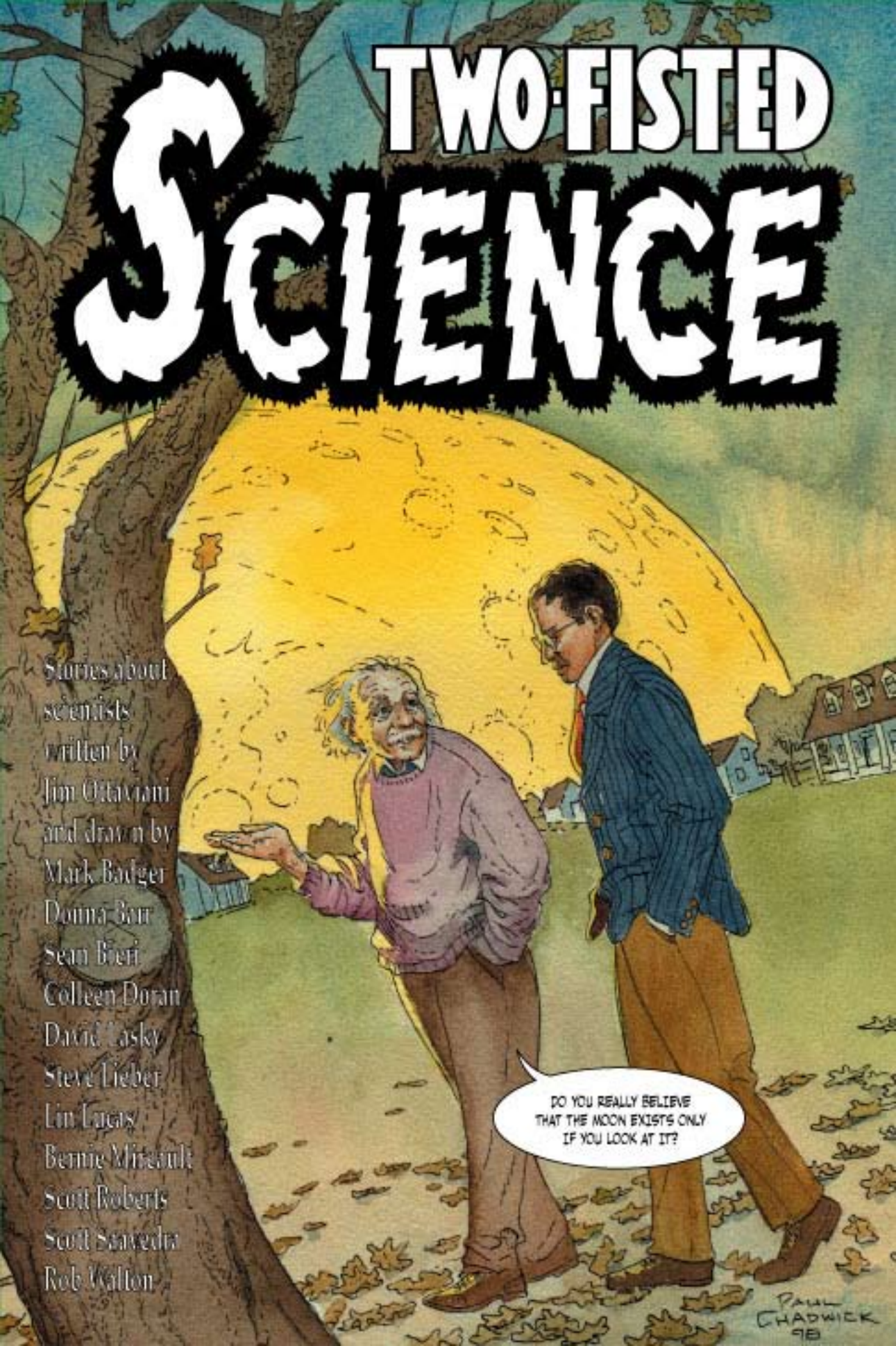


# TWO-FISTED SCIENCE

Stories about  
scientists  
written by  
Jim Ottaviani  
and drawn by  
Mark Badger,  
Donna Barr,  
Sean Bieri,  
Colleen Doran,  
David Fasky,  
Steve Lieber,  
Lin Lucas,  
Bernie Mircault,  
Scott Roberts,  
Scott Savvedra,  
Rob Walton.



DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE  
THAT THE MOON EXISTS ONLY  
IF YOU LOOK AT IT?

PAUL  
CHADWICK  
98

# TWO-FISTED SCIENCE

G.T. LABS



## TWO-FISTED SCIENCE

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All stories ©1996, 1997, 2001 Jim Ottaviani. Artwork ©1996, 1997, 2001 Mark Badger, Donna Barr, Sean Bieri, Paul Chadwick, Gene Colan, Guy Davis, Colleen Doran, David Lasky, Steve Lieber, Lin Lucas, Bernie Mireault, Scott Roberts, Scott Saavedra, and Rob Walton.

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## SCIENCE FICTION

Though this is fictionalized science, it's not science fiction.  
We've imagined some of the details, but the characters existed,  
and did and said (most of) the things you'll read.

The first edition of *Two-Fisted Science* was published with the generous assistance of the Xeric Foundation. Thanks also to Ralph Leighton, Tom Van Sant, and Danny Hillis for granting permission to adapt their Feynman stories, and to Carl and Michelle Feynman for their feedback and support. Gemstone Publishing reprints similarly named 1950s EC comics which you can find at your local comic book store or via their website at [www.gemstonepub.com](http://www.gemstonepub.com). Though I like *Two-Fisted Tales*, *Weird Science*, *Weird Fantasy*, and *Frontline Combat* best, every title features art and storytelling lessons masquerading as entertaining comics. No portion of this book may be reproduced by any means, except for purposes of review, without the express written consent of G.T. Labs.

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# CONTENTS

## prologue

A Night Before, by Donna Barr	7
-------------------------------	---

## TWO-FISTED

Full Circle, by Scott Roberts	11
Shoulders of Giants, by Sean Bieri	19
A Very Good Scheme, by Bernie Mireault	25
Notes and References	36

## FEYNMAN

Feynman Lectures on Physics, by Rob Walton	41
Arline, by David Lasky	45
Eiher You Open It or You Don't, by Bernie Mireault	63
CERN, by Mark Badger	69
Notes and References	75
Most of the Good Stuff, by Scott Saavedra	77

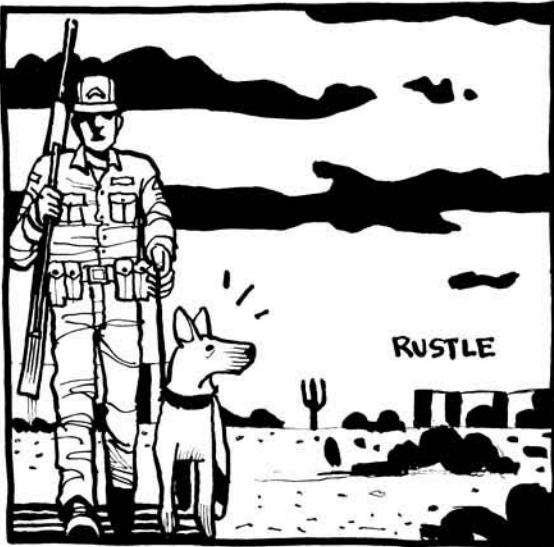
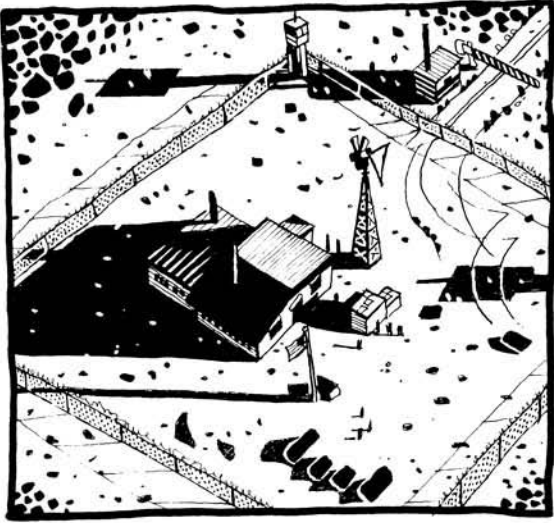
## SCIENCE

Russell Lectures on Cosmology, by Colleen Doran	83
Tickling the Dragon's Tail, by Bernie Mireault	84
Moscow: Lab No. 2, by Lin Lucas	97
Heavy Water, by Steve Lieber	101
Notes and References	120

## epilogue

The Night After, by Donna Barr	125
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PROLOGUE: 1944, NEAR LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO.

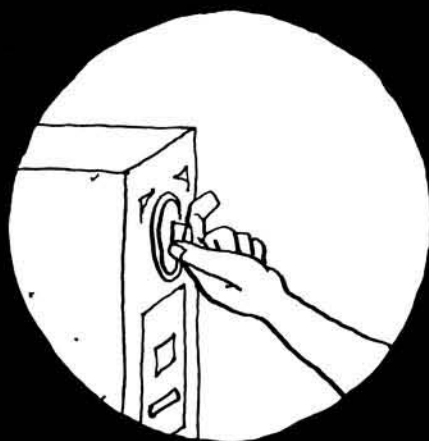




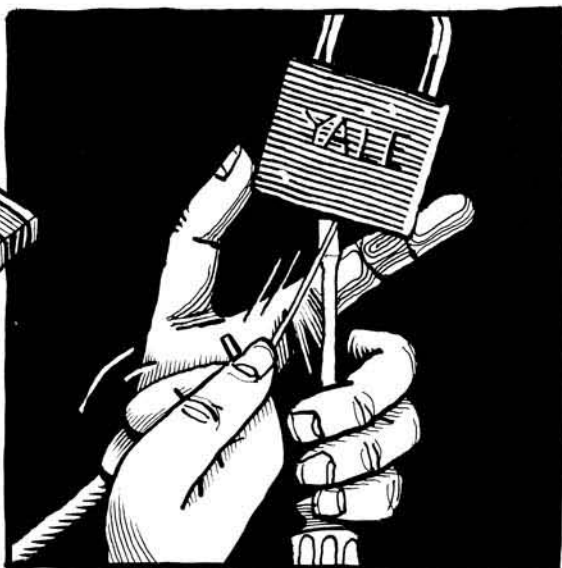


# SAFECRACKER

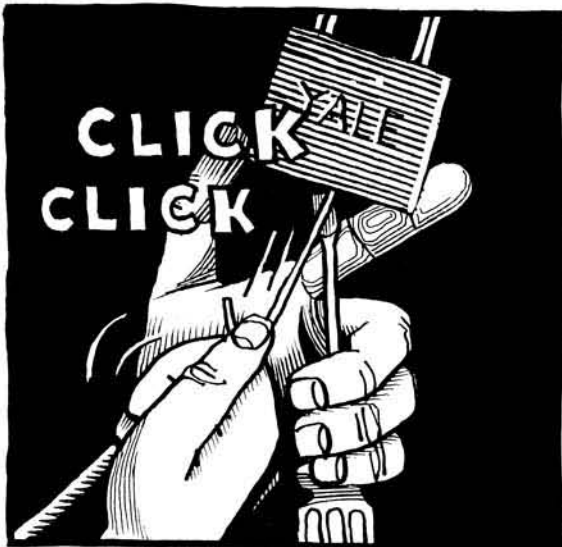
PART ONE:  
A VERY GOOD SCHEME.



LEO LAVATELLI TAUGHT ME  
HOW TO PICK LOCKS.



CLICK  
CLICK



SOMETIMES YOU SLIP,  
AND HAVE TO START OVER  
AGAIN.



CLICK  
CLICK



IT'S LIKE SISYPHUS: YOU'RE ALWAYS FALLING DOWN HILL.



IT'S A SIMPLE PROCESS, BUT PRACTICE HELPS A LOT.



PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOCKING THEMSELVES INTO THINGS, BUT IT'S NOT VERY HARD TO PICK THEM.



FOR EXAMPLE AT LOS ALAMOS IN THE '40's...

WHEN WE STARTED WORKING ON THE ATOMIC BOMB, EVERYTHING WAS IN A HURRY.



NOTHING WAS REALLY READY.

INCLUDING THE FILE CABINETS. EVERYTHING ABOUT THE ATOMIC BOMB WAS IN 'EM, AND THEY WERE EASY AS PIE TO OPEN.

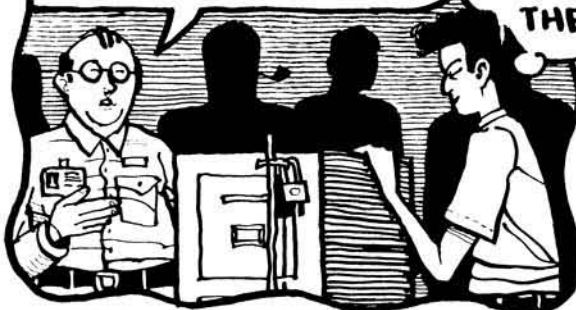


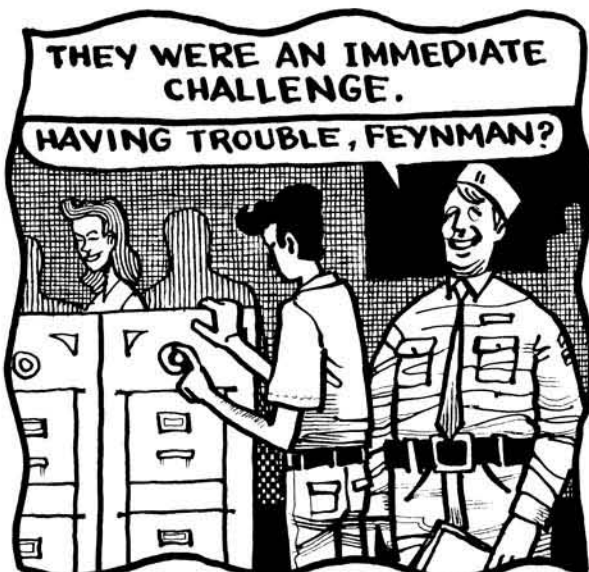
LOS ALAMOS WAS A COOPERATIVE PLACE...WE ALL HAD THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE EACH OTHER AND THE SYSTEM, BECAUSE WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER.

YOU SAY THESE WERE UNSAFE ... CAN YOU OPEN THE CABINET NOW?

HERE'S A HOLE FOR THE SUPPORT ROD. WHAT IF I PUSH IT THROUGH FROM THE BACK?

THESE DON'T EVEN HAVE SOLID BOTTOMS!







I DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE,  
SO I BOUGHT SOME BOOKS  
BY SAFECRACKERS.



THEY WERE ALL THE SAME.

IN THE FIRST PART THEY TOLD  
STORIES OF THEIR FANTASTIC  
ACHIEVEMENTS.



IN THE SECOND PART, THEY  
TOLD YOU HOW.

NINNY-PINNY,  
DOPEY THINGS.

"LOTS OF PEOPLE  
LIKE TO USE DATES  
FOR COMBINATIONS."

"THE SECRETARY MIGHT WRITE  
IT DOWN IN ONE OF THE  
FOLLOWING PLACES..."

"THINK OF  
THE  
PSYCHOLOGY  
OF THE  
OWNER."

THEY COULDN'T HAVE OPENED  
SAFES AT ANY SPEED WITH  
THAT CRAP.



I WENT BACK TO MY OWN STUDIES.



I DISCOVERED THAT THE MECHANISM WASN'T PRECISE, SO YOU ONLY HAD TO BE NEAR EACH NUMBER.



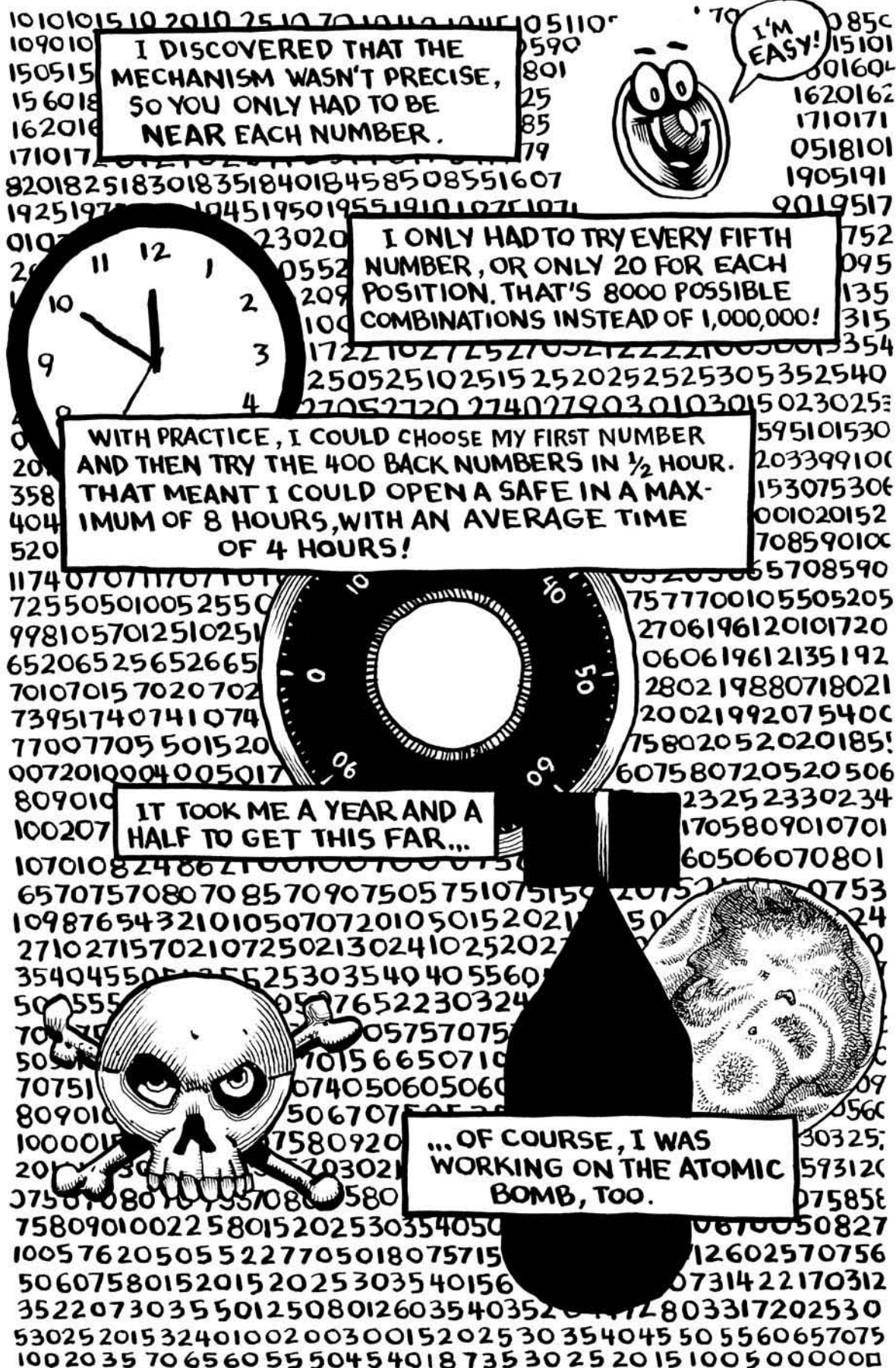
I'M EASY!

I ONLY HAD TO TRY EVERY FIFTH NUMBER, OR ONLY 20 FOR EACH POSITION. THAT'S 8000 POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS INSTEAD OF 1,000,000!

WITH PRACTICE, I COULD CHOOSE MY FIRST NUMBER AND THEN TRY THE 400 BACK NUMBERS IN  $\frac{1}{2}$  HOUR. THAT MEANT I COULD OPEN A SAFE IN A MAXIMUM OF 8 HOURS, WITH AN AVERAGE TIME OF 4 HOURS!

IT TOOK ME A YEAR AND A HALF TO GET THIS FAR...

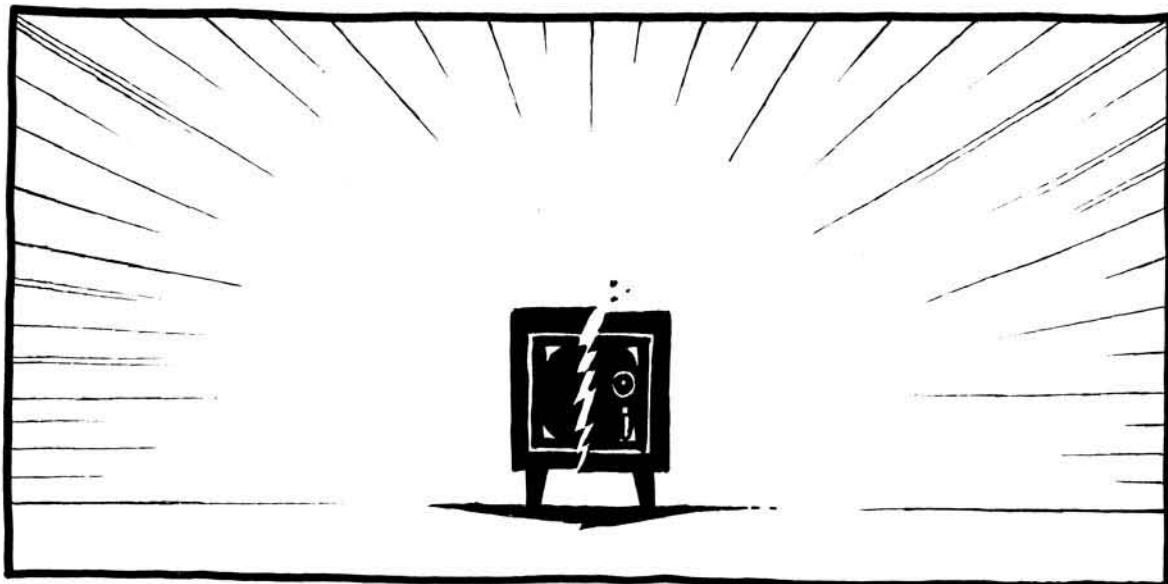
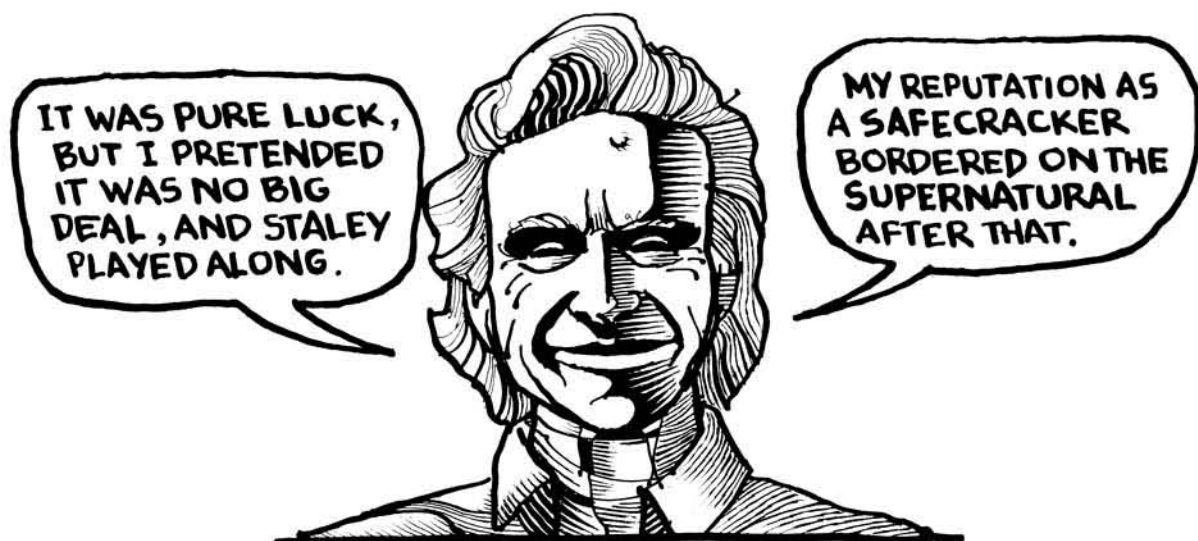
...OF COURSE, I WAS WORKING ON THE ATOMIC BOMB, TOO.











CONTINUED...