

# Hero-Z

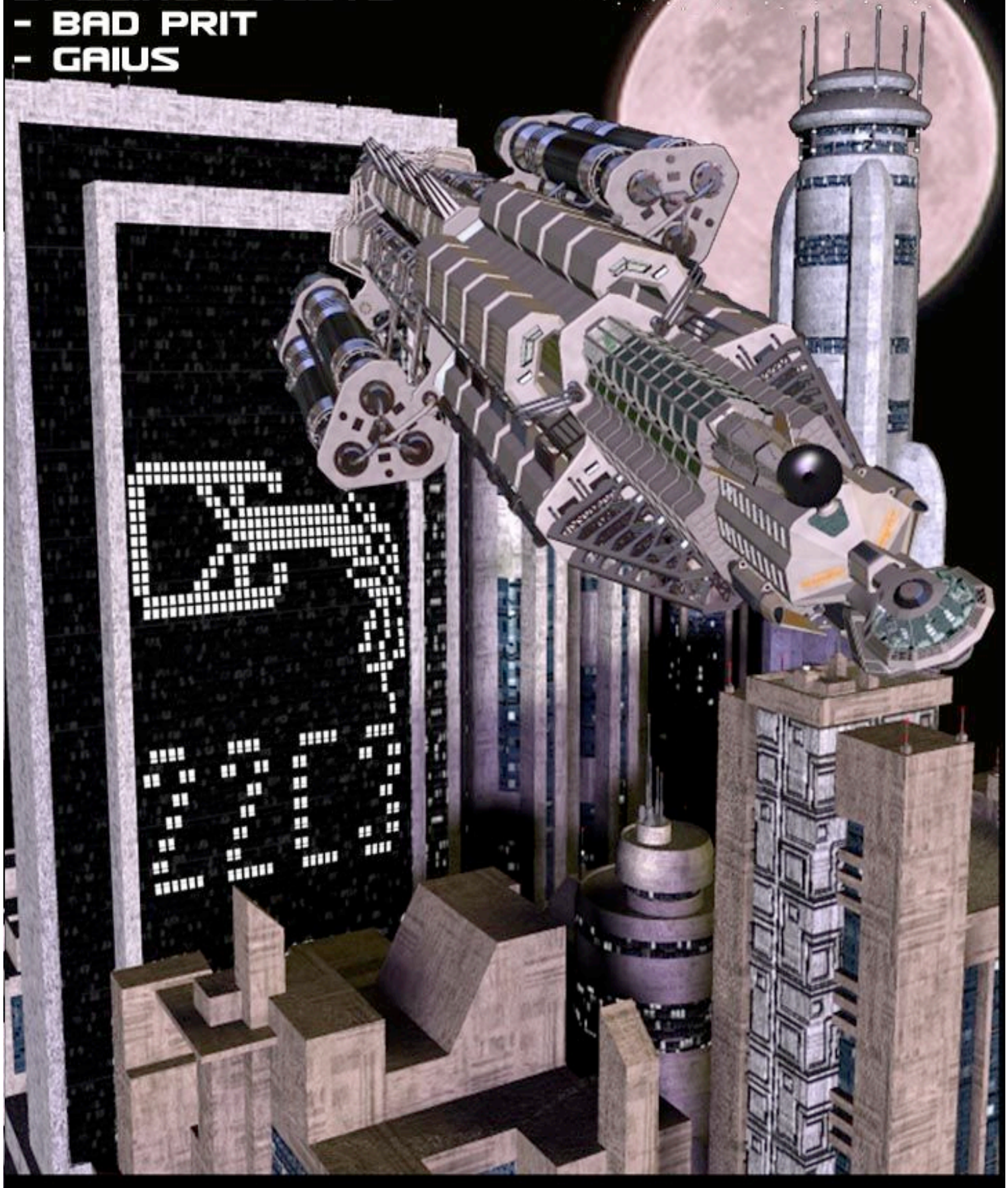
# 2203

PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS

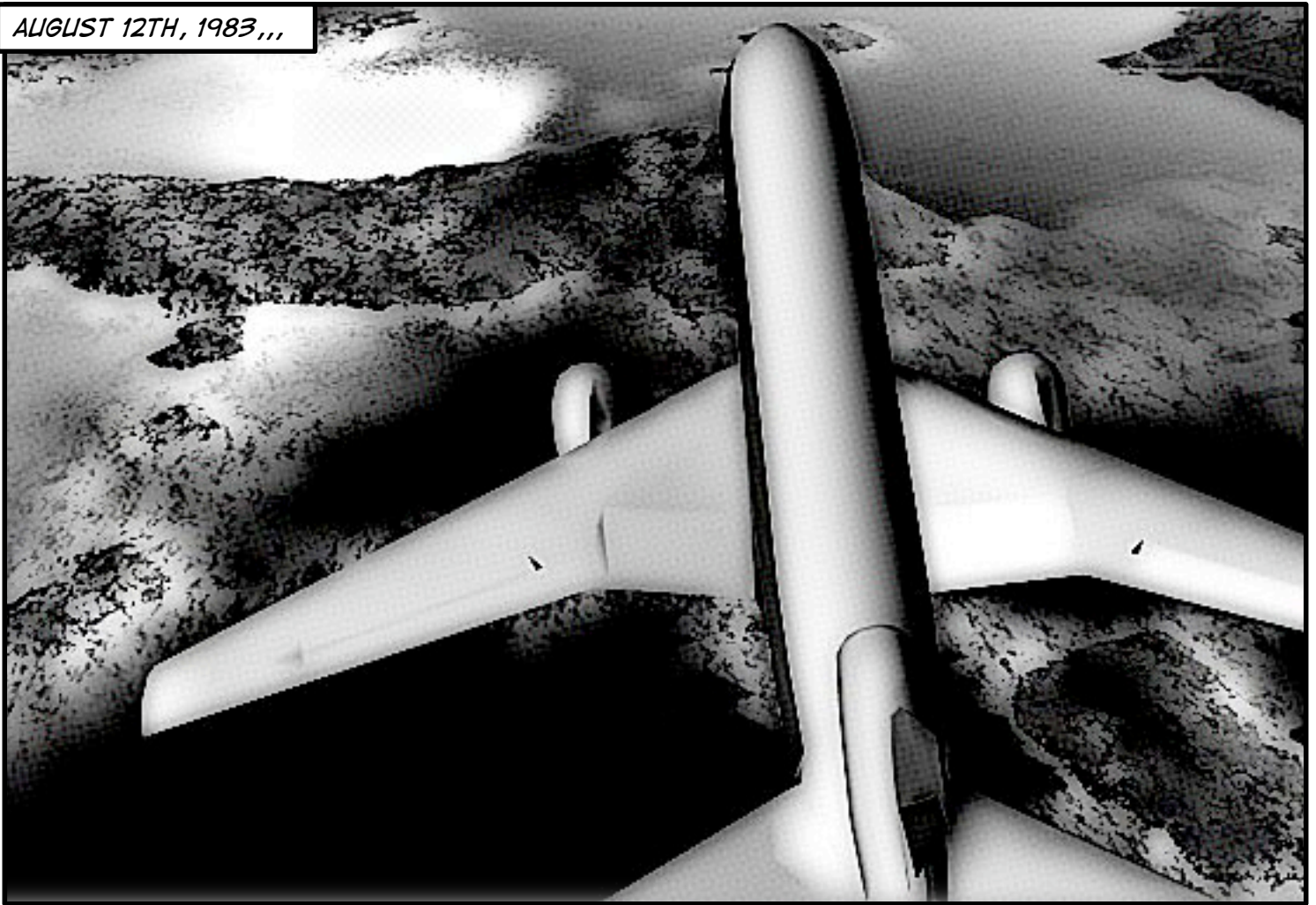
22ND CHAOS COMMUNICATION  
CONGRESS EDITION

SPECIAL GUESTS

- BAD PRIT
- GAIUS



AUGUST 12TH, 1983...

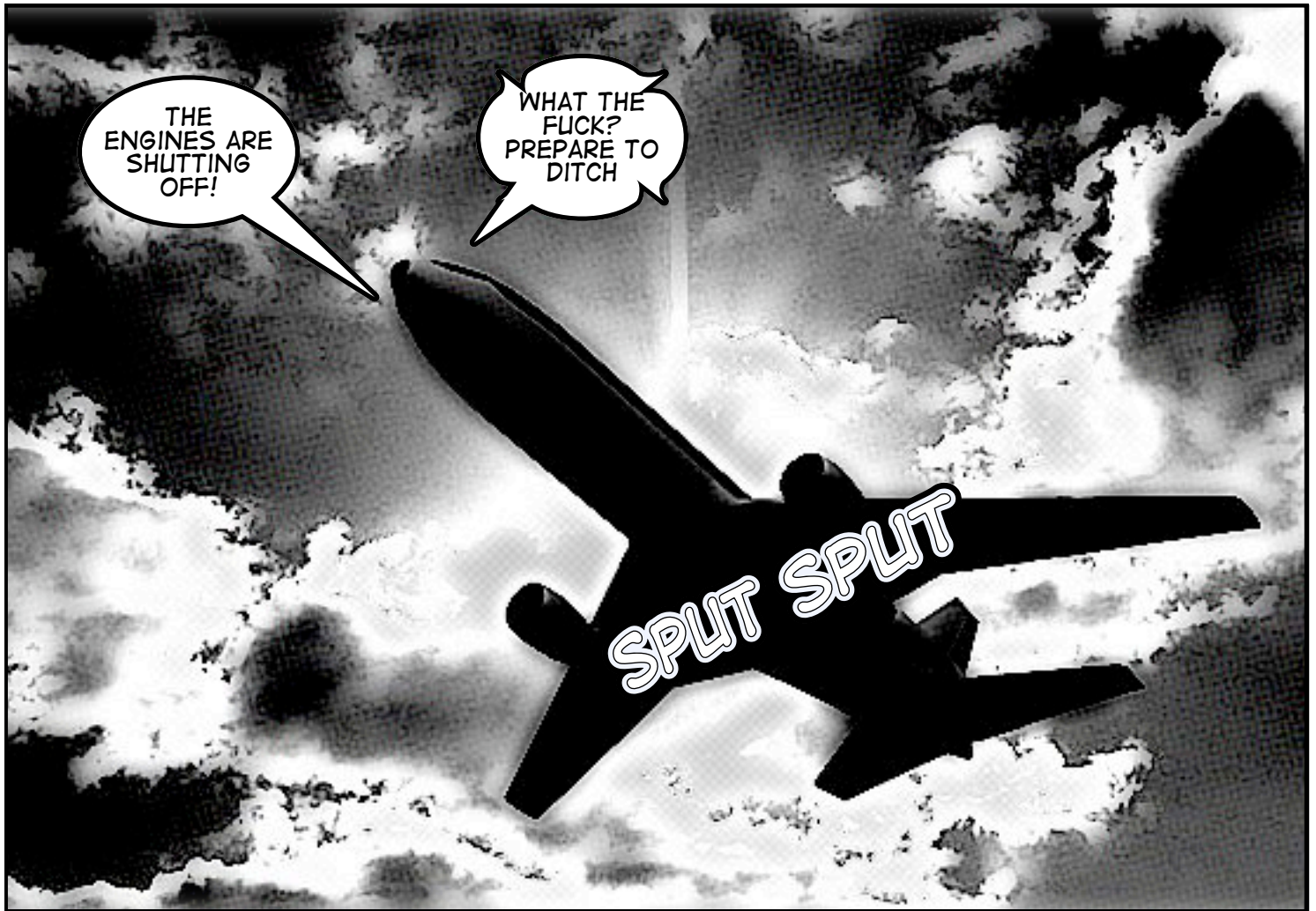


A JET AIRLINER IS FLYING OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN...



**BIP!BIP!BIP!**

CAPTAIN,  
WE HAVE AN  
ELECTRICAL  
SYSTEM  
WARNING



# Rocky Mountain News

Scripts-Reward Newspaper Colorado's First Newspaper—Founded

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## DC10 disappears from radars screen

A Pan Am DC10 on a flight from New York to Malawi with 258 people aboard crashed tonight in an unknown place in the pacific ocean, american military authorities reported. The passengers included at least 36 Yorktown University students of a group of 38 who purchased tickets for the flight. An unknown number of American military personnel flying home for the holidays were also reported to have been aboard. The plane was flying at 31,000 feet when it suddenly disappeared from radar screens. There was no immediate indication of the cause of the incident. American officials would not respond to speculation by some about a structural failure or an on-board explosion in the jumbo jet.



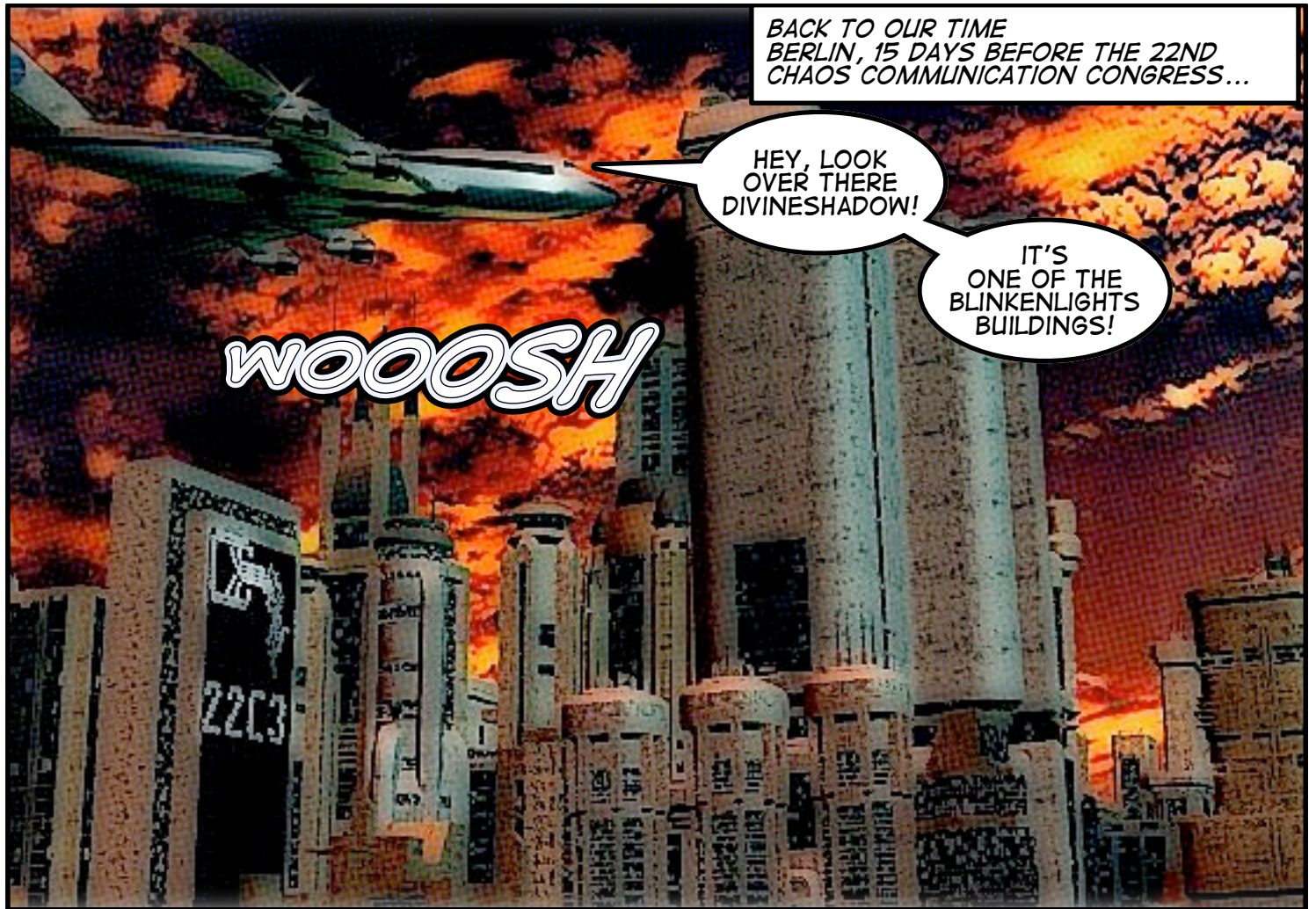
DC10 disappeared

BACK TO OUR TIME  
BERLIN, 15 DAYS BEFORE THE 22ND  
CHAOS COMMUNICATION CONGRESS...

HEY, LOOK  
OVER THERE  
DIVINESHADOW!

IT'S  
ONE OF THE  
BLINKENLIGHTS  
BUILDINGS!

WOOSH



THE PLAN IS:  
HOTEL, SHOWER,  
A QUICK DINNER  
AND THEN WE  
REACH THE CCC  
GUYS AT THE  
BLINKENLIGHTS  
BUILDING

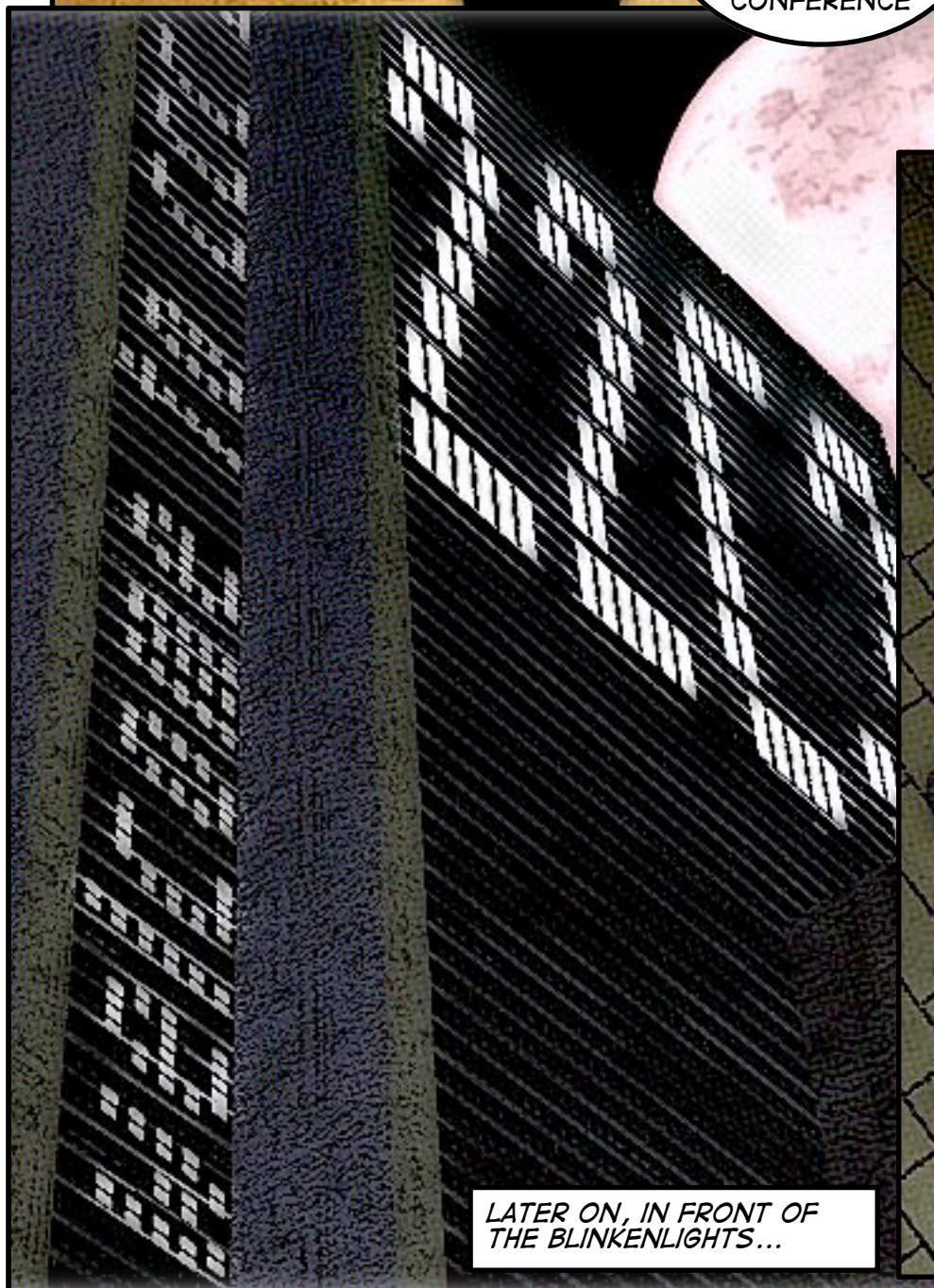
GAIUS AND EVIL  
ARRIVED  
YESTERDAY  
EVENING



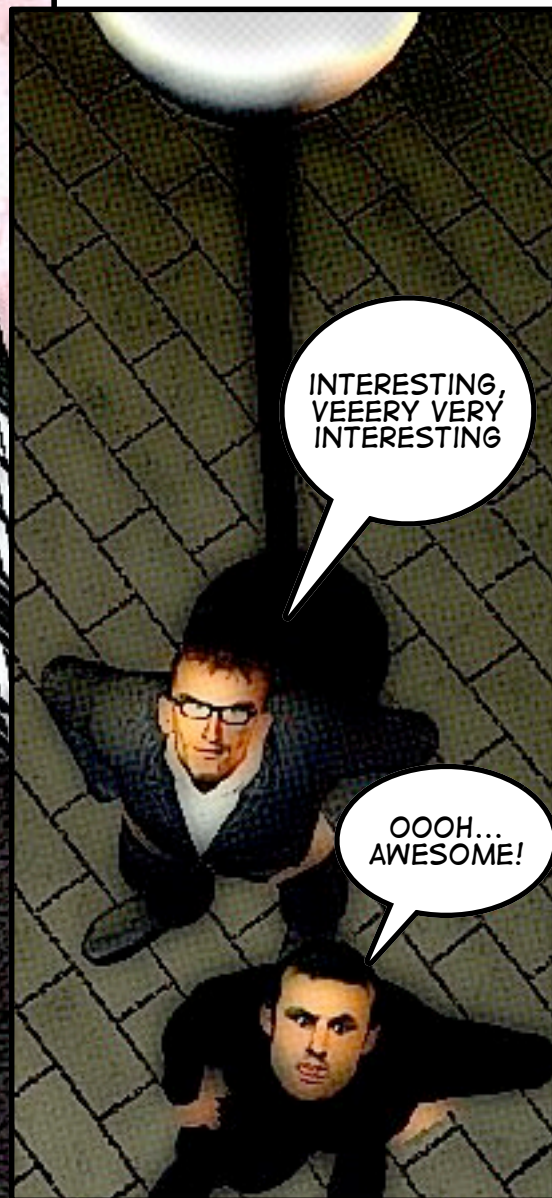


THE NEXT DAYS ARE GONNA BE EXCITING!

VERY MUCH INDEED! FIRST THE BLINKENLIGHTS, THEN THE SHUTTLE LAUNCH AND FINALLY THE CONFERENCE



LATER ON, IN FRONT OF THE BLINKENLIGHTS...



INTERESTING, VEEERY VERY INTERESTING

OOH... AWESOME!

BAD PRIT ...

HELLO  
GUYS.  
WELCOME  
TO BERLIN

OH, HELLO  
BAD PRIT!

WE WERE  
FASCINATED BY THE  
BLINKENLIGHTS PROJECT.  
WE WERE IMPRESSED  
WHEN WE SAW IT FIRST ON  
THE INTERNET BUT I HAVE  
TO ADMIT THAT SEEN IN  
REAL IT'S REALLY  
BREATHTAKING

YEAH, IT'S  
IMPRESSIVE. I  
NEVER GET  
TIRED OF  
WATCHING IT



I HEARD THAT THE CHAOS COMPUTER CLUB IS WORKING ON A NEW BLINKENLIGHTS PROJECT...

OH YES, WE HAVE SOME NEW IDEAS FOR THE BLINKENLIGHTS.

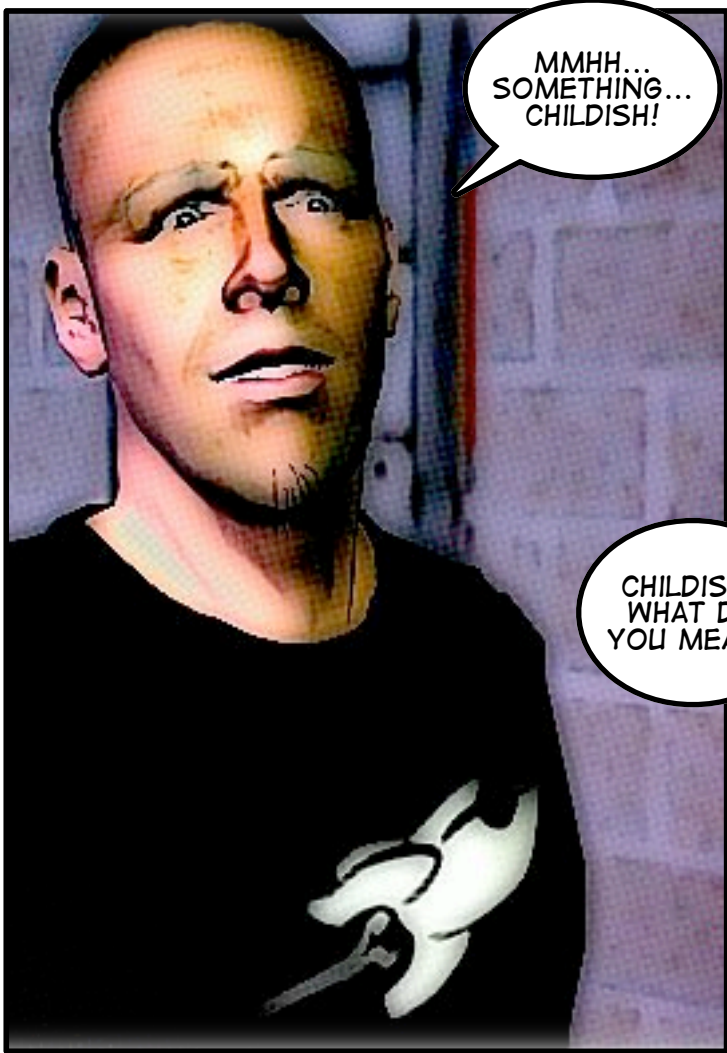
WHAT KIND OF IDEAS?

ACTUALLY THEY ARE MORE THAN IDEAS, WE ALMOST FINISHED THE PROTOTYPE



WHAT IS IT EXACTLY?

OH... SOMETHING NICE...



MMHH...  
SOMETHING...  
CHILDISH!

CHILDISH?  
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

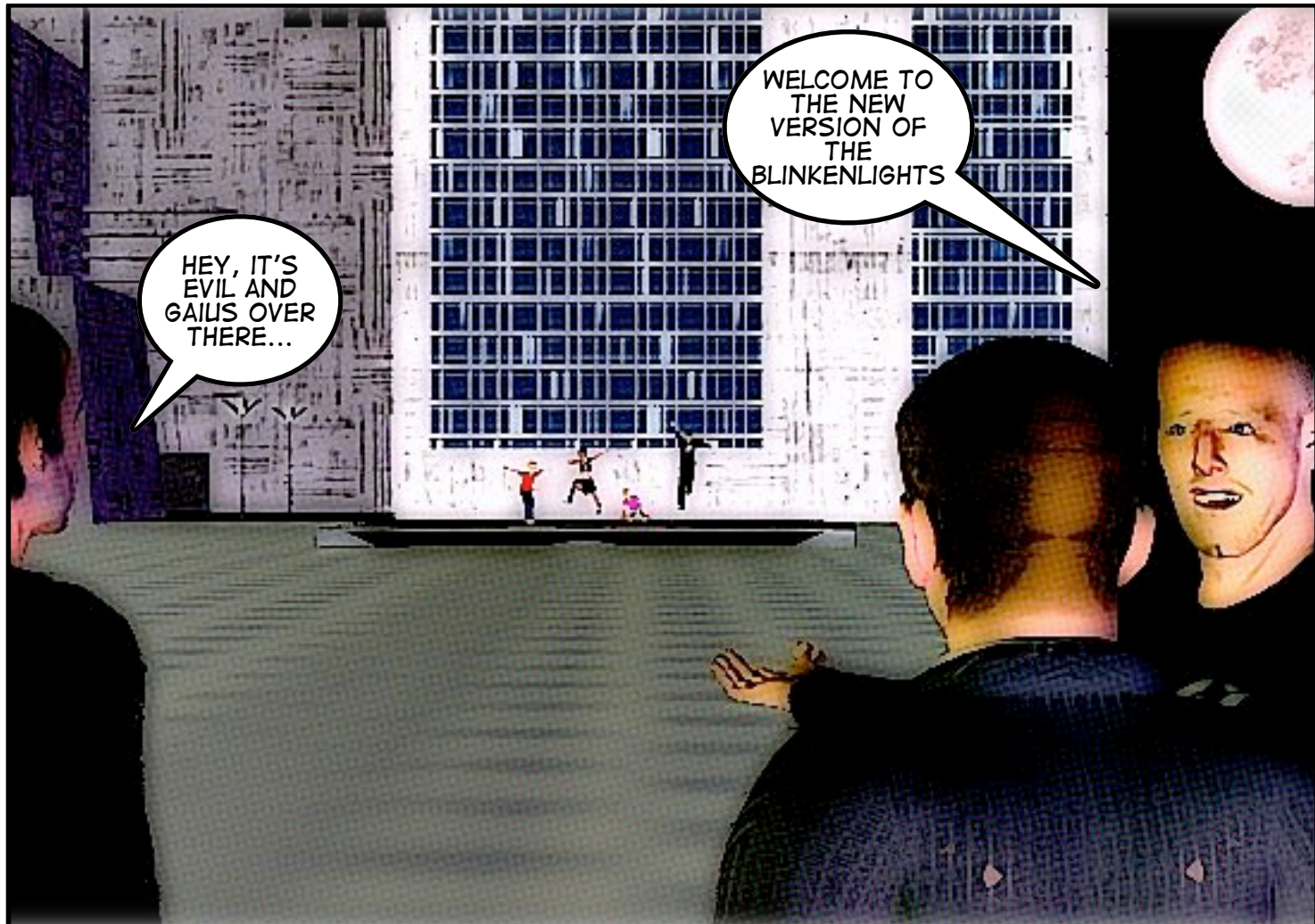


C'MON!  
WE ARE  
CURIOUS!



OH, DON'T  
WORRY... WE'LL  
SEE IT SOON. I SET  
A MEETING WITH  
GAILUS AND EVIL, WE  
MEET IN FRONT OF  
THE NEW PROJECT  
BUILDING

WE ARE  
GOING  
THERE  
NOW



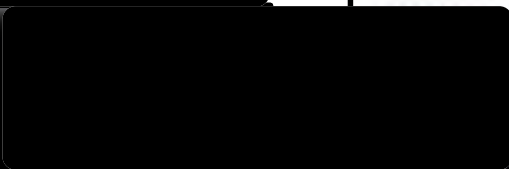
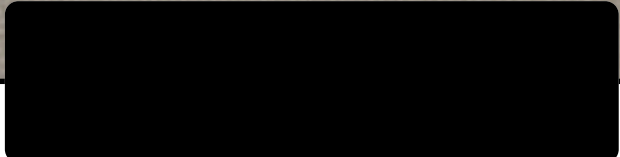
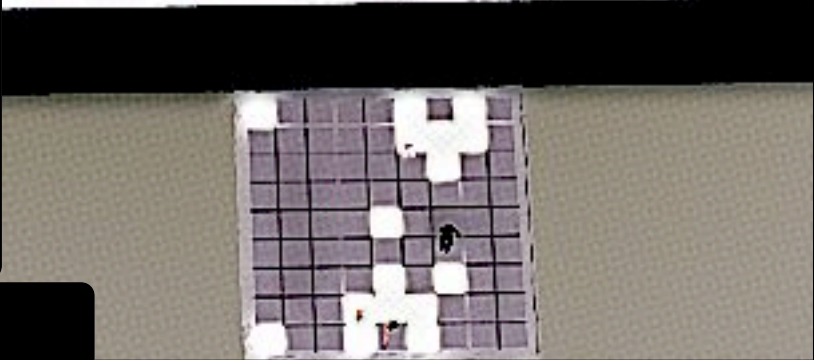
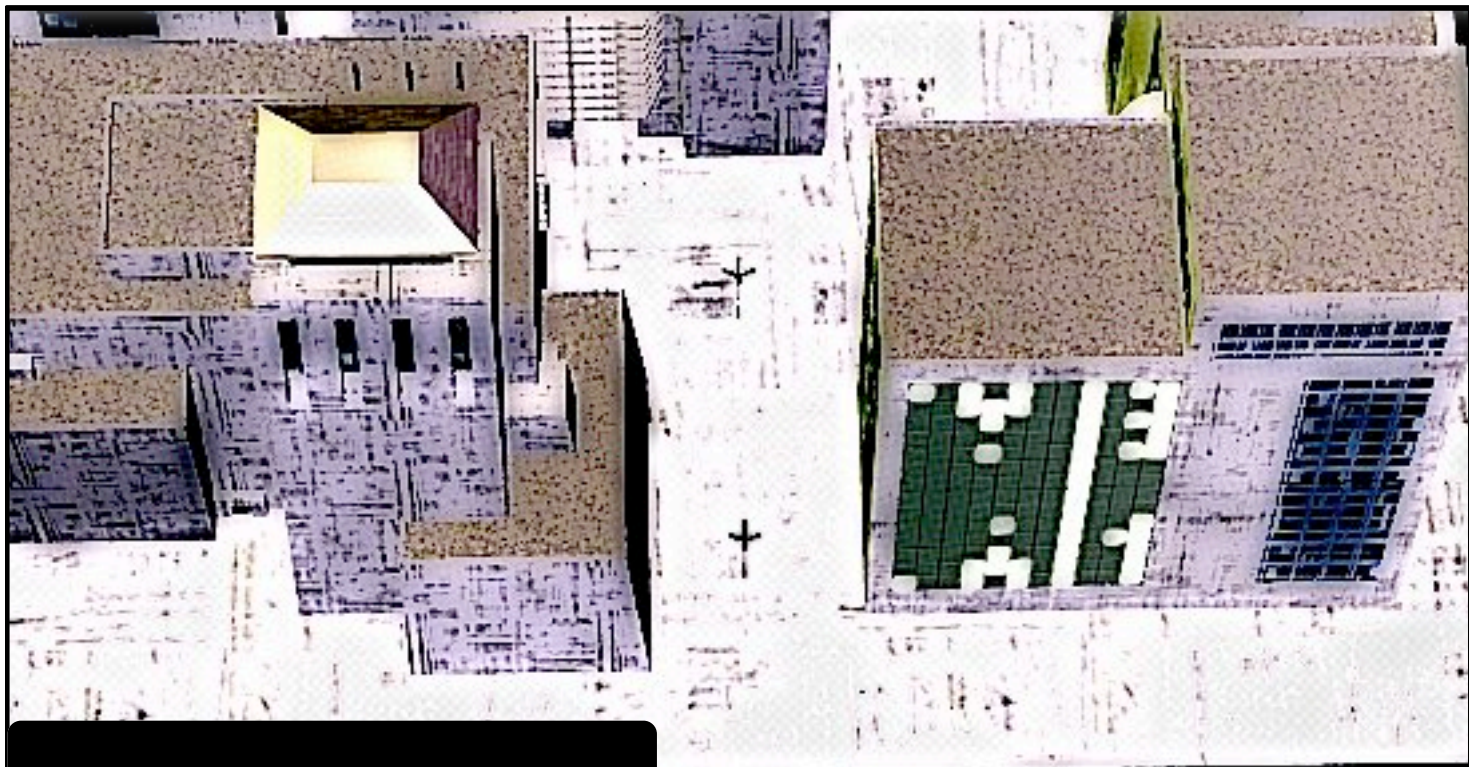
WELCOME TO THE NEW VERSION OF THE BLINKENLIGHTS

HEY, IT'S EVIL AND GAIUS OVER THERE...



YEEPEE!

BOING BOING!



YEEAAAHH!  
YOU ARE A  
LAME  
LOOSER  
GAILUS!





AHNF AHNF!  
SHIT, I CAN'T  
BELIEVE I'M  
LOOSING  
AGAINST A  
WOMAN...

3...  
2...  
1...  
GAME OVER

HEY, MS.  
ANGELICA,  
YOU ARE  
REALLY A  
COOL  
PLAYER!

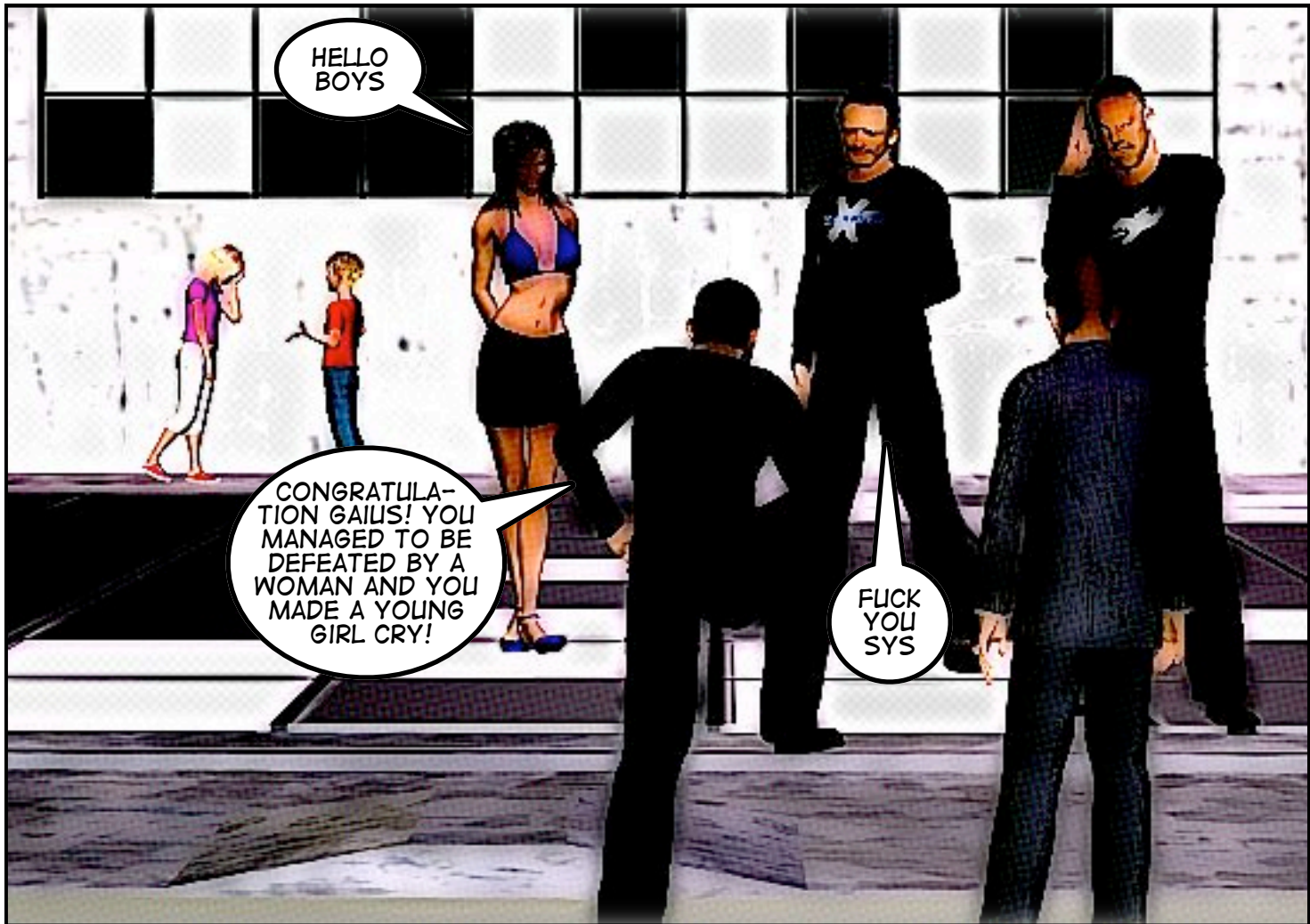
YES!  
YES!  
WE  
WON!

... #@\$!

EXCUSE ME  
MISTER, HOW DID  
WE LOOSE?  
WEREN'T YOU  
THE "KING OF  
THE GAMES"?

GRRRR...

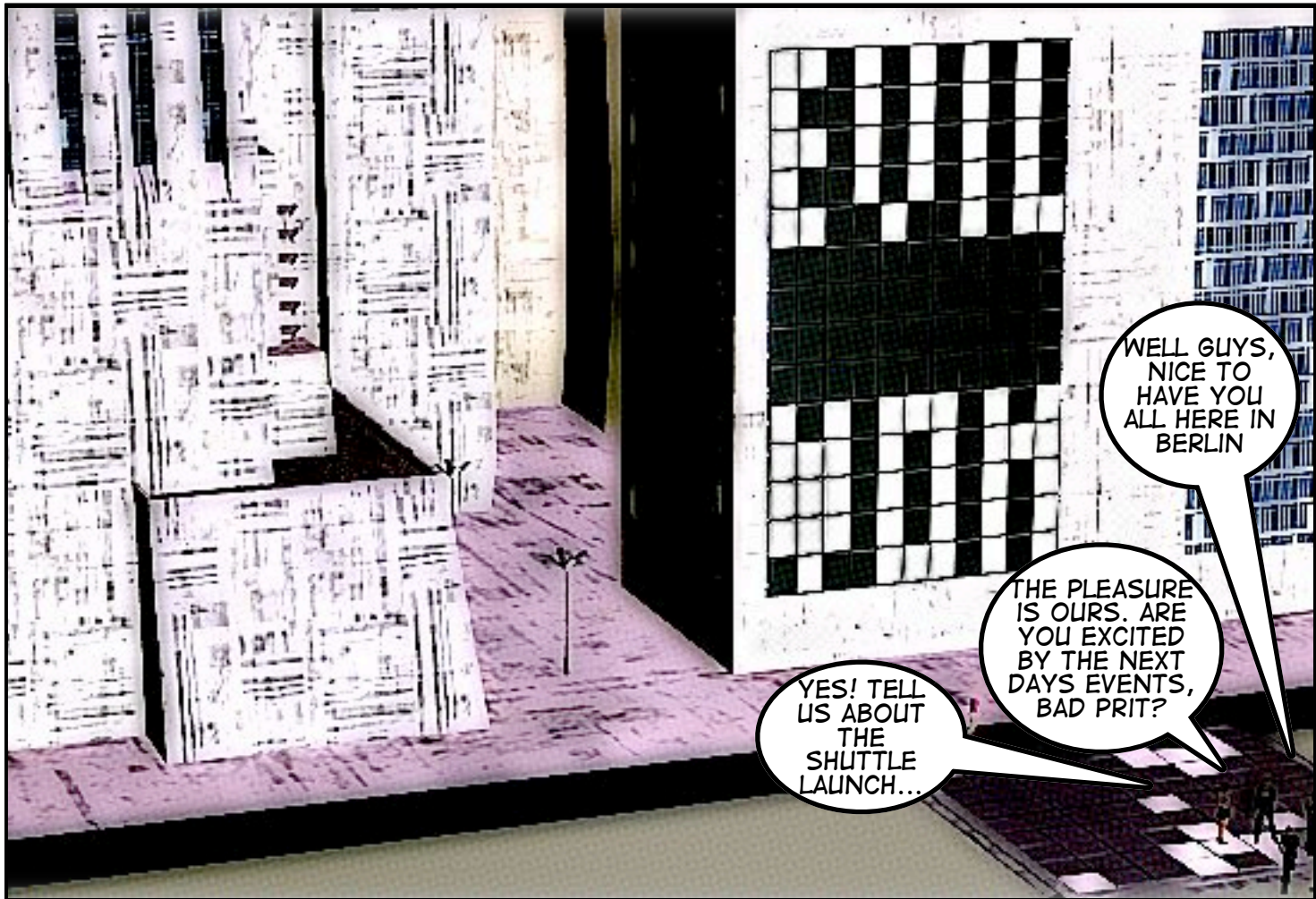




HELLO BOYS

CONGRATULATION GAILIS! YOU MANAGED TO BE DEFEATED BY A WOMAN AND YOU MADE A YOUNG GIRL CRY!

FUCK YOU SYS

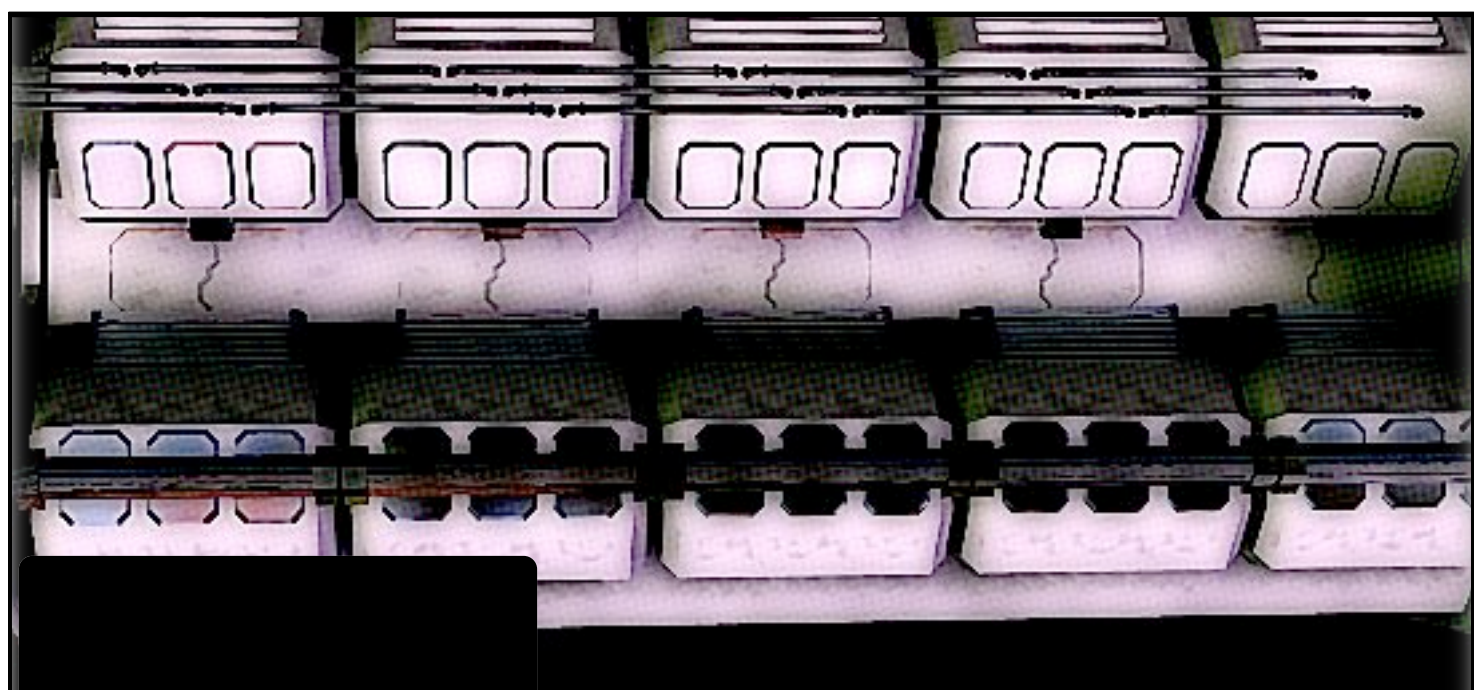
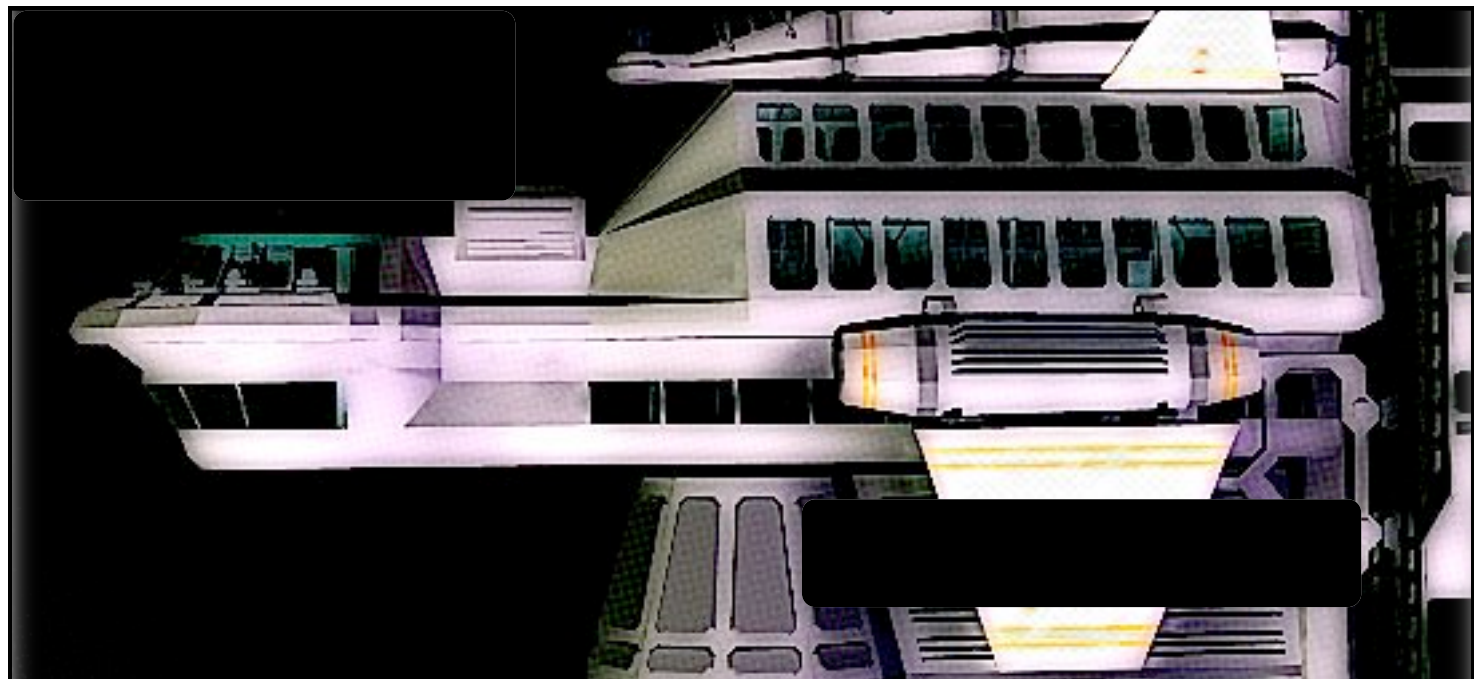


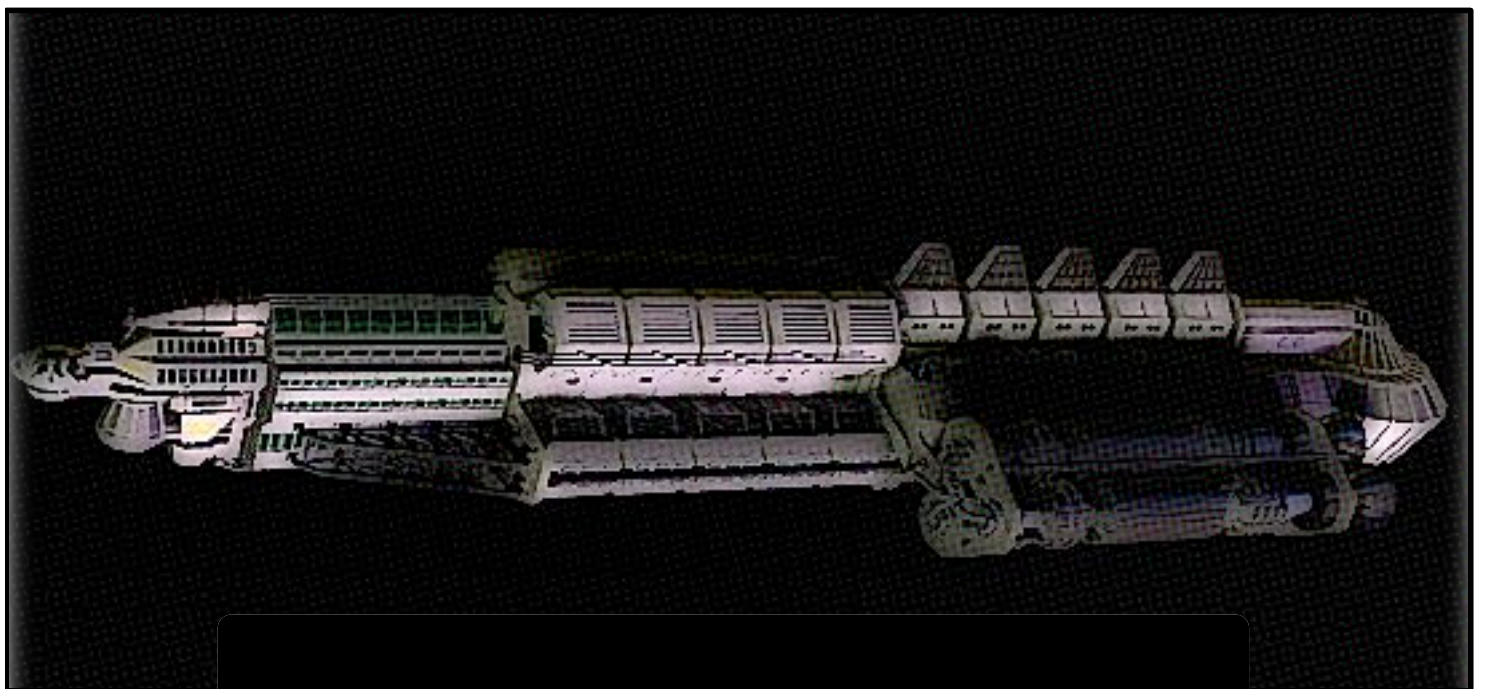
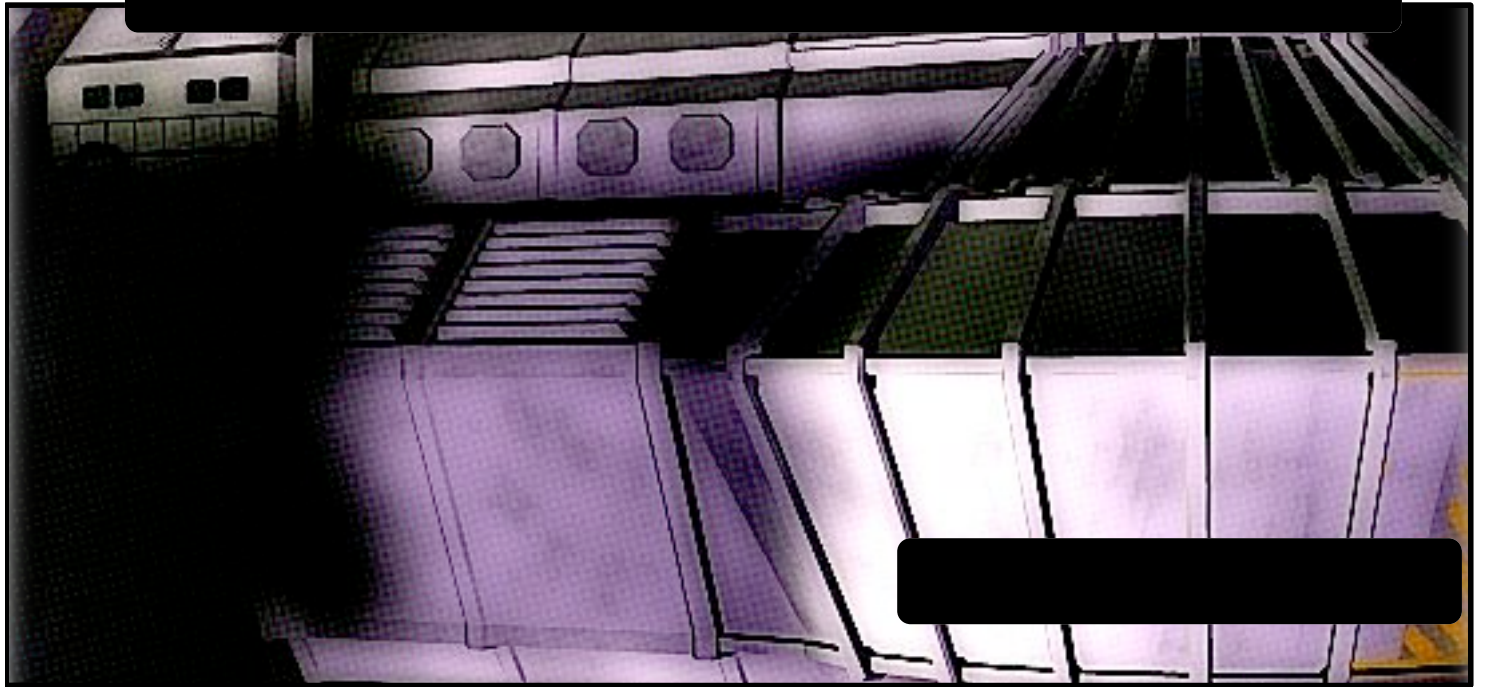
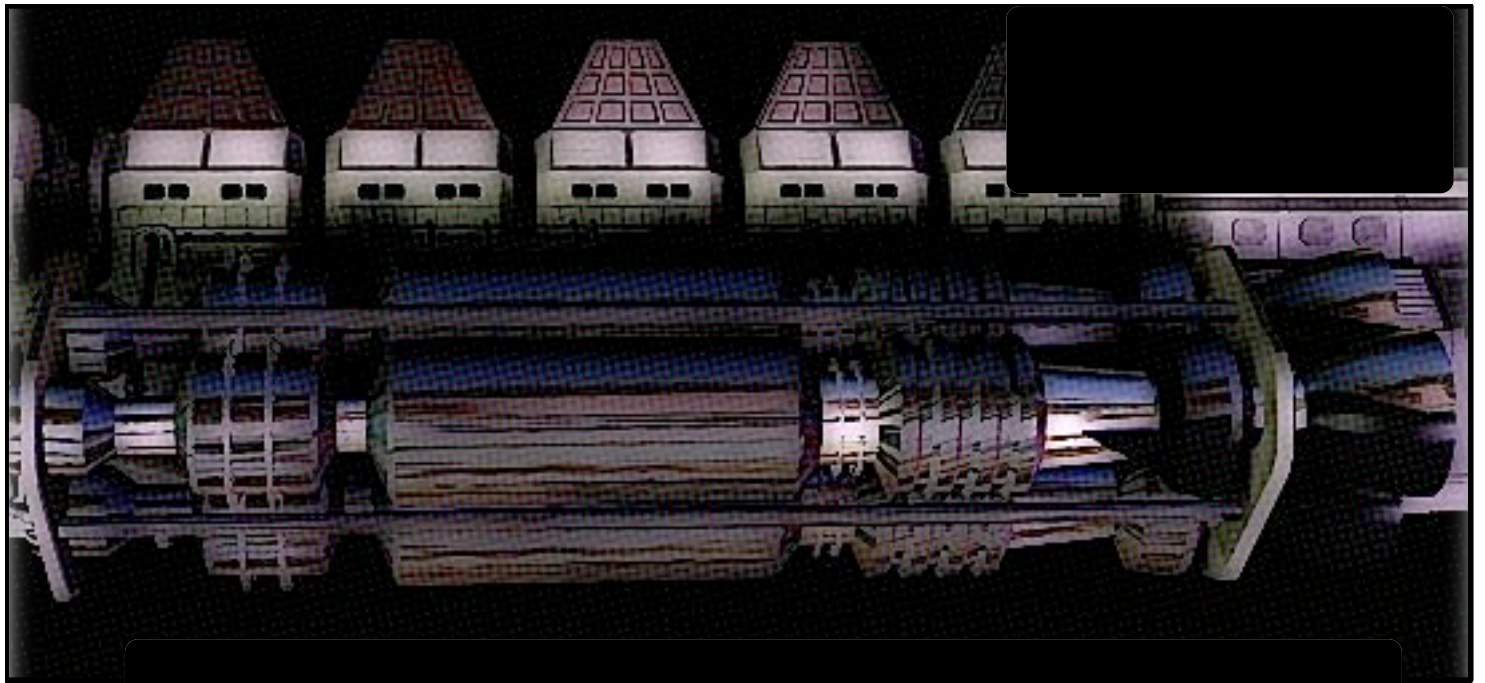
WELL GUYS, NICE TO HAVE YOU ALL HERE IN BERLIN

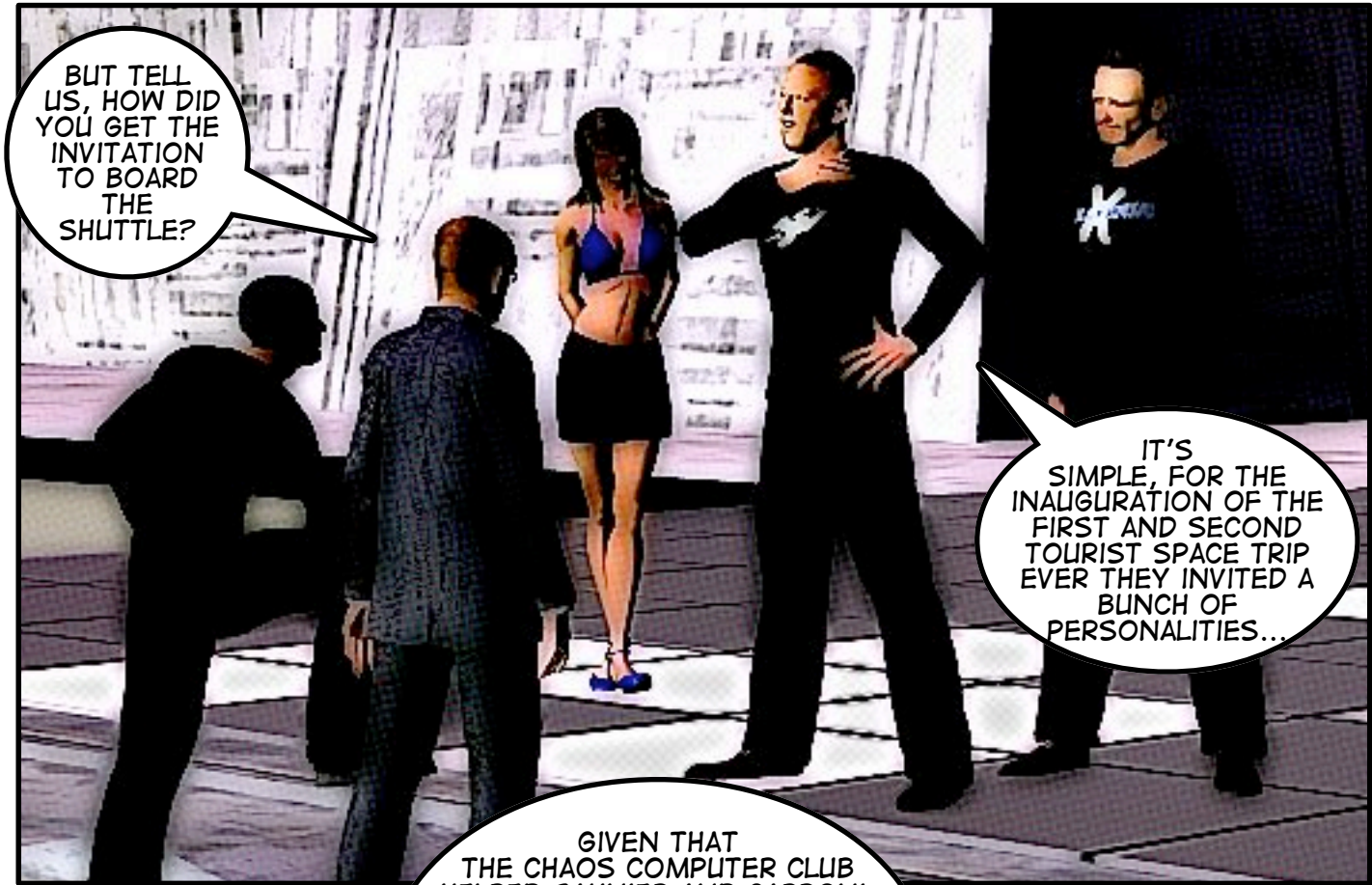
THE PLEASURE IS OURS. ARE YOU EXCITED BY THE NEXT DAYS EVENTS, BAD PRIT?

YES! TELL US ABOUT THE SHUTTLE LAUNCH...









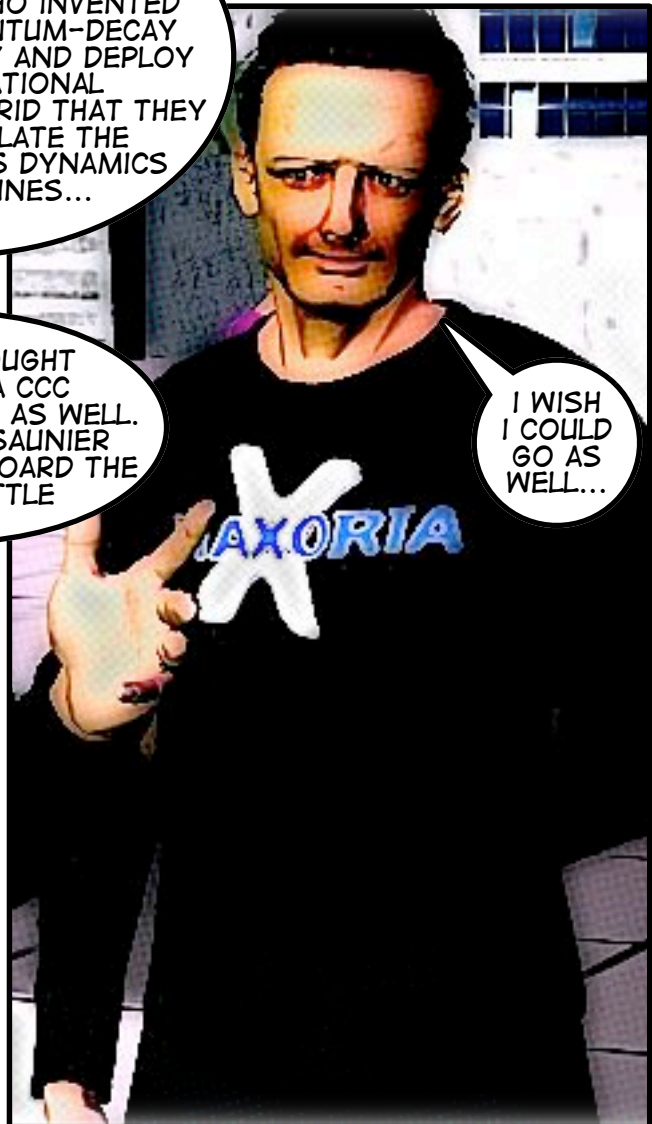
BUT TELL US, HOW DID YOU GET THE INVITATION TO BOARD THE SHUTTLE?

IT'S SIMPLE, FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST AND SECOND TOURIST SPACE TRIP EVER THEY INVITED A BUNCH OF PERSONALITIES...

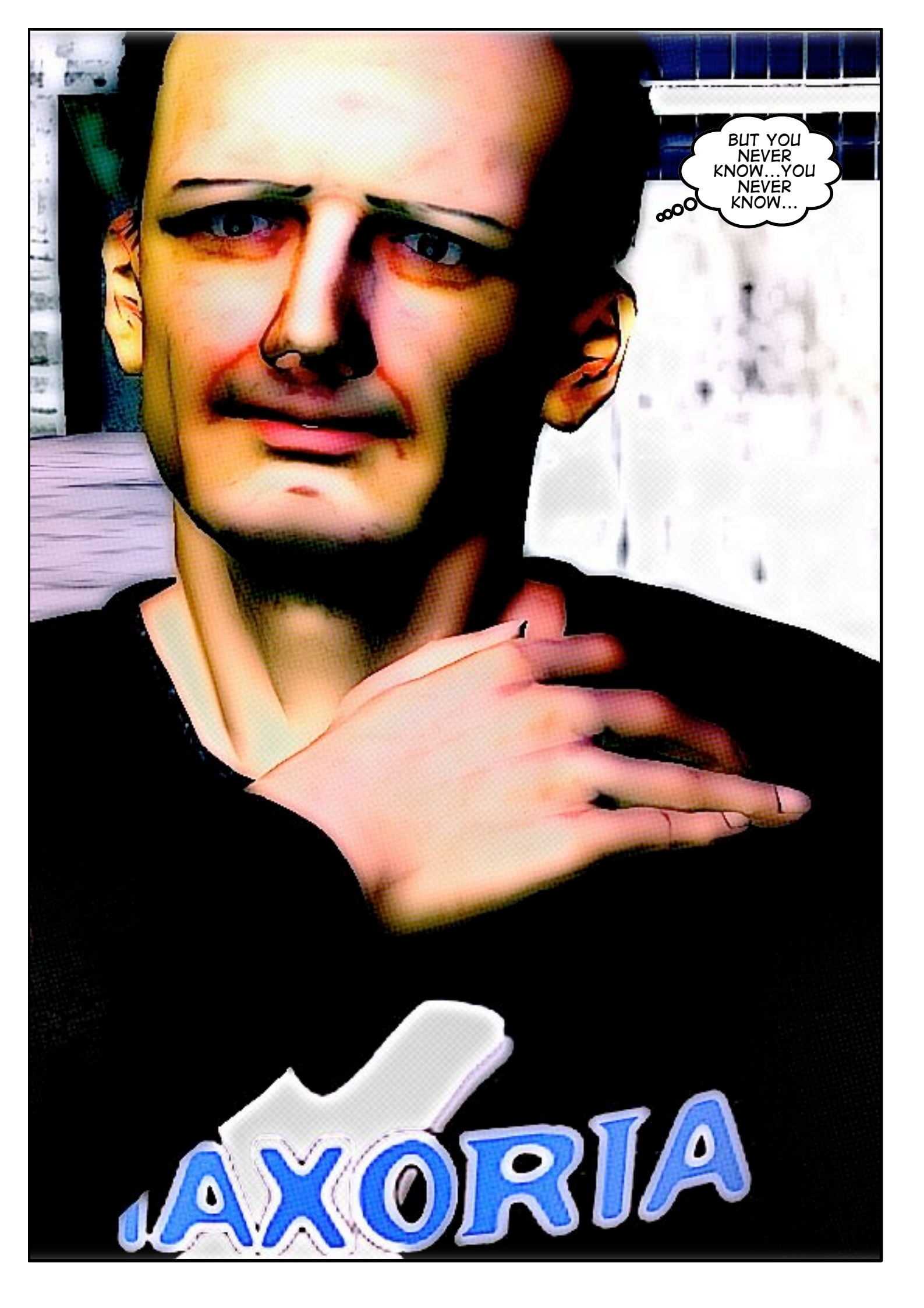
GIVEN THAT THE CHAOS COMPUTER CLUB HELPED SAUNIER AND CAPRONI, THE TWO GUYS WHO INVENTED THE SHUTTLE QUANTUM-DECAY ENGINES, TO STUDY AND DEPLOY THE COMPUTATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTERS GRID THAT THEY USED TO CALCULATE THE QUANTUM PHYSICS DYNAMICS OF THE ENGINES...



... THEY THOUGHT TO INVITE A CCC REPRESENTATIVE AS WELL. CAPRONI AND SAUNIER WILL BE ALSO ABOARD THE FIRST SHUTTLE



I WISH I COULD GO AS WELL...



BUT YOU  
NEVER  
KNOW... YOU  
NEVER  
KNOW...

AXORIA

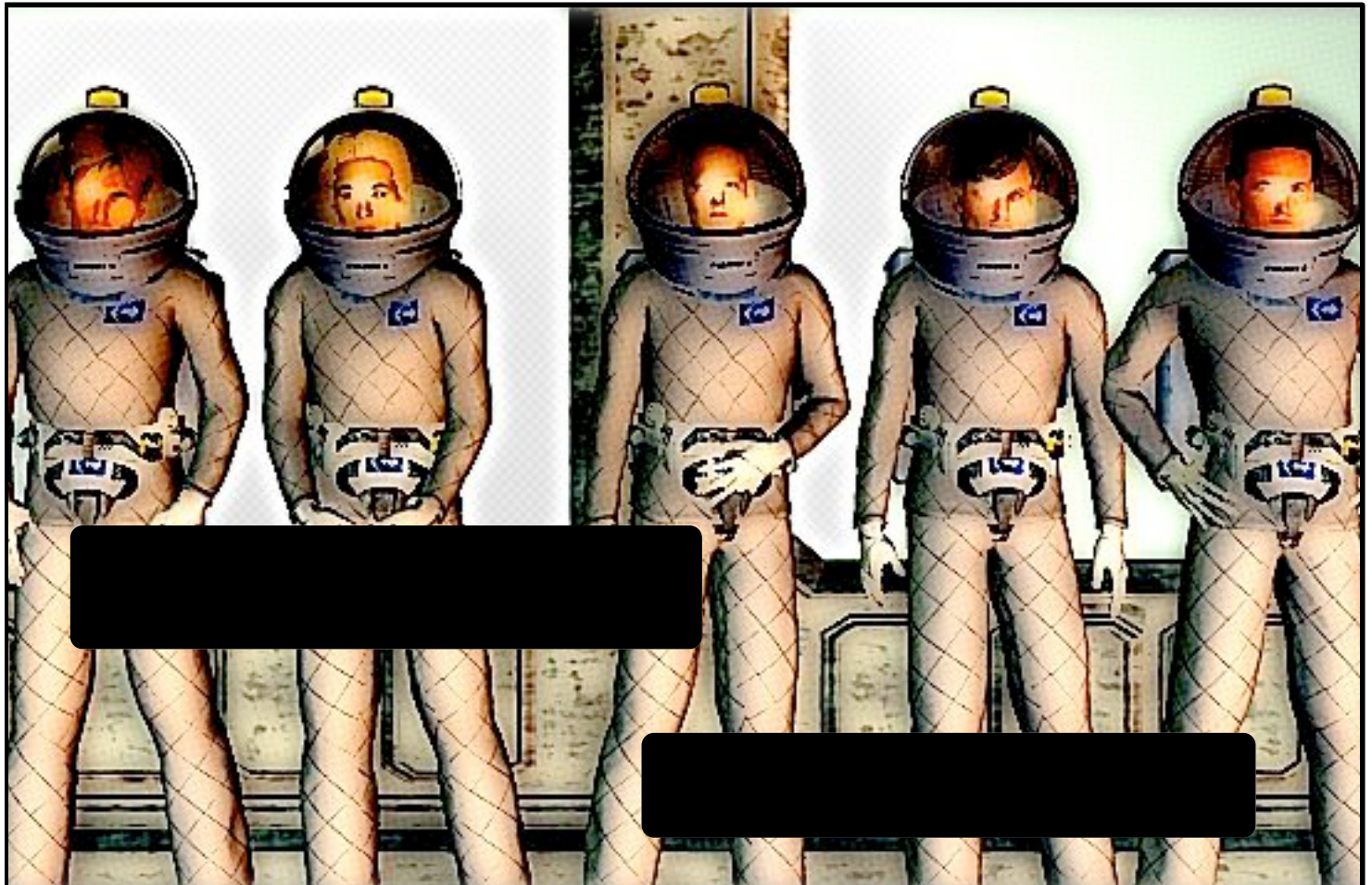
TWO DAYS LATER...

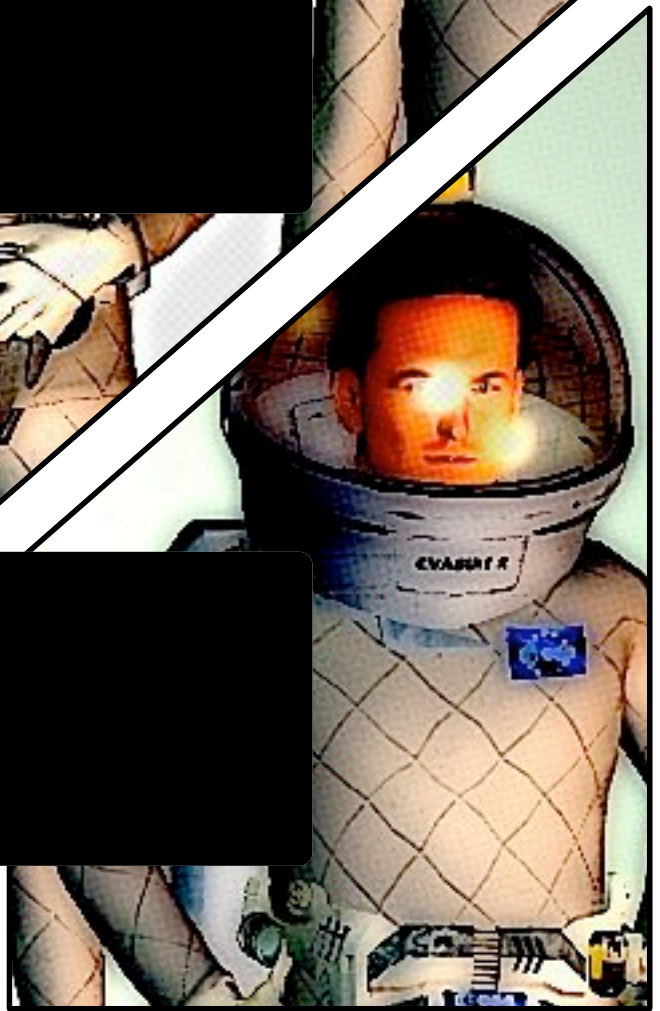
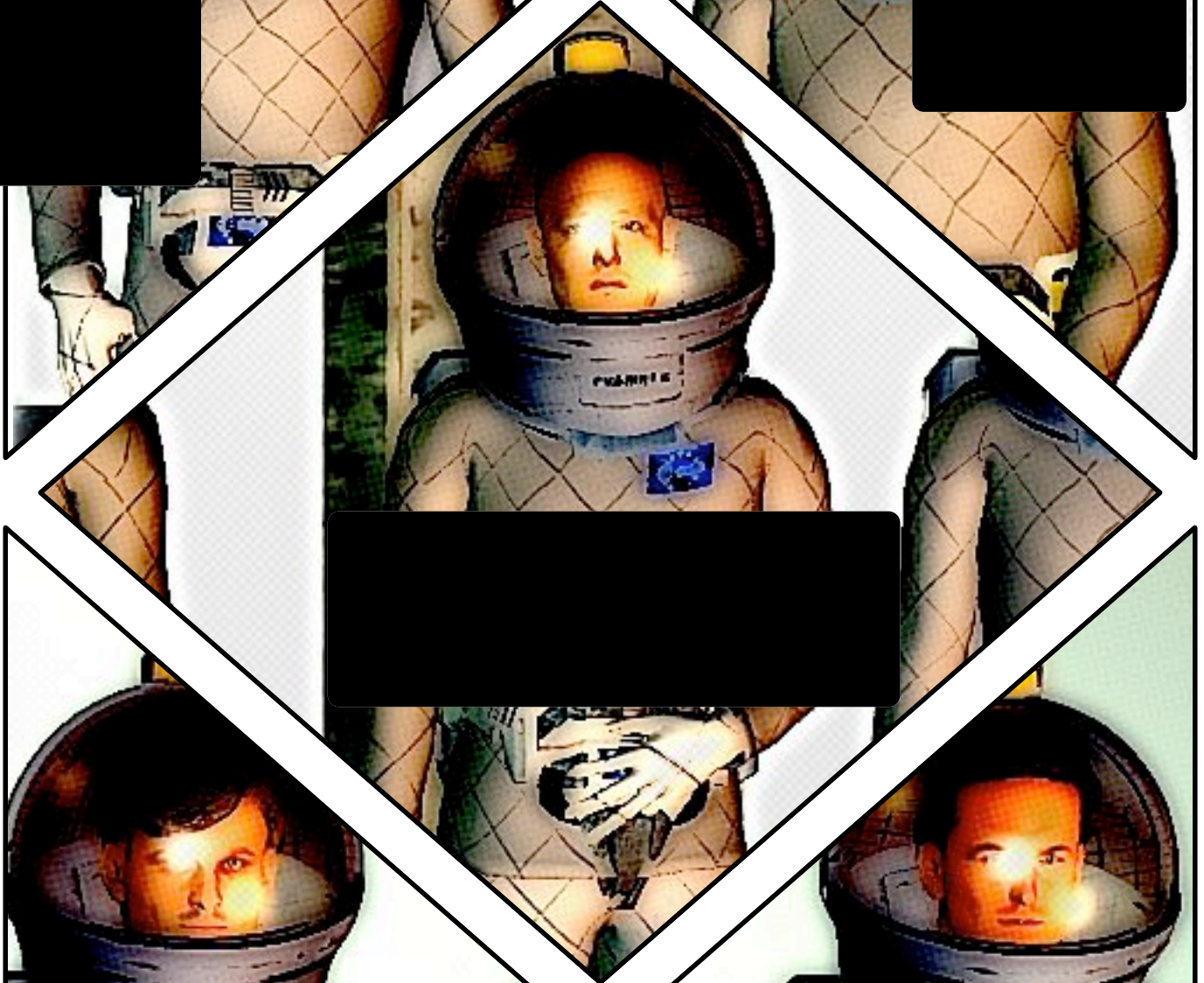
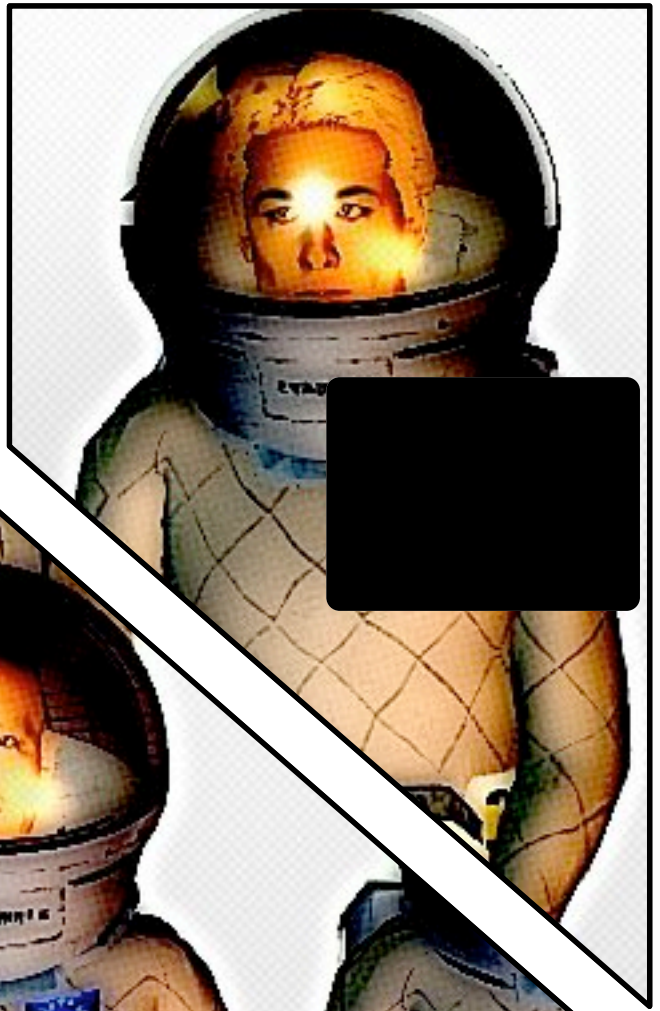
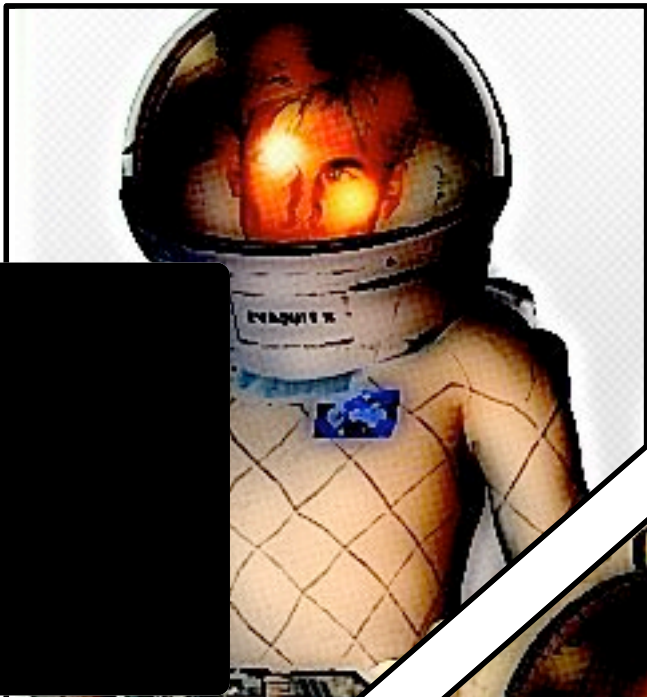
GOOD MORNING  
FROM THE  
EURONEWS  
NEWSCHANNEL


T MINUS 5  
MINUTES FROM  
THE ASIMOV  
SHUTTLE  
LAUNCH, THE  
FIRST SPACE  
TOURIST SHIP  
EVER



**11:55 am** **euronews**  
**ov launch settled at 12:00**







SALINIER  
AND CAPRONI, DURING THEIR  
RETURN TO EARTH, ARE TO BE  
PARTICIPATING IN A BID FOR THE  
BIGGEST ENERGY REACTOR IN  
EUROPE. MEMBERS OF VARIOUS  
ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS SEEM  
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE  
POSSIBILITY TO DEPLOY THE  
EXPERIMENTAL SALINIER-CAPRONI  
TECHNOLOGY FOR THE  
PRODUCTION OF CLEAN  
ENERGY

11:57 am

euronews

Asimov launch settl



SWAAASHHH



BBBBRRRRWAAATH



12 MINUTES LATER...





HEY,  
WOULDN'T  
YOU LIKE TO  
GO INTO THE  
SPACE AS  
WELL?



IN THEORY  
YES BUT IN  
REALITY I HAD  
ENOUGH  
STRESS WITH  
THE NORTH  
KOREAN  
STUNT! (\*)

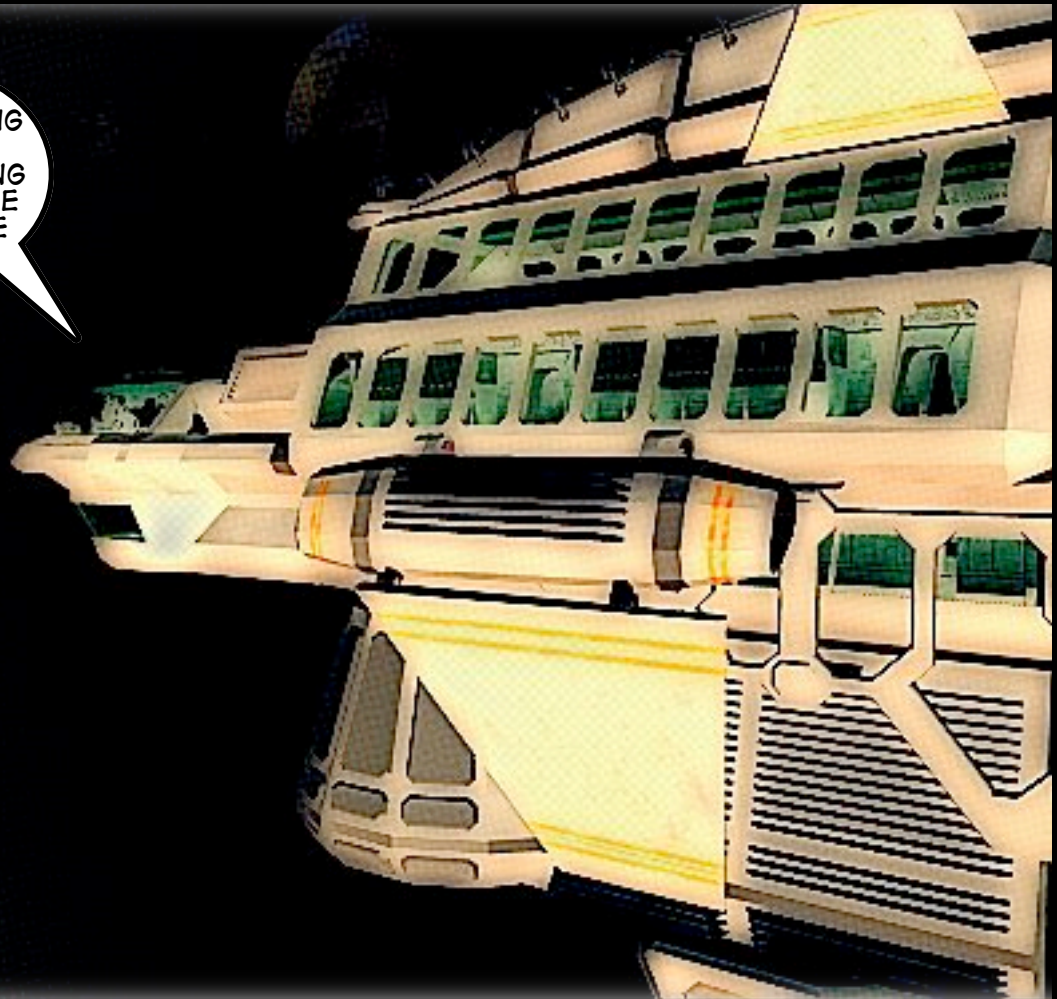
(\*) SEE EPISODE 1 : WAR GAMES

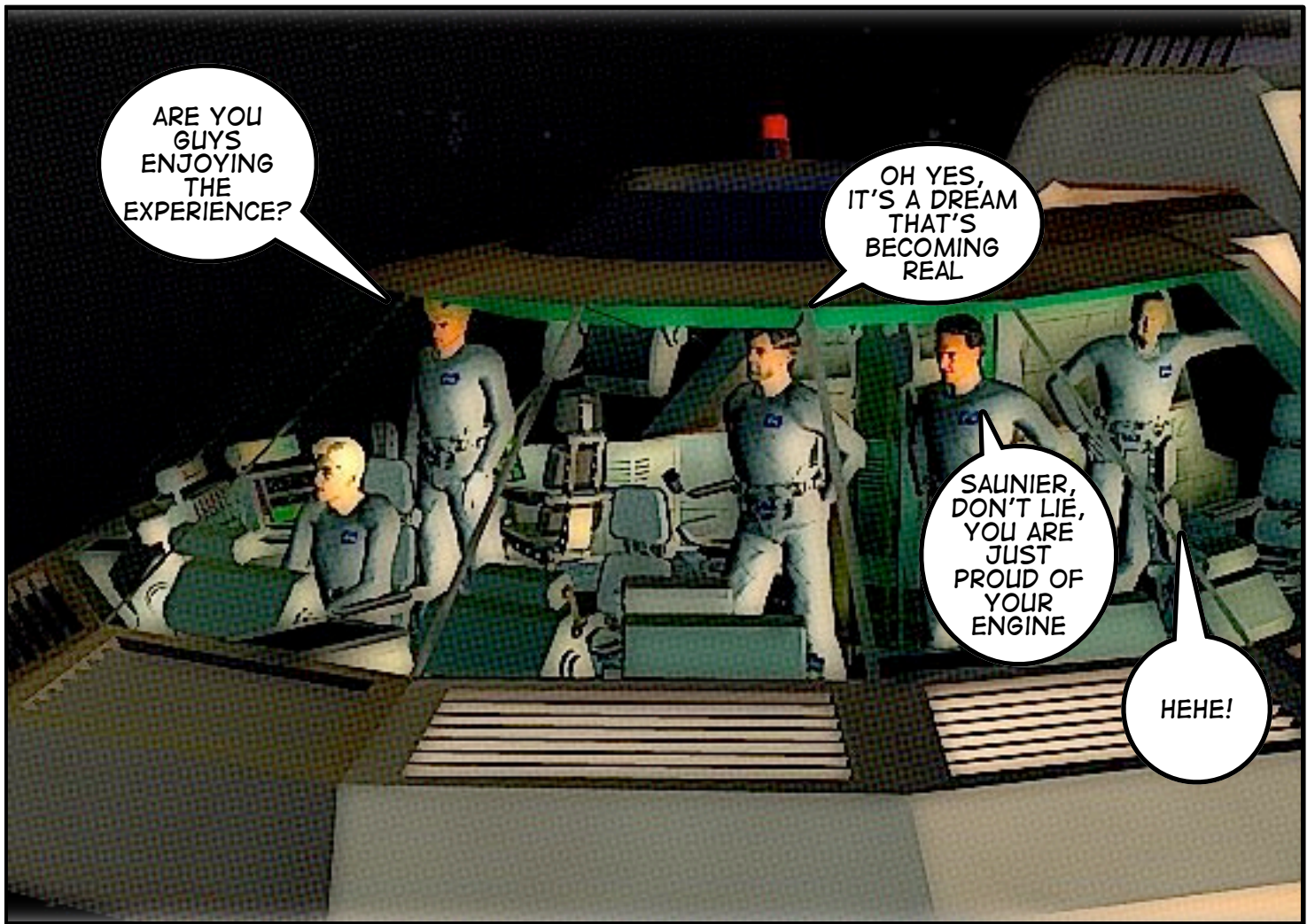
12 HOURS LATER...

SIRS,  
WE ARE NOW  
AT THE MIDDLE  
POINT  
BETWEEN  
EARTH AND  
MOON



EVERYTHING  
IS  
PROCEEDING  
AS PER THE  
SCHEDULE



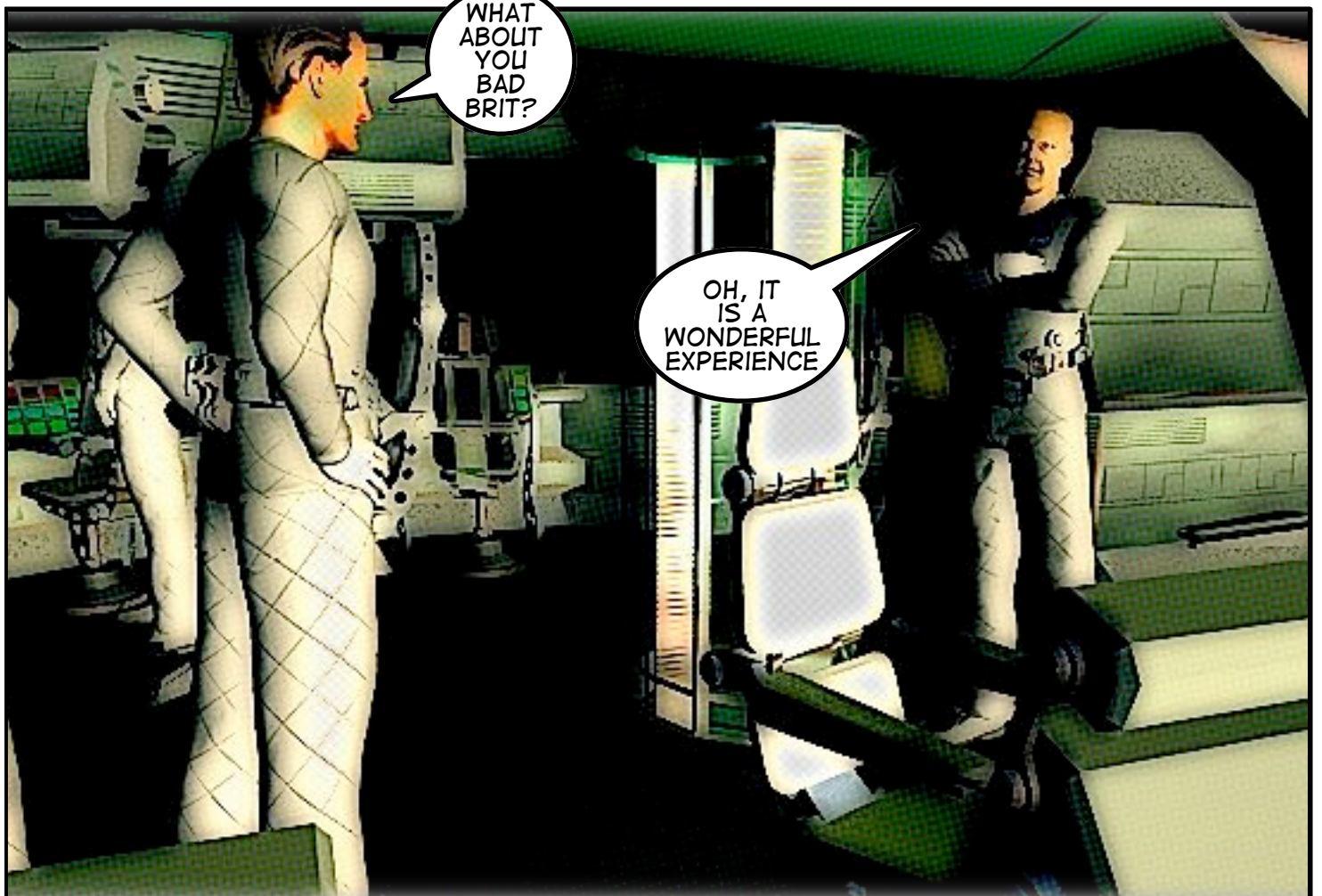


ARE YOU GUYS ENJOYING THE EXPERIENCE?

OH YES, IT'S A DREAM THAT'S BECOMING REAL

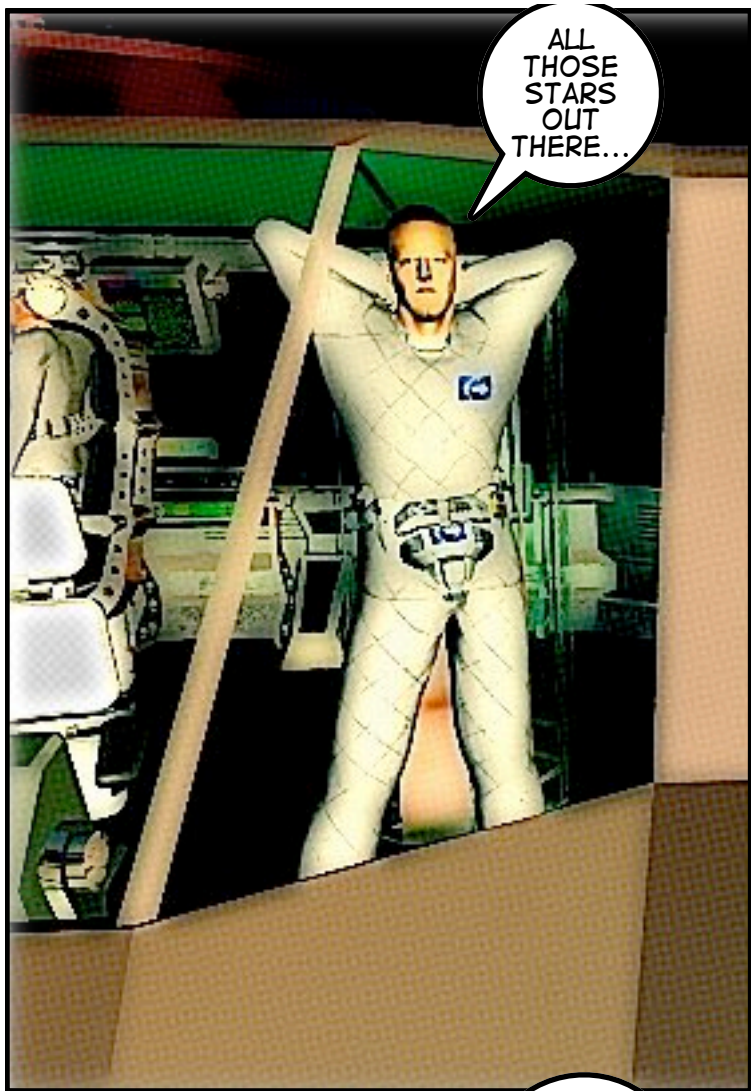
SAUNIER, DON'T LIE, YOU ARE JUST PROUD OF YOUR ENGINE

HEHE!

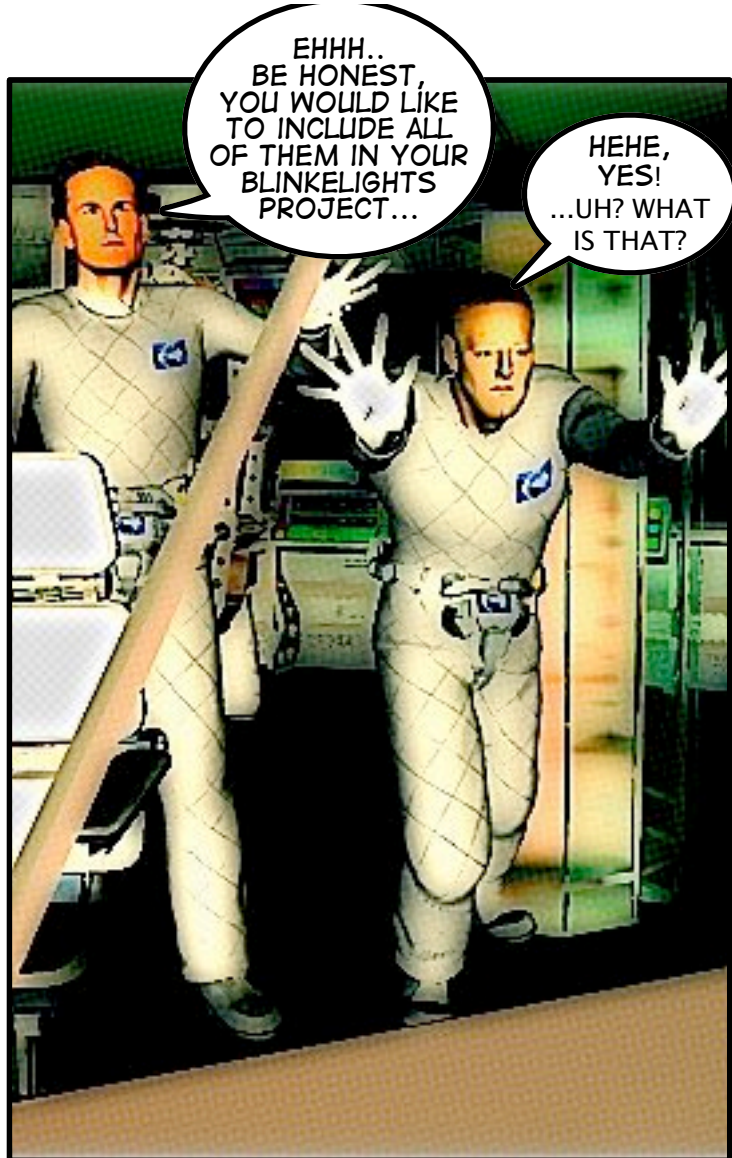


WHAT ABOUT YOU BAD BRIT?

OH, IT IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

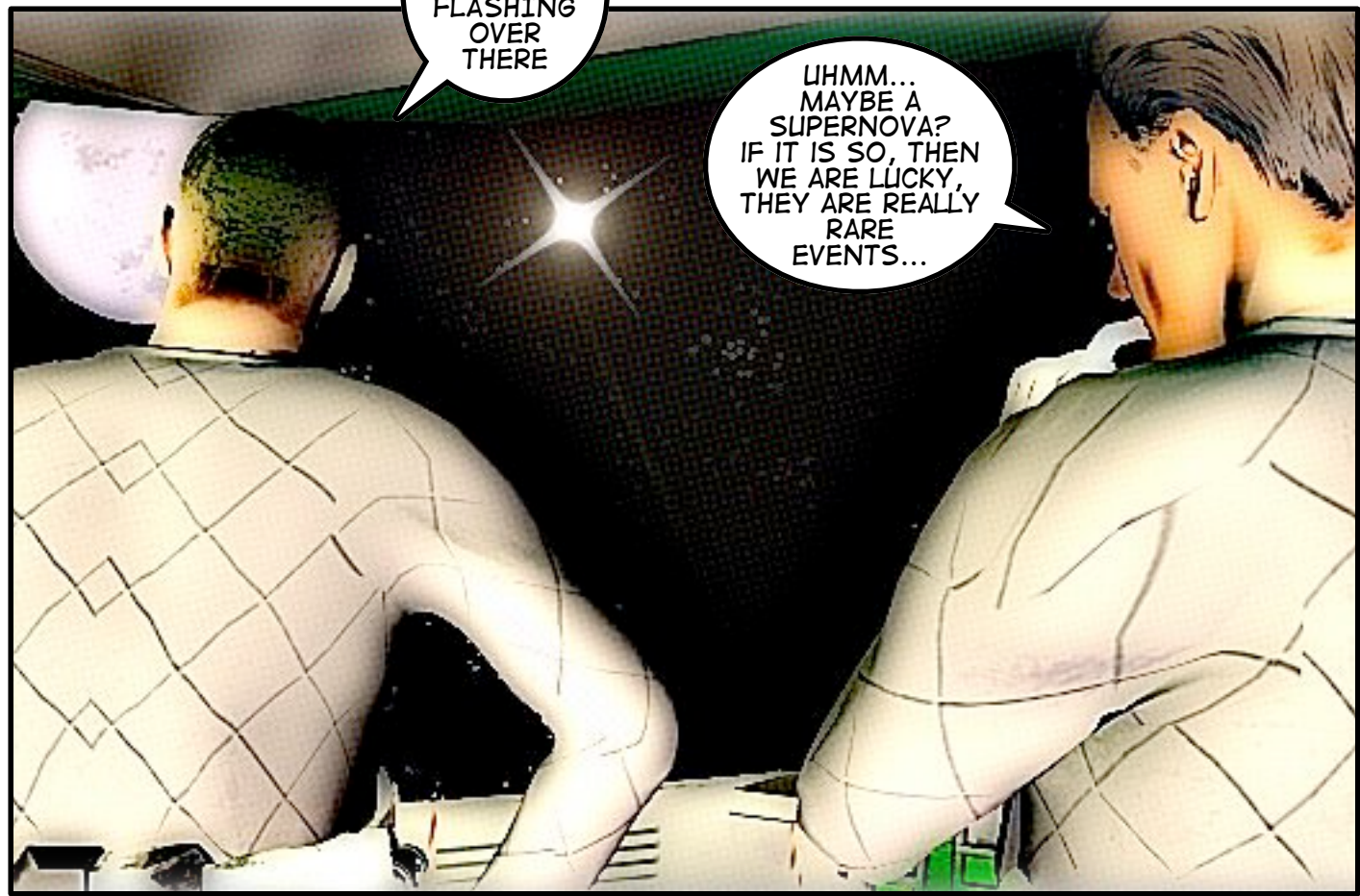


ALL  
THOSE  
STARS  
OUT  
THERE...



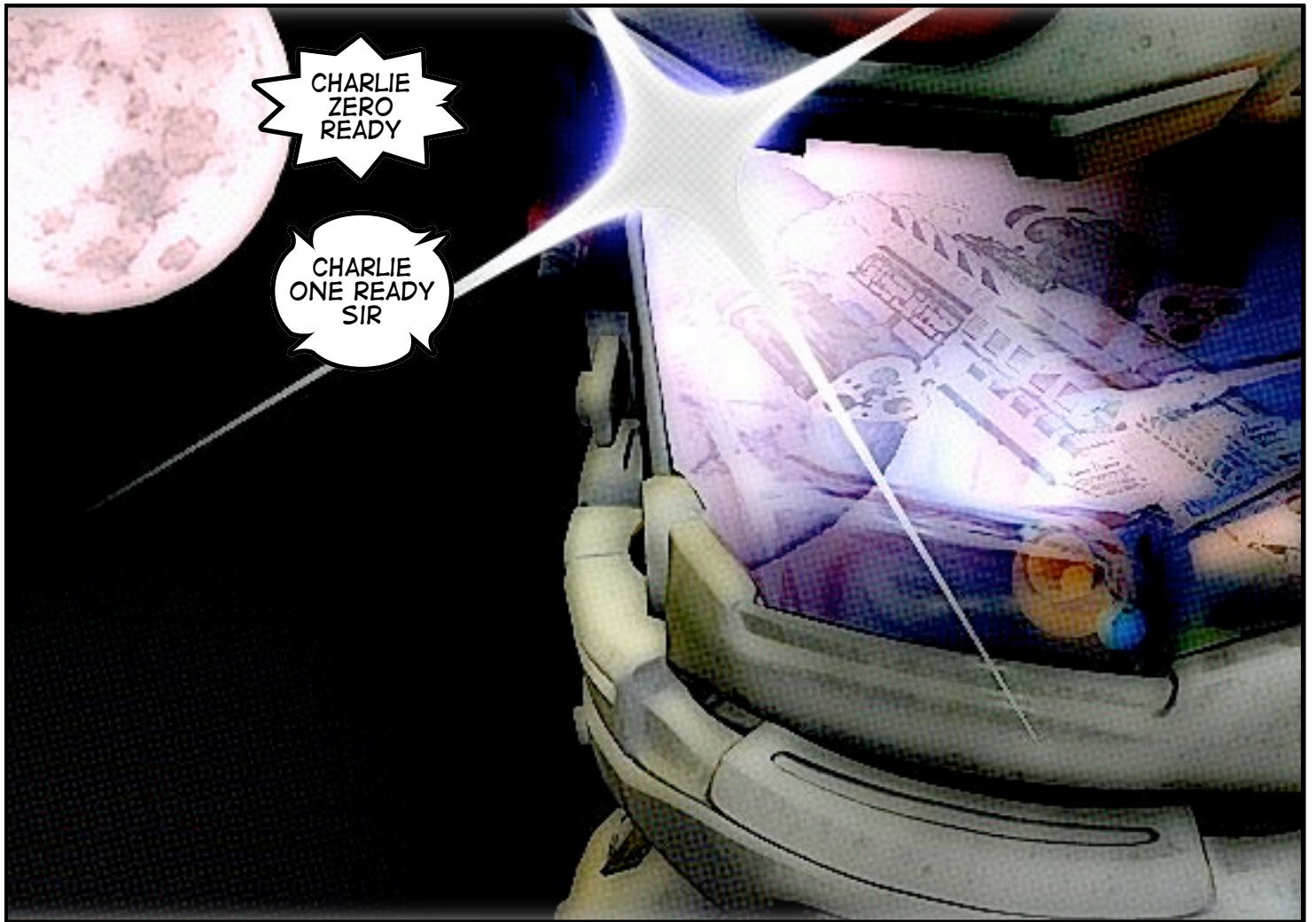
EHHH..  
BE HONEST,  
YOU WOULD LIKE  
TO INCLUDE ALL  
OF THEM IN YOUR  
BLINKELIGHTS  
PROJECT...

HEHE,  
YES!  
...UH? WHAT  
IS THAT?



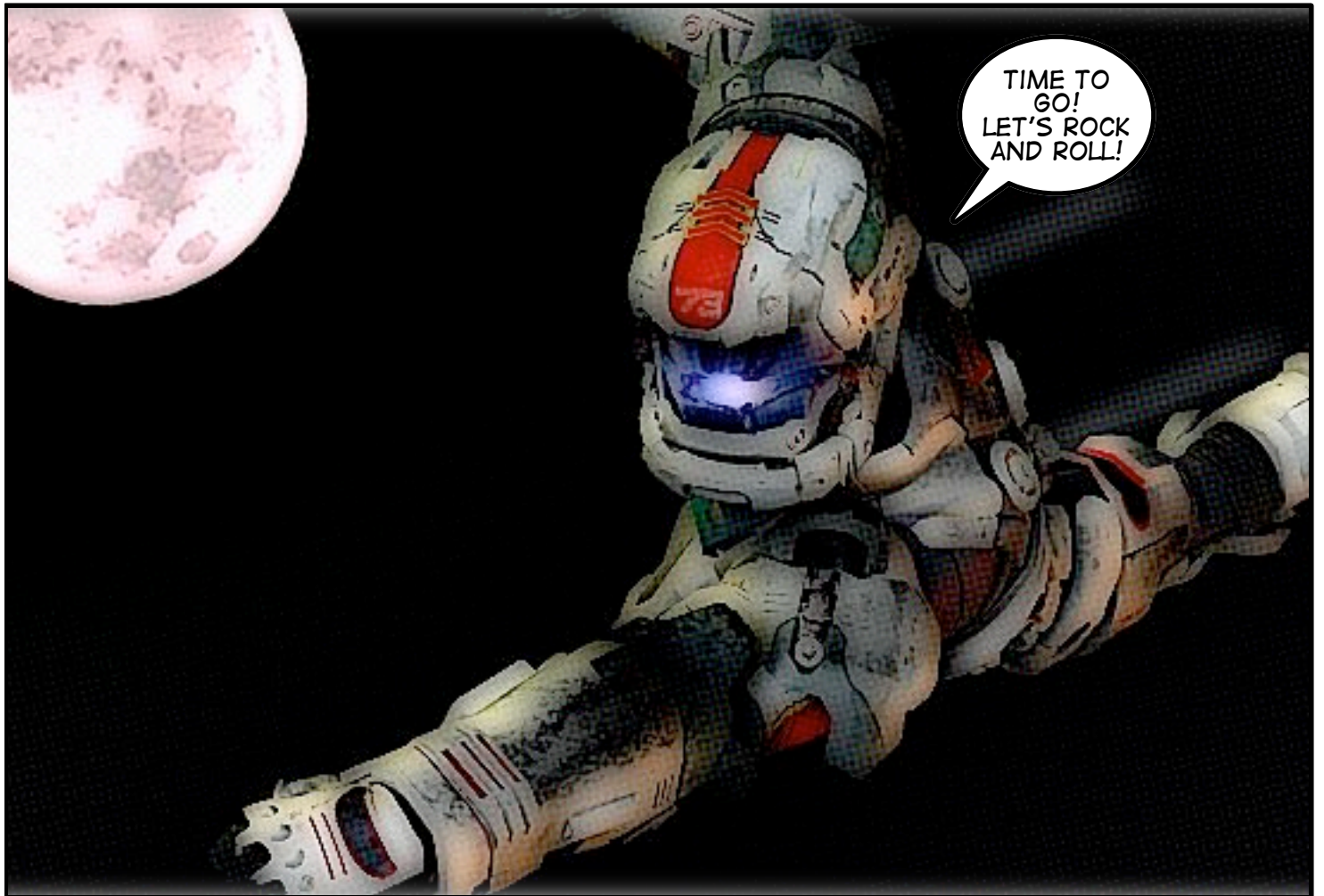
THERE  
IS  
SOMETHING  
FLASHING  
OVER  
THERE

UHMM..  
MAYBE A  
SUPERNOVA?  
IF IT IS SO, THEN  
WE ARE LUCKY,  
THEY ARE REALLY  
RARE  
EVENTS...



CHARLIE  
ZERO  
READY

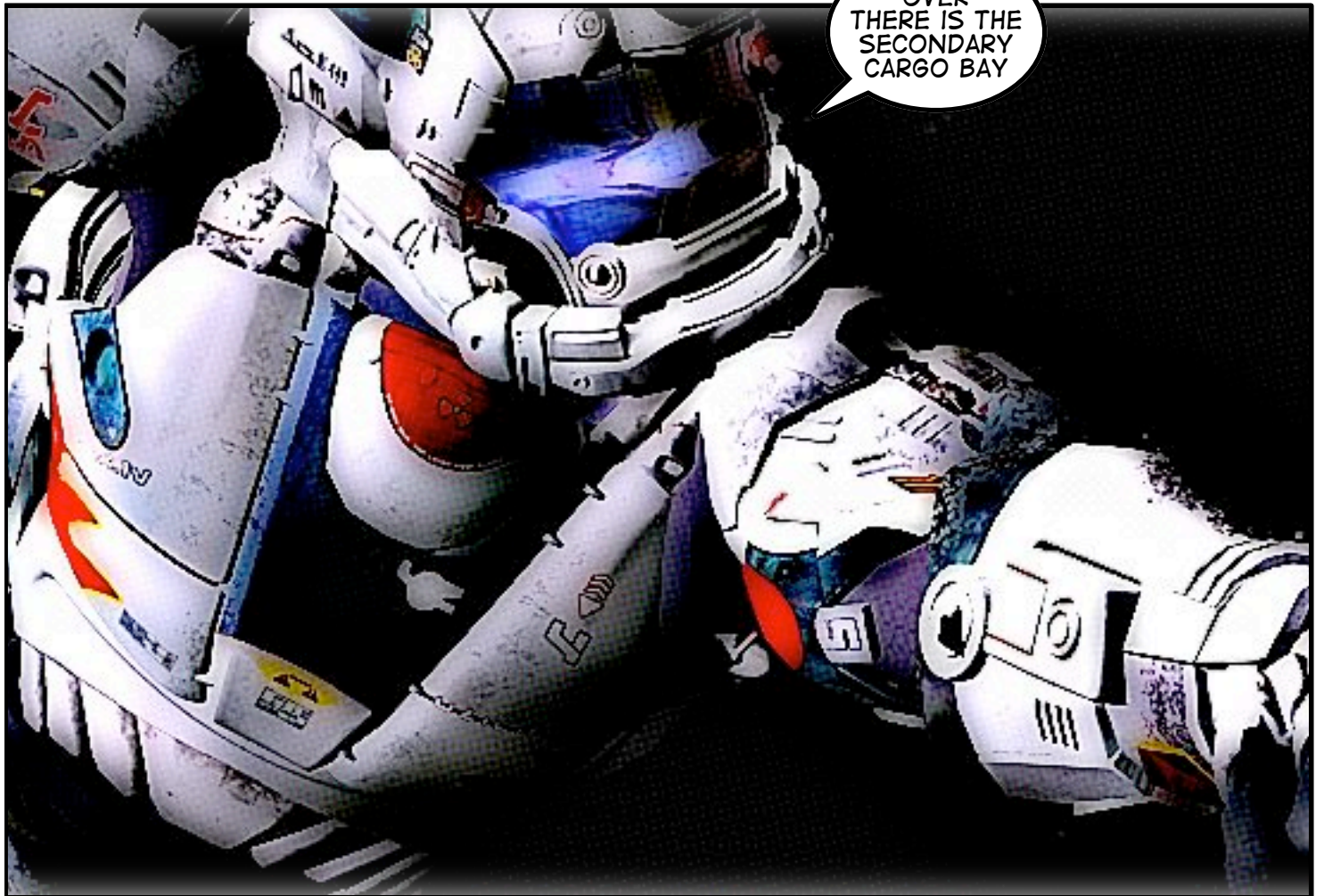
CHARLIE  
ONE  
READY  
SIR



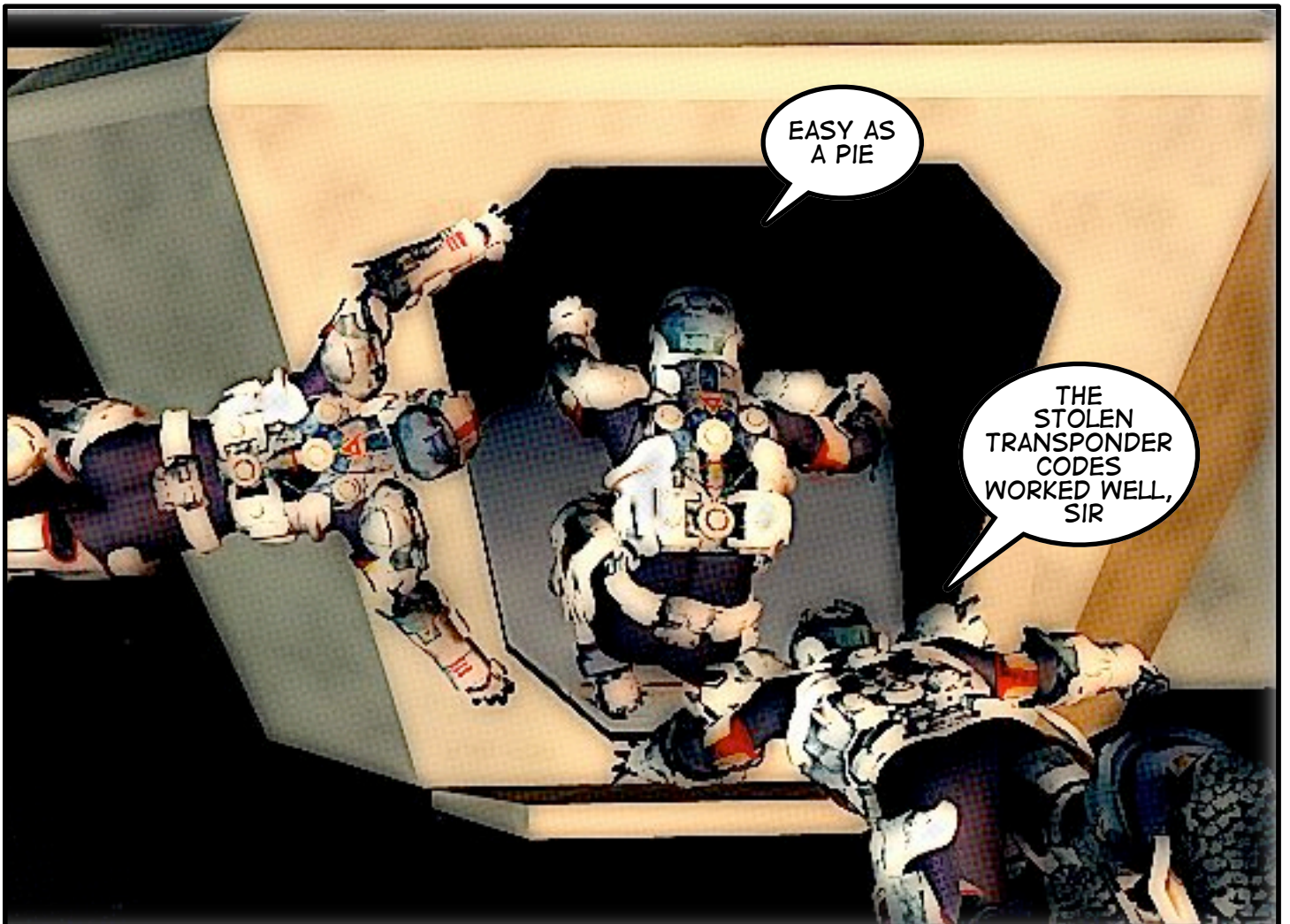
TIME TO  
GO!  
LET'S ROCK  
AND ROLL!

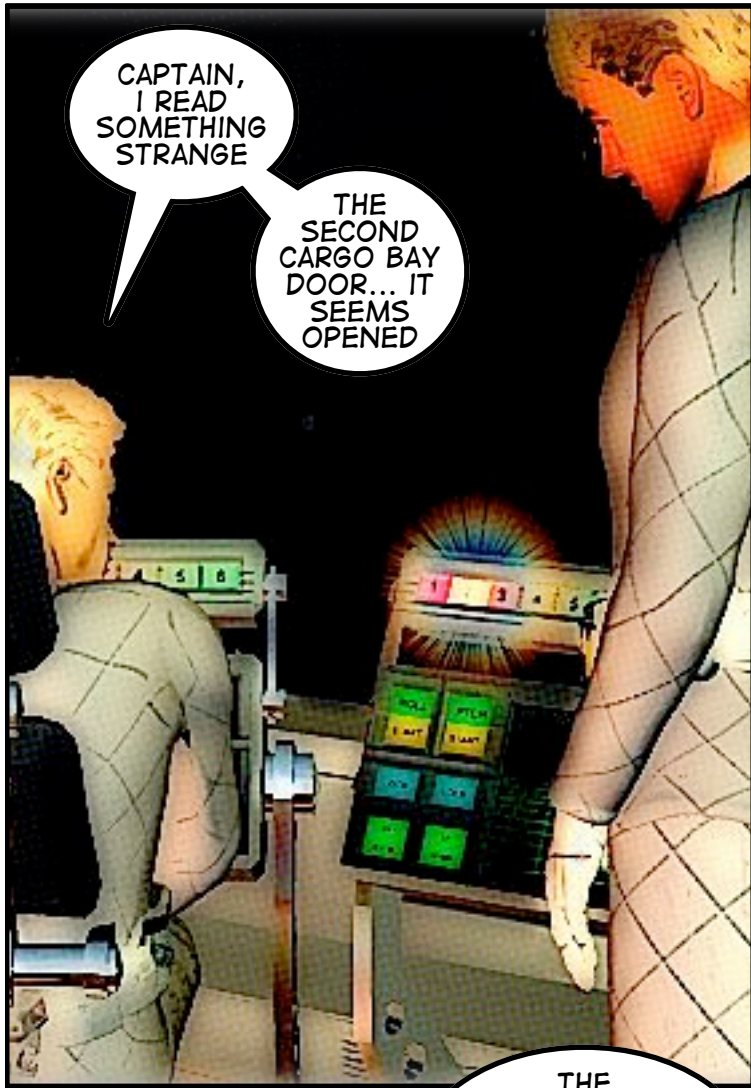


PSCHHHH



OVER THERE IS THE SECONDARY CARGO BAY





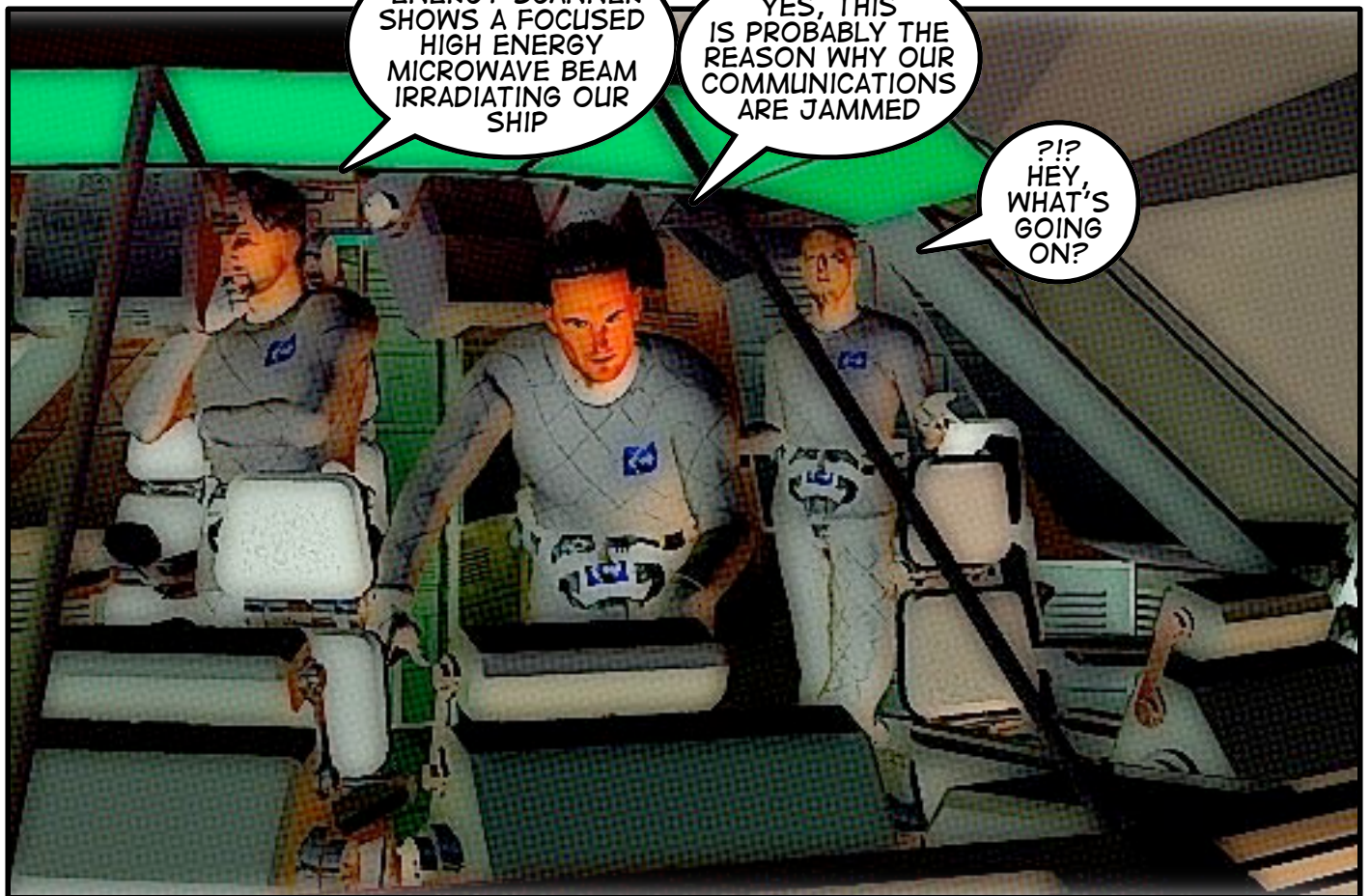
CAPTAIN,  
I READ  
SOMETHING  
STRANGE

THE  
SECOND  
CARGO BAY  
DOOR... IT  
SEEMS  
OPENED



...WHAT?  
IS THIS A  
SENSOR  
ANOMALY?

I DON'T  
THINK SO.  
MOREOVER, ALL  
THE AUDIO/VIDEO  
CHANNELS SEEMS  
JAMMED...



THE  
ENERGY SCANNER  
SHOWS A FOCUSED  
HIGH ENERGY  
MICROWAVE BEAM  
IRRADIATING OUR  
SHIP

YES, THIS  
IS PROBABLY THE  
REASON WHY OUR  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ARE JAMMED

?!?  
HEY,  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

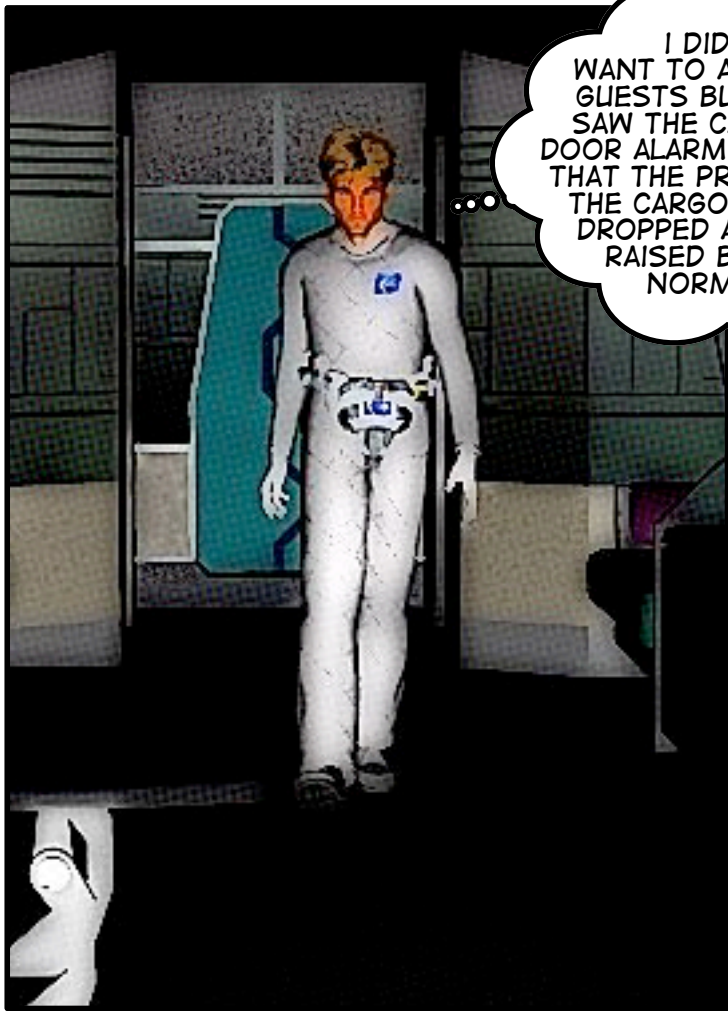


THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY HERE. YOU GUYS KEEP CHECKING THE SENSORS, I'LL GO DOWN TO THE CARGO BAY TO CHECK THAT DOOR

UHM...



I HOPE IT'S NOT WHAT I AM THINKING...



I DIDN'T WANT TO ALARM OUR GUESTS BUT WHEN I SAW THE CARGO BAY DOOR ALARM I ALSO SAW THAT THE PRESSURE OF THE CARGO CHAMBER DROPPED AND THEN RAISED BACK TO NORMAL...



...BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



!?!

PSCHHHH



!

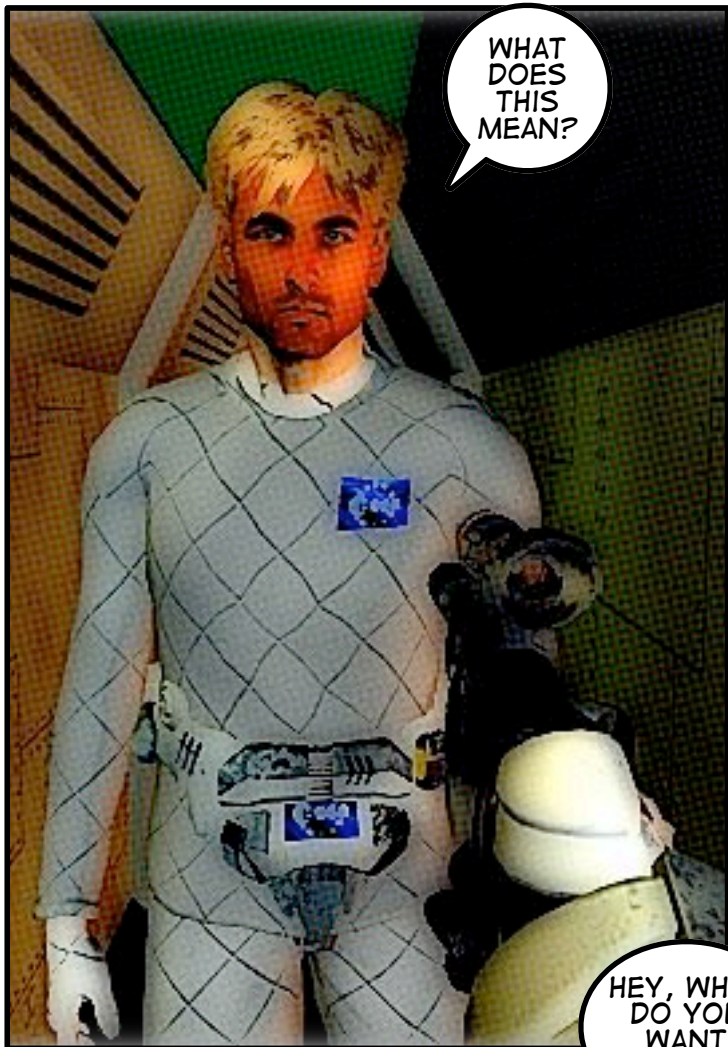
DON'T MOVE



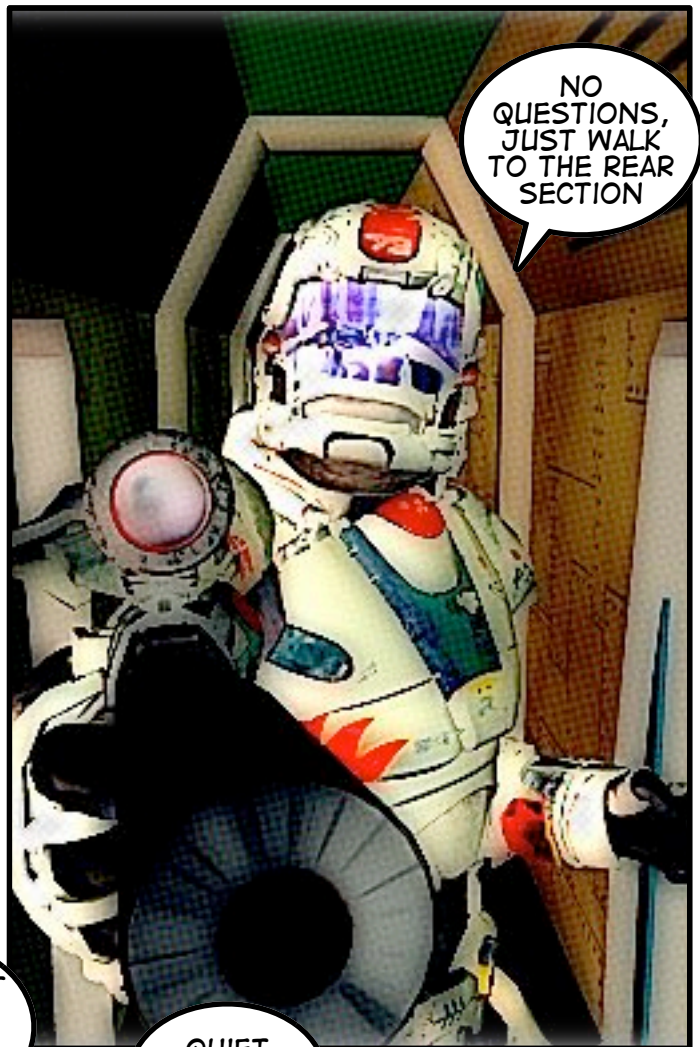
SIR,  
WE FOUND  
THREE OF THEM,  
TWO ARE STILL  
MISSING

I GOT ONE OF  
THE TWO. BRING  
THE PRISONERS  
TO THE REAR  
SECTION OF THE  
LOWER DECK

AYE SIR



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



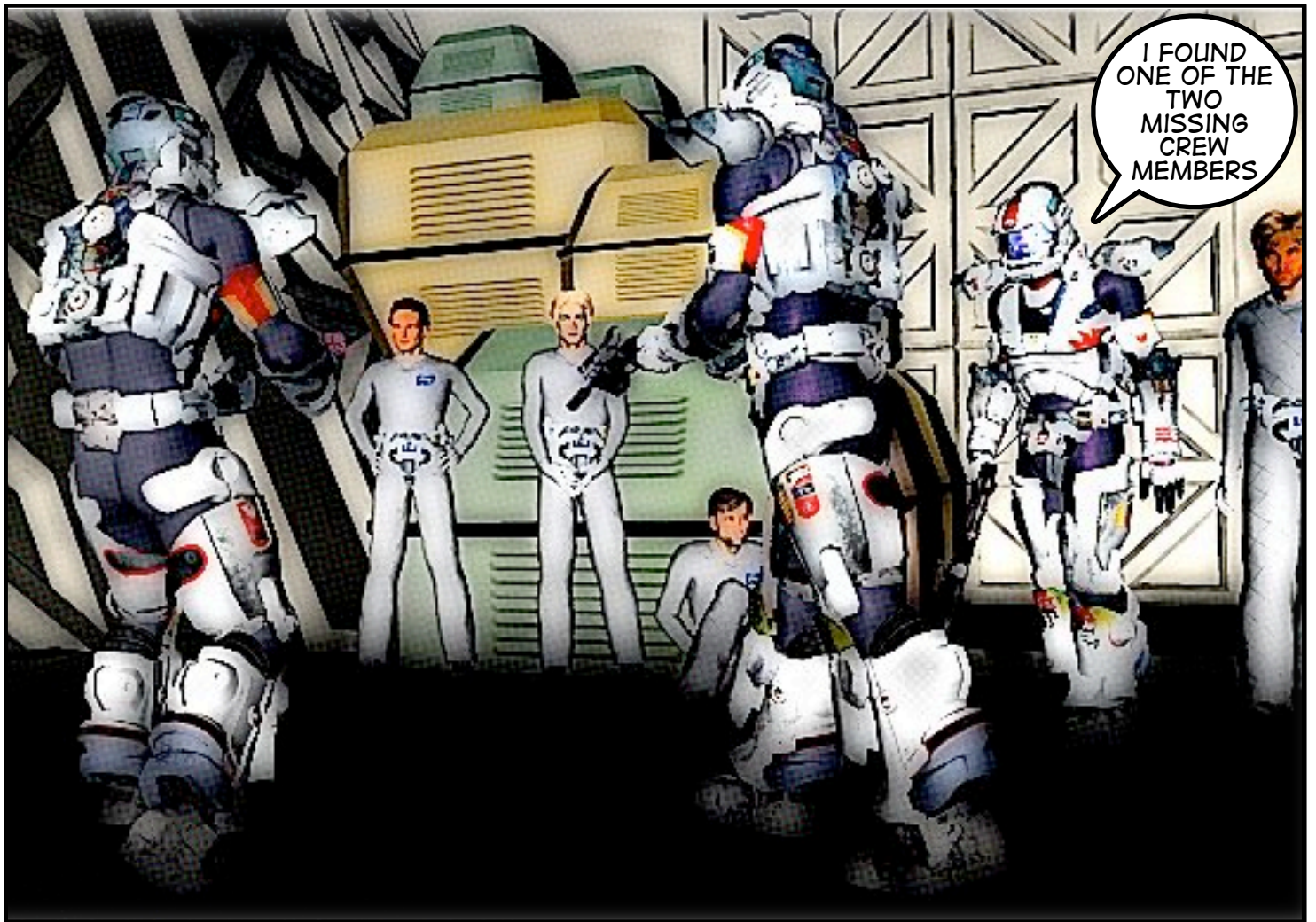
NO QUESTIONS, JUST WALK TO THE REAR SECTION

HEY, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

QUIET CAPRONI, QUIET...

MEANWHILE...





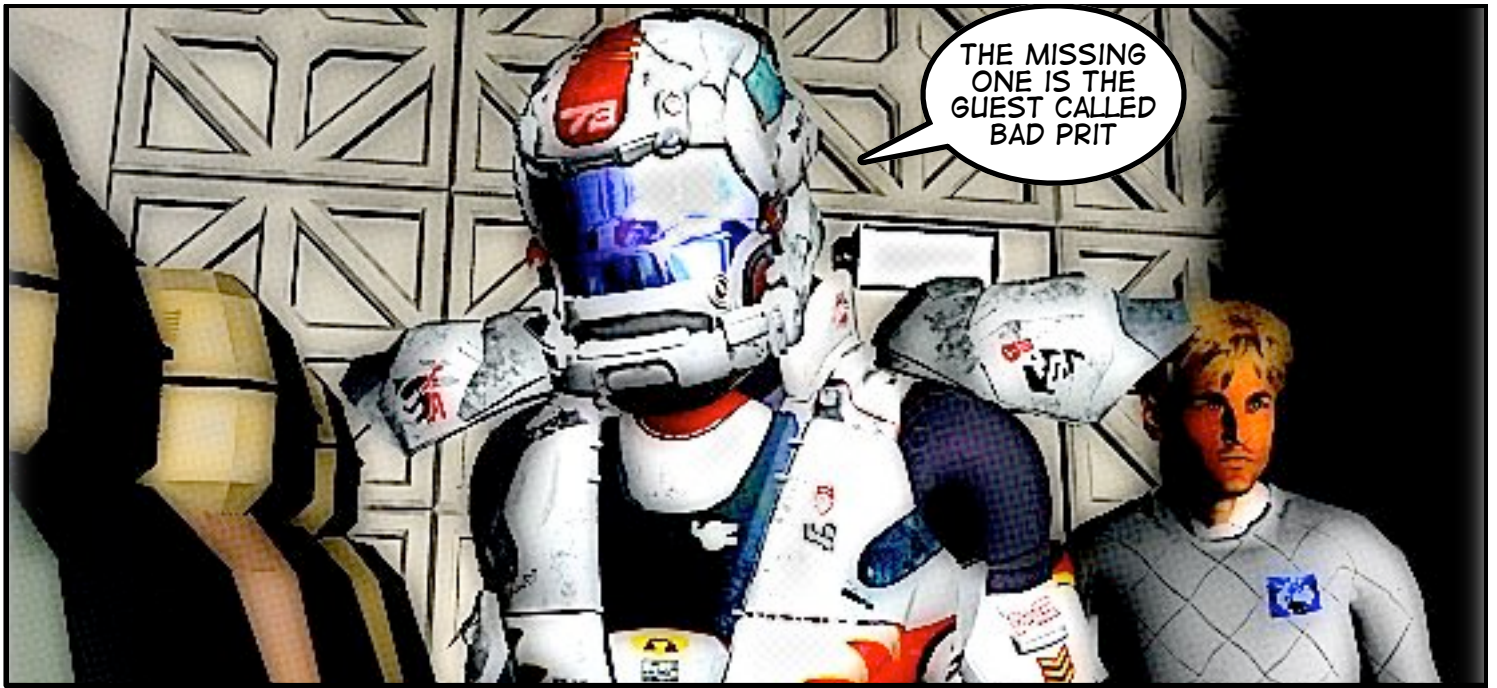
I FOUND ONE OF THE TWO MISSING CREW MEMBERS



ONE IS STILL MISSING, WHERE DID HE HIDE?

WE HAVE NO IDEA, WE SPLIT AS WE NOTICED THE CARGO DOOR ALARM

WE HAVE THE TWO CREW MEMBERS, SAUNIER É CAPRONI HERE



THE MISSING ONE IS THE GUEST CALLED BAD PRIT



I'LL GO AND LOOK AFTER HIM

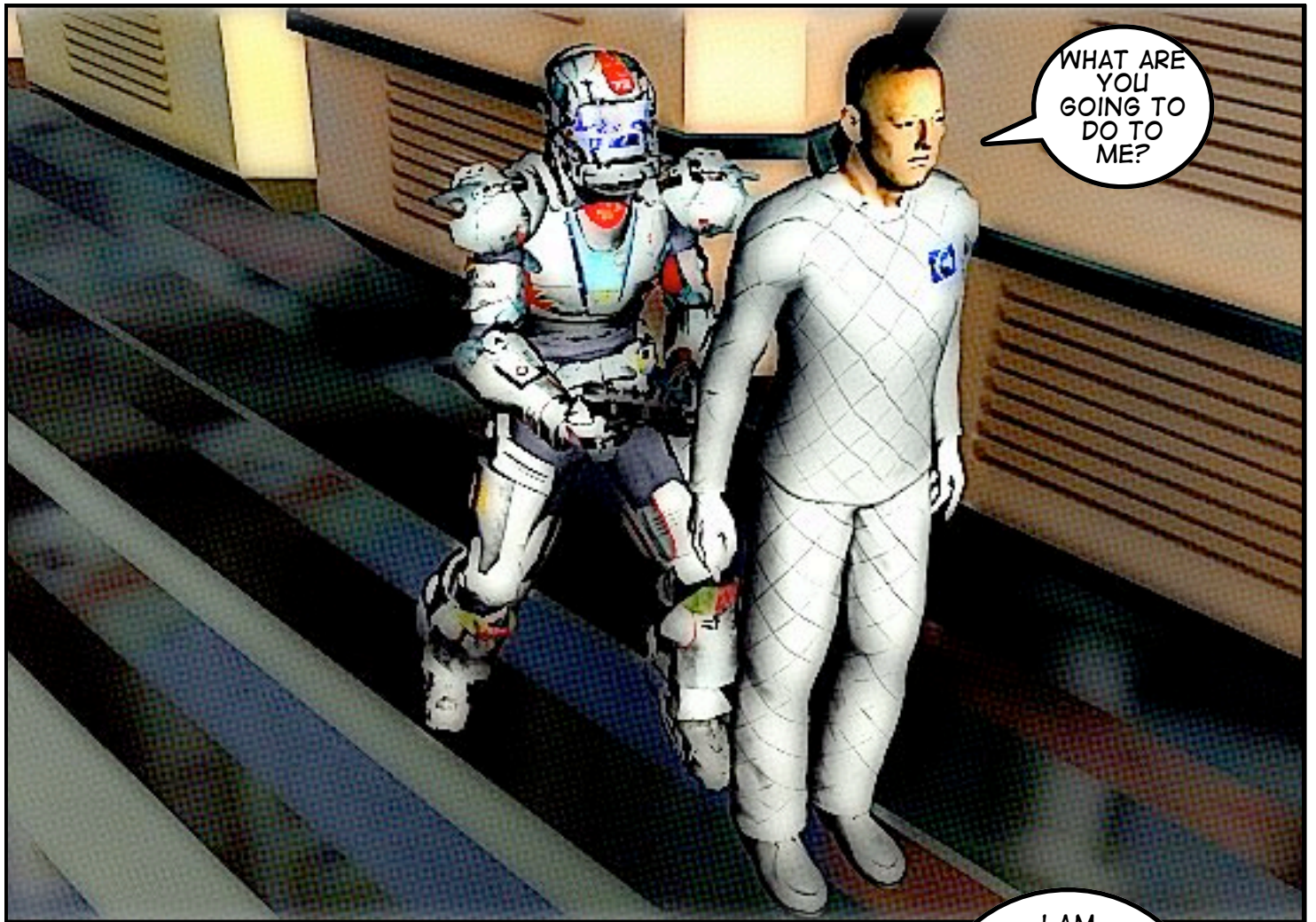
YOU STAY HERE WITH THE PRISONERS

30 MINUTES LATER...

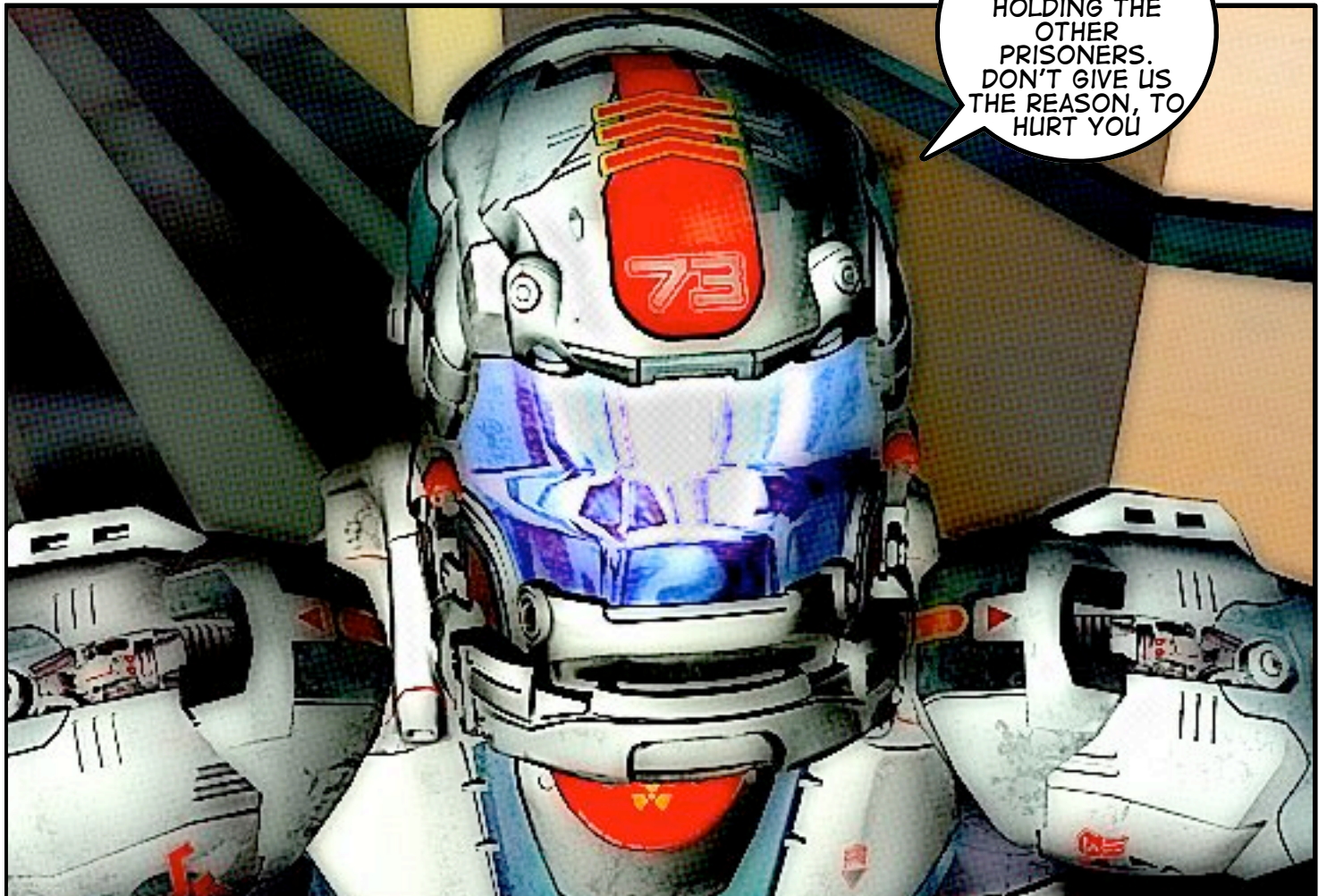


WE ARE IN A TIGHT SCHEDULE, I HAVE TO FIND HIM QUICKLY

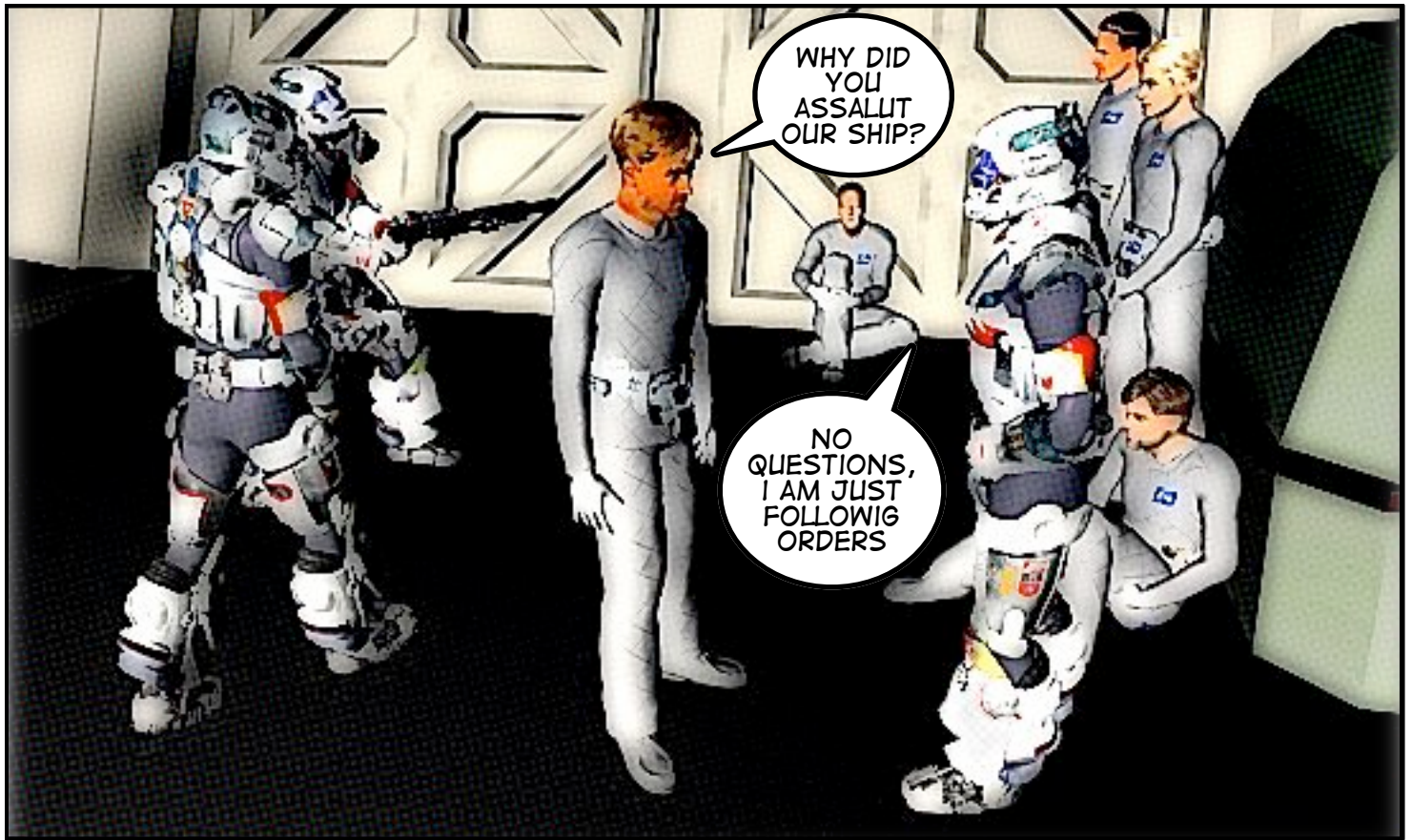




WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

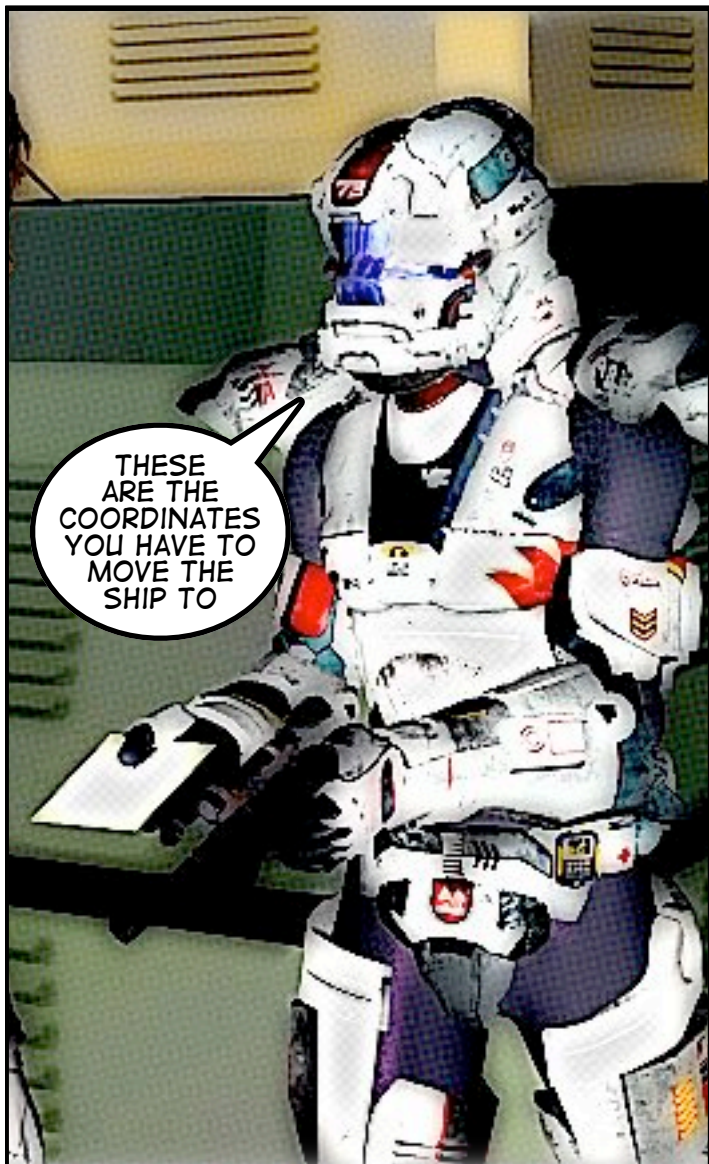


I AM BRINGING YOU WHERE WE ARE HOLDING THE OTHER PRISONERS. DON'T GIVE US THE REASON, TO HURT YOU



WHY DID YOU ASSALIT OUR SHIP?

NO QUESTIONS, I AM JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS

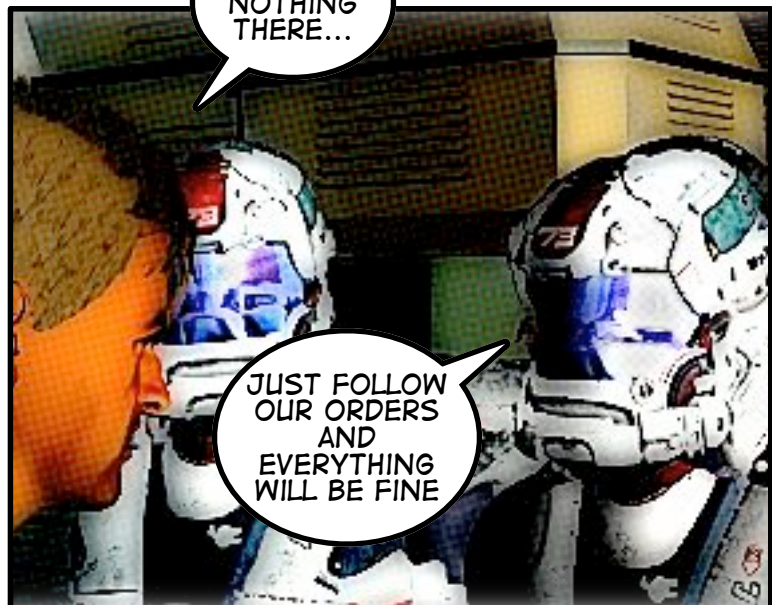


THESE ARE THE COORDINATES YOU HAVE TO MOVE THE SHIP TO



BUT... THIS WILL TAKE US TO LAND THE OTHER PART OF THE MOON...

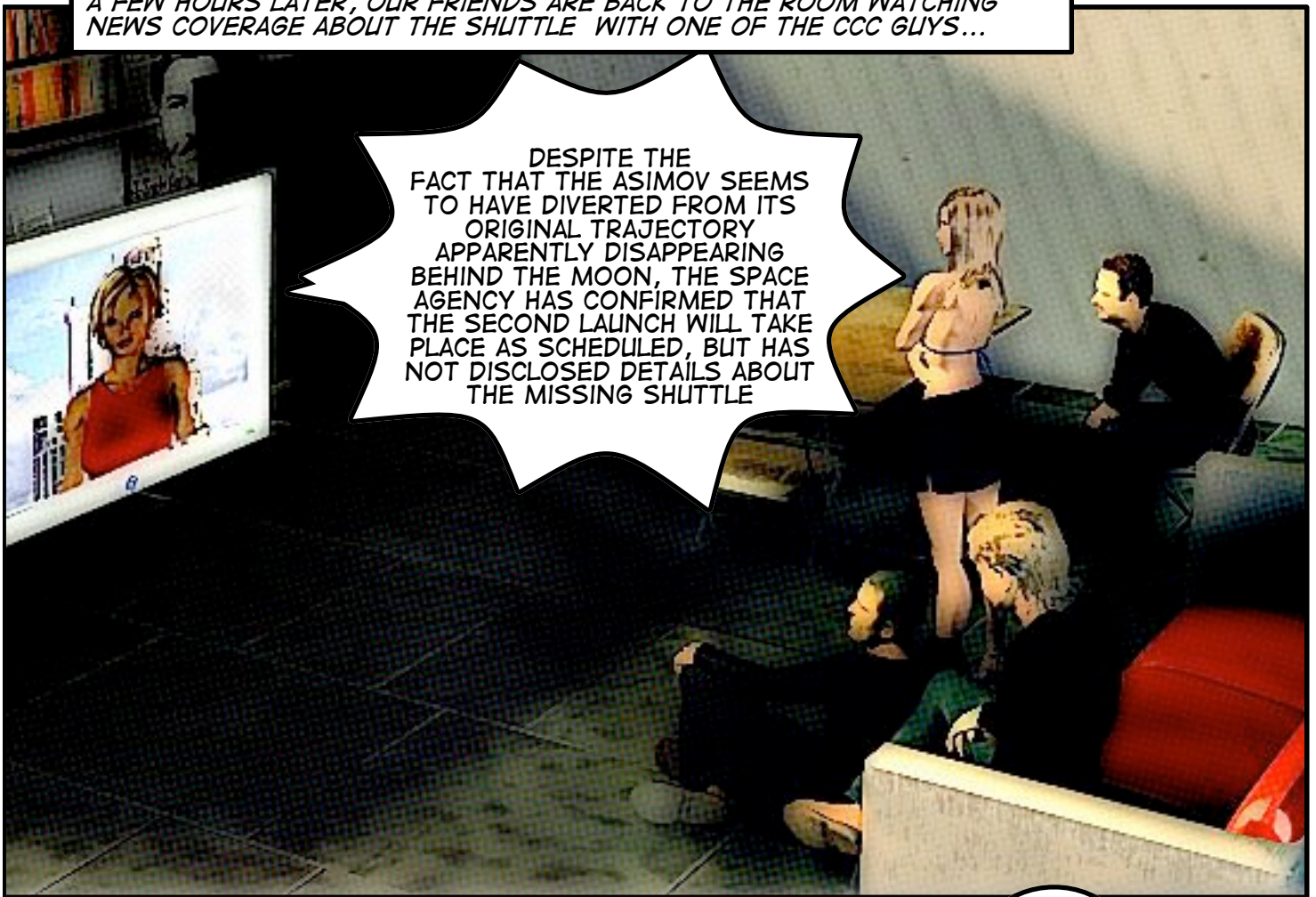
THERE IS NOTHING THERE...



JUST FOLLOW OUR ORDERS AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE

A FEW HOURS LATER, OUR FRIENDS ARE BACK TO THE ROOM WATCHING NEWS COVERAGE ABOUT THE SHUTTLE WITH ONE OF THE CCC GLYS...

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ASIMOV SEEMS TO HAVE DIVERTED FROM ITS ORIGINAL TRAJECTORY APPARENTLY DISAPPEARING BEHIND THE MOON, THE SPACE AGENCY HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE SECOND LAUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED, BUT HAS NOT DISCLOSED DETAILS ABOUT THE MISSING SHUTTLE

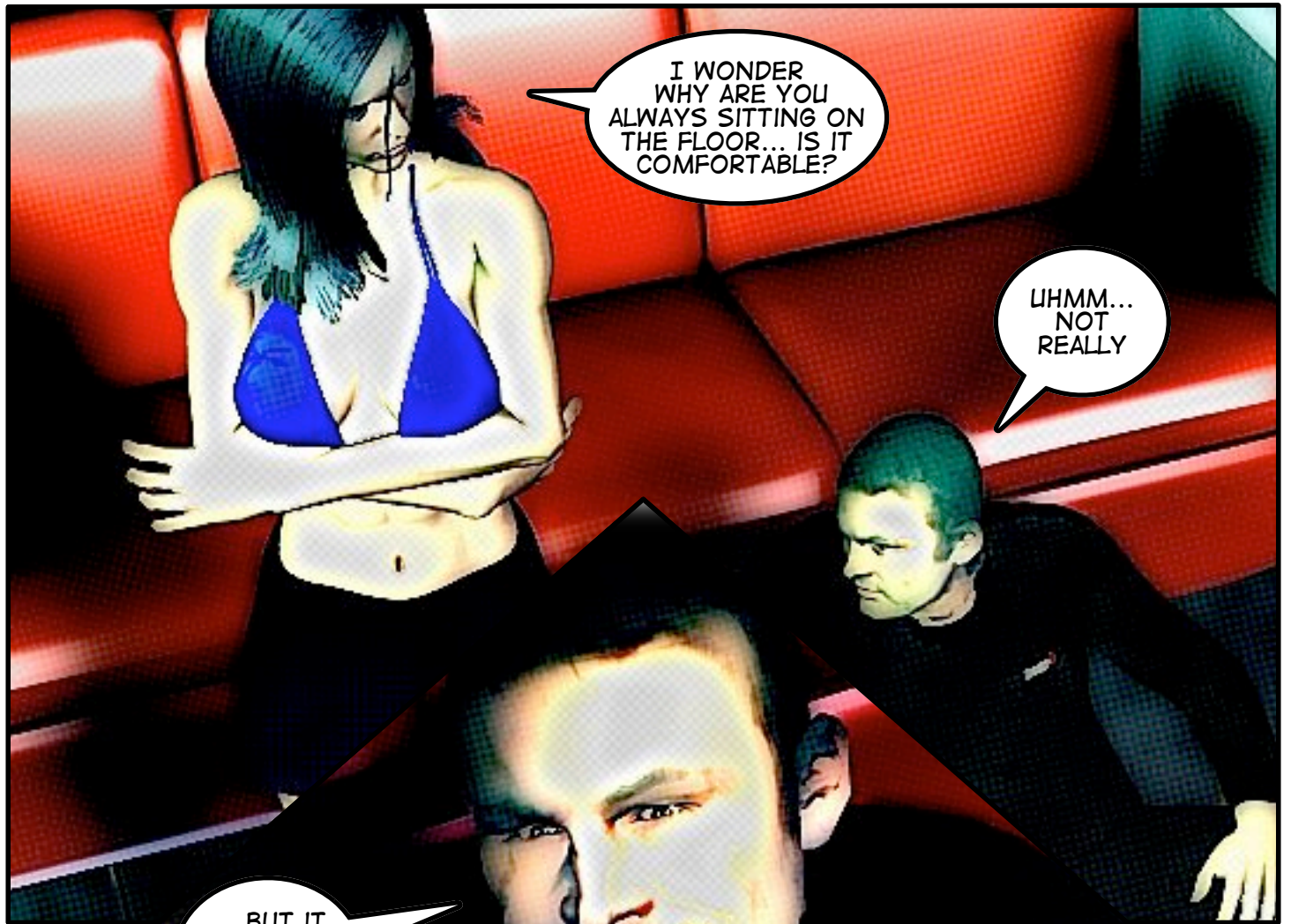


GUYS, I AM HONESTLY WORRIED ABOUT PRIT

UHM, I THINK THAT IF THE SITUATION WAS DANGEROUS THE SPACE AGENCY WOULD HAVE REVEALED MORE DETAILS

I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT, GAIL'S





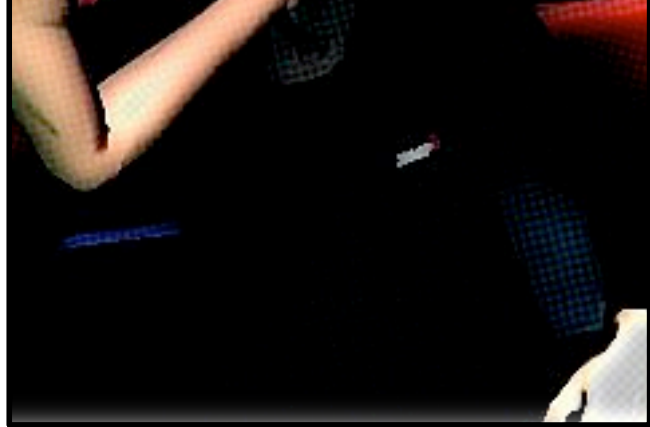
I WONDER WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SITTING ON THE FLOOR... IS IT COMFORTABLE?

UHMM... NOT REALLY



... BUT IT BROADENS YOUR VIEWS!

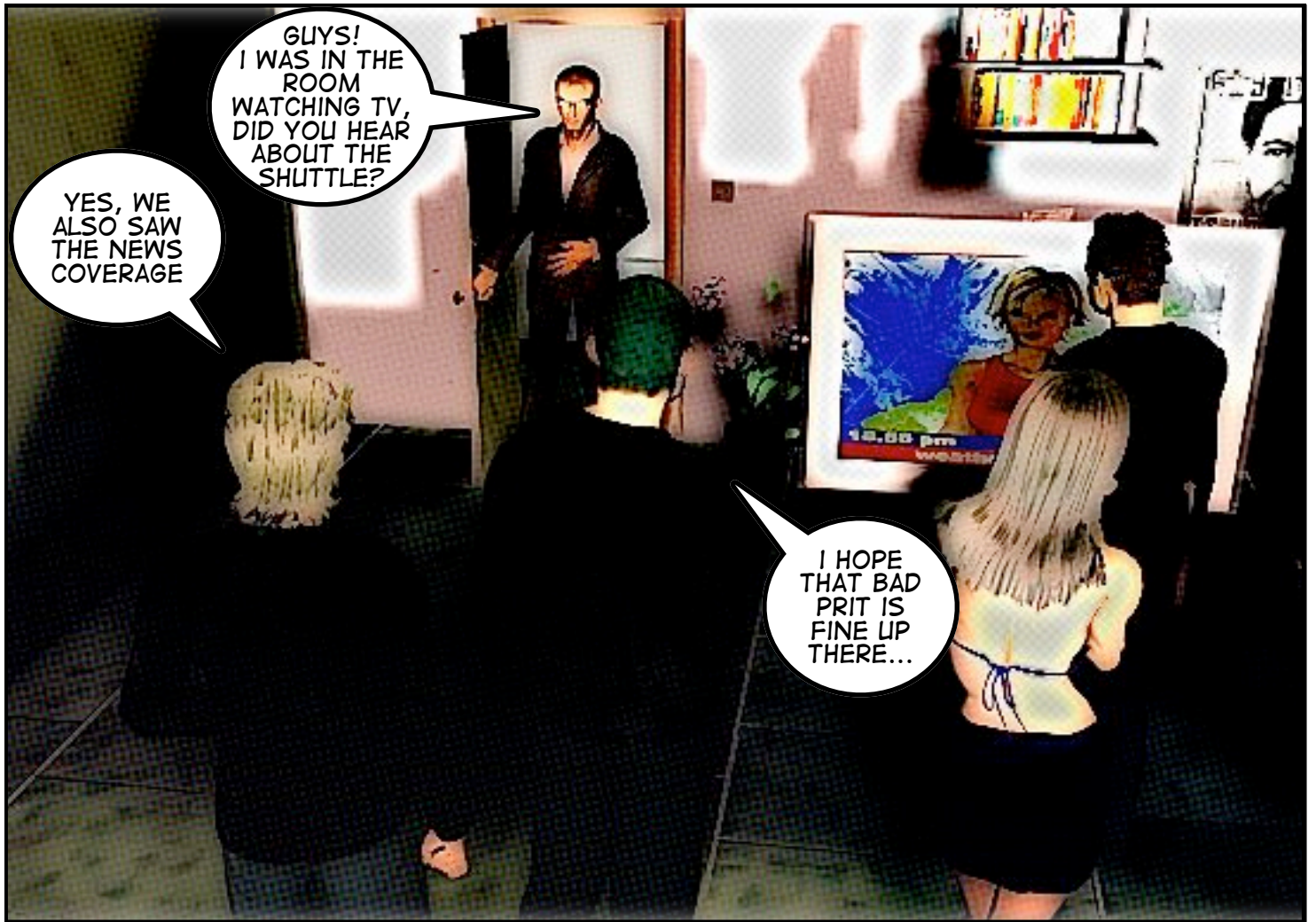
... ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATED TO YOUR NICE UNDERWEAR



SLAP!



WHILE SYS IS GETTING LOST AFTER MY UNDERWEAR, WHY DON'T WE TRY TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRIT'S SHUTTLE?



GUYS!  
I WAS IN THE  
ROOM  
WATCHING TV,  
DID YOU HEAR  
ABOUT THE  
SHUTTLE?

YES, WE  
ALSO SAW  
THE NEWS  
COVERAGE

I HOPE  
THAT BAD  
PRIT IS  
FINE UP  
THERE...



BRRRRT ... BRRRRT!



YES?  
UH? WHAT  
MESSAGES?  
IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE!

UHMM... YES I  
AM COMING TO  
SEE



GUYS,  
I HAVE TO LEAVE  
YOU, SOME  
STRANGE  
MESSAGES  
APPEARED ON THE  
BLINKENLIGHTS  
FACADE

UHMM...  
DON'T ELL  
ME YOU  
GOT  
"DEFACED"

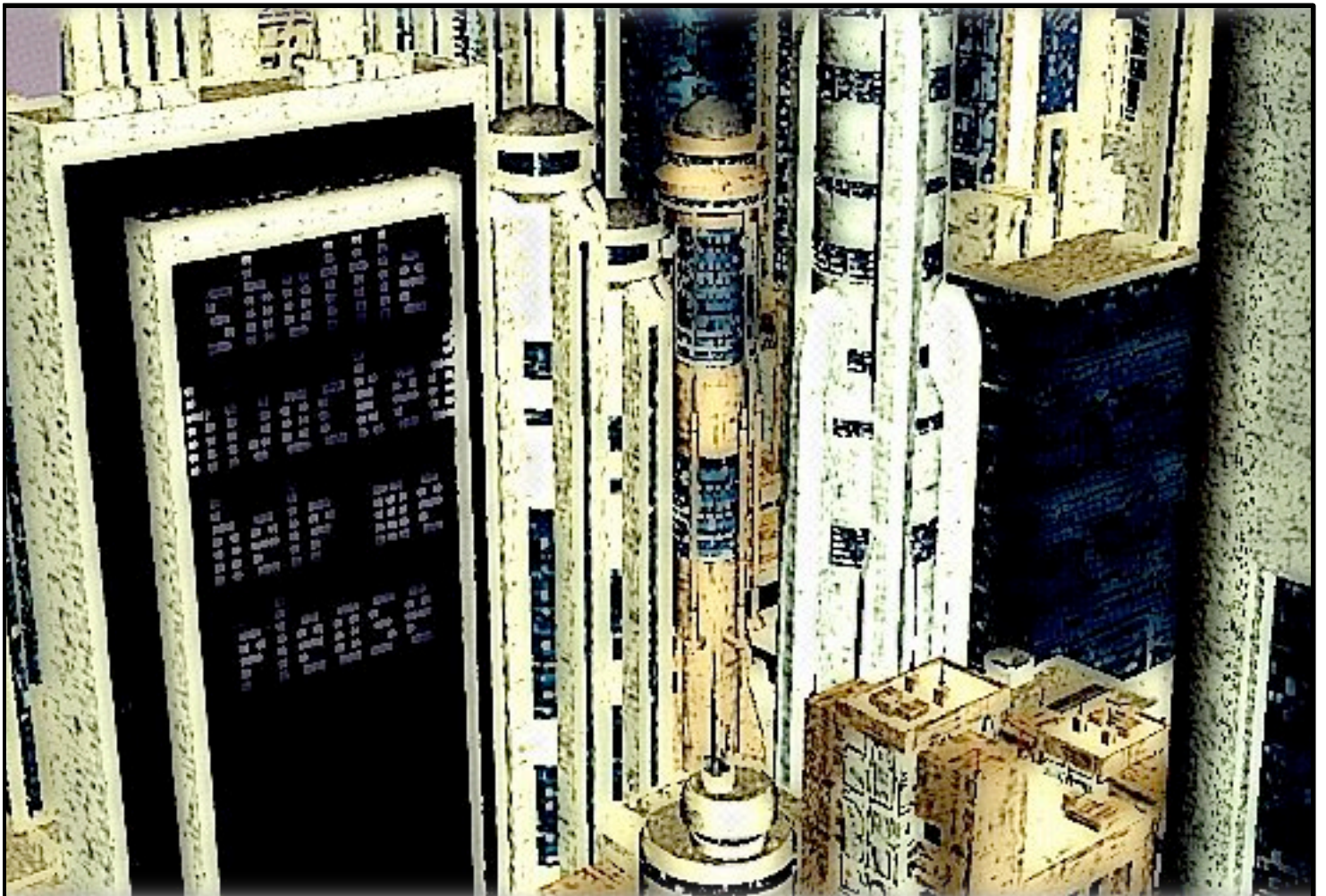
DEFACED EH?  
HAHAHA, WE  
ARE COMING  
WITH YOU!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN FRONT OF THE BLINKENLIGHTS BUILDING...

STRANGE INDEED

IT SHOWS: "SHUTTLE HIJACKED HELP ME PLEASE"

PROBABLY SOMEBODY HACKED THE LIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM AND POSTED THAT MESSAGE TO MAKE FUN OF YOU AFTER HEARING THE NEWS ON THE TV...





BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! OUR INSTALLATION IS NOT ON THE INTERNET, IT CAN ONLY BE REACHED THROUGH A TELEPHONE GATEWAY...

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH COMPUTERS

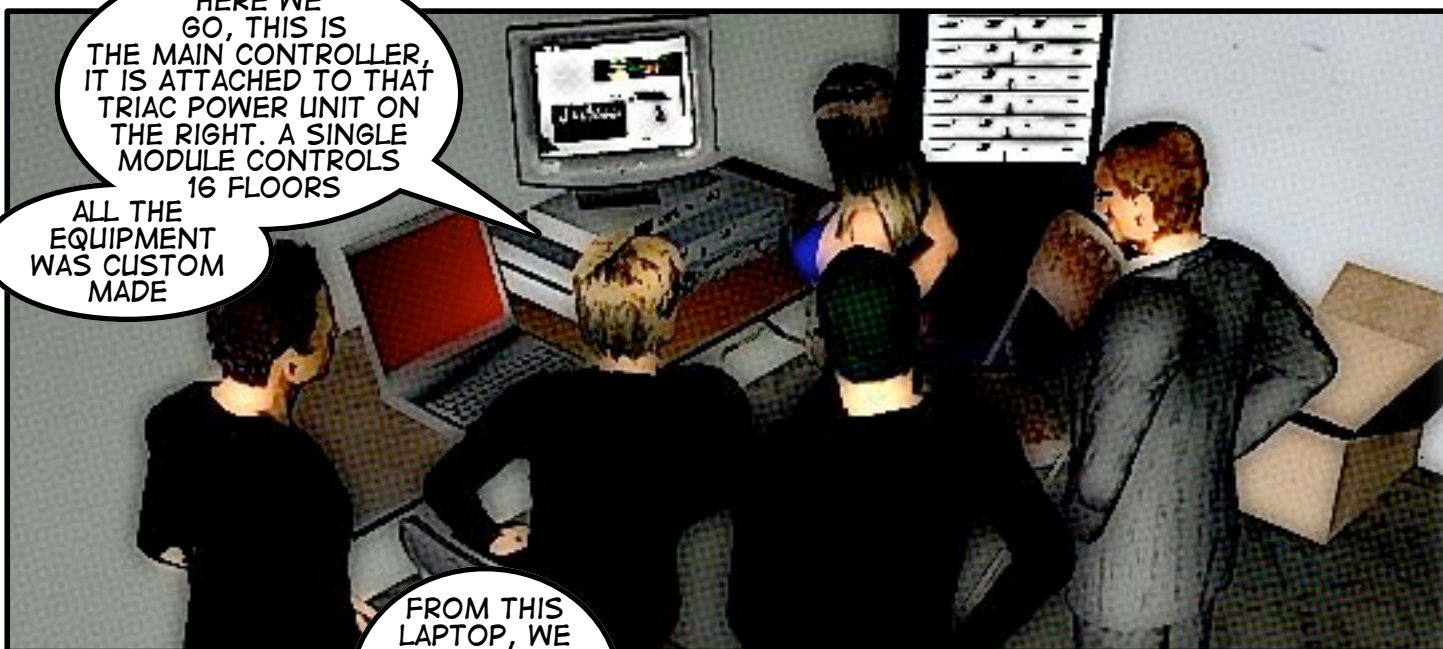


DIVINESHADOW IS RIGHT, BETTER TO GO THERE AND CHECK THE EQUIPMENT

UHM... I GUESS YOU ARE RIGHT, LET'S GO INTO THE BUILDING



THE EQUIPMENT IS IN THE CELLAR, FOLLOW ME PLEASE



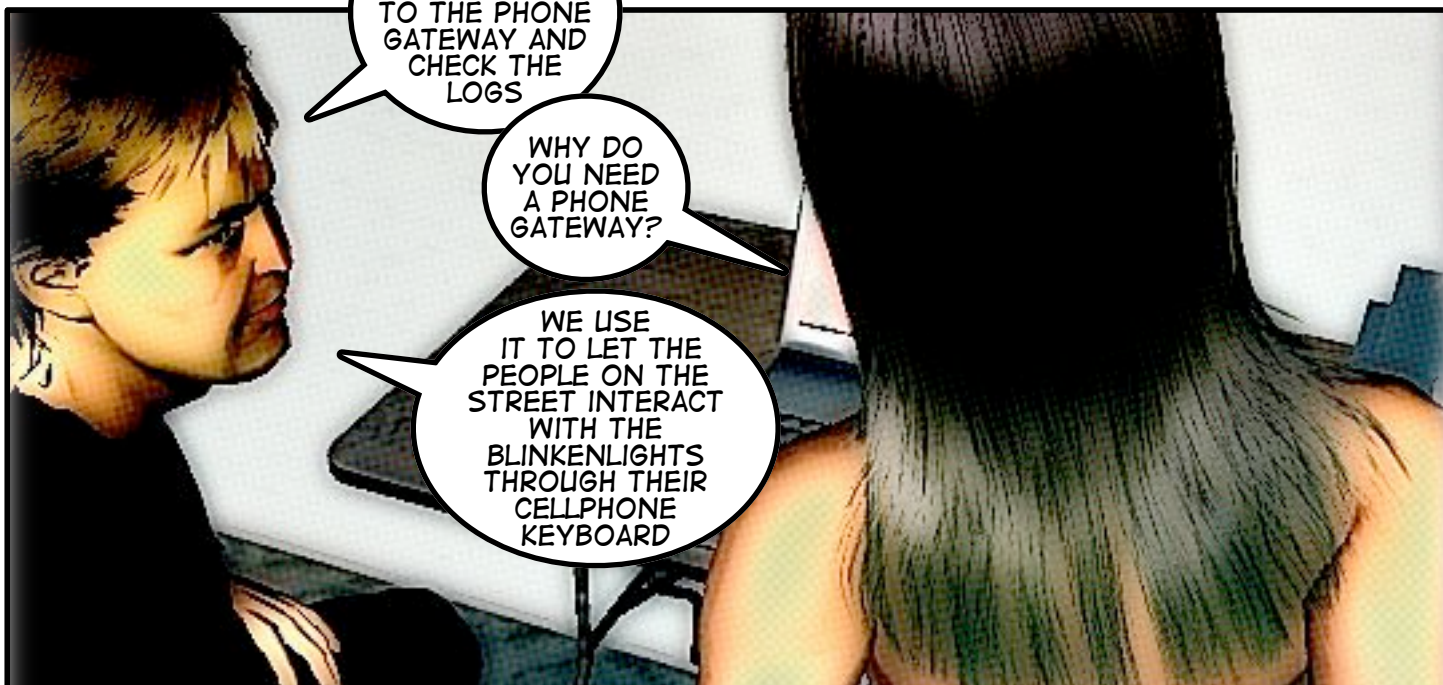
HERE WE GO, THIS IS THE MAIN CONTROLLER, IT IS ATTACHED TO THAT TRIAC POWER UNIT ON THE RIGHT. A SINGLE MODULE CONTROLS 16 FLOORS

ALL THE EQUIPMENT WAS CUSTOM MADE

FROM THIS LAPTOP, WE CAN TELNET TO THE PHONE GATEWAY AND CHECK THE LOGS

WHY DO YOU NEED A PHONE GATEWAY?

WE USE IT TO LET THE PEOPLE ON THE STREET INTERACT WITH THE BLINKENLIGHTS THROUGH THEIR CELLPHONE KEYBOARD





DO YOU MIND IF I SIT AT THE KEYBOARD? I AM THE FORENSIC GODDESS ...

EH? SURE, EVERYTHING FOR A TRUE GODDESS LIKE YOU! MAYBE LATER ON WE COULD GO TOGETHER TO HAVE SOME BRATWURST WITH SAUERKRAUT?

BRATWURST WITH SAUERKRAUT? I'D LOVE IT, SURE!



BRATWURST WITH SAUERKRAUT? IS THAT IT? OH MY GOD...





GRRR...

BRATWURST AND SAUERKRAUT, I AM A GENIUS!

WELL, GUYS, IT'S INTERESTING. SOMEBODY REPROGRAMMED THE LIGHTS CONNECTING TO THIS GATEWAY FROM ANOTHER PHONE GATEWAY...

SOON...



THE INTERSTING PART IS THAT THE ORIGINATING PHONE GATEWAY APPEARS TO BE A X.25 NODE



X.25?  
WHAT  
JOKE IS  
THIS?

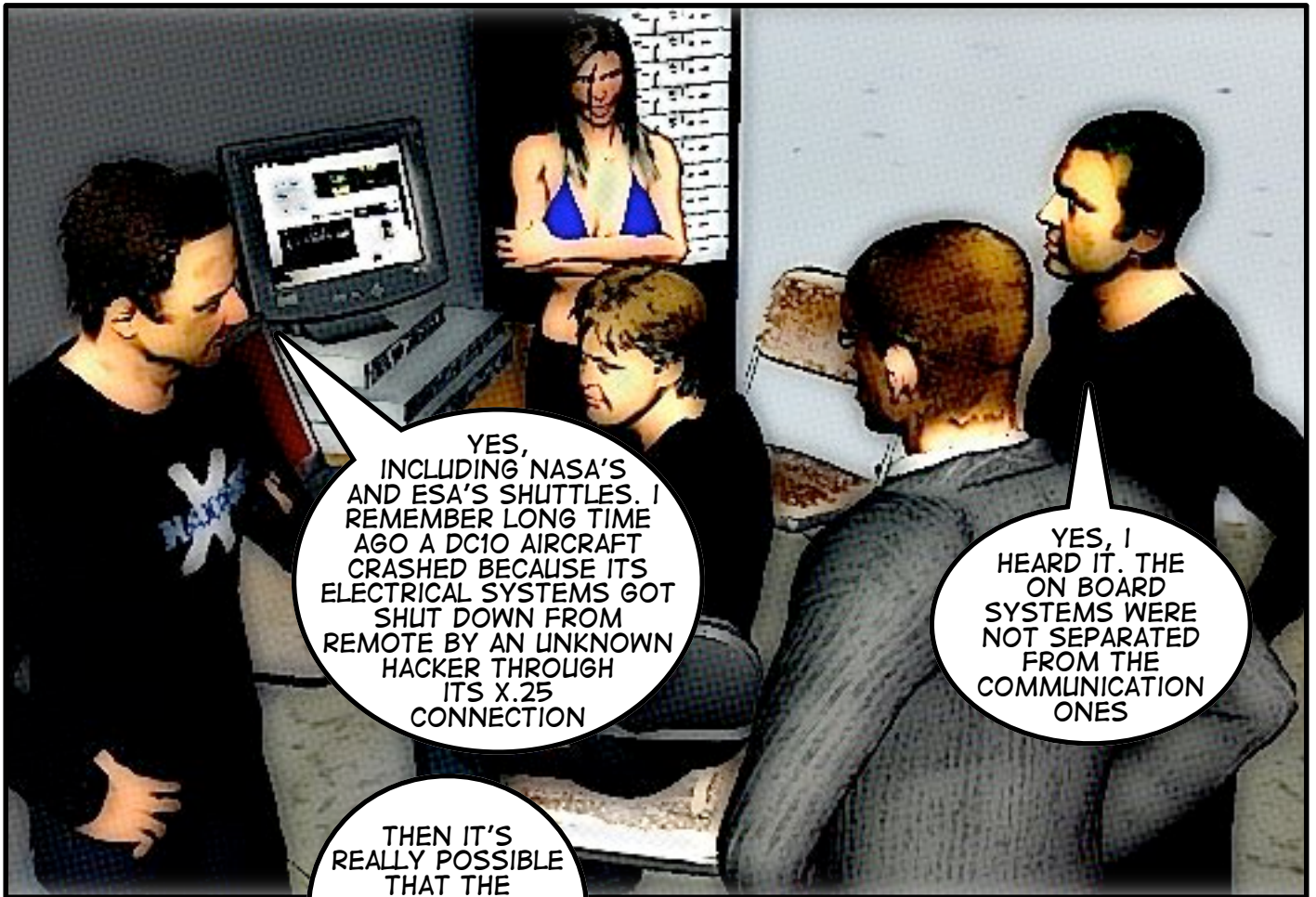
IT'S NOT  
A JOKE,  
IT'S BAD  
PRIT

UH?



YOU HAVE  
TO KNOW THAT THE  
X.25 NETWORK IS A  
RATHER OLD  
NETWORK BUT STILL  
USED BY BANKS,  
GOVERNMENT AND  
AEROSPACE  
INDUSTRY...

AEROSPACE  
INDUSTRY?



YES, INCLUDING NASA'S AND ESA'S SHUTTLES. I REMEMBER LONG TIME AGO A DC10 AIRCRAFT CRASHED BECAUSE ITS ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS GOT SHUT DOWN FROM REMOTE BY AN UNKNOWN HACKER THROUGH ITS X.25 CONNECTION

YES, I HEARD IT. THE ON BOARD SYSTEMS WERE NOT SEPARATED FROM THE COMMUNICATION ONES

THEN IT'S REALLY POSSIBLE THAT THE COMMUNICATION WAS SENT BY BAD PRIT FROM THE SHUTTLE



HE WANTS US TO RESCUE HIM, BUT HOW CAN WE DO IT?

SOME PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS ?

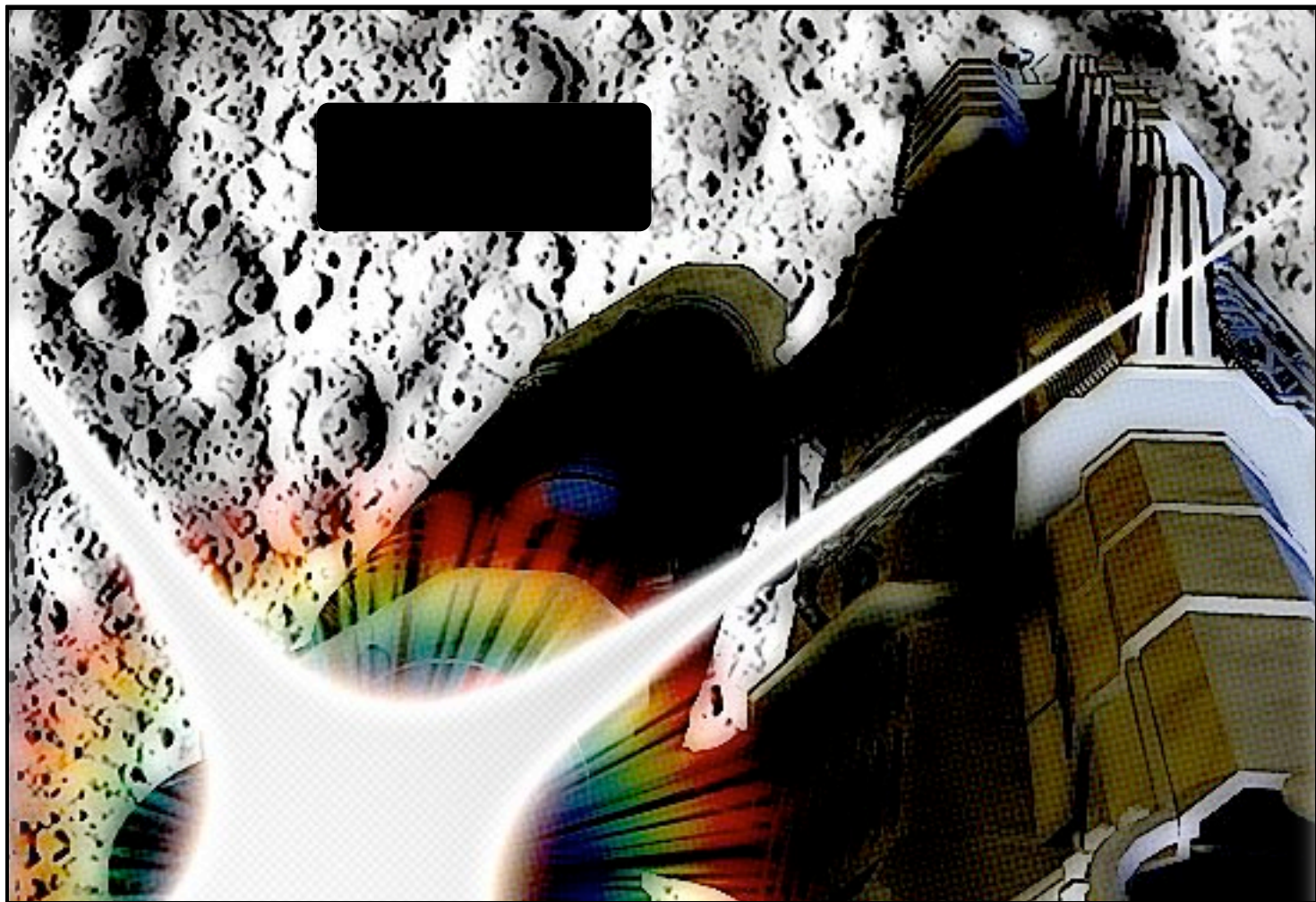


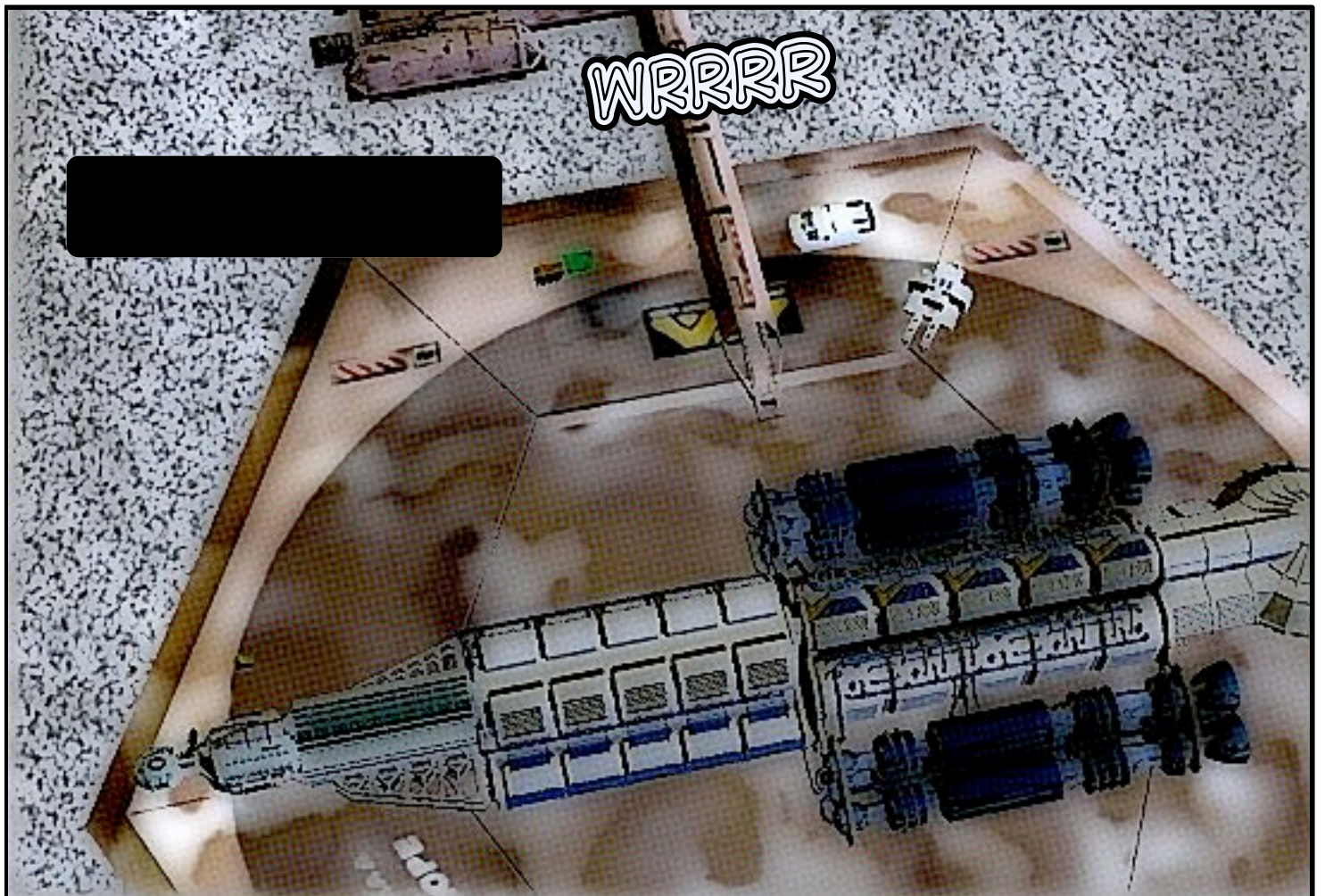
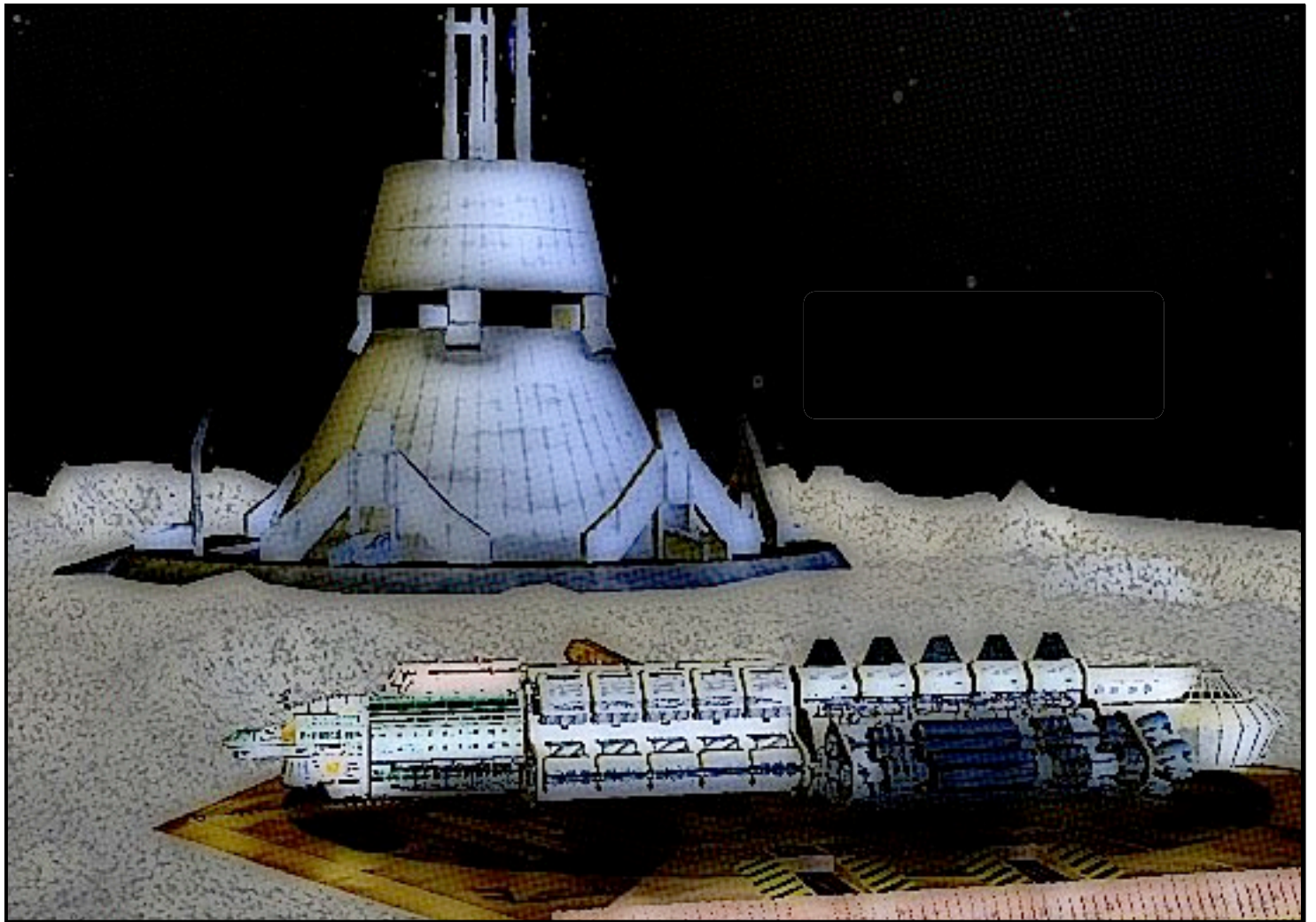
I HAVE AN IDEA... THE NEXT SHUTTLE LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED 36 HOURS FROM NOW RIGHT?

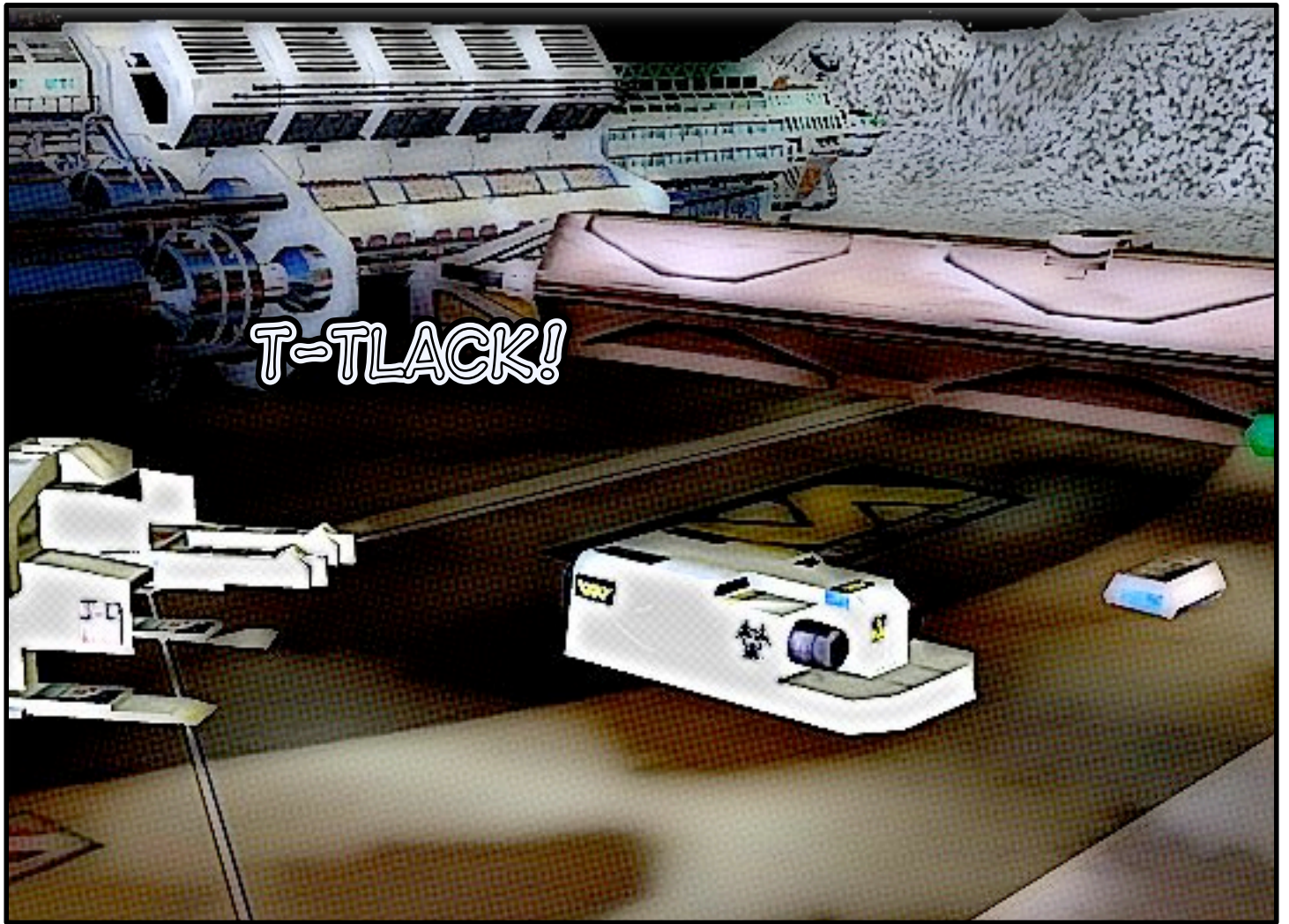


OH, NO... PLEASE, NO MORE TROUBLES...

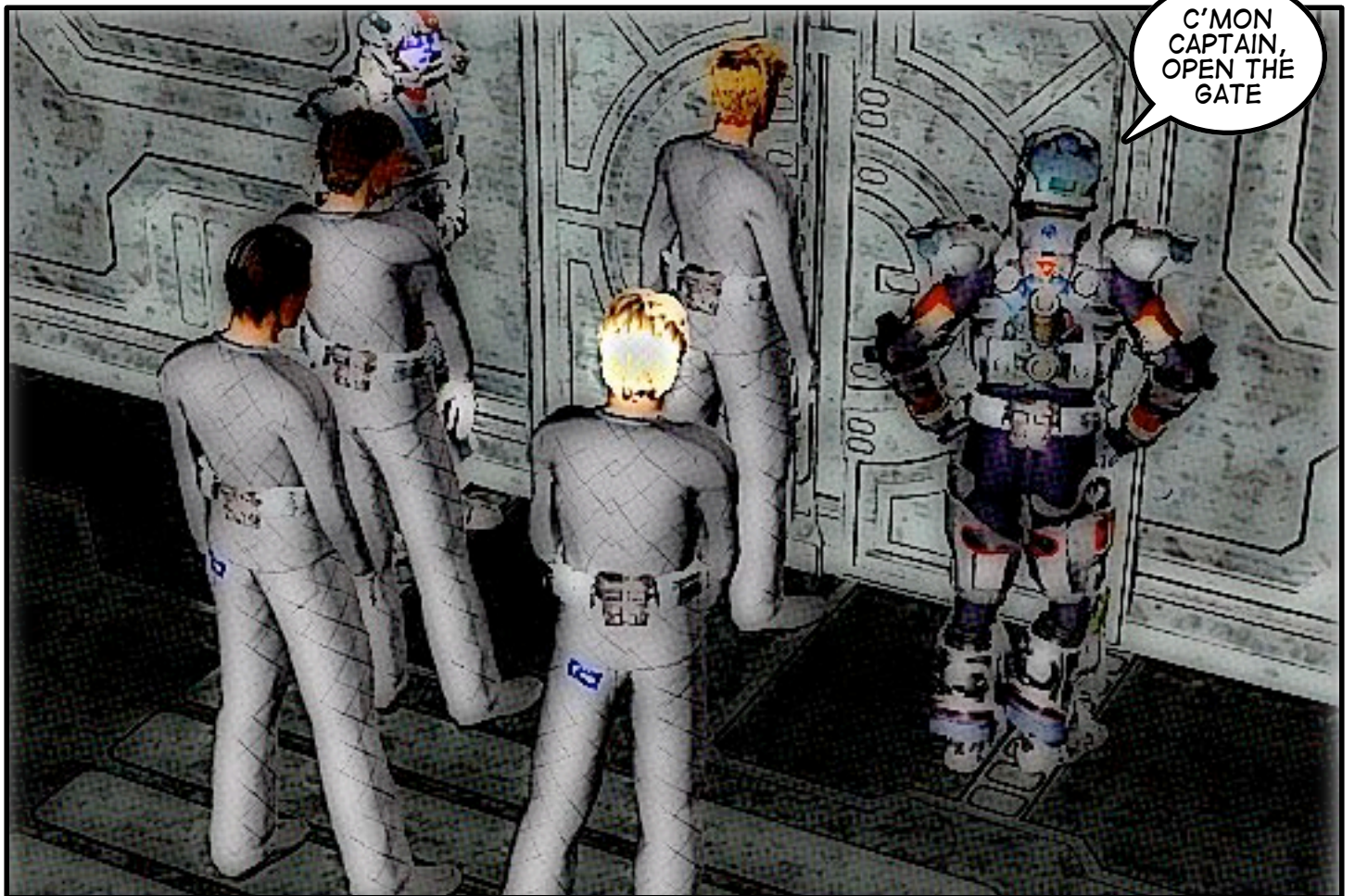
IN THE MEANTIME, THE ASIMOV MEETS  
THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON...



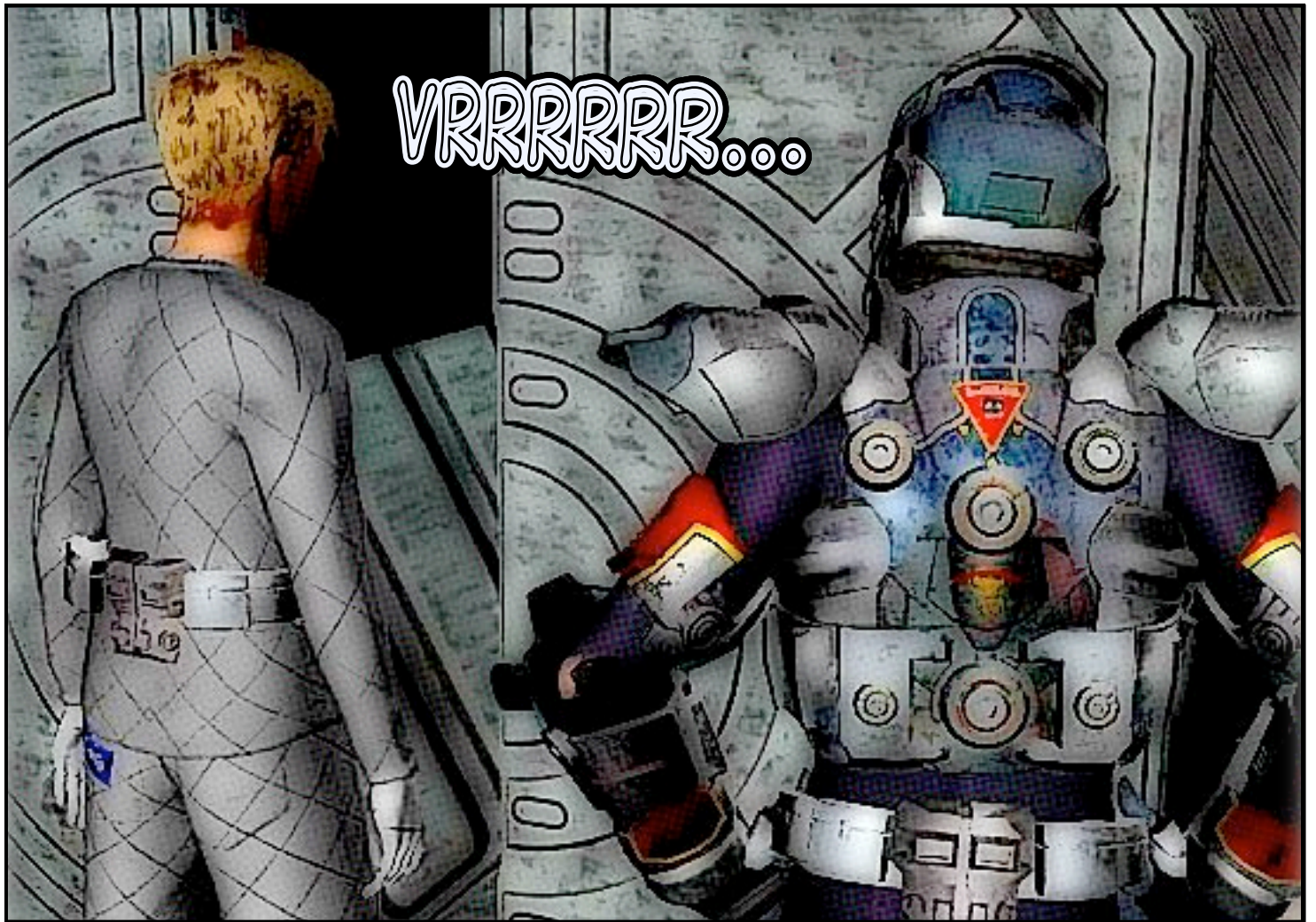




T-TLACK!



C'MON  
CAPTAIN,  
OPEN THE  
GATE



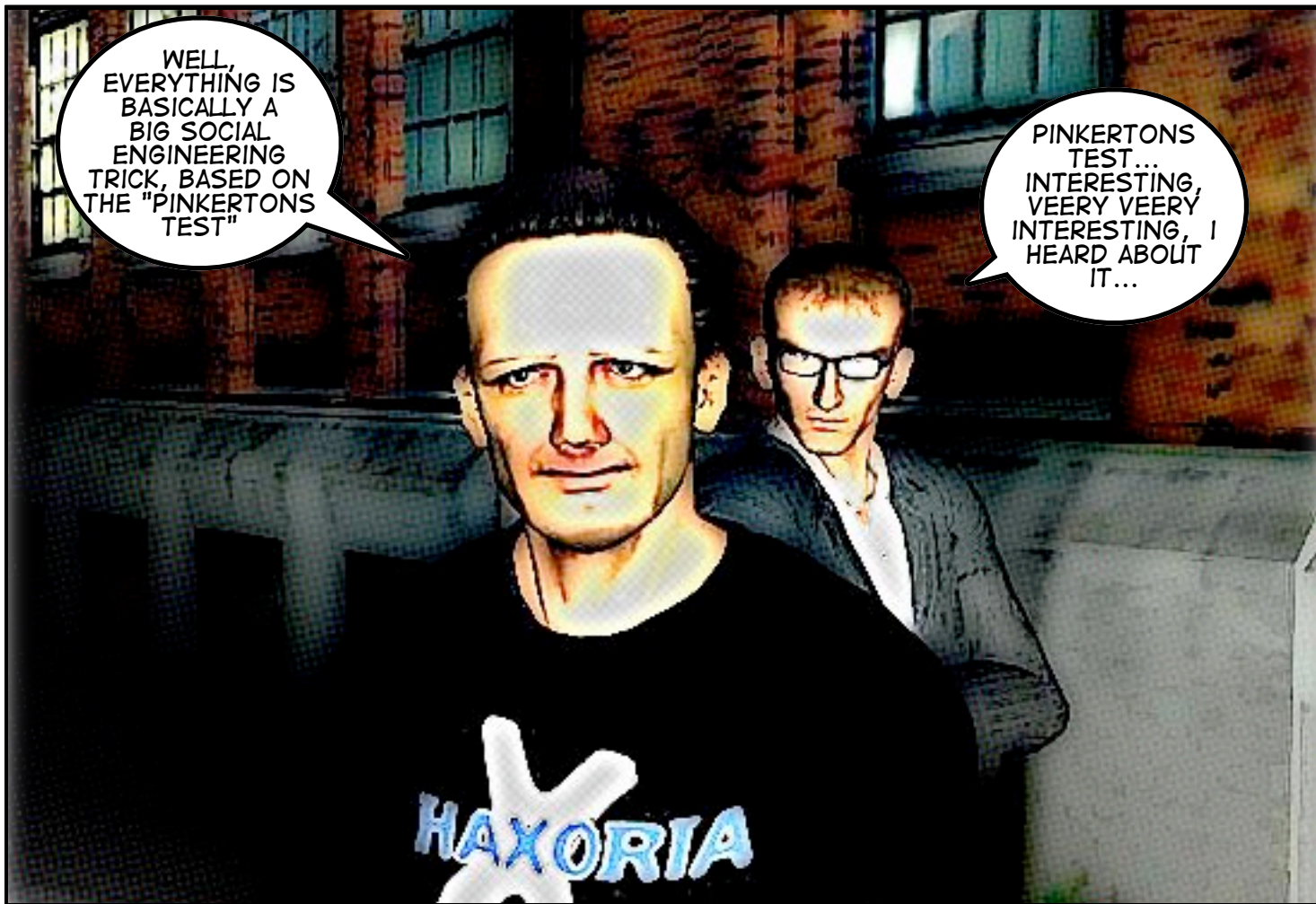
MEANWHILE, DOWN TO EARTH...



ARE YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA?


SURE! IT WILL WORK, BUT YOU MUST BE CONFIDENT IN YOURSELF

WHY DON'T YOU RECAP YOUR PLAN? I STILL THINK IT'S CRAZY...



WELL, EVERYTHING IS BASICALLY A BIG SOCIAL ENGINEERING TRICK, BASED ON THE "PINKERTONS TEST"

PINKERTONS TEST... INTERESTING, VEERY VEERY INTERESTING, I HEARD ABOUT IT...

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue bikini top and a black skirt, is speaking to a man in a dark suit with a white shirt and tie. The man is looking up and to the right. They are in an indoor setting with a white wall and a dark floor. The woman is gesturing with her hands as she speaks.

PINKERTONS IS  
A FAMOUS  
PRIVATE  
INVESTIGATIONS  
COMPANY THAT  
INVENTED SUCH  
TEST

BIG CORPS  
INSURE THEIR KEY  
EMPLOYEES  
AGAINST  
KIDNAPPING AND  
OTHER THREATS...

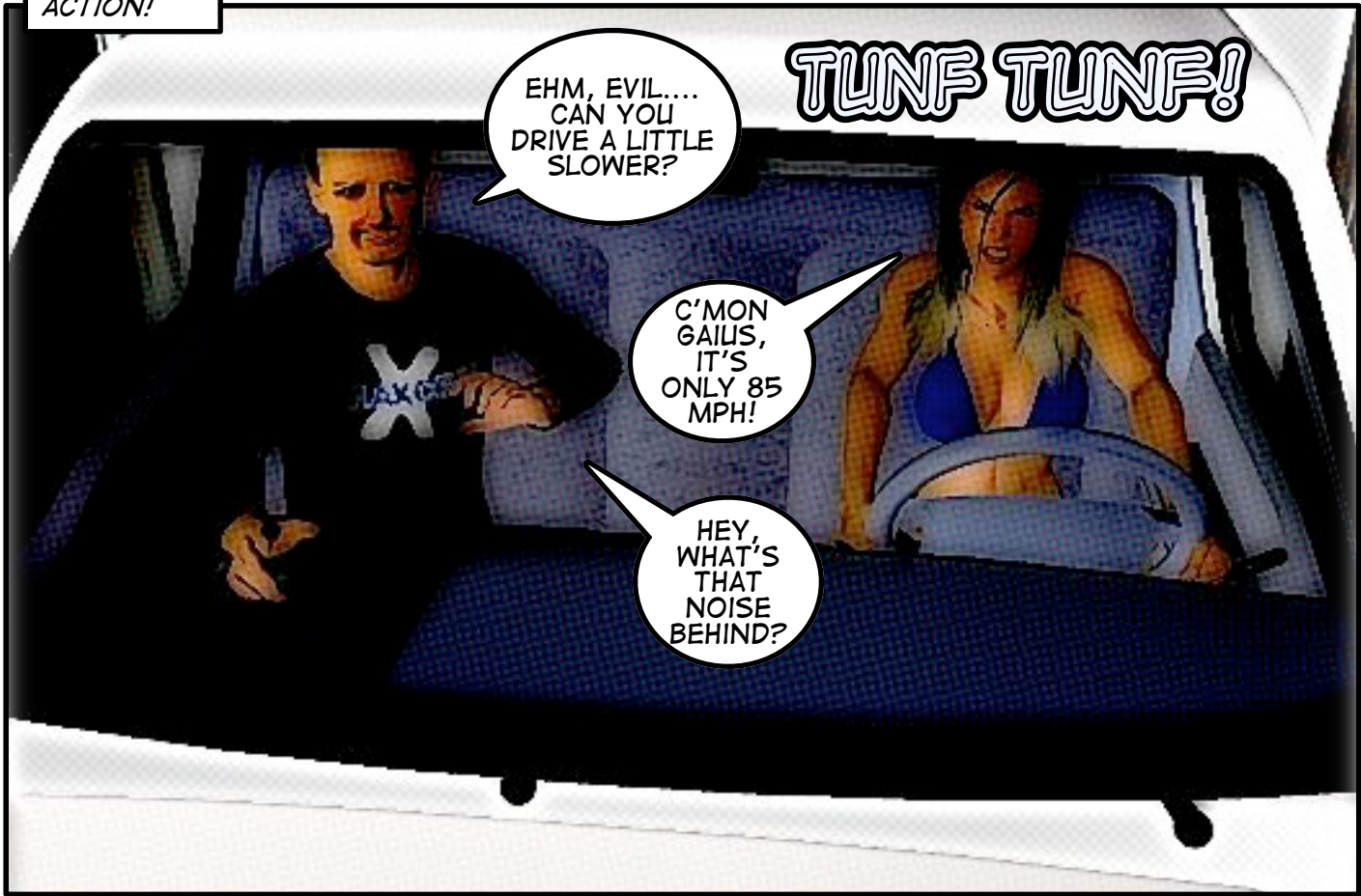
INSURANCE  
COMPANIES PUT A  
CLAUSE IN THE POLICY  
CONTRACT SAYING  
THAT THE BENEFICIARY  
WILL BE SUBJECT TO  
KIDNAPPING  
TEST. THE PURPOSE IS  
TO CHECK THE  
SECURITY CONTROLS  
IN PLACE

OUR PLAN  
IS TO FAKE A  
PINKERTON TEST,  
KIDNAPPING ONE OF THE  
GUARDS AT THE ESA LAUNCH  
PAD GATES, FORCING HIM TO  
TAKE US INSIDE, THEN WE  
WILL RELEASE HIM  
EXPLAINING THAT  
IT WAS A PINKERTONS  
TEST

I ALREADY  
TARGETED THE  
RIGHT MAN, I KNOW  
WHERE HE LIVES  
AND HE WILL HEAD  
TO WORK IN ABOUT  
30 MINUTES



**ACTION!**

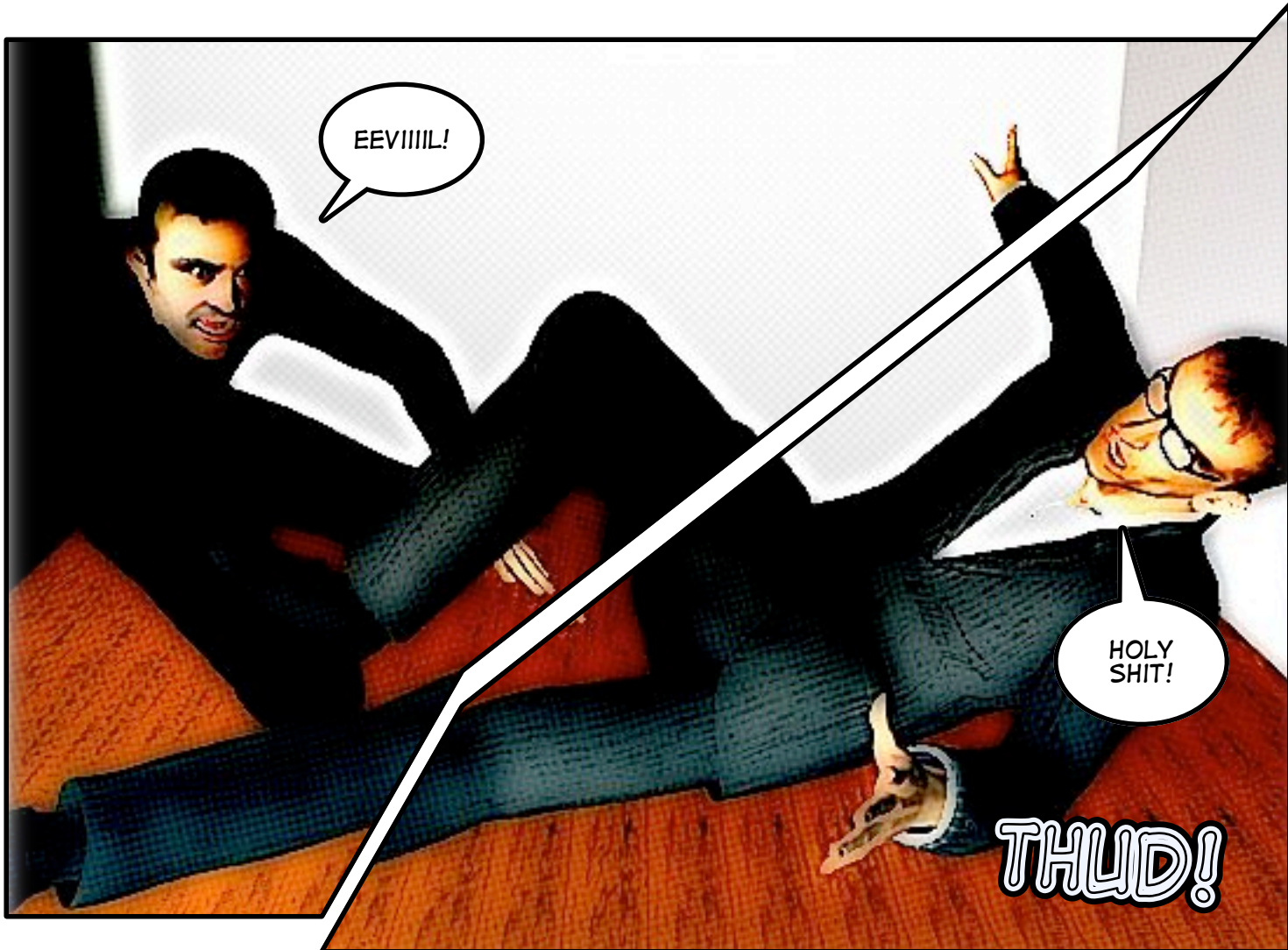


EHM, EVIL....  
CAN YOU  
DRIVE A LITTLE  
SLOWER?

**TUNF TUNF!**

C'MON  
GAILIS,  
IT'S  
ONLY 85  
MPH!

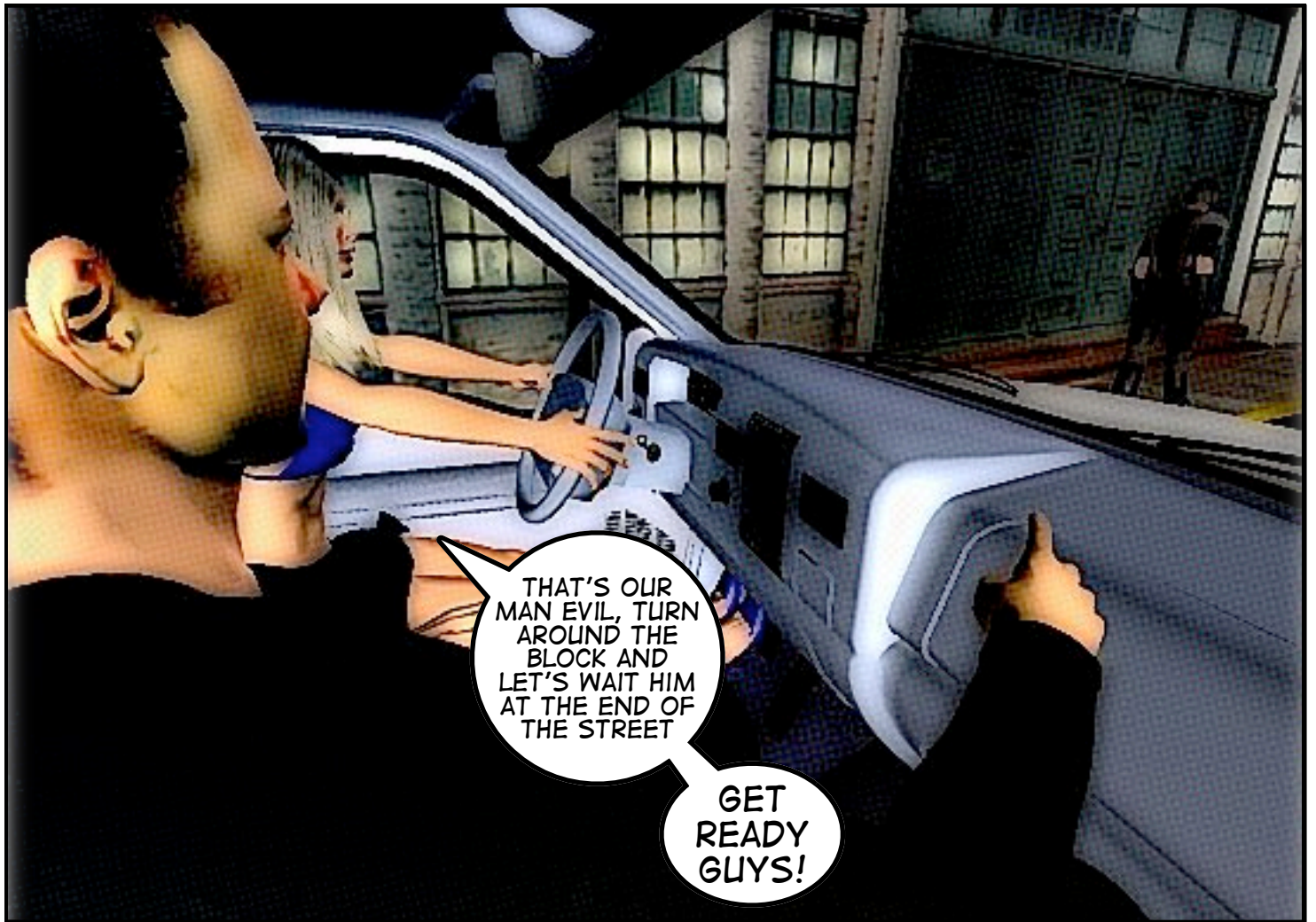
HEY,  
WHAT'S  
THAT  
NOISE  
BEHIND?



EEVIIIIL!

HOLY  
SHIT!

**THUD!**



OLD TRICKS ALWAYS WORK...





I SEE YOU ARE IN TROUBLE MADAM... CAN I HELP YOU?

OH, THAT WOULD BE SWEET...



VRRRRR...oo

OH, IT WASN'T SO DIFFIC...?!?



AHNF!

WELCOME ON BOARD, PLASTIC BOY!



NOW LISTEN  
CAREFULLY  
MY BRIGHT  
ASS...

WE ARE HOLDING  
YOUR FAMILY  
HOSTAGE. YOU ARE  
GOING TO DO  
WHATEVER WE'LL  
ASK YOU RIGHT?

DID YOU  
HEAR  
WHAT  
THE BIG  
BOSS  
SAID?

UH, YES!  
I WILL DO  
WHATEVER YOU  
WANT... HE IS FROM  
THE MAFIA, RIGHT? I  
UNDERSTOOD IT BY  
HIS SUIT...

ESA LAUNCH PAD FACILITY,  
SERVICE GATE SOUTH...

HI JACK,  
WHAT ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
HERE WITH  
THIS VAN?

THE BOSS  
ASKED ME TO  
BRING A TRUCK TO  
MOVE SOME OF HIS  
OLD STUFF FROM  
THE OFFICE TO HIS  
HOME

'MKAY,  
MOVE YOUR  
ASS, MY SHIFT  
WILL FINISH  
WITHIN 10  
MINUTES AND  
I WANT TO GO  
HOME TO  
SLEEP

SOON THE VAN REACHES THE ENTRANCE OF THE PREPARATION ROOM BUILDING

THE DOOR TO THE PREPARATION ROOM IS JUST BEHIND YOU, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

NOTHING, YOU CAN GO HOME

OUR SECURITY COMPANY HAS BEEN HIRED BY ESA TO RUN SECURITY CHECKS ON PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURES

WE FAKED YOUR KIDNAPPING IN ORDER TO CHECK YOUR REACTION AND THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE GUARD AT THE GATE. YOU BEHAVED WELL WHILE THE GUARD AT THE GATE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLES AS HE SHOULDN'T LET YOU IN

THIS IS A DIPLOMA ATTESTING THAT YOU PASSED THE PINKERTONS TEST, YOU ALSO HAVE 24 HOURS OF PAID VACATION, YOU CAN GO HOME AND REST FROM THE KIDNAPPING STRESS, IT'S WRITTEN IN THE UNION'S LABOR CONTRACT

PINKERTONS TEST... DIPLOMA... VACATION... COOL!



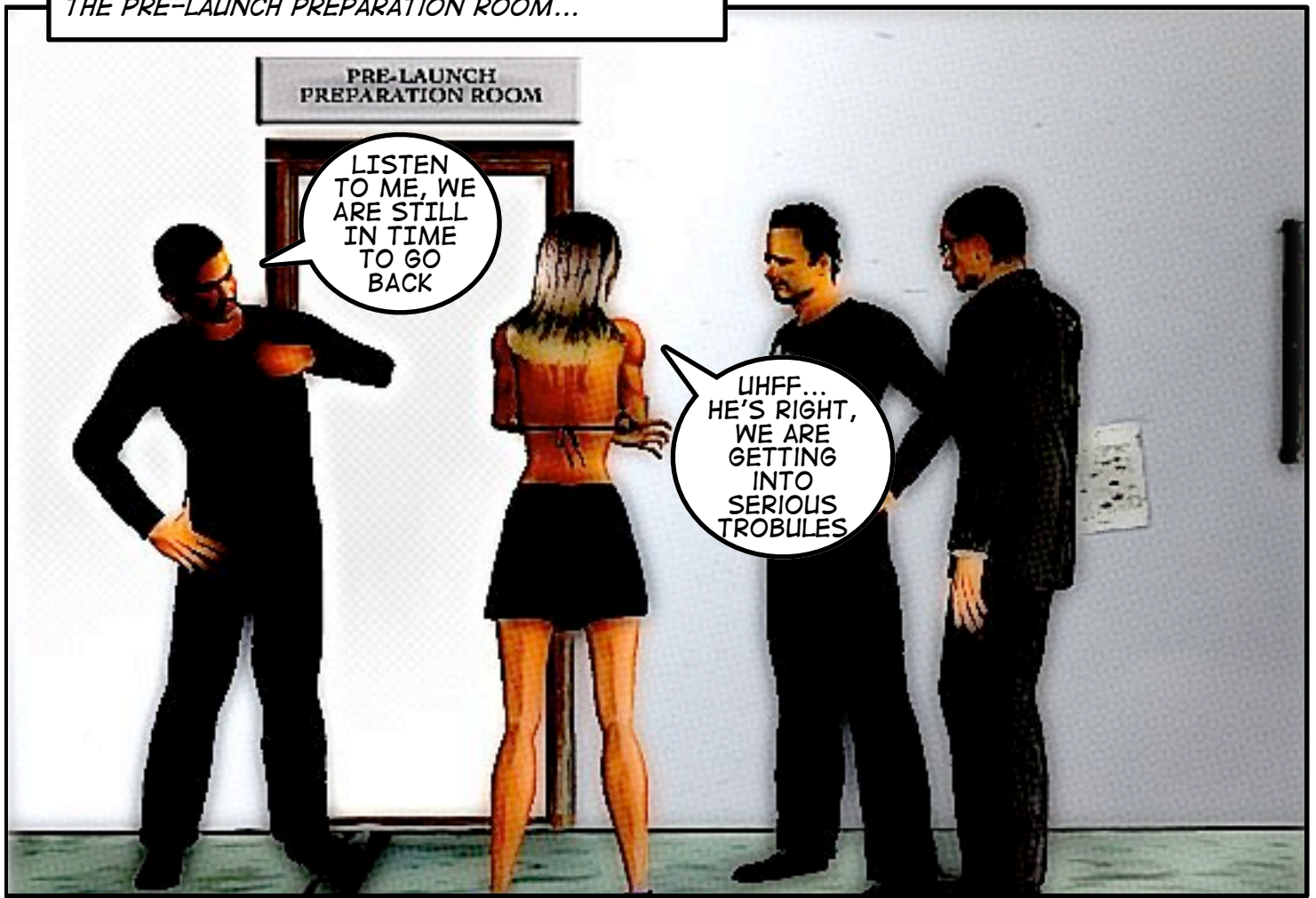


YOUR COLLEGE WILL PROBABLY GET FIRED, SO WILL YOU IF YOU'D TELL TO ANYBODY THAT YOU ATTENDED THE PINKERTONS TEST. DID I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

YES SIR. CRYSTAL CLEAR. I'LL GO IMMEDIATELY HOME AND I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS TEST

IIIIHI!

INSIDE THE BUILDING OUR HEROES HAVE REACHED THE PRE-LAUNCH PREPARATION ROOM...

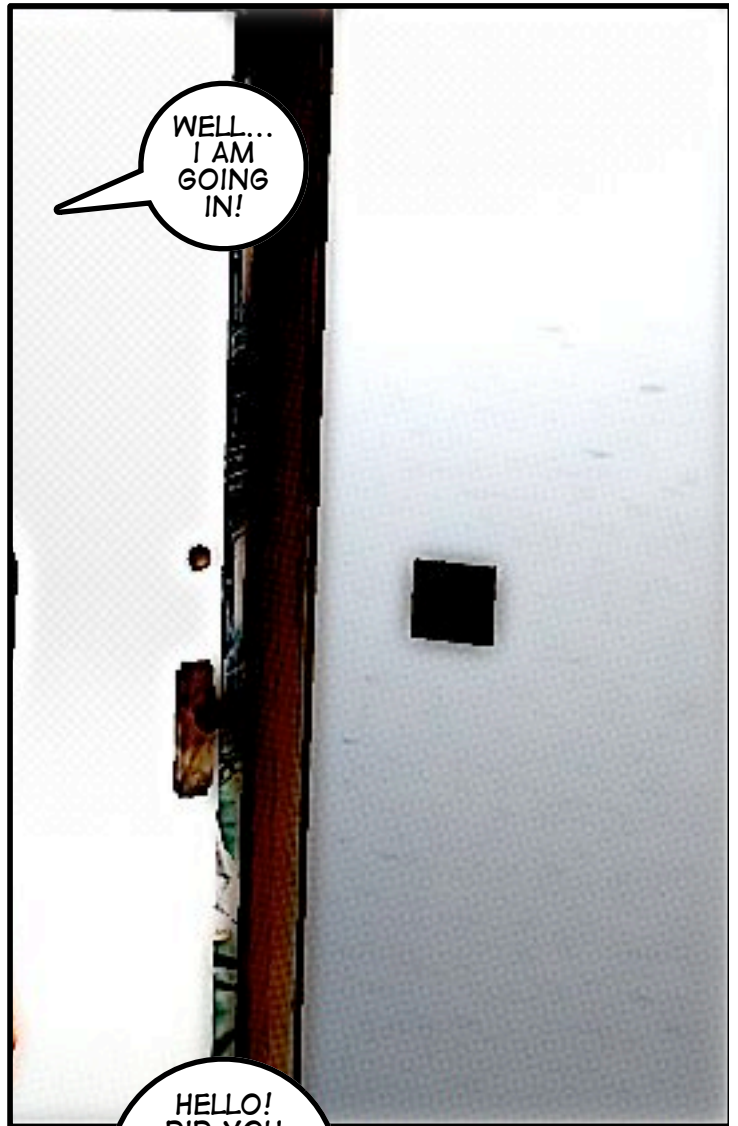


LISTEN TO ME, WE ARE STILL IN TIME TO GO BACK

UHFF... HE'S RIGHT, WE ARE GETTING INTO SERIOUS TROUBLES



UHF!



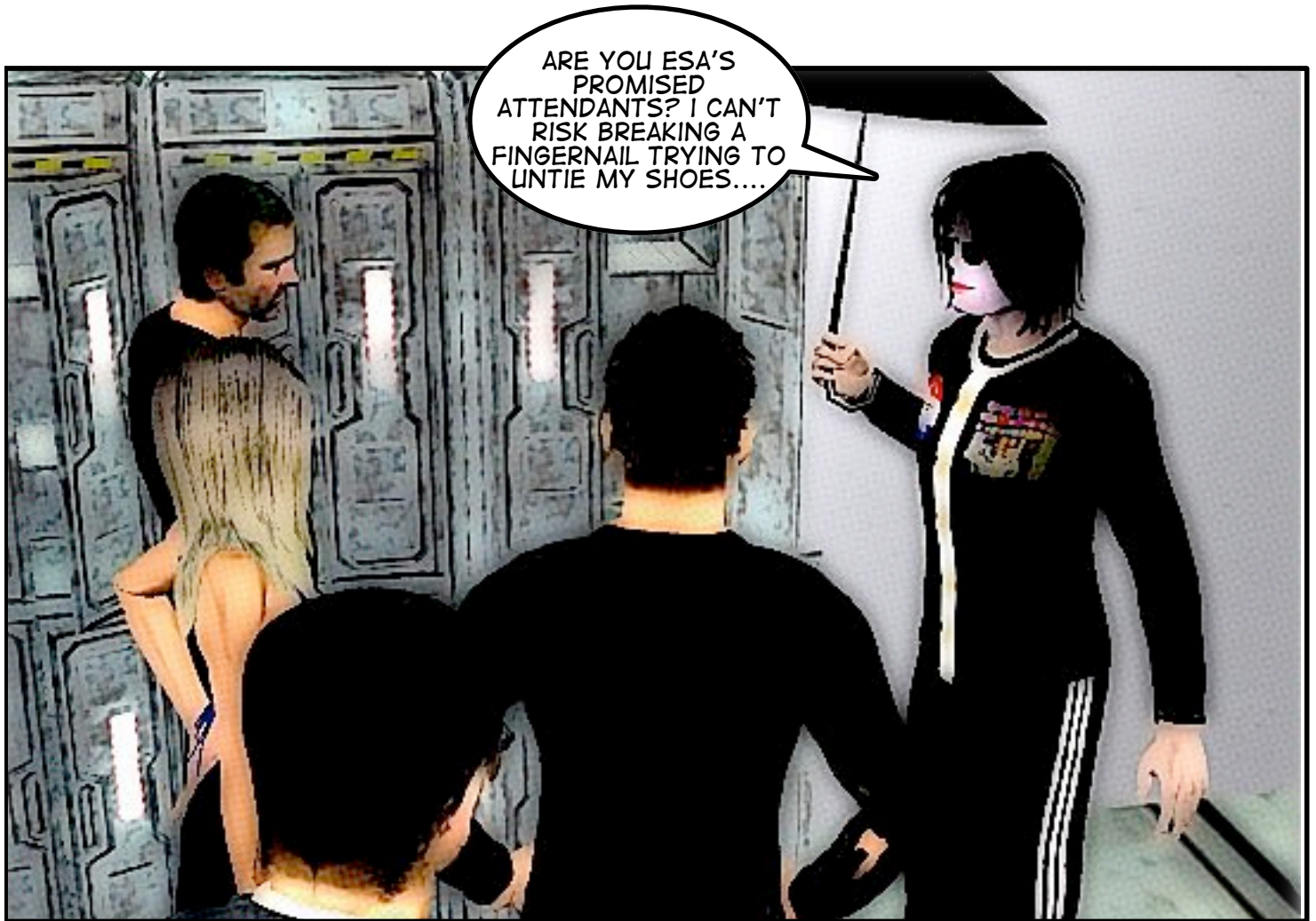
WELL...  
I AM  
GOING  
IN!



MOONWALKERS' RESTROOM...

HELLO!  
DID YOU  
COME TO  
HELP ME TO  
UNTIE MY  
SHOES?

?!  
WHAT?





BUT PLEASE, WHEN UNTYING MY SHOES, BE CAREFUL NOT TO HURT MY SKIN AS IT'S VERY DELICATE...



GRRR-RR



ARGGWRRR!

**PARENTAL  
ADVISORY  
EXPLICIT LYRICS**

**R** **RESTRICTED**   
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING  
PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN  
STRONG SCI-FI/HORROR VIOLENCE,  
LANGUAGE AND BRIEF SEXUALITY/  
NUDITY. 

SO... YOU ARE INVINCIBLE?

PUNCH!

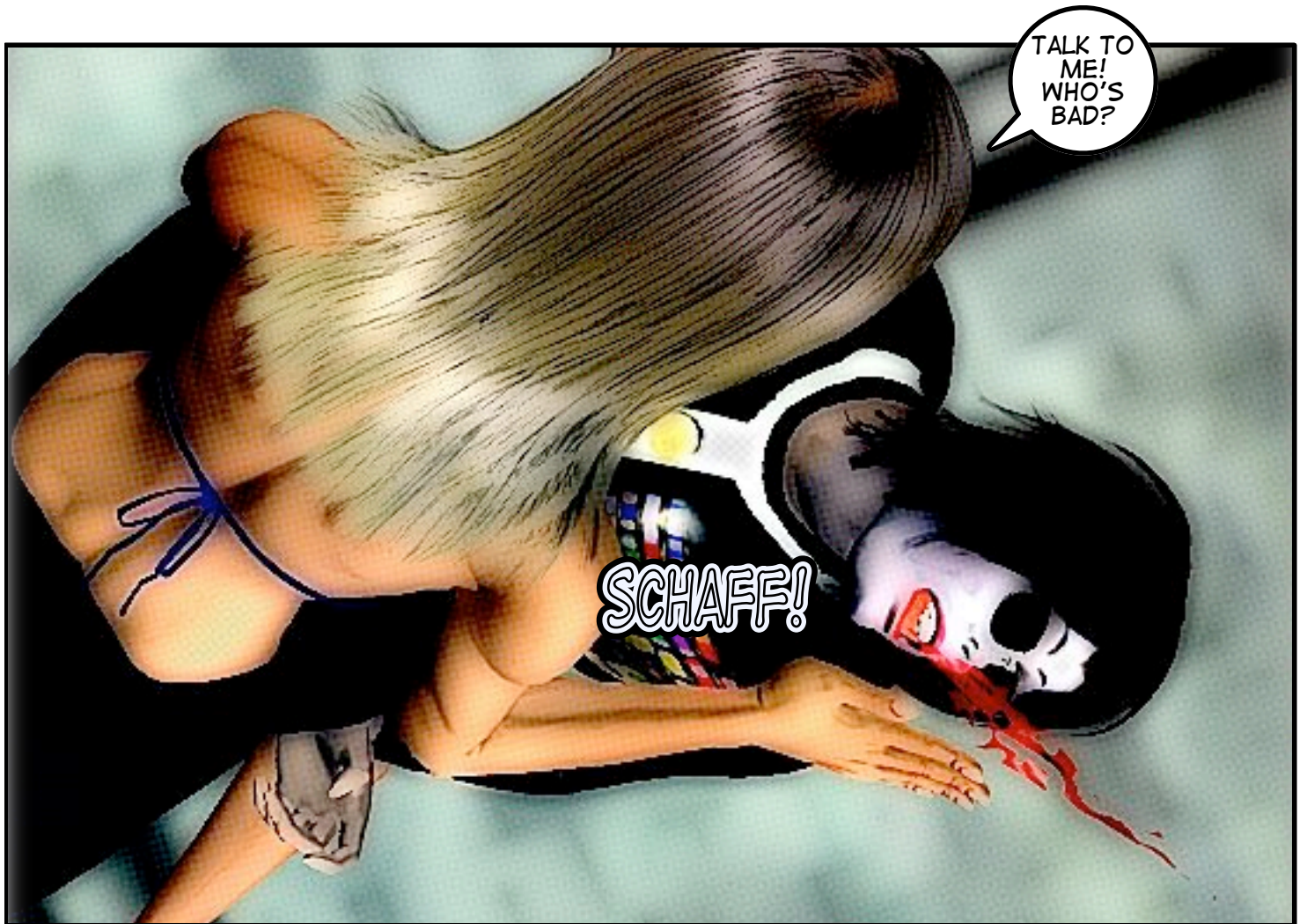
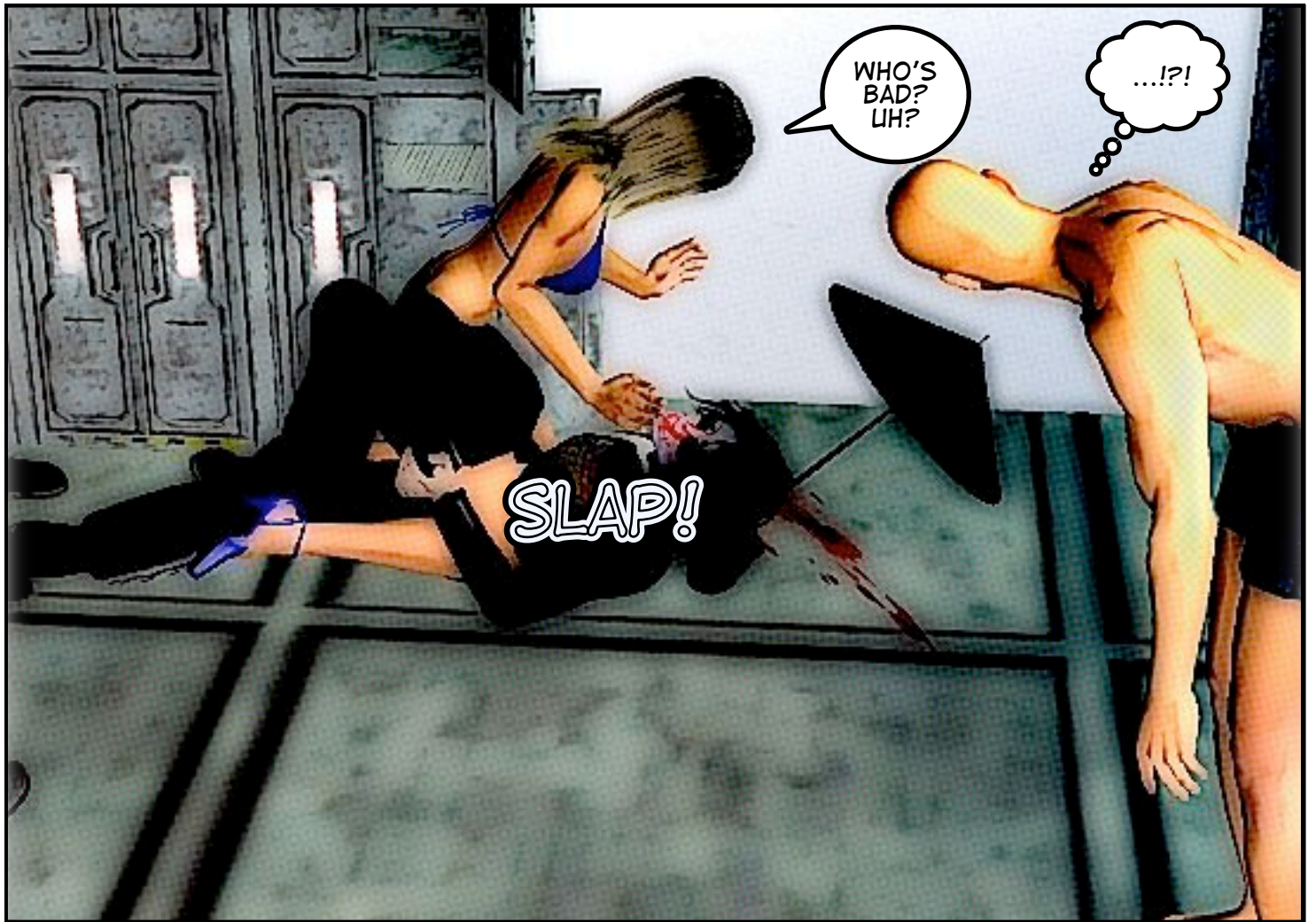
SO... YOU ARE UNBREAKABLE?

THUD!

IS THIS SCARY? UH? IS THIS SCARY?

SLAP!

I WON'T STOP 'TIL YOU GET ENOUGH





I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU ALL...

THERE ARE SOME CHANGES IN THE LAUNCH PLAN. YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS



OPTION ONE: YOU LET US LOCK YOU IN THE BATHROOM. OPTION TWO: WE UNLEASH THE TIGER



WELCOME  
TO THE LIVE  
COVERAGE OF  
THE  
HAWKINGS  
SHUTTLE  
LAUNCH

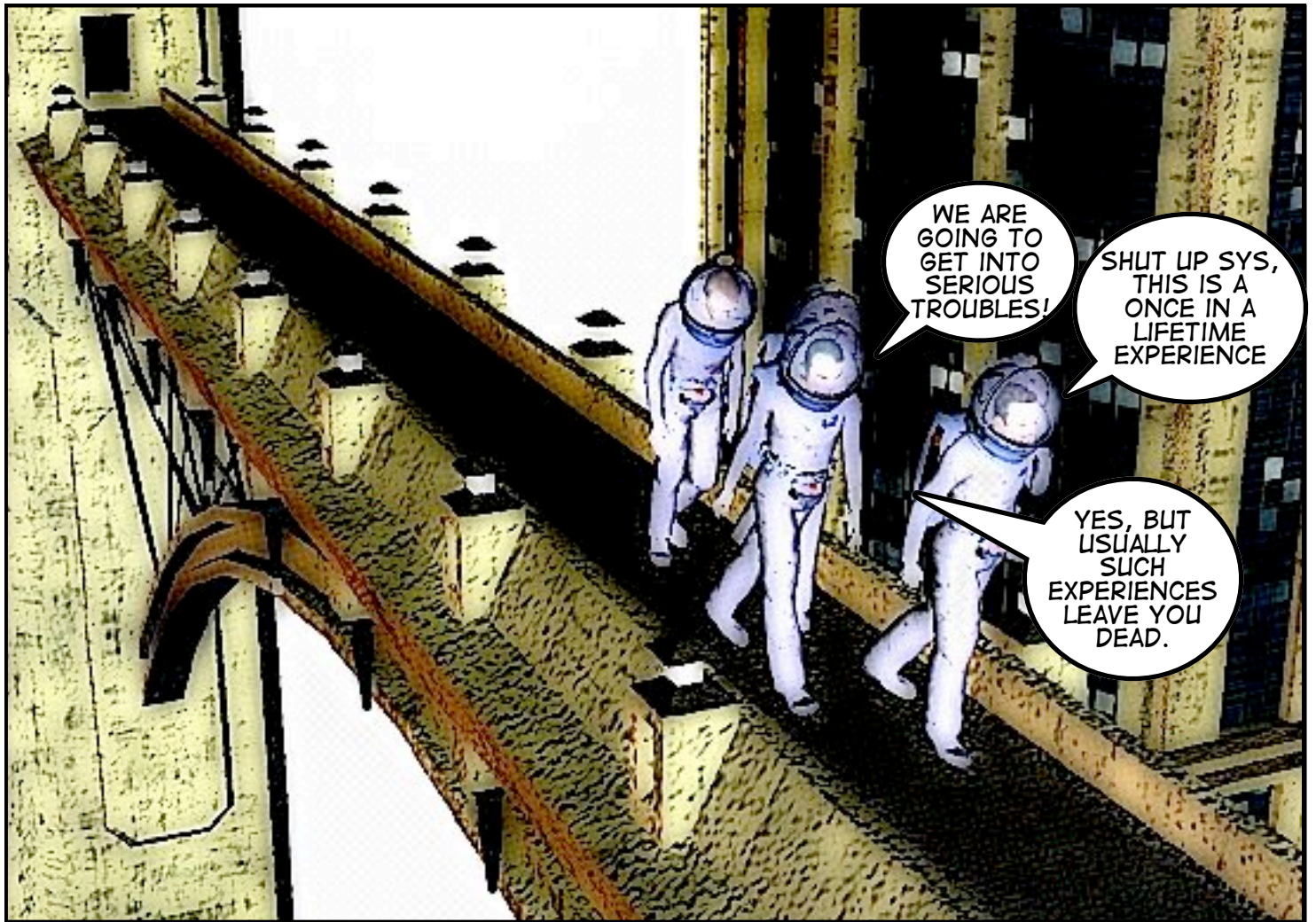
DESPITE  
THE LOSS OF  
CONTACT WITH THE  
FIRST SHUTTLE, ESA  
MINIMIZED THE  
EPISODE  
DOWNGRADING IT TO  
SIMPLE TECHNICAL  
DIFFICULTIES AND  
DECIDED TO PROCEED  
WITH THE LAUNCH OF  
THE HAWKINGS  
SHUTTLE

11:55 am

euronews

hawking shuttle launch on tin

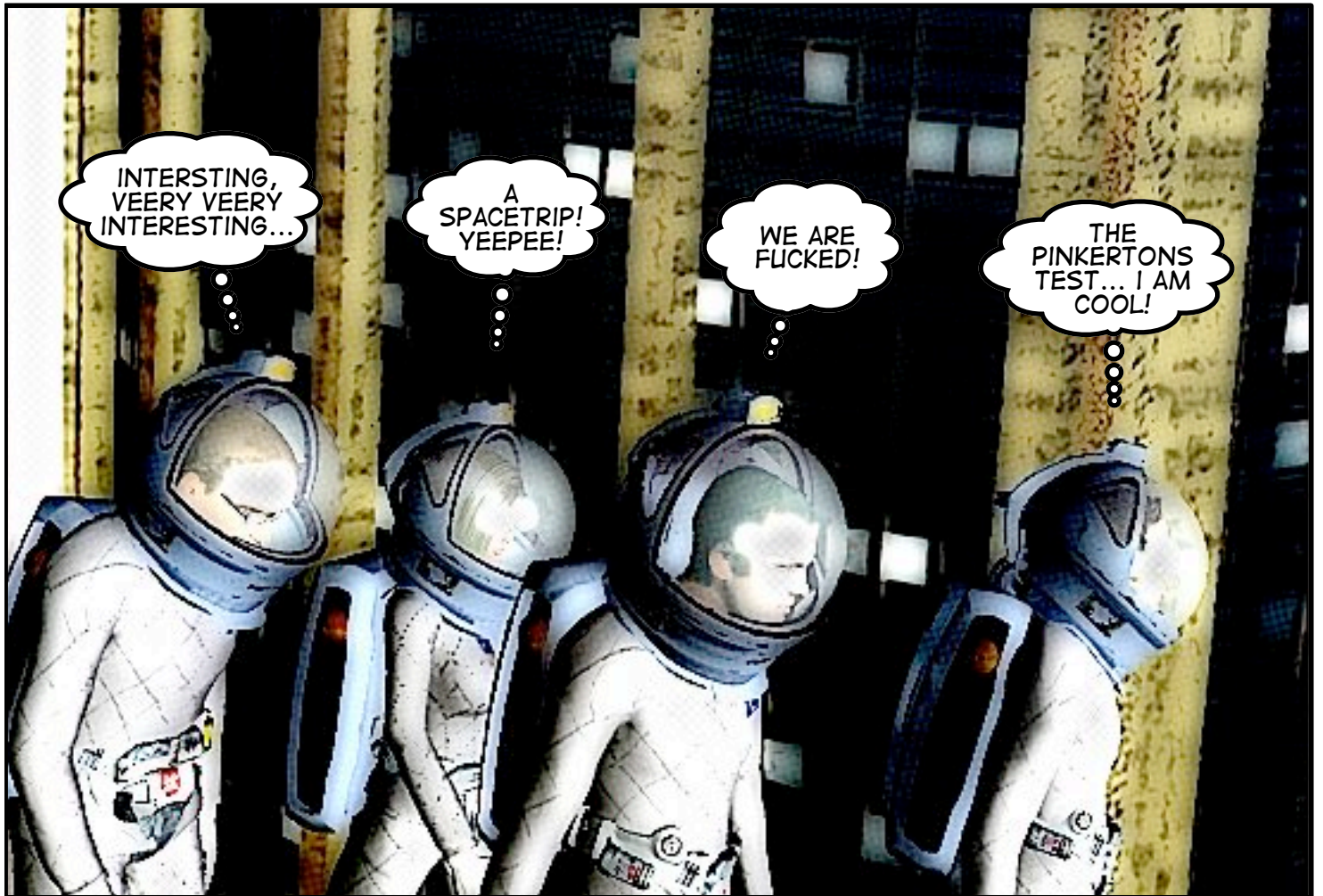




WE ARE GOING TO GET INTO SERIOUS TROUBLES!

SHUT UP SYS, THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

YES, BUT USUALLY SUCH EXPERIENCES LEAVE YOU DEAD.



INTERESTING, VEERY VEERY INTERESTING...

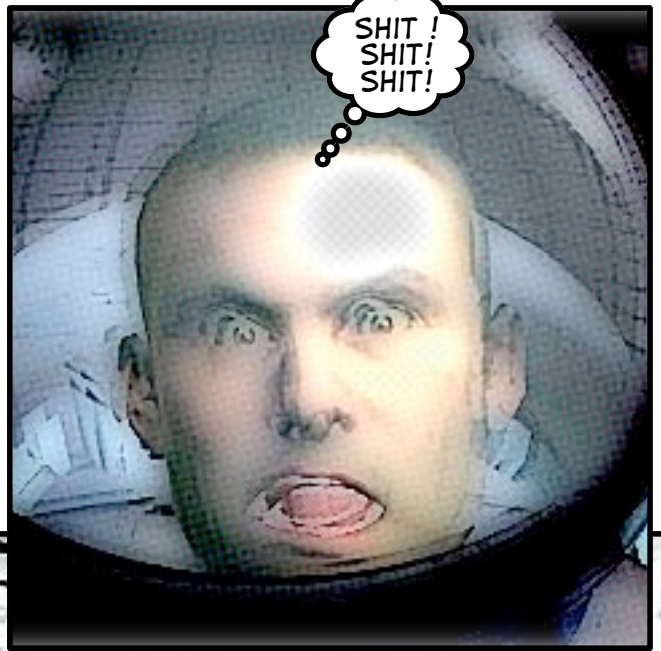
A SPACETRIP! YEEPEE!

WE ARE FUCKED!

THE PINKERTONS TEST... I AM COOL!



FUCK! FUCK!  
FUCK! UHM..  
INTERESTING!



SHIT!  
SHIT!  
SHIT!

THREE... TWO... ONE... IGNITION

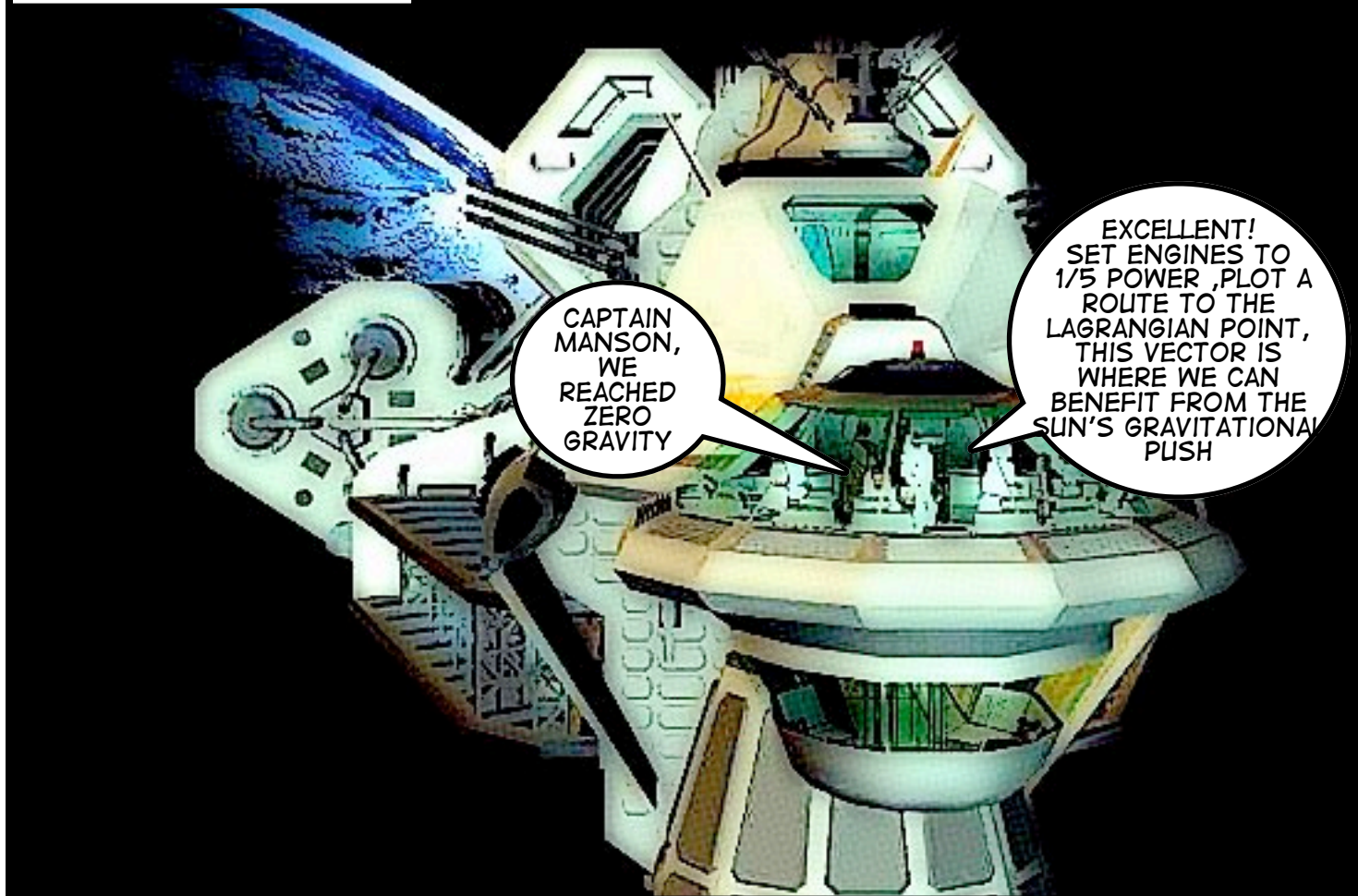


ARGH!  
ARGH!  
MAYBE  
SYS WAS  
RIGHT!

COOL!  
COOL!  
COOL!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...



CAPTAIN  
MANSON,  
WE  
REACHED  
ZERO  
GRAVITY

EXCELLENT!  
SET ENGINES TO  
1/5 POWER ,PLOT A  
ROUTE TO THE  
LAGRANGIAN POINT,  
THIS VECTOR IS  
WHERE WE CAN  
BENEFIT FROM THE  
SUN'S GRAVITATIONAL  
PUSH



I WILL  
GO TO FREE  
THE GUESTS FROM THE  
SECURITY LAUNCH SEATS  
AND THEIR LAUNCH SUITS.  
KEEP AN EYE ON THE  
ROAD, I DON'T WANT A  
DAMN ROADKILL INCIDENT  
WITH SOME SPACE  
RABBIT...

HEHE,  
AYE SIR

SOON THE CAPTAIN DISCOVERS THE SUBSTITUTION...

WELL WELL  
WELL, SEEMS  
WE HAVE  
SOME  
MISPLACED  
PACKAGES ON  
BOARD....

THE REALITY  
IS A MERE  
SHADOW,  
NOTHING IS  
AS IT  
APPEARS...

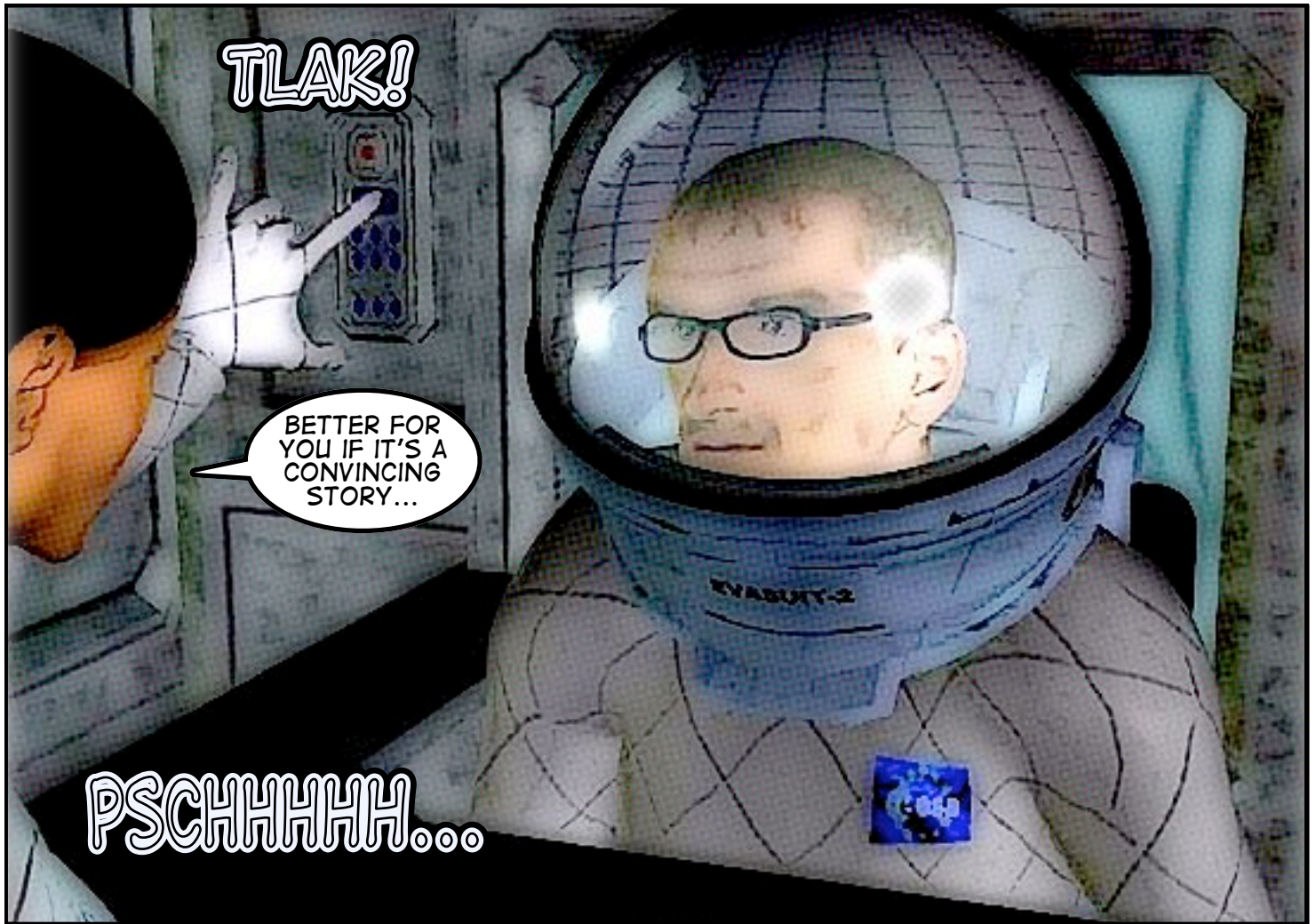
TONK!

...AND  
YOU  
ARE?

IF YOU  
FREE US FROM  
THIS STUFF WE'LL  
BE GLAD TO  
EXPLAIN YOU,  
MADAM

CAPTAIN

YES, MADAM,  
EHM CAPTAIN



TLAK!

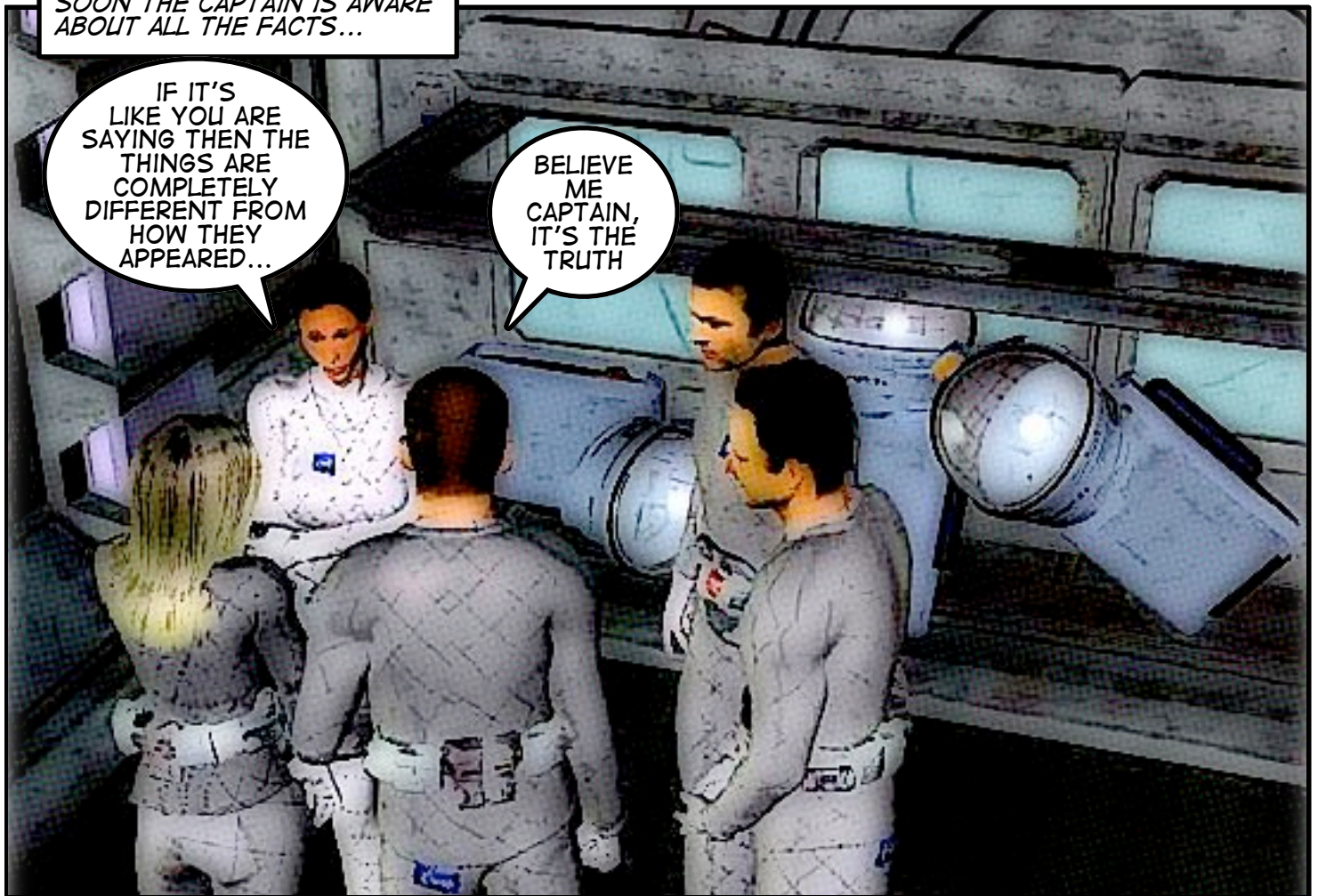
BETTER FOR YOU IF IT'S A CONVINCING STORY...

PSCHHHHH...o..o

SOON THE CAPTAIN IS AWARE ABOUT ALL THE FACTS...

IF IT'S LIKE YOU ARE SAYING THEN THE THINGS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HOW THEY APPEARED...

BELIEVE ME CAPTAIN, IT'S THE TRUTH





NOW FROM  
THE LEGAL  
STANDPOINT  
EVERYTHING  
CHANGED AS  
WELL...

BESIDE HAVING  
YOU ON BOARD, I HAVE  
THE AUTHORITY TO  
CONSIDER THIS A RESCUE  
MISSION, AS IT WAS  
THROUGH YOU I LEARNED  
OF THE ASIMOV'S  
REQUEST FOR HELP

INTERNATIONAL  
NAVIGATION LAWS  
FORBID THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP  
TO REFUSE HELP TO SHIPS  
THAT LAUNCHED THE S.O.S.  
OH, AND BY THE WAY... MY  
HUSBAND IS ASIMOV'S  
CAPTAIN, SO YOU CAN  
UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS  
TOWARD THIS WHOLE  
ISSUE

YES, CAPTAIN,  
WE HEARD IT  
FROM THE TV,  
WE ARE TRULY  
SORRY...

OK, I WILL INFORM ESA  
ABOUT THE FACTS AND  
ABOUT MY DECISION  
WHICH IS TO ABORT THE  
MARS MISSION AND TO  
LAUNCH A RESCUE  
MISSION.

WE WILL  
DIVERT OUR CURRENT  
ROUTE TO REACH THE  
HIDDEN PART OF THE  
MOON AND WE'LL  
SEARCH FOR THE  
ASIMOV. WE CAN BE  
THERE IN JUST A FEW  
HOURS

GREAT!  
LET'S HOPE  
TO FIND  
EVERYBODY  
ALIVE!

LATER ON, THE HAWKINGS REACHES THE BOUNDARIES WITH THE HIDDEN PART OF THE MOON...

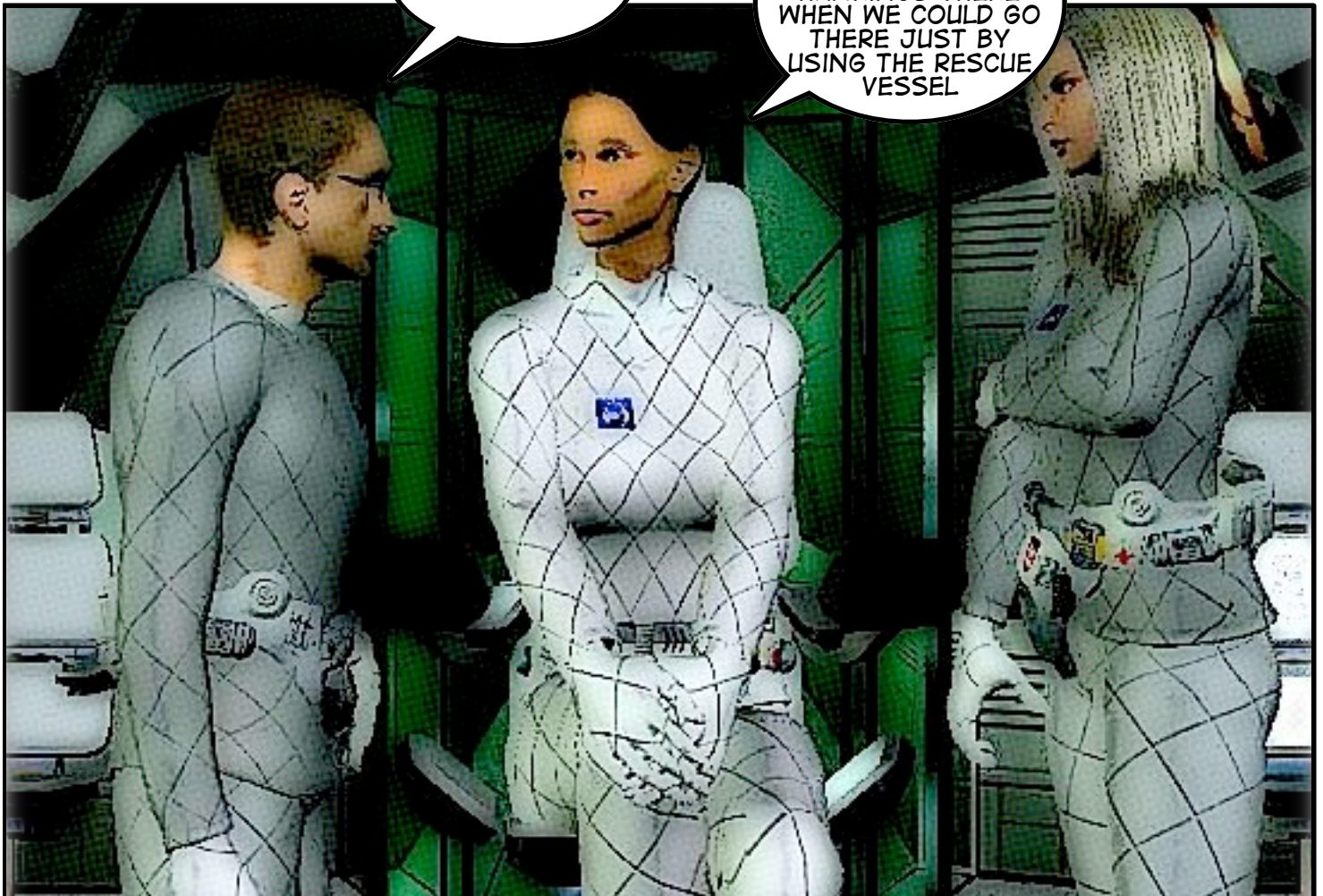
CAPTAIN,  
THERE WERE NO  
SIGNS OF THE ASIMOV  
ON THE LUNAR ORBIT  
SO I CHECKED WITH A  
RADAR SCAN ON THE  
GROUND AND... I  
FOUND IT

ON THE  
GROUND???  
HOW IS IT  
POSSIBLE?

SEEMS IT  
LANDED ON A  
KIND OF  
BASE... BUT  
THERE SHOULD  
BE NO BASE  
ON THE  
MOON...

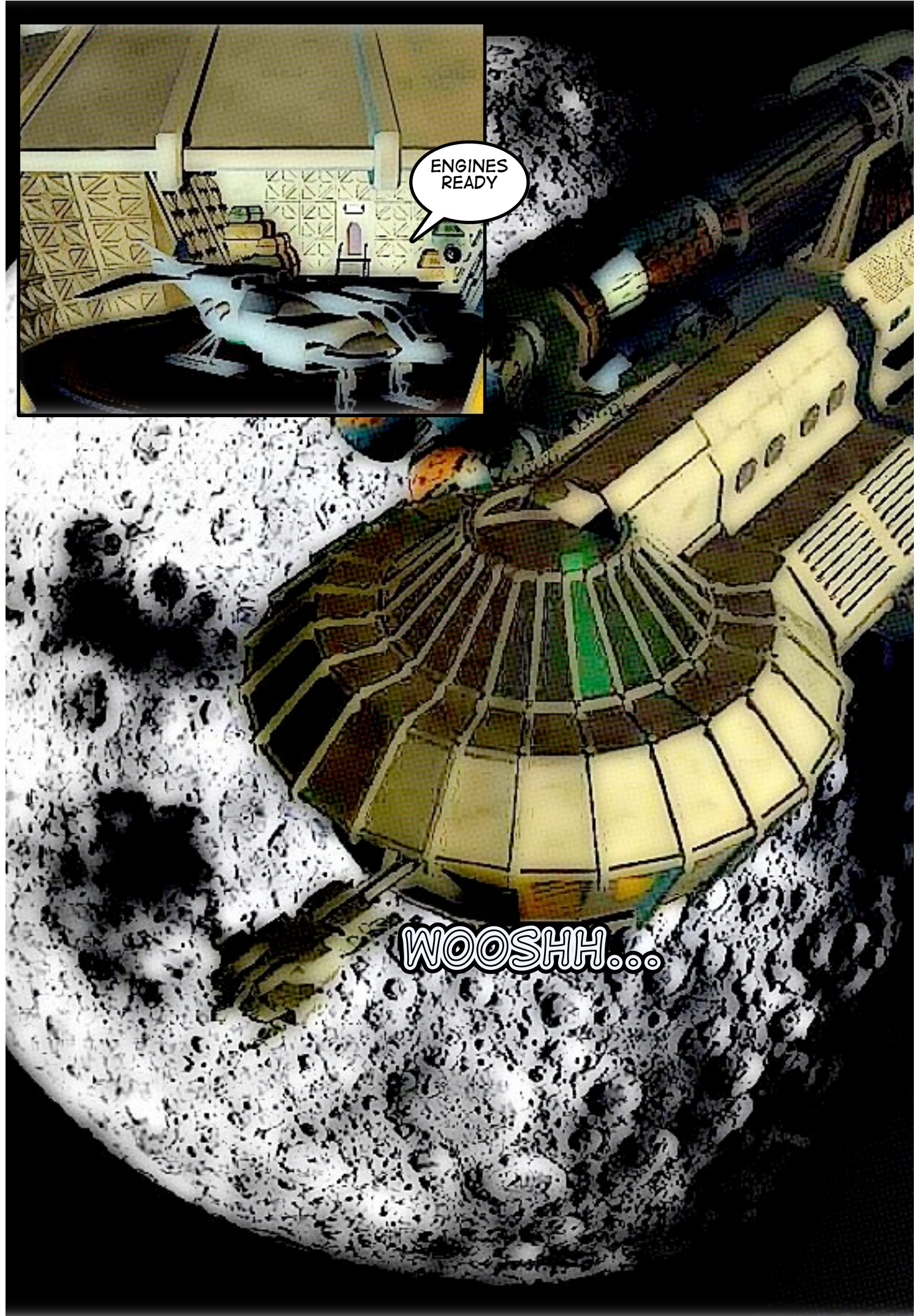
SUGGESTIONS?

I DON'T  
SEE ANY REASON  
TO LAND THE  
HAWKINGS THERE  
WHEN WE COULD GO  
THERE JUST BY  
USING THE RESCUE  
VESSEL

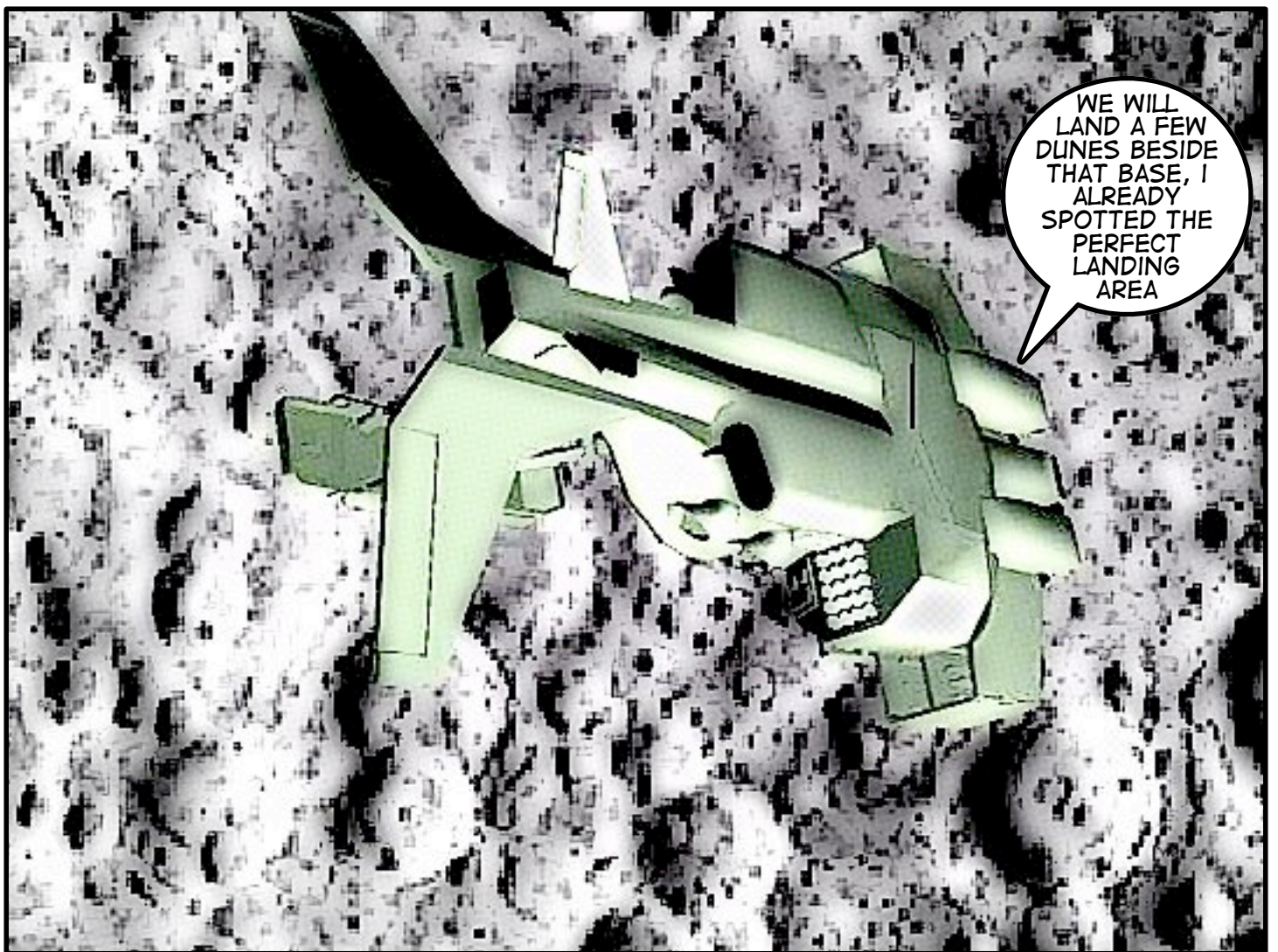




ENGINES  
READY



WOOSH...



TOUCHDOWN!  
NOBODY WAS  
WAITING FOR US SO  
I GUESS NOBODY  
SPOTTED US.  
THE BASE IS ABOUT  
400 METERS  
AWAY



WOOSH...oo

YOU CAN  
GO OUT,  
GOOD LUCK!  
REMEMBER THAT  
I WILL LOOSE  
YOUR RADIO  
SIGNAL AS SOON  
AS YOU WILL  
PASS THE FIRST  
DUNE...

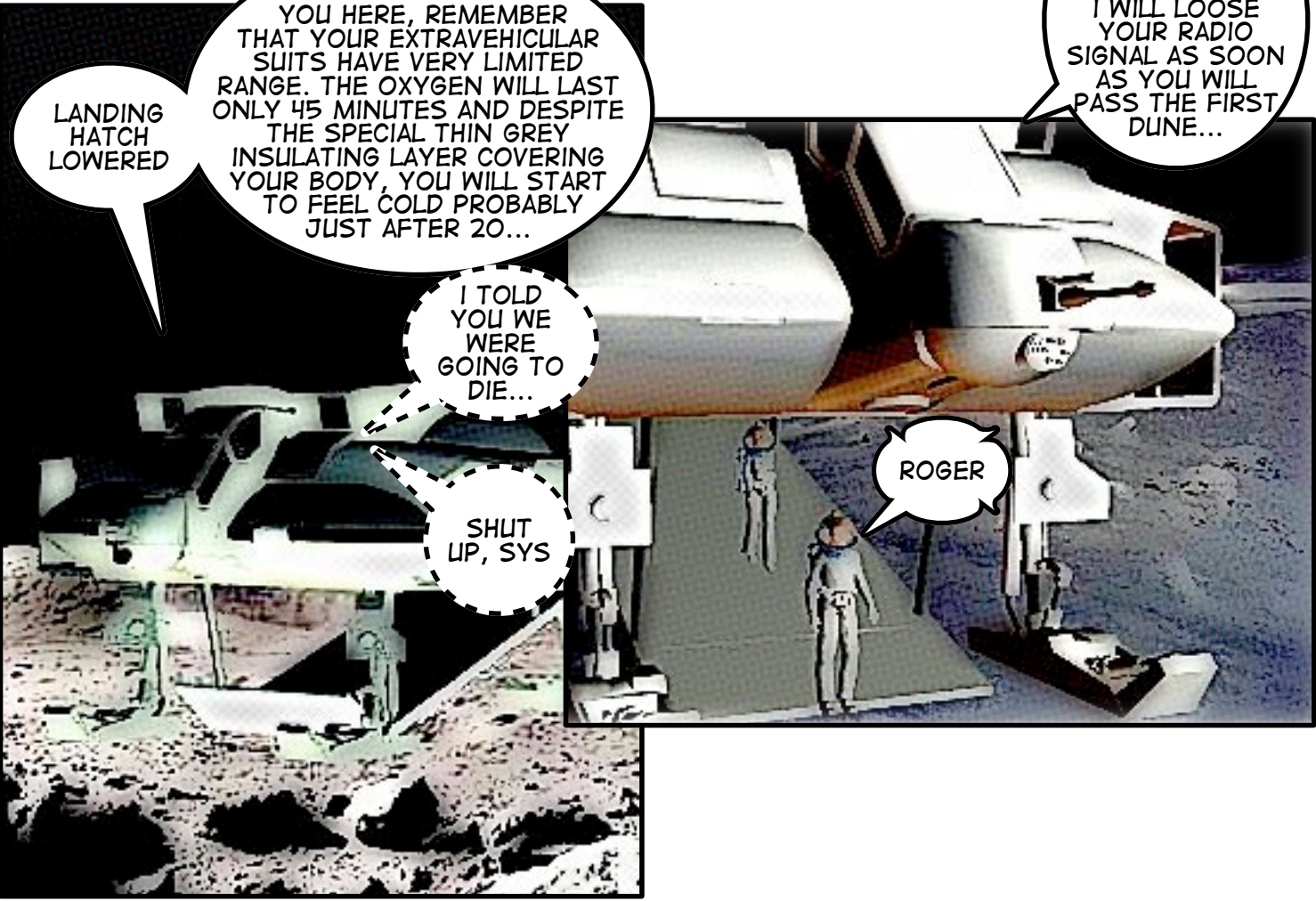
I WILL WAIT FOR  
YOU HERE, REMEMBER  
THAT YOUR EXTRAVEHICULAR  
SUITS HAVE VERY LIMITED  
RANGE. THE OXYGEN WILL LAST  
ONLY 45 MINUTES AND DESPITE  
THE SPECIAL THIN GREY  
INSULATING LAYER COVERING  
YOUR BODY, YOU WILL START  
TO FEEL COLD PROBABLY  
JUST AFTER 20...

LANDING  
HATCH  
LOWERED

I TOLD  
YOU WE  
WERE  
GOING TO  
DIE...

SHUT  
UP,  
SYS

ROGER



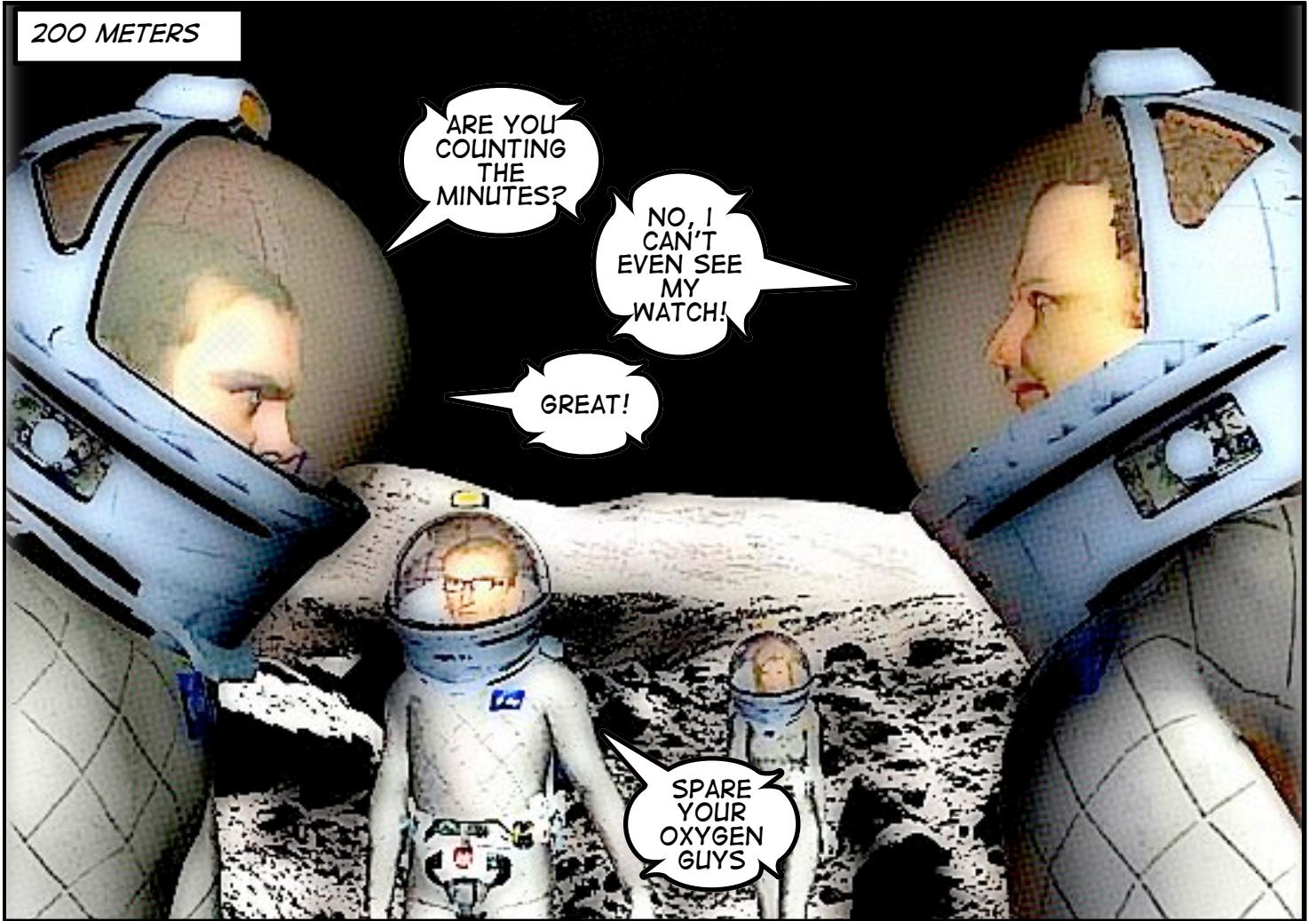
200 METERS

ARE YOU COUNTING THE MINUTES?

NO, I CAN'T EVEN SEE MY WATCH!

GREAT!

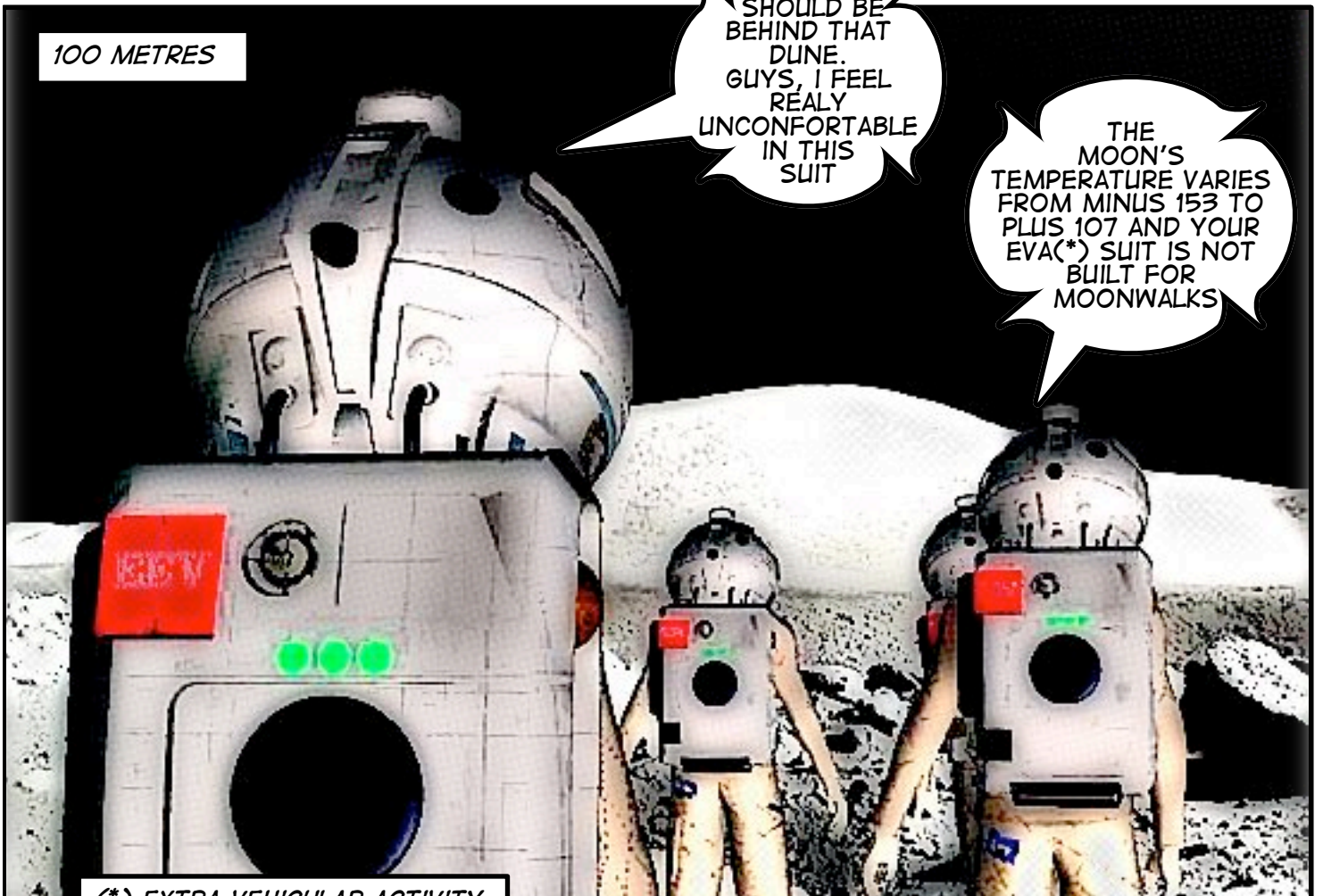
SPARE YOUR OXYGEN GUYS



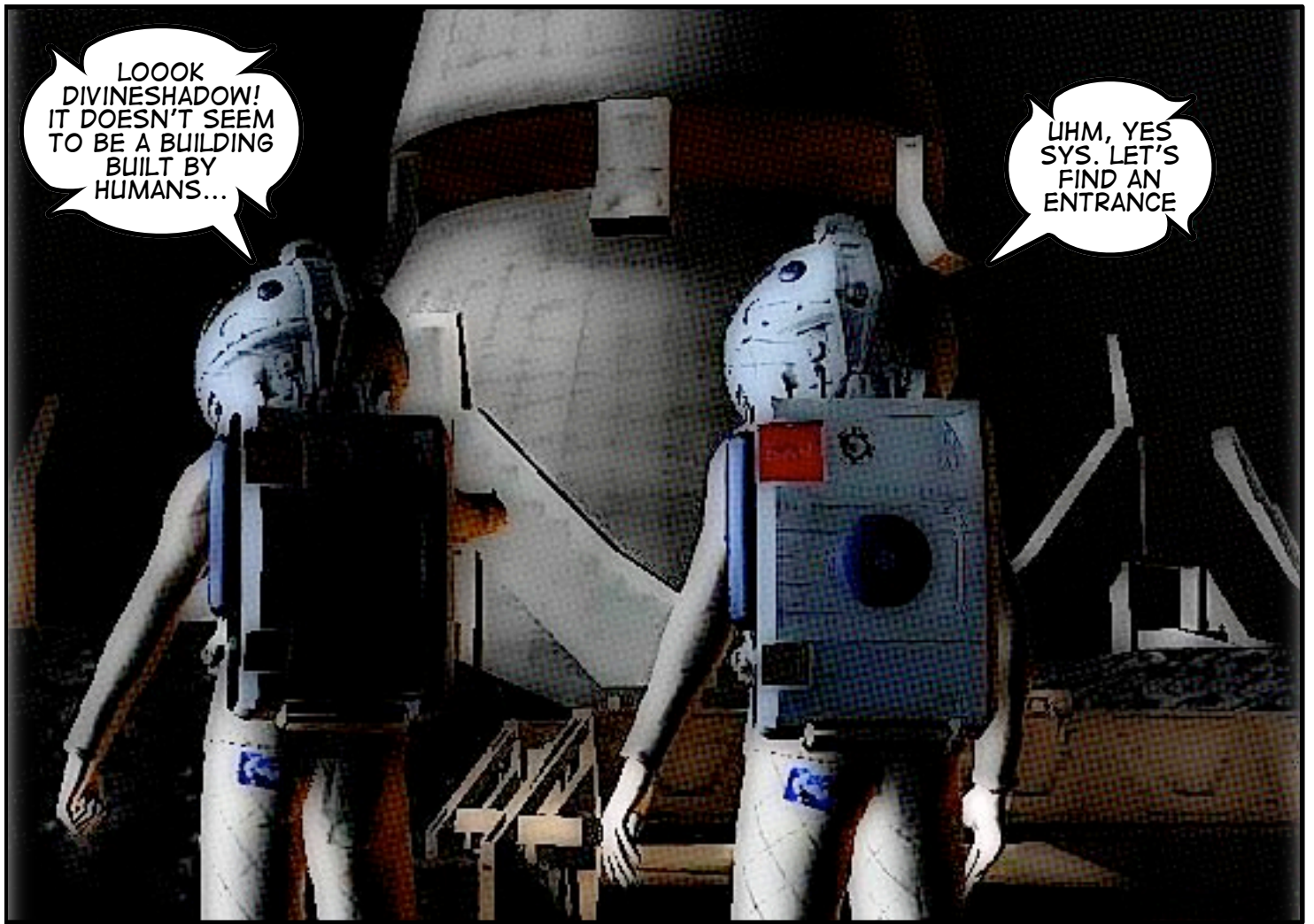
100 METRES

THE BASE SHOULD BE BEHIND THAT DUNE. GUYS, I FEEL REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THIS SUIT

THE MOON'S TEMPERATURE VARIES FROM MINUS 153 TO PLUS 107 AND YOUR EVA(\*) SUIT IS NOT BUILT FOR MOONWALKS

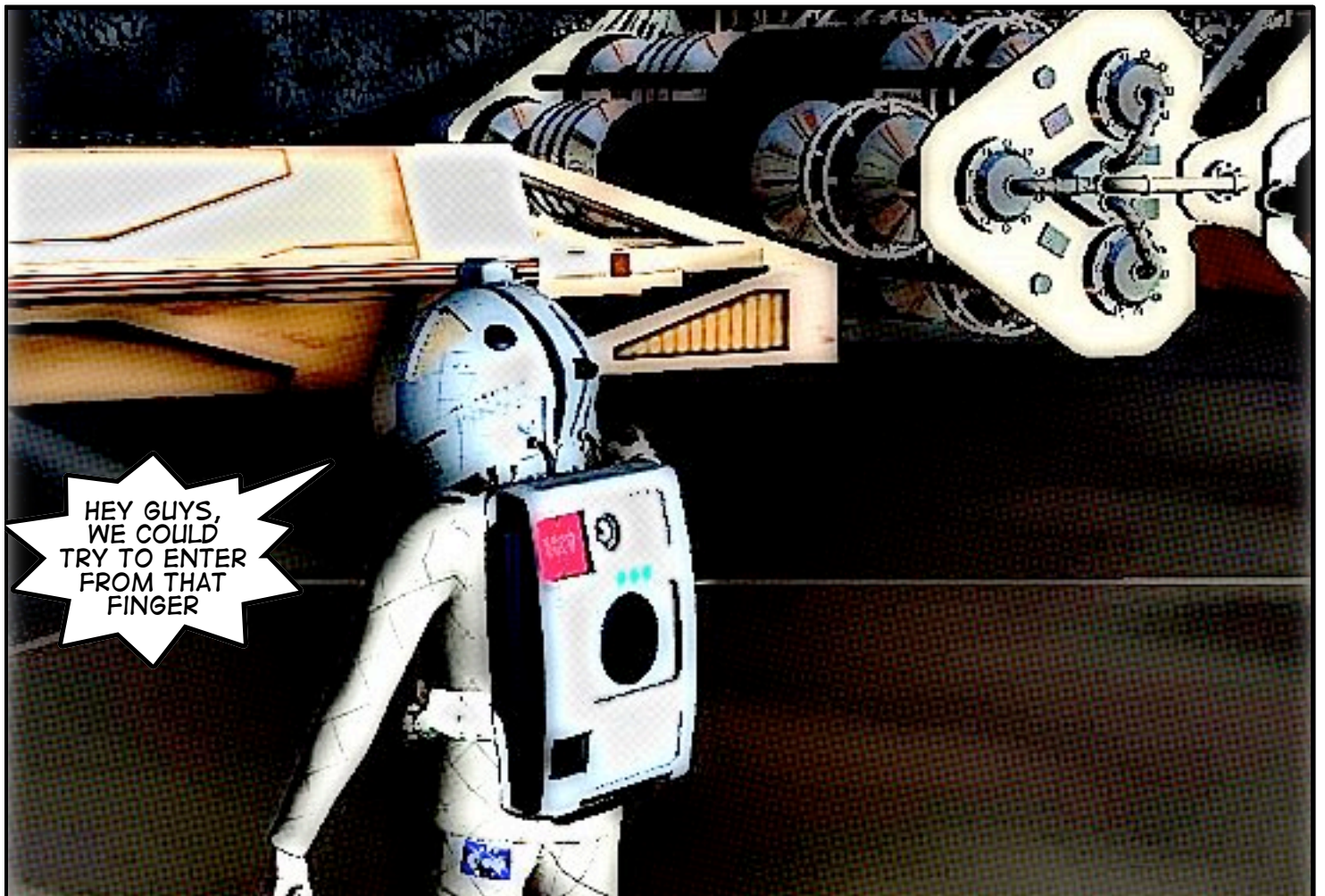


(\*) EXTRA VEHICULAR ACTIVITY

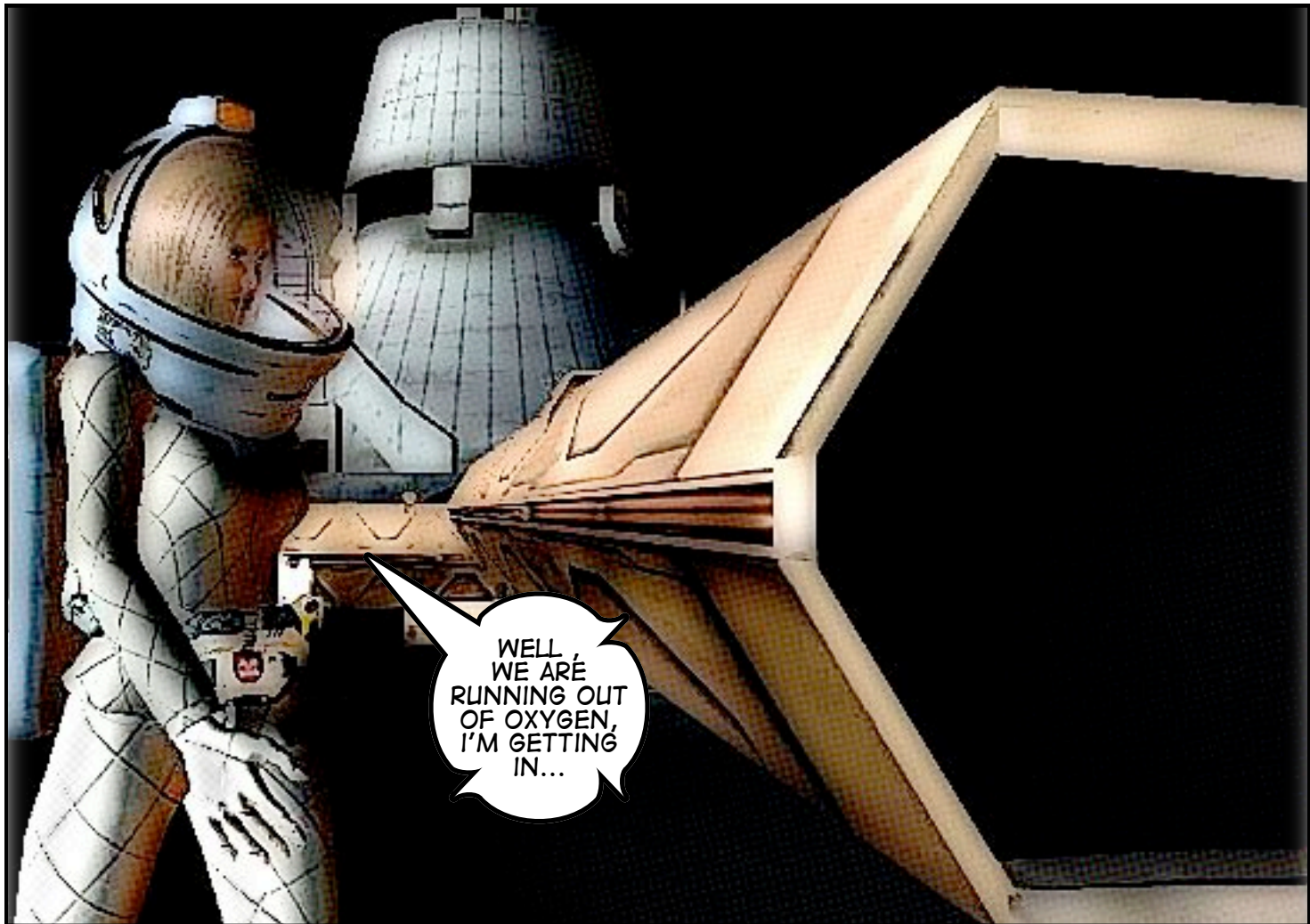


LOOK  
DIVINESHADOW!  
IT DOESN'T SEEM  
TO BE A BUILDING  
BUILT BY  
HUMANS...

UHM, YES  
SYS. LET'S  
FIND AN  
ENTRANCE



HEY GUYS,  
WE COULD  
TRY TO ENTER  
FROM THAT  
FINGER



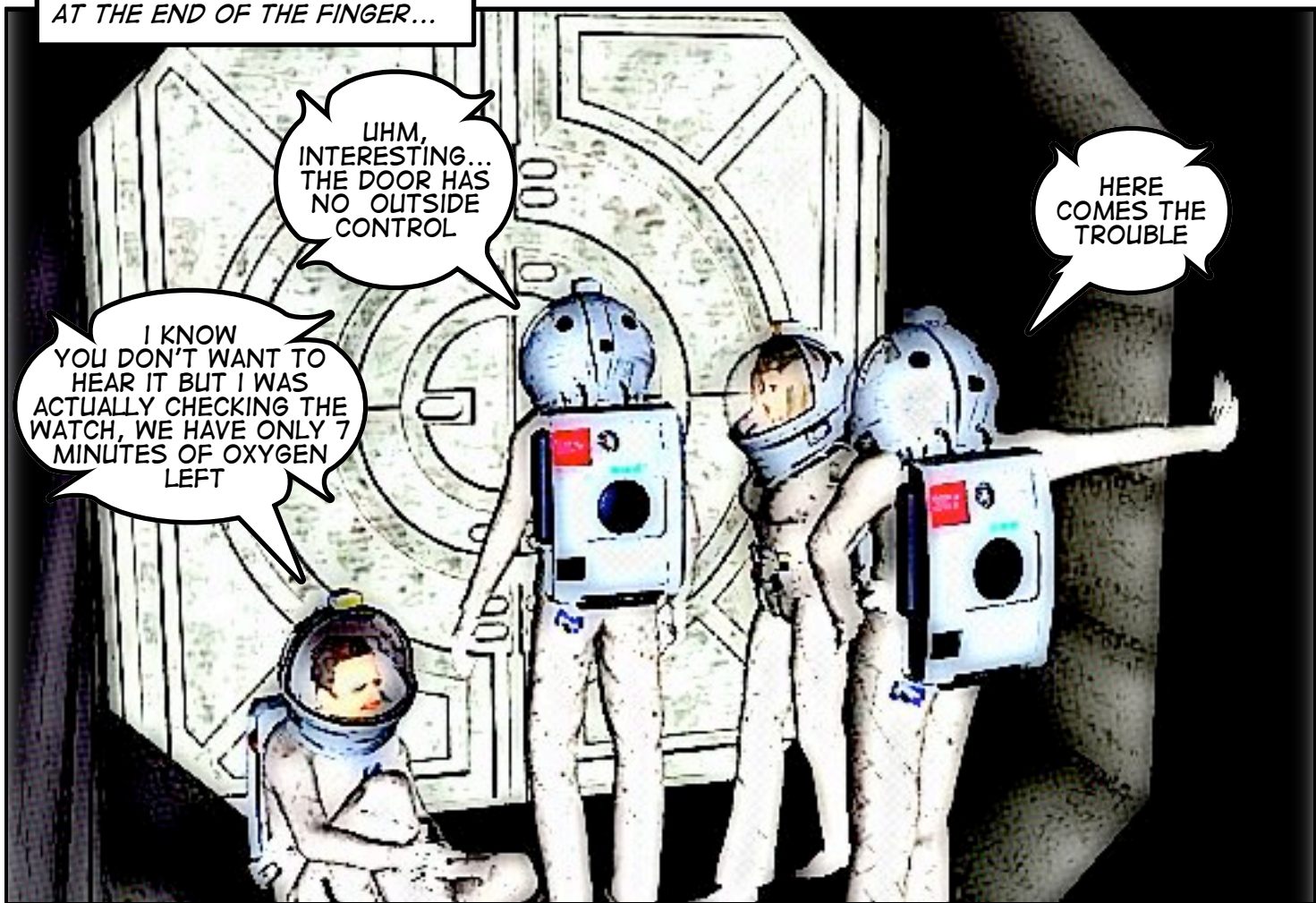
WELL  
WE ARE  
RUNNING OUT  
OF OXYGEN,  
I'M GETTING  
IN...

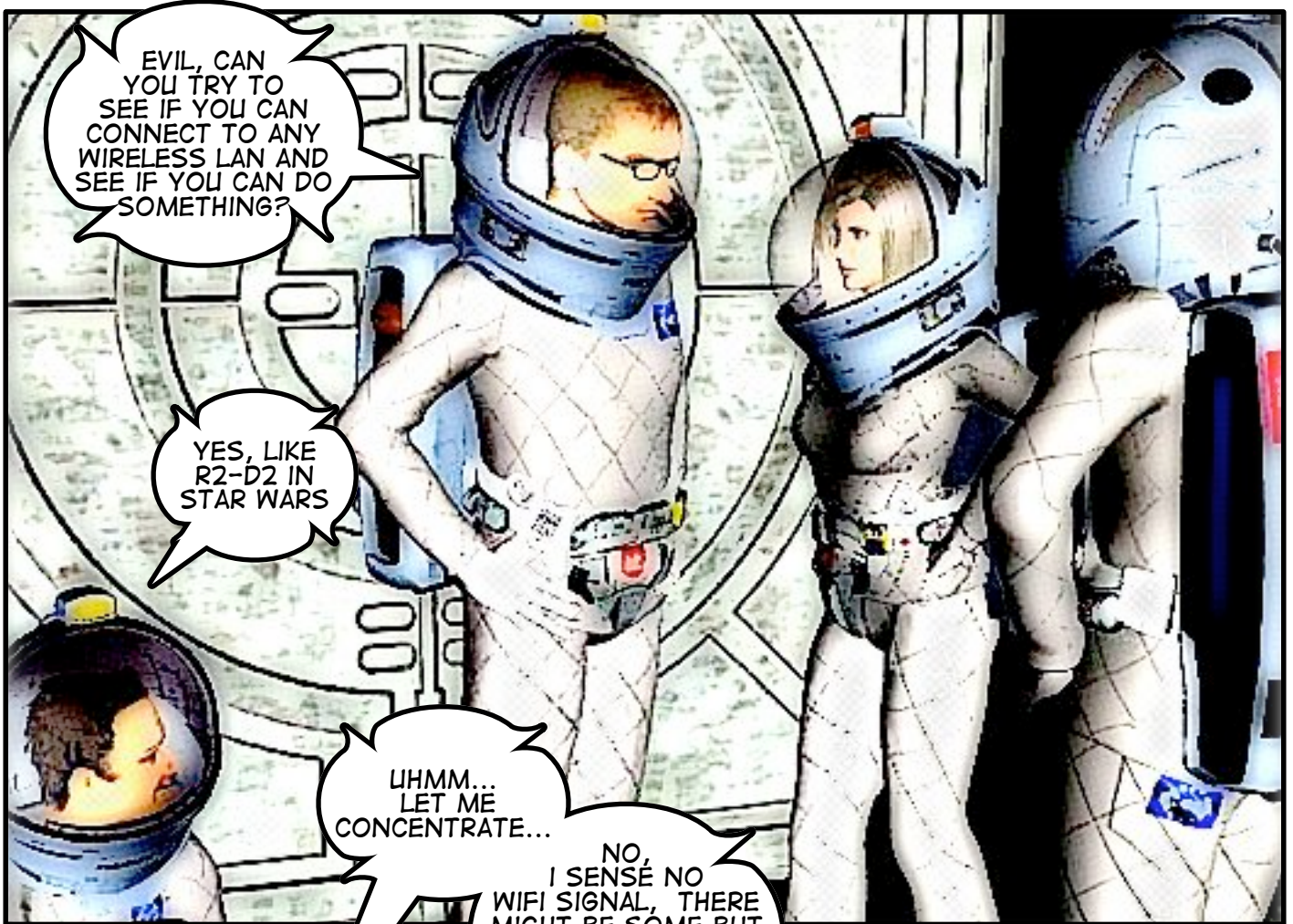
AT THE END OF THE FINGER...

UHM,  
INTERESTING...  
THE DOOR HAS  
NO OUTSIDE  
CONTROL

I KNOW  
YOU DON'T WANT TO  
HEAR IT BUT I WAS  
ACTUALLY CHECKING THE  
WATCH, WE HAVE ONLY 7  
MINUTES OF OXYGEN  
LEFT

HERE  
COMES THE  
TROUBLE



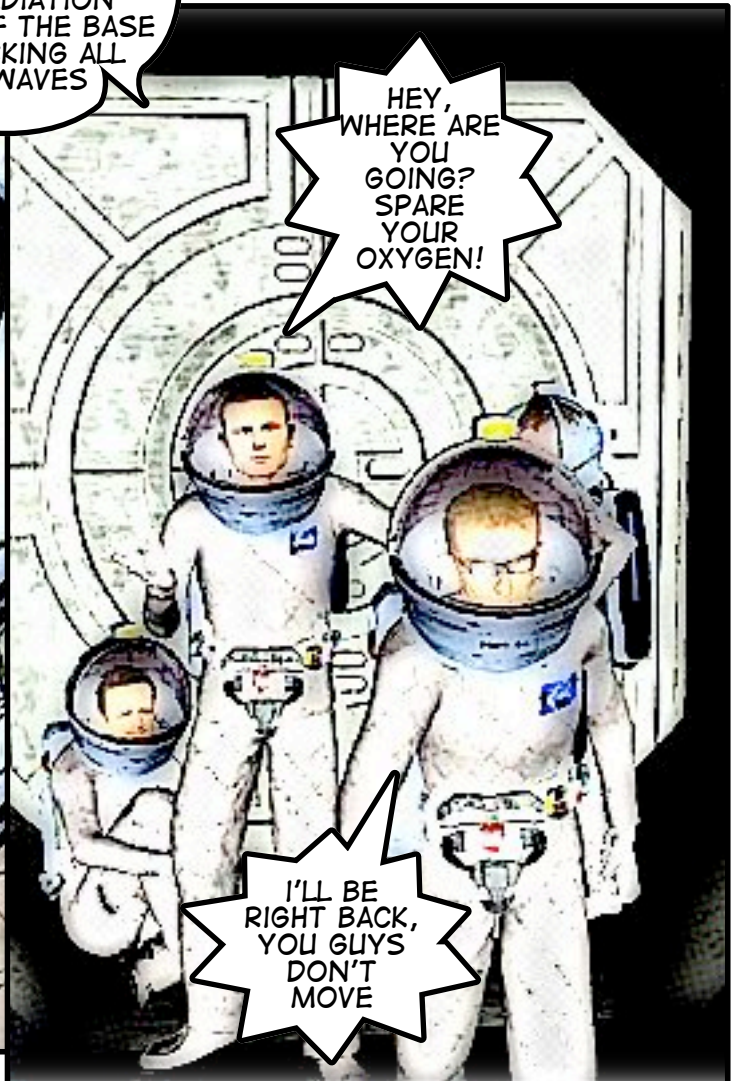


EVIL, CAN YOU TRY TO SEE IF YOU CAN CONNECT TO ANY WIRELESS LAN AND SEE IF YOU CAN DO SOMETHING?

YES, LIKE R2-D2 IN STAR WARS

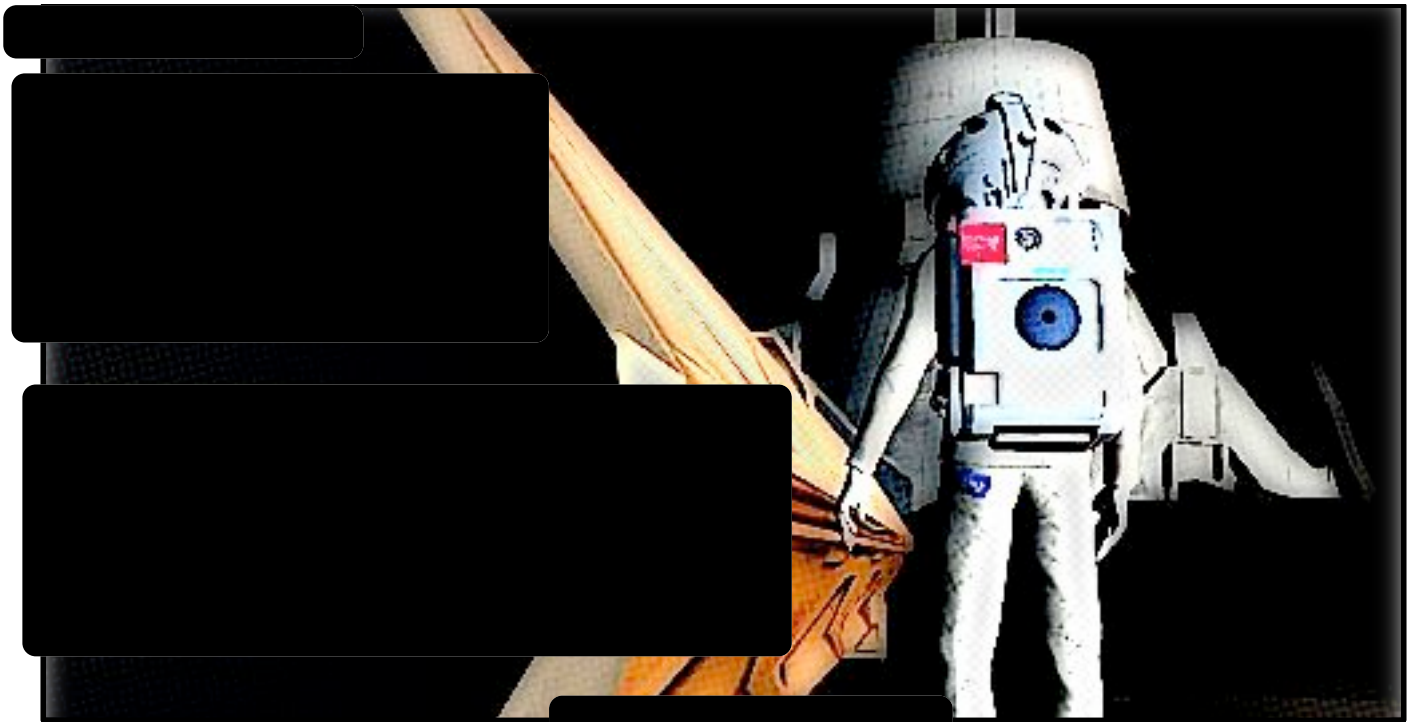
UHMM... LET ME CONCENTRATE...

NO, I SENSÉ NO WIFI SIGNAL, THERE MIGHT BE SOME BUT THE RADIATION SHIELD OF THE BASE IS BLOCKING ALL THE WAVES



HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? SPARE YOUR OXYGEN!

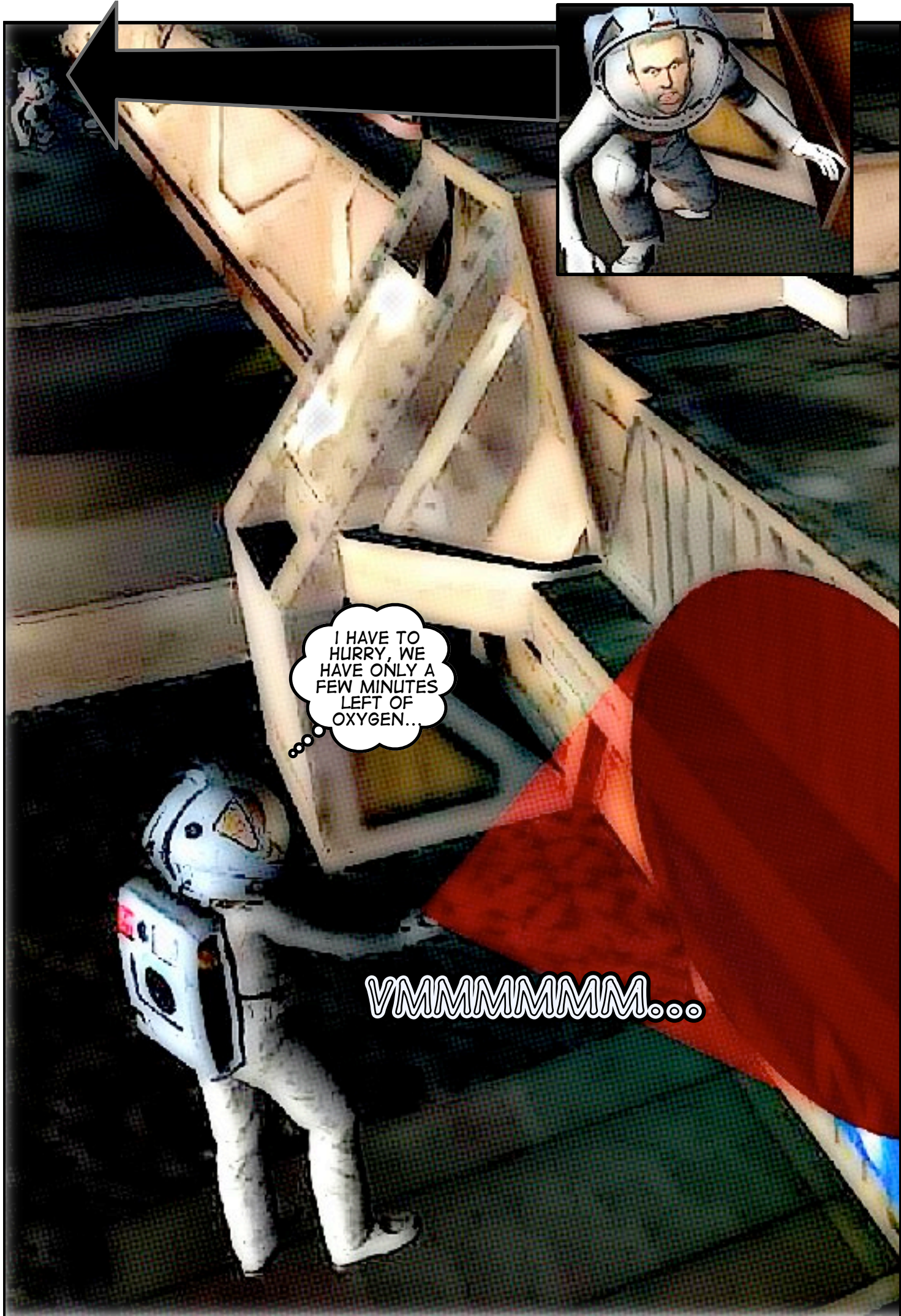
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, YOU GUYS DON'T MOVE



UHMMM,  
THIS  
SHOULD BE  
THE FINGER  
JUNCTION

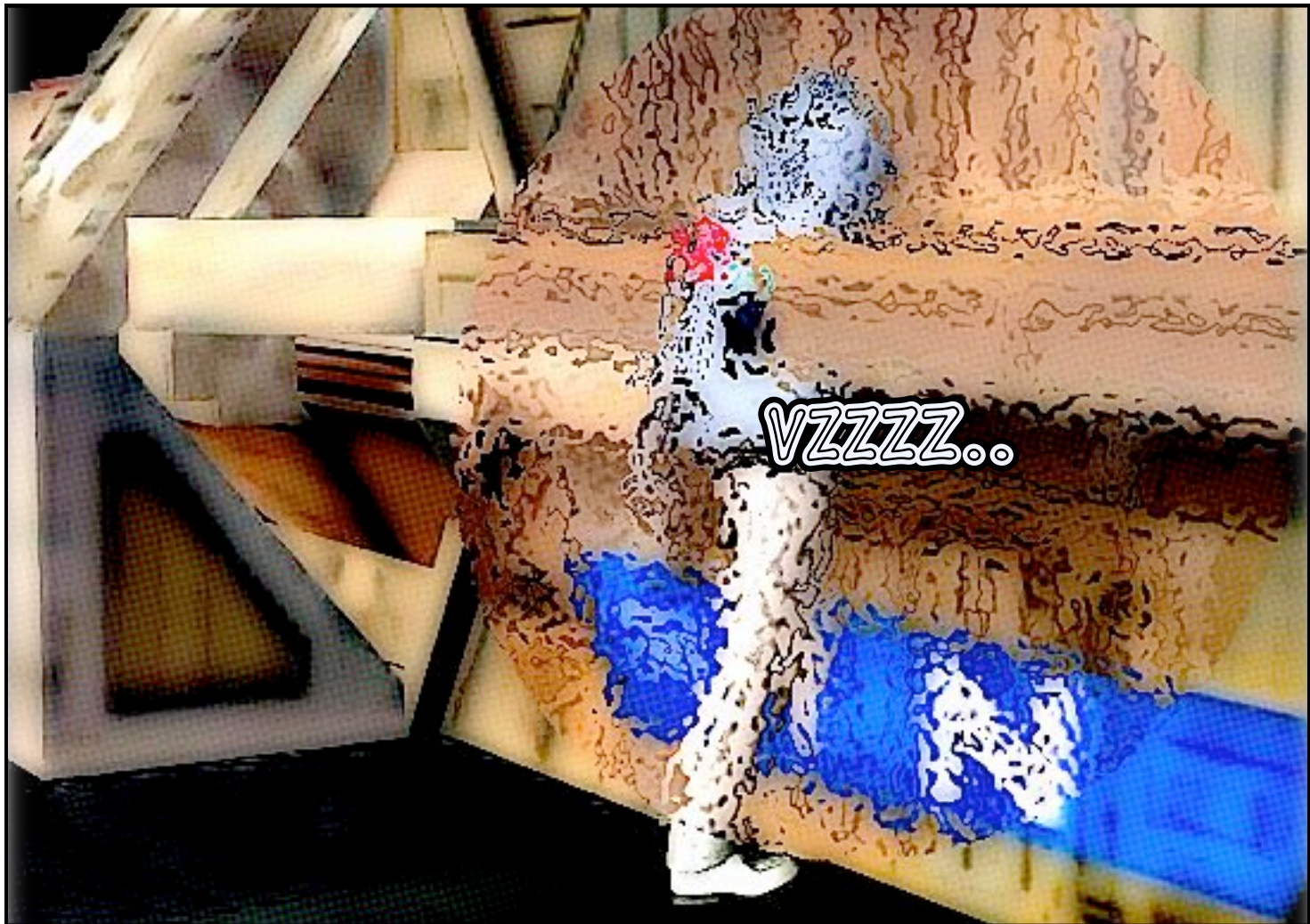


AND THIS  
SHOULD BE  
THE  
MECHANISM  
MOVING THAT  
DOOR



I HAVE TO HURRY, WE HAVE ONLY A FEW MINUTES LEFT OF OXYGEN..

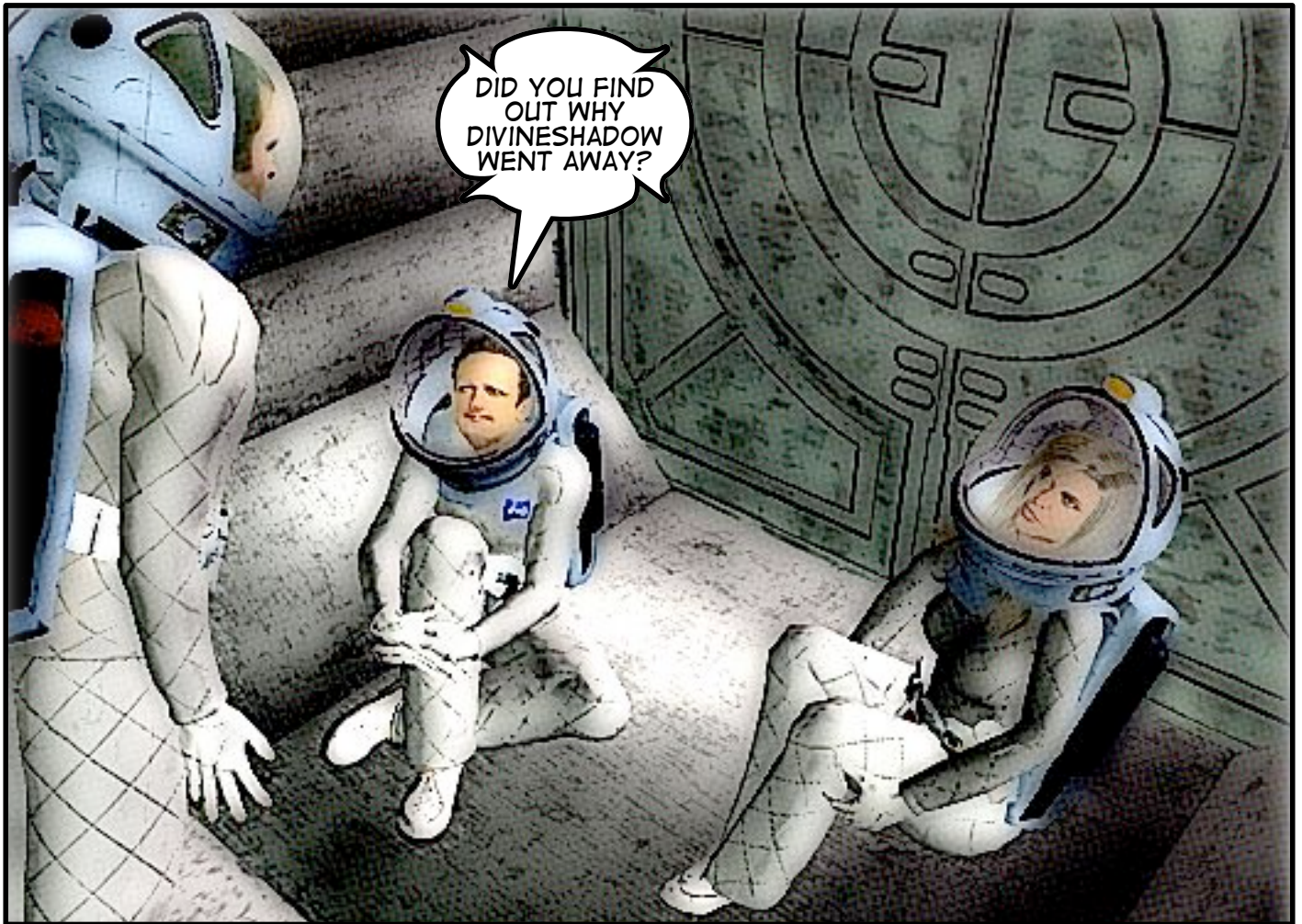
VMMMMMMMMM...



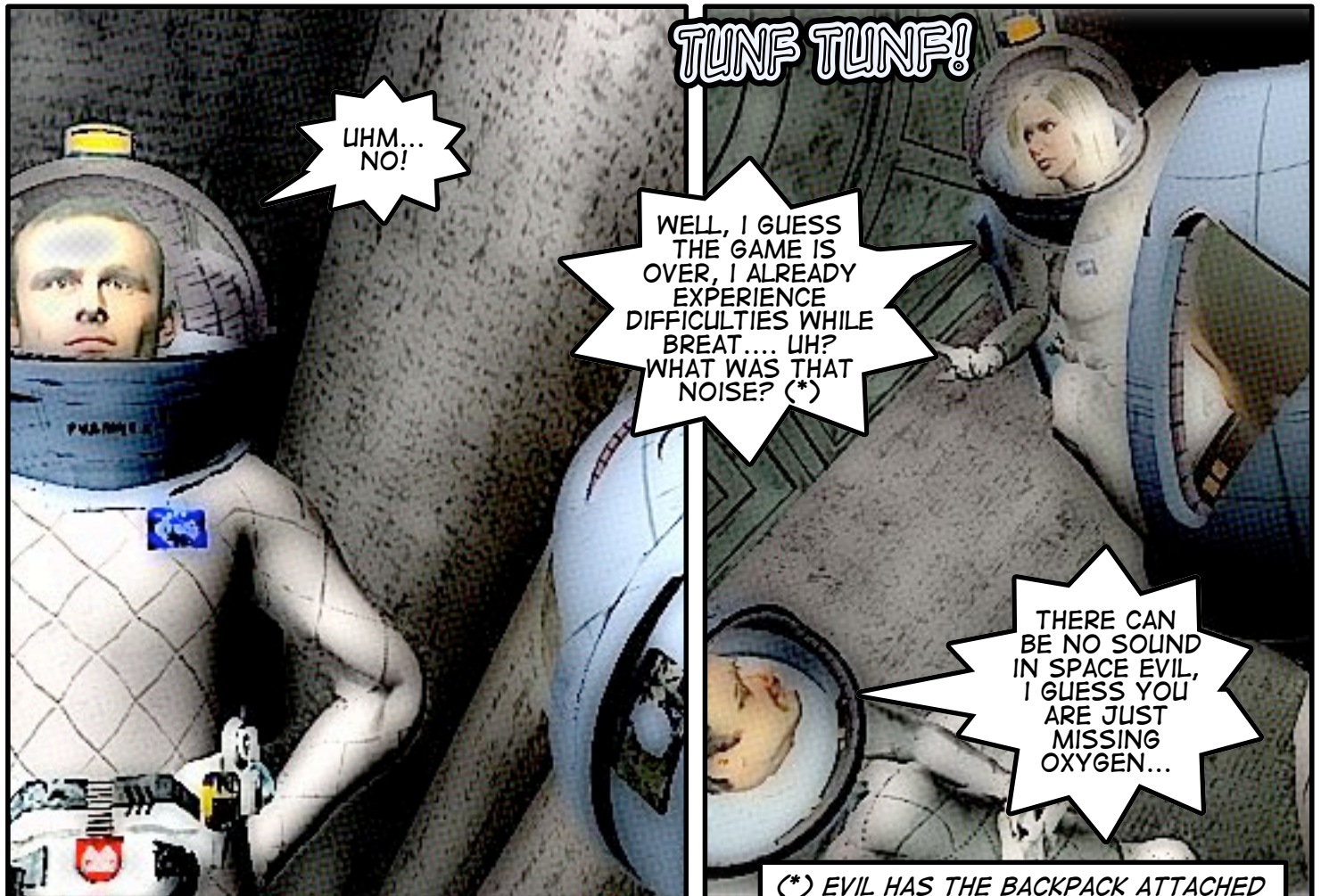
VZZZZZ..



HOLY SHIT!,  
BETTER TO  
GO BACK...



DID YOU FIND OUT WHY DIVINESHADOW WENT AWAY?



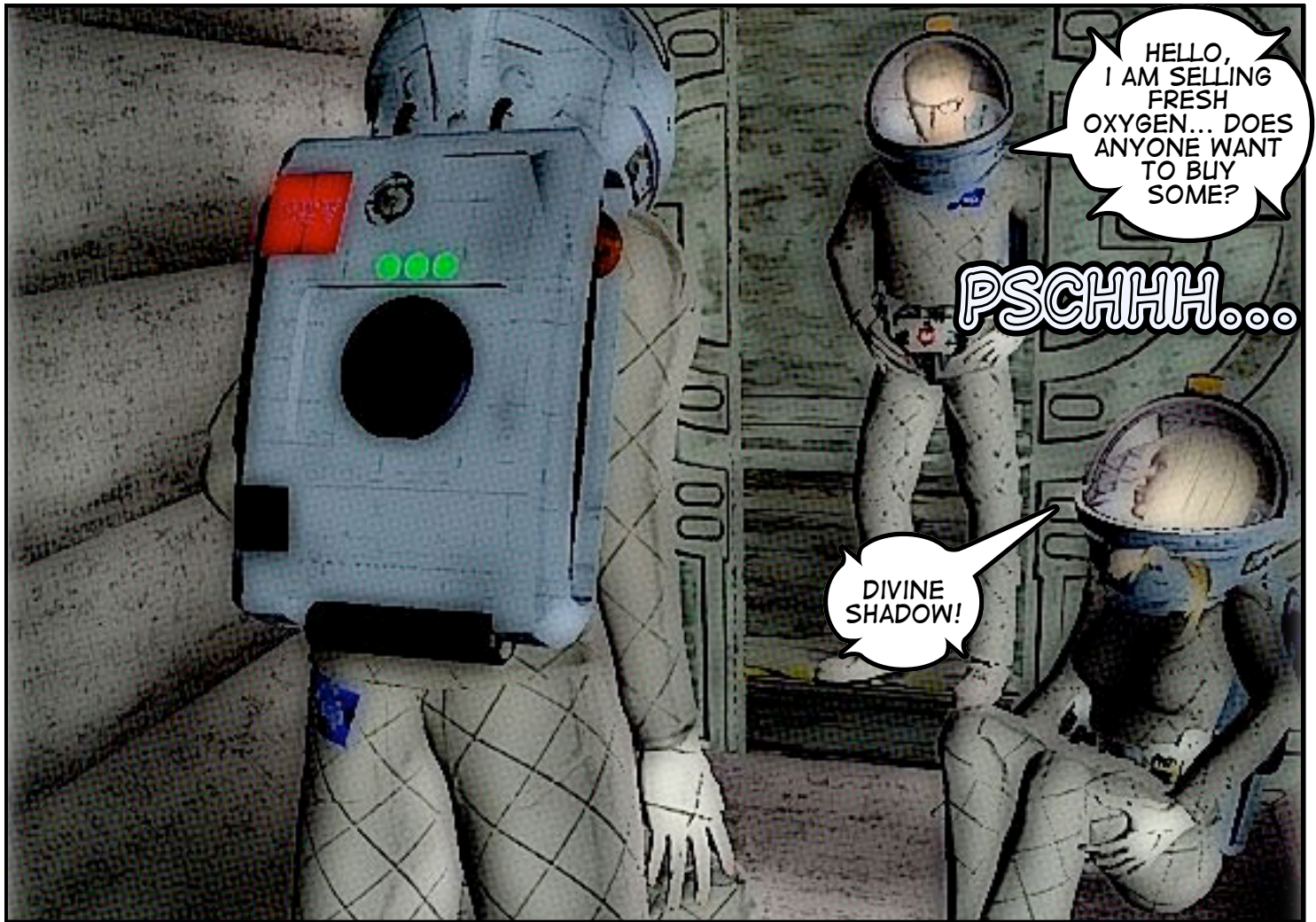
UHM... NO!

TUNF TUNF!

WELL, I GUESS THE GAME IS OVER, I ALREADY EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES WHILE BREAT... UH? WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? (\*)

THERE CAN BE NO SOUND IN SPACE EVIL, I GUESS YOU ARE JUST MISSING OXYGEN...

(\*) EVIL HAS THE BACKPACK ATTACHED TO THE DOOR, SO SHE CAN HEAR THE NOISE WHILE THE OTHERS CANNOT





FORTUNATELY I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND A SECONDARY ENTRANCE... IN A FEW SECONDS THE RECOMPRESSION CYCLE SHOULD BE FINISHED SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF THE HELMETS...

...SURE DIVINE SHADOW... SURE



FRESH AIR!

WOSH HH

BE CAREFUL, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND THESE DOORS...

SOME MORE TROUBLE FOR SURE



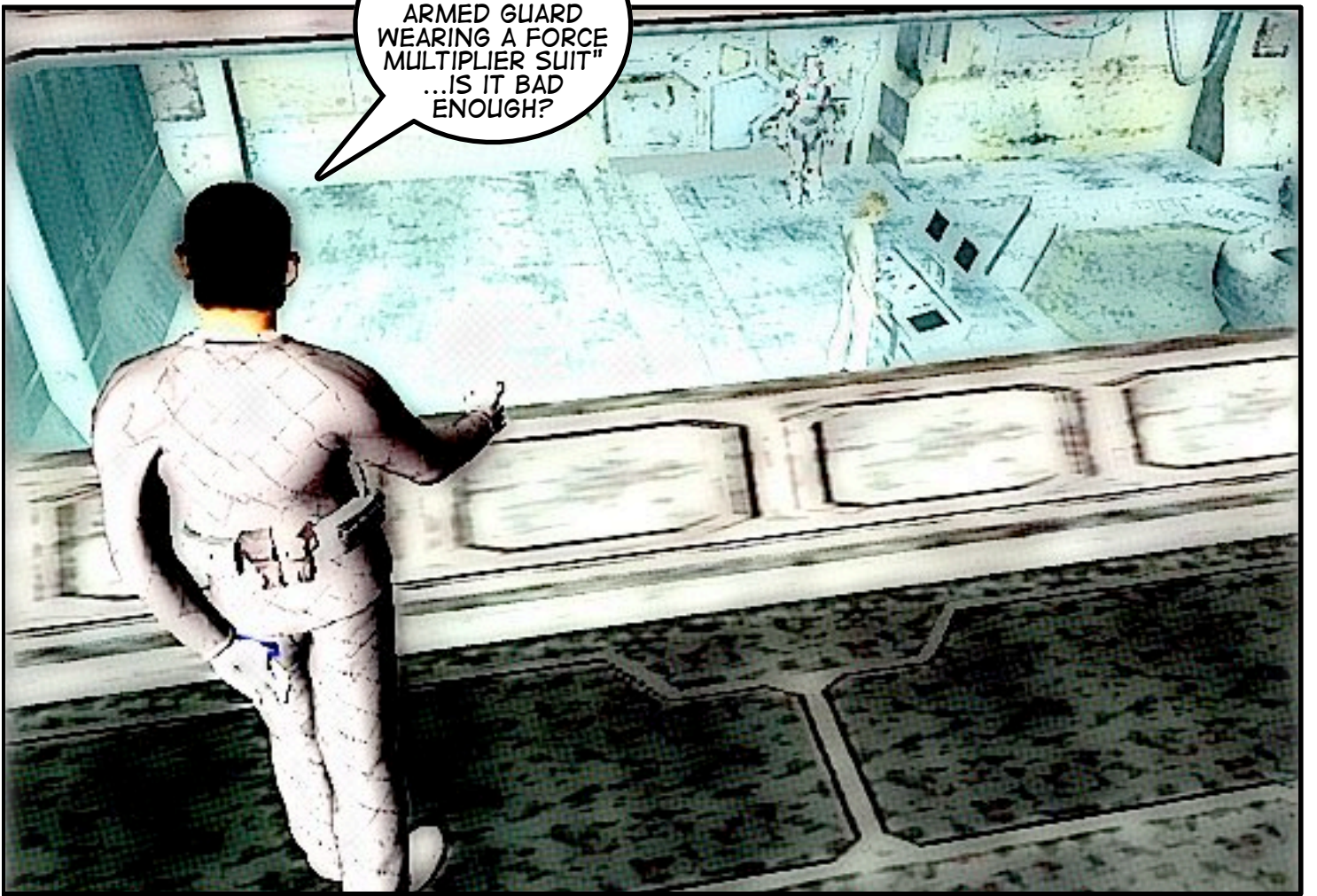


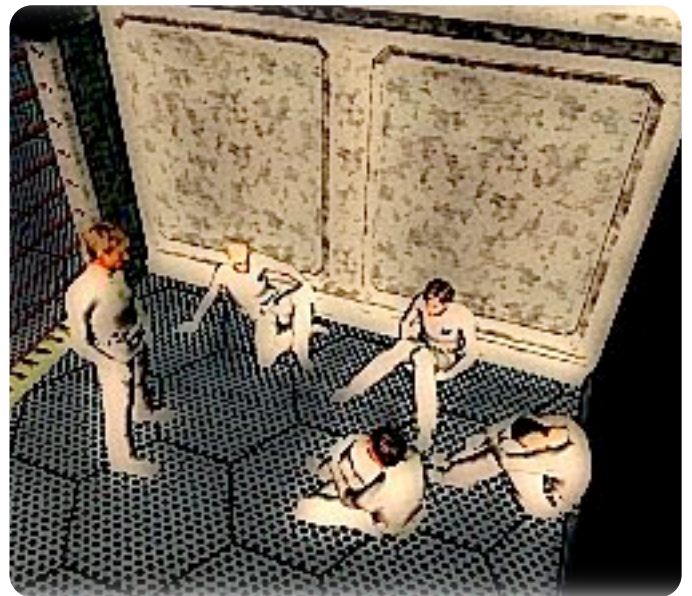
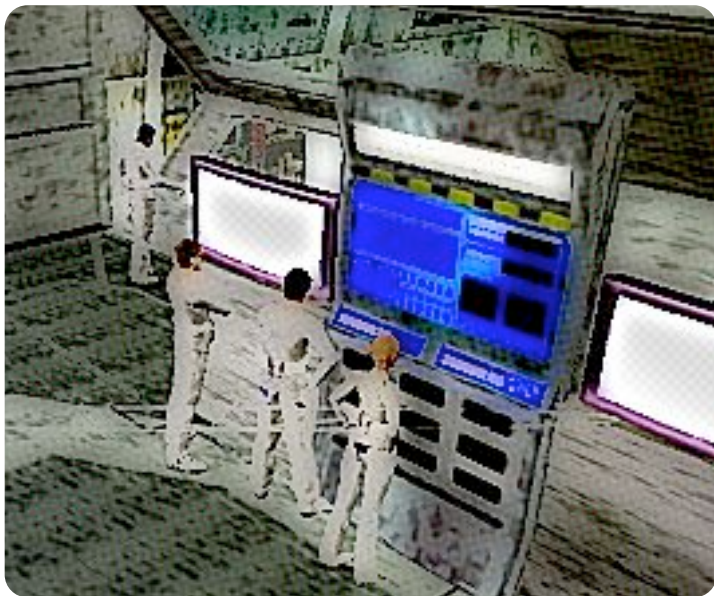
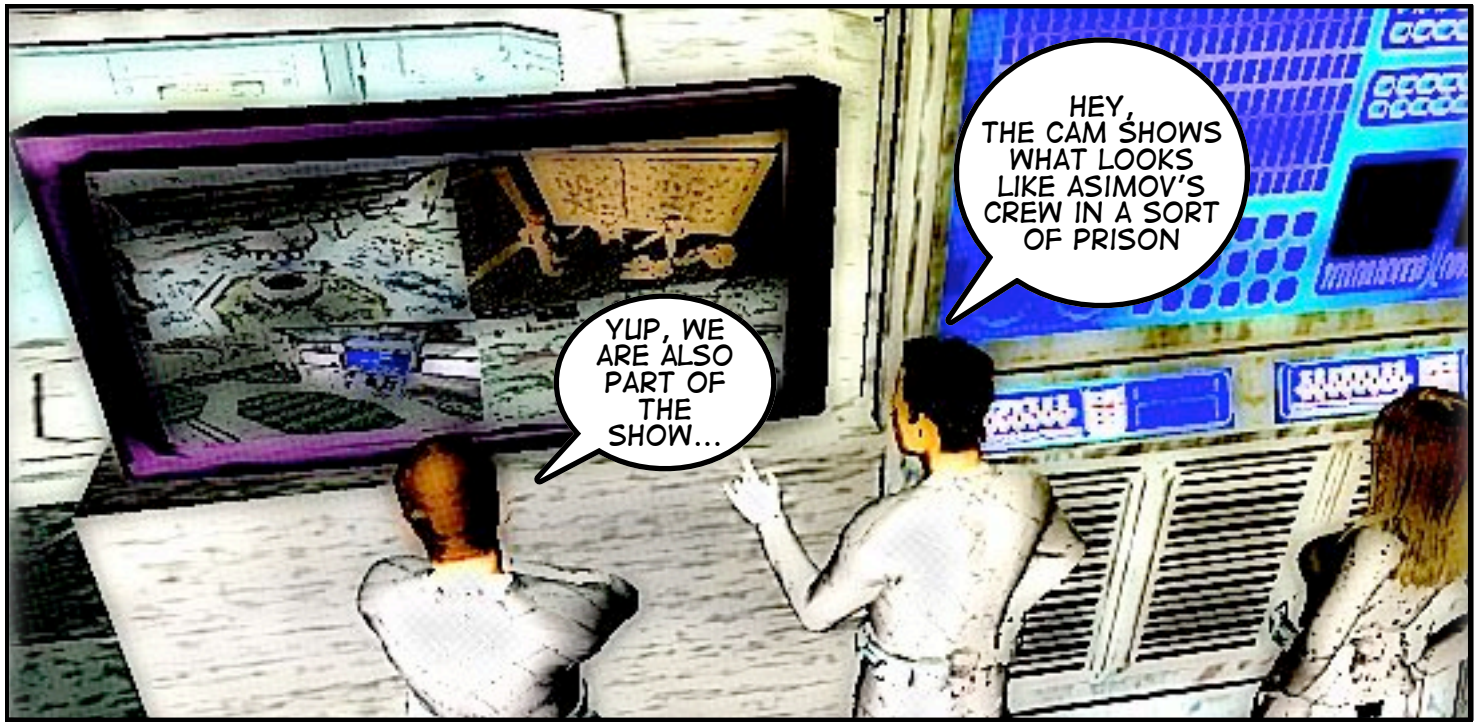
UHM...  
THERE  
ARE SOME  
BAD  
NEWS...

THIS  
MONITOR  
SHOWS THE  
SURVEILLANCE  
CAMERAS  
SHOTS

IT'S A  
QUITE  
INTUITIVE  
PANEL...  
WHAT BAD  
NEWS?

THE BAD  
NEWS IS  
"A HEAVILY  
ARMED GUARD  
WEARING A FORCE  
MULTIPLIER SUIT"  
...IS IT BAD  
ENOUGH?

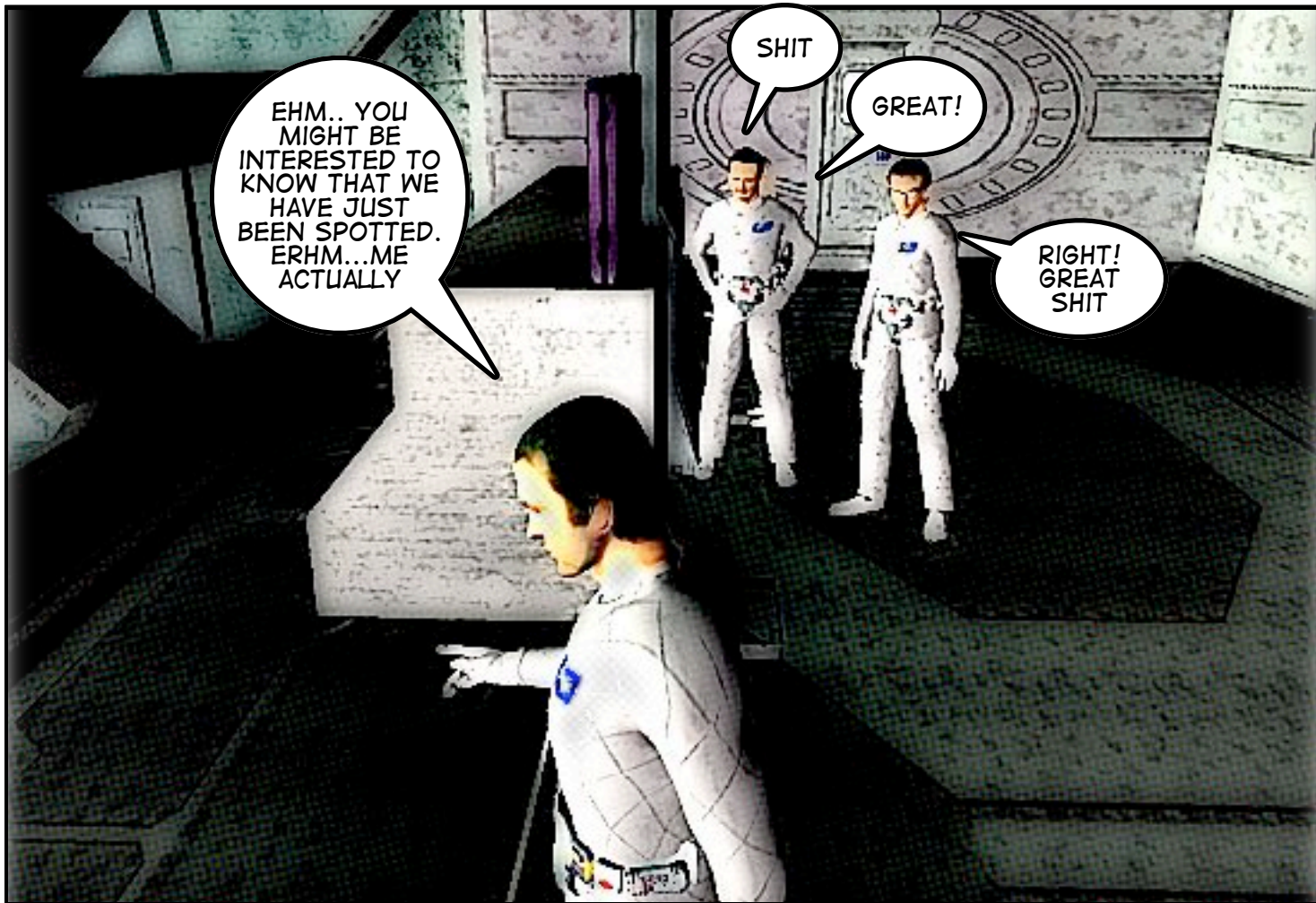






CALL SOME MORE GUARDS, WE HAVE INTRUDERS!

YES SIR

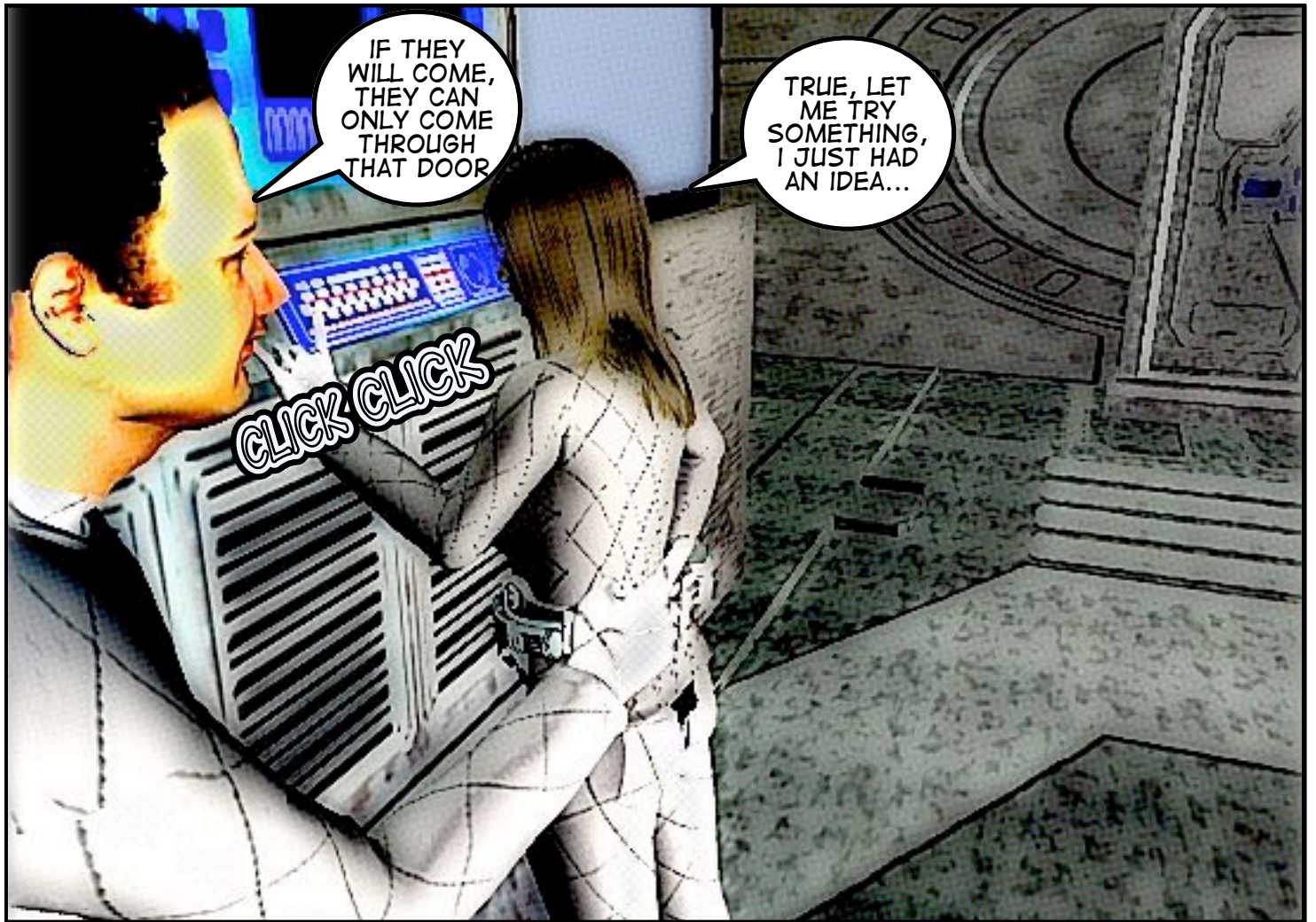


EHM.. YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE JUST BEEN SPOTTED. ERHM...ME ACTUALLY

SHIT

GREAT!

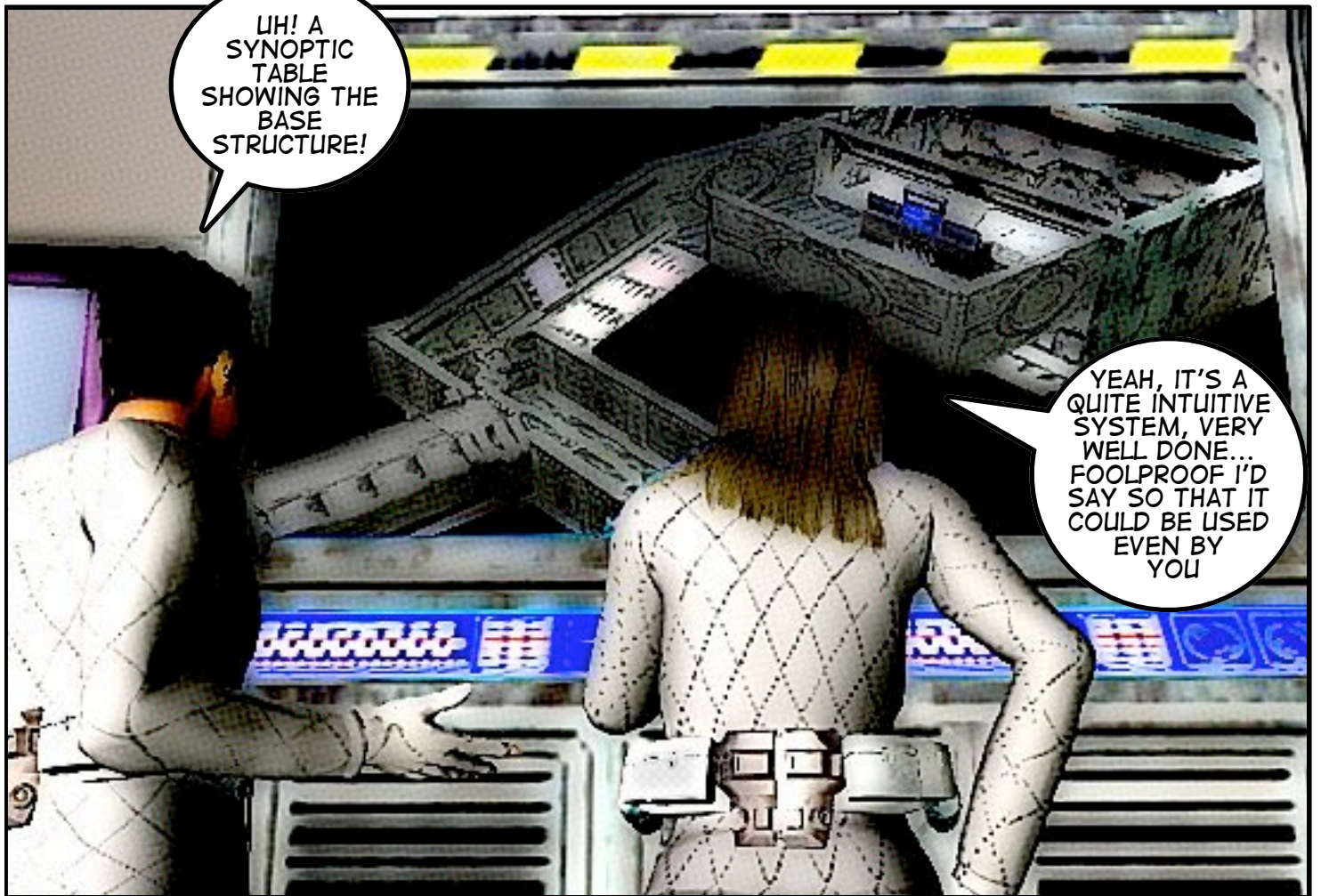
RIGHT! GREAT SHIT



IF THEY WILL COME, THEY CAN ONLY COME THROUGH THAT DOOR

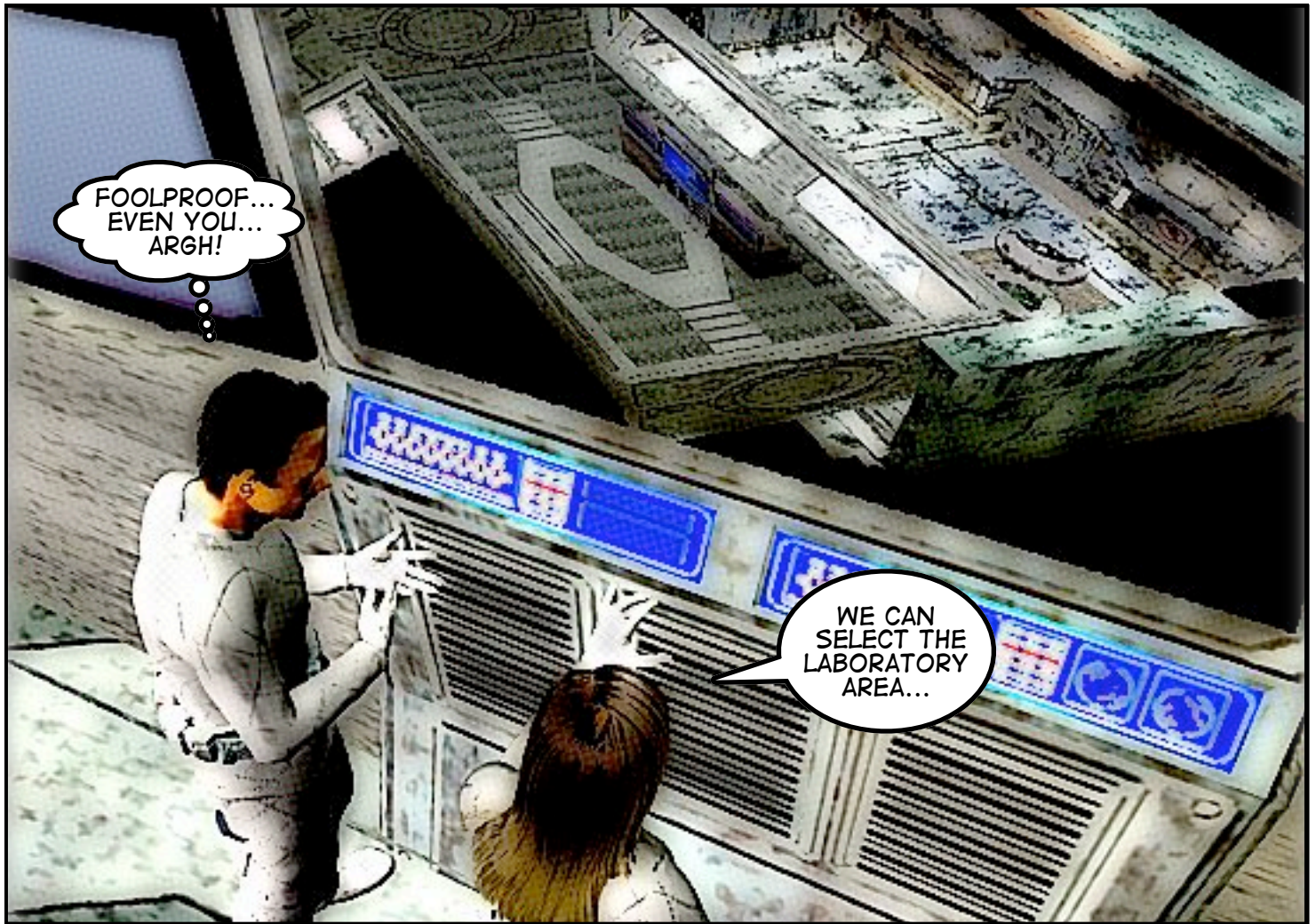
TRUE, LET ME TRY SOMETHING, I JUST HAD AN IDEA...

CLICK CLICK



UH! A SYNOPTIC TABLE SHOWING THE BASE STRUCTURE!

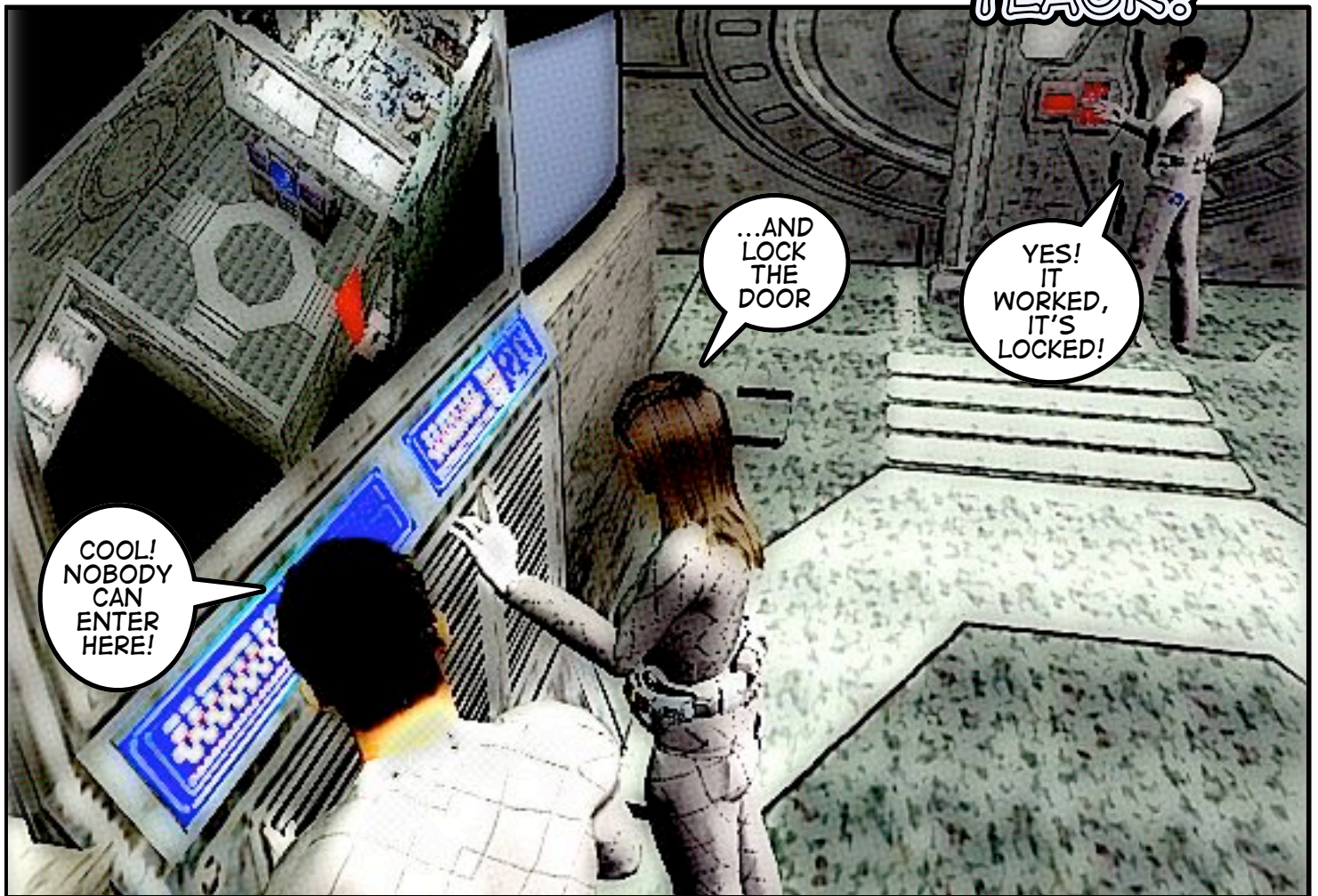
YEAH, IT'S A QUITE INTUITIVE SYSTEM, VERY WELL DONE... FOOLPROOF I'D SAY SO THAT IT COULD BE USED EVEN BY YOU



FOOLPROOF...  
EVEN YOU...  
ARGH!

WE CAN  
SELECT THE  
LABORATORY  
AREA...

**TLACK!**



...AND  
LOCK  
THE  
DOOR

YES!  
IT  
WORKED,  
IT'S  
LOCKED!

COOL!  
NOBODY  
CAN  
ENTER  
HERE!

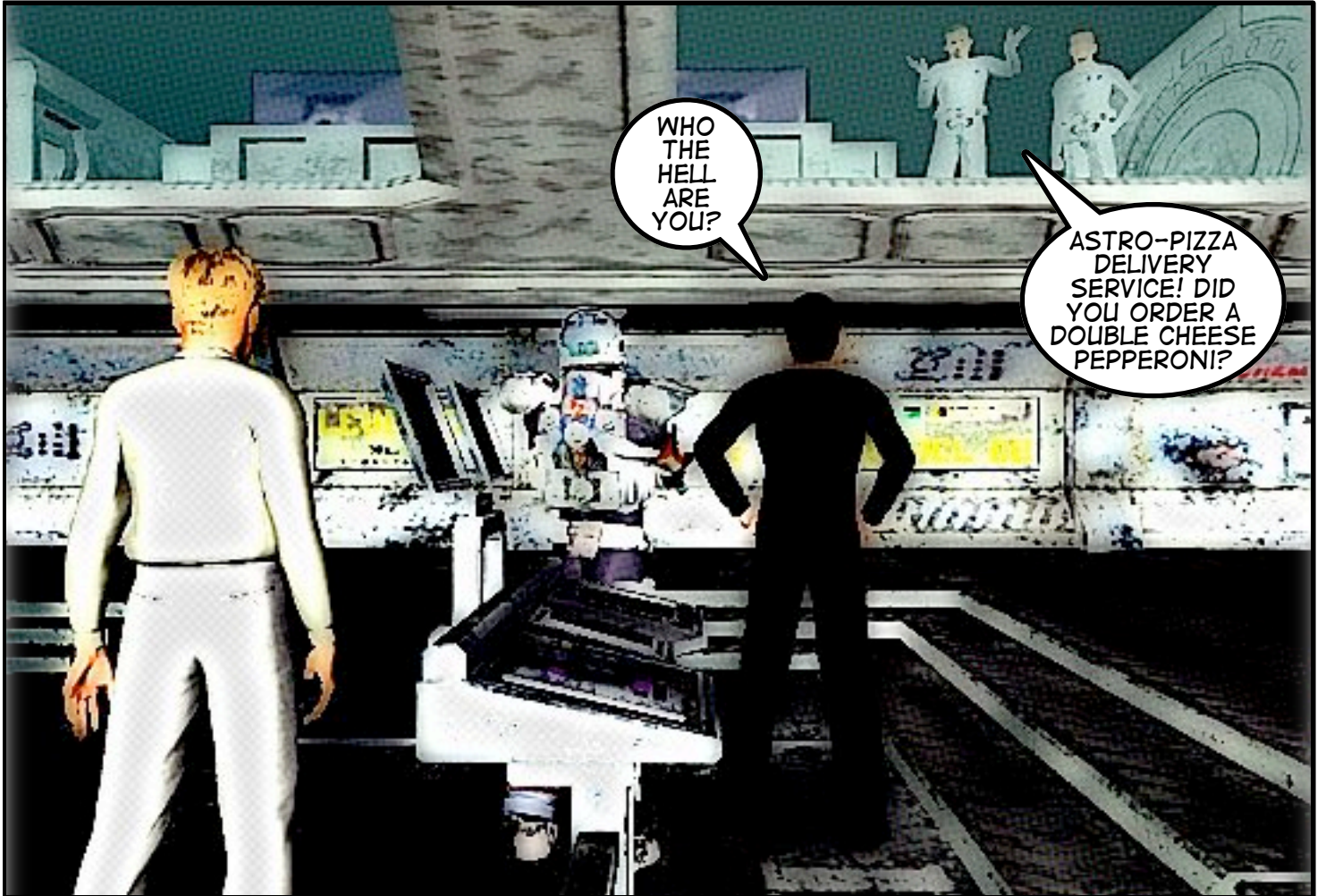
MEANWHILE...

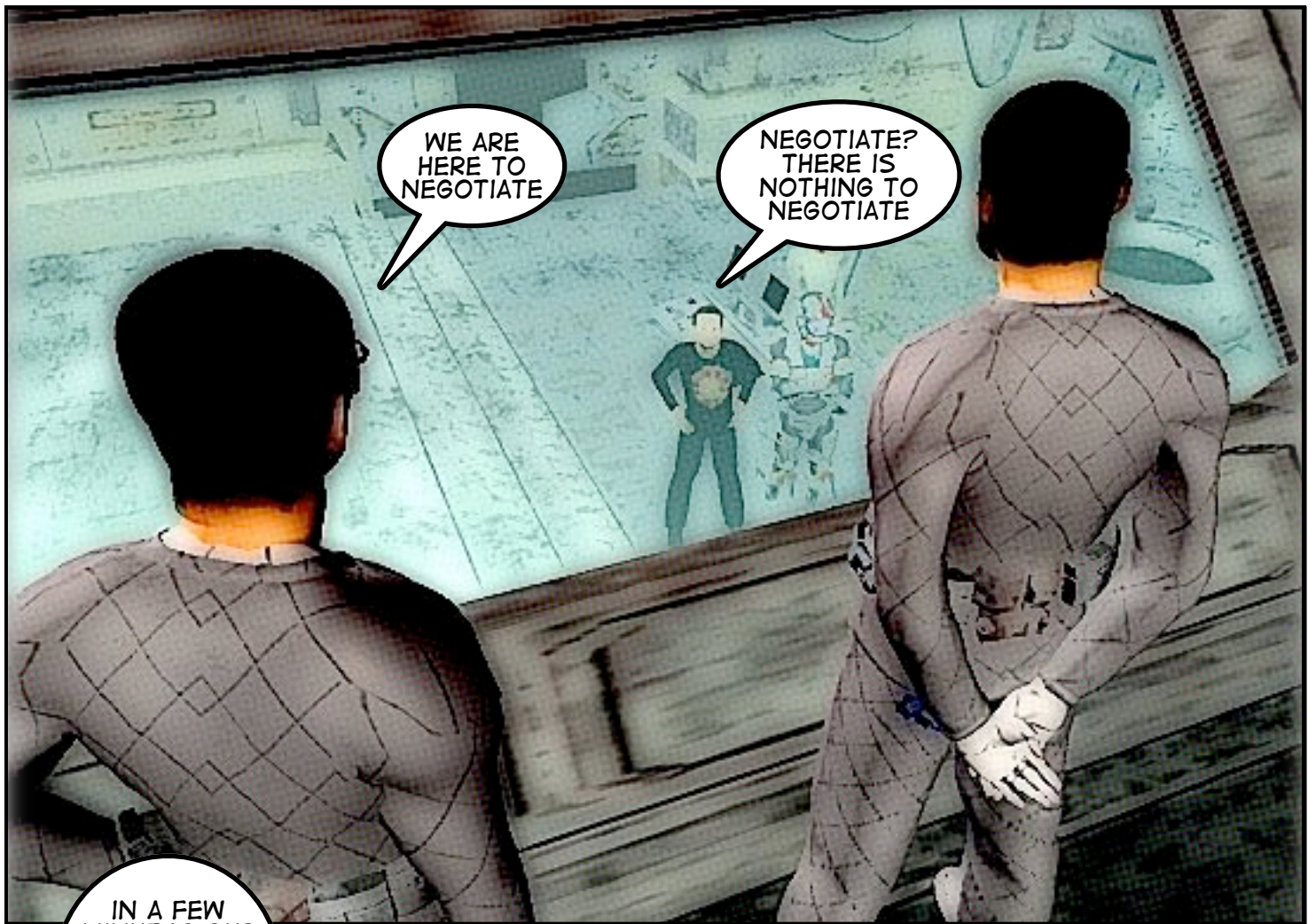
WHAT'S HAPPENING?



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

ASTRO-PIZZA DELIVERY SERVICE! DID YOU ORDER A DOUBLE CHEESE PEPPERONI?





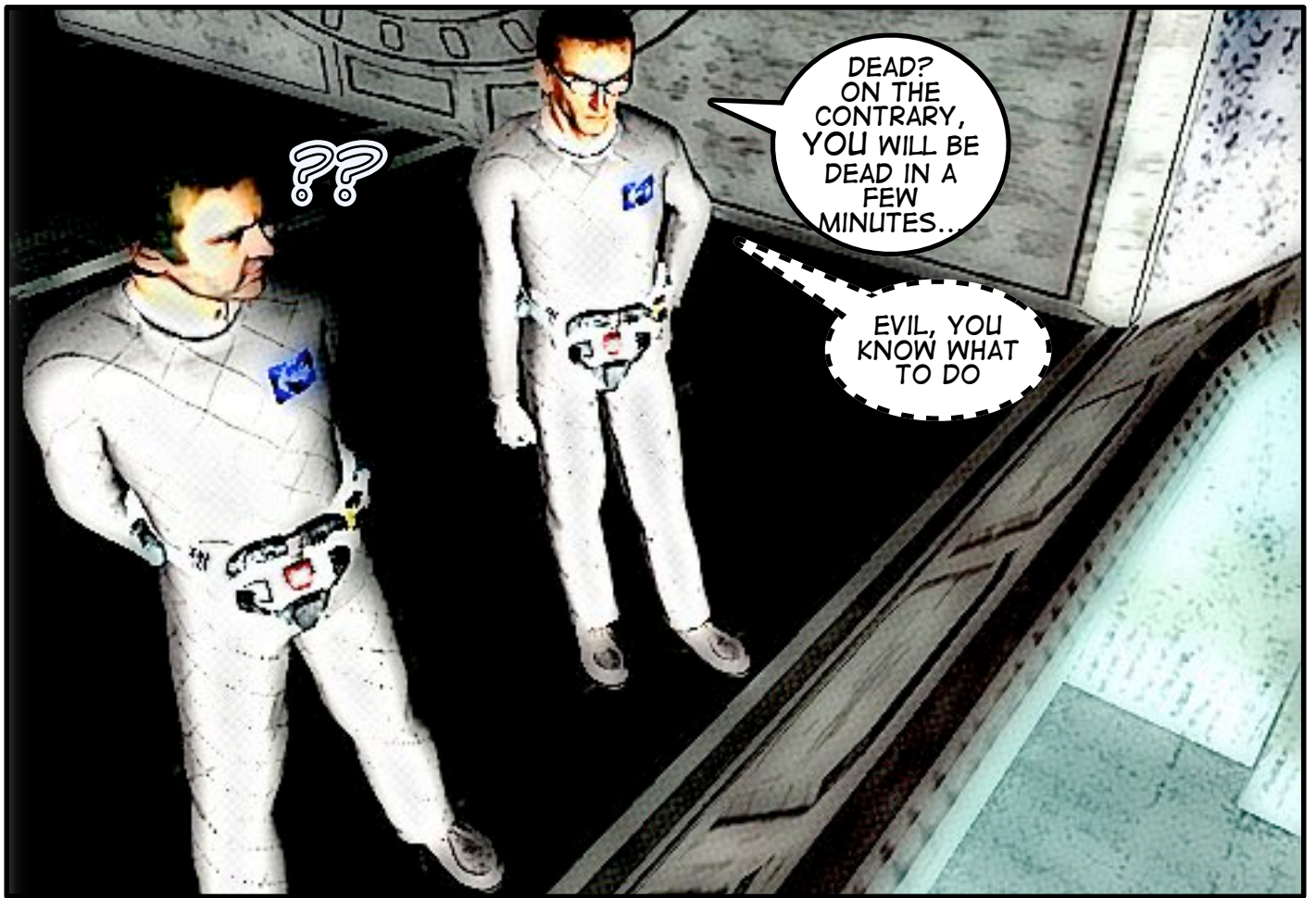
WE ARE  
HERE TO  
NEGOTIATE

NEGOTIATE?  
THERE IS  
NOTHING TO  
NEGOTIATE

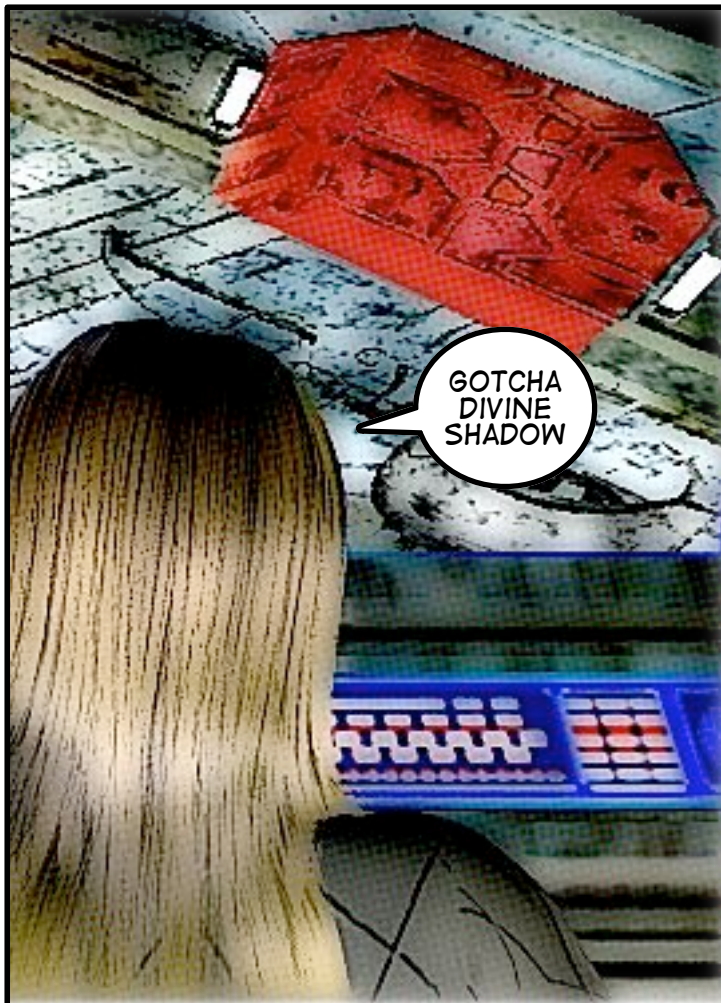
IN A FEW  
MINUTES OUR  
GUARD WILL  
BE UP THERE  
AND YOU WILL  
BE DEAD...



SIR... THE GUARDS  
REPORT THAT THE  
UPPER FLOOR DOOR IS  
ELECTRONICALLY  
SEALED, AND IT IS  
NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO  
BRUTE-FORCE IT...



**VRRRR..KLANG!**



EVIL BAD GIRL IN ACTION...


WOOSH HHHHHH

SIR, THEY ARE SUCKING OUT THE AIR...


ANGGGH

AAARRGH






EXACTLY!  
WE ARE  
SUCKING THE AIR,  
NOT ONLY THE  
OXYGEN, FROM ALL  
COMPARTMENTS  
EXCEPT THIS ONE  
AND THE PRISON  
CELL HOLDING  
ASIMOV'S  
CREW




IN THIS WAY  
THE PRESSURE  
IS LOWERING AS WELL  
WHICH MEANS THAT WHILE  
YOUR GUARD CAN SURVIVE  
WITH HIS ARMOR, YOU WILL  
JUST POP LIKE A  
FIRECRACK DUE TO THE  
DIFFERENCE OF PRESSURE  
BETWEEN YOUR BODY  
AND THE VACUUM  
OUTSIDE




CAN YOU FEEL  
YOUR EYES  
POPPING OUT  
FROM YOUR  
SKULL?



AARGH,  
STOP  
STOP!



NOW I AM  
SURE YOU ARE KEEN  
TO NEGOTIATE.  
LET'S START FROM THE  
BEGINNING... I SAW THE  
EMBLEM ON YOUR SHIRT,  
WHAT IS THE CHINESE  
BIGGEST ENERGY  
COMPANY DOING ON THE  
MOON AND WHY DID  
YOU HIJACK THE  
ASIMOV?

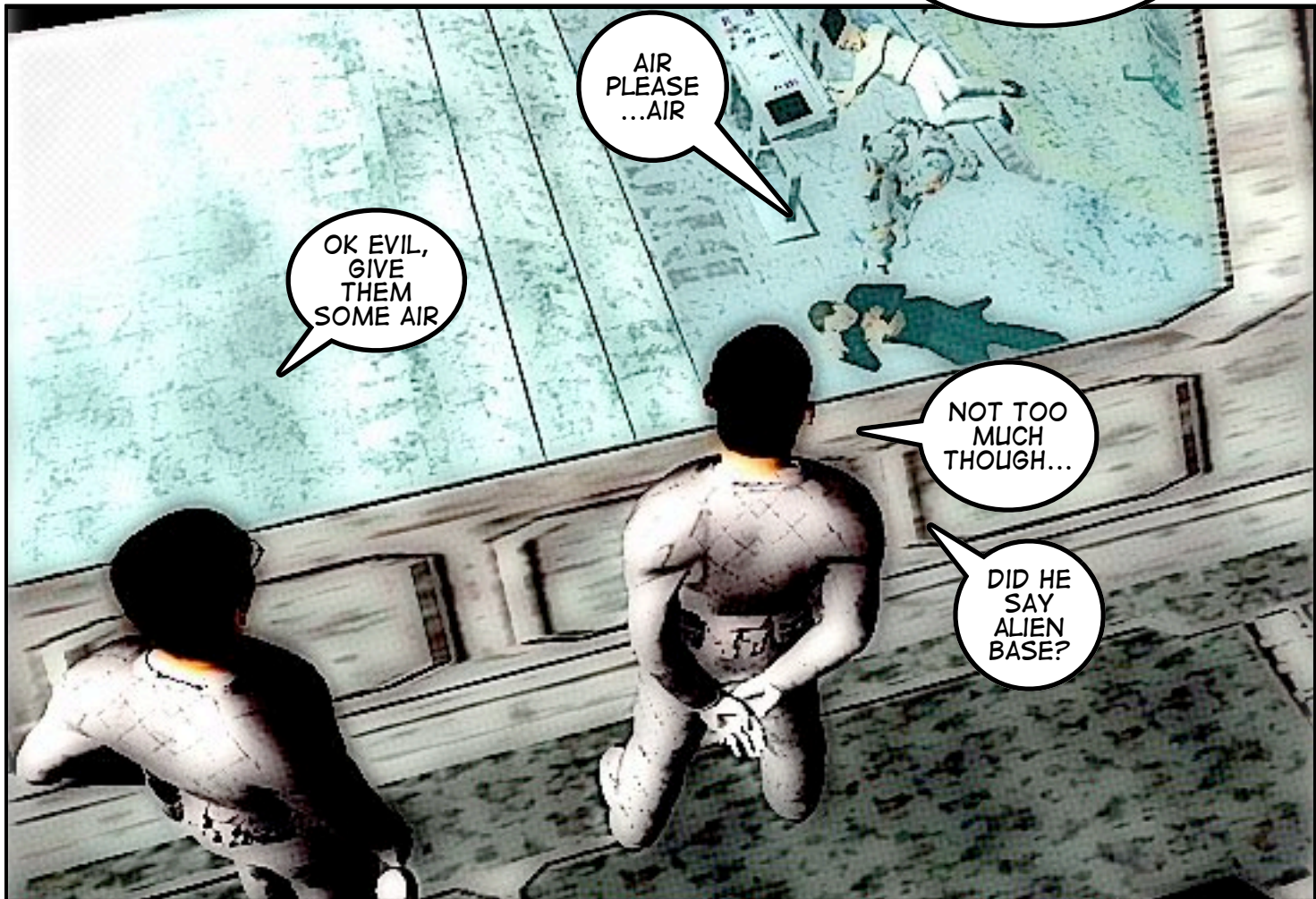


COUGH...  
THE CHINESE OIL  
INDUSTRY WAS AFRAID  
OF THE NEW SALINIER-  
CAPRONI REACTOR, WE  
HAVE BEEN INVESTING  
SO MUCH IN OIL  
INFRASTRUCTURES THAT  
WE COULDN'T RISK TO  
LOOSE EVERYTHING  
DUE TO THIS NEW  
TECHNOLOGY...



KIDNAPPING SAUNIER AND CAPRONI ALLOWED US TO WIN THE TENDER FOR THE NEW REACTOR AS THEY COULDN'T PARTICIPATE. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DISCOVERED THIS ALIEN BASE DURING ONE OF THE PAST MISSIONS ON THE MOON.

WE MODIFIED IT AND HAVE BEEN USING IT SINCE 10 YEARS. WE DECIDED THAT THE BEST TIME TO KIDNAP SAUNIER AND CAPRONI WAS DURING THEIR TRIP ON THE SHUTTLE AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO CATCH THEM ONCE IN SPACE AND TO PUT IN DISGRACE THE NEW REACTORS



AIR PLEASE ...AIR

OK EVIL, GIVE THEM SOME AIR

NOT TOO MUCH THOUGH...

DID HE SAY ALIEN BASE?

PRESSURE "ALMOST"  
RE-EQUALIZED...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT  
FROM  
ME?

I'LL TELL  
YOU WHAT  
WE ARE  
GOING TO  
DO...

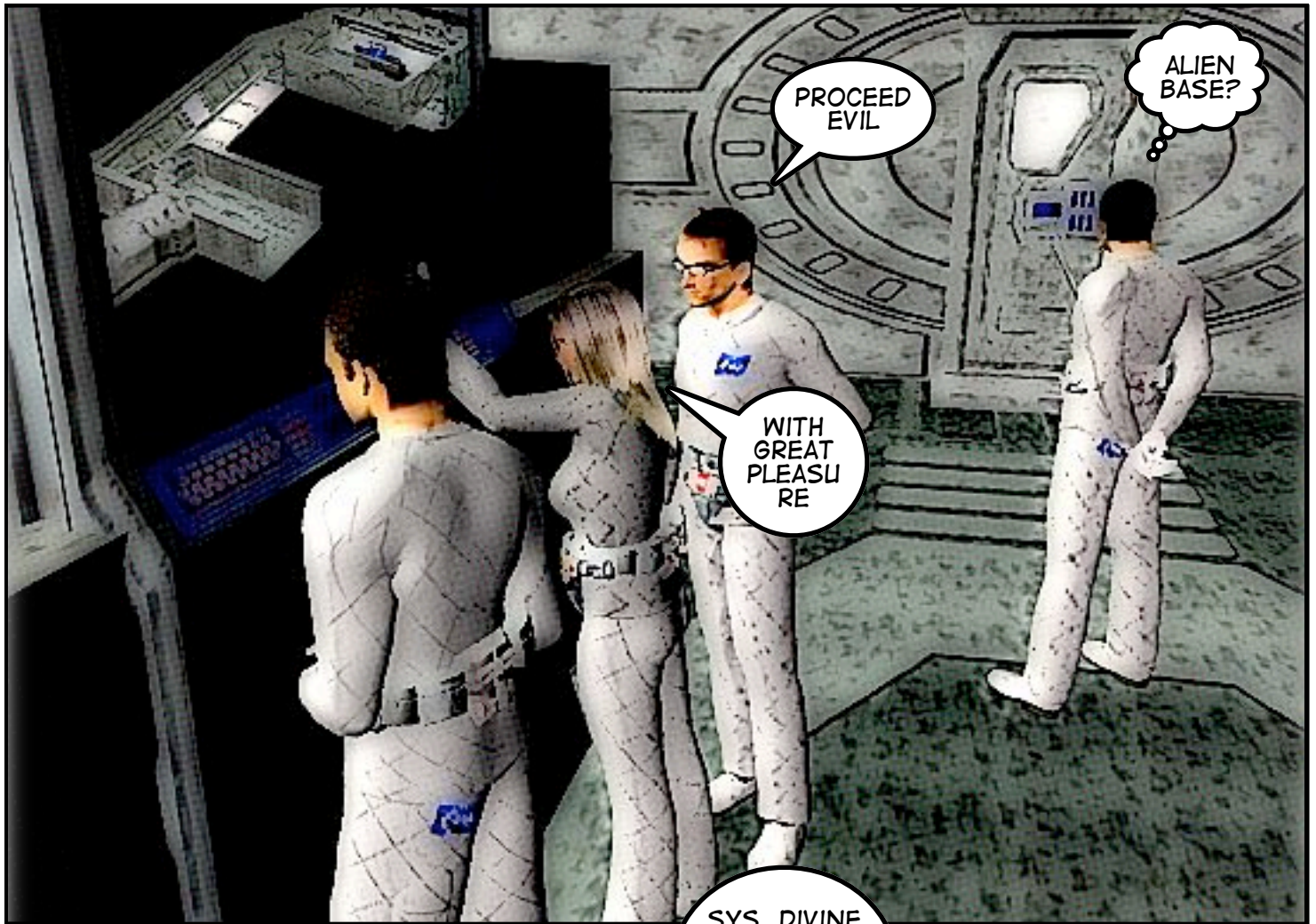
WE WILL  
OPEN THE PRISONER CELL  
FROM THIS CONSOLE. WE  
WILL KEEP ALL OF YOUR MEN  
TRAPPED BY CLOSED DOORS.  
THE AIR PRESSURE IN THOSE  
ROOM WILL VERY  
UNCOMFORTABLE...

WE WILL  
DRIVE THE  
PRISONERS HERE  
BY OPENING THE  
DOORS ONE BY ONE  
RE-EQUALIZING THE  
PRESSURE IN THE  
ROOMS AS THEY  
PASS.

IF YOUR  
MEN WILL TRY TO STOP  
THEM WE WILL CONSIDER  
THEM LOST SO WE WILL DROP  
THE PRESSURE TO ZERO IN  
ALL THE BASE. YOU WILL BE  
KILLED INSTANTLY, THE  
GUARDS WITH THE ARMORS  
WILL JUST DIE BECAUSE  
WE'LL LOCK THEM IN  
FOREVER...

DID I  
MAKE  
MYSELF  
CLEAR?

YES



PROCEED  
EVIL

ALIEN  
BASE?

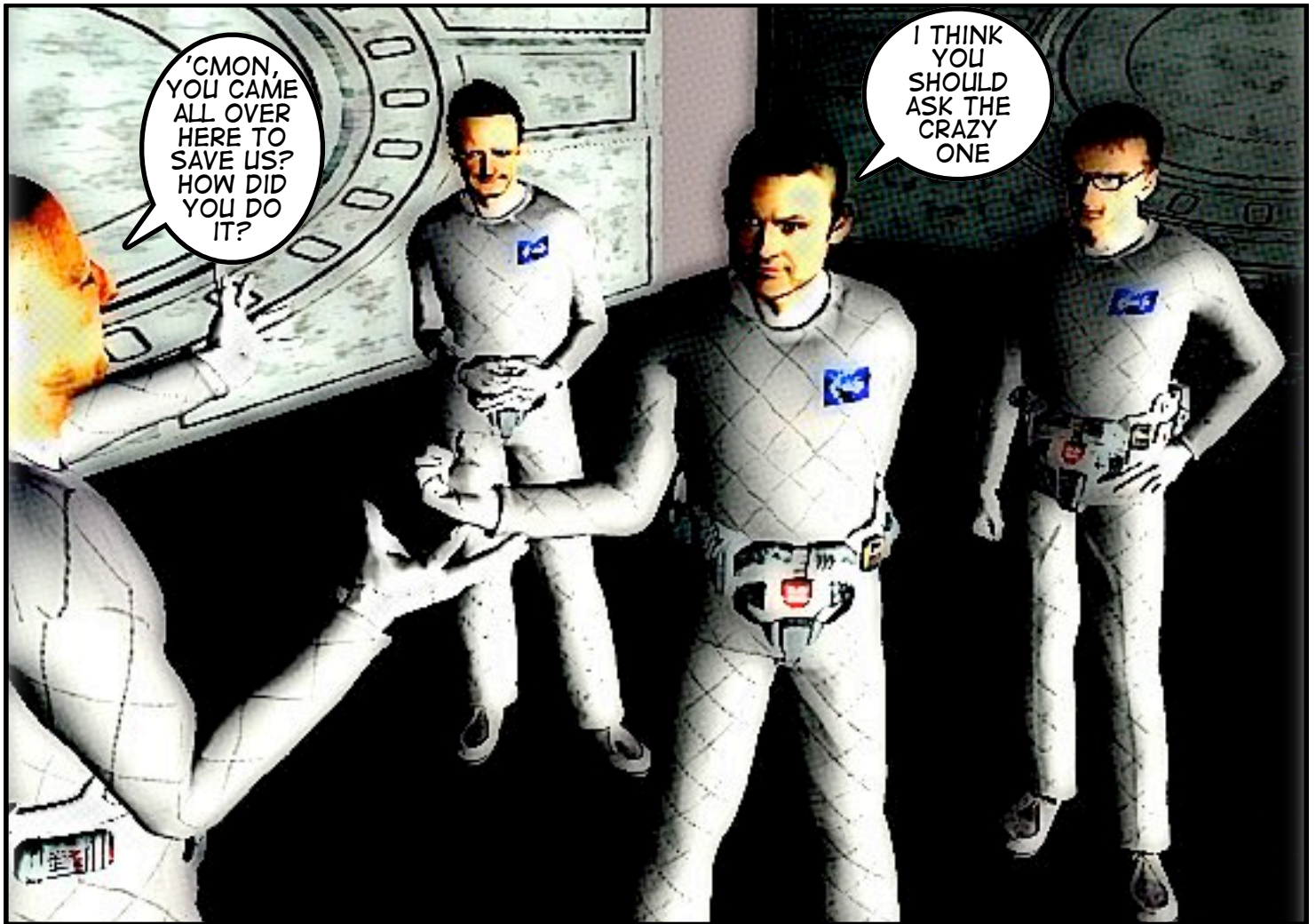
WITH  
GREAT  
PLEASU  
RE

SYS, DIVINE  
SHADOW,  
GAIUS! WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?

SOON THE PRISONERS REACH  
THE UPPER FLOOR ENTRANCE

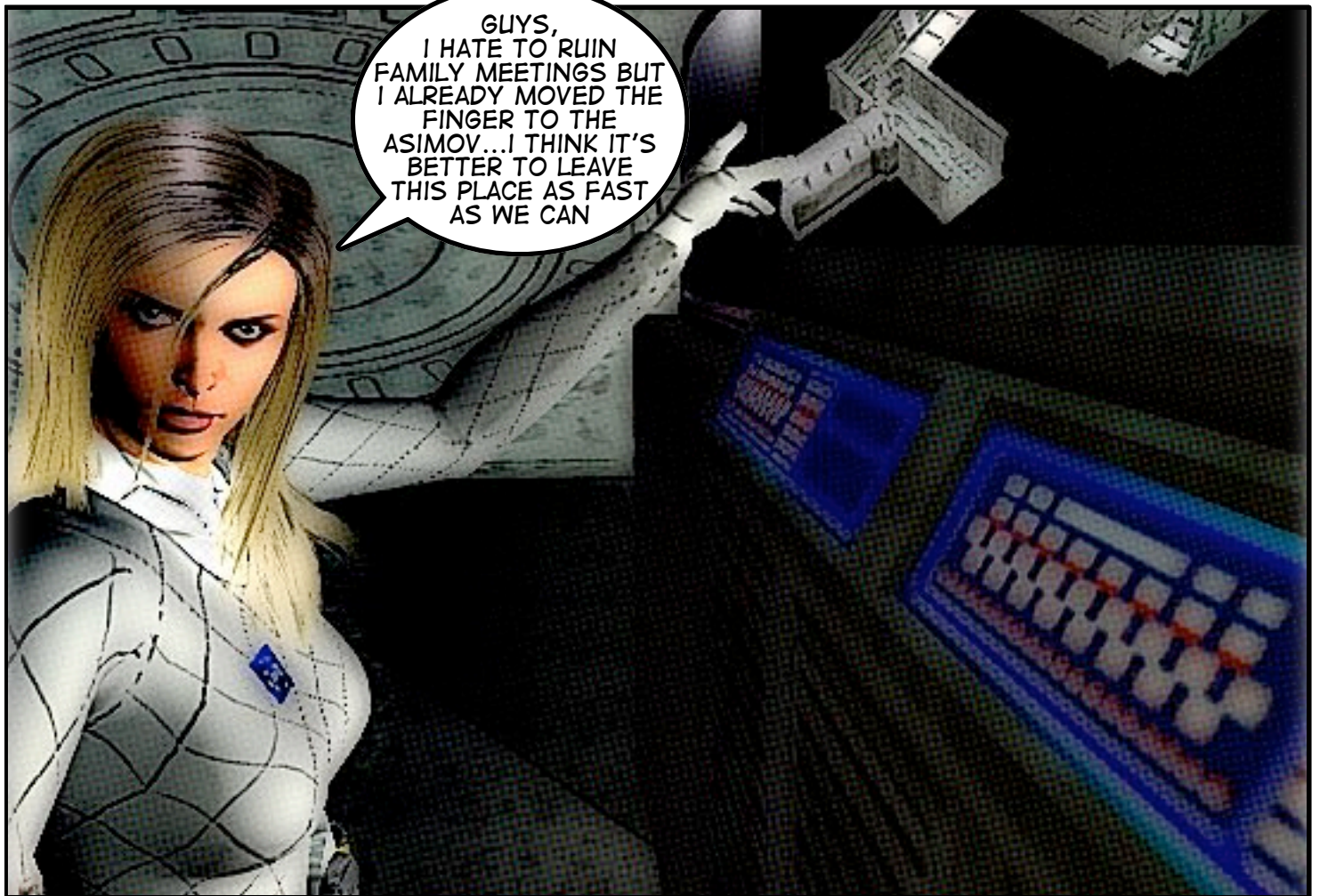


IT'S THE  
SAME  
QUESTION I  
KEEP ASKING  
MYSELF...



'CMON, YOU CAME ALL OVER HERE TO SAVE US? HOW DID YOU DO IT?

I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK THE CRAZY ONE



GUYS, I HATE TO RUIN FAMILY MEETINGS BUT I ALREADY MOVED THE FINGER TO THE ASIMOV...I THINK IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AS FAST AS WE CAN

HOME, SWEET HOME...



eesa

AT THEIR RETURN, BAD  
PRIT AND CAPTAIN JUDD  
ANSWER TO THE PRESS...

...AND  
THIS IS  
MY SIDE  
OF THE  
STORY



CAPTAIN  
, WHO WERE  
THE 4 GUYS WHO  
BEAT TO DEATH THE  
POPSTAR, LOCKED THE  
ORIGINAL GUESTS INTO  
THE RESTROOMS,  
DIVERTED THE HAWKINGS  
AND FREED YOU UP?  
THEY DISAPPEARED  
JUST AFTER THE  
LANDING  
ON EARTH...





WE ALL TOOK AN OATH NOT TO REVEAL THAT

ACTUALLY NOBODY KNOWS IT, THEY MANAGED TO HIDE THEMSELVES INTO THE HAWKING'S WASTE CONTAINERS ESCAPING FROM THE LAND CONTROL.... NOBODY KNOWS HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO LEAVE THE BASE ONCE LANDED...



NOBODY KNOWS... HE HE HE! GAIUS!

WELL, SORRY BUT I MUST LEAVE, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING I DON'T WANT TO MISS...





THREE,  
TWO,  
ONE...

HAPPY  
22C3(\*)!



HAPPY  
22C3!

HAPPY  
22C3!

HAPPY  
22C3!

HAPPY  
22C3!

HAPPY  
22C3!

(\*) 22ND CHAOS COMMUNICATION CONGRESS

**THE END**