Issue #2
June 2005
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ACTION PHILOSOPHERS!

ALL-SEX SPECIAL

THE SHOCKING CONTRADICTION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON!

"I WAS THE PRESIDENT'S LOVE SLAVE!"

ALSO:

AYN RAND'S NON-OBJECTIVIST LOVE AFFAIR!

HARD-DRINKIN', HARD-LOVIN' SAINT AUGUSTINE!

YES, WE DO REQUESTS!

THE *INCREDIBLE* TORRENT OF MAIL WE'VE RECEIVED FROM ACTION PHILOSOPHERS #1 (OKAY, ALL THREE EMAILS) INDICATES THAT YOU RABID ACT-PHILO-HEADS (IF YOU CAN THINK OF A BETTER NICKNAME LET US KNOW) HAVE YOUR OWN PET THINKERS YOU'D LIKE PROFILED IN THESE PAGES. WE HAVE THE NEXT FOUR ISSUES PRETTY MUCH PLOTTED OUT, BUT IF WE DO A FIFTH ONE IT COULD BE THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE ISSUE! SO PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP THOSE EMAILS COMING TO ***RYAN@EVILTWINCOMICS.COM*** AND LET US KNOW WHO YOU WANT TO SEE IN THAT ISSUE!

JUST SO YOU KNOW, SO FAR THE LEADERS ARE "INACTION PHILOSOPHER" ***ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER*** (1788-1860), EXISTENTIAL EMERITUS ***JEAN-PAUL SARTRE*** (1905-1980) AND EVERYONE'S FAVORITE STOIC, ***EPICTETUS*** (50-138).

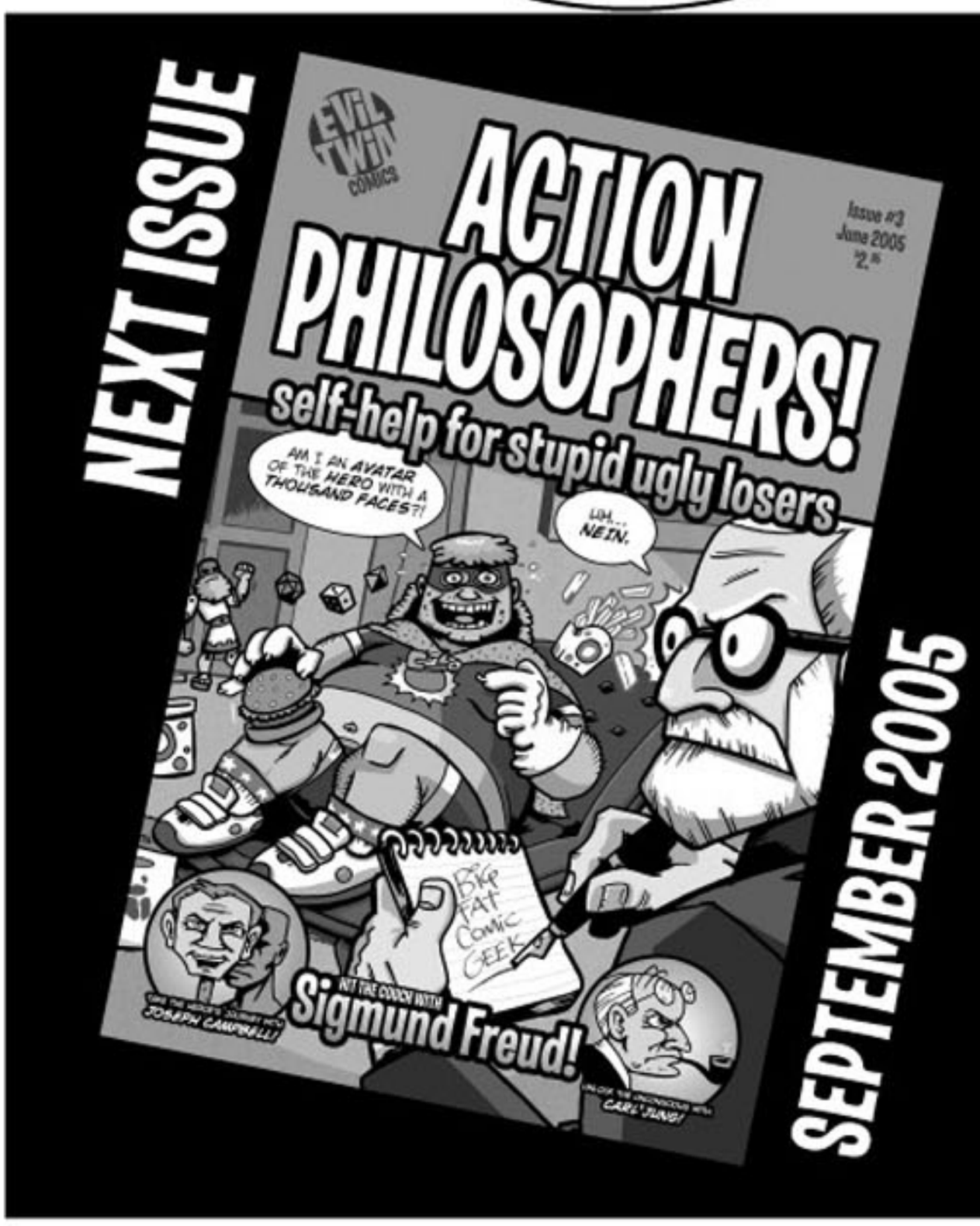
YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR SEXY INTERWEB PARTY:
WWW.ACTIONPHILOSOPHERS.COM

THIS PRETENTIOUS CRAP WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

...THE MISGUIDED DO-GOODERS AT THE XERIC FOUNDATION! VISIT WWW.XERICFOUNDATION.COM TO LEARN HOW YOU TOO CAN EARN ***FREE MONEY*** TO PRODUCE AN UNCOMMERCIAL, "ARTISTIC" COMIC BOOK THAT WILL BE SHOVED IN SOME DUSTY CORNER OF A STRIP MALL SHOP AND FORGOTTEN BY MOST PEOPLE 24 HOURS AFTER IT HITS THE STANDS.
NO, WE'RE NOT BITTER.



NEXT ISSUE



ACTION PHILOSOPHERS: ALL-SEX SPECIAL #1 IS PUBLISHED BY EVIL TWIN COMICS, D.B.A. RYAN DUNLAVEY, 262 FIFTH AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215. CONTENTS ©2005 FRED VAN LENTE AND RYAN DUNLAVEY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS BOOK MAY BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER(S).
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IN JUNE, 1776, THE ***CONTINENTAL CONGRESS*** OF THE REBELLIOUS THIRTEEN AMERICAN COLONIES COULD AGREE ON ALMOST ***NOTHING*** -- EXCEPT THE NEED TO ***ARTICULATE*** THEIR GRIEVANCES WITH THE ***BRITISH CROWN!***

THE MAN DRAFTED TO ***DRAFT*** THIS ***DECLARATION*** WAS THE ***QUIETEST*** DELEGATE IN CONGRESS--A MAN WHOSE OWN ***SPEAKING VOICE*** BARELY ROSE ABOVE A ***WHISPER***--BUT WAS ***UNANIMOUSLY AGREED*** TO BE THE GREATEST ***POLITICAL WRITER*** IN THE COUNTRY...

...A MAN ***WE*** KNOW BETTER AS ***ACTION PHILOSOPHER #4:***

Thomas Jefferson!

We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor:
Frederick J. Van Lente (script)
Ryan Michael Dunlavey (art)

DUNLAVEY

JEFFERSON AUTHORED WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE ***AMERICAN SCRIPTURE***, BUT IT WAS THE ***CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT*** OF ***THE ENLIGHTENMENT***, ITSELF A ***REVOLUTIONARY*** SHIFT IN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY!

IN CONGRESS. JULY 4. 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America.

THE ENLIGHTENMENT WAS INAUGURATED BY THE PUBLICATION OF ***SIR ISAAC NEWTON'S*** *PRINCIPIA MATHEMATICA* IN 1687.

THOU ***MUST NOT*** DRAWETH YON ***APPLE*** FALLING ON MINE ***HEAD.***

'TIS A ***MYTH.*** 'TIS A ***CLICHE*** MOST ***BASE!*** SUCH A THING NEVER ***HAPPENED.***

BONK!

MUST... ***DESTROYETH ...!!!***

BY LAYING OUT THE LAWS OF NATURE IN SIMPLE, ***IRREFUTABLE*** TERMS, NEWTON PROVED THAT THE INNER WORKINGS OF GOD'S CREATION COULD BE ***LAID BARE*** BY ***HUMAN REASON!***

GAK! CHOKE

NEWTON ALSO SHOWED THAT NATURE, LIKE THE HUMAN MIND, WAS ***RATIONAL!*** IT FOLLOWED CERTAIN PRE-SET LAWS, NOT THE WHIMS OF AN ANGRY GOD!

HUMAN BEINGS ***MUST*** BE FUNDAMENTALLY ***GOOD***, THEN, BECAUSE GOD ENDOWED THEM ***REASON...***

...FOR GOD WOULD ***NEVER*** HAVE GIVEN THE SECRETS OF HIS CREATION TO A FUNDAMENTALLY ***EVIL*** CREATURE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU PREFER THE "*GOD IS A TOTAL RETARD*" THEORY.

MANY CRITICS DERIDED THE ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS AS HOPELESSLY ***NAIVE***. AFTER ALL, THIS WAS A ***RADICAL DEVIATION*** FROM ***CENTURIES*** OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT!

THROUGHOUT THE ***MIDDLE AGES*** IT WAS PRESUMED THAT HUMANS WERE HOPELESSLY ***CORRUPT***. OUR EXPULSION FROM EDEN ***ALIENATED*** US FROM GOD AND WE WOULD ACHIEVE UNION WITH HIM ONLY IN ***DEATH!***

TO ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS, HOWEVER, THIS ALIENATION WAS THE RESULT OF AN OVERLY COMPLICATED, ***MANMADE*** ECCLESIASTICAL BUREAUCRACY THAT HAD NO ***COUNTERPART*** IN NATURE!

I'M ***SORRY***, SIR, HE'S ***VERY*** BUSY, SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ***APPOINTMENT*** I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU IN...

GOD

Z

ONLY BY DOING ***AWAY*** WITH MANMADE ***CONSTRUCTS*** AND CLEAVING CLOSE TO OUR ***OWN*** INNATE ***NATURE*** COULD WE BE TRULY GOOD, INNOCENT, AND (THEREFORE) CLOSER TO ***GOD***...

Z·I·P!

...A SO-CALLED "***NOBLE SAVAGE!***"

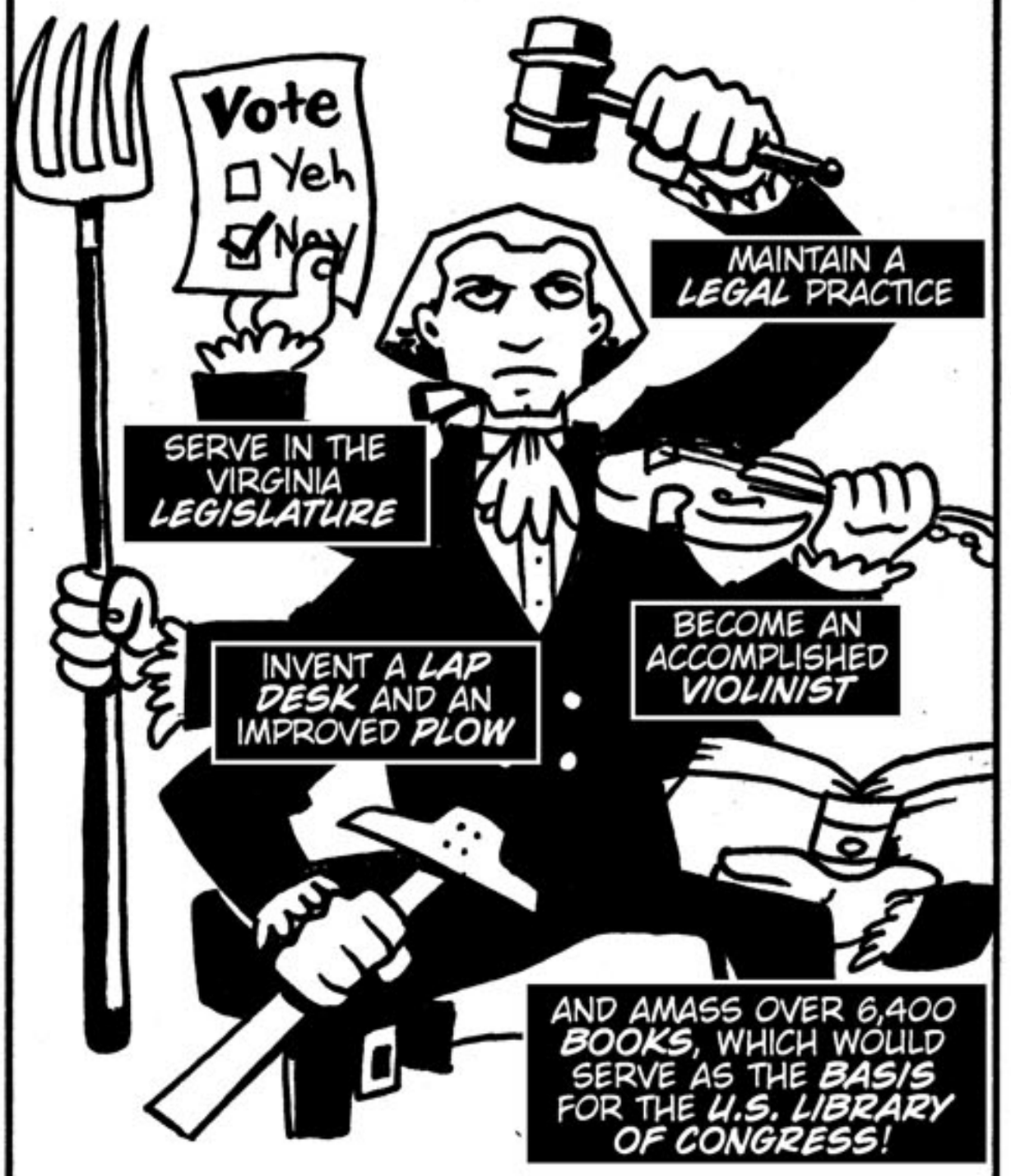
AH-AAAAAHHH!

THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS THE NOBLE SAVAGE *INCARNATE!* HE WAS BORN IN *1743* ON THE *EDGE* OF SETTLED VIRGINIA!



HIS UPWARDLY MOBILE FATHER *INSISTED* ON GIVING HIM A *CLASSICAL EDUCATION* WITH AN EMPHASIS ON *ENLIGHTENMENT PHILOSOPHY.*

FROM HIS ISOLATED RURAL *PLANTATION,* MONTICELLO -- THE HOUSE HE *DESIGNED* FOR HIMSELF -- JEFFERSON FOUND TIME TO --



JEFFERSON'S ENTIRE *LEGISLATIVE CAREER* INVOLVED FREEING THE COLONY'S CITIZENS TO FIND THEIR *OWN* INNER NOBLE SAVAGE!

HE *WROTE* THE STATUTE GUARANTEEING VIRGINIANS' *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM* TO FIND GOD IN *THEIR OWN* WAY!



I'M *SO* GLAD THE *MEDIEVAL EUROPEAN* SYSTEM OF *PRIMOGENITURE* MAINTAINS AN *AMERICAN* ARISTOCRACY BY FORCING *ALL LANDS* TO BE INHERITED BY THE *ELDEST SON* -*GAK!!*

BELIEVING THIS SYSTEM *UNNATURAL* TOO, JEFFERSON SPEARHEADED *ENDING* IT, SO *ALL* WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO *WORK THE LAND!*



YOU CAN ONLY *IMAGINE* HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE *BRITISH* ARISTOCRACY, WHICH *RULED* AMERICA FROM *LONDON!*

HE WAS ONE OF THE *FIRST* REVOLUTIONARIES TO OPENLY ADVOCATE *FULL* SUCCESSION FROM ENGLAND, IN 1774!

FOR THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE JEFFERSON TURNED IN SOME OF THE CATCHIEST *AD SLOGANS* FOR *DEMOCRACY* IN *HISTORY!*

BUT HE WAS NO *HIPPIE*. "PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" HAD A VERY *SPECIFIC* MEANING TO SOMEONE OF HIS *CLASS...*

LIFE, LIBERTY and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS

...IN JEFFERSON'S MIND AMERICA WAS TO BECOME AN *AGRARIAN PARADISE* DOMINATED BY *FARMER/INTELLECTUALS!*

THEM *V.R. GOGGLES* RUNNIN' ON TH' *COLD FUSION REACTOR* THAR, PA?

YESSUM. INVENTED THE GOL-DANGED THING AFTER I MILKED THE *HOG*, I DID.

POTATOES

YOU MEND THE *CHICKEN COOP* AND FINISH THAT MONOGRAPH ON THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF *PROPERTY* YET?

ALL IN ITS OWN GOOD *TIME*, MOTHER ...

IN OTHER WORDS, IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES, *ALL* AMERICANS WOULD *NATURALLY* TURN OUT JUST LIKE *JEFFERSON!*

THERE WAS ONLY ONE SLIGHT *PROBLEM* WITH THIS PLAN, HOWEVER.

WHAT ABOUT *US*?

JEFFERSON WASN'T ENTIRELY "JEFFERSON" ***HIMSELF!***

HIS ***"NATURAL"*** EXISTENCE WAS LARGELY A RESULT OF A ***MAN-MADE*** CONSTRUCT--ONE OF THE MOST ***HEINOUS*** IN HISTORY!

ABOUT ***200 AFRICAN SLAVES*** DID ALL OF JEFFERSON'S FARMING FOR HIM, GRANTING HIM THE ***LUXURY*** TO LIVE A LIFE OF THOUGHT AND SCIENCE!

FREEDOM

HOW TO ***RECONCILE*** SUCH AN ***OBVIOUS*** CONTRADICTION BETWEEN ***IDEAL*** AND ***REALITY***?

"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"

TAP TAP

EASY...

NOT MEN

HEY! QUIT IT!

"...NEGROES ARE NOT ***MEN!***"

BETTER PULL UP A ***CHAIR***. SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE GONNA BE ***STUCK*** HERE UNTIL THE *1960'S.*

HA! YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH ***NOW***, ARE YA, MR. "I'VE-GOT-OPPOSABLE-THUMBS!"

"IN ***REASON*** (BLACKS ARE) MUCH ***INFERIOR***... ***NEVER*** COULD I FIND THAT A BLACK HAD UTTERED A THOUGHT ABOVE THE LEVEL OF PLAIN ***NARRATION.***"*

PRETTY ***SIMPLE***, RIGHT?

*: T.J., ***NOTES ON VIRGINIA*** (1783)

JEFFERSON'S ***REAL*** GENIUS LAY NOT JUST IN HIS ***IDEAS***--BUT IN HIS ABILITY TO ***CONVEY*** THEM IN EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND TERMS! HE SAW ALL CONFLICTS AS STARK ***WHITE*** VERSUS ***BLACK***!

(IF YOU'LL PARDON THE TERM.)

THIS ***ACCESSIBILITY*** OF HIS PHILOSOPHY HAS INSPIRED WOULD-BE ***REVOLUTIONARIES*** OF ***EVERY*** STRIPE EVER SINCE!

A T-SHIRT WITH ***THIS*** QUOTATION WAS FOUND IN THE APARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBER ***TIMOTHY McVEIGH***:

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

— Thomas Jefferson

HE PROVED MUCH MORE ADROIT AT FIGHTING ***BAD*** LAWS THAN SUPPORTING ***GOOD*** ONES.

IRONICALLY, AMERICA'S GREATEST POLITICAL THEORIST ***MISSED*** THE ENTIRE ***CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATES*** SERVING AS THE USA'S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE!

THERE HE DISTURBED MANY OF HIS COMRADES WITH HIS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT OF THE BLOOD-SOAKED ***FRENCH REVOLUTION***:

"RATHER THAN IT SHOULD HAVE ***FAILED***, I WOULD HAVE SEEN HALF THE ***EARTH*** DESOLATED!"

BY THE MIDDLE OF HIS FIRST TERM AS ***PRESIDENT***, JEFFERSON HAD MADE MANY ***ENEMIES***, WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A ***DANGEROUS RADICAL***. IN 1802 THEY SPREAD REPORTS THAT ALLEGED:

PRESIDENT JEFFERSON KEEPS ONE OF HIS ***OWN SLAVES*** AS HIS ***MISTRESS***!

FRIGGIN' ***ATTACK ADS***...

Foxy Lady

IN 1998, ***D.N.A. TESTING*** ON DESCENDANTS PROVED THAT ***SALLY HEMMINGS***, A SLAVE 20 YEARS JEFFERSON'S JUNIOR, WAS HIS ***LOVER*** FOR ***DECADES***!

JEFFERSON'S YOUNG WIFE HAD DIED IN 1781. RIGHT BEFORE THE ***END***, SHE MADE HIM ***PROMISE***:

YOU MUST ***NEVER*** ... MARRY ... AGAIN!

AND HE ***DIDN'T.***

BUT JEFFERSON WAS **38**--NOT EXACTLY ***CHASTE WIDOWER*** MATERIAL--AND HE HAD A ***POIGNANT*** TEMPTATION LIVING RIGHT UNDER HIS ***ROOF***:

JEFFERSON ***INHERITED*** SALLY HEMMINGS AND ***99 OTHER*** SLAVES FROM HIS WIFE'S ***FATHER***. SALLY'S MOTHER ***BETTY*** WAS JEFFERSON'S ***FATHER-IN-LAW***'S MISTRESS...

...SALLY WAS JEFFERSON'S ***DEAD WIFE'S HALF-SISTER!***

OH YEAH! ***NOW*** YOU'RE TALKIN'!

WAS THIS A WAY OF HAVING HIS CAKE AND EATING IT TOO ... DID KEEPING AN ALLEGED ***INFERIOR*** AS HIS LOVER "NOT COUNT" AS BREAKING HIS PROMISE TO HIS WIFE?

AFTER ALL, THIS ***IS*** THE SAME MAN WHO TRIED TO BE A ***SLAVEHOLDING*** GURU OF PERSONAL FREEDOM!

"NOTHING IS MORE CERTAINLY WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF ***FATE***, THAT THESE PEOPLE (BLACKS) ARE MEANT TO BE ***FREE***..."

"...NOR IS IT ***LESS*** CERTAIN THAT THE TWO RACES ***CANNOT*** LIVE IN THE ***SAME*** GOVERNMENT!"*

*: T.J., ***AUTOBIOGRAPHY*** (1821)

DESPITE HIS ***RACISM***, JEFFERSON BELIEVED SLAVERY WAS ***WRONG***--YET IT WAS THE ONE ***UNNATURAL*** CONSTRUCT HE COULD ***NOT*** SLAY.

HIS ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE ***DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE*** CONTAINED A PASSAGE ***CONDEMNING*** SLAVERY, BUT IT WAS EXCISED AT THE DEMAND OF ***SOUTHERN DELAGATES!***

SLAVERY

WHEN HE WAS A YOUTHFUL MEMBER OF THE VIRGINIA LEGISTLATURE, JEFFERSON INTRODUCED A BILL ***ABOLISHING*** SLAVERY, BUT IT WAS VOTED DOWN!

PERPETUALLY IN ***DEBT*** AFTER THE REVOLUTION, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ***RUINED*** IF HE FREED HIS ***OWN*** SLAVES -- WHICH, AS PROPERTY, COULD BE USED FOR ***EQUITY***!

IN GOD WE TRUST LIBERTY 1962

-:HEH:-... SORRY ABOUT THIS GUYS... -:GULP!:-

HE DEALT WITH HIS FAILURES AND CONTRADICTIONS BY ***IGNORING*** THEM! SLAVERY ... INFIDELITY ... THESE HAD ***NO*** PLACE IN HIS BLACK-AND-WHITE WORLD, SO HE ***DEFERRED*** CONFRONTING THEM ***INDEFINITELY!***

LA-LA-LA, I CAN'T ***HEAR*** YOU...

SLAVERY ***BLINDED*** HIM TO AMERICA'S ***TRUE*** DESTINY-- WHICH WAS ***INDUSTRIAL*** AND ***URBAN***, NOT PASTORAL AND AGRARIAN.

!%@#$!

AMERICA'S DEFERRAL OF THE ***SLAVERY*** ISSUE ***EXPLODED*** WHEN SLAVEHOLDING STATES TRIED TO ***SECEDE*** FROM THE UNION...

...QUOTING ***JEFFERSON*** AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR ***REBELLION***, OF COURSE.

AS INSPIRING AS JEFFERSON'S ***WORDS*** WERE, IT WOULD BE THE ***BLOOD*** SPILLED DURING THE ***CIVIL WAR*** THAT WOULD AT LAST REALIZE HIS ***VISION*** OF EQUALITY FOR ***ALL.***

DOES **THIS MAN** LOOK LIKE A *SAINT* TO YOU?!

HE SURE LOOKS LIKE ACTION PHILOSOPHER #5:

St. Augustine!

WRITTEN (THANKS TO *GRACE*) BY FRED VAN LENTE!

DRAWN (OF HIS OWN FREE *WILL*) BY RYAN DUNLAVEY!

BORN IN *A.D. 354* IN WHAT IS NOW SOUK-AHRAS, ALGERIA, AURELIUS AUGUSTINE WAS RAISED A *CHRISTIAN* BY HIS DEVOUT MOTHER, *MONICA*. BUT HER FAITH DIDN'T STICK--AT *FIRST*. FOR *ONE* THING, HIS RAGING HORMONES WEREN'T INTERESTED...

"GIVE ME *CHASTITY* AND *CONTINENCE*...

"...JUST NOT *NOW!*"* (HOMINA, HOMINA!)

*: ST. A., *CONFESSIONS* (A.D. 400)

...AND NEITHER WAS HIS *RAGING INTELLECT!*

CHRISTIANITY CONTAINS TOO MANY *CONTRADICTIONS.* MOTHER SAYS THAT GOD IS NOT ONLY *GOOD* BUT GOODNESS *ITSELF...*

Z Z Z

...BUT HOW COULD THIS *SAME* GOD ALSO CREATE THE *WICKED WILL* THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO DO *EVIL*? WOULDN'T HE WANT *EVERYONE* TO BE GOOD--AND THEN JUST *MAKE* THEM THAT WAY FROM BIRTH?

CHRISTIANS *THEMSELVES* CAN'T EVEN AGREE ON THE MOST *BASIC TENTS* OF THEIR OWN RELIGION!

ONLY A FEW CENTURIES OLD, CHRISTIANITY WAS STILL IN A *MOLTEN* STATE. ITS FORMAL *DOGMA* HAD YET TO *SOLIDIFY*, AND PROLIFERATING SECTS WERE *LEGION.*

YOU *DARE* PROMOTE YOUR *DONATISM* OVER MY *ARIANISM*? WE TEACH THAT GOD THE *FATHER* IS THE *ONLY* TRUE GOD--JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE MERELY HIS *CREATIONS!*

WE *ADOPTIONISTS* WOULD HAVE YOU *BURNT AT THE STAKE* FOR SUCH *BLASPHEMY!* CHRIST WAS A *MAN*, IMBUED WITH THE *SPIRIT* OF GOD!

HEED THE WISDOM OF *NESTORIANISM*, INFIDELS! CHRIST IS *TWO ENTITIES*, ONE DIVINE, THE OTHER *HUMAN!*

UM, WE *MONOTHELITES* WOULD LIKE TO HUMBLY ASSERT THAT CHRIST HAS *ONE WILL* BUT *TWO NATURES*, BUT, UH, HE *CLEAVES* TOWARD THE *DIVINE.*

FALSE PROPHET! CHRIST HAS *ONE NATURE* --DIVINE! *ALL* ADHERENTS TO *MONOPHYSITISM* KNOW THIS!

WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS! -:PFFFFT!:- CALL ME WHEN YOU GET YOUR *STORIES STRAIGHT...* LOSERS!

INSTEAD, AUGUSTINE DRIFTED TOWARD PAGAN *MANICHAEISM.*

FRIENDS, HOW CAN *GOOD* EXIST WITHOUT *EVIL*? HOW COULD WE SEE THE *LIGHT* IF IT DID NOT PIERCE THE *DARK*? AND IS IT NOT *SUNSHINE* THAT CAUSES *SHADOWS* TO FALL?

THE TEACHINGS OF GREAT *MANI* REVEAL THIS AND MUCH, MUCH *MORE!*

THE IRAQI MYSTIC ***MANI***, A.K.A. "THE ***ILLUSTRIOUS*** ONE," SYNTHESIZED VARIOUS KIBBLES & BITS OF BUDDHISM, BABYLONIAN MYTHOLOGY AND ZOROASTRIAN ***DUALISM*** INTO A PHILOSOPHY THAT SPREAD LIKE ***WILDFIRE*** THROUGHOUT EUROPE, ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE ***THIRD CENTURY.***

HEE HEE HEE

HE BECAME ***SO*** POPULAR THAT THE ***PERSIAN EMPIRE*** OUTLAWED THE SECT AND IMPRISONED ITS FOUNDER. THOUGH MANI DIED IN ***CHAINS*** IN 277, MANICHAEISM CONTINUED TO FLOURISH AS ONE OF CHRISTIANITY'S ***BIGGEST COMPETITORS.***

MANI TAUGHT THAT IN THE BEGINNING THE UNIVERSE WAS DIVIDED INTO A REALM OF ***LIGHT*** AND A REALM OF ***DARKNESS***. EACH WAS INFINITE IN ***ALL*** DIRECTIONS SAVE ***ONE***, WHICH WAS WHERE THE TWO REALMS ***MET.***

1 FINITE POINT IN UNIVERSE GIFT SHOP

RESTROOM FOR CUSTOMERS ONLY!

ALL MIGHT HAVE REMAINED PEACEFUL IN THIS "***DUOVERSE***" FOREVER, EXCEPT...

MY DARK DOMAIN WOULD BE PERFECT NIGHT WERE IT NOT FOR THE GALLING GLOW SEEPING IN FROM THE ACCURSED KINGDOM OF LIGHT!

THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!

HARK! THE FEARSOME FOOTFALLS OF THE DARKNESS KING DOTH APPROACH!

THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!

VERILY, A HERO MUST RISE AND VANQUISH THE MASTER OF MALFEASANCE BEFORE HE SPOILS MINE LUMINESCENT LAND!

I HAVE IMBUED THEE WITH THE POWER FLUORESCENT! GO FORTH AND CLAIM THE BATTLE THAT IS THY BIRTHRIGHT, FIRSTMAN!

SO COMMANDS THE LORD OF LIGHT!!

HAVE AT THEE, VILLAIN! YON EVIL SCHEMES SHALT NEVER MAR THE LAND OF LIGHT WHILE FIRSTMAN DRAWS BREATH!

1 FINITE POINT IN UNIVERSE GIFT SHOP

WHATEVER YOU **SAY**, PRETTY BOY...

DAAAAAAMN! THE DARK KING'S ***FEEDING*** FIRSTMAN TO HIS ***SONS***, YO! THEY'RE GETTIN' POWERS ***TOO!*** THAT'S JUST ***WRONG...***

D'OH! WHY DOES THIS BELIEF SYSTEM HAVE TO BE SO DAMN ***DUALISTIC***? IN A ***POLYTHEISTIC*** MULTIVERSE HE COULD GO RUIN SOME ***OTHER*** COSMIC ENTITY'S DAY! BUT NO, IT'S JUST ***HIM*** AND ***ME.***

WHERE'D FIRSTLOSER'S ***SONS*** GO?

AND SO THE **SONS** OF FIRSTMAN DID BATTLE WITH THEIR DIAMETRIC **OPPOSITES** AMONG THE BROOD OF THE KING OF **DARKNESS**.

CLEAR AIR!

REFRESHING WIND!

BRIGHT LIGHT!

LIFE-GIVING WATERS!

WARMING FIRE!

PESTILENT BREATH!

SCORCHING WIND!

GLOOM!

MIST!

CONSUMING FIRE!

THE SONS OF LIGHT **WON**, AND THE VANQUISHED CORPSES OF THE SONS OF **DARKNESS** BECAME THE MATTER THAT FORMED THE HEAVENS AND THE **EARTH**.





SINCE **HUMANS** CAME OUT OF THAT **MATTER**, WE'RE MADE OUT OF THE **STUFF** OF DARKNESS--**EVIL**!

BUT DON'T FORGET THAT THE SONS OF DARKNESS ***ATE*** FIRSTMAN ***BEFORE*** THEY WERE ***SLAUGHTERED.***

SO ALL MATTER-- INCLUDING ***HUMANS***-- ARE FESTOONED WITH PARTICLES OF ***LIGHT!***

I SEE...SO A MAN MUST KEEP HIS BODY ***FREE*** OF THE POLLUTION OF ***MATTER***, SO HIS ***LIGHT PARTICLES*** CAN MERGE WITH THE ***REALM*** OF LIGHT UPON THE BODY'S ***DEMISE!***

AUGUSTINE SPENT NINE YEARS AS AN ***AUDITOR***, OR "HEARER," AT THE FEET OF THE MANICHEAN ***"ELECT"***.

YOU MUST NOT EVER HAVE ***CHILDREN!*** THAT'S JUST PROMULGATING MORE ***MATTER!*** IT'S ***EVIL!***

NEVER PUT ***MEAT*** OR ***MILK*** OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT COMES FROM AN ***ANIMAL*** INTO YOUR BODY! THAT'S ***MATTER!*** IT'S ***EVIL!***

IN FACT, NEVER HAVE ***SEX*** AGAIN! HOT, SWEATY ***MATTER*** ON TOP OF HOT, SWEATY MATTER? THAT'S LIKE A ***WAL-MART OF EVIL!!!***

DRAT.

THOUGH HE WAS A ***DEVOUT*** HEARER, AUGUSTINE'S BRAIN NEVER SHUT ITSELF ***OFF.*** HE WAS ***CONSUMED*** BY THE ***CONTRADICTIONS*** OF HIS FAITH:

THEY SAY THAT ONLY THE ***TEETH OF THE ELECT*** CAN RELEASE THE ***LIGHT*** IMPRISONED IN FRUIT, SO WHY DO THE HEARERS HAVE TO EAT IT ***TOO***?

NO ***NATURAL SCIENTISTS*** HAVE EVER FOUND THESE "LIGHT PARTICLES" IN OUR BODIES, SO HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THEY EXIST?

I HAVE NO DOUBT OUR LEARNED BISHOP ***FAUSTUS*** CAN ANSWER ***ALL*** YOUR QUESTIONS, AUDITOR!

!

MANI SAYS THAT PICKING FIGS TO EAT IS TANTAMOUNT TO ***SLAYING*** THEM AND THEREFORE ***EVIL***. SO, TO STAY ***PURE***, THE ELECT MUST HAVE THEIR FOOD PICKED ***FOR*** THEM.

BUT SIMPLE ***LOGIC*** DICTATES THAT FORCING ***OTHERS*** TO DO EVIL ON YOUR BEHALF IS ITSELF ***EVIL!***

LOOK, YOU SEEM LIKE A ***BRIGHT KID***, SO I'M NOT GONNA B.S. YOU: I ***CAN'T*** EXPLAIN THAT DISCREPANCY...

...BUT SINCE MOST PEOPLE ARE TOO ***STUPID*** TO UNDERSTAND ***HALF*** THE STUFF YOU TALK ABOUT, WHO ***CARES***? KEEP IT ***SIMPLE***: STICK WITH THE GOOD-VERSUS-EVIL STUFF, AND PEOPLE DIE HAPPY ... AND ***UNCONFUSED***. YA DIG?

AUGUSTINE WAS SO ***DEMORALIZED*** BY HIS ENCOUNTER WITH FAUSTUS THAT HE ***GAVE UP*** BEING A MANICHEAN... IN FACT, HE NEARLY GAVE UP ON ***RELIGION*** ALTOGETHER!

IN A.D. 383, AUGUSTINE MOVED TO ***ITALY*** AND BECAME A MUCH SOUGHT-AFTER TEACHER OF ***RHETORIC***, INSTRUCTING THE YOUNG ***HELLIONS*** OF ROMAN ARISTOCRACY HOW TO ***TWIST*** THE TRUTH TO THEIR ADVANTAGE THROUGH A CUNNING USE OF ***LANGUAGE***.

LESSON 1:
HOW TO LIE

AS SKILLED AS HE ***WAS***, IT WAS STILL A ***STRUGGLE***. IT WAS QUITE COMMON IN THOSE DAYS FOR STUDENTS TO ***DROP*** A CLASS RIGHT BEFORE ***TUITION*** WAS DUE--

--AND CONTINUE THEIR COURSEWORK WITH ***ANOTHER*** INSTRUCTOR ACROSS TOWN!

AUGUSTINE'S ***HEART*** GREW AS EMPTY AS HIS ***POCKETBOOK.*** IN SEPTEMBER OF 386 HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GARDEN OF HIS HOME ***DESPAIRING*** THAT HIS EXCESSIVELY ANALYTICAL MIND PREVENTED HIM FROM BELIEVING IN ***ANYTHING.***

HOW LONG SHALL I GO ON SAYING, "TOMORROW, TOMORROW?" WHY NOT ***NOW***? WHY NOT--

WHEN ***SUDDENLY--***

TAKE IT AND READ, TAKE IT AND READ...

?

AUGUSTINE LATER WROTE, "WHETHER IT WAS THE VOICE OF A BOY OR A GIRL I CANNOT SAY, BUT AGAIN AND AGAIN IT REPEATED THE REFRAIN:"

TAKE IT AND READ, TAKE IT AND READ...

?

TAKE IT AND READ, TAKE IT AND READ...

NOT IN reveling and drunkenness, not in lust and wantonness, not in quarrels and rivalries. Rather, arm yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ; spend no more thought on nature and nature's appetites. ROMANS 13:13-14

"IN AN INSTANT, AS I CAME TO THE END OF THE SENTENCE, IT WAS AS THOUGH THE LIGHT OF ***CONFIDENCE*** FLOODED INTO MY HEART AND ALL THE DARKNESS OF ***DOUBT*** WAS ***DISPELLED***."

AUGUSTINE TOOK THE BIBLE PASSAGE QUITE ***LITERALLY***. HE ***IMMEDIATELY*** GAVE UP HIS JOB "SELLING THE SERVICES OF HIS TONGUE."

LIFETIME CONTRACT

INSTEAD HE PLANNED TO LIVE A LIFE OF ***PURE REASON***, IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH. AUGUSTINE RETREATED TO A FRIEND'S COUNTRY ESTATE OUTSIDE ***MILAN*** WHERE HE HELD INFORMAL DEBATE SESSIONS WITH HIS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES--HIS ***MOTHER*** AMONG THEM!

MY ***ERROR*** IS SO ***OBVIOUS*** NOW, MAMA!

I WAS ASKING THE ***WRONG QUESTION***! IT IS NOT "WHY IS THERE ***EVIL***?"

NO, THE ***CORRECT*** QUESTION IS...

"WHY IS THERE ***GOOD***?"

"*GOOD* IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING 'WHAT *GOD* WANTS US TO DO.'

BUT ONLY IN *EDEN* WAS MAN'S *FREE WILL* PERFECTLY *IN SYNCH* WITH HIS CREATOR'S-- ADAM'S *WANTS* WERE THE SAME AS GOD'S!"

"AFTER OUR EXPULSION FROM THE GARDEN, WE BECAME *SEPARATED* FROM THE LORD. SINCE EVIL IS, IN ESSENCE, THE *ABSENCE* OF GOD, AFTER OUR *FALL FROM GRACE* IT BECAME THE MOST *COMMON* THING ON EARTH!"

EDEN

"TODAY, ADAM'S *SONS AND DAUGHTERS* ARE LOST IN *MORAL CONFUSION.* WE NO LONGER *INSTINCTUALLY* KNOW THE *GOOD.*"

25¢

PLEASE HELP

GOD BLESS

"IN FACT, WE *CANNOT* DO GOOD WITHOUT AN *INVITATION FROM GOD*-- HIS *GRACE*, WHICH HE SENDS TO US BECAUSE HE *WANTS* US TO BE SAVED!"

PLEASE HELP

GOD BLESS

"THOUGH HUMAN WILL IS *CAPABLE* OF RESISTING GOD'S GRACE, NO ONE EVER *DOES.* GRACE IS TOO ENTICING TO *IGNORE*, FOR IT REMINDS US OF OUR ORIGINAL HOME, *EDEN!*"

BUT IF HUMANITY CANNOT *RESIST* GRACE, AND IT IS *GOD* WHO CHOOSES *WHO* TO GIVE GRACE *TO*, IT IS THE *LORD* WHO DECIDES WHO IS SAVED, *NOT* INDIVIDUAL HUMANS. HOW CAN *THAT* BE CALLED *FREE WILL*?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MOTHER, YOU FAIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AN OBVIOUS POINT:

"***GOD IS NOT HUMAN!*** HE IS NOT BOUND BY ***OUR*** PERCEPTION OF ***LINEAR*** CAUSE AND EFFECT. GOD CAN SEE ***ALL*** THE POSSIBLE VARIATIONS OF A PARTICULAR ACT. TO HIM, ALL HUMAN BEINGS POSSESS AN ***INFINITE*** CAPACITY FOR GOOD OR EVIL!"

1

2

3

4

"BUT THE ***POSSIBLE*** IS NOT THE ***ACTUAL!*** AN ***INFALLIBLE*** GOD ALREADY ***KNOWS*** WHAT YOUR ***FREE WILL*** DECIDED TO ***CHOOSE.***"

2

"HE ***KNOWS*** THIS BECAUSE GOD IS ***OUTSIDE TIME!*** BEFORE HE CREATED THE WORLD, HE SAW ***ALL*** THE GRACES AND ***WHERE*** AND ***WHEN*** AND TO ***WHOM*** THEY WERE PRESENTED."

"SO WHILE GOD REMAINS THE UNDISPUTED ***MASTER*** OF MEN'S WILLS--OUR ***CHOICES*** REMAIN OUR ***OWN!***"

OOOH, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL ***FIGURED OUT,*** AUGGIE! I'M SO ***PROUD*** OF YOU! ->***SMAK!***<

MAAAA... HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO ***TELL YOU...*** NOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER ***THEOLOGIANS...*** ->GRUMBLE...<

THE BISHOP OF MILAN, ***ST. AMBROSE***, BAPTIZED AUGUSTINE ON ***EASTER***, 387.

HE SOLD ***ALL*** HIS WORLDLY POSSESSIONS AND PLANNED TO LEAD A LIFE OF ***PRAYER*** AND ***THOUGHT***...BUT FATE HAD ***OTHER*** PLANS.

AUGUSTINE'S MOTHER DIED MERE ***MONTHS*** AFTER HIS BAPTISM. PERHAPS NOT COINCIDENTALLY, SOON THEREAFTER HE RETURNED TO ***MOTHER AFRICA*** ... SPECIFICALLY ***HIPPO***, A CITY IN WHAT IS NOW ***TUNISIA***.

MONICA WOULD LATER BE ***CANONIZED*** ALONG WITH HER SON AS THE PATRON SAINT OF ***ABUSED WIVES*** (AUGGIE'S DAD WAS A ***PAGAN***).

ALREADY ***FAMOUS*** FOR THE WRITINGS THAT HE HAD PRODUCED DURING HIS ***SOLITUDE*** OUTSIDE MILAN, AUGUSTINE WAS PERSUADED BY THE LOCAL FAITHFUL TO BE ***ORDAINED*** INTO THE PRIESTHOOD.

IN 396 HE WAS ELECTED ***BISHOP OF HIPPO***, THE MOST IMPORTANT SEE IN AFRICA, AN OFFICE HE WOULD HOLD FOR THE NEXT THIRTY-FOUR YEARS!

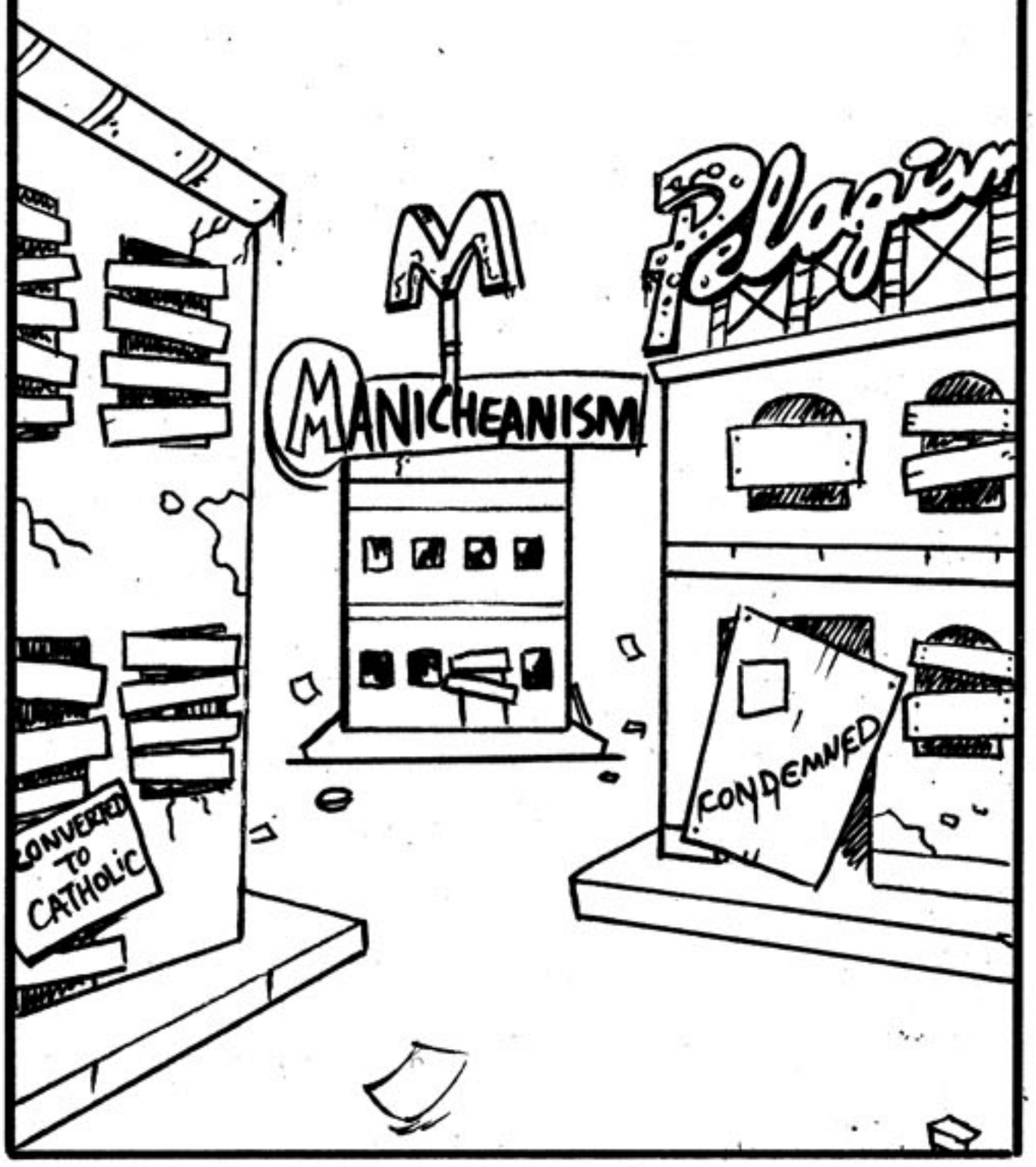
BISHOP AUGUSTINE SPECIALIZED IN THE ERADICATION OF ***HERESY*** THROUGH ***REASON***. HIS ***ORATORICAL SKILLS*** QUICKLY BECAME ***LEGENDARY***.

AT THE CLIMAX OF HIS DEBATE WITH THE MANICHEAN ***FELIX*** IN 404, THE ELECT WAS SO ***PERSUADED*** BY THE BISHOP'S WORDS THAT HE ***CONVERTED*** ON THE ***SPOT***!

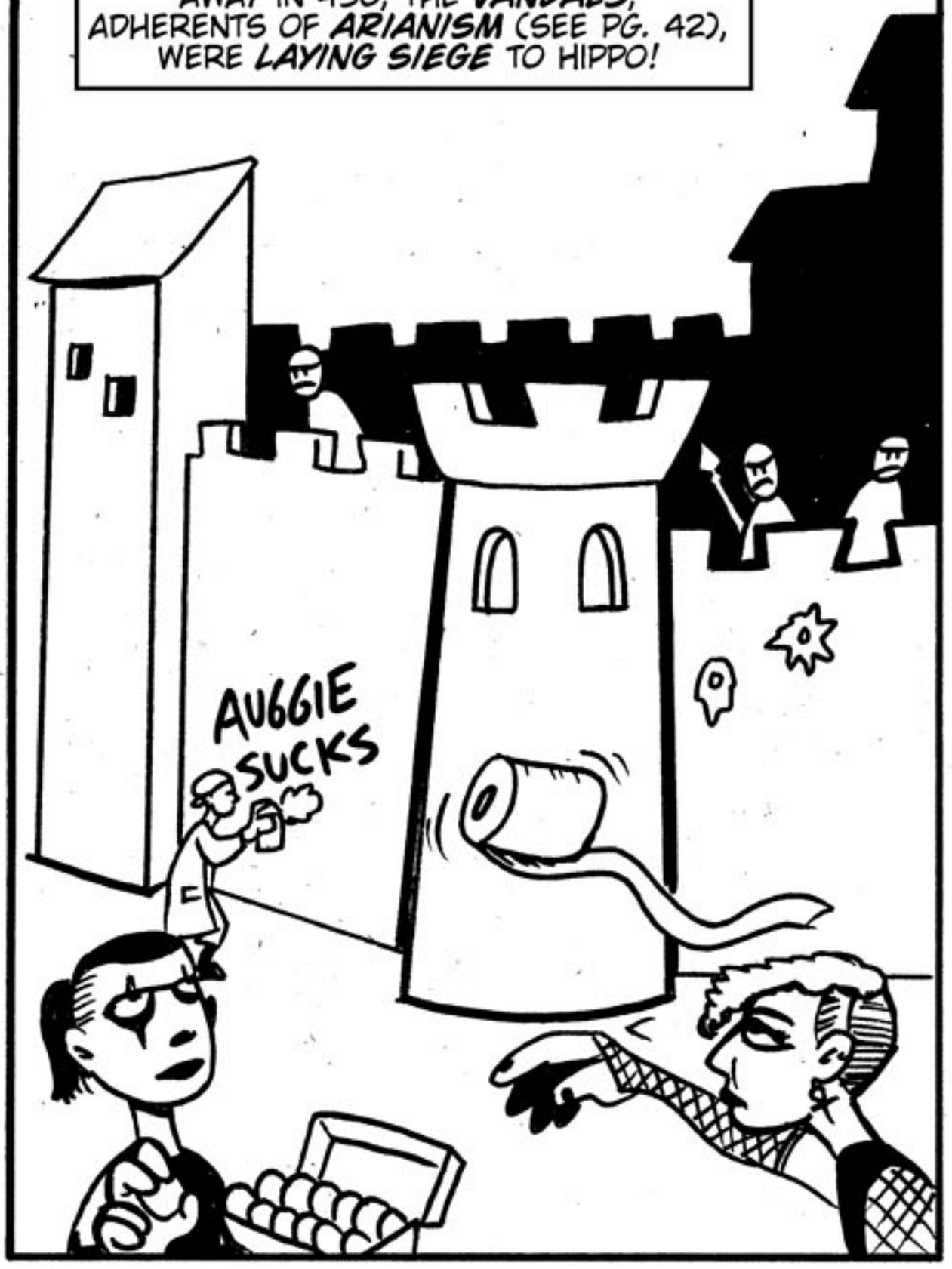
HIS SYSTEM OF ***DIVINE GRACE*** PUT THE KIBOSH ON THE ***PELAGIAN*** HERESIES, WHICH ***DENIED*** THE EXISTENCE OF ***ORIGINAL SIN***!

THE WINNNNNNNNNAH-- ***AUGUSTINE!***

THANKS TO AUGUSTINE'S REASONED EXPLICATION OF THEOLOGY AND DOGMA, THE VARIOUS COMPETING SECTS FELL INTO DISREPAIR, AND THE CHURCH OF ROME THAT THE BISHOP OF HIPPO REPRESENTED--WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE ***"CATHOLIC"***, OR ***"UNIVERSAL"*** CHURCH, GREW EVER STRONGER!



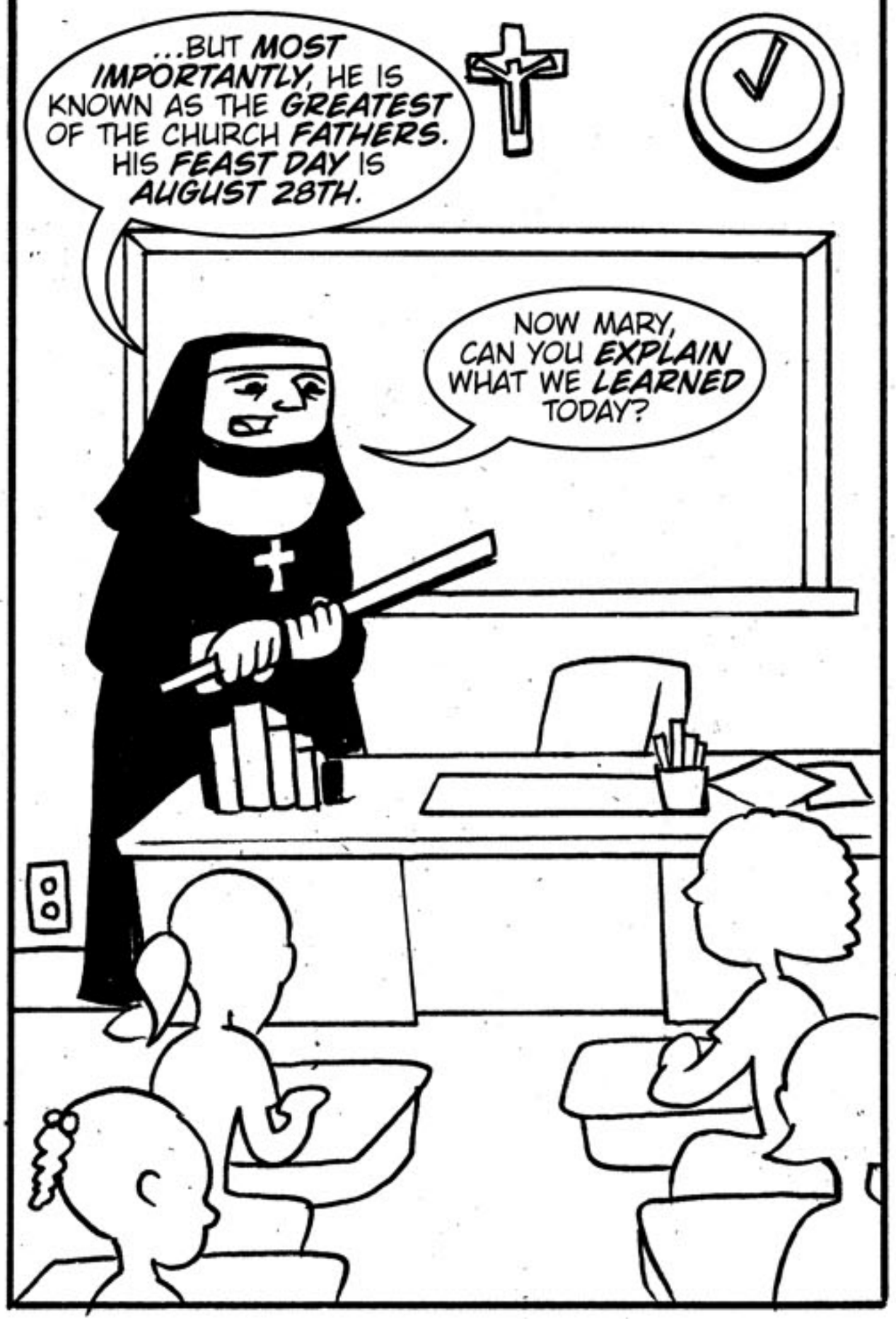
AUGUSTINE BATTLED HERESY ***LITERALLY*** TO HIS DYING DAYS. WHILE HE PASSED AWAY IN 430, THE ***VANDALS***, ADHERENTS OF ***ARIANISM*** (SEE PG. 42), WERE ***LAYING SIEGE*** TO HIPPO!



ONE OF THE MOST ***PROLIFIC*** THINKERS EVER, AUGUSTINE REFUTED COMPETING SECTS LIKE THE ***DONATISTS*** (WHICH HELD THAT ONLY THE ***MORALLY PURE*** COULD BECOME ***PRIESTS***) WITH OVER ***ONE THOUSAND SEPARATE WORKS*** ON CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND CHURCH DOCTRINE!



AFTER HIS CANONIZATION, HE BECAME THE PATRON SAINT OF ***BREWERS*** (FOR HIS FORMERLY WILD WAYS) AND, OF COURSE, ***THEOLOGIANS...***



UH...WE DO **GOOD THINGS** BECAUSE GOD **PERSUADES** US WITH GRACE, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT CONSCIOUSLY **AWARE** OF IT?

RIGHT.

EXCEPT...GOD **GAVE** US THE GRACE IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE HE **KNEW** BEFOREHAND WE WOULD **PAY ATTENTION** TO IT.

EXACTLY!

THAT'S BECAUSE... OF ALL INFINITE POSSIBLE UNIVERSES, **THIS ONE** IS WHAT GOD, USING **HIS** FREE WILL, **CHOSE** TO CREATE, WITH **THESE** OUTCOMES.

YES, YES! WELL **DONE!**

BUT...WHY IF **GOD** HAS FREE WILL, THEN WHY DID HE CHOOSE **THIS** UNIVERSE, AND NOT ONE OF THE **OTHER** POSSIBLE UNIVERSES WHERE **GOOD** PEOPLE DIDN'T GET GRACE AND **BAD** PEOPLE GOT SAVED?

I MEAN, IF **EVERYONE** HAS INFINITE POTENTIAL FOR **GOOD**, IT SEEMS **UNFAIR** FOR HIM TO SINGLE **SOME** PEOPLE OUT OVER **OTHERS.**

KNOW WHICH UNIVERSE YOU'RE IN **NOW**, SMART-MOUTH?

THE UNIVERSE OF **PAIN!!**

WAAAAA! WHY GOD? **WHY?**

AMEN!

RMD 2005

OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING, ACTION PHILOSOPHER #6 IS:

A

A

FRED VAN LENTE
TRADED HIS *WRITING* WITH
RYAN DUNLAVEY'S
DRAWING (AND VICE-VERSA)
TO PRODUCE THIS COMIC
BOOK STORY.

IN 1926, TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD SOVIET EMIGRE *ALYSSA ROSENBAUM* ARRIVES IN LOS ANGELES FROM *LENINGRAD* (FORMERLY ST. PETERSBURG) TO FULFILL HER LIFELONG DREAM OF BECOMING A *SCREENWRITER*.

HOLLYWOOD

DE MILLE

ALYSSA'S FATHER, A BOURGEOIS ***PHARMACIST***, WAS ***RUINED*** BY THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WHEN HIS BUSINESS WAS ***NATIONALIZED***.

ONE OF ALYSSA'S ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM HER FAMILY'S HARDSHIPS WAS IN THE ***MOVIES***, WHERE SHE WAS ***ENRAPTURED*** BY AN AMERICA THAT WAS THE EXACT ***OPPOSITE*** OF THE U.S.S.R.-- WHERE INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT WAS ***REWARDED***, NOT ***CONFISCATED***!

UNFORTUNATELY, ALYSSA'S STILL-CREAKY ***ENGLISH*** PREVENTED HER FROM LANDING A WRITING GIG. BUT SHE MANAGED TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH HER FAVORITE DIRECTOR, ***CECIL B. DE MILLE***, WHO TOOK A SHINE TO THE PLUCKY RUSSIAN HE DUBBED "***CAVIAR***."

DE MILLE GOT ALYSSA A JOB AS AN ***EXTRA*** ON HIS BIBLICAL EPIC ***KING OF KINGS***--THERE SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH ONE OF HER FELLOW BIT PLAYERS, FRANK O'CONNOR. THEY WED IN 1929 AND STAYED MARRIED FOR THE NEXT ***FIFTY YEARS***!

TAKING VARIOUS ODD JOBS AROUND THE FILM BUSINESS, ALYSSA STUCK TO HER ***WRITING***.

HER FIRST NOVEL, *WE THE LIVING*, AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ***ASSAULT*** ON THE SOVIET REGIME, WAS PUBLISHED IN 1936. ALYSSA CHANGED HER NAME TO ***AYN RAND*** TO PROTECT HER FAMILY FROM ***REPRISALS*** BY THE ***K.G.B.***

WE the LIVING
AYN RAND

THE BOOK DID ***NOT*** SELL WELL. IT DEBUTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ***GREAT DEPRESSION*** AND PRO-SOCIALIST IDEALS WERE IN VOGUE-- PARTICULARLY IN ***HOLLYWOOD***.

COMRADE STALIN HAS CREATED A ***UTOPIA*** FOR THE WORKINGMAN IN RUSSIA--WE IN AMERICA COULD ***LEARN*** FROM HIM!

PAMPERED, POMPOUS ***FOOLS***! THEY'RE JUST SPOUTING THE FANTASIES THEY ***WANT*** TO BELIEVE! THE BOLSHEVIKS ARE ***LOOTERS***!

RAND WAS ***DETERMINED*** TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE VIEW. SHE GOT HER INSPIRATION, IN PART, WHILE WORKING FOR DE MILLE'S ***STORY DEPARTMENT*** RESEARCHING A (NEVER-PRODUCED) FILM CALLED *THE SKYSCRAPER*.

AFTER INTERVIEWING NUMEROUS ***ARCHITECTS***, AND REMEMBERING HOW ***AWE-STRUCK*** SHE HAD BEEN BY THE SPIRES OF ***NEW YORK*** THAT HAD BEEN HER FIRST SIGHT OF AMERICA, SHE BEGAN WORK ON A NOVEL, *THE FOUNTAINHEAD* (1943), THAT WOULD OUTLINE NOT JUST A ***STORY***, BUT AN ENTIRE ***VALUE SYSTEM***.

RAND CALLED THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF HER ***OBJECTIVIST*** PHILOSOPHY THE ***LAW OF IDENTITY.***

A=A

"REALITY -- THE EXTERNAL WORLD -- EXISTS ***INDEPENDENT*** OF MAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS, INDEPENDENT OF ANY OBSERVER'S KNOWLEDGE, BELIEFS, FEELINGS, DESIRES OR FEARS... THE TASK OF MAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS IS TO ***PERCEIVE*** REALITY -- ***NOT*** TO CREATE OR INVENT IT!"

NATURE HAS BESTOWED ON ***EVERY*** ORGANISM BUT ***MAN*** INBORN ABILITIES TO SURVIVE IN ITS ENVIRONMENT!

STINGER
TENTACLES
NIGHT VISION
INK
GILLS
FUR
FANGS
CLAWS
PREHENSILE TONGUE

MAN DOES NOT EVEN HAVE THE ***INSTINCTS*** BEASTS HAVE TO ***INNATELY*** UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND THEM!

THE ***ONLY*** TOOLS MAN CAN USE TO ***APPREHEND*** AND ***CONQUER*** THE WORLD AROUND HIM ARE THE ***JUDGMENTAL*** POWERS OF HIS ***REASON!***

TO REJECT ***REASON*** IS TO ***DENY*** MAN HIS MOST ***BASIC*** MEANS OF ***SURVIVAL!***

TO BE ***ANTI-MIND*** IS TO BE ***ANTI-LIFE!***

TO ***ENJOY*** THE FRUITS OF ONE'S REASON -- ONE'S OWN ***PRODUCTIVE ACHIEVEMENT*** --IS THE ***MORAL PURPOSE*** OF MAN'S LIFE!

IN *THE FOUNTAINHEAD*, ARCHITECT ***HOWARD ROARK*** SEEKS NOTHING MORE THAN TO REVEL IN THE ACT OF CREATION AND REAP THE REWARDS OF HIS STARTLINGLY ORIGINAL DESIGNS.

BUT HE FINDS HIMSELF ***THWARTED*** BY "THE HOSTILITY OF SECOND-HAND SOULS" -- INSECURE DEVELOPERS, PIG-HEADED CRITICS, CORRUPT UNIONS -- WHO TRY TO FORCE HIM TO ***CONFORM*** AND ***COMPROMISE!***

THESE ***LOOTERS*** HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET PEOPLE TO ***SACRIFICE*** THEMSELVES FOR "SOCIETY'S" (I.E., ***THEIR***) GOOD WITH VARIOUS ***JUSTIFICATIONS*** AND TO VARIOUS DEGREES OF ***EVIL*** THROUGHOUT HISTORY!

YOU WILL TURN ALL THE PROFITS OF YOUR PHARMACY OVER TO THE ***STATE***, COMRADE ROSENBAUM! IT IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ***PROLETARIAT***!

BECOME AN ***ARTIST***? YOU WANT TO ***KILL YOUR MOTHER***, HERSCHEL?! NO, YOU'LL BECOME A ***DOCTOR***. IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE ***FAMILY***!

SHOVE THOSE JEWS INTO THE OVENS LIKE YOU WERE ***TOLD***, CORPORAL SCHMIDT! IT IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ***WHITE RACE***!

I'M ***SORRY*** YOUR HUSBAND ***BEATS YOU***, MALIKA, BUT YOU MUST SUFFER IN ***SILENCE*** FOR THE GOOD OF ***GOD***!

THE LOOTERS PERPETUATE THE ***LIE*** THAT THERE IS NO GREATER VIRTUE THAN ***ALTRUISM***-- TO LIVE FOR ***OTHERS***, NOT FOR ***ONESELF***!

YOU GUYS LIKE ME NOW, RIGHT? HUH? HUH? DO YA? HUH?

BUT THE LOOTERS ARE ***HYPOCRITES***! THEY DON'T CARE A WHIT FOR OTHER PEOPLE! AFTER ALL, THEY WANT ***YOU*** TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF SO ***THEY*** CAN LIVE!

THE MOST ***NAKED*** EVOCATION OF LOOTER "VALUES" IS ***CHRISTIANITY***!

THEIR ***CROSS*** REPRESENTS THE ***TORTURE*** AND ***MURDER*** OF A SUPERIOR BEING FOR THE SINS OF HIS ***INFERIORS***!

HEY.... SHE'S GOTTA POINT... I'M THE ***SON OF GOD***, FOR MY SAKES! WHAT THE HECK AM I ***DOIN'***?!

(TO BE FAIR, OBJECTIVISM REJECTS ***ALL*** RELIGION AS IRRATIONAL ***MYSTICISM***.)

I'M GOIN' TO *DISNEYLAND!*

BOING!

THE LOOTERS ARE A *HOLDOVER* FROM MAN'S *TRIBAL* PAST!

BOING!

BUT *CIVILIZATION* IS THE PROCESS OF SETTING *MAN* FREE FROM *MEN!*

BOING!

THE *ONLY* PURPOSE OF *CIVILIZED* GOVERNMENT IS TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL FROM THOSE WHO WOULD *LOOT* THE FRUITS OF HIS REASON BY FORCE OF *ARMS...*

...OR FORCE OF *LAW!*

IRS

1040

OOH, BOY! *CRACK MONEY!*

THE ONLY *MORAL* POLITICAL SYSTEM IS *LAISSEZ-FAIRE CAPITALISM!*

HERE MEN ACT AS *EQUAL TRADERS*-- BY FREE, *VOLUNTARY* EXCHANGE TO *MUTUAL* BENEFIT!

THOSE WHO CHOOSE *NOT* TO WORK PRODUCTIVELY NOR USE THEIR REASON SHOULD BE *GRATEFUL* FOR WHAT ALREADY TRICKLES DOWN TO THEM FROM THE THE GREAT CAPITALISTS-- NOT CONTINUOUSLY TRY AND *LOOT* EVEN MORE OF WHAT THEY DID NOT EARN *THEMSELVES!*

GAWRSH, MISTER CAPITALIST SIR, WITHOUT YOUR CREATIONS LIKE *ELECTRICITY* AND *T.V.* I'D STILL BE LIVIN' IN THE *STONE AGE!* GOD *BLESS* YOU!

JUST DOING WHAT COMES *NATURALLY*, MY GRIMY FRIEND!

IT WOULD TAKE RAND OVER A DECADE TO FINISH HER ***NEXT*** OBJECTIVIST NOVEL, *ATLAS SHRUGGED*, IN WHICH THE WORLD'S INVENTIVE GENIUSES GO ON ***STRIKE*** TO CRIPPLE THE ECONOMY RUN BY THOSE WHO UNFAIRLY EXPLOIT THEIR LABOR-- *I.E.*, THE ***LOOTERS***.

I AM SO ***OUTTA*** HERE!

AFTER *ATLAS* WAS PUBLISHED IN 1957, RAND SANK INTO A DEEP ***DEPRESSION***. SALES STARTED OUT ***SLOW***, AND HER IDEAS WERE PILLORIED BY LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES ***ALIKE***.

SHE REJECTS ***RELIGION***! SHE'S A LEFTIST ***RADICAL***!

ALL SHE LOVES IS ***MONEY***! SHE'S A RIGHT-WING ***FASCIST***!

THE MAN WHO CAME TO HER RESCUE WAS ***NATHANIEL BRANDEN***, A CANADIAN-BORN PSYCHIATRIST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS HER ***JUNIOR***.

HE HAD BEEN AN ACOLYTE OF AYN'S SINCE HE WAS A STUDENT AT U.C.L.A. AND USED ***OBJECTIVISM*** IN HIS PRACTICE.

SELF-ESTEEM IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF A MIND FULLY COMMITTED TO ***REASON***!

AS SALES OF *ATLAS SHRUGGED* SURGED TO ***BESTSELLER*** LEVELS, REQUESTS FOR RAND TO ***EXPLICATE*** HER IDEAS POURED IN FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. RAND, SELF-CONSCIOUS OF HER THICK ***RUSSIAN ACCENT***, HATED PUBLIC SPEAKING. ***NATHANIEL***, HOWEVER, EXCELLED AT IT...

N.B.I.

...HIS LECTURES IN OBJECTIVSM BECAME ***SO*** POPULAR HE AND HIS WIFE FOUNDED AN ENTIRE ***SCHOOL***--THE NATHANIEL BRANDEN INSTITUTE (N.B.I.)-- ***DEVOTED*** TO POPULARIZING RAND'S PHILOSOPHY!

BY 1965, N.B.I. OFFERED COURSES IN OBJECTIVISM IN ***EIGHTY CITIES*** ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.

AMONG ITS INSTRUCTORS WAS RAND ACOLYTE AND FUTURE FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR ***ALAN GREENSPAN***, WHO TAUGHT "THE ECONOMICS OF A FREE SOCIETY."

BY 1967, N.B.I.'S NEWSLETTER, *THE OBJECTIVIST*, HAD OVER 21,000 SUBSCRIBERS! THE OBJECTIVIST REVOLUTION APPEARED WELL UNDER WAY!

RAND CALLED NATHANIEL HER "INTELLECTUAL HEIR." THEY BEGAN A ***SEXUAL AFFAIR*** IN AN EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE RANDIAN NOTION OF ***ROMANTIC LOVE***--

--WHICH IS SIMPLY THE ***REASONED*** RECOGNITION OF ***EQUIVALENT VALUE*** IN ANOTHER PERSON!

RAND ***INSISTED*** SHE AND NATHANIEL CARRY ON THEIR ROMANCE IN ***PUBLIC***, SECURING ***"CONSENT"*** FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE ***SPOUSES***.

WHATEVER THE TWO OF YOU MAY BE FEELING, I KNOW YOUR INTELLIGENCE, I KNOW YOU RECOGNIZE THE ***RATIONALITY*** OF WHAT WE FEEL FOR EACH OTHER...

LIKE MOST ***MORALISTS***, RAND PLACED A HIGH VALUE ON ***SELF-CONTROL***. ONE OF THE GREATEST ENEMIES OF REASON, SHE SAID, WAS ***"EMOTIONALISM."***

"MAN'S EMOTIONAL MECHANISM IS LIKE AN *ELECTRONIC COMPUTER*, WHICH HIS MIND HAS TO *PROGRAM*."

UNFORTUNATELY, NATHANIEL'S OWN SELF-CONTROL LEFT SOMETHING TO BE ***DESIRED***. HE SOON EMBARKED ON AN AFFAIR WITH A ***THIRD*** WOMAN -- AN N.B.I. STUDENT, ACTRESS AND MODEL HIS ***OWN AGE***.

THIS IS DOING ***WONDERS*** FOR MY SELF-ESTEEM!

MINE, TOO!

WHEN RAND FOUND OUT, HER FURY WAS ***IMPLACABLE***.

HE ***DARES*** REJECT ME--***ME***-- FOR--FOR A MENTAL ***INFERIOR***?!

SHE SUMMONED NATHANIEL TO A MEETING OF OBJECTIVISTS, WHERE HE WAS VIOLENTLY REPUDIATED:

I'LL ***DESTROY*** YOU AS I ***CREATED*** YOU! I DON'T EVEN CARE WHAT IT DOES TO ***ME***! YOU'LL HAVE ***NOTHING***--

--JUST AS YOU ***STARTED***, JUST AS YOU CAME TO ME, JUST AS YOU WOULD HAVE REMAINED ***WITHOUT*** ME!*

*: ACTUAL QUOTE!

ERROR

IF YOU HAVE AN OUNCE OF MORALITY LEFT ***IN*** YOU, AN ***OUNCE*** OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH--

--YOU'LL BE IMPOTENT FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS!

RAND MADE SURE NATHANIEL WAS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN HIS OWN ***ANNIHILATION***. HE ADDRESSED THE ENTIRE N.B.I. STUDENT BODY:

I HAVE FAILED TO ***PRACTICE*** THE PRINCIPLES I TAUGHT TO ALL OF YOU ...

MS. RAND IS FULLY WITHIN HER MORAL RIGHTS IN ***SEVERING*** OUR RELATIONSHIP...

NATHANIEL WAS FORCED TO CEDE ***ALL*** INTEREST IN N.B.I. TO RAND HERSELF, AND SHE PROMPTLY ***SHUT DOWN*** ITS OFFICES-- ***SOLD*** ALL THE EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE.

N.B.I.

SHE'D WIPE OUT EVERY ***TRACE*** OF HER UNFAITHFUL LOVER, EVEN THE INSTITUTE THAT BORE ***HIS*** NAME -- BUT EXISTED ONLY TO DISSEMINATE ***HER*** IDEAS!

OBJECTIVISM, AS A COHERENT PHILOSOPHICAL SYSTEM SUPPORTED BY N.B.I., ***CEASED TO EXIST!***

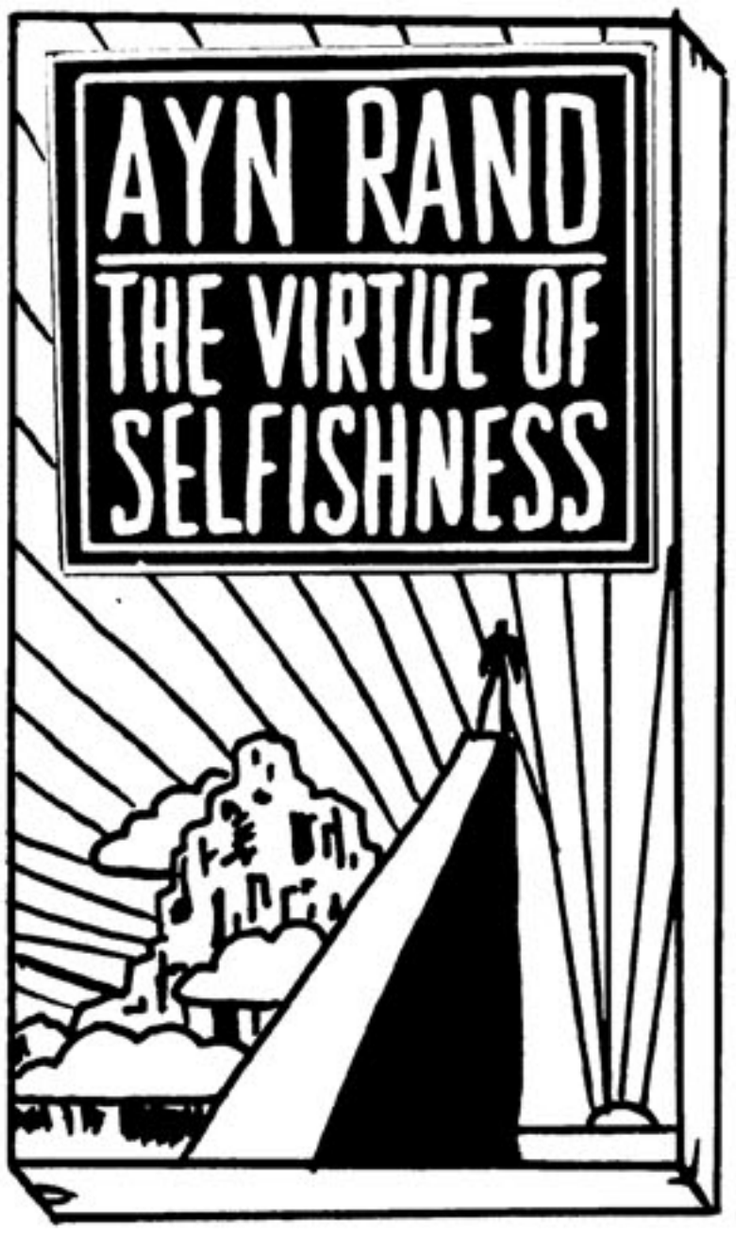
RAND LIKED TO SAY THAT MODERN CULTURE "SEEMED TOTALLY INDIFFERENT TO MY IDEAS AND TO IDEAS IN GENERAL."

SHE MADE SURE THAT THAT WOULD BE A ***SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY.***

RECOMMENDED READING FOR THE GENIUS-ON-THE-GO







E.M. HALLIDAY. *UNDERSTANDING THOMAS JEFFERSON.*
NEW YORK: HARPERCOLLINS, 2001.
CRIMINALLY OUT OF PRINT, THE ESSAYS IN THIS BOOK TACKLE ALL THE MAJOR CONTROVERSIES OF JEFFERSONIA (OF WHICH THERE ARE MANY) IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND CONVINCING FASHION. FROM THE SALLY HEMMINGS AFFAIR TO THE WRITING OF THE DECLARATION ITSELF, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. IF YOU CAN FIND IT USED OR IN THE LIBRARY, CHECK IT OUT IMMEDIATELY IF NOT SOONER.

ST. AUGUSTINE. *CONFESSIONS.* TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN BY HENRY CHADWICK.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1991.
FOR A 1,500 YEAR-OLD BOOK *CONFESSIONS* IS QUITE FUN AND ENGAGING, ASSUMING YOU CAN GET PAST, Y'KNOW, ALL THAT JESUS STUFF. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY AS TOLD FROM THE DIM PRIVACY OF THE CONFESSIONAL, IN WHICH AUGGIE DETAILS ALL HIS SINS FROM, LITERALLY, BIRTH (COVETING MOM'S TEAT IS GLUTTONOUS TO THE LORD, APPARENTLY) TO BAPTISM AT AGE 32. THE LAST THIRD IS FAR LESS PERSONAL, IN WHICH AUGUSTINE TRIES TO FORCE THE CREATION AS TOLD BY GENESIS TO MAKE SOMETHING RESEMBLING COHERENT SENSE, WHICH I CAN'T RECOMMEND TO ANYONE EXCEPT STUDENTS OF MYTHOLOGY AND ADHERENTS OF "INTELLIGENT DESIGN."

OH WAIT, SORRY: THOSE ARE THE SAME PEOPLE.

AYN RAND AND NATHANIEL BRANDEN. THE VIRTUE OF SELFISHNESS: A NEW CONCEPT OF EGOISM. NEW YORK: SIGNET LIBRARY, 1964.
ESSAYS ON THE OBJECTIVIST STANCE TOWARD ETHICS, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT, RACISM, PSYCHOLOGY AND MORE BY RAND AND HER DISGRACED LOVER, BRANDEN. TO BE FRANK I FIND RAND'S NOVELS TURGID AND DATED (THE PLOT OF *ATLAS SHRUGGED* HINGES UPON THE CENTRALITY OF PASSENGER RAILROADS TO THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, FOR EXAMPLE), BUT SHE IS PERHAPS THE MOST *ENTERTAINING* WRITER OF PHILOSOPHY SINCE NIETZSCHE (WHOM SHE REJECTS AS A NON-RATIONAL PSEUDO-HEDONIST).