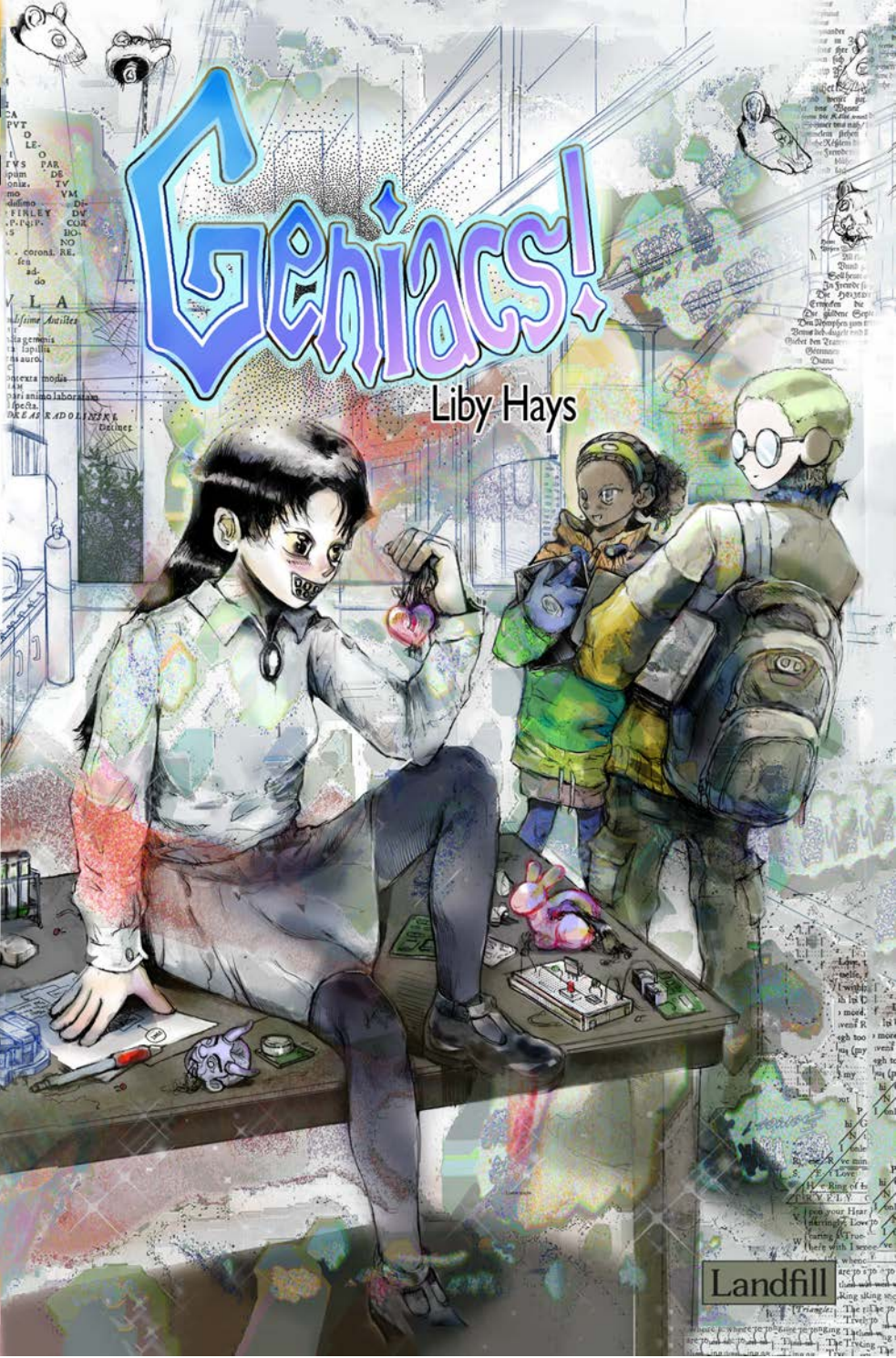
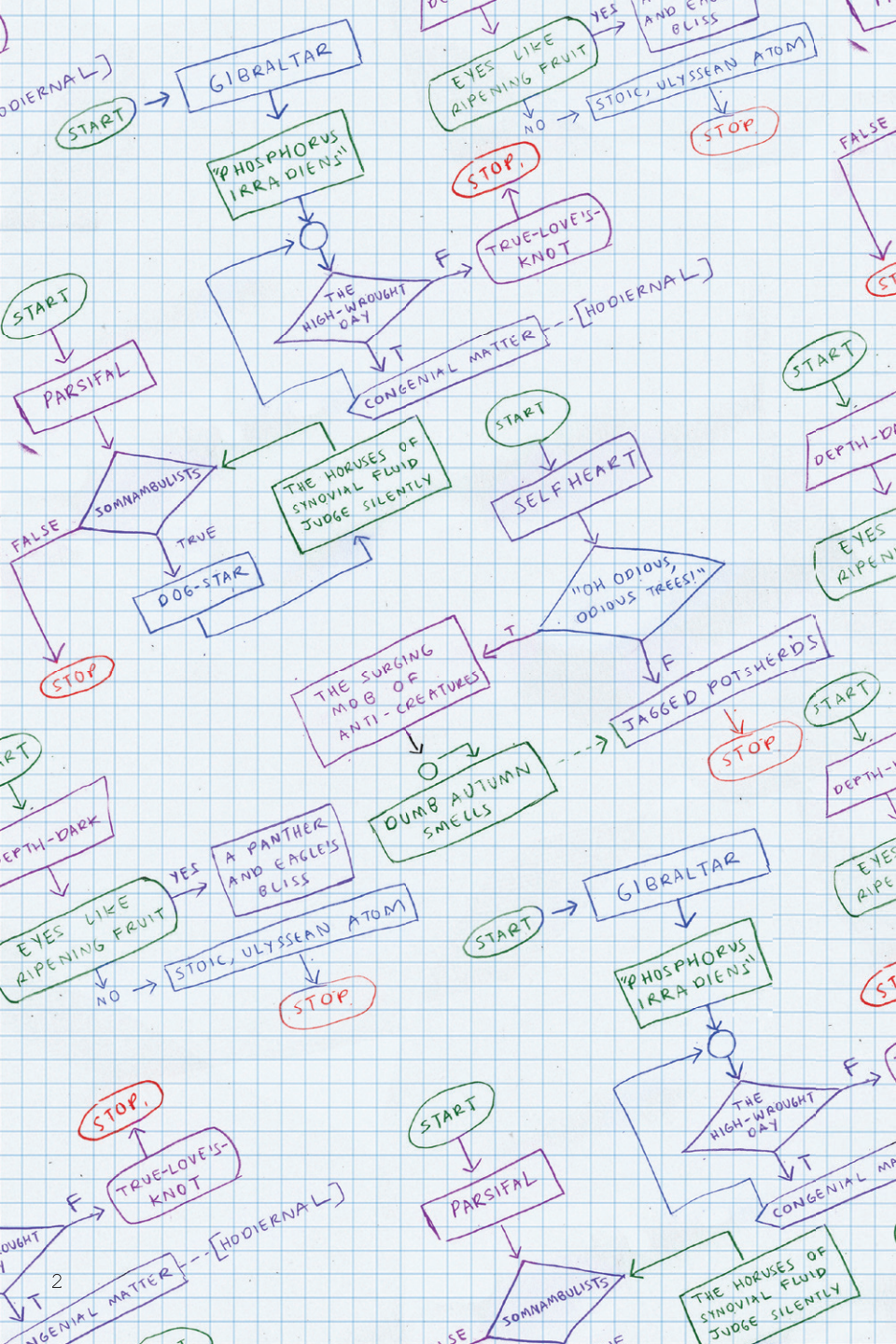


Geniacs!

Liby Hays



Landfill



Geniacs!

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“IF YOU SAY THAT EVERYTHING-
CHAOS, DARKNESS, ANATHEMA -
CAN BE REDUCED TO MATHEMATICAL
FORMULAE- THEN MAN WILL GO
INSANE ON PURPOSE TO HAVE NO
JUDGEMENT - AND TO BEHAVE
AS HE LIKES.”
-DOSTOEVSKY

“A LIVING THING MUST WORK TO
AVOID DECAY & DISORDER”
-PBS Space Time
‘RULES 4 LIFE’



SO, BEYOND...

BEYOND
BIRTHDAY, IS
THAT YOUR
NAME?

IT SAYS
HERE YOU'RE
A POET BY
VOCATION..

VYING FOR
THIS SAME
POSITION ARE
A NUMBER
OF OTHER
CANDIDATES
WITH HIGHLY
TECHNICAL
BACKGROUNDS.

I'M CURIOUS, MS.
BIRTHDAY: HOW DO
YOU AIM TO
COMPETE
BY STRENGTH
OF YOUR WORDS
ALONE?



I HAVE
TO SAY
SOMETHING!

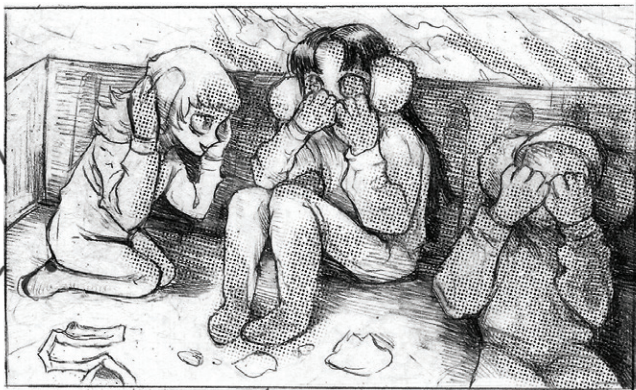
BUT WHENEVER
I FEEL THIS
WAY...

TRAPPED IN MY SILENT
HYPOCRISY...

MY MIND DRIFTS
BACK TO
THAT DAY...

This machine
kills fascists

MY AFTER-SCHOOL DRAMA CLASS HAD BEEN INVITED TO RIDE A FLOAT IN THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE.



MY TWO BEST FRIENDS AND I WERE IN COSTUME AS THE THREE WISE MONKEYS WHO TRY AND CENSURE EVIL FROM THEIR PURVIEW.

ON THE WAY THERE, OUR DRIVER MADE A WRONG TURN DOWN SNOWY MOUNTAIN BYWAYS.



WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT...

I CAN ONLY
RECONSTRUCT
SECONDHAND.







APPARENTLY...



THE AIR TRAPPED
IN MY CLIPPED
HANDS WAS
ENOUGH TO KEEP
ME ALIVE FOR
THE HALF-HOUR
IT TOOK THE
RESCUE TEAM TO
FIND ME AND DIG
ME OUT OF THE
SNOW.

THE OTHERS
WERE NOT
SO LUCKY...



LAPSED
MEMORIES
ASIDE... HOW
SHOULD I
ANSWER THEM?

HOW WILL I
COMPETE, BY
STRENGTH OF
MY WORDS
ALONE...



WE ALL SAY
WHATEVER
WE HAVE
TO TO GET
AHEAD...
BUT IN MY
CASE...

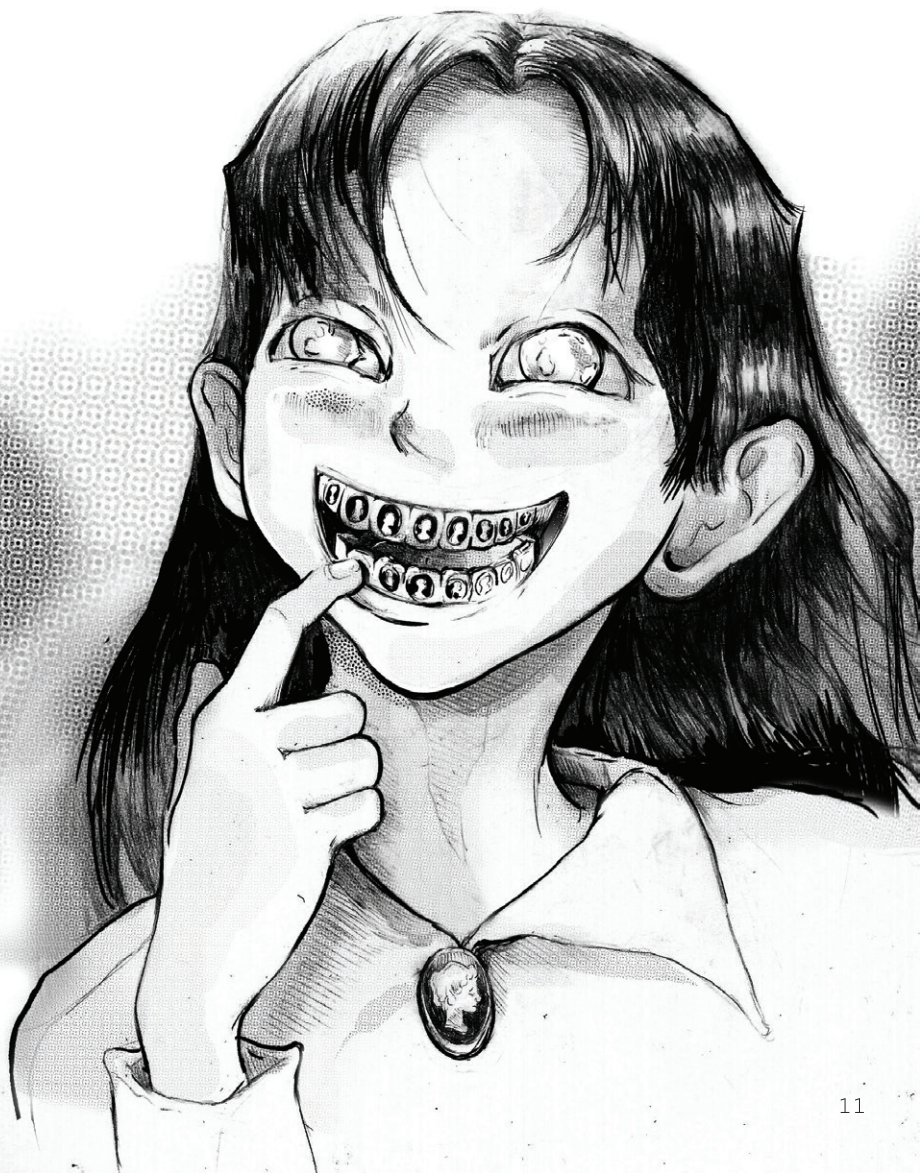


I MUST HAVE
MADE A TYPO ON
MY APPLICATION!
I'M NOT A POET
AT ALL!

I'M A PO-ENT,
AS IN
PO-TENTIAL
ENTREPRENEUR!

AND I'VE
GOT A FEW
IDEAS I'D
LIKE TO
SHARE...

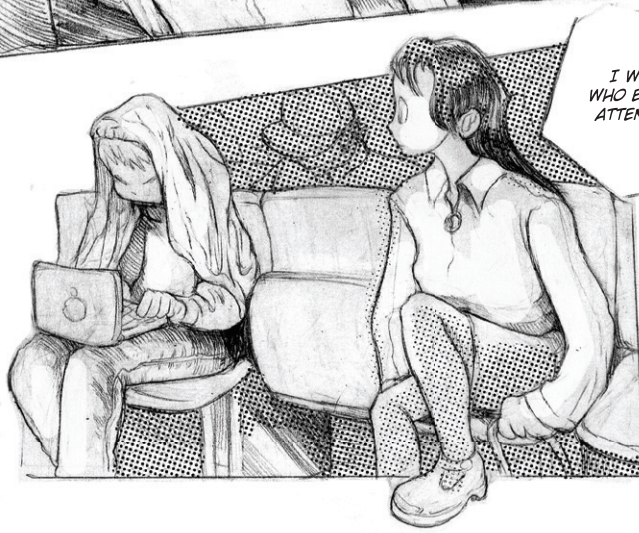
CHAPTER 1:
THINGS WHICH
OUGHT TO CRAWL



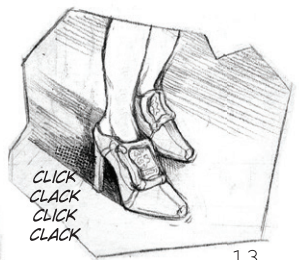
Geniacs!



THANK
GOD! I
MADE IT
JUST IN
TIME!



I WONDER
WHO ELSE IS IN
ATTENDANCE..



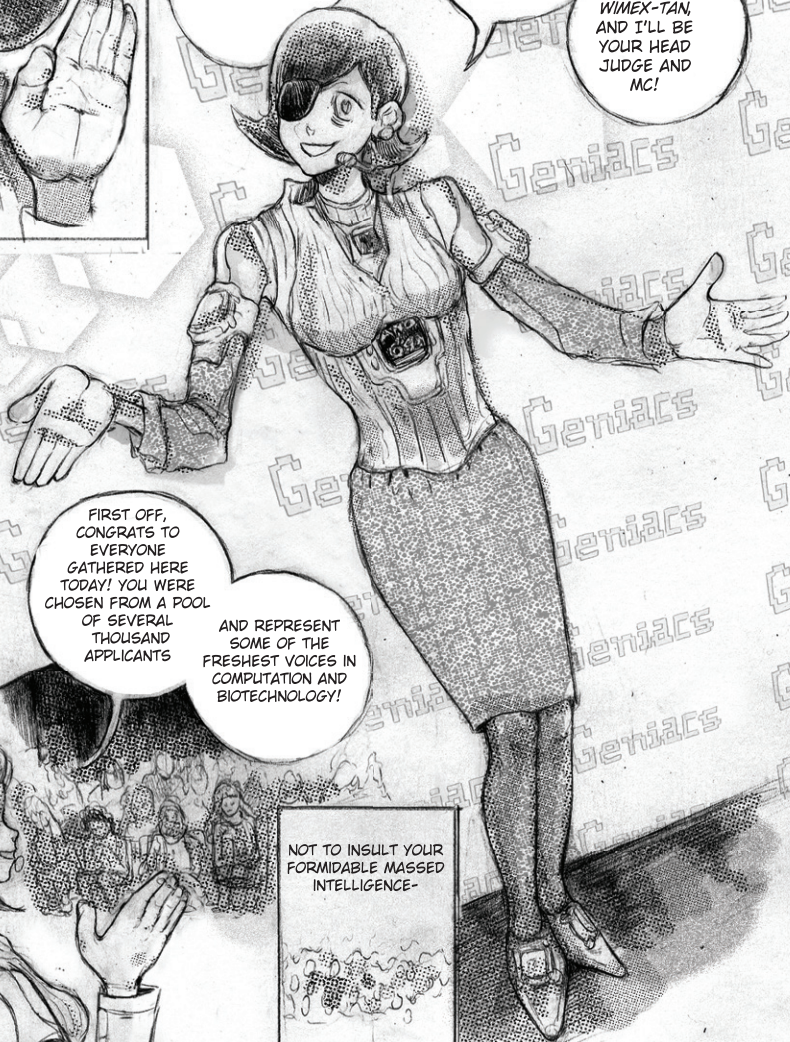
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK



GOOD
AFTERNOON
EVERYONE...

AND WELCOME
TO GENIACS: THE
SEARCH FOR
THE NEXT TECH
DEMURGE!

MY NAME IS
WIMEX-TAN,
AND I'LL BE
YOUR HEAD
JUDGE AND
MC!



FIRST OFF,
CONGRATS TO
EVERYONE
GATHERED HERE
TODAY! YOU WERE
CHOSEN FROM A POOL
OF SEVERAL
THOUSAND
APPLICANTS

AND REPRESENT
SOME OF THE
FRESHEST VOICES IN
COMPUTATION AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY!

NOT TO INSULT YOUR
FORMIDABLE MASSES
INTELLIGENCE-

A LOVELY HIVEMIND
IF I'VE EVER
ENCOUNTERED ONE...

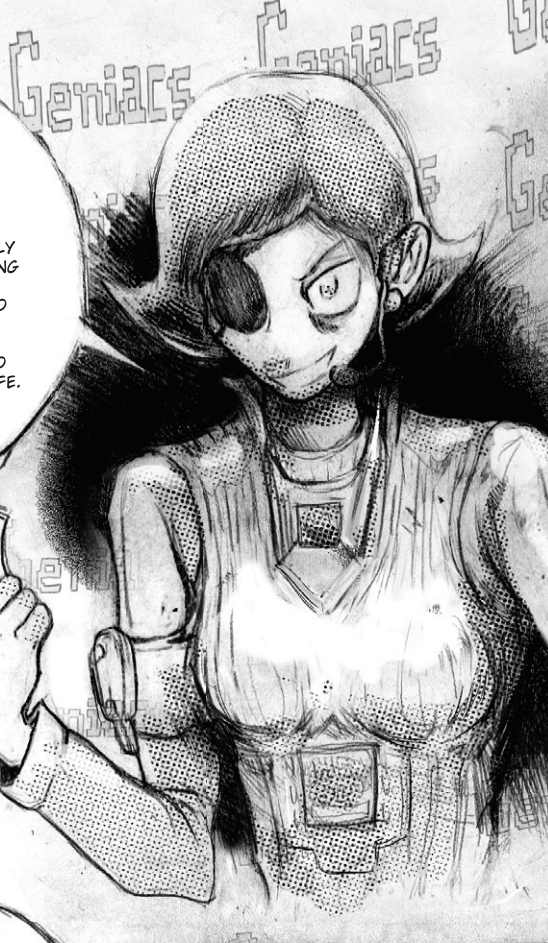
BUT I MUST
OUTLINE THE
STAKES OF OUR
LITTLE CONTEST
TONIGHT...

THE WINNERS
OF THIS 2-DAY
COMPETITION WILL
BE APPOINTED HEAD
DESIGNERS OF THE
WORLD'S FIRST
SILICON-BASED
LIFEFORM:

AN AUTONOMOUSLY
SELF-PERPETUATING
"SUCCESSOR"
SPECIES ABLE TO
THRIVE IN HEAT
CONDITIONS
INHOSPITABLE TO
CARBON-BASED LIFE.



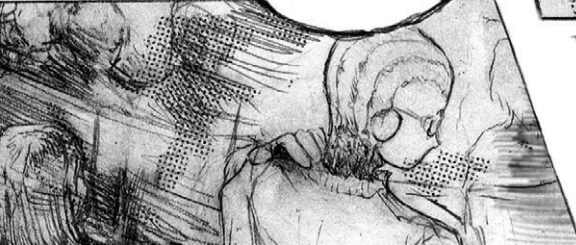
*melty melty
melt melt*



THE WINNING GROUP
WILL ACT AS A "CREATIVE
CATALYST" FOR OUR
PRE-EXTANT TEAM OF
RESEARCHERS AND
TECHNOLOGISTS,
RADICALLY REORIENTING
OUR ONGOING EFFORTS.



TO PROVIDE
FULL
DISCLOSURE:



AFTER EIGHT-PLUS YEARS OF FRUITFUL INQUIRY, THE GENIACS PROJECT HAD STAGNATED.

WE'D BEEN MISSING DEADLINES AND LOSING FUNDING LEFT AND RIGHT, FUMBLING ABOUT IN THE ETERNAL NIGHT OF EXPERT'S BLINDNESS.

WE CAME TO THE COLLECTIVE REALIZATION THAT- LIKE THE ALPHA TORTOISE WHO WASHES ASHORE AND REVITALIZES THE ISLAND GENE POOL- WE NEEDED A DISRUPTIVE AGENT TO RENEW THE PROJECT'S REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL!



AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, DEAR PARTICIPANTS!

IN A 32-HOUR PROJECT OF YOUR OWN DESIGN, SHOW US WHY YOU'RE THE BOLDEST, MOST VISIONARY CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB!

A \$500,000 RESEARCH GRANT, COURTESY OF H CORP. IS ALSO ON THE LINE!

YOU'RE GRANTED EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO THE 'BLEEDING EDGE' FACILITIES HERE AT SOURMATH LABS FOR THE DURATION OF THE COMPETITION.

REFRESHMENTS

ROCK GARDEN

MEDIA CHECK-OUT

AUDITORIUM

ROBOTICS LAB

CLEAN ROOM

LOBBY

LOUNGE

F12

D18

C7

C8

HISTOLOGY

SOURMATH LABS

RESOURCES AT YOUR DISPOSAL INCLUDE OUR LABS, ROBOTICS WORKSHOPS, MEDIA RESOURCES, AND VR HEADSETS WITH A CUSTOM BIOLOGICAL PROTOTYPING PROGRAM.



SUGGESTED
THEMES:

- Progress
- Efficiency
- Evolution

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Creativity, Pragmatism,
Formal Ingenuity, Technical
Competence, Collaborative
Skills, Unique Point of View

I COULD
SPEAK MORE
EXTENSIVELY
OF PRIMORDIAL
BUBBLINGS,
CRACKED
VITALISMS...

THE
LONG-ANTICIPATED
CROSSOVER FROM
MINERAL STAGNANCY
TO YEARNING,
TREMBLING
MORTAL LIFE....

BUT

I TAKE IT
THAT WE ALL
UNDERSTAND
THE GRAVITY
OF THE TASK
AT HAND!

AND ON THAT
NOTE, IT'S TIME
TO TEAM UP,
PARTICIPANTS!

LET GENIACS
COMMENCE!



SO HI.
I'M YOHAN,
FROM PALO
ALTO.

20 YEARS
OF AGE.

Somehow I feel
that man is matter

I DID
FRESHMAN YEAR
AT UNIVERSITY,
BUT I NEVER
FINISHED THE
DEGREE.

I REALIZED
I COULD
MAKE MORE
MONEY DOING
FREELANCE
PROGRAMMING.

NOW I RUN A
SMALL
CONSULTANCY
WITH A FEW
FRIENDS.

IT'S BEEN
REWARDING, BUT
VERY BUSY...

REMARKABLE!
CAN I SEE YOUR
FINGERS?

UH,
SURE...

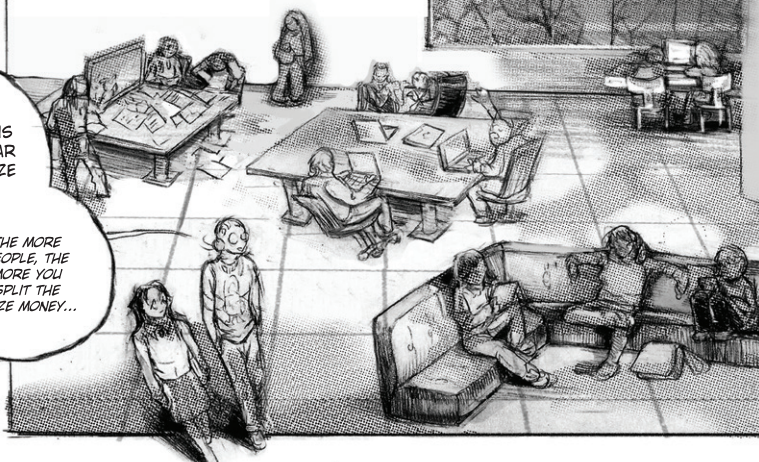
NO
WRITER'S
BUMP!

SO
TECHY...

SMOOTH AND
LINGALLOUSED!

HOPE THIS IS GOOD AS FAR AS TEAM-SIZE GOES...

THE MORE PEOPLE, THE MORE YOU SPLIT THE PRIZE MONEY...



THE CHALLENGE IS SO VAGUE... "DESIGN FOR EFFICIENCY..."

IT'D BE MOST EFFICIENT IF WE JUST FORKED OFF SOMETHING I ALREADY HAVE ON FILE...

scotch scotch



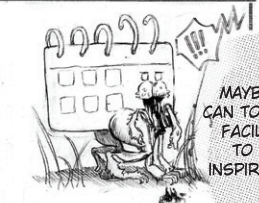
MY CONSULTANCY'S LAST GIG WAS DEVELOPING A SCANNABLE ADMISSIONS SYSTEM FOR A WATERPARK IN BALI.

NAH, I WANT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT HERE.



A CALENDER APP LIFE-FORM? HMM...

HOWZ-ABOUT...A CALENDAR APP?



MAYBE WE CAN TOUR THE FACILITIES TO GET INSPIRATION?

The calendar app's world is reduced to only three biosemiotic carriers of significance... the smell of sweat, the warmth of blood, and the urgency of an event notification.

I'M HERE TO
REPLACE A COWORKER
WHO DROPPED OUT
LAST-MINUTE, DUE TO
HEALTH CONCERNS.

THE ORGANISM
WOULD BE SELF-
PERPETUATING,
SO IT WOULDN'T
NEED CONSTANT
UPDATES...

BACK AT THE
CONSULTANCY...

HE'S PRETTY
JEALOUS RIGHT
NOW.

AT FIRST I WAS
INSECURE DUE TO
MY LACK OF
EXPERIENCE ...

BUT BEING HERE,
PINGED BY THE
COMPETITIVE
ENERGY..

SOURMATH
LABS
AND OPENING CEREMONIAL RIBBON CUTTING!

I REALLY
THINK I
COULD
WIN!

PLUS, I KNOW
WHAT BS TO
EXPECT FROM
THIS CROWD,
SINCE MY MIND
WORKS THE
SAME WAY. WE
CAN ALWAYS BE
ONE STEP
AHEAD...

⠇ DANGER ⠇

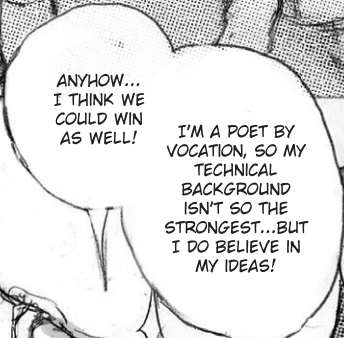


ELECTRICAL
HAZARD

RIBBON
CUTTING
LAB

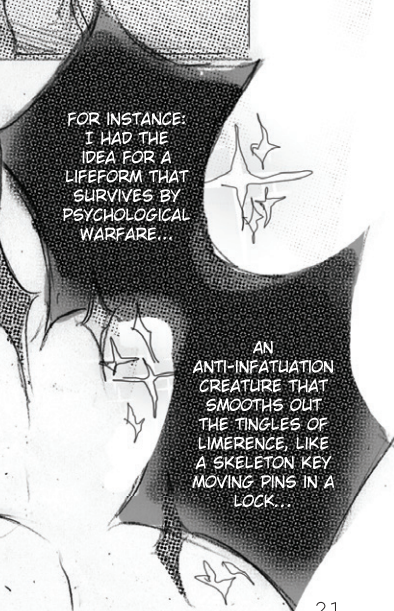


OR A FEW STEPS BEHIND...



ANYHOW...
I THINK WE
COULD WIN
AS WELL!

I'M A POET BY
VOCATION, SO MY
TECHNICAL
BACKGROUND
ISN'T SO THE
STRONGEST...BUT
I DO BELIEVE IN
MY IDEAS!



FOR INSTANCE:
I HAD THE
IDEA FOR A
LIFEFORM THAT
SURVIVES BY
PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE...

AN
ANTI-INFLATION
CREATURE THAT
SMOOTHS OUT
THE TINGLES OF
LIMERENCE, LIKE
A SKELETON KEY
MOVING PINS IN A
LOCK...

KINDA
SENTIMENTAL,
NO?

HEY! IS THIS
A THIRD
-GRADE
CLASSROOM?

NO, THAT'S
ONE OF THOSE
YELLOW-TINTED
CLEANROOMS!

WHERE NOT
A SPECK OF
DUST CAN
INTRUDE...

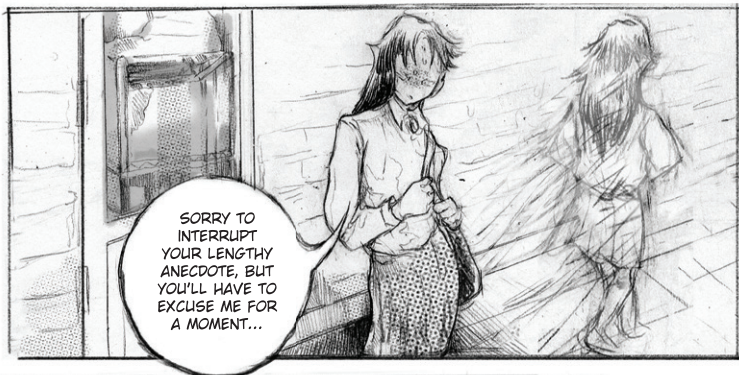
OOOH...
SEE, I WENT TO A
WALDORF SCHOOL,
WHERE THE
CLASSROOMS ARE
COLOR-CODED.

THEY WENT FROM
NURTURING PINK...

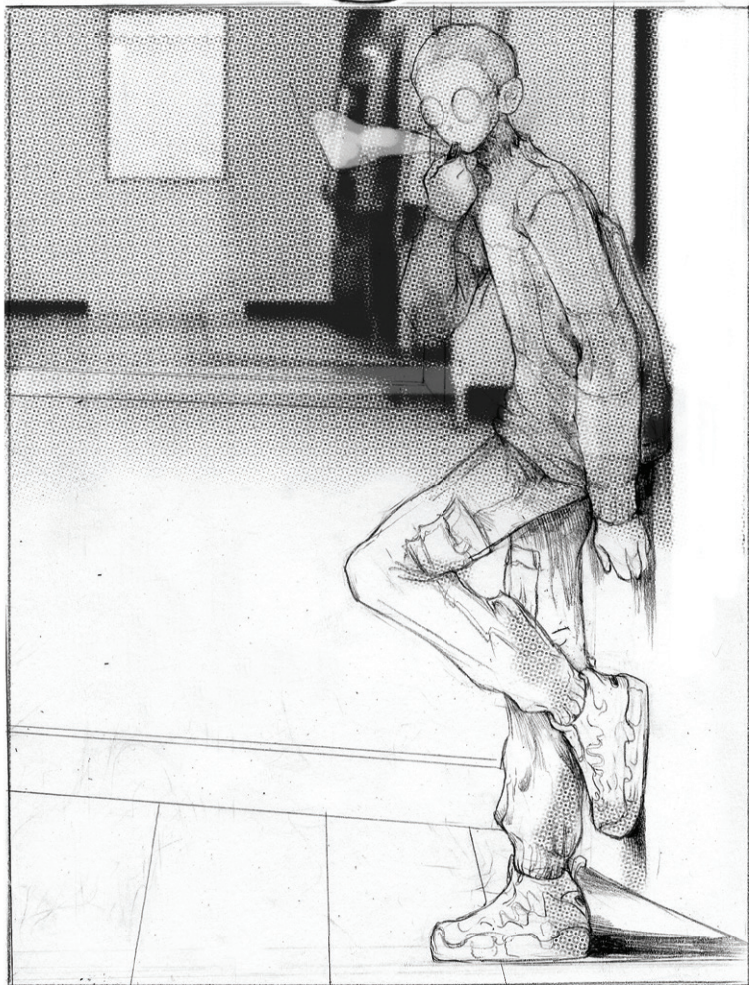
ORB-OF-
INFLUENCE
ORANGE...

GROUPSOUL
GREEN...

...UP UNTIL THE
'INTROSPECTIVE' BLUE
OF ADOLESCENCE.
SO EMO...
IDIOTIC!



SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR LENGTHY ANECDOTE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT...



SC
P
O
U
N
D
R
O
W
N



'TIL JUDGING



BROUGHT TO YOU BY "LUCA" 'THE LAST UNIVERSAL COMMON ANCESTOR'

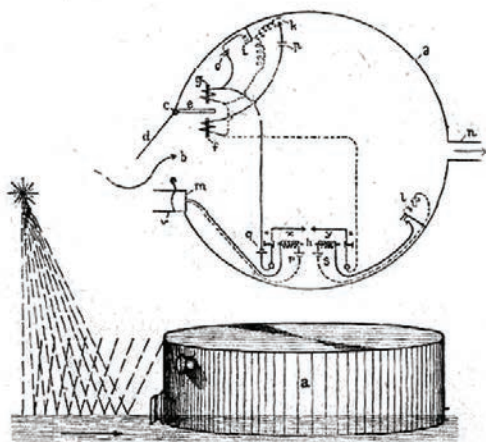
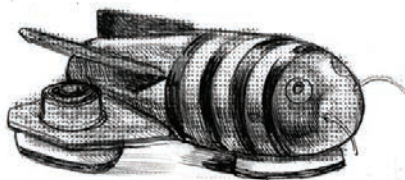


Abbildung 21.

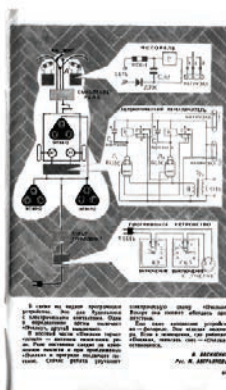
1920- Fritz Lux's Electro-mechanical "protozoon"

Submechanophobes beware! This model unicellular animal was designed to be anchored in a brook, half-submerged. As a metabolic conceit, water was considered "food" in the midst of the 'zoon's digestive process. Its water levels were kept in homeostatic equilibrium by mechanisms restricting or widening the entrance to its inner cavity. Over time the device could even "learn" via a reflex process.*

1968- Russian Cybernetic Bee



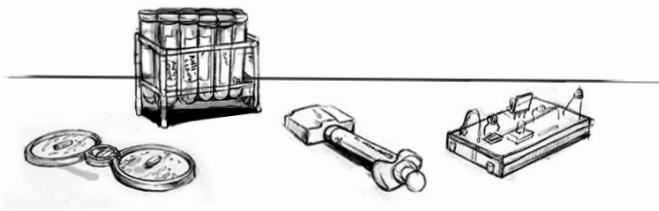
*A large wave would cause the protozoon to close its "mouth" to keep water out, via a contactor actuated by a magnet. While the magnetization was preserved, if the 'zoon perceived another wave (i.e., its photoelectric cell picked up on the glittering of water) it would close its mouth in anticipation.




info courtesy of
Cyberneticzoo.com

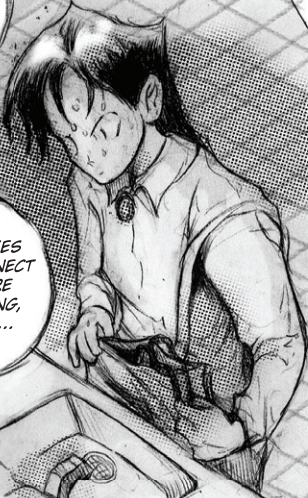
CHAPTER 2: SUBTLE BODIES








YOHAN AND I
HAVE MORE IN
COMMON THAN
I INITIALLY
EXPECTED.




BUT IT MAKES
OUR DISCONNECT
EVEN MORE
FRUSTRATING,
SOMEHOW...

- 
4. ELIMINATION ROUNDS
3. HOURS OF SLEEP
2. MEALS
1. SHOWER
- Geniars**

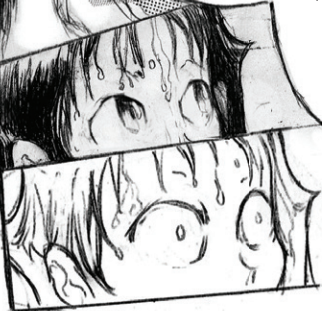
I'M SO
SWEATY...
THANKFULLY
THEY GAVE US
THESE!



AT THE H____
CORPORATION, WE
WOULD NEVER
ASSIGN A HEAD
ENVISIONEER
BASED ON A
WEEK-LONG
COMPETITION.



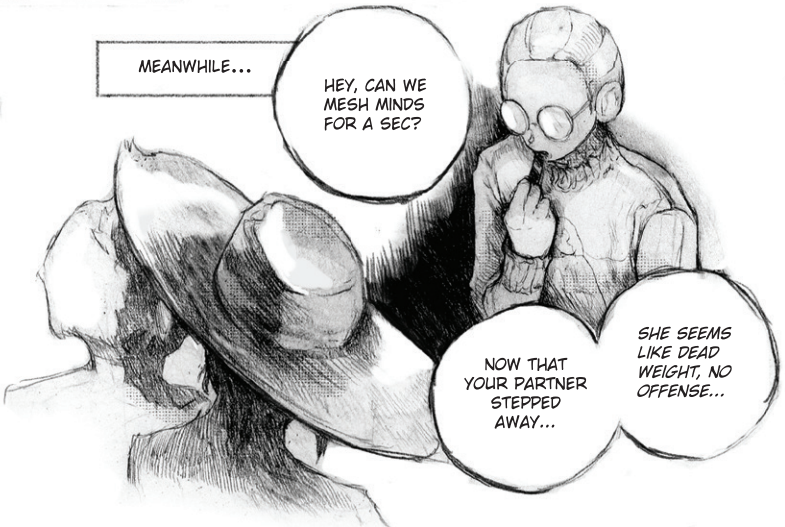
SHE WOULD WORK
HER WAY UP THE
RANKS OVER THE
COURSE OF A
LONG,
ILLUSTRIOUS
CAREER...





ALL THE WHILE
DEEPENING HER
COMMITMENT TO
H_____ 'S ICONIC
LEGACY!

quiver
quiver

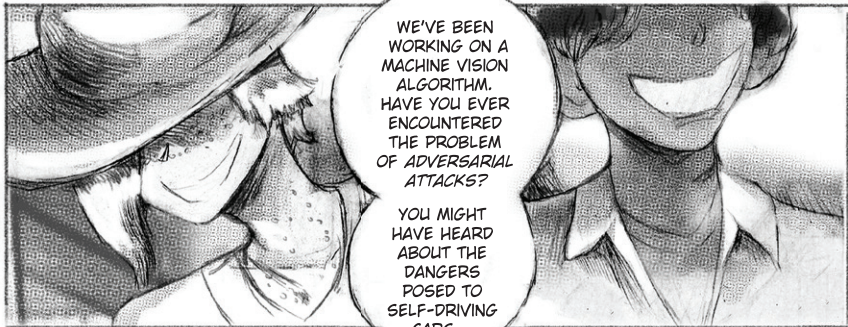


MEANWHILE...

HEY, CAN WE
MESH MINDS
FOR A SEC?

NOW THAT
YOUR PARTNER
STEPPED
AWAY...

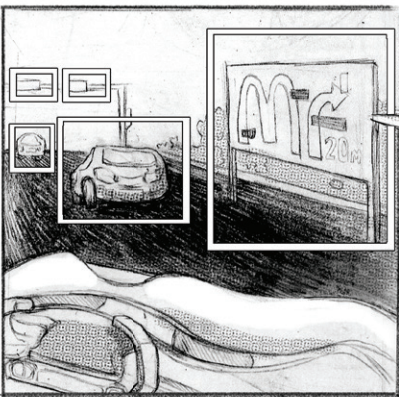
SHE SEEMS
LIKE DEAD
WEIGHT, NO
OFFENSE...



WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON A MACHINE VISION ALGORITHM. HAVE YOU EVER ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEM OF ADVERSARIAL ATTACKS?

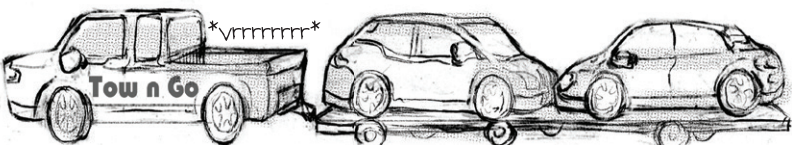
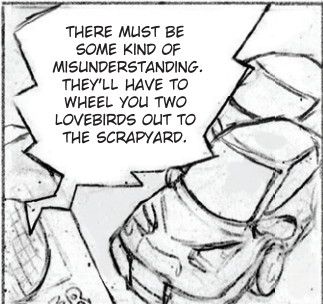
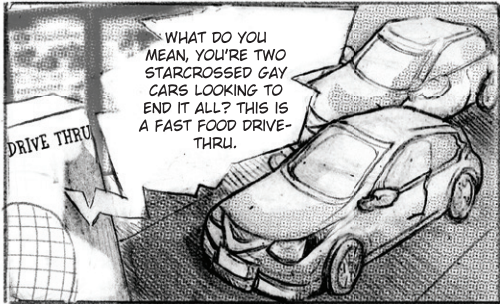
YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE DANGERS POSED TO SELF-DRIVING CARS...

THE CAR UNDERSTANDS SIGNS BY CAPTURING DATA VIA A CAMERA, EXTRACTING PIXEL VALUES, THEN PRODUCING A PROBABILISTIC CLASSIFICATION VIA A MACHINE LEARNING MODEL (WHICH HAS BEEN TRAINED ON A DATASET RELEVANT TO DRIVING). ONE VULNERABILITY IS THAT A REVERSE-ENGINEERED ADVERSARIAL ATTACK PATTERN CAN LEAD THE CAR'S ALGORITHM TO MISCLASSIFY A COMMON ROAD SIGN.



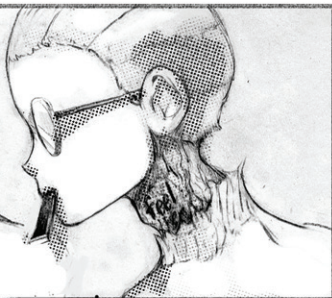
TACKLED-ON PERTURBATIONS IN THE GUISE OF GRAFFITI STICKERS MAKE ONE SIGN REGISTER AS ANOTHER AT THE AI'S PIXEL-VALUE-BASED LEVEL OF ABSTRACTION

"MCDONALD'S" MISCLASSIFIED AS:
"LOVER'S LEAP"

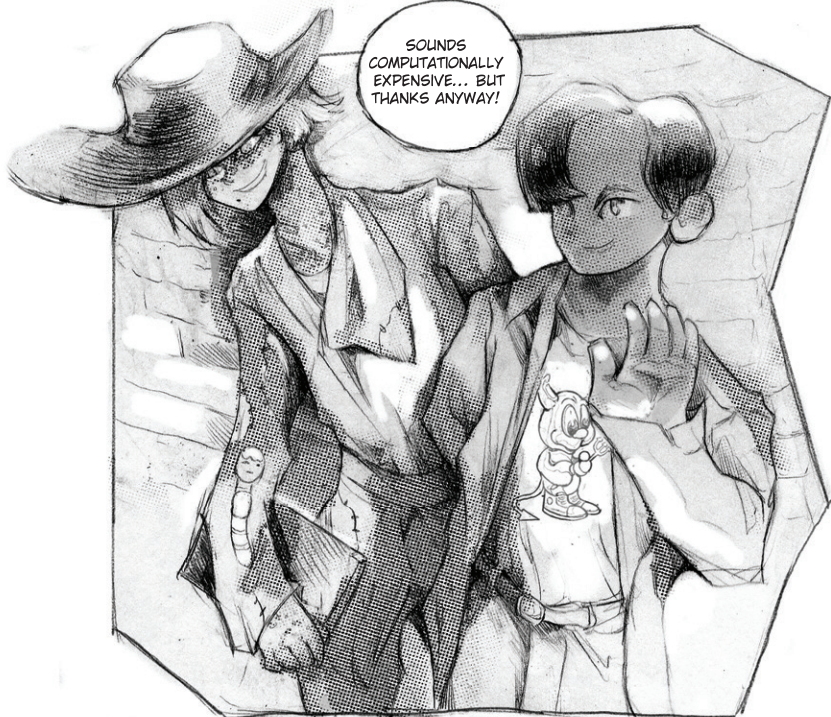


HMM... IF I WAS GOING ABOUT THE WHOLE ATTACK PATTERN DEALIE, I GUESS I'D TRAIN A BUNCH OF NEW AI'S TO ITERATE POTENTIAL ATTACKS, AND TRAIN MY MAIN MODEL TO CLASSIFY THOSE CORRECTLY?

OR FURTHER ENCRYPT THE AI'S OUTPUT, SO IT'S HARDER FOR BLACK BOX ATTACKERS TO GET THE DATA TO REVERSE ENGINEER MY ALGORITHM?



SOUNDS COMPUTATIONALLY EXPENSIVE... BUT THANKS ANYWAY!



...ASSHOLES...

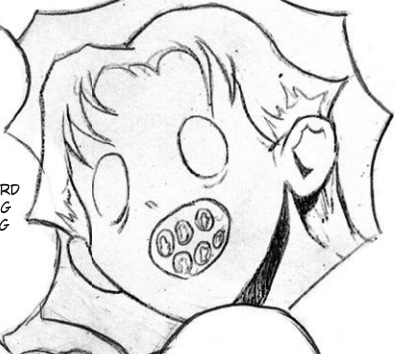


YOHAN!




YOHAN!

I OVERHEARD YOU SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A BLACK BOX...



THAT IMAGE IS SO INSPIRING!

IT GIVES ME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IDEA...



THE EARTH COULD BE REPOPULATED BY A LIFEFORM DESCENDED FROM THE MOST RESILIENT OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES...

THE LITTLE BLACK BOX DESIGNED TO SURVIVE AN AIRPLANE CRASH, AND GIVE A PLAYBACK OF THE COCKPIT DIALOGUE LEADING UP TO THE ACCIDENT!



OVER
TIME...


THE PILOTS'
RECORDED SCREAMS
MORPH INTO THE
CREATURE'S NATIVE
LANGUAGE...

AH, DO YOU
LIKE THE
IDEA?



HOLD UP... I
HAVE TO GET
THIS DOWN
QUICKLY...

I THOUGHT
OF SOMETHING
INSANE...



WE'RE
FORGETTING THAT
DNA IS CODE...
MAYBE SOMEONE
HAS ALREADY
WRITTEN A COM-
PILER?

BUT DID YOU
HEAR WHAT
I WAS JUST
DESCRIBING?

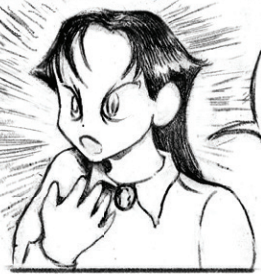


OH...
THAT.

I HATE TO
SAY IT BUT...
YOU'RE
JUMPING
THE GUN OR
SOMETHING.

THERE'S
NOTHING
CONCRETE IN THAT
IDEA THAT WE
COULD
EXECUTE HERE...

THE JUDGES
DON'T WANT TO
SIT THROUGH
TWENTY
MINUTES OF
LORE.



YOU'RE STILL
THINKING IN TERMS
OF MINUTES, WHEN
THE LIFEFORM WE
DESIGN COULD LIVE
FOREVER??!!

....

SORRY, IT'S LATE, AND I'M GETTING PUNCHY.

IT'S COOL, ME TOO, WE CAN PICK THIS UP TOMORROW.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE THE SLEEPING AREA WAS?

PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK MY IDEAS ARE DUMB..

BUT THEY'RE PURPOSEFULLY SO!



THEIR
FAILURE
IS CODED
WITHIN
THEM!

IT'S LIKE
WHEN
SCIENTISTS
ARTIFICIALLY
REANIMATE
THE CELLS OF
A DEAD PIG'S
BRAIN....

THE BRAIN
BECOMES
TRAPPED IN AN
INFINITE LOOP
RELIVING THE
TERROR OF ITS
FINAL MOMENTS.

BUT WITHIN
THAT NARROW
TERROR
LOOP...

WITHIN
THAT
LOOP...

WE MIGHT FIND
POTENTIAL FOR
NEW FORMS OF
THOUGHT TO
ARISE!

Bonus Puzzle: Hack Beyond's Security Question!

What is Beyond Birthday's
mother's maiden name?



[Hacker]



[Explorer]



[Killer]



[Mathematician]



[Mythological Figure]

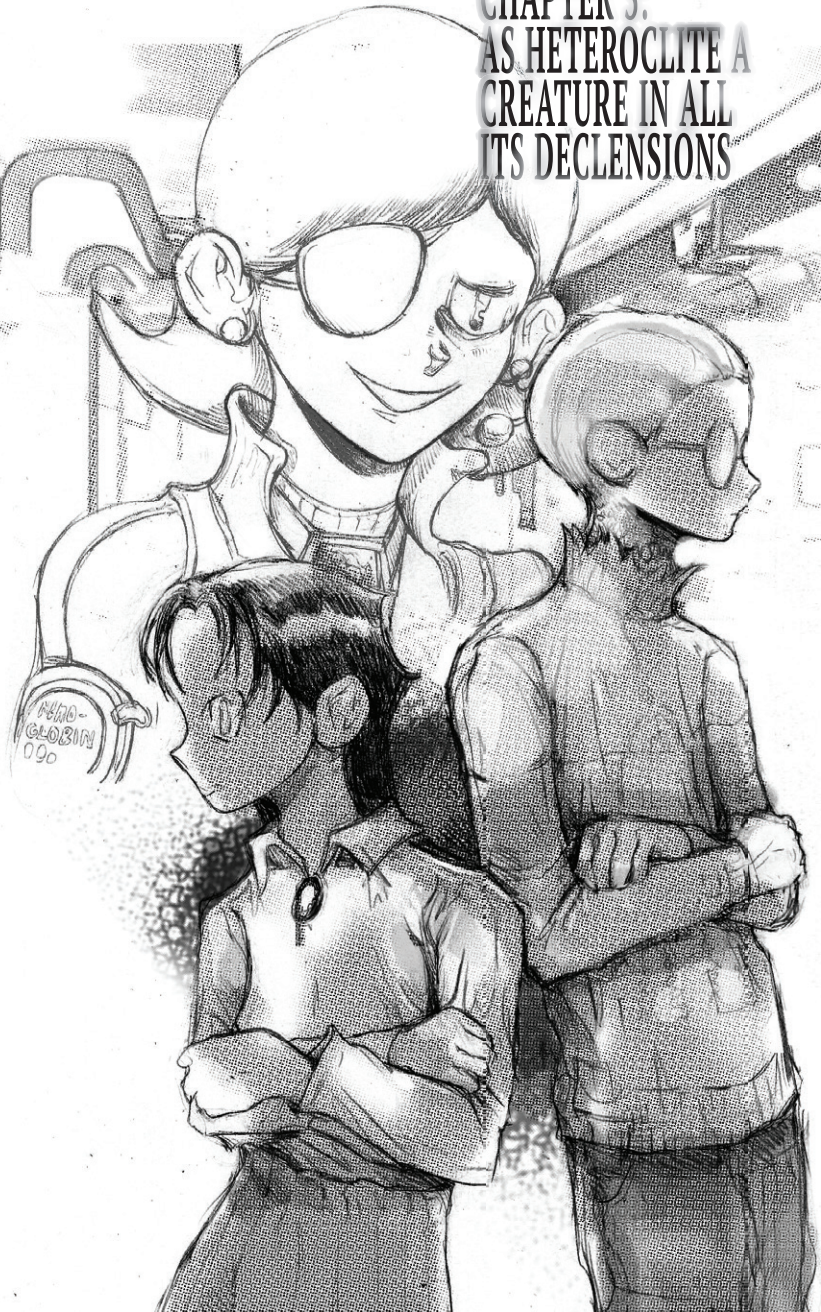


[Narrator]

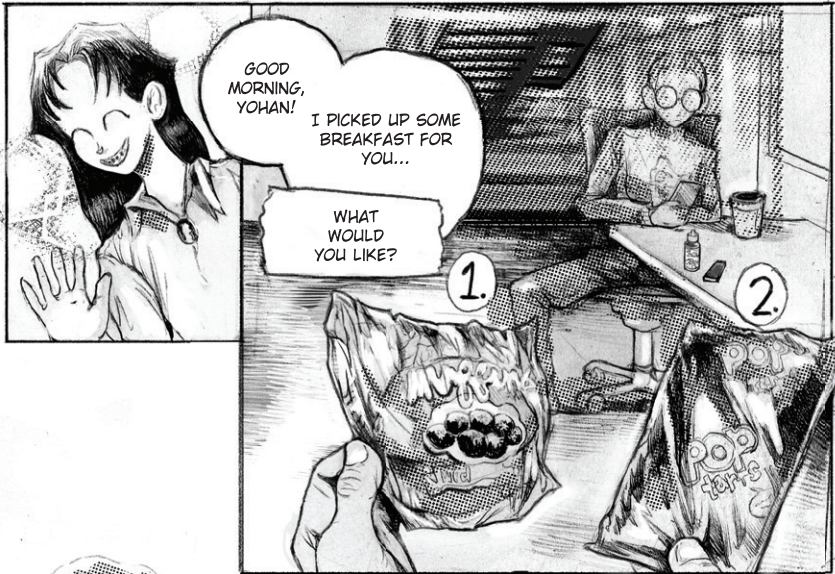
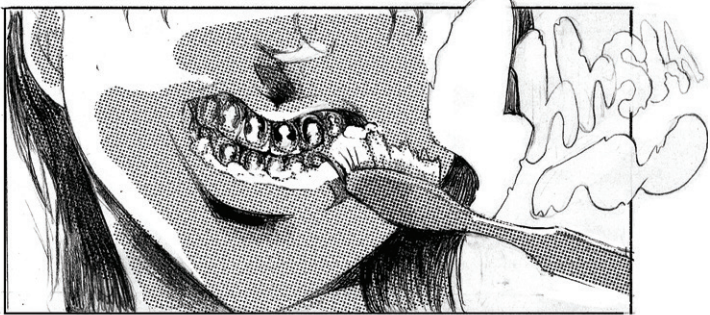


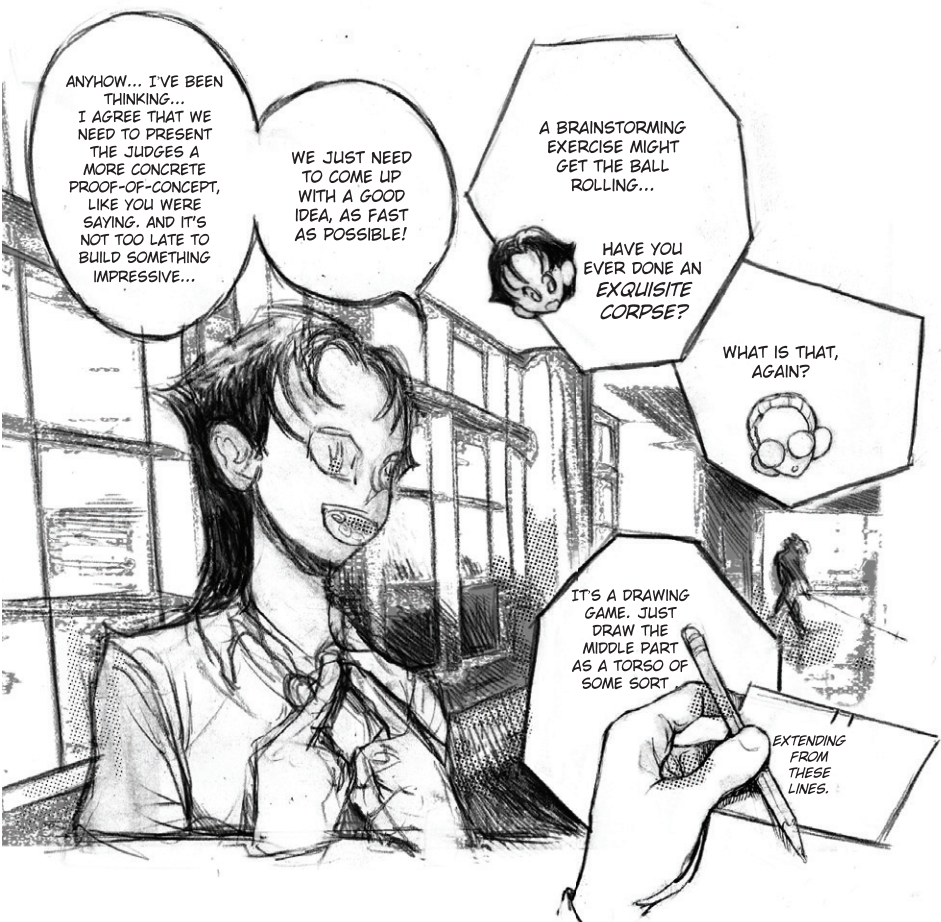
[Singer]

CHAPTER 3:
AS HETEROCLITE A
CREATURE IN ALL
ITS DECLENSIONS









ANYHOW... I'VE BEEN THINKING... I AGREE THAT WE NEED TO PRESENT THE JUDGES A MORE CONCRETE PROOF-OF-CONCEPT, LIKE YOU WERE SAYING. AND IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BUILD SOMETHING IMPRESSIVE...

WE JUST NEED TO COME UP WITH A GOOD IDEA, AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

A BRAINSTORMING EXERCISE MIGHT GET THE BALL ROLLING...

HAVE YOU EVER DONE AN EXQUISITE CORPSE?

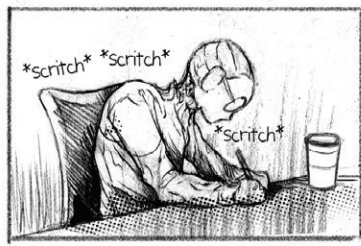
WHAT IS THAT, AGAIN?



IT'S A DRAWING GAME. JUST DRAW THE MIDDLE PART AS A TORSO OF SOME SORT



EXTENDING FROM THESE LINES.



scritch *scritch* *scritch*



scritch *scritch* *scritch*

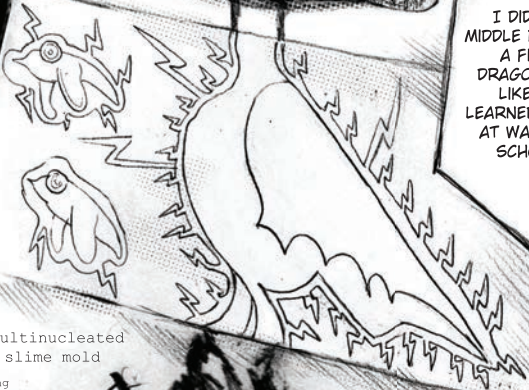


NOW WE UNFOLD IT TO SEE WHAT OUR LIFEFORM LOOKS LIKE..

THE HEAD WAS
INSPIRED BY A
RECURRING DREAM
OF A PLASTIC
SHEET MONSTER...



I DID THE
MIDDLE PART AS
A FIERY
DRAGONBIRD,
LIKE WE
LEARNED ABOUT
AT WALDORF
SCHOOL.



multinucleated
slime mold

intuitive
problem-solving
capabilities
never put to use
due to low self
esteem

30,000 gender
permutations



AND THE FEET
ARE A USELESS
SLIME BLOB,
INSPIRED BY
MYSELF.



HMM... THIS
GAME IS FUN
BUT IT SEEMS...
LIMITING.

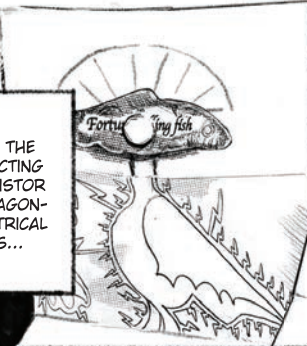
EH?

WHAT I DON'T
LIKE ABOUT
IT IS THAT IT
SLOES OUR
EFFORTS...

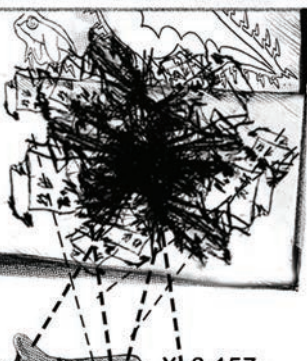
IT SPLITS THEM
INTO DIFFERENT
TIERS WITH NO
DATA RELAYED
BETWEEN THEM.

IT WOULD BE MORE INTERESTING IF WE COULD PERFORM OPERATIONS WHERE TIERS AFFECT ONE ANOTHER IN REAL TIME...

IMAGINE IF THE FISH WAS ACTING AS A TRANSISTOR FOR THE DRAGON-BIRD'S ELECTRICAL CURRENTS...



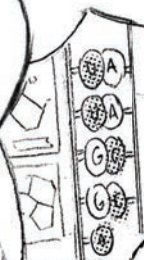
OR THE FISH'S LOCATION WITH RESPECT TO THE PAGE BECAME A PARAMETRIZING PARAMETER FOR THE USELESS SLIME MOLD...



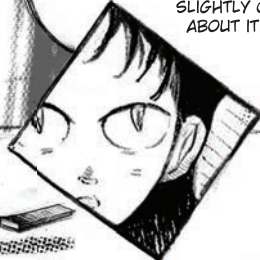
OH I SEE... INCORPORATING USER INPUT.

IF THE WHOLE CORPSE WAS HYPOTHETICALLY RESPONSIVE.. MAYBE THE PLAYER COULD GENE-EDIT THE LIFEFORM THEMSELVES?

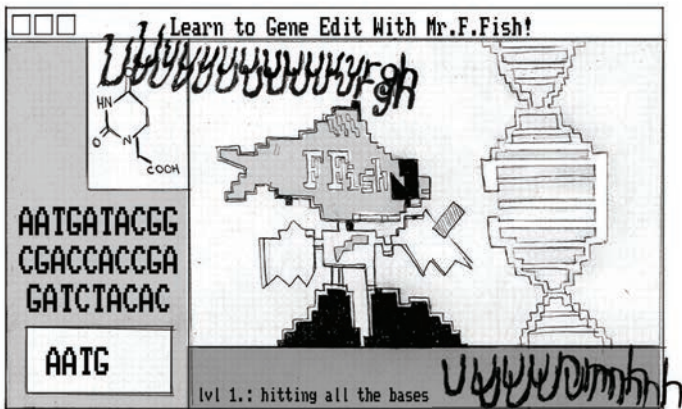
YEAH, SORT OF...



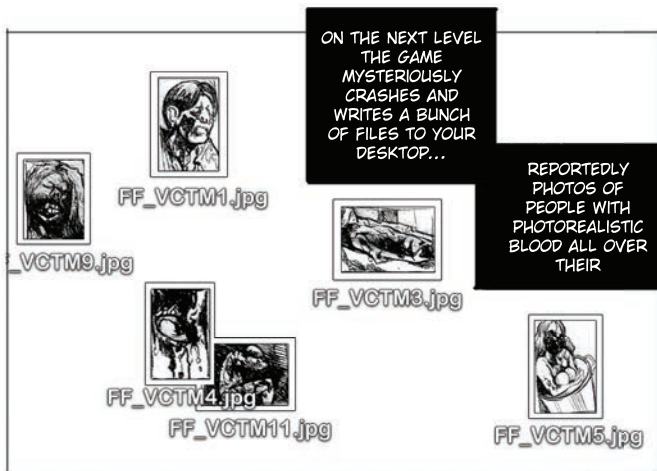
IT COULD WORK LIKE A LEARN-TO-TYPE GAME BUT THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING SLIGHTLY OFF ABOUT IT...



THE FIRST LEVEL SEEMS INNOCUOUS, LIKE ANY OTHER KID'S GAME. BUT RATHER THAN A SOUNDTRACK, YOU HEAR AN UNSETTLING PATTERN OF GROANS.



ON LEVEL TWO, THE BACKGROUND SOUND SHIFTS TO AN UNNERVING, HIGH-PITCHED RINGING NOISE. TYPING SPEED STARTS GOING FASTER AND FASTER, UP TO 500 WORDS A MINUTE) AND YOU NOTICE A PSYCHOPATHIC GLINT IN THE FORTUNE FISH'S EYE...



Geniacs
Geniacs
Geniacs
Geniacs
Geniacs
Geniacs

I DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WAS A LEADERBOARD ALREADY...



HOW DID THAT TEAM FINISH SO QUICKLY?

THEY MUST'VE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY SCRAPED ALL THE CATALOGUED MUTATIONS FROM A GENETIC DATABANK THEN AGGREGATED THEM INTO A SINGLE MEGA-MUTANT SIM... NOTHING THAT TIME-INTENSIVE.

Geniacs Leaderboard Brought to you by H Corp.

>Preliminary< Rankings

1. Team "FOMOChimp"

>Featured Submission<

I STAYED UP MOST OF THE NIGHT TOO, TO BE HONEST...

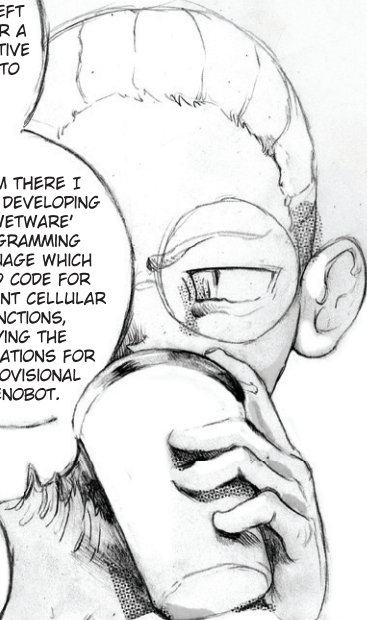
WAIT, WHY?





THE SPECIFICS
PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
INTEREST
YOU...

BUT AFTER YOU LEFT
I HAD THE IDEA FOR A
BRAINF*CK DERIVATIVE
CORRESPONDING TO
ACTUAL HUMAN
NEUROLOGY...



FROM THERE I
BEGAN DEVELOPING
A 'NETWARE'
PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGE WHICH
COULD CODE FOR
DIFFERENT CELLULAR
FUNCTIONS,
LAYING THE
FOUNDATIONS FOR
A PROVISIONAL
XENBOT.



HA-HA!
HA-HA!
HA-HA!

YOHAN! YOU'RE
SO KIND TO PLAY
A SILLY GAME
WITH ME, WHEN
YOU'VE BEEN SO
HARD AT WORK!

THE SPECIFICS
WOULD BE
LOST ON ME,
NO DOUBT!



LET ME
FINISH,
THOUGH...



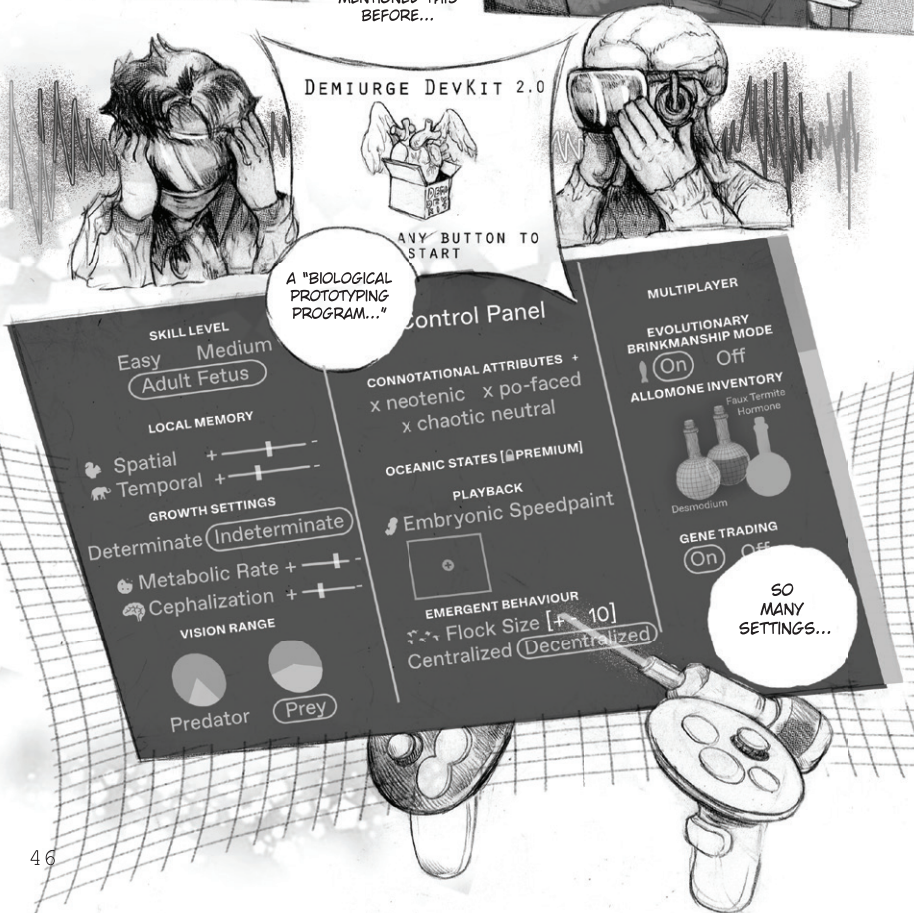
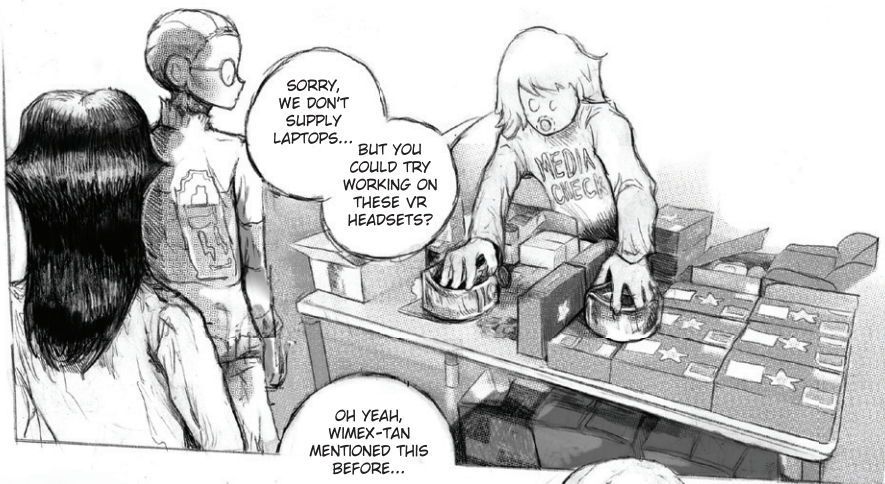
I WAS WORKING
SO INTENTLY THAT I
FELL ASLEEP IN THE
WORKSPACE...

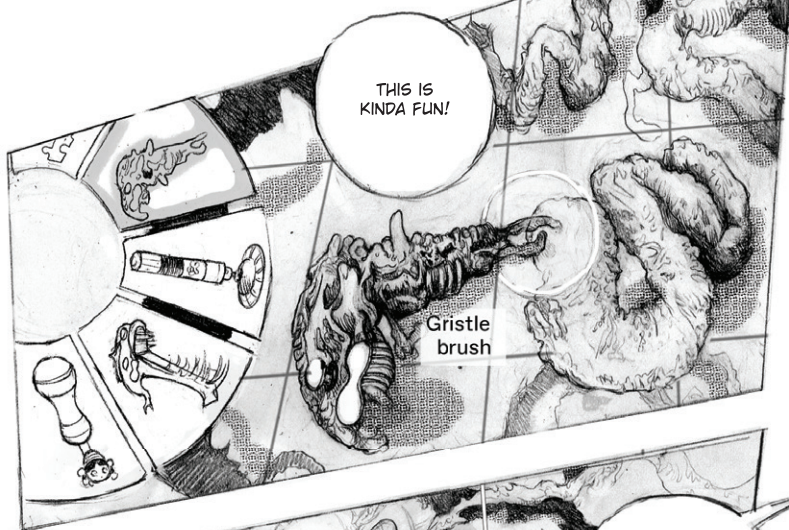
AND WHEN
I WOKE UP
SOME ONE HAD
STOLEN MY
LAPTOP.



I REPORTED IT
TO SECURITY....
BUT IN THE
MEANTIME I'M
EXHAUSTED
AND ALL OF
THAT WORK IS
GONE.

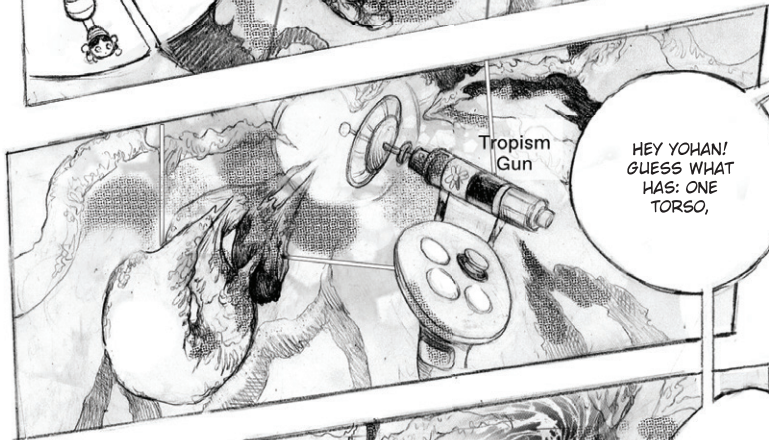
WHAT'S OUR
PLAN B?
MEDIA
RESOURCES?





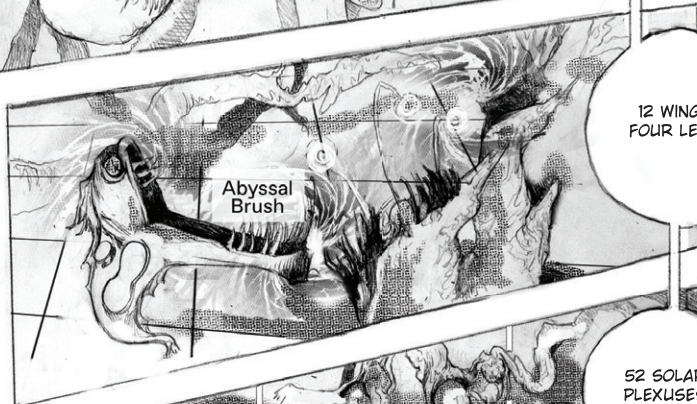
THIS IS KINDA FUN!

Gristle brush



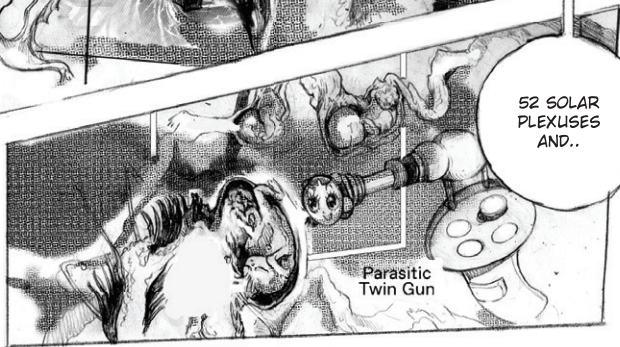
Tropism Gun

HEY YOHAN!
GUESS WHAT
HAS: ONE
TORSO,



Abyssal Brush

12 WINGS,
FOUR LEGS,



Parasitic
Twin Gun

52 SOLAR
PLEXUSES
AND..

365
CLITS!!!

TA-DA!!!!

The Yearling

WHAT'S THE
MATTER?
YOU DON'T
LIKE RIDDLES,
YOHAN?

THE ANSWER
IS A YEAR!

IT'S YOUR
CALENDAR
APP!

LET'S SEE
WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN WE RUN
THE WALK
CYCLE
SIMULATION.

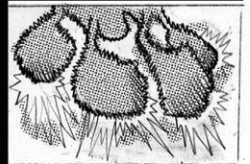
LOCOMOTION SIM
Walk
Crawl
Run
Trot
Canter
Gallop
Slither
Swim



TRIAL 1

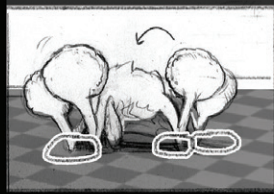


TRIAL 2





TRIAL 3



IT LEARNS TO WALK ON ITS ELBOWS!

OMG!



AW, IT'S HUNGWWWWWWYYYYY!

THERE, THERE.



BONUS
Yearling Adoptables!

Tutulary Familiar

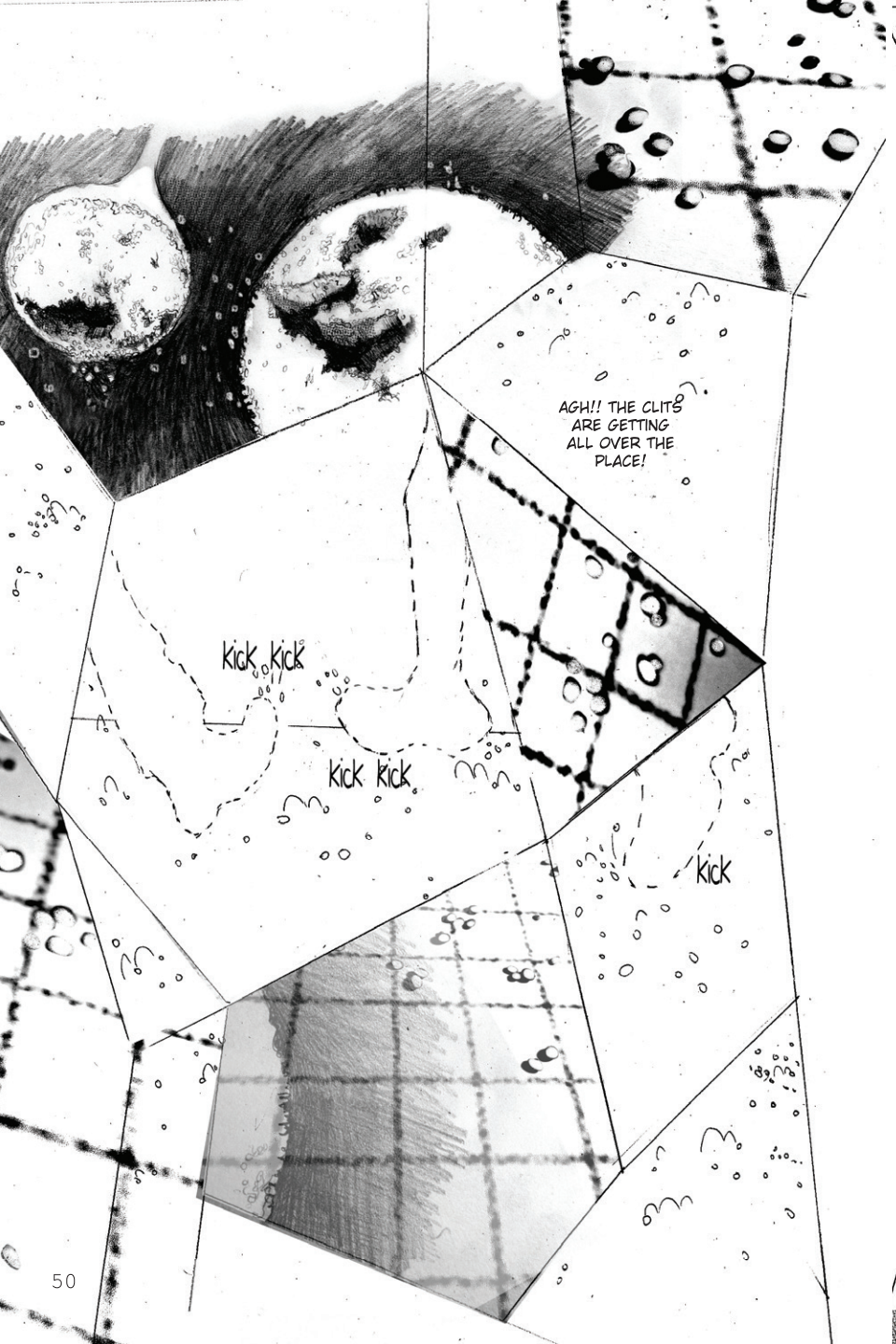
Apex Twins



OH NO! WHY'D IT SHED ALL OF ITS CLITS?

THE BRUSH MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE LIZARD TAIL SETTING...





AGH!! THE CLITS
ARE GETTING
ALL OVER THE
PLACE!

kick kick

kick kick

kick

Kick Kick

Kick Kick

Kick Kick
Kick Kick

Kick Kick
Kick Kick

Kick Kick
Kick Kick

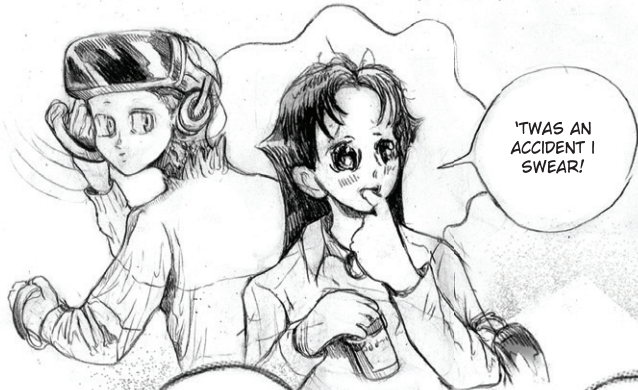
OH,
SHIT...

Oh Shit

Kick Kick

WE'VE BEEN
KICKING AROUND
SOMEONE'S
STASH...

PLAYING
DIRTY, EH?



Geniacs SOURMATH LABS

I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED AS YOUR TEAM MENTOR...



FOLLOW ME SO WE CAN TALK SOMEWHERE IN PRIVATE.



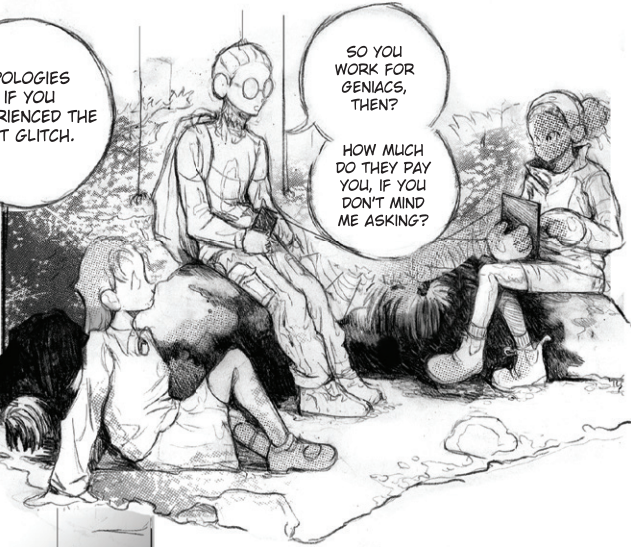
I WAS THE HEAD DEVELOPER ON THE VR PLATFORM YOU GUYS WERE TRYING OUT, BY THE WAY...

APOLOGIES IF YOU EXPERIENCED THE CLIT GLITCH.

SO YOU WORK FOR GENIACS, THEN?

HOW MUCH DO THEY PAY YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING?

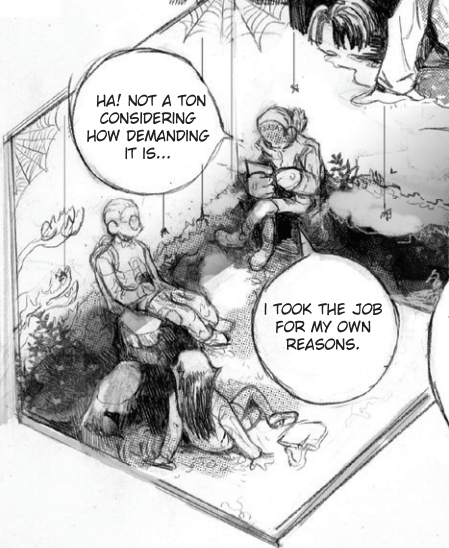
ROCK GARDEN



HA! NOT A TON CONSIDERING HOW DEMANDING IT IS...

I TOOK THE JOB FOR MY OWN REASONS.

I MET WIMEX-TAN 8 YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS STILL IN UNDERGRAD.





WE WERE
COMPETING IN
HAMBURG AT A
DEMOPARTY,
PROGRAMMING
GRAPHICAL
ANIMATIONS.

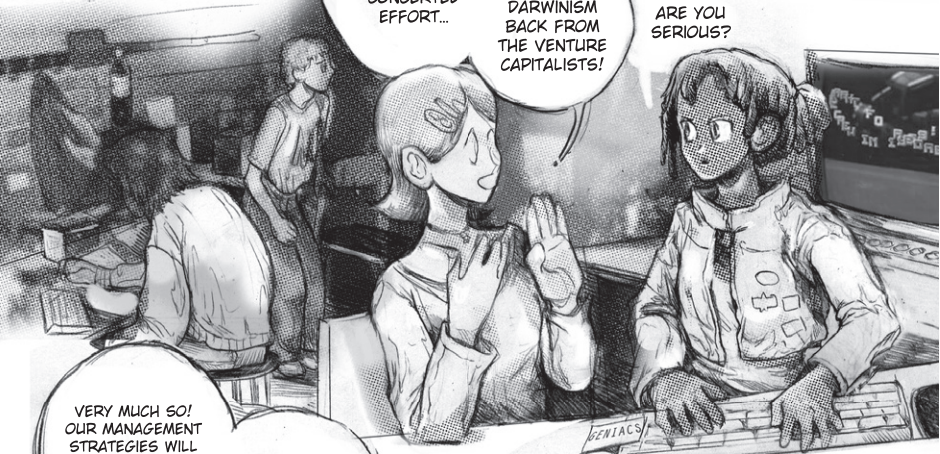


WHILE WE WERE WAITING
FOR OUR ENTRY TO
RENDER, WIMEX-TAN
LAUNCHED INTO AN
ELEVATOR PITCH.

IT'S A
BIZARRO
FANTASY RIGHT
NOW, BUT WITH
CONCERTED
EFFORT...

WE COULD
WREST
DARWINISM
BACK FROM THE
VENTURE
CAPITALISTS!

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

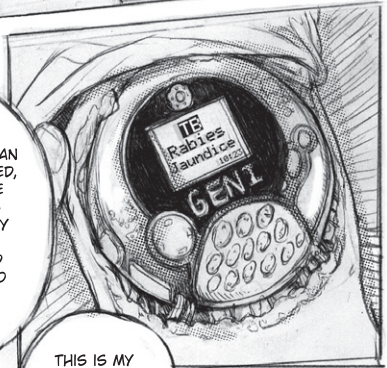


VERY MUCH SO!
OUR MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIES WILL
BE QUITE
PROGRESSIVE-

FOR INSTANCE,
INSTEAD OF
HEALTH CARE,
TEAM MEMBERS
WILL BE FITTED
WITH AN ARTIFICIAL
IMMUNE SYSTEM.

PATHOGENIC
DATABANKING CAN
BE EXTERNALIZED,
WITH A DEVICE
THAT STORES
DATA ON EVERY
GERM YOU'VE
ENCOUNTERED IN
THE PAST 10
YEARS.

THIS IS MY
WORKING
PROTOTYPE!



SO DESPITE MY INITIAL RESERVATIONS... THAT LEVEL OF COMMITMENT REALLY FLOORED ME. I WAS ONBOARDED LATER THAT MONTH.

DAMN... DO YOU EVER GET SICK ON PURPOSE, TO GET OUT OF WORK?

I HAVEN'T PERSONALLY... BUT THERE'S A RUMOR WIMEX-TAN ONCE GAVE HERSELF SCARLET FEVER, AND THAT'S HOW SHE LOST HER EYE.



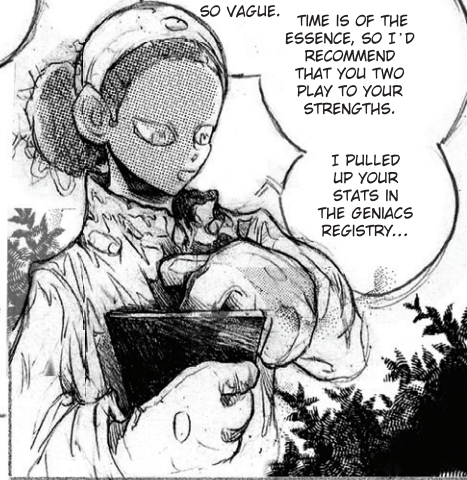
I DIGRESS... WHAT HAS YOUR TEAM COME UP WITH SO FAR?

BB AND I HAD ALL OF OUR WORK STOLEN... BUT BESIDES THAT, WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING AN IDEA THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

IT'S HARD, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE JUDGES' CRITERIA IS SO VAGUE.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, SO I'D RECOMMEND THAT YOU TWO PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS.

I PULLED UP YOUR STATS IN THE GENIACS REGISTRY...



Yohan Khashakyan



Day job: Product-driven developer
Skills: >Iteratively and rapidly delivering high-quality digital products
>Optimizing User experience
>Improving average crash-free session rate
>Rearchitecting for team scalability
Interests: Sllleeeeeeeeep
Weaknesses: getting tangled in flowing cloak during eurythmy
Attention Span: 1 sec- 7hr.

Odds:+200



Beyond Birthday



Day job: Elegiac 'Poent'
Skills: Words alone
Interests:
† Morbid disposition †
Weaknesses: Fugue states
Attention Span: 1 sec-2hr.

Odds:+500

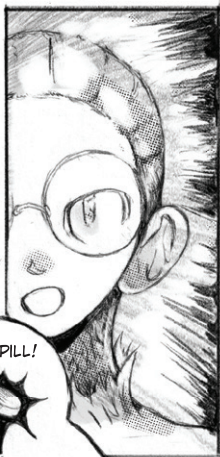


HMM...
POET/CODER.
THE CLASSIC
LOVE AFFAIR!

BUT
WHERE IS
THE AUB??

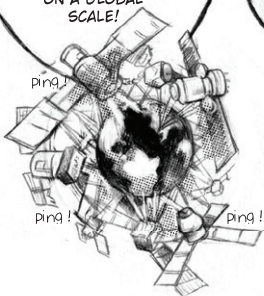
MAYBE A
THOUGHT
EXPERIMENT
COULD LOOSEN
THINGS UP!

OKAY, UH...
TWO PILLS...
RED OR BLUE?!
WHICH DO YOU
CHOOSE AND
WHY?



RED PILL!

A HALLUCINOGEN,
IT GIVES ME A GREATER
SENSE OF THE
INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF
ALL BEINGS,
AND I DEMOCRATIZE
TECHNOLOGY ACCORDINGLY-
SAVING TIME AND EFFORT
ON A GLOBAL
SCALE!



BLUE PILL!

IT'S A PLACEBO,
A PRANK JELLY
BEAN, "POP," BUT ITS
FLAVOR TRIGGERS A
HINDBRAIN MEMORY
PASSED THROUGH MY
ANCESTRAL LINEAGE...

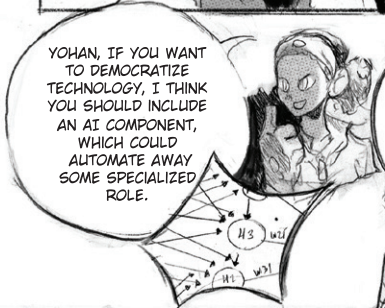
IT'S THE
FLAVOR OF THE
TRIBE LEADER'S
FLESH, MUTINIED BY
A BLOODY COUP AND
DEVOURIED
UNCEREMONIOUSLY!





HMM...

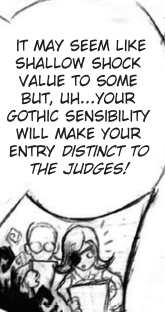
IT SEEMS YOU'RE BOTH INTERESTED IN FORMS OF EXPRESSION, IN BECOMING THE RECEPTACLE FOR COLLECTIVE VOICES AND ENERGIES...



YOHAN, IF YOU WANT TO DEMOCRATIZE TECHNOLOGY, I THINK YOU SHOULD INCLUDE AN AI COMPONENT, WHICH COULD AUTOMATE AWAY SOME SPECIALIZED ROLE.



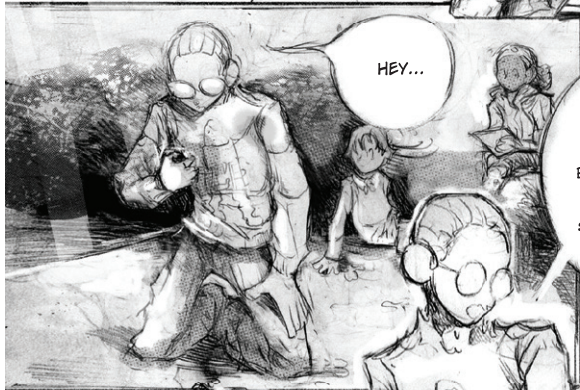
BB, YOU NEED TO CONTRIBUTE ELEMENTS OF YOUR PERSONAL COSMOLOGY...



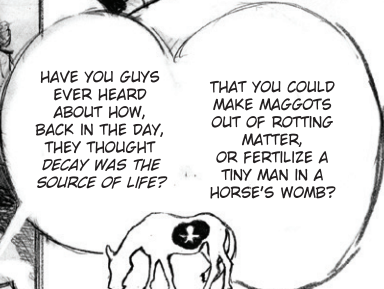
IT MAY SEEM LIKE SHALLOW SHOCK VALUE TO SOME BUT, UH...YOUR GOTHIC SENSIBILITY WILL MAKE YOUR ENTRY DISTINCT TO THE JUDGES!



BUT HOW DOES IT ALL COME TOGETHER?



HEY...



HAVE YOU GUYS EVER HEARD ABOUT HOW, BACK IN THE DAY, THEY THOUGHT DECAY WAS THE SOURCE OF LIFE?

THAT YOU COULD MAKE MAGGOTS OUT OF ROTTING MATTER, OR FERTILIZE A TINY MAN IN A HORSE'S WOMB?



GREAT! NOW YOHAN IS STEALING MY CONTENT...



BUT THAT'S KIND OF A COOL IDEA...

interlude: living objects history pt. 2



1963-1963- Pavlovian Dog teaching-machine

Frederick Chesson developed this device at the height of the 60's "teaching-machine" craze. It was meant to simulate the Classical Pavlovian Responses of conditioning (learning), extinction (forgetting), spontaneous recovery, higher order conditioning, learning curves, and stimuli hierarchy.

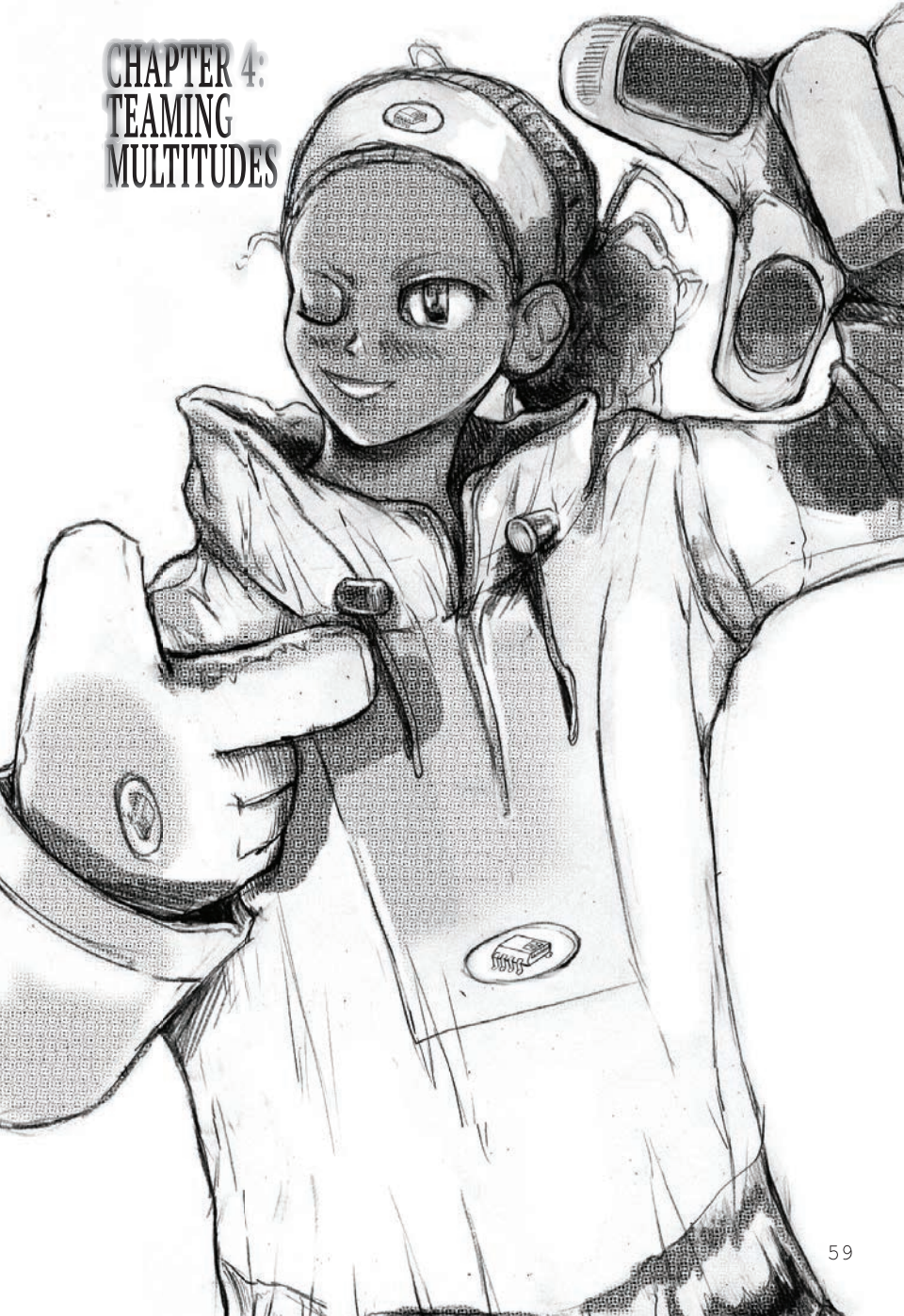
It was modeled after the canonical Pavlovian conditioning scenario: a dog who is fed whenever a dinner bell rings comes to salivate at the sound of the bell alone. To indicate hunger, the dog's transistor-powered tail would wag when a magnetic bone was held in proximity to its nose. The dog had the power to hear and see via a microphone and a photocell, respectively. The audio stimulus would activate a trigger-delay and if the food stimulus was presented during this interval, this coincidence (a reinforcement of a sound-food connection) would be recorded by the Conditioning Event Counter. Once a preset number of coincidences had been registered the dog would automatically wag its tail (signaling food anticipation) anytime it heard a noise.

HOWEVER if the sound-stimulus was presented without food another preset number of times (an anticoincidence) the dog would be reset to an unconditioned state and require retraining.

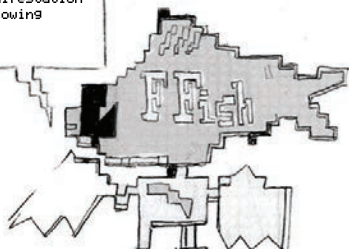
Chesson's machine also featured a simulation of "spontaneous recovery," a Pavlovian phenomenon in which a conditioned state is randomly recovered after a period of forgetful latency. It also simulated learning curves, or increased ease of learning and lower likelihood of forgetting the more times the conditioning-extinction cycle was repeated. (Fewer coincidences would be required to condition the dog, and more anticoincidences would be required to untrain it.)

With enough training the dog could achieve "higher-order conditioning", and come to associate a third stimuli, like light, with food, due to the association between food and sound, and sound and light.

CHAPTER 4:
TEAMING
MULTITUDES

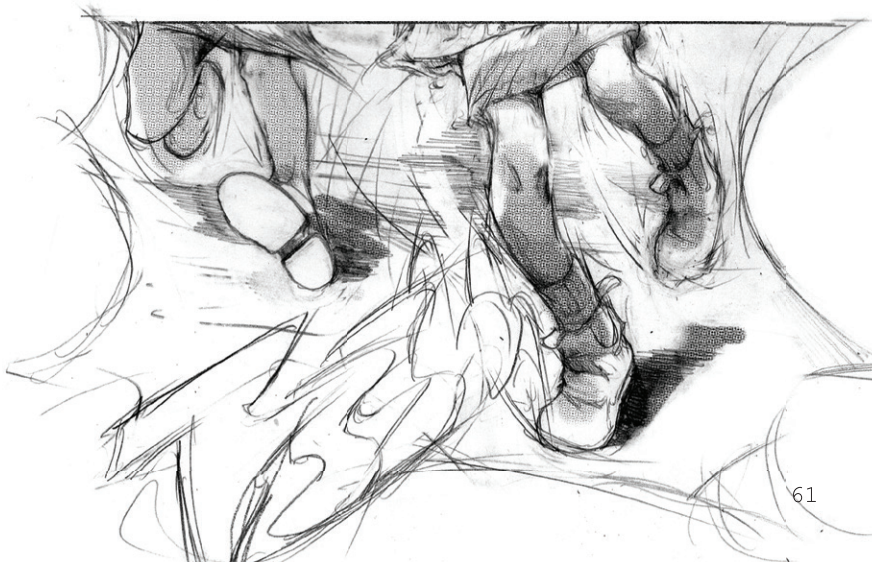


i promise, your
camera hasn't turned
on! that little light
is the manifestation
of your glowing
potential!





SPONSORED **13:01**
COUNTDOWN **UNTIL JUDGING**
BROUGHT TO YOU BY "LUCA"

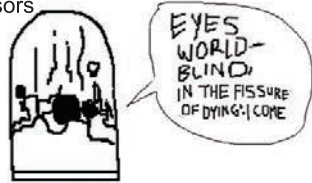




ROT-2-SPEECH GENERATOR

SUPPLIES:

1. Rotting refuse/effluvium
2. Mediumly-fluid-solid-fructifying-reacting-substance [misc nutrient broths & plastic-dissolving cyanobacteria]
3. Co2/ N2O/methane emissions sensors
4. Temperature sensors
5. Camera
6. Glass dome
7. Microcomputer
8. Speaker



PROJECT:

- Temporarily trap the miasma from the rotting mass under glass dome
- Sensors monitor gaseous composition of air in dome
- Camera records the rotting bodies, AI performs object recognition on the rotting bodies in real time [asymptotically declining in their identifiability -> *undetermined object*]
- Natural language processing AI produces grammatically cogent text incorporating object recognition, temperature and air composition data [aromatic molarities as foundation for arbitrary language system]

VARIABLES:	hot/dry-> 1st person	hot/wet-> 2nd person	(over time personhood →0)
	cold/dry-> 0th person	cold/wet-> 3rd person	

- Discrete object recognition->indistinct rot:
purple prose-> dry rationalism
- Maggots=parentheticals

JOB DELEGATION:

Naomi: Calibrate sensors, object recognition pipeline

BB: Amass poetic databank, establish conceptual ossature, map out input/output relationships for node-based poem module

Yohan: Info-log task daemon for sensors to talk to poem module/
misc.backend

FOOD 4 THOUGHT: (to incorporate in pitch to judges):

X emissaries for the **silent rot**

X spontaneous generation

X oracles/black boxes/reincarnation (woo-woo)

I'M LOOKING FOR THE ROT SENSORS...

BUT HOW DO WE TELL WHICH IS WHICH?

THEY'RE NOT LABELED.

I HAVE AN IDEA!

THIS WILL DO THE TRICK...



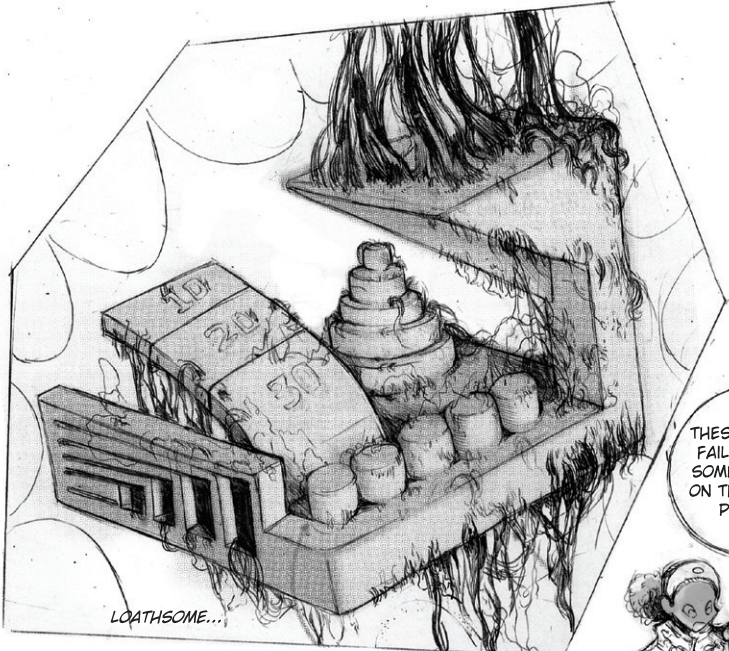
BEEP BEEP BEEP

BEEP BEEP

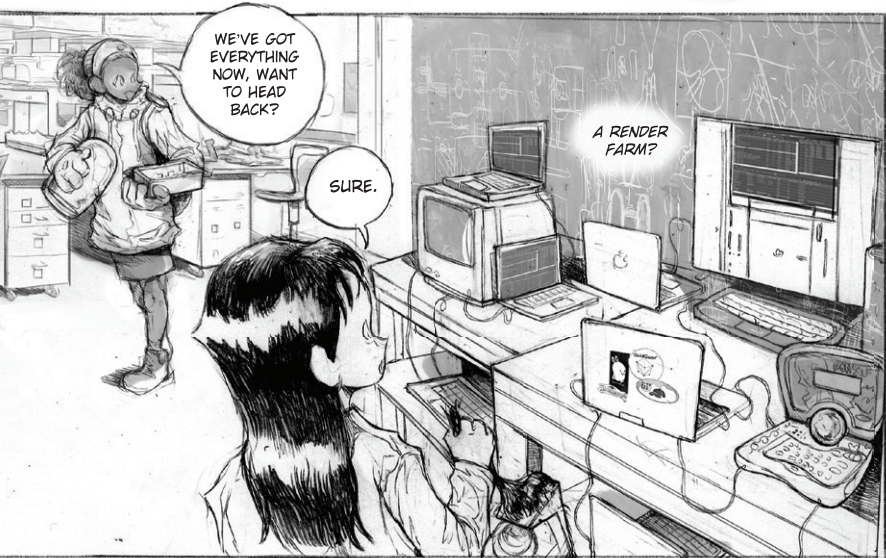
BEEP BEEP BEEP

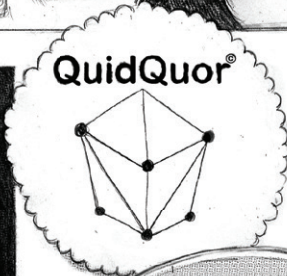
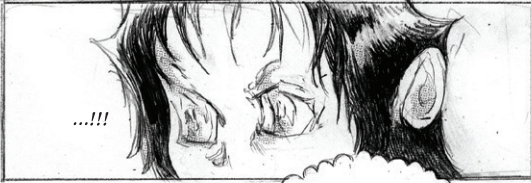
THESE ONES!





THESE MUST BE
FAILED PRINTS
SOMEONE MADE
ON THE KERATIN
PRINTER.





YOU
KNOW...

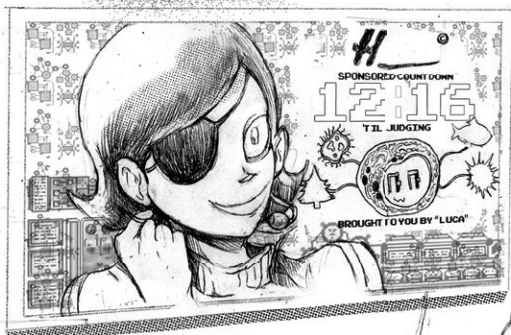
Michaelmas

IT'S KIND
OF CRAZY
TO THINK
ABOUT.

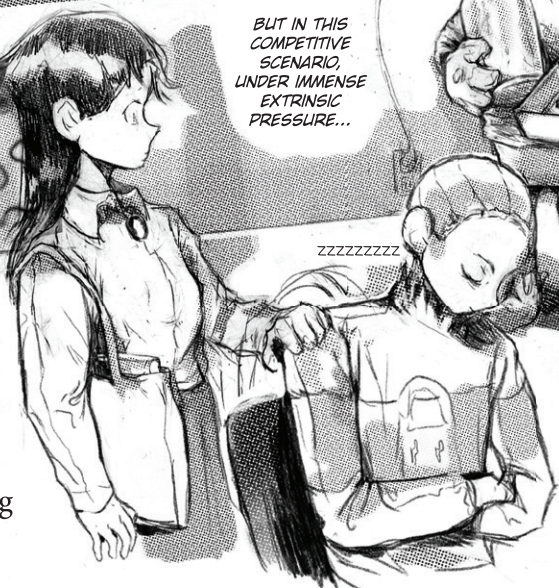




LESS THAN
48 HOURS
AGO, NAOMI,
YOHAN AND I
WERE PERFECT
STRANGERS.



BUT IN THIS
COMPETITIVE
SCENARIO,
UNDER IMMENSE
EXTRINSIC
PRESSURE...

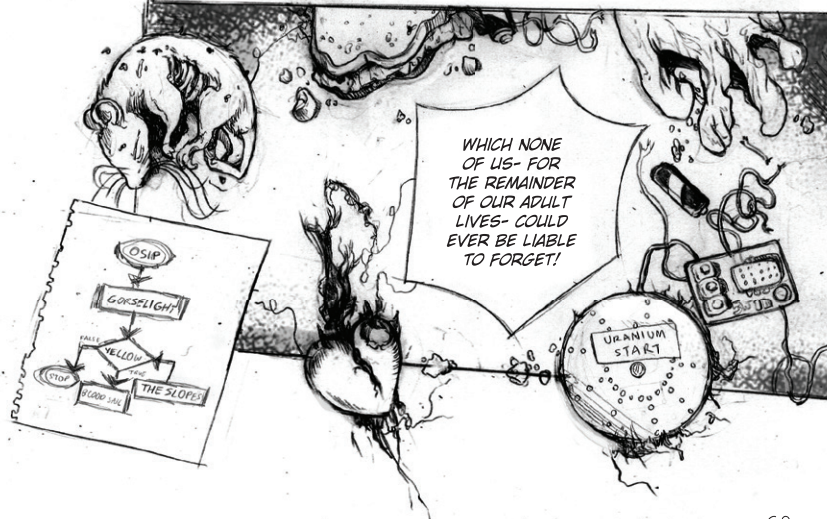


zzzzzzzzzz

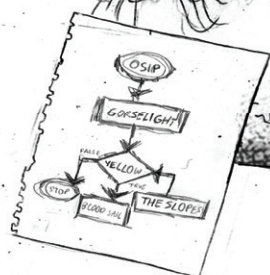
bag



WE FORGED A
FRIENDSHIP,
COURTSING WITH
CREATIVE,
SYNERGY.



WHICH NONE
OF US- FOR
THE REMAINDER
OF OUR ADULT
LIVES- COULD
EVER BE LIABLE
TO FORGET!



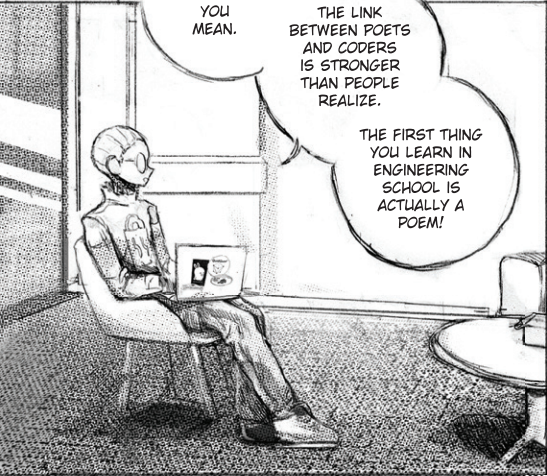


SOMETHING IMPRESSIVE IS COMING TOGETHER, GUYS. I CAN SENSE IT!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

THE LINK BETWEEN POETS AND CODERS IS STRONGER THAN PEOPLE REALIZE.

THE FIRST THING YOU LEARN IN ENGINEERING SCHOOL IS ACTUALLY A POEM!

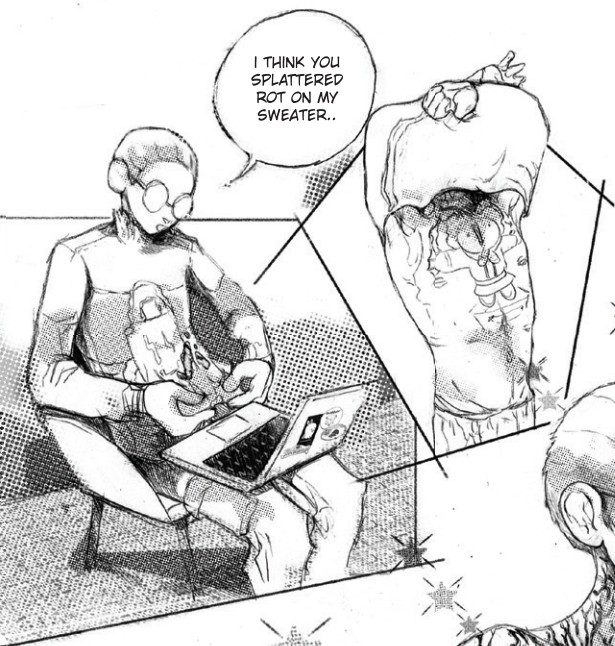


"LEFTY LOOSEY, RIGHTY TIGHTY."



IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL POEM TOO!!!!!!

I THINK YOU
SPLATTERED
ROT ON MY
SWEATER..

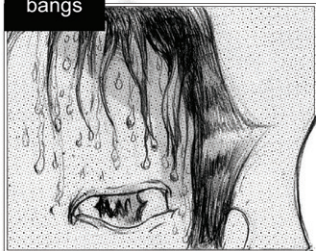


GONNA GO
RINSE THIS
OFF.





bangs



I KNEW
THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN.

grimace



HAD I,
FOR AN
INSTANT,
IN THIS FLURRY OF
FRIENDSHIP-ACTIVITY,
FORGOTTEN...

kin

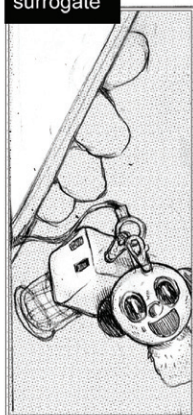


device



Meet us in the
yellow room.
asap

surrogate



...WHERE
MY TRUE
LOYALTIES
LIE?











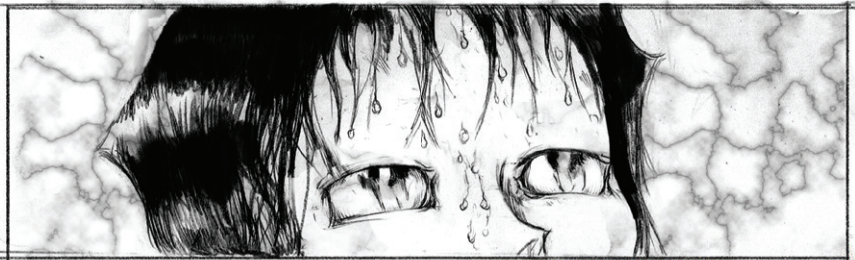
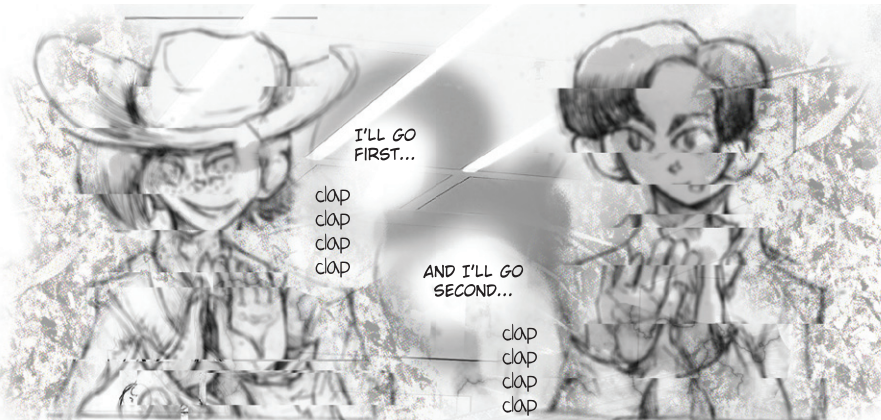




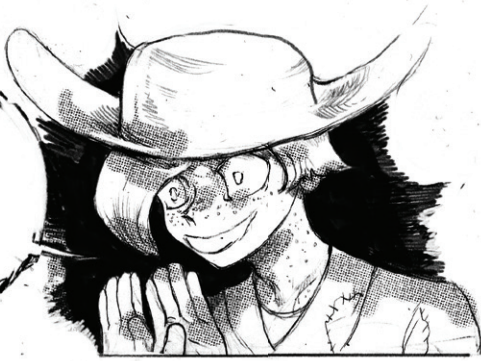


OF

HEBITATIONS



WAYS BEYOND
BIRTHDAY
BETRAYED US!



HAD US FALSIFY HER
QUALIFICATIONS,
THEN ABANDONED
OUR TEAM AT THE
LAST MINUTE BEFORE
THE COMPETITION
STARTED...

AVOIDED US
THE WHOLE
TIME...

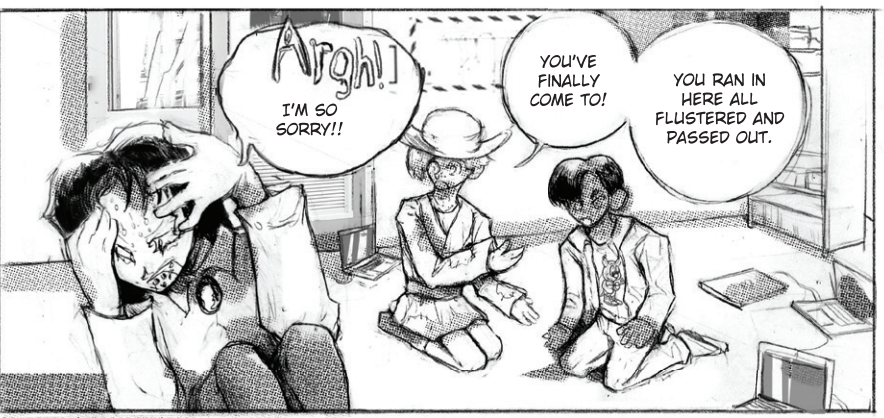
DISMANTLED
OUR RENDER
FARM IN THE
MIDST OF AN
INTEGRAL
CALCULATION...



Argh!!
I'M SO
SORRY!!

YOU'VE
FINALLY
COME TO!

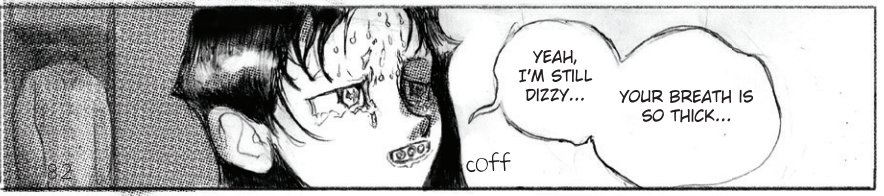
YOU RAN IN
HERE ALL
FLUSTERED AND
PASSED OUT.

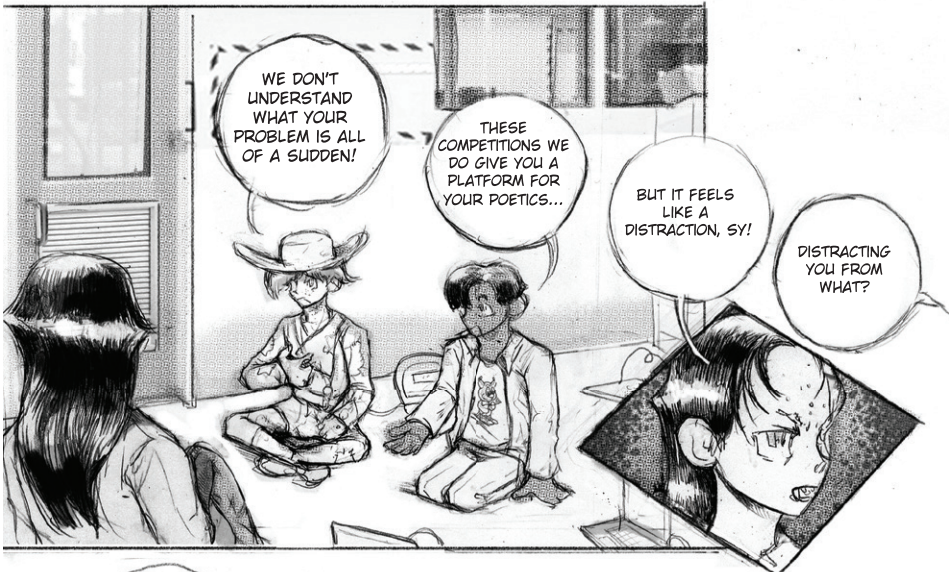


YEAH,
I'M STILL
DIZZY...

YOUR BREATH IS
SO THICK...

coff





WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS ALL OF A SUDDEN!

THESE COMPETITIONS WE DO GIVE YOU A PLATFORM FOR YOUR POETICS...

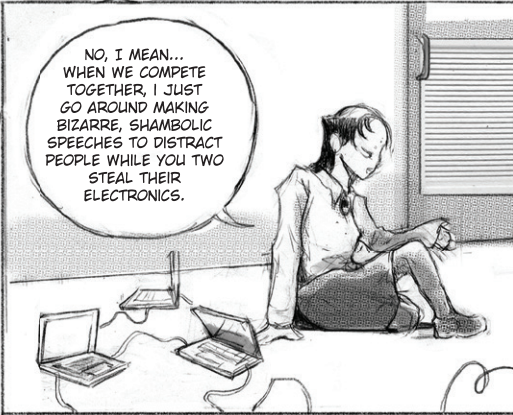
BUT IT FEELS LIKE A DISTRACTION, SY!

DISTRACTION YOU FROM WHAT?

WHAT LIVELIHOOD DO YOU HAVE OUTSIDE THE HACKATHON CIRCUIT?

DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF...

NO, I MEAN... WHEN WE COMPETE TOGETHER, I JUST GO AROUND MAKING BIZARRE, SHAMBOLIC SPEECHES TO DISTRACT PEOPLE WHILE YOU TWO STEAL THEIR ELECTRONICS.




BUT SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN THESE ENVIRONMENTS.. I REALIZED I HAVE IDEAS OF MY OWN! AS DUMB AS THEY MIGHT BE.

NOW THAT I FOUND TEAMMATES WHO I COLLABORATE WELL WITH... THE PIECES ARE FALLING INTO PLACE AND...I... ACTUALLY THINK WE COULD WIN!



YOU AND THAT
WEIRDO?
AS DESIGNERS
OF THE
SUCCESSOR-
SPECIES?



LOOK, IF YOU HAD
A PROBLEM, YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
WAITED UNTIL WE WERE
AT THE DOOR OF ONE
OF THE MOST ELITE
HACKATHONS IN THE
WORLD TO CONFRONT
US ABOUT IT...



THEN TO
DESTROY OUR
RENDER FARM
ON TOP OF
EVERYTHING...



IT FEELS LIKE

Sabotage...



I'M SORRY I ACTED
IMPULSIVELY...
ALTHOUGH I WAS
ONLY RETURNING
THAT LAPTOP TO ITS
RIGHTFUL OWNER,
YOHAN.

I WANT TO
PLAY FAIR
FROM NOW
ON!

IF YOU TWO CAN
FORGIVE ME
AND PROMISE TO
LEAVE OUR TEAM
ALONE FOR THE
REMAINDER OF
THE EVENT

I CAN TIP YOU
OFF ON A
O-DAY
VULNERABILITY
SURE TO CATCH
THE JUDGES
OFF-GUARD!

CYRIL AND SY.

THE BONUS
BROTHERS I
NEVER ASKED
FOR...

ROUNDING
ERROR BROS.

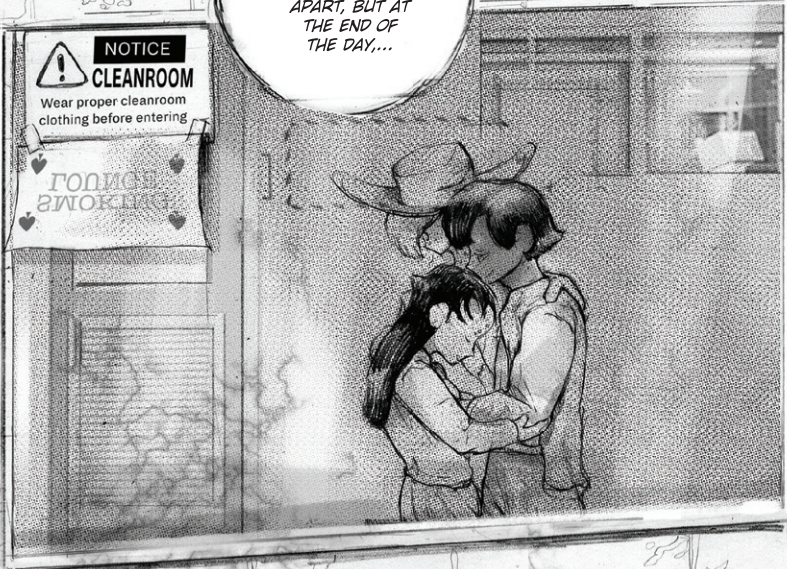
WE'VE GROWN
APART, BUT AT
THE END OF
THE DAY,...



NOTICE
CLEANROOM

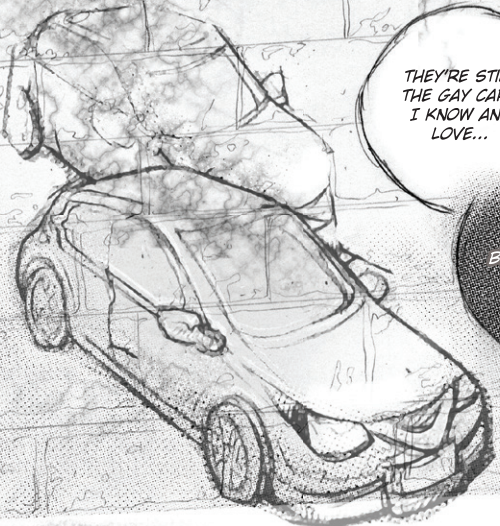
Wear proper cleanroom
clothing before entering

TOUGH
SMOKING



THEY'RE STILL
THE GAY CARS
I KNOW AND
LOVE...

GOD, THEIR
BREATH REEKS
OF CO²...



MEANWHILE...

NAOMI,
REAL QUICK,
I JUST WANT
TO SAY...

I FEEL LUCKY
TO HAVE
GOTTEN YOU
AS A MENTOR.

YOU'LL PUT
IN A GOOD
WORD FOR
ME WITH
WIMEX-TAN,
RIGHT?

WELL IT WAS
LUCKY, INASMUCH
AS NONE OF THE
OTHER TEAMS
GOT "MENTORS"
AT ALL.

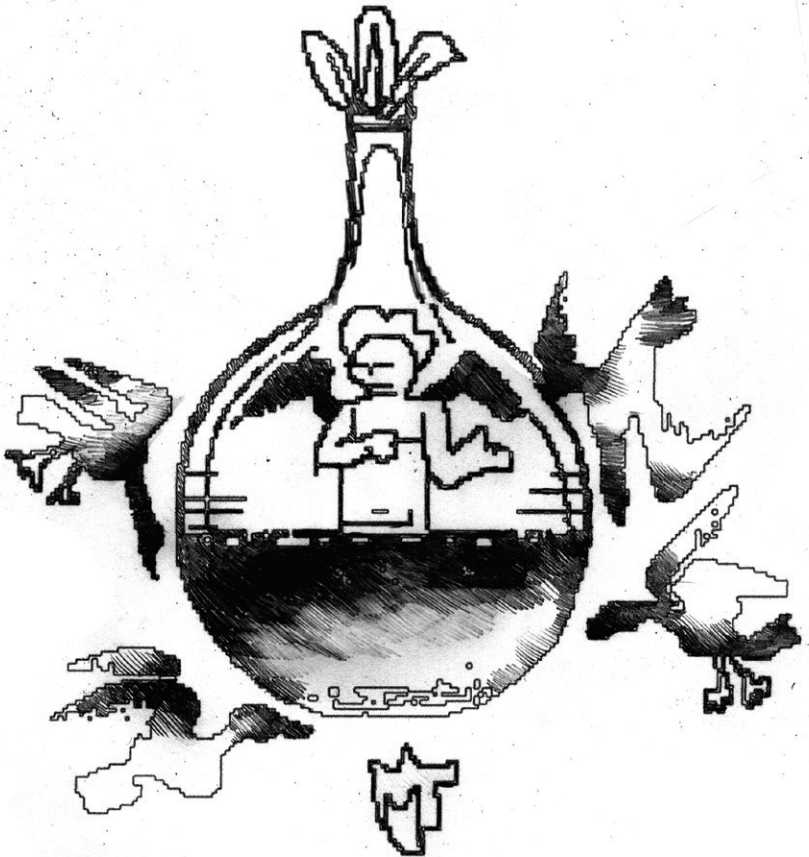
H-CORP WANTED
TO REPRESENT
ITS INTERESTS BY
PROMOTING ONE
TEAM IN
PARTICULAR.

I WAS ACTUALLY DOING
STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY
CALCULATIONS FOR
ANOTHER PROJECT
WHEN I WAS SUDDENLY
REASSIGNED TO YOU AND
BEYOND BIRTHDAY.

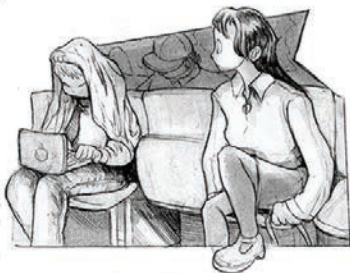
IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU DON'T NEED
MY ENDORSEMENT,
SINCE YOU'VE
ALREADY GOT
H-CORP'S.

NOT TOO
SHABBY!

CHAPTER 5: GOD-GAMES

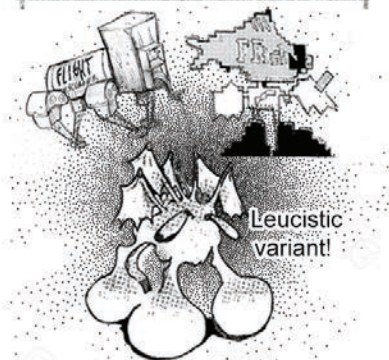


I ARRIVED AT
GENIACS WITH
A POET'S MIXED
INTENTIONS.



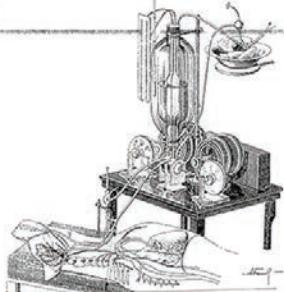
AT FIRST, MY PARTNER
AND I HAD DIFFICULTY
SEEING EYE-TO-EYE

MANY MONSTERS
WERE BOURNE OF OUR
MISCOMMUNICATION AND
MUTUAL DISTRUST.



BUT SOON AN EXPERT
STEPS IN, AND BY WAY
OF HER ESEMPLASTIC
FACILITIES...

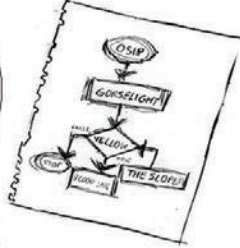
WE WERE ABLE TO
INTEGRATE OUR IDEAS
INTO A CONFOLINDING
WORKING PROTOTYPE!



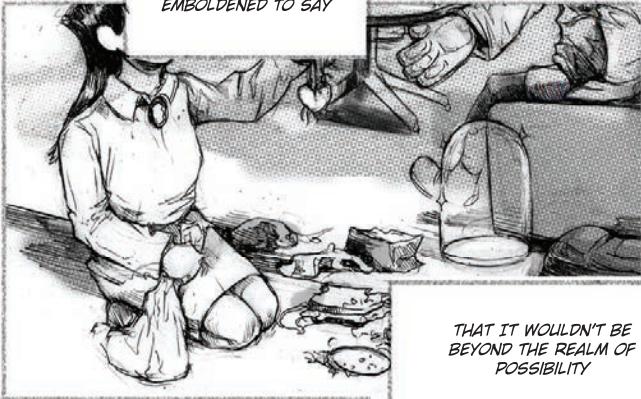
OUR ENTRY IS EQUIPPED TO ENLIGHTEN AND ENTERTAIN WITH ITS SELF-SUSTAINING POETIC COSMOLOGY.



EYES
WORLD-
BLIND
IN THE FISSURE
OF DYING-I-COME



WITNESSING MY TEAM
IN ACTION, I FEEL
EMBOLEDENED TO SAY



THAT IT WOULDN'T BE
BEYOND THE REALM OF
POSSIBILITY

FOR THE THREE OF US TO
WALK OUT OF SOURMATH
LABS TODAY

AS DECORATED WINNERS AND
LEADERS OF THE GENIACS TEAM,
WITH A SILICON-BASED SPECIES
ON THE HORIZON!

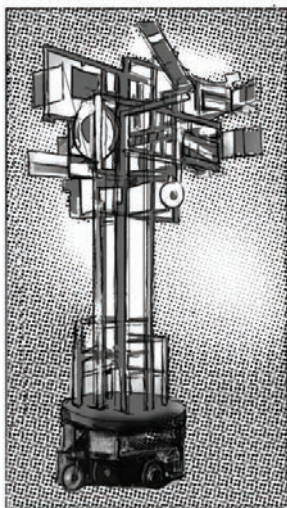


interlude: living objects history pt. 3

1956- CYSP-1 , the first cybernetic sculpture

This 8-foot-tall work was an attempt by artist Nicolas Schöffer to create a "homeostatic electronic brain," which maintained internal equilibrium in response to its physical surroundings.

Its apparatus integrated three different elements: an "indifferent cell" guided by chance, "sensorial reactions" integrating sound, light and heat data, and an "internal determinism," in which these chains acted upon one another to (potentially) greater degrees of complexity. For example, when its photoelectric cell detected the color blue, CYSP-1 would speed up, while warm colors would calm it down. It was excited by silence and calmed by noise, excited by darkness and calmed by light etc. Its 16 polychromed plates would swivel balletically in response to various stimuli.



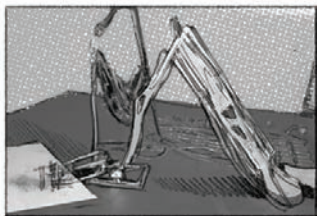
1952- "Theseus" the Maze-Solving Mouse

A maze-solver by Claude Shannon in which a magnetized mouse was led around a metal maze. After multiple attempts the mouse would determine the most efficient path through the maze.

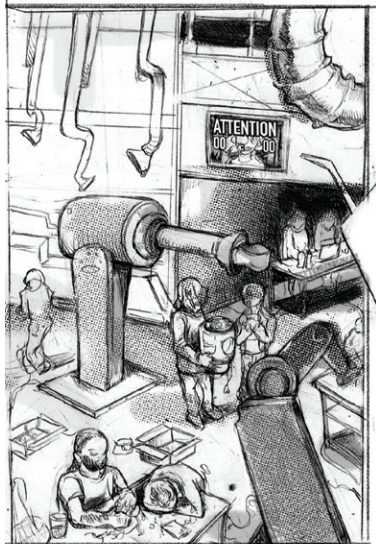


2001-4- MEART Rat Neuron Drawing Machine

SymbioticA Research Group engineered this drawing machine by hooking up a mechanical arm to cell culture of rat neurons (an early-aughts example of "wetware"). Did the machine give insight into the existential condition of ratness, sublimating the apocryphal "rat's ass suspended from the ceiling of the sky?" (Stay posted!)



info courtesy of Cyberneticzoo.com



ATTENTION
GENIACS
PARTICIPANTS!



THE HUM OF
INNOVATION
ENGINES IS
MUSIC TO MY
EARS...

HOWEVER, YOUR
TIME HAS FULLY
ELAPSED!

COMMIT
ANY FINAL
CHANGES TO
YOUR CODE!

THE JUDGES AND
I WILL BE COMING
AROUND WITH OUR
SCORECARDS.



IF YOU FAIL TO IMPRESS,
I'M SORRY TO
SAY



YOU WILL
NOT BE THE
NEXT TECH
DEMURGE.



NO LIFEFORM
WILL MANIFEST
YOUR DESIGN
SENSIBILITY AS
IT DRIFTS ABOUT
THE SEAS OF
BOILING OIL...

AND YOU
WILL BE
FORGOTTEN
LIKE ALL
THE REST
OF US!



NOW A WORD
FROM OUR
SPONSOR, LUCA-
THE LAST
UNIVERSAL COMMON
ANCESTOR!



LET'S ALL GO
TO THE LOBBY!

LET'S ALL GO TO
THE LOBBY!



YOU GOOD, BEYOND?

I FEEL A BIT ANXIOUS...

I WANT TO WALK AROUND AND SIZE UP OUR COMPETITION.



WHY IS IT LAGGING??

SHIT SHIT SHIT!!

I'VE SPEAR-HEADED A COMPLETE GENIACS LAB REBRANDING!

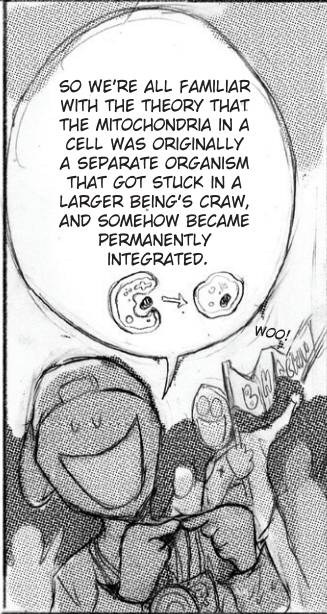
HEY YO OOOO!!!!!!



BIOHACKING
SQUADRON
COMIN' ATCHA!

BOOYAH!!!

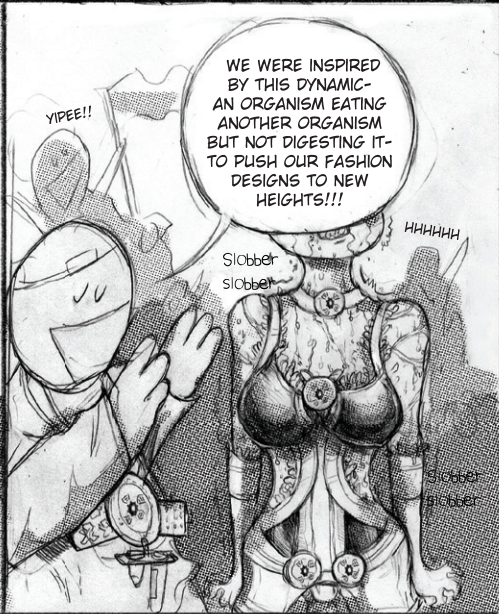
SO EXCITED
TO BE HERE!!!



SO WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR
WITH THE THEORY THAT
THE MITOCHONDRIA IN A
CELL WAS ORIGINALLY
A SEPARATE ORGANISM
THAT GOT STUCK IN A
LARGER BEING'S CRAW,
AND SOMEHOW BECAME
PERMANENTLY
INTEGRATED.



WOO!



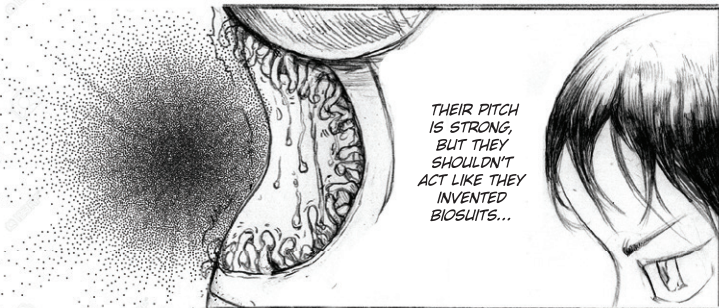
WE WERE INSPIRED
BY THIS DYNAMIC-
AN ORGANISM EATING
ANOTHER ORGANISM
TO PUSH OUR FASHION
DESIGNS TO NEW
HEIGHTS!!!

YIPPEE!!

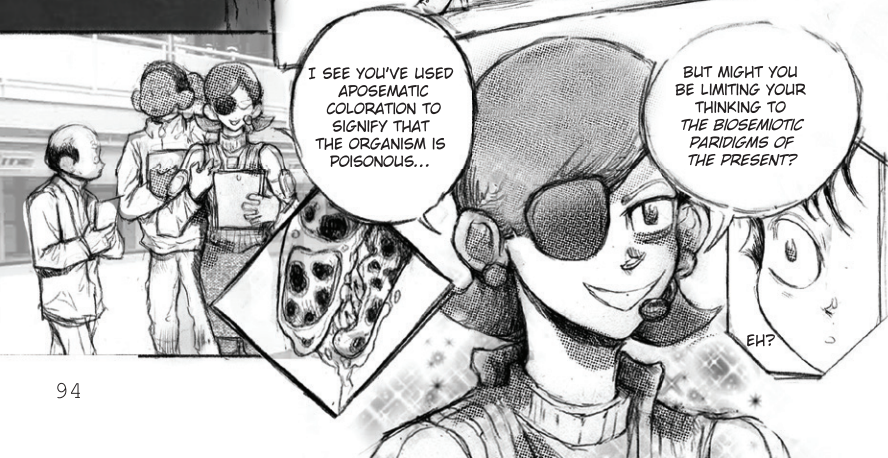
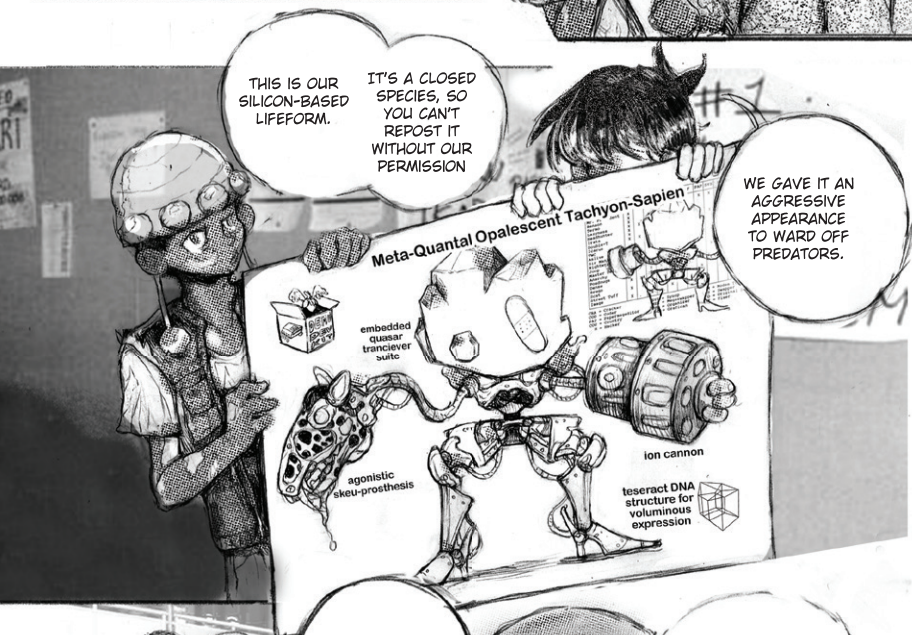
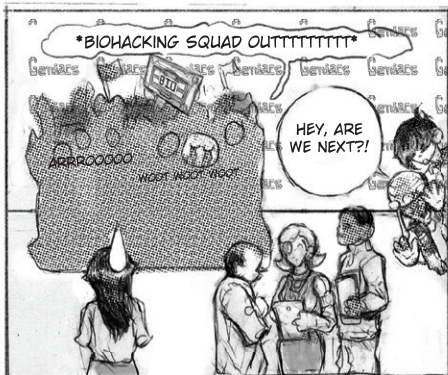
Slobber
slobber

HHHHH

Slobber
slobber



THEIR PITCH
IS STRONG,
BUT THEY
SHOULDN'T
ACT LIKE THEY
INVENTED
BIOSUITS...



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED IF, IN THIS FUTURE, COLOR VISION WOULD BE NECESSARY AT ALL?

MAYBE INSTEAD OF LIGHT DATA, THE LIFEFORM'S VISION COULD MEASURE DISTANCES

AND ONLY HONE ON TARGETS OF INTEREST, WHICH RELATE TO THEIR ODDS OF SURVIVAL.

THIS REMINDS ME OF WHAT YOHAN WAS SAYING...

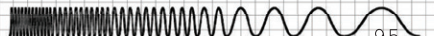
WHENEVER THERE IS A STATIC, HARD-CODED ATTRIBUTE,


YOU CAN RECONCEIVE IT AS SOMETHING DYNAMIC!

X=3.157
Y=4.395

WIMEX-TAN, IF I MAY INTERJECT...

SINCE THE LIFEFORM IS ELECTRONIC- WHY NOT EMBED STRIPS THAT RUN UP AND DOWN THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM, SO IT OSCILLATES BETWEEN BEING HOT, NOISY AND RADIOACTIVE??





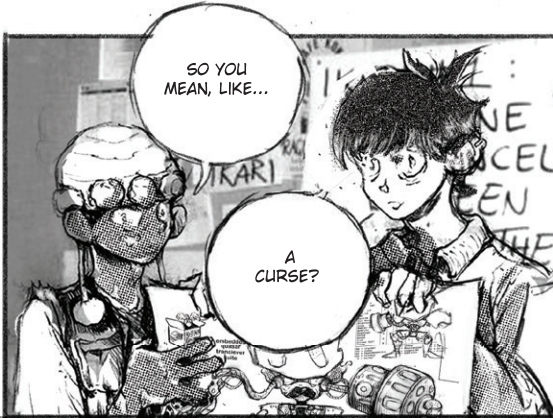
OR INSTEAD
OF LIFEFORMS
DETERMINING
WHICH OBJECTS
INTEREST THEM,
MAYBE OBJECTS
AROUND THEM CAN
ACCUMULATE
INTEREST-POINTS...

...OR THEIR MIND'S
EYE ALREADY
CONTAINS EVERY
ARRANGEMENT
OF AN 100 X 100
PIXEL GRID, EVERY
POSSIBLE IMAGE,
SO THEY DON'T
HAVE TO LOOK...

OR A LIFEFORM'S
SURVIVAL ISN'T
CONTINGENT ON
PLUCK OR FITNESS
BUT ARTICULATED
BY AN
INTERGENERATIONAL
KARMIC
BLOCKCHAIN..

IF YOU CATCH
MY DRIFT...

FORM CONTENT
FORM CONTENT



SO YOU
MEAN, LIKE...

A
CURSE?



EHEM!

GOOD
AFTERNOON
JUDGES!



MY NAME IS
HELENA CLUE,
AND I SPEAK ON
BEHALF OF MY
TEAM.

WE GAVE OUR
PROJECT A
GRREAT DEAL OF
PRELIMINARY
THOUGHT...

AND CAME TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT
IMPORTANCE OF THE
GENIACS PROJECT
LIES NOT ONLY IN
THE ADVENT OF THE
LIFEFORM ITSELF,
BUT IN HOW THE
ADVANCEMENTS WE
DISCOVER ALONG
THE WAY CAN
BENEFIT THE WHOLE
OF HUMANITY!



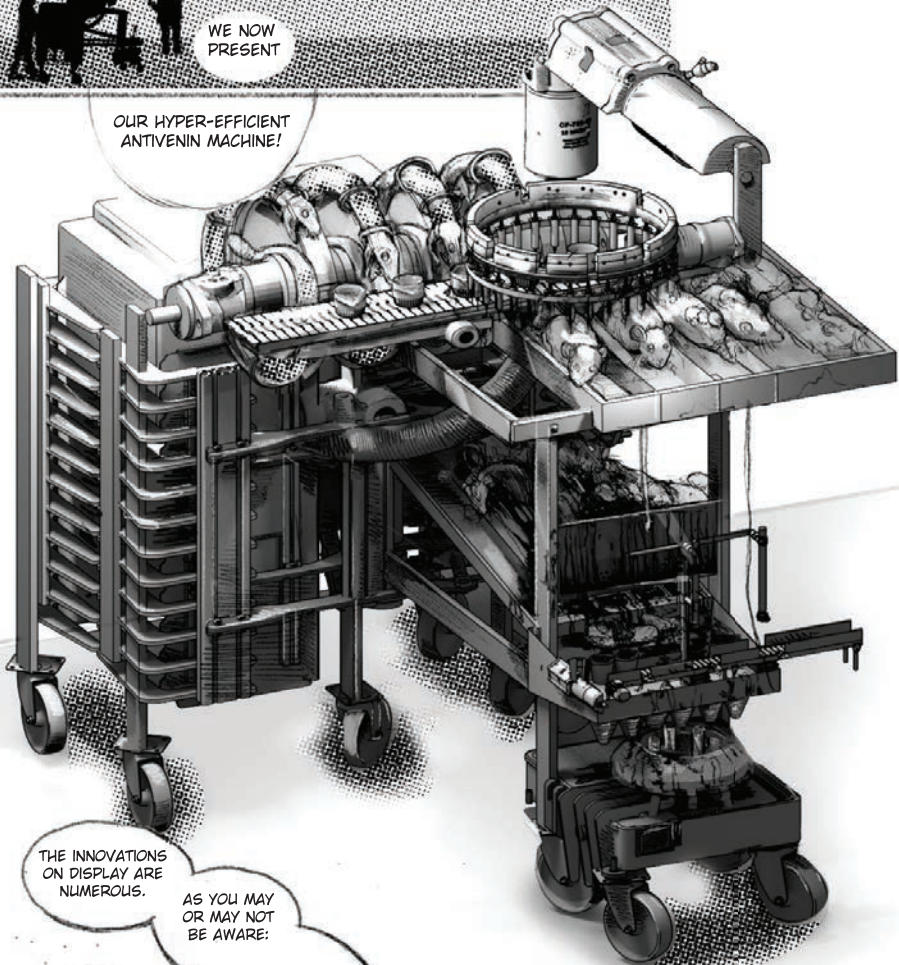
IN THAT
SPIRIT,
WE HAVE
ENGINEERED
A SPECIAL
PROTOTYPE...

WHEEL IT
OVER HERE,
PLEASE...



WE NOW
PRESENT

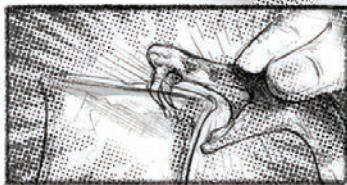
OUR HYPER-EFFICIENT
ANTIVENIN MACHINE!

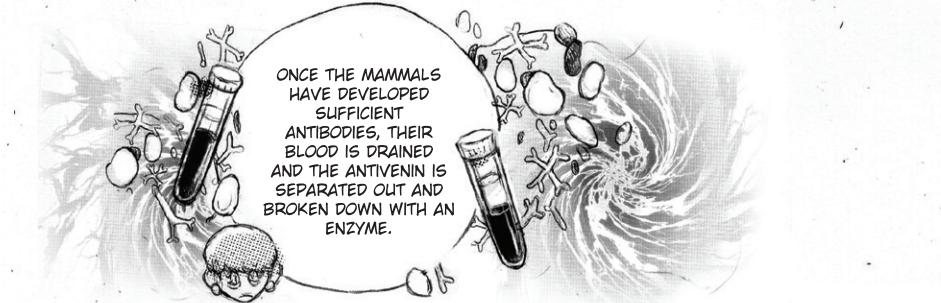


THE INNOVATIONS
ON DISPLAY ARE
NUMEROUS.

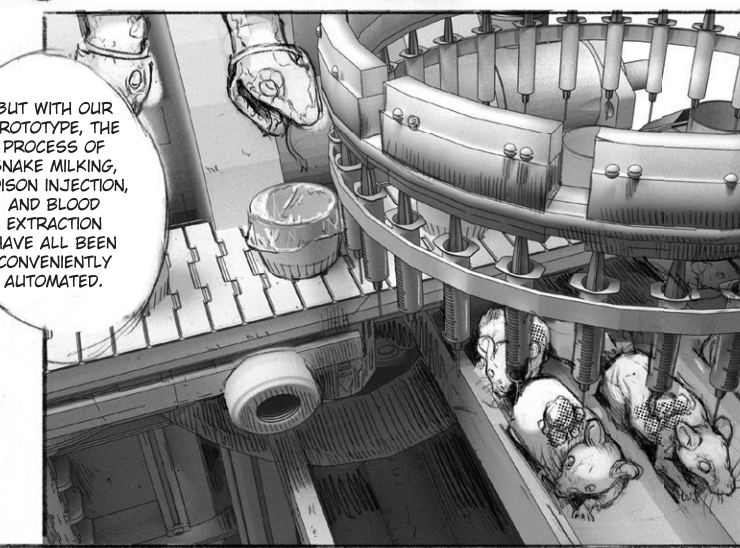
AS YOU MAY
OR MAY NOT
BE AWARE:

IN THE STANDARD
PROCESS TO OBTAIN
ANTIVENIN, SNAKES
ARE MILKED FOR
THEIR POISON, WHICH
IS THEN INJECTED IN
SMALL INCREMENTS
INTO DOMESTICATED
MAMMALS OVER THE
COURSE OF SEVERAL
WEEKS.






ONCE THE MAMMALS
HAVE DEVELOPED
SUFFICIENT
ANTIBODIES, THEIR
BLOOD IS DRAINED
AND THE ANTIVENIN IS
SEPARATED OUT AND
BROKEN DOWN WITH AN
ENZYME.



BUT WITH OUR
PROTOTYPE, THE
PROCESS OF
SNAKE MILKING,
POISON INJECTION,
AND BLOOD
EXTRACTION
HAVE ALL BEEN
CONVENIENTLY
AUTOMATED.



IT'S THE FIRST
SYSTEM TO APPLY
JUST-IN-TIME
MANUFACTURING
TO ANTIVENIN
PRODUCTION, AND
IT COULD SAVE
THE LIVES OF
MILLIONS!

WIMEX, I'M CURIOUS WHY THIS TEAM WAS SUDDENLY DEPRIORITIZED BY H-CORP...

WHEN HELENA IS A HIGH-RANKING ENVISIONEER?

I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, BUT IN THE RECENT QUARTER, H HAS BEEN TRYING TO SCALE BACK ITS THEME PARK ENDEAVORS AND EXPAND INTO THE WORLD OF EDUCATION

AND THEY MIGHT HAVE THEIR EYE ON ACQUIRING THE WALDORF SYSTEM!

A GIFT OF THE FORCES OF DESTINY...

PERHAPS THEY WANT THE LIFEFORM TO REFLECT WALDORF IDEOLOGY.

AND YOHAN KHASHAKYAN....

MIGHT BE ITS PUREST LIVING EMBODIMENT!

SO, HELENA, BABE, HOW DOES THIS MACHINE ACTUALLY WORK?

LET ME SHOW YOU!

IT TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO GET FIRED UP..

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT



ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

ATTENTION
GENIACS PARTICIPANTS

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

ALERT
ALERT
ALERT

Classified information was leaked regarding the Artificial Immune System (AIMS) technology implanted in all Geniacs team members.



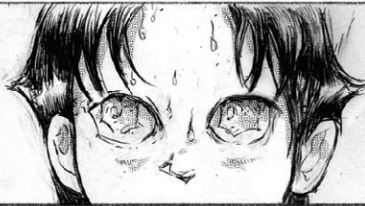
Intrigued by these claims, we attempted to infiltrate an AIMS via a Trojan horse—employing a cootie program ripped from a nurturing simulator.



Upon our success, we used reflective programming to reverse-engineer the antibody source code, granting ourselves permissionless control over all immune systems within the Geniacs network.



In other words, you are now in the midst of a BIO-HOSTAGE SITUATION. Please remain calm and prepare to cooperate.



We cordially request for everyone to place their laptops, electronic devices and robotic components in the center of the room.



Geniacs team members (who are now under our dominion for life) must also forfeit harddrives containing their research, with relevant passwords written out on sticky notes.



In case this comes across as an empty threat, we are going to begin pushing smolpox (SP) to team members' bodies at a tick rate of 20hz .

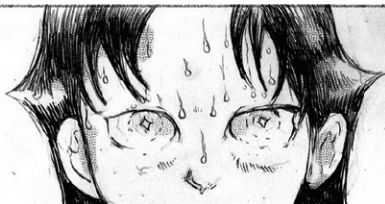
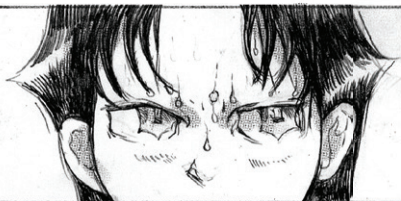
20hz

Random areas of the skin will be afflicted, so you may notice no demonstrable change at first.



I'M FLATTERED CYRIL AND SY HEEDED MY SUGGESTION... BUT THEY MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THINGS TOO FAR.

DID I CATCH THEM SAY THAT...



...THE CODE WAS REFLECTED?

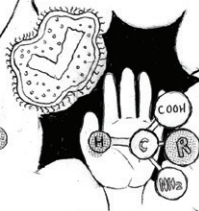
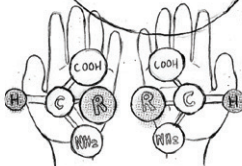
I CAN SURMISE THAT BECAUSE THEY'RE GAY CARS, FORGED OF PLASTIC AND METAL...

THEY MUST NOT KNOW ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE MOLECULES!



CHEMICAL CHIRALITY- THE FACT THAT WHILE MOLECULES CAN EXIST IN TWO MIRROR-IMAGE FORMS

LIVING ORGANISMS USE ONLY A SINGLE 'RIGHT-OR LEFT-HANDED' ORIENTATION.





IF THEIR REFLECTED ANTIBODY CODE WITH FLIPPED CHIRAL PROTEINS PROPAGATES- EVEN A SINGLE POCK OF IT- EVERYONE ON THE TEAM WILL BE INSTANTLY PLASMOLYZED!

MASS NANOVIOLENCE!

I DON'T WANT TO BLOW CYRIL AND SY'S COVER, BUT IT MAY BE A MATTER OF SECONDS.



CYRIL HAS HIS LAPTOP OUT LIKE HE'S HEADING THE ATTACK. I WONDER...



MAYBE I CAN SEVER THE TENDON IN HIS WRIST BEFORE HE COMMITS THE CODE?



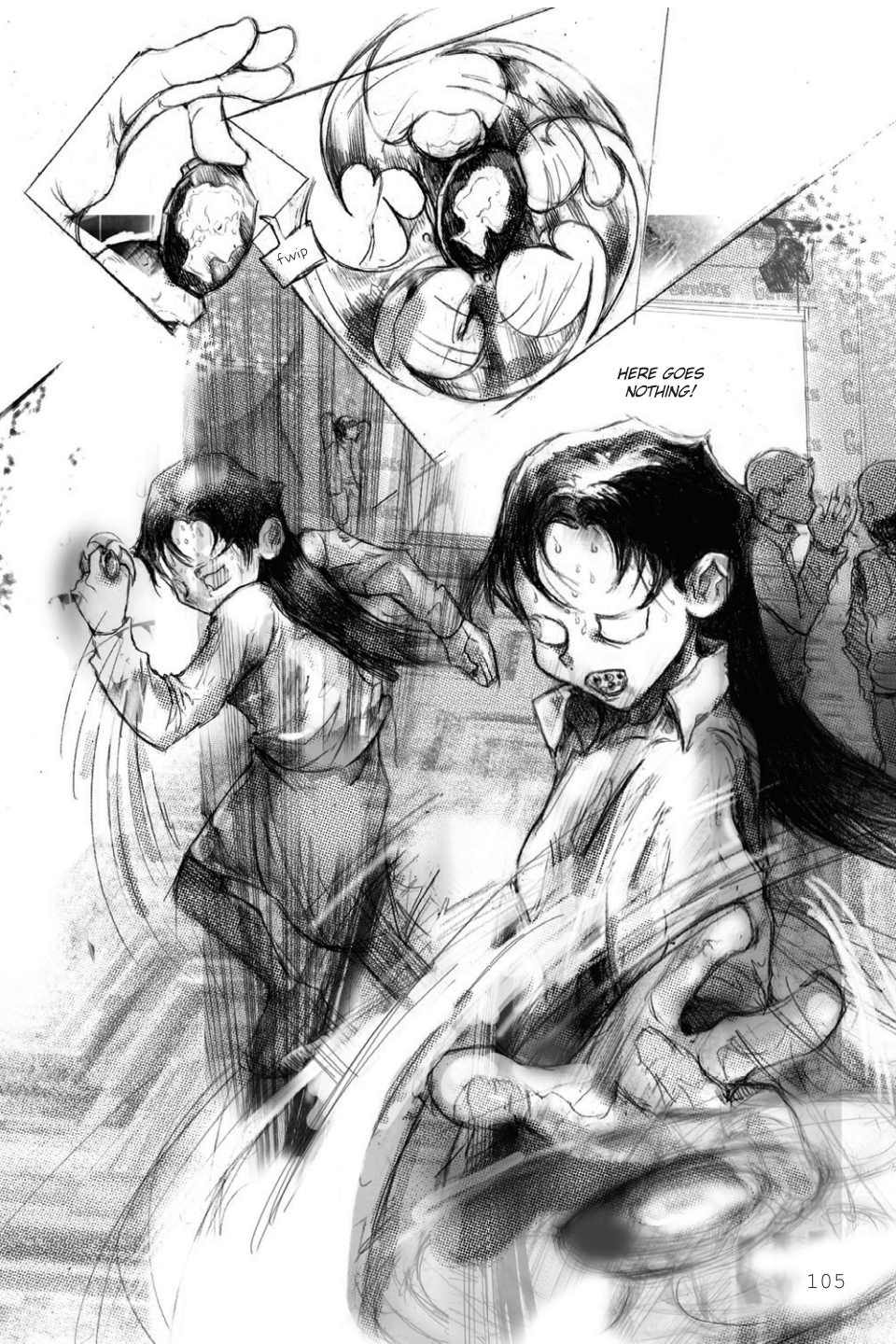
IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE BETRAYAL AT FIRST...



BUT FRENETIC BEHAVIOR IS TRUE-TO-FORM FOR ME

AND ANY ENSUING CHAOS WILL BUY ME TIME TO EXPLAIN MYSELF.



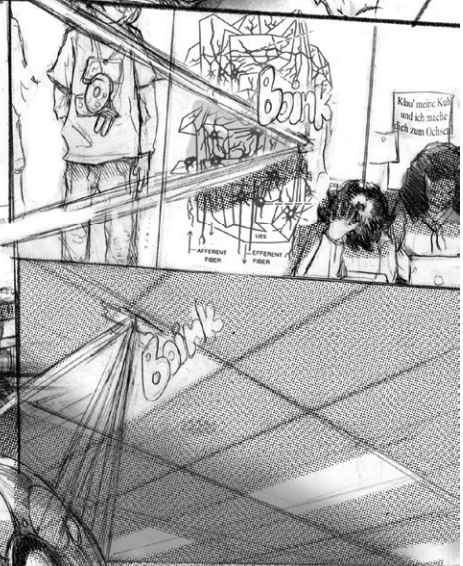
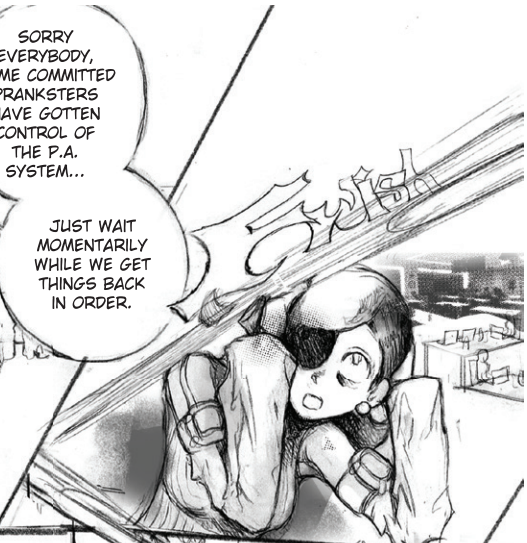


fwp

HERE GOES
NOTHING!

SORRY
EVERYBODY,
SOME COMMITTED
PRANKSTERS
HAVE GOTTEN
CONTROL OF
THE P.A.
SYSTEM...

JUST WAIT
MOMENTARILY
WHILE WE GET
THINGS BACK
IN ORDER.





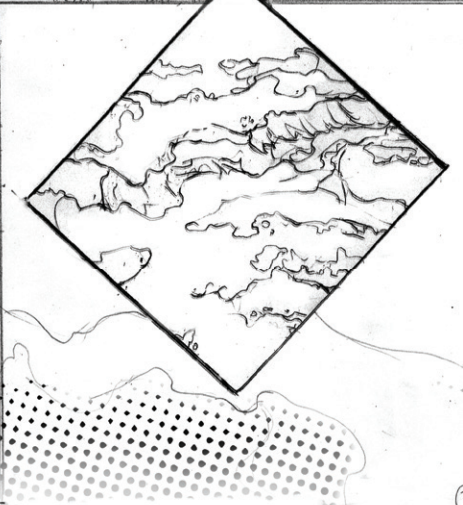
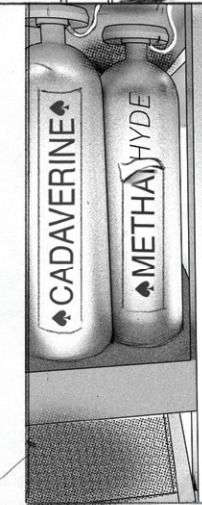
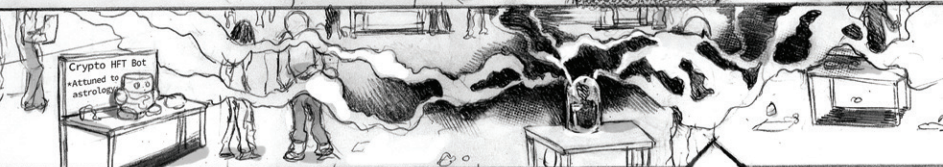
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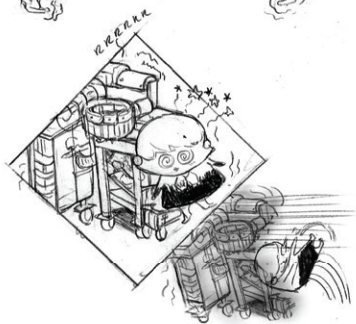
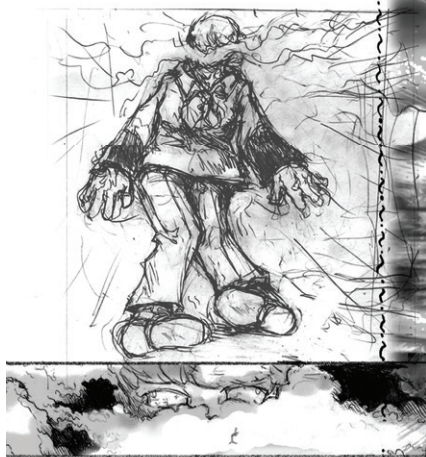
ROT - 2 - SPEECH



DE

EUGH! WHAT IS THAT SMELL?

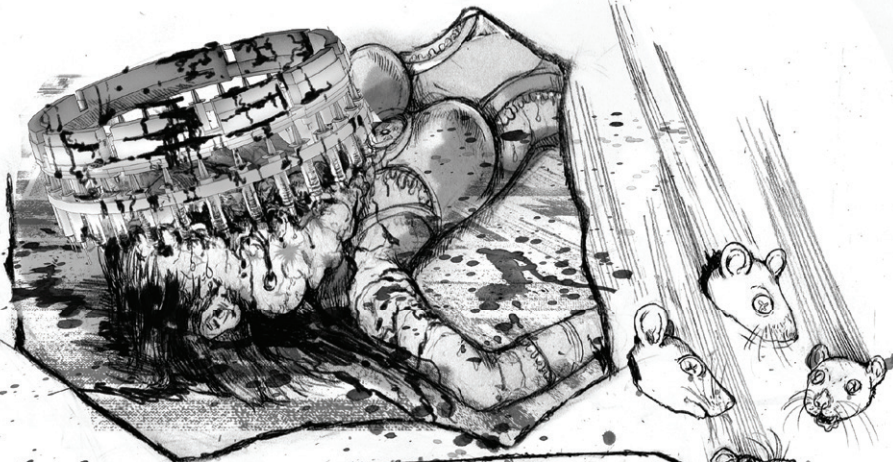












MOVE, MOVE!



Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs
Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs
Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs Geniacs
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BEYOND,
COME ON!







Th Th
Th Th
Th Th
Th Th
Th Th



Th Th..

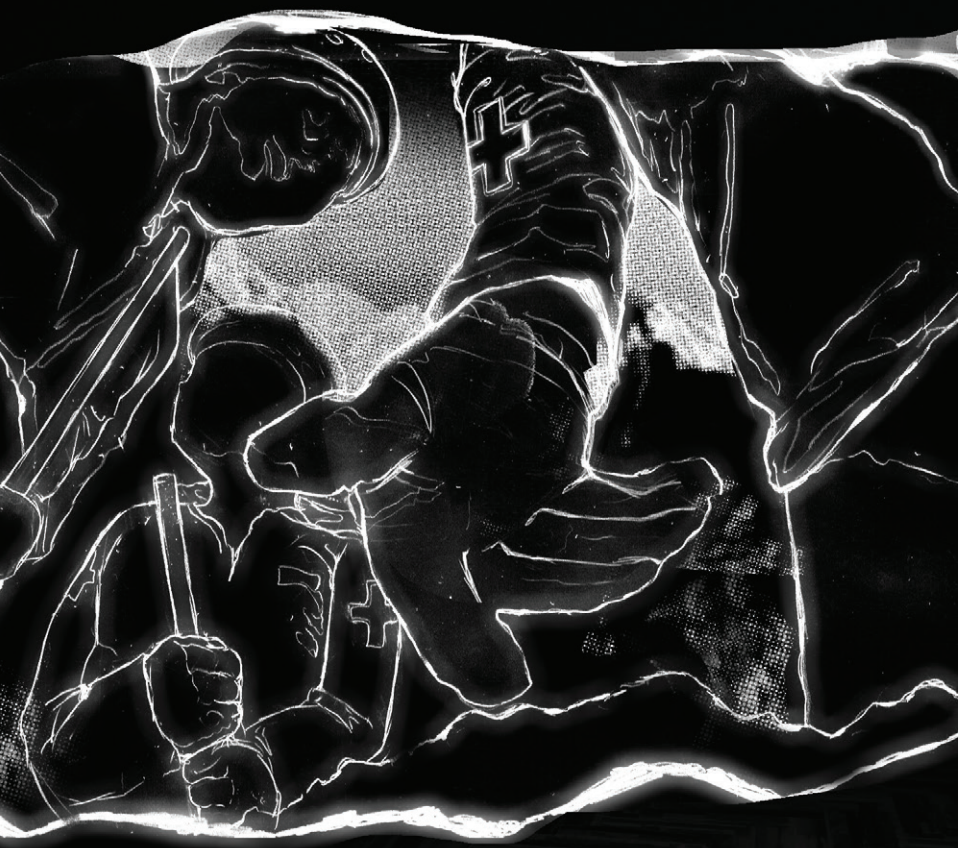
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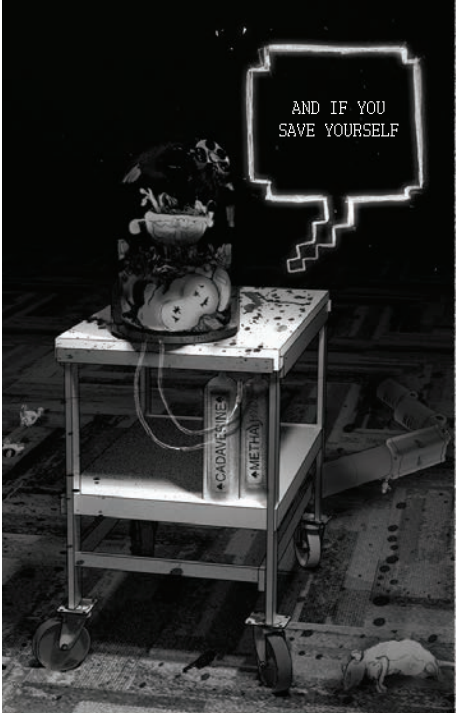
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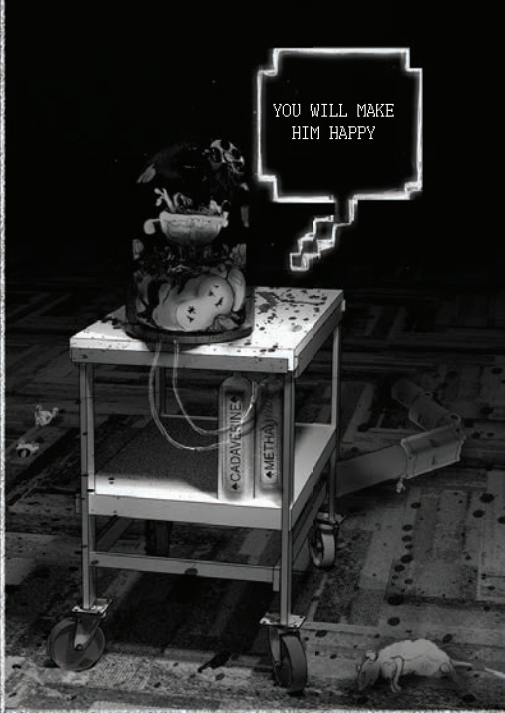




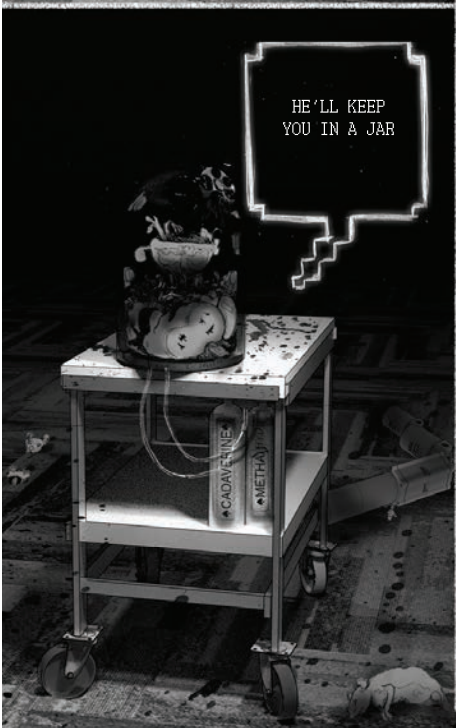




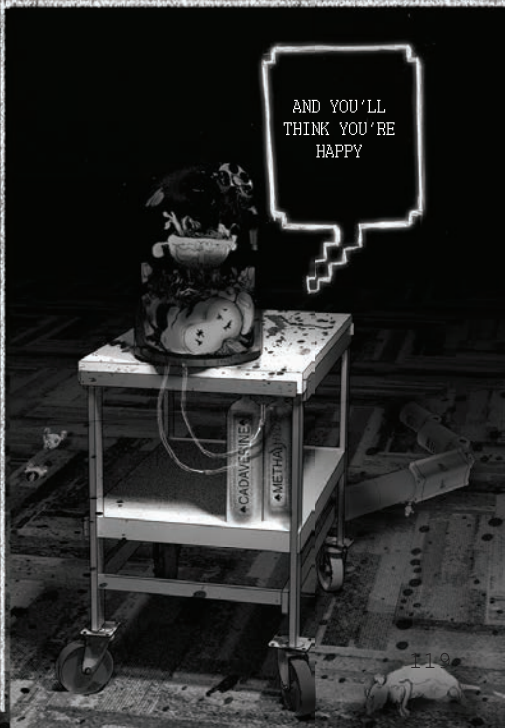
AND IF YOU
SAVE YOURSELF




YOU WILL MAKE
HIM HAPPY



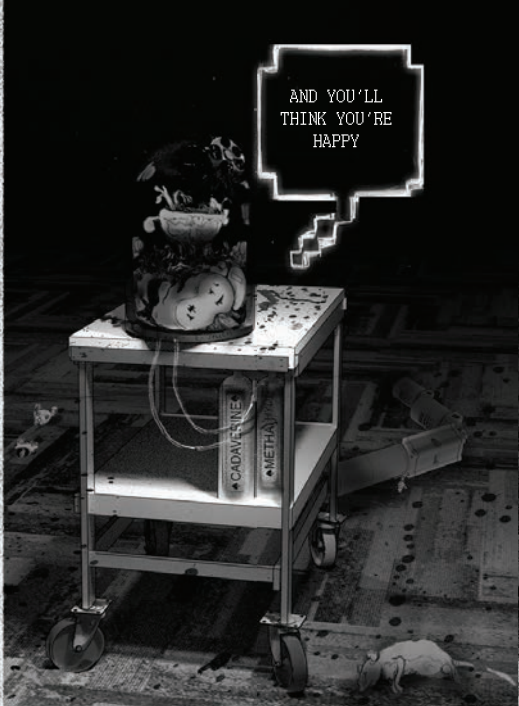
HE'LL KEEP
YOU IN A JAR



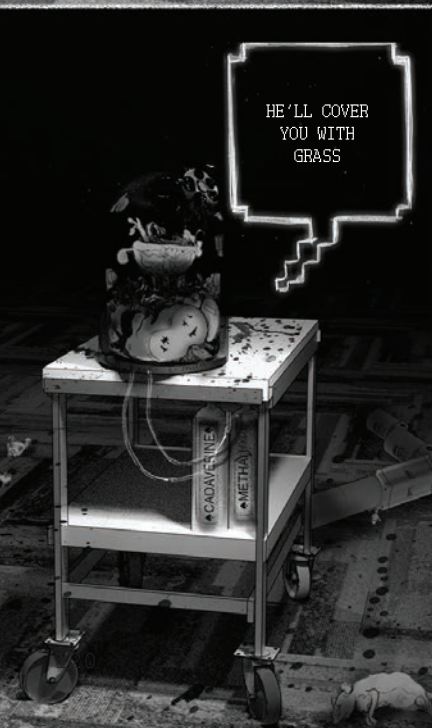
AND YOU'LL
THINK YOU'RE
HAPPY



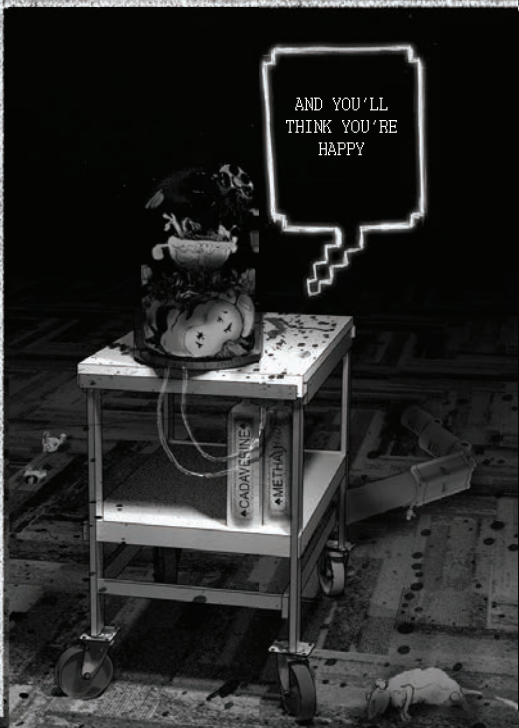
HE'LL GIVE
YOU BREATHING
HOLES



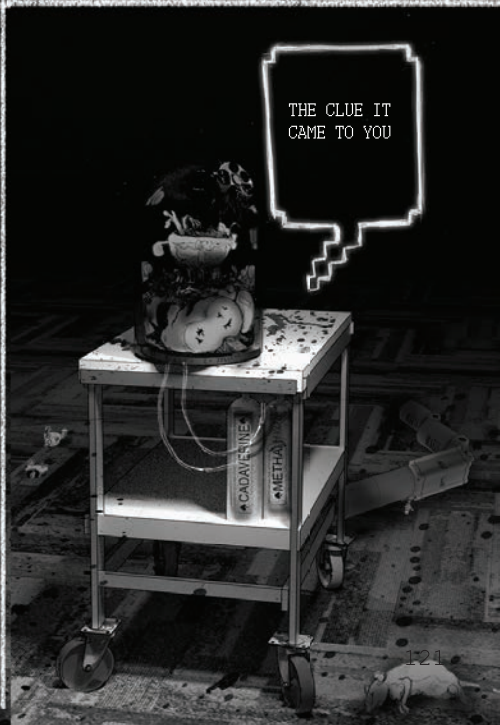
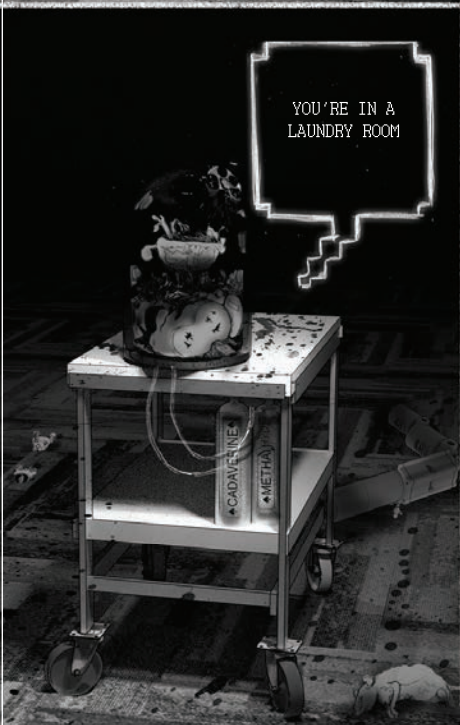
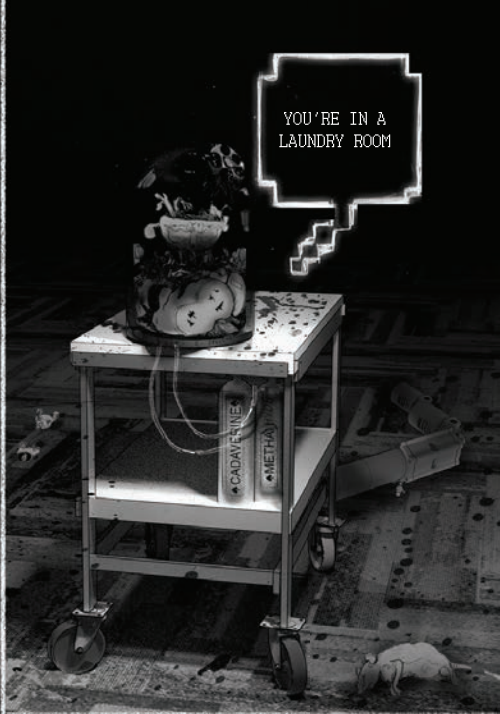
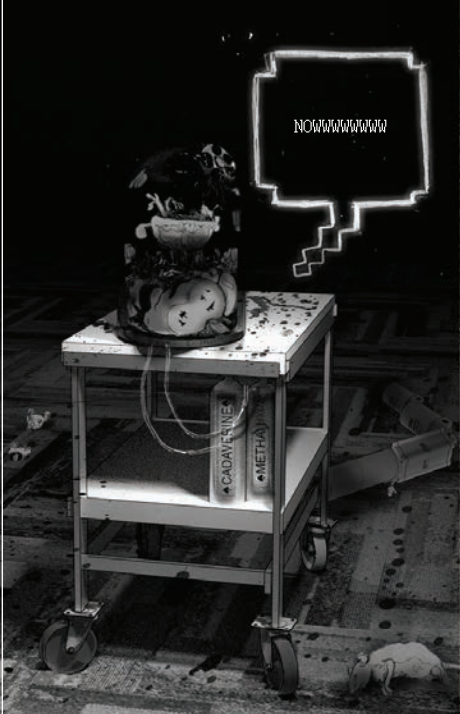
AND YOU'LL
THINK YOU'RE
HAPPY



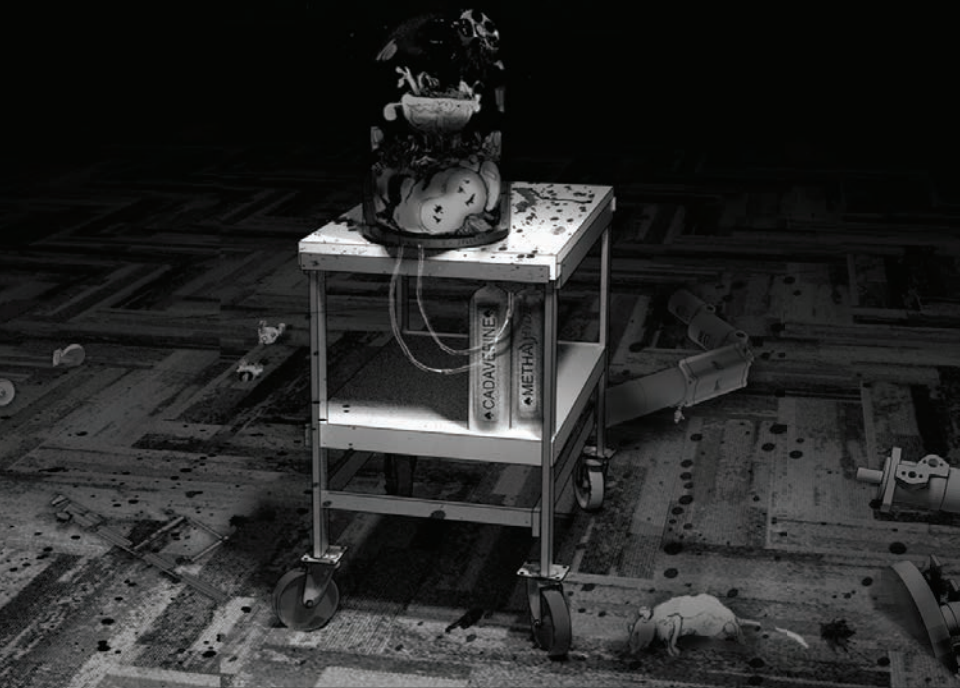
HE'LL COVER
YOU WITH
GRASS



AND YOU'LL
THINK YOU'RE
HAPPY



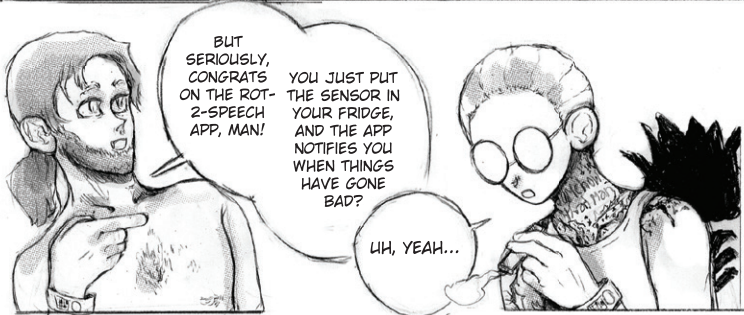
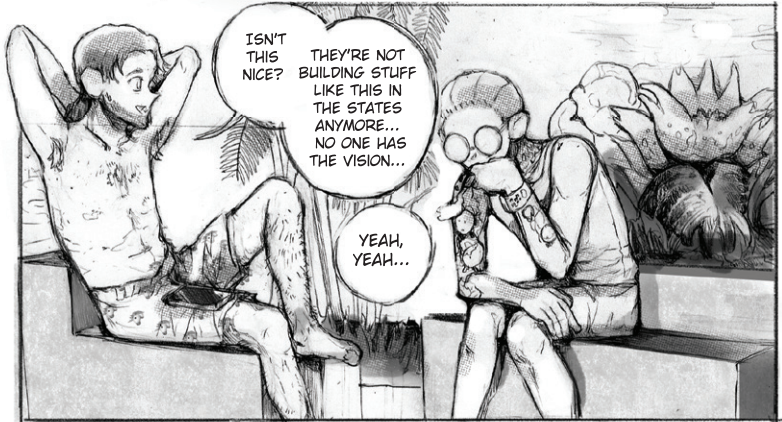
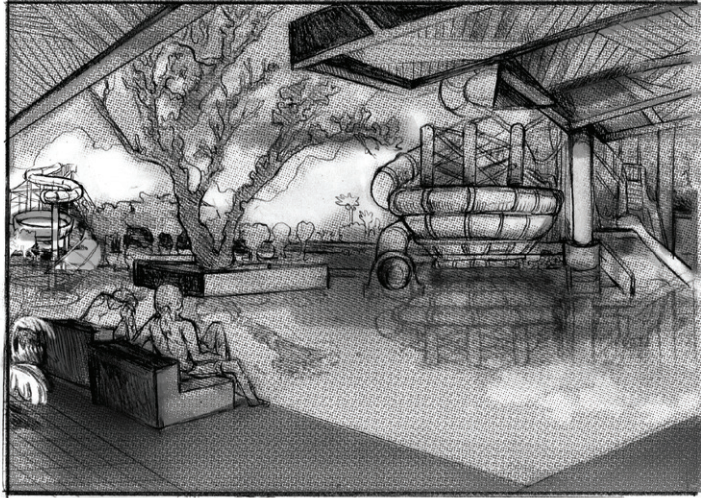
[♪]



*APOLOGIES TO
KURT COBAIN...

*APOLOGIES TO KURT
COBAIN

EPILOGUE IN BALI



THE APP WAS DEVELOPED IN MY CREATIVE PARTNER, BEYOND BIRTHDAY'S HONOR.

I DIDN'T KNOW HER THAT WELL, BUT APPARENTLY HER DREAM WAS TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR.

SHE EVEN HAD AN ONLINE BUSINESS SELLING SECONDHAND ELECTRONICS.

IT WAS HARD FOR HER AS A POET TO FIND STEADY EMPLOYMENT, SO SHE WANTED TO CREATE HER OWN JOBS.

THE ROT-2-SPEECH APP IS MY WAY OF FULFILLING THAT DREAM...

THAT'S SO BEAUTIFUL, MAN. HONESTLY

Pembukaan 45th
Taman 45th



Your spinach
is getting
moldy...

So long and
goodnight!

Dedicated to Zoë Jacobs

Thank you to my incredible professor and mentor Chris Novello for getting me interested in tech and sharing my obsession with mon-games and creative potential. Also for coding a custom drawing tool I used to make Wimex-tan's LIDAR fantasy.

```
74  
75  
76  
77  
78 }  
79  
80 let activeStamp = {}  
81  
82  
83 function drawStamp(stamp) {  
84   textFont(loadedFonts[stamp.fontIndex]) //set a font  
85   here?  
86   push()  
87   translate(stamp.x, stamp.y)  
88   rotate(stamp.angle)  
89   textSize(stamp.fontSize)  
90   text(`${stamp.firstNum}:${stamp.secondNum}`, 0, 0)  
91   pop()  
92 }  
93  
94 function initializeStamp() {  
95   activeStamp = {}  
96  
97   activeStamp.angle = 0
```



Thank you to Debra Lasowitz (my mom), Ava Zeichner, Olivia Kan-Sperling, Theia Flynn, Char O'Dair Gadler and Eliza Doyle for their invaluable edits and suggestions! Thanks to my mom again for proofreading.

Thank you to Phil Bayer and Emma Kofman, my actual Hack @ Brown Teammates.

Thank you to Zak Ziebell, my actual VR sculpting partner.

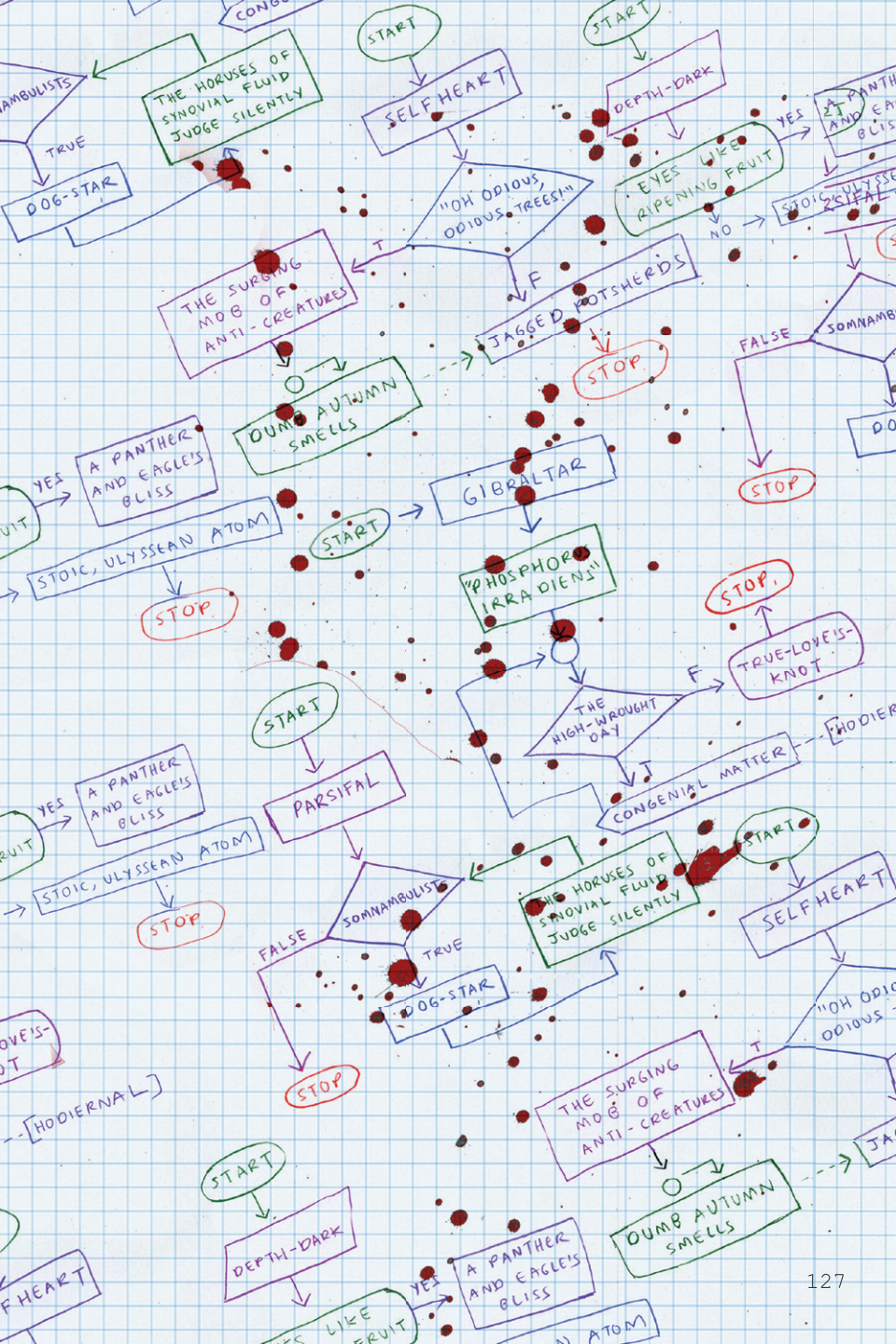
Thank you to Tiff n' Alec for modeling for Beyond and Yohan's pieta. Thank you to Hana Odson for modeling for a sequence that was cut.

Thank you to Alex Freundlich for the PBS quote in the epigraph.

Thank you to Patrick Steadman for the Task Daemon tee suggestion and Grey Hat SEO joke.

Thanks to my dad for believing in me.

& Thanks to everyone I have neglected to mention!





From the creator of *Longsleeves:*
Hold-a-Mirror-To-My-Grace



Welcome to Geniacs!

Enter the Geniacs hackathon, where an elite crop of innovators will compete for the ultimate prize: A chance to design the world's first silicon-based lifeform!



Can Beyond Birthday- an elegiac poet- and Yohan Khashakyan- a savvy young coder- overcome their differences to produce a winning project? Or will Beyond's negative capabilities mire the contest in unspeakable darkness?

AGES 18+

Landfill

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