

Growing Pains

cartoons

by Gerald Grow

Foreward

Most of these drawings come from the early 1970s, when as a young man in Berkeley, California, I spent a couple of footloose years discovering that I could not make it as a cartoonist.

That time of cultural upheaval was much in need of laughing at itself. But all times are, and I hope these drawings help you laugh at yours.

Nearing 80 and sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, I rooted up these scattered drawings and gathered them here. Please ignore the blemishes. Some works barely survived -- perhaps more than should have.

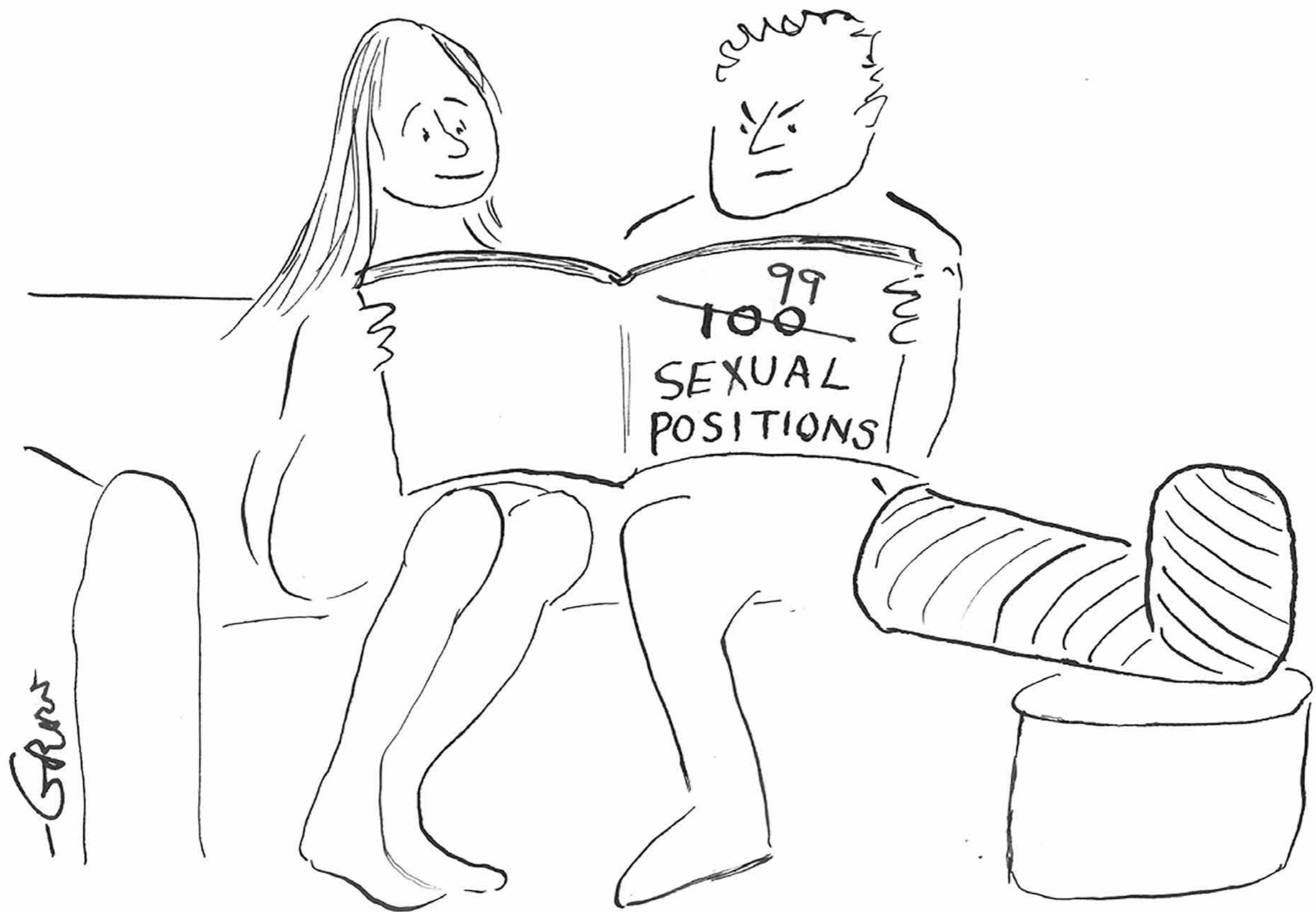
Enjoy!

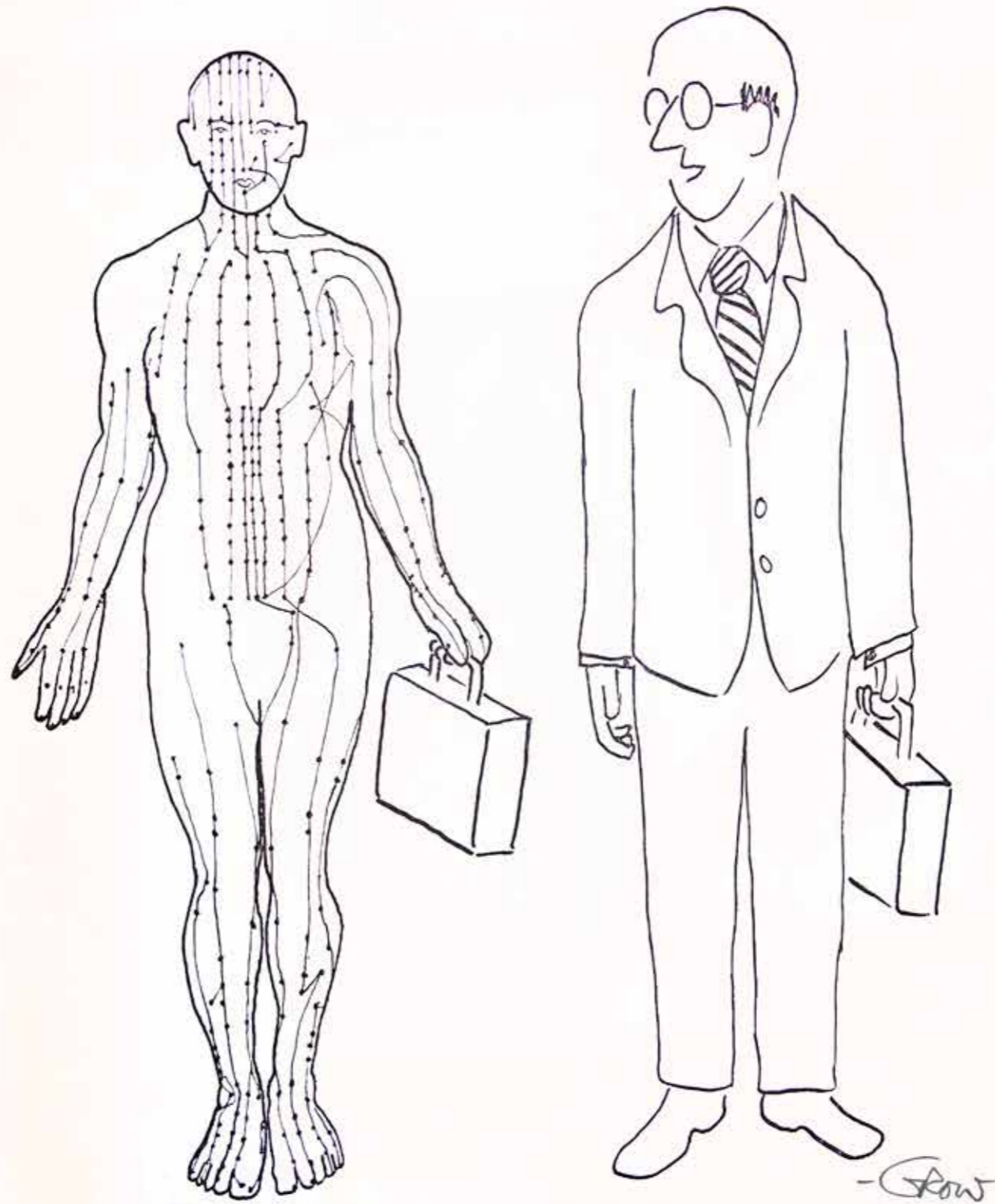
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2020 edition

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Yes, I can see that acupuncture
has changed you a lot.



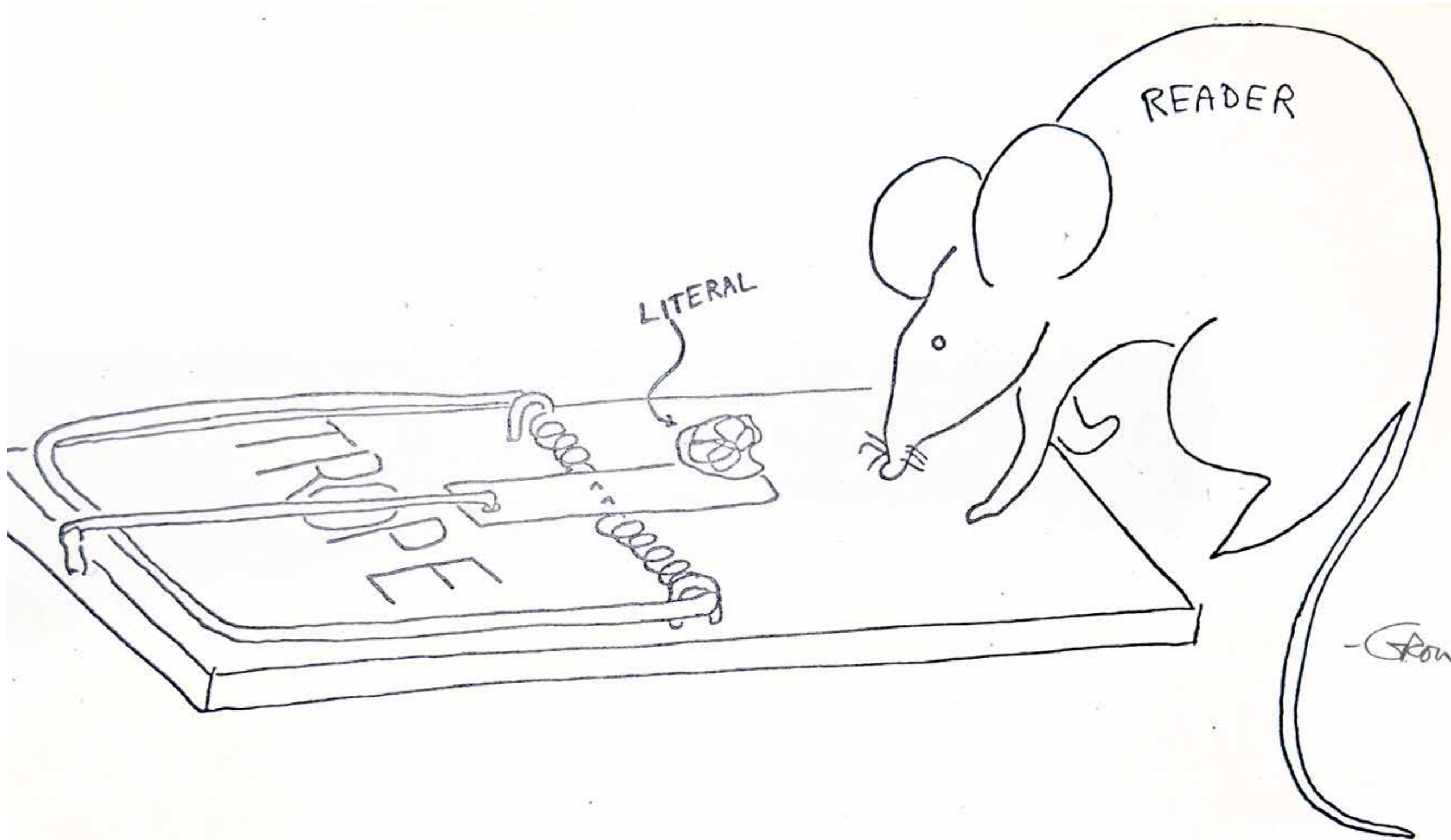
Actually, I hunger and thirst after righteousness.
I'm just addicted to sugar.



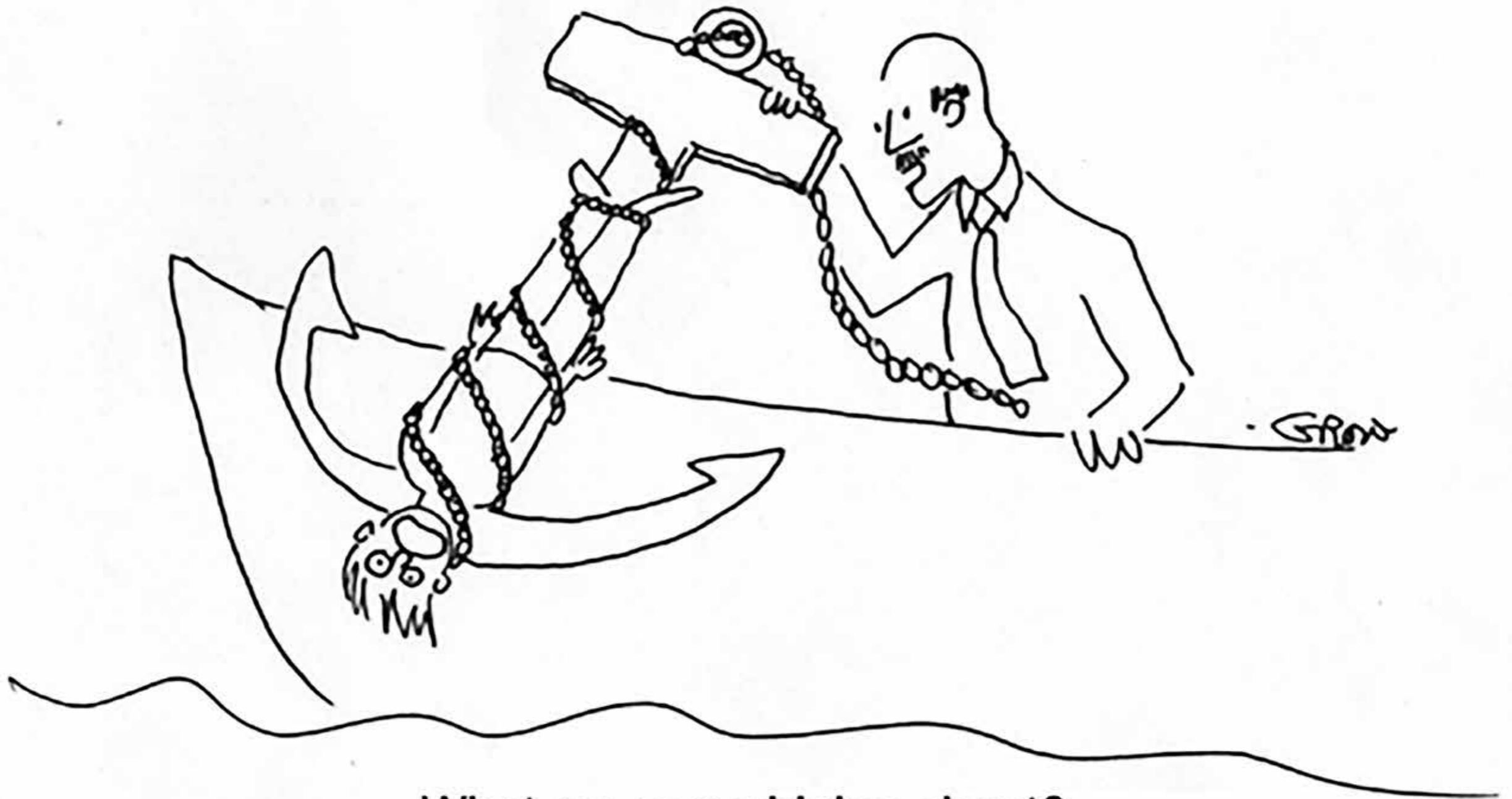
He has a very aggressive style
of argumentation.



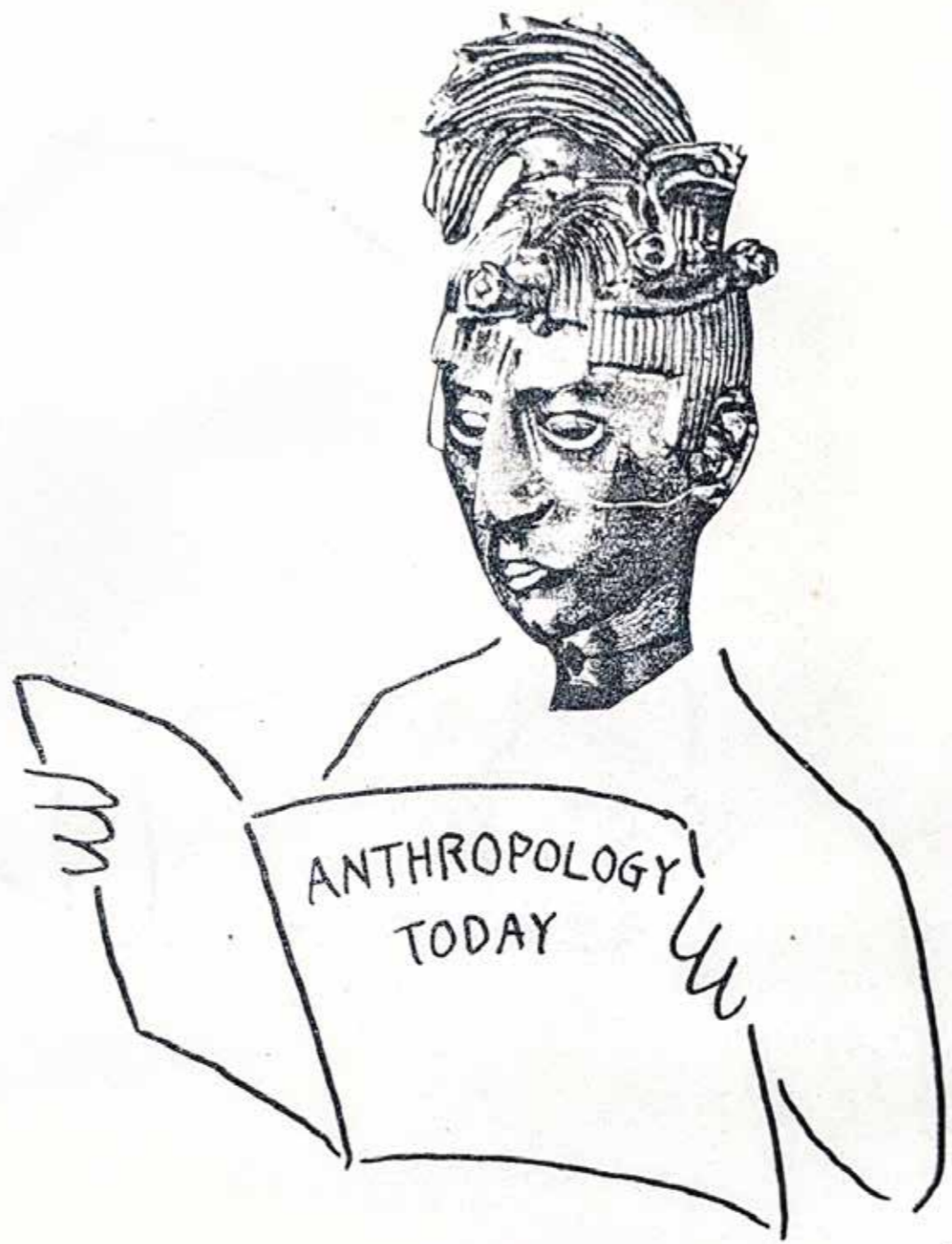
-Gow



ALLEGORY



What are you whining about?
You said you wanted a job as an anchor!



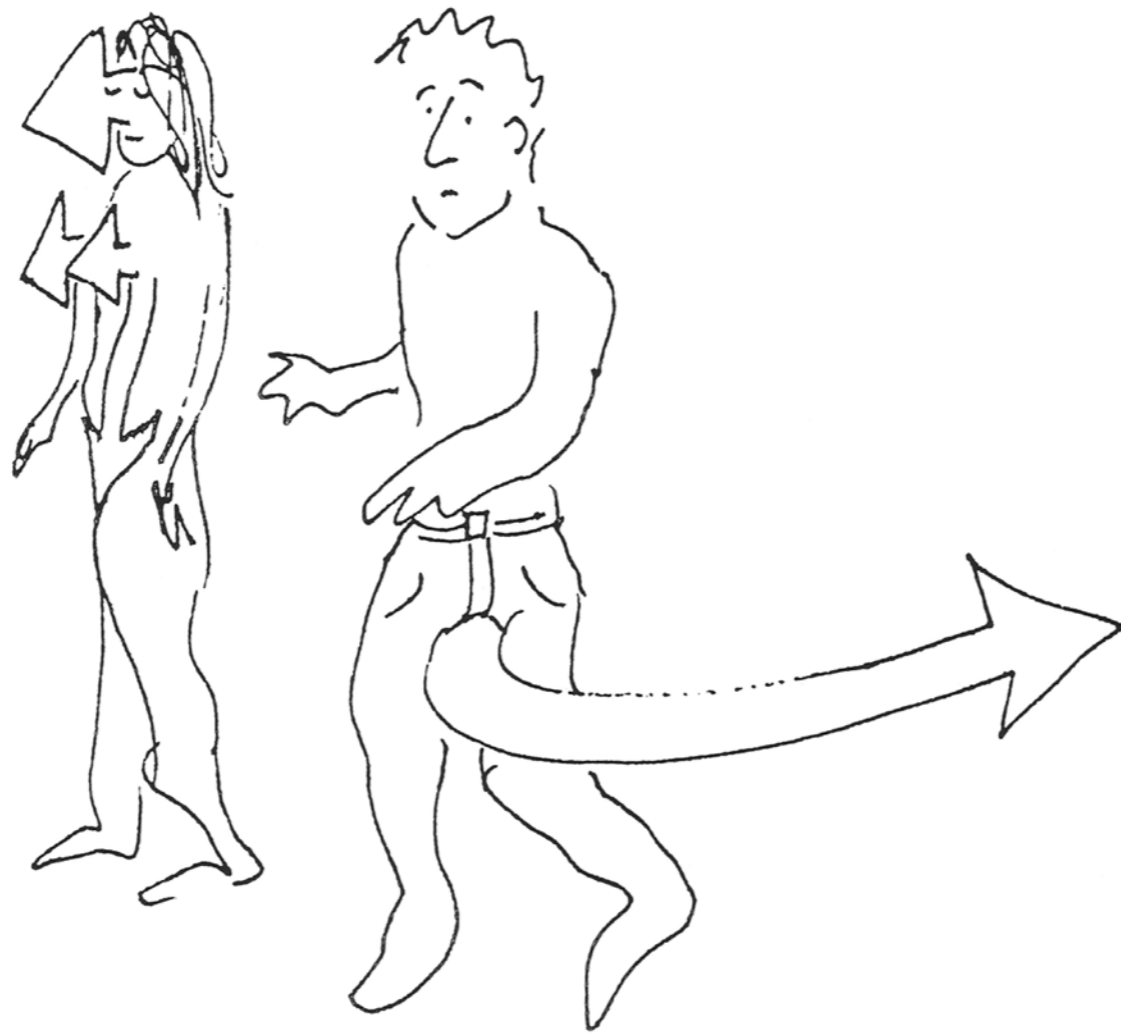
- GRow



The question
of anthropology
and morals...







BIG AL'S THEORIES LTD.

SALE

SLIGHTLY USED!
RETURNS!
MIS-MATCHED!
SOILED!
FACTORY REJECTS!
OFF-BRANDS!
OLD STYLES!
REVIVALS!

Grow



SALE

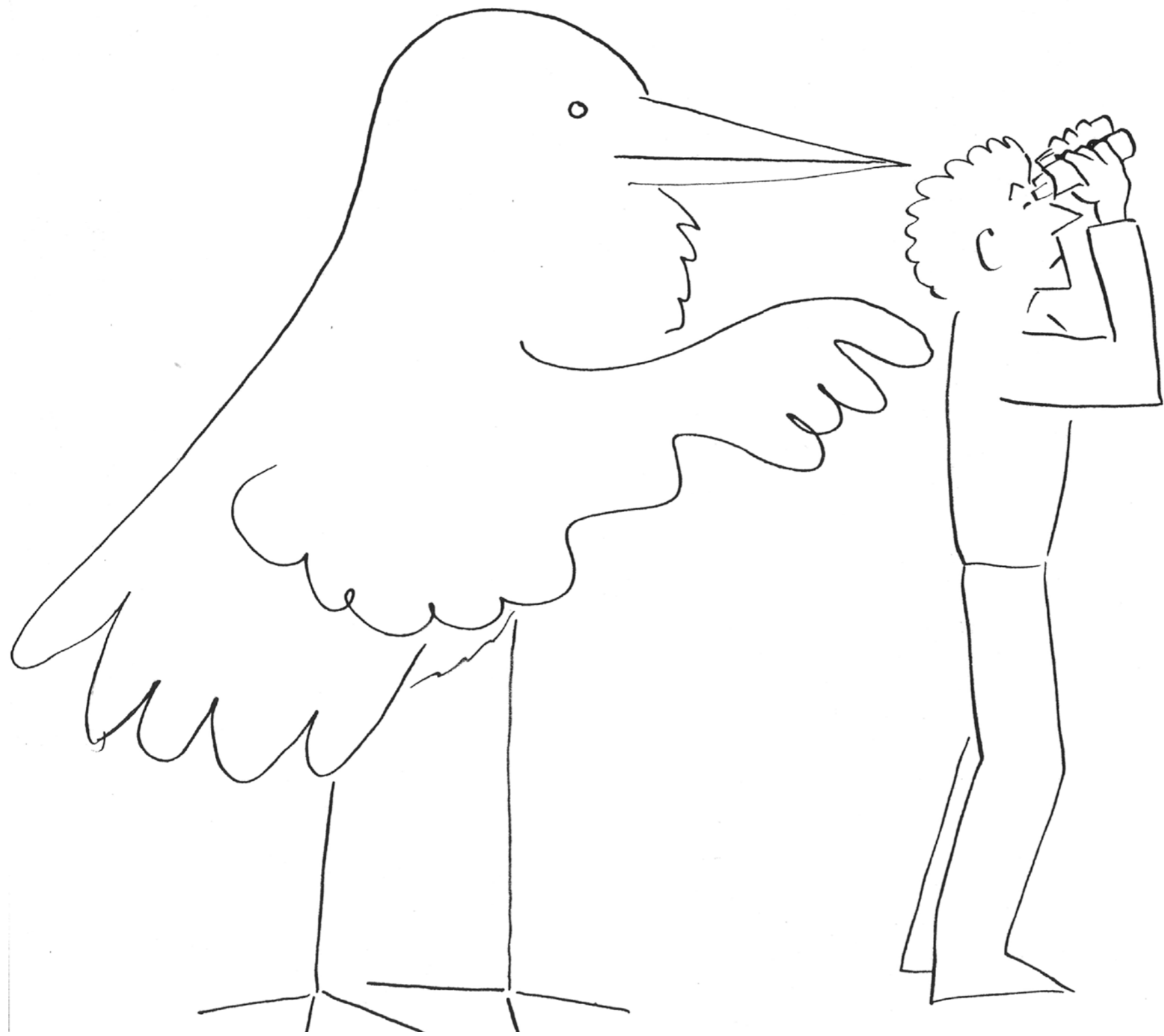


END-OF-ERA
CLOSE-OUT
ON

WORLDVIEWS!
SYSTEMS!
PHILOSOPHIES!
RELIGIONS!
IDEALS!
METHODOLOGIES!







-Glow



-Glow

BODY LANGUAGE



Get out of my body-rhythms!

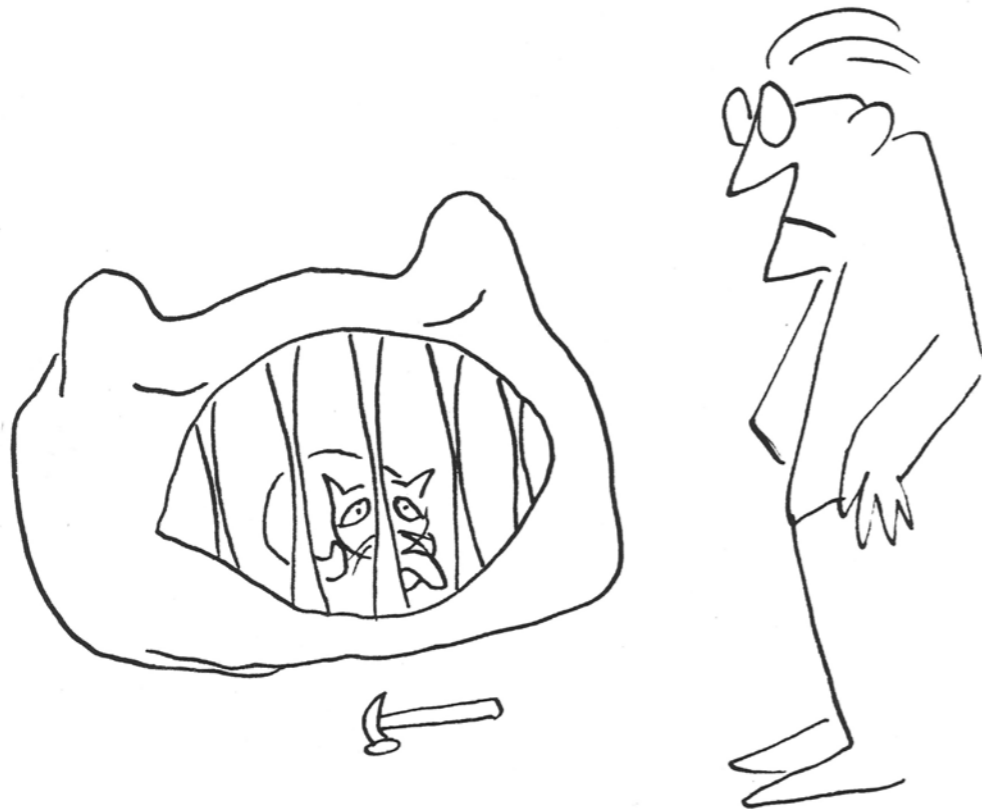
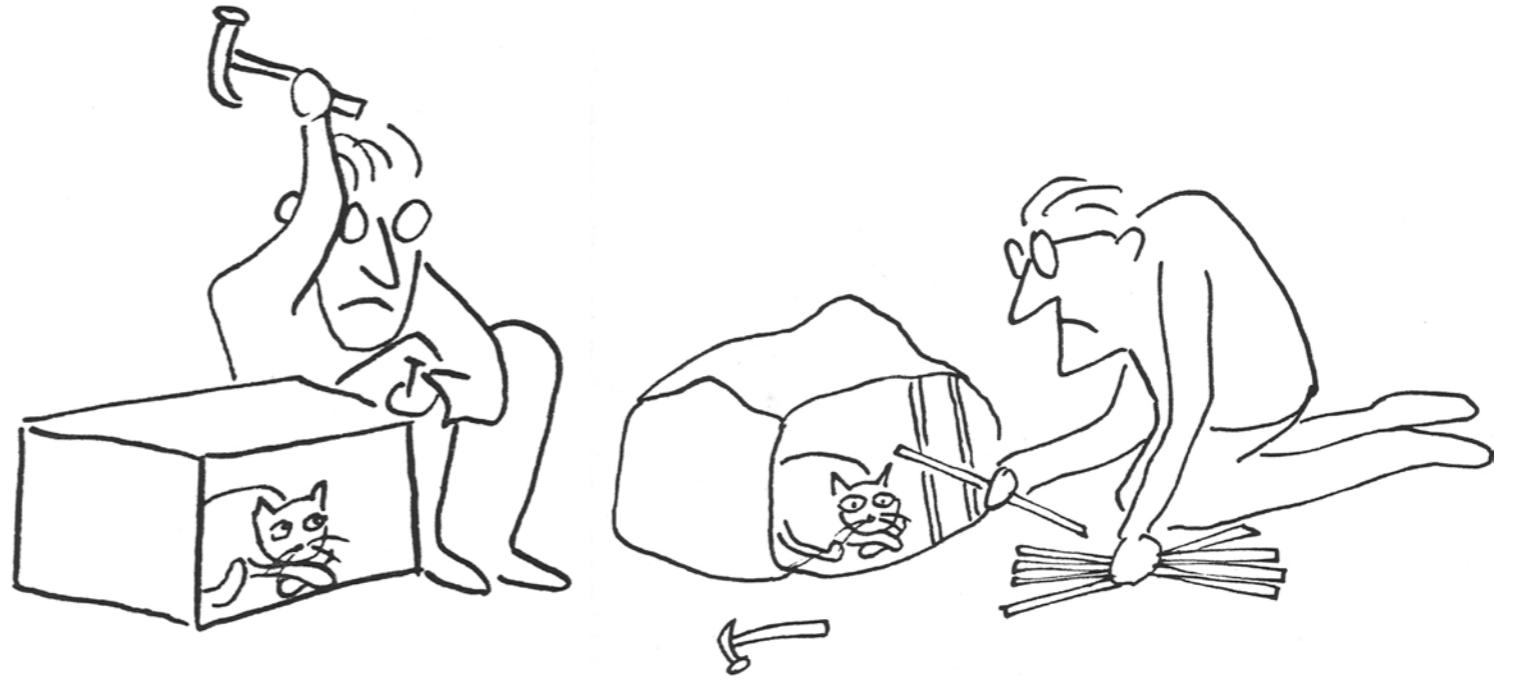
Buddhist RECYCLING CENTER



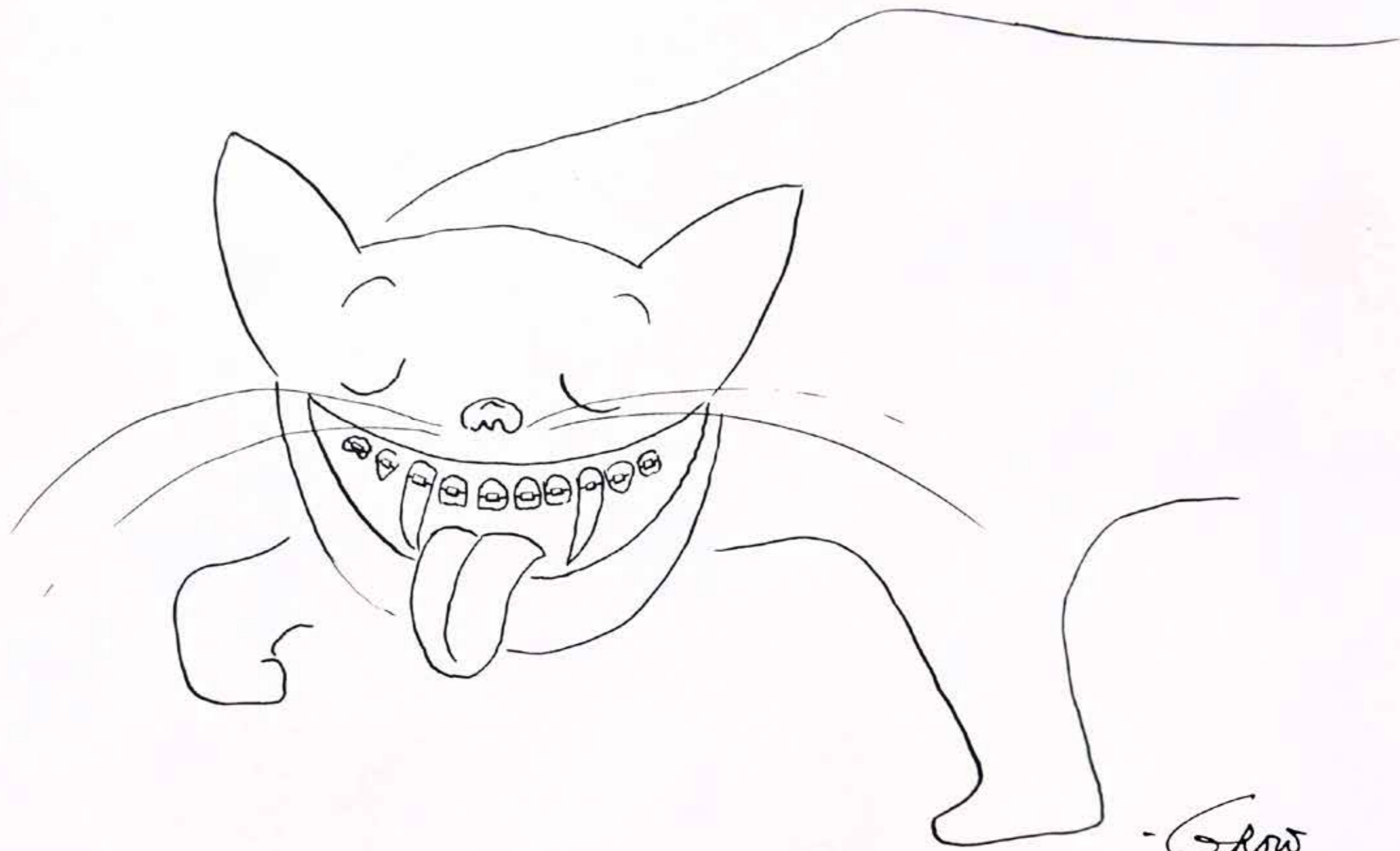


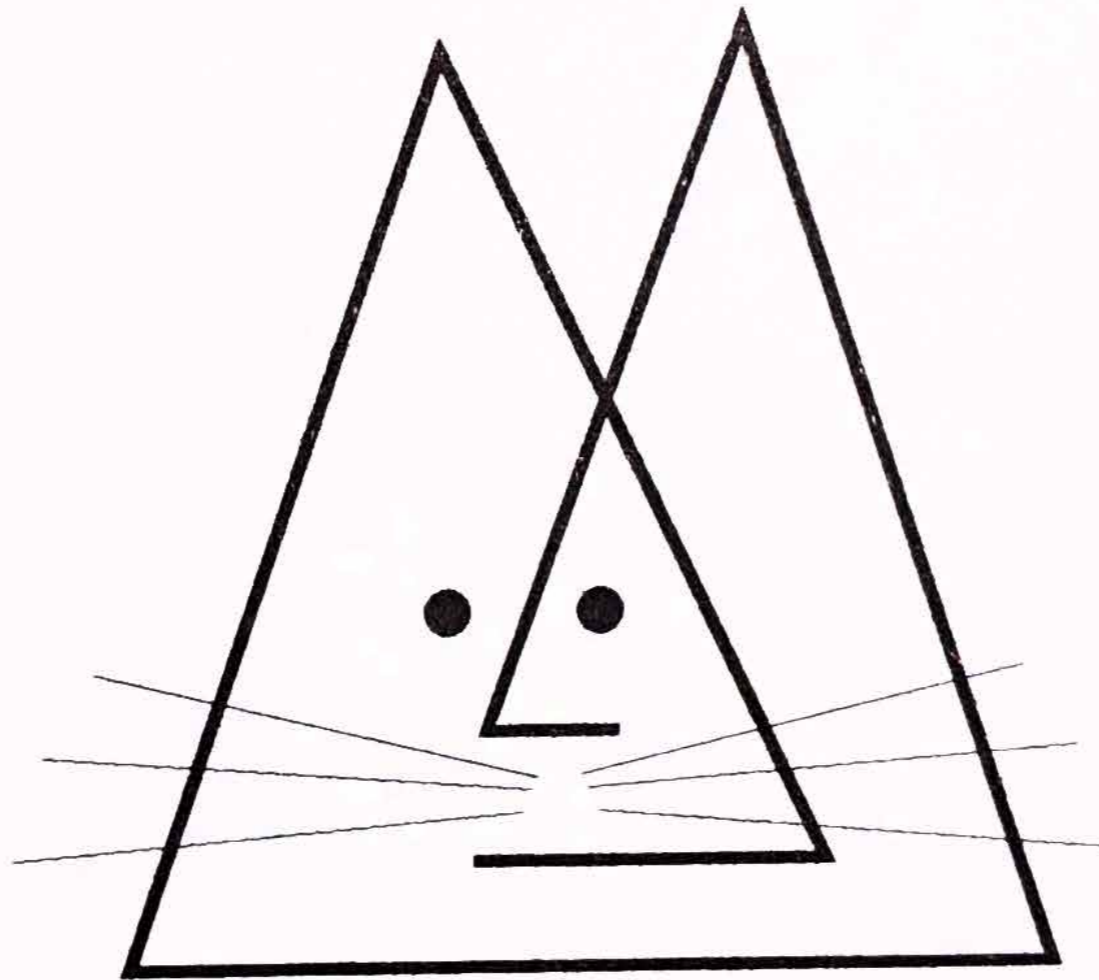
Just when you have everything figured out,
along come the angels
with the custard pie.

THIS ANIMAL IS DANGEROUS. HE MUST BE CAGED!



-Gou







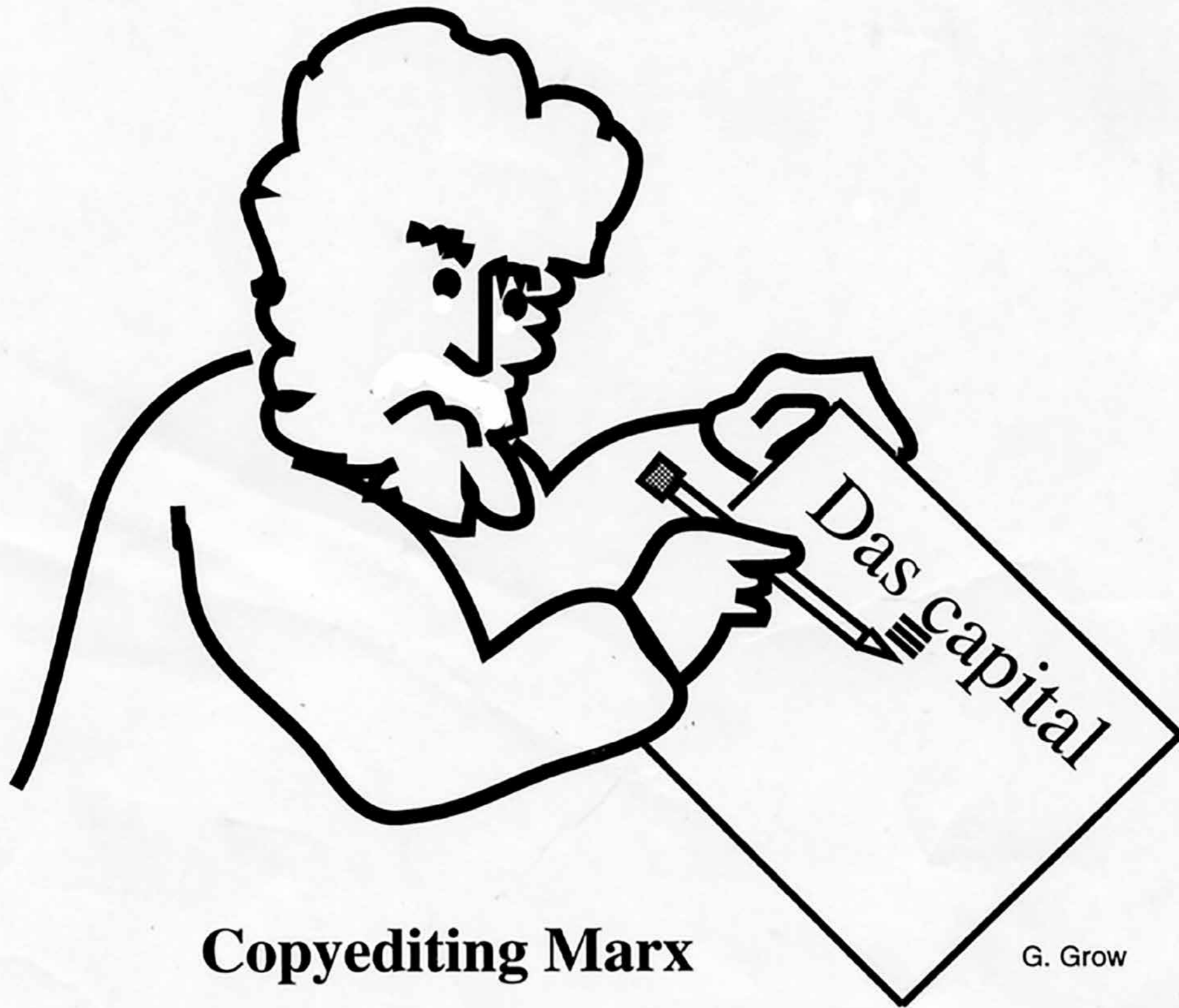
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, CHIEF,
BUT WE'VE CAUGHT A BIGFOOT.



- GROSS

THE CHILD-CENTERED TEACHER

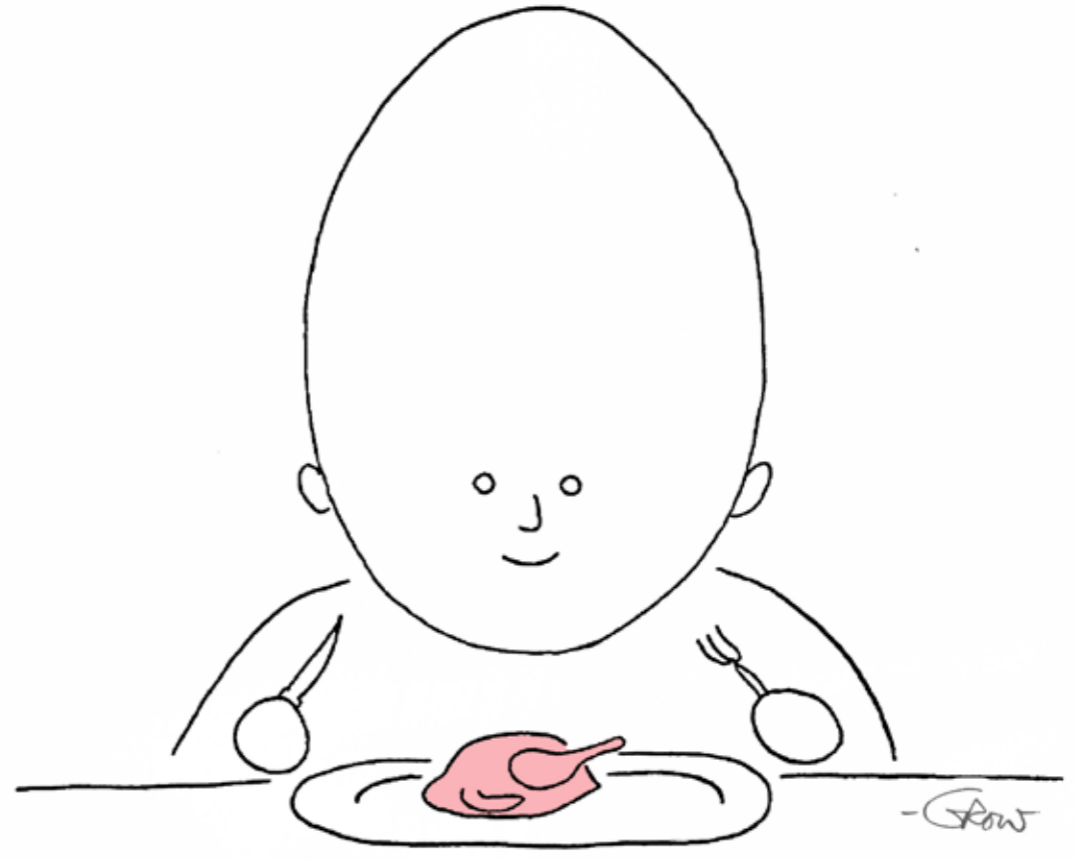
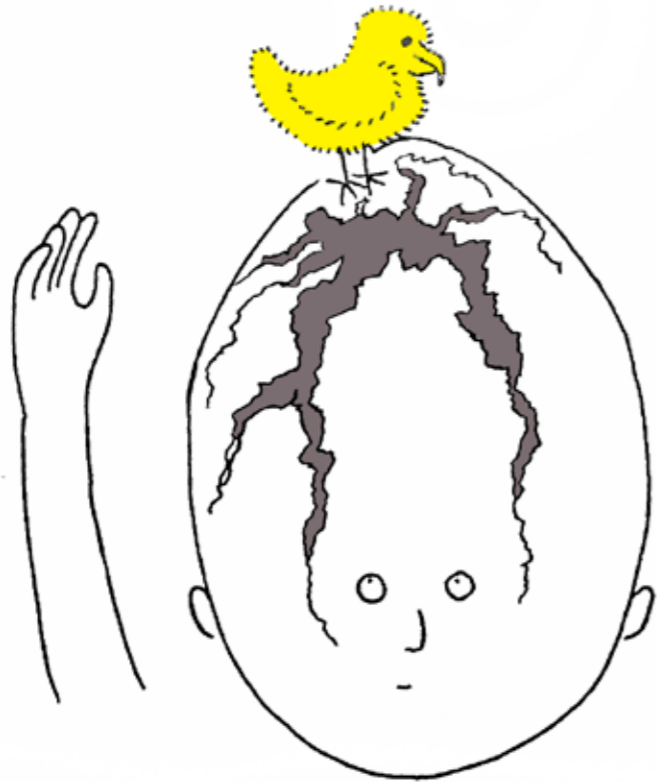
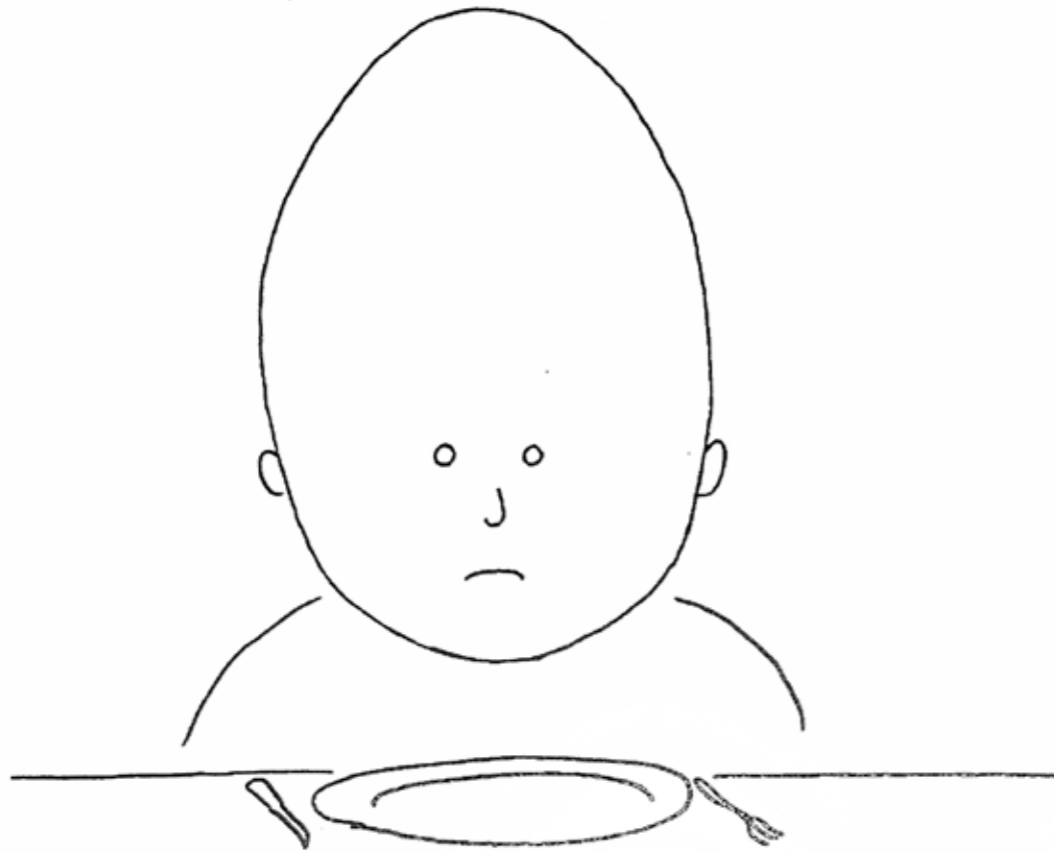




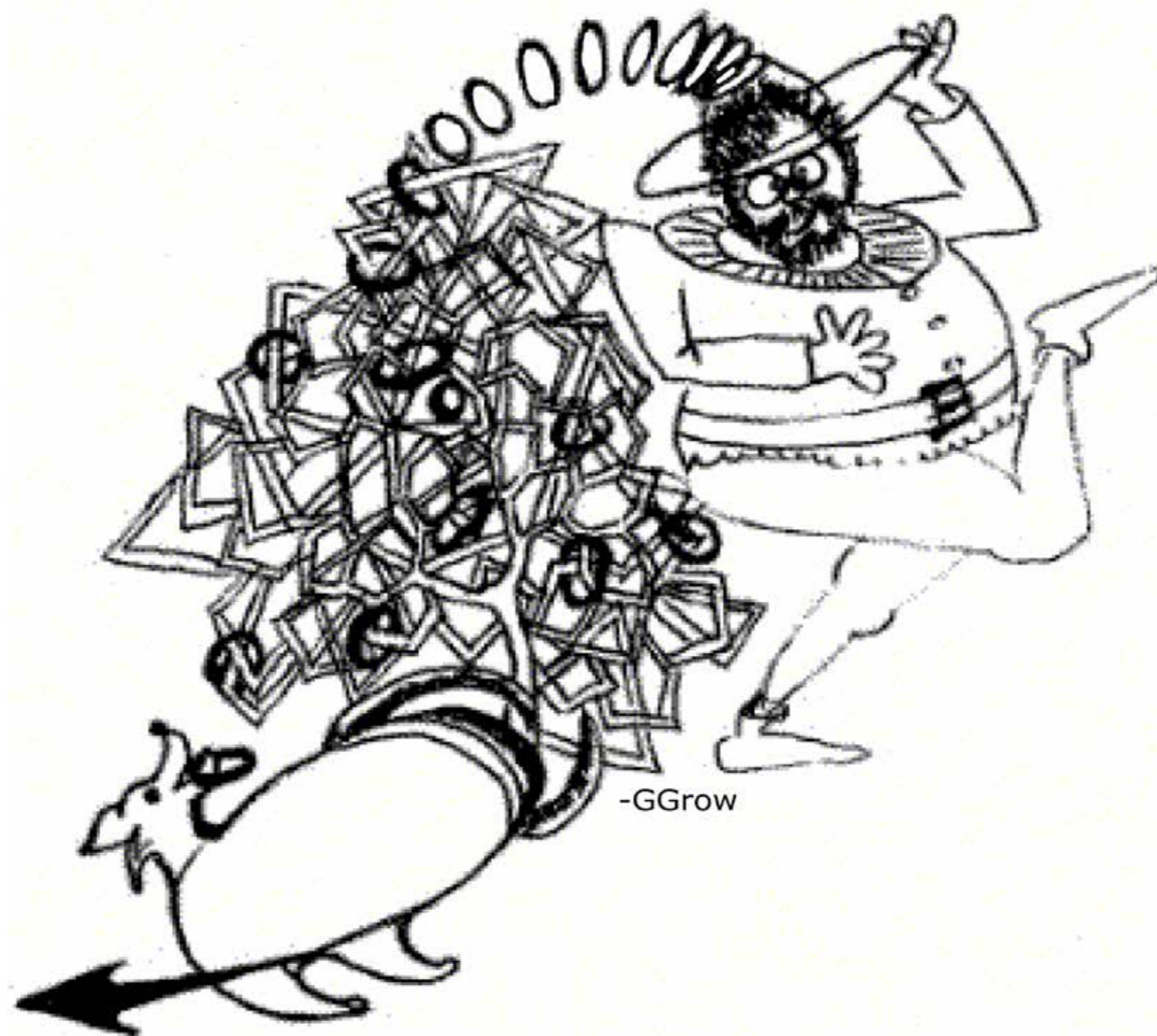
Copyediting Marx

G. Grow





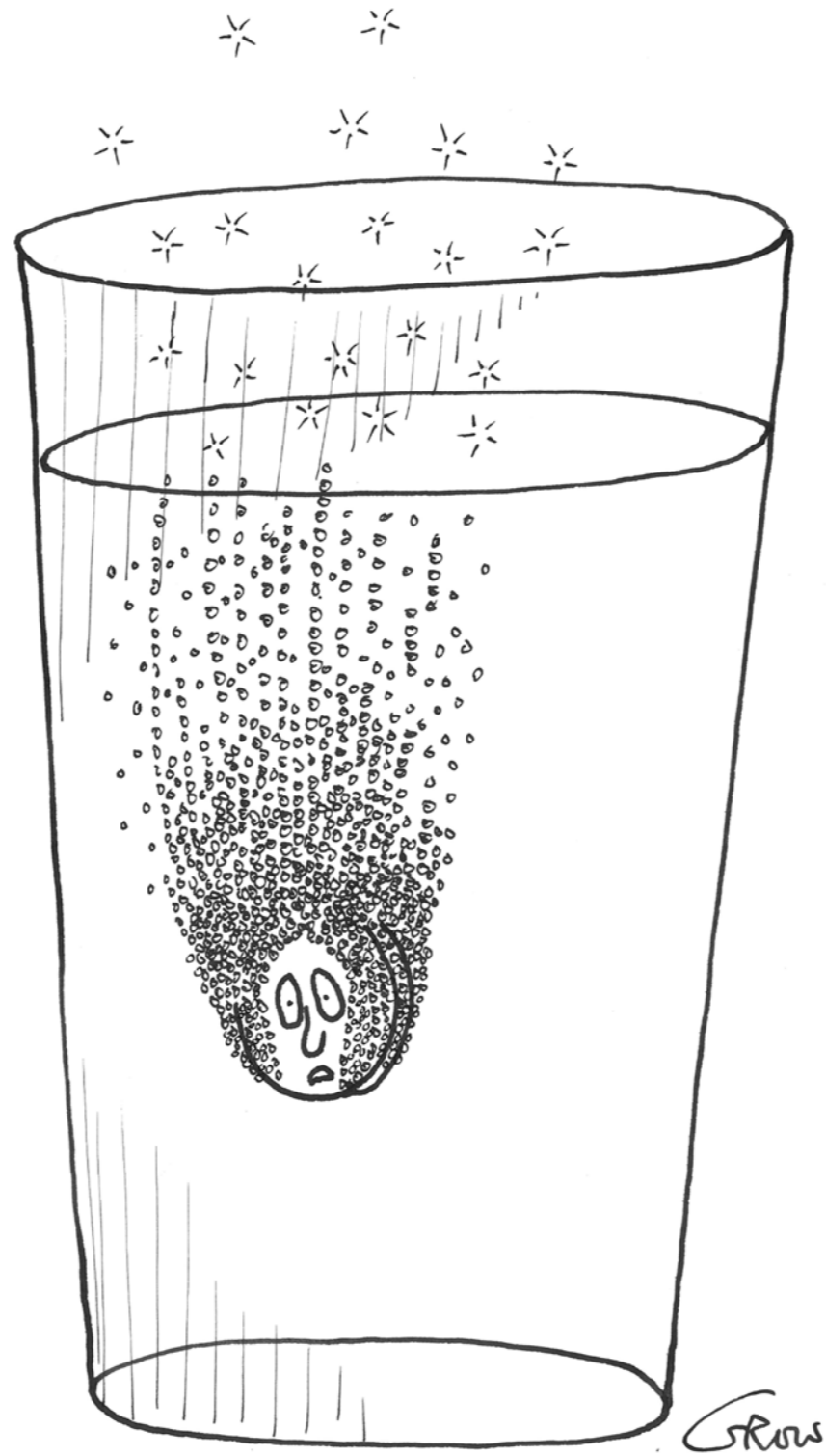
- Gow



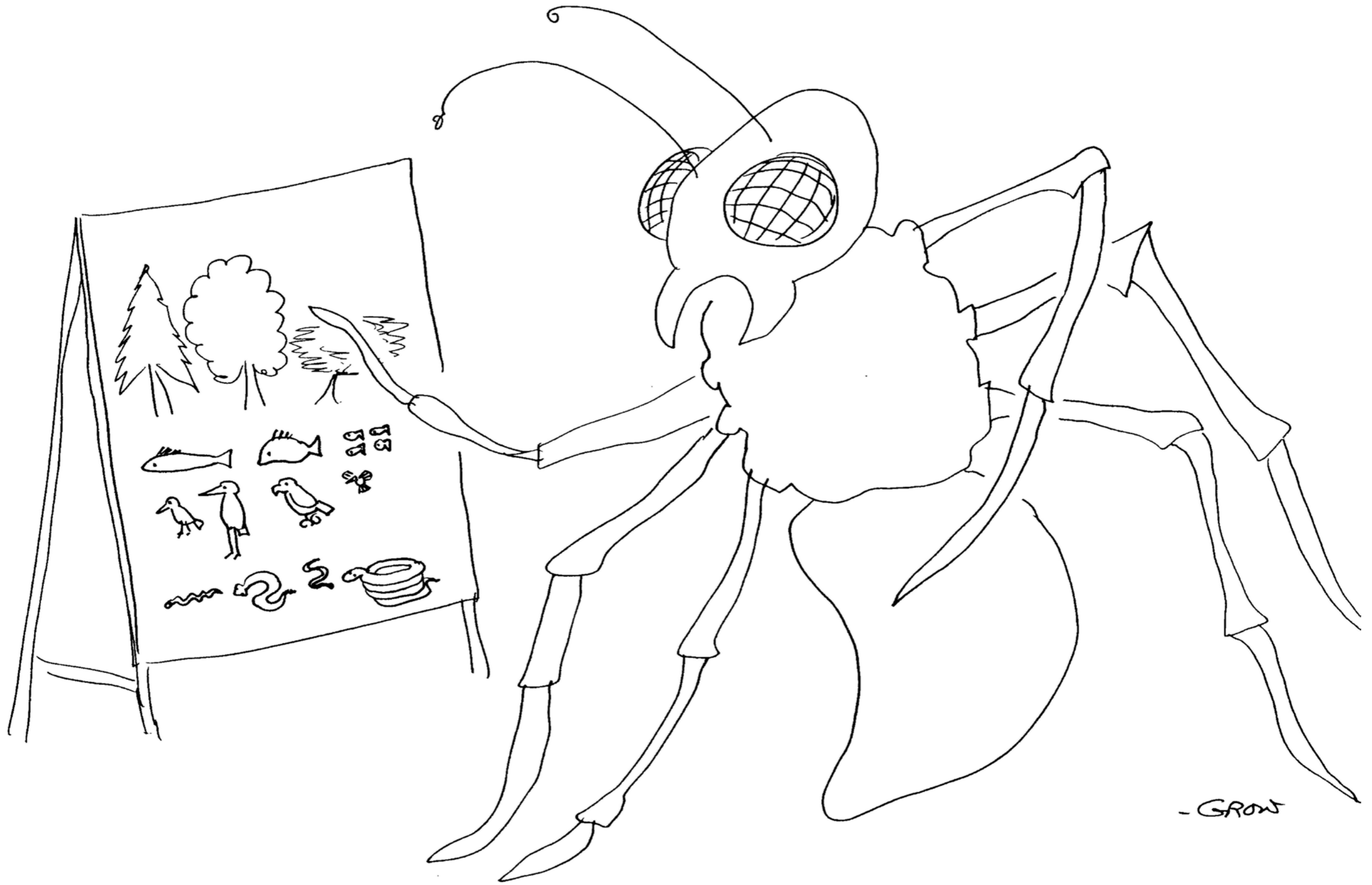
-GGrow



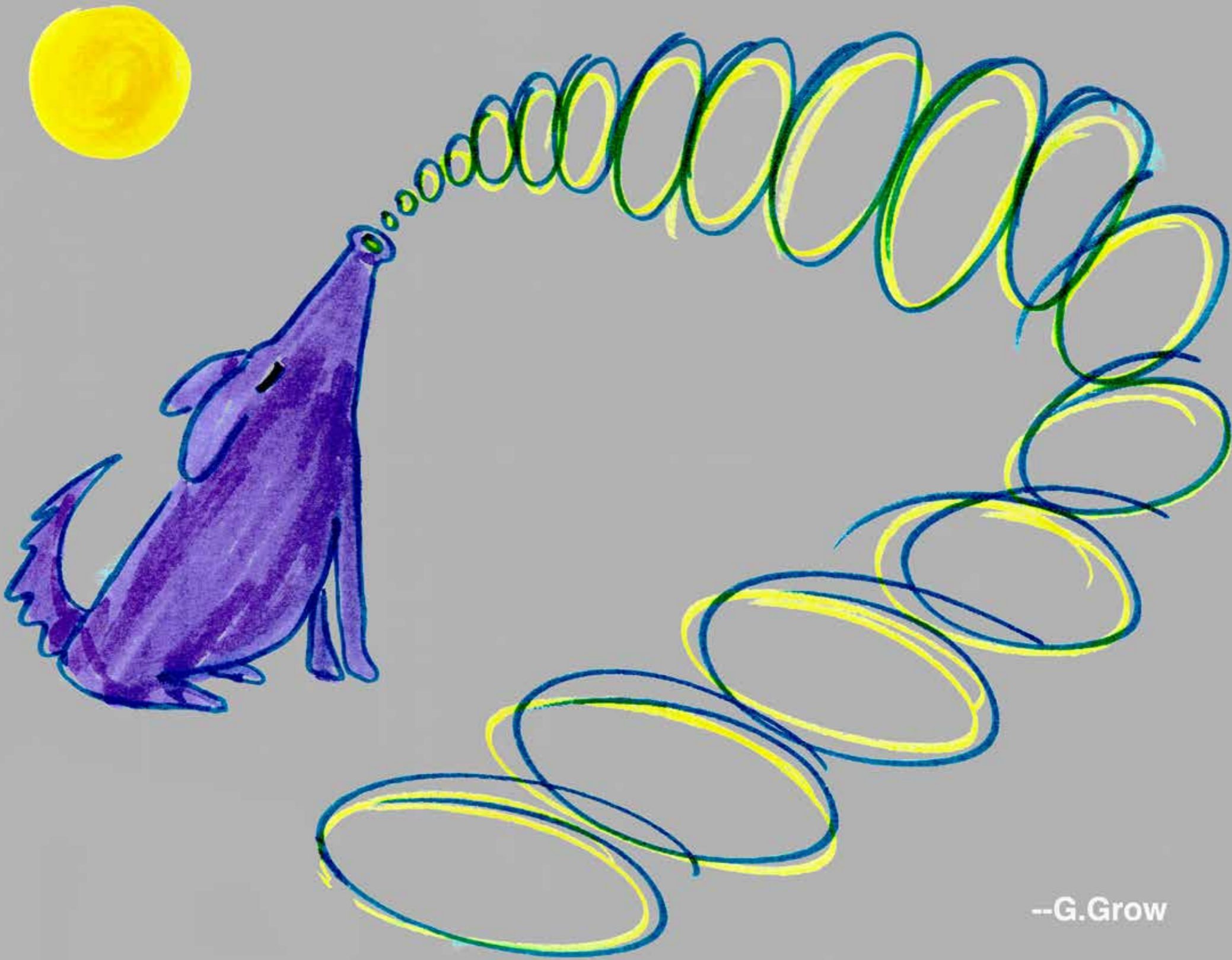
Another failed attempt
at the direct examination
of belief.



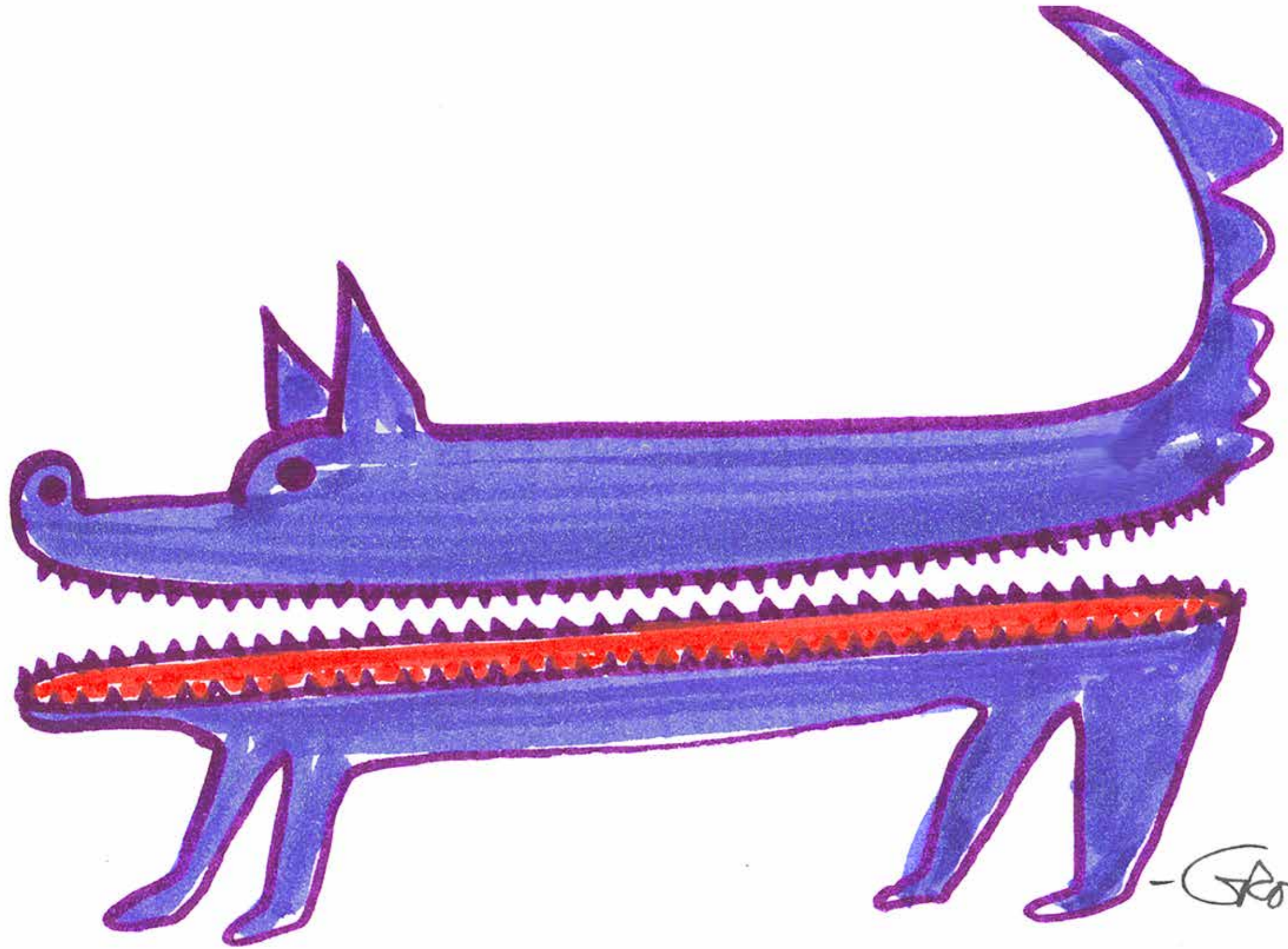
Dissolution of the ego



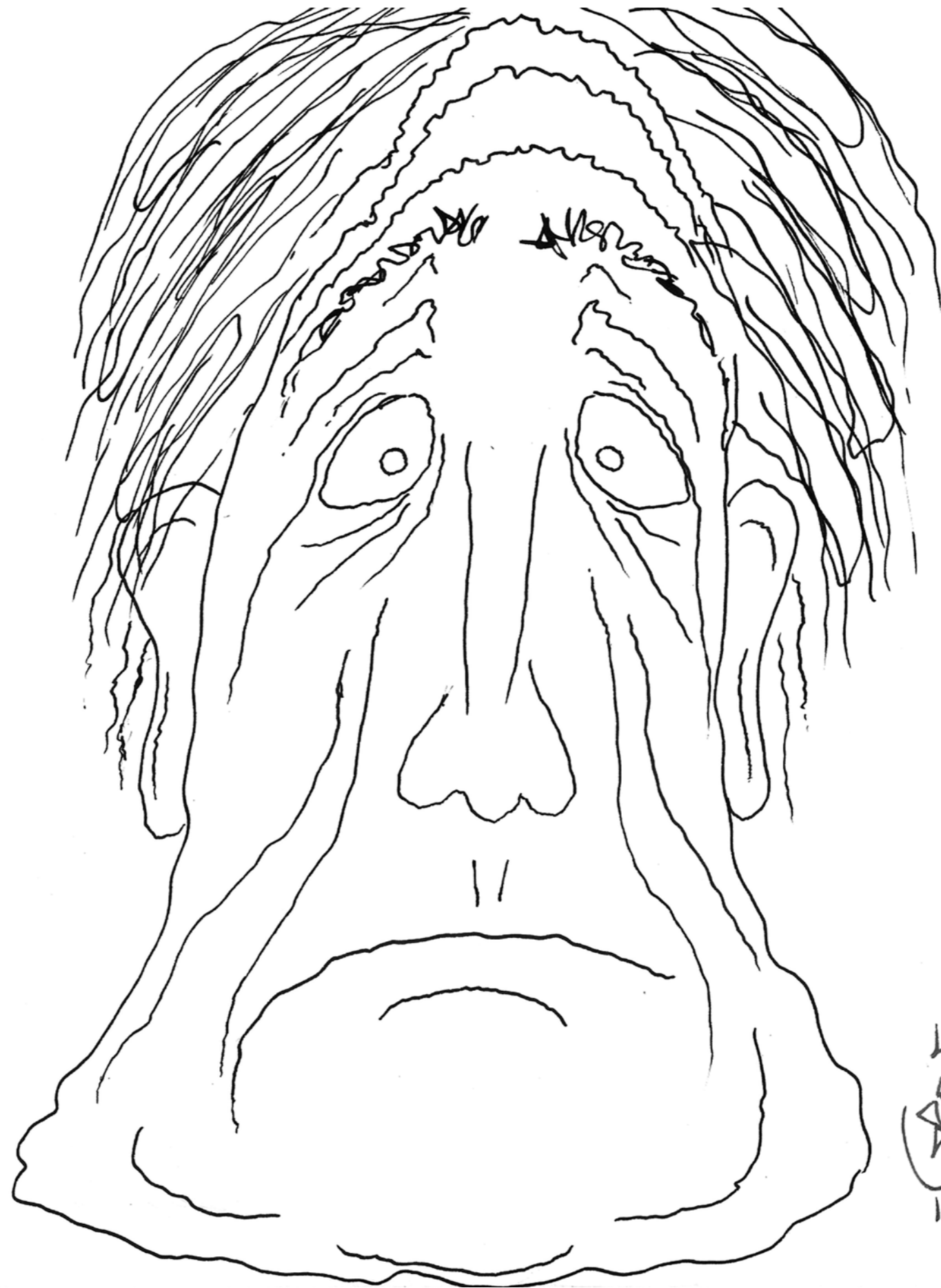
There are dimensions to this diversity issue that few experts have even glimpsed.



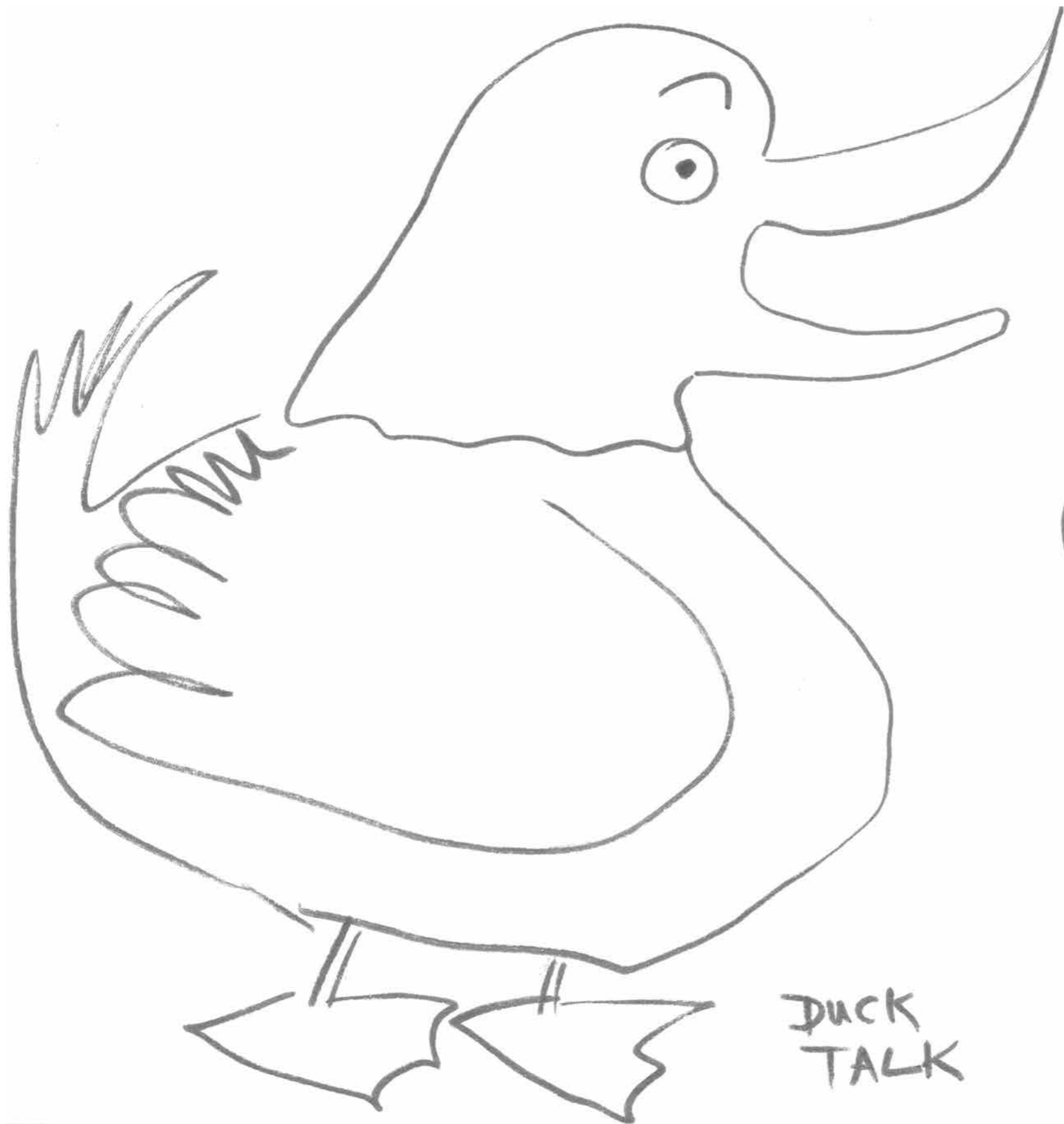
--G.Grow



-Glow

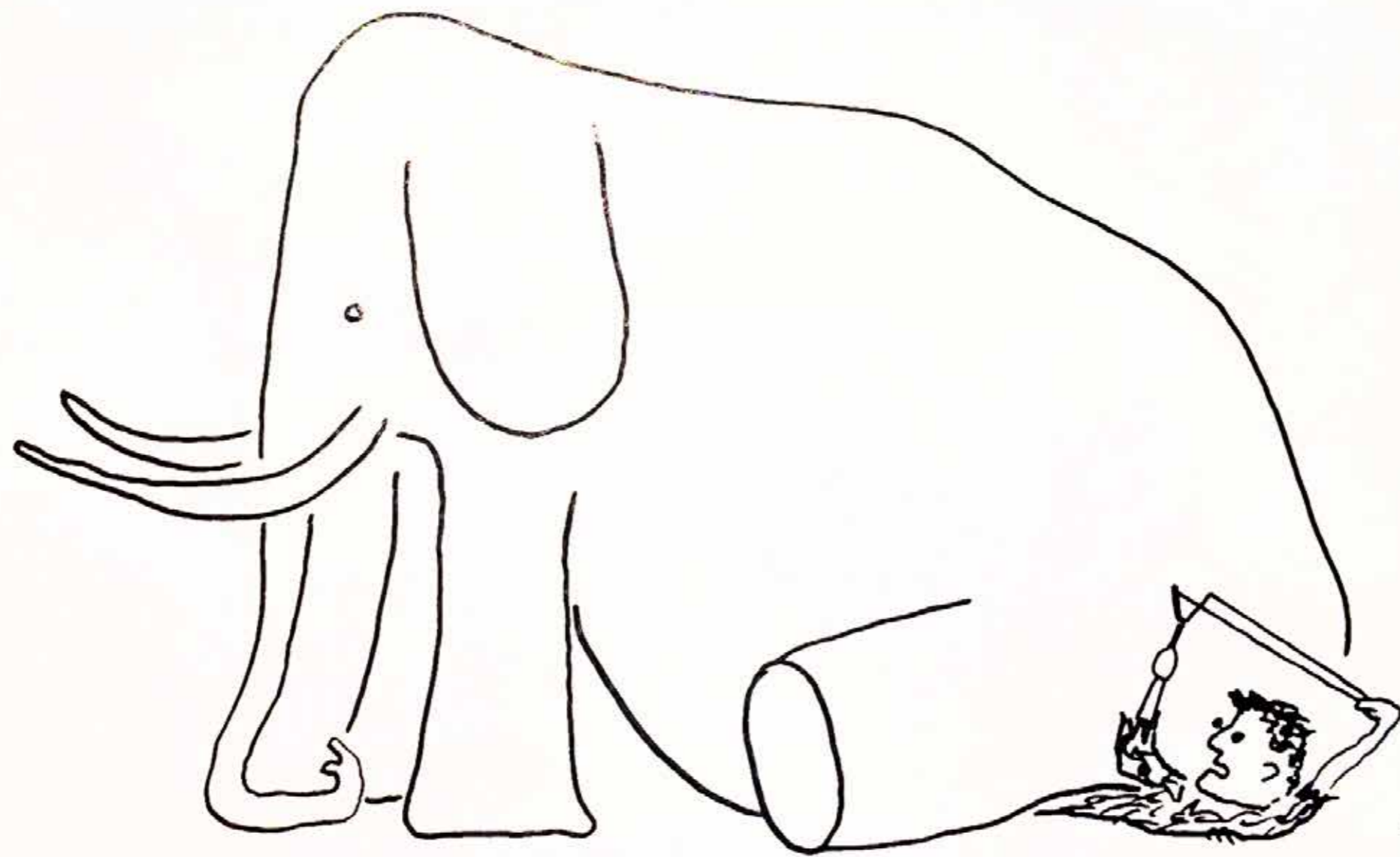


-Graw

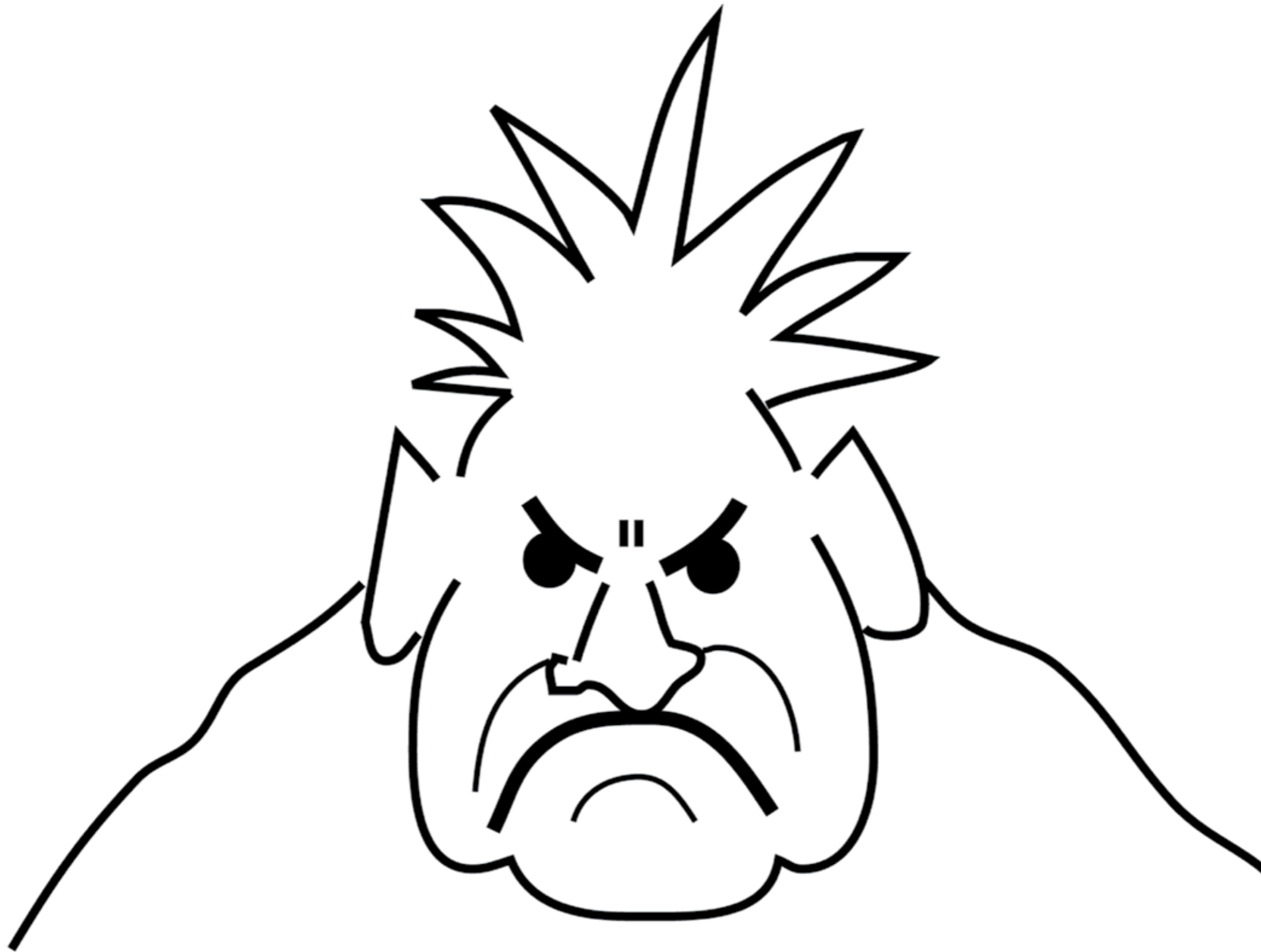


DUCK
TALK





- Crow

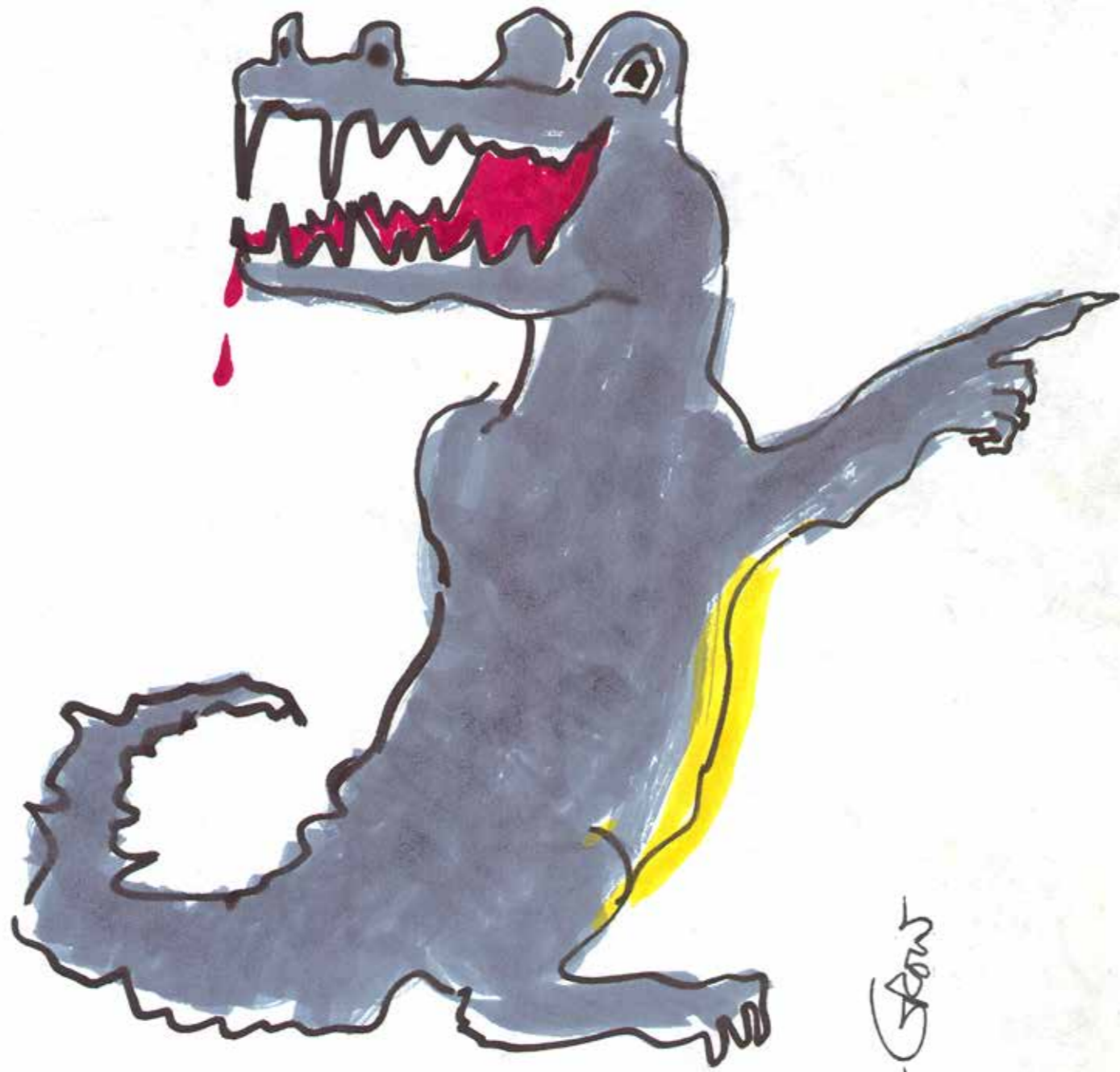


To hell with *engaged* Buddhism!
I practice *enraged* Buddhism!

--G. Grow



BUT IN THIS SUCCESS-ORIENTED WORLD,
FAILURE IS ITSELF A KIND OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.



-Stow

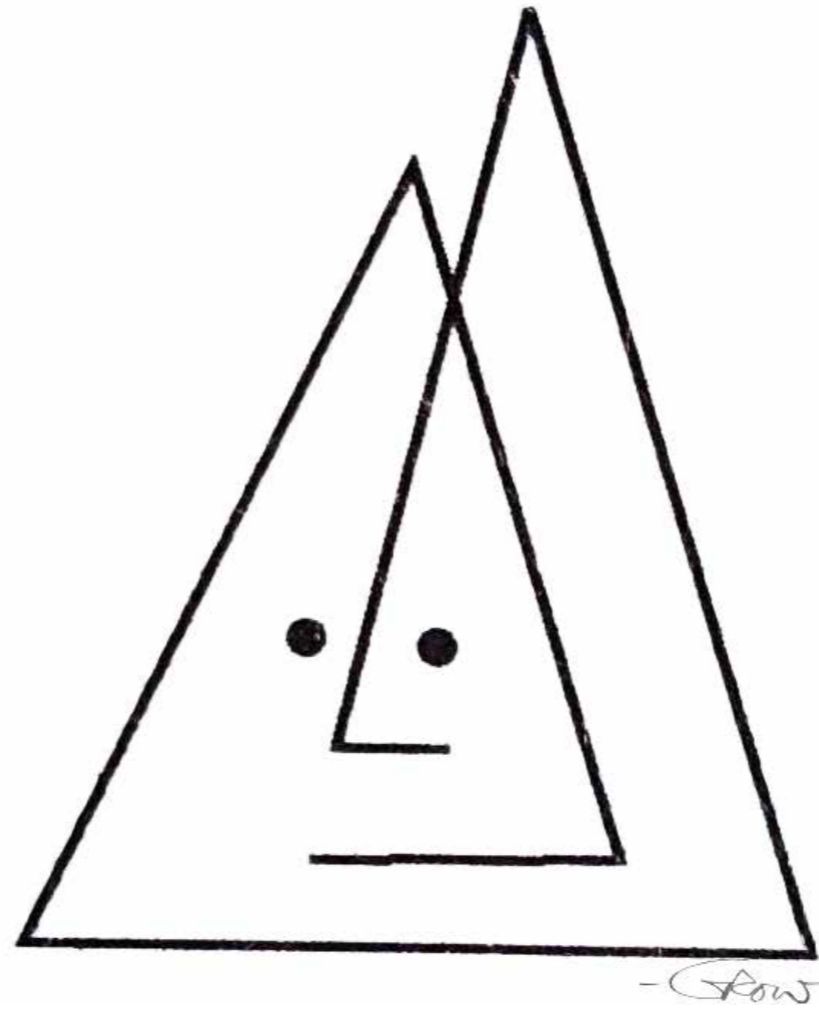
False
Allegation



YOU ARE GOING
TO LEARN TO
GRADE YOURSELVES
IF I HAVE TO
FLUNK EVERY
ONE OF YOU!

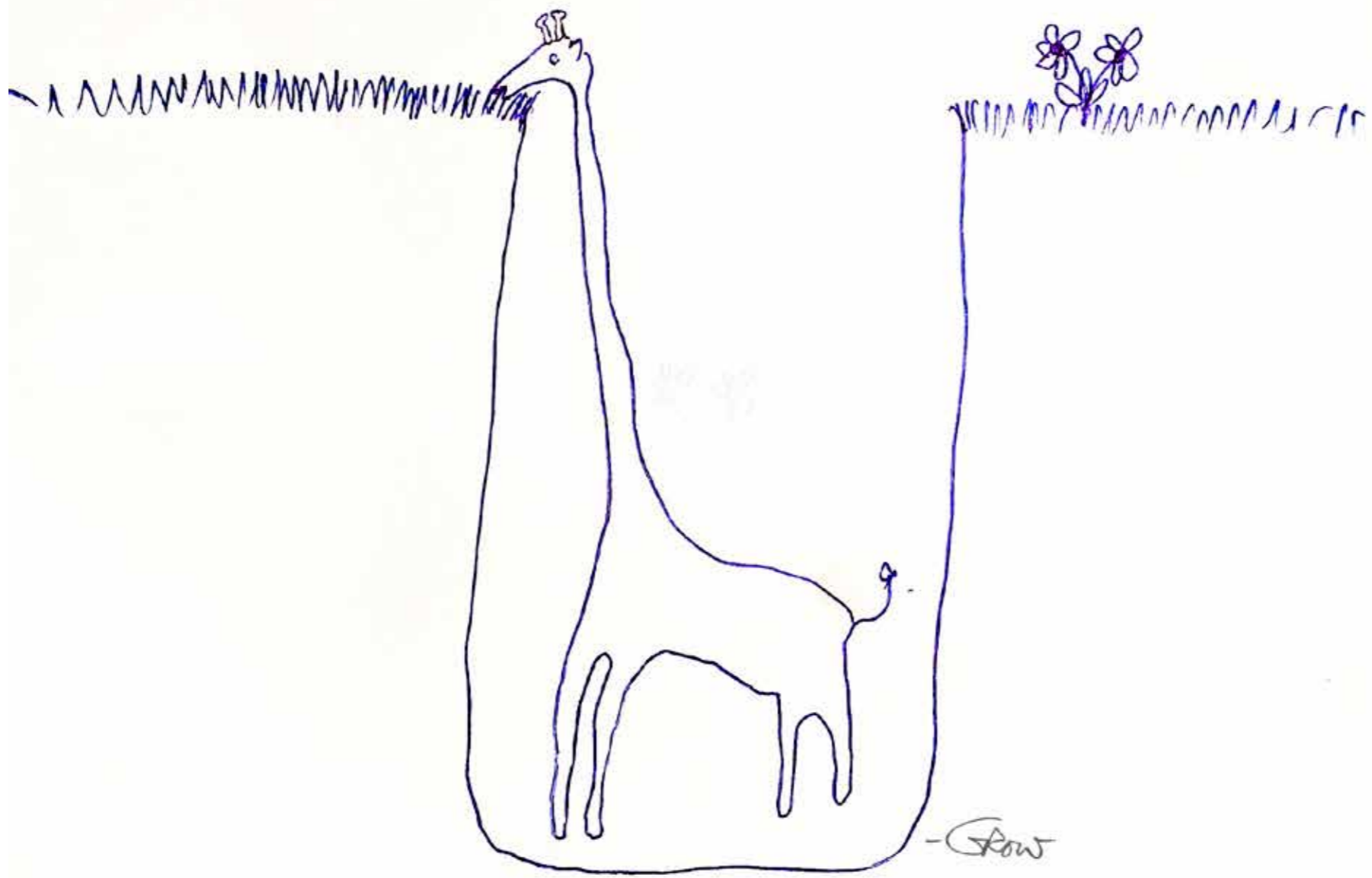


-GROW

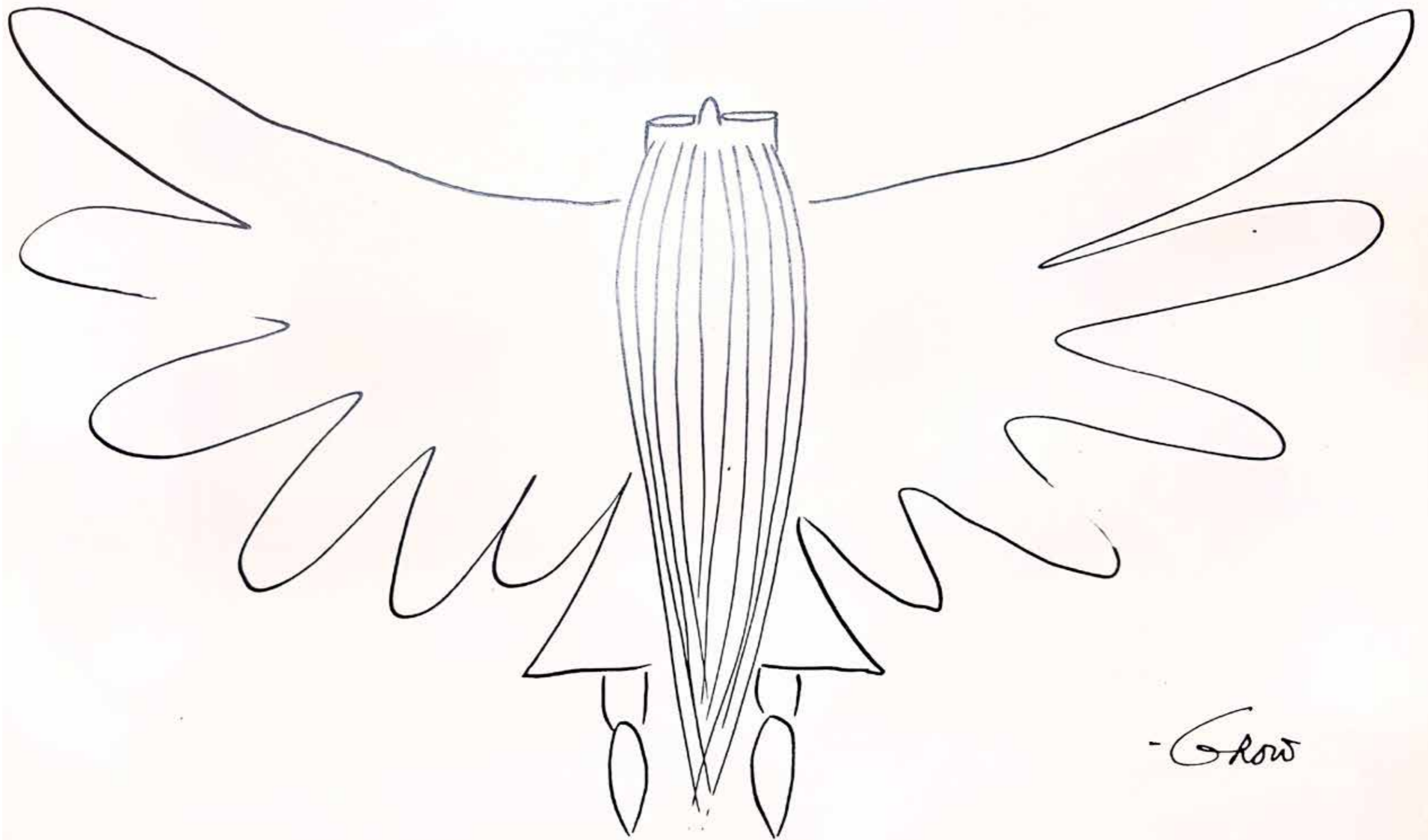




It's all right, man, he's just getting his aggressions out.







-Glow



Green Dog on the Car of the Rising Sun —



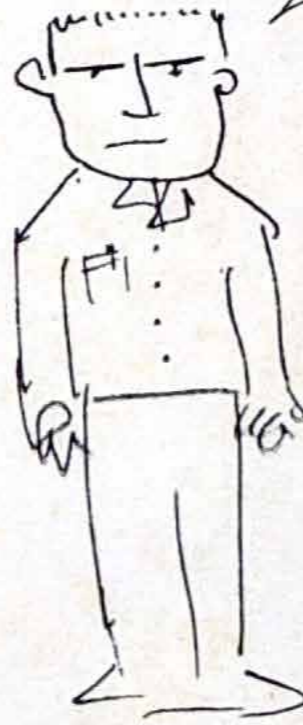
DARLING! I'M IN ANOTHER GROWTH-PHASE!

... delicately braized tips of beef, ground, in a marinade of spiced tomato sauce, topped with a thick, soft, creamy tang of melted cheddar, counterweighted by the crisp, cool freshness of crunchy lettuce and the surprising rhythm of pickle...



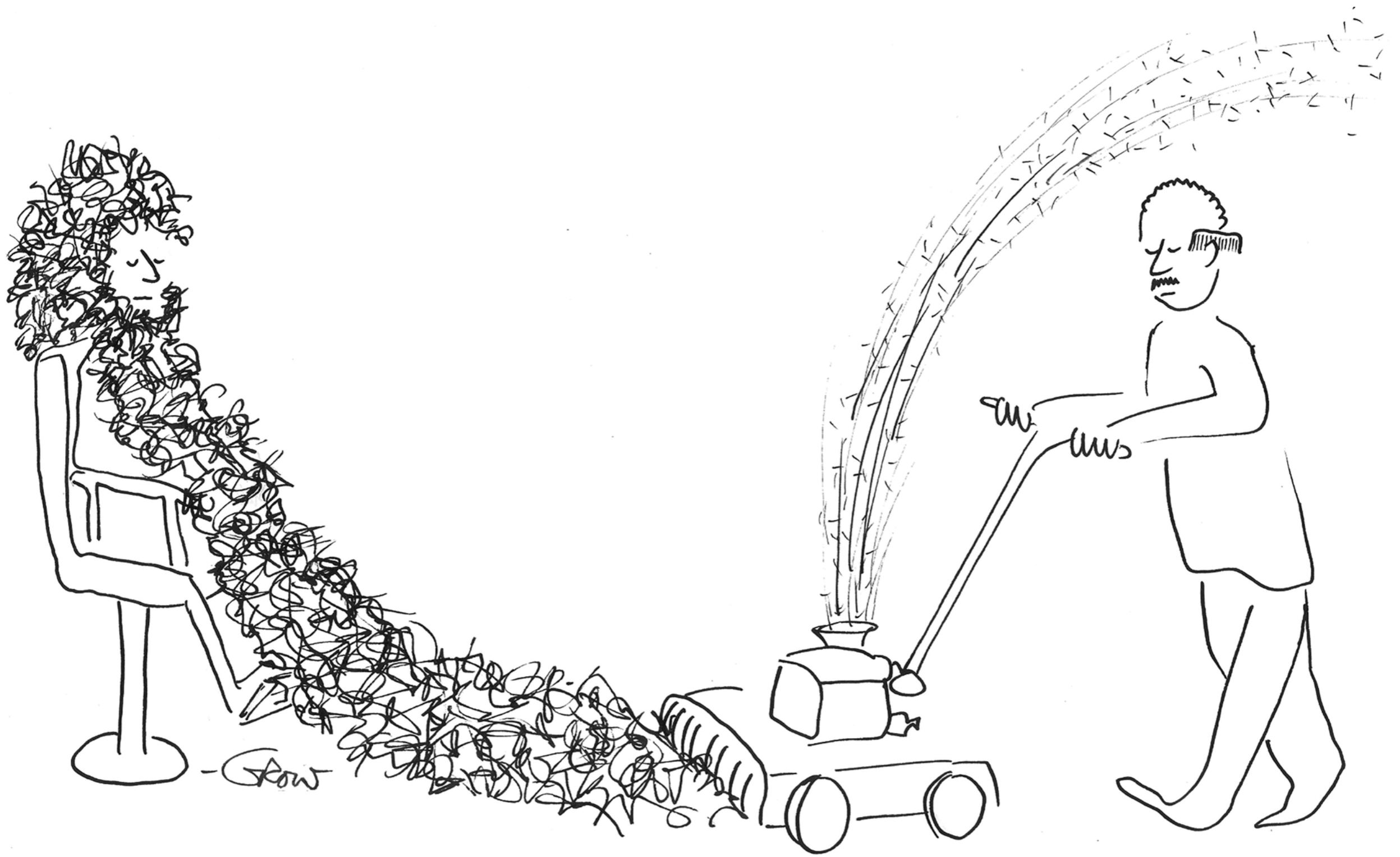
Feature writing

Had a cheeseburger.



News Writing

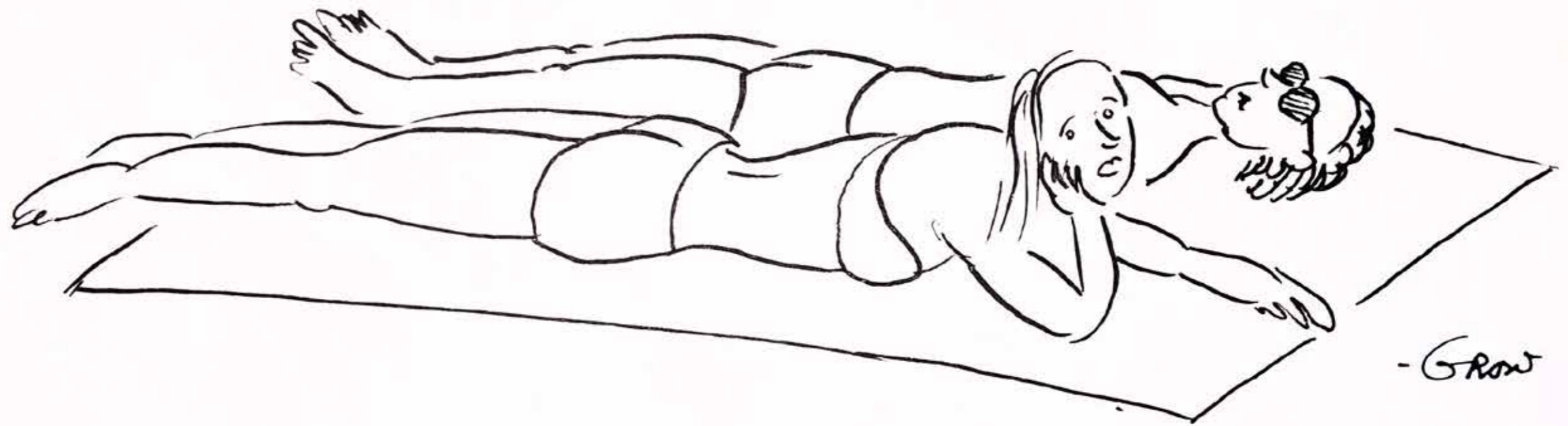
- How





-Grew





HE ONLY LOVES ME FOR MY HYPOTHALAMUS.



-GROW



Prozac helps me stay non-attached.



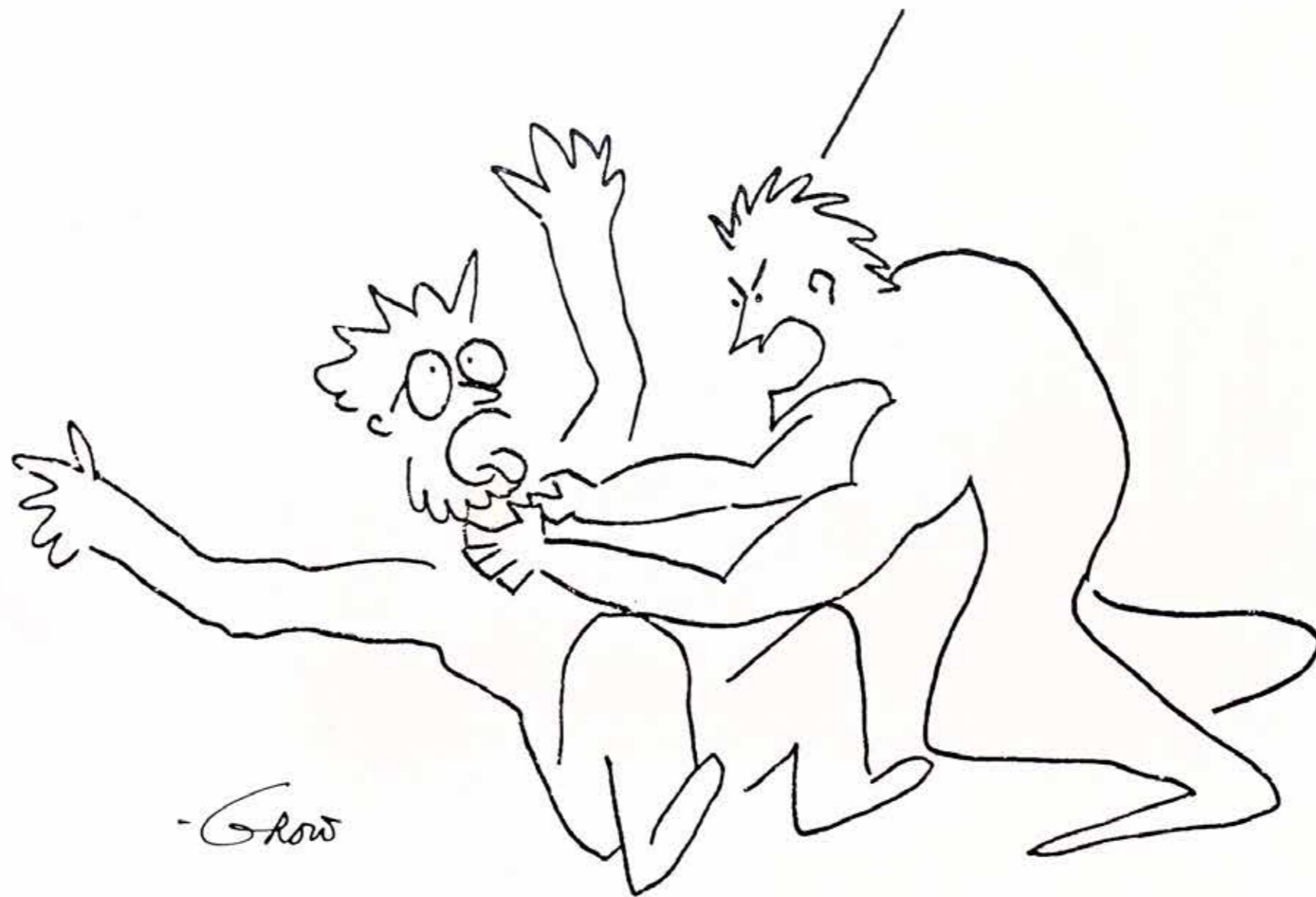


Don't give me a hug. I want *respect!*

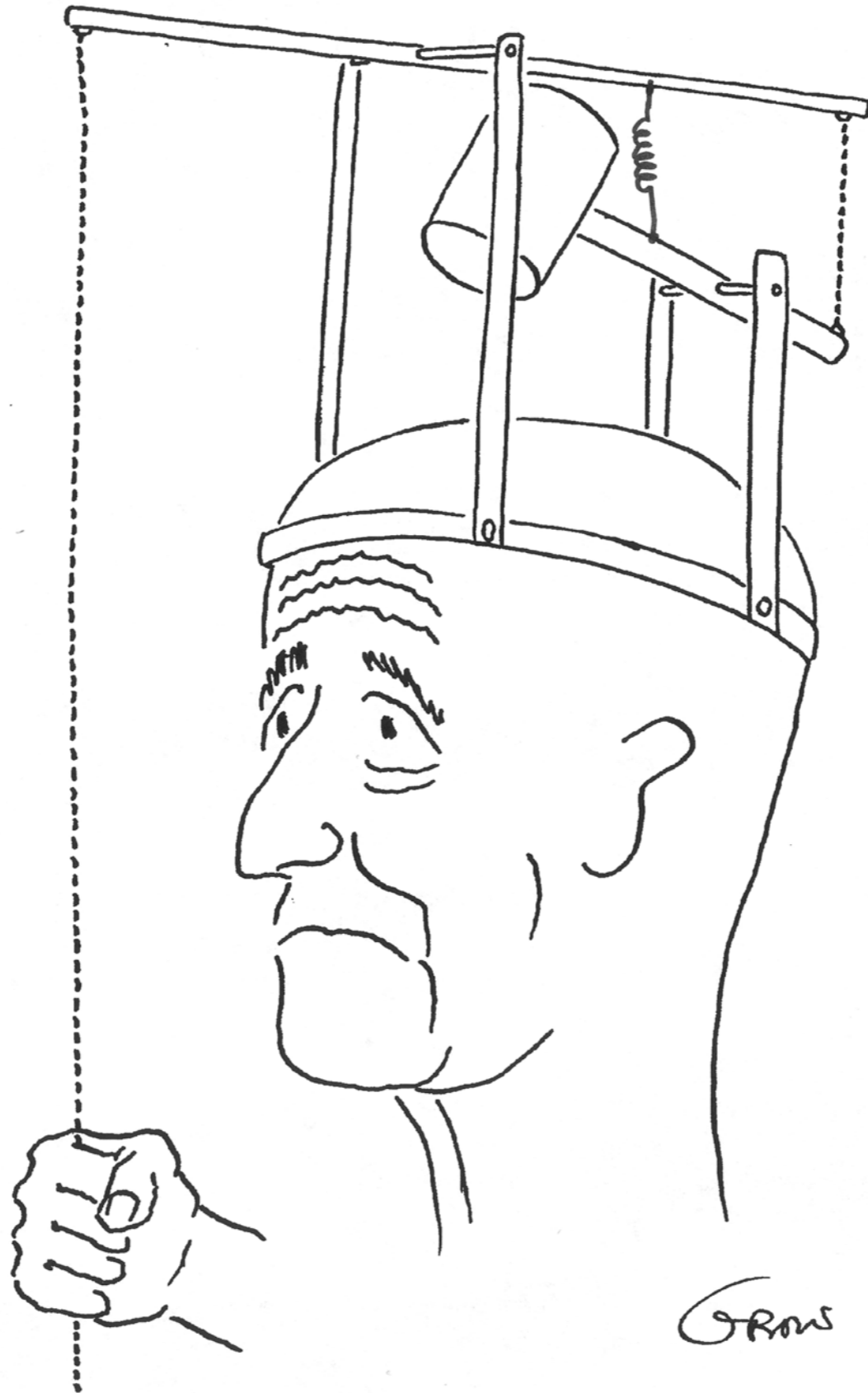


I EAT TO FORGET.

I EXPERIENCE YOU
AS BEING
VERY HOSTILE!



-Glow







I KNOW I'M ONE OF THE CHOSEN ONES.
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT
I'VE BEEN CHOSEN FOR.



All this time, I thought he was saying "Heal!"



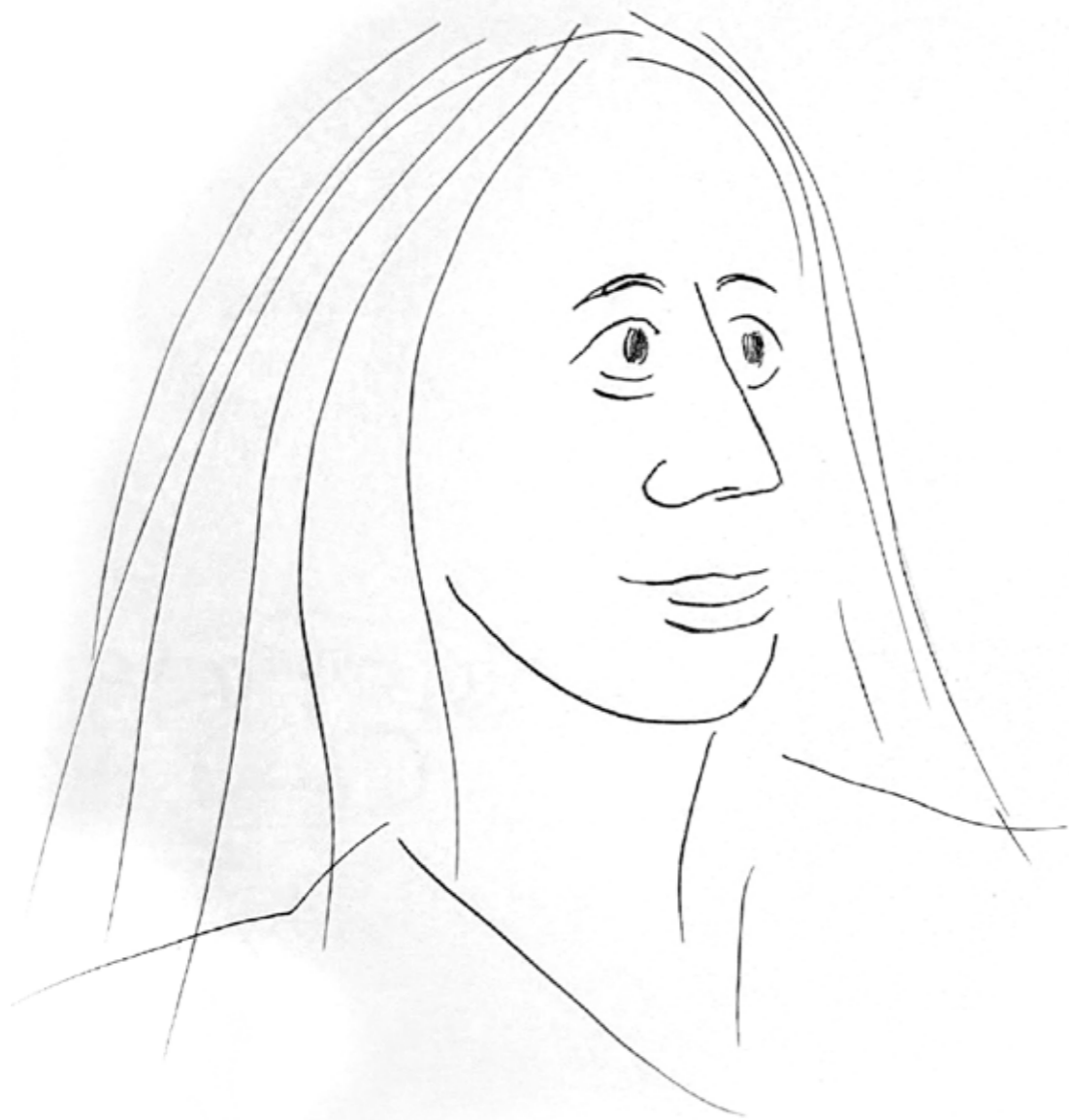
I WANT...

EVERYTHING!

AND I WANT IT...



NOW!!!!



-Glow

I'M REALLY A DESPICABLE PERSON.
THIS IS JUST MY DAY OFF.



I'M REALLY INTO SPROUTS.

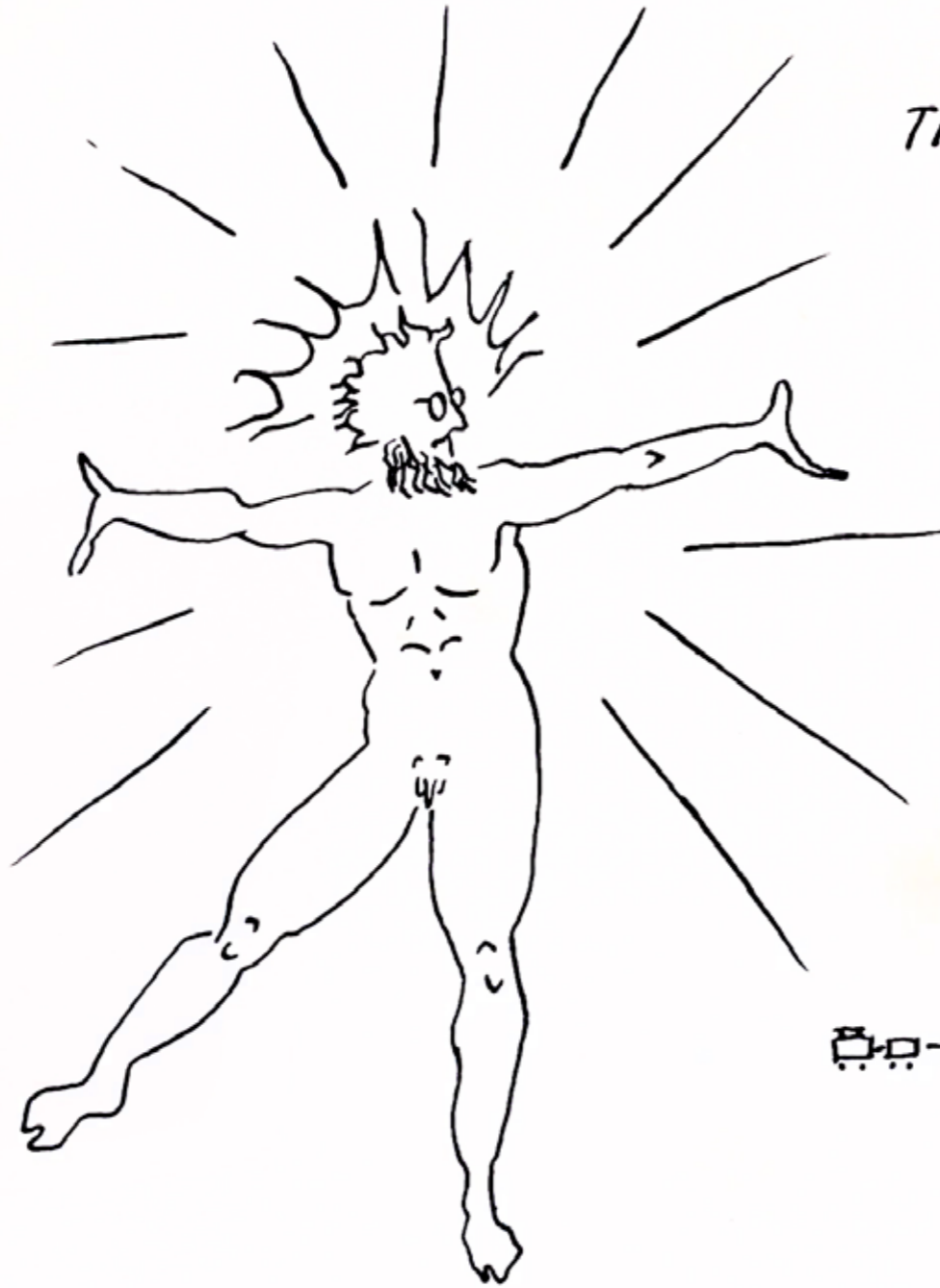


I'M A PISCES. WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?



Self-improvement overload

THE INNOVATIVE
TEACHER



...AS SEEN BY HIMSELF



...AS SEEN BY OTHERS

-Graw



GROW

The Innovative Teacher
...as seen by his chairman

THE INNOVATIVE TEACHER



- GROW

... and his umbrella institution

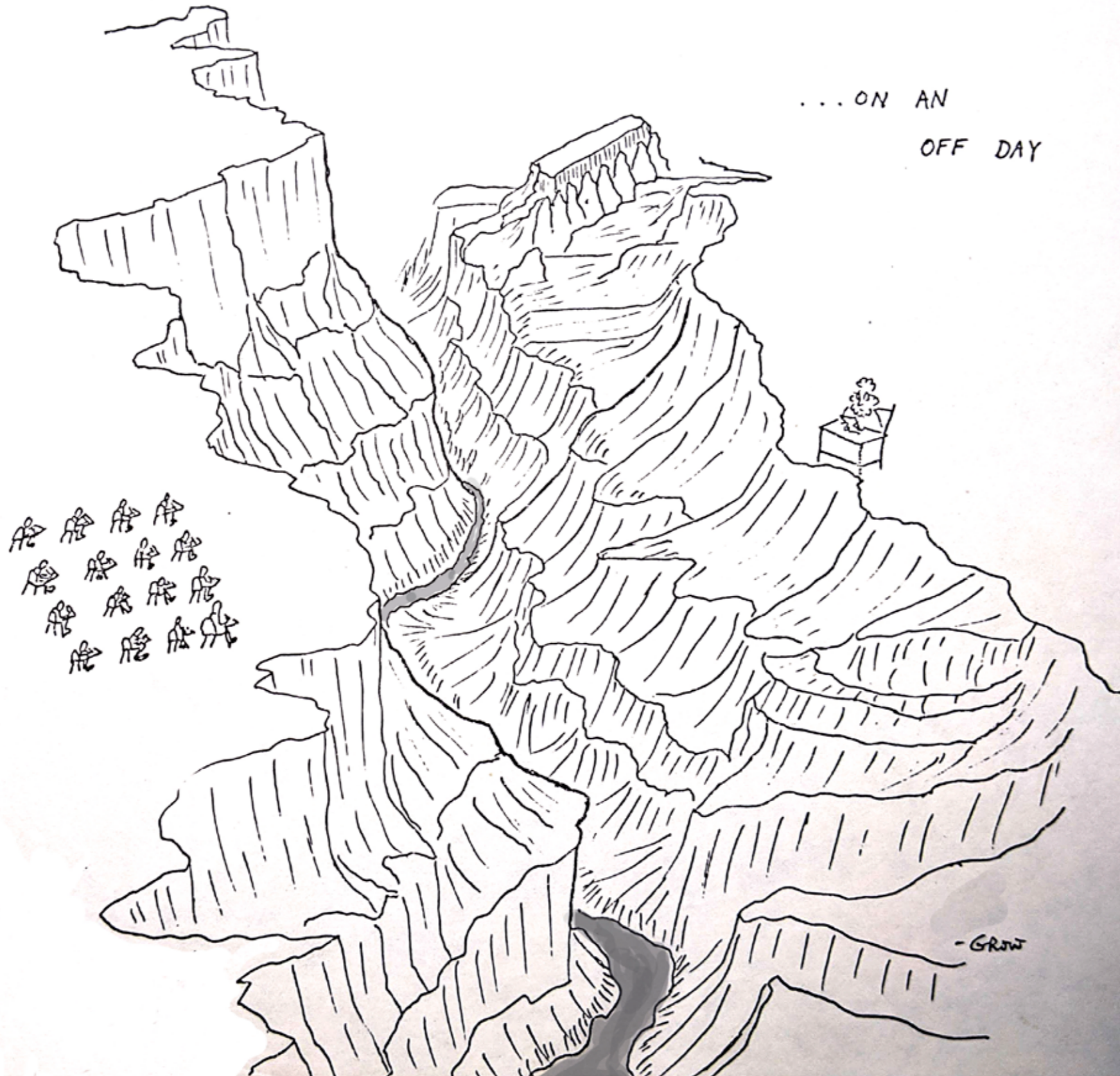
THE INNOVATIVE TEACHER. . .



. . . TEACHING ART

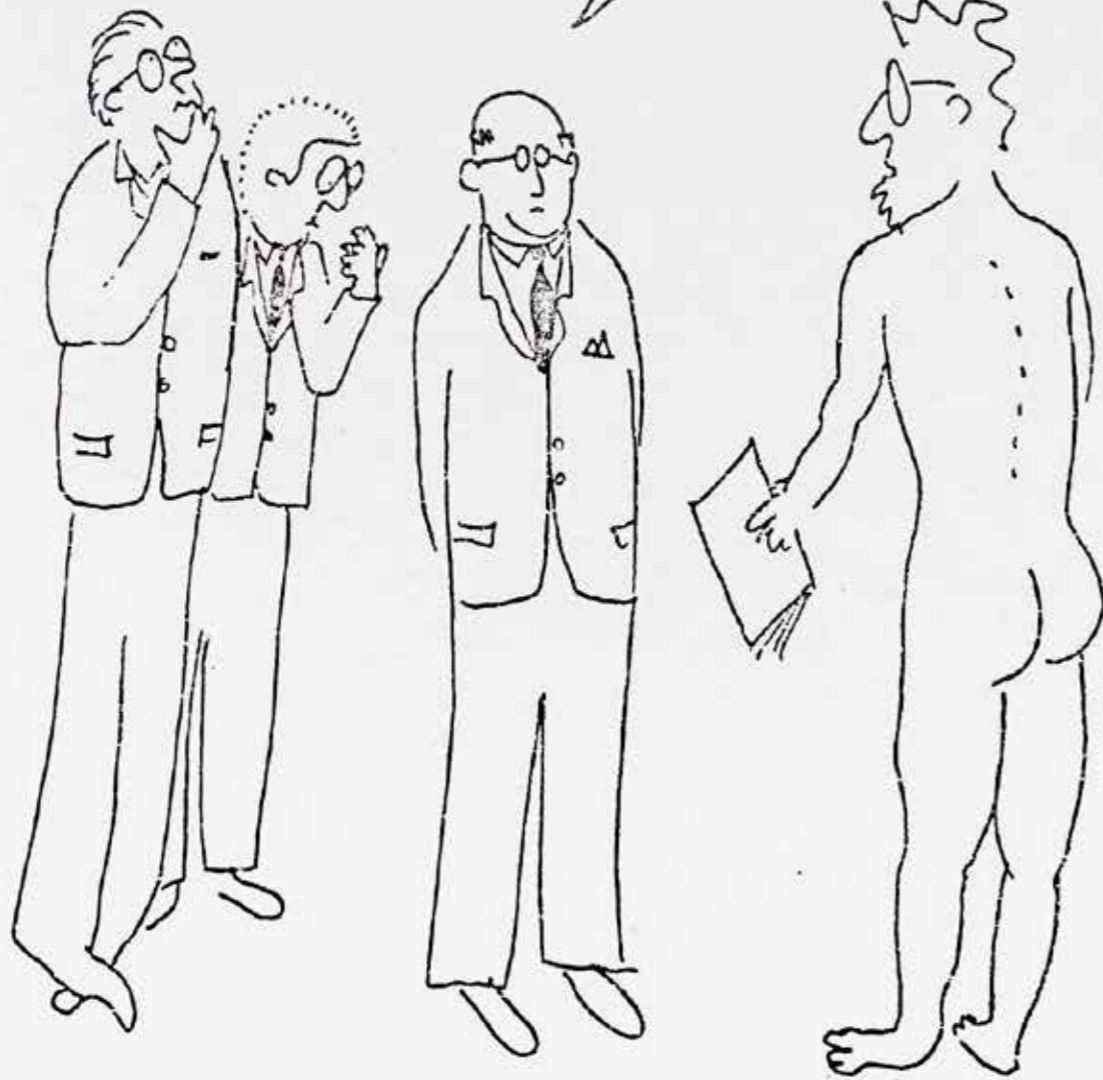
THE INNOVATIVE TEACHER...

... ON AN
OFF DAY

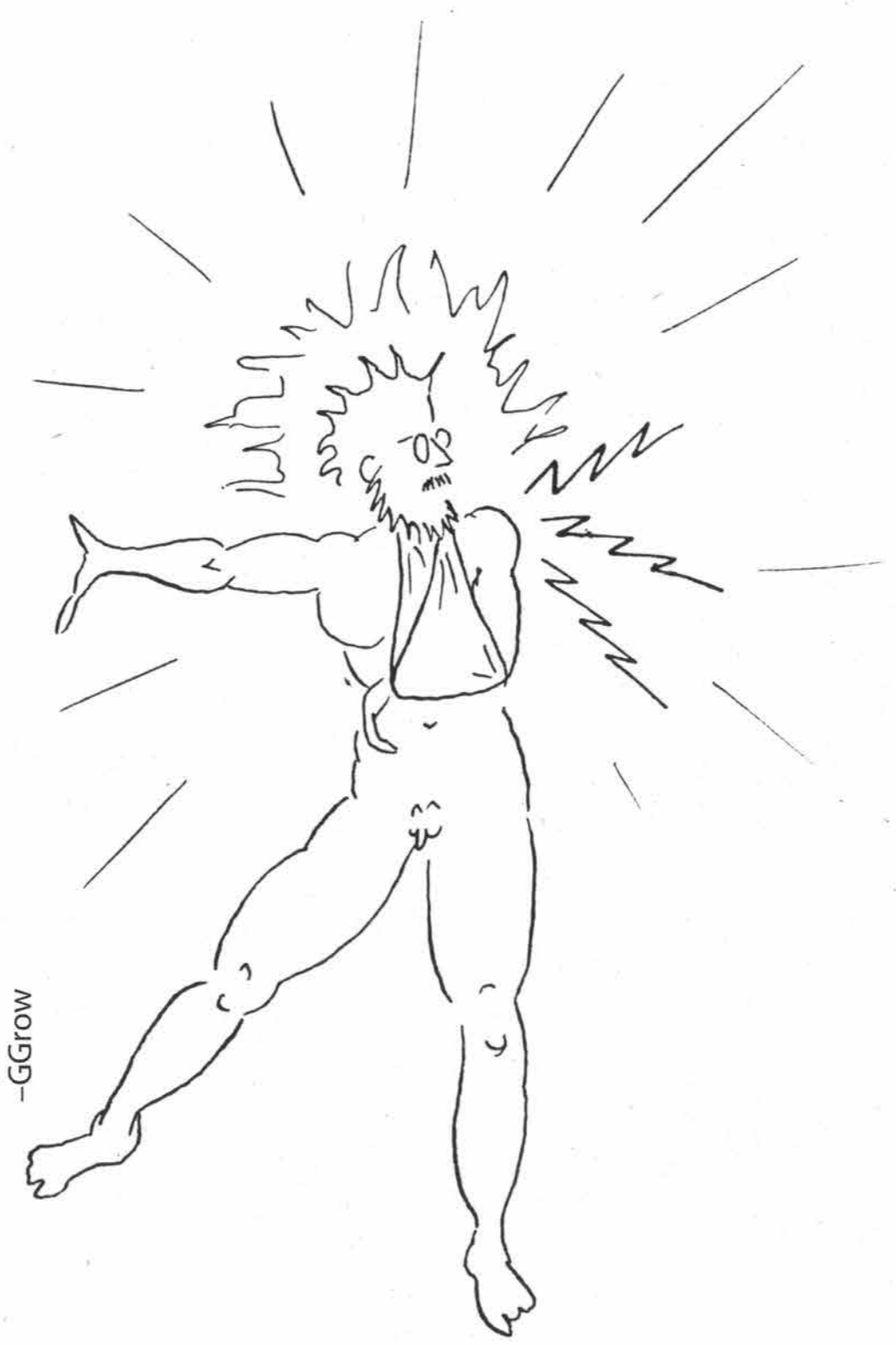


-GROW

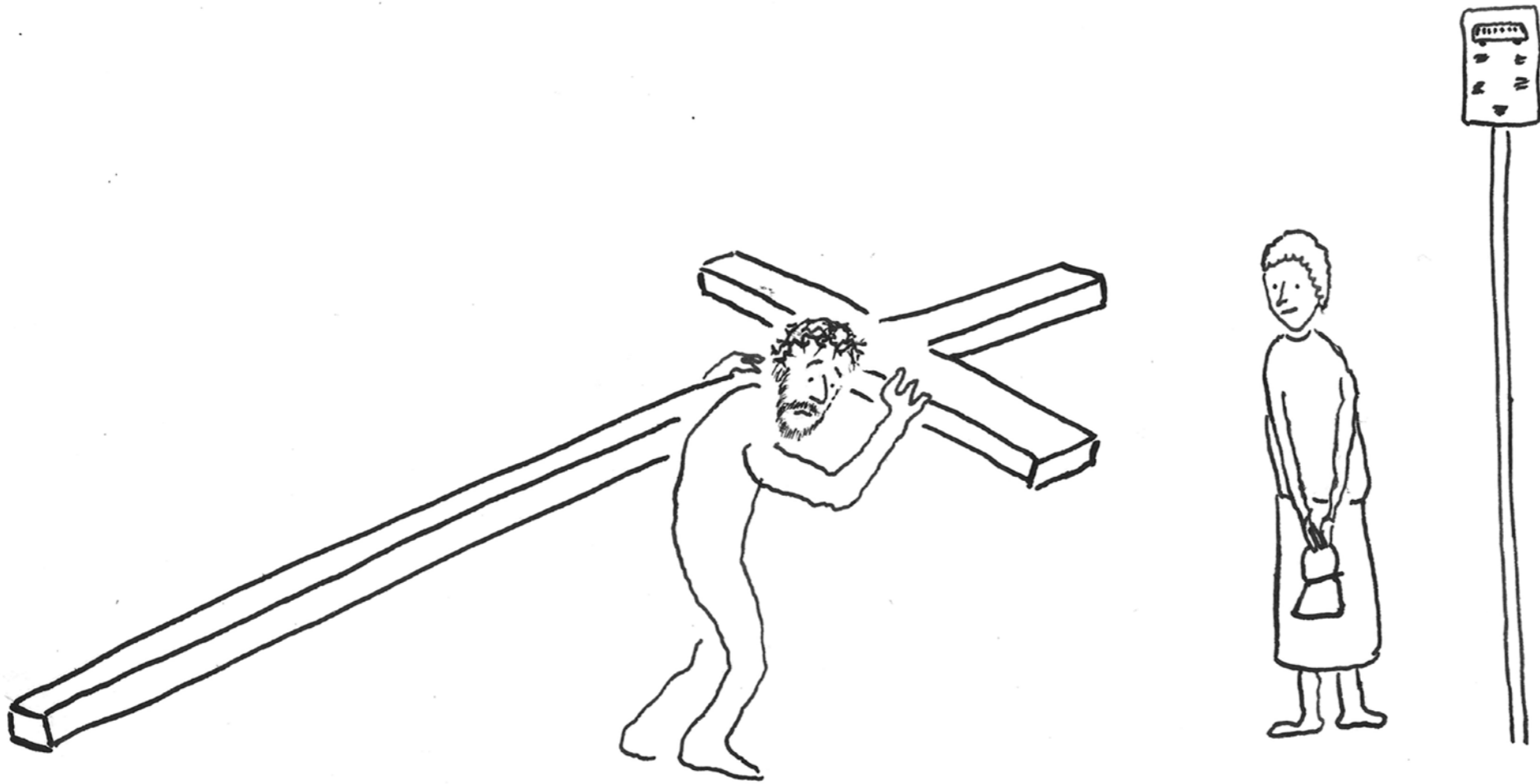
WE'VE COME TO ASK ABOUT
SOME OF YOUR, UH,
INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS.



-GROW



-GGrow



- Grow

MY, WHAT AN INTERESTING HOBBY!

I WILL NO LONGER BE
INTIMIDATED BY THE
TELEPHONE!



I WILL STAND UP
TO IT LIKE A MAN!



UH... HELLO?



- Grow

It is a
GREAT PUZZLE

why God

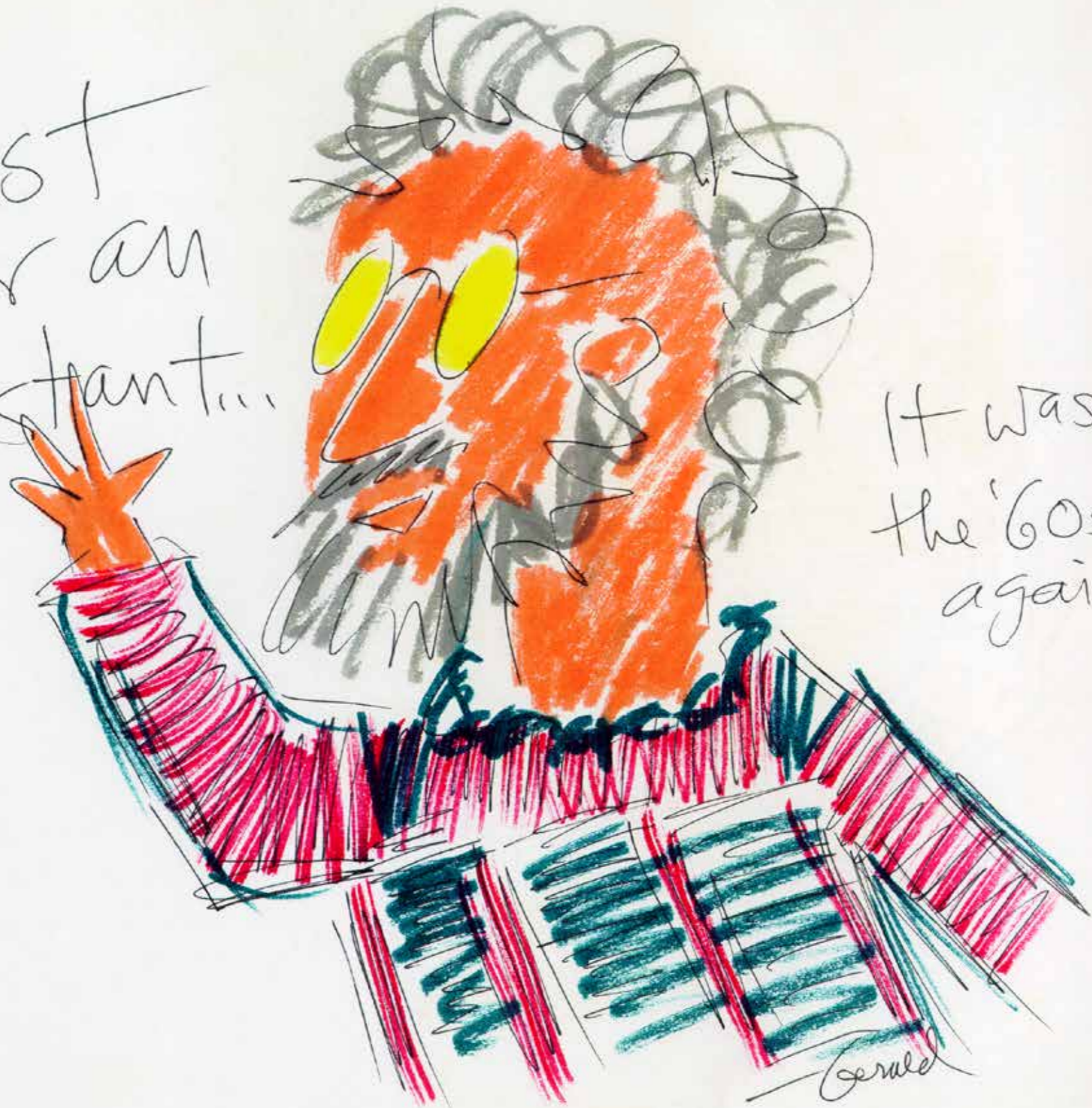
did not make

the still, small voice

a roar.

-Row

Just
for an
instant...



It was like
the '60s
again.....

Gerald





Keeping it all together (at least trying!)



Keyboard for people who do too much



YOUR KITTEN IS SUFFERING AN ENERGY-BLOCK
IN THE THIRD CHAKRA.

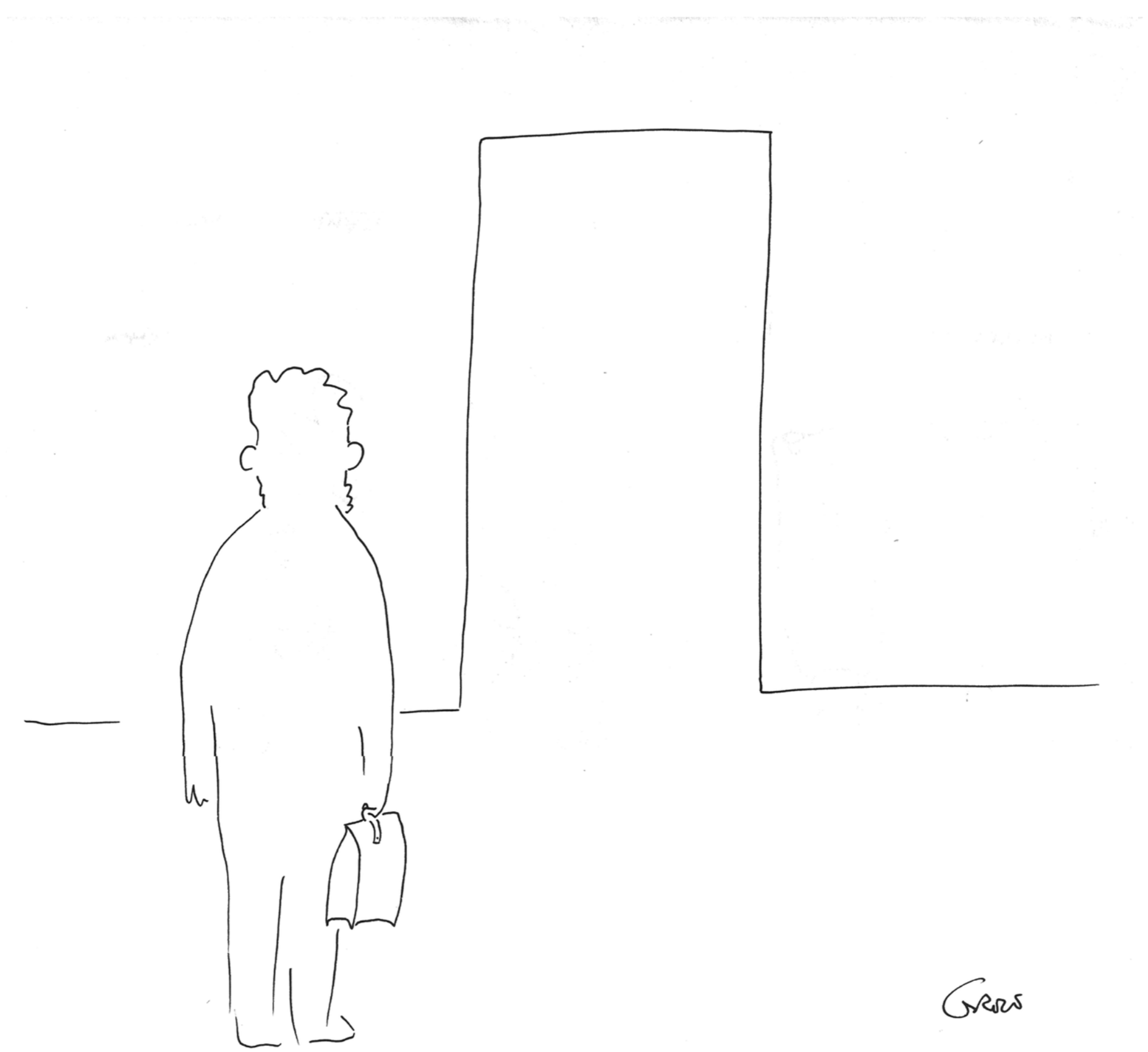


Katmandon't

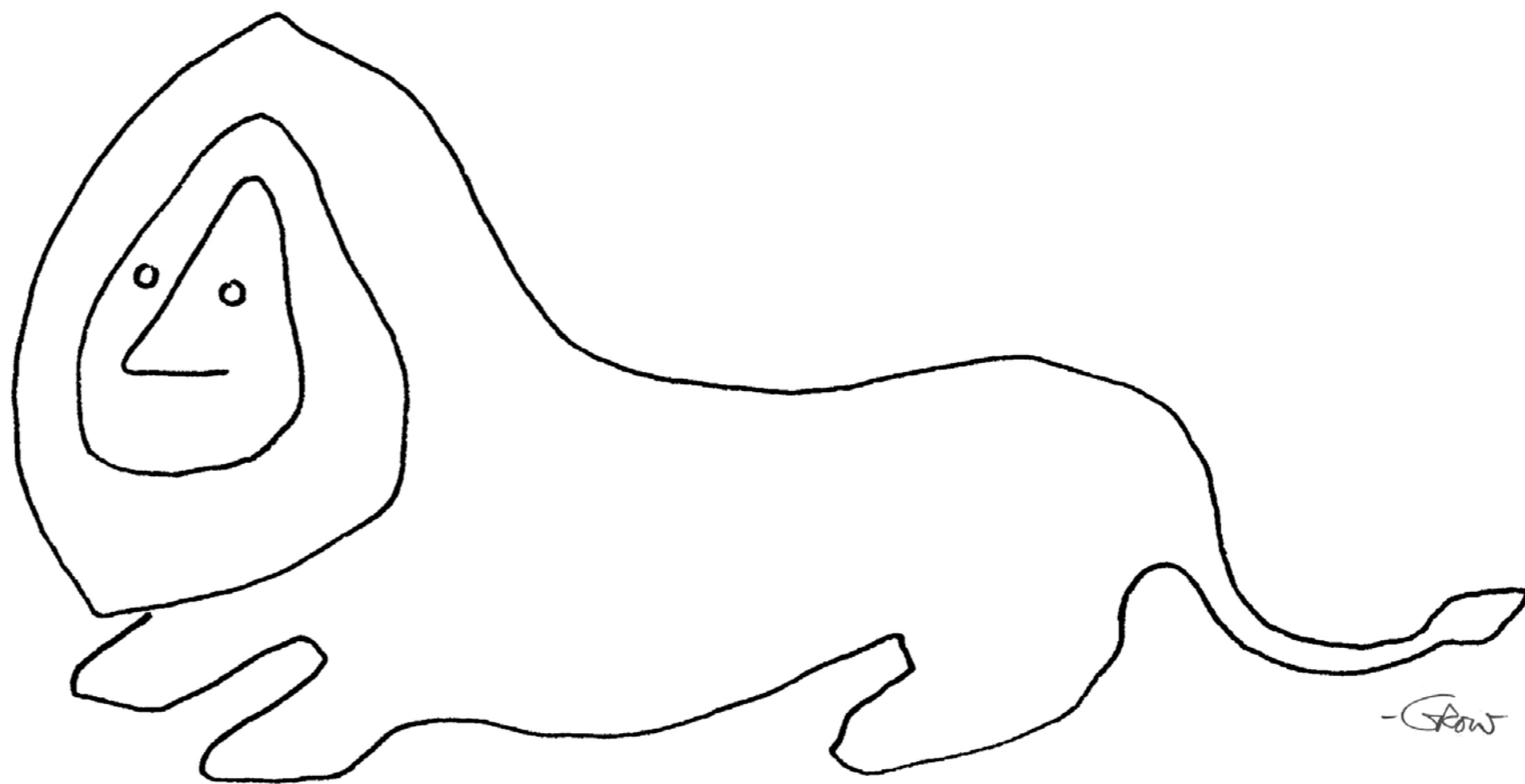




-Glow



CRWS



-Gow



I'M LOOKING FOR THE OTHER HALF
OF A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP.



LOVE ME,
LOVE MY NEUROSIS!

Grow



And then my lower back
slipped out



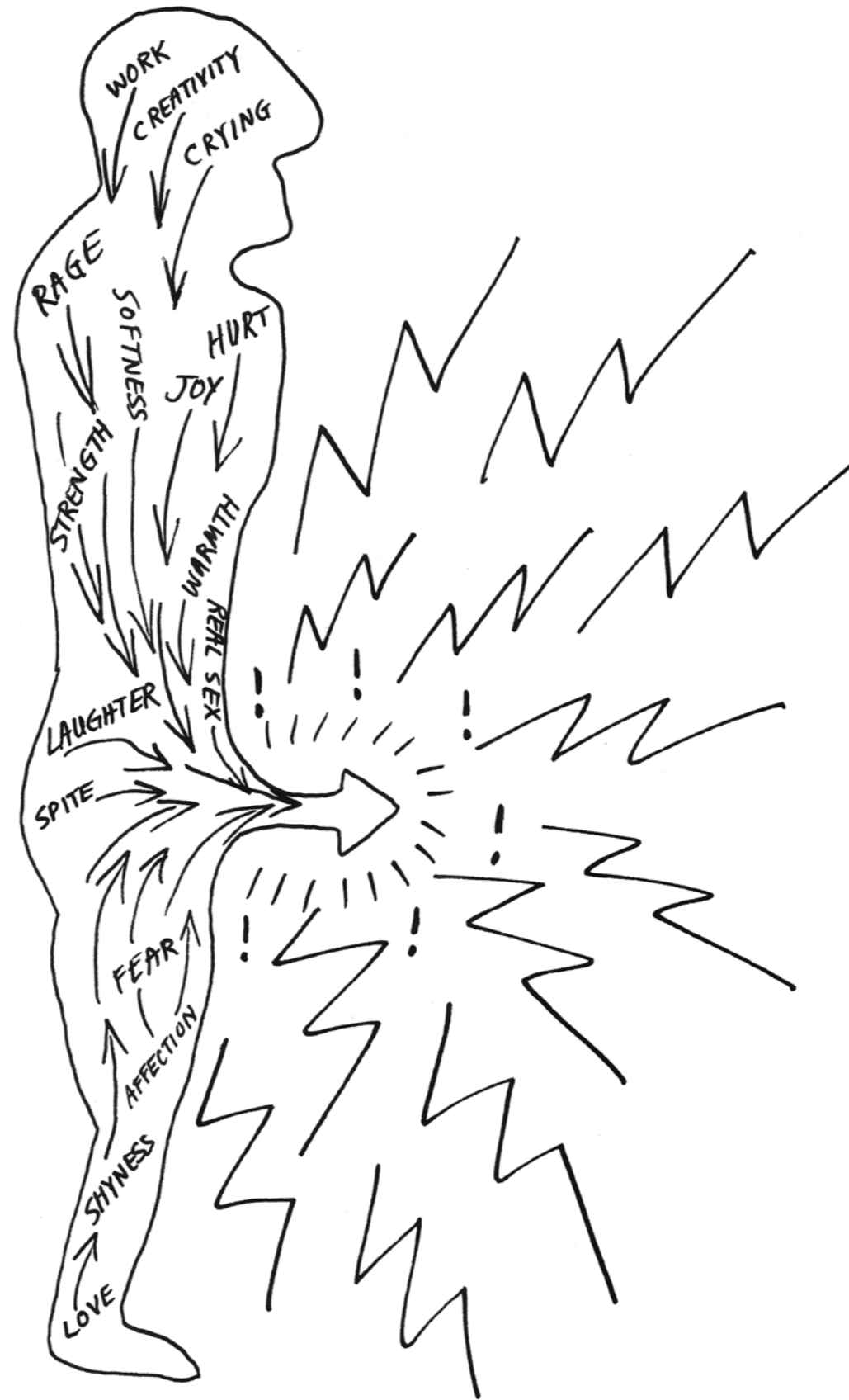
MAHAKALA WITH A HANGOVER, TRYING TO REMEMBER
WHERE HE LEFT THE DHARMA LAST NIGHT.



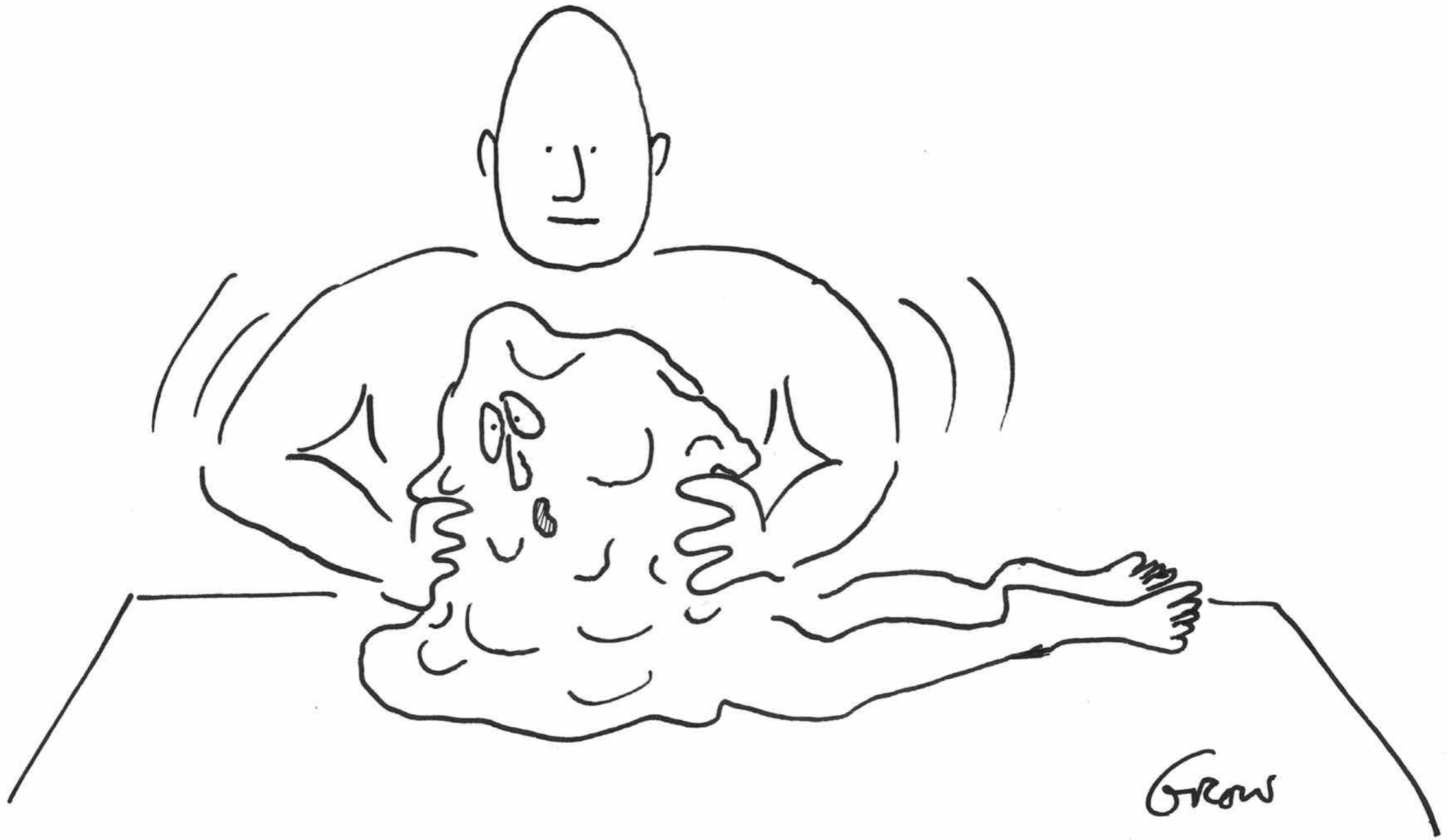
Making bread again,
I see...

- Gow





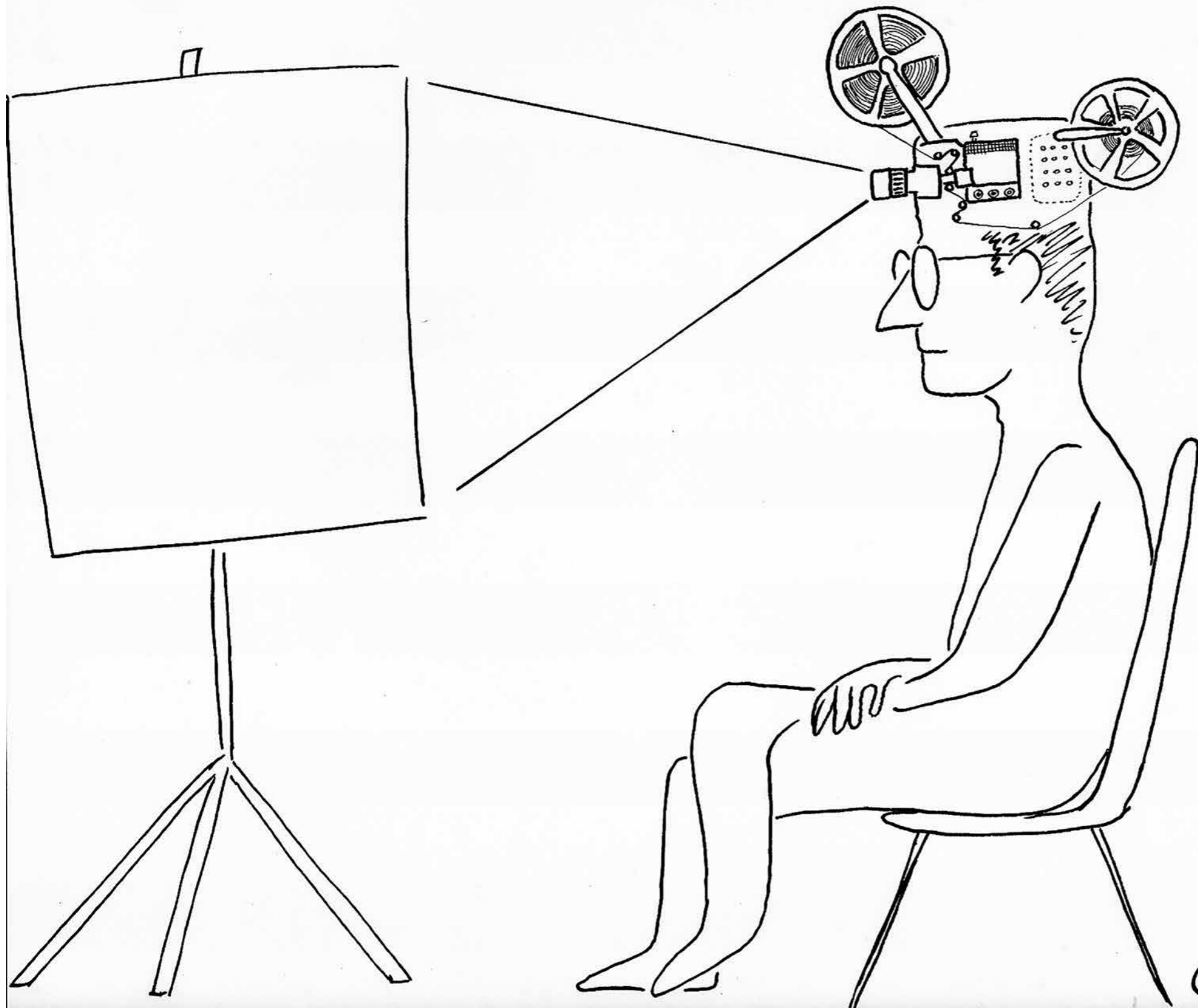
When men stifle their other feelings, sex becomes overburdened and all-important.





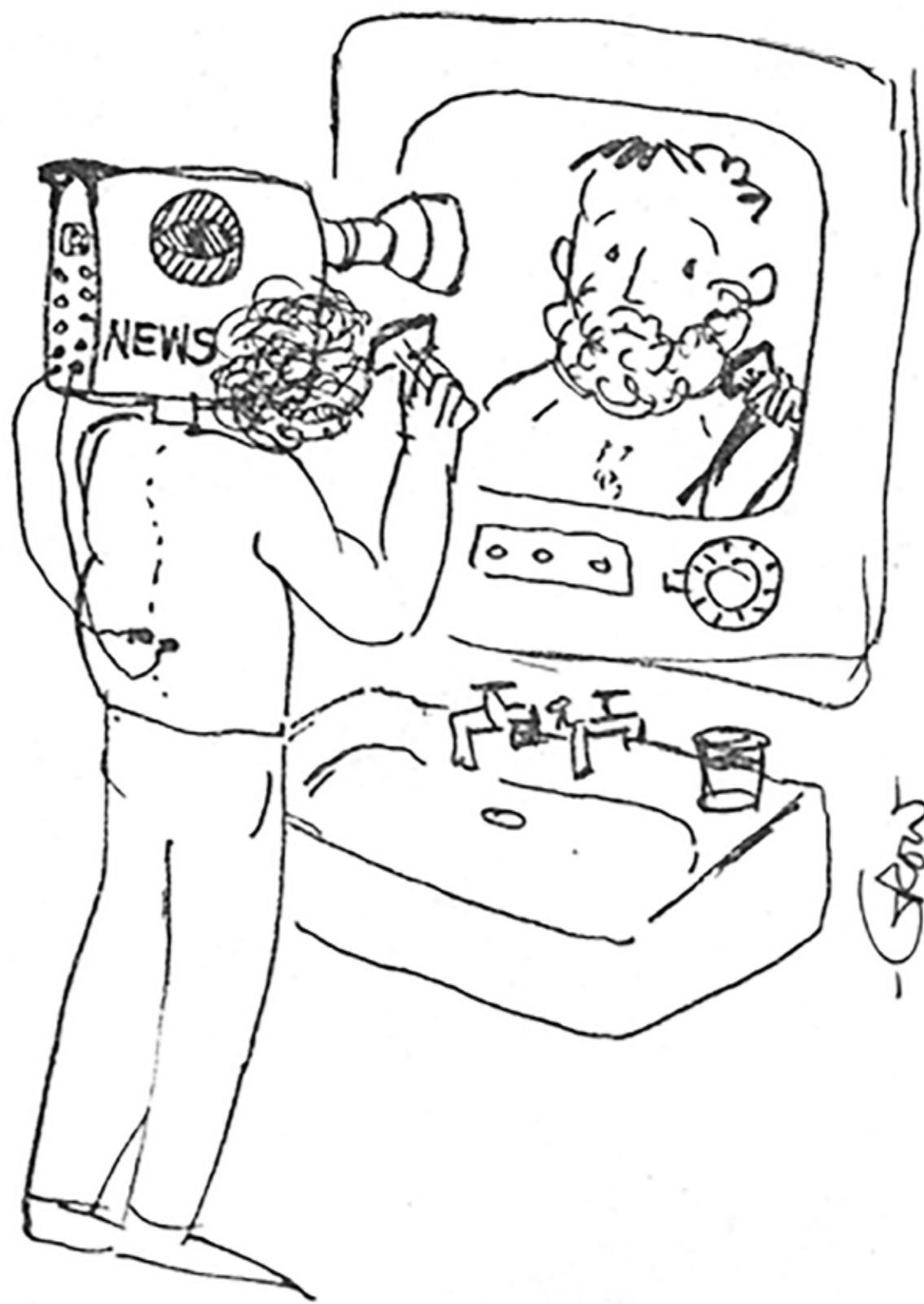


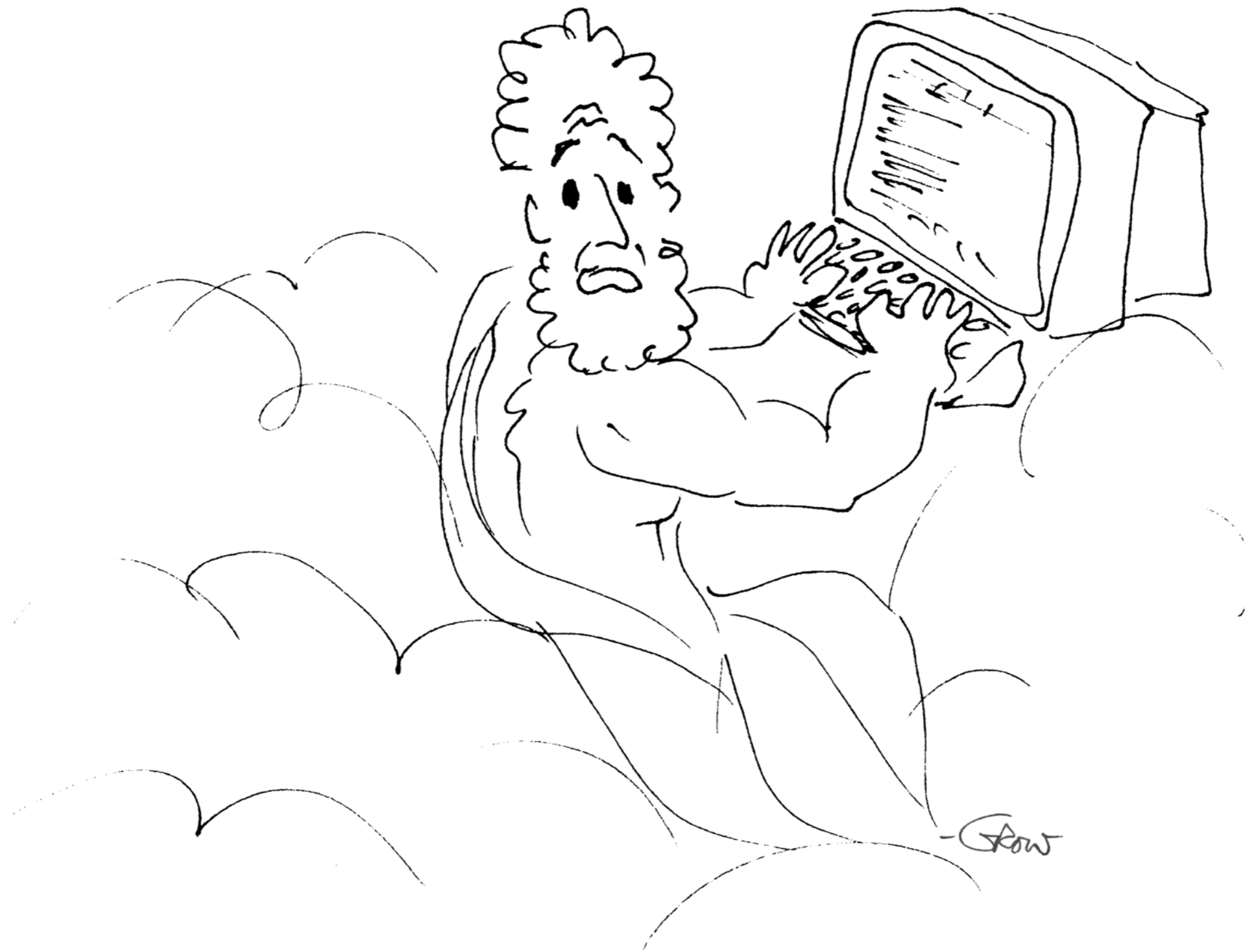
But we do seem to have an opening for a "mentor."



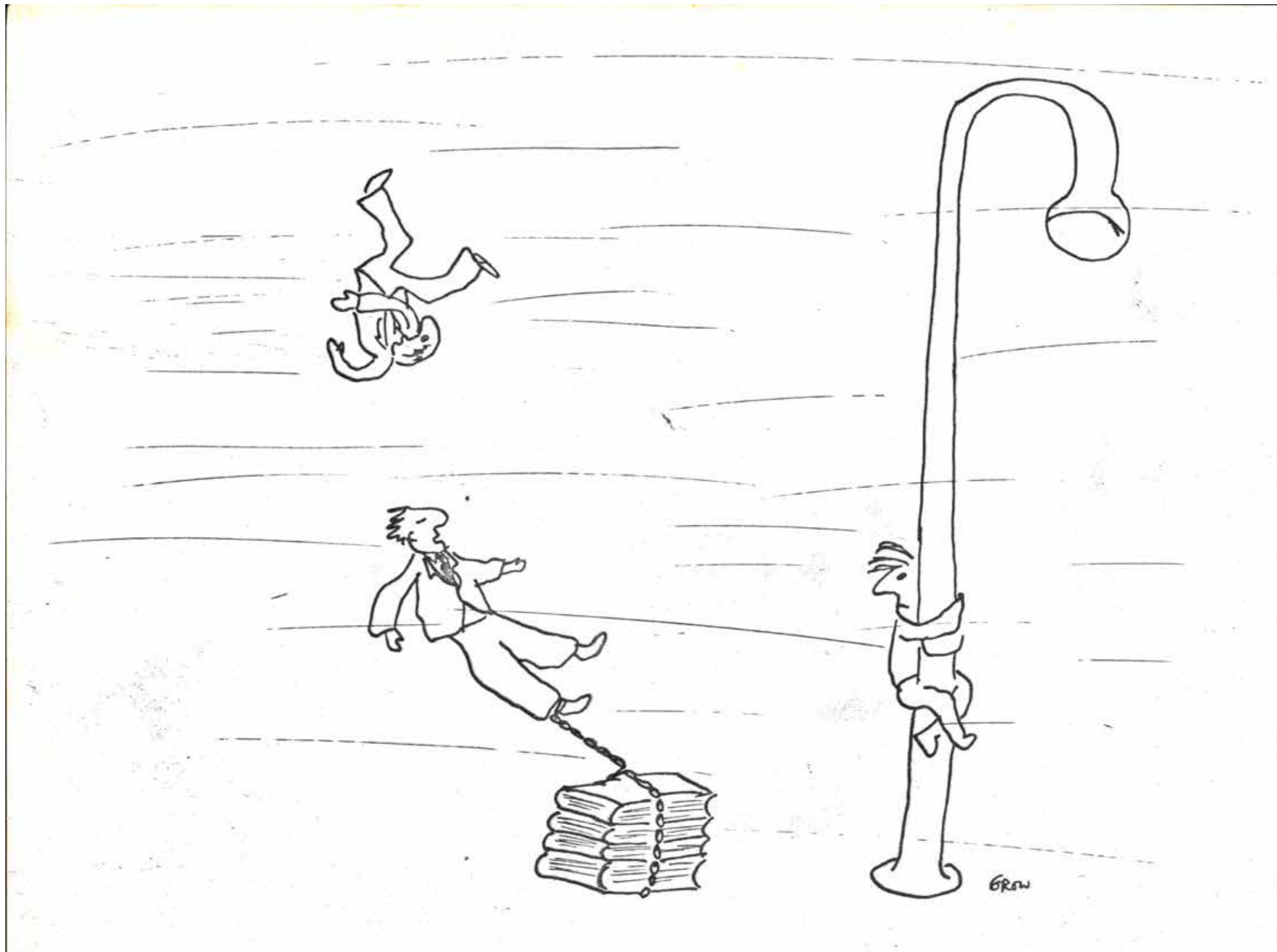
Grow





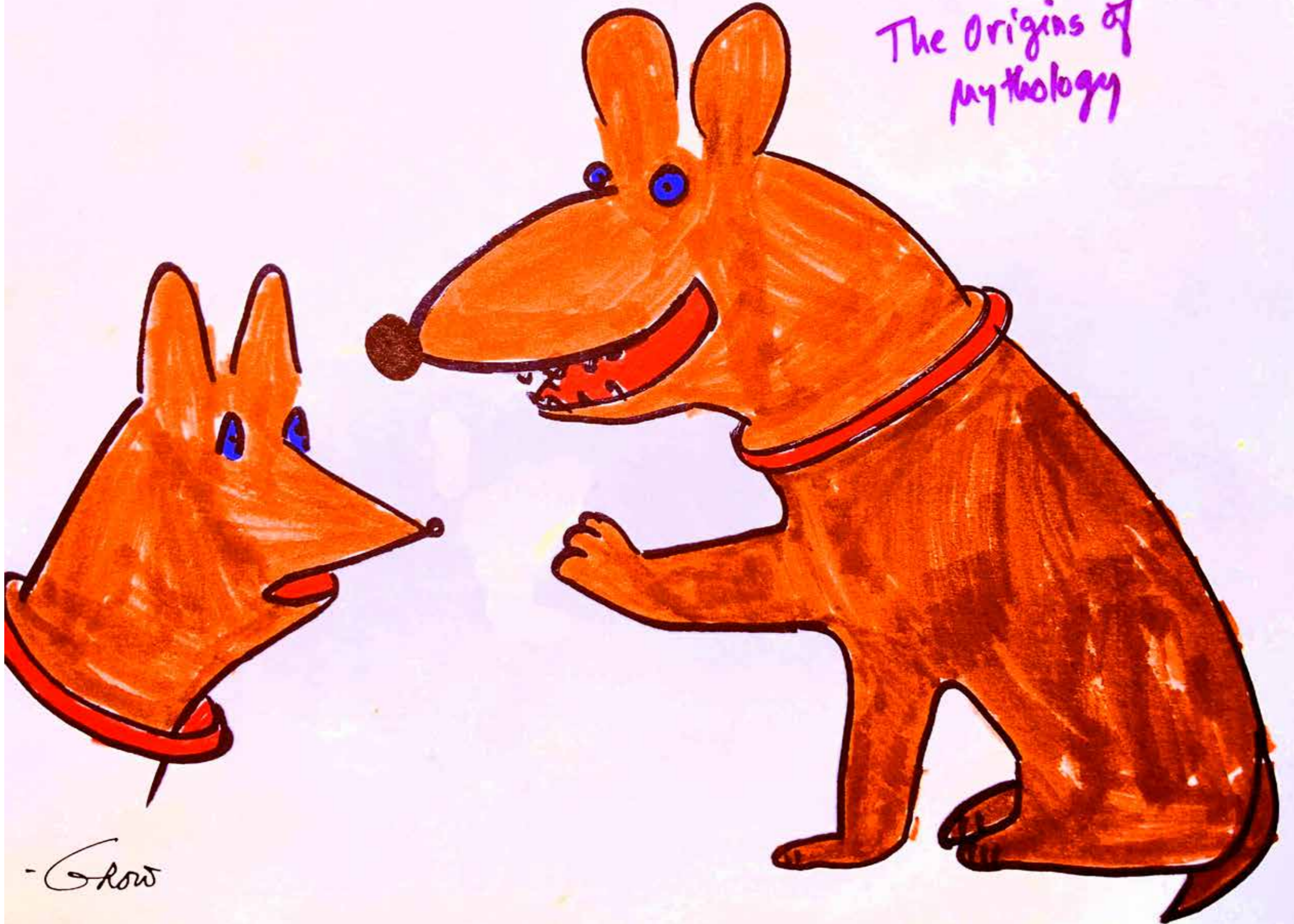


On the Internet, no one knows you're a GOD!

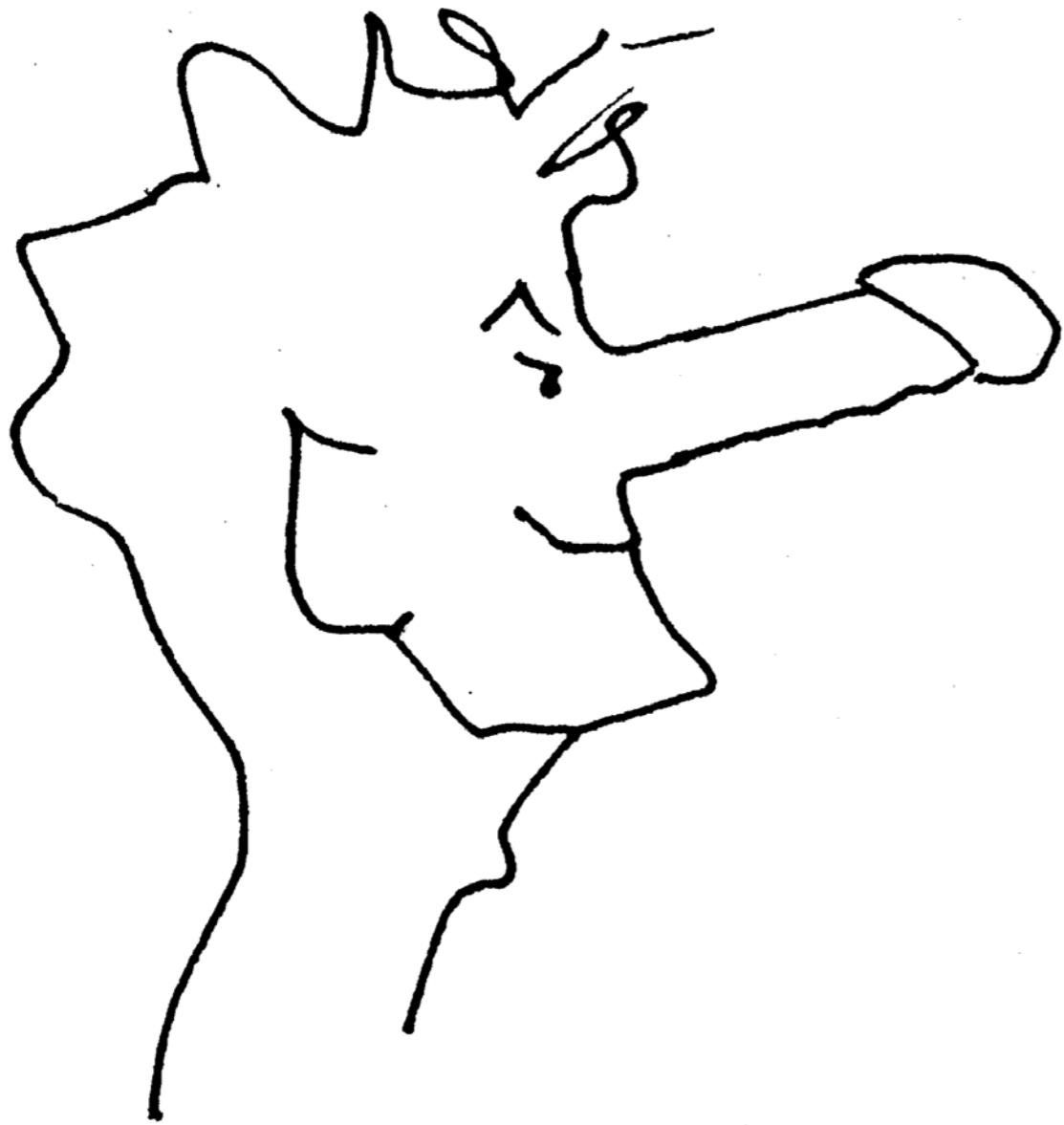


Why, no, strictly speaking, we do not require teachers to publish.

The Origins of
Mythology



- Grow



-Graw

This paper is clearly plagiarized...



-Row

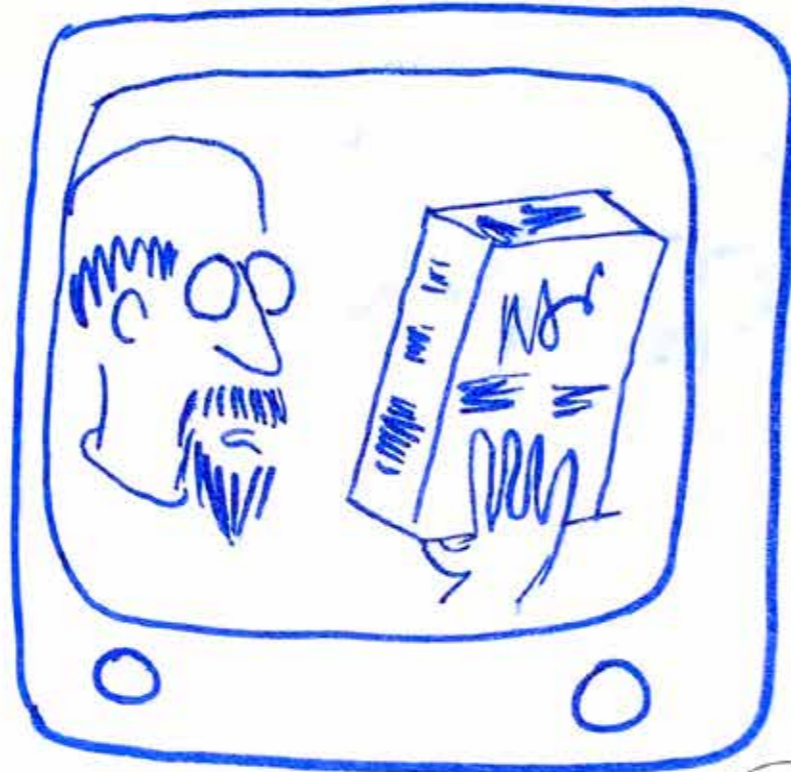
...Every word in it was taken
directly from the dictionary...





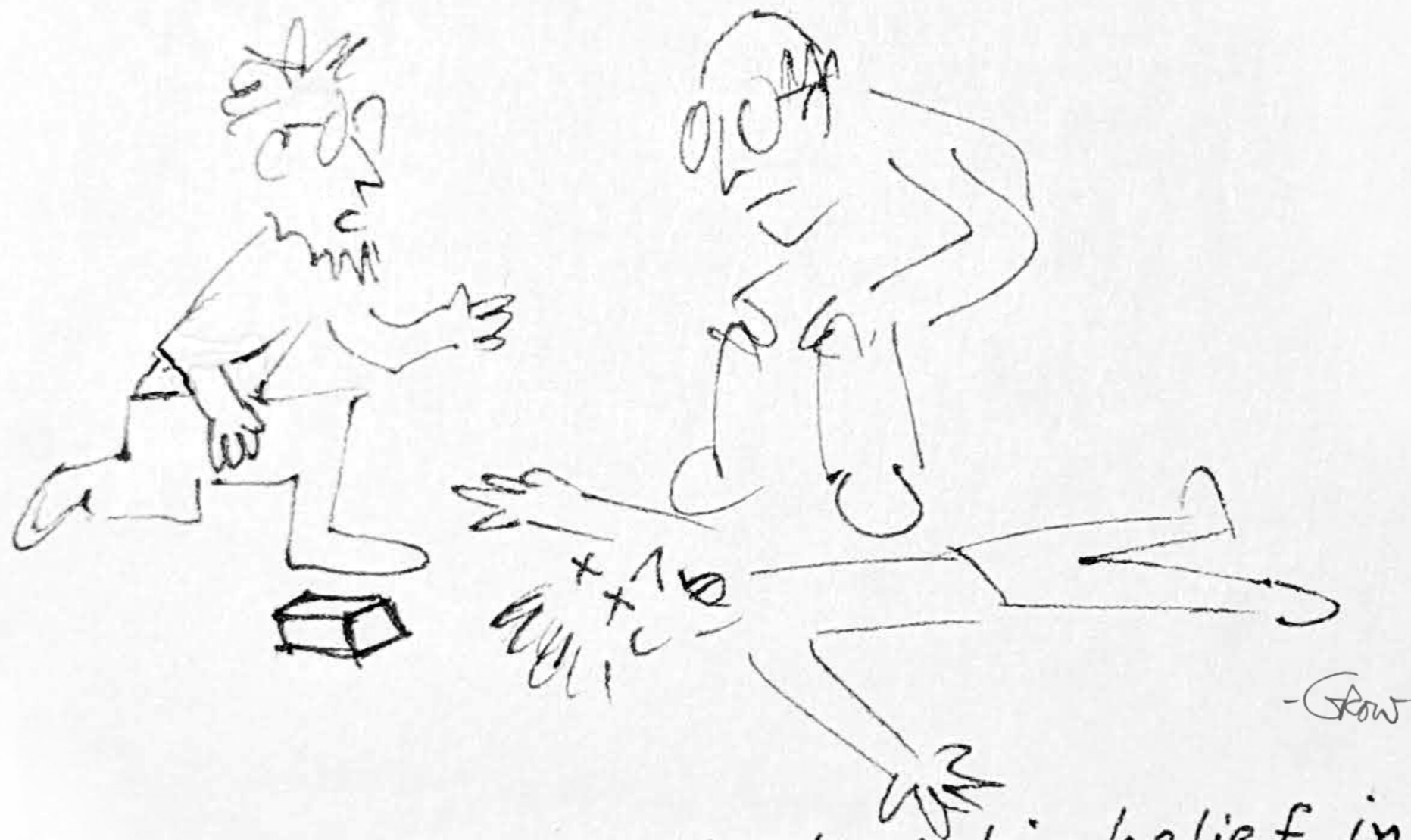
As a philosopher, he's very conscious of the concrete images beneath his metaphors.

Why Philosophers don't appear on TV commercials



... But if you actually believe
what the label says, you will
conclude that the product is
both good and not good, healthy
and not healthy, and you will
be mired in contradictions...

-Row



I conclude that his belief in
this brick was fully justified.



-Gow

So now you understand
why contradiction is
unacceptable.



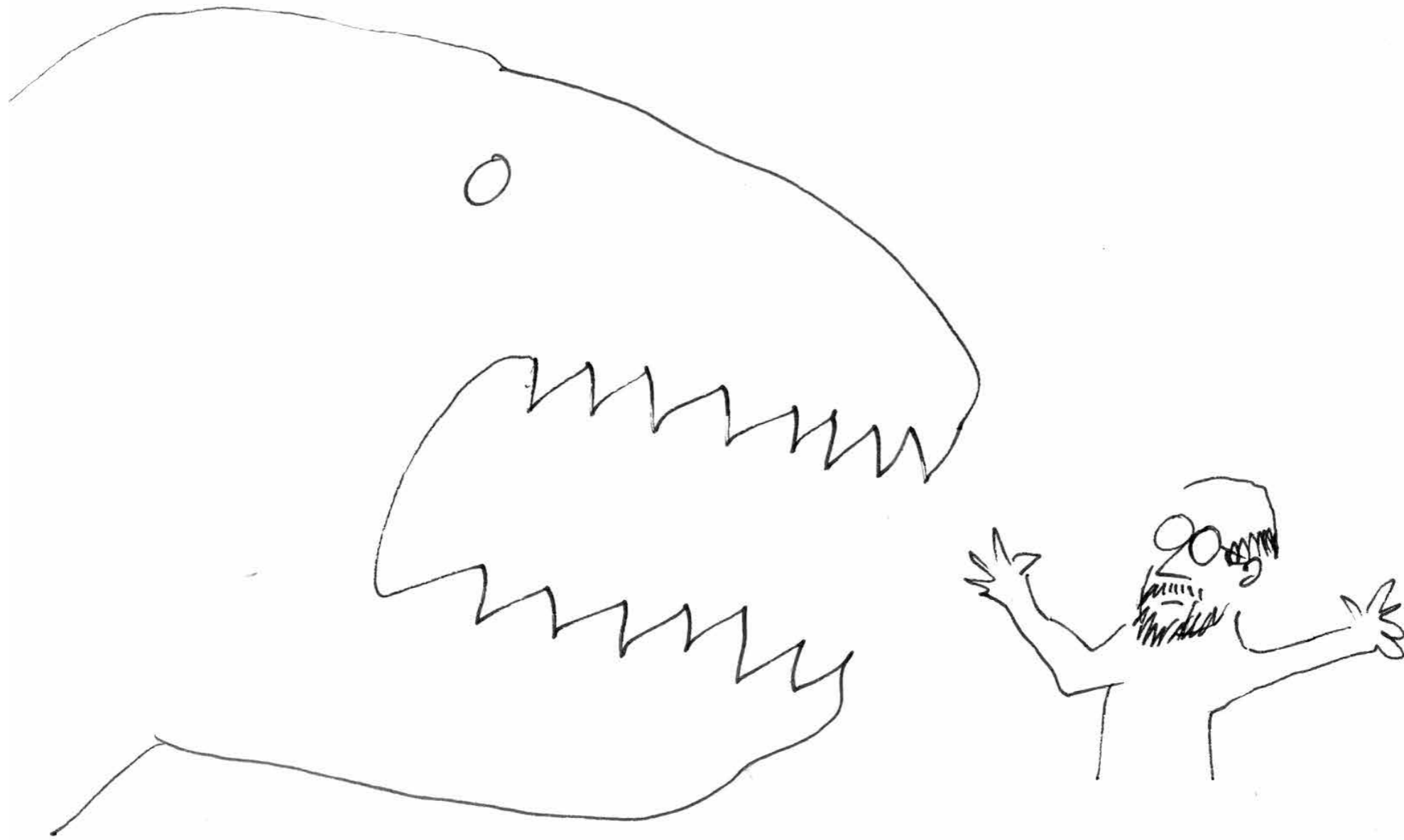
The Jones family engaged in a dialectical discourse for the purpose of determining truth and avoiding error.



Why philosophers don't argue
with octopi



Yesterday, I found out that I am a cartoon character, and I've spent all night trying to decide if I'm the lines or the spaces in between.



-Gow

Now, go through the argument again slowly.
If proposition P_2 proves consistent,
I won't eat you.

If Socrates returned
... as a cabbie



-Gow

Do not all men agree, dear
rider, that no person can be
in two places at the
same time...?

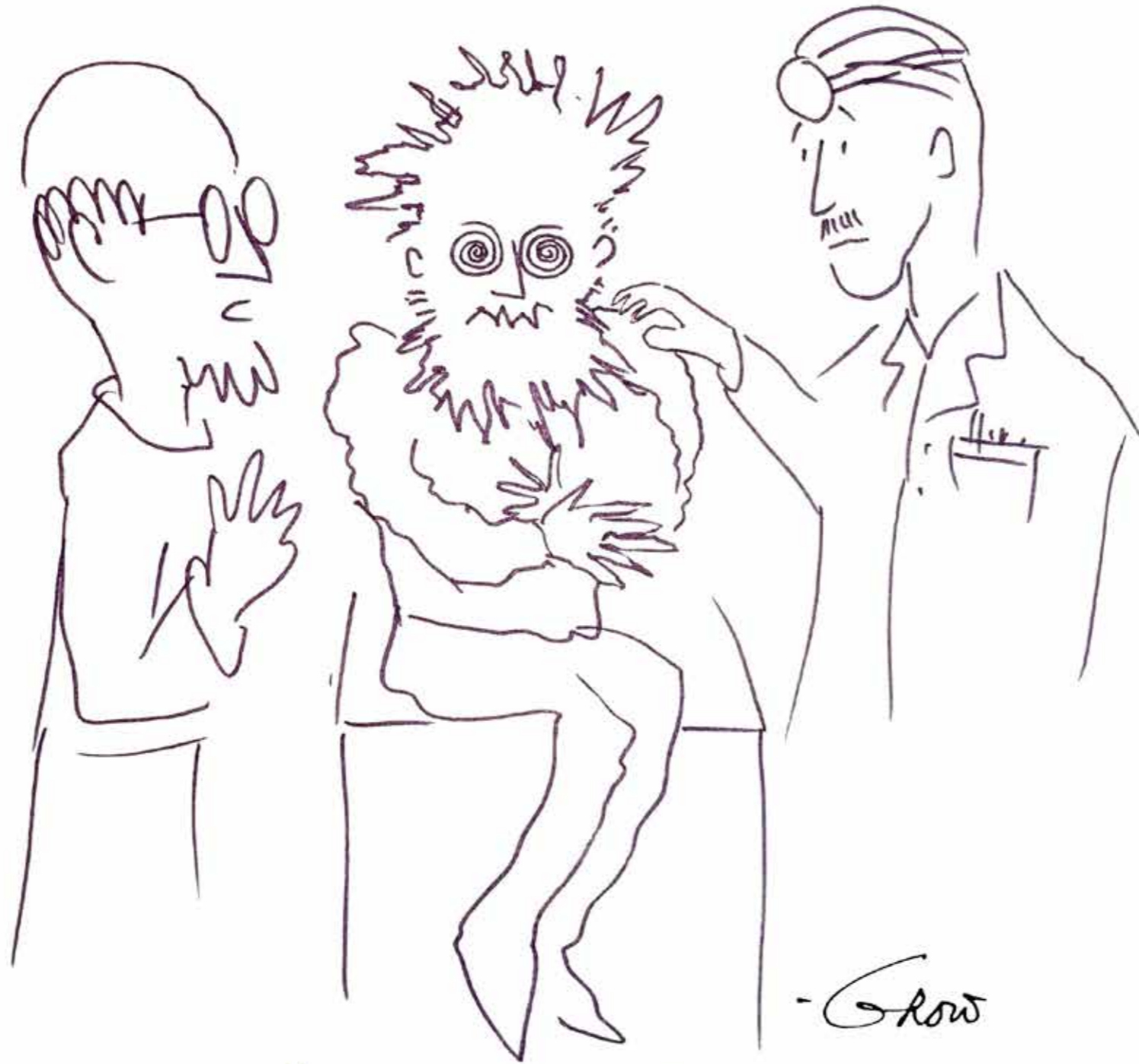


How did people ever do ^{-Gow} philosophy before coffee?

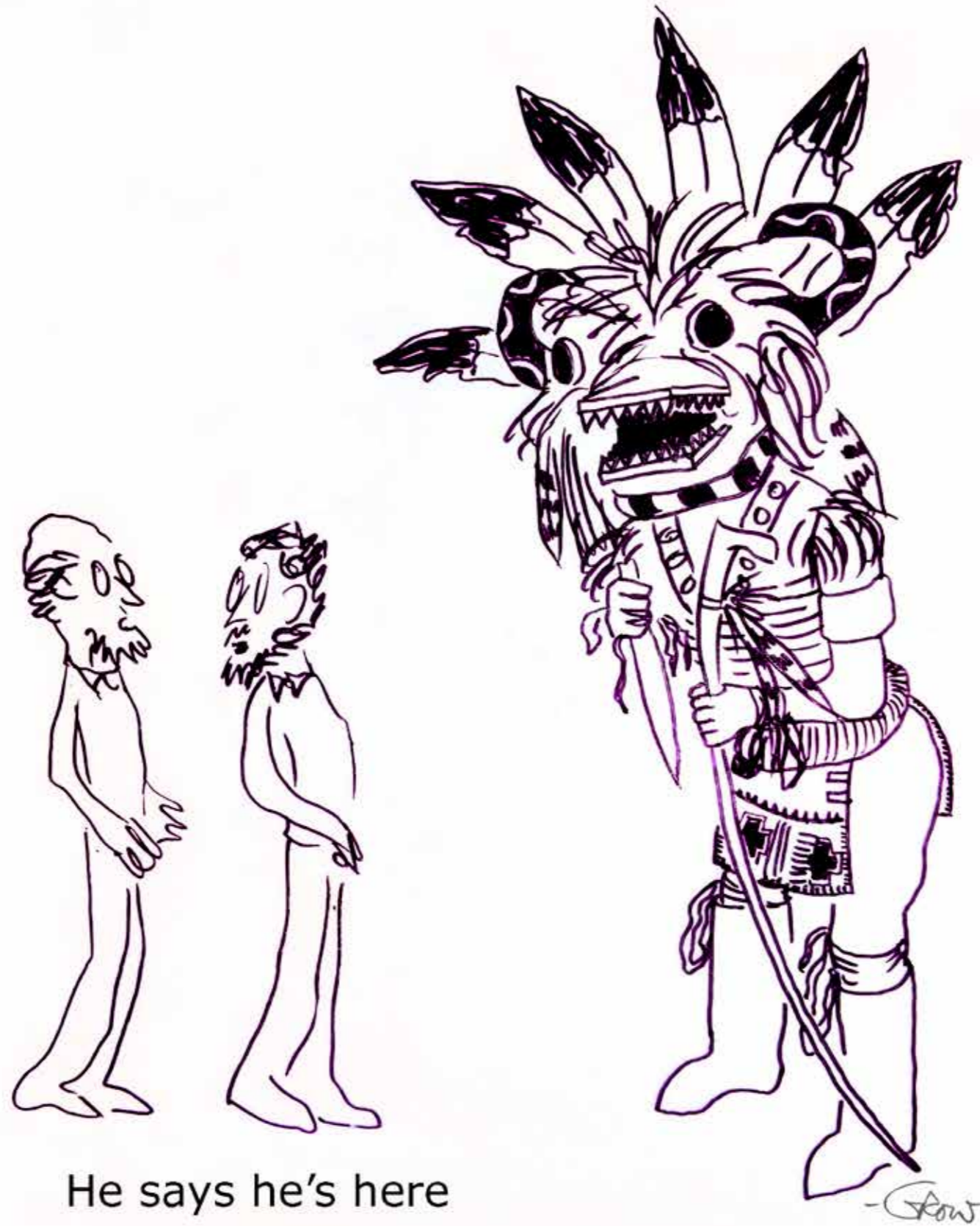


-GROW

What if things are pretending
to be what they really are?



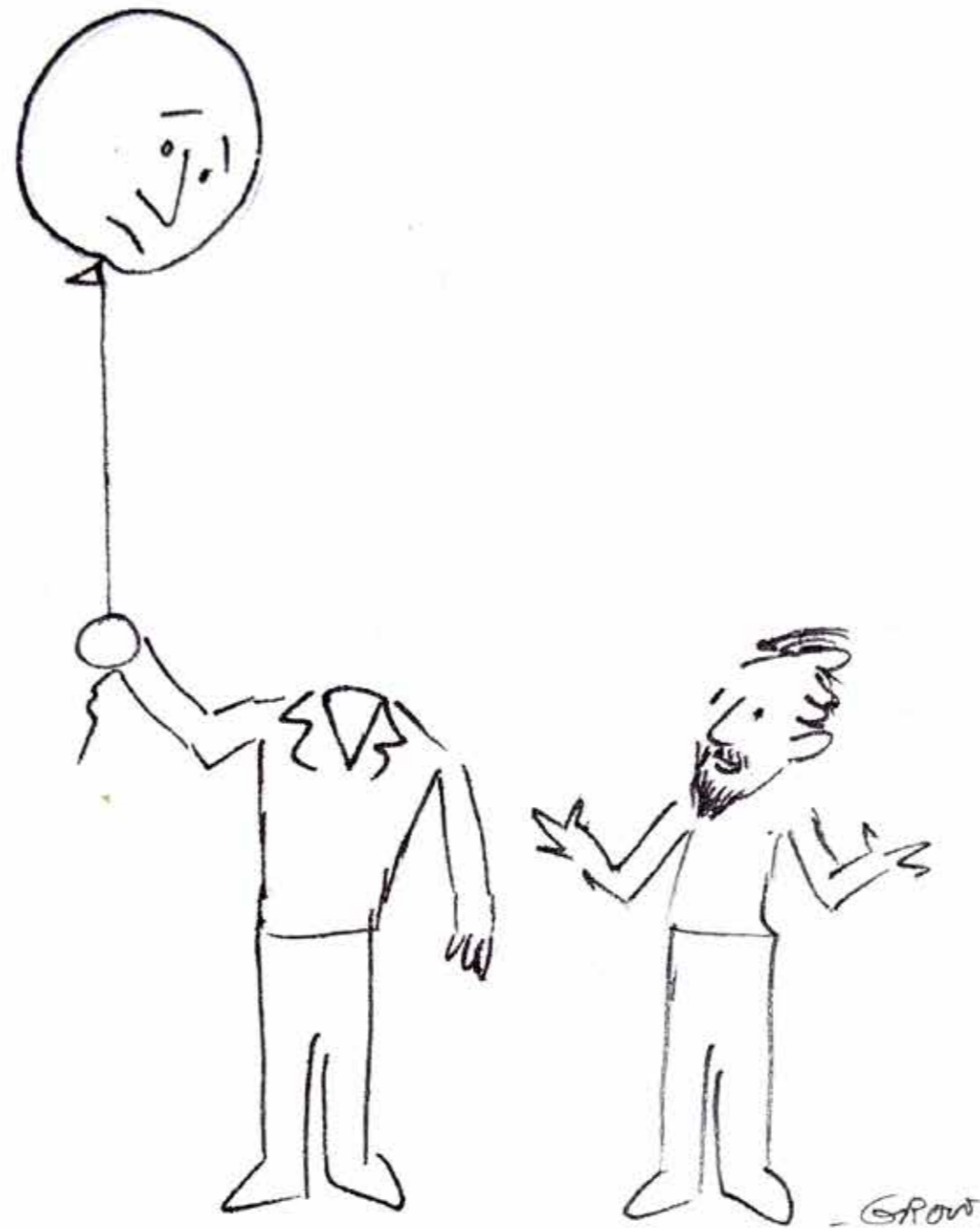
He read so much Plotinus
that all his categories
blew out.



He says he's here
for the seminar on wisdom.



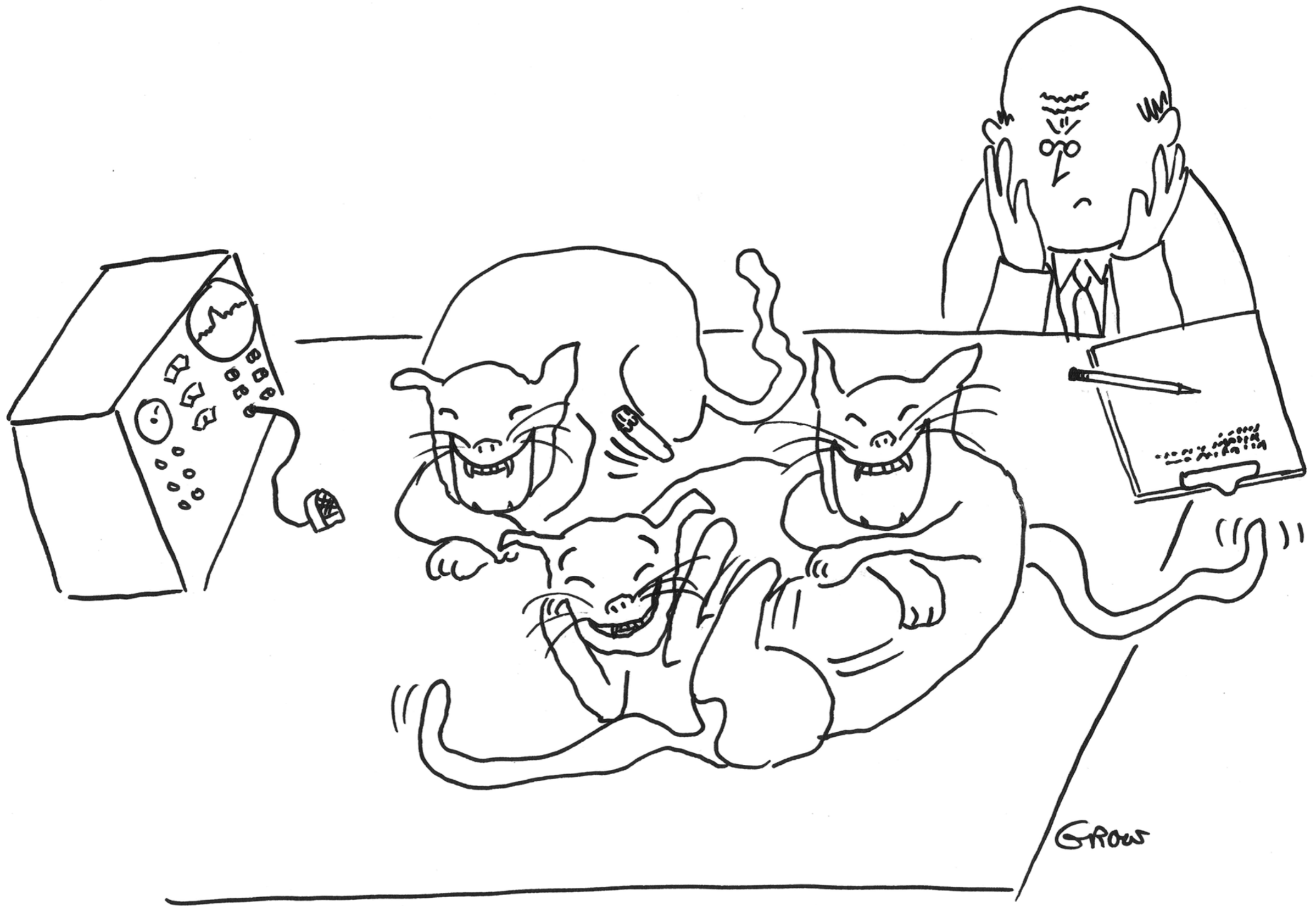
THE ENTIRE PRACTICE OF PHILOSOPHY
IS BASED ON CERTAIN HIDDEN
ASSUMPTIONS — THE MOST IMPORTANT
OF WHICH IS THAT YOU BE ABLE TO
THINK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION FOR
MORE THAN TEN SECONDS AT
THE TIME!



THAT TENDS TO HAPPEN WHEN
YOU DO TOO MUCH PHILOSOPHY AND
DON'T GET ENOUGH EXERCISE.

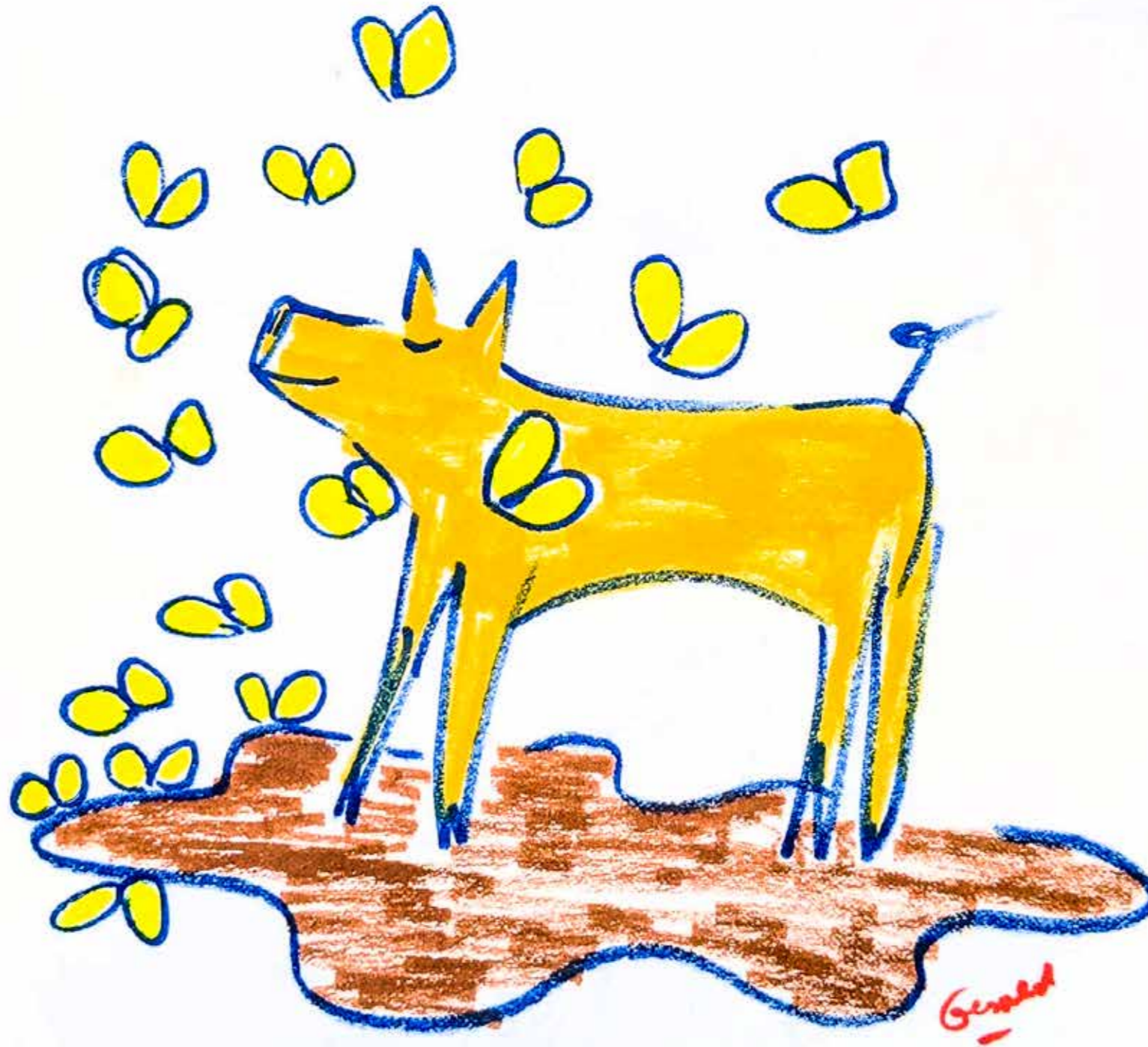


Some experts in Eastern thought do not take kindly to analytical philosophers.



Little is known about the physiology of laughter.

In dry weather, butterflies come to mudpuddles to drink.





—GGrow



WE WILL NOW HAVE A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE
OUT OF PITY FOR ALL THE VEGETARIANS IN THE WORLD.

I WAS ONCE A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT...



I GOT TIRED OF BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO...



I PROTESTED



I DROPPED OUT...



I DROVE A TAXI AND WORKED ON A NOVEL...



I GOT TIRED OF DRIVING A TAXI...



NEVER FINISHED THE NOVEL...



I'VE COME BACK TO SCHOOL...



ADMISSIONS OFFICE

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT TO DO!



Portrait of the Artist

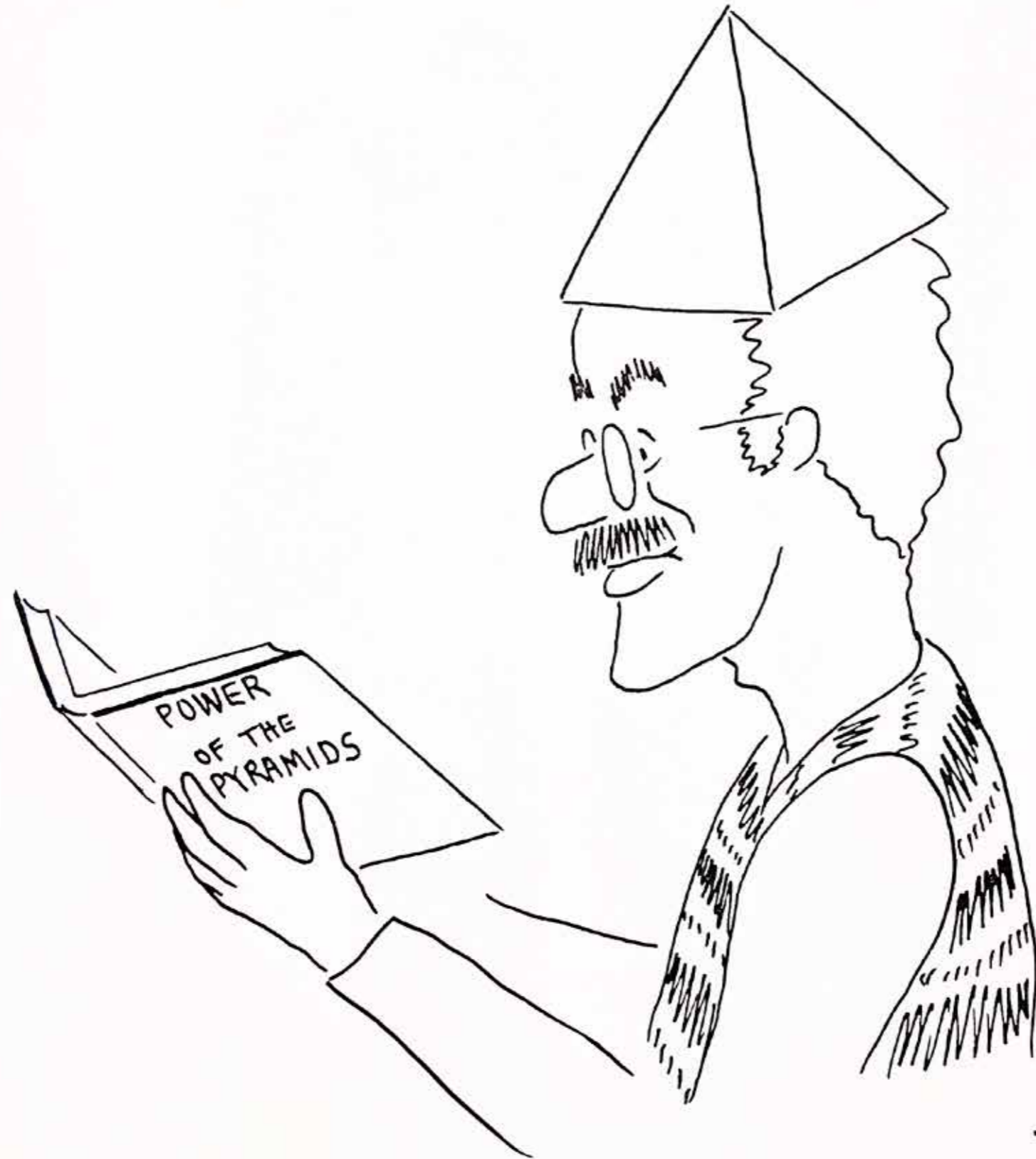


...as a Young God

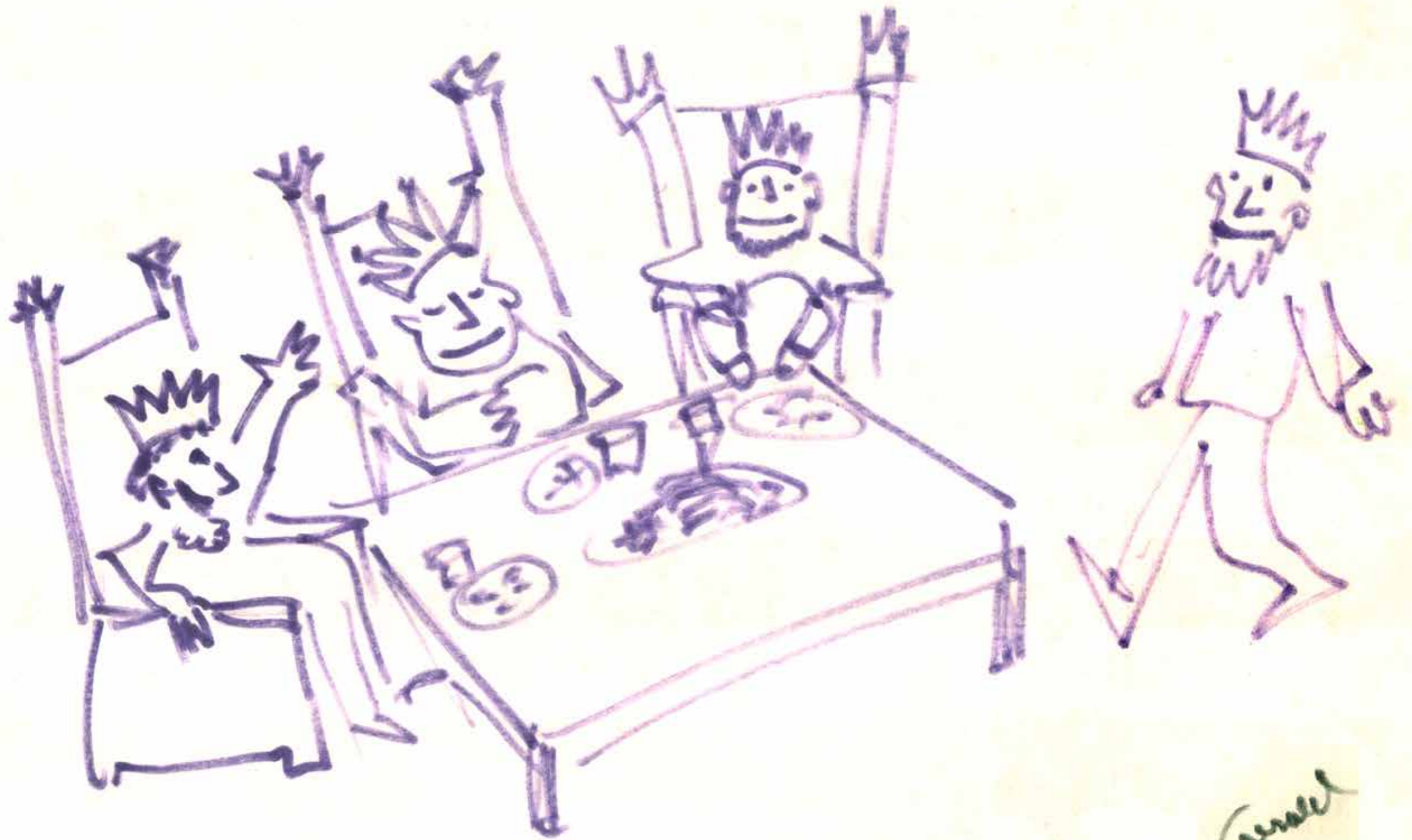


Self-Portrait





- Crow

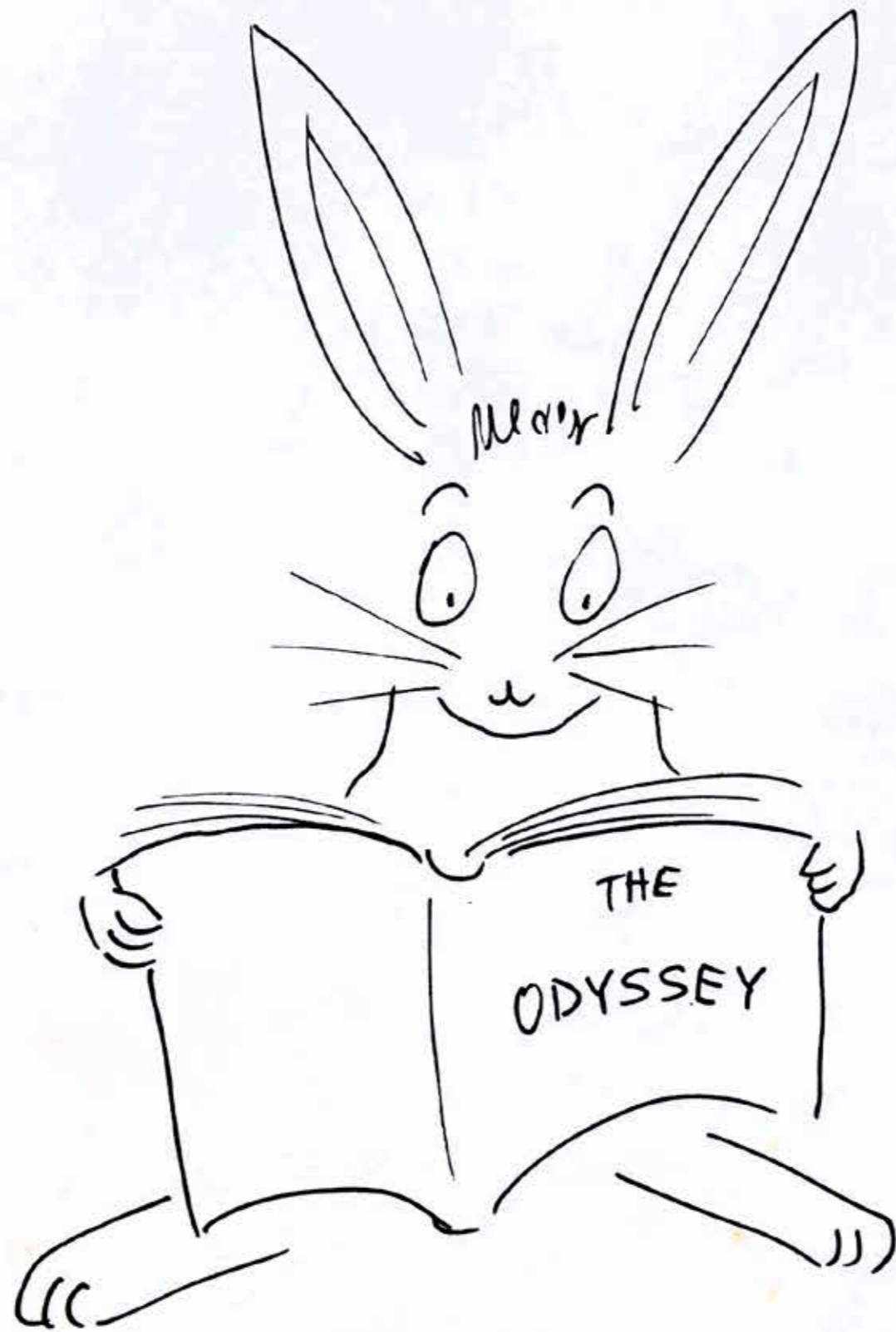


Carroll

Pull up a throne and rest your bones!



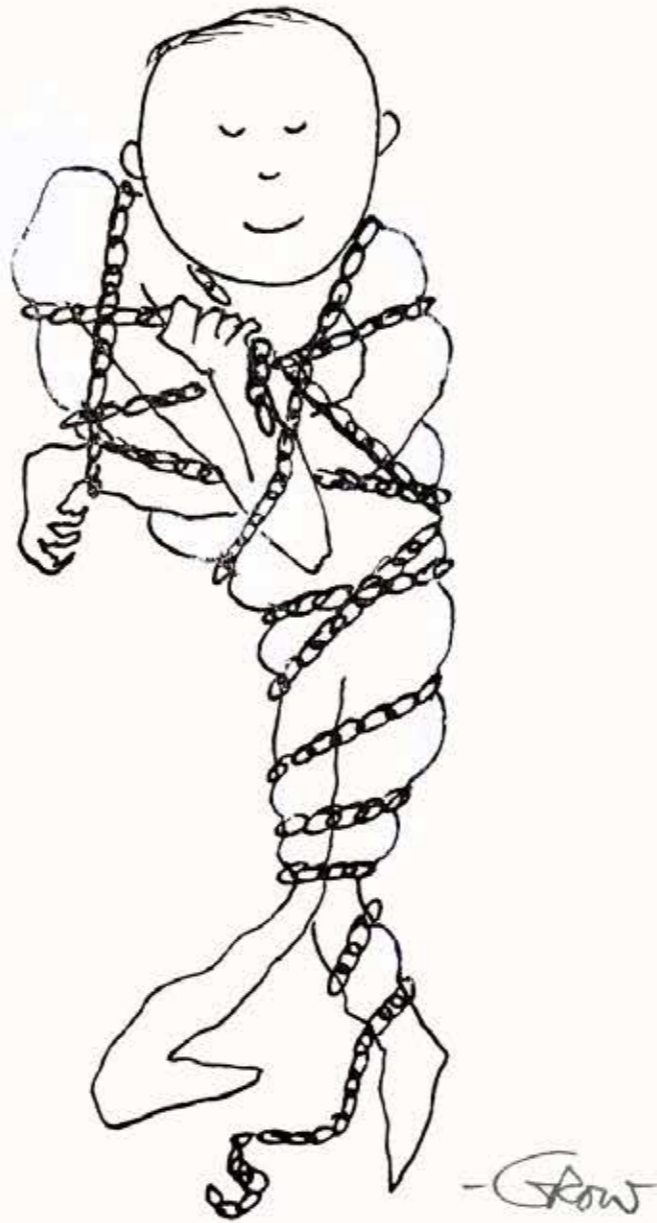
Grows



Melody

THE
ODYSSEY

- Grew



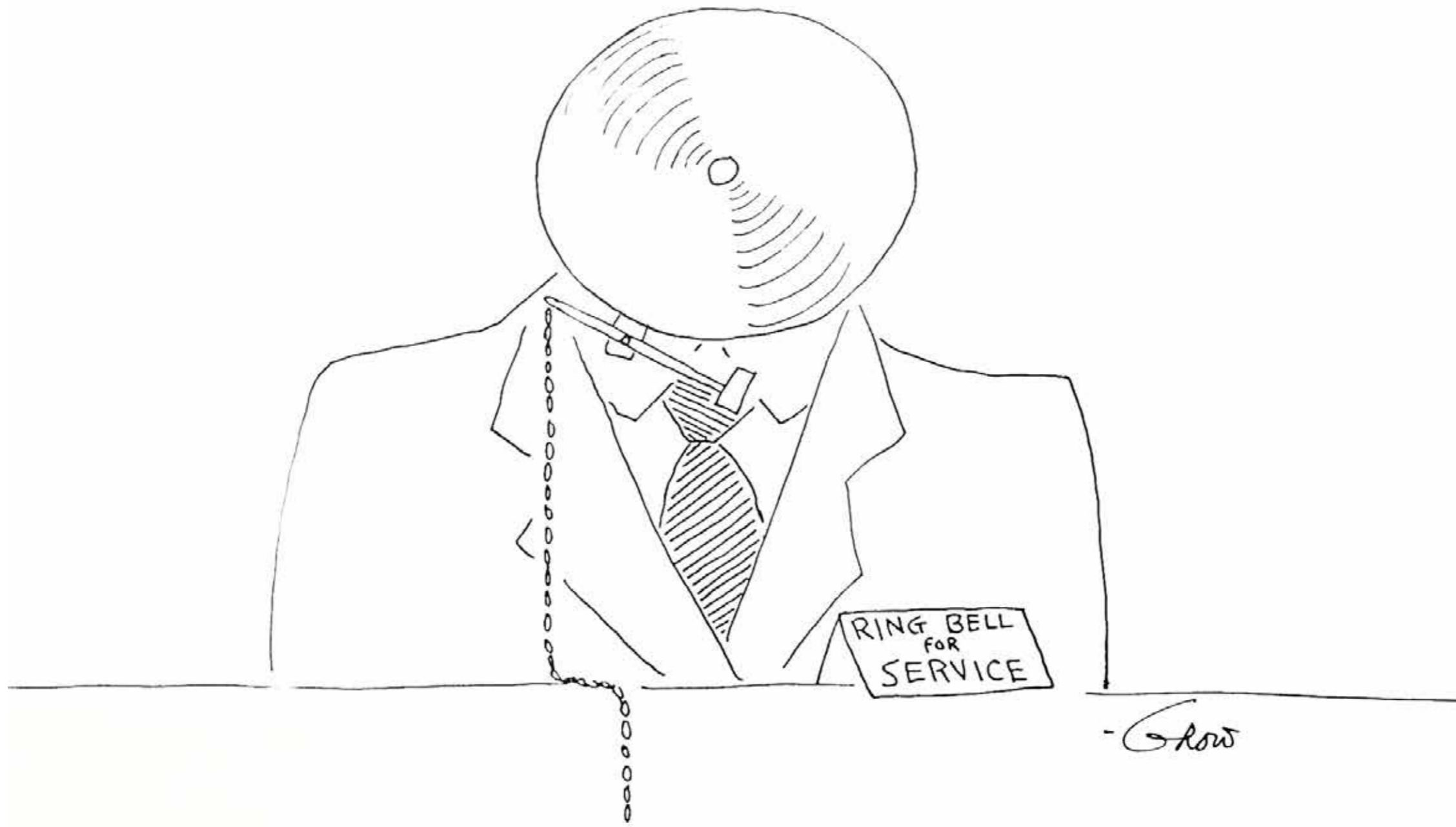
I'M REALLY A VERY
GENTLE PERSON.



I REGRESSED TO ONE OF MY PAST LIVES AND CAN'T GET BACK!

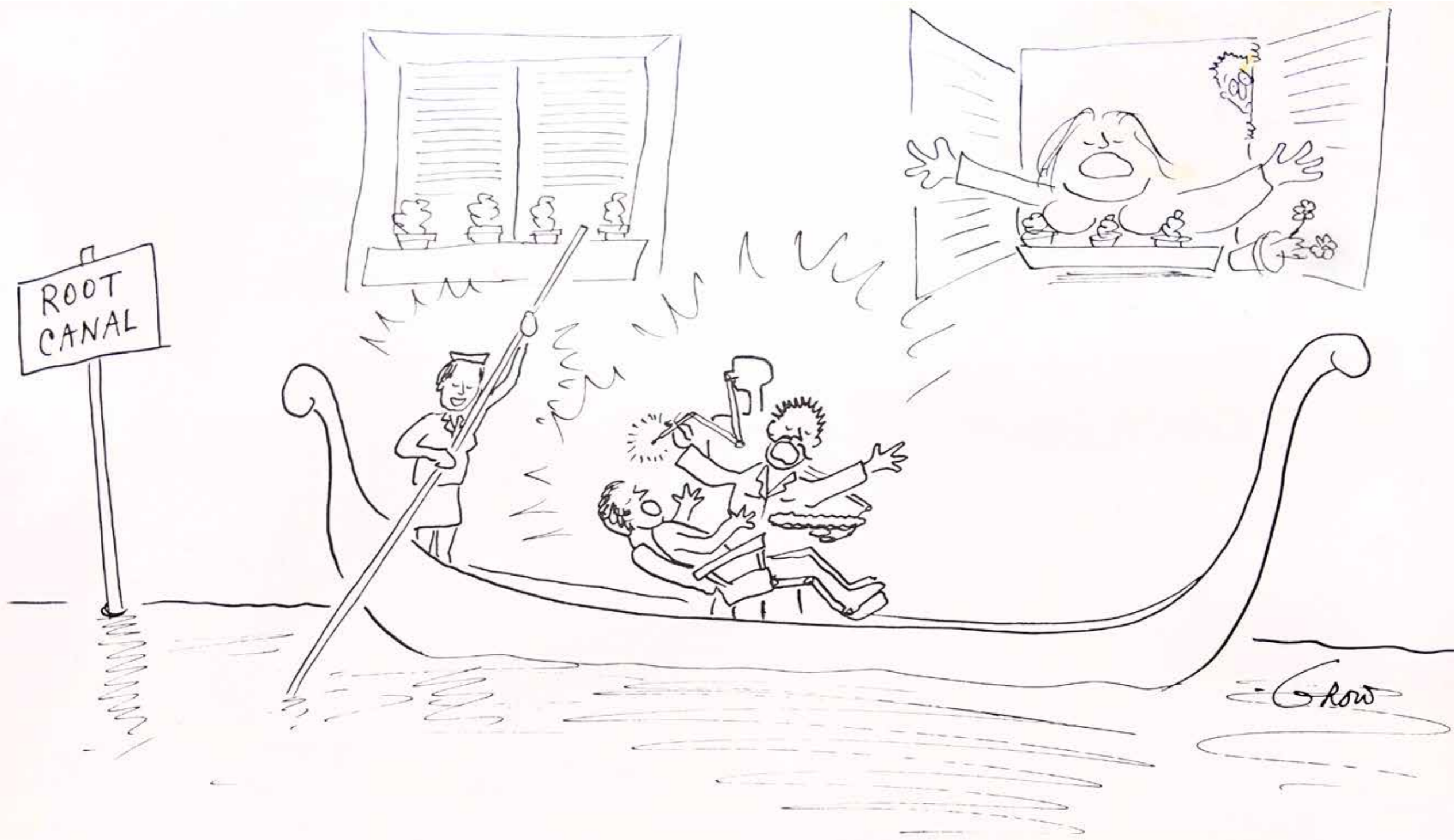


I'm really a repressed extravert. . .



RING BELL
FOR
SERVICE

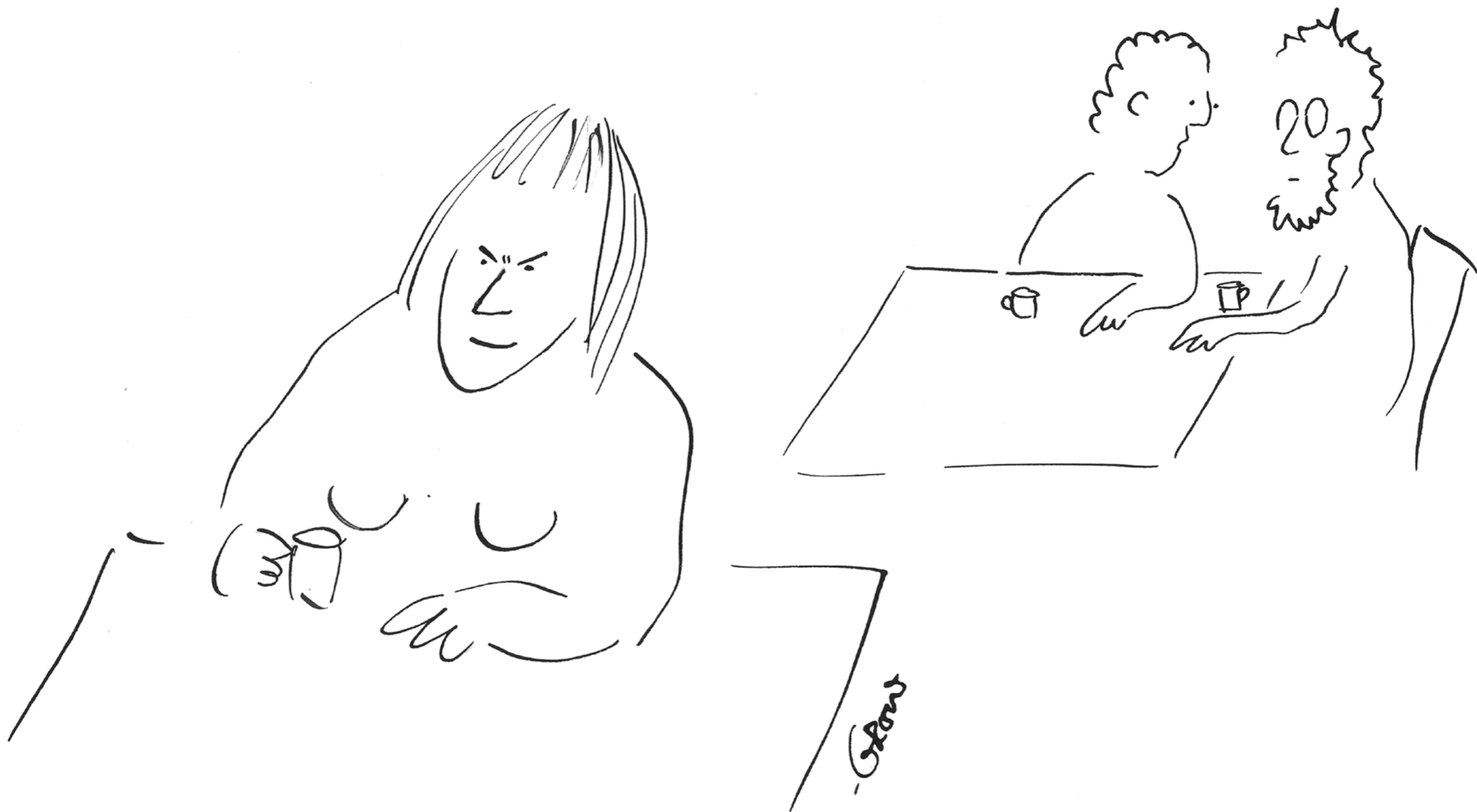
- Crow





-Glow





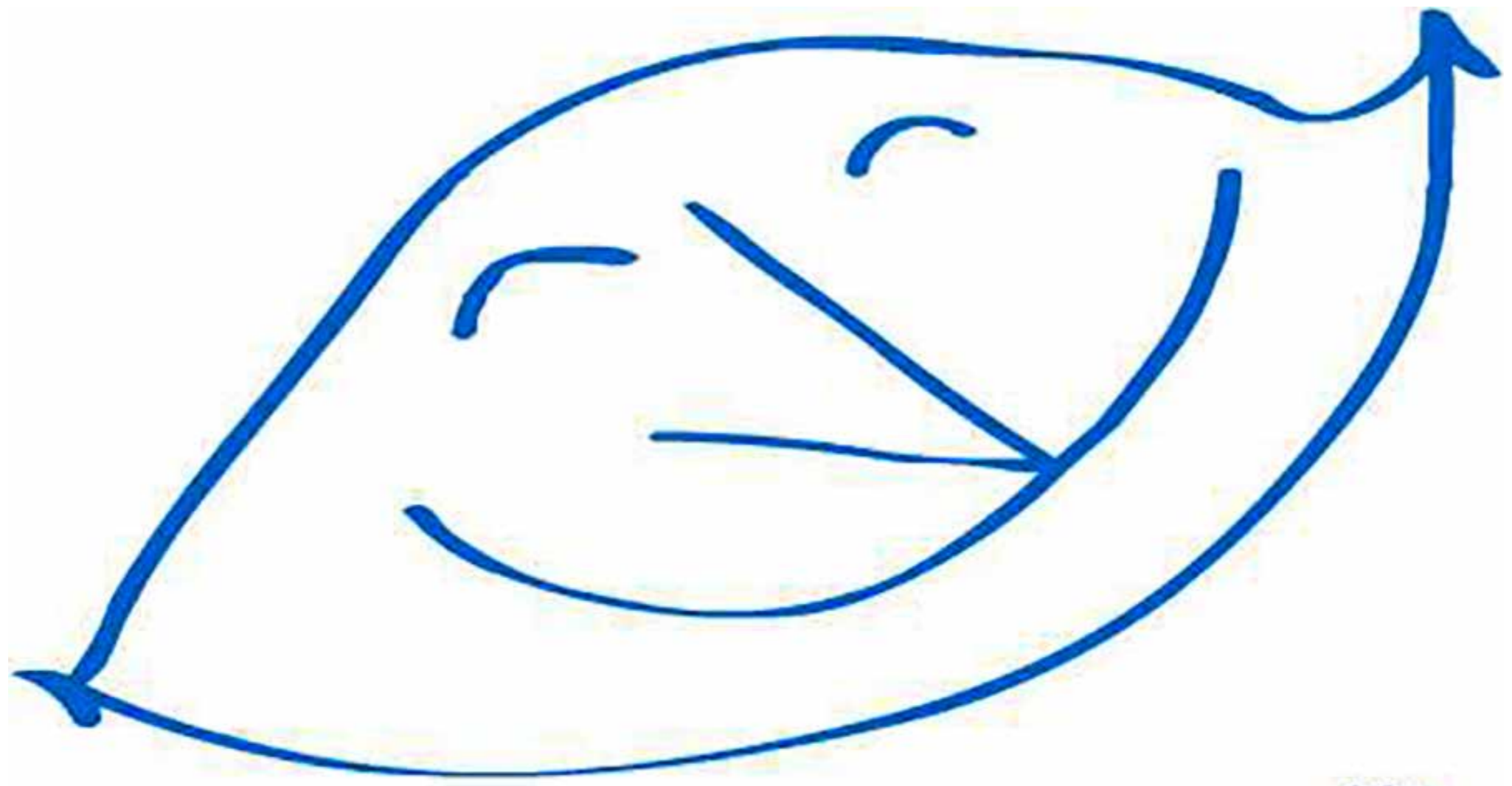
WATCH OUT FOR HER.

SHE CREATES HER OWN REALITY.



-Glow





--G.Grow

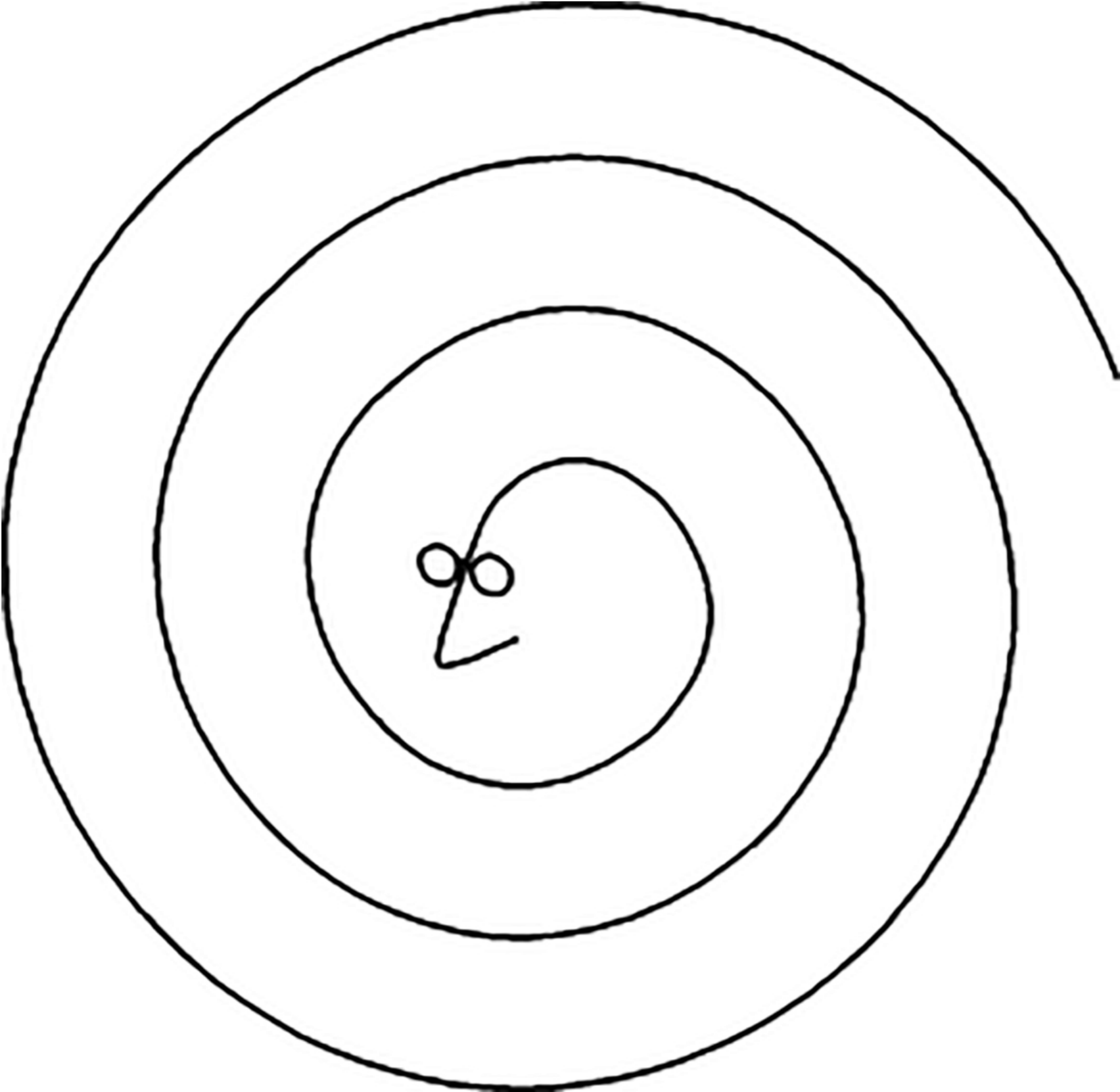


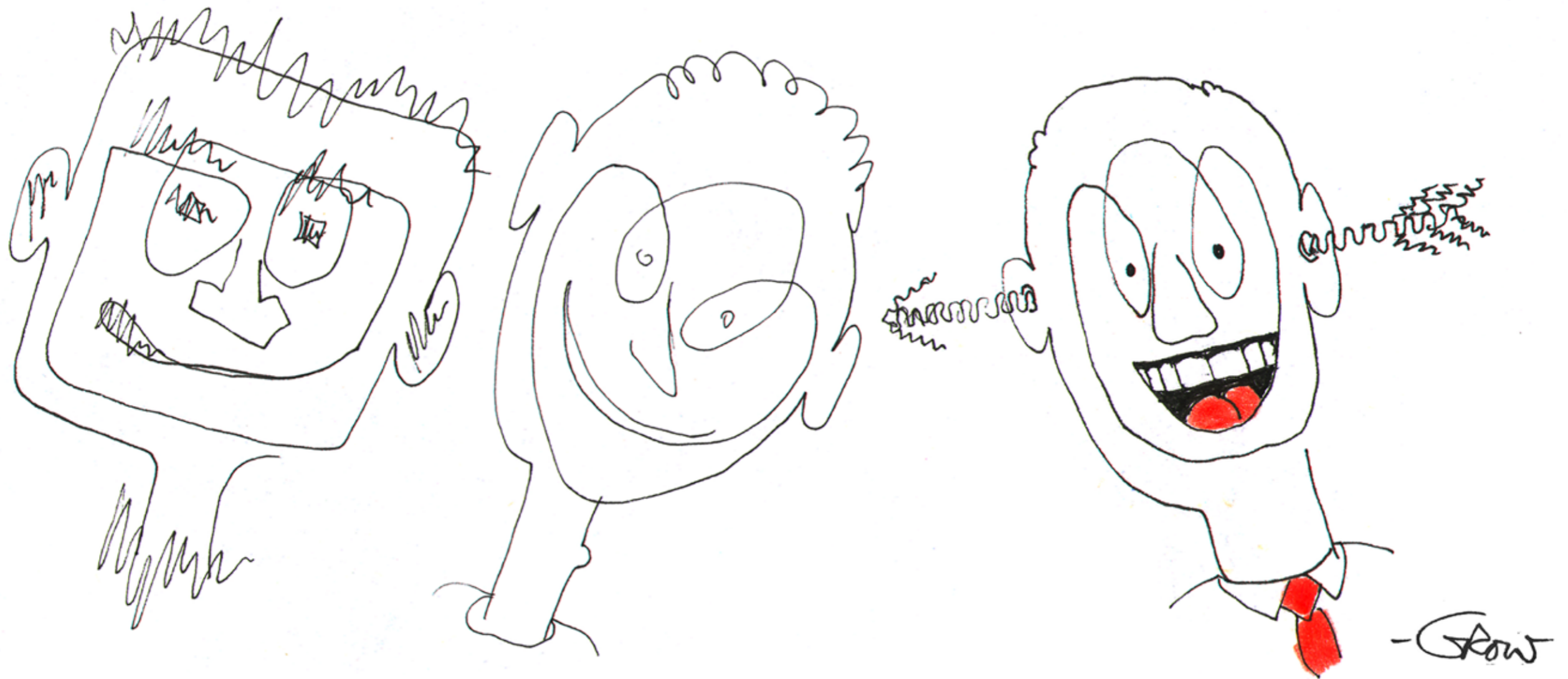
IT'S BEEN ALMOST THIRTY YEARS SINCE I WAS
SO HAPPY I PEED IN MY PANTS.



It has a built-in spell-check!



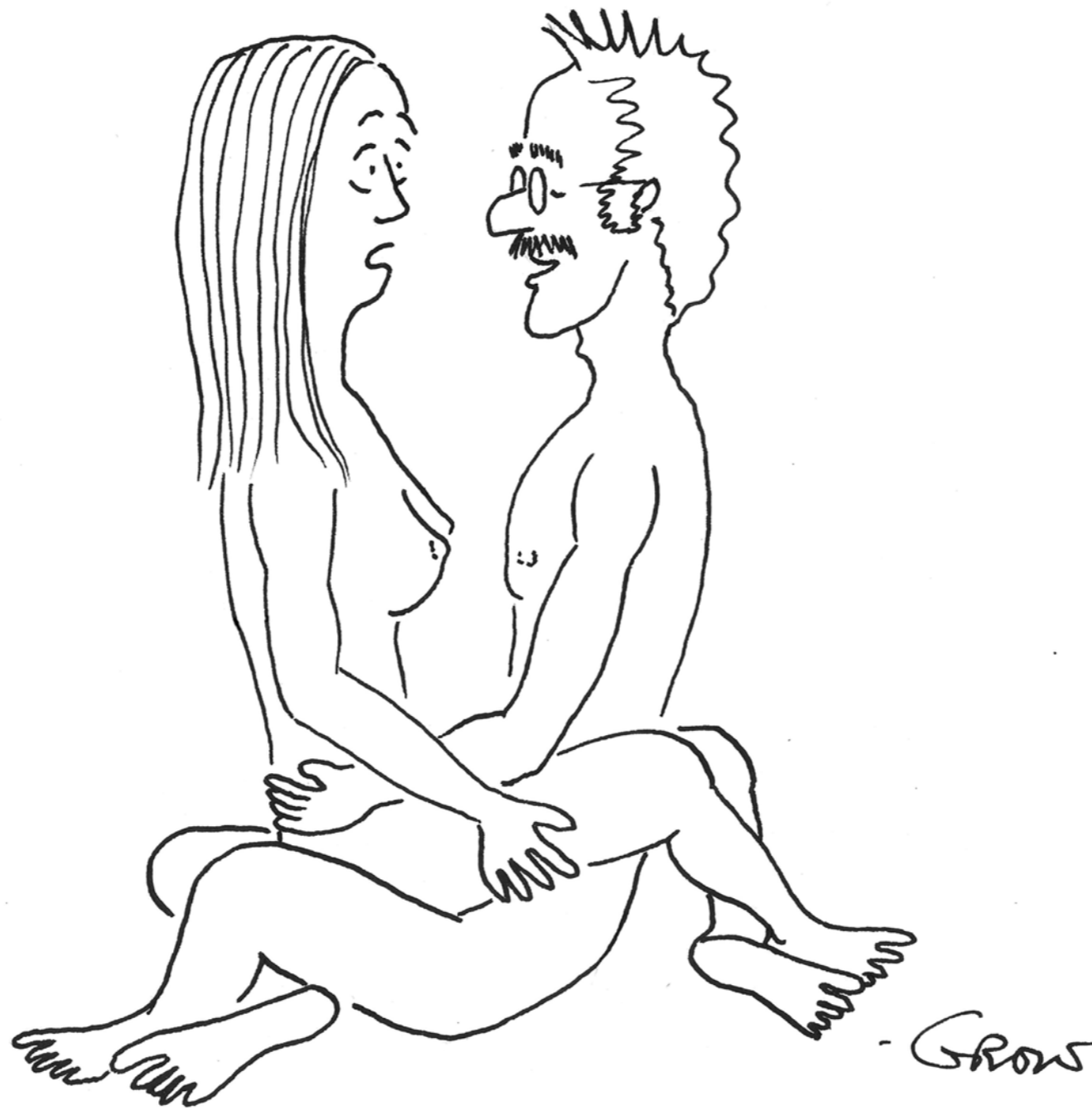




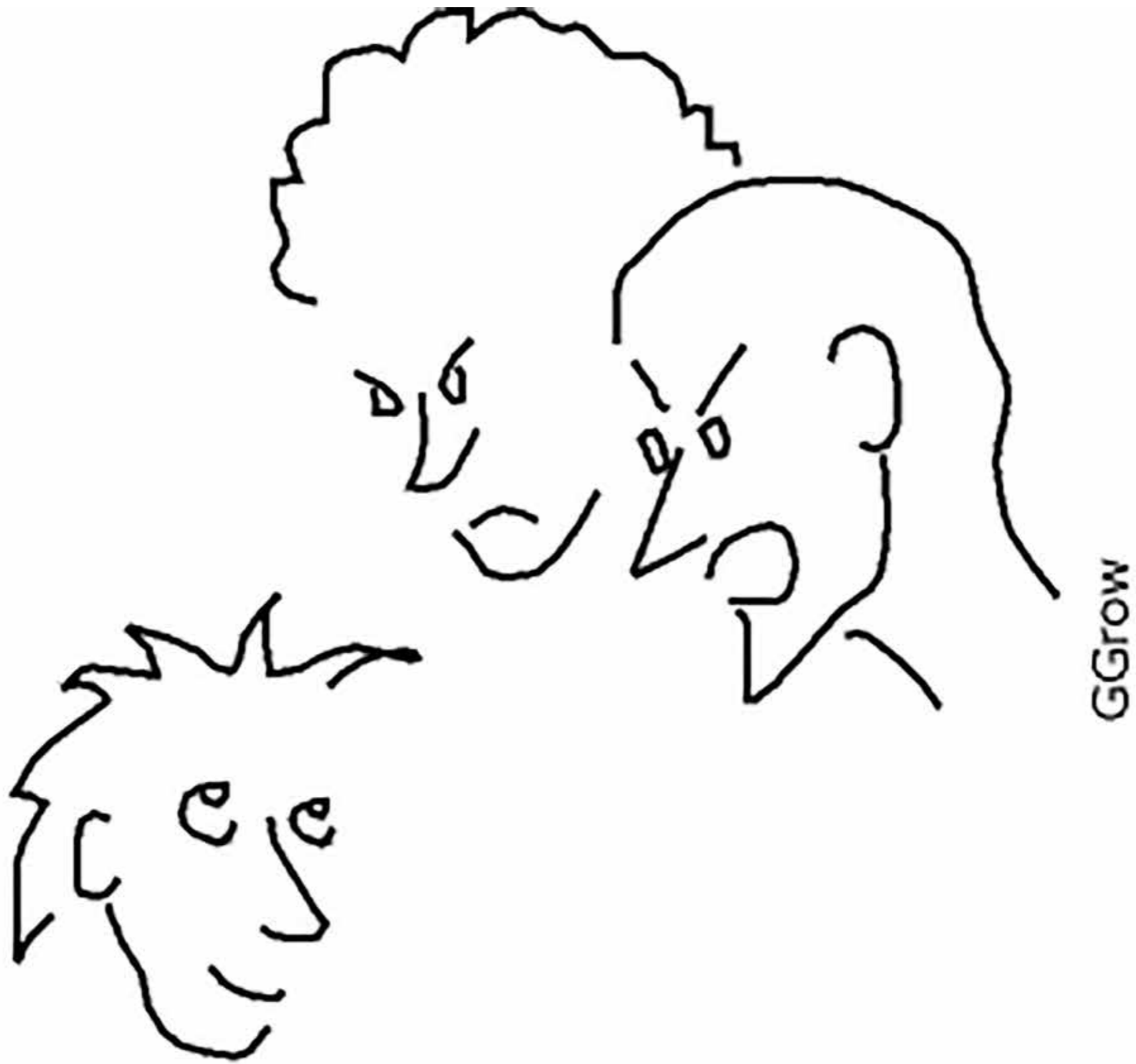
Three generations of engineers



I can keep a stiff upper lip.
It's the lower one that trembles.



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A MEDITATION?



GGrow

When we taught you critical thinking,
we did *not* expect you to apply it to *us*!

MAY I SPEAK
TO THE HEAD OF
THE HOUSEHOLD...?



In desperation, philosophers
turned to telephone solicitation ...



FOR YEARS I SEARCHED
FOR A SIGN...



I PRAYED, FASTED,
WATCHED, STUDIED,
MEDITATED...

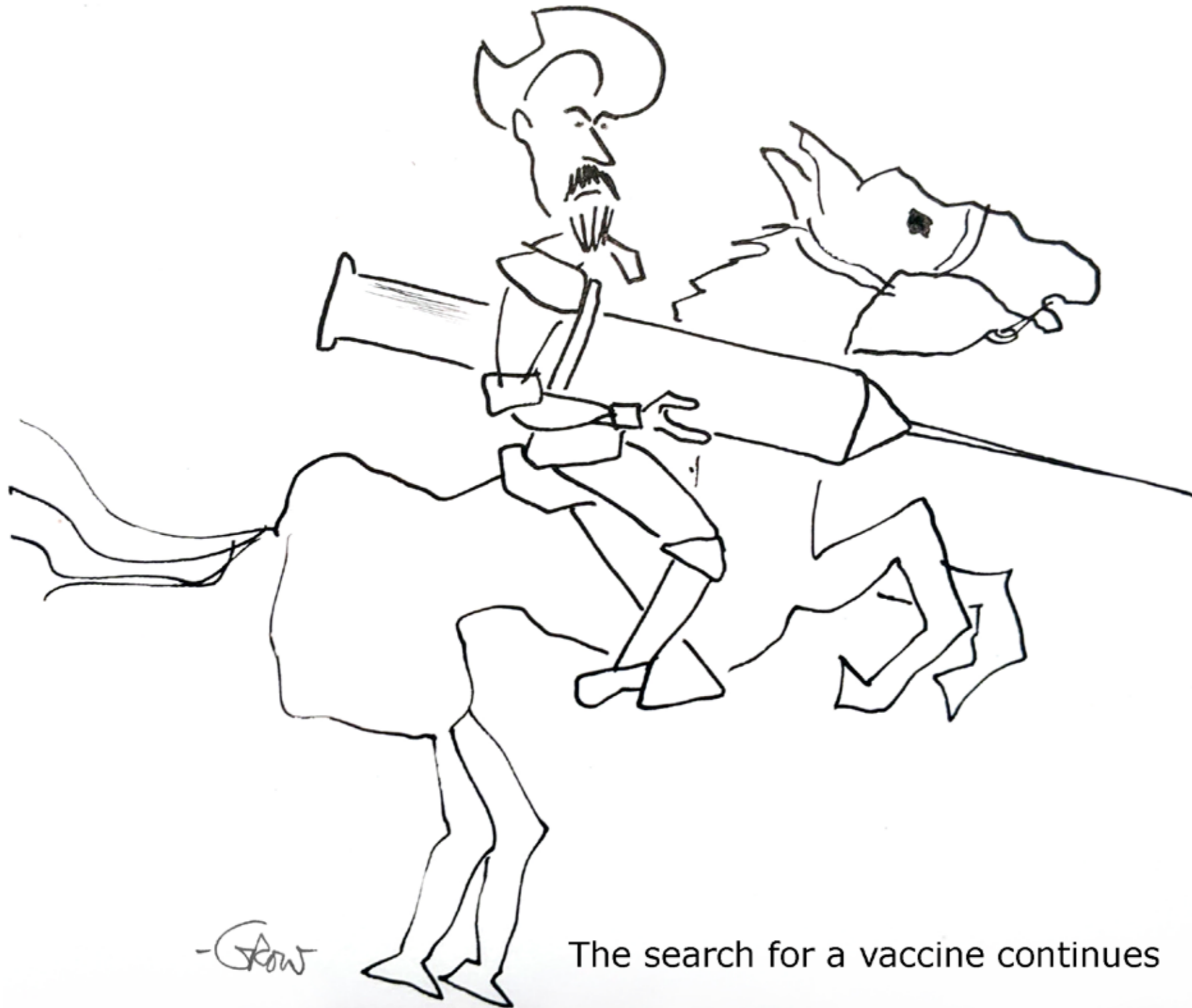


THEN, FINALLY, IT CAME:
- A BLINDING, GLORIOUS,
- OVERWHELMING
REVELATION OF...



THE COSMIC MAYBE.

- Graw



-Glow

The search for a vaccine continues

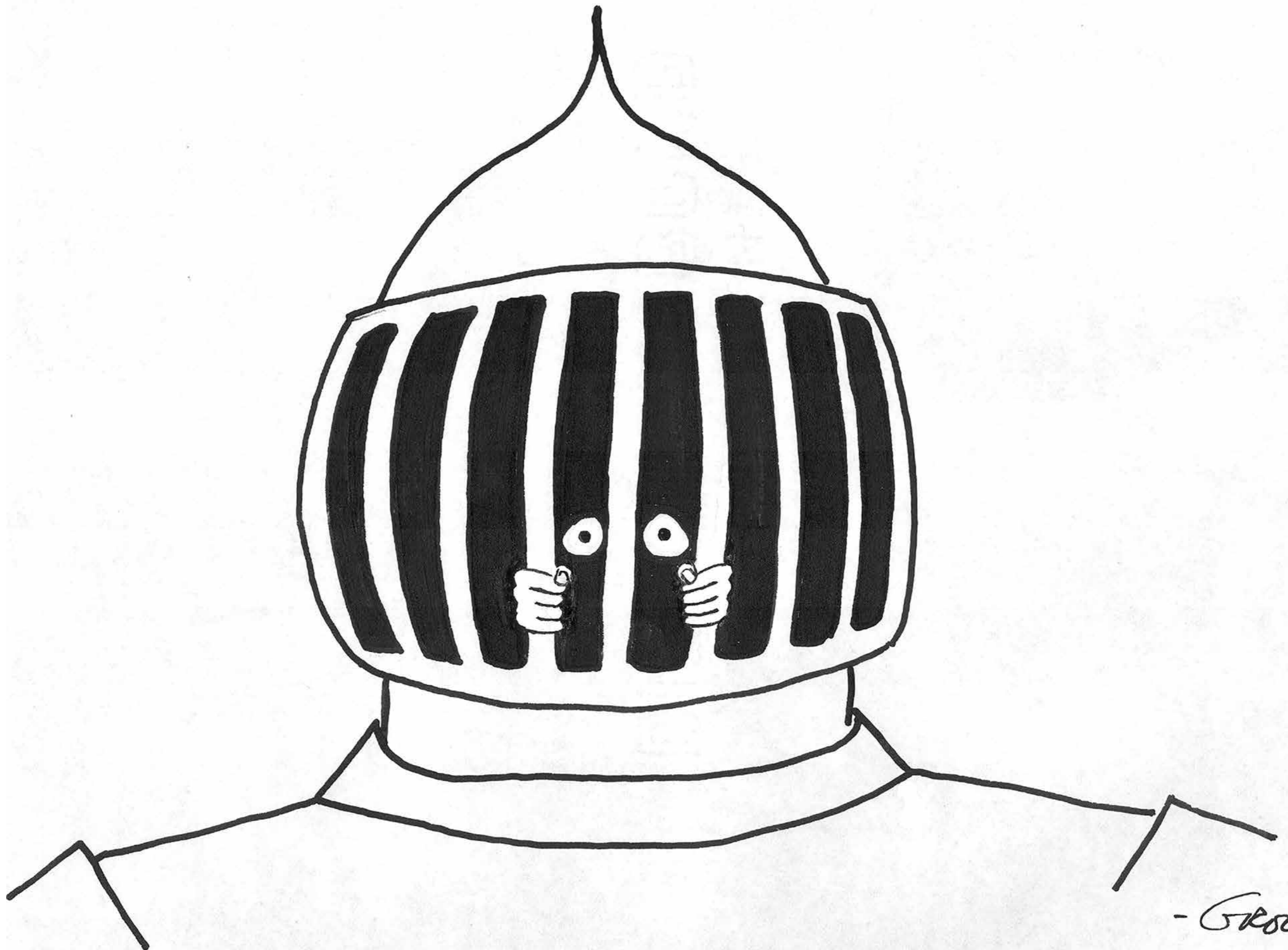
THE WORLD
IS COMING TO A
BEGINNING

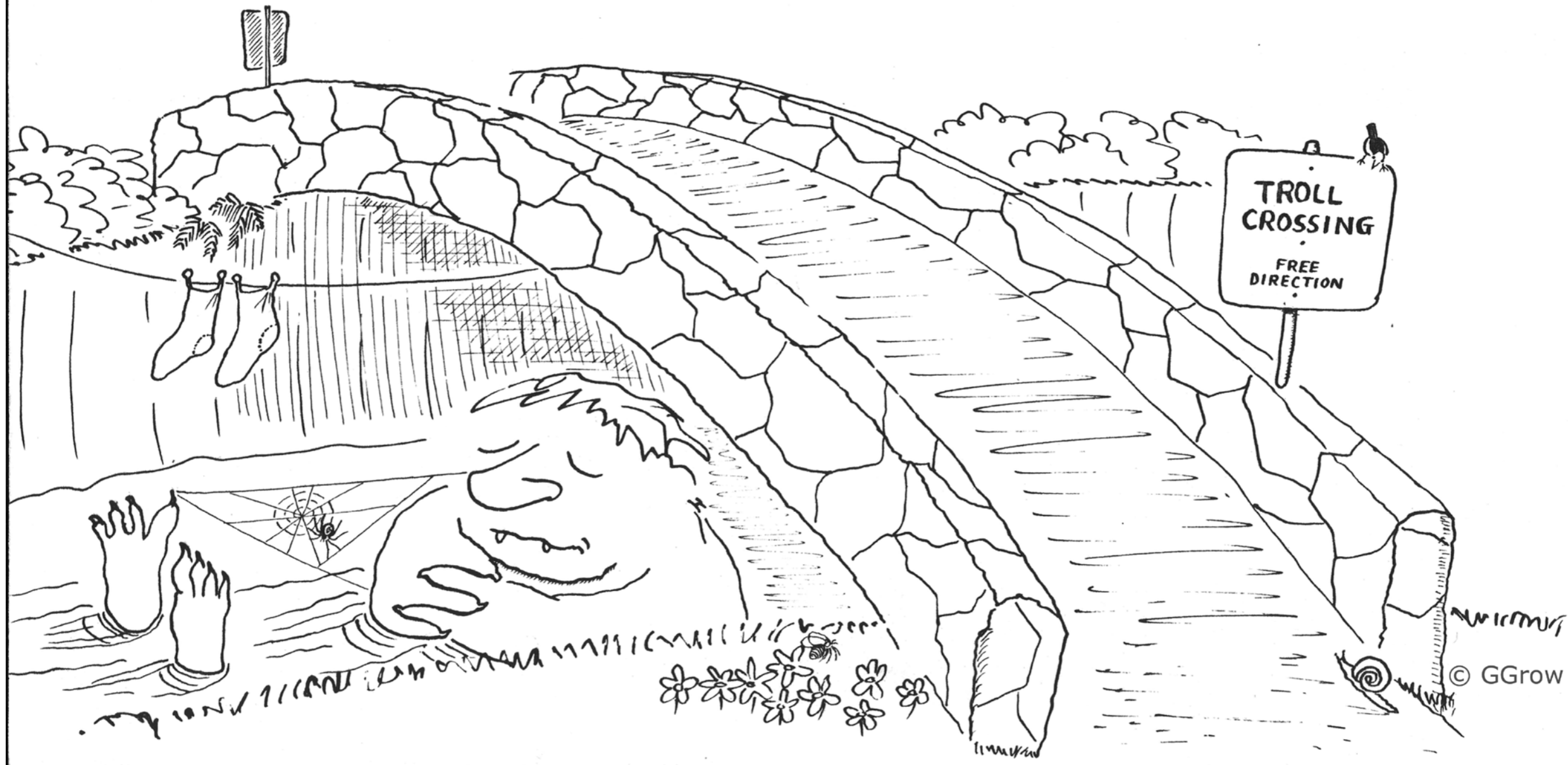


-Glow



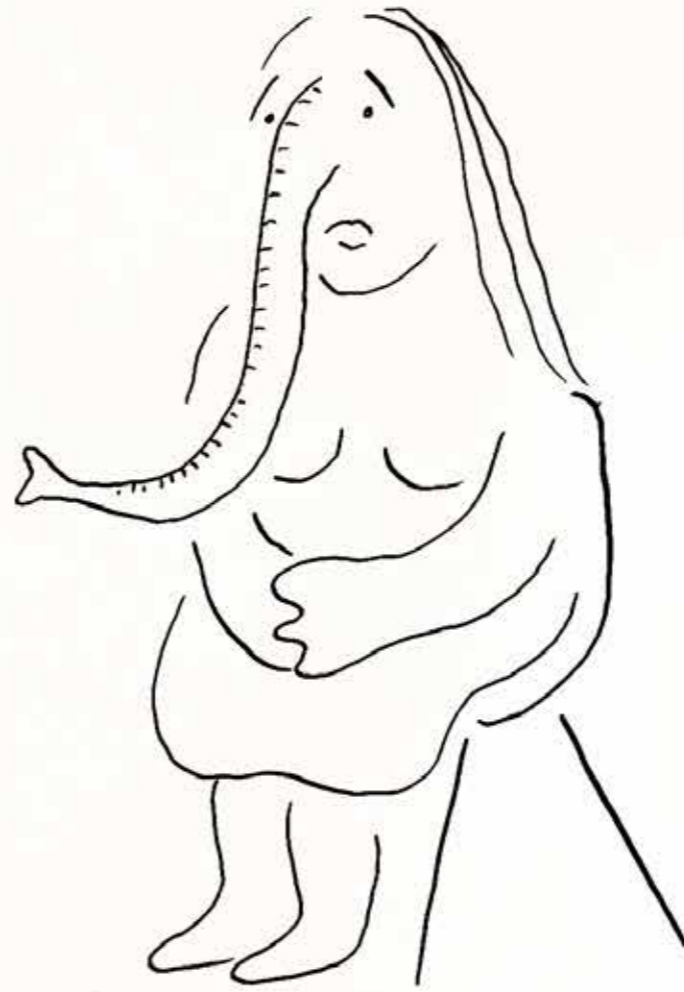
Are you saying that under the dress code
ties are optional?





TROLL
CROSSING
FREE
DIRECTION

© GGrow



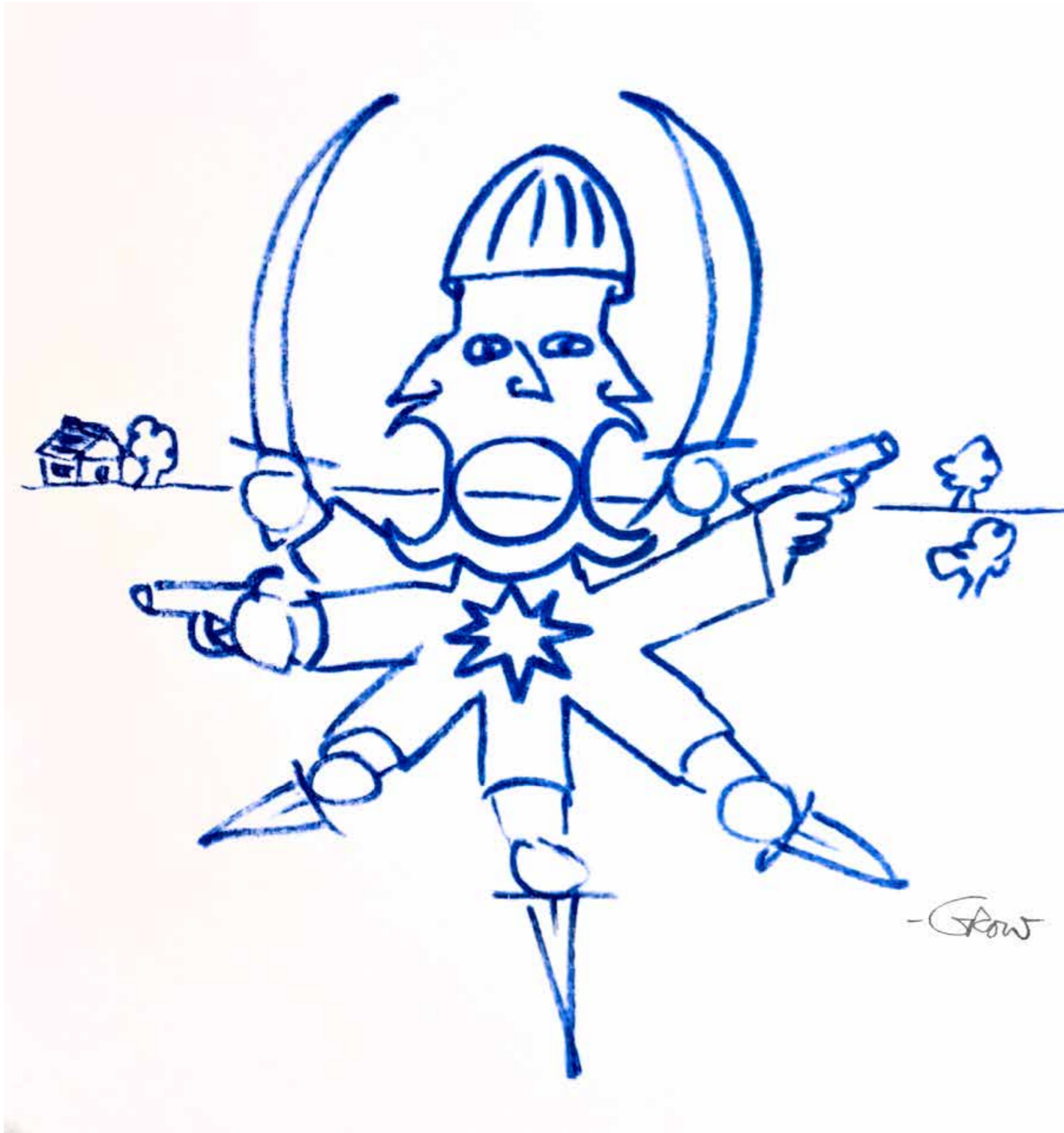
-GROSS

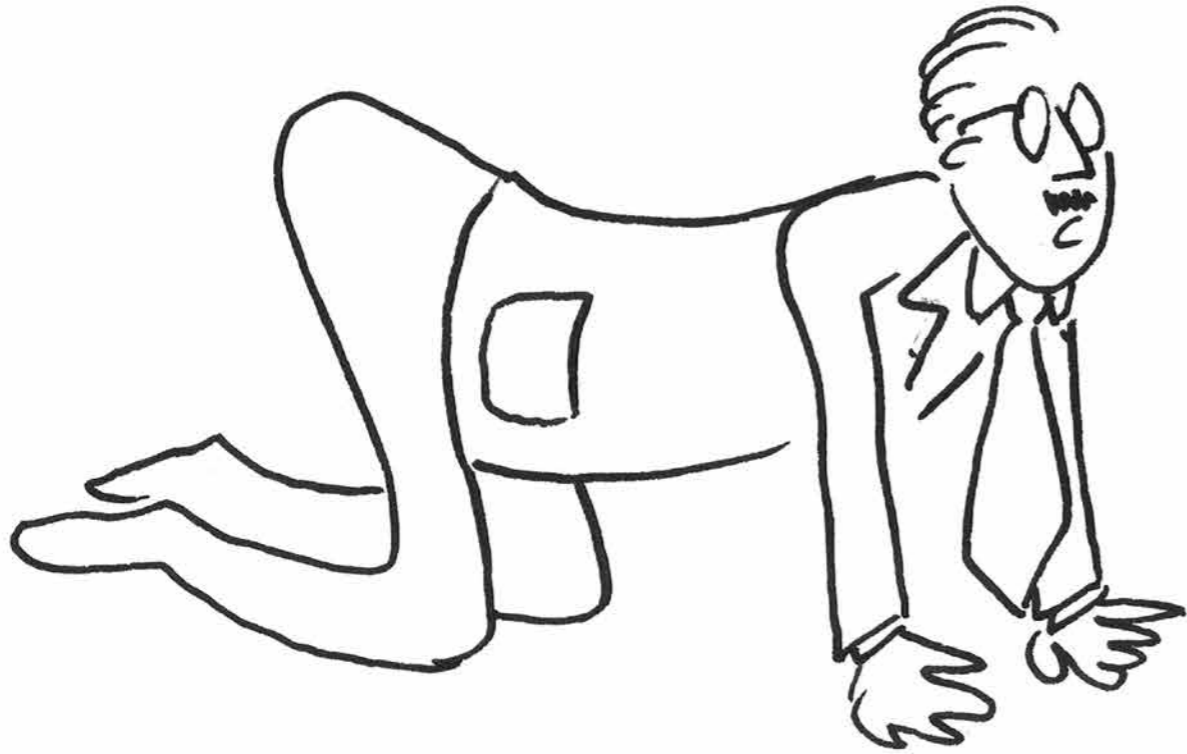
TRY TO ACCEPT YOURSELF
AS A PERSON.



Dance of the
Turquoise Addict







GROW

I DECIDED THERE WERE TOO MANY
DISADVANTAGES TO THE UPRIGHT POSTURE.



WE'RE ALL ONE...



... WHERE IS EVERYBODY?!?!

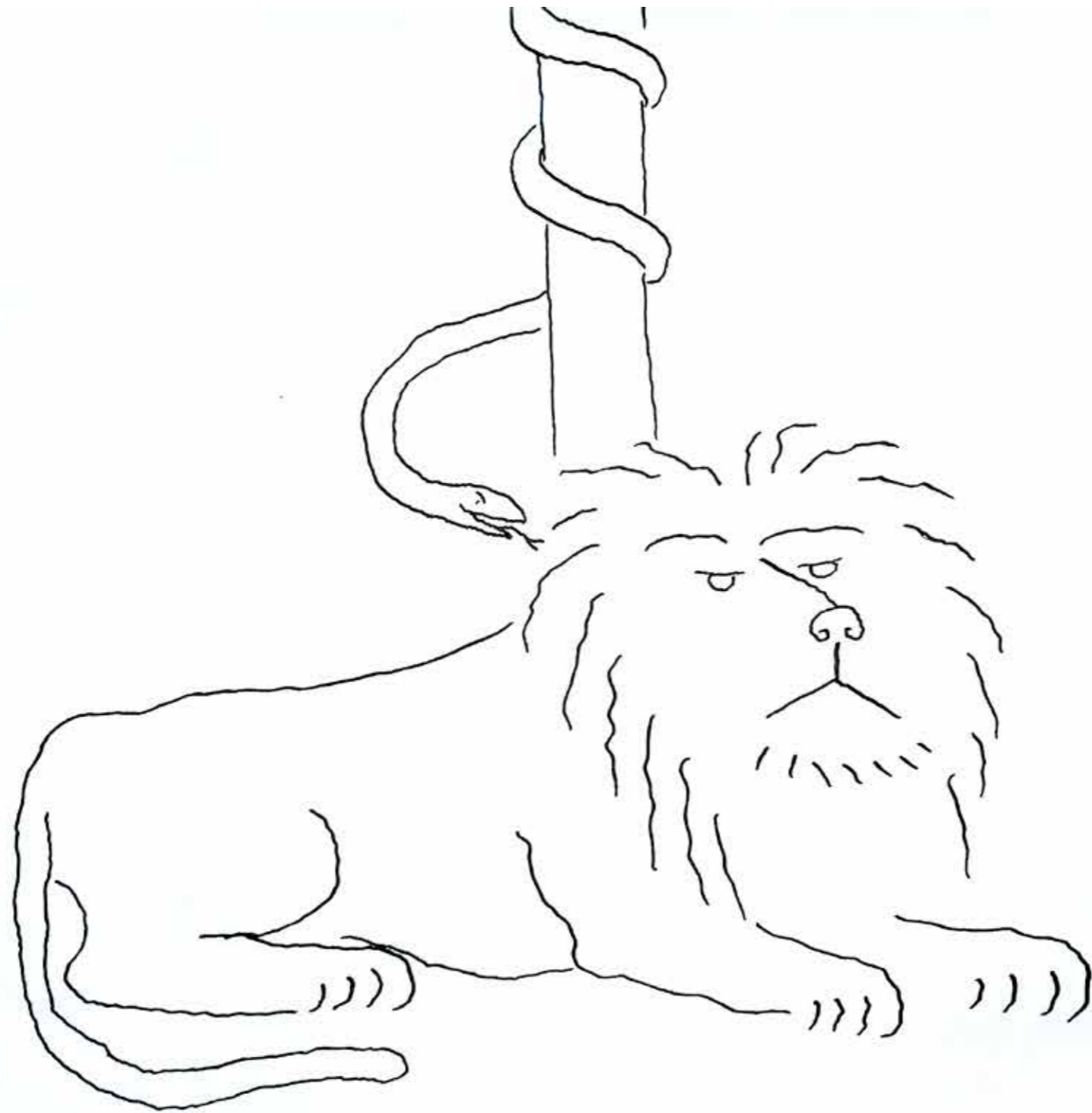
WEIRD
IS
WONDERFUL



- GROW



I THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING LOVE, BUT SHE SAYS
WE WERE ONLY BALLING.



-Row

WHY BOTHER?



-GROW

WINE, WOMEN, AND SONG... I GUESS
I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN. TWO OUT OF
THREE ISN'T SUCH A BAD AVERAGE.



-Gow



WELL... MMM... LET'S SEE... AH!... HM... NO...

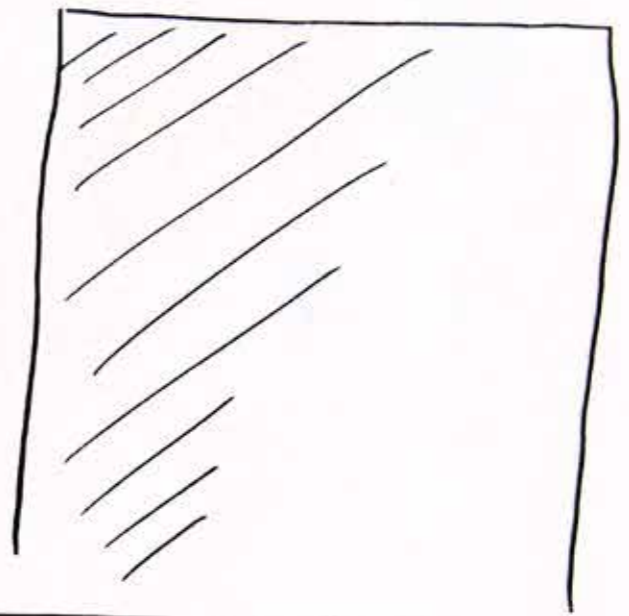
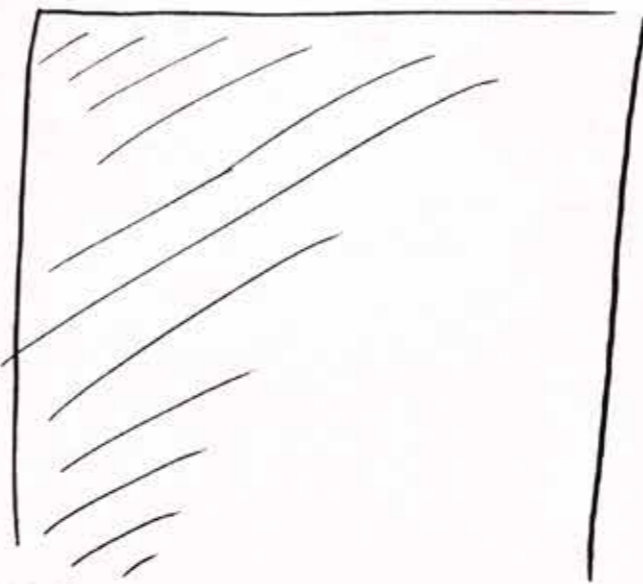
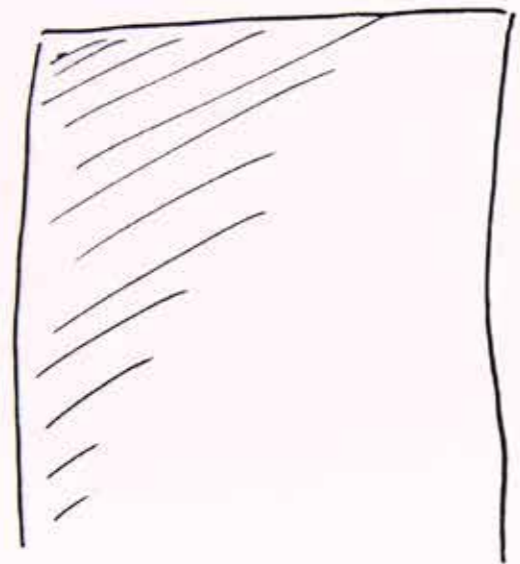
IT DOESN'T SAY HOW TO GET OUT.

- GROSS



YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL AURA.

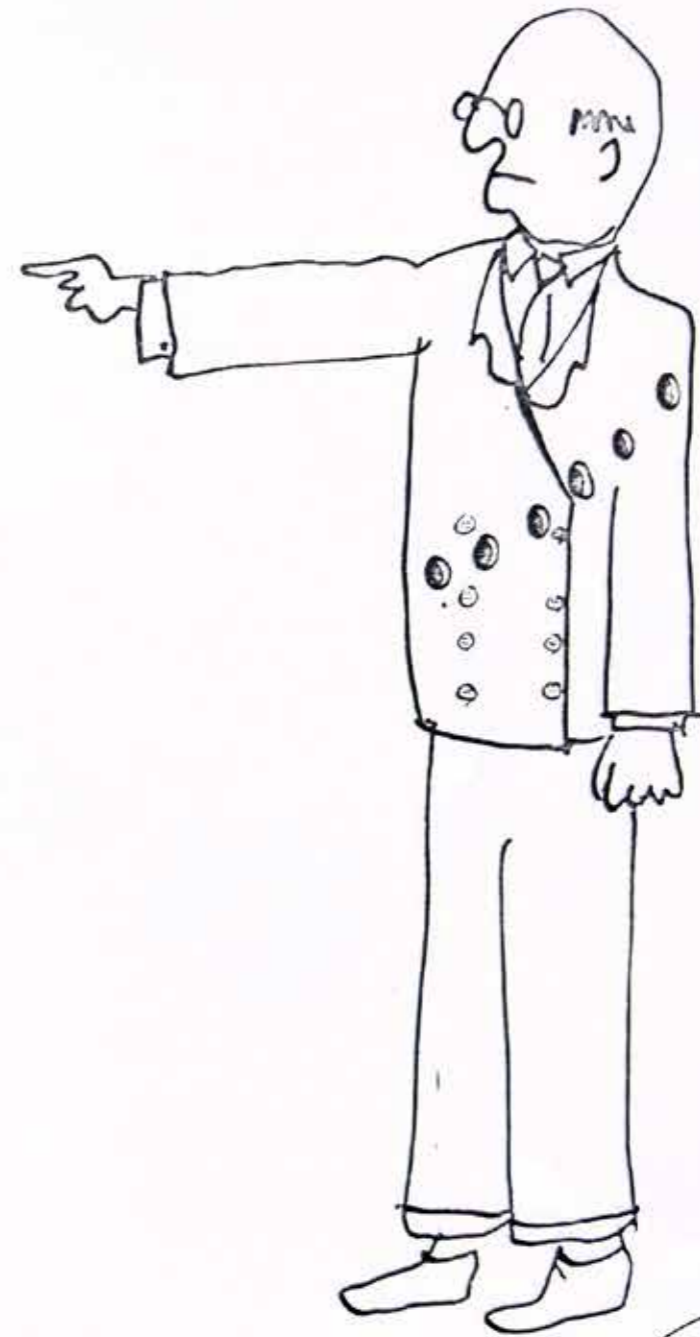
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION



YOU SHALL KNOW
THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH
SHALL MAKE YOU
SORRY YOU ASKED.

A series of horizontal lines representing a list or a set of empty rows for text.

- Crow



- Crow

You will hear from my attorney about this!



Police today uncovered a band of rogue Zen practitioners
who break into homes when their owners are away,
and clean them

PSYCHIC FASHIONS

The Metaphysical Bookstore and Delicatessen in San Francisco held a "Psychic Faire" and invited attendees to "dress psychic." Our roving cartoonist was present to cover the scene.

Rodney Rasmussen, 22, of Burlingame, wore a genuine Tibetan lambsleather vest on top of jungle fatigues.

He pondered our question at great length ("Do you think the development of psychic abilities will change the political attitudes of the American middle class?") before replying, "Far out!"

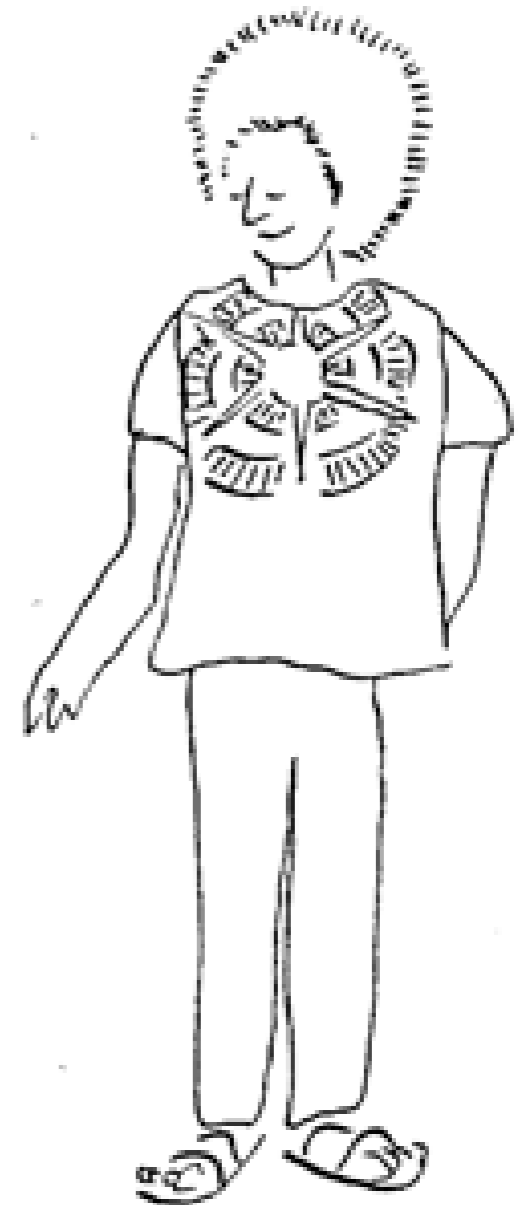


Grandmother Mary filled a whole corner of the room with the aura from her tasteful black cape with deep purple sleeves radiating from the arm-slits. Next to her on a bed of crushed velvet, her crystal ball glowed. We tried several times to get her attention, but she had withdrawn her eye inward to a meditative nap.



Linda Solenoid, our next encounter, shone forth from a vivid Guatemalan blouse with a psychedelic sunburst mandala.

She wore her astonishing hair in a solid white natural, like a halo of redeemed steel wool. For a few quiet moments, we felt blessed by her beatific smile, which she beamed silently in answer to each of our questions.





Mr. Blue wore a classic original matching combo from the golden age of Wrangler jeans. This eternal favorite had, with time, taken on the frayed patina of a denim sphinx.

It was imaginatively patched-out with scraps from a red handkerchief, bits of drapery, and what appeared to have been a condom. Mr. Blue offered us a free Tarot reading for only \$5 (no house limit), but we declined, blackjack being our game.

Mr. Blue's glasses were so original as to be beyond description, let alone duplication. Broken in three places, the glass was held together by vintage map-lines of seasoned epoxy.

The tapes, strings, glues, and splints that had once held the glasses together now became the frame itself and rose from mere practicality to an original work of applied funk.



Ricardo Wilhelms, of Orange County, discussed at great length his theory of Cosmic Lymph as we picked ourselves off the floor after colliding in the corridor.

Wilhelms (who was wearing a smashing rayon cape dyed in deep blue streaked with violet, lavender, orange, and ketchup) believes in a separate cosmic circulatory system where society's contaminations are periodically cleansed, filtered, and eventually reunited with the mainstream -- thus rebalancing it.

Standing with casual ferocity in his white Keds, Wilhelms went on to expound his solution to world problems at length while we slipped away unnoticed to our next encounter, Kentucky Blue.



Moving ahead, we encountered **Cunningham St. Johns**, just returned from his laboratory in the Galapagos, where he has been studying the psychic abilities of giant tortoises.

Dr. St. Johns wore his latest innovation -- sunglasses for the third eye. We asked him, "Will psychic abilities create a new power elite?" -- but, unfortunately, we were unable to understand any entire sentence of his answer.

Our notes contain these fragments: "Pituitin-regulated parasympathetic chakras... astral anti-gravity... exploitation of the psychic sneeze..."

We left him looking off in the distance, perhaps directing his work on the Galapagos by telepathy.

Our next encounter was with a being we could only identify as “**Poopsie**,” who wore a stunning drape of alternating squiggles and discs dashed out in successive shocks of complementary colors. At a distance, it looked dull brown with a mysterious sheen, but up close it made one unable to focus one’s eyes.

Poopsie’s eyes were (his? her? its?) most remarkable feature. Only years of practice could have produced such an intense blankness, and many will despair--on seeing our picture--of ever attaining such leadership in the field of psychic fashion.



In our next interview, we were masterfully ignored by **Diamond Fritz**, master of the art of self-absorption. We asked him several questions, such as, “When there are so many pressing social problems, how can you justify your absorption in personal growth?” In reply, he said, “Why do you ask?” or “Notice how you ask that” or “Who do you really want to ask that of?”

Diamond was wearing a loose-fitting I. Magnin dhoti of fine silk that had been skillfully disguised as coarse muslin. His chic beard flowed with studied casualness from a tangle of utterly unkempt, smelly, and disgusting hair.

Our next model was **Carlos DeFlippe**, who wore his knee-length beard over knee-high socks.

But most remarkably, Carlos wore an expression of such methodical intensity in his eyes that you could not help feeling he was a pace-setter in the beau monde of psychic fashions.

In reply to our question, “How can people protect themselves against psychic attack?” he let loose a series of sharp darts with his keen black eyes that left us looking for some psychic bandages.



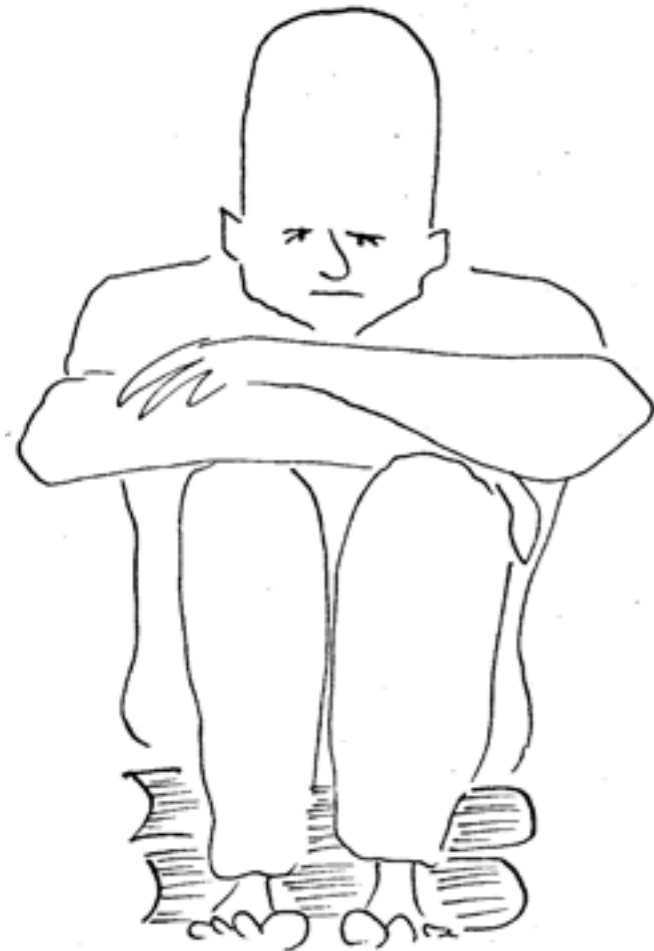
Sri Akash Goldberg of Pinole studied Zen, Yoga, Tantra, Tibetan Buddhism, Kung Fu, Karate, Aikido, Shaolin, Tai Chi, Thai Boxing, tying knots, and First Aid one weekend at the Oakland YMCA.

He has since been teaching Short High Intensive Training -- in which enlightenment (it is said) can be attained in 17 minutes of breathlessness.

He sported a finely polished monk's pate, marred only by two recent razor-knicks in the region of the occipital lobe.

We asked Sri Goldberg if he thought psychic power was being developed as a military weapon. His reply was a look of resigned but affluent compassion, highlighted by his tastefully soiled karate gi.

He was also out of psychic bandages.



Betsy Bedlam, psychic housewife, came dressed in a heavy alpaca sweater, with fine vinyl riding boots rising to meet her baggy brown cords.

She carried a string of plastic beads, about which she would say nothing except to hint that her 7-year-old daughter had found it mysteriously in a box of breakfast cereal and that it seemed to have some occult significance.

We asked her, "How will the development of psychic realities affect traditional religious beliefs?" But she moved away with an air of conspicuous invisibility.

Our next interview was with Christopher Jaycee, dressed in an elegantly simple Nazarene robe, very practically augmented by a full-length KYX No. 3 zipper.

On closer inspection, we found his robe to be fully quilted with Polyfil, machine-washable, and designed so two can be zipped together to form a double.

He said it was the cat's pajamas for watching and fasting, and it even had padded knees.



Our last interview was with **B.J. Barzoon**, a Kundalini Yoga expert, who came wearing nothing but his electric-blue aura.

We hastily left B.J. to a crowd of admirers and hurried away, as the vibes were getting pretty thick.

Although we have been able to give only a brief sketch of this rich and colorful field, we are sure that no one seriously concerned with such matters can afford to overlook the implications of an invitation to "**dress psychic.**"



Outside, we overheard Rodney and Linda -- apparently co-equals in an LTR (Long Term Relationship) arguing. As they passed out of range, we heard Linda fume, "If we're all one, Randy, what color are my eyes?"

Written and drawn after attending a Psychic Faire in San Francisco, posters for which encouraged attenders to "dress psychic."

Disclaimer: This is satire. All names and events depicted here are fictitious and any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

Growing Pains

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