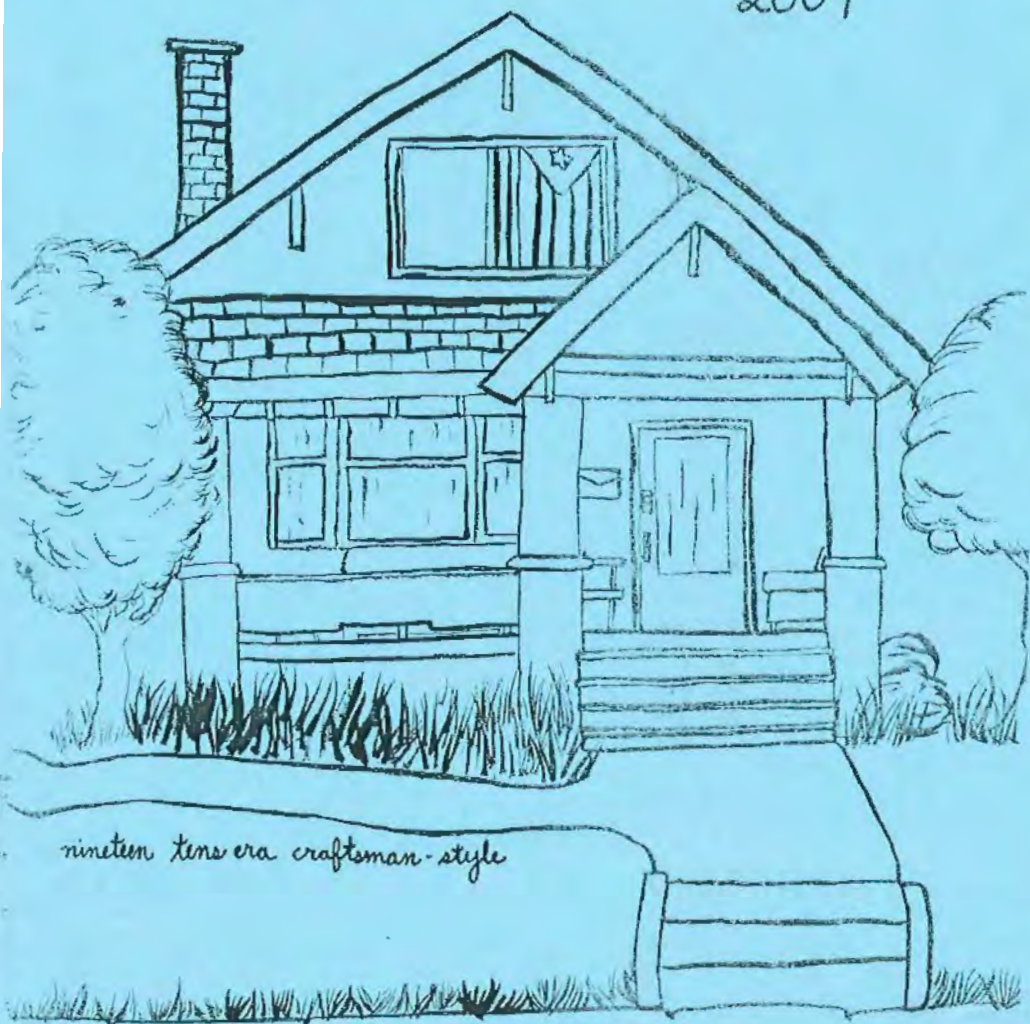


# milkyboots nine

late summer and fall  
2009



nineteen tens era craftsman-style

Hello friends!

This is the ninth issue of Milkyboots, my diary comics zine. It covers the end of July to November 2009, and includes many amazing hijinks and cat-related anecdotes.

I also should mention that my style changes drastically throughout this zine. I have been taking a comics class, which has both inspired me to try new tools and forced me to do my diary comics more quickly. So sorry about that - but it's all part of improving Milkyboots!

I hope you enjoy it!

-Virginia

For Olie + Lyra

Printed at the IPRC in Portland, OR



The combination of post-convention depression and the Weakerthans hit me at work.

♪ In the stick count for the song / of knowing you're gone / glancing up at where you lived / when you lived here ♪

Uh-huh-huh-huh.

♪ I see you suddenly alive / and nearly smiling / stop and hold my breath / and watch the way you used to be ♪

It's been a long time since I've cried at work. The song made me think of Jen.



I went to meet Patrick  
to draw at Fresh Pot.



I overheard some people  
gossiping about Paris.

7月28日2009

I came home and  
invited people over for  
games night.



We played Risk and  
Mexican Train.

Then we went to Sloan's  
to meet Caroline.



And on to the Bye  
and Bye where things got  
awkward.



Then Winchel Heartless  
and I stayed up until  
3 talking about The  
Elements of Style.



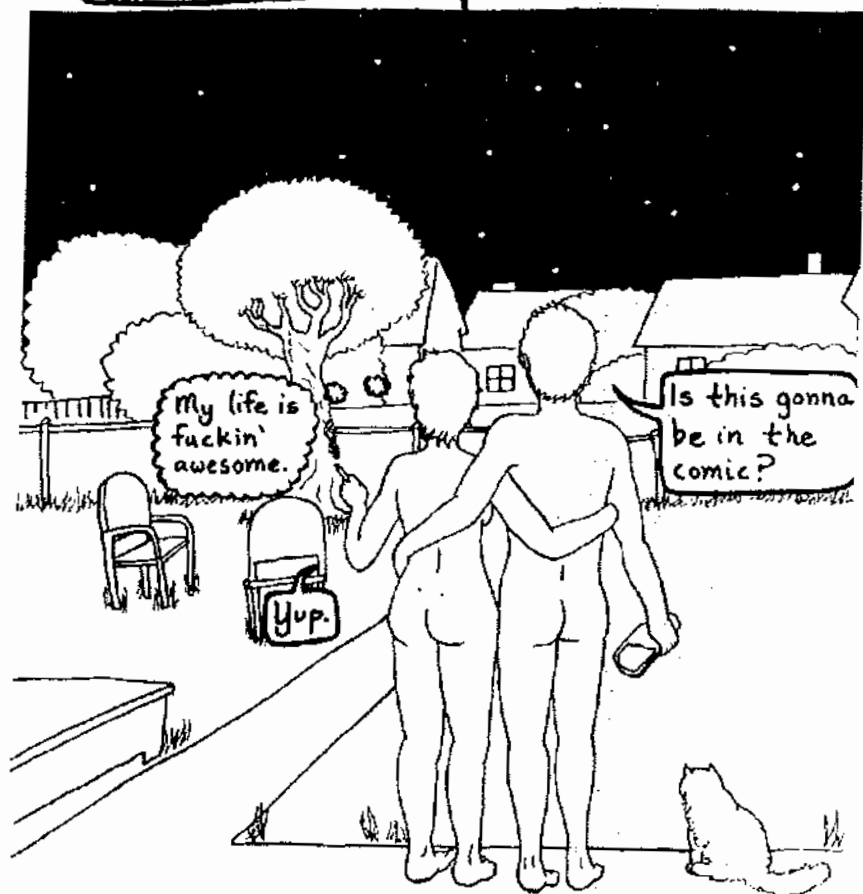
A friend and I watched  
The Lion, the Witch and  
the Wardrobe in the  
backyard.

I dunno dude-  
the story is  
pretty  
archetypal.

But Lewis was  
a theologian!

7月29日2009

Then went to Bye+Bye  
and shared drinks.



7月30日2009

You haven't seen my back piece yet. It's this dragon, like, fighting this tiger, and it symbolizes my inner turmoil.

And then, in the middle is like, the Japanese symbol for inner peace to symbolize my, y'know, inner peace.

You haven't seen my Joose tramp stamp.

Joose spelled...?

Yes.

And then I headed on home...

We might go swimming, but we can't decide.

Well, keep me updated.

Yeah, we'll text you, "Still haven't decided."

I really didn't want to work last Thursday but a visit from Mimi and Nat cheered me up.

After work I went to Together Gallery

Dude! That's my purse!

I run

This redneck dude was like, "You're fifty yards behind me, faggot!"

Where some drunk guy kept trying to put his shoes in our bags.

Then went and sat with Keith and Winchel Heartless.

I worked and made a new friend.



Hey dude, how's it going?

Pretty good. Just checking up on that job.

7月31日2009



After work I watched Winchel Heartless play basketball for awhile.

I went to Irum's going away party.



I went camping for the first time!

How was it?

It was weird... but fun.

(We were at the co-op.)

Back home!



Mom and dad are out of town! \*

\*Translation: John and Rachel went - camping.

So everyone came over!





I think I'm trying  
to make myself jaded  
so I won't get  
hurt anymore.



I worked.

8月1日2009

TXT to Todd: Can you  
tell Jesse I'm sorry  
but I'm too tired  
to ride that far.  
Next time!

FROM Todd:  
Done and done.

Then was too tired for movie night.



I went up to the Bear Hug  
but wasn't feeling it.



I headed home when everyone  
started talking about the Blazers.

I went to open the IPRC  
but my stair key wouldn't  
work.



Luckily someone let me in.

8月2日2009

Don't be  
butthead.

Does  
anyone  
still  
say that?



Syd and Somi hung out  
while I folded Milkyboots #8.



Then met up with Caroline  
and Stormgren at the Bluffs.

Paris was having a party when  
we went back to the house.

Hey guys... keep  
it down, 'Kay?



And I had the sucky job  
of playing mom.



I took my paycheck to the bank and paid rent.

8月3日2009

I read the new Milkyboots.

Yeah? What'd you think?

I'm only in like, 3 parts.

Oh-she did?  
Uh-huh. Yeah.  
Yeah.

We wish she'd call us when the problem is happening.

Our neighbor called the landlord about our party last night. (Again.)

I ran into Arian on my way to Bridge City Comics.

What are you drinking?!

A Bye & Bye. It's delicious!

... And I think I'm growing a beard.

Jody Booty

And then went to meet people at the Bye and Bye.

I was excited to run into 2 ladies from my temp job.

They got on stage and read from their high school diaries.

But it made me kind of sad I can't work there any more.

We took John to the Bluffs (his first time!).

Red Arian, another blogging friend.

And later I cuddled with Rach at Vendetta.

Woke up at 7 at a friend's house and panicked.

I have to get the fuck outta here.

8月6日2009

I'm moving to Philly on Saturday.

WHAT?!

Back home...

I finally called my old therapist to set up an appointment.

I drove you back to therapy, huh?

Heh heh. Yup.

A bunch of people came over to say bye to John.

Japes

Emily

Arian

Stormgren

John is moving so he can go to med school...

As Japes was leaving...

Love you, John.

Love you Arian.  
Love you Emily.



I'm going to miss him a ton. ♥

Love you VJ ... I think I can say that now.

Love you too, Japes.

Yay for making amends!

John got into a school in Chicago.

Now I don't have to move for like 10 days!



8月8日2009

And this'll be your room.



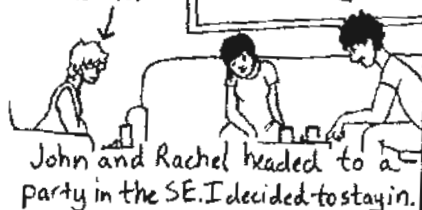
This place is fucking awesome!

I went to look at my new house.

Back home, John, Rach and I played Scrabble.

I killed it with a 49 pt. word!

But John still won.



John and Rachel headed to a party in the SE. I decided to stay in.

However, at 4 am...

John hit his ~~over~~ unconscious ~~over~~ set an alarm ~~over~~ be up in 2 hours!

Japes' voice

earplugs



What happened?!

John hit a car on his bike. He hit his head really hard!

He might have a concussion!\*

So I stayed up and had a beer with Japes.

I gave Milkyboots 8 to my roommate and she said that I was an asshole.

Really? I tried to make you not look like an asshole.

Are we friends yet, Virgie?

Yes. But you're still a ridiculous human being.

\*It turned out to be a broken collarbone.

Paris and I made breakfast / lunch together.



8月12日2009

Arian must beat Don Hellions practice.



I think that cute girl is the one who commented on my blog. I wonder why she didn't say hi when she got coffee?

At work...



Hey! Are you Olivia?

...

Yeah.



My housemates and I are going to a barn dance on Friday. Would you wanna go?

Yeah! I've been wanting to go to one!

Is she shaking?! That's adorable!



Hold on...

Did I just get asked on a date?



Olivia and I walked all around Alberta St. getting treats...



breakfast at Vita, a new Micron & coconut water.

9月2日2009

After work I went and played rummy with Olivia and her housemate.



Their neighbors argued throughout the entire game.

We got caught in some weird rain on the way back to my house.

Let's leave the sound of the heat for the sound of the rain 月\*



\* She told me that the rain reminded her of this song the next day.



彼を見つけたら  
いれなきゃ  
いけない

I went downtown to help  
A.M. set up the IPRL art  
show but.

9月3日2009

(Let's try something  
different today, shall  
we?)

I forgot  
to tell  
you...

I already  
did it!



so I went to Powell's and found Todd.

(he was painting birds)

Then I went to Kayti's and  
had a really good convo\* about our lives  
and relationships. (\*fueled by red wine)

I look at you and  
where you are at 22  
versus where I was  
at 22 and you are  
so much driven and  
focused-directed,  
than I was.

Yeah, but I feel  
like sometimes  
I should be  
doing what  
you were-  
hanging out,  
meeting  
people...



(We ended up agreeing that ultimately you can't make mistakes.)

I ran into someone from  
Louisville when I went back  
to the IPRC.

9月3日2009

Cont...

Olivia came & met  
me



We went to Pony Club which was too  
crowded.

Be sure to let  
us know if  
we fuck up.

And on to Winchell's  
where we discussed  
Paris' FB posts...

It said "I  
got a half  
chub" and  
then "see  
9 similar  
posts"!

(one of  
my comics  
class  
teachers)





Olivia + I walked to the store and I bought hella groceries

9月4日2009

Maybe I'm wiggly  
cause I'm so melty  
all the time.

(helping  
carry,  
what  
a sweetie!)

Then I cleaned my room  
and made tea.

netles:  
raspberry  
leaf for  
my late  
20s  
hormone  
changes



I am trying to be  
healthier (sort of)  
since I've been busy  
the last couple months  
and haven't been taking  
care of myself.

That night, my friends came over for my house warming  
and some porch sitting.

When you get  
married, I'm  
gonna pee  
on the  
groom's  
face!



Rach

I can be asexual  
if I want to be!



Winchel  
Heartless

Picture this  
we were both  
buck naked  
bangin' on  
the bathroom  
floor



Paris

Everyone was in fine form for Olivia's 1<sup>st</sup> time meeting them.

My throat still hurts - I keep waking up in the middle of the night which also wakes Olivia

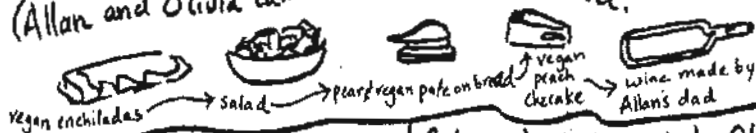
9/20/2009  
I worked on my home-work at the IPRC and policed the teen hours.



Are you under 18? I can't let you up if you're 18 or older!



Jill decided to have people over for dinner. I invited Rachel, Stormgren and Winchel Heartless. Dick jokes abound! (Allan and Olivia came too, natch!) We served:



I was really mean to Rachel.

Later, Winchel read to Olie and I from the dictionary. I kept interrupting with critiques.



I mean, I thought it was the "in love with you" look, I just didn't think Rachel was capable of that depth of emotion.



Doesn't it just seem overwritten?

I actually felt okay when I woke up.



I called my mom & dad while I was cleaning up the backyard.



I knew my parents would be accepting but it still was a hard thing to bring up for some reason...

Olivia left for class and I finished my homework, deciding (with roommate Ryan's help) to do a light wash on the character in my gag panel.



Then I went to class.



I started not feeling so great again. I think it was the air-conditioning.

9月21日2009

I felt like ass this morning so I stopped at work on the way home from Olivia's to talk to my manager



I couldn't get ahold of anyone but my manager saved the day.

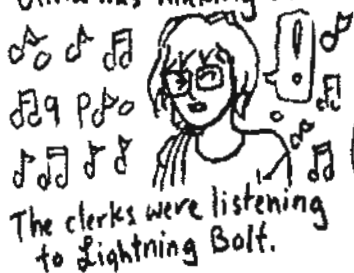
I got your shift covered, so you take care of yourself.  
...Thank you...

9/22/2009

Olivia came over, bringing juice and thai soup ramen-y things. We spent the day reading internet comics and facebooking and laying around.



I ran to the video store while Olivia was making dinner.



... a gay tank commander...?

fingering potatoes  
w/ garlic butter  
smashed radishes  
acorn squash  
salad

We ate delicious dinner and watched Upright Citizen's Brigade.

I stopped at the co-op on my way home and was disappointed to find it closed.



(It was 8:45 and the co-op opened at 9.)

I went to work. We were busy-ish because of last Thursday.



A visit from Winchel was a welcome distraction.

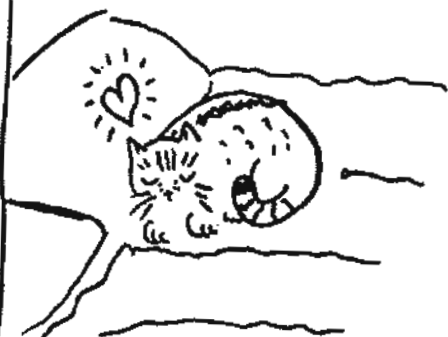
9月24日 2009

At home, Jill was getting ready for work.



Sometimes I forget how weird she is.

When I got home, Olivia and I dragged a mattress up from the basement.



Lyra loves my new bed.

a pretty awesome morning...

9月25日2009



Breakfast and  
two orgasms?  
I must be a  
princess.

Oh embarrassing!  
All 3 housemates were  
home too...

But no one  
said anything,  
so maybe they  
didn't see?



Then we realized we'd left  
the door open the whole time.

I helped Olivia move but  
was feeling really spacy...



Then we went to the Bluffs  
to meet some folks.

I'm Richard  
Documents.  
Call me  
Dic-Doc.



So we went and got coffee  
at the oddly sterile Albina  
Press.



# Portland / Dreamland



I've done a lot of moving around in my adult life.

So I'm familiar with how it feels to leave somewhere. For me, whatever came before becomes a dream. Not even a memory, but something completely unreal. Another life. Maybe even someone else's life. I think things like "I lived in Philly? No, that wasn't me."

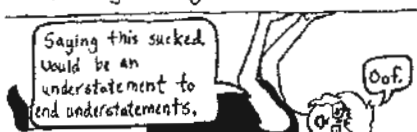


My life in Louisville was good.



I was settled.

Then, heartbreak picked a fight with me and won. In 2008 I broke up with my boyfriend of six years, got dumped twice, [redacted] one friend died suddenly, another friend attempted suicide, one of my closest friends was killed on her bike and most of my remaining friends moved away.

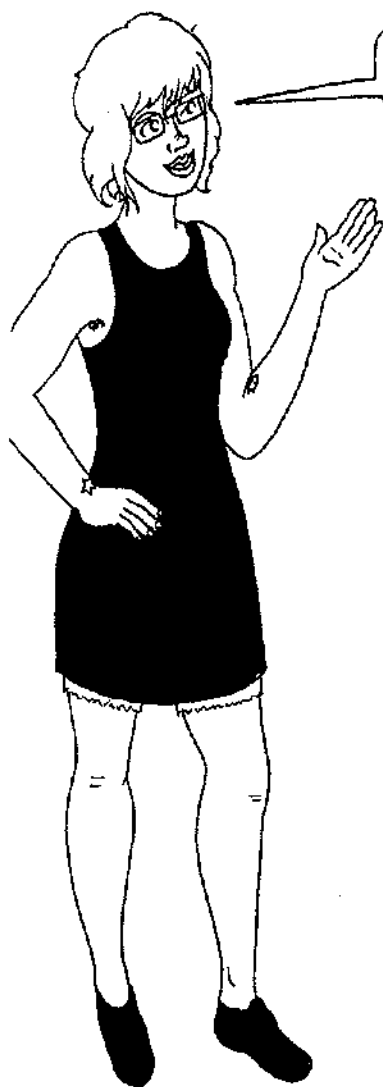


A couple stalwart friends remained in Louisville, but I became very solitary. Everyone and everything seemed broken and stalled. Finally I decided to take Daniel up on his offer.





So I moved. Things started out slowly, but now:



I have three awesome jobs: I do historical research for a graphic novelist; I'm the youth programming coordinator at the **IPRC**, one of my favorite places in the world; and I'm a barista ☕/sandwich maker 🥪 at a small cafe.

My friends are all good-hearted♥ and hilarious folks who provide excellent fodder for my comics.

I've gained a small degree of fame as a comics/zine person. I'm in school for comics and self-publishing.

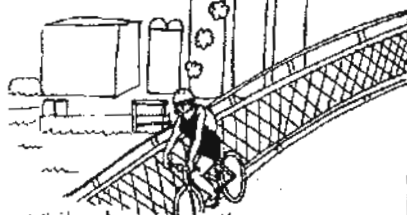
I live in a huge house with cheap rent and three great, arty roommates, located close to everything.

And I have an amazing, ridiculously cute girlfriend.

So great, actually, that it seems unreal. I find myself thinking:

Just take Vancouver down to Shaver and take a right.

Wait, I live in Portland!



While doing really mundane things.

Louisville still feels real.



It's the masochist in me that says that this is how life should be—hard, painful and lonely.

I've been trying to listen more to the voice that says:

I deserve this.

I've worked hard to be this awesome.

Now instead of asking "What's going to go wrong next?" I ask:

How could things possibly get awesomer?

Let's just hope I don't jinx myself.

Thanks, Portland!

Too drunk to go home last night, so I got up extra early for work.

Deadly deadly doo!  
The D deadly deadly do!



After work I got groceries and a new gel pen.

8/10月3日2009  
♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

Need help finding anything?

No thanks.



The lady at Collage thought we were stealing.

We tried to take a nap but were laughing too much.

Can't a girl squeeze her tatas if she wants to?

Hee! Hee! Snort!

Winchel & Jess came over and we decided to have a fire.

We had a little family night around the fire...

I want to win tonight!!!

← Jill's attempt to chop a log.



hot cider, wine, rummy & a movie

I woke up panicked because I hadn't started my home-work



and wen (home despite plans of coffee + bagels.

While I was working on my strip, my old roomie/ex-boyfriend/friend(?) FB messaged me about coming thru on tour.



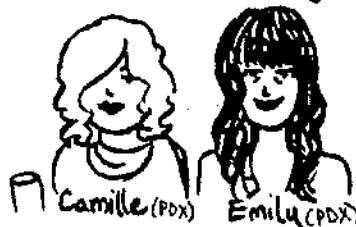
10月5日2009

After considerable outfit difficulties, rode downtown to meet Patrick to draw.



I felt really, really sleepy at Tugboat and during class.

After class, Rachel's goodbye party at the Bye+Bye



Was full of folks I haven't seen in a long time!

Emily and I made plans



to link our non-profit jobs...

...and I had a tearful goodbye



with Rachel, who I will miss terribly. ♡

Another fabulous, much needed  
\*gaycation\* day

10/06/2009



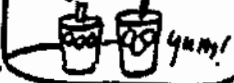
coffee and bagels were  
eaten on the porch

We walked to Cherry sprout for  
snacks. Dismayed at their lack of  
vegan cookies, we headed to MissAe



If you ever get tired  
of me talking about  
comic books, just let  
me know.

At Fresh Pot, we  
got ginger juice  
+ thyme iced tea.



Then we headed to the Bluffs for a cute, thrown-  
together picnic



complete  
with ants!

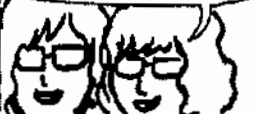
We were visited by many  
dogs, including Pearl!

We ran into Carrot, Which prompted me  
to say,



Who sat nearby with  
some friends,

What, is this the queer  
section of the Bluffs?



Then back to Olivia's  
where her housemate  
was making vegan  
apple crisp!



Thanks, Ellen!  
(and Olivia, for the help on  
my mini-vacation!)

I got a cold, again, so going to work at the cafe was less than pleasant.



I really shouldn't be making food...

So I made 8,000 espresso drinks instead.



10/10/2009  
At home I made hot + sour soup and an anti-cold concoction before getting dressed for the text ball.

All black 'cause I'm the bartender!



Olivia dressed as Huck Finn.

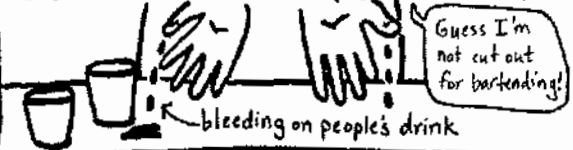


We took the bus to the SE.

I bartended with moral support.



I had some issues with the corkscrew.



But I made really good tips!

Ballin'!



Then back on the bus and to Olivia's house.

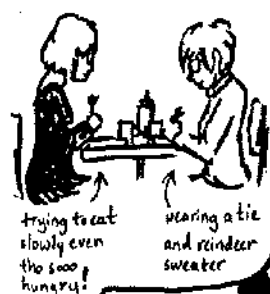


\*I woke up to 3 texts from my ex, who I haven't talked to in 6 mos. I had messaged him 3 months ago, but he still does everything on his own terms only. So frustrating.

{ 10/11/2009 }

Olivia and I got breakfast at Vita.

Then I went to meet my comics advisor, Aron. It was kind of funny.

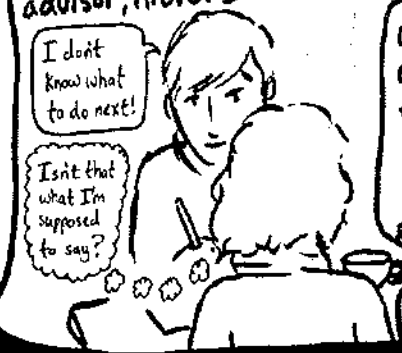


trying to eat slowly even tho sooo hungry!

wearing a tie and reindeer sweater

I don't know what to do next!

Isn't that what I'm supposed to say?



We drew everyone in the coffee shop.



I ate the most ridiculous dinner that was mostly olives.



Kalamata and Sicilian olives

black olive tapenade

whole wheat leaven

red grapes

1/2 avocado

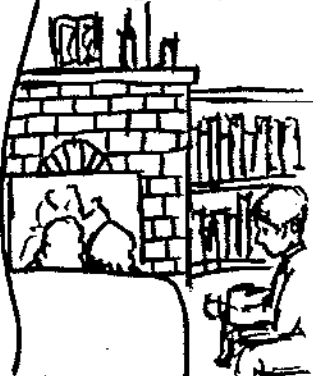
Olivia came over and we made mulled wine.



I used a little from each recipe I read. (One big ass

bottle of cheap wine, brown sugar, 1/2 an orange, 1/2 a lemon, star anise, 17 cloves, 10 black pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks)

We shared it with my housemate Ryan around the fire.



And tried to do more homework.



I woke up at 7:45 and  
couldn't get back to  
sleep.



So I (quietly) did the  
dishes from last night's  
dinner party.

\*she also got  
me a new brush  
pen!

At the IPRC, A.M.  
gave me a bunch of projects.

Can you work  
on this, and  
this, and this,  
and think  
about this...



10月8日 2009

My advisor Aron came  
by to drop off comics.

Oh, hey,  
it's you!

Hey!



I finished most of my projects  
and started sketching the cover  
for the new IPRC catalog.



After work, I made a quick stop at  
Olivia's before heading to a super-  
awkward bonfire at Carolines.



We left pretty quickly and  
read Scott Pilgrim  
in bed.



Olivia had a giggle fit  
because I kept smashing  
my face into her boobs.



Then we made  
popcorn and  
watched "Son of  
Rambow."



What happened yesterday? → 《10月22日2009》  
I've been feeling pretty stressed and it was my  
day off this week.

Olivia and I  
went to the new  
vegan bakery on  
Alberta.

Which led to stupid  
jokes later.

I'm gonna give  
you a whoopie  
pie!

Not here!  
Later,  
baby girl!

I got a  
whoopie pie

I tried to work  
on the homeworks...

My final project is boring.

Winchel Heartless came over.  
We read aloud to each other  
from a Christian self-help  
book for girls.

Jesus became  
my 'head'  
coach.

Ahahahahaha

haircut!

I finally started reading a library book\* I've had for 3 months while getting ready for work.

10/25/2009

Work was slow at first so my coworker and I tried to do cross words.



\*The Alphabet vs. The Goddess

It was dark when I got dressed so I accidentally picked 2 plaid.



Heh heh.

I had completely forgotten I had a house guest coming to stay today...



This is Brent, friend of a friend, in PDX to go to the United Bicycle Institute.

Jill started reading the self-help book\* while I was drawing.



What the fuck, this is so fucked up!

\* Christian self-help book for girls

Then I went to Olivia's & hung out with her and her housemates.

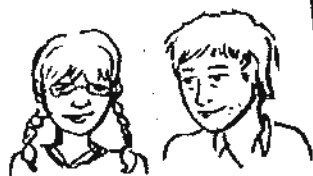


I'm a grown-up. I can eat: cookies, popcorn and beer for dinner.

## Conversations I have enjoyed in the last week...



I switched days for my co-op shift. I miss working with Dusty & Micki ~



but atleast the coffee was already made.

I was confused by someone else's notes in the herb log.



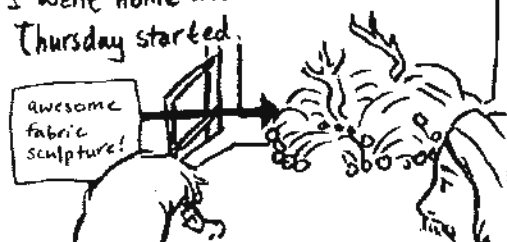
Why is oregano marked "order more"? We have two full bags.

10月29日2009

When I came out someone had stolen my fancy bike light.

Well, there goes half my spending money for the month.

I went home and drew until Last Thursday started.



Then I went to Together Gallery to say hi to Seth.

Sighhh...



Back at my house, Stormgren and I watched a skeleton parade.



Jill's installation was really cool.



I've been feeling unfocused and overwhelmed and 1st Thursdays give me weird anxiety, but I headed downtown anyway.



The Broadway Bridge was up for the first time since I moved here.

11月5日2009



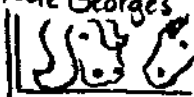
The ship on the river was HUGE.

After I crossed the Bridge I ran into Kayti and Daniel helping a biker who'd hit a car. Hey!



Well, that was traumatic. I continued onto Nicole Georges' art opening.

Oh, the potluck is next week ... but these are still good!



I brought cookies cause I thought it was a potluck.

After the opening, I went to Daniel and Kayti's for a bit.



Have your roommates said anything about when you left the door open?

Nope.



Thank God!

It was actually nice out for Olivia and I's big grocery shopping day.



We went to Cherry Sprout and the co-op.

So we ran to New Seasons...



made and ate our snack before heading to Winchells.

It was raining on our way home but we were singin' anyway.

Or the way the back lane came alive/half moon whispered go!

BRIDA

Afterwards I went home to draw for a bit.

8/11/09  
O O O O O



The SEPTA logo looked like this...

Olivia came over to make guaca mole but...



All the avocados are rotten!

Keith and others came over too. Keith was eating convenience store burritos.



I just put a lot of sauce on 'em so I can't taste 'em.



My hours have been cut at the cafe, putting me in a distressingly familiar position:

Pretty much broke.

At least I get to see my fav. coworker with my new hours.

Back home, Jill's b-day potluck was just getting started. I made a cake and started drinking wine.

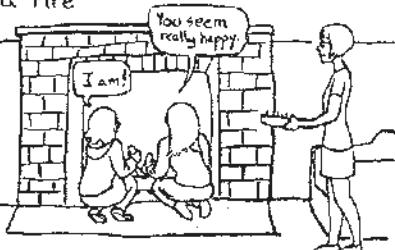
11/8/2009

We got so much wine!

Lots of people came over...



The Inventor and I started a fire



And S.M. broughtt out the cake.

What time is it?

It's only 7:40!

We're out of wine!

And things quickly devolved from there.

UHRNN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JILL!



My continuing struggle with what to wear...



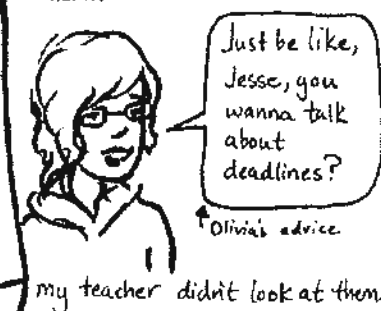
Lyra spent the whole afternoon on the bed with Olivia, who was looking up trees.



My final project pencils are due today but I ran out of bristol -



I didn't finish but it didn't matter...



In class, we worked on our collaborative comic "Job Quest."



Then I fell asleep watching "Spirited Away."



My name is Virginia. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. I moved to Portland from Kentucky almost a year ago. I feel weird about writing bios.

Contact me! [vlpaine@yahoo.com](mailto:vlpaine@yahoo.com)

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there isnt much that i feel i need...