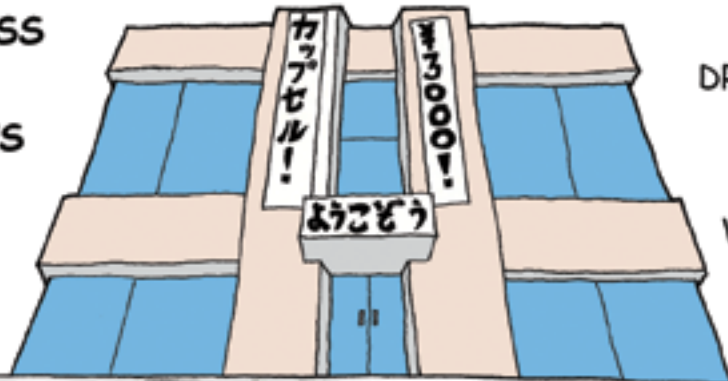


24-HOUR POD PEOPLE

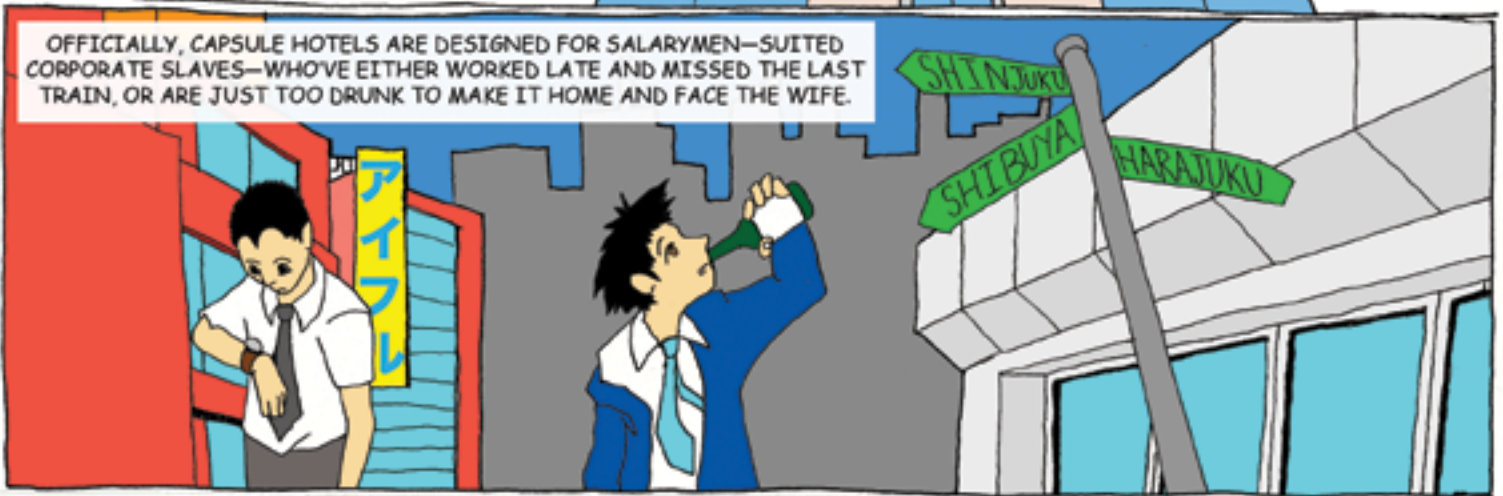
SUPERMAN HAD HIS FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, BATMAN HAD HIS BATCAVE, AND TOURISTS AND DRUNKEN SALARYMEN ALIKE HAVE JAPAN'S CAPSULE HOTELS.

DRAWINGS BY NEIL WADE

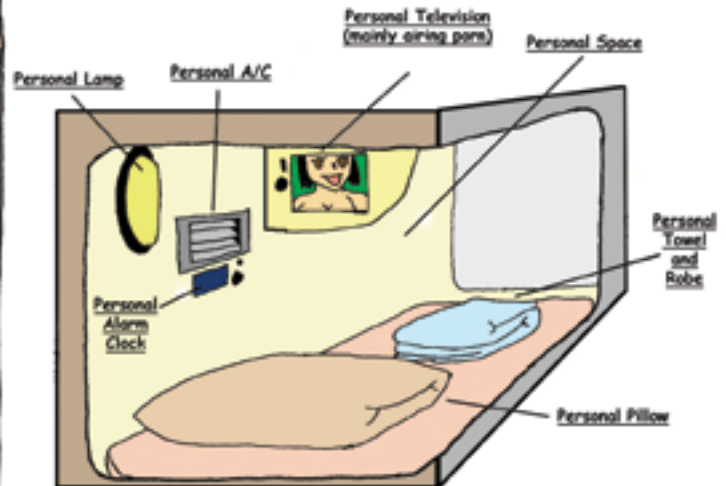
WORDS BY SAM BALDWIN



OFFICIALLY, CAPSULE HOTELS ARE DESIGNED FOR SALARYMEN—SUITED CORPORATE SLAVES—WHO'VE EITHER WORKED LATE AND MISSED THE LAST TRAIN, OR ARE JUST TOO DRUNK TO MAKE IT HOME AND FACE THE WIFE.



WITH UP TO 50 BEDS PER FLOOR, CAPSULE HOTELS CAN LOOK LIKE A SCENE FROM THE MATRIX (THAT'S MATOIKUSU TO YOU!), BUT YOU'LL SOON GROW COMFORTABLE IN YOUR PLASTIC POD...



IN AN AIR-CONDITIONED SPACE OF ABOUT 90 CUBIC FEET, YOU GET A BED, LAMP, RADIO, ALARM CLOCK, AND TV. ALL FOR ONLY ABOUT \$30. CAPSULES ARE NOT FOR THE CLAUSTROPHOBIC!



BARS PRODUCE SLEEPY, SLOSHED SALARYMEN, BUT THEY ALSO INSPIRE AMOROUS COUPLES. UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, MOST CAPSULE HOTELS ARE FOR MEN ONLY.



SOME DO HAVE BEDS FOR WOMEN, BUT THEY'RE ON SEPARATE FLOORS. NO HANKY-PANKY HERE!

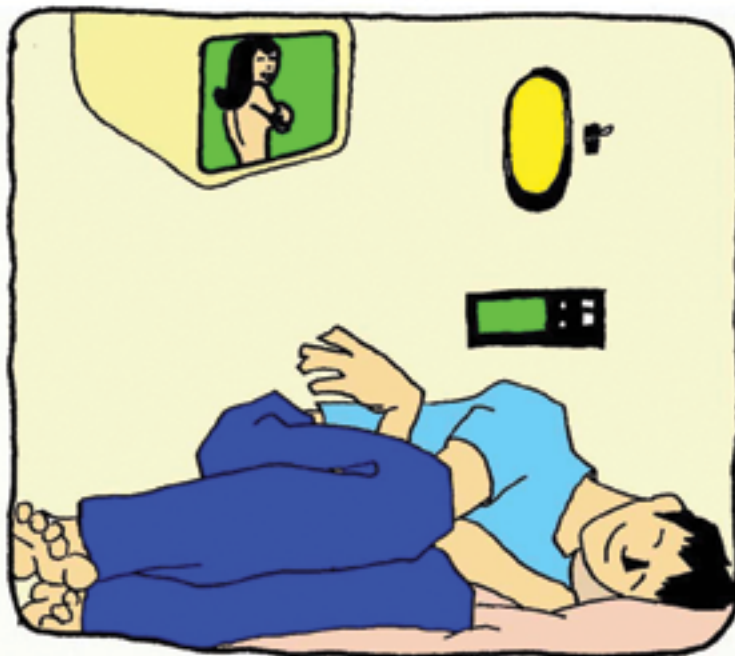


REMEMBER, DRINKING DOESN'T HAVE TO END AT CHECK-IN! VENDING MACHINES PROVIDE CANNED BEER, SAKE, AND CANNED COFFEE.

OH! TIME TO TAKE A DIP IN THE HEALING WATERS OF THE SENTO, A COMMUNAL SINGLE-SEX BATHTUB.



DON'T BE ALARMED BY WANDERING EYES, THEY'RE JUST CHECKING TO SEE IF THE RUMOR ABOUT WESTERNERS IS TRUE!



DON'T SLEEP TOO LATE—CHECK-OUT TIME IS NORMALLY AROUND 9 A.M. GRAB A SLICE OF TOAST, A HARDBOILED EGG, AND A CANNED COFFEE, AND YOU'RE ALL SET FOR ANOTHER DAY IN THE LAND OF SUMO AND SUSHI!

LOWDOWN

HERE'S A SELECTION OF CAPSULE HOTELS IN JAPAN'S TWO MOST VISITED CITIES.

TOKYO:

- CENTRAL INN GOTANDA (1-20-15 HIGASHI GOTANDA SHINAGAWA-KU; +81-3-3447-5255; ¥3,300 PER NIGHT; 136 CAPSULES) HAS A BATH, SAUNA, AND BEDS FOR FEMALE GUESTS.
- CAPSULE HOTEL ASAKUSA RIVERSIDE (2-20-4, KAMINARIMON, +81-3-3844-5117; ¥3,000 PER NIGHT; ASAKUSACAPSULE.JP) HAS A SEPARATE WOMEN'S FLOOR, KARAOKE BAR AND BALCONY.

OSAKA:

- CAPSULE HOTEL ASAHI PLAZA SHINSAIBASHI (2-12-22 NISHI SHINSAIBASHI CHUO-KU; +81-6-6213-1991; ¥2,500 PER NIGHT; 487 CAPSULES) HAS BATH, SAUNA, AND A RESTAURANT/LOUNGE. NO BEDS FOR WOMEN, THOUGH.
- CAPSULE INN NANBA (1-7-16 NANBANAKA NANIWA-KU; +81-6-6633-2666; ¥2,900 PER NIGHT; 160 CAPSULES) HAS SAUNA, BATH, AND SHOWER, PLUS A SEPARATE FLOOR FOR WOMEN.