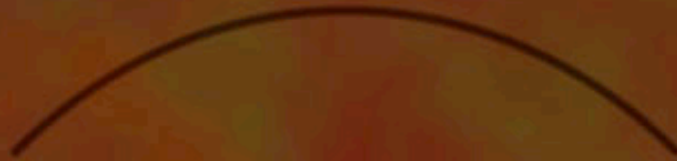


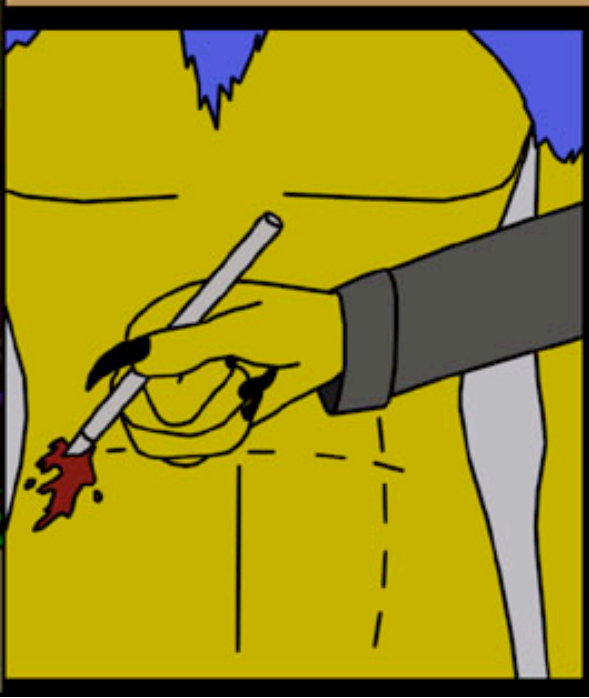
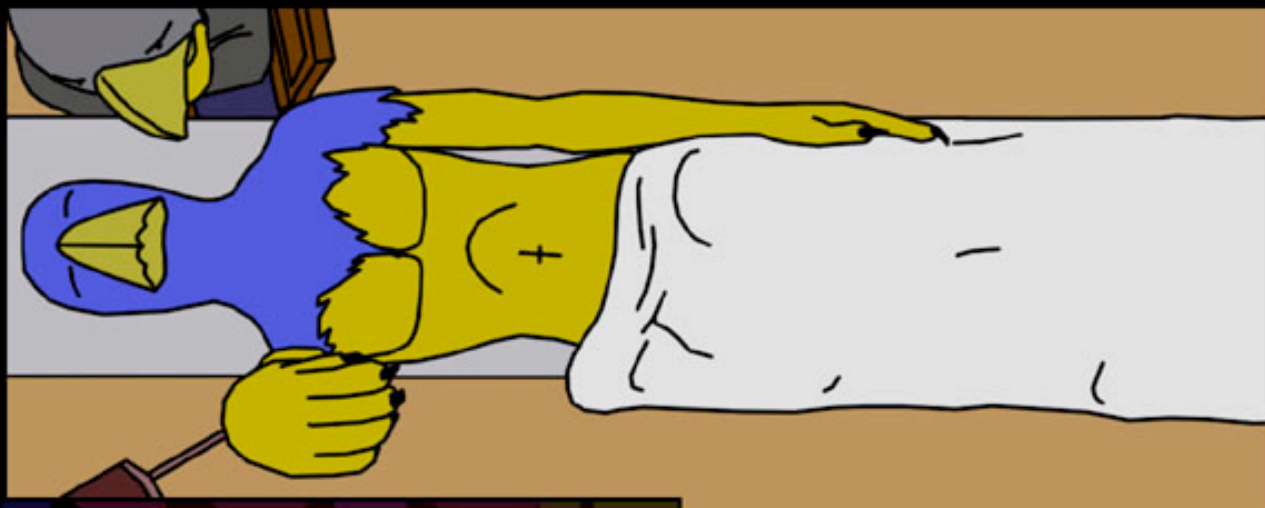
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keenan cross

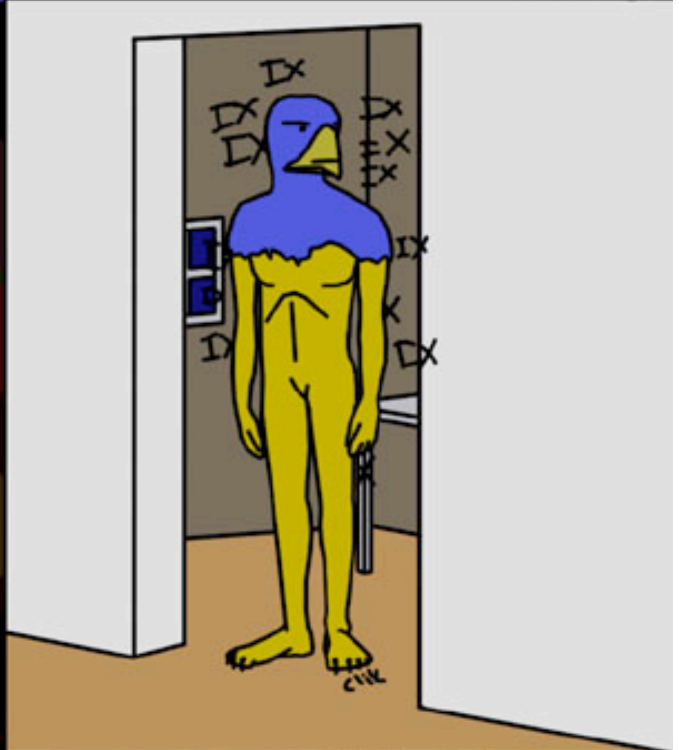
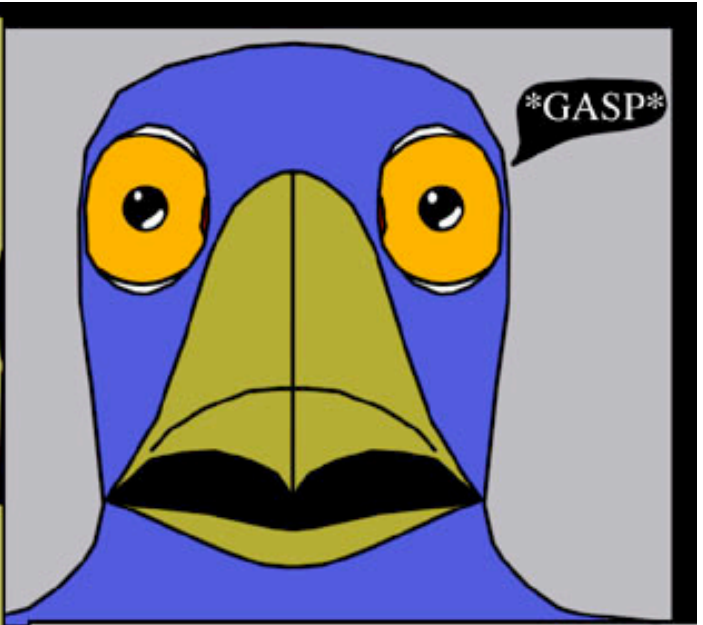
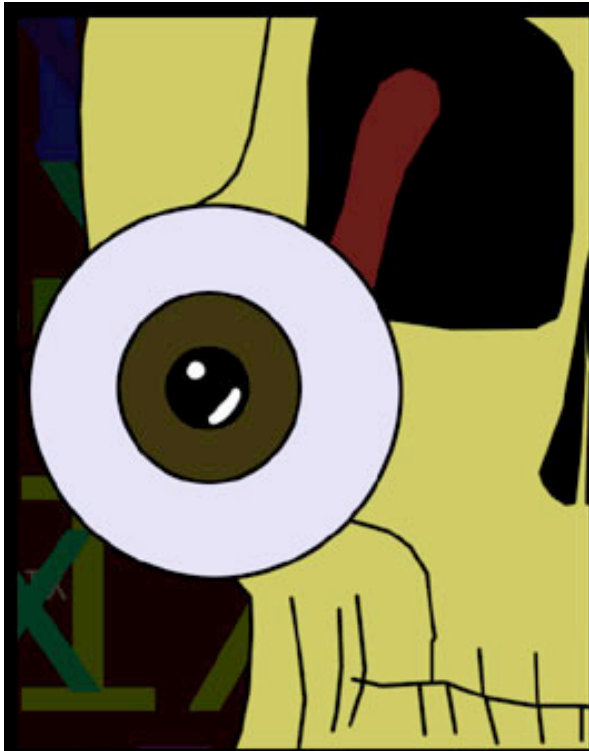
NIGHTHAWK/DAYHAWK



NIGHTHAWK / DAYHAWK







I GUESS I SHOULD EXPLAIN SOME OF ALL THIS TO YOU.

I SHOULD SAY SO.

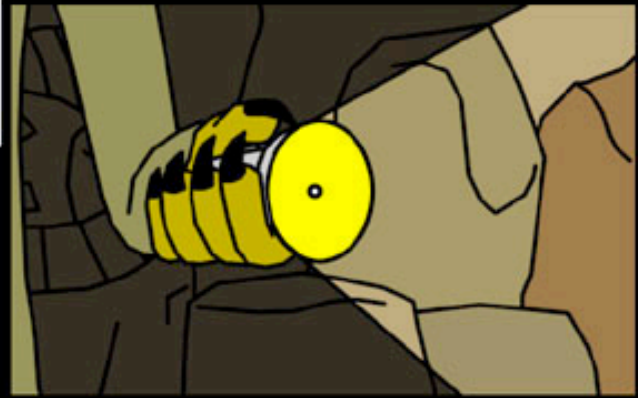
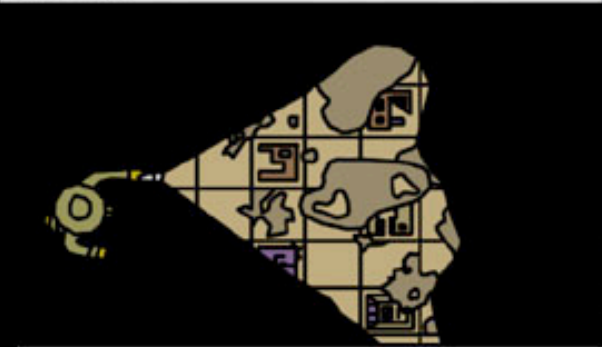
YOU SEE, HARL XIS AND I WERE SOMETHING OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS BY HOBBY - SOMETHING LIKE TREASURE-HUNTERS I GUESS IS MORE ACCURATE - IN SOUTH AMERICA A LOT OF THE TIME.



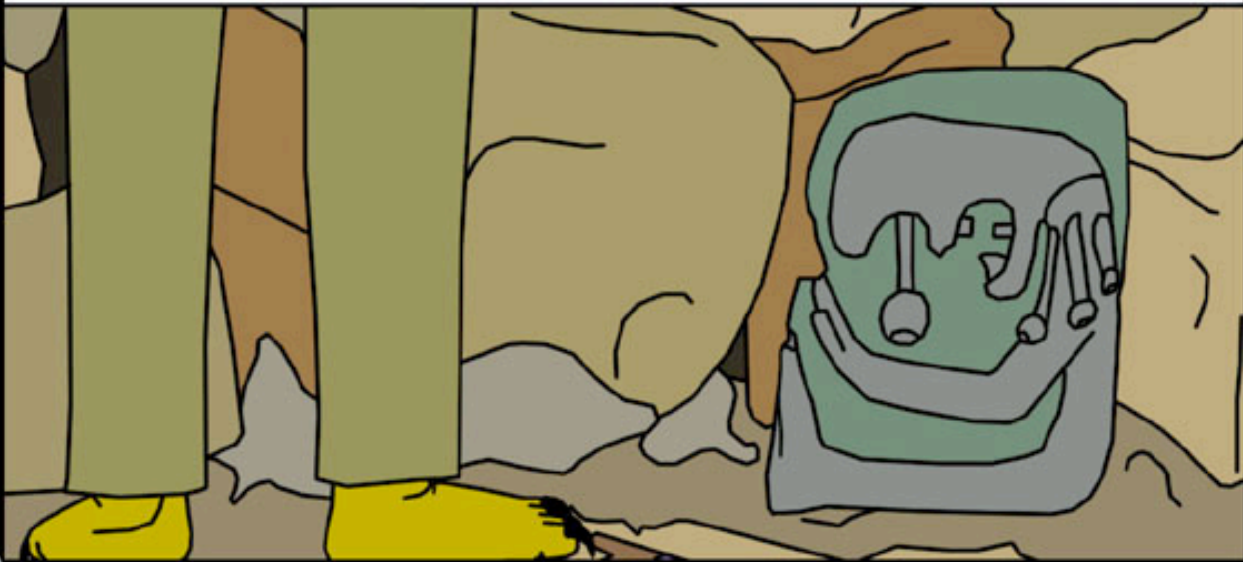
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING, AND HARL BARELY DID. HE AND I READ A BOOK OR TWO AND THEN DOVE IN, AND WE TRACED SOME OLD STORIES AND WHATNOT TO A TEMPLE, SOMEWHERE FAR SOUTH IN MEXICO, THAT DIDN'T MATCH ANY CIVILIZATION, MAYBE MAYA AND AZTEC BEST...



WE BROKE IT OPEN, AND ALL WE FOUND WAS ONE HALLWAY INSIDE. IT WAS MORE LIKE A TOMB THAN A TEMPLE.



ALL THERE WAS IN THIS HALLWAY WAS A FIGURE OF A TRAPPED CIZIN - BUT IT DEFINITELY WASN'T MAYAN, IT WAS MUCH MORE PRIMITIVE, AND DEFINITELY MUCH OLDER THAN ANYTHING HARL AND I KNEW ABOUT.



HARL GOT TO IT BEFORE I DID, AND WHEN I FINALLY GOT THERE I FOUND HIM ON HIS KNEES, COMPLETELY TRANSFIXED BY IT.





WHEN I TOOK HIM AWAY FROM IT HE WAS IN A COMA - SO I PULLED HIM OUT OF THE FOREST AND CALLED FOR HELP.

I TOLD THE DOCTORS THAT I THOUGHT HE WAS BITTEN BY A SNAKE OR SOMETHING. I WANTED TO KEEP OUR TEMPLE SECRET, UNTIL HARL WOKE UP SO WE COULD TAKE CREDIT FOR DISCOVERING SOME NEW CIVILIZATION, I THOUGHT.



THEN YOU CAME AROUND.

I STAYED BY HARL THE FIRST NIGHT, AND WHEN I WOKE UP YOU WERE BESIDE HIM, ON THE FLOOR. YOU WERE IN A COMA TOO, AND

YOU WERE LAYING IN THE SAME POSITION AS HARL WAS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO I DID THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT OF.

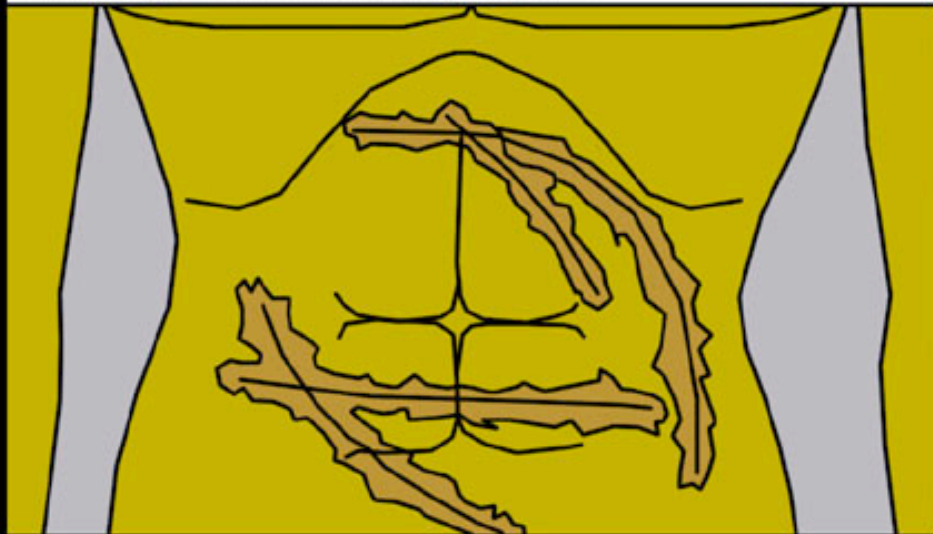


I HID YOU IN MY HOTEL TO STUDY YOU.

IT SEEMS PLAIN TO ME THAT YOU CAME OUT OF HARL'S HEAD SOMEHOW. I FOR ONE THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF GHOST OR SOMETHING; I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING ALIVE TO COME OUT OF A FIGURE OF CIZIN...OR OUT OF HARL'S HEAD COME TO THINK OF IT, KNOW WHAT I MEAN.



I KEPT YOU HERE AND STUDIED YOU FOR OVER A YEAR, AND I NEVER ONCE FED OR WATERED YOU, BUT YOU DID PERFECTLY FINE. AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE WAY YOU WORK, YOUR HEART BEATS JUST BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HEARTS DO. ALL THAT'S IMPORTANT IN YOU IS IN YOUR HEAD, BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY PART THAT REACTS TO ANYTHING.

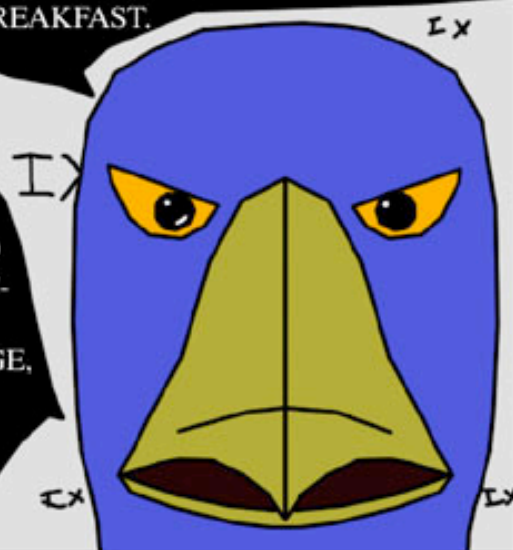


I SENSE SOME ANIMOSITY TOWARDS ME IN YOU, MR. NOOB. IT SEEMS A BIT UNFAIR TO ME, SEEING'S HOW YOU WERE BORN YESTERDAY.



DR. ROST, I HAVE HAD SOME VERY DISTRESSING DREAMS OF LATE, AND LAST NIGHT THEY REACHED THEIR PEAK. WHEN I WOKE UP I DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS NOT THE FAULT OF MY SUBCONSCIOUS, BUT RATHER THAT YOU HAD YOUR FINGERS IMBUED IN THE TISSUES OF MY BRAIN, WITH A LARGE PART OF MY SKULL SET ASIDE IN A BLOODY HEAP, ON A DIRTY COUNTERTOP WHERE YOU HAD JUST MADE YOUR BREAKFAST.

YESTERDAY I WOKE WITH AN INCREDIBLE PAIN IN MY ABDOMEN, AND WOKE TO FIND THAT YOU HAD EMPTIED IT OUT AND PRACTICED STITCHING ITS CONTENTS BACK TOGETHER. YOU WERE ALSO EATING SAUSAGE, AND YOU SAW FIT TO TEASE ME THAT IT WAS INDEED A PART OF ME THAT YOU ATE. IN SHORT, DR. ROST, YOU MAKE ME MORE THAN A LITTLE... UNCOMFORTABLE.



FIRST OF ALL, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TEACH YOU HOW TO TALK LIKE A REGULAR PERSON BEFORE I LET YOU GET OUT OF HERE. HEH, ALL THAT "THEE AND THOU" BULLSHIT. WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, THE ROTTEN OLD STATE OF DENMARK?



AH, I'LL BET YOU'RE CLAUSTROPHOBIC. YEP, YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE PRETTY SOON.



SEE, IN MY LIFE, THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.



FIRST WOULD BE MY DOCTORATE...

GETTING MARRIED, RAISING A GOOD KID - OUT-LIVING THAT CRAZY BITCH, HEH...AND THEN OF COURSE YOU CAME ALONG, MY BOY.

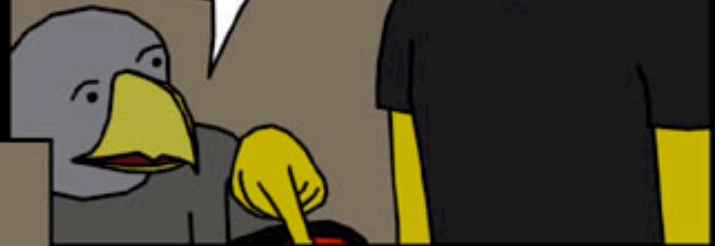


SO YOU'RE
NUMBER
FIVE.



HOW PERSONAL OF YOU.

THIS JACKET IS
REVERSIBLE; IT HAS
BLACK ON ONE SIDE
AND RED ON THE
OTHER.



SEE? BLACKBIRD
HERE AND THEN -
REDBIRD.

NIGHTHAWK,
DAYHAWK.



YOU SEE, WHEN YOU WERE ASLEEP,
THERE WERE TIMES THAT YOU'D
SPASM VERY VIOLENTLY. NATUR-
ALLY, I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE THE
SAME PROBLEM NOW THAT YOU'RE
AWAKE, ONLY I DON'T QUITE THINK
THEY'LL BE SPASMS. YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO DOES IT; I'M SURE YOU'LL
SEE WHEN IT HAPPENS. SOMETHING
TELLS ME A MAYAN GHOST ISN'T
GOING TO BE EPILEPTIC.

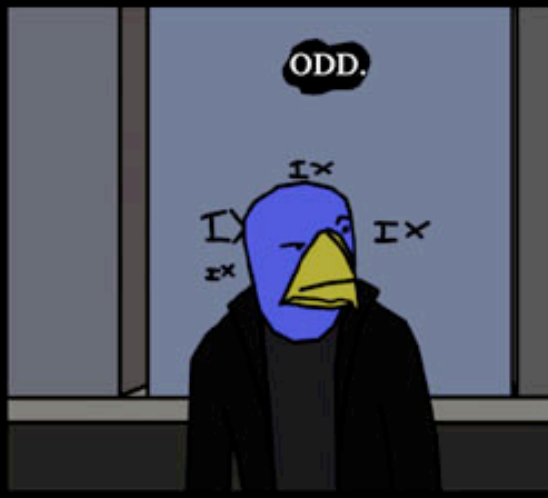
I'M GOING TO WATCH YOU THE FIRST
FEW DAYS, JUST IN CASE, AND I'LL
HAVE THIS TRANQ GUN WITH ME. TURN
YOUR JACKET TO THE RED IF YOU FEEL
ANYTHING...LIKE THAT.

THAT DOESN'T
SOUND GOOD.

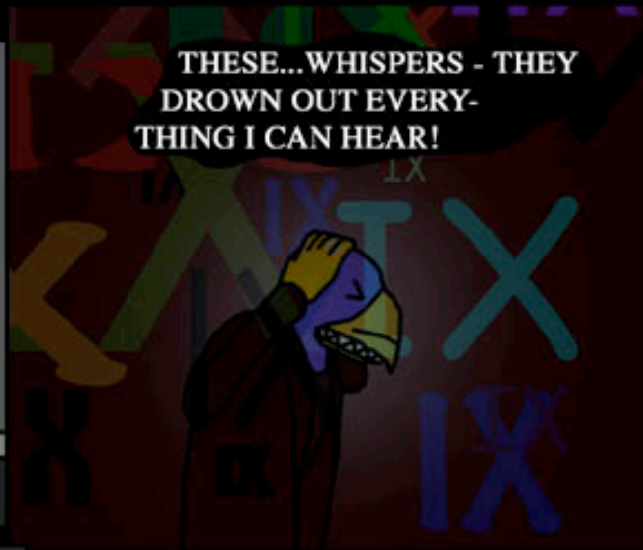








ODD.



THESE... WHISPERS - THEY DROWN OUT EVERYTHING I CAN HEAR!



MARBLE HAR...

IT IS AN ESTABLISHMENT FOR ENTERTAINMENT - DANCING?



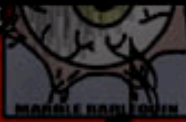
MARBLE HARLEQUIN

NO FUCKING GO IN PUBLIC



THE MUSIC IS VERY... OVERWHELMING! AND IT OVERWHELMS EVEN THESE WHISPERS...ALMOST.

THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR ME.



IT IS SUCH A RELIEF.

SO... WHAT IS IT THAT I HAVE BEEN HEARING SO MUCH?

"EESH."

EESH

EE\$

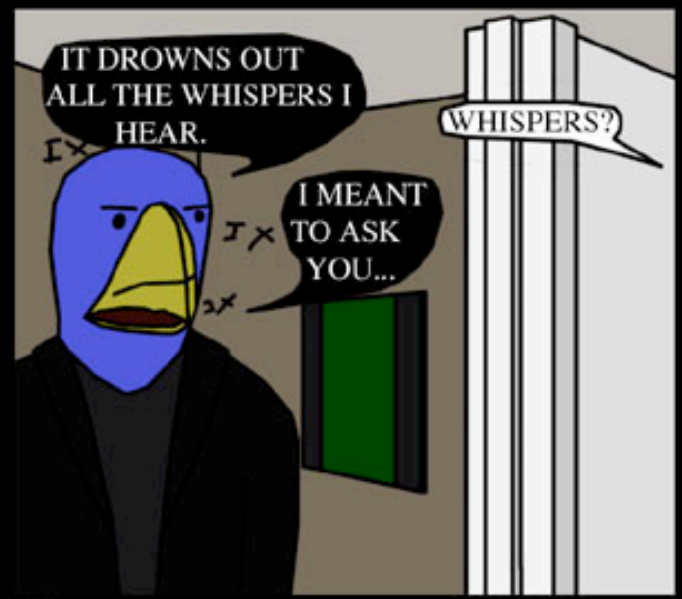
W
R
A
K

BACK TO YOU.

HEAVY RAINS HELP CROP GROW



I SAW YOU WERE IN THE HARLECK FOR A FEW HOURS. YOU LIKE MUSIC, I TAKE IT?



IT DROWNS OUT ALL THE WHISPERS I HEAR.

WHISPERS?

I MEANT TO ASK YOU...



WHAT IS "EESH?"

"EESH?" OH, "IX" ... I - X.



IT MEANS "JAGUAR," IF MEMORY SERVES.

OW!

I REALLY HATE MICROWAVES.

SOMETHING LIKE A PROTECTOR SPIRIT TYPE THING, AND THE NIGHT...THE *OW* JAGUAR'S SPOTS WERE THE STARS, OR SOMETHING. I'VE NEVER KNOWN MUCH MYTHOLOGY.



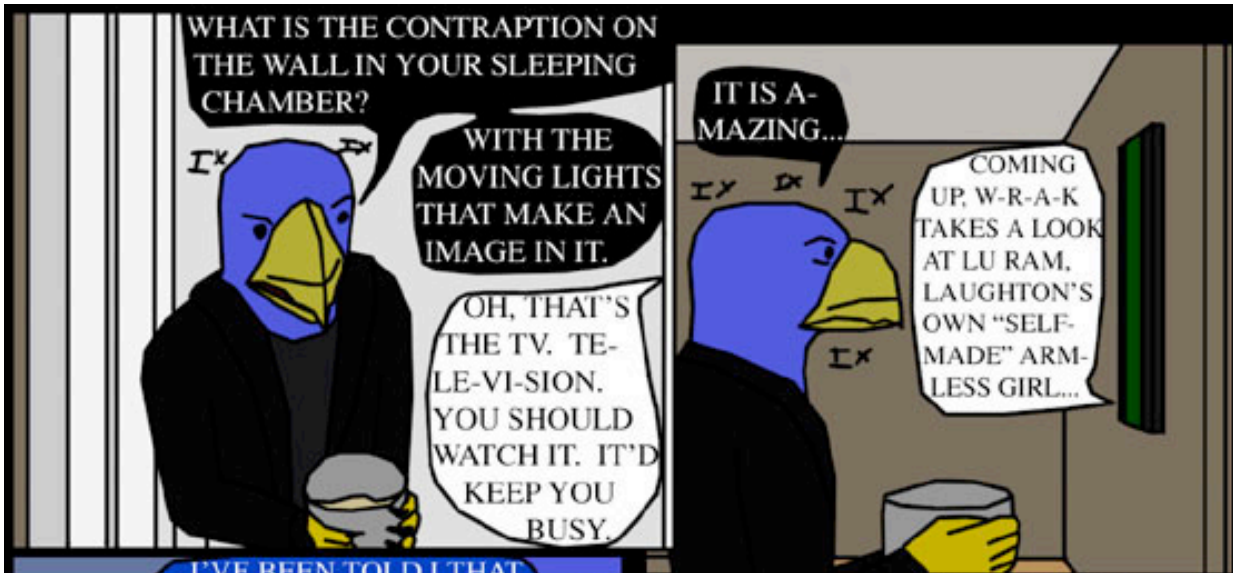
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS.

COULD YOU HOLD THIS FOR ME?



THE NAME OF A PROTECTOR SPIRIT AND THE... SKY?

sigh, COFFEE USED TO BE SO EASY TO MAKE.



WHAT IS THE CONTRAPTION ON THE WALL IN YOUR SLEEPING CHAMBER?

WITH THE MOVING LIGHTS THAT MAKE AN IMAGE IN IT.

OH, THAT'S THE TV. TELE-VI-SION. YOU SHOULD WATCH IT. IT'D KEEP YOU BUSY.

IT IS AMAZING...

COMING UP, W-R-A-K TAKES A LOOK AT LU RAM, LAUGHTON'S OWN "SELF-MADE" ARM-LESS GIRL...



I'VE BEEN TOLD I THAT WAS LEFT AT AN ORPHAN-AGE...

OH...

I GUESS NO ONE WANTED A BABY WITH NO ARMS - I WAS BORN WITHOUT THEM. IT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE TO ME. IT'S BETTER THAN LOSING 'EM, I'D FIGURE.

•Lu Ram: La



I BOUGHT THE ARMS OFF OF A MANNEQUIN FROM THE STORE WHERE I USED TO WORK AND HAD THEM SEWN INTO MY JACKET SO I WOULDN'T ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION WHEN I GO OUTSIDE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T LIKE GETTING ANY EXTRA CHARITY.

•Lu Ram



•Lu Ram

MORE ON LU RAM WHEN WE GET BACK FROM THIS MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSORS.



•Lu Ram: For more on this and other



Business: Monopoly investigations cease on Marus Electric, after a long



YOU HEADED HOME ALREADY, LADY?

M.

WAIT - WHAT IS THIS?

IS THIS...?

WE JUST WANT SOME MONEY, LADY.

HEY, SHE'S THAT GIRL FROM THE NEWS!

NG-!

YOU EVER FUCK A TV STAR?





YOU LITTLE BITCH! YA THINK I'M GONNA GET BEAT BY A BITCH LIKE YOU WITH NO FUCKING ARMS?!









NNG, I NEED TO TALK TO DR. ROST.

WAS THAT DAYHAWK?

APARTMENTS!
CALL (787) 222-1930

CRASH

HE - HE WAS THE ONE WHO SENT THE MUGGERS TO ATTACK LU RAM TODAY! THE ONE WITH THE ACCENT -

DR. ROST!



I HAVE A HUNCHED BACK - THEY WANT TO SCARE ME OUT OF PASSING IT ON. THEY THINK THEY'RE "PERFECT CREATURES."





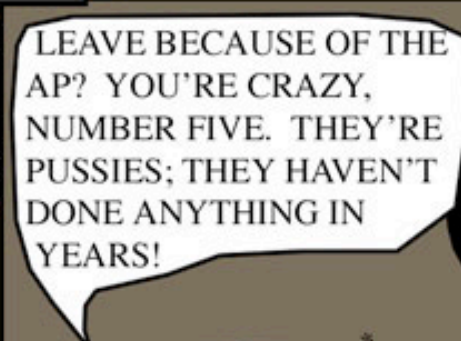
HE SAID HE WAS "AVE QUESTOYA," THE LEADER. HE SAW YOU KILL ONE OF HIS MEN ON HIS WAY TO FIND ME.

DR. ROST -



GET OUT OF THE CITY AND FIND A HOSPITAL. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

M.



LEAVE BECAUSE OF THE AP? YOU'RE CRAZY, NUMBER FIVE. THEY'RE PUSSIES; THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING IN YEARS!

THEY TRIED TO RAPE AND MURDER LU RAM WHEN THEY SAW SHE HAD NO ARMS.

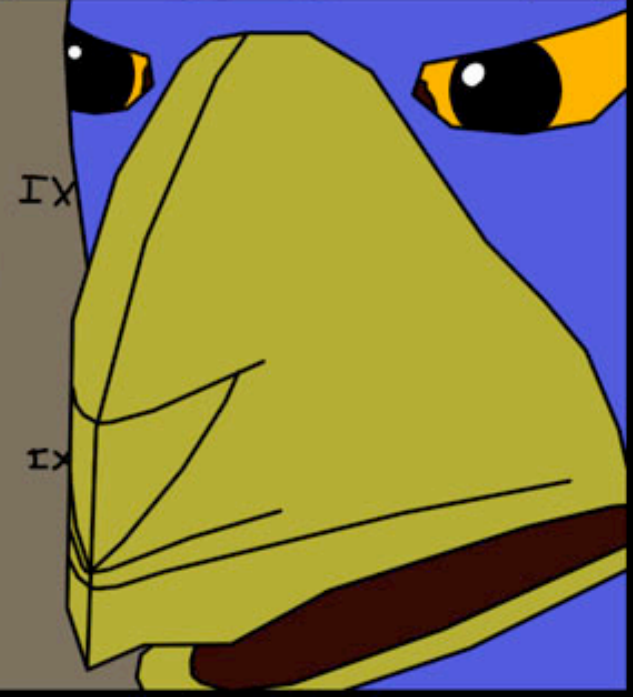
twitch

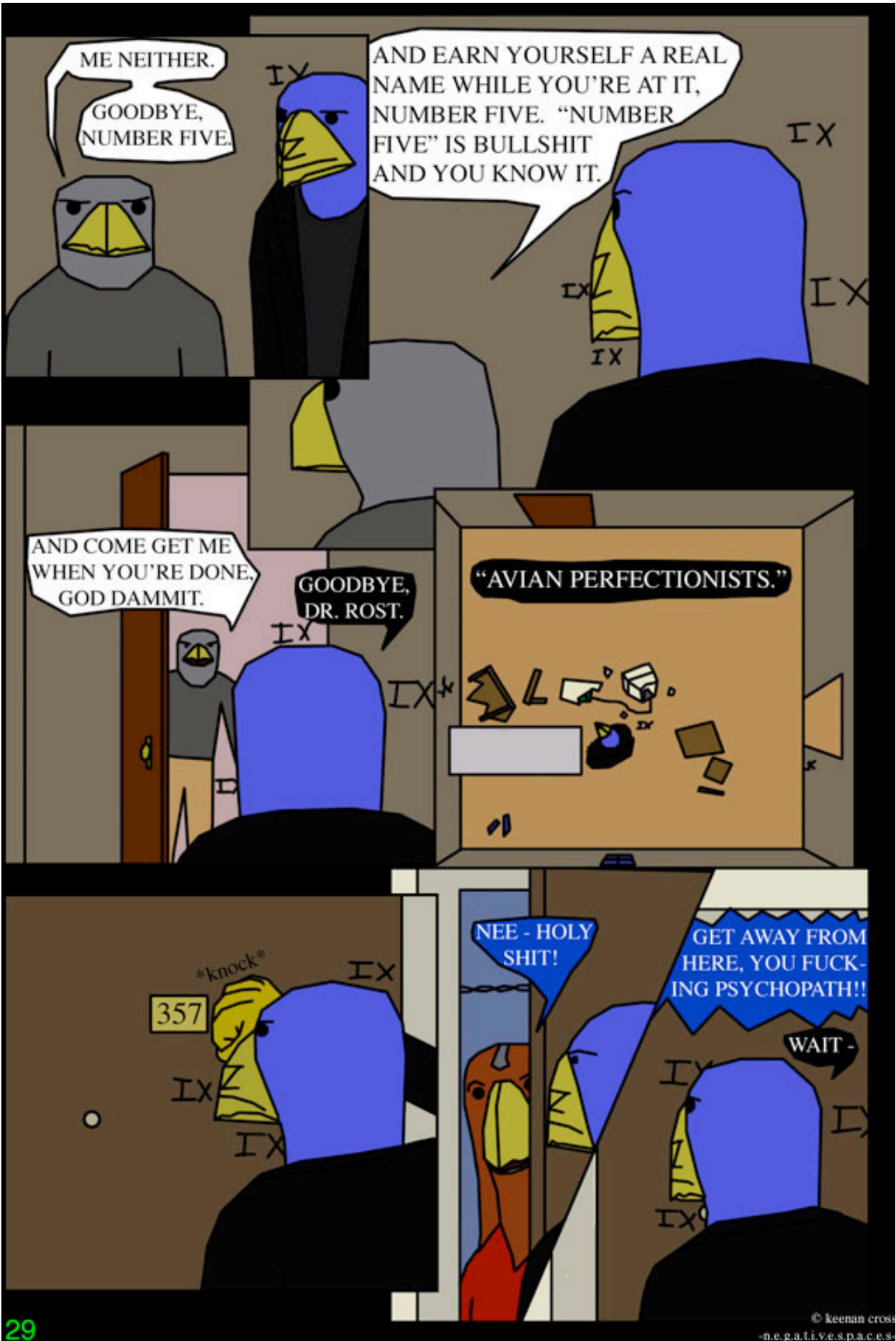
YEAH, I GOT A CALL FROM MISS RAM TODAY. SHE'S NOT VERY NICE.

I SEE YOU CUT INTO HARL'S OLD SCAR, NUMBER FIVE. A NUMBER FIVE, NO LESS, EH?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT SCAR CAME FROM, NUMBER FIVE?

NO.





ME NEITHER.

GOODBYE,
NUMBER FIVE.

AND EARN YOURSELF A REAL
NAME WHILE YOU'RE AT IT,
NUMBER FIVE. "NUMBER
FIVE" IS BULLSHIT
AND YOU KNOW IT.

AND COME GET ME
WHEN YOU'RE DONE,
GOD DAMMIT.

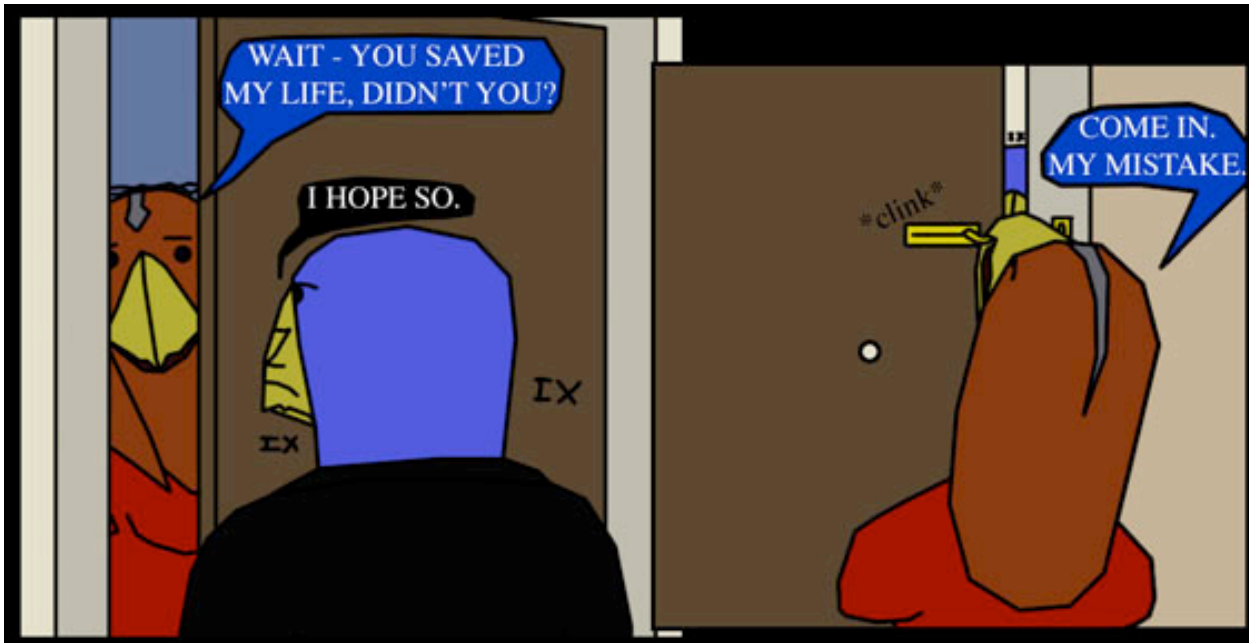
GOODBYE,
DR. ROST.

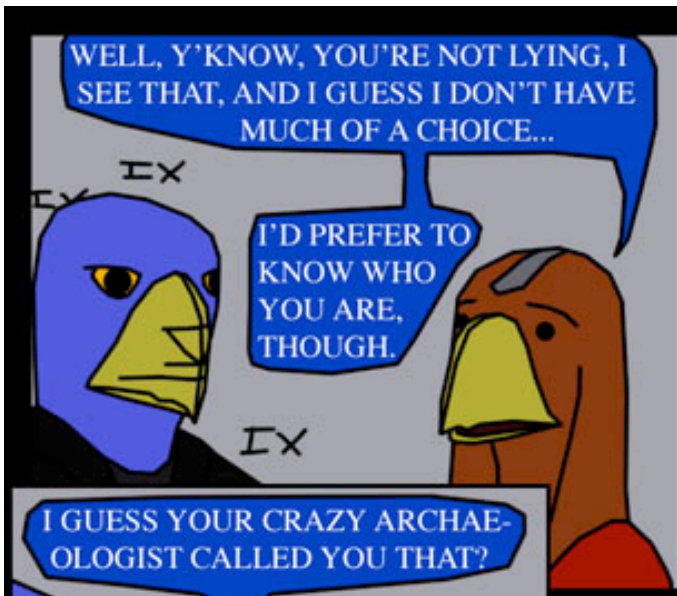
"AVIAN PERFECTIONISTS."

NEE - HOLY
SHIT!

GET AWAY FROM
HERE, YOU FUCKING
PSYCHOPATH!!

WAIT -







I WANT TO PROTECT YOU MYSELF.



AH, DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, I SEE?
HEH HEH...
YOU'RE A NICE GUY, I CAN TELL.
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES. I
DON'T NEED HELP, THOUGH.



WHAT?

COME ON.

I OWE YOU SOMETHING,
AND I'D BE LYING IF I SAID
I BELIEVE EVERYTHING
YOU'RE SAYING.

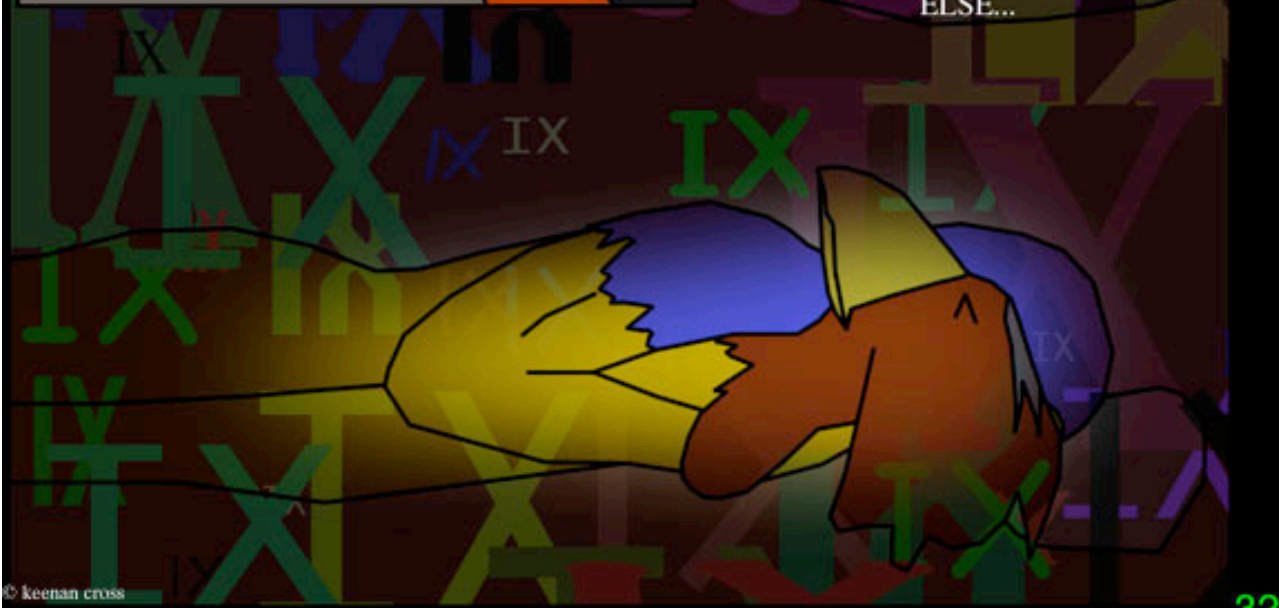
LET ME EASE
YOU UP. YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU'VE HAD
A HARD DAY.

AND I'M KINDA
HORNY.

clump



HE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING
ELSE...





ND, THIS IS NEETCH - I DON'T MENTION HER ON TV.

THANK YOU LU, I LOVE YOU TOO.

NICE CATCH YOU'VE GOT HERE, MISS NUBS. THIS GUY LOOKS FAMILIAR. DO I KNOW HIM?

NEETCH, THIS IS ND, THE ONE WHO SAVED ME FROM THE MUGGER - AND THE GUY WHO SAW ME ON THE STREET...

HE'S QUITE SOMETHING. I COULD SEE HIM MAULING SOMEONE TO DEATH.

BE NICE, NEETCH.

MISS NUBS AND I USED TO BE AN ITEM, ND. THEY DON'T LIKE THAT KIND OF THING ON TV, YOU KNOW.

WE'RE TOO MUCH LIKE SISTERS, THOUGH. LUCKY YOU, EH?

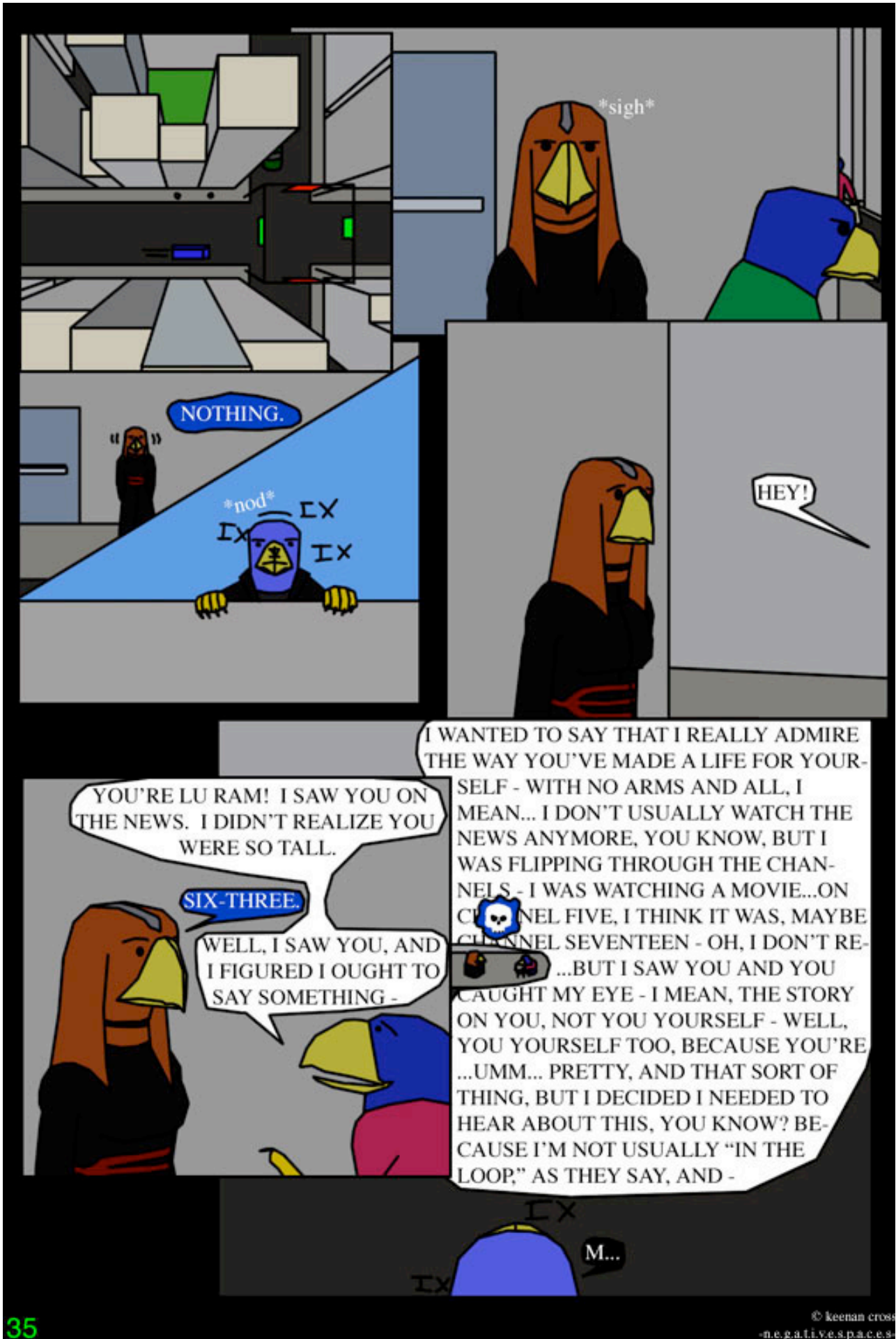
BBEE NNICCEE, NEETCH.

YOU STILL LOOK SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE, LU?

OOO, AND HE'S GOT TATTOOS. MROW.

ND, I NEED TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO NEETCH. ONE MOMENT.





sigh

NOTHING.

nod IX IX IX

HEY!

YOU'RE LU RAM! I SAW YOU ON THE NEWS. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO TALL.

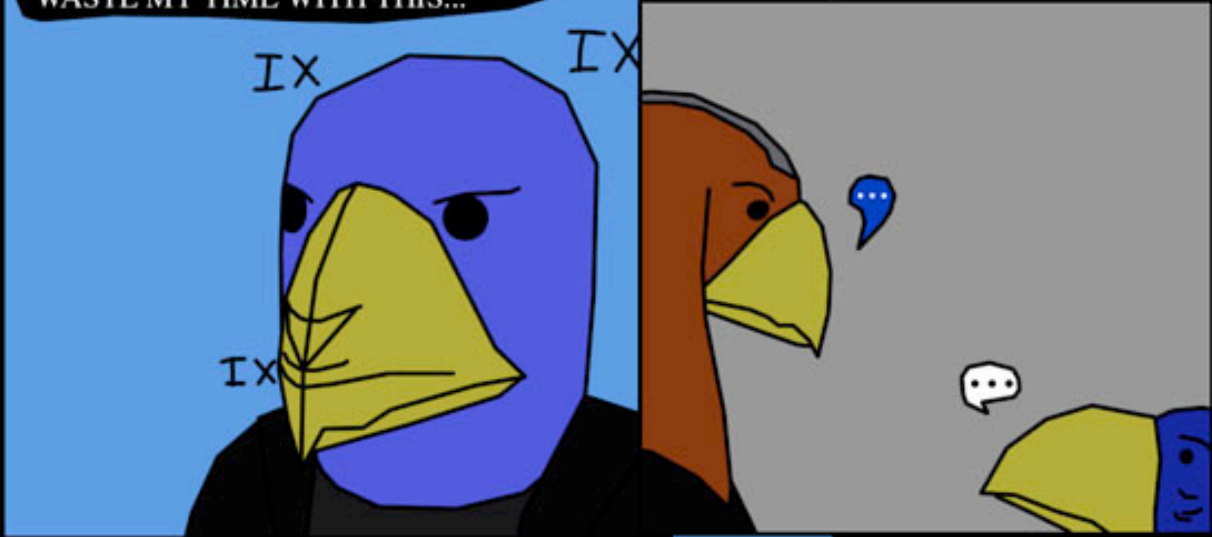
SIX-THREE.

WELL, I SAW YOU, AND I FIGURED I OUGHT TO SAY SOMETHING -

I WANTED TO SAY THAT I REALLY ADMIRE THE WAY YOU'VE MADE A LIFE FOR YOURSELF - WITH NO ARMS AND ALL, I MEAN... I DON'T USUALLY WATCH THE NEWS ANYMORE, YOU KNOW, BUT I WAS FLIPPING THROUGH THE CHANNELS - I WAS WATCHING A MOVIE...ON CHANNEL FIVE, I THINK IT WAS, MAYBE CHANNEL SEVENTEEN - OH, I DON'T RE-...BUT I SAW YOU AND YOU CAUGHT MY EYE - I MEAN, THE STORY ON YOU, NOT YOU YOURSELF - WELL, YOU YOURSELF TOO, BECAUSE YOU'RE ...UMM... PRETTY, AND THAT SORT OF THING, BUT I DECIDED I NEEDED TO HEAR ABOUT THIS, YOU KNOW? BECAUSE I'M NOT USUALLY "IN THE LOOP," AS THEY SAY, AND -

M...

I WONDER WHETHER TO BE THANKFUL
QUESTOYA IS NOT HERE OR...PISSED TO
WASTE MY TIME WITH THIS...



SIX FOOT THREE? OH, MISS
RAM, YOU ARE MODEST! I
WOULD SAY AT LEAST SIX
FOUR - AND SIX FOOT
EIGHT FOR YOUR
STRONG FRIEND WHO
HAS ABANDONED YOU.



YOU AREN'T ON YOUR REGULAR SCHEDULE, MISS RAM. AND YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED? - OR WERE, I SUPPOSE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING CAUGHT; I HAVE MEN BLOCKING EVERY ROAD BY COMPUTER - AND BY FORCE.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU FIGHT.







MMM.

BE CAREFUL, MISS RAM, DON'T HURT YOURSELF!

UGH!

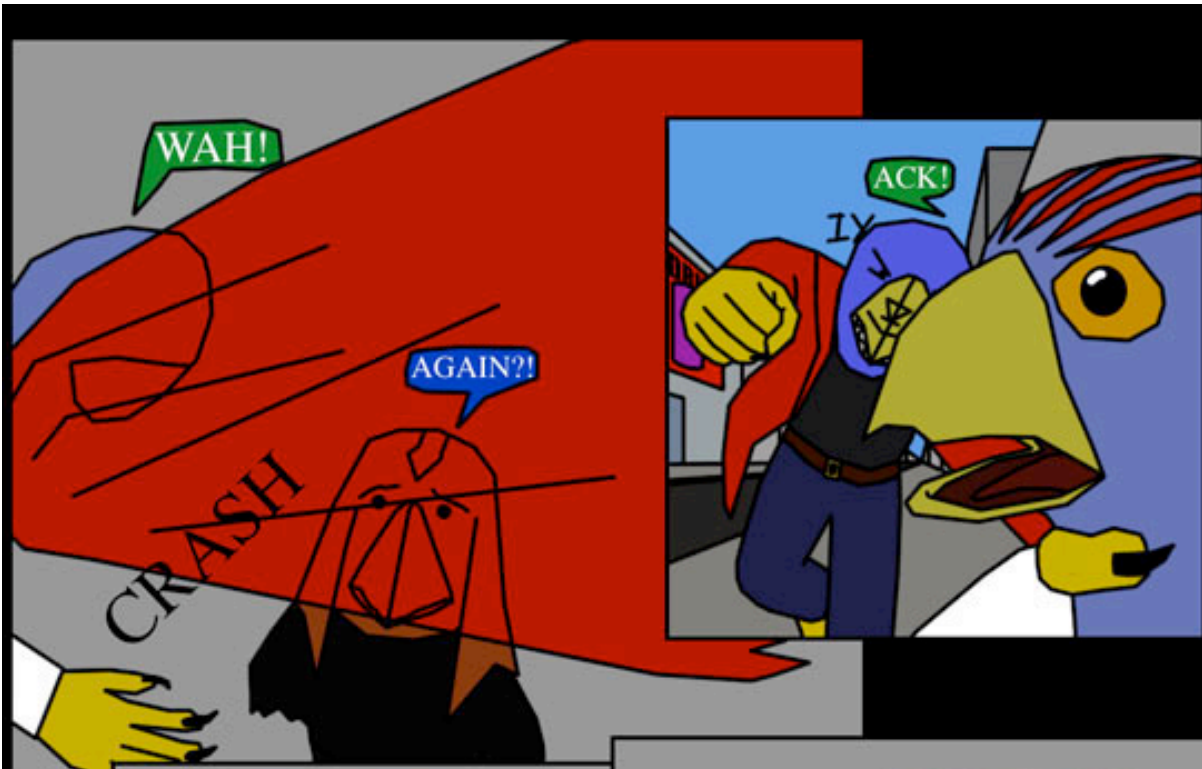
YOU'RE MAKING ME BORED, MISS RAM. SUCH A SHAME IT IS YOU HAVE NO ARMS; WE COULD HAVE USED YOUR TALENT.

rip

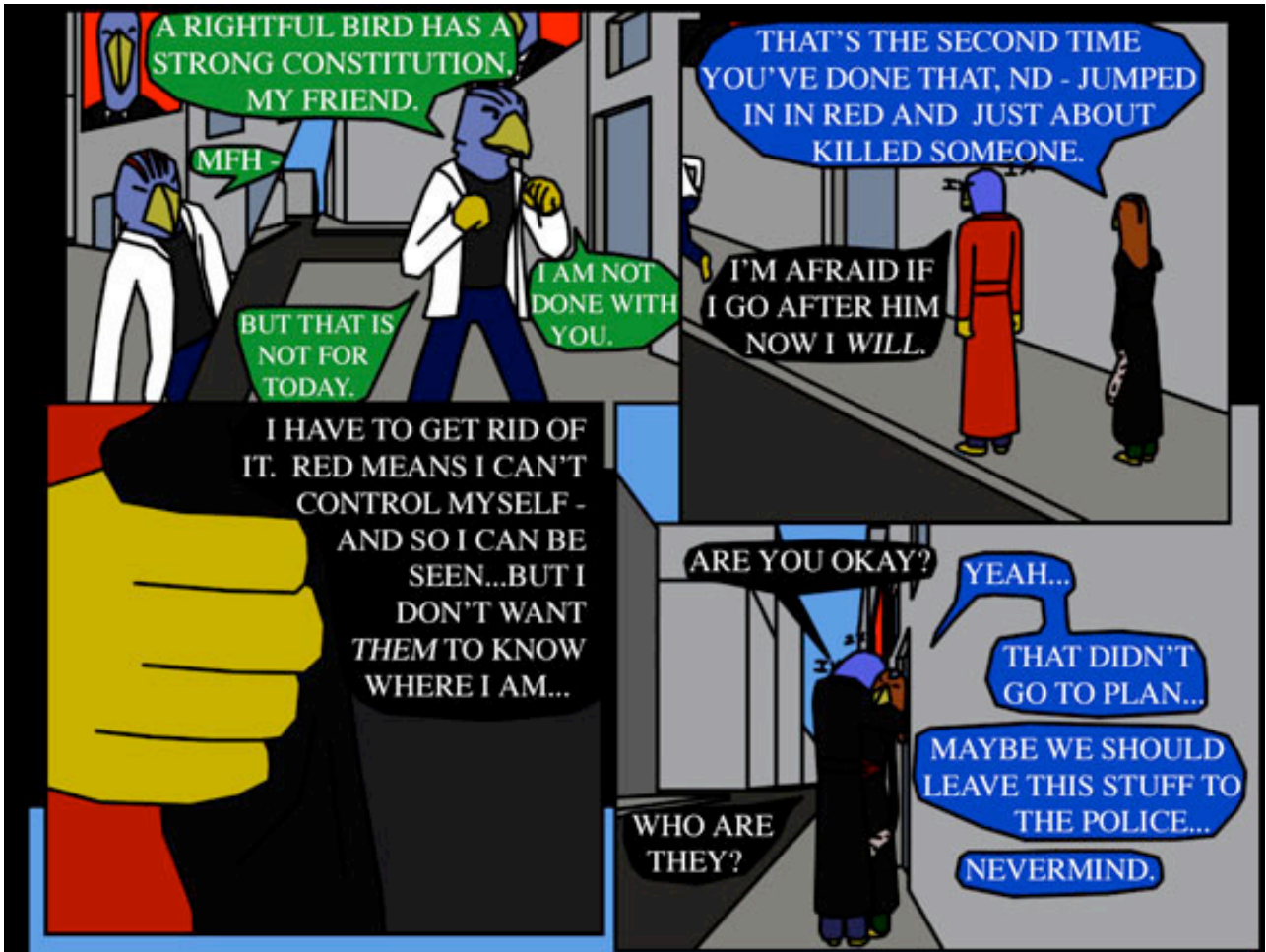
IT IS NOT OFTEN ANYMORE THAT ONE IS PRESENTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEAR OFF SOMEONE'S ARM...

GET UP! I ENJOY THIS!

WASSAT?!







WHELAN'S

DISCOUNT CLOTHING AND FURNITURE

AVE QUESTOYA...

