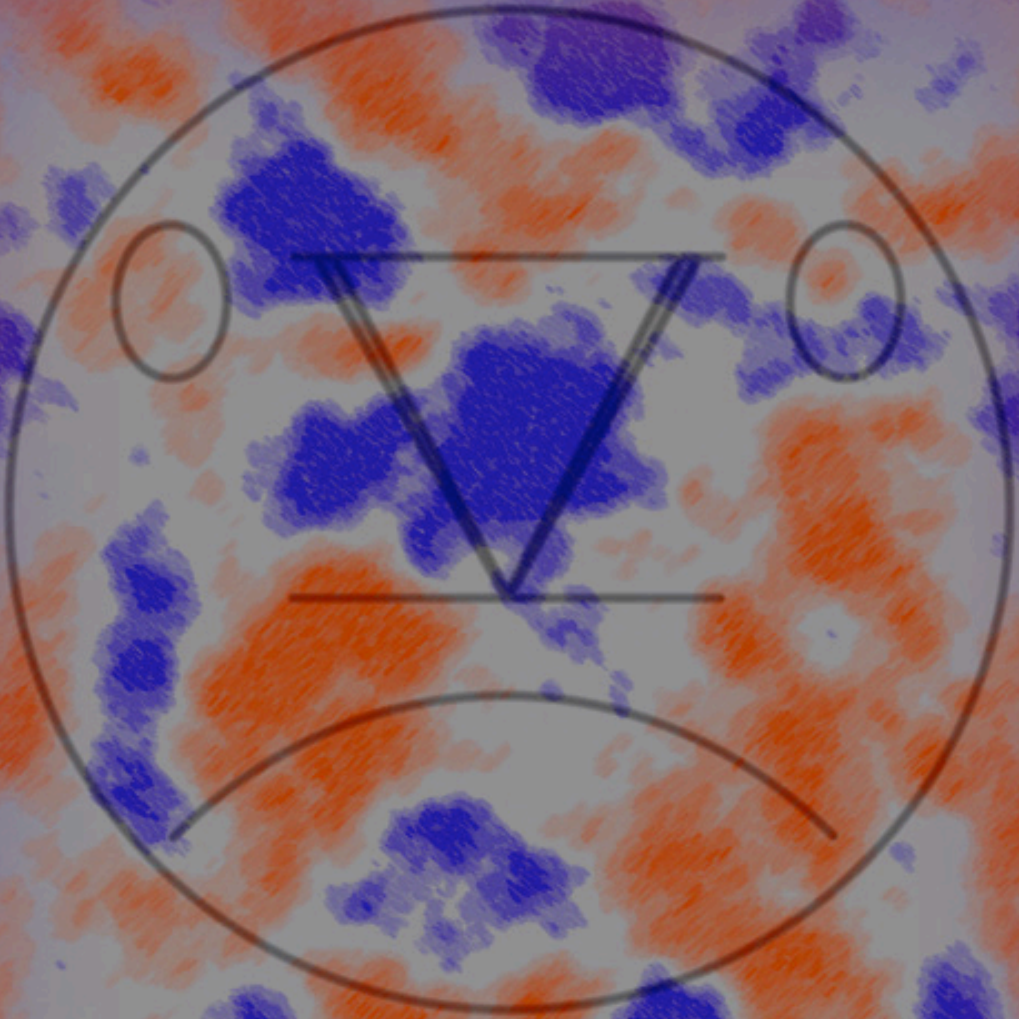


volume 3

keenan cross

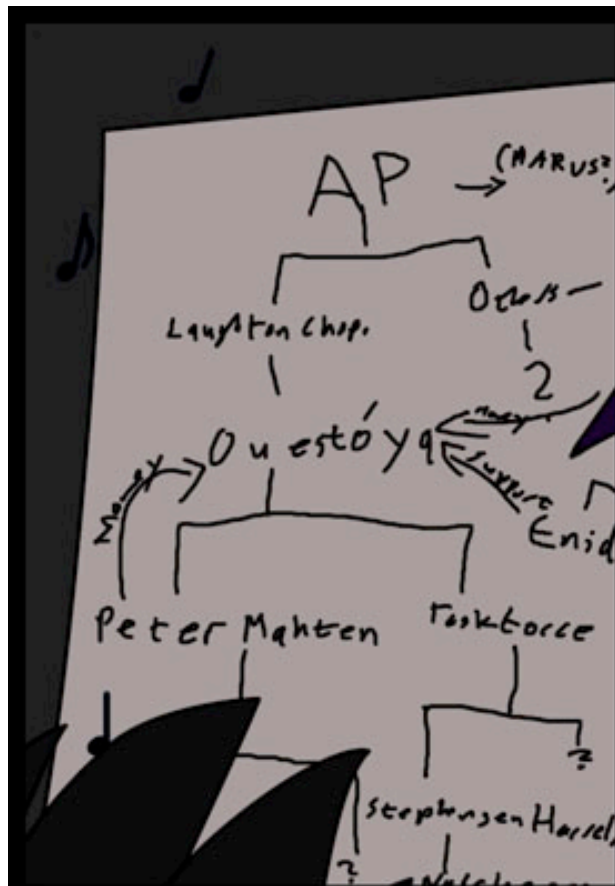
NIGHTHAWK/DAYHAWK



NIGHTHAWK/DAYHAWK

volume 3





DO YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME HERE?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR KIND OF PLACE.

I DID - BEFORE, YOU KNOW, I HAD TO
HAVE A BIG, SUPPOSEDLY JAPANESE
BODYGUARD TO GO OUTSIDE...

I GOT IN
FREE.

WELL, IT IS AN IGNORAMUS VERDICT.
WE KNOW ONLY OF A CERTAIN
NUMBER OF THEM, AND ANY
OF THEM RELATE BACK
TO QUESTOYA
DIRECTLY.

THE QUESTION STILL
REMAINS OF CURRAD
MARUS, OF COURSE,
BUT I DON'T KNOW
WHAT A "DOUCHE
BAG" IS.

DAMMIT,
NEETCH.

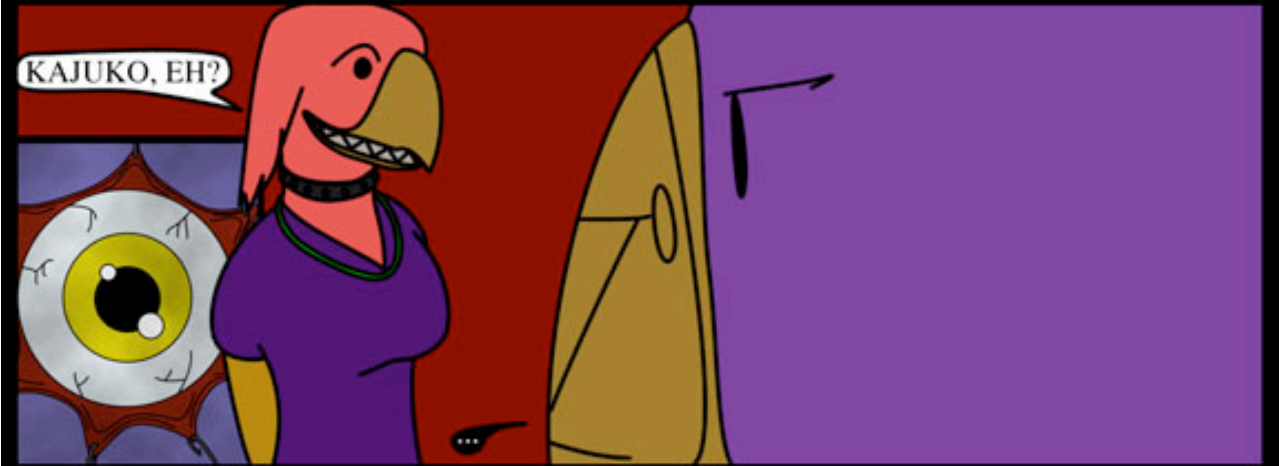


HELL, I HAVE TO HIT THE RESTROOM. I'LL BE QUICK.



SEEYA, "KAJUKO."

M.

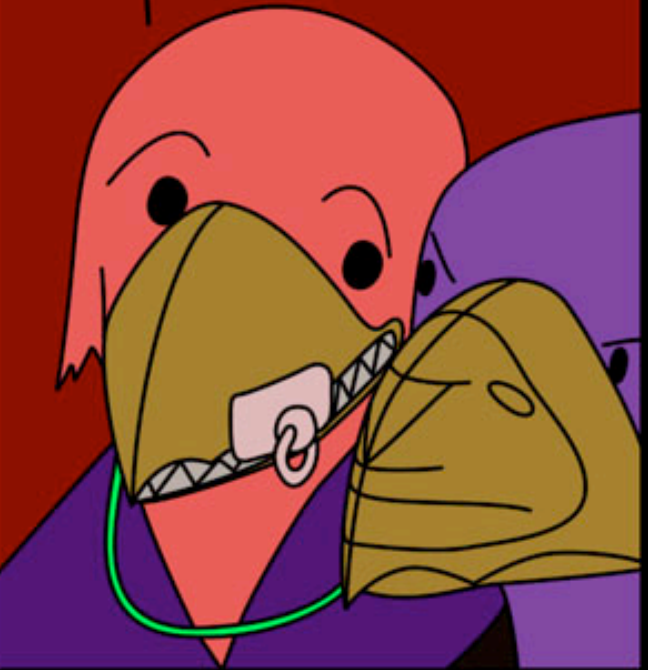


KAJUKO, EH?

I'M MERA. YOU DON'T LOOK JAPANESE. ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE? WHO ARE YOU? WHO WAS THAT? I THINK YOU'RE HOT. WANNA DANCE?



YOU'RE REALLY BIG. WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET? I'M MERA. SAY SOMETHING.



OOOO.

gik



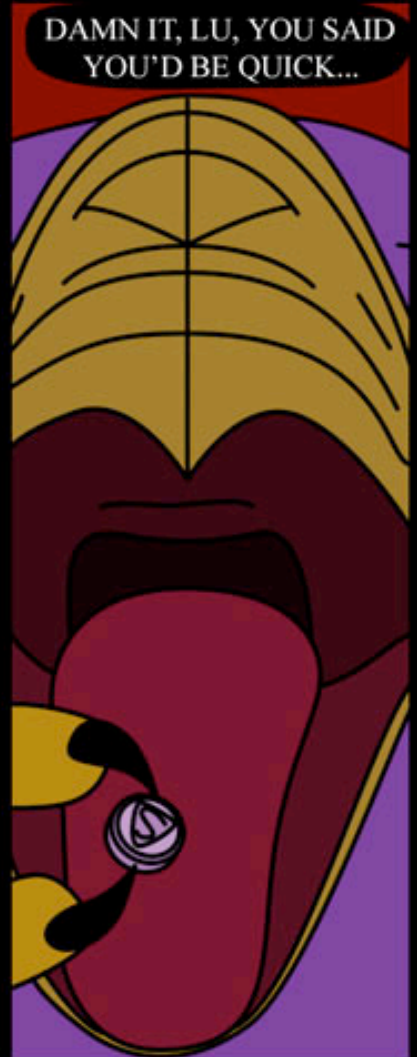
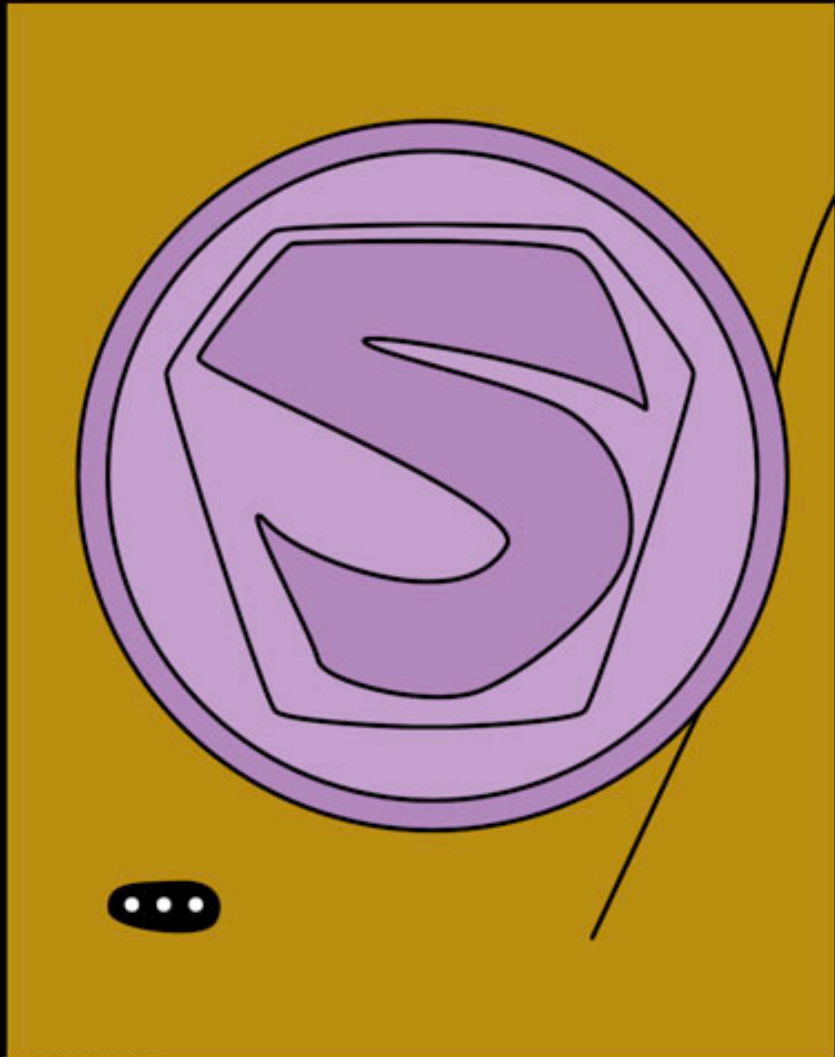
WHY CAN'T YOU TALK? WANNA DANCE?



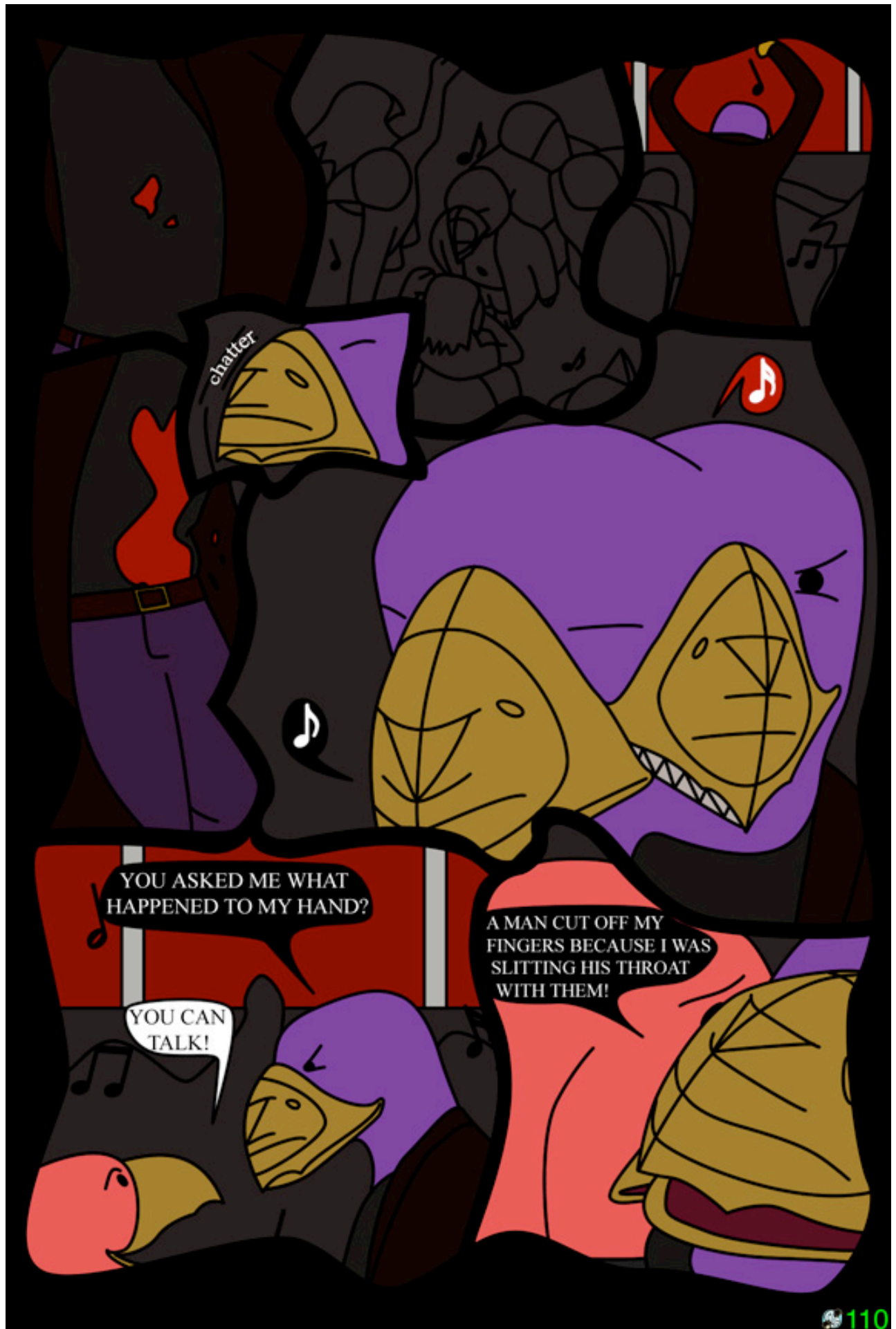


THIS IS LIKE, THE GREATEST STUFF IN THE WORLD. ALL IT DOES IS MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD AND THEN YOU'LL WANT TO HAVE FUN AND THEN YOU'LL GET THIRSTY AND YOUR BEAK'LL HURT BUT IT'S WORTH IT BECAUSE IT MAKES EVERYTHING SO GREAT AND FUN AND YOU'LL LIKE IT AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?

SHE COULD BE AN AP-ER; IT COULD BE POISONED...?







chatter

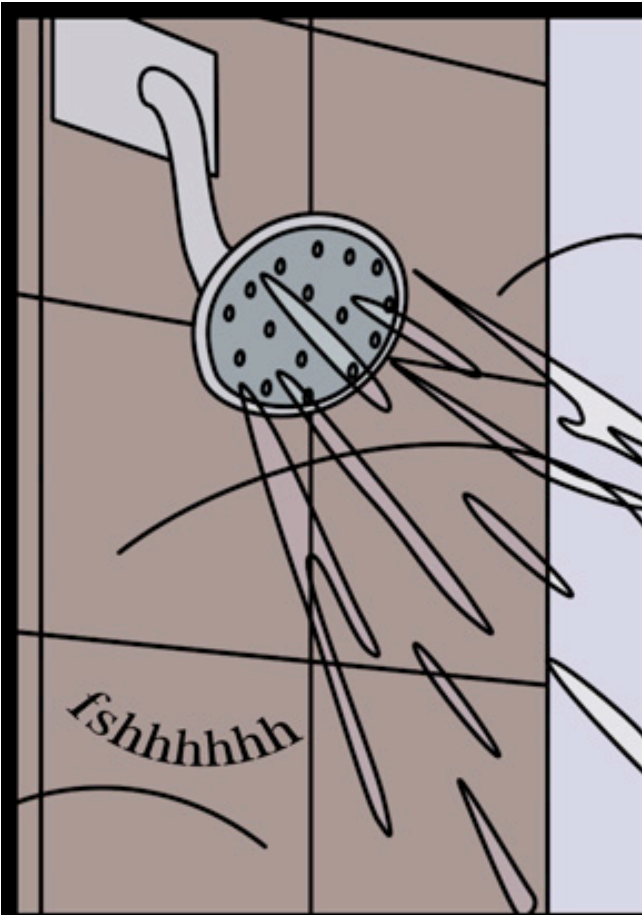
YOU ASKED ME WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HAND?

A MAN CUT OFF MY FINGERS BECAUSE I WAS SLITTING HIS THROAT WITH THEM!

YOU CAN TALK!





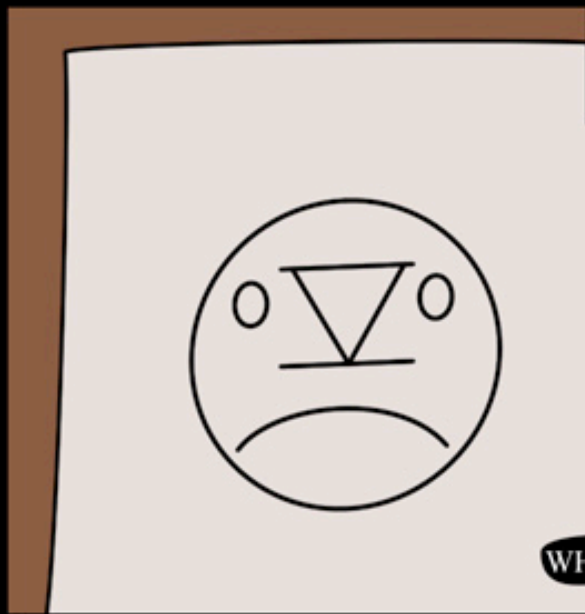




THE APPARENT MURDERER PRESENT AT THE STRANGE ATTACK ON LU RAM'S APARTMENT RECENTLY, WHO HAS LEFT BEHIND FINGERPRINTS AND BLOOD WITH THE DNA OF THE COMATOSE MAN HARL XIS HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY POLICE AS A MAN GOING BY THE NAME "KAJUKO SHINJURI," THE JAPANESE ACQUAINTANCE OF LU RAM'S, WHOM



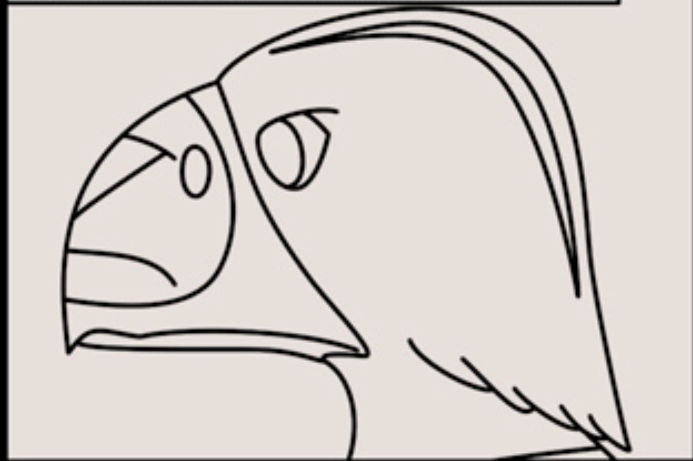
SHE HIRED AFTER THE ATTACKS TO SERVE AS HER BODY GUARD.



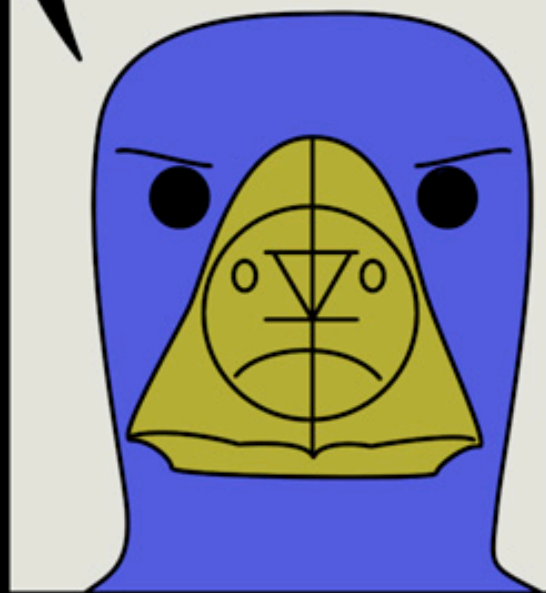
WHAT?!

MERA SYLBAR, THE ONLY VICTIM SHINJURI ATTACKED AT THE RAVE, LOST HER RIGHT EYE AND MAY SUFFER MILD BRAIN DAMAGE DUE TO CRANIAL TRAUMA. SHE SAYS THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE SHINJURI WITH THE RAVE'S STROBE LIGHTS, BUT DESCRIBED A TATTOO CARVED INTO HIS BEAK. ONLY TWO HOURS AFTER THE INITIAL POLICE REPORT WAS FILED, THERE WAS ANOTHER SIGHTING OF SHINJURI, ANOTHER ATTEMPTED MURDER.

POLICE HAVE ISSUED THIS SKETCH OF SHINJURI FROM DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN BY VICTIMS OF HIS LATER ATTACKS. HE IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING ABNORMALLY LARGE FACIAL FEATURES, AND FOUR RED STREAKS DOWN THE TOP OF HIS HEAD.



QUESTOYA.



THIS MEANS WE'RE FUCKING STUCK!
AT THIS POINT, IT'S PROBABLY TOO
DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO OUT-
SIDE, AND QUESTY ISN'T HELPING US
ANY.

"QUESTY?"

I DUNNO, I JUST
THOUGHT I'D TRY IT
OUT...

MISS RAM? L-L-R-T NEWS,
MAY I COME IN TO ASK YO
A FEW QUESTIONS?

BLARGH.

KNOCK
KNOCK

GO GET SOME CLOTHES ON
AND FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.

I'LL GIVE YOU A FEW MINUTES, BUT
I REALLY DON'T FEEL UP TO IT RIGHT
NOW.

SCREEERT

TELL ME ABOUT KAJUKO SHINJURI.

UMN, ARE YOU SERIOUS? WELL, I MET HIM WHEN I WAS IN JAPAN A FEW YEARS AGO FOR A FRIEND. HE OFFERED TO LOOK AFTER - MY FACE IS UP HERE, SIR...

ER, OF COURSE.

CLICK

I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS...THAT HE DID ALL THAT. I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT THAT MAN'S BLOOD AND FINGER-PRINTS, BUT I GUESS I DIDN'T EXACTLY KEEP WATCH ON HIM.

SIR-

SIR?

EHH-

HAVE YOU HEARD, MISS RAM, THAT HARL XIS' ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARTNER, DR. MEROLUS ROST, JUST RECENTLY CHECKED HIMSELF INTO A HOSPITAL RIGHT OUT OF TOWN -

-AND CLAIMED HE WAS ATTACKED BY ONE AVE QUESTOYA?

SHEESH... NO, I HADN'T HEARD THAT.

DAMMIT, I TOLD HIM TO GO FARTHER THAN THAT.

FIGURES. KAJUKO MUST BE AN A-P-ER. I KNEW HE SEEMED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

AND PLEASE, SIR, IF YOU LIKE MY BREASTS THAT MUCH, YOU CAN TAKE THEM WITH YOU WHEN YOU GO.

I'M SURE YOU'D ENJOY THEM MORE THAN I DO.

GIK

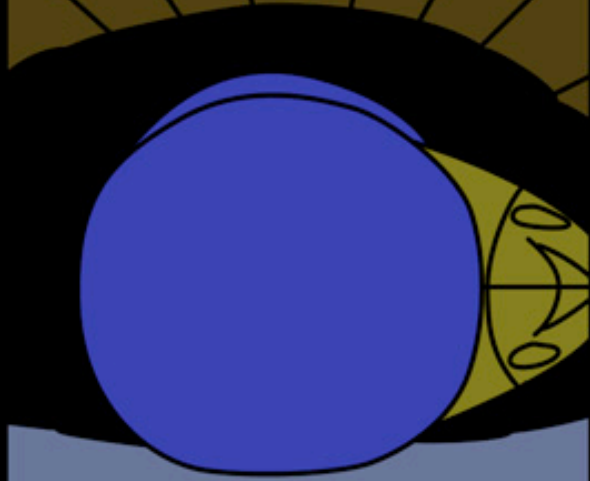
ERM, CAN THAT BE OFF THE RECORD?

IF YOU INSIST.

SHIFF

WELL, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY. ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU FOR THE INTERVIEW.

GOODNIGHT.



THE OFFER STILL STANDS, SIR.

I SAID I WAS SORRY, MISS RAM, I CAN'T HELP IT!



EXCUSE ME.



BASTARD.



OW, ARE YOU OKAY, NEETCH?

OH, LU, YOU KNOW I'M NEVER OKAY!

ACCORDING TO HIS POLICE FILE, OL' QUESTY HAS BEEN ACQUITTED OF THIRTY-SEVEN MURDERS, ALL OF WHICH TRIALS WERE APPEALED BY THE PLAINTIFF A DOZEN TIMES, AND HE'S BEEN FILED UNDER "SLIGHT SUSPICION."



WHO IS "KARI VITIKKOHUHTA?"

UMM...



HER REAL NAME IS KARI JARVIKETTUNEN VITIKKOHUHTA-HYYRTIAINEN. DON'T TELL ANYONE.

OH...

MY NAME IS "NEETCH!"

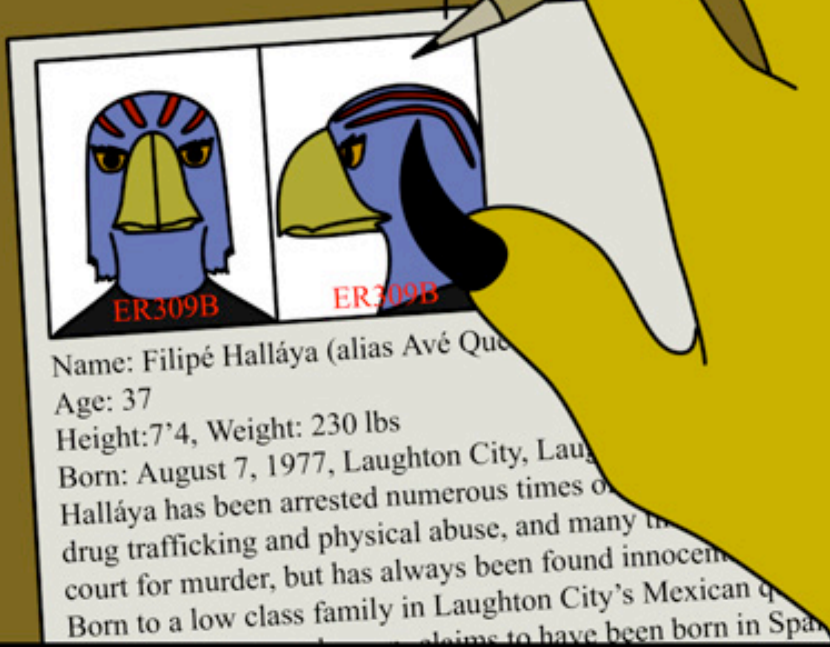
twitch

HEEECHHH...

RK -



THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE GOOD IN HERE TOO...



MUCH WEIGHT'S THEY'VE GOT TO THROW AROUND, YOU'D THINK THEY'D DO A BETTER JOB WITH THEIR COVERUPS.

LOOKS TO ME LIKE THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO COVER UP TO GET AROUND THE POLICE.

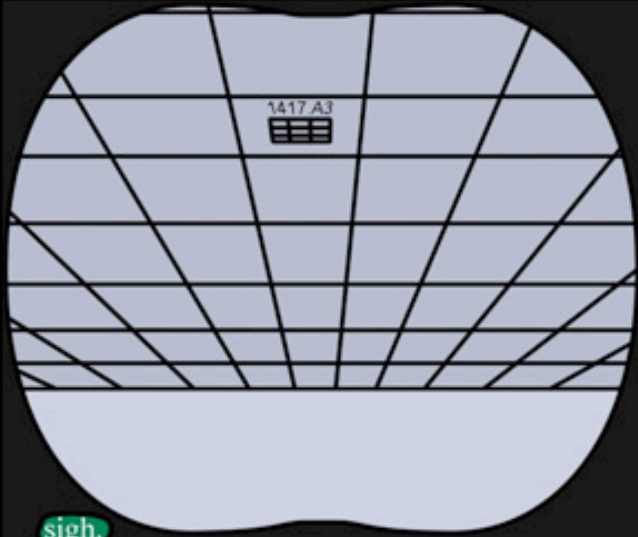
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.



receives mail in a Post Office b
O. number: 1417.A3, registered
false name "Manar Lox."
estigations into the identity of "
have been discontinued followin

THIS IS THE PART I LIKE, THOUGH.

TAP



sigh.

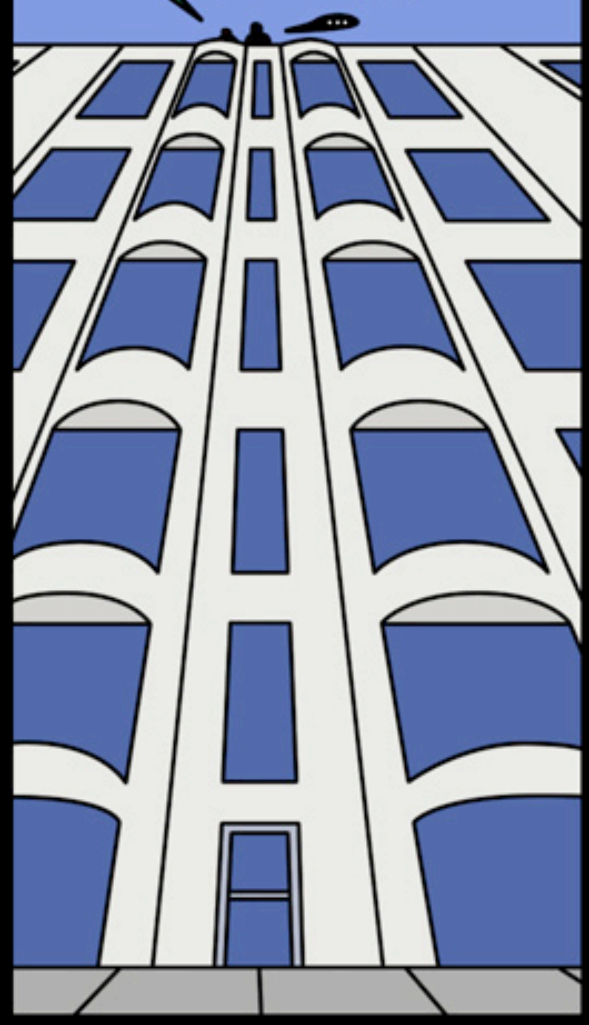
YOU HAD BETTER NOT HAVE MAILED HIM ANYTHING.

OH, I WIPED IT OFF FIRST.

M.



CHECK YOUR GODDAMN MAIL, YOU FUCKING NAZI BITCHFUCKER!



AH, THERE HE IS.

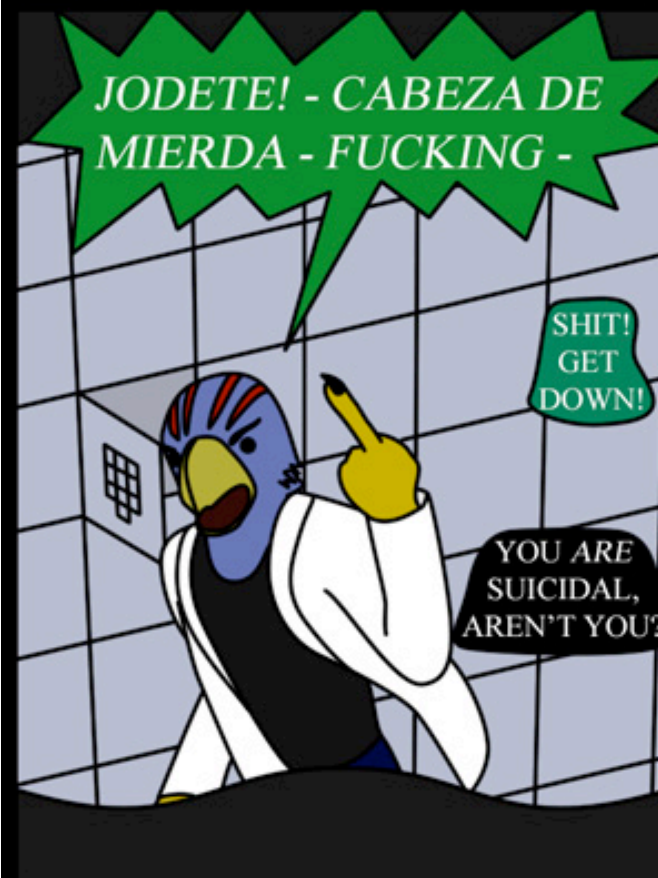
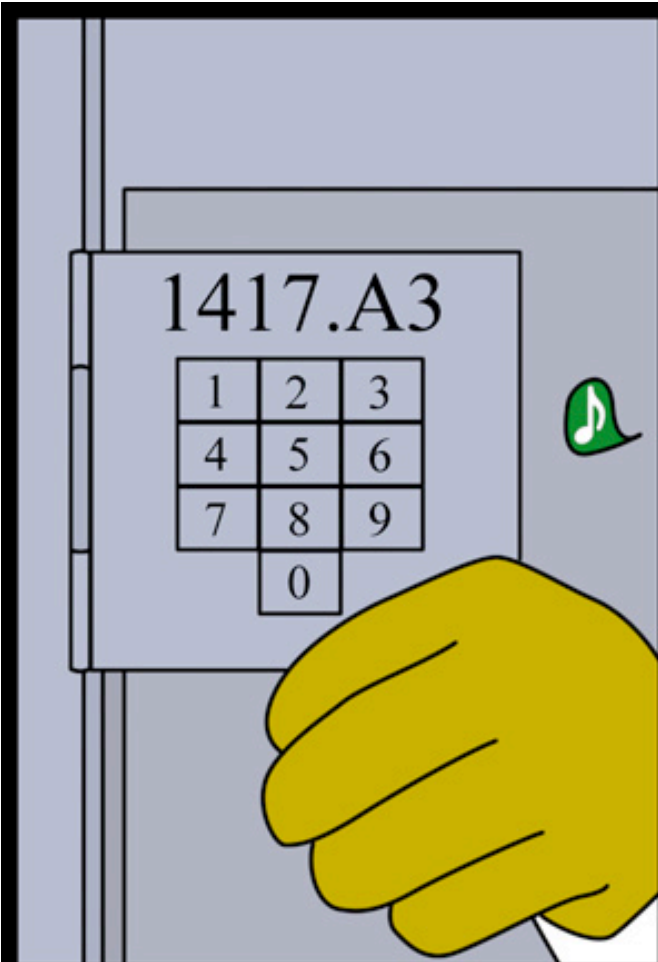
THE ASSMAN COMETH.

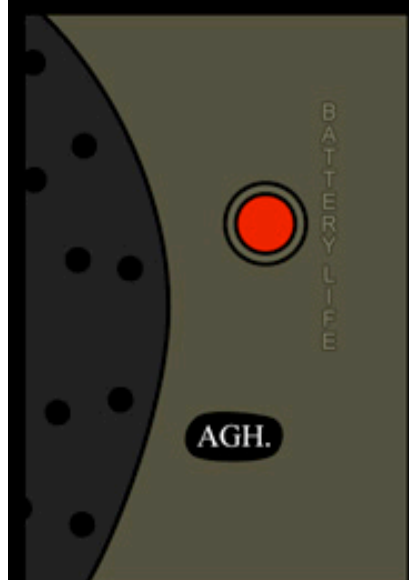


HE'S HERE.









WHY DO WE USE BATTERIES? WHY NOT SATELLITE POWER?

EH.

(UM, IT OPENS FROM THE OTHER SIDE.)

clack

I JUST DON'T TRUST SATELLITE POWER.

THE AP BASICALLY OWNS IT ANYWAY.

CLACK

HOW CAN THEY DO THAT?

WELL, LET'S GET GOING. MR. LOX HAS SOME MAIL FOR US.

click



OH, WITH CURRAD MARUS, THEIR LITTLE CORPORATE BITCH.

HERE, I GOT IT.

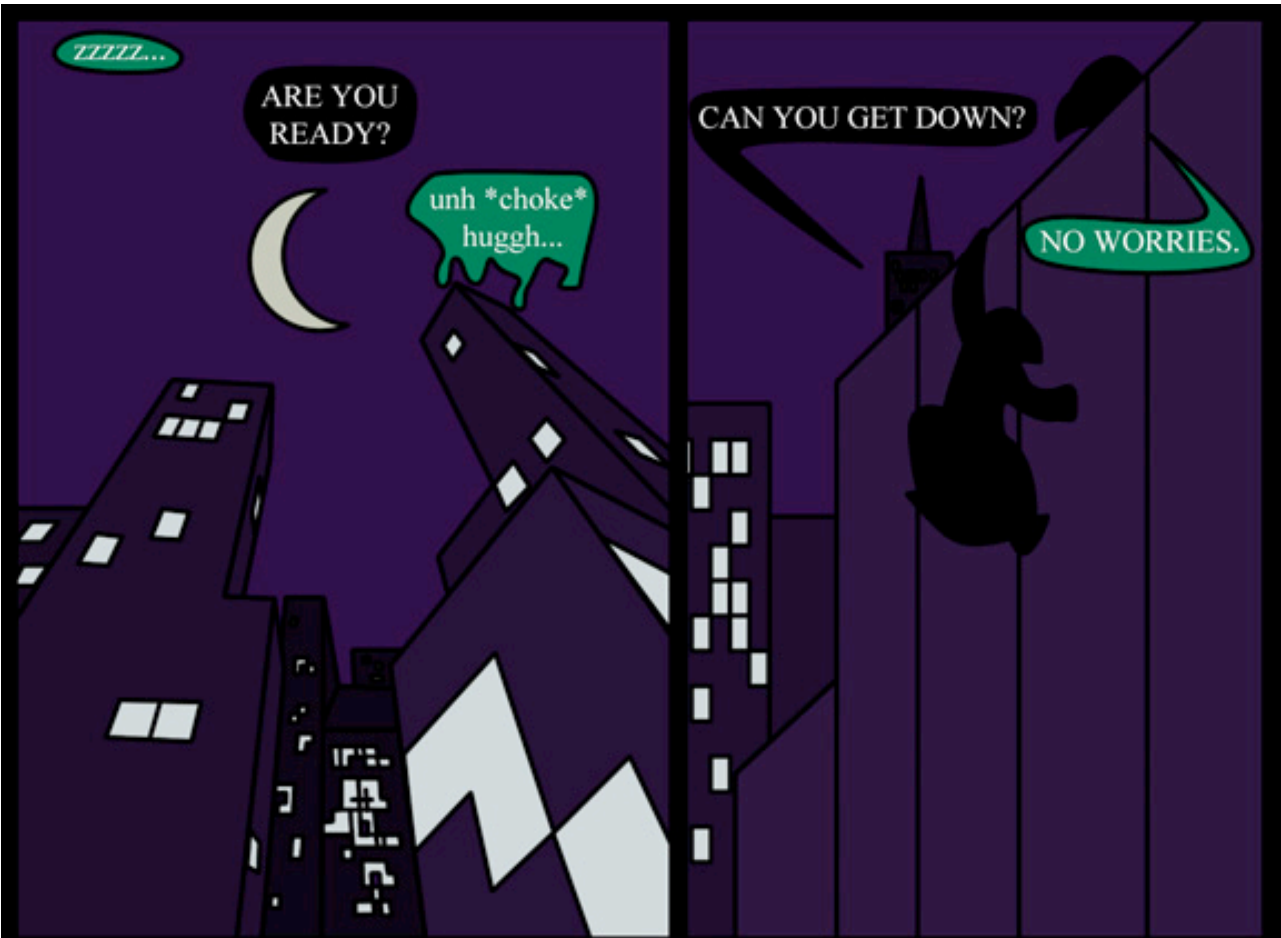
... WHY ARE YOU RUBBING MY FOOT?

UM...

HEHEH, AND FROM US.

SNAP

M.



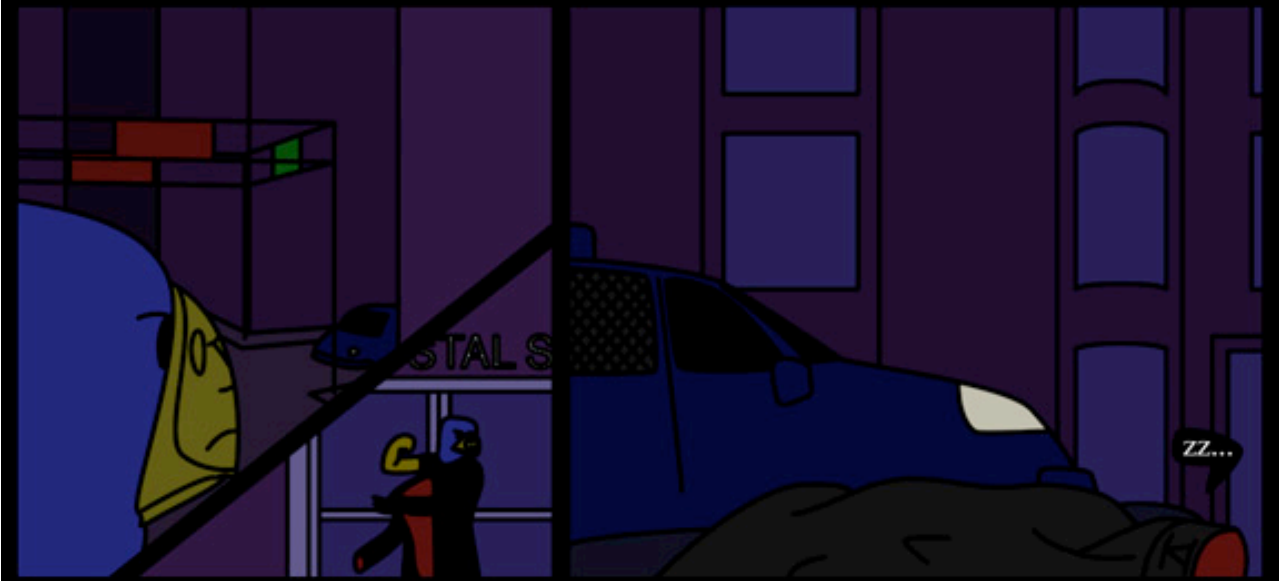


WHERE IS THAT ALARM...

PROTECTED
RLR
BY

UMM, ND -

NOT KLAR, NOT KLAR!



ZZ...

GAH, ANOTHER HOBO. I THOUGHT THEY SAID THEY WERE GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS BURROUGH...

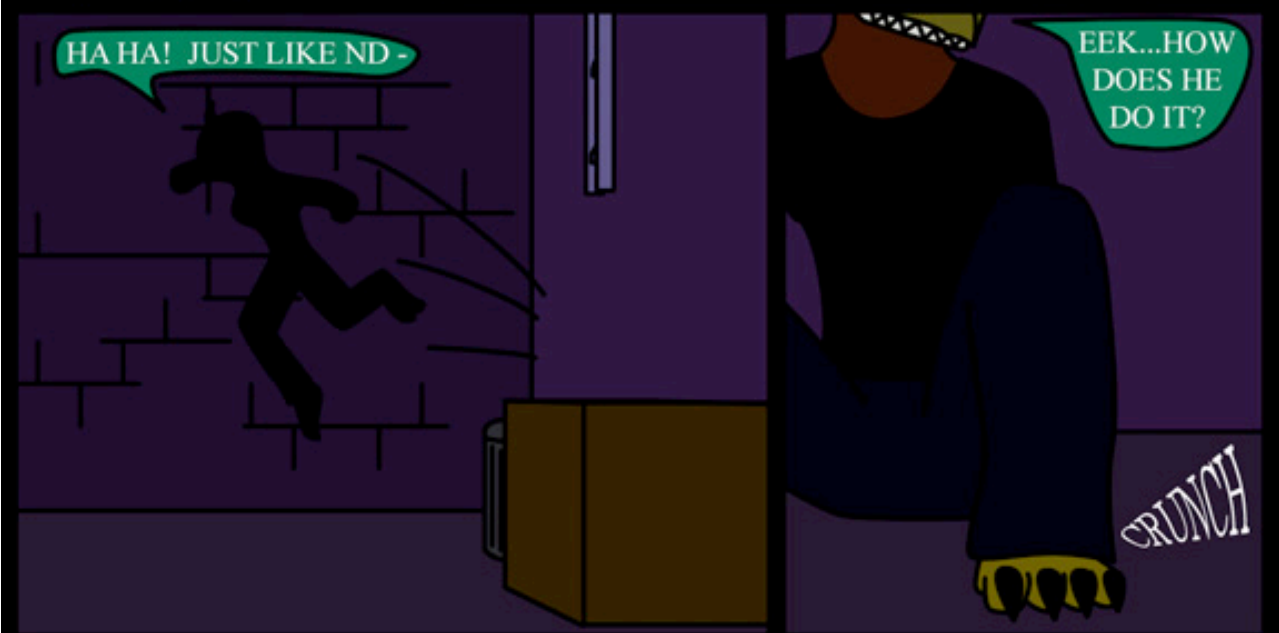
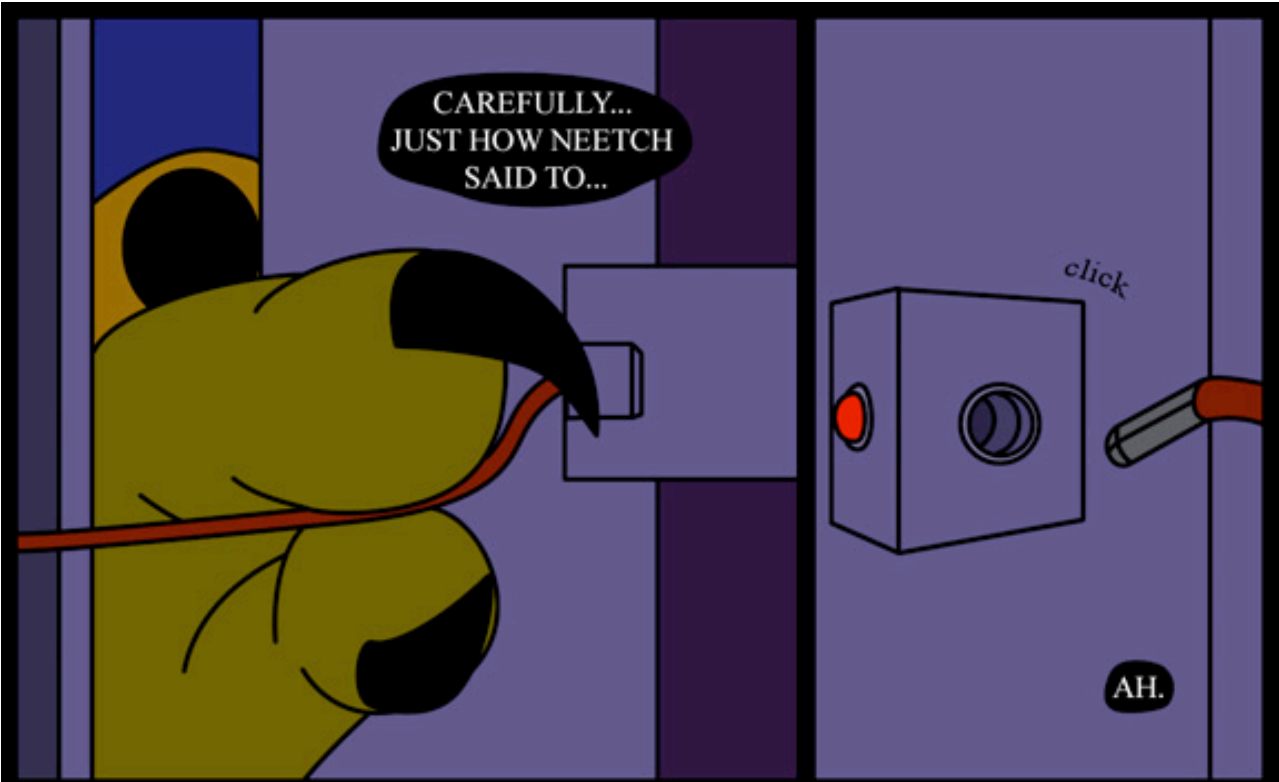
HAVING A JOB DON'T NECESSARILY MEAN YOU CAN AFFORD THE KINDSA APARTMENTS THEY SELL IN THESE PARTS.

YEAH, WELL.

BIGGEST HOBO I'VE EVER SEEN, ANYWAY.

PHEW...





heu REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I'M NOT STAYING UP THERE WHERE IT'S SAFE?



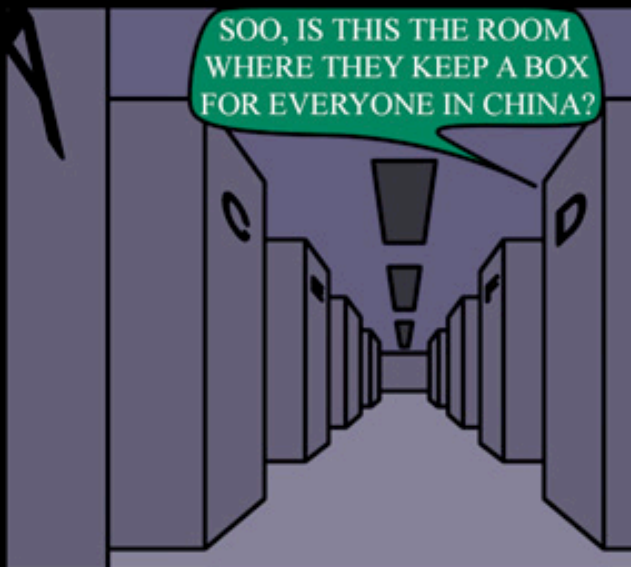
OH YEAH, ND DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO WORK THE KEYPADS.

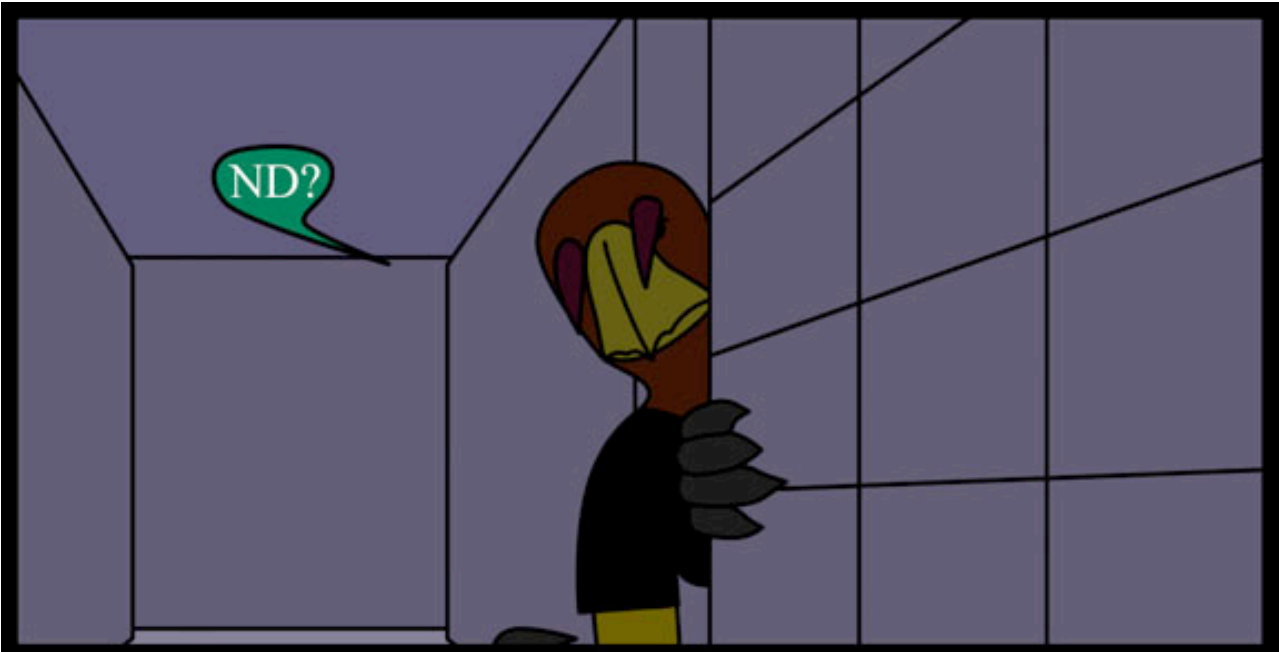


THAT'S GOOD, I ONLY SEE A COUPLE CAMERAS. I CAN GET AROUND THAT. I GUESS.



SOO, IS THIS THE ROOM WHERE THEY KEEP A BOX FOR EVERYONE IN CHINA?





HOLY JESUSFUCK -

IT'S JUST LIKE ONE OF THOSE DREAMS -

WHERE SOMEONE'S CHASING ME, AND I CAN ONLY RUN SO SLOWLY...

FUCK!

DON'T YOU WANT TO PLAY?

WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE PLACE TO OURSELVES!

NG!

MBFG!

RG...

DAMN - I'M SORRY ND - YOU KNOW I HAD TO!!

DAMN, HE'S STILL COMING!



PLAK

SHIT! TOO HARD, NEETCH, TOO HARD!

DAMN, I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO THAT...



sputter



OHGODOHGODOH
GODOHGODOHGOD
OHGODOHGODOH
GODOHGOD -



C'MON, ND, JUST STAY DOWN FOR A FEW MINUTES..



COME TO MAMA...

I WISH I HAD TIME TO NOTICE THAT HE TOOK THE DILDO.



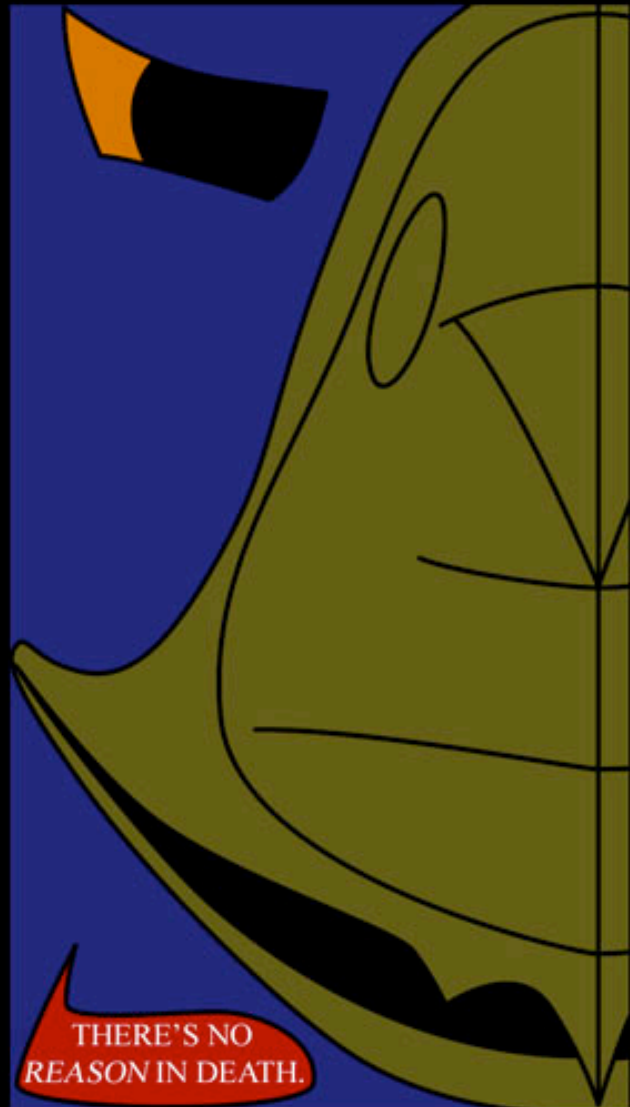


ACK-

I'M ONLY TOYING WITH YOU, YOU KNOW.



CK I GUESS I CAN'T REASON YOU OUT OF IT?



THERE'S NO REASON IN DEATH.

Page missing :D

BRAWWWH



THAT BITCH!
I'LL HAVE TO -

GACK!



RAAAAAWWW

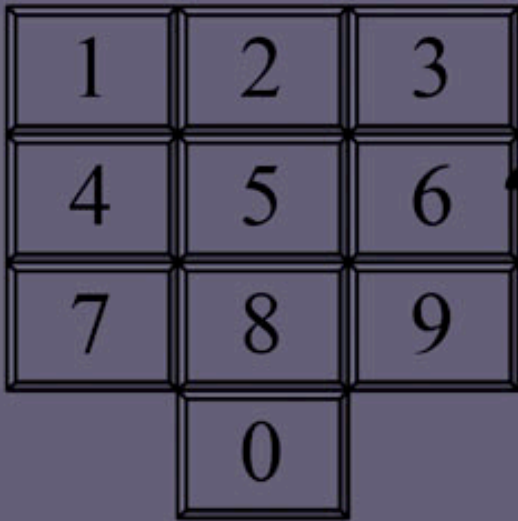


BULLSHIT!

THIS WILL HAVE TO
BE QUICK, THEN.



1417.A3

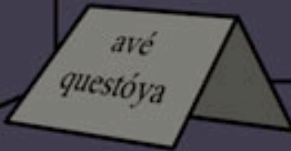


DAMMIT, NEETCH, YOU COULDN'T HAVE LEFT IT OPEN FOR ME...



HERE WE GO.

SEE YOU THERE, AVE.



CLANK

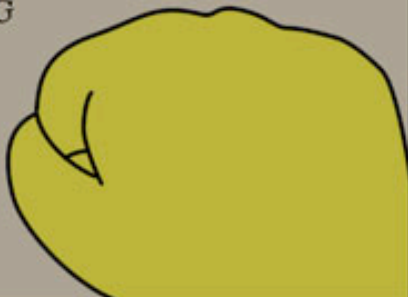
ARE YOU OKAY?



M.

PONG

PONG



GET IN QUICK.

DID ANYONE GET HURT?

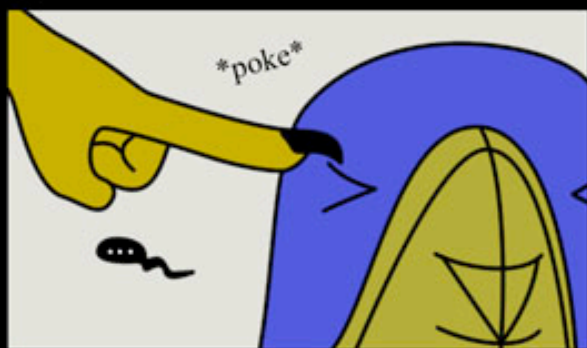
ONE POLICE MAN - BUT NOT BADLY.

GOOD.

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO FIGHT HIM?

M...HE WAS ON QUESTOYA'S CASE.

HE PULLED HIS GUN ON ME.



poke

SEE, YOU MIGHT KILL ME - AND THE CRAZY PART IS, I ACTUALLY CARE! SO I DECIDED TO GROW BACK MY DREADS I SHAVED OFF WHEN I WAS GONNA KILL MYSELF.



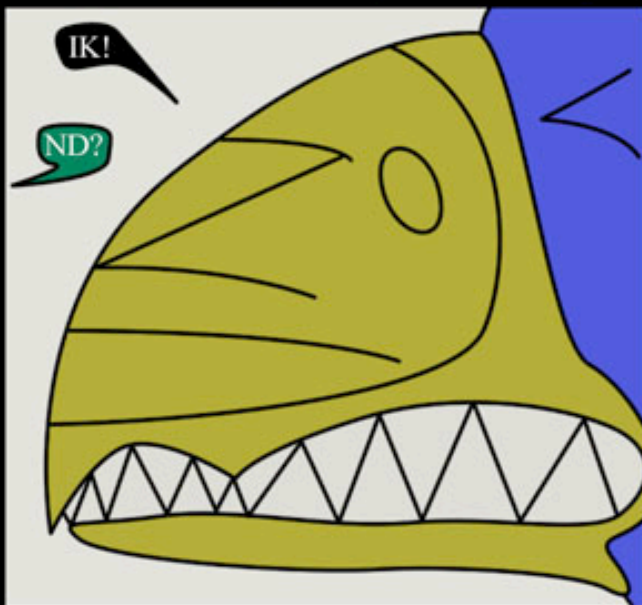
"DREADS?" ARE YOU SCARED OF THEM?



YOU'RE GIVING ME TROUBLE TRUSTING YOU, ND - IN A GOOD WAY.

YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR.

OH YEAH!



IK!

ND?

...HEAR US CUAZATLI...



...WE...



...ARE...



...THE...



...OLD...



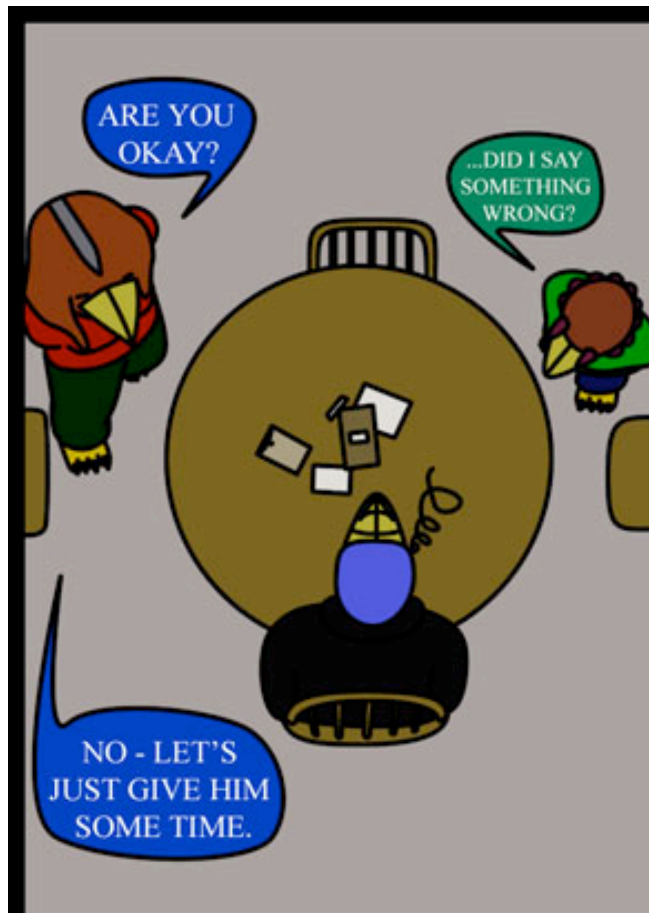
XIBALBA!



...I THINK I
BROKE HIM...

ND?



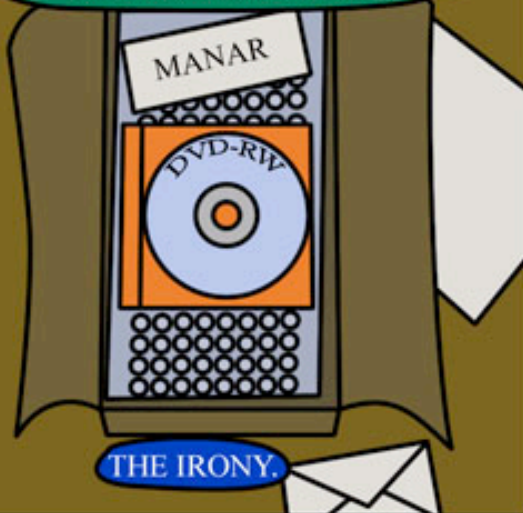


QUESTY'S NO UNABOMBER,
TRUST ME.

HOW CAN YOU
KNOW THAT?

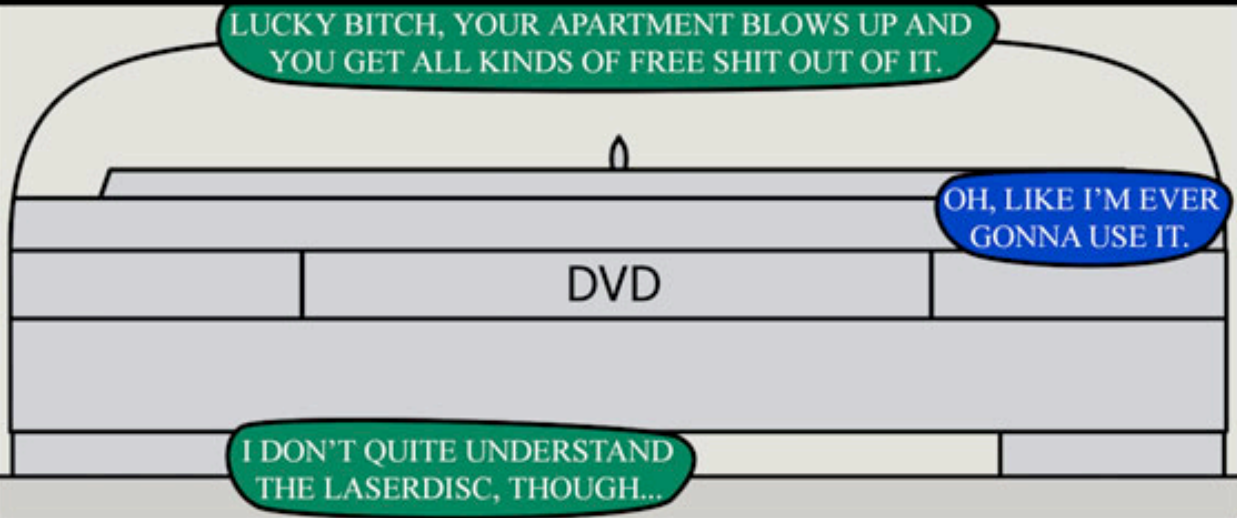


I MAY NOT BE GOOD AT ANYTHING,
BUT I CAN READ MEN.



THE IRONY.

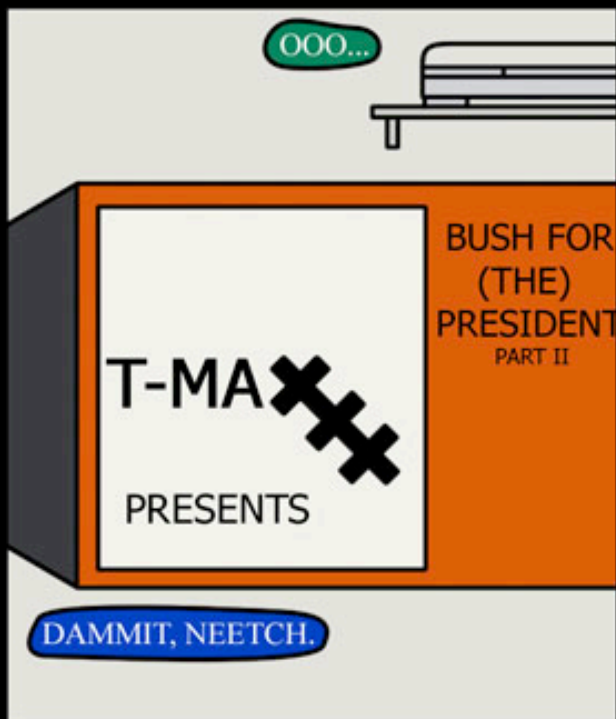
LUCKY BITCH, YOUR APARTMENT BLOWS UP AND
YOU GET ALL KINDS OF FREE SHIT OUT OF IT.



OH, LIKE I'M EVER
GONNA USE IT.

I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND
THE LASERDISC, THOUGH...

OOO...



DAMMIT, NEETCH.

I THINK I'D BETTER LOOK OVER
THIS, IN CASE THERE'S ANYTHING
HIDDEN ON IT.

YOU KNOW IT
WON'T HAVE
ANY FEET IN IT,
NEETCH.

DON'T CRUSH MY
HOPES BEFORE I
TRY, LU.



Manar,
Sorry for not writing for so long
that missile really had me worried

how you could be so calm when that sort of thing happens just
down the street from you. I guess Bloody Tuesday did that to a
lot of people.

Boy, leave it to me to start with a downer eh? Anyway what
I really meant to write about was
and then with the four people
who were it was, it was pretty
I've been able to understand
men from Switzerland and
terrible, horrible prank, I don't
rather forget about the apples,
I've never had a really good party
but it wasn't all bad; I enjoyed
caught with their pants down,
just like that one time in Italy
never been much of a fan of the
better things to do than sleep with



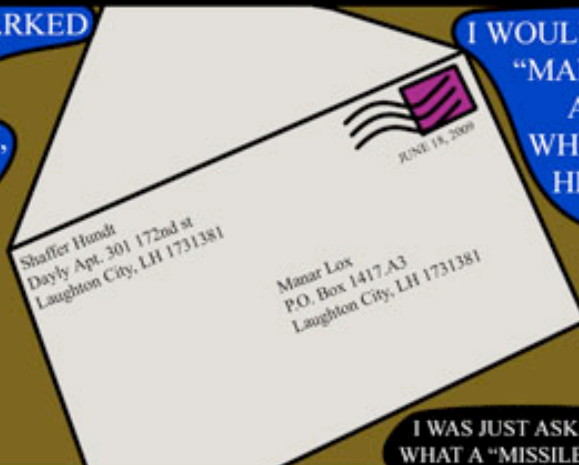
WELL, A FEW YEARS AGO, SOME GUNPOWDER WENT OFF IN A MILITARY STOREHOUSE AND SET OFF ONE OF THE OLD MISSILES THAT WERE IN STORAGE THERE. IT HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE SCARED, BUT THAT'S ALL IT WAS.

U.S. NAVY

AND THE LETTER'S POSTMARKED RIGHT ABOUT THEN TOO.

THAT'S A GOOD INDICATION, THOUGH, THAT THE BOX IS A FAKE.

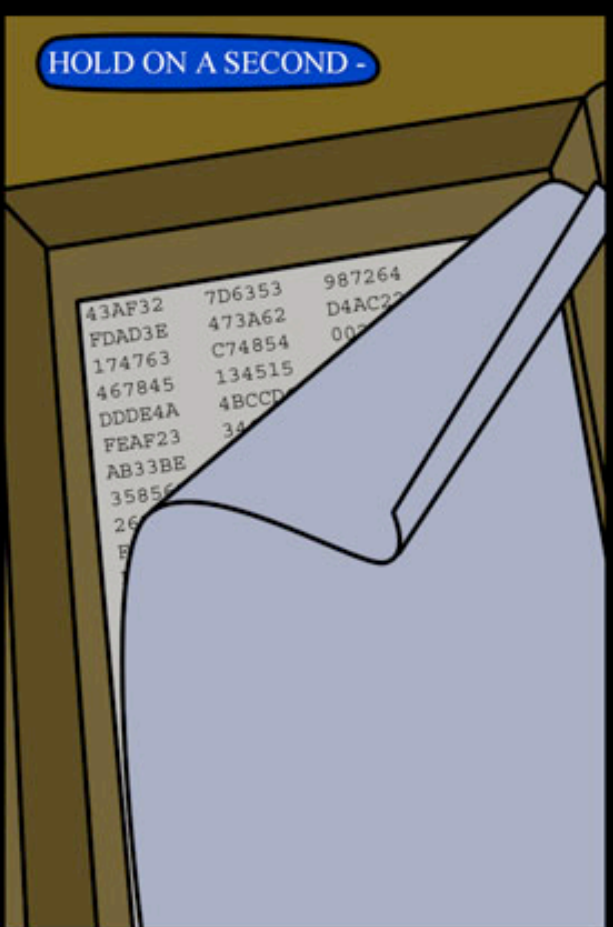
I WOULD GUESS THAT "MANAR LOX" WAS A REAL PERSON WHO EITHER LOST HIS P.O. BOX OR, WELL, DIED.

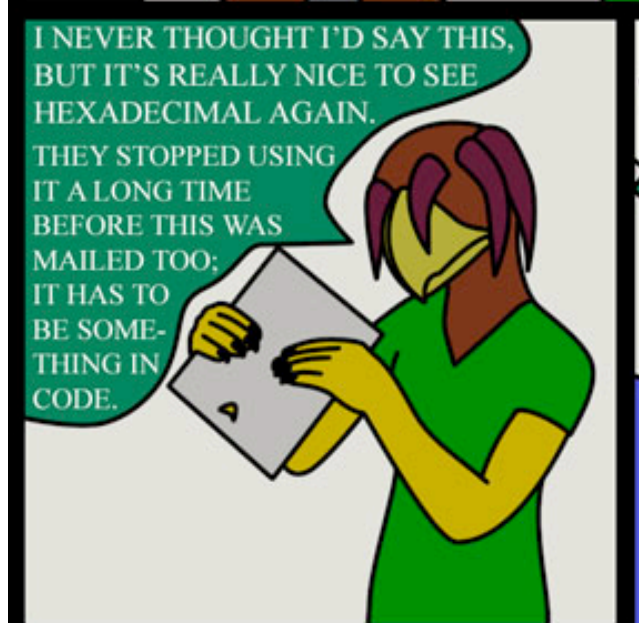


I WAS JUST ASKING WHAT A "MISSILE" IS...

LET'S CHECK SOME MORE AND SEE IF THERE'RE ANY DISCREPANCIES WITH THIS. I DON'T THINK WE'LL FIND ANYTHING, THOUGH. AT LEAST WE GOT THE NOTE TO HIM.

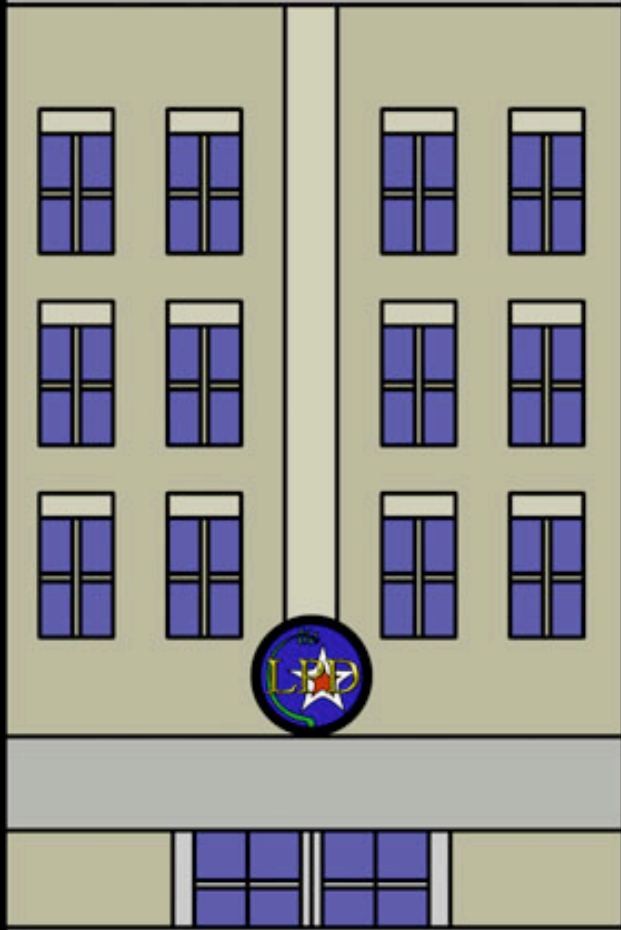








POLICE CHASED AFTER SHINJURI, BUT SAY THAT HE LOST THEM AFTER ONLY HALF A BLOCK.



ALSO WE FOUND FOUR MORE BODIES WE CAN CONNECT TO HIS KILLING SPREE, JUST AN HOUR AFTER WE LOST HIM.



SHINJURI NOT FOUND IN JA

HE HAS BEGUN FLAUNTING HIS MURDERS, AS WELL AS LEAVING KNIFE MARKS ON THEIR ARMS, LIKELY AS A THREAT TO LU RAM.

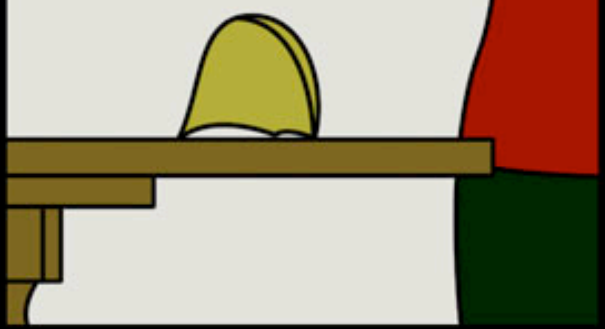
REC



WE CAN'T LET ALL THIS GO ON, ND!

TWO AP ACTIVISTS MURDERE

NEETCH AND I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT YOU A PROSTHETIC BEAK TO COVER YOURS, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY HOLED UP IN HERE.



I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT, ND.



NO.

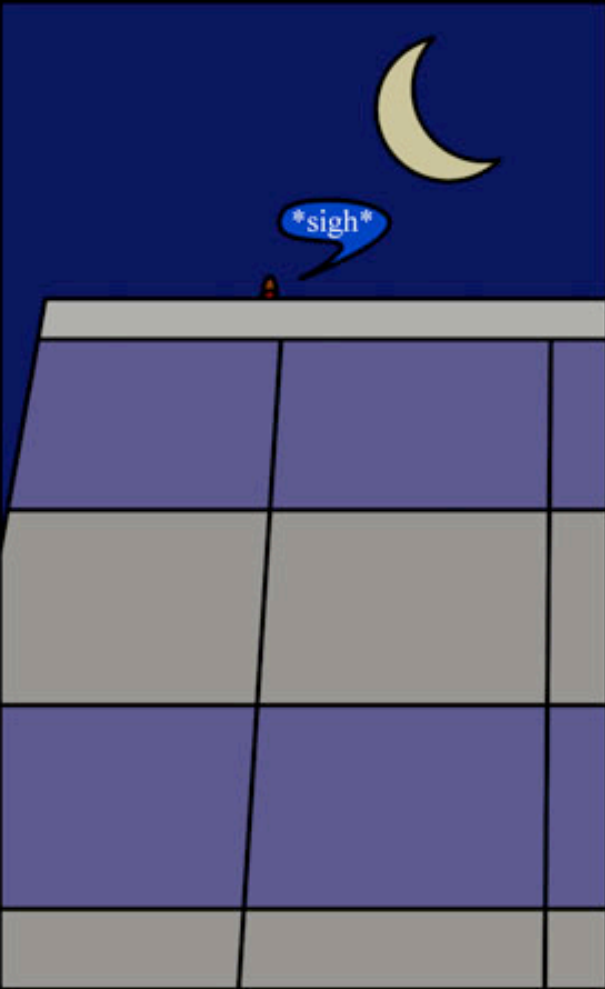
HOW DOES IT FIT?

WELL ENOUGH.

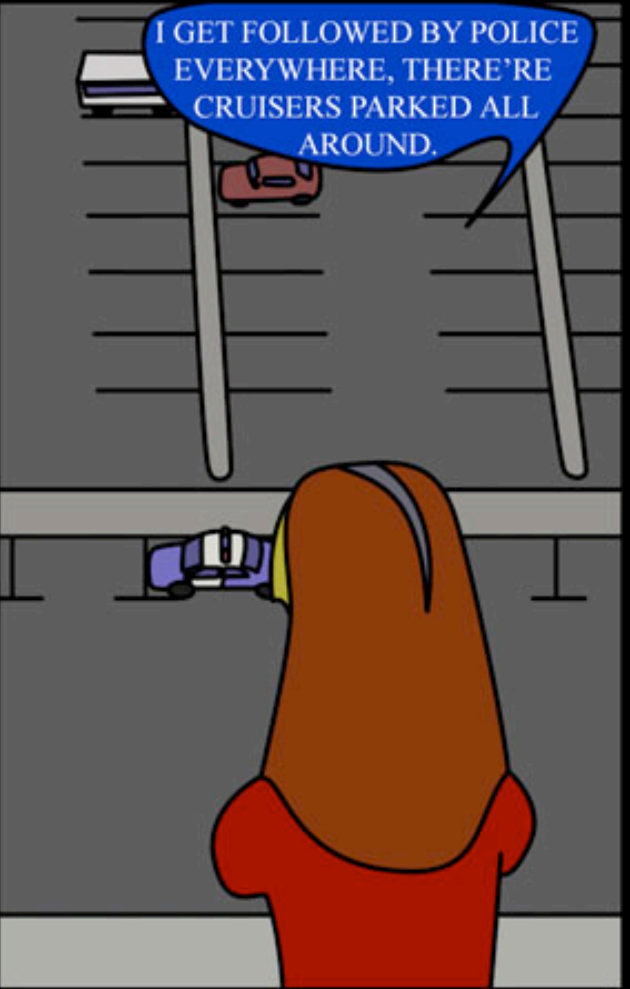
DISGUISES... IT SEEMS SO -



FAMILIAR...



sigh



I GET FOLLOWED BY POLICE EVERYWHERE, THERE'RE CRUISERS PARKED ALL AROUND.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, ND,
I SWEAR I'D GO INSANE.

AND NEETCH
DOESN'T HELP
MUCH.

ARGH, I CAN'T HEAR
ANYTHING THROUGH THESE
WHISPERS AGAIN...

"DON'T COME ANY CLOSER
THAN THIS CURB - RESTRAINING
ORDER, BLAH BLAH BLAH," YOU
GOT ME READING FROM A
FUCKING SCRIPT NOW?
WHERE'S MY MONEY?

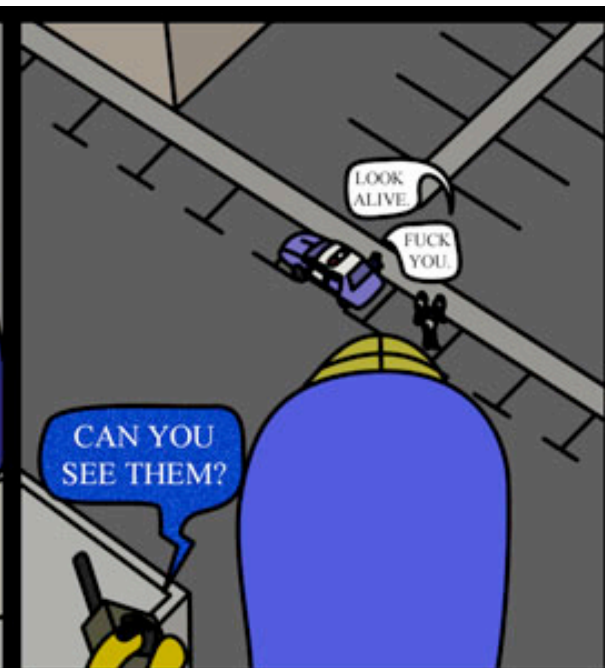
AH HELL,
LOOK DOWN
THERE.

THANKS



DAMN RIGHT THERE'S A SCRIPT, AND YOU'LL STICK TO IT.

WE'RE HERE TO REMIND YOU.



CAN YOU SEE THEM?

LOOK ALIVE.

FUCK YOU



JUST A LITTLE.

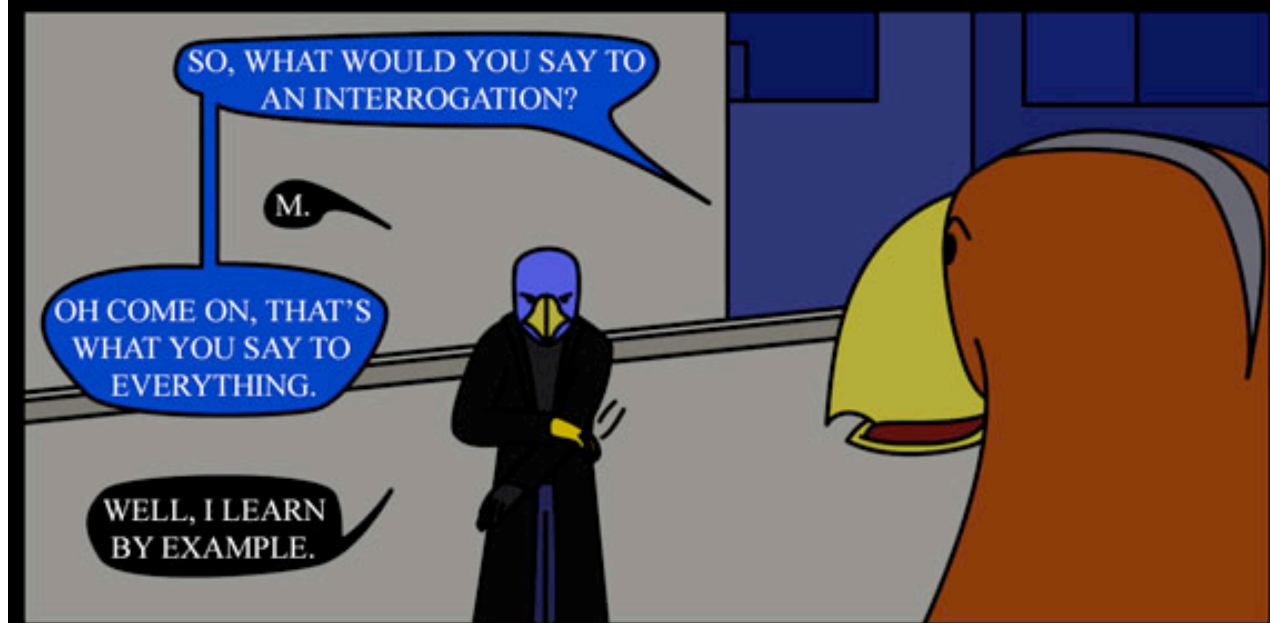
MY VISION IS AWFULLY BLURRY TODAY.

M. COME BACK DOWN, THEN, TO BE SAFE.



ECH, IT STILL HURTS TO WATCH YOU DO THAT, ND.

FOOSH

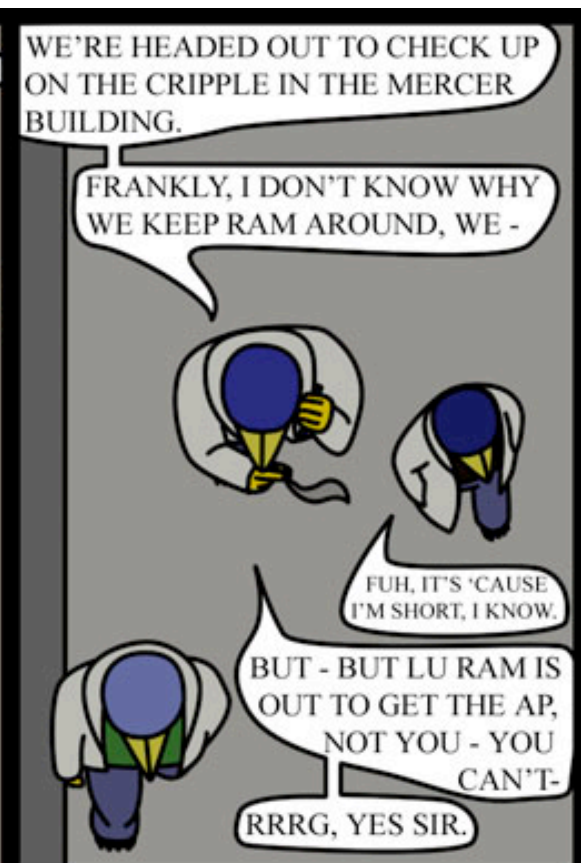


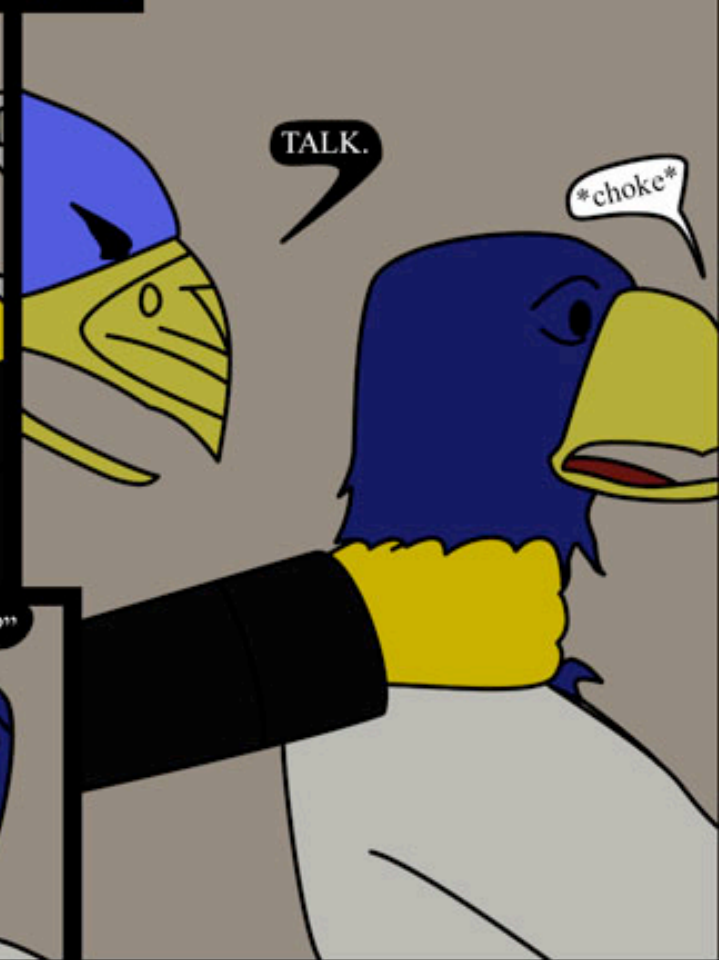
SO, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO AN INTERROGATION?

M.

OH COME ON, THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY TO EVERYTHING.

WELL, I LEARN BY EXAMPLE.





THAT WAS FAST.

THE AP IS BEING SHUT DOWN.

MISS RAM, PLEASE DON'T SIT ON THE LEDGE -

THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ARMY, BUT THAT THE "KING" IS RAISING IT THROUGH THEM.

click

WELL, F-FUCK THE AP - IT SEEMED SO GREAT, BUT THEY NEVER TOLD ME, IF I WERE *HALF AN INCH SHORTER*, I'D BE ON THE OTHER END OF THESE PATROLS.

I FIGURED YOU'D BE HELPFUL.

THE "KING" TURNED HIS BACK ON US - ON THEM. THEY SAY THEY'RE IN THEIR DEATH THROES - AND THEY'RE GIVING YOU ALL A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY.

IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?

I DON'T KNOW.

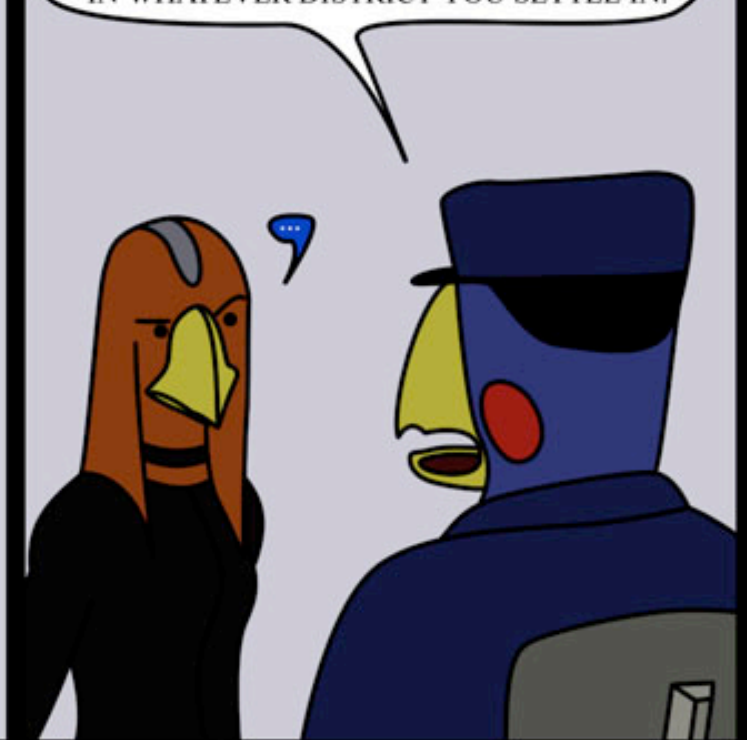
MISS RAM, IF YOU FALL -

I IMAGINE WE'LL FIND OUT TOMORROW NIGHT.

MISS RAM, IT WOULD BE *ABSURD* FOR YOU TO LEAVE TOWN NOW.



YOU WOULD BE OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION; YOU WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO BE PROTECTED UNTIL THE SAME PERPETRATOR ATTACKS YOU IN WHATEVER DISTRICT YOU SETTLE IN.



I KNOW THAT ISN'T HOW IT WORKS, OFFICER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE TO ME.



MISS RAM, THIS IS MY AREA AND MY JOB. YOU SHOULD KNOW NOT TO ARGUE. NOW, STOP WASTING MY TIME WITH CONSPIRACY THEORIES WHILE YOU'VE GOT ANY PROTECTION AT ALL.







NO GO.

HE MADE UP SOME BULLSHIT ABOUT JURISDICTION. NOT EVEN AN "I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE."

WHAT DID HE SAY?

M.



HE'S A LACKEY, I'M SURE.



WELL, I THINK IT'S WORSE THAN THAT.



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK WHEN I GET BACK.

ALRIGHT - TAKE YOUR TIME, I HAD TO GET OUT FOR SOME AIR, AND I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE POLICE TO MOVE ON.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

NO. BUT THE PARK IS BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE DAYHAWK IN.


RRMMMMM



HE'S NOT
A LACKEY.


HE'S
UNDER
ORDERS.

HM?



HE HATES ME, I COULD TELL - BUT IT
WAS IN THE WAY THAT YOU HATE
SOMEONE ON TV. HE DIDN'T WANT TO
SAY WHAT HE WAS SAYING - IT WAS
SCRIPTED, I COULD FEEL IT.

AND HE DOESN'T
GET ANYTHING
OUT OF IT.



- AND THAT OFFICE REEKED OF
HASH - LIKE QUESTOYA.

OH - LIKE
NEETCH?

GHAW, SHE TOLD
ME SHE QUIT...

SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

WELL, FOR ONE, IT MEANS THAT THE
AP OWNS THE POLICE.



AND GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE.

I BET THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF QUESTOYA.

WHAT STILL PUZZLES ME IS, THE "ARMY" WAS AT YOUR APARTMENT IN MINUTES, SO THEY MUST HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE A MISSTEP OF ANY KIND.

- BUT IF THE AP IS BEING DISBANDED, WHY WOULD THEY CARE ABOUT THEIR COMPUTERS ENOUGH TO WASTE SO MUCH OF A FORCE?

I SURE AS HELL WOULD BE - THE MAN'S SEVEN-FOOT-FOUR; IF HE CARED HE COULD CRUSH SOMEONE'S SKULL WITH HIS SHADOW.

NOT THAT YOU COULDN'T DO IT WITH YOUR FISTS OF COURSE, ND.

YOU KNOW, QUESTOYA WON'T GO DOWN EASY. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN GET ANYTHING OUT OF HIM?

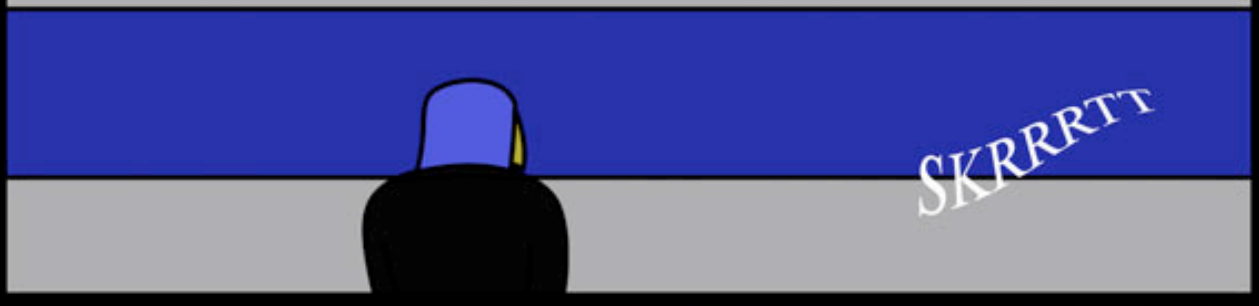
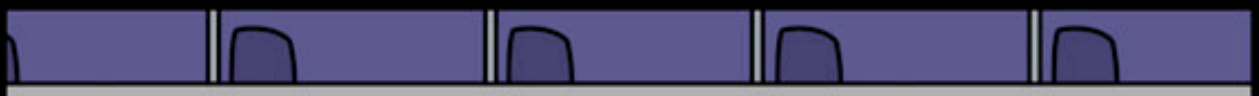
IF HE CARES ABOUT HIS WELLBEING ENOUGH, HE'LL TALK.

FAT CHANCE THEN, HUH?



I WANT YOU TO STAY WITH ME AS LONG AS YOU CAN, ND.

M.



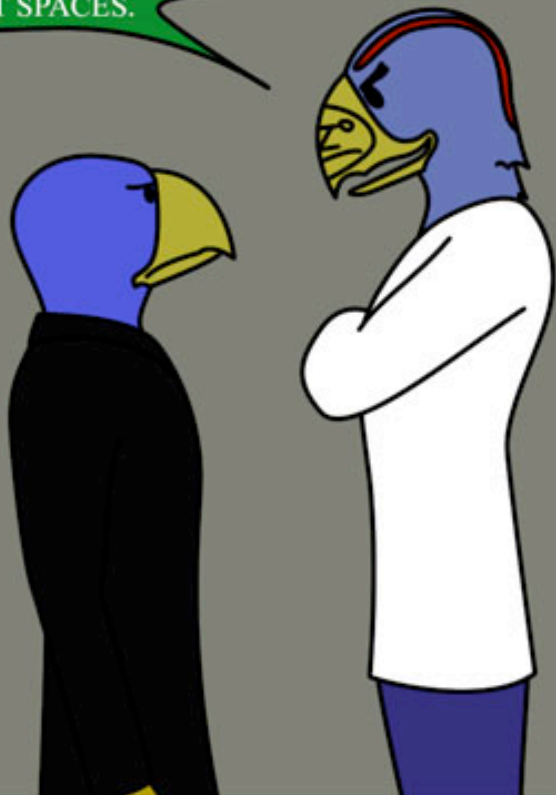
M.



MY FRIEND, YOU'VE DROPPED OUT OF THE NEWS LATELY! I WAS RATHER WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

SHUT UP, AVE. WE'RE GOING INTO THE ALLEY.

DON'T BE SO HARSH, MY FRIEND!
LET US HOPE YOU ARE GOOD IN
TIGHT SPACES.



ARE YOU HAPPY,
FRIEND? LET'S BE
ON OUR WAY, THEN.



DO YOU KNOW WHY I CARVED
THE START OF THIS FACE, AVE?
IT WAS IN PROTEST OF THE NAME
I WAS GIVEN - NAMED FOR AN
OLD MAN'S PRIDE, NOTHING OF
MY OWN.



AND YOU'VE USED IT TO HIDE YOUR
OBSESSION WITH MURDER - I KNOW
YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT
"AVIAN PERFECTIONISM," AVE.

DON'T FORGET, "KAJUKO" - EVEN A SOLDIER
ATTACKING MISS RAM ISN'T EXACTLY - HOW
DO YOU CALL IT - ZERO ENTITY.



FACE IT, SENOR "SHINJURI," YOU ENJOYED IT. AND YOU'LL COME BACK FOR MISS RAM YOURSELF EVENTUALLY. WHY ELSE WOULD I LEAVE HER ALIVE BUT FOR MY FRIEND TO HAVE HIS WAY WITH?

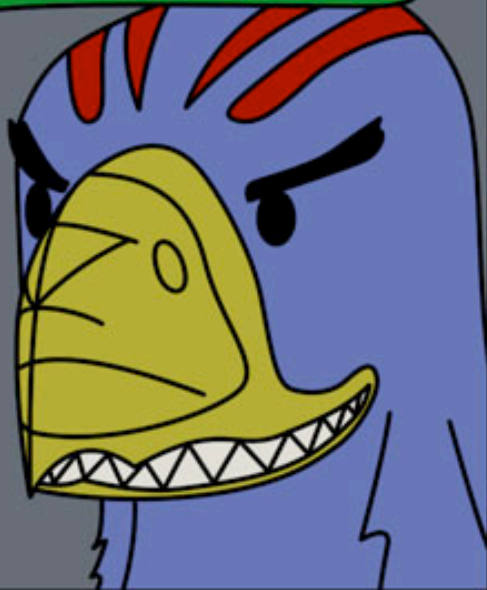


SHUT UP.

YOU'RE GOING TO TALK, AVE - AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY, WHETHER AT MY HANDS OR AT THE "KING'S."



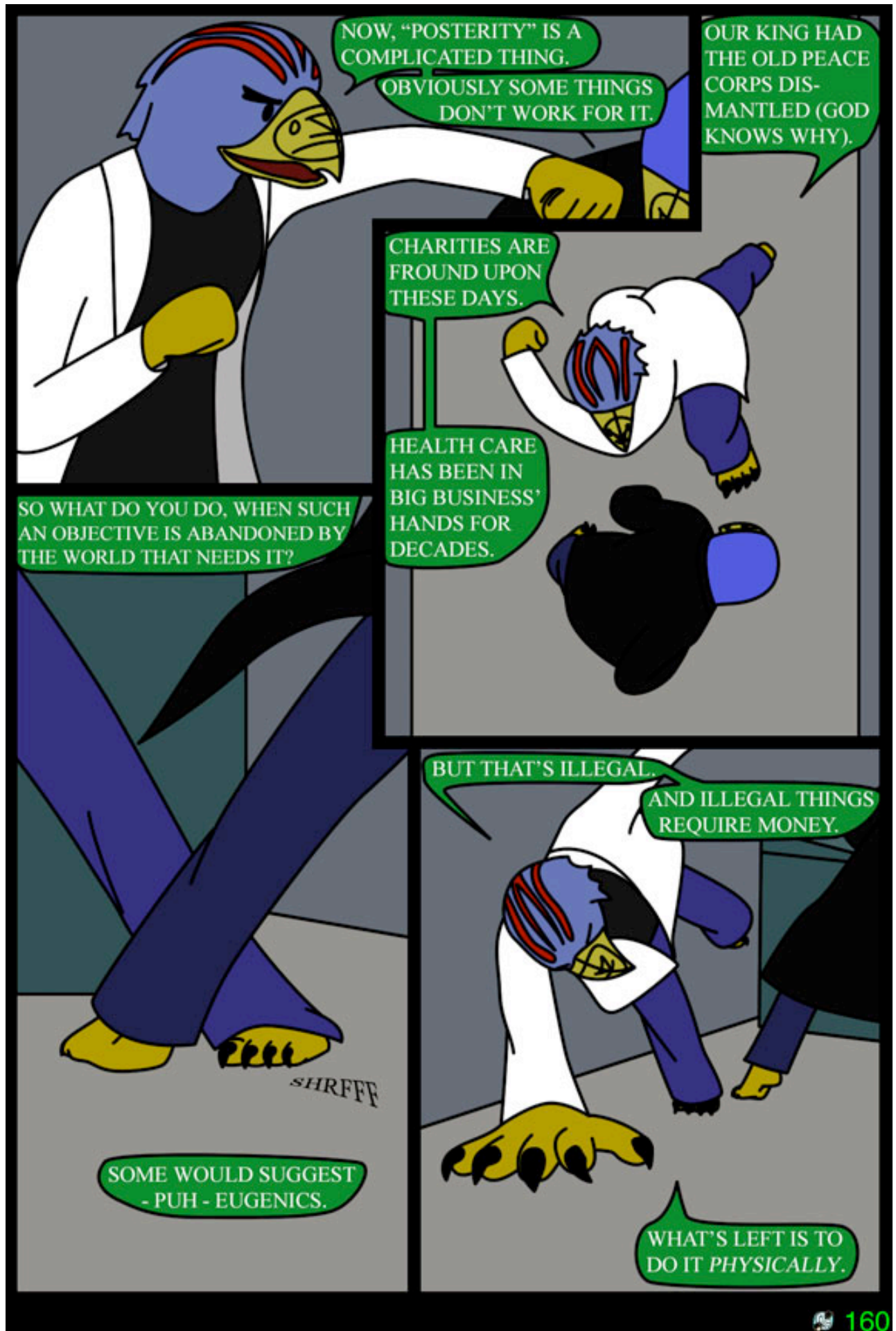
IS THAT SO? WELL, WE'LL SEE!



AND WHO'S TO SAY I DON'T CARE? WE HAVE A MISSION, YOU KNOW: HEALTH, ABILITY, AND POSTERITY! I SIMPLY SKIM OFF THE TOP WHAT I NEED TO KEEP MYSELF SATISFIED.



AND YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED AT THE EFFECTS THAT A GOOD PORTION OF COCAINE CAN HAVE ON A GIANT OF MY STRENGTH, MY FRIEND.



NOW, "POSTERITY" IS A COMPLICATED THING.

OBVIOUSLY SOME THINGS DON'T WORK FOR IT.

OUR KING HAD THE OLD PEACE CORPS DIS-MANTLED (GOD KNOWS WHY).

CHARITIES ARE FROUND UPON THESE DAYS.

HEALTH CARE HAS BEEN IN BIG BUSINESS' HANDS FOR DECADES.

SO WHAT DO YOU DO, WHEN SUCH AN OBJECTIVE IS ABANDONED BY THE WORLD THAT NEEDS IT?

BUT THAT'S ILLEGAL.

AND ILLEGAL THINGS REQUIRE MONEY.

SOME WOULD SUGGEST - PUH - EUGENICS.

WHAT'S LEFT IS TO DO IT *PHYSICALLY*.

SHRFFF

IF SOMEONE'S...GENETIC DISPOSITION IS DANGEROUS TO POSTERITY -

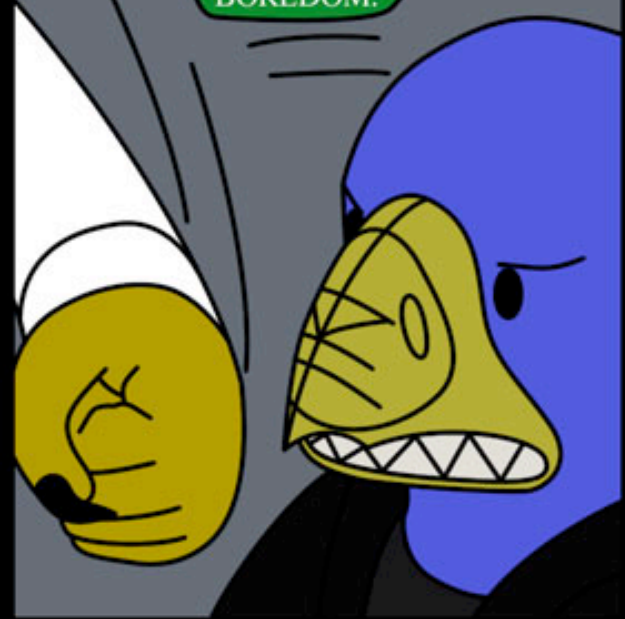


WE "SCARE" THEM.

BUT DON'T YOU DARE LIKEN US TO THE KU KLUX KLAN OR THE NAZIS-

THEY WORK OUT OF HATE; WE OUT OF PRAGMATISM.

AND I OUT OF BOREDOM.



SO, TELL ME ABOUT THE ARMY THAT ATTACKED LU RAM, THEN.



HA! THE KING SOLD US DOWN THE RIVER FOR THOSE MONGRELS - MILKED US FOR OUR STRONGEST MEN AND OUTFITTED THEM WITH FORKS AND KNIVES, NOW HE'S DONE WITH THE REST OF US.

NOT THAT YOU DIDN'T MAKE SHORT WORK OF THEM, OF COURSE.

YOU SEE, HE SHARES AN AFFLICTION WITH ME: HE AND I, WE HEAR VOICES THAT AREN'T THERE. I DROWN OUT THE VOICES WITH DRUGS - AND BLOOD, IF I FEEL SO INCLINED, HUH.

HE TAKES THEM TO HEART. THEY TELL HIM HE IS A WARLORD OF THE DARK AGES.

- AND HE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.

THE AP WOULD SERVE AS HIS USUFRUCT FOR -

WAGH!

YOU BROKE MY JAW!

OWW...



WE COULD STOP IF YOU'D RATHER BE FORTHCOMING.

Page missing :D

YOU HAVE A COMBAT KNIFE IN YOUR POCKET. DROP IT.



I SEE YOU'VE BEEN TOYING WITH ME, MY FRIEND.



CRUNCH

AUGH!



CRACK

I SAID I'M NOT DONE.





THE AP BEGAN AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR - JUST A GRASSROOTS UPRISING OF PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS OBSCENE FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE WAR TO BE THE "WEAK" WHO COULDN'T FIGHT.

TEN YEARS AGO THEY BEGAN TO FALL APART.

THEY WERE MADE AN OFFER BY AN ECCENTRIC BILLIONAIRE - FIRST JUST THE USE OF AN OLD MANSION RIGHT OUTSIDE OF LAUGHTON CITY.

CURRAD MARUS.



YES, THE "KING."

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

GO ON.



PFT, HE DOESN'T HIDE IT. HE'S THE EIGHTH TALLEST MAN IN THE WORLD AND A MOUNTAIN OF MUSCLE; AND HE'S ALMOST MENTIONED IT ON THE NEWS HIMSELF, THE BASTARD.

OF COURSE, HE CAN AFFORD TO; HE IS THE ONE WITH THE MONEY.

HOW DID YOUR TINY FRIEND PUT IT - "HE HAS HIS CLOACA IN EVERY POLITICAL ORIFICE."



NF -

HE GETS HIS OWN LEGISLATION PASSED SO HE CAN BYPASS MONOPOLY LAWS.

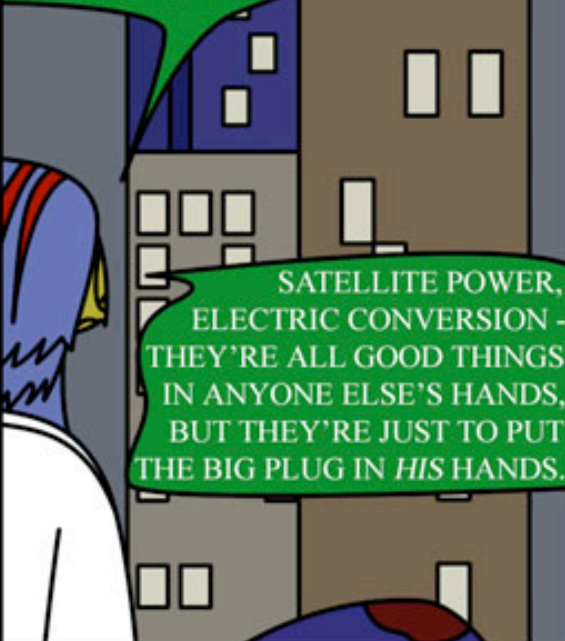
BELIEVE ME: ENOUGH MONEY AND MUSCLE CAN BUY ANY GOVERNMENT.



SNAP



MARUS CONTROLS ALL THIS - ELECTRICITY! PEOPLE THESE DAYS - CIVILIZATION THESE DAYS - CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT.



SATELLITE POWER, ELECTRIC CONVERSION - THEY'RE ALL GOOD THINGS IN ANYONE ELSE'S HANDS, BUT THEY'RE JUST TO PUT THE BIG PLUG IN HIS HANDS.

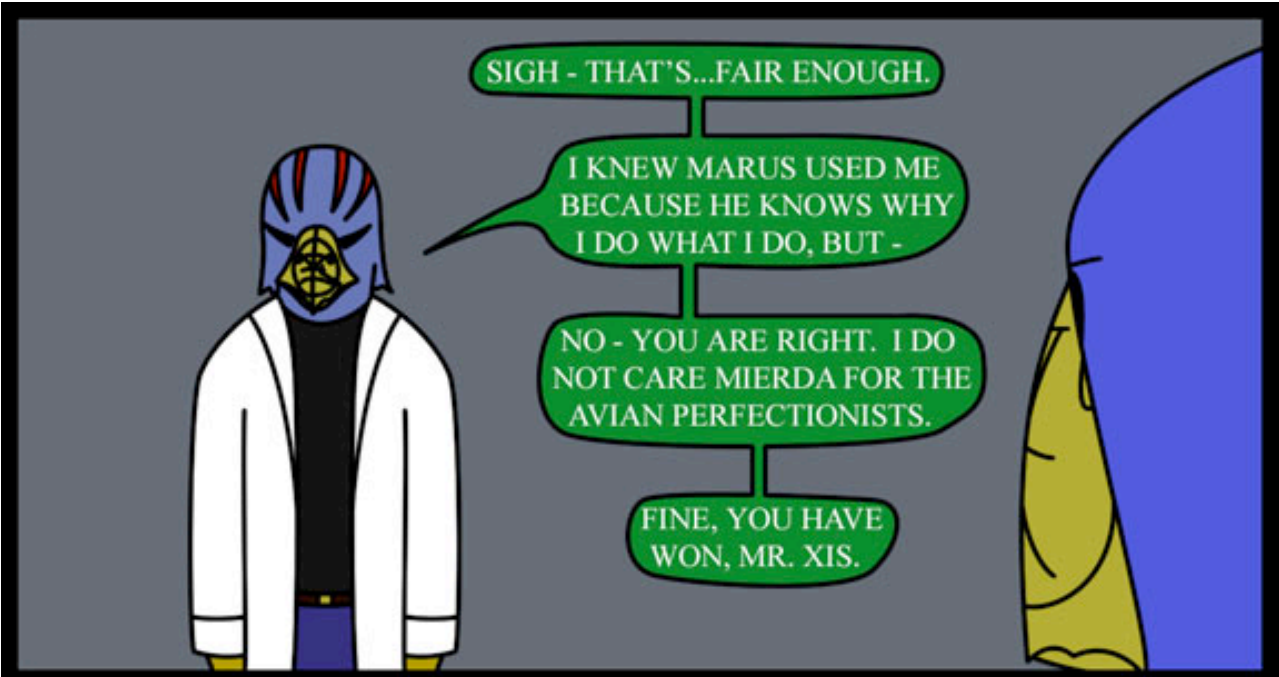
MFG -

THANKS TO YOU, MR. XIS, THIS LEG WILL NEVER WORK AGAIN; I'M DEAD TO THE AP.

BUT IF YOU SPREAD WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU, YOU WILL BE KILLED.



THE AP HAS YOU MARKED FOR DEATH ALREADY, FOR THE SIZE OF YOUR EYES.



SIGH - THAT'S...FAIR ENOUGH.

I KNEW MARUS USED ME BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHY I DO WHAT I DO, BUT -

NO - YOU ARE RIGHT. I DO NOT CARE MIERDA FOR THE AVIAN PERFECTIONISTS.

FINE, YOU HAVE WON, MR. XIS.



BEING BESTED, MR. XIS, I CAN SAY THAT I FIND YOU QUITE INTIMIDATING.

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.



TECHNICALLY, I DON'T EXIST.

WELL -

