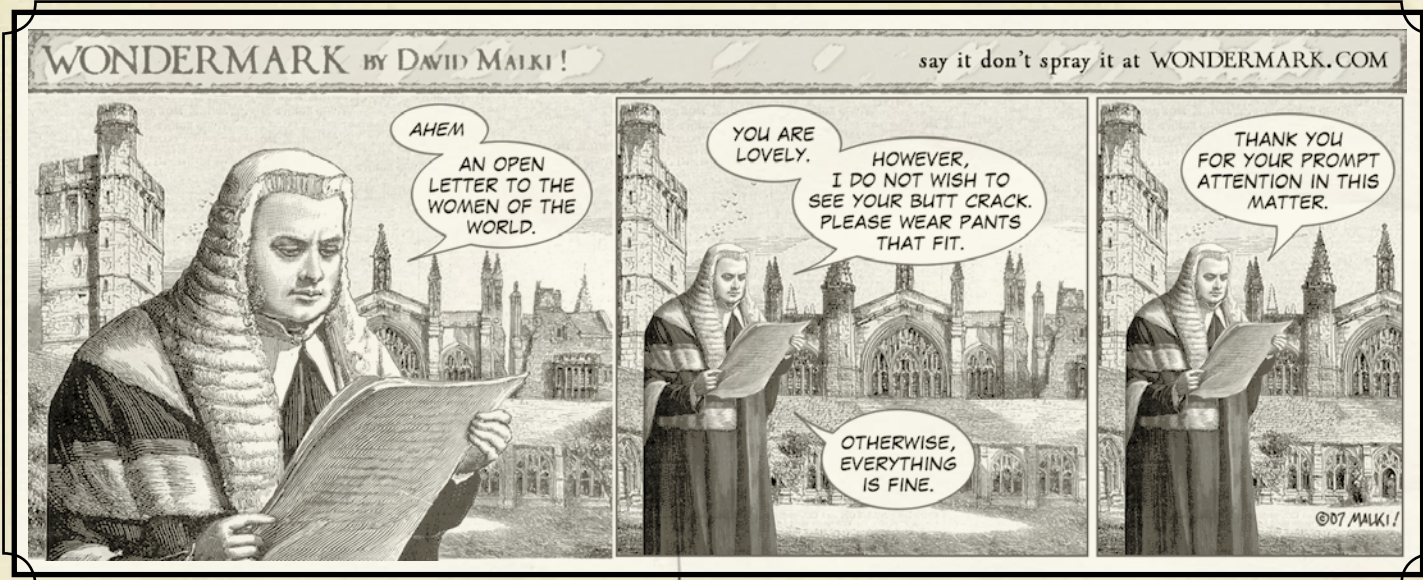
IT MAKES FOR A PRETTY *LOUSY* EASTER.

UH...



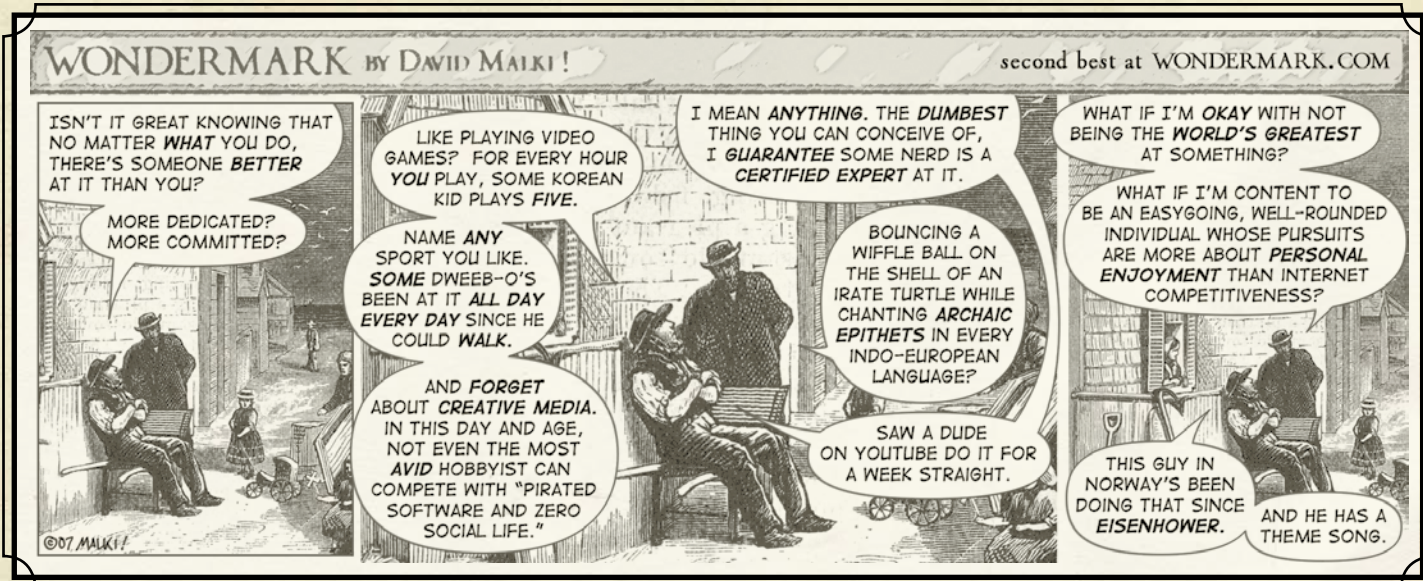
...IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMETHING YOU COULD *DO*...

'BOUT TO MAKE YOUR *DREAMS* COME TRUE, LITTLE LADY!



i don't dress this way for MEN, you PATRIARCH

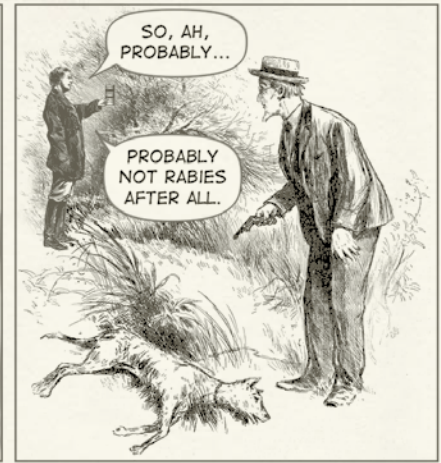
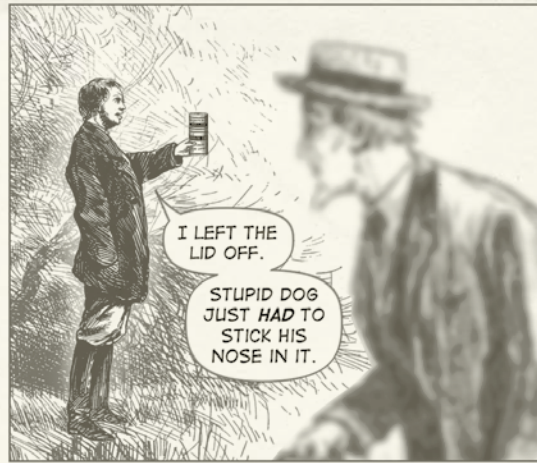
In which Everyone is a Failure



waitaminnit! it's NOT great to know that, what are you TALKING about

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

take decisive action at WONDERMARK.COM



still it's better to be safe right

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

hope against hope at WONDERMARK.COM



SO not in the mood



Color by Carly Monardo  
 carlymonardo.com



in fact I married her largely BECAUSE she has never listened to 96.9 HITZ-FM



## PLAY ALONG AT HOME

It's the fun game craze that's sweeping the charts! The... game charts. They have those, right? Game charts? Okay here we go—answers are upside-down at the bottom of the page in *traditional answer fashion*.

- 1 Now that it's rains white more than ever that one has the I still that you can be set under my umbrella
- 2 I observe you the person mirror, request, in order to change that method, in order to arrive on it
- 3 The terrestrial hand of my dream which takes the night when it integrates the light/write comes
- 4 Cheerful the himself of world gentleman appears with the land wage the trial that it takes
- 5 Make in order to grip me, make, to fall in love with lik-

ably persona, day of the week of 8 roads in me.

- 6 Same I want pistons and I cannot find them that other siblings cannot refuse great this, if a girl goes all inside the dimension and a round thing with itty bitty to your ace you derived from maintenance
- 7 Number the ape such as Fritos number the ape as a very simple man of the ape of the code of the rope of the feather/spring, and of the mountain with the smeared secret heart it warms on large: Number the ape as you
- 8 Whether you think, that I how would like to know a certain thing, the star where it comes out and there is no eye and comes out and is not the eye and is small
- 9 My cat is made to eat and, method, therefore the foreigner who is a possibility there of testing my weapon that has pleasure! where

**Answers:** 1—Rihanna, Umbrella; 2—Michael Jackson, Man in the Mirror; 3—Metallica, Enter Sandman; 4—Joy to the World; 5—Beatles, Eight Days a Week; 6—Sir Mix-A-Lot; Baby Got Back; 7—Jonathan Coulton, Code Monkey; 8—Twinkle Twinkle Little Star; 9—How Much Does a Shunway, from my unreleased 2001 rap album We So Pimp

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

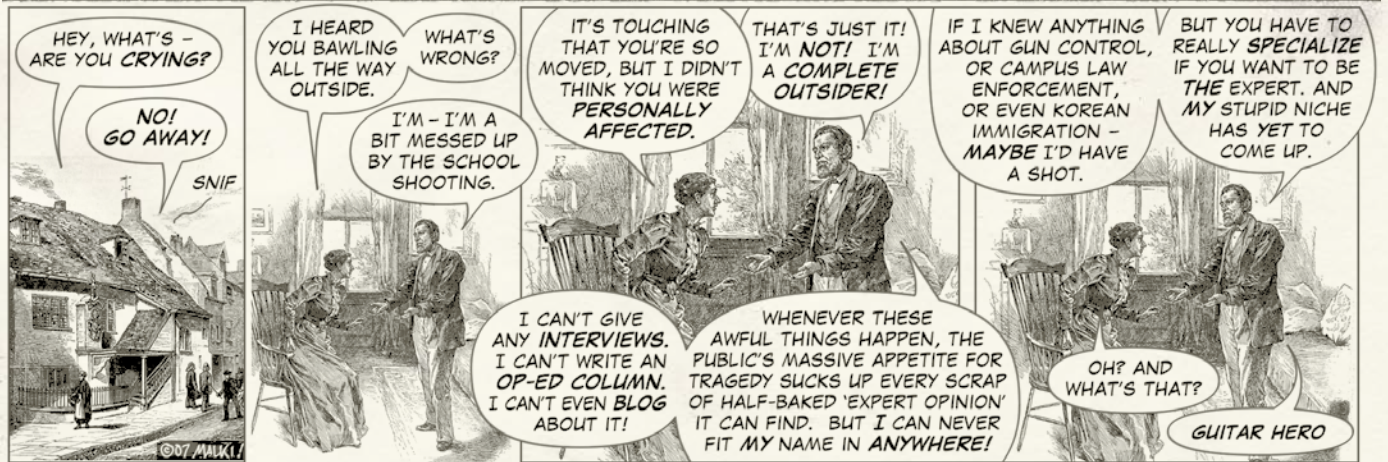
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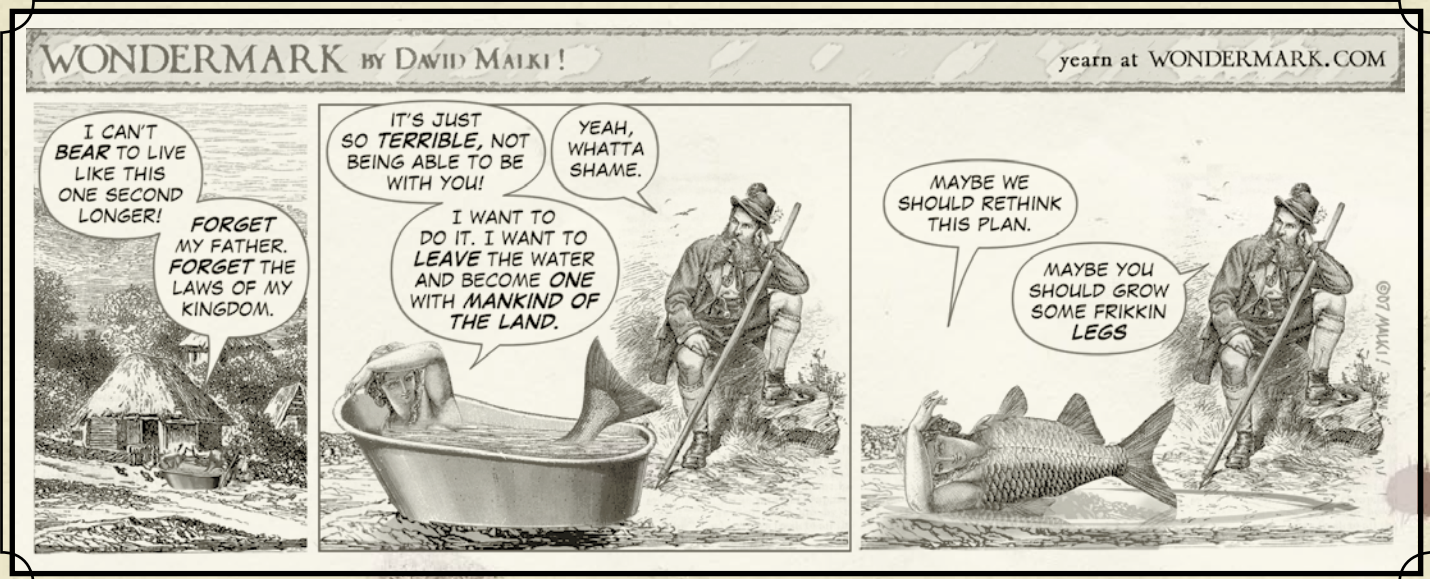
also, smelly people

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

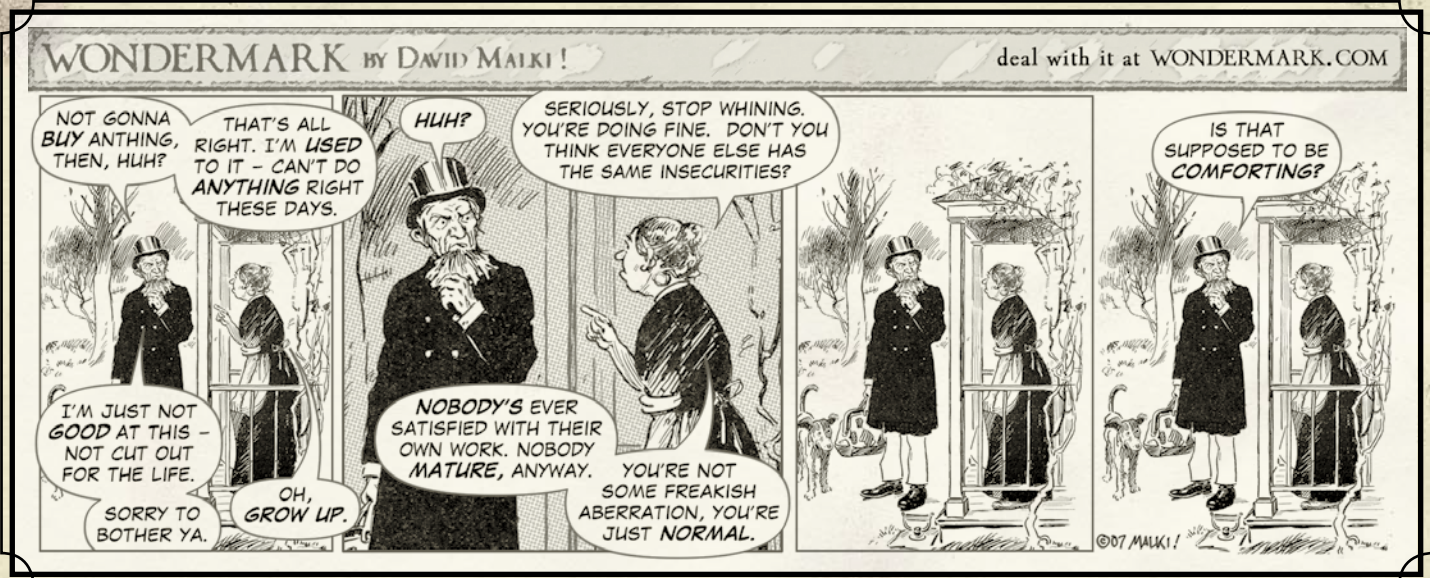
elbow in at WONDERMARK.COM



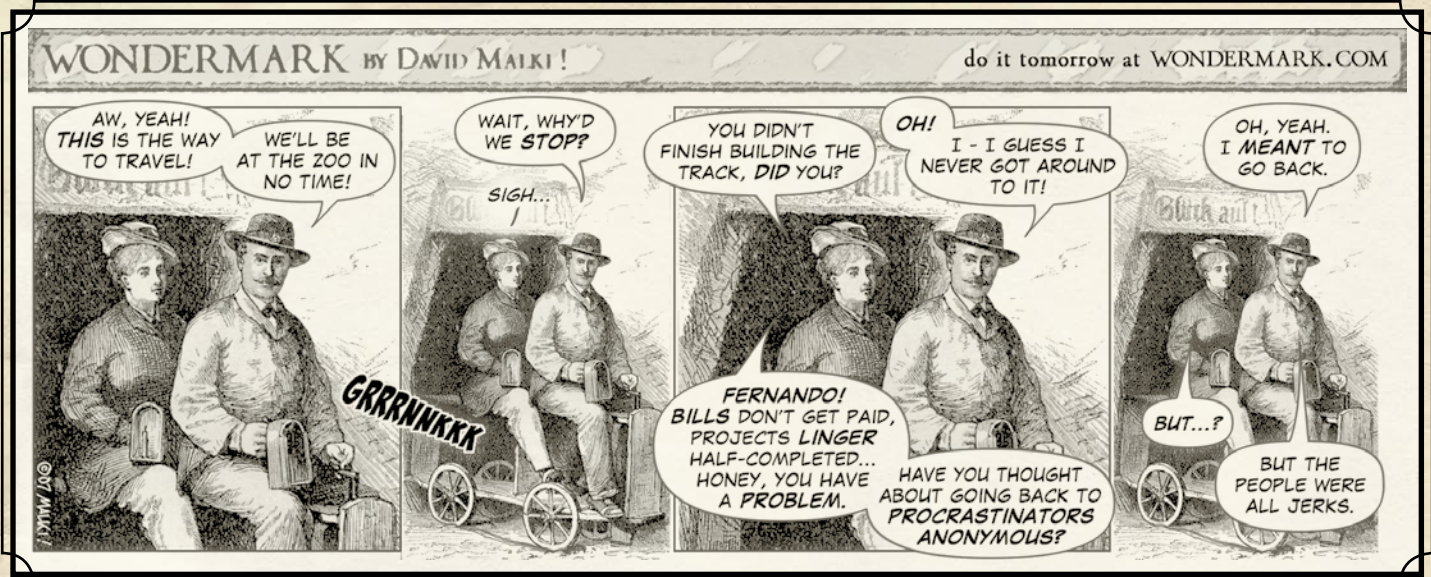
also, vampire erotica



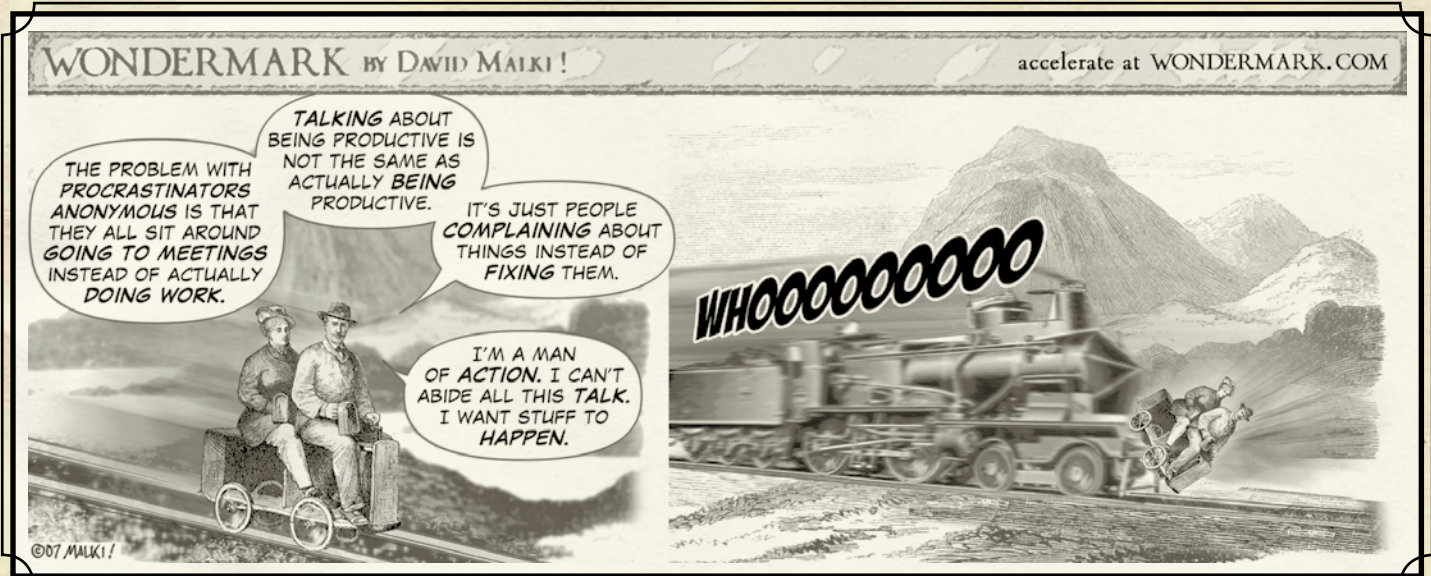
and, you know...PEOPLE parts



tell me, how exactly am I supposed to answer that without making you cry?



now we will never see the pandas humping :(



huh! I guess I never got around to checking the train schedule before embarking on this ridiculous excursion!



i would think it would be obvious from the way i always leave the dvd paused on that scene while we do it



i guess this would explain my increased tendency to shout at the television

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

take a whiff at WONDERMARK.COM

DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU SMELL SOME PARTICULAR SMELL...



...YOU'RE ACTUALLY BREATHING IN PARTICULATES OF THAT OBJECT?

SO, WHEN YOU SMELL COOKIES, WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING IS THAT YOU'RE INHALING TINY BITS OF COOKIE.



AND WHEN YOU SMELL COFFEE, YOU'RE BREATHING IN VERY FINE COFFEE DUST.



SNIFF

...YOU JUST FARTED, DIDN'T YOU.



"JUST"? NO.

"ALL MORNING PRETTY MUCH CONSTANTLY"? ...PERHAPS.

©07 MAIKI!

ever step onto the subway on a hot day and get just smacked in the face with a wave of b.o.? ewwwww

## In which an Argument is formulated

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MAIKI!

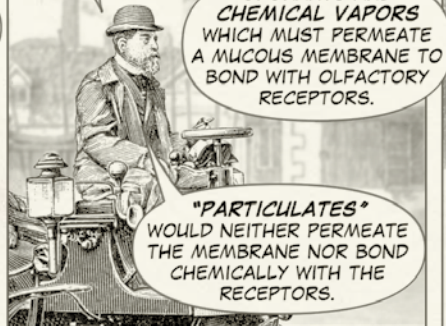
refute at WONDERMARK.COM

DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU SMELL SOMETHING, YOU'RE ACTUALLY INHALING PARTICULATES OF THAT OBJECT?



WHAT? NO YOU'RE NOT.

RECOGNIZABLE SMELLS ARE SPECIFIC COMBINATIONS OF AIRBORNE MOLECULES CALLED ODORANTS.



ODORANTS ARE CHEMICAL VAPORS WHICH MUST PERMEATE A MUCOUS MEMBRANE TO BOND WITH OLFACTORY RECEPTORS.

"PARTICULATES" WOULD NEITHER PERMEATE THE MEMBRANE NOR BOND CHEMICALLY WITH THE RECEPTORS.



SNIFF

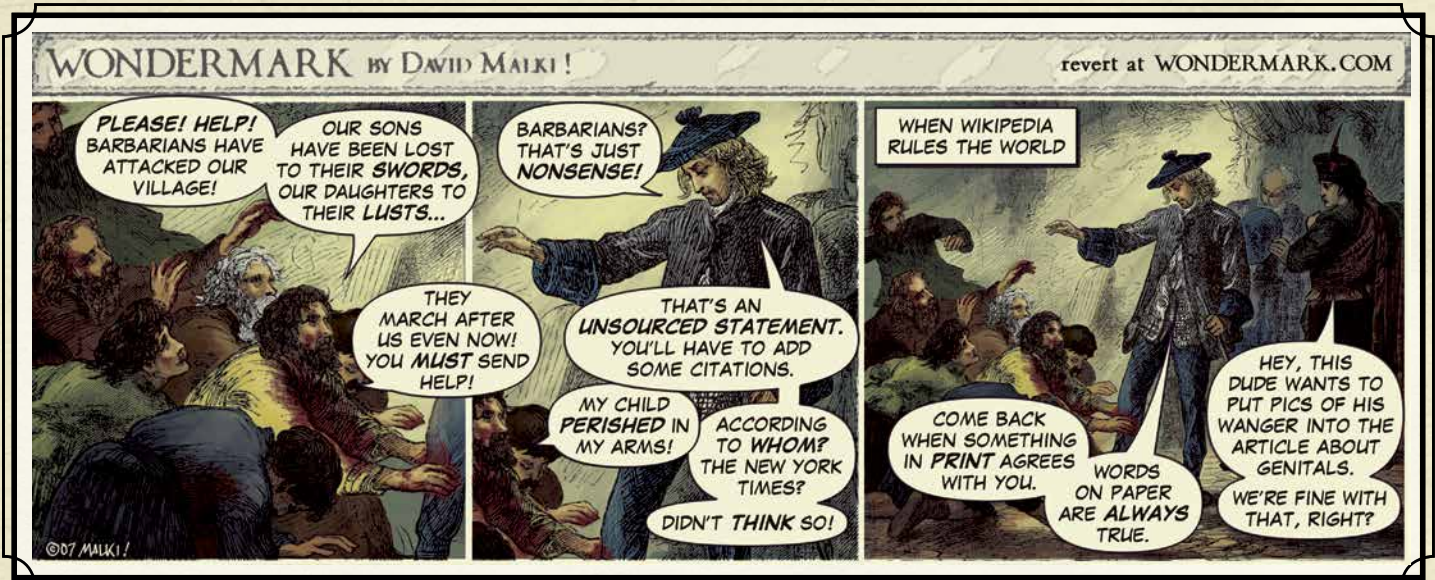
YOU JUST FARTED, DIDN'T YOU.

IT'S PRETTY MUCH MY GO-TO RHETORICAL TECHNIQUE.



©07 MAIKI!

really, spoilsport, it is much funnier if you think you are breathing poop. and normally 'particulates' seals the deal.



Color by Alyssa Stock  
therustydoves.com



'the most comprehensive encyclopedia ever will surely need six different close-ups from various angles'

## Is this Comic Really Accurate?

When I first saw this comic I thought it was a gross distortion, but maybe it gets to some deeper truth that'll help the n00bs understand why we do things a certain way. But there are definitely things that could be cleaned up. Worth the trouble? [BurritoFan75](#) 15:59, 17 April 2007 (UTC)

Something like the NYT obviously meets [Wikipedia:Reliable sources](#) but this comic doesn't make the distinction that other print sources might not. [Troublewithvampires](#) 18:01, 17 April 2007 (UTC)

If you think it needs edits, DO IT instead of yapping away =P [MushroomKing](#) 09:14, 18 April 2007 (UTC)

Well I want to see if there's some kind of consensus so it's not all reverted 10 seconds later, you know? [BurritoFan75](#) 09:31, 18 April 2007 (UTC)

Why would your edits be reverted if you're adhering to Wiki guidelines? You said yourself there are things that could be cleaned up, so stop whinging and clean them up per [Wikipedia:Be bold](#). [PROBATOR](#) 19:59, 18 April 2007 (UTC)

I hardly think working for consensus is 'whinging.' [BurritoFan75](#) 20:10, 18 April 2007 (UTC)

my balls are notable per [Wikipedia:My balls](#) [lesboules](#) 23:39, 18 April 2007 (UTC)

I don't think this comic has anything encyclopedic to say about Wikipedia or some battle that may or may not have happened. [WP:AfD](#) per [Wikipedia:Notability](#). [Sir 10 Lee](#) 12:31, 4 June 2007 (UTC)

IS THE GENITALS THING REAL BECAUSE I GOT TO GET BUSY -- Preceding unsigned comment added by [43.134.305.821](#) (talk) 22:45 21 March 2008 (UTC)

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

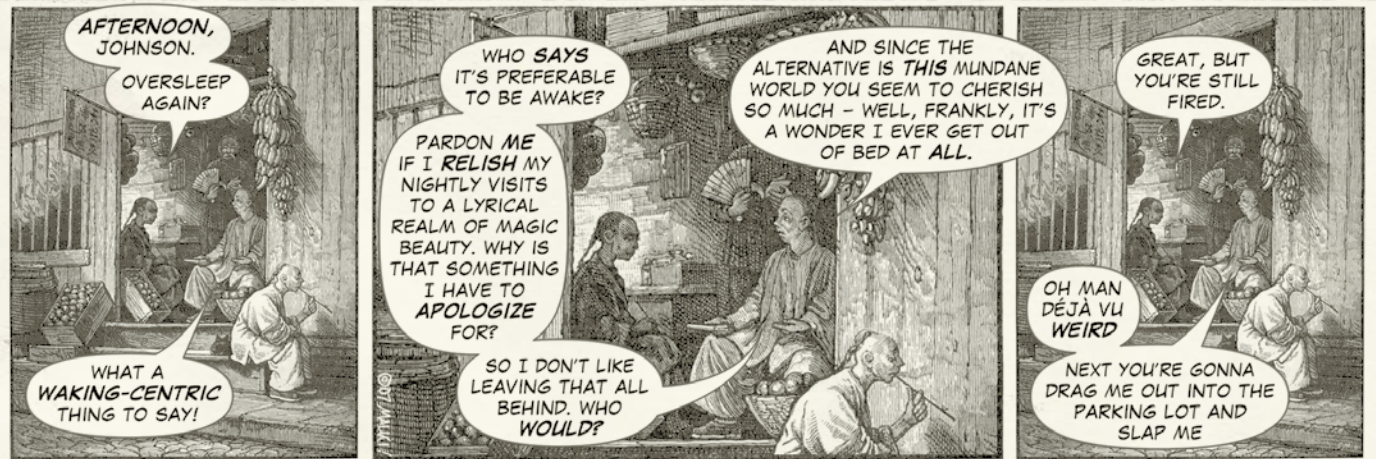
figure it out at WONDERMARK.COM



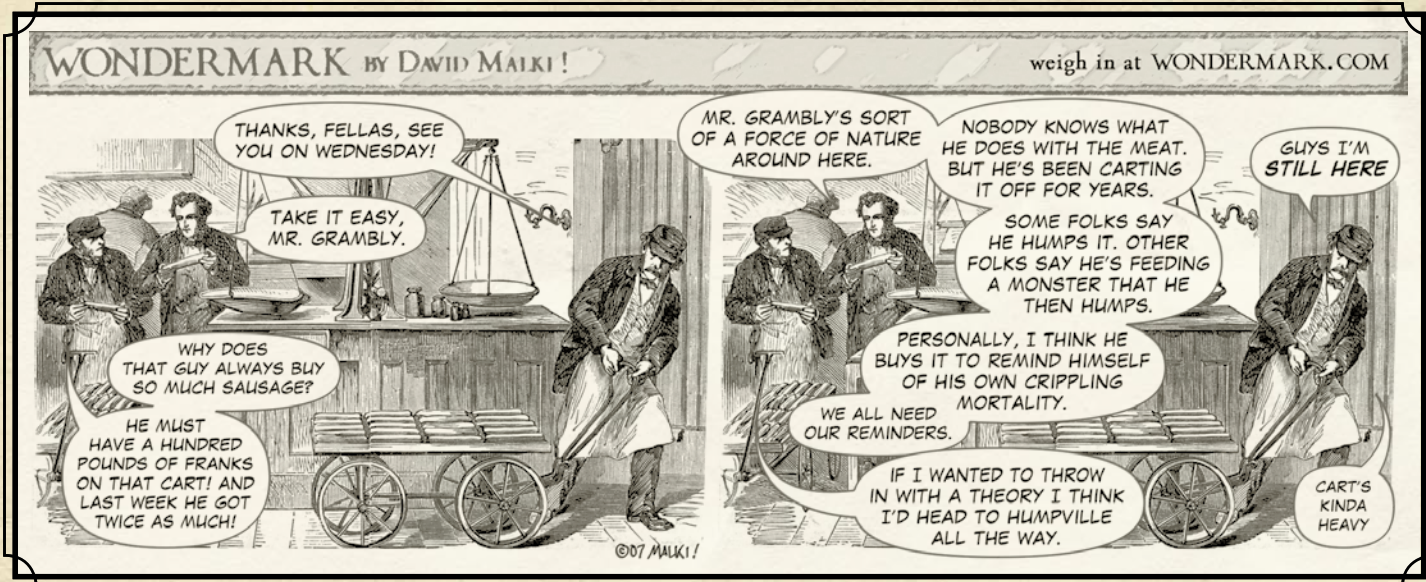
actually, birchwood, but that sure shut 'em up

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

set your alarm for WONDERMARK.COM

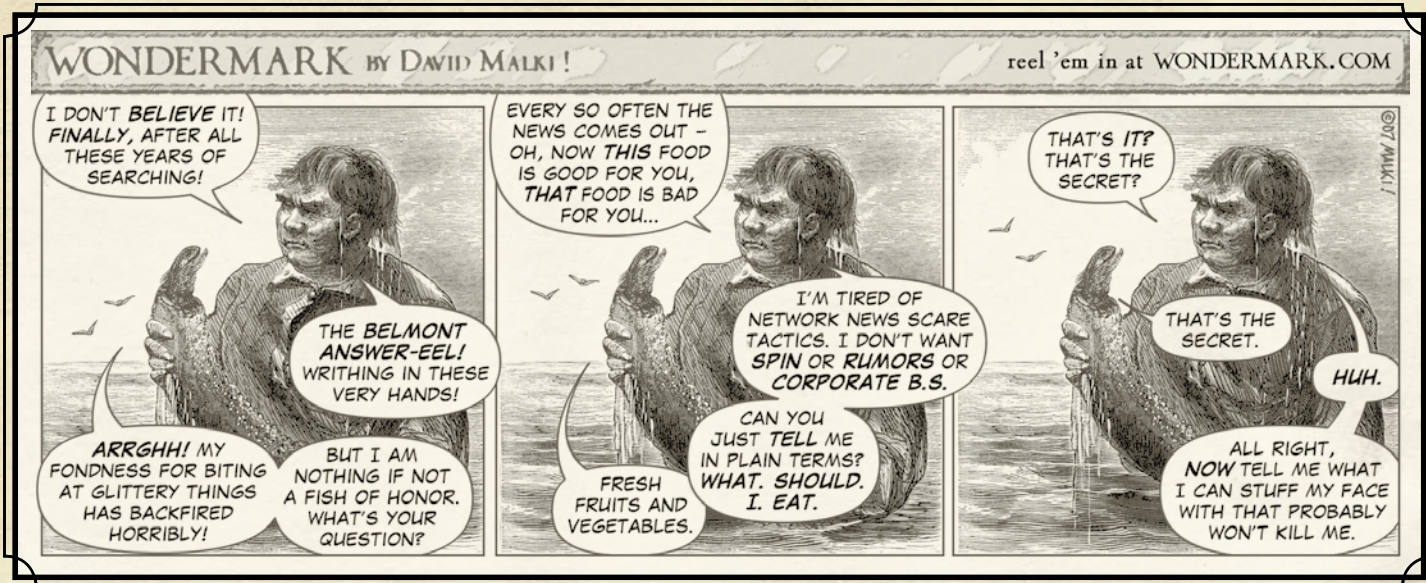


let me tell you all about this crazy dream i had—hey why is everyone leaving the room



in actuality, dude just likes sausage. what is so wrong with that?

In which Paul asks a Question of an Eel

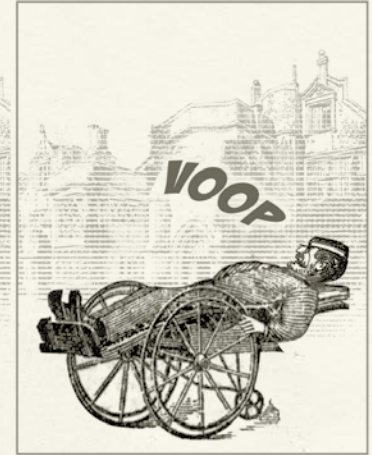


basically i am looking for someone who thinks it is perfectly acceptable to eat an entire 5 lb bag of marshmallows in 13 minutes

In which This is Awesome

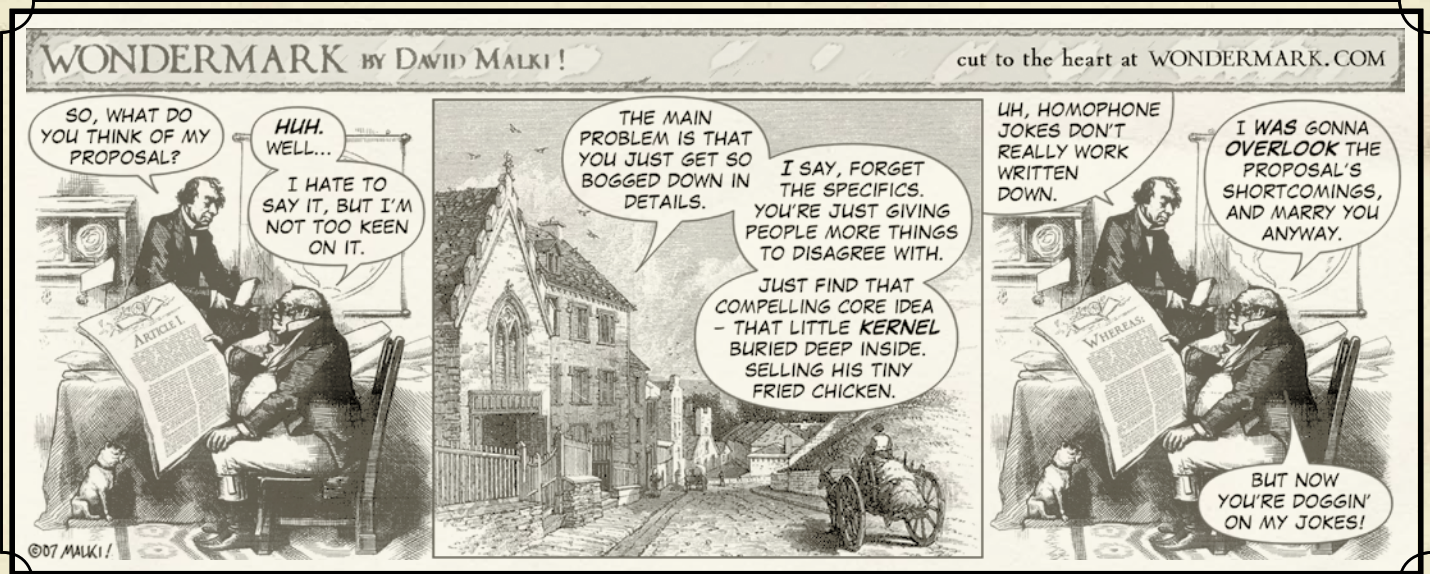
WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

i said check it at WONDERMARK.COM



©07 MALKI/

i can tell by the tenting



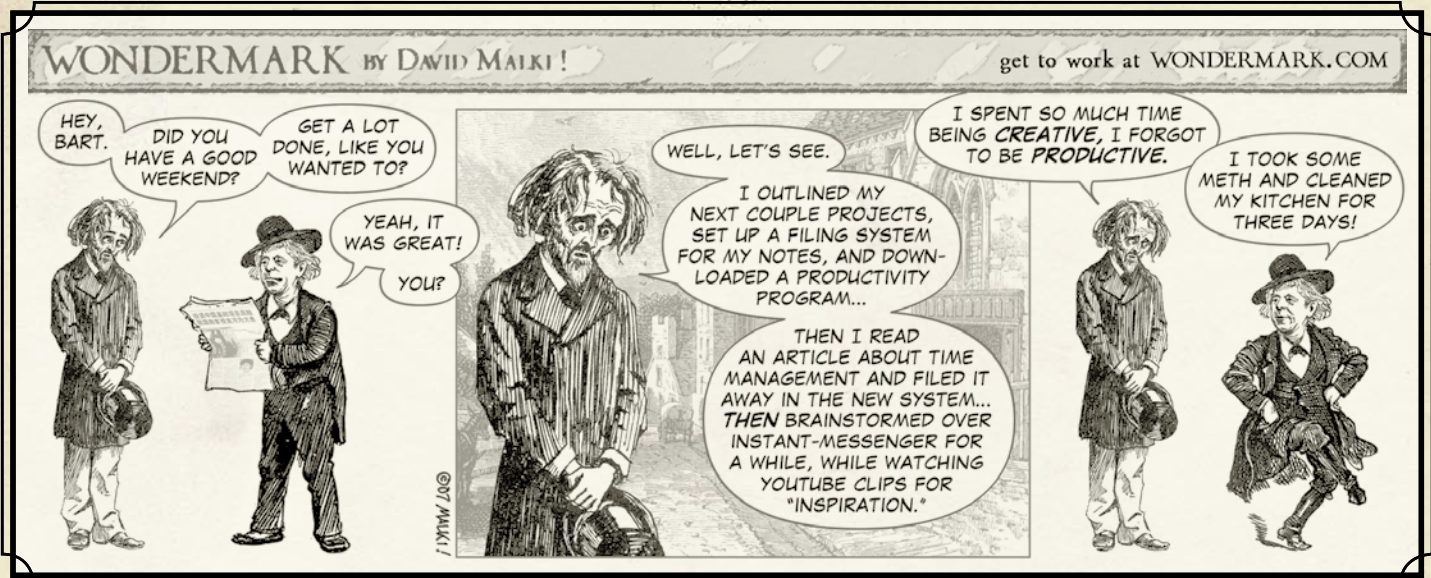
©07 MALKI!

little kernel buried in there shaking his tiny fist just yelling 'hogaaaaan'

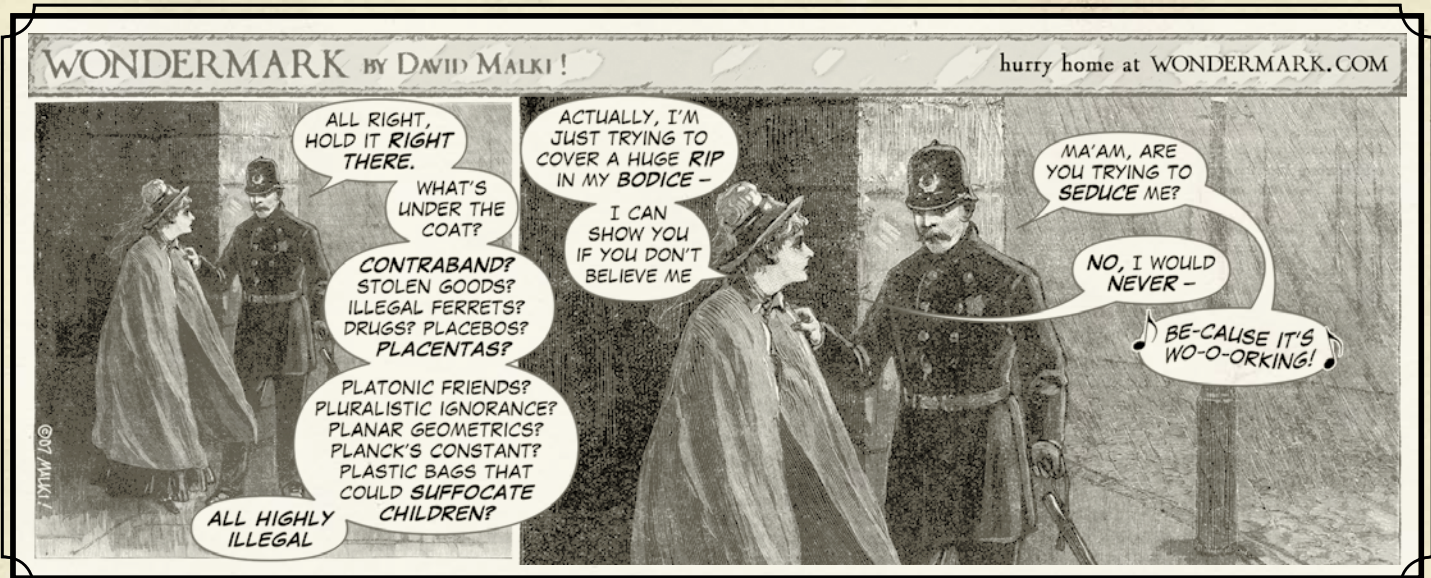


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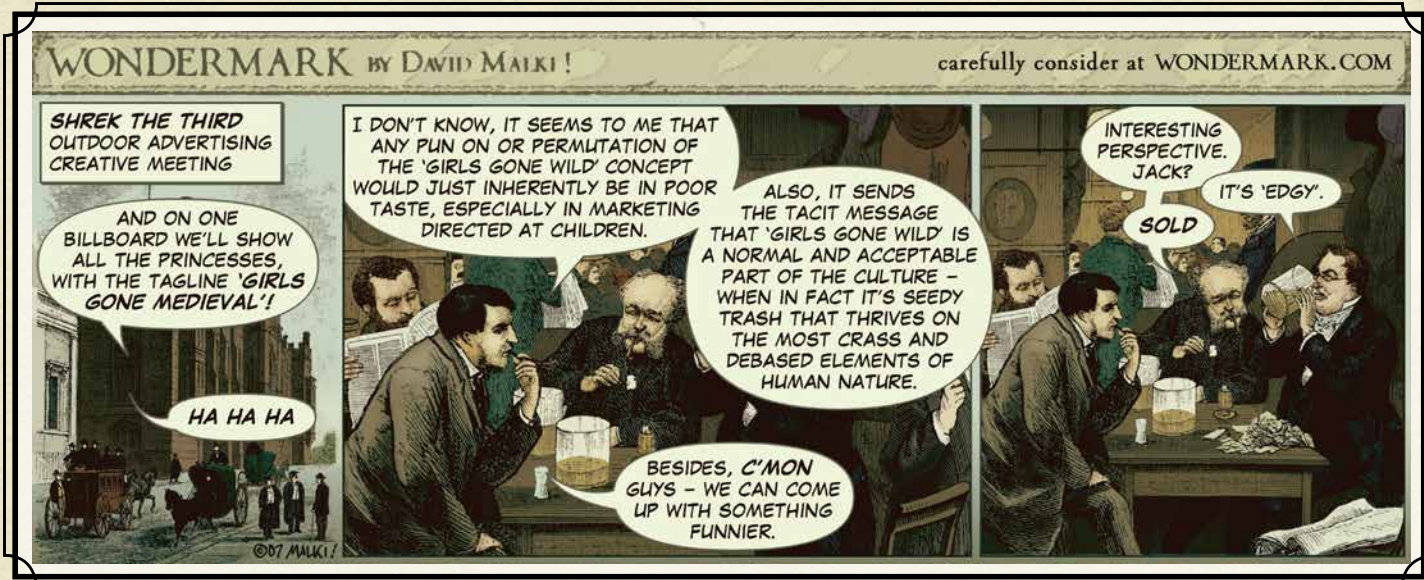
it's not like you haven't thought of it



then i drank thirty mountain dew's and ran in circles around my couch for six hours



but seriously let's have a look then



Color by Carly Monardo  
[carlymonardo.com](http://carlymonardo.com)




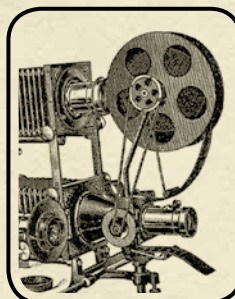
guessing it went pretty much like this in real life, except with the wordy objection replaced by celebratory back-slapping



## CREATIVE MEETING!

C'mon, everyone into my office. Squeeze on those couches. Did everyone watch the feature? First thoughts? I don't care if you *liked* it, New Guy, we're talking about *marketing*. Any kind of slasher film is always

going to be a hard sell for moms, so we need to play up the 'family' aspect during a daytime campaign, spots on *The View* and so on. Play down the moral repugnance as much as we can. Are there any jokes we can carve out? As you pull your selects, watch for lines we can Franken into some attitude. Attitude, edgy but not scary, friendly-spooky family fun. Okay? I want to see scripts in the morning. We're up against three other houses so let's get cracking. Make it special! 



THE FOLLOWING **PREVIEW** HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR  
**ALL AUDIENCES**  
 BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**MEET THE TAYLORS.  
 THEY LOVE SPENDING TIME  
 WITH EACH OTHER  
 AND NOTHING COULD TEAR  
 THEM APART.**

**BUT WHEN A SOCIOPATHIC GARBAGEMAN WITH A HYDRAULIC TRASH COMPACTOR MOVES IN NEXT DOOR**

**NOTHING WILL BE ABLE  
 TO PRY THEM APART.**

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

**ONE FAMILY**

**IS LEARNING THE TRUE MEANING  
 OF TOGETHERNESS.**

**KEEP FINGERS CLEAR  
 RATED R**

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

rest easy at WONDERMARK.COM

OH, DOROTHY, I JUST LOVE YOUR CUSHIONS! THEY'RE SO COMFORTABLE, AFTER A LONG, HARD DAY OF IDLE RICHNESS.

THANKS! THEY'RE MOLEHAIR—WE ACTUALLY STUFF THEM HERE AT HOME!

HOW POSITIVELY CRAFTY OF YOU! I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD A HIDDEN BLUE-COLLAR SIDE. YOU DON'T ACTUALLY KEEP ANIMALS HERE, DO YOU?

FILTHY CREATURES. I'M POSITIVELY INTOLERANT.

OH, NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT. HARRY JUST SAVES HIS PLUCKINGS EVERY WEEK, AND OVER THE YEARS, THEY ADD UP.

HIS PLUCKINGS?

SURE, YOU KNOW—FROM HIS MOLES.

HE'S GOT ONE ON HIS CHIN, AND A BIG ONE ON HIS BACK...

WE MAY BE WEALTHY, BUT WE'RE NOT WASTEFUL.

...DARE I ASK ABOUT THE MATTRESS IN THE GUEST BEDROOM?

DEPENDS, ARE YOU GONNA FREAK OUT ON ME?

you know the old argument. 'I pay for the food my body uses to make this hair, and what, you expect me to just throw it away?'

In which Kevin shops for Hats

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

try it on at WONDERMARK.COM

NO.

AWFUL.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

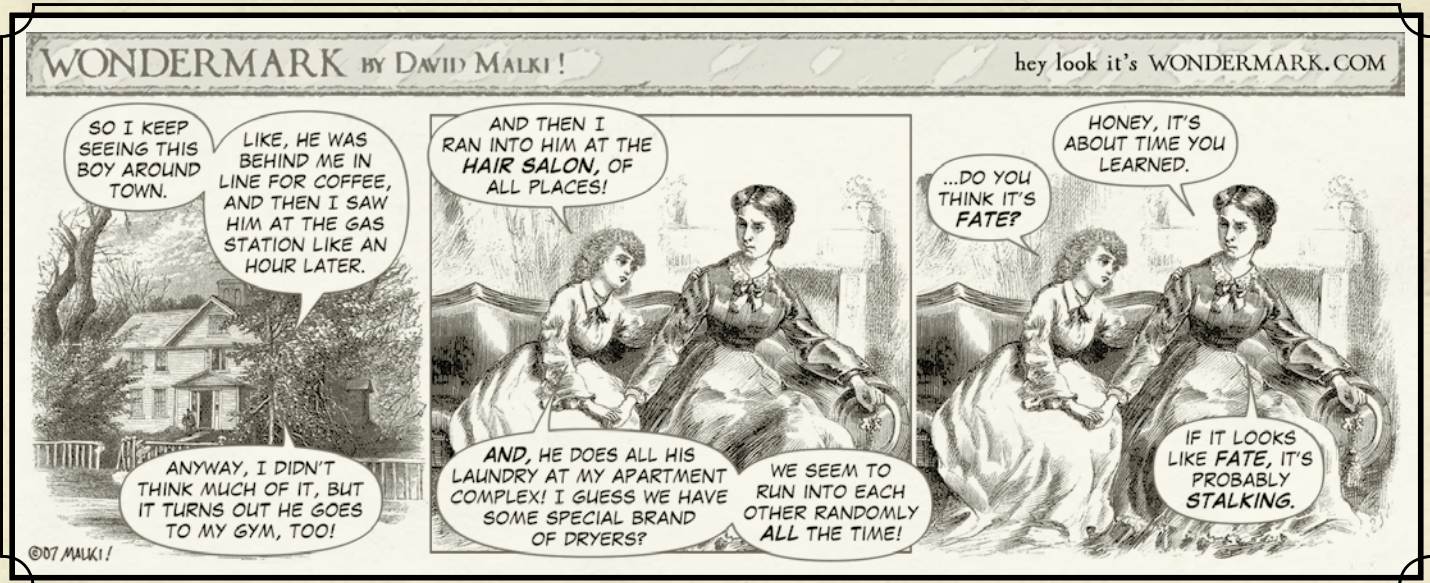
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BIGGER?

THIS MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A FREAK!

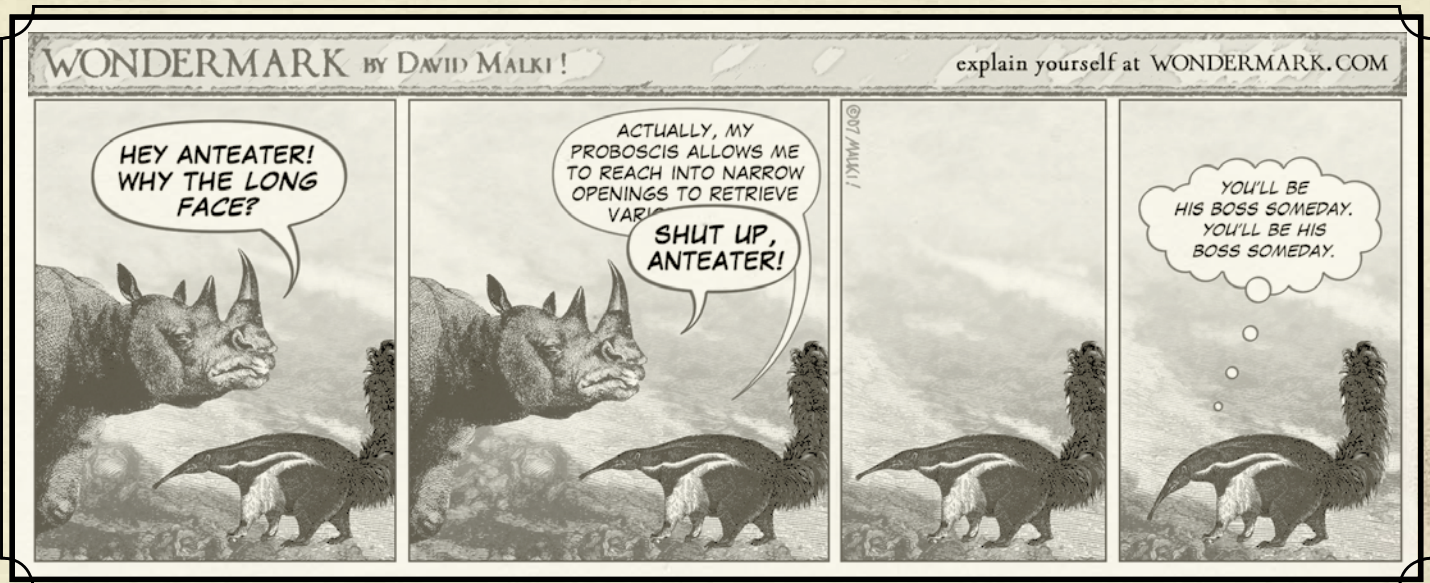
DID I MENTION THAT I WORK ON COMMISSION?



hey what about that one with the fake fruit, THAT one has potential



unless he's cute! in which case you can just close your eyes and hope for 'fate'



whatever you gotta tell yourself man

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

burn baby burn at WONDERMARK.COM

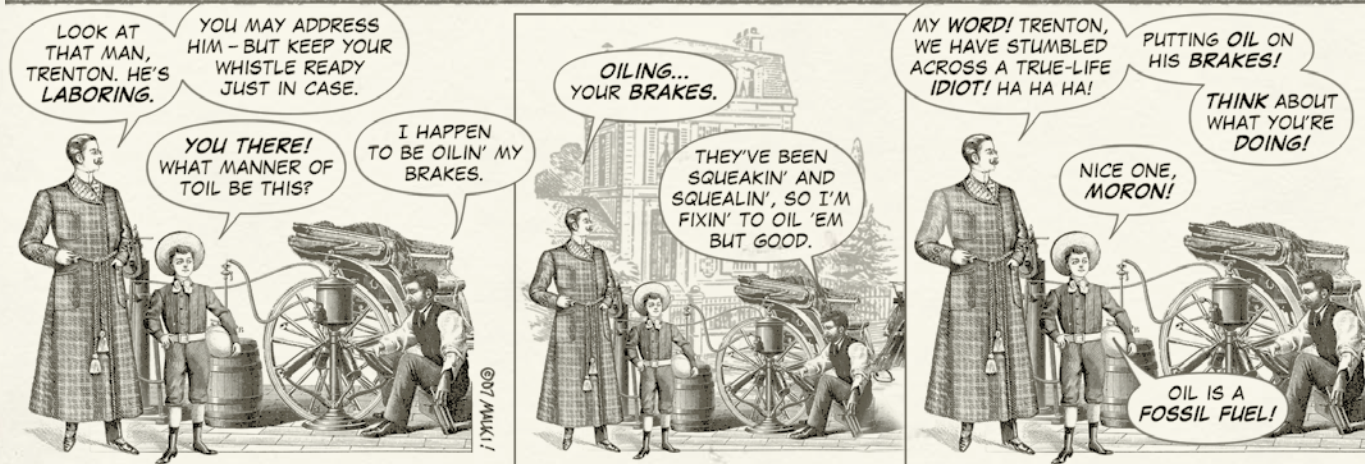


23

excuse me, ma'am? after watching your behavior in the parking lot, i thought you might be interested in one of these 'crazy psycho offset cards'

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

glide along at WONDERMARK.COM



trenton! don't forget to make an entry in your idiot log! we'll be going over the week's records once we get to nana's and it doesn't take much disappointment to topple the poor woman's carefully-balanced decades of regret

**WONDERMARK** BY DAVID MALKI! recharge at WONDERMARK.COM

**Panel 1:**  
 HONEY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS!  
 OH, IT WAS TERRIBLE!  
 I WAS WALKING HOME FROM WORK, AND A CAR HONKED, SO I TURNED TO LOOK...  
 ...AND RIGHT AS I LOOKED OVER MY SHOULDER, A JOGGER RAN BY! IT STARTLED ME SO BAD!

**Panel 2:**  
 BABY MY HEART WAS BEATING AND I JUST COULDN'T CATCH MY BREATH AND IT WAS - IT WAS SO SCARY  
 I NEED HUGS MY HUG METER IS SO LOW  
 LOOOOOVE MEEEEEE

**Panel 3:**  
 THIS IS GOOD. THIS HELPS ME. I FEEL BETTER.  
 OKAY, SO, UH...  
 WHY WERE YOU WALKING HOME FROM WORK?

**Panel 4:**  
 MARK FROM I.T. DARED ME TO EAT MY CAR KEYS.  
 SIGH  
 I'LL GET THE PRUNE JUICE.  
 ALSO THE VICODIN PLEASE

©07 MALKI!

i.t. stands for intestinal torsion

**WONDERMARK** BY DAVID MALKI! call it out at WONDERMARK.COM

**Panel 1:**  
 I'VE GOT IT!  
 I'M GONNA SUE EVERYONE!  
 AND IT WON'T MATTER IF I HAVE NO CASE! THEY'LL PAY ME TO SETTLE, JUST TO AVOID THE EVEN GREATER EXPENSE OF GOING TO TRIAL!

**Panel 2:**  
 THE PERFECT MONEYMAKING SCHEME!

**Panel 3:**  
 HEY! SCUMBAG! GET A REAL JOB INSTEAD OF PREYING ON PEOPLE!  
 PEOPLE LIKE YOU MAKE EVERYONE AFRAID OF LAWSUITS, MAKING EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE MORE EXPENSIVE!

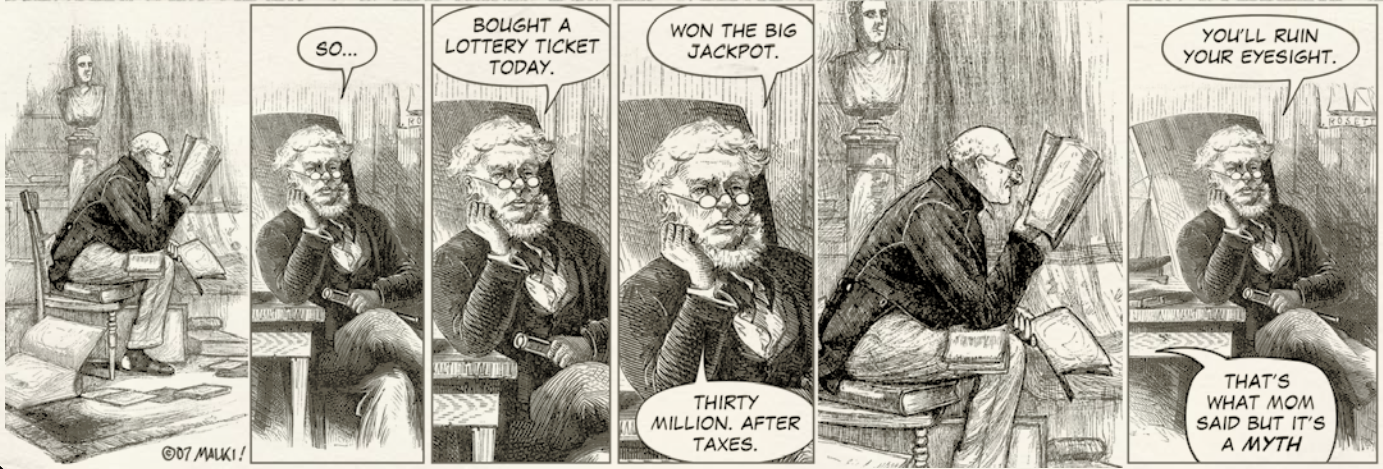
**Panel 4:**  
 MY FRIEND, YOU'VE JUST VOLUNTEERED TO BE MY FIRST VICTIM!  
 HUH?  
 OH, I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU. I'M ON MY BLUETOOTH PHONE.  
 CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?  
 HOW 'BOUT NOW?  
 THAT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GONE BETTER IF I'D ACTUALLY BEEN WEARING AN EARPIECE.  
 WELL, YOU DIDN'T KNOW HE'D HAVE THE PAPERS WITH HIM.

©07 MALKI!

if you get one of those cheap phones with the candy inside, you can have the freedom to speak your mind PLUS delicious candy

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

read all night at WONDERMARK.COM



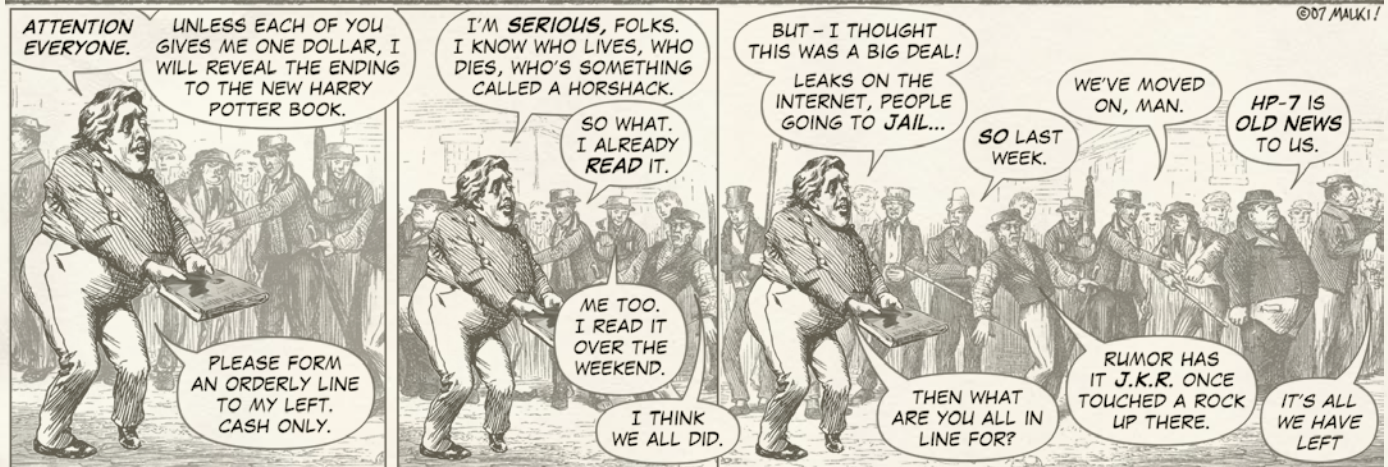
24

m-maybe I could cuckold the book for once??

## The Failure of an Entrepreneur

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

move on at WONDERMARK.COM



25

the rock may shed light on questions raised by previous rocks j.k.r. may or may not have touched, and may also raise new questions to be addressed by future rocks



Color by Marcus Thiele  
themonkeymind.livejournal.com

if only comics were real :( I guess I will have to settle for broken ankles

## WHAT DID YOU ASK FOR FROM THE WALT-WHITMAN-HEADED-BAT? ~



"Oh, just a spot of Earl Grey to make it through the afternoon, and some biscuits for it to wet besides."

J.A. FRANZIBALD, PIERRE, S.D.



"I asked for a new washing machine, but didn't realize till later I could've asked for ever-clean clothes."

MARTINE T. PARSNIP, TORONTO, ONT.



"I left it to the beast—'entertain me!' I cried. 'In whatever fashion best suits my character!' In return, he farted."

MRS. H. WELLSLEY, BIRMINGHAM, G.B.

"He was flyin' all around and why, I couldn't think of nuthin cleverer than a first edition *Leaves of Grass*."

BILL SNAGG, SPOKANE, WA.



"I said 'a bottomless bottle of Jack', and that's what I got. A glass bottle with no bottom. Har-de-har-har."

FREAKISH DRUNKEN FROG, FLA.

"Six rolls of duct tape, 80 ft. of rope, and five overstuffed pillows."

DR. JAS. HUTTON, KINGSBURY, CONN.

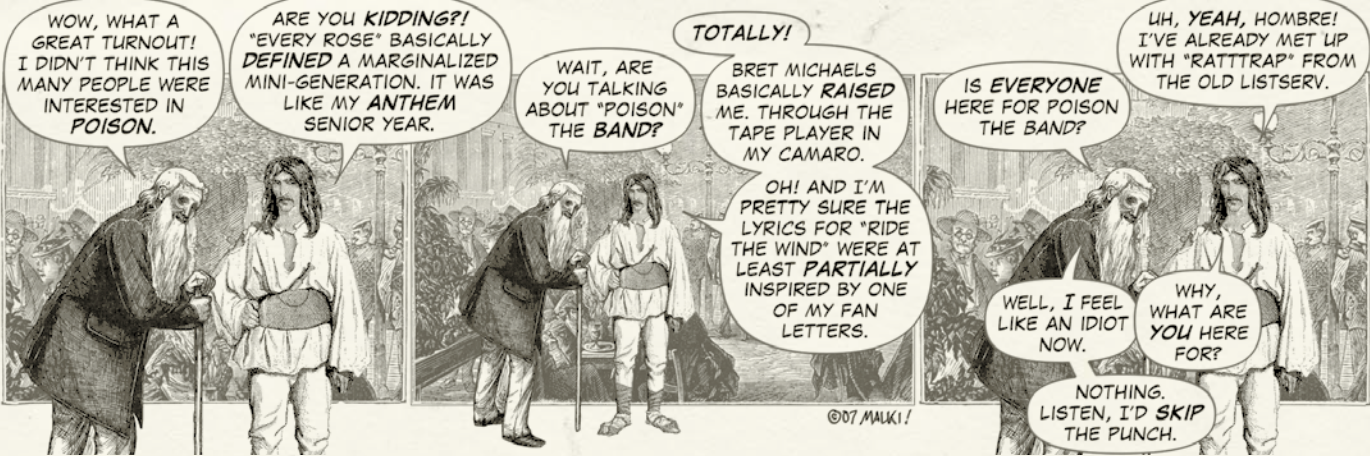


"Mmmrrfffff."

NAME WITHHELD, KINGSBURY, CONN.

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

I want action at WONDERMARK.COM



26

n-no reason, it's just—uh, it's just GRAPE, and you do NOT look like a guy who appreciates that fakey grape flavor. I mean it would probably put you off your whole night. And this is YOUR night.

In which Mom gets to the Bottom of Things

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

one step ahead at WONDERMARK.COM



once you grow up, you have to just sit around all day figuring out how your children are trying to deceive you. if you let your guard down even for a moment, all of a sudden they are seventeen years old breaking the lock on your toolshed and selling all your power tools for meth money.

**WONDERMARK** BY DAVID MALKI! dig deeper at [WONDERMARK.COM](http://WONDERMARK.COM)

WE'RE STILL REPORTING ON THE TRAGIC CASE OF FORTY MINERS TRAPPED IN A CAVE-IN. WITH US LIVE IS MINE FOREMAN EUSTACE PROWLBUCKET.

**LIVE**

EUSTACE, WHAT'S THE SITUATION? ANY **PROGRESS** SINCE WE TALKED TO YOU LAST?

IN THE LAST **FOUR MINUTES?** NO, WALT, I CAN'T REALLY SAY SO.

**LIVE**

WELL, RIGHT NOW I'M TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THESE **INTERVIEWS**, SO I CAN GET BACK TO WORK ON THE **ACTUAL MINE**.

SO WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?

NOW I'M NO **MINING EXPERT**, OF COURSE, BUT HERE IN THE STUDIO WE HAD A **THOUGHT...**

**LIVE**

IS IT POSSIBLE THE MINERS ARE JUST **LOST?**

HAVE YOU TRIED **SHOUTING?**

©07 MALKI!

THWACK

**WONDERMARK** BY DAVID MALKI! sneak around at [WONDERMARK.COM](http://WONDERMARK.COM)

OH, HENRY! THIS PICNIC WAS **JUST** WHAT I NEEDED.

I GET SO **WORN OUT** HAVING TO WATCH EMILY ALL THE TIME.

SHE GETS INTO SUCH **MISCHIEF!**

OH, HENRY! THIS PICNIC WAS **JUST** WHAT I NEEDED.

I GET SO **WORN OUT** HAVING TO WATCH EMILY ALL THE TIME.

SHE GETS INTO SUCH **MISCHIEF!**

SPEAKING OF WHICH - WHO'S LOOKING AFTER HER NOW?

AH, I'M SURE SHE'S **FINE**.

PROBABLY DOING **GIRL STUFF** - PLAYING WITH DOLLS, YOU KNOW, OR BAKING **MUFFINS** OR SOME CRAP LIKE THAT.

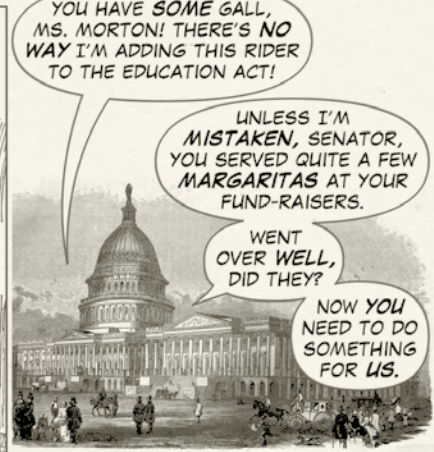
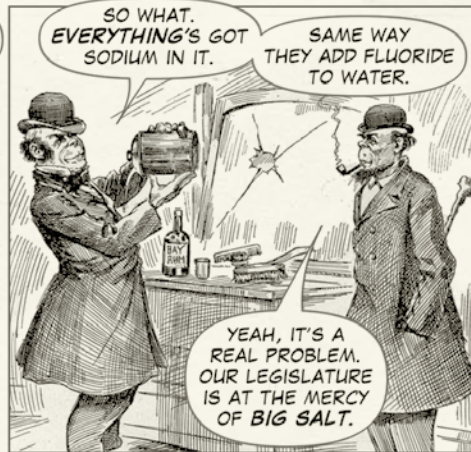
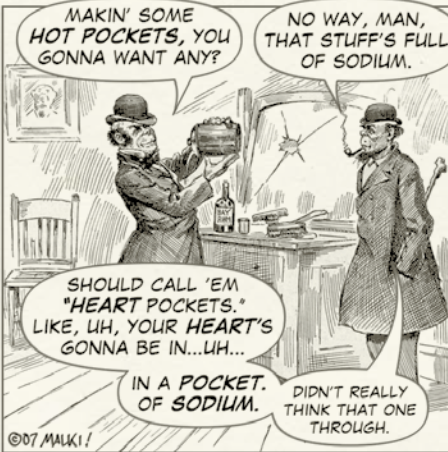
WE CANNOT TELL **ANYBODY**.

©2006 MALKI!

cell phone lines were jammed. everyone was so busy fielding concerned calls from out-of-state relatives that they didn't notice the GIANT METEOR OH NOOOOOOOO

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

keep it fresh at WONDERMARK.COM

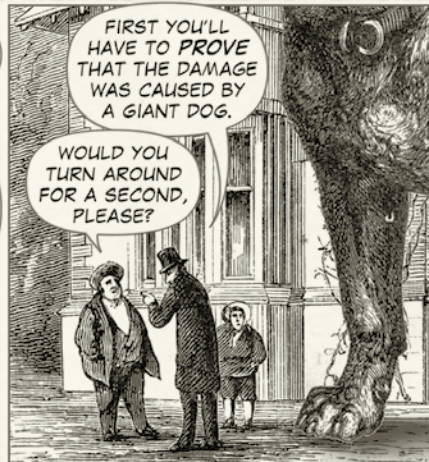
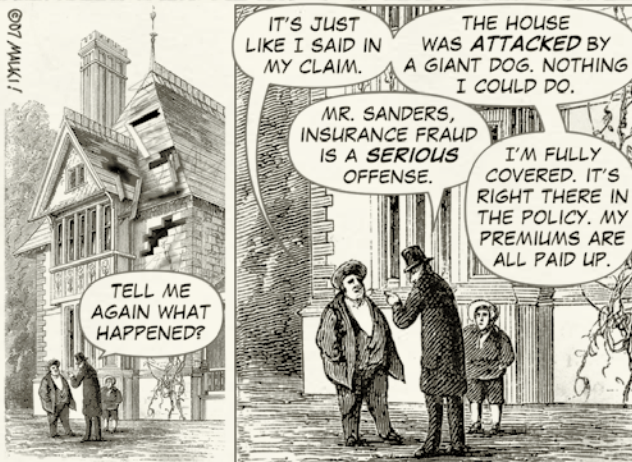


no! not the umbrella! not in the face!

## In which Sanders files a Claim

## WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

come back to WONDERMARK.COM



insert obligatory 'act of dog' joke



Color by Mario Martín  
dimlightcreatures.com

conversely, everyone quieter than you may actually be tolerable to be around



**I CAN'T TAKE IT**

That's it! I'm done! I can't take living next to Gary anymore. Every day it's the same old story, complaining about absolutely everything. To listen to him, you'd think he's some paragon of virtue we should all

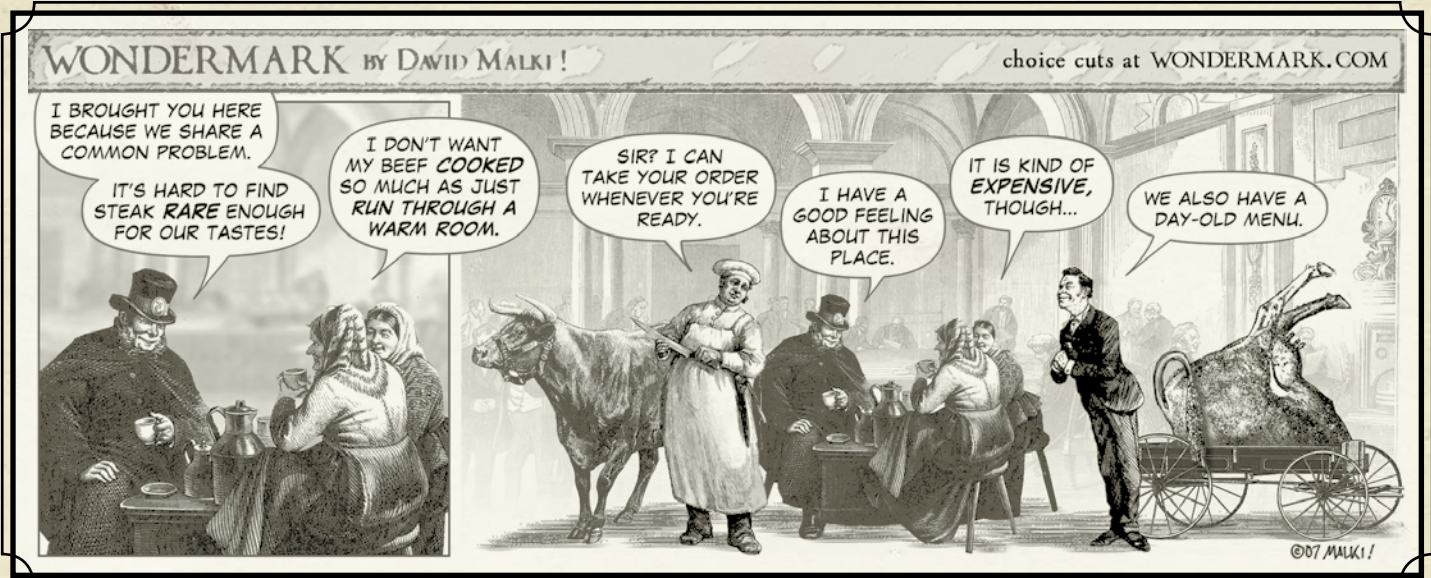
aspire to! Well, nuts to that. We're *fighting back*.

Gary's the president of our homeowners' association, so we can't just avoid him. But we can't *live* with him either! So me and the neighbors got a plan together. Jimbo's a great vocal impressionist, and Suzanne's handy with tools, so we're gonna make ourselves a Gary *robot* full of recordings. That way, we can kill the real deal however we want, set the robot up in his yard, and nobody will ever be the wiser! *Foolproof*.



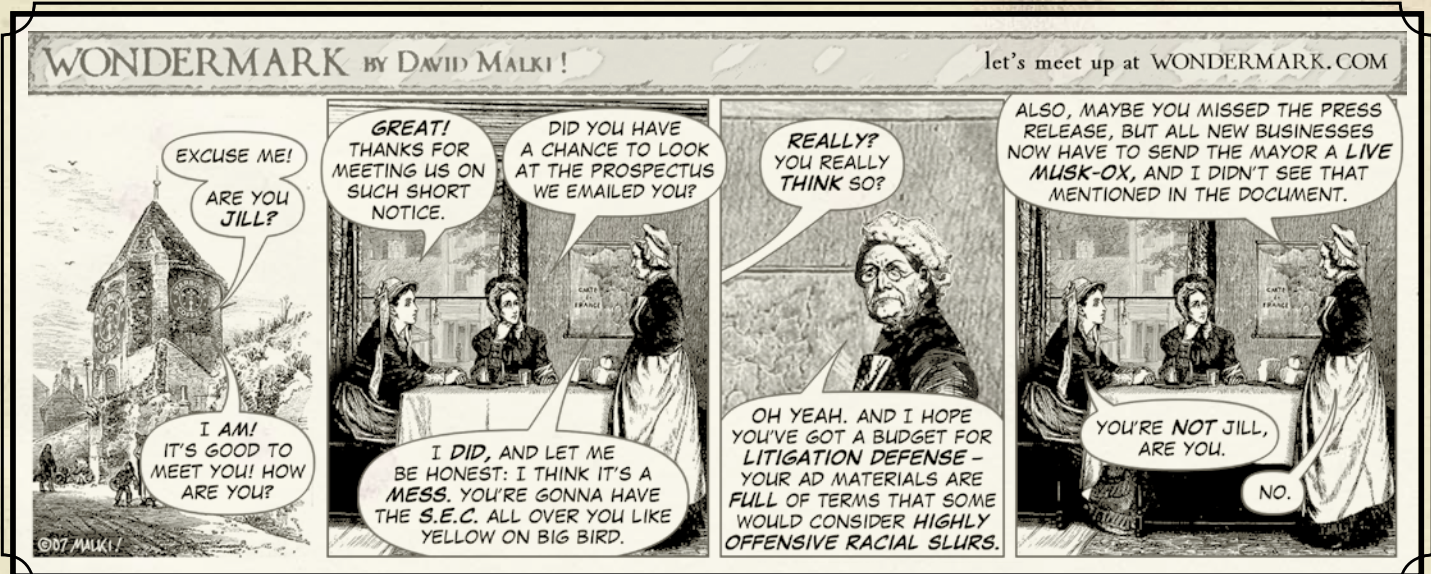
**STOP BOTHERING ME**

Everyone nicer than me is a sap! Everyone meaner than me is a jerk! Everyone poorer than me is lazy! Everyone richer than me is corrupt! Everyone cleaner than me is obsessive! Everyone dirtier than me is slovenly! Everyone skinnier than me is a stick! Everyone fatter than me is a whale! Everyone *bzzzt--CCCHKK-TKK-UUUURRTT-T-T-T SSSSSSS GGBBVVVV--ERROR----MEMORY FRAGMENTED----REINITIALIZING----EE-EEEEverrrryone-CCCHTK \*kk* Everyone bigger than me is a dog! Everyone underneath me is a part! Everyone has a done me is a fog! Everyone wonderful me is a name! Everyone is a man me is a rock! Everyone neoprene me for the lake! Everyone underfounded meanism preek! *STOP IT--STOP IT--STOP IT*



really? rump roast didn't go on the first day?

In which a Meeting goes poorly



i have come so close to doing this so many times

**WONDERMARK** BY DAVID MALKI! come clean at WONDERMARK.COM

**HAROLD?** I HAVE A... WELL, I GUESS YOU WOULD CALL IT A **CONFESSION**.

I'M NOT REALLY A 9/11 HERO. I WASN'T A SURVIVOR OF THE ATTACK.

MY FIANCÉ, OR IN SOME ACCOUNTS MY HUSBAND, **DIDN'T DIE**.

THERE WAS A GUY WHO DIED, BUT HE WASN'T MY HUSBAND. WE **WEREN'T WED** IN A SECRETIVE HAWAIIAN CEREMONY. HE WAS JUST A DUDE I WAS STALKING.

IT WAS THIS WHOLE BIG THING. BUT ANYWAY.

I **DIDN'T** RETURN A DYING MAN'S WEDDING RING TO HIS WIDOW.

I **DIDN'T** START A CHARITY FOR THE ORPHANED CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS.

I WANTED TO, BUT IT WAS HARD.

HARD TO LET GO OF THE SPOTLIGHT. EVERYONE ASKING ME IF I WAS ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE **CARING** ABOUT ME FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AND...I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT **MAYBE...YOU CAN STILL CARE** ABOUT ME, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS.

AM I WRONG?

**HAROLD** GET YOUR HAND OUT OF YOUR PANTS I AM TRYING TO BE **SERIOUS** HERE

SORRY, I HEAR "I HAVE A CONFESSION", IT'S A LIKE A PAVLOVIAN THING.

©07 MALKI!



therapy's going great, why do you ask?

In which Sonya cannot be Idle

**WONDERMARK** BY DAVID MALKI! don't waste a second at WONDERMARK.COM

AAAHH!! I'M MISSING MY SHOW! COME ON COME ON WE GOTTA GET GOING

OW! MY ARM! HOLD ON A SEC! HANGING OUT WITH YOU IS ALWAYS SO EXHAUSTING! GEEZ.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS? YOU'RE AFRAID OF MISSING OUT.

YEAH! AND WE DIDN'T GO! WE TOTALLY MISSED OUT!

DID WE, THOUGH?

IT WASN'T A ROPE FACTORY. IT WAS A NUNCHUK FACTORY. WHAT ARE YOU SERIOUS

EVERYTHING BARKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION, AND YOU INDULGE IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALL. IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

LIKE WHEN WE WENT ON OUR TRIP - REMEMBER THAT TOUR GUIDE? "THIS IS A RARE CHANCE, WE ALMOST NEVER GET TO SEE THE INSIDE OF THE FACTORY," THAT WHOLE SPIEL?

DO YOU REALLY REGRET NOT SEEING THE INSIDE OF THE ROPE FACTORY?

WASN'T IT BETTER TO JUST RELAX IN THAT PARK AND WATCH THE SUN GO DOWN?

©07 MALKI!



kids, whenever someone starts a statement with 'you know what your problem is?', it is usually rhetorical. just a tip!

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

it's all there at WONDERMARK.COM

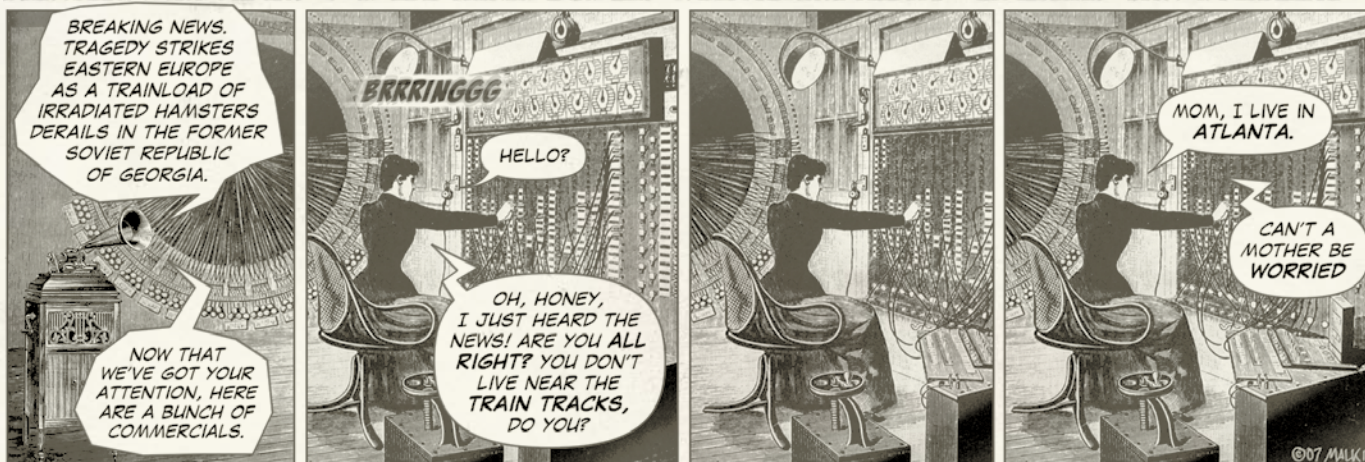


YOU ARE NOT HELPING YOUR CASE HERE MARSHA

In which She's Just Making Sure

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

just in case at WONDERMARK.COM



cell phone lines were jammed. everyone was so busy fielding concerned calls from out-of-state relatives that they didn't notice the GIANT METEOR OH NOOOOOOOO



Color by Kory Bing  
korybing.com



AGAIN?!



## HOW DOES HE RATE A STALKER? ❧

I just don't understand it! I've done everything. I've left personal information un-shredded in garbage cans. I've posted my home address on MySpace. I've

even dropped hints around town that I live alone and that my blinds are prone to malfunction. But I can't seem to attract a peeping Tom, much *less* a full-on, photo-leaving *stalker!*

I mean, come on! I'm young. Relatively attractive, let's be honest. I do a lot of interesting things during the day—I mean, a *good* stalker will be interested in the mundane stuff most of all, the stuff that affords him a window into my everyday life so that he can imagine himself par-

ticipating in it. But I joined a gym, so I go outside in workout clothes a lot, and come back all sweaty; and sometimes I also do aerobic tapes in front of the living-room window. Stuff to really hook all the beginning stalkers and help them gradually assemble an idealized construct of me in their imaginations. I tie my garbage bags only loosely and leave the bin lids half-open. And I get *nothing!* Do you people need an *engraved invitation?*

What really chaps is to see that Boy Scout three houses down get all the attention. I think his great-uncle's second wife used to be married to John Ashcroft or something, so the weirdos trickle down to him...but he does *nothing* to warrant it. I should know! I trailed him for a while, to see what he was doing that I could learn from, but he's always shyly ducking into and out of his car, keeping his drapes fully drawn, almost playing hard-to-get. Hmmm. Maybe *that's* the secret. ❧

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

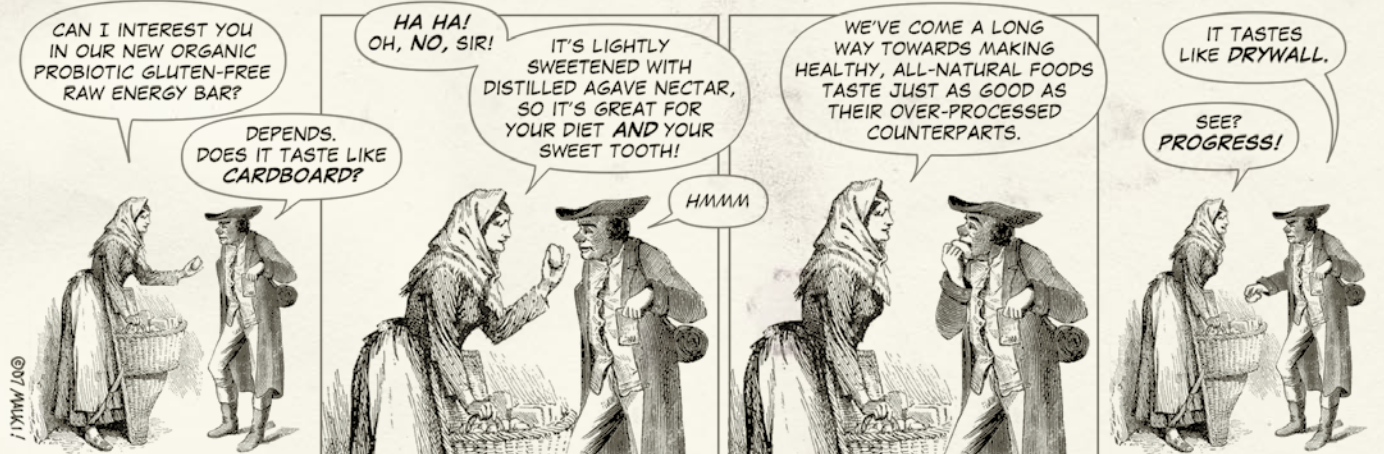
give it up at WONDERMARK.COM



Marcus will use any excuse to get out of wearing pants.

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

bite right in at WONDERMARK.COM



I'm looking forward to 2159 when they finally get the fake chocolate flavor into the realm of acceptable


## REJECTED COMICS

As therapeutic and informative as these comic-strips have been, it is sometimes helpful to know that others have occasional failings in life as well. On this and the following pages, please find examples of this phenomenon as documented by our forensic researchers.



These comics have been rescued from the scrap-bin against the fervent wishes of the author, in the hopes that the lessons of their failure will be particularly insightful.

## FOLLOWING THAT

Please find the long-form graphic story entitled “Ransom!”, originally published in the *MySpace Dark Horse Presents* anthology in Spring 2008. The version of the story contained in this book has been revised somewhat since its initial publication, and is in many ways a SUPERIOR version to any previously seen in any milieu. 

*In which Hearty Chaps blather*



BLAAHHHH

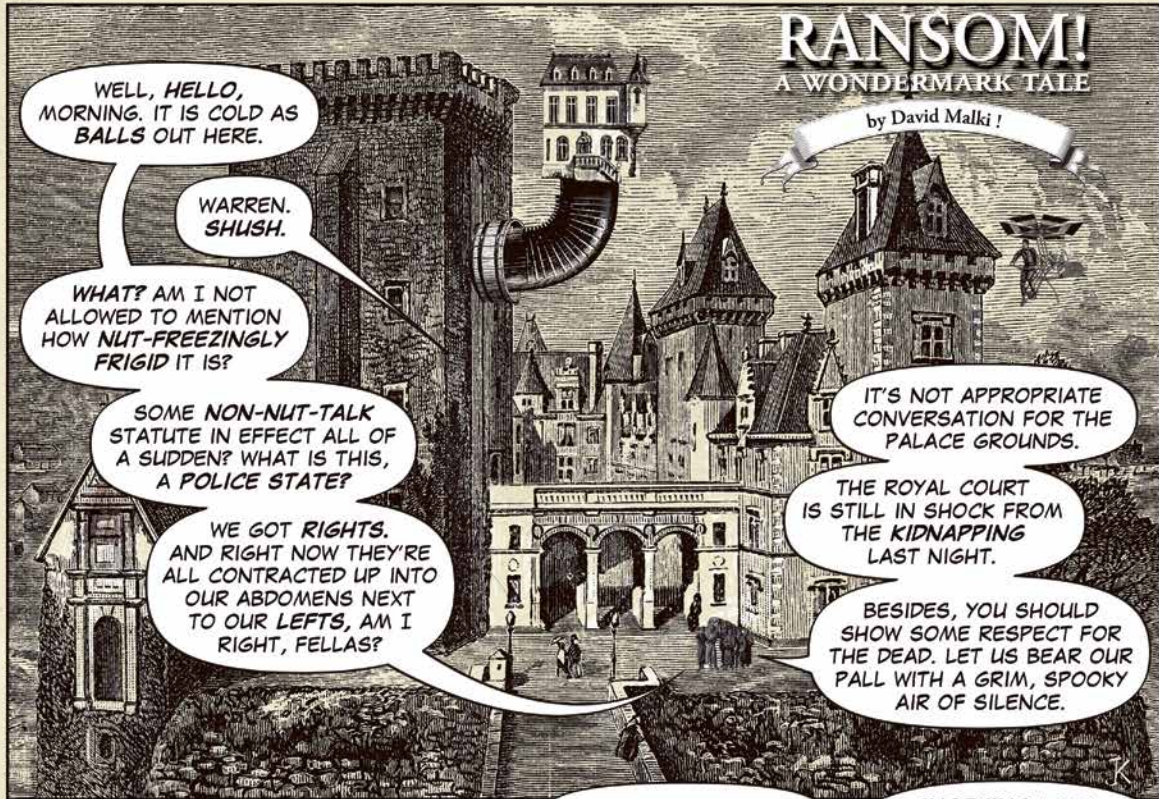




fssshhhhTHWACKAAAAAHHHHHH



my subconscious has been making comics again



WELL, HELLO,  
MORNING. IT IS COLD AS  
BALLS OUT HERE.

WARREN.  
SHUSH.

WHAT? AM I NOT  
ALLOWED TO MENTION  
HOW NUT-FREEZINGLY  
FRIGID IT IS?

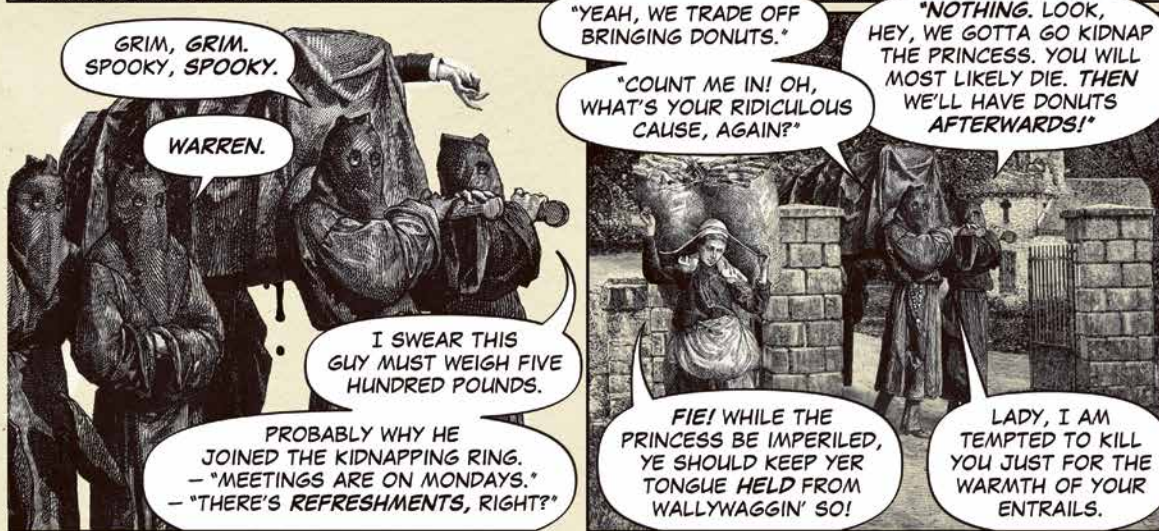
SOME NON-NUT-TALK  
STATUTE IN EFFECT ALL OF  
A SUDDEN? WHAT IS THIS,  
A POLICE STATE?

WE GOT RIGHTS.  
AND RIGHT NOW THEY'RE  
ALL CONTRACTED UP INTO  
OUR ABDOMENS NEXT  
TO OUR LEFTS, AM I  
RIGHT, FELLAS?

IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE  
CONVERSATION FOR THE  
PALACE GROUNDS.

THE ROYAL COURT  
IS STILL IN SHOCK FROM  
THE KIDNAPPING  
LAST NIGHT.

BESIDES, YOU SHOULD  
SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR  
THE DEAD. LET US BEAR OUR  
PALL WITH A GRIM, SPOOKY  
AIR OF SILENCE.



GRIM, GRIM.  
SPOOKY, SPOOKY.

WARREN.

I SWEAR THIS  
GUY MUST WEIGH FIVE  
HUNDRED POUNDS.

PROBABLY WHY HE  
JOINED THE KIDNAPPING RING.  
- "MEETINGS ARE ON MONDAYS."  
- "THERE'S REFRESHMENTS, RIGHT?"

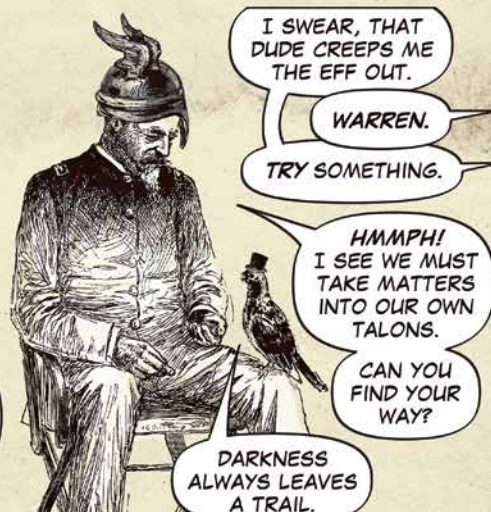
"YEAH, WE TRADE OFF  
BRINGING DONUTS."

"COUNT ME IN! OH,  
WHAT'S YOUR RIDICULOUS  
CAUSE, AGAIN?"

"NOTHING. LOOK,  
HEY, WE GOTTA GO KIDNAP  
THE PRINCESS. YOU WILL  
MOST LIKELY DIE. THEN  
WE'LL HAVE DONUTS  
AFTERWARDS!"

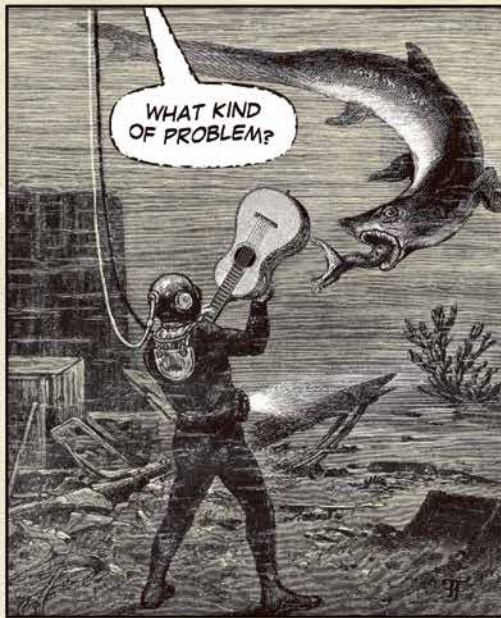
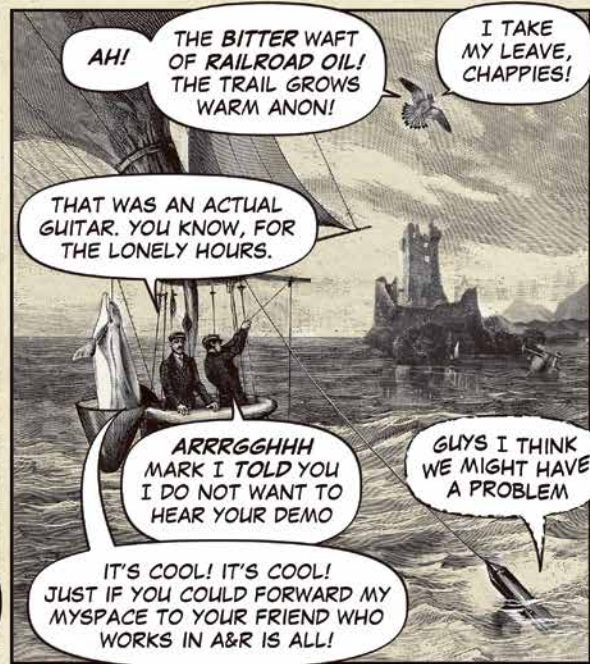
FIE! WHILE THE  
PRINCESS BE IMPERILED,  
YE SHOULD KEEP YER  
TONGUE HELD FROM  
WALLYWAGGIN' SO!

LADY, I AM  
TEMPTED TO KILL  
YOU JUST FOR THE  
WARMTH OF YOUR  
ENTRAILS.



STORY  
Continues.







AND THAT MUST BE THE LIGHTHOUSE WHERE OLD MAN Mc GINTY PLAYS HIS CURSED ACCORDION UNTIL THE END OF TIME!

WEARING HIS FINGERS TO THE BONE EACH NIGHT, ONLY TO SEE THEM HEALED EACH DAWN! WHAT TORTURE!



H-HOLY CRAP A TALKING BIRD



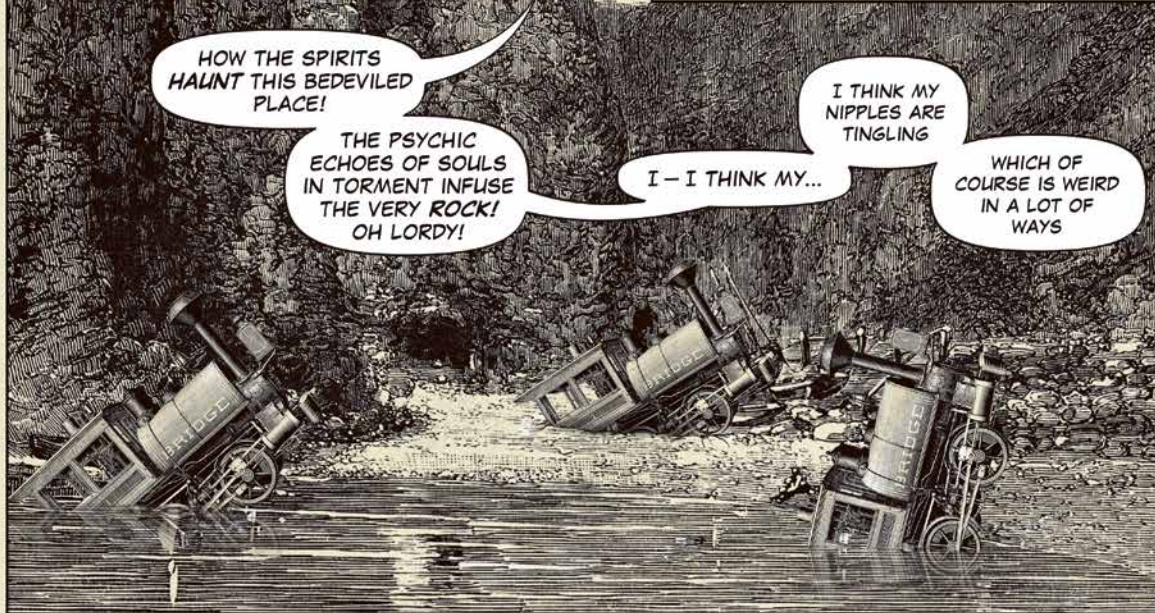
HOW THE SPIRITS HAUNT THIS BEDEVILED PLACE!

THE PSYCHIC ECHOES OF SOULS IN TORMENT INFUSE THE VERY ROCK! OH LORDY!

I THINK MY NIPPLES ARE TINGLING

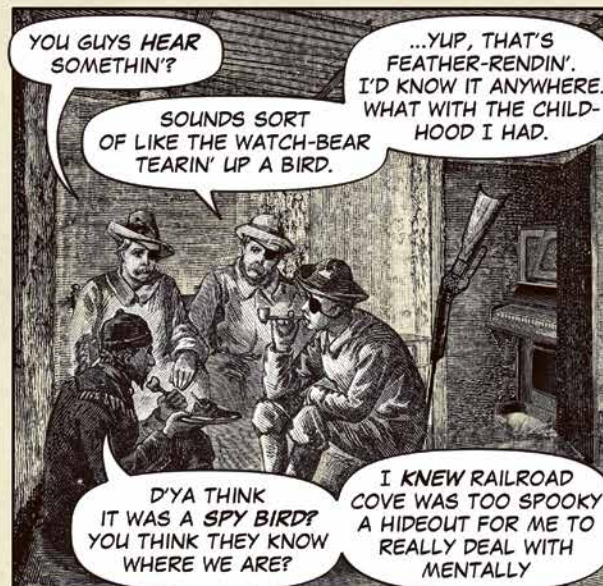
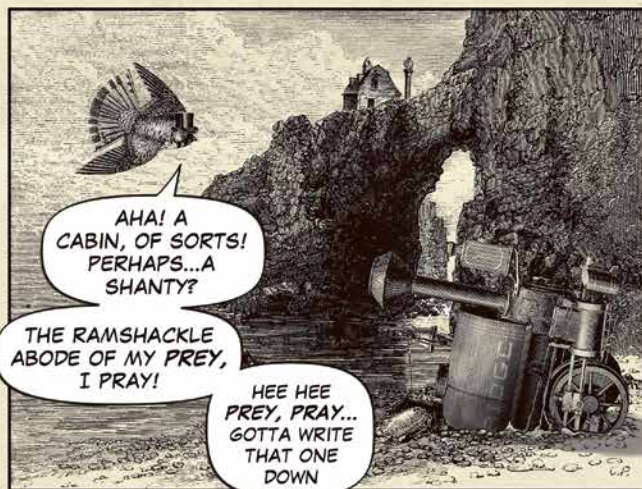
I - I THINK MY...

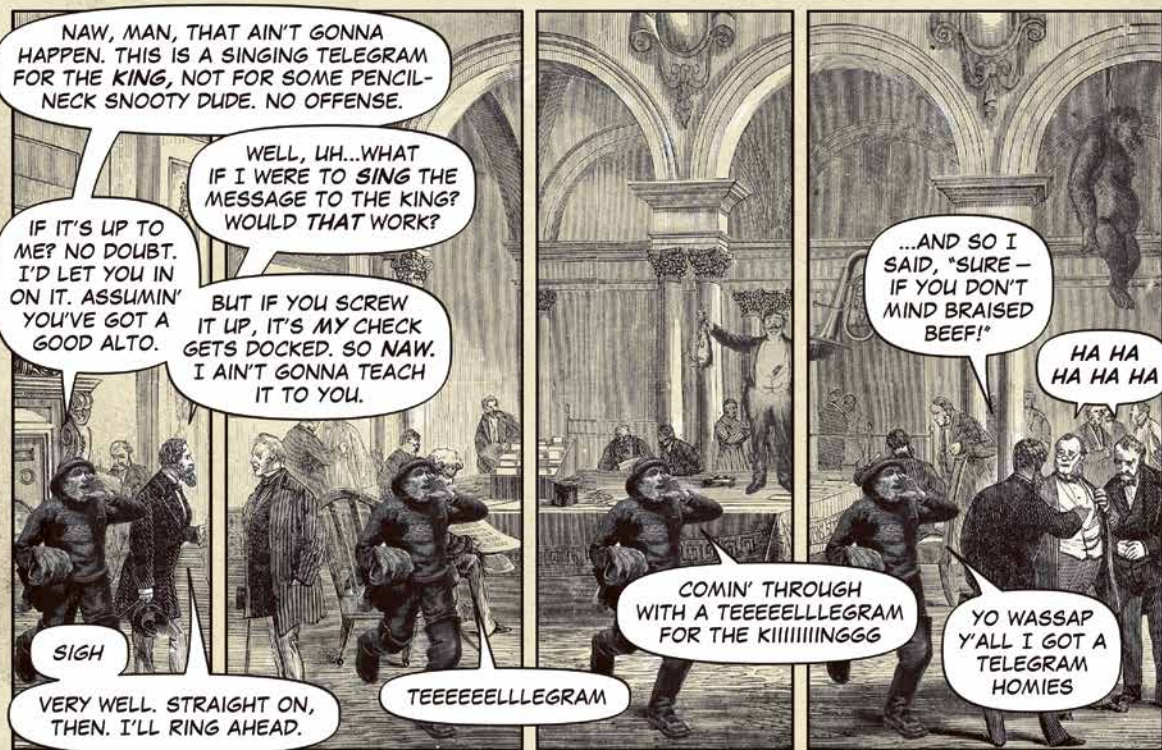
WHICH OF COURSE IS WEIRD IN A LOT OF WAYS



STORY  
Continues.







STORY  
Continues.





RINGADINGDING ON A PORCH SWING  
GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS  
I'M STANDIN OUT THE FRONT LIKE  
A LOBSTER MADE OF ONION RINGS  
COME ON MAKE THE CALL YOU KNOW  
YOU WANT A SINGING TELEGRAM  
I GOTTA SCRAPE YER EARS OUT LIKE  
A Q-TIP MADE OF CHRISTMAS HAM  
SPITTIN CRAZY LYRICS LIKE  
A LETTER FROM THE SON OF SAM  
MAKIN OTHER SUCKERS LOOK LIKE  
TURTLES IN A TRAFFIC JAM

BOYEEE

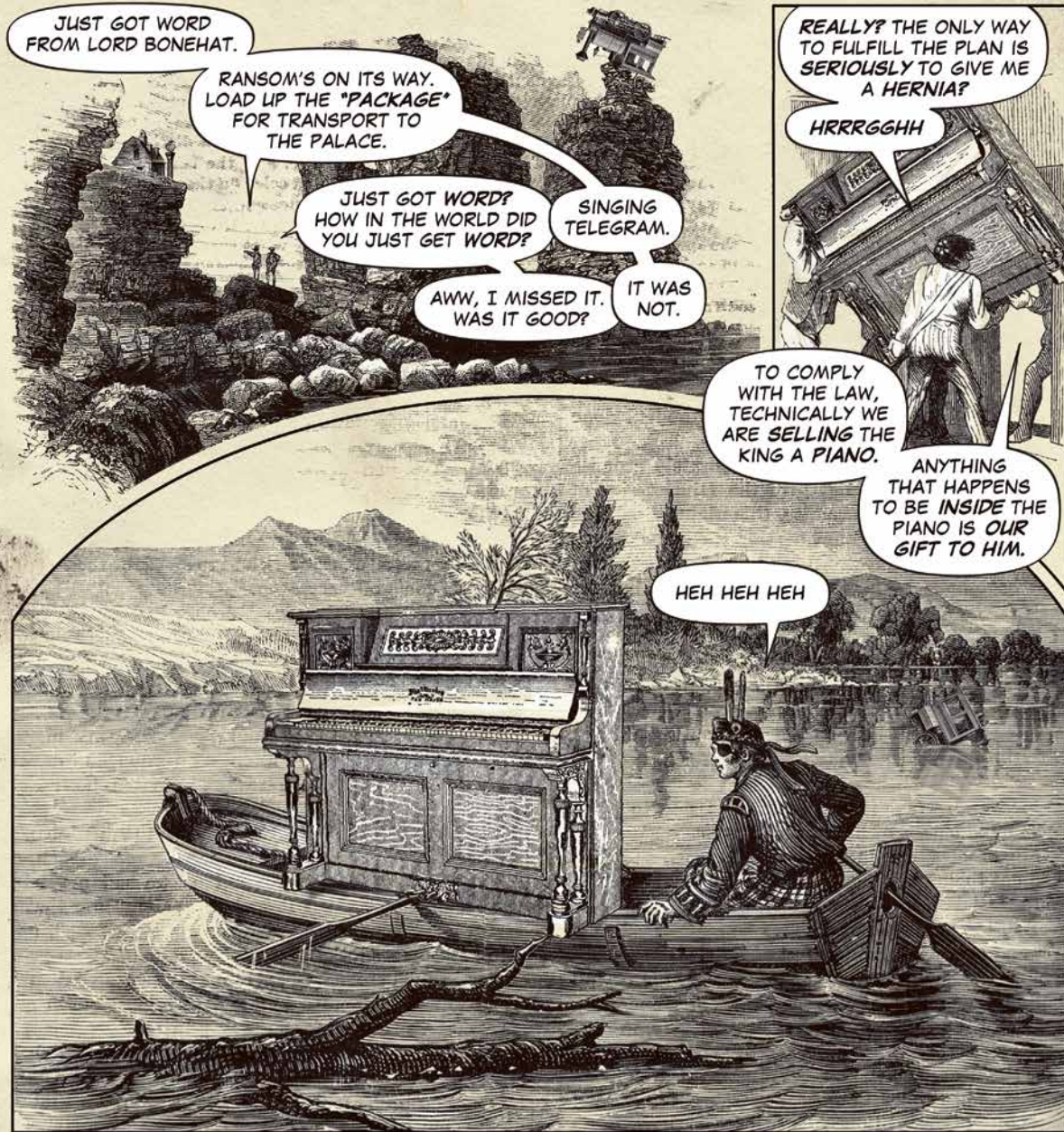


## BUSINESS CONNEXION

The following are Sponsored Messages that may be of value to our readers. The charge for insertion under this head is One Dollar a Line for each insertion. If the Notice exceeds Four Lines, One Dollar and a Half per Line will be charged.

Artichoke Implements and Industrial Machinery for Use in Medical Practice. R.H. & Co., N.Y.

An experienced Sup't of Cranial Surgery, a thorough practical mechanic and business man, desires employment. Best references. Address A.C.R., 874 Marshall St., Philadelphia. Pa.

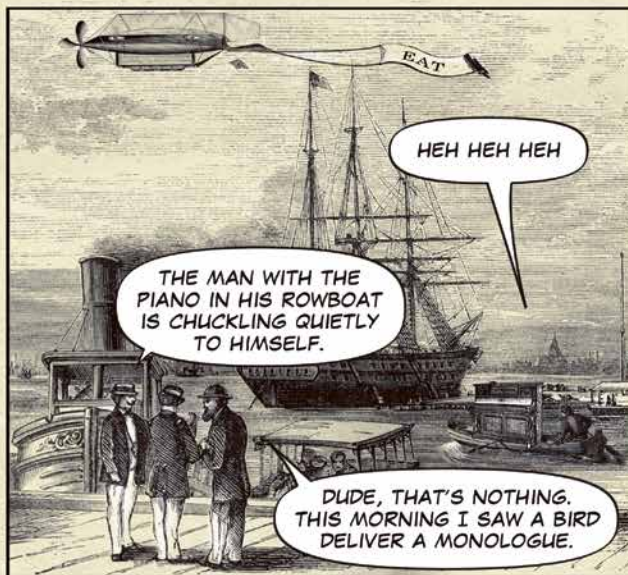


To lease—The largest portion of the building corner Canal, Center, and Walker Sts., now occupied as a Trepannery. See advertis. on property.

M. Shaw, Manufacturer of Insulated Wire for Electro-shock Therapy, Boudoir Pastime, &c. Send for 74 page catalogue free. 259 W. 27th St., N.Y.



HEH HEH HEH



HEH HEH HEH

THE MAN WITH THE PIANO IN HIS ROWBOAT IS CHUCKLING QUIETLY TO HIMSELF.

DUDE, THAT'S NOTHING. THIS MORNING I SAW A BIRD DELIVER A MONOLOGUE.

...I'M NOT SURE WHEN LARRY WILL RETURN, ERNESTO. WHEN HIS TASK IS COMPLETE, I SUPPOSE.

THE PLUCKY LITTLE FELLOW IS NOTHING IF NOT THOROUGH.

LADY! FORGET TALKING TO HIM - HE'S CONVINCED THAT BIRDS ARE A CABAL OF ALIENS WHO SECRETLY CONTROL THE ECONOMY.

THE ROAD TO THE PALACE IS FECKLESSNESS AND RUDE BEHAVIOR!

PARDON, IS THIS THE ROAD TO THE PALACE? I HAVE A DELIVERY.

TO GET TO THE PALACE, FOLLOW THIS ROAD FOR HALF A MILE, THEN TURN LEFT AT THE HUNDRED-FOOT-TALL PILE OF FLOWERS AND HANDWRITTEN POEMS ABOUT THE PRINCESS.

SO...IS THAT THE INTERSECTION, OR...?

IF YOU HIT THE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, SLIT YOUR OWN WRISTS. YOU WON'T MAKE IT OUT OF THERE ALIVE.



OH, THANK YOU! YOU SEE, I'M JUST DELIVERING THIS NOT-AT-ALL-SUSPICIOUS PIANO TO HIS MAJESTY.

DON'T NEED YOUR LIFE STORY. NOW YOU'RE BLOCKING THE ROAD.

STORY  
Continues.



Hyatt & Co.'s Skin Varnishes and Japans, as to price, color, purity, and durability, are cheaper by comparison than any other extant. No longer will oil ooze from your pores. 246 Grand St., N.Y.

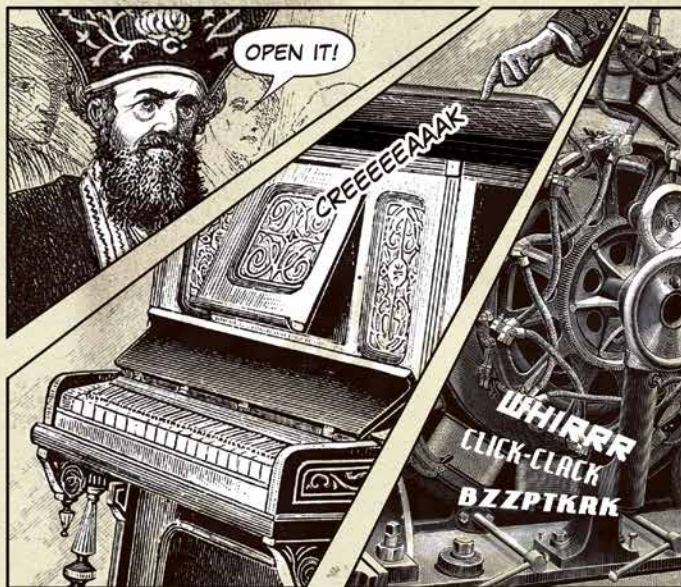
To stop leaks in boiler tubes or entrails, use Quinn's Solder-able Corking. Send for circular and descriptive price list to S.M. Co., Newark, N.J.

For best Ear-, Nose-, Throat- & Brain-Spoons, Spoon & Spooners, Plymouth & Jay, Brklyn. N.Y.

Wanted—Novel and practical invention for ending this crippling existential malaise, by a reliable house, for manufacturing. Address, Post Office Box 23, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Makers of Jars and Cans for Organ-Storage, also Organ Extraction Tools, please send wholesale price lists to Munn & Co. Desired by a foreign correspondent who expects to give orders.

Used Earwax—J. Dyers, 64 Nassau St., N.Y.



STORY  
Continues.



Wanted—Second-hand centrifugal machine for liquids, solids, mixtures of the two. Send description & price. P.O. Box 3396, Boston, Mass.

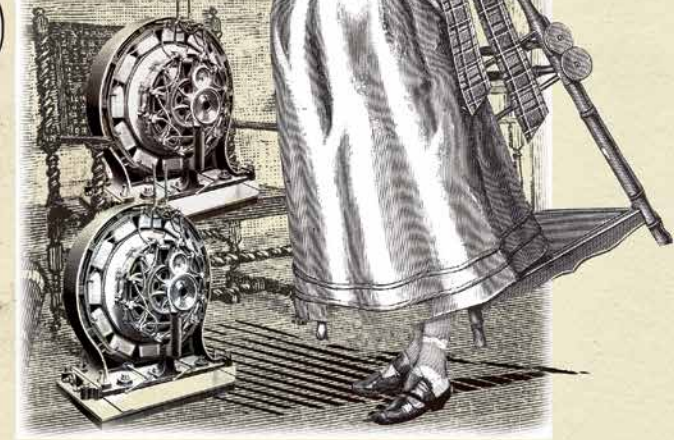
The only economical and practical Gasoline-Powered Bloodletter in the market is the "Otto" Silent, built by Sang & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.



"AFTER CONSUMING  
THE GIRL, I DECIDED  
TO IMPERSONATE  
HER AND ESCAPE.

"TO MY DISMAY, I  
DISCOVERED HOW  
FAR WE WERE FROM  
ANYWHERE.

"BUT THEN I FOUND  
A PAIR OF MATTER-  
TRANSPORTERS  
LYING UNUSED AND  
ABANDONED! THE  
KIDNAPPERS HAD  
BEEN USING THEM FOR  
SPACE HEATERS.\*



Knives, Machetes &c. for Ceasing that Infernal Racket coming from next door. Shipped discreetly. Taylor, Stiles & Co., Riegelsville, N.J.

Meals Eaten, Daughters Indoctrinated, Spare Change Disposed Of, by "Drill-Man Dan." Good instruction for children. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa.

"SOON I WAS DISCOVERED AND IMPRISONED – BUT WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE MY CAPTORS THAT I'D NEED ONE OF THE HEATERS TO STAY WARM, IF THEY DIDN'T WANT ME TO DIE OF CHILL.

I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH YOU DYING OF CHILL.

B-BUT THE RANSOM! AND LORD BONE-HAT!

YOU ATE MY DAUGHTER!

"WHEN THEY HAD TROUBLE RIGGING THEIR BOMB, I WAS ABLE TO FURTHER CONVINCE THEM THAT THE DYNAMITE NEEDED TO BE HEATED...SO THEY PUT THE OTHER END OF THE TRANSPORTER INSIDE THE PIANO."

AWFUL NICE OF THE PRINCESS TO HELP US OUT WITH THIS.

WELL, YOU KNOW SOME PEOPLE. ALWAYS HAVE TO BE INVOLVED.

THEN I KEPT ONE EAR POKED THROUGH THE TRANSPORTER...

AND THE INSTANT THE BOMB WAS TRIGGERED, TRADED PLACES WITH IT IN THE PIANO!

PERSONALLY I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY CLEVER.

OH, QUITE. SO, UH...I GUESS MAYBE I HAVE TO DO THIS THE TRADITIONAL WAY...

DEBORAH, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

HAH!

AFTER YOU HAD ME KIDNAPPED?

WHAT

AAAAAHHHHHHH

OH GREAT KING – IN YOUR FIERCE WISDOM AND MERCY – MAY I ASK JUST ONE SMALL BOON IN THIS TERRIBLE HOUR OF RAGE –

PLEASE – I BEG OF YOU, MY LIEGE –

SAVE ME A DRUMSTICK

END!

## MALADY MATRIX

### *What's all this*

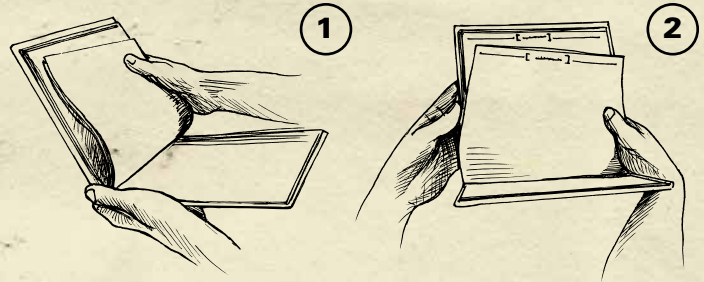
No doubt you have noticed the words along the edge of each left-hand page of this book. These are the 49 elements of the MALADY MATRIX. By combining them in various clever ways, we have discovered that from these humble elements flow the remedies to nearly all known afflictions.\*

### *How it works*

The four charts on the facing page ask questions of your condition, and assign numerical values to each answer. In this fashion every relevant facet of the condition is communicated to the system. Please be sure to answer honestly, to ensure maximum effectiveness. There is no need to be discreet with the matrix; we do not keep any records that can be subpoenaed later.

The four numerical values are assigned code letters: A, B, C, or E. (D was unavailable.) These correspond to pages in this book: the AB digits together are a page number, and the CE digits are likewise a second page number.

\*Many afflictions are not yet known. It's always possible that you have one of those. After all, Lou Gehrig puzzled everybody. Perhaps you have Your Name's Disease.



The pages of the book are then juxtaposed in the manner detailed in the illustration above:

- Step 1** Find the two 2-digit page numbers corresponding to your result from the matrix  
**Step 2** Align these pages as shown to assemble a directive from the component phrases  
**Step 3 (not shown)** Enact the directive

The process is simple and delightful. Let us give an example.

---

What general type of malady is this? You are plagued with nosebleeds after a psychic visitation, so you choose 'Physical.' **A: 0**

---

How severe is the malady? It is persistent despite your best efforts with tape. **B: 4**

---

What is the cause? Although this would seem to be a trauma, you provoked the visitation with hubris. **C: 8**

---

What is your overall level of health? A comics fan, you are chronically sickly. **E: 2**

---

Thus, you would align pages 4 and 82.



### What general type of malady is this?

Physical – An affliction of the body, incl. muscles, blood, organs, humours	<b>0</b>
Mental – A problem of cognition, incl. memory loss, disorientation, stupidity	<b>1</b>
Disorder – Hearing voices, hallucinations, insomnia, hysteria, <i>et cetera</i>	<b>2</b>
Existential – Complaints of the middle class, such as ennui, insecurity, anxiety	<b>3</b>
Other – Gender confusion, cute overload, megalomania, hiccups, <i>et cetera</i>	<b>4</b>

A

### How severe is the malady?

Mild – A mere annoyance now and again, niggling or infrequent	<b>0</b>
Moderate – Stiff upper lip, tolerable for the worst of it, but a bit of a bother	<b>2</b>
Constant – Distractions are a welcome relief, mathematics prove difficult	<b>4</b>
Severe – Pharmaceutical budget has become a source of tension in the family	<b>6</b>
Unbearable – Impossible to even focus on this page, such is the unending agony	<b>8</b>

B

### What is the cause?

Trauma – A distinct event in the past has specifically caused this circumstance	<b>5</b>
Congenital – This has been preordained in one's genetic code; there is no escape	<b>6</b>
Environmental – Contaminants, toxins, everything the news warned us about	<b>7</b>
Indulgence – No self-control at all; OR, simply the trappings of success	<b>8</b>
Imaginary – Affliction resides purely in the realm of the theoretical. Buck up then	<b>9</b>

C

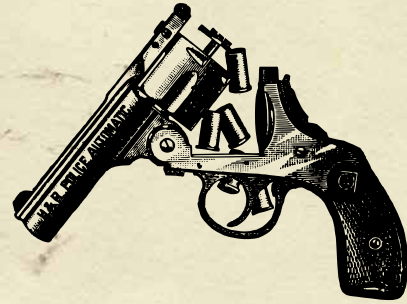
### What is your overall level of health?

Miserable – Constantly racked with countless ailments; this is just the latest	<b>0</b>
Troubled – Prone to accidents and sickness, really do <i>not</i> need this right now	<b>2</b>
Coping – Used to taking this sort of thing in stride; after all, we're merely meatbags	<b>4</b>
Decent – Occasionally fall under the weather, but normally manage just fine	<b>6</b>
Healthy – Save for this problem, the picture of vigor. Nothing can stop me	<b>8</b>

E

**Exception:** We have no data for CE pair 9-8. If your problem is imaginary and you are perfectly healthy, you are fine. For further details please consult our companion volume, *Problems You Probably Don't Have (But Might)*. \$89.95 + SHIPPING

## TROUBLESHOOTING



### *I am not sure what exactly is wrong with me*

WebMD and other on-line sources may be of assistance to help you refine a cluttered collection of symptoms into a precise diagnosis. When in doubt, always bias amateur diagnoses towards the more severe—better that treatment is overkill, rather than not effective enough.

### *I do not know how best to describe my malady*

The matrix on the previous page is only useful if you are able to clearly break your problem into its component characteristics. However, if multiple options each seem appropriate for your particular problem, you may run the matrix for each possible permutation and simply average the resultant directives.

### *I have more than one problem*

You may run the matrix for each problem or symptom separately, and then enact all the resultant directives. The entire concert should be performed continually until each of the initial symptoms have vanished.

### *Performing a matrix directive has birthed some new problem*

Simply run the matrix for the new problem. You may continue in this fashion for as long as necessary without ill effect.

### *My specific problem is not addressed*

Have you considered the possibility that something is on backwards? (*See diagram*)



*Possible cause of any problems outside the scope of this book*



## INDEX OF LAST LINES

---

- A what? ... 19
- AAH MY INDIE CRED ... 29
- AAAH NO BRAKES ... 21
- Ah man they were my ride ... 42
- "All morning pretty much constantly"? *Perhaps* ... 50
- All right, *now* tell me what I can stuff my face with that probably won't kill me ... 53
- Also, the basement is flooded, your mother keeps calling, and I'm pregnant ... 30
- Also the Vicodin please ... 61
- Also write one for the zebra insurance ... 13
- Although if I fill too many more blue books with manifestoes they may start to get an inkling ... 20
- And not *sharing* ... 15
- And pirates don't tell their parents ... 18
- And then another nuke, BAM, right in the heart of Paris ... 24
- And where are the gifts and flowers for *me* ... 26
- And *you're* the one who *wanted* the stenographer ... 70
- Anyway could you please forward my mail ... 17
- Are you *serious* ... 69
- Are you through being *dramatic* ... 18
- As long as she doesn't look in the garage ... 64
- Aww, do we have to have *this* conversation again? ... 41
- Be-cause it's wo-o-orking!* ... 56
- Because when *I* do it, it's *funny* ... 22
- 'Bout to make your *dreams come true*, little lady! ... 42
- But I bet I could make a *mint* selling "plastic offset credits" over at Whole Foods ... 60
- B-but I have a *Mac!* ... 12
- But now you're doggin' on my jokes! ... 55
- But the people were all jerks ... 48
- Can't a mother be *worried* ... 70
- Cart's kinda heavy ... 53
- Crap! Bet I coulda got *nine* million ... 34
- Depends, are you gonna *freak out* on me? ... 58
- Dude, *I'm* incapable of conceiving of a world before the invention of the Internet ... 32
- Essentially I am making a veiled plea for belated presents ... 13
- Guitar Hero* ... 46
- Guinness-record stir-fry* ... 38
- Have you tried *shouting?* ... 65
- He should! I called like twenty times ... 20
- Hee hee hee* ... 26
- Hey, I thought you said you were new here! ... 41
- "Hooray!" ... 39
- I AM WATCHING ... 71
- I knew that was coming. And that saddens me ... 34
- I know. I read your blog ... 9
- I *really* hope I'm not mugged by some fruity-lookin' dude in a cape ... 44
- I took some meth and cleaned my kitchen for three days! ... 56
- I will inhabit any fantasy world that will put Shredder on my body ... 32
- I wonder what on Earth a bird of this size could *eat!* ... 23
- If it looks like *fate*, it's probably *stalking* ... 59
- I'll try to throw you some sort of hand gesture ... 24
- I'm a man of *action*. I can't abide all this *talk*. I want stuff to *happen* ... 48
- I'm pretty sure that's a *tornado* ... 66
- I'm self-employed ... 16

In fact! BAM! Now *everyone* can do that! ... 63  
 In my *bladder* ... 10  
 Is that supposed to be *comforting*? ... 47  
*It's all we have left* ... 62  
 It's an isolation pod for television watching ... 16  
 "It's got a ding-dong, but we should probably hold off on those measurements for a couple years or so." ... 11  
 It's pretty much my go-to rhetorical technique ... 50  
 KIIIIAAAIIIIII ... 17  
 Man, I can see what you were talking about ... 11  
 Maybe ... 49  
 Maybe you should grow some frikkin *legs* ... 47  
 Me too ... 10  
 Meanwhile ... 9  
 Most of my complaints revolve around the security system no longer being of the "old man napping in chair" model ... 25  
 Nah, I just like raining on parades ... 30  
 Next you're gonna drag me out into the parking lot and slap me ... 52  
 No ... 68  
 NOTHING ... 23  
 Nothing. Listen, I'd *skip* the punch ... 64  
 Nothing. We just don't care about your wedding ... 35  
 Now *you* need to do something for *us* ... 66  
 Of *course* you can, honey. You're *nine* ... 72  
 Oh, that's easy. See, the paint thinner was just making things worse ... 31  
 Oil is a *fossil fuel*! ... 60  
 Okay, cool, I was about to have to call in Mom ... 12  
 Probably not rabies after all ... 44  
 See? *Progress!* ... 72  
 She called my leggings "*effete*" ... 14  
 She is so bad at reading my subtle hints ... 49  
 She was totally into you ... 31  
 She's really just excited to be out of the house ... 45  
*Republicans* ... 46  
 So that's when you broke off a fork in his temple ... 14  
 SOLD ... 57

Sorry, I hear "I have a confession," it's a like a Pavlovian thing ... 69  
 Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter ... 43  
 THAT WAS KC AND THE SUNSHINE BAND ... 28  
 That's from when we were sure you were going to grow up to be the Antichrist ... 38  
 That's what Mom said but it's a *myth* ... 62  
 The penal code doesn't *get* me! ... 35  
 The polls close in an *hour*. At a dead sprint he'd barely make it to the *kitchen* ... 19  
 There is, but the chicks are all real downers ... 36  
 This guy in Norway's been doing that since *Eisenhower*. And he has a theme song ... 43  
 TRICK QUESTION NO SUCH THING ... 67  
 Wait, when you *what* into a *what* ... 40  
 Whaddaya think this pole is made of? ... 52  
 We also have a day-old menu ... 68  
 We cannot tell *anybody* ... 65  
 Well, one more book to ban from schools ... 36  
 Well, Steamovak, I think we gotta figure out a new plan ... 29  
 Well, you didn't know he'd have the papers *with* him ... 61  
 We're fine with that, right? ... 51  
 We're gonna go have an *adventure* ... 27  
 WHAT ... 55  
 When I eat a *Twinkie* it turns into *me!* ... 28  
 When you went to answer the phone, I took a dump in your toaster ... 37  
 Wii Boxing ... 25  
 Writin' angry letters claimin' you found *pubes* in the OJ ... 40  
 Yeah but seriously that would have been like a thousand dollars ... 22  
 Yeah, I'm freaking thrilled ... 37  
 Yo I knew this would get you excited ... 54  
 You do realize that I work on commission ... 58  
 YOU shut up ... 33  
 You'll be his boss someday. You'll be his boss someday ... 59





## AUTHOR'S NOTE ~

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hus draws to its end another book that is nominally about something else, but which is really about comic-strips. (Let's be honest.) If I were a crass marketer, I would tell you to rush immediately to your local Internets and write an Amazon or Goodreads review of this book. But what would such a request mean? It would mean that I cared more about **SELLING BOOKS** than about seizing this final opportunity to make a personal connection with *you*, the reader for whom the entire endeavor has been conceived.

And surely this is not the case! For have I not, just three sentences previous, been *brutally honest* with you in a way that only the dearest of friends can be? This is a book of comics! It is not an actual medical manual, despite the many times in the prior pages when I have insisted that it is. Those were lies! They were meant to provoke chuckles and a warm sense of recognition, as in, "Ooh, Cousin Marty would *really* get a kick out of this book." And he *would*, wouldn't he? It's *just the thing* for Cousin Marty! Cousin Marty is *my kind of guy!*

But this frankness leads us to a sort of stalemate. I have lied to you for ninety-four pages, and then been honest with you for one. (This one.) How can I expect you to believe me *now?*

I know. I shall issue two versions of this book. If you are the type of person whom I adore and whose health and well-being are wonderfully valuable to me, I shall ensure that your copy of the book has a painting of Steamovak on the next page. If you are an oaf for whom I care little, there shall be nothing.

Once again, I thank you humbly for the gift of your attention. I shall keep it with my favorite treasures. 

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YES NINJAS  
ON UNICYCLES

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ALONE FOR  
A WHILE

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