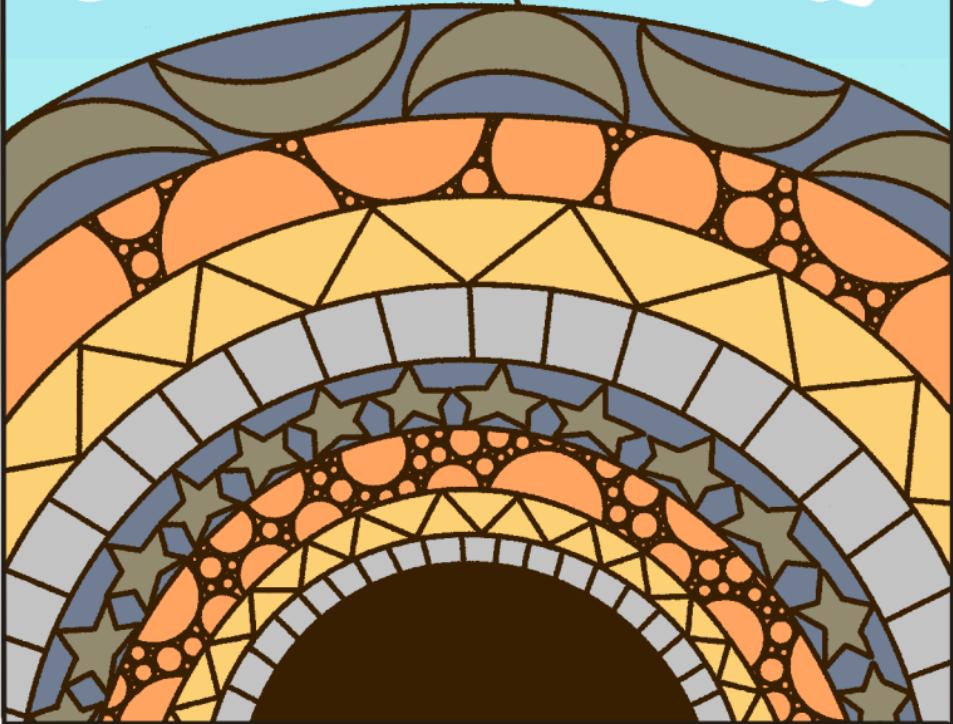
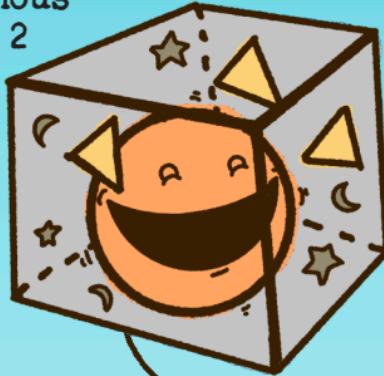


The Asynchronous  
Herald, Vol. 2



# What is the Asynchronous Herald?

It's where the Asynchronous Harold Lives

## What is the Asynchronous HAROLD?!

The Harold is a long form improv comedy form. Under normal circumstances it is performed in person. The Asynchronous Harold is a written compilation of short scenes that follow that same form.

Just like at an improv comedy show, a single word suggestion is being used to inspire what follows:

Renewal

Here are the authors in the scenes: Jake Carnley, Justin Scott, Sarah VanBergen, Abigail Bals, Aimee Bals, Caroline Mann, Daniel Hawkins, Tucker Ward, and Alex Hamady

## OPENING

monologue by Brian Barrett

When I think of renewal I think of libraries, probably because I am currently in possession of an unthinkably overdue book of facts about Costa Rica. My daughter Emmy and I went to the Homewood Library this summer to conquer a few more squares from a "Summer Reading Bingo" assignment for her first year of middle school. She had already knocked out a row by plowing through novels--a book with a one-word title (*Hoot*), a book at least 10 years old (*Charmed Life*), a sports or competition book (something about a high school girls' ice hockey team)--but filling every square would require stepping out of her comfort zone. We wandered in search of an "informational book," eventually landing on a small, alphabetically organized collection of primers on nations. Why Costa Rica? I wish I could say it was because of a deep interest in the history and culture of Central America. In truth, it was pretty short and the font was pretty big. As is, at this point, the fine. I'm going to return it today; I swear.



A Parish Priest settles in as the adjacent confessional door slams shut...

A: Preacher - I'm in a world of trouble and I need you to absolve me ASAP!

P: Nothing is unforgivable, child, release your burdens...

A: Well, I have been sitting on this bombshell for a month and haven't even told my wife yet, but I just realized that we have not renewed our wedding vows in over 20 years.

P: Vows are an important public declaration of your love, but...

A: And like, I know how strict the state of Louisiana is with these gator tags every year. If they will lock you up for hunting gators or a fish that's too short, I know the good Lord has got to have something unimaginable in store for 20 years of fornicating.

P: Sir, your marriage is not tied solely to your vows, it's a binding legal...

A: I heard in bible times that they'd banish you just for eating a shrimp cocktail. I ain't cut out for that life, Preach.

P: My Son, I can tell you with confidence that the Lord will not hold this...

A: My wife wouldn't survive one day in purgatory, much less in a physical prison. I'm really countin' on you here, I need you to pull a big favor for me.

P: Sir - your sins are forgiven, you are absolved, you are cloaked in mercy.

A: Ah shoot, thanks Preach, I feel loads better now. Hey one more thing... Could you maybe ask the Big Guy not to mention this to the IRS? We've been filing jointly for years.



Character A) [character A comes in tired from work and puts money into a safe] yea Janice only a few more years til we can retire and have enough money to get the beach home in Costa Rica

Character B) [blankly staring at tv] you work so hard earl . I jus know that beachfront home in Costa Rica is going to be worth all the hard workin years you put in at that coal mine baby!

Character A) that's the American dream! I work in darkness most of my life to spend the last little bit of life in the sun in Costa Rica with you babe. And our son earl jr will carry on in my footsteps! Jr get in here, get a good look at your future son!

Character C) [shuts laptop frustratingly] I don't get it dad, why are y'all so stuck on a place you never been?

Character B) don't you back talk your father earl Bobby The second!

Character A) it's ok Janice the boy gettin up in age he's got questions. Ya see son, I named ya after me to follow in my footsteps to a tee! I even got your coal miner gear ready too. And Costa Rica is our heaven in America son. It's just the way.

Character C) I mean dad we're here in Kentucky. Do you even know where Costa Rica is? Do you know what language they speak? Do you know what currency they take?

Character B) dammit earl Bobby the second where did you get this disrespect from!?

Character A) son I ain't never been anywhere where our dead presidents ain't good or our god given English. You keep thinking like that son and you'll end up retired in the same place you grew up!

Character C) ill work your coal miner job and follow your footsteps, but i wanna work to make Kentucky the place I WANT to retire in!

Character B) Ooooh, earl bobby the second, you've gone too far. Go to your room and start idealizing places you've never been to RIGHT NOW.



Swipe





A: Hey honey did you take back the library book today?

B: No.

A: Again? I don't understand why you don't just get it over with.

B: Listen, I've gotta be honest. I don't think I'm ever gonna return it.

A: What? Why?

B: Because it helps me Burt. At this point everything I do is easier than returning this book. This morning I baked 120 cupcakes Burt, 120 cupcakes.

A: You can't be serious.

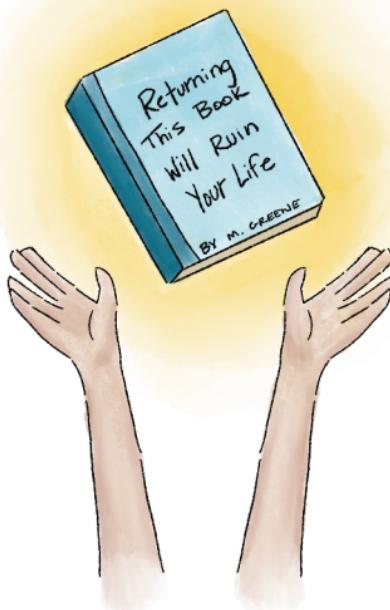
B: Before this book I had no purpose. Now we have a fully functioning homestead with three cows and an orchard.

A: Wanda, I can't stand that you haven't returned the book. People are starting to talk.

B: Let them talk! Don't you see they just want what we have!

A: Please, it's not even your book, it's Ruby's book from her library bingo assignment two years ago. They're not gonna let her graduate!

B: That just makes it a more powerful motivator to do other things! Let's take the kids to Europe, or learn to fly a plane! Don't you see anything is possible with this book?



CASHIER: You bagging groceries for my lane today, kiddo?

STUDENT: Sure am! My youth group is going on a mission trip to Costa Rica and I have a mountain of cash to raise by tomorrow. I may not get to go...

CASHIER: (pondering) Well, I scan quicker than lane 3 and much quicker than lane 5 so it's 100% possible if we draw a crowd.

STUDENT: Well, I have these brochures and this tip jar...

CASHIER: Brochures won't be enough! We need to hire a decorator... It'll set our lane apart from all these boring ugly lanes. Certainly from lane 6.

STUDENT: Hire a decorator... you're right! It takes money to make money.

CASHIER: It takes SPENDING money to make money. You will be splashing around in tips like Scrooge McDuck once we redecorate!

STUDENT: I can see it now! A line down the street... (coming down) But can we afford a decorator? My parents had to sell the refrigerator after we had a decorator quote our dining room.

CASHIER: (taking cash from the register) Can we afford it? This is your mission, kid. We can pay the register back from your tips but right now, I really need to call a decorator.



STUDENT: My neighbor Roland is a DJ. Maybe he can come down and play party CD's for our lane?

CASHIER: Call him now! Tell him we will we're paying customers!

CUSTOMER: \*has been here the whole time\* I really need my groceries bagged. (drops money in tip jar)



Swipe

# BREVAN'S

## AMATEUR IMPROV HOROSCOPE



Virgo

New year, new you. Stay steadfast and keep refusing to change.



Taurus

Face your fears, but then if they are still scary they're probably that way for a reason. Disengage.



Cancer

You are fast and thorough. You're gonna bounce back. Don't let her get you down man.



Aries

A price must be paid. Or payed. It's not my price, you figure it out. I'm just the messenger.



Gemini

If you do two characters in a scene, you only have to play each of them half as well.



Leo

Look past what everyone else sees, for a fresh solution. Not too far though, somewhere between the background and the foreground.

(Lights up on a person in a car. A police officer is by the driver door.)

Officer: Do you know why I pulled you over ma'm?

Driver: Yes, yes officer I do.

Officer: No need to get upset. All you did was--

Driver: Go ahead! Cuff me! I won't resist! But just know that if you ask for the death penalty, I'll fight like hell. Like hell, you pig! Oink, oink!

Officer: That's enough! All you did was go 38 in a 30.

Driver: Riiight. You want me to feel safe so I'll talk? No need, you absolute hog.

Officer: Alright, the name calling isn't--

Driver: You ran my plates and you saw my license photo. And therein lies the crime. (In a French accent.) The piece de resistance. Le slop for your le trough!

Officer: Stop calling me a-- (talking to himself) No, Jeremy.

Don't let her get to you. No one thinks you're an actual pig.

Driver: Piggy want some slop? Piggy hungry?!

Officer: Ma'm, what could possibly be wrong with your license photo? It's not suspended or expired or--

Driver: You need the confession straight from my lips? Fine! My hair in the picture is one and HALF inches shorter than it is now.

Officer: Okay....?

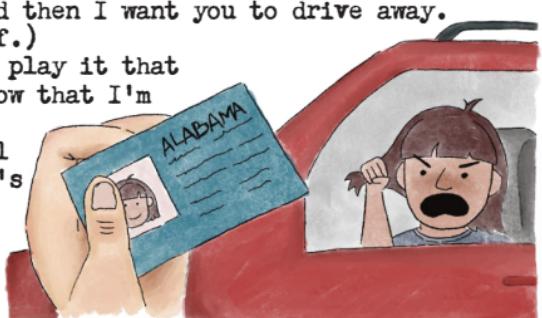
Driver: So lock me up! Throw away the key! Spit in my mouth you Piggly Wiggly shill!

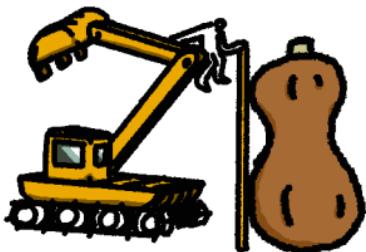
Officer: That's it! You won't bring The Piggly Wiggly-- (to the audience) local since forever-- into this. I'm writing you a ticket for the speeding and then I want you to drive away. (Officer starts to walk off.)

Driver: Oh, so you want to play it that way? I'm game. But just know that I'm not getting a new license photo. And I 3D printed all of these guns in my cousin's she-shed.

Officer: Wait, what?!

(Shots fire as lights go out.)





Wendy: "Cindy! We are FINALLY above ground, after 10 long years of maturing underground. I'm sure the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours where i get to fly will be totally worth it" \*flaps cicada wings excitedly\*

Cindy: "ugh Wendy, i don't think you understand the gravity of this situation..we are DYING in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours."

Wendy: "might as well make it count! Come on sis, don't live your last 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours like you've lived your last 10...is it so hard to enjoy yourself??.....

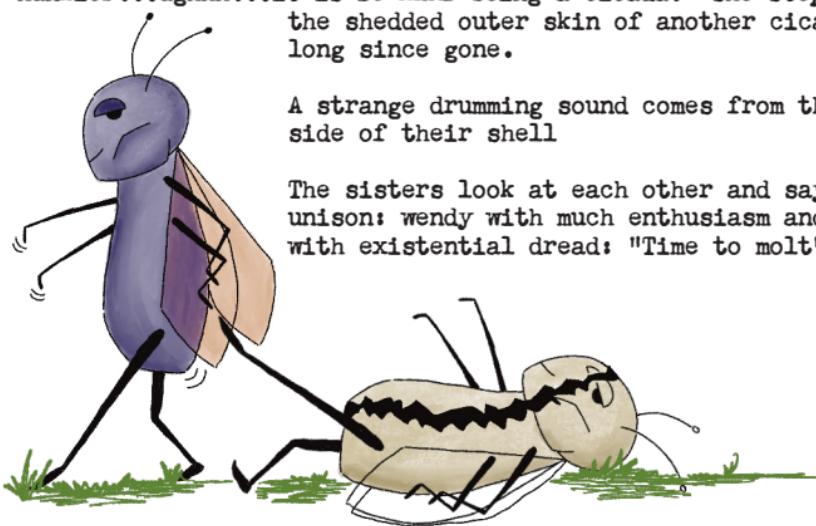
Look..don't you see that male cicada...he's doing his mating dance for you, and he is hunkier than I could have imagined" \*eyes male cicada from across the backyard\*

The girls eye Jeff from across the backyard who is doing his sexy cicada mating dance looks like a cricket rubbings its arms together mixed with a few twirls and thrusts and wing flaps

Cindy: unamused Cindy rolls her eyes, "I planned for him to be hunkier...ughhh...it is SO HARD being a cicada." she steps over the shedded outer skin of another cicada long since gone.

A strange drumming sound comes from the inside of their shell

The sisters look at each other and say in unison: wendy with much enthusiasm and Cindy with existential dread: "Time to molt"





Daphne: babe.. picking out a ring will not take that long.. I promise I'll love whatever you choose.

Leeland: Daphne you know I'm in the middle of mastering the art of noodle making on the kitchen aid.

Daphne: what?

Leeland: I've only conquered bowties, rigatoni, and linguine

Daphne: well what if we just took a couple hours after work,

and I'll show you the styles I like..

Leeland: sweet heart.. fettuccine takes hours of dedication..

Have you seen the spirals on Radiatori?

Or the way jumbo shells mimic the sea shells on the beach? I HAVE to do the shells justice.

Daphne: you said once you had mastered making the perfect cake frosting you could finally look at rings with me! And that was before the kitchen aid!!

Leeland: honey now that I have the kitchen aid... things have changed.

Pasta is only the beginning.

You know making homemade butter has been a life long dream!

Well...

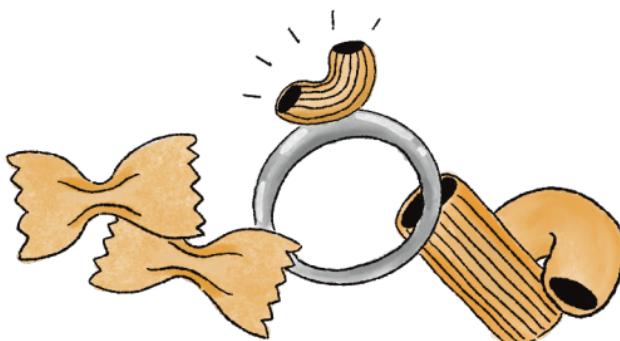
now it's my reality.

I have the meat grinder attachment!

Swedish meatballs will certainly take months to perfect!

And what about your coffee flavored ice cream?!

It's my dream to make your ice cream dreams come true!





A: Attention board members, we will now discuss this years rollout of useless coffee table books that nobody will ever actually read  
Now does anybody have any ideas?

B: How about this? "World's Finest Silverware: A collection of the greatest utensils ever made"

A: That has potential, but but it's precariously close to being actually interesting. Anyone else?

C: I've got one! "A comprehensive guide on how to assemble your IKEA furniture"

A: No no. That would only work for the male demographic. The women would be all over that. C'mon people, we need something that's eye-catching, but ultimately uninteresting.

D: Well we could do a book about your wife.

A: Now we're talking, can I count on you to have that ready for Q2?



# BREVAN'S

## AMATEUR IMPROV HOROSCOPE



### Libra

Push your boundaries to remember why you put them up.



### Scorpio

Drop the facade, really be vulnerable. Unless you're trying to be a character. Then, put that new face ON.



### Sagittarius

Don't make the biggest mistake of your life. You gotta pick up the phone. Life is CALLING. I'm calling... would you prefer text?



### Capricorn

Tiny efforts build tiny things. Put in big efforts all at once and get big things way faster.



### Aquarius

The possibilities of a scene are endless. Don't let your choices remove possibilities unless it reveals greater possibility.



### Pisces

Don't hide your feelings, let your partner guess what they are.



Priest: I apologize,  
normally God is so cool  
about this sort of

stuff, but your hair really needs to match  
your driver's license.

Driver: I knew that pig ratted me out.

Priest: No, that young police officer actually offered to pay your church bail, but God is real ticked off with the way you've done your hair. \*closes door to pope mobile\*

Driver: Wait, what are you doing?

Priest: I really wish it didn't have to go down like this.

Driver: No, really it will grow back in no time!

Priest: I am sending you to the Krogers.

Driver: NO! I just started a Vitahair regimen, please!

Priest: You cannot leave until every child bagging groceries has enough money to go to Costa Rica.

Driver: Phew! Good thing I didn't return my library book, I'll be able to knock this out in no time.

[BLACKOUT]



Loose lips sink ships so keep it stiff in the upper deck.  
Shuffle around and rubberneck at something wondrous, even  
if it means a blunderous crash into a haberdashery. That  
glass menagerie is nice but think twice before you go all  
gentleman caller. Call her up once or thrice to check the  
temp of potential squalor. Riches come when you're skilled  
with the rags. Witches come when you're skilled with the  
hags. Tag a stag with a mag if you're after the brag. Snag  
a flag on a crag if you zig when they zag. But is it a  
banner that you would salute to? Is it a sieve that you'd  
squeeze your

Juice thru?

What is

your Gravy?

Where is

your Sauce?

Have your  
stones been  
rolling?

Where is

your Moss?

What do you  
drip if I  
give you

a squeeze?

Where is

your Man-

na? Where



A.K. WIMMER

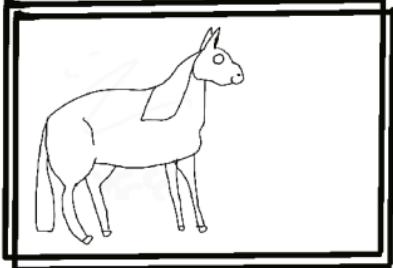
is your Chi? Do you keep your Vril in a well by a tree? Is  
your Aura trapped in a screen?? Is your Essence in the room  
with us right now?!?! WAKE UP!!!! Quickly now, life needs  
you. Tie-dye the world with the glorious bleed thru. High  
tide conceals sacred things that the reefs do. But dive  
a little deeper, you'll know. You'll know Golden Hours,  
you'll witness The Bloom, you'll sense The Divine- the  
Light in the doom. The other side of the world is just  
right behind you, mind you. I'll find you there, at the big  
art display. Stay where you are, don't go astray. It's all  
so close, yet so Far Away.

- Tim Casper

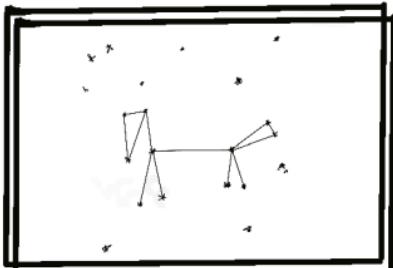
# 7 Strangers ASKED TO DRAW...

## A HORSE FROM MEMORY

2. Jackson Sackson, 23, college freshman



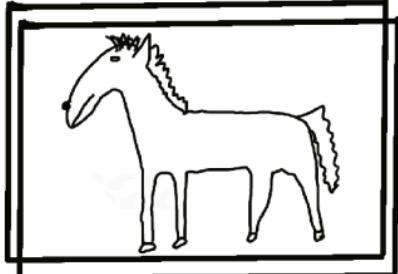
4. Ptolemy, 67, ancient Greek astronomer



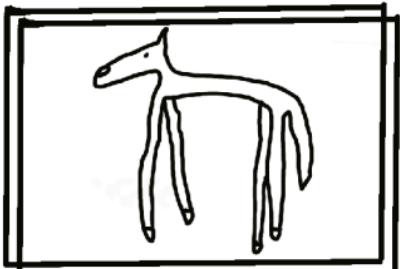
6. Robin Fluters, 34, crypto influencer



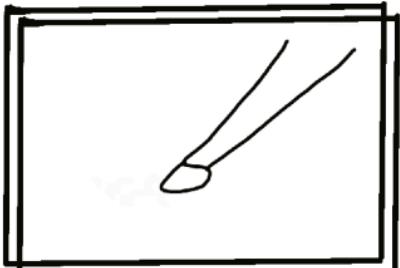
1. Laura Longley, 72, retired cop



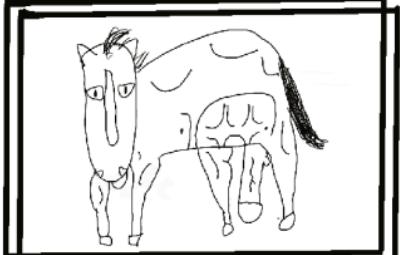
3. Brandiili Wrong, 27, graphic designer



5. Greg Willlick, 54, podiatrist



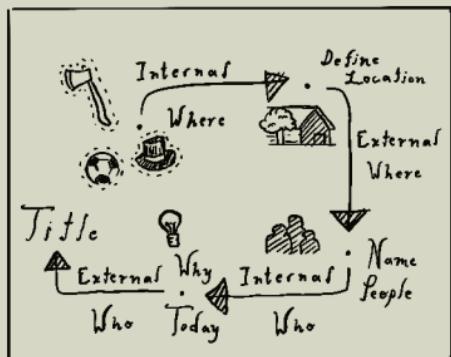
7. Mike Pence, 65, former US Vice President



# Science

of improv comedy

**IN THE EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE** of improv practice exercises, a new verdant tree rises from the ground. Alabama local researcher Michael Greene has developed a new exercise to aid students and performers alike in collective world-building. Improvisers stand in a circle and walk through the component parts of the scene. It carries a heavy mental overhead due to the specificity and quantity of steps, but after improvisers are given the opportunity to understand the steps, what might have felt like constraints before now feel like rails to the destination of the



start of a healthy improv scene. It's collaborative nature is accented by allowing participants who take the first step of a scene to contribute twice on each cycle - once to initiate, and a second to cement other contributions. This has been researched in groups as small as 4, and theoretically has no lower or upper bound of participants. When congratulated on this recent discovery Michael Greene replied "I know whay I got".

# Business and Finance

We are expected to move out of a Goofy market into an early Silly after Jerome Powell spilled his drink and slipped while cleaning it up. An unexpected shakeup as we were planning to head into a brief Zany market followed by the seasonal Goof/Gaff playfield we are used to.



WWW (who, what, where) is reliably up 2 points this quarter, signs of a healthy year ahead



Inherently, red buttons are high risk, but look strong for 2025.

Pulling out knives is at an all time low in scenes in jams, but has stayed steady in organized sets.



Returns on "hey everybody get in here" are much lower than expected.



Horses to glue is very strong this quarter.

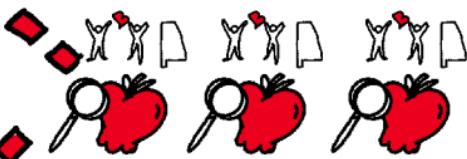


# How to win Cage Match by Gair Bell

Step 1) Search NYC for 2 talented improvisers.



Step 3) Repeat steps 1 and 2 several times until someone says yes.



Step 4) Pretend to meet them at your local improv jam.



Step 5) Have undeniable chemistry because you have secretly been practicing together for three years.



Step 6) Profit.

# Missed Connections:

## To My Pea, From Your Pod

You've been my wife. You've been my coworker.  
You've been the waiter at my favorite restaurant.  
You've been my estranged dog walker, my nude-modeling neighbor, my boss at the gum factory. In every scene, we don different faces and names, but underneath it all we'll always just be two people who will find each other in every lifetime, in every universe.



## To The Ones Who Left Me Behind

I was the first person who got tagged out in the La Ronde. Remember me? Randy? I had the game where I inexplicably had a bow and arrow? Was that not enough for 7 people to come off the backline and take somewhere else? So yeah, the other character in my scene had a back story, wants, tiny details that were fun to call back to, and a catch phrase - "That's too many bananas, I gotta split". Well now I'm the one who has to split... and then you all cut to the run before I could tag back in to close the loop?! Now I'm stuck here on the backline like a dang fool. EVERYONE COME BACK AND LET ME TAG BACK IN TO CLOSE THE LOOP. THEY WON'T LET ME LEAVE UNTIL I CLOSE THE LOOP.



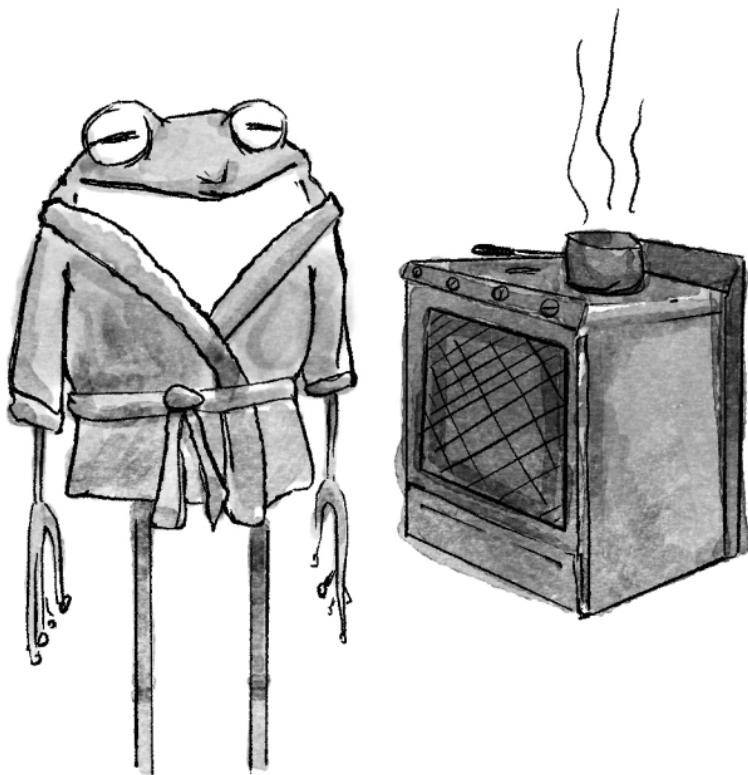
# Classifieds

**\*FOR SALE\*** Fully functional dump truck halloween costume for sale. Only worn by two people. It really works. Great for getting from the cul de sac to the hospital. Also works as a costume for other popular holidays. Load your brothers up and lock in for a real construction person-machine experience.



**Looking to sell:** I'd like to sell "this". This is in good condition. It has been in my family for so long. My brother and I had it in a room of our house the entire time that we have been brothers. This has such sentimental value to our family and it means so much. I remember the day Mom brought it into the house, I cried. Unfortunately I lost my job and don't have room for this anymore. I am open to offers but I would like to sell it to you in a transaction and make enough money to afford "that".

A sketchy illustration of a room filled with clutter. In the foreground, there's a dark, textured object that looks like a dump truck. Behind it, there are various items: a chair, a small table with a lamp, and several boxes or bags. One box has some handwritten text on it, though it's not clearly legible. The overall style is hand-drawn and somewhat chaotic.



*"The key to boiling human is turning up the temperature gradually."*

- Gair Bell

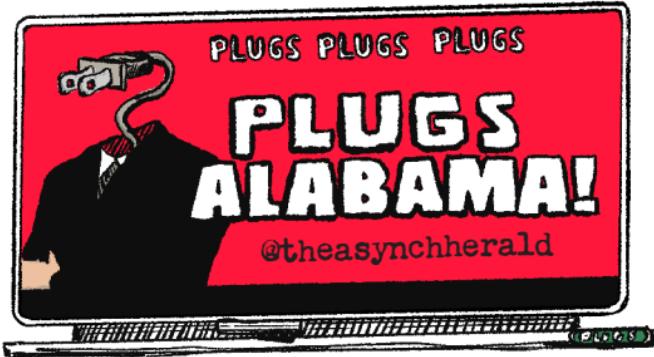
# Acknowledgments

Thank you so much for reading the Asynchronous Herald, Vol. 2. This would not have happened without the contributions of so many talented people. Thank you to the Harold contributors - Justin, Caroline, Jake, Sarah, Aimee, Abigail, and Daniel. Thank you to Brian Barrett for the opening monologue that inspired so many fun ideas.

Thanks to Tim and Michael for their respective contributions. Thank you to Alex Hamady for illustration work. Thank you to Clayton Santo for data and analytics consulting. \*HUGE\* Thank you to Asynch Herald Deputy Global Editorial Director Liz Dial - so much work put in. Lastly, thank you to the community at Faraway Theater that inspire so many things going on here in Birmingham, AL.

And to anyone I missed - Love ya and whoopsie doopsie.

Tucker Ward, Benevolent Overlord/Global Editorial Director



## **Starting February - April**

School Night is (drop in class 6pm + student jam 7pm) every wed

House Night is every Thursday

Gladys is (good 7pm + bad 9pm) first fridays of the month

Ugly Baby is 2nd Friday of the month

Pigeons is 3rd Friday of the month

Friends of Faraway is 4th Friday of the month

Keep eyes on faraway calendar for cage match, teams james, and mooooooore

*\*DISCLAIMER\* - This zine is not endorsed or run by Faraway Theater in Birmingham, AL. Faraway Theater by no means takes any responsibility for the content or the creation of this publication which promotes the community that meets at a theater located at 1211 27th Pl S Suite 20, Birmingham, AL 35205. So assuming this is an advertisement for Faraway Theater which has all kind of details on their website - farawaybham.com (which can be accessed at the QR code above) - would be completely false. For the same reason, instagram handles like @farawaybham or @gladysimprov would not likely be printed in a publication like this. Do not expect to see any sort of advertising in this piece of work like news on upcoming classes or shows and weekly goings on like drop-in classes on Wednesdays at 6p for \$10 at the aforementioned theater location.*

Thanks for reading!