

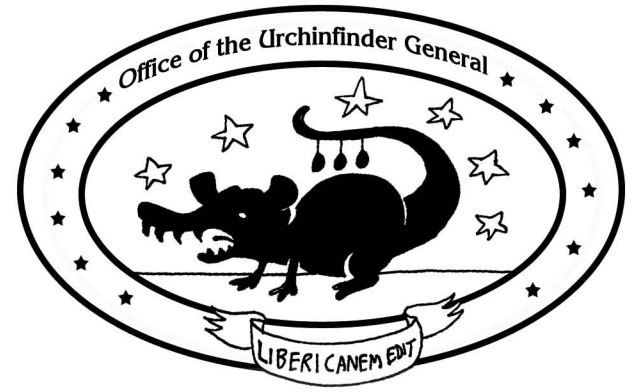
# Street Urchins: The Apple Snatching Menace!



*A field guide to  
help keep you safe & secure*

Printed & Distributed by the  
Office of the Urchinfinder General 1940

From the Desk of the Urchinfinder General  
Office of the Urchinfinder General  
Department of Scolding, Delinquency Division  
5461 Tin Can Alley, Garbagetown DC



All Urchinfinder Agents, Railyard Bulls, Pinkertons, and the general Constabulary,

As you well know, street urchins -- also known as guttersnipes, mudlarks, or hoblets -- continue to wreck havoc across the United States, terrorizing good citizens with crimes of high urchinry, including back-sassery, hi-jinkery, mopery, apple snatching, peddling pencils without a license, putting a frog down the school marm's back, and stealing John D. Rockefeller's garbage. In 1929, street urchins first surpassed bootleggers, boodlers and boll weevils as the biggest threat to the public peace. Nevertheless, a sustained street urchin culling program including steel-jawed bear traps, DDT, and a specially engineered urchin-targeting polio virus, has failed to deliver expected results; street urchin remain a bigger problem than ever. For that reason, I am authoriing the publication of this dossier to alert all agents and the general public to some of the more notorious street urchins known to be operating in the Garbagetown DC area, in hopes that it may assist in their eventual eradication.

To the public, I say this: If you or anyone you love sees a street urchin, please alert the nearest Urchinfinder or truant officer. Do not approach. All street urchins should be considered armed and extremely mischevious.

So ordered,

Ursula Earlgrey  
Urchinfinder General



Lil' Ragamuffin  
&  
Sir Percival  
Throckmorton Scruffs  
esq., Eighth Viscount  
of Lower Hemmingwedge-  
on-the-Fritz

### #43: Lil' Ragamuffin and Sir Percival Throckmorton "Percy" Scruffs esq, Eighth Viscount of Lower Hemmingwedge-on-the-Fritz

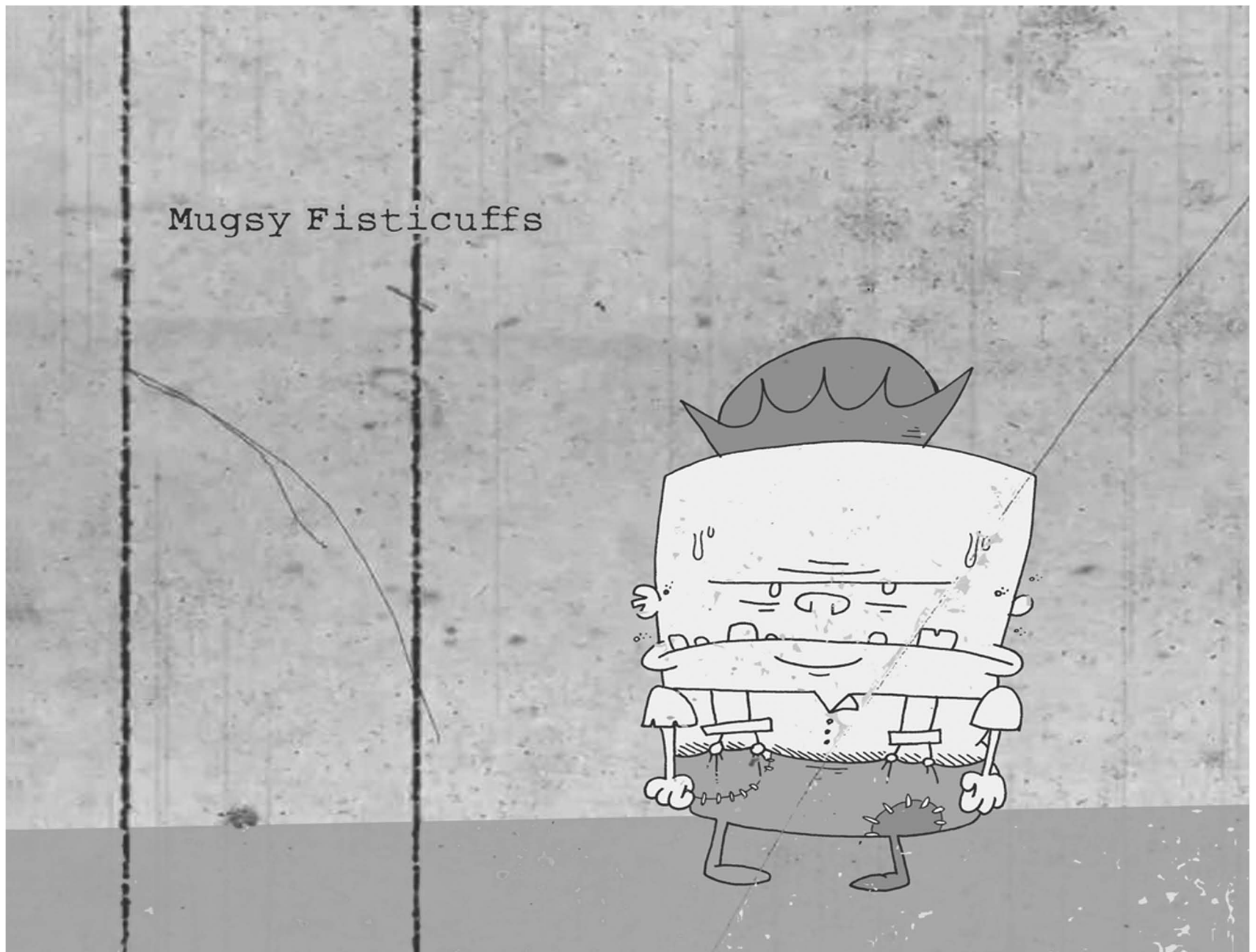
Also known as Red Rags, Black Ashes, Kid Pilliwinks, The Firebrat, God's Murder, The Corpse Maker, and The Bane of Queen Molly, Lil' Ragamuffin is considered one of the most dangerous and unpredictable of the 1919 Garbagetown Urchin brood. She was at first incorrectly identified as an urchin of Reinhoffer-Ootz type #12A: Unaffiliated Steppenurchin by undercover Urchinfinder agents, but more recent researchers have reclassified her as an urchin of type #34C: Ankle-Biter.

**Facts on File:** Completed the ritual. Sees lines without lines after replacing her eyes with those of a cat. Accomplished on the gypsy fiddle, competent on washboard bass. Knowledgeable poisoner. Although illiterate, she does understand hobo signs. A former pugilist, once known on the baby brawling circuit as "Kid Pilliwinks." Her greatest fight lasted twenty three rounds against reigning bare-knuckle champion "The Hungarian." She has a tattoo on her back – a weeping swallow under a banner that reads "Dysentary Kills Slowly." Died for the first time in 1925 from hypothermia, and again in 1928, also from hypothermia.

Lil' Ragamuffin has never sworn a spittleoath to any Swarmlord, but will often join forces with the Upper East Side swarm known as the Apple Cobbler Gang.

After pupation\*, Lil' Ragamuffin briefly worked in a munitions factory making bombshells for allied forces during World War II, where she was believed to be the mastermind of the alleged plot to kill Hitler's dog. Sir Percival Throckmorton Scruffs worked in the US army chemical weapons division and was instrumental in developing The Smell that Could Kill.

\*The rare urchins who reach the age of 13 will often metastasize into hoboes or hoodlums, depending on how much royal jelly they consumed during their larval stages.

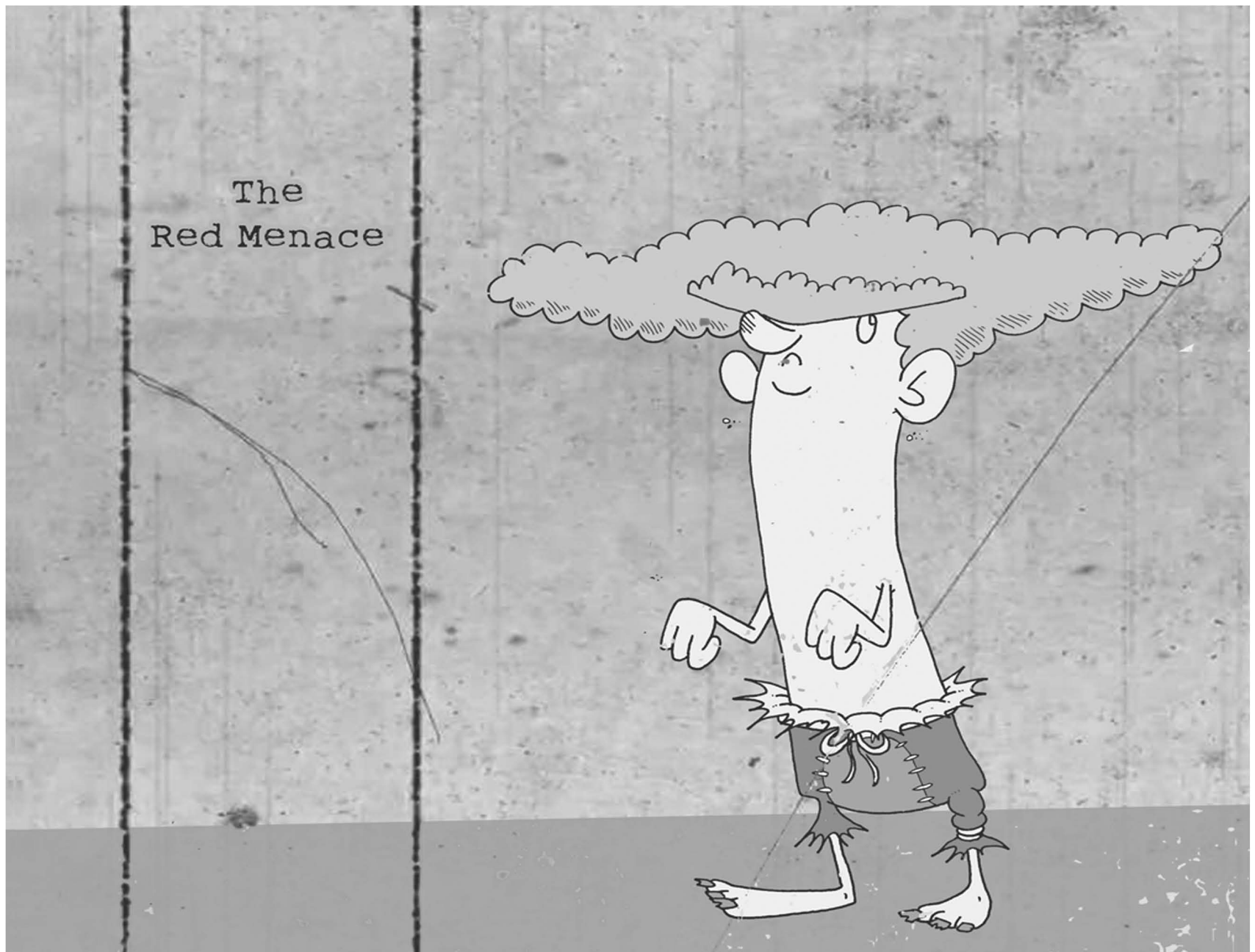


## #27: Mugsy Fisticuffs

Also known as Mugsy the Monster, Mugsy the Mauler, Two-Eyed Mugsy, and Mad Dog Mugsy, Mugsy Fisticuffs is an urchin of Reinhoffer-Ootz type #21A: Knuckle Dragger. One of three original founding members of the east side swarm the Apple Cobbler Gang, Mugsy served as the gang's inaugural toadie and occasional war chief during skirmishes with neighboring swarms. Mugsy betrayed an oath sworn in spittle to Swarmlord No-Toes Algernon before the assembled judges of the Garbage Council during the Blood Feast of 1925, making him one of the few known accursed urchins to avoid the notice of the Dapper Lads. Mugsy died of exposure in 1931.







### #437: The Red Menace

The Red Menace is the Swarmlord and founder of the Apple Cobbler Gang. He is an urchin of Reinoffer-Ootz type #36A: Face Biter.

Each swarm is headed by a Swarmlord, elected by a simple majority of the swarm. The Swarmlord's power over everyday decision-making is absolute. In times of war, though, the Swarmlord may acquiesce some of his powers to the War Chief, generally an urchin who has survived at least two winters and has shown exceptional skill in military strategy and tactics. The War Chief holds no rank during peacetime, but, since urchins effectively live under a constant state of low-level warfare, the War Chief is almost always a highly regarded member of the swarm. While the Swarmlord remains the official head of swarm even during wartime, many swarmlords are little more than figureheads, with the real power of rule vested in the War Chief. The Chancellor (sometimes referred to in literature as the Toadie or Moll) is a high-ranking urchin charged with boosting the ego of the Swarmlord at all times.





### #601: Mary Mangdana

Also known as Buttons, Little Lost Lambkins, and Sweet Sassy Molassy. Mary Mangdana is an urchin of Reinhoffer-Ootz type #17A: Skin Eater. A swarming in the Apple Cobbler Gang, Mary swore a spittleoath to Swarmlord Red Menace in the months before the Great Dark Frost of 1926. An accomplished mouth organist, she's known for her soul-stirring rendition of urchin death ballad "Jeremy Splinter and the Cruel Bite of Winter."

The rank and file members of the swarm are known as swarmlings. To become a swarming, an urchin must swear a blood oath to the Swarm. Occasionally, urchins will join a swarm without swearing a blood oath. Known as Ankle Biters, they are often viewed with distrust by swarmlings, but there's little practical difference between the two. Ankle Biters are not eligible to become Swarmlords nor to vote in swarm elections.

There are currently ten major swarms known to be operating in the Garbagetown Greater metropolitan area:

- The Apple Cobbler Gang
- The Trash Kings
- The Bloodstump Irregulars
- The Weepers
- The Eastside Facepunchers
- The Westside Facepunchers
- The Unknowable Void
- Terry and the Pirates
- The Adorable Sweetie Pies
- God's Murder





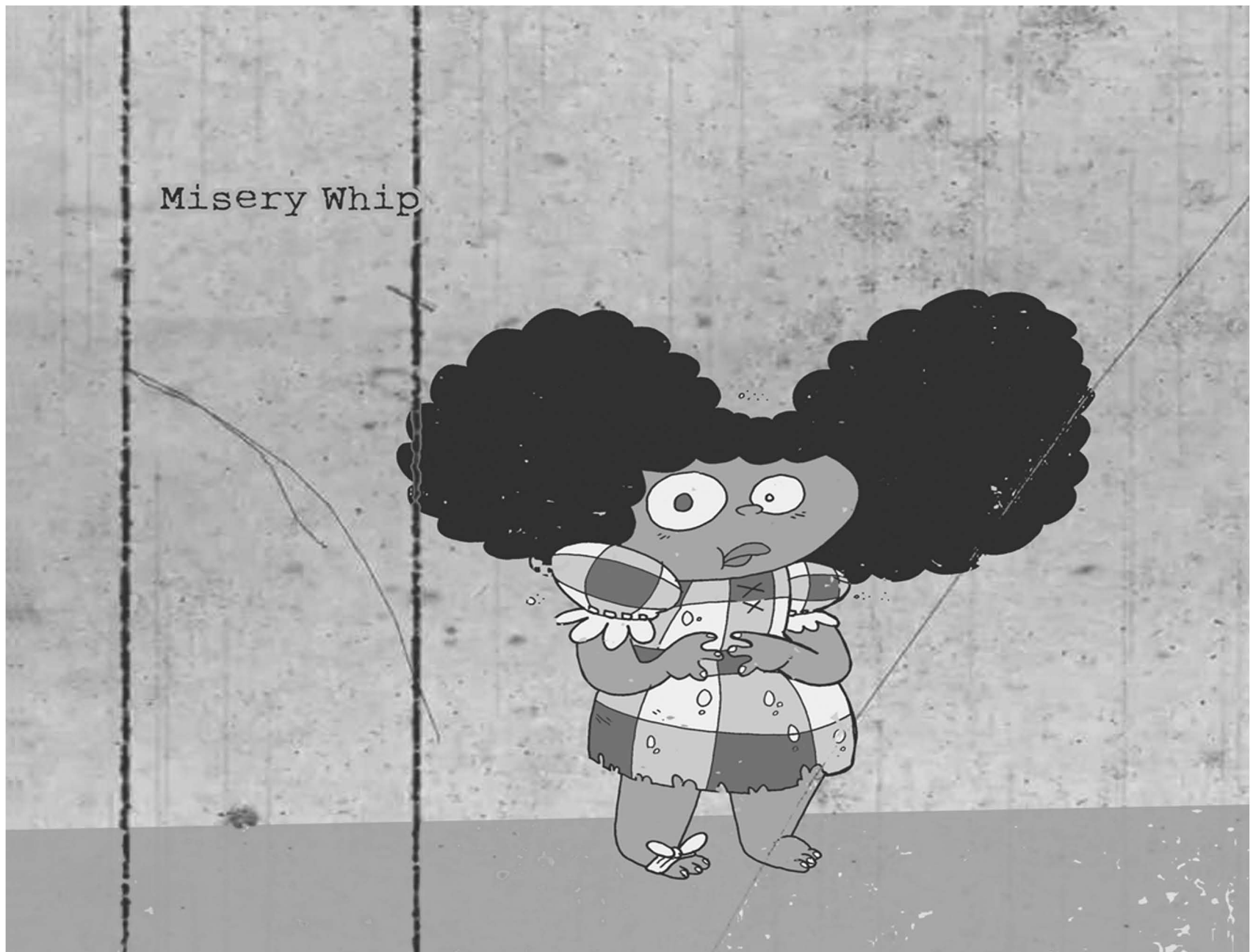
## #78: Jolly Bottles

Jolly Bottles is a swarming loyal to Those Rat Bastards, a minor but rising swarm on the southern bank of the Garbagetown section of the Potomac River. Jolly Bottles is a member in good standing in the Black Toe Society, the clandestine organization open to all male urchins after they survive their first east coast winter. As Master of Ceremonies for the Society, Jolly Bottles is one of the prime organizers and instigators for the society's annual Gadabout festival, in which society members don colorful, outrageous costumes in mockery of anti-urchin authority figures and perform elaborate, scatological farces. Although technically a secret society, almost all urchins know the membership roster.

Jolly Bottles was one of the primary opponents against opening the Black Toe Society to female membership when the matter went to referendum before the Black Toes Althing in 1926. Female membership was eventually rejected, and again in 1932. The matter did not come up again, although girl urchins are believed to operate their own analogous society. The name of the girl secret society and its members are currently unknown to urchin researchers.







### #283: Misery Whip

Misery Whip serves as War Chief to The Cold Hands, a smaller swarm active in the Eastern Fields Beyond Reckoning. Like many of the minor swarms in the Eastern Fields, the Cold Hands are a vassal swarm to the area's dominant swarm, the Weepers. Prior to 1925, the Weepers were quickly expanding through the area, subsuming lesser swarms in their mad accumulation of urchin territory. It was only through Misery Whip's tactical prowess that the Cold Hands were able to resist, damaging Weeper border patrols to the point that Weeper Swarmlord Sir Reginald Burlap was forced to negotiate a truce. As a result, The Cold Hands continue to operate as an independent swarm, albeit one that must send regular tributes of apple cores and raccoon carcasses to its much larger, more powerful neighbor.

Misery Whip served three terms in the Garbagetown karzer and two terms in the Chesapeake Bay Urchin Detension Camp, but escaped every time.

Note:  
Recent reports have cast doubt on the  
accuracy of this information; photo  
may, in fact, not be Misery Whip. Might  
be Sorefoot Sal?





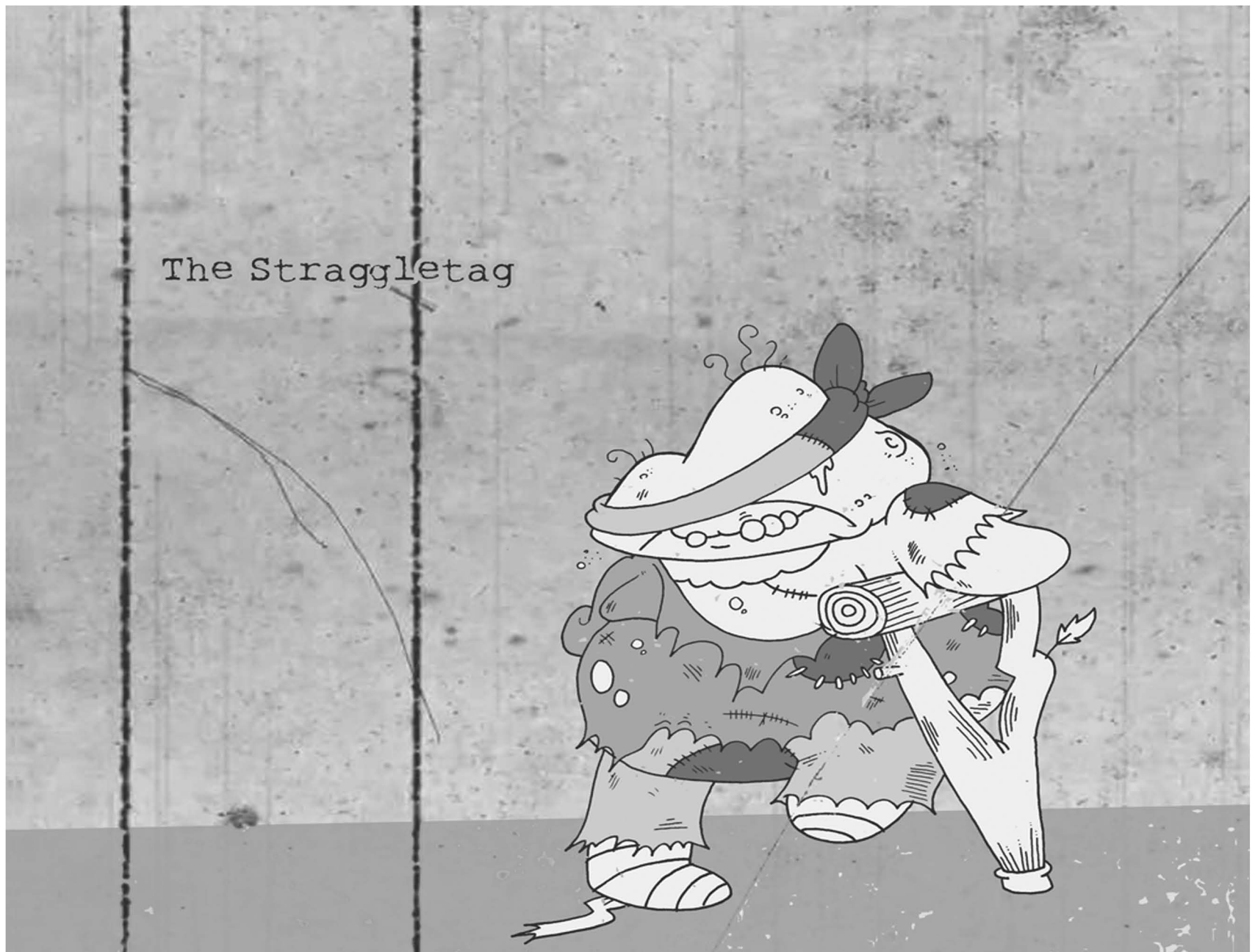


### #753: The Dapper Lads

The Dapper Lads are individually known as Silent Eustace and Miss Trix, but urchins believe it to be bad luck to mention either one of this brother-sister duo by name. The pair are self-appointed executioners and assassins in fanatical service to the cult of the Unseen Mother who Waits for Us All. The Garbage Council claims to hold authority over the Lads, but they answer Council summons only when it suits their whims – which is rarely. They chew bones. Silent Eustace was born without vocal cords and urchin superstition posits that chewing the bones of a tattletale will bestow the gift of gab on the chewer. Miss Trix appears to chew them socially.

The Dapper Lads mostly pay their calls on tattletales, whiners, spittleoath breakers, and the accursed.





### #2683: The Straggletag

There has always been a Straggletag. There will always be a Straggletag. When an urchin becomes the Straggletag, he abandons his name and past. From that day onward, he is only the Straggletag. The Straggletag serves no Swarmlord nor swears any oath. Not even the Garbage Council holds any authority over the Straggletag, who comes and goes by his own leave. The Straggletag's gender is unknown, but for ease and by general urchinfinder scholarly consensus he is referenced in literature by male pronouns. The Straggletag has the gift of esoteric prophesy, but he speaks in riddles that only make sense after the fact. Urchins treat the Straggletage with cautious respect for he is in communication with forces beyond urchin ken. A captured urchin named Long Tall David (Subject #438) relayed the following story during interrogation:

In 1929, the Straggletag was mudlarking on the night soil shores of the Potomac, as was his custom, when he was hailed by a great voice from across the waters.

“Straggletag,” boomed the voice, “Are you there?”

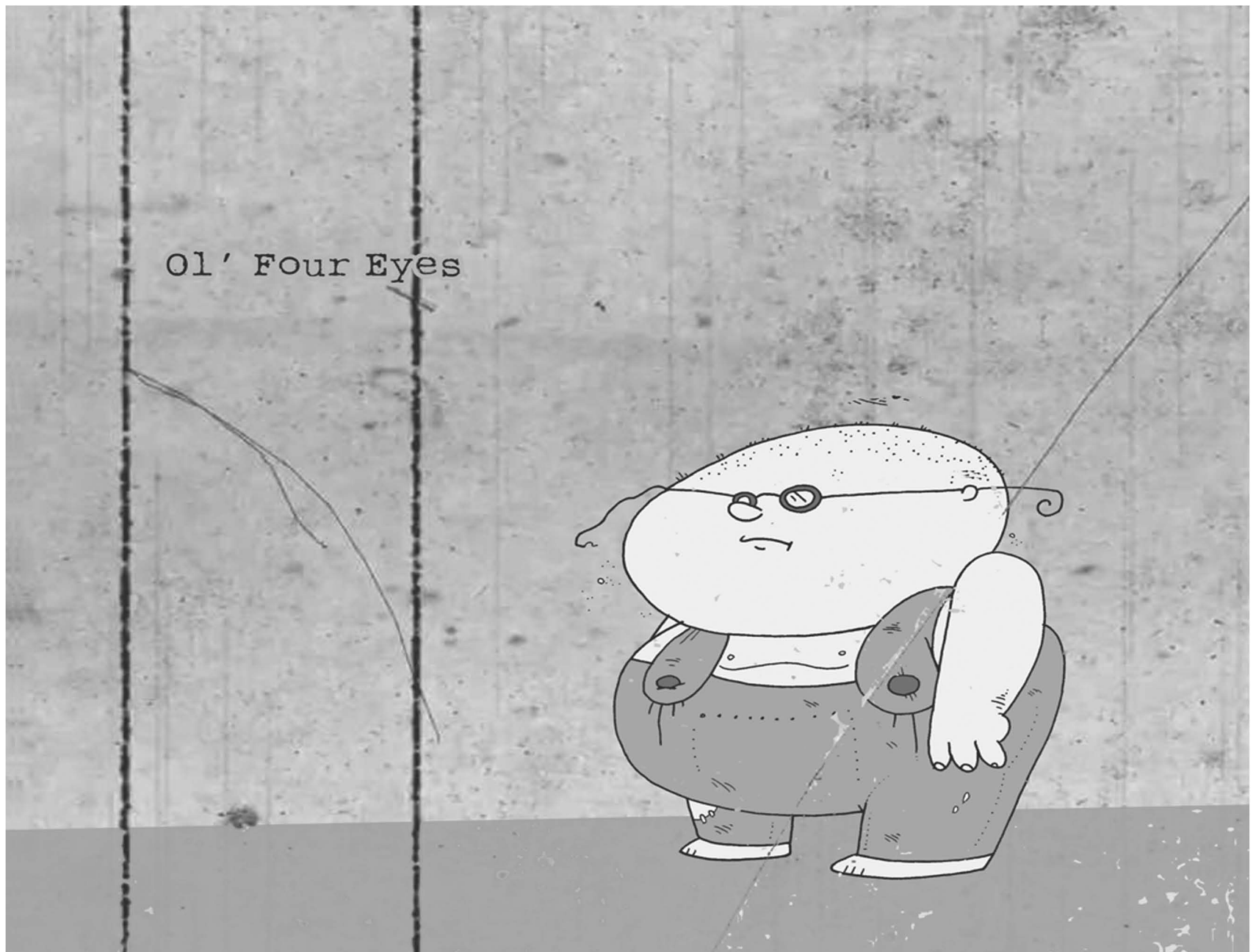
“Yes,” said the Straggletag.

“Go forth and tell the urchins of the world that the great god Rapscallius us dead.”

The Straggletag did not have much inquiry into the ways of gods, but he did as he was bade. Since then, it has been known to all urchins that we live alone.

Urchin scholars are still unsure about the significance of The Death of Rapscallius; it's generally regarded as a propaganda story invented by apologists of the Cult of the Unseen Mother, which has sought to displace traditional urchin Rapscallius worship. Despite reports of Rapscallius' death, backalley urchin shrines dedicated to his worship still showed evidence of continued activity – including regular ritualistic squirrel and pigeon sacrifice – as recently as 1940.

The Straggletag has not as of yet been adequately categorized according to the Reinoffer-Ootz Urchin Catalog system.

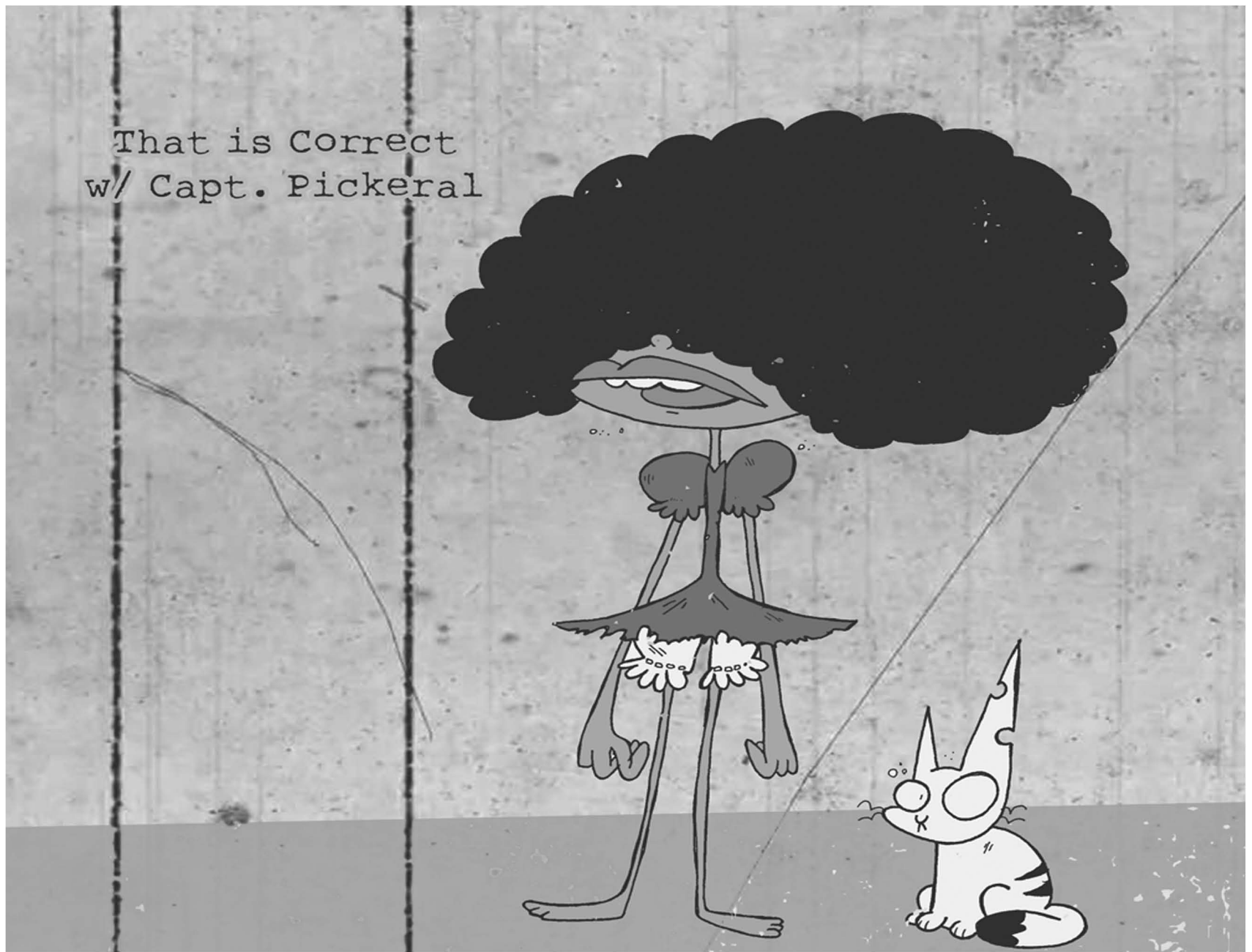


### #39: Ol' Foureyes

Court Stenographer for the Garbage Council, Keeper of the Scrolls, and Curator of the Library of Tears, a position he assumed, unbidden, after the unexplained disappearance of his predecessor. Ol' Four Eyes is literate in Pig Latin, Ubbi Dubbi, Gibberish, Hobo Signs, Tramp Stamps, Bum Sigils, and Middle Tatterdemalion – Tatterdemalion being a moribund dialect derived from High Gamine. Ol' Four Eyes was killed by a runaway tin lizzy in 1928.





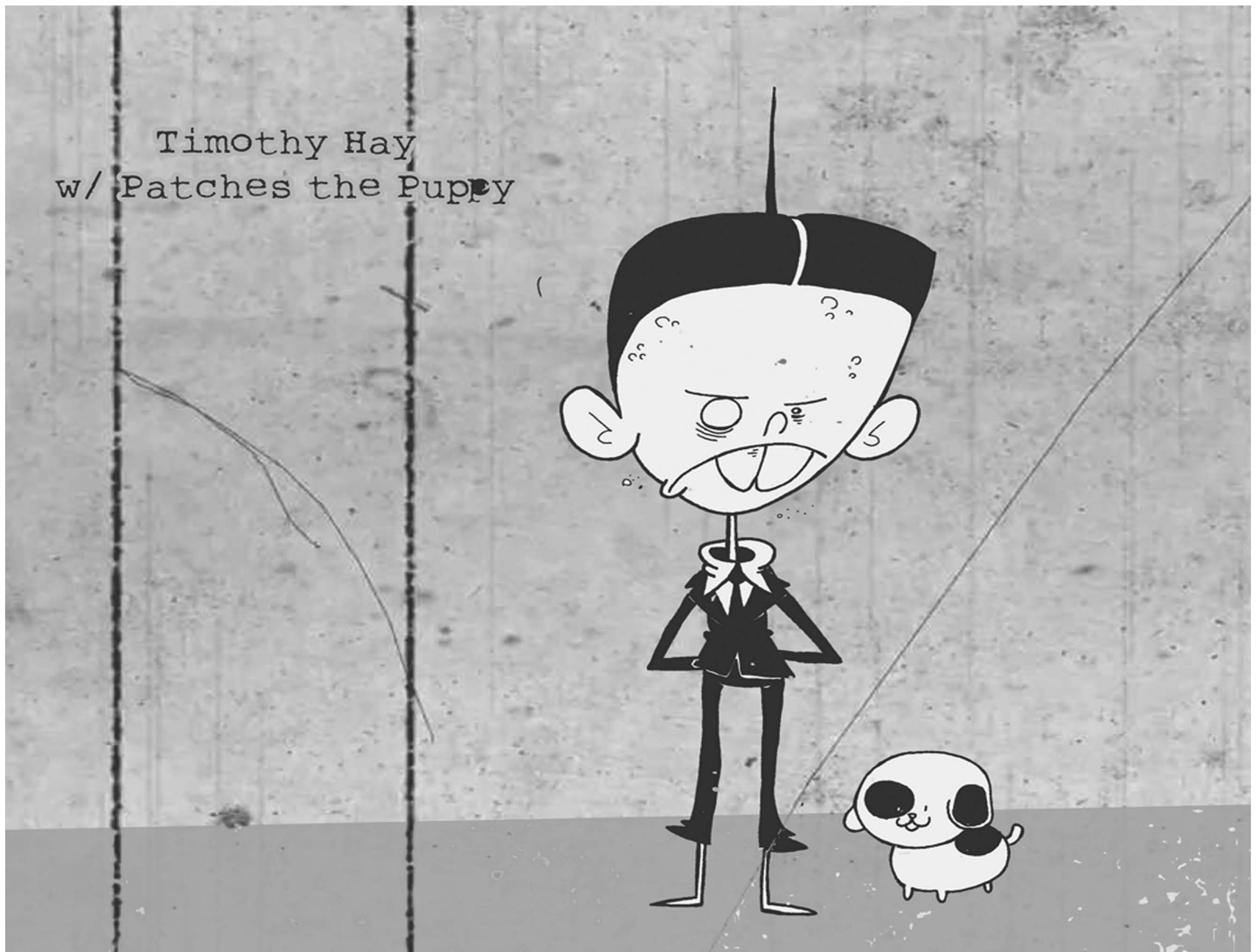


### #2222: That is Correct w/ Capt. Pickeral

That is Correct is Swarmlord of the Bloodstump Irregulars, famous for her prowess on the battlefield during the Skirmish of Rat's Castle, the Massacre at Hardscrabble Warren, and the Bloodbath of Murderclot. That is Correct was the first girl urchin to sit on the Garbage Council, winning her place after defeating champions Spiny Norman, Ollie Flatface the Unrepentent Oligarch, and An Irish Wake in tests of dirt eating, penny whittling, and apple snatching respectively. That is Correct was killed by deet during the Great Urchin Culling of 1933.







### #982: Timothy Hay w/ Patches the Puppy

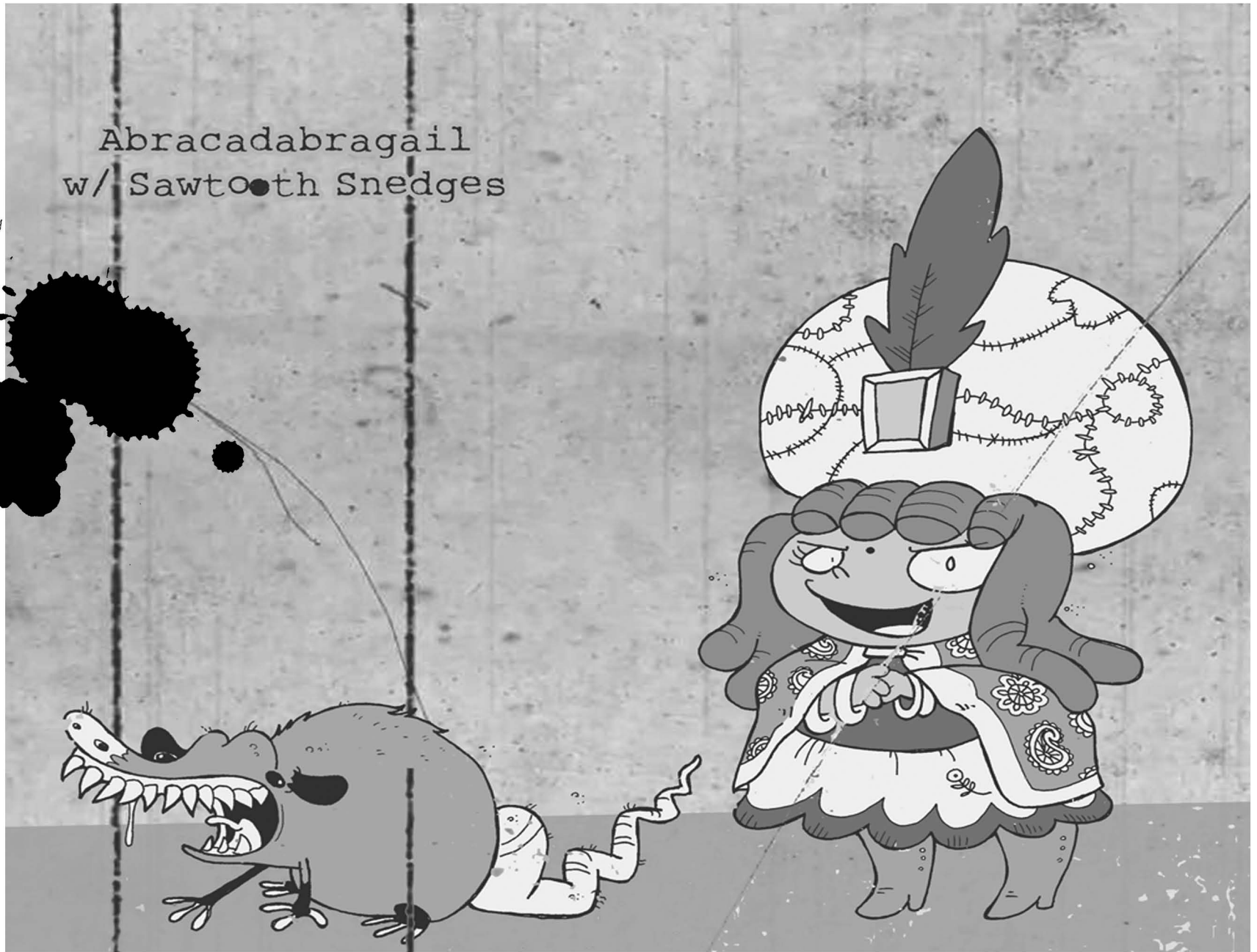
Third Judge of the High Garbage Council and High Hierophant in the schismatic Cult of the Unseen Mother who Waits For Us All, Eastern L'Enfants Plaza Splinter Group. The Eastern L'Enfants Plaza Splinter Group split from its parent religion, the Greater L'Enfants Plaza Cult of the Unseen Mother, in 1926 over the issue of whether the Unseen Mother was more likely to return at 5:00 p.m. (when her shift ends) or at 7:00 p.m. (assuming she'd need to take the Metro after work).

Adherents to the Cult of the Unseen Mother who Watches Us All believe that no urchin is truly an orphan; whenever a child is abandoned by his or her biological family, they are instantly adopted by the spirit of the Unseen Mother, who really truly plans to make her presence known just as soon as she can.

Timothy Hay has summoned the Dapper Lads three times, twice on purpose and once by accident. The exact necessities for the summoning ritual are unknown to urchin scholars, but it's thought to require white hen fat and belladonna extract.



Abracadabragail  
w/ Sawtooth Snedges

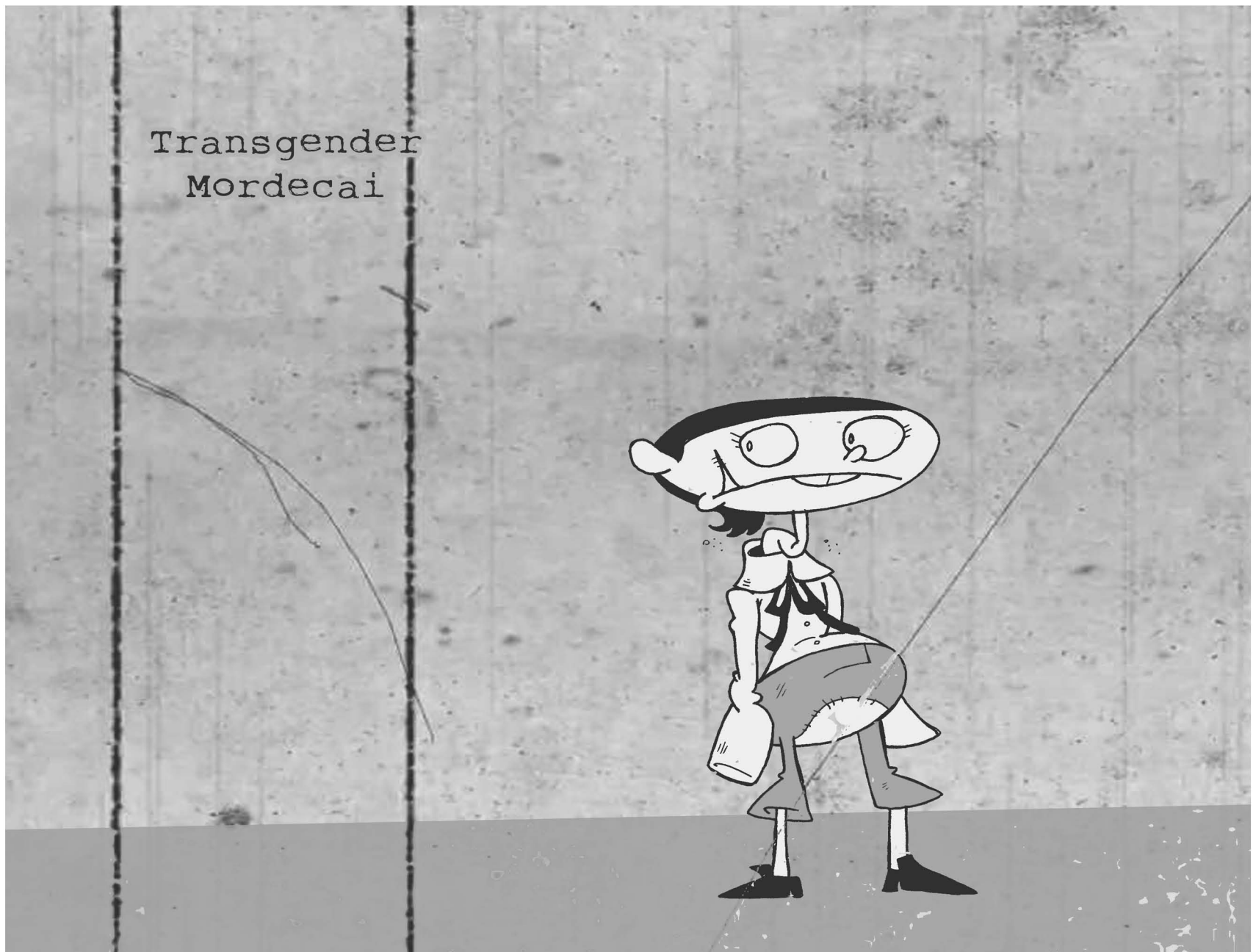


### #9032: Abracadabragail w/ Sawtooth Snedges

A conjurer and alchemist, Abracadabragail is a popular fixture in the courts of lesser swarmlords. Although condemned as a charlatan by the High Garbage Council and excommunicated as an accursed by the Cult of the Unseen Mother, she continues to find employment both from swarmlords in search of amusement and would-be swarmlords in search of advancement. Her services often come at a surprisingly low price; she may ask for anything from a lock of one's hair to a vial of one's spittle; she alone knows what she does with such trifles. She served as court magician to Swarmlord Boppy Bipps of the Faithless Deniers until he was overthrown by his own toadie – an event which Abracadabragail notably failed to predict despite her pretensions to clairvoyance. Spirits whom Abracadabragail claims to channel include:

- The Unseen Mother Who Watches Over Us All
- El Coypu Diablo
- Choo Choo Charlie
- The Conductor
- Bloody Mary
- The Blue Lady
- Rapscallius





### #436: Transgender Mordecai

Also known as Tragicomic Tom, Capt. Pickeral's Malaise, I remember Kilroy, and Dr. Mabuse the Gambler, Transgender Mordecai is swarmlord of the Lost Digits, a lesser swarm that wanders the fringes of the Georgetown Fire Pits. Committed to Our Lady of the Lampshade Orphanage for, according to his admittance papers, "thwarted expectations," Transgender Mordecai proved to be a perpetual thorn in the Head Orphanmaster's side for demanding extra gruel and refusing to work regular shifts on the pencil-selling chain gang. He escaped through a heating duct in 1927, abandoning the life of an orphan for the life of an urchin. He is Reinhoffer-Ootz type #12B: Wrist Twister.

Although "barnacles" often use the terms interchangeably, urchins draw a sharp distinction between urchin and orphan, an urchin being a child of their own destiny and an orphan being a slave in a gilded cage. Some scholars liken the difference in connotation to that between housecat and alleycat.

\*non-urchins





Alas Poor Violet



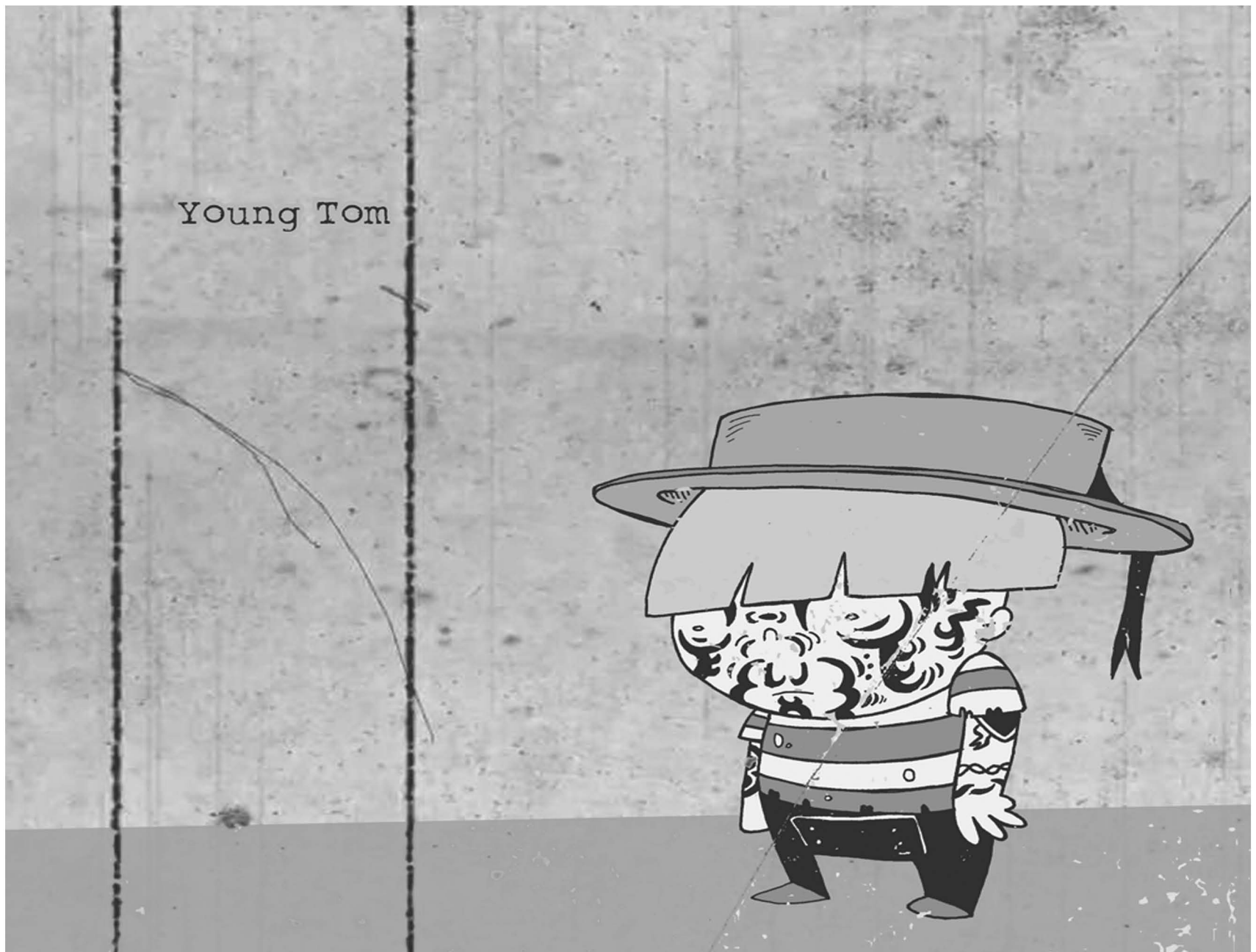
### #56: Alas Poor Violet

Alas Poor Violet is an urchin living and operating in the greater Garbagetown metropolitan area. No other information is available about Alas Poor Violet.

There exists only one known photograph of Alas Poor Violet, taken during an abortive urchinfinder raid on the Dark Bowry on Garbagetown's Lower West Side. The subject, blurred out of focus, was nevertheless identified by captured urchin Long Tall Dances as 'Alas Poor Violet'.







## #2060: Young Tom

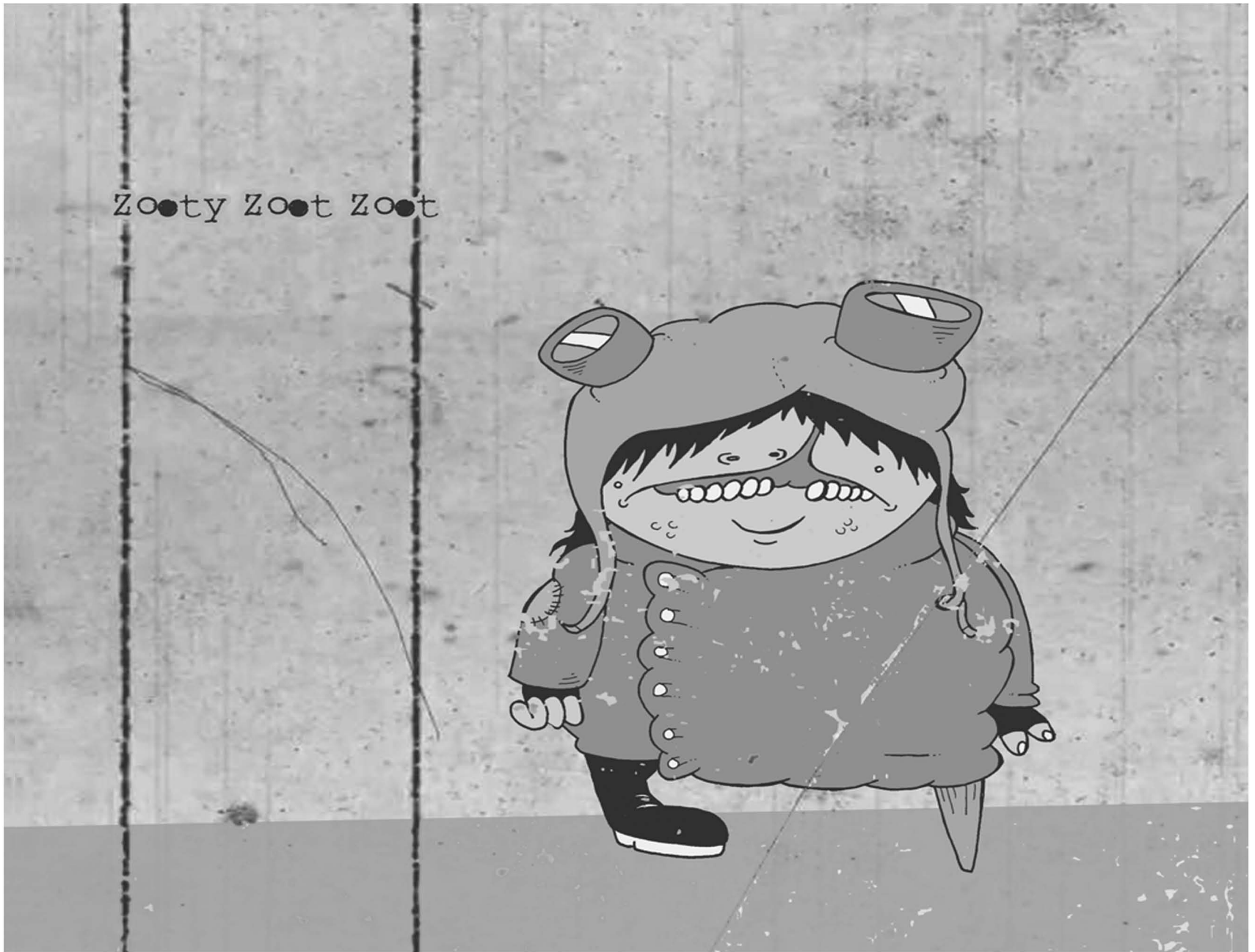
Before becoming a child of the roads, Young Tom was a child of the seas; his mother sold him to a privateer for use as a cabin boy. Young Tom spent a year at sea, swabbing the decks and debarnacled the prow of the Good Ship Painted Jezebel, before jumping ship while in port at the Garbagetown Marina. He later swore a spittleoath to Swarmlord The Inscrutable Chinaman Esq. of the Great Coagulation before that swarm was subsumed by The Unknowable Void in the Night of 10,000 Scraped Knees. Young Tom died of dysentery in 1935.

His final words were 'Worse things happen at sea.' They were the only words he'd spoken since he escaped being a cabin boy. He said them frequently. Constantly, even.

Young Tom's odd behavior is the primary reason that urchins in general fear the wild and unpredictable sea, shunning the seaside and the beach for the safety of the city. It's been speculated that "Worse things happen at sea" was, in fact, the only English phrase that Young Tom knew, and that his native tongue was the dark and guttural language of the depths, a secret lingo known only to ship children (aka sea urchins) who spend their lives on the ocean waves and are rumored to worship the unnatural deities of the deep like He of Many Arms, the Shrouded Bosun, and the Queen Bitch Mother of the Trench.

Spitting and saying 'Worse things happen at sea' turns out to be a perfectly acceptable way to swear loyalty to a Swarmlord.

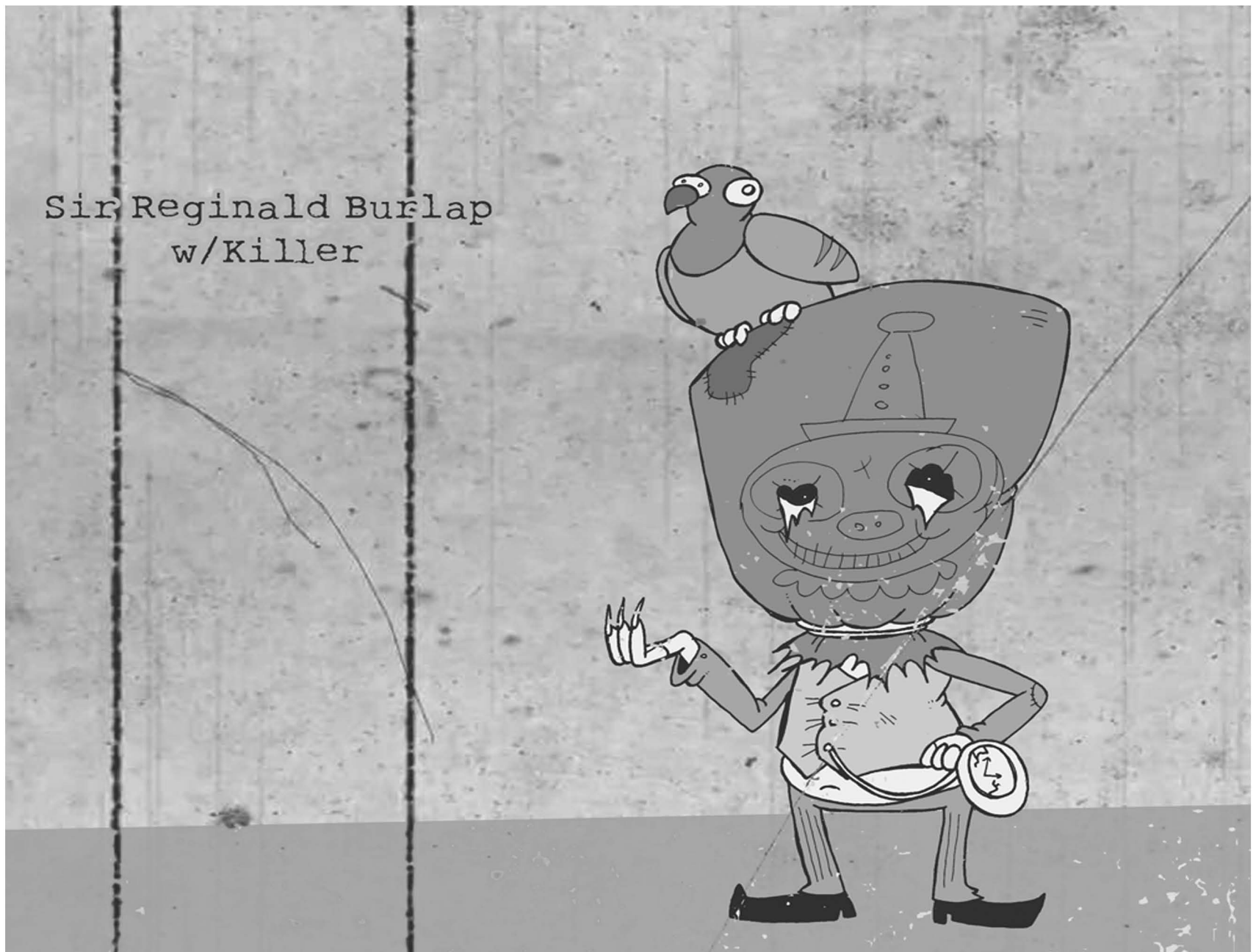




### #727: Zooty Zoot Zoot

Zooty Zoot Zoot was a popular urchin thespian, showman, and burlesque performer, who performed with the Traveling Scabpickers and the Hairlip Follies but is best known for his eccentric impersonations and giant papier-mâché masks during the annual Gadabout celebration. His 1930 Gadabout caricature of the Urchinfinder General as “The Bottomsmeller General” attracted the notice of the Adorable Sweetiepies Swarmlord Fat Jasper, and Zooty Zoot Zoot afterward became a regular jester in the swarmcourt. He was shot by Federal Urchinfinders during an abortive raid the following year.



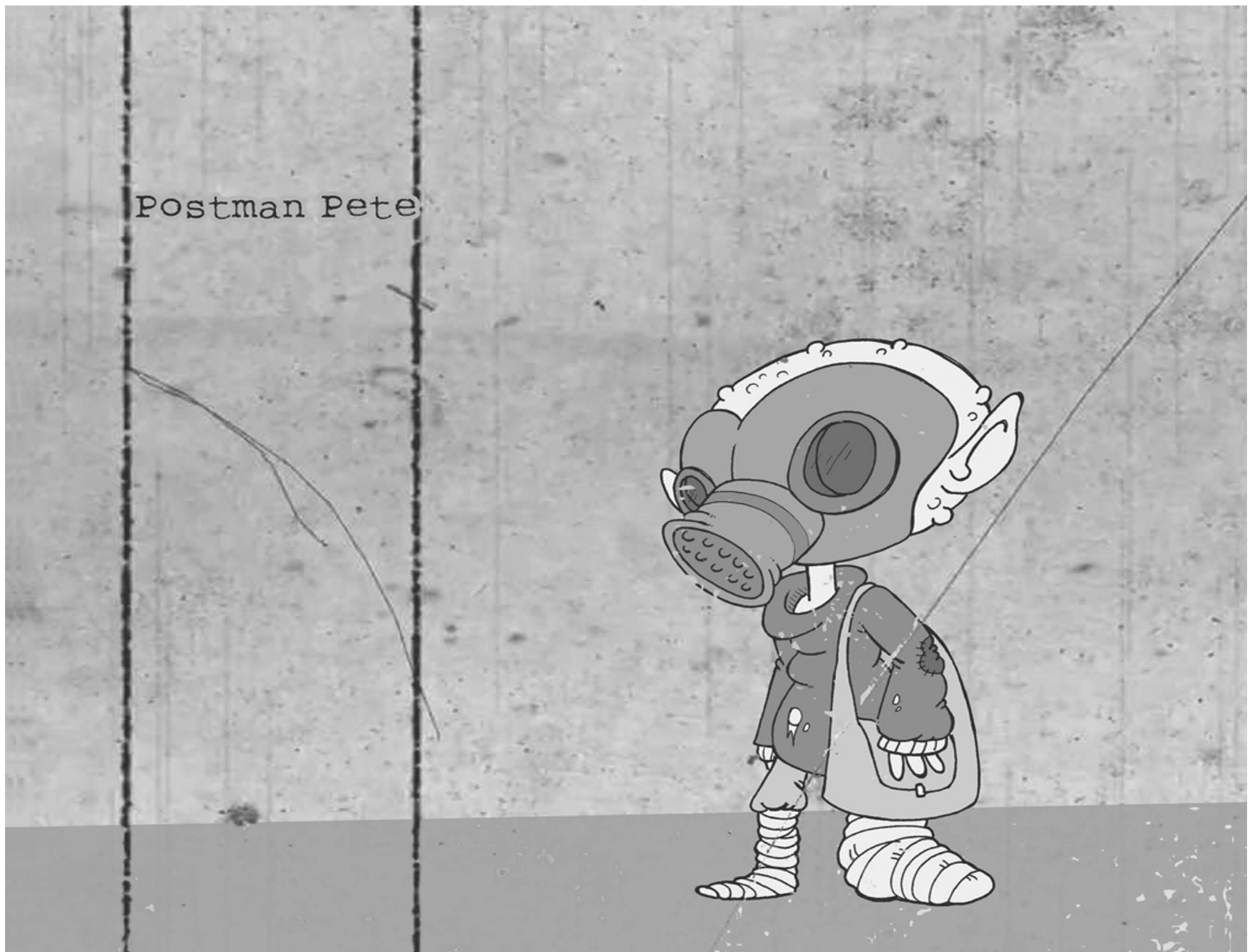


### #869: Sir Reginald Burlap w/ Killer

Sir Reginald Burlap was the swarmlord of the Weepers and, together with War Chief Lady X, A Painted Jezebel oversaw that swarm's rise to political prominence, eventually becoming the dominant polity of the northern Garbagetown wastes. Deeply superstitious despite his tactical and diplomatic brilliance, Sir Reginald Burlap took a vow of silence early in his career on the advice of visiting court seer Abracadabragail (apparently not knowing Abracadabragail's spotty record with predictions nor her affiliation with rival Swarmlord Boppy Bipps of The Faithless Deniers); henceforth, Sir Reginald Burlap conveyed orders to his subordinates by tapping out a complex version of morse code against his watch fob with his talons.

Sir Reginald Burlap is never seen without his mask. Its significance remains a mystery to urchin scholars.





### #7168: Postman Pete

Postman Pete received special dispensation from the High Garbage Council to act as courier, ferrying messages between the swarms without fear of reprisal. Anyone harming Postman Pete can expect to shortly receive a visit from the Dapper Lads or possibly something worse.

Postman Pete drowned in the Potomac in 1930.





Pickles for Dinner



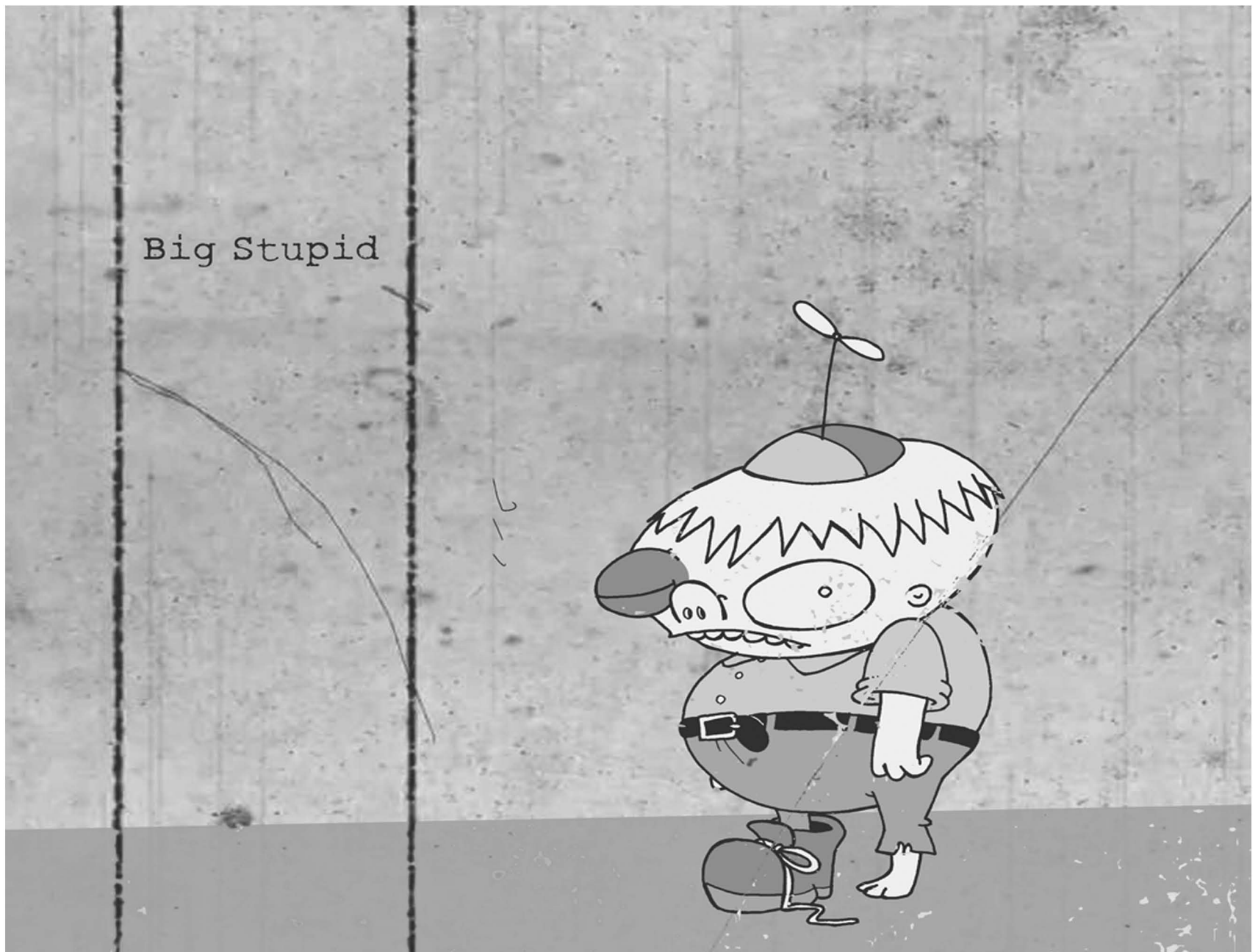
### #23: Pickles for Dinner

Formerly an acolyte of the Unseen Mother who Watches Over Us All, Pickles for Dinner was excommunicated following a blasphemous public spectacle only described in the minutes of his trial as “irregular.” The intended target of the Dapper Lads during one of their few non-accidental summonings, Pickles for Dinner momentarily escaped his surely gruesome fate by fleeing into the Virginia badlands, where he survived on pinecones and dirt clots before eventually succumbing to rabbit starvation in 1926. He is Reinhofer-Ootz type #10A: Skinny Bitch.

Very little is known about urchin religion, but scholars have identified at least seven distinct urchin faiths:

- The Church of the Unseen Mother Who Watches Over Us All
- The Cult of Rapscallius
- The Insect God
- The Acolytes of His Holiness Pious Innocent Norvegicus the Rat Pope aka Roman Ratholicism
- The Cats who Walk Alone Together
- Locket Worship
- The Shatterhand Heresy





## #114: Big Stupid

Big Stupid was a private bruiser working in the employ of swarmlord Sir Reginald Burlap of the Weepers, responsible for security around Sir Reginald's forbidden palace of cardboard and preventing low ranking swarmlings from breaching the compound's perimeter. Unlike rank and file swarmlings, Big Stupid has taken a spittleoath to the swarmlord rather than to the swarm.

Big Stupid was captured in 1932 by Pinkertons and turned over to the University of Jinantonic Urchinological Studies department for use in a grand experiment designed to test whether urchins could be integrated into Barnacle society. His handlers renamed him "Billy" and housed him with a suburban Garbagetown family; despite high hopes, Big Stupid failed to thrive and died after only four days in captivity.





## #2642: Skillet

Pretender to the throne of the Lost Urchin Emperor, First Born of the Unseen Mother Who Watches Over Us All. According to church doctrine, the first son of the Unseen Mother Who Watches Over Us All was destined to be the ruler of all urchins. The idea of a single predestined ruler of all urchins is controversial among swarmlings who bristle at the idea of any one urchin autocrat and swarmlords who don't like to acquiesce to any higher authority, but is embraced by most hardcore adherents of the faith. Skillet arrived in Garbagetown from parts unknown and quickly charmed the major church authorities and Garbage Council Judges with stories of the world outside, but was later discredited after failing the Test of the Thunderbucket. Skillet later faded from public view and was not mentioned in urchin records after 1927. She is Reinhoffer-Ootz type #82B: Nipper.





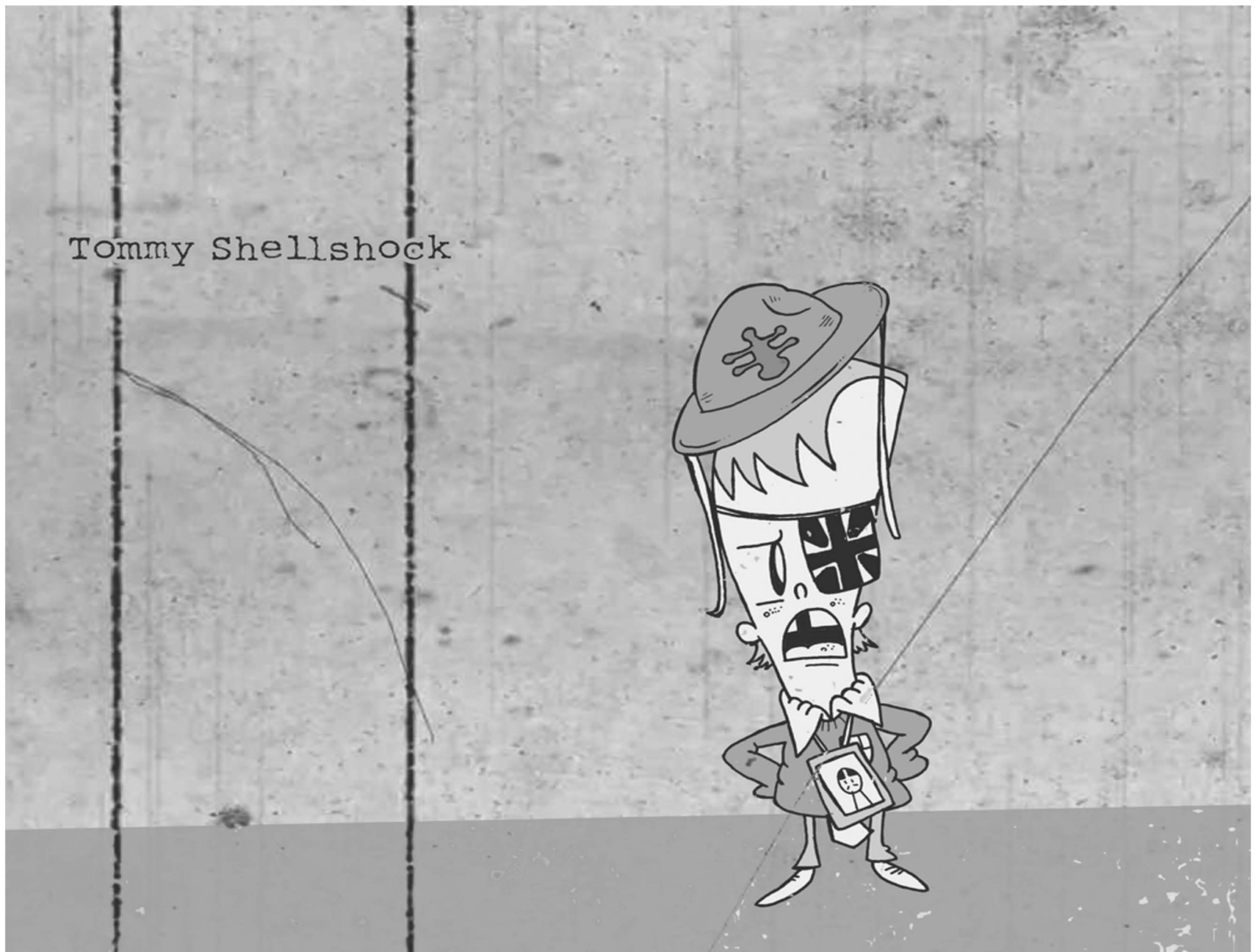
Lady X,  
A Painted Jezebel



### #5410: Lady X, A Painted Jezebel

Lady X, A Painted Jezebel was a renowned war chief for the Weepers, right hand to Sir Reginald Burlap. Lady X, A Painted Jezebel began life as a barnacle, but ran away from home at the age of 2 to join the Weepers after her governess tried to feed her cod liver oil. She was instrumental in the rise of the Weepers, helping to transform that swarm into one of the dominant political factions in the ever-shifting Garbagetown urchin landscape. She openly defied the Garbage Council in 1926, when Urchin Judges called for a cease punch between the Skunktop Highrollers and the Deadly Mambos, winning the attention of the Weepers swarmlord. Lady X, A Painted Jezebel is one of only three identified members of the Spanish Conundrum, the conspiracy that dethroned Swarmlord Pizza Dan the Pizza Man of the Broken Noses. She is Reinhooffer-Ootz type #34D: Deep Biter.





## #222: Tommy Shellshock

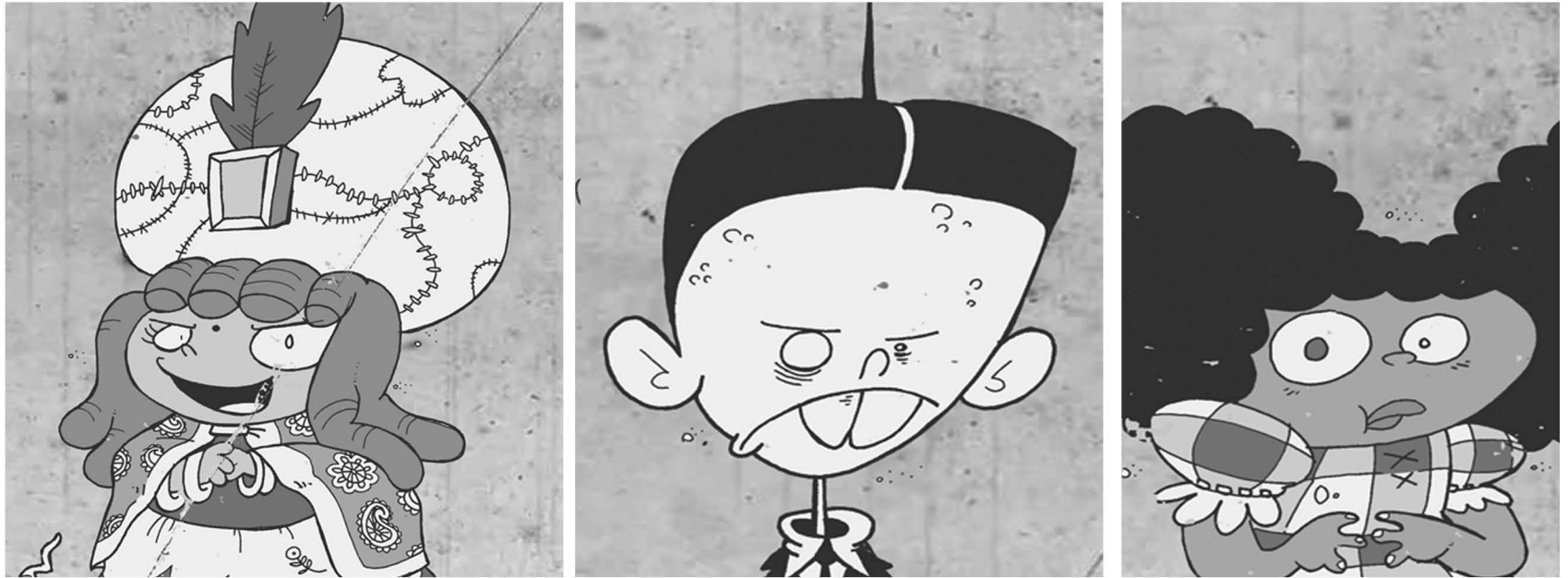
Tommy Shellshock wears a photograph of his long lost mother around his neck to remind him, at all times, of what he lost. Such behavior is considered blasphemous by the Church of the Unseen Mother Who Watches Over Us All, as is any recognition of earthly mothers.\* As such Tommy Shellshock remains on the church's list of Accursed, even after his disappearance in 1926 after a visit by the Dapper Lads. Low-level acolytes of the church often express confusion as to why Tommy's name was never removed to the list. He is Reinhoffer-Ootz type #6B: Twilighter.

Rumors abound that Tommy Shellshock may still adhere to the cult of Rapscallius. Rapscallius worship began to decline in Garbagetown urchins in the late 1920s, following the supposed death of Rapscallius – the announcement of Rapscallius' death is usually attributed to the Straggletag, but there's no evidence that the Straggletag was actually involved – and the later public apostasy of Lil' Ragamuffin in smashing her Rapscallius talisman possum skull.

The Reinhoffer-Ootz urchin classification system was named for its developers Gisela Reinhoffer (1810-1873), esteemed professor emeritus of Urchinological Studies at the University of Jinan- tonic and Matrushka Ootz (1843-1901), graduate student, who first used it in their landmark survey of Dickensian mudlarks in Rats' Castle, London (1868). The Rats' Castle survey has been criticized by subsequent urchin scholars as “incomplete”, “inaccurate” and “unverifiable as Reinhoffer and Ootz relied extensively on a single source for their description of urchin society, a noseless albino urchin named Pale Vivian, whose elaborate tales of high urchinry have never been corroborated.” (Rats' Castle Reconsidered, D.E. Holt (1954) ). Even so, it remains our best resource for understanding the history of high urchinry.

\*The church schismed in 1917 over the question of whether recognition of earthly fathers is acceptable.

# Street Urchins: The Apple Snatching Menace!



Street urchins are the single biggest threat facing the average American today! What honest fruitmonger hasn't caught one of these juvenile scofflaws snatching a bright shiny new apple from their cart? What homemaker hasn't found one of her freshly baked pies purloined from the windowsill where she left it to cool? "Street Urchins: The Apple Snatching Menace" is a helpful guide to the worst urchins currently operating in the greater Garbagetown DC municipal area between 1929 - 1940, available now from the Office of the Urchinfinder General and wherever fine government informational pamphlets are sold. Protect yourself from the Apple-Snatching Menace... with knowledge!



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