




# ZOMBIES CALLING

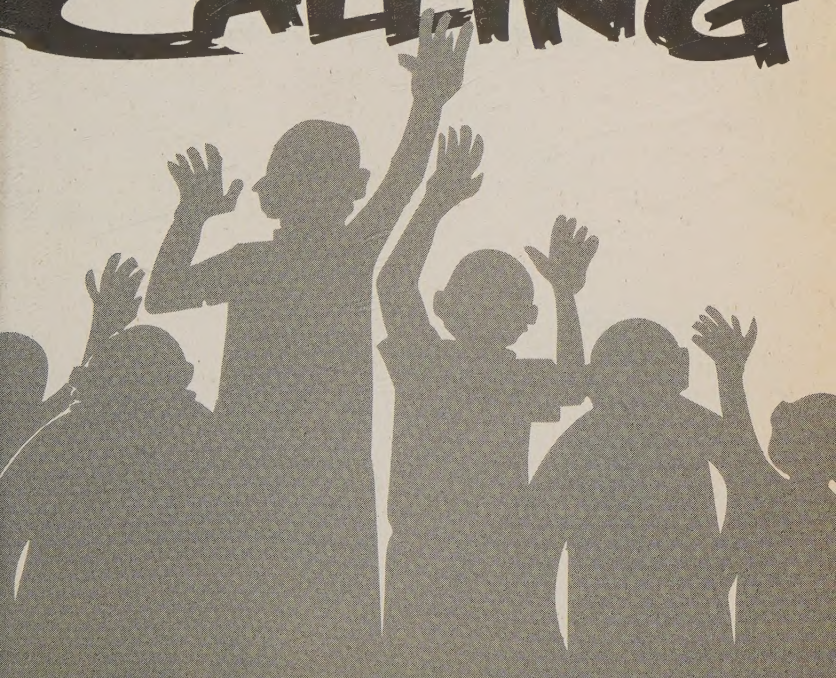


faith erin hicks



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# ZOMBIES CALLING



Faith Erin Hicks



# Zombies Calling

written and illustrated by Faith Erin Hicks

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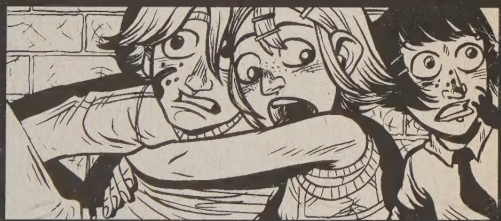
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TODAY WE DISCOVERED THE IMPORTANCE  
OF FOLLOWING THE NUMBER ONE RULE  
OF ZOMBIE MOVIES.



YEAH, THAT RULE.



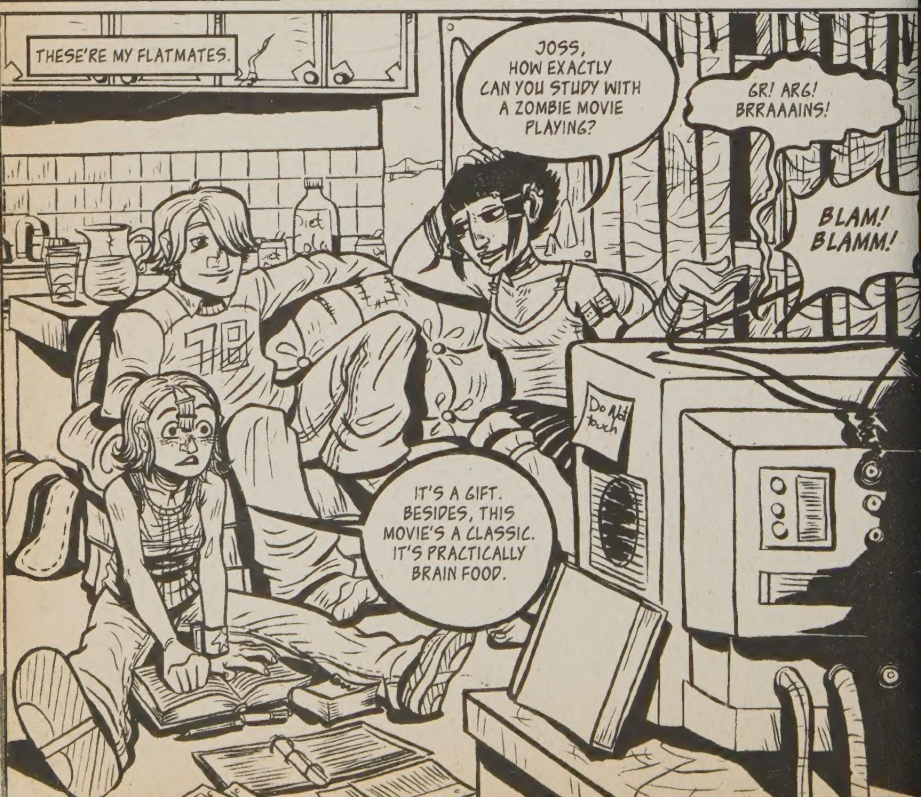
YESTERDAY WASN'T ABOUT ZOMBIES. IT WAS ALL ABOUT EXAMS.



HORRIBLE, SOUL DESTROYING, BRAIN ATROPHYING UNIVERSITY EXAMS.



THERE'S PROBABLY A ZOMBIE JOKE IN THERE SOMEWHERE, BUT I'M TOO FRIED TO MAKE THE CONNECTION.



THESE'RE MY FLATMATES.

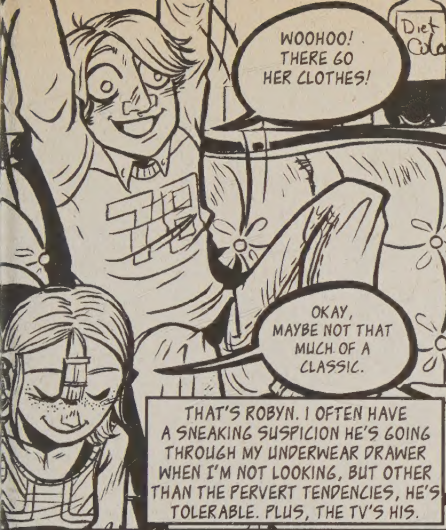
JOSS, HOW EXACTLY CAN YOU STUDY WITH A ZOMBIE MOVIE PLAYING?

GR! ARG! BRRAAINS!

BLAM! BLAMM!

IT'S A GIFT. BESIDES, THIS MOVIE'S A CLASSIC. IT'S PRACTICALLY BRAIN FOOD.

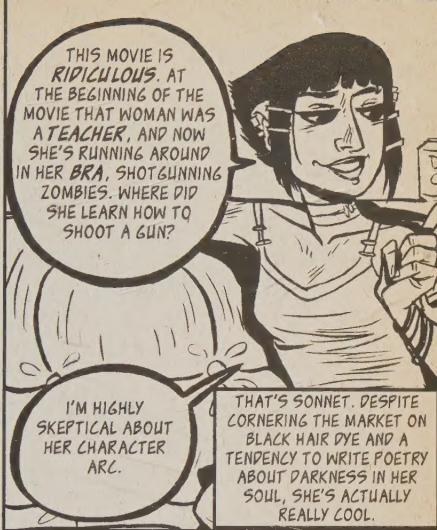
Do Not Touch



WOOHOO!  
THERE GO  
HER CLOTHES!

OKAY,  
MAYBE NOT THAT  
MUCH OF A  
CLASSIC.

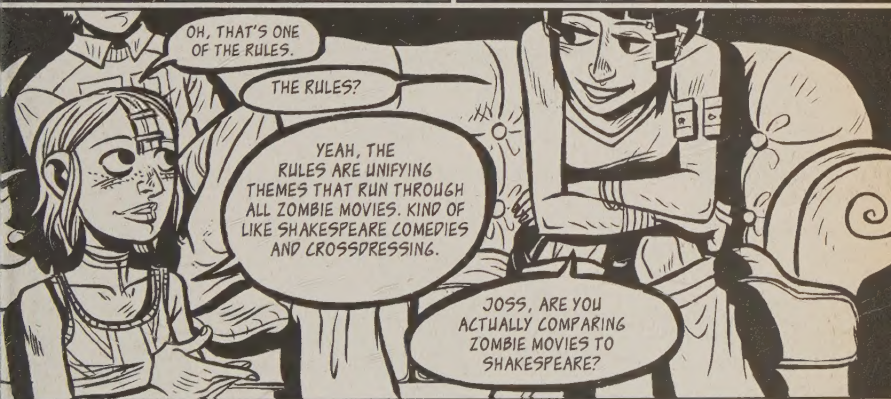
THAT'S ROBYN. I OFTEN HAVE  
A SNEAKING SUSPICION HE'S GOING  
THROUGH MY UNDERWEAR DRAWER  
WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING, BUT OTHER  
THAN THE PERVERT TENDENCIES, HE'S  
TOLERABLE. PLUS, THE TV'S HIS.



THIS MOVIE IS  
RIPCICULOUS. AT  
THE BEGINNING OF THE  
MOVIE THAT WOMAN WAS  
A TEACHER, AND NOW  
SHE'S RUNNING AROUND  
IN HER BRA, SHOTGUNNING  
ZOMBIES. WHERE DID  
SHE LEARN HOW TO  
SHOOT A GUN?

I'M HIGHLY  
SKEPTICAL ABOUT  
HER CHARACTER  
ARC.

THAT'S SONNET. DESPITE  
CORNERING THE MARKET ON  
BLACK HAIR DYE AND A  
TENDENCY TO WRITE POETRY  
ABOUT DARKNESS IN HER  
SOUL, SHE'S ACTUALLY  
REALLY COOL.



OH, THAT'S ONE  
OF THE RULES.

THE RULES?

YEAH, THE  
RULES ARE UNIFYING  
THEMES THAT RUN THROUGH  
ALL ZOMBIE MOVIES. KIND OF  
LIKE SHAKESPEARE COMEDIES  
AND CROSSDRESSING.

JOSS, ARE YOU  
ACTUALLY COMPARING  
ZOMBIE MOVIES TO  
SHAKESPEARE?



OKAY, SO THE  
LITERARY MERITS ARE  
DOUBTFUL, BUT THE  
RULES ARE STILL  
BLOODY BRILLIANT.

WE NEED  
TO TEACH HER  
THE RULES! I'LL  
NARRATE.

OH  
GEEZEE!



UM,  
WHAT'RE YOU  
DOING?

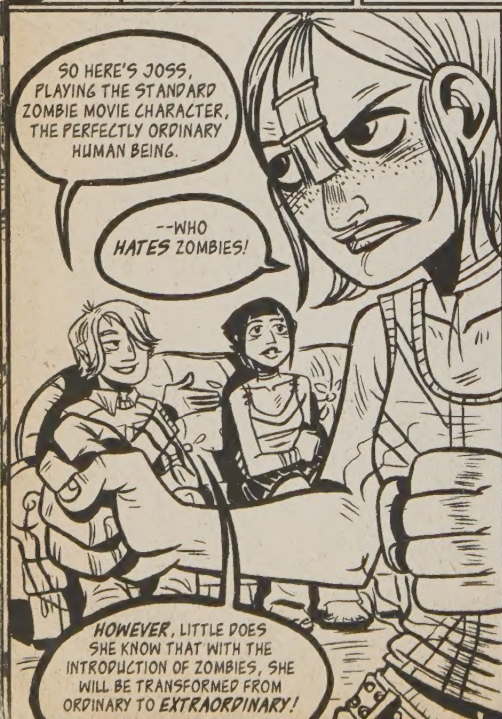
TEACHING  
YOU THE RULES  
OF ZOMBIE MOVIES.  
THEY'RE BRILLIANT.



UM,  
OKAY.

THERE'LL  
BE A TEST ON  
IT LATER.

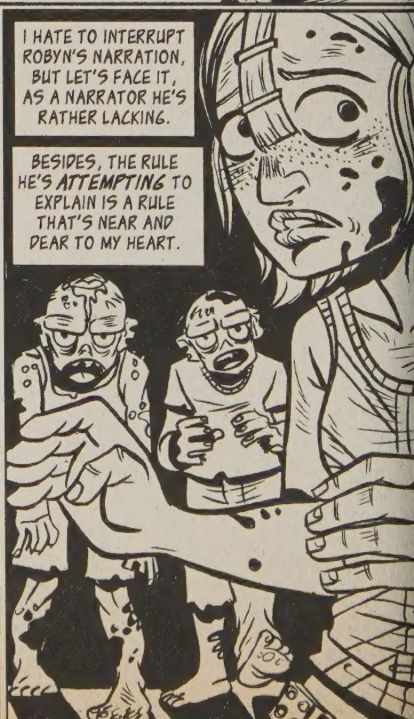
SILENCE!  
LET THE NARRATION  
BEGIN!



SO HERE'S JOSS,  
PLAYING THE STANDARD  
ZOMBIE MOVIE CHARACTER,  
THE PERFECTLY ORDINARY  
HUMAN BEING.

--WHO  
HATES ZOMBIES!

HOWEVER, LITTLE DOES  
SHE KNOW THAT WITH THE  
INTRODUCTION OF ZOMBIES,  
SHE WILL BE TRANSFORMED FROM  
ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY!



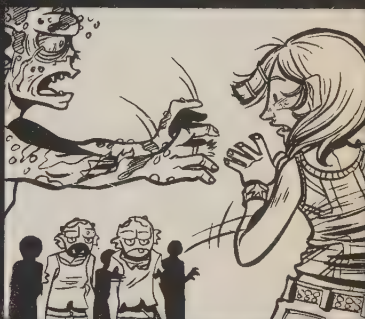
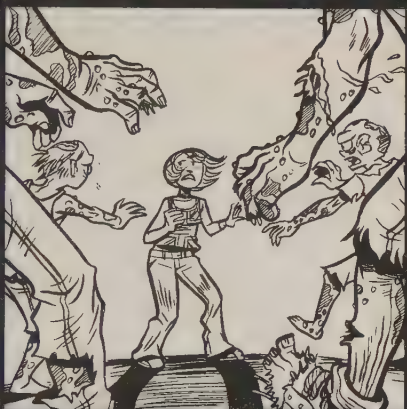
I HATE TO INTERRUPT  
ROBYN'S NARRATION,  
BUT LET'S FACE IT,  
AS A NARRATOR HE'S  
RATHER LACKING.

BESIDES, THE RULE  
HE'S ATTEMPTING TO  
EXPLAIN IS A RULE  
THAT'S NEAR AND  
DEAR TO MY HEART.

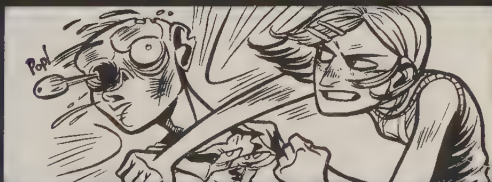
THIS IS THE RULE:

(IMAGINE THIS NARRATION BEING PERFORMED BY SOMEONE WITH A DEEP MANLY VOICE. JAMES EARL JONES. THAT SORT OF VOICE.)

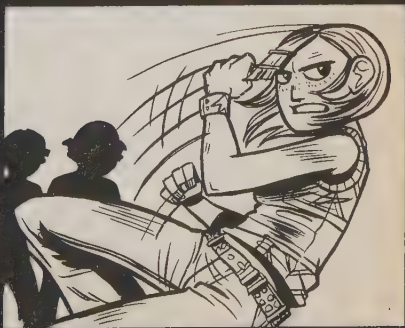
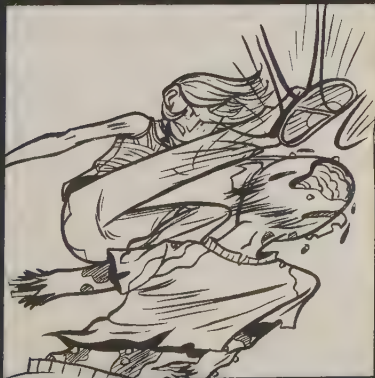
CHARACTERS IN A ZOMBIE MOVIE, AFTER BEING INTRODUCED TO THE ZOMBIES, WILL BE TRANSFORMED FROM ORDINARY FOLK TO SHOTGUN WIELDING, ZOMBIE-ASS-KICKING NINJAS.



LIKE SONNET SAID: SOMEONE WHO WAS A TEACHER AT THE BEGINNING OF A ZOMBIE MOVIE WILL BE A BATTLE-HARDENED BUTT-STOMPER BY THE END.



IT'S A RULE I'M VERY HAPPY EXISTS, FOR REASONS THAT WILL BECOME OBVIOUS LATER.



BUT BACK TO ROBYN'S NARRATION --

DODGE! PARRY!  
THRUST! KARATE  
CHOP!

HAHAHA!

BACK FROM  
WHENCE YOU CAME  
UNDEAD WANKERS!

JOSS, IT'S PRETTY  
FUNNY, BUT IT'S PRETTY  
STUPID TOO.

IT'S NOT STUPID,  
IT'S BRILLIANT!

BRILLIANT?

YEAH,  
BRILLIANT.

BRILLIANT.  
HUH?

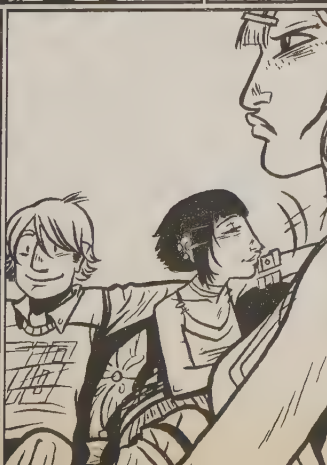
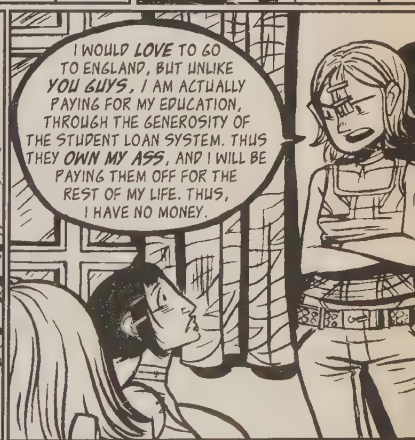
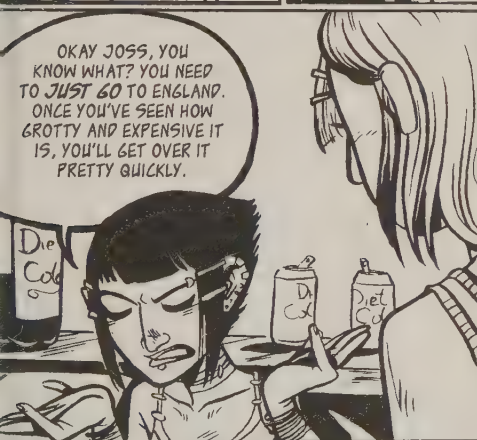
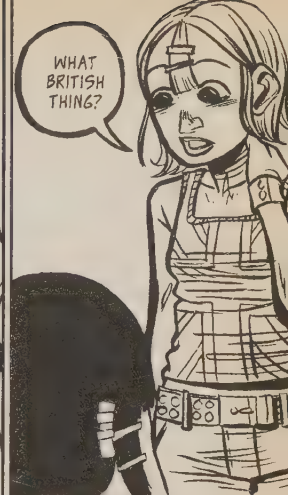
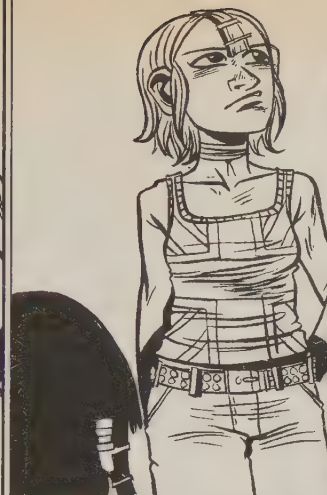
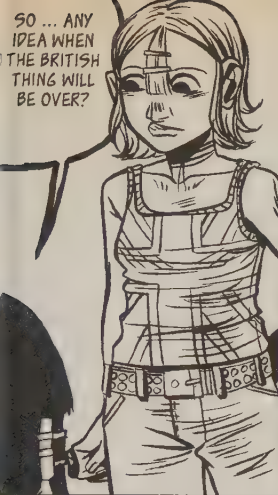
UM, YEAH.  
WHY ARE YOU  
LOOKING AT  
ME LIKE THAT?

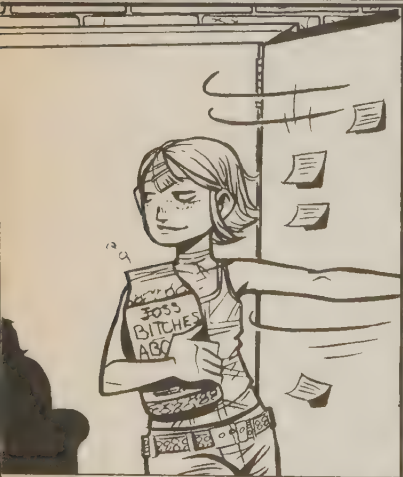
JOSS, IT'S JUST...  
I KNOW YOU GET A LITTLE  
OBSESSED WITH THINGS  
SOMETIMES, BUT THIS  
BRITISH OBSESSION...

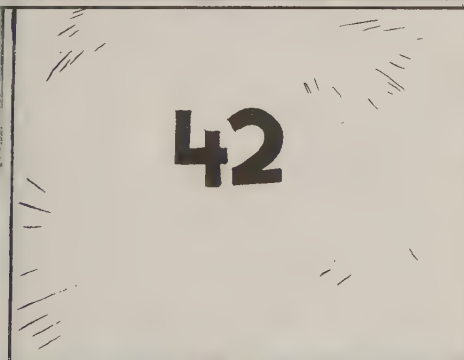
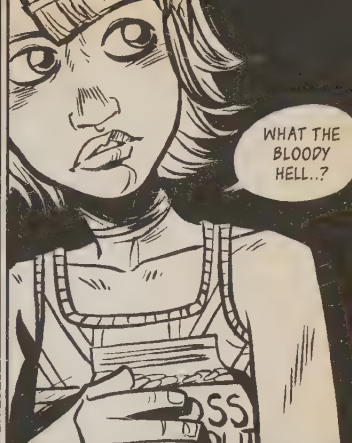
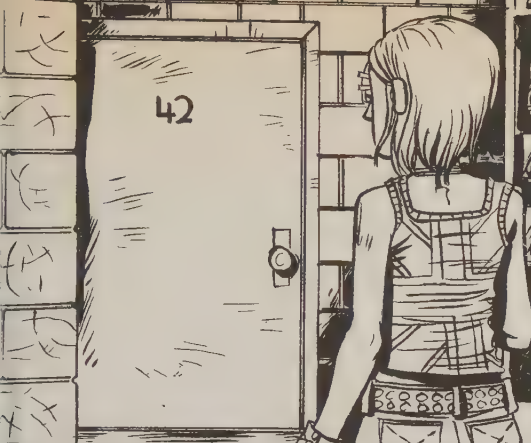


I MEAN, YOU'RE  
ALWAYS WEARING THAT  
TANK TOP, YOU'RE USING  
ALL THE SLANG... YOU'VE  
WALLPAPERED YOUR ROOM  
WITH THE UNION  
JACK!



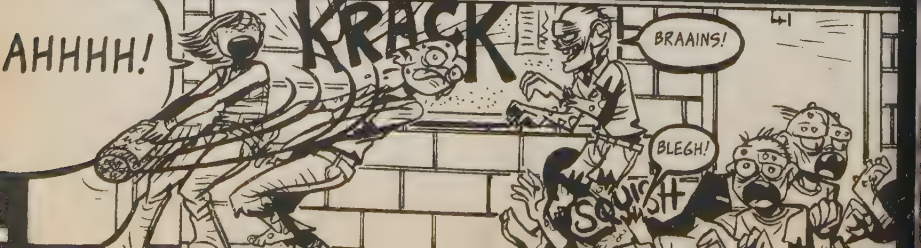








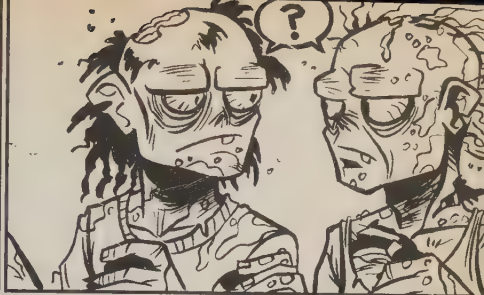
# ZOMBIEEEEEES!



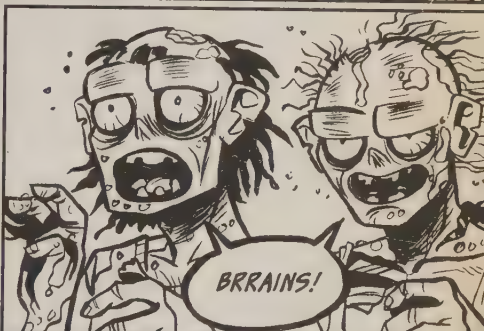


HOW... HOW DID I DO THAT?

YARRGH!



?



BRRAINS!



OH CRUMBS!



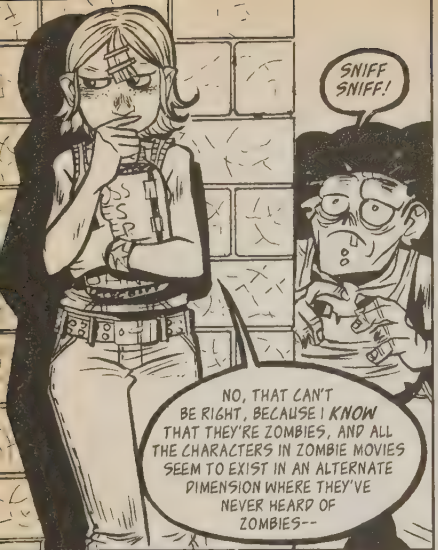
AAAAAAAAHHH!

ZIP



HOLY CRAP! ZOMBIES!

REAL, LIVE-- OKAY, UNDEAD-- ZOMBIES! ALL WALKING AROUND AND TRYING TO EAT MY BRAIN! OH HOLY COW, I'M IN A ZOMBIE MOVIE.



SNIFF  
SNIFF!

NO, THAT CAN'T  
BE RIGHT, BECAUSE I KNOW  
THAT THEY'RE ZOMBIES, AND ALL  
THE CHARACTERS IN ZOMBIE MOVIES  
SEEM TO EXIST IN AN ALTERNATE  
DIMENSION WHERE THEY'VE  
NEVER HEARD OF  
ZOMBIES--



ARRGGH!

AHHHHH!



EAT  
FOOT, YOU  
UNDEAD  
BASTARDS!

WHAMM

BRAI-OOF!

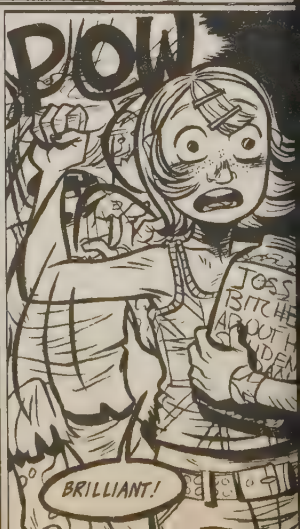


OH WOW! IT'S  
THE RULES!



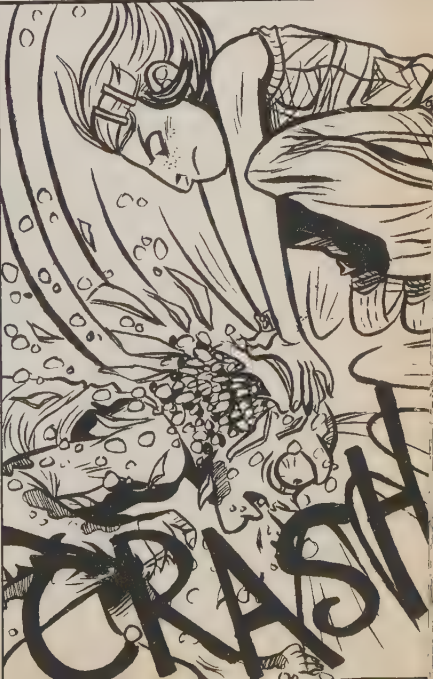
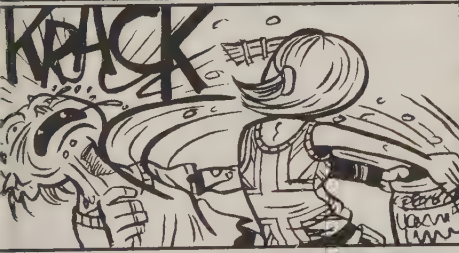
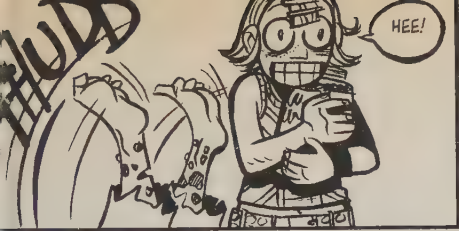
SNRF!

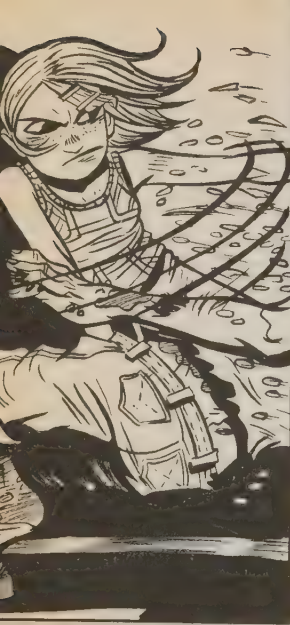
MY BADASS ZOMBIE-  
ASS-KICKING-SKILLS!  
THEY'RE KICKING IN!  
PUN INTENDED!



POW

BRILLIANT!



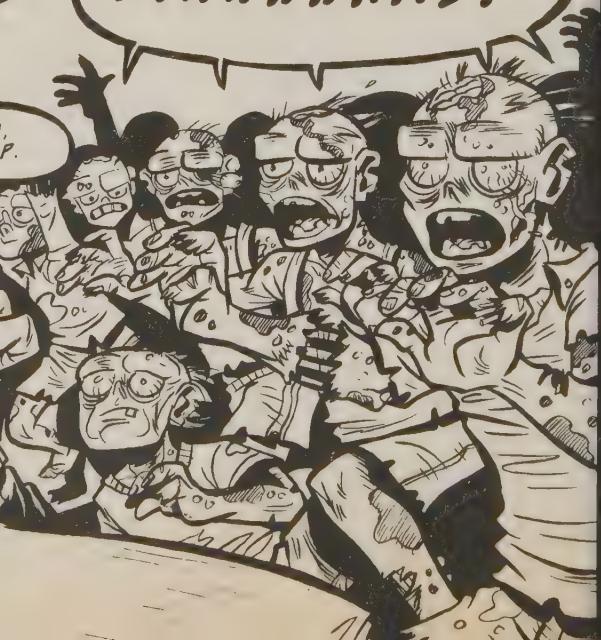


ALL RIGHT,  
ZOMBIES, NOW IT'S  
JUST YOU AND ME.



**BRRAAINS!**

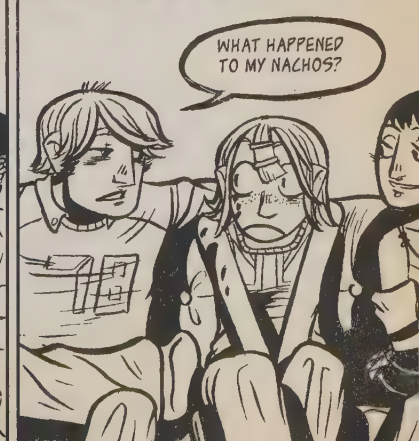
AW,  
CRAP.

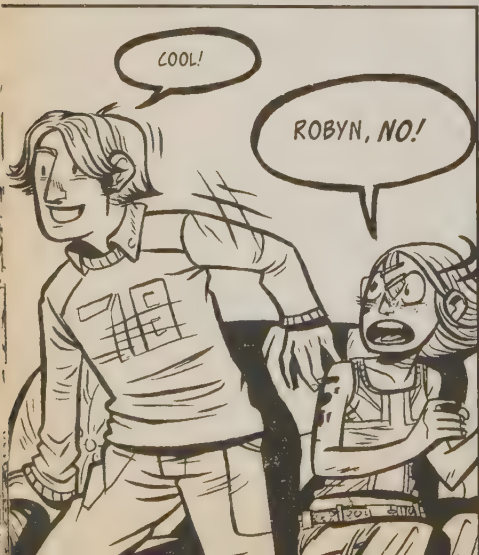
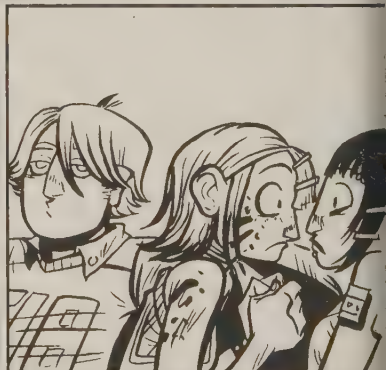
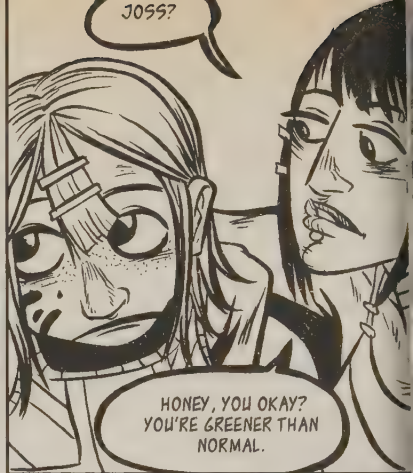
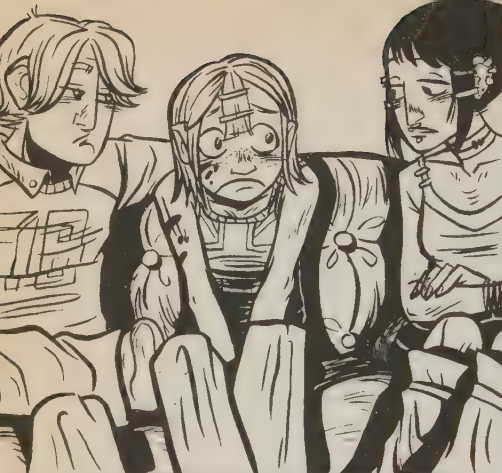


CRASH! VRRRRR! CRUNCH!  
SCREEEEECH! WHAM! WHAM!  
WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!



AHHHHHHHHHH





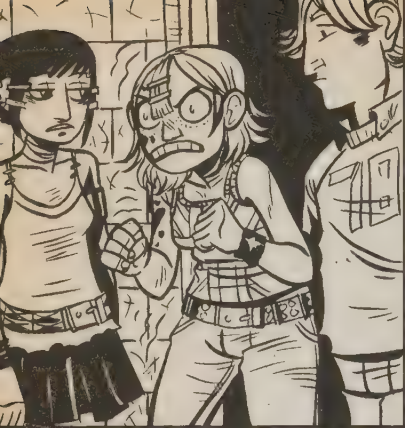
GUYS--!

AW...  
FOR A MINUTE I ALMOST  
THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE  
ZOMBIES.

OH CRUMBS  
OH CRUMBS--

WELL, OF  
COURSE THEY'RE  
FRIGGING GONE! THEY'RE  
FRIGGIN' ZOMBIES, THE  
WALKING UNDEAD!!

EVEN WHEN  
THEY'RE DEAD  
THEY GET UP  
AND FRIGGING  
WALK!!



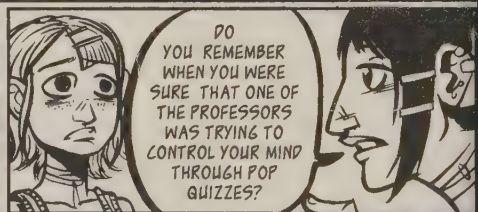
YOU -- YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

NOPE, SORRY!

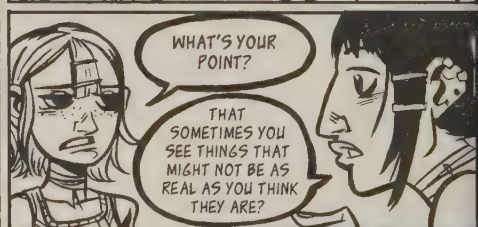


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS! WHY WOULD I LIE ABOUT THIS?

I DON'T KNOW JOSS, IT'S JUST--

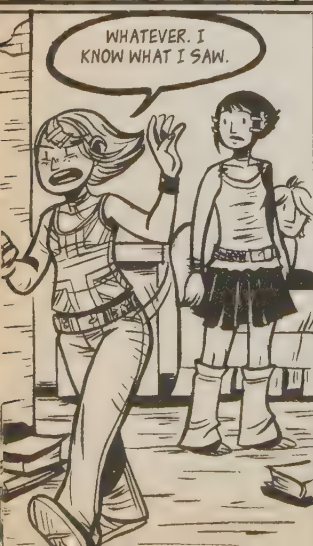


DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE SURE THAT ONE OF THE PROFESSORS WAS TRYING TO CONTROL YOUR MIND THROUGH POP QUIZZES?

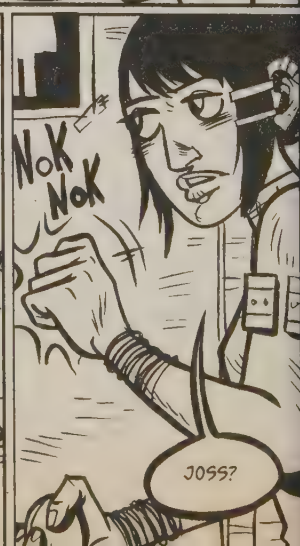


WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

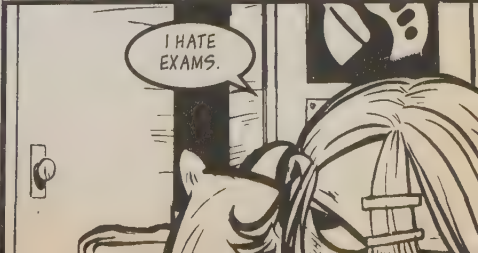
THAT SOMETIMES YOU SEE THINGS THAT MIGHT NOT BE AS REAL AS YOU THINK THEY ARE?

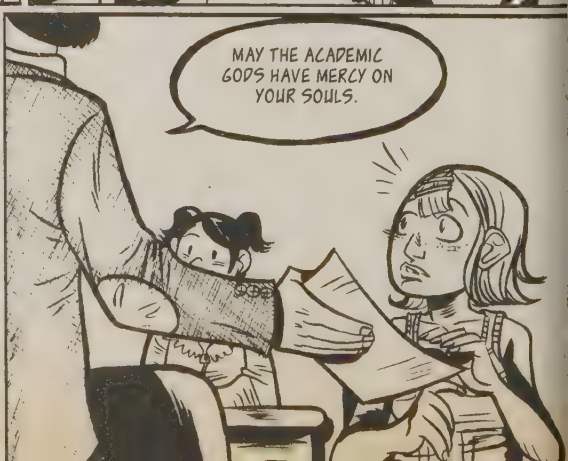
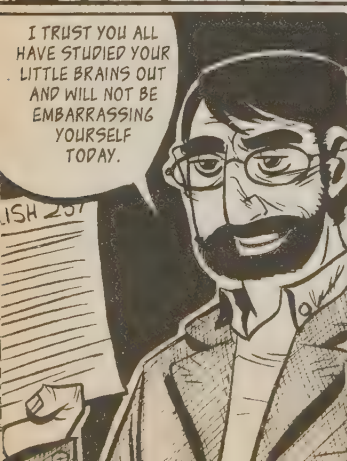
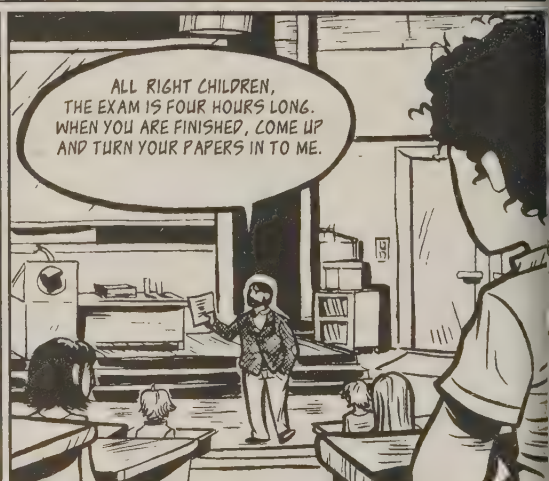
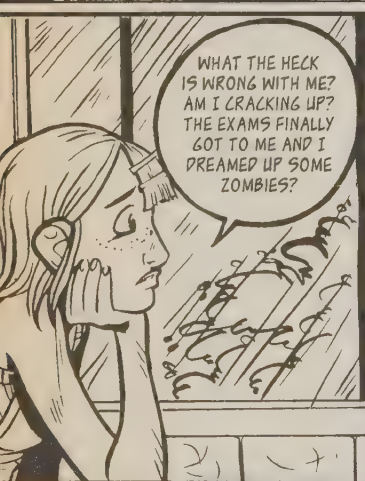


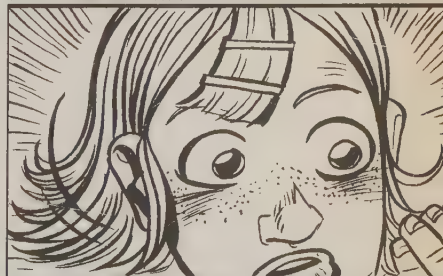
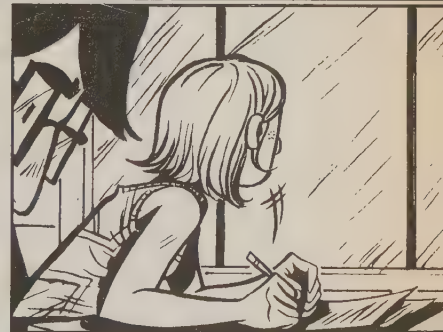
WHATEVER. I KNOW WHAT I SAW.

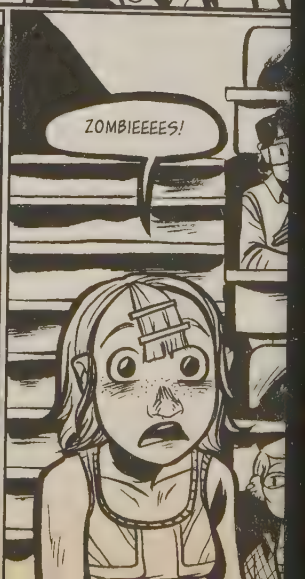


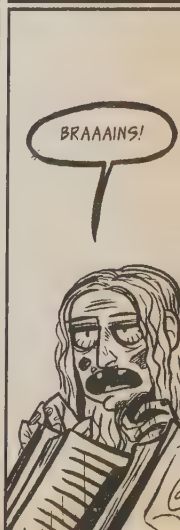
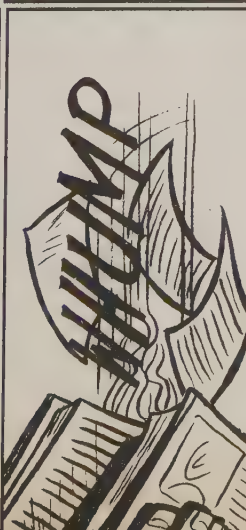
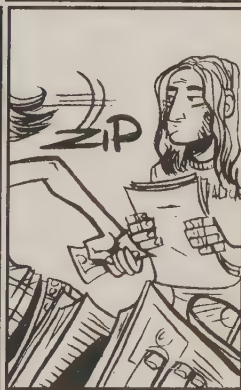
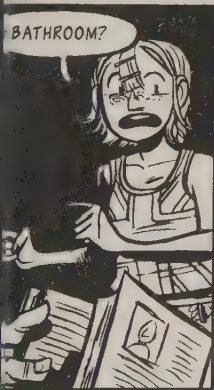
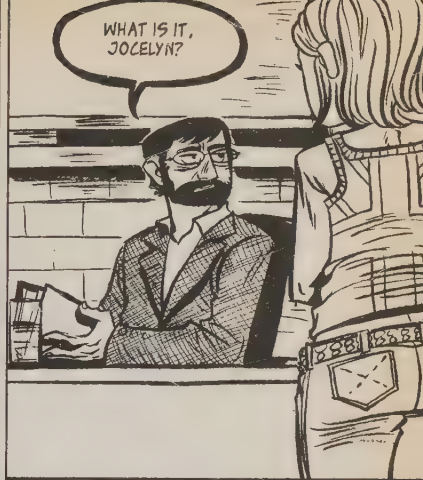
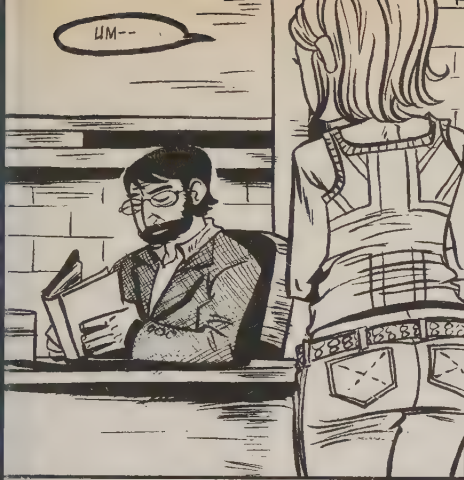
JOSS?

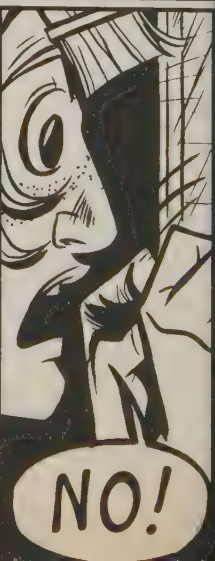










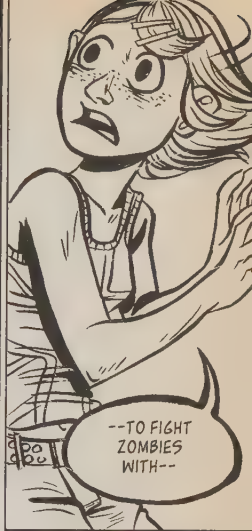




NEED WEAPONS--



NEED SOMETHING--



--TO FIGHT ZOMBIES WITH--

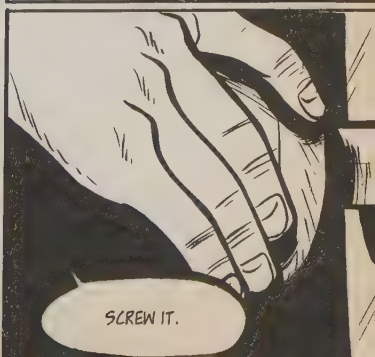


SNARRL!

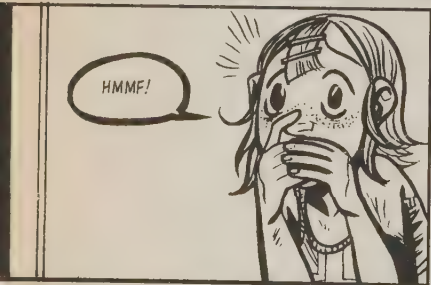
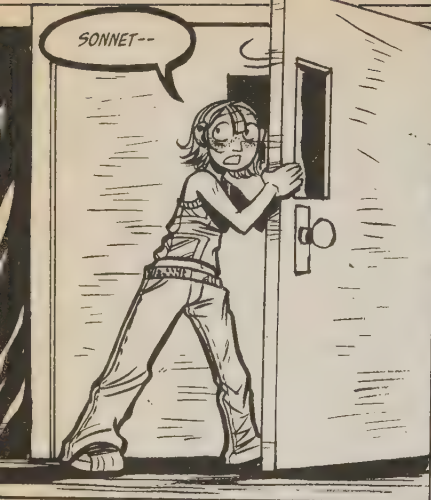
♪♪♪♪

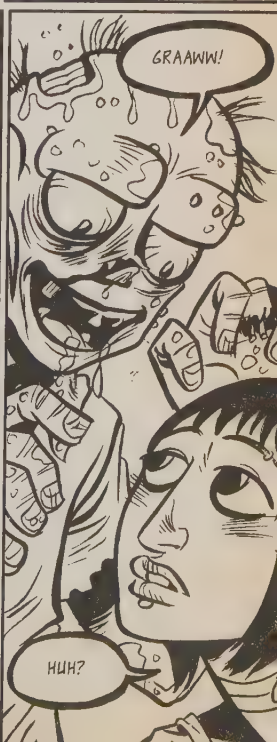
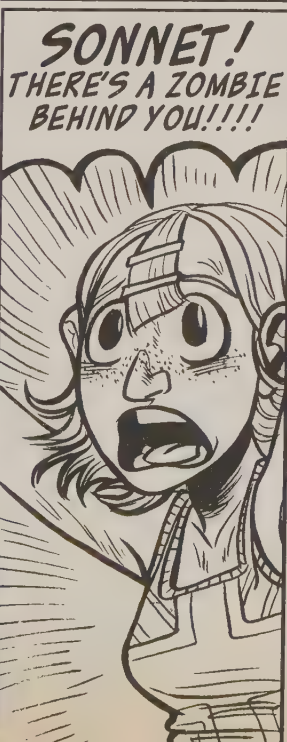
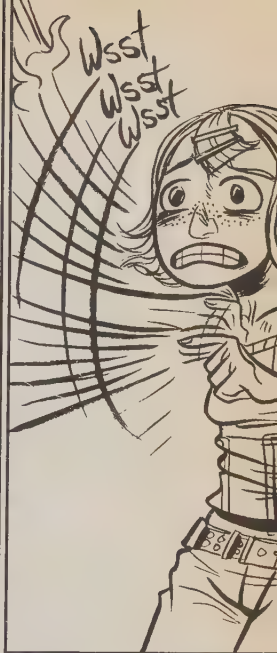


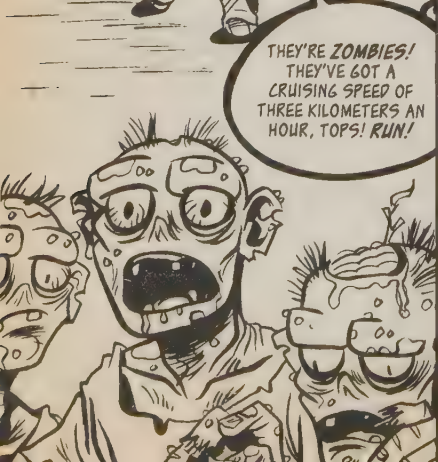
DAMMIT!

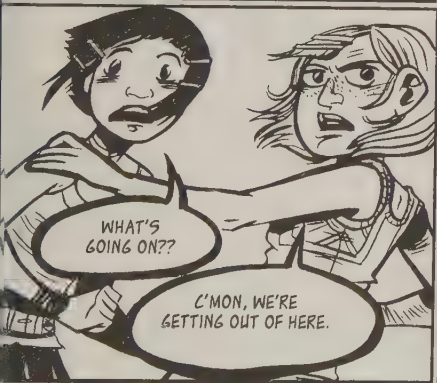


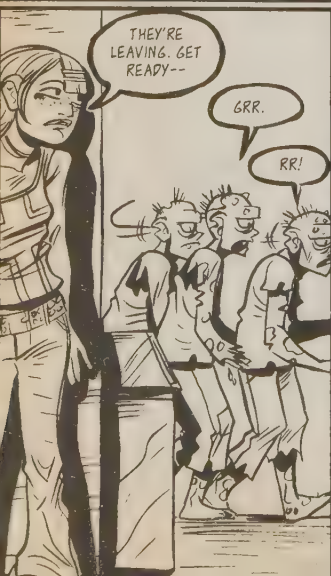
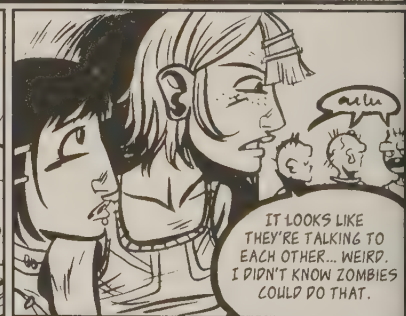
SCREW IT.





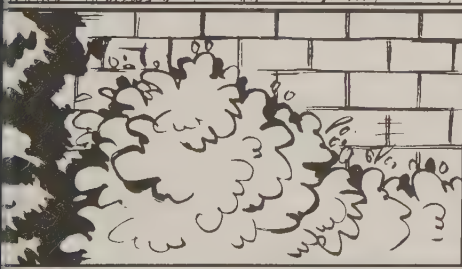
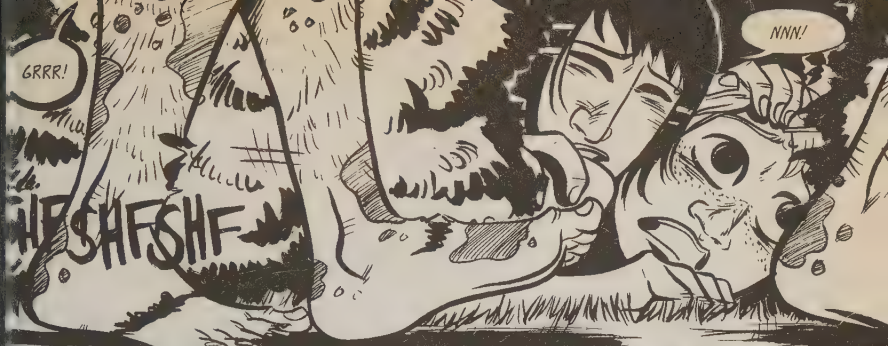




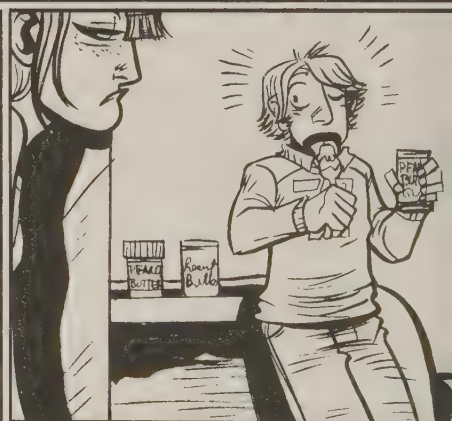


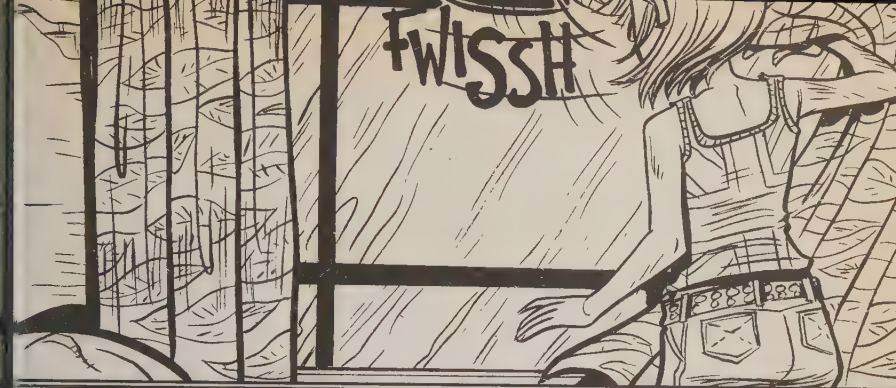


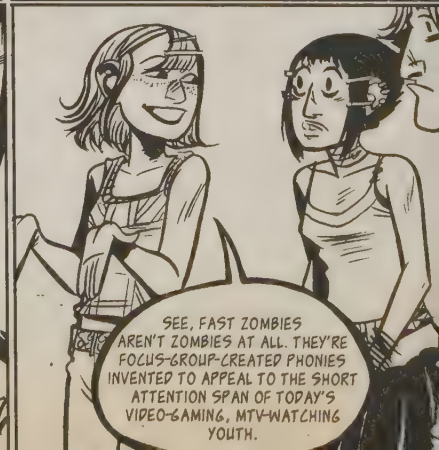
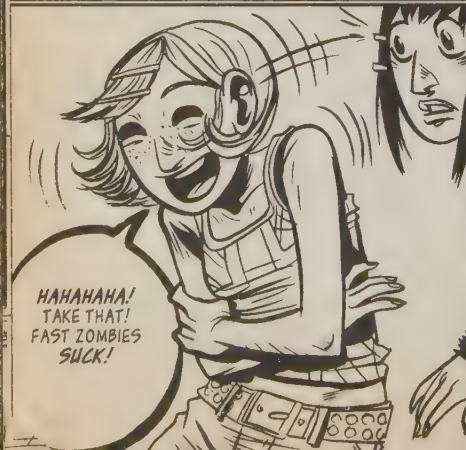




Creek







FAST ZOMBIES ARE A TOTAL BETRAYAL OF THE TRUE SPIRIT OF ZOMBIE MOVIES. THEY BETRAY THE MOOD, THE CREATION OF SUSPENSE IN TRUE ZOMBIE MOVIES --

JOSS--

THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION COULD BE TWENTY EIGHT DAYS LATER, BUT I WOULD ARGUE THAT'S NOT REALLY A ZOMBIE MOVIE --

JOSS!

YEAH?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON???

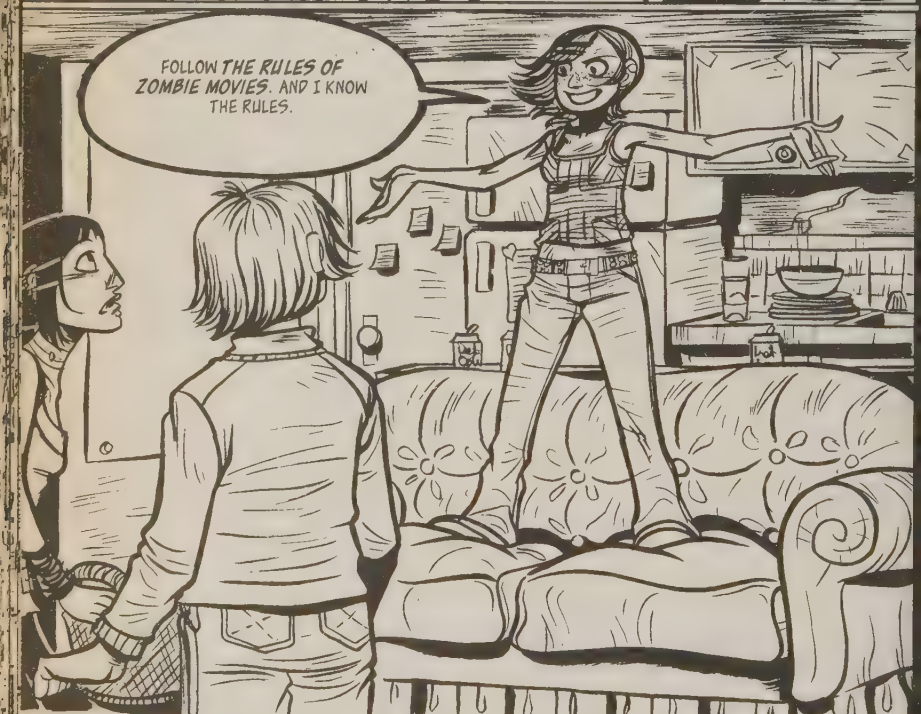
I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I KNOW HOW WE CAN SURVIVE.



HOW?

ALL WE  
HAVE TO  
DO IS --



FOLLOW THE RULES OF  
ZOMBIE MOVIES. AND I KNOW  
THE RULES.



OHhhh GOOOOoDDD,  
MY HEAD HURTS.

FIRST, WE  
NEED WEAPONS.



WHAT? YOU CAN'T FIGHT  
THEM... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW  
WHAT THEY ARE!

THEY'RE ZOMBIES,  
AND WE HAVE TO FIGHT.  
WE'RE THE SURVIVORS.  
THE SURVIVORS FIGHT THE  
ZOMBIES. THAT'S A RULE.  
NOW LESSEE --



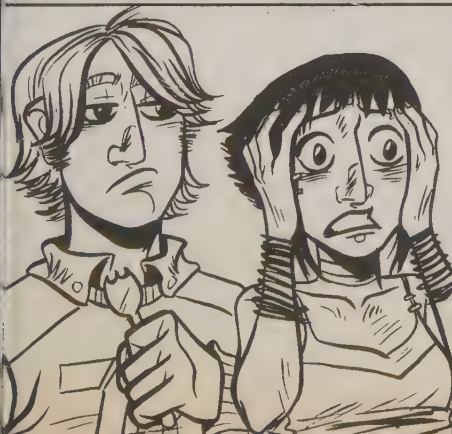
USUALLY  
SOMETHING  
SPORTY IS  
BEST TO FIGHT  
WITH--



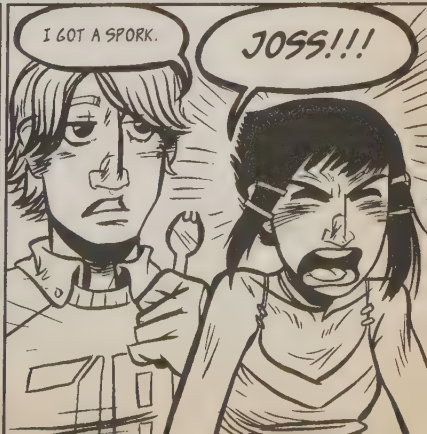
A BASEBALL  
BAT, GOLF CLUB,  
HOCKEY STICK...  
OR IF YOU'RE  
REALLY CLEVER --



-- A CRICKET  
BAT!



I GOT A SPORK.



JOSS!!!

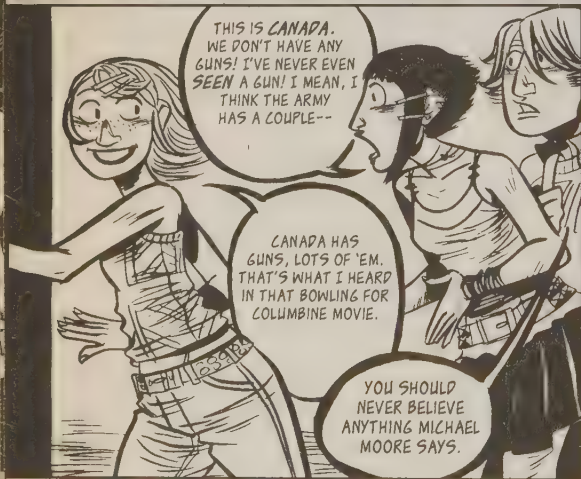


WHAT ABOUT GUNS?  
DO WE HAVE ANY GUNS?

GUNS?  
WHY WOULD WE  
HAVE GUNS?



IT'S A RULE OF ZOMBIE MOVIES:  
NO MATTER WHERE THE CHARACTERS GO,  
FIREARMS ARE READILY AVAILABLE. SO  
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME GUNS AROUND  
HERE SOMEWHERE. MAYBE IN THE BATH-  
ROOM. STUFF'S ALWAYS MAGICALLY  
APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING  
THERE.



THIS IS CANADA.  
WE DON'T HAVE ANY  
GUNS! I'VE NEVER EVEN  
SEEN A GUN! I MEAN, I  
THINK THE ARMY  
HAS A COUPLE--

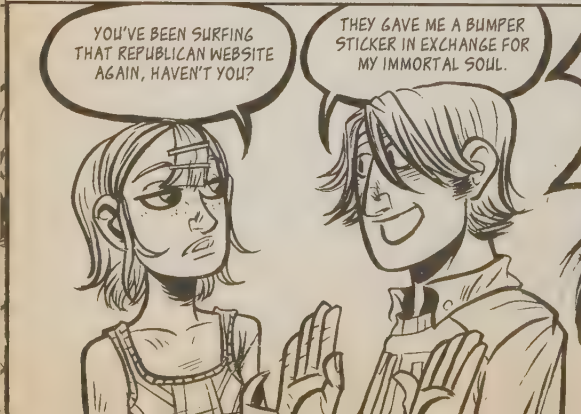
CANADA HAS  
GUNS, LOTS OF 'EM.  
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD  
IN THAT BOWLING FOR  
COLUMBINE MOVIE.

YOU SHOULD  
NEVER BELIEVE  
ANYTHING MICHAEL  
MOORE SAYS.



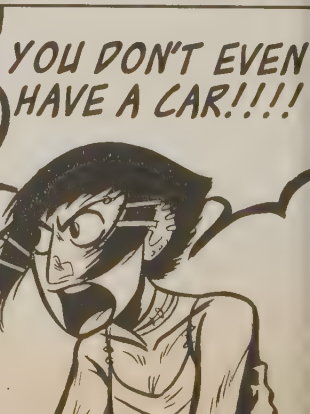
WHY NOT?  
I KNOW THE GUY'S  
BIASED, BUT --

MICHAEL MOORE IS  
AN EVIL DIRTY HIPPIE LIAR,  
AND A TRAITOR TO THE  
PATRIOT CAUSE.

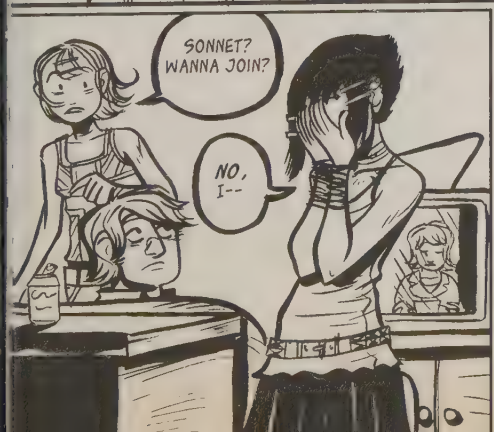


YOU'VE BEEN SURFING  
THAT REPUBLICAN WEBSITE  
AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?

THEY GAVE ME A BUMPER  
STICKER IN EXCHANGE FOR  
MY IMMORTAL SOUL.



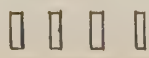
YOU DON'T EVEN  
HAVE A CAR!!!!





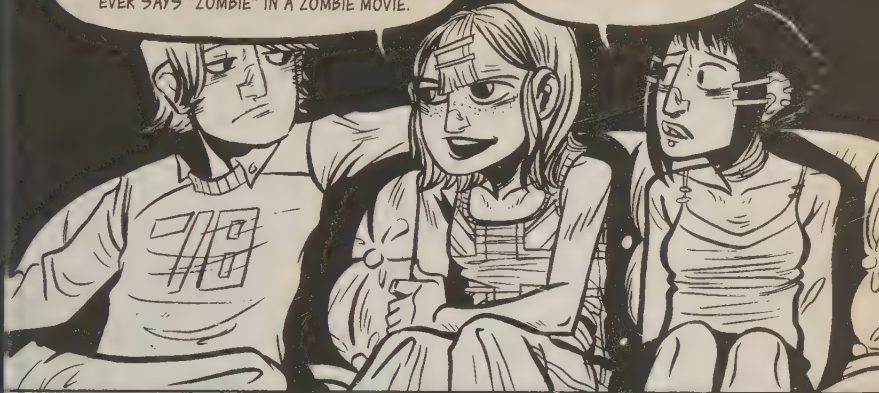
-- LATER TODAY. IN OTHER NEWS, WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS MYSTERIOUS STUDENT BEHAVIOR HAS BEGUN SWEEPING THROUGH LONDON UNIVERSITY. REPORTS ARE SURFACING OF GANGS OF STUDENTS ROAMING THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, DRESSED IN RAGS AND UTTERING MONOSYLLABIC STATEMENTS. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS A PROTEST AND WHAT THE STUDENTS COULD BE PROTESTING IS STILL UNKNOWN. THERE ARE ALSO ALLEGEDLY REPORTS OF VIOLENT SWARMINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY. ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO REACH PEOPLE WITHIN THE SCHOOL, BUT SO FAR THEY HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

... on  
campus



WOW, THEY ACTUALLY KNOW ABOUT THE ZOMBIES  
NOTICE HOW THEY NEVER ACTUALLY SAID THE WORD  
"ZOMBIE," THOUGH. THAT'S ANOTHER RULE. NO ONE  
EVER SAYS "ZOMBIE" IN A ZOMBIE MOVIE.

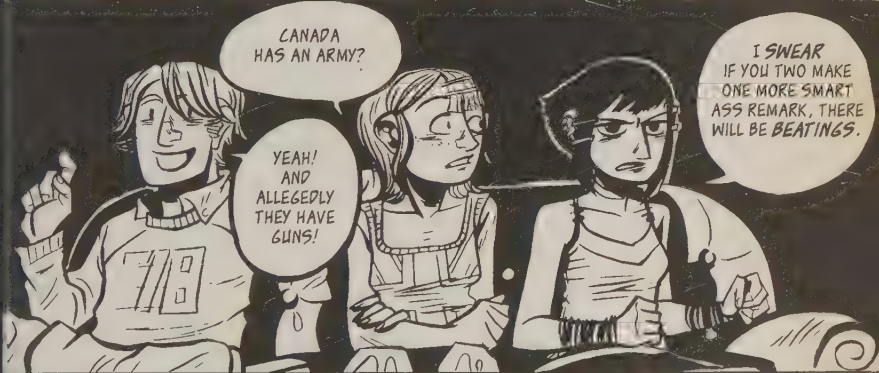
HAS ANYONE THOUGHT TO  
TRY AND CALL FOR HELP? MAYBE  
THE ARMY COULD RESCUE US.



CANADA  
HAS AN ARMY?

YEAH!  
AND  
ALLEGEDLY  
THEY HAVE  
GUNS!

I SWEAR  
IF YOU TWO MAKE  
ONE MORE SMART  
ASS REMARK, THERE  
WILL BE BEATINGS.



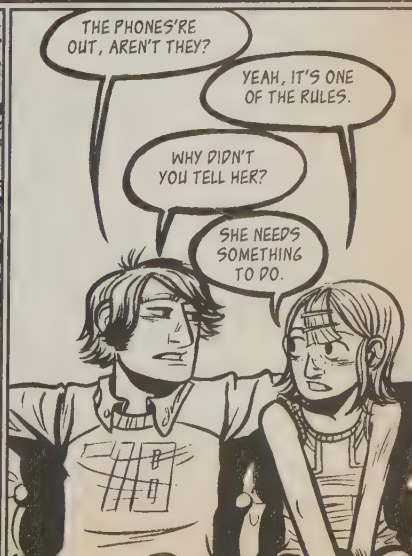
I'M GOING  
TO CALL FOR HELP.

THE PHONES'RE  
OUT, AREN'T THEY?

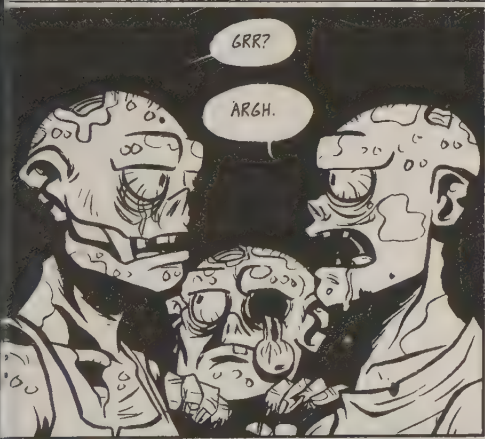
YEAH, IT'S ONE  
OF THE RULES.

WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL HER?

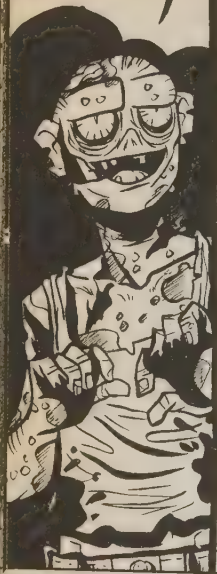
SHE NEEDS  
SOMETHING  
TO DO.







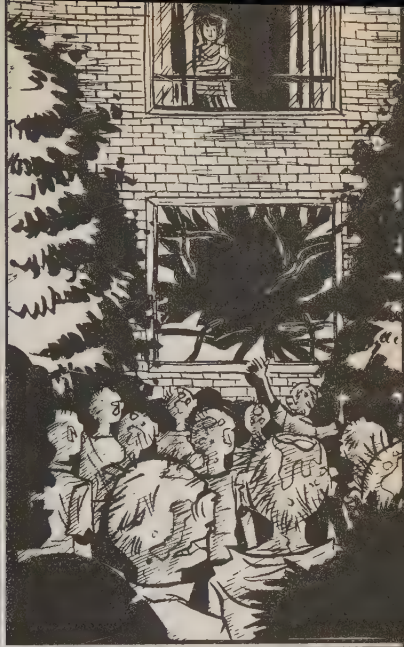
GREEE!



HELLO,  
CHILDREN.

GREEE!





THERE'S MORE OF THEM. THEY'RE STILL COMING.

SONNET, ROBYN AND I ARE TURNING IN NOW --



C'MON, LET'S GO TO BED. IT'LL LOOK BETTER IN THE MORNING.

IT'S SO FREAKY HOW THEY KEEP STANDING THERE STARING AT THE WINDOWS.

I KNOW.



IT'S JUST SO CREEPY!

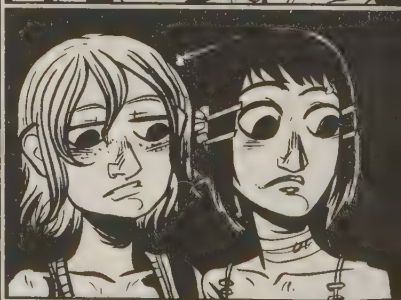
I KNOW.

CAN I STAY WITH YOU TONIGHT? THEY MIGHT GET IN MY ROOM.

SURE.

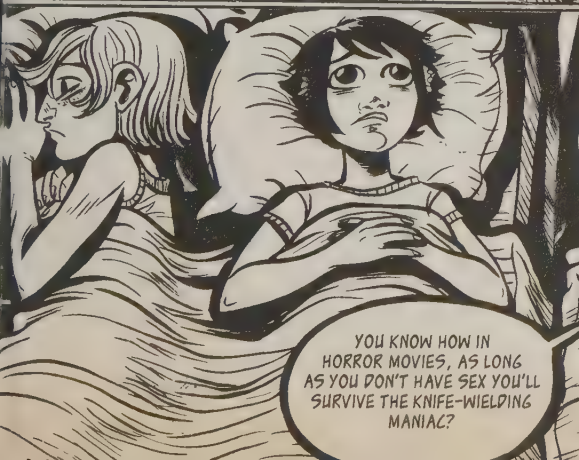
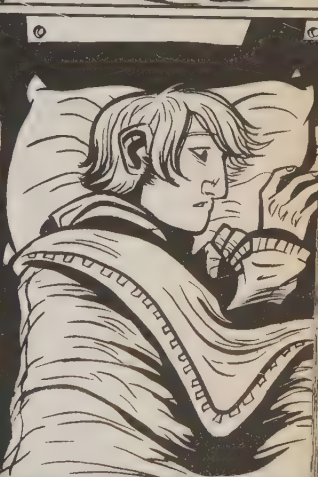
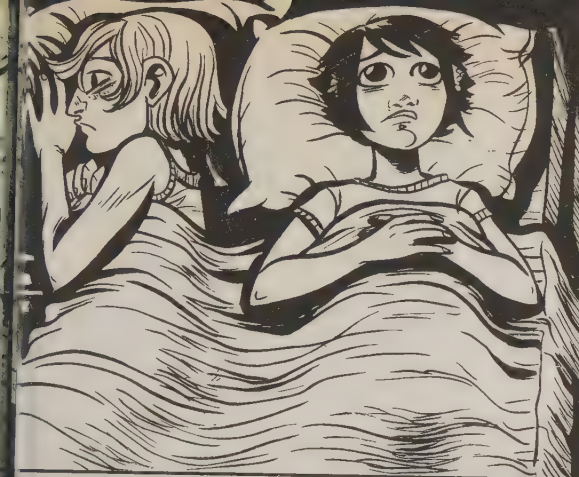


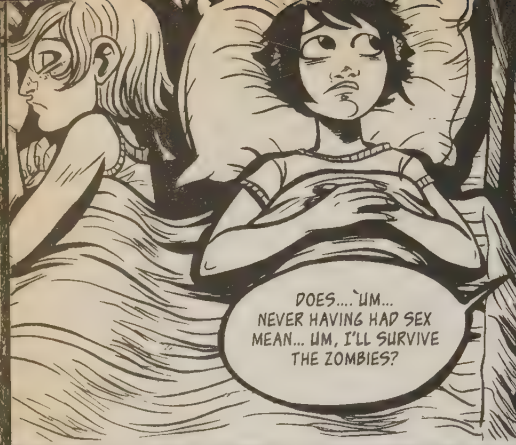
HI, ROOMIES.



NOPE.

OH, C'MON. HE'S ON THE FLOOR.





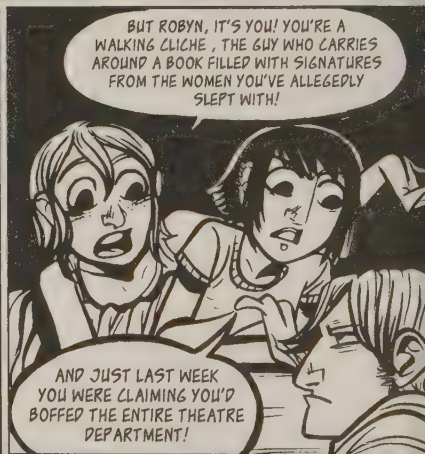
DOES... UM...  
NEVER HAVING HAD SEX  
MEAN... UM, I'LL SURVIVE  
THE ZOMBIES?



WHAT?!

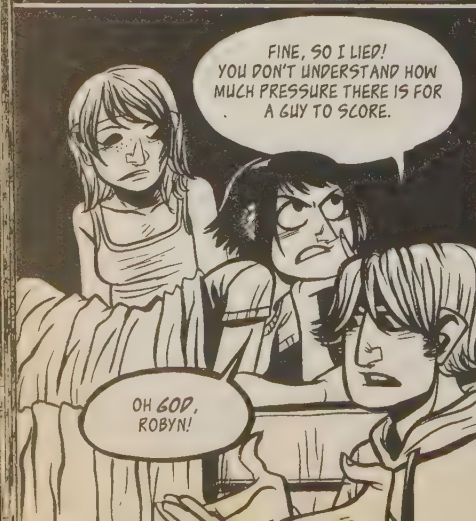
YOU'VE NEVER  
HAD SEX?

HEY, C'MON,  
IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF  
A DEAL! I'VE ALMOST HAD  
SEX AT LEAST FOUR TIMES!



BUT ROBYN, IT'S YOU! YOU'RE A  
WALKING CLICHE, THE GUY WHO CARRIES  
AROUND A BOOK FILLED WITH SIGNATURES  
FROM THE WOMEN YOU'VE ALLEGEDLY  
SLEPT WITH!

AND JUST LAST WEEK  
YOU WERE CLAIMING YOU'D  
BOFFED THE ENTIRE THEATRE  
DEPARTMENT!



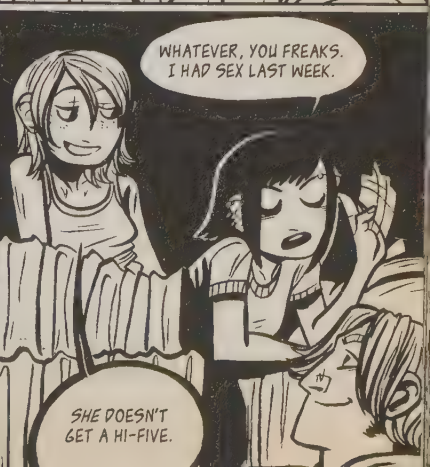
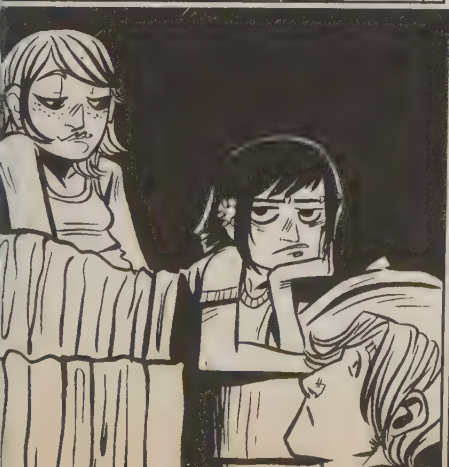
FINE, SO I LIED!  
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW  
MUCH PRESSURE THERE IS FOR  
A GUY TO SCORE.

OH GOD,  
ROBYN!

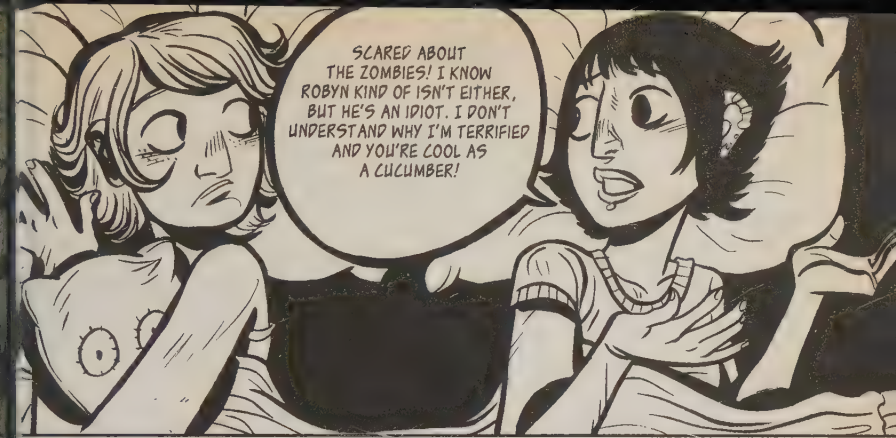


LOOK, I WAS JUST  
ASKING ABOUT THE  
ZOMBIES, OKAY?? JUST  
FORGET I SAID  
ANYTHING.

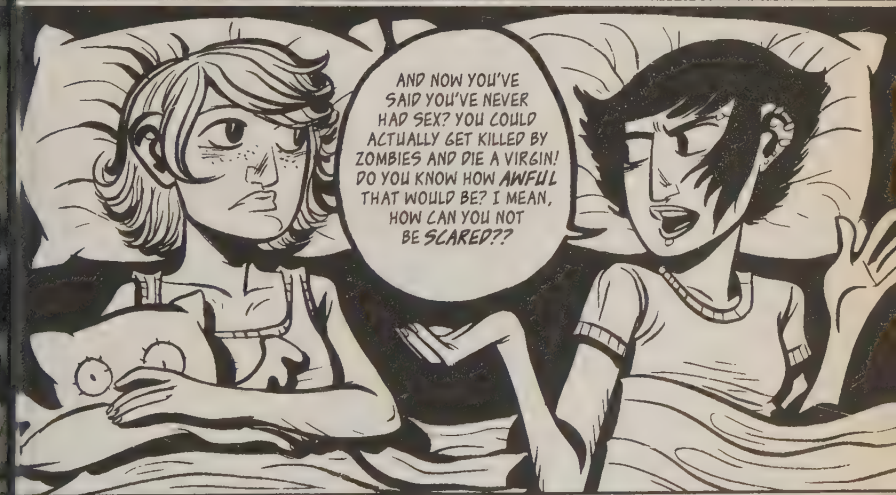
YEAH, THAT'S  
NOT GOING TO  
HAPPEN, ROBYN.



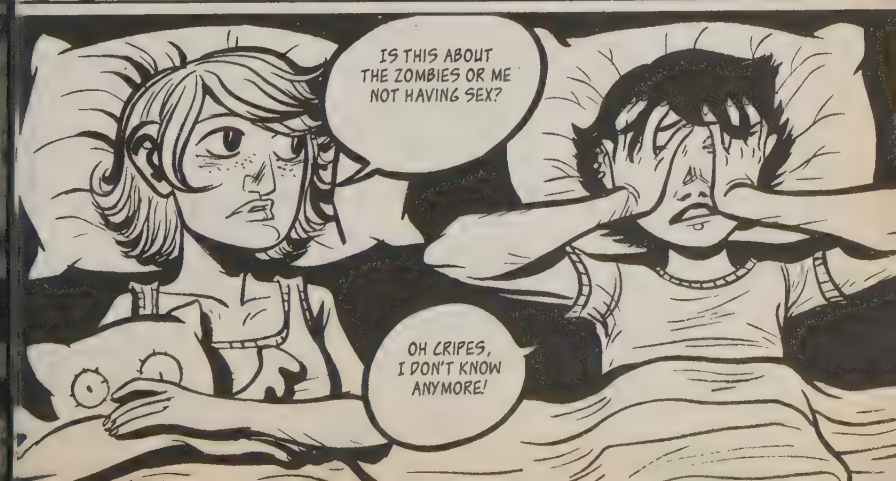




SCARED ABOUT  
THE ZOMBIES! I KNOW  
ROBYN KIND OF ISN'T EITHER,  
BUT HE'S AN IDIOT. I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND WHY I'M TERRIFIED  
AND YOU'RE COOL AS  
A CUCUMBER!



AND NOW YOU'VE  
SAID YOU'VE NEVER  
HAD SEX? YOU COULD  
ACTUALLY GET KILLED BY  
ZOMBIES AND DIE A VIRGIN!  
DO YOU KNOW HOW **AWFUL**  
THAT WOULD BE? I MEAN,  
HOW CAN YOU NOT  
BE **SCARED???**



IS THIS ABOUT  
THE ZOMBIES OR ME  
NOT HAVING SEX?

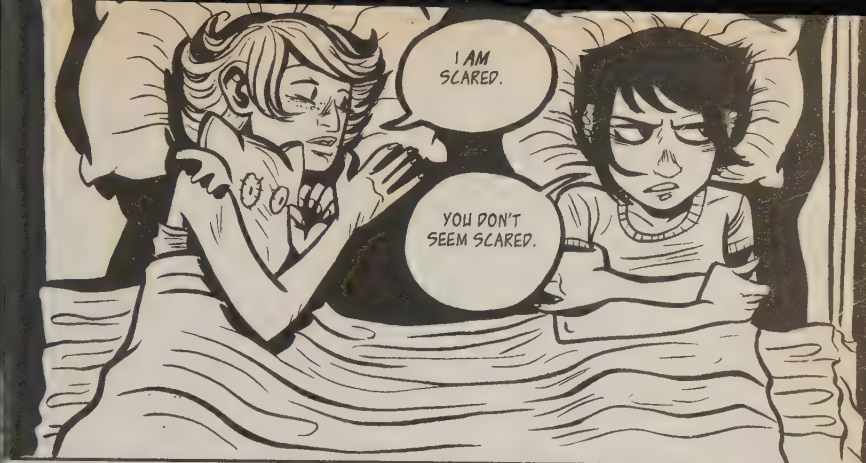
OH CRIPES,  
I DON'T KNOW  
ANYMORE!



IT'S YOUR BODY.  
YOU CAN HAVE SEX  
OR NOT HAVE SEX ALL  
YOU WANT.



WHY AREN'T  
YOU SCARED?  
I'M SO SCARED.

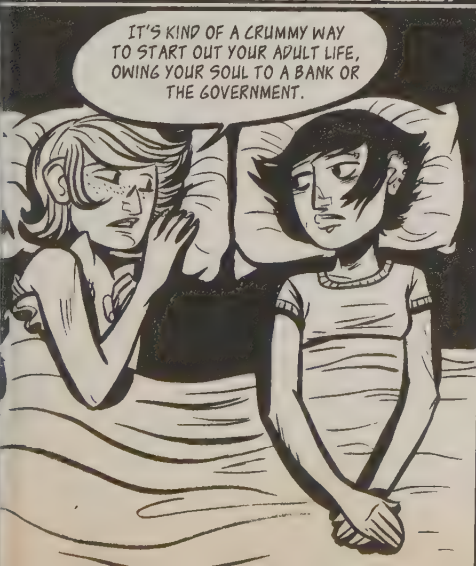


I AM SCARED.

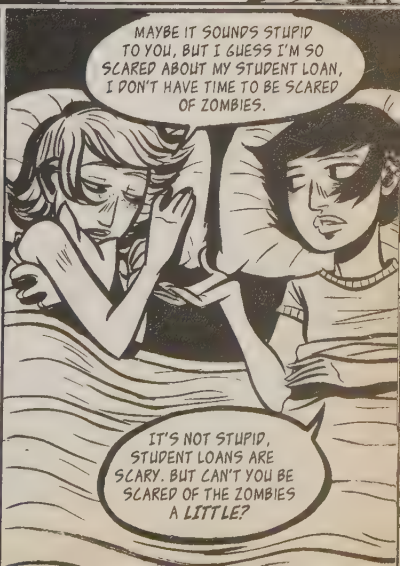
YOU DON'T SEEM SCARED.



YOU KNOW WHAT SCARES ME? MY STUDENT LOAN. I'VE FIGURED IT OUT: WHEN I GRADUATE, I'LL HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF DEBT MY PARENTS HAD WHEN THEY BOUGHT THEIR FIRST HOUSE. I'LL HAVE A MORTGAGE BUT NOWHERE TO LIVE. I COULD BE PAYING IT OFF UNTIL I'M FORTY.




IT'S KIND OF A CRUMMY WAY TO START OUT YOUR ADULT LIFE, OWNING YOUR SOUL TO A BANK OR THE GOVERNMENT.



MAYBE IT SOUNDS STUPID TO YOU, BUT I GUESS I'M SO SCARED ABOUT MY STUDENT LOAN, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SCARED OF ZOMBIES.

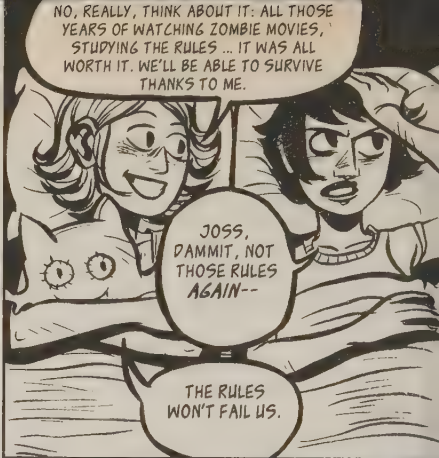
IT'S NOT STUPID, STUDENT LOANS ARE SCARY. BUT CAN'T YOU BE SCARED OF THE ZOMBIES A LITTLE?



THROUGHOUT THIS WHOLE THING YOU SEEM MORE EXCITED THAN SCARED. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING BEING ATTACKED BY ZOMBIES.

WELL, IT'S A LITTLE EXCITING.

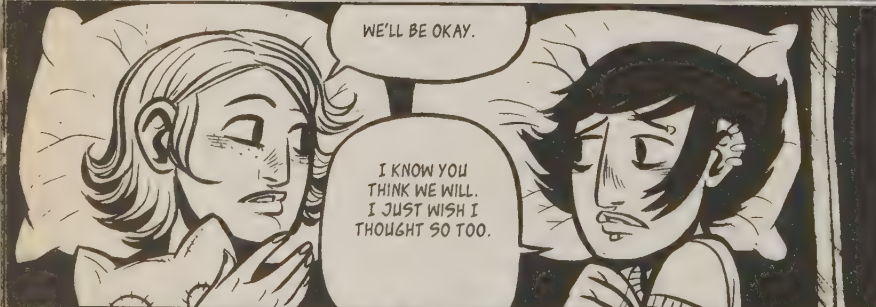
FOR PETE'S SAKE, JOSS --



NO, REALLY, THINK ABOUT IT: ALL THOSE YEARS OF WATCHING ZOMBIE MOVIES, STUDYING THE RULES ... IT WAS ALL WORTH IT. WE'LL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THANKS TO ME.

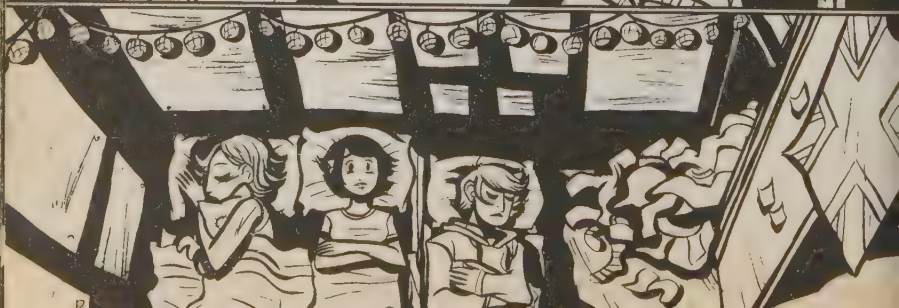
JOSS, DAMMIT, NOT THOSE RULES AGAIN--

THE RULES WON'T FAIL US.



WE'LL BE OKAY.

I KNOW YOU THINK WE WILL. I JUST WISH I THOUGHT SO TOO.



"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WISH WE COULD BE MEETING UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I'M AFRAID WE MAY HAVE A CRISIS ON OUR HANDS..."

NONDESCRIPT  
BUILDING  
RESSPASSERS  
WILL BE SHOT

AT 20:54 THIS EVENING WE RECEIVED WORD OF ERRATIC BEHAVIOR AMONG STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT LONDON UNIVERSITY, IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO. THE REPORTS WERE ... DISTURBING.

THE REPORTS ILLUSTRATE A SCENARIO WE HAVE ALL WORKED HARD AVOID REPEATING, BUT SOMEHOW THE SITUATION HAS RE-MANIFESTED ITSELF.

IT'S ZOMBIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. AND WE NEED OPTIONS.



WE WILL WAIT.  
QUARANTINE THE SCHOOL  
AND OBSERVE. OFFER  
ASSISTANCE WHEN THE  
TIME COMES.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR,  
HISTORY HAS SHOWN US THESE  
SITUATIONS ARE CRUCIAL IN THEIR  
FIRST FEW HOURS---

I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR CONCERN,  
BUT THIS TIME IS  
DIFFERENT. WE  
HAVE AN INSIDE  
MAN.

AN INSIDE  
MAN, SIR?

YES, MY SON ROBYN.  
AND IF ANYONE CAN TURN  
THE TIDE OF A ZOMBIE  
INVASION, HE CAN.



**SNOORREE**

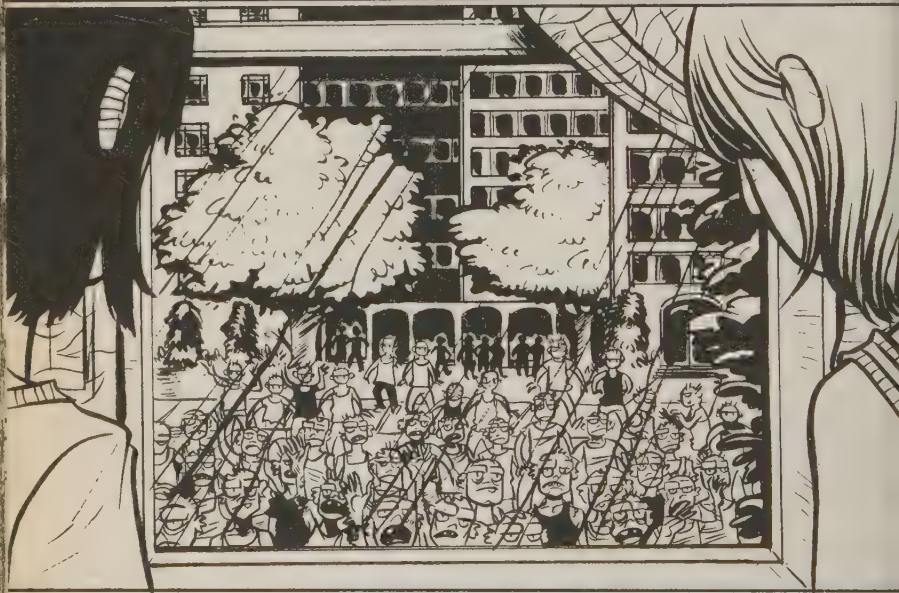
OOH, STOP IT,  
MS. STRONACH! ...  
THAT TICKLES...  
HEE HEE!



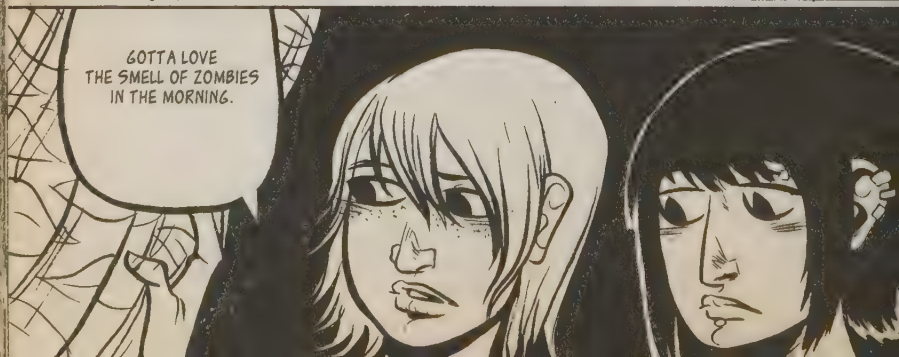
HMF!

OKAY!  
THAT IS  
QUITE  
ENOUGH!

OOH, REALLY?  
I CAN CALL YOU  
BELINDA? ...  
OKAY BELINDA...



GOTTA LOVE  
THE SMELL OF ZOMBIES  
IN THE MORNING.





I THINK WE NEED TO TRY AND GET HELP.

YAWN



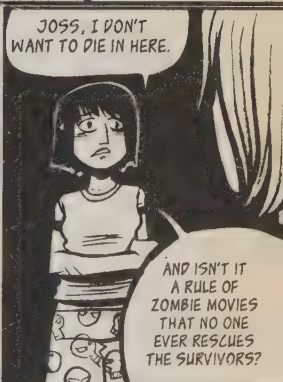
THE NUMBER ONE RULE OF ZOMBIE MOVIES IS 'NEVER LEAVE THE MALL.' WE SHOULD STAY PUT.

JOSS, I'M NOT LIKE YOU. I DON'T TRUST THESE MYTHICAL RULES.



THE RULES HAVEN'T LET US DOWN SO FAR. WE'RE SAFE IN HERE AS LONG AS THERE'S FOOD AND WATER.

WE SHOULD WAIT AND SEE IF RESCUE COMES.



JOSS, I DON'T WANT TO DIE IN HERE.


AND ISN'T IT A RULE OF ZOMBIE MOVIES THAT NO ONE EVER RESCUES THE SURVIVORS?



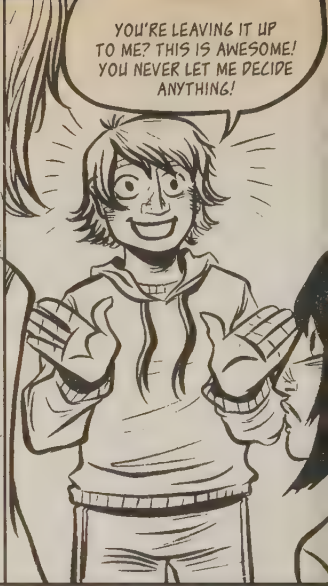
YEAH...



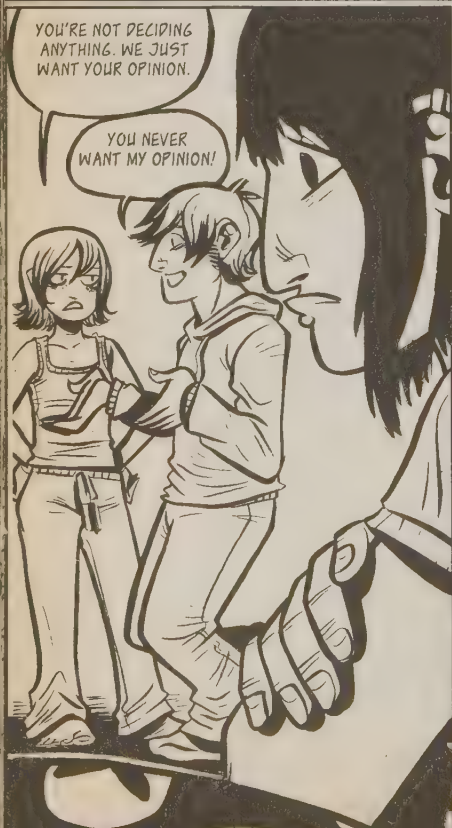
I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO RUN FOR IT, JOSS.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, ROBYN? STAY OR GO?

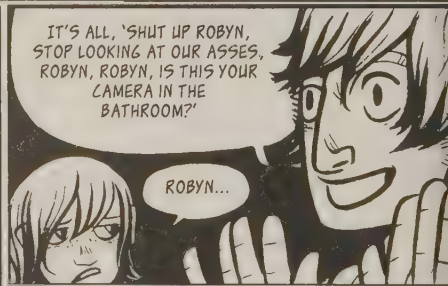


YOU'RE LEAVING IT UP TO ME? THIS IS AWESOME! YOU NEVER LET ME DECIDE ANYTHING!



YOU'RE NOT DECIDING ANYTHING. WE JUST WANT YOUR OPINION.

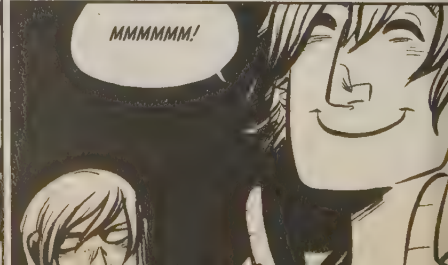
YOU NEVER WANT MY OPINION!



IT'S ALL, 'SHUT UP ROBYN, STOP LOOKING AT OUR ASSES. ROBYN, ROBYN, IS THIS YOUR CAMERA IN THE BATHROOM?'

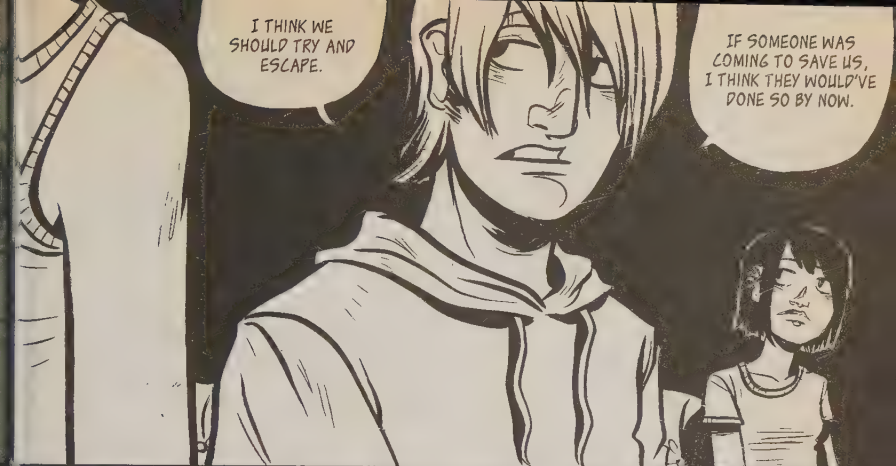


ROBYN...



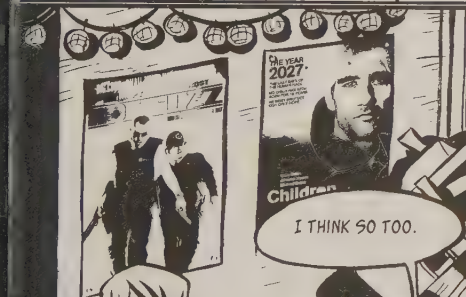
JUST A SEC, I WANT TO SAVOR THE MOMENT...

MMMMMM!



I THINK WE SHOULD TRY AND ESCAPE.

IF SOMEONE WAS COMING TO SAVE US, I THINK THEY WOULD'VE DONE SO BY NOW.

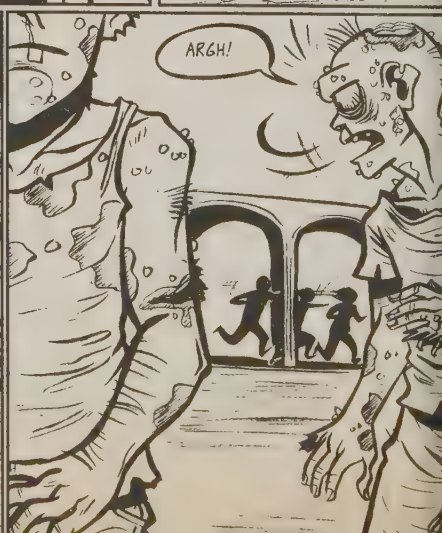
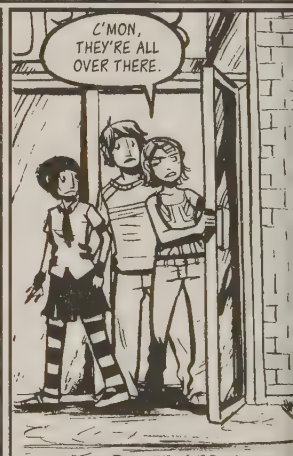


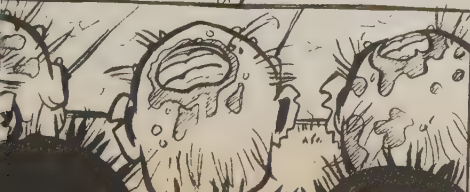
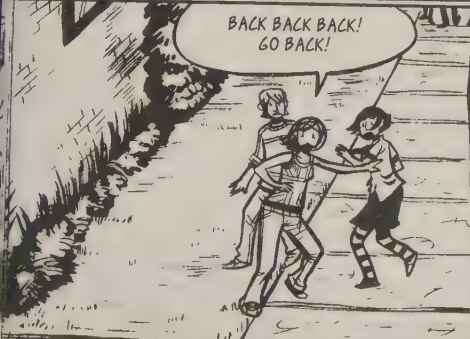
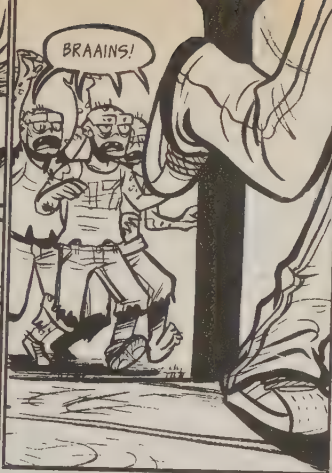
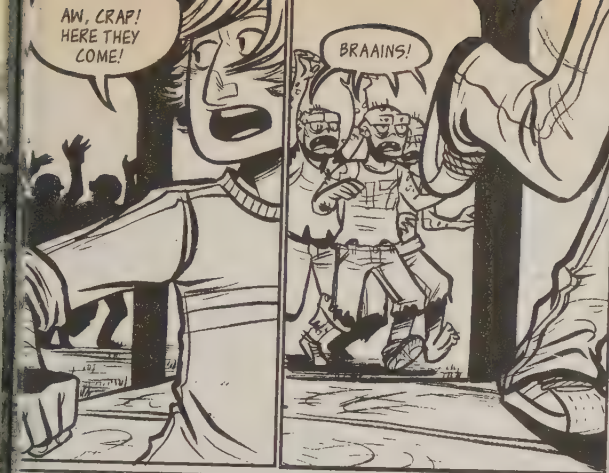
I THINK SO TOO.

JOSS?

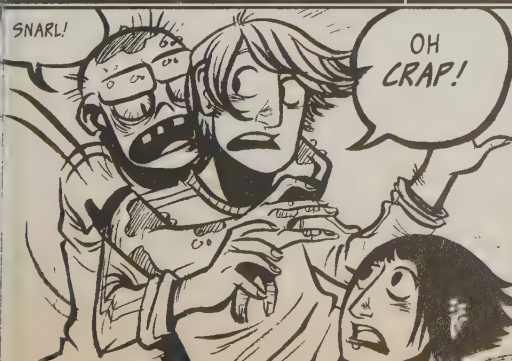
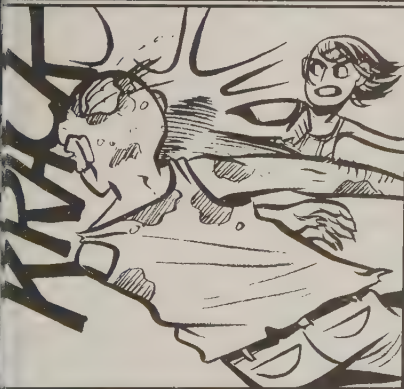
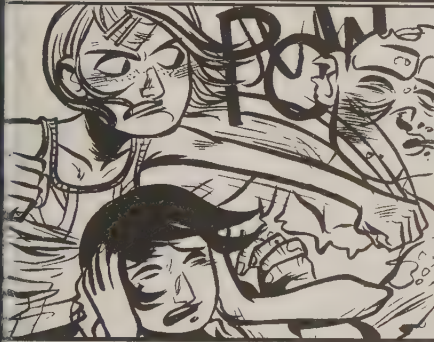


LET'S GO FOR IT.









THANKS.

IT'S NO  
CRICKET BAT,  
BUT IT'LL DO.

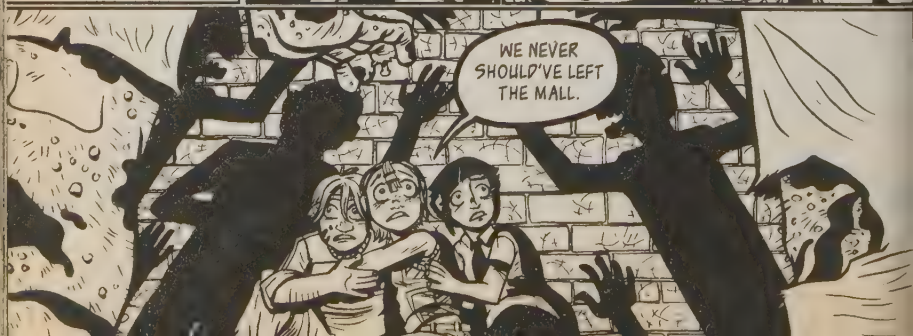
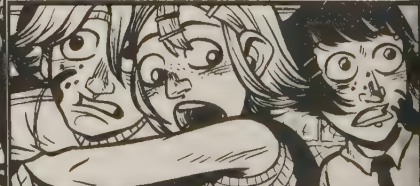
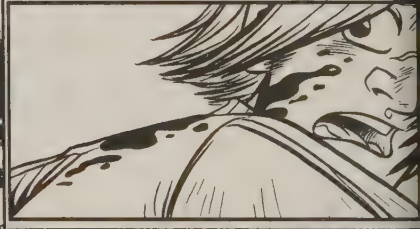
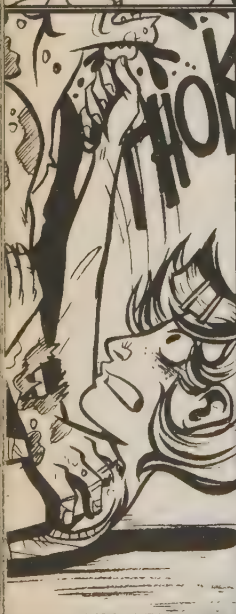
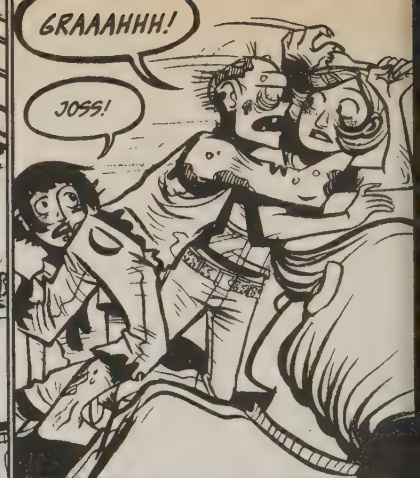
WHUMP

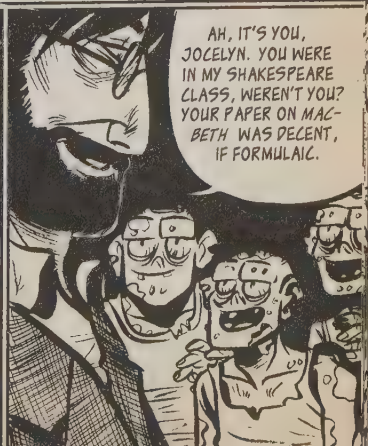
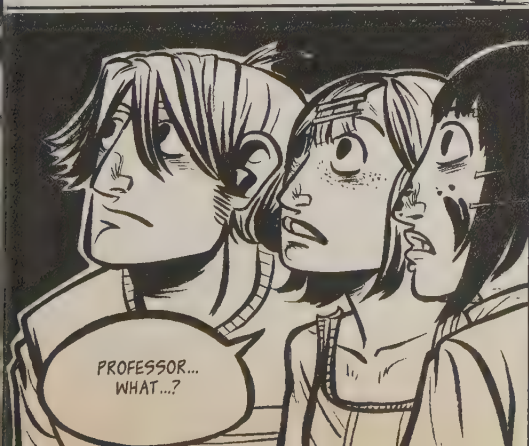
GRAAAHHH!

JOSS!

THICK

WE NEVER  
SHOULD'VE LEFT  
THE MALL.





YEAH, I GOT A B MINUS  
ON IT, AND ...

WAIT A MINUTE,  
WHAT THE HELL IS  
GOING ON?

OH, IT'S VERY  
SIMPLE REALLY. I AM  
MAKING A STATEMENT.

HIGHER EDUCATION HAS BECOME A JOKE,  
CHILDREN. AN EXPENSIVE, WORTHLESS JOKE.  
CAMPUSES ARE POPULATED BY SHALLOW,  
IGNORANT CHILDREN WHO DON'T CARE A WHIT  
FOR ACTUAL LEARNING, BUT ARE HERE TO  
SIMPLY COLLECT THE VERY THING THAT WILL  
ALLOW THEM TO MAKE THE MOST MONEY:  
A UNIVERSITY DEGREE.

OH, AND WE CATER TO THEM,  
TOO, THOSE OF US WHO RUN  
THESE FORMERLY HALLOWED  
INSTITUTIONS. WE SELL THEM  
THEIR DEGREES, HANDING THEM  
OUT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.  
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE  
STUDENT ACTUALLY WANTS TO  
BE HERE OR NOT, AS LONG AS  
THEIR ENABLING PARENTS CAN  
FORK OVER THE TUITION FEES,  
WE'LL GLADLY EDUCATE  
THEIR LITTLE  
MONSTERS.

DID YOU KNOW THE COST OF  
*THIS* UNIVERSITY'S EDUCATION  
HAS RISEN SEVEN HUNDRED  
PERCENT IN THE LAST  
TEN YEARS?

ACTUALLY,  
I KNEW THAT--

SHUT UP!

SORRY.

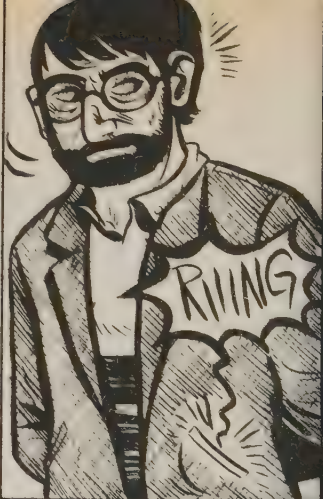
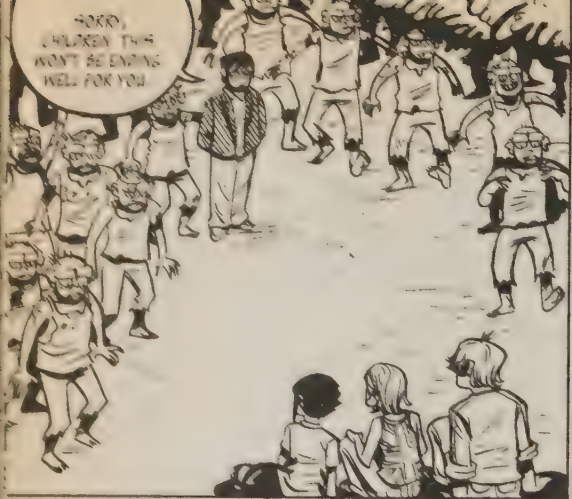
I AM  
MAKING A  
POINT,  
CHILDREN.

UNIVERSITIES ARE OVERRUN BY ZOMBIES, TAUGHT BY ZOMBIES FINANCED BY ZOMBIES. AND IF THAT IS FIGURATIVELY WHAT THEY ARE, THEN THAT IS LITERALLY WHAT THEY SHALL BECOME. SO I CREATED A PLAGUE, OF SORTS. IT'S ALL TERRIBLY BIBLICAL. I HAD IT PLACED IN THE COFFEE AT THE CAMPUS COFFEE SHOP, COFFEE THAT STUDENTS CONSUME BY THE GALLON DURING EXAMS. AND AFTER IT STEWS A FEW HOURS IN THE STOMACH OF THE AVERAGE STUDENT, THEY DEVELOP A FULL-BLOWN CASE OF ZOMBIFICATION.

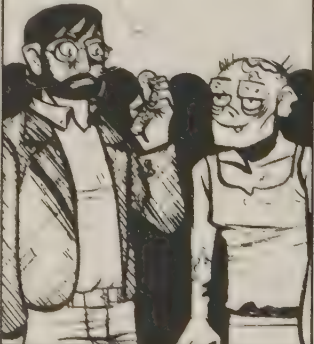
PRETTY INGENUOUS  
WAY TO MAKE A  
POINT,  
EH CHILDREN?

OKAY, SO  
HE'S TOTALLY  
BARKING MAD.

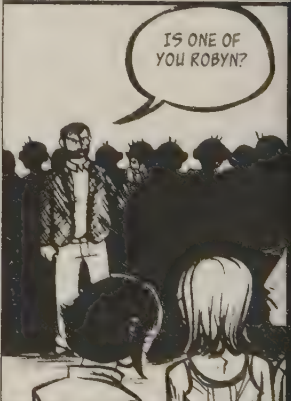
OKAY, CHILDREN THIS WON'T BE ENDING WELL FOR YOU



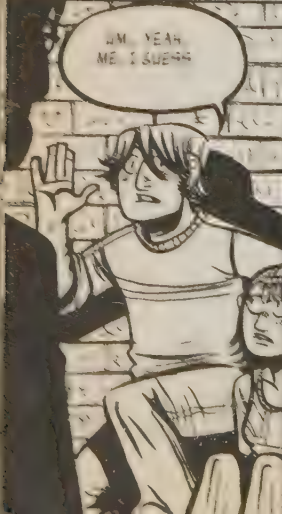
HELLO?



IS ONE OF YOU ROBYN?



UM, YEAH ME, I SURE

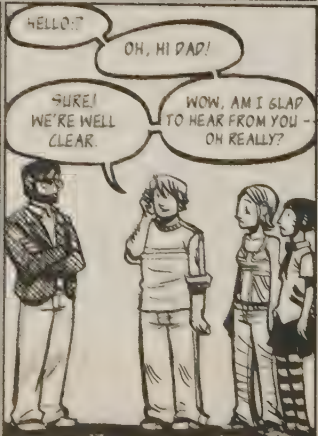


HELLO?

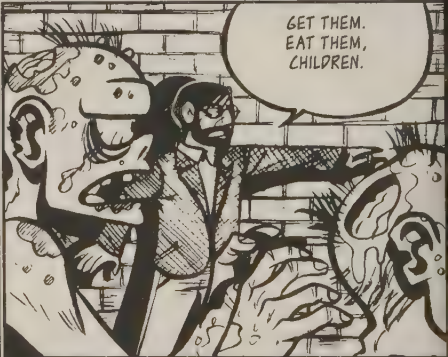
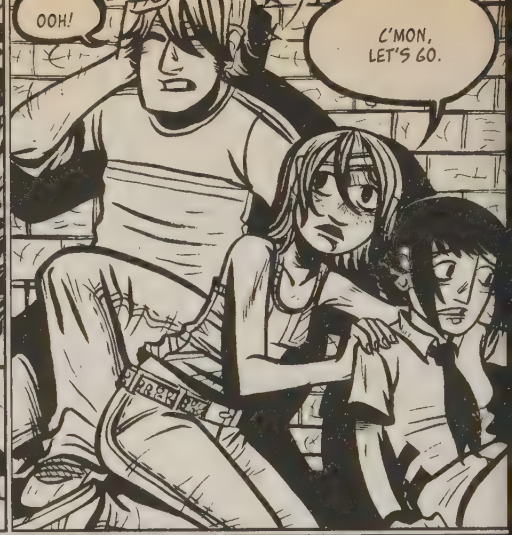
OH, HI DAD!

SURE! WE'RE WELL CLEAR.

WOW, AM I GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU - OH REALLY?



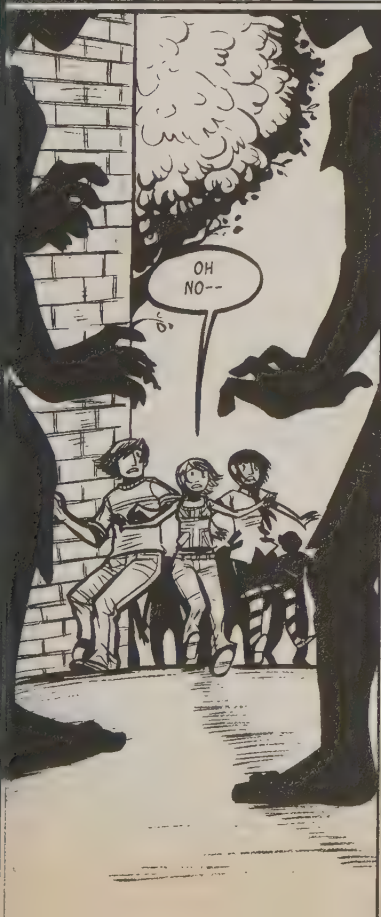




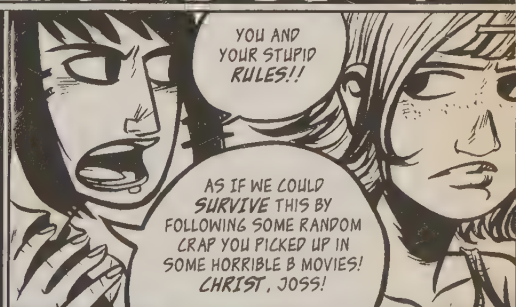


WHERE ARE WE  
RUNNING TO?  
THERE'S ZOMBIES  
EVERYWHERE!

I DON'T KNOW!  
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROKE  
THE BLOODY RULES! I TOLD  
YOU WE COULDN'T LEAVE  
THE MALL!



OH  
NO--



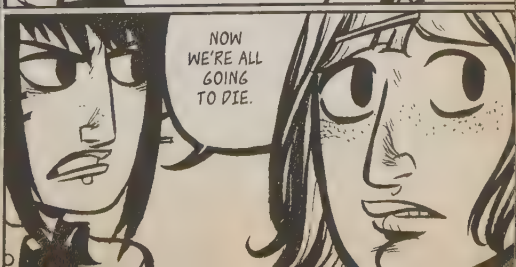
YOU AND  
YOUR STUPID  
RULES!!

AS IF WE COULD  
SURVIVE THIS BY  
FOLLOWING SOME RANDOM  
CRAP YOU PICKED UP IN  
SOME HORRIBLE B MOVIES!  
CHRIST, JOSS!

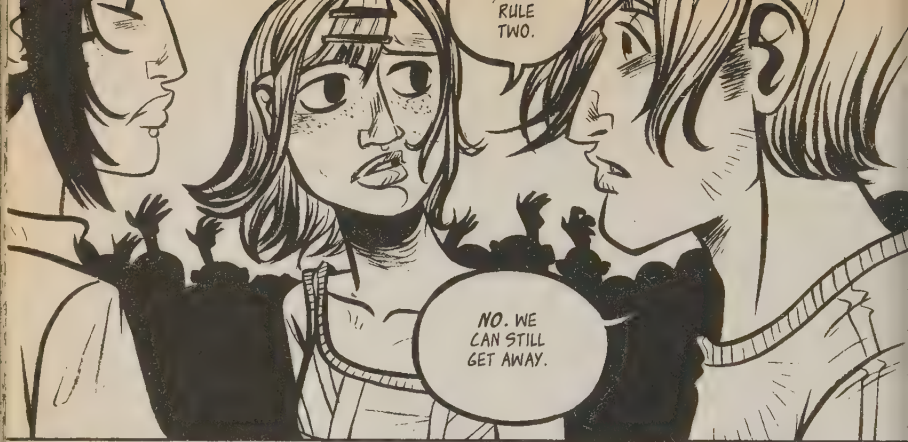


I WAS TRYING  
TO SAVE US!

WELL TO  
QUOTE YOU,  
YOU DID A  
BRILLIANT  
JOB!!

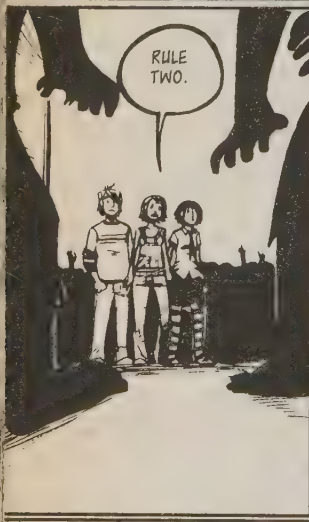


NOW  
WE'RE ALL  
GOING  
TO DIE.



RULE TWO.

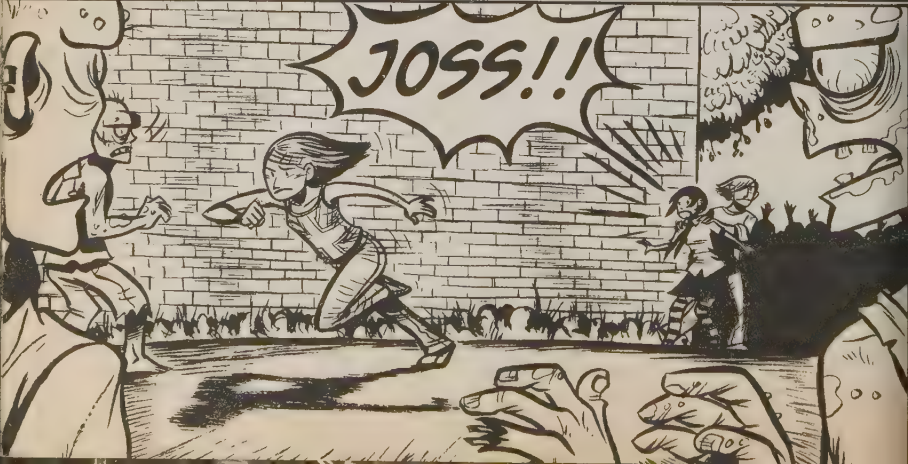
NO. WE CAN STILL GET AWAY.



RULE TWO.



WHAT'S RULE TWO?



JOSS!!

WHAT IS SHE DOING???  
THEY'LL EAT HER!

SHE'S GIVING US A  
CHANCE. RULE TWO.  
NOW C'MON.



WHAT'S RULE  
TWO??

IN A ZOMBIE MOVIE,  
SOMEONE WILL MAKE A  
SACRIFICE. THEY WILL DO IT  
SO THE OTHERS IN THEIR  
GROUP CAN ESCAPE  
THE ZOMBIES.



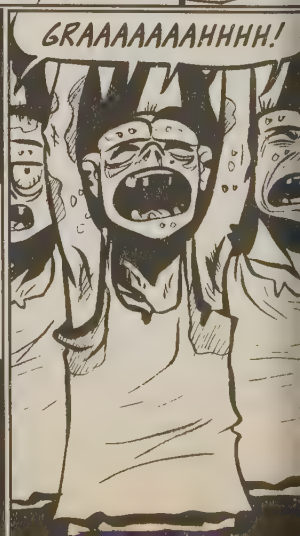
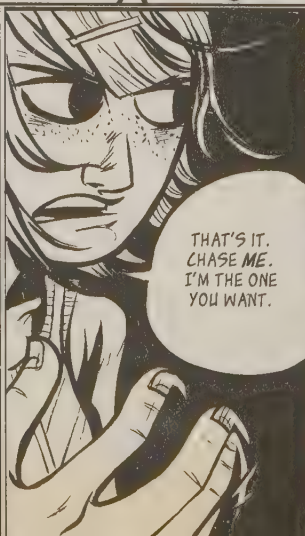
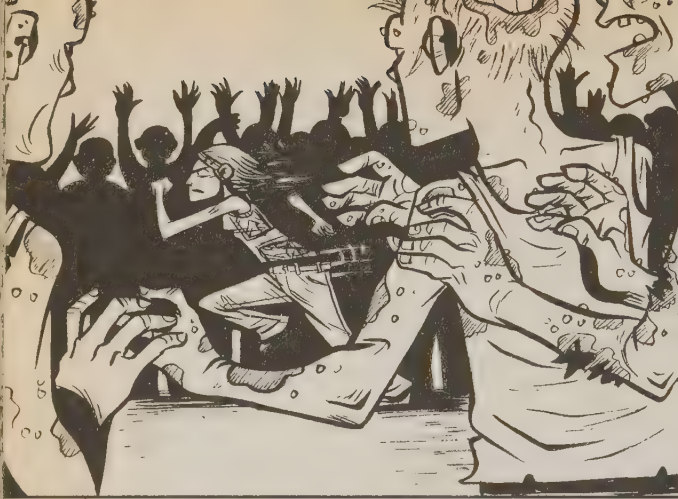
SHE CAN'T DO  
THAT! JOSS!!

SHE  
JUST DID.

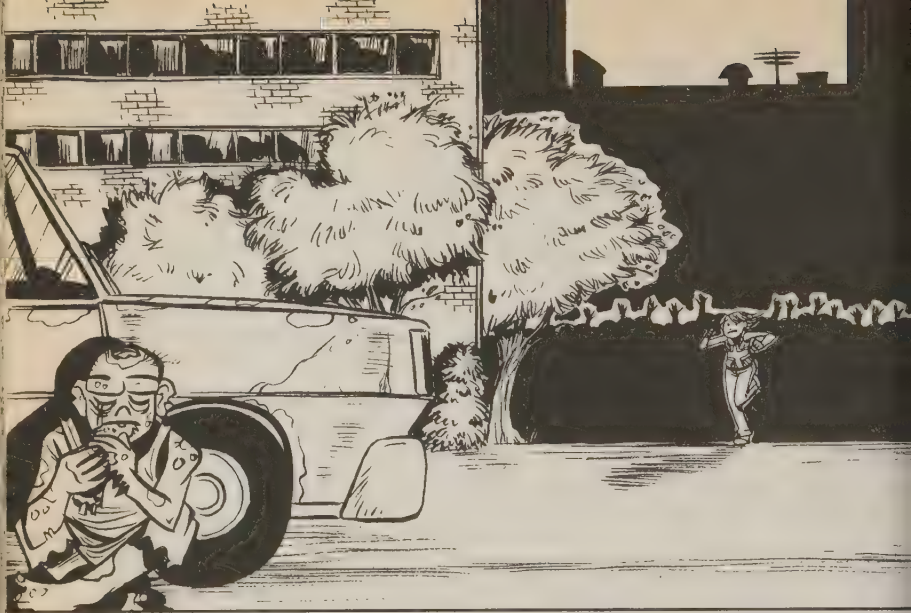


JOSS...

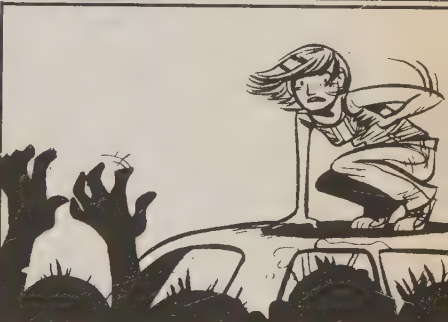
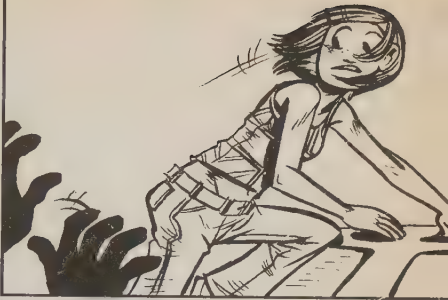




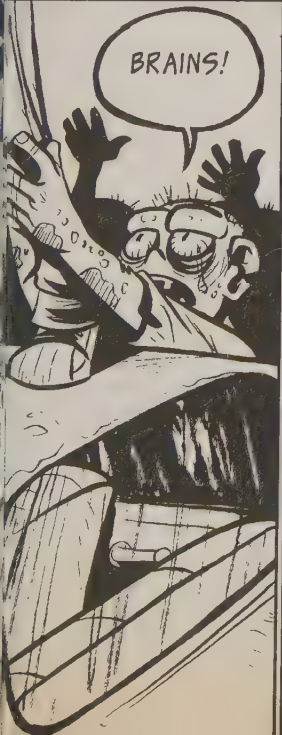


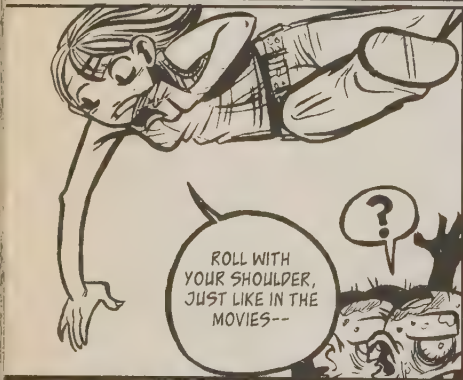
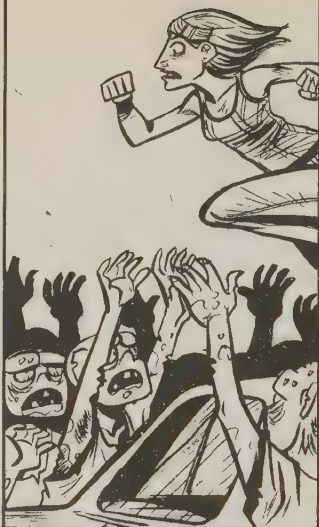
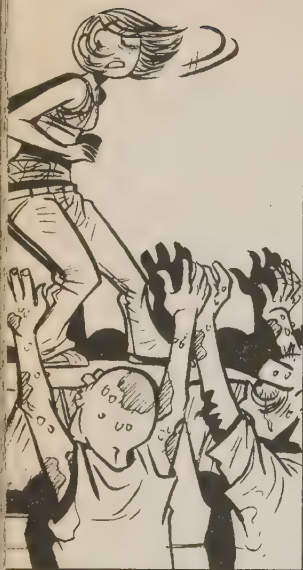


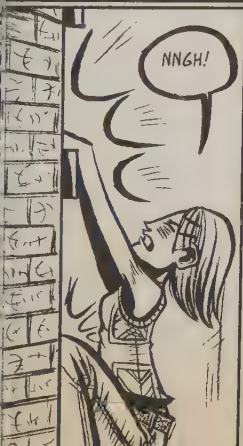
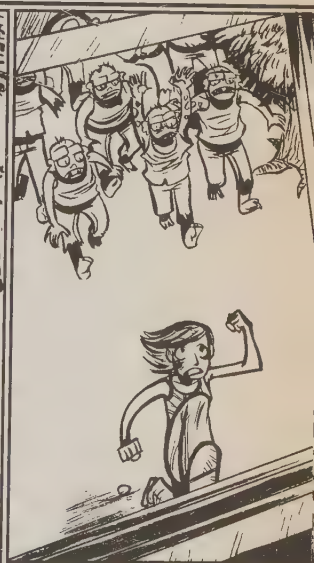
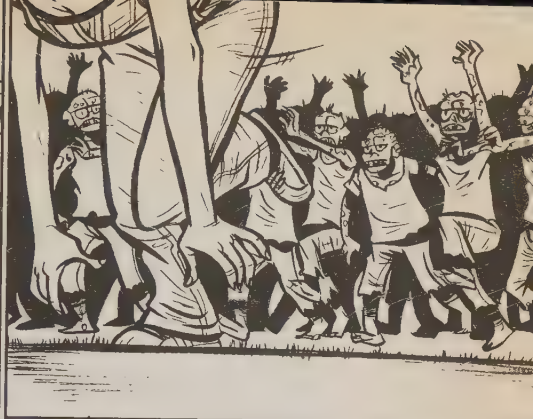
GREEEEE!

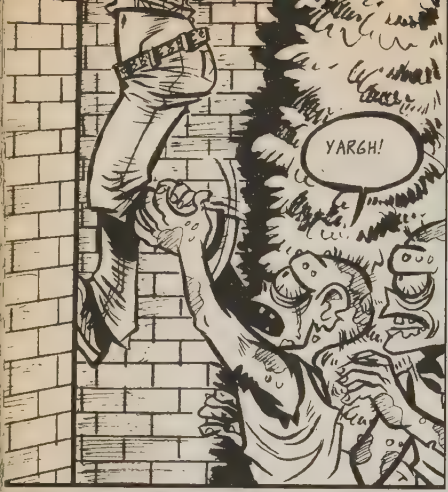


BRAINS!









YARGH!

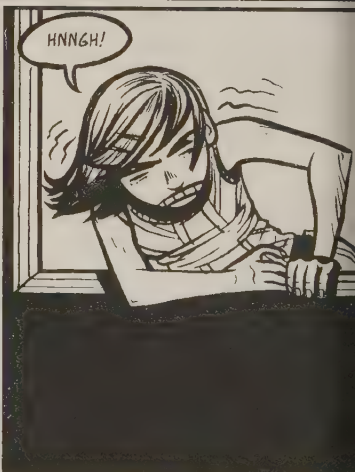


OOF!

CRUNCH



HNNGH!



HNNGH!

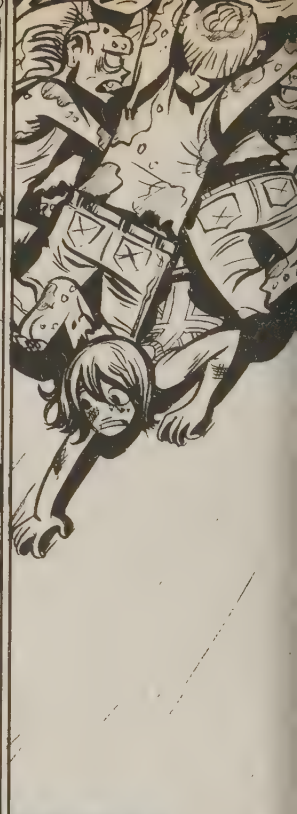
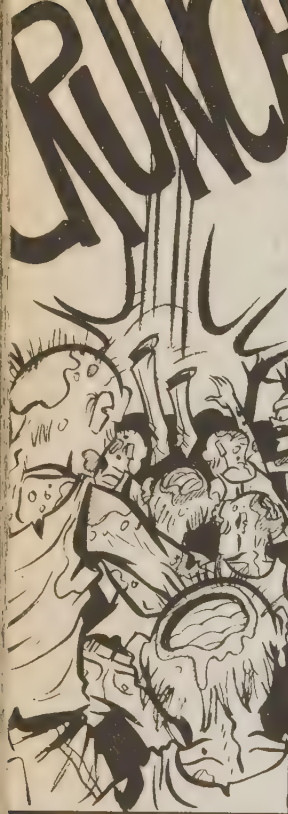


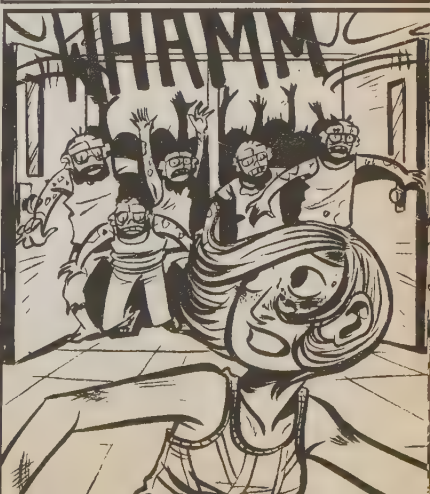
NO...



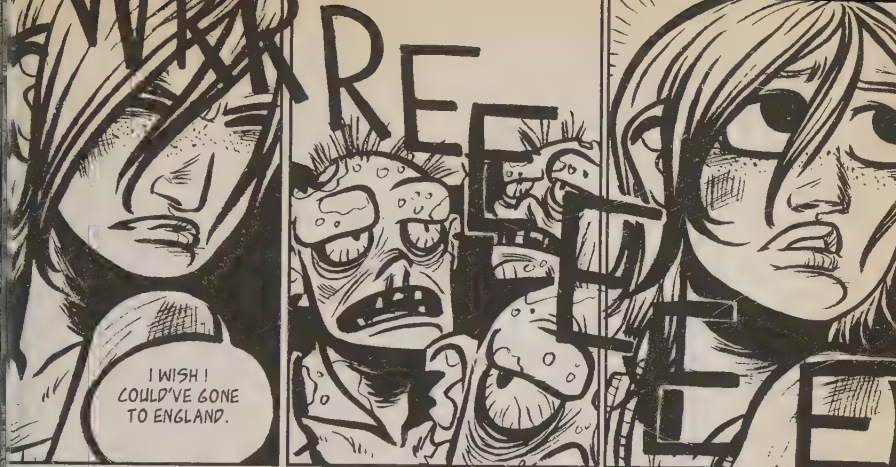
GRRRAAGH!





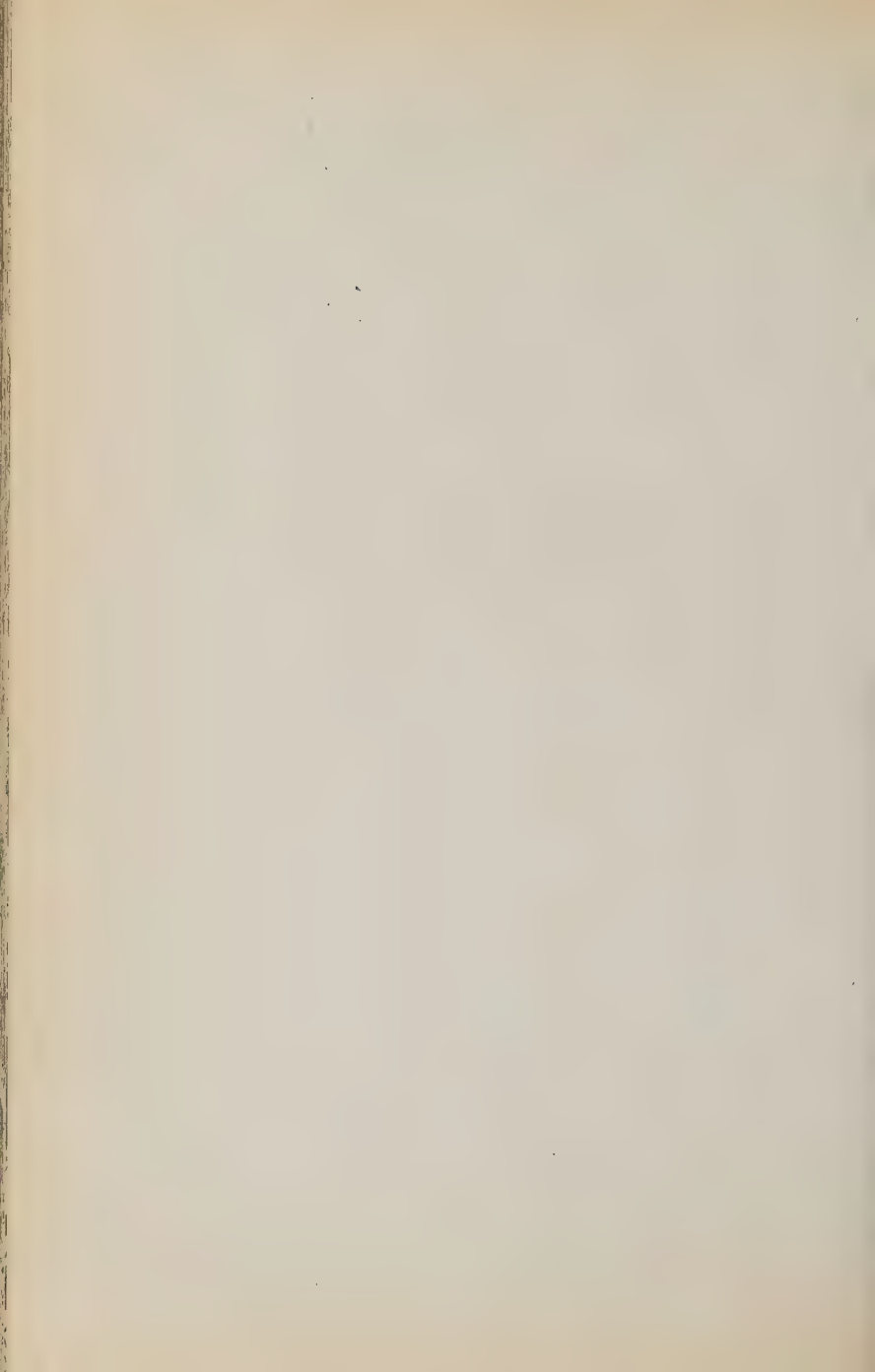




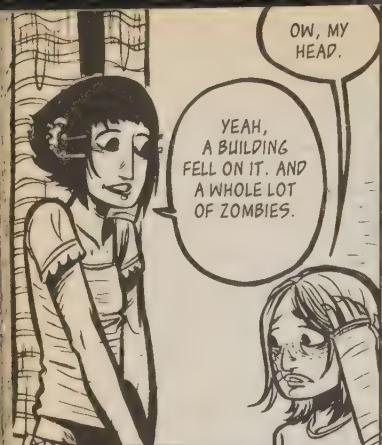






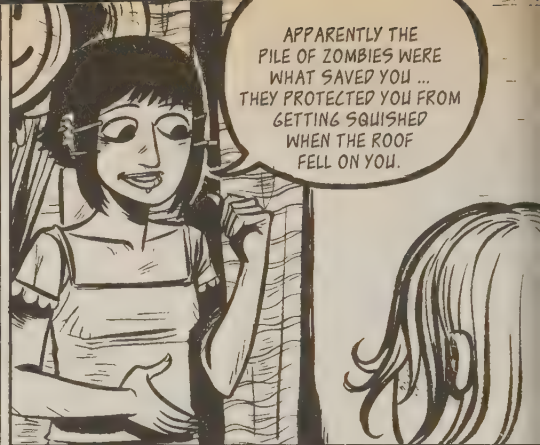




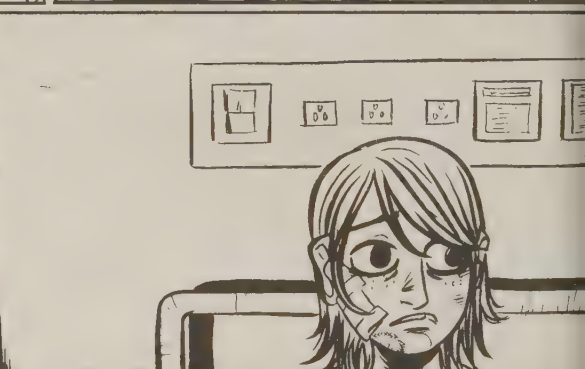
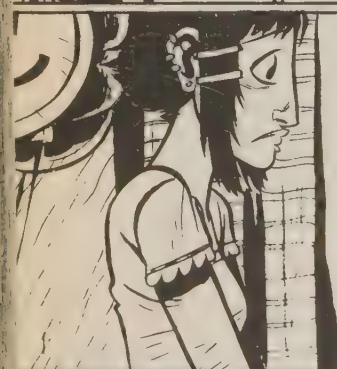


YEAH,  
A BUILDING  
FELL ON IT. AND  
A WHOLE LOT  
OF ZOMBIES.

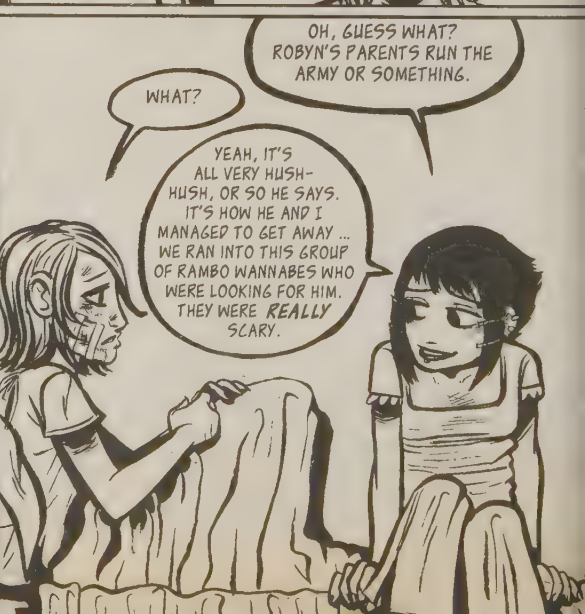
OW, MY  
HEAD.



APPARENTLY THE  
PILE OF ZOMBIES WERE  
WHAT SAVED YOU ...  
THEY PROTECTED YOU FROM  
GETTING SQUISHED  
WHEN THE ROOF  
FELL ON YOU.



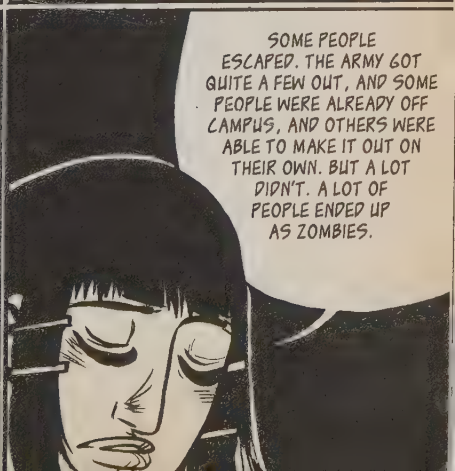
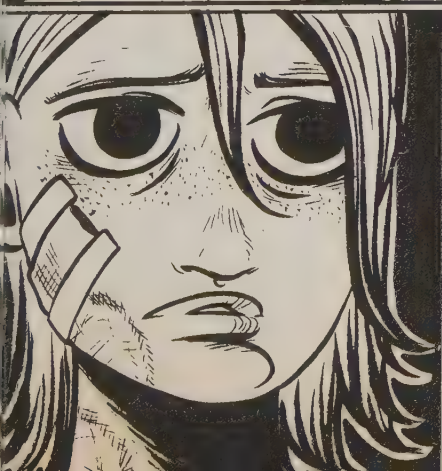
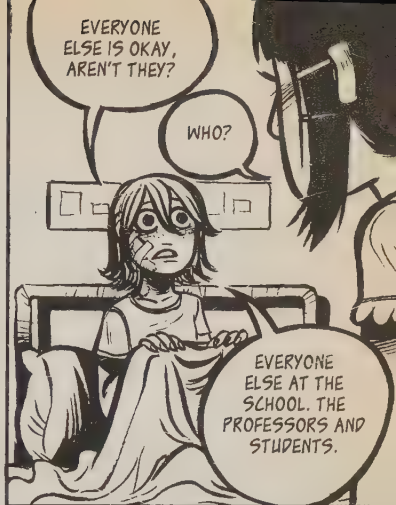
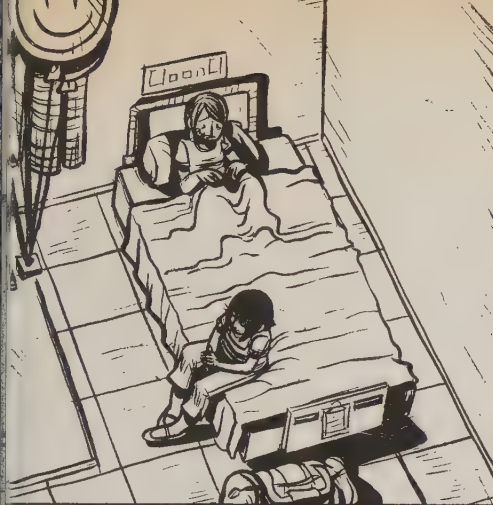
I'M REALLY  
HAPPY YOU  
SURVIVED,  
JOSS.

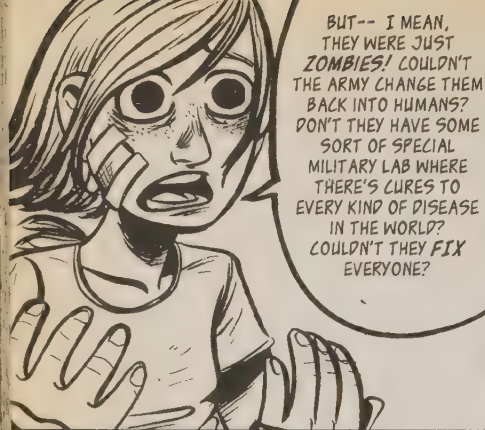


OH, GUESS WHAT?  
ROBYN'S PARENTS RUN THE  
ARMY OR SOMETHING.

WHAT?

YEAH, IT'S  
ALL VERY HUSH-  
HUSH, OR SO HE SAYS.  
IT'S HOW HE AND I  
MANAGED TO GET AWAY ...  
WE RAN INTO THIS GROUP  
OF RAMBO WANNABES WHO  
WERE LOOKING FOR HIM.  
THEY WERE REALLY  
SCARY.

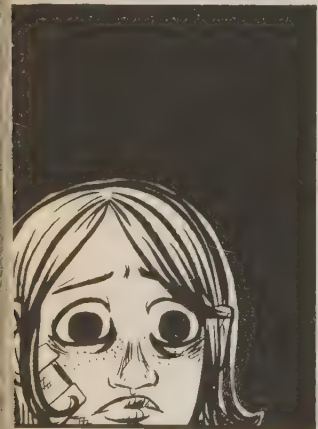




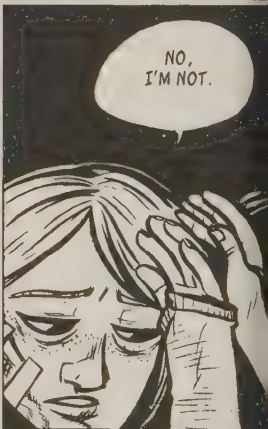
BUT-- I MEAN, THEY WERE JUST ZOMBIES! COULDN'T THE ARMY CHANGE THEM BACK INTO HUMANS? DON'T THEY HAVE SOME SORT OF SPECIAL MILITARY LAB WHERE THERE'S CURES TO EVERY KIND OF DISEASE IN THE WORLD? COULDN'T THEY FIX EVERYONE?



NO, JOSS. I'M SORRY.



BUT YOU SAVED US, JOSS. ME AND ROBYN. YOU'RE A HERO.

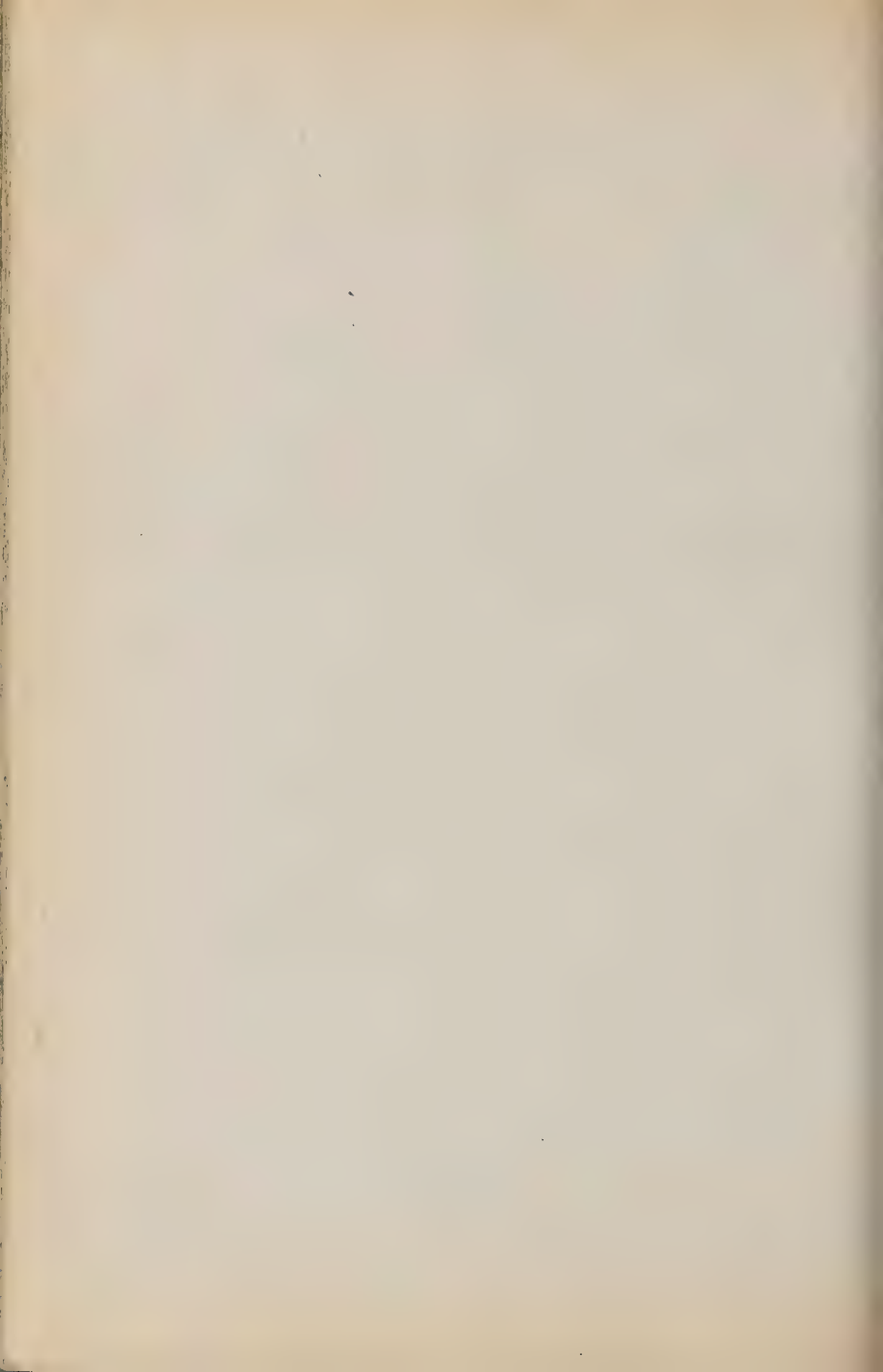



NO, I'M NOT.



I THINK I'D LIKE TO GO TO ENGLAND THIS SUMMER.



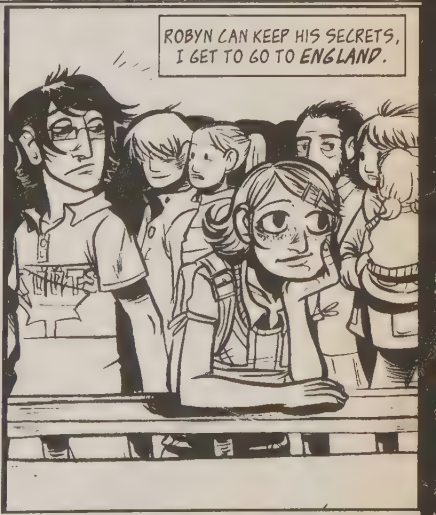




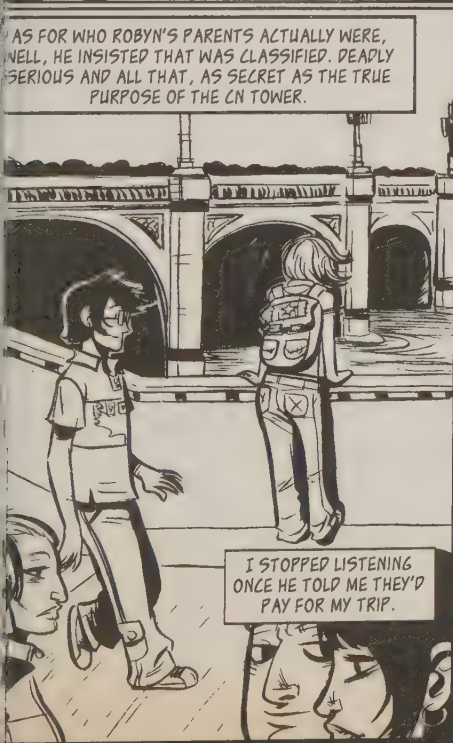
AS IT TURNS OUT, SAVING THE SON OF SOME ARMY MUCKY-MUCK FROM ZOMBIES DOES HAVE ITS BENEFITS, BECAUSE HERE I AM, SPENDING MY SUMMER IN ENGLAND, COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

ROBYN'S PARENTS PULLED SOME STRINGS AND GOT THE WHOLE TRIP PAID FOR, WHICH I FOUND PRETTY STUNNING, BUT WHO AM I TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH?

AS FOR WHO ROBYN'S PARENTS ACTUALLY WERE, WELL, HE INSISTED THAT WAS CLASSIFIED. DEADLY SERIOUS AND ALL THAT, AS SECRET AS THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE CN TOWER.

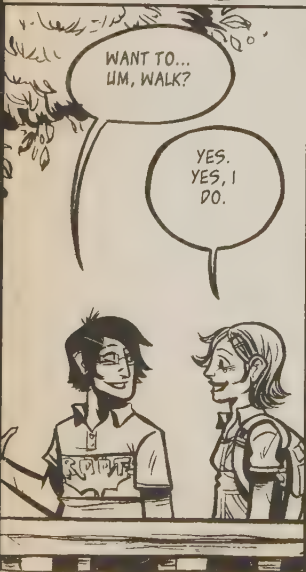
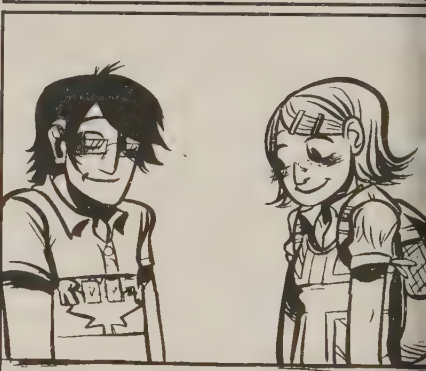
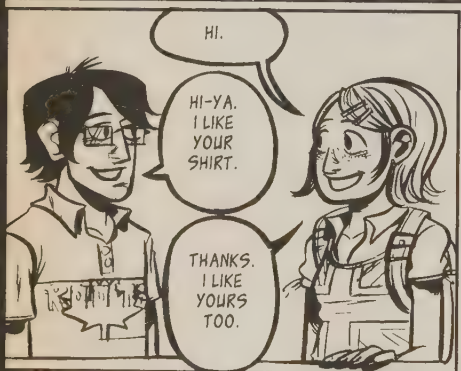
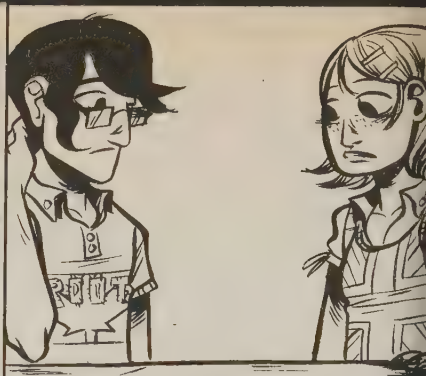
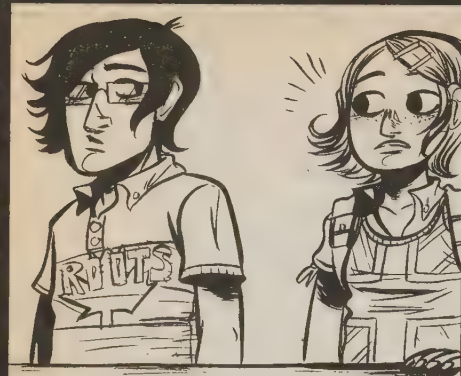


ROBYN CAN KEEP HIS SECRETS, I GET TO GO TO ENGLAND.



I STOPPED LISTENING ONCE HE TOLD ME THEY'D PAY FOR MY TRIP.







FIRST OF ALL, THANKS TO SLG, AND ESPECIALLY TO JENNIFER DE GUZMAN FOR HER SUGGESTIONS FOR THE COMIC. AS SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THE WACKY WORLD OF COMIC PUBLISHING YOUR SUPPORT HAS MEANT A LOT

THANKS TO MY PARENTS AND BROTHERS FOR ENCOURAGING MY STRANGE DESIRE TO DRAW COMICS. I FEEL LUCKY I ENDED UP IN A FAMILY THAT DOESN'T THINK I'M CRAZY FOR WANTING TO DRAW FOR A LIVING.

THANK YOU TO MY FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS AT COPERNICUS. YOU HAVE ALL BEEN SHOCKINGLY UNDERSTANDING. 'NUFF SAID.

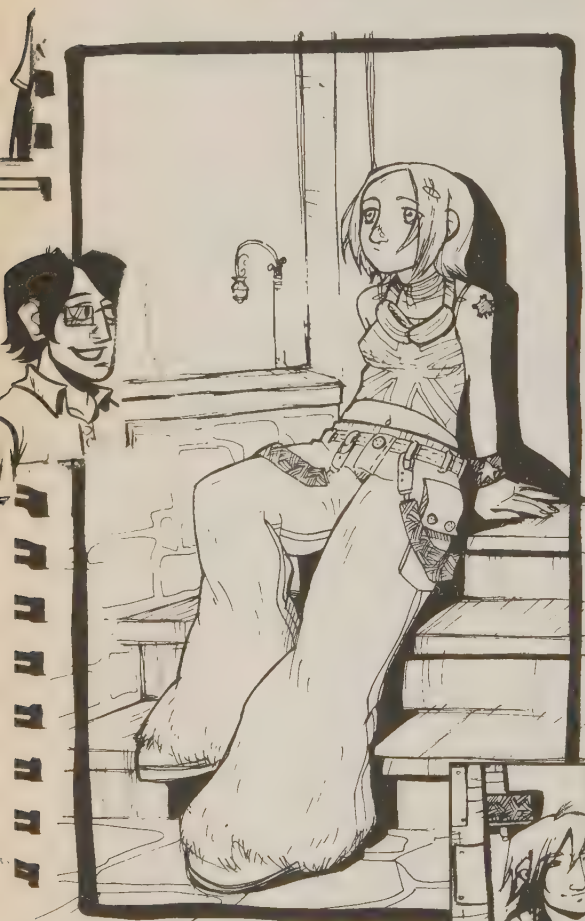
THANK YOU TO MY ONLINE READERS, WHO READ THE FIRST INCARNATION OF ZOMBIES CALLING AND HELPFULLY SUGGESTED I TRY AND GET SOME POOR SUCKER TO PUBLISH IT. HURRAH FOR THE INTERNETS!

FINALLY, THANK YOU TO THE TEACHERS WHO DID NOT TURN ME INTO A ZOMBIE. ESPECIALLY MRS FRANK, MR KEENE, ANDREW BODOR, KRIS PEARN, PROFESSOR COOK, BETTY SPACKMAN AND PROFESSOR LONEY.

CHEERS, AND THANKS FOR READING.

-FAITH  
[WWW.FAITHERINHICKS.COM](http://WWW.FAITHERINHICKS.COM)

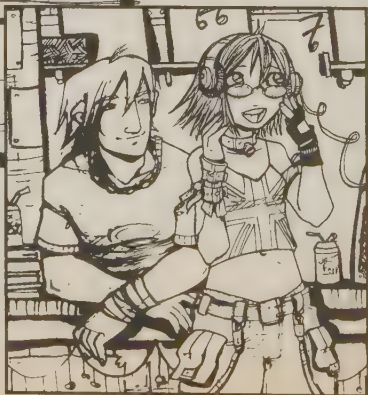
I ABSOLUTELY LOVE "MAKING OF" BOOKS, WHERE ARTISTS SHOW THEIR THOUGHT PROCESS FOR WHATEVER PROJECT THEY'VE WORKED ON, BE IT A MOVIE, COMIC OR BIGFOOT INVESTIGATION. I'VE NO IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE SHARE MY NERDY LOVE OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES MINUTIA, BUT FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT, THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN OLD SKETCHES AND NOTES ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF ZOMBIES CALLING.



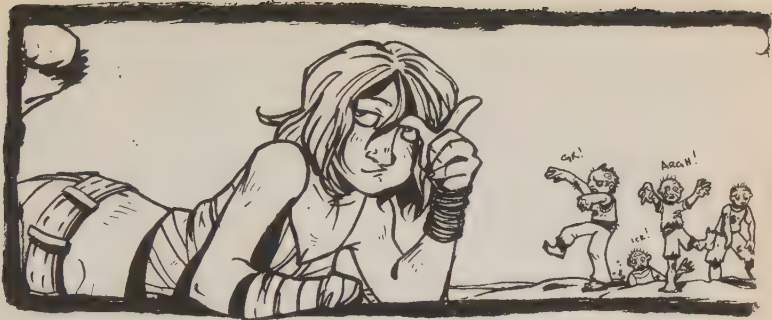
THE SKETCH AT LEFT IS THE VERY FIRST SKETCH OF JOSS I DREW. I THINK IT WAS BACK IN 2004, AND MAY HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN CHURCH, THUS PROVING THE LONG RUMOURED LINK BETWEEN JESUS AND ZOMBIES.

ORIGINALLY ZOMBIES CALLING WAS SET IN ENGLAND, AND INVOLVED A DORKY CANADIAN GIRL WHO BUGGED A LOT OF NATIVE BRITS WITH HER DORKY OBSESSION WITH ENGLAND. THERE WERE ALSO A LOT OF MOTOR SCOOTERS FOR SOME REASON.

THE DRAWING AT RIGHT IS ALSO AN EXTREMELY EARLY INCARNATION OF JOSS. I DON'T KNOW WHO'S NEXT TO HER. MAYBE AN EARLY VERSION OF ROBYN, BUT I'M NOT SURE.



BOTH THESE DRAWINGS WERE INKED WITH SOME SORT OF FINELINER PEN, SO THEY LOOK VERY STRANGE TO ME. NOW I LOVE BRUSHES. THEY'RE THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD FOR INKING

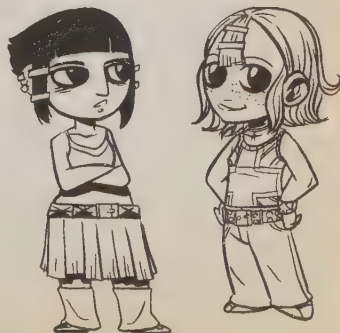


I THINK THE ABOVE SKETCH WAS THE FIRST ONE WHERE I BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT DOING ZC AS A 'FUNNY' ZOMBIE COMIC. I THOUGHT THE ZOMBIES IN THE BACKGROUND WERE HILARIOUS. IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT THAT THE 'L' JOSS IS HOLDING UP TO HER FOREHEAD WAS BACKWARDS.



ROBYN DIDN'T GO MANY CHANGES COMIC STARTED INTO ITS PRESENT WAS ALWAYS A BIT OF A LOVABLE PEKVERI AND MYSTERIOUSLY NONCHALANT ABOUT THE ZOMBIES. THE DRAWING AT LEFT WAS DONE FOR THE ORIGINAL PITCH I SENT TO SLG BACK IN 2005.

JOSS AND SONNET AS BOBBLEHEAD DOLLS.



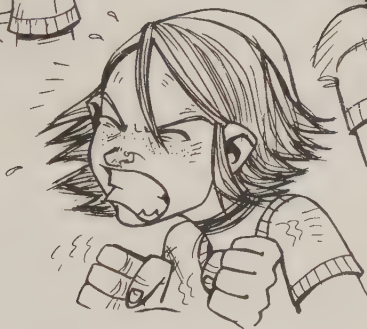
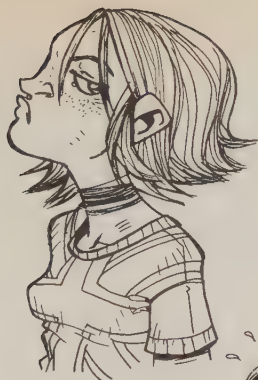
I TOYED BRIEFLY WITH THE IDEA OF TURNING SONNET INTO A ZOMBIE AT ONE POINT IN THE COMIC, WHICH IS WHERE THIS DOODLE CAME FROM. I THINK SHE MAKES A CUTE ZOMBIE, BUT I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT A WAY TO TURN HER BACK TO HUMAN.



THE DRAWING ON THE LEFT WAS DONE FOR THE ORIGINAL, 15 PAGE, ONE-JOKE ZC COMIC, WHICH YOU CAN SEE ONLINE IN ALL ITS DORKY GLORY AT [WWW.FAITHERINHICKS.COM/ZOMBIES](http://WWW.FAITHERINHICKS.COM/ZOMBIES). APPARENTLY SONNET WAS ORIGINALLY A SMOKER. I'M GLAD SHE QUIT FOR THE PUBLISHED VERSION OF ZOMBIES CALLING. IT'S A HORRIBLE HABIT.



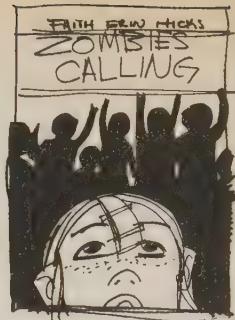
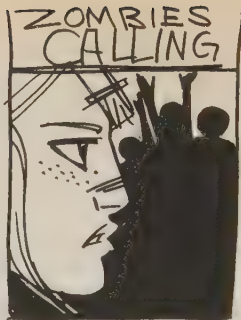
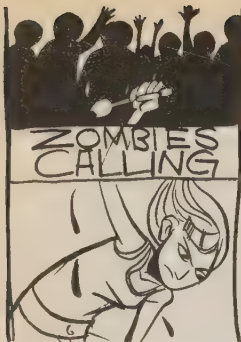
JOSS HAD DIFFERENT HAIR FOR A WHILE.  
I DECIDED IT WAS TOO TRENDY LOOKING.  
SHE'S A GEEK WHO WEARS THE SAME SHIRT  
EVERY DAY. SHE SHOULD LOOK LIKE SHE  
DOESN'T OWN A MIRROR.



THE DRAWING AT RIGHT  
WAS THE FIRST ONE  
I DID OF OF JOSS IN HER  
FINALISED DESIGN  
(THE ONE YOU SEE IN  
THIS COMIC), ALTHOUGH  
LATER I DECIDED SHE  
SHOULD ONLY HAVE ON  
ONE SHIRT.



I HAD FUN  
DRAWING DIFFERENT  
OUTFITS FOR SONNET.  
IT'S LIKE PLAYING  
DRESS UP, OR  
SOMETHING.



I DID A LOT OF THUMBNAILS FOR THE COVER, THEN PASSED THEM AROUND TO FRIENDS TO SEE WHICH ONE CAME OUT THE FAVOURITE. I WAS KEEN ON THE THUMBNAIL ON THE FAR RIGHT, UNTIL SOMEONE POINTED OUT THAT IT LOOKED A LOT LIKE THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT MOVIE POSTER.

I WAS SURPRISED MOST PEOPLE SEEMED TO REALLY LIKE THE FAR LEFT THUMBNAIL. I WASN'T THAT INTERESTED IN IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE TOO VIOLENT, BUT THE SPORK SEEMED TO MAKE IT MORE COMICAL THAN ANYTHING. SPORKS ARE INHERENTLY HILARIOUS.

I DREW THE FINAL COVER IMAGE DURING MY LUNCH BREAK AT WORK.

SOMETIMES THINGS THAT I DRAW QUICKLY END UP BEING A LOT BETTER THAN SOMETHING I SLAVE OVER.

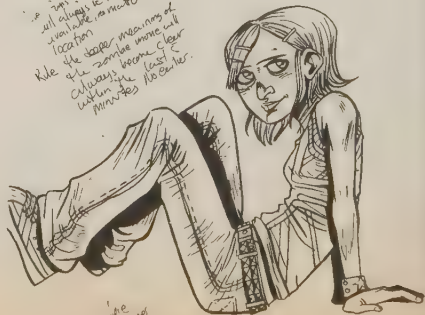
... WHICH IS **REALLY** ANNOYING.



Zombies  
Zombies  
Zombies  
Zombies  
Zombies

HERE'S JUST SOME MORE SKETCHES, AUGMENTED BY MY SHODDY HANDWRITING.

so this will always be my fav... like the zombie meaning of the album... cuz they're the best... minutes



... like the zombie meaning of the album... cuz they're the best... minutes

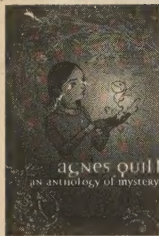


FAITH ERIN HICKS LIVES IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA. SHE HAS BEEN A SUPPORT WORKER FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED CHILDREN, A TURF CARE WORKER AT A GOLF COURSE, A CHURCH CUSTODIAN, A UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, A TACK SHOP RETAIL EMPLOYEE, AND A GROOM FOR HORSES, BUT SHE LIKES DRAWING COMICS BEST. SHE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO ENGLAND SOMEDAY.

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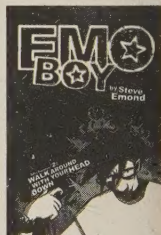
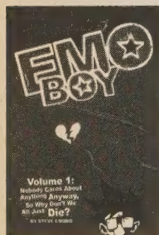


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