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things are meaning less

Examine the meaning of life with Al Burian's new book

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Best known for his widely-popular zine *Burn Collector* and his rock band *Milemarker*, Al Burian's self-published comics have received comparatively little recognition until his recently-published book *Things are Meaning Less*. A collection of comics, drawings and handwritten text, *Things are Meaning Less* compiles autobiographical mini-comics Al self-published in the mid to late 1990s.

Things are Meaning Less doesn't so much resemble a comic anthology as much as a cohesive handwritten account of Al's musings on life's little intricacies and meaning. The comic follows Al's mental processes of growing up from his days in Portland, moving to Providence, and ends with a walking tour of his hometown in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Full of cynicism, black humor and an ability for personal storytelling, *Things are Meaning Less* draws comparisons to other autobiographical comix by artists such as Robert Crumb and Dan Clowes, with a first-hand look into the psyche of growing up as a punk rock outsider.

The book is entirely handwritten and illustrated, with a minimal visual aesthetic that complements Burian's bleak and off-handed view on life. Al Burian currently resides in Chicago, where he continues to self-publish zines and comics and perform with *Milemarker*.

"Reading these after already being familiar with Al's writing is a treat, as it adds a whole new (visual) dimension to Al's obsessive self-examination and his ruminations on the people he interacts with and the places he finds himself in. Fans of Burn Collector should enjoy this book, as will most folks with a penchant for autobiographical comix." - Newpages

"Much like Burn Collector, this new work from Burian takes the most mundane, every day occurrences in his life and creates something more broadly important. His ability to make thought provoking points within in the most trivial of stories still blows my mind. Do yourself a favor and get this, as well as any issues of Burn Collector you can find." - Sparkplug

"In an age where so much emphasis is placed on the happenings of celebrities, politicians, and other marketable characters [sic], it is refreshing to take a step back and enjoy a straightforward, honest approach to the insanity of modern times. Now, when I say that Burian's stories or agenda (or lack thereof) are minimal, I mean it. You get a taste of the mundane, including sleeping late, getting coffee, staring out the window, and eating. Somehow, the quirky black and white artwork of this graphic novel accompanied by the kind of storytelling overheard at the local coffee shop is utterly addicting. An indie version of Seinfeld in print. It's a story about nothing and as you read along, you learn pretty much everything." - Wonkavision #29



Product Details:

ISBN 0-9726967-3-3
Category: graphic novel / comics / memori / philosophy
Format: paperback, 156 pages, 5.5x8.5", illustrated
5,000 copies sold!

Comparative Titles:

Ghost World: Daniel Clowes, Fantagraphics Books 2001, 80 pages, ISBN 1560974273, List: \$12
Monkey vs. Robot: James Kochalka, Top Shelf Comics 2000, 144 pages, ISBN 1891830155, List: \$10
Clumsy: Jeffrey Brown, Top Shelf Comics 2003, 232 pages, ISBN 0971-3597-68, List: \$10
Goodbye, Chunky Rice: Craig Thompson, Top Shelf Comics 2003, 128 pages, ISBN 1-891830-09-0, List: \$12

Sales Handles:

- Author tours regularly around entire US and Europe with his bands *Milemarker* and *Challenger* selling his book.
- Interview in *Maximum Rock and Roll* (April 2004) talks about book/author.
- Author is regularly contributor to *Punk Planet* and *HeartattaCK* magazines.
- Author's first book *Burn Collector* is currently in its 5th printing.
- Author self published a fanzine for the last 7 years that is among the most famous in his genre and subculture.

Marketing Plans:

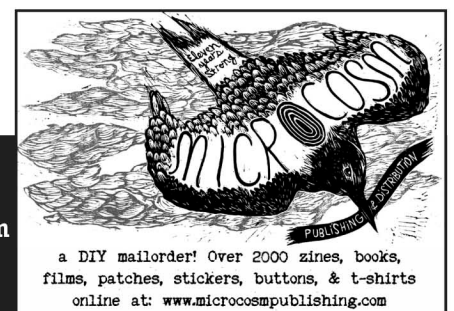
- Advertise regularly in *Punk Planet*, *Maximum Rock and Roll*, *Slug and Lettuce*, *Reader's Guide to the Underground Press*, and *HeartattaCK* magazines.
- 25,000 postcards distributed to stores with book featured on them.

Audience:

- Maladjusted, depressed teenagers and college aged people, punk rockers, and young literary types seeking meaning in life.



Al Burian



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