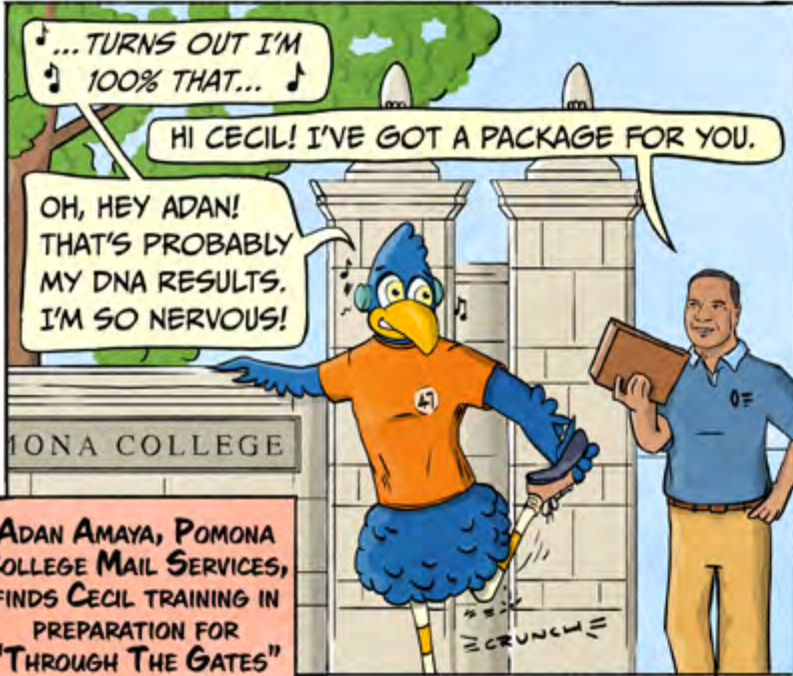
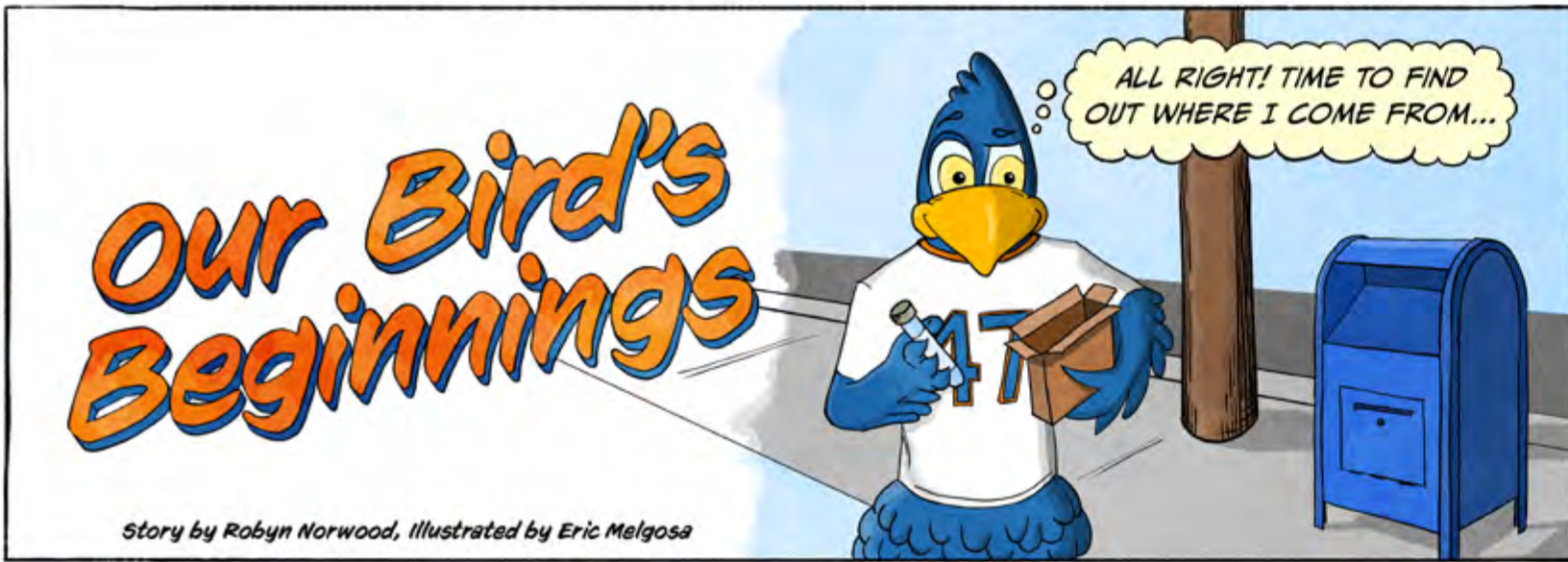
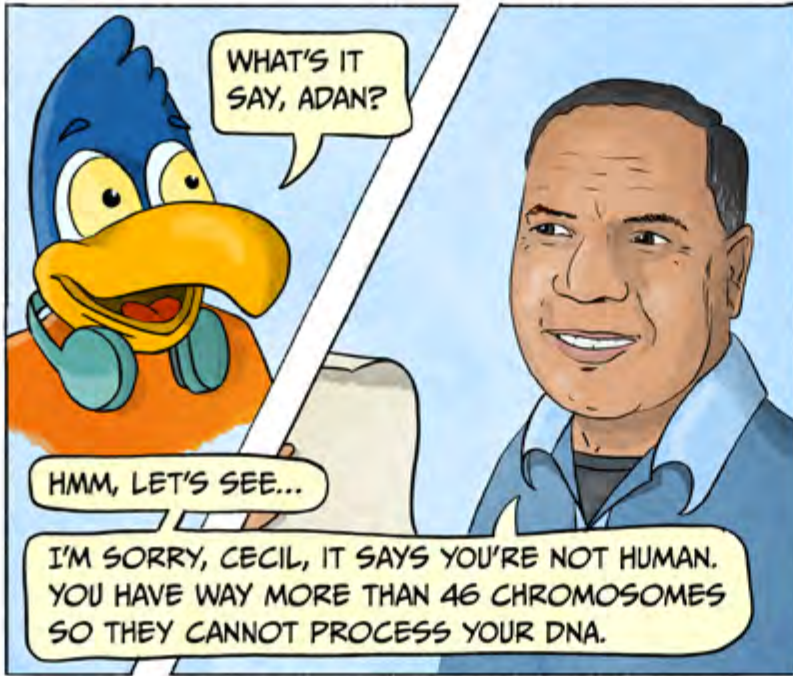


Our Bird's Beginnings

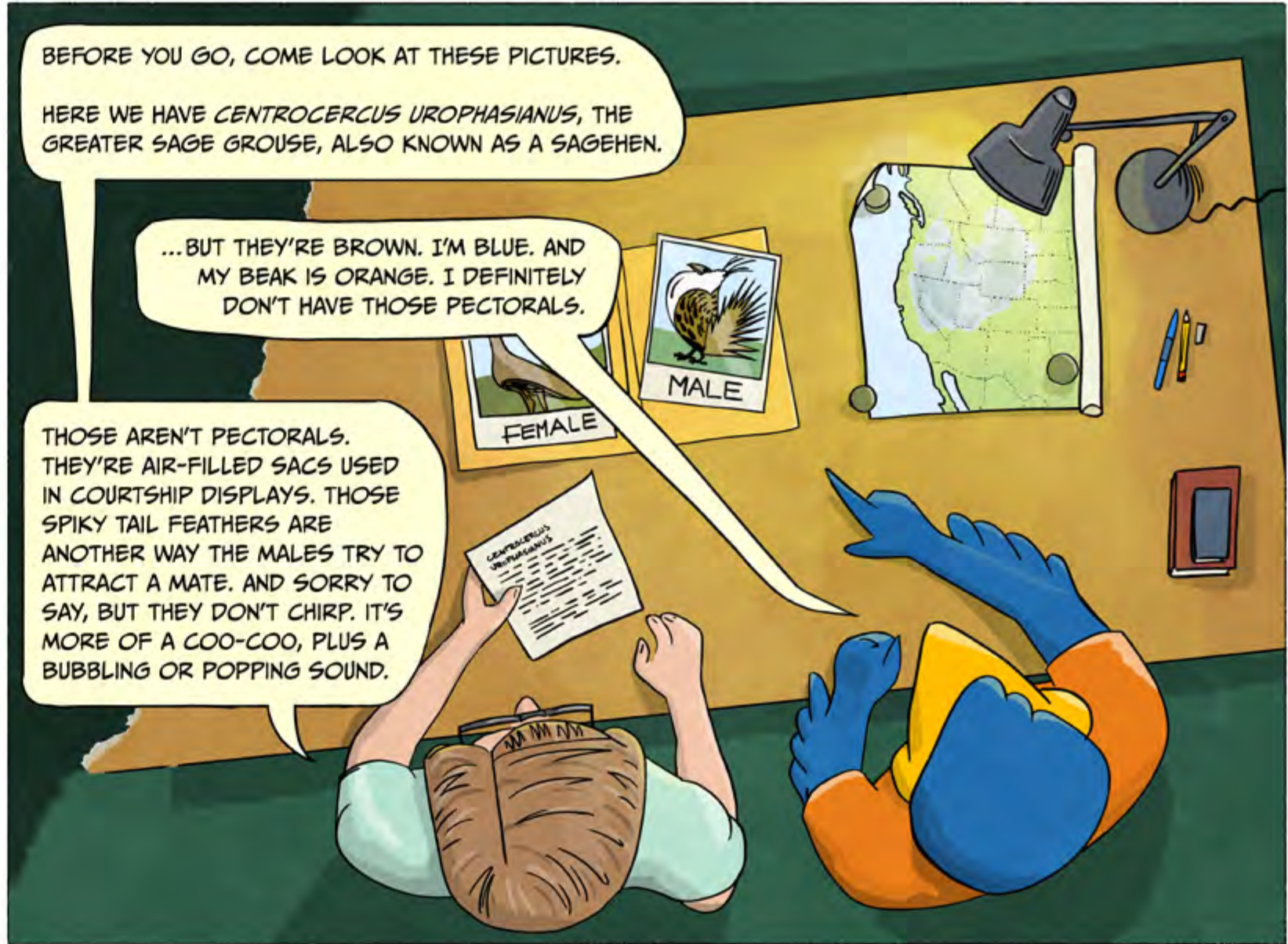
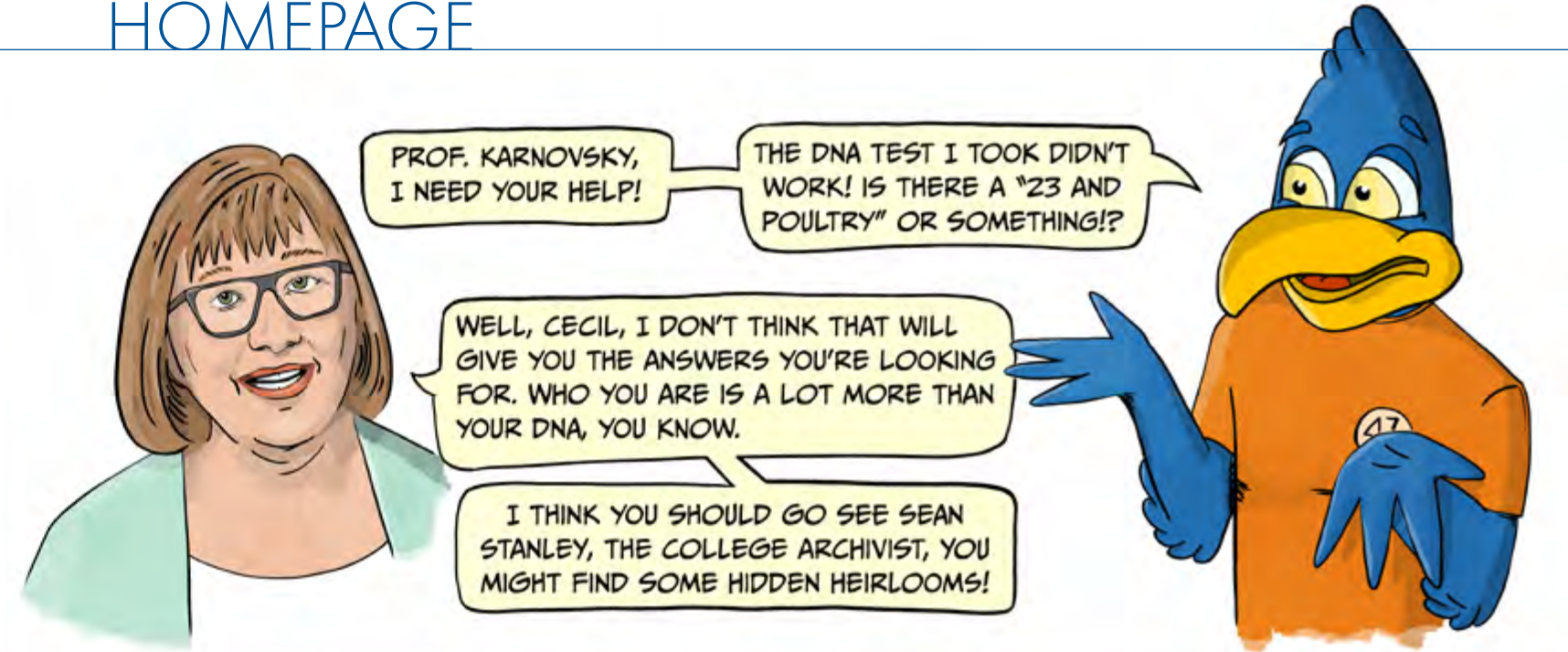
Story by Robyn Norwood, Illustrated by Eric Melgosa



ADAN AMAYA, POMONA COLLEGE MAIL SERVICES, FINDS CECIL TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR "THROUGH THE GATES"



HOMEPAGE



FIRST THING THE FOLLOWING DAY, CECIL VISITS THE COLLEGE ARCHIVIST, SEAN STANLEY, TO FIND OUT WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT CECIL'S ORIGINS.

SEAN: AH, EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM. HI CECIL!

CECIL: **THAT'S DISGUSTING!**

SEAN: NEVER MIND. I HAVE SOMETHING I THINK YOU'D LIKE TO SEE.

CECIL: WHO'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?

CECIL: I AM YOUR FATHER

SEAN: DO YOU THINK THAT'S MY FATHER?

CECIL: NO, NO, THIS PENNANT IS ESTIMATED TO BE FROM THE 1930s OR '40s. THAT WOULD BE MANY HEN-ERATIONS AGO.

SEAN: OK, SMART ALECK! BUT HE'S SO... THIN. SCRAWNY. HE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE THE GREATER SAGE GROUSE. WHAT'S THAT HAT, ANYWAY?

CECIL: THERE WAS A TRADITION THAT FIRST-YEAR POMONA STUDENTS HAD TO WEAR A BLUE BEANIE WITH A P ON THE FRONT. THEY SAY THAT ENDED WITH THE GREAT FRESHMAN BEANIE REVOLT OF 1967.

SEAN: THE '60s. I THOUGHT THE PROTESTS WERE ABOUT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS.

CECIL: THEY GENERALLY WERE. SO BACK TO THE ORIGINS OF THE SAGEHENS...

IN THE EARLY 1900s, POMONA'S ATHLETIC TEAMS WERE CALLED VARIOUS NICKNAMES, INCLUDING HUNS, ONCE A REFERENCE TO WARRIOR NOMADS BUT LATER AN UNFORTUNATE PEJORATIVE TERM FOR GERMANS DURING WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II.

THOUGH SAGE HENS APPEARED IN THE L.A. TIMES AS EARLY AS 1911, ACCORDING TO ONE LEGEND A WRITER FOR THE STUDENT LIFE IN 1913 MIGHT HAVE MEANT TO TYPE HUNS BUT TYPED HENS, AND IT STUCK.

CECIL: **SO I'M A TYPO?!**

SEAN: IF YOU ARE, YOU'RE A TYPO WITH STAYING POWER. SINCE 1918, THE SAGEHEN HAS BEEN THE ONLY SYMBOL OF POMONA, POMONA-CLAREMONT AND NOW POMONA-PITZER ATHLETICS.

CECIL: HAVE YOU BEEN TO SEE MIRIAM MERRILL, OUR ATHLETICS DIRECTOR? SHE MAY HAVE USEFUL PERSPECTIVE.

SEAN: NO, BUT THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. I'LL GO SEE HER NOW.

CECIL: IF IT ISN'T OUR 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPION SAGEHEN!

SEAN: YES! MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY AND MEN'S WATER POLO!

CECIL: YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, CECIL.

SEAN: THANKS, MIRIAM... BUT WHO AM I REALLY?

CECIL: YOU'RE THE SPIRIT OF THE COLLEGE, CECIL. **YOU ARE ONE OF A KIND!**