



INTRODUCTION

“it feels like a journal comic is brewing at least, that’s what it looks like to me.”

Those were the first words I posted to the brand new site I’d created on Blogspot. It was Tuesday, the 6th of June, 2006. I’m still not entirely sure what compelled me to draw things and put them online. I mean, I liked to draw, sure. I’m generally a one-creative-outlet-at-a-time kind of person, however, and I already had my blog “TalkingSkull” as an outlet for describing my adventures. (Curiously, I can find only brief, passing mentions of my “new” site in posts from my “old” site.)

I had been drawing comics all the way through University in the free daily planners we were given. Some of those would later show up on the site. Occasionally they were even good. The journal comic format, however, was markedly different from the ones I scrawled in my agenda. The very first one I can remember drawing sadly does not exist anymore; it was on the back of an exam paper in an Introductory Spanish class I took in the last year of my B.A.

For some reason I never want to be the first person to hand an exam in, so often when I am done writing I find a way to occupy myself until it doesn't look like I'm a keener. I flipped the page over and drew three small images and three bits of narration directly to the right of those. It's odd to me that the format I picked right then was the one I'd stick to, adding only panel borders; the decision to arrange things in that way was purely arbitrary. The comic was about how I'd studied very hard and sacrificed sleep doing so. Nothing earth-shattering, but I realized that I actually rather liked telling a short, personal story in that style.

After I moved home from University and got my hands on my brother's Eurocom tablet PC, I returned to experimenting with that style. I've even come across early prototype comics that have never seen the light of day, and it's kind of neat to go back and watch things evolve into their present shape. The earliest ones are from the beginning of May, and it took a few attempts to settle on a system that I liked enough to work with regularly. And then posting began!

My approach to the site has always been that I am doing it for myself first. It is after all a journal and people tend not to write journals strictly for the benefit of others. On top of that, thinking this way has been a stress-reliever as well; if you're not expecting anyone to read your site when you start out, you won't be disappointed when nobody does. Later on, when you do start to pick up readers, you don't have to stress about pleasing an audience because the audience is you and they just happen to be along for the ride. I won't say that every comic is made in some sort of reader feedback-less bubble, and there are of course certain topics and ideas that I still avoid. It's not a bad mindset to start from, however.

As I approach the beginning of my sixth year doing these, I'm also astonished that I don't feel any inclination to stop. Aside from living I'm not sure I've done any one thing for as long as I've done this comic. Oh that's not true, going to school I guess. There's probably a bunch of other examples that make my reminiscing sound less impressive. I'm not going to think about them.

Finally, I hope you enjoy this look back at where things came from! In putting this book together I get to revisit them too. We'll discover or re-discover some favourites, cringe at most of the rest of them, and I have, I think, a pretty Interesting Time with it all. Thanks for your interest in this book and my site!

- Nathan Fehr, April the 25th 2011

MAY (PROTOTYPES)

So as I said in the introduction, it took a few tries at comic-making to get to something I was happy with posting. Starting in early May I wrote five comics, and only one of them actually got re-used so even I was surprised to see some stuff I hadn't seen in a long time. The fourth one finally gets panel borders, and by the 5th I had settled on the borders and image dimensions that I've used ever since.



yesterday at the store
I came across a non-
permanent marker.

Not "dry-erase-"
"non-permanent."



normally I am quite
good at making up reasons
for things, even if they are
not generally factual.

But now I am stumped.



I'm forced to add it to
my Colbert-style list of
things that have no reason
to be.

take that.

5/2/06 NF



So matt and I
are watching this
movie about a
super hurricane that
threatens America.



Then we conjectured
about the possibilities
of a natural disaster
team-up.

the result?
A giant hurricane
with tornado arms
and volcano guns!
LOOK OUT

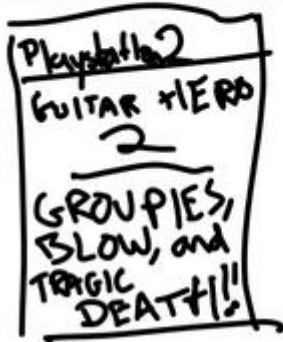
5/5/06 NF



I spent a lot of money on Saturday and finally picked up "Guitar Hero" for the PS2.

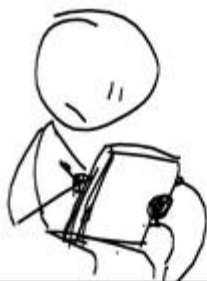


the game is very much awesome, but I can't help but feel I am missing a crucial part of the Rock Experience.



hopefully these issues will be resolved in the sequel.

5/8/06 - LF



So, I'm doing this at my
brother Corey's place in
Prince George, BC.



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Article ~~Wikipedia~~
Prince George, Duke
The ~~Wikipedia~~
Wikipedia
Wikipedia

as it turns out,
the "Prince George"
that this city may
have been named after
was a pretty crazy guy.



Whatever.
All I know is that I'm
missing Animal Crossing
right now.

5/20/06 NF

JUNE 2006



The Moustache Dilemma: A tale in Three Panels.

(including this one.)



I am attempting to grow
a moustache to somehow
promote the movie "Nacho
Libre" at the theater
where I work.



However, today I had a
job interview. I was very
uncomfortable, knowing my
sad moustache will probably
cost me a job.

-NF 6/6/06

"stupid facial hair."

Yup, I applied at the local Staples (an office supply store) just before it opened. Not getting that job seems like a pivotal moment in my life, and sometimes I try to imagine how different everything might be for me now. Maybe there is a Nathan in an alternate universe who never grew that awful moustache, got that job and is now living an entirely unrecognizable life. I say to that Nathan: Sorry dude, I'm definitely better off. Unless you've got an iPad, those things are boss.



GREAT MYSTERIES of the UNIVERSE: the Tim Horton's strawberry-filled doughnut

overhead view



A delicious treat, but why
is only half of it covered in
sprinkles? Are the sprinkles
an Achilles-style form of
dipped immortality?



If so, they are doing a
lousy job of protecting the
sweet, sweet innards.

06/06/06 NF



My replacement Dreamcast
controller came today. I still
wonder how my other one
could have broke...

Months ago...



Nah...

couldn't have been.

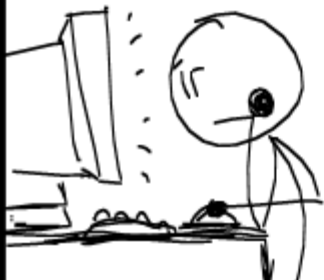
07/06/06 NF



PC Gamepad for
self: \$30.



Sudoku books for
parents: \$24.



paying for Warren's
eBay purchases:

~~priceless~~
\$28! what the--!
04/06/06 NF



WELL, I did not
in fact get the job
I applied for, probably
because of the mustache.



Not one to sit idly by
in the face of rejection,
I turned the tables by
burning down their building.



then, I nuked the
site from orbit.

(It's the only way
to be sure.)

9/6/06 AF



WAL-MART SALES ASSOCIATE TRAINING GUIDE



uh-oh! here comes a
customer with one of
those pesky "questions".

What to do?



Simple! Make a half-
assed attempt at gleaming
the info from the product
box, then tell them to
check online! CRKs over!

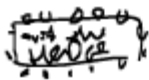
6/13/06 -NF

"all I wanted to know was the version number"

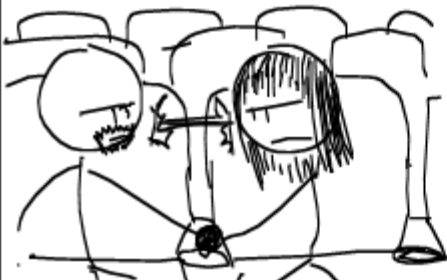
This comic marks the first appearance of tiny, circular eyes. I have an impolite name for that style of eye but suffice it to say that they are almost always reserved for jerks or idiots. Something about them suggests a certain...simple-mindedness. I'm not sure how I settled on that idea but I have been drawing stick-people for years before the comic started. Since we're talking about this comic, I'll also add that the Wal-Mart sales guy looks like a character from the old cartoon "Stickin' Around".



when I am an usher at the theatre, I am sometimes struck by the irony of people's movie choices.



like the young couple today who came to see that movie "The Breakup."



is there something that one or both of them just can't say outright?

6/14/06 NF



why do ghosts have to
look like scary, trans-
parent people?



I think we'd be
much more accepting
and helpful if they
were cuter.

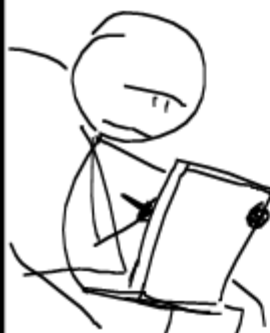


henceforth: I am
hiring myself out as a
public relations guy to
the undead.

6/15/06 NF



as you may be
aware, I draw these
kind of late at night
sometimes.

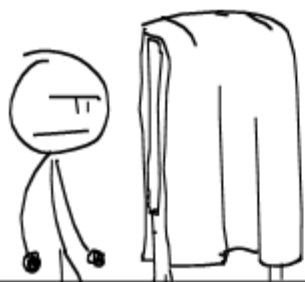


there is, of course,
a danger inherent
to this.



this is why today's
update is late.

6/16/06 NF



So, last week, my
province (Manitoba) unveiled
its "exciting" new slogan.
Ready?



that's right. goodbye
"Friendly Manitoba,"
hello "Spirited Energy."



What's next?
"A Touch of Class"?
How about
"When You're This Big,
They Call you Mister?"
6/19/06 NF



So, how about that
"World Cup," huh?

Awesome!



I personally am rooting
for the team... uh...
from...
Y... Yugoslavia?



Oh FINE. I don't know a
thing about the stupid
World Cup.

... I just wanted to be cool.
6/20/06 NF



Tonight, I can't seem to come up with a topic for a comic.



Mostly I keep thinking about how the popular thing on campus was to carry those super-tough water bottles.



HONK
HONK
CRUNCH!

What was the deal with those? Were all these students having their old bottles destroyed by trucks or something?

6/21/06 NF



So, castlevania for
the DS is pretty
addictive.



like, deeply addictive.



there should maybe
be a warning on
it, though.

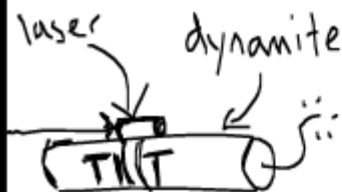
6/22/06 NF



So, help me out here.
The song "Killer Queen" by,
well, Queen, has the lyric
"Dynamite with a Laser Beam."



Is this meant to suggest
her amazing Laser-Skill,
as in "She's dynamite
with a laser beam",



or is the combination of
dynamite and lasers meant
to imply danger?

6/23/06 NF

"it's catchy AND it makes you think"

I've actually been asking different people this question for years and I've yet to get a satisfactory answer. I think the general consensus has been that she is "very skillful with a laser-based device", which I guess makes a little more sense and lends a delightful sci-fi twist to the song. As a side-note I have no idea why I decided to centre-justify the date at the bottom of this comic. Sometimes I try different things with the dates and usually they don't hold.



So, I shaved
the moustache on
Sunday.



Now, it will spend
eternity in the fires
of Moustache Hell.



there, it will meet
other notably evil
Moustaches, like those
of Hitler or H.H.
Holmes.

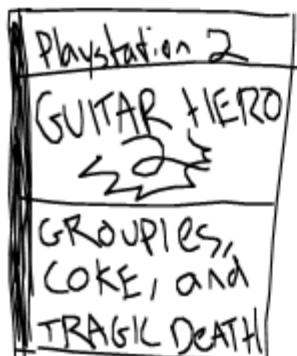
6/26/06 NF



So, Guitar Hero has
been a lot of fun
this far.



still, I do feel that
the game misses some
important parts of the
Rock Experience.

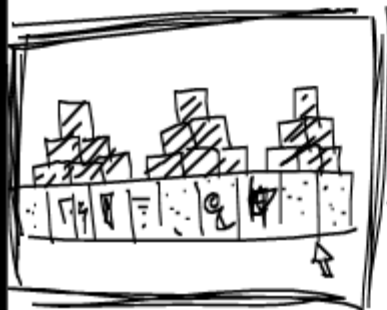


hopefully, this
problem will be resolved
in the sequel.

6/27/06 NF

"who doesn't love tragic death?"

Ah, 'edgy' humour. It just...isn't really my thing? Every time I go for it I look back later and cringe a little. It's pretty plain to see from the rest of the site that it's not what I'm going for anyway. That doesn't stop me from trying now and again, but I'm actually a little proud to say that for the most part this site never crosses the PG line. (The comments section, on the other hand...)



Surely I am not
the only person to go
through dozens of games
of computer Solitaire...



...who then comes across
a deck of cards and
goes hey, I could play
for real...



...only to give up
thirty seconds later,
because the setup
phase is frustrating and
lengthy.

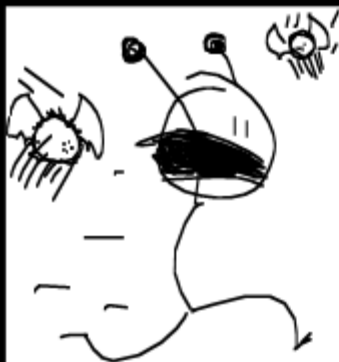
6/28/06



A HORRIBLE
THOUGHT:
Oh my goodness!
Are you ready?



What if spiders,
like, had wings??
oh MAN!



I KNOW! Why would
I ever think of that?

6/29/06



I don't draw them in the comic, but in real life I wear glasses.



People suggest that I get contacts or laser surgery, but I'm not overly keen.



Like Superman, my glasses are critical to maintaining my secret identity.

6/30/06 NF

"Nerd Man...AWAY!"

One thing I enjoy when writing is to put in repeating phrases and ideas. I don't think anybody really notices them, mainly because they are often designed to fly under the radar unless you know they exist, like the arrow in the FedEx logo. The first words of this comic - "I don't draw them in the comic, but..." are a good example. The phrase stayed in my mind as a good way to start a comic, and so it will pop up now and again over the course of the next few years.

There are other examples. They aren't usually present so often that you'd notice, but they're another way I entertain myself with my work.

JULY



Few things infuriate
me more than finding
a good DVD at a
low price that I'm
ready to buy...



...and then finding
the Cursed Mark
upon the packaging.



this is why I am
no longer allowed in
any Giant Tiger stores.

6/3/06 -NF

"I wasn't actually about to buy 'Breakin' today"

First of all yes, the date on this comic is wrong-o and it's definitely not the only time I slip up on that.

For some reason I can actually remember that the movie I nearly bought was "The Sting", with Paul Newman and Robert Redford. I had never seen it but heard good things, and this was some Amazing Ultimate Anniversary thing (as they all seem to be). And it was cheap and I had it in my hands but then I saw it was full-frame, and I thought "WHY WOULD YOU EVEN PUBLISH THE AMAZING ULTIMATE ANNIVERSARY THING IN FULL FRAME." Who clamored for that, is what I'm wondering.



This is the biggest
and craziest waste of
money I can possibly
think of:
Step ① - Buy the moon.

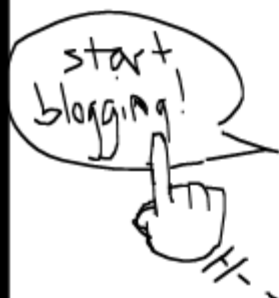


Step ② have it
gold-plated.



Step ③ - Destroy it.

7/4/06 NF



I noticed that eBay
has a blog section now?
I bet those are
fascinating.



"Dear Diary:
I bid on a sweet
Star Trek puzzle today.
Current mood: Rocking!"

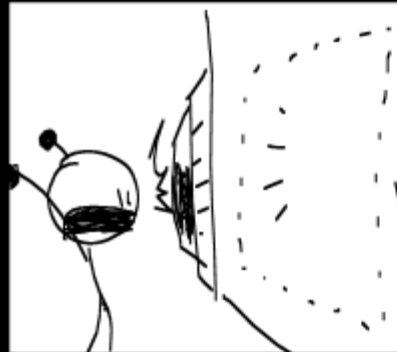


5 minutes later:
"Dear Diary:
Some jerk outbid me!
That Sucks!
Current Mood: Super-ticked!"

7/5/06 NE



I remain curiously apathetic to most of the changes my home-town has undergone in the name of Progress.

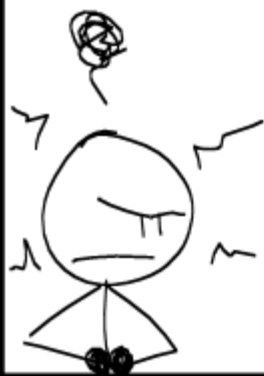


however, a new shoe store chain in the mall has caused the beloved community bulletin board to be moved.



I think I might head back and stage a Heston-esque "Planet of the Apes" thing, for giggles.

7/6/06 NF



Computers are
stupid and I
HATE THEM.



... Well ...



maybe I'm over-reacting,
but I bet you haven't
re-installed your OS
four times in two days.

7/7/06 NF



So, I had like,
a big important
job interview
yesterday.



air
guitar

halfway through, I
sensed things weren't
going well - so, I dove
into a spirited rendition
of "Iron Man", hoping it
would catch on.



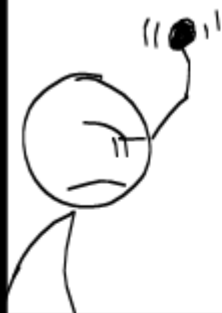
it didn't.

7/11/06 NF

"has he thoughts within his head"

Of course there is a strong temptation to go back and somehow either redo or hide old work that I feel is not up to my current standard (this is known in some circles as "pulling a Lucas"). This comic in particular is one I have wanted to re-draw for a long time. And actually it isn't even that I think it doesn't look good, because despite everything I'm really happy with it. It's because I like it that I want to try and do it even better.

The main thing that stands in my way is my own laziness; some days (not many, but they are there) I can barely muster a brand new comic; never mind spending time on re-drawing old ones. So it stays.



I got turned down
for that job I talked
about yesterday.



I wanted to be more
original than just
starting another fire,
though...



So, I pulked some
strings and had them
deported!

7/12/06 NF



Monday night, instead
of writing this comic,
I was lying on a hillside,
thinking about nothing.



Seriously; try as I
might to ponder deep
subjects, my brain
just gave up each time.



I also can't come up
with any kind of punch-
line to that, either.
(sorry!)

7/13/06 NF

"the town only has one hill, but it works"

For various reasons it is sometimes extremely difficult to come with a new idea when I sit down to write a comic. Since I have almost never had any kind of backlog of work, I have done almost every comic on the day and as such my mental state is subject to the various pressures and goings-on of that day. And some days it just doesn't seem possible to write something good.

At those times I have the debate that I've never really managed to definitively solve in the years since I started Interesting Times; is it better to post nothing at all than to post something I know will be lackluster? More often than not I try to write SOMETHING, partly because I don't want to fall out of the habit and partly because I have learned that I really can't predict which comics are going to really resonate with people.



Leaving a garage sale
empty-handed sometimes
feels a bit awkward -
should I say something?
Explain my disinterest?



Today the fear and
awkwardness overcame
me, and... I panicked.

So, uh,
if the cops ask,
I'm not here, okay?

7/14/06 NF

"there may be a more graceful solution"

I've actually been on the verge of taking this comic down in the years since posting it. But I've talked it over with a few people and apparently I'm being oversensitive, so for that and various other reasons it stays.

The problem I had is that the comic appears to rely on violence against women for the sake of a punchline, which is not what I'm about. However nobody I've shown it to reads it that way. Also, a friend of mine convinced me that it's more important to chart your growth and changes as an artist than to try and censor or bury work that for one reason or another you aren't proud of. So, my fears about this comic have been allayed.



Check out my awesome
new idea for a company:
You could pay me to hire
Ninjas that would attack
you and fail.



What would happen is
that they would try to
assassinate you and miss,



and then you and them
would have a cool battle
that you'd win.
How exciting would that
be?!

7/17/06 NR



Back in MY day, which was honestly not that long ago, school supplies didn't go on sale till the end of Summer.



Look, it's just polite, okay? What kid wants to be seeing pencils and binders and stuff in July?!

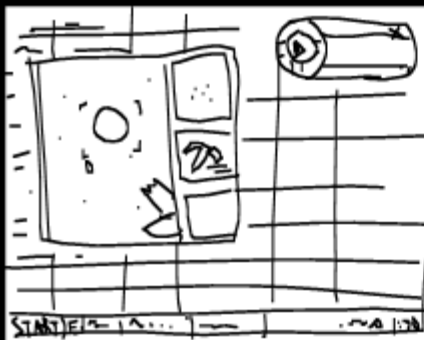


It even makes me nervous, and I'm like, twenty-three.

7/18/06 NF



So I'm sittin' there,
playing a computer game,
and it hits me-



I'm simultaneously playing a
space-trading sim, creating
a detailed spreadsheet of
planets I visit, AND listening
to Sci-fi radio shows from
1950.



Tonight, I am the Nerd
King. Now where is my
crown??

7/19/06 NF

"'he was a petty and unjust King,' they will say"

Since I know you are wondering; the game I was playing was "Escape Velocity Nova" and the radio show was most likely "Dimension X". The media player was, I think, Windows Media Player with some sort of skin. And the spreadsheet program was probably OpenOffice. The thing I am standing on in the third panel is a rock.

There, now I've explained it TO DEATH. Oh no wait, the whole thing took place in my parents' basement, for extra Nerd Cred Points. Is there anything else you could possibly want to know? If so, email me at
nathan@interestingtimes.ca

(That sounds sarcastic but I will actually answer your questions if you have any!)



The Author
in
"A Vicious Cycle"
A Tale in Two Panels

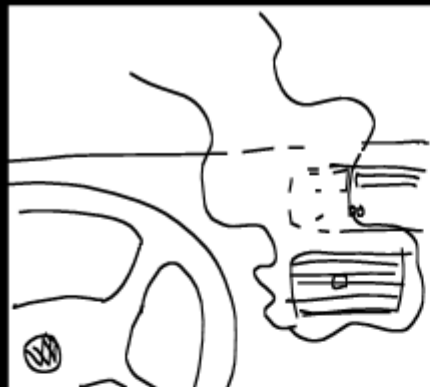
me
... ←

I hide indoors most
summer days, because
I sunburn like, real easy.



But I'm pretty sure that
I sunburn so easy because
I hide indoors most days!

7/24/06 NF



Lately, my car has begun releasing a strange odor when I reach highway speeds.



Inhaling as much as I have is probably not all that good for me...



But, I have noticed I am in a fantastic mood when I reach my destination.

7/25/06 NF

HANG IN THERE



BABY

You know that poster
with the cat on
the rope?
It bothers me, a little.



There are serious
gaps in the narrative;
for instance, how did it
get up there? Why
must it "hang in there"?



Shouldn't someone be
helping it? IS "BABY"
ITS NAME OR WHAT?!

7/26/06 NF



this
doesn't
count

TODAY'S COMIC:
Images that I bet
you recognize, but that
nobody knows how or
where they came from.



① The Bank Robber,
sackful of cash in
tow!

note eye-mask and
dollar sign on sack!



② The barrel-with-
suspenders!

Extreme poverty is
implied somehow!

7/27/06 NF



My boss claims Sci-Fi and
Fantasy movies are the same;
UNTRUE!
Take "Lord of the Rings"
versus "Star Wars."



LOTR shows the epic saga
of an unlikely hero, blessed
with special weapons and
powerful friends, who risks
everything to triumph over
evil!

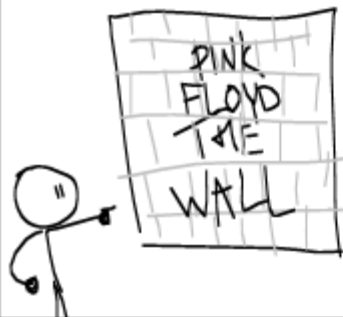


Whereas STAR WARS shows
the epic saga of an unlikely
hero, blessed with special
weapons and... oh. Hm.
Let me rethink this.

7/24/06 NF



MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE EXPLAINED: The Northern Lights. (more commonly referred to as Apocalypse Waves.)



Since "science" has yet
to explain this phenomenon,
I offer the following
hypothesis:
Pink Floyd did it!



Clearly, the lasers from
their lavish concerts have
punched holes in the atmosphere,
and the lights are all the
oxygen clouds leaving earth.
7/31/06 NF

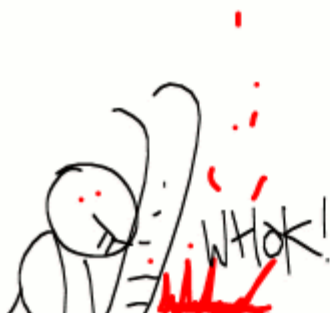
AUGUST



Over the weekend I
discovered an incredible
new technology:
the "Book"!

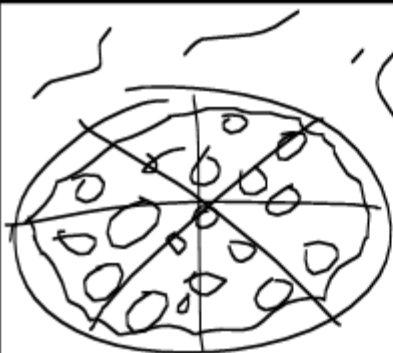


Mostly I have used books
to harm intruders, but I
was pleasantly surprised to learn
of all the information books
contain!



Of course, I see no
reason to stop using them
for harming intruders.

8/7/06 NF



The Perfect Food? Pizza.



Hot, Cold, Day, Night -
delicious!



Plus, it stalls zombies!

8/8/06 AF



Sometimes at work I write comics. They are generally well received, but I have had a drought of creativity, and none have been made in a while.



Then, the other night, I figured out how to draw bees, and tried to come up with a story around that.



Pretty much all I could think of was retelling the "Karate Kid" but with a giant bee playing Johnny. (will it work? Do I dare?)

8/9/06 NF

"Fear does not exist in this Bee!
Yes sensei!!"

All I want to say is that I have never completely given up on the idea of re-telling "The Karate Kid" with an abnormally large bee.



The annual "Harvest Festival" has set up in town with a midway and snack booths in easy walking distance from my house.



the upside of this?
Mini-donuts!!



the downside?
Mini-donuts!!

8/10/06 NF



Lately we've had
some odd weather.



weird, torrential
downpours of rain
seem to come and go
without notice.

dear santa:
I wish we had a
monsoon season in
Manitoba!

yours etc.,

Nathan



I guess Santa really
came through last
Christmas, after all.

8/11/06 NF



nothing cool happened
today.



oh, that? That's my
cool new spider-robot
Friend from space.



but you don't want
to hear about that.

8/14/06 NF



My big database project
is done! 266 console
games, individually
catalogued!
Now, I can Finally move on!



all that's left are the
stacks of records, DVDs,
PC games...
...books, maybe...



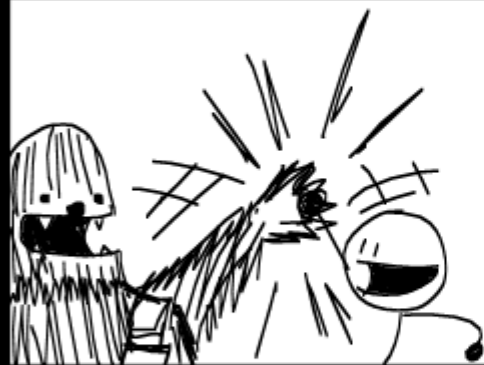
Second thought, maybe
I'll take a break from
cataloguing.

8/15/06 NF



"Nathan's sadly
un-attainable dreams"

- hang with the MST3k crew, catch a movie.



- high-fives with Chewbacca.



- give Batman directions.

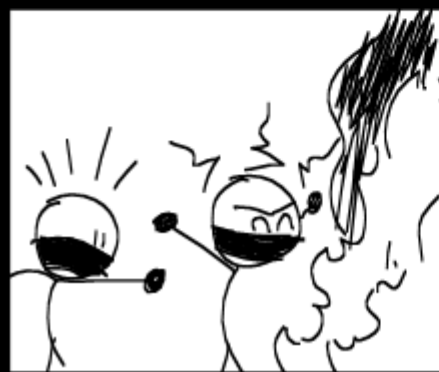
8/17/06 NF



You know how on TV shows, there'll be an episode where someone's exact double is running around, causing mischief?



And then there's the part where the twins are side by side, so somebody asks a question only the original can answer?



I guess what I'm trying to say is a.) I'm sorry about the Fire and b.) you might want to think of a question like that.

4/17/06 NF

"look at that frown! he means business"

There's a lot of older comics that I'd like to redraw, simply because I can see things that I would do much differently now. I hesitate to say "better" because in five more years I might say that about the work I posted yesterday night, for instance.

On the one hand I've marked this comic as a personal favorite, because of the frown in panel one and because I like what I wrote. On the other hand I dislike every other facial expression in the whole thing. What was I thinking, drawing mouths like that?

Somewhere, and I've no idea where, but somewhere I once had a comment that a reader had finally figured out my characters weren't wearing masks over the lower portions of their faces. Looking back, I can totally see where that notion came from.



today, an installment of:
"WHAT IS WRONG WITH
SOME PEOPLE !!!
(SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S UP)"
in this edition - the large
drinks we sell at the theatre.



Many people falsely assume
that the flimsy plastic lid
I've hastily slapped on
their drink is somehow
load-bearing.



so they hold it by the top
and get all surprised when
the cup drops out and gets
Diet Pepsi all over everything.
They are NOT my friends.
8/21/06 NF



it seems like every
time I have an empty
glass bottle...



...I fantasize about
throwing it as hard
as I can and smashing
it.

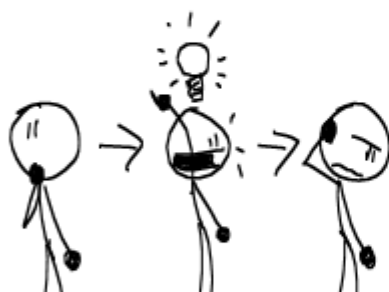


does that...
does that make me
a bad person...?

8/2/06 NF



GREAT MYSTERIES of the UNIVERSE: the Brain



Why is it that I can have
a Good Idea, and then
forget what it is...



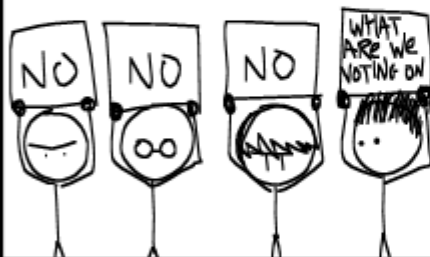
... but later, I can remember
that I had a good idea
and not what the frick
that idea actually was?

8/23/06 NF



Don't worry, Pluto;

VOTES:



Though no longer
a planet,



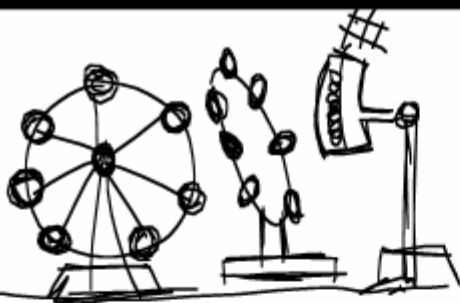
I still think you're cool.

8/24/06 NF

"a haiku tribute to Pluto"

I really like "What Are We Voting On" guy in panel 2. Here is this person who saw some people about to vote on a thing with cards, so he sidles into the lineup, because who doesn't like voting with big cards? Moments later he realizes that there might a serious issue at stake, but he doesn't want to distract the others with questions. So, he takes the time to write out an entire sentence on his card rather than potentially vote the wrong way.

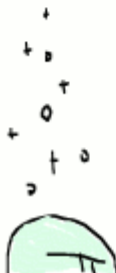
Is he a hero for spoiling his own ballot in order to help facilitate the democratic process for others? Answering that question is an exercise I leave to you, dear reader.



morden corn and
apple festival.

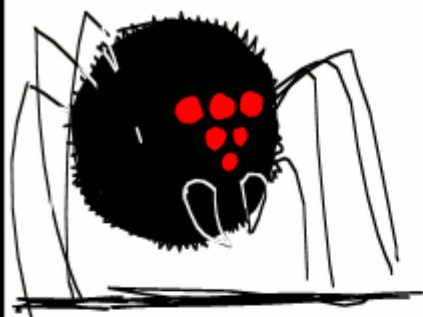


went on rides.



not well now.

4/25/06 NF



do you know what
Spiders have done to
me? They've made
me paranoid.



now, when I'm in a
room, I constantly check
corners for cobwebs or
the horrible things
themselves.



The irony is, I really
don't want to see the
thing I'm always looking
for.

8/25/06 NF



I don't draw it in the comic, but in real life I have hair.

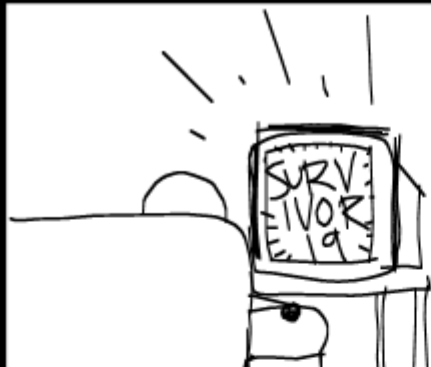


When it's long, I can make it do that emo hair-wave thing; but I'm not nearly dark or angsty enough, so the real emo kids point and laugh.



Well, they don't point or laugh, exactly.
(has something to do with all that existential pain and ennui, I think)

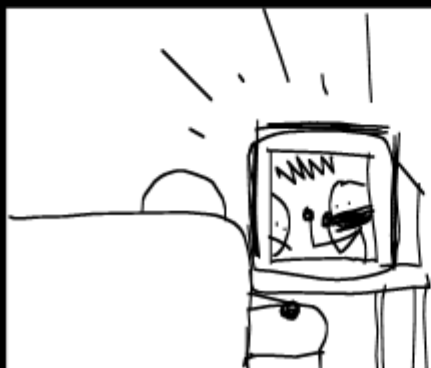
4/29/06 NE



"This show is stupid,"
you tell yourself.



you're absolutely
right. It is stupid.



so why is it so hard
to change the channel?

8/31/06 NF



I got a new
job!



I'm going to be an
educational assistant
at the local collegiate!



It's intimidating!!
(wool!)

8/31/06 NF

SEPTEMBER



It's probably for the best that I don't own a gun.



No reason, exactly;
I can just see myself turning into a Danger to Myself And Others.

What to get Nathan

giant robot
Zombie

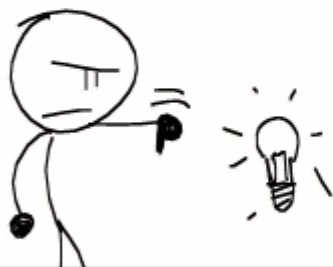
~~gun~~
the internet
scrabble

I know a lot of you will have to exchange the gifts you got me for Christmas in light of this fact. Sorry!

9/1/06 NF



Those crazy spiral
energy-saver light
bulbs are the coolest!



It's about time we
jazzed up light bulbs!
What's it been, like, a
century and the design
is practically the same?
Man!



Let's go crazy
with the designs,
guys! Here's mine!

9/3/06 NF



WHICH "STAR TREK: THE
NEXT GENERATION"
CHARACTER ARE
YOU?

A Quiz In Two Panels.



I just realized I don't have
nearly enough space for
a bunch of questions or
anything, so we'll make
this simple:



You're Worf!
No arguments!
That's you!
(wasn't that easy?)

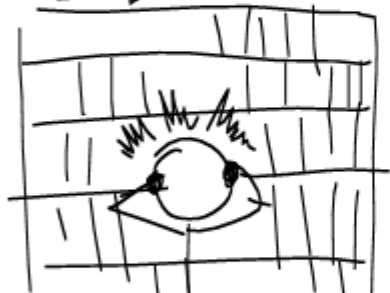
9/4/06 NF

Dear Video Games Industry;

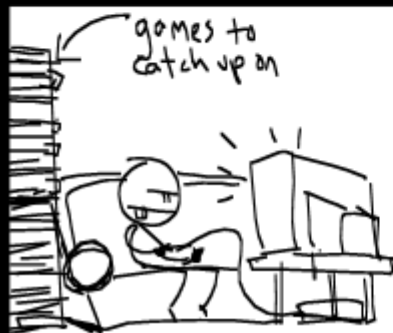


I have two jobs and less time than ever for games, and yet you keep producing high-quality titles.

NEW GAMES



I am way behind as it is and the situation will only worsen! So, ~~do~~ you guys think you could just, like, stop production for a while?



It would really help me out.
-Nathan
(p.s. - I'll be ready for more in about 2008, okay?)
a/g/ds NF

"we could all use a breather, really"

It is 2011 and I am still about a million games behind. I guess that's okay, though, because they devalue quickly so I can get AAA titles for cheap by the time I'm actually ready to play them.

It's a little like my friend Mark, who once convinced himself to think six months behind everyone else when it came to movies, so whatever was in the cheap theatres was actually brand new.



Movie review: MIAMI VICE.

● good!
● not!

THE MOVIE



Overall I'd say about a third of this movie is good, but the middle stretch is worse than boring: It's aggressively boring.



That means that it's boring, but somehow too distracting to let you properly daydream.

9/7/06 NF



FUN FACT:
I have never had
contact with alien
life-forms.



What, these guys?
They tell me they're
from Argentina.



And the hovering thing,
they say, is just a
weather balloon!
Case Closed!

9/11/06 NF

INTERESTING TIMES:
The Complete Saga

by
Nathan!

Wouldn't it be cool if
all these comics were part
of this huge story-arc that
was all subtle and cleverly
built up?



Well I'm here to
tell you that this
is the case!

Every comic has been
meticulously planned
months ago!

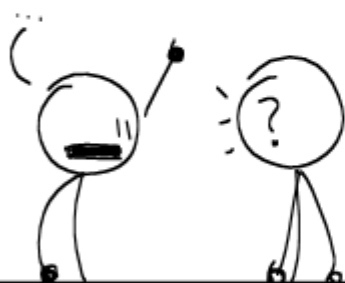


No, YOU'RE a Liar!
Shut up!

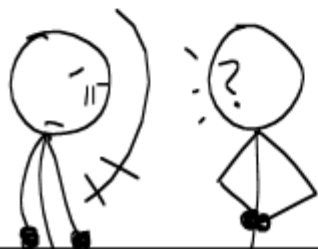
4/12/06 NF



I'm really bad
at remembering
names.



Actually, I'm really
bad at putting the
effort in to remembering
names.



I guess you could
say I'm just bad
at not being lazy?

9/14/06 NF



Lots of people think David Blaine and that Angel guy made a pact with the Devil to do what they do.



But I think we're ignoring a way larger problem - people who can do the robot really well.



Seriously: go look up "one crazy robot" on youtube.
THAT isn't normal.

9/14/06 NF



MYSTERIES of SCIENCE EXPLAINED:

Superheroes.



How does Superman fly?
What's with Wolverine's
healing factor?
These are big questions,
so I did the research.

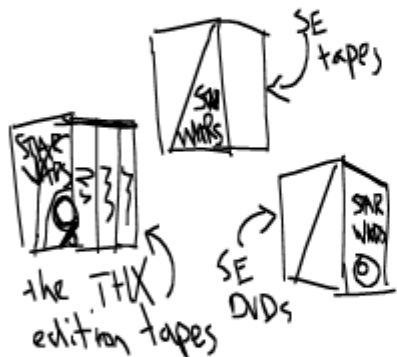


Turns out they're "fictional!"
Seriously, we wasted our
time wondering about this!
Sucks, I know!

9/19/06 NF



NO, new Star Wars
DVDs - I'm not going to
buy you! Get away!



I'm not interested in
paying \$75 and taxes
for a fourth set of the
same movies!



At least, not just yet!
Harrumph!!

9/19/06 NF

"me and Lucas are tight, I call him G-Luc"

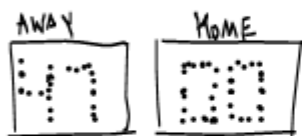
Actually, I never did end up buying the DVDs I was talking about. The problem was that I had finally caved in and bought that silver DVD boxset after holding out forever, thinking that if this was the only way I was going to have proper Star Wars DVDs then I would make my peace with it.

Weeks later, the DVDs come out AGAIN with 2nd discs containing the original theatrical versions (which was what I wanted all along - I don't foam at the mouth with hatred about the CGI-enhanced updates, but I have no love for them either).

As of this writing there is a Blu-Ray release on the horizon, but I don't care. I don't. As special as these movies are to me I am done paying for them like a sucker. If somebody gives me the set I won't throw it away, but I feel like I've sort of moved on.



Suck it,
Denmark!



Canada whupped you
47-nothing in the
1949 World Hockey
Championships!



(by the by, what's the
statute of limitations for
gloating? More than 48
years?)

9/19/06 NF



are you busy?
No!



but, it sure looks
like you are!



Clipboards win again!



So, there's like 300 Tim Hortons locations in the USA. I'm wondering, do these count as Canadian soil, like an embassy?

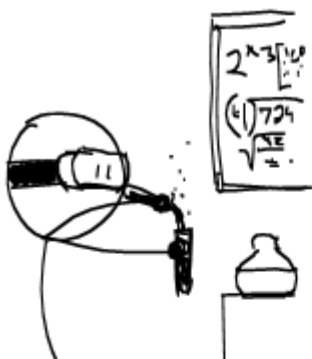


Why? No good reason...



It's not like I'm considering committing an act or acts that will require me to seek diplomatic protection...

9/22/06 NF



I'm going to use
SCIENCE to create
the ANTI-Infomercial.

VERY Expensive!
ORDER NOW!



1-800-BUY-NOW
inferior product!

"You might expect to pay \$32,
but this is only \$100!"
"But wait--that's all!"
"We'll throw in a big box
of nothing!"



My hypothesis? I bet
I'll still sell at least one.

9/25/06 NF



If I ever become a teacher, I'm going to have fun designing spelling lessons.



For instance, one will be based entirely on the names of 80s rock bands



As a hint, I'll blast out the music during tests as well!

9/26/06 NF



So, when was somebody
going to tell me S.E.
Uhlinton was a GIRL?!



And she was like, 17
when she wrote "The
Outsiders"??



the classic novel of
tough-guy bonding and
gang warfare...
written by a 17-year-old
girl...

9/27/06 NF



A tribute to:
JEAN RENO

(non-haiku edition)

Umbra's

Leon

Godzilla

Flyboys

Mission: Impossible



Da Vinci Code

Rc

What can I say? You're
the go-to guy for any
movie that needs a
Frenchman.



I'm not big on hugs,
but if we ever meet in
real life you're SO getting
one!

9/28/06 NF

OCTOBER

(this illustration has nothing to do with today's topic)

GREAT MYSTERIES of the UNIVERSE:



Things that are ironically more difficult, the harder you try at them.



How does this even work? How can it be that trying harder makes the task harder?



If anything this serves to show how cruel and ironic the universe can be.

10/2/06 NF

"another thing would be 'comic ideas, un-had'"

This comic doesn't make a lot of sense. I completely acknowledge that. What inspired it was this: at the movie theatre I used to work for there were spice containers for your pop-corn. You could buy a nice bag, head over to the spice area and load them down with things like white cheddar and BBQ flavours.

These containers periodically needed to be refilled and cleaned. The notable thing about them was that they were paradoxically harder to open if you tried harder to open them. They were twist-off lids. If you grabbed and wrenched they wouldn't budge. If you adopted a light touch and a minimal amount of twist, they'd slide right open.

THAT'S what I was trying to get across. Maybe I should have just stuck with trying to tell that story. Well, what's done is done!



I figure, the way to
make any sport more
exciting would be to
add guns.



Not like, real guns, though!
Just paintball ones or what-
ever.



then limit the ammo,
so it's strategic, see?
I tell ya, it's genius!

10/3/06 NF



Yeah, I used to talk
to myself a lot.



the strange thing is that
now, when I see others
doing it, I find it odd.



yet another reason to go
back in time and yell at
my younger self to be less
weird.

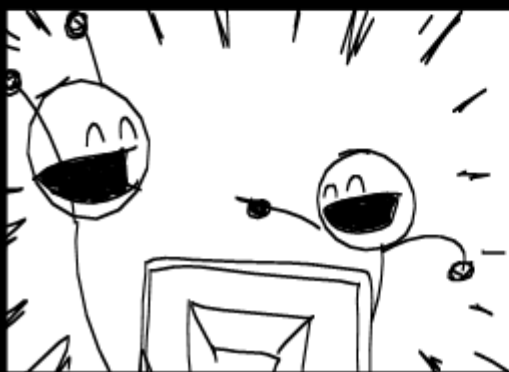
10/4/06 NF



A kid at school
said he'd show me
how to make a bomb.
(I was shocked!)



But then, he just used
the Wingdings font in
MS Word and pressed
the right key!



We laughed
and laughed!

10/5/06 NF

"probably the best joke ever"

I love moments where everyone just laughs like crazy. Sadly, the last panel didn't actually happen but I like to think it did. The rest of the story is 100% true.



You heard it here first:
I'm gonna bring the Hooded
Cloak into popularity!



Man, wouldn't it be cool
to have everyone walk
around lookin' like we're
in a cult?



Oh wait... what'll the
actual cult guys wear
then? Wouldn't be fair
to take that away from
them. Trend over!

10/6/06 NF



Why do games of
Monopoly never end well?



Is it the rampant cheating,
backbiting, and outlandish
length of each game?



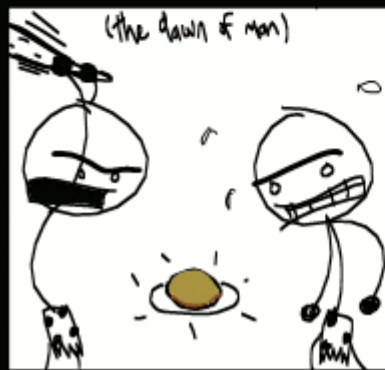
or is it just that it
seems to make you realize
just how much you dislike
your family and friends?
10/9/06 NF



Why it is important to distinguish between a microwave and a time machine:
(because I know you were wondering)



Mainly it is because if you get it wrong, you will end up cooking your head rather than going anywhere.



Also, your Hot Pocket will probably cause considerable uproar whenever it arrives.

10/10/06 NF special thanks to CK

"the loincloths imply that all the other stickmen are nude"

At the time of this comic I was still working at the theatre in Winkler and sitting at concession with my co-worker Chelsea. I had brought my tablet PC along in order to doodle on it, and a conversation she and I had inspired me to write this.

As soon as I had drawn the cavemen, however, I realized exactly what the title says; the fact that some sort of covering is present here seems to mean that everyone else is uncovered.

On the other hand, if you look at the comics where I highlight a feature of myself that exists but isn't generally drawn - like my glasses or hair - then it can be argued that there are other extras that are simply understood to exist but don't need to be explicitly shown. Like clothing and so on. See, I actually put a lot of thought into my stickpeople sometimes!

(Sometimes.)



Back in High School, one of my friends and I developed an interesting habit.

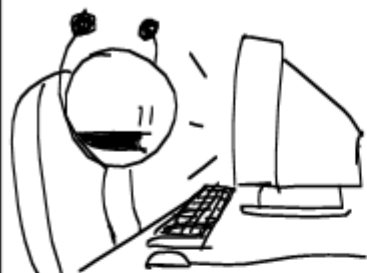


We'd walk back and forth in front of the window into the art room, while class was in. Lots of times.



We never knew for sure, but we always hoped it was blowing someone's mind, I guess.

10/11/06 NF



A couple of weeks ago,
Google Earth upgraded
the satellite view of
my town to a higher
resolution.



There's this weird,
voyeuristic thrill that goes
with being able to examine
your town via satellite.
You're always hoping to
see something weird.



As it always turns out,
though, your town is just
as dull from above as
it is on the ground.

10/12/06 NF



Today I heard that
Death is only our
society's second greatest fear.



The greatest?
Public Speaking, if you
can believe ~~that~~.



So I guess delivering
a speech to a roomful
of grim reapers is like,
the scariest thing ever?

10/16/06 NF



GREAT MYSTERIES of the UNIVERSE:

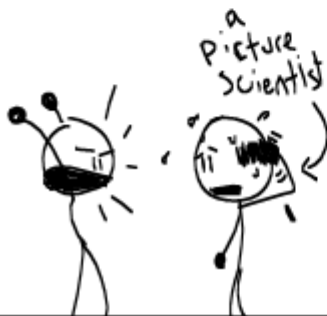
Pictures.



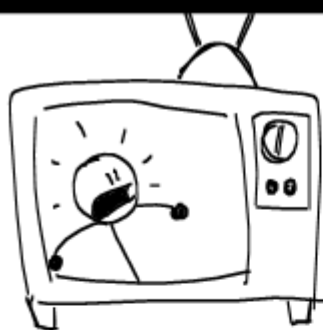
$= (\text{Words} \times 10^3)$



They say "a picture is worth a thousand words," but who decided this? Is it based sound research?



How do we know it's a thousand words? Is this an average? What about very small or large pictures? Come ON, this is important!!
10/17/06 NF



For those times when you are on a movie or TV show, here is a good hint:



If somebody hands you a gun and asks if you know how to use it, just take out the clip, put it back in, and pull the slide back.



Apparently, this is all the proof you need to convince anyone you are a firearms expert.

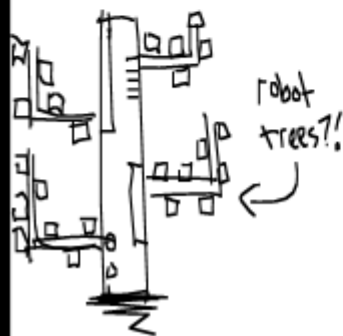
10/18/06 NF with thanks to NF



Sometimes I think of something that makes me go "hey, that would be awesome!"
(like Rocket Fists!)



But then, moments later, I realize that the same idea I just thought was awesome is actually kind of silly, or lame, or both.
(like Rocket Fists)



I need more permanently awesome ideas!!
(like, uh, Robot Trees!)
(wait, no)
10/19/06 NF



Best way to acknowledge
somebody else? Easy!
The Mug Salute!



All you need is a mug. Then,
instead of waving, raise the
mug in a near-toast gesture,
nod slightly, smirk, and
raise an eyebrow (optional).



For some reason, both
parties feel cooler
afterward. I've yet to
understand why, but
there you are.



When your favorite pen finally dies, it feels awful.



you think of all the good times - forms filled out, cheques written, and the Doodles! Oh, the doodles...



But then, all of a sudden, you're like "Oh yeah, it was a pen."

10/24/06 NF



Today's comic is
a request for help.



Can somebody please
confirm or deny that ATMs
in Japan can sort change?



There's no punchline.
I've seriously wondered
for years.

10/25/06 NF



"How're ya doin'?"
People ask me all the
time.
"Aaahh, I can't complain"
I reply.



I'm tired of saying it,
though. I need something
fresh, something off-
beat and casual, yet
accessible.



I've got it! I'll just
stop and glare angrily
until they leave!
It'll be great!
10/26/06 NF



A HALLOWEEN DILEMMA: the costume.



I want to dress up for my shift at the theatre tomorrow, but I've never made a costume, ever. And, I have no ideas and practically no time.



the only idea I have?
I'd wear a big mirror and say "You!" when people ask me who I'm supposed to be.

10/30/06 NF

"it's either that or I go as a huge nerd"

INTERESTING TIMES presents BADLY DRAWN
REFERENCES EXPLAINED:

In panel two, the co-workers are dressed as
(from left) a Cenobite, Cyclops of the X-Men and
Mr. T.



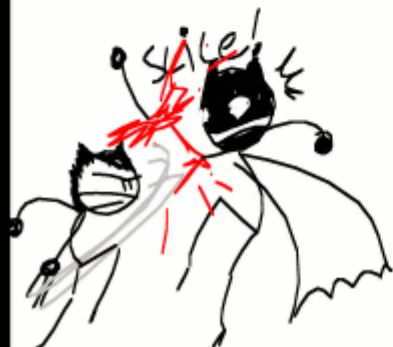
NOVEMBER



So there's that new movie
"The Prestige" with Hugh
Jackman and Christian Bale.
But we know what this
really means:
Batman vs. Wolverine!



Of course, we all
know who would win.



Look, I like Batman
as much as the next
guy, but let's be honest.
Wolverine's got this one.

11/1/06 NF



HOW TO GET FAMOUS
in
the music industry.



The answer is simple.
find a globe, and choose
a place in the world.
This will be your band's
name.



- EUROPE
- ASIA
- KANSAS
- BOSTON
- AMERICA

A placename guarantees
that your band will rock.
Then, just sit back and
enjoy your fame!

11/2/06 NF



So, I think I have
tinnitus.
(for real!)



how else can I explain
the constant ringing in my
ears?



Unless I am visiting
very loud concerts as
I sleep? That'd kind
of make sense...
11/6/06 NF



All right, popular rock
band "Scorpions".
Listen up!



That one song you have
that goes all "Here I am.
Rock you like a hurricane"
is super grammatically
incorrect!

name scorpions

here I am,
Rock you like
a hurricane

(F) see me
in the past

I demand you go back
in time and fix it.
Go on, get moving!

11/7/06 NF



GREAT MYSTERIES of the UNIVERSE:

middle names.



I'm curious. It seems like
the only purpose of a
middle name is to embarrass
you when others discover
what it is.

GAME OVER
enter initials

N 4 6 7 2 9 F end

If we must continue
to assign them, I propose
we either a.) shorten them to
single letters or b.) choose
random digits.

11/8/06 NF

"mine's Peter. yeah, laugh it up"

I have kind of a chip on my shoulder regarding my middle name. Is that the right expression? Hang on, I'm going to google it. [Google Research Break!]

The thing is, throughout my whole life people have tended to giggle at me when they hear my middle name. I've honestly no idea why but it starts to bother a person. I have a half-baked theory but it is entirely rooted in the specific cultural background of my hometown and in any case it isn't very interesting so I shall decline to go into it.

Some people I know have middle names that really work for them, but I thought you might like to know that this comic came from a place of embarrassment and shame. Actually that sounds much worse than it is. The embarrassment is greatly diminished now, but when ever people ask me I still hesitate before replying.



"Tell them Nathan sent ya."

That's what I hope I can
say, one day.



It implies that I have a
lot of pull with whatever
person or business I'm referring
to, and that's cool.



Unless the person or
business actually hates me,
then there might be trouble.

11/13/06 NF



Birthdays should be more like levelling up in RPGs.



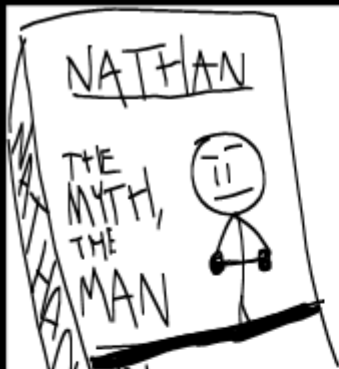
First you'd be surrounded by a neat swirling effect, and maybe there'd be some text others could see.

STR +1
CHA +1
INT +2
HP + 75
"BLIZZAGA"
Learned!



then you'd see all your new stats and abilities!

11/14/06 NF



I think it would be pretty neat to have a book written about me.



I guess you're pretty much guaranteed a book if you do something very good, or very evil.



or, as a third alternative, you could shoot for being very weird.

11/16/06 NF



You know what?
The most mysterious and
powerful force on earth
is obviously Lightning.



It bestows artificial
intelligence! It re-animates
the dead! It grants
superpowers! It breaks
trees in half! (Big ones!)



Am I saying that you
should go out in a storm
and try to get struck by
lightning? VERY YES!!

11/20/06 NF with thanks to AF



The problem with trying to get work done on a computer that is connected to the internet...



...is that it's like being put on a bench and given homework...



...and then being told to try and ignore that huge carnival just over there.

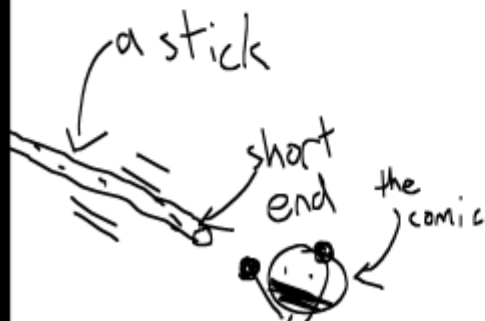
11/21/06 NF



I'll be honest:
I'm running a little
late tonight.



problem is, the longer
I take writing this
comic, the less time I
have to play the Legend
of Zelda before I
go to bed.



so uh...
we good here?
can I go?

11/22/06 NF



On Monday,
the people at the
superstore told me
they had no Wiis
to sell me.



I asked about the
ones in the display case,
and was told they were
display boxes only.



Today I went back,
and was thrilled to see
more boxes, which also
turned out to be display.
WHY DO YOU TAUNT ME?!

11/23/06 NF

"didn't want one that badly anyway"

What's funny about this comic -- not like, Ha Ha funny, just Odd funny -- is that after all the references I made to the Wii I never actually wrote a comic about the time I finally got one. I wrote one for getting a big old Xbox, but one of my single most anticipated purchases went totally unmentioned.

I can't account for that, really. It's just one of the many examples of the way in which I am kind of terrible at keeping an honest journal, ironic given that this is supposed to be a Journal Comic.



MODDED



XBOX



GET!

11/26/06 NF

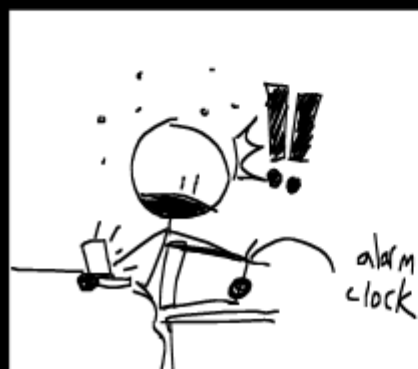


Today, we talk about
THE RULES.

Here's one:



"Anything you do while
in bed does not tech-
nically constitute staying
up late, and thus you
are not actually losing
sleep."



this is especially
useful to know if
you stay up till 2:30
playing your DS.

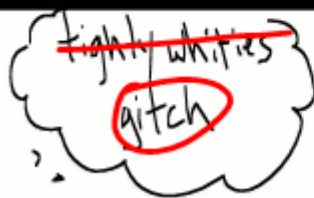
11/28/06 NF



Gitch!



I bet you chuckled at that first panel. That's because "gitch," a colloquialism usually referring to men's briefs, is the funniest word in the English language.



by substituting this word in, all your underwear-themed stories will instantly be funnier. (You're welcome)

11/30/06 NF

DECEMBER



so uh, I kinda fell
off the posting-wagon
last week, huh.
Sorry 'bout that.



but that crime won't
fight itself!



and by "crime" I mean
"XBox," and by "fight"
I mean "play."
(this thing, it's kinda
taken over)

12/4/06 NF

"OKAY Nathan you love videogames we GET IT ALREADY"

Even though this is the hundred and eighth comic I feel like I hadn't really settled into a 'serious' mindset. I have said elsewhere that the belief that nobody is reading your comic is a stress-reliever -- the other side of that is that it's much more On You to maintain a schedule and things like that.

As such I have had quite a few update gaps and rushed comics simply because I wasn't committed enough. Here in particular we've got two comics in a relatively short period of time (this and #103) are kinda phoned-in and are about how I'd rather be playing video games. That's some great work there, huh!

Mind you, my lackadaisical attitude was not the ONLY reason I'd miss comics or phone them in, so...there.



Today I will give you
a surefire way to make any
non-underwear-related story
better.
(For free, I will do this
thing!)



All you must do is add
"with my mind" to the end
OBSERVE:
"Yesterday I cleared the
snow from my car."



"Yesterday I cleared the
snow from my car...
with my mind!"

12/5/06 NF



WORLD of WARCRAFT DE-MYSTIFIED

today: PVP Servers.



A PVP (or Player vs. Player) server is an area where you and your friends enjoy can enjoy quests and challenges as usual...

<UGonnaDie>



BUT in some zones you have the added delight of being randomly murdered by people you've never met!

12/6/06 NF

"they tell me PVP is more fun?"

I've had this one in the "personal favourite" category on the site for a long time. There aren't a lot comics from the Eurocom / Windows Journal era that I can actually say I like the artwork for, but this one turned out surprisingly well.

I just realized I often use the phrase "turned out" as though good artwork was an accident, because with the Eurocom tablet PC it almost always was. That was a finicky piece of hardware to say the least. It had a screen protector that made slow movements extremely difficult, so almost everything had to be done in quick strokes.

It also had a habit of...how to explain? Pretend you're carefully drawing a line and somebody behind you nudges your elbow. Basically, this PC would randomly simulate that effect. Something to do with the touch screen, I'd imagine.

So yes, it was a pleasant surprise when I could gently coerce that machine into prod-

-ucing a comic with artwork that was actually any good. Shortly after writing this I got a Wii, and then canceled my subscription to World of Warcraft; I had some fun while it was on, and I've been tempted to go back a couple of times but I would definitely never do PVP again. Awful.

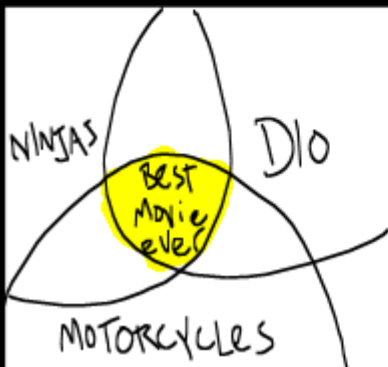
Oh, and here's a fun fact: that is supposed to be a sinister mist wreathing the feet of the giant character UGonnaDie. You know, so that you would never actually see his feet move and he'd just drift ominously around the landscape.



In Defense of
Venn Diagrams

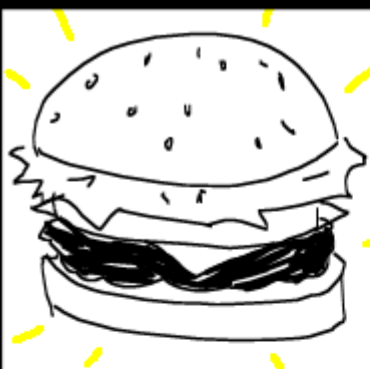


Venn Diagrams are
incredibly useful tools
for organizing and
sometimes combining
data.



In Fact, if you're ever
stuck for a movie script
idea, just employ a Venn
Diagram and fill in your
favorite things!

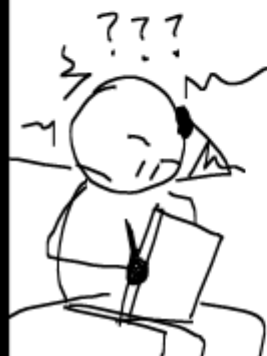
11/7/06 NF



Four food groups
in one,



you're nature's
nutritious gift.



(this line is Filler.)

12/11/06 NF



Surely I am not the
only one who likes to
go outside on a crisp,
clear winter's night...



and then pause, and
look up at the
night sky, and think...



"that's no moon!"

12/14/06 NF



A public service
announcement re:
Exclamation Points.



I know how tempting it
is to go crazy with these
things. "More exclamations
means more emphasis," you
tell yourself. "I'll just add
a Few more."



Let me tell you, it
can go too Far, and
then you end up hurting
those you love.

So let's go easy, huh?

12/18/06 AF



Because I am in a
Futures in Business class
during the day (as an EA)
I am now qualified to offer
stock market tips.



here is a strategy for
Free even!
pretend these eggs are
your investment dollars,
and this basket represents
a single company!

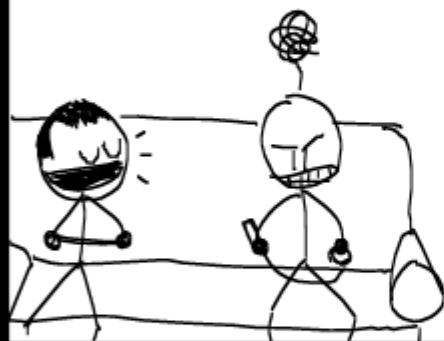


it's foolproof!

12/19/06 NF



My older brother came home for the holidays today.

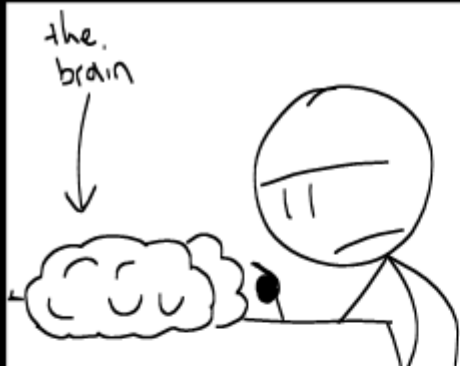


Aside from his merciless heckling of my video-game skill, and my threats to disown him forever...



...it feels a bit more like Christmas now...
I guess...

12/20/06 NF



Why can't I
force my brain
to do things
sometimes?



For instance:
I say "think of a
comic!" and my brain
is all "no dice."



eventually, I get
distracted, and sudden-
ly my brain butts in,
all "hey, here's a
comic!"

12/21/06 NF

JANUARY

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

("los resoluciones del Año Nuevo,"
for our Spanish friends)



- ① No more trying to choke people like Darth Vader.



- ② Not all pies on windowsills are "mine for the taking."



- ③ Stop going to Dairy Queen and requesting an audience with Her Royal Highness.

1/8/07 NF

"no telling if I can keep these up"

I often say that I do these comics for my own amusement but most of the time I am not actually outwardly amused. Okay, that didn't come out right.

What I mean is that it isn't as though I sit there and draw a thing and then laugh uproariously every time. Sometimes I don't even crack a smile. It's the way you watch a comedy show on your own but don't always laugh, even though you know what you're watching is funny -- you just sort of inwardly acknowledge the joke.

Why did I start talking about this? Is it bad that I've lost my own train of thought in less than a page?

Oh yes, I remember now. I love the middle panel of this comic every time I see it. I'm proud of both the writing and artwork. Even though I don't usually laugh out loud at my own work, this one often prompts a chuckle, and that's saying something.



After a lengthy period of neglect, I tried to go update my blog "TalkingSkull" tonight.



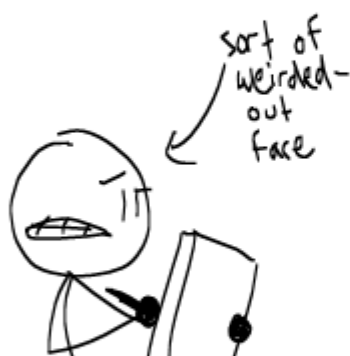
I was a bit surprised and slightly annoyed to find that there's a hole where my site used to be. That's Five years of updates, gone.



It sucks,
but in a way I'm a little
relieved, though:
I had no idea what to
write about, anyway.
1/9/07 AF



I was given a challenge to make tonight's comic entirely from references to songs by Poison.



I considered it, but then I realized I just really didn't feel like having the phrase "talk dirty to me" in my comics.



Though I guess I just crossed that bridge in panel two, huh.

1/10/07 NF



GREAT MYSTERIES of THE UNIVERSE:

"easier said than done."



Example No 237:
"Jumping Very High."

We've all heard the saying
and can think of at least
one good example. But, is
the reverse true?



potentially easier DONE
than SAID: "Falling Down?"

Like, is there anything
that's easier done than
said? If not, why not?!

1/11/07 NF



As you know, the suspension of disbelief is often crucial to enjoying a film.



I have no problem with it, usually. CG dragons and alien puppets don't bother me, for the most part. One thing breaks it every time, though...



Fake snow.
(seriously, it's so distracting. Cut it out.)

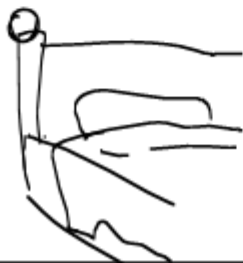
1/15/07 AF



Why is it so impossible
for me to go to bed before
midnight?



I can try all I want
to go earlier, but it
always turns out to
be midnight (or later)
when I get there.



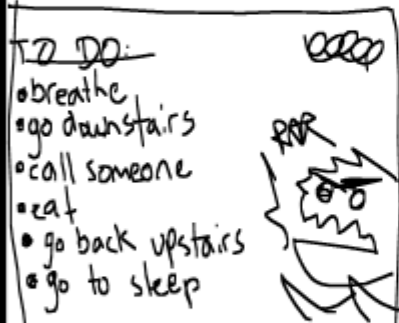
Seriously, one time I
tried to go to sleep at
9 p.m.; my body literally
froze in place for three
hours.

1/16/07 NF

TIPS for IMPROVED LIVING



put every little thing
on your to-do list.



I mean, write down
all the little stuff you
have no way of forgetting
stuff you shouldn't even
have to write down.



Why? So you can see how
good it feels when you
start crossing it off.

1/17/07 AF



When a song you love comes on the radio, it feels like that song is just for you.



-this because it is just for you: the DJ knew that you, specifically, wanted to have that song played.



and that is because radio stations hire people to watch you sleep. I don't know how the two are related, but there you go.

1/18/07

NF



if you tried to cheer
up a Friend who's all
cold and tired,
and you failed?



well...
at least you tried.
and that's what
friends are for.

CONCERNED



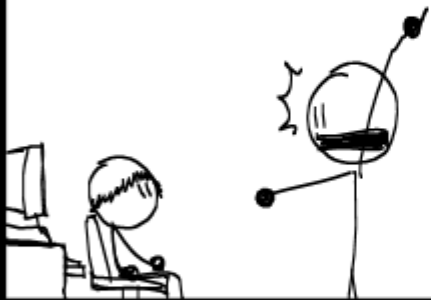
Dudes who
write comics

COLD AND TIRED:
A GRUMPY
COMBINATION

1/25/07 NF



I was helping a student
finish the rough draft of
a report. He wanted
to print it, but
I was all--



"stop!
Grammar time!"

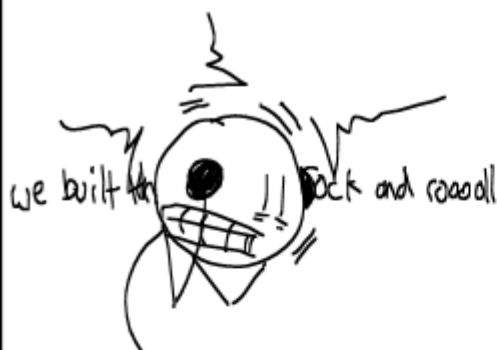


(then I danced.)

1/29/07 NF

"I dual-majored in dance and puns"

As I write this on May the 3rd 2011, I am the fourth listing on google.ca for "dance puns". With an achievement like that I have no idea how fame & fortune continue to elude me.



How to get that one
song out of your head.

(For me, "we built this
city" by Starship.)



just sing or hum it
nonstop, until someone near
you is afflicted. You
should find you are cured.



failing that,
go insane!

1/30/07 NF



It is unfortunate that coughing is not a thing you can get "better" at through practice.



if you could, I would be the Cough MASTA!



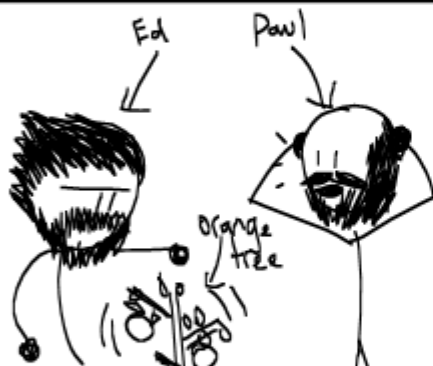
People would come from miles around to learn my ultimate cough technique!

1/31/07 NF



Movie Review:
The Illusionist.

Scholarly pipe
(returns!)



EDWARD NORTON
HAS A BEARD AND
HE DOES MAGIC REAL
GOOD. ALSO PAUL
GLAMATTI IS THERE



RATING
B+ out of 5!!

1/31/07 NF

FEBRUARY



Today, I had a
Day off, and it was
a good one.

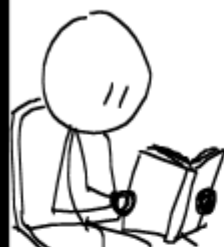


To give you an idea
of how little I got
done: the only task I
gave myself was to Find
the AC adapter for my
Super NES.



Finding said adapter
was also pretty much
the only thing I
accomplished.

2/5/07 NF



Let's clarify:
When I have an open
book and I am looking
at it, it means
"I am reading."



It does not mean
"I would like for you
to make small-talk
with me."



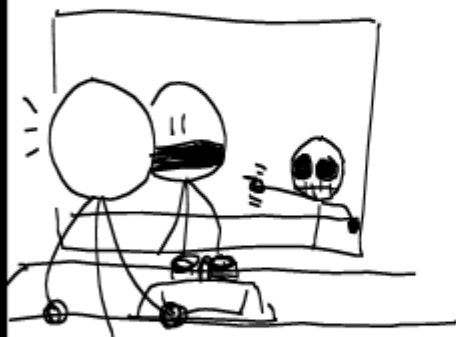
I mean, I can
see how it might
be confusing,
but still...!

2/6/07 NF



ODD HABITS TO HAVE

checking the age of maps
and globes by looking
for the USSR.



turning on the lights
in the bathroom before
going in, for fear of
ghouls.



twisting a twist-tie
exactly four times to
close something, because
of the Monsanto Corporation.

2/8/07 NF

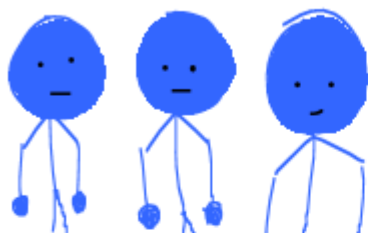
"skullchild! get out of my bathroom!"

I felt as though the "Monsanto" thing in this comic required some explanation, so I wrote a comment on my own site which I shall display for you thus:

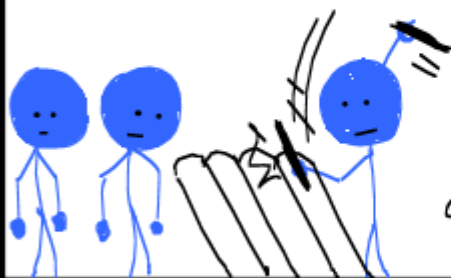
"In the fall of September 2001 I worked at a small Monsanto production plant that made the herbicide known as Roundup Dry. This product was largely for export to other countries. On good days we would simply bag the stuff as it came out of the production system into these gigantic shipping bags, and on bad days we'd have to bag it in these much smaller, bathroom-garbage-can-sized bags/boxes.

The smaller bags required a twist tie to be closed and this twist tie had to be twisted exactly four times, no more or less. Now. Four twists, times hundreds of bags across many nights of work = a pretty ingrained habit, by the end. THUS; bread bags, twist-ties around cables behind my TV, whatever – they get four twists."

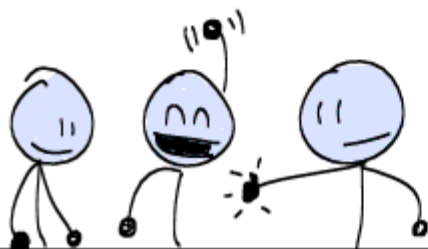
MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE
EXPLAINED:
The Blue Man Group.



What is the deal
with these guys?



Some claim their blueness
is due to a rare skin
disorder - but in
actuality it is just
a blue latex mask and
gloves!



Under the masks, they
are really only light
blue.

2/12/07 NF



HOW TO GET FAMOUS in The Field of Literature.

① Publish something. (It doesn't have to be complete)



② Live in a controversial fashion (like fathering several illegitimate children) or hold fast to peculiar beliefs.



③ Die.
(sorry, but it's the best way.)

2/13/07 1F



A happy heart dubble
for Valentine's Day!



I hope you all are
enjoying the company
of those you love,



because once again,
I remain utterly alone!

2/14/07 NF



you know how when
you go out, and--

oh hold on,
it's the phone.

yeah?
Oh, no way.
That's awesome.
Wait, can I call
you back?
Okay.



uh yeah, so,
where was I?
Ah, nevermind.

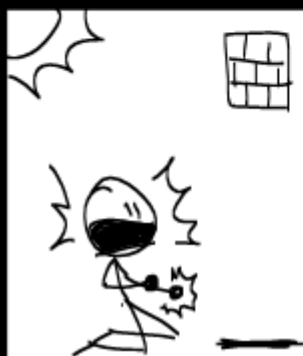
2/15/07 NF



Proof that video games
have long-lasting psycho-
logical effects;
I happened upon a
block of bricks just
floating there...



...and reflexively I
tried to break it,
with disastrous results!



CURSE YOU
VIDEO GAMES

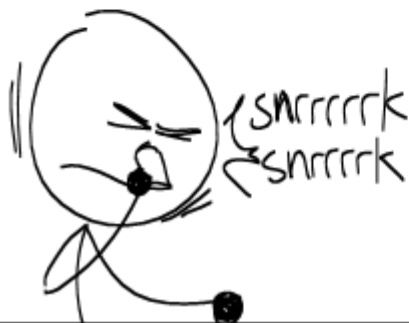
2/19/07 NF



Product Placement
Day: Dristan.



Dristan is perfect
for people with stuffy
noses who also happen
to love irony.



Whoever thought
of a nasal decongestant
that you're supposed to
inhale, anyway?
2/20/07 NF



So, Interesting Times
is back, and
"better" than
"ever!"



now, I am free to
explore artistic ideas
that were previously
inaccessible, due to
technical limitation!



Like,
uh...
puppies?

2/28/07 NF

"the comic I always meant to write"

So, my brother came and reclaimed his tablet PC. Well that was fine, I guess, as it was a finicky piece of hardware and generally falling apart. Also it was his and I suppose I didn't have much say in the matter. However it left me in an awkward spot with respect to my comic -- what was I supposed to draw on now?

I knew I didn't want to quit, so I selected a USB drawing tablet and elected to carry on. I have no idea what kind of research I did. Probably very little. I'm sure I'd heard Wacom was a good brand.

Anyway, what's a little funny is that I seem to be under the impression that nothing would really change in terms of the artwork, but in hindsight switching to the tablet is what really began the evolutionary shift to the way my drawings look today.

I don't think I could have moved forward on that tablet PC. It's anyone's guess if I would even be doing the comic today if I'd have had to keep dealing with that thing.

MARCH



one of the neat things about
my job at the school is
that I get Snow Days
just like students do.



unfortunately, by mid-
afternoon I realized
that I wasn't making
any money at all that
day, which is less than
ideal.



the feeling
soon passed.

3/1/07 NF



Works of Fiction like X-Men
or heroes suggest that
people spontaneously evolve
all kinds of fascinating
abilities.

never
needs to
sleep



unusually
good at
Risk



but wouldn't there also
be lots of people with
really boring or mundane
powers, as well?



where's THEIR show?
Huh?
I'd watch it!*

*a lie

3/4/07 NF

"boring powers == jubilee am I right"

Okay so, look at Cyclops' eye-beam in the upper left. Before I separated my comic template into layers, it was possible to draw overtop of the border and I had to be wary of that.

There's a few comics in which I wasn't careful enough, and in this one I am overcareful and you can see white gaps where I've held back.

The takeaway lesson from this is that if you're working on a computer **USE LAYERS!** They're so nice.

SELECT FILE

① 000% ---

② 000% ---

③ 000% ---

I am declaring tomorrow, March 6th, as International Remembrance of Saved Games Lost day.



Please take time to pause and reflect on the countless hours of play lost to dead batteries, bad memory cards, or just plain negligence.



Gamers of the World,
Your Sacrifices Will
Not Be Forgotten.

3/5/07 NF



~~Band-aids~~ Adhesive
strips are very self-
defeating things.



I put one on to cover
an unsightly sore, and
people assume I have some
fascinating tale of woe
to share.



but, a big part of why
I had it on in the first
place was to take
attention away from it!

3/6/07 NF



Today, we talk about
THE RULES.



here's one:
"The longer you take
in the video store, the
more likely it is that
your selection will suck."



Maximum suck probability
seems to be reached at
about half an hour,
though. Just keep that
in mind.

5/7/07 AF



THANKS, Sir
Mix-a-Lot.
Because of you, when
someone says "I like
big (noun)s..."



...I am compelled to
add "-and I cannot
lie!" to whatever
they said.



then people look at
me funny.
So, thanks. Thanks
for that.

3/8/07 NF



Movie Review:
300.



if you like movies
where buff dudes yell
a lot and cut each
other's limbs off,
this movie is for you!



Remember, though, that
these guys are trained
professionals! Do not
try their antics at home!

3/12/07 NF



WHAT I LEARNED TODAY:

① Old overhead projectors aren't actually as heavy as I thought.



② OMG that one guy from Dead Like Me is that Montoya guy from The Princess Bride!



APPLE
YOU'VE GOT
IT!

LVL	10
GOLDS	280
EXP	79
NEXT	100

DOUBLE
MONTY

③ Double Dungeons for the TGLb is as compelling as it is utterly stupid.

3/13/07 NF

3.1415926535
89793238462
6433832795
0288419716
939937510
59209749445
923078164062...



Today was Pi Day!

Did you celebrate?



Me neither!



(unless watching
the new episode of
Lost counts?)

3/14/07 NF



The other day
I decided to sit
down and design
a new Canadian flag.



Watch: by 2010,
it'll be the
standard. You
just wait!
3/15/07 NF

"the snake represents our boundless natural resources"

[the flaming skull represents our notable scientific contributions to the world]

Well it's 2011 as I write this and my flag isn't flying above the parliament buildings just yet. I also haven't managed to make merchandise out of it in any way, although I do still like the design very much and have always wanted to update it a little.

Oh, and this comic marks the first time that I employed alt-tags to sneak extra jokes and commentary into each comic. (Those are the bits of text that appear when you hover your mouse over the image.) I stole the idea from Dinosaur Comics, basically, although I've also noticed a lot of other comics do it too.



Today, an installment of
"WHAT IS WRONG WITH
SOME PEOPLE!!
(seriously, what's up)"

In this edition:
flushing toilets.



In my time at the theatre,
I have observed many instances
in which customers were
apparently unwilling or in-
capable of the simple act
of flushing.



each instance makes
me a little more sad
for humanity.

3/18/01 NF

STARRING
Steve
Spring

Walter
Winter



"MANITOBA WEATHER"

An allegorical tale
in two panels.



Steve Spring says:
"I've been enjoying
being in Manito-
OOF!"



the end.

3/19/07 NF

TIPS for IMPROVED LIVING



— Even if you are drunk by
7pm on a Tuesday,



and your friend has
been ejected from the
theatre for trying to
sneak in cheap beer,
and you're angrily arg-
uing with an usher,



repeatedly saying "Do
you know who I am?"
still requires an ex-
planation if the other
person says "no."

3/20/07 NF

"never did find out the answer"

[then he asked if I knew his father? and I said you still haven't told me who YOU are]

This is a story that is one hundred percent true. I was an usher that night at the movie theatre, and these dudes showed up tipsy. I don't remember the exact circumstances but in any case we had to eject them.

Usually we got tipped off by people being too noisy in the theatre -- patrons in Winkler are typically pretty reserved while watching, so drunken idiots braying at the screen stand out quickly.

One of the two guys was at least trying to get the other one to leave quietly once they'd been ejected, but that guy was having none of it and decided to get up in my face. (At least he wasn't physical about it. I'm really not a fighter.) Over and over, he asked: "Don't you know who I am?!" to which I would honestly reply "no". But that threat really only works if you back it up, and he never did.

BOOK REVIEW:

1984

by George Orwell.



WAR IS PEACE
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH
SLAVERY IS FREEDOM



I guess it was neat, but I found the premise laughable; what government has anything but the happiness and freedom of its citizens in mind?



What's that?
"Most of them?"
...oh.

3/21/07 NF



While trying to write a comic yesterday night, my body was like "you should close your eyes and think," and my brain was all "yeah, do it!"



I should have been suspicious - those guys almost never agree.

but, I went with it.



IT WAS A TRICK!

3/23/07 NF

APRIL



So hot, so soothing!

INTUB WE TRUST



Mankind's best gift
to itself.



... Now I'm all wrinkled...

4/2/07 NF



MYSTERIES of SCIENCE EXPLAINED: Spontaneous Combustion.



Quite simply, Spontaneous Combustion is not spontaneous. Every incident occurs due to somebody else messing around with Pyrokinesis.



After all, it's common knowledge that pyrokinetic powers and horsing around go hand in hand.

4/13/07 NF



CHOOSE YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE comics

① It is a beautiful day!
(go to panel 3)



you have died..

4/4/07 NF ^{thanks} to MF



You are attacked by
a monster! Do you

- Go back in time?
(go to panel 1)
- Fight it?
(go to panel 2)

"it seems the only way to win is not to play"

[video games + literature = "choose your own adventure"]

Once again I am going to just copy the comment I already made, when I marked this comic as a "personal favorite" some years ago:

"I like the monster, and I love the idea (Matt's idea, so credit where credit's due). Though I will say that it does make me seem like I have a much more cynical and fatalistic outlook on life than I actually do."

Well said, Past Me!

THE CURTAIN
OF SECRETS



it's
INSIDER
INFORMATION
day!

TODAY:
Tim Horton's.



It is common knowledge
that T. Horton's donuts are
the best way to appease
your co-workers. But,
where do employees of
Tim Horton's go for the
same effect?



I, uh, "asked around,"
and apparently the
answer is "pizza."
so, there ya go!

4/9/07 NF



This is what sucks!

Sometimes you are really mad, and you happen to have something throw-able on hand.



SO,
you throw it!

fore-tenth of a second later



but, just as the object leaves your hand, you instantly regret throwing it!

That sucks!

4/10/07 AF



yesterday night, I threw
some people out at the
theatre. (they tried to
sneak into an R-rated
film). I'd like to claim
we had a sweet kung-fu
battle, but...

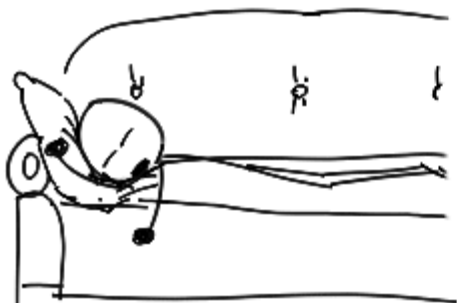


everyone was really
polite and they left
very quietly.



still, I was riding the
adrenaline rush for hours
afterward.

4/11/07 AF



GREAT MYSTERIES of the UNIVERSE:

Naps.



While I enjoy settling into a good nap, as a whole I cannot get behind them. I do not experience the "rest" and "relaxation" typically associated with napping.



In fact, I usually feel worse afterward.
Why this cruel fate?
Why must I be made to suffer thus?

4/12/07 NF



Computer role-playing games can be good, but some might feel they are lacking something.



Where is the brutal difficulty level? The seemingly random deaths? The myriad of unexpected and baffling challenges? And what is the deal with games and their fancy "graphics"?

the jockal bites! you die...



For you,
I recommend the
"Raguelike."
Enjoy.

4/16/07 NF



Biggest ego-bruiser ever!
Losing at a game you own
has got to be right up
there.



not that that ever
happens to me, though!
H-hah! Ha!



4/17/07 NF



When we're kids,
we think we won't
have to deal with
a set bed-time anymore.



then we grow up,
and we realize that's
not true.



sadly,
it's past nine as
I write this.

4/19/07 NF

Today in geography,
the students were de-
bating the pros and
cons of genetically
modified crops.

I felt compelled to
contribute.



"History shows again
and again," I said,
"how Nature points
out the folly of man."



"...god ZILLA!"



4/19/07 NF

HORRIBLE REALIZATIONS



① "That smell
is me!"



② "that light was
red!"



③ "the call is coming
from inside of the
house!"

4/23/07 NF

WE WANT



YOU!

Become an
Educational Assistant!

here's why-



You get the fun of being
a teacher: marking tests,
making photocopies, and
even supervisory duties.



BUT, you get to do
these things for less
money AND fewer
benefits! YAY!

4/24/07 NF

(ccude rendering of cover)



VIDEO GAME Review:

"Fable: The Last
chapters" (XBox)



Three-quarters of the way
through, I discovered
the ability to kick any
chickens you see.



eight stars!

4/26/07 AF

"and they don't fight back, unlike another franchise I know"

[the rest of the game is probably fine - I'll never know, because I never stopped wailing on those chickens]

Did you notice? All of my review scores are arbitrary and nonsensical. Just like the real world!



I need
Shelves!



Currently all my cool
action figures - like
Sephiroth and Godzilla -
are packed away in a box,
away from public
viewing!



What do you mean,
"That's for the best"??

4/30/07 NF

MAY



Guitar Hero II
GET!
(Finally!)



while it does not have
any of the features I
predicted so many months
ago...



... I do find that the
new "Travel by Plane"
mode adds a lot of tension
and unpredictability!

5/1/07 NF



HARD LESSONS from CHILDHOOD

① tube socks are not called this because they come in tubes.



② your older brother will keep saying "just one more level" so he can hog the Nintendo forever.

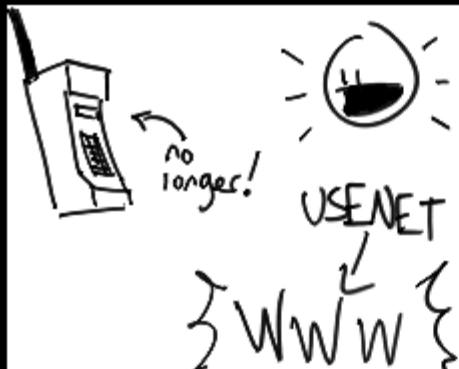


③ if a movie ad on TV says "sneak preview this Friday," they don't mean the movie will be on TV.

5/2/07 AF



COMICS FOR PEOPLE
WHO SPENT THE LAST
20 YEARS LIVING IN
A CAVE
Hello! Welcome to
civilization!
Here is what you
missed!



Portable phones are
really small,
Usenet kind of
evolved into a much
bigger thing,



and... what else?
Oh yeah, there's more
"Terminator" movies.
Enjoy!

5/3/07 AF



AN OPEN LETTER
to
the "Nitty Gritty
Dirt Band"



Dear TNG-DB,
Uh, I don't really
listen to your music
or anything, but I have
no reason to dislike
you, either...



So uh,
keep up the
presumably good
work?

Yours, *Nathaniel*
5/5/7 AE



GREAT MYSTERIES
of
THE UNIVERSE:
opposite day.



how does this day
ever come about? If,
for instance, you declare
that it's Opposite Day,
then doesn't that
make it a normal day?



And if you say it's
NOT opposite day,
well, then it's still a
normal day!

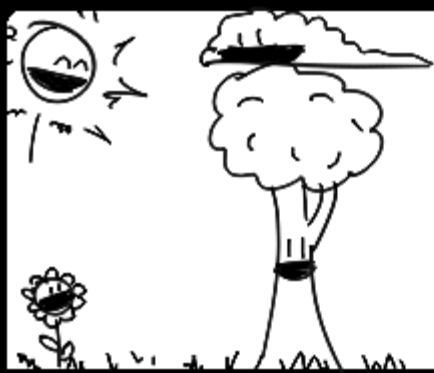
5/7/07 NF

opposite day: fascinating paradox, or just a way to insult people and get away with it?

[today on interesting times - more of the intricate philosophical puzzles you've come to expect]

I actually got a good deal of positive feedback on this one. Mostly words of thanks from people with kids. There's one of those comments on the site itself, but I've also gotten verbal feedback from people. The way out of Opposite Day is so simple I wonder how I never thought of it before.

I won't say I was the first to arrive there, surely, but I'm still proud of myself for getting there at all.



SUMMER
is
A-Comin'
In!



Warm breezes...
Rain...
the sun's gentle
rays...
I love it!



Well, I mean, I don't
really go out much, I
guess. Let's say I love
summer from a
comfortable distance.

5/8/07 NF



Sometimes, I have to skip comic ideas because I simply cannot draw them properly.



For instance:
most animals.



there is another way,
but I think people
might notice.

5/9/07 NF

"think of all the comics about horses and cats that never were"

[okay, I confess; there were no comics about horses. And, I already did one with a cat.]

This comic turned out exactly the way I wanted when I first made it, but little did I know that I would get much better at drawing cats in a couple of years on account of adopting an intermittently evil cat named Gideon who is currently sitting on the windowsill and probably conspiring against me.

One thing I've found tremendously helpful for drawing animals in general is just to use reference photos for goodness' sake -- not everything has to be off the top of your head, and even in copying something else you can make it your own.

Since we're on the subject of things I can't draw well, I hope I never have to do one about pregnant woman. I have no idea why it would ever come up, and if it does, I'm hosed.



WHY THE DS Life
IS LIKE WAY MORE
BETTER THAN BOOKS,
WHICH ARE LAME
BUT SOMETIMES OK



- You can close the DS and re-open it to resume play anytime
- Literally hundreds of titles
- conveys information on two sides simultaneously!
- only like a hundred and a few bucks!



CONCLUSION:
obvious!

5/14/07 NF

"interesting times does not actually condone book burning, it is a thing called 'jokes'"

[in fact, just today, I read more than I played my DS. incredible but true!]

As I may have said before, I think it shows considerable restraint on my part to have gone one hundred and seventy-seven comics before having someone get hit in the crotch for cheap laughs.



I had a few highly coincidental songs play today:

1st - my clock radio blares out "Another Brick in the Wall pt. 2" to wake me up.



Then, when I leave work, the first song to play on my MP3 player is "Homeward Bound."



AND, as I write this, winamp is playing, uh... "Dusty's Blues," but, hey! 2 out of 3, right?

5/15/07 AF



Here's a thing I did
not know before
today-

It is really hard to
write a comic when
people are carrying on
a conversation right
behind you.



I don't want to
name names, but
they'll know who
they are when they
read this later.



and then they'll feel
bad, because this
comic isn't very
funny at all.

5/16/07 NF



MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE
EXPLAINED:

Bad Luck.



Bad luck is not actually a force unto itself - it is simply what occurs when Good Luck gets mad at you and turns the tables.

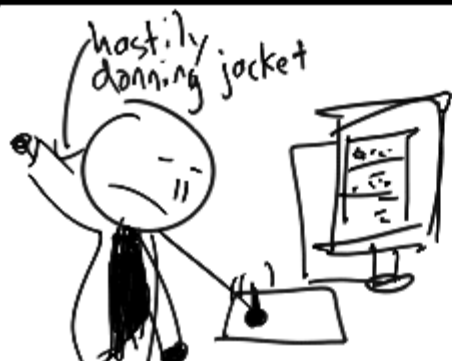
FW:FW:FW:CHAIN LETTER

ONE TIME A GUY DID NOT FORWARD
NOW HE IS DEAD SO U SHOULD
OR ELSE!!!!!!

Is this damage
irreparable?

FORWARD THIS COMIC
TO 5 FRIENDS AND
SEE!

5/17/07 NF



No TIME
COMICS

I gotta go!



doing this in
one pass! No
thinking, just
writing and random
artwork!



the result does not
seem markedly
different from other
comics!

5/2/07 AF



Today was
VOTE
DAY!
(at the provincial
level!)



Years ago, a Social
Studies teacher told
us that if we didn't
vote when given the
chance, we had no
right to complain about
the way things were run.



As an avowed whiner,
this impacted me in
a big way.

5/22/07 NF

LOST

the
Office



Heroes

something
else
probably

With all the season finales
on TV these days, I
kind of feel like these
comics should be building
to some kind of exciting
climax as well.



So! Starting today, I
have decided to introduce
a mysterious new "Masked
Man" character to all
my adventures!



How does he factor in?
Is he connected to the
skulch'id?
THE INTERESTING TIMES
SEASON FINALE HOLDS
ALL ANSWERS!

5/23/07 AF



TIPS for IMPROVED
LIVING:

Graffiti.



If you are absolutely,
irrevocably compelled to
engage in this kind of
vandalism,

**NATHAN
IS TEN**



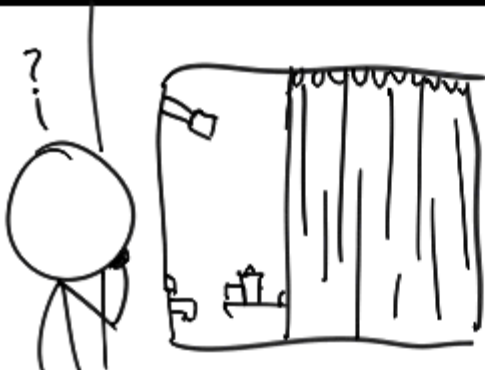
please do not put your
real name on your work.
That is just stupid.

5/24/07 NF



THE SHOWER:

Birthplace
of Creativity.



What is it about
taking a shower that
is just so inspiring?

I've had so many
ideas while I'm
in there.



PROPOSAL:

Install showers
everywhere, for
creativity purposes.

5/28/07 NF



As you read this, vast leaps are being made in the Emo Sciences by our nation's finest researchers (or, "Emologists")



advances in:

- whininess
- loathing (self/others)
- being misunderstood

are occurring daily.



These brave men and women and their characteristic black labcoats are paving the way for a gloriously gloomy future!

5/29/07 AF

"clearly I just don't 'get' these folks"

[I joke, but it's only to hide the black wasteland of suffering that lives in my own soul *sob*]

Okay yes, "emo kid" jokes are playing off of easy stereotypes. The starting point of this comic may not be my finest hour in terms of creativity. However, I still chuckle at the idea of an "Unpopular Science" magazine ("Who Cares? NOT US.") and the image of important scientific breakthroughs made by gloomy, introverted people.

Maybe that last part actually happens all the time?



WHEN I AM KING

Posting/uttering the phrase "Spring Fling" is a punishable offence.



the game "Rock 'n' Roll Racing" is OUTLAWED.

NO ARGUMENTS.



On the upside?
I dunno, free subscriptions to Guns 'n Ammo magazine for one and all!

5/30/07 AF

"not IF, but WHEN"

[the rock 'n' roll racing thing is for the good of the world, trust me]

A commenter "Andrew", who is also a friend of mine, noted that everyone else who left comments on this comic seemed to be a fan of the game "Rock n' Roll Racing".

RnRR, as I've just decided to start calling it, is a racing game for a few different consoles in which various freaks and aliens race around ugly, square-cornered tracks for reasons I do not care to learn. The only redeeming feature of this game is a selection of MIDI versions of popular rock songs, such as Ozzy Osbourne's "Paranoid" and "Highway Star" by Deep Purple.

Anyway, Andrew pointed out that I was alienating my fanbase by positioning myself so firmly against this game. I didn't respond at the time but if I did I would have said "Good. I don't want them as readers anyway."

An example. Earlier this year I accepted a dare to overcome one of my greatest fears. I

succeeded and prevailed because if I failed the dare it was agreed that I would have to play forty hours of Rock n' Roll Racing. Do you see? I am willing to change my own life (for the better, as it happens) in order to NEVER HAVE TO PLAY THAT GAME AGAIN.

JUNE 2007



So, guess who's not
a fan of spyware?
THIS GUY!



It made me reformat
my computer, AND
it cost me Thursday's
comic, which is now
lost to the world!



conceptual
rendering

And let me tell
you, it was going
to be a good one.

6/4/07 NF

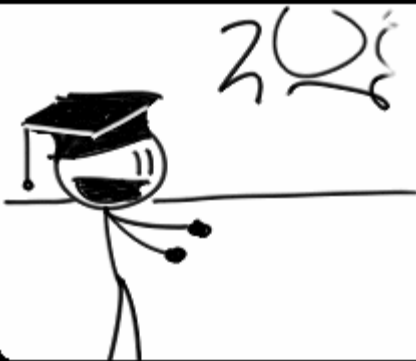


INTERESTING TIMES

1st BIRTHDAY COMIXTRAVAGANZA!!



TODAY, we shall delve
into the back-story of
Interesting Times!
An origin story,
if you will!

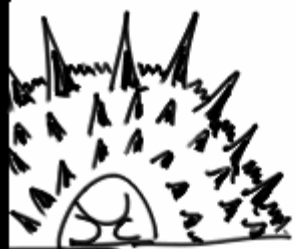


The year is 2006.
I am (reasonably) fresh
out of University, and ready
for a promising career
to be simply handed
to me.

part two



part three

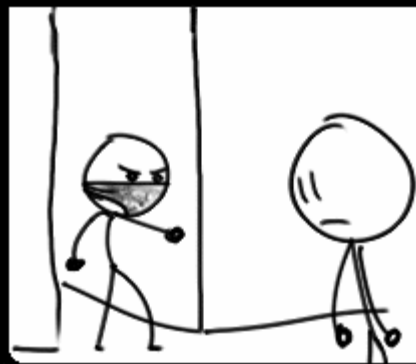


It wasn't all disappointment, though. There were some good times.

sigh.



Defeating Lavos just didn't do it for me, in the long run. I needed a real quest. A goal.



But then, one fateful day, a masked man approached me...

part four



He told me of the part
I was to play in the
fate of the world!
(aside from the Luvos thing)
He said I was needed
to perform a great act!



I said that was boring
and then I called him
an idiot.
(I may have added that
his mask was stupid,
but I don't recall.)



He put a curse on me!
The jerk!
"From here on out," he
said, "You'll see a Freaky
skullchild at random
moments!"

part five



My indifference annoyed him further, so he added-
"And your moustache will forever be weak and like that of a girl's."



well, that was just
TOO FAR.



but he vanished!

part six



Moments later, I
ran into Tom (my boss
at the theatre) who
convinced me to grow
the mustache out for
the upcoming "Nacho Libre."



"He's right,"
I thought.
"It'll be fun. That
crazy masked guy was
crazy, and that curse
was probably nonsense."



"In fact,
you know what?
That curse is
nonsense."

part seven



OR WAS
IT

6/6/07 NF!



hm? still here?
'What about the comic
and how it started?'
you ask?



SEASON 2 FINALE
WILL REVEAL ALL!
join me for another
year, won't you?

INTERESTING TIMES 1ST BIRTHDAY COMIXTRAVAGANZA

[it's a special occasion, so I bust out the epic comics!]

Suddenly, an entire year had passed! And I knew I had to do something special, so I just started linking the standard frames together and told a rambling, nonsensical story filled with callbacks and pop culture references. Also, in typical I.Times style, barely a third of it is true.

Honestly I'm not crazy about this comic and have had a terrible time trying to come up with anything to say about it. I don't hate it either, it's just...hm. Hard to put into words. And isn't that exactly the kind of insightful commentary you were hoping for??

Okay, fine! Let's try. It's pointlessly long and not particularly funny. The artwork is serviceable but why did I bother bringing back the masked man? And the last two panels are only there because I was re-using the entire three-panel frame each time (you can see the

curves in the corners) and rather than lop them off I decided to fill them out with, well, filler.

But don't listen to me. I am sometimes my own worst critic and have a long history of utter disdain for my own work simply because time has passed between writing it and re-reading it.

Let's focus on the positive. I like my imaginary Tom Selleck moustache and accompanying expression. I like the panel where I threaten that guy with a knife. And I like what should have been the final panel (the one with the date in it).

And that's year one, over and done with!

The author wishes to acknowledge all the family, friends, acquaintances and random strangers who have ever said anything nice about the site. Without you, I probably would have stopped a long time ago.