

hey everybody...  
Let's make!  
a zine!

WEST 23RD STREET & ELSEWHERE

WEST 23RD STREET & ELSEWHERE



a family-friendly invitational zine

hey everybody!  
We made a film.



You can check it out here:  
<https://west23rdstreet.org/robot-action-news/>



# Locke Bridge

*by Kate Mejia*



# NUMBER 9...NUMBER 9...NUMBER 9

**Y**ou may recall that, due to my odd system of four issues = one volume, that this is issue nine but corresponds to the first issue of volume three. We've actually been doing the zine for 10 years but no issue was created for 2020 due to the pandemic. We made a video for the digital Zine Fest Houston that year instead. There will be a quiz later on all of this.

I am pleasantly surprised to have made it this far with no end in sight. I am fortunate again to have gotten some great contributions. Thanks so much to those who submitted.

As usual I am right down to the wire in getting it finished but I hope to be able to get at least a short print run completed in time for Zine Fest Houston. Enjoy!

## **Patrick Brooks**

Editor

*hey everybody... Let's make a zine!*

*A West 23rd Street Production*

*11/3/2022 • Houston, Texas*



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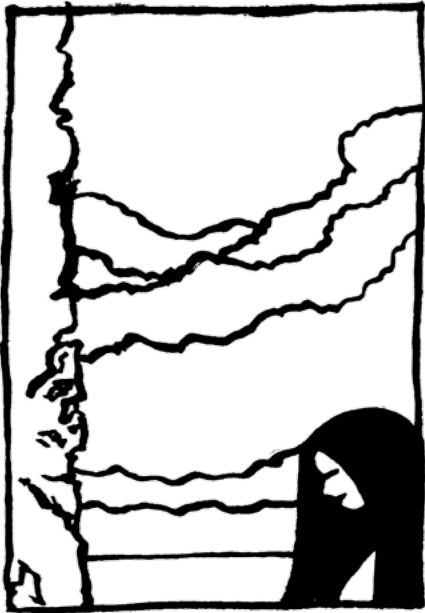
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**hey we fixed our website @  
west23rdstreet.org**

Shane Patrick Boyle (1969-2017)  
*Vivēt in aeternum facundi Musa*

for Patrick's zine

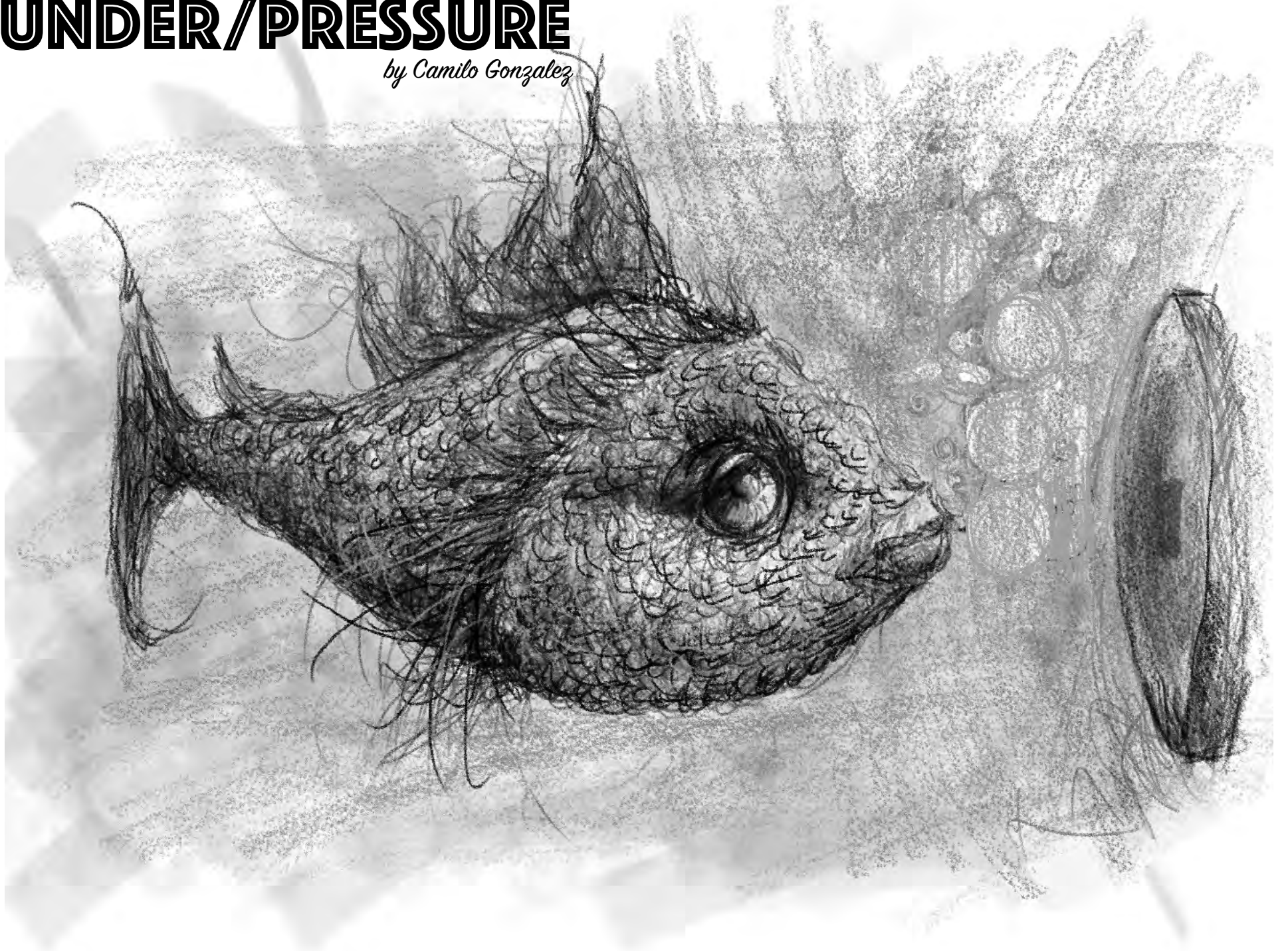


BY RUSLAN KALITIN



# UNDER/PRESSURE


*by Camilo Gonzalez*





# FLOAT

*by Devonne Baker*



# Quaker Earth Day

*by George Baker*

**A**fter the Meeting for Worship,  
the clerk asked that each of us,  
on standing and saying our name,  
in turn, as is the custom there,  
to mention something about  
how we practice sustainability.

"I obsessively recycle,"  
said one.

"I allow nature to run riot in my back yard,"  
said another.

"I ride my bike to work three times a week,"  
said a third.

"I cut back on the use of plastic straws,"  
said a fourth.

And so it went, each speaker eager to match,  
if not exceed,  
the earnestness of those who had spoken,  
each testimony followed by solemn  
Quakerly silence.

After 25 or 30 friends had thus testified,  
it was my turn. I said my name, adding that  
"I obsessively turn out the light in my wife's closet."  
My testimony was met by an eruption of  
un-Quakerly laughter.

**George Baker 4/23/18**



**G**onzalez Texas of the 50's.  
Living 'this' life with no hate.

Oh, Riley, where are you?

One of the 'swifties' of the new generation,  
'Henry the Eighth'. NOT.

In my memories, I found my picture of Henry in the fourth place finish,  
in the Monte Carlo Gran Prix,  
with "2 lane passion".

Eating Spinach & drinking

Only Vintage, the 'Cointreau' can wait for a later date.

Oh Riley, where are you?!

One of the 'swifties' of the new generation.

Henry VIII, NOT.

In NOT pretending to be free— Bring More Bees, if you can 'observe' them.  
(Maybe next to the Monarchs. No Crown Intended).

'Bivouac' the 'night' flight.

Smoke 'em if you got 'em.

Take your mask off, & just smell!

Remember don't 'dwell'!

Take your 'Joe Namath knees' & 'fly'.

San Jose Anyway!



Chapel, Sea Ranch CA  
by Holly Castrillón



Requiem for the

# CEREAL PALS



Steampunk Fox

Second String Generic Breakfast Cereal Mascots

My son and I don't recall exactly when we first saw the Cereal Pals but we do know that it was on a bag of Shining Stars, a Lucky Charms knock-off that Kroger offered as one of their store brands. A smiling dog-like character in a space suit with a jetpack prominently adorned the bag. There were three other characters featured as well. We later found that they were mascots for other cereals in the Kroger line. We immediately became fascinated in obtaining the backstories of these cartoon characters and, on the boxed version of this cereal, found a blurb that explained who this space-suited dog (presumably their leader) was:

**“Whaddup!? Urban Dog in the playhouse. And in the school, on the playground and anywhere else that’s interesting and full of adventure. Ready for fun? Let’s go!”**

Urban Dog??!! We wondered if this was a placeholder for a character's name that the ad agency never bothered to come up with, and it just stuck. It reminded us of nothing more than the *Itchy & Scratchy & Poochie Show* episode of the Simpsons. Urban Dog is a close match for Poochie in many respects. He's totally in your face and proactive! We began to banter about, using Poochie riffs from that episode such as:

**Whenever Urban Dog's not on the cereal box, all the other characters should be asking “Where's Urban Dog”?**



On another box of Kroger cereal, Cocoa Crispy Rice, we found a general introduction to the Cereal Pals and an image of the canonical six members.

**“Hey, kids! Get to know the Cereal Pals. We’ve each got our own interests and personalities, but one thing’s for sure: we love to hang out and have fun together.”**

We became interested in finding out who the other Cereal Pals were, although we had limited interest in actually eating their cereals. It took some effort searching the cereal aisle cereals and Pals roster

to find blurbs on other Kroger then the details of the Cereal began to slowly take shape.

After Urban Dog, the first to was Steampunk Fox (I'd love been in the room when this name up by the ad agency). This guy is an some of his images he has the requisite goggles.



Urban Dog

Later came the info for Wiley Zebra (my son misinterpreted the drawing and did not realize the black area on his face was his muzzle and instead thought it

was a yelling, wide-open mouth), Perry Hopper, a leporine magician, and Ali Kat, a feline girl. We never found out who the blue bear-like guy was.

Then, as suddenly as they had appeared, by 2022 the Cereal Pals disappeared from the Kroger store shelves entirely. The same cereals exist, but without any colorful mascots or unified theme. You can still see some evidence of their existence on the Kroger website, in the form of cereal products marked 'unavailable'. No doubt this evidence too shall soon vanish. We reconciled ourselves with the sad fact that the Cereal Pals were no more.

I wrote a letter to Kroger media relations with a number of questions about the Cereal Pals but got no response. We may never know who the blue bear-like guy is and what character trait and cereals he was associated with. But one thing's for sure, we're going to miss these fun-loving furballs!



# CEREAL PALS

an exposé



**D**ue to a lack of widely-available information on the Cereal Pals, we have compiled a list of known facts on each member.

### Urban Dog:

- Leader of the Cereal Pals
- Has received extensive training for untethered EVA in zero-g environments

### Steampunk Fox:

- Inventor of the Cereal Pals' assortment of technological gadgetry

### Wiley Zebra: a.k.a. Stripes Magee, a.k.a. Z-Dawg, a.k.a. Zedramus McPhearson

- Infamous con artist and scammer known worldwide for his legendary exploits

### Perry Hopper:

- Is capable of channeling the eldritch, arcane forces of the world to produce a variety of effects which some feeble-minded mortals call "magic"

### Ali Kat:

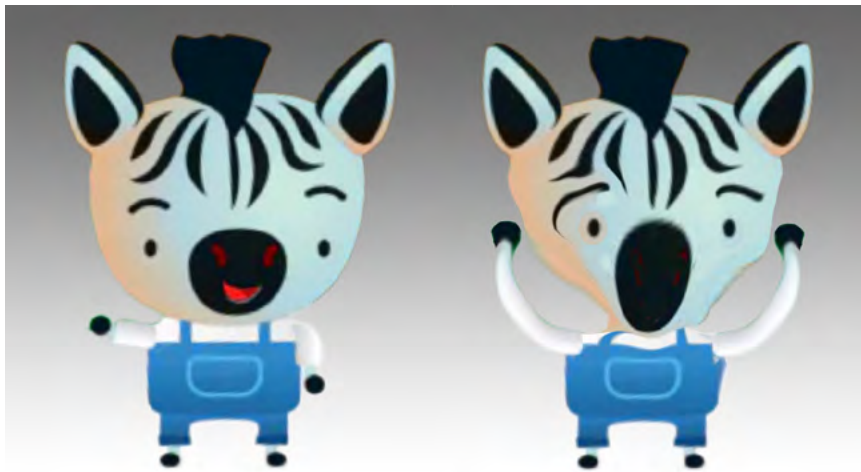
- Girl

In lieu of any reliable information provided by the Kroger Company, we have conducted an investigation into the enigmatic sixth member of the Cereal Pals. While evidence was minimal, we've uncovered a glimpse at the true identity of this mysterious blue bear-like guy: **Spetsnaz Bear**. Recruited at the age of 16, Spetsnaz Bear quickly worked his way up through the ranks of the KGB. Eventually, he would be sent on an extremely dangerous assignment, infiltrating one of the United States' most prominent cereal mascot groups.

Kroger has deliberately omitted his name from all Cereal Pals cereal boxes, perhaps hoping to avoid endangering its cereal profits. We call on the Kroger Company to do what's right and release any relevant information on this matter of national security.



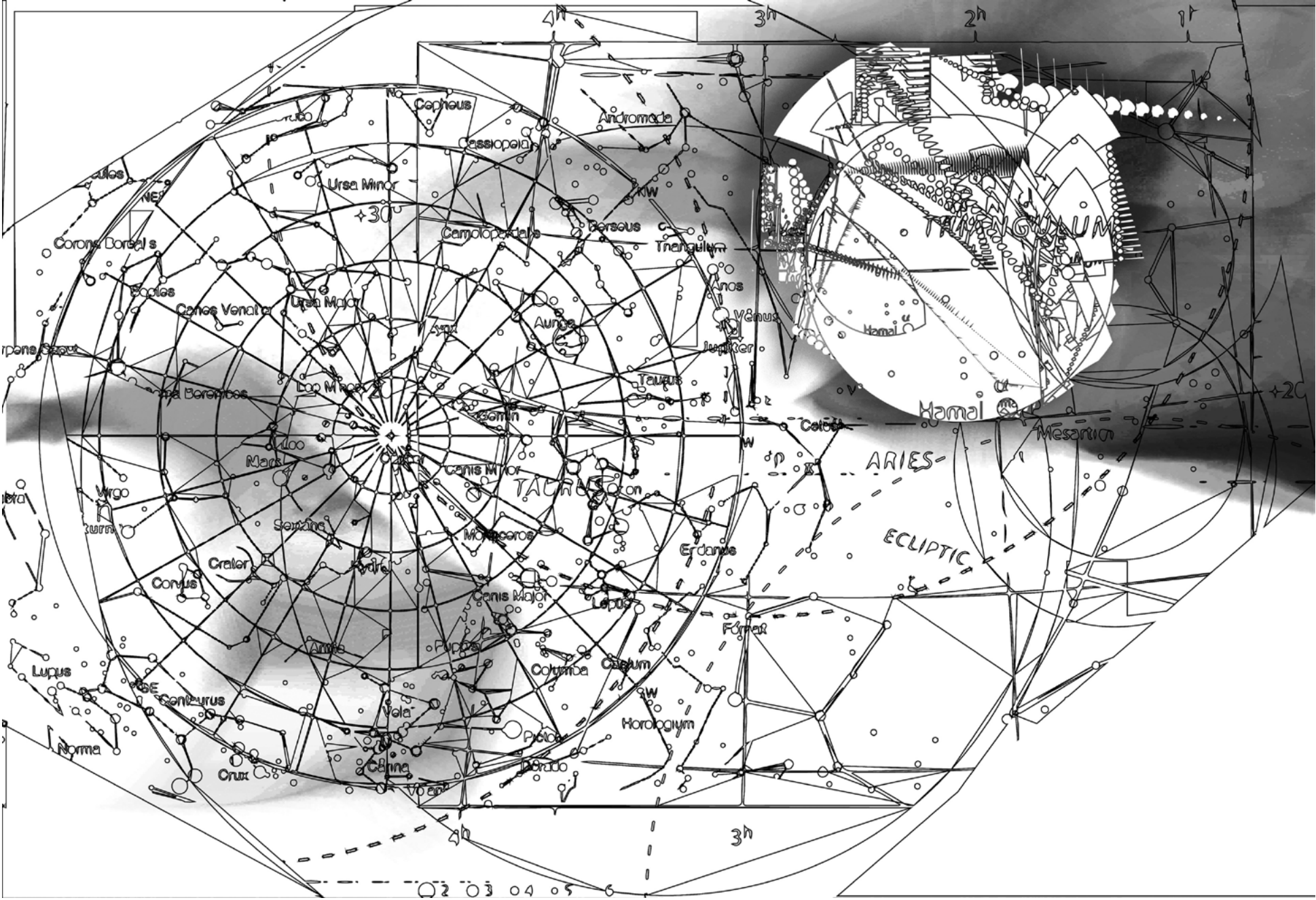
This photo may shed some light on the mysterious sixth Cereal Pal



My son misinterpreted Wiley Zebra's mouth shape as an Edvard Munchian scream rather than just being his muzzle.

# Lightwaves/Dark Matter:

Number 1 | by Nina Hays



I love the sweet sunshine I love that diggity sway  
I love that 2013  
I love that sweet sixteen

I don't know how to drive a car  
I don't want to go to a bar  
I don't want to be a grown-up  
Because it's not fun.

I don't like wine  
I don't like to dine  
I don't like all of that cash  
I just like all of that bash.

I like that sing, I like that sway  
I like that nighttime, that good thing away.  
I don't want to work  
I don't want to do taxes  
I don't want to do a credit card!

Oh what is it going to be like to be a grown-up entrapped in night?  
What is it? Is it a miracle?  
Is it a miracle that I'm only nine?  
'Cause I only have twenty years left until I'm twenty-nine.  
Oh what is it going to be like?

My heart going quick as the sand can go.  
My heart, my life, it's going as fast as sand can go.  
Every night, every day, every day gets closer to moving away,  
Every day, every night, every day I have to think about 'what am I going to be?'

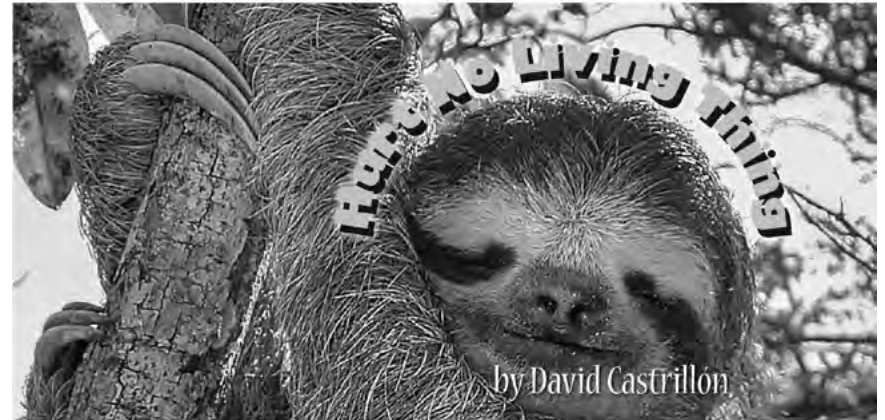
I don't know how to drive, like the sail don't quit,  
I don't know how to ride, I just need a fitbit.  
Oh why can't I be as a twenty-, twenty-, twenty-nine teen  
What is that day? With a miracle.

Every night, every day, when the sails are coming and going away,  
Every day, every night, it gets closer to that darkest night  
Of my life. Open wide  
Saying quick as an iceberg  
Saying "what am I gonna do when I grow up."

## Don't Want to Be a Grown-Up by Sophia Crawford-Vargas



Self Portrait



**H**urt no living thing, Gharial nor Crocodile,  
Nor Deer with broken leg,  
Nor Lion hunting stealthily,  
Nor Cardinal light of flight,  
Nor sleeping Rat, Nor Lobster flat,  
Nor harmless Pigs that snort.

— by David Castrillón  
Inspired by Christina Rossetti

Scan for Music Video



# Does Everybody Know?

Leonard Cohen was a singer/songwriter. Among his many songs was one called "Everybody Knows" (written with his frequent writing Sharon Robinson).

Among Quaker traditions (a possible oxymoron) is the query. A query is a question for contemplation or discussion. I was reading the lyrics of Leonard Cohn's song and these posits of the song presented themselves to me as queries.

1. Do you know that the dice are loaded and everybody rolls with their fingers crossed?
2. Do you know that the war is over and the good guys lost?
3. Do you know that the fight was fixed, the poor stay poor and the rich get rich?
4. Do you know that the boat is leaking and that the captain lied?
5. Is everybody talking to their pockets?
6. Is the Plague coming and moving fast?
7. Do you know that you're in trouble?
8. Does everybody know what you've been through from the bloody cross on top of Calvary to the beach of Malibu?
9. Does everybody know it's coming apart and should we take one last look at this Sacred Heart before it blows?

— by Peggy McDonald



# THE END by Brent & Jesse Sullivan

From afar they watched as the Humans became a part of the Extinction Event they started.



# NEMO SLUMBERING

*by C.P.E. Cheating*



# Chaosball: Responsibility

by Kate Warmbrodt



-k°