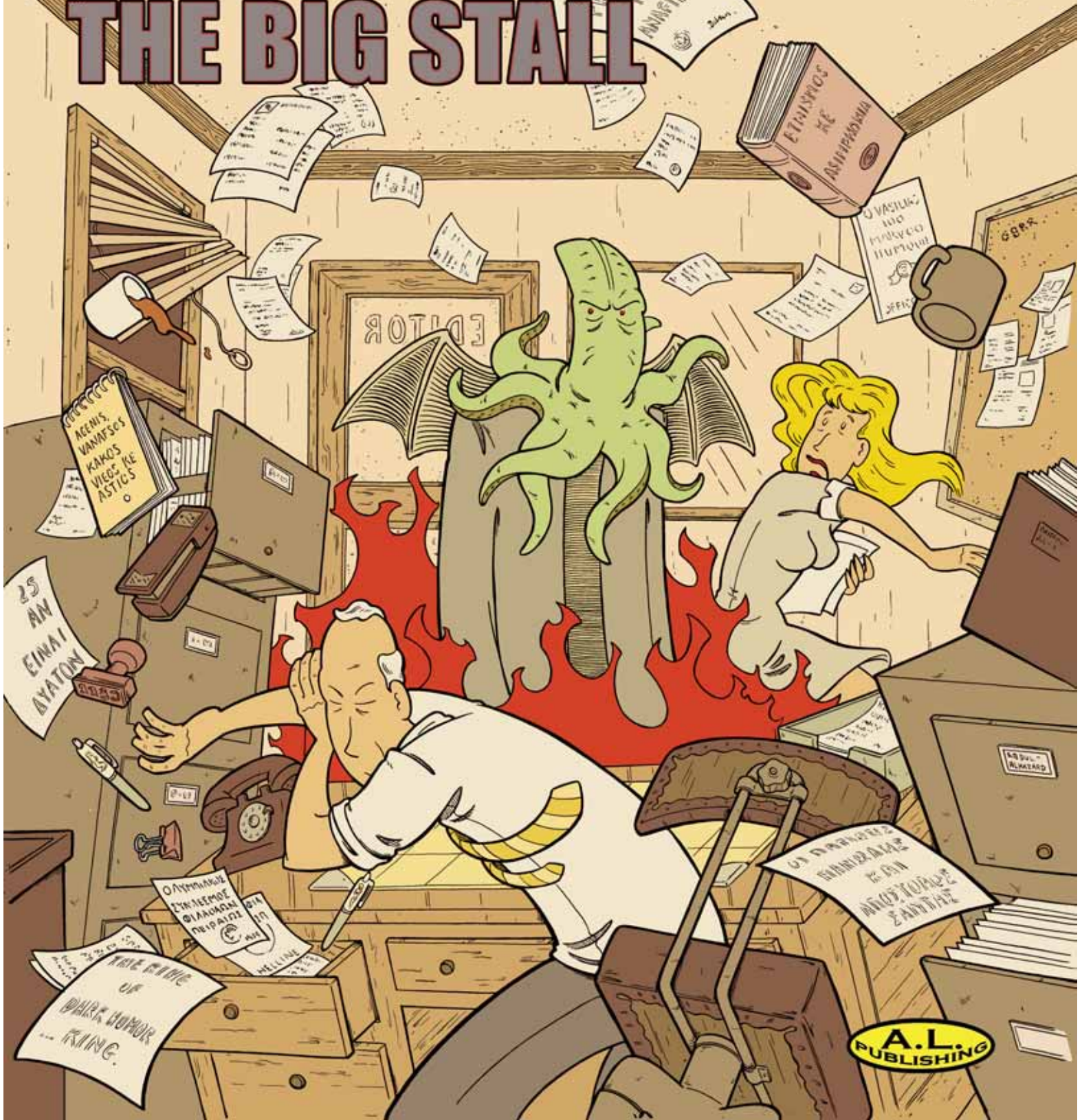


ARSENIC LULLABY

THE BIG STALL



WWW.ARSENICLULLABY.COM

ARSENIC LULLABY

Arsenic Lullaby has appeared in *Mad Magazine*, on *Comedy Central*, been Nominated for the *Eisner Award*, the *Harvey Award*, and the *Comicdom Award* in Europe!

**short story sample from the
Arsenic Lullaby collection
"The Devil's Only Friend"**

**Written and Illustrated
by Douglas Paszkiewicz
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WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

DOUGLAS PASZKIEWICZ

POST PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE BY

JOE WALLENHORST,

**For more Arsenic Lullaby
www.arseniclullabies.com**

****warning- to add an extra dimension to these
stories some of the dialogue is spelled phonetically***
G.B.R.R.*

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EUGENE PHELPS...CTHULHU HAS COME FOR YOU!

TO LEARN WHAT YOUR NEWSPAPER HOPES TO GAIN BY COVERING UP THE CULT OF CTHULHU'S REIGN OF TERROR!



PANIC WILL START TO SPREAD.

WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR REPORTING!



REIGN OF TERROR...

I HAVE...NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE GOING ON ABOUT.



THE MURDERED HOBOBS! WE KILLED ONE AT MIDNIGHT. EVERY NIGHT FOR LIKE A WEEK!

THAT WAS US.



NOTHING CAME PAST MY DESK ON THAT...

NOT EVEN IN THE POLICE BLOTTER.

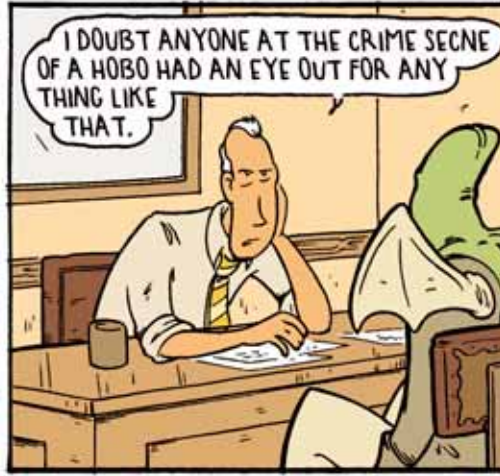


THAT SUCKS...SO MUCH. I WAS REALLY HOPING YOU WERE JUST TRYING NOT TO CAUSE A PANIC OR SOMETHING.



HOW HAS NO ONE NOTICED ANYTHING YET? WE LEFT ALL SORTS OF CLUES...

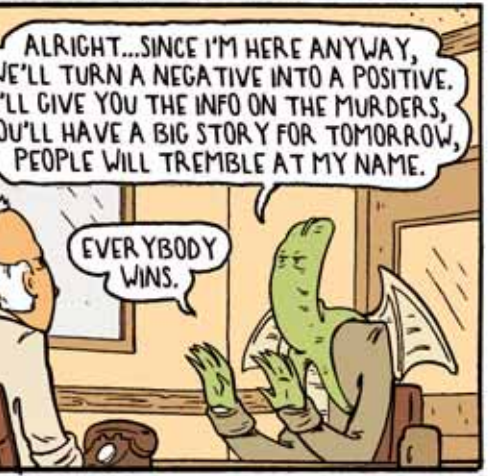
WE SPLATTERED BLOOD IN THE FORM OF SPECIFIC CONSTELLATIONS...



I DOUBT ANYONE AT THE CRIME SCENE OF A HOBO HAD AN EYE OUT FOR ANY THING LIKE THAT.

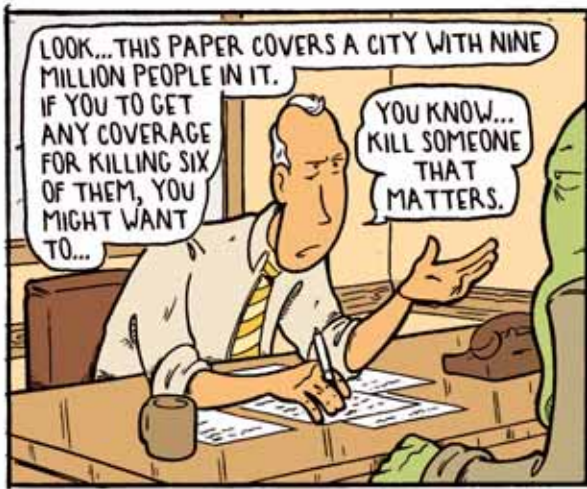


THE COPS IN THIS TOWN ARE A BUNCH OF ILLITERATES.



ALRIGHT...SINCE I'M HERE ANYWAY, WE'LL TURN A NEGATIVE INTO A POSITIVE. I'LL GIVE YOU THE INFO ON THE MURDERS, YOU'LL HAVE A BIG STORY FOR TOMORROW, PEOPLE WILL TREMBLE AT MY NAME.

EVERYBODY WINS.



LOOK... THIS PAPER COVERS A CITY WITH NINE MILLION PEOPLE IN IT. IF YOU TO GET ANY COVERAGE FOR KILLING SIX OF THEM, YOU MIGHT WANT TO...

YOU KNOW... KILL SOMEONE THAT MATTERS.



SOMEONE THAT MATTERS.



SUCH IS THE PANIC OF MAN'S HUBRIS! THE IGNORANCE IN THINKING HE HAS THE ABILITY TO CLASSIFY ONE OFF HIS ILK HIGHER THAN ANOTHER.



EACH OF THE MEN WE KILLED HAD HOPES AND DREAMS AND ABILITIES, EACH AFFECTED THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS OTHERS. PERHAPS THE AFFECT THEY HAD WAS BRIEF...SUBTLE. BUT IT IS THE TOTAL OF ALL THIS BRIEF SUBTLETY THAT MAKES UP THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY. THE REMOVAL OF ANY ONE OF YOU LESSENS ALL OF MANKIND.

THROUGH VILE MURDER... IS BENEATH YOUR PAPERS NOTICE?!

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE LOSS OF THESE MEN, THAT ARE BY THEIR HUMANITY IRREPLACEABLE...



ALRIGHT, TAKE IT EASY, MAYBE NOT... WHAT WAS THE LAST GUYS NAME?



HIS NAME... WAS FISTY.



WHICH I ASSUME WAS A NICKNAME... BECAUSE HE HAD NO FINGERS WITH WHICH TO MAKE A FIST.

...JUST STUMPS WITH THUMBS.



THEY LOOKED THE BUSINESS END OF TWO CORNISH GAME HENS WHEN HE PUSHED THEM TOGETHER TO BEG FOR HIS LIFE.

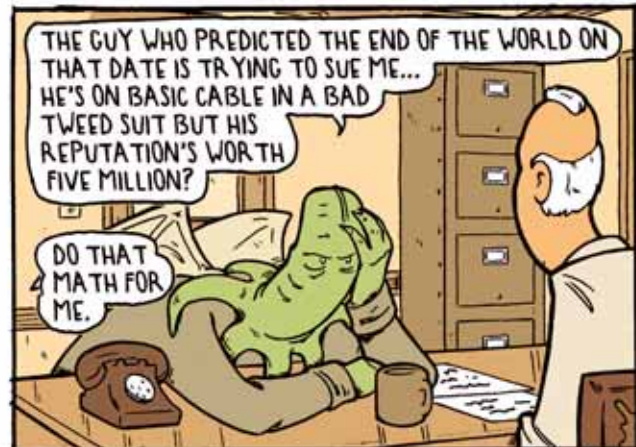
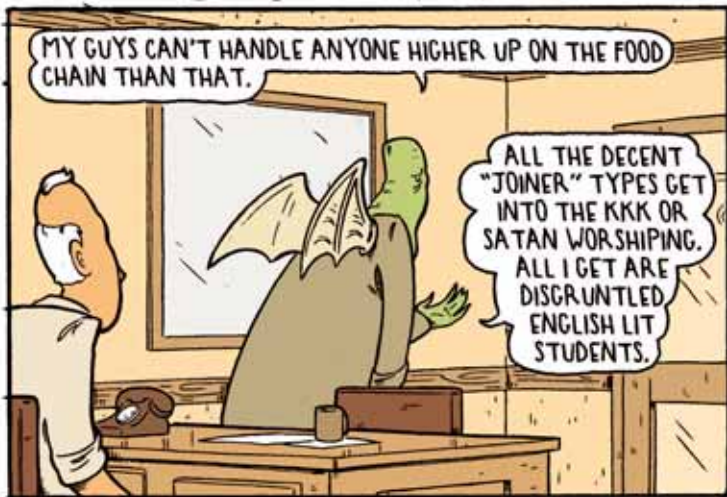


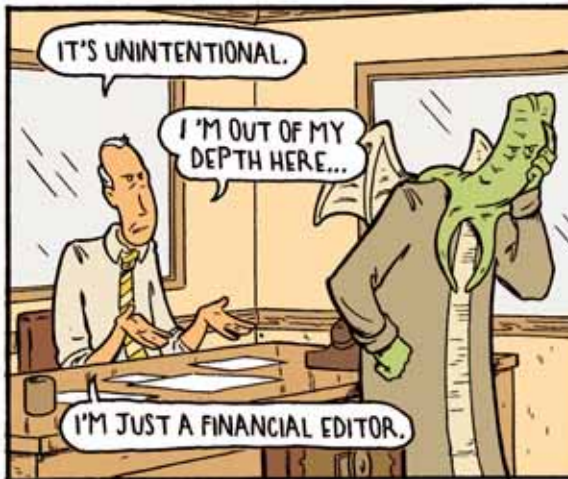
BEGGED IN VAIN... AS WE ROBBED FROM THIS WORLD, ALL THAT WOULD EVER BE...

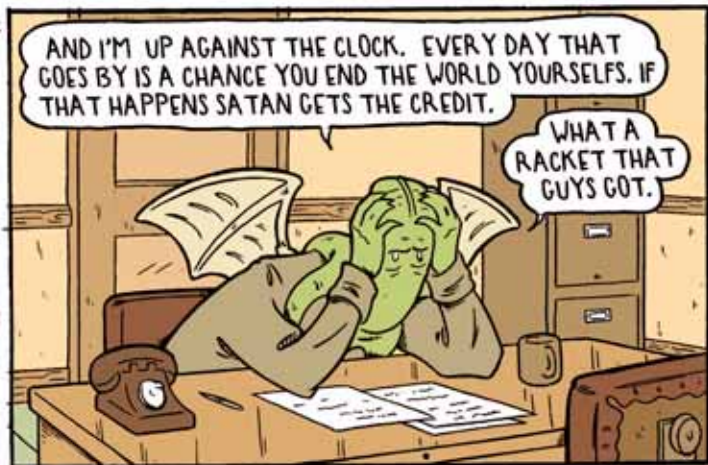
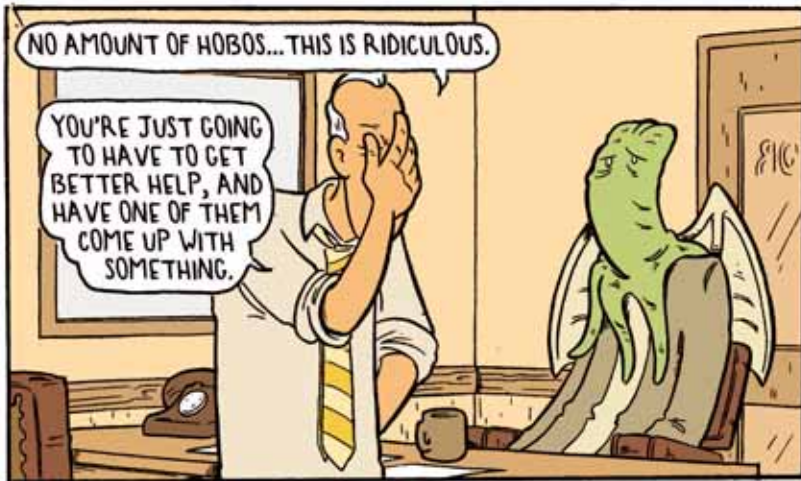
FISTY.

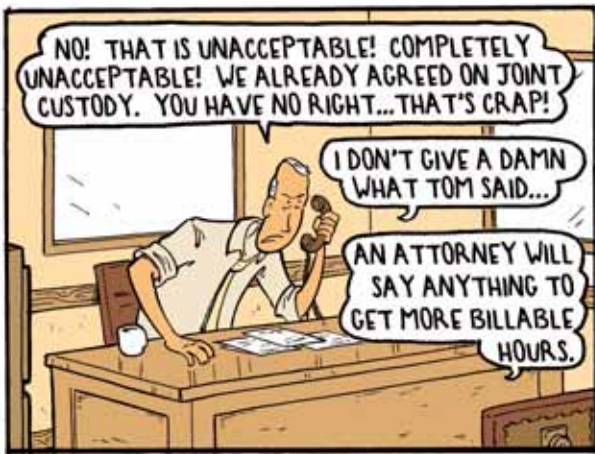


TRAGIC AS THAT IS, IF YOU EXPECT TO MAKE THE NEWS, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO KILL SOMEONE A LITTLE HIGHER UP ON THE FOOD CHAIN... THAN A HOMELESS GUY WITH NO FINGERS.











ONTO BIGGER THINGS, I AM ABOUT TO HATCH A PLOT SO DIABOLICAL IT WILL SET THE WORLD ON END! I NEED YOU TO DRIVE. IT'S IN A BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD...

AND I HAVE A REALLY NICE CAR STEREO.



I KINDA FIGURED YOU'D BE ABOVE PETTY STEREO TYPING.



PFFT! I'LL BE ABOVE IT WHEN YOU PEOPLE ARE. TRY RENTING A CAR WITH AN OCTOPUS HEAD...

YOU'LL KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE A SECOND CLASS CITIZEN.



BACK TO MY PLAN...SINCE SATANISM IS WHAT GETS THE HEADLINES, WE SHALL COMMIT OUR VILE ACT DRESSED AS SATANISTS.

THEN IT WILL BE SURE TO GET THE PRESS THAT IS IT WORTHY OF!



I WANT YOU TO LISTEN ME NOW...IF YOU COMMIT THE ACT DRESSED AS SATANISTS, THEN PEOPLE WILL ASSUME SATANISM IS BEHIND IT.



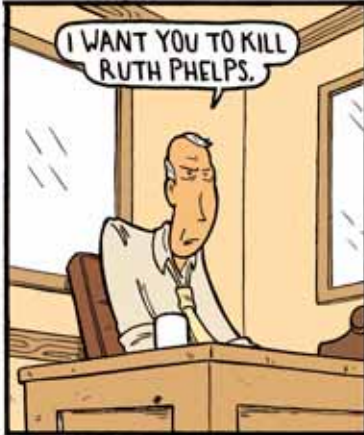
HEH, THAT'S SATAN'S PROBLEM



WHAT IF I COULD GIVE YOU A TASK THAT WOULD GUARANTEE ALL THE PRESS YOUR HEART COULD EVER DESIRE FROM MY PAPER.



I'M LISTENING...



I WANT YOU TO KILL RUTH PHELPS.



YOU SAID JUST KILLING PEOPLE ONE AT A TIME WAS NO GOOD. IS SHE FAMOUS OR SOMETHING?

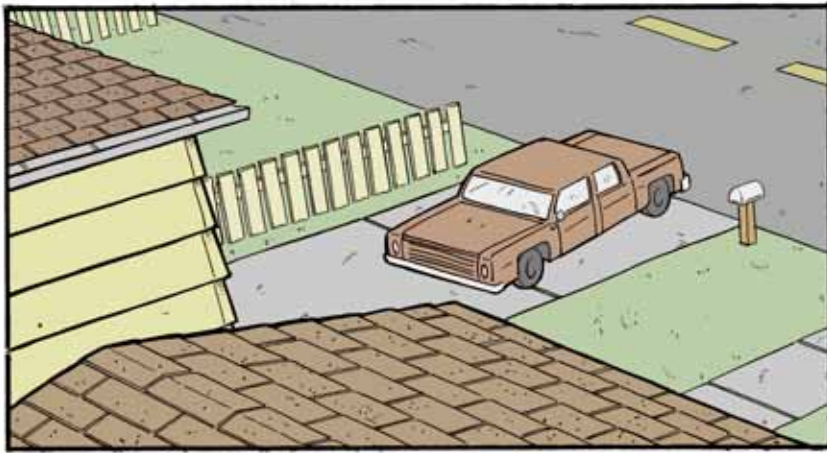


NOT ONLY IS SHE NOT FAMOUS, IN MY OPINION NO ONE WOULD MISS HER. SHE IS MY SOON TO BE EX WIFE, WHO IS MAKING MY LIFE MISERABLE. KILL HER, AND IN RETURN, I WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE PRESS YOU COULD ASK FOR.

HA! DEAL!



I'M GOING TO NEED A RIDE.



AH...I SEE YOU ARE FINALLY AWAKE MRS. PHELPS. AWAKE JUST IN TIME TO DIE...

AT THE HANDS OF AN EVIL OLDER THEN TIME ITSELF...

AT THE HANDS OF CTHULHU!

WHEN YOU GET TO HELL, TELL SATAN THAT I SAID...



THAT HIS MOTHER IS A #67★

A DIRTY...

3@#3!

★#67.

AND SHE LIKES TO 6#67
★%3*##
#@★3

WITH A GERBLE...AND...UHM A GORCON. IN FACT, THAT'S HOW HE WAS CONCEIVED...

HIS #3★@ MOTHER 3#6★
A GORCON WITH A %3*★!

#@%★



AND IT WAS ALL BENT UP LIKE THIS.

NOT THAT SHE EVEN NOTICED.

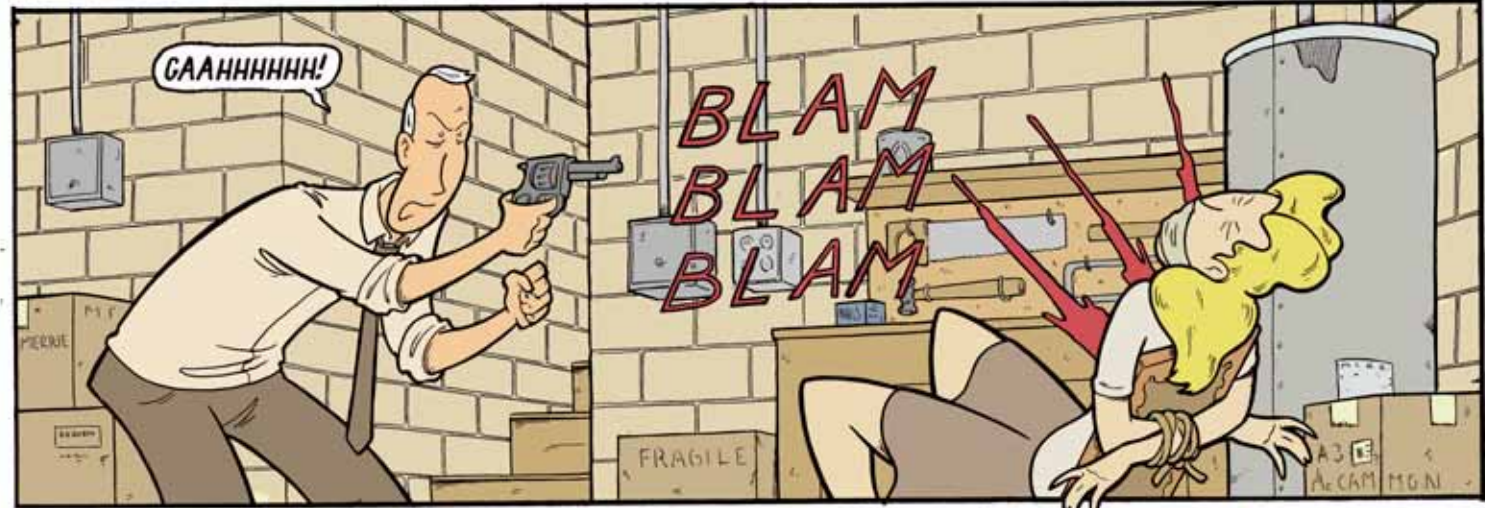
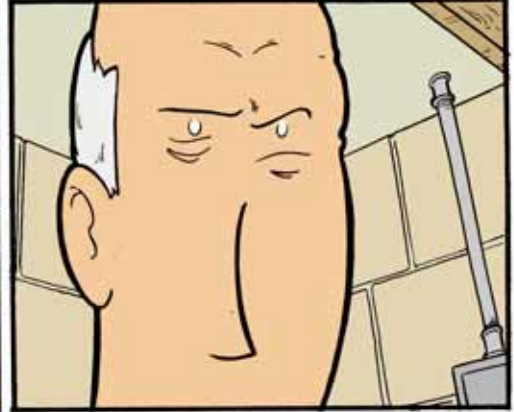
YOU TELL HIM I SAID THAT.

THAT THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

CTHULHU... WITH A "C".









YOU ARE MY PUPPET EUGENE.

I HAVE BEEN MANIPULATING YOU SINCE I CAME INTO YOUR OFFICE... WATCHING YOU FOR WEEKS BEFORE HAND... CALCULATING... I CAME TO YOU AN ENTITY BEING HAMSTRUNG FROM REACHING HIS POTENTIAL BY THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM.

JUST AS YOU VIEW YOURSELF.



EACH DILEMMA I SPOKE OFF... SO MIRRORED YOUR OWN PROBLEMS, EVEN BRINGING UP A CHILD BEING TAKEN FROM ME...

I WAS SURE I HAD OVER DONE IT, BUT NO... YOU WERE SO BLIND THAT YOU EVEN FORGOT I WAS IN THE ROOM DURING THE CONVERSATION IN WHICH YOU SPOKE OF THIS "TOM".



I FANNED THE FLAMES OF YOUR OWN EVIL...

UNTIL, IN COLD BLOOD, YOU MURDERED YOUR OWN WIFE.

... AND NOW YOU ARE MINE. YOUR NEWSPAPER'S FRONT PAGE IS MINE.



NOT BECAUSE I AM YOUR ERRAND BOY, BUT BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, AND ONLY I CAN SAVE YOU.



I CAN MANIPULATE MY HENCHMEN INTO TAKING THE BLAME... JUST AS I MANIPULATED YOU INTO MURDER.

NONE CAN RESIST THE WILL OF CTHULHU. I AM THE EVIL INCARNATE IN EACH OF YOU. I AM HORROR ITSELF.

AND THAT IS WHAT I WILL USE YOUR NEWSPAPER TO TELL THE WORLD.



THE DAILY TIMES
THE CULT OF CTHULHU
MURDERS TWELVE HOBOS



AWESOME.