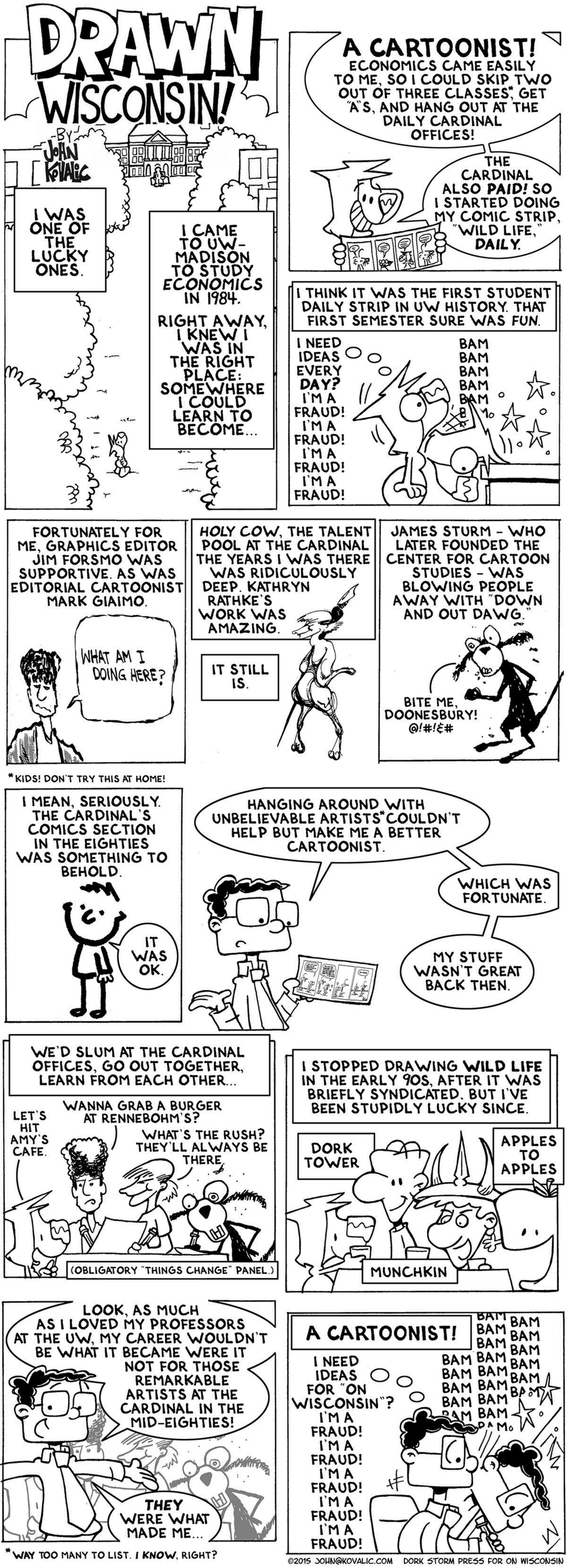
DRAWN WISCONSIN!
BY JOHN KOVALIC
I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES.
I CAME TO UW-MADISON TO STUDY ECONOMICS IN 1984.
RIGHT AWAY, I KNEW I WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE: SOMEWHERE I COULD LEARN TO BECOME...
A CARTOONIST!
ECONOMICS CAME EASILY TO ME, SO I COULD SKIP TWO OUT OF THREE CLASSES*, GET "A"S, AND HANG OUT AT THE DAILY CARDINAL OFFICES!
THE CARDINAL ALSO PAID! SO I STARTED DOING MY COMIC STRIP, "WILD LIFE," DAILY.
I THINK IT WAS THE FIRST STUDENT DAILY STRIP IN UW HISTORY. THAT FIRST SEMESTER SURE WAS FUN.
I NEED IDEAS EVERY DAY? I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD!
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
FORTUNATELY FOR ME, GRAPHICS EDITOR JIM FORSMO WAS SUPPORTIVE. AS WAS EDITORIAL CARTOONIST MARK GIAIMO.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
HOLY COW, THE TALENT POOL AT THE CARDINAL THE YEARS I WAS THERE WAS RIDICULOUSLY DEEP. KATHRYN RATHKE'S WORK WAS AMAZING.
IT STILL IS.
JAMES STURM - WHO LATER FOUNDED THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES - WAS BLOWING PEOPLE AWAY WITH "DOWN AND OUT DAWG."
BITE ME, DOONESBURY! @!#!£#
*KIDS! DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY. THE CARDINAL'S COMICS SECTION IN THE EIGHTIES WAS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD.
IT WAS OK.
HANGING AROUND WITH UNBELIEVABLE ARTISTS* COULDN'T HELP BUT MAKE ME A BETTER CARTOONIST.
WHICH WAS FORTUNATE.
MY STUFF WASN'T GREAT BACK THEN.
WE'D SLUM AT THE CARDINAL OFFICES, GO OUT TOGETHER, LEARN FROM EACH OTHER...
LET'S HIT AMY'S CAFE.
WANNA GRAB A BURGER AT RENNEBOHM'S?
WHAT'S THE RUSH? THEY'LL ALWAYS BE THERE.
(OBLIGATORY "THINGS CHANGE" PANEL.)
I STOPPED DRAWING WILD LIFE IN THE EARLY 90S, AFTER IT WAS BRIEFLY SYNDICATED. BUT I'VE BEEN STUPIDLY LUCKY SINCE.
DORK TOWER
APPLES TO APPLES
MUNCHKIN
LOOK, AS MUCH AS I LOVED MY PROFESSORS AT THE UW, MY CAREER WOULDN'T BE WHAT IT BECAME WERE IT NOT FOR THOSE REMARKABLE ARTISTS AT THE CARDINAL IN THE MID-EIGHTIES!
THEY WERE WHAT MADE ME...
*WAY TOO MANY TO LIST. I KNOW, RIGHT?
A CARTOONIST!
I NEED IDEAS FOR "ON WISCONSIN"? I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD! I'M A FRAUD!
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
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