

You always say that...

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M GETTING OLDER...

...WHICH IS PREFERABLE TO THE ALTENATIVE, REALLY.

DUE TO MY MANY HEALTH ISSUES, I TRY TO KEEP A LOG TO HELP TRACK STUFF.

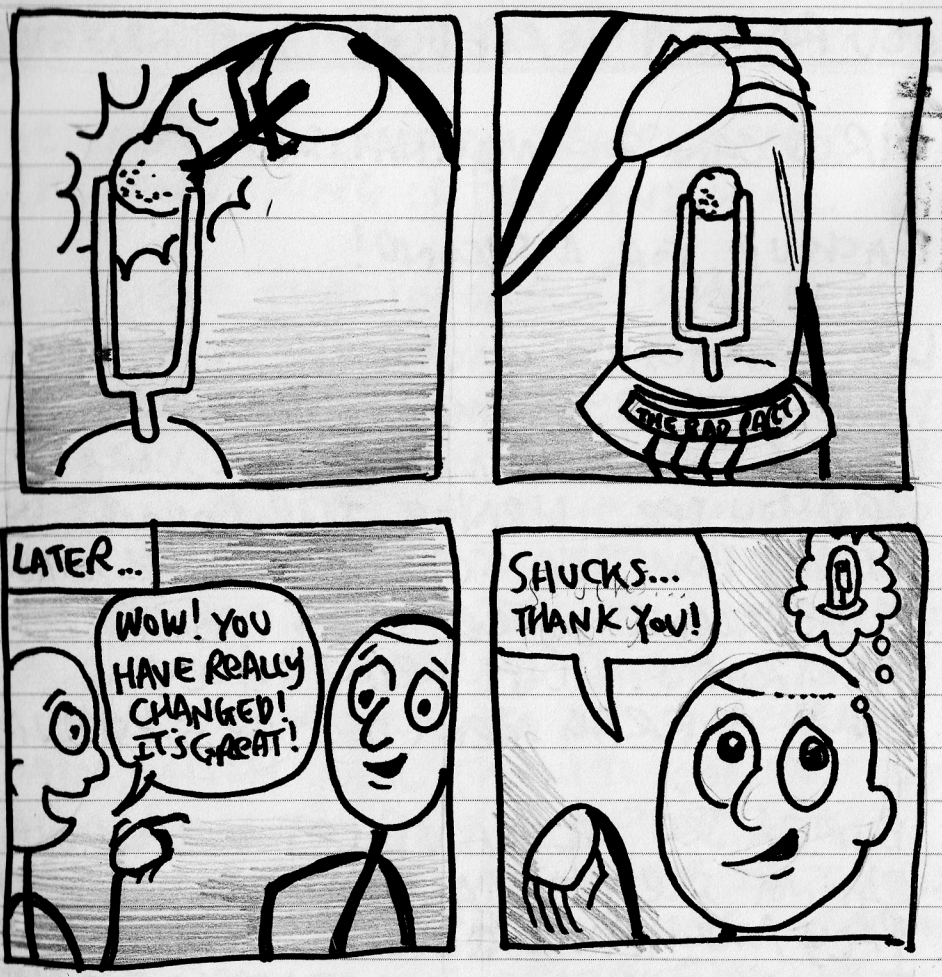
ALONG THE WAY, IT SORT OF BECAME A DIARY.

OR SOMETHING.

THESE ARE EXCERPTS.

I WISH I COULD JUST...



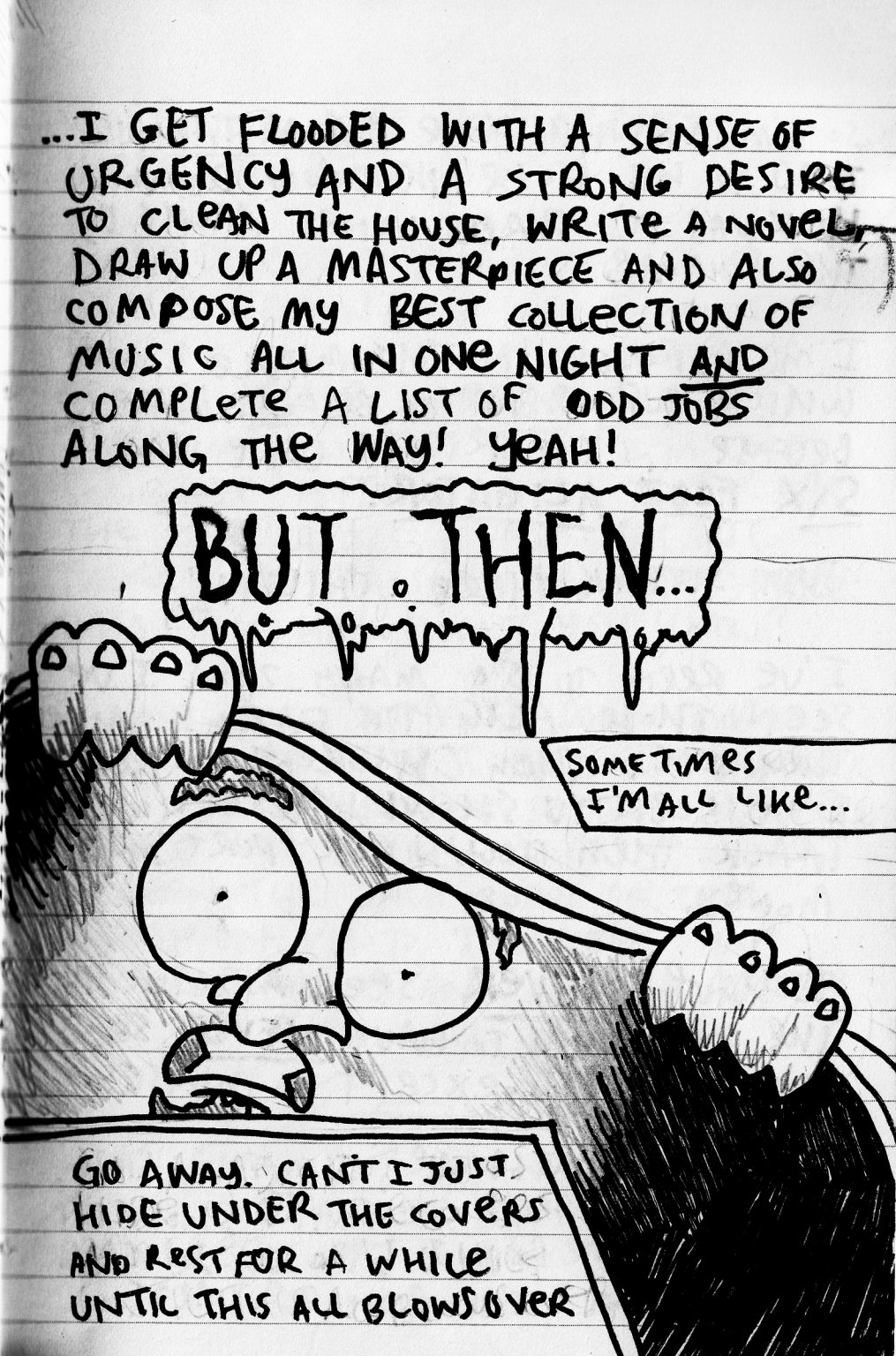


AND HE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER WITH EVERY SINGLE THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED BEING EXACTLY THE RIGHT THING TO SAY AND DO TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE AND MAKE HIS LIFE THAT MUCH MORE FUN AND EASY!

THE END!



...I GET FLOODED WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY AND A STRONG DESIRE TO CLEAN THE HOUSE, WRITE A NOVEL, DRAW UP A MASTERPIECE AND ALSO COMPOSE MY BEST COLLECTION OF MUSIC ALL IN ONE NIGHT AND COMPLETE A LIST OF ODD JOBS ALONG THE WAY! YEAH!



SO I'M DRIVING HOME FROM TAKING TODD TO HIS HOUSE AND DOWN GORDON HIGHWAY IT'S THREE LANES RIGHT BY THE SWAMP.

I'm ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE LANE WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE FORTUNATE BECAUSE IN THE RIGHT LANE IS A **SIX FOOT ALIGATOR.**

JUST SITTING THERE, CHILLIN'.

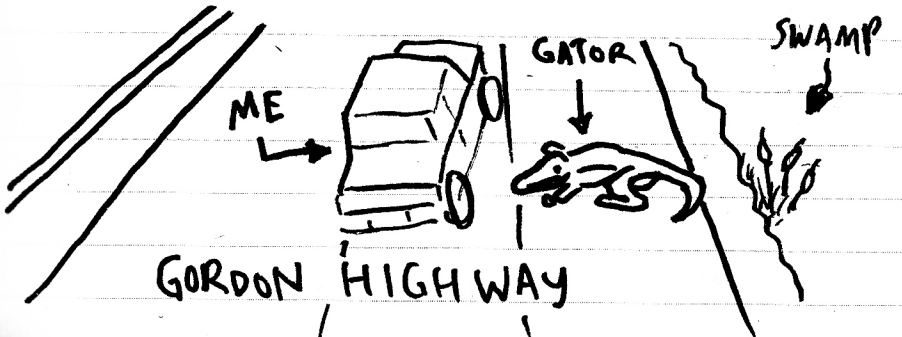
I'VE BEEN TO SO MANY ZOOS. I'VE SEEN THOSE ALIGATOR FARMS WHERE THEY FEED THEM CHICKENS ON RODES. I'VE SEEN TV SHOWS WHERE HUNTERS TRACK THEM DOWN FOR SPORT AND MONEY.

I HAVE **NEVER** SEEN A GATOR IN THE WILD AND I HAVE **NEVER** SEEN ONE THIS BIG, EXCEPT IN MOVIES.

ON THE DRIVE HOME, I'm THINKING, " DID I REALLY SEE THAT? SHOULD I CALL SOMEBODY? WHO DO YOU CALL ABOUT THAT? THE POLICE? WHAT WOULD THE COPS DO? ARREST THE GATOR?:

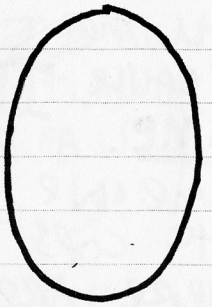
I DECIDED TO POP INTO MY LOCAL POLICE STATION AND ASK THEM. THEY TELL ME I WAS RIGHT TO REPORT IT BECAUSE **THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME**. A FEW DAYS AGO, I'M TOLD, SOMEONE HIT ONE WITH THEIR CAR. THE COPS ARE SO NON-CHALANT. THERE ARE MASSIVE ALIGATORS HERE! WHAT? HA HA! DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

I HAVE BEEN UP AND DOWN THAT ROAD A MILLION TIMES. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING WORSE THAN A SMALL TURTLE WADDLING ABOUT. I HAVE DRIVEN THE BACK ROADS OF THAT SWAMP ON PHOTO JOURNEYS. BUT APPARENTLY GIANT GATORS APPEAR ALL THE TIME. ALL THE TIME.



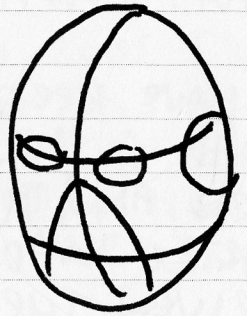
A COMMON MISCONCEPTION PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT ARTISTS IS THAT WHILE DRAWING, THE ARTIST IS PAYING ATTENTION TO LITTLE ELSE.

THIS IS RARELY TRUE.



MOST DRAWING IS JUST THE APPLICATION OF PRACTICED AND REFINED TECHNIQUE.

IT'S MUSCLE MEMORY RULES WE DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IN USE.



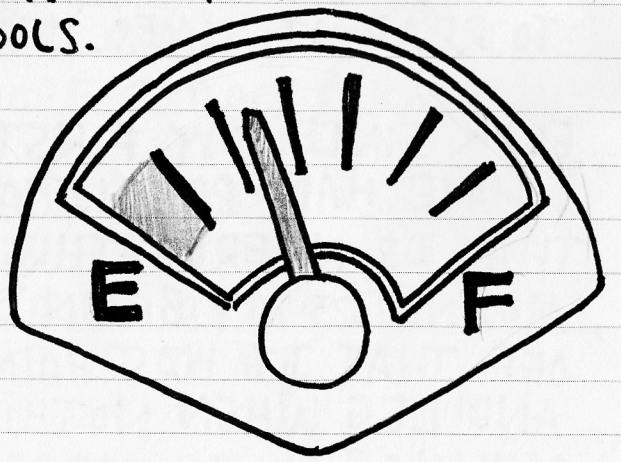




A FEW SIMPLE SHAPES SLOWLY BECOME MORE COMPLEX AS EACH STEP IS ADDED TO THE PROCESS UNTIL THE IMAGE IS COMPLETED.

MAKING THINGS, HOWEVER, REQUIRES TIME AND ENERGY IN ADDITION TO THE SKILLS AND THE TOOLS.

IMAGINE THIS AS A FUEL GAUGE.



LATELY, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PUT MUCH FUEL IN, NO MATTER WHAT MY PURSUIT. SO YOU CAN APPRECIATE THAT EVEN MAKING THIS VERY EXPLANATION YOU NOW READ TOOK SOME OF THAT FROM ME.

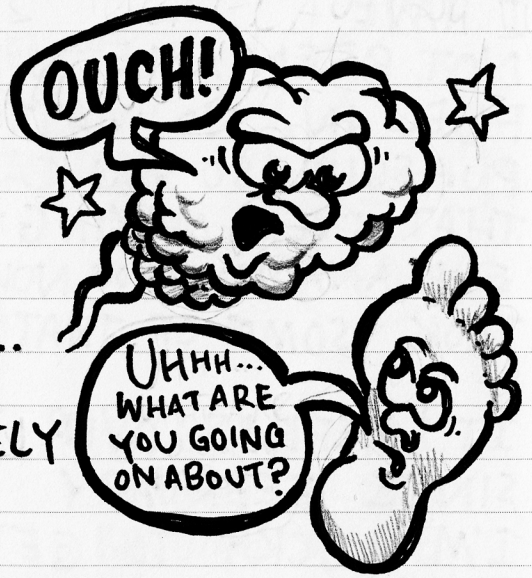
IT REFILLS OVER TIME BUT SINCE FEBRUARY 1ST, 2017. I'M LUCKY TO GET MORE THAN 30 MINUTES OR SO AT A TIME DONE ON ANYTHING.

BECAUSE OF THE PAIN.

PAIN? WELL...

...LETS TALK ABOUT MY PAIN.
(WARNING: THESE PAGES MAY GET A WEE BIT UNCOMFORTABLE TO READ AT TIMES. I APOLOGIZE)

EVER SINCE MY FIRST FLARE-UP, I HAVE HAD PRESISTANT PAIN THAT IS NUEROPATHIC. WHAT THAT MEANS IS MY BRAIN IS FIRING OFF THAT IT HAS PAIN IN MY FOOT AND LEG WHEN NOTHING IS CAUSING IT!



I SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE A MOMENT AND CLARIFY...

IT'S NOT PURELY PAIN ALONE.

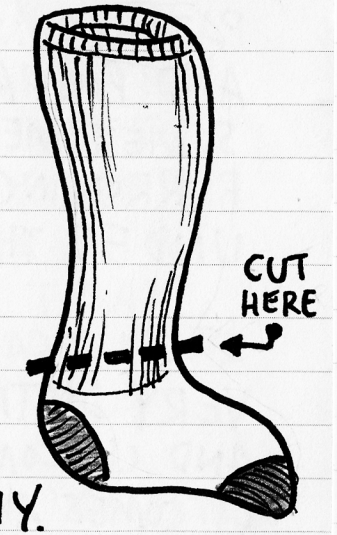
IT'S BURNING PAIN.

PLUS HEAT AND COLD ALL TOGETHER.

ALL AT THE SAME TIME!

I CANT DO ANYTHING NORMAL TO STOP THE PAIN, EITHER. ASPRIN, CAPSAZIN, HEAT PACKS, ETC. **DON'T WORK!** CURIOUSLY, WATER HURTS MORE. I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I DID DISCOVER THAT CUTTING THE BOTTOM OFF A TUBE SOCK AND PULLING IT UP TO MY KNEE GIVES MY LEG A SENSE OF PRESSURE ON THE SKIN AND THAT HELPS A LITTLE BIT...



I DONT KNOW WHY.

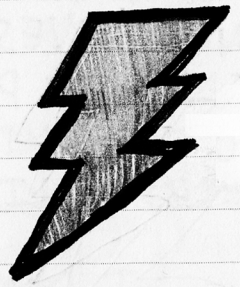
BUT... MY THEORY IS...

THE PRESSURE OF THE FABRIC ON THE SKIN SENDS ANOTHER SIGNAL TO MY BRAIN.

IT MUST WATER DOWN THE SIGNAL OF PAIN.

REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THE PAIN IS BURNING, HEAT AND COLD ALL AT THE SAME TIME?

WELL, THERE'S ALSO LITTLE ELECTRIC BOLTS OF PAIN AND WARM, BUZZING PATCHES, NUMBNESS AND TINGLING AND PIN PRICKS. WORST OF ALL, IT SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE WORMS ARE BURROWING OR MOVING UNDER THE SKIN.



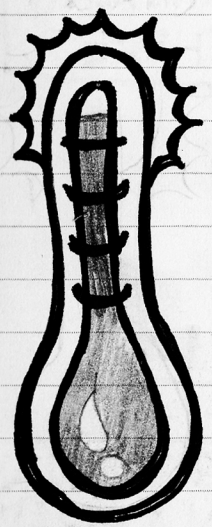
IT ALL CAN BE VERY DISTRACTING AND UNCOMFORTABLE. IT COMES AT RANDOM AND WITHOUT ANY SORT OF WARNING.

*QUICK NOTE: I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE SAY "HOW YA DOIN'?" BEST RESPONSE? LIE.

AND I HAVE LEARNED, YOU CAN'T FREAK OUT OR REACT.* PEOPLE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU LEARN NOT TO BEHAVE IN PAIN. JUST BLEND IN. WHILE SUFFERING. IT'S HARD. AND THANKLESS. AND IT FEELS LIKE YOU ARE BEING PUNISHED.

WHEN YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL, IF YOU ARE IN PAIN, THEY ASK YOU TO RATE THE PAIN ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, WHICH ALWAYS SEEMED ODD.



WHAT'S A "9"? HOW DOES IT RANK TO AN "8"? HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO YOUR "9"? WILL I THINK A "9" IS THE SAME TODAY AS A "9" MIGHT FEEL TOMORROW?

ANYWAY... MY PAIN IS CONSTANT AND IS ABOUT A "3." OR AT LEAST IT WAS. NOW, IT IS NEARLY ALWAYS A "6." SOMETIMES A "7" AND A FEW TIMES A "10." I HAVE ACTUALLY CRIED TEARS OF PAIN.

IT ALSO HUMS, BUZZES, FLARES, STINGS AND ITCHES ALL OVER THE PLACE. AND DON'T FORGET THE HEAT, THE COLD AND THE NUMBNESS. I CAN'T FORGET THEM. EVER.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO A CURIOUS AND RATHER DISCOMFORTING THOUGHT...

AT THIS POINT, I AM COMFORTABLE KNOWING THE PAIN IS THERE.

I CAN'T SAY WHY. MAYBE IT'S STOCKHOLM SYNDROME. I CERTAINLY DON'T ENJOY THE FEELING AND WOULD GLADLY GIVE IT UP.

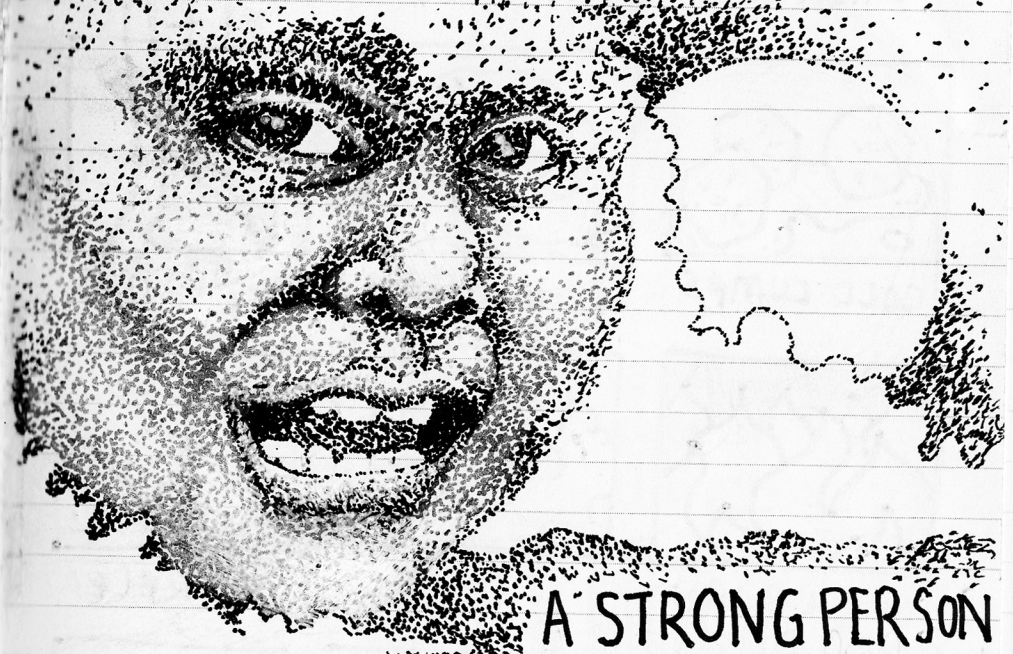
I GUESS BY JUST KNOWING IT'S THERE IS IN A STRANGE WAY, A REMINDER THAT I AM STILL ALIVE.

AND IF I'M STILL ALIVE, THEN I HAVE ANOTHER DAY, ALBEIT ONE IN PAIN, BUT ANOTHER 24 HOURS OF BREATH AND LIFE.

24 HOURS OF EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES, DRAWINGS I MADE... THINGS I DID...

MY NIECE ELLA, AGE 3

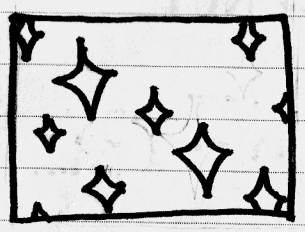
A STRONG PERSON IS NOT THE ONE WHO DOES NOT CRY...



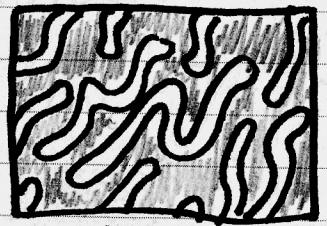
A STRONG PERSON IS THE ONE WHO CRIES AND SHEDS TEARS FOR A MOMENT... THEN GETS UP AND FIGHTS AGAIN

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

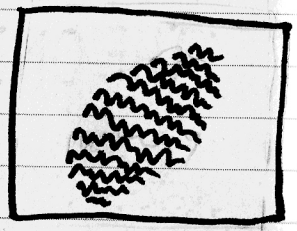
TO CLASSIFY THE PAIN...



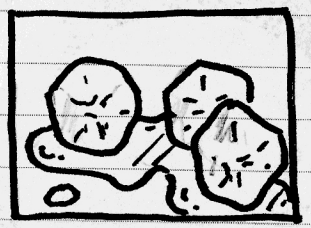
TINGLES



WORMS



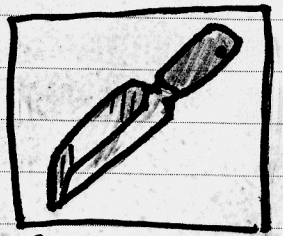
BUZZING PATCHES



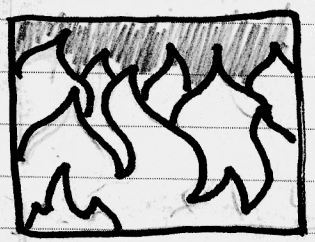
COLD LUMPS



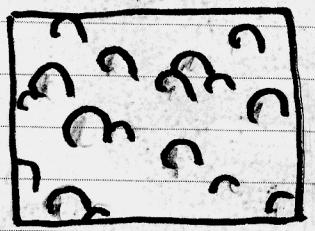
WAVES



SHARP STABS



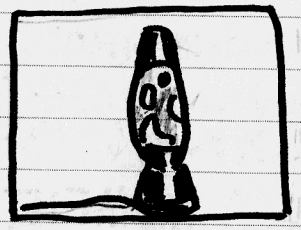
DULL BURN



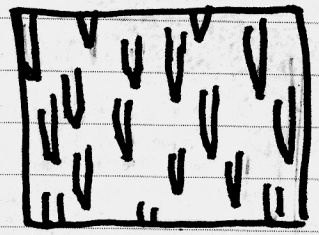
ITCHING



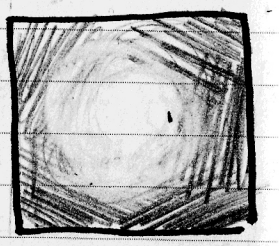
MARBLE



HOLLOW SLOSHING



PIN PRICKS



NUMBNESS

AND NOW LETS HAVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE PAIN FAMILY...

WARM, DULL BALL OF JOINT PAIN!



HI THERE!

I DUNNO... MAYBE IT'S JUST COINCIDENCE FROM GETTING OLD BUT ON MY LEFT SIDE I HAVE THIS NOW. IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I MOVE, BUT IT HURTS A LOT. WHO KNOWS?

Enjoy (?) some of my graffiti art.



SATIRE
SEVS-TUK

THINGS I GET CONFUSED ALL THE TIME:

MASS IS HOW MUCH STUFF MAKES UP AN OBJECT. IT IS CONSTANT NO MATTER WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE YOU ARE.

CONTRAST THAT WITH...

WEIGHT WHICH IS A MEASURE OF HOW GRAVITY AFFECTS AN OBJECT. IT CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE YOU ARE. LIKE YOU WEIGH LESS ON THE MOON!

THAT'S RELATED TO VOLUME SO LET'S LOOK AT

VOLUME WHICH IS HOW LOUD A SOUND IS. IT'S MEASURED IN DECIBLES. THE MORE DECIBLES YOU HAVE, THE LOUDER SOMETHING IS.

CONTRAST THAT WITH...

GAIN WHICH IS A MEASUREMENT OF HOW MUCH SIGNAL POWER COMES FROM A DEVICE SUCH AS AN AMP OR YOUR STEREO. IT'S RELATED TO VOLUME BECAUSE THE SOUND LEVEL WILL GET LOUDER, BUT IF YOU INCREASE THE GAIN BUT DO NOT INCREASE THE VOLUME, EVENTUALLY IT'S TOO MUCH SIGNAL AND SOUND BEGINS TO DISTORT.

...RETURNING TO VOLUME AS A MEASURE OF SPACE... YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THAT OLD TRICK QUESTION:

"WHAT WEIGHS MORE?
A POUND OF ROCKS OR
A POUND OF FEATHERS?"

HA HA! THEY WEIGH THE SAME! BUT...

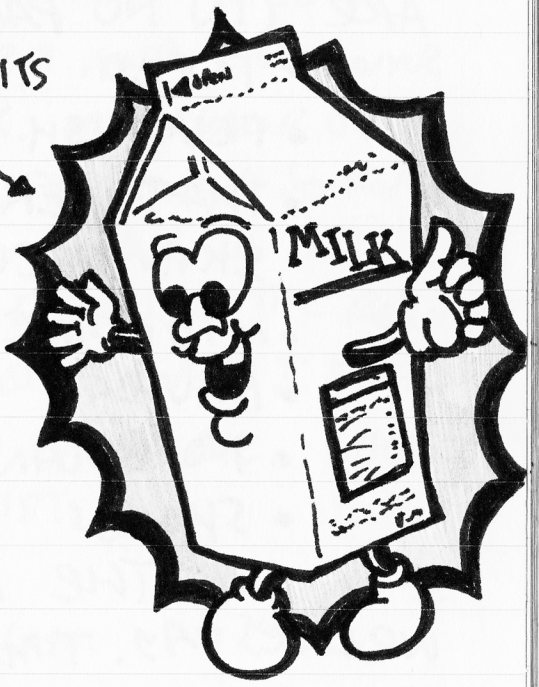
...WHAT WEIGHS MORE?
A GALLON OF ROCKS OR
A GALLON OF FEATHERS?
(PROBABLY THE ROCKS)

EVIL TECH SUPPORT NINJA



ELEVEN THINGS MADE MORE INTERESTING BY ADDING "O"

1 ENRICHED OREO DEPOSITS
2 MILK CARTOON
3 TRAFFIC COOP
4 PARKING LOOT
5 STOOP SIGN
6 POOT SMOKER
7 TREE SOAP
8 HAIR SALOON
9 CALICO COAT
10 TATER TOOTS
11 DO NOT PASS GOO





MOST FOSSILS ARE FOUND NOT IN DUSTY DESERT PLAINS, BUT IN FACT THE JURASS MOUNTAINS... FOUNDATION OF THE WORD "JURASSIC!"

IDEAS THAT SOUND BETTER THAN THEY WOULD BE IN REAL LIFE...

- HOT DOG WITH SAUSAGE GRAVY
- PRESIDENT HILLARY RHODAM CLINTON
- CIRCULAR TETRIS
- MACARONI AND CHEESE BURRITO
- FLYING CARS
- REVERSABLE SHOES
- THE CONCEPT OF LINDSAY LOHAN

KING COBRAS ARE NOT SNAKES.

THINGS I HATE WAITING FOR

- THE KEY TO THE SEWAGE PRESSURE VALVE
- "HOT DOUGHNUTS NOW"
- CONFIRMATION IT WASN'T A SEVERED TOE
- THE ANTIDOTE
- FREE SCRAMBLED EGGS
- THE MORMON TO FALL OFF MY PORCH

THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN ENTIRE EPISODE OF "HOARDERS" WHERE THE HOUSE WAS FULL OF DVD'S OF THE SHOW "HOARDERS."

I WONDER ALL THE TIME, IF I WERE TO SOMEHOW GO BACK TWENTY YEARS, WOULD THE OLD ME KNOW THIS ME? VICE VERSA?

I GET NERVOUS WHEN MY MONEY IS TESTED FOR COUNTERFEITING BECAUSE MY MONEY MIGHT BE FAKE AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW UNTIL RIGHT NOW.

DID YOU KNOW... ACCORDING TO "THE HARRISON REPORT," WHEN WORLD WAR II ENDED, THERE WERE STILL JEWS IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR YEARS UNTIL THE WORLD COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THEM. THERE WAS NO FORCED LABOR OR DEATH SQUADS BUT STILL THE SAME CAMPS AND THE SAME CONDITIONS FOR THOSE INSIDE.

ALTERNATE JOBS FOR PACMAN (ASIDE FROM GHOST REMOVAL)

1: ASSISTANT TO LUCILLE BALL AT CHOCOLATE FACTORY

2: ANIMAL CONTROL

3: DISPOSAL SPECIALIST AT SPALDING

4: LAWN MOWING SERVICE

5: RECYCLING BIN



THE GUIDELINES:

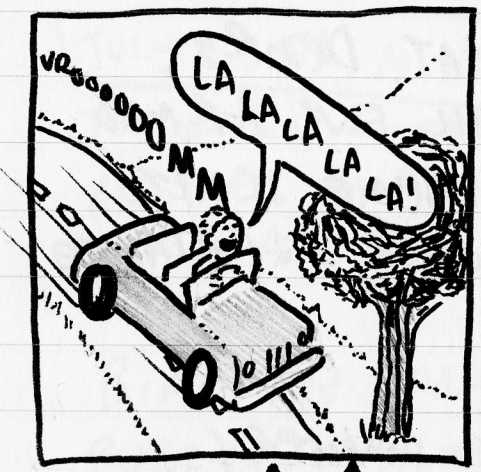
YOU ARE NOT ALWAYS RIGHT. YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING. SOMETIMES, THINGS WILL BE BROKEN. YOU ARE NOT ALWAYS IN CHARGE. AND IT'S OKAY.

DON'T SPEAK. THINK. STOP. LOOK. LISTEN.

DON'T BE SMART. BE KNOWLEDGABLE LEARNED, AND MYSTERIOUS.

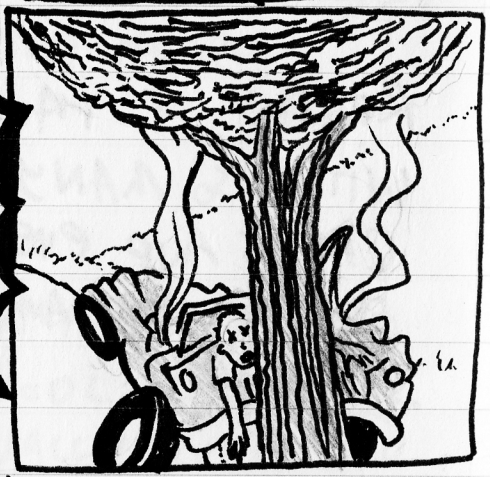
IF SOMEONE WANTS YOUR OPINION, THEY WILL ASK FOR IT. YOU STILL DON'T HAVE TO GIVE IT TO THEM.

INSTEAD OF TEARING PEOPLE DOWN, FIND FLAWS WITHIN YOURSELF TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND OVERCOME.

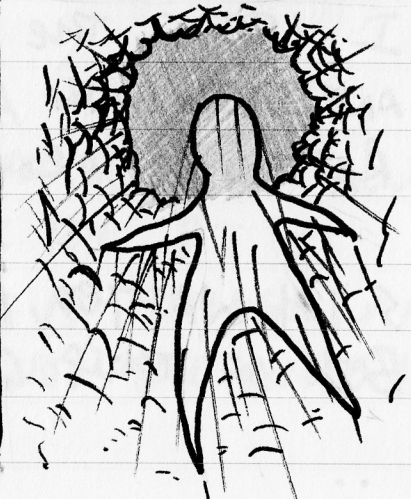

VROOOOOOOMMM
LA LA LA LA LA!


OH NOOOOO


CRASH!








WH... WHERE AM I?


WELCOME TO HEAVEN!!!


SWING YER PARDNER 'ROUND N' ROUND NOW PROMENADE...


UM... UH...


I HATE SQUARE DANCING


OH! SORRY... WELCOME TO HELL, THEN.
FIN

SUPPOSEDLY, BERTRAND RUSSELL WAS DELIVERING A LECTURE ON ASTRONOMY... ORBITS AND SUCH.

HE WAS APPROACHED BY AN AVID FLATEARTHER WHO PROCLAIMED THE EARTH TO BE FLAT AND RESTING ON THE BACK OF A GIANT TURTLE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT WHAT THE TURTLE STOOD UPON, THE WOMAN REPLIED: "ANOTHER TURTLE." WHEN ASKED WHAT THAT TURTLE IN TURN STOOD UPON THE INFAMOUS REPLY WAS:

"IT'S TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN..."

IS AN AMUSING STORY. SUSPECT. LIKELY UNTRUE. QUAINT.

BUT ANCIENT GREEKS POSTULATED THAT ALL MATTER COULD BE SPLIT INTO FUNDAMENTAL PIECES THAT COULD BE DIVIDED NO FURTHER. THEY CALLED THEM "ATOMS," THE TERM WE USE TO THIS DAY.

BUT ATOMS ARE MADE OF ELECTRONS, PROTONS AND NEUTRONS WHICH ARE ALL IN TURN MADE OF SUB ATOMIC PARTICLES.

WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?

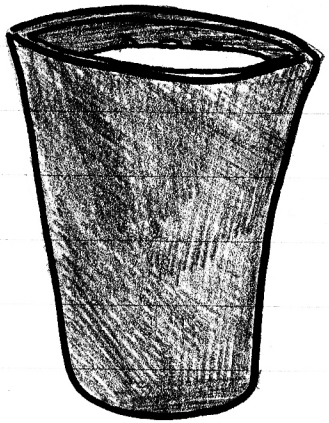
PERHAPS THERE IS NO END.

PERHAPS IT'S TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN, MUCH AS IT IS UP.

WE MAY NEVER KNOW.

WARNING! THIS STORY IS GROSS!

GROWING UP, MY FAMILY HAD A CUPBOARD FULL OF TUPPERWARE'S SMALL PLASTIC CUPS. THEY EASILY TOOK A SNAP-ON SIPPY-CUP TOP FOR CHILDCARE, WERE PERFECT FOR A SMALL BIT OF DRINK, AND STACKED NICELY.



ONE NIGHT, I CREPT INTO THE KITCHEN FOR A SHOT OF MILK.

I KNOCKED IT BACK AND SOMETHING IN THE MILK BUMPED MY LIPS. I PEERED IN THE NARROW LIGHT OF THE SINK CAMP TO SEE A ROACH SQUISHED FLAT INSIDE MY CUP.

I PROMPTLY EMPTIED MY STOMACH INTO THE SINK AND NEVER SLEPT AGAIN.

"HYPERBOLE IS MY FAVORITE LITERARY DEVICE. I USE IT LIKE 500 TIMES A DAY."

COFFEE BEANS ARE NOT REALLY BEANS. THEY ARE REALLY SEEDS. PEANUTS ARE NOT REALLY NUTS. THEY ARE BEANS. SWITCH!

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE NOT PINES. THEY ARE FIR TREES.

TO LOVE THE DANCING DEW
THAT CATCHES ON THE LEAF
TO LOVE THE PADDED PEW
OF HIM WHO DOES BELIEVE

TO LOVE THE CLOUDED SKY
THAT HANGS IN SIGHT ABOVE
TO LOVE THE UNSEEN HAND
AND FEEL THE STING
THAT KNOWS NOT LOVE


IT'S SO HARD NOT TO JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE
BUT WE ARE NOT THEM...


JUST AS WE JUDGE OTHERS, THEY JUDGE US. THEY SEE US AS ODD AND UNUSUAL OR WORTHY OF HATE AND DISTRUST...


WE HAVE NOT LIVED THEIR LIVES. WE HAVE NOT SHARED IN THEIR EXPERIENCES...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT EVENTS SHAPED THEM.


YET ANOTHER CAT VIDEO
PLEASE LET ME BE MORE FORGIVING OF STRANGERS. LET ME ACCEPT AND BE ACCEPTED.

HERE I FIND MYSELF IN A LAKE, SCRATCHING MY HEAD... "WHAT NOW?:

I'M LOST ON A LAKE IN A DEEP FOG WITH NO DIRECTION TO SOLID LAND. MURKY DEPTHS SUCK YOU IN, SCREAMING, BELOW THE WAVES.

I NEVER EXPECTED LIFE TO BE EASY BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO AIMLESS.

IN BRIGHT CONTRAST TO THIS, I HAVE STARTED TO LEARN HOW TO CONTROL MY ANGER. I'M STRUGGLING, BUT WORKING ON IT.

HISTORICAL THINGS THAT NEVER EXISTED:

- VIKING HELMET HORNS
- VICTORIAN HAT BUCKLES
- CHASITY BELTS
- IRON MAIDENS
- WOODEN TEETH

SORRY BUT THE STORIES JUST ARE NOT TRUE!

I WANT TO SCREAM. LOOK AT LIFE AND FAIL TO FIND DIRECTION. IF THERE IS A DIRECTION TO FIND, IT'S STRAIGHT DOWN. MAYBE "LET IT BE" IS A BAD PHILOSOPHY. ARE WE IN COMPLETE CONTROL, ABLE TO GRAB THE REINS AND CHANGE THE DIRECTION IT'S ALL GOING. MAYBE. NOT ENTIRELY. YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT. YOU CAN LIE.

BUT BE CAREFUL, AS YOUR BEHAVIOR IS ALWAYS UNDER SCRUTINY.

THAT SCRUTINY CAN BE AS POWERFUL AS THE LAW SOMETIMES.

IF SPEECH IS IN CHECK BY LAWS REGARDING LIABLE, SLANDER, ETC. THEN HOW FREE IS ACTION?

WE AREN'T TRULY FREE, ARE WE?

THAT FALSE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

SOMETIMES I REALLY FEEL LIKE I HAVE DONE SOMETHING BUT THE REALITY IS, EVEN THESE SMALL VICTORIES ARE MEANINGLESS...

AT THE GROCERY STORE I TRY TO SHUT OFF THE VOICE OF THE SELF-CHECKOUT COMPUTER BEFORE IT EVEN UTTERS A WORD. THIS TAKES REFLEXES AND TIMING TO CATCH HER BEFORE SHE SPEAKS.

TOTAL: 0.00 DA

PAUSE

HER VOICE FEELS LOUD AND HER INSTRUCTIONS INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE. OTHER SHOPPERS NEVER DO THIS AND I FEEL SMUG AND BETTER THAN THEM LIKE I KNOW A SECRET.

WHILE PLAYING MINECRAFT, BLOCKS HAVE TO BE NEAT, OFTEN EVENLY NUMBERED ROWS. THIS IS VERY SATISFYING, EVEN IF I WILL NEVER VISIT THIS CORNER OF THE GAME AGAIN

OTHER GAMES? I OPEN EVERY DOOR. I FLIP EVERY SWITCH EXPLORE FULLY.

I PULL AT HANG NAILS, OFTEN MAKING THEM WORSE, IN SOME STRANGE HOPE THEY WILL BE "FIXED."

WHAT'S SAD IS THAT I OFTEN NEGLECT THINGS LIKE HOUSE-KEEPING THAT ARE ACTUALLY IMPORTANT

THIS MUST ACTUALLY HAPPEN...







