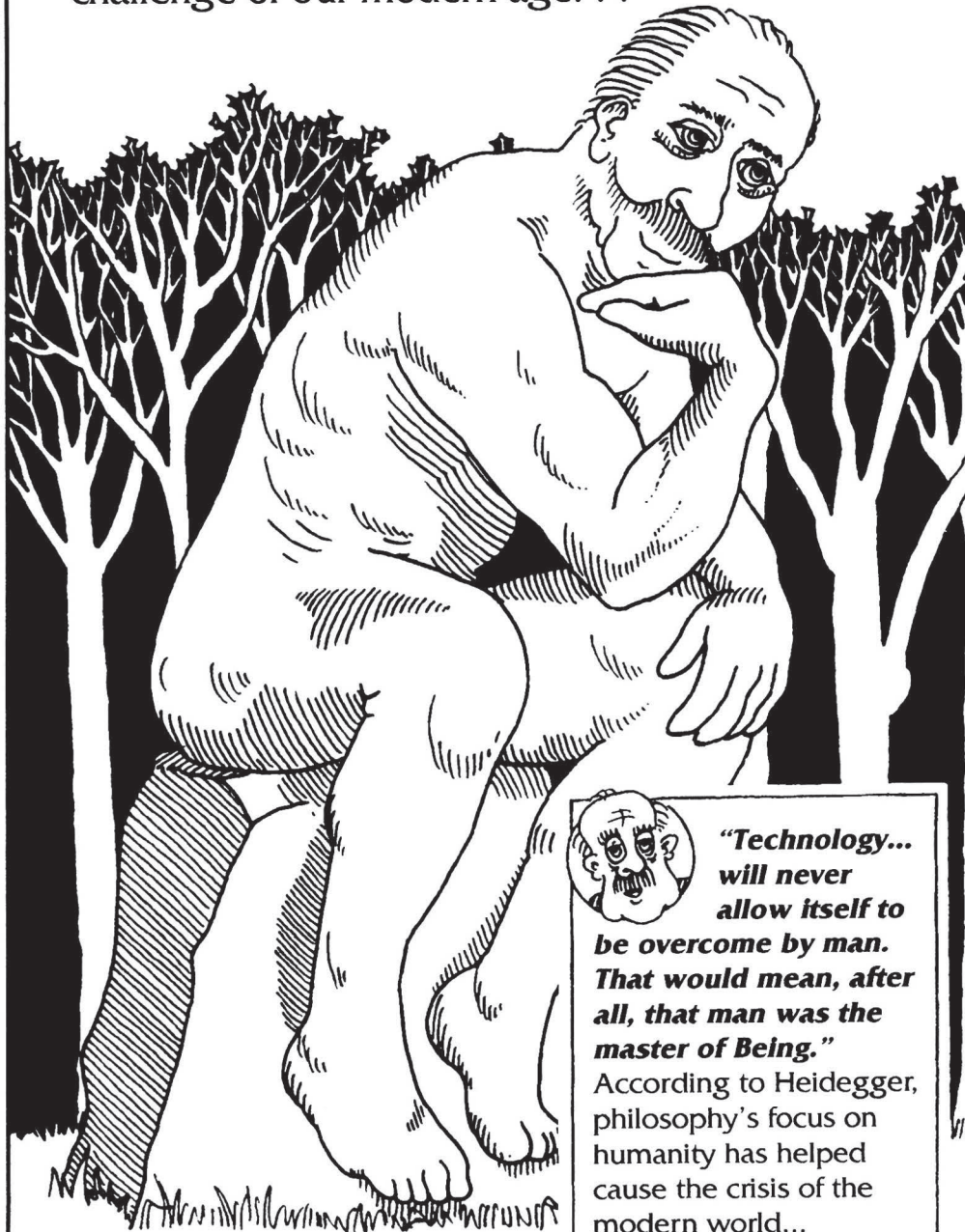


At a secluded cottage in Germany's Black Forest region, a thinker presents us with the challenge of our modern age. . .

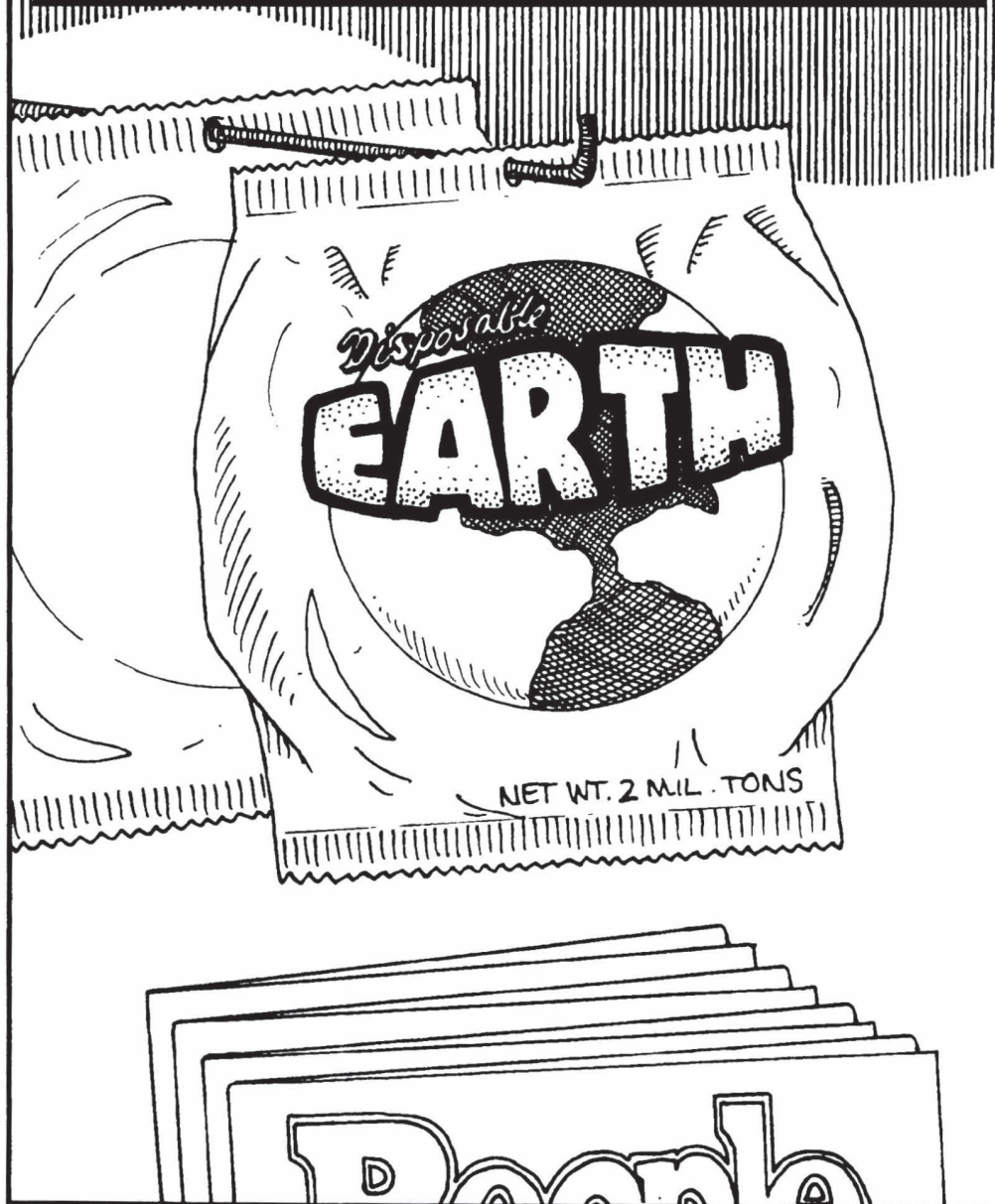


***“Technology...
will never
allow itself to
be overcome by man.
That would mean, after
all, that man was the
master of Being.”***

According to Heidegger,
philosophy's focus on
humanity has helped
cause the crisis of the
modern world...



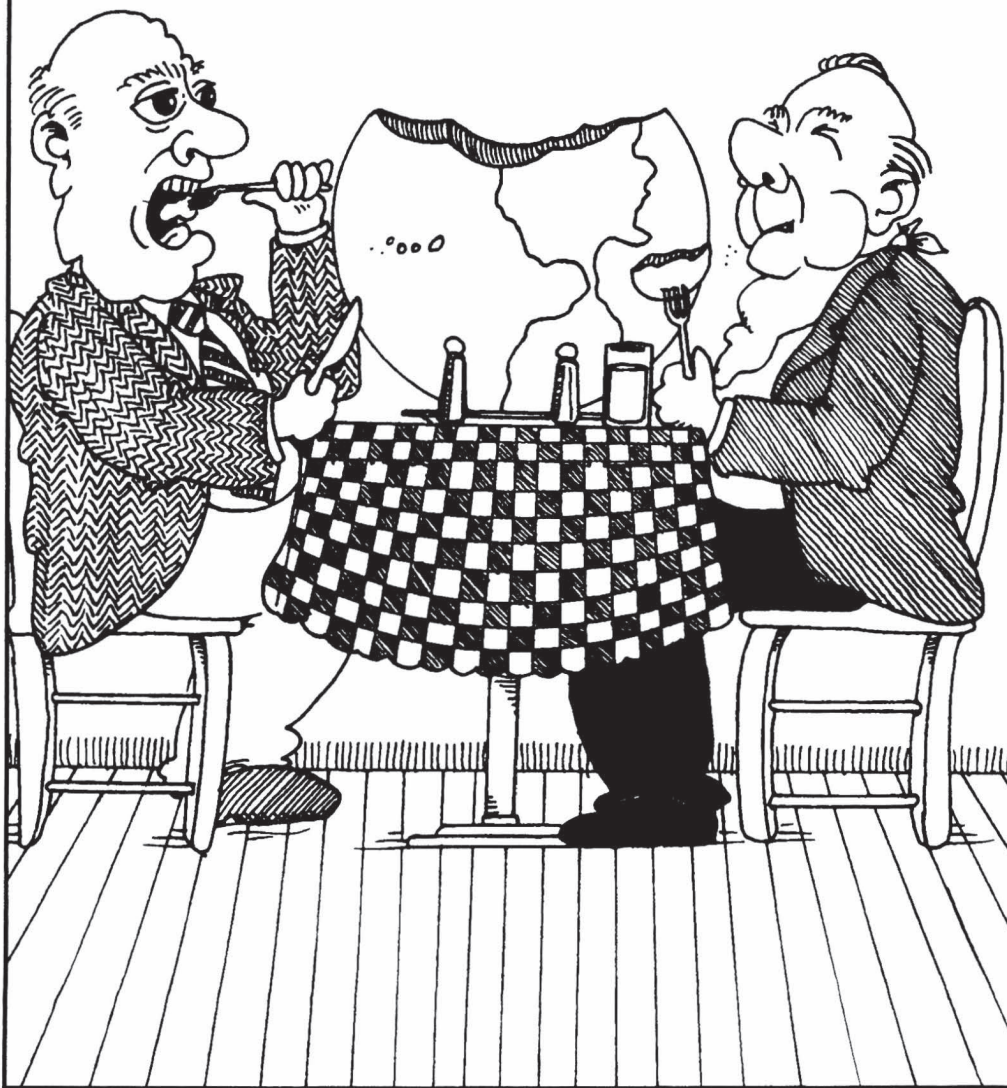
Rather than recognizing our place in the world, our status as one being among all other beings, we have turned the world into something that exists for and because of us. Through our arrogance, we have turned the earth into an expendable resource...



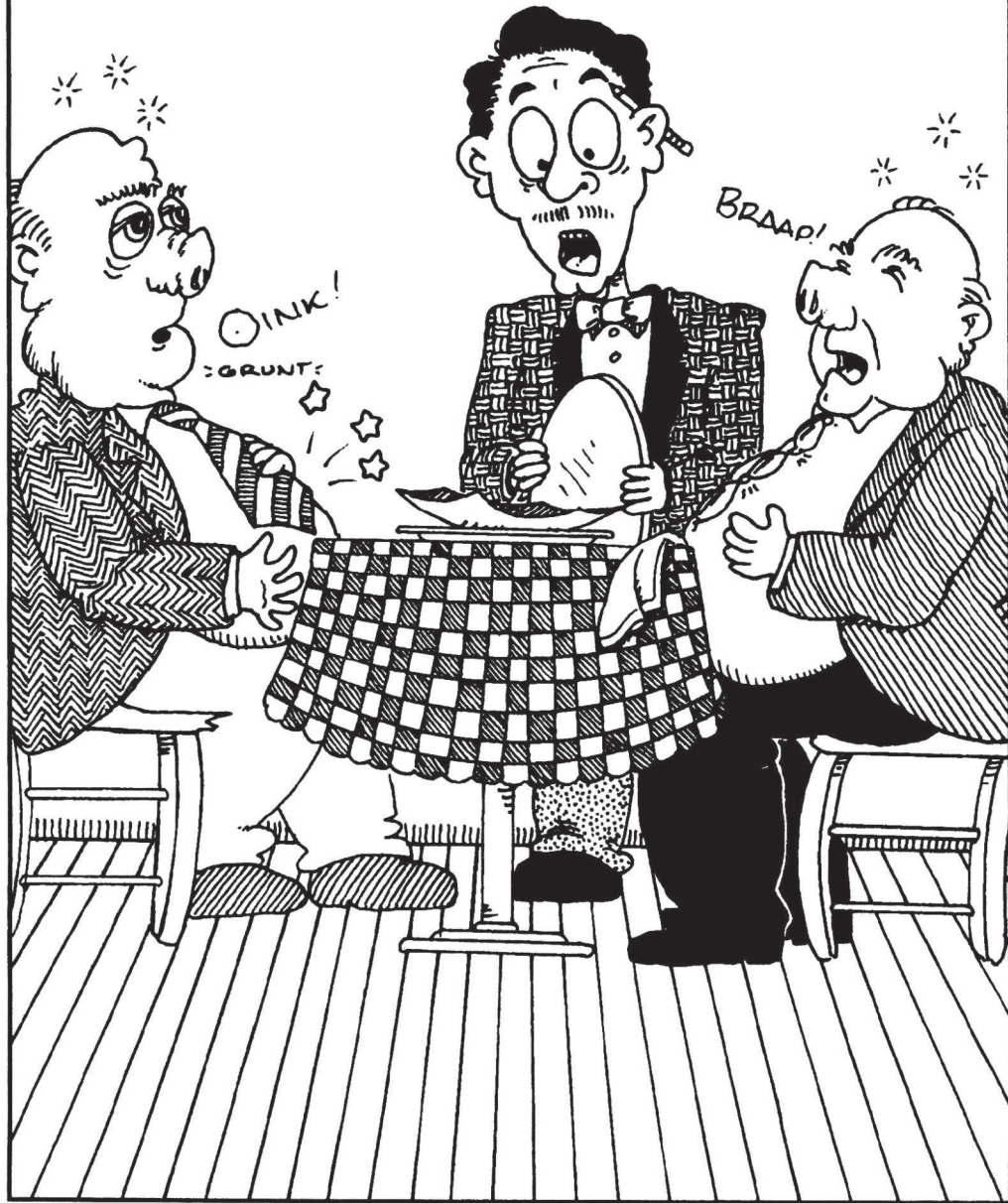
We treat the world and everything in it as something to be *consumed*...



“One type of being, the human being, believes that all of Being exists for it.”



The world and everything in it exists to be *used*—by *us*!
Why? Because we are human; because we give the
world its “frame of reference”; because we *think*.



Many of the world's atrocities can be traced back to the supposedly harmless philosophical belief that we human beings are *special*, that we somehow provide reference to the world, that we are what Descartes called "thinking things."



AM I S'POSED TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR THAT?



In order to understand the connection between human-centered philosophy, our technological world view, and Being, one must first understand Descartes' famous statement, "I think, therefore I am"... but, of course, one can't fully comprehend Descartes without foreknowledge of the ancient Greeks, which, in turn...

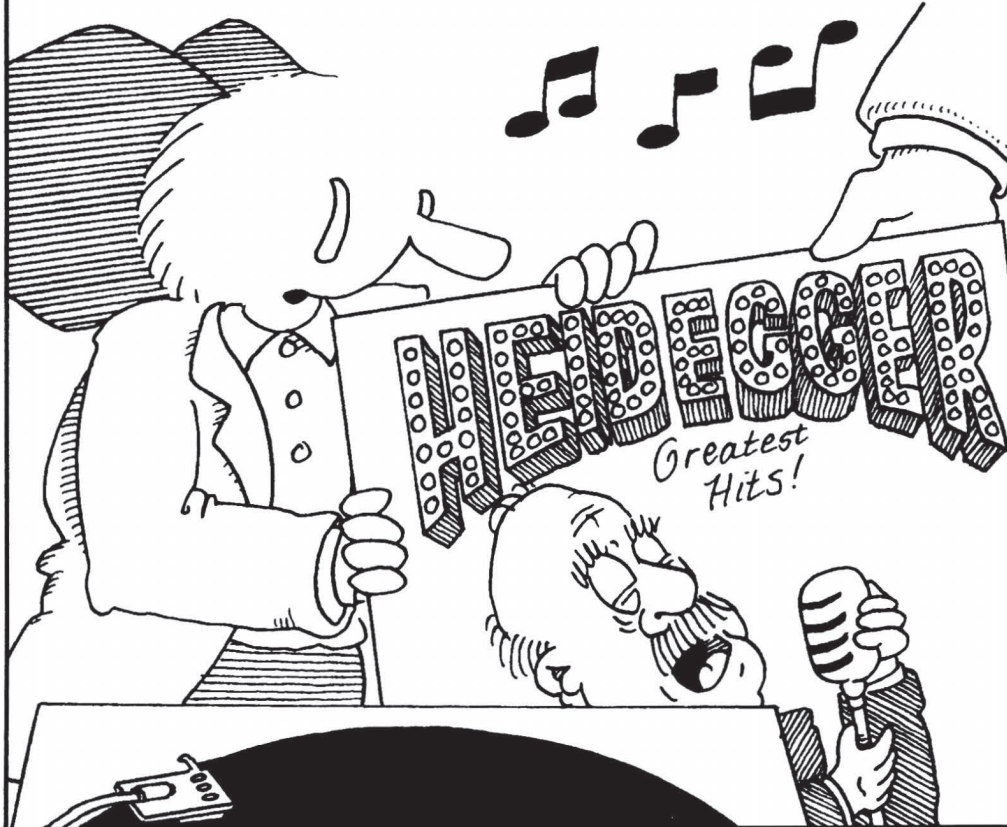


HOLD IT! THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PHILOSOPHY! NOW, GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

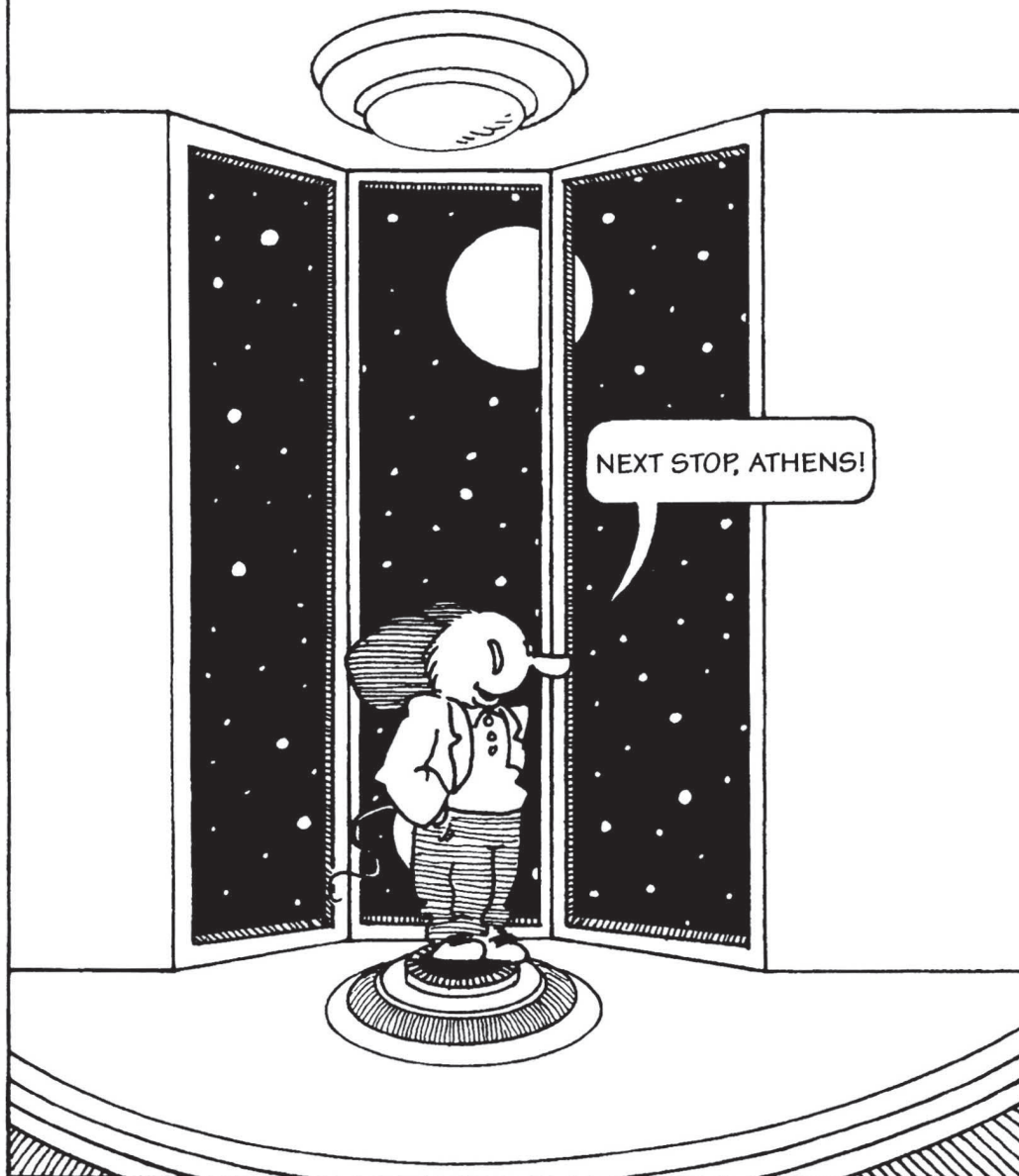


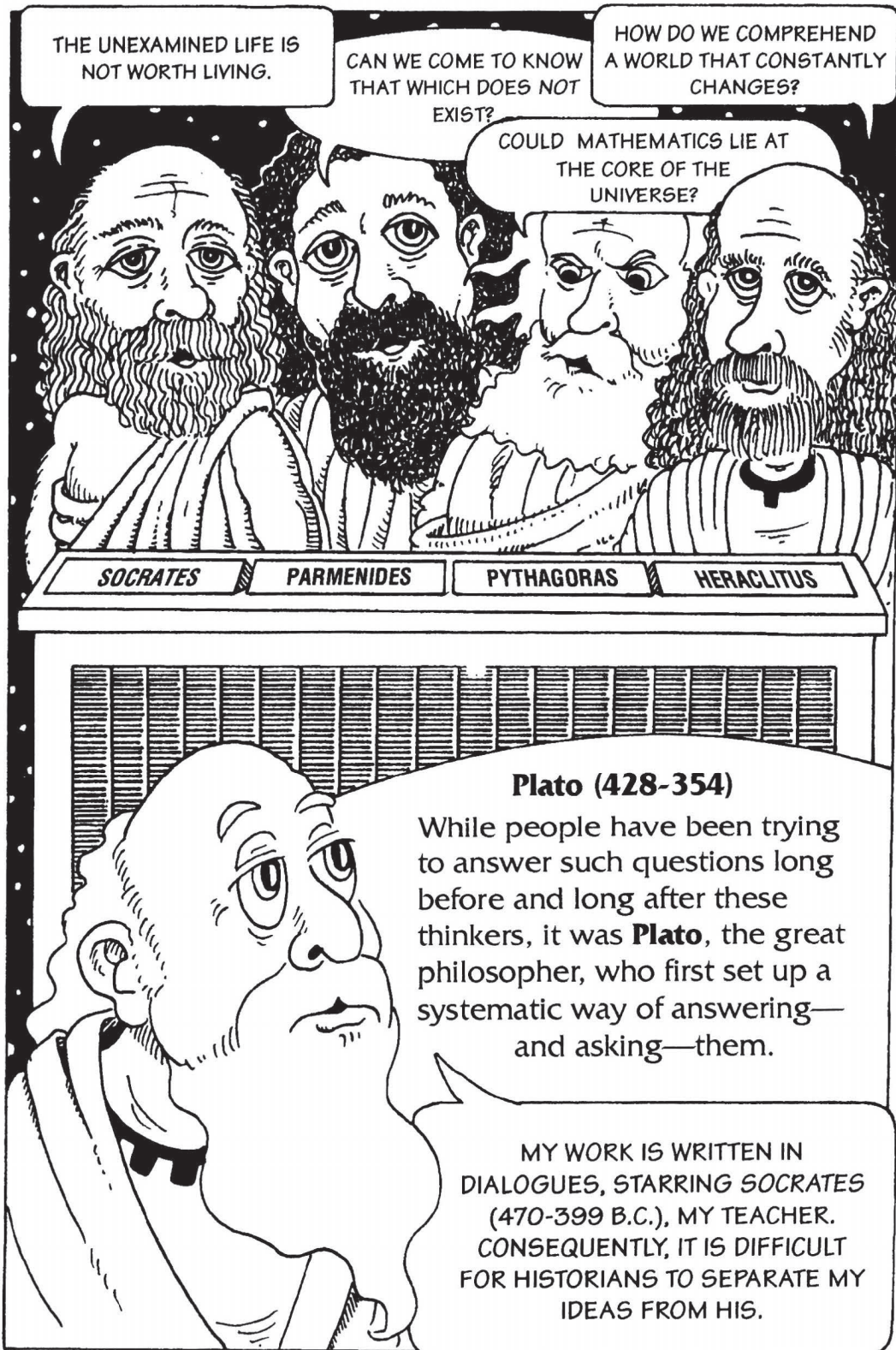
To get a clear picture of my ideas, it helps to understand the traditional Western philosophy from which they evolved...

O.K., BUT JUST GIVE ME THE GREATEST HITS!



For a clear understanding of Heidegger's philosophy, it is necessary to go back a few thousand years and familiarize ourselves with some of the ancient Greeks who started things off by asking a few nagging questions. . .





THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.

CAN WE COME TO KNOW THAT WHICH DOES NOT EXIST?

HOW DO WE COMPREHEND A WORLD THAT CONSTANTLY CHANGES?

COULD MATHEMATICS LIE AT THE CORE OF THE UNIVERSE?

SOCRATES

PARMENIDES

PYTHAGORAS

HERACLITUS

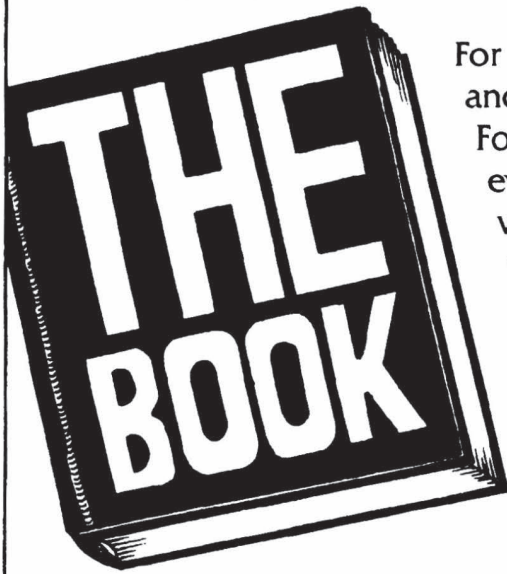
Plato (428-354)

While people have been trying to answer such questions long before and long after these thinkers, it was **Plato**, the great philosopher, who first set up a systematic way of answering—and asking—them.

MY WORK IS WRITTEN IN DIALOGUES, STARRING SOCRATES (470-399 B.C.), MY TEACHER. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR HISTORIANS TO SEPARATE MY IDEAS FROM HIS.

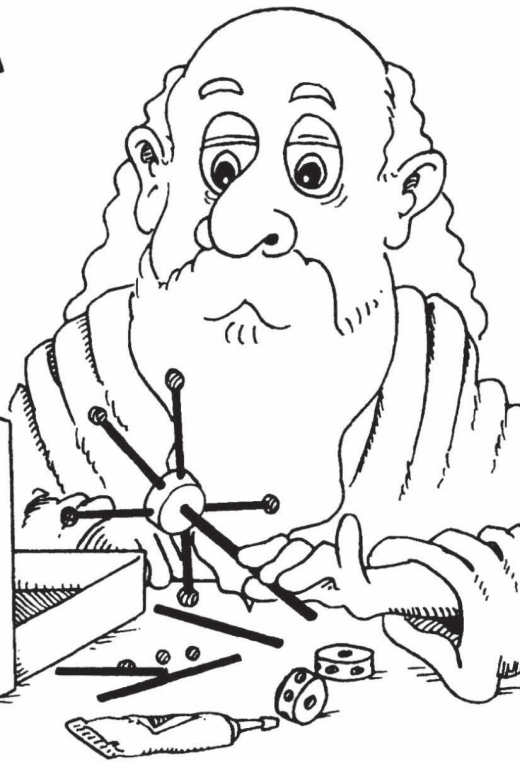


Plato came up with a **Theory of Ideas** to account for all of the various things in the universe. Everything that exists—books, horses, trees, etc.—derives its shape and meaning from its **Form**. Forms are the perfect, eternal *ideas* of things that everyday objects copy.



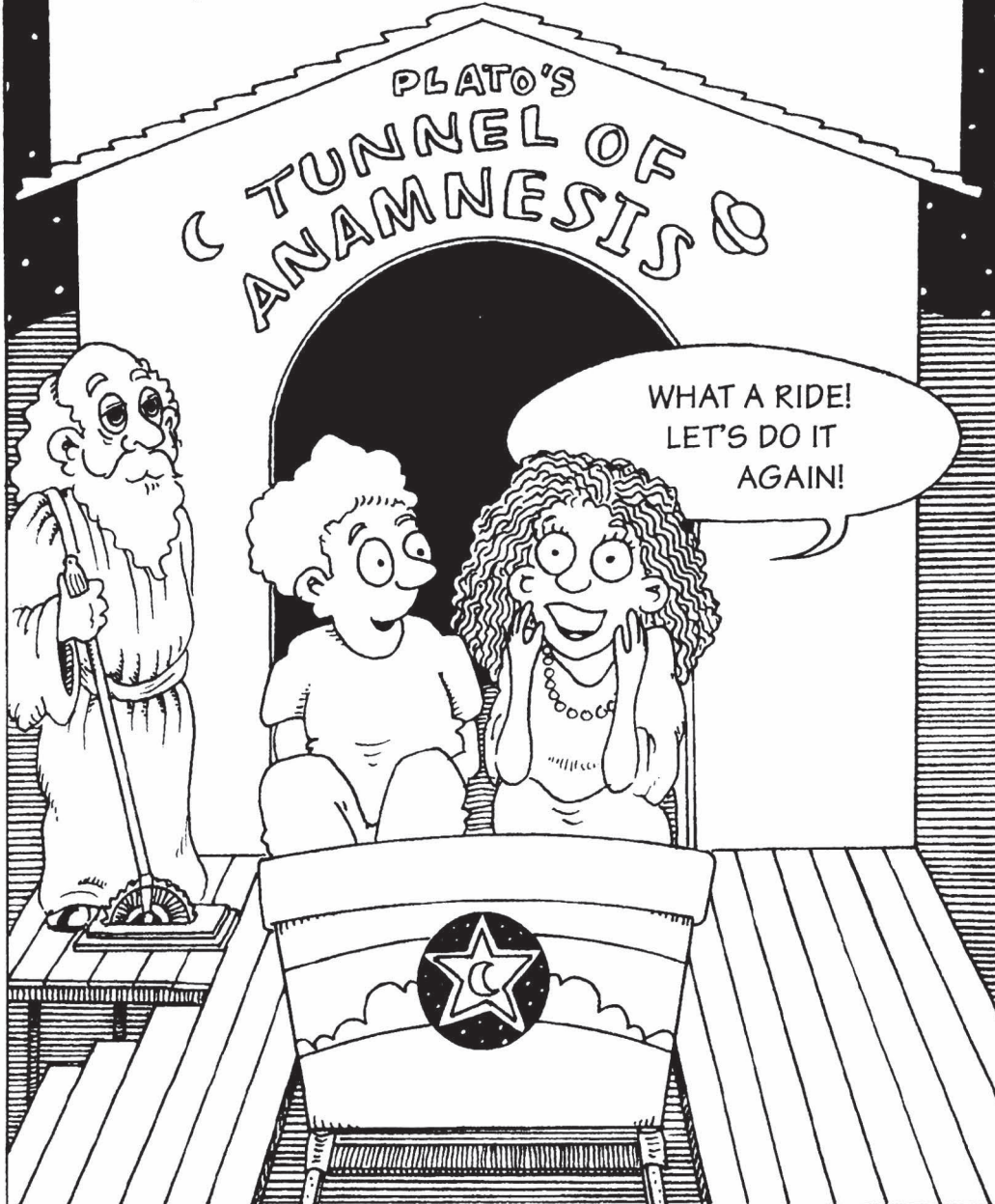
For example, outside of time and space there exists the Form of a book. This Form has every quality that goes along with our idea of a book. It is the Perfect Book, the ultimate in bookness.

All other books are merely inferior copies modeled from this Form.





According to Plato, each existing thing has a Form. Forms not only exist for books and trees but also for abstract ideas like Justice, Beauty, Truth and the Good. Thus, every object and every idea can be judged by comparison to its original Form. The big problem: How do we know about these Forms if they exist outside of time and space? Plato answered this by stating that every human goes through a process called "**anamnesis**," multiple cycles of life and death, of "bodied and disembodied states."



During each disembodied state, we know the Forms but, to our chagrin, we forget about them at birth. However, through the use of reason, we are able to slowly recall all our disembodied knowledge.



