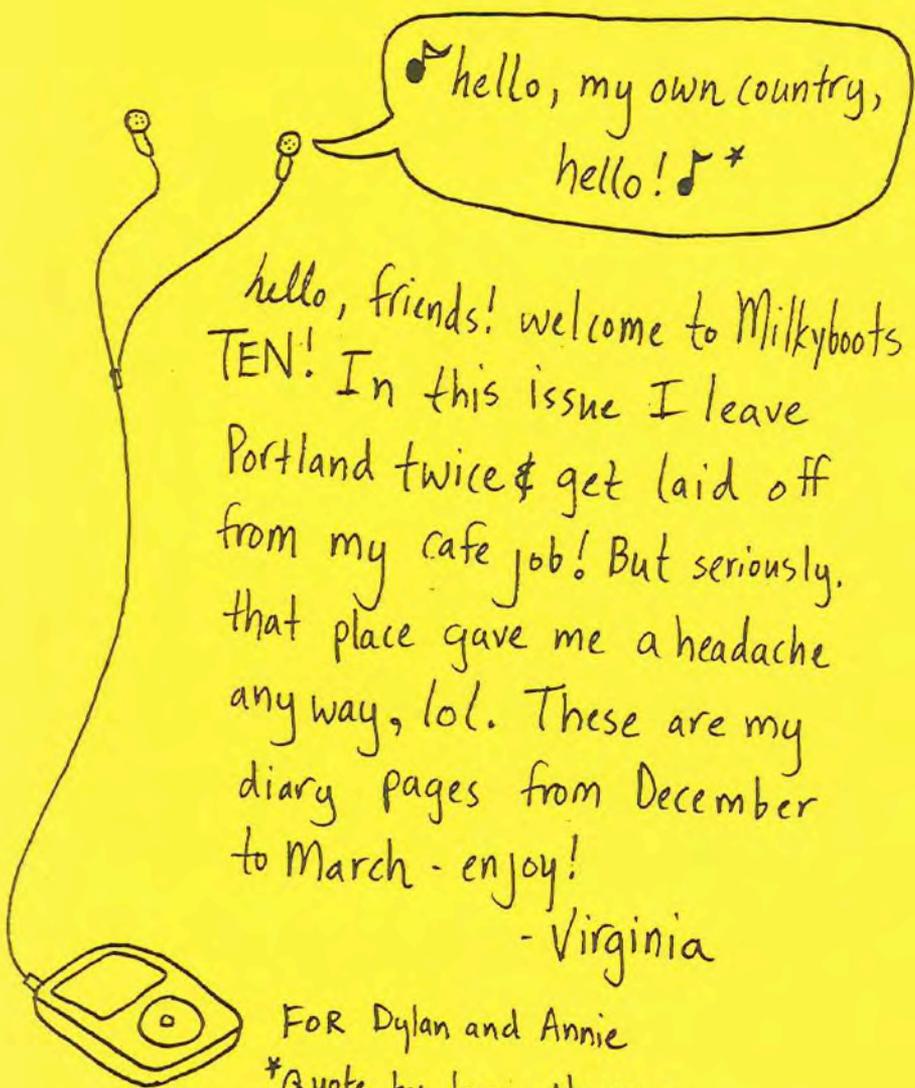


Milkyboots

Number Ten Winter 2010





hello, my own country,
hello! ♪*

hello, friends! welcome to Milkyboots
TEN! In this issue I leave
Portland twice & get laid off
from my cafe job! But seriously,
that place gave me a headache
anyway, lol. These are my
diary pages from December
to March - enjoy!
- Virginia

FOR Dylan and Annie

*Quote by Joanna Newsom

Printed at the IPRC Portland, OR

I am leaving for 2 weeks in Wisconsin today, so I got up early.



And slightly hungover from playing Apples to Apples the night before.

12月15日2009

Jill and Olivia took me to the airport.



She says it all the time.

Both flights were painless, with the planes on time and functional!



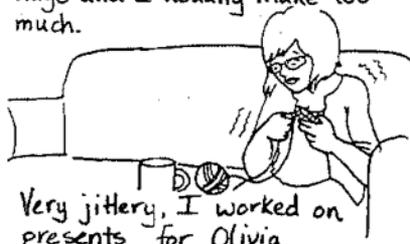
No annoying seat mates either!

My papa picked me up at the airport. I had hummus for dinner...



and he fell asleep while we were watching MST3K.

My parents' coffee maker is huge and I usually make too much.



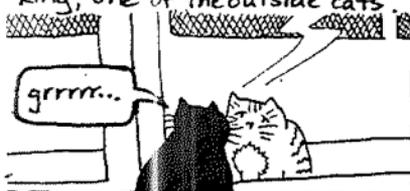
Very jittery, I worked on presents for Olivia.

My parents' cat, Grace, hates almost everything. 12月16日2009



But she does like chirping at the birds in the garden.

She had a funny face-off through the door with Tara King, one of the outside cats.



My dad and I went to the co-op to get "Virginia" food.



Then we picked up my mom at the airport.



(She had been in Reno for work.)

I felt kind of sad and lonely after my folks went to bed.



I miss Olivia a lot.

More knitting!

Bzzzzt!



And too much coffee!

I made 12月17日2009
dinner for my parents.

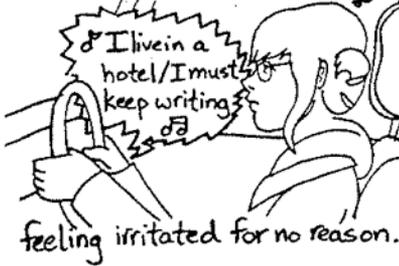


We promise we'll stop slacking and cook one of these days.



Then I drove downtown

I live in a hotel/I must keep writing



feeling irritated for no reason.

Jenny was at the cigar bar...

How are you?!



Good! How are you?

... as usual.

Then we went to Jenny's work.

How is it?

Terrible. It smells like a bath house.



I got to see Darcy for a moment.

Hey!



Chadn't seen her since Derby

Then to bed at Jenny's.

Jenny was having a bad morning.

My wallets missing, I forgot my deposit check and I'm late for work!*

* Left her wallet in the cab, and being late didn't matter 'cause she's the manager.



Jenny gave me a ton of old clothes. || 12月18日 2009 ||



We got coffee and walked downtown.

I was sort of hungover and really hungry all day.



When I went downstairs to get a beer, Grace wouldn't let me come back up.



I looked at pictures of my mom's trip to China.



She went to Beijing and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to give a grazing lecture.

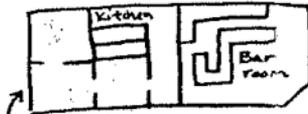
But I think she could tell I missed Lyra, 'cause she came and sat on my knee later.



At Jenny's, we had a strange interaction with a guy on the street.



We went to Mickey's, which used to be my favorite bar until they got all fancy.



Outside, some guys chatted with us.



(weird living-room-like rooms that made it feel like you were hanging out at someone's house.)



After they went inside...

Later, we were harassed by a dude who couldn't take a hint.



SIDE NOTE/RANT:

Why is it socially acceptable (albeit drunkenly) to ask a stranger about their sexuality? It's like asking someone you don't know what kind of people they like to have sex with! I'm all for open dialogue about sexuality, but not with drunk sexist assholes!

*I don't identify and I don't think Jenny does either.

*# No

We spent most of the day preparing food for tomorrow.



* We were talking about the word 'queer' and how it has a different meaning for her generation.

12月24日 2009

I talked to Olivia on the phone for awhile but went upstairs when I heard my mom crying.



She was feeling sad about her mom's failing health and stubbornness.

After dinner we watched "Hogfather," a Christmas-y movie based on a Terry Pratchett book. *



Winchel Heartless texted me before I went to bed.



Every year, my dad makes us special Christmas Tree bread for Christmas morning.



Every year, he gets frustrated with it. (But it's soooo delicious.)

There was a bit of drama when we got to my grandparents' - too complex to try to explain here.



I did crosswords while we watched "A Christmas Carol." (With Alastair Sim♥!)

⇒ 12月25日 2009 ◀
A SORT OF GOOD DAY...

I got some awesome things.

pearls from china



The Veganomicon



stamp pads (red + blue)

a million gel pens

new water bottle

And of course:



chocolate



an orange



& chapstick

My nut-lentil loaf wasn't done, but I ate it anyway.



And then home to bed



After dinner, I went downtown to help Jenny pack for her move (and get more free clothes).



It seems like every time I come to Madison I'm helping someone move. 12月28日2009



(Helping Sarah earlier in the week)

Jenny is always appreciative...



We fell asleep watching Trailer Park Boys,



But Jenny still remembered to put her clothes in the dryer.

I drove Jenny to work, then ran errands.



12月29日2009

I dropped off some zines for Chandra.



(Her immune system is too fucked up for us to hang out.)

Then sold my fur coat at a store downtown.



The sales girl (a friend's ex) was inexplicably friendly.

Portland has spoiled me.



*There are exceptions of course.

In the afternoon we went to my grandparents' again.



I showed them pictures but it doesn't seem like they really understand my life.

I decided not to tell them about Olivia, too, which leaves some big gaps. Oh well, I'd rather not risk losing contact with them in their waning years.

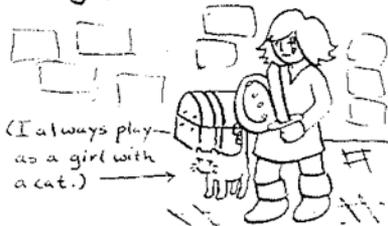
WARRIOR

OF
THE

LOST WORLD

Back home we watched a MST3K we'd never seen before.

I spent the morning packing and playing "Fate" on my parents' computer.



My plane 12月30日2009 was late getting into Madison, making it unclear whether or not I would make my connection in Denver.



I had to sprint across the terminal when we landed.



I made my flight with 10 minutes to spare.



Even the black-clad hipsters in PDX made me happy.



And there was my wonderful girlfriend, waiting for me at the baggage claim.



We slept in, it was lovely.

Did you miss me, chubby muffin?



Lyra seemed confused about who I was for awhile.

NYE → {12月31日2009}

We went and got late brekky at Vita cafe, then headed to the store to get supplies.



We can relive our first date!

I made dinner and got dressed just as people started arriving for the party.



(My once-a-year cleavage display.)

Kayti came with a friend. We hung out in my room.



It's the short people room.

Everyone else at the party seemed seven feet tall.

The Inventor kept changing the pendant on her necklace.



Olivia and the Inventor embarrassed Stormgren.



Look at Virginia's boobs!

Later, we had (gave each other?) Kentuckles.*



*A shot of bourbon followed by a slap in the face.

Olivia and I nearly finished the bottle last night, so the New Year started slowly and painfully.



I read online and Olivia slept.

We went and got juice and stuff to make a pizza.



(1月1日 2010)
It's the future!

Jill gave us sympathy hugs when we finally got up.



Our big plan for the day was to watch the L Word, which we did, and stayed up way too late.



I was sad about leaving Olivia to go to work.



Two weeks is a long time to be apart, and I haven't recovered yet.

And we received bad news.



At home, we watched more L Word before going to my co-workers's birthday party.



It was further than I thought.

> 1月2日2010 <

My first day back at work was a little disorienting.



It was really slow,



I should look for a new job.

which we attributed to people's New Years resolutions.

The party was really metal and sort of awkward for us, but still fun.



Olivia got up with me.

You better hurry, babygirl, you're gonna be late for work!



(1月3日2010)

I realized today that my job really stresses me out and I don't enjoy it.



It's time for a change, but how?

Back home I worked on my to-do list for 4 hours and actually got a lot done!



Then I headed to Olivia's, stopping at the video store and the co-op.



Olivia made pho and we both added too much sriracha.



Then we curled into bed for more L Word.



Tina and Bette are boring.

We went to Vita for breakfast and got the bitchy waitress. We have no idea why she dislikes us so...



An hour later:

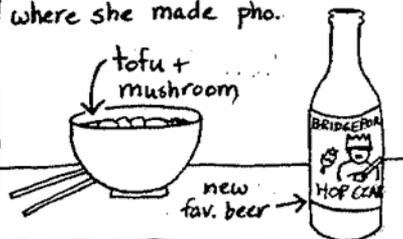


My b-day! 2月8日2010
Today I am 29 years old!

Then Olivia went to go do something mysterious...



We went to Olivia's house where she made pho.



Afterwards we played Scrabble.



Today started out slow...



2月16日2010



I just realized...
Olie's getting a
mail order stripper*!



Ha, ha,
yeah!

*Olivia bought a new bike -
a gold Mercier Stripper.

Another day | 2月23日2010
drawing at Fresh Pot...



Yeah, man, I
just don't
know what's
gonna happen
to the band...

The two guys on a date
behind me were replaced by
some mopey, just-dumped hipster.

Blah blah blah NBC
blah blah Olympics
blah blah the economy
blah blah movies blah
blah blah blah blah blah

Inside
voice!



Didn't you
know? This
is a guest
lecture.

Sometimes it feels like there's
a lot of Hollywood* people
in F.P. (*CA, not Portland.)

I don't even know what
I've been doing with my
time. lately, it just
disappears.



I may be dead, but
I'm still pretty.

I spent today getting ready for my trip.



But first, Olivia and I watched Buffy in bed.

2月27日2010



I ate a burrito for lunch, again.



After I packed, we went to New Seasons and split the groceries, because we're both broke.



We made an exciting discovery!



I had a talk with Lyra about my trip. I think she understood.

A brief explanation:

My brother is going to grad school in London. In December, my parents asked if I wanted to go - all expenses paid. Initially I said yes. But as it got closer to the time to leave, I began to have reservations. I was laid off, so I didn't have any extra money. I'd miss two weeks of unemployment pay.

2月28日2010

I'd miss 3 classes, including one where we were meeting a Top Shelf publisher. I'd REALLY miss my girlfriend. And I couldn't find my goddamn passport!

But I couldn't get out of it, because my mom couldn't return the ticket. So, reluctantly, I went.

I got up at 4:30 to go to the airport, and woke Olivia up so we could say goodbye.

sniff.
I love
you.

sniff... I
love you.
I'm gonna
miss you
so bad...

We both teared up.

GATEZZZ

If I was a better person
the idea of this trip
wouldn't fill me with dread...

I rode the bus downtown
and then the MAX to the airport.

What a mess.

So many
Midwest
accents!

At O'hare there were like 5
flights going through my gate.

I wonder if we're going to Space!

On the plane...

We drove down from Madison to O'Hare and got there really early.



3月1日2010



The moon on the ocean was so beautiful.

Again? We just got off the plane! 3月2日2010



Then to Heathrow, which felt like an endless series of tubes.



My dad called it "A human habitrail."



Then more tubes to the hotel...

Okay okay okay... I'm gonna be honest, dear readers: I don't feel like drawing/writing about my trip to England. I don't feel like it would be interesting to read and well, I didn't enjoy it that much. I found the country just enough unlike the U.S. to be annoying. I did get to see some beautiful, old things.

But, as I said when I got back - I think I'm a little old for family vacation. My parents are accepting of my "lifestyle" (queer, vegan, artist) but I want, have wanted, always, for them to understand. Understand why I live this way, that I am not weird, that there are lots of people like me, that you ~~can't~~ just get a job in Portland. ~~It~~ This is what confounds me the most - their bewilderment at ~~how~~ I am, in spite of this being the way they raised me. So I have their reluctant acceptance, their obvious discomfort when I mention my girlfriend, or talk about how eating cheese makes me feel gross, or when they suggest maybe I should just get a job and stop trying

so hard to make the comics thing work. Or Grad school. Or their silent judgement of how much I drink.

So. As much as I love my parents and am grateful for the trip, I came back feeling so judged and resentful. I know I have it better than a lot of people. I'm not going to say ~~any~~ more, except, it was good to see my brother, thank you parents, and I fucking love you Portland. Every time I travel I miss it so hard; the weirds and the queers, the beautiful landscapes, the food, the hipsters, the scenesters, the beer, the bikes, my gorgeous girlfriend, my wonderful house.



One of the stones at Avebury, a henge that encloses a village. Our visit there was my favorite day. It was beautiful, haunting, eerie. This stone towered over me, easily 10 feet tall.

Olivia and I have been watching (rewatching, in my case) Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

I wish all the characters were gay...

Well, look at me. I'm all fuzzy.

FANFIC (NEW FAV JOKE) 3月15日2010

Hey, I should write a fantasy story where all the characters are gay.

Can it have gay elf princesses in it?!

Yes.

And they'll do it lots?!

Yes!

After my shift 3月18日2010 at the co-op, my blood sugar got really low and for some reason, no one being home made me sob uncontrollably for 5 minutes.

Wahuhuhuh.

Olivia reappeared after awhile.

It's okay, babygirl.

I'm glad I have someone who I can talk about these random crazies to without any blame or fault. I'm so lucky.

A slow day at the IPRC,
but people kept getting let
in and surprising me.



3月21日2010



After my shift, Al came over!



David came by while we
were making dinner.



I was trying to
put the chain
back on the bike.
This guy comes
up and asks
if I need help.
Then he pulls
out a knife!



Two of Al's friends came over as well - after dinner we did
some porchsitting.

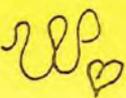
A MULTIMEDIA MIX TAPE for Milkyboots #10:

(ie things I have enjoyed while this issue was
being lived/written/drawn) ♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

- ① MST3K (always♡)
 - ② Homophobia (book)
 - ③ Tiger Beatdown (website)
 - ④ Joanna Newsom-*Have One on Me* (album)
 - ⑤ Tegan & Sara-*Sainthood* (album)
 - ⑥ Twin Sister-*Ginger* (song)
 - ⑦ Cold Cave-*Time Magazine* (song)
 - ⑧ jj - ~~ecstasy~~ ~~ecstasy~~ *ecstasy* (song)
↑ bad speller!
 - ⑨ R. Kelly-*Ignition Remix* (song)
 - ⑩ Service Industry (comic)
 - ⑪ Hark, A Vagrant! (website)
 - ⑫ The Essential DTWOF (book)
 - ⑬ Sleeper Car (comic)
 - ⑭ The L Word (TV show)
 - ⑮ Buffy (TV show)
 - ⑯ Lost (TV show)
 - ⑰ Ponyo (movie)
 - ⑱ Learning Good Consent (zine)
 - ⑲ In The Tall Grass (comics zine)
 - ⑳ Eragon Trilogy (bookssss)
- 
- ↑ olivia drew this one.

"Often considered a pioneer of the Louisianan-Portlandic school of web-diary comics, Virginia Paine is the preeminent force that is Milkyboots. Her slices-of-life style, couple with evocative and spare illustrations, has been lauded by the post-ironic generation. Within these vignettes a life is witnessed and shared, infatuations and frustrations felt. Through this lens is created what it is to be a hip twenty-something in the twenty-first century. We proudly present, Milkyboots." -M. Knight

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more.

Thanks for reading! 

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diary comics



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