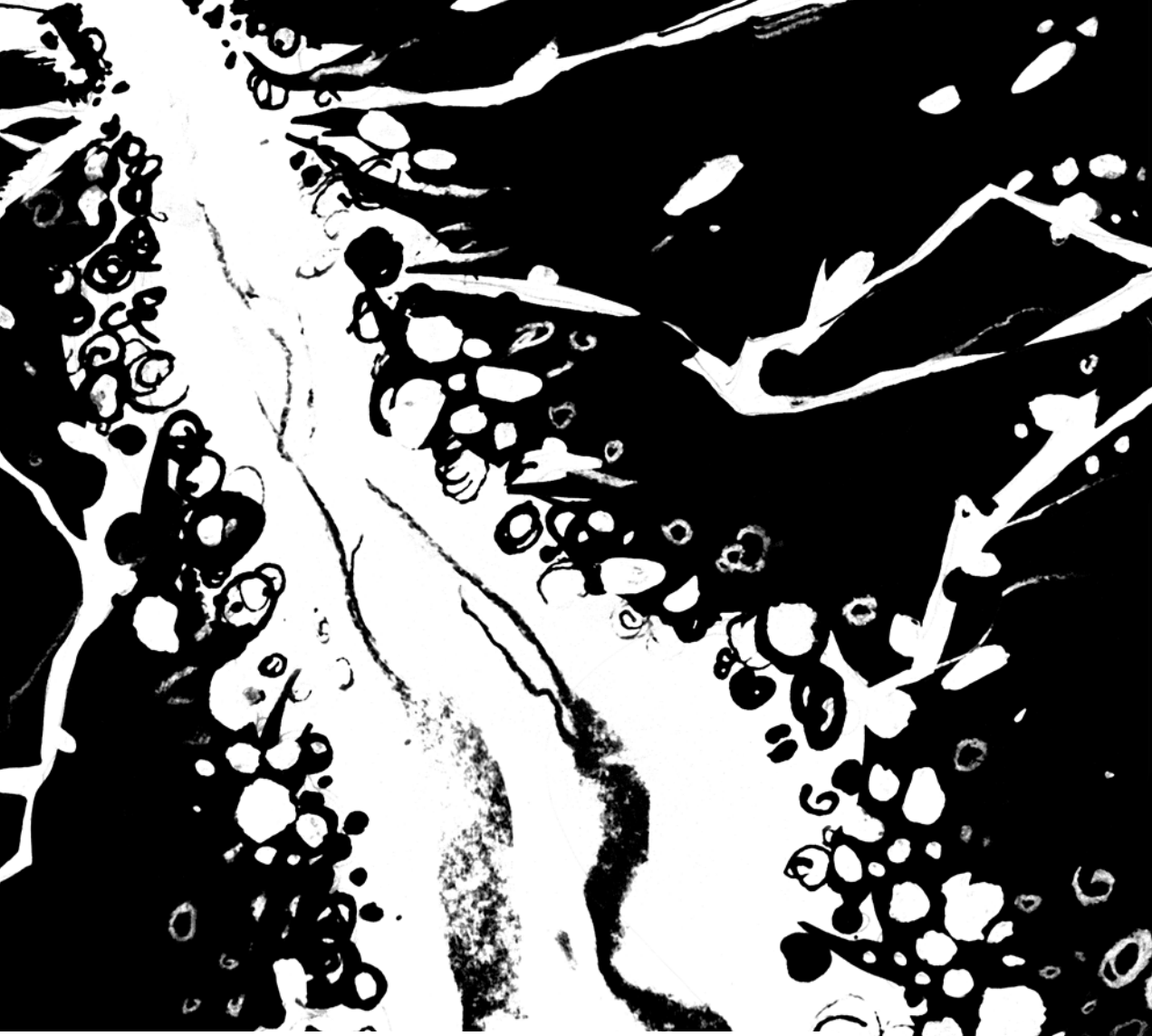


NINJA



EDMUND ALEXANDER SIMS
JASON ADAM



FIRST EDITION JULY 2007

NINJA # – THE COMING OF THE NINJA, ISSUE #1

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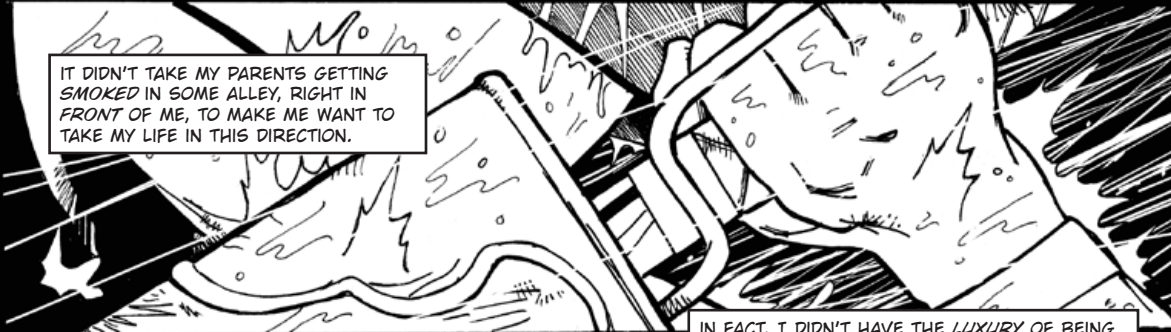
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GRATITUDE: Edmund—Marileva and Jago. Jason—Patrick Neighly, Jessica Fritz, everyone at Sketch Please and Millie Blakey.

Printed in the Trenches of Kalos 7.

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IT DIDN'T TAKE MY PARENTS GETTING SMOKED IN SOME ALLEY, RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, TO MAKE ME WANT TO TAKE MY LIFE IN THIS DIRECTION.



IN FACT, I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF BEING THERE WHEN MY MASTER AND MENTOR -- MY LEGAL GUARDIAN -- WAS KILLED.



I DIDN'T NEED SOME TWO-BIT HOOD TO KILL MY UNCLE IN ORDER FOR ME TO GET MY SHIT TOGETHER.



GUESS YOU CAN SAY I'M FORTUNATE TO HAVE NEVER BEEN SO IRRESPONSIBLE.

Route 53
Buffalo Grove

1.5 miles
Exit 2 miles



AND IT WASN'T LIKE I'D DIED, GONE TO HELL, AND COME BACK WITH SUPER POWERS EITHER.

NEVER NEEDED TO OVERCOMPENSATE.

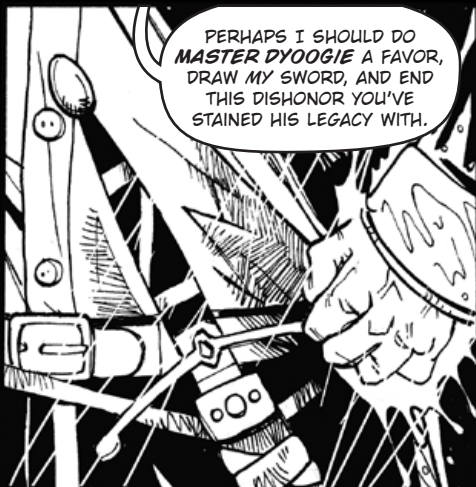
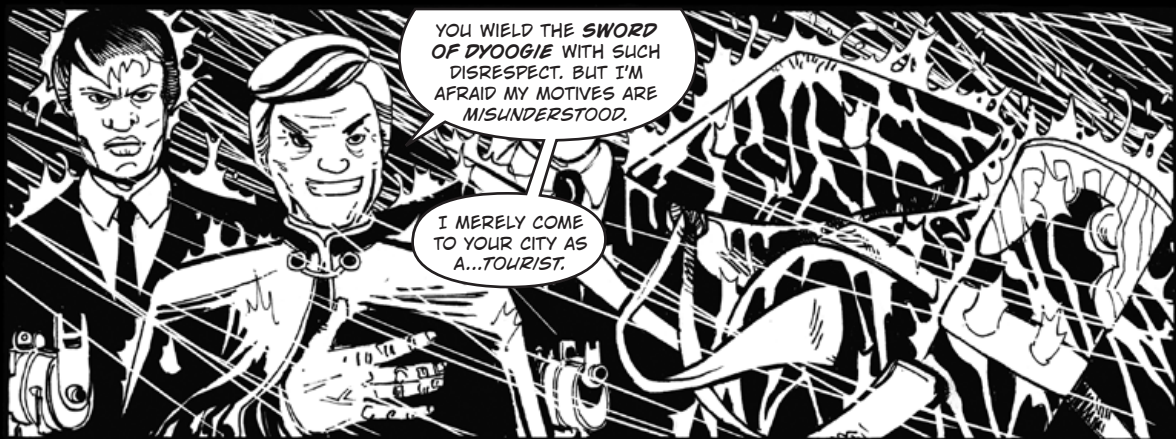
IT'S JUST THAT *BUFFALO GROVE*
IS MY MOTHERFUCKIN' CITY...

...AND I *WON'T* LET YOU DO TO
HERE WHAT YOU DID TO *PALATINE*...



...*PANG!*







PANG'S DONE NOTHING WRONG. IN FACT, HE'S GOT A MEETING WITH MAYOR SONG TOMORROW MORNING.

YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID TO PALATINE! IS BUFFALO GROVE GOING TO BE THE NEXT TO FALL?

NOT ON OUR WATCH, BUT AT THE MOMENT, EVERYBODY'S HANDS ARE TIED -- EVEN YOURS.

YOU'VE GOTTA LET HIM PASS, NINJA #.



THEY JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.



THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT. I'M PETE ROGUE -- BOPD.

THAT'S MY PARTNER JULIAN KAZAR, BACK THERE. WE'RE GOING TO BE YOUR ESCORTS FOR TONIGHT AND THE REST OF YOUR STAY HERE IN BUFFALO GROVE.



IF WE SO MUCH AS LOSE YOU AT A STALE GREEN STOP LIGHT --

WELL, I CAN'T REALLY SPEAK TO WHAT NINJA # WOULD DO SHOULD YOU MANAGE TO BE WITHOUT OUR PROTECTION FOR EVEN AN INSTANT.



SHALL WE GO?



GLADLY.



THE MAYOR'S ALREADY GOT IT IN FOR YOU. THIS ONE'S TOO HIGH PROFILE. WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

THANKS, JULIAN.

PANG'S ARRIVED.



FUCK.



ALREADY? HIS PUNCTUALITY IS IMPECCABLE. HE'LL SEIZE ON ANY OPPORTUNITY TO GET CONTROL OF BUFFALO GROVE.

MOST EVERYBODY'S IN PLAY TOO.

REALLY? WHO ARE THE PLAYERS?

NINJA # ALMOST STARTED SOME MESS WITH PANG THE MOMENT HIS CAR CROSSED THE BUFFALO GROVE CITY LIMITS. THE POLICE INTERVENED IN TIME.



INTERESTING -- ALTHOUGH NOT SURPRISING. NINJA # WOULD HAVE DIED INSTANTLY HAD HE GONE HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH PANG.

YES.

HE'S NOWHERE NEAR STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE PANG DOWN.



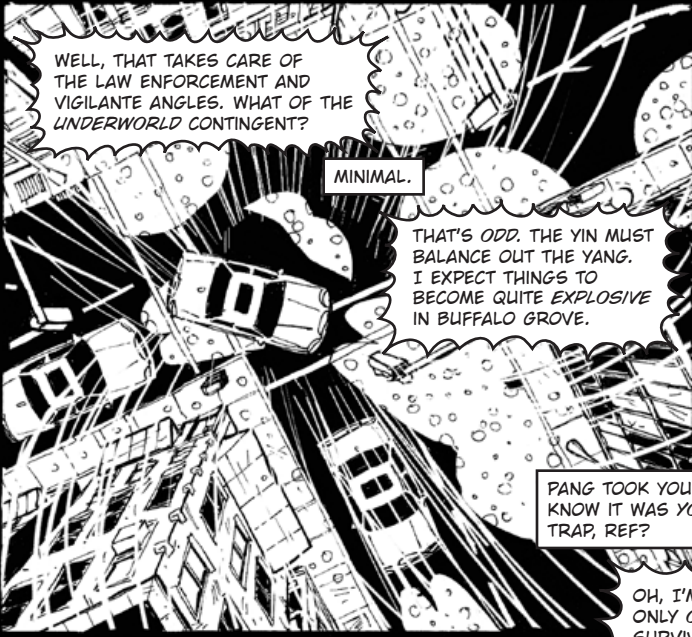
THE POLICE ARE PLAYING PANG STRAIGHT-UP. I ADMIRE COMMISSIONER GYRO'S RESOLVE.

HE CAN'T BE BOUGHT OR INTIMIDATED AND HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH OFFICERS WHO HONESTLY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

REFRESHING, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, SCUX?

CHALLENGES ARE ALWAYS NICE.





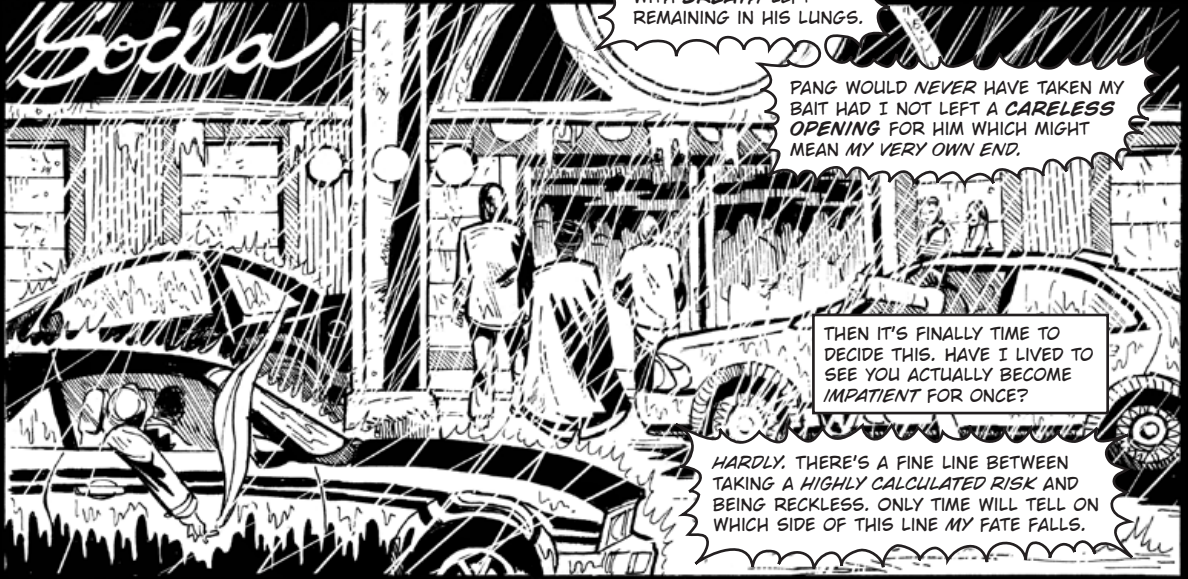
WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VIGILANTE ANGLES. WHAT OF THE UNDERWORLD CONTINGENT?

MINIMAL.

THAT'S ODD. THE YIN MUST BALANCE OUT THE YANG. I EXPECT THINGS TO BECOME QUITE EXPLOSIVE IN BUFFALO GROVE.

PANG TOOK YOUR BAIT. DOES HE KNOW IT WAS YOU THAT SET THE TRAP, REF?

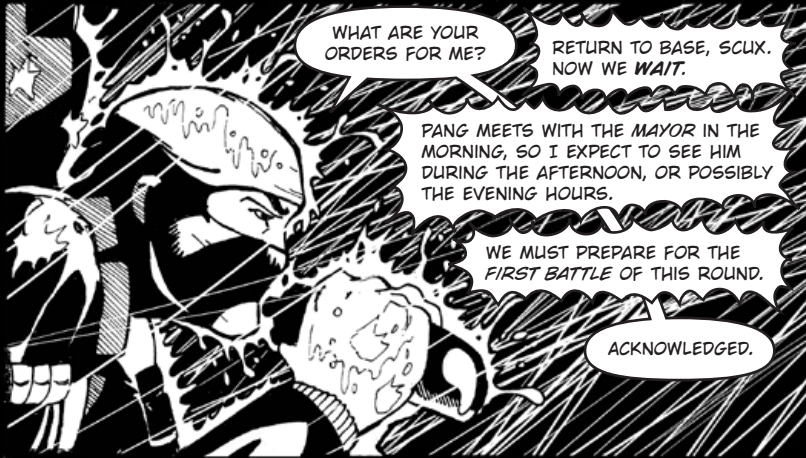
OH, I'M SURE OF IT. ONLY ONE OF US WILL SURVIVE THIS ROUND WITH BREATH LEFT REMAINING IN HIS LUNGS.



PANG WOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN MY BAIT HAD I NOT LEFT A CARELESS OPENING FOR HIM WHICH MIGHT MEAN MY VERY OWN END.

THEN IT'S FINALLY TIME TO DECIDE THIS. HAVE I LIVED TO SEE YOU ACTUALLY BECOME IMPATIENT FOR ONCE?

HARDLY. THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN TAKING A HIGHLY CALCULATED RISK AND BEING RECKLESS. ONLY TIME WILL TELL ON WHICH SIDE OF THIS LINE MY FATE FALLS.



WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS FOR ME?

RETURN TO BASE, SCUX. NOW WE WAIT.

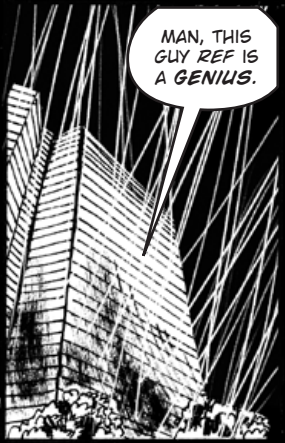
PANG MEETS WITH THE MAYOR IN THE MORNING, SO I EXPECT TO SEE HIM DURING THE AFTERNOON, OR POSSIBLY THE EVENING HOURS.

WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE FIRST BATTLE OF THIS ROUND.

ACKNOWLEDGED.



I NEED TO LET OFF SOME STEAM...



MAN, THIS GUY REF IS A GENIUS.

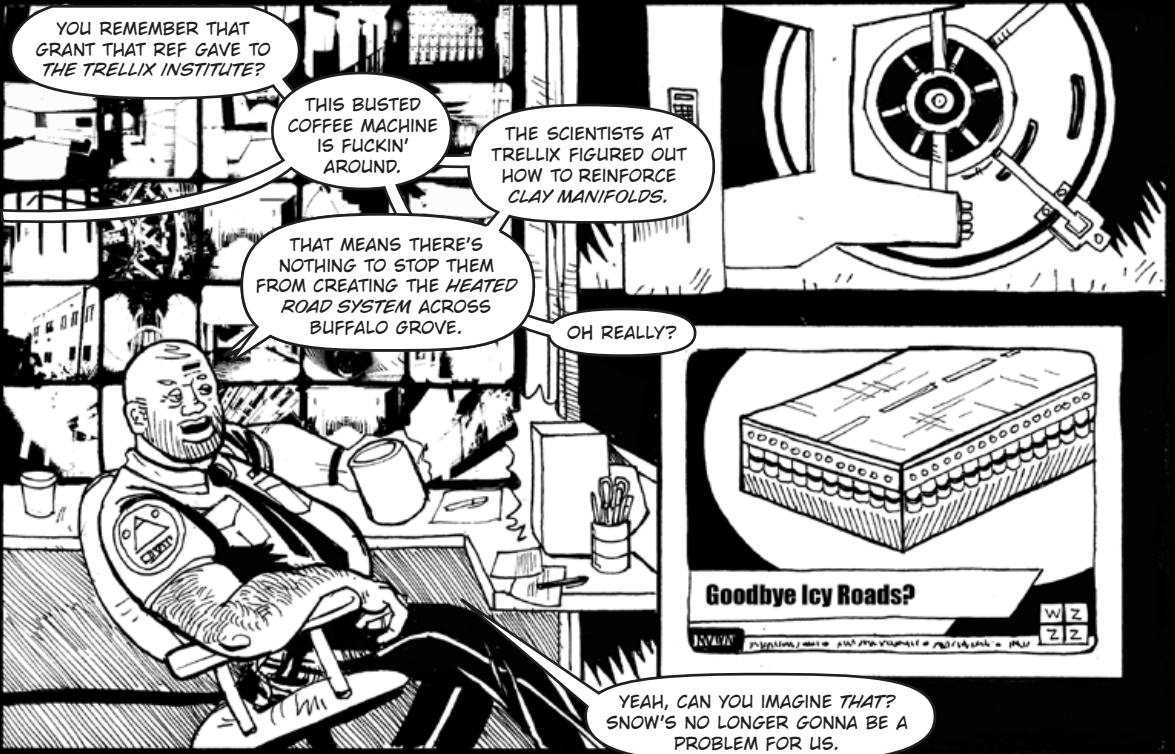


EH?

YOU REALIZE IT'S PEOPLE LIKE HIM THAT KEEP US EMPLOYED IN THIS CITY?

HECK, HALF OF THE SKRELLOS IN THIS DEPOSITORY MUST BE HIS.

WHAT DID HE DO NOW?



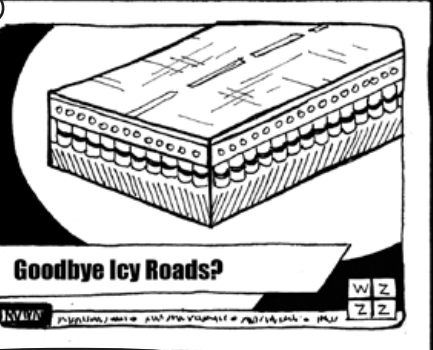
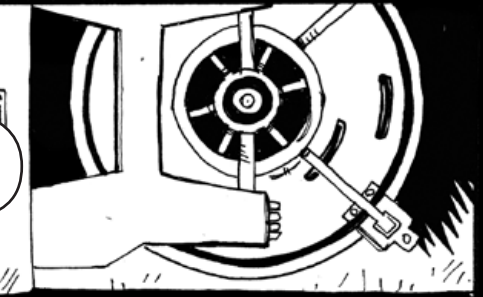
YOU REMEMBER THAT GRANT THAT REF GAVE TO THE TRELLIX INSTITUTE?

THIS BUSTED COFFEE MACHINE IS FUCKIN' AROUND.

THE SCIENTISTS AT TRELLIX FIGURED OUT HOW TO REINFORCE CLAY MANIFOLDS.

THAT MEANS THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP THEM FROM CREATING THE HEATED ROAD SYSTEM ACROSS BUFFALO GROVE.

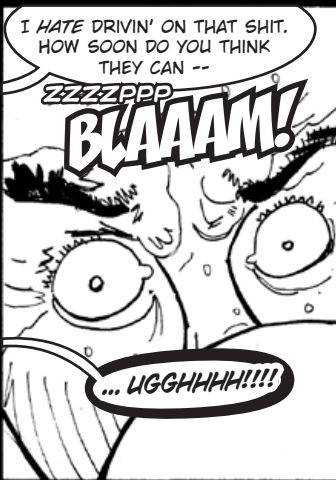
OH REALLY?



Goodbye Icy Roads?

W Z
Z Z

YEAH, CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? SNOW'S NO LONGER GONNA BE A PROBLEM FOR US.



I HATE DRIVIN' ON THAT SHIT. HOW SOON DO YOU THINK THEY CAN --

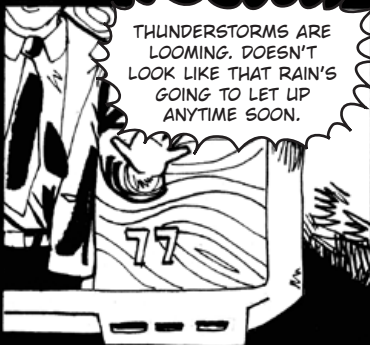
BLAAM!

... UGGHHHH!!!!



WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU.

HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET IN...





THIS IS GONNA BE OUR BEST SCORE YET!



THE TRUCK'S ALMOST LOADED.

GOOD.



KEEP THAT ENGINE WARM. WE GOTTA MOVE!

READY WHENEVER YOU ARE. JUST GIVE THE SIGNAL.



EXCELLENT. THIS IS FUCKING BRILLIANT!

SKRELLOS

YEAH, THIS NEW GUY'S AMAZING -- AND IN RECORD TIME TOO.

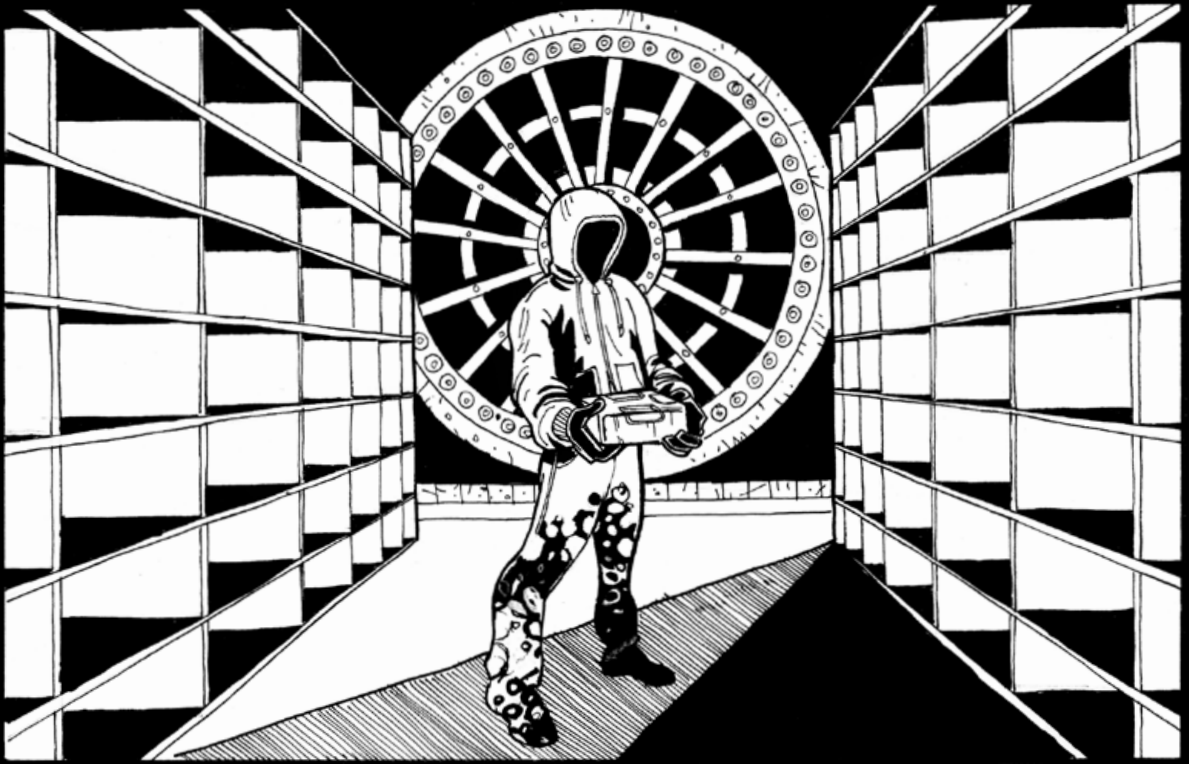
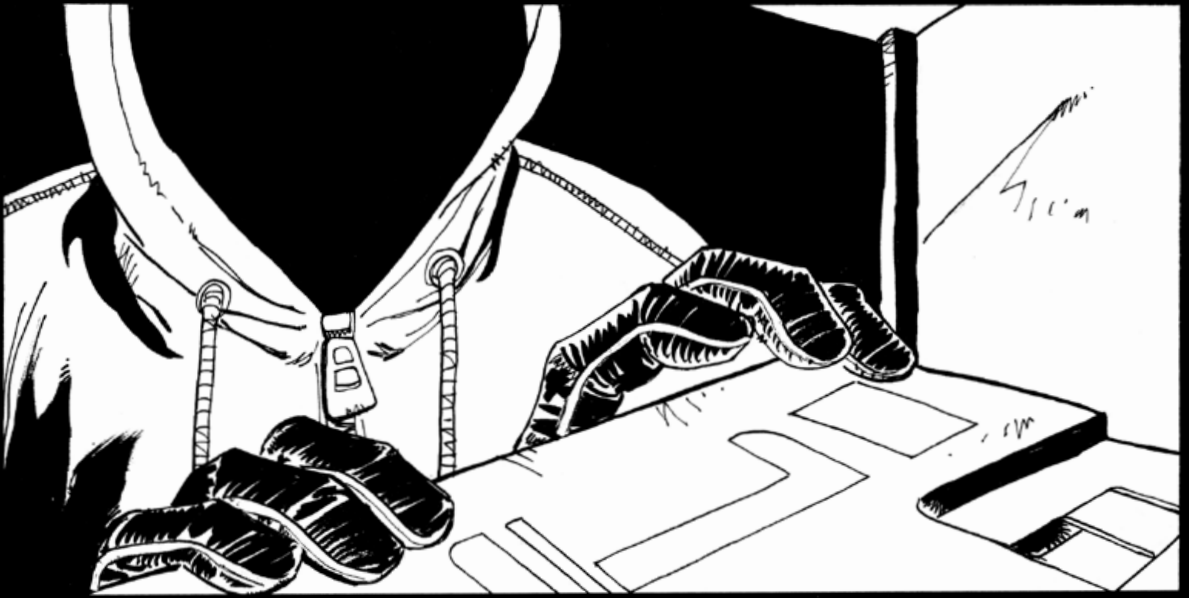


ONE MORE TRIP OUGHTA...



ZZZZPPP

...DO IT.







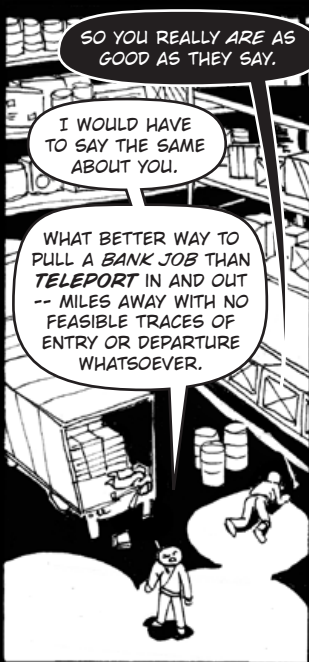
HOW... DID YOU KNOW?

I DIDN'T.

I WAS JUST WALKING AROUND AND HAPPENED UPON THIS SITE.

THERE HAVE BEEN THREE BANK ROBBERIES THIS MONTH, WITH NOT SO MUCH AS A TIRE TRACK FROM A GETAWAY VEHICLE.

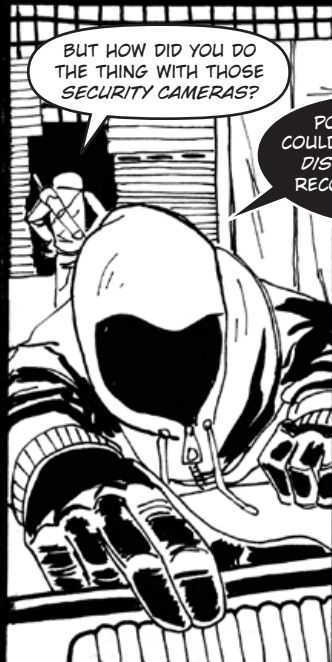
ENTIRE VAULTS, WITH NO AIR INSIDE, HAVE BEEN LOOTED WITHOUT BEING PHYSICALLY OPENED.



SO YOU REALLY ARE AS GOOD AS THEY SAY.

I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO PULL A BANK JOB THAN TELEPORT IN AND OUT -- MILES AWAY WITH NO FEASIBLE TRACES OF ENTRY OR DEPARTURE WHATSOEVER.



BUT HOW DID YOU DO THE THING WITH THOSE SECURITY CAMERAS?

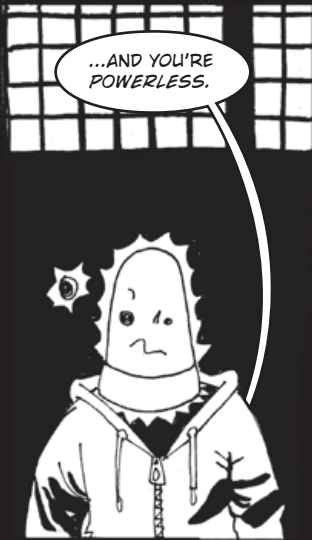
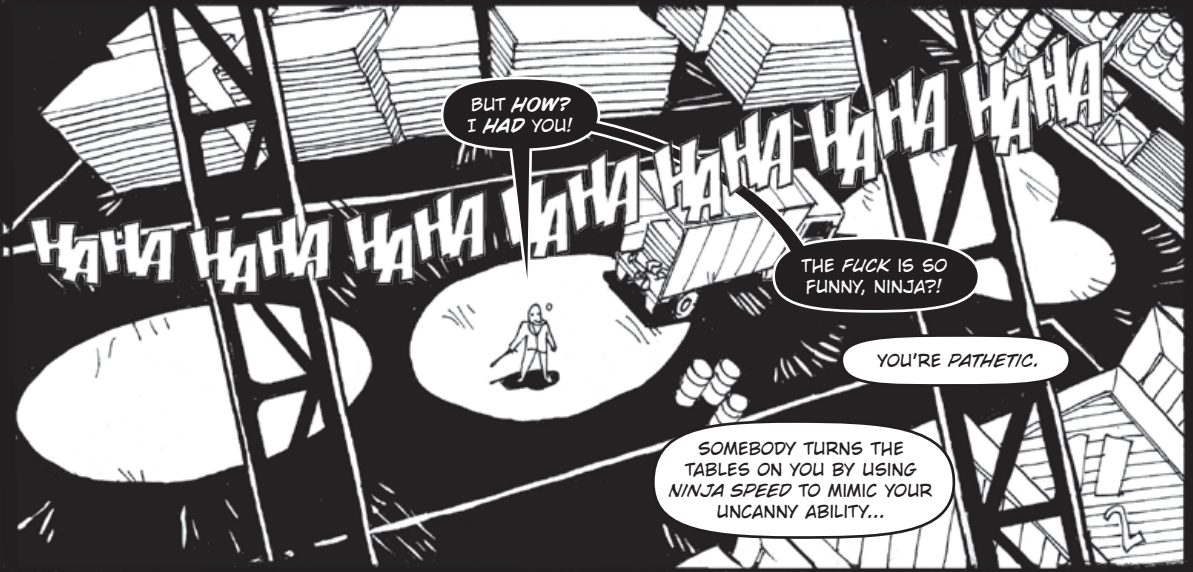
POLICE REPORTS COULDN'T EXPLAIN THAT DISTORTION IN THE RECORDINGS EITHER, HUH?



LET'S JUST SAY...









YOU FOOL! IF I DON'T CONCENTRATE,
WE CAN REMATERIALIZE IN BETWEEN THE
BRICKS OF A BUILDING OR SOMETHING.

THEN YOU'D BETTER CONCENTRATE.

DAMMIT, JUST LET GO OF ME!

THAT'LL ALMOST HAPPEN.

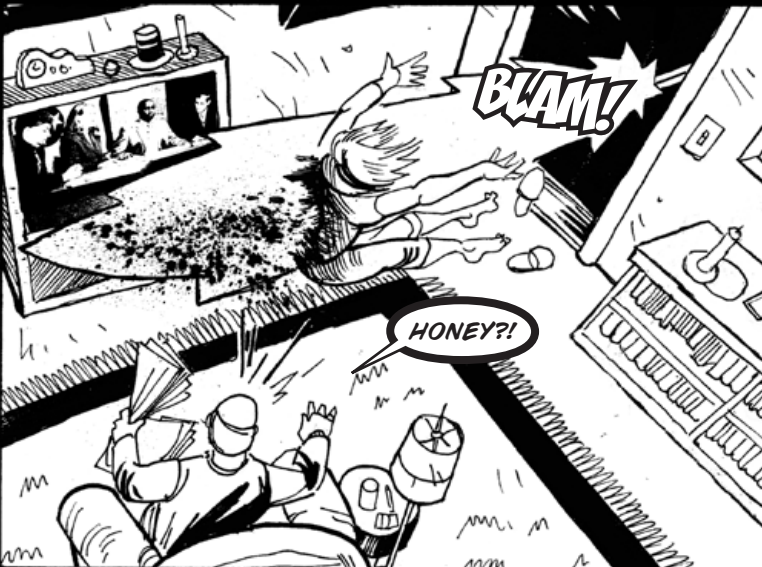
SURELY, YOUR GOOD NATURE WILL
NOT ALLOW YOU TO SACRIFICE THE
BOTH OF US WITH THIS LUNACY.

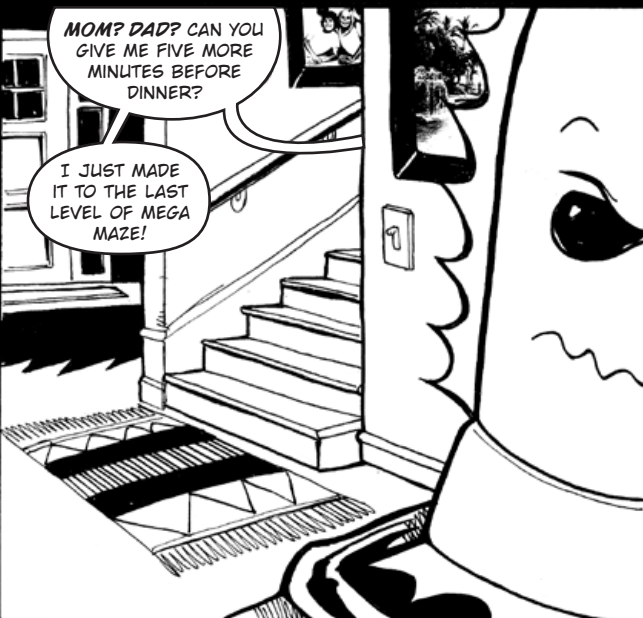
AS LONG AS I TAKE YOU WITH ME,
IT WOULD BE AN HONORABLE DEATH.

YOU'RE CRAZY!

DIE IN HONOR. ALWAYS.

FUCK THIS!









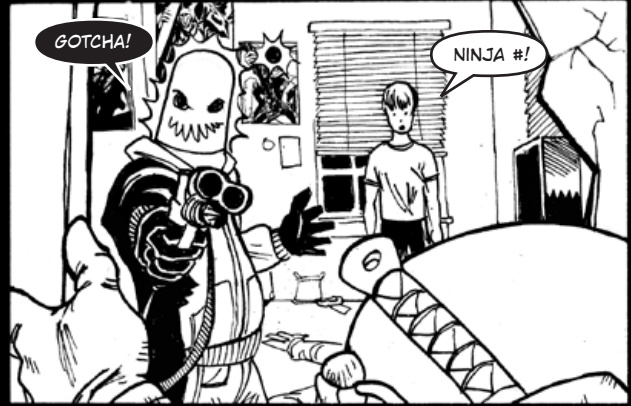
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID?
I THOUGHT HEAD SHOTS WERE
THE BEST WAY TO PUT SOMEONE
DOWN IN A VIDEO GAME.

LOOKS LIKE
MY POWERS ARE
RETURNING.

WE'RE
ABOUT TO
GO FOR A
LITTLE TRIP,
KID.



NOOOOO!!!



GOTCHA!

NINJA #!



NO!

BLAAMM!







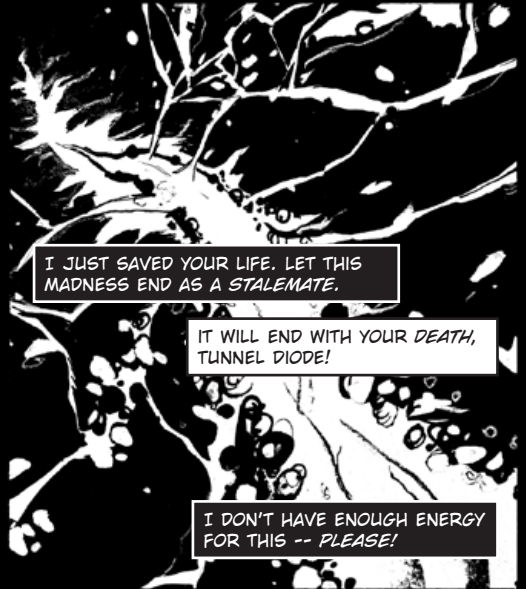


TELEPORT!!



TELE--

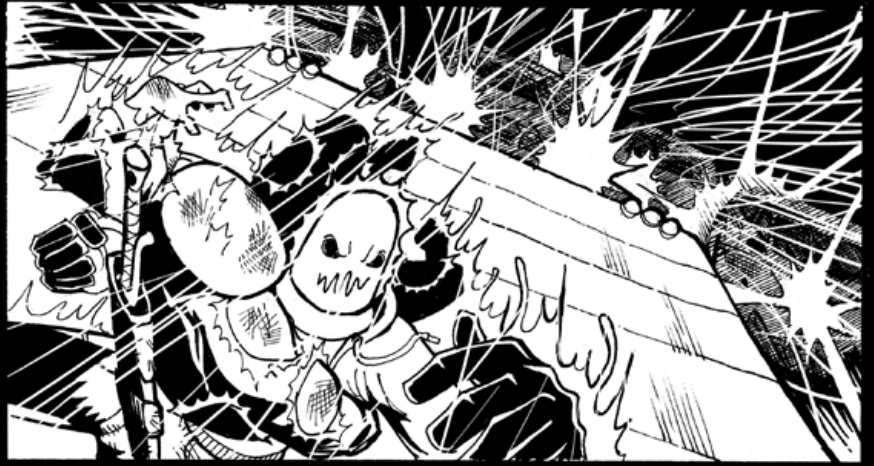
ZZZZPPP

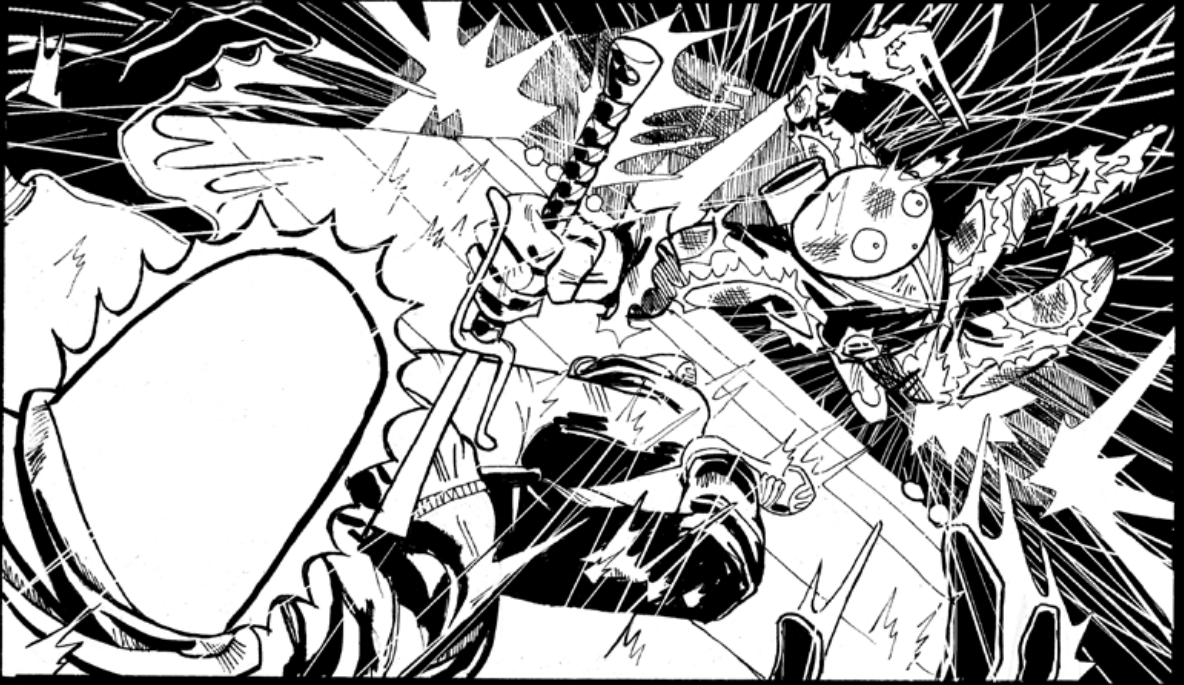


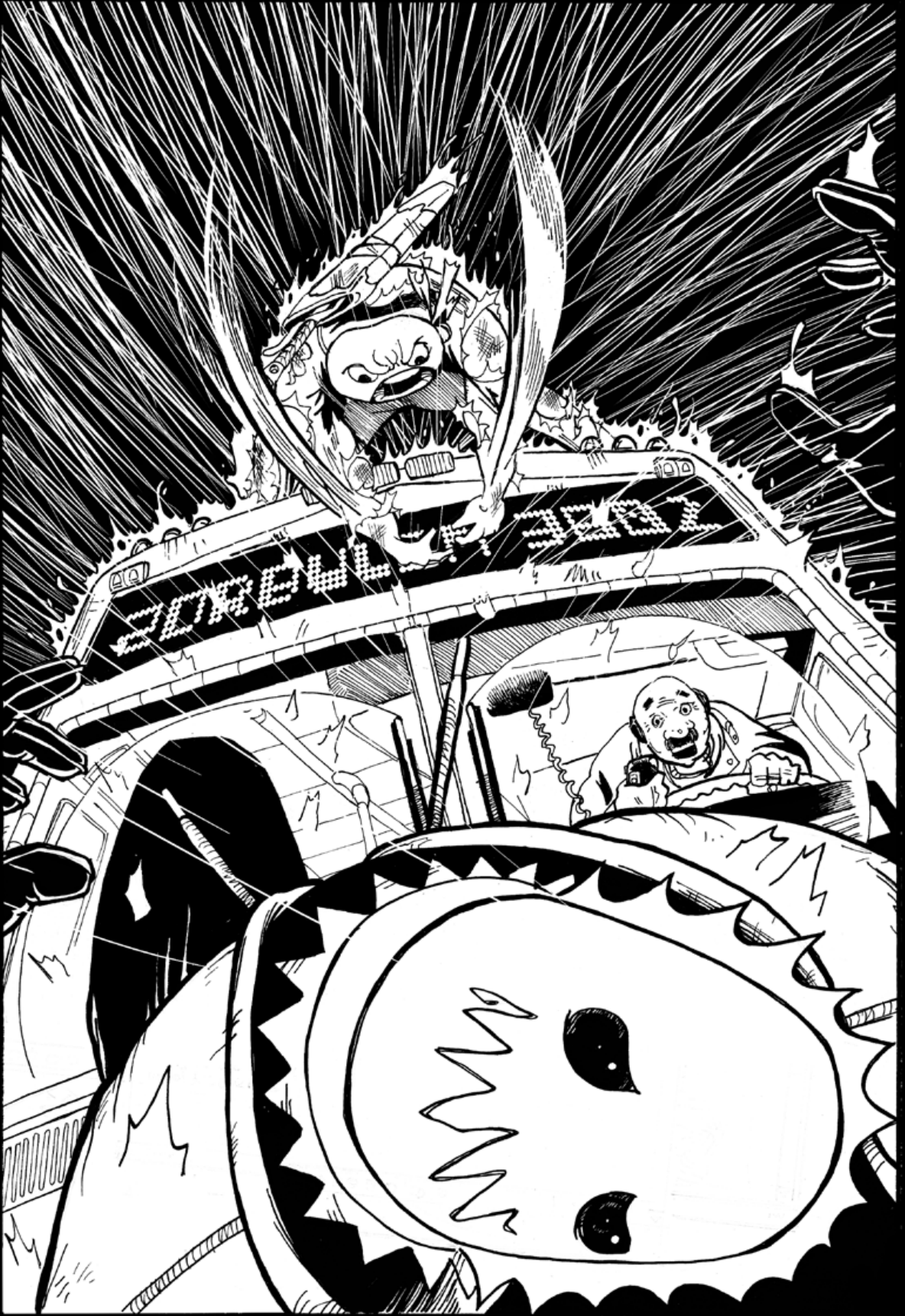
I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE, LET THIS MADNESS END AS A STALEMATE.

IT WILL END WITH YOUR DEATH, TUNNEL DIODE!

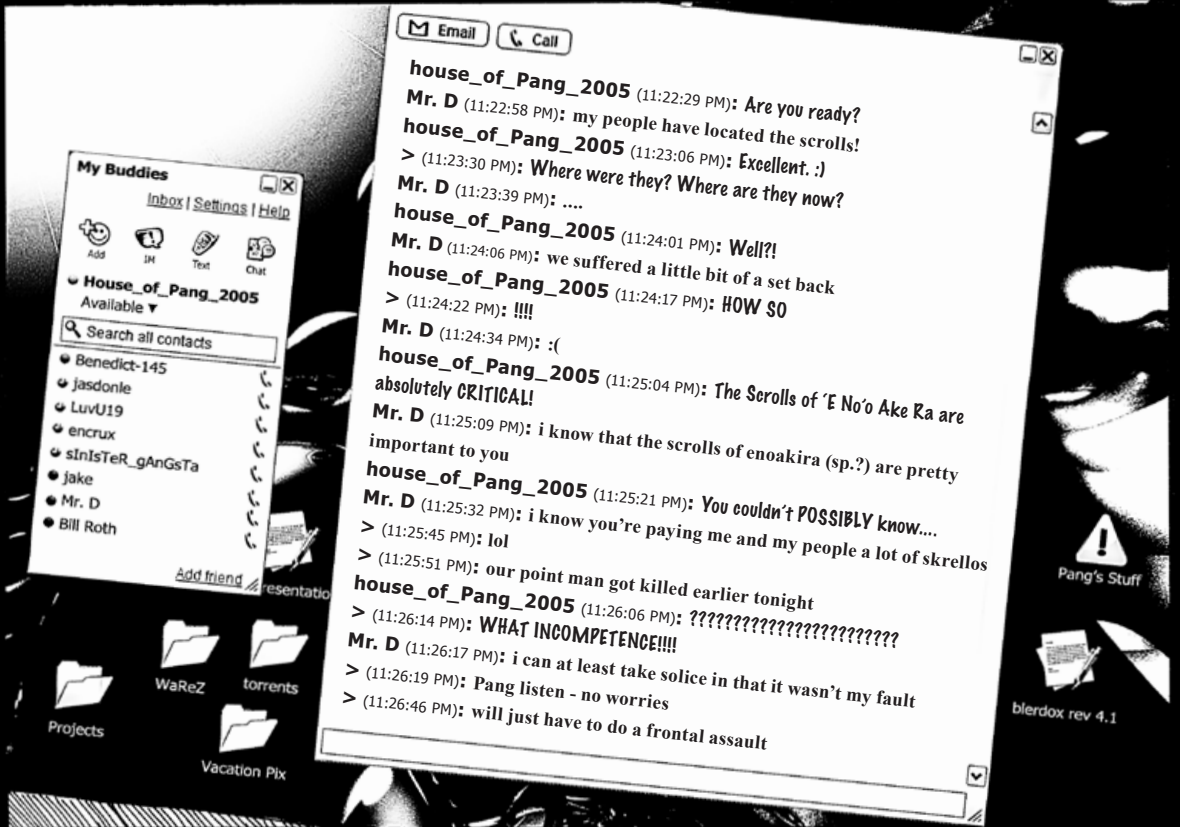
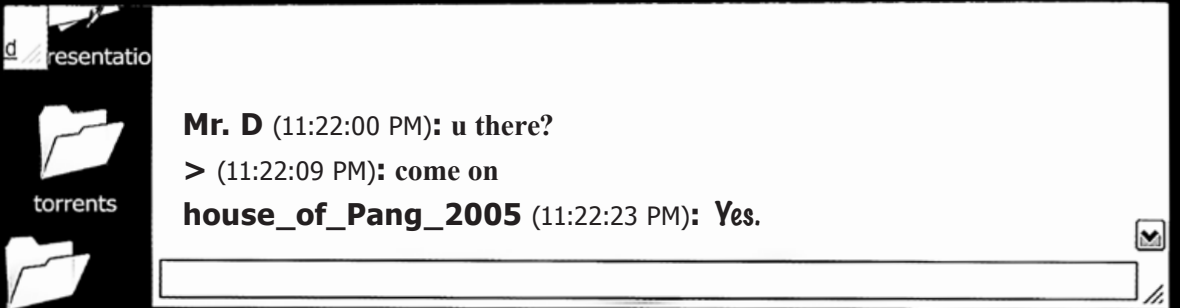
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THIS -- PLEASE!

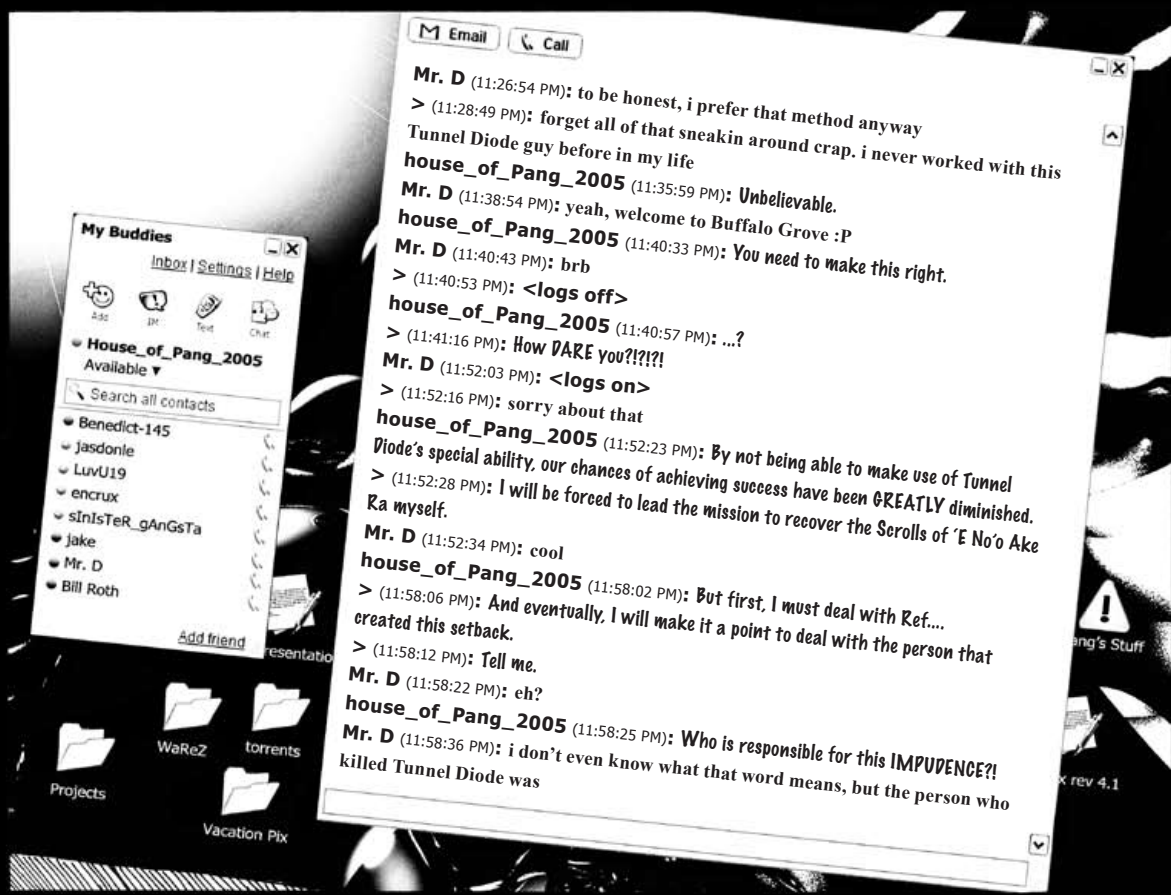


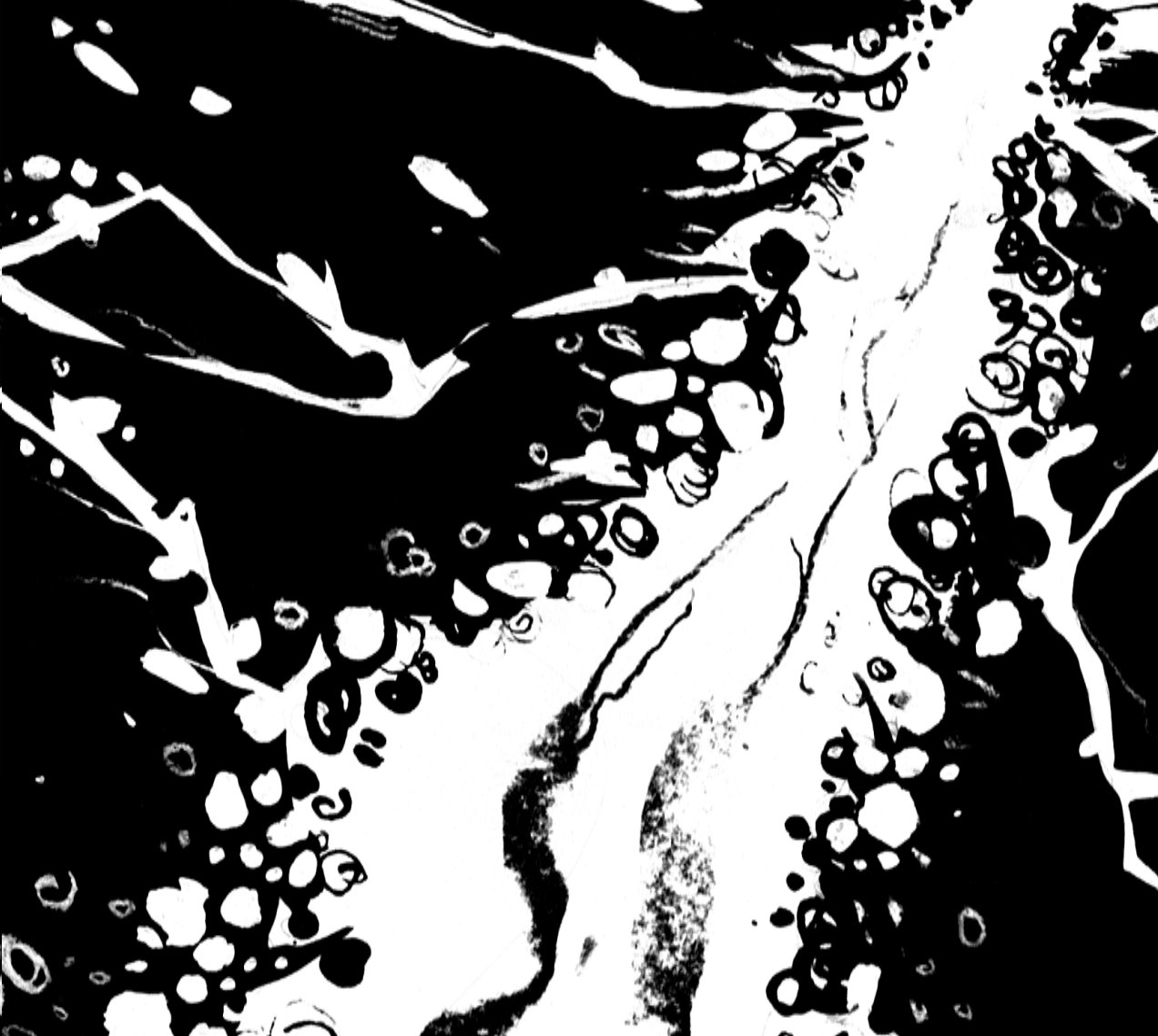












WORDS
EDMUND ALEXANDER SIMS

ART
JASON ADAM





BUFFALO GROVE'S FINEST

On the surface, Ninja # would appear to be cold, heartless, and unfeeling as he fights the good fight through questionable means, ruthless efficiency, and a brutally honest methodology.

Buffalo Grove, a thriving city of millions, not only attracts intergalactic attention because of its diverse culture but also every lunatic from the Earth to Zahn and all dimensions in between.

He is the city's Champion, and in this universe, it is often better to be strong and wrong than to be correct and appear weak...



THE COMING OF THE NINJA | **ISSUE 1**

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