

#1

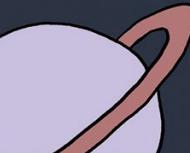
My name is
Amari Čertkus.

Hello

Whenever you see
these blue boxes,
that's me speaking.

I'll be your guide as we
venture to the other side
of the galaxy...

To a planet not too different
from our own.



On this planet, floating above
a flowery meadow,

is a small
speck of dust.

"What's so special about a piece of dust," you ask?

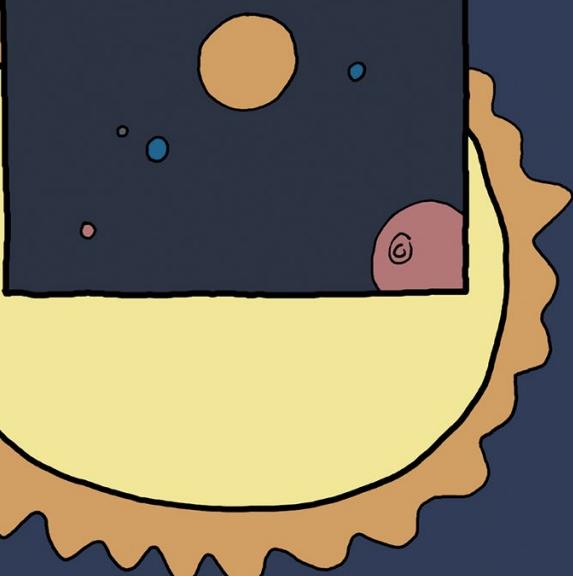


...is a whole other universe, with its own galaxies and planets.



Well, inside this seemingly insignificant speck of dust...

And inside one of these tiny, tiny solar systems...

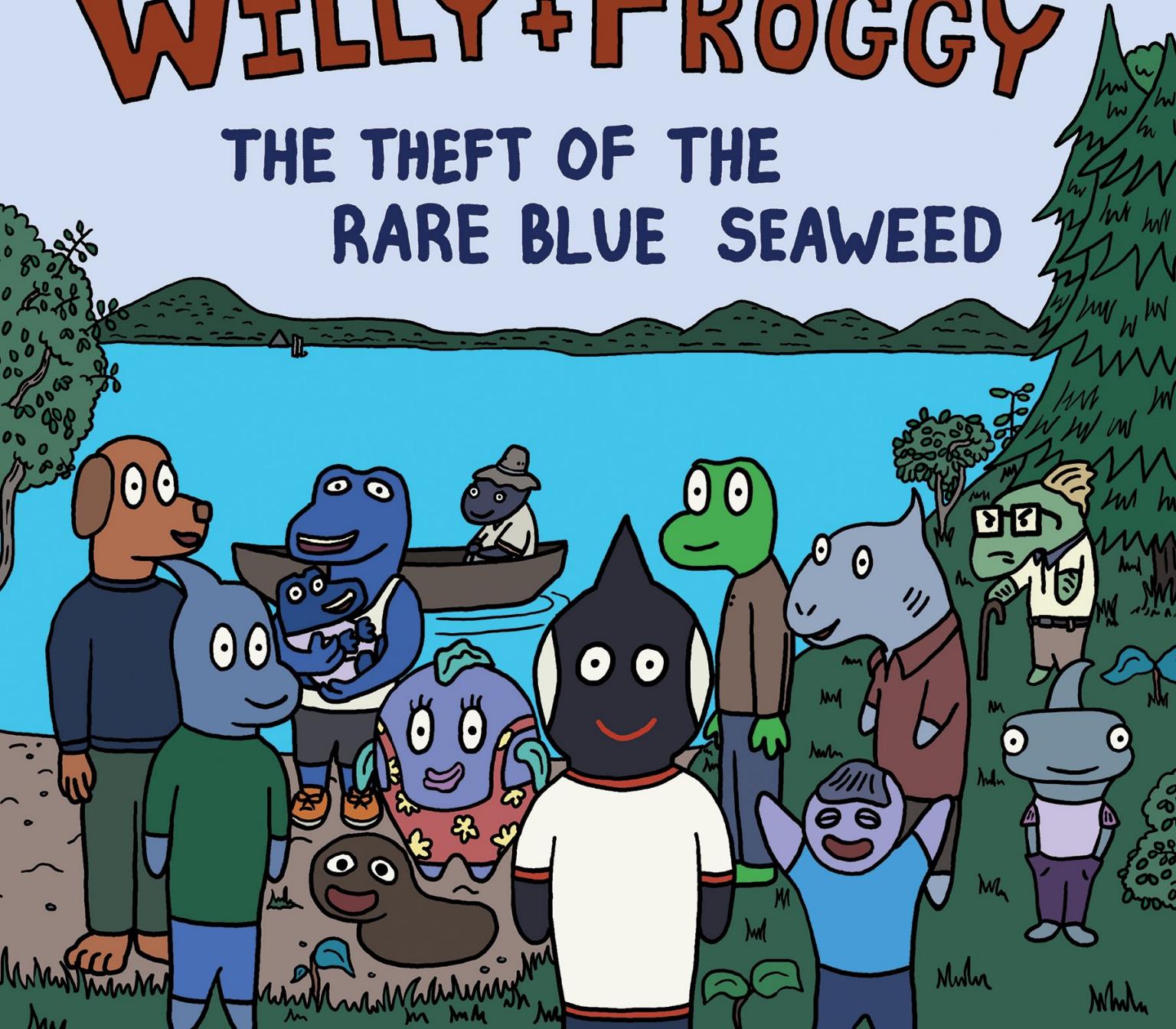


...is where you can find two of my best friends:



WILLY + FROGGY

THE THEFT OF THE RARE BLUE SEAWEED





Froggy enjoys reading comic books,

collecting baseball cards,

and playing road hockey.

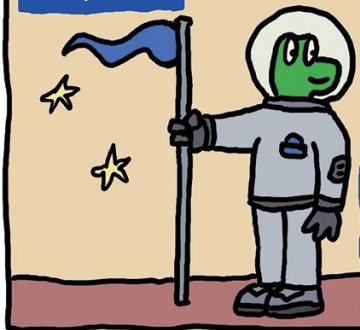


But most of all, Froggy loves adventure



And that's why his biggest dream is to become an explorer.

A new planet discovered by Froggy Cegewal



Unfortunately, there's nothing adventurous about Froggy's life at the moment...

A few days ago, Froggy received the news that he was not accepted into Buddiolia Explorer School for the third straight time.



As you can imagine, he was pretty disappointed.

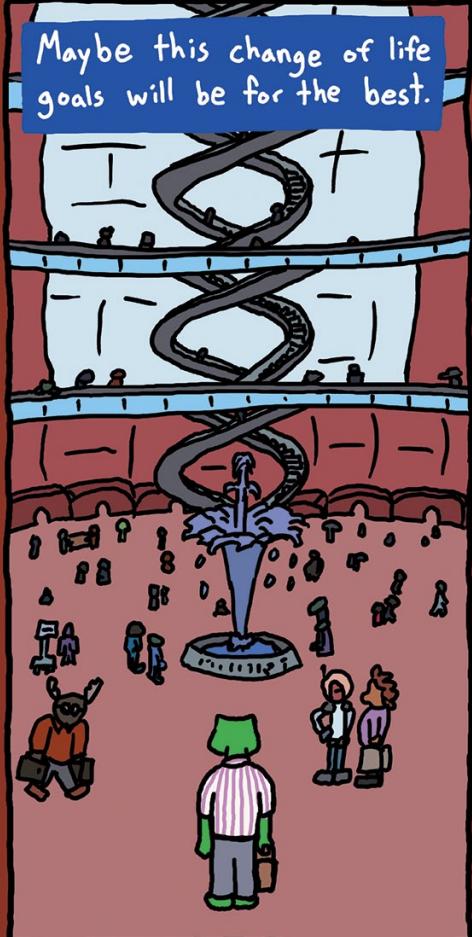
But after some important self-reflection, Froggy began to consider some new career paths.

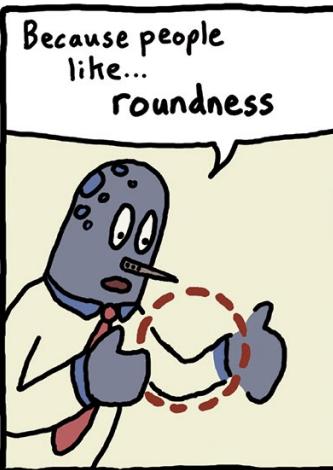
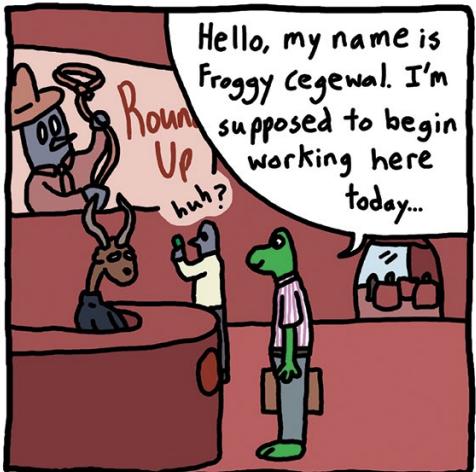


Today, he starts his new job at the Circle-Corp-owned wireless communications company, Round Up.



Maybe this change of life goals will be for the best.

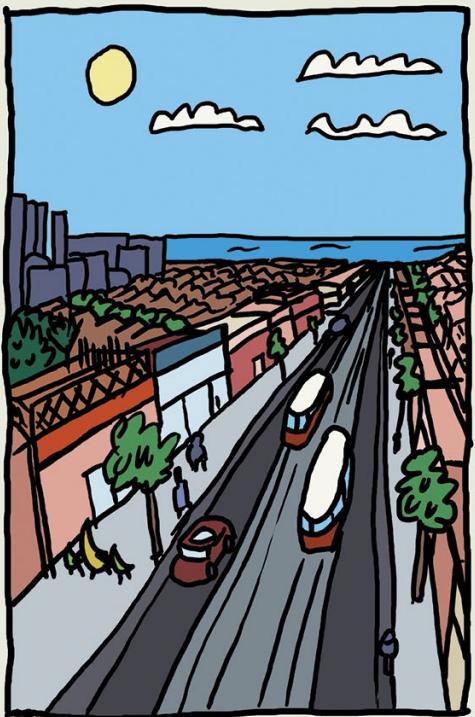
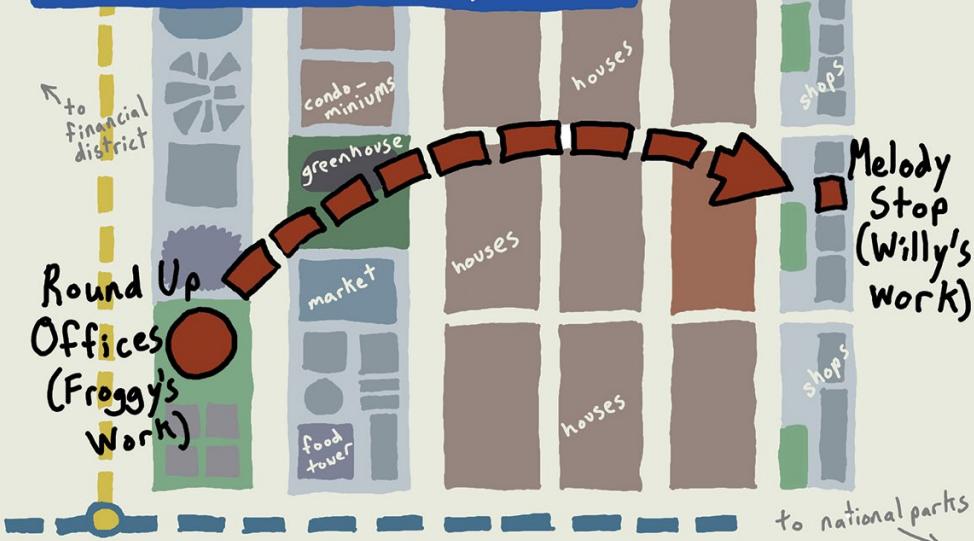




Yes,
Mr. Round Up



In the meantime, let me introduce you to another individual whom I think you will like very much...



Willy enjoys watching movies and watering his many plants.



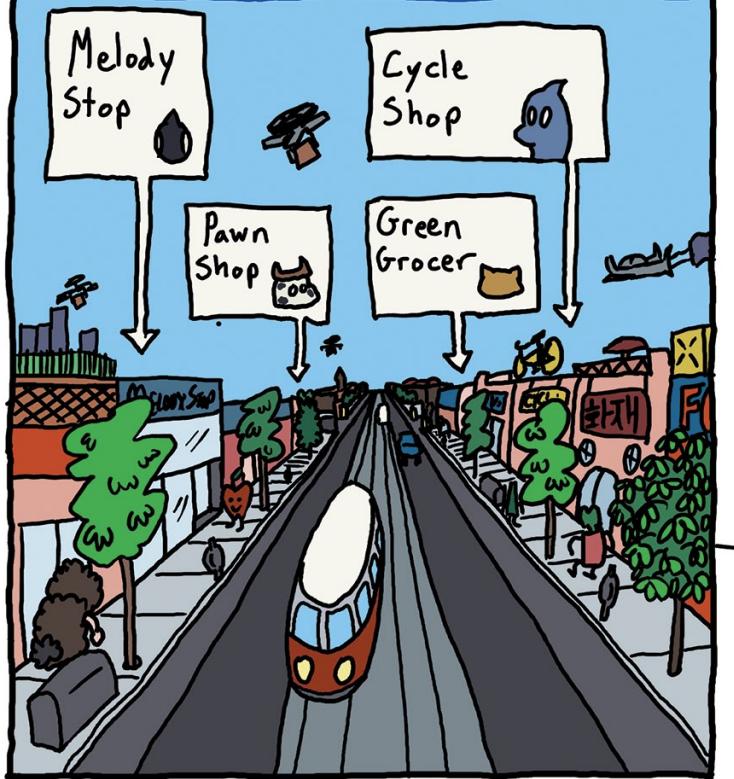
He works in a music store and loves music, but unfortunately can't play any instruments.



Here you go,
Comosumi



Willy's favourite day of the week is Friday because that's when all of the people who work at the Buddy St. shops eat lunch together.



...and across the street from Willy's music store, in a bicycle store, is where Dolphina works.



Pretty much everyone knows that Willy likes Dolphina a lot...



Or maybe she does know how Willy feels but chooses to ignore it? Who knows... Lunch is happening right now. Let's listen in and you can decide for yourself.



Can we all have lemonade and sandwiches please?

no problem

Oooo, that sounds good!

You'll never guess what I saw today. Someone came into the store wearing a Rare Blue sweater!

No... are you sure it was RARE Blue?



Yep!

Oh that just makes me so mad! What's wrong with these people? How can they destroy an endangered ecosystem just to flaunt how fashionable they think they are?!?

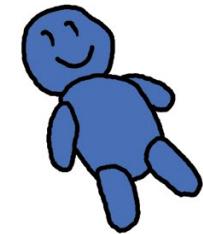
Oh, I should probably explain what "Rare Blue" is. Please forgive me.



As you probably know, there
are many dyes that you
can use to make a blue
shirt,

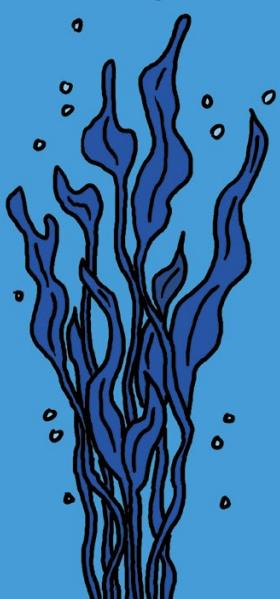


or a blue hat,



or a blue doll.

But if you want to make
something blue that glistens
with incomparable beauty,
you must use the dye of
a rare underwater plant
called Bluenifferous.



This wondrous plant is found in
only a handful of lakes in the
entire known universe!



And why is Dolphina so concerned about Rare Blue dye? Well, as a result of exhausting this marvelous plant in order to make dye...



the lake and its surroundings - which were once spectacular and beautiful sites - become dead and dreary.



Well, speaking of Rare Blue dye, it's Environment Week on Aviumia* and my dad said that I should bring over some friends. Would you guys like to come?

That sounds great!



Oh, that would be very nice, but I'm too busy with work...

Me too. I already took too much time off to visit Cloud City last week



Oh, it's quite unfortunate...

Well, Willy, if you want to bring a couple friends that would be okay because my family's home has a bunch of extra rooms

Oh sure. I'm sure Froggy will want to come



Sounds good! I gotta get back to work now... I'll talk to you guys later!



So, will this be your first time leaving the planet, Willy?

yeah... I guess it is.

I remember the first time I left the planet



I'm sure you'll have a great time!



I'm sure he will, too! Let's check back with Froggy, who's just finishing work...

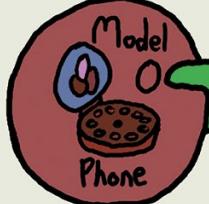
...and then I said, "see you around!" Hahaha...



Anyway, you did good today, m'boy! I'll see you tomorrow. Here's a little welcoming gift on behalf of the company...



enjoy!



What a strange day!

Cool

BUD'D



It looks like Willy is on his way home from work...

ODY STOP!



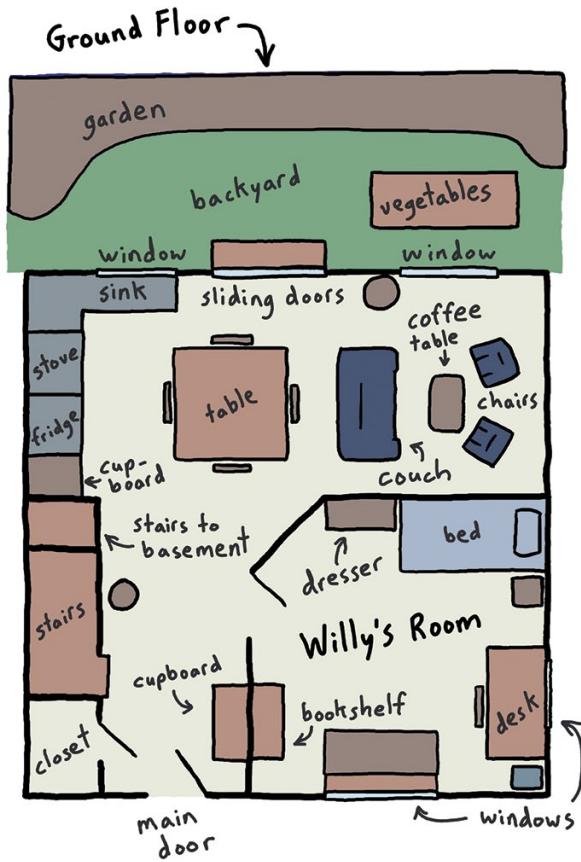
At this point, I'd like to welcome you to the residence of Willy and Froggy.



Willy and Froggy each rent different rooms of the same house.



Willy and Froggy's house:



Second Floor



The attic is currently vacant, but Camilla is always looking for someone to rent it to.

\$500/month, and I'll throw in this hammock, but I don't want any webs in there!



The backyard garden is Willy's wonderful creation...

Well Planty Jr., today's your big day! You're finally big enough to live in the beautiful garden that I've been telling you about!

It's the most beautiful garden in the entire - well, actually, it's probably not quite as great as I've been making it seem...

But still, it's better than being in that pot!

It's really quite a nice home! Oh, Willy is home now! And the phone is ringing! I'll be quiet now.

((Ring))
((Ring))

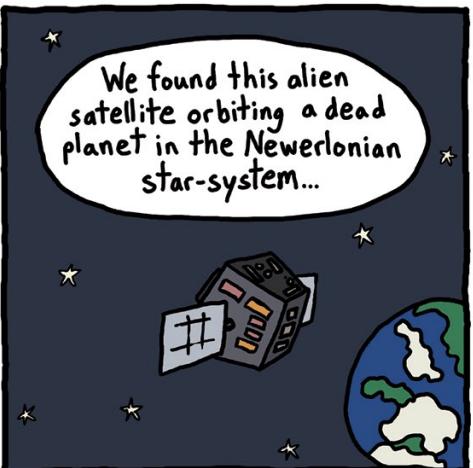
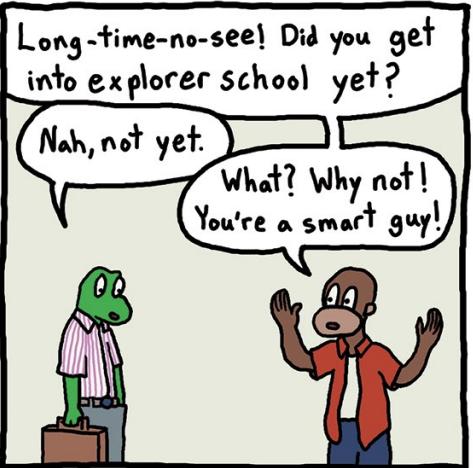
Hello?

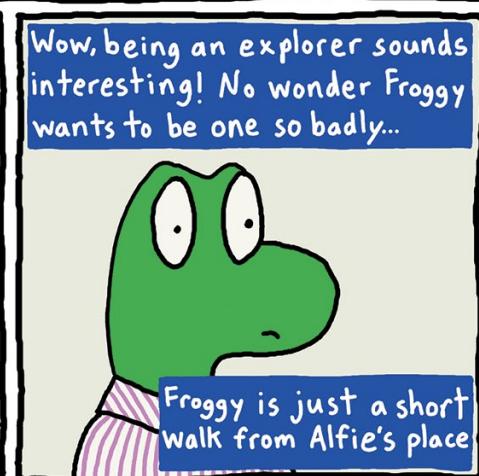
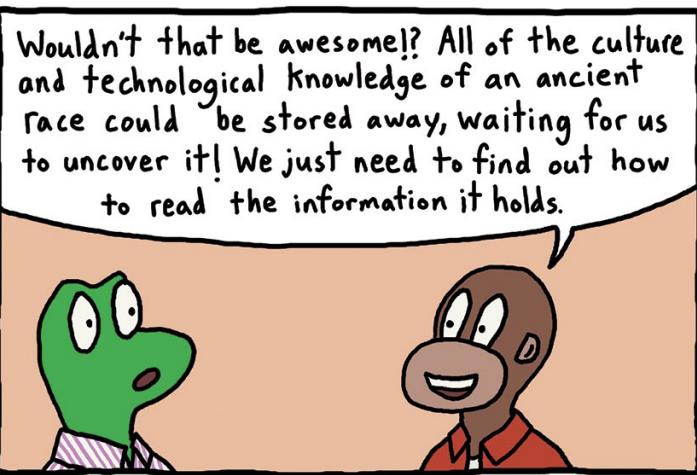
Hi Willy, it's Froggy. I got this free circle phone from work so I decided to call someone

Hey, Froggy, would you be interested in going to Aviumia next week? It's Environment Week there and Dolphina said I should invite some friends

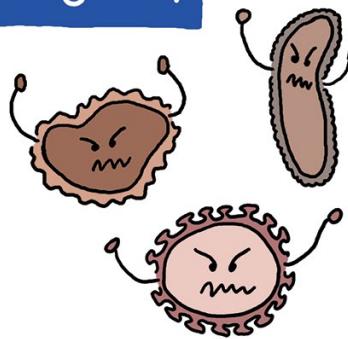
I've never been to another planet... that would be so fun! And that would look good on my next application to explorer school. But I don't know if I can take that much time off so soon. I just started this job...

I guess you're right... you probably have to take this job seriously in case explorer school doesn't work out



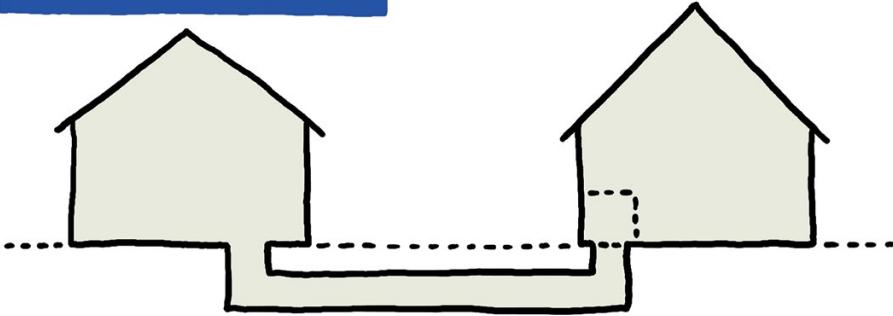


Alfie's biggest fears
are germs,



natural disasters,

He lives next door to his mom, and their houses are connected by an underground tunnel with a decontamination air-lock on Alfie's end.



and crazy people.



Ahhh!

He spends most of his time attending to his many hobbies and learning things from his computer.



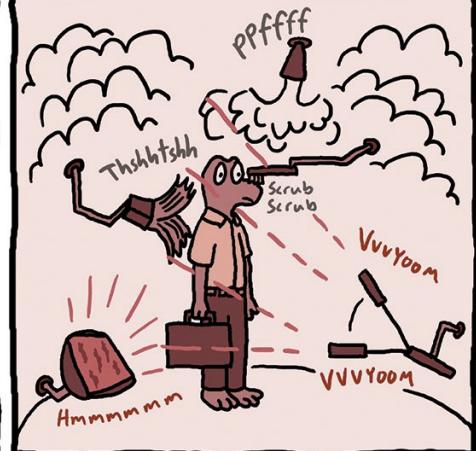
Oh, it looks like Froggy has arrived!

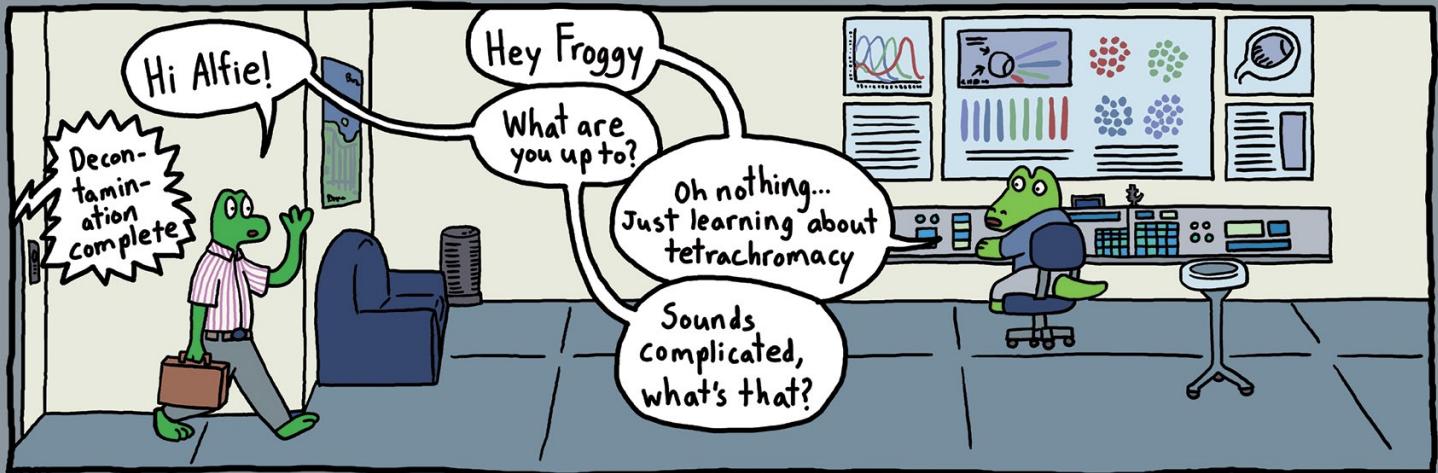
Hi Froggy, I'll let you in

PWOSH!

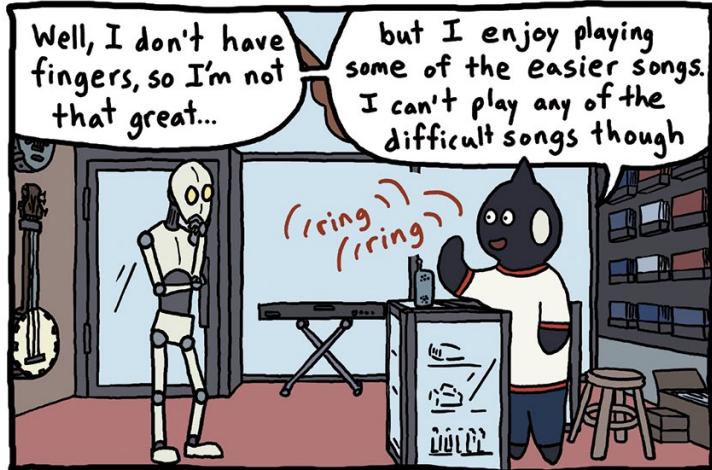


Decontamination initiating...





It looks like Froggy and Alfie might be in conversation for quite a while. I think I've provided you with a decent rundown of the current ongoings of Willy and Froggy's lives - why don't we leave them alone for a while and see what happens tomorrow...



Yes! Froggy is gonna book off work and we're gonna come!

Ok, sounds great! See you then!

bye!

bye!

You know what, I think I'm gonna look into purchasing a musical performance chip. If they're not too expensive I'll come back for a piano

Sure, come back whenever you like!

Ding-a-ling

Uh oh! What's Willy gotten himself into!

Oh no! I better think of a way to convince Froggy to come or I'll look like an idiot! Maybe I can go to Aviumia alone? No... I'm too shy. What if I don't fit in with her family? And what kind of a loner will she think I am if I can't even find ONE friend to go on vacation with me?

Let's see what Froggy is up to on his second day at work at Round Up...

So, did you get that promotion?

No, the boss postponed it again... man, by the time I get that salary increase, I'll be too old to enjoy it

But if you don't work for it now, you'll have nothing when you're retired...

Isn't that just how life goes...

One door opens, another door closes... fix one problem, and it just leads to another...

It's just one big circle of disappointment.

The planet
is a sphere,

Spinning in
a circular path
around the sun.

Orbital
conditions
repeat,

circles!!!

forming
cycles that can be
metaphorically
described as

AHHHHHHHHHHH!!

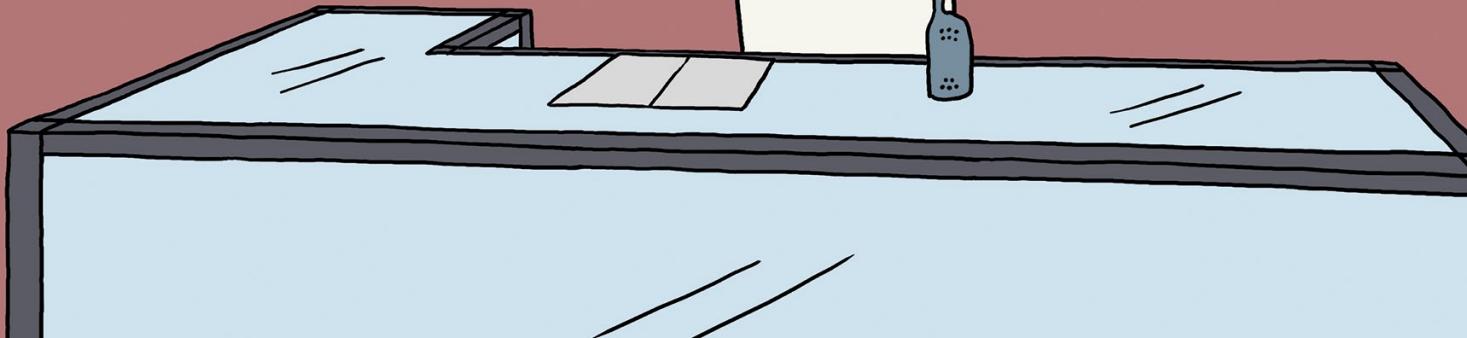
AHHHHHHHHH!!

sshtrr
sshtrr
sshtrr





woooohooooo!!



One-and-a-half days later,
at Willy and Froggy's house:



I know... I guess I got
distracted. I really want
to impress
Dolphina
next
week...



I think I need to get in
shape, too... I should
probably start
going to
the gym.

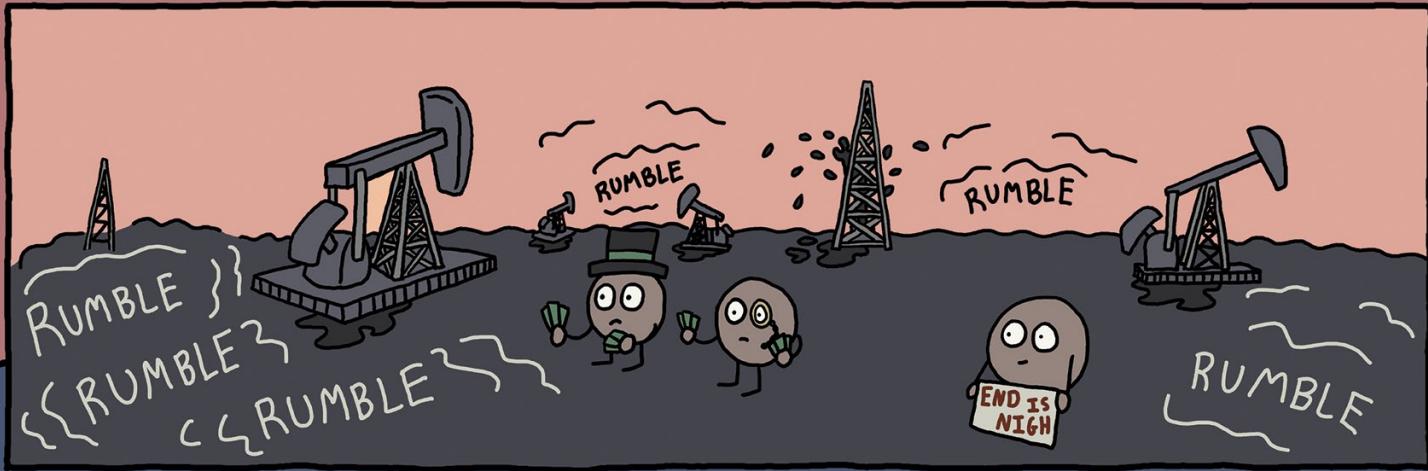
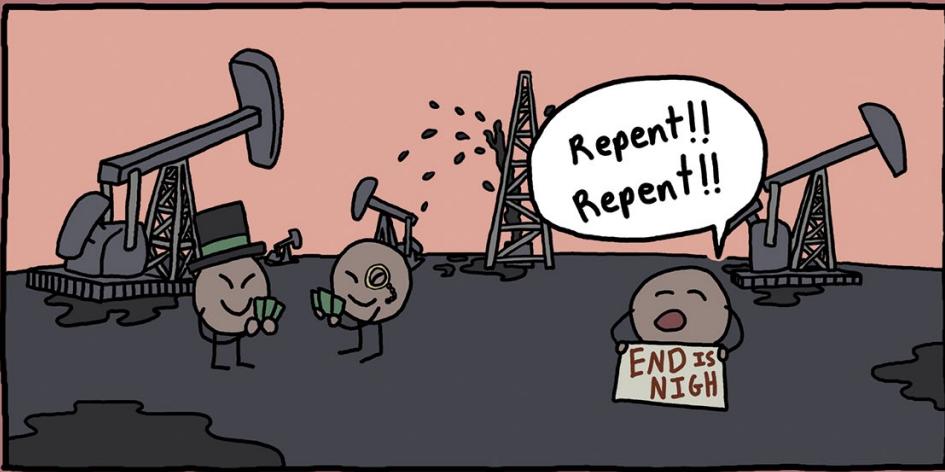
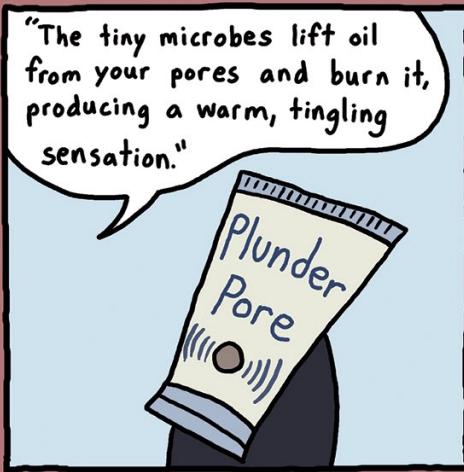


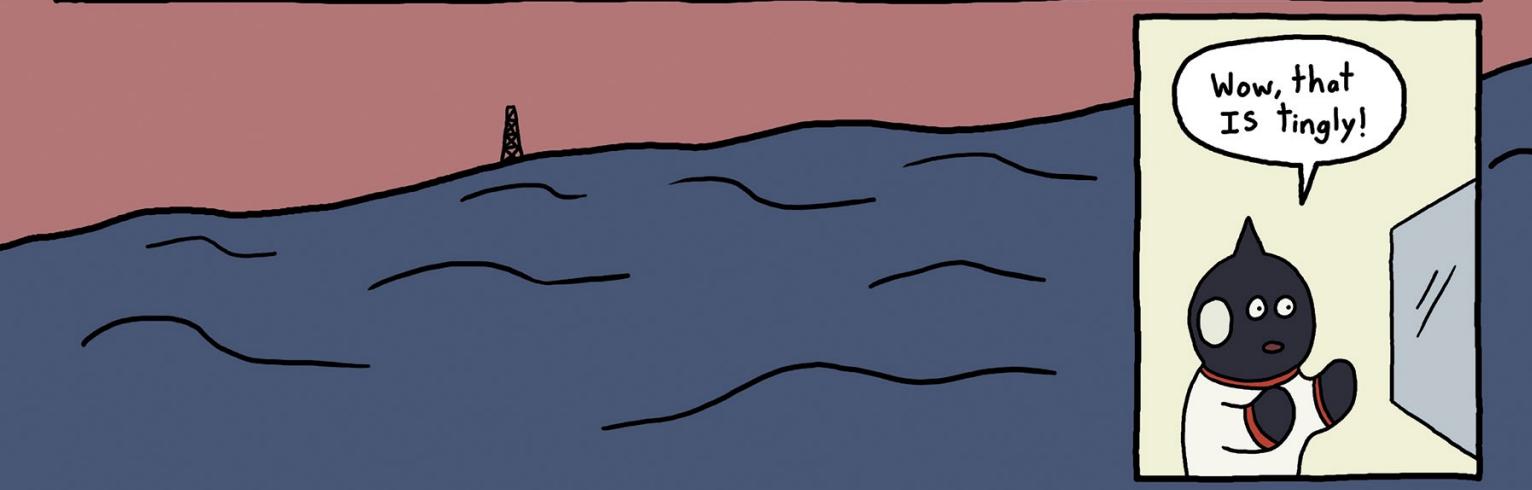
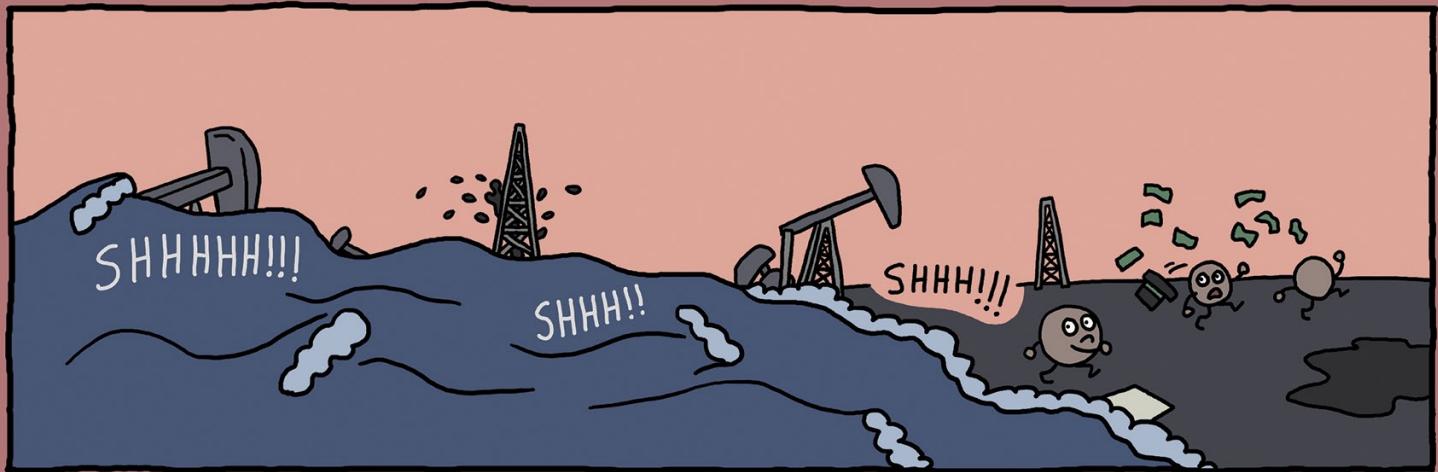
You can probably use the gym at my work.
I've never been, but I hear it's good...
It has a circular pool.



Well, I'm off to bed now.
See you tomorrow!







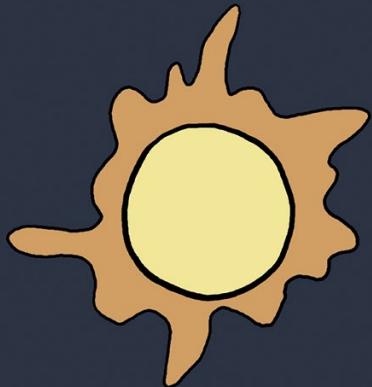
Well, the time is getting late and Willy and Froggy have each gone to their respective beds.



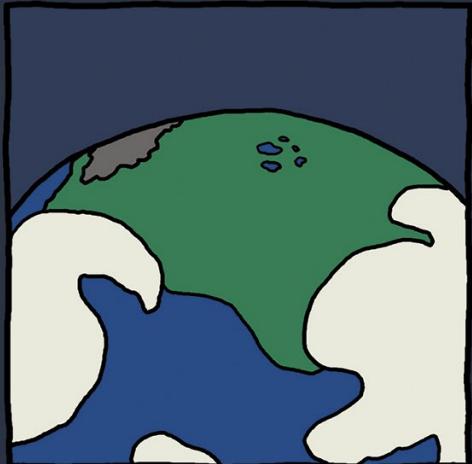
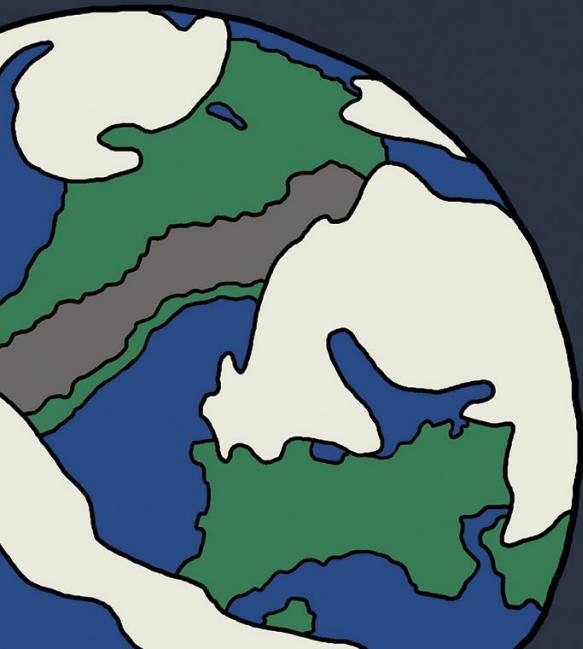
Why don't we see if anything important is happening on Aviumia?



Aviumia



←
Calyxambulo
(Willy + Froggy's home planet)



A mysterious location on Aviumia:

It's that time of year again, old friend. The Bluenifferous is ripe and ready to be harvested!



Will you, once again, be able to shut down the lake's security system?

Yes. As long as your scuba divers are ready and waiting, the plan will go off without a hitch.



Excellent!

Once our operation has been completed, you will be properly rewarded...

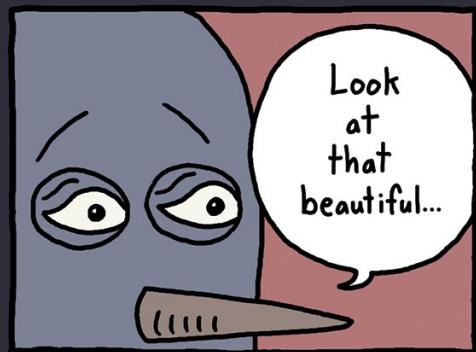
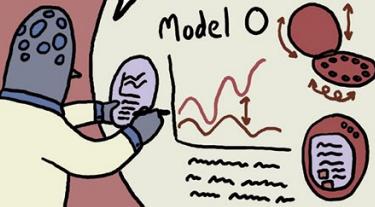
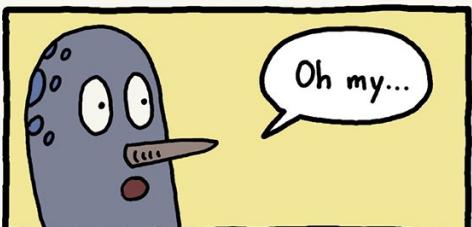
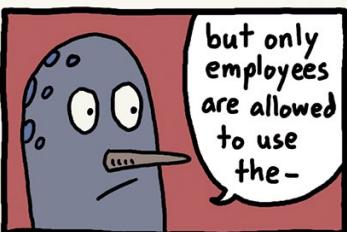


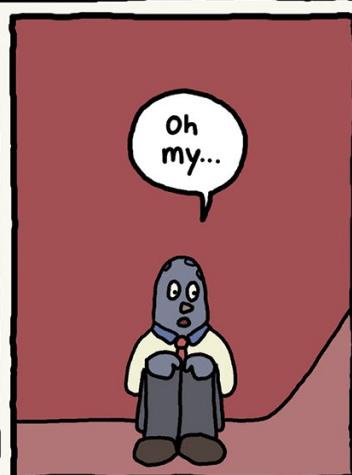
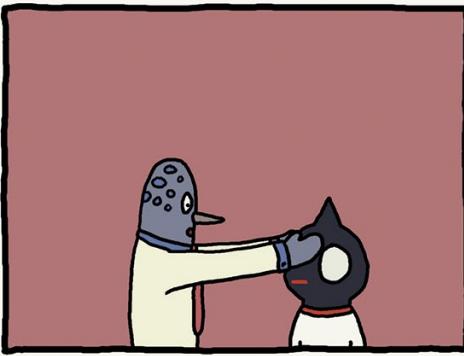
How ominous!! Let's get back to Willy and Froggy...

Mr. Round Up, this is my friend Willy - he's coming with me on that trip to Aviumia next week.

It's okay if he uses our company gym, right?

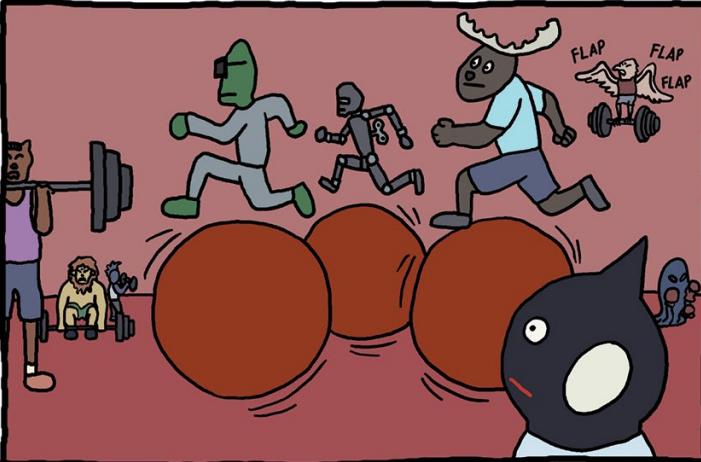
I'm sorry. I don't know what you've heard around the office...



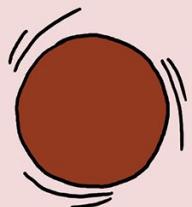


Here's the gym.
I gotta get to work
now. See you later!

thanks!



sphere treadmill

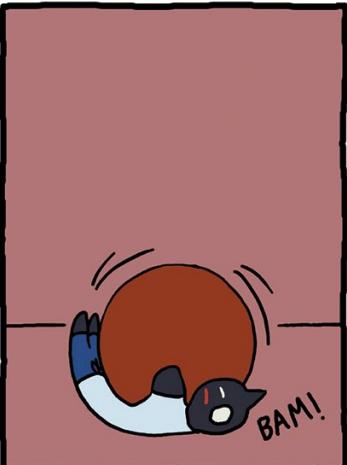


AAAAAAAH!!



BAM!

AAAAAAHH!!



BAM!

You look lost,
my friend



My name is Bulgakov,
I'll be your trainer
for today.



Thanks, but I don't think
I really need a trainer,
I'm only gonna be here
for a few days...

Nonsense! Come
into my office,
my friend.



Have a seat as I search for
a regimen that is tailored to
your exact specifications...

here!



Our plan is to change you from this...



...into THIS!



Umm... I don't know if I really need to
be this muscly. I'm just looking for a
bit of tone.

You don't
want muscle?



What kind of man
does not want...



MUSCLE!!



While Willy's at the gym,
let's see what Froggy's
up to...

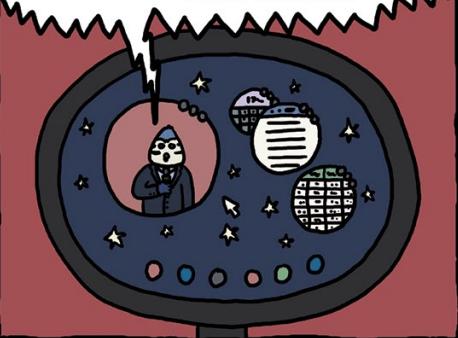


It looks like he's watching a news report
of some kind!

Next week is
Environment Week on
our neighbouring
planet, Aviumia



This is the week when they
celebrate their connection
with the environment.



It is therefore unfortunate
that we must report that
environmental degradation of
protected zones on Aviumia
has increased by
20% since
last year...



The Aviumian government is
blaming the drastic rise in
illegal sales of Rare Blue
products, which are created
by harvesting endangered
plants...



Froggy, how does it feel to have
single-handedly shut down the illegal
Rare Blue market with your super
great explorer abilities?



I'm just an honest
citizen trying to help
out as best I can!

This trip
is gonna be
so great!



Buddyville Space Station

I can't believe the day is finally here!

We're gonna leave the planet for the first time!!

I know, it's exciting!

Hello, may I see your tickets please?



You're at loading station 5... it's just to the left of the big statue at the end of the hall.



There are two main ways to get to Avumia:

spaceship,



or teleportation



Our friends have opted for the former because Froggy has a fear of teleportation. Would you use a teleportation system? Here's a diagram of how it works:

What am I?
An idea that
can be reduced
to 0s and 1s?
Or this physical
body?

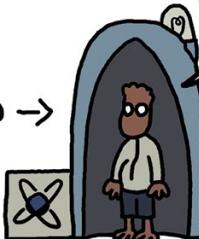


(digital map of person's atomic structure)



→ 01001110101100101110100100010 →

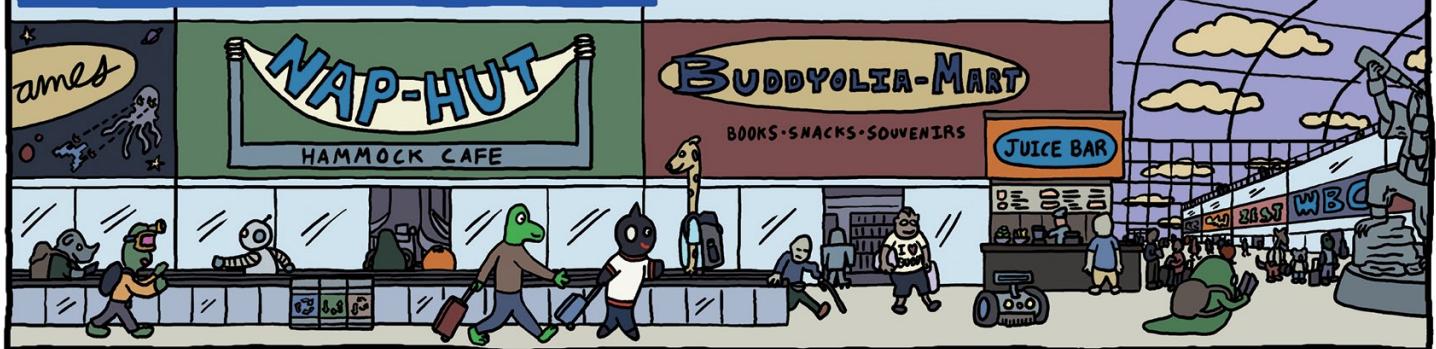
atomic storage



Hmmm...
everything **SEEMS**
normal...

...but I kinda
feel bad for that
guy who just got
atomized

But I'm not here to bore you with sciencey mumbo jumbo.
Let's get back to our main characters...



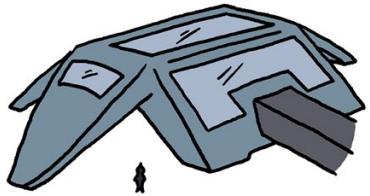
It says here that this is a
statue of Emperor Komodo,
the first ruler to
publicly fund space
exploration.

cool!

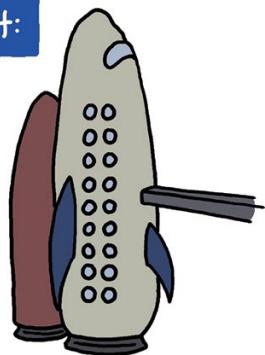
All aboard!!
Flight 5-M to
Bluepetania, Aviumia
is leaving in
10 minutes!



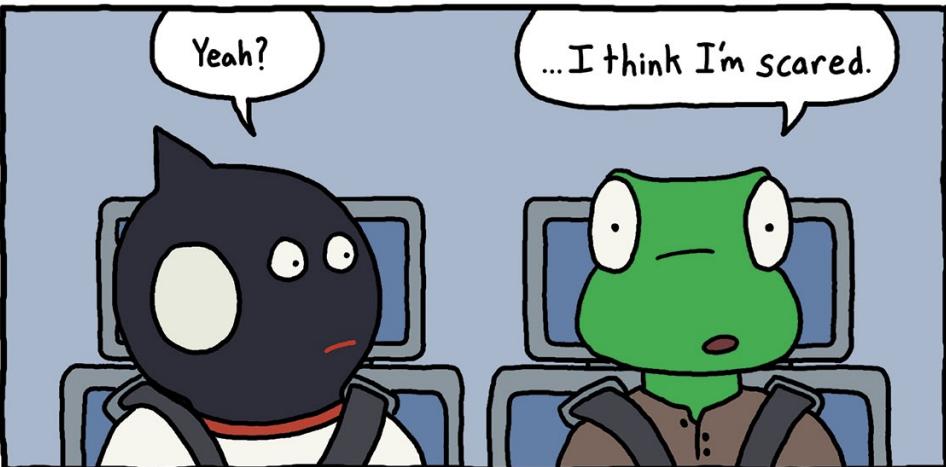
First Class intrastellar
spacecraft:



Economy Class
intrastellar
spacecraft:



Typical private intrastellar
spacecraft (these are
rare):



What if the ship crashes or burns up?! I've never been in a spaceship before. I never thought it would be this scary!!

How are you going to be an explorer if you're afraid of space travel?

If you go to explorer school, they give you virtual simulation training before the real thing! This is too much too soon!

EXCUSE ME!!

Hello.
Can I help you?

Yes,
I was wondering how safe this space craft is...

I can assure you it's very safe.

There hasn't been an accident on an intrastellar space craft in the past 160 years.

But...is that because the odds of an accident are very low? Or was there a major technological improvement that happened 160 years ago that makes all current ships 100% safe?

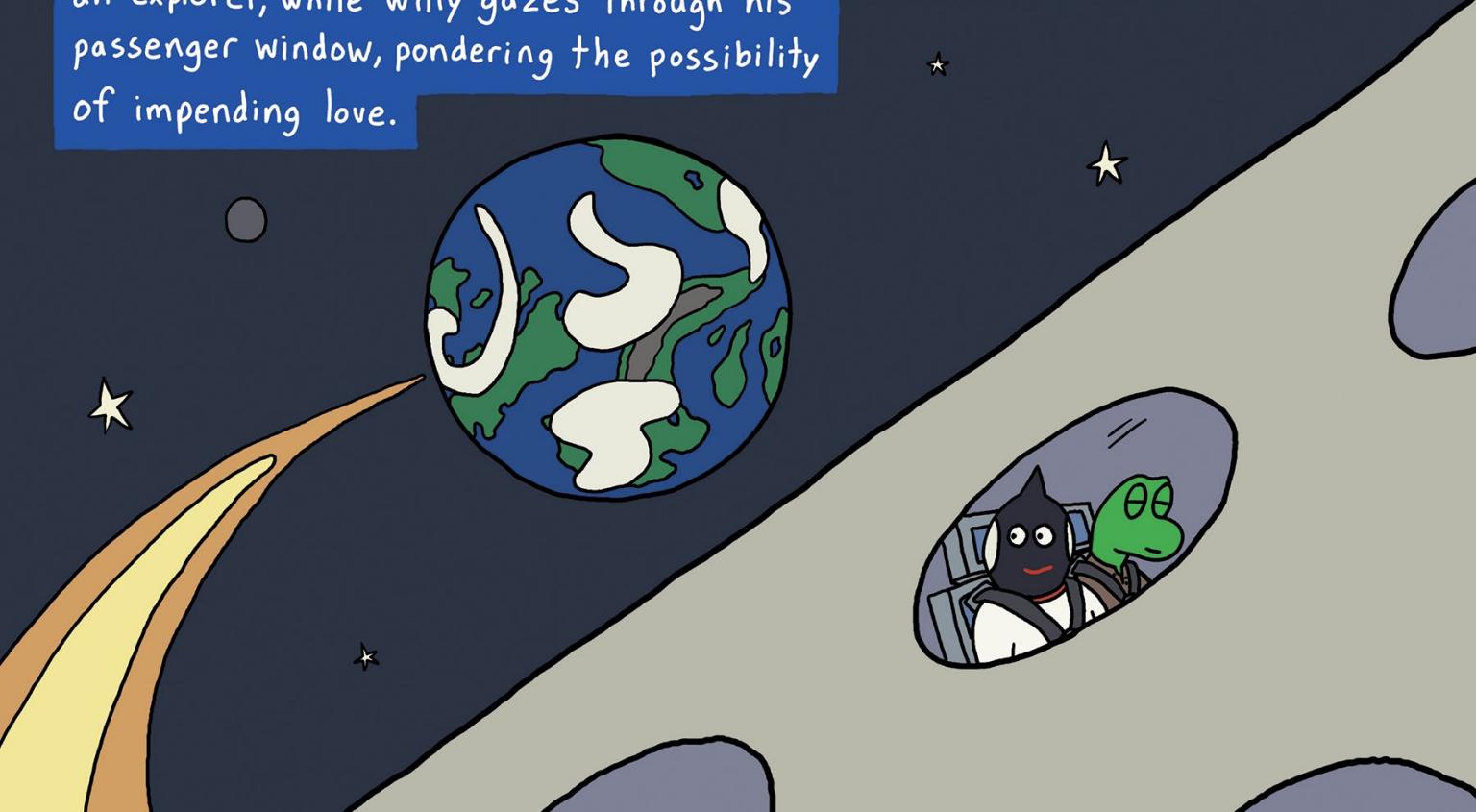
You know what, I'm not sure about that...

But we do offer sleeping gas for customers who are nervous about flying. The button is located on your arm rest.

Are there any negative side-effects of this g-



Well, Froggy and Willy are finally on their way to Avumia. As they fly through space, Froggy lies asleep, dreaming about being an explorer, while Willy gazes through his passenger window, pondering the possibility of impending love.



To be continued...

**For more comics, visit:
www.willyandfroggy.com**