

IRON BOY: PIRATE TOWN

鐵男孩：山寨之城

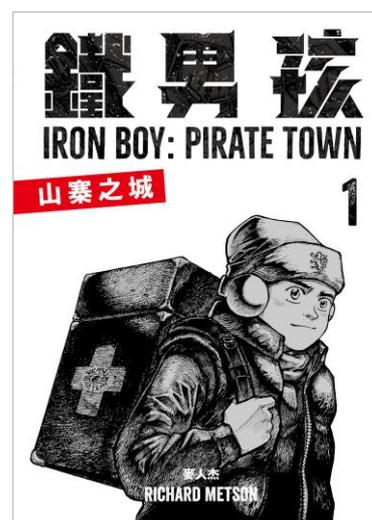
In a future dominated by robots, the human outpost Pirate Town is under threat. But when cantankerous robot designer Max arrives in town and meets young mechanical prodigy Davy and a martial arts master who cannot believe humanity will fall to the robots – anything could happen.

In a not-so-distant future, robots are replacing humans and leaving them out of work. For the destitute and homeless, there is only one place to go: Pirate Town. A chaotic settlement of traders in counterfeit goods, criminals and murderers, where tourists from the big city gawk at the chaos while wearing masks to avoid choking on the toxic air.

Davy, 13 and a talented mechanic, is a Pirate Town native who dreams of competing in the hugely popular Robot Tournament. But his grandfather, dependent on the boy, will not allow it, and Davy continues to help his grandfather and other old folk by smuggling in medicines: a single kind act in this evil place. Meanwhile, robot designer Max arrives in Pirate Town to meet his old friend, Cheng Chuan, a martial arts master who believes humanity will overcome the robots. But until that day, he sits in his empty dojo awaiting students.

Max and Davy's stories become intertwined when Max rescues Davy from street thugs. The thugs seek revenge, armed with a battlebot, forcing Cheng Chuang to step in. Robot or human – who will emerge victorious?

Adapted from a developing movie of the same name, *Iron Boy: Pirate Town* features unique characters and the conflicts they face: from robot advocates and opponents, to robots with personalities of their own, to greedy cartel bosses – in bold yet detailed strokes, Richard Metson takes us on along on Davy and Max's thrilling adventure through the shadows of... Pirate Town!



Publisher: Dala

Date: 5/2020

Rights contact:

booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com

Pages: 128

Volume: 1 (ongoing)

Richard Metson 麥人杰

Born in 1964, Richard Metson has worked on graphic novels, comics, movies, and video games. In 1998 he directed Taiwanese animation *Grandma and Her Ghosts*, which was well received at international film festivals in Vancouver, San Francisco, New York, Seattle, and Philadelphia. French and English translation rights have been sold for his graphic novel *Modern Sex-Files*.

CHAPTER

1

**WELCOME TO
PIRATE TOWN**

Davy!

I got everything
you asked for!

*Get him! Yeah!
Give him the right!
Now the left!
Less than a minute
till the bell...*

*Get him!
Kick his ass!*

.....



You got this!!
Just a little more...

.....

Now, about
my money...

*Oh, savage!
That's gotta
hurt!*

*It's all down
to brute
force now...*

There it is!
**MONSTER
CHOMP!**

Jaws of
Death! It's
all over!

Ohh! The
Lurker's head
was just bit
clean off!

Hey! Cut it out!



Still interested in the Battle of the Bots, eh?

Sounds like you had a pretty penny riding on this fight!

Ah! You got the stuff?

What an incredible fight...

Money!



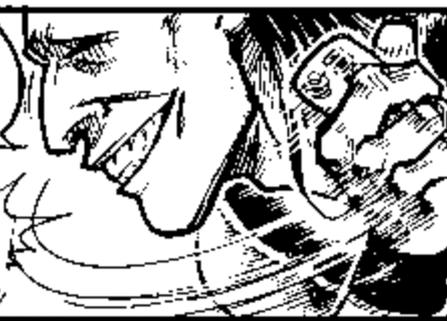
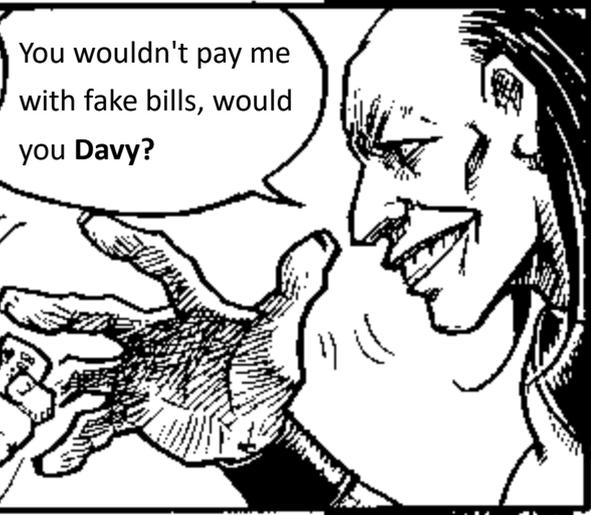
No way! I was waiting to see who lost, so I know where to hawk my repair services! **Enter my own bot? For money?** You must be kidding. Grampa would kill me!

What can I pay you with? Scan it?



Cash only! You know the drill. I don't trust that crypto stuff.





Here, everything is fake... except for black market transactions. If you try to cheat on a trade, you're dead meat! So remember, always "keep it real"...



Warning!
Warning!

Gang war
detected ahead...

It's the most infamous place on Ghost
Island, but you won't find it on any map.
A smuggler's heaven... a thief's dream...
a black market paradise...

Pirate Town!

I'm on it, boss.

You're too slow!
The fight is over
already!

I want a refund!

Thumbs down!

Oh?

So it's my fault?
There was a huge cyberattack today!



Uh-huh.

Aren't you the world's greatest hacker?



GAH!

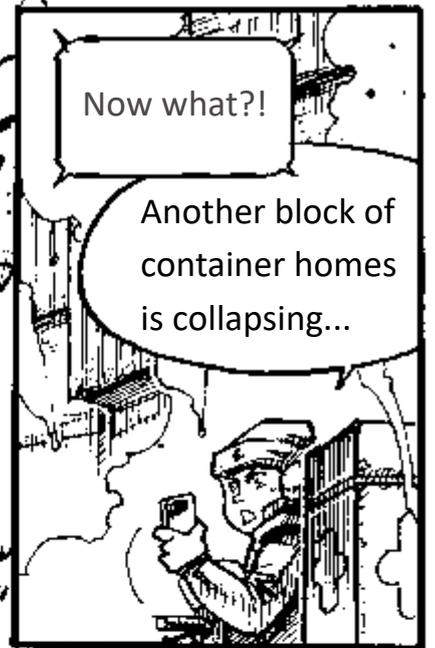


Oh shit!



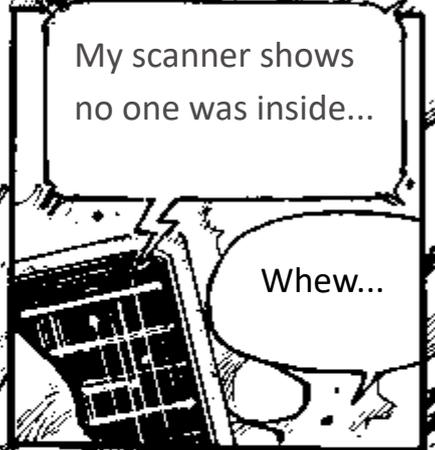
Now what?!

Another block of container homes is collapsing...



My scanner shows no one was inside...

Whew...



Go see if there's anything you can salvage...

Forget it...

Eh?



Even the homes here are fake. Poorly constructed, abandoned, irradiated death traps...

They keep stacking old shipping containers higher and higher, always teetering on the verge of collapse...

The Beggar Crew is here!

Nobody panic! There's enough for everyone!

Hurry! Snatch anything that isn't bolted to the ground!

That fast?

Please, that's my home!!

It's everyone's home, now!!

Eh?

The Overlord Corporation...

Wait! It's still falling down! Look out!

The Overlord Corporation was behind the collapse?

Ha-ha-ha!
No way!

The Overlord Corporation—the world's biggest conglomerate,
real estate developer, and robot manufacturer...

They control everything... and will do anything to keep it that way.

At the top of Overlord Corporation sits Capone, the head honcho.

If you even think about getting in his way...

Let's just say... you'll be "taken care of"! Everyone knows the unspoken rule:



Don't cross them, no matter what!

The question is... **what if they try to cross YOU?**

If Capone wants some property, he'll get rid of whoever lives there for "the greater good"...

It's easy to imagine how people react.

Capone will make an offer you can't refuse, and he doesn't take NO for an answer...

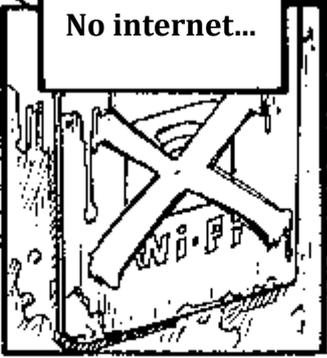
He'll cut you off...

No water

No electricity

No internet...

Then, he'll close your schools, your hospitals—even the police and fire departments. He'll just call it **URBAN RENEWAL!**



Hey! You can't treat us this way!

I never agreed to this!

Over my dead body!

We can't take it anymore!

He'll suck this place dry, and run us all out of town...

Damn you, Capone...

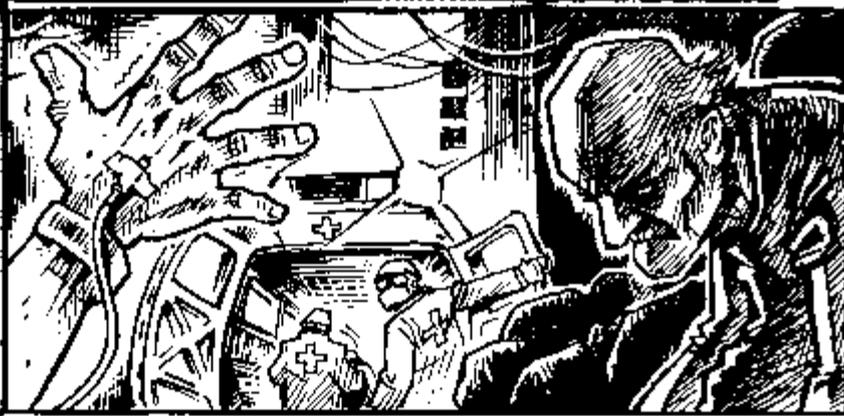


You son of a bitch.

You can't do this to us!



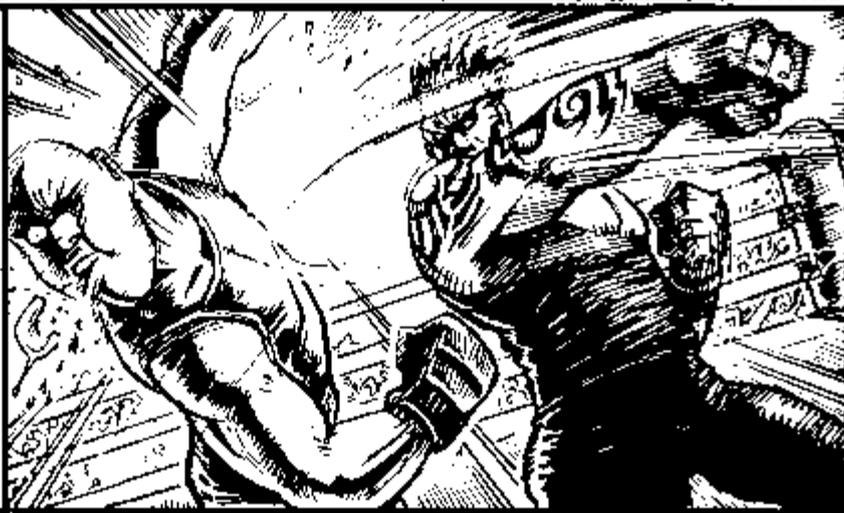
Nobody knows the true population here... it swells with each passing day. New faces wash up daily, **especially the old and sick**—all left here to die...



Death is a daily affair. **Especially unnatural death...** People come to Pirate Town filled with desperation and anger... Fighting, stealing, even murder... it's just another day in Pirate Town...



Eventually, someone figured out how to profit from this—by organizing **fighting tournaments!** Have an argument? Settle it in the ring. Great for gamblers, and fun for the whole family! Soon, all kinds of fighting tournaments sprang up. What started as human vs. human...



...quickly evolved into **robot vs. robot**, and took on a life of its own... Pirate Town went from a **lawless wasteland** to one of the most popular **tourist destinations!**





Did you see today's
Battle of the Bots?

Ha-ha-ha! Oh man,
Wolfbyte got his ass
handed to him!

Help me gets the
parts ready. We'll
earn big bucks for
repairs this time!

He'd just as soon
slap you upside
the head...

Bah!

Of course, not everyone was happy with these changes, especially—

Halt!

SMUGGLERS!

Everyone here is involved in the black market, but few can be called true **smugglers!**

Road's closed, kid!

I can wait here...

Who are these **smugglers?** Convicts and killers, mostly—and some other shady figures...

The Caishen Group is here!

They're the most dangerous scum in Pirate Town... But some say the wares they peddle are even more dangerous!

Make way!

Move it!

Assholes...



You bastard!
Why didn't you say
we were moving the
goods sooner!

Is it really
smuggling if
we announce it
ahead of time?

Guess I should find
a different route...

Damn it! I really
wanted to avoid
this spot...

Resetting
the route...

**The Old
District!**

This isn't a historic area for
tourists, but a place filled with
rotting buildings even more
dangerous than the shipping
container homes...

No one wants to live here—a
dank place, overflowing with
the stench of piss and shit—
sometimes you get a whiff of a
dead body.

Even if you wear a mask, you
can't escape the smell!
It's a **smell of despair**, and
it all comes from the hordes of
elderly here!

All those neglected old people,
left to die in a place nobody
wants to be...

This smell is
unbearable...

Now I'll have to
wash my bike after
I get back...

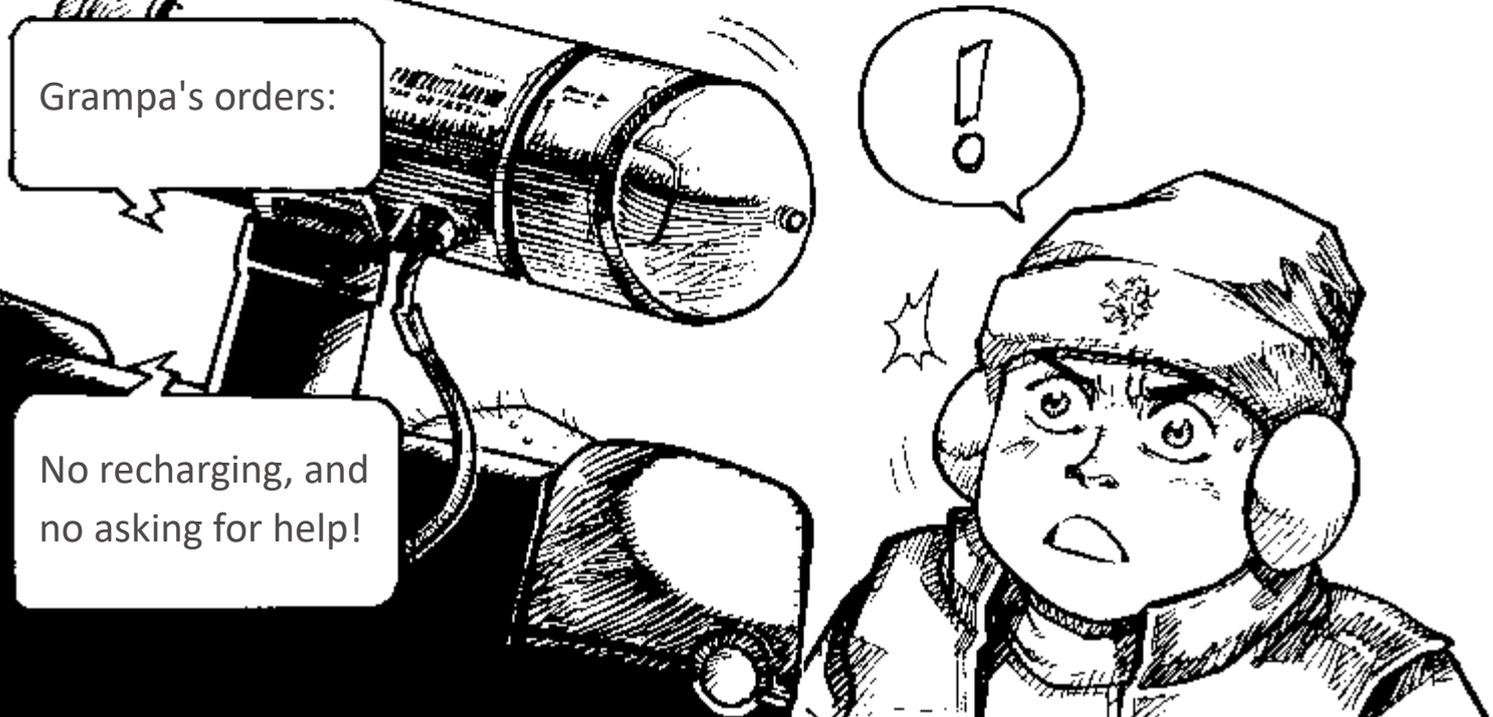
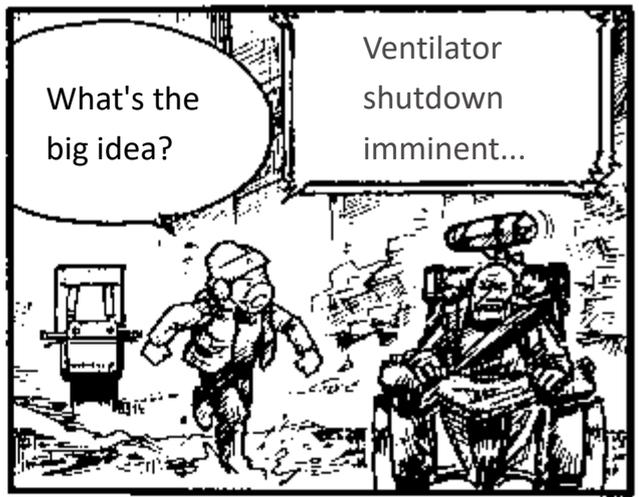
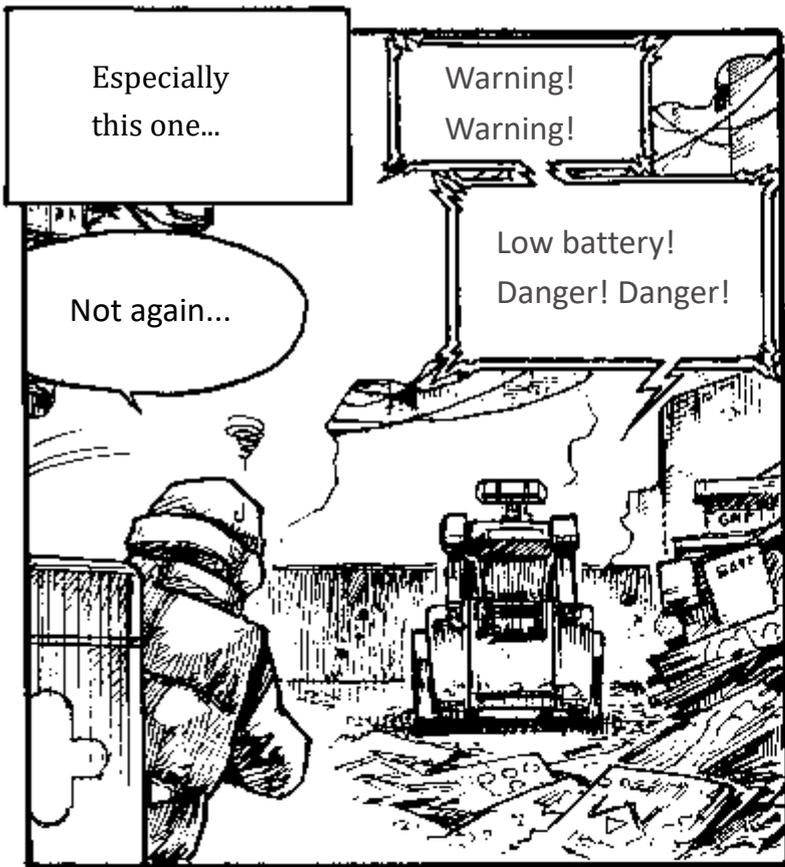
Isn't washing your
bike better than being
shot by smugglers?

I'll have to clean
my clothes, too...

I really don't want
to run into them...

BEEP!

—Warning! Warning!

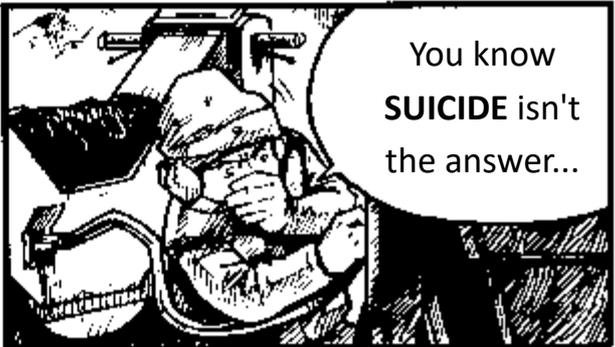




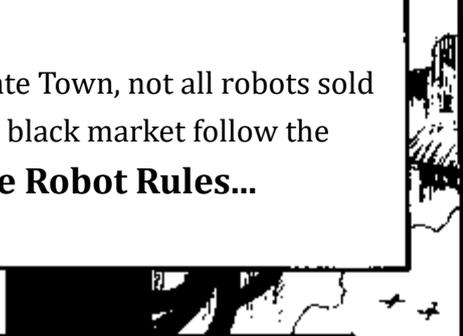
Oh,
brother...



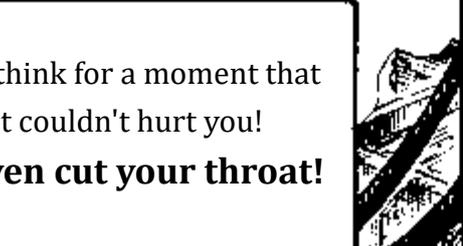
Grampa...



You know
SUICIDE isn't
the answer...



In Pirate Town, not all robots sold
on the black market follow the
Three Robot Rules...



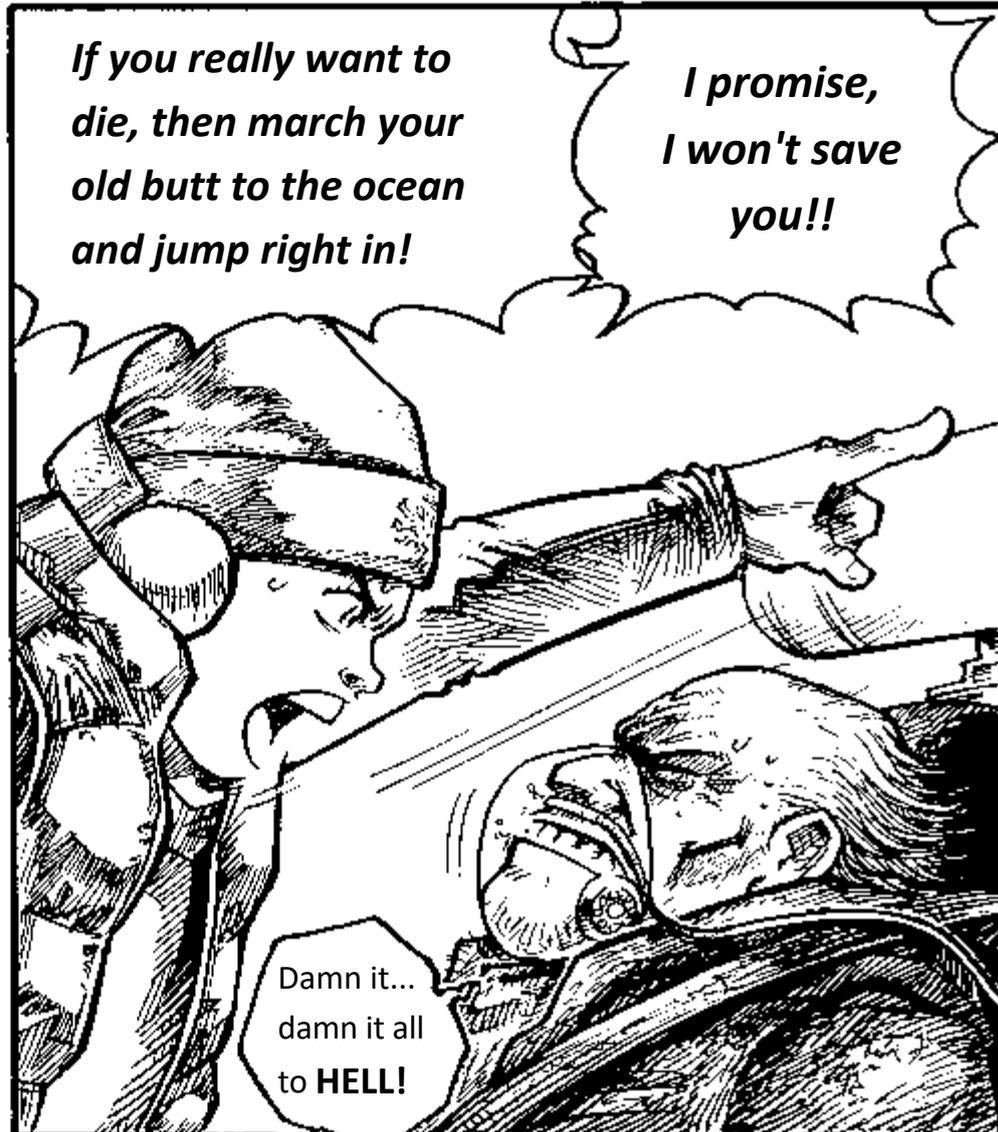
Don't think for a moment that
a robot couldn't hurt you!
Or even cut your throat!



What would you...
cough... AH-HGUH...
KNOW ABOUT IT!



.....



*If you really want to
die, then march your
old butt to the ocean
and jump right in!*

*I promise,
I won't save
you!!*



Damn it...
damn it all
to **HELL!**

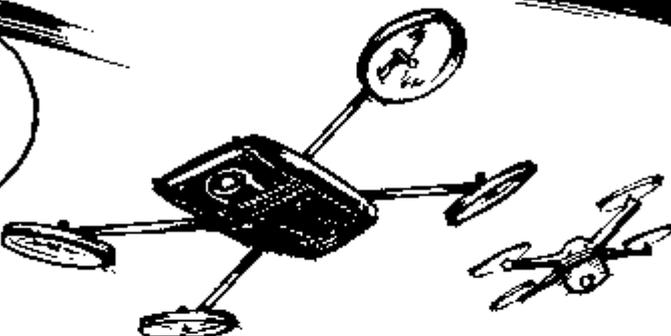
Ha-ha-ha! Don't try to stop him from dying on his own terms!

He's driving me nuts...
Now what?



I got the parts ready.
I also spotted some 40-wheelers headed up Iron Mountain!

40-wheelers?
Land cruisers?



What are they hauling?
More shipping containers?

Container homes!

All marked **to be torn down!**

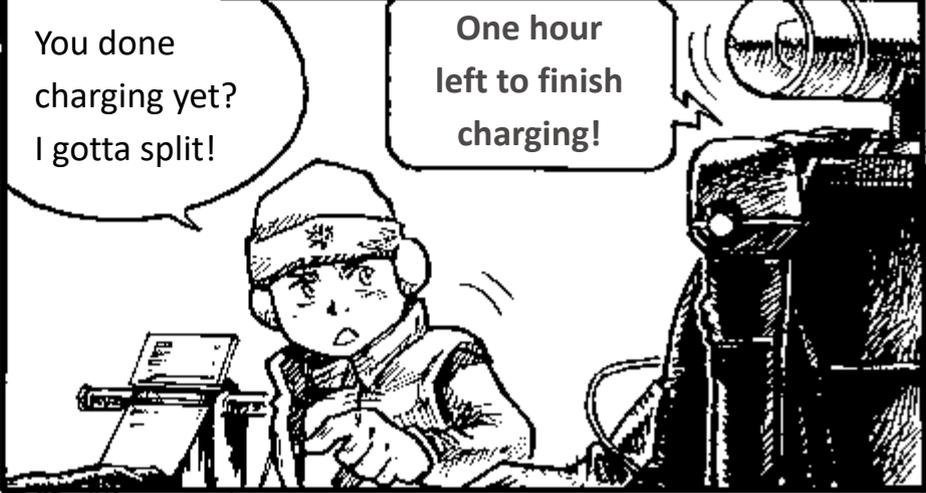
Must be more **URBAN RENEWAL!**



Maybe there's some stuff Grampa could use...

You done charging yet?
I gotta split!

One hour left to finish charging!



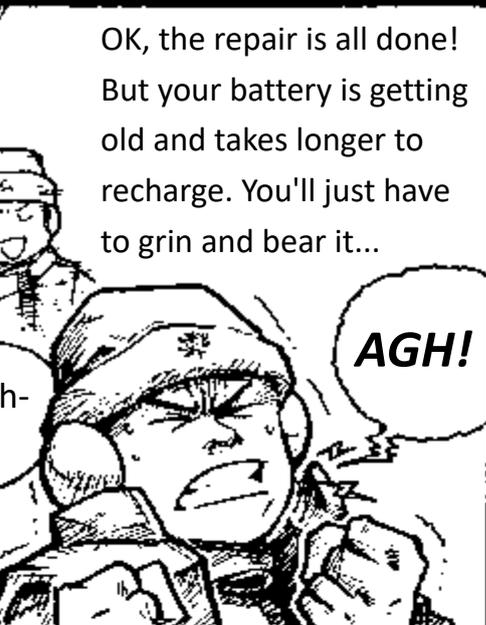


WHAT?!



That's what you said after the repair last time...

Heh-heh-heh...



OK, the repair is all done! But your battery is getting old and takes longer to recharge. You'll just have to grin and bear it...

AGH!



THUD!

Come get me after he's done charging!
If someone tries to take my bike or steal your parts, electrocute them, OK? Zap 'em good!



And you! I updated your code. If he says anything else about dying, just ignore him!

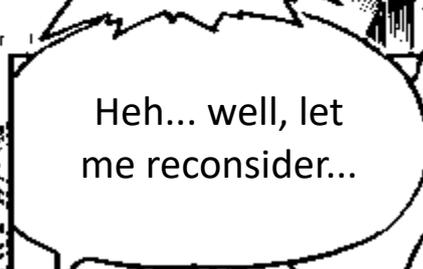


Blurp!



Shall I also zap him good?

No zapping!



Heh... well, let me reconsider...

Like hell you will!

BRAT!



I didn't bring a drone. Check the road ahead for me!

How are you getting there?
Walking?

How else?

Just wait, I only need an hour!

Are you sending me a chauffeur?



Bad idea. All the gamblers who lost in the tournament will be there looking for trouble...

Are you crazy? All the containers will be picked cleaned by then! There won't be a single bolt left!

It's too dangerous!



Can't you just scan the area to help me avoid danger zones?

Shit! I was trying to tell you—chhhht—the connection is—chhhhhh—I can't...

Static—

Miles?
MILES?

BZZZZ...



Shit!
Disconnected!

What do we have
here? Someone
call delivery?

I'll have to
risk it!

Oh
shit...

HO, HO, HO!

Heh heh heh...

There's no way... I'm **THIS UNLUCKY?**

FUCK!

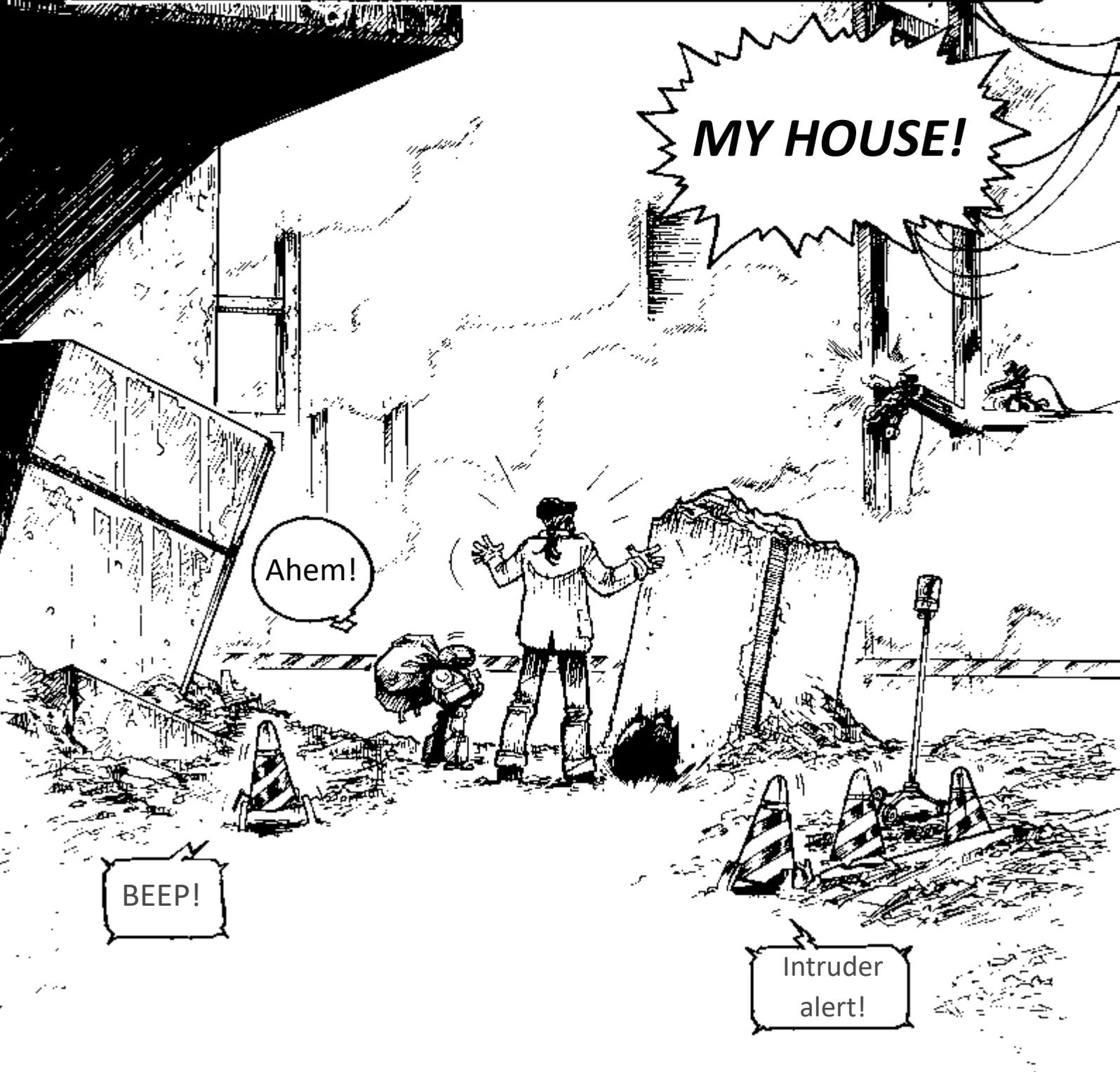


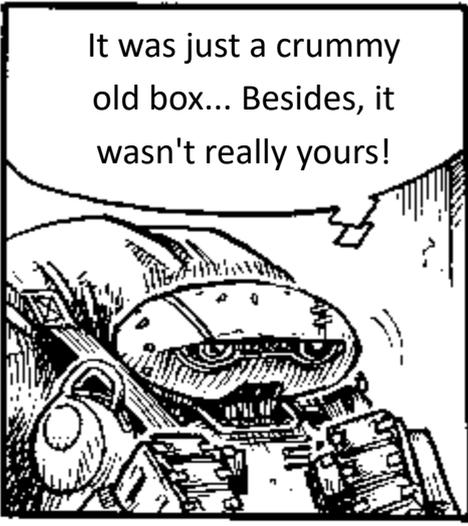
MY HOUSE!

Ahem!

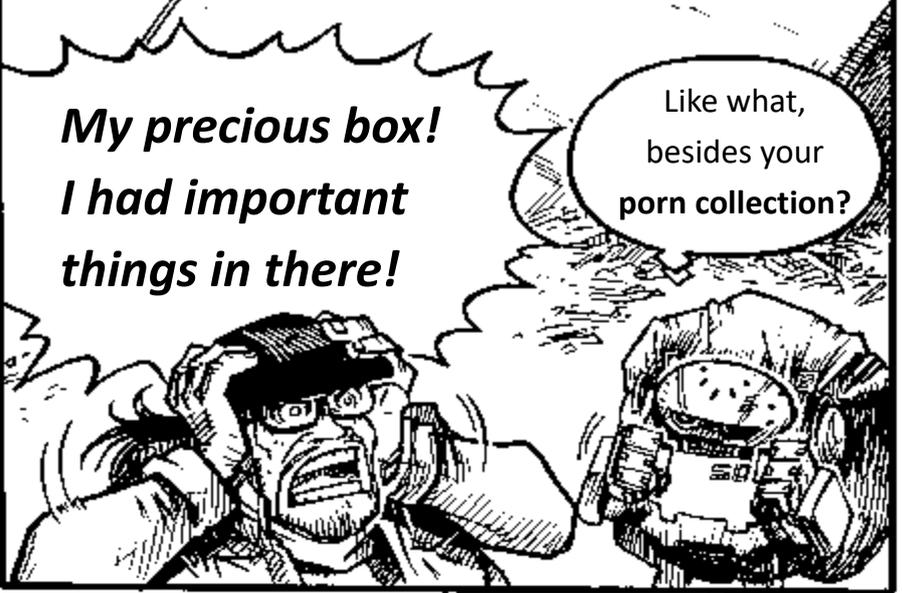
BEEP!

Intruder
alert!





It was just a crummy old box... Besides, it wasn't really yours!



**My precious box!
I had important things in there!**

Like what, besides your porn collection?



**Up yours!
What porn?**

You can always download more...

Youch!



BEEP!

ARE YOU MAX?

BZZZZZ...



Uh, no! I'm, uh... **FAX!**

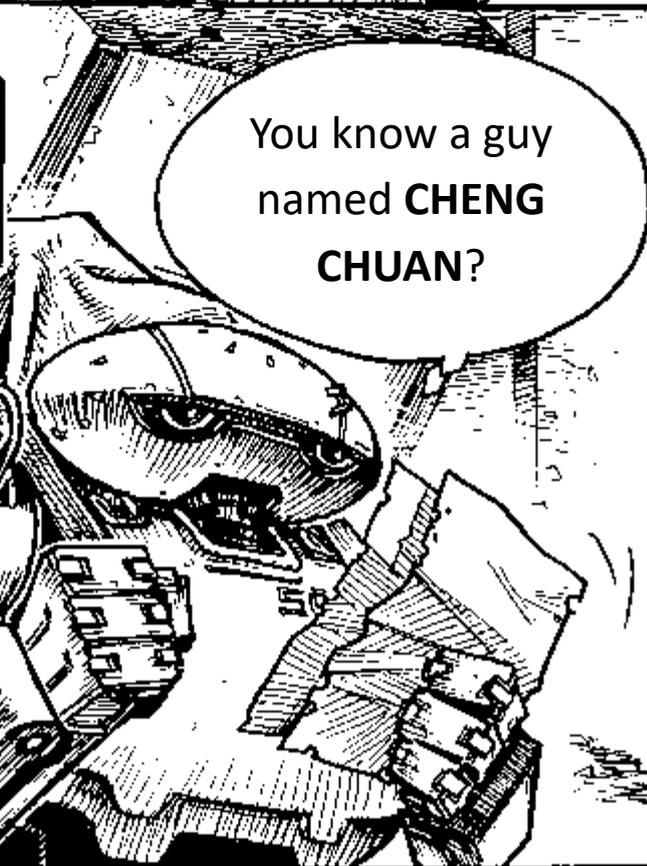
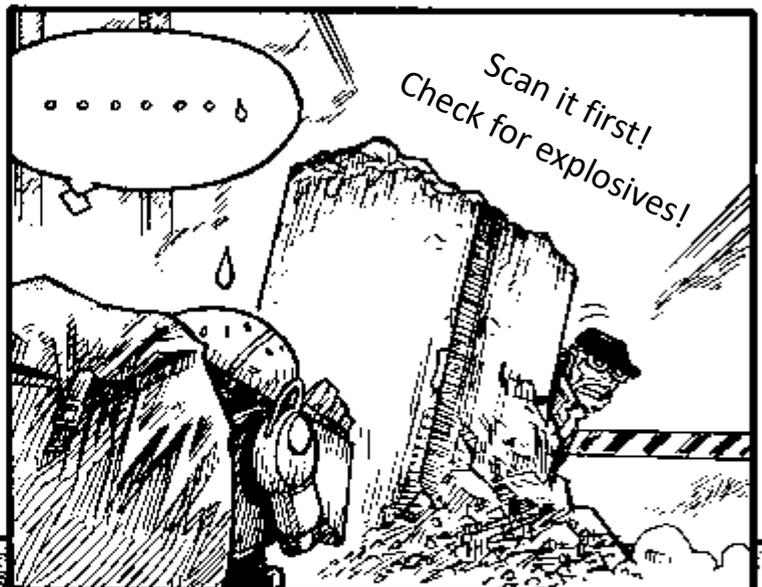
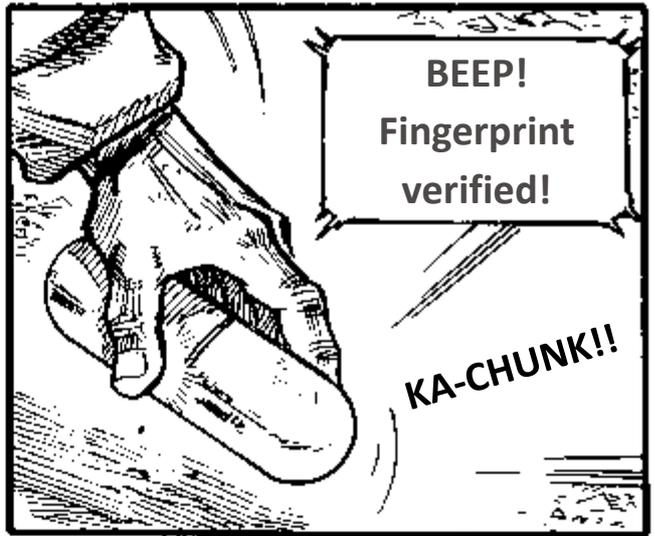
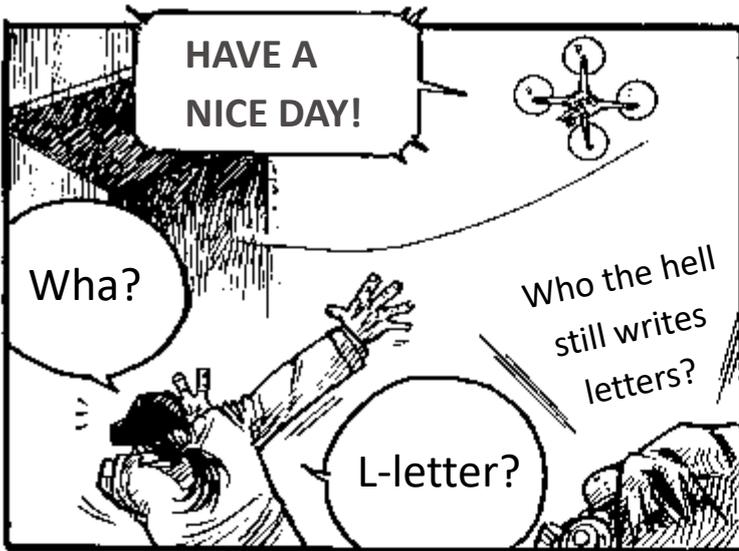
You got the wrong guy!

FACE AND FINGERPRINT VERIFIED!
BEEP! —

YOU GOT MAIL!



THUD



It says he needs you to repair his robot...

There's also a flyer here for a martial arts school...

The address is... **PIRATE TOWN.**

Hey! Did you hear a word I said?

.....

The color of the sky...

...is eerie.

Enjoying the sunset? I've noticed that geezers use moments like these to reflect on their dwindling days!

Cut the crap! This isn't a sunset! **It's AIR POLLUTION!**

I never noticed this... Apparently, this is my backyard now...

Enjoying the view?

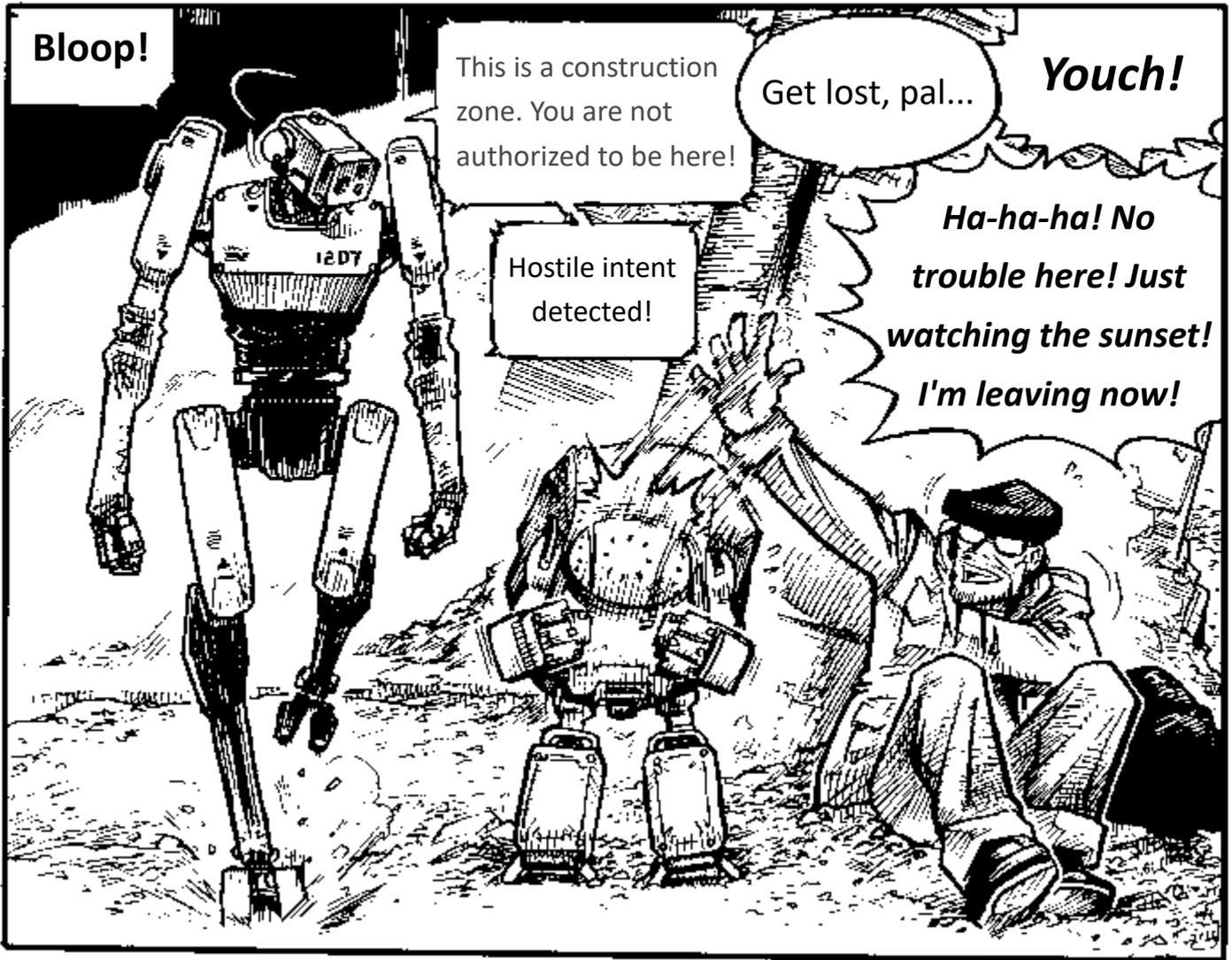
Makes me want to puke...

Seeing this symbol...



always makes me want to puke...

?



Bloop!

This is a construction zone. You are not authorized to be here!

Get lost, pal...

Youch!

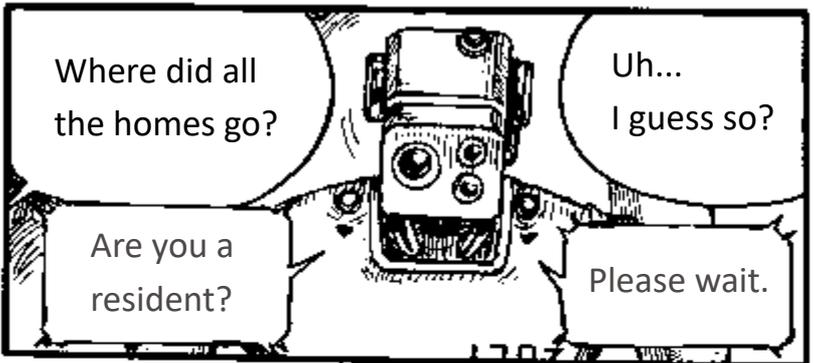
Hostile intent detected!

Ha-ha-ha! No trouble here! Just watching the sunset! I'm leaving now!



What's going on here, anyway?

Urban renewal!



Where did all the homes go?

Uh... I guess so?

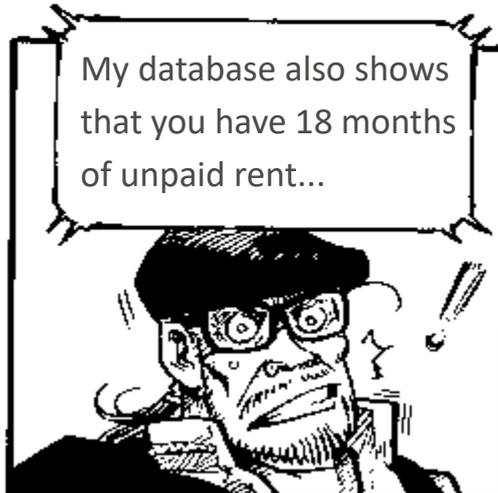
Are you a resident?

Please wait.



Your container was recycled. This address is no longer valid.

That's Pirate Town for you...



My database also shows that you have 18 months of unpaid rent...



***Damn facial
recognition!***

***Can't a man
watch a sunset
in peace?***

You said it was
air pollution,

...not a sunset!



***SHUT UP
AND RUN!***

What can you say?

Fate works in mysterious ways...

We're going in circles...

Fuckin' ell...

I can't believe I'm back here...

Attention passengers:
We are now entering an internet dead zone...

Pirate Town!
Welcome to Pirate Town!

Feel free to connect to any unsecured Wi-Fi networks...



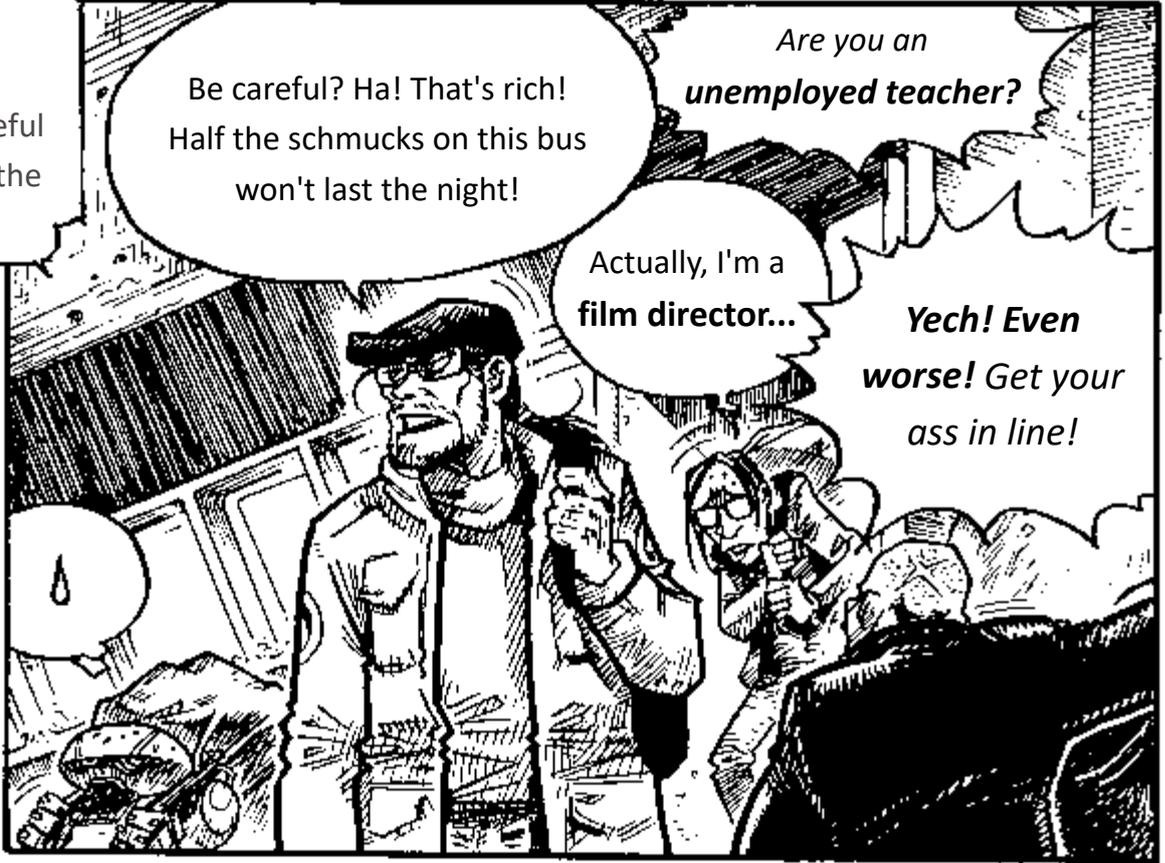
Attention passengers!
Please be careful when exiting the vehicle...

Be careful? Ha! That's rich!
Half the schmucks on this bus won't last the night!

Are you an *unemployed teacher?*

Actually, I'm a *film director...*

Yech! Even worse! Get your ass in line!



If you're with our official sightseeing tour, please stay in the vehicle...

Ha-ha-ha!

You are now responsible for your own safety!

They must be nuts!
Who comes here to sightsee?

.....

Put on your masks!

Masks on!

Hurry up!
Damn hipsters!

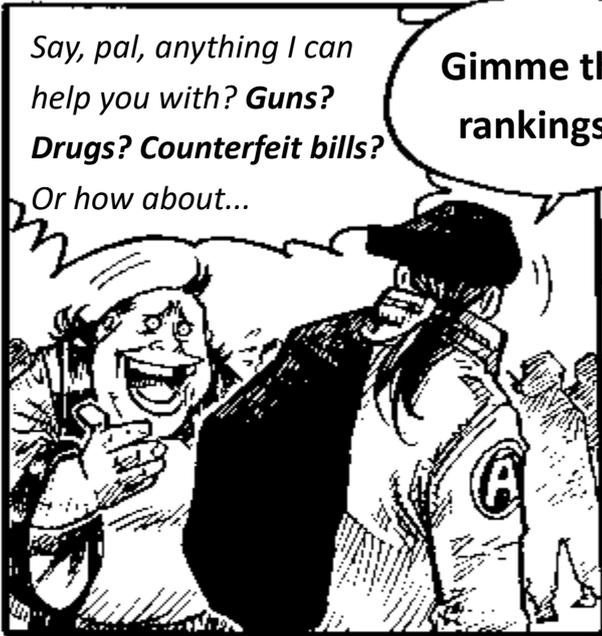


IDIOTS! That bus is a death trap...

Whaa! That's a good one, pal!

?





Say, pal, anything I can help you with? **Guns? Drugs? Counterfeit bills?** Or how about...

Gimme the rankings!



Eh?

I need to know who's on top! **The POWER RANKINGS!** You got 'em, or not?



Ha-ha-ha!

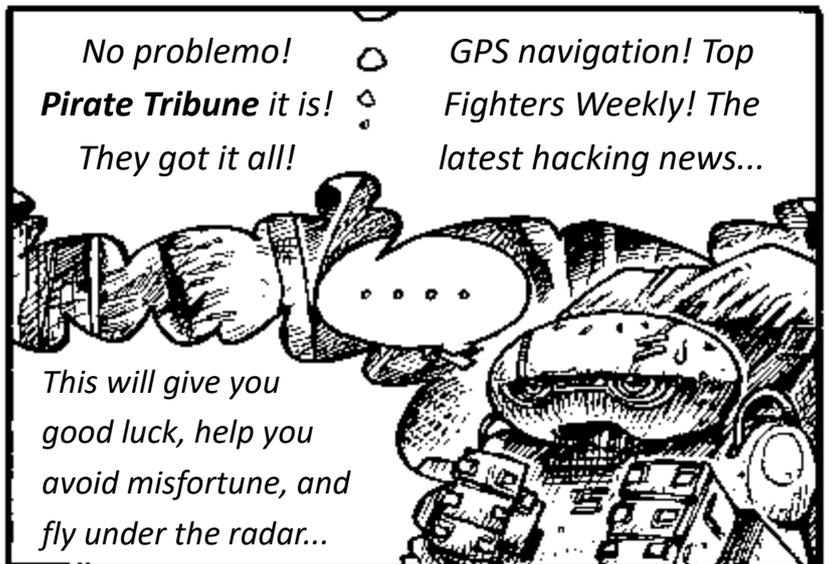
Of course, of course! You're a local?

SAY it, don't SPRAY it!



Which one you want, pal? **Pirate Times? Pirate Post...?**

Yeah, yeah, whatever! As long as it's accurate!



No problemo! **Pirate Tribune** it is! They got it all!

GPS navigation! Top Fighters Weekly! The latest hacking news...

This will give you good luck, help you avoid misfortune, and fly under the radar...

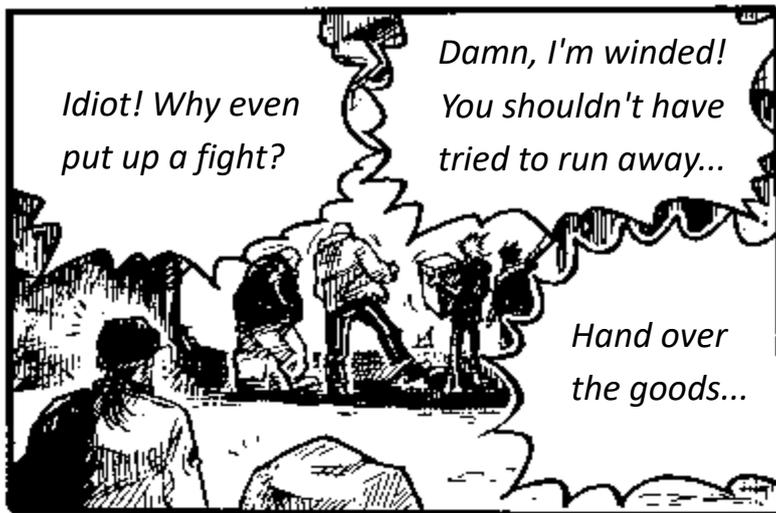


Oh? Looks like there's some new kids on the block?

Come back soon!!



BOOM



Idiot! Why even put up a fight?

Damn, I'm winded! You shouldn't have tried to run away...

Hand over the goods...



A robbery?

Par for the course!

Should we help?

Wait and see!



FUCK!

DIAPERS?



There's a bunch of 'em... and some cans...

You little bitch...

Think this is funny?

Boss, it's just a bunch of crap for old people... The kid is telling the truth!

Heh-heh-heh...

Maybe you should try one on?

If you keep popping pills, you'll definitely need diapers!



BwaaHAHAHA!



You little shit!
Think you can mess with the **FOUR KINGS?**

He was askin' for it!

Héh heh!

Who just laughed?

HIM!





"Four Kings"?
Hmm, I don't see you
guys on the rankings...

Ahem!



Must be a bunch of
nobodies...

Or are my eyes
just going bad?

Looks like he's about
to pop a vein...

We've been trying to get in
the rankings forever...

.....

.....

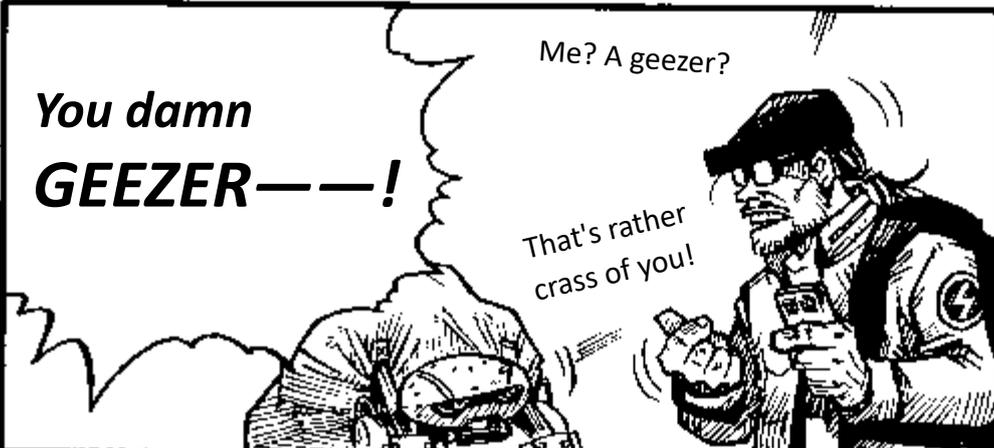
I LOST MY
ASS TODAY...

Couldn't
steal a
dime...



I'm
PISSED...

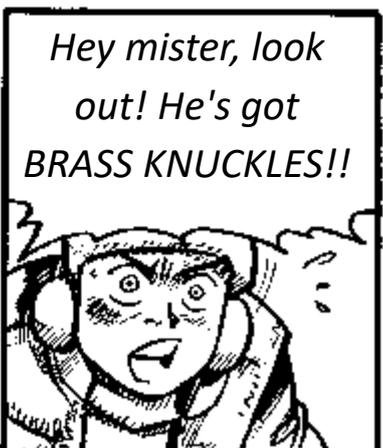
And here
you are,
PESTERING
ME?



**You damn
GEEZER---**

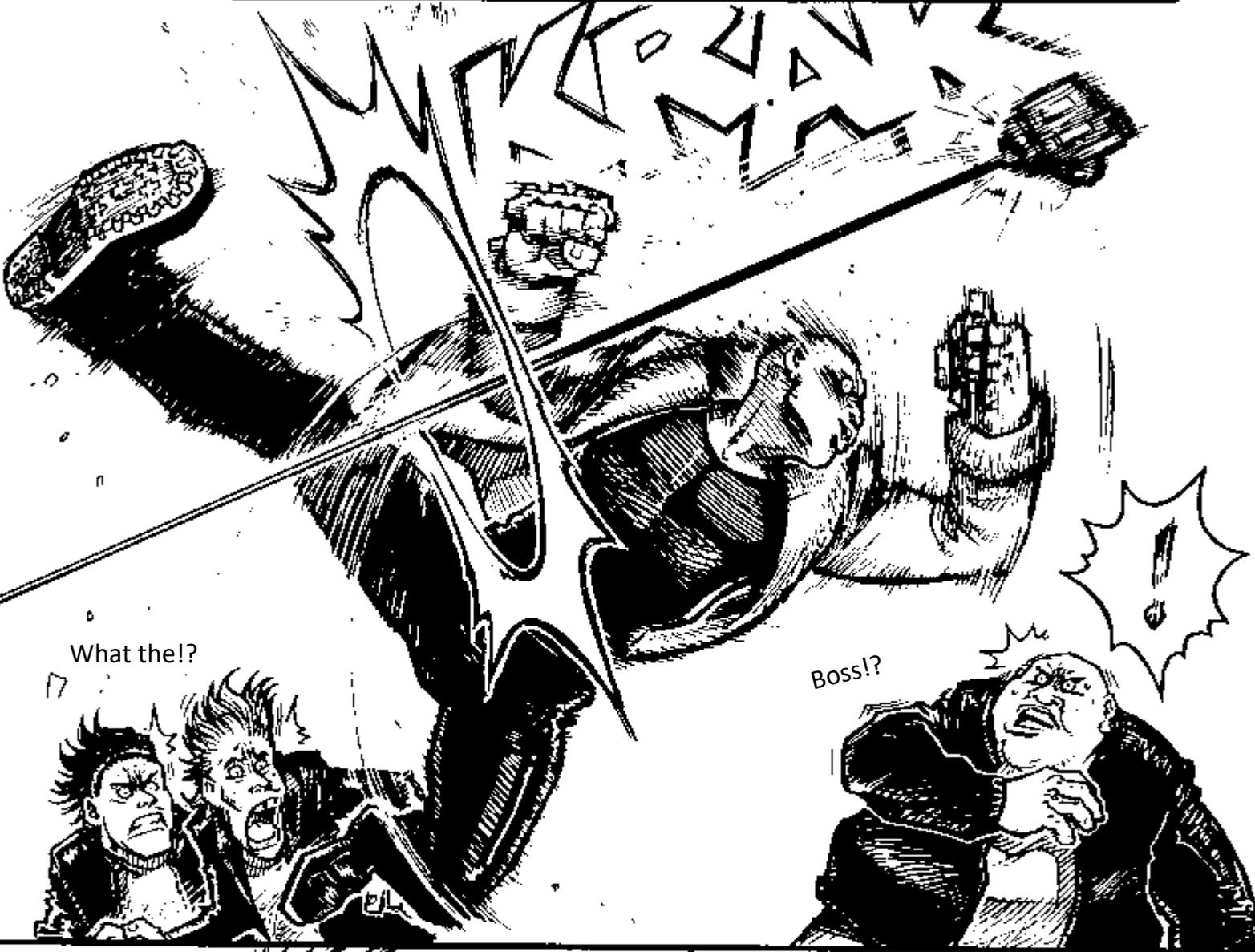
Me? A geezer?

That's rather
crass of you!



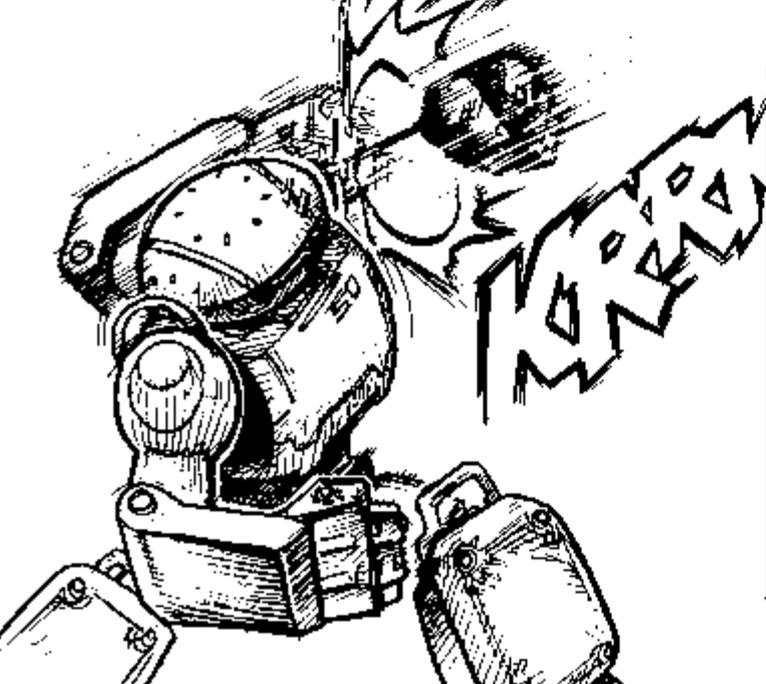
*Hey mister, look
out! He's got
BRASS KNUCKLES!!*

*I'm gonna kick
your ass...*



What the!?

Boss!?

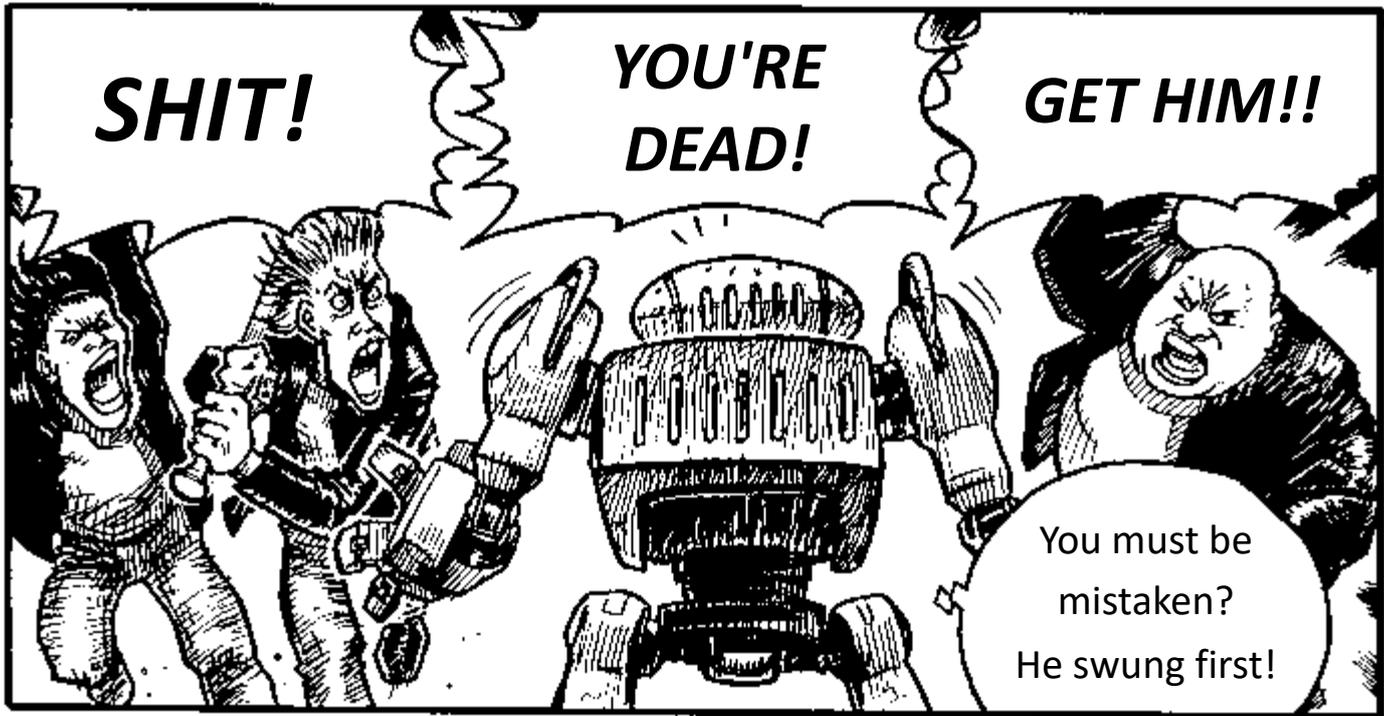


Flying Fist?

Cool!



You were
saying..?



SHIT!

YOU'RE DEAD!

GET HIM!!

You must be mistaken?
He swung first!



Fine!
Let's do this!

Beep

I haven't entered
Fight Mode in
forever!



AHH!

EEEK!

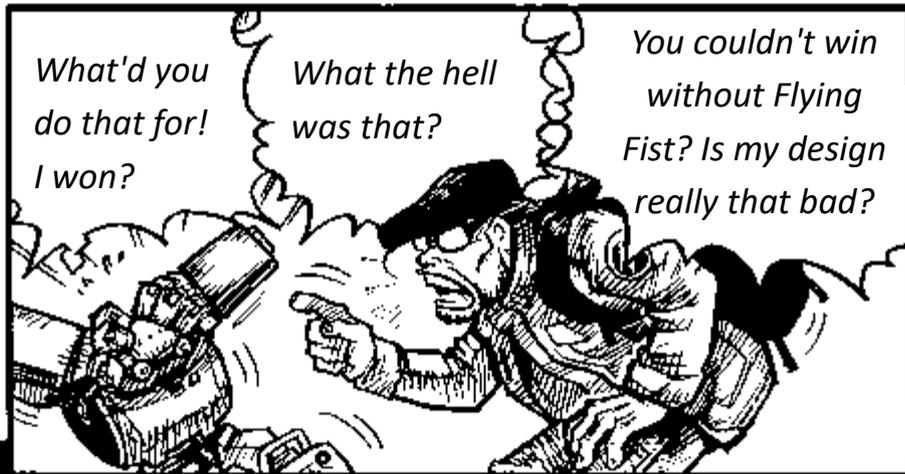
YOW!



**Flawless
victory!**



POW!
YOUCH!



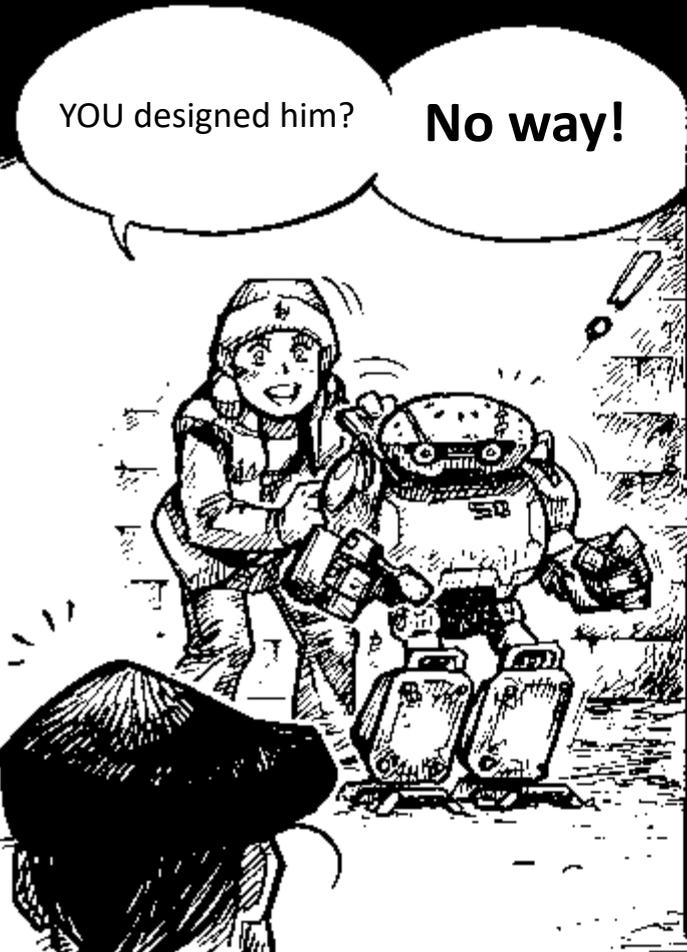
What'd you do that for! I won?

What the hell was that?

You couldn't win without Flying Fist? Is my design really that bad?



Whoa...



YOU designed him?

No way!



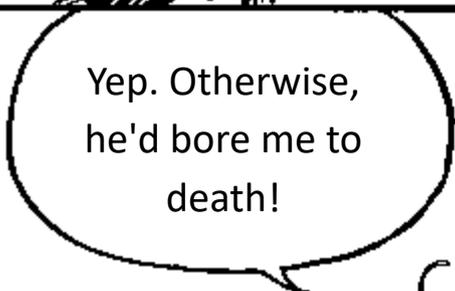
Hey, get your paws off my back cover!

That's *sexual harassment!*

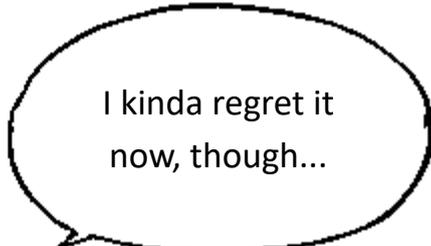


Ha-ha-ha! My bad!

You gave him a **personality**, too?

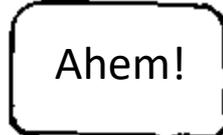


Yep. Otherwise, he'd bore me to death!



I kinda regret it now, though...

Ha-ha-ha!



Ahem!



What jerks! I told them, it was just diapers...

Why'd they dig through all my stuff...

Everything's filthy... How can I give these to grampa?

.....

This is ridiculous. Even diapers have to be smuggled now? You're trying to sell this stuff?

Nah!

Some elders in my neighborhood need these things. And medicine, too...

That reminds me, mister, I wanna thank you for your help. And your robot too!

Wow.

I thought kids with manners were extinct!

Don't mention it!

Can't you buy anything you want in Pirate Town? Why not diapers?

There's no profit with these! Everyone focuses on counterfeiting robots!

We used to get counterfeit diapers, but they were all shitty quality. No pun intended...

These elders worked all their lives, only to be tormented by shoddy counterfeits now. It's a damnshame...

Their lives used to mean something!

Maybe you should buy some diapers in advance?

YOUCH!

They paid their dues. Why are they here? Why doesn't anyone take care of them? If Grampa hadn't asked me to help them, I wouldn't get involved! All I can do is run errands, buy medicine, and deliver stuff. What else can I do?

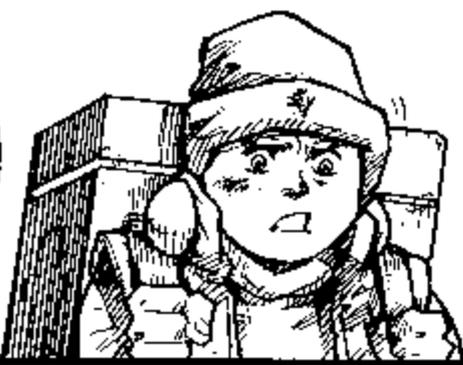
These elders don't have anyone to take care of them, and they're constantly being harassed and attacked. Those jerks can't wait for these elders to die! It's horrible!

So what? You want a donation or something?

Jerks? Who?

.....

It's not just the Overlord Corporation. It's goons like these, too...



As soon as these thugs wake up, they'll be out beating and stealing from the elders again...

Hey, toss me one of those diapers!

You wear diapers?



Here, I'll get you a fresh one...



Do I look like I wear diapers!

Ow!



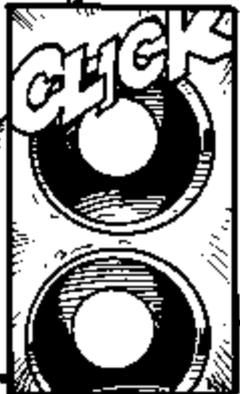
You and I will get along well!
♥ Put 'er there!

?
?

Ahem!

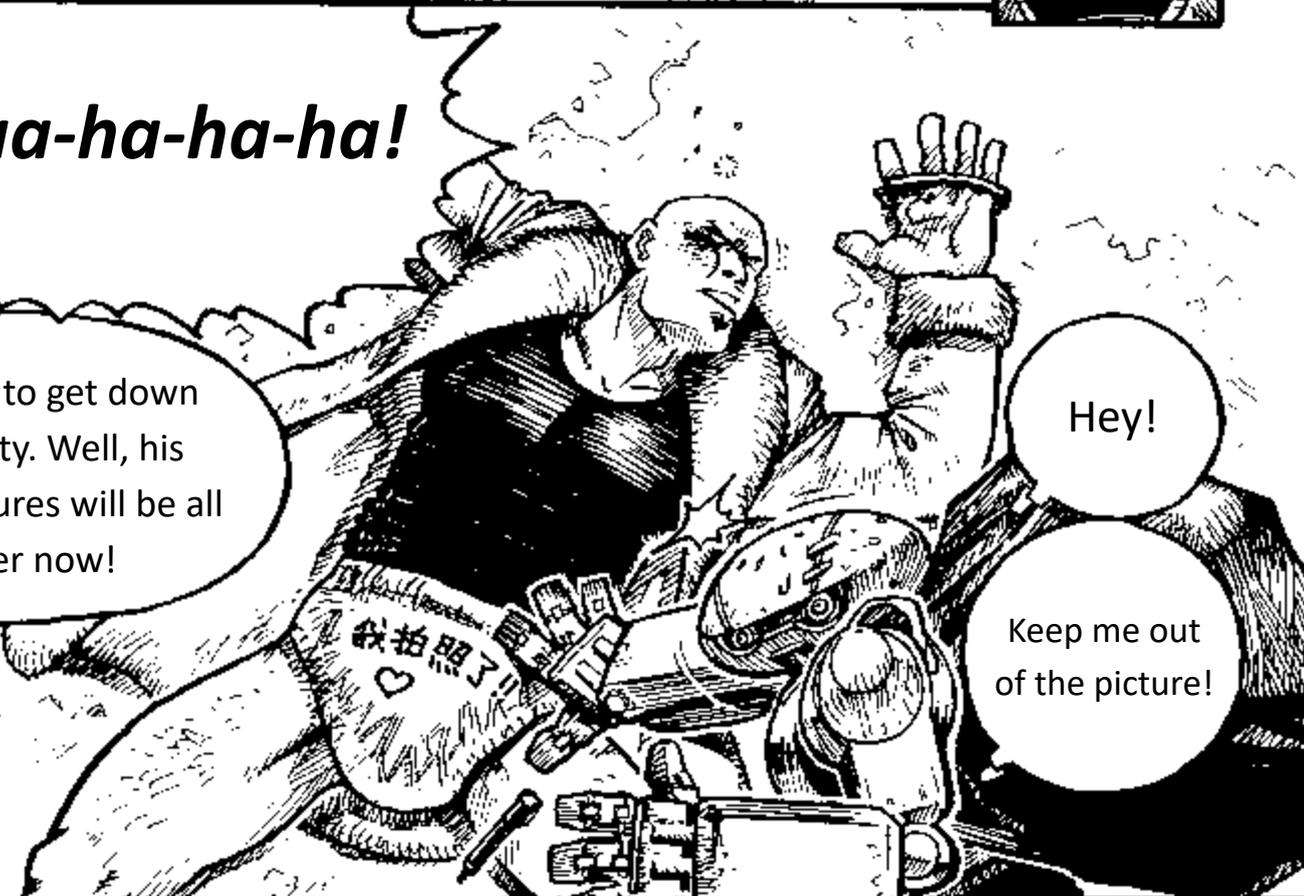
You got a camera?

Heh-heh-heh...



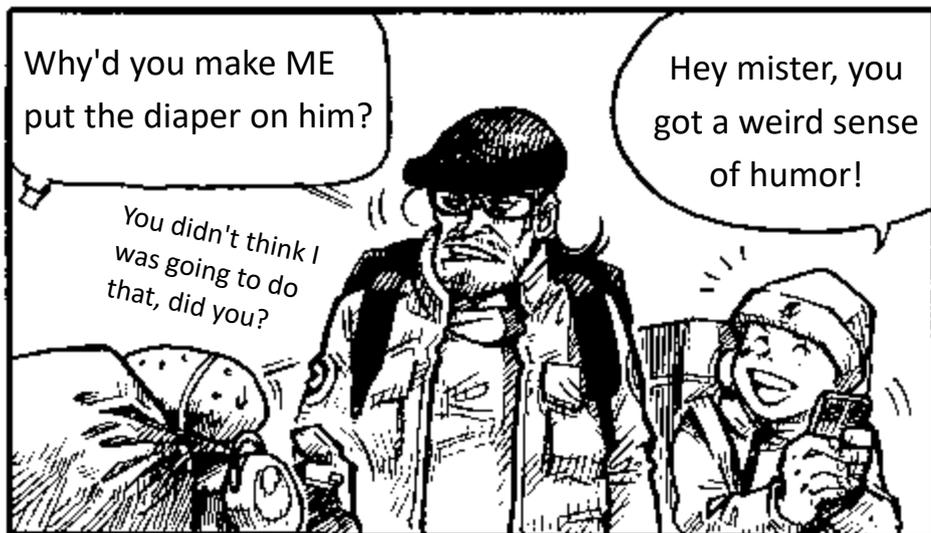
Bwaa-ha-ha-ha!

He likes to get down and dirty. Well, his dirty pictures will be all over now!



Hey!

Keep me out of the picture!



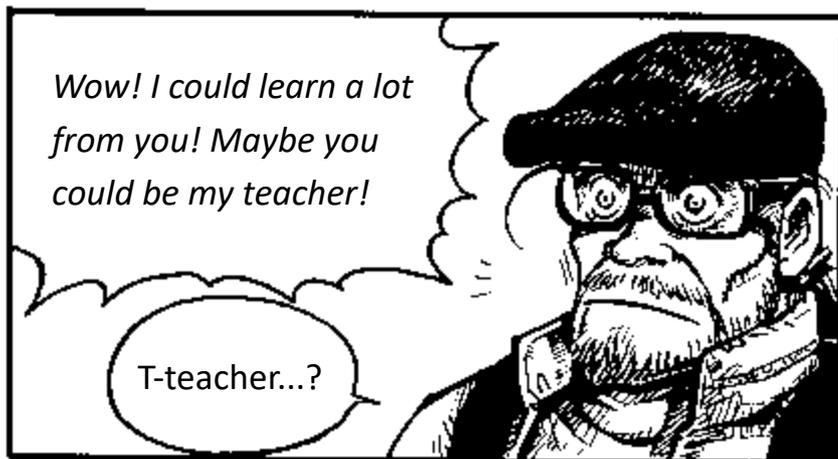
Why'd you make ME put the diaper on him?

You didn't think I was going to do that, did you?

Hey mister, you got a weird sense of humor!



He got off easy. Bullies like that deserve worse.



Wow! I could learn a lot from you! Maybe you could be my teacher!

T-teacher...?



Take this!

?



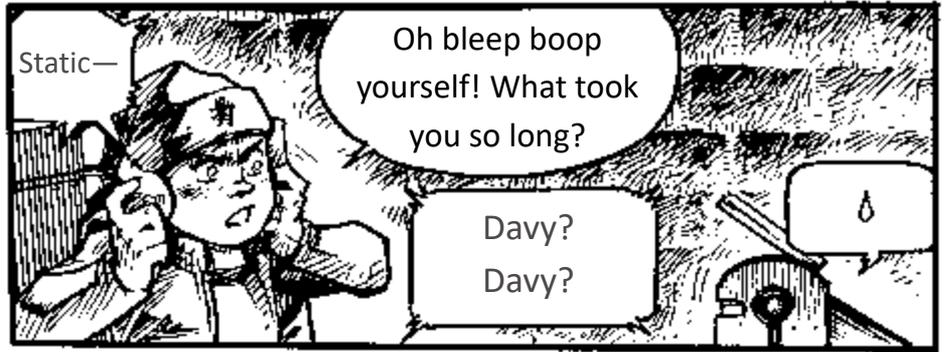
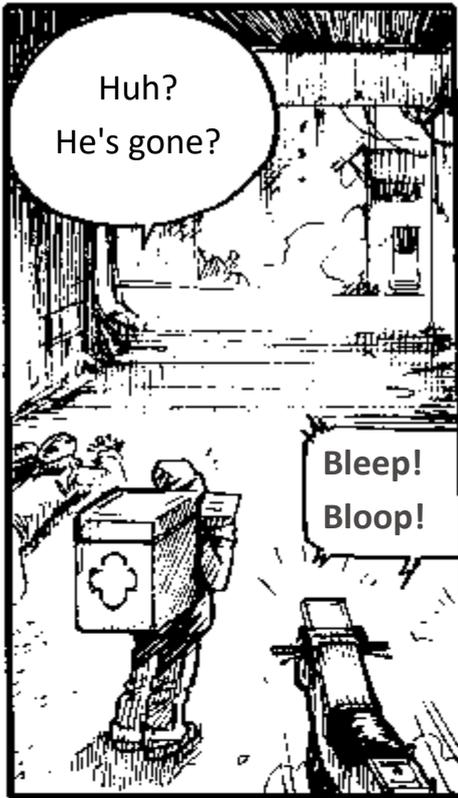
You said you're looking for a teacher?

Look no further!



Kung Fu?

Hey mister, that's not what I meant!





Your blanket fell off again? I thought I used velcro?



How can I be sure it's you?
Come here!
I need to inspect you!



GRANDPA!

It's ME!
Put the gun down!



Grampa, you know you can't see well... What's with the glasses?

It's called **STYLE**, my boy! Why, if I didn't wear these, nobody would recognize me!

Grandpa, you're not Clark Kent.

Alright, already! Don't touch my face, I'm fine!



Yeeow!
(grimace)

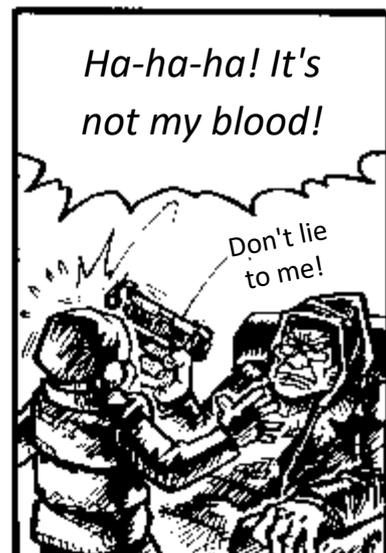


You're hurt?
Fighting again?

Is that blood I smell!?

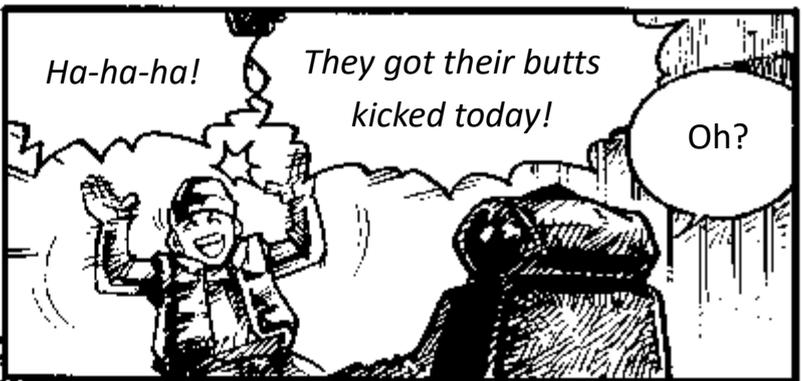
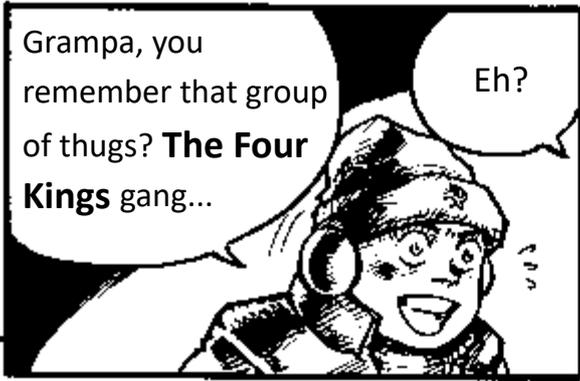


Ack! I forgot gramps still has an amazing sense of smell...



Ha-ha-ha! It's not my blood!

Don't lie to me!



I accidentally ran into them!
Then this guy showed up out of nowhere! And he had this incredible robot! They were so cool, and then...

They really showed those thugs who's boss!





DAMN!

DAMN!

DAMN!

SHIT!!

Boss...

Wait, wait!

Hold on a second!

They made a
FOOL outta me!

I'm gonna to
KILL that guy!

VROOOM...

Yeah!

Boss!
Boss!

You know what the top
dog said... We can't let
ANYONE see this...

Heh-heh-heh...

What are you
afraid of? We're not
taking him to the
tournament!

But...

Yahoo!

What's the matter?
You don't want
revenge?

Yeah, but...

.....

Yeah!

