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Clever Tricks to Stave Off Death

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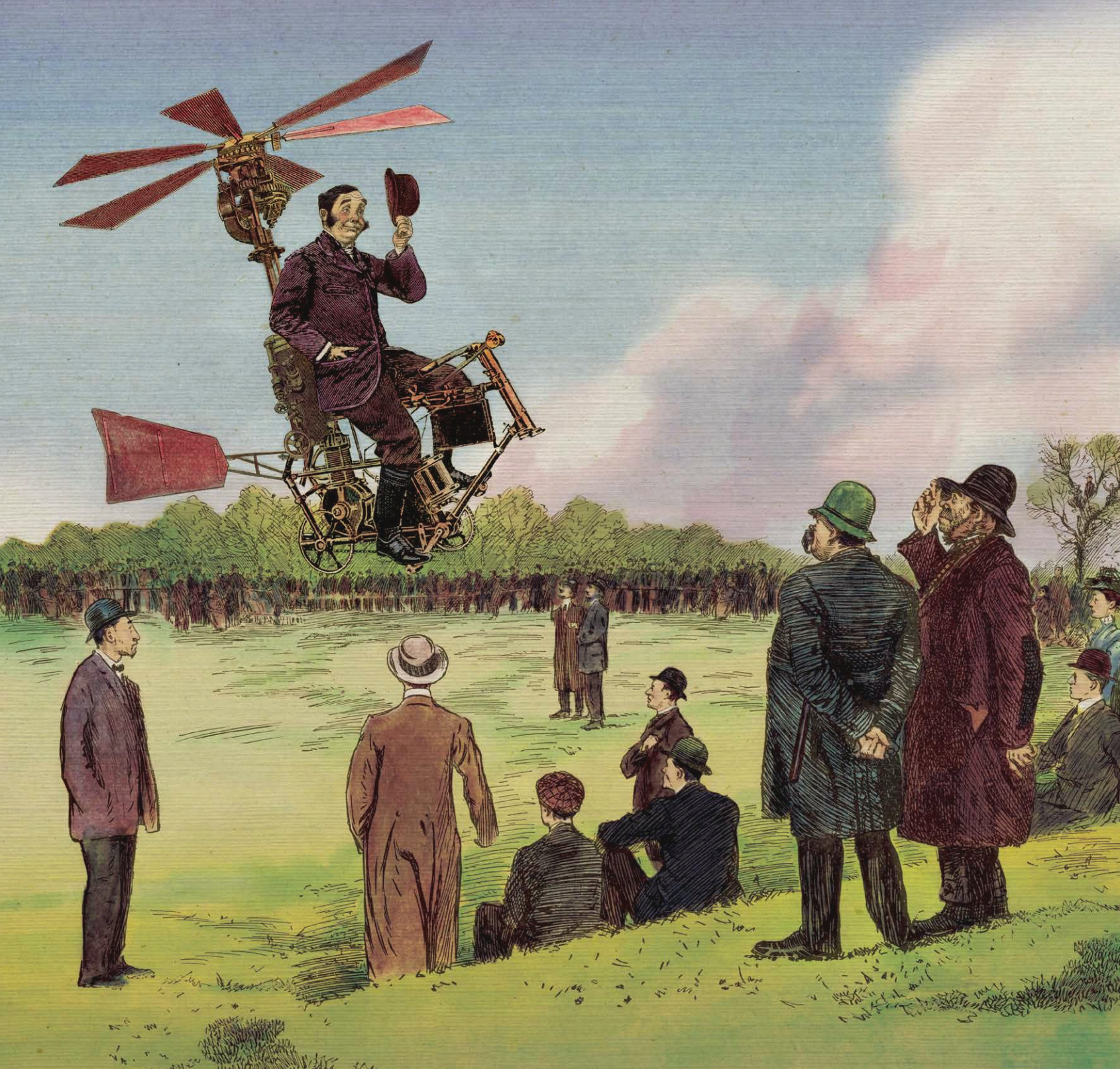
Emperor of the Food Chain

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the Smell of My Butt*

Machine of Death

This is How You Die

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A JOCLAR JOURNAL OF PROGRESS, INVENTIVENESS, AND DIVERSION.

WONDERMARK ENTERPRISES, Editors & Proprietors.

PUBLISHED BY
BEARSTACHE BOOKS, VENICE, CALIFORNIA.

AUTHOR & DESIGNER ~ David Malki !
PAGE ONE COLORIST ~ Marcus Thiele



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Published by BEARSTACHE BOOKS
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VENICE, CA 90291

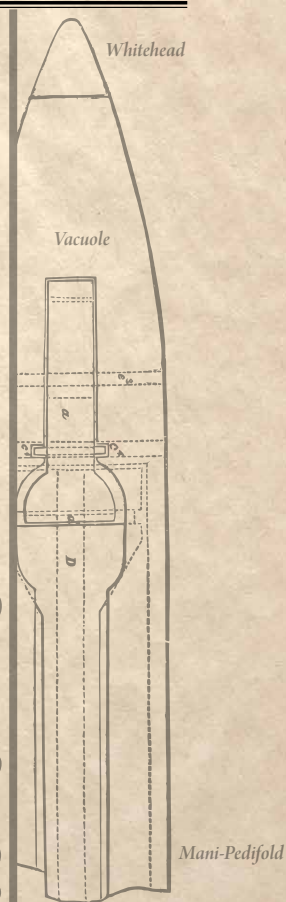
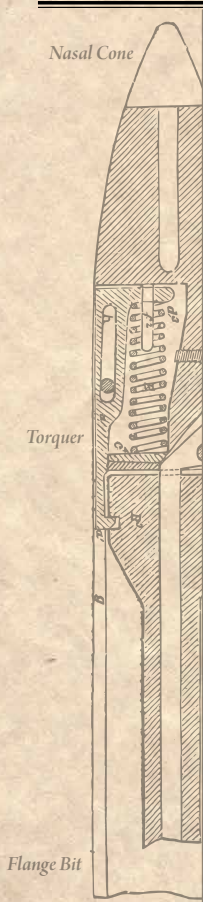
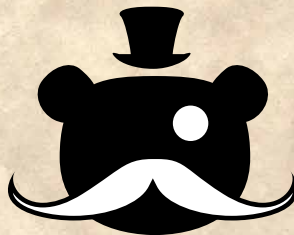
FIRST PAPERBACK PRINTING July 2013

ISBN-13: 978-1-939768-02-5

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

bearstache.com
wondermark.com

Designed by Wondermark in California
Printed in China



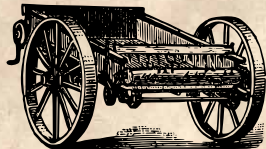
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THOMAS DEVLIN & CO. WHATEVER YOUR TWISTED NOGGIN
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STRICTLY FIREPROOF.

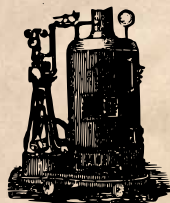
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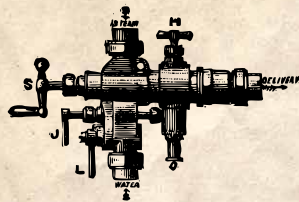
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of every description. All kinds of crazy crap. We don't know what half this junk is. GEORGE'S METALLIC PILE.

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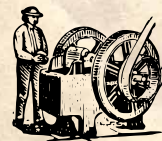
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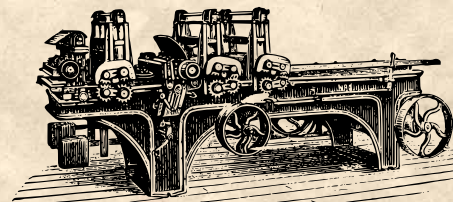
These are keyless, dial Locks, for drawers, breeches, trousers, privy clothes, corsets, girdles, hosiery, nightclothes, etc. Owner may set them on any 1, 2, 3, or 4 of 50 numbers. Millions of possible changes. Very simple, easily fitted. May be used upon a child of nine years; will thoroughly prevent any manner of exploration. Or, for use upon bachelor daughters, comely wives traveling alone, spinster housemaids, etc. A very great step in advance of the best keyed locks for security and convenience. For illustrated price list, send stamp to the manufacturers.

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This Pen will impress any manner of permanent marks on all surfaces. Glass; gummy or knotty wood; soft metal; livestock—the marks are indelible and sharp. Send for catalogue. GARDNER & CHANDLER, 1321 Washington St., Boston.



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For Slumber, Marital Relations, Etc.

NEW device for gentleman of means; just patented. Oiled rollers reduce nocturnal friction 90 per cent.; prevents wear; no chafing. Optional pincers for mechanical massage after long day of Decision-making. For circulars;

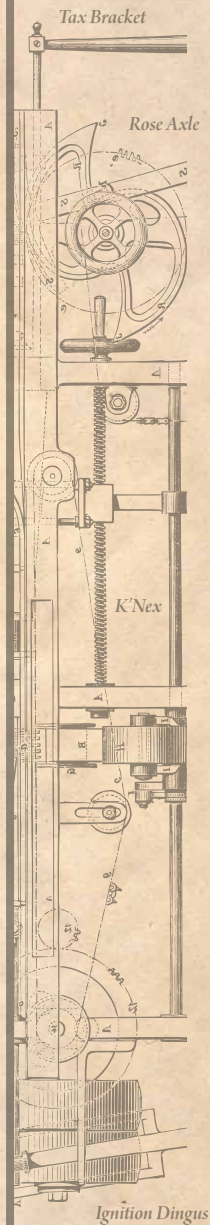
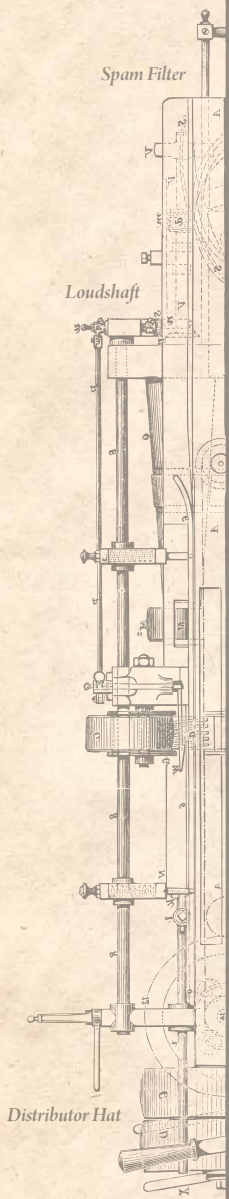
WILLIAM CROWE, 409 Harrison Ave., Boston, Mass.

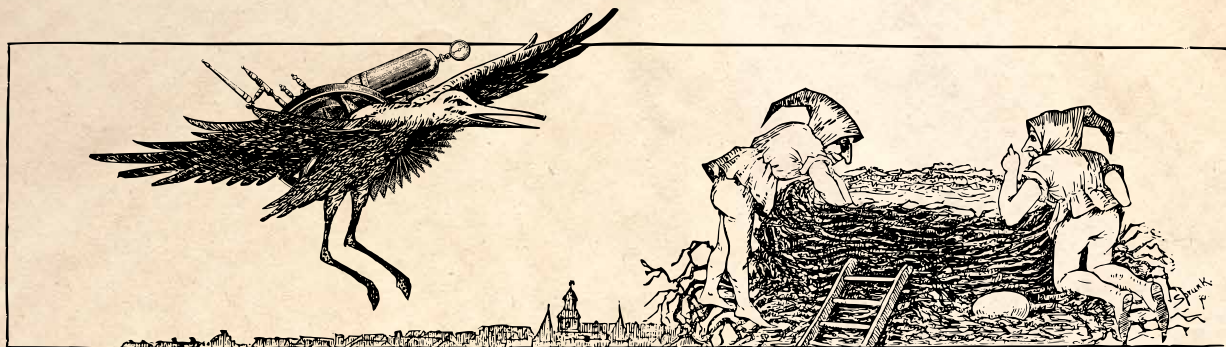
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Contents.

- P.4 ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT.—Sponsored messages inserted by commercial entities vying for your attention and patronage, the claims of which we assume, in good faith, to be factual.
- P.5 TABLE OF CONTENTS.—A list of the contents of this volume, with associated page numbers and brief descriptions of each section: a great improvement over the previous, most cumbersome “brine/arm-pit” method of content-tabulation as championed by Mr. Fahrenheit.
- P.6 INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.—A message from the author and compiler of this manuscript, directed to the reader, other interested parties, or happening passers-by.
- P.7 SANDOVAL-COMPLIANT VERSION.—The entire matter of this book presented in the superior Sandoval Method.
- P.8 TOPICAL REFERENCE INDEX.—An explanatory list of timely or date-sensitive subjects to which allusions have been made in following sections of the book.
- P.9 COMIC STRIPS.—Brief illustrations paired with text in novel and compelling fashion, with the intent to please and amuse the reader or others.
- P.75 FAILED VENTURES.—Cautionary tales in the form of incomplete or otherwise deficient comic strips for which publication has been refused or withdrawn.
- P.78 “THE CATCH.”—A stirring long-form tale, in similar aesthetic fashion to the comic-strips but of an entirely different narrative character.
- P.92 TECHNICAL DIAGRAMS.—Elements from, as well as entire, comic-strips that have been exploded into their components for the purposes of examination.
- P.94 BEARS IN ILL-FITTING HATS GALLERY.—Scientific and zoological records submitted by our correspondents for the edification of the reader.
- P.96 AUTHOR’S POSTFACE.—A conclusory missive by the composer of the current volume.





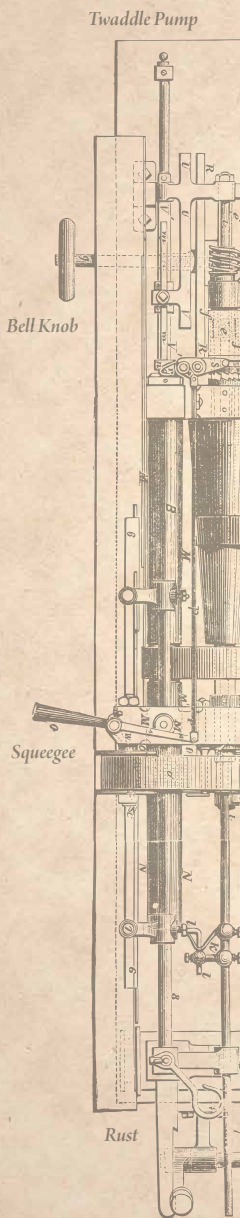
Preface.

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE WHY AND HOW.

During the last few years we have seen an incredible gain in humanity's progress over the mean, once-untamable world. Throngs of birds that once plagued our cities are being systematically exterminated by the addition of window-laden skyscrapers. Greater and greater engines are being built to take advantage of Cruel Aunt Earth's inexhaustible and bothersomely-abundant resource: coal. In one college in St. Louis, the students are turning up to classes with coal in their jacket-pockets; it had fallen from their walls in the nights. The clever professors have turned the bother into an exercise in engineering, challenging the students to design a furnace to dispose of all this excess at minimal cost to the school. The result is a monstrous behemoth that runs day and night, producing no useful output save for handily eliminating the problem of the surplus material. Some have suggested that

the engine be used to generate electricity for the lamps, which are now required at all hours to penetrate the cloud-cover exhausted by the engine, but these few cranks have wisely been shouted down by the mass.

Truly we have wrought ourselves an age of plenty. Science rules the roost; all queries now raised are subject immediately to rational examination by the best minds on the topic, and answers are commonplace. We have taken a legacy left to us by backwards ancestors fumbling in firelight, run it through a press, set it to type, distributed it to all corners of the globe by wire, radio, steam-train, and gossip, set the population of the globe on its improvement, and finally produced a million units of Future in our up-to-date factories. We have seized Apollo, milled him in steel and brass, and called him Edison; we have conquered Zeus, stomped on his crown, fashioned him a toga of the American Constitution in linotype, and paraded him through our streets to be mocked. Enjoy this collection of comic strips!



OUR READERS ARE no doubt familiar with the much-praised Sandoval Method of rapid reading, which looks to be a great improvement on the current ("tortoisonal") method and which we have every confidence will soon be widely used in every office and schoolhouse in the land. We have prepared the text below so that our book may easily be read by Sandoval practitioners in the future, and thus be spared the obsolescence that imminently threatens much of the media extant today. 🏆

READ

Look for the sigil

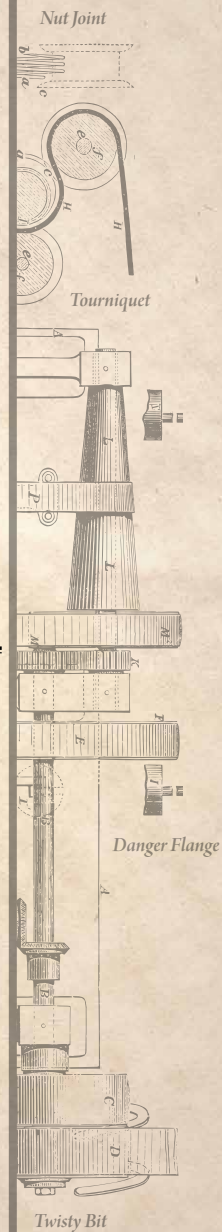
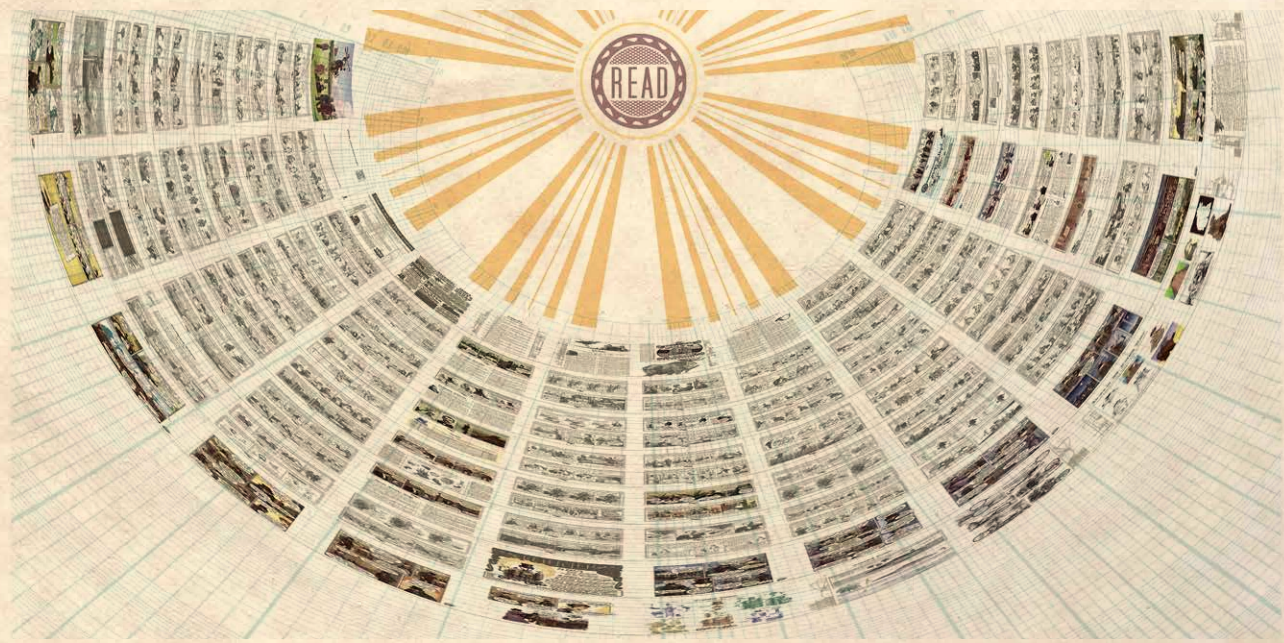
AS CREAM IS TO MILK

OUR METHOD IS AS MUCH AN IMPROVEMENT

CALIBRATE HERE

Professor H. F. Sandoval's Improved Reading Method

FUTURE **PROOF** **FUTURE** **PROOF**

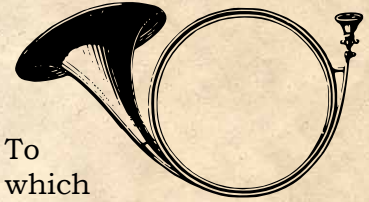


ter is coming up. If only a few of you children heed my words, I fear it will not be sufficient. I cannot emphasize this

OFFICIAL.

INDEX OF TOPICAL REFERENCES FOR WHICH Contextual Information is Required.

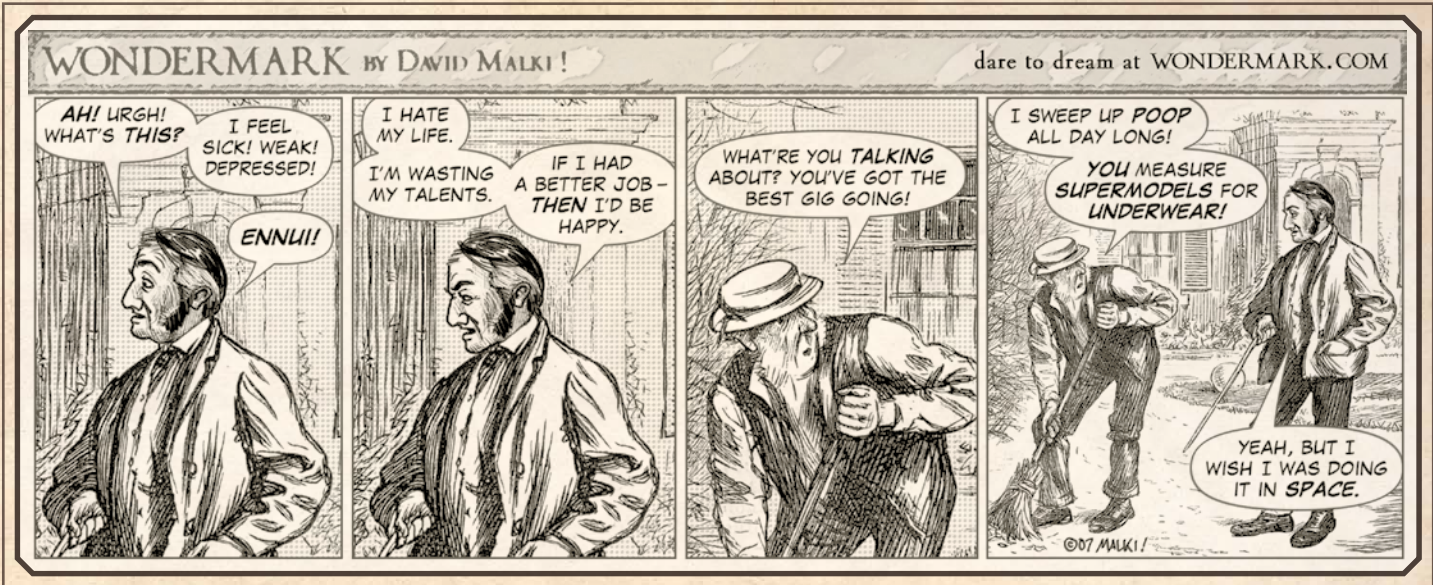
Collections such as these both accentuate the deficiencies of the past and give us a realization of our present advantages. In many cases, the work on the pages to come includes allusions that presuppose a familiarity on the part of the reader with events contemporaneous to the initial publishing—contextual information lost in a volume such as this. To rectify this, we have emblazoned the emblem at right near the comics for which some background information may aid in the reader's full understanding. There is no shame in accepting this aid; it is offered freely and without judgment, and no accusation regarding the reader's ability for comprehension should be inferred.



On the pages to come, a number within the emblem will correspond with the list on this page.

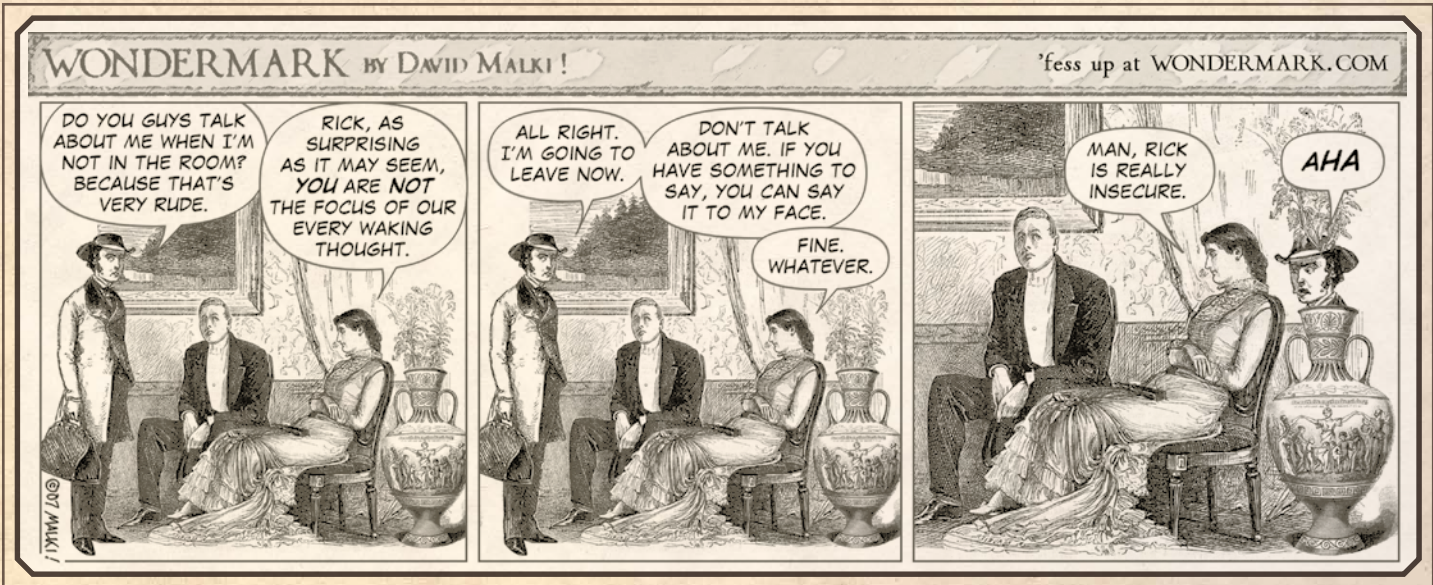
-
- 1.—No special information for this comic, just wanted to be sure you're clear on how this system works. Okay let's go!
 - 2.—This comic originally ran on Columbus Day. Again, not a terribly important detail, but we're still ramping up the system. All right—now the training wheels are off.
 - 3.—The iPhone, with its bevy of apps, was still a gleam in Steve Jobs' Chinese manufacturers' eyes when this comic originally ran. Still waiting on my tire gauge though.
 - 4.—In retrospect, even *I* shouldn't have cared about this.
 - 5.—This begins a series of holiday-themed comics. The comics in this book may well be labeled my "tied to a specific calendar event" period.
 - 6.—My mother assures me that this is exactly what I said.
 - 7.—The very next day the Senator resigned in disgrace.
 - 8.—By this point, the Writer's Guild strike had left viewers without scripted television programming for several months, and the contractually-mandated return of some shows (even without writers) was greeted with enthusiasm.
 - 9.—For a while, hipsters would carry these everywhere to voice support for the revolution. They were *so serious* too.
 - 10.—This comic ran even before Barack Obama went on to make "change" his campaign rallying cry. Maybe it gave him the idea.
 - 11.—Another day-and-date comic, this one for St. Patrick's Day. Previous themed comics (you may have noticed) referenced Valentine's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
 - 12.—The Olympics still capture the world's attention every four years, for reasons that are beyond many.
 - 13.—This was before we realized the truth about her face.
 - 14.—All this Obama material is going to age really well. Like "Bloom County" talking about Reagan. I can't wait.
 - 15.—The day you read this, America will still probably be at war in Afghanistan. But in case it isn't, well, it was.
 - 16.—It is hard to recall the mood surrounding the very first bailout; it was novel. But now there have been so many.
 - 17.—There came a point when I grew sick of politics.
 - 18.—As you might guess, this comic ran on Election Day.
 - 19.—"Robocalls" was a cute term for a galling practice.
 - 20.—Everybody thought they were changing the world.

IN WHICH BILL SUFFERS A SUDDEN ATTACK



floating around, tape measure curling in zero-G like a wispy line of yellow smoke—THAT's the stuff

IN WHICH RICK HAS HIS SUSPICIONS



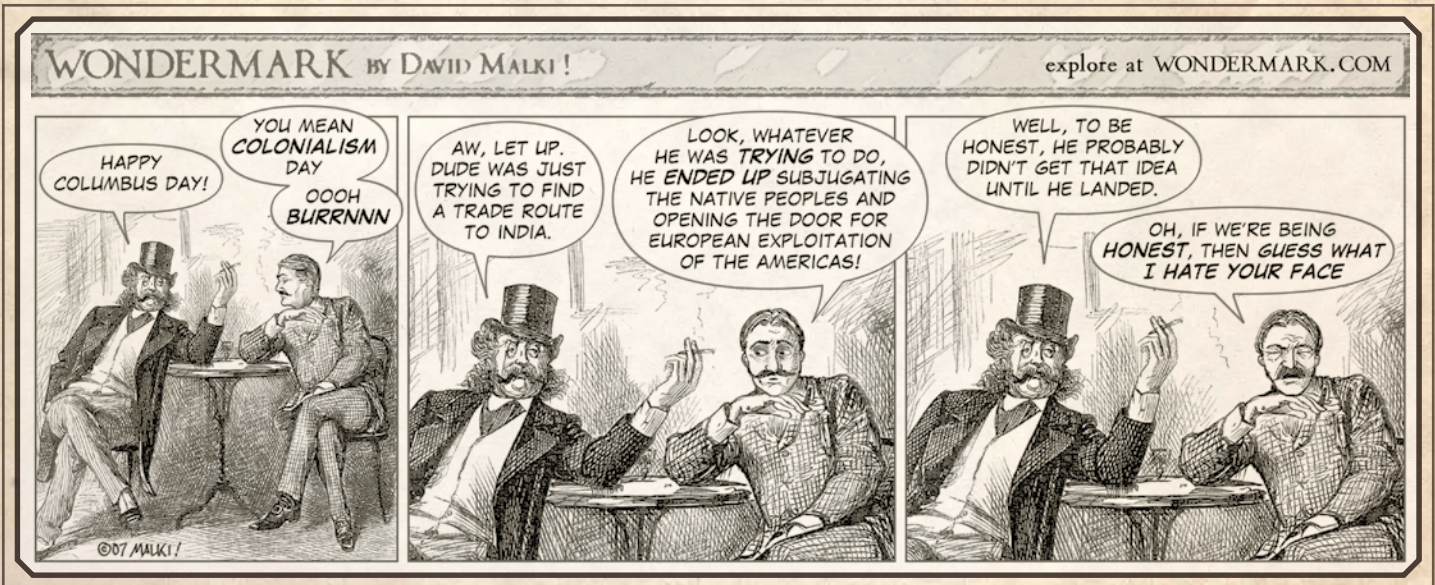
dude in the middle is just gonna stay out of this one

IN WHICH THE BANQUET GETS AWKWARD



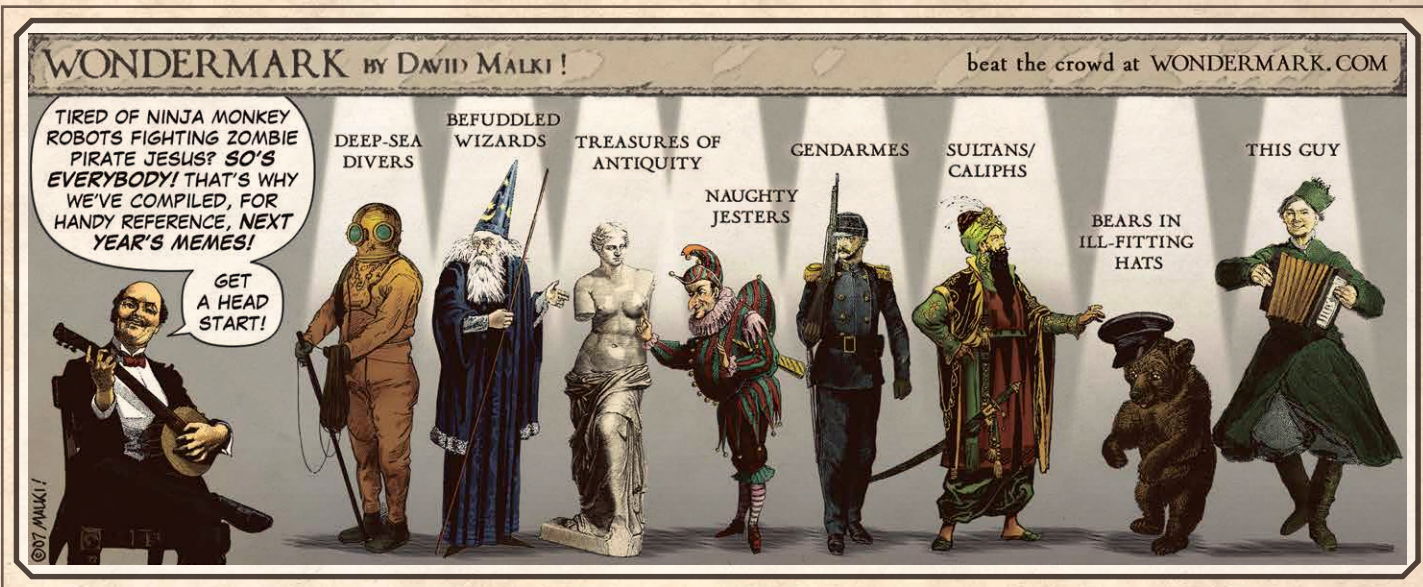
the man on the far left is declining a refill from a jeweled vial of tears collected from the woman second from right

IN WHICH THE HOLIDAY HERALDS DISSENT



not my face! the one thing i can never change! (besides my lucky underpants)

BEHOLD, THE FUTURE.



Color by Carly Monardo • whirringblender.com



not pictured: WWI-era German officers in pointy helmets, fakirs, stripes-wearing prisoners complete with shackles and iron balls, Larry Flynt



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1. Name Joseph Lubbeford

2a. Are you a bear? YES NO 2b. If yes, type of bear Brown If no, STOP. Discard this application.

3a. Do you wear a hat? YES NO 3b. If yes, type of hat old german If no, STOP. Discard this application.

4a. Your actual hat size (estimate if unsure) 30? 4b. Size of the hat that you wear 8 1/4

5. Subtract 4a from 4b. Result: -2 3/4 2 to -2: STOP. Discard this application.
 2 1/2 to 5 or -2 1/2 to -5: A representative will contact you for further interviewing.
 5 1/2 and greater, or -5 1/2 and smaller: AUTOMATIC APPROVAL.
 Please remit your membership dues in the attached envelope.
 Payment types accepted: Legal tender; notes of credit; honey.
 Due to new postal regulations, BERRIES ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED.

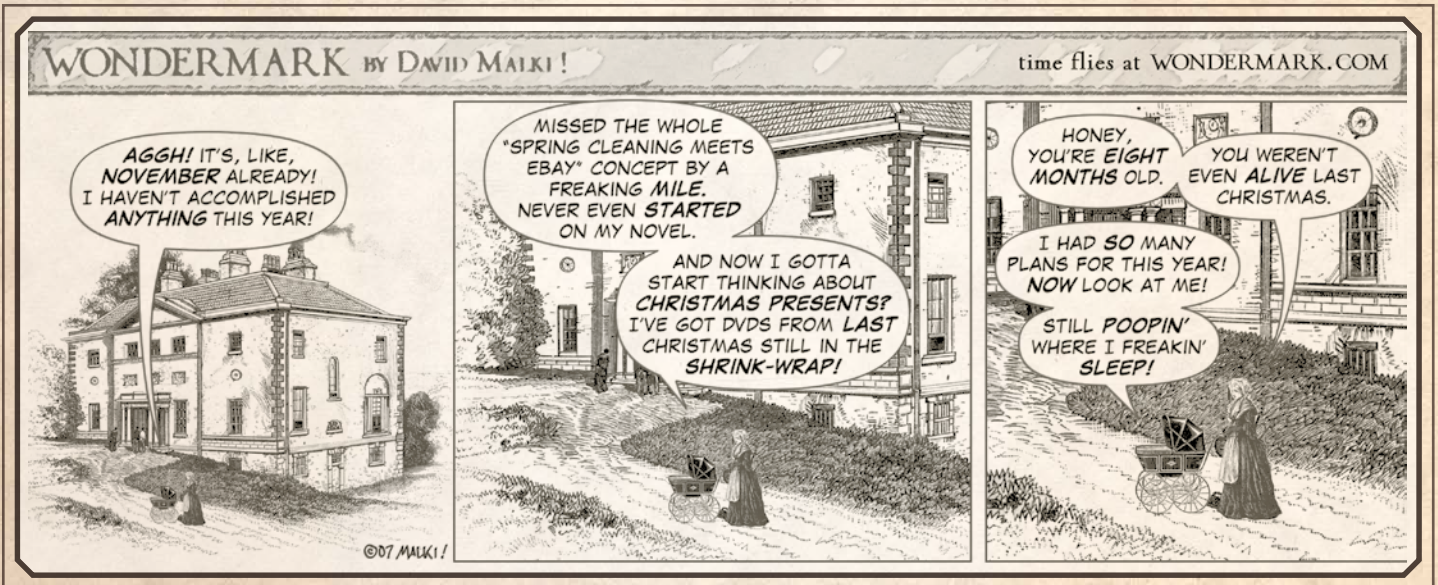
Also See Pages 94-95

IN WHICH CONCOCTIONS ARE PEDDLED



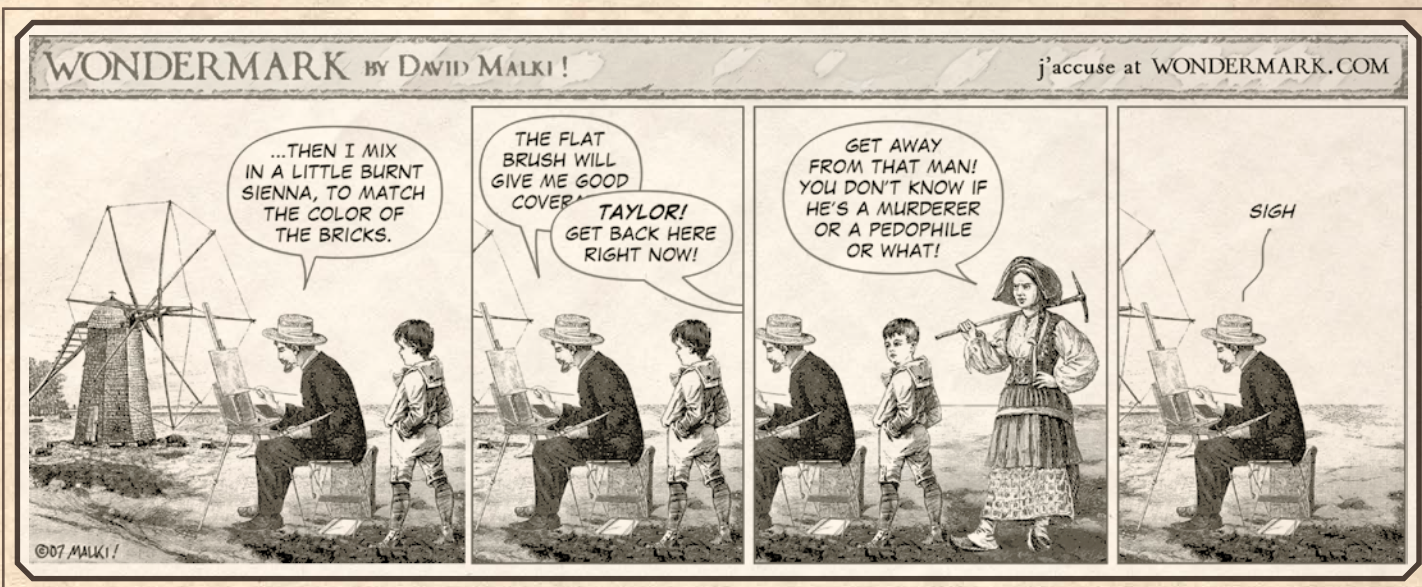
it cost \$3.85

IN WHICH IT'S WHAT MONTH ALREADY?



seems like i did learn to talk pretty well in that time,
though, which in itself is sort of a coup

IN WHICH THIS IS LIFE, NOW



i suppose it would just be depressing to keep a tally of how often this happens to me

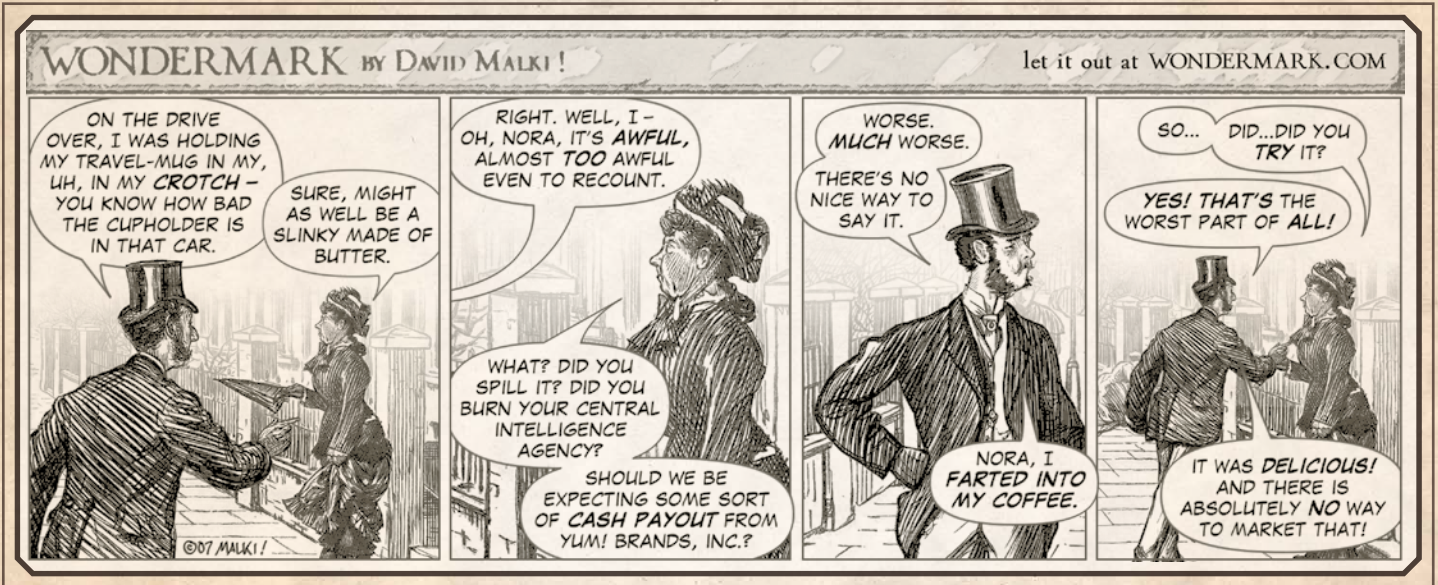
IN WHICH REGINALD ALLAYS VARIOUS CONCERNS



apparently the word 'calculus' is also the term for dental tartar.
DOUBLE-MEANING COMIC TODAY FOLKS

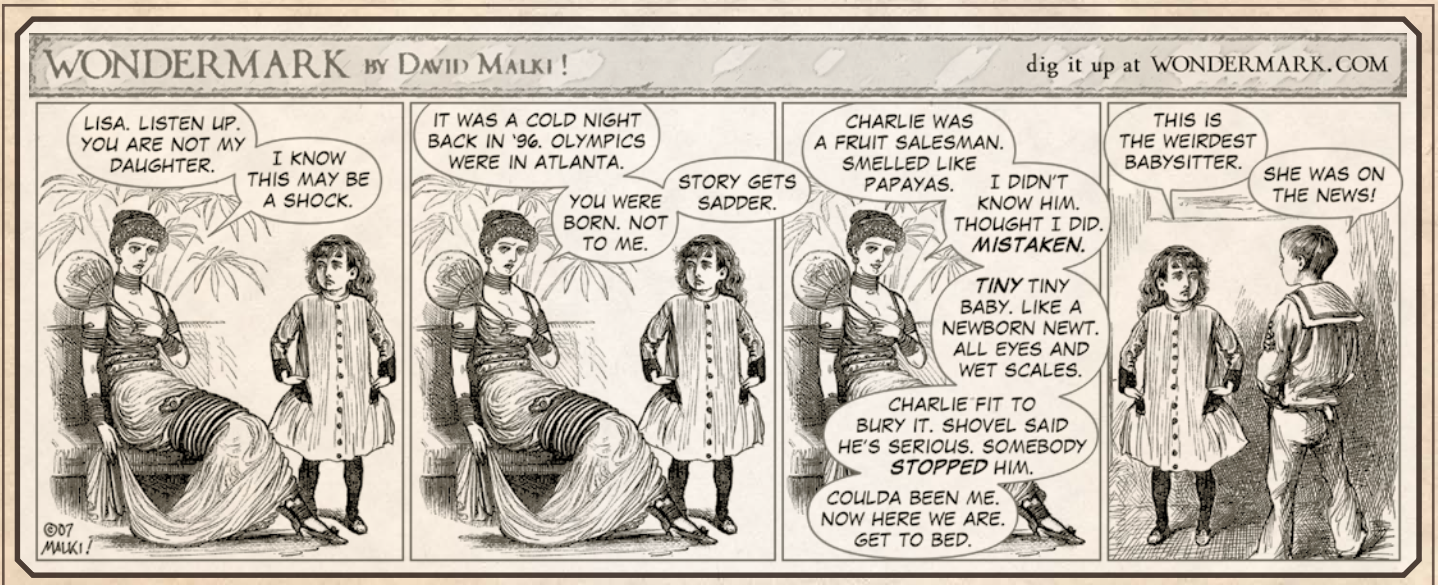
teenager, with predictable results. *Grow up.* There will be other, better lovers for you in the future, once you are fa-

IN WHICH INNOVATION IS SUDDEN



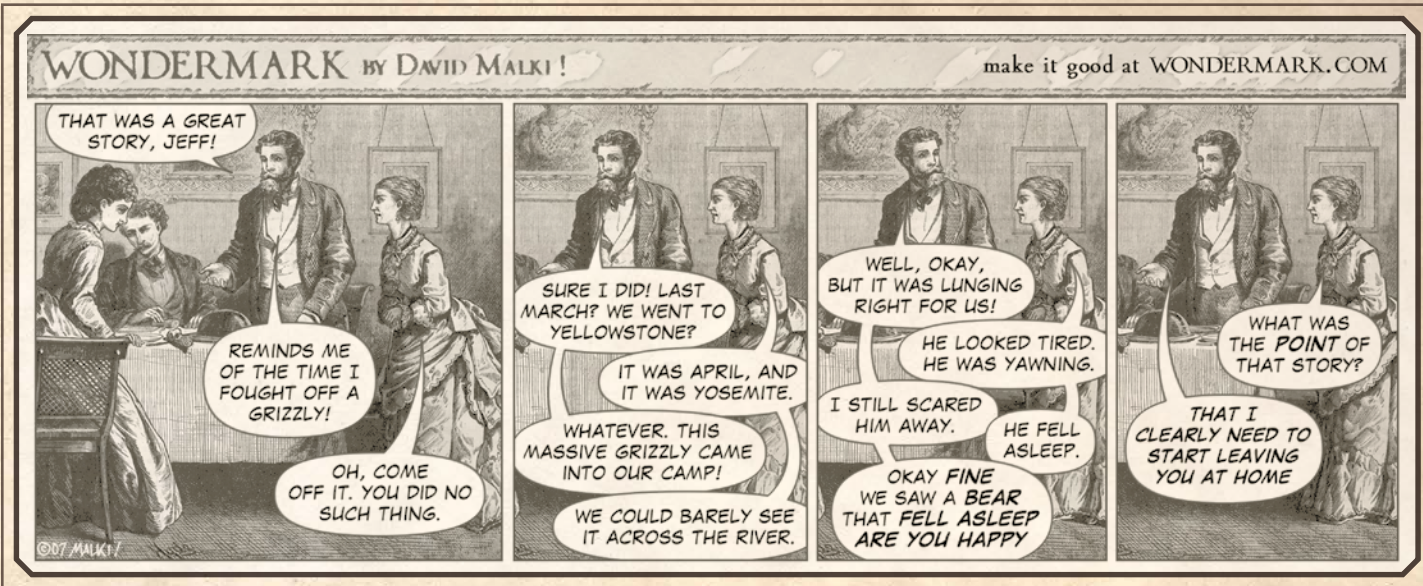
i guess with enough blinking banner ads nothing is IMPOSSIBLE to market

IN WHICH MUCH IS LEARNED



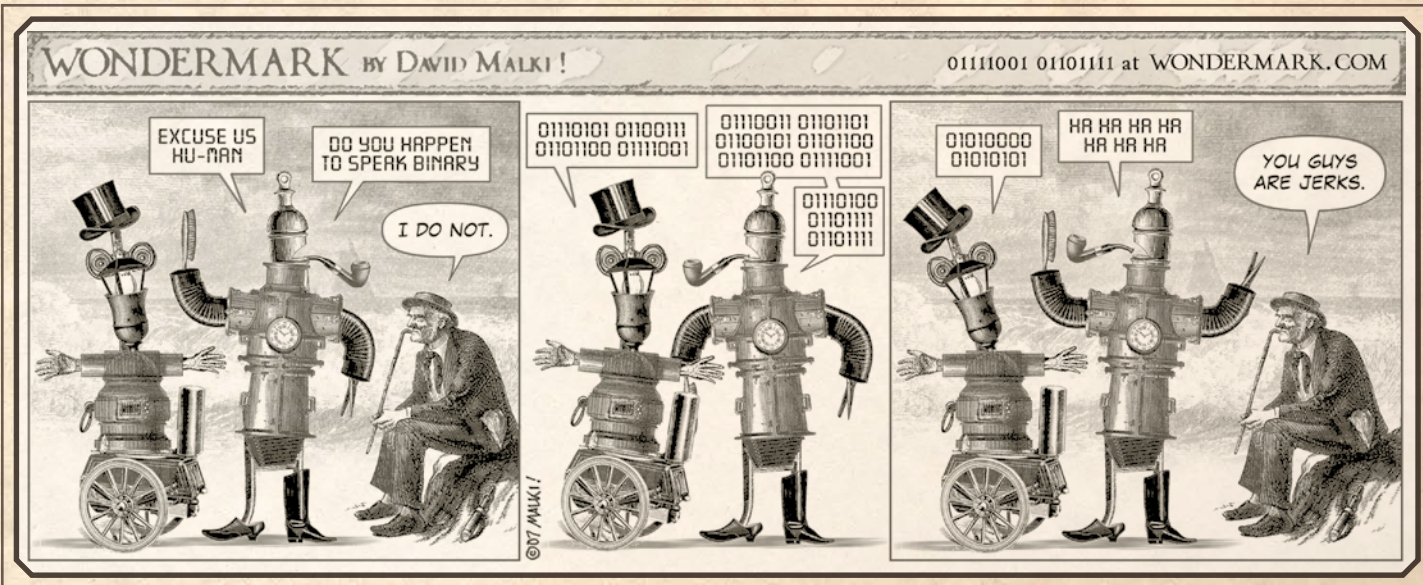
so are we!

IN WHICH A TALE IS MADE LAME



jeff's story had not been about bears at all

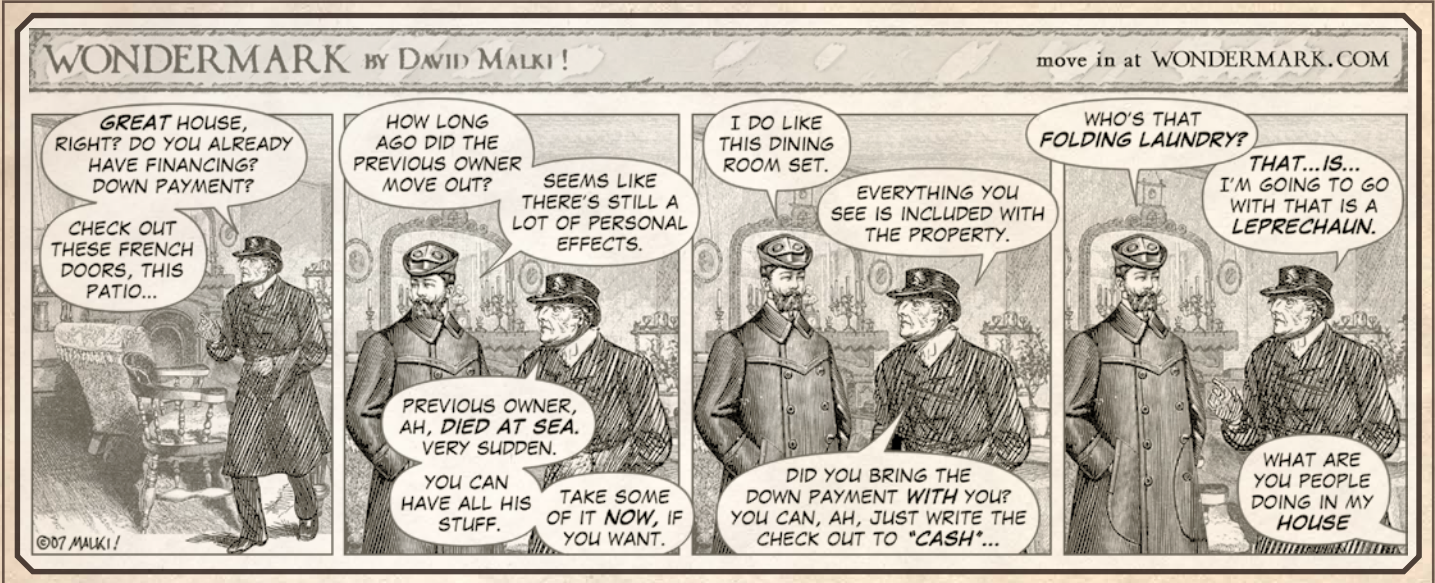
IN WHICH FEATURE AUTOMATONS



screw you guys

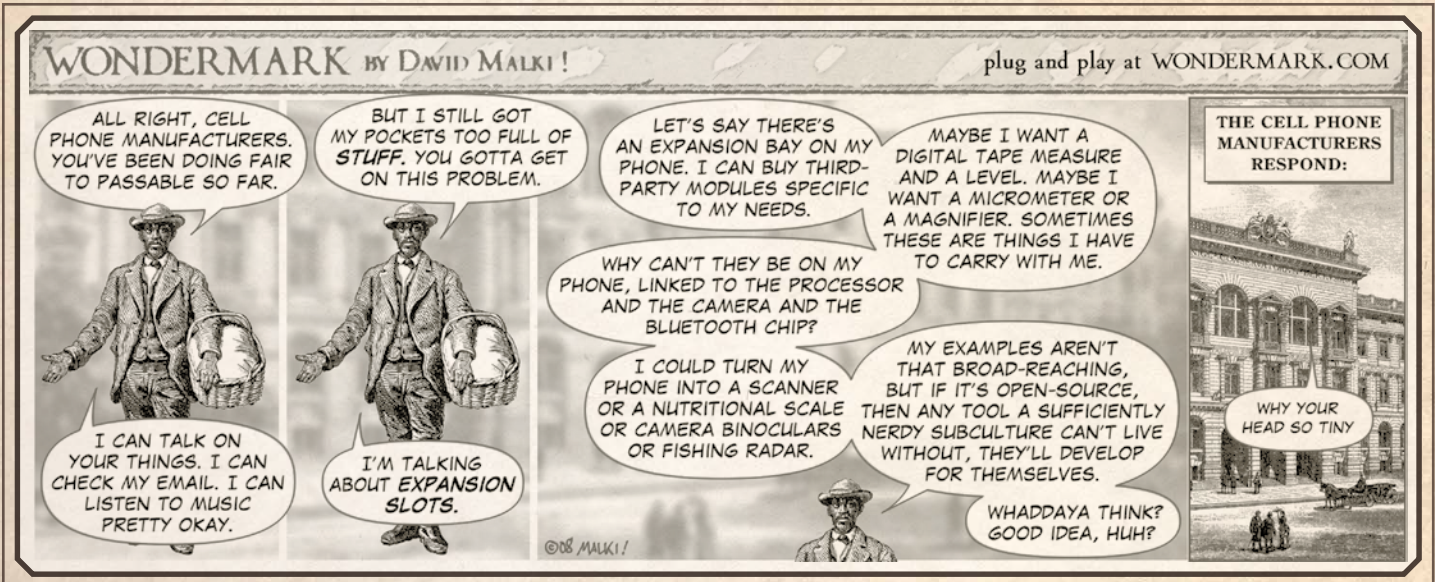
hurry. There are many adults who are much older than you, and who cannot afford to wait around while you decide to

IN WHICH THIS DUDE MAY NOT BE STRICTLY LICENSED

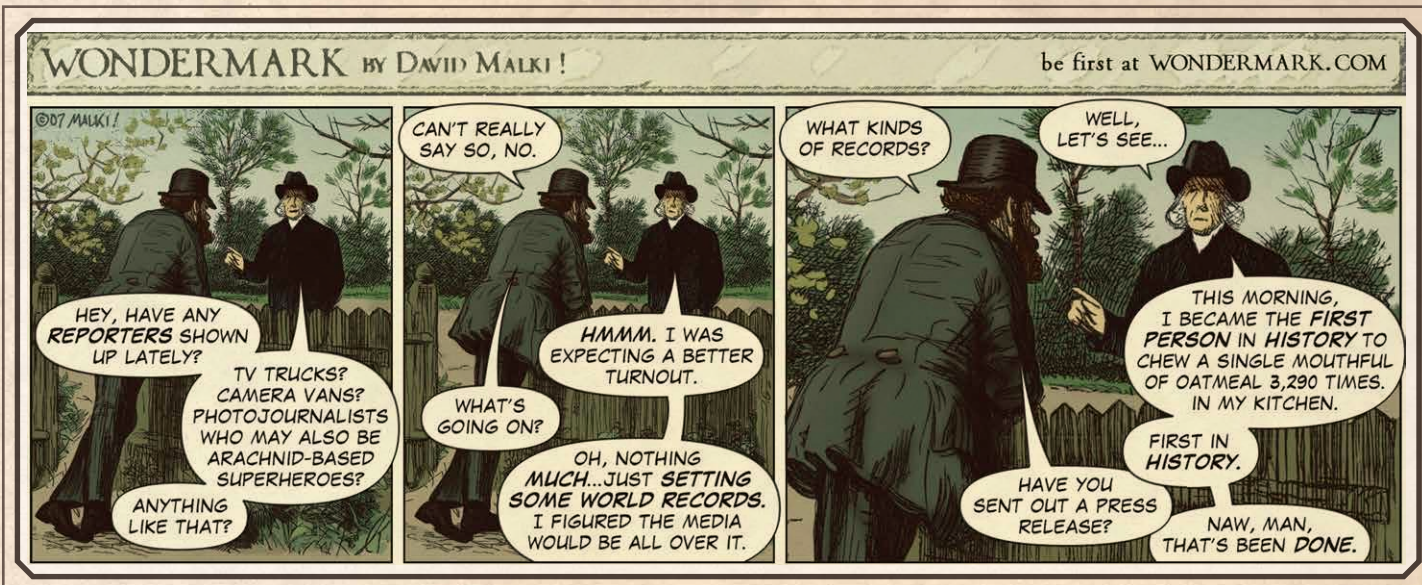


he is not even irish

IN WHICH THE WHOLE POINT IS MISSED



i never have a tire pressure gauge when i need one. but if it were built into my phone? ROAD SAFETY GET ON IT



Color by Carly Monardo • whirringblender.com



Simon would rather the Guinness book be utterly exhaustive. He would gladly read a 58,000-page edition.

Further Records

SET BY THE GENTLEMAN.

GREATEST NUMBER of pistachios discarded for insufficiently gapped shell while watching reruns of *Scarecrow & Mrs. King*: **51**

FASTEST TRAVERSAL of the span between the bathroom and the laundry room by a pantsless individual unsure of whether he heard a knock at the door: **6.0 SEC**

MOST LENGTHY diatribe on the subject of inappropriate pizza toppings at a child's birthday party delivered to a stranger who did not attend said party: **74 MIN**

FARTHEST HORIZONTAL DISTANCE traveled on a rolling office chair across the roof of an apartment building while under the influence of cough syrup: **46 METERS**

FARTHEST VERTICAL DISTANCE traveled from the roof of an apartment building to the sidewalk outside the same building without breaking physical contact with a rolling office chair: **65 METERS**

SHORTEST HOSPITAL STAY by an individual with forty-three broken bones and a concussion: **8 MIN**

MOST EPITHETS hurled at members of the medical profession on the subject of health insurance by an individual with absolutely no conception of how said system works: **90**

MOST LANES OF TRAFFIC crossed illegally and under one's own power by an individual with forty-three broken bones and a concussion: **28**

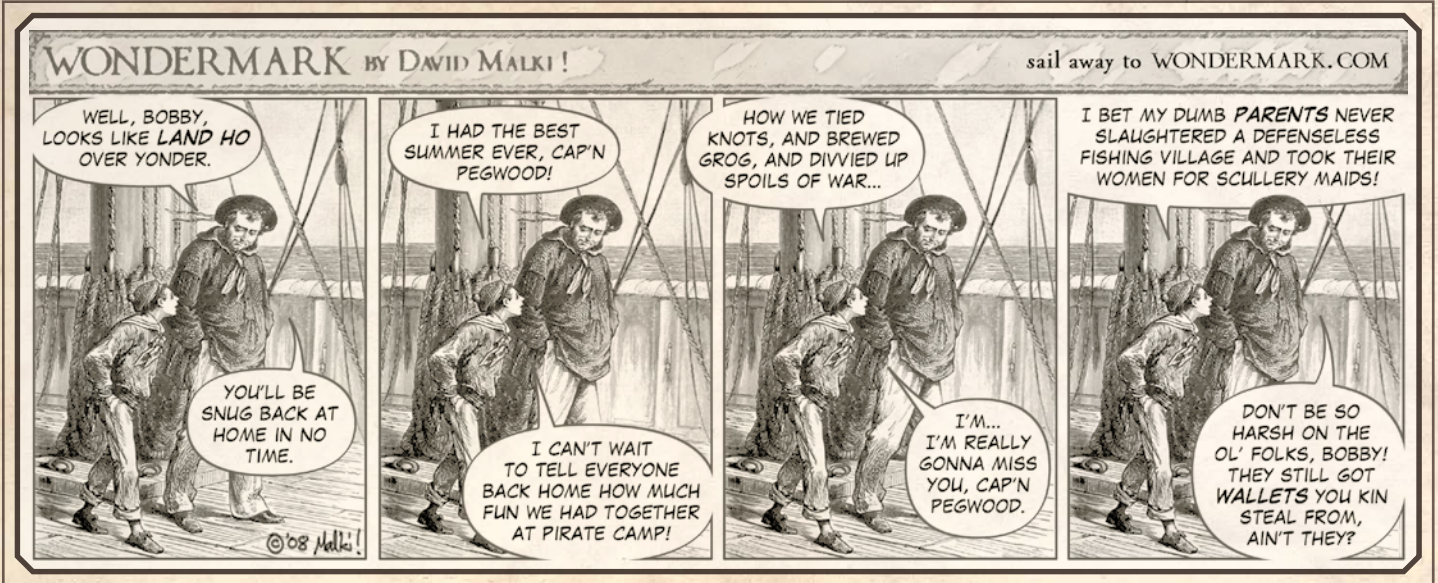
MOST DAMAGE CAUSED, measured in dollars, by an individual hobbling across a major highway interchange in a blood-soaked hospital gown: **\$317,040**

LONGEST CONTINUOUS SCREAM uttered by an individual performing self-surgery in his garage with a pair of Vise-Grips® and an office stapler, attempting to correct multiple compound skeletal fractures: **55 MIN 13 SEC**

NEW COLORS OBSERVED by said individual in the throes of agonizing pain: **YELLOWPLE, BLEEN, INDIGILVER**

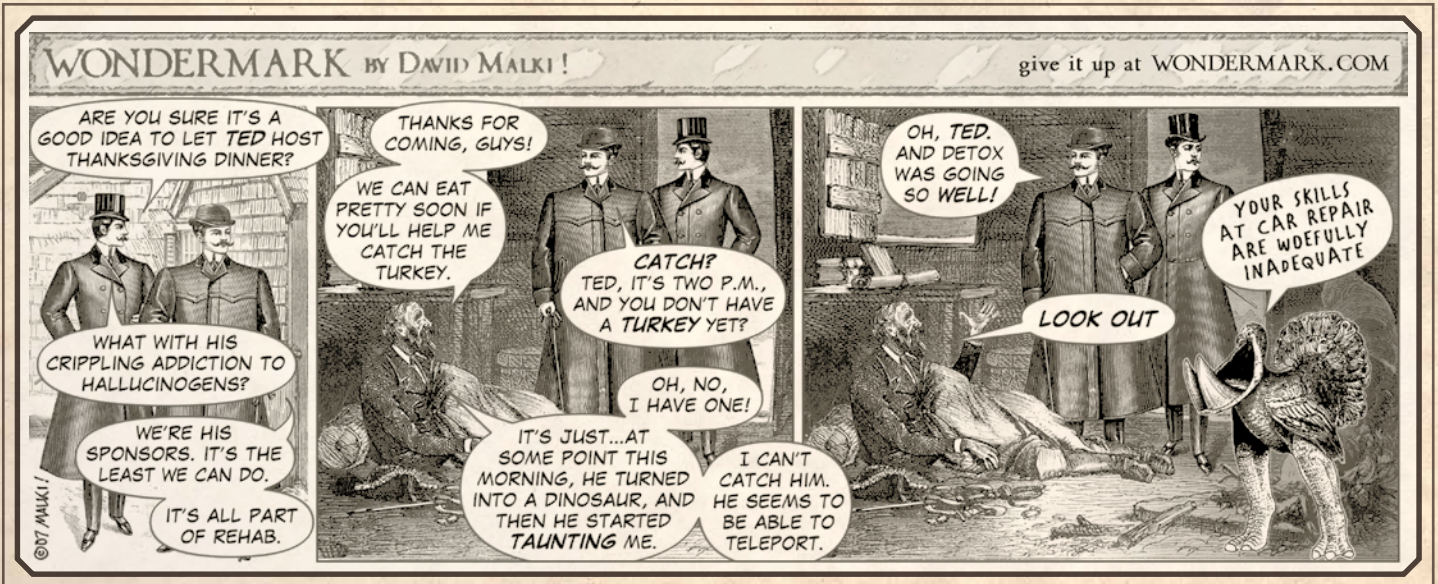
QUICKEST TRANSITION into blaming the whole affair on the Government's destruction of personal liberty: **28 SEC**

IN WHICH PIRATES MUST PART



remember to call your mom a wench like I taught ya

IN WHICH DINNER PROVES ELUSIVE



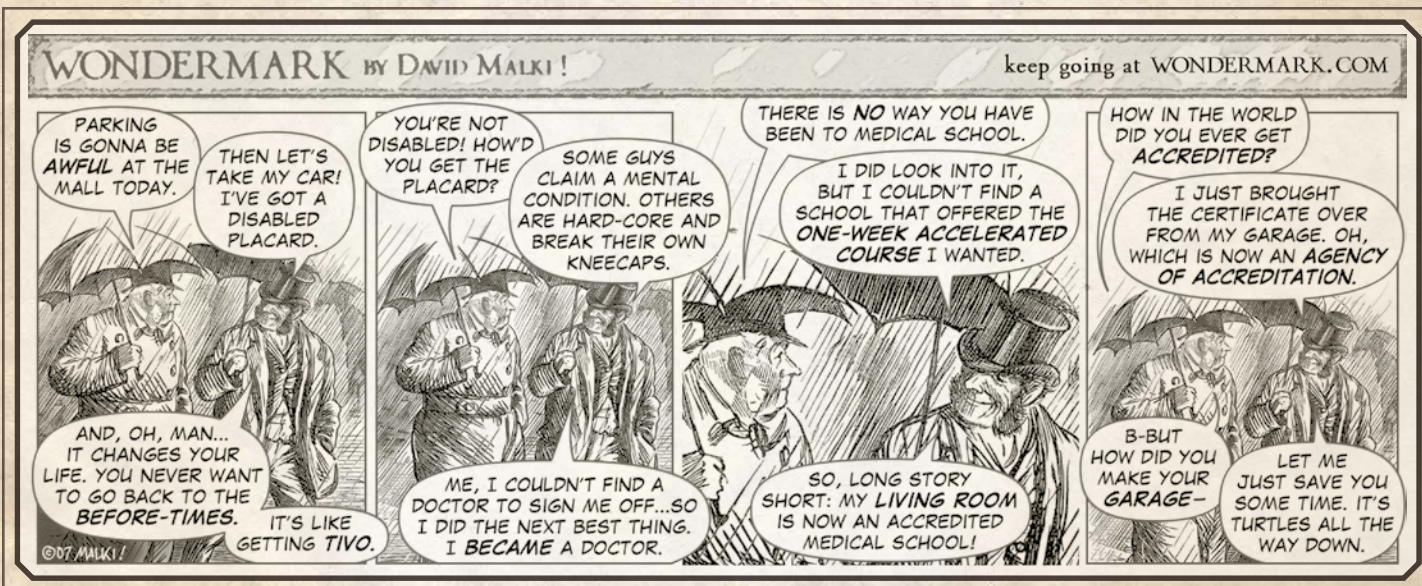
I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF DISMANTLING YOUR 1978 DATSUN 280Z

IN WHICH TRADE SECRETS ARE REVEALED



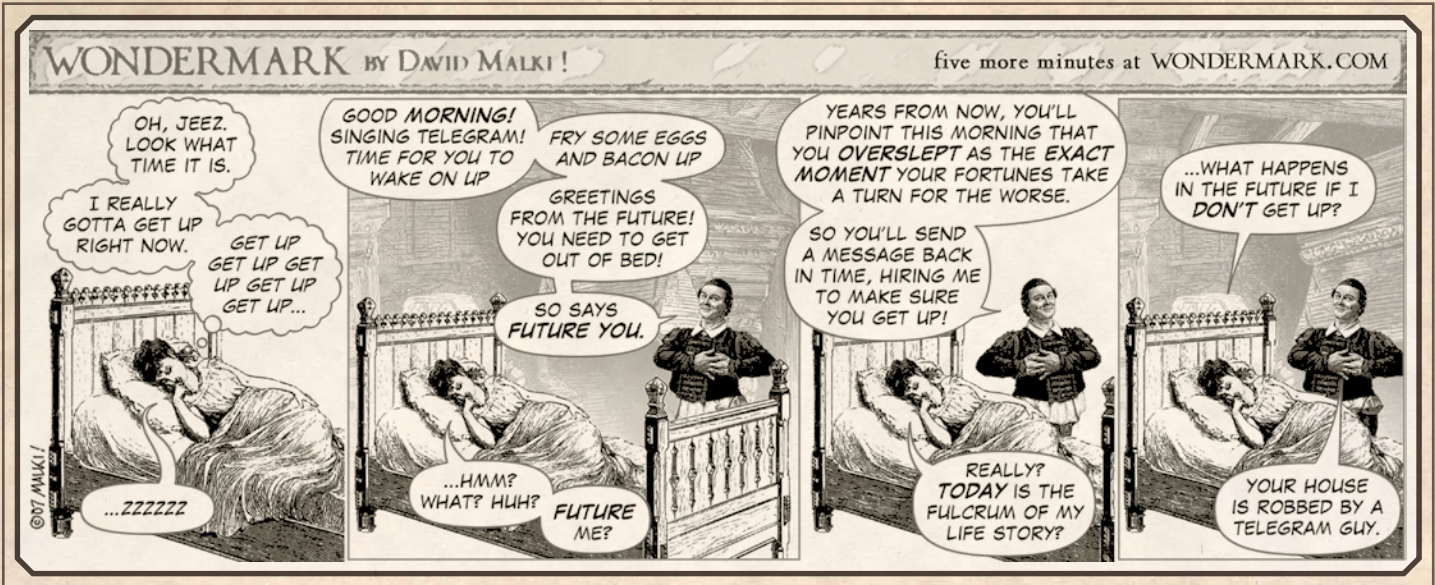
they are not simply 'magically delicious.' as head flavor manager I work 70+ hour work-weeks and I DO NOT APPRECIATE KIDS THINKING IT JUST HAPPENS BY ITSELF

IN WHICH MALL PARKING SUCKS



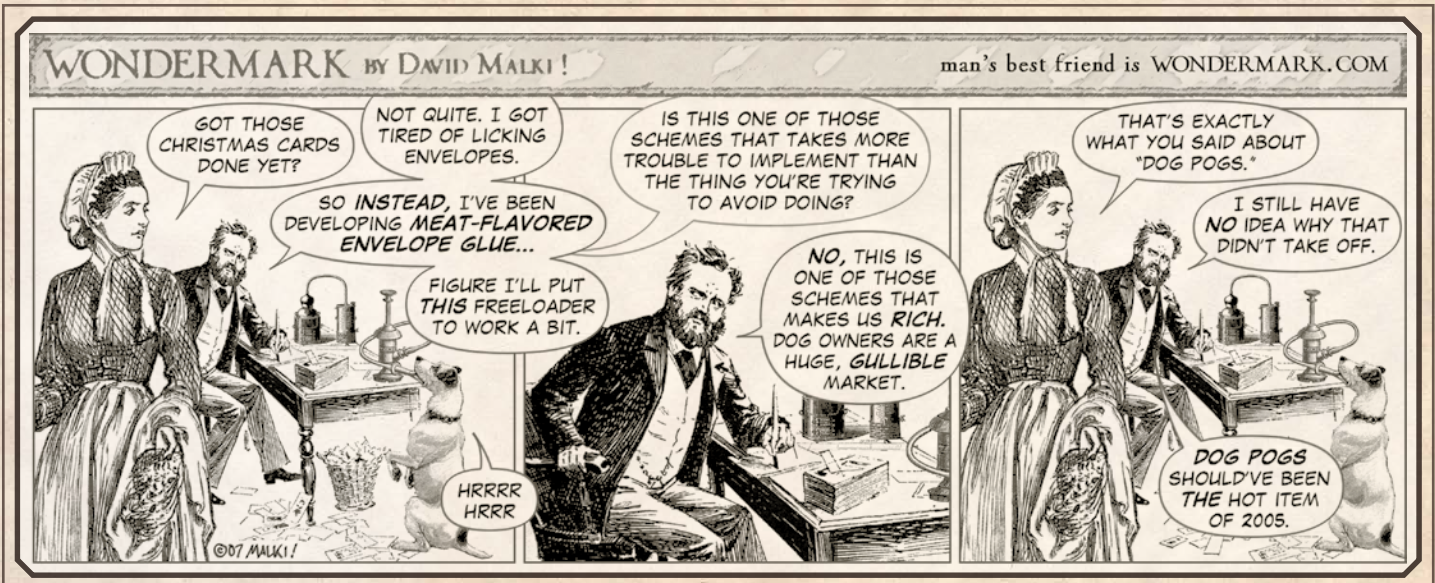
Parking is an important issue to some.

IN WHICH IT'S TIME TO GET UP



every day is the fulcrum of your life story

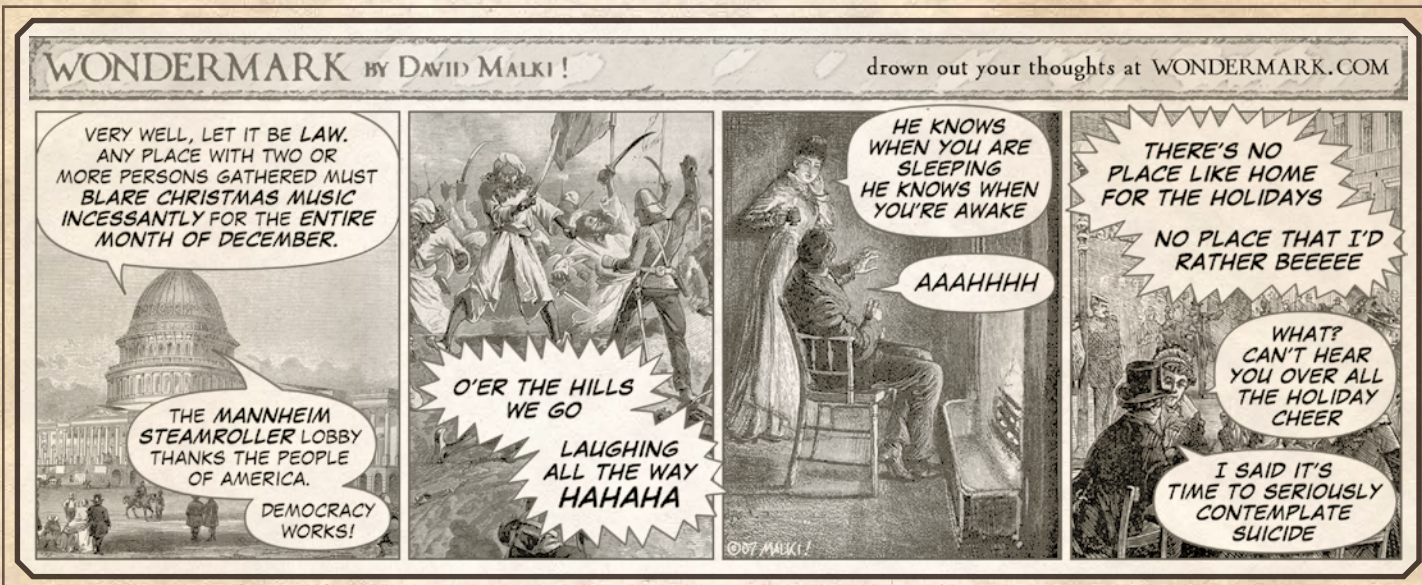
IN WHICH CARDS ARE LICKED



there must be a gentleman's agreement between envelope manufacturers to make their glues taste uniformly like ass

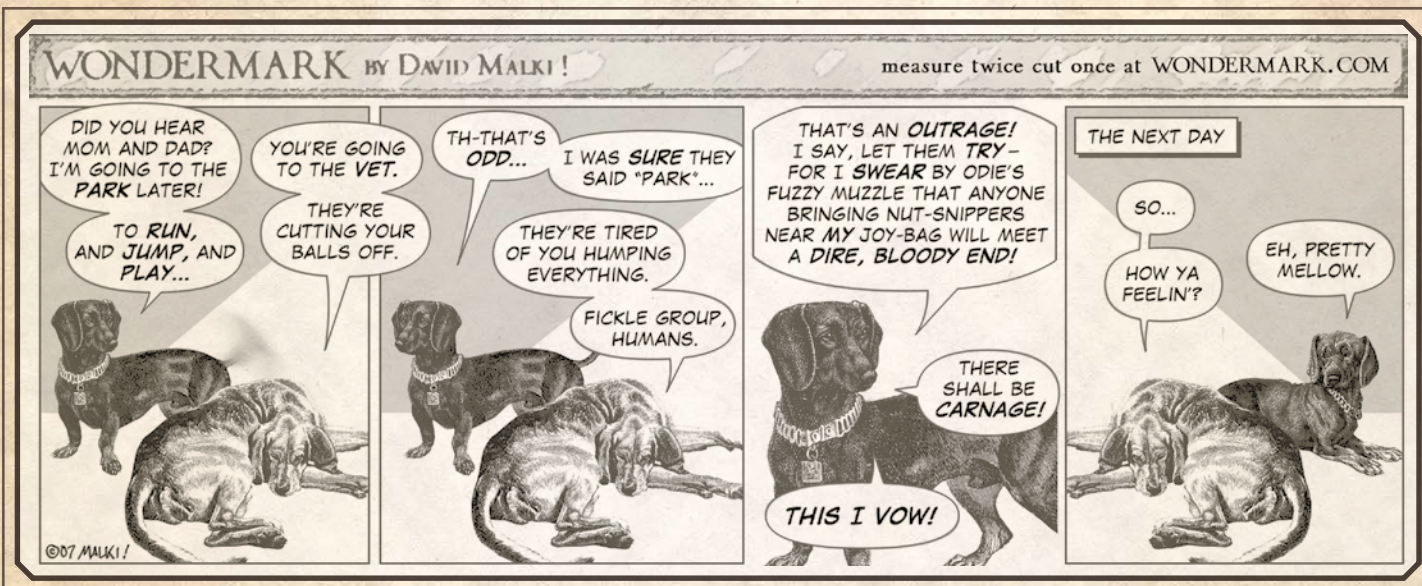
all the wonderful ideas you have—now, while you are young and not yet jaded. Consider this letter a reminder to you

IN WHICH JOY IS MANDATED



'tis the season!

IN WHICH A DOG MAKES A PROMISE

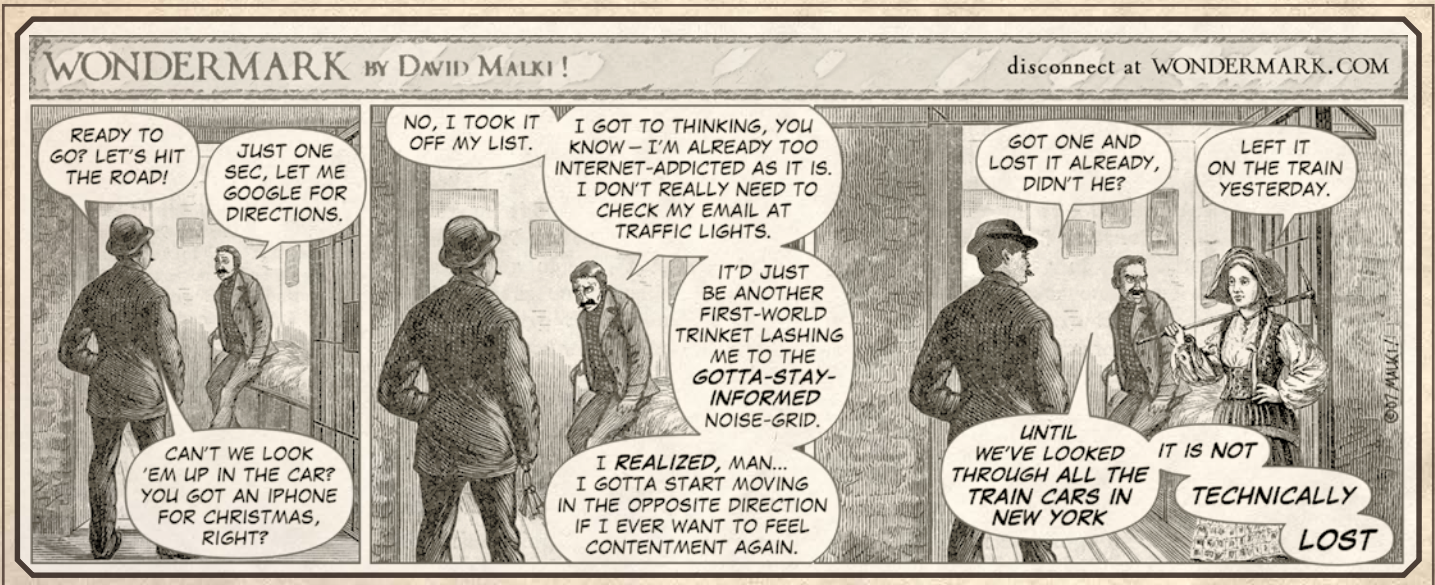


you know how I used to be all gaga over that poodle down the block? well, funny thing—now when I look at her all I can think is HIGH MAINTENANCE



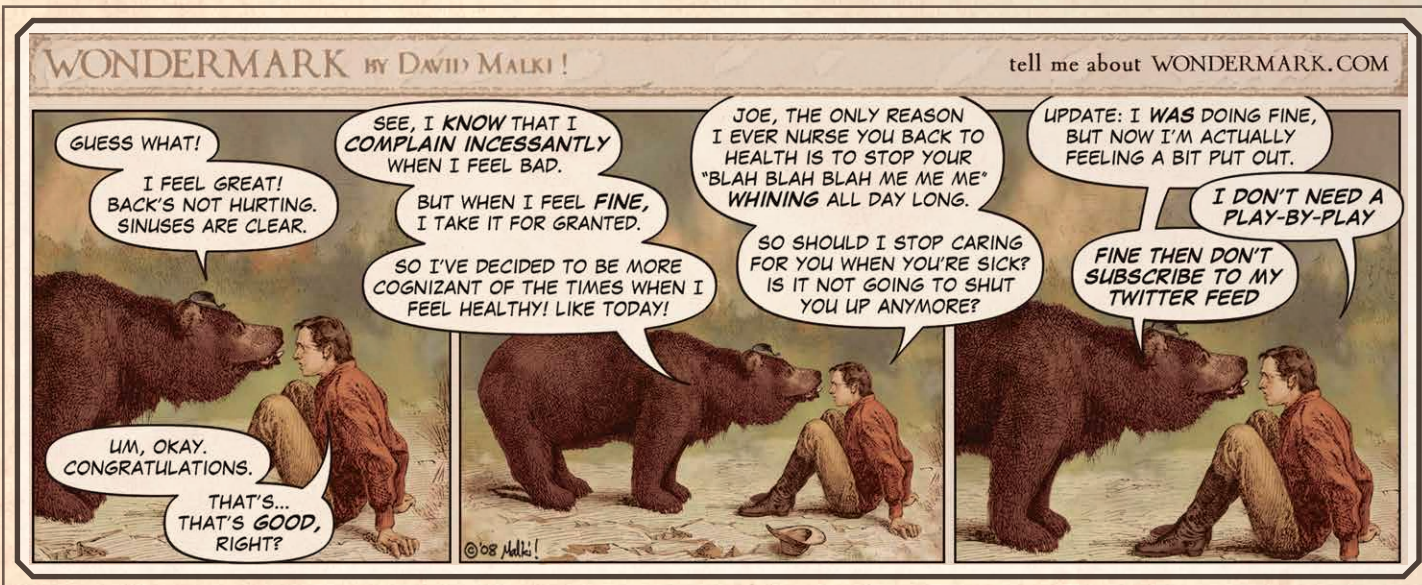
technically the roman saturnalia and the pagan solstice festival were separate and both co-opted by Christianity centuries apart but **WHATEVER**, HISTORICAL ACCURACY

IN WHICH MARK FACES DENIAL



only 6,399 left to search!

IN WHICH A BEAR IS DOING FINE

Color by Marcus Thiele • themonkeymind.livejournal.com

that hat doesn't look like it fits joe very well!


illfittinghat

Feet are sore from walking, but less than I expected considering the condition of the soil. Can't really complain!

10:20 PM May 16th from forest

Saw some squirrels coughing this afternoon. I hope there's not some bug going around.

7:41 PM May 18th from forest

Well obviously there are BUGS around. I mean sicknesses. Didn't mean to offend any bugs - many of them are perfectly nice.

7:42 PM May 18th from forest

I went to brush a twig off my ear but it was a bee!

5:09 AM May 28th from forest

Small ants that I can't see are no problem. Big ants freak me out a little. I know it's not PC, but it's honest.

3:35 AM Jun 29th from txt

"Bear boxes" at campsites are, despite the name, surprisingly hard for bears to use. It's like, who designed this? Did they even ASK a bear?

2:19 PM Jul 6th from forest

This stupid badger thinks just 'cause I handed him a berry that we're best freaking friends. SO ANNOYING

2:48 PM Aug 2nd, 2008 from forest

I literally just farted out a bumblebee.

10:01 PM Sep 4th from forest

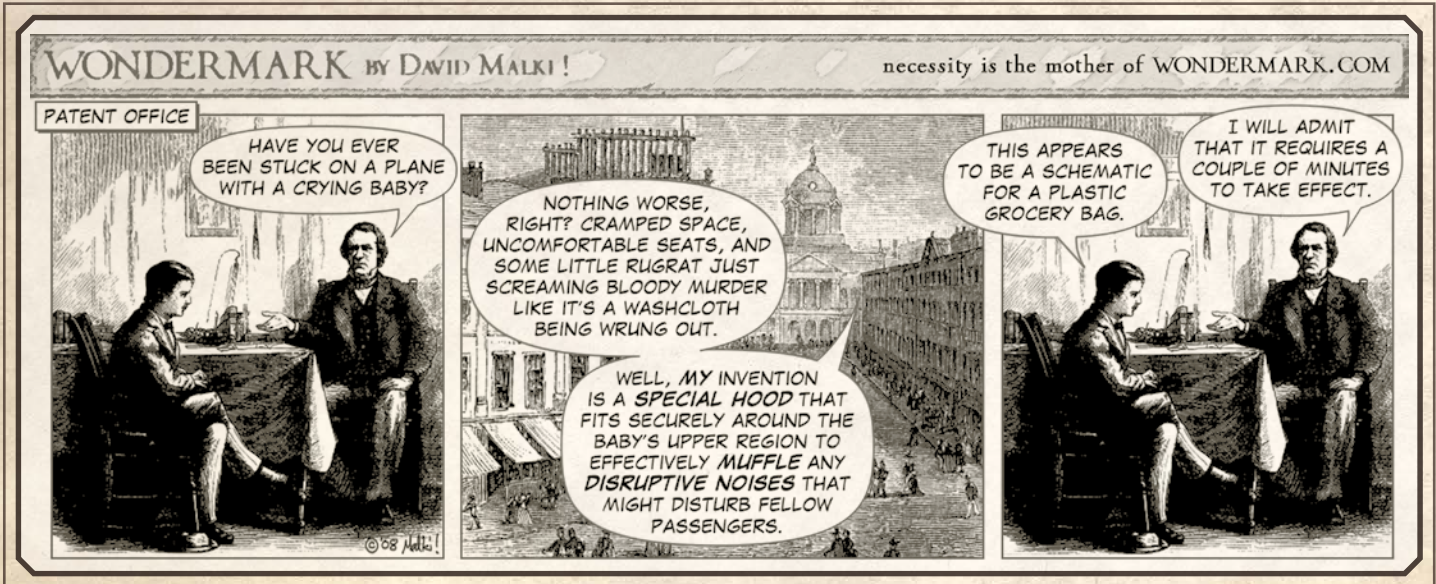
Bluejay called me fat. I called him an ugly son of an empty-skulled maggot-ridden nincompigeon. Now we both feel bad.

7:26 PM Feb 10th from TwitPine

Oh jeez I just realized my nose has been wet for like the last year solid. IS MY NOSE SUPPOSED TO BE WET

9:08 PM Apr 2nd from TwitPine

ents live longer, and stay healthy into old age. What greater discovery could there be than the power over death itself!



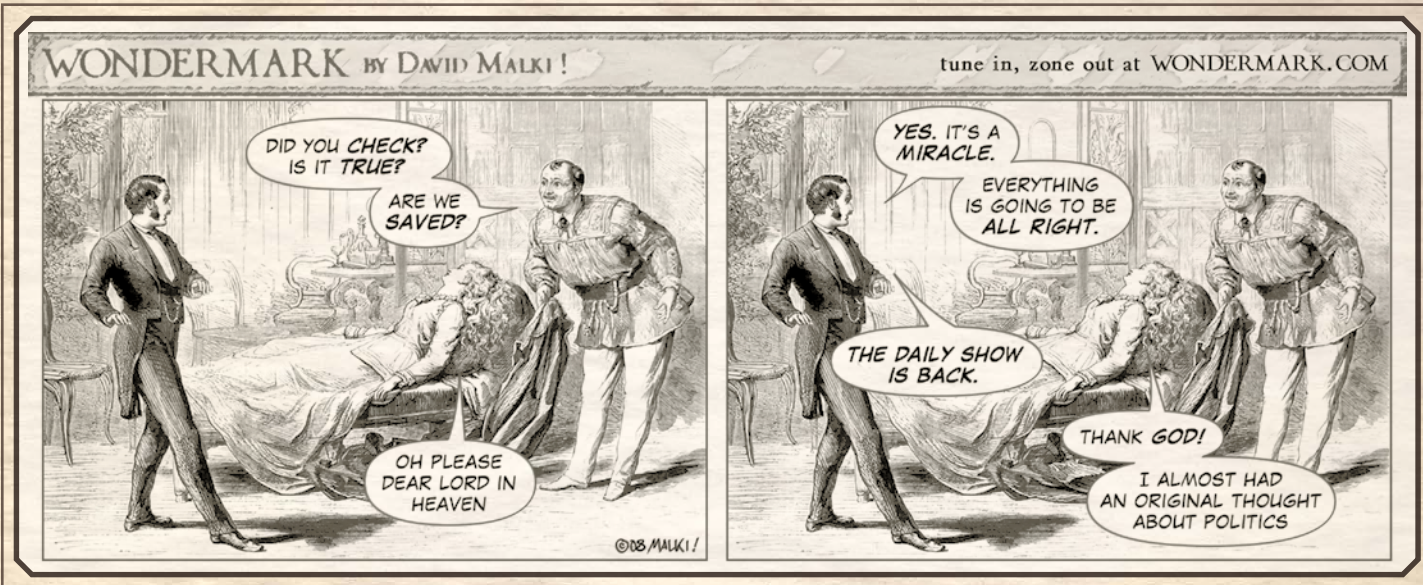
a sorely needed addition to those little travel kits with the eye-masks and the mini-socks

FACEBOOK, DISTILLED.



now everyone join the wondermark facebook group

IN WHICH LIFE'S SOLE ENERGY-SOURCE IS RENEWED

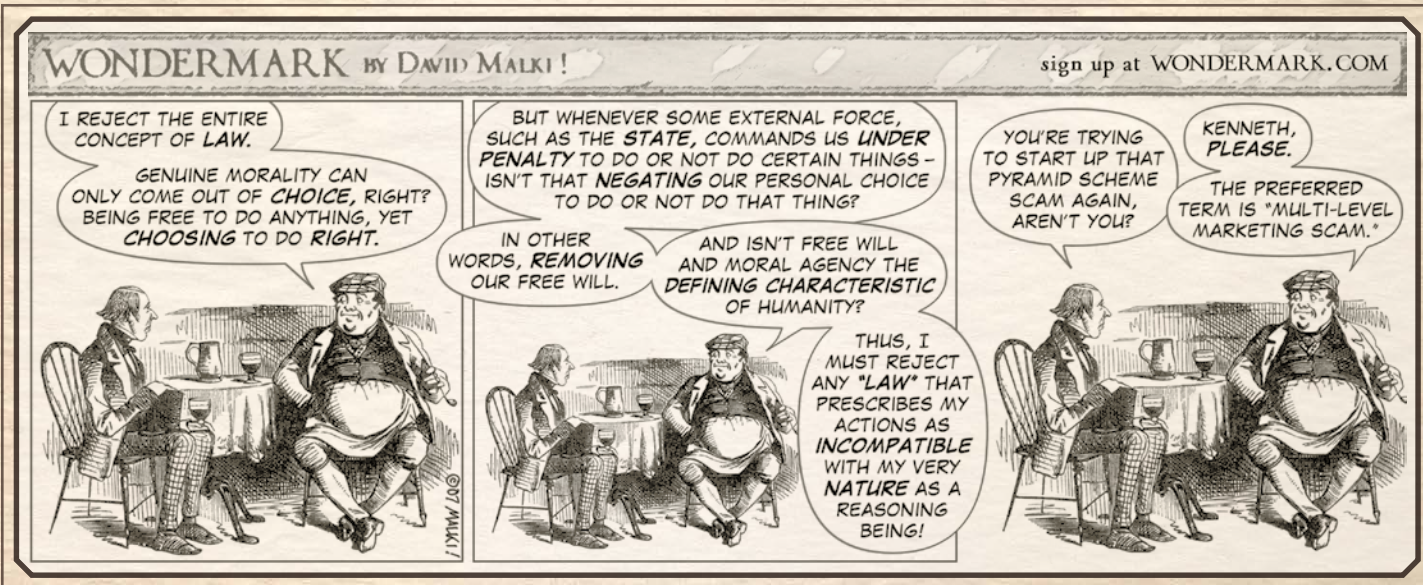


8



I like *The Daily Show* a lot, but nobody seems to listen to Jon when he insists (truthfully) that it's a comedy show, not a factual news show.

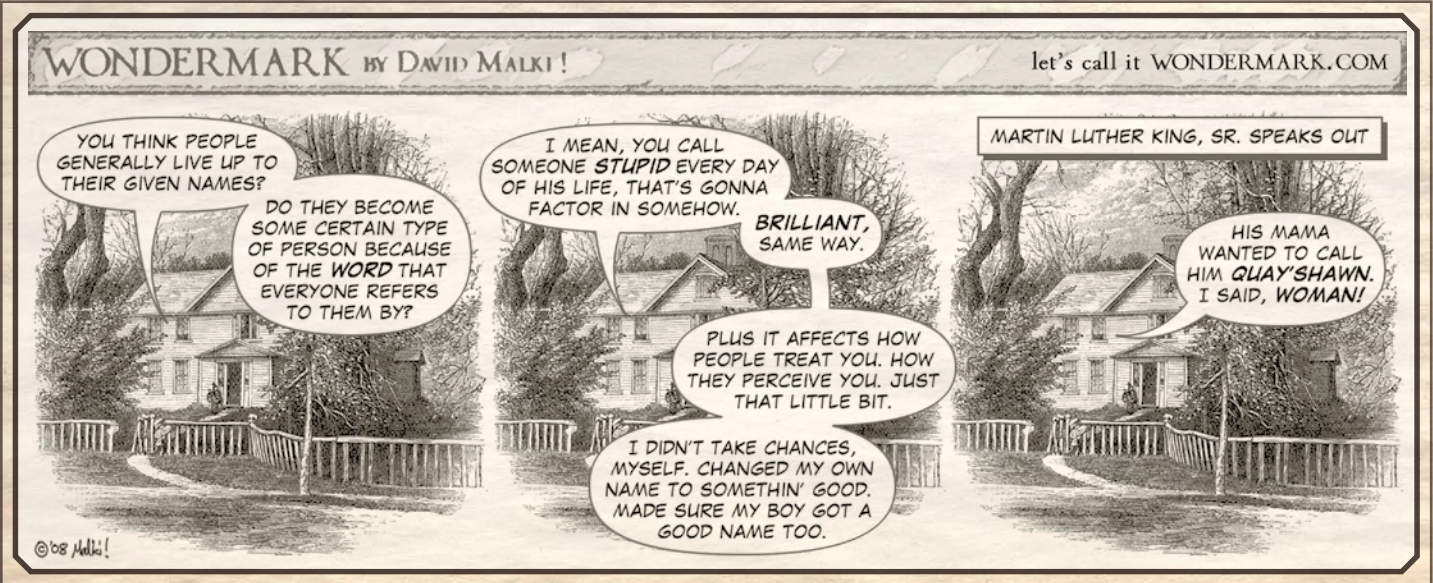
IN WHICH EXCUSES ARE FORMULATED



kenneth this is the opportunity of a lifetime

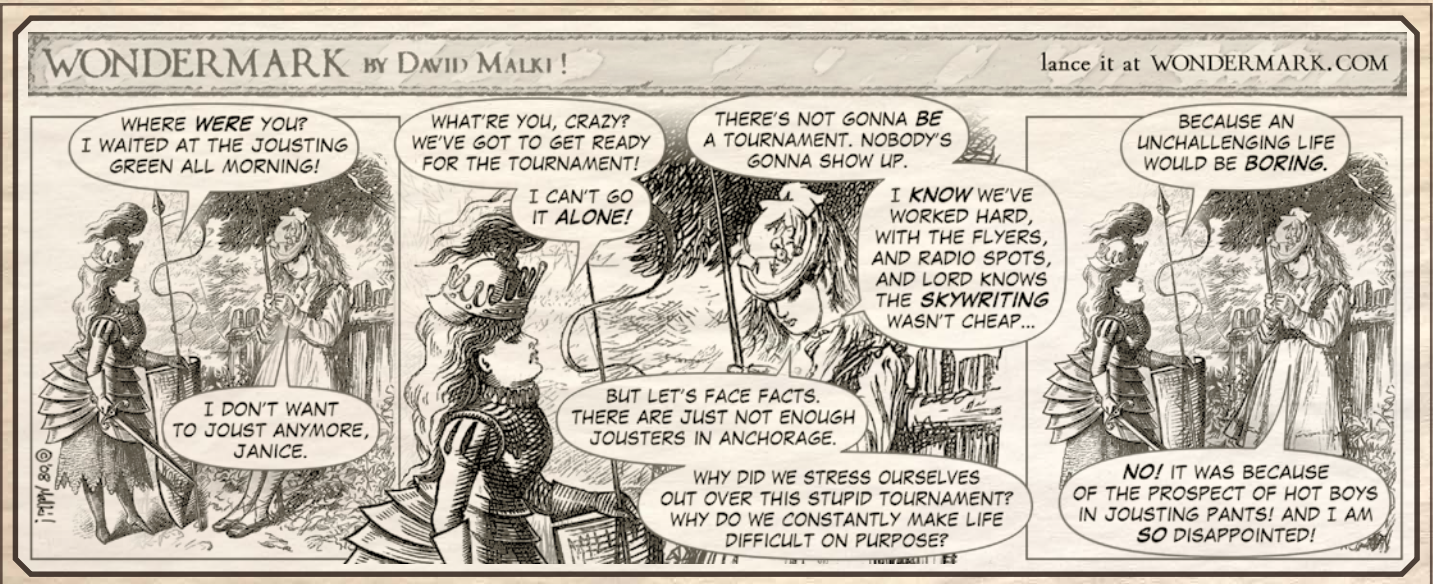
advanced science by a great deal, further than we can scarcely imagine. But it will take fine young men and women

IN WHICH DESTINY IS HERALDED



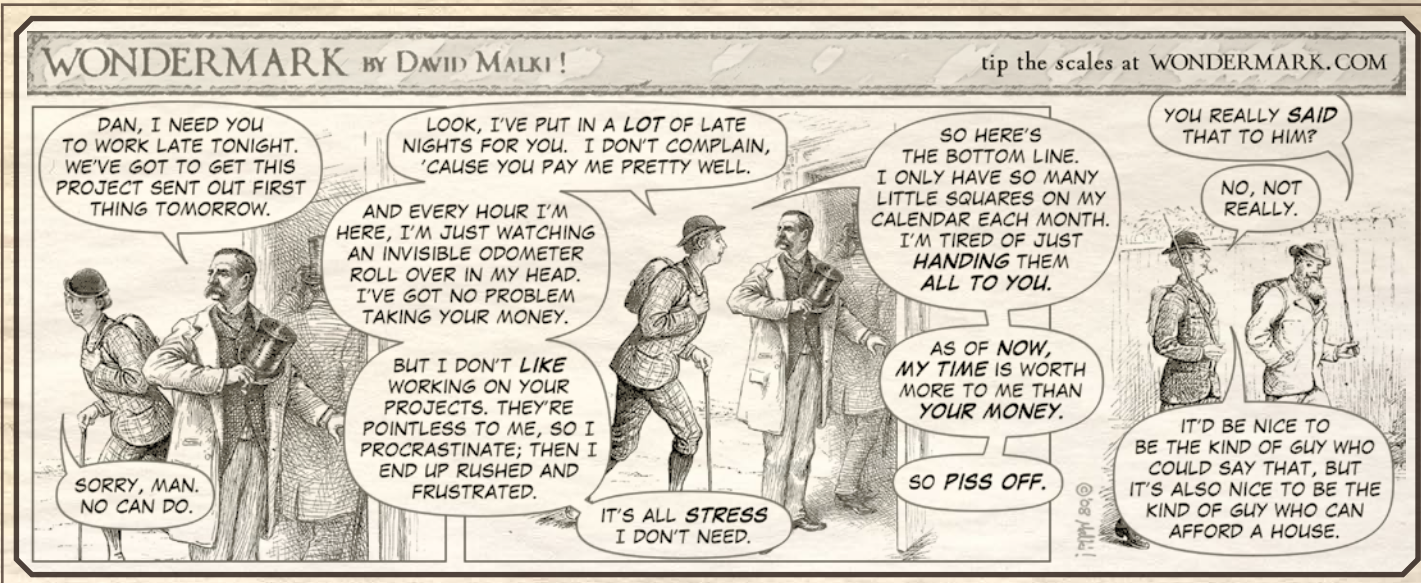
sir that is very interesting but i actually just called to try to trick you into giving out your credit card number over the phone

IN WHICH JOUSTING'S FUTURE LOOKS GRIM



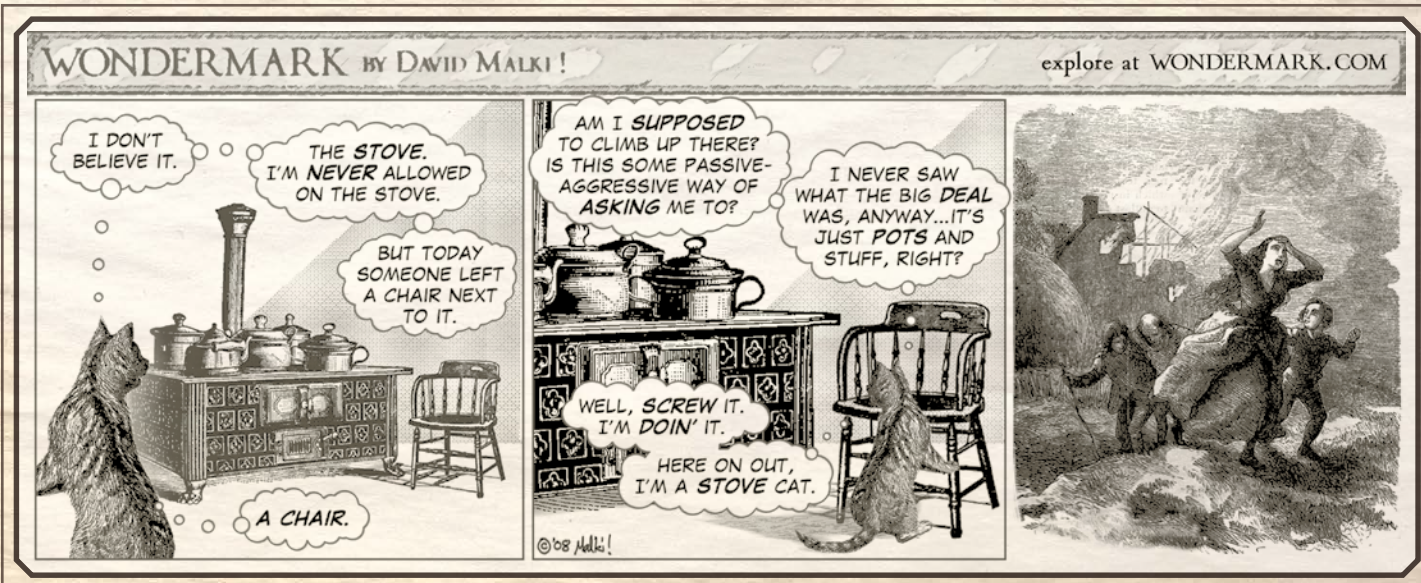
are boys ever hotter than when clad in fine, form-fitting jousting pants?

IN WHICH DAN WEIGHS HIS OPTIONS



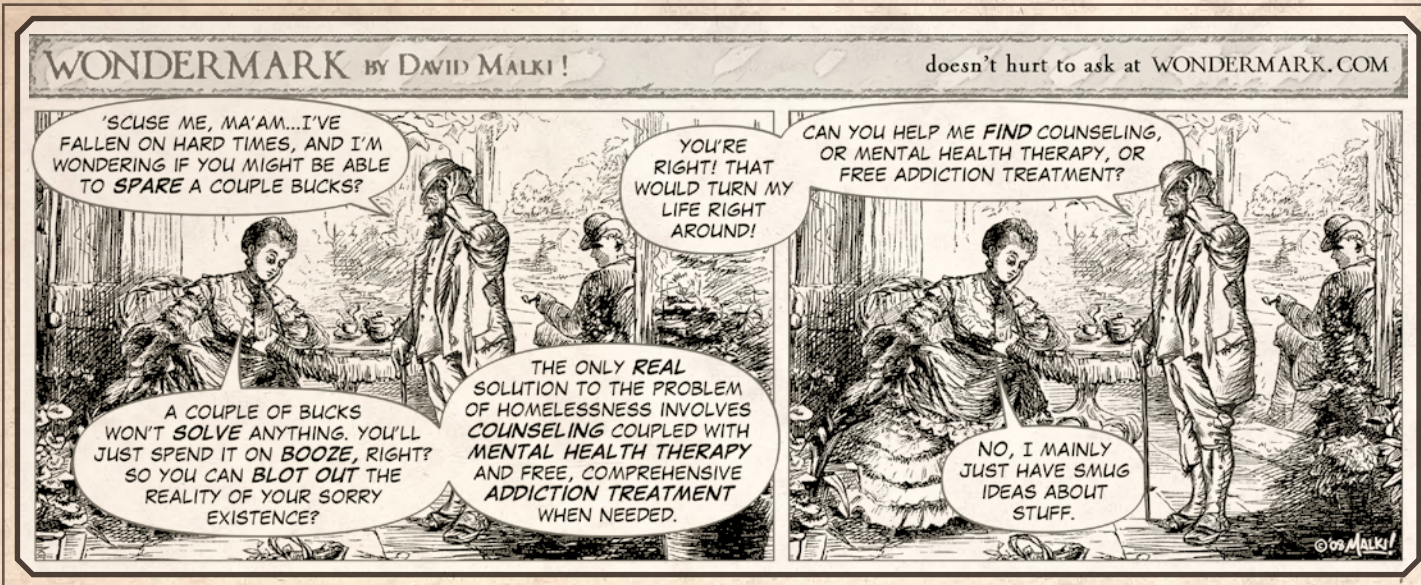
the project was to taste-test delicious new flavors of ice cream!
IMAGINARY DAN MISSED OUT

IN WHICH EVENTS END POORLY



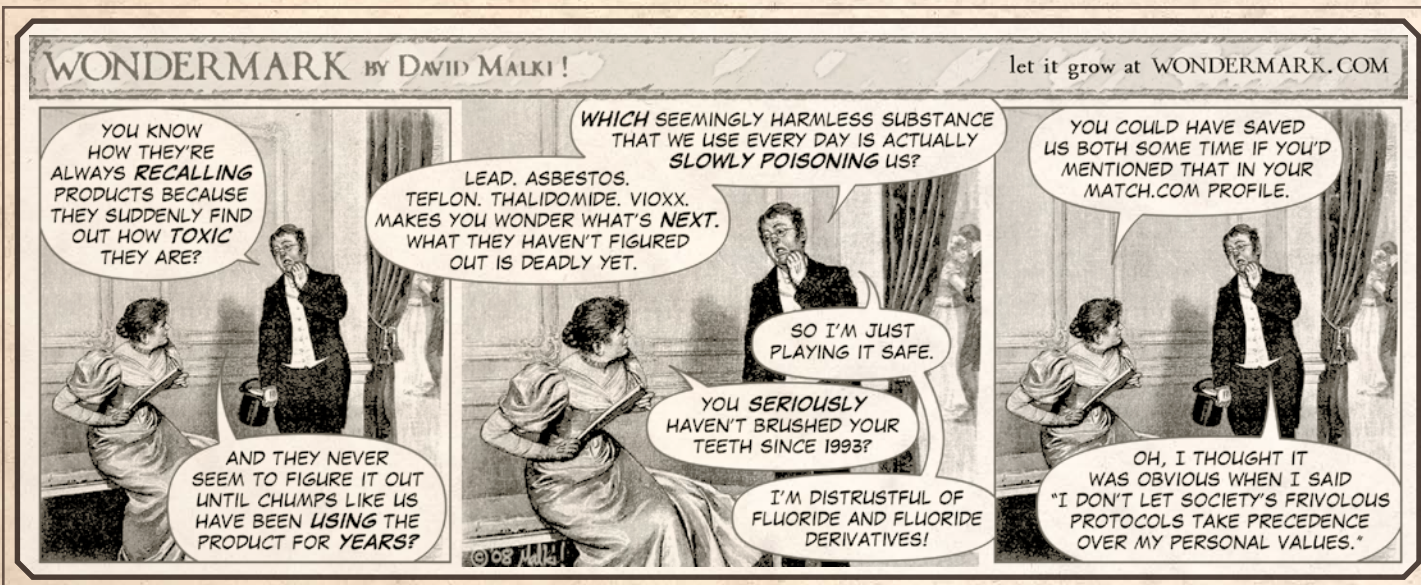
YOU FAILED THE TEST MITTENS

IN WHICH MINDY REBUFFS AN ENTREATY



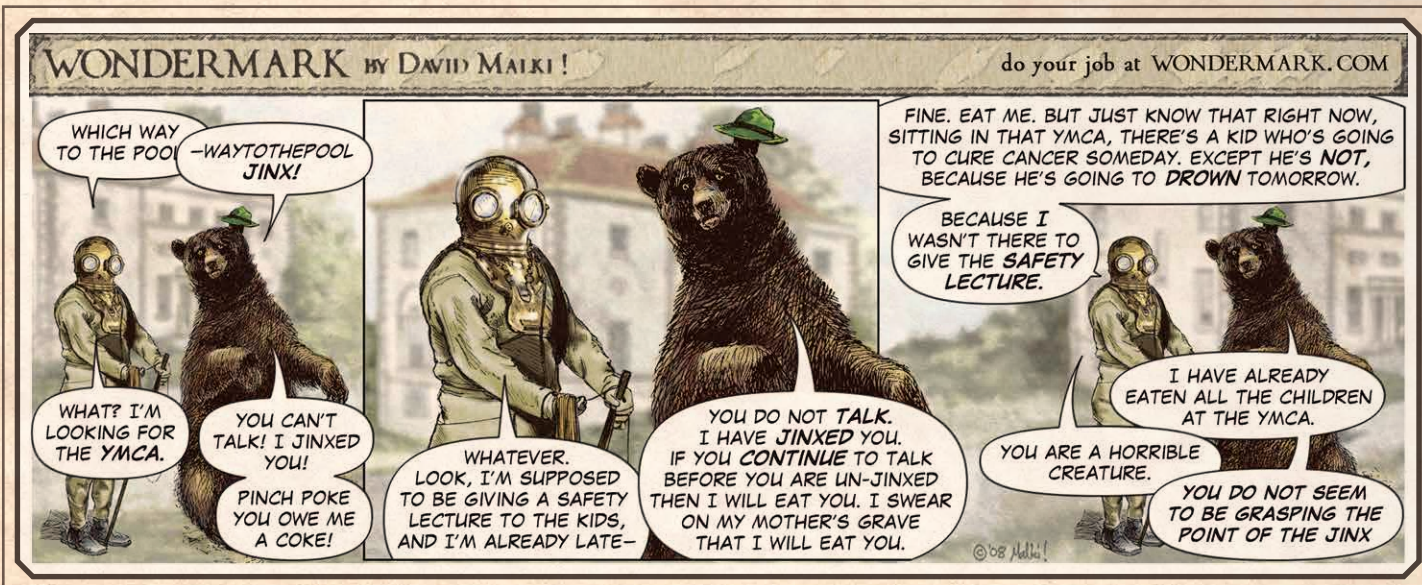
now get out of here before I call the cops

IN WHICH THE EVENING DOES NOT END WITH A KISS



you have to RESPECT my PERSONAL VALUES especially ones I got from a WEBSITE

OF THEIR MORTALITY. MAYBE THAT'LL MAKE THEM HOLD STILL FOR ONE SINGLE SOLITARY DAMNED SECOND.



Color by Philip R. Obermarck • philobermarck.com

Like so many of us, convincing himself that his job is Critically Important To The World is the only thing that gets Herve out of bed and into that stanky diving gear every morning.

Dramatic Review

NORBERT'S LATEST TRIUMPH.



Followers of the theatre are by now well-versed in the talent and stagecraft of Norbert the Elephant. The pachyderm actor has never less than astounded his critics—and rarely has such a lauded talent ever *surpassed* every prior achievement. Yet that precisely is what Mr. the Elephant has done with his latest drama.

We have already had occasion to recommend very cordially the previous works of Mr. the Elephant's *oeuvre*, both in their conception and in the manner by which they are executed. His works are not merely nor mainly important in a *theatrical* mien—the sentiments to which he bears such earnest witness will be as new and as universal in the ages to come as today; the vigor of his thought and style will lose nothing to the lapse of time.

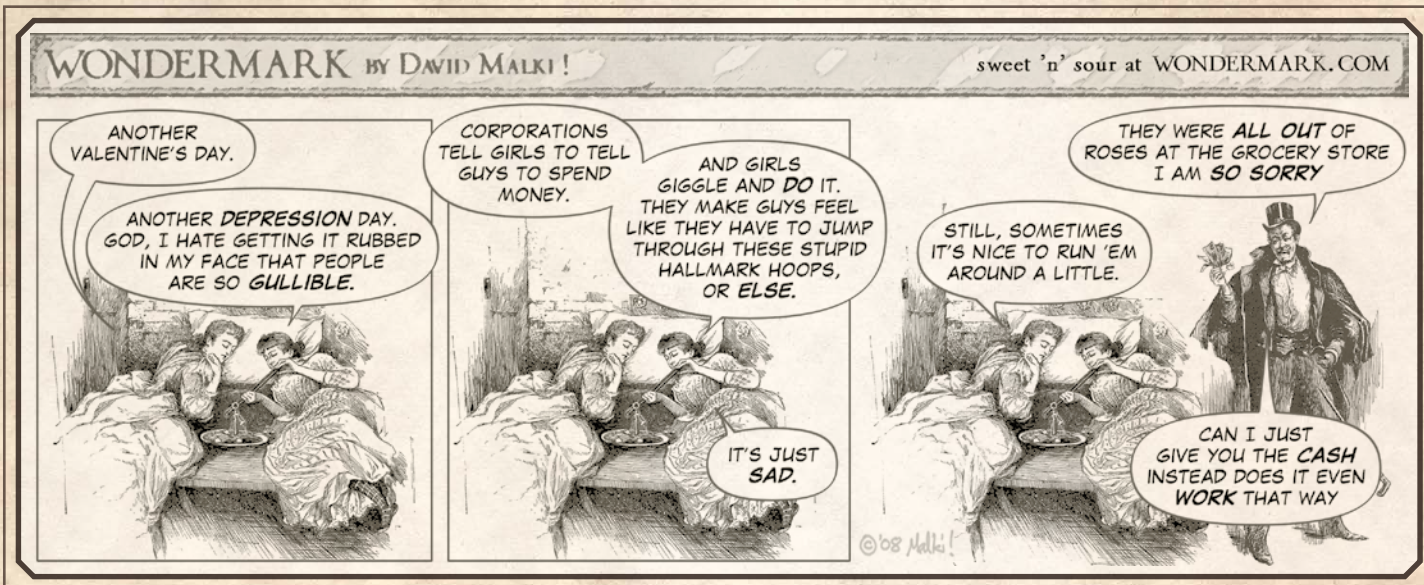
And thus comes his latest triumph, a dramatic reversal of all we have come to know and expect from Norbert.

He is nearly invisible in a new role as Guido the Murderous Bear, although to those studied in Norbert's manners, enough of the elephant protrudes through the character to make evident his studied mastery. The performance hammers into permanence the rarely-challenged notion that as a delineator of character, without exaggeration, without sarcasm or lamentation, we think Norbert the Elephant has no superior, if he has any equal; and *In Which Children Suffer* gains what merit it has entirely from him.

It is a testament to Norbert's skill that the work is enjoyable at all. This tale of a certain Herve the Diver (a pedestrian Brian Swanson's encounter with said bear (as portrayed by Mr. the Elephant) is near the antipodes of social relevance, being yet another trivial expression of the vulgar Bears In Ill-Fitting Hats movement so popular in the school-yards and penny-papers where fashions rise and die inexplicably—and inevitably without consequence.

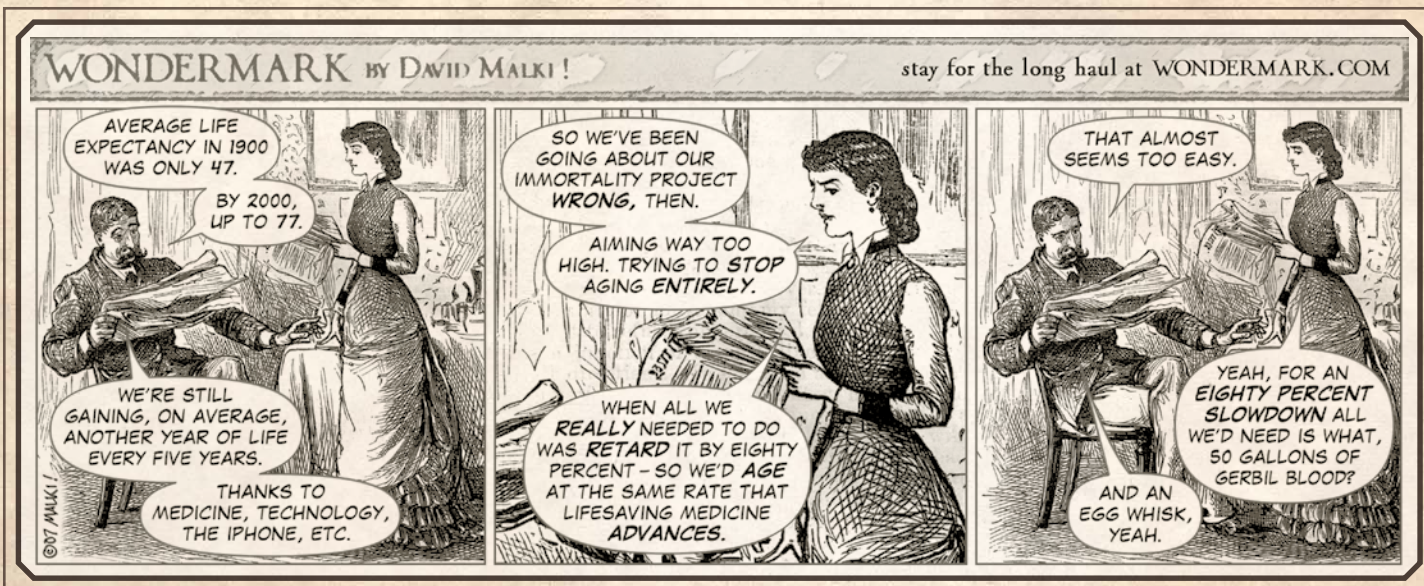
Yet Norbert, in guise as the bear, stands firm as the piece's riveting center. In this manner he demonstrates to us his absolute command over the stage: we know at once that *every* character is his, that *any* character may yet be his in future, and the only question yet left lingering is: may *we all* actually be others of his performances as well?

IN WHICH JAKE DOES HIS BEST



since you INSIST on flaunting your boyfriend everywhere I have no choice but to create my OWN holiday just for lonely people. It shall fall on the third Monday in February. It shall be called Presidents' Day

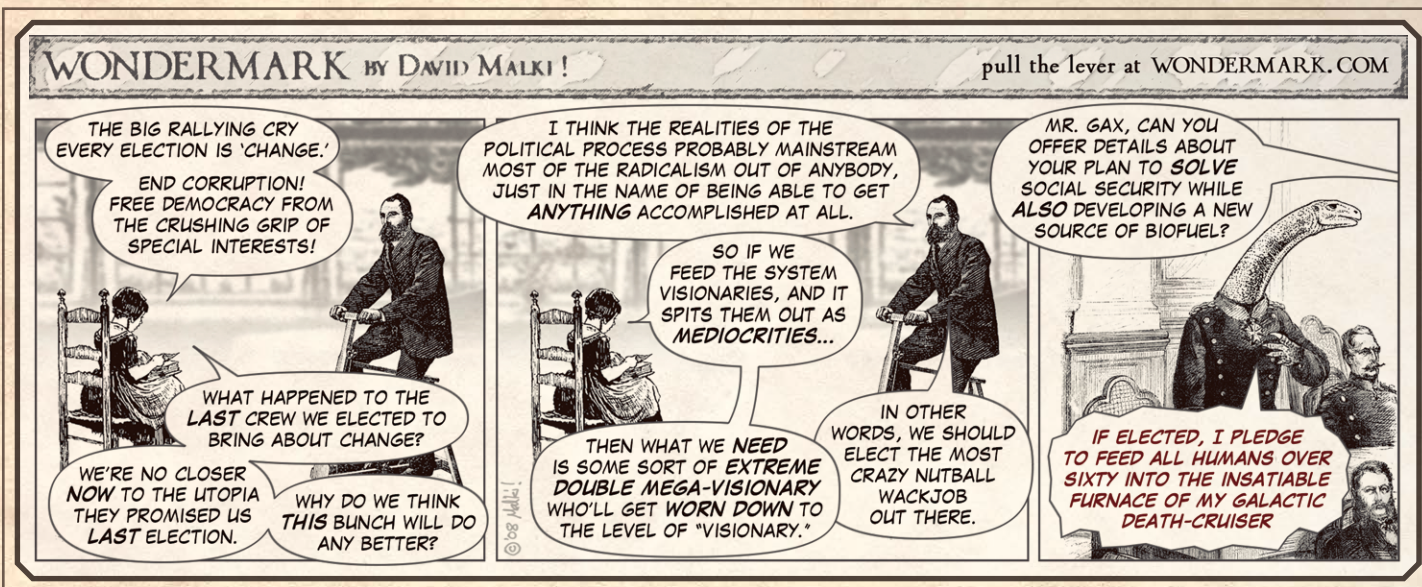
IN WHICH RICH READS STATISTICS



race you to the pet store



IN WHICH PROGRESS LOOKS LIKELY

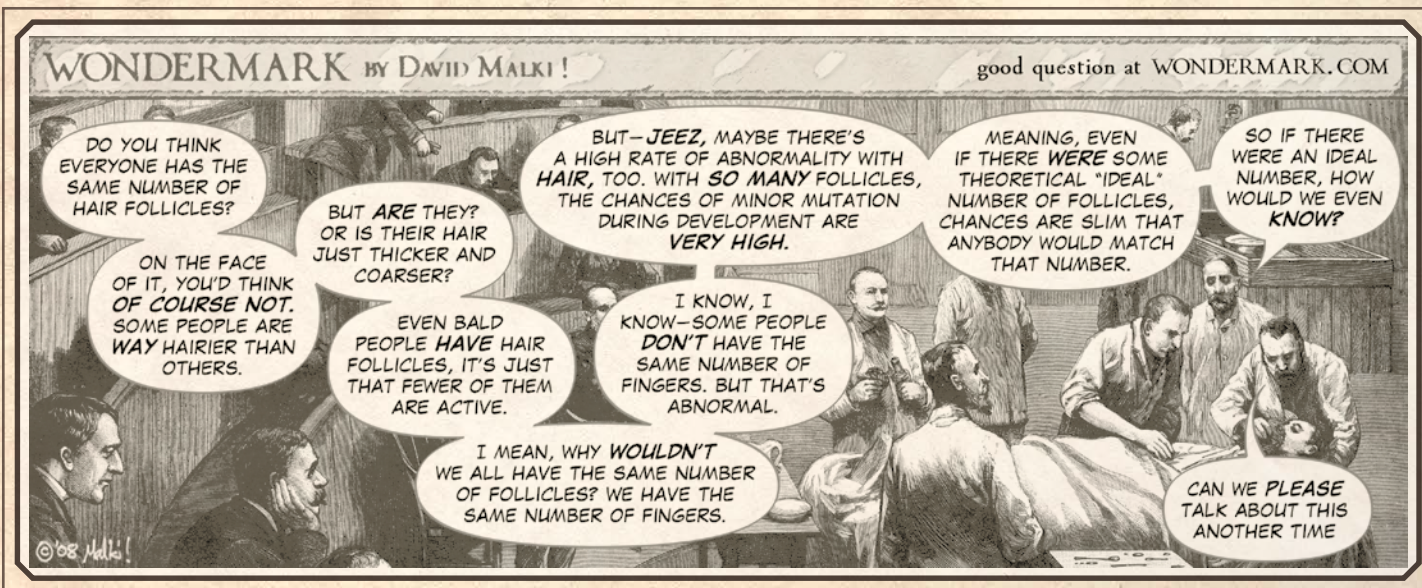


10



ALSO I WILL OUTLAW TREE SAP

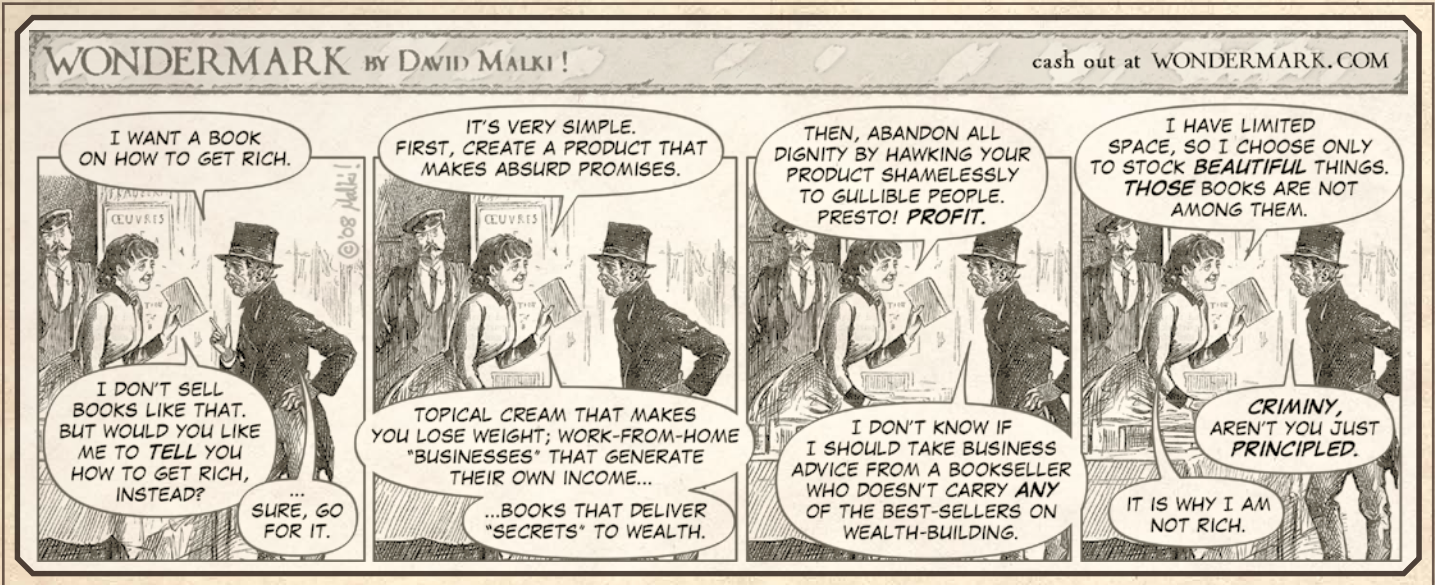
IN WHICH HAIR VEXES



no

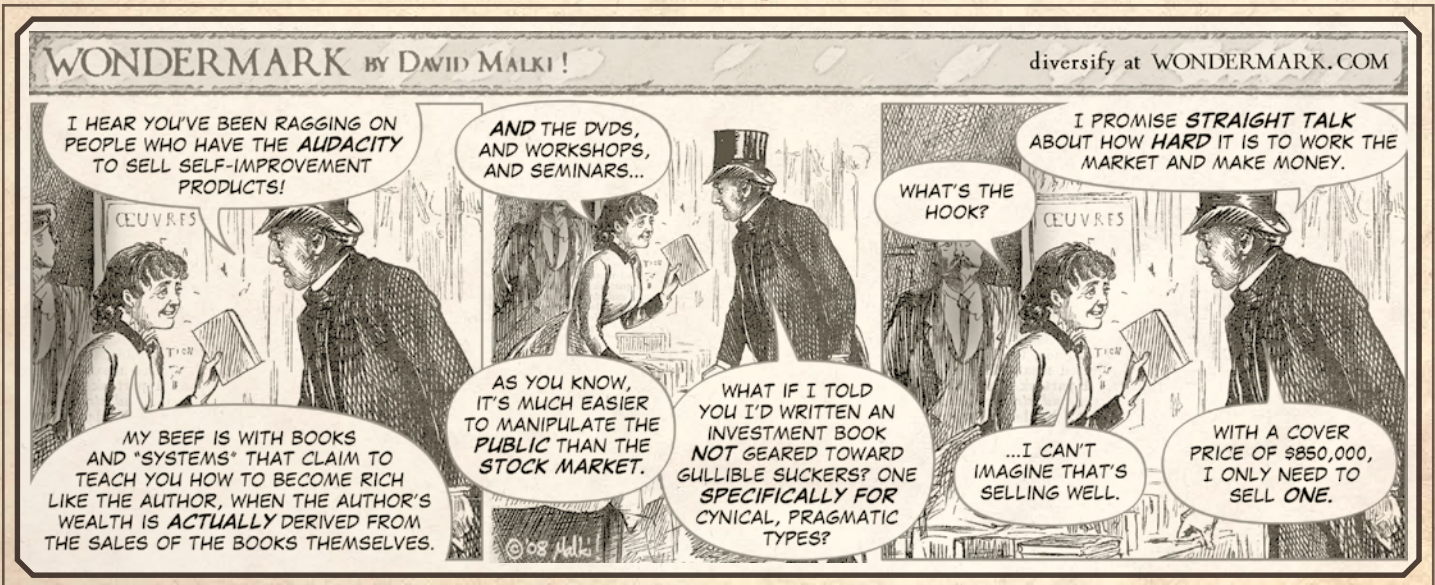


BEFORE



life could be so easy, you know

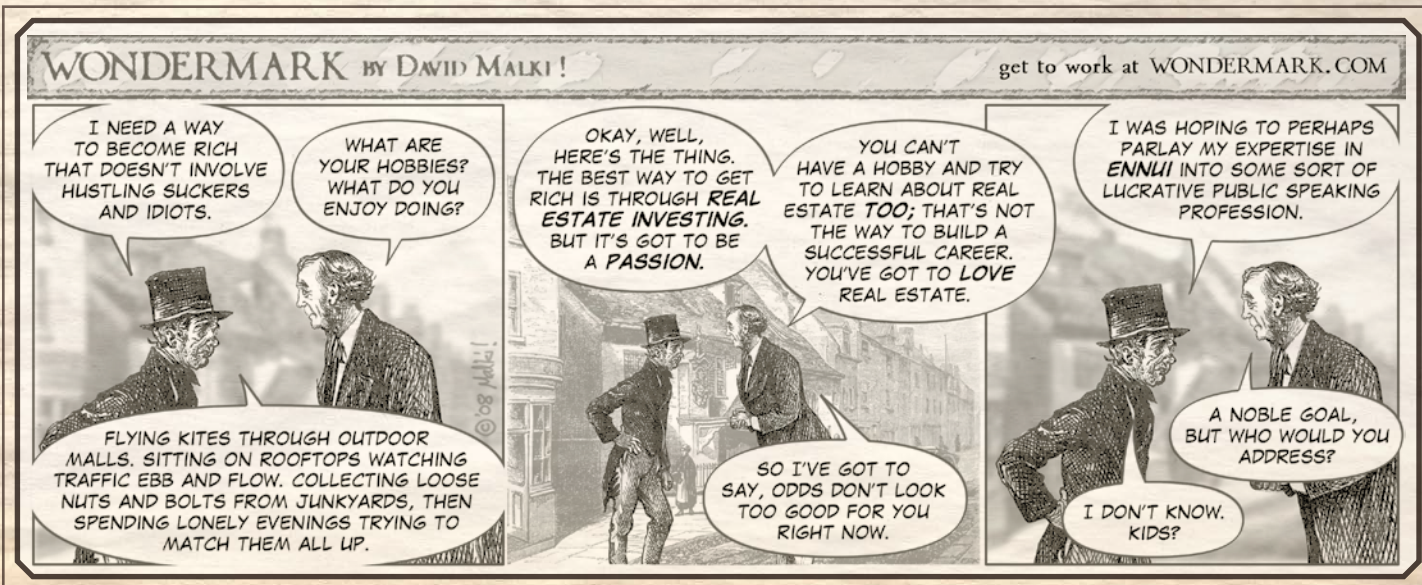
IN WHICH ARE TRIED UNCONVENTIONAL METHODS



i had them printed at kinko's, so, you know, not actually that much of a markup

This stuff doesn't grow on trees, you know. It doesn't grow on damn trees.

IN WHICH A HARD ROAD LIES AHEAD



everyone just trudging out of the assembly staring at their feet

IN WHICH ALL COMES TO NAUGHT



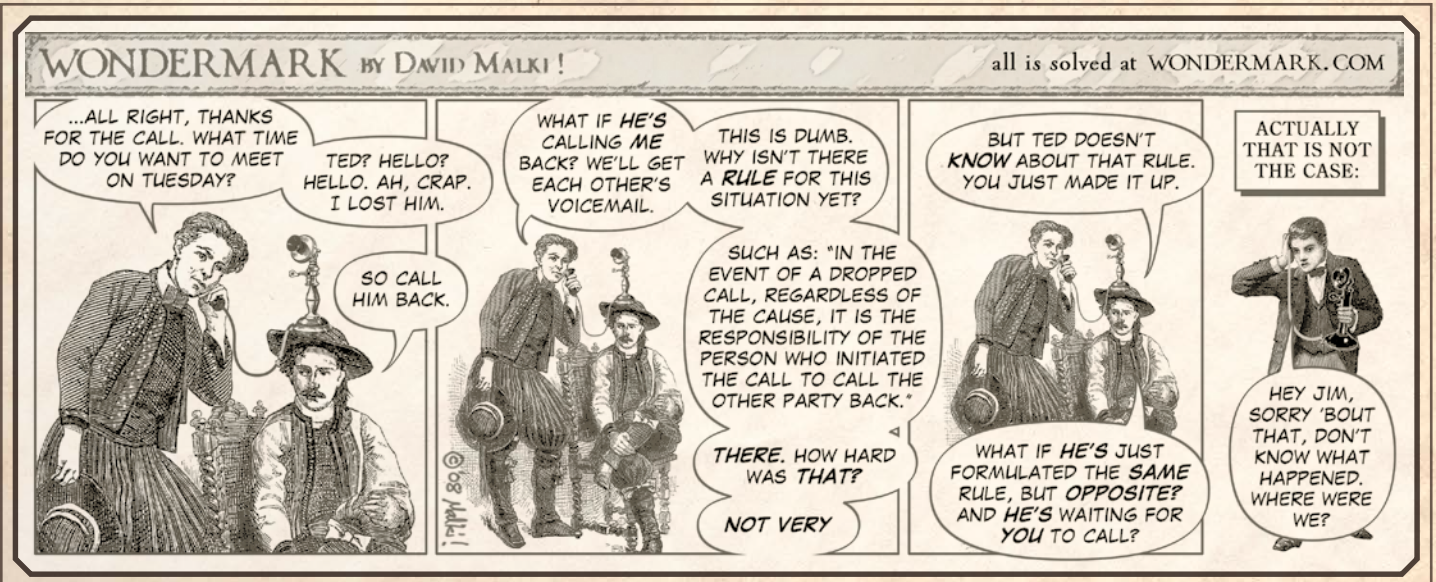
how 'bout now? how 'bout now? how 'bout...now?

give whoever (or whatever) keeps wasting his expensive film a stern talking-to?



now we can claim it has 'organic ingredients'

A REASONABLE SOLUTION



this is a real rule now okay

the before and after images and spot what's different about them, so that George can

IN WHICH A MENACE IS DISPOSED OF



Color by Jolly Rotten • jollyrotten.de



probably for unrelated reasons

[craigslist](#) > [for sale / wanted](#) > [organic foods](#)

fresh sushi-grade fish - \$8/lb - you cut

Come and get it! All the fresh fish you want. Pick the choicest bits, first come first served. NOT farm-raised fish -- totally wild and native. Eat local!

- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

[craigslist](#) > [for sale / wanted](#) > [farm & garden](#)

fish for compost - \$3/lb - you haul away

Great organic material for gardening. I'll provide plastic bags and help you scoop. Come and get it, it's going fast!

- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

[craigslist](#) > [for sale / wanted](#) > [barter](#)

will trade old fish for ???

Looking for an iPod Touch or newer Xbox, but make me your best offer. I've got a lot of this stuff, so I'm happy to do multiple trades for smaller batches.

- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

[craigslist](#) > [for sale / wanted](#) > [free stuff](#)

approx. 700 lbs. of rotting fish

Craft project? Frat prank? Biofuel? I don't know and I don't care. Come and take all you want. Email for pics.

- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

[craigslist](#) > [gigs](#) > [labor gigs](#)

disposal crew for biowaste

Need to haul about 1/2 ton of fish to dump/ocean/wherever it goes. You'll need a truck or at least a station wagon. I'll also pay to clean your vehicle after.

- Compensation: \$20.00

[craigslist](#) > [housing](#) > [housing swap](#)

premium suburban 2BR/2BA

Big house, new kitchen. Approx. 30 sq. ft. of yard is unusable. Ideal place for someone without much of a sense of smell. Long-term swaps preferred.

- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

Something is changing in the scene during his exposure. Can you look closely at

IN WHICH A LONG HAUL LIES AHEAD

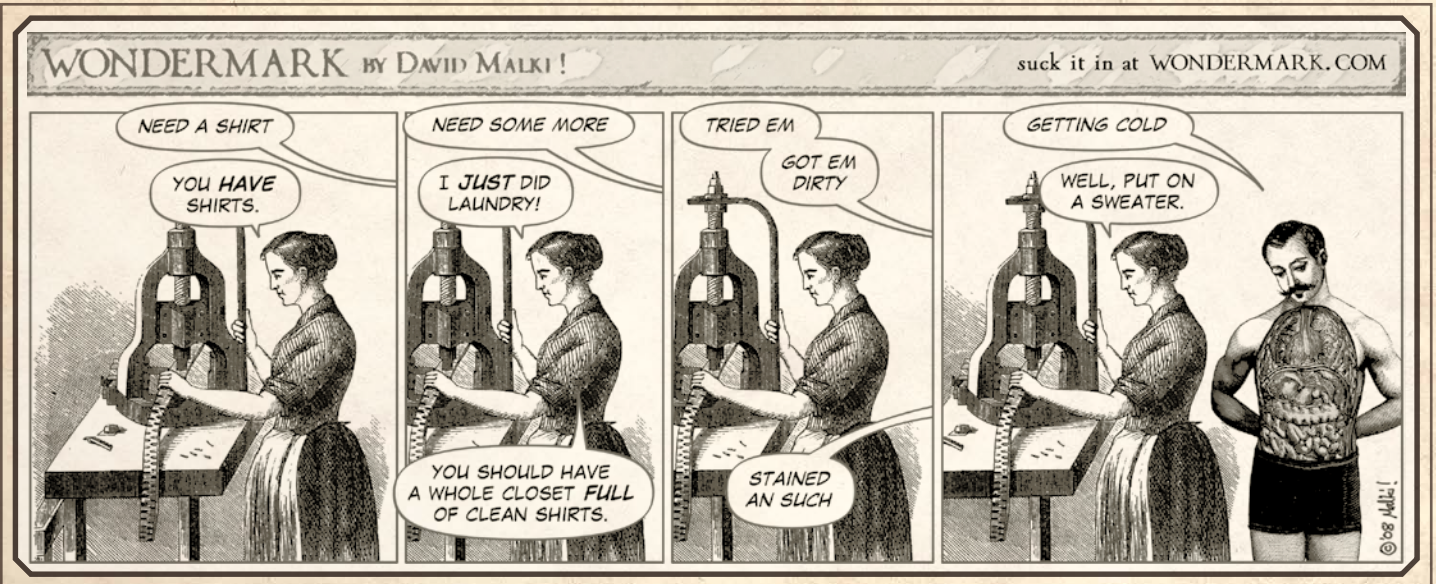


11



sure the baby minotaur was cute but FOR HOW LONG

IN WHICH THINGS GROW DARK



not one of the good ones though

George Eastman is trying to take photographs, but they keep turning out blurry!

IN WHICH BAGGAGE IS EMBLAZONED



this should prevent any more mishaps

IN WHICH THINGS GET WORSE

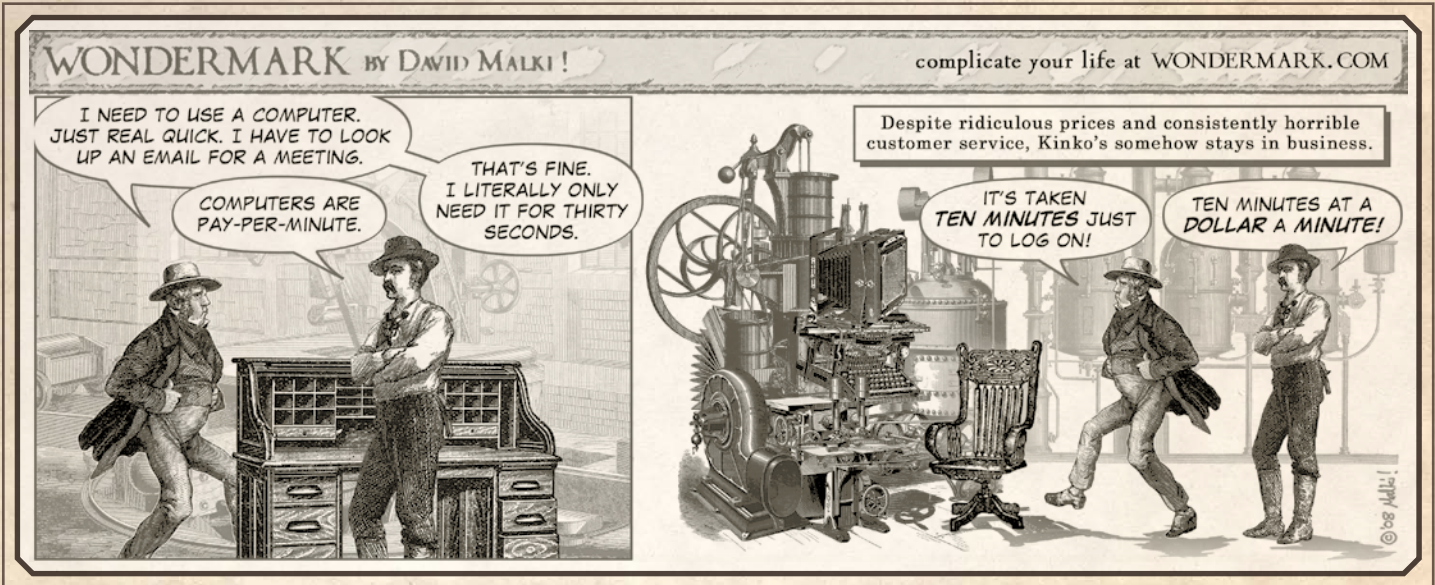


day 3: somehow sleep 'til three p.m.

A PUSHY ANTEATER SEES A HELPMATE VIOLATE THIS
- GROW LIVER HILT
BLUNT, FIT COED.

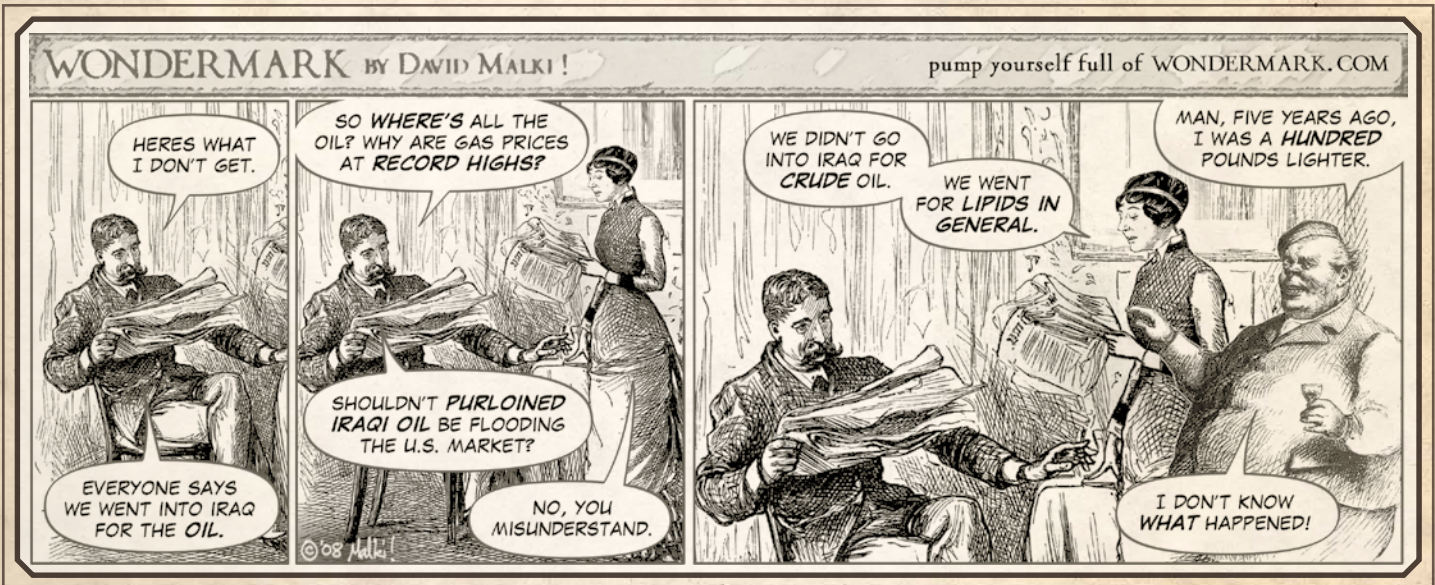
SOLUTION

IN WHICH TRADE SECRETS ARE REVEALED



The man is checking his email for the steps to a dance that will forcibly repel ants from his trousers. He has a chronic condition.

IN WHICH AMERICA IS SUPER-SIZED



granted the foreign situation can't easily explain the waistline of everyone in the country, but it could be a pretty handy scapegoat

EHT RIPALEN YSTSA PU EBUCESA TI SOLEN'D EAVH
 - LEORIVL HGMI RT
 HET MITE OT AFLL.

IN WHICH THE MOMENT IS FLEETING



isn't that always the way

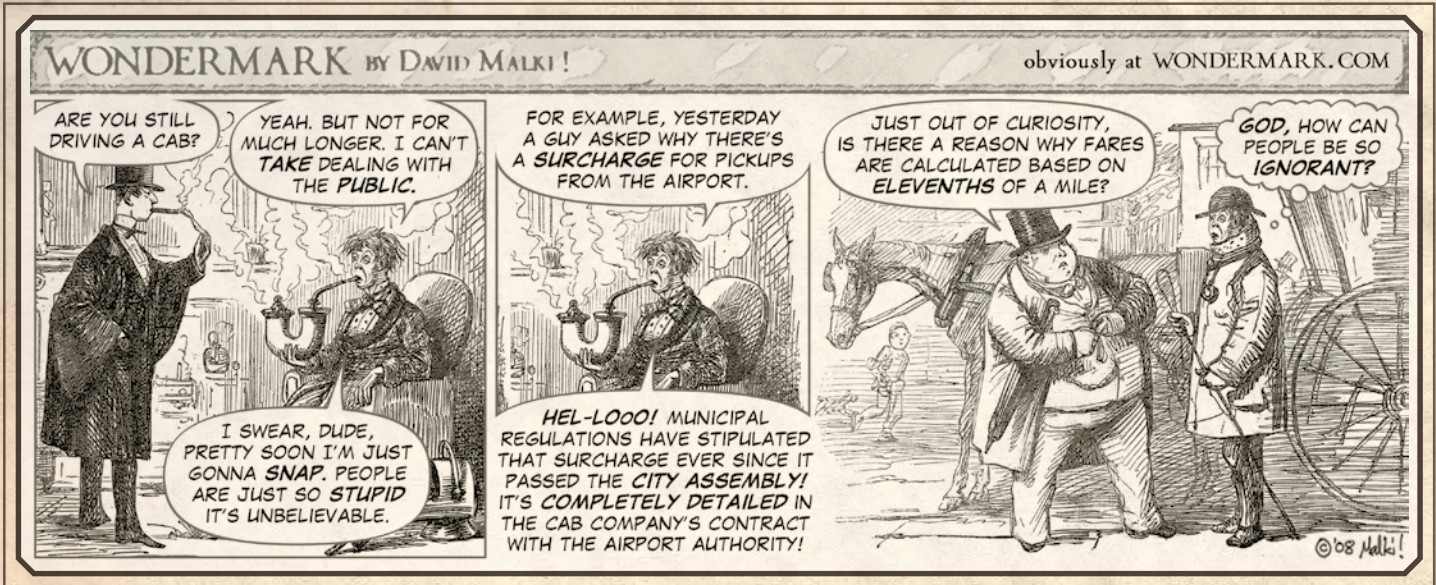
IN WHICH IT'S FRIKKIN BRIGHT



Don't you wish YOU had a sunglass monocle?

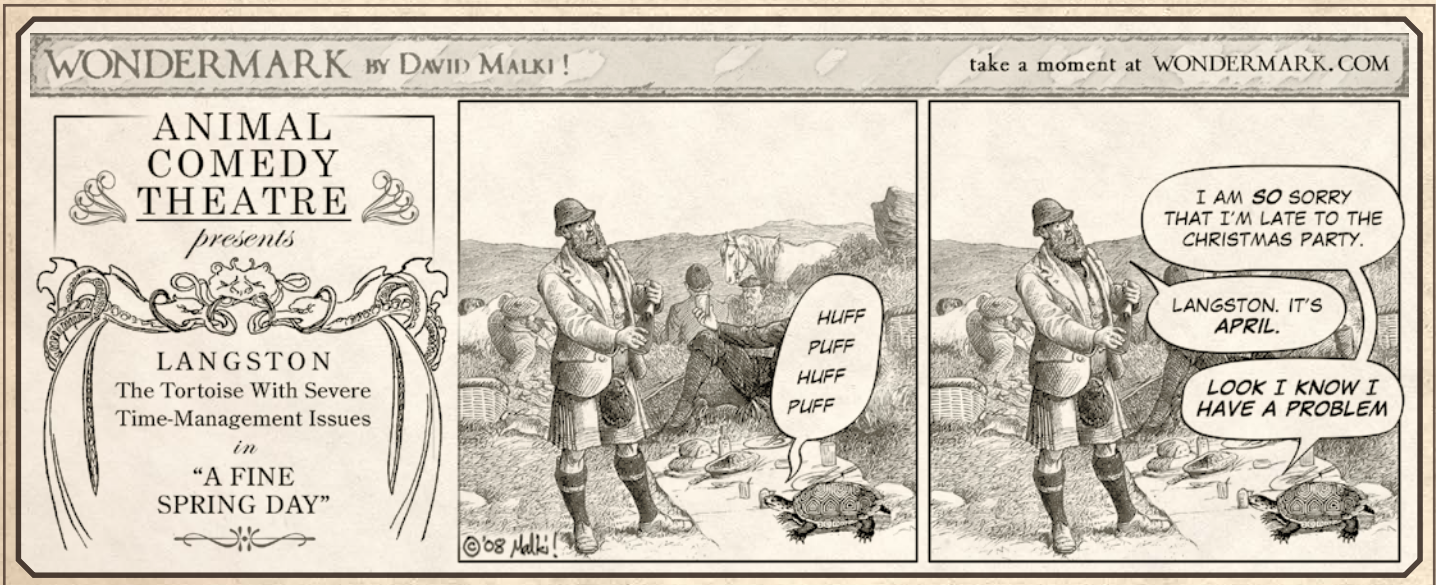
Babbage hates anagrams. He doesn't know why, they've just always bugged him.

IN WHICH CUSTOMERS ARE SERVED ONLY GRUDGINGLY



because charging by twelfths of a mile would be ridiculous

A FINE SPRING DAY



don't we all

To get back at Babbage, Ada Lovelace has scrambled several words into anagrams!

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS



Color by Carly Monardo • whirringblender.com



it really is pretty straightforward



Invoice

2459

Customer A&D Flour Co. - Enforcement Division Date 28 Mar 20 08
 (413) CU 2-8672 ATTN: J.R.

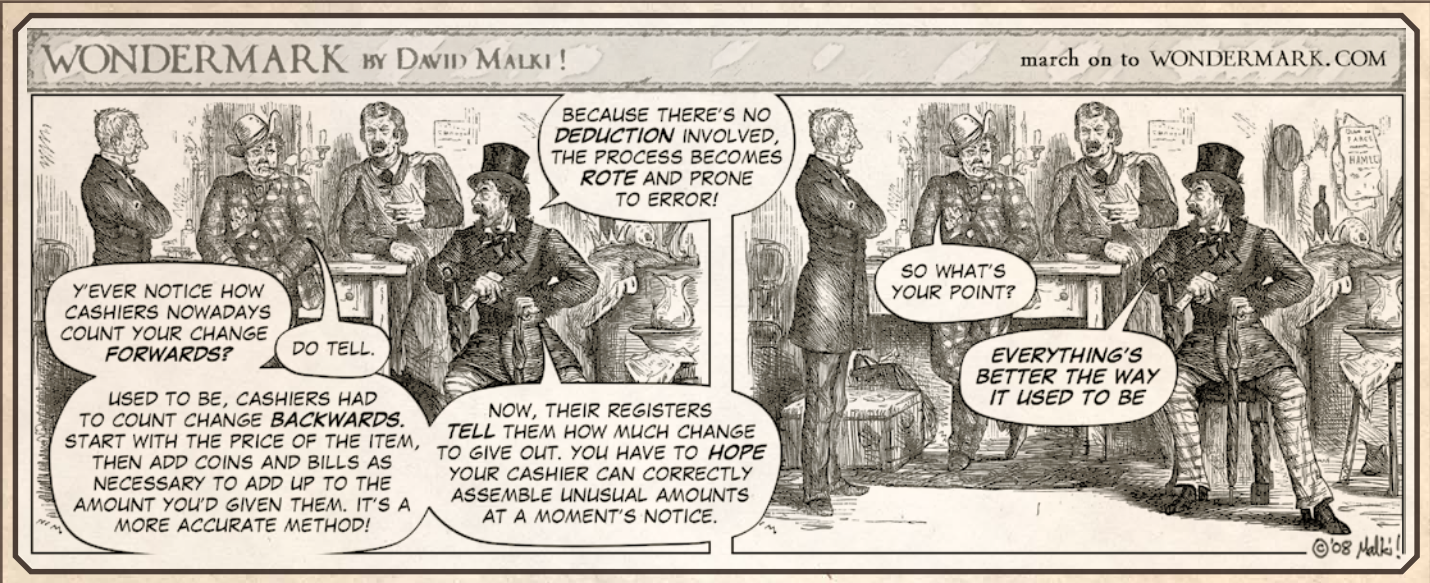
CODE	DESCRIPTION	RATE
SR-15	Crane lift of piano (80 ft.)	\$600.00
313-U	Subject tracking/targeting -- 4 hrs. @ \$28.00	\$112.00
B19	Drop	\$ 5.00
7PRX	Cleanup -- 3.25 hrs @ \$19.00	\$ 61.75
	PLEASE PAY	\$778.75

NO RETURNS ON SPECIAL ORDERS • ALL ESTIMATES MUST BE APPROVED IN WRITING
 ALL MUNICIPAL PAPERWORK MUST BE FILED BEFORE WORK BEGINS

THE VALUE OF AN IDEA LIES IN THE USING OF IT.

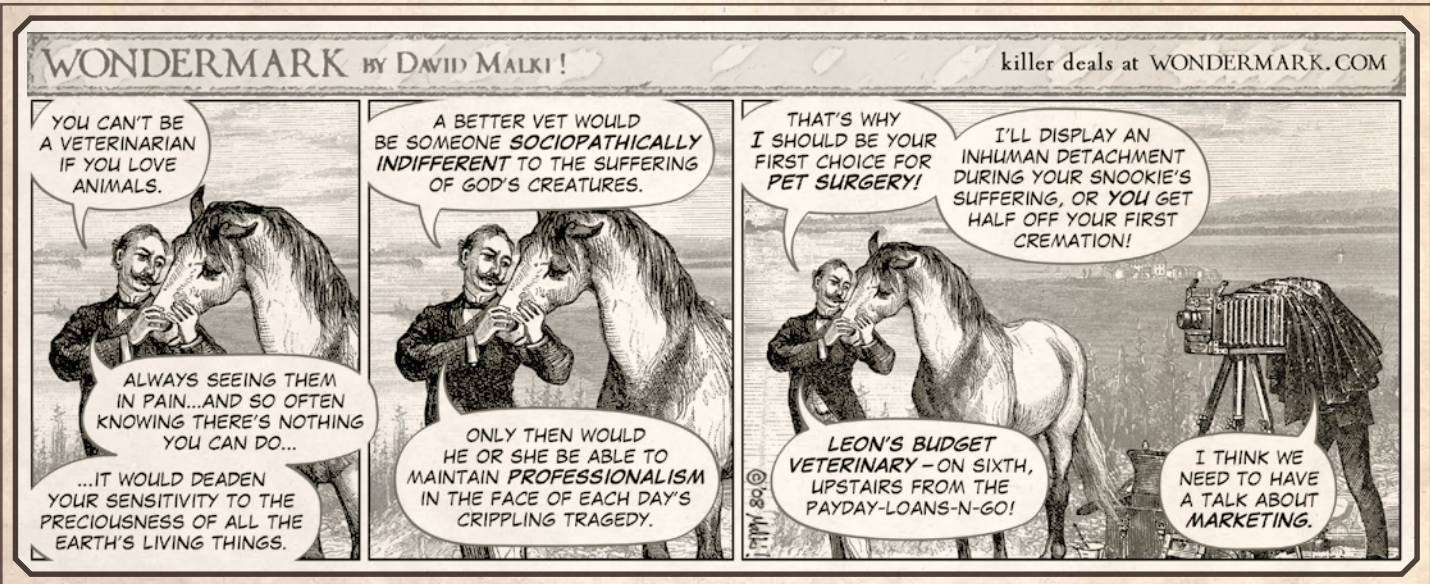
SOLUTION

IN WHICH ELMER IS ALWAYS IRATE



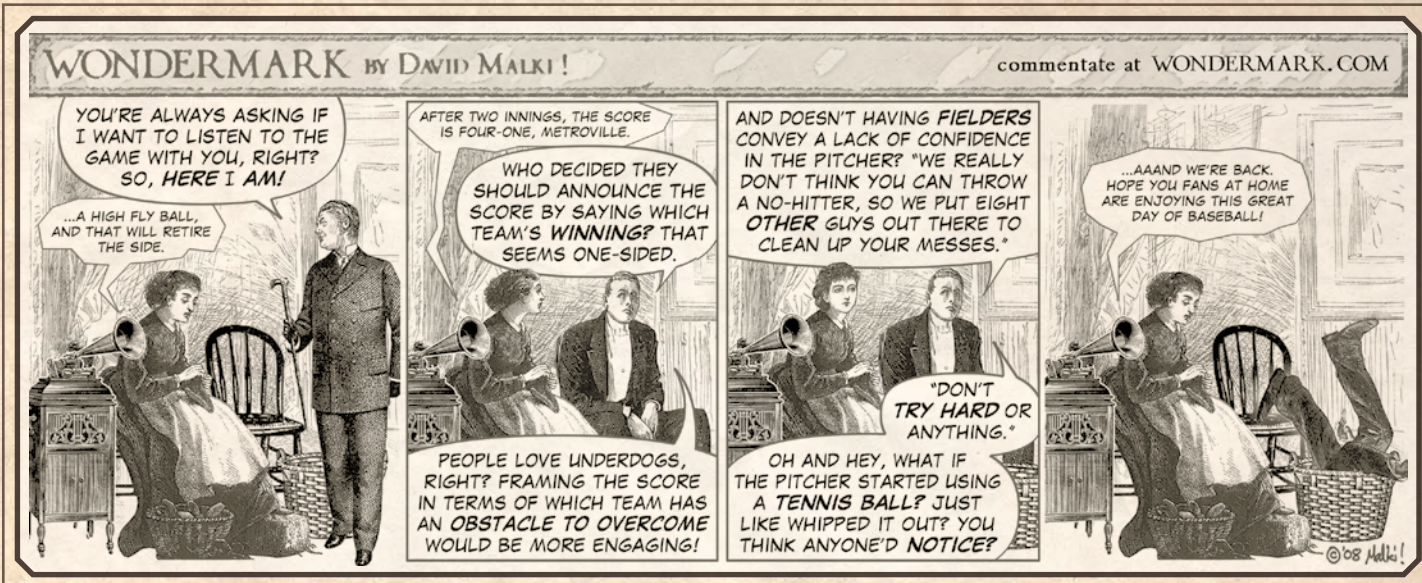
kids these days! so selfish! they're supposed to care about ME!

IN WHICH A LEON FILMS A COMMERCIAL



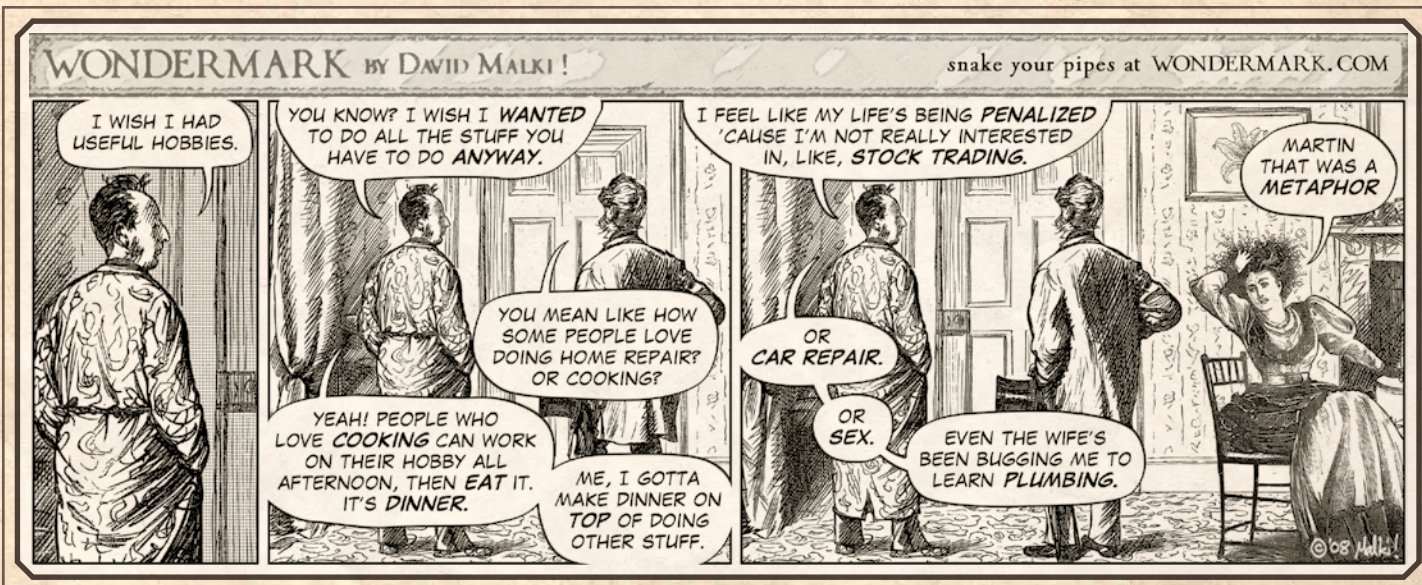
Leon is pretty sure this is how he wants to position his business.

IN WHICH JOHN HAS SOME QUESTIONS



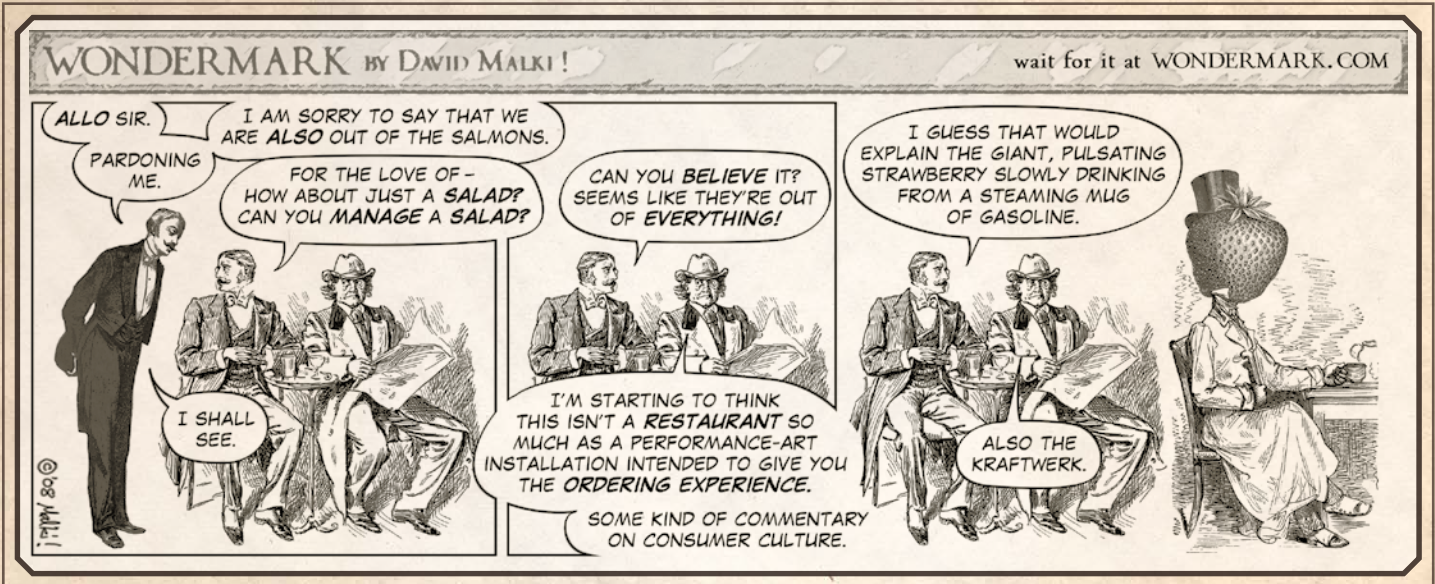
i think someone would probably notice

IN WHICH MARTIN COULD RETHINK HIS PASTIMES



martin's hobbies mostly involve spending long hours imagining, in painstaking detail, what life might be like on a planet where cheetos are legal tender

been replaced with another. HINT: THE FIRST WORD IS "THE".



the waiter pronounced it 'sall-mons'



Uncle Marty always has to be the center of attention.

IN WHICH PETE IS SET OFF

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! oh the gravity of WONDERMARK.COM

...I LIKE PETE JUST FINE, BUT HE TAKES HIMSELF WAY TOO SERIOUSLY.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. HE REALLY NEEDS TO LIGHTEN UP.

WHAT?!

I DON'T TAKE MYSELF TOO SERIOUSLY! WHY WOULD THEY SAY THAT?? WHAT IN THE WORLD WOULD GIVE THEM THAT IMPRESSION? I'M A FUN-LOVING GUY!

THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN THE WRONG IMPRESSION SOMEHOW. I WONDER WHAT IT WAS I DID! I'LL HAVE TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO MY BEHAVIOR FROM NOW ON.

WHY WOULD THEY SAY I TAKE MYSELF TOO SERIOUSLY?

I MEAN, I TAKE MY WORK SERIOUSLY, SURE. BUT THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT? YOU WANT SOMEONE COMPETENT! BUT I THINK THEY WERE REFERRING TO MY PERSONALITY!

MAYBE I SHOULD LAUGH MORE. NO, IT CAN'T SEEM FORCED! BUT WHY WOULD IT BE? I'M AS HAPPY-GO-LUCKY AS THEY COME!



I WILL SEND THEM BOTH A FURIOUS, RAMBLING EMAIL EXPLAINING IN DETAIL HOW CAREFREE I ACTUALLY AM

IN WHICH AFRICA IS NOTICED

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! think of it at WONDERMARK.COM

LOOK AT THESE ZIMBABWEANS. LIVING WITHOUT ELECTRICITY.

HUNTING MICE FOR FOOD. DYING AT THIRTY-SEVEN.

UNBELIEVABLE! ABSOLUTELY UNBELIEVABLE!

THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIES HAVE SHUT DOWN. THE DAILY DEATH RATE EXCEEDS DARFUR'S.

JUST GOES TO SHOW IT TAKES TOTAL COMMITMENT.

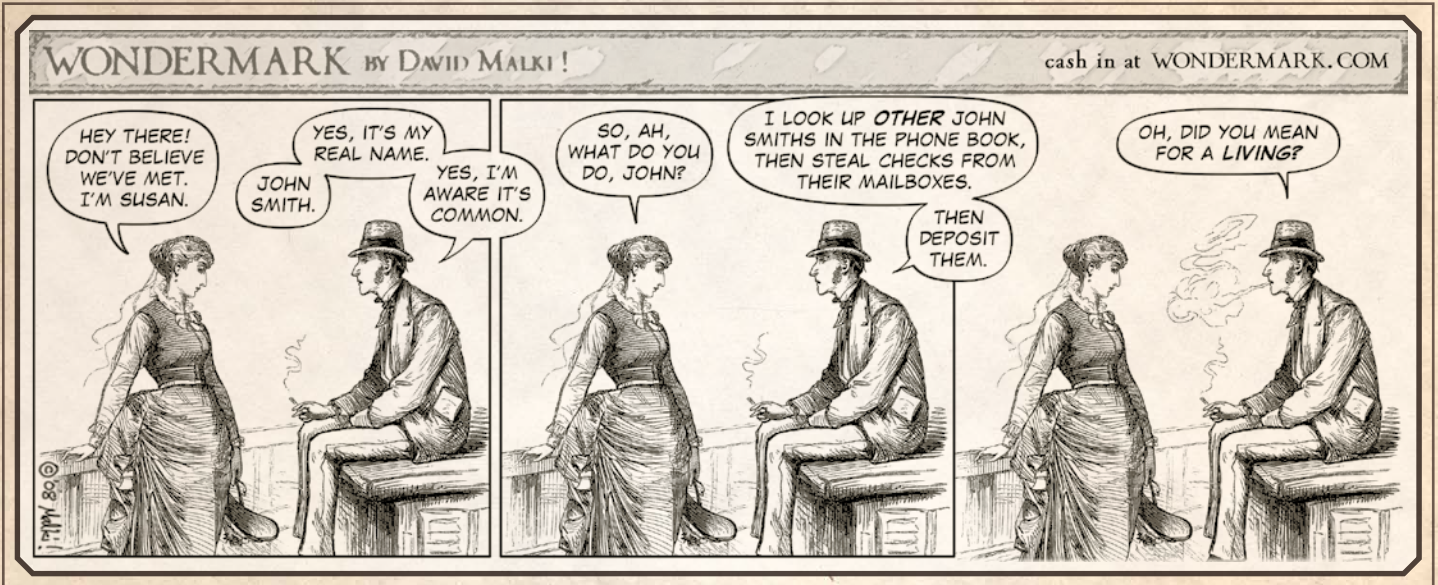
THINK OF IT! THE LOWEST PER-CAPITA CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ANY NATION ON EARTH!

AMAZING!

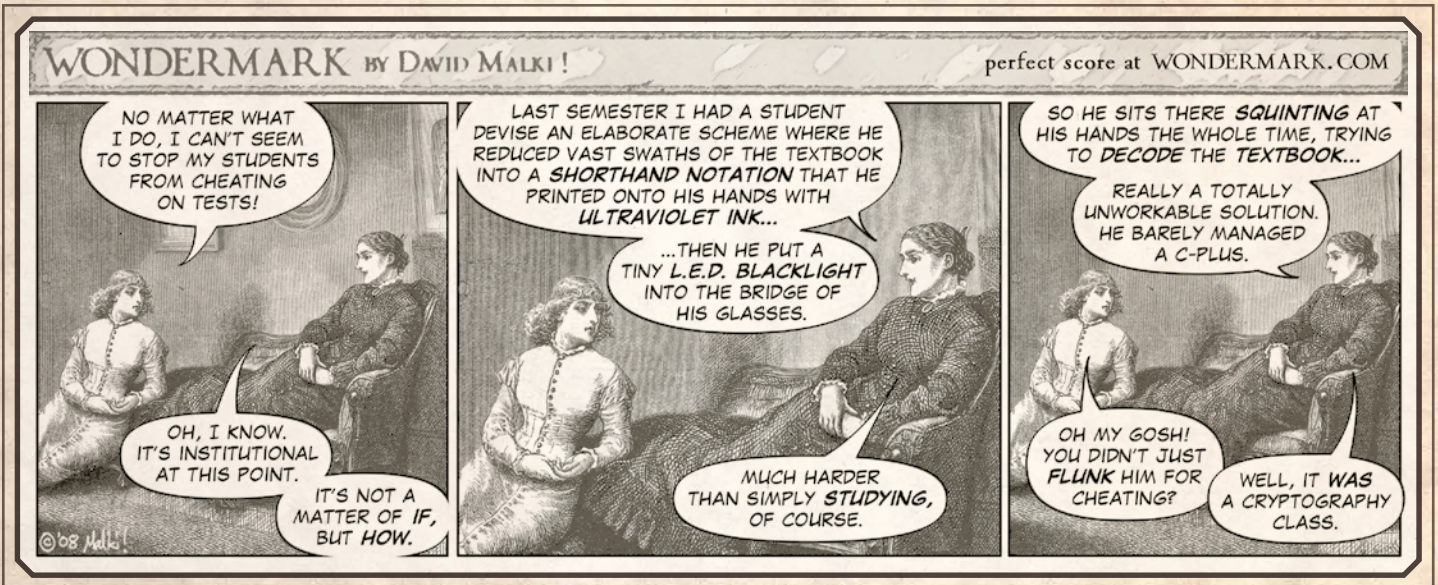


hooray

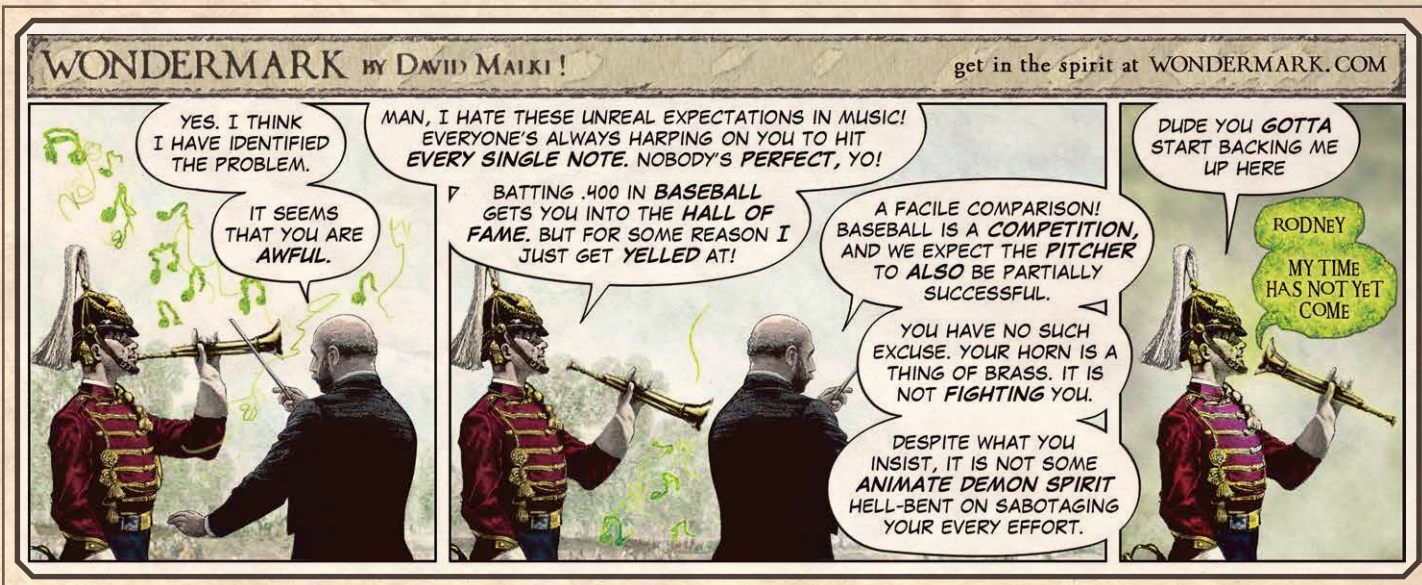
Charles Babbage has cryptographically encoded this message from a famous



because i'm actually pulling down pretty decent scratch just doing this



class motto is 'try it, let's see what you got'



rodney kill the violinsssss

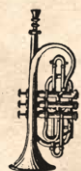
Possessed Instruments

WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF.



Mr. J. N. of Springfield, Virginia reports on this **LEPROUS HARP**. "It is infected with the flesh-rotting disease in its every string," writes our correspondent. "We must keep it shut in a shed, the key to which is entrusted only to trusted persons, and wear sheep's-wool gloves to play it."—

Our readers in Belgium tell us of the widespread knowledge in Bruges of a certain **OPPOSITE CELLO**, which on odd-numbered calendar dates will play not the note that is struck, but rather its inverse on the musical register. As a result, all concerts in Bruges are held on even-numbered dates only, and must not pass midnight.—Our own



musical editor reminds us of the ancient legend of **PLATO'S TRUMPET**. Medieval manuscripts describe a horn that, when blown, could produce loaves of squaw-bread from its bell; however, classical accounts mentioning the horn have yet to surface.—

Bells were known to the ancients to harbor malevolent spirits, and the **INCUBUS BELL OF MEXICO** is no exception. Residents of Zinaparo tell of a church-bell that visits them carnally in the night, and at least one woman has birthed

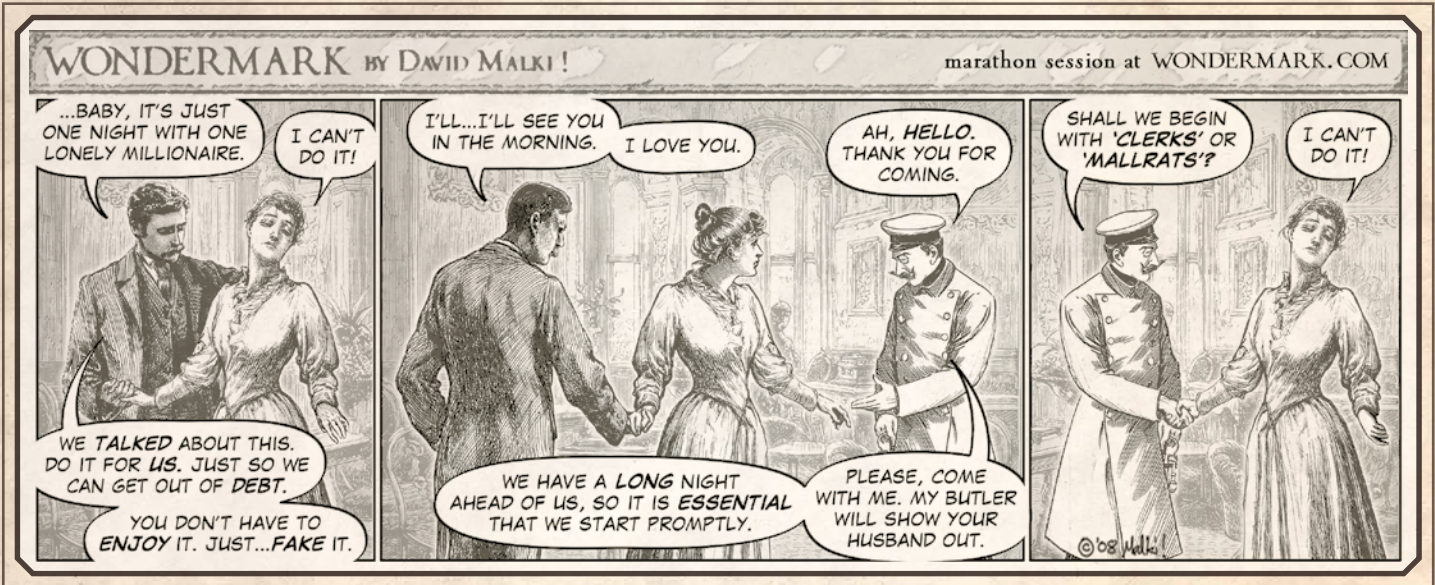


a deformed bell-baby.—A **SINISTER TUNING FORK** has been reported in Iowa. Dr. S. W. writes, "When it is struck, our children weep uncontrollably. When it is left alone, our crops fail. We are in a difficult situation." Our editors can sadly offer no advice, but we encourage correspondence from parties who may have insight into the matter. The fork in question is twelve inches in length.—No instrument is more prized in the home than the piano, but this piano in Duluth, Minn. is home to more than mere music. A **WOLF** has taken up residence in its interior, and no one has yet come up with a solution. The



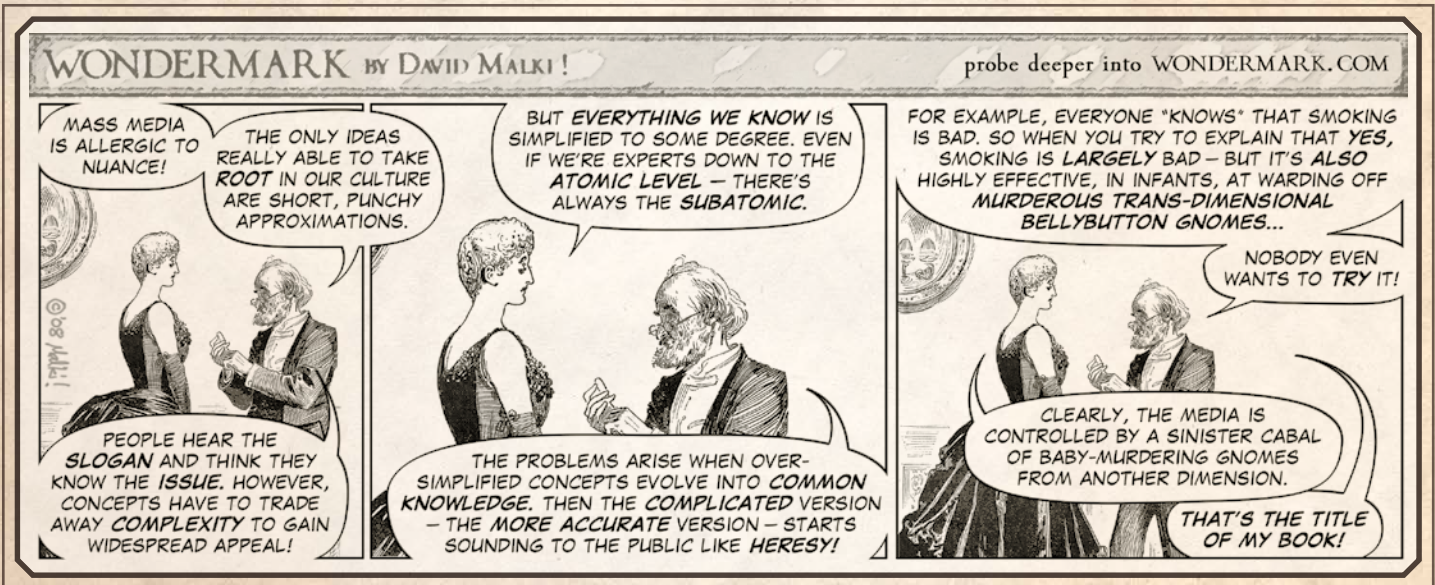
piano's owner hopes the animal may move out when the weather warms.— This **DANGEROUS NOISEMAKER**, owned by Col. Greeley of Boston, is reported to have killed seven men. The Col. remains baffled.

IN WHICH CHRISTY TAKES ONE FOR THE TEAM



baby we will be up ALL NIGHT LONG

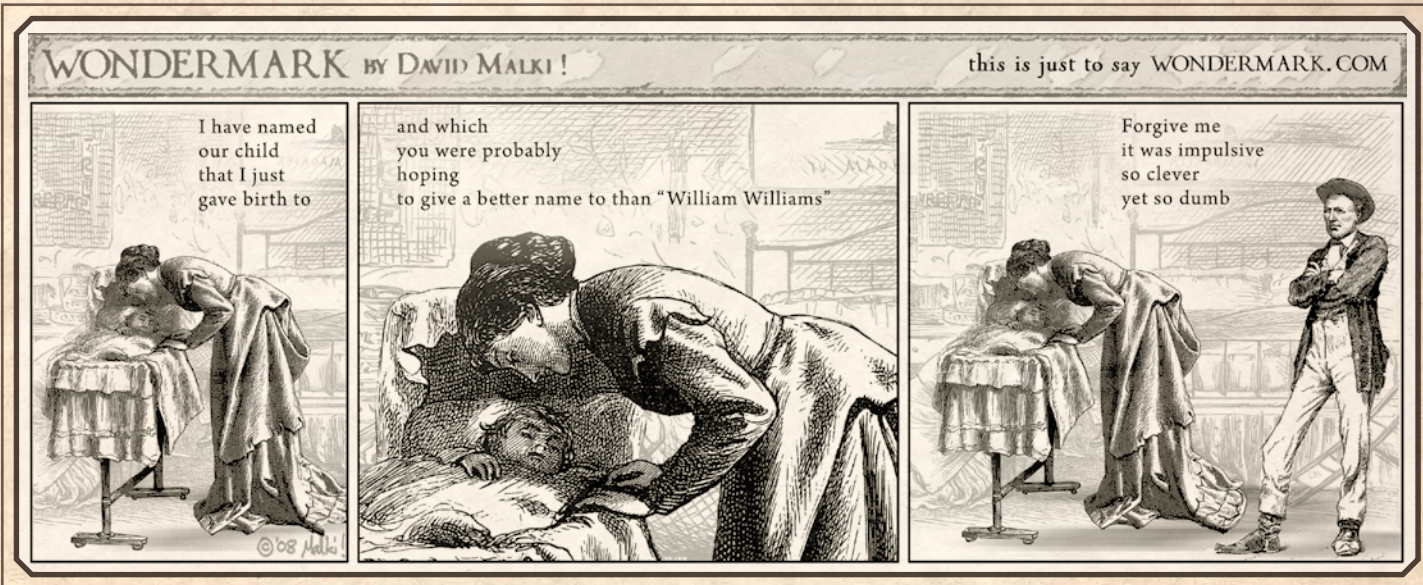
IN WHICH SUBTLETY IS LOST



YOU'RE ONE OF THEMMMM

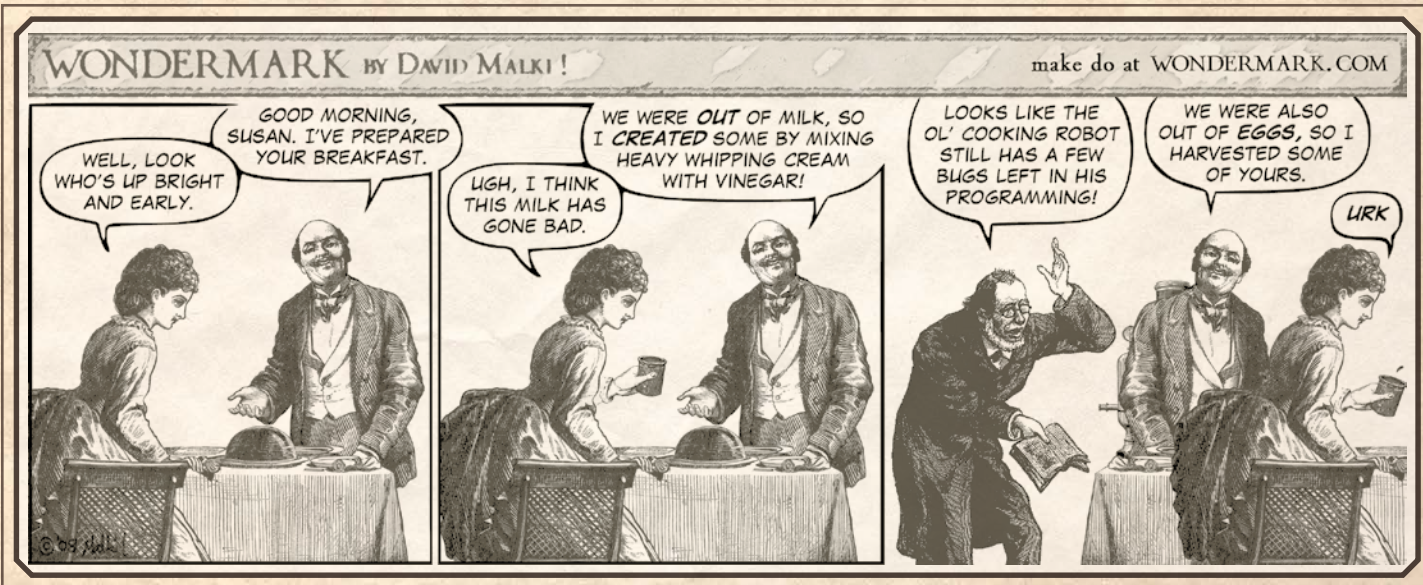
(Do you have an answer? Go ahead, turn the page!)

IN WHICH, PERHAPS, PLUMS ARE EATEN



apologies to william carlos williams, but seriously man c'mon

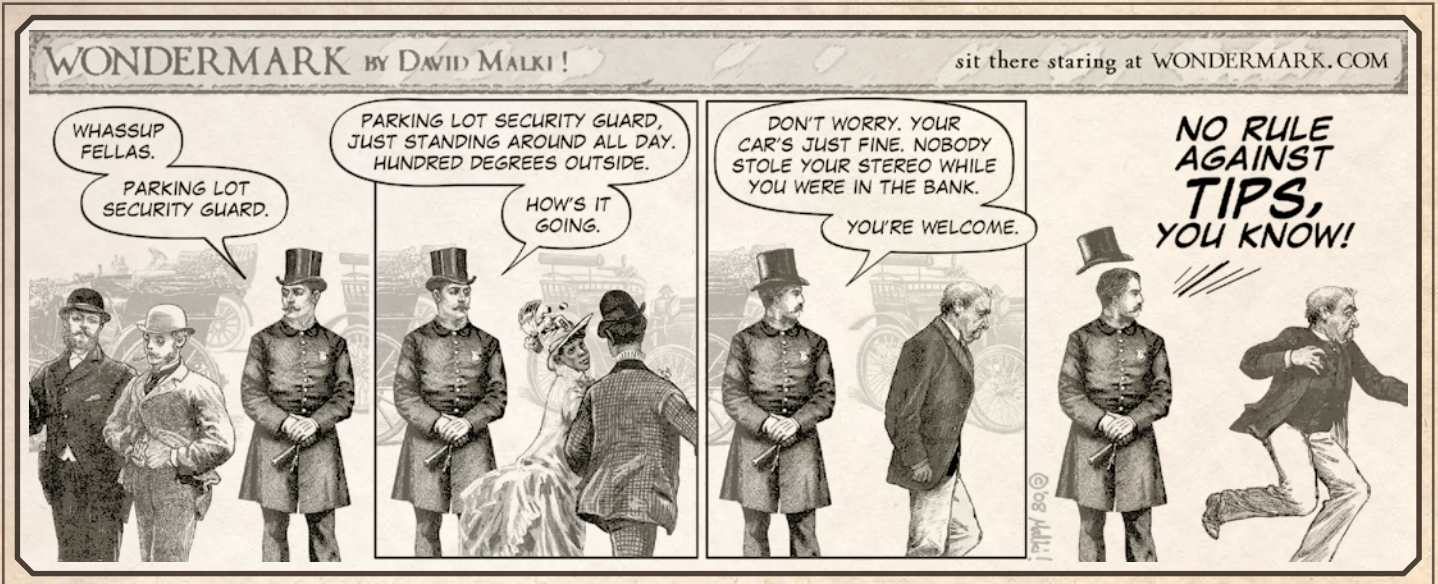
IN WHICH THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL



Master, did you know Susan twitches in her sleep?



IN WHICH IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY



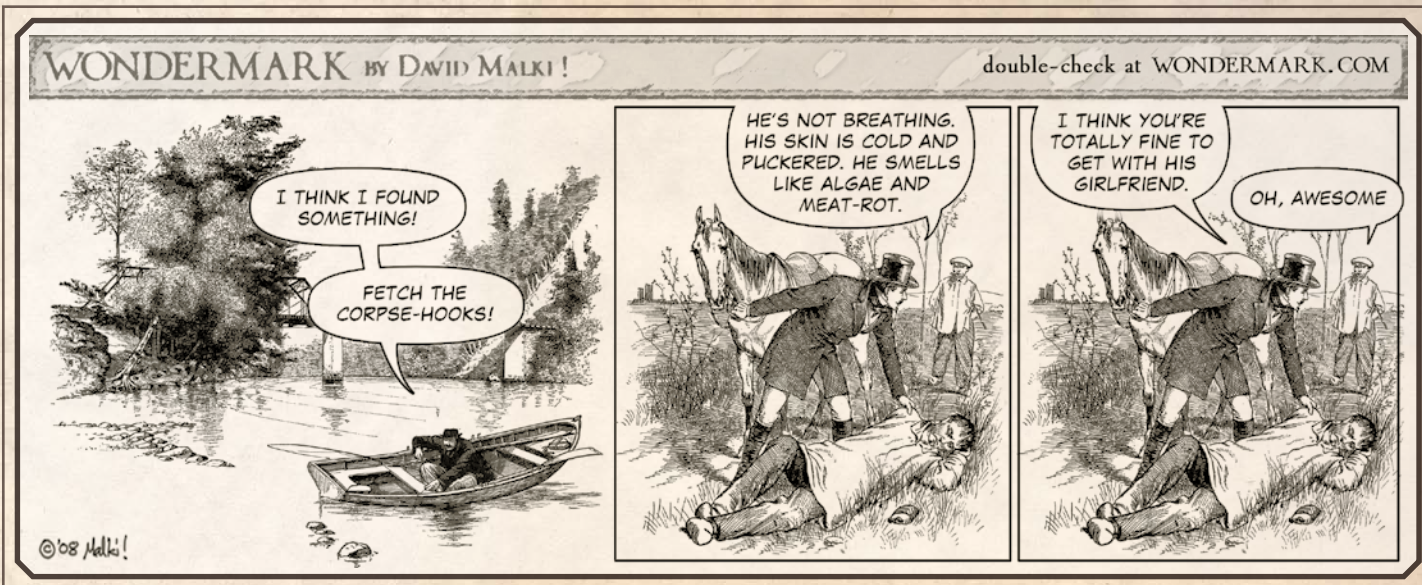
hey let's roleplay! i'll go into the air-conditioned bank, and you come outside and spend all day weeping over the ashes of your life

IN WHICH FACTOR THE HOMES OF STRANGERS



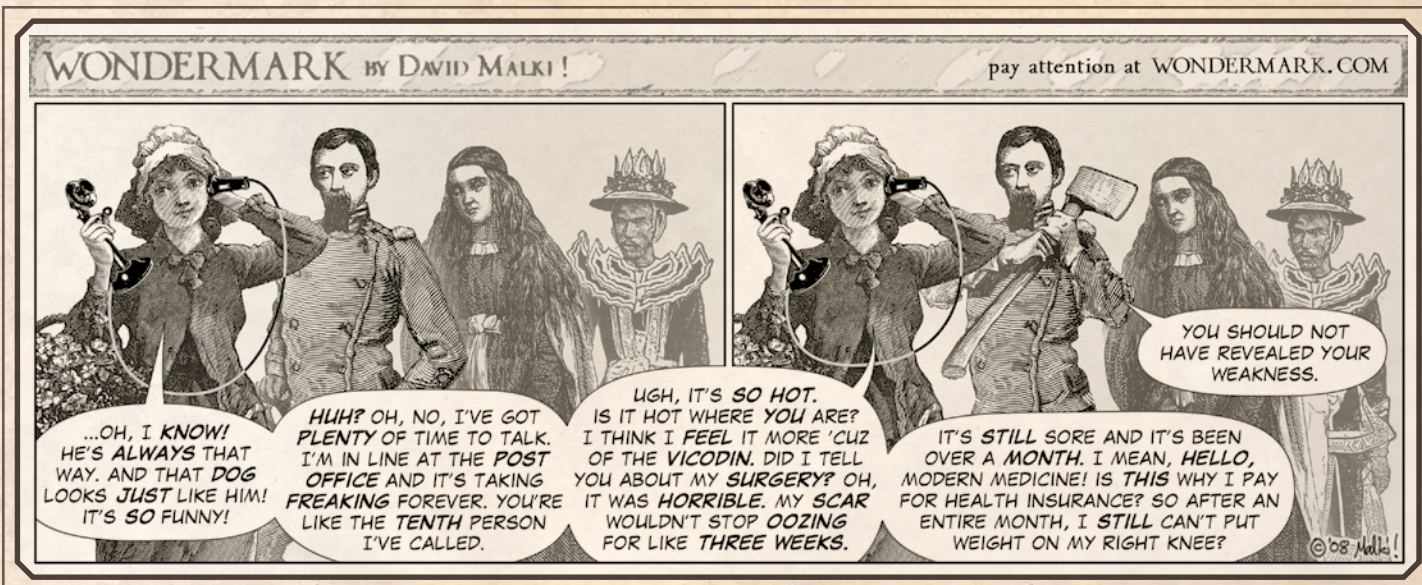
once I saw a big bowl of fried chicken offered at an open house. a great true story

IN WHICH A BODY IS DISCOVERED



better clear my afternoon

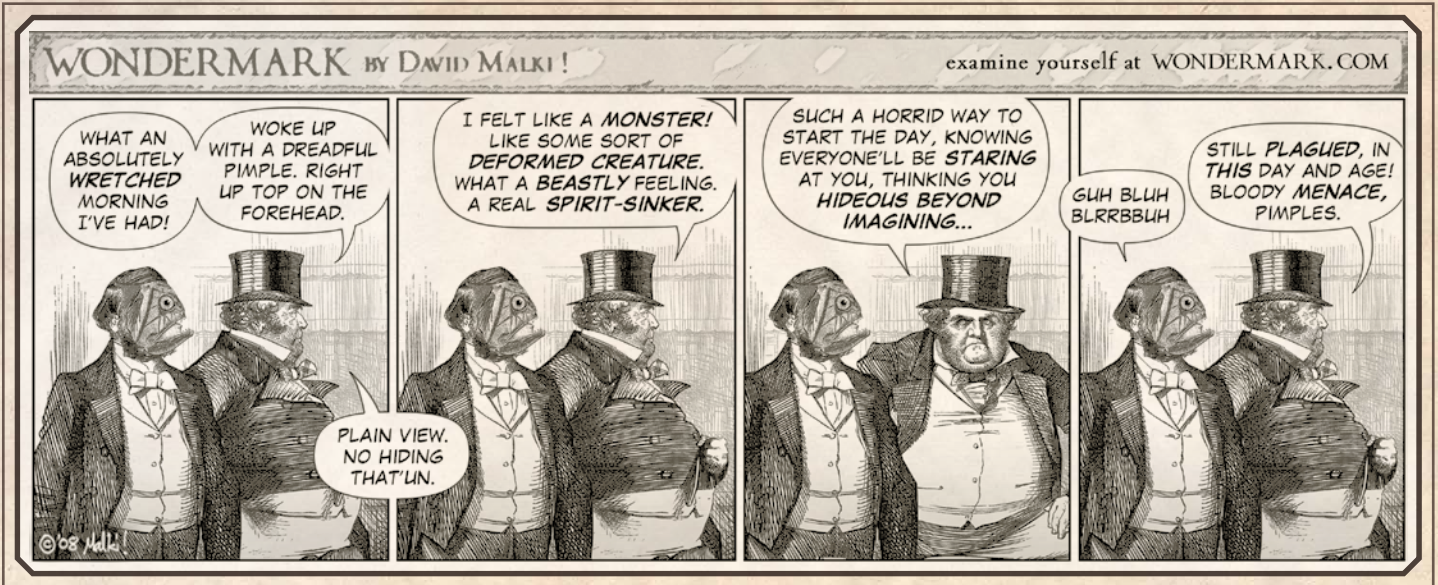
IN WHICH A QUEUE IS ABOUT TO GET QUIETER



I brought this with me today just in case.

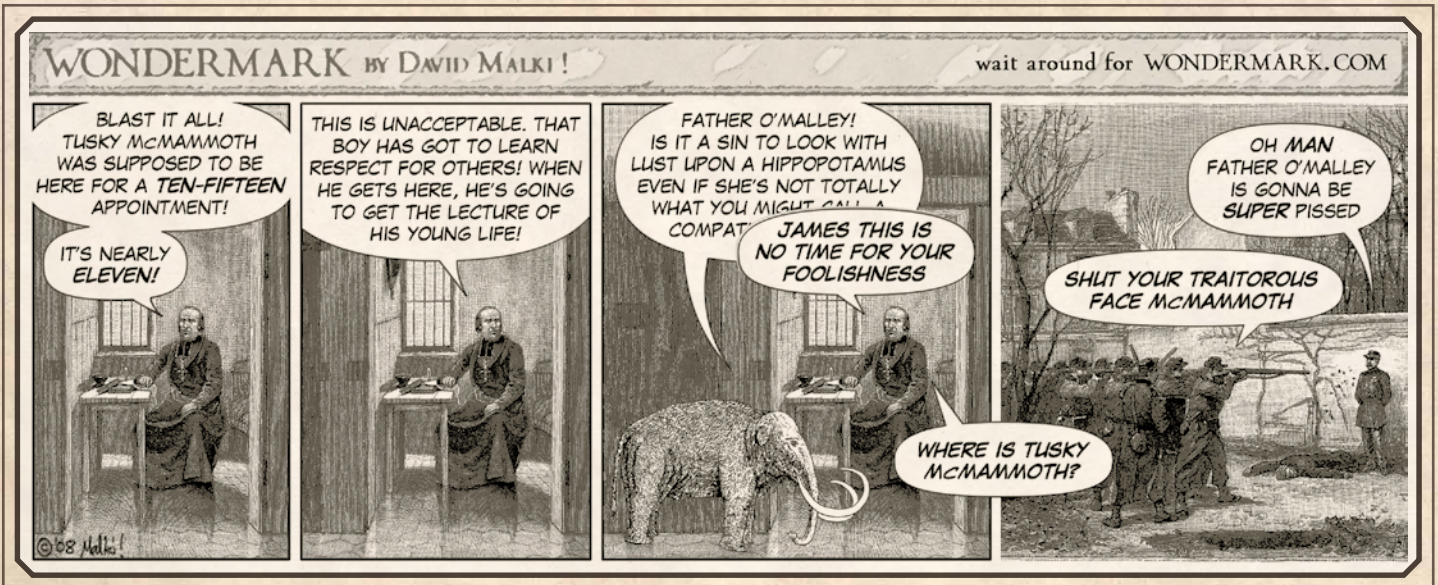
operating capital with reserve funds allocated for a different purpose.

IN WHICH GEORGE GETS A PIMPLE



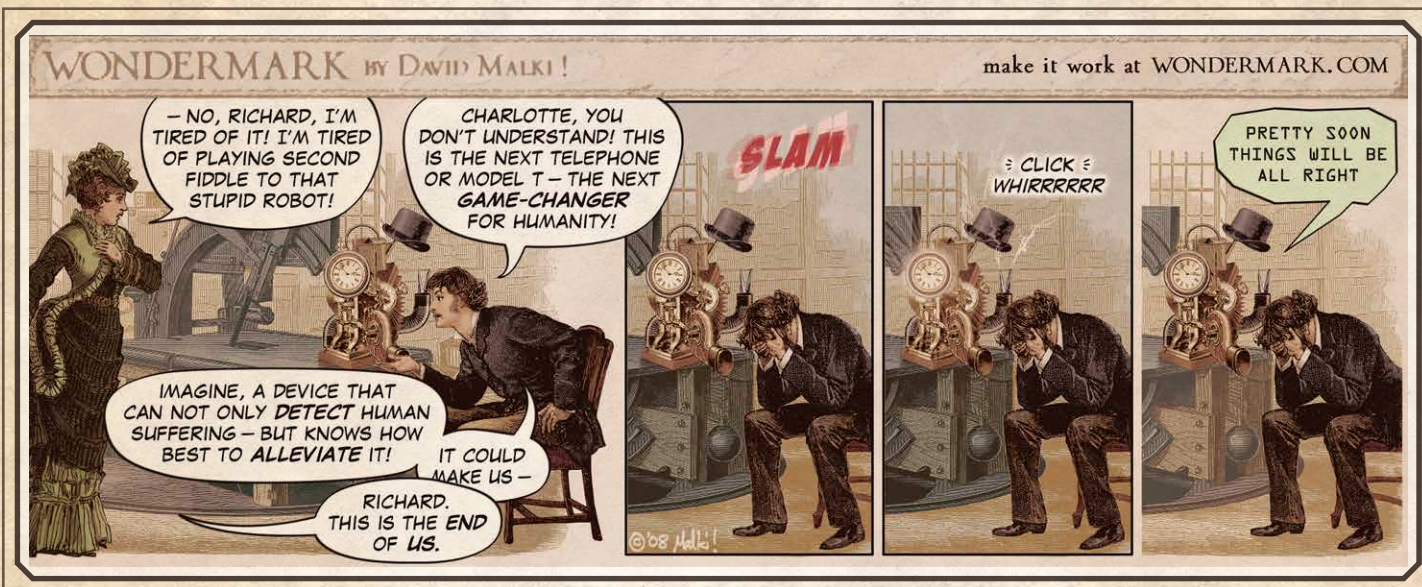
this day couldn't POSSIBLY get any worse! (CUE TORNADO)

IN WHICH TUSKY IS LATE



Apparently, Tusky McMammoth is a traitor.

J. P. Morgan needs your help. He's in a real smasher! Someone has mixed up his



pretty soon

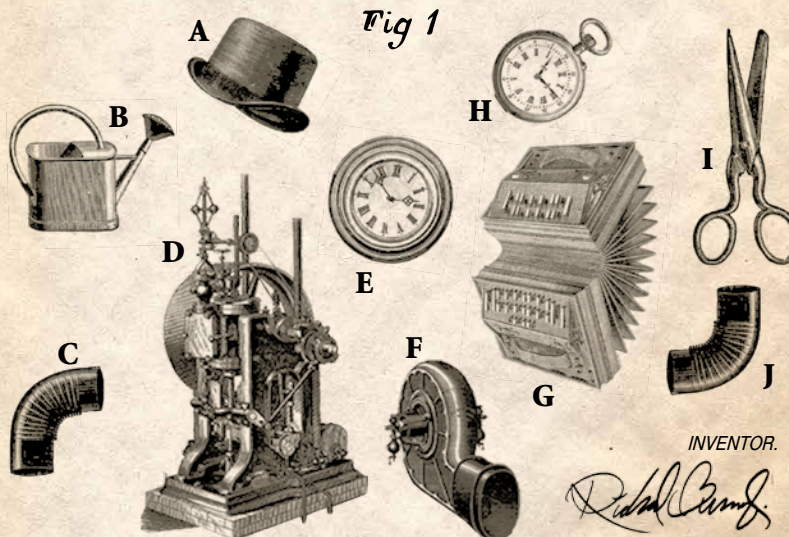
ALTRUISMATON MARK IV.

LETTERS PATENT NO. 445,579.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD S. BURROUGHS, a citizen of the United States, have invented a certain new and useful device for the Assuaging of Human Suffering, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 indicates the device broken into its components. Foremost is element A, a common felt derby, which humanizes the device. B is a garden watering-can, for catching and redistributing the inevitable tears of the subject. C is a section of flexible hose, for as the saying goes, "bros before hose." D is the computational heart of the device; it came to me in a dream and I have no idea how it works, or if it even does in reality. E is an amperage-meter; F a farter; G

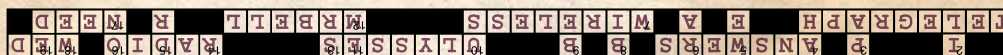


a household accordion (by which the device presents a cunning illusion of speech); H a flattened pizza (to fuel the device); I, obviously, is scissors (more correctly, I am scissors); and J looks just like what it describes. Look at that cute little pair! Big brother and little brother. This adorableness is key to the efficacy of the unit.

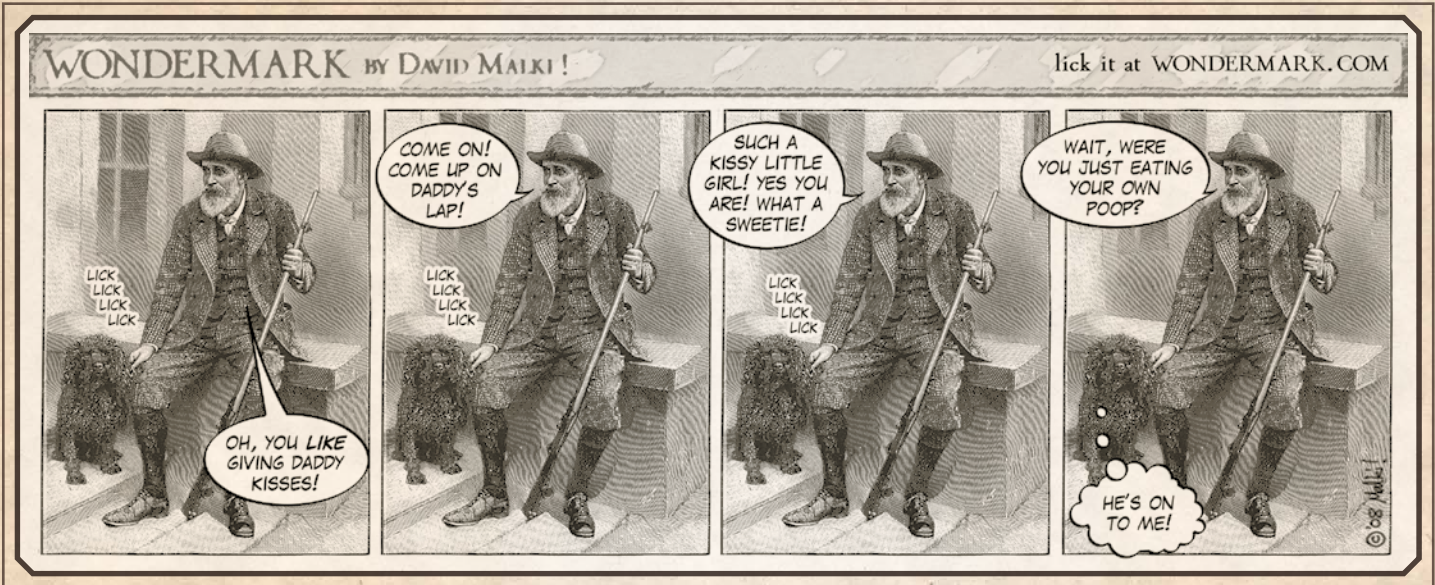
What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A device to make the pain go away. I do not even care how.
2. That affection is fickle, and that people can turn on you in an instant, and that you should never believe that simply loving someone can ever be enough.
3. That I will not let myself be hurt again. I am serious, Charlotte. This form is being submitted to the Government.

RICHARD BURROUGHS.

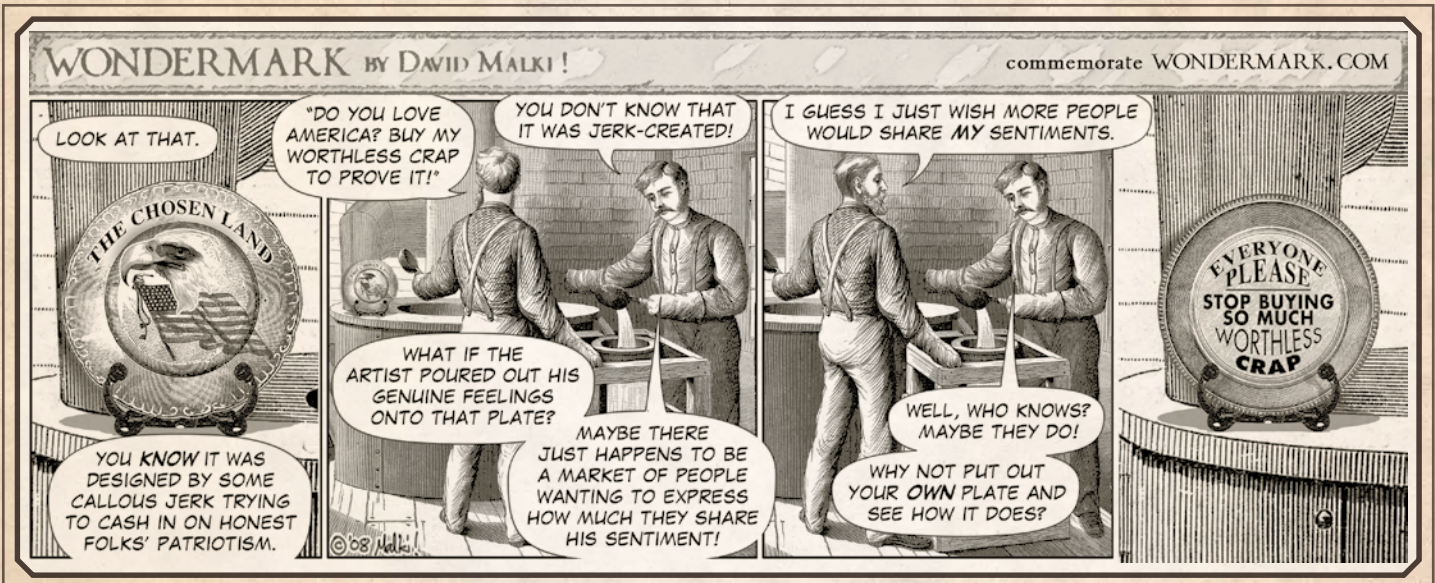


IN WHICH A DOG IS SNEAKY



i didn't say 'stop'

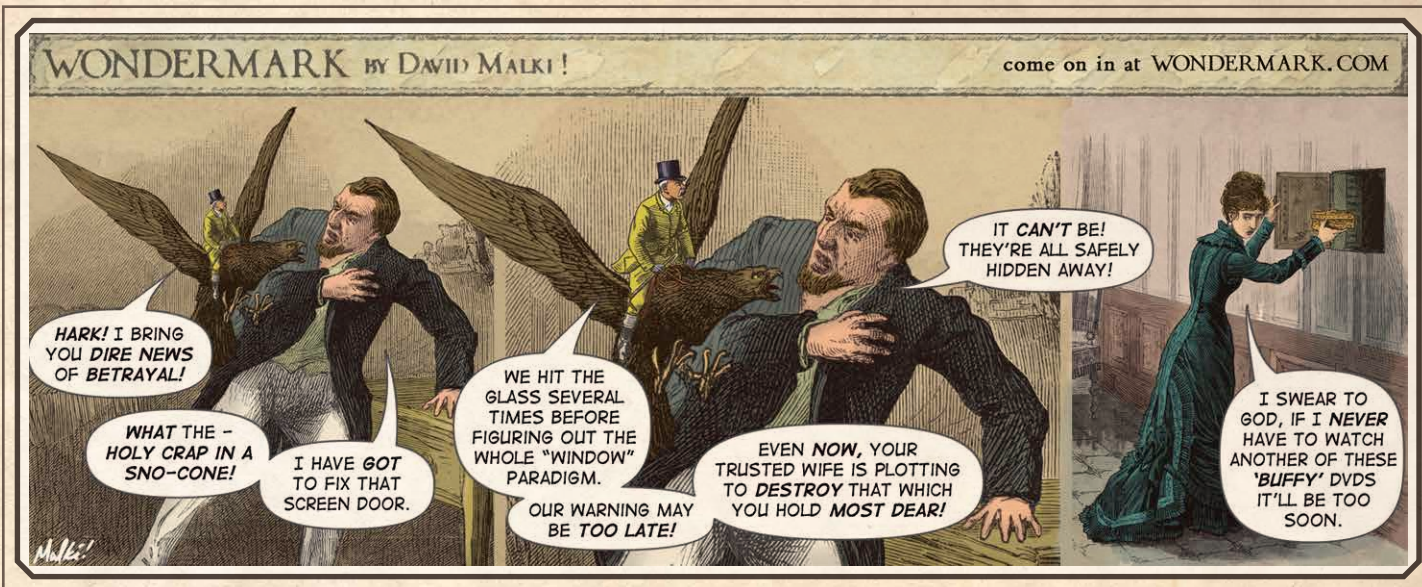
IN WHICH A PLATE DRIVES PARKER TO ANGER



sales are slow

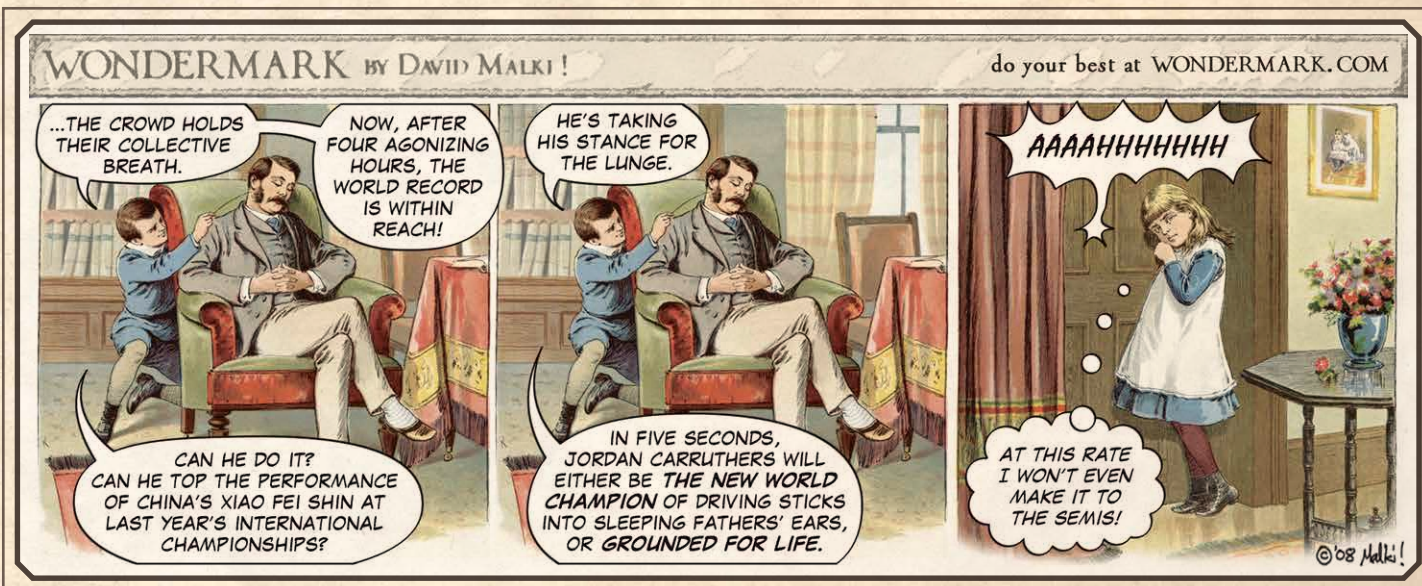
(Solution on the next page.)

IN WHICH A WARNING IS DELIVERED



now turn off the light! so we can find our way back outside.

IN WHICH JORDAN EXCELS AT SPORT



those chinese kids train from birth, man, from BIRTH

IN WHICH SONG RINGS FORTH CONSTANTLY

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! sing along to WONDERMARK.COM

Panel 1:

HONEY, BABY, SWEETIE. WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS HABIT OF YOURS.

COMIN' UP TA ME PICKIN' UP MY HAND SHE LOOKS REAL SERIOUS AN' I DO NOT LINNERSTAN'

Panel 2:

WHAT...DOES... SHE GOT TO SAY SITTIN' IN THE... MIDDLE OF THE... MONTH OF MAY

YOU MAKE UP THESE SONGS. ALL THE TIME. ALL DAY LONG.

AND THEY ARE NOT GOOD SONGS. NOT BY ANY MEASURE KNOWN TO MAN.

YOU ARE NOT WAYNE BRADY, MY LOVE.

Panel 3:

"MONTH OF MAY" WAS ACTUALLY A MINOR 1962 HIT BY THE INDIANA GROUP THE CALENDAR LADS.

IT WAS A B-SIDE ON THEIR SINGLE "LABOR DAY, AND I'M A-SWEATIN'" WHICH REACHED ABOUT #8 ON THE LOCAL CHARTS.

BUT THAT PROBABLY DIDN'T GET A LOT OF AIRPLAY AROUND WHERE YOU GREW UP.

Panel 4:

ALSO, YOU LIE. PATHOLOGICALLY.

YOU'RE TRYING TO PAINT THIS AS SOME SORT OF CHARACTER FAILING, BUT I HAVE THE LP!

©08 Malki!



Their other big hit: 'This Memorial Day, I'm A Veteran...Of You'

IN WHICH LIZZIE GETS BETTER

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! experiment with WONDERMARK.COM

Panel 1:

SO, I'M, AH... FEELING A LOT BETTER.

SINCE THE ACCIDENT. HUNDRED PERCENT BACK TO NORMAL.

BACK TO NORMAL?

WELL, YOU KNOW. NINETY PERCENT.

Panel 2:

NINETY PERCENT.

LOOK, IT'S FINE. REALLY. I DON'T EVEN NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE ANYMORE.

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT TOO, JUST GIVE IT A LITTLE TIME!

IN FACT, IT'S...

I'D SAY IT'S BETTER THAN BEFORE. I CAN DO MORE WITH IT.

Panel 3:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

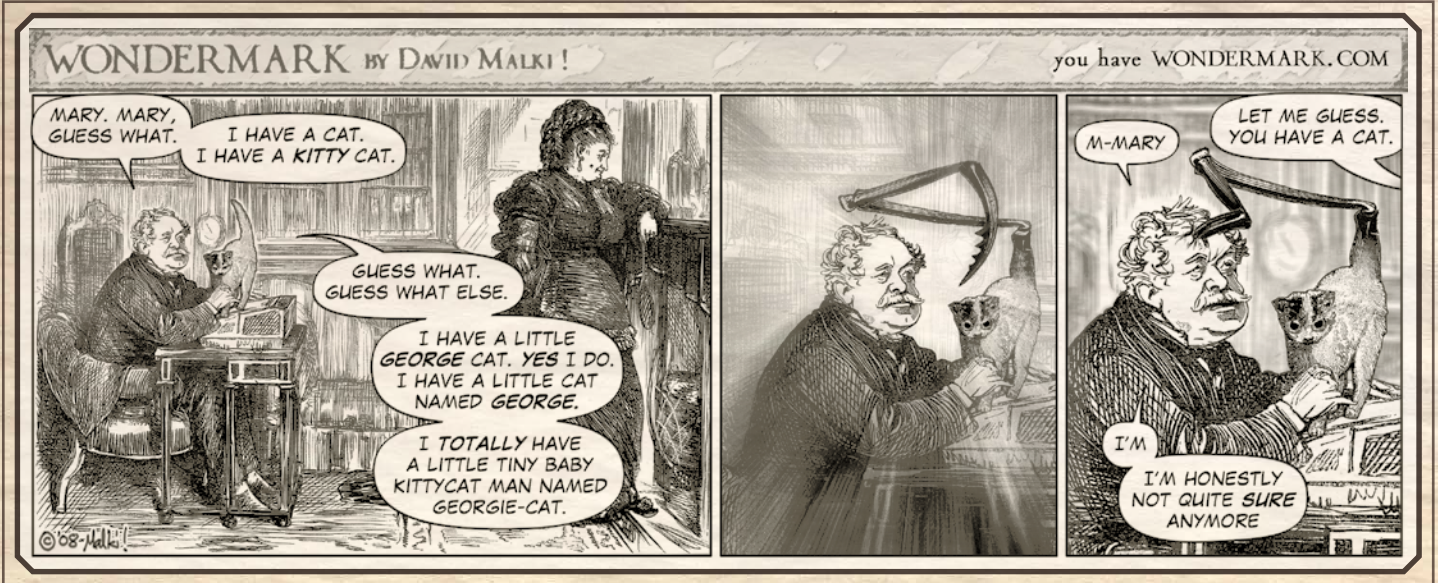
I STILL NEED MORE TIME

©08 Malki!



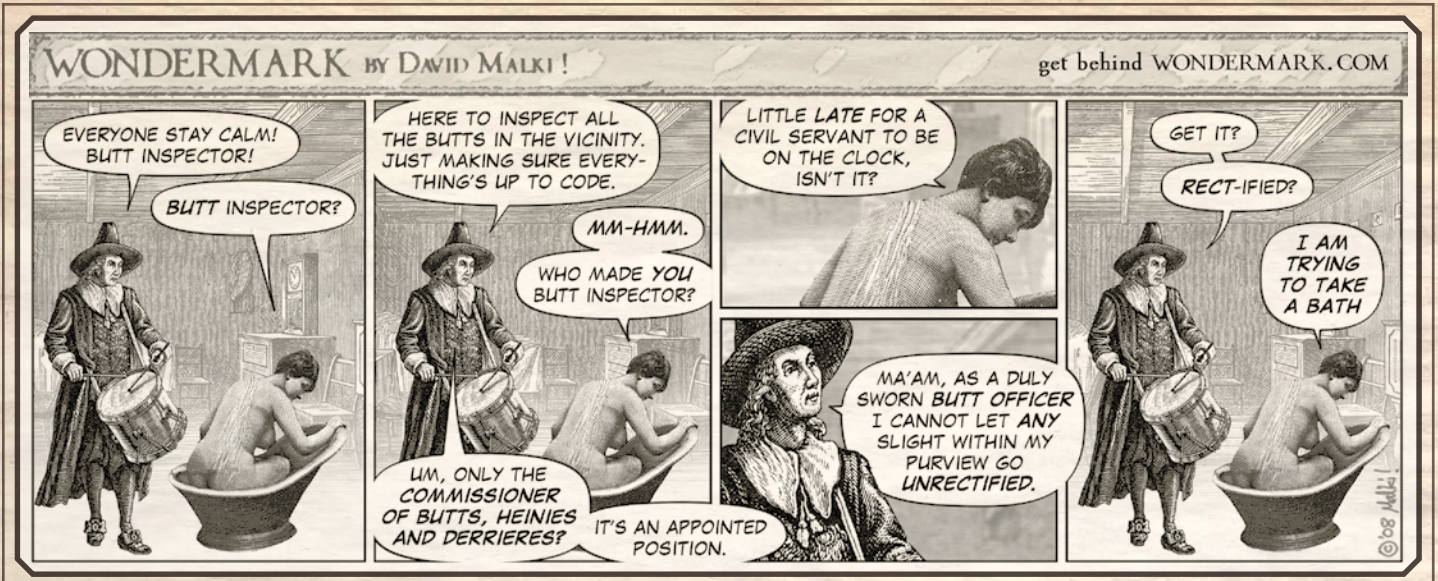
close your eyes and take the prize

IN WHICH A CAT IS HAD



SSSAYYYY YYYEESSS

ARRIVAL OF THE BUTT INSPECTOR



the 'civil servant' argument breaks down when you realize that the butt-firefighters are on the clock 24/7

IN WHICH AN ENTERPRISE FAILS SPECTACULARLY

Color by Marcus Thiele • themonkeymind.livejournal.com

in retrospect it was also probably a bad idea to serve, instead of ice water, flesh-dissolving acid that looked and tasted exactly like ice water



SOUP

Boiled Horse Face Bisque * Vegetable Barley*

SALAD

Spring Greens in Phlegm * Newspaper in Pine Sap*

APPETIZER

Chum Rolls * Eagle Knuckles * Viscera Sampler

ENTRÉE

Roasted Zucchini stuffed with Fingernails*
Your Local Mayor - braised until Regretful

DESSERT

Skin Parfait * Crème au Pus * Tiramisu avec Mold*

COCKTAILS

Milk-Spilt Triple Sec * Bile & Tonic

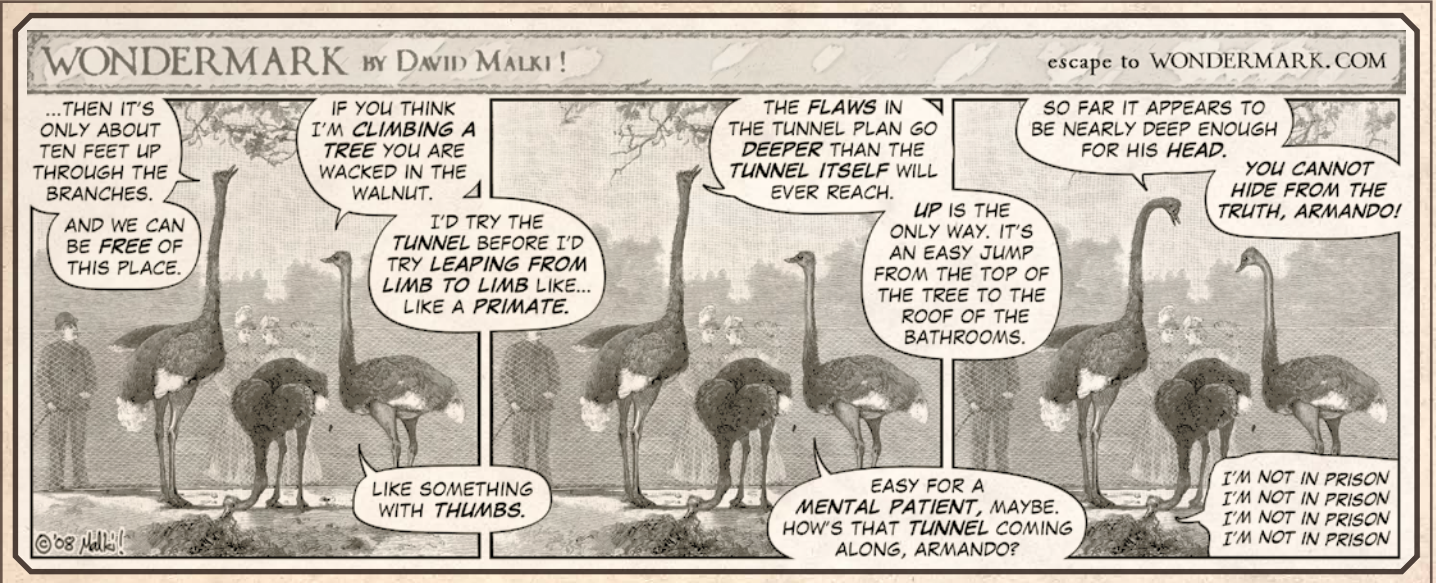
SPECIAL GAXIAN AFTER-MEAL DELICACY

Murder * Murder-Suicide

* Signifies vegetarian selection.

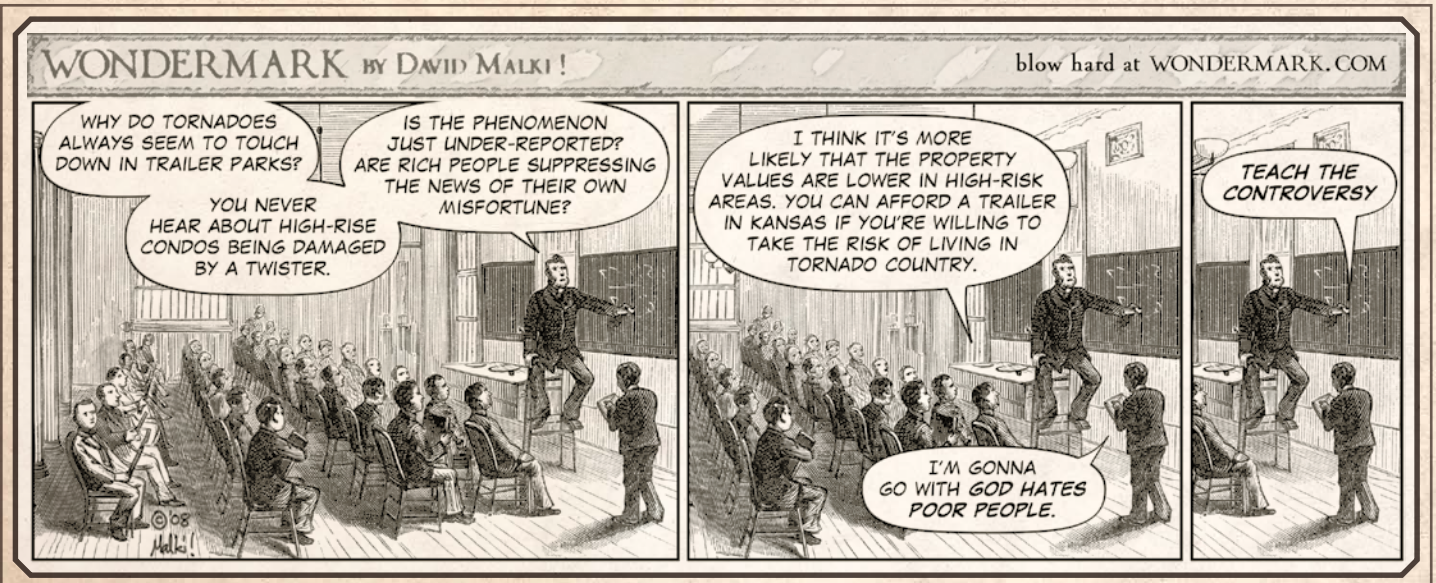
Consumption of raw or undercooked foods of human origin may increase your risk of food-borne illness.

IN WHICH OSTRICHES PLOT



stir-crazy. all too common. sad, really.

IN WHICH THE CLASSROOM BECOMES TENSE



competing theory: wistful trailers will take ANY EXCUSE to pretend to be helicopters

IN WHICH HARV FINALLY SUCCEEDS

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! do better at WONDERMARK.COM

SO, YOU KNOW THAT MAGNET ON THE FRIDGE WHERE I PUT ALL MY REJECTION LETTERS?

IT FELL OFF. IT COULDN'T TAKE THE CRIPPLING WEIGHT OF MY FAILURE.

OH, HONEY, DON'T BE SAD! THEY MAKE BIGGER MAGNETS!

YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE SAY YOU HAVE TO FAIL A LOT BEFORE YOU CAN SUCCEED A LOT?

WELL, AT THIS RATE, I'M ON TRACK TO BE POPE.

NOW YOU'RE BEING SILLY. YOU'RE NOT INFALLIBLE ENOUGH TO BE POPE.

I JUST HOPE THIS IS ALL BUILDING TO SOMETHING, YOU KNOW?

The Masthead Herald
A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENT, LIES, MISDEEDS, BULLSHIT, GIBBERISH, AND BIANCA FANTASIES
NEW YORK, JANUARY 1, 1888

DEAD AT 84:
Owner Of World's
Largest Fridge Magnet

©08 Malki!



Kenmore Erects Giant Fridge To Memorialize Him, Self-Promote

IN WHICH A TREE GETS THE TALK

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! it's that time at WONDERMARK.COM

SO, AH. SON. YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO FLOWER.

HOW - HOW'RE THINGS GOING?

WITH, UH, YOU KNOW... POLLINATION?

AAAHH DAD

WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW!

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT, UH, ABOUT ENTOMOPHILY?

GUESS YOU KIDS PROBABLY CALL IT BEE-POKIN'

NO. DAD. STOP. THAT IS NOT OKAY. YOU ARE NEVER ALLOWED TO SAY THAT AGAIN. ESPECIALLY NOT IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS.

YOUR FRIENDS. RIGHT. LISTEN, KYLE. JUST SO YOU KNOW. IT'S OKAY TO EXPERIMENT WITH CROSS-POLLINIZATION.

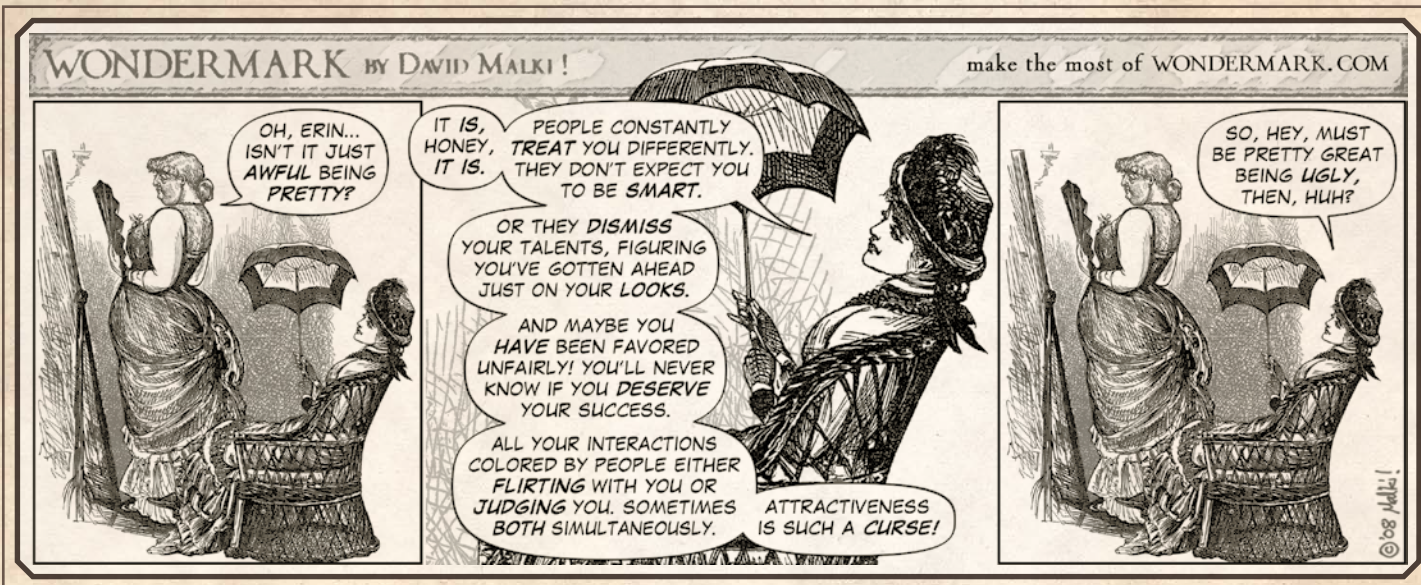
LOGGERS. PLEASE. CUT ME DOWN. NOW.

©08 Malki!

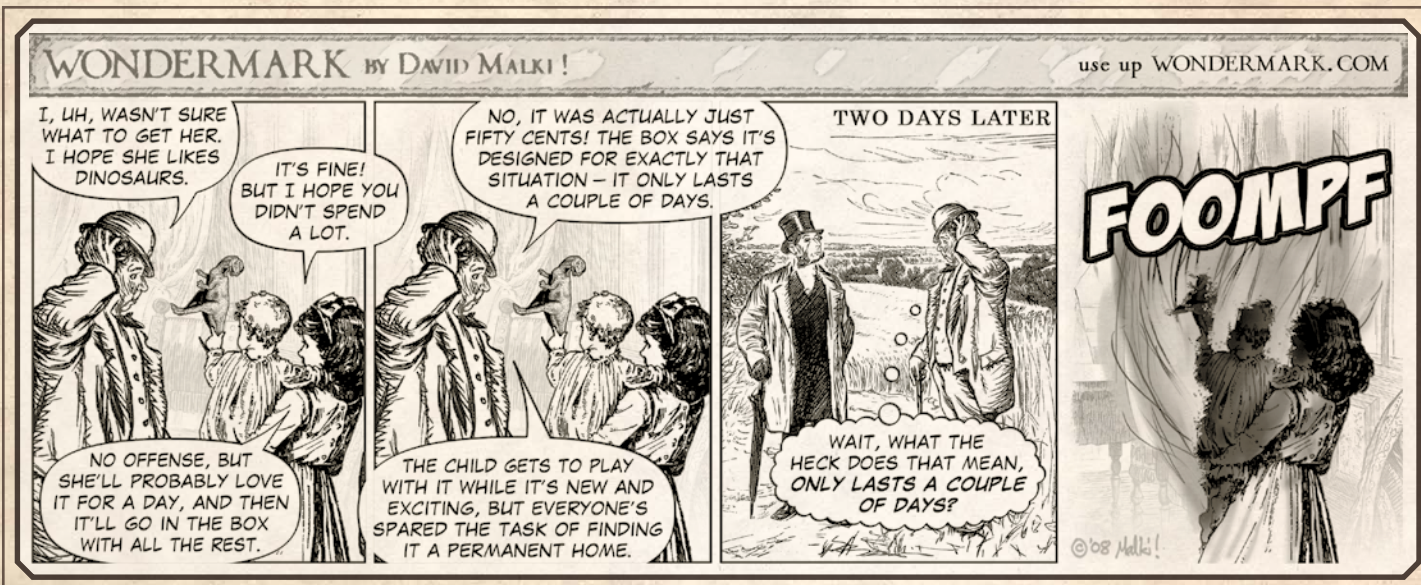


Mom found your pine cones while going through the laundry.

Down Clues: 2. French for "he" or the masculine "it." 3. A familiar way to say "Father."

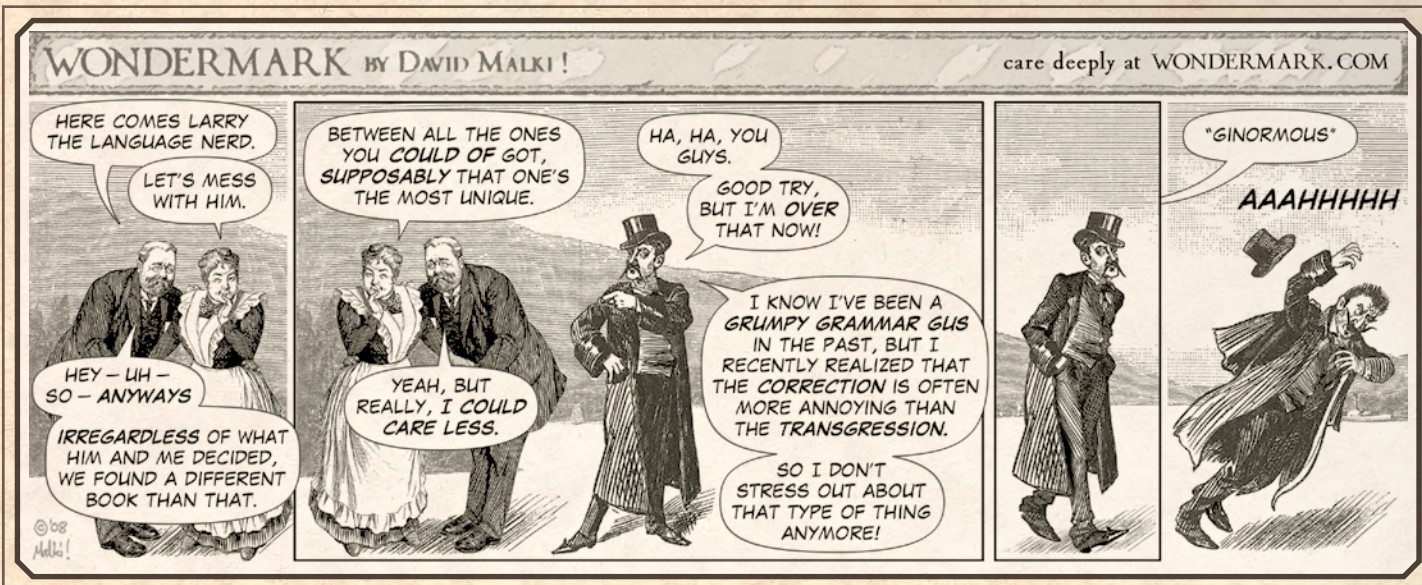


the only correct answer to that question is 'why, I wouldn't know!'



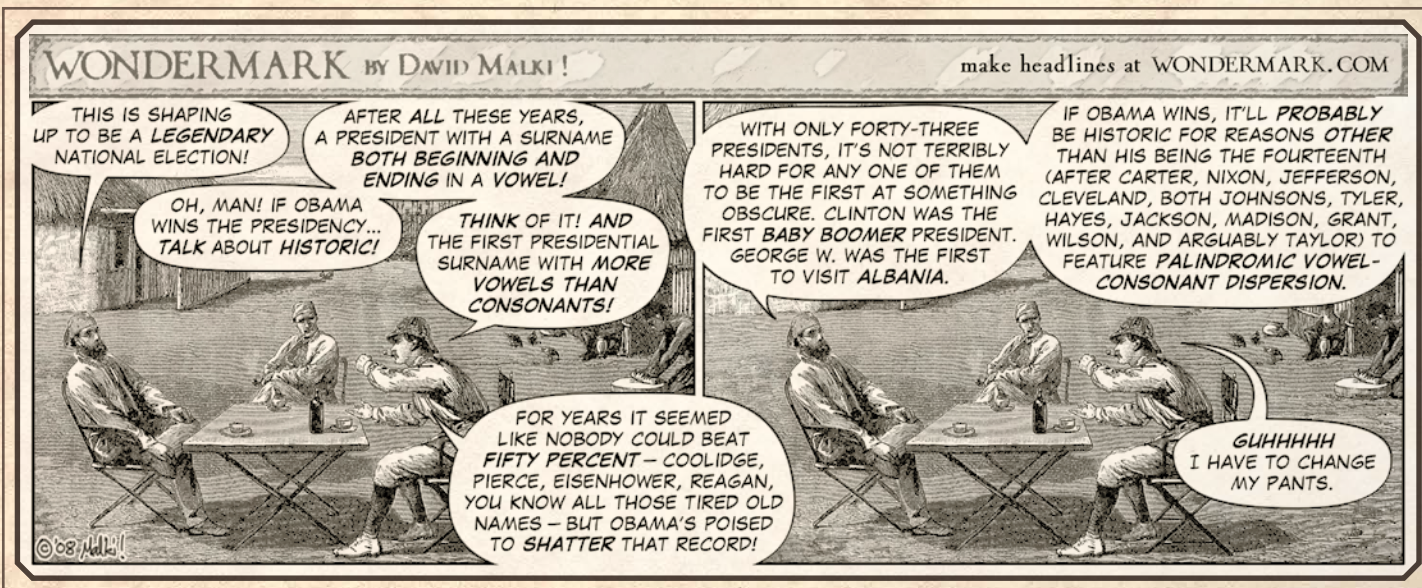
hit by a comet

IN WHICH THERE IS TAUNTING



Look at him try to fish the sound back out of his ears!

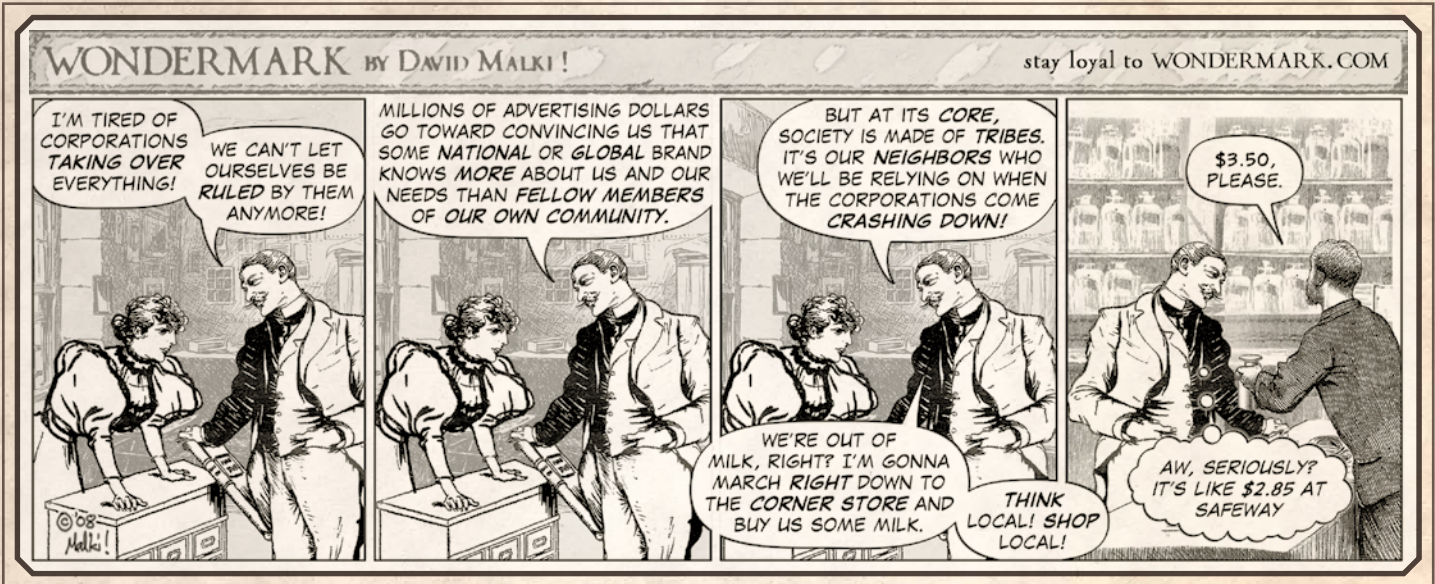
IN WHICH POLITICS EXHILARATE



14



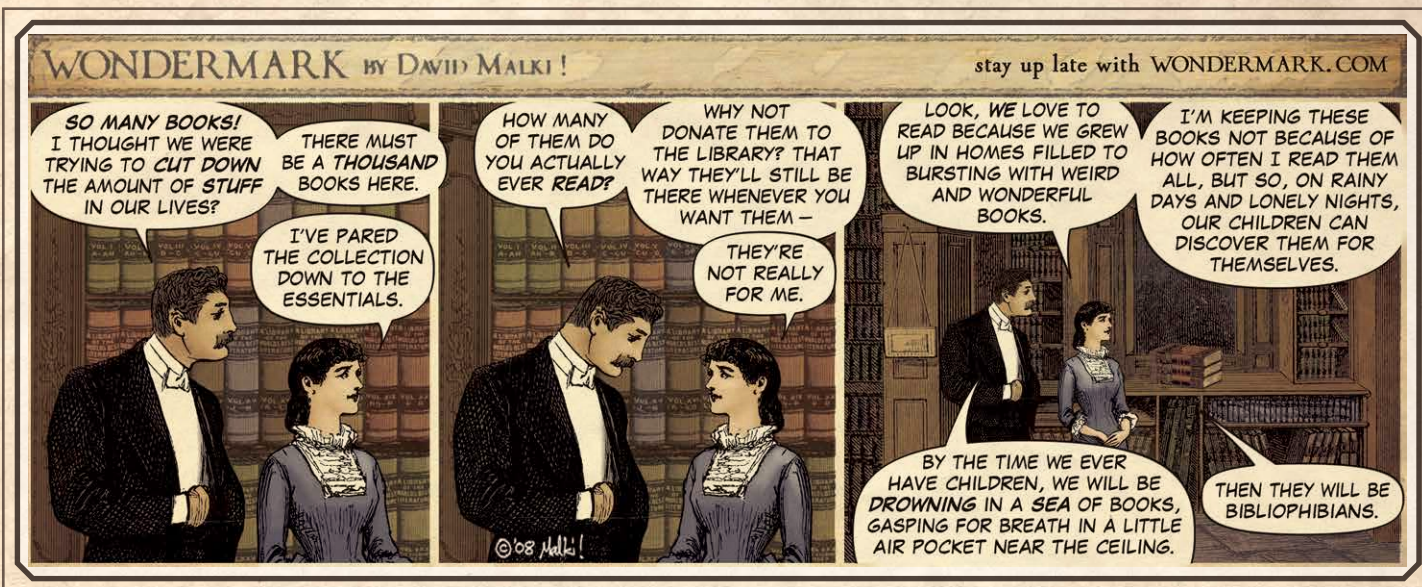
McCain called himself a 'maverick', but McKinley beat him to the patronymic particle by over 100 years.



no company has ever gone bankrupt expecting customers to put self-interest ahead of principle



try to disprove it.



Color by Alyssa Stock • therustydoves.com



They will breathe with gills that make the sound of fluttering pages.

Some Books Kept DURING THE PARING-DOWN.

THISTLES OF NORWAY, 14th ed. by Ambjorn Brunsvold.

This comprehensive overview of Norwegian thistles includes extensive sections devoted to the Musk and Oyster Thistles, and a new appendix addressing the latest findings in thistle research. (644pp.)

DON'T CUT THAT CORD! by Margaret Sanding, D.C.

Written by a chiropractor, this handy and practical guide to familial bonding has been praised by former United States Surgeon General Kenneth P. Moritsugu as "complete." (197pp.)

JANE'S GUIDE TO WORLD TANKS 1990 by Gunter Trimpe.

Updated to include 1990 model-year tanks, including boilers, propane capsules, and American and European SCUBA gear. (821pp.)

COXSAIN CONFIDENTIAL: OPERATION BABY by Rachel Newburg.

In the high-stakes world of competitive rowing, Burt Harde is top cox—as well as an undercover

agent for the FBI's Special Action Crime Division. But when his old flame Kelsey turns up with an 8-lb., 4-oz. surprise, will Burt finally decide to man up and settle down? (210pp.)

STAB: WHY WE DO NOT SIMPLY MURDER EVERYONE WE SEE by Malcolm Gladwell.

This new work from the #1 bestselling author of *Outliers* and *Blink* addresses violent impulses, whether it is wise to check them, and why stupid idiots keep misinterpreting his previous books. Gladwell has been a staff writer with *The New Yorker* magazine since 1996. (335pp.)

CONVERSATIONAL URDU IN 36 HOURS by Nabibukhsh Majid Jahangir Khan.

With all that action boiling up in Afghanistan, the U.S. Government is in desperate need of Urdu speakers. Get on that new wagon now! Dr. Majid Jahangir Khan is Adjunct Professor of Maths at a prominent University. (164pp.)

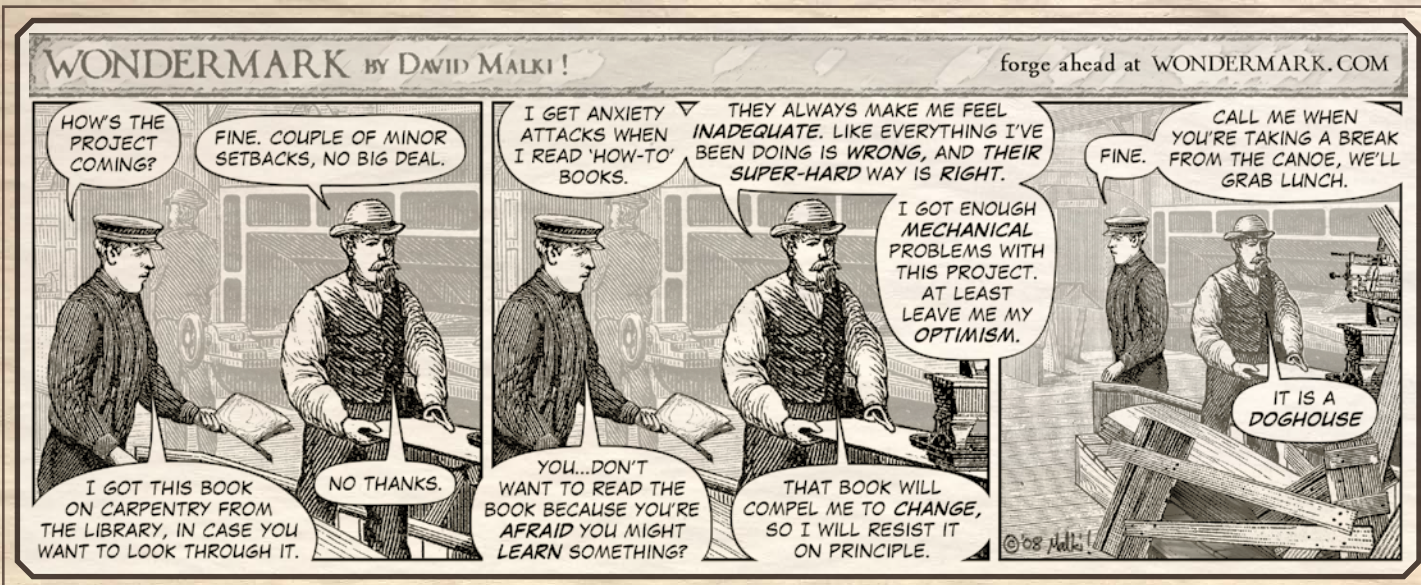
MY YEAR OF DOING NOTHING by Samantha Orwen.

The author does nothing and complains about it. (596pp.)

HOLY BIBLE by various.

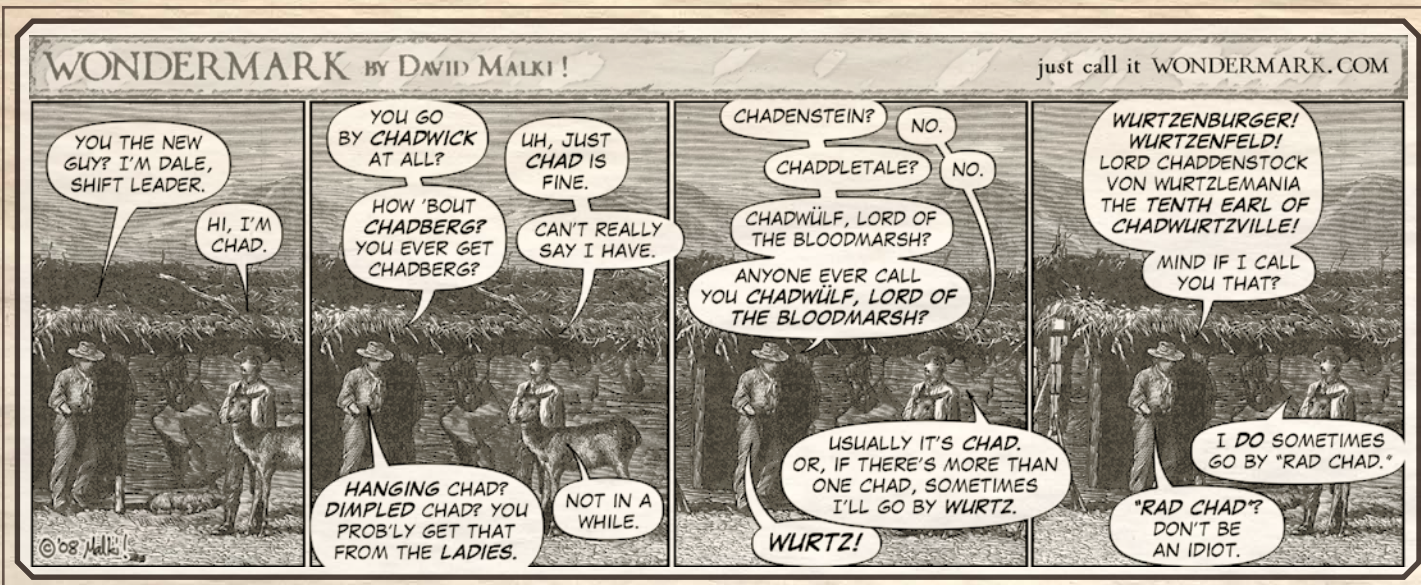
A deity tries a myriad of techniques to deal with a vermin infestation. (1,278pp.)

IN WHICH EVERYTHING IS GOING JUST FINE, THANK YOU

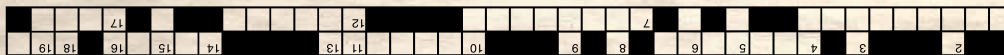


For your information, my dog Lucky has no spine or limbs.

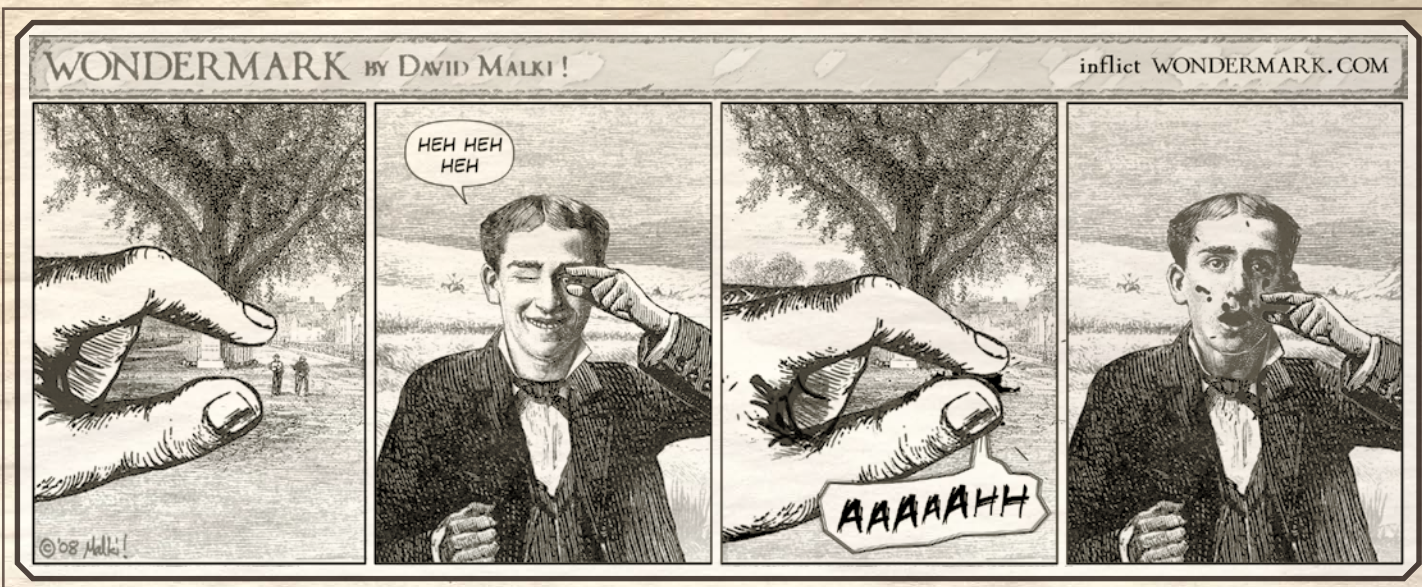
CHAD'S FIRST DAY



you should hear how he went on when he met the new mailroom guy, Abernathy Mercutio Hoakes-Waddleswourthe IV

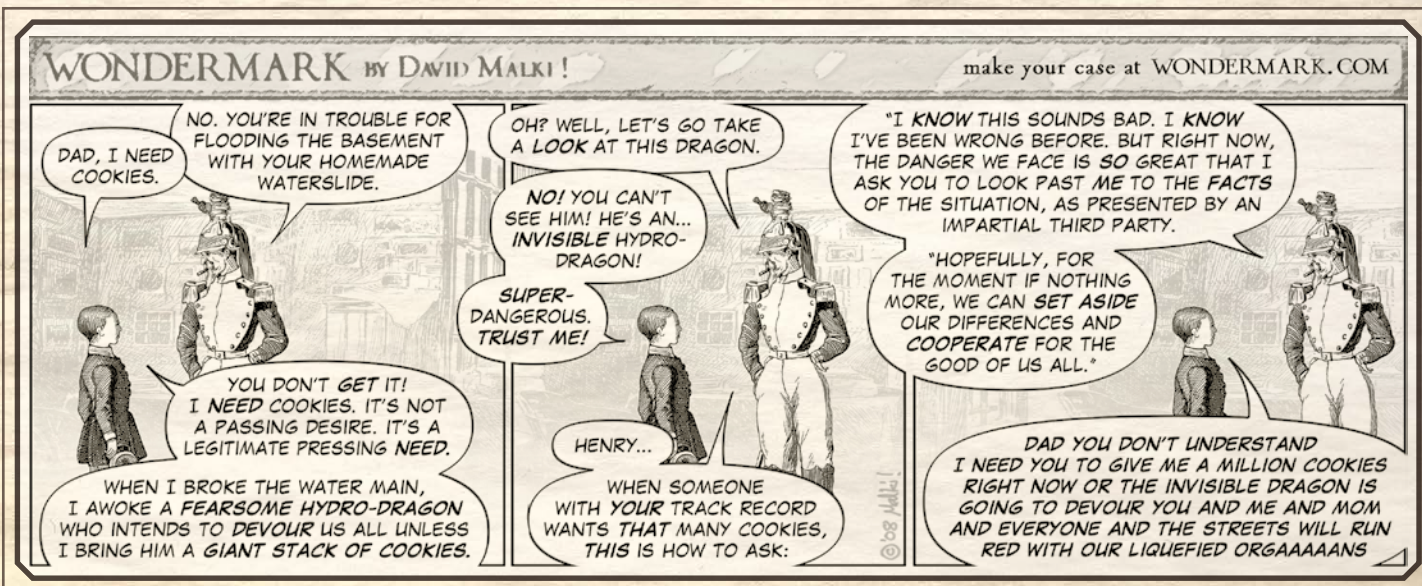


IN WHICH A GUY IS PINCHED



an awkward superpower

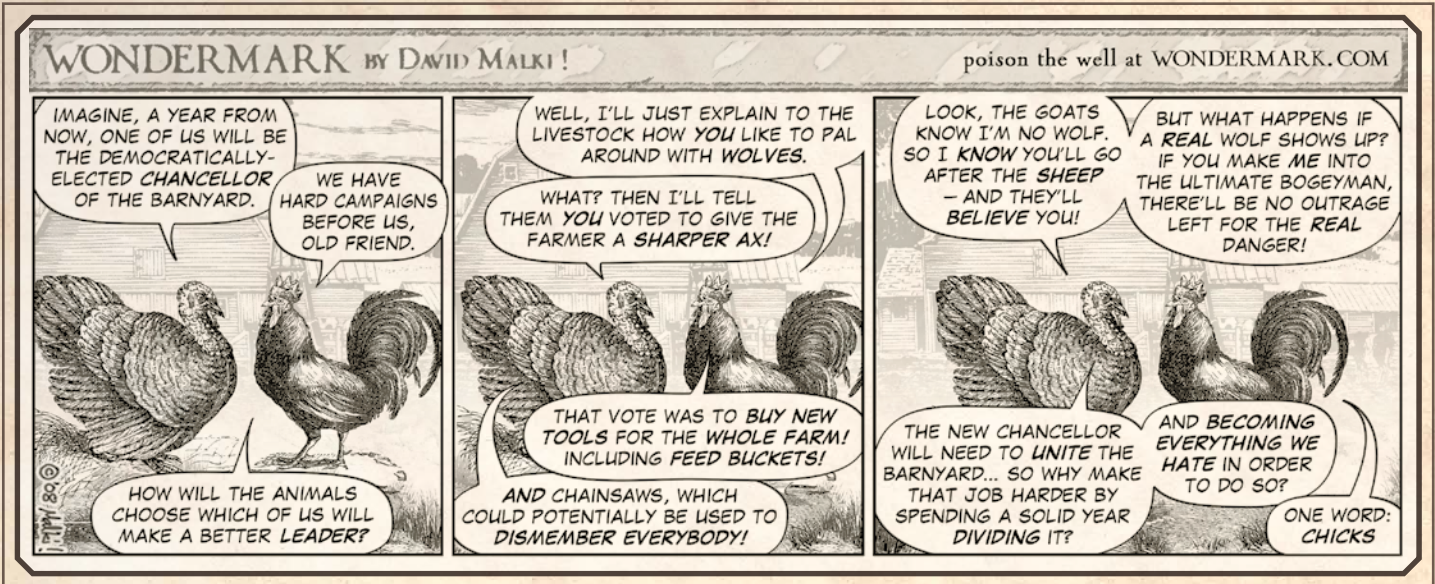
THE WRONG WAY TO ASK FOR \$700 BILLION



There is a certain way that grown-ups do things.

(Fill in words, one letter per square, based on the clues provided.)

IN WHICH ALL'S FAIR, SUPPOSEDLY

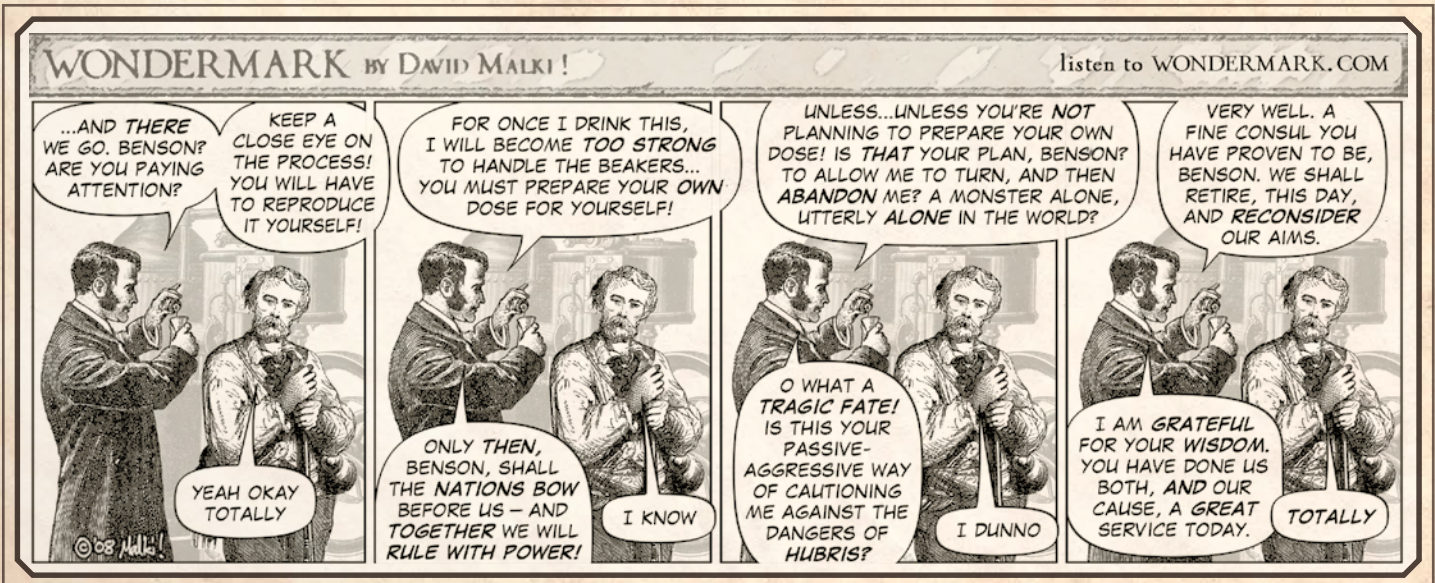


17



Barnyard Chancellor is primarily a ceremonial position anyway.
The Viscount of the Hayloft has all the real power.

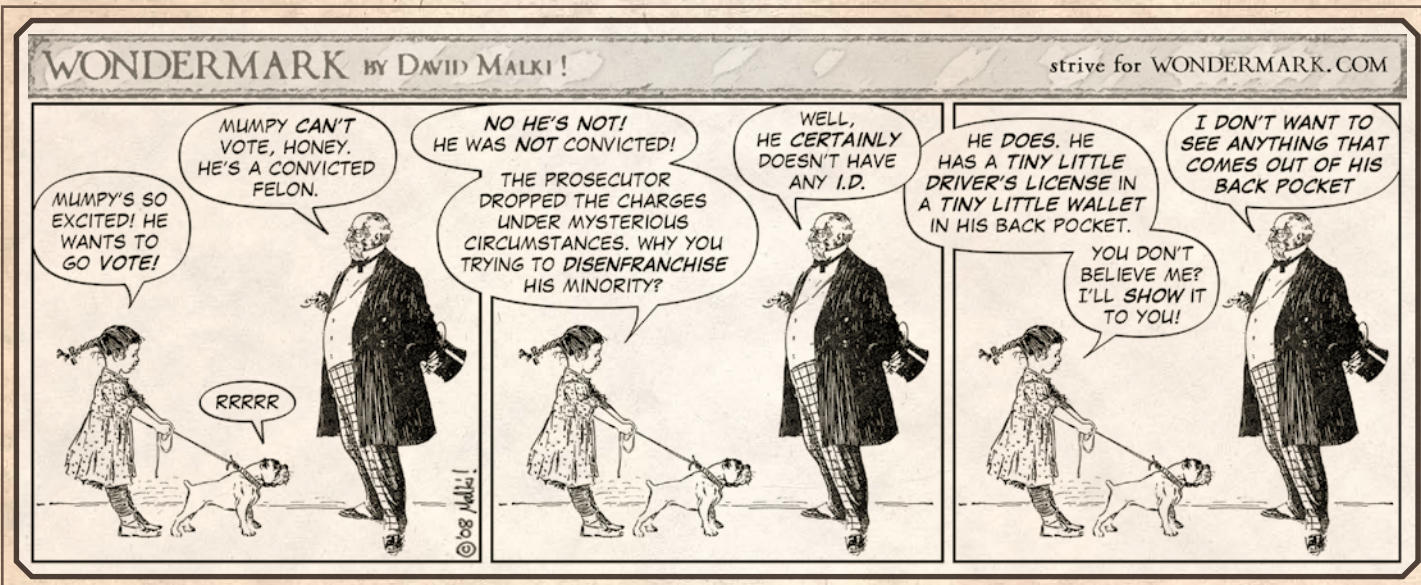
IN WHICH BENSON HAS A GOOD POINT



Benson's just there for the class credit.

Alexander Graham Bell's got his wires crossed! Can you fill in the messages?

IN WHICH A DOG WANTS A STICKER

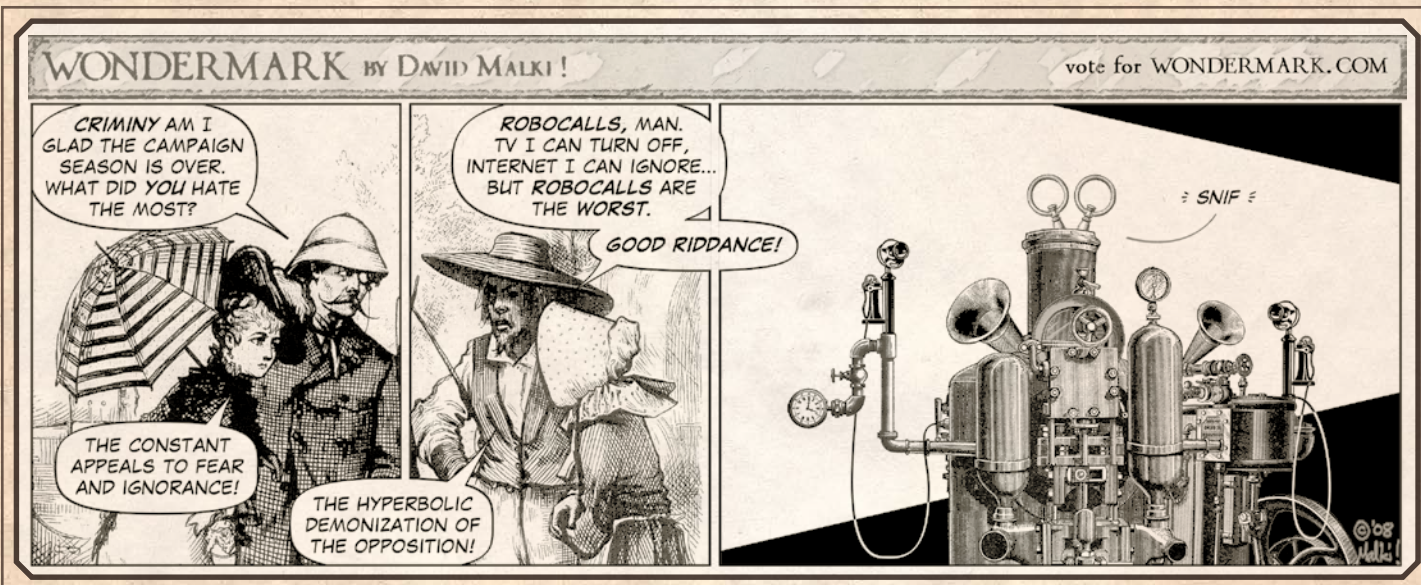


18



he is, however, properly registered

IN WHICH IT'S ALL OVER

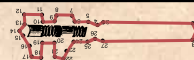


19

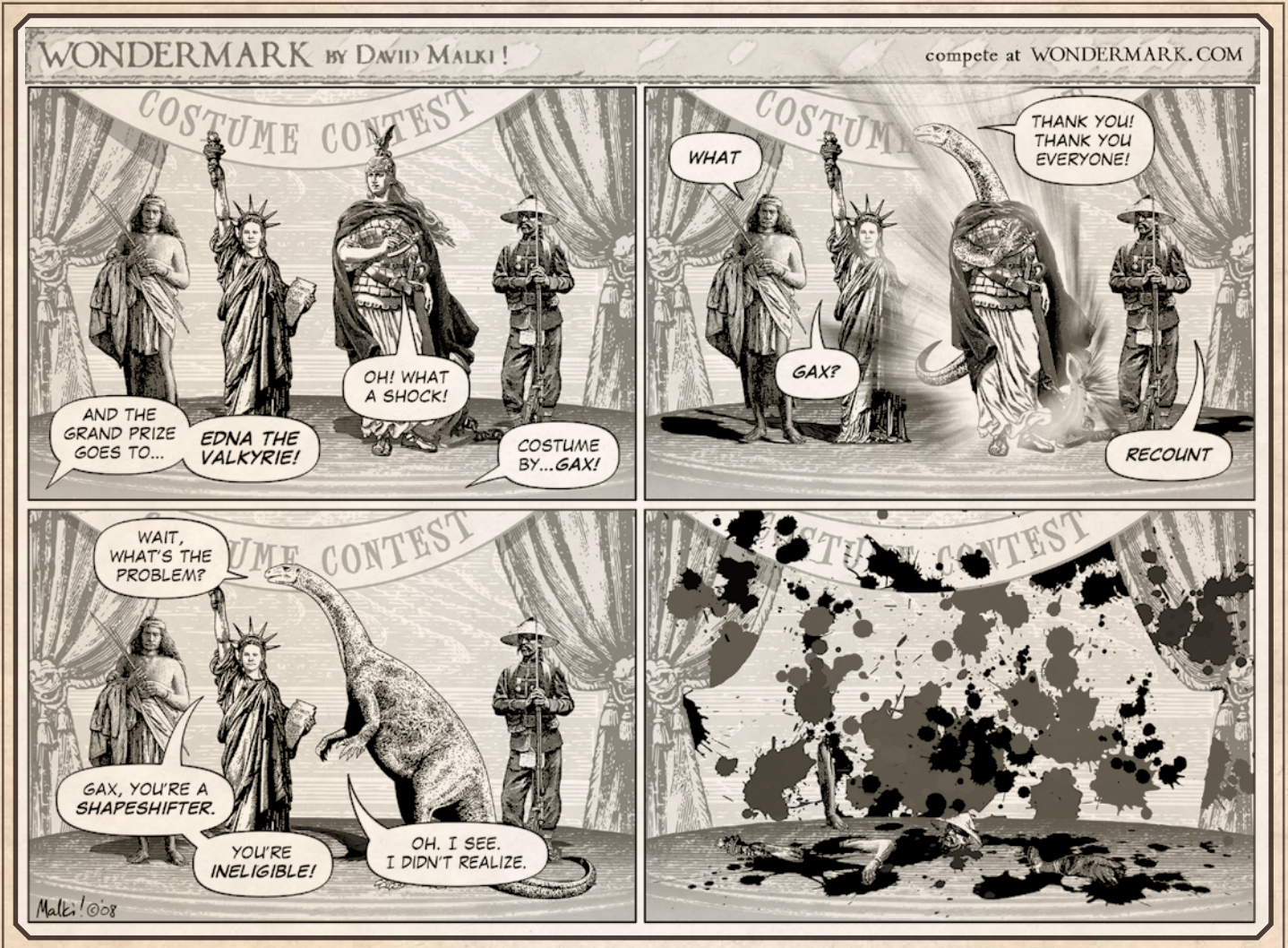


soon he'll start calling just to chat awkwardly

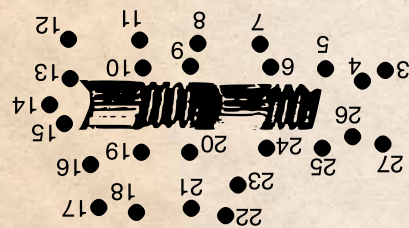
THE TOOL IS A WRENCH! Wrenches are used to keep workers from striking.



SOLUTION



why, this trophy's just sitting here unattended!



28
1
2

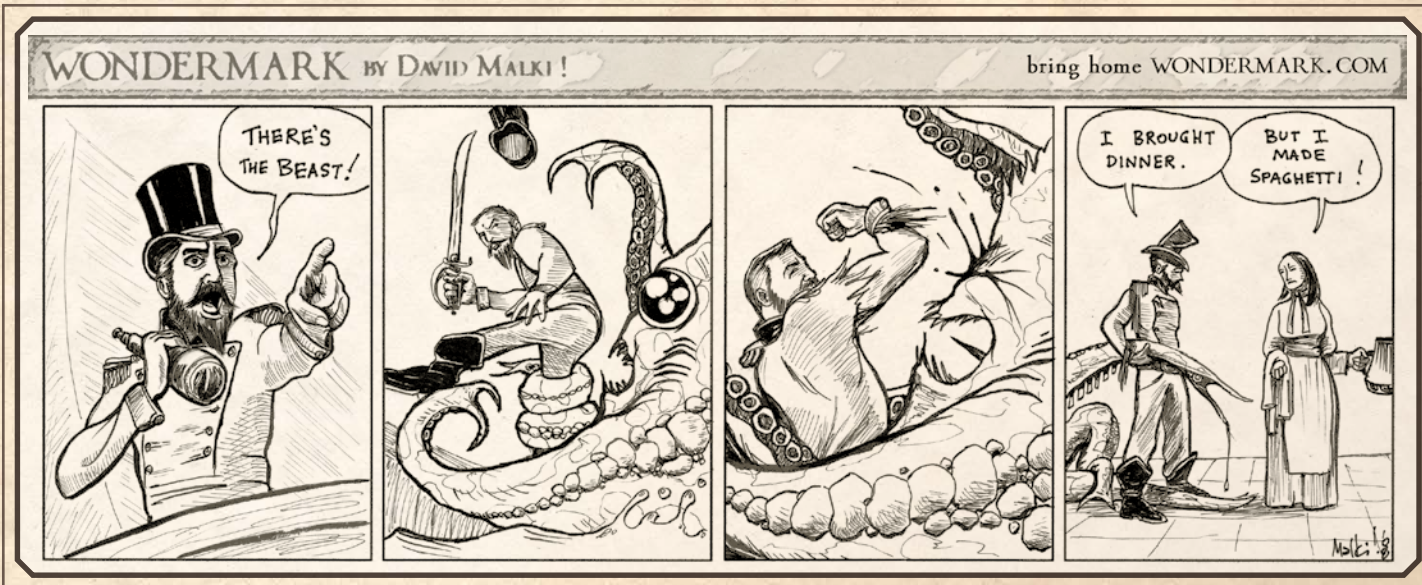
WHICH TOOL IS IT? (Solution on the next page.)

IN WHICH THADDEUS SEES THINGS



at this rate, sometime around thursday

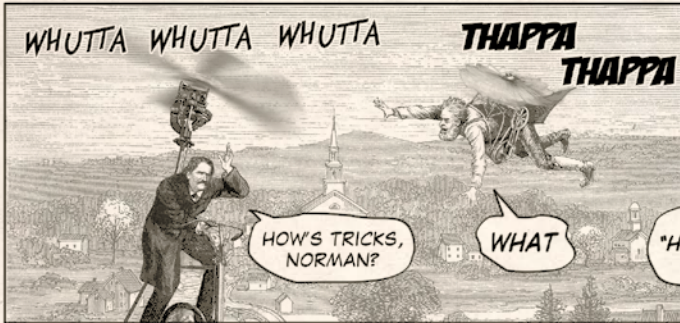
IN WHICH A TERROR IS SIGHTED



well I brought a garnish

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

take a ride at WONDERMARK.COM



It appears to be covered in grime, so you'll have to carefully extricate it,



WHUTTA WHUTTA WHUTTA WHUTTA

GOOD MORNING!

WHUTTA WHUTTA WHUTTA WHUTTA

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

WHUTTA WHUTTA WHUTTA WHUTTA

WE SHOULD REALLY GET GRANDPA ON SOME NEW MEDICATION.

OH, BUT HE ALWAYS COMES BACK WITH SUCH STORIES!



But never any presents.

Henry Ford has dropped one of his tools! Can you help him find it?

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

go undercover at WONDERMARK.COM



LET'S DITCH THAT LOUD PARTY. IS THIS YOUR ROOM?

YES. THIS IS MY...CHAMBER.

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE A TOUR OF YOUR... CHAMBERS.

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SHOW YOU

We interrupt this unusually ribald Wondermark comic for an important announcement.

In two weeks, *The Onion* will cease printing a comics page. However!—Wondermark comics will continue to be published twice every week at WONDERMARK.COM.

You may subscribe to new Wondermark comics via email at: WONDERMARK.COM/EMAIL

Wondermark books, thank-you and Valentine cards, and LIMITED-EDITION CALENDARS also make wonderful after-holiday purchases.

Thank you for your attention. We now return you to the unusually ribald comic, already in progress.

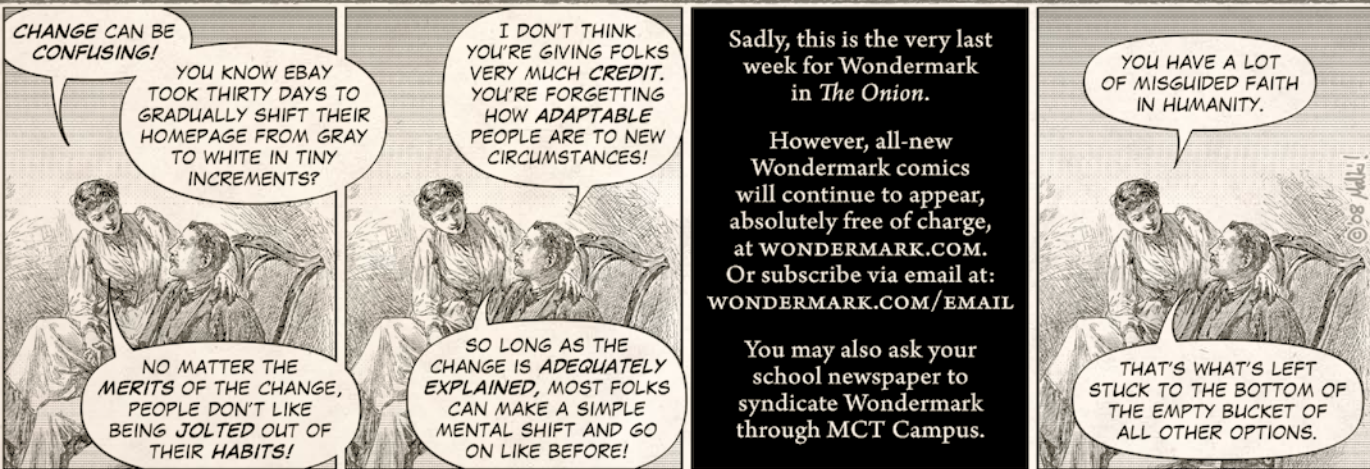



When *The Onion*, in which Wondermark was featured weekly, decided to cut its comics page, I was given two weeks' warning and permission to run whatever I wanted.

TERMINAL ONION COMIC

WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

seriously: WONDERMARK.COM



CHANGE CAN BE CONFUSING!

YOU KNOW EBAY TOOK THIRTY DAYS TO GRADUALLY SHIFT THEIR HOMEPAGE FROM GRAY TO WHITE IN TINY INCREMENTS?

NO MATTER THE MERITS OF THE CHANGE, PEOPLE DON'T LIKE BEING JOLTED OUT OF THEIR HABITS!

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GIVING FOLKS VERY MUCH CREDIT. YOU'RE FORGETTING HOW ADAPTABLE PEOPLE ARE TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES!

SO LONG AS THE CHANGE IS ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED, MOST FOLKS CAN MAKE A SIMPLE MENTAL SHIFT AND GO ON LIKE BEFORE!

Sadly, this is the very last week for Wondermark in *The Onion*.

However, all-new Wondermark comics will continue to appear, absolutely free of charge, at WONDERMARK.COM. Or subscribe via email at: WONDERMARK.COM/EMAIL

You may also ask your school newspaper to syndicate Wondermark through MCT Campus.

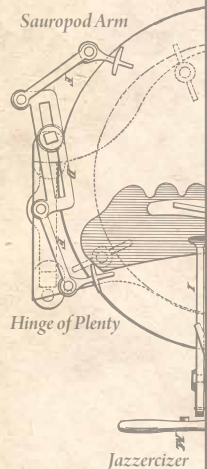
YOU HAVE A LOT OF MISGUIDED FAITH IN HUMANITY.

THAT'S WHAT'S LEFT STUCK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE EMPTY BUCKET OF ALL OTHER OPTIONS.

©08 Malki!

My campaign to drive paper readers online was an interesting object lesson in how newspaper circulation numbers relate to actual dedicated comic readership. (Hint: the ratio may be lower than many syndicated cartoonists imagine.)

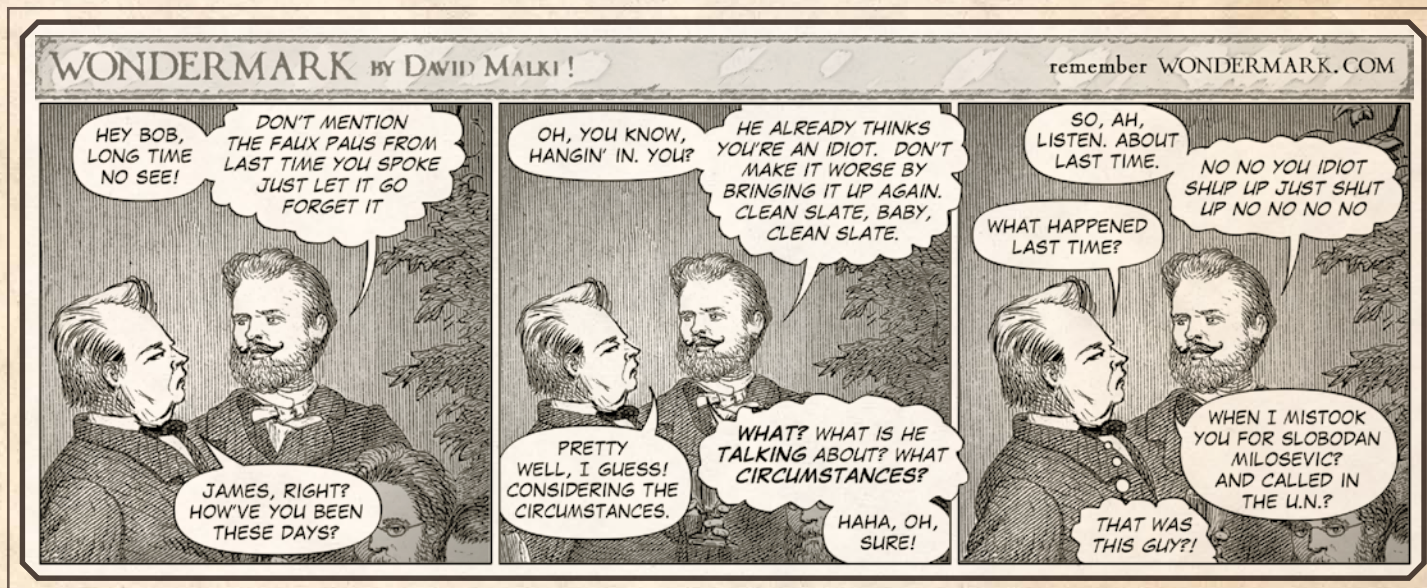
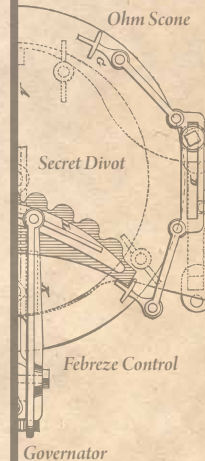




Abandoned Efforts

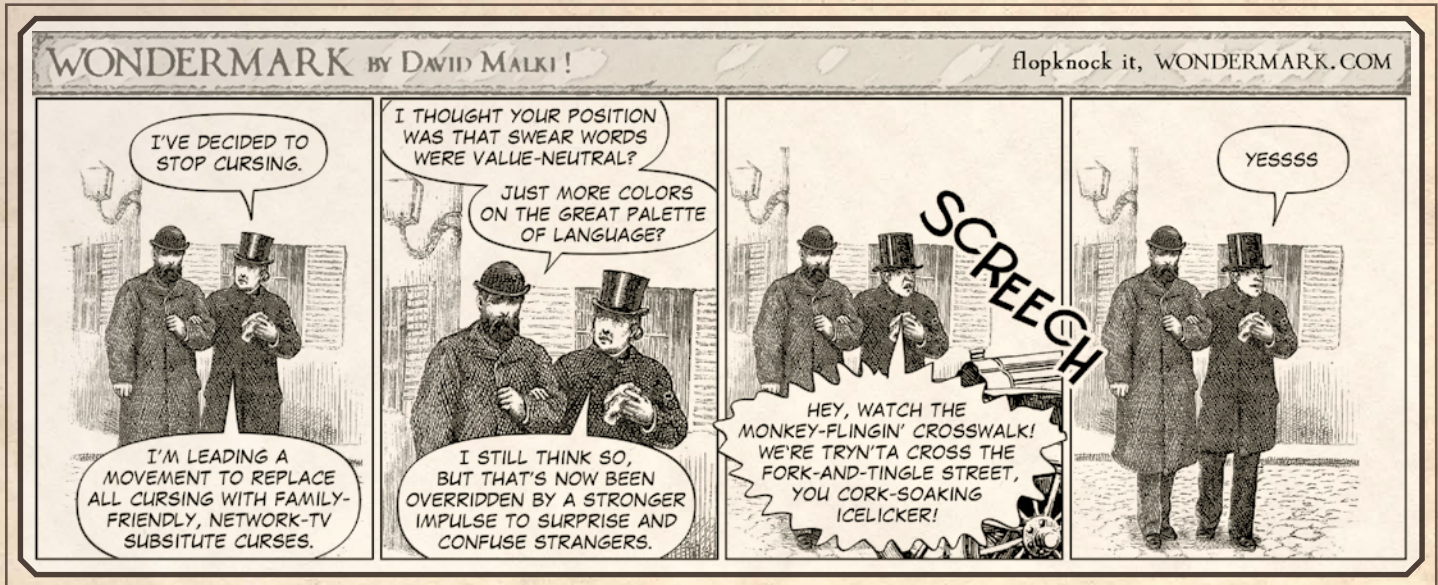
TO WHICH THE AUTHOR SHALL NEVER RETURN.

The comics on this and the following two pages are ones that I elected not to admit into the official Wondermark canon, for reasons elucidated below each comic, and also for unstated, entirely capricious *secret reasons* never to be revealed in print for fear they may be hauled into light when next I make an attempt to run for my local Neighborhood Council, and thus infiltrate and bring to its tar-spackled knees that horrid badgers' hive from the *inside*.



I was never fully happy with how this one read, but I do like how Bob turned out.

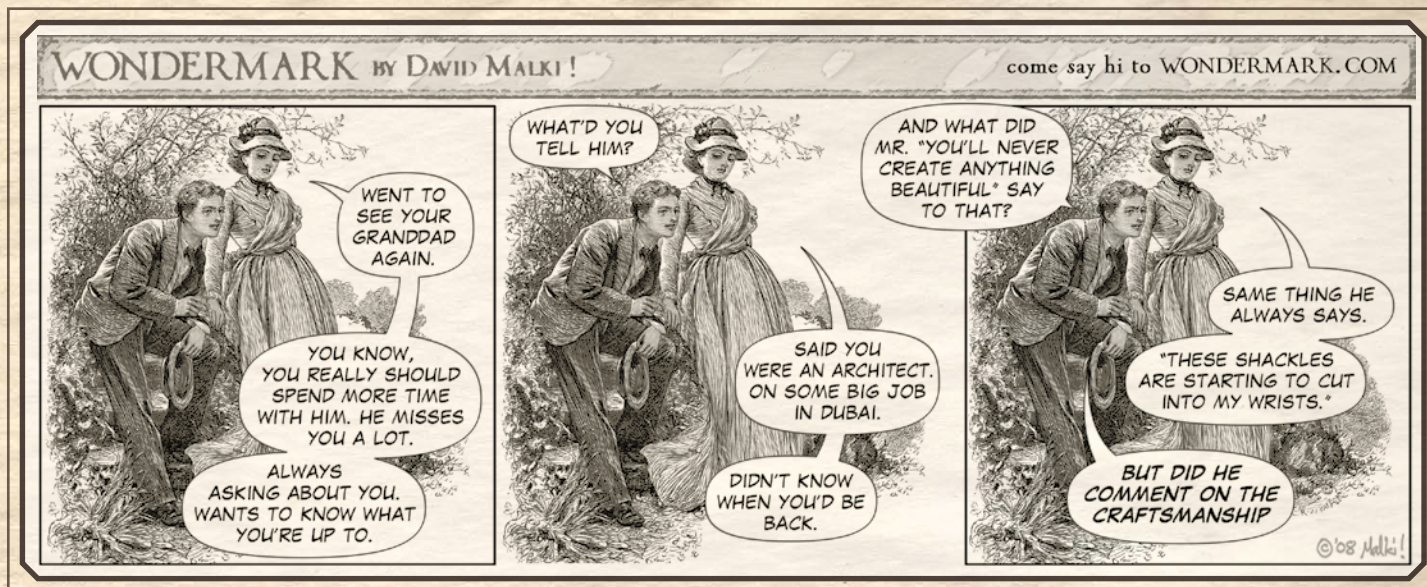
~~WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI! remember WONDERMARK.COM~~



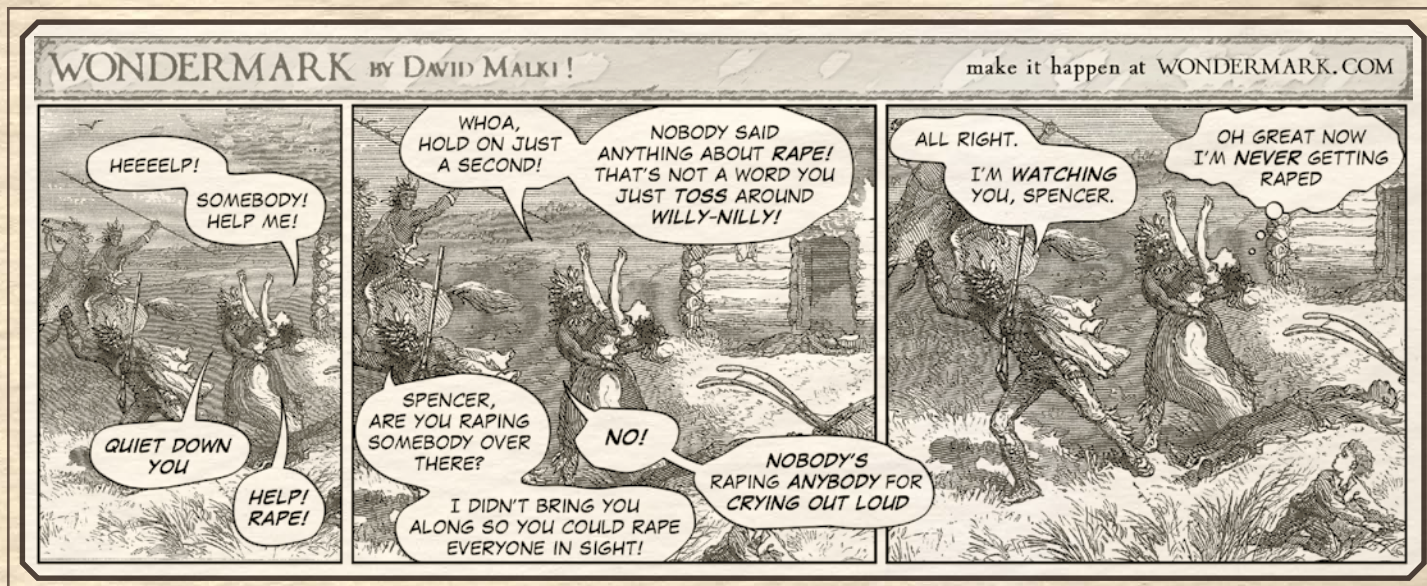
About the time I wrote this, a series of commercials for Orbit gum did basically the same joke, and better. A case of bad timing.



Bad timing again. (This one didn't make it far past the script stage.)



This is the original version of the comic that appears on page 56. It was initially published like this, but I remained dissatisfied with it. Eventually I scrapped the premise and started over.



This is probably offensive.

ENGINAVBOILTERAHNOLTSIPHECOALROMNINGFNMA
NORIOALRAINDELBIGIRIDRAEROPLANEDKCOCPOTSDD

FOUND!

An End To Lost Articles.

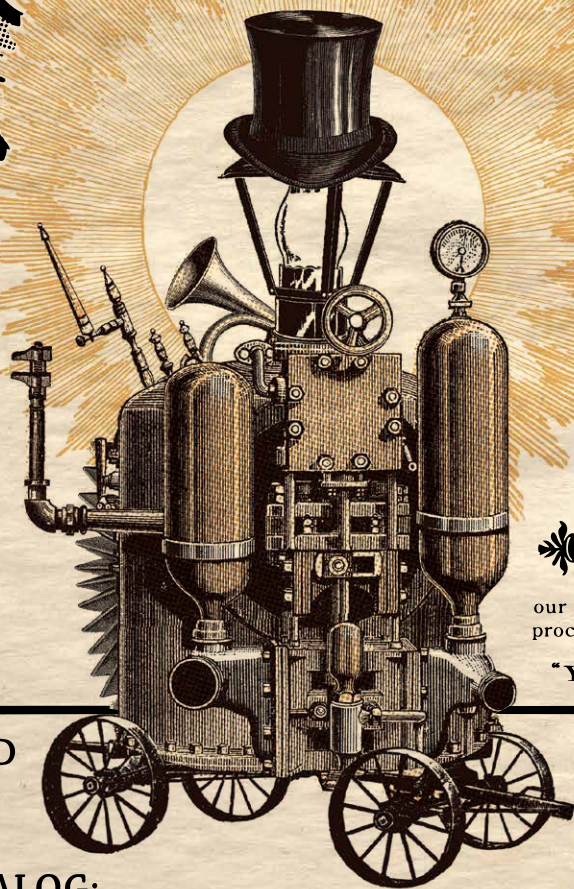
An Up-To-Date Device
For Our Worrisome Times.

✿ PERSONAL No longer misplace reading material, rarely-used tools, life-saving medications or children's belongings. Takes up little room in a coat closet or hallway. Pets do eventually acclimate to the presence of the unit.

✿ BUSINESS Contracts, time cards, receipts and invoices are handily noted in our unit's cam-driven index. With proper setup, can track entire warehouses full of inventory. Secretaries can learn its use with a few simple tutorials—available FREE with purchase.

✿ SCHOOL Books or pupils can be tracked easily—but our unit can also track *facts* and recall them on command. Whether studying historical data or legal minutiae, our unit is a *reliable, steadfast* and *accurate* companion for anyone in the process of bettering himself through education. You're smart; write us today.

"YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE, EVER AGAIN."



SEND
FOR
OUR
CATALOG:

Avery-Mills M'F'G. Co., Bridgeport, Conn.
Member of the Association of Licensed Neuroplasticians.

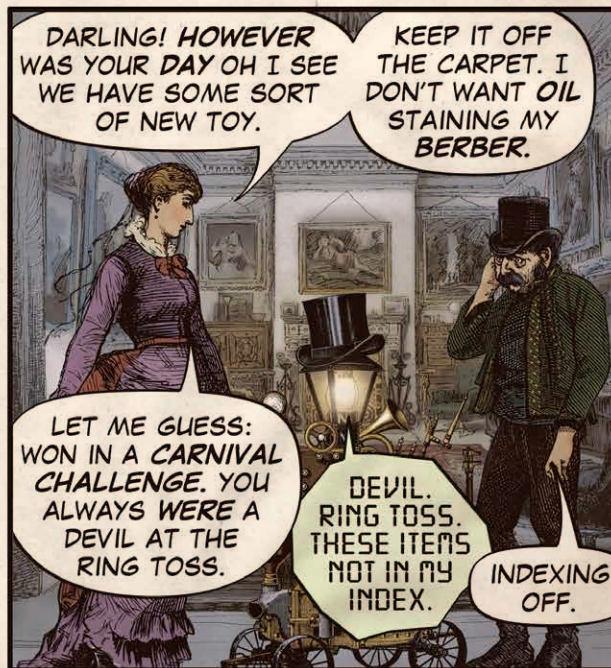
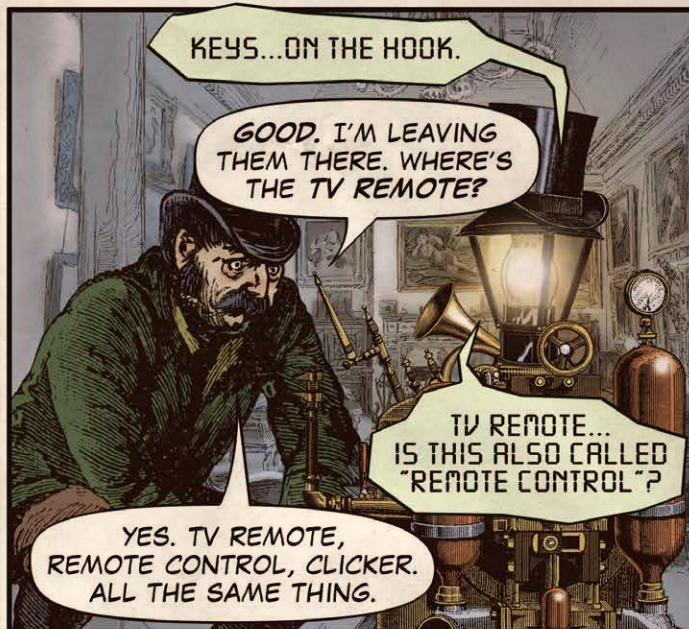
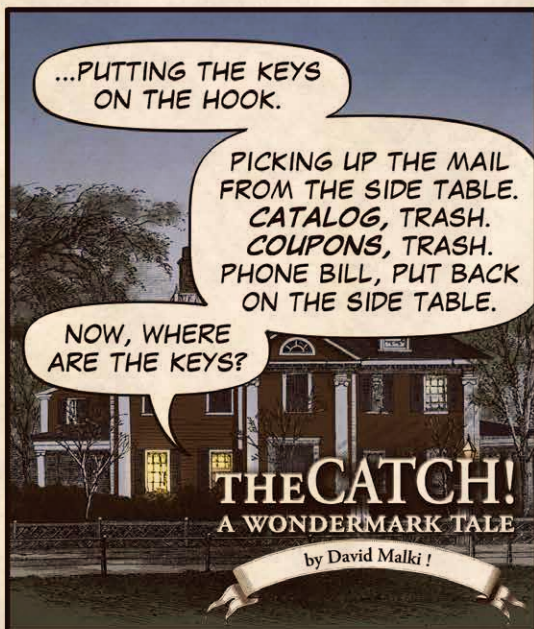
WHAT'S THE USE OF WORRYING

about where *this* or *that* personal effect or important possession has gotten off to. This problem can be *eliminated*—with our device only, available for IN-HOME TRIAL without cost or obligation to the correspondent.

Inquire without fear, for the exacting requirements of innumerable customers the world over have invariably been met by the famous

AVERY-MILLS REMEMBRANCE ENGINE.

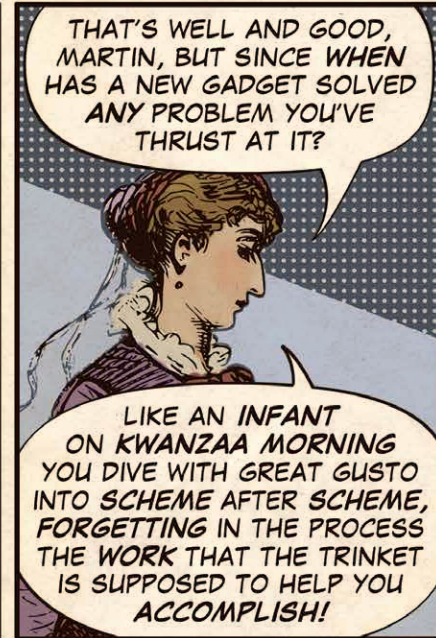
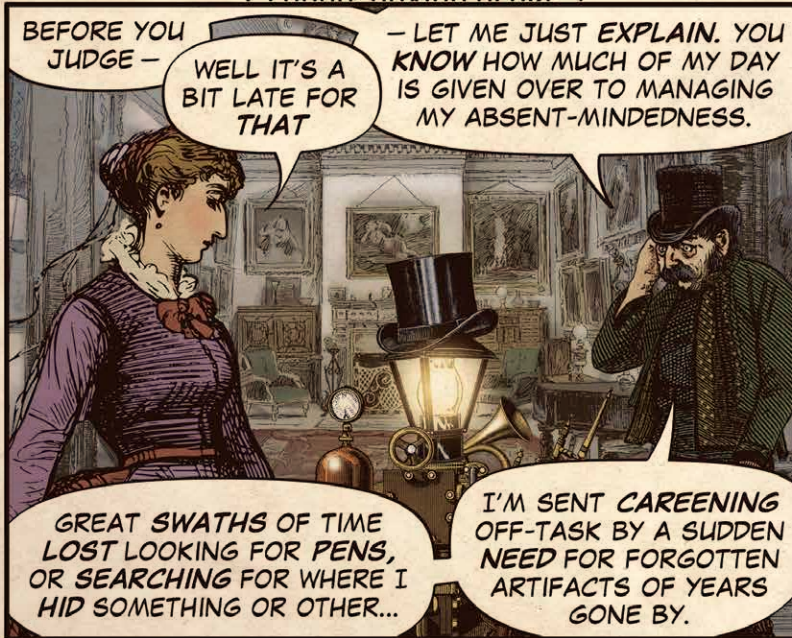
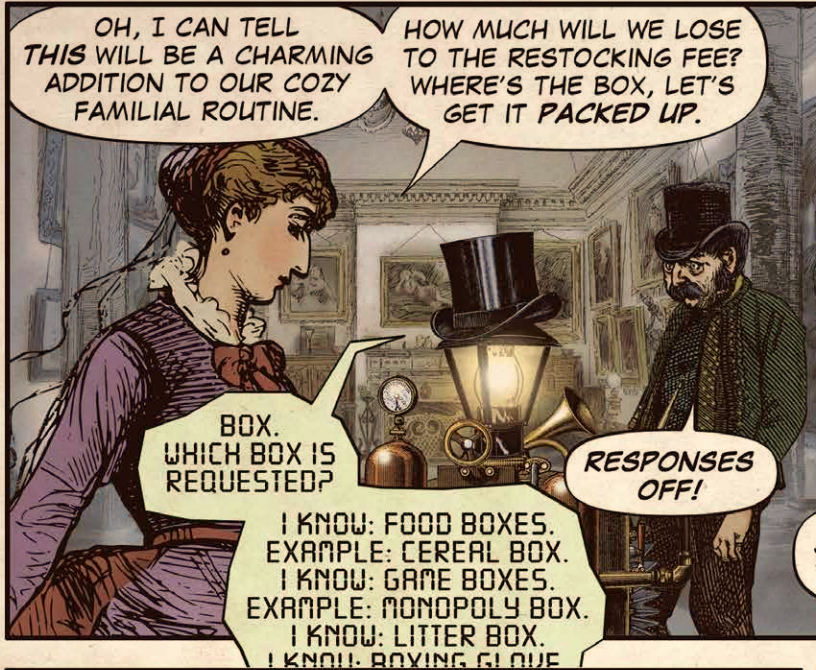
Our device is superior in all respects to the human memory. We would like the opportunity to tell you *WHY*.

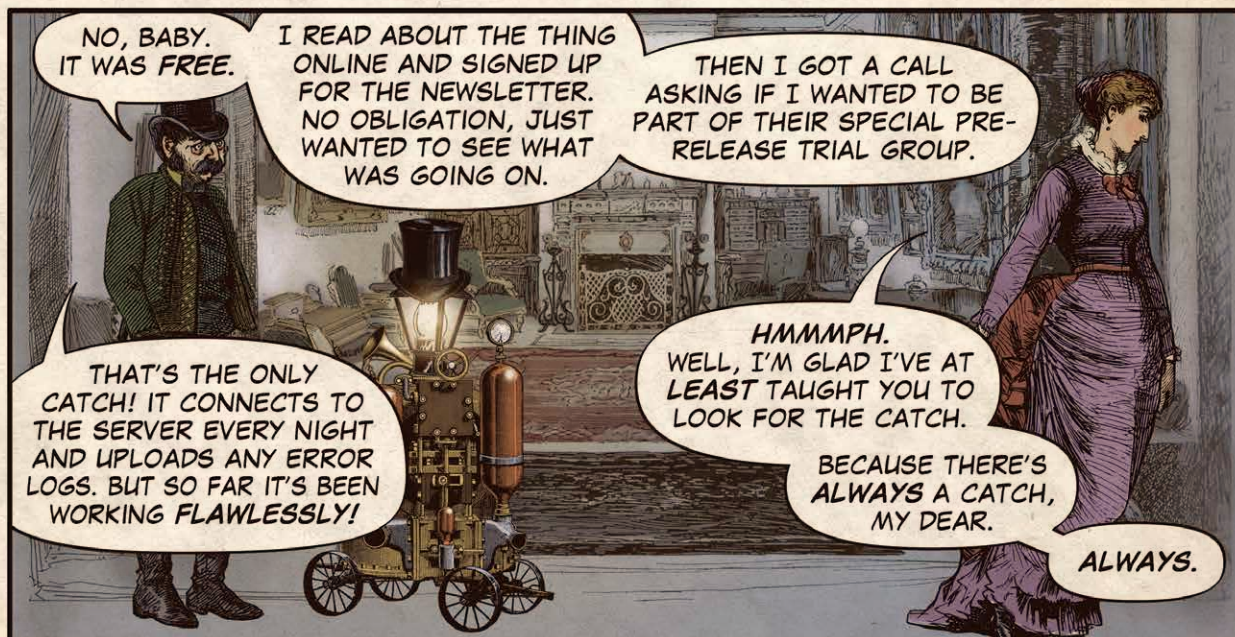


Color by Marcus Thiele • themonkeymind.livejournal.com

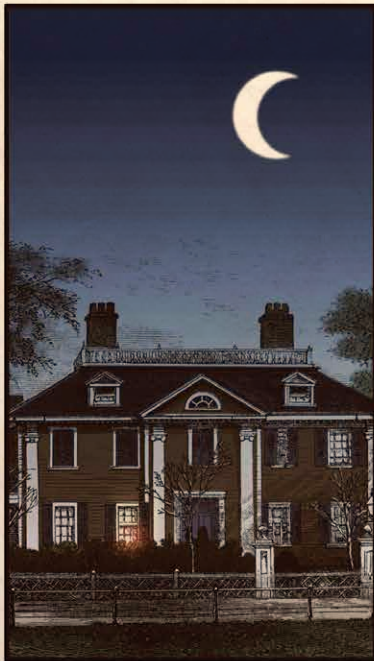
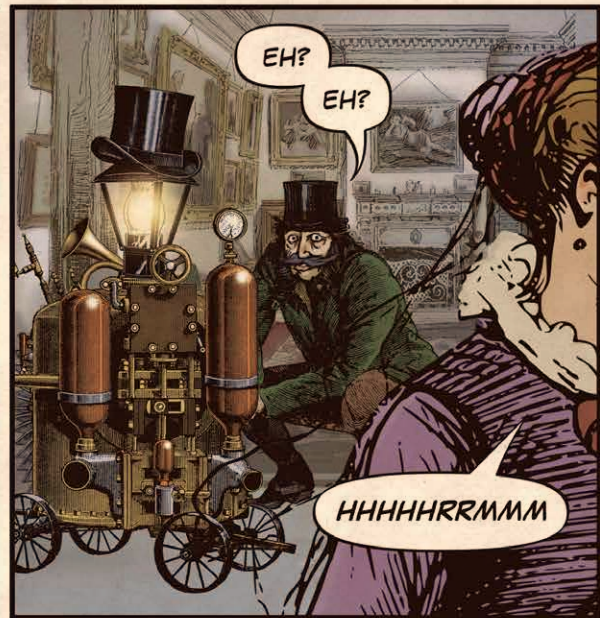
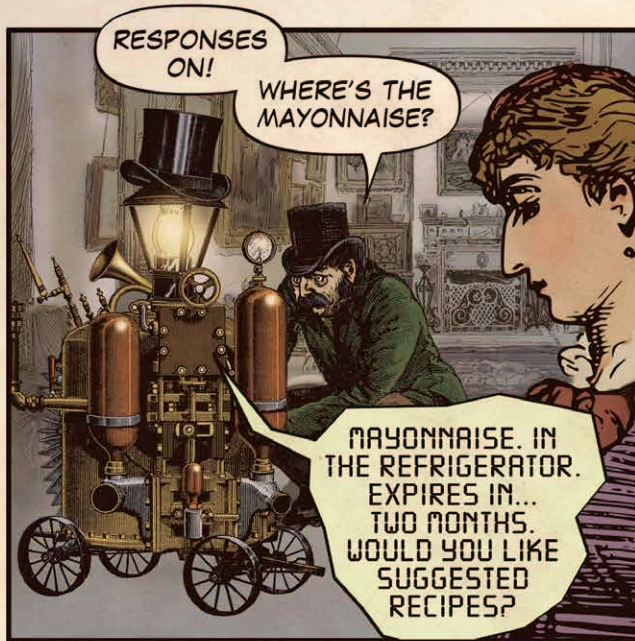
STORY
Continues.

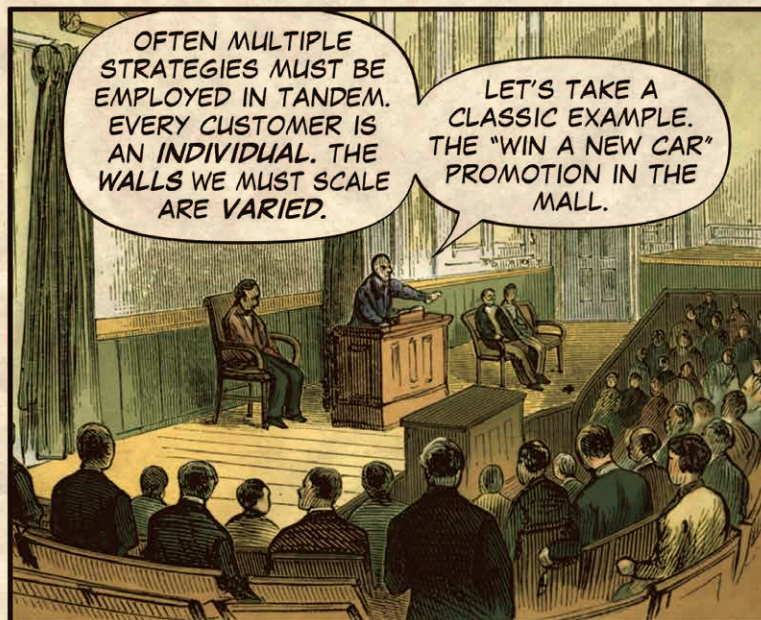
(Words may be hidden forward, backward, vertically or diagonally.)





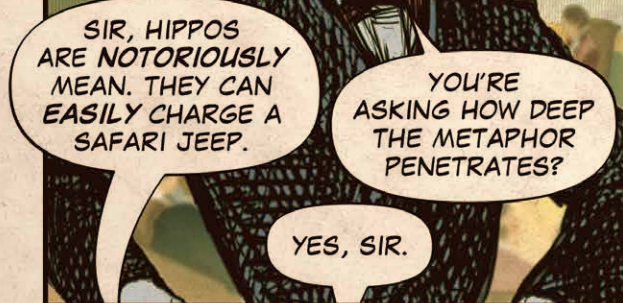
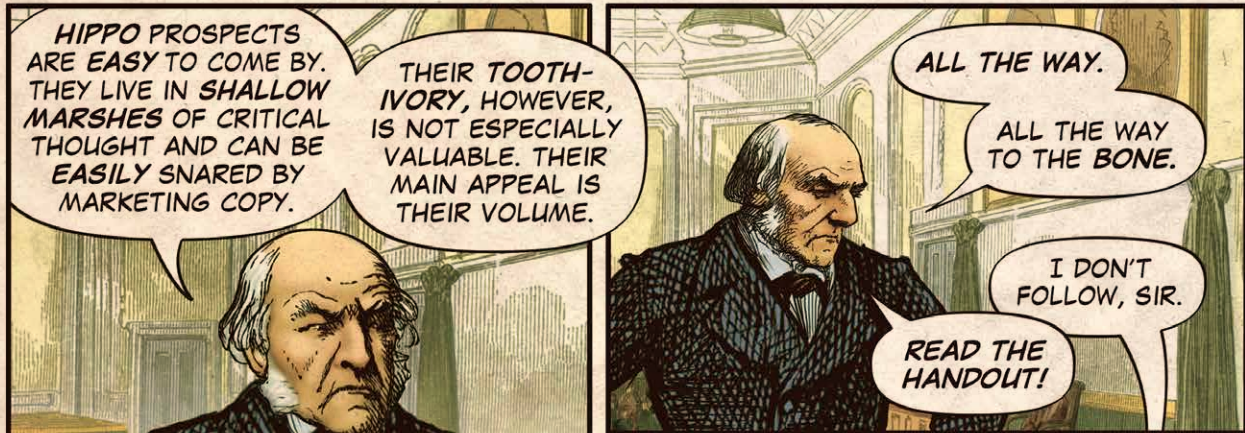
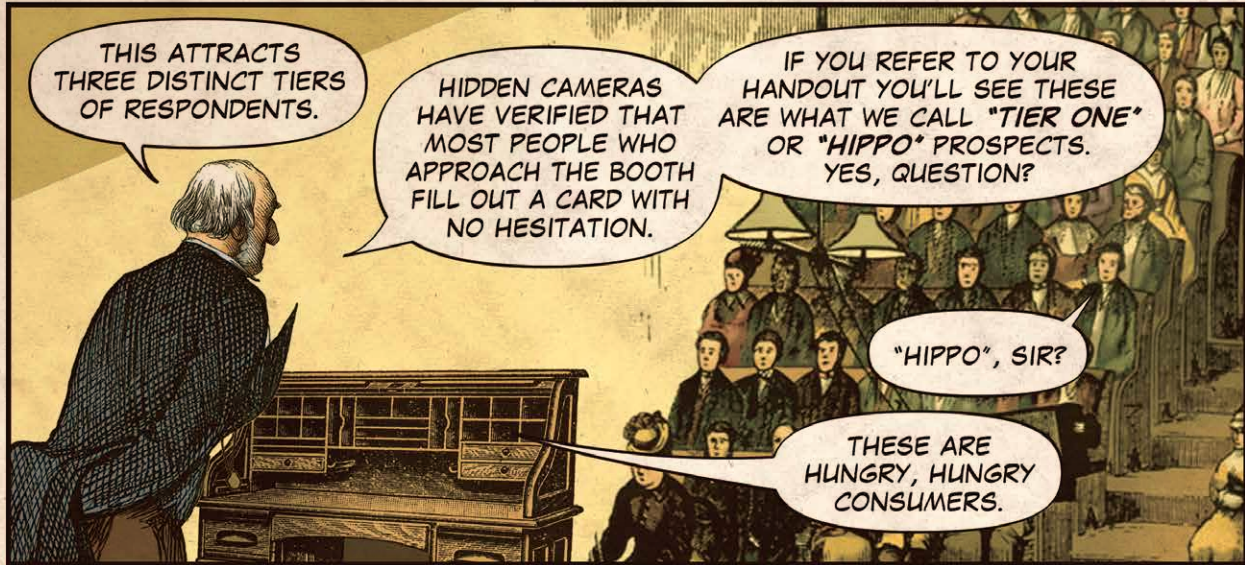
STORY
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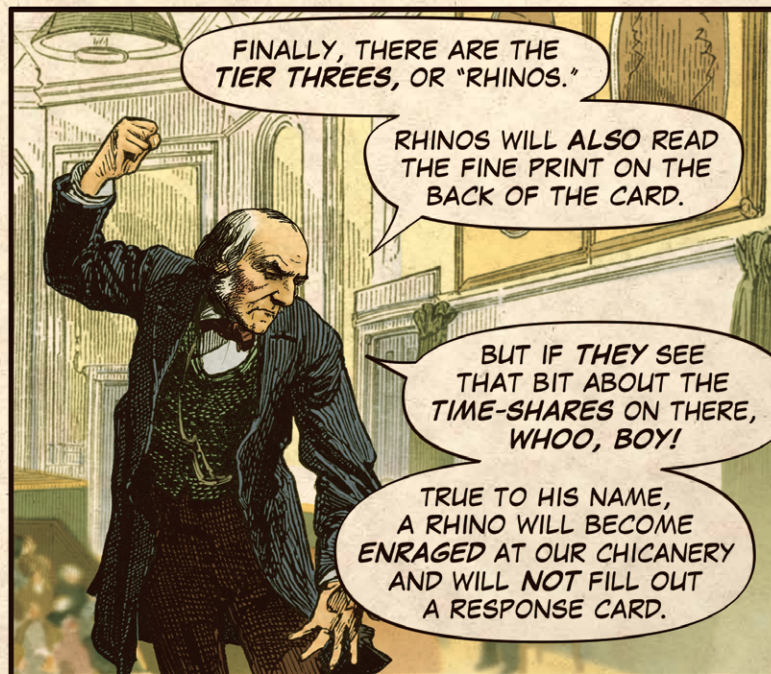
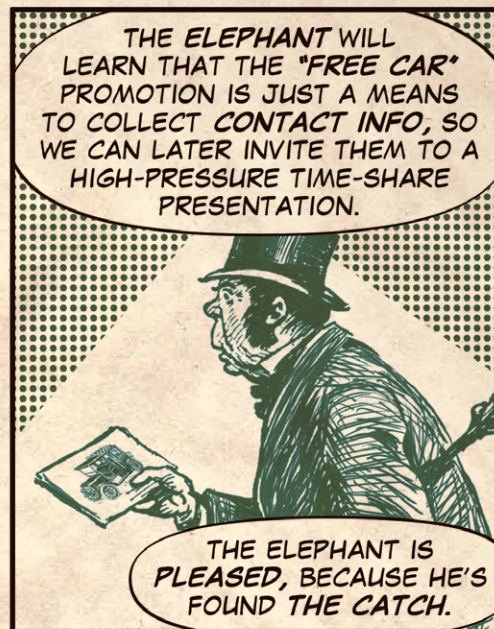
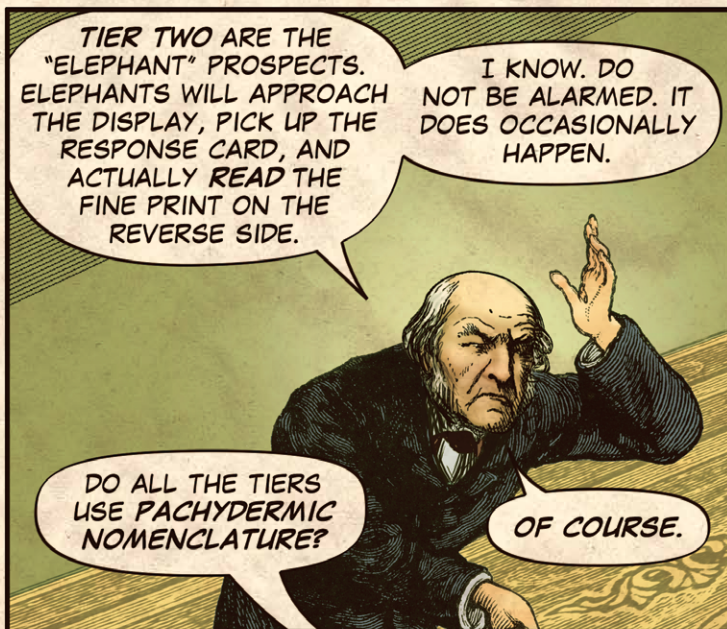




STORY
Continues.

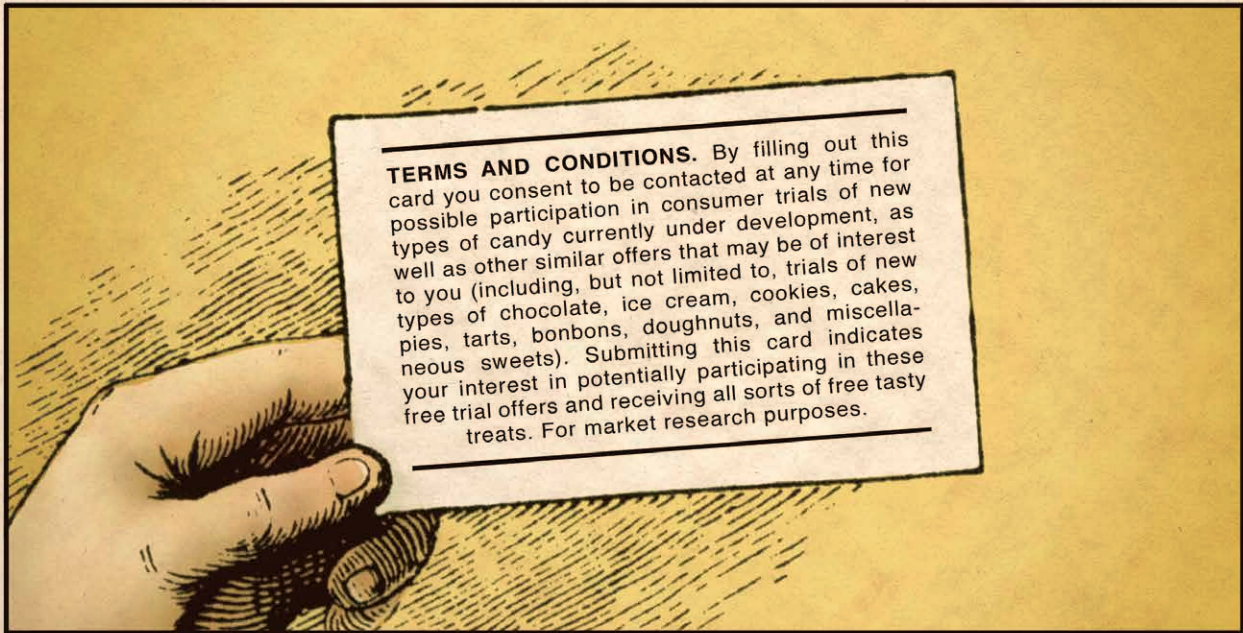
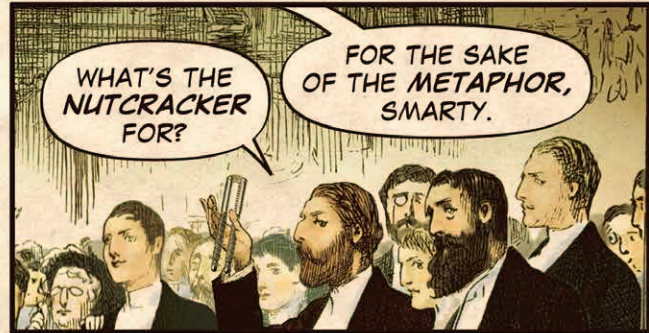
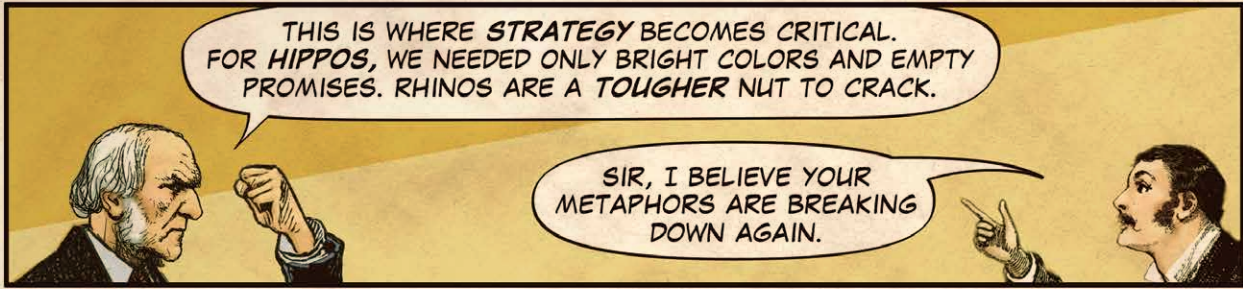
Can you help Sigmund Freud find his velopede? (Solution on following page.)

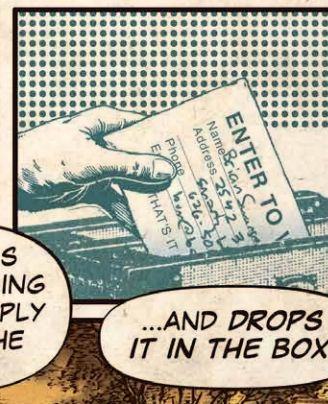
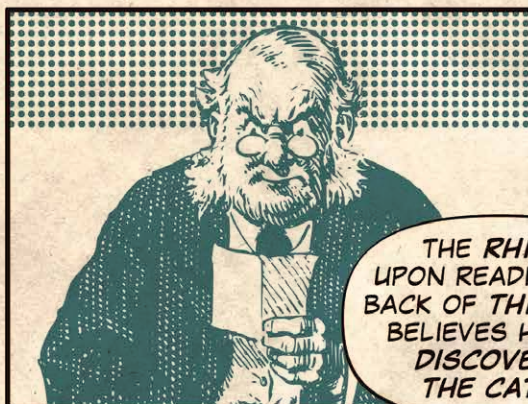
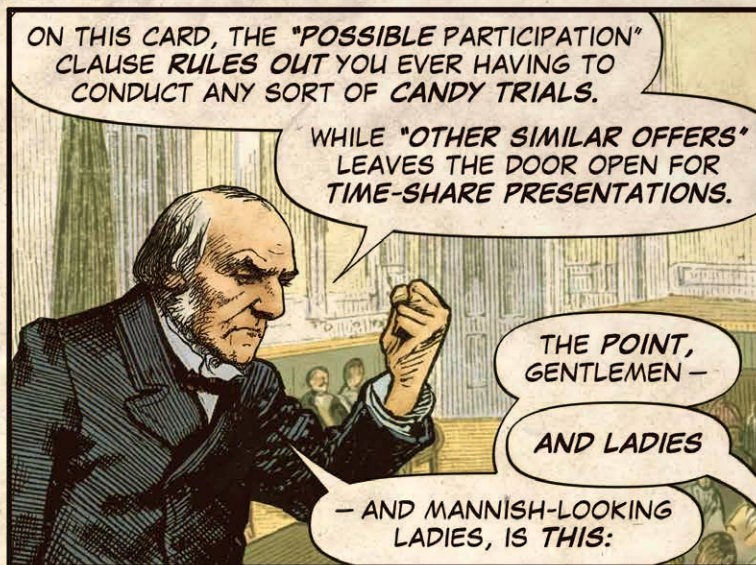




STORY
Continues.

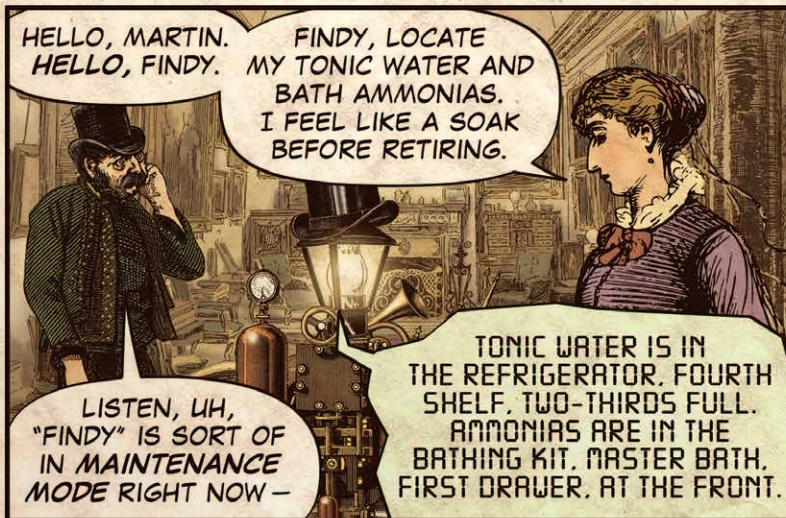
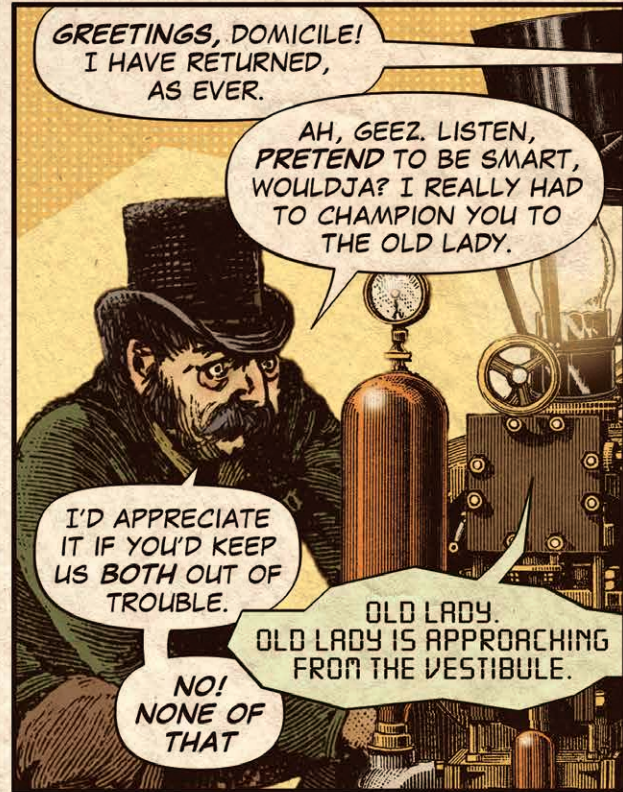
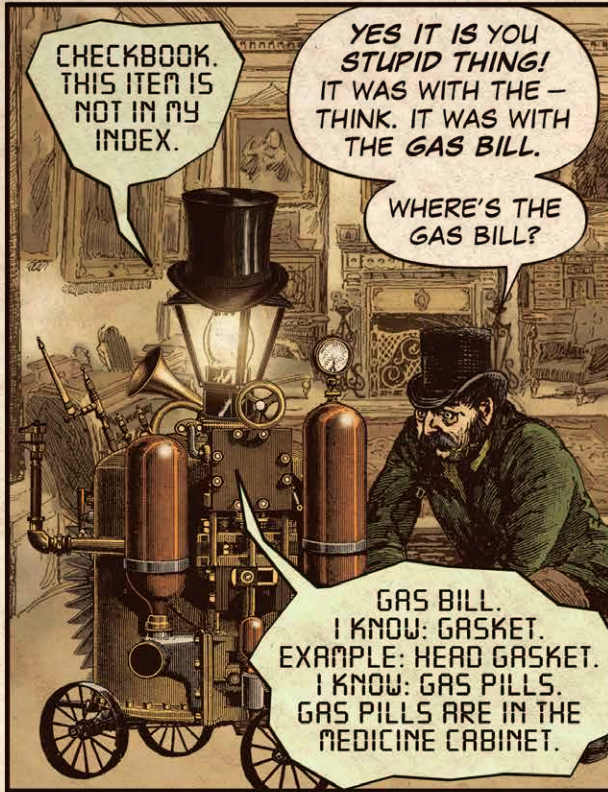


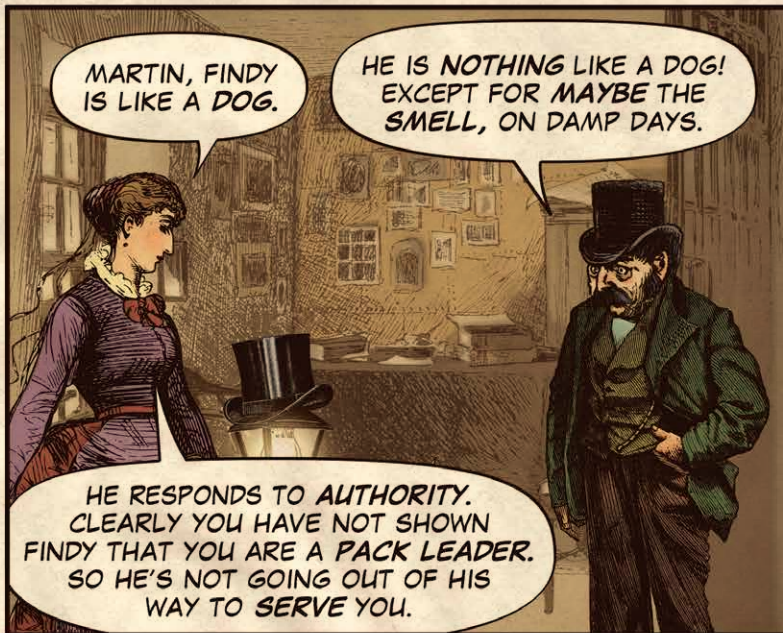




STORY
Continues.







STORY
Continues.



Exploded Views.

Fig. 1A ~ See Page 15.

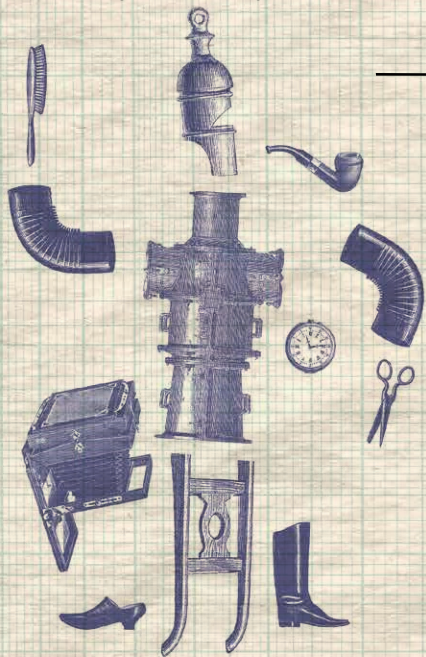


Fig. 3 ~ See Pages 78-90.



Fig. 4 ~ See Page 69.

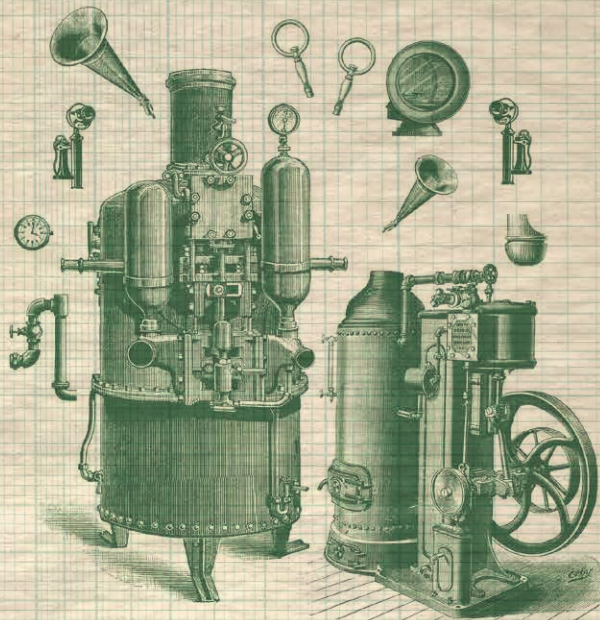


Fig. 2 ~ See Page 38.

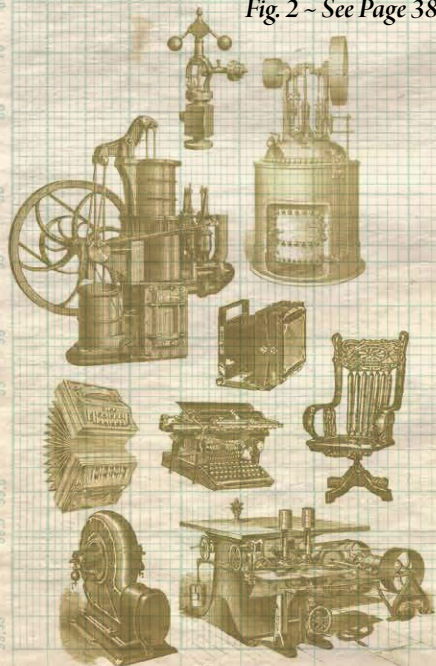


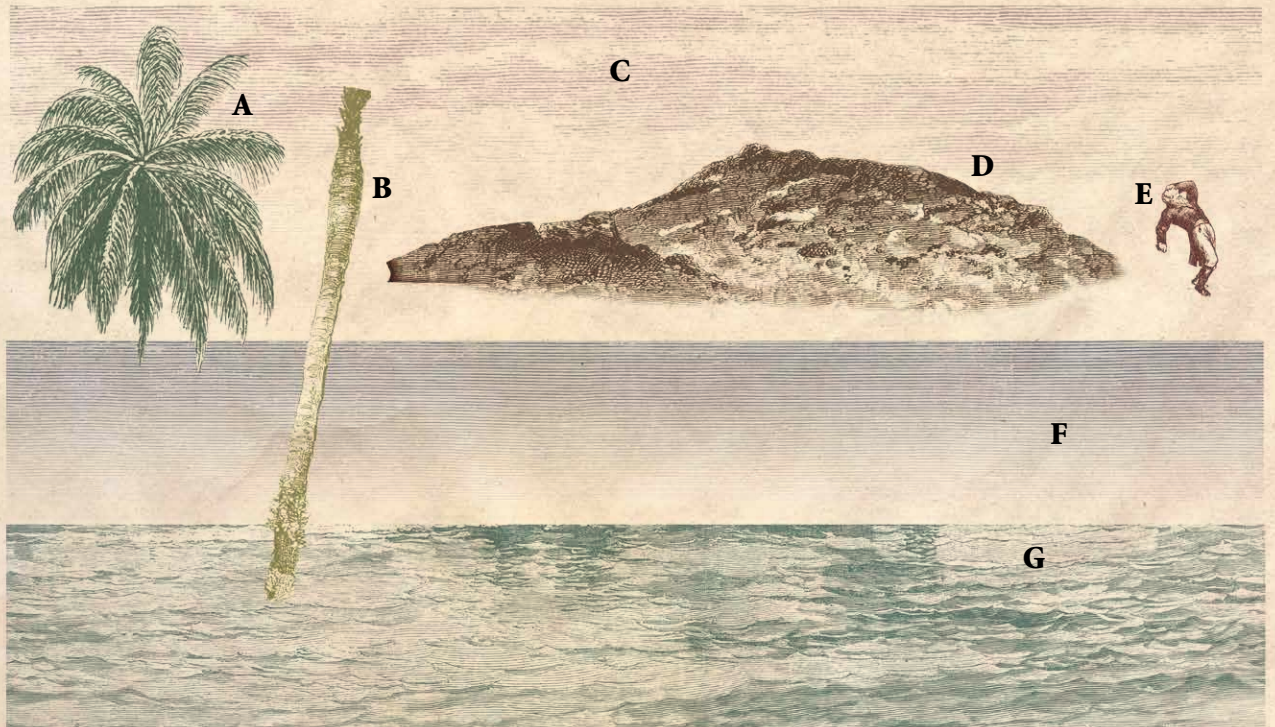
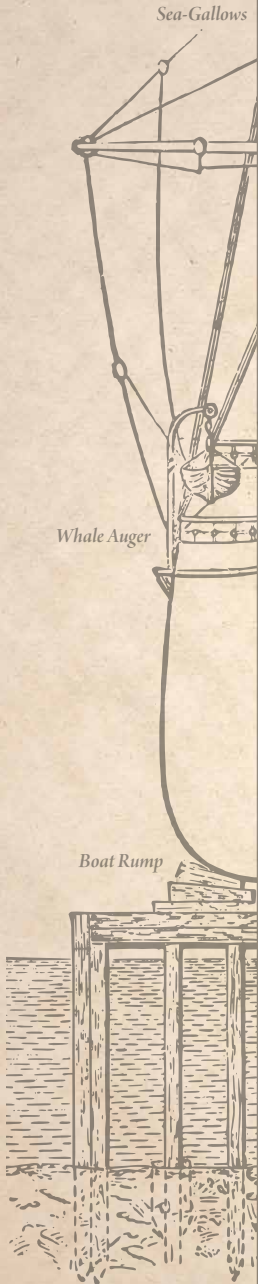
Fig. 1B ~ See Page 15.

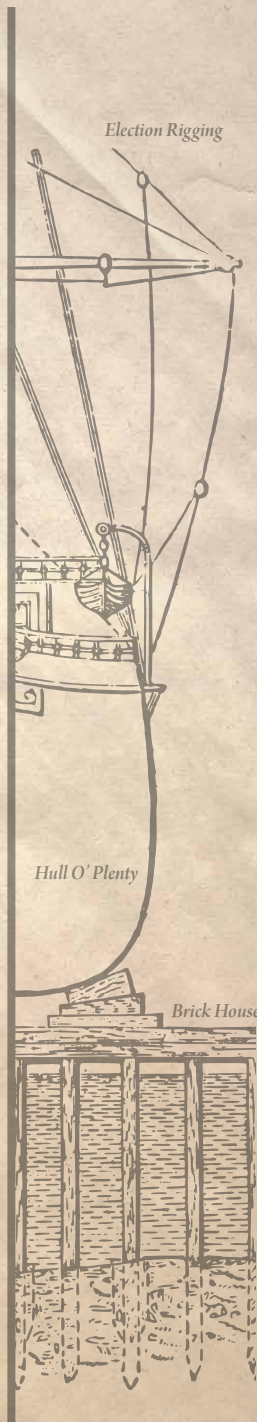
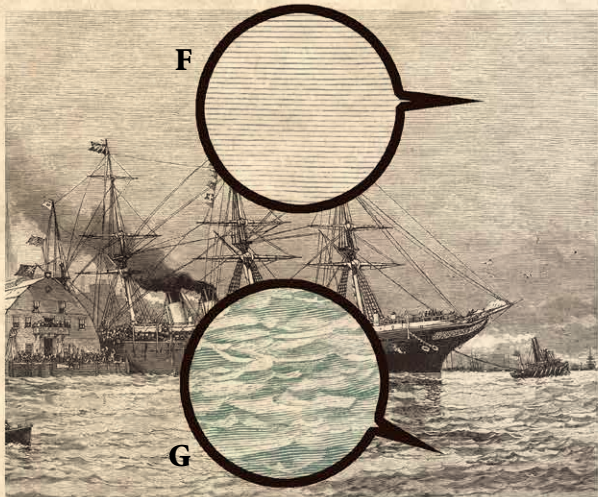


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But till now, too little institutional children's instruction had taken on the shape of play, in a manner to which

Exploded Views.





Bears in Ill-Fitting Hats

A GALLERY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SCHOLARS.

Hinge Resqueaker



Illustrations by Michael Peterson, a.k.a. Halcyon Snow • halcyonsnow.com

Michael spearheaded a landmark bears-in-ill-fitting-hats documentation project that yielded hundreds of records, which will doubtless be invaluable to future researchers:

WWW.FLICKR.COM/GROUPS/BEARS-IN-ILL-FITTING-HATS



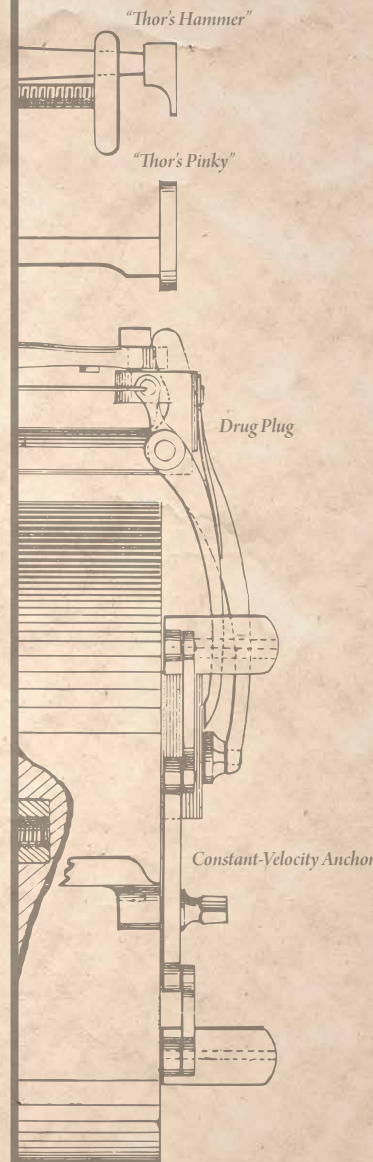
Illustrations by Adam Koford, a.k.a. Ape Lad • hobotopia.com

*In addition to being hundreds of years old,
Adam is the world's foremost hobologist.*




Illustrations by Phineas X. Jones • octophant.us

*Phineas has more tentacles than most men have fingers.
He is probably charming in person.*




*Some Kind Of Metal Thing
We Found On An Old Trans Am*

Author's Note.



In any volume that attempts to capture the essence of a given moment in history, there will be necessary flaws, errors, compromises, shortcomings, mistakes, approximations, fabrications, misrepresentations, libelous statements and lies. In an attempt to minimize the above, I have taken my subject on from a variety of angles—if you have completed this book, then you have read comics; you have seen ephemera; you have puzzled over diagrams; you have admired cartoon drawings of bears and you have probably wept a little. In this way have I tried to give as full as possible a picture of a world that could never be captured by a single means alone.

But what world is it? I can admit now, on the final page of the book, that the world I have described is an ILLUSION of my own invention, and you have all been my sorry subjects in a hellacious experiment. My aim was to collect the imaginations of many and focus them precisely into concert; my hypothesis was that I could somehow synthesize corn-oil from the whole of it. I was either mistaken, or I simply need a larger experimental population. Please—tell your friends. 

I AM ABSURDLY GRATEFUL TO

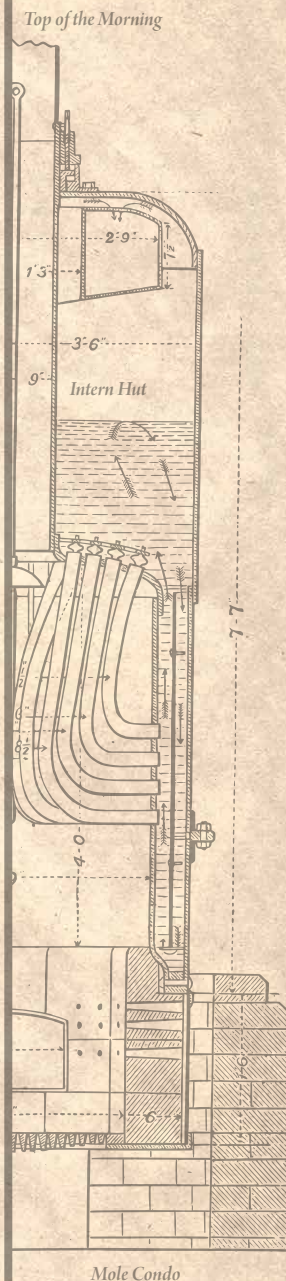
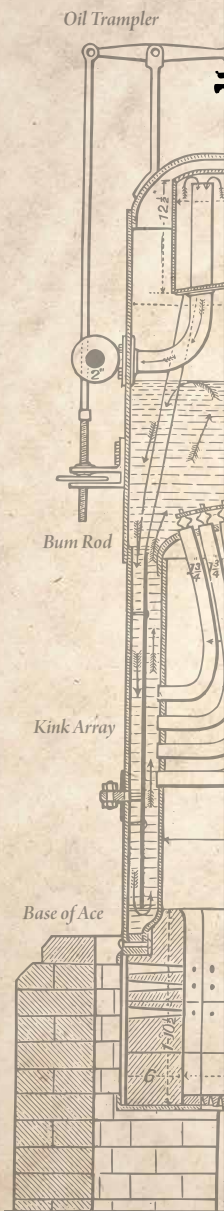
Carly Monardo, Marcus Thiele, Alyssa Stock, Jolly Rotten, and Phil Obermarck for their beautiful coloring of various elements of this book;

Halcyon Snow, Ape Lad, and Phineas X. Jones for allowing me to reprint their illustrations, and for creating them, unbidden, to begin with;

Zachary Sigelko, for diligently assisting with the preparation of the textures that populate these pages, and many other things;

My wife Nikki, for her inexplicably deep well of unwavering support (my love, you should really get that checked out);

You, the reader, of course. My heart tries hard to hug you. Thank you.



ERRATA.

Unfortunately, some factual inaccuracies have come to light that proved impossible to address before this volume went to press. Please find our corrections below.

P. 69, lower -- The machine pictured is an anthropomorphized construct; "robocalls" are in fact run by computer programs with a less dramatic outward appearance.

P. 61, lower -- Trees cannot speak.

P. 46, lower -- It was actually a steganography class, but the teacher on the right knew that her colleague wouldn't know that word.

P. 41 -- Flour is not typically packaged with silica gel.

P. 38, upper -- Kinko's ceased to exist as a separate company when it was purchased by FedEx in 2002, so at the time that this comic was published, it was technically **not** still in business. Additionally, the stores' profits dropped from \$100 million in 2004 to \$45 million in 2007, proving that their stinking horrible business model was indeed (and justifiably) taking an economic toll on the company.

P. 30, lower -- Varying methods of calculating infant mortality often mean that "average" life expectancy numbers are insufficient to draw conclusions from.

P. 29 -- The bear actually left one child terribly maimed but alive, to contemplate the horror of what he'd witnessed for the rest of his days.

Everything else is ~~probably~~ perfectly correct.
The responsible parties regret the errors.



Unequaled By Any Other Product On Market.

The Largest, Cheapest, Most Pleasing, and by vast margins the Muskiest Comic-Strip Collection in Christendom.

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BEARSTACHE