







WHO HAS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



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## ROGER LOOTINE

Roger Lootine, the personality behind "Residue Comix," was biking to a meeting of the International Cartoonist Conspiracy. The ride wasn't far. Lootine rents an apartment in Northeast Minneapolis, and the Conspiracy hosts their monthly get-together-and-draw event at Diamonds, a coffee shop on Central Avenue in Northeast.

"But on the way, I ran into a group of bikers," Lootine remarks. "One of the girls had an SUV and the group was driving their bicycles to Buck Hill. It was such a sunny day." So, instead of drawing with the other cartoonists at the Conspiracy, Lootine heaved his bicycle onto the SUV and tore through the trails in Burnsville.

Artists are obsessed creatures, right? They obsess about their art, like van Gogh with his letters to Theo, or Monet putting off his mourning to capture his wife's death in oils.

But sometimes the artist's obsession is a toss-up. Lootine stands at a crossroads, with a long night of drawing down one path and the open road down the other. "I've never been so healthy in my life," says Lootine of his marathon bike rides. Not coincidentally, when he does sit down to draw, he draws bikes, cyclists, and the confirmed predator of both, the SUV.

Born in 1970, Lootine grew up with two older brothers and a sister in Palatine, Illinois. His older brothers were the physical, roughhousing members of the family; Lootine was the "scrawny kid with glasses. I always ended up in the hospital. I got stuck in the eye once. And there were these other health issues, so it was like, 'All right, Roger, you got to sit still for a couple months to recuperate.'" And if he had to sit still, he might as well do something. What he did was draw.

The kid with glasses planted himself in front of the TV with a pad of paper and a pencil. "This was before VCRs. If I needed to draw a hand, I'd sit in front of *Looney Tunes* and wait for a certain hand position to come on." Bugs, Daffy, or Yosemite Sam would pose, and Lootine would furiously copy. He taught himself to draw watching *Looney Tunes* and reading "Peanuts" strips.

As a student at the University of Illinois, Lootine drew one-panel political cartoons for the *Daily Illini*. "Then a spot opened up in the weekly arts section. So I started whipping off these weekly comics," he says. Unlike the political cartoons, Lootine's weekly comics didn't seek to educate or inform; they were pure entertainment. "I'd been trying to make a statement with the political cartoons, which no one read. But people actually read the weeklies, so they became my focus."

When Lootine moved to Minnesota, he took a job at Art Instruction Schools in Minneapolis. "You've probably seen the magazine ads for the school. Draw Tippy the Turtle, or draw the Pirate?" he says. Students would mail in assignments, and Lootine would grade them.



"With a lot of the early lessons, students worked on specific drawings. I'd place an overlay on their work. The overlay showed how the drawing could improve," says Lootine, who spent eleven years grading assignments. "In later lessons, I'd draw directly on the student's work. *The head should line up with the knee here. These parts need to line up.* I'd give it a grade, enter it in the computer, and send it on its way."

While working at Art Instruction Schools, Lootine developed a weekly strip for *Pulse of the Twin Cities*. And what a strip it was. "Residue Comix" traded on bodily functions, gross humor, naughtiness, and the kind of rants that would have made Tippy blanch a greener shade of pale.

Among "Residue's" joint-smoking, bong-toting, sex-obsessed population are Chump the chimpanzee, Crunchy the cockroach, and Alf the dog. Box-Cutter Willy, an evil-looking Mickey Mouse, and Crusader Sam, a dog whose patriotism extends to bombing foreign lands, make memorable cameos. The characters get high, ride bikes, offer the finger to rude motorists, sneer at political correctness, masturbate, and watch TV, which rules in "Residue" land.

Like their creator, Lootine's comics have a tendency to hit the road and keep on going. One issue of "Residue Comix" hitched a ride to Joliet State Prison in Illinois. An inmate wrote Lootine a fan letter. "I was transferred to this rat hole three weeks ago from a downstate prison," writes the inmate, who goes on to mention that his jailors had refused him access to books. "So I've been sitting in this cell, twiddling my thumbs. Till yesterday, when someone laid a copy of 'Residue' #5 on me. I was laughing so hard that the pigs thought I'd been smokin' a doobie & took me for a drug test!"

Lootine has since moved on from the weekly strip and the job at Art Instruction Schools. "I burned out on art a couple years ago. Cartooning was a treadmill. I had a full-time job in cartooning and I had the strip. I didn't have time for anything else," he says.

Now he rides his bike and draws comics for bicycle magazines like *Urban Velo*. He's trying to recalibrate his relationship to comics, to pull back from full-throttled commitment to something more balanced. "I have a love/hate thing with cartooning. When I start a project, everything else falls to the side. I don't eat well. I don't exercise. My phone gets lost in a pile." But would he ever give up cartooning? Nope, Lootine says. "What else would I do?" ■

**LOOTINE'S COMICS HAVE  
A TENDENCY TO HIT THE  
ROAD AND KEEP ON GOING.**



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BEGAN TO CORRODE  
MY BODY AND SOUL  
AND I COULD NO  
LONGER CONCEAL  
THE ENGINE'S ROAR...

BRAWW!!!

ON THE WAY TO THE  
MUFFLER SHOP I  
DETACHED MYSELF.

...HEY, BUDDY!  
YOU GOTTA GET  
THAT FIXED!

THE AUTHORITIES  
CRACKED DOWN ON  
MY TRUTH-TELLING.

...BWAHAHHH!!

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**A Season for Miracles**



RECHARGE  
THE OL' GRAY  
MATTER...

...AND I'M  
BACK FROM THE  
DEAD LIKE  
JESUS!!

OH NO!

IT'S A  
SWARM OF  
FLESH-EATING  
LOCUSTS!

WHAT HATH  
BROUGHT THIS  
PLAGUE UPON ME,  
OH LORD?

PARIAH RIGHTS

...SORRY, DOG -  
BUT THERE'S ONLY  
ROOM FOR ONE  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
IN THIS TOWN

AND RISING  
FROM THE DEAD!  
IS ONE OF MY BEST  
TRADE-MARKED  
GOD-GIVEN  
SHITKICKS!

BY THE WAY,  
HAVE A HAPPY  
HONDOCHRONATIONAL  
HOLIDAY SEASON!

...PLEASE!

SEE IN  
ON THE  
OTHER  
SIDE!



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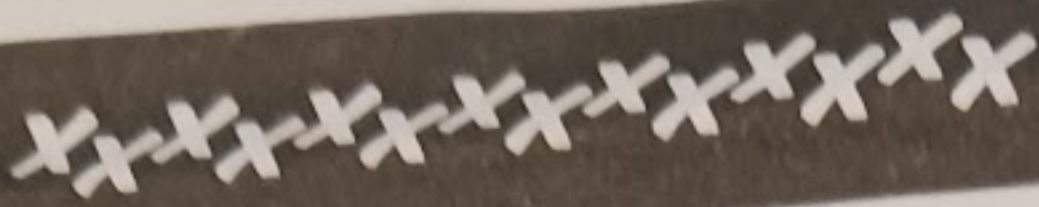
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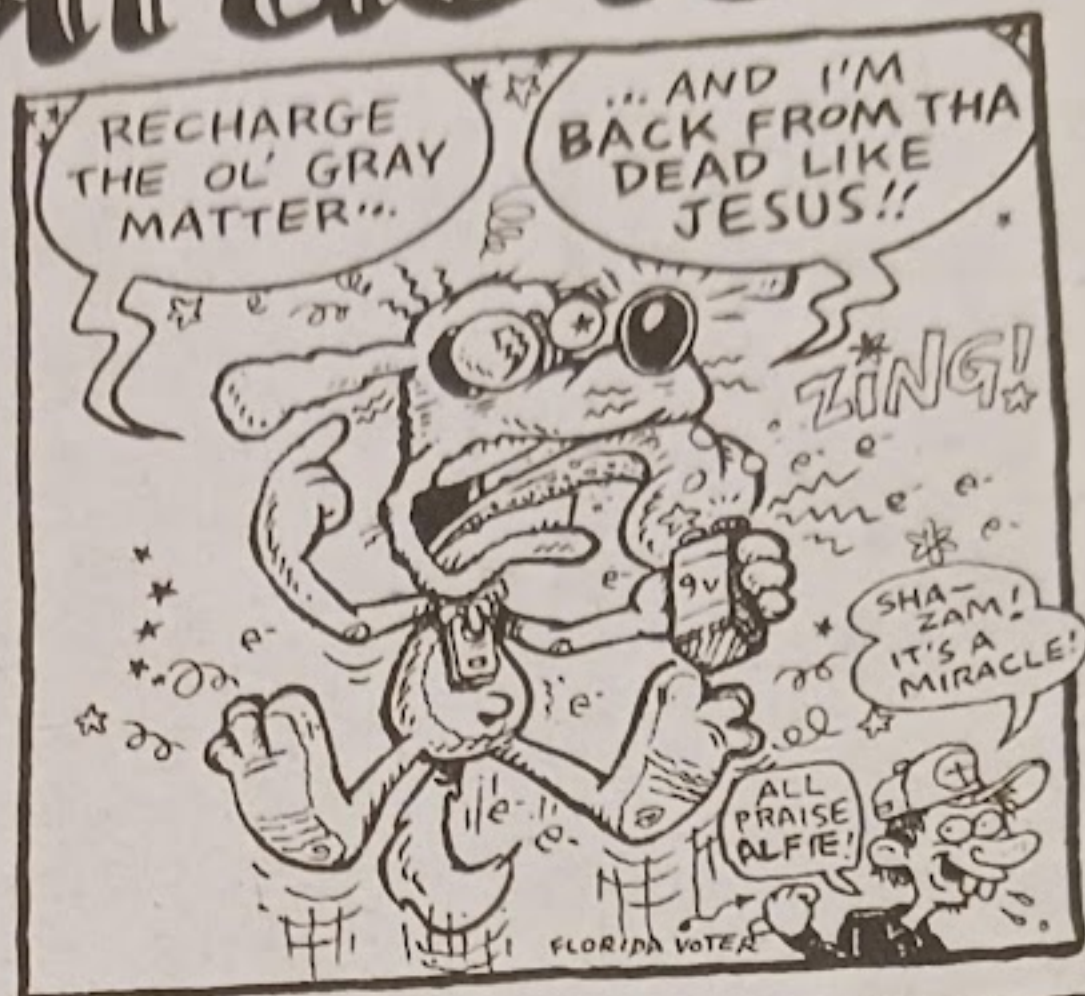
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P.S. — WWJD (WHO WOULD JESUS DEMONIZE?)



Thanks Mitch



THIS IS A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE BANK...

I TOILED AWAY.

WE ARE THE BANK. WE OWN YOU.

I SACRIFICED.

YOU CAN TRUST US...

I PLAYED BY THA RULEZ.

...WE'RE TOO BIG TO FAIL.

NOW I HAVE A PLACE TO CALL "HOME."

FEELS GOOD TO HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD.

WITHIN THESE WALLS...

...I WILL DO GREAT THINGS.

I'LL START TOMORROW.

CRACK!

EEP!

EVERYTHING IS ASKEW.

GOT A LIGHT?

SURE, "KRUNCHY." I HAVE A MATCH FOR YOU.

GOOD DOG.

ALTHO~IT TROUBLES ME TO LEND FIRE FOR SUCH A VILE ACT.

FEAR NOT, PUR...

YER INNOCENT FIRE WILL BE THA CATALYST FOR A GREATER PURPOSE.

OH BOY!

AN' WOT "GREATER PURPOSE" IS **THIS**?

JUST A MINOR "KOREKSHUN IN THA EKONOME." ATM

**KA-BOOM**

VIEW 5¢

CAREFUL, JEEZUS.

"THE REEFER" IS A GATEWAY TO JAZZ MUSIC AN' FUNNY BOOKS.

AS "KRUNCHY" BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO ALF, THA SCENT OF **BACON** FLOATS ON THE AIR...

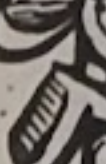
PICK-UP YER MATCH, LITTER-BUG.

ALTHO IT IS CALLED "THE MAN," THIS ODORIFEROUS CREATURE IS **NOT** A MAN AT ALL.

... 'TIS A SILLY SWINE INSTEAD.

City Check

WITH THA  
PORCINE  
OPPRESSOR  
AFOOT...



THA DOPEY DOG ATTEMPTS  
A QUICK EXIT...





**ONE DAY...**

**KEEP YOUR**

**LIFESTYLE**

**OFF MY**

**BODY!**

**SNORT!**

© 05 R. Lotine

**BUT...**

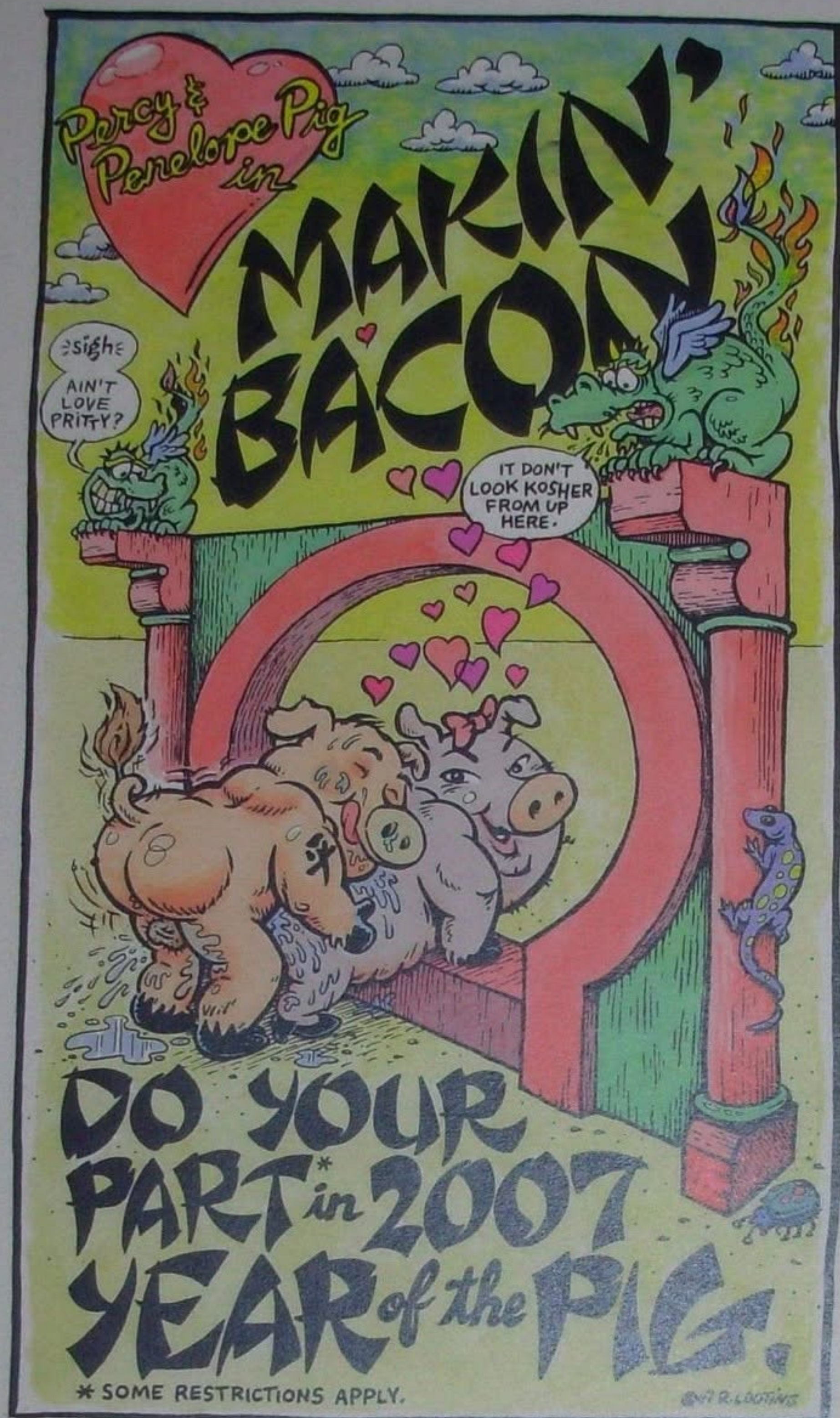
DRIVING  
IS NOT A  
"LIFESTYLE"  
CHOICE...

...IT'S  
GENETIC!

HOW  
INSENSITIVE  
OF ME...

ZOOM!!!

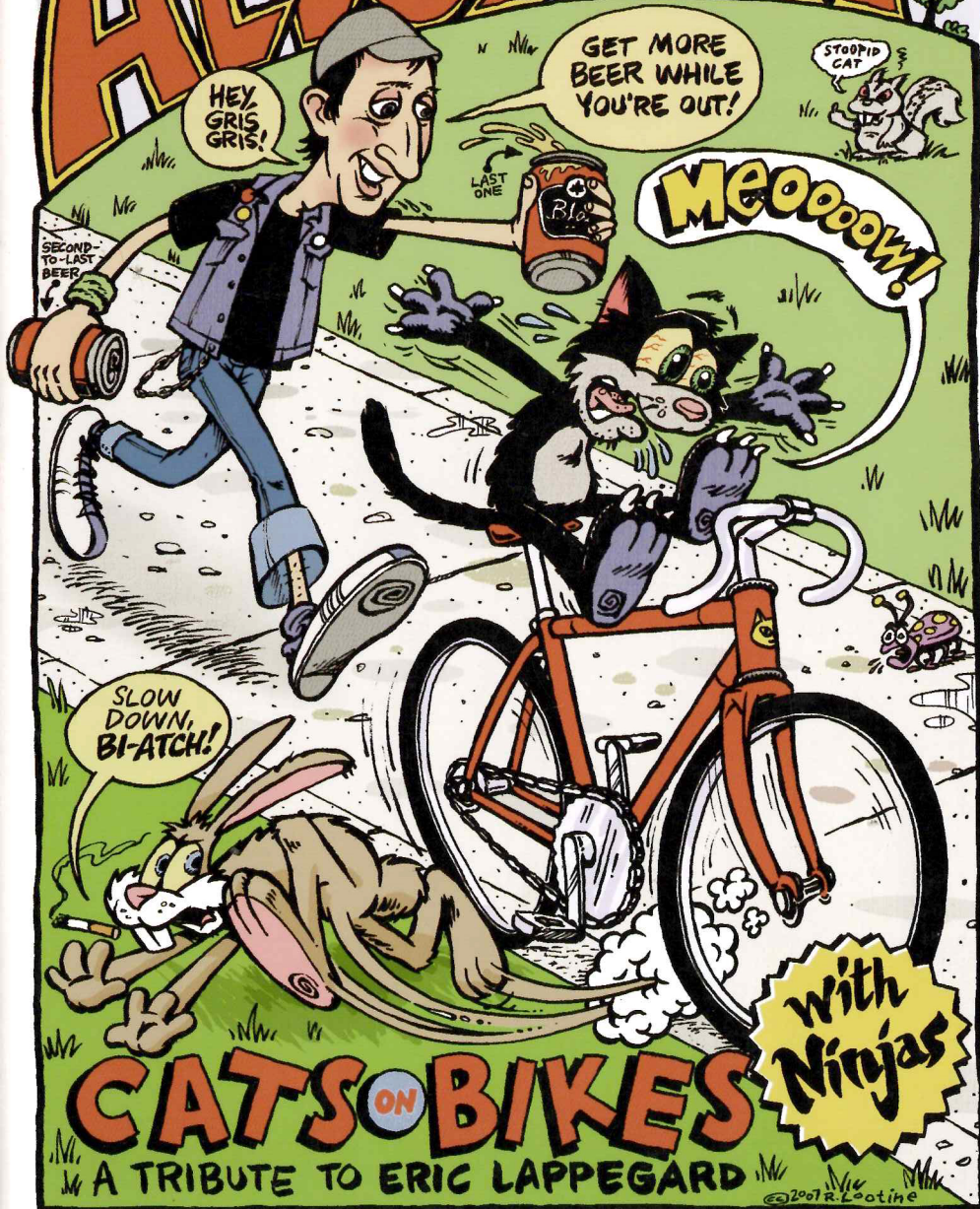






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# ALLEYCAT







# ONE ON ONE BICYCLE STUDIO



R. Looney  
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