

## MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009 (STRIPS 4-5)

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### comic 5:

- general conflation of feelings about 9/11 with feelings about USA reaction to 9/11
- 2002 politics crowding out the memory of 9/11: 2002 congressional elections, 2002 anniversary of 9/11 as exercise in jingoism & forced patriotism, 'parody of Robin Hood', Tower Twin is superimposed on bones of WTC = recurrence of past... title is red white blue & star spangled
- wants to "comfortably relive" 9/11 trauma
- recurrence of image of glowing bones of tower
- Tower Twin face registers shock, fear
- far more linear organization: starting to organize the trauma?
- Ostrich Party: self-parody of "us basket cases" ... but also a serious response, b/c if you stick your head in the ground you can't start a war
- Tower Twins appear in own strip: this time the uncle is Uncle Sam (in 2 he was Arab)
- commentary on Iraq war, how it makes us less safe (hornets will strike again)

### comic 6:

- haunted by images (even those he didn't witness)
- title is in pseudo-Russian script b/c of crazy Russian lady
- narrator falling from WTC, lands as Happy Hooligan (now "Hapless Hooligan"), as a bum
- "her inner demons had broken loose and taken over our shared reality": a woman's insane dreams have become real... Arab snakes from her eyes... Apocalypse horseman with a box cutter... Xian cross... broken buildings... airplanes with mouths... Christ?... people falling... flames... generally looks like Hell
- last panel: draws himself as child from Maus, inside a Nemo cartoon (plate vi)

### *notes from last class (2009-04-17)*

- stuck on 9/11, obsession, long time to process
- difference between immediate experience and watching on TV (TV allows distance)
- he feels more connected to his parents' experience of Auschwitz, to Jewish heritage of suffering
- when reflecting, he's his character from Maus
- self-representation
- helps process 9/11 and aftermath
- chaotic, non-linear layout/progression: frustrated search for meaning (for reader)
- trauma is never past, always relived