

THE TENTH-ANNIVERSARY ÜBEREDITION!

ACTION PHILOSOPHERS™



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MEET ACTION PHILOSOPHER #1:

PLATO!

"PLATO" MEANS "BROAD" OR "FLAT" AND WAS THE STAGE NAME OF A PRO WRESTLER BORN ARISTOCLES ON THE ISLAND OF AEGINA IN 428 B.C.!

APPARENTLY HE ADOPTED THIS NOM DE GUERRE BECAUSE OF HIS EXCEPTIONALLY BROAD SHOULDERS.*



*YES, REALLY.

THOUGH TWO-TIME CHAMP OF THE ISTHMIAN GAMES, PLATO NEVER QUALIFIED FOR THE OLYMPICS, NECESSITATING A CAREER SWITCH.

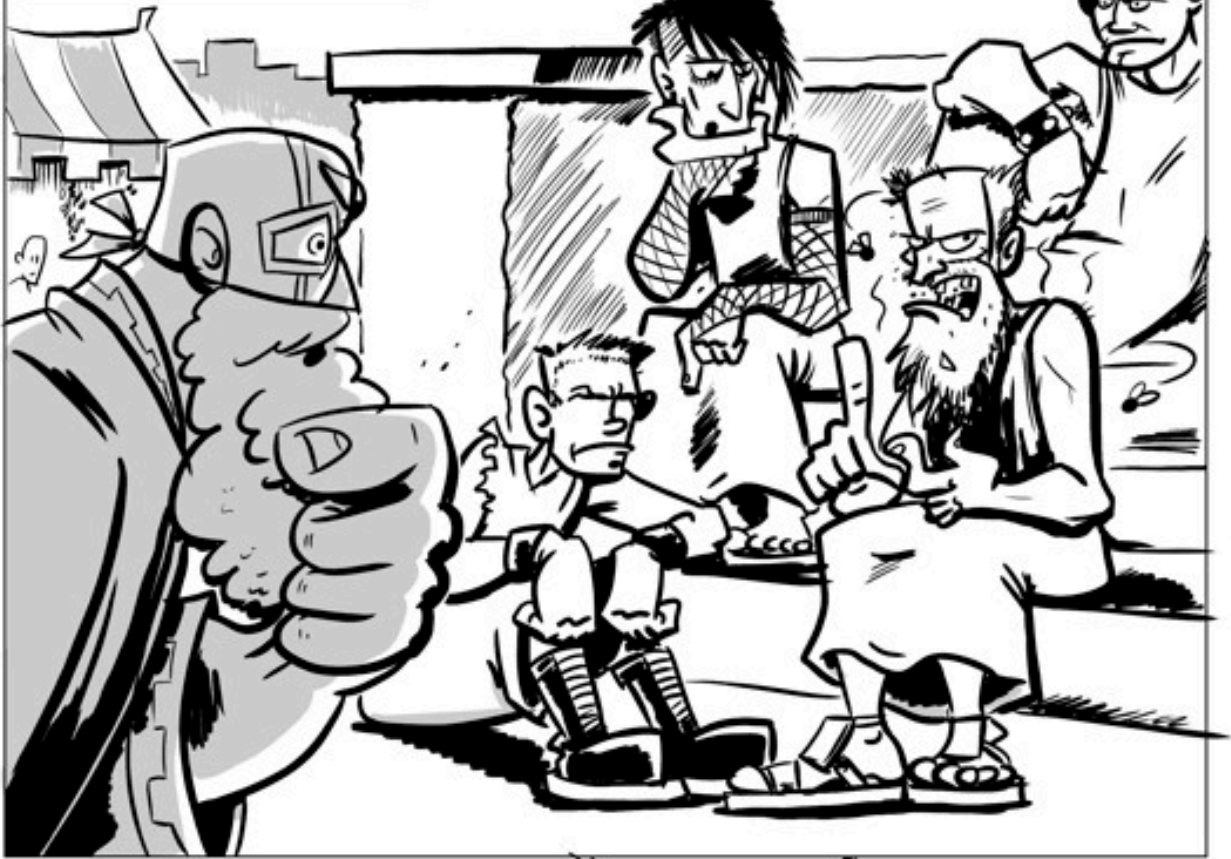


PLATO'S MIGHTY HEART BREAKING...

CLOSED

You Suck

WHILE DABBLING IN POETRY
AND POLITICS IN *ATHENS*,
MR. BROAD FELL IN WITH THE
WANDERING SAGE *SOCRATES*
AND HIS YOUTHFUL STUDENTS.



SOCRATES
GOT INTO THE
PHILOSOPHY
RACKET WHEN
FAMED
"PSYCHIC
FRIEND," THE
ORACLE AT
DELPHI, TOLD
HIM...

NO MAN IS
AS WISE AS
SOCRATES!



COOL!

HE WENT ABOUT *PROVING* THIS BY SHOOTING DOWN ATHENIAN CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IN BACK-AND-FORTH " *DIALECTIC* " CRITIQUES:

SO IF RELIGION IS B.S., THEN YOU TELL ME--WHAT IS TRUTH?

I DO NOT KNOW.

WHAT? THEN HOW CAN YOU BE WISER THAN EVERYBODY ELSE?

BECAUSE I KNOW THAT I DO NOT KNOW.

BY ZEUS, YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS.



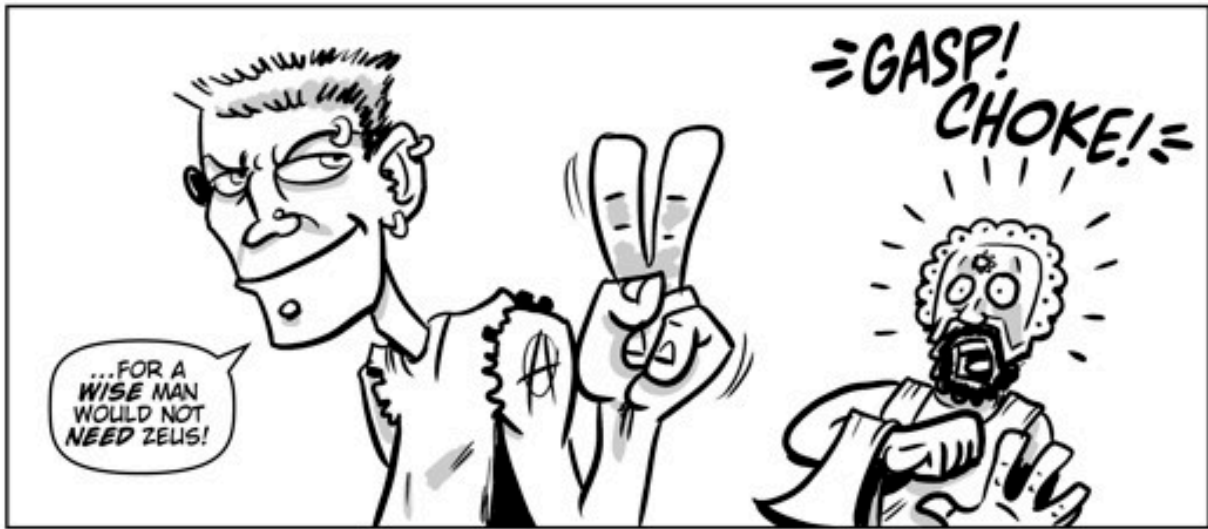
SOCRATES ENCOURAGED HIS *STUDENTS* TO GET IN THE ACT, AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOUNG PEOPLE *HATE* SHOWING UP THEIR ELDERS...

IF YOU BOYS ARE SEARCHING FOR *TRUTH*, YOU SHOULD LOOK TO *ZEUS!*

ARE ZEUS'S ACTIONS *ARBITRARY*, OR IS *HE* GUIDED BY TRUTH TOO?

OF COURSE ZEUS IS GUIDED BY TRUTH!

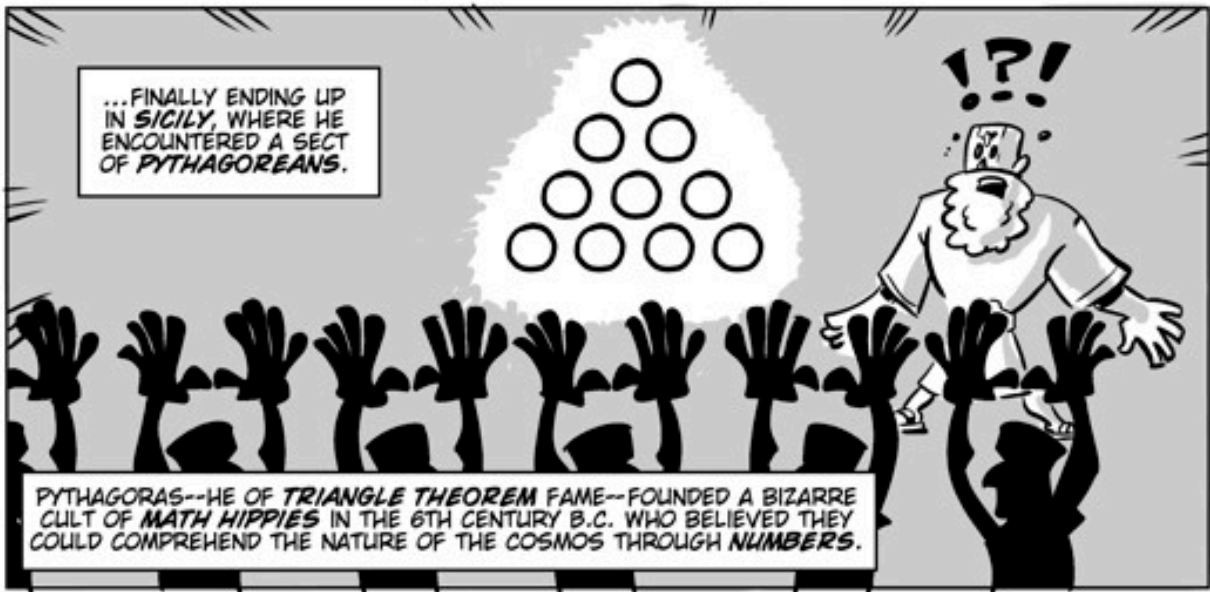
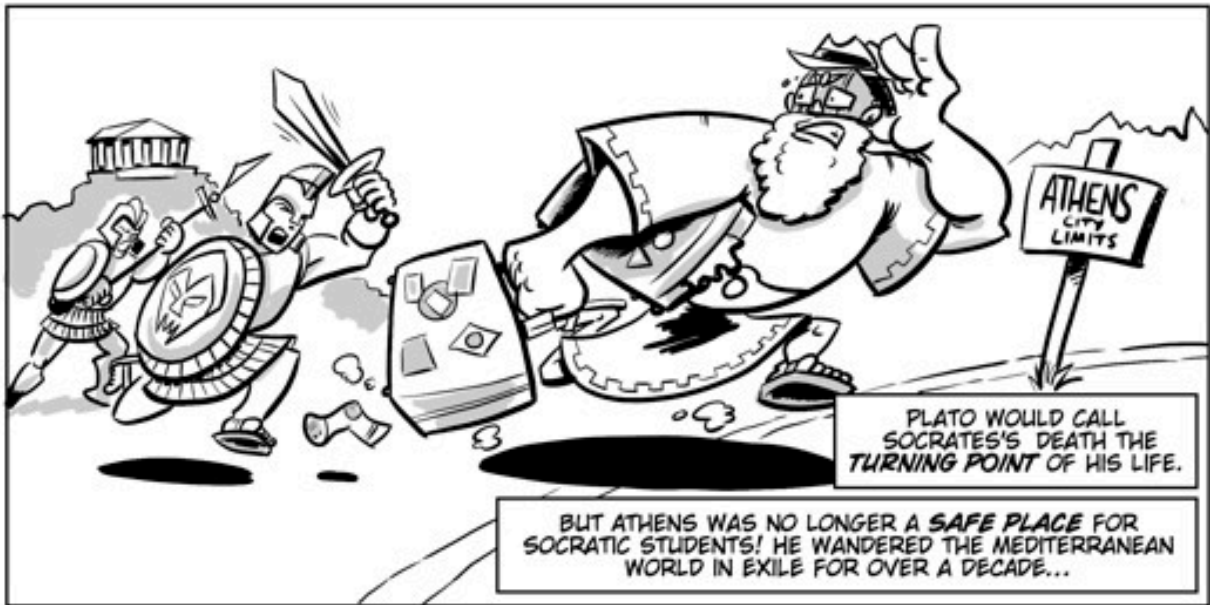
WELL, IN *THAT* CASE, I SHOULD JUST LOOK FOR *TRUTH...*

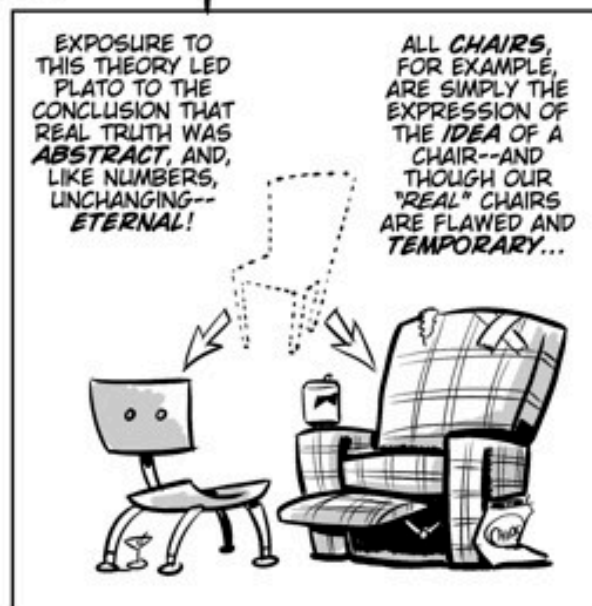
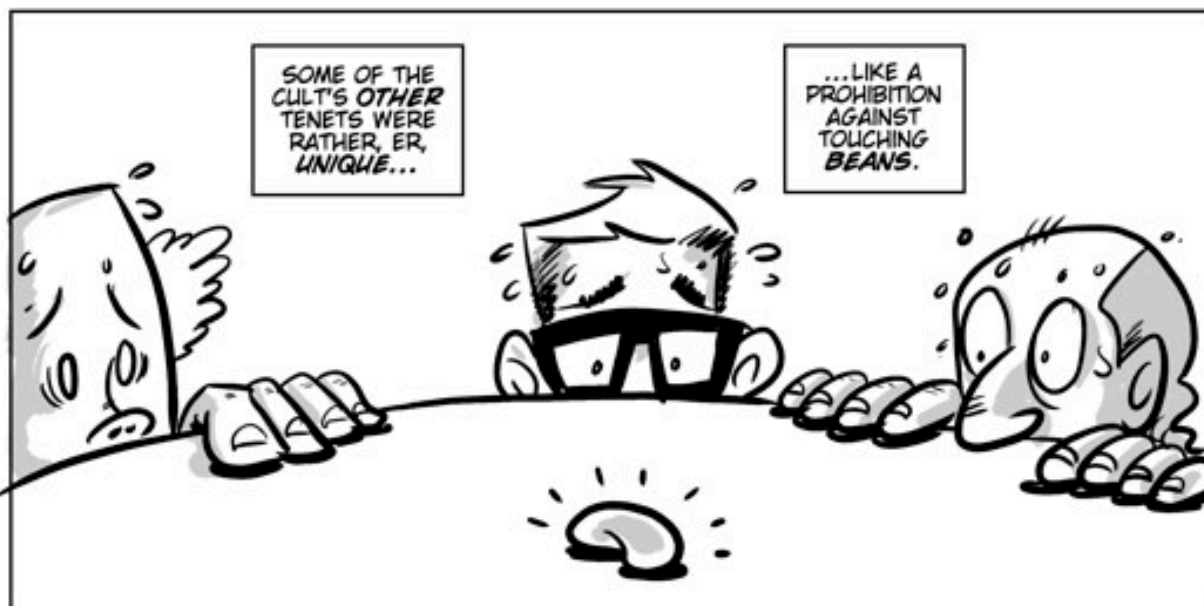


...FOR A WISE MAN WOULD NOT NEED ZEUS!

=GASP! CHOKE! =







...THE IDEA OR *FORM*
OF A CHAIR IS ETERNAL
AND UNCHANGING!



OHHHHH...
REALM OF
FORMS...

PLATO ILLUSTRATED THE
RELATIONSHIP OF FORMS
TO OUR WORLD THUSLY:

"IMAGINE THE
CONDITION OF MEN
AS LIVING IN A SORT
OF UNDERGROUND
CAVERN.



"HERE MEN CAN ONLY SEE
IN FRONT OF THEM.

"HIGHER UP, AND SOME
DISTANCE BEHIND THEM,
IS THE LIGHT OF A
BURNING FIRE.



"BETWEEN THE FIRE AND
THE MEN IS A PARAPET.
BEHIND THE PARAPET
IMAGINE THERE ARE MEN
CARRYING ALL KINDS OF
OBJECTS--INCLUDING
FIGURES OF MEN AND
ANIMALS--WHICH PROJECT
ABOVE THE PARAPET.

"IN ALL WAYS, MEN WOULD
CONSIDER REALITY TO BE
NOTHING ELSE THAN THE
SHADOWS OF THOSE
ARTIFICIAL OBJECTS!"



FOR PLATO, THOUGH, THE HIGHEST DUTY OF THE PHILOSOPHER WAS TO LOOK BEYOND THESE SHADOWS OF OUR PERCEIVED REALITY...

...AND UNCOVER THE FORMS THAT PROJECTED THEM!

PLATO SMASH!!

GAGHH!!



IN FACT, PREFERRING THE IDEAL TO THE PHYSICAL WAS SUCH AN OBSESSION OF PLATO'S...

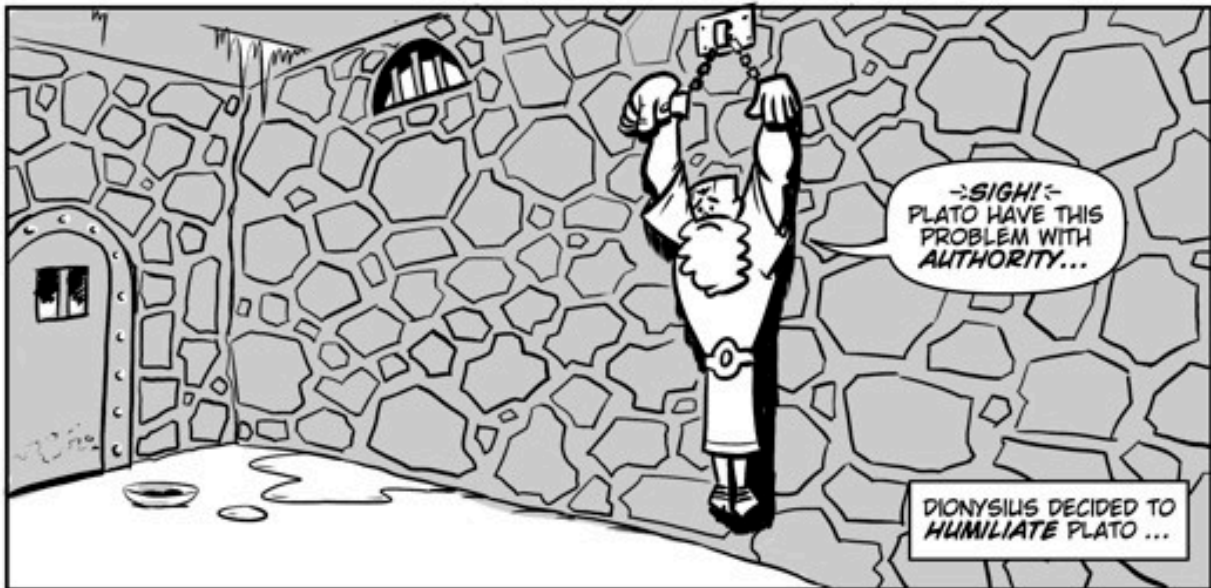
LAAAAANCE!
I WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO STAY PLATONIC!

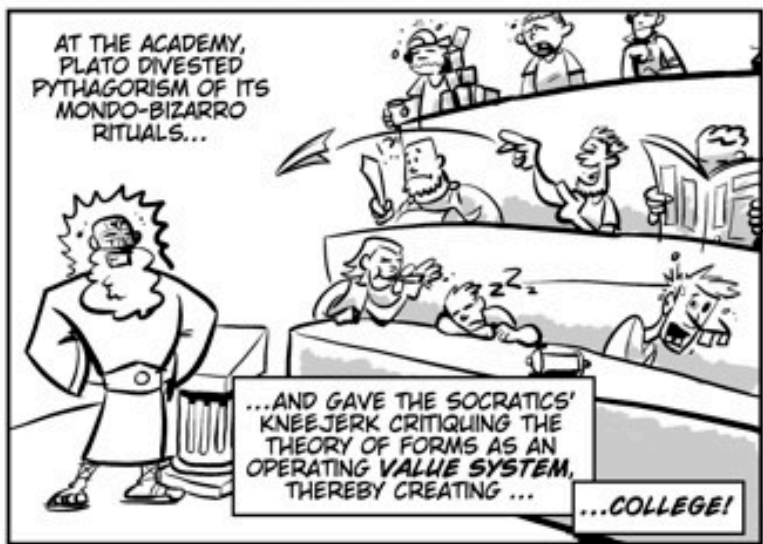
...THAT HIS NAME BECAME A SYNONYM FOR IT!

WHACK!

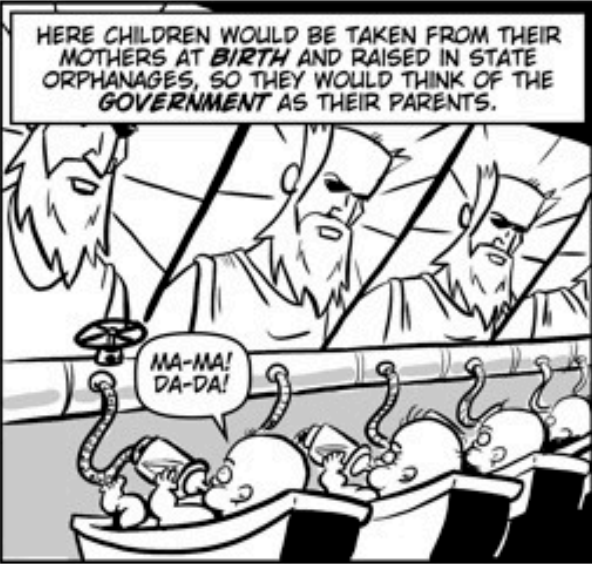


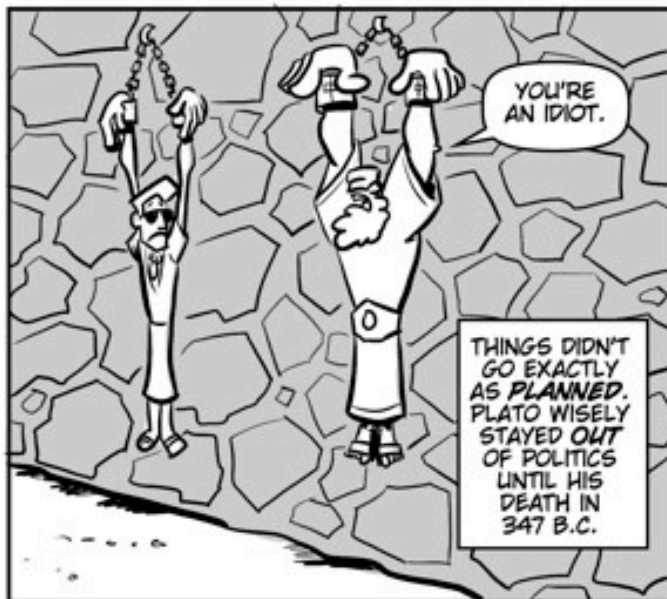
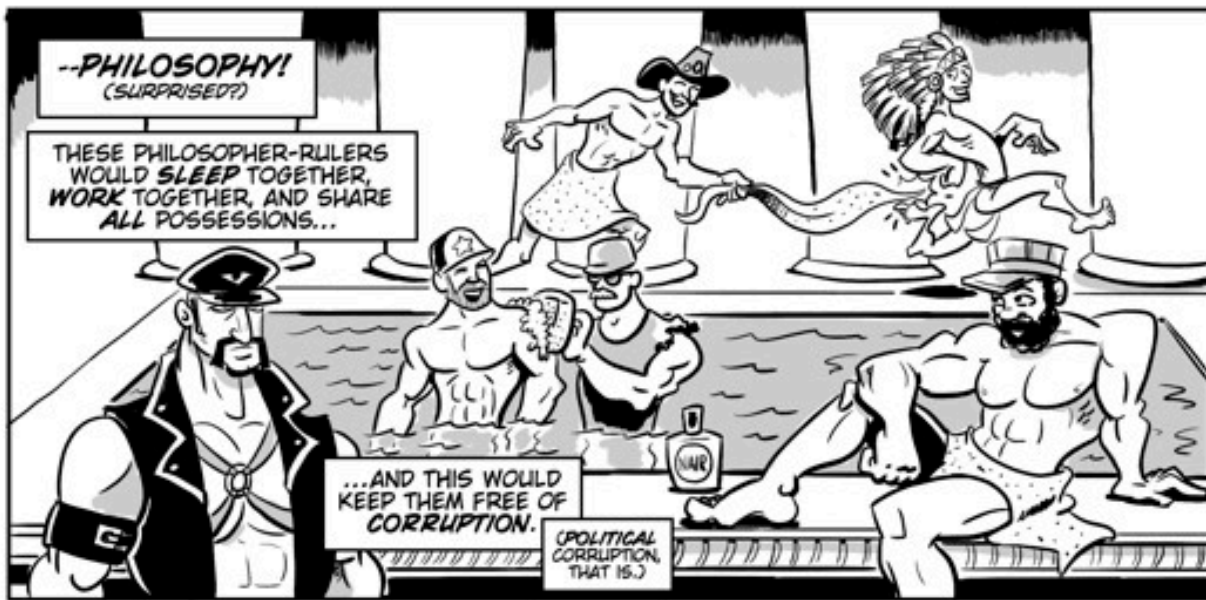
ALAS, PLATONISM DID NOT SERVE ITS CREATOR WELL WHEN HE BECAME COURT PHILOSOPHER TO DIONYSIUS, KING OF SYRACUSE.

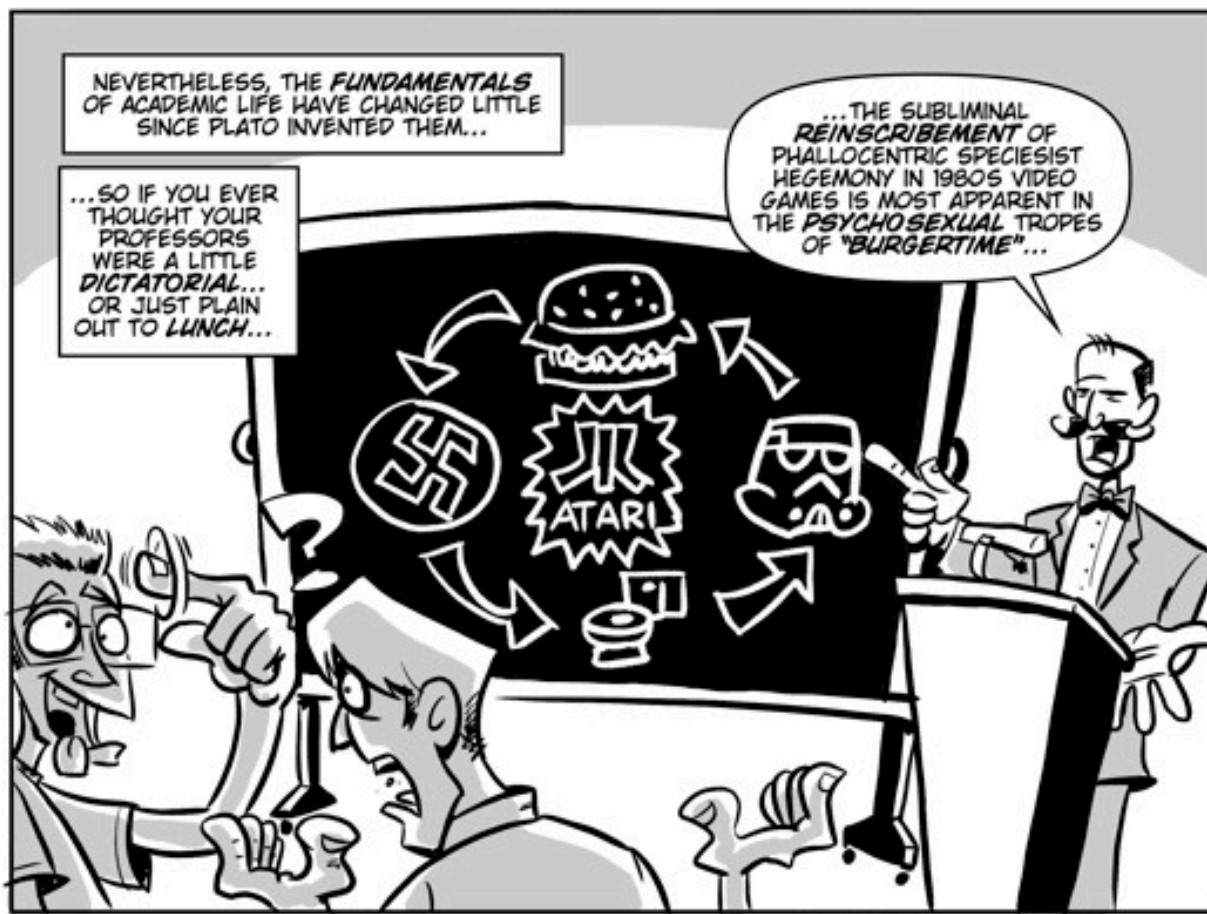




IN THE APOLOGY PLATO TRANSFORMS TRANSIENT CRACKPOT SOCRATES INTO HISTORY'S FIRST *LIBERAL MARTYR!*







...WELL, NOW YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WERE *LUNCHING*.

