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SPECIAL EDITION
ALL AGES

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
May 3, 2025

PRESENTED BY CATA...

BRAD ON THE BUS

COMICS BY
LORA ROOT





WELCOME ABOARD

CATA

In 2018, *Brad on the Bus* was borne of vision, strategy and tactics – the nuts and bolts of any well-run transit system or social media campaign. Our objective was threefold: to humanize CATA's brand beyond big machines on wheels rolling down the corridors of the capital city; to artistically represent the diverse personalities and passions of CATA's workforce; and to introduce CATA's newly minted chief executive officer, **Bradley T. Funkhouser**, as the bus-loving transit nerd that he genuinely is.

"Viewing the world as a comic strip can soften the harsh realities that we and those we serve face every day," Funkhouser often says, sparking a whole series of hilarious *Brad on the Bus* episodes. Running a public transportation service and removing transportation barriers is serious business, after all. "It takes dedicated people with heart to meet the needs of the populations we serve, and it helps to find humor and silver linings in our daily lives."

Seven years and thousands of little blue Facebook thumbs later, the pages of this inaugural special issue features a handful of *Brad on the Bus* comic strips, bringing to life our leading man's cartoon world – complete with kabooms, ker-plops and thwacks. *Brad on the Bus* helps everyone prioritize humor, take life a little less seriously and appreciate more deeply the people we interact with every day.



WRITER/ARTIST: **Lora Root**

LAYOUT/DESIGN: **Devin Pauwels**

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: **Angelique DuPhene**

VISIONARY/PUBLISHER: **Lolo Robison**

MANAGING EDITOR: **Brandie Yates**

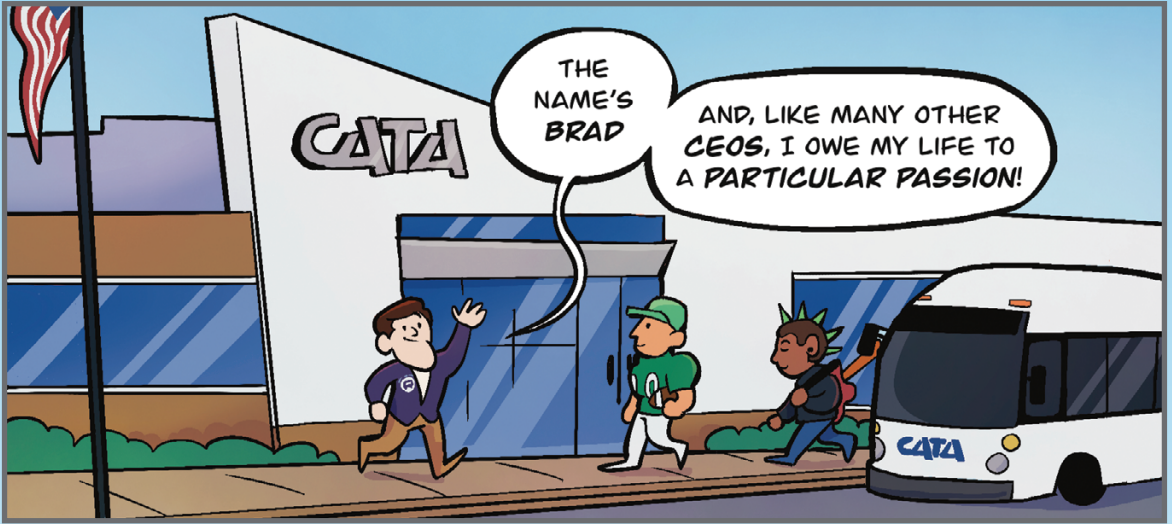
ARCHIVIST/CURATOR: **Christina Nickson**

SIDEKICK: **Sonya Barlow**

TECHNICAL ADVISER: **Hannah Kindree**

PRINTER: **BRD Printing**

DISTRIBUTORS: **Capital Area District Libraries**
Flashback Comics and Toys



THE NAME'S BRAD

AND, LIKE MANY OTHER CEOs, I OWE MY LIFE TO A PARTICULAR PASSION!



FOR SOME, IT'S SPORTS



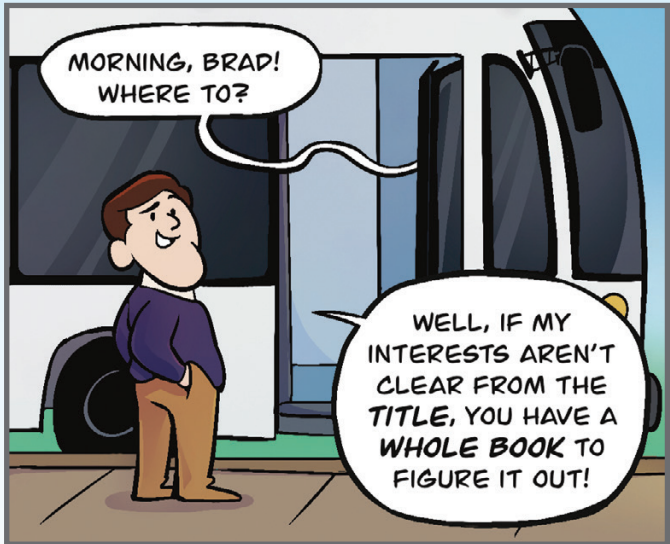
FOR OTHERS, ARTS AND CULTURE



FOR SOME, IT'S— WELL, IT'S...MORE OBSCURE!



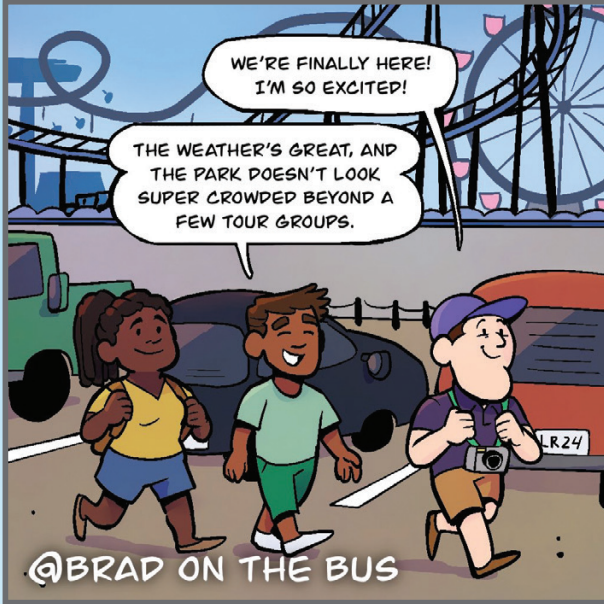
BUT FOR ME?



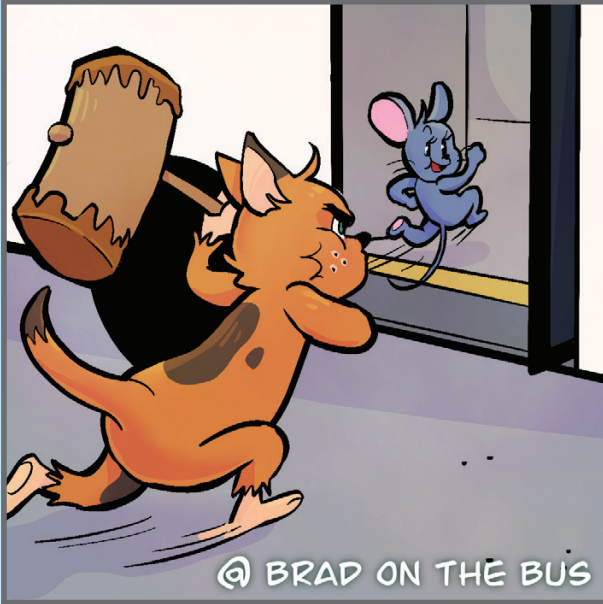
MORNING, BRAD! WHERE TO?

WELL, IF MY INTERESTS AREN'T CLEAR FROM THE TITLE, YOU HAVE A WHOLE BOOK TO FIGURE IT OUT!

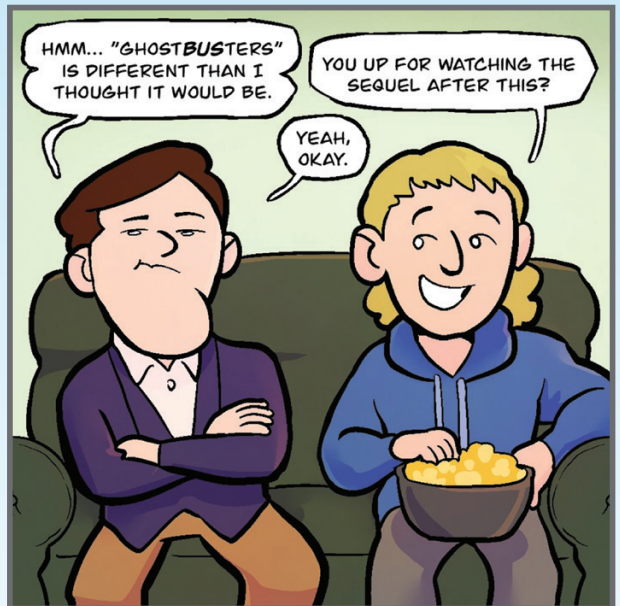
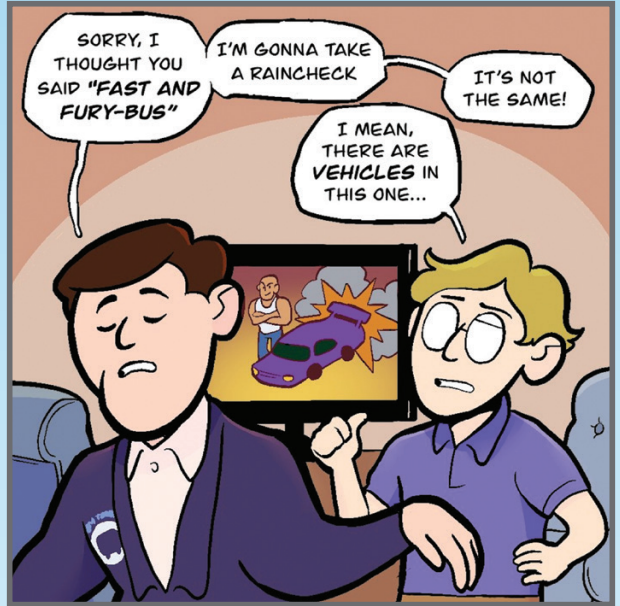
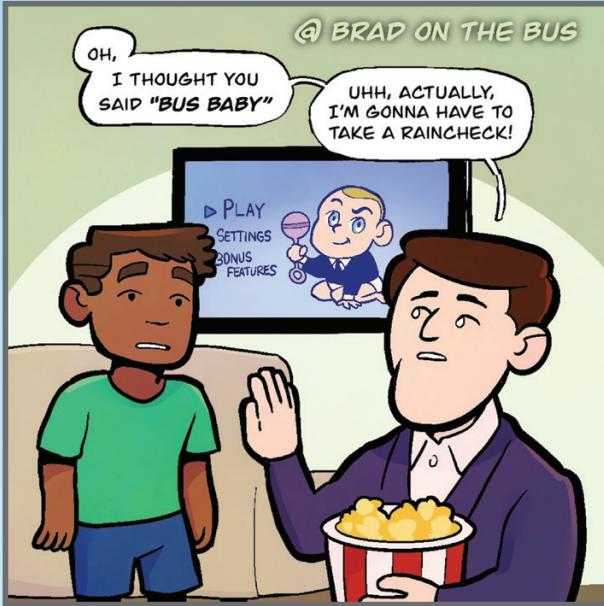
AMUSEMENT



CARTOON



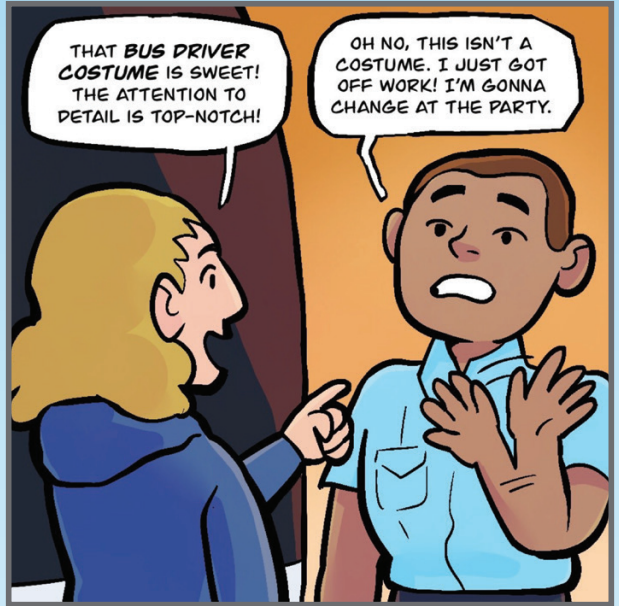
TITLES



DETECTIVE



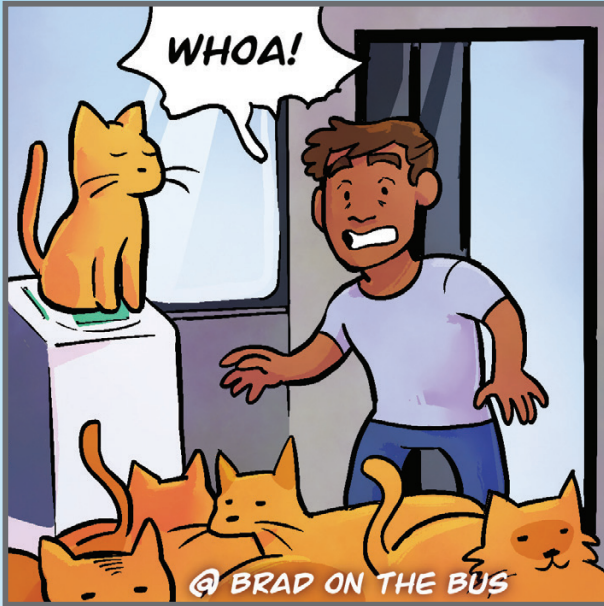
COSTUME



CONVENTION



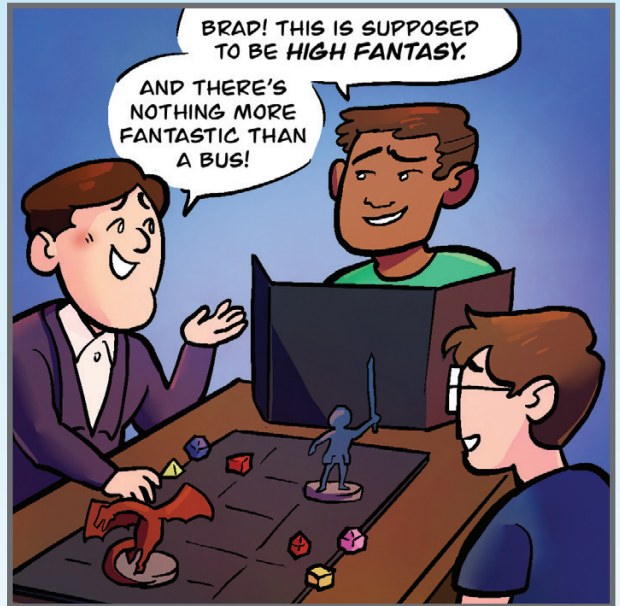
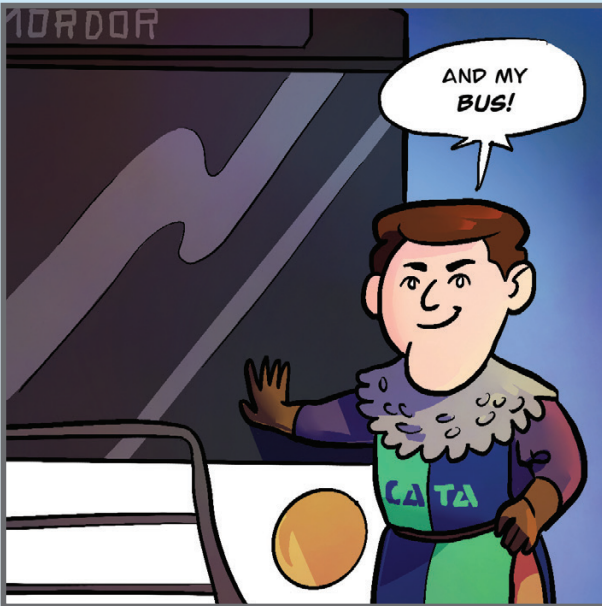
COMIC STRIP



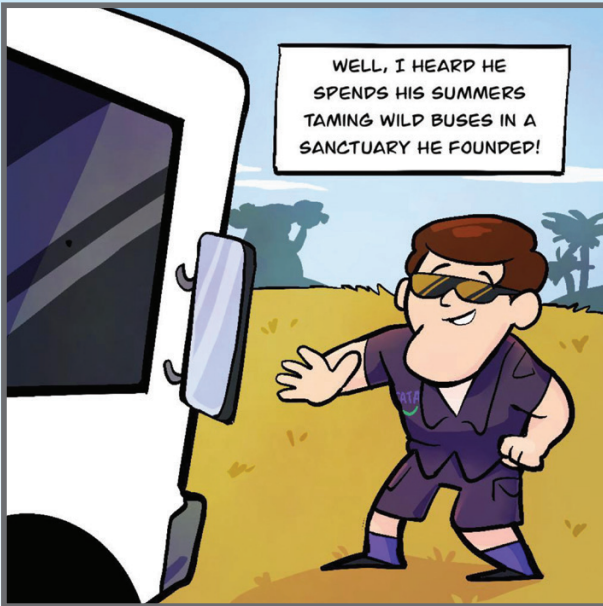
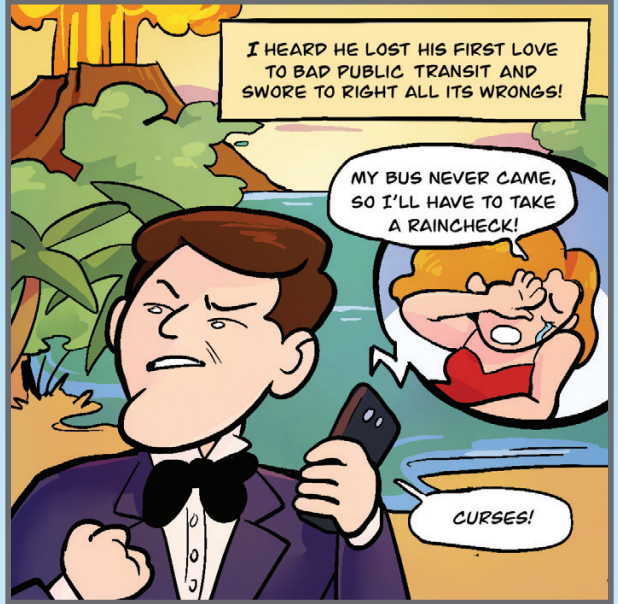
MOVIES



DND



RUMORS



LOOP



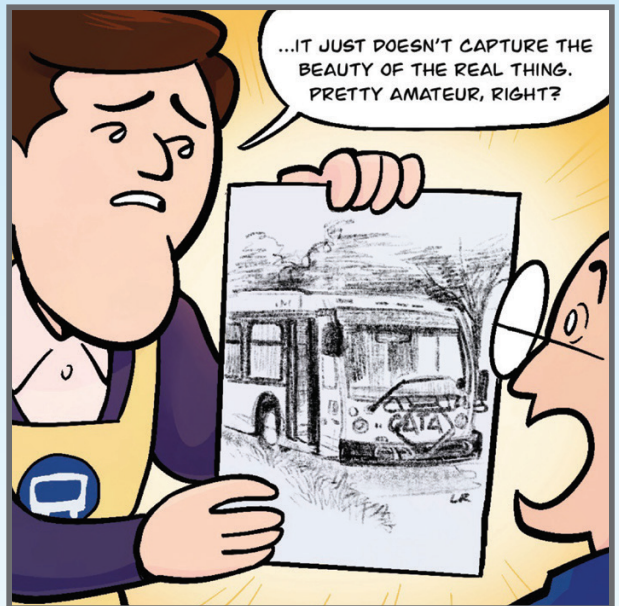
MUSE



I'M JUST NOT
SEEING MUCH
IMPROVEMENT.



I'VE TRIED,
BUT...

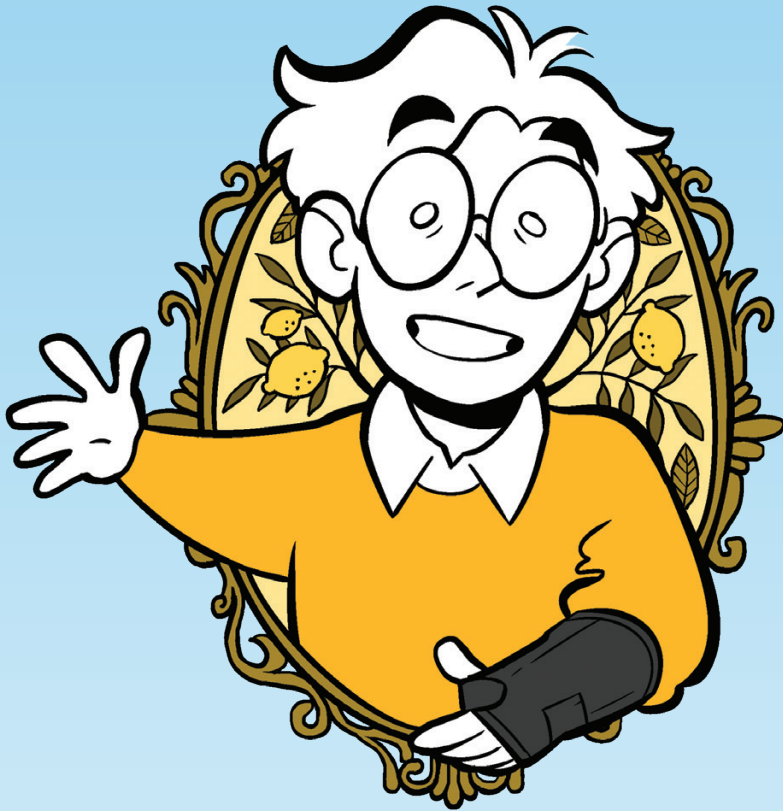




Next Stop:

COMING SOON...
BRAD ON THE BUS
ISSUE 2 ARRIVES
SEPTEMBER 2025!





ABOUT THE ARTIST

LORA ROOT is a midwestern comics person, graduate of Michigan State University and former student of the university's Comic Book and Graphic Novel Studies program. They have been writing and illustrating the *Brad on the Bus* comic series since their time as a student, and are responsible for many other published indie comic crimes such as *Hamlet is Okay* and their ongoing fantasy series, *Mercy Justice Peaches*. You can find them online everywhere under the Lemonbrows username, but for art and updates, your best bets are Bluesky, Tumblr and lemonbrows.com.



@BradontheBus

cata.org/BradontheBus