



Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

As Seen on CCTV
Volume 37, Issue 7
8 October 81AT(2026)

Read all our issues at
hellskitchen.org/gdt

Don't like it?
RECYCLE it!



Do you know where your water comes from? Depending on where you live, you are more or less likely to. In rural areas, many people draw their water from a well somewhere on their property. But in suburbs or cities, many households draw from a shared supply— and many don't know where that supply is.

For example, New York City gets its water not from the Hudson River (which, despite decades of remediation efforts, remains mostly unsafe to even swim in), but from lakes and rivers hundreds of miles upstate, which remain unpolluted through aggressive preservation laws. It is not uncommon for people's drinking water to come from places far from their homes, with little say themselves in where it comes from.

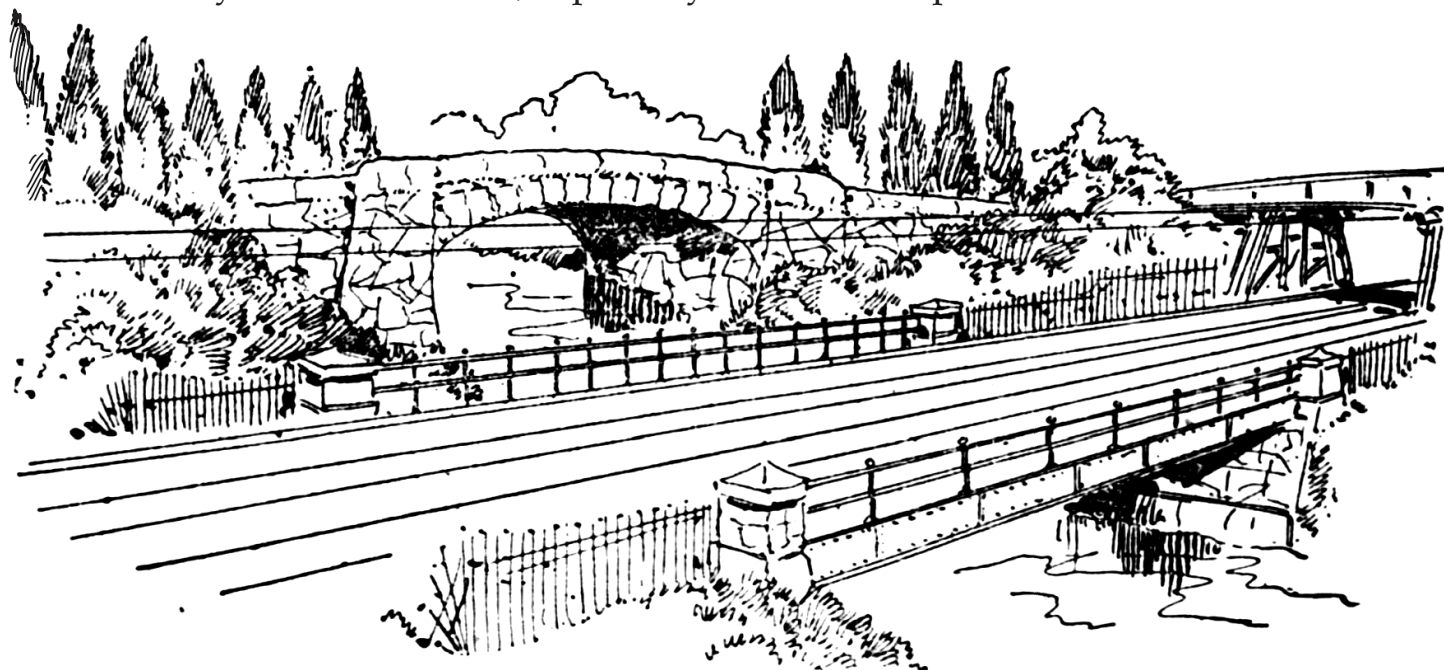
The next question one could ask, is who *owns* your water? I find this a comically bizarre concept; the idea that you can own water, which is constantly flowing and moving through the earth and atmosphere. It's like saying you can own a cloud.

And yet, many claim to. Where I grew up in northern New Jersey, our water was owned by American Water, a publicly

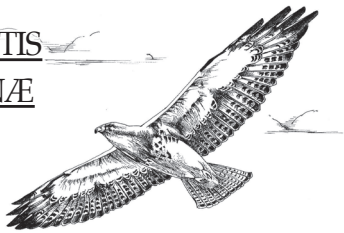
traded company. The stuff that came out of our sink had shareholders! Many such companies exist, often providing water to entire regions or states.

But these companies don't really own water— they own land. Often that land contains lakes or rivers high up in watersheds, before it joins larger rivers and becomes too polluted to draw from. What we're paying for it not the water itself, but access to the land that it comes from, and the infrastructure and processing required to make that water potable. This private system however, leads to issues— once a water company is established, it's hard to choose an alternative if its services begin to degrade. And since many are public, they answer to their shareholders, rather than the communities they serve.

If you are to believe years of propaganda and advertising, a big part of being an American is *ownership*. Ownership of land, of resources, of automobiles, of people. In many places in the U.S., if you own land, it is yours to do with what you wish. Many people in forested areas looking to sell their land will clear-cut it before selling to make the profit off of the timber. The



DRAMATIS
PERSONÆ



Gracies Dinnertime Theatre (GDT) is a founding member of Hell’s Kitchen (HK) and is published by Carissimus Diablo.

Editors:

Samboozled & Goose Waffles

Layout:

G.S.

Marginalia:

GDT Ad Council

Featuring Garffeld by Sam Owen
and Beer for Dinner by Lid Thom.

Main Article:

"Thinking Like a River" by Max

Writers:

Brian E. Barrett, Titty Cocker,
Rock Goblin, Ada H. Ominam,
Susan, & denizens of the GDT
Discord

Printer Daemons:

turpentine (*dux*), Aidexp, Rectum
Clown, Dia, Forcefem Femgirls,
Ada H. Ominam, Rhythm,
SavvyLu, S.H., wood man, & Yabi
Thank you to all of our newsies!

Contact GDT directly at:

graciesdinnertimetheatre@gmail.com

IMAGINUM AUCTORES

Page 1: Unknown. "Drawing of
Ipswich Street bridge over the
Muddy River." 1899. *The Boston
Globe*. commons.wikimedia.
org/wiki/File:Drawing_of_
Ipswich_Street_bridge_over_
the_Muddy_River,_1899.jpg

Page 3: Johnston, Frances
Benjamin. "Eight girls and
teacher in a cooking class."
~1899. commons.wikimedia.
org/wiki/File:Eight_girls_
and_teacher_in_a_cooking_
class_in_a_Washington,_D.C.,_
high_school.png

Continued on page 3.

Copyright 81AT(2026) Gracies Dinnertime Theatre. GDT and HK are not sponsored or approved by RIT. I guess you can reprint things for all the reasons covered under United States Fair Use Doctrine as defined by the United States Congress with the "Copyright Act of 1976," but why not make your own? GDT is printed weekly. All the work remains copyright of the authors. GDT reserves the right to print or reprint authors' works.

capitalist system incentivizes this pattern: to the landowners, trees are worth far more once they are cut down.

If we instead adopted a stewardship mindset—you own the land, therefore you are responsible for its well-being—and set up systems that incentivize land with intact ecosystems, clean water, and vibrant biodiversity, it would fundamentally change the way most of us interacted with the places we live.

Fostering a stewardship, instead of an ownership mindset, is a critical part of protecting our water. Instead of staking our claim on certain parts of a river, and treat it as we see fit, the watershed ideology treats waterways as the *center* of a community, a common resource to be protected.

Often, state and town lines are drawn along rivers. At first, this may seem like a sensible way to divide communities: it's a visible, indisputable border that you can point to and say, "that side is yours, this side is mine." But from a watershed perspective, it makes no sense whatsoever. Different states and municipalities, while both living on the same river, can have entirely different regulations about land use, boating, and dumping, even though the actions in one town can affect the other.

This goes for groundwater, too. In rural areas especially, groundwater is a huge shared resource that goes almost entirely unregulated. In places where water is scarce, it is especially important to manage groundwater with care. In many of these places, it has only been recognized recently that the water that everyone depends on is running out.

One issue with this approach is that watersheds can be *huge*. The Mississippi/Missouri watershed occupies almost 50% of the U.S., spanning from the Rockies to the Appalachians. Thankfully, watersheds are easy to break down into smaller parts of a larger coalition. For example, the Hudson River watershed contains many smaller watersheds: the Mohawk River watershed, the Boreas River Watershed, the Battenkill watershed, and countless more. Every collection of small streams that feeds into a river compose their own watershed can be regarded as their own sub-watersheds.

Thankfully, this is not a new idea. There already are watershed-centric organizations, like the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, which is composed of many smaller, more local groups. The challenge comes from the fact that many of these organized are volunteer-driven advocacy groups, with no direct connection to governments, limiting their abilities.

Imagine if we drew borders around watersheds instead of along arbitrary borders or down the middle of, than we could ensure that all communities in the watershed have contiguous rules around keeping waterways clean.

Not only that, but changing the way we think about resources— something to protect, instead of possess, something that cannot be bought and sold, but is shared among all.

American Water recently completed a \$63B merger with Essential Utilities, solidifying its position as the largest water company in the nation. Meanwhile, the U.S.’s water crises worsen, AI datacenters pose a new threat to water sovereignty, and droughts go longer and longer. So: do you know where your water comes from? Next time you have a chance, look it up; find out. How far is it? Who owns it? How does it get to you?

There’s a better way to do things. The current system is not sustainable, and when it all comes crashing down, we must be ready to build something anew from the ashes that is better than what precedes it. 🏠

IMAGINUM AUCTORES. CONT.

- Page 4: White, Benjamin. Fleuron. 1799. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_catalogue_of_a_valuable_collection_of_books;_consisting_of_several_libraries,_and_particularly_those_of_the_Rev_Fleuron_T072224-1.png
- Page 6: Saral Shots. "Box of flavours." 2024. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:அஞ்சறதை_பெட்டி.jpg
- Page 7: Unknown. Guidonian hand. 16th century. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:UCB_Music_Library_MS_1087.jpg
- Page 7: Walker, Dugald Stewart. "Three flying birds." 1920. *The Boy Who Knew What The Birds Said*. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Boy_Who_Knew_What_The_Birds_Said_-_Three_flying_birds.png
- Page 8: Holtzbecker, Hans-Simon. "*Tagetes erecta* and *tagetes patula*." *Gottofer Codex*. 1649–1659. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gc31_tagetes_erecta_and_patula.jpg
- Page 8: Sanchez B, Ricardo. "Día de los Muertos dance." 2016. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wiki_Loves_Folklore_2024_-_DIA_DE_MUERTOS.jpg
- Page 8: Vázquez, Zus. "Alfeñiques 08." 2024. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alfeñiques_08.jpg



Get
Learnt

-by mighty_
chondria

Will return next week!

Keep studying for
your midterms in the
meantime. Avoid
round two of the
campus plague.

—G.S.

Ask Susan ♥



585 585 585 585 585 585 585 585 585

Dear Susan,

Am I a homosexual? Please help me.

-Harry "Might Be A Homosexual" Himguy

Dear Harry,

Call me and we'll find out: 609-480-9284. Revealing new sexualities is my expertise. 🏠

-Susan

Sexuality crisis?

Ask Susan!

GDT's extremely serious,
weekly(-ish) advice column.



Have writing? Art?

SUBMIT! To:

graciesdinnertime
theatre@gmail.com



Cover Letter

-by Rock Goblin

*E*ver wonder what a cover letter should look like? Ever wonder what a cover letter *shouldn't* look like? Here's an example:

Howdy,

I'll be brief. You need someone to work for you, and I need a job. I won't insult my integrity, or your intelligence by saying that I love serving people and will leave everyone with 'a little more light in their day'. But, I will say this;

- 1, If you employ me I will show up on time,
- 2, I won't steal,
- 3, I won't yell at anyone, and
- 4, I'm somewhat efficient

I have a brother in middle school, so negotiating with people who have ridiculous demands is one of my strengths.

Please hire me.

(Generic sign-off)

Rock Goblin

Have fun finding (or not) employment! 🏠

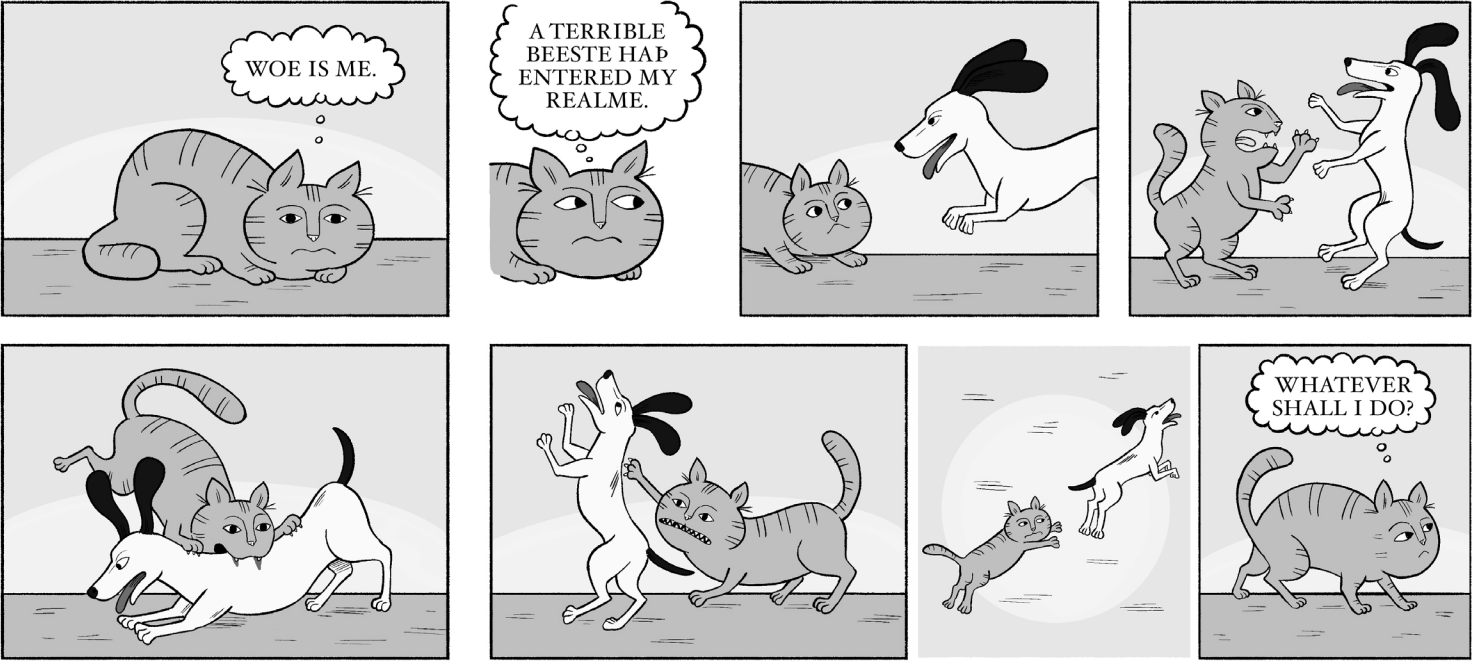
Comic Corner

Comic by Sam Owen

-curated by G.S.

dsoart.com • IG: @dsosartdotcom

GARFFELD



D5OART.COM

Comic by Lid Thom

www.artbylid.com • IG: @artbylid



GDT's Spice Rub Recipe

-from the kitchen of Titty Cocker

Servings: man IDK whatever the fuck | Prep Time: ?



Ingredients

Tunnel asbestos
1 crushed Estradiol pill
2 tsp onion powder
Old Bay, because I WILL DIE FOR MY COUNTRY MARYLAND!!!!
Ground ground
3g Ritchie's dandruff
Gracies Dinnertime Theatre 14pt text
Something purple
Grab one of the spices from Gracie's; y'know the spices they put out? One of those.
Horse semen

The "best food in campus"[®]
Dust from the surface of a desert wasteland
30" shark genitals, pulverized
LAXATIVES (AKA organ lube)
2 cups sugar
5lb rock salt
Werewolf cum
Titty Cocker pinup poster
Dust of the elderly
A head-full of dandruff
50lb of my unresolved emotional disregulation issues

Preparation

Mix that shit together and rub it on some schmeat.

P.H. Express, self-described.

AFFORDABLE AD SPACE AVAILABLE: INQUIRE TODAY

For less than the cost of most vending machine snacks, and definitely less than an actual meal on campus, **you** can advertise in *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*. Prices increase with ad size from an eighth page to a two page (full spread) advertisement. Run your ad for one week or several.

Promote your club event, non-club event, show, local business, personal project, desperate love life, and more in our signature greyscale.

Email
graciesdinnertimetheatre@gmail.com

GDT is not sponsored or approved by any university.



"Best Food in Campus"

I cooked this "soup" in Microsoft Excel.
Good food is waiting for you!



See your Travel Agent or
AMERICAN EXPORT LINES
39 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y.

INDEPENDENCE ★ CONSTITUTION to Gibraltar • Cannes • Genoa • Naples
EXCALIBUR • EXCAMBION • EXOCHORDA • EXETER to Barcelona • Marseilles • Naples • Alexandria • Beirut • Iskenderun • Latakia • Piraeus • Leghorn • Genoa



Hand of the Author

-by Ada H. Ominam

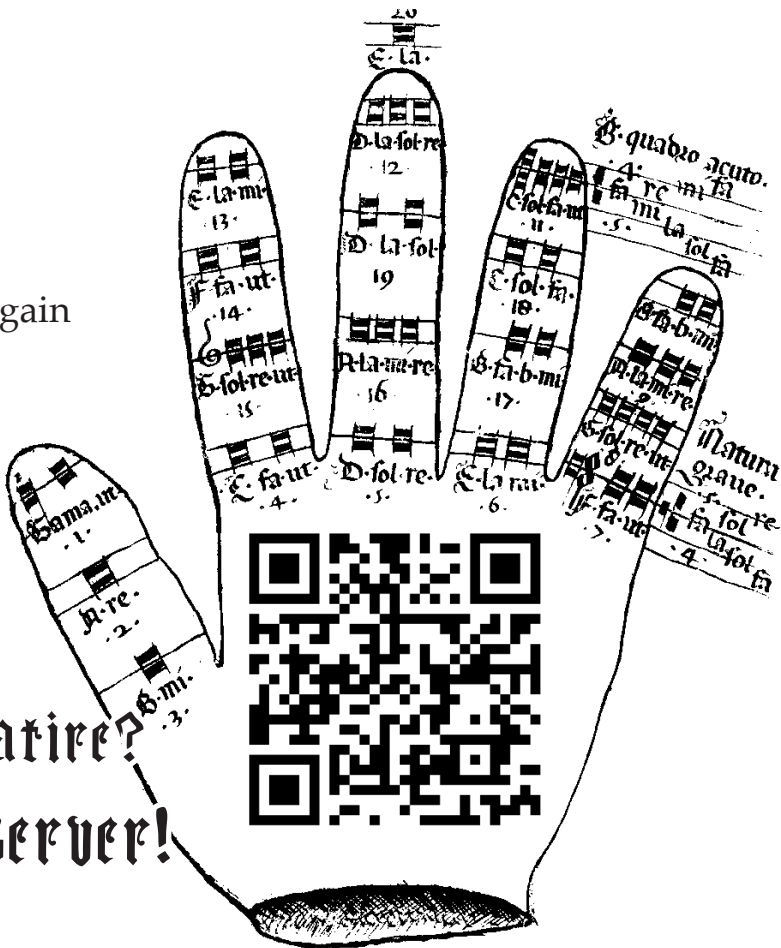
Somewhere between eggshell and cream are the teeth
snapping off the ends of tightly folded keratin sheets
formerly geometric, now warped, tugged down into ravines
dug out of skin by a rotten, frayed swelling— turning soft and smooth sheen
to serrated tooth-torn fringe, thin tassels flapping about as they dry and crack,
ribbons of flesh rising like weeds from an ever-rising pink soil, inviting the
mouth to react
with panic, manically gnashing and tearing as the roots clutch the earth, tearing
her asunder
as they're drawn out, each dripping with groundwater
thick and dark as the garden's very chest
flinches, sharp enough to put the mouth to rest.

.....

So Beautiful, So Terrifying

-by Brian E. Barrett

These days, we are far more open with our emotions.
Now everyone is saying 'I love you' constantly..
embracing, affirming, supporting.
When they say goodbye to friends,
family, co-workers..
teachers, classmates..
wait staff..
it's as if they will never see each other again



Like weekly poetry and satire?
Join GDT's Discord server!

The Return of GDT's
**DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
Story Contest**

1st Place: \$150

2nd Place: \$50

**Submission Deadline:
October 21st, 2026**

How to submit:

- 1) Save your work as a .docx or .rtf file.
- 2) Name your document with your last name as the file name (psuedonyms accepted).
- 3) Give us information to contact you.
- 4) Fill out the google form using the QR code to submit your work.

Top submissions will be published in a special late-autumn issue.

All submissions remain the intellectual property of the author. Stories must be fall- or spooky-themed. Limit of 7,500 words (long-form) or 15 pages (for poetry). No AI.



Or go to forms.gle/68AN5hG3Z3g8e4BY9

WRITE WORDS! WIN PRIZES!



Find Me — Grab Me — Claim Me — I'm Always Free

