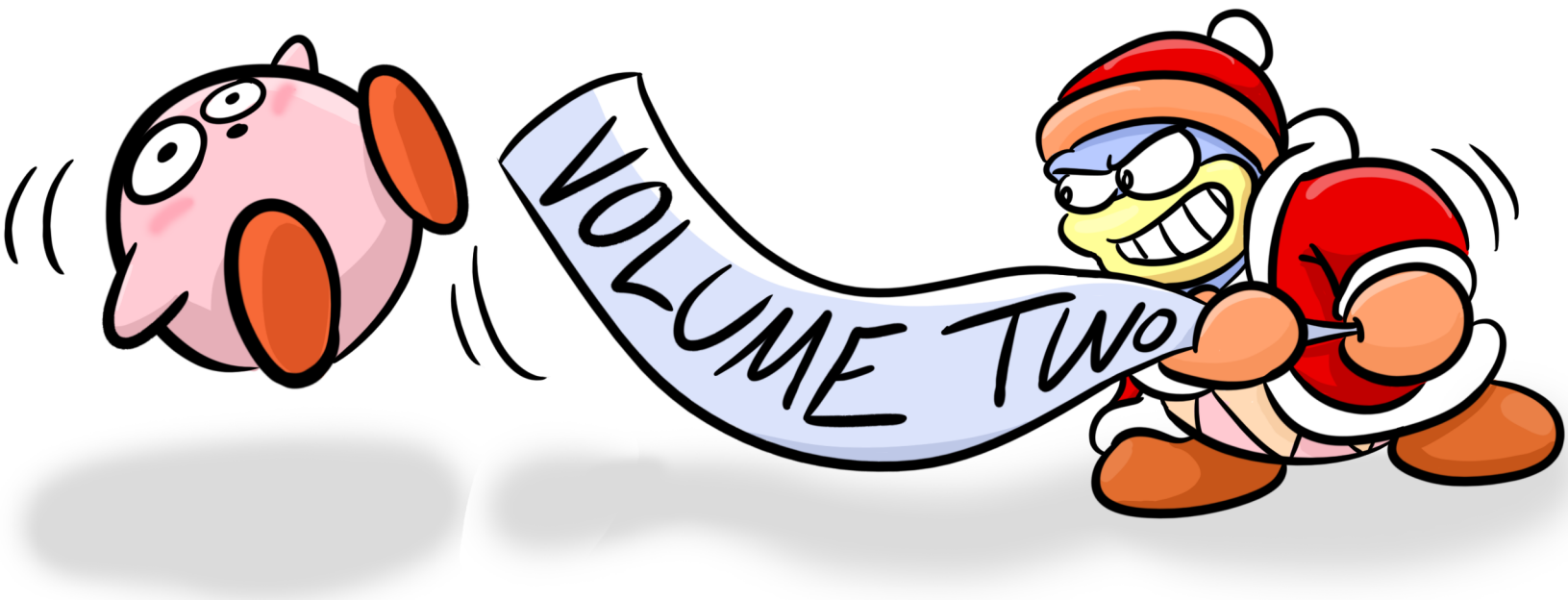
Brawl in the Family

VOLUME TWO

Matthew Taranto


IDIOT
The Enemy

Brawl in the Family



By Matthew Taranto

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(i.e., still the least-read page in the book)



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To see the site and comics in their original format, log into the nearest computer and head on over to www.brawlinthefamily.com. You can also get physical and digital versions of the BitF books there (while supplies last, anyway).
Printed in China



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Welcome to Volume Two!

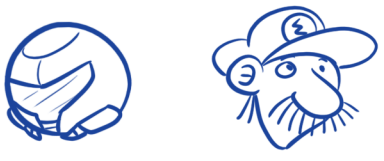
My name is Matthew Taranto, and I introduced "Brawl in the Family: Volume One" by saying I had the best fans in the world; the book was the result of hundreds of readers' collective support via Kickstarter. Well, this second volume that you're currently cradling in your hands (or eyeing online) is the result of *thousands* of readers' collective support! So thank you all for supporting Brawl in the Family once again (and multiplying in number)!



Tell Me Stuff About Brawl in the Family That's Not Just Rehashing the First Book's Intro

Sure! Brawl in the Family ended in October 2014 to much commotion. With a full 600 video game-related strips, I aimed to get the whole series in book form. Since the first volume contained the original 200 comics, it made sense to do two more volumes around that size to have the entire collection in book format, and that's where the Kickstarter came into play.

For those just joining us, BitF is a comic about my love of video games and the silly things that go on within them. Just flip through these pages and you'll get the idea soon enough--there's not much in the way of prior knowledge necessary (unless you know little about Nintendo, in which case you might be better off checking the Sunday funnies or something). It's also a pretty family-friendly comic that you can share with your kid sister (assuming she likes games too), although my mind gets a little nutty sometimes, so I can't promise that Waluigi won't show up with his horrid shenanigans.



So What's in Store for Volume Two?

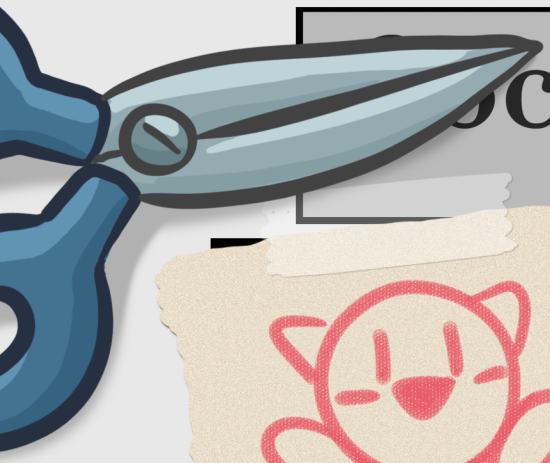


Out of the three "eras" of BitF, this book just might contain my favorite comics! From late 2009 to early 2012 is when BitF took a stab at some larger, serialized stories. Check out how Mario lost his zest for life in "A Mushroom Kingdom Carol," meet Eario (the janitor of the Mushroom Kingdom), catch up with the gang's school days in "Cocoon Academy" (the largest BitF storyline of all), get a sneak peak at Dr. Wily's stage blueprints, and much, much more! You also get all the mouseover text that came with these strips, including the ridiculously long ones that I now regret making. Wahay!

The fun doesn't end there, though--you'll also get a wealth of new content here: big bios for more characters, a ten-page story/poem featuring Dedede, original cover art for all the story arcs, a set of fan comics written by special backers, a giant Special Thanks section for some very supportive readers, and a surprise peek at a bunch of Nintendo-related drawings I made as a kid! Awww...

So grab your now-discontinued-and-super-rare Dededoll, crack open your fizziest can of root beer, ready your phone for the QR codes, and enjoy Brawl in the Family: Volume Two!

Characters (Part 2)



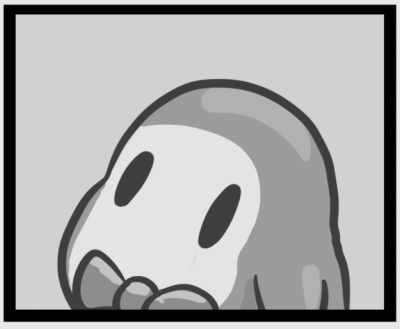
Kirby



Dedede
"Most surprisingly ambitious."



"Pinky"



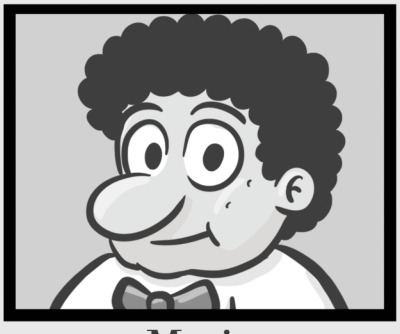
Waddle Dee
"Most loyal"



Link
"Highest midichlorian count"



Adeleine



Mario
"Least-likely to succeed"



Jigglypuff



Bowser
"Least-likely to threaten yearbook commission for a flattering superlative"



Diddy



Douglas
"Most-successful catchphrase"



WALuigi
"Most-likely to succeed"

PEACH

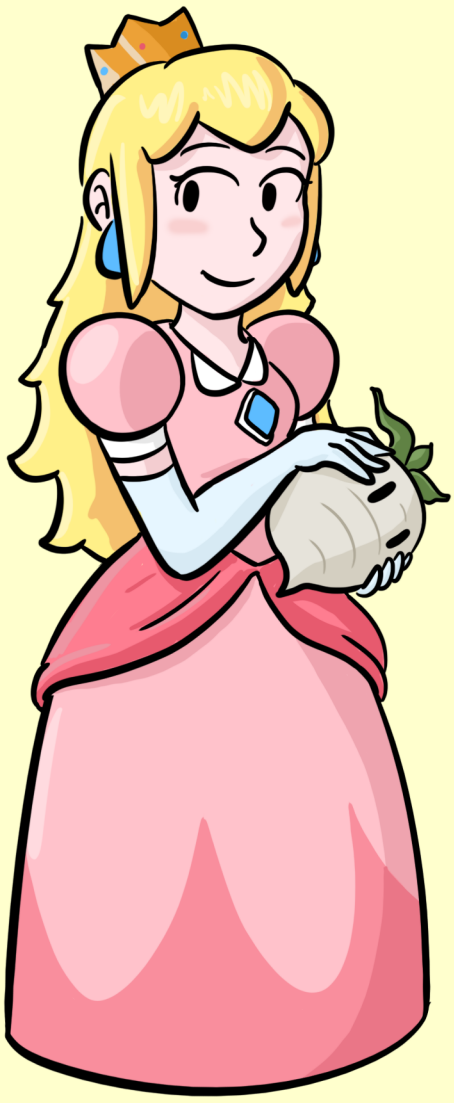






Princess Peach may have a problem with being perpetually purloined, but her plucky plumber pals always have a plan! Her safety is paramount to the Mushroom Kingdom's well-being, although she's been pretty easy-going around the persistent Bowser lately. Sometimes things just get too routine.

Peach is a dainty character, but she has a good amount of wisdom and cleverness to her in several games, so some comics focus on that adventurous element of her.



DAISY

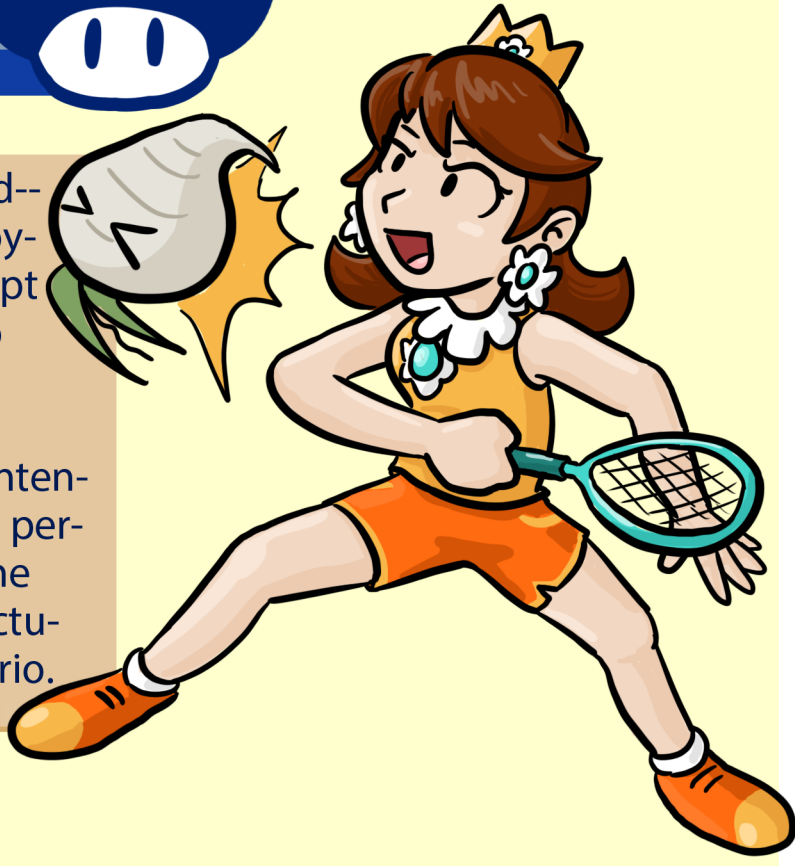






The desert world of Sarasaland is ruled--at least in part--by Daisy, a tan, tomboy-ish princess. She's typically more abrupt and excitable than Peach, but the two still enjoy each other's company.

Since Daisy's a bit of an underused Nintendo character, she gets along well with perpetual underdog Luigi. In fact, she's the only character in BitF who seems to actually tolerate Waluigi. Well, besides Wario.





GANONDORF

Occasionally referred to by his preferred title, “Great King of Evil,” Ganondorf has never been one for subtlety. Hyrule’s resident villain is a true schemer, one always attempting to expand his power in ways unimaginable to mere mortals.

While Ganondorf once crooned a love song to the Triforce, he tends to work well as the straight man in most BitF situations. Bowser and Dedede are more comparitively benign.



WARIO

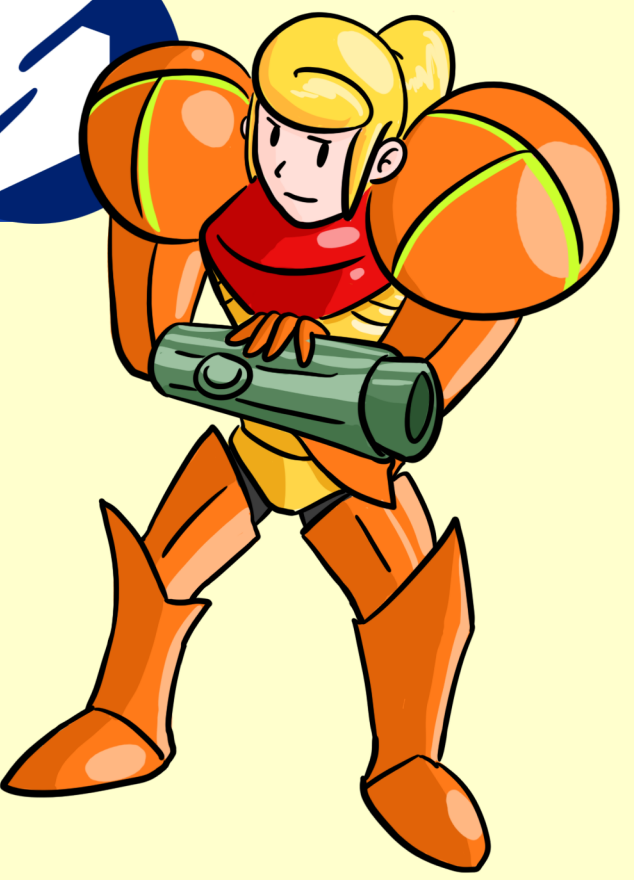


Speaking of morally-ambiguous antiheroes, Wario prides himself on pledging allegiance to no one but No. 1! Girthy, gassy, and so-very-greedy, this guy makes his presence known in any situation.

One of many in a long line of id-driven characters in BitF, Wario might actually be the character that’s most true to his gaming counterpart. And that’s not a bad thing--he’s always been one of Nintendo’s most endearing annoyances to me!



SAMUS









Meet the toughest bounty hunter in the known galaxy (sorry, Captain Falcon). Samus has led a rough life, but she stays optimistic in the face of adversity, and even makes time to have a night out here and there.

There'd probably be more Samus comics if I didn't find her so difficult to draw. Her relationships with Snake and Falcon were fun to explore and let me play around with a different style of storytelling for a bit.

SNAKE











Infamous in Smash Bros. as the first third-party character in the series, Snake also joins the BitF Character page with that same honor under his (very tight) belt!

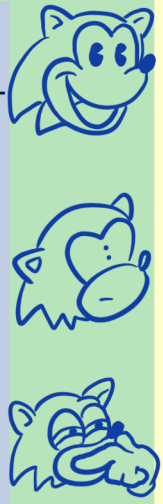
It's a bit of a mean amusement of mine, but I like to poke extra fun at the third-party characters. BitF Snake is a successful spy and an impressive hero, but he's also a ridiculous cretin with no regards to boundaries or personal space. He's one of the looser interpretations in the comic.

SONIC



Look at that finger. Sonic's got attitude to spare, much to the chagrin of tongue-clucking mothers the world over. If you don't move for a while, he'll tap his foot impatiently, even if it hurts your feelings.

Sonic is not spared the fun-pokery that I give to Snake as well, but I've always enjoyed the guy and his legacy regardless (even if I rarely get his arm color right). Rumor has it he's the fastest thing alive.

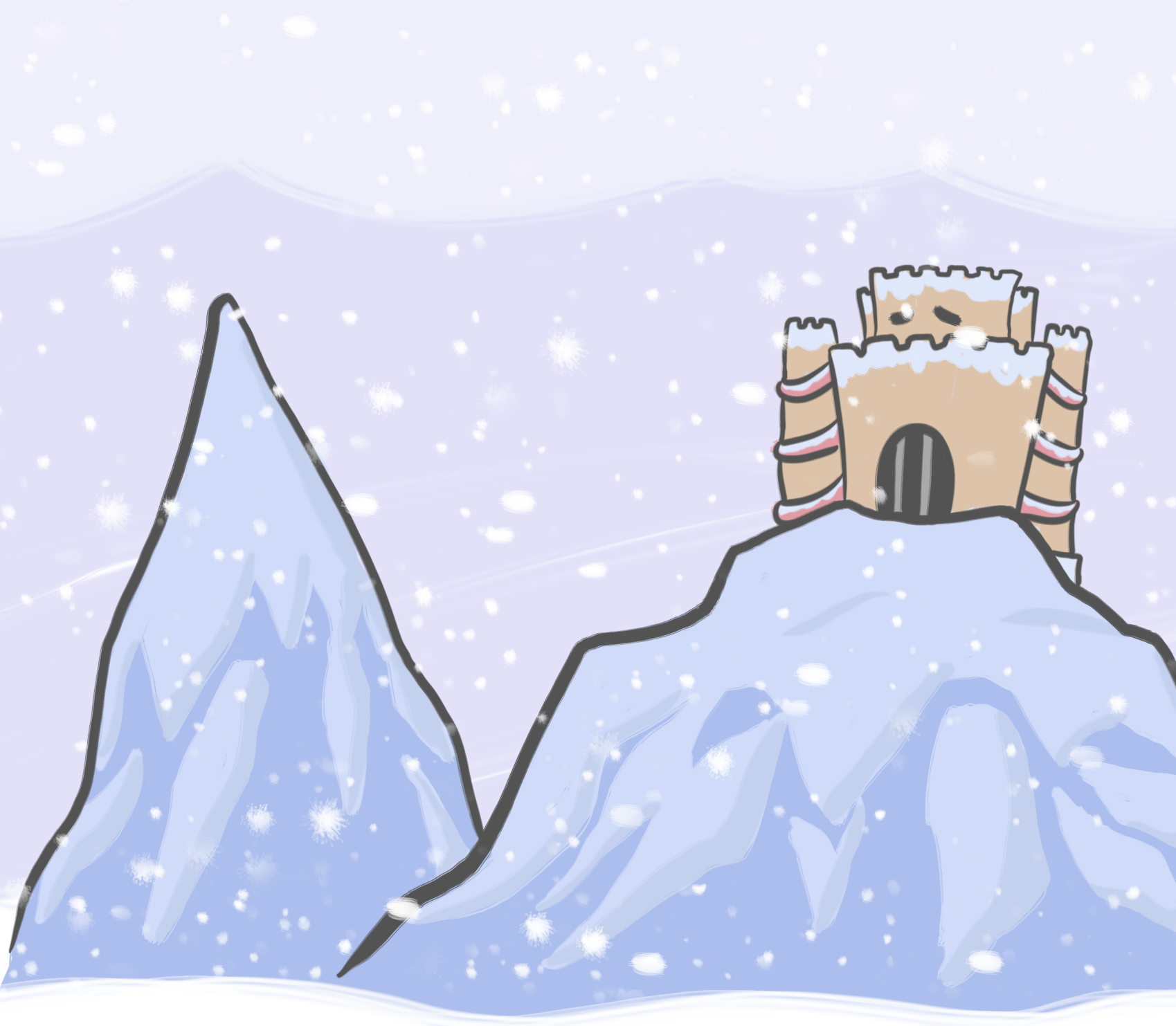


EARIO



And now, a moment of appreciation for our cleaning staff. Do you think the Mushroom Kingdom keeps itself picked up? As you're hopping along your merry way, crushing enemies left and right, emptying out ? blocks and leaving piles of broken bricks all over, do you ever stop to think about the ridiculous mess you're making? Thank goodness for people like Eario, who pride themselves on keeping it all tidy. Give a hoot, don't pollute your Frog Suit!





They say snowfalls are pleasant--
A flow of flying fluff,
But winter this year seemed to bring
A surplus of the stuff.



Inside his icy palace,
Atop the coldest hill,
King Dedede broke icicles
Off from his coldest bill.

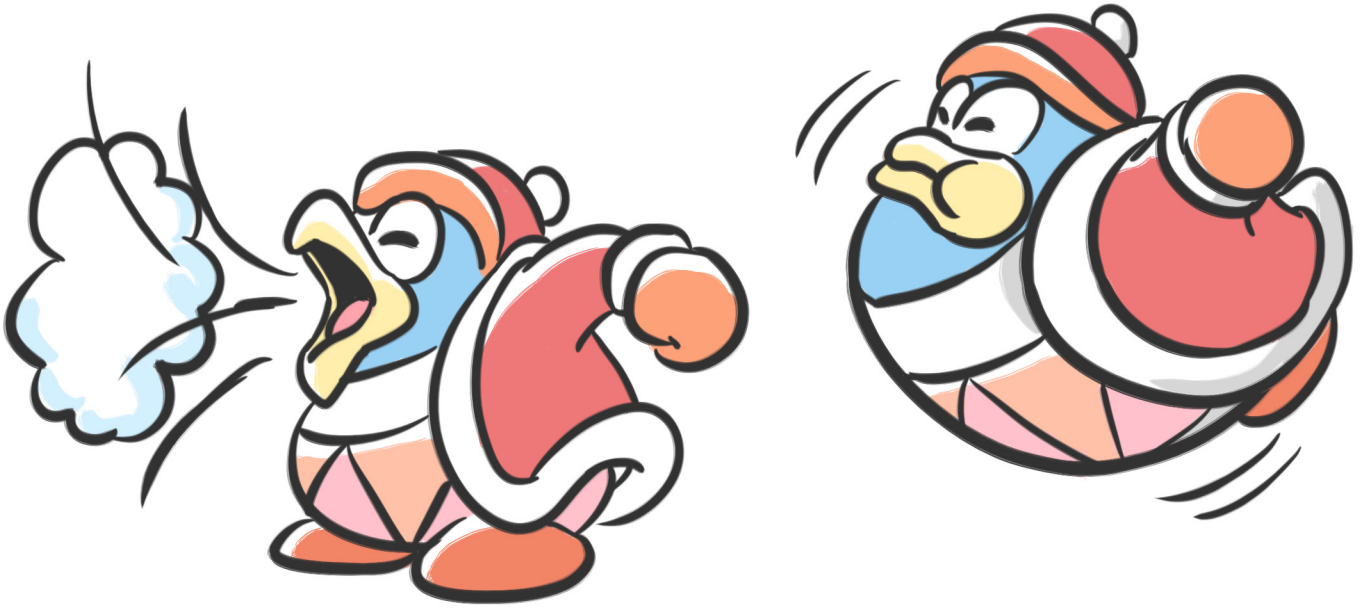
“My trim build isn’t built for this...”
He wiped his frozen mouth.
“The birds have got the right idea,
It’s time that I flew south!”



The eager king, sick of the cold,
Packed up some summer stuff...



But realizing his fleshy “wings”
Were not quite up to snuff,
He found that he could float with ease
On just a hefty huff.



And so he set for warmer days
Across the great blue sea,





but...



He may have overshot the island
Where he planned to be.



King Dedede was startled
When he woke up from his nap.
He'd come across the deep, DEEP South,
An icy polar cap!

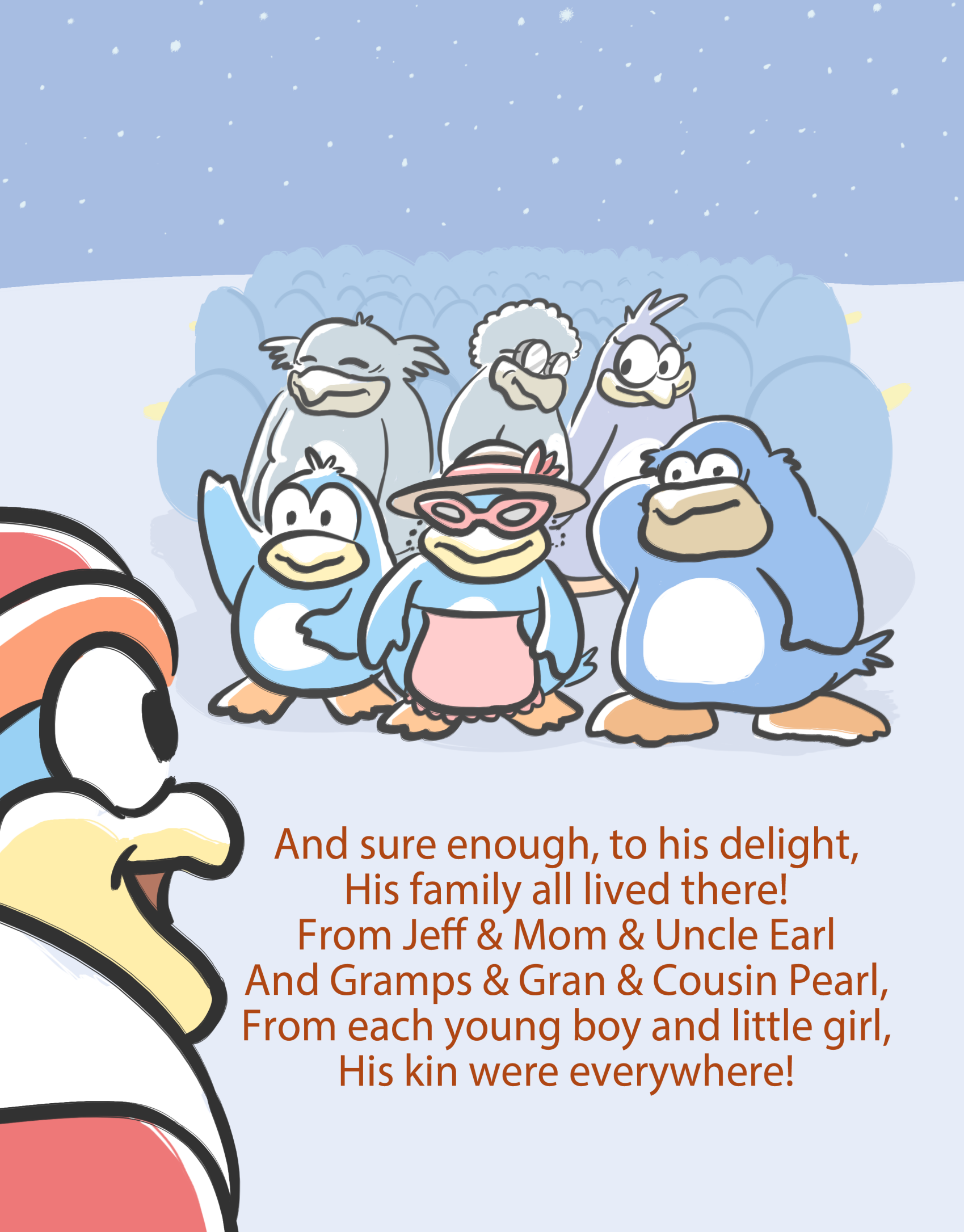


"It's even COLDER here!"
he frowned.
But just before he left,

He BUMPed into a buddy
From his childhood: "Cousin Jeff!?"







And sure enough, to his delight,
His family all lived there!
From Jeff & Mom & Uncle Earl
And Gramps & Gran & Cousin Pearl,
From each young boy and little girl,
His kin were everywhere!

So now each chilly winter,
He'll cross the hemisphere
To hang out with the family on
His favorite time of year!



The End

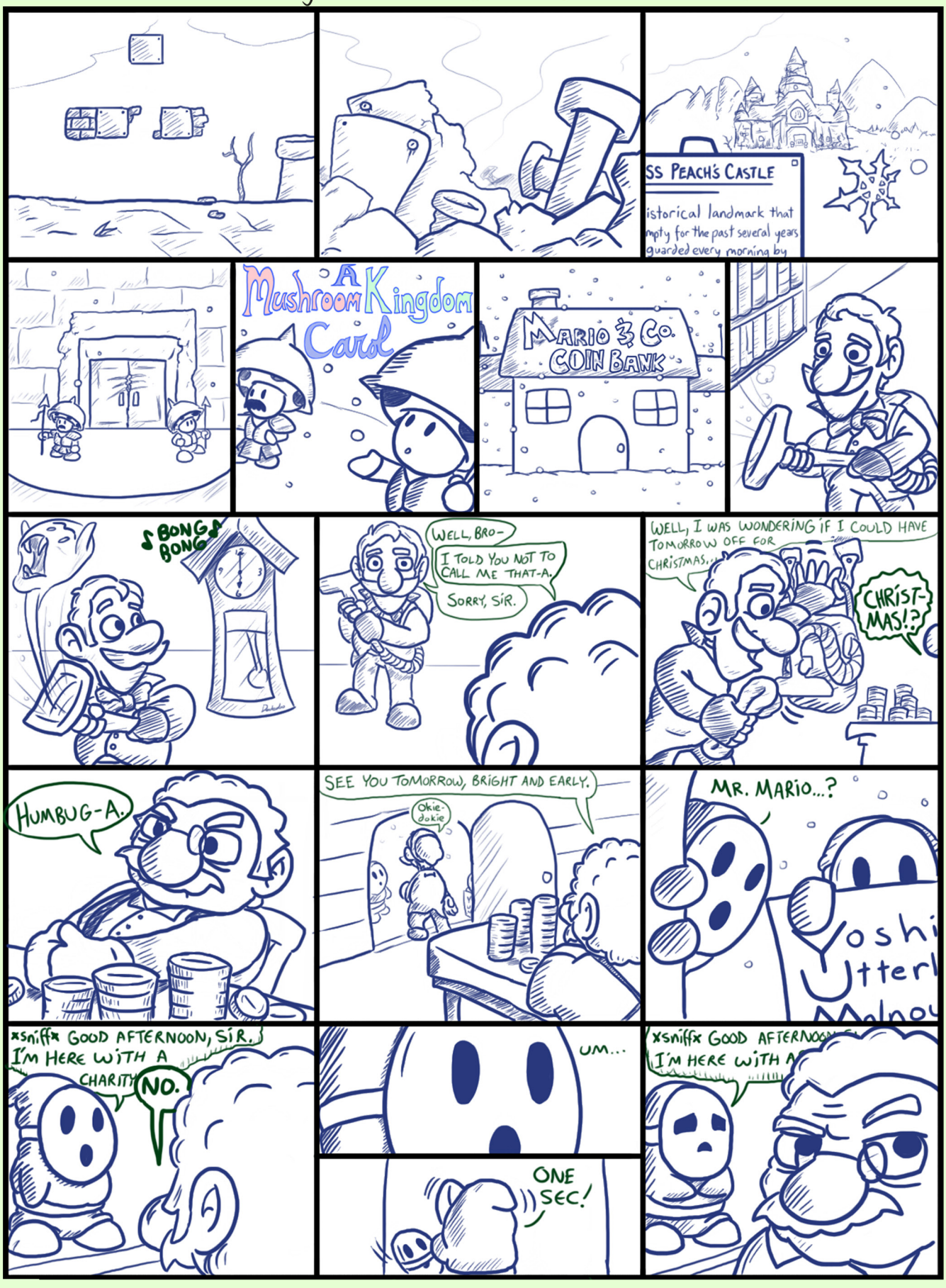
Comics 201-400

Brawl in the Family proudly kicks off its second collection of comics with an 8-part holiday tale:

A Mushroom Kingdom Carol



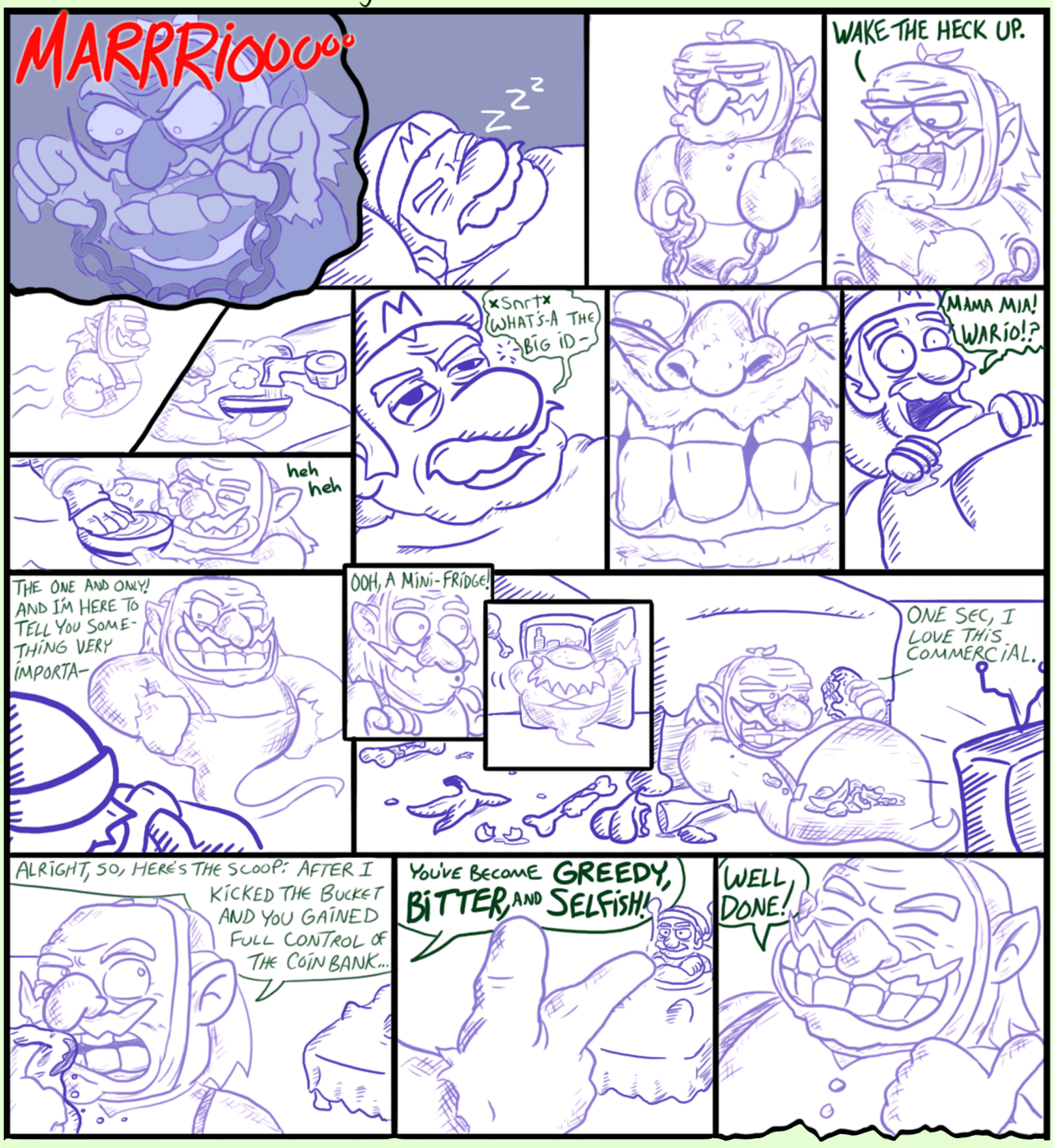
201 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 1)

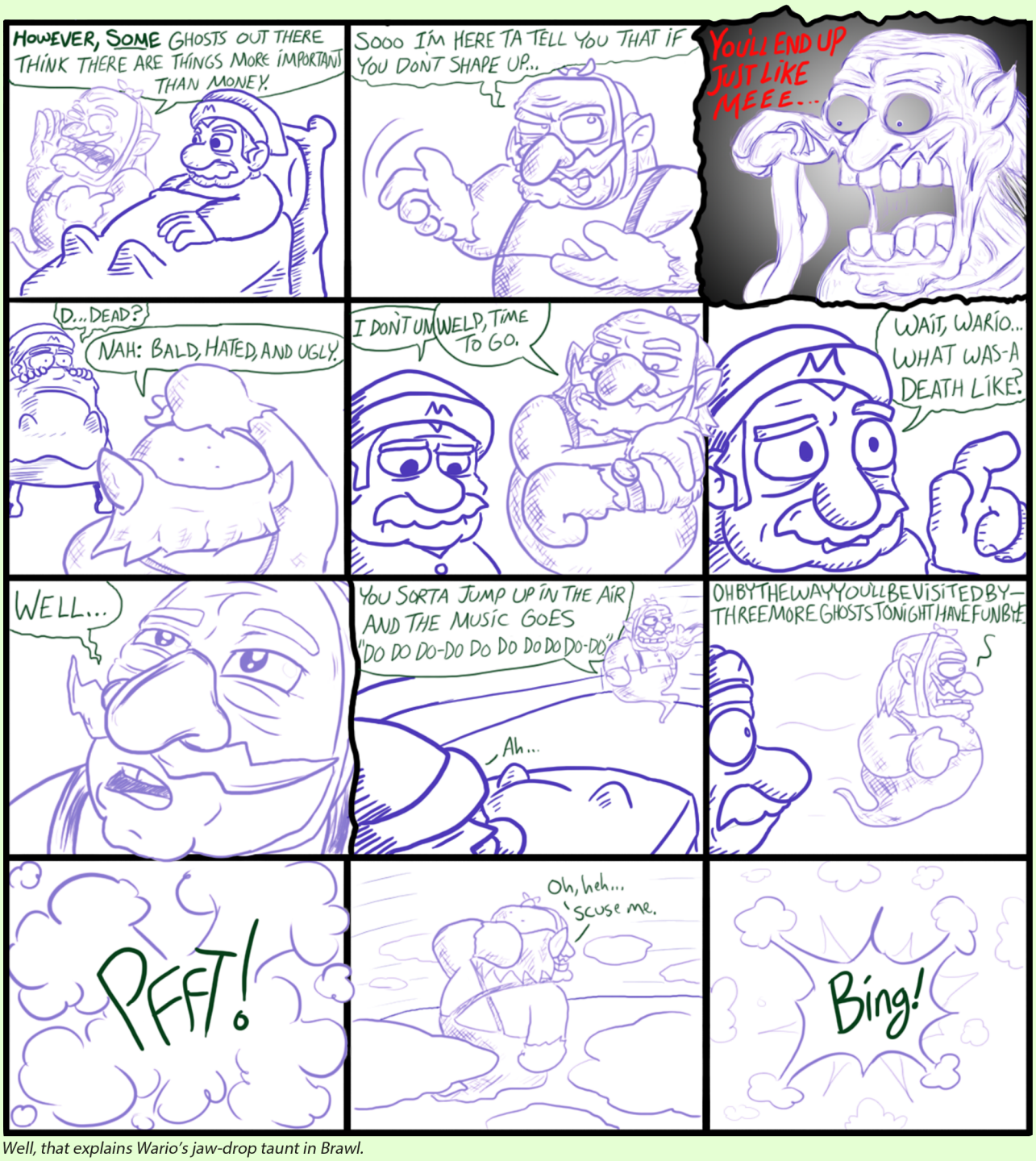




Perhaps Luigi should've stuck around a bit longer with that vacuum.

202 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 2)





Well, that explains Wario's jaw-drop taunt in Brawl.

203 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 3)

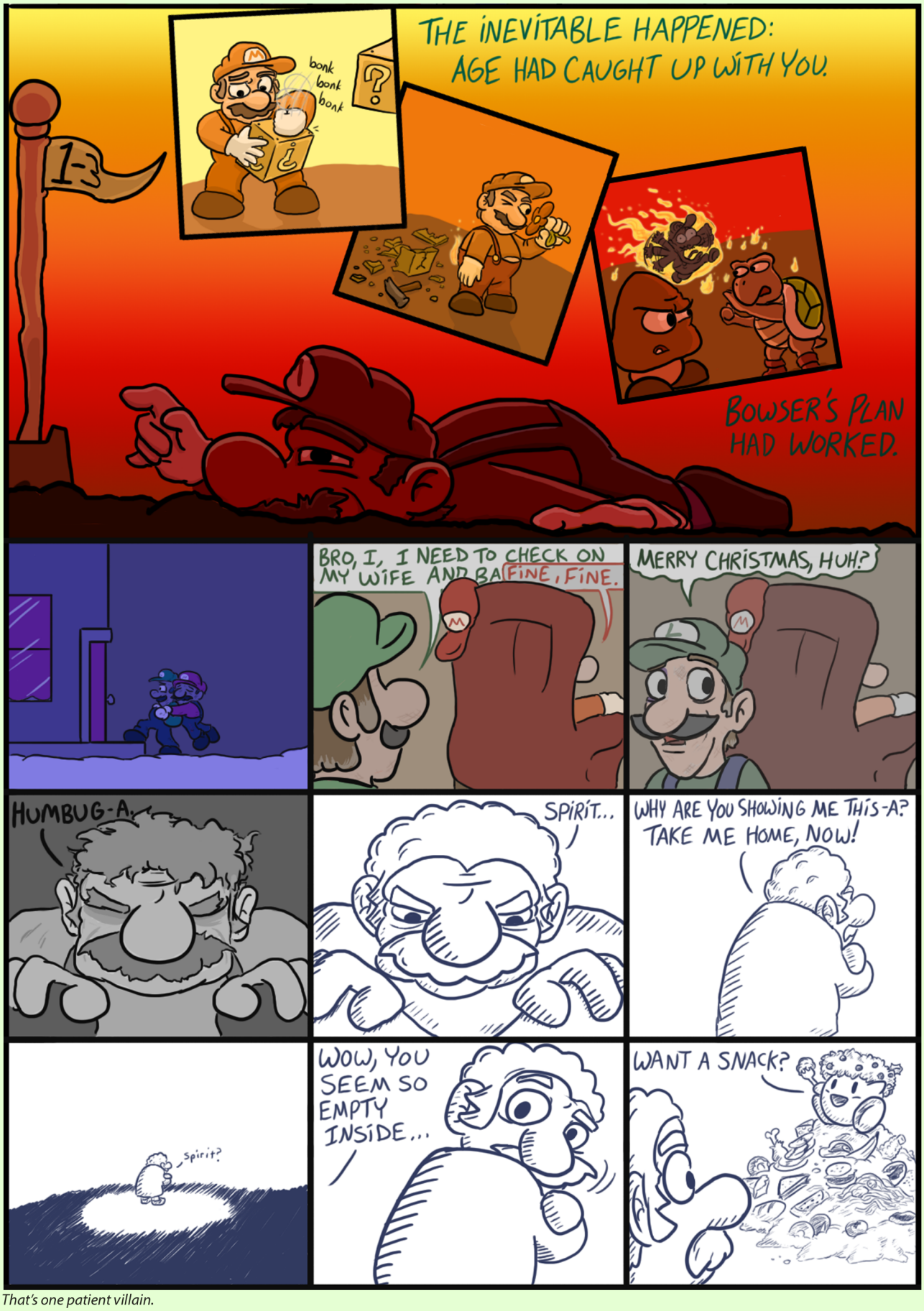


204 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 4)





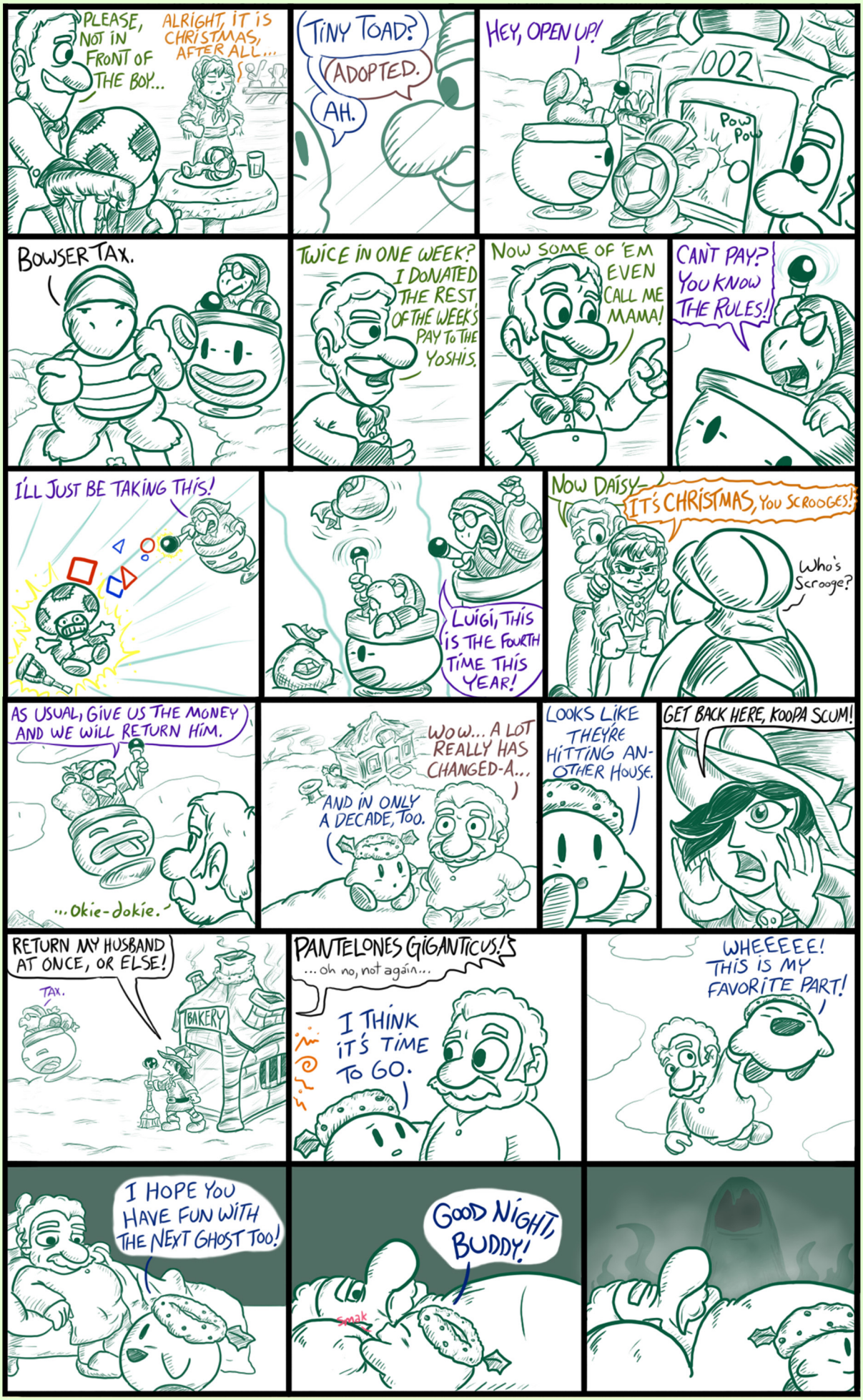
Kirby wants his Warp Star back.



That's one patient villain.

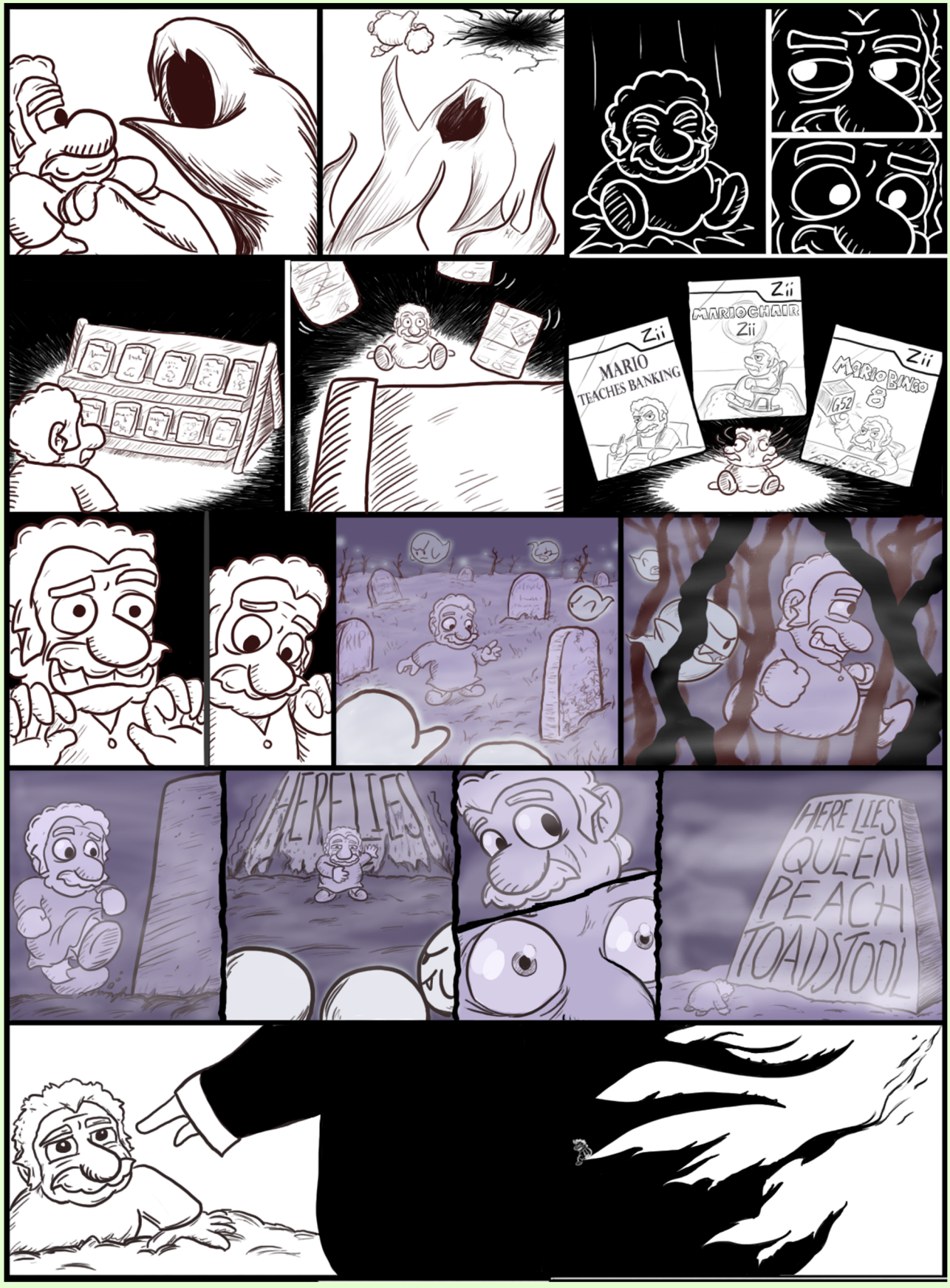
205 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 5)





God bless us, every fungus.

205 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 5)

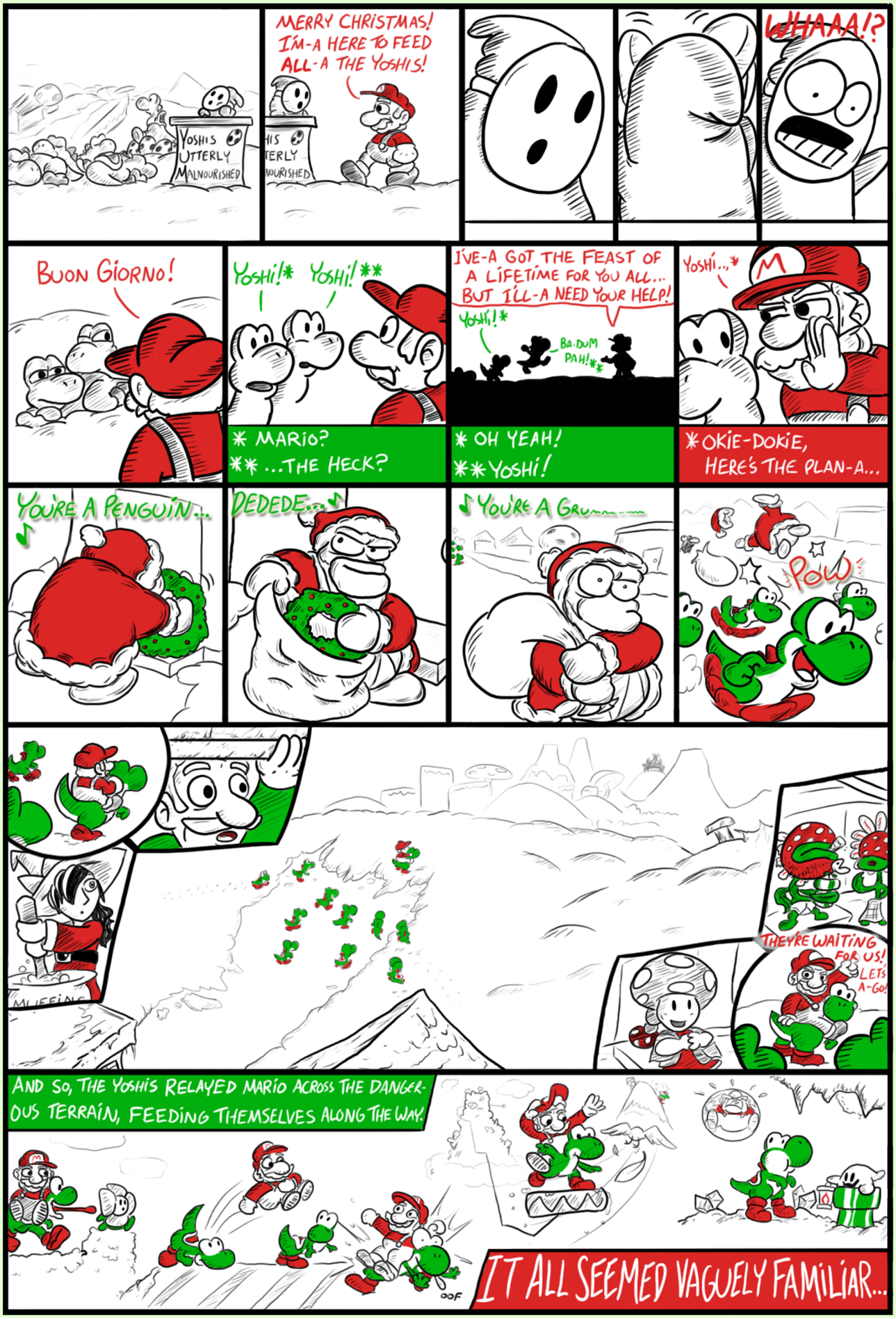




Credit to Chris for the brain line.



207 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 7)



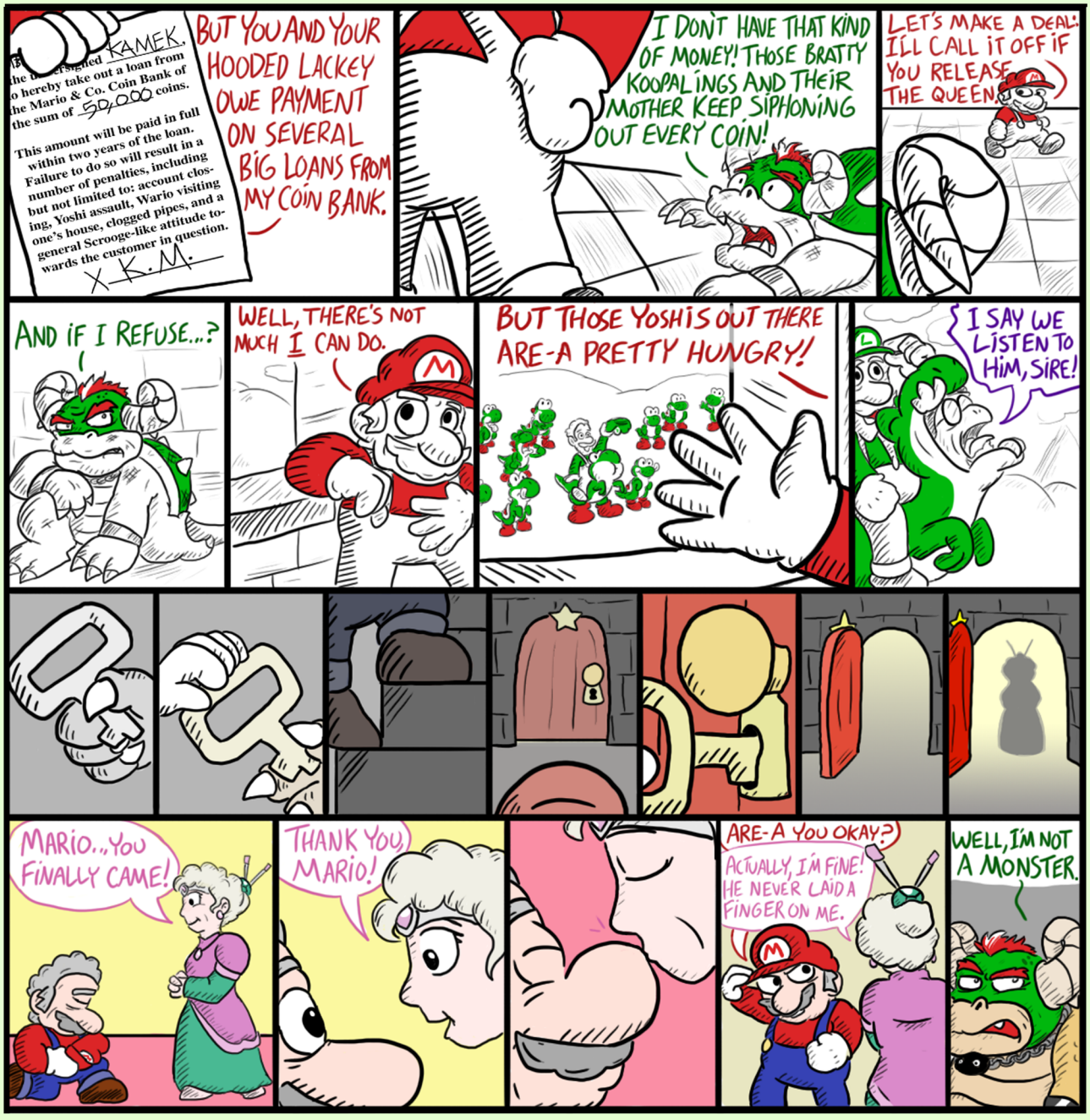


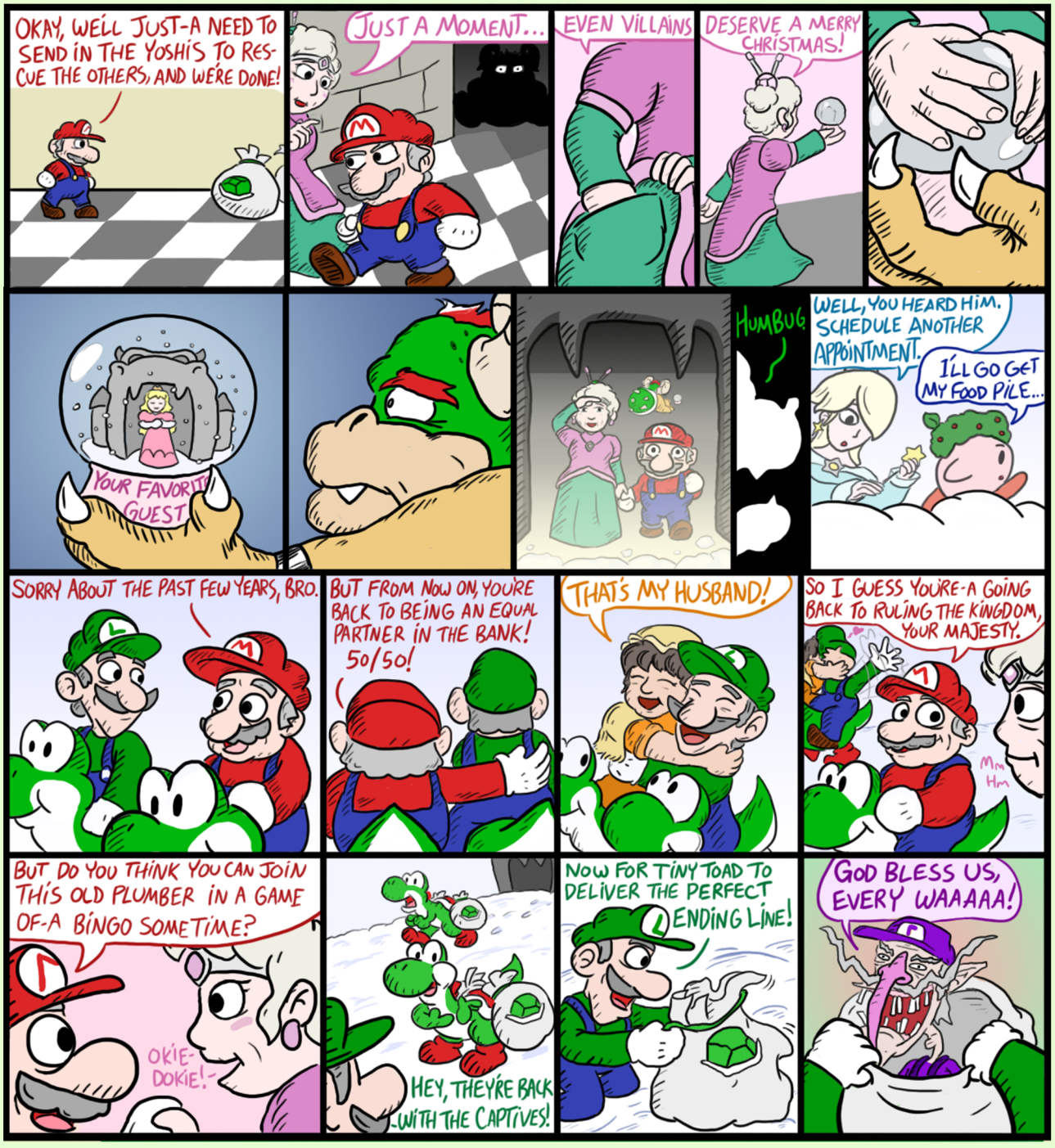
Scrooge could've used some Yoshi pals, too.

208 - A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 8)



It's curtains for Bowser.


the undersigned KAMEK, do hereby take out a loan from the Mario & Co. Coin Bank of the sum of 50,000 coins.
This amount will be paid in full within two years of the loan. Failure to do so will result in a number of penalties, including but not limited to: account closing, Yoshi assault, Wario visiting one's house, clogged pipes, and a general Scrooge-like attitude towards the customer in question.
X K.M.
BUT YOU AND YOUR HOODED LACKEY OWE PAYMENT ON SEVERAL BIG LOANS FROM MY COIN BANK.
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY! THOSE BRATTY KOOPALINGS AND THEIR MOTHER KEEP SIPHONING OUT EVERY COIN!
LET'S MAKE A DEAL: I'LL CALL IT OFF IF YOU RELEASE THE QUEEN.
AND IF I REFUSE...?
WELL, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.
BUT THOSE YOSHIS OUT THERE ARE-A PRETTY HUNGRY!
I SAY WE LISTEN TO HIM, SIRE!
MARIO... YOU FINALLY CAME!
THANK YOU, MARIO!
ARE-A YOU OKAY?
ACTUALLY, I'M FINE! HE NEVER LAID A FINGER ON ME.
WELL, I'M NOT A MONSTER.



It's curtains for Bowser.

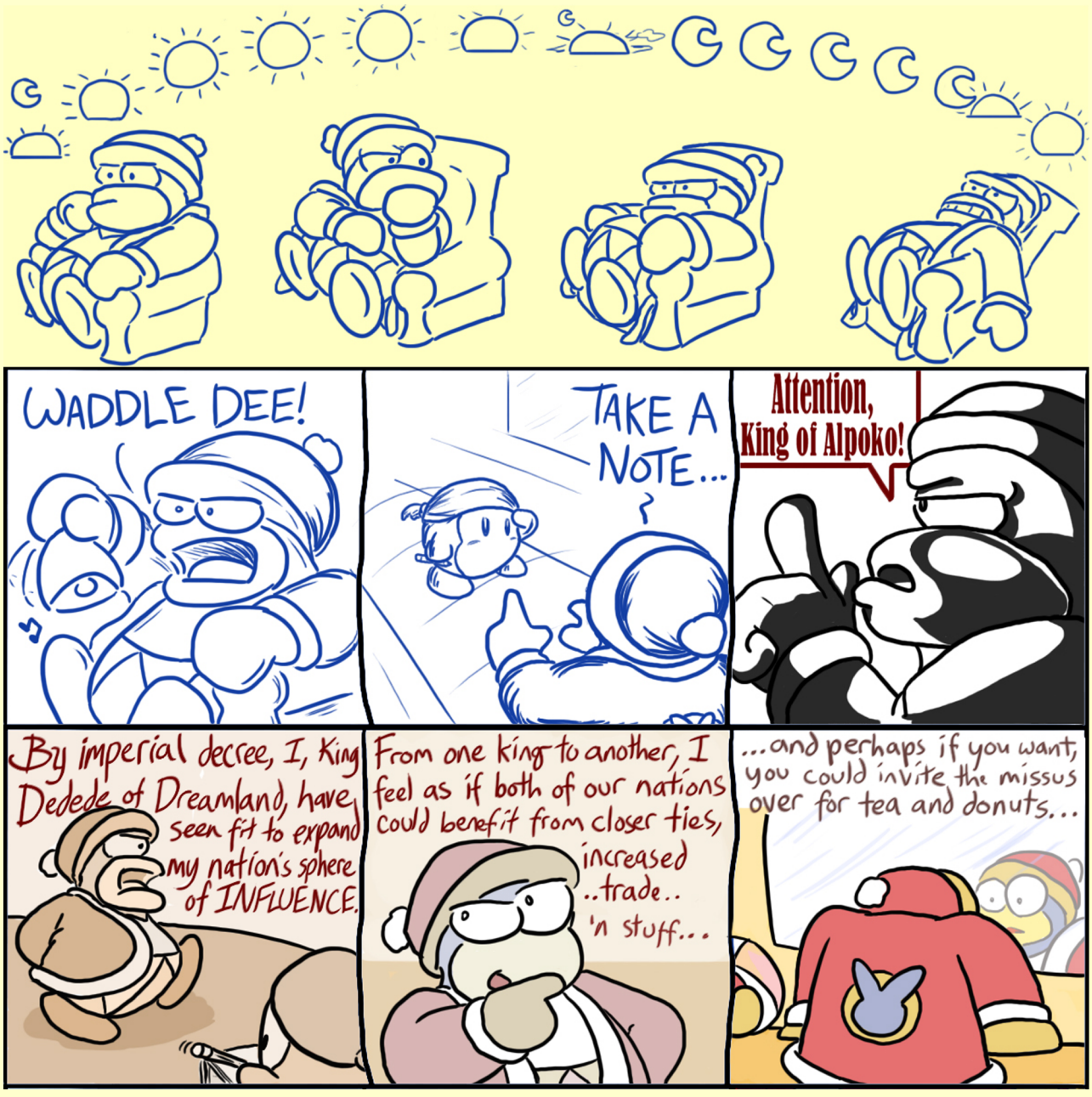
This might be my favorite BitF storyline of them all. *A Christmas Carol* parodies are pretty common, but I'd like to think this one added some neat Mario-esque elements with Peach's long kidnapping and the roles of Bowser and his son. Coming up with good ideas for each of the spirits in the story was tough, and there were actually a few parallel plotlines that were tough to juggle all at once (like Wario's role, the hungry Yoshis, Bowser Jr's dystopia, Luigi's relationship with Mario, the Coin Bank's loan, and Mario's main quest and growth) but I think it all ended up working out. Hope you enjoyed this holiday tale!

209 - Contagious



This's why boring people never hang around Kirby.

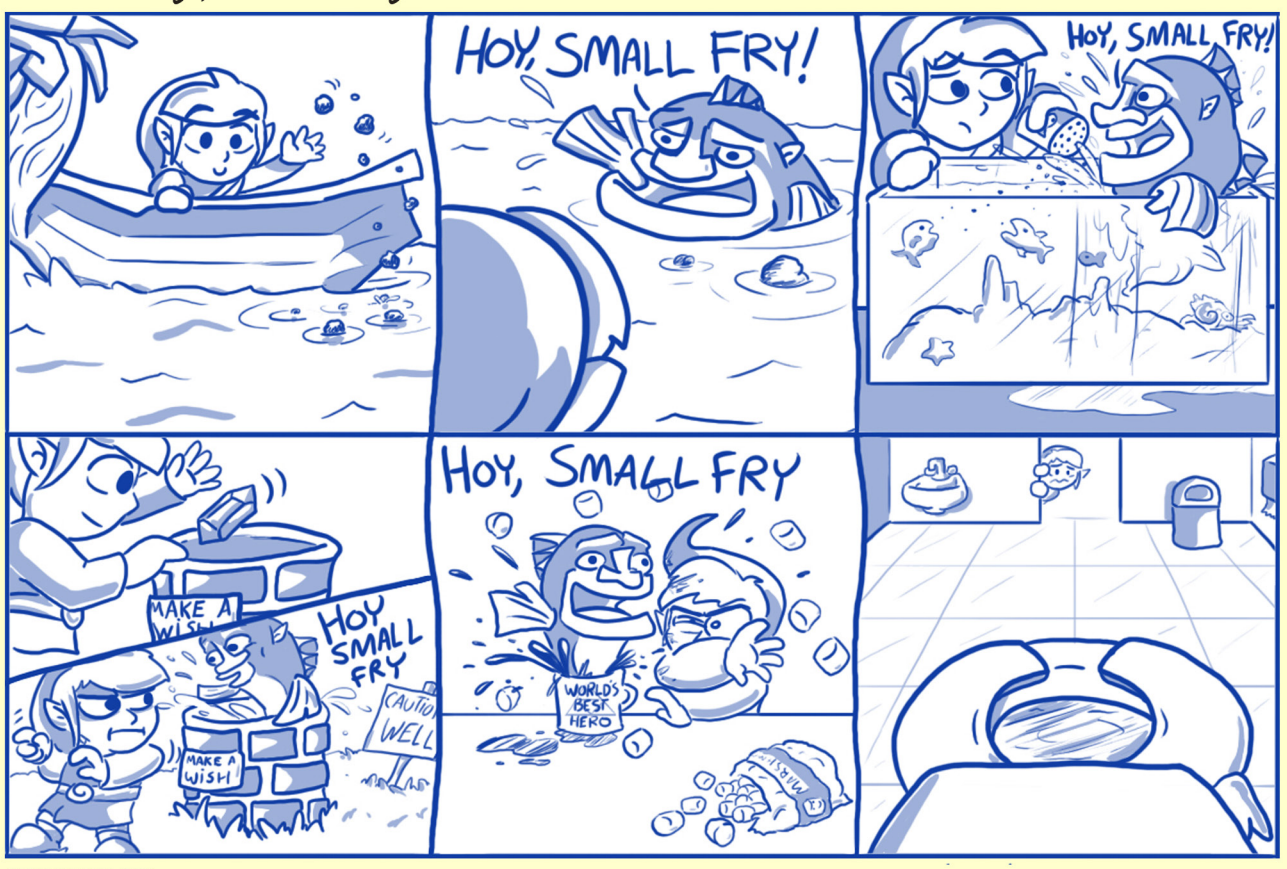
210 - 2009 Game of the Year Tribute





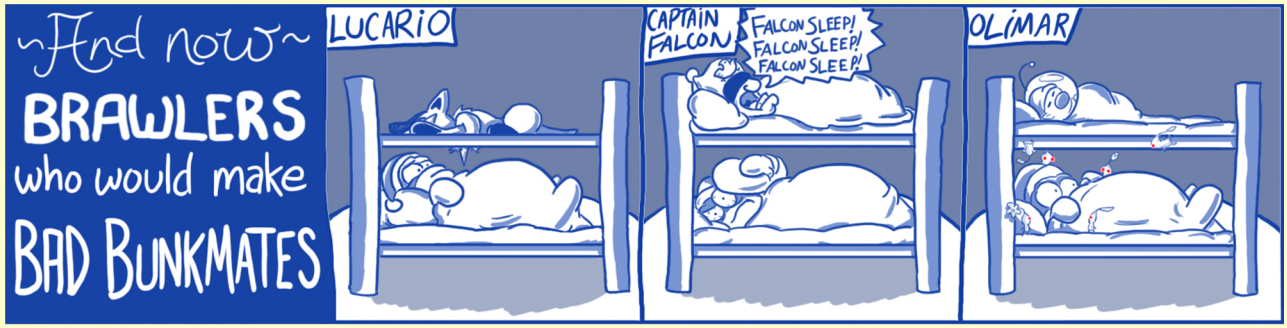
This was probably Howser's idea.

211 - 'Hoy, Small Fry



'HOY, SMALL FRY

212 - Bunkmates



How did Olimar get that nightcap on?

213 - Conscience



Conversely, Peach lacks a bad side.

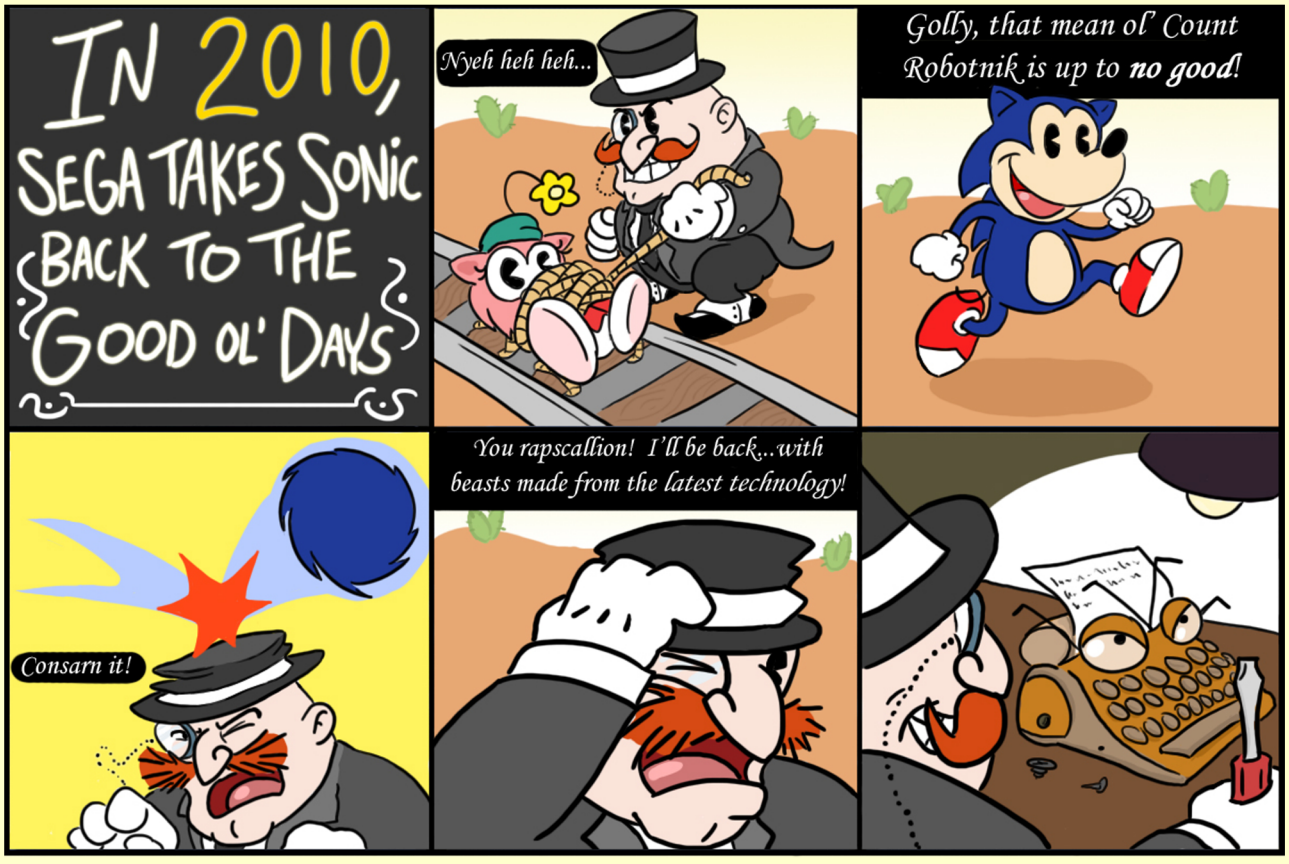


214 - Yolk



And so, Mario canceled future plans to visit the pepper factory.

215 - Classic Sonic



Spoiler alert! The final boss of this game is a monstrous cotton gin.

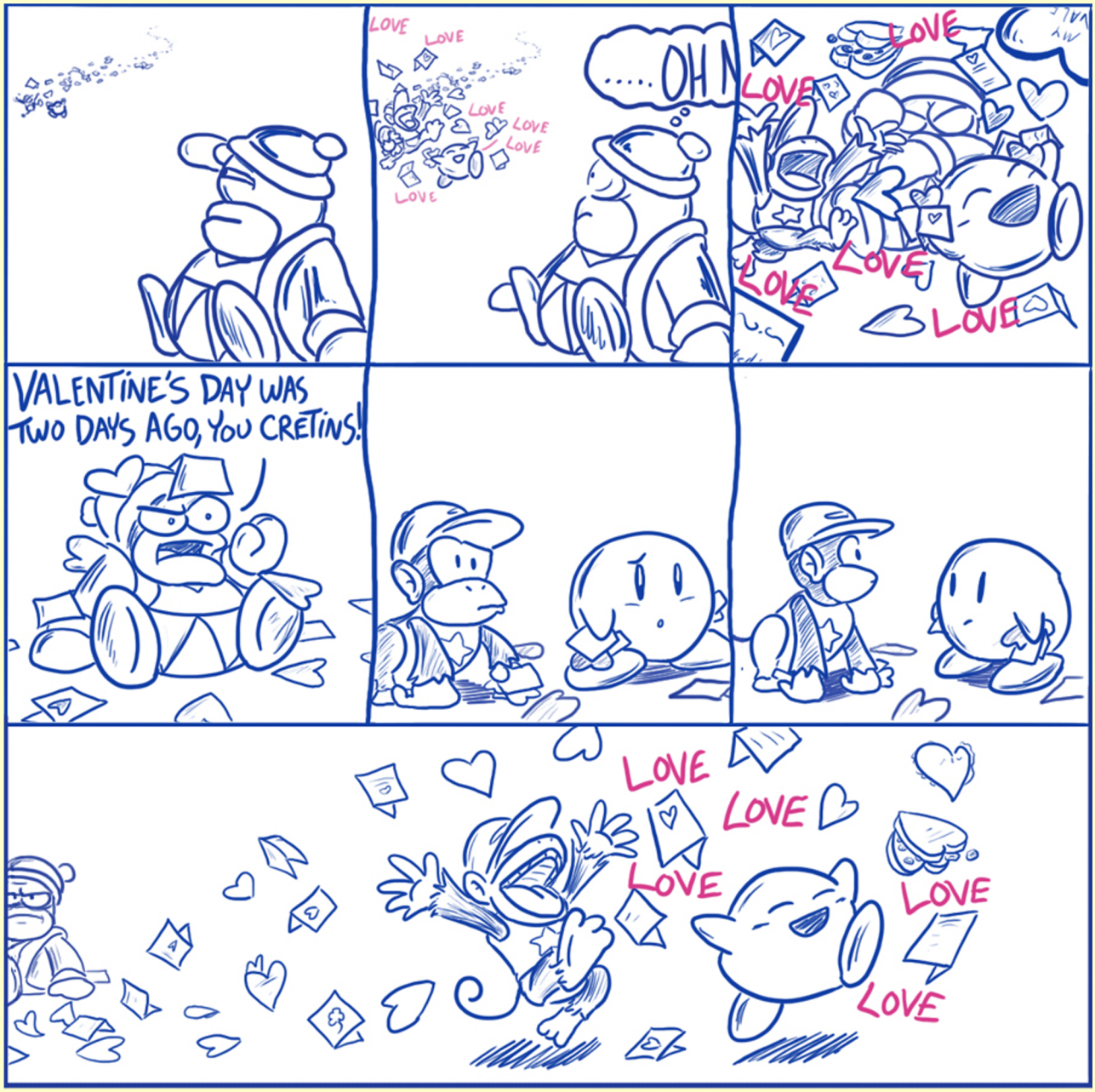


216 - Thermometer



In his case, would soup and medicine REALLY help?

217 - Valentines



Hallmark's best customers.

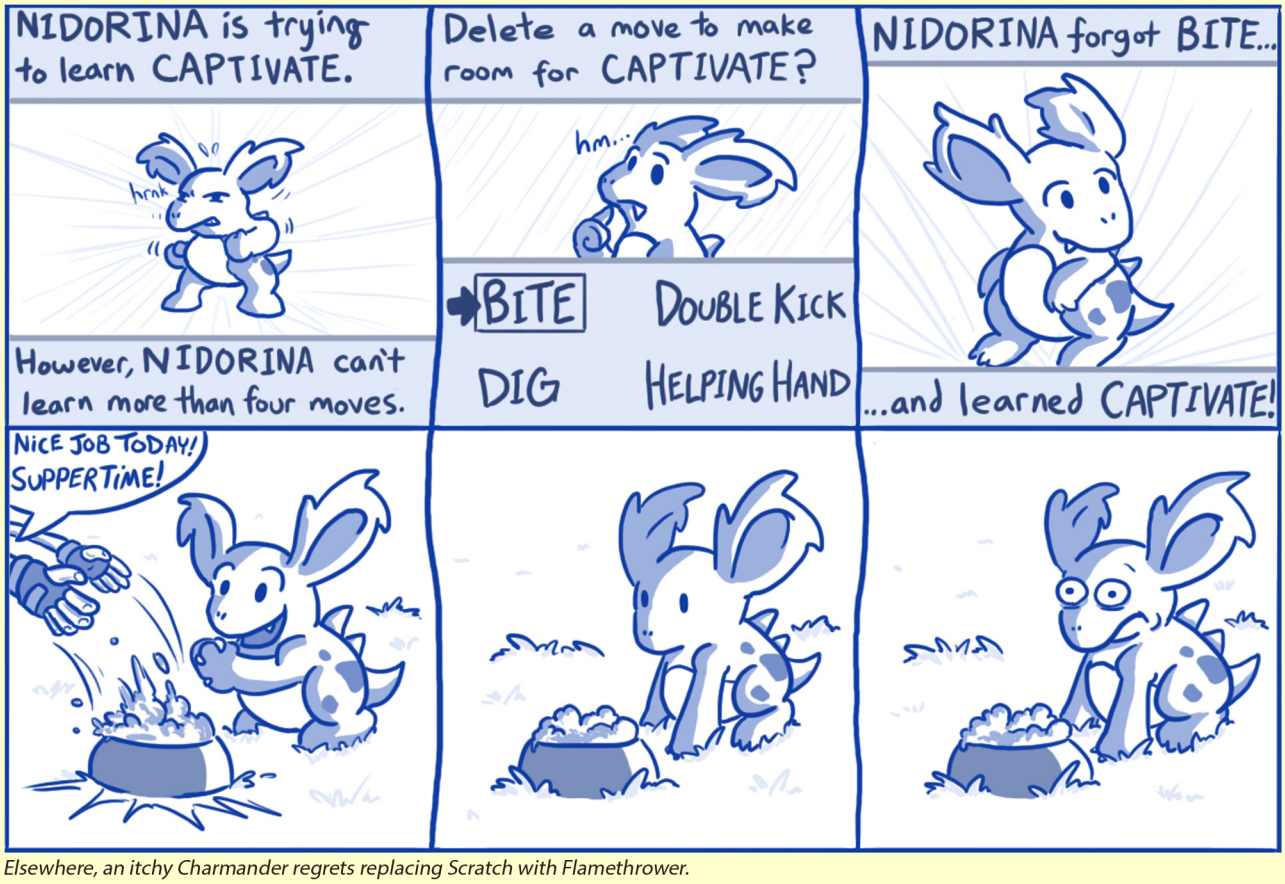
218 - Pots



Keep him away from cremation ceremonies.



219 - Moveset



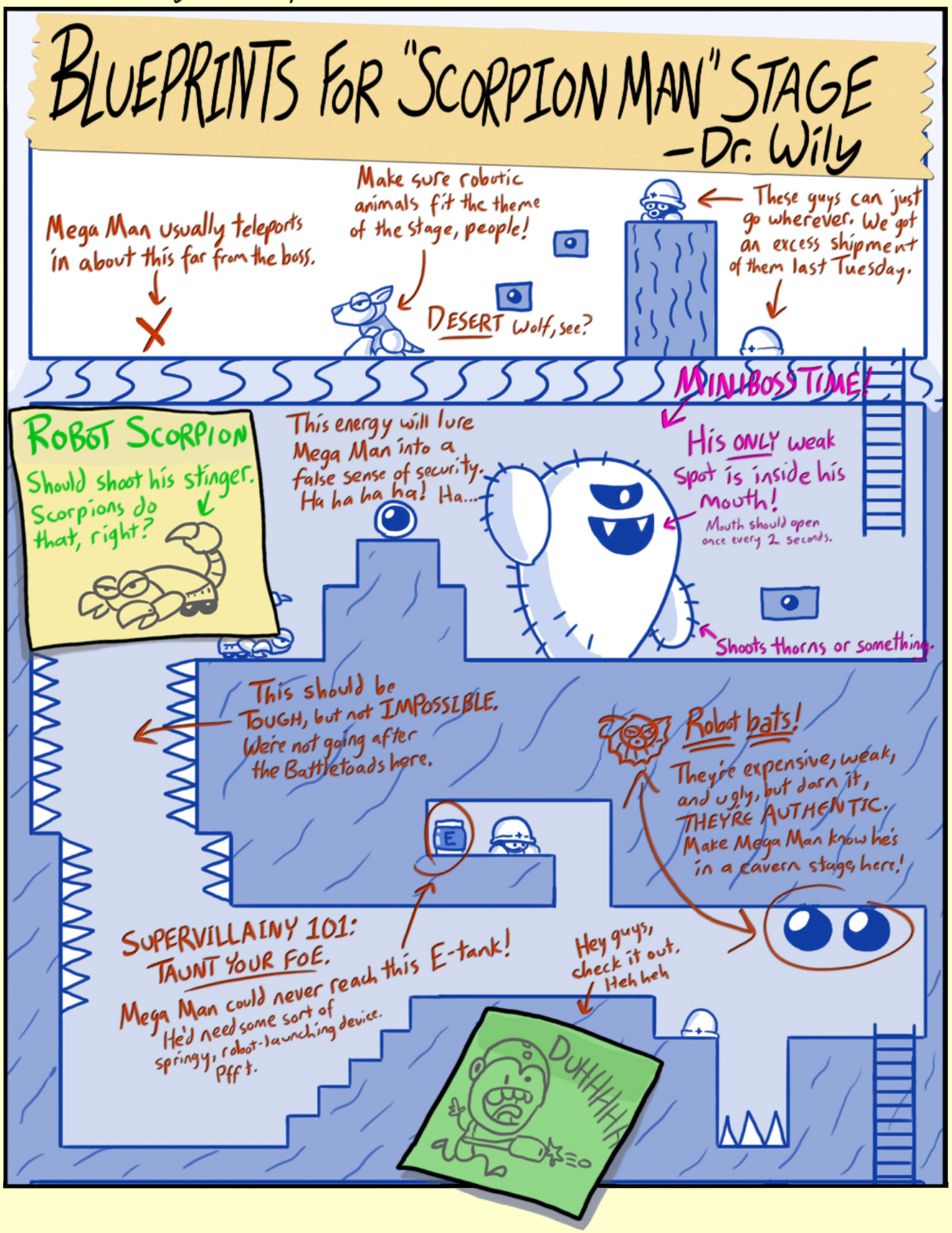
Elsewhere, an itchy Charmander regrets replacing Scratch with Flamethrower.

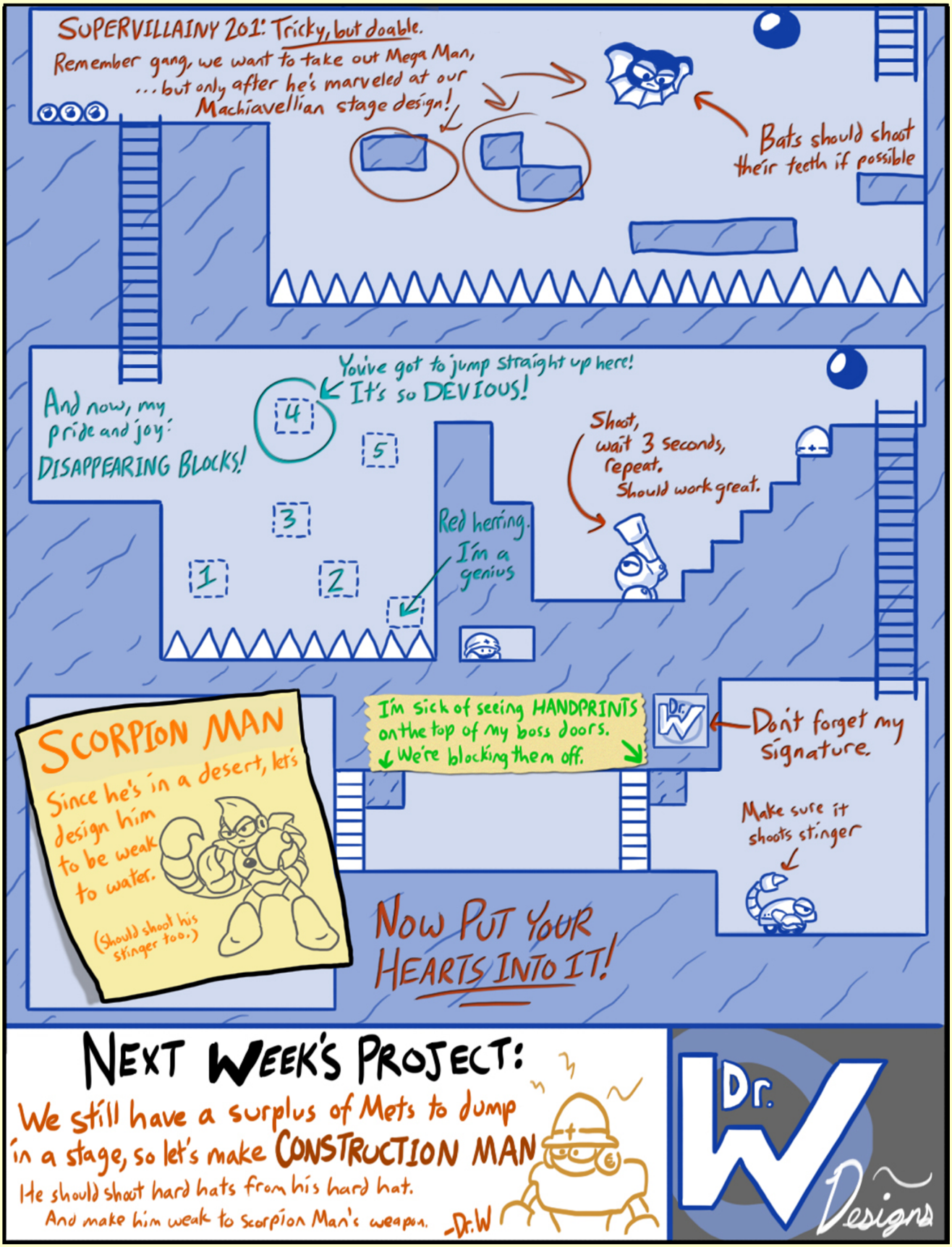
220 - Gyroid



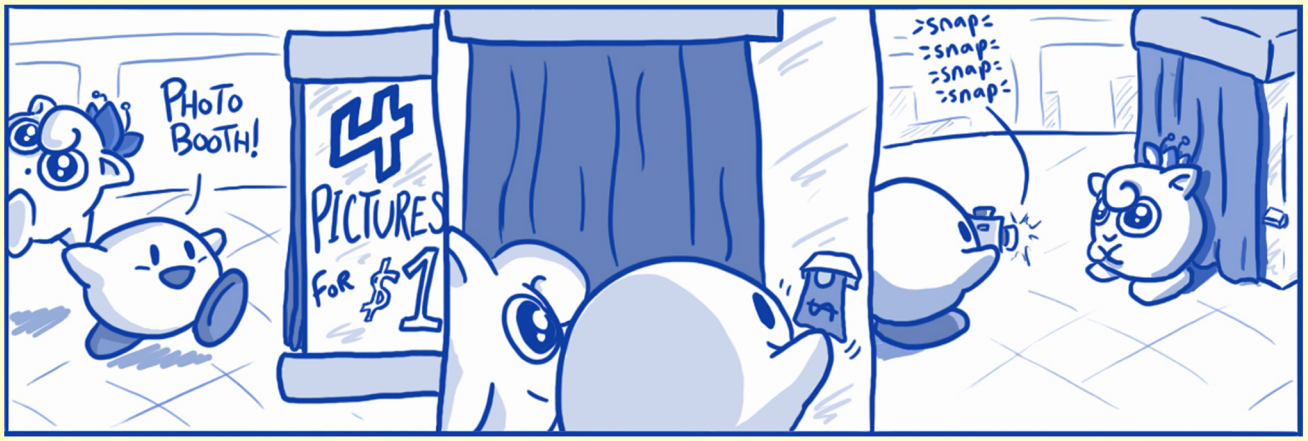
The dogs later caused another ruckus by digging up all the local fossils.

I was surprised to find out that some readers thought this comic was too gross. I think it's pretty tame, personally, like a light PG.


BLUEPRINTS FOR "SCORPION MAN" STAGE
-Dr. Wily
Mega Man usually teleports in about this far from the boss.
Make sure robotic animals fit the theme of the stage, people!
DESERT Wolf, see?
These guys can just go wherever. We got an excess shipment of them last Tuesday.
MINIBOSS TIME!
ROBOT SCORPION
Should shoot his stinger. Scorpions do that, right?
This energy will lure Mega Man into a false sense of security. Ha ha ha ha! Ha...
His ONLY weak spot is inside his mouth!
Mouth should open once every 2 seconds.
Shoots thorns or something.
This should be TOUGH, but not IMPOSSIBLE. We're not going after the Battletoads here.
Robot bats!
They're expensive, weak, and ugly, but darn it, THEY'RE AUTHENTIC. Make Mega Man know he's in a cavern stage here!
SUPERVILLAINY 101: TAUNT YOUR FOE.
Mega Man could never reach this E-tank! He'd need some sort of springy, robot-launching device. Pfft.
Hey guys, check it out. Heh heh
DUHHHHH


SUPERVILLAINY 201: Tricky, but doable.
Remember gang, we want to take out Mega Man, ...but only after he's marveled at our Machiavellian stage design!
Bats should shoot their teeth if possible
And now, my pride and joy: DISAPPEARING BLOCKS!
You've got to jump straight up here! It's so DEVIOUS!
4
5
3
1
2
Red herring. I'm a genius
Shoot, wait 3 seconds, repeat. Should work great.
SCORPION MAN
Since he's in a desert, let's design him to be weak to water.
(Should shoot his stinger too.)
I'm sick of seeing HANDPRINTS on the top of my boss doors. We're blocking them off.
Don't forget my signature.
Make sure it shoots stinger
NOW PUT YOUR HEARTS INTO IT!
NEXT WEEK'S PROJECT:
We still have a surplus of Mets to dump in a stage, so let's make CONSTRUCTION MAN
He should shoot hard hats from his hard hat.
And make him weak to Scorpion Man's weapon. -Dr.W
Dr. W Designs

222 - Photo Booth



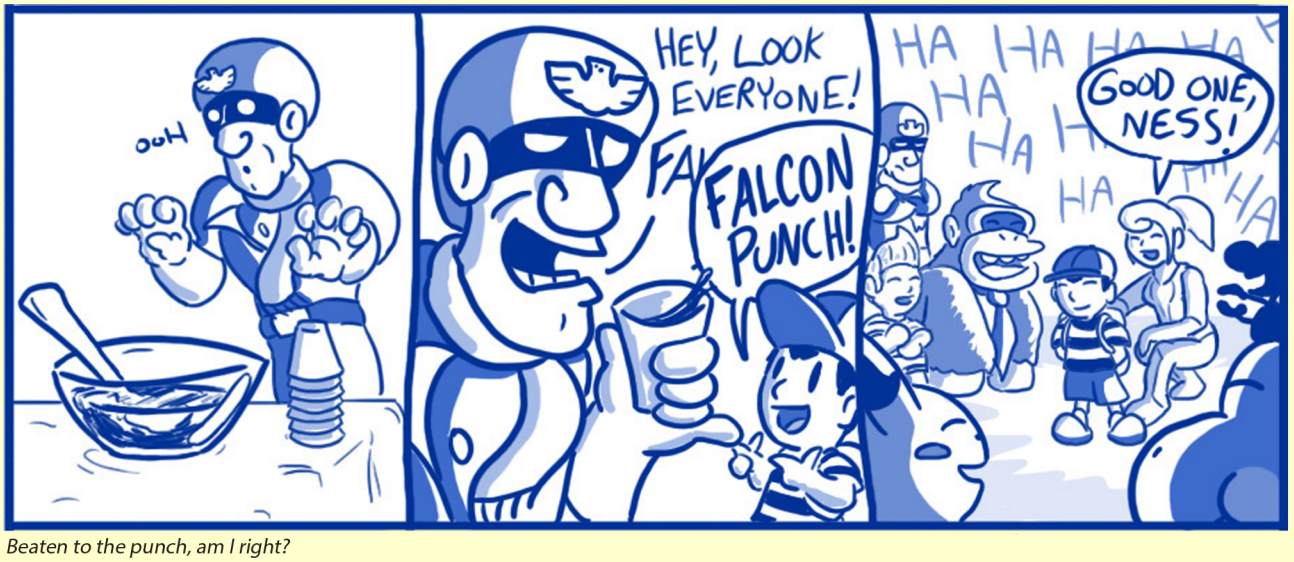
Kirby then proceeded to use his cell after putting money into a phone booth.

223 - Brawl Party: Luigi



Luigi probably shouldn't have had that Smash Ball for an appetizer.

224 - Brawl Party: Captain Falcon



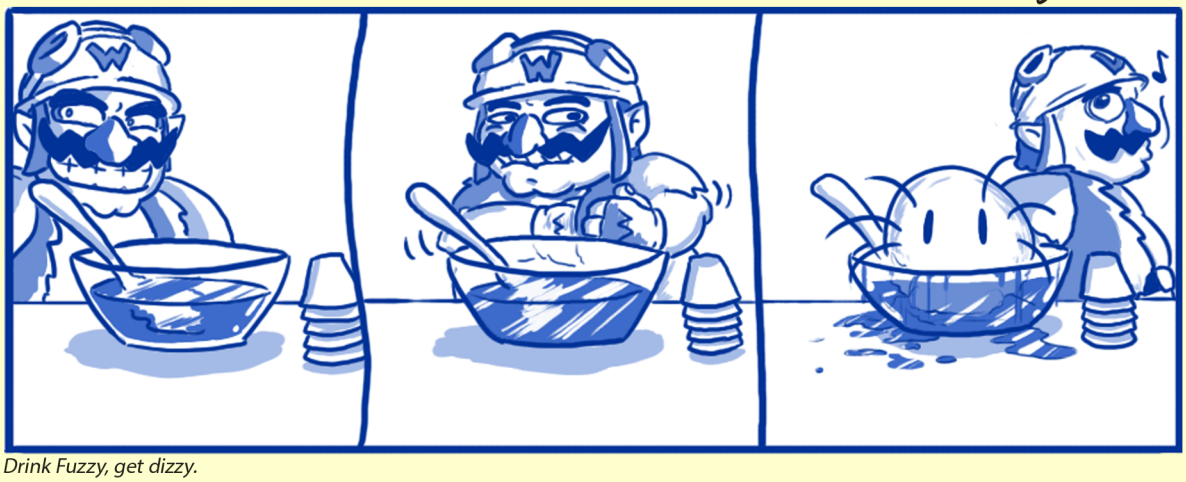
Beaten to the punch, am I right?

225 - Brawl Party: Mario



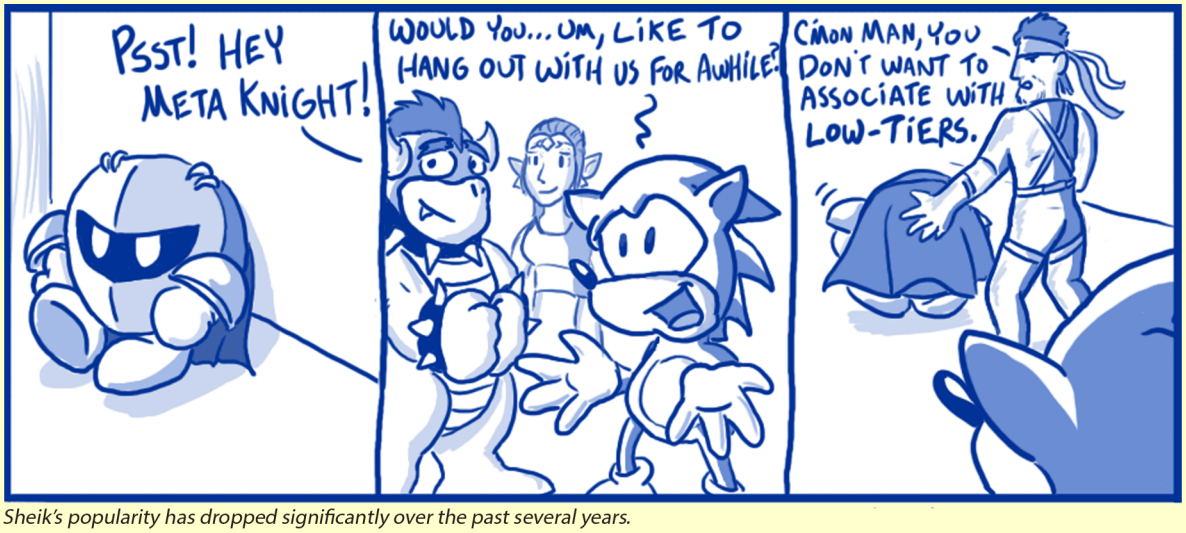
This's the ninth time Mario's tried this. I guess eight was enough for the others.

226 - Brawl Party: Wario



Drink Fuzzy, get dizzy.

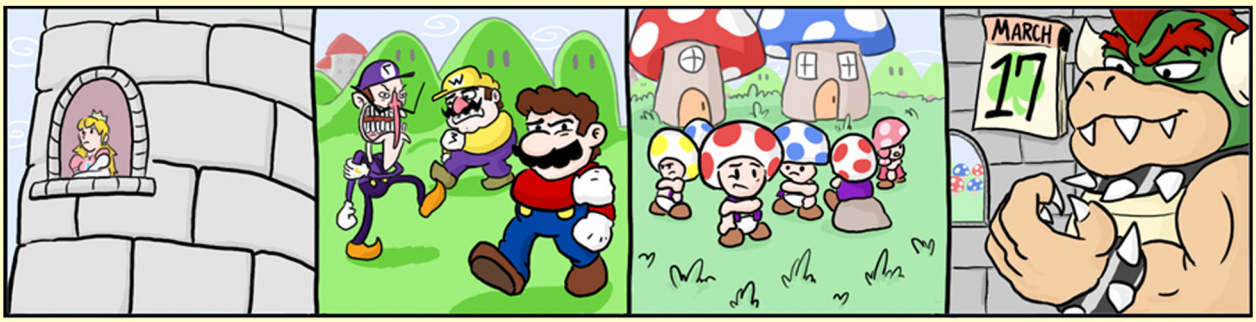
227 - Brawl Party: Meta Knight



Sheik's popularity has dropped significantly over the past several years.

Around Super Smash Bros. Brawl's second anniversary, I thought having the Brawlers throw a party would be a fun way to celebrate. It also let me explore the rare joke about the meta-game with the strip above (although that comic's mouseover text is a bit out-of-date now)!

228 - Shoulders



For once, Luigi catches a break.

229 - Boss Tryouts



He got the same reaction during HAL's Hero Tryouts.

230 - 2P START! Guest Strip



The best solution to any problem: punch it.



I knew those things were there for a reason.

Due to a variety of things going on in my life at the time, I delegated BitF duties to a couple guest artists for both 230 and 231. 230 was handled by a fellow gaming webcomic, 2P START!, and I did a guest strip for their comic at the same time. The above comic is by Chris Seward, longtime fellow BitF maintenance guy and later podcast co-host.

232 - Shutting Down the Comic

Matthew Taranto
[redacted]

Nintendo of America
4820 150 Ave. Northeast
Redmond, WA 98052

Mr. Taranto:

After surveying your online comic strip (www.brawlinthefamily.com), we are shocked and appalled by the twisted way that your comics distort our beloved characters. These gross mischaracterizations are an affront to the legacy of Nintendo, and we cannot sit by and watch as our classic characters are dismantled one by one by these reprehensible doodles.

The offending comics and their issues are as follows:

-005 – HDF (gigantism and mutation)
-019 – Unhealthy (insensitive to incestuous relationships)
-024 – Wine for Two (alcohol consumption, attempted murder)
-034 – Enter Mario (ridiculing the obese)
-043 – Captain Falcon at Church (religious reference)
-047 – Super Hongo (racially insensitive)
-072 – Boxart (criticizing NOA's practices)
-081 – Weakness (sexism)
-083 – Shake It (copyright infringement)
-091 – Old Sonic (grossly criticizing the elderly)
-103 – Dededoo (terrible joke)
-109 – Aged (flatulence reference)
-118 – Giver (graphic projectile vomiting)
-129 – Peppy Is Everywhere (implied drug reference)
-151 – WitF (inaccurate and unflattering portrayal of a beloved Nintendo character)
-167 – Mountain Cracks (pervasive nudity)
-179 – Proposal (implied graphic sexual content)
-202 – A Mushroom Kingdom Carol (Part 2) (flatulence joke)
-220 – Gyroid (mass urination)
-231 – Relics (destruction of unholy artifacts)
-249 – Nasty (excess gore, racism, foul language, public indecency, frightening imagery)

So in conclusion, please stop making your comic. Waluigi hates it.

Sincerely, President of NOA,

~~WAL~~ REGGIE FILS-AIME

I wonder if this is what happened with Mother 3 too ...?

Balancing Waluigi April Fools gags is a bit of a difficult act--people came to expect it from BitF, but doing too much of it could get tiresome. The main joke is a cease-and-desist fake-out but I also threw in some Waluigi fun afterward (on the next few pages, in this case). I wrote myself into a corner with "249 - Nasty," since that comic hadn't debuted yet. The idea was to make people wonder what the heck I'd do in it...and the results are just a few pages away!



37 - Waluigi Teaches Art



38 - Waluigi Makes His Move



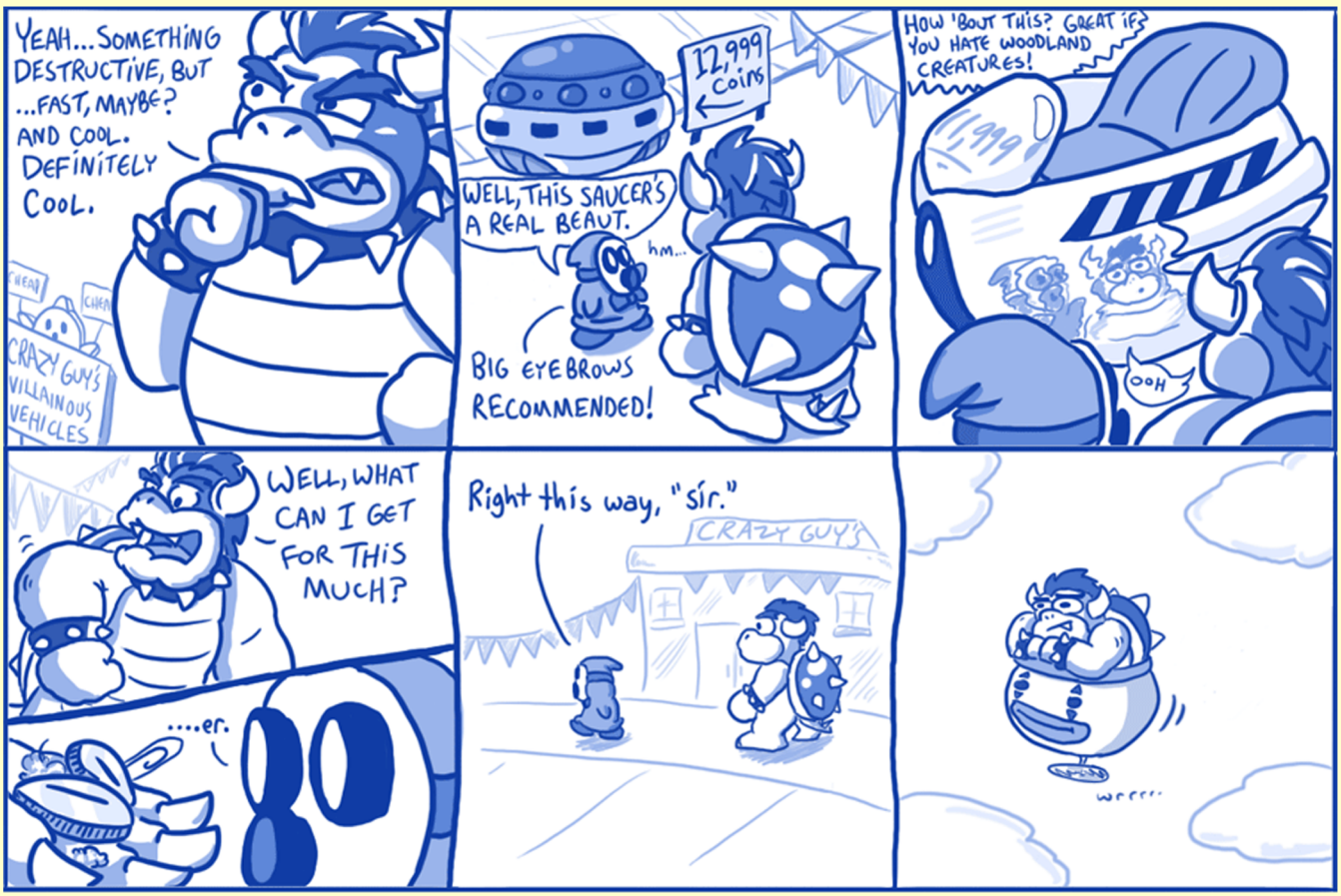
39 - Waluigi Tells a Joke



40 - Waluigi and Sushi



233 - Snifit Salesman



On the plus side, it's surprisingly roomy--can hold dozens of Mechakoopas, several enormous iron balls, two Super Mushrooms, and one princess.





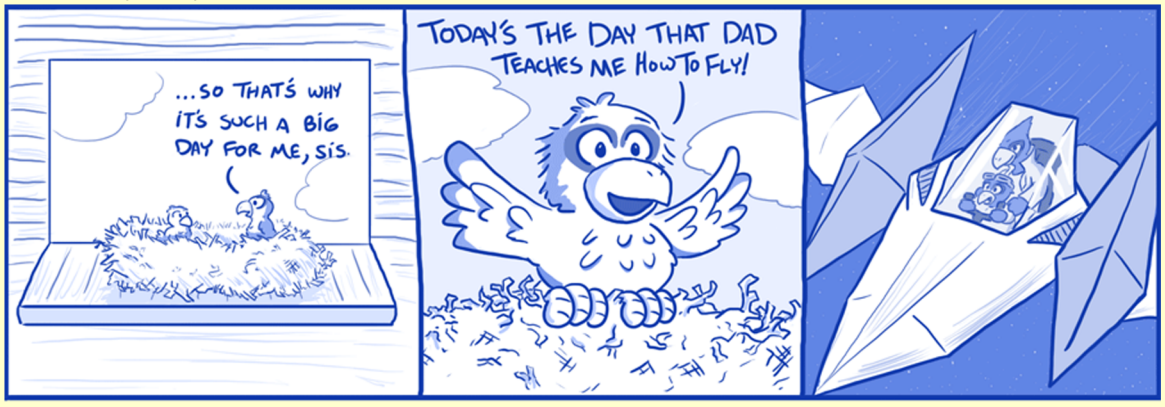
It appears he will have to find a new forest of solitude.

235 - Pokéwalker

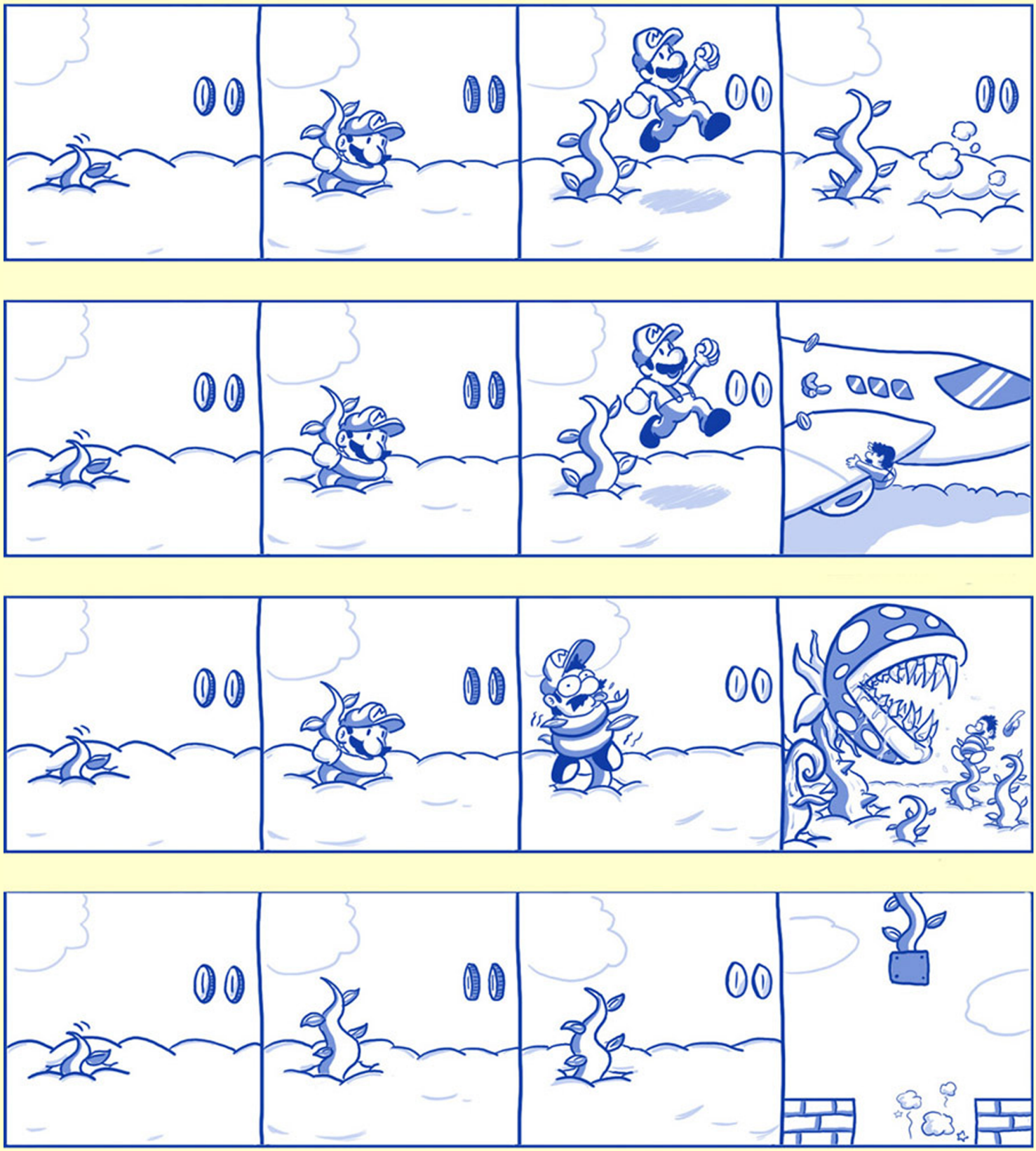


Just wait 'til you see what it did to Machamp...

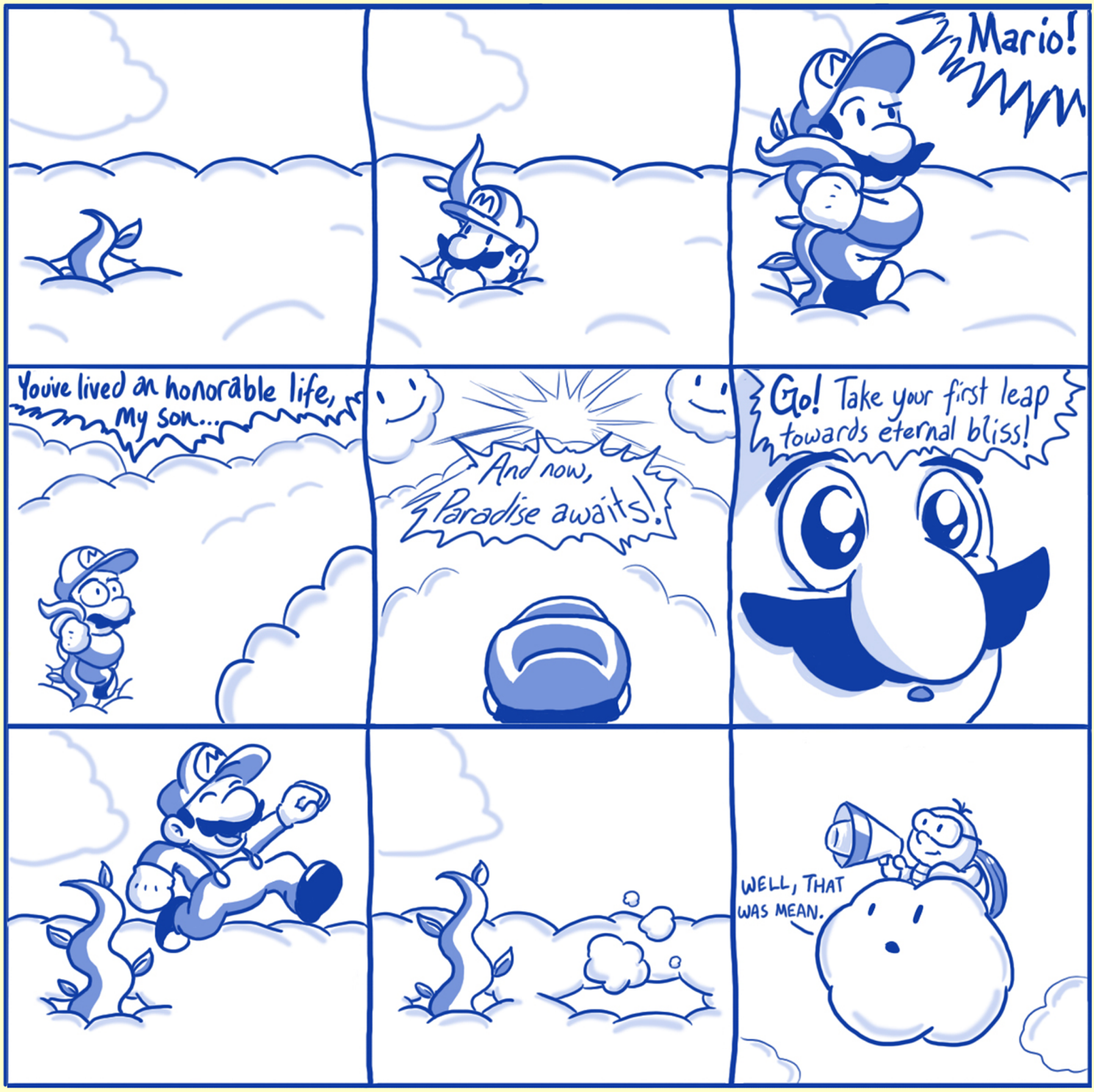
236 - Fledgling



Next week's lesson will be on driving.



238 - Heaven



Later, a Fry Guy in Lethal Lava Land attempted pretty much the same prank.

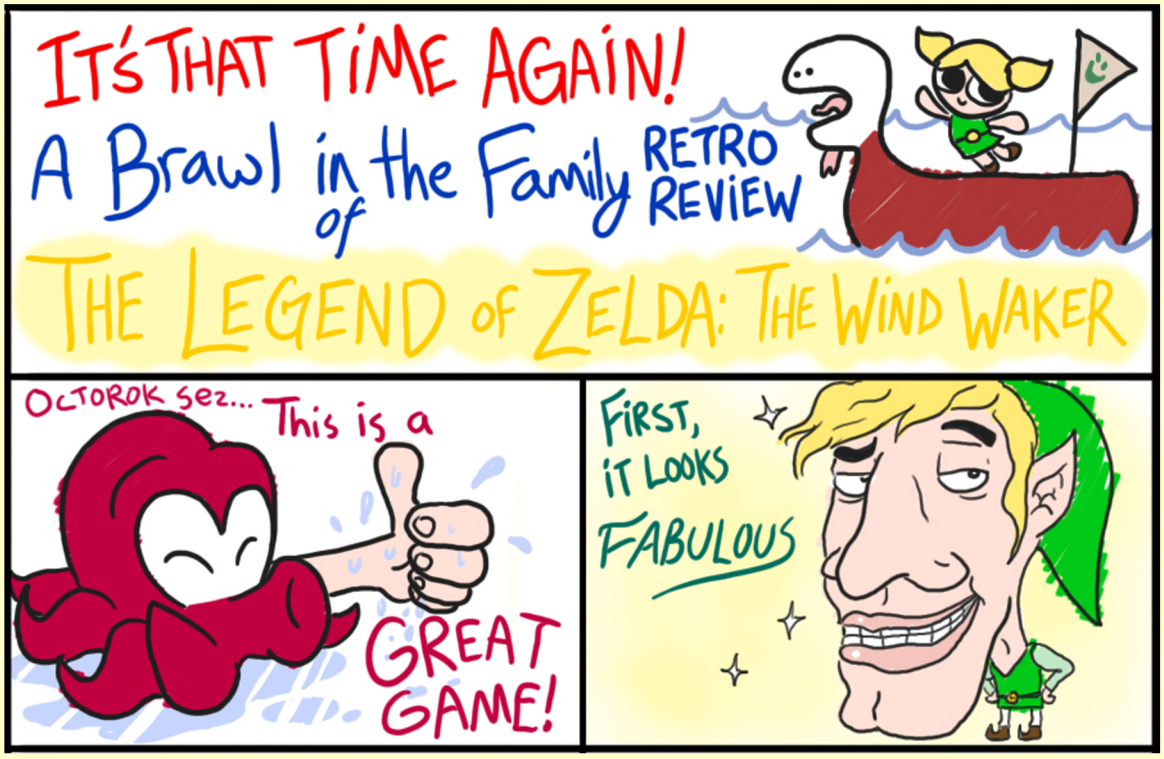


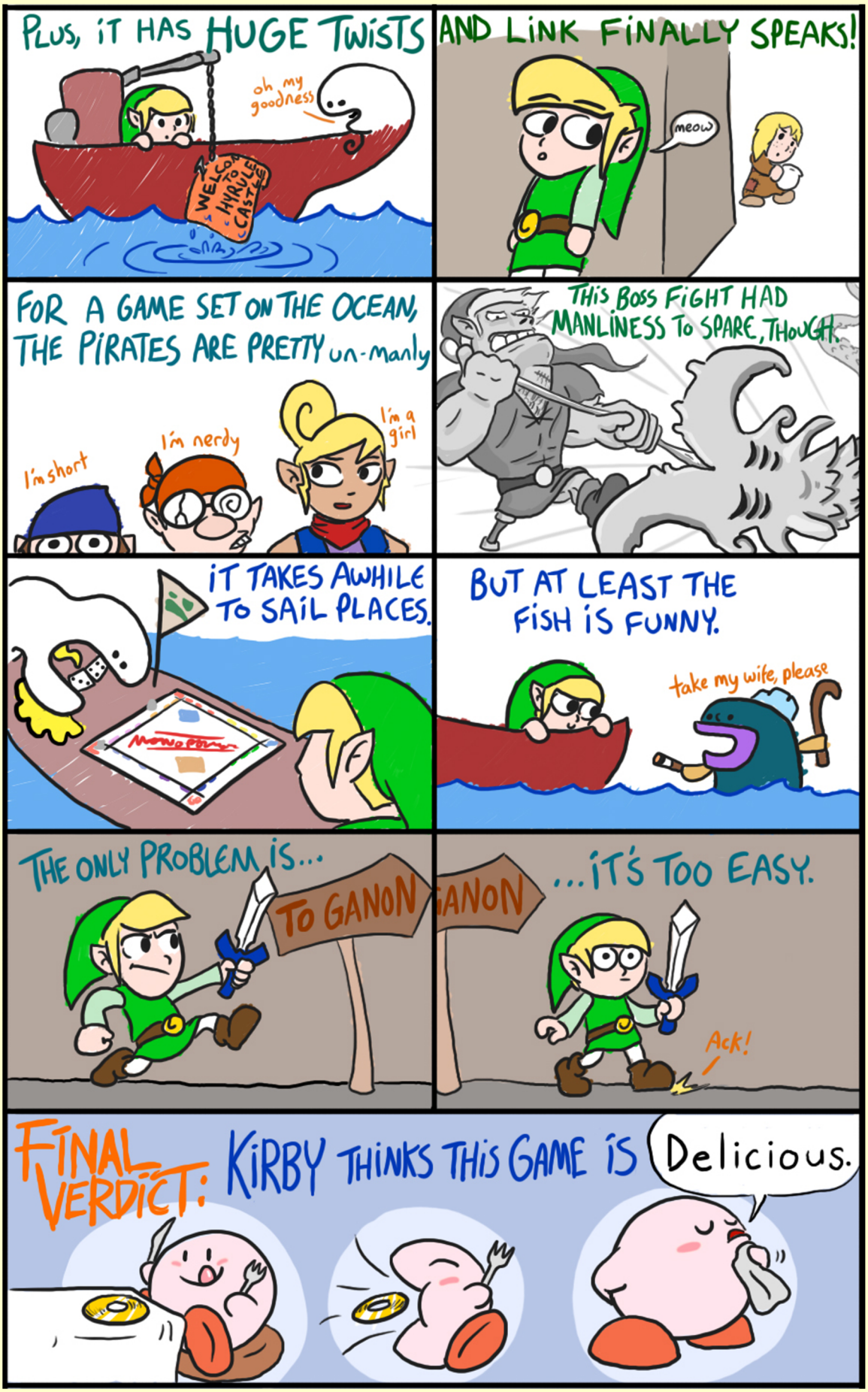
239 - Sonic Watches Television



Don't worry, he'll be fine. He got 100 rings earlier that day.

240 - Comic Review: The Wind Waker





'Hoy, small fry! No sea chart to mark here, I'm afraid. Adventurers used to stop by and feed me just to hear me talk, but those days are long gone now. A few months ago, I got hired to write these weird mouseover text things. It doesn't pay much, but it keeps food on the table, or in the water or whatever. I think my depiction in this comic is quite handsome, frankly, so I guess I can't complain. Anyway, bring some bait next time and maybe I'll draw you a picture. And with that...I'm off!

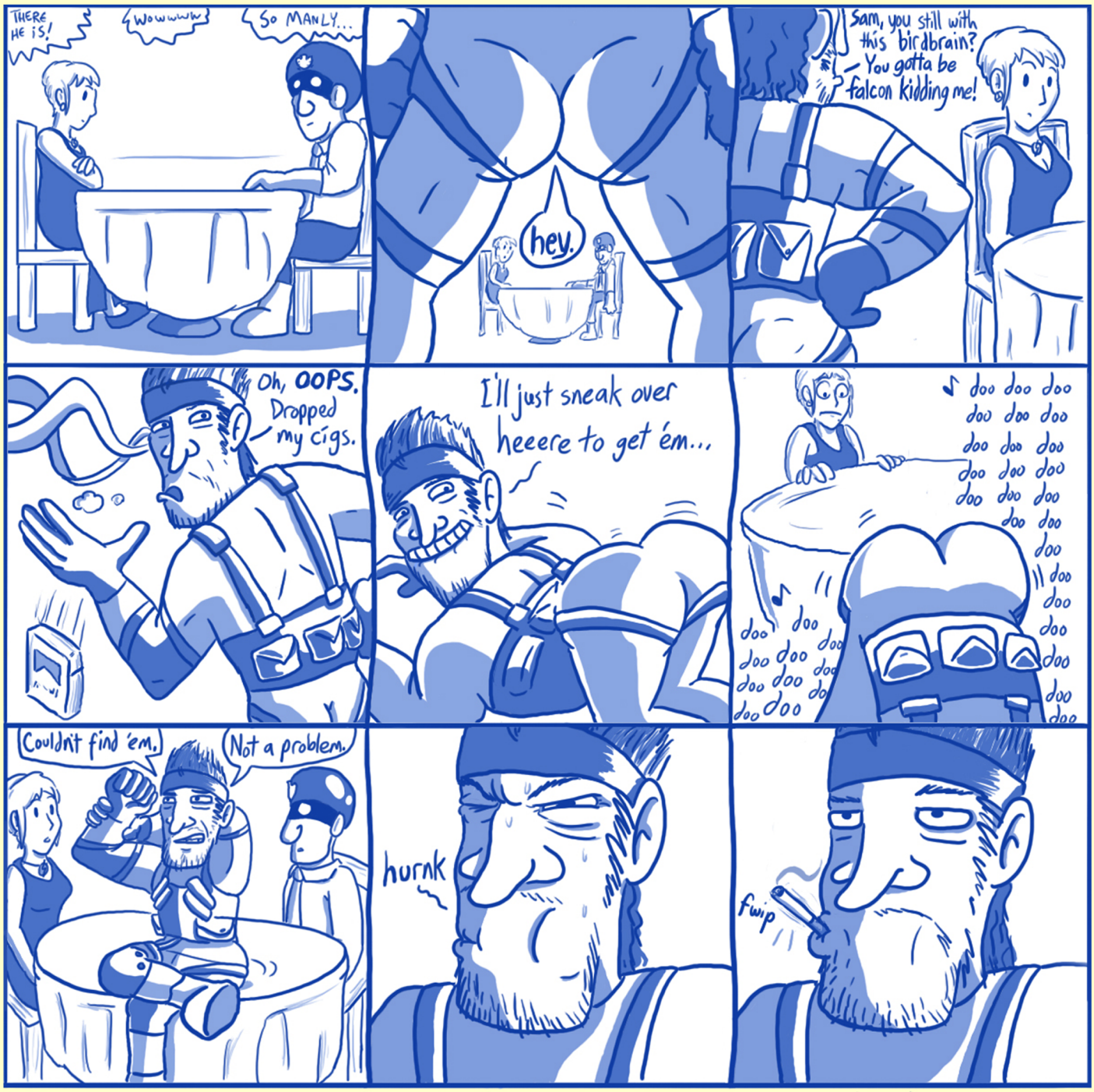

Snake in the Grass

241 - Snake in the Grass (Part 1)



I wanted to make a Falcon Lunch joke here, but alas, they're having dinner.

242 - Snake in the Grass (Part 2)



Quite a cheeky fellow.

243 - Snake in the Grass (Part 3)



Six if you count that Tabuu incident.



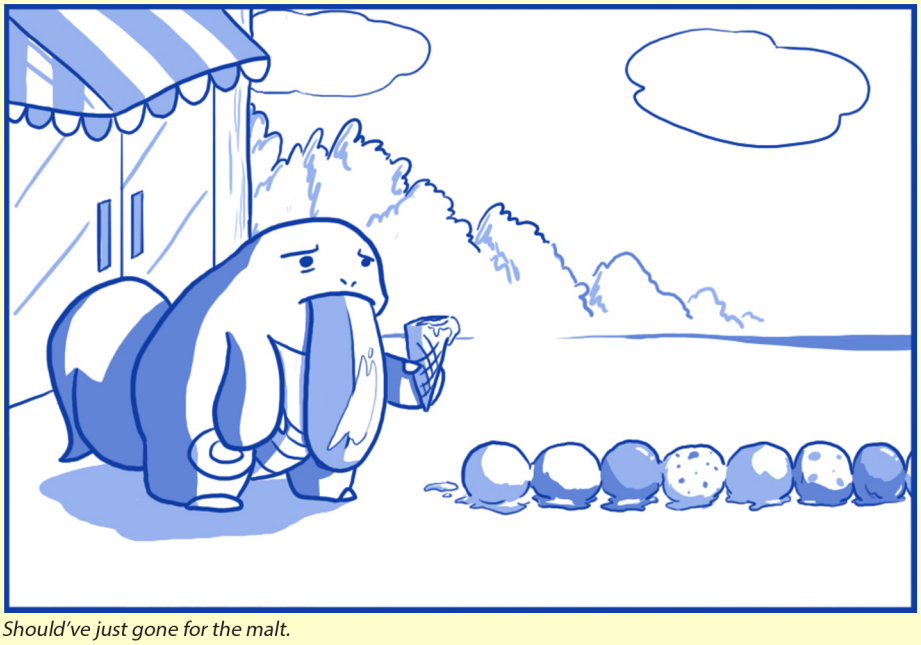
After one butt in several panels, we now have several butts in one panel.

245 - Snake in the Grass (Part 5)



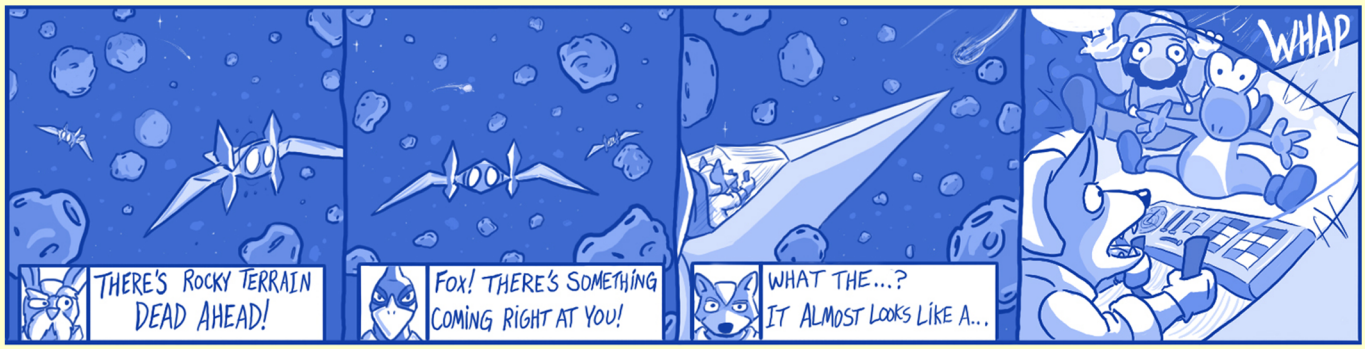
Samus seems to be locked out. Always carry a spare Power Suit.

246 - Lickitung's Fun Afternoon



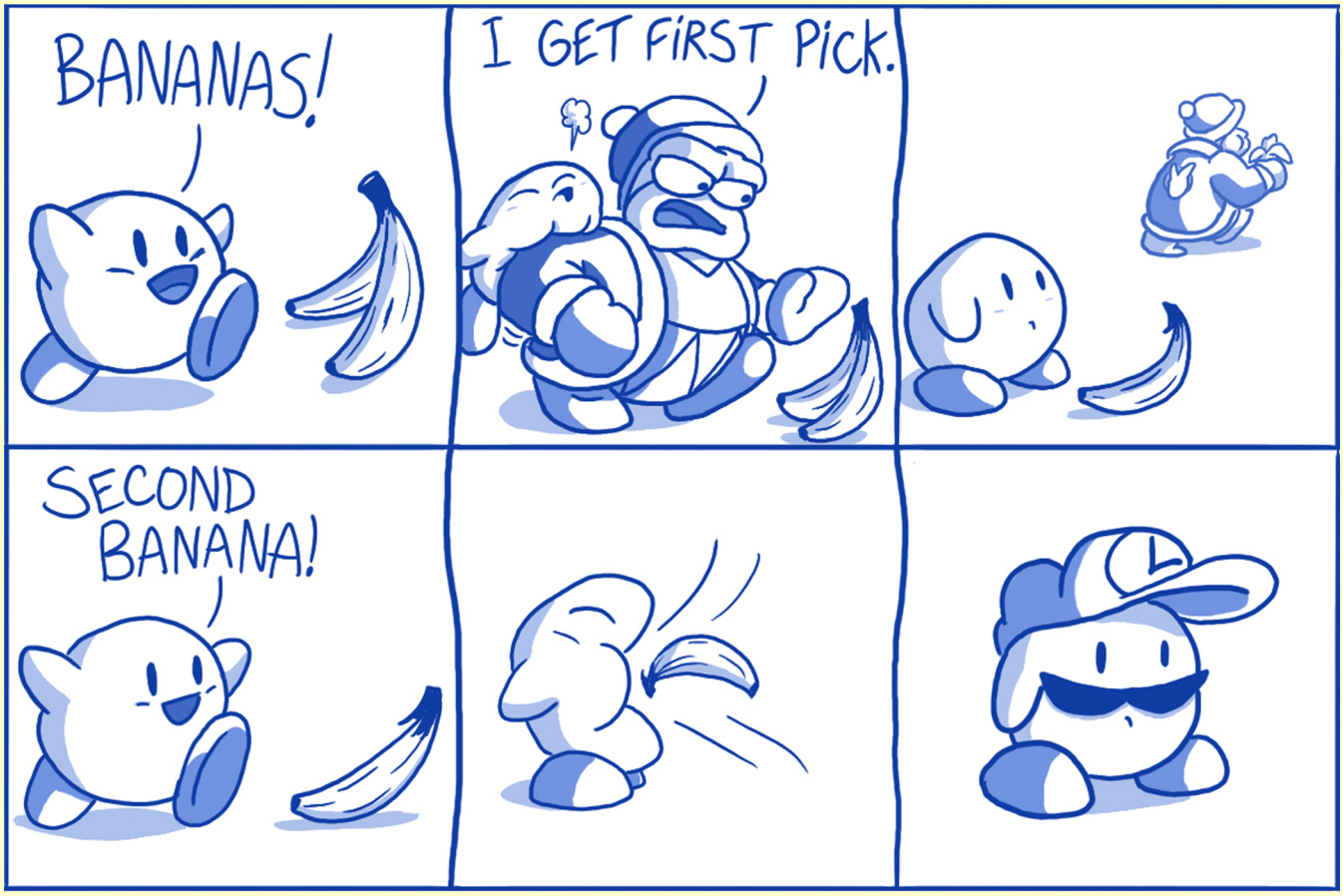
Should've just gone for the malt.

247 - UFP



At least he didn't stumble upon that planet with the Metroids again.

248 - Bananas



Kirby's got appeal.



249 - Nasty

WARNING BEWARE

Two months ago, in Comic 232, a prophecy foretold the arrival of this fateful comic.

YOU MAY RECALL THIS VISION OF THE FUTURE:

(This isn't your father's Brawl in the Family.)

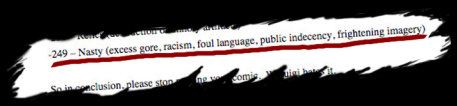


WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE IS THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES

THE FOLLOWING COMIC IS HIGHLY DISTURBING.

Dare I say, more than anything.

EVER.



Now, the April Fools gag was no lie.

TRUE TO THE LETTER, THE FOLLOWING COMIC DOES INDEED CONTAIN:

- EXCESS GORE
- RACISM
- FOUL LANGUAGE
- PUBLIC INDECENCY
- FRIGHTENING IMAGERY

By reading this comic, you are hereby waiving all rights to complain about it, and/or to attempt legal action.

And yes, there certainly is a gratuitous amount of

- EXCESS GORE
- RACISM
- FOUL LANGUAGE
- PUBLIC INDECENCY and
- FRIGHTENING IMAGERY

DON'T BELIEVE ME?

YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN ALL THAT STUFF SINCE I JUST WROTE IT! HAR HAR GET IT!?

Parental advisory warning.

pfft.

Hah, can you imagine if I just ended the comic there? By simply slapping those words together and calling it a day?

NO SIR

I'M STRAIGHT-UP SERIOUS ABOUT THIS...

LIKE WITH EVERYTHING I DO.

So With those caveats out of the way, turn back now or forever hold your peace...

3 2 1



...Nah, I'm not gonna end it with that either.
That'd be super-lame!

OKAY,

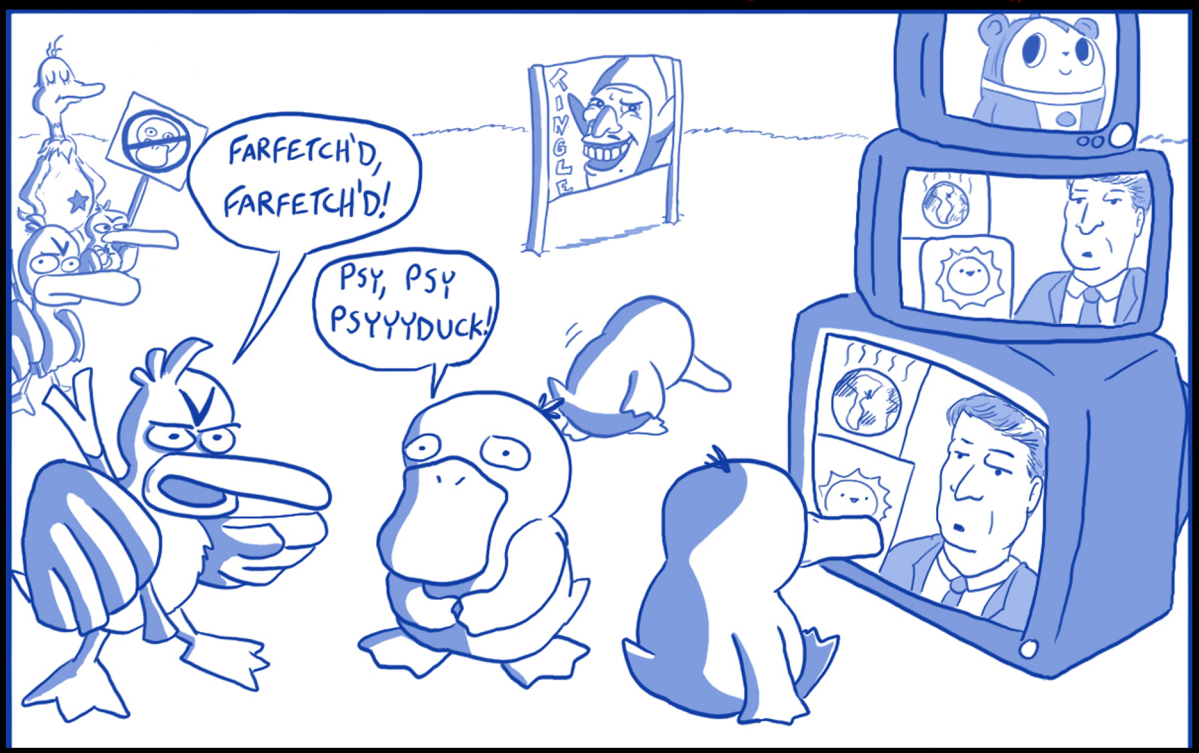
FINAL WARNING. NO MORE TRICKS.

It is time. For. The most adult.
Brawl. In. The. Family. Comic.
Ever.

Last chance to turn back, or be bombarded with...

- EXCESS GORE
- RACISM
- FOUL LANGUAGE
- PUBLIC INDECENCY
- FRIGHTENING IMAGERY

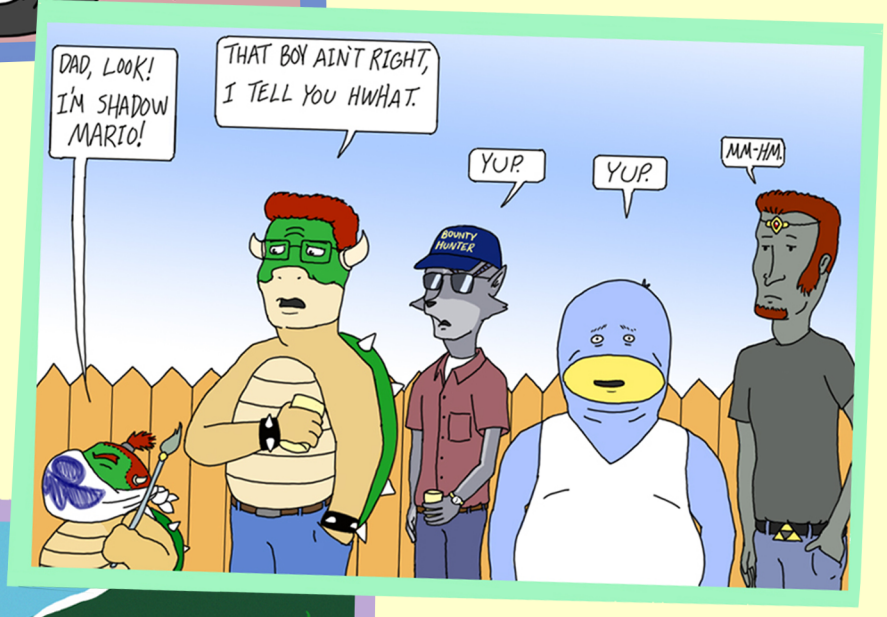
HERE IT IS



...So I'd like you to fund a TV show about our lives, King DeDeDe!

Well, uh, what kind of ideas do you have?







I dunno, Adeleine. They all seem pretty...derivative.


OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS? LINK PULLS OUT THE MASTER SWORD, ONLY TO SLEEP UNTIL HE AWAKES IN THE YEAR 3000...
NAH. MAYBE A SHOW ABOUT ME, METAKNIGHT, AND THAT ANNOYING KIRBY MIGHT WORK.
BUT WOULD FOLKS REALLY WANT TO SEE THAT?
YOU BETTER GET IT WITH A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

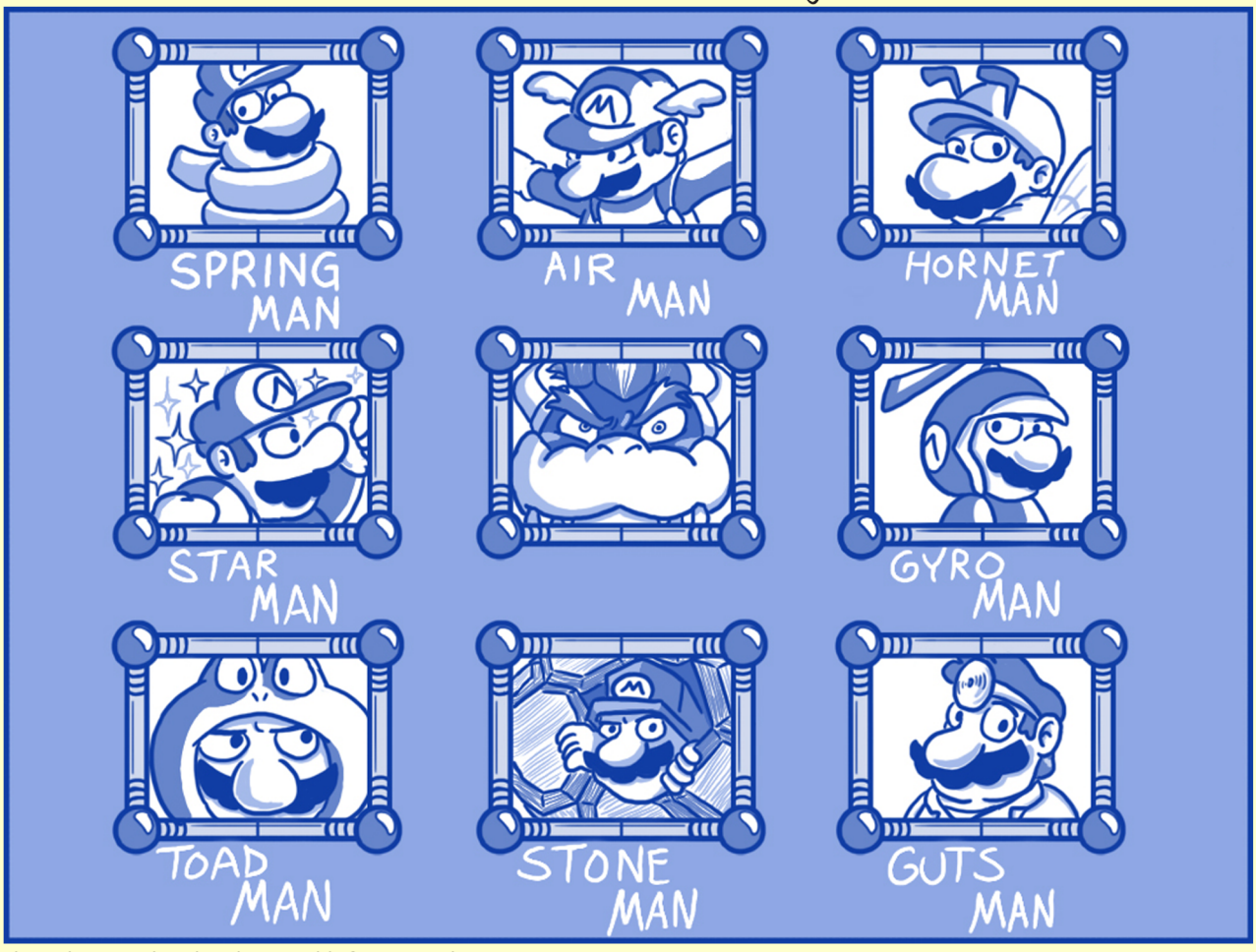
Meta-humor

251 - Finally



Me? I looked a lot like Dedede when this was shown.

252 - Eight Formidable Bosses



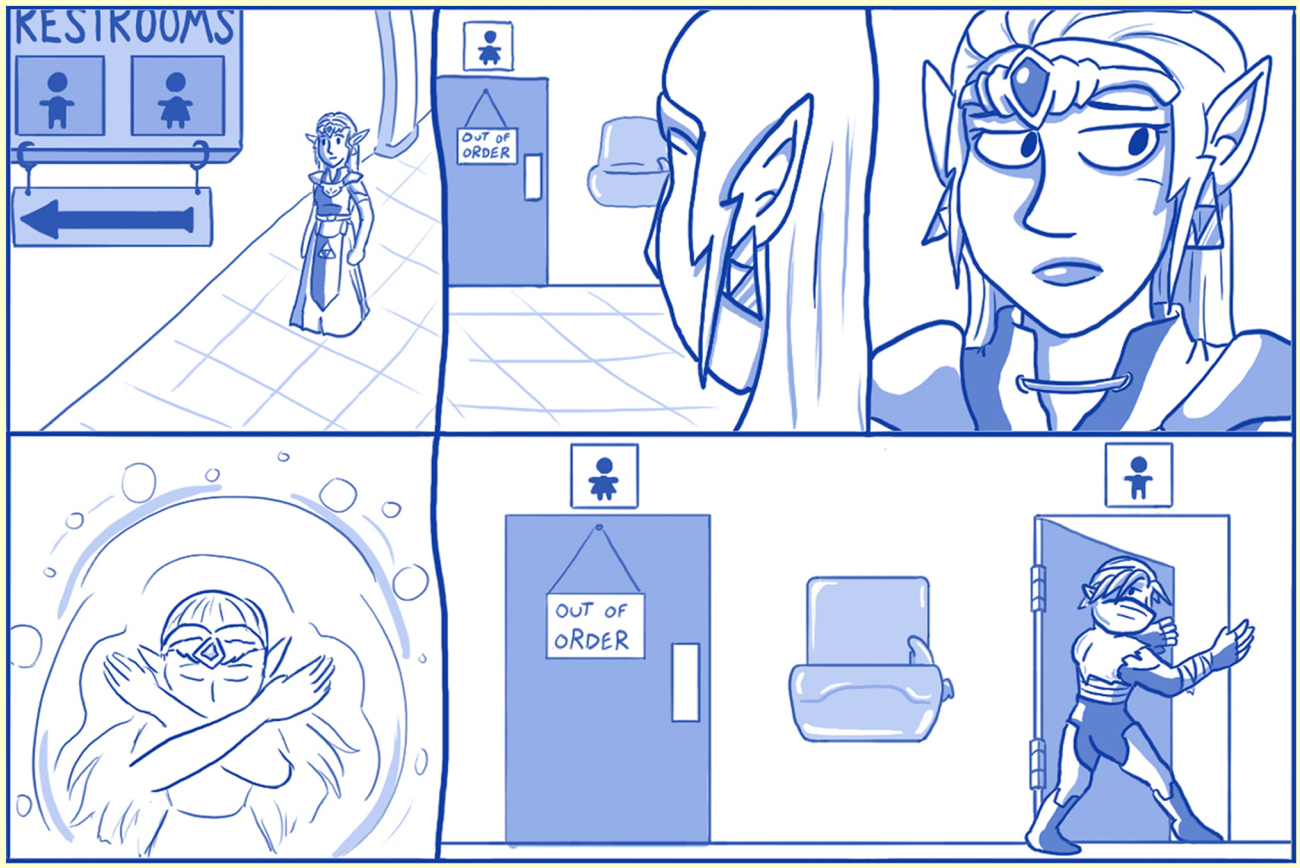
That wily Dr. Toadstool, making trouble for our anti-hero yet again!

253 - Voltorb



Caterpie was about to pop out of Goldeen's mouth before the Trainer said something.

254 - Out of Order



She's sure to be disappointed when she realizes how gross the men's room is by comparison.



'Hoy, small fry. Fishman here, once again providing you with witty mouseover text. While this here game managed to scratch my ever-present space exploration itch, it unfortunately failed to get rid of this unpleasant rash on the back of my dorsal fin. It's okay, I've got a doctor's appointment scheduled for Thursday, so he should clear it up with some sort of antibacterial ointment. I just hope the gals at the pharmacy don't fuss at me again for putting my fins in the blood pressure-testing machine. Apparently, I left flecks of bait in the machine last time and they had to replace it. But I digress, fry. Hey, bring me some of the good stuff next time and I'll draw you a map. I think they make summa dem baits with Cajun flavors nowadays. And with that, I'm off!

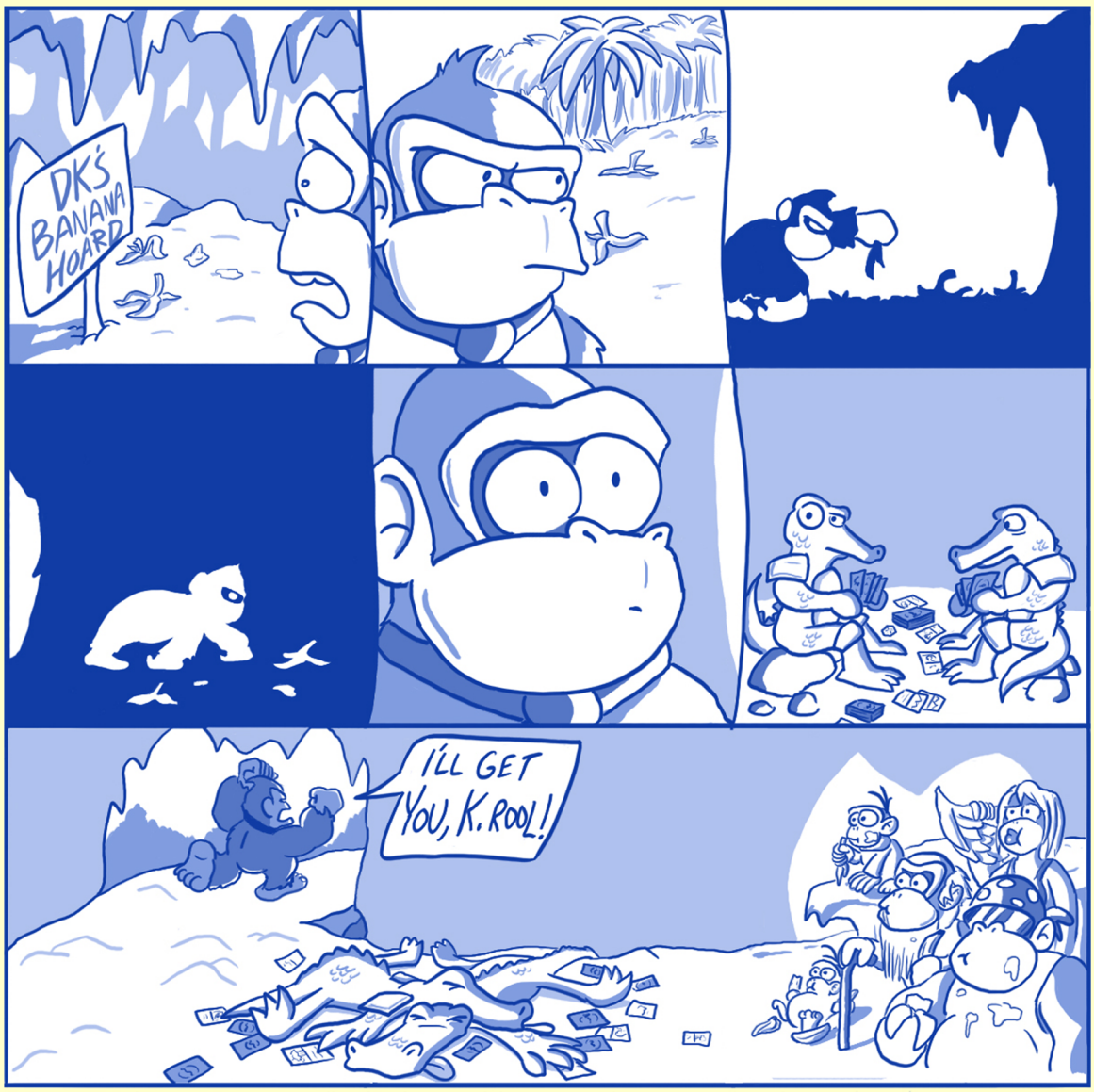

the faceship is FUN!
Hey bro, can I get a different room?
Consider yourself lucky.
but...
Compared to the observatory, there's a lot less exploration
but...
IT'S EASIER TO NAVIGATE THAN THE OBSERVATORY.
to level 1
but,
ROSALINA'S BEEN REPLACED BY THIS GUY
hey spong... uh, Mario
OH HEY, YOSHI'S BACK!
and now he can even CROUCH IN MID-AIR!
OVERALL, THE DESIGN HAS EVOLVED INTO SOMETHING VERY TIGHT AND FUN, COMPLETE WITH AN OLD-SCHOOL PROGRESSION EVOCATIVE OF THE GOOD-OL' DAYS.
great music too
FINAL VERDICT
KIRBY SAYS...
TRANS-FOOORRRM!
A new planet was born!

256 - Snake Snaps a Neck



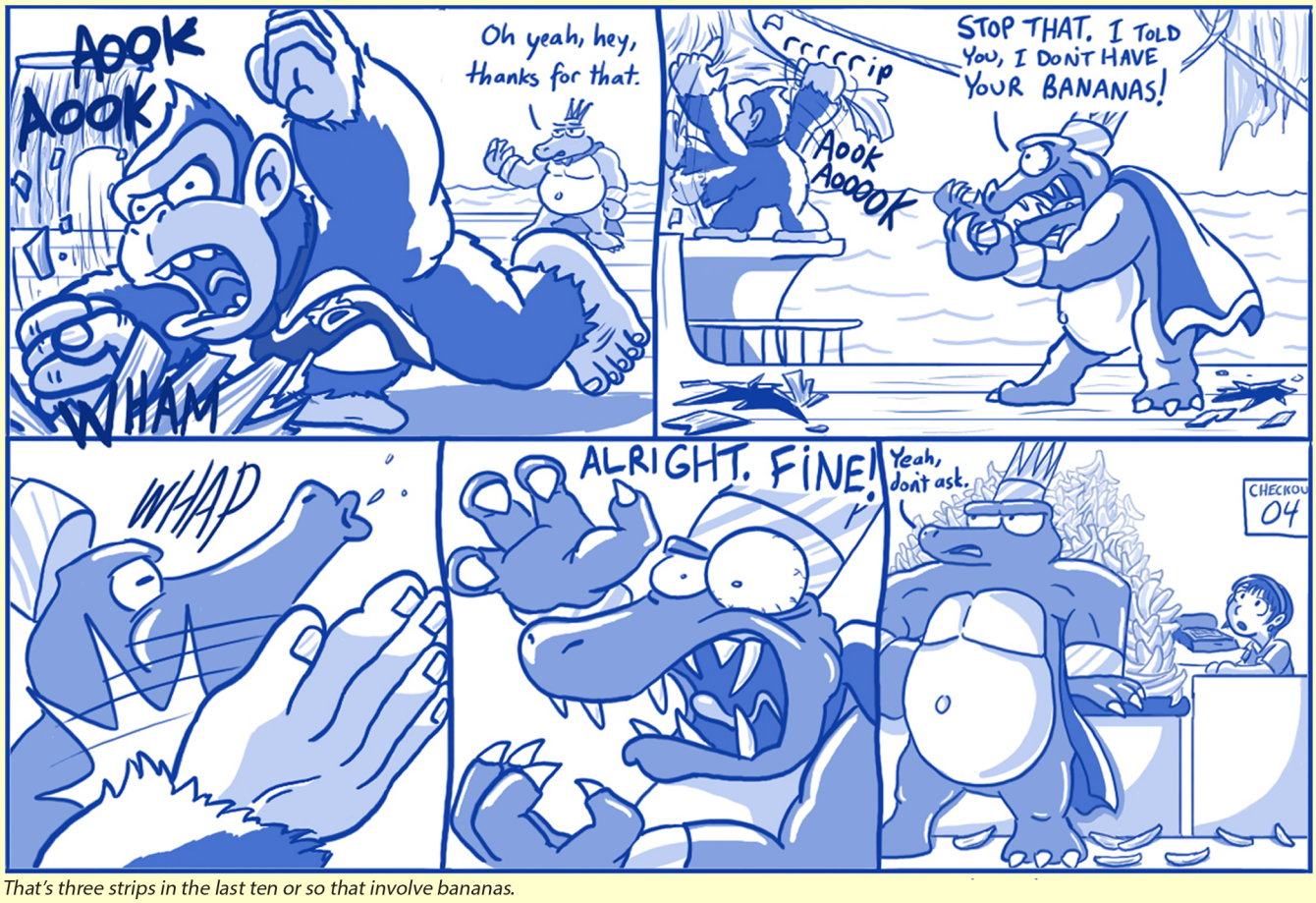
And so, the unconscious Snake never did make it to his assigned, critical mission on time. As a result, a militia in Russia completed a new model of Metal Gear with relative ease.

257 - Banana Hoard



DK's Giant Punch is a green Instant spell with Split-Second that causes 8 damage to two Kremling targets.

258 - Banana Retrieval



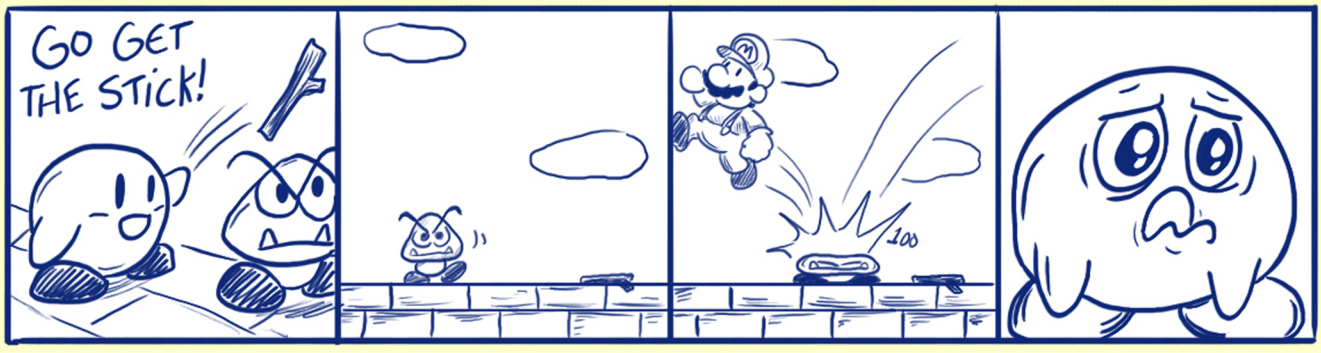
That's three strips in the last ten or so that involve bananas.



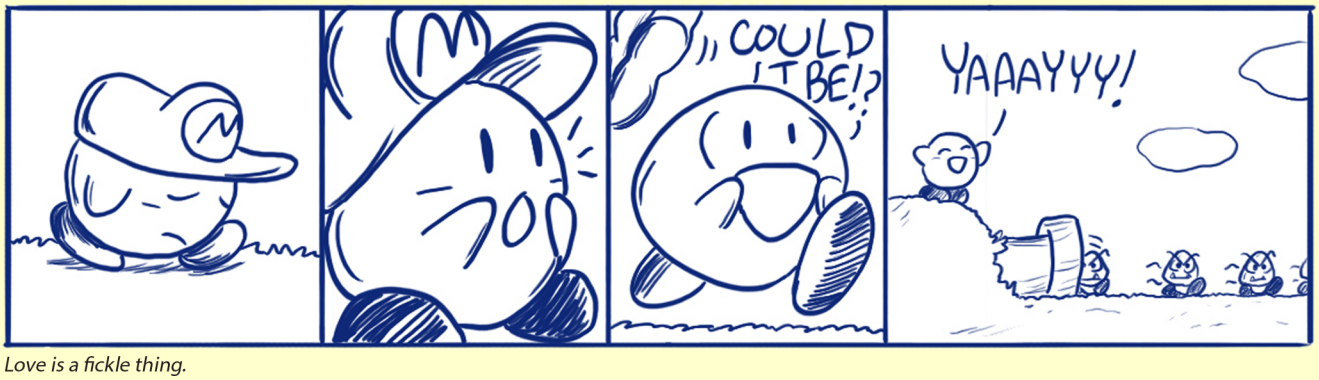
PART 1!



PART 2!



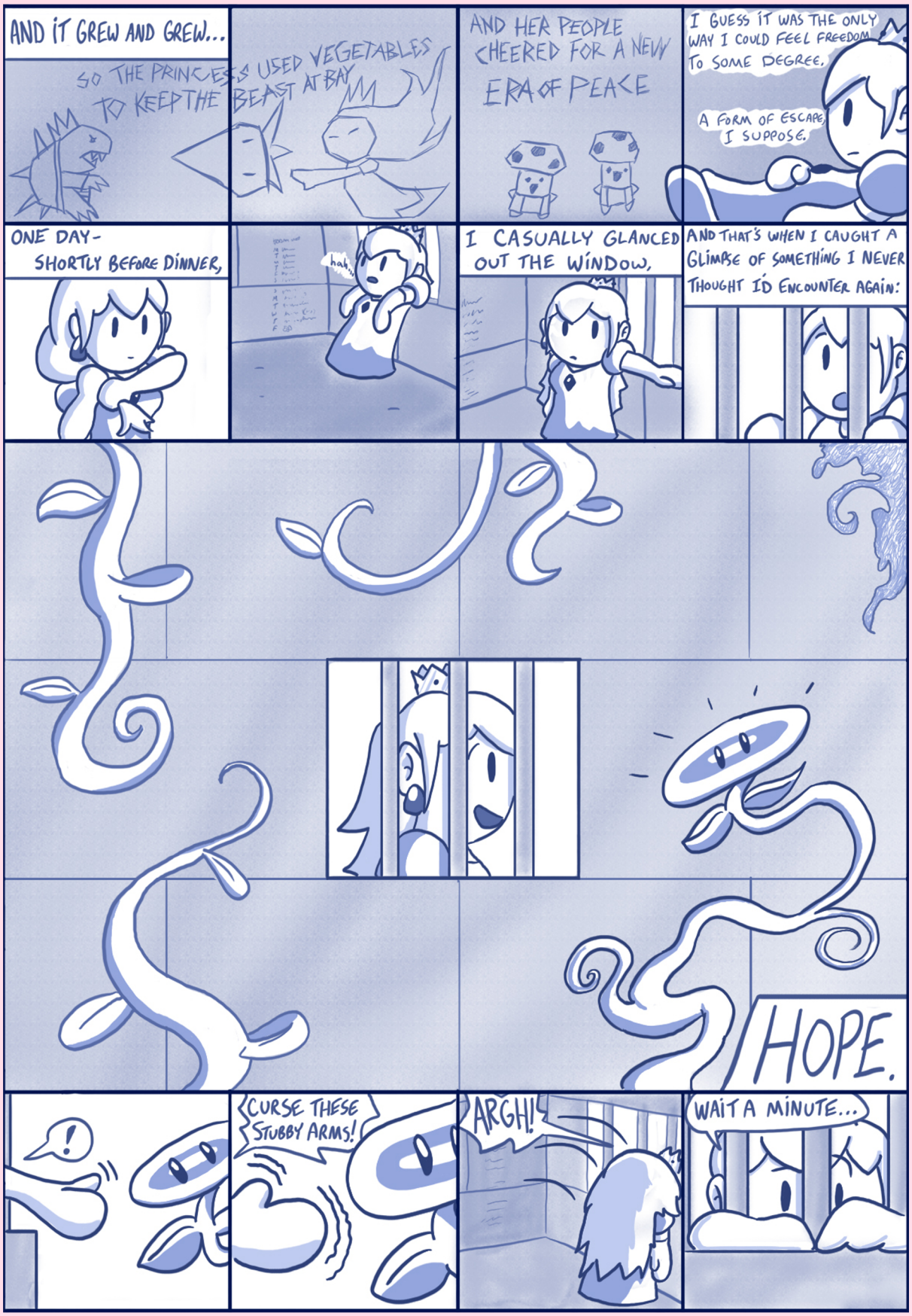
PART 3!

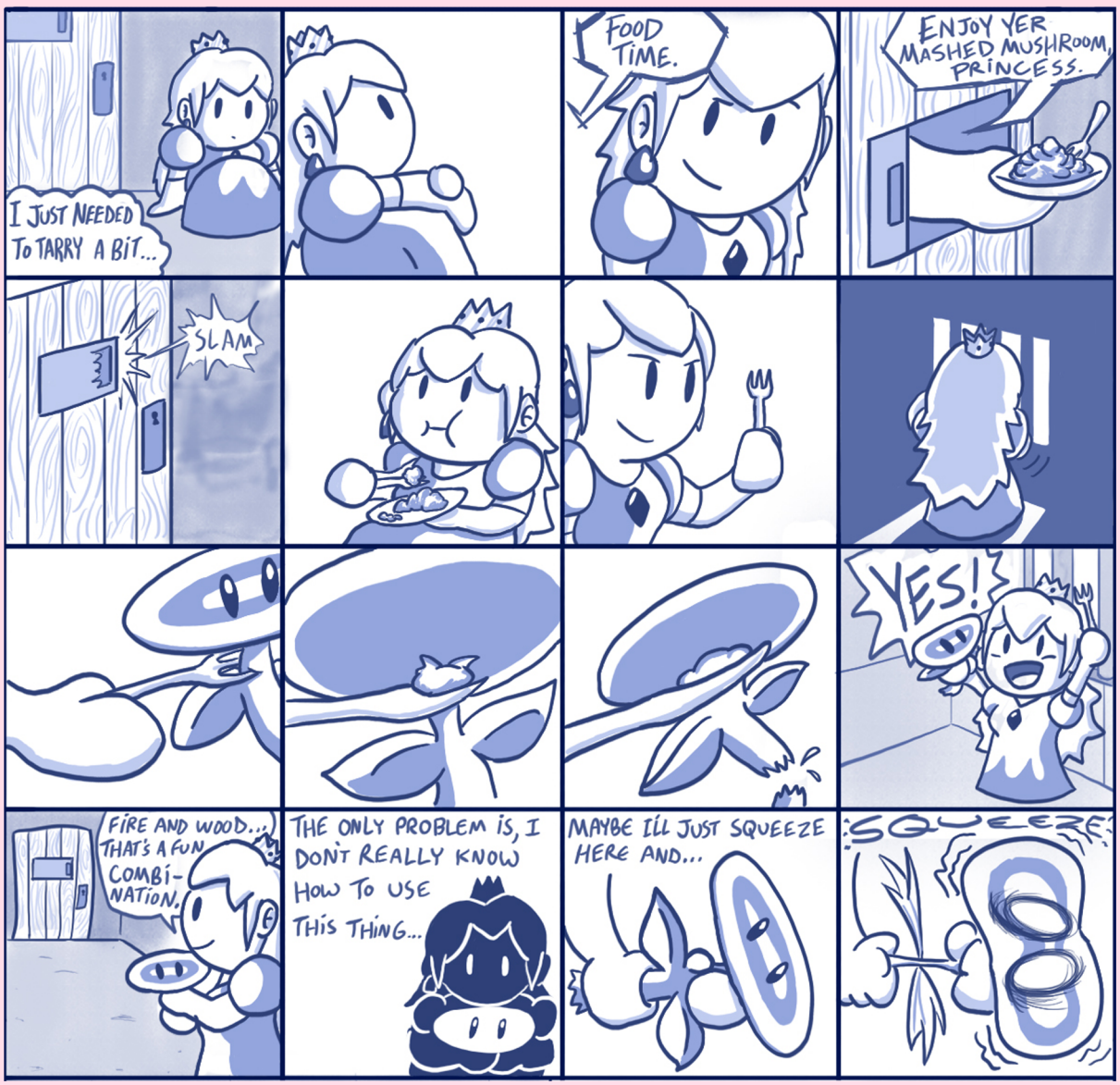


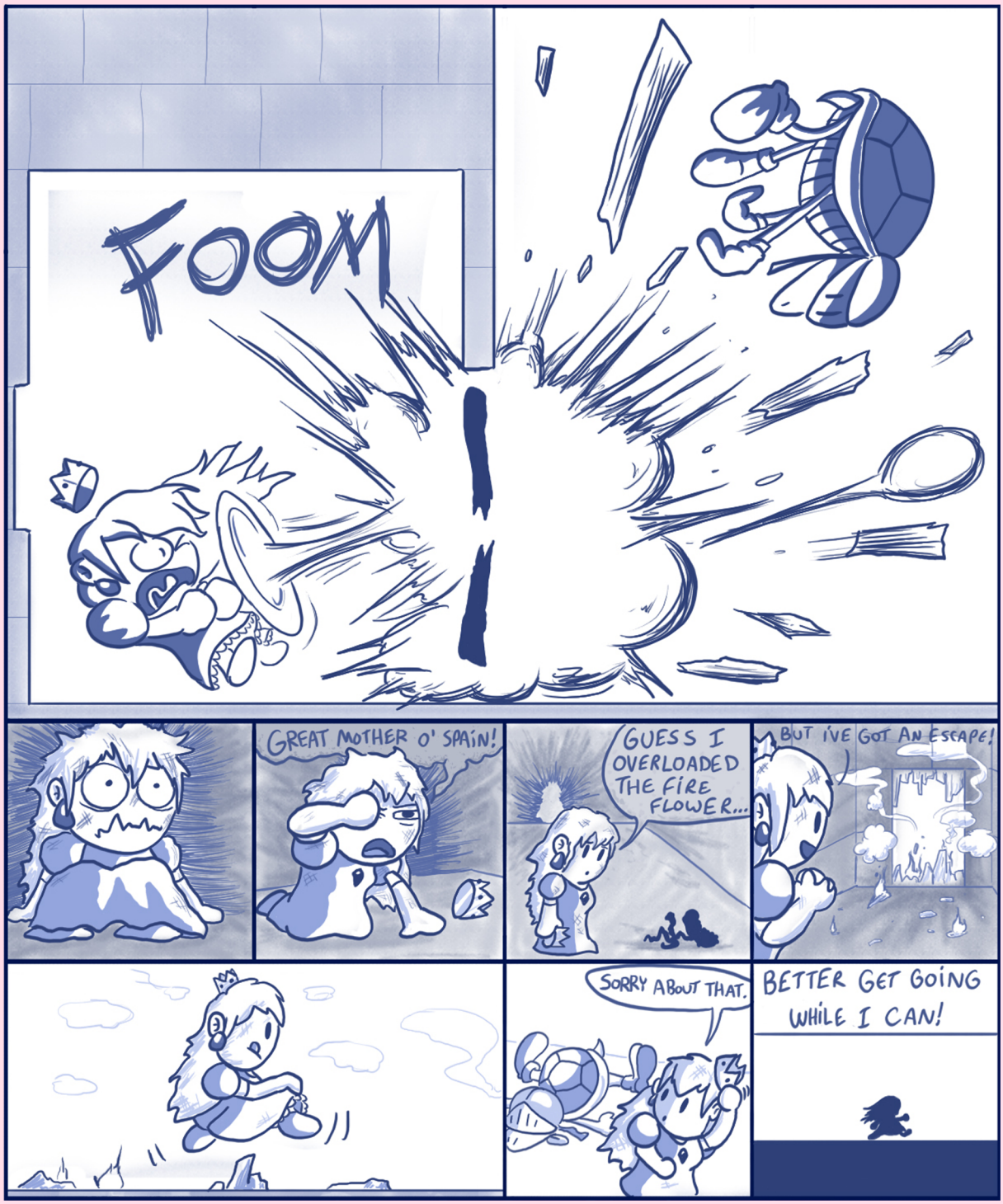
Love is a fickle thing.

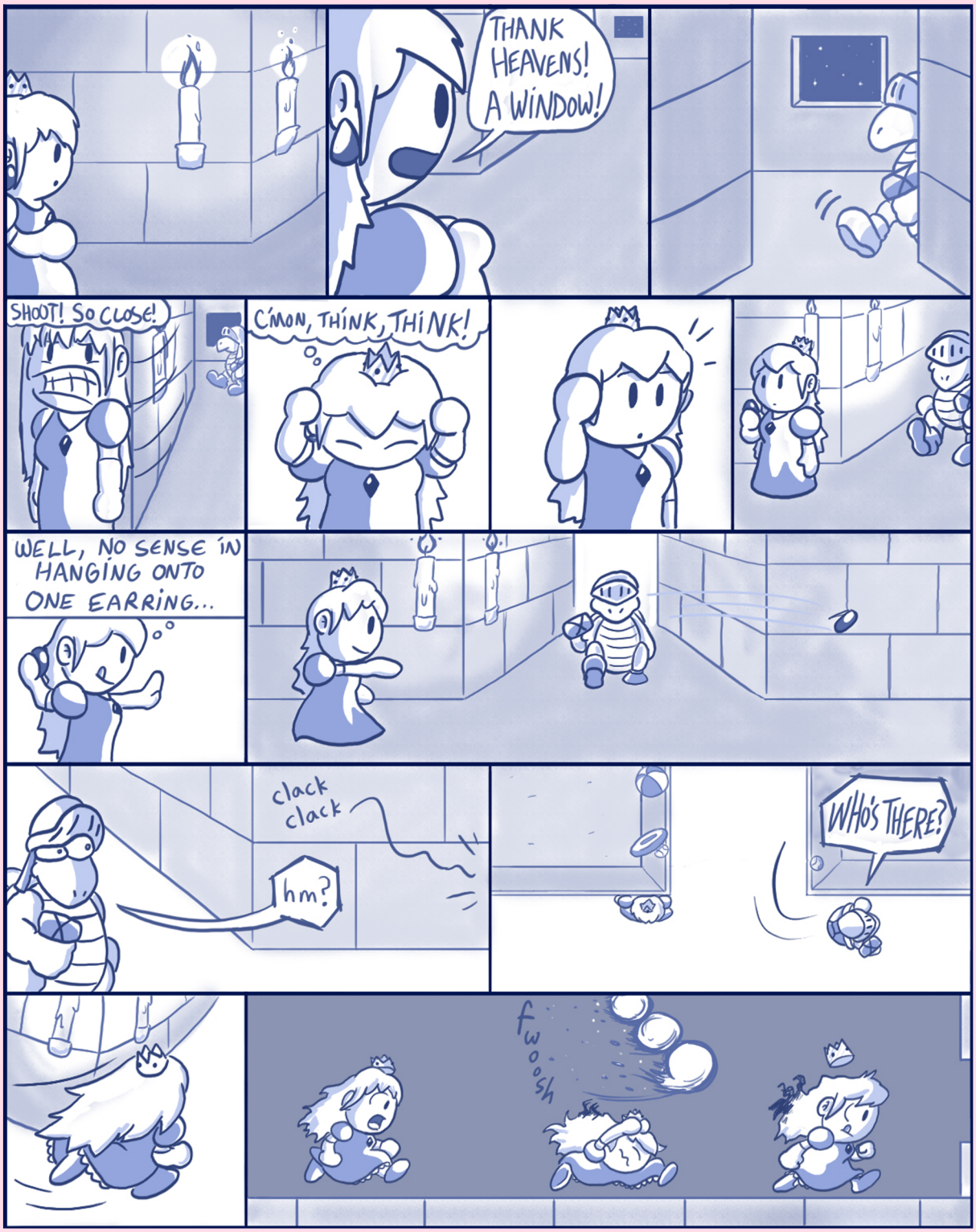
260 - The Captive Princess

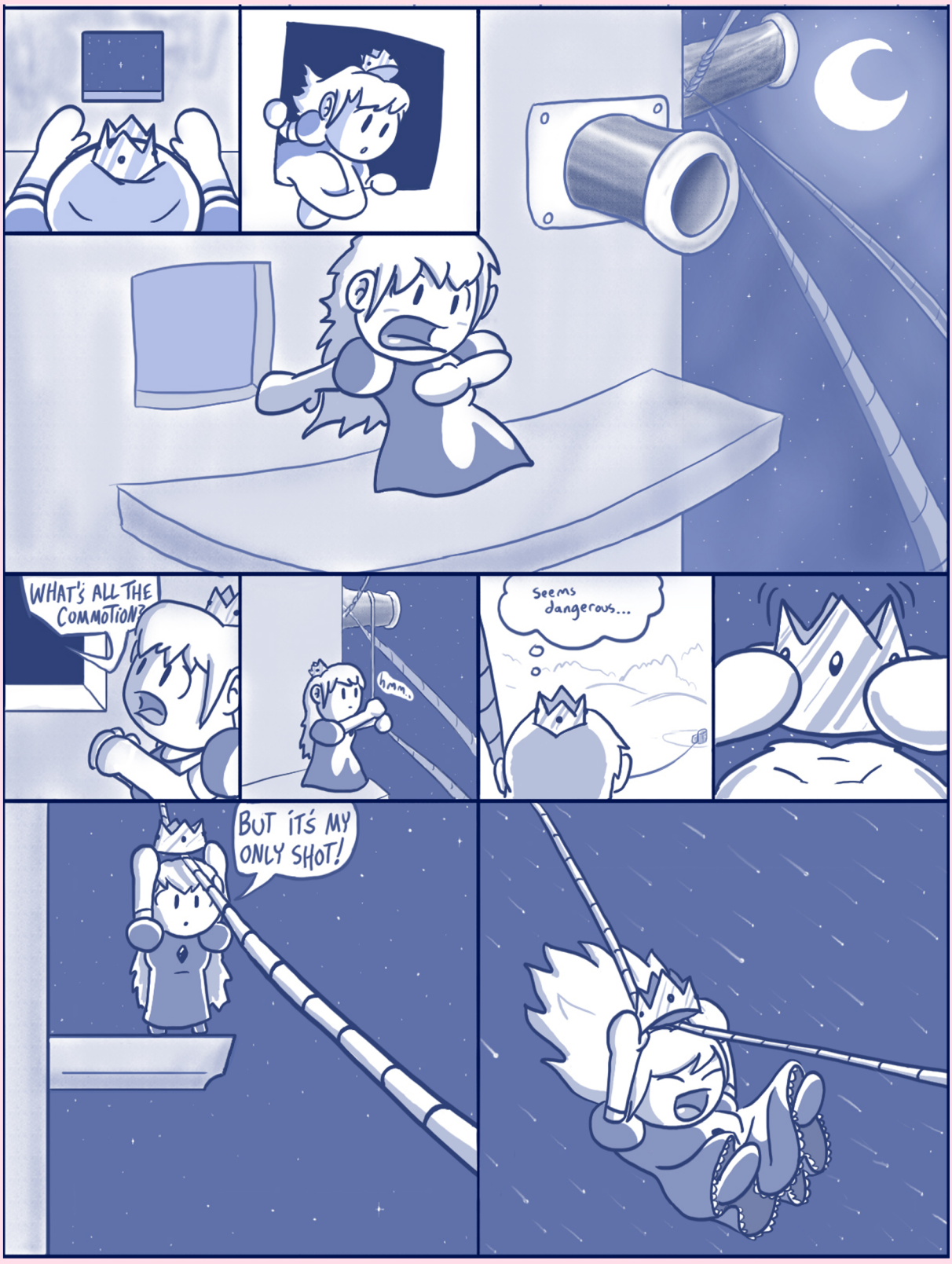


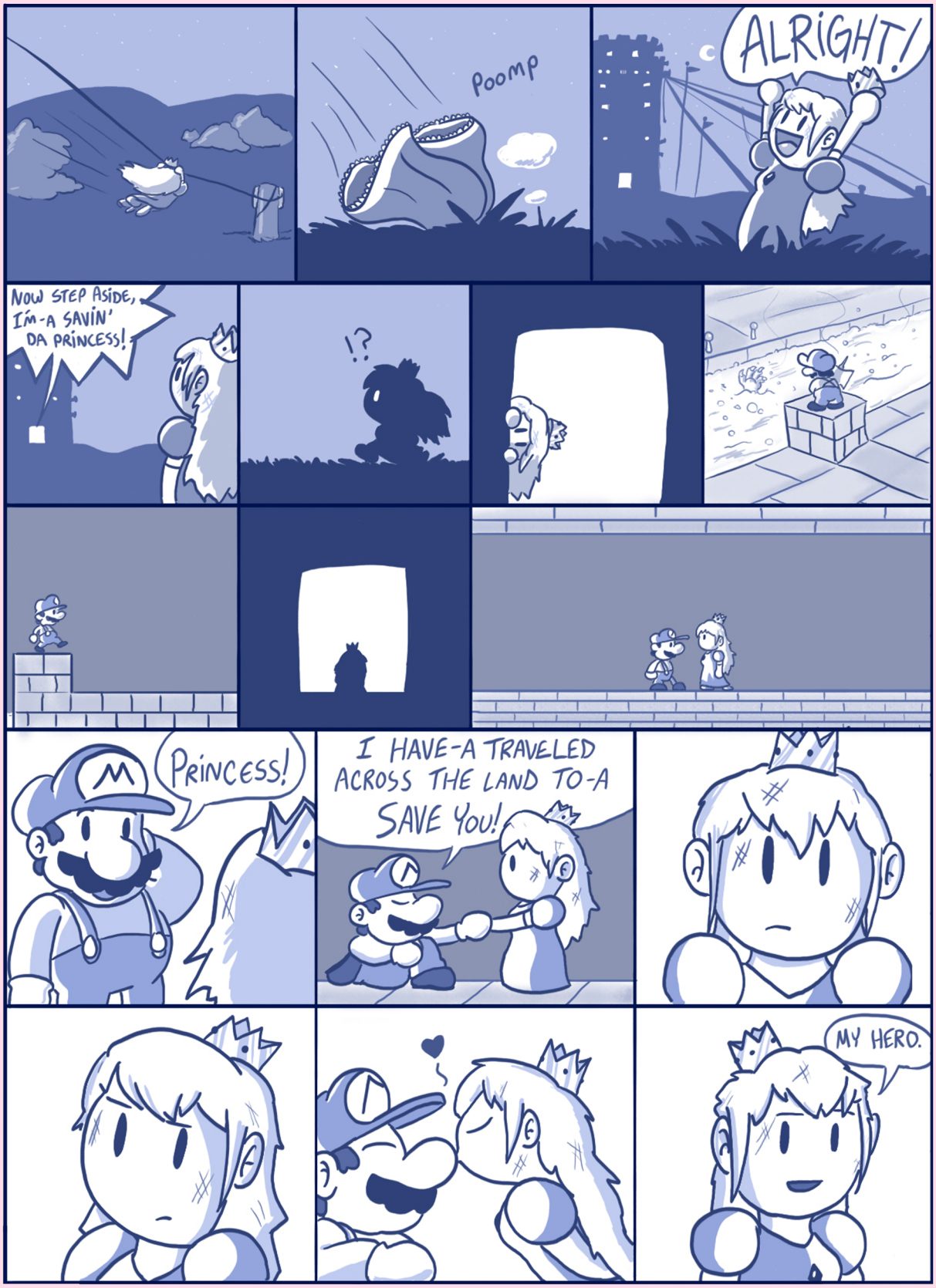

AND IT GREW AND GREW...
SO THE PRINCESS TO KEEP THE
USED VEGETABLES BEAST AT BAY
AND HER PEOPLE CHEERED FOR A NEW ERA OF PEACE
I GUESS IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD FEEL FREEDOM
TO SOME DEGREE,
A FORM OF ESCAPE, I SUPPOSE.
ONE DAY-
SHORTLY BEFORE DINNER,
hah,
I CASUALLY GLANCED OUT THE WINDOW,
AND THAT'S WHEN I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ENCOUNTER AGAIN:
HOPE.
!
CURSE THESE STUBBY ARMS!
ARGH!
WAIT A MINUTE...


I JUST NEEDED TO TARRY A BIT...
FOOD TIME.
ENJOY YER MASHED MUSHROOM, PRINCESS.
SLAM
YES!
FIRE AND WOOD... THAT'S A FUN COMBI-NATION.
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO USE THIS THING...
MAYBE I'LL JUST SQUEEZE HERE AND...
SQUEEZE


FOOM
GREAT MOTHER O' SPAIN!
GUESS I OVERLOADED THE FIRE FLOWER...
BUT IVE GOT AN ESCAPE!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
BETTER GET GOING WHILE I CAN!

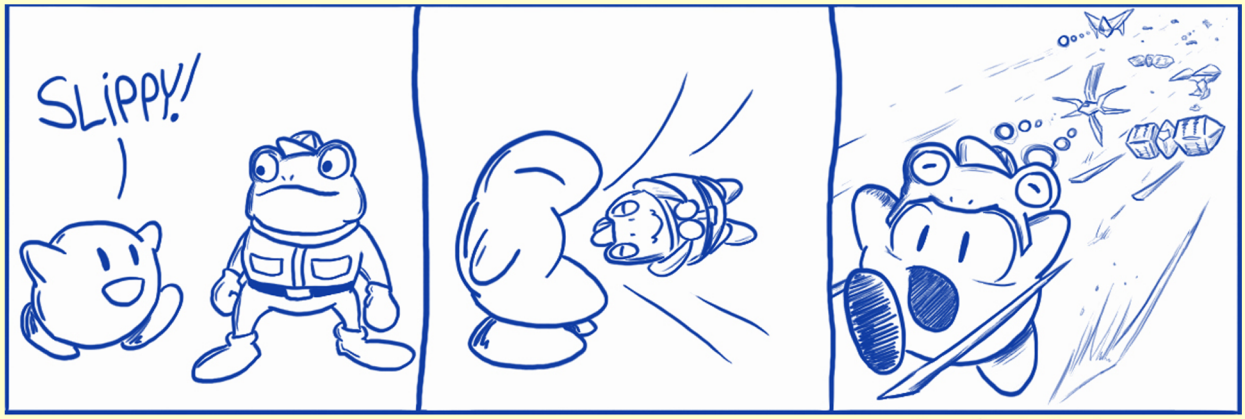

THANK HEAVENS! A WINDOW!
SHOOT! SO CLOSE!
C'MON, THINK, THINK!
WELL, NO SENSE IN HANGING ONTO ONE EARRING...
clack clack
hm?
WHO'S THERE?
fwoosh


WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
hmm.
seems dangerous...
BUT ITS MY ONLY SHOT!



This behemoth of a comic--the longest BitF strip of them all--came about because I wanted to show Peach in a more active, introspective light. I always really liked Peach's characterization in games like Paper Mario, and I think she gets the short end of the stick from people sometimes. A lot of readers thought the strip would build into a "Your princess is in another castle" ending, but I liked this sweeter approach that shows her appreciation of Mario's devotion. Sometimes knowing a loved one did their best is all you need.

261 - Slippy



Fun fact: This comic is ninety-eight panels shorter than the previous one.

262 - Blind Date



Hey, he's also a gardener, an explorer and manager of up to 100 employees at once!

263 - Horse Play



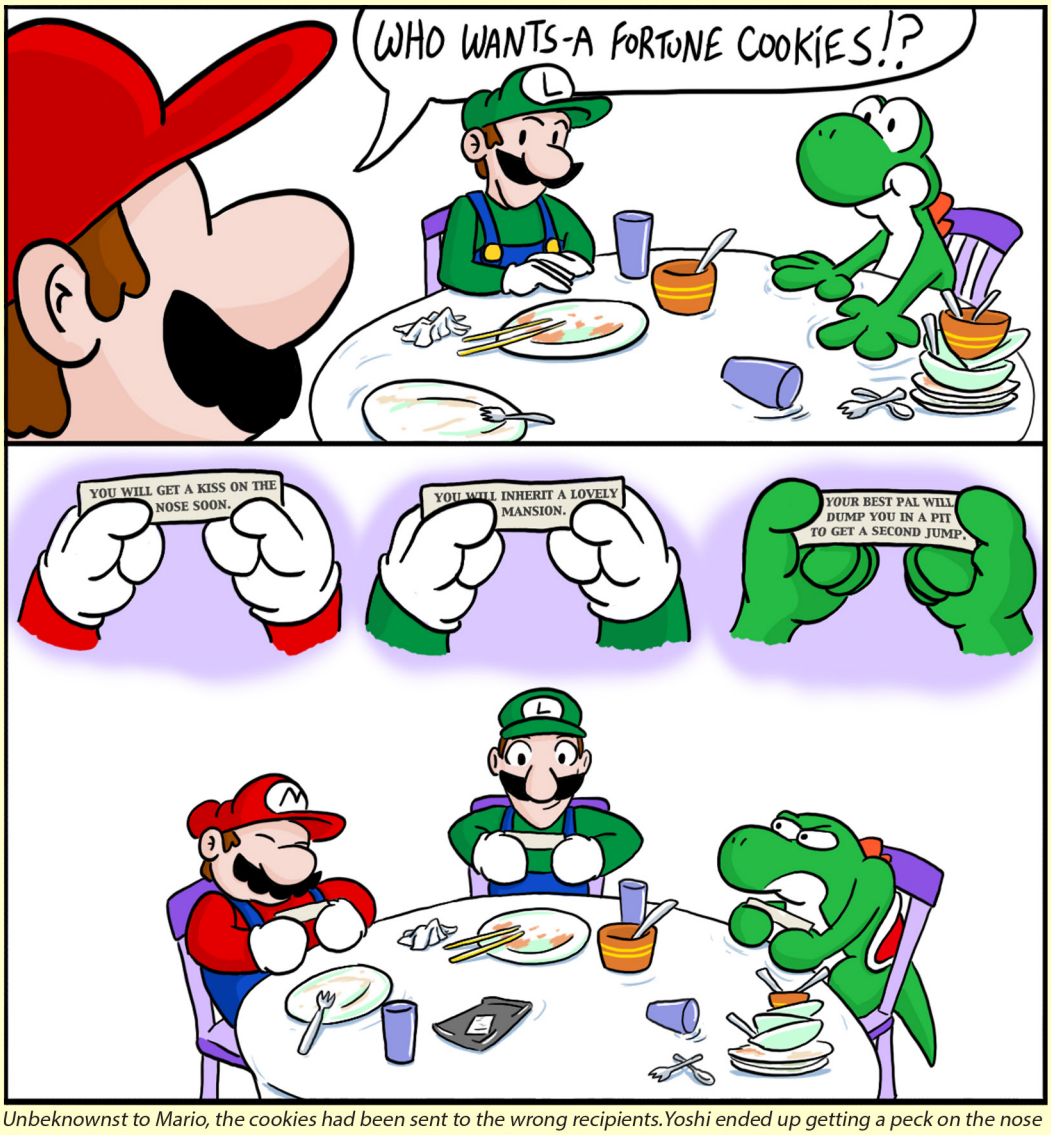
Well, at least he'll be dead soon, Andy.

264 - Countdown to Doom



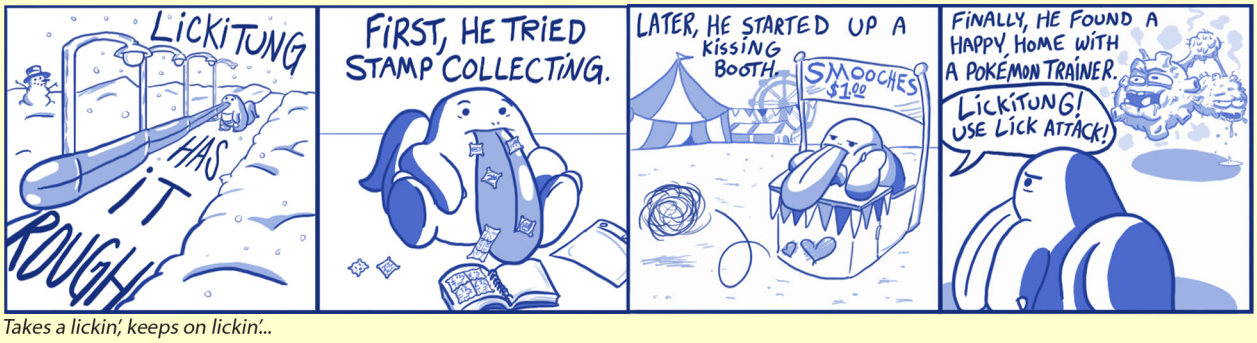
At least now we know the story behind the Moon's Tear.

265 - Fortune Cookies



Unbeknownst to Mario, the cookies had been sent to the wrong recipients.Yoshi ended up getting a peck on the nose the next day due to an over-energetic Birdo, and promptly ended up with egg on his face, so to speak. Mario later learned that his great uncle had passed on, leaving him a rather lovely mansion for the plumber to inherit, although it was soon infested with Boos. And poor Luigi once again got the short end of the stick when Mario hopped off his head, New Super Mario Bros. Wii style, to grab that final Star Coin. Maybe next time he should skip dessert entirely.

266 - Lickitung Has It Rough



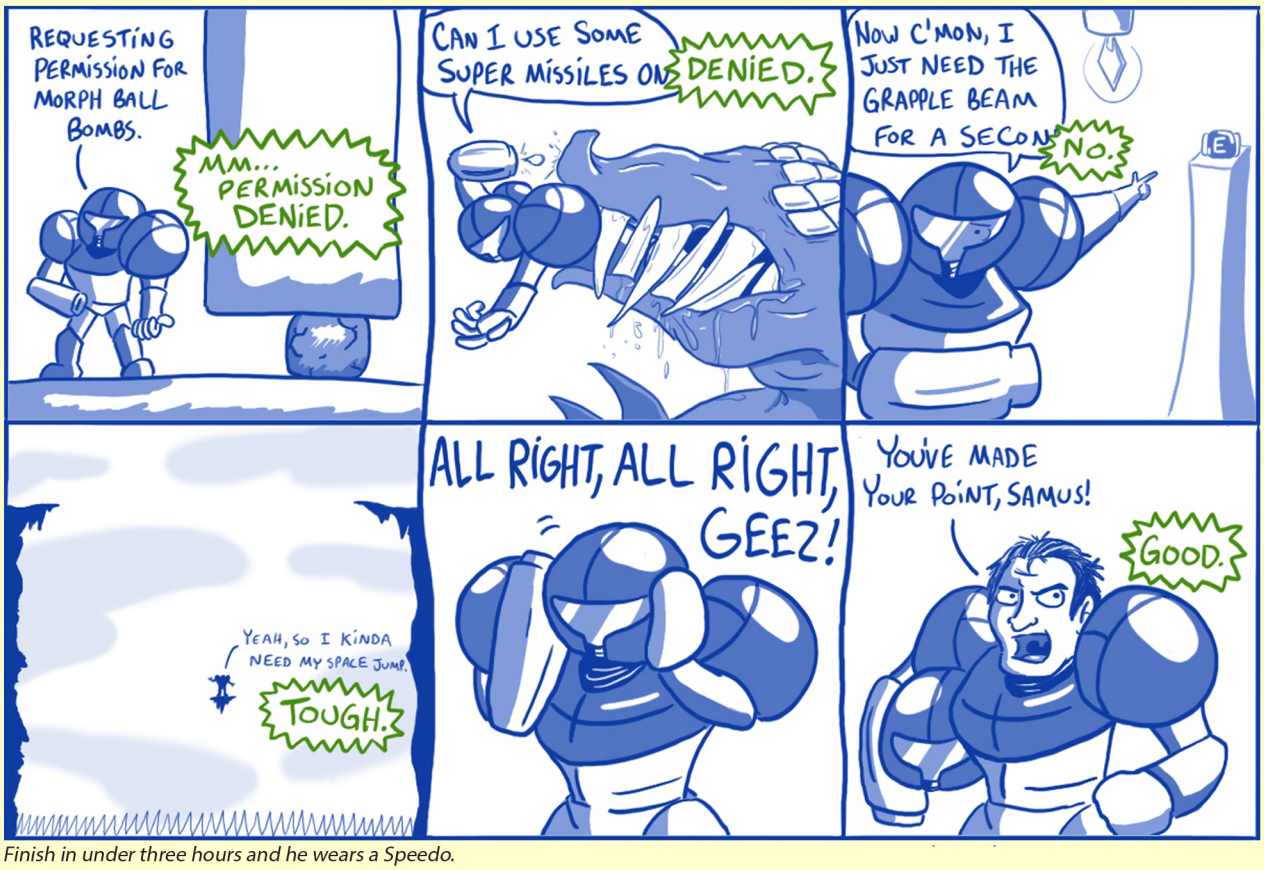
Takes a lickin', keeps on lickin'...

267 - But Who Could Love a Mother Brain?



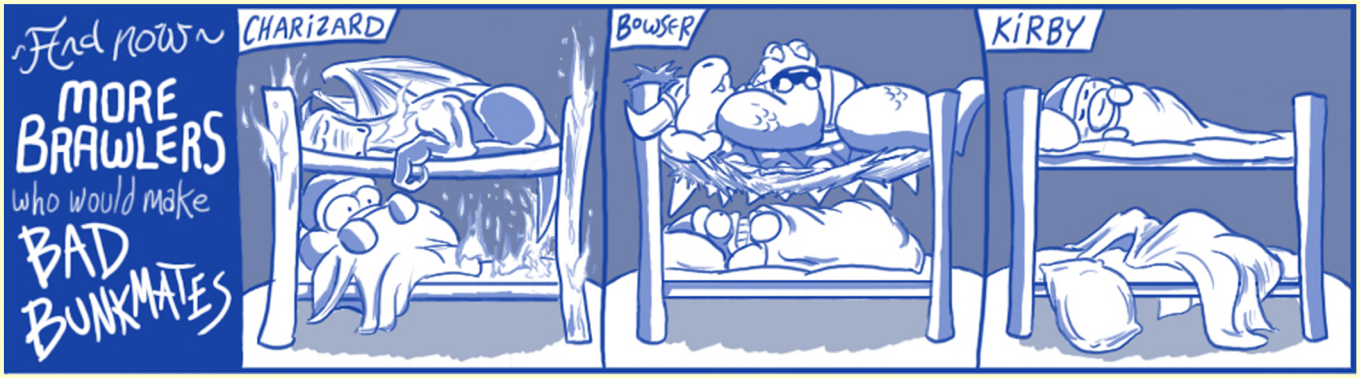
It was a weird honeymoon.

268 - Authorization



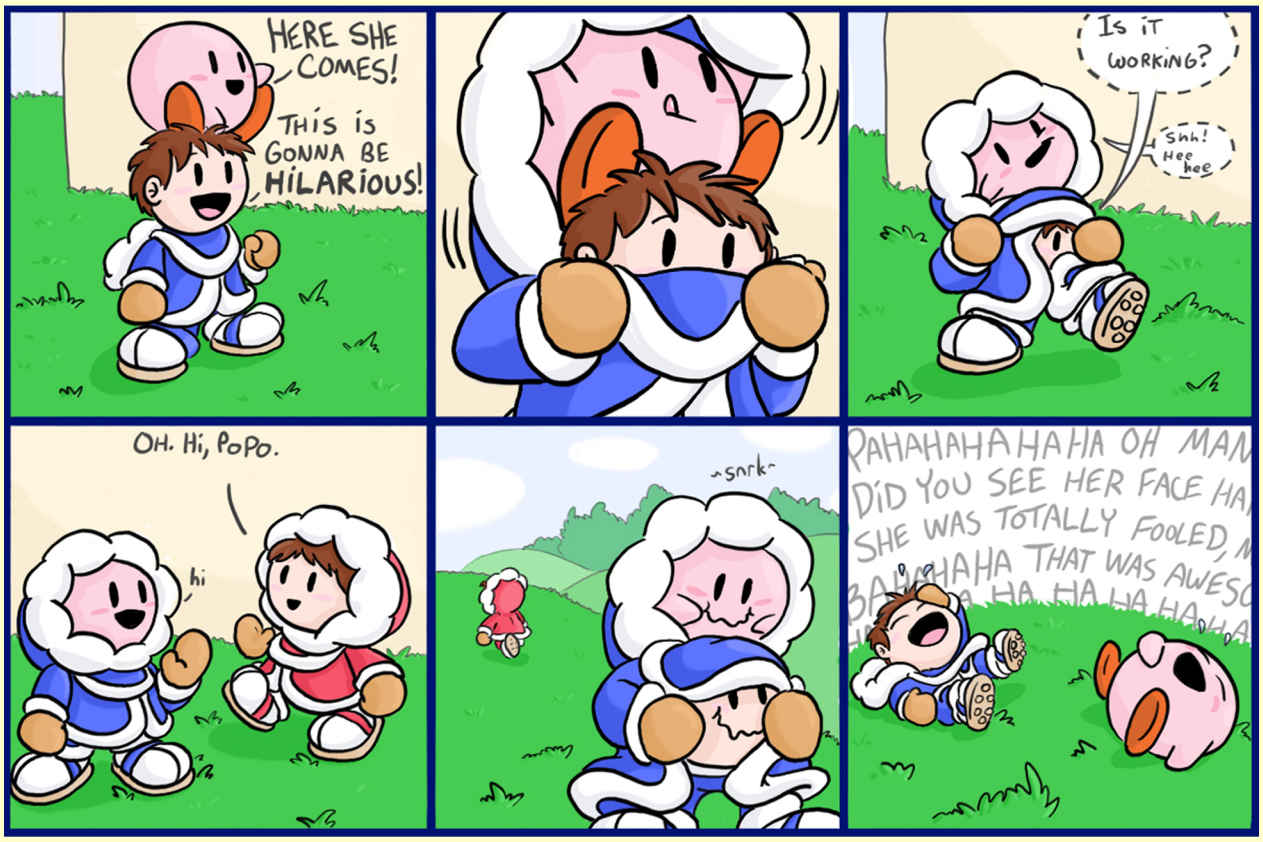
Finish in under three hours and he wears a Speedo.

269 - Bunkmates II

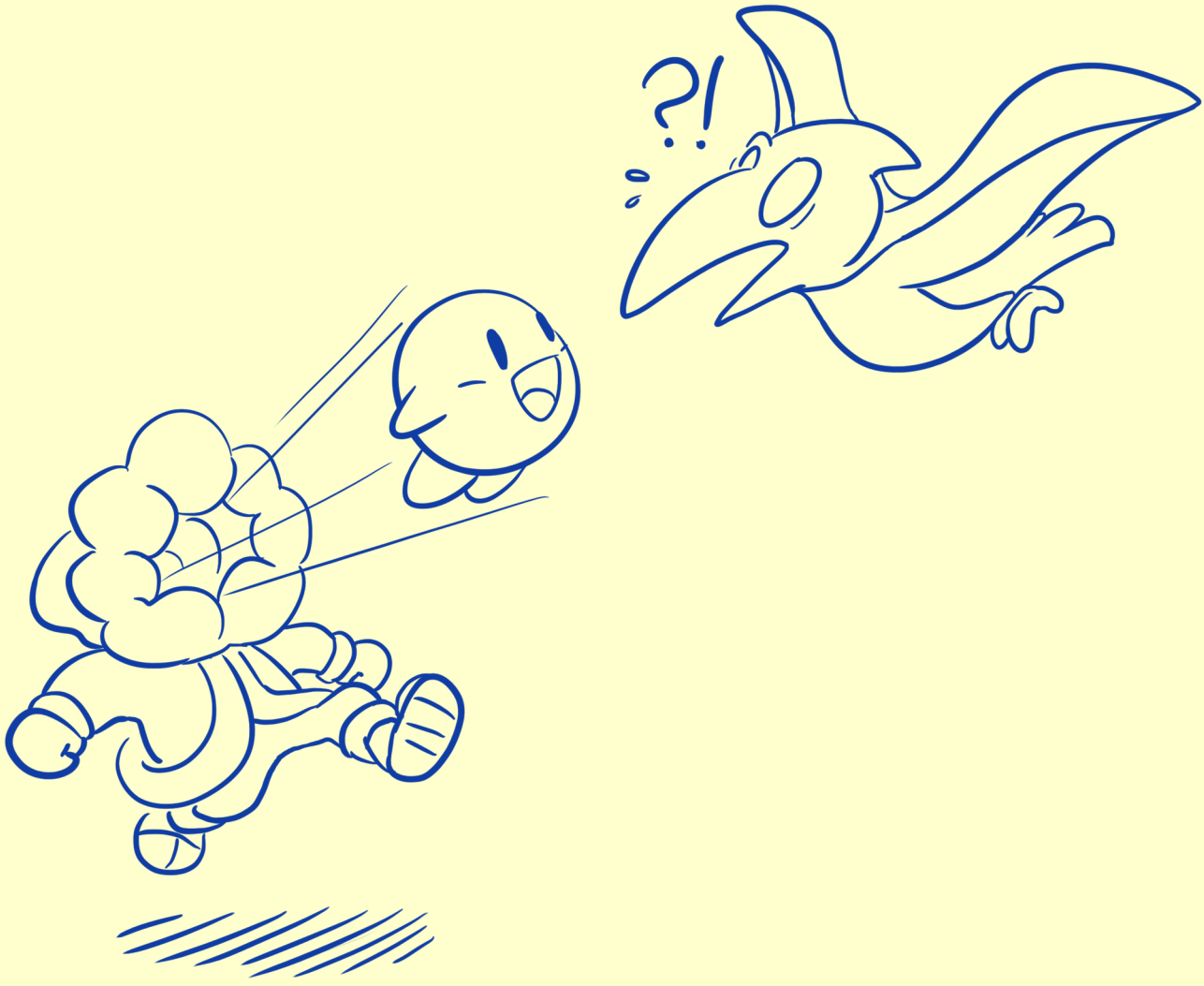


Hey, Dedede, call dibs on the top bunk next time!





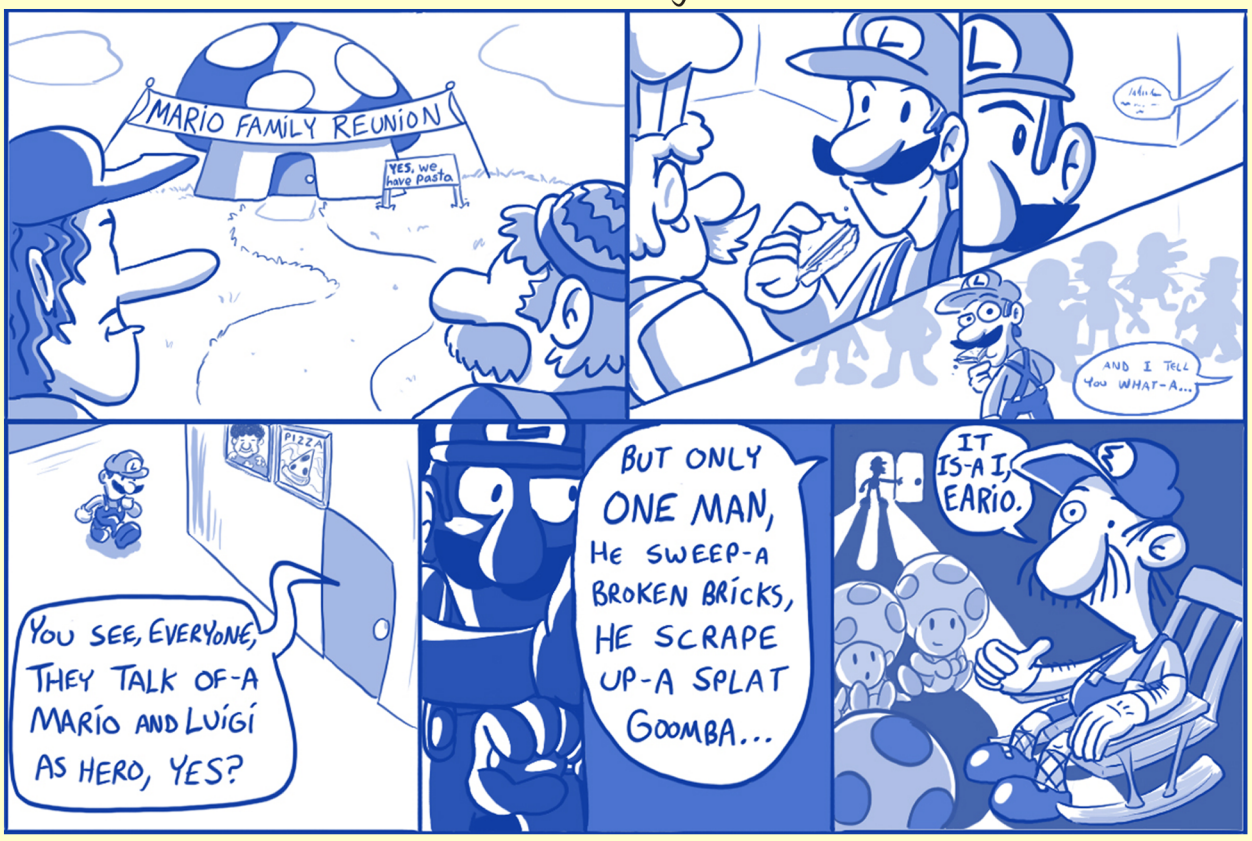
Kirby later sought out Ness to attempt the same gag.



JANITOR OF THE MUSHROOM KINGDOM

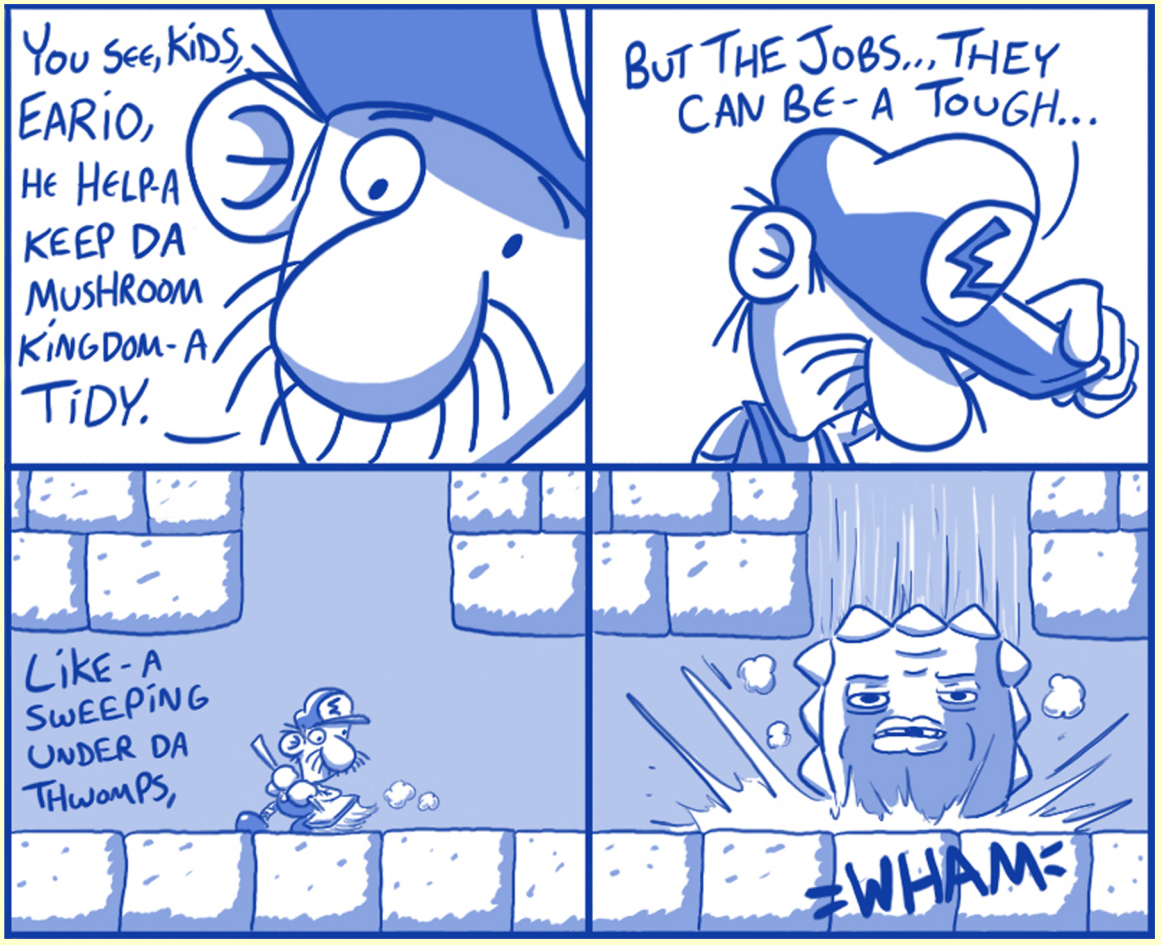


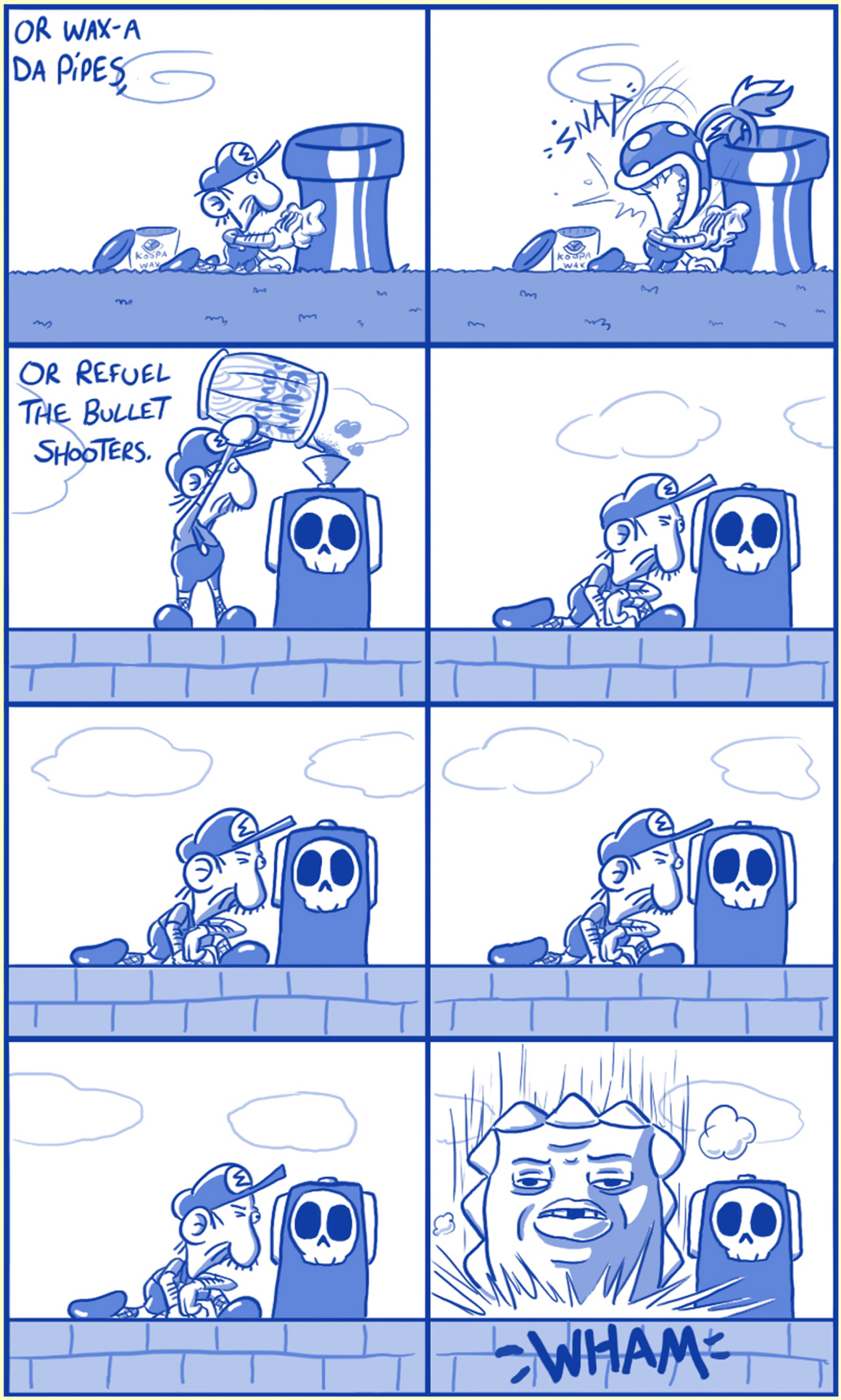
271 - Janitor of the Mushroom Kingdom (Part 1)



Clearly, adopting Toads runs in Mario's family.

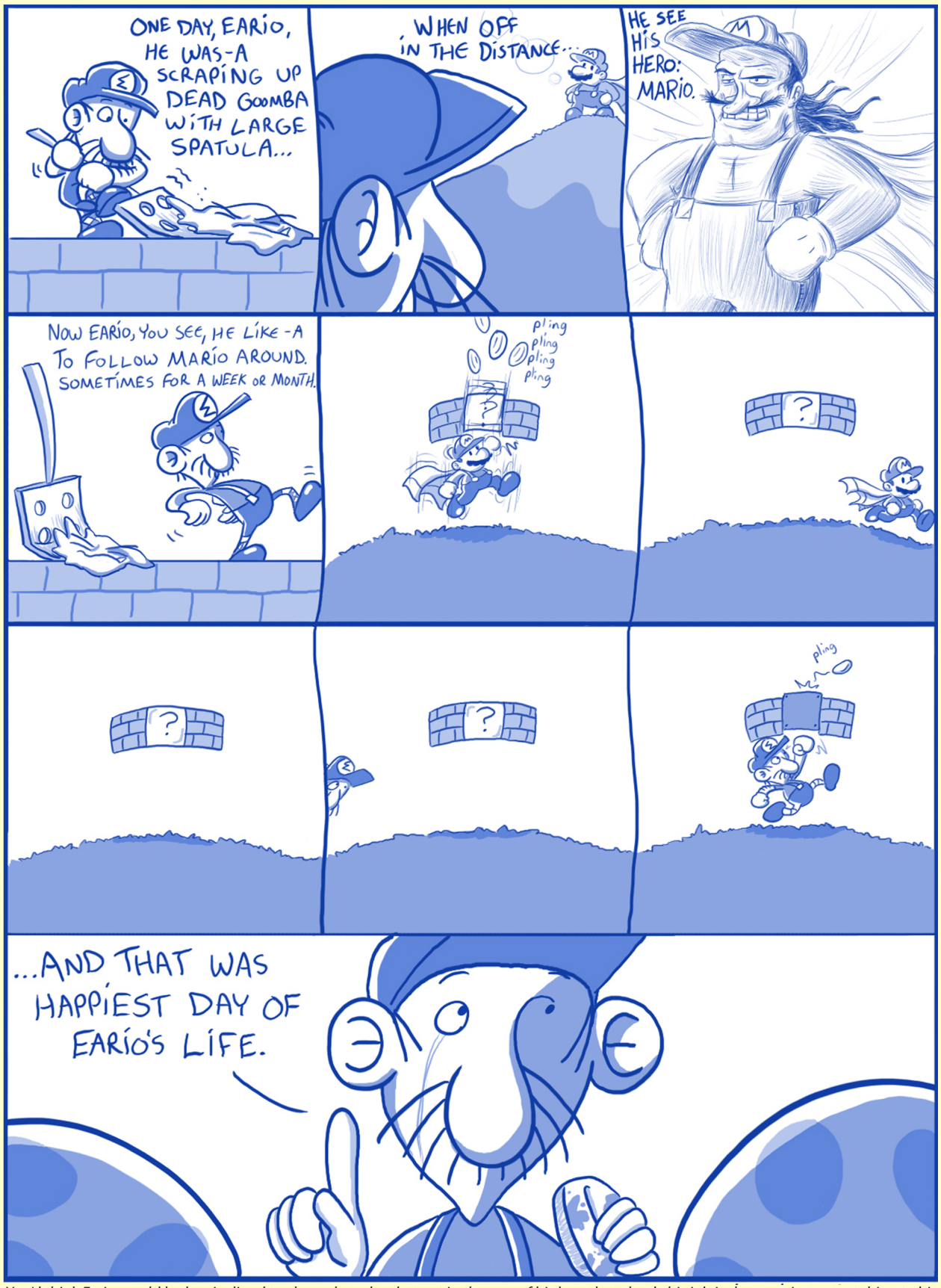
272 - Janitor of the Mushroom Kingdom (Part 2)





Other services include oiling those springboard things, waxing Chain Chomps, and using invisible paint on certain blocks.

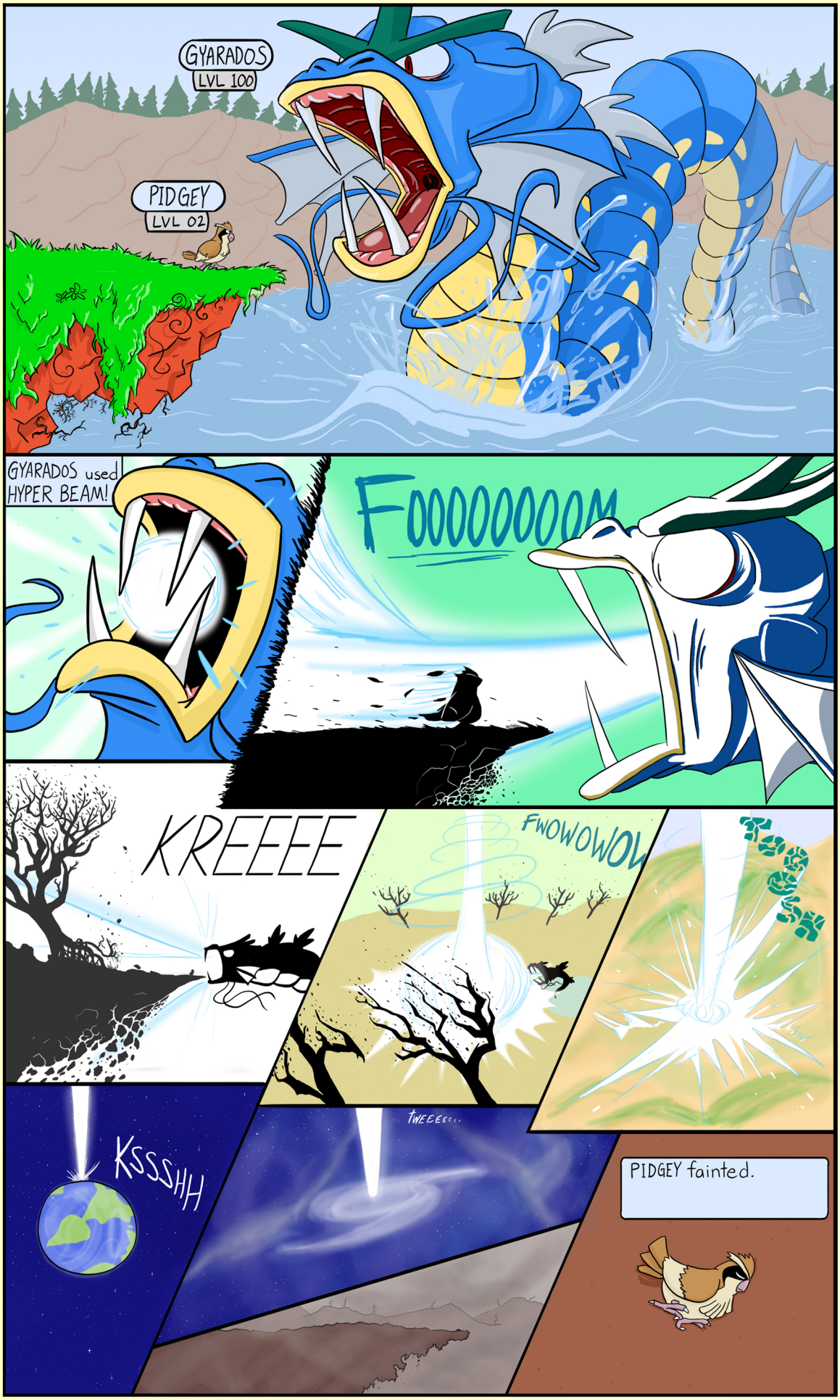
273 - Janitor of the Mushroom Kingdom (Part 3)



You'd think Eario would be less inclined to clean obstacles that get in the way of his hero, but clearly his job is the most important thing to him.



...And that was the happiest day of Earios life.



Gyarados trainers have it rough due to the collateral damage.



You'd think Dedede would be more enthusiastic about a game that has him in it. Maybe he just didn't like being portrayed as a good guy in SSE.

I'm really happy with this strip, although it was somewhat polarizing when I put it online. The whole *Melee* vs. *Brawl* debate got old to me pretty fast when it seemed like people focused on issues that I simply didn't care much about. Sometimes the joy of gaming is more emotional than technical (although one rather vocal reader apparently didn't agree, as he swore off *Brawl in the Family* forever when I posted this one).

277 - Health Hazard



Yet, where is Snake's butt? Why, In his mouth, of course! ... I'll show myself out.

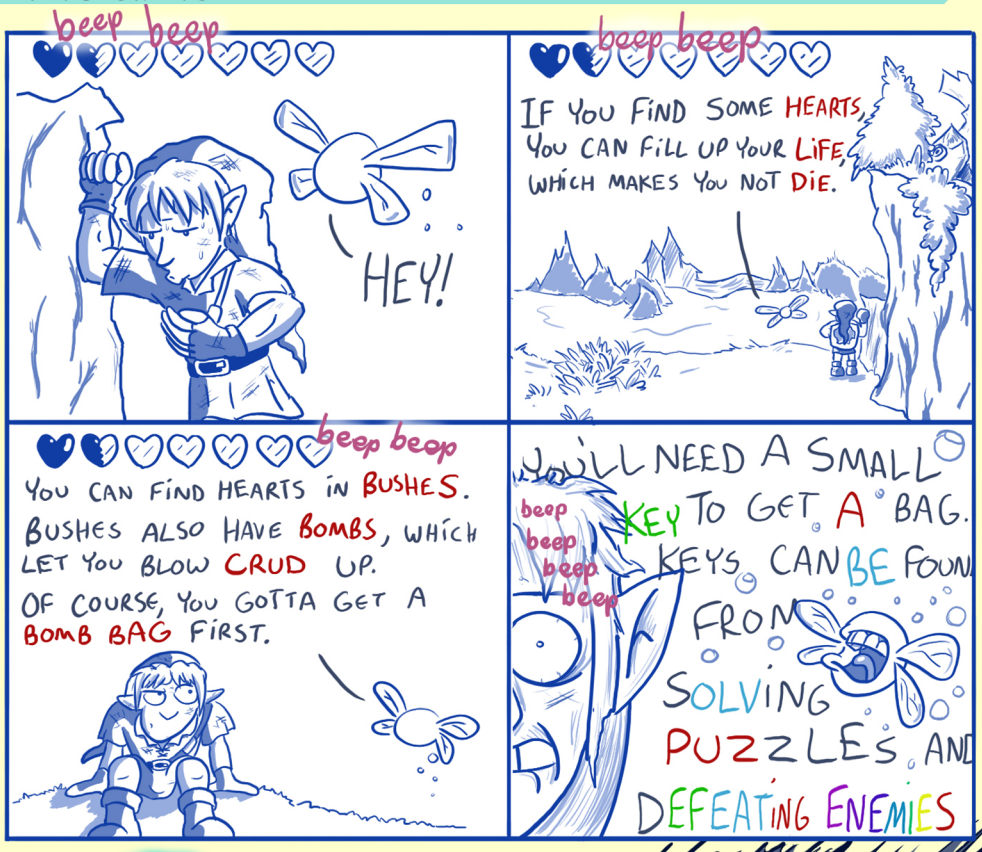
Alternate ending for this comic:

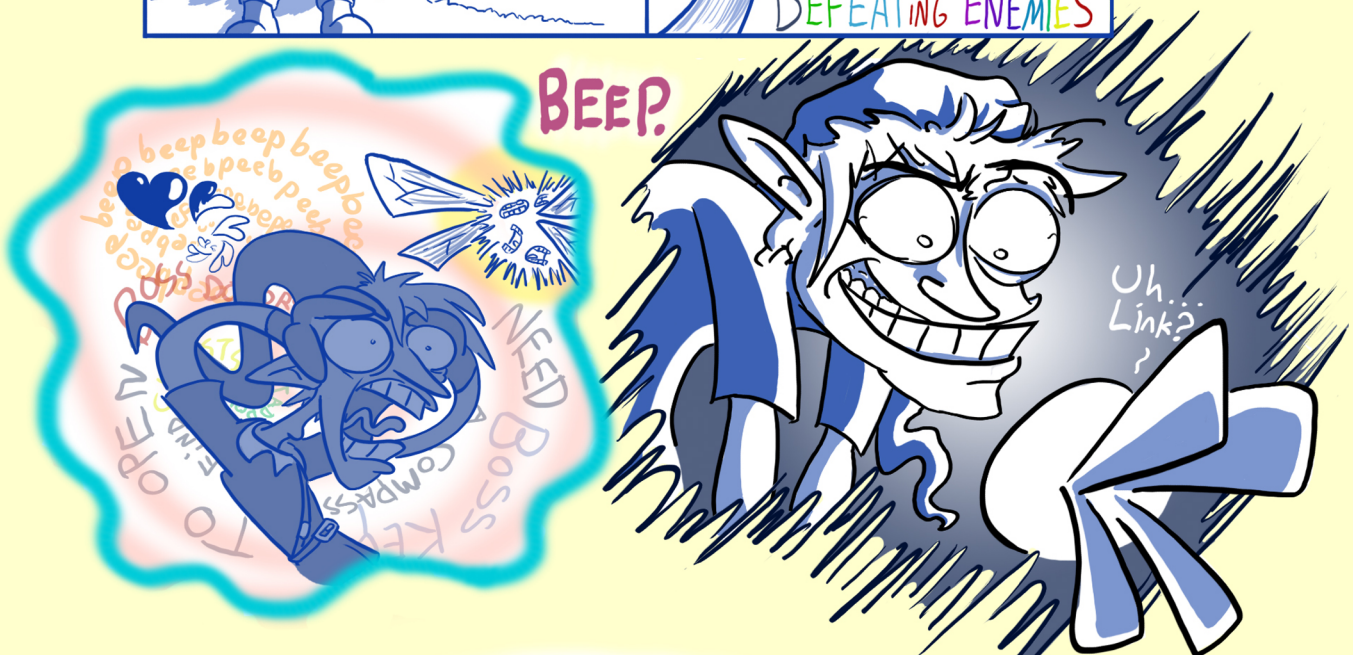


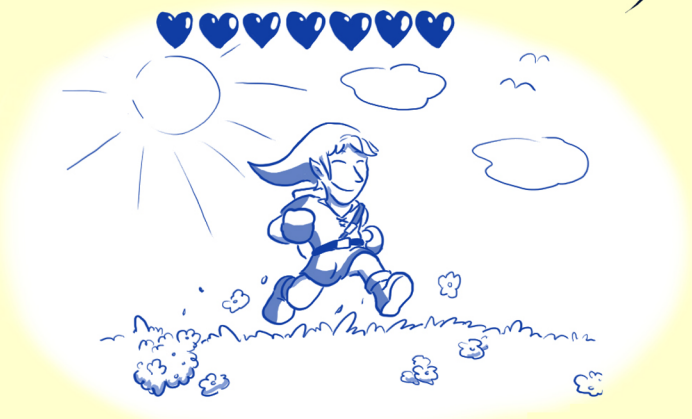


Alternate title: "The Giving Tree"

279 - Two Birds



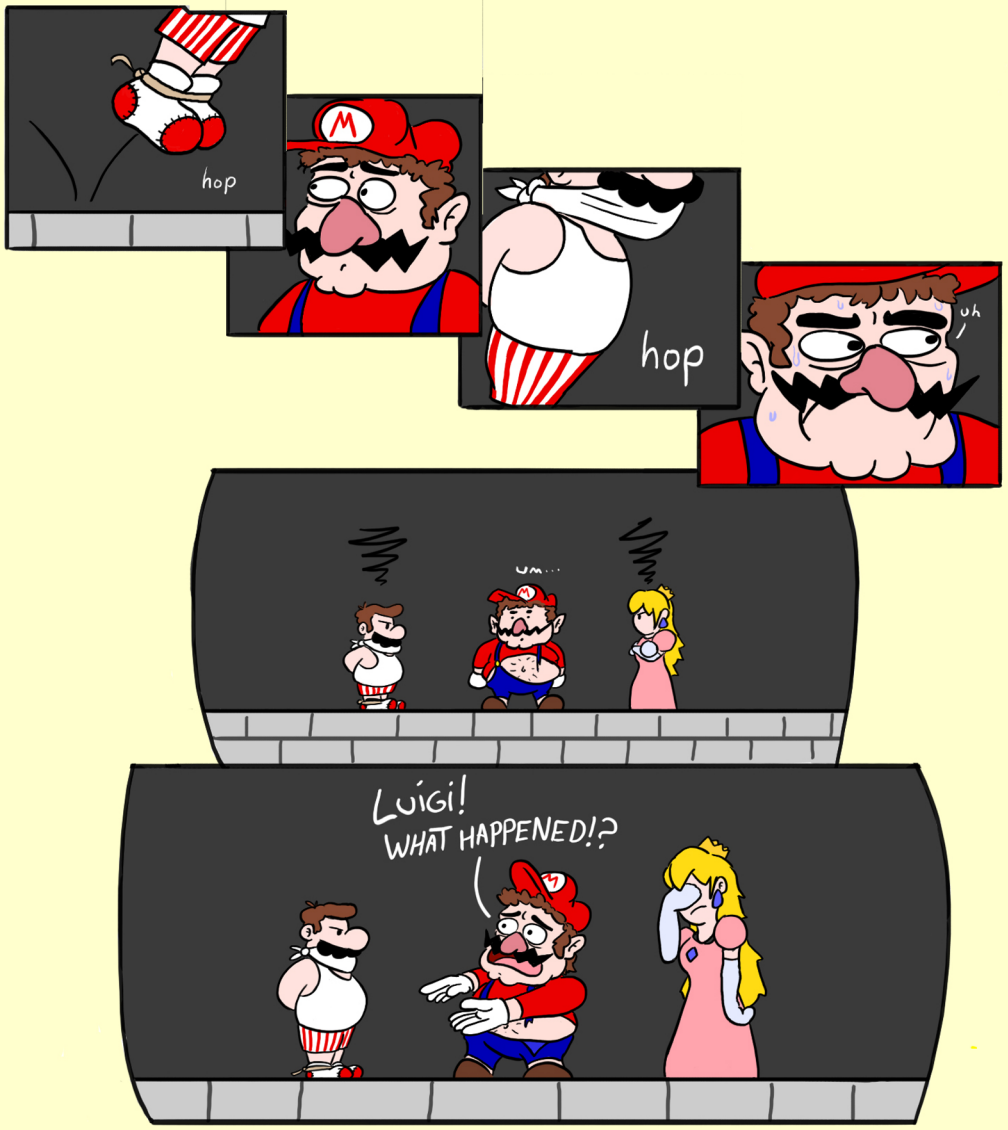




At least he didn't shove her into a bottle.

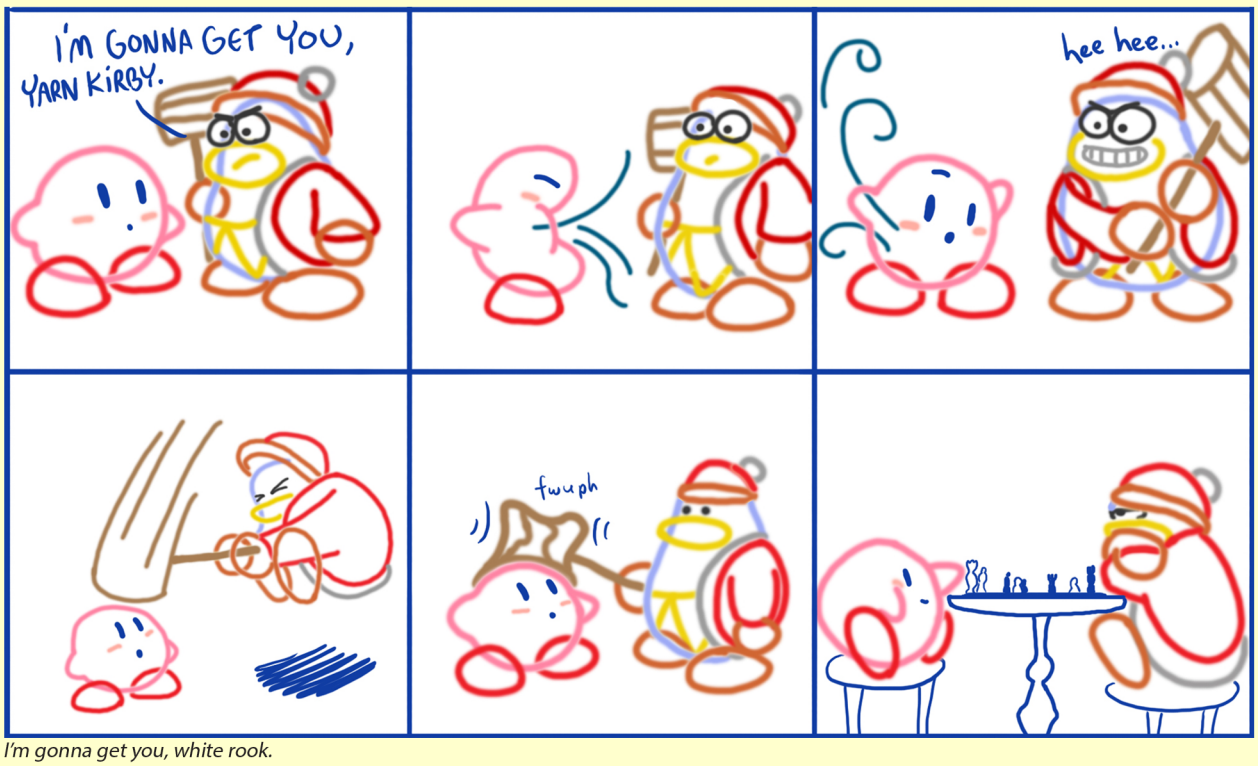
280 - Dubious Rescue





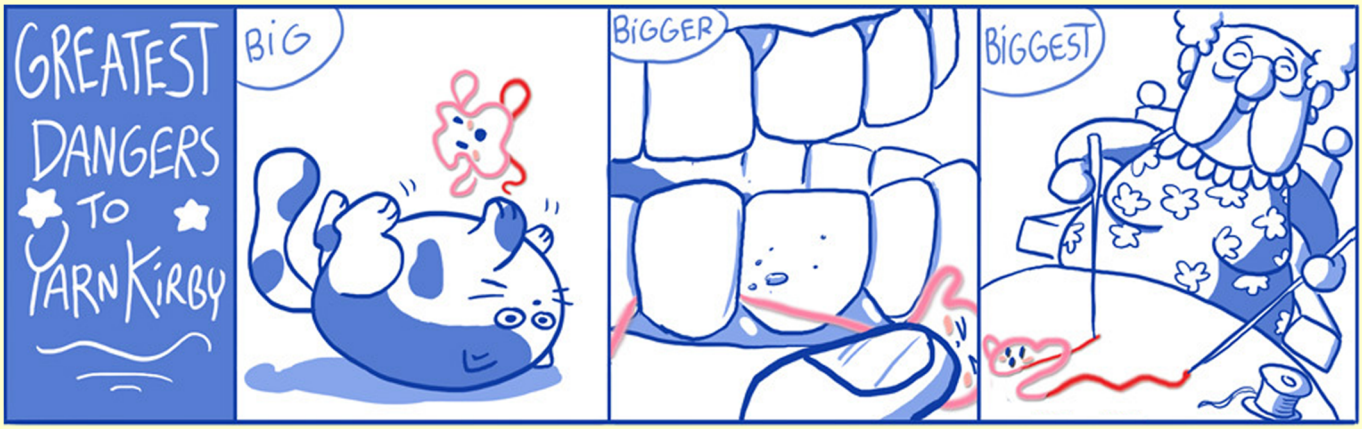
"Um... Bowser? Can you just go ahead and kidnap me again, please?"

281 - Yarn Showdown



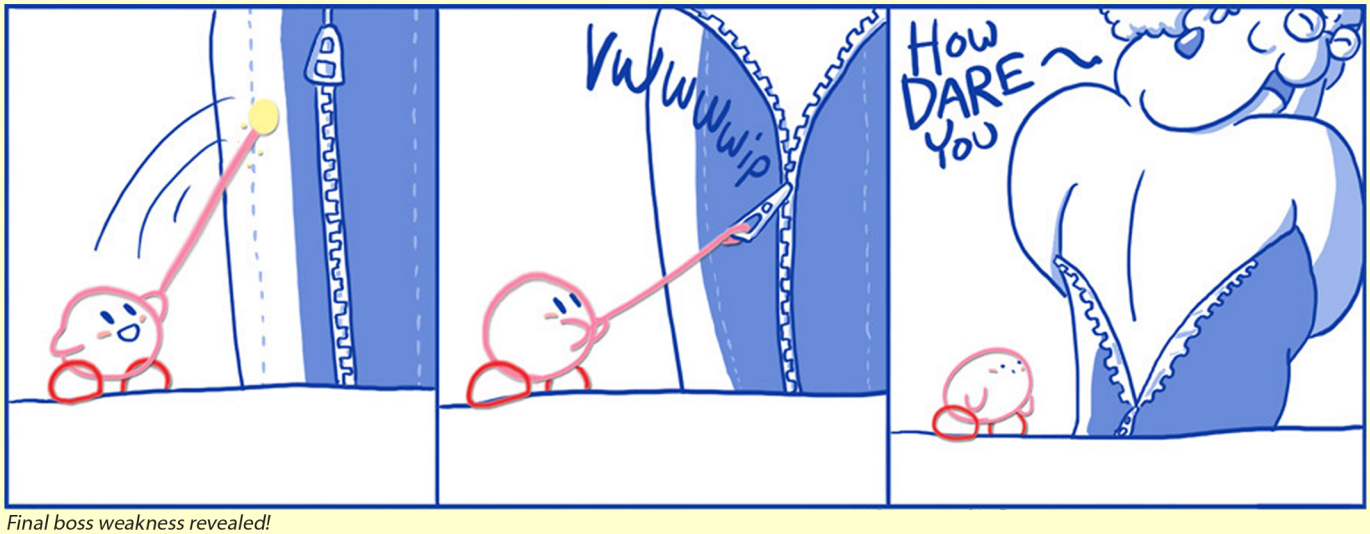
I'm gonna get you, white rook.

282 - Yarn Dangers



Grandma's second boss form is a massive sewing machine.

283 - Yarn Secrets



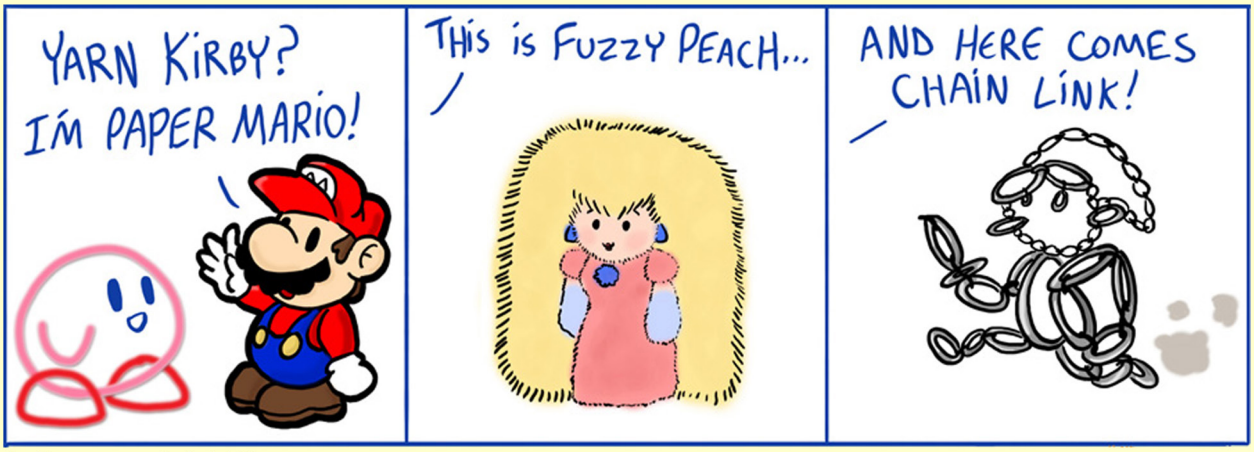
Final boss weakness revealed!

284 - Yarn Visitor



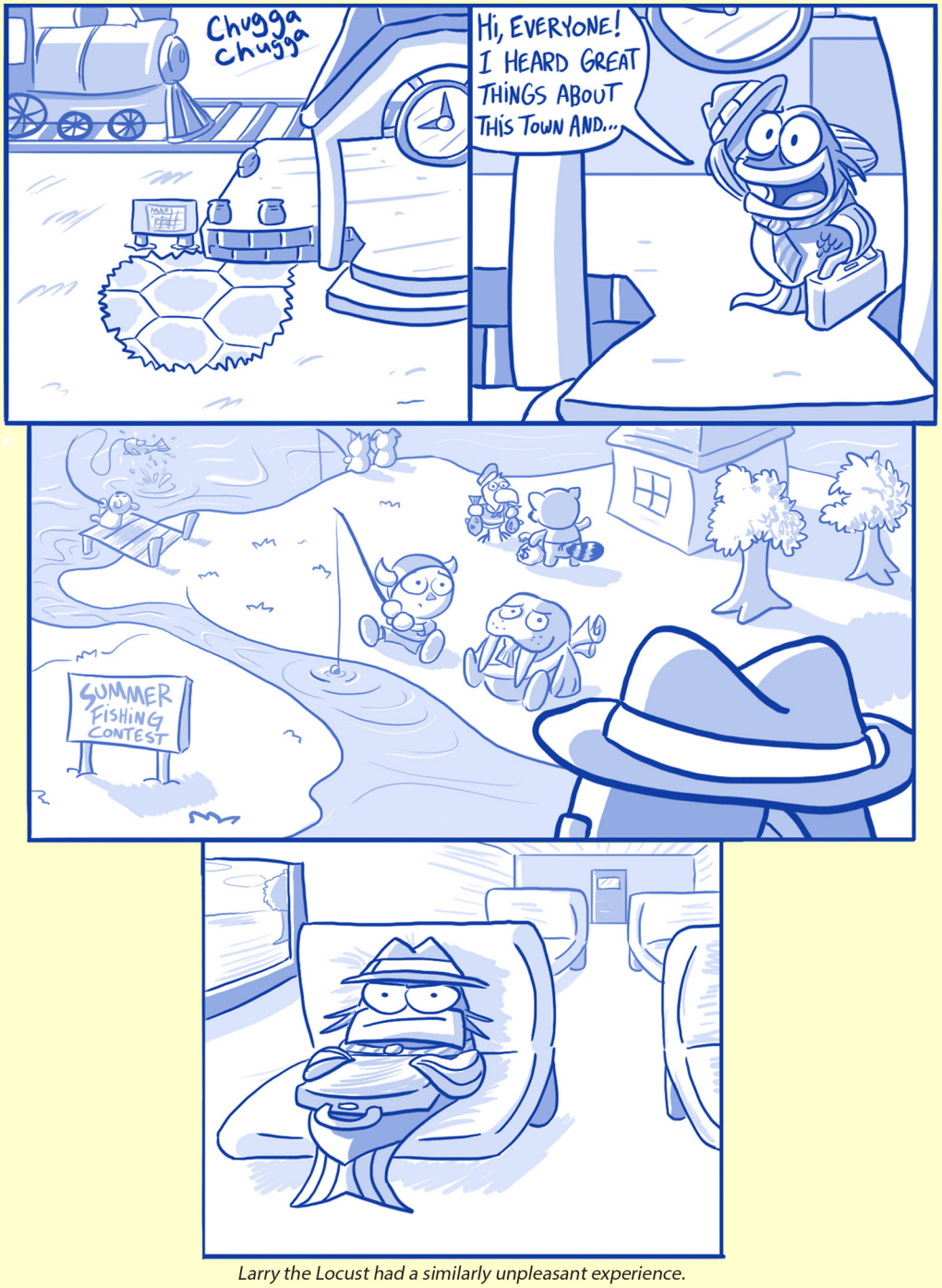
Yarn Dededoo later took a spin in the washing machine himself. In Patch Land, this is the easiest way to bathe.

285 - Yarn Meetings



And have you met a knight?

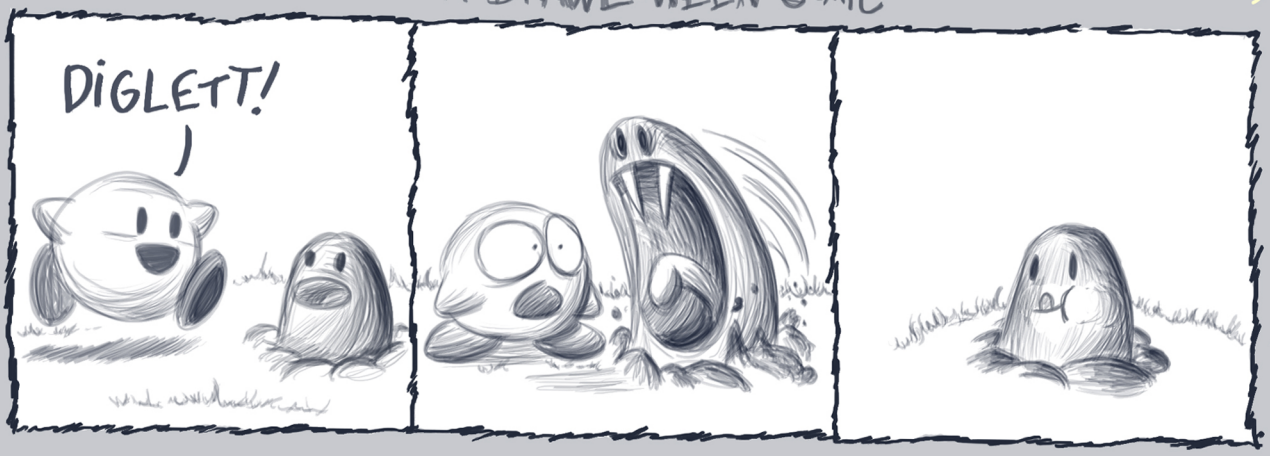
286 - The Fish Next Door

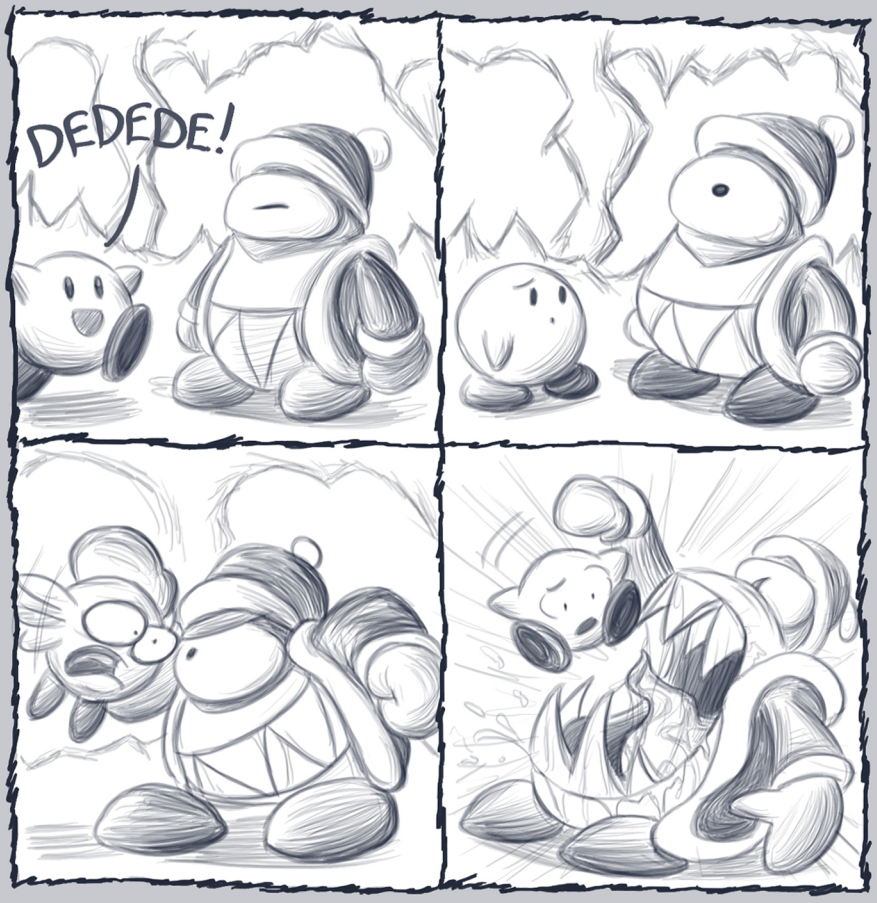


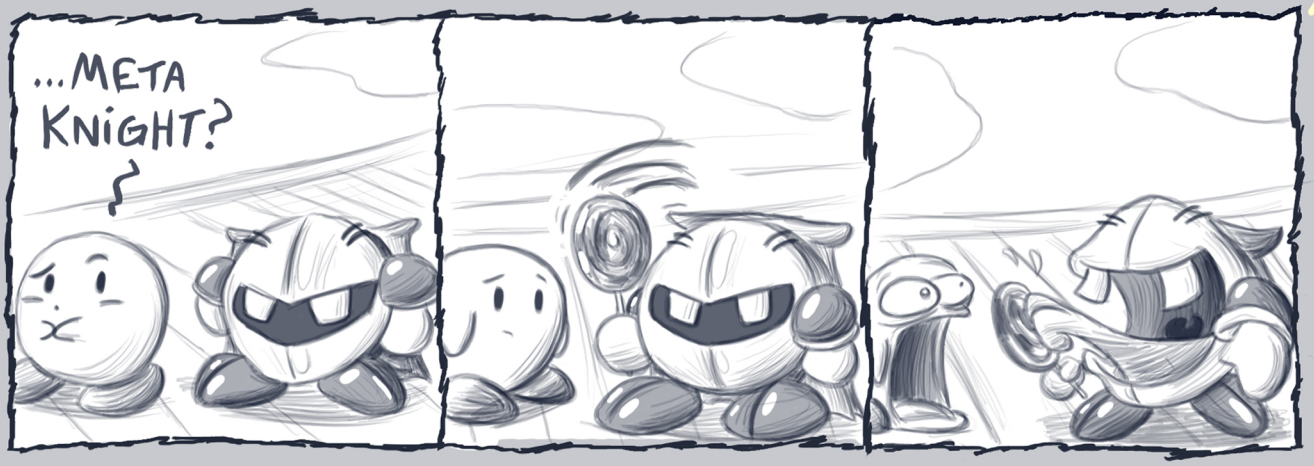
Larry the Locust had a similarly unpleasant experience.

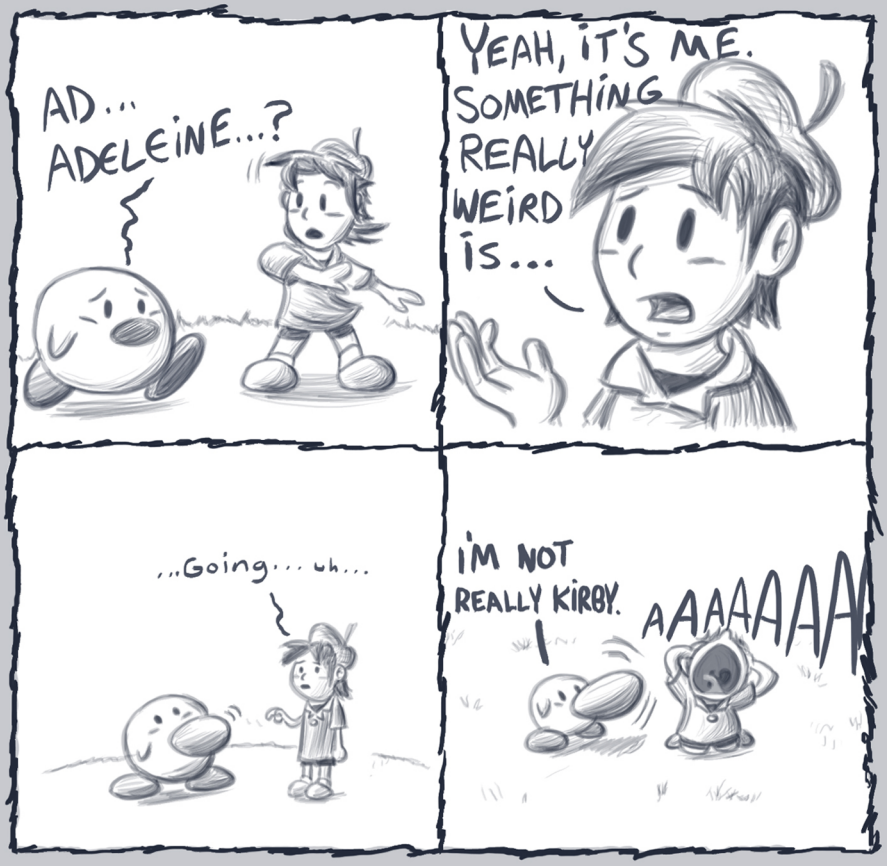
Doppelgangers

A Brawloween Comic

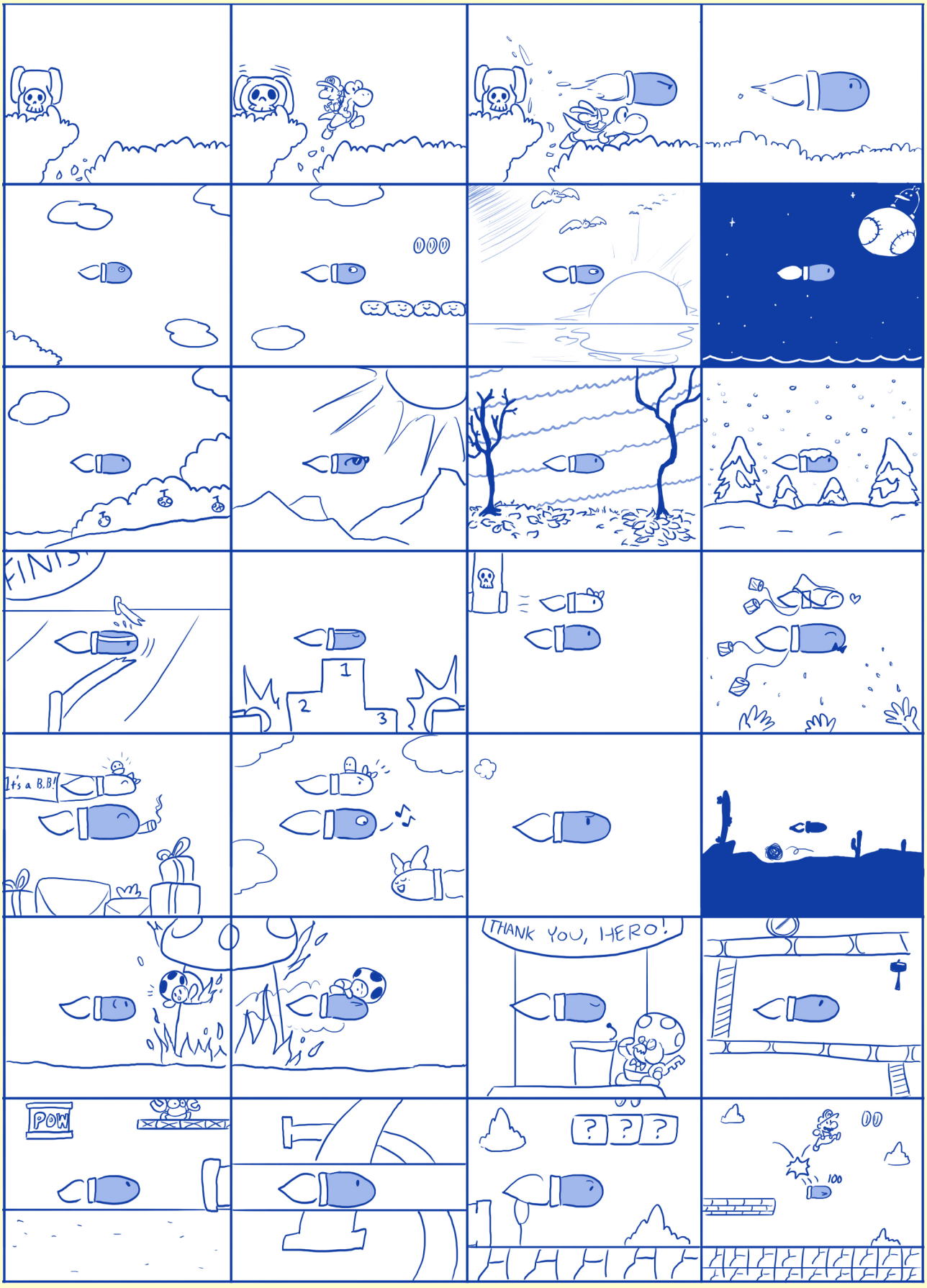








That thing at the end should totally hook up with Not-Jigglypuff.


FINISH
1
2
3
It's a B.B!
THANK YOU, HERO!
POW
?
?
?
100

289 - Decoy



Sometimes people wonder why I use a blue monochrome for most of my comics - -the fact is, I'm actually a Happy-Happyist.





He's lucky it wasn't on Rainbow Road.

291 - The Trespasser


SIR, A CERTAIN HUNGRY, SUCKING BLOB IS AT THE DOOR...
THAT DARN KIRBY'S TRESPASSING ON MY TURF! HE'S GONNA GET IT NOW!
COME iiii



So how old must Mario be at this point...?

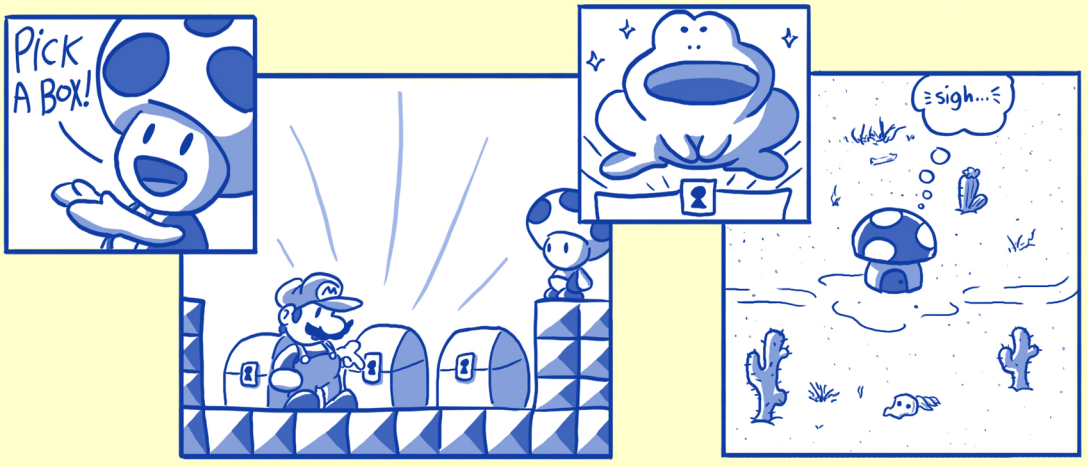


BRAWL IN THE FAMILY Somewhat PROUDLY PRESENTS FROG SUIT

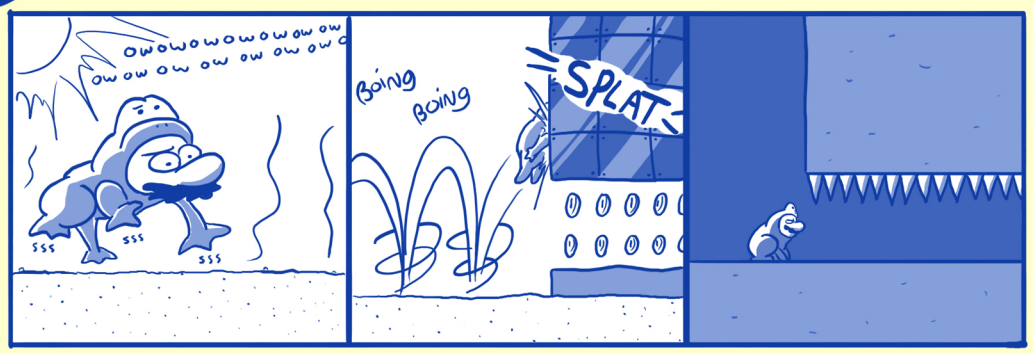
(a cautionary tale of a kind of lame power-up)

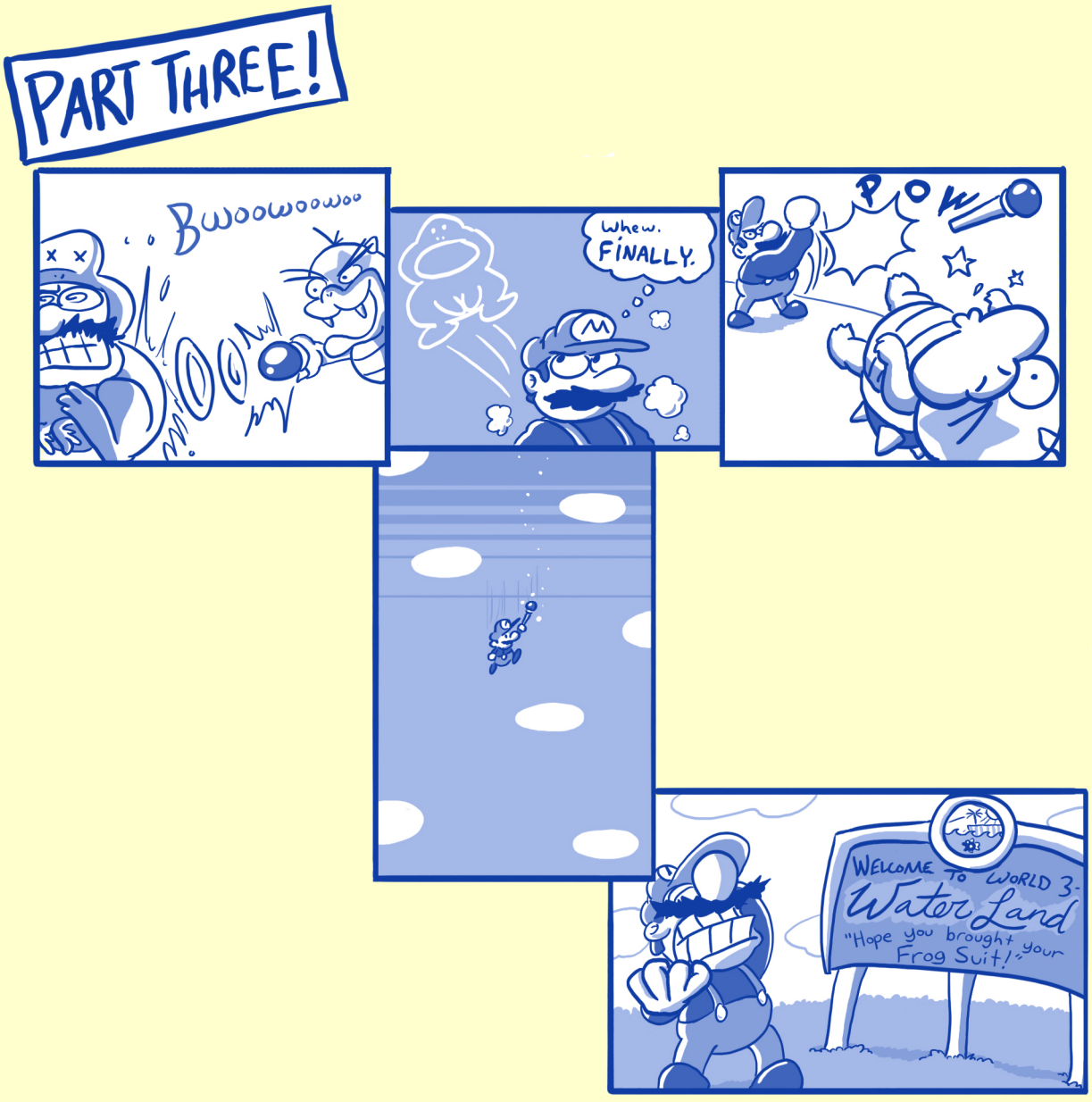
...IN THREE ACTS!

PART ONE!



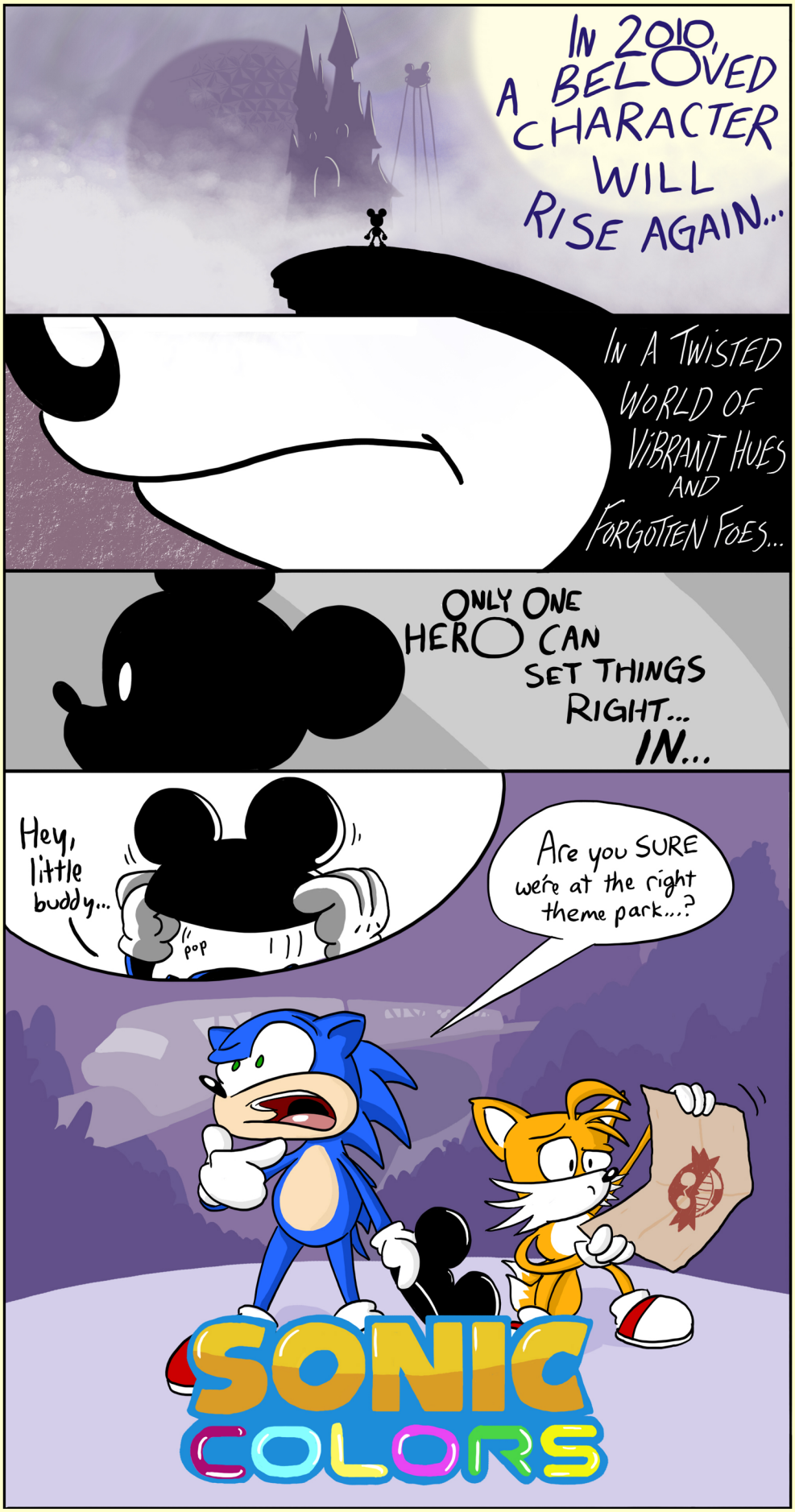
PART TWO!


owowowow

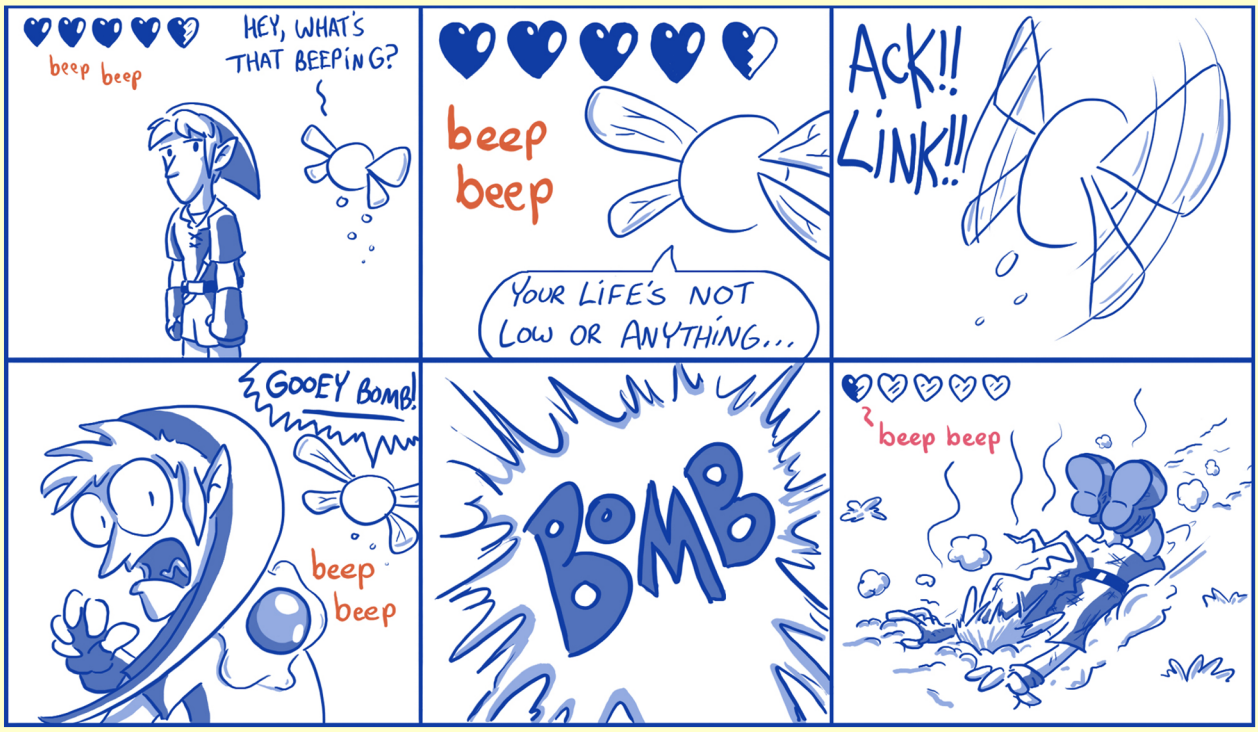


This comic was originally going to be put up a long time ago, but was replaced with what's now Comic 124.





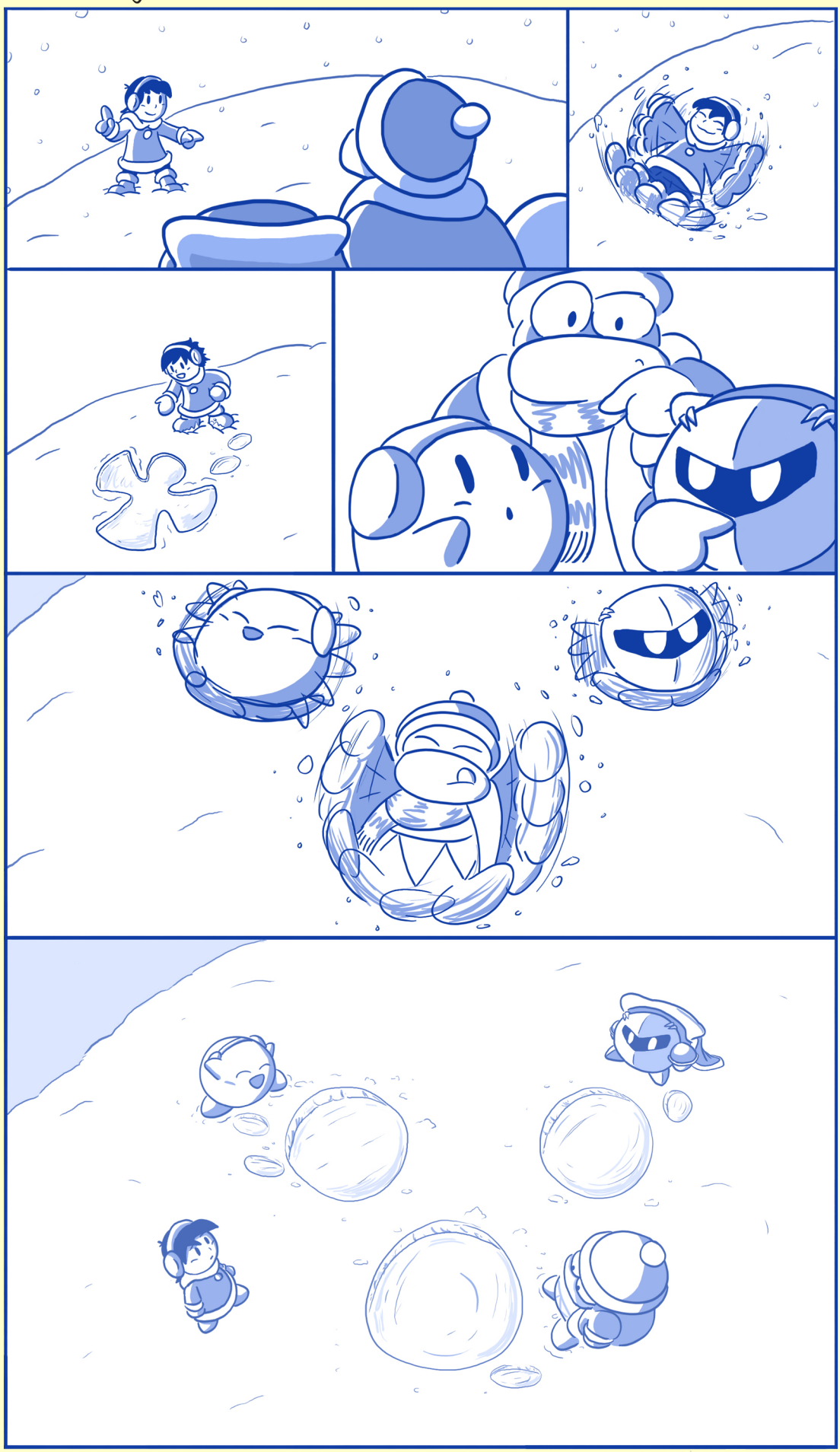
Well, while we're here, let's grab some twelve-dollar chili dogs!



Link, you should know better than to accept back pats from Meta Knight.



297 - Snow Angels



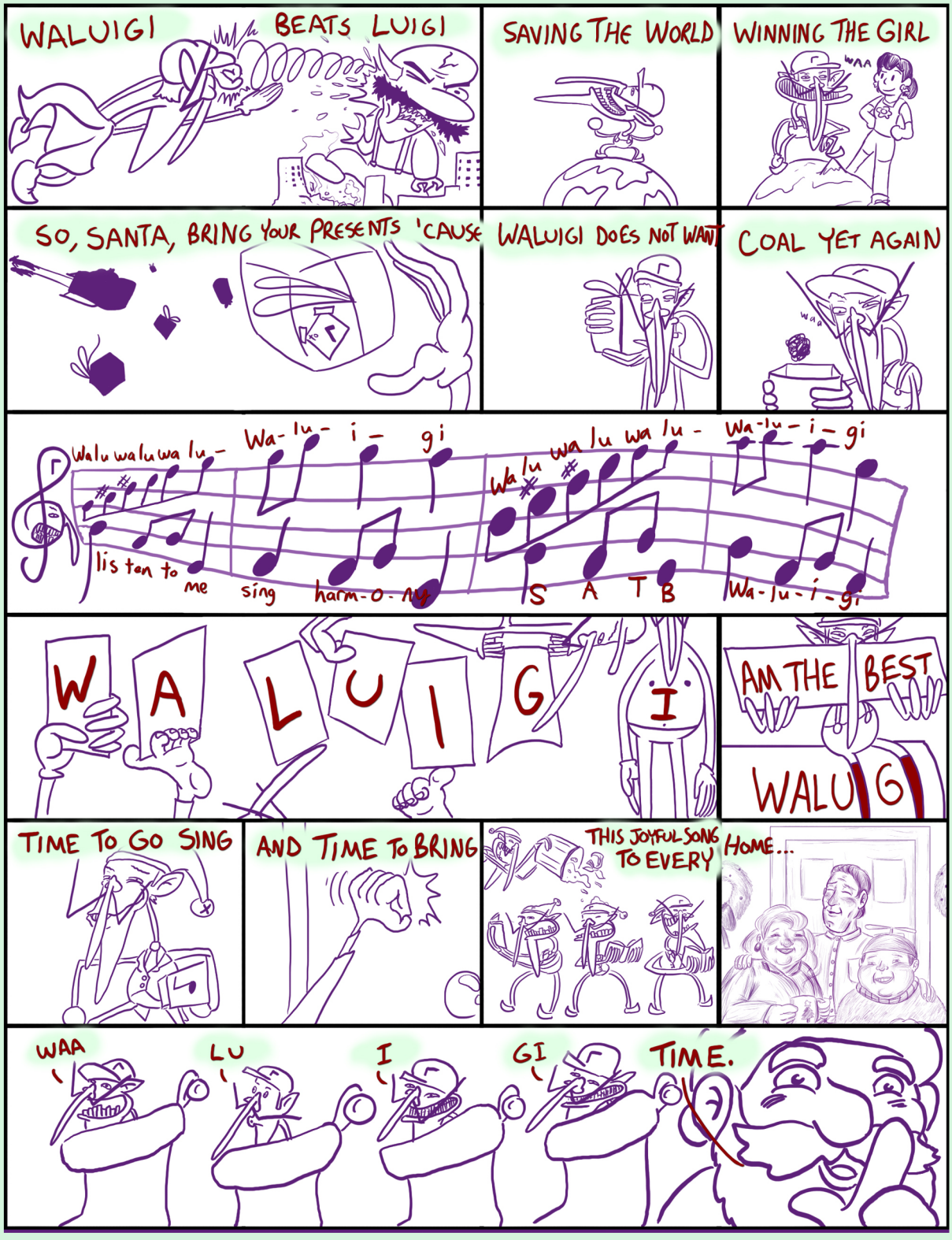
Pit's the only one of the Brawlers who can do a decent job with this.


THIS is A MUSICAL COMIC!
Make sure the sound is playing, then follow along!
Brawl in the Family features
KING DEDEDE
IN
JOLLY, HAPPY JERK
♪ KING DEDEDE,
HE WAS A
JOLLY, HAPPY
JERK.
snowman festival
WITH A HEFTY STRUT,
A PROTRUDING GUT,
AND A CROOKED, JERKY
SMIRK... ♪
♪ KING DEDEDE,
HE HAD A
RIVAL NAMED
KIRBY.
KIRBY'S HEART LIFTED
WHEN HE FOUND A GIFT
FOR HIS BUDDY,
DEDEDE! ♪



A trio of songs comprised BitF's Christmas 2010 celebration. They're all parodies of holiday songs (some more recent than others) and you can see them in action by scanning the QR Codes presented in this book. Don't miss out, since the comic without sound is barely half of the experience! Like all songs in the comic, I provide the musical tracks and voices, although there're almost always some friends and family members helping out. For this particular song, my wife Sarah plays a part!


THIS IS A MUSICAL COMIC. FOLLOW ALONG
??
WALUIGI WILL SING - A SONG FOR YOU
CAROL OF THE WAA
HARK, HOW THE WAA
ALL SEEM TO WAA
JOINING IN RHYME
WALUIGI TIME
SONG
CHRISTMAS IS HERE
PRESENTS ARE NEAR
TO ONLY ME:
WALUIGI
WAA
WAA
WAA
WAA
THAT'S MY HURRAH
WHILE STIFLING
THOSE CAROLING
WAA
WALUIGI
AT AROUND 3
EATS CHEERIOS
WITH EARIO



The second of the Christmas trilogy of songs allows the inscrutable Waluigi to get his turn in the spotlight. Make sure to scan the QR Code at the beginning of this comic...if you dare! I especially enjoy the nostalgic, rendered family in the penultimate panel. I used that panel as a preview for this song and no one had any idea what to expect. Happy listening!



A Simple Request

300 - A Simple Request



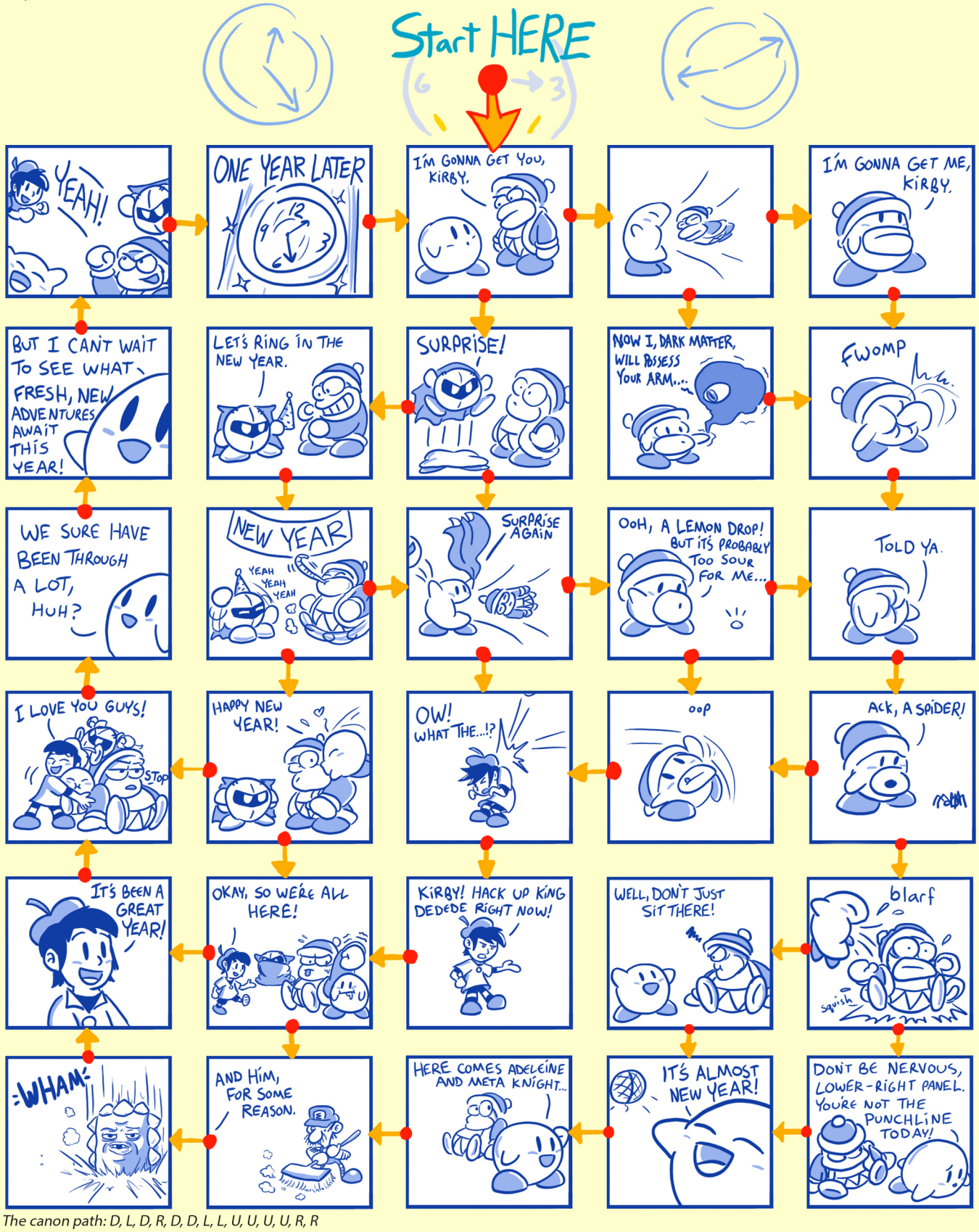

WE COULD WORK TOGETHER, LOVER!
I'LL TAKE CHARGE WHILE YOU LOOK GOOD.
FOLKS WILL BE SHOCKED TO DISCOVER
KOKIRI FOREST
ASHES WHERE THEIR HOMES ONCE STOOD!
AHH!
I JUST WANT THOSE WHO RESIST TO
TREMBLE 'NEATH MY IRON FIST!
FORGET NABOORU...
FFTHP
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU...
ALL THE LIGHTS ARE SHINING SO BRIGHTLY EVERYWHERE...
AND THE SOUND OF CHILDREN SCREAMING FILLS THE AIR!
AND EVERYONE IS SEEING...
...THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FLEEING!
SANTA, WON'T YOU BRING ME THE ONE I NEED TO PROVE I'M A MUCH BETTER VILLAIN THAN THESE FOUR DUDES!
WISHLIST:



The big 300 comic had to compete with last year's "Ode to Minions," so I did my best in really making this song stand out...which meant more talent had to be involved! That's my dad singing as Onox (and providing Deku Link's trumpet), Sarah as Veran, Chris rockin' out on the drums, and me as the other voices.

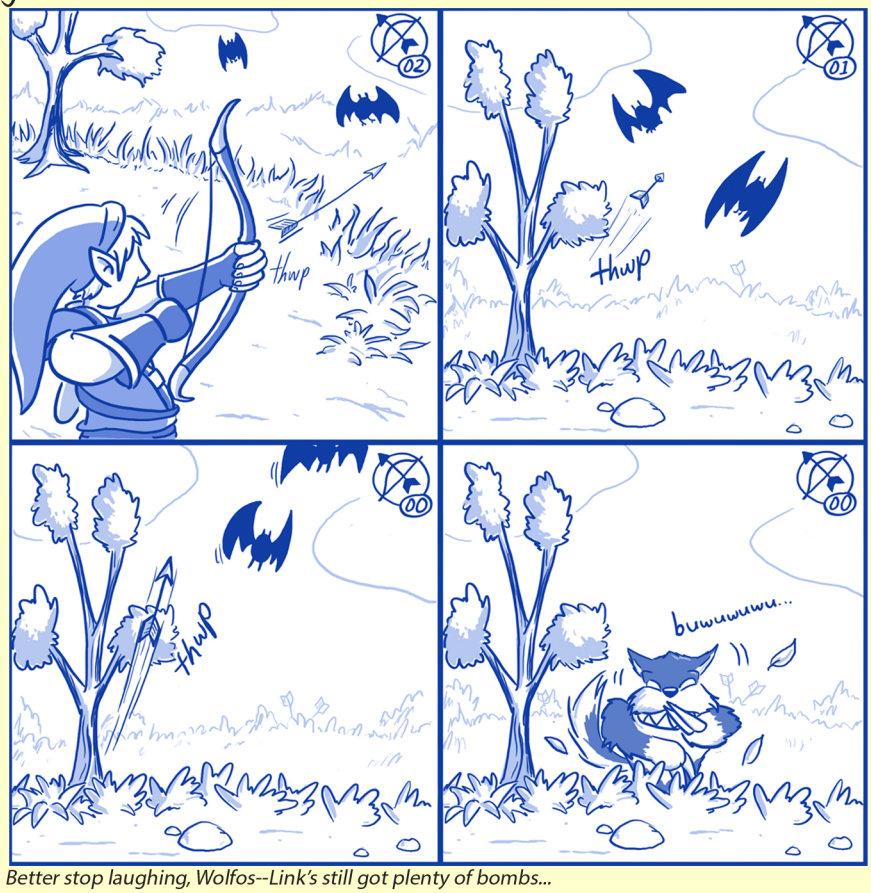
You're halfway through Volume Two's set of comics! To paraphrase my Nintendo consoles, "You've been reading a while, why not take break?" If your fizzy root beer is running low, feel free to top it off. And if you ordered a pizza around the intro, it should probably have arrived by now. If not, give those guys a piece of your mind!

And now, a circuitous, gratuitous, pick-your-path comic!



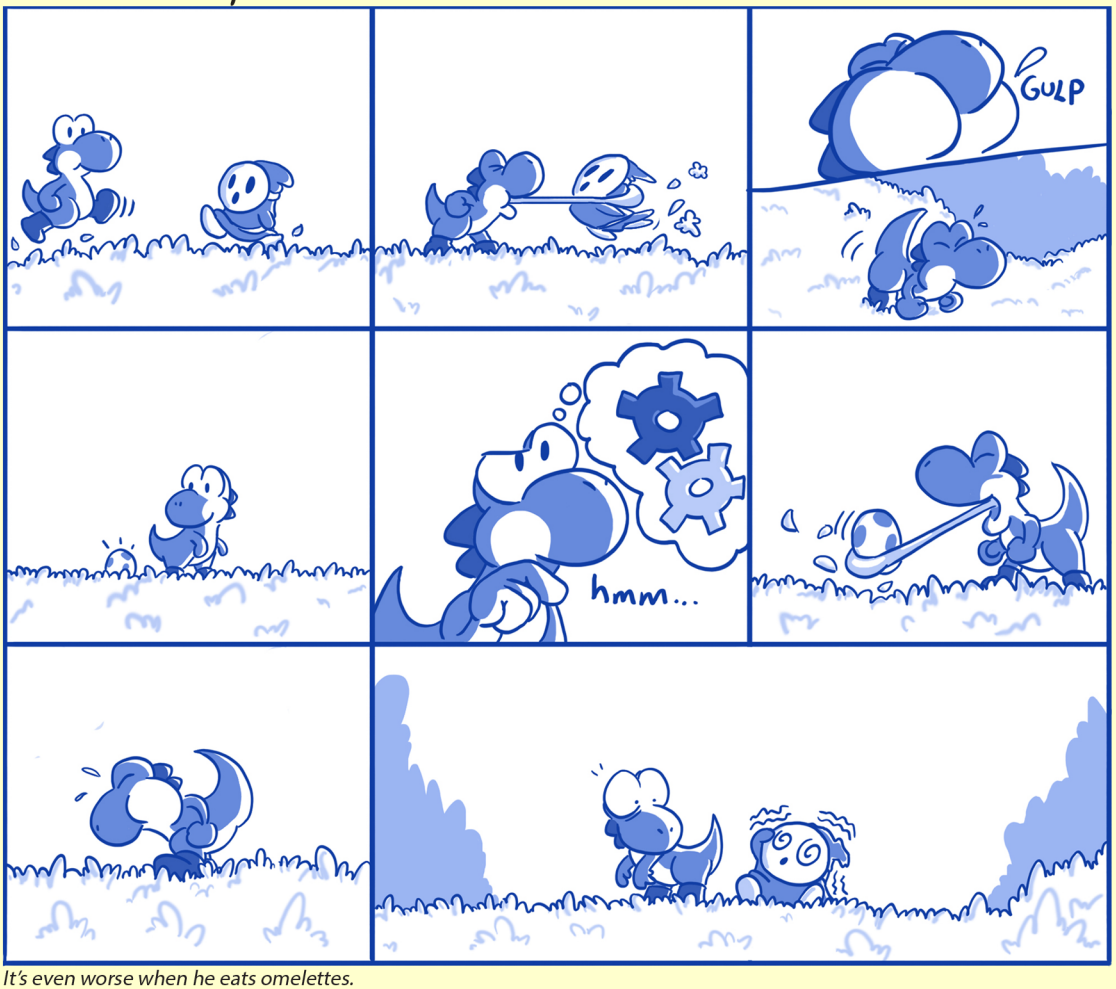
The canon path: D, L, D, R, D, D, L, L, U, U, U, U, R, R

302 - Taking Aim



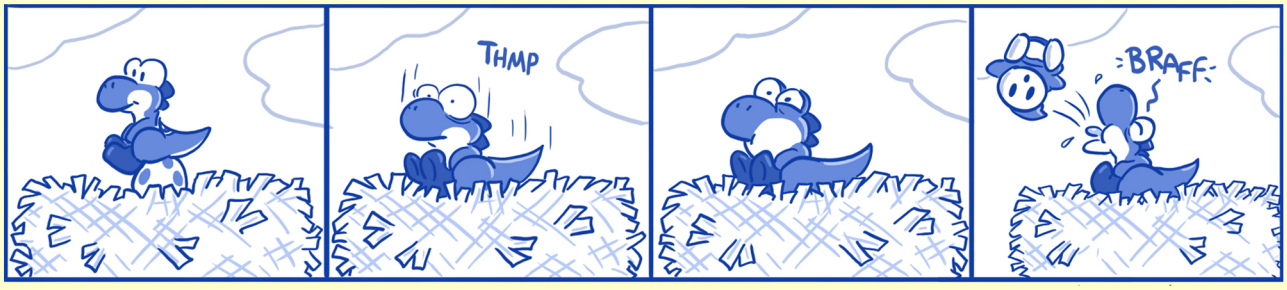
Better stop laughing, Wolfos--Link's still got plenty of bombs...

303 - Yoshi's Experiment

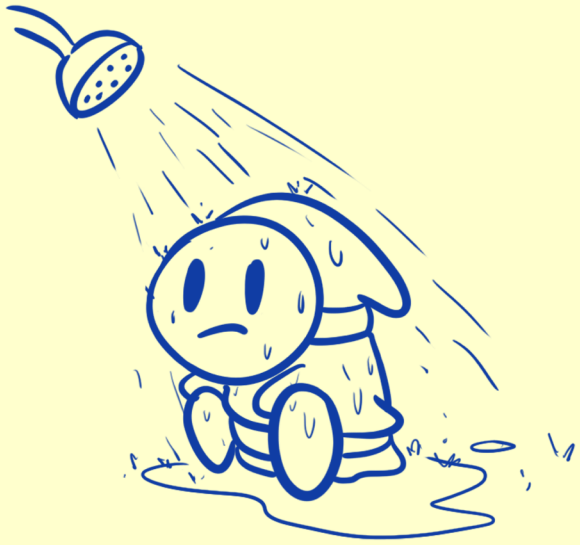


It's even worse when he eats omelettes.

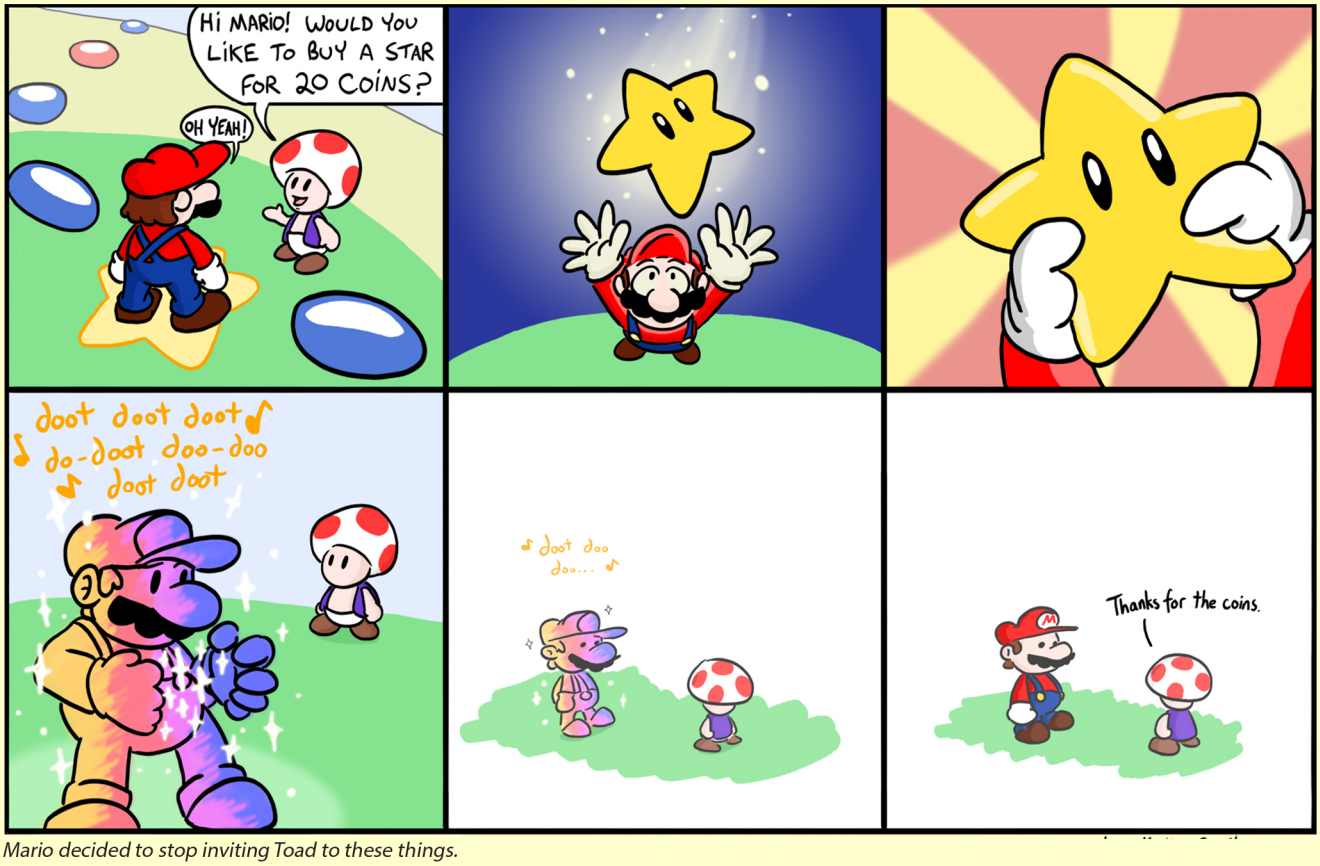
304 - Of Questionable Taste



The Shy Guys soon after decided to evacuate that horrid island once and for all.

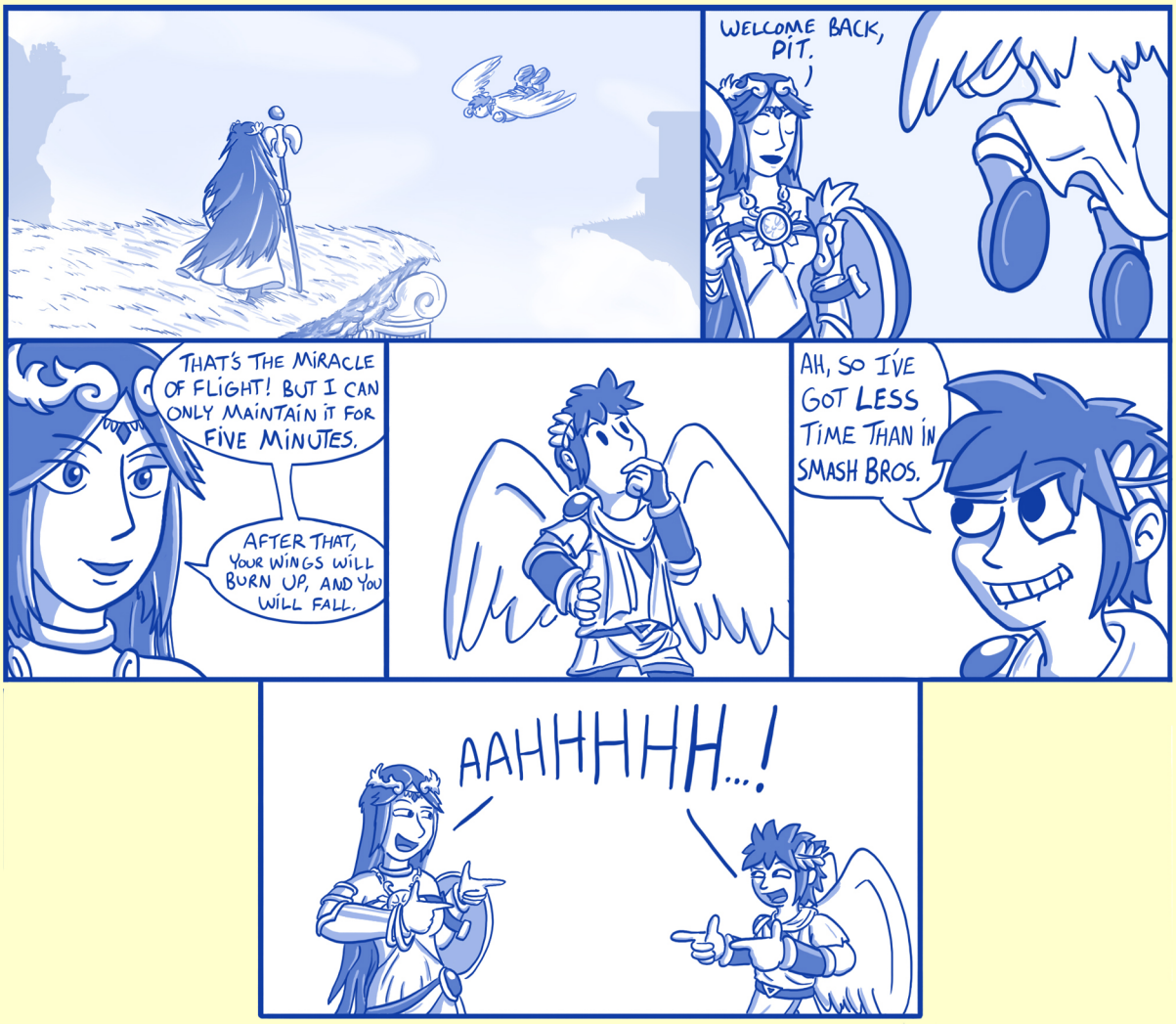


305 - Party Star



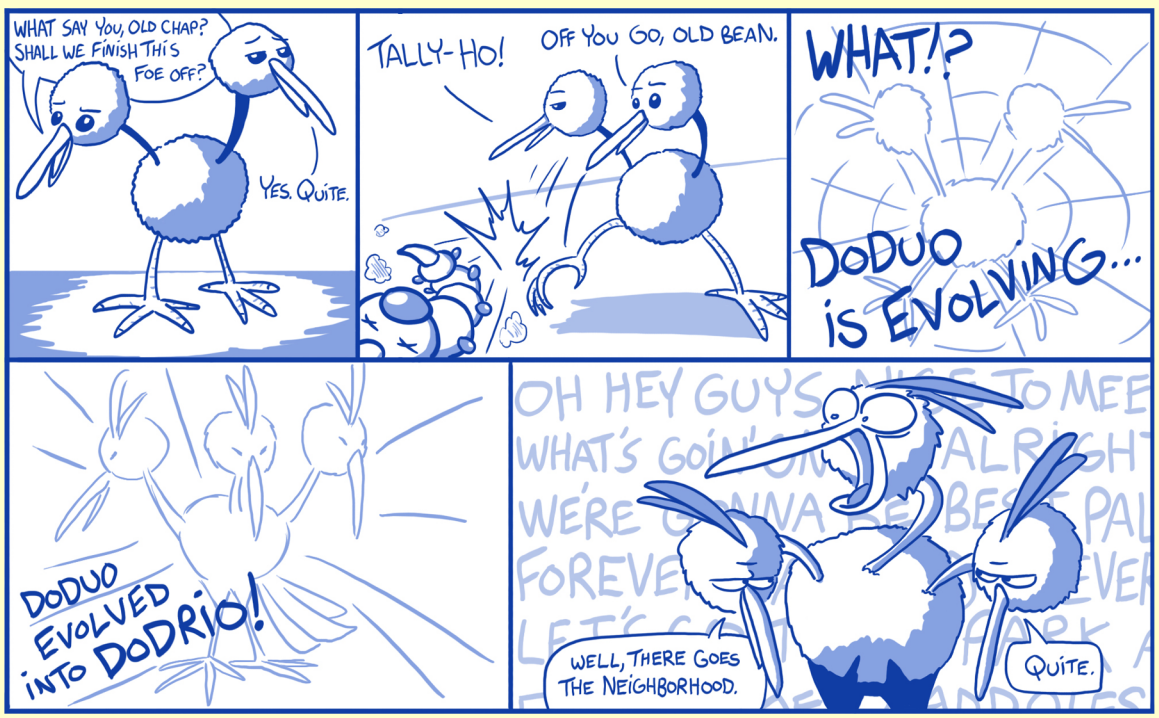
Mario decided to stop inviting Toad to these things.

306 - Taking Flight



"Also, you can only shoot arrows at a rate of five per second.""Ah, so it's now a little SLOWER than..."

307 - Doduo

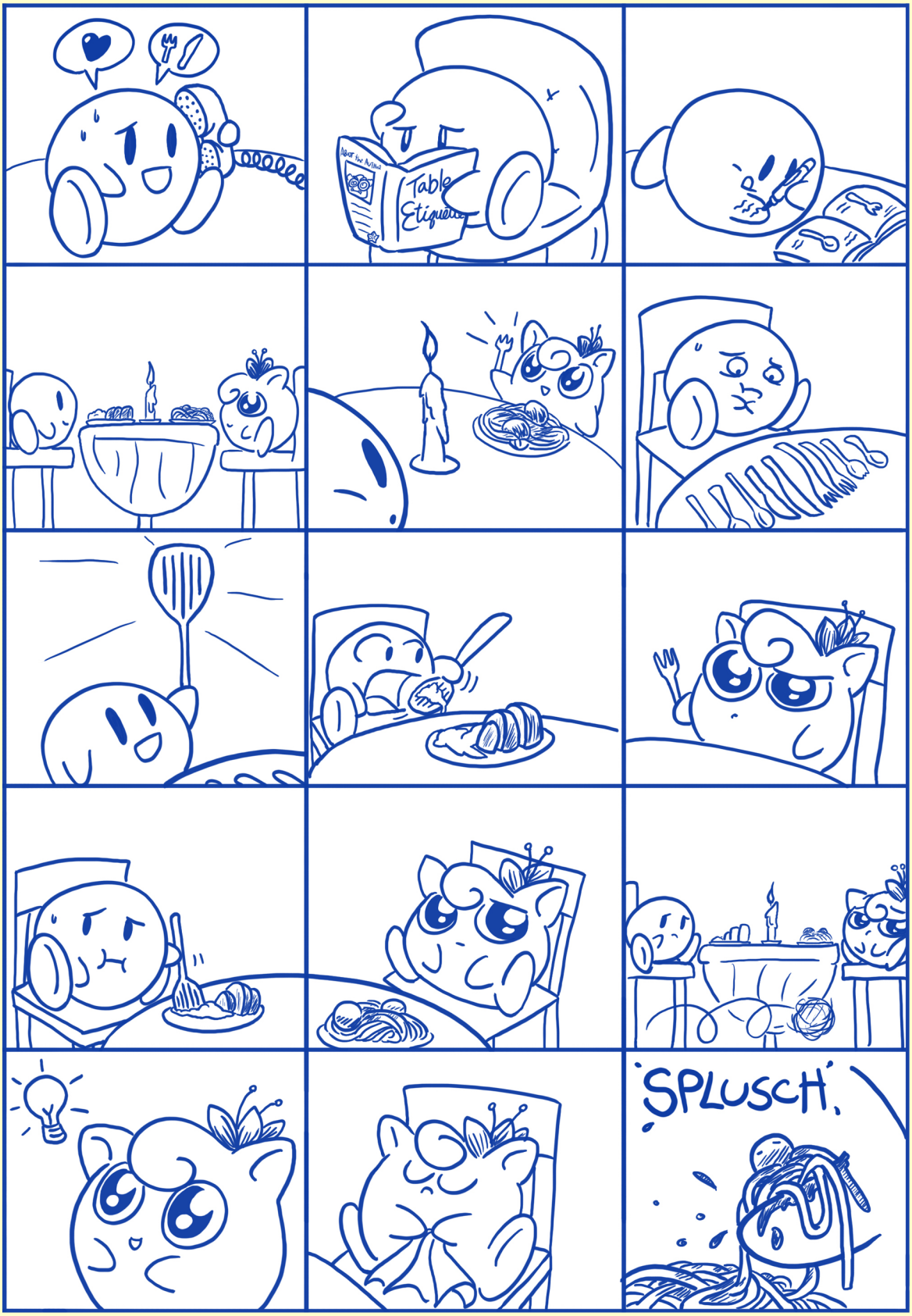


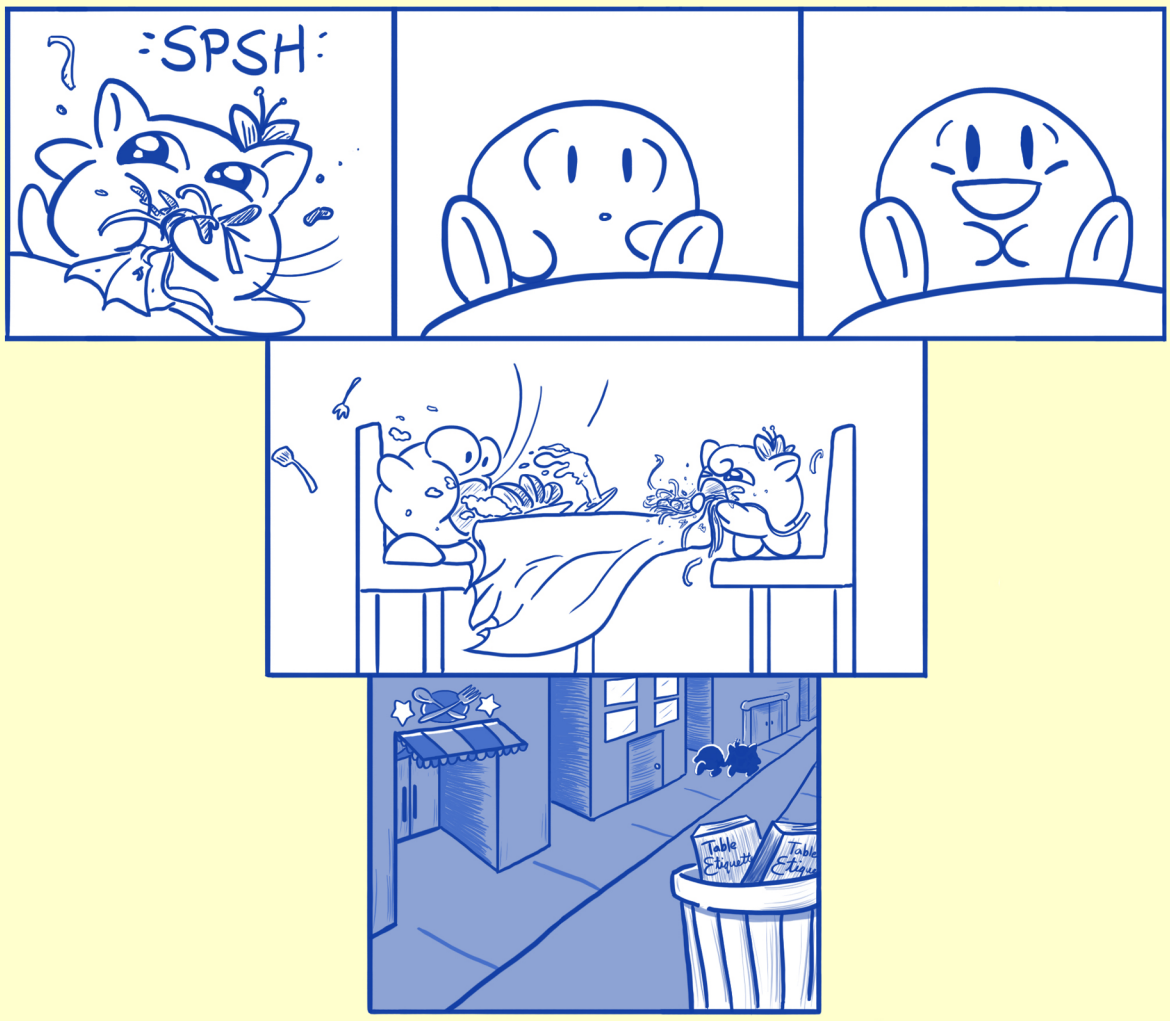
He also snores. Loudly.



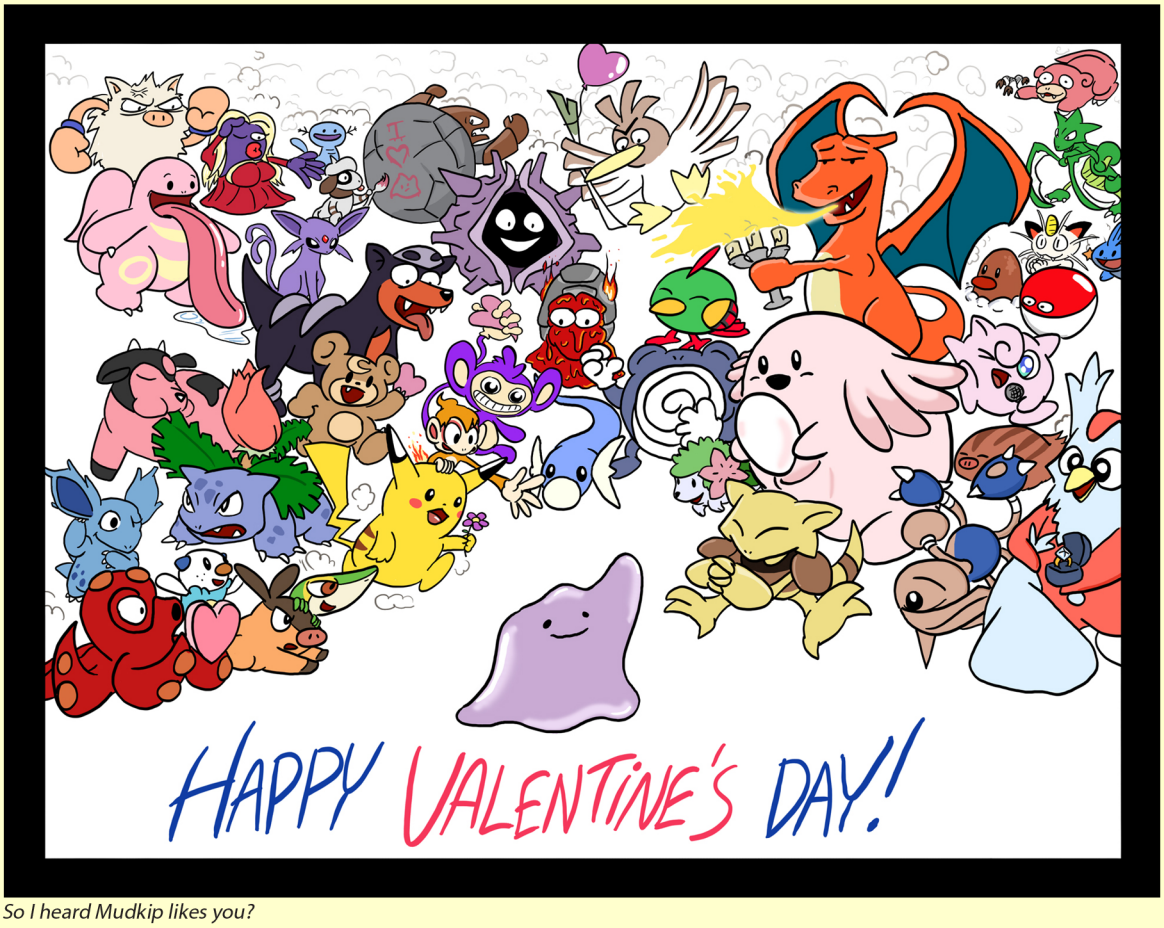
"And have you seen my Doquartet?"

309 - Table Etiquette





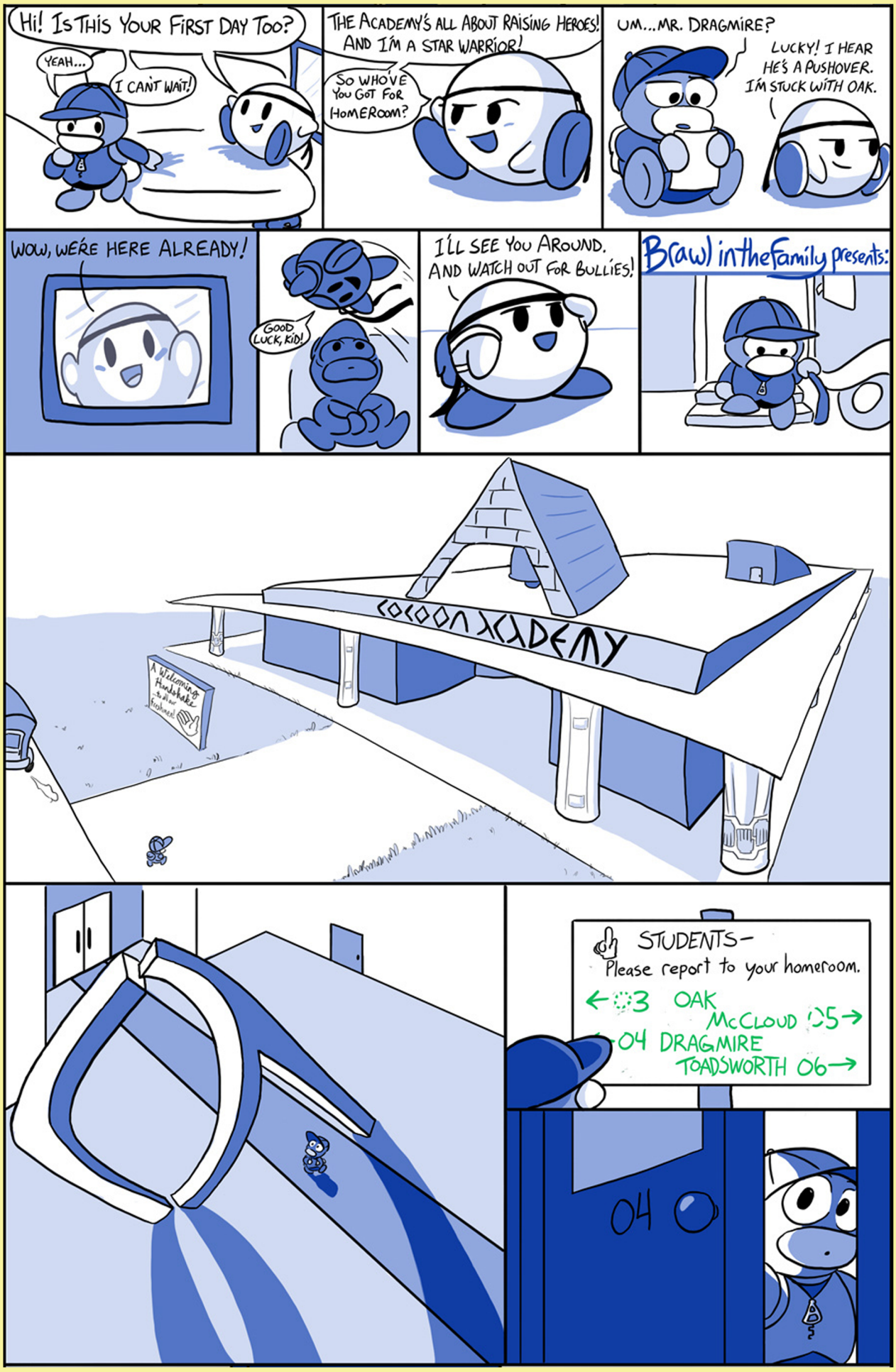
310 - The Casanova

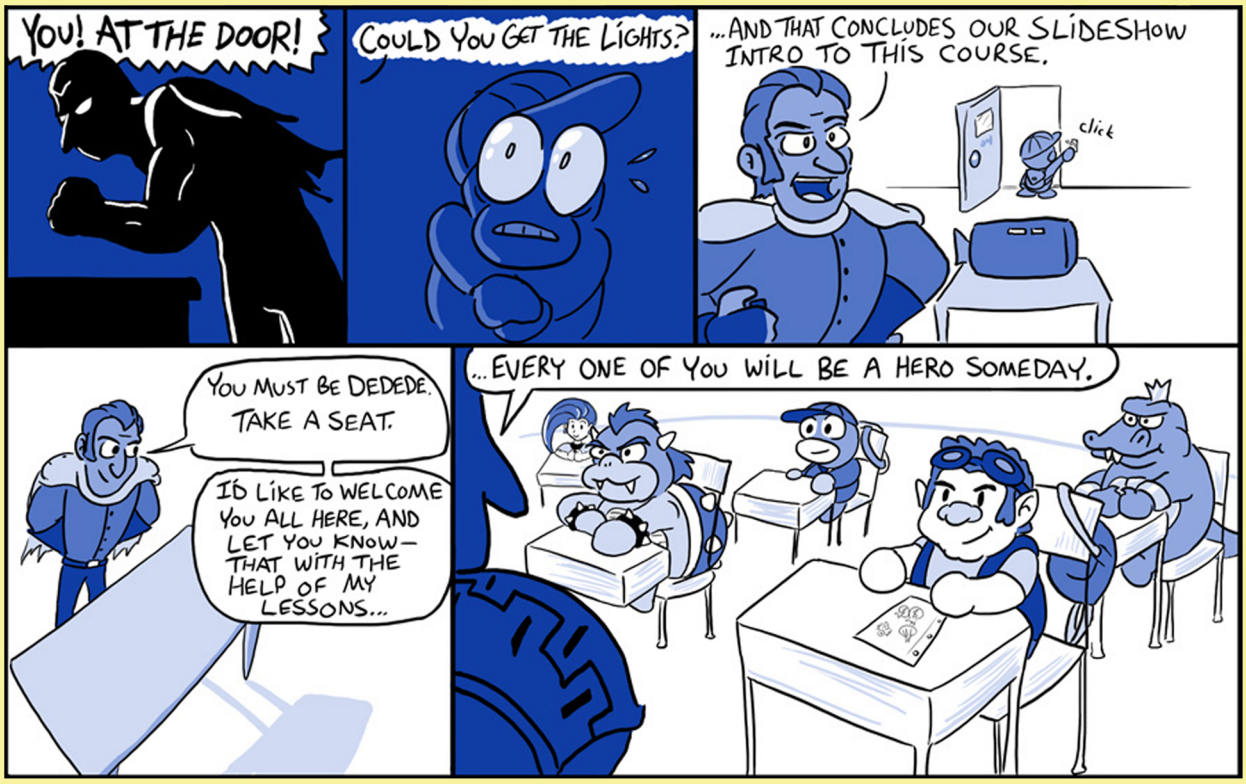


So I heard Mudkip likes you?

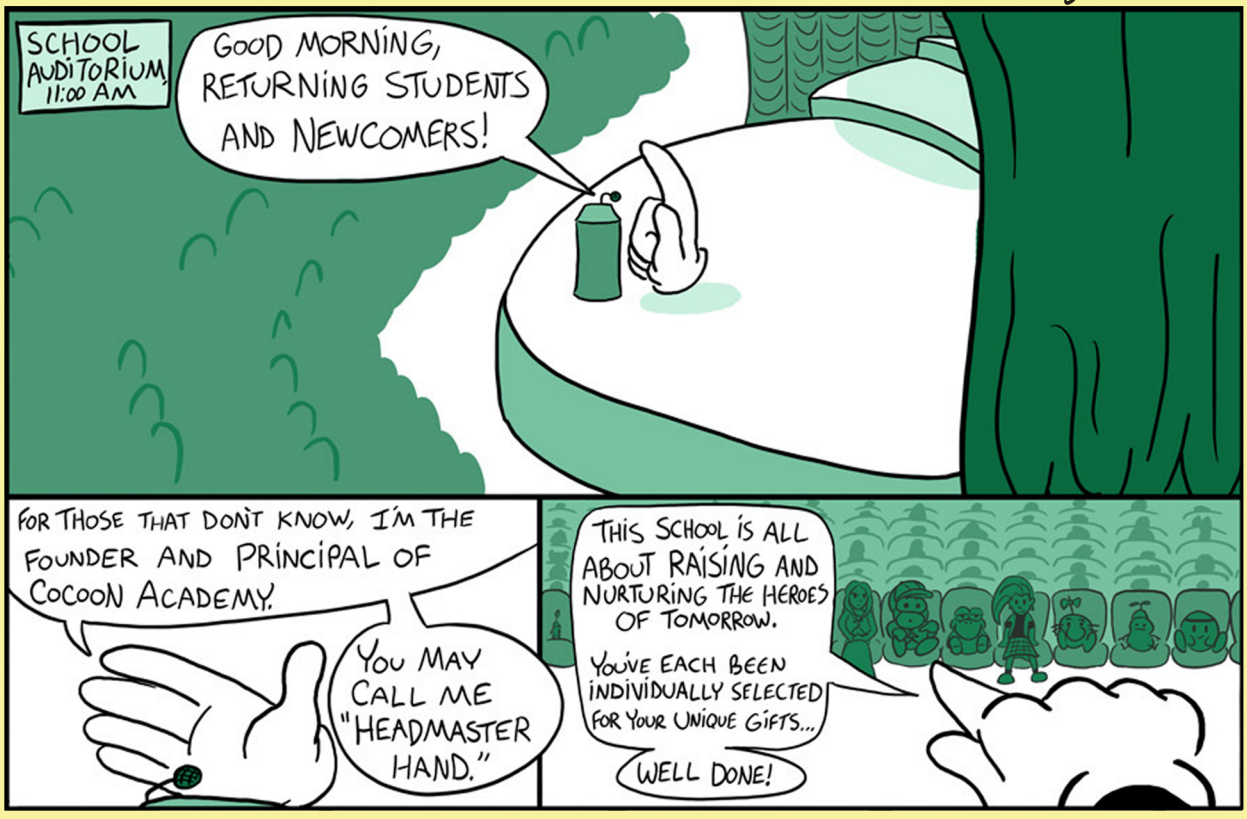

COCOON ACADEMY


PIPE YARD B
BOING?
COCOON ACADEMY STUDENTS, PLEASE WAIT FOR THE BUS HERE.
BUS STOP
ARE YOU, UH... "DEY-DEY-DEY"?
UM, IT'S PRONOUNCED "DEE-DEE-DEE".
HAH! NOT WHERE I'M FROM! HOP IN.
KEEP MOVIN'.
HEY KID, OVER HERE!

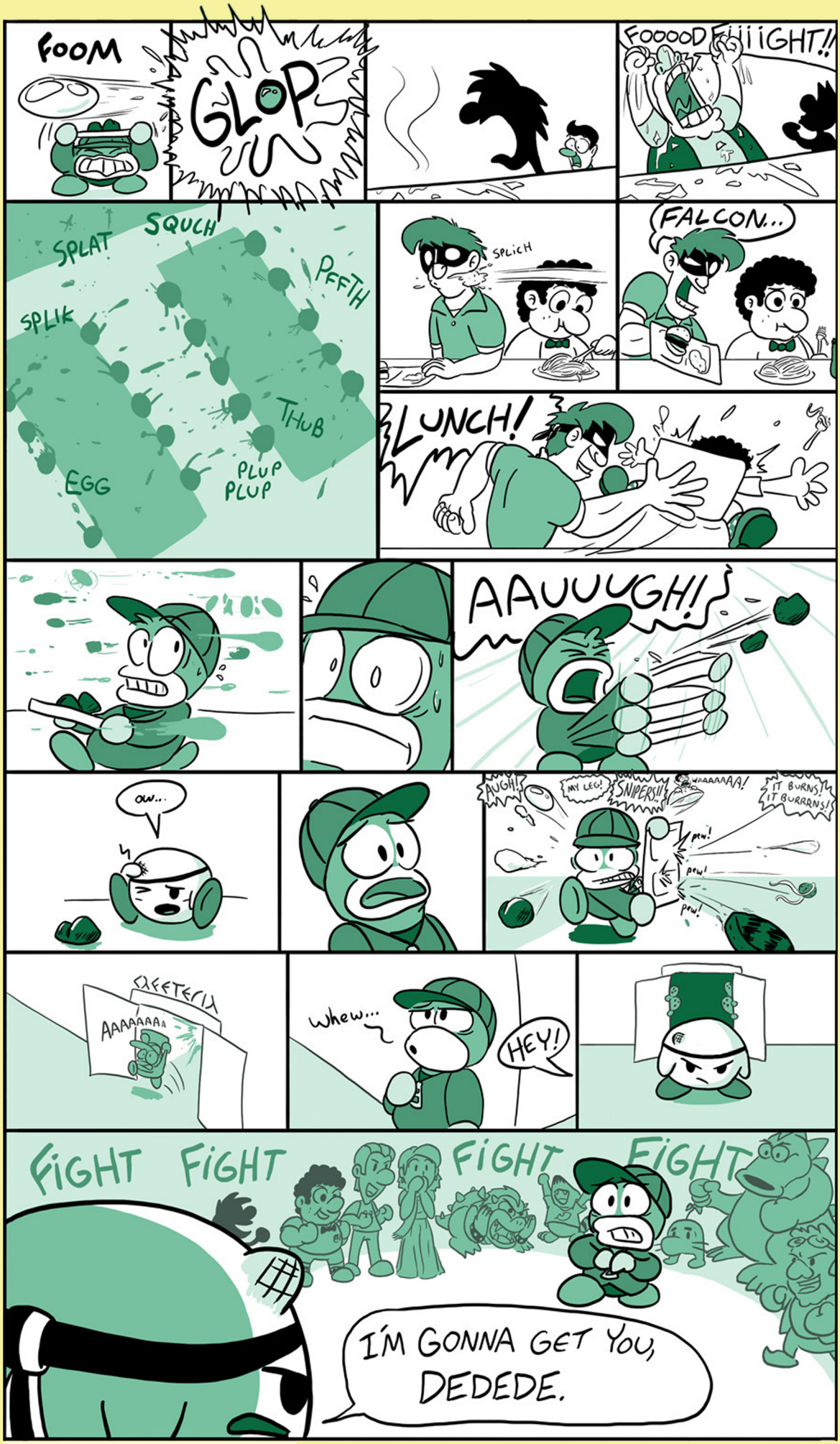

Hi! Is This Your First Day Too?
YEAH...
I CAN'T WAIT!
THE ACADEMY'S ALL ABOUT RAISING HEROES! AND I'M A STAR WARRIOR!
SO WHO'VE YOU GOT FOR HOMEROOM?
UM...MR. DRAGMIRE?
LUCKY! I HEAR HE'S A PUSHOVER. I'M STUCK WITH OAK.
WOW, WE'RE HERE ALREADY!
GOOD LUCK, KID!
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND. AND WATCH OUT FOR BULLIES!
Brawl in the Family presents:
COCOON ACADEMY
A Welcoming Handshake to your freshman!
STUDENTS-
Please report to your homeroom.
←03 OAK
McCLOUD 05→
←04 DRAGMIRE
TOADSWORTH 06→
04

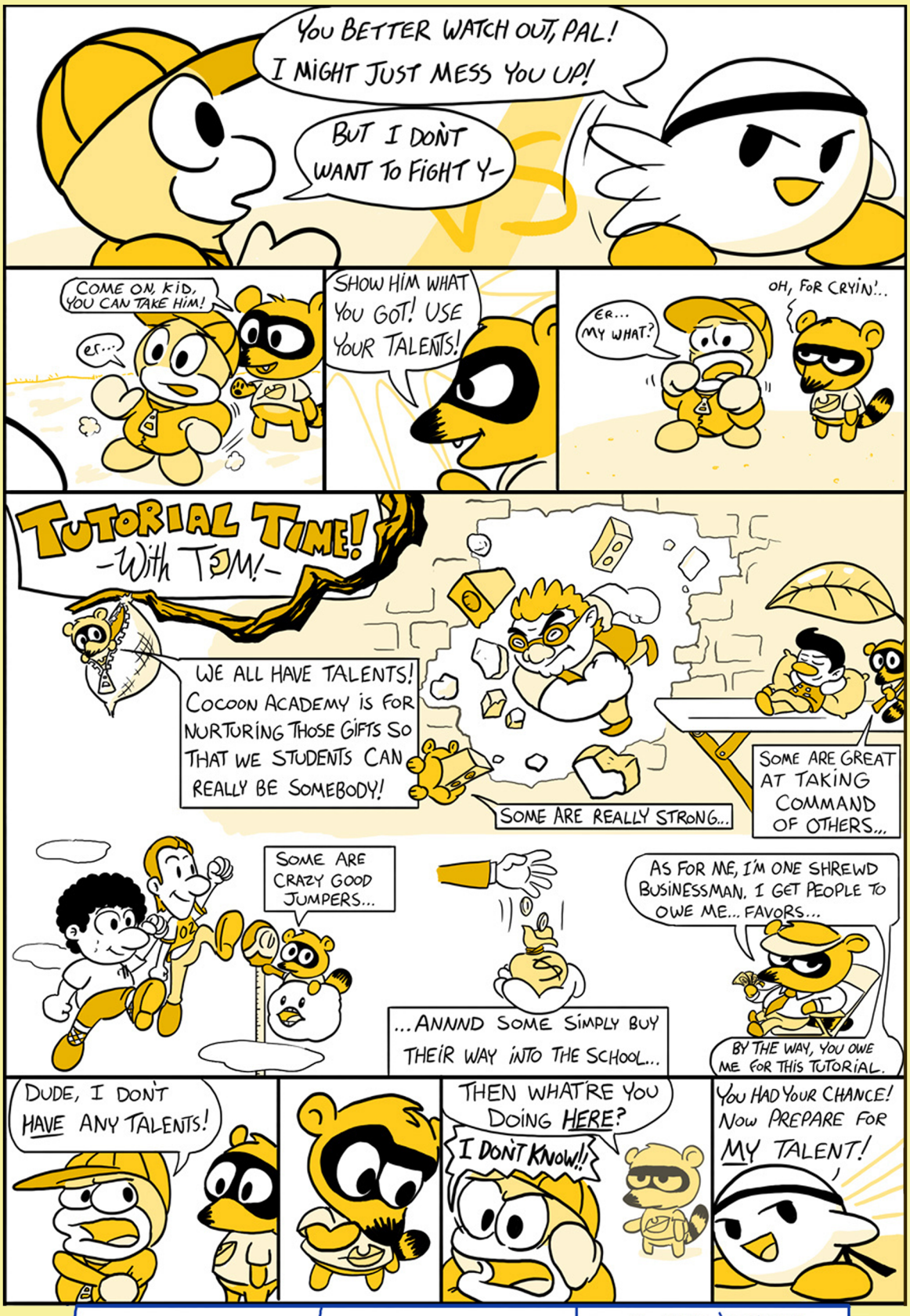


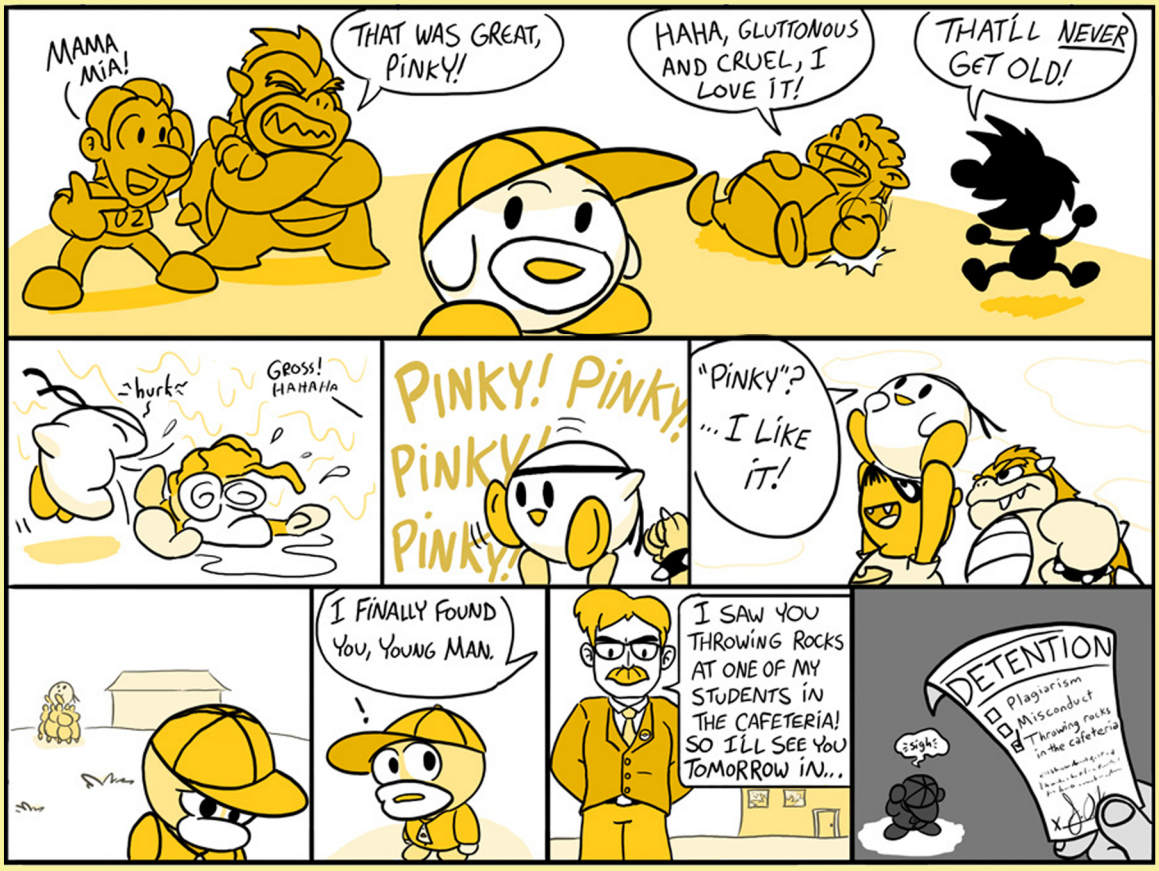
312 - Cocoon Academy (Part 2)




SENIORS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO ATTEND — WE ALREADY KNOW THIS JUNK!
I'D APPLAUD FOR YOU HERE, BUT, YOU KNOW...
BY THE WAY, PEACH, YOU READY TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE THIS YEAR? I'LL SWEEP YOU OFF YOUR FEET!
UM... SORRY BOWSER, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE GUY FOR ME!
stupid Luigi...
...AND BESIDES, THANKS TO PROFESSOR GADD, OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART ELECTRONIC SHIELDS WILL ENSURE YOUR UTMOST SECURITY!
ALRIGHT, ENOUGH CHAT. GO ENJOY YOUR LUNCH.
CAFETERIA 11:35 AM
WELL HEY, LITTLE FELLA! DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND!
I'VE GOT A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU:
SOME DELICIOUS SAUTEED Rock SIRLOIN!
UM... THANK YOU, SIR.
MA'AM
HEY GUYS, CHECK OUT THAT TWERP FRESHMAN!
WHERE DOES HE GET OFF, BEING DIFFERENT?
AND HE'S SO SHORT, TOO!
LET'S WELCOME HIM TO OUR FINE ES-TABLISHMENT.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU!
HEY FRESHMAN! THINK FAST!
PIFF
grrrr


FOOM
GLOP
FOOOOD FIIIIGHT!!
SPLAT
SQUCH
PFFTH
SPLIK
THUB
EGG
PLUP PLUP
SPLICH
FALCON..
LUNCH!
AAUUUGH!
OW..
AUGH!
MY LEG!
SNIPERS!!!
AAAAAAA!
IT BURNS! IT BURRRNS!
pew!
pew!
pew!
SKEETERIX
AAAAAAA
whew...
HEY!
FIGHT
FIGHT
FIGHT
FIGHT
I'M GONNA GET YOU, DEDEDE.

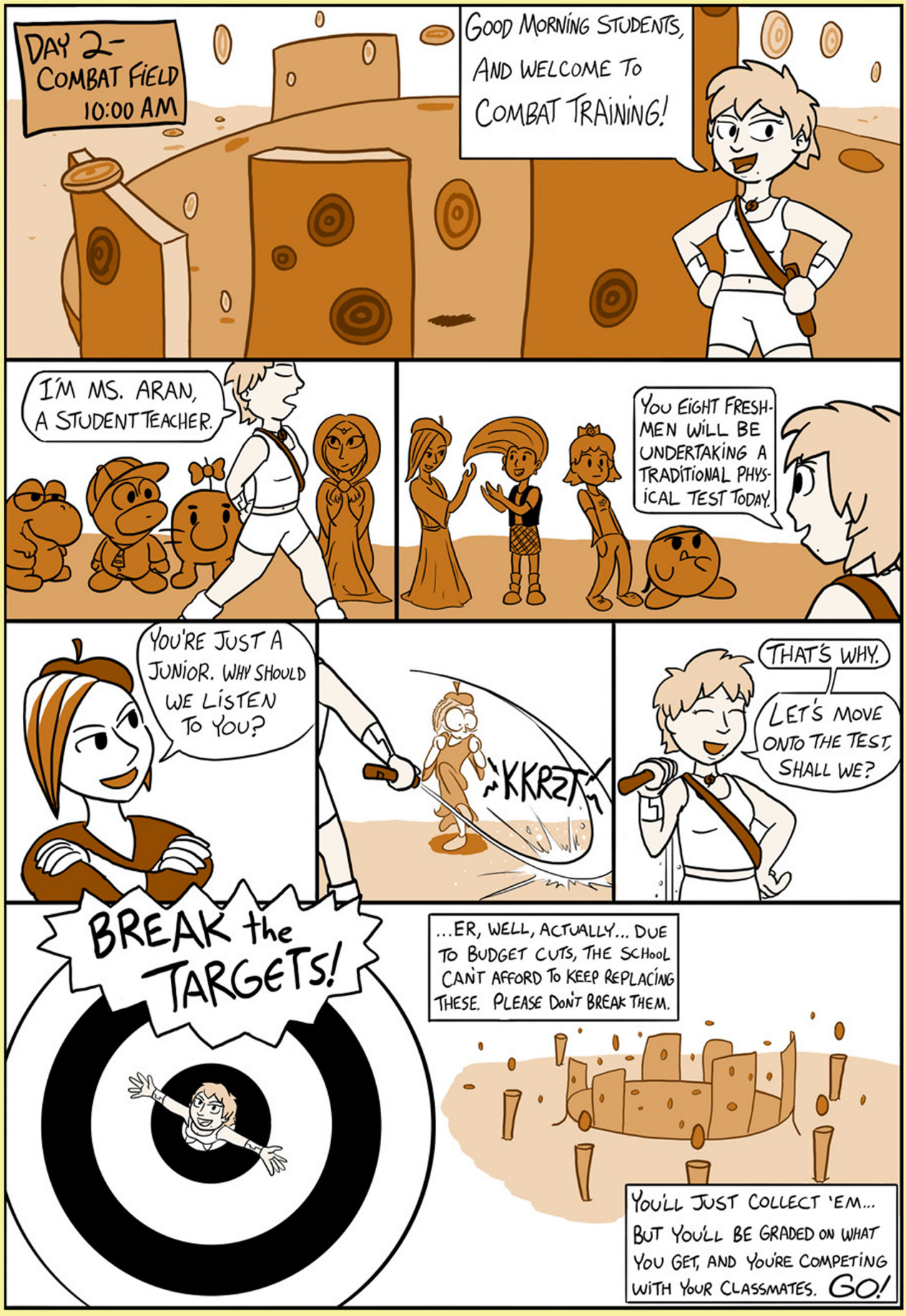

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, PAL! I MIGHT JUST MESS YOU UP!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT Y-
COME ON, KID, YOU CAN TAKE HIM!
ES...
SHOW HIM WHAT YOU GOT! USE YOUR TALENTS!
ER... MY WHAT?
OH, FOR CRYIN'...
TUTORIAL TIME! -With TJM!-
WE ALL HAVE TALENTS! COCOON ACADEMY IS FOR NURTURING THOSE GIFTS SO THAT WE STUDENTS CAN REALLY BE SOMEBODY!
SOME ARE REALLY STRONG...
SOME ARE GREAT AT TAKING COMMAND OF OTHERS...
SOME ARE CRAZY GOOD JUMPERS...
...ANNND SOME SIMPLY BUY THEIR WAY INTO THE SCHOOL...
AS FOR ME, I'M ONE SHREWD BUSINESSMAN. I GET PEOPLE TO OWE ME... FAVORS...
BY THE WAY, YOU OWE ME FOR THIS TUTORIAL.
DUDE, I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENTS!
THEN WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
I DON'T KNOW!!
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! NOW PREPARE FOR MY TALENT!
DEDEDE!
DUDE, I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENTS!



314 - Cocoon Intermission A



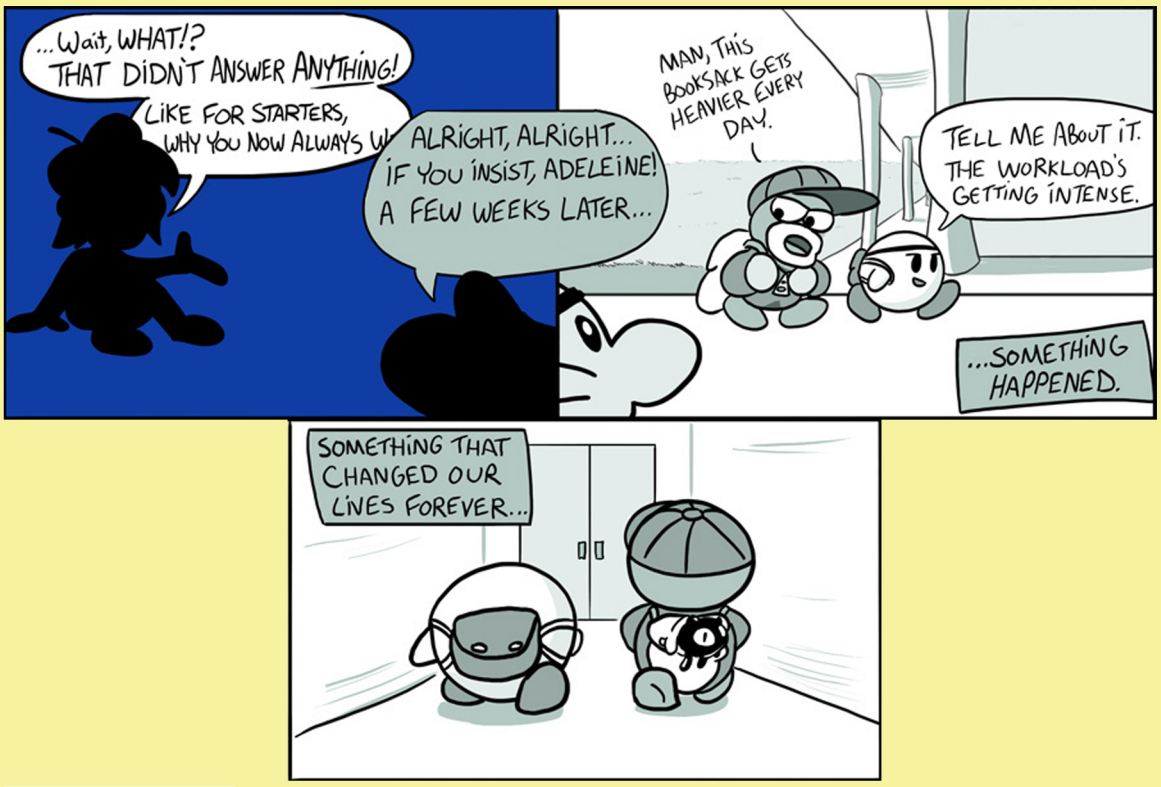
Poor Dedede hasn't gotten a decent meal all day.


DAY 2-
COMBAT FIELD
10:00 AM
GOOD MORNING STUDENTS, AND WELCOME TO COMBAT TRAINING!
I'M MS. ARAN, A STUDENT TEACHER.
YOU EIGHT FRESHMEN WILL BE UNDERTAKING A TRADITIONAL PHYSICAL TEST TODAY.
YOU'RE JUST A JUNIOR. WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO YOU?
KKRZT
THAT'S WHY.
LET'S MOVE ONTO THE TEST, SHALL WE?
BREAK the TARGETS!
...ER, WELL, ACTUALLY... DUE TO BUDGET CUTS, THE SCHOOL CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP REPLACING THESE. PLEASE DON'T BREAK THEM.
YOU'LL JUST COLLECT 'EM... BUT YOU'LL BE GRADED ON WHAT YOU GET, AND YOU'RE COMPETING WITH YOUR CLASSMATES. GO!

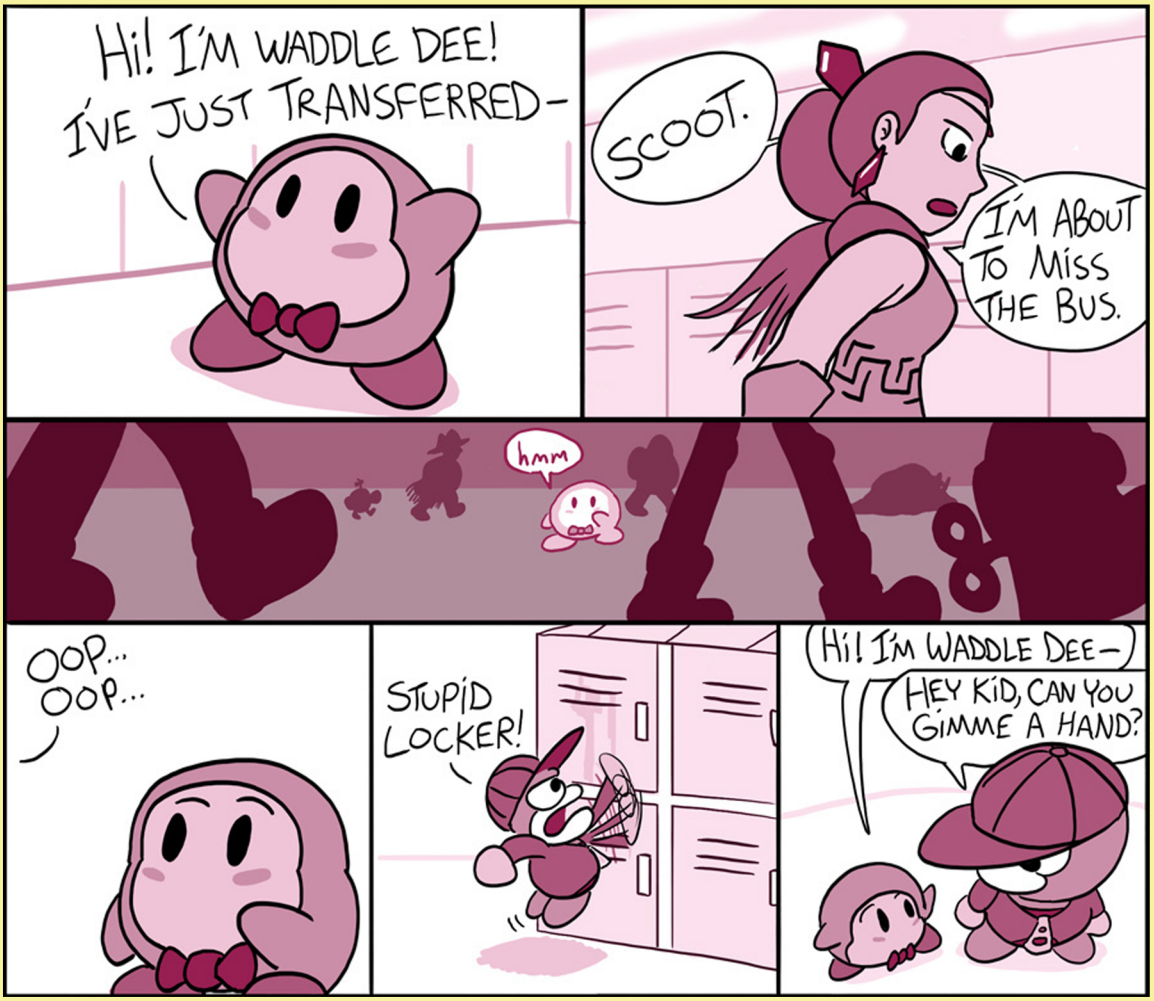

YOSHI! TAKE IT EASY!
IN
IN
smack
IN
sliiiiide
IN
KZZT
FUNNY. I DIDN'T SEE YOU NAB ANY TARGETS...
but but but I um I but I um didn't know that um I but bububububut
SAVE IT FOR THE HEADMASTER, KID-
WAIT!
DON'T! IT WAS ALL ME!
ALRIGHT, BOTH OF YOU, COME WITH ME!
OW, THAT'S NOT AN EAR!

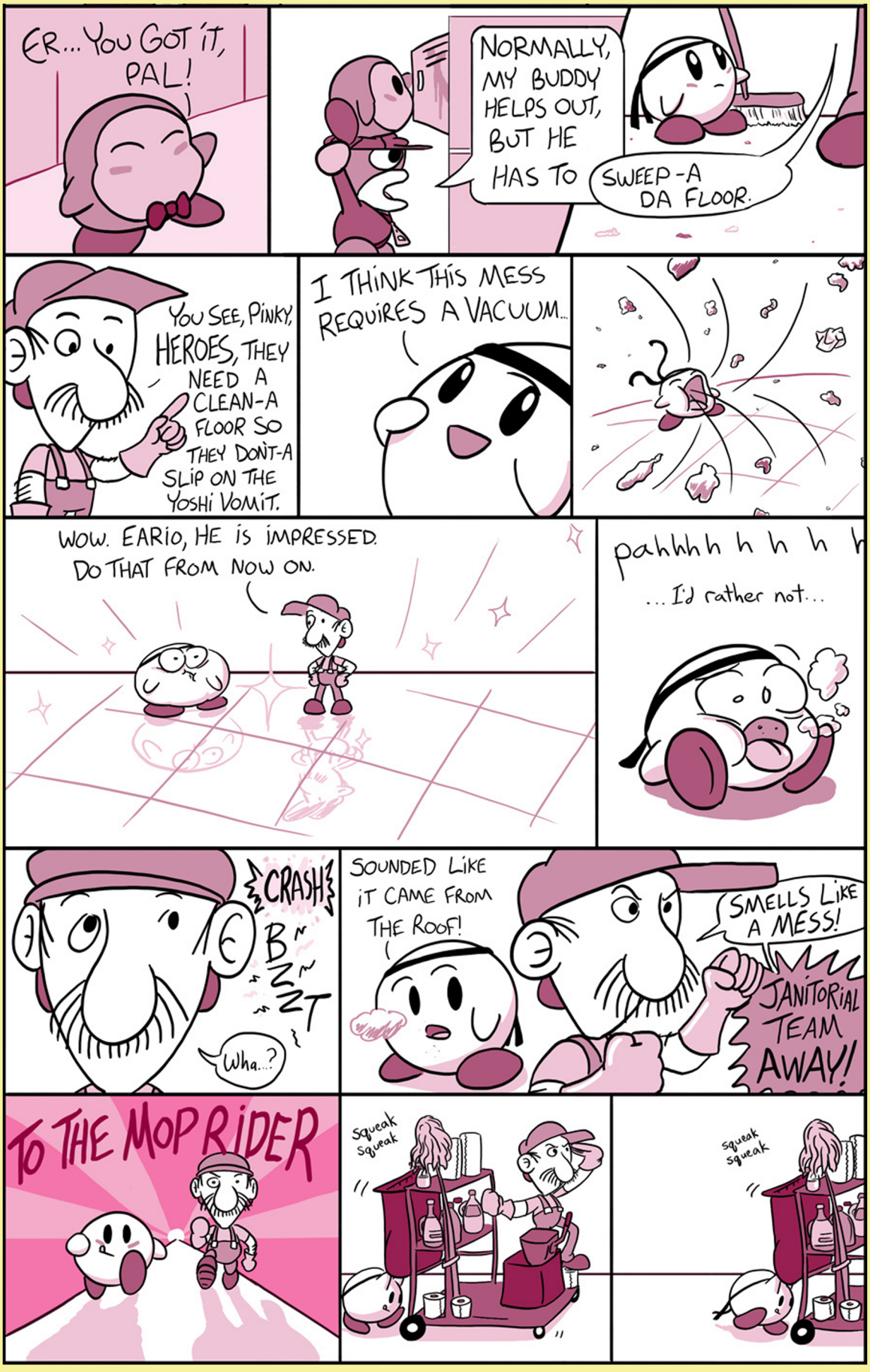

So what you're saying, then...
HEADMASTER
...is that it's all your fault?
Yessir. Dedede didn't do a thing.
But as heroes in training, aren't we called to help others?
Only within the rules, son. For the next month, you'll be assisting the janitorial staff.
And Dedede, you're off the hook.
Whew.
You've got quite an honest friend, there.
Um... Headmaster, I was wondering...
What made you pick me for this school? What gift do I have?
Some talents are more apparent than others,
work towards your potential, and...
You'll find out!
BOOM!
Oh, geez. S...sorry about that. It happens sometimes...
don't tell your parents...
HEADMASTER
Anyway, head on back to class. But remember, if we catch you cheating again...
THERE. WILL. BE. SPANKING. UNDERSTAND?
Yes, sir.

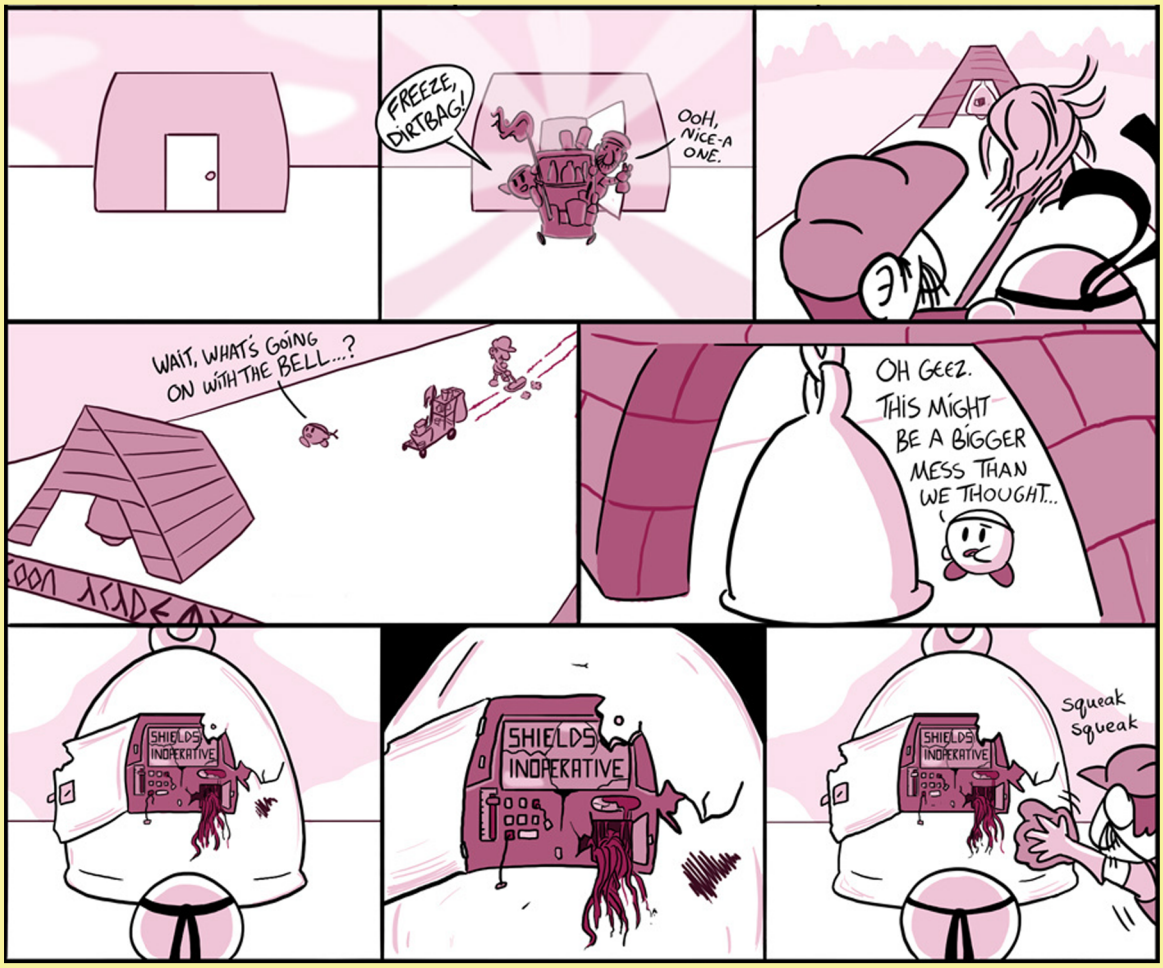

PINKY! WAIT UP!
LOOK, I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK SINCE I GOTTA GET BACK IN THERE FOR DETENTION—
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
HUH?
YEAH, I EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO OAK. LOOKS LIKE ONCE AGAIN, YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK!
Y=3x+4
THANKS, MAN.
SO AFTER THAT, WE WERE PALS. THE SCHOOL YEAR ROLLED ON...
WE DID WEIRD STUFF...
WE STRUGGLED THROUGH TESTS...
NAME: Dedede
WE CRASHED PARTIES...
Whee!
go man, go!
AND WE TRAINED TOGETHER.
I HAD NEVER HAD A BEST PAL BEFORE.
AND I WAS FEELING QUITE A BIT MORE CONFIDENT WITH MYSELF.
THE END.



317 - Cocoon Academy (Part 6)



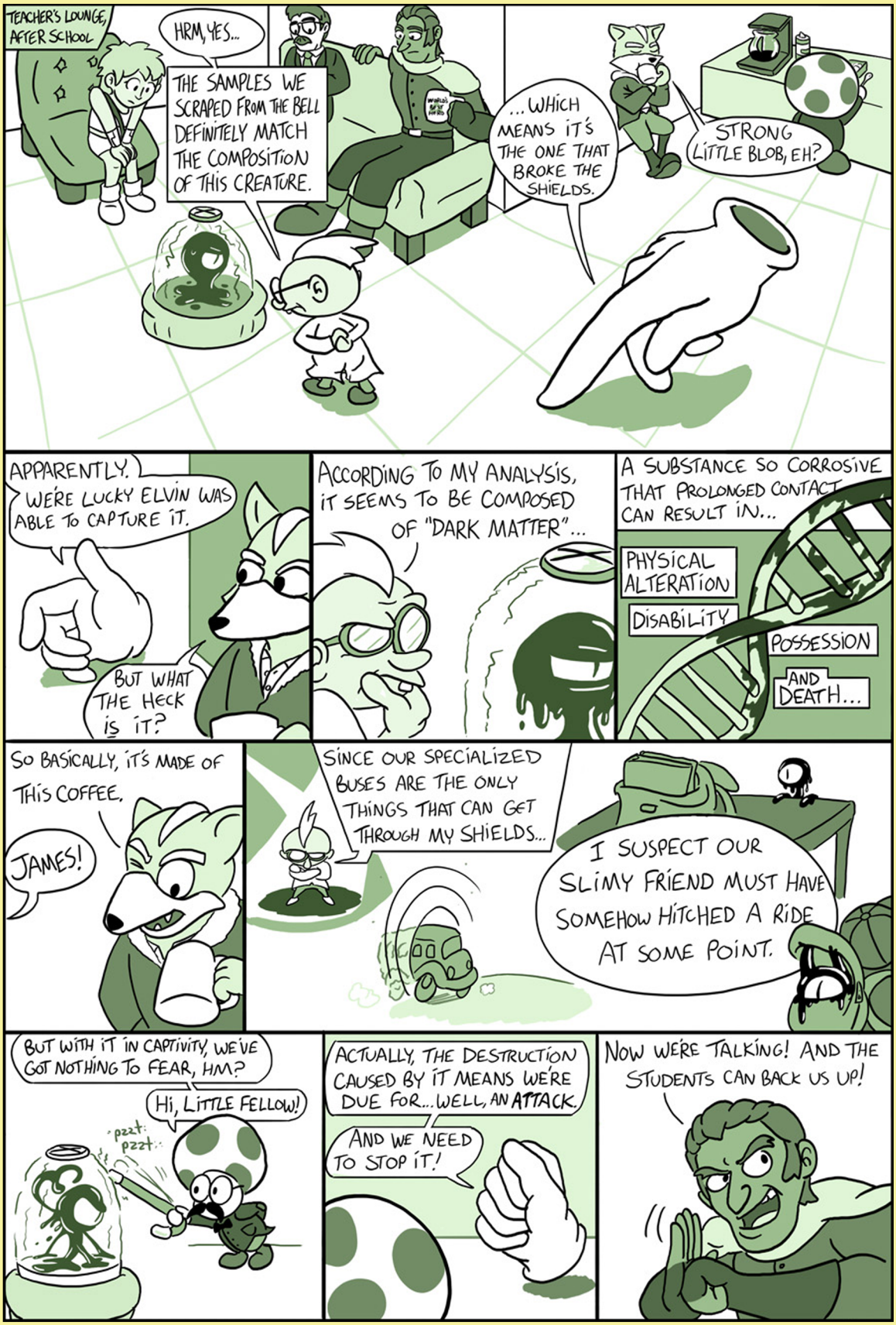

ER... YOU GOT IT, PAL!
NORMALLY, MY BUDDY HELPS OUT, BUT HE HAS TO
SWEEP-A DA FLOOR.
YOU SEE, PINKY, HEROES, THEY NEED A CLEAN-A FLOOR SO THEY DON'T-A SLIP ON THE YOSHI VOMIT.
I THINK THIS MESS REQUIRES A VACUUM...
WOW. EARIO, HE IS IMPRESSED. DO THAT FROM NOW ON.
pahhhh h h h h
...I'd rather not...
CRASH
BZZZT
Wha...?
SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE ROOF!
SMELLS LIKE A MESS!
JANITORIAL TEAM AWAY!
TO THE MOP RIDER
squeak squeak
squeak squeak

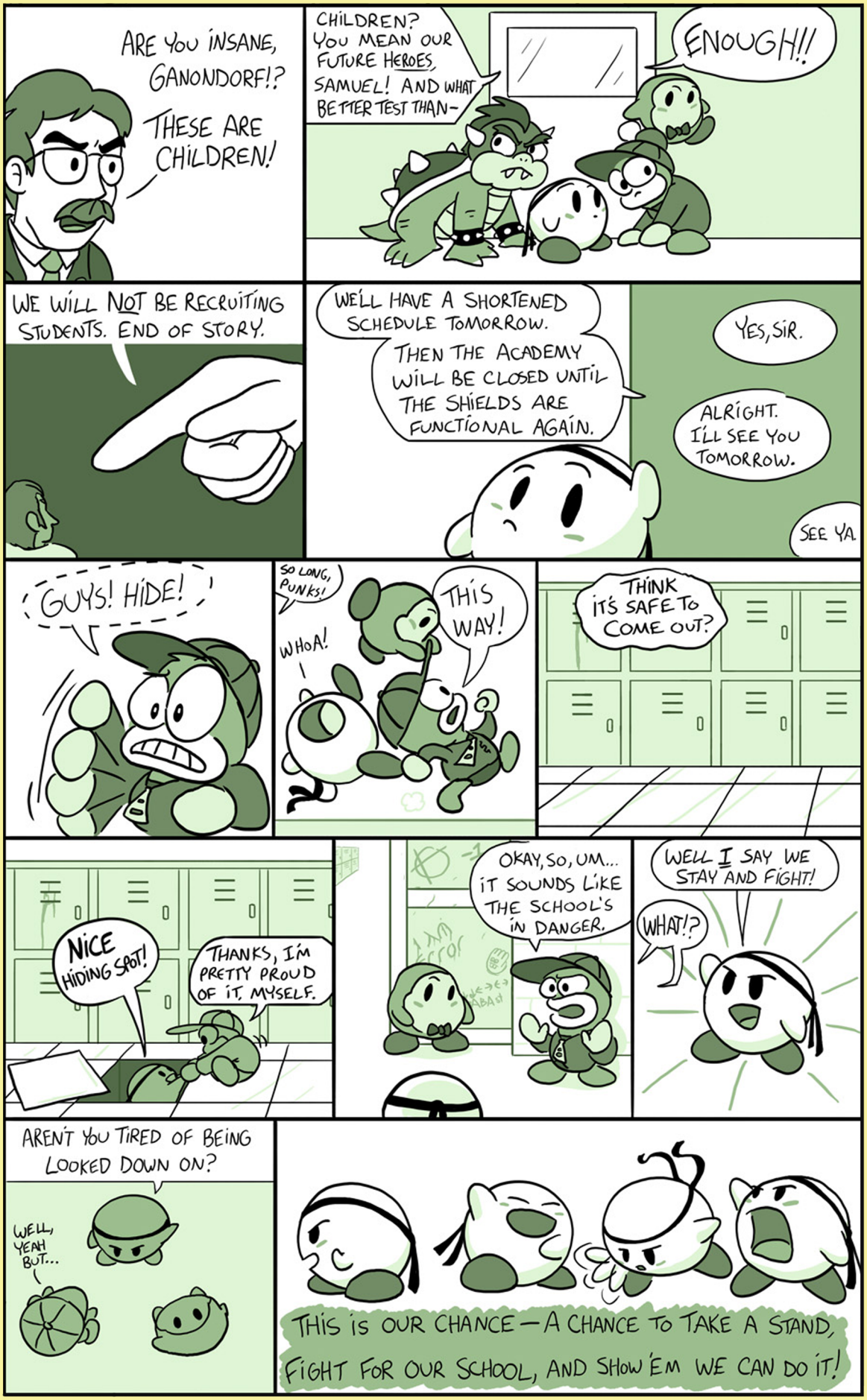


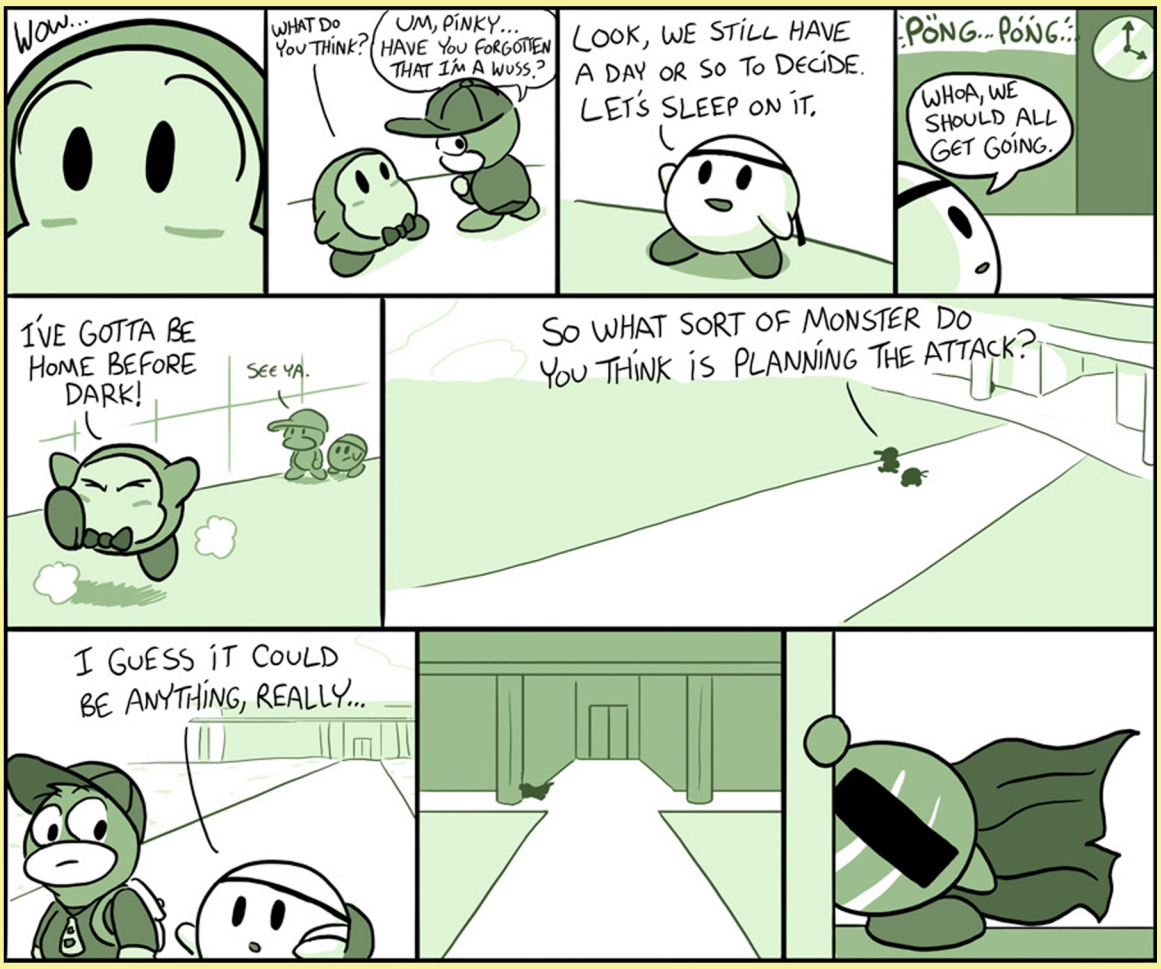
318 - Cocoon Intermission B



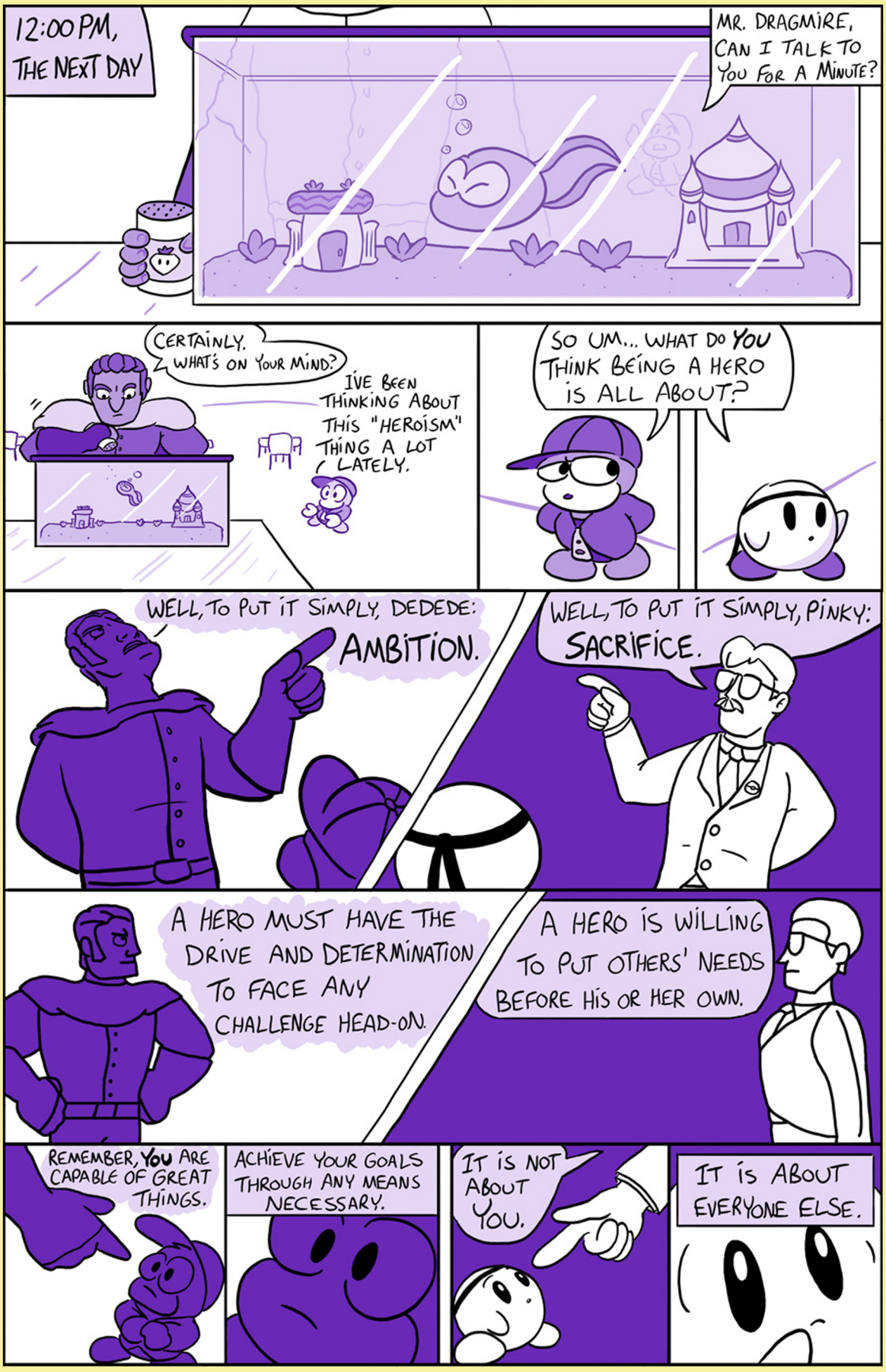
And yet deep in his heart, Resetti could relate to Tom's writing problem...

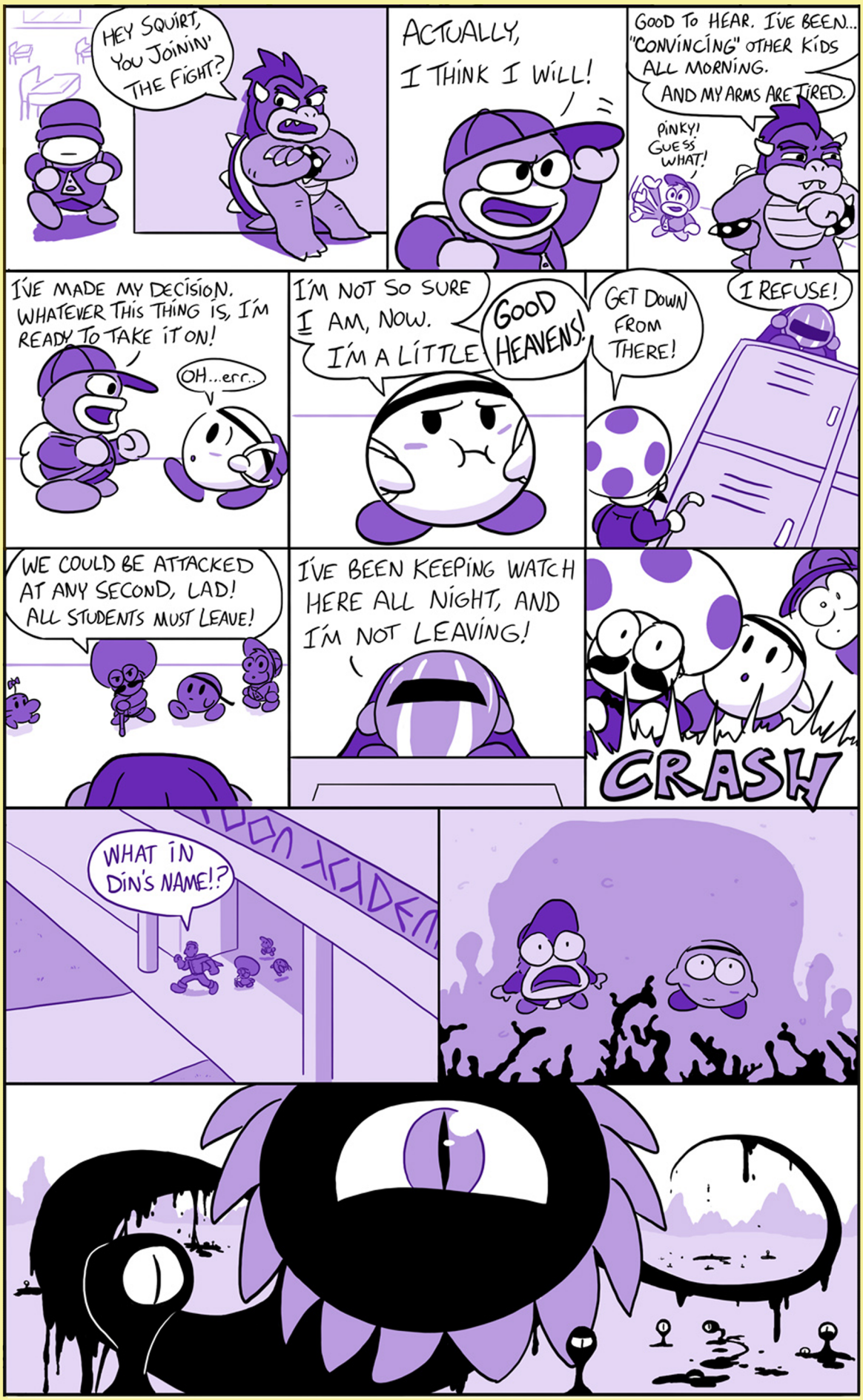

TEACHER'S LOUNGE, AFTER SCHOOL
HRM, YES...
THE SAMPLES WE SCRAPED FROM THE BELL DEFINITELY MATCH THE COMPOSITION OF THIS CREATURE.
...WHICH MEANS IT'S THE ONE THAT BROKE THE SHIELDS.
STRONG LITTLE BLOB, EH?
APPARENTLY. WE'RE LUCKY ELVIN WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE IT.
BUT WHAT THE HECK IS IT?
ACCORDING TO MY ANALYSIS, IT SEEMS TO BE COMPOSED OF "DARK MATTER"...
A SUBSTANCE SO CORROSIVE THAT PROLONGED CONTACT CAN RESULT IN...
PHYSICAL ALTERATION
DISABILITY
POSSESSION
AND DEATH...
SO BASICALLY, IT'S MADE OF THIS COFFEE.
JAMES!
SINCE OUR SPECIALIZED BUSES ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT CAN GET THROUGH MY SHIELDS...
I SUSPECT OUR SLIMY FRIEND MUST HAVE SOMEHOW HITCHED A RIDE AT SOME POINT.
BUT WITH IT IN CAPTIVITY, WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR, HM?
Hi, LITTLE FELLOW!
pzzt pzzt
ACTUALLY, THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY IT MEANS WE'RE DUE FOR... WELL, AN ATTACK.
AND WE NEED TO STOP IT!
NOW WE'RE TALKING! AND THE STUDENTS CAN BACK US UP!


ARE YOU INSANE, GANONDORF!?
THESE ARE CHILDREN!
CHILDREN? YOU MEAN OUR FUTURE HEROES, SAMUEL! AND WHAT BETTER TEST THAN-
ENOUGH!!
WE WILL NOT BE RECRUITING STUDENTS. END OF STORY.
WE'LL HAVE A SHORTENED SCHEDULE TOMORROW.
THEN THE ACADEMY WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL THE SHIELDS ARE FUNCTIONAL AGAIN.
YES, SIR.
ALRIGHT. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
SEE YA.
GUYS! HIDE!
SO LONG, PUNKS!
WHOA!
THIS WAY!
THINK IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT?
NICE HIDING SPOT!
THANKS, I'M PRETTY PROUD OF IT, MYSELF.
OKAY, SO, UM... IT SOUNDS LIKE THE SCHOOL'S IN DANGER.
WELL I SAY WE STAY AND FIGHT!
WHAT!?
AREN'T YOU TIRED OF BEING LOOKED DOWN ON?
WELL, YEAH BUT...
THIS IS OUR CHANCE—A CHANCE TO TAKE A STAND, FIGHT FOR OUR SCHOOL, AND SHOW 'EM WE CAN DO IT!

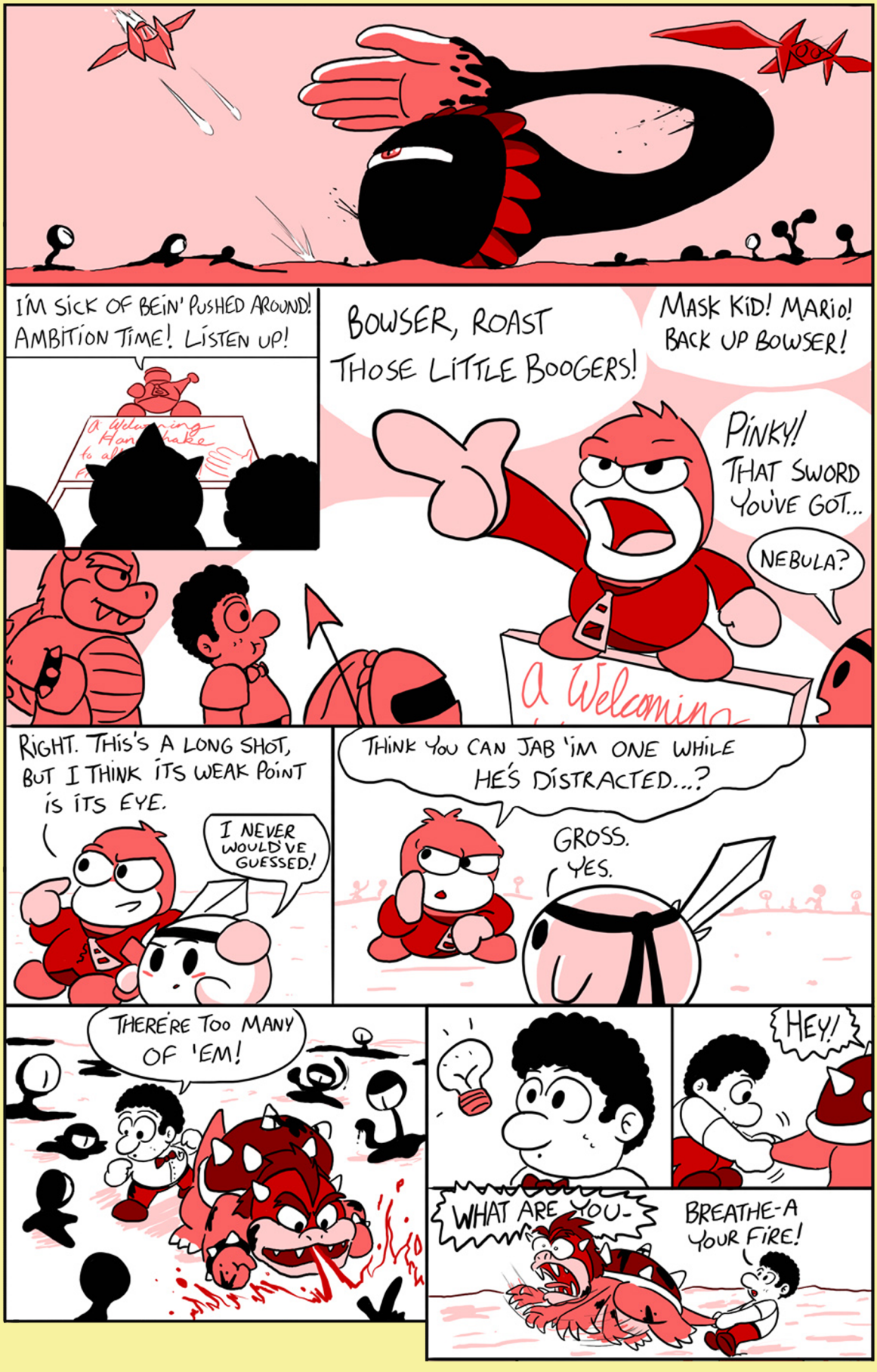

WOW...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UM, PINKY... HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I'M A WUSS?
LOOK, WE STILL HAVE A DAY OR SO TO DECIDE. LET'S SLEEP ON IT.
PONG... PONG...
WHOA, WE SHOULD ALL GET GOING.
I'VE GOTTA BE HOME BEFORE DARK!
SEE YA.
SO WHAT SORT OF MONSTER DO YOU THINK IS PLANNING THE ATTACK?
I GUESS IT COULD BE ANYTHING, REALLY...

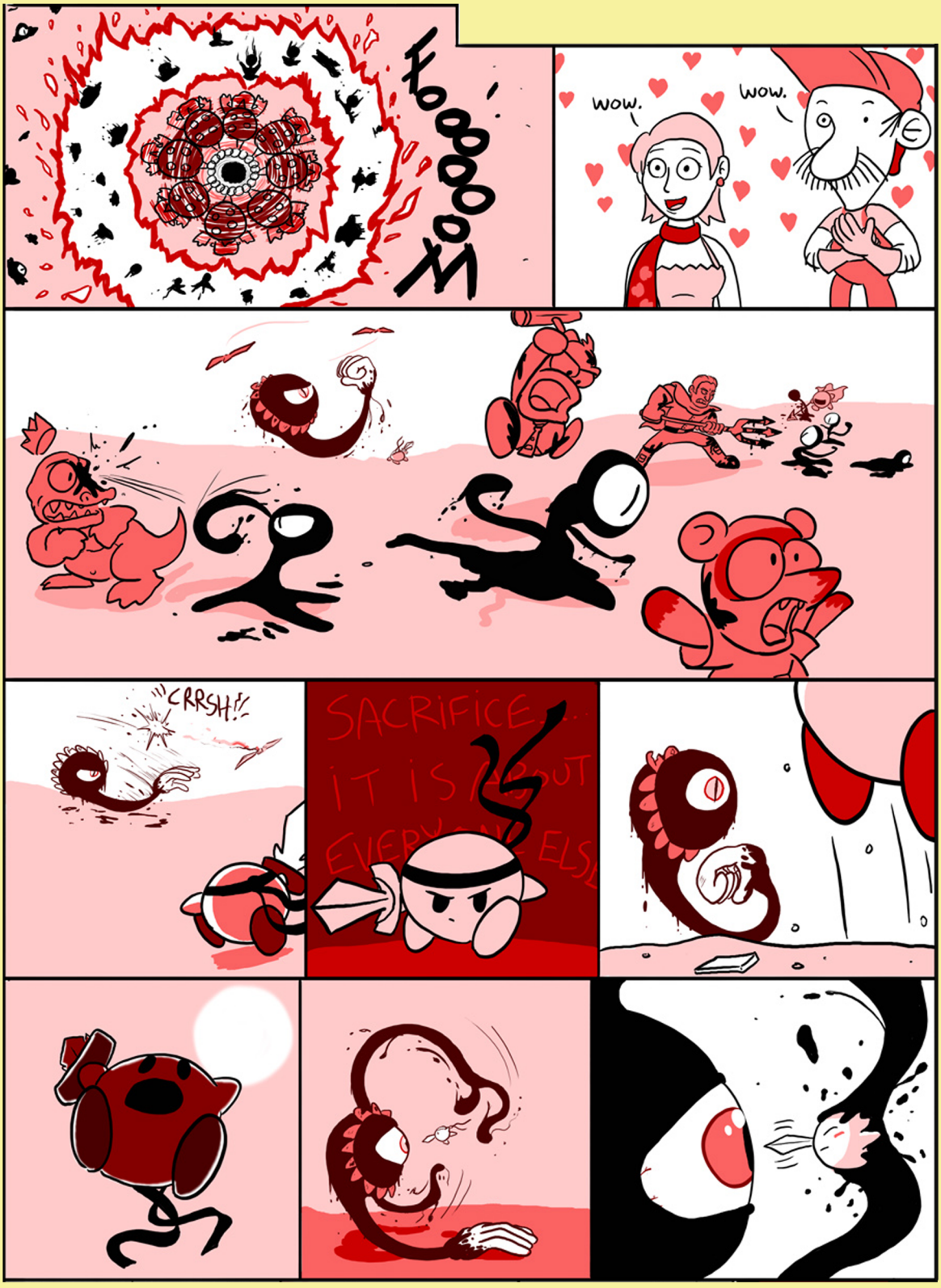


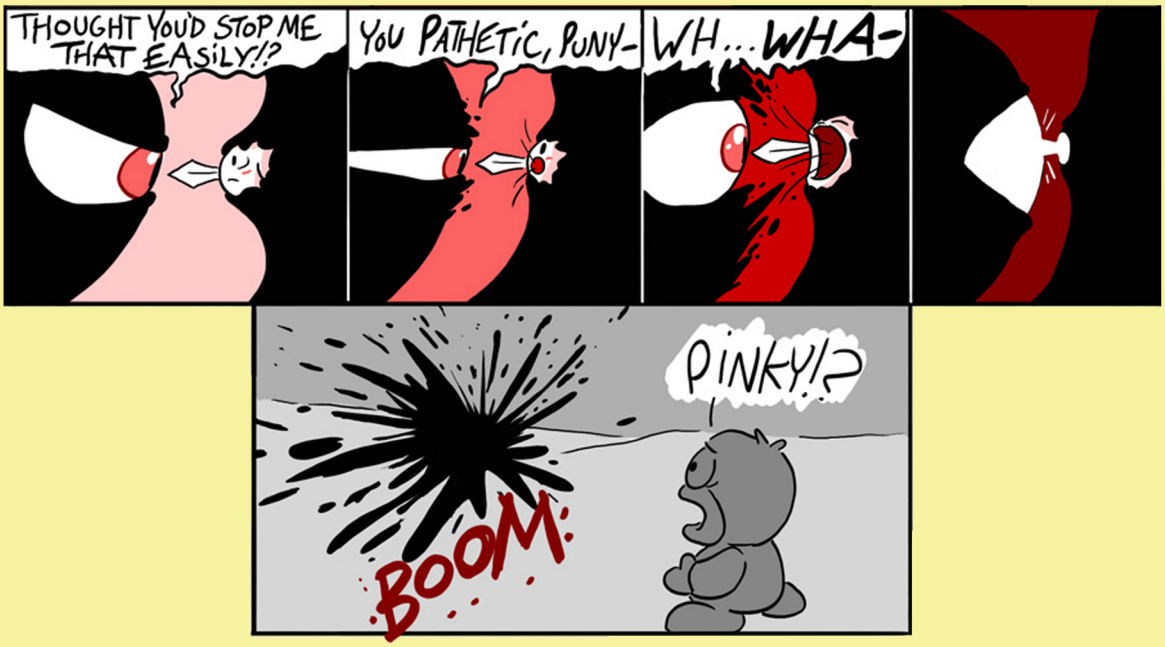

12:00 PM, THE NEXT DAY
MR. DRAGMIRE, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
CERTAINLY. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS "HEROISM" THING A LOT LATELY.
SO UM... WHAT DO YOU THINK BEING A HERO IS ALL ABOUT?
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, DEDEDE: AMBITION.
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, PINKY: SACRIFICE.
A HERO MUST HAVE THE DRIVE AND DETERMINATION TO FACE ANY CHALLENGE HEAD-ON.
A HERO IS WILLING TO PUT OTHERS' NEEDS BEFORE HIS OR HER OWN.
REMEMBER, YOU ARE CAPABLE OF GREAT THINGS.
ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS THROUGH ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
IT IS NOT ABOUT YOU.
IT IS ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE.


HEY SQUIRT, YOU JOININ' THE FIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I THINK I WILL!
GOOD TO HEAR. I'VE BEEN... "CONVINCING" OTHER KIDS ALL MORNING.
AND MY ARMS ARE TIRED.
PINKY! GUESS WHAT!
I'VE MADE MY DECISION. WHATEVER THIS THING IS, I'M READY TO TAKE IT ON!
OH...err..
I'M NOT SO SURE I AM, NOW. I'M A LITTLE
GOOD HEAVENS!
GET DOWN FROM THERE!
I REFUSE!
WE COULD BE ATTACKED AT ANY SECOND, LAD! ALL STUDENTS MUST LEAVE!
I'VE BEEN KEEPING WATCH HERE ALL NIGHT, AND I'M NOT LEAVING!
CRASH
WHAT IN DIN'S NAME!?

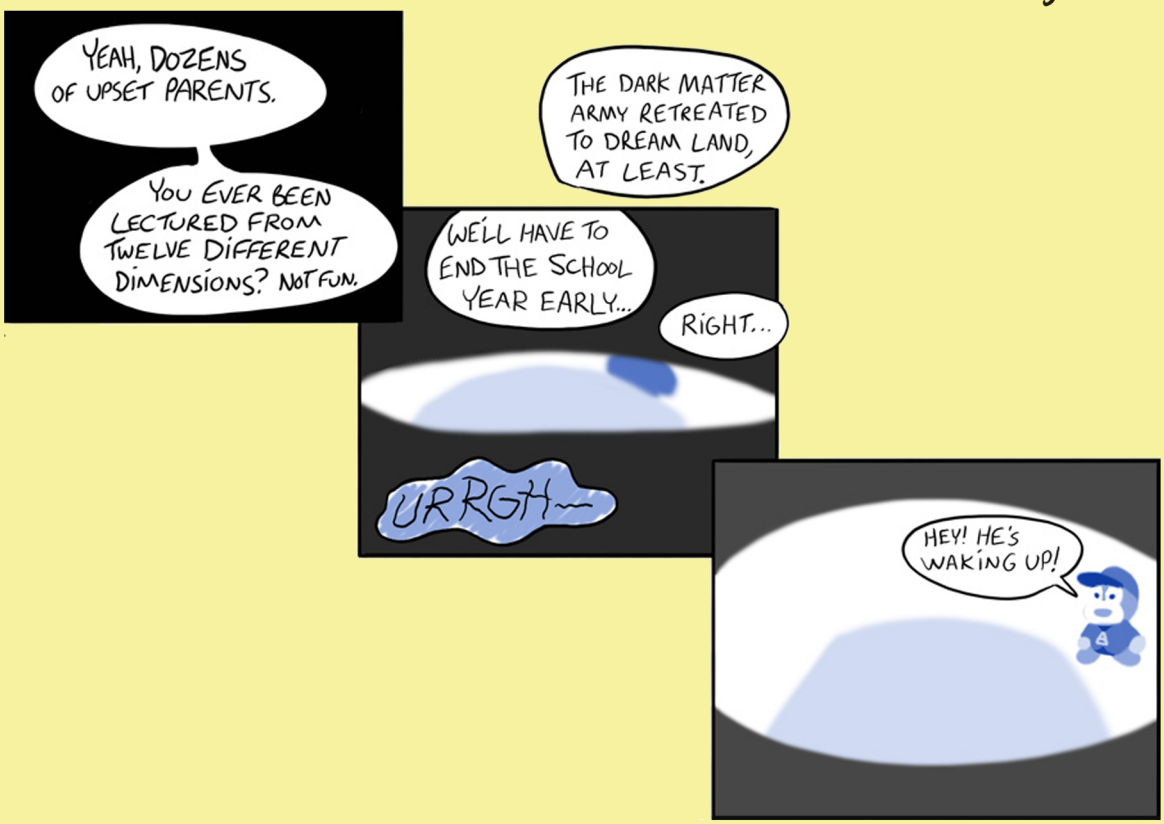

STOP! YOU ARE IN DIRECT VIOLA-TION OF—
WHAP
THIS PLACE MUST BE DESTROYED
KIDS! GET TO THE SHELTER! NOW!
OH. UM...
THE SHELTER
PALM
OH, THAT IS IT!
HEY, SLIMEBALL! LEAVE 'EM ALONE!
PEPPY, LET'S CIRCLE THIS CHUMP!
YOU'RE BECOMIN' MORE LIKE YOUR FATHER.
...WHAT?


I'M SICK OF BEIN' PUSHED AROUND! AMBITION TIME! LISTEN UP!
BOWSER, ROAST THOSE LITTLE BOOGERS!
MASK KID! MARIO! BACK UP BOWSER!
PINKY! THAT SWORD YOU'VE GOT...
NEBULA?
RIGHT. THIS'S A LONG SHOT, BUT I THINK ITS WEAK POINT IS ITS EYE.
I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED!
THINK YOU CAN JAB 'IM ONE WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED...?
GROSS. YES.
THERE'RE TOO MANY OF 'EM!
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU-
BREATHE-A YOUR FIRE!


KABOOOM
wow.
wow.
CRRSH!!
SACRIFICE...
IT IS ABOUT

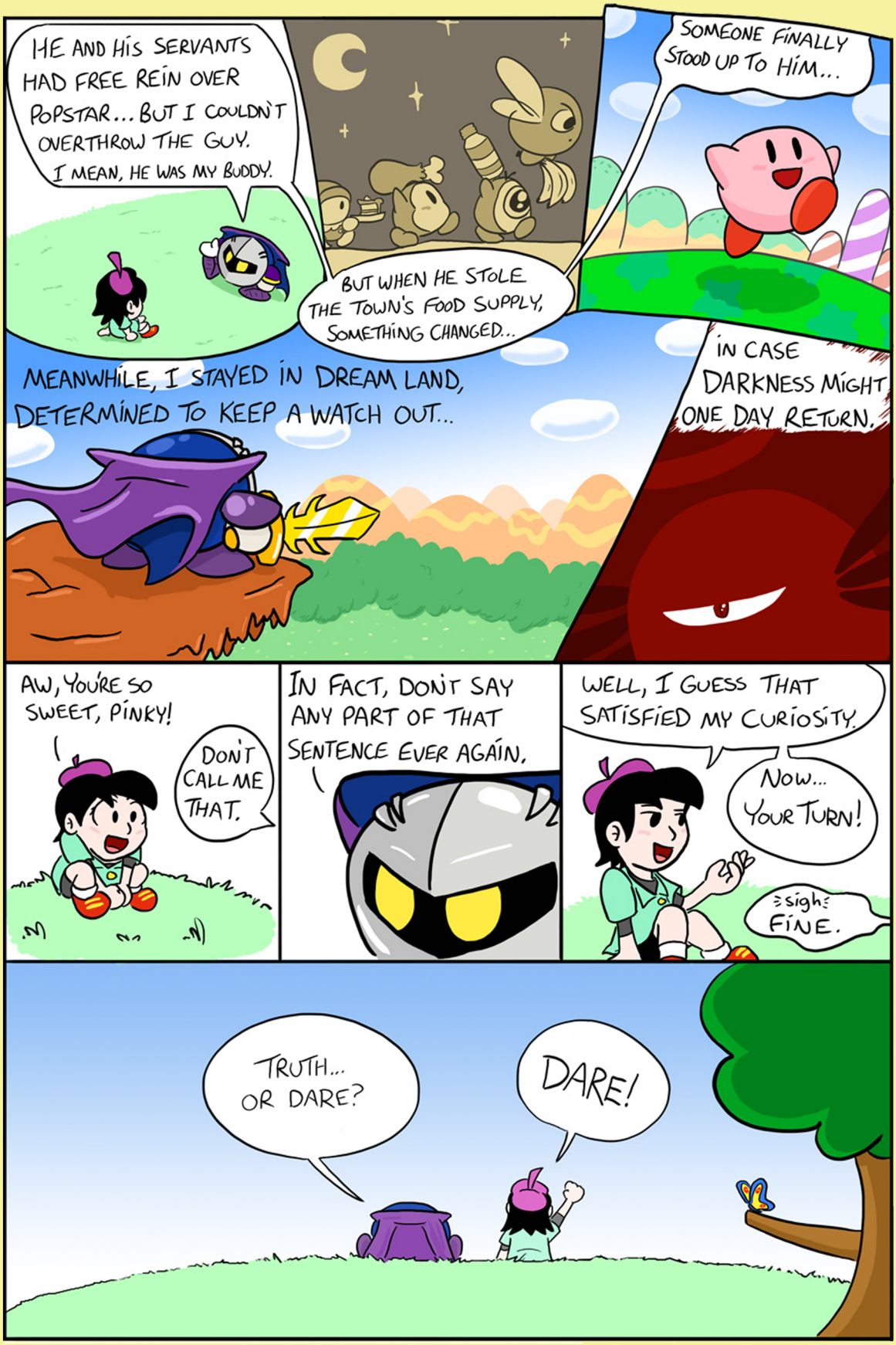


322 - Cocoon Academy (Part 10)



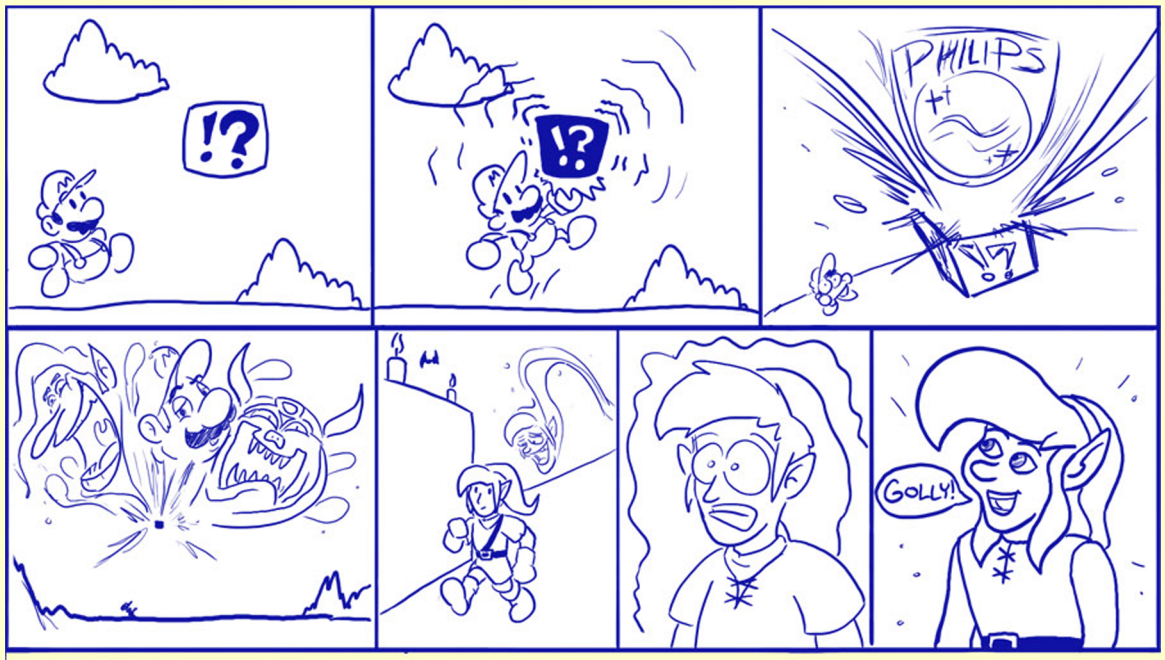

YOU FEELING OKAY, MAN?
Y... I THINK SO.
NURSE JOY SAYS YOU'LL BE UP AND ABOUT IN NO TIME.
YOU WERE AWESOME, PINKY!
ER, WELL...
...BLUEY?
!?
MIRROR...
MIRROR!!
WE'RE SORRY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR BEING ENVELOPED IN DARK MATTER FOR THAT LONG HAD SOME CONSEQUENCES.
YOU PROBABLY HAVE LOST SOME OF YOUR ABILITIES, TOO. BUT FRANKLY, YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.
HECK, LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO ME! I'M A LEFTY NOW!
CRAZY, HUH?
UGH, GEEZ... DON'T LOOK AT ME, GUYS.
WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE UPSET ABOUT BEING HORRIFICALLY UGLY, SO WE GOT YOU A PRESENT!
WADDLE DEE!
OKAY, SO...
I MADE THIS IN CRAFTS. I GUESS I GOT THE ITCH TO BE A HERO, TOO!
take a stand
(face)

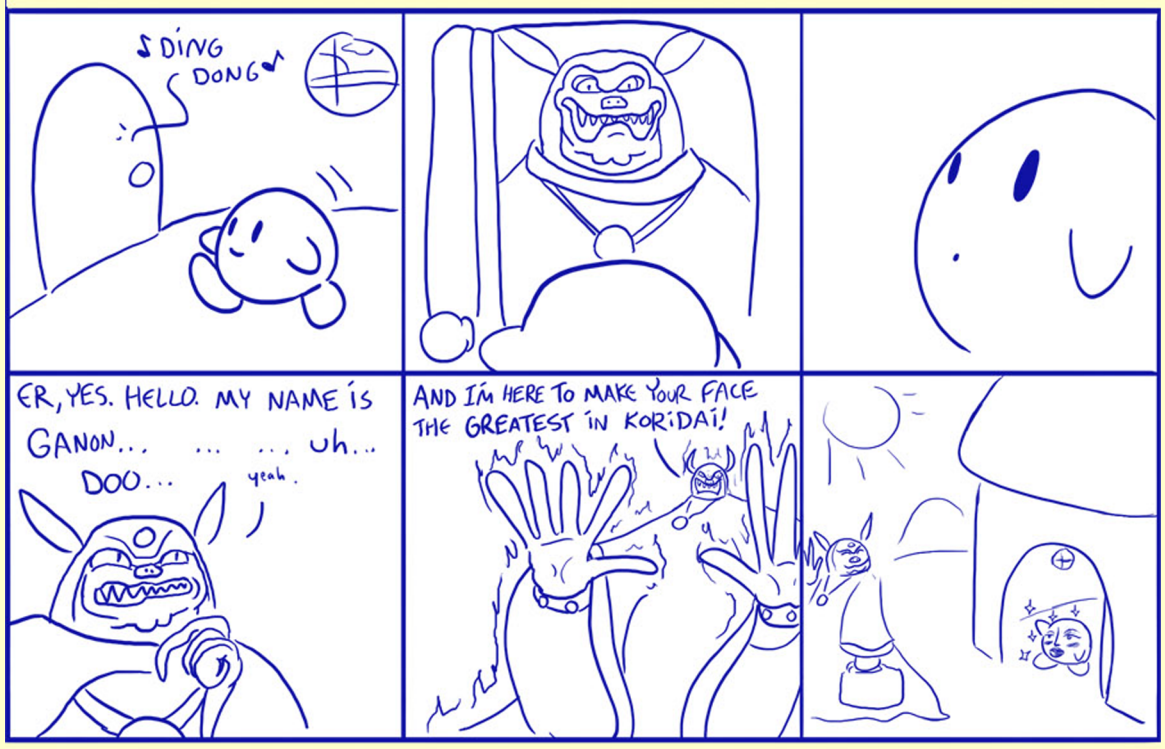

YOUR SPEECH REALLY GOT TO ME, PINKY! TAKE IT!
take a stand
THANKS...
SO, HOW DOES IT FEEL?
NOT BAD!
YOU BOYS REALLY CAME THROUGH!
PINKY, YOU'VE EMERGED FROM YOUR COCOON AND METAMORPHOSED INTO A TRUE KNIGHT!
WHAT AN APPROPRIATE PAINTING!
AND DEDEDE, I'M THRILLED THAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED YOUR TALENT FOR STRATEGY AND COMMAND!
HIGH FIVE!
piff
OW, MY FACE!
KEEP UP THAT FACE-SLAPPING AMBITION, KIDDO, AND YOU COULD BE KING!
Whoa...
smack
WADDLE DEE! FETCH ME A NEW HAT.
er, okay.
SO AS TIME MARCHED ON, DEDEDE BECAME AMBITIOUS. AND BOSSY. AND ARROGANT.
OVER A DOZEN YEARS LATER...

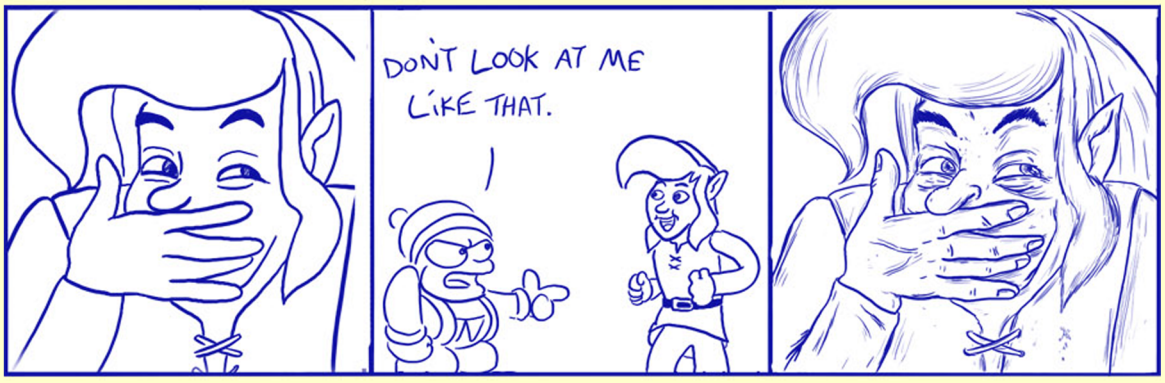


THE END

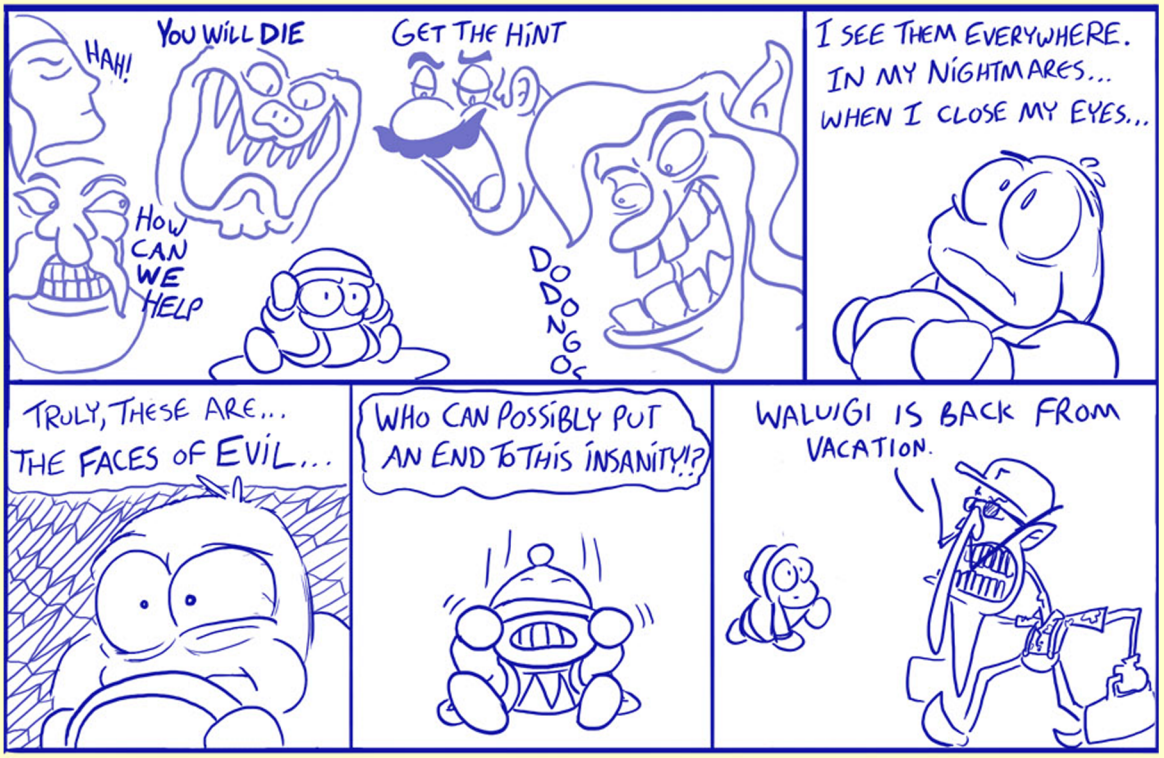
Congratulations, you've just powered through the biggest BitF story of them all! Cocoon Academy might be the most ambitious tale in the comic, but I greatly enjoyed tackling it. It was a big challenge that required lots of prior planning to work out, but it's still one of my favorite tales of the whole series. Hope you liked it, too!

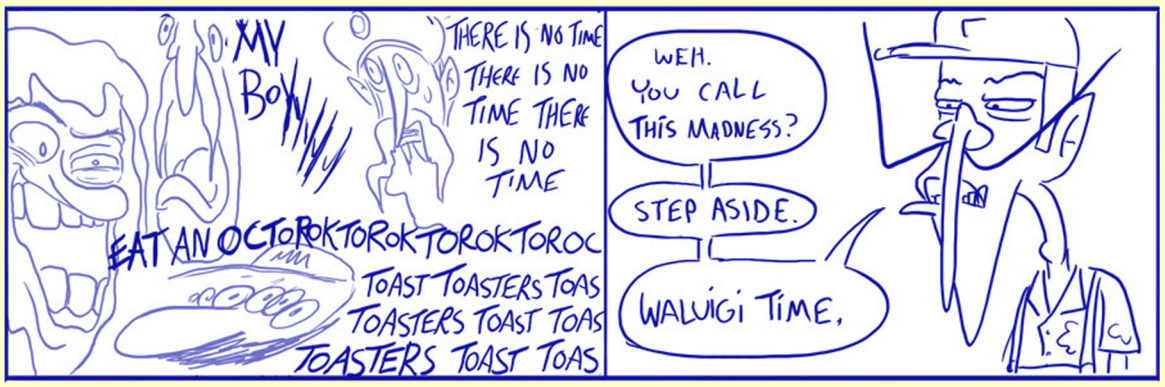

!?
!?
PHILIPS
!?
GOLLY!

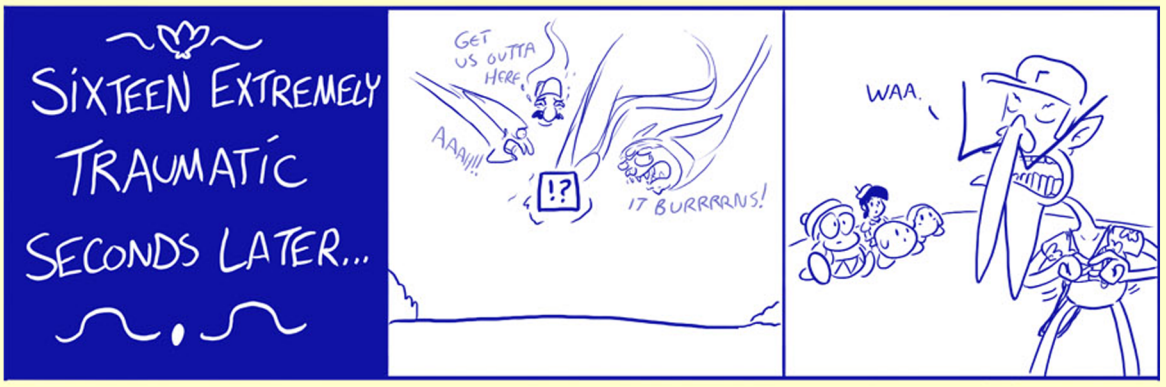

♪DING DONG♪
ER, YES. HELLO. MY NAME IS GANON... ... ... uh... DOO...
yeah.
AND I'M HERE TO MAKE YOUR FACE THE GREATEST IN KORIDAI!


DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

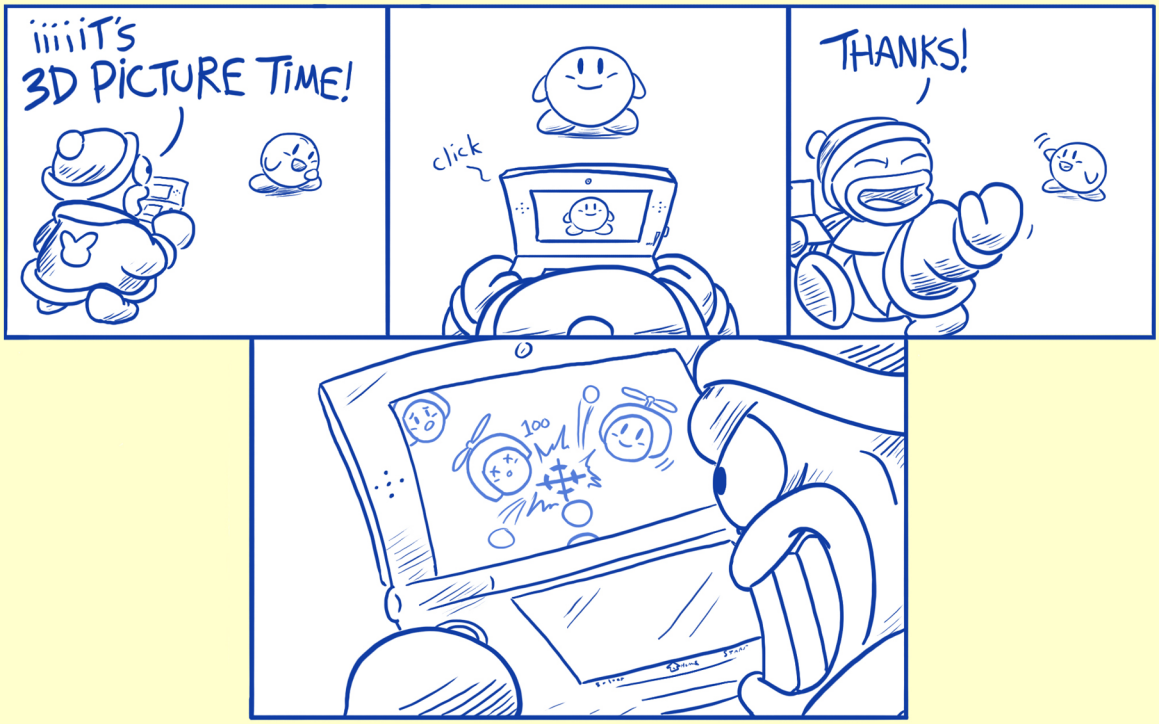

KIRBY, TURN AROUND!
WE'VE GOT A PROB-
WHA... ANOTHER!?
ADELEINE! WADDLE DEE! SOMETHIN'S NOT RIGHT HERE...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
THIS PEACE IS WHAT ALL TRUE WARRIORS STRIVE FOR.
-I JUST WONDER WHAT GANON'S-
STOP IT. STOP IT STOPPIT STOPPIT STOPPIT STOPPIT


HAH!
YOU WILL DIE
HOW CAN WE HELP
GET THE HINT
DODGE
I SEE THEM EVERYWHERE. IN MY NIGHTMARES... WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES...
TRULY, THESE ARE... THE FACES OF EVIL...
WHO CAN POSSIBLY PUT AN END TO THIS INSANITY!?
WALUIGI IS BACK FROM VACATION.



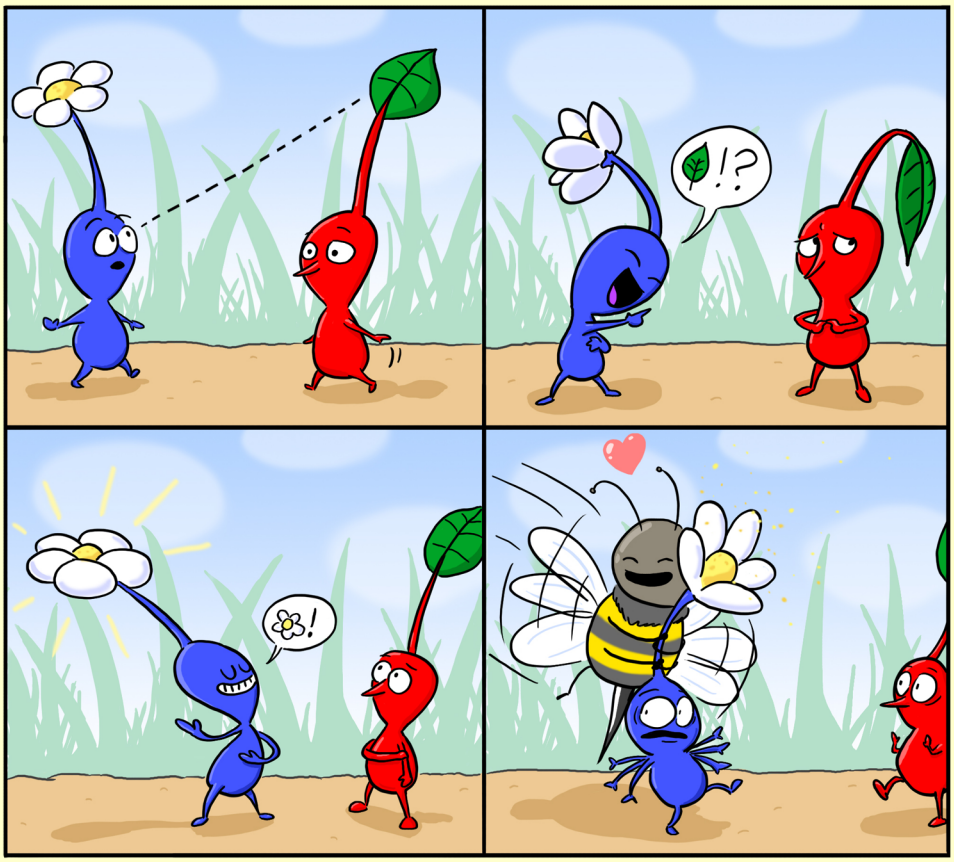


324 - D3's 3DS



This works on your friends, too!

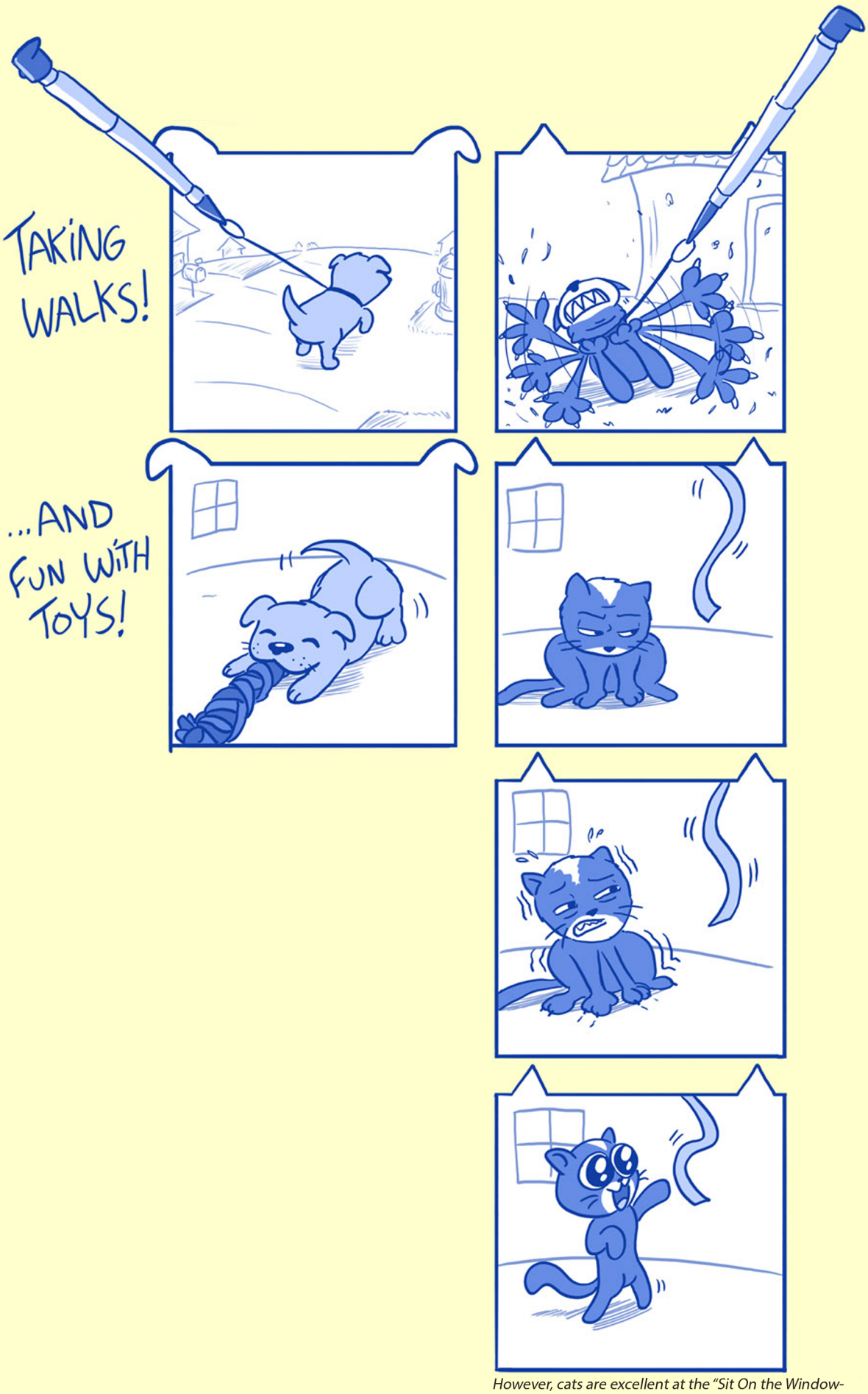
325 - Pik-ing on Me



Hey, you knew the risks when you unwillingly took on this job!

326 - Dogs and Cats





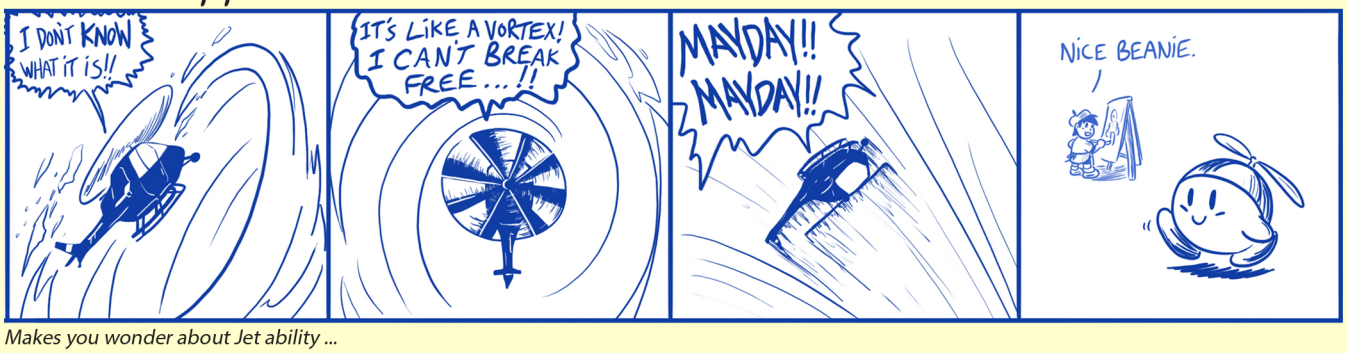
However, cats are excellent at the "Sit On the Window-Sill and Stare Intensely at Insects" competition.

327 - Moblin



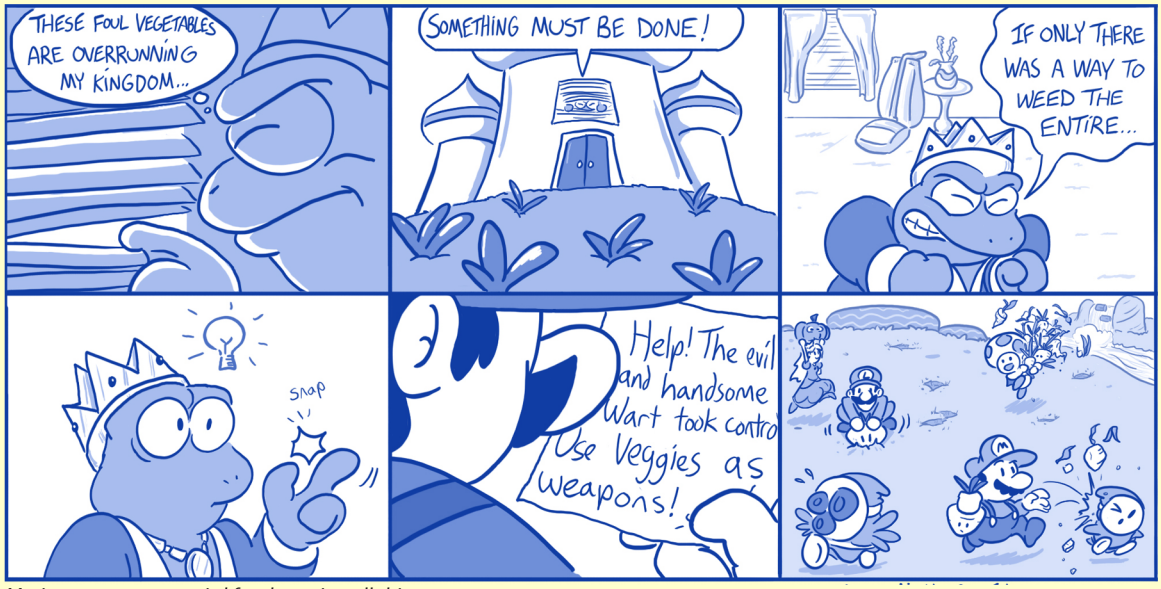
Between this and the "Pay me and I'll talk" guy, Hyrule sure is a cesspool of secrets and bribes.

328 - Chopper



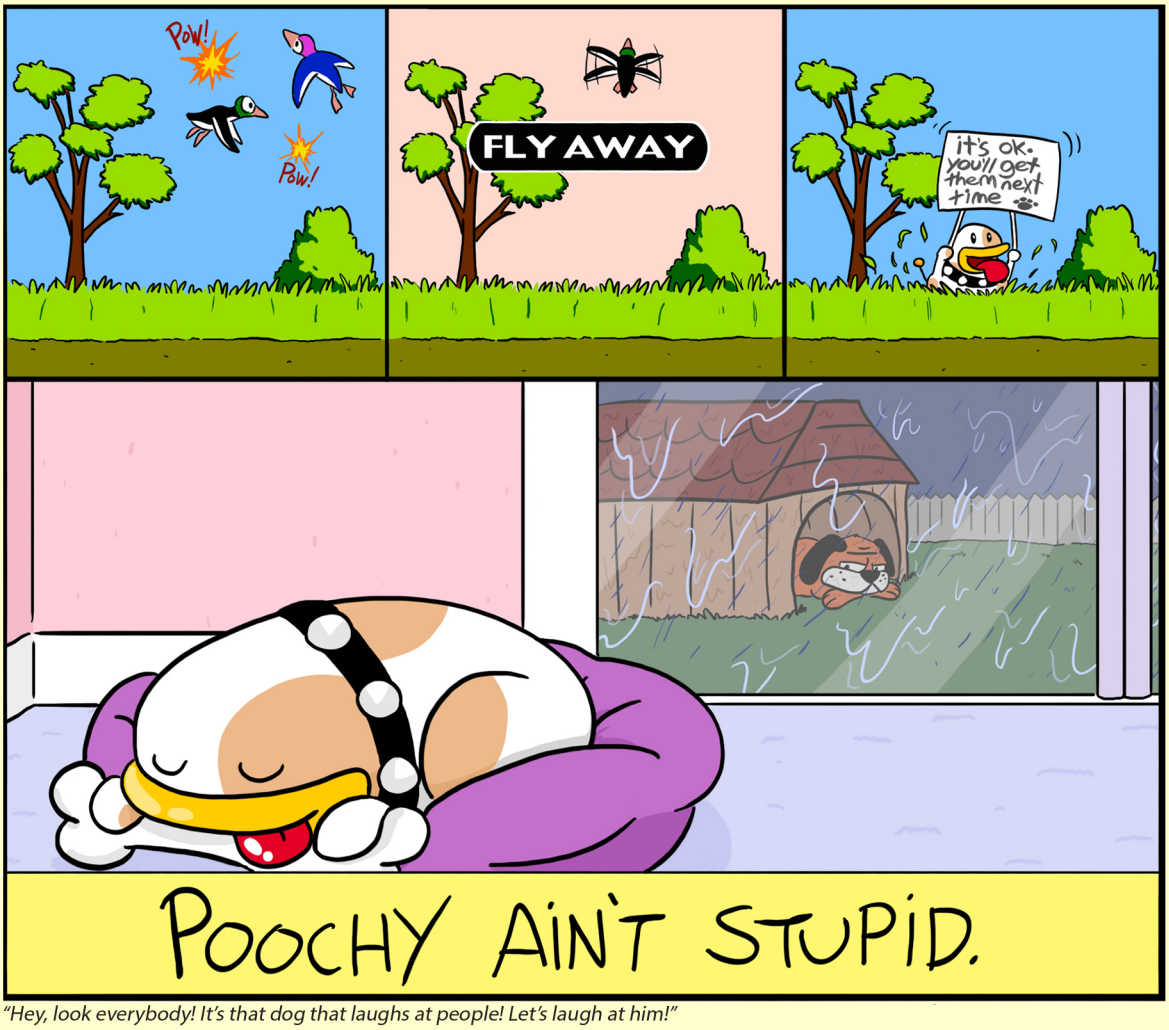
Makes you wonder about Jet ability ...

329 - Overgrowth



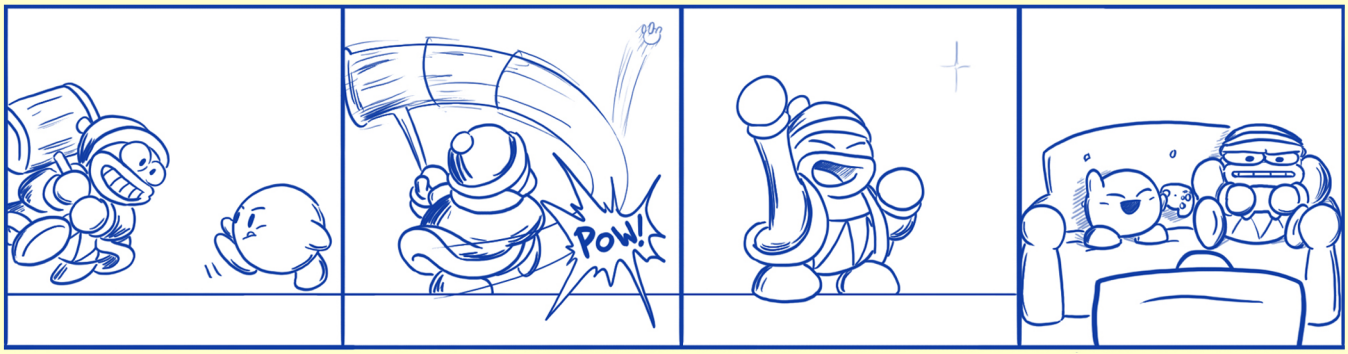
Mario, you sure are weird for dreaming all this nonsense up.

330 - Good Dog



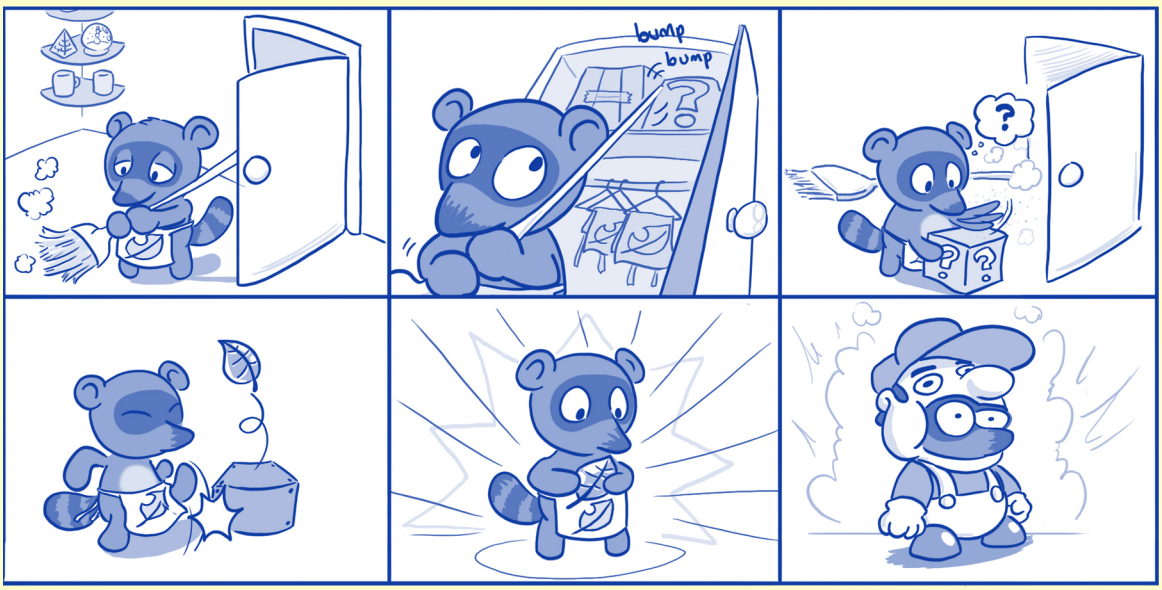
"Hey, look everybody! It's that dog that laughs at people! Let's laugh at him!"

331 - The Victor



"All right, back to using Meta Knight..."

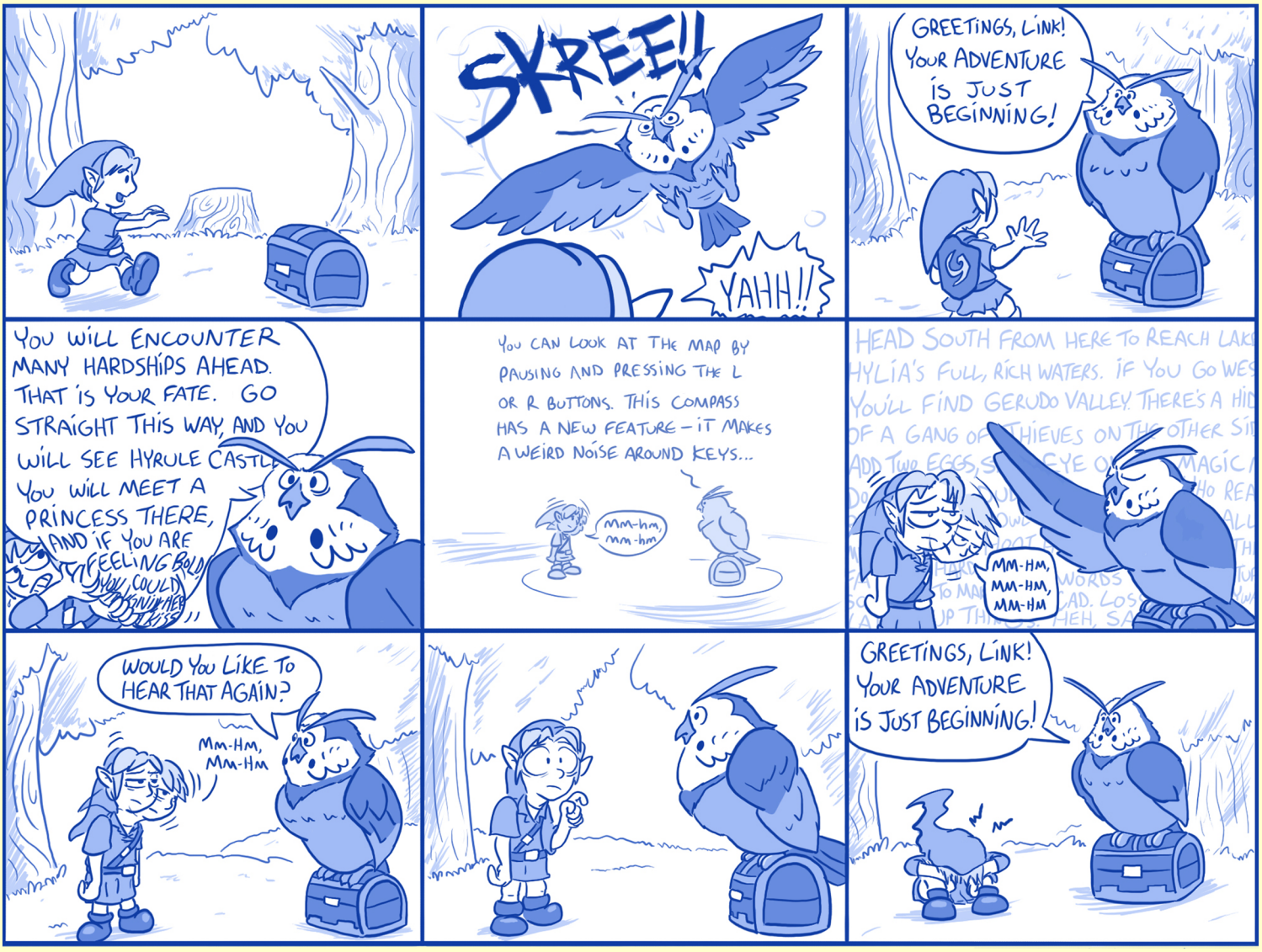
332 - Nook's Discovery



Elsewhere, Mayor Tortimer finds a Hammer Bros. Suit.

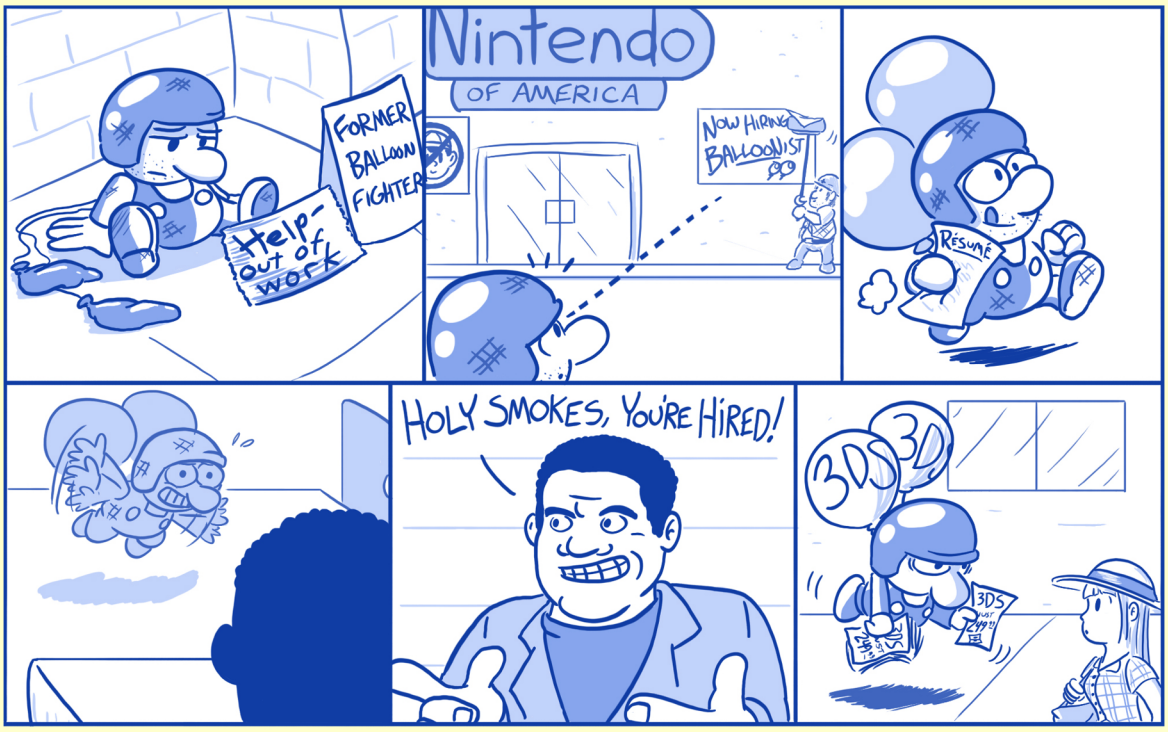






Even after you make him go away, he'll later haunt your dreams...

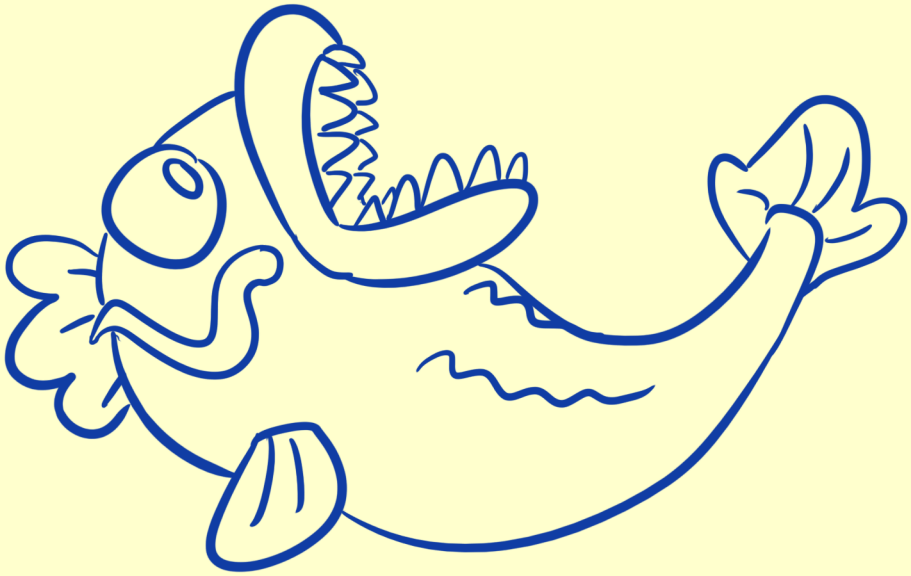


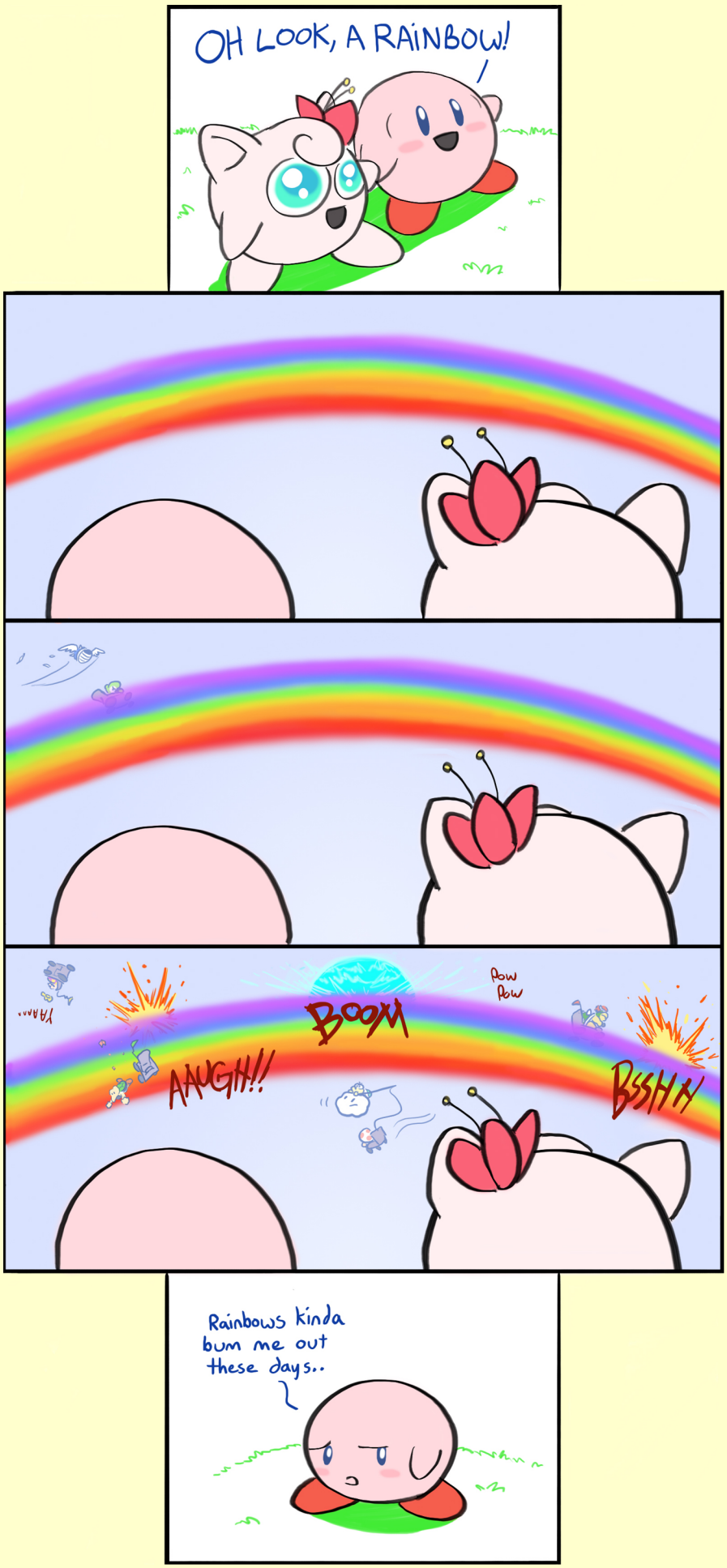


ALTERNATE ENDING! →



Next time, try growing a mustache first and see where that gets ya.



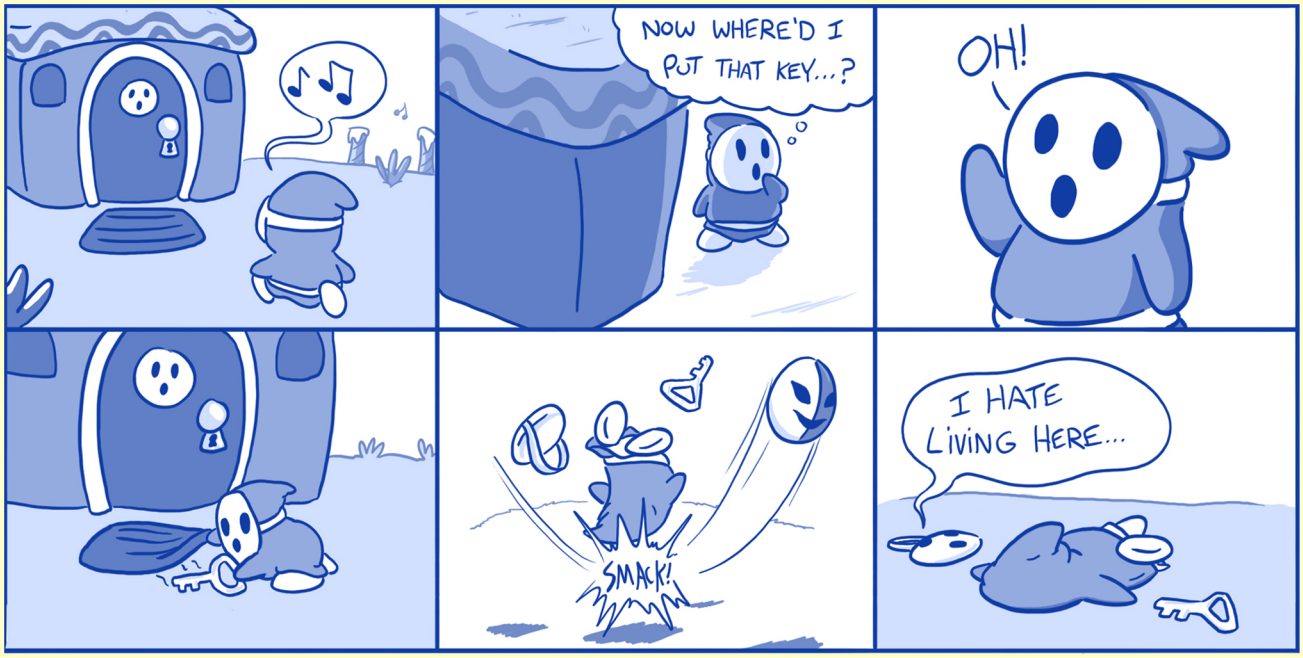


There's still a pot of gold at the end, though---Dedede bet 60 bucks on Bowser.



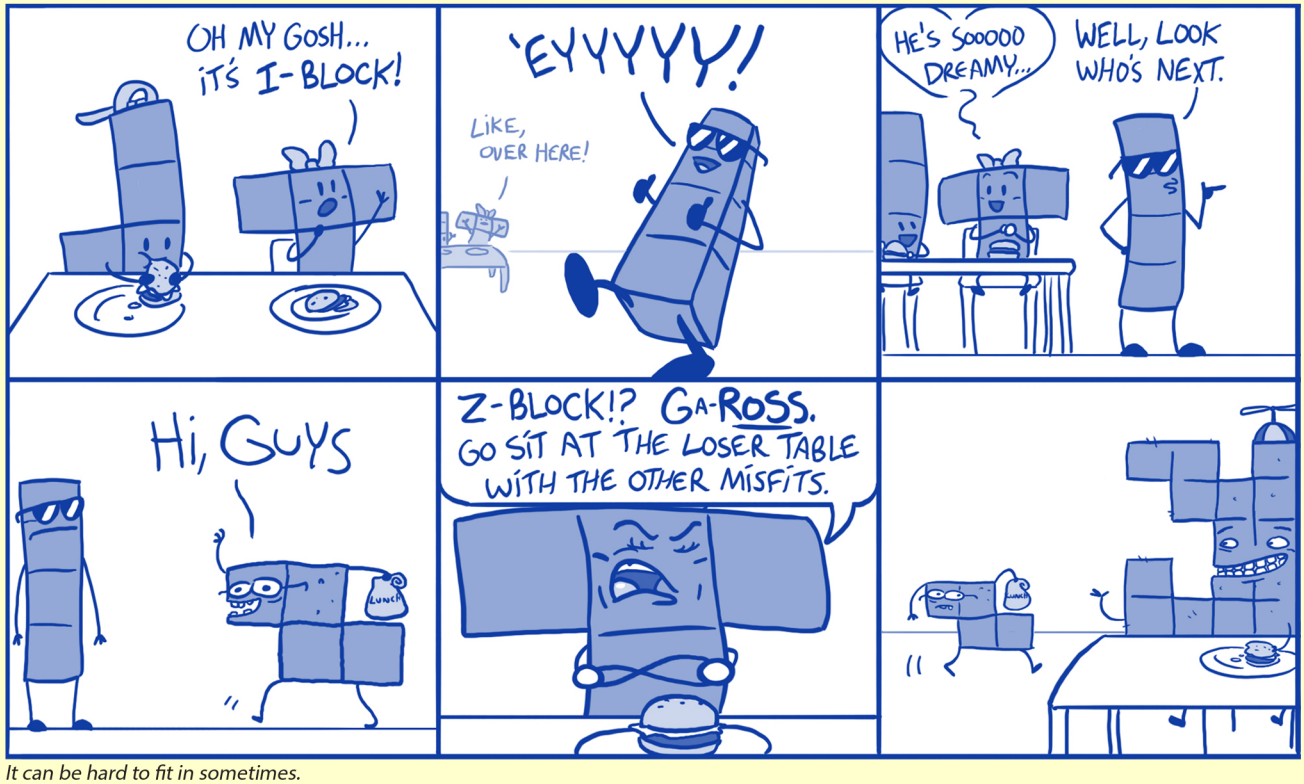
How did he get in there in the first place? Did they just build a wall around him?

337 - Shy Guy's House



Those things sure are pests, and a big reason why rent in Sub-con is so cheap.

338 - Tetris Cafeteria



It can be hard to fit in sometimes.

339 - The Warp Star



The Warp Star: delivers instant smiles as well as instant KOs. Order today!



'Hoy, small fry. Fishman here once again to land you some juicy info on this here review. It's been a while since I last wrote some mouseover text, but it's just as well seeing as how it's painfully difficult to type when keyboards only work on land. I have to hop out of water, slap a few keys, then leap back into the drink to refuel my gills. It's harder than it sounds, fry! And it makes my handsome, scaly body vulnerable to all sorts of dangers, like seafood chefs, the sun, and fat children with sticks. So I hope you appreciate the effort I put in as much as I appreciate your bait! Speaking of which, bring me some of the hard stuff next time - - I'm still mostly conscious. And with that, I'm off!

LUIGI FIGHTS A FAMILIAR-LOOKING GHOST,

What, no pecan sandies?

WHILE LAKITU IS DEPRESSED BY THE NEW MARIO KART.

guys, you need a hand...? ...guys?

KIRBY'S BACK WITH ALL YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTERS!!

AND I EVEN MET TWO FANS!

I DRAW BRAWL in the FAMILY!

huh?

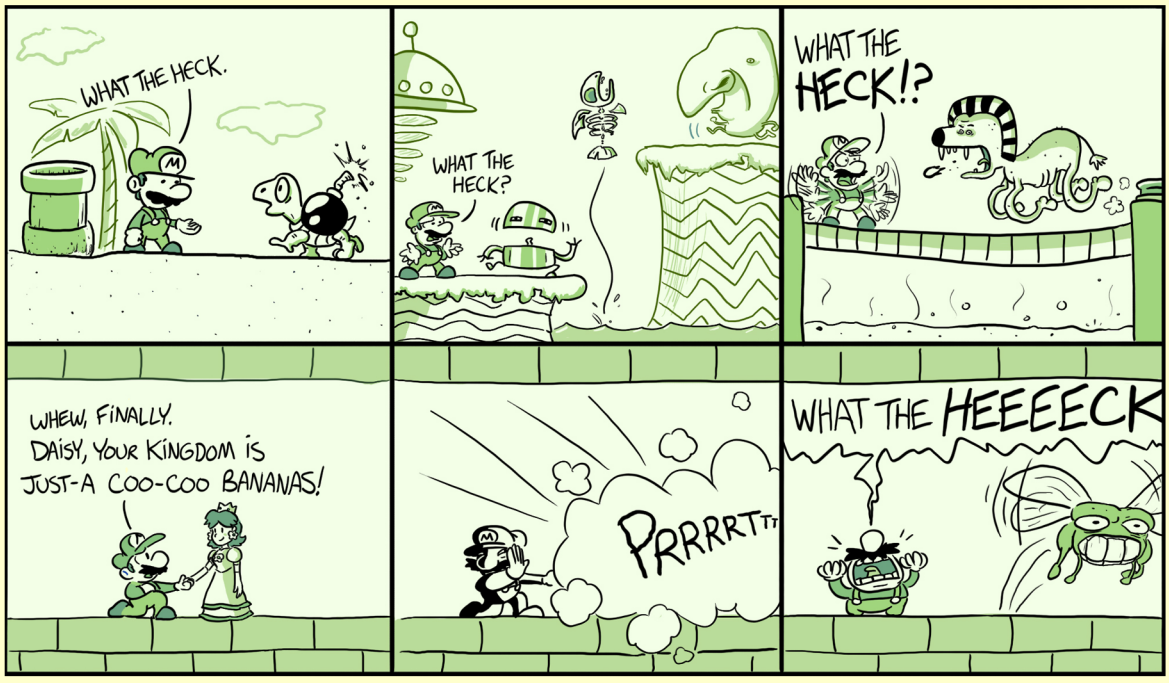
AWESOME!

LINK, MAN, YOU GOT A BUG ON YOUR ARM

OVERALL, This E3 gets a BIG PILE OF KIRBIES for Nintendo awesomeness.

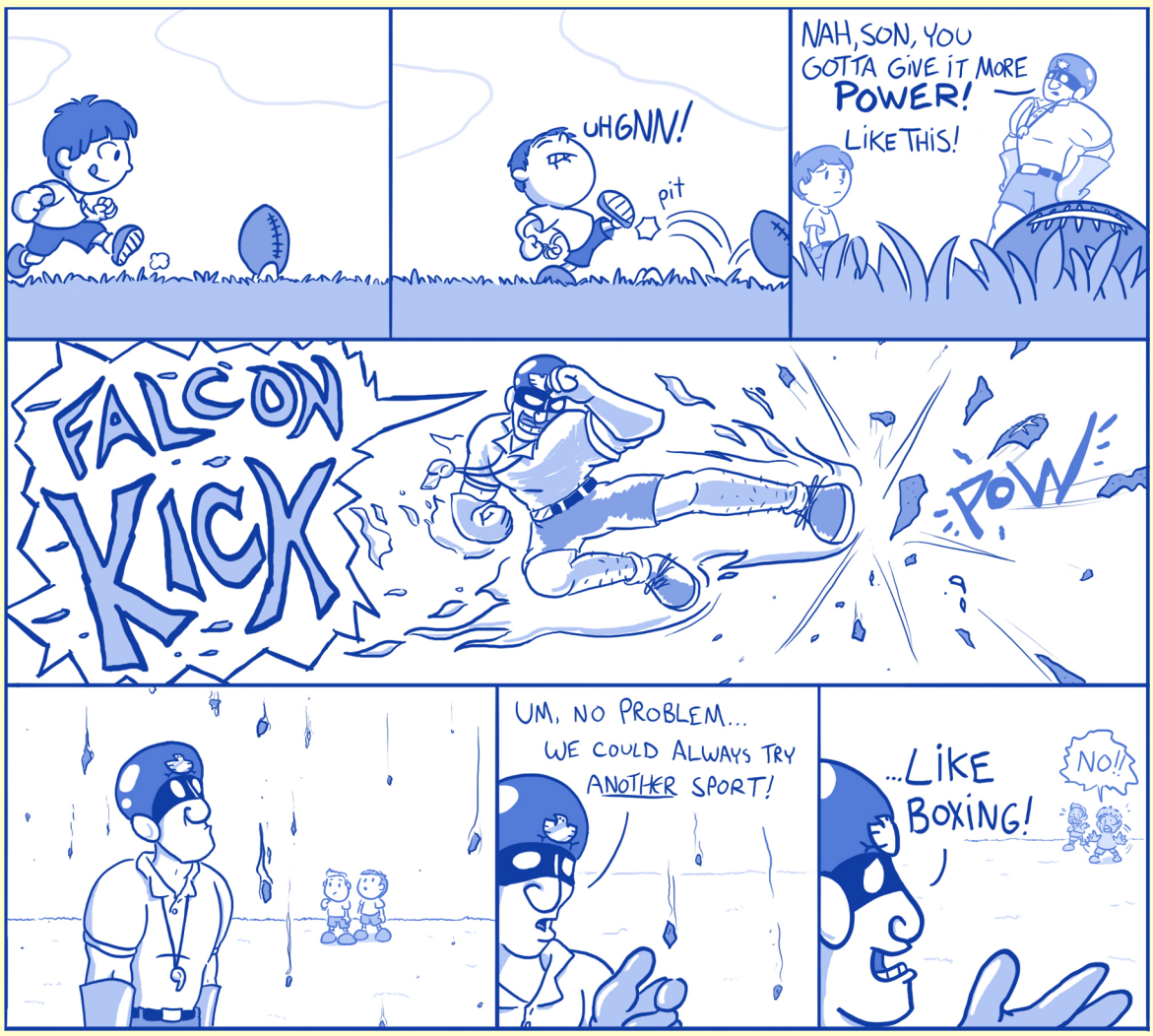
also I think the other companies had stuff but who cares

341 - Super Mario Land is Weird



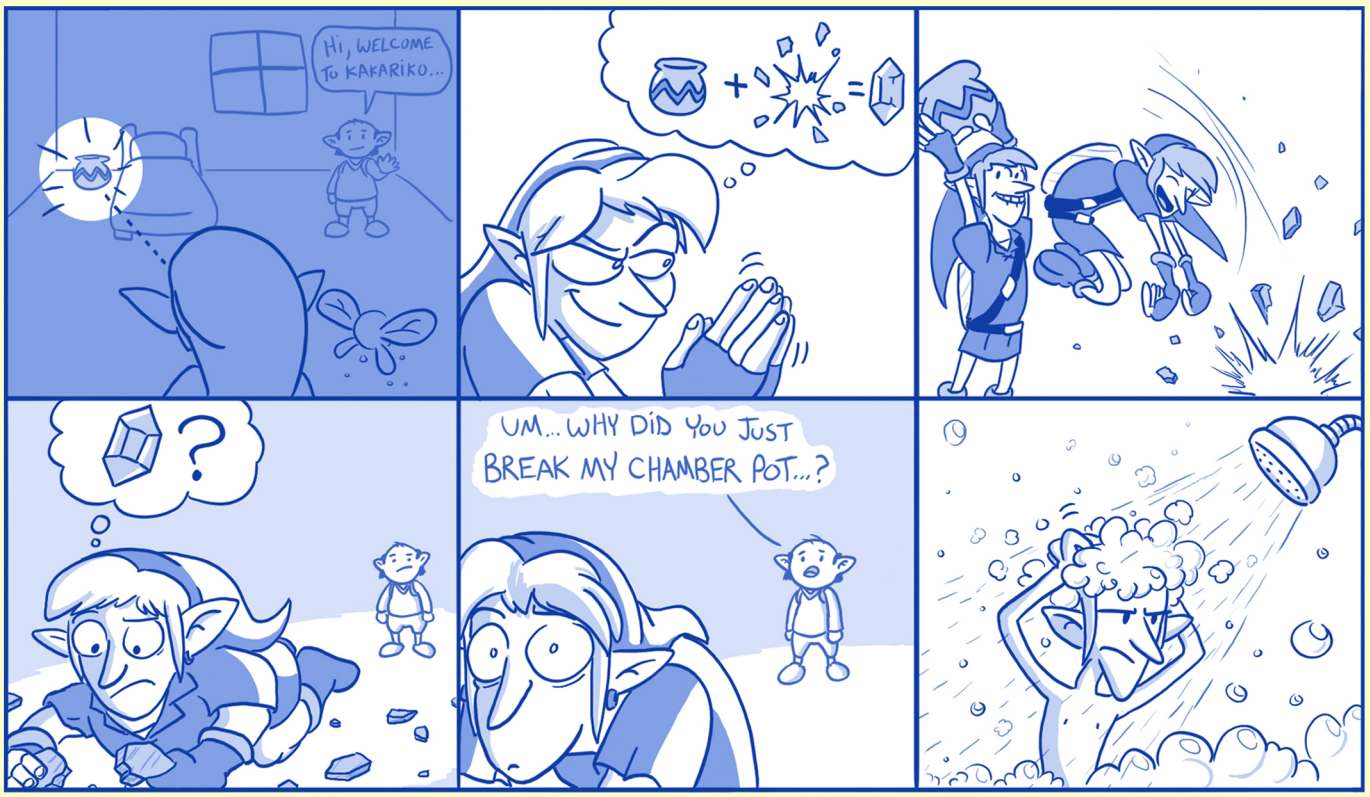
And Mario never returned to Sarasaland again.

342 - Coach Captain Falcon



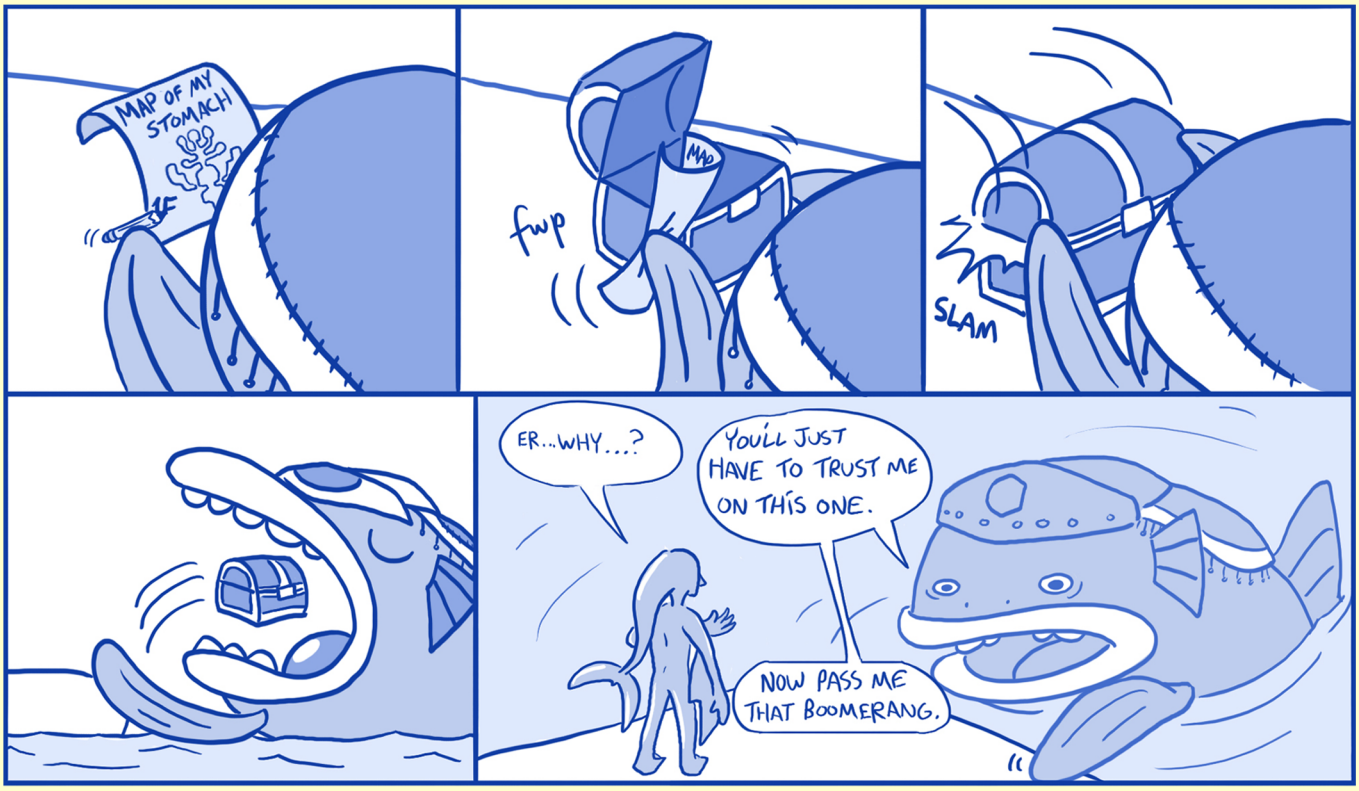
Dodgeball wasn't much fun with this guy either.

343 - Link Callously Breaks Another Pot in a Fellow Hylian's Home



Link has a pot problem.

344 - Jabu-Jabu

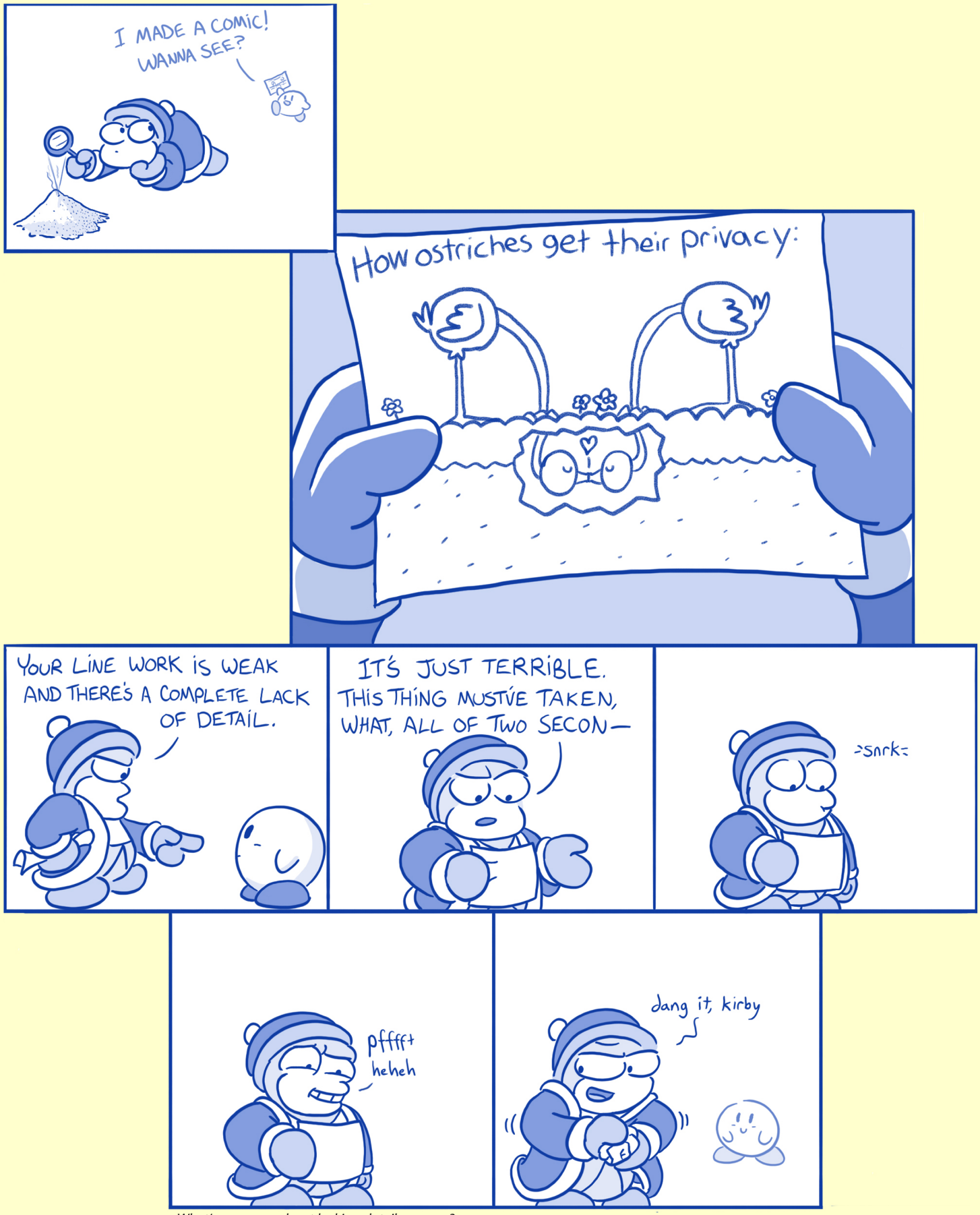


It was even more difficult for the Great Deku Tree to do this.



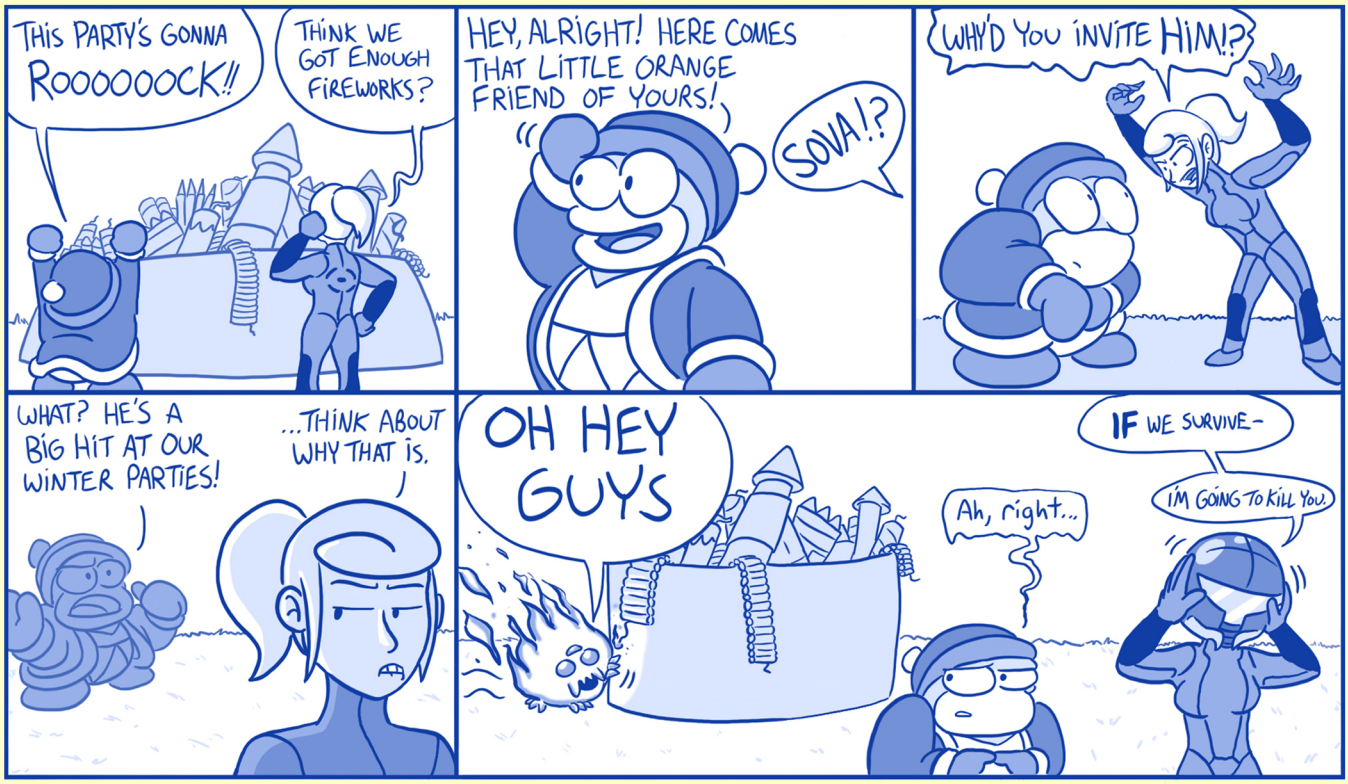
How dashing! Finally, our friend has another chance at wooing Queen Gohma.

346 - Kirby's Comic



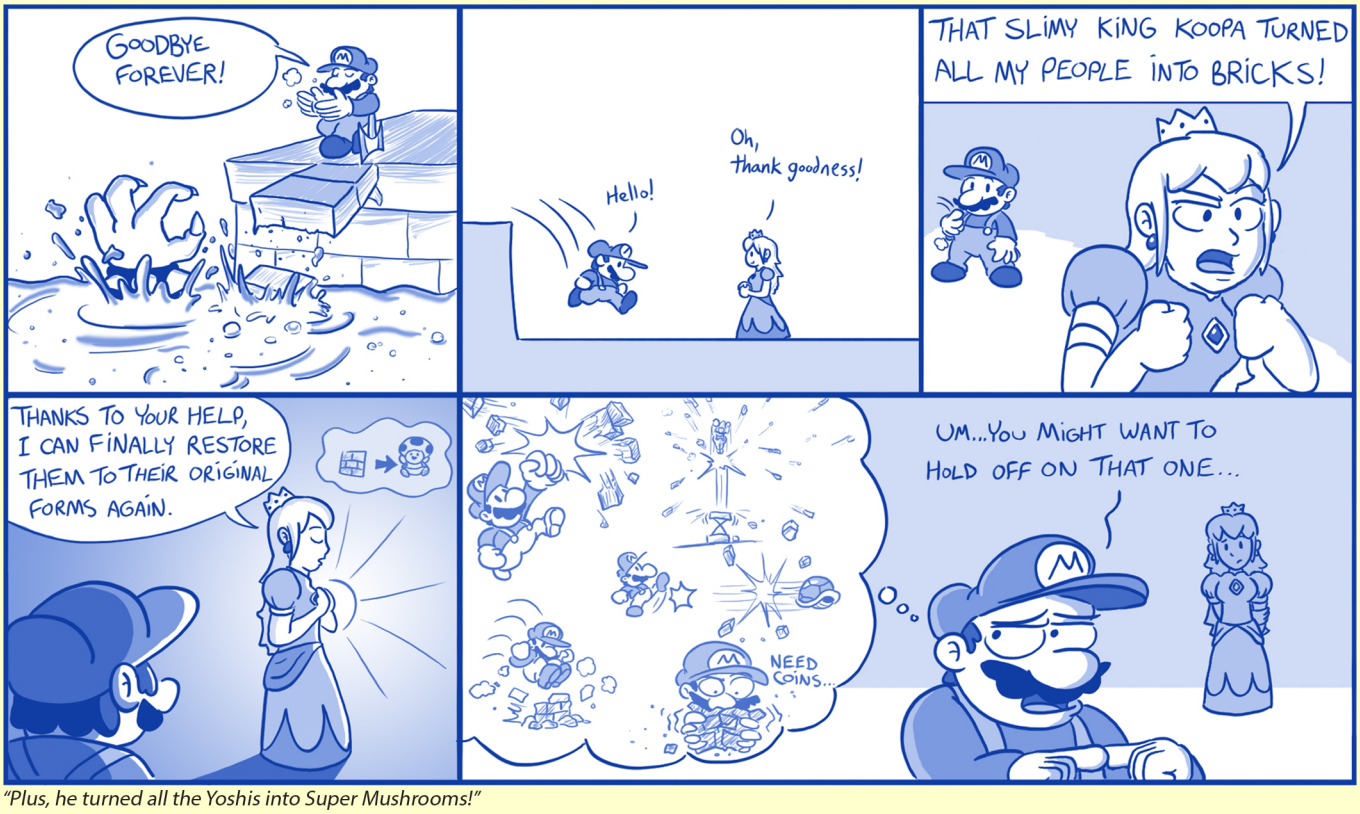
What's so wrong about lacking detail, anyway?

347 - Sova



He's also a big hit at campouts.

348 - Bricks



"Plus, he turned all the Yoshis into Super Mushrooms!"

349 - Chozo



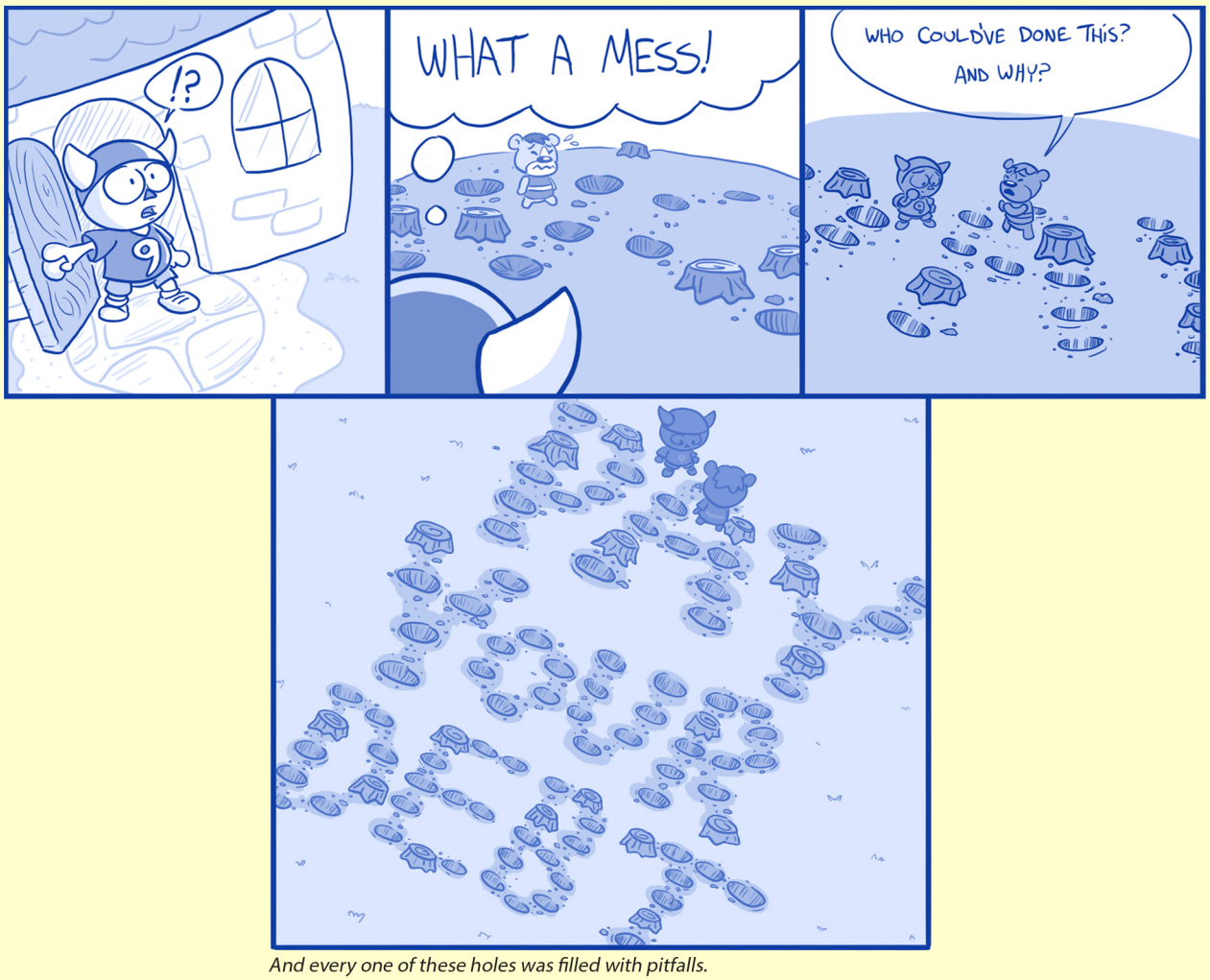
"And today's the day we teach you to fly!"

350 - If It Takes a Lifetime

It's solely a video comic this time, folks, so just scan that QR Code to see what's going down this time!

This idea started life as a one-off joke involving Mario's 1UPs starting his ENTIRE life over, but then I started wondering about how that could be used in a heavier sort of way. As a sort of reverse to "The Captive Princess," it shows how devoted Mario is to Peach...and also like that comic, I eschew the "Princess in another castle" ending for something more sentimental.

351 - Stumps and Holes



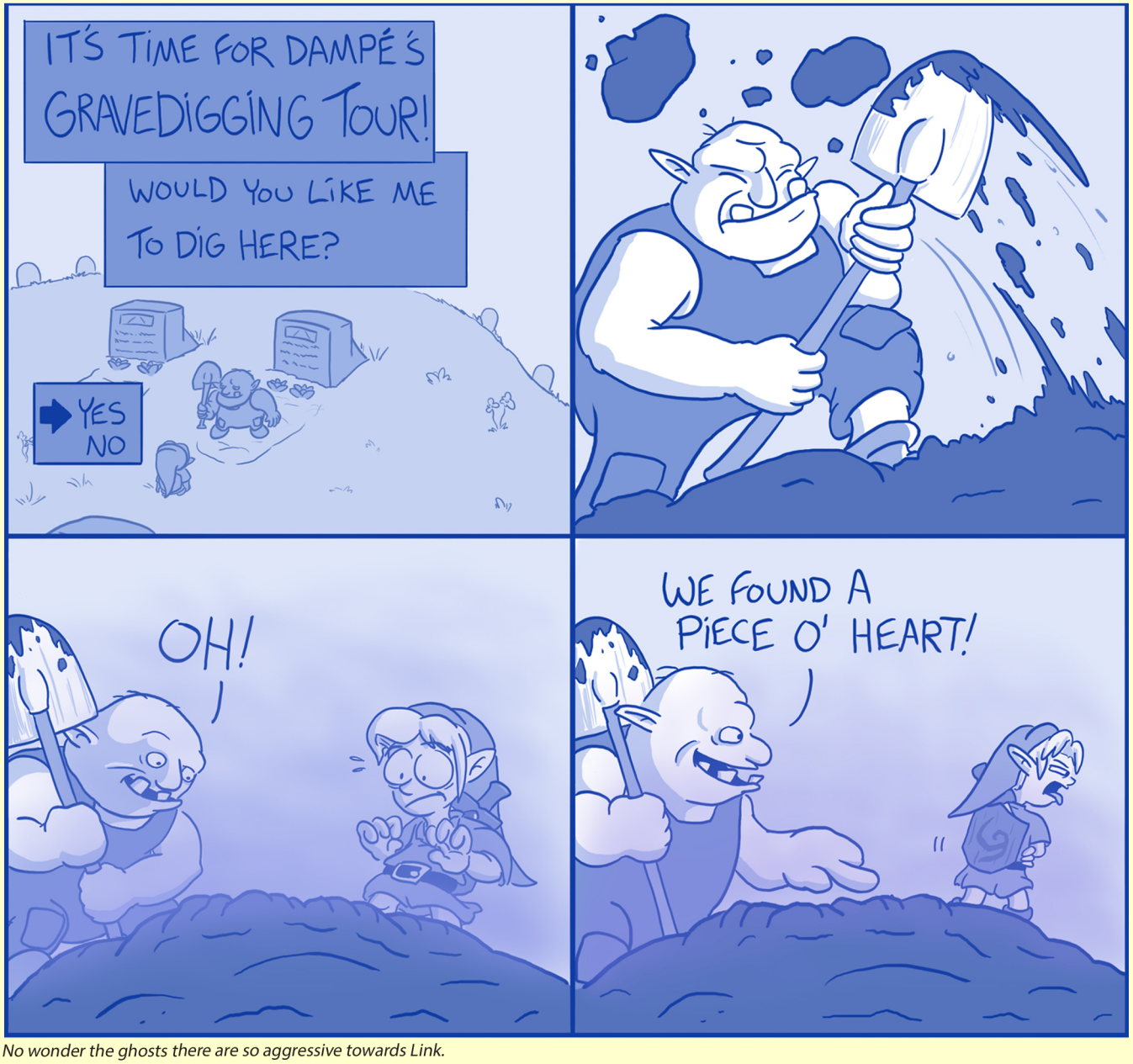
And every one of these holes was filled with pitfalls.

352 - Plucked

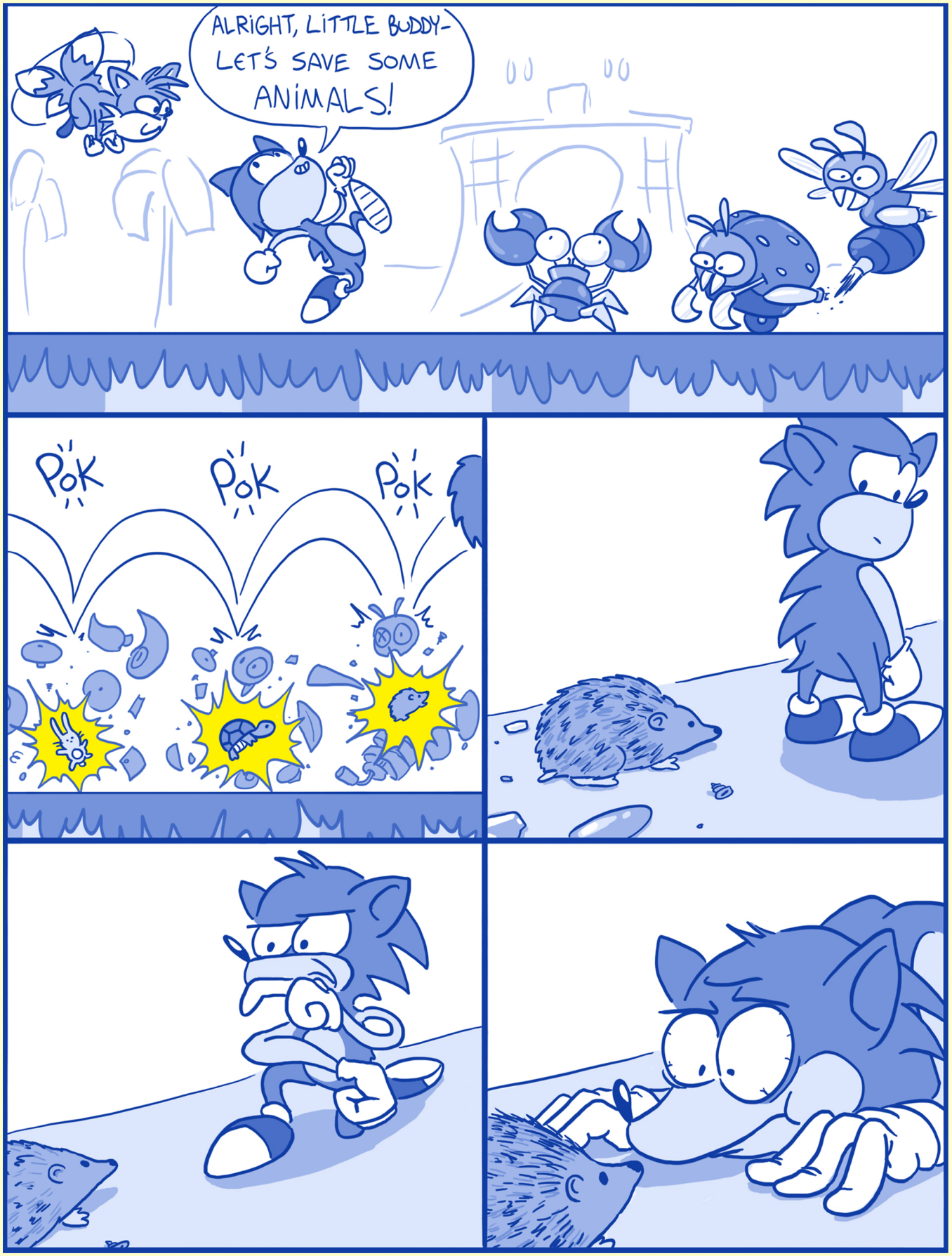


He was just a leaf Pikmin! He needed more time!

353 - Dampé



No wonder the ghosts there are so aggressive towards Link.



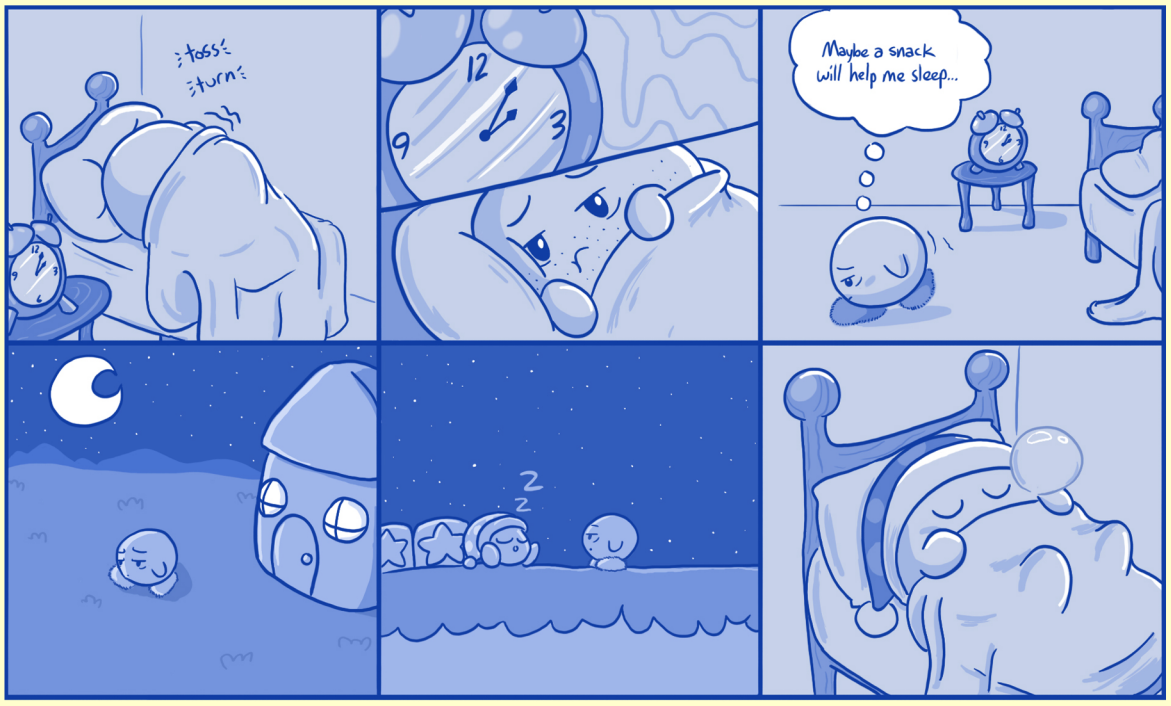
I remembered to make Sonic's arms not-blue this time!



CONTINUED on the NEXT PAGE

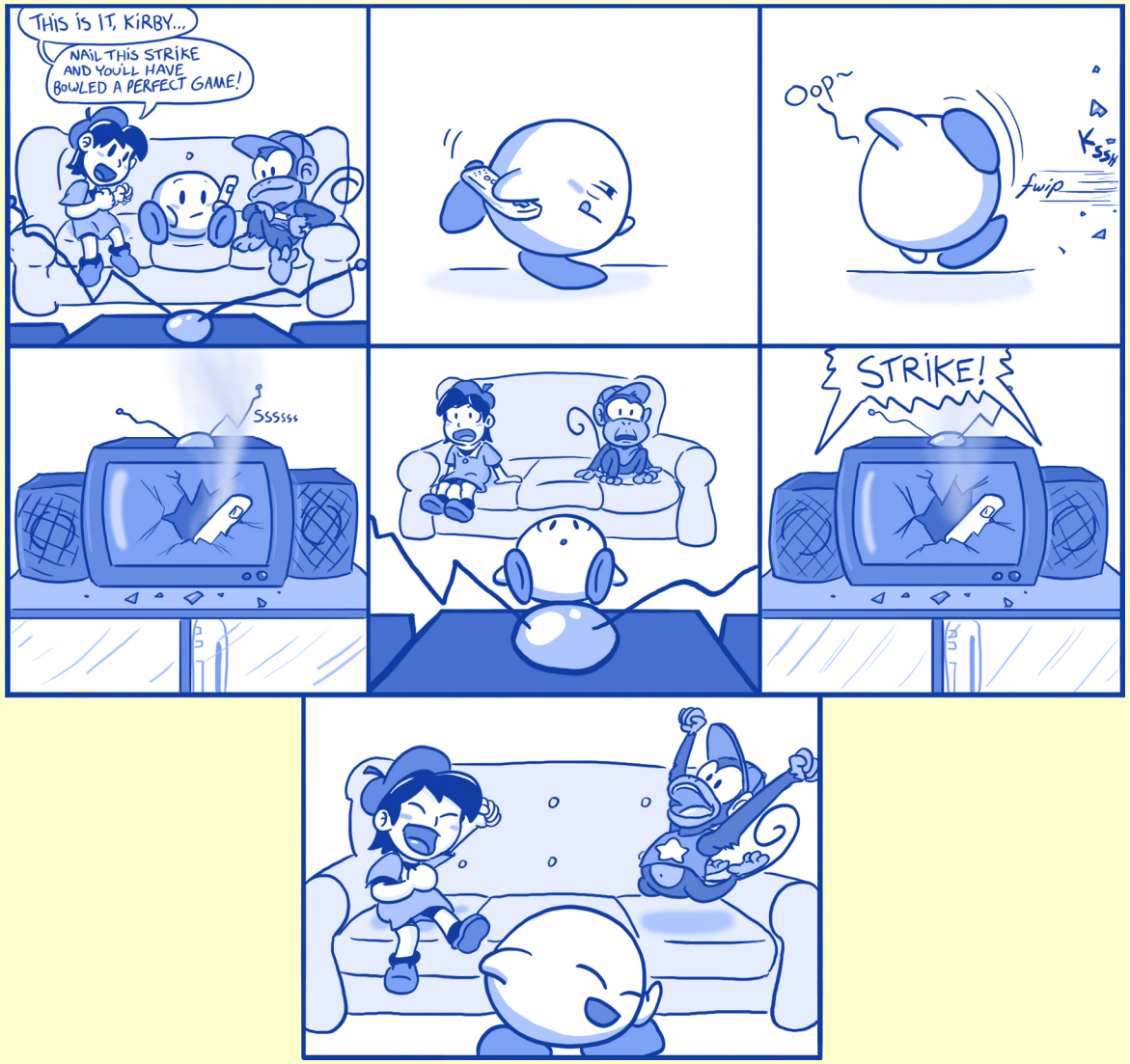

POPO
NANA

356 - Insomnia



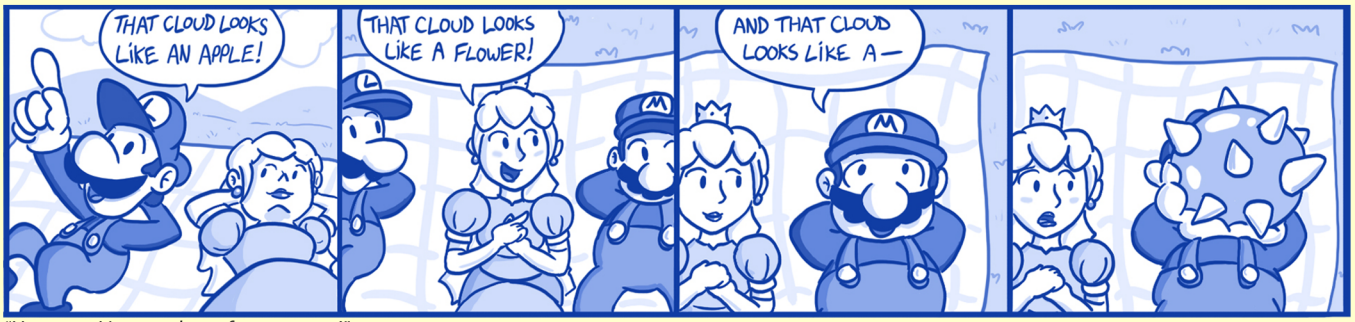
He has to do this because the common way of handling insomnia would just turn him into a giant glass of warm milk.

357 - Bowling



Dedede's not gonna be happy when he gets home.

358 - Cloud Watching



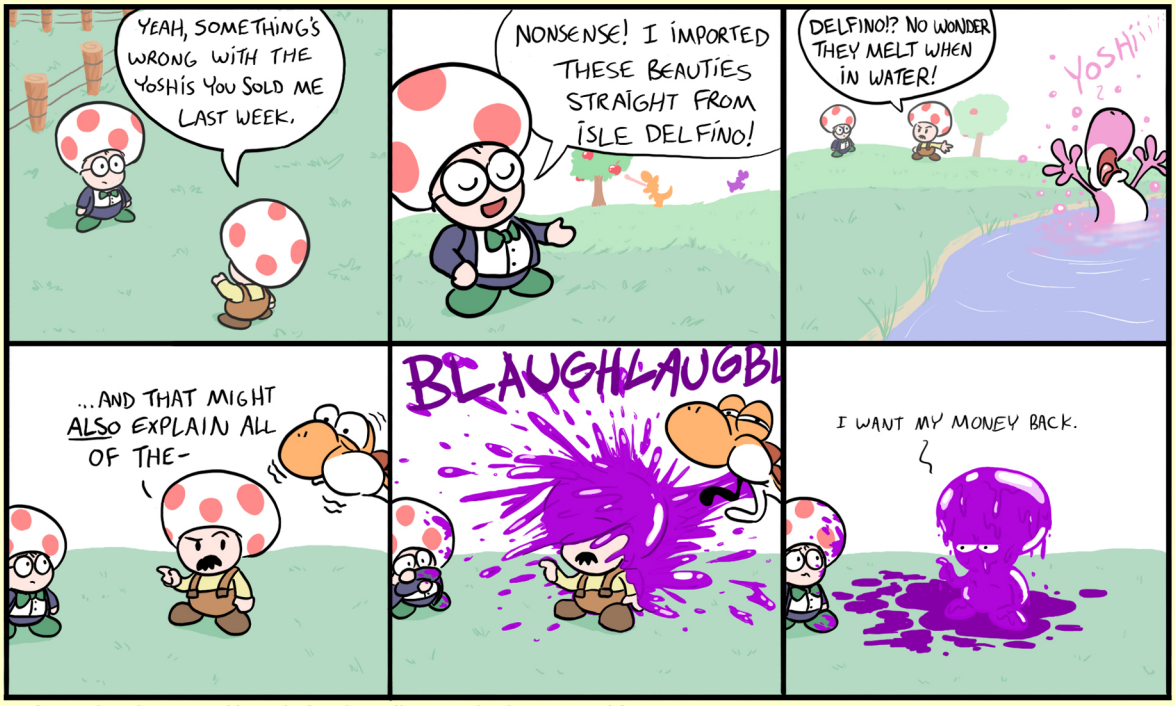
"Hey, now I just see lots of pretty stars!"

359 - Banished



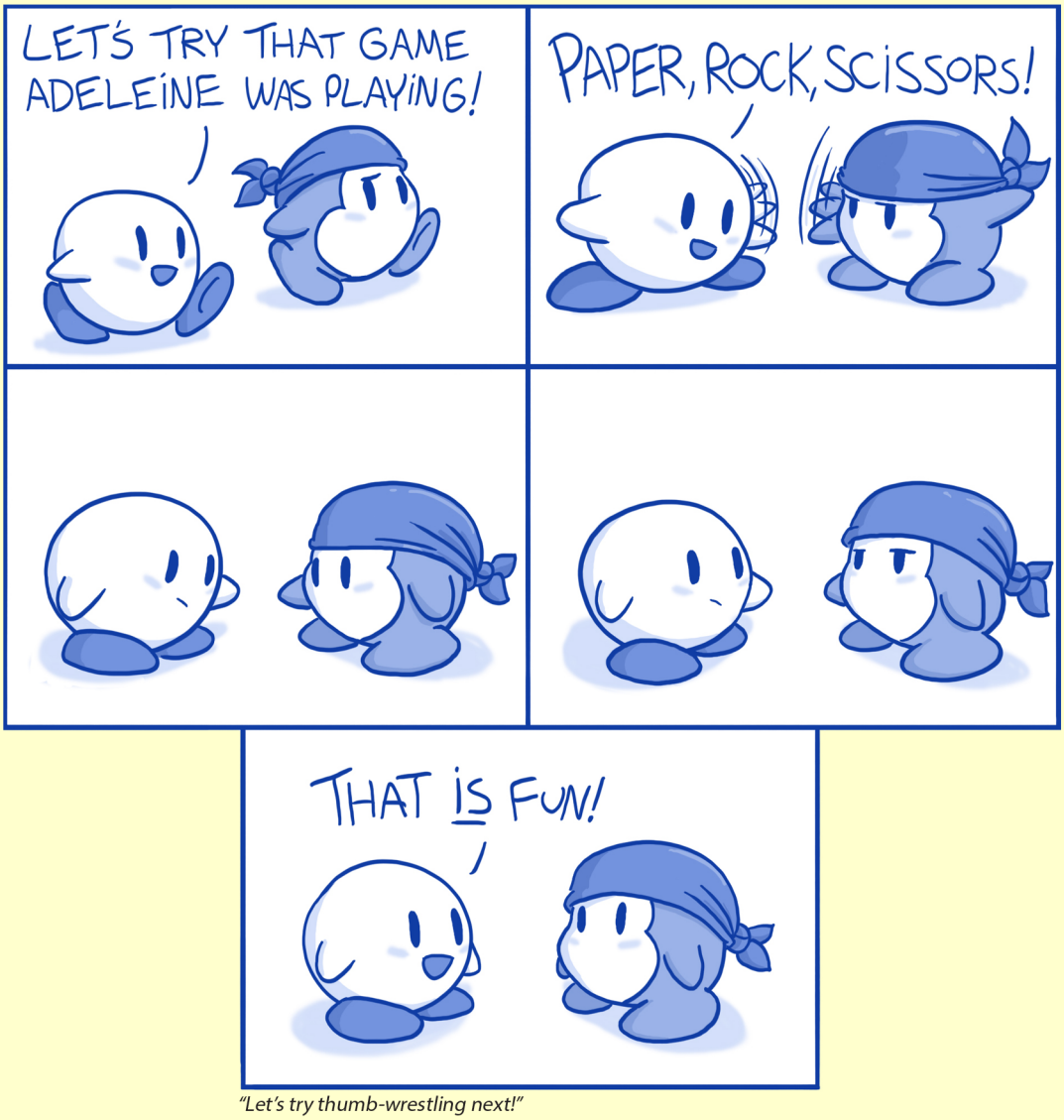
Now we know why Ganondorf was so eager to escape from there.

360 - Yoshi Ranch



Go figure that the tropical breed of Yoshi is allergic to both water and fruit.

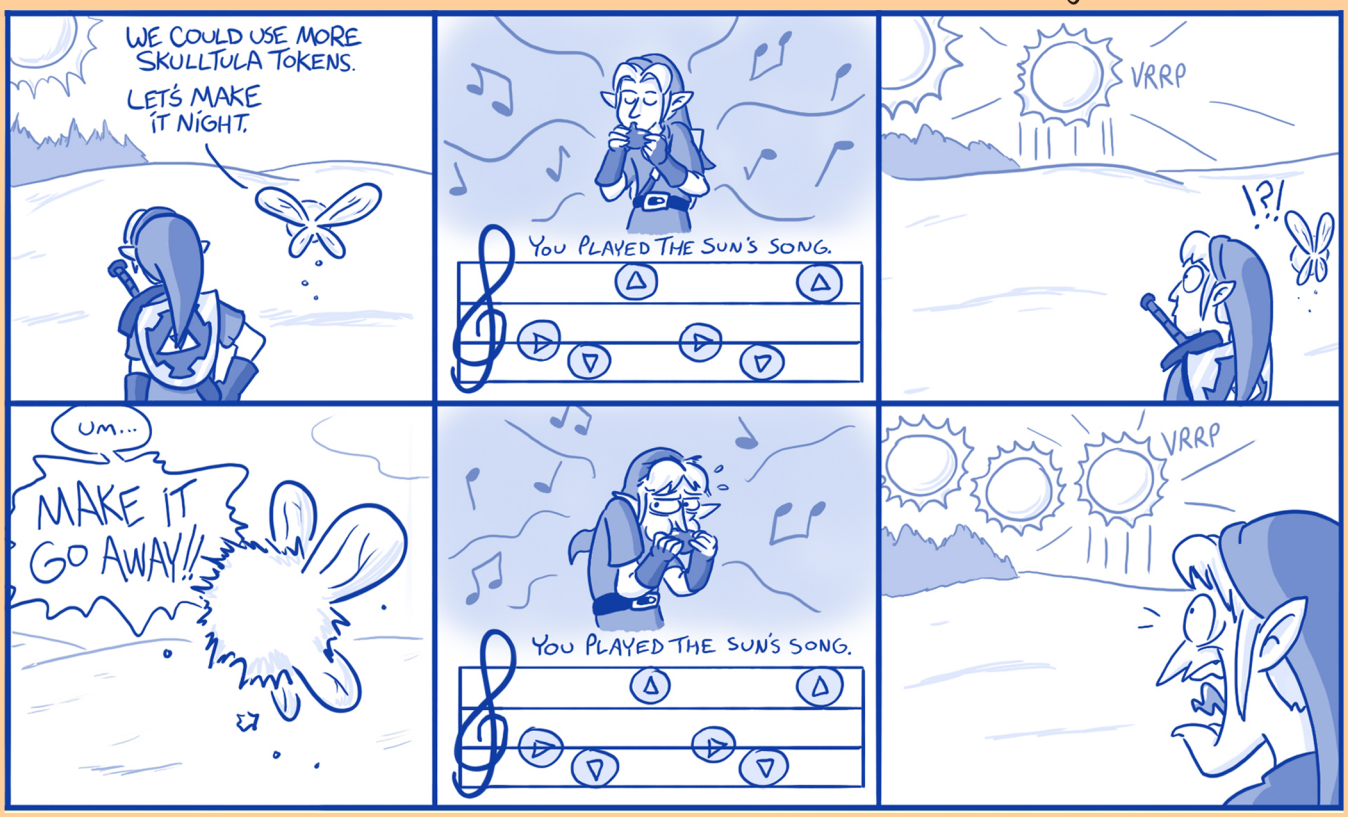
361 - An Eternal Struggle



"Let's try thumb-wrestling next!"

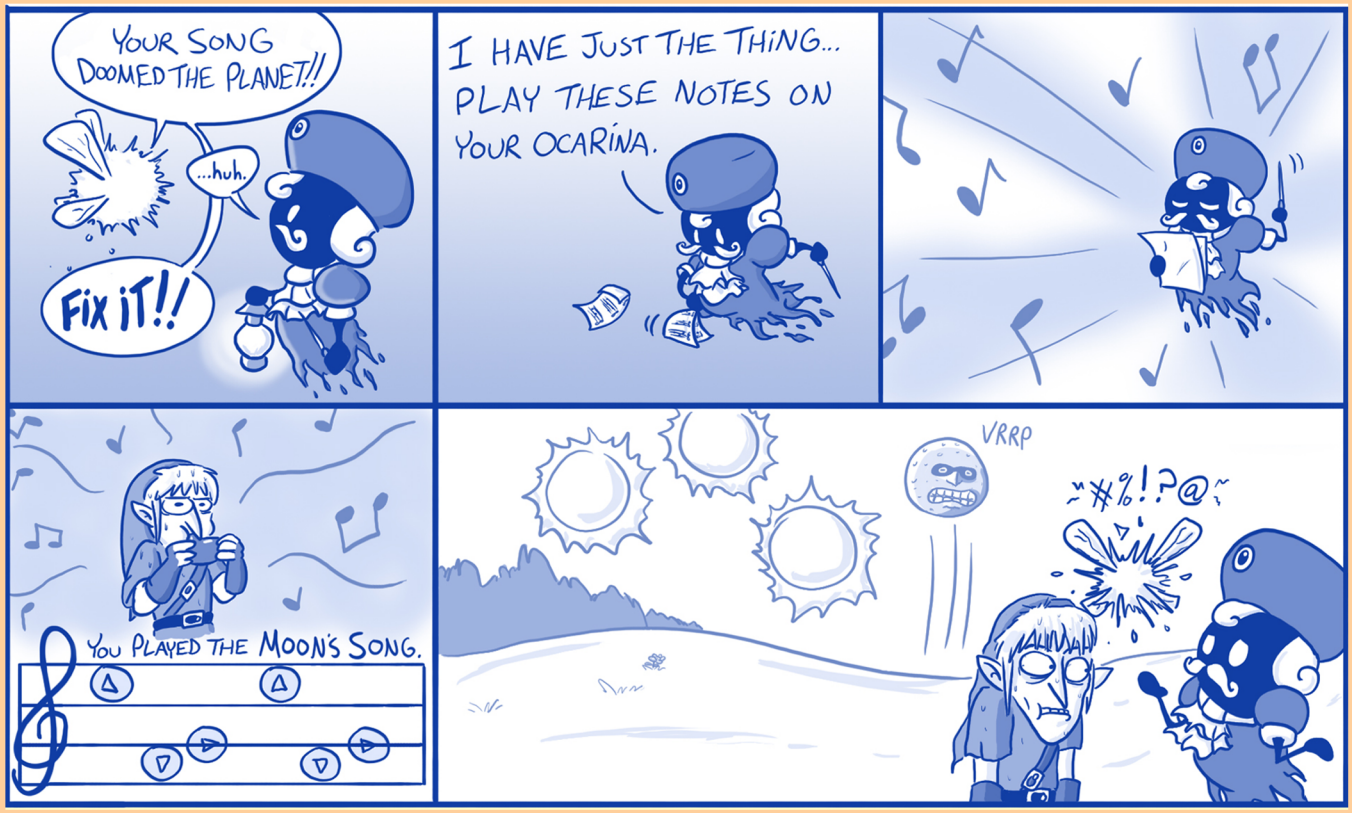
Sun's Song

362 - Sun's Song (Part 1)



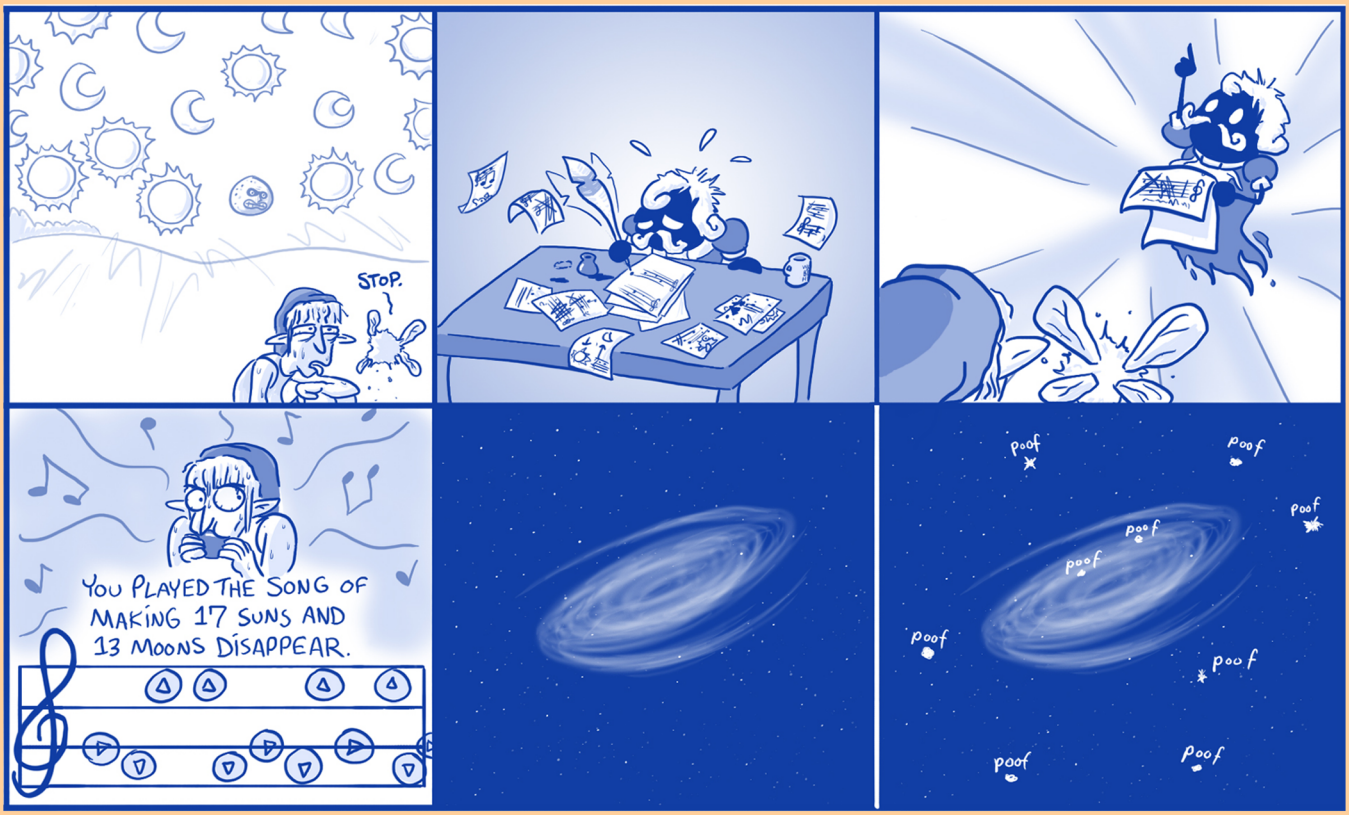
Hello, Mr. Link! Would you like some sun?

363 - Sun's Song (Part 2)



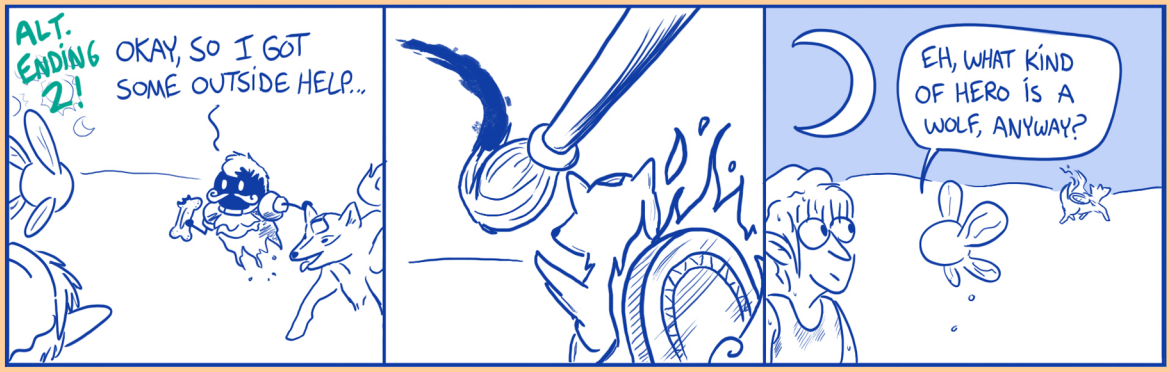
"Okay, well, now try playing this 'Giant's Song' four times..."

364 - Sun's Song (Part 3)



Hey, I'm really gonna miss Ganymede, AD Leonis, and Proxima Centauri...







Voltorbs get really confused like this, too.

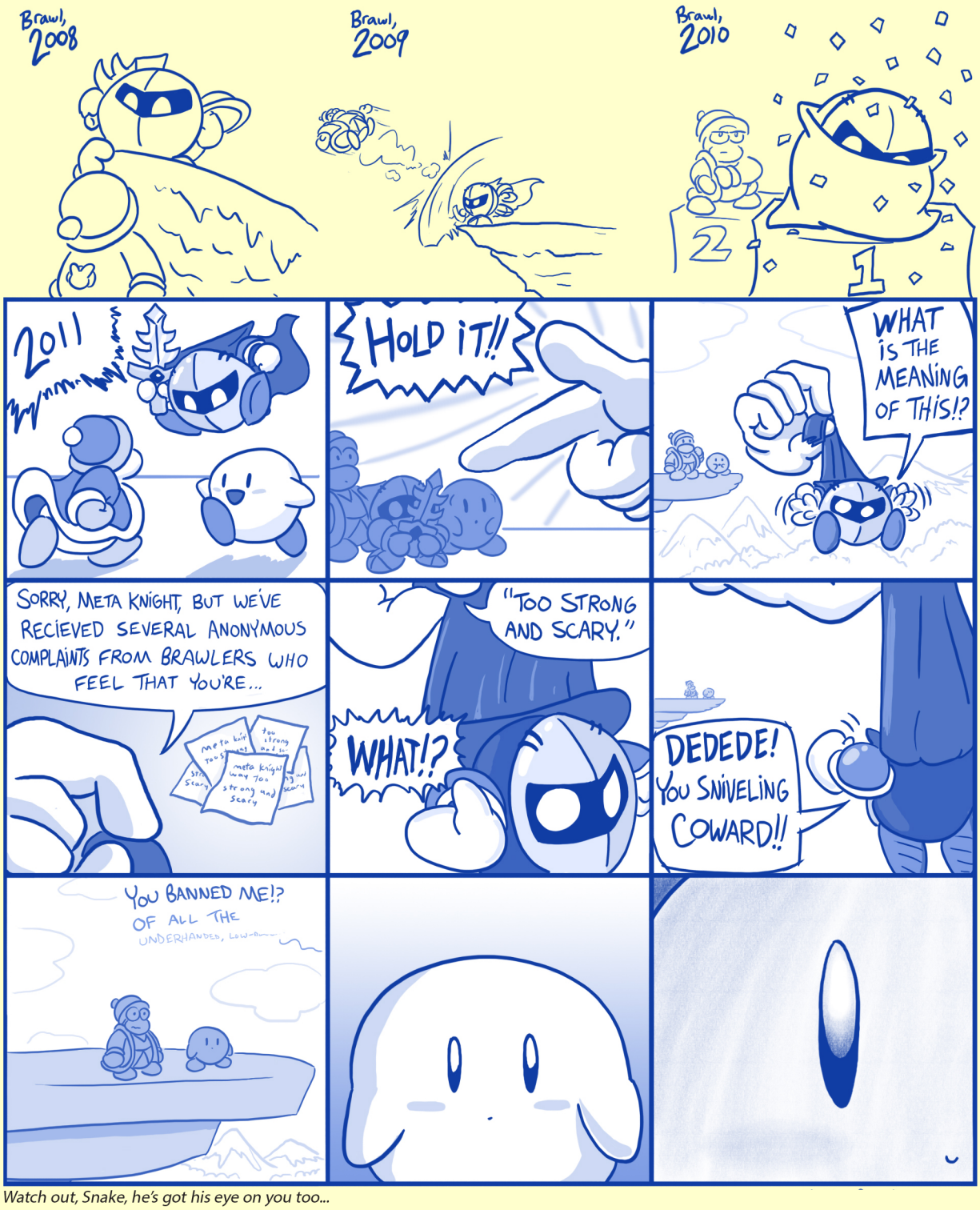


But at least they come bearing Maxim Tomatoes and Pep Brew!



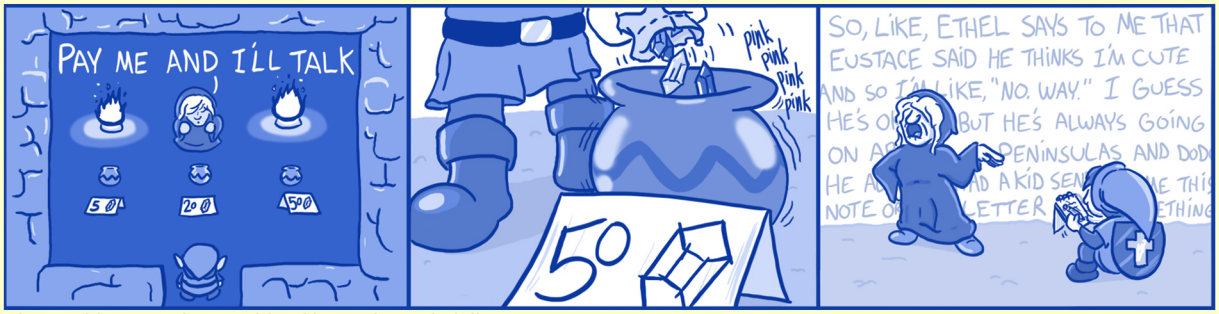
TANOOKI TANOOKI TANOOKI TANOOKI

368 - Banned

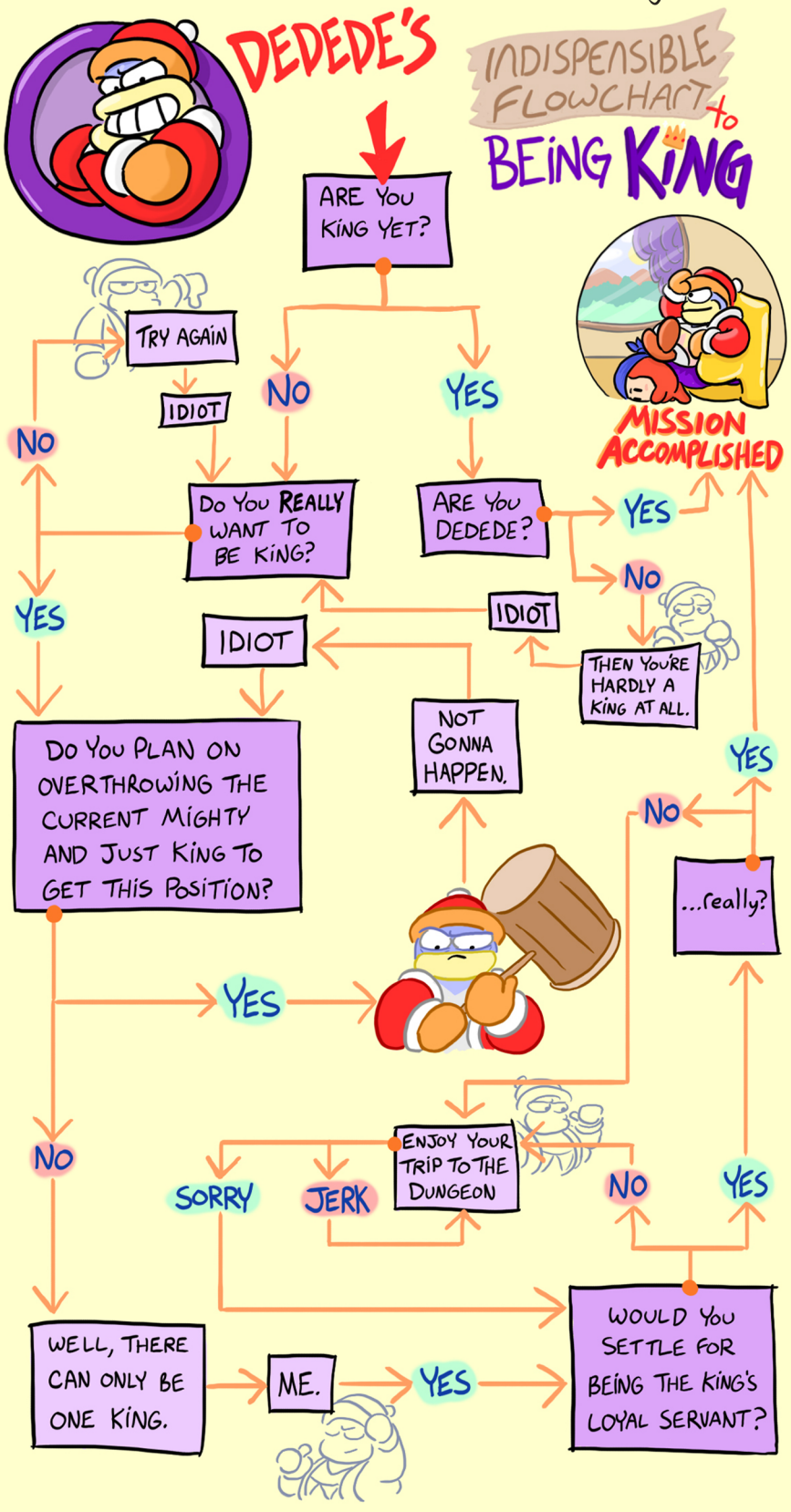


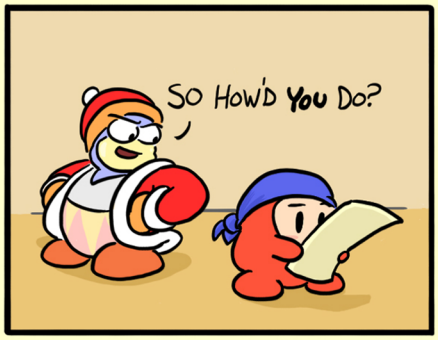
Watch out, Snake, he's got his eye on you too...

369 - A Penny for Your Thoughts

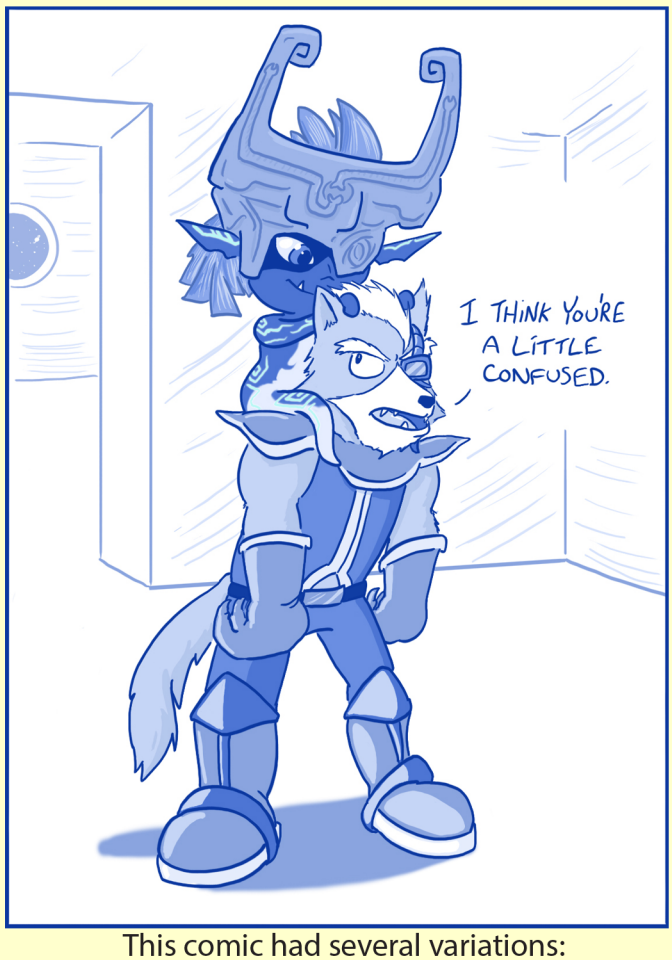


Alt. punchline: "So I hear Moblins like to play with dolls..."


DEDEDE'S
INDISPENSIBLE FLOWCHART to BEING KING
ARE YOU KING YET?
TRY AGAIN
IDIOT
NO
YES
NO
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE KING?
ARE YOU DEDEDE?
YES
NO
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
YES
IDIOT
IDIOT
THEN YOU'RE HARDLY A KING AT ALL.
DO YOU PLAN ON OVERTHROWING THE CURRENT MIGHTY AND JUST KING TO GET THIS POSITION?
NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
YES
NO
...really?
YES
NO
ENJOY YOUR TRIP TO THE DUNGEON
SORRY
JERK
NO
YES
WELL, THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE KING.
ME.
YES
WOULD YOU SETTLE FOR BEING THE KING'S LOYAL SERVANT?


SO HOW'D YOU DO?

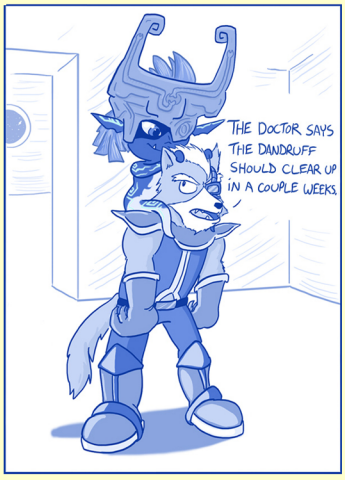
371 - Variations on a Visual Gag



This comic had several variations:



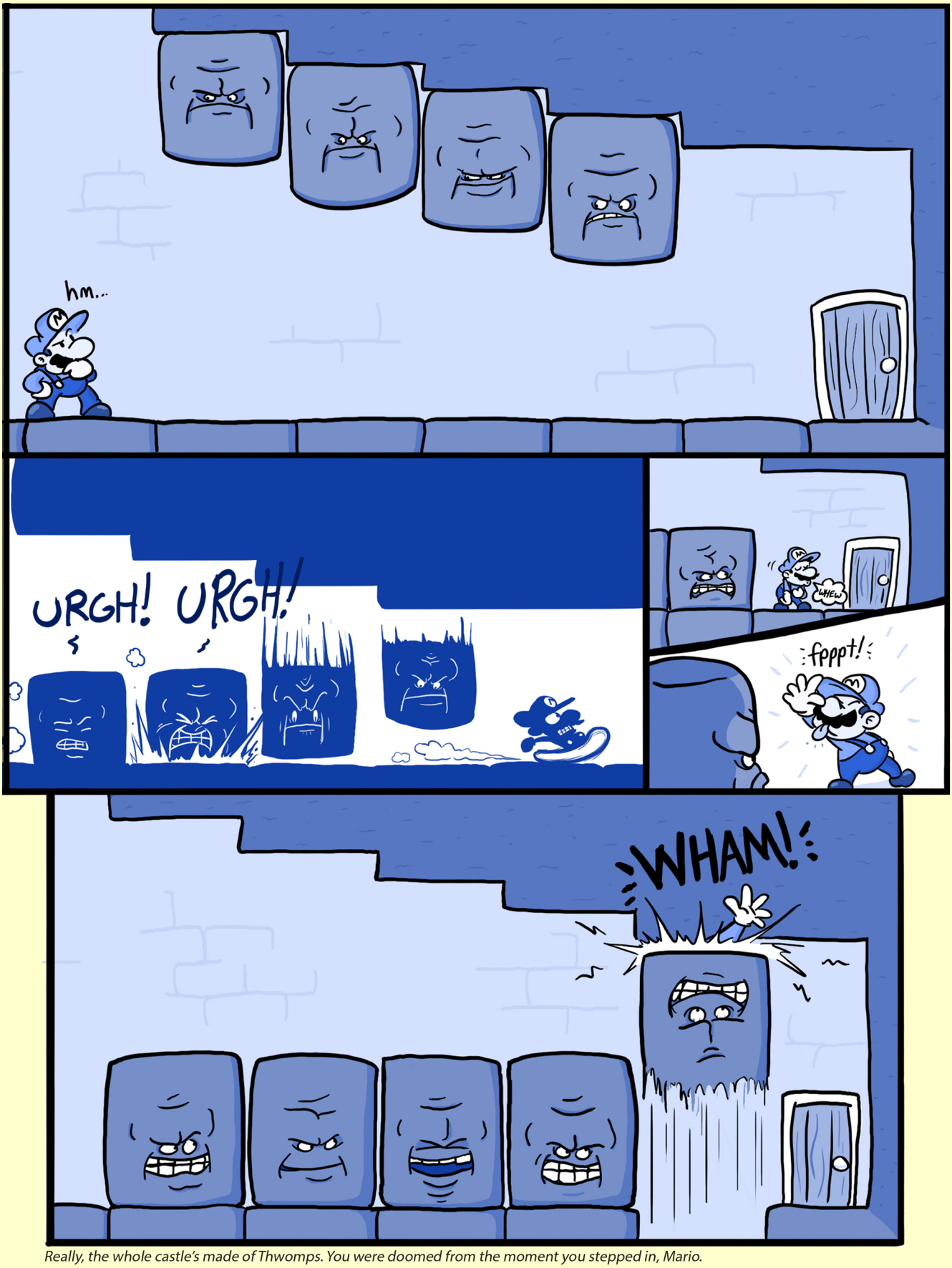












Really, the whole castle's made of Thwomps. You were doomed from the moment you stepped in, Mario.



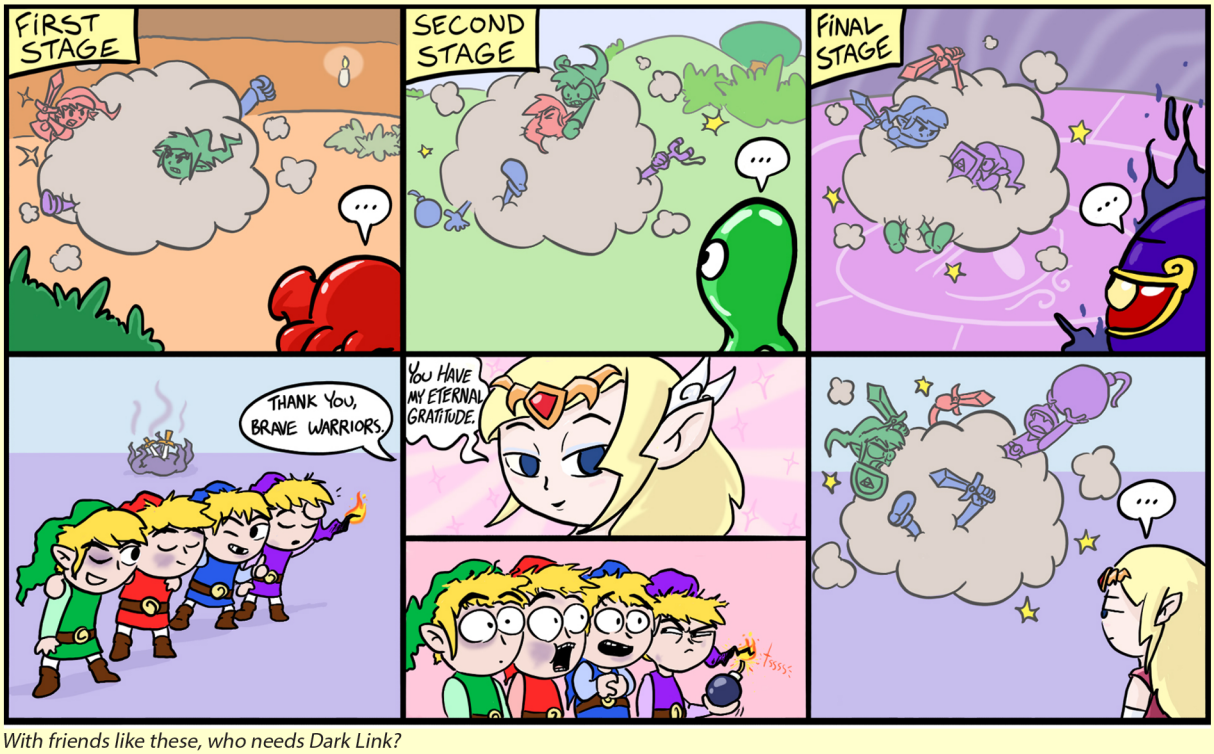
And no eating Maxim Tomatoes made of yarn!

374 - Missingno.



Dressing as Hypno isn't a bad idea, either.

375 - Four Hearts

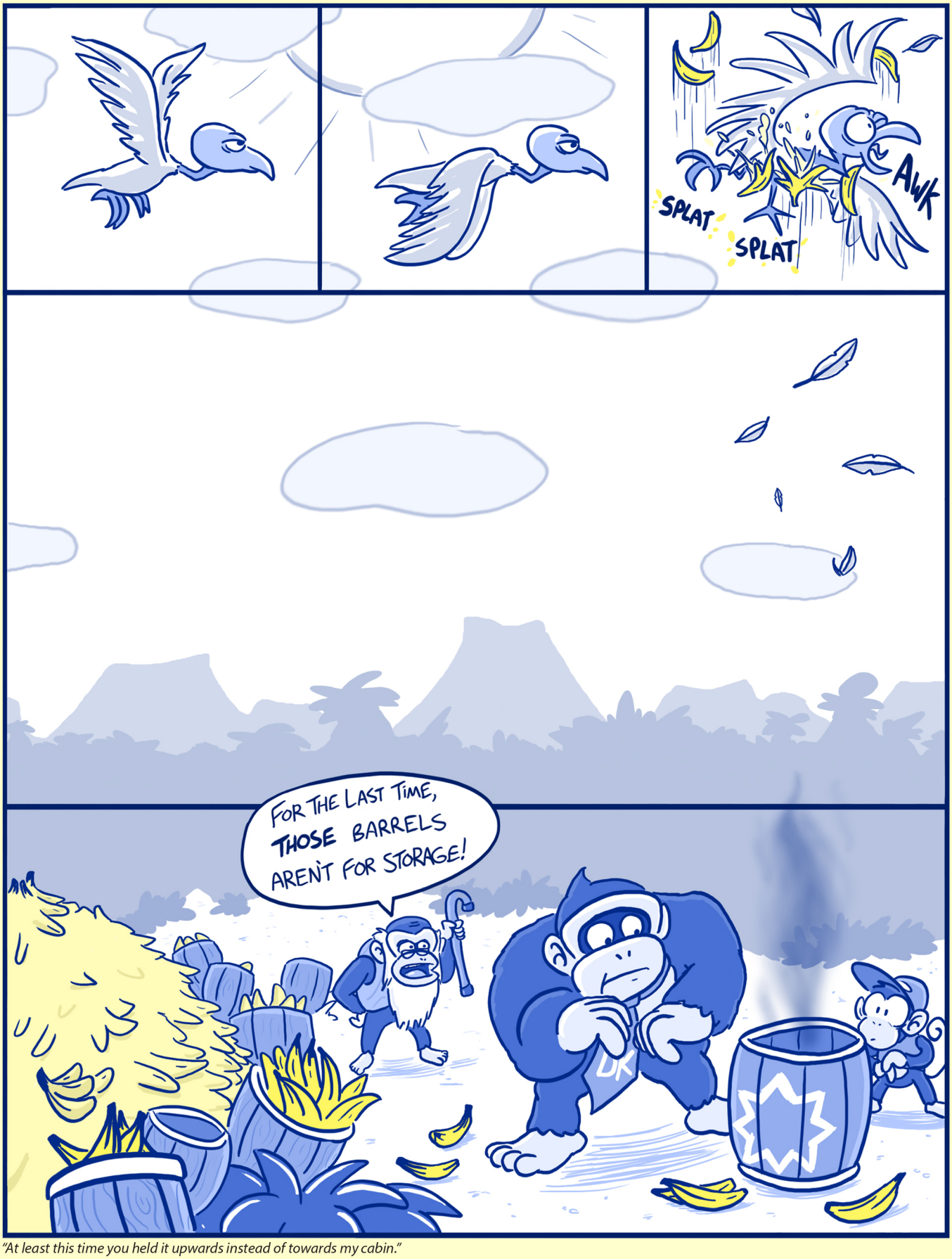


With friends like these, who needs Dark Link?

376 - Dream Land Sharing



"Fine, but now Kirby's hurt, so share the Tomato back."



"At least this time you held it upwards instead of towards my cabin."

378 - Fantasy



Hey, you still have Daisy, and she's never had to be rescued by Mario! ...Well, except that one time...

379 - 1-UP?



This strip's mouseover text was way too long to be included here, so check out this particular comic on the website for the full, exhaustive tale!



NEXT PAGE


Thanks for the memories!
– Matthew Taranto, lifelong Zelda fan



"Yeah, keep smiling, pal. Just don't expect me to catch you next time."

382 - Tired



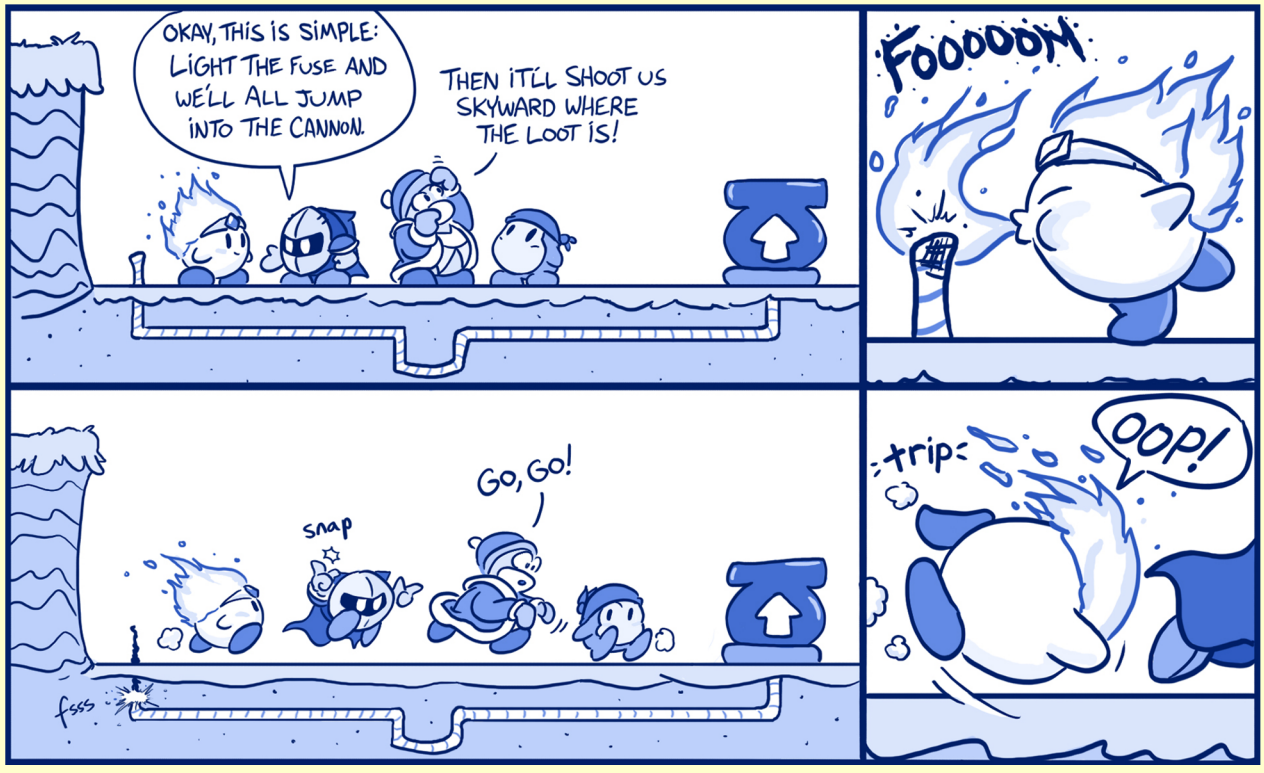
Kirby had a similar problem a couple months ago.

383 - Neopotism



"...Now then, if you want me to keep quiet, don't block me on the track either."

384 - Dream Land Cannon



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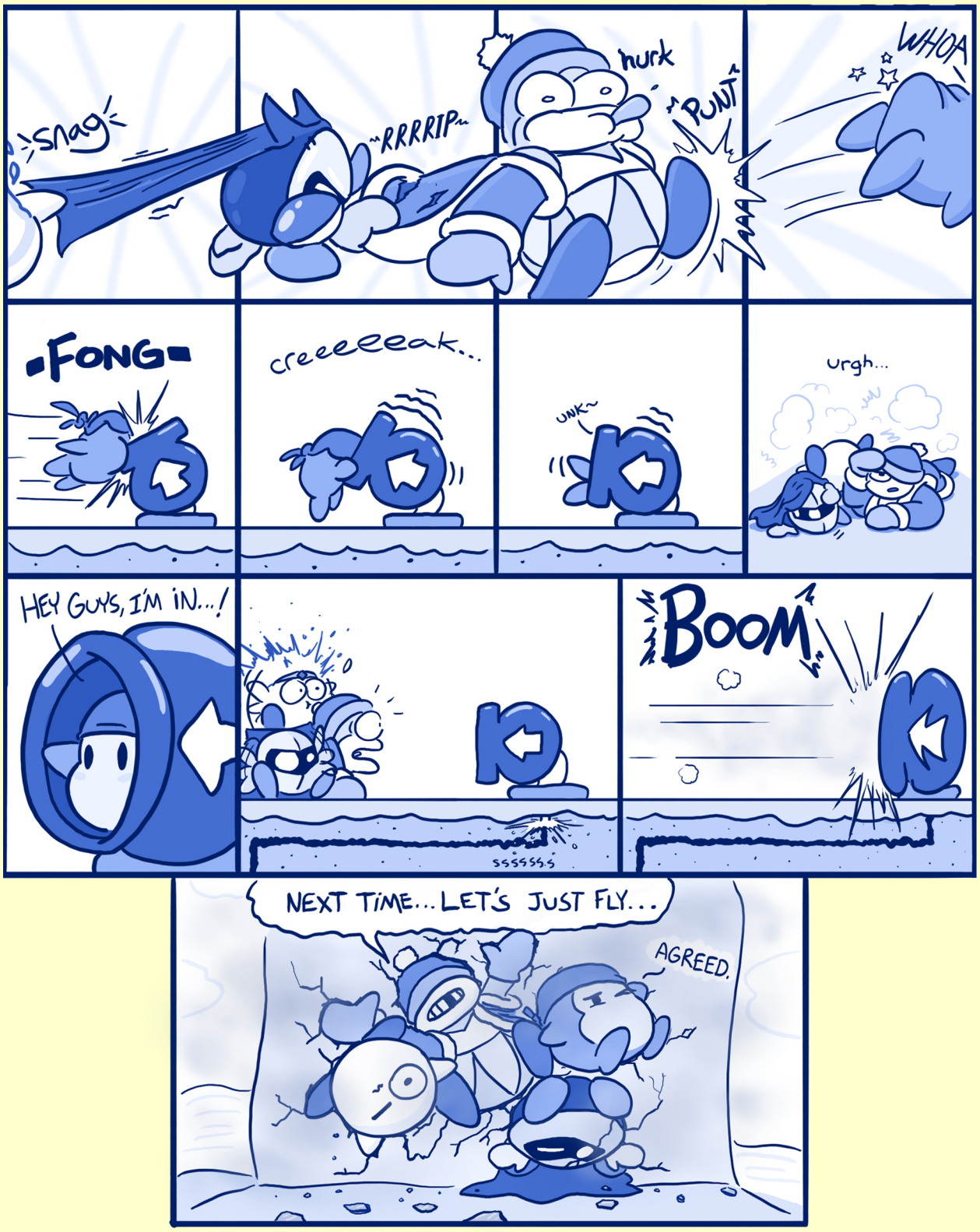


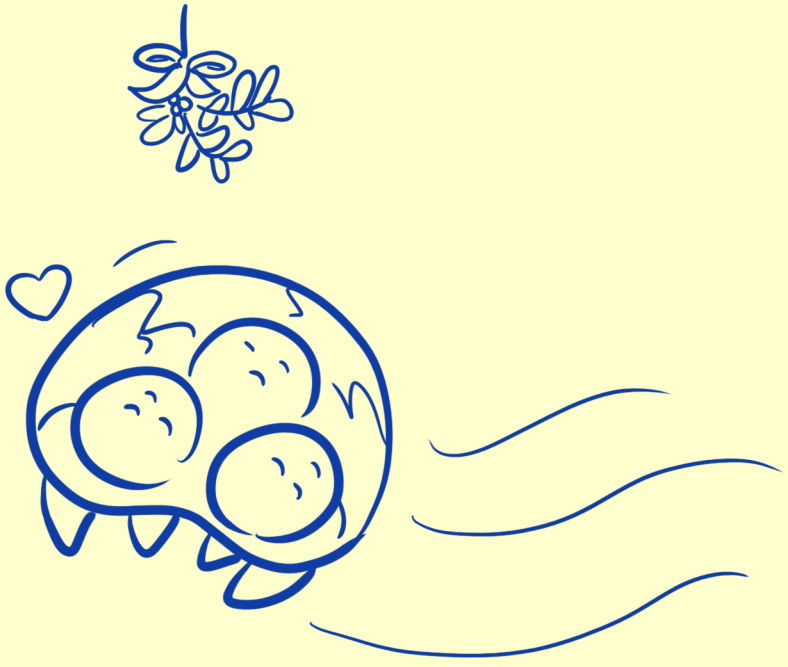
"SAKURAAAIIII!"



"Now my dish-towel set to Impa is going to look totally lame!"



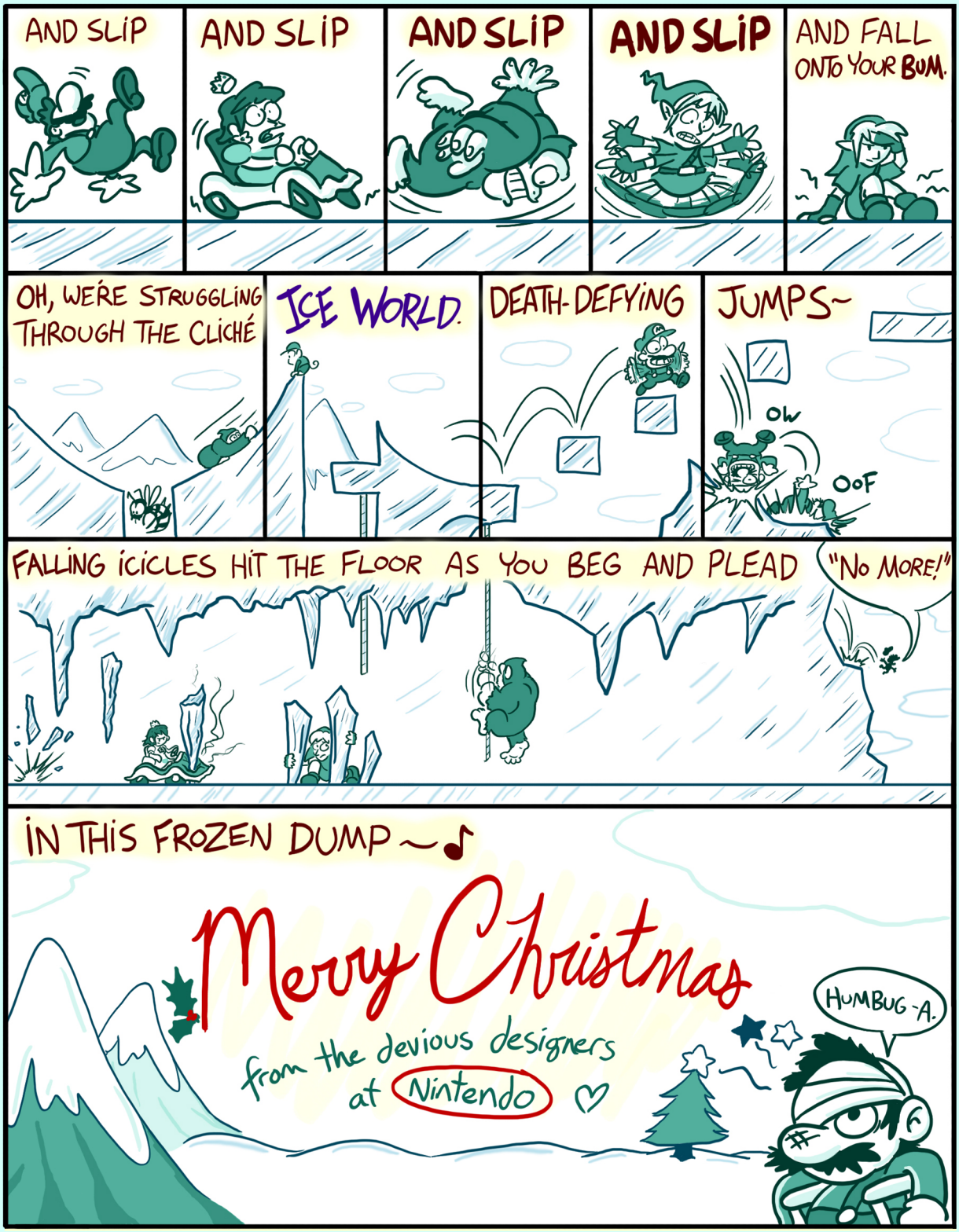
Also not recommended: standing under the mistletoe with Bowser, Ridley or Lickitung.




z z
z z
~brrrrrr~


THIS IS A MUSICAL COMIC! FOLLOW ALONG AFTER THE MUSIC STARTS!
BRAWL IN the FAMILY PRESENTS...
ICE WORLD
IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK JUST LIKE AN
ICE WORLD.
OHHH, BOY
HERE WE GO.
IT'S A PLATFORMER'S GREATEST FOE;
MOVING AROUND
IS SLOW,
BECAUSE OF ALL
THE IRRITATING
SNOW.
YES, IT'S CLEAR THAT WE'RE IN THE TOKEN ICE WORLD.
EXHIBIT A
EXHIBIT B
EXHIBIT C


WARM YOURSELF
WITH RAGE
FOR INSTEAD OF YOU FIGHTING THROUGH,
YOUR CONTROLS ARE FIGHTING YOU
THROUGH THE WHOLE
DARN
STAGE.
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH MEADOWS AND DESERT AND WATER AND FOREST
AND SKY, ALL SINCE LEVEL 1.
NOW IS THE THE TIME FOR
YOUR TALENTS TO SHINE
AS YOU BRAVE THE TUNDRA A TON.


AND SLIP
AND SLIP
AND SLIP
AND SLIP
AND FALL ONTO YOUR BUM.
OH, WE'RE STRUGGLING THROUGH THE CLICHÉ
ICE WORLD.
DEATH-DEFYING
JUMPS~
OW
OOF
FALLING ICICLES HIT THE FLOOR AS YOU BEG AND PLEAD
"NO MORE!"
IN THIS FROZEN DUMP ~♪
Merry Christmas
from the devious designers at Nintendo ♡
HUMBUG-A.

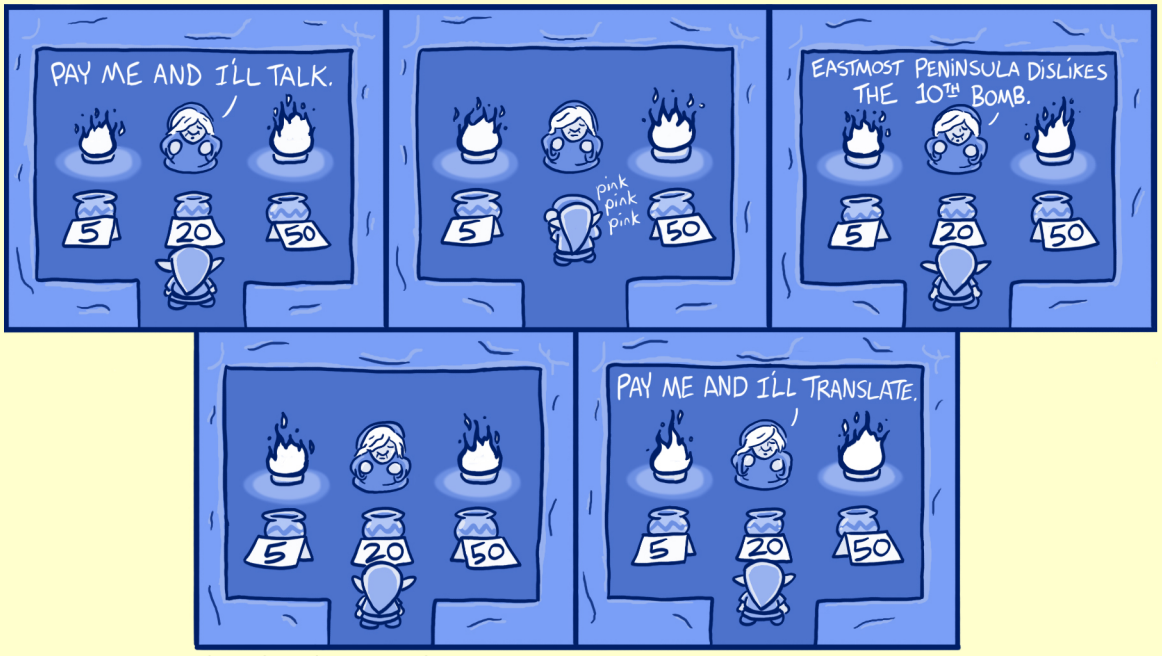
WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?



Giygas resolves to lose 20 pounds in time for swimsuit season.

I caught some heat for Sonic's line in this comic. I kid because I love! Sonic's an alright guy, even if the color of his arms constantly confuses me.

390 - Valuable Information



This is the real *money-making game.*

391 - Pushmo



Donkey Kong was able to make it to the top, but then he just threw barrels down the structure.



Alternatively, they could have just grabbed it from the front.

393 - Spy Vs. Guy



Now carry him back to the Onion for thousands of Pokos.

394 - Picori Blade



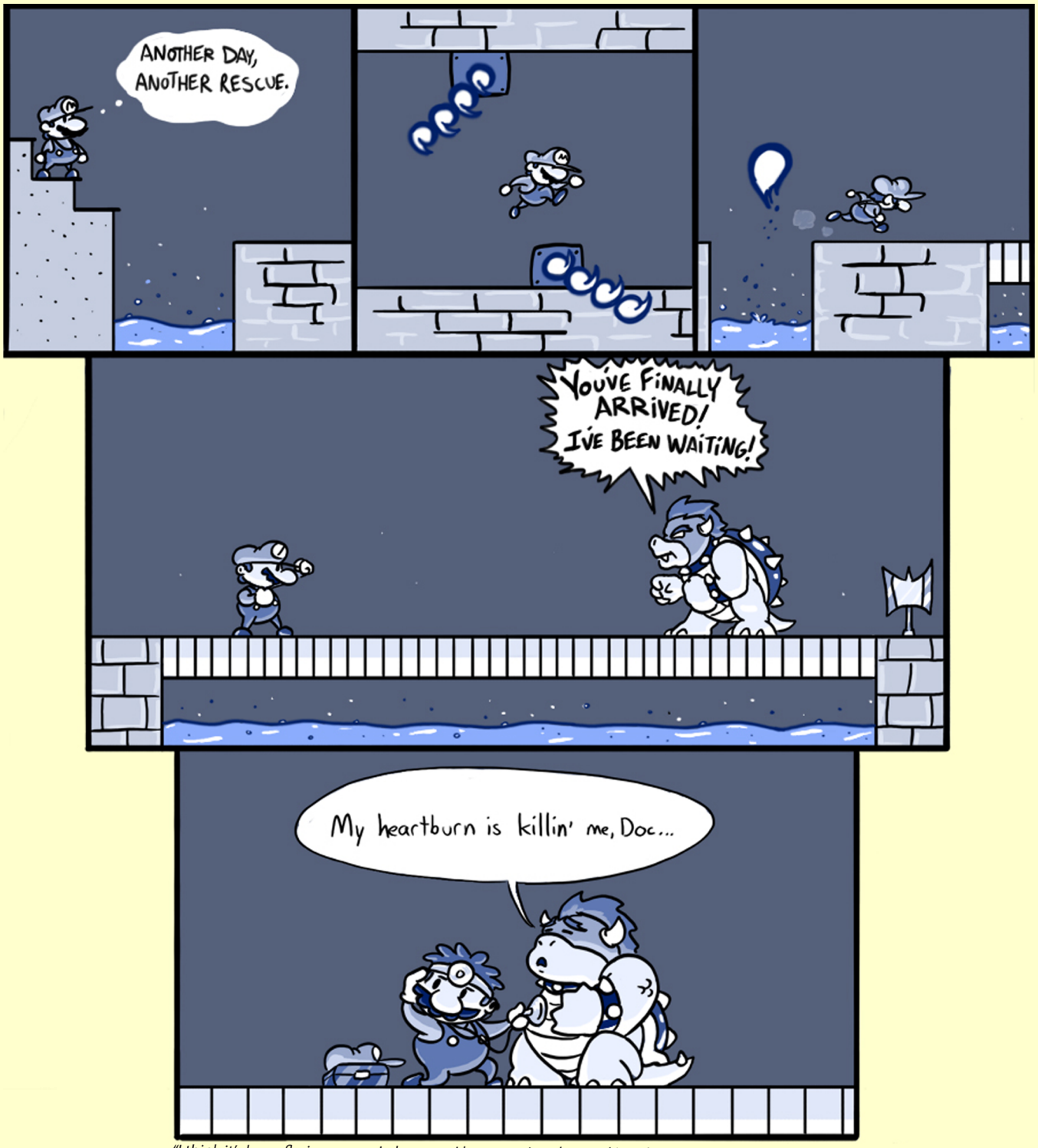
Even so, it's the best darn toothpick you'll ever use.



This comic was an animated GIF on the website, so it doesn't make a ton of sense in a still image format! It's supposed to rotate through a bunch of Kirby's transformations throughout the comic (all of them with negative results). To see it in action, just scan the QR code to the left!



"Would you like me to repeat that?"



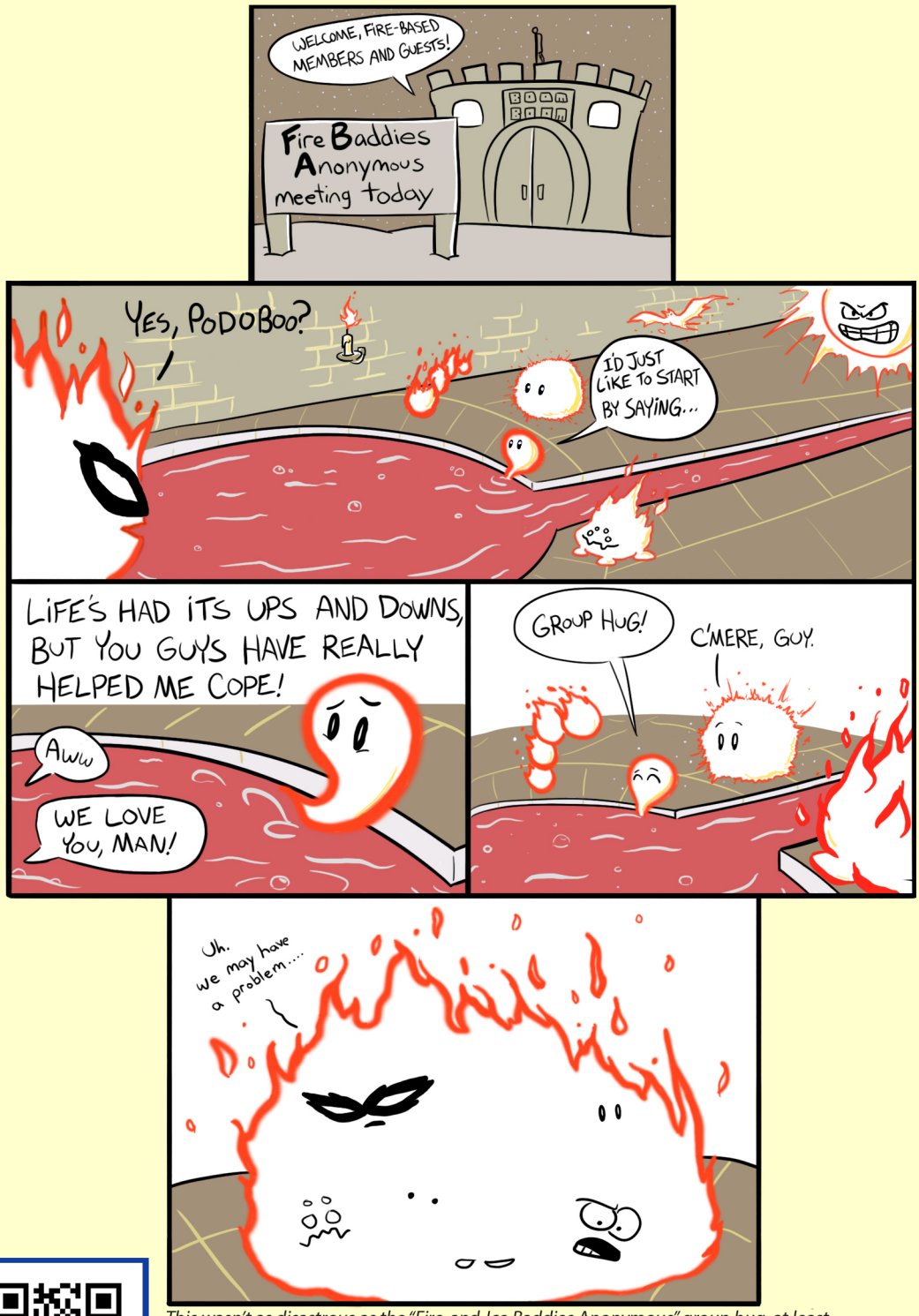
"I think it's been flaring up again because I keep getting dumped into lava."

398 - My Sunny Valentine



This still isn't as tactless as how you treat her in the game itself.

399 - FBA Meeting



This wasn't as disastrous as the "Fire-and-Ice Baddies Anonymous" group hug, at least...

400 - The History of Nintendo

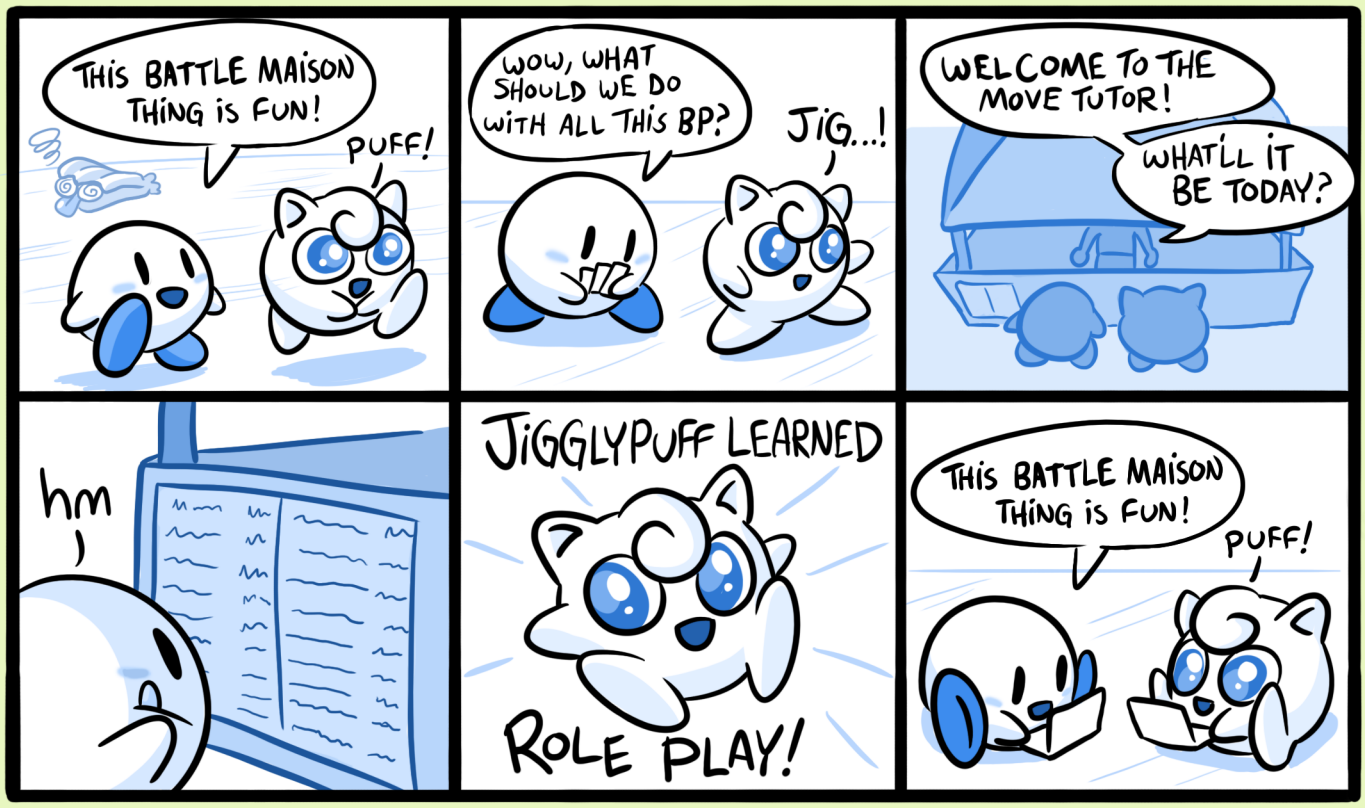
One last video comic to top off the book, so bust out those phones! "The History of Nintendo" is the second fully-original BitF song, and I handled the composition, vocals, and art. I did get extremely sick around this time, fighting Crohn's Disease and generally being miserable for a few months, so it was a major victory to get this puppy out. It's still my favorite BitF "comic."

That wraps up the second set of comics, but stick around for some fun extras!
Thanks for reading!

Matthew Taranto

time for FAN COMICS!

written by FANS, drawn by ME!



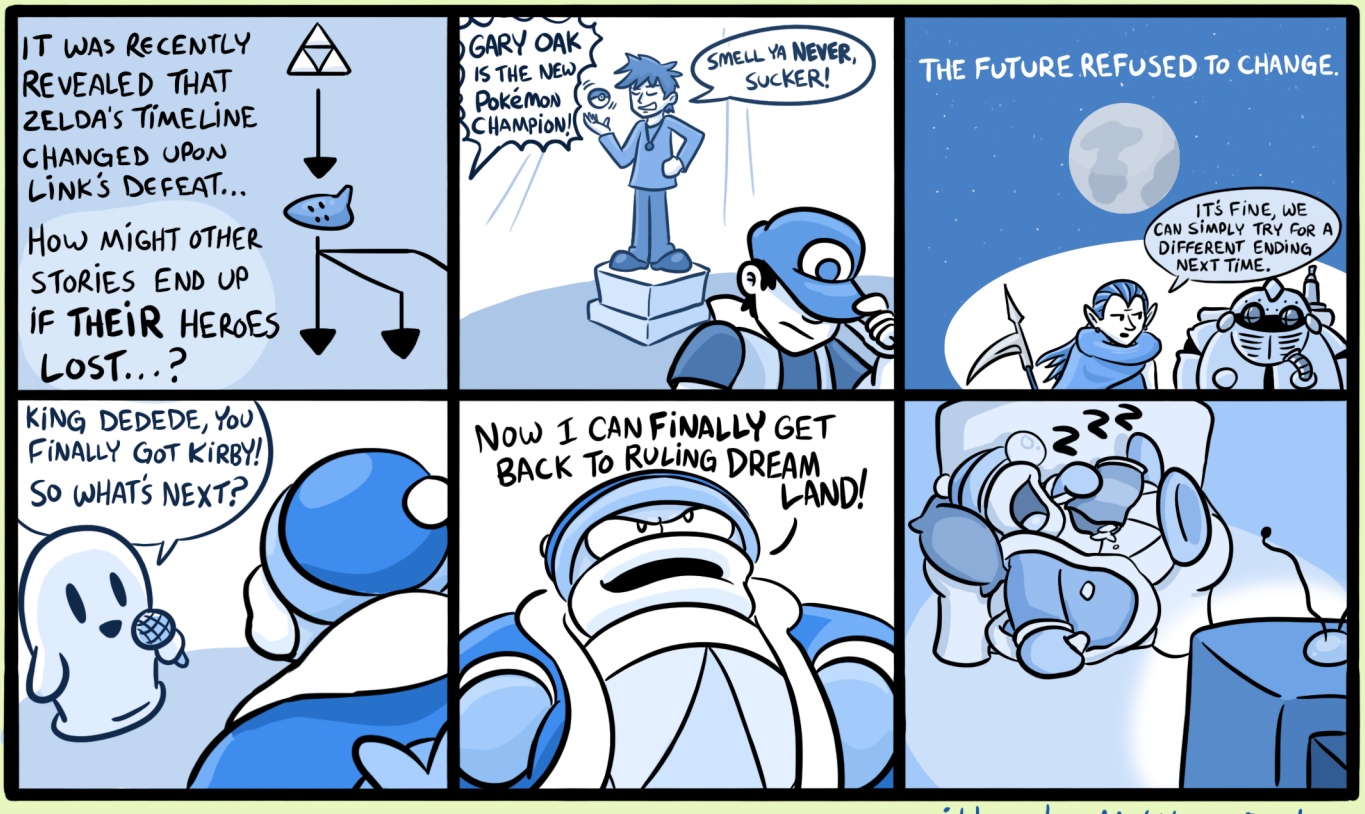
written by Jonathan Boorman



written by Sunni F



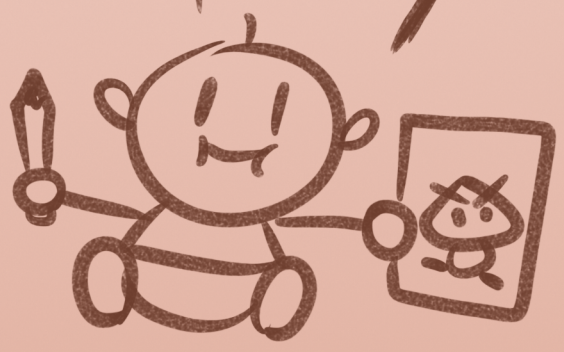
written by R.T. Greenlightning



written by Matthew Daly

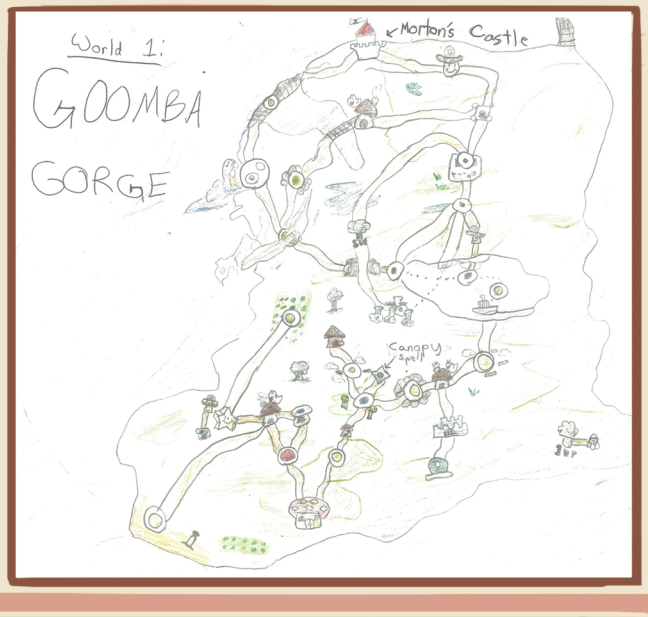
Pre-BitF Gallery

A sneak peek at some of my earlier work



circa 1994

Growing up, I always enjoyed drawing. Around the time I was 8 or 9, though, I'd developed a fascination with creating game ideas on paper. Generally, they wouldn't be original ideas or anything--just new versions of some of my favorite games. This page shows just a couple of incredible, never-before-seen ideas for "Super Mario Universe!" Look at that map for Goomba Gorge! Branching paths out the wazoo. I think blue-colored stages had three different exits. "Bigger means better" was definitely the mantra I had in mind when doing these crazy things. I like how the little (at the time) Morton was the first boss.



circa 1994

And here we have all the enemies you'll find in Goomba Gorge! I loved Goombas as a kid; they're still my favorite Mario baddie. I'm not so sure about some of his contemporaries here, though--Ugga the caveman, Rept the strange-looking lizard, and..."Sole Soul?" Sure thing, little Matthew. Hey Nintendo! Want some free enemy ideas? Feel free to throw in "Outline Demon" or "Sticky" in the next Mario game! Make sure the Outline Demon gives exactly 450 points, though...500 is too many!



circa 1995-1996

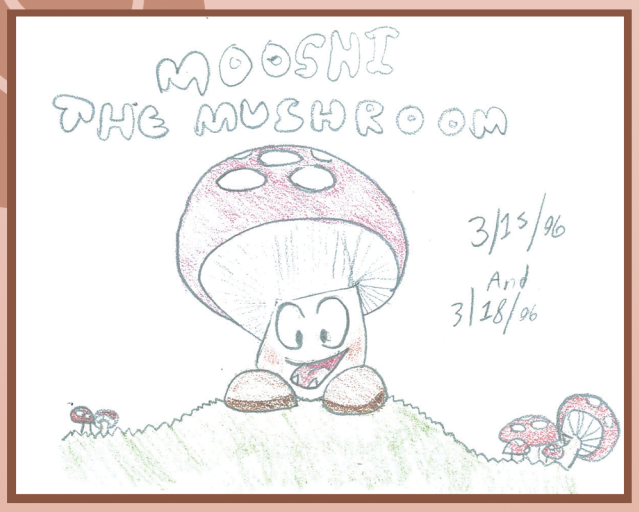








The top left drawing focuses on a standard hobby for kids in the mid-90s: making new Mega Man bosses! Water Man is pretty uninspired, but I like the idea of Tone Man. Hey, wait a minute! They stole Galaxy Man from me! Below that is an early drawing of Mega Man X decked out in armor, and a pretty decent pencil drawing of Frog from Chrono Trigger. Check out the top right for some original characters, though! Mr. Bigfish is pretty much a Cheep-Cheep, but I like Big Mr. Meanie and Mr. Torpedo-Nose. Lots of "Misters," huh? It's good that these characters commanded respect like that. And the gag with Super Manly Chunko Man is that he'd say he has more muscle in his pinky finger than most people have in their whole bodies. Kinda funny, I guess.



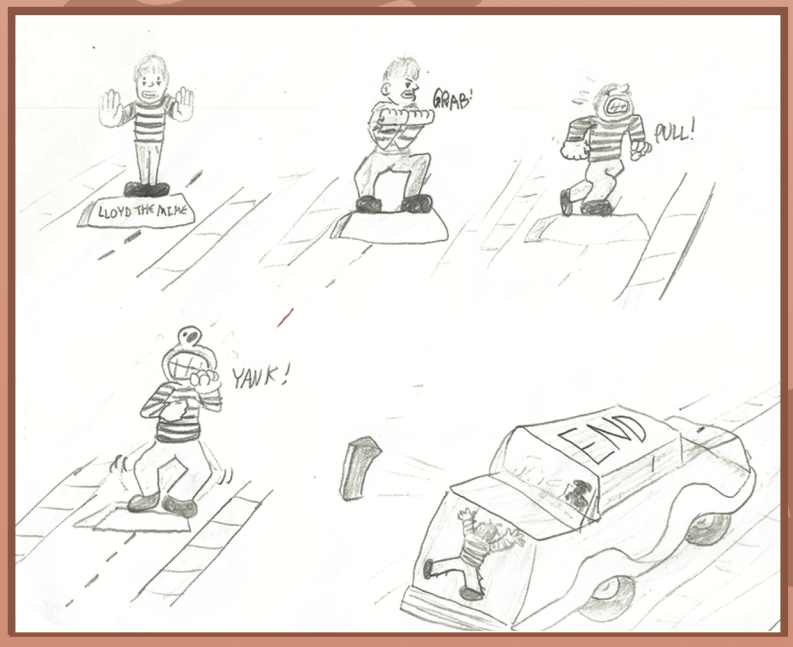
"Mooshi"

Oh, Mooshi. I drew this little guy when I was 11, and throughout middle and high school made a rather huge number of different comics about him and his buds. His design definitely has an "inspired-by-Nintendo" look to it. There was a pretty extensive cast around this guy eventually, such as his fellow fungal friends and some oddities like The Ugly Thing (which can be seen in several BitF comics) and Bunsen, two sets of legs and behinds joined at the hip.

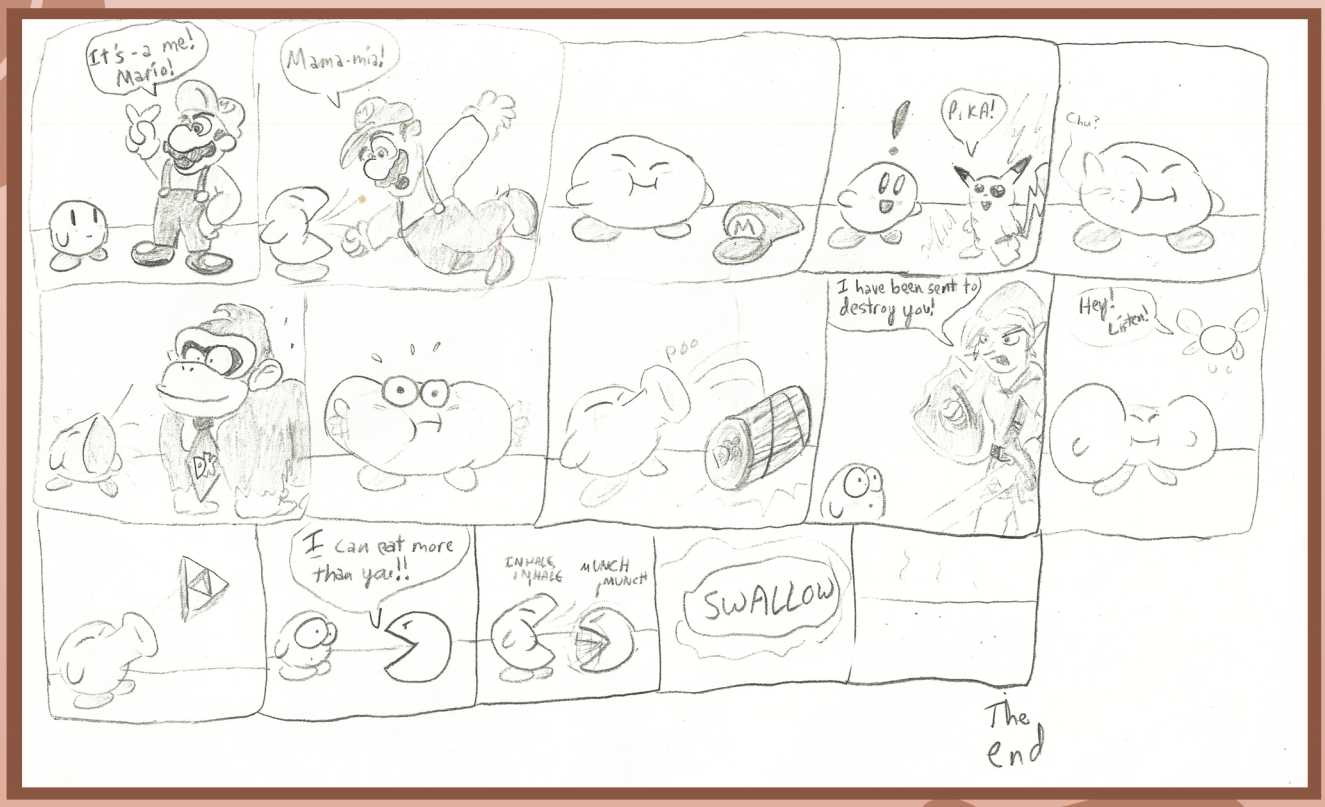
circa 1996-2002

To the right is just one excerpt of a Mooshi comic. He treats his mild-mannered (and very sluggish) pet sheep as a noble steed. I like the gag of the snail and spilt molasses apparently being faster than Abbigail. I probably drew this around 10th grade, but Mooshi and co were definitely when I started getting my chops for drawing comic strips. I had a lot to learn, but the plucky mushroom will always be the guy that introduced me to the fun world of making comics.



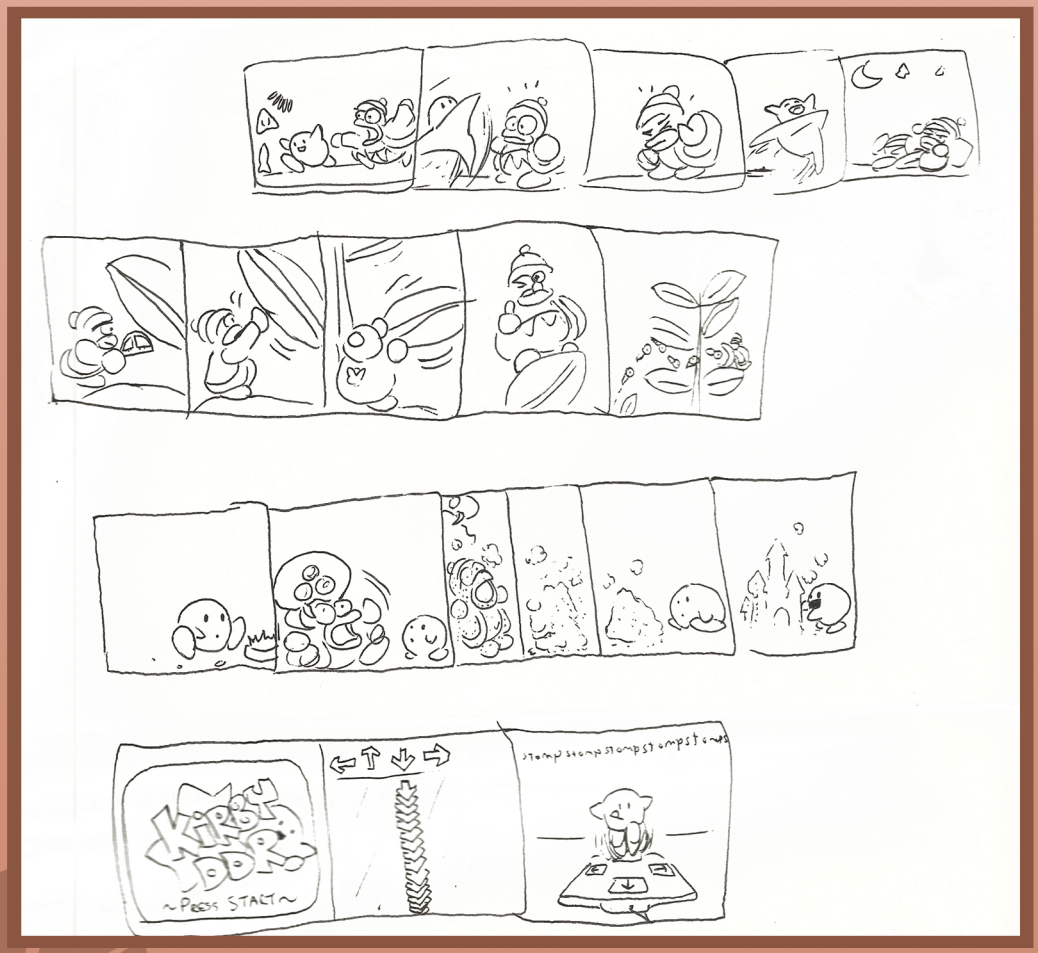


Speaking of comics, check out "Lloyd the Mime" on the right there. Lloyd was another original character of mine, and he had a different job or task in each comic. The gag was that he was woefully unlucky and would always end up hurt somehow. Despite the punchline being pretty telegraphed with Lloyd out in the middle of the road, and the vehicle's front looking more like its back, I think this is actually a pretty good gag! Mime humor, right?



Hey, what've we got here? It's positively proto-BitF, isn't it? The drawings are a bit off-model, but the spirit's there, and it even involves Kirby eating stuff! And the rare spoken line by Link, no less. The end punchline of the comic eventually became 015 - Pac-Man in Brawl in the Family.

circa 2000, 2008



Last but not least, a brief look at some of the earliest BitF strips. These were drawn around the time the comic was just beginning, and they all were eventually used... except the third one! It's actually pretty funny in a remarkably dark way, but I thought it'd be best for it not to make the cut. But it exists in this book now, so everyone can enjoy the horrible act of Kirby making a sandcastle out of Dedede's remains!

SPECIAL THANKS finale

The following people deserve special recognition for helping to make this book possible:

Paul A. Parcon
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Gaelan Anderson
Ben Ogburn
Joseph De Maria
Shane Castle
Retro Xpunto NES
aura LAZAH

Kevin Atticus
Maxamillian Kenel
bschwitty
Nicholas Hannouche
Albert Rull
Connor Tan
Anthony "DEG" Wright
Alex Smith
Michael Meynardie
Jared Barr
Jeff Barr
Mark J Vignone
Isaac J King
Matthew T. Hoke
Stephan Petelle

Petter S Fossum
Keenan Twohig
Delfin "Fisherington" Balili
Andrew Wantula
Peach4ever (Joselyne M.)
Johnny E. Osorio
Brian Brownrigg
Joshua Balanuik
Socko the Hamster
Simon Merheb
Azure
Joan and Thomas Rice
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Matthew Pritchard
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Dumelax
Davey Nagelkerke
Ruben Infante
Erik Gutierrez
Patrick Landry
Gabriel 'Cley Faye' Risterucci
Casey Judge
Cai Davies, The Best
Tobogain (David D.)
Daniel "ImpeccableOrange" Nilsen
Joshua 'the Jcfreak' Sayers
Nick Shaw
CaptainSpam
mystman12
Donald R. Haviland
Ashli Tingle
Bandrik
Quinton Bockhold
Matthew Seesselberg
Fusion Warrior
Ryan Crissler
Sepehr Tehrani
Liam K. Tedford
William C. Purdy
Nick Law
Jeb the Champ
Jeremy "JayNat" Nathaniel
Logan Fredianelli
Jared Lopez
John C Yann
Aubrey
Major Typhoon
Daniel Godfrey
Octavio Arango
Joseph McKay
Greg Walus
Jon "The Scowl" Coltman
ZyOp
Brandon Radecker
AquaShoji
Ben White
Brandon Cuming
Kyle Schumacher
Kiara & Zenica
L. Bryce Whitson Jr.
Nick Desanctis
Ian Mayberry
Sean/Aisleaf
Julian Romagnino
CJ + Ashley
Rocketbrah
Jewel Abraham Miles
Prof Allister
Jeremy Ricker


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Deadpikle
Nick Kaczkowski (n45800)
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Dominic Potzinger
Christopher Smith
Joe Erickson
Caio. Boni
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Jake Evans
Scott Bohon
Abhilash Sarhadi
James Gleason
Josh "Skysen" Earnest
Daniel Carrillo
Joshua James Hardy
Thomas "LordoftheSword" Little
Gabe Zuehlsdorf
Sean Happel
No Brand Con
Matthew Smith
Jeremy "Greenlight" Vigil
Robert "Apkinesis" Graham
Seth "rust45" Townsend
Blue
Kelvin Chung
PikaED (Tyler N. Templeton)
Matthew Eccles
Dranyos
Erickson Church
Brian Baterina
Robert Halenda
David Eggleton
Rose, Monica, and Jack Kidson
Daniel B. Welker
Kyle McCarty
Raul
Jonathan Webb
Gerhard Plesch
Nina Maugnil
Zack Averyt
Jaron Szpindel
Hovey Yu
Mort
Lucas Mendizza
Kyle Forbes
Nicholas Lane
Nicholas Laune
Cosmo_naut
Ruellia
MNGoldenEagle
Chris P.
Bobo
AdamAta64
Cookie
Herbert Roland
Tyler Farhat
Cosentino
Derroch Biven
Astieres B.
Maxwell "Oddy" Smart
Michael Panchaud
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Justin Trapani
Dima Paramonov
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Nion & Dot
Trevor Strohl
Jonathan L. Arbaiza
Mugifi
Kevin Kelly
Meghan Rieke
Amenell
John Zirbes
Mort
Ricardo Isidro: "Matthew, My Deepest Appreciation in This Final Destination"
Marcelo 'Banjo-Geek' Estrada
CrimsonCobalt
Kevin Liu
Rodríguez Salas
Christopher Nadal
Noah Hearne
Andrew Grabowski
Lagustavo Nyandrade
Will Ung
Brandon "Big-B" Thomas
D'Angelo Lee
Brent Hiltz
Phil Gilbert
Isaac Charles Solum
Brian Earl
Fuad Sakkab!
Suddenly-Lions
Mitchell Goldsack
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Pedro "Leetoh" Henry
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Andrew Theodosakis
Kevin "Capgun" Glaessgen
Joshua Michael Gallant
Rebecca Kobler
William???
Lorenzo Alazas
Josh Hano
Felix Sergeivich krasilnikov
Cassidy
Jacob Christensen
AlexTheMan
Anthony and Ambriel Silva
Jerico Sosbee
Raymond Welch
Ernest Sparks
Andrew Hoffman
Justin Delgado
Jeff Lantz
amczesak
TheDarkPlumber
Becky Korff
Jonathan Smulik
Cyberohero
Leendert J. van Toledo
Taylor Dean
Alexander Chaffey
& Blaffie H. Husky
Stewart Hunter
Avery Billings

Mike Sabino
Ralph Ortiz
Darien Lash
Lindsay Kelly
Blas Díaz
Daniel Failboat
Sam, Max, and
Nick "DodrioTheSir" Johnson
Sara Johnson
Jonathan "DragonSage" García
Awesome Ando
David Calles
Cantú, Mr. Streets
James (Jimmy BoingBoing) Alimboyong
Lokamp
SpinDashpro
kagegamer12
Hunter Paustian
MatthewTummino
Herr Strassen
Angelo Morle
Tim Rio
Kyle Brett Kilpatrick
Brydon Pavlovic
Matt Batrus
Branden Stone
Aaron Bates
William Kloppenberg
Chris "The Green Monkie" Jelle
Mike Card
Alex Nelson
Goatachu
be groom
Jérémie "ForeverDream" Eiselé
Alan Baker
Adam Wilson
Ezra Jones
Mordenheim
Gabriel Gatica
Esteban R. Diaz
Thomas G. Kulangara
Alex Vincent
@FZeroTV
Eric Heine
MathematicalVoid
Jasia and Janna
Randall "blie4" Driscoll

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Jack E. Andrews
Sterling Wright
Joey
Rolluptraff
Kristian Alexander Nilsson
Christian Butikofer
Ian Fan
@ZincAddict
Drew "Microtic" Betke
Benjamin Noonan
Patrick Kurts
Justin and Jaden Massey
Seeric
Samuel Peters
Daimo Music
Mr. Quaine
Patrick Dylak
Stephen Szabo
Rainer Ubben
Alyssa Day
Nik Thomas
Weslie Kuijer
Lulu Neuhaus
Keigen "Hatesandwich" Long
Errol O'Brien
Isaac Ludington
Riekelt G
Andrew "NachozRule"
Frogs Bowser
Grabowski
Caitlin & Kevin Hendriks
James Choi
Primrose! ~
Elias Martinez
Pouchnoubout
Bailey + Ansley
Benn Meador
Tom "SNF" Towzey
_Clinton
Matthew Gifford
Sean Lea




ROOM FOR ONE MORE...
DINNER
BREAKFAST
LUNCH



