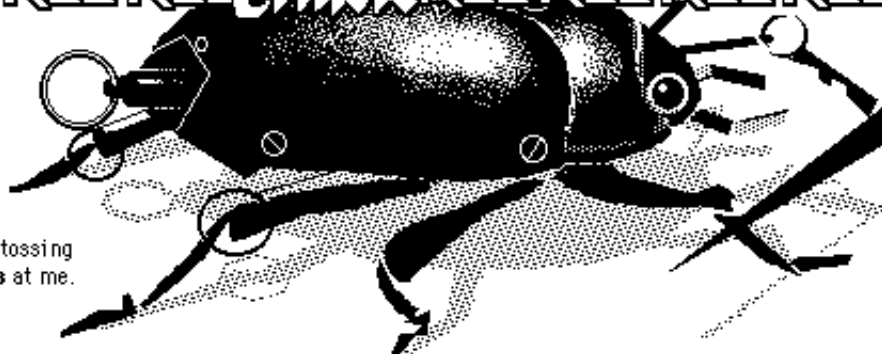
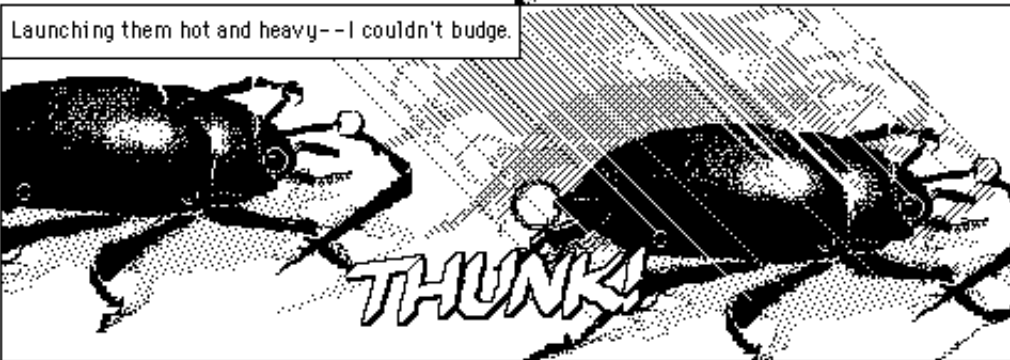


REE REE REE **CHINK** REE REE REE REE



They were tossing **bugbombs** at me.

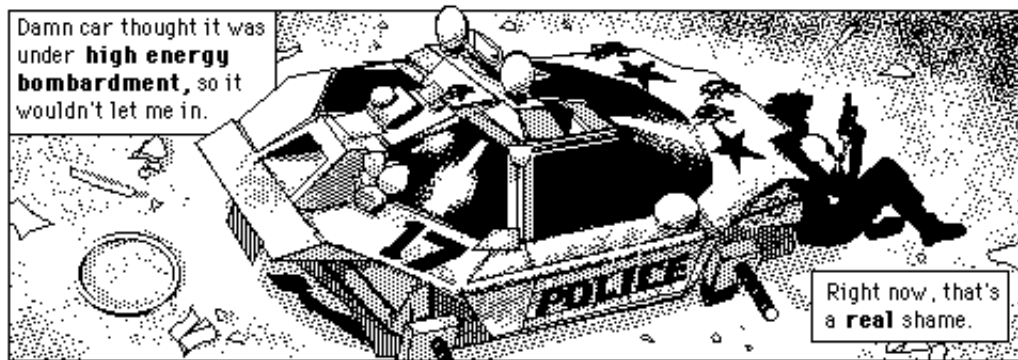


Launching them hot and heavy--I couldn't budge.



REE REE REE REE REE REE REE R

The things were crawling all over my car, screeching on all frequencies--

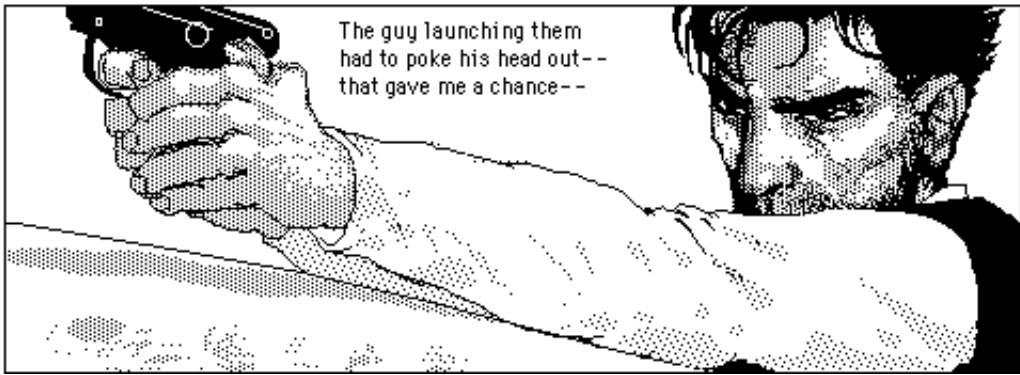


Damn car thought it was under **high energy bombardment**, so it wouldn't let me in.

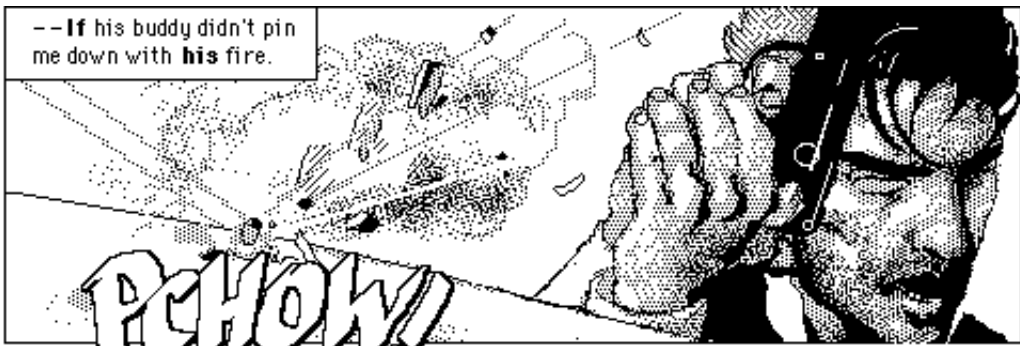
Right now, that's a **real** shame.



Of course, bugbombs are also **highly** explosive.



The guy launching them had to poke his head out-- that gave me a chance--



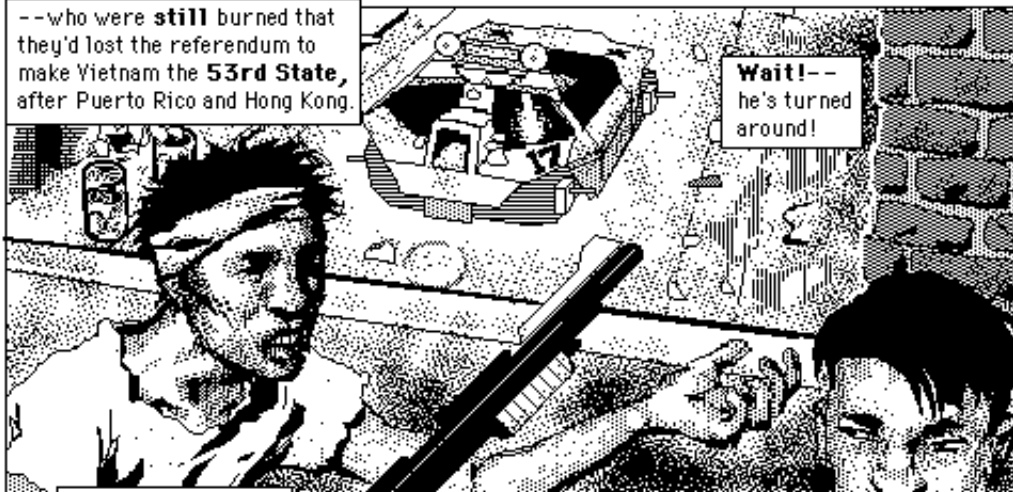
-- If his buddy didn't pin me down with **his** fire.



How do I get myself **into** these things?



The snipers were **YYR**-- Veterans of the Vietnam Reconquest--



--who were **still** burned that they'd lost the referendum to make Vietnam the **53rd State**, after Puerto Rico and Hong Kong.

Wait!-- he's turned around!

Only a few seconds--

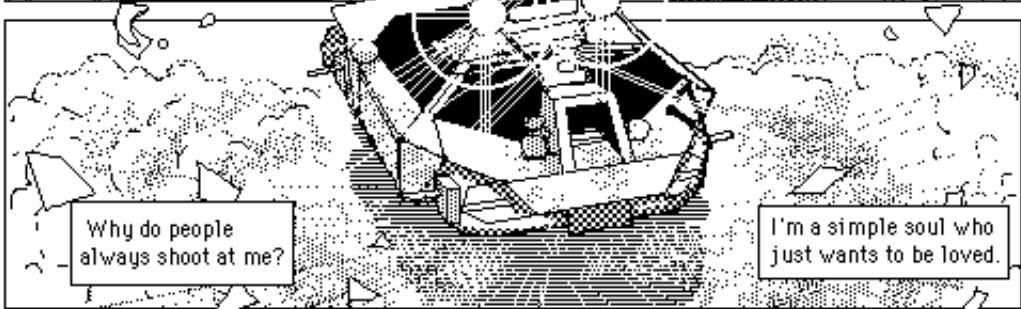


**BORA!**

But it's the opening I need.



CAR-- LET ME IN!



# SHATTER

art: Michael Saenz story: Peter B. Gillis  
editor: Mike Gold  
with thanks to  
APPLE MACINTOSH™

Your 'family quarrel' turned out to be a VVR ambush! I nearly got killed!



Sorry about that, Scratch. You'll get paid anyway.



Only base rate-- no premiums. You're supposed to **screen** for these things.



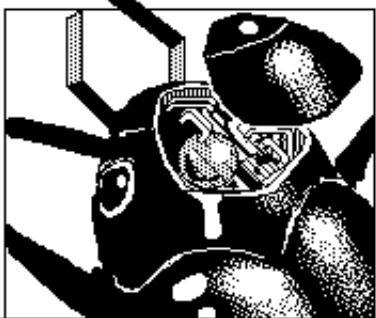
He had no answer. 21st century technology, and they can't figure out a faked call.

# HEADHUNTERS

A policeman's lot is **not** a happy one.

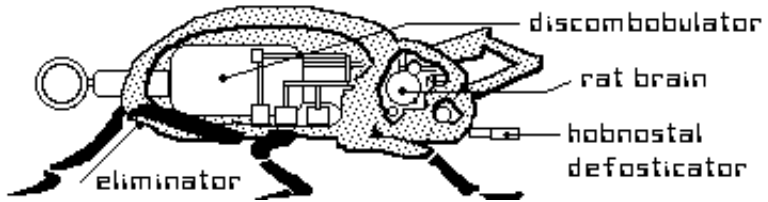


But let's see about these little suckers--!



Fairly neat-- uses a rat brain-- cheaper than a **microchip** any day!

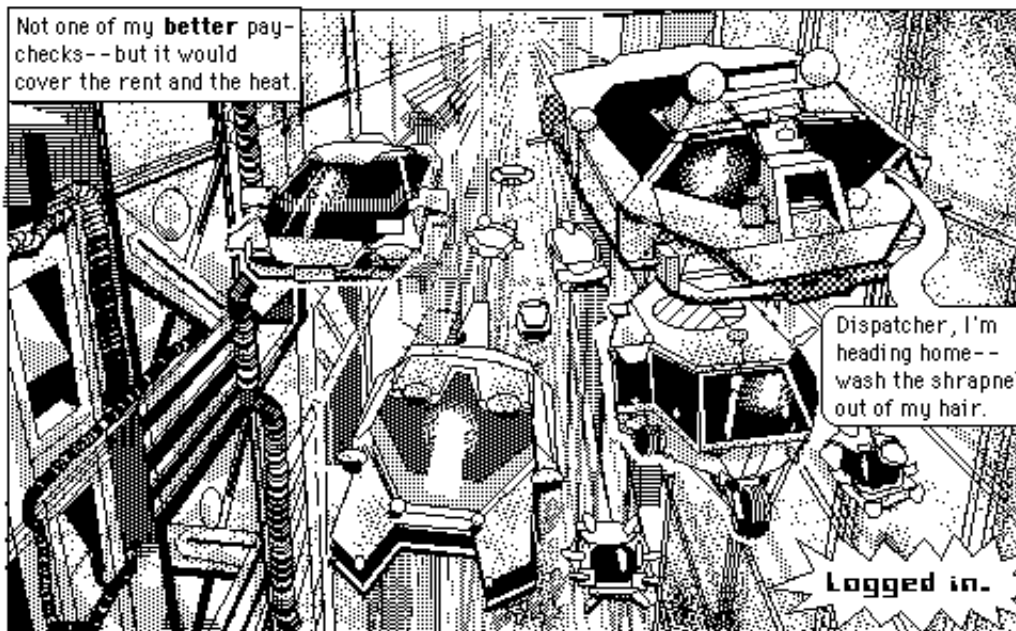
And its squeaking translated into the jamming signal.  
**Nasty.**

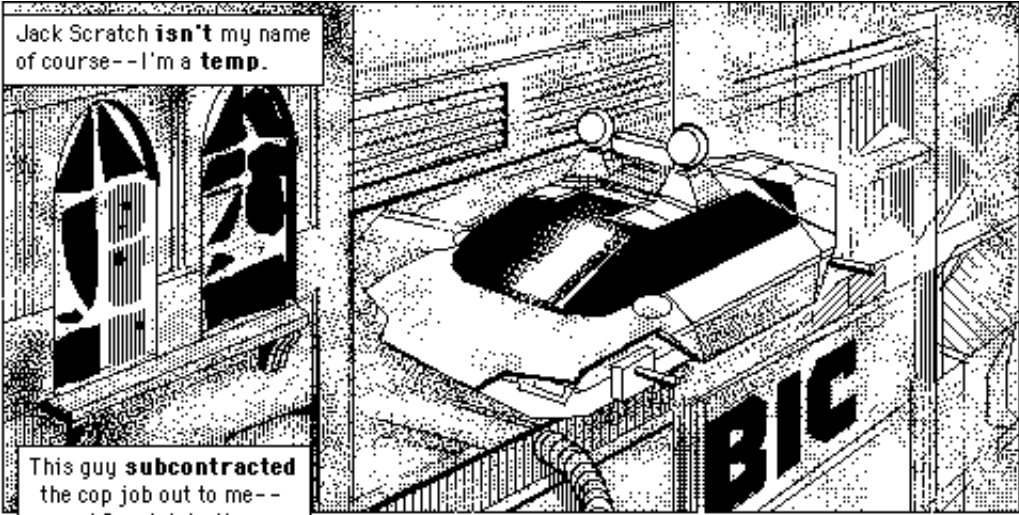




**Jack Scratch**  
4th quarter of  
August---  
payment:  
**\$20,032.13**

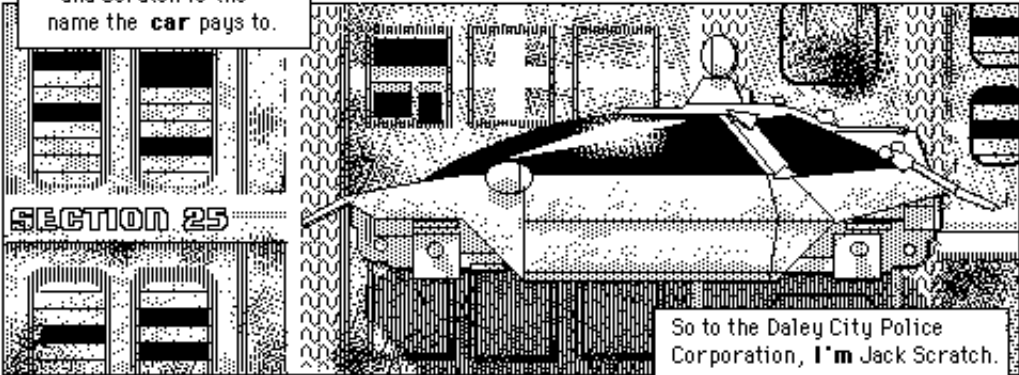
Пооп баcтapa 258[4





Jack Scratch **isn't** my name of course--I'm a **temp**.

This guy **subcontracted** the cop job out to me-- and Scratch is the name the **car** pays to.



**SECTION 25**

So to the Daley City Police Corporation, I'm Jack Scratch.



But when I sign off and go home, all that's over with.

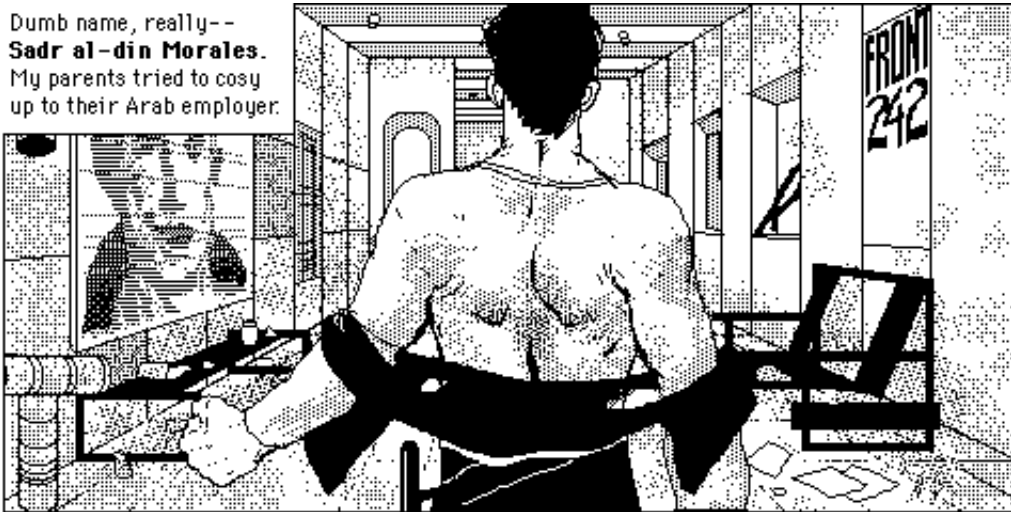
**WHIRR--**

A temp has many names for many jobs-- and usually keeps his real name a secret.

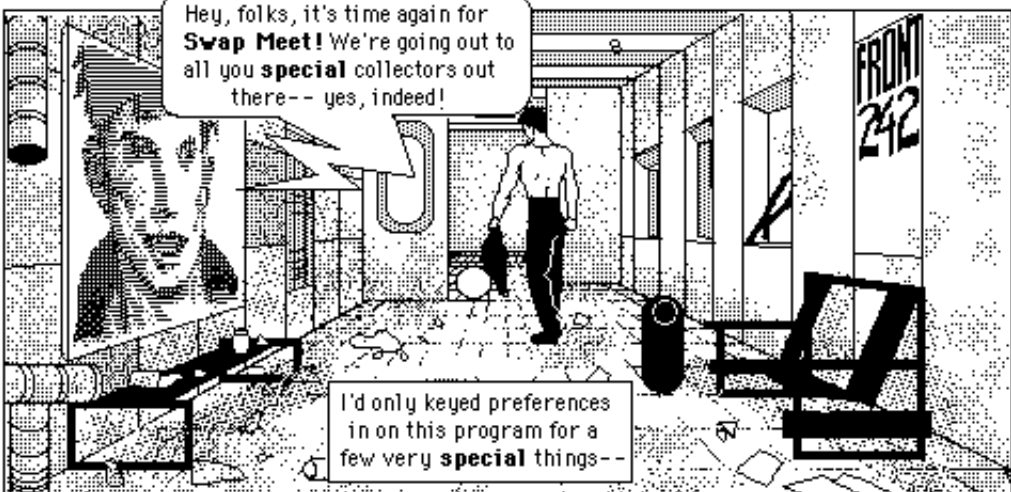


**Nobody** calls me Shatter.

Dumb name, really--  
**Sadr al-din Morales.**  
My parents tried to cosy  
up to their Arab employer.



Hey, folks, it's time again for  
**Swap Meet!** We're going out to  
all you **special** collectors out  
there-- yes, indeed!

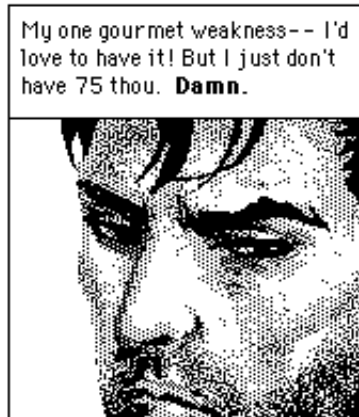
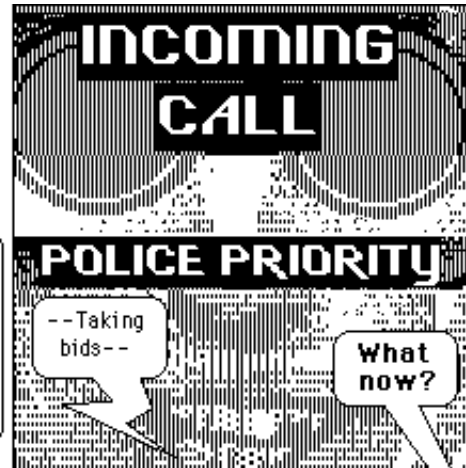


I'd only keyed preferences  
in on this program for a  
few very **special** things--

-- So if you're selling what  
I **hope** you're selling, I'm  
all eyes and ears!



Hey folks!  
Call me Saul  
--and I've got  
something I  
**know** you'll  
like! A real  
**find!**



★ **Contract Offer**

**pursue and detain MASS MURDERER**

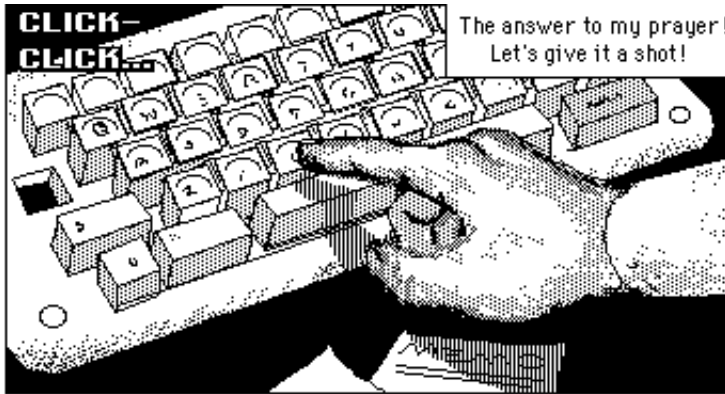
fee schedule:

- ammo allowance
- computer time
- misc. expenses

**\$75,000.00**

*We Serve and Protect*

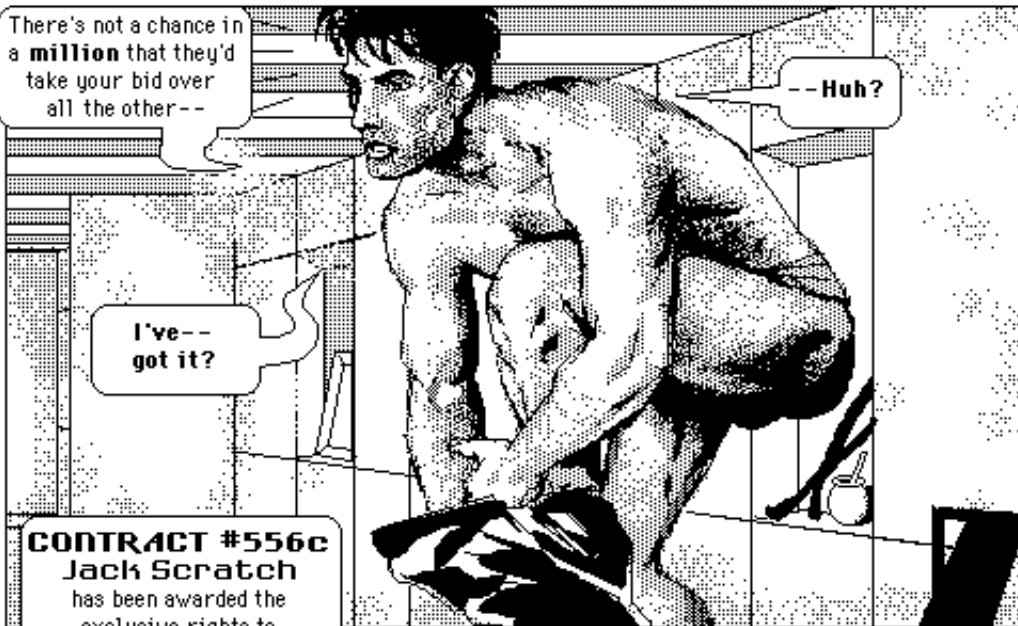
**Enter your bid now!**



The answer to my prayer!  
Let's give it a shot!



Ah--  
come on,  
quit dream-  
ing, will you?



There's not a chance in  
a **million** that they'd  
take your bid over  
all the other--

-- Huh?

I've--  
got it?

**CONTRACT #556c**  
**Jack Scratch**  
has been awarded the  
exclusive rights to  
pursue and detain  
CASE 998528  
standard protocol BYOB  
**Effective Immediately**  
**Good luck!**

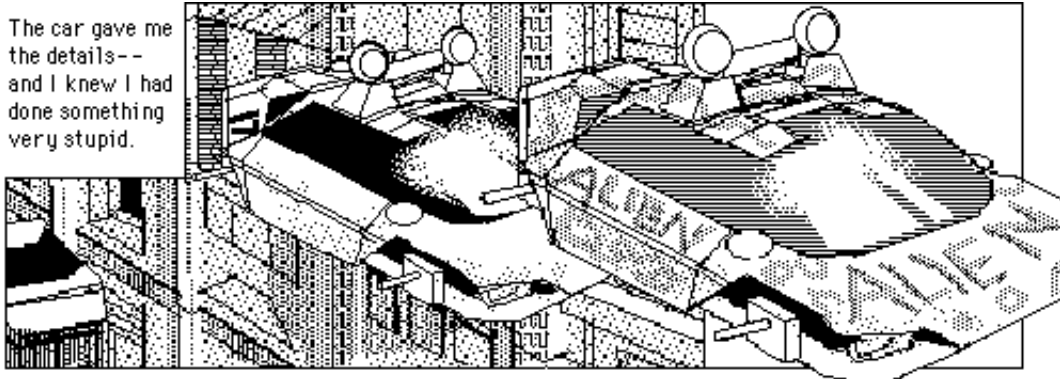
**This is crazy!**  
What went wrong?  
Everything was set  
up for **my** bid--  
who is this Scratch?



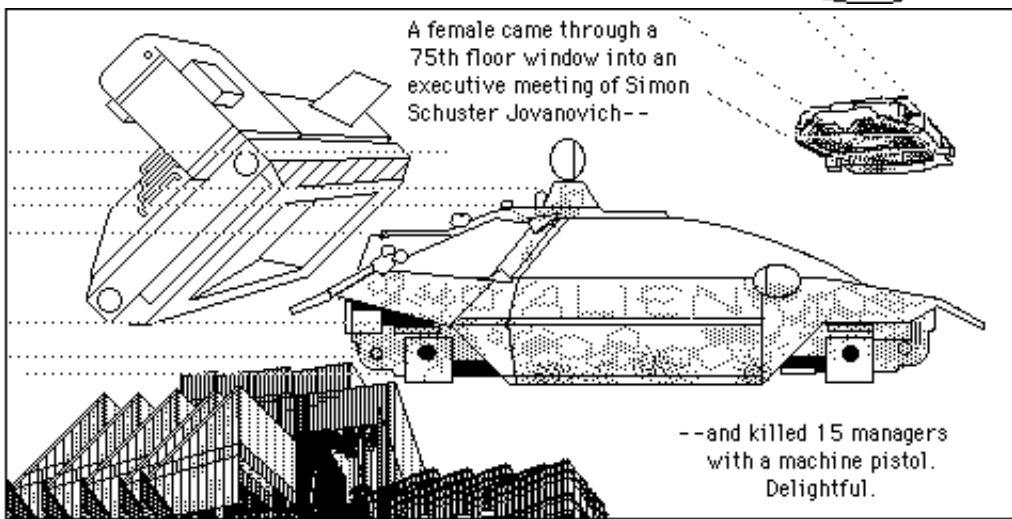
Well, whoever  
he is...

**He's just  
made a BIG  
MISTAKE.**

The car gave me the details-- and I knew I had done something very stupid.

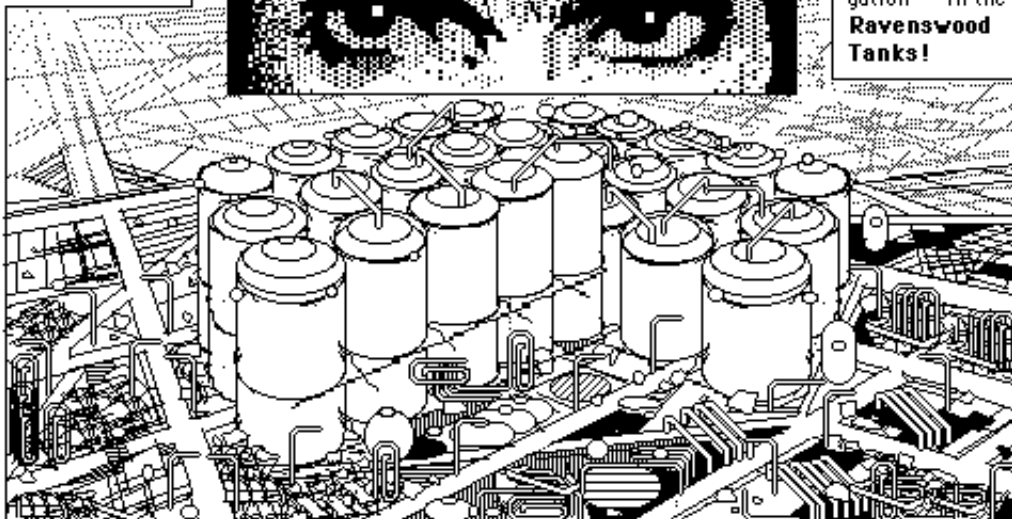


A female came through a 75th floor window into an executive meeting of Simon Schuster Jovanovich--

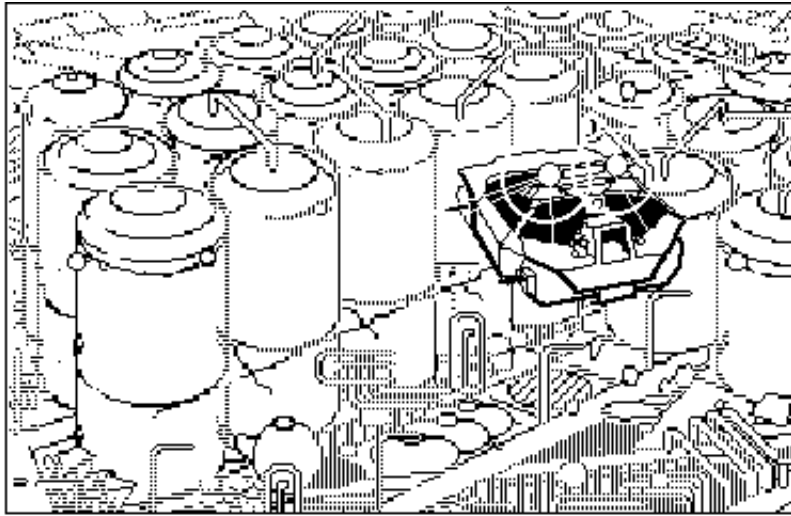


--and killed 15 managers with a machine pistol. Delightful.

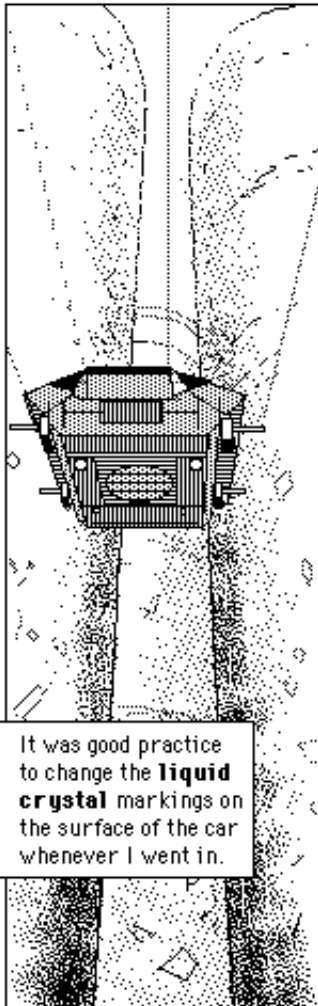
Still, it was a well-paying investigation--



--so I started where I **always** start an investigation-- in the **Ravenswood Tanks!**



The Tanks were built as **thermal storage** for Chicagoland's Great Solar Future-- which never came about. Instead, they'd been--what was the term?-- 'reapportioned' by the **Chicagoland Alien Nation** as their turf.



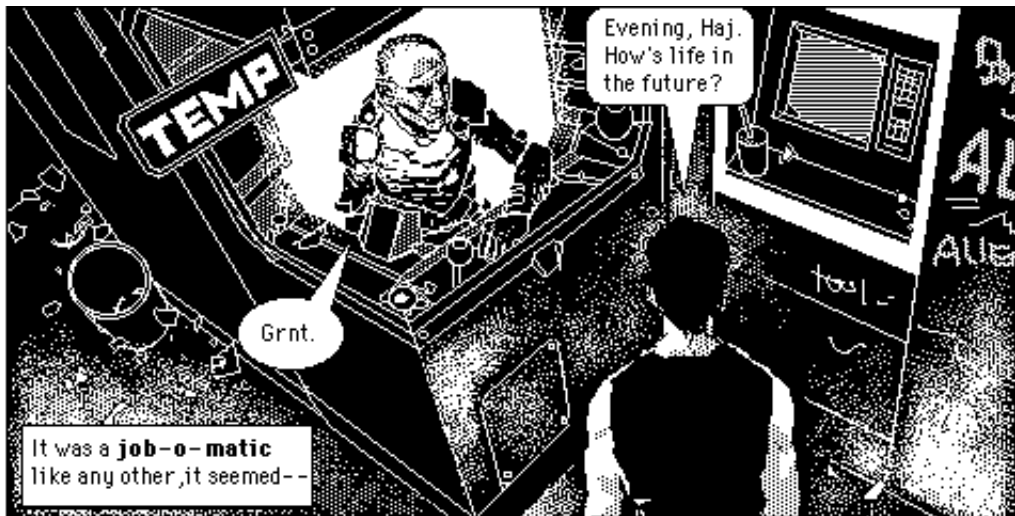
It was good practice to change the **liquid crystal** markings on the surface of the car whenever I went in.



It's **always** party time in the Tanks.



And here was my treasure-- a shabby little employment exchange.



Evening, Haj.  
How's life in  
the future?

Grnt.

It was a **job-o-matic**  
like any other, it seemed--



--but there's a **glitch**  
in this terminal--



--that  
gives me  
access to the  
whole Temp  
Job Net!

State  
maintenance  
question...  
XXXXX  
Load what  
file?  
XXX  
That file is  
locked. Try  
another.



bip  
bip

Not for long,  
it isn't--!



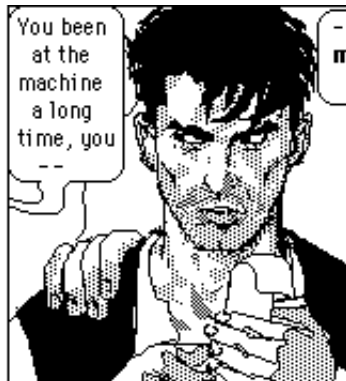
If the **other** cops only knew about this--

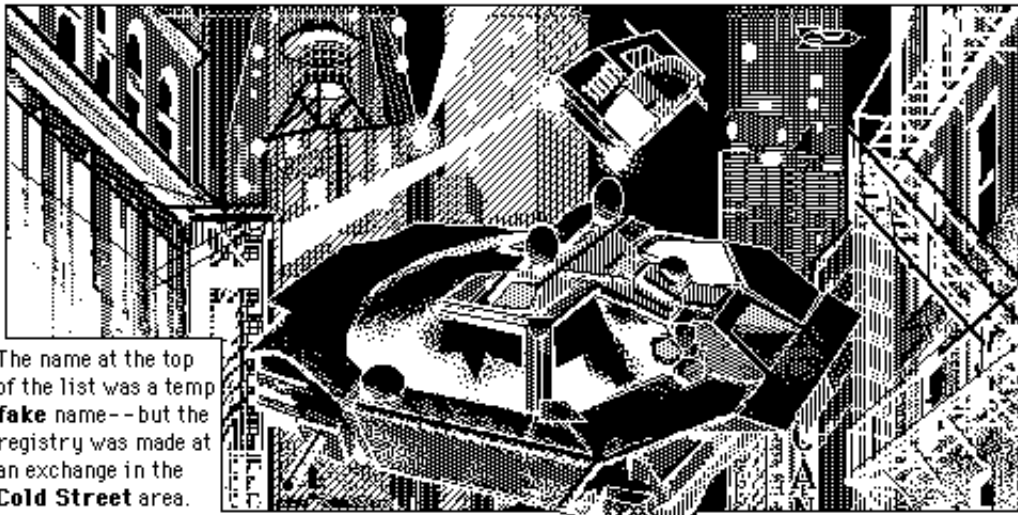


bing!

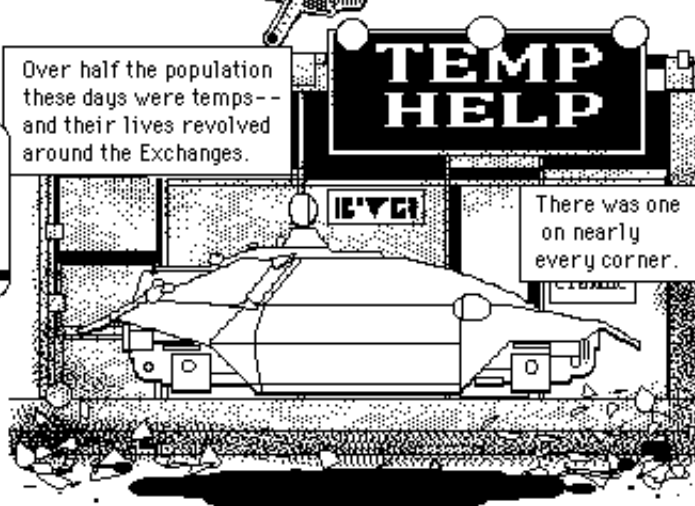
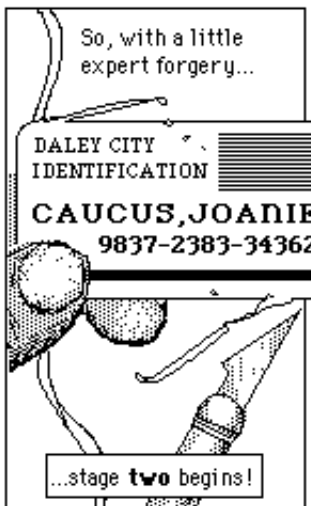


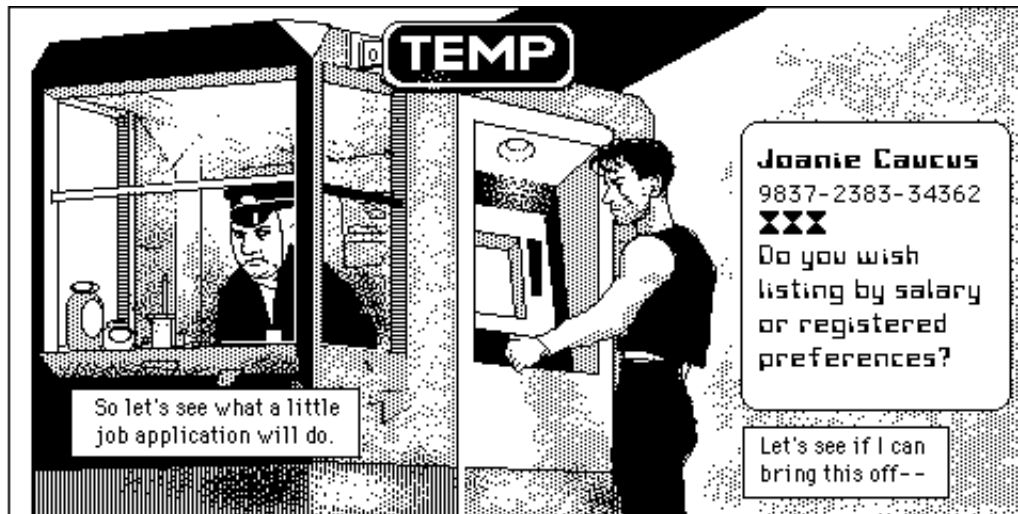
click-  
click-  
click-  
click!





The name at the top of the list was a temp **fake** name--but the registry was made at an exchange in the **Cold Street** area.





**Joanie Caucus**

9837-2383-34362

XXX

Do you wish listing by salary or registered preferences?

Let's see if I can bring this off--

So let's see what a little job application will do.

**Hey!** I saw that! **You're** not Joanie Caucus!



Sure I am. I just had a body makeover, that's all!



**No way!** No makeover'll add six inches to yer height!



And she'd never give up that figure-- her black hair and blue eyes --for **THAT!** You **stole** that card!



**Easy,** old man--!

**Easy!** I've a good mind to go over to the club and tell her about you right now! **SCUM-BAG!** Get out!

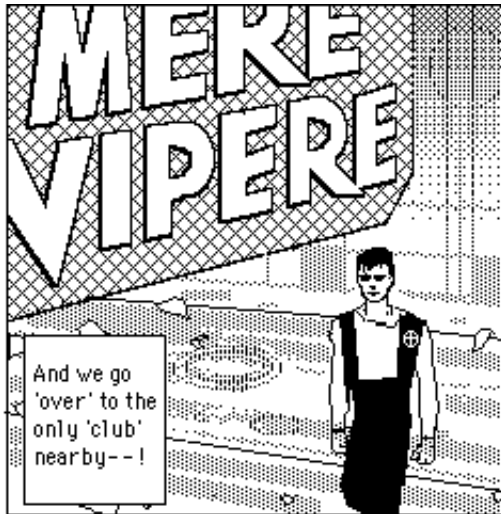


And if you come back I'll **THROW** you out! You'll never work in this town again!



Short-- black hair-- good figure--





And we go 'over' to the only 'club' nearby--!

After all, I could do with some night life now and again. Some human contact.



It was fairly slick--Cold Street is sort of the artist's colony here--



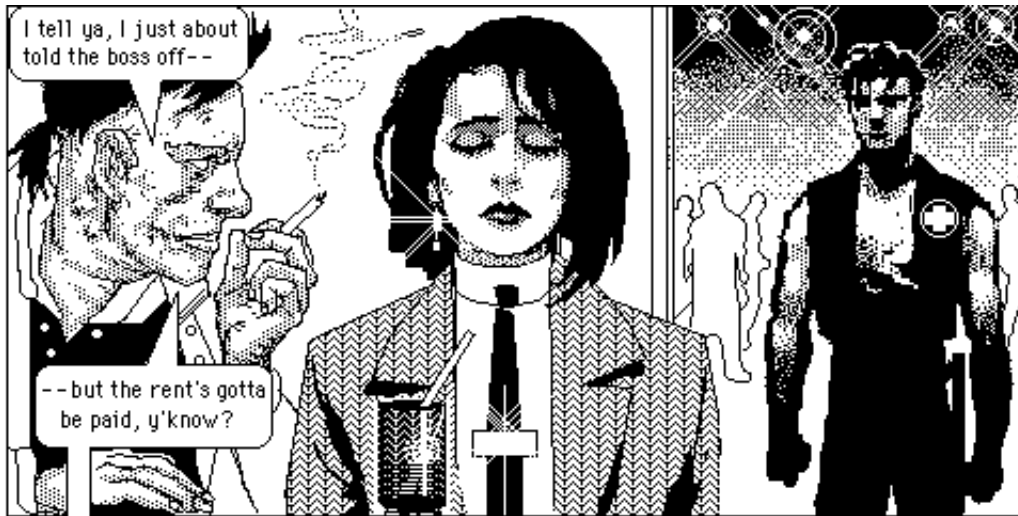
セクテ!

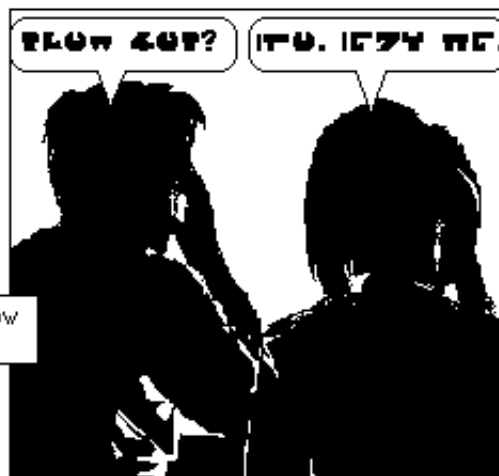
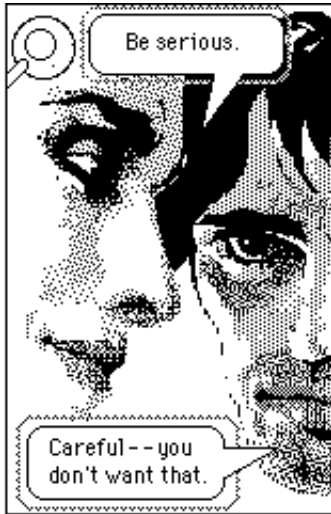
But I was looking for eyes--hair--



--and--

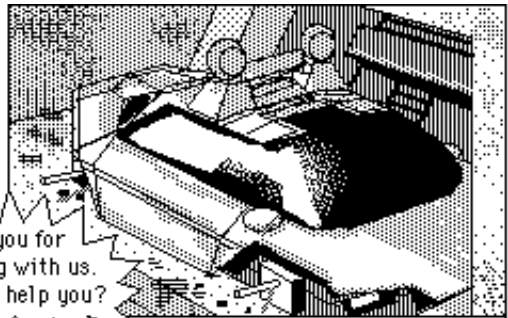
--yes, that could be her.



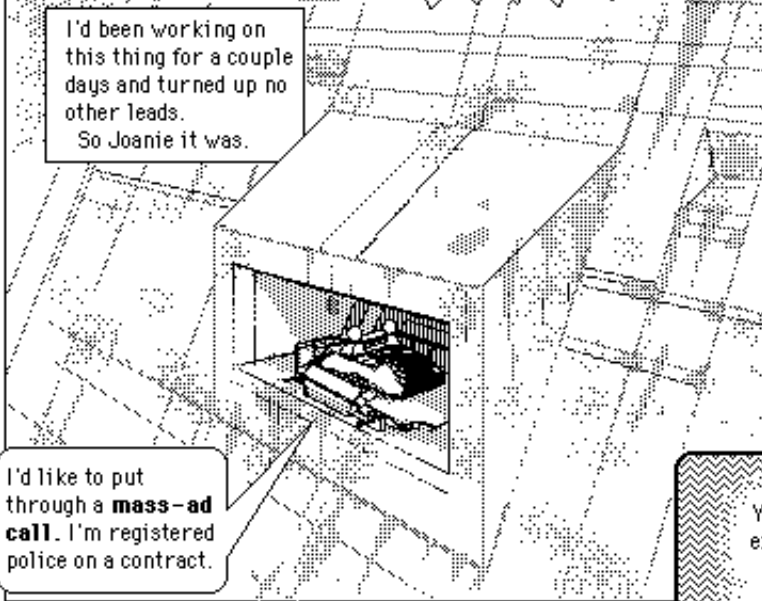


But I got what I came for.

**You might. But don't make assumptions.**



Thank you for interacting with us.  
How can we help you?



I'd been working on this thing for a couple days and turned up no other leads.  
So Joanie it was.

And here I was-- parked in front of the fortress that was the Phone Company building trying to put through Stage Three.

I'd like to put through a **mass-ad call**. I'm registered police on a contract.

You realize the expense is quite high for this service.




Prorate it off my contract--this is a mass-murder.

OK?  
Transmitting message:

I'm your friendly troll, here to tell you about:



**FAST RADIATION ENHANCED BRAIN-ALTERATION SERVICES!**  
What would **YOU** say if by simple doses of radiation, you could become a better person?



**More Brain Power!  
FEWER REGRETS!  
Whaddaya say, huh?**

Πισσ οφφ!  
**NO!**  
Waddiszis, a joke?!  
Sure! My code is 5...  
Screw you! I'm busy!

**VOICEPRINT**



"Screw you! I'm busy!"

**Corresponds**  
27352788

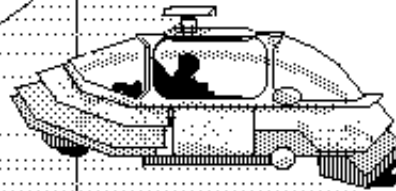
A name and an address--CYAN DALRIADA,  
in the Cold Street area.



Into Stage Four.



Very good, Mr. Scratch!  
Doing my work for me!

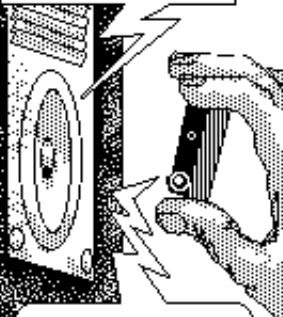


And I'll **pay** you for that  
service-- pay you **very** well!



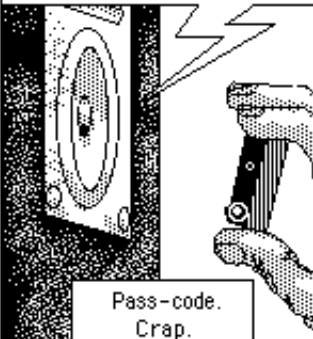
I could almost  
**taste** that coke.

**Hello! Please  
Identify!**



**Don't make  
assumptions...**

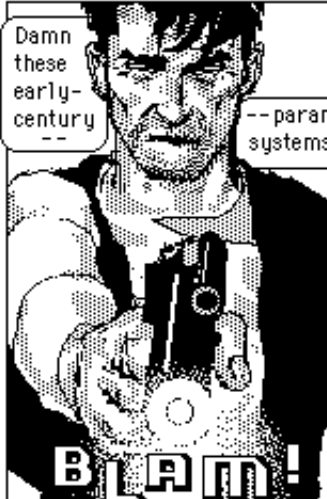
**Thank you!  
Please give weekly  
pass-code!**



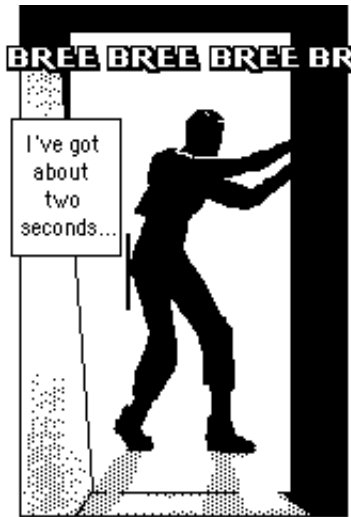
Pass-code.  
Crap.

Damn  
these  
early-  
century  
--

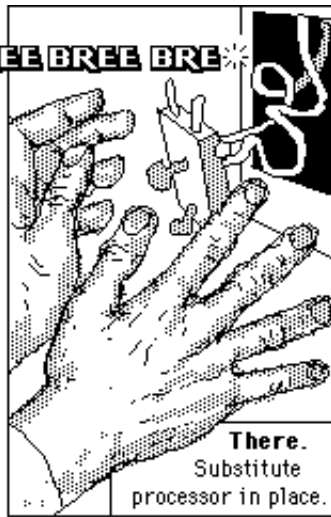
-- paranoid  
systems--!



**BLAM!**



I've got about two seconds...



There. Substitute processor in place.



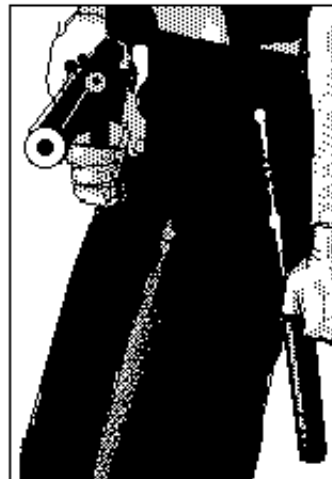
Now for Stage--oh, forget the numbers. Here we go.



Easy and smooth. Only--



-- fifteen people with a machine gun. **Jesus.**



And **this** door opened when I switched chips.

So this must be the place--!

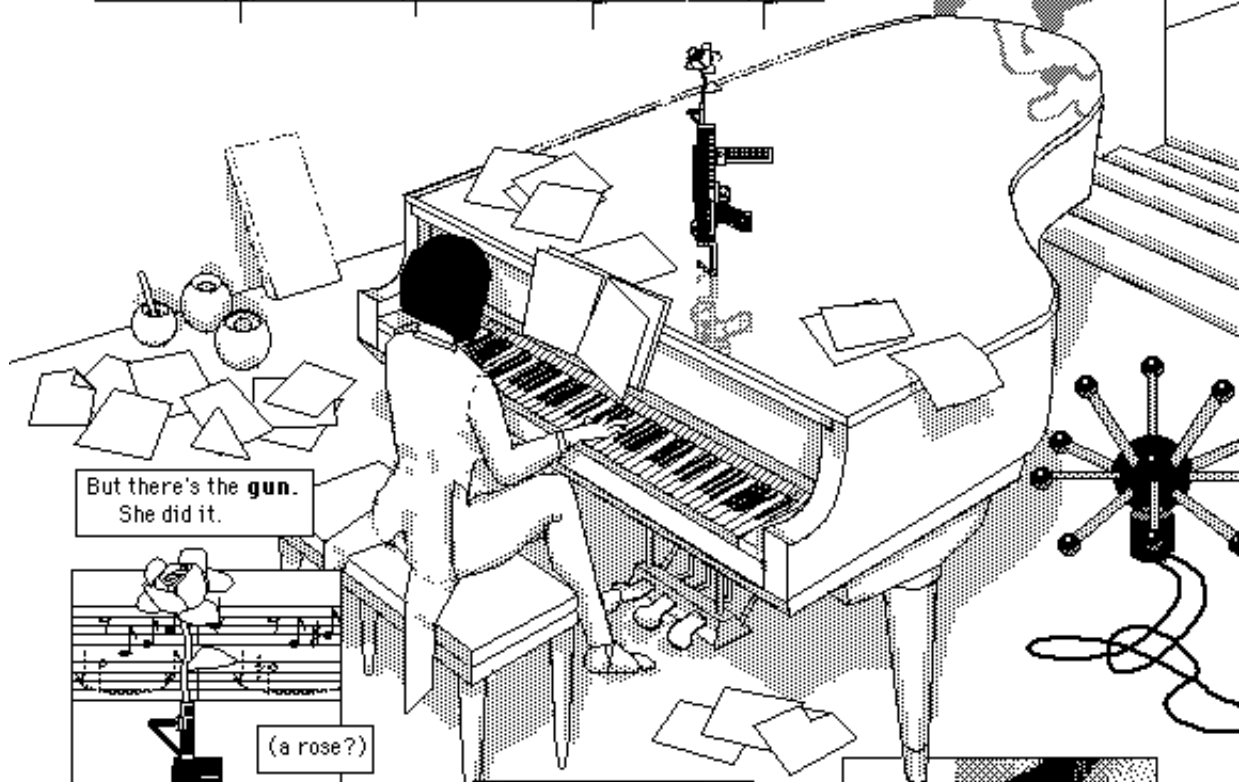
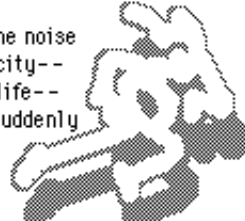




It's her.

And it's-- beautiful.

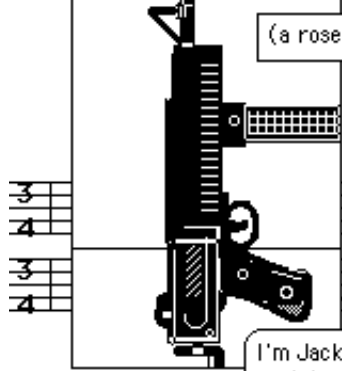
As if the noise of the city-- of my life-- were suddenly turned off.



But there's the **gun**. She did it.



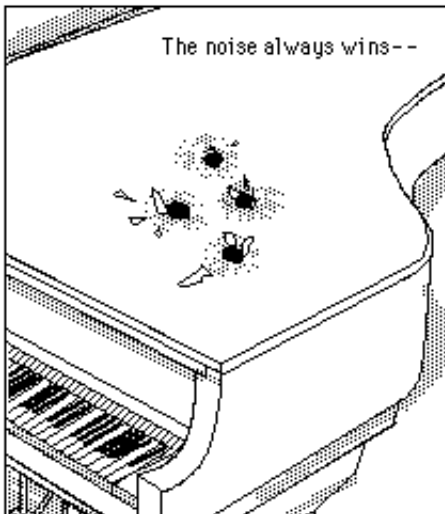
(a rose?)



I'm Jack Scratch, registered police, and you're under arrest for murder.

Will you **stop playing?** You're under arrest!







Neither should she.

I'm **better** than that.



And now you're coming with me!



Listen! You've got to let me go! I've got to stay free!

Sure. So you can use that **gun** some more!

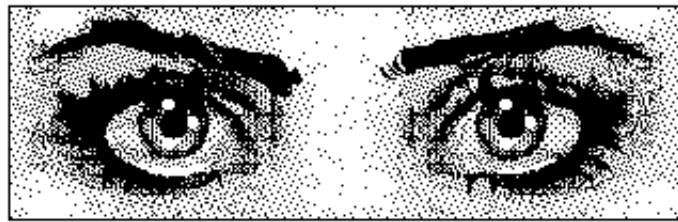


You must understand! There was a **reason!** It was for my lover--!

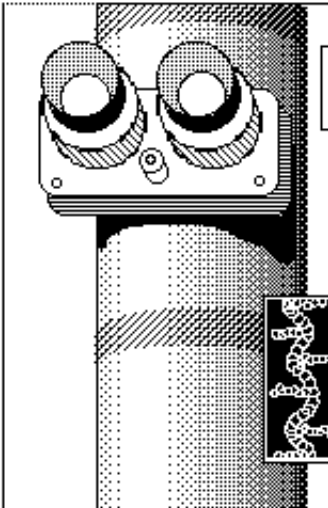


That's why **everybody** does it.

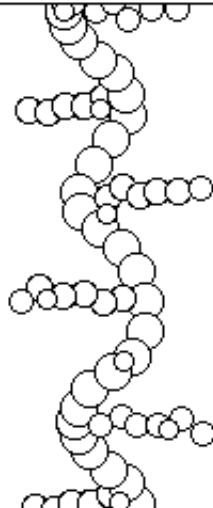
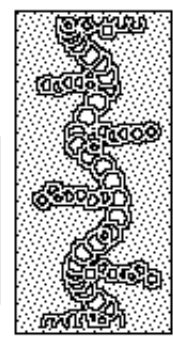
For... or **to**. Come on.



**NO!** It's **more** than that! It's what **they're** doing to **us!**



You've heard of **RNA transfer?**



Done on flatworms, it transfers skills from one organism to another.

Now there's a technique that works on **humans**:

take a skill from one, distill it, feed it to three or four people. It lasts a year or so.

And **they're** using it. Used it on my lover.



The only drawback: you have to take the person's brain **out** and put it in a centrifuge.

I killed them--and stole his RNA back.



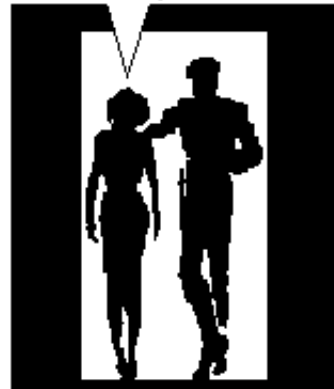
I injected it myself-- and for a year I'm going to play **his** music! You've got to let me--



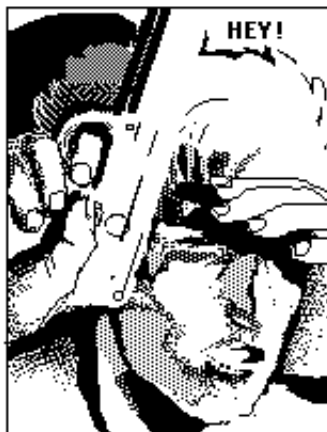
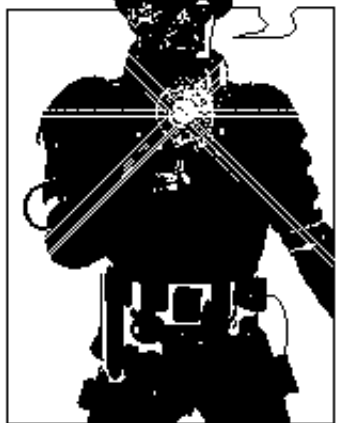
I'll say this-- it's **creative**.

But you're coming with me.

But there are more of us-- you should **help** us-- try to **stop** this--!



**Yes!** Tell us **all** about it, under-grounder!



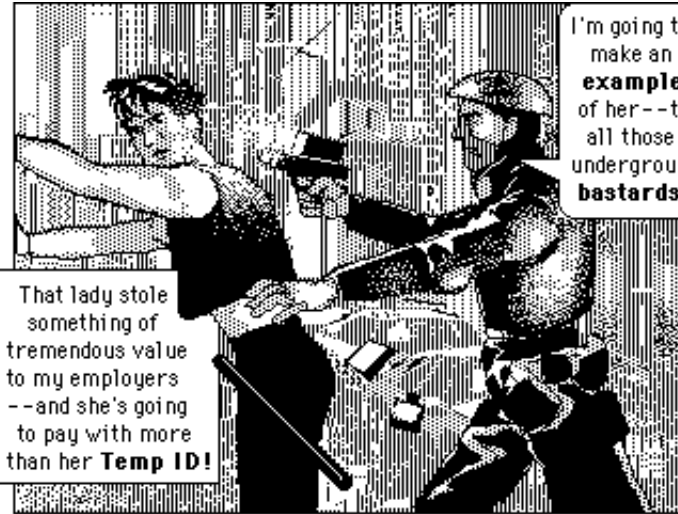
**HEY!**

Back off! This is **MY** collar, jerk!

Just what I expected-- **TEMP!**



That's all you Temps think about-- money! Loyalty, ideals mean **nothing!**



I'm going to make an **example** of her-- to all those underground **bastards!**

That lady stole something of tremendous value to my employers --and she's going to pay with more than her **Temp ID!**



H-hey, listen-- you can have her-- just pay my expenses and we call it quits! **OK?**



**EXPENSES! Money again!**



You're gonna find out what a **temporary lifestyle** is really like!



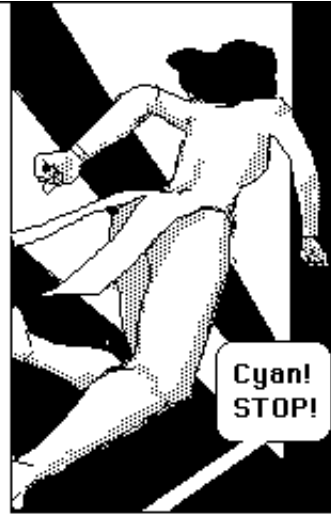
I think I'll tell you all about RNA transfer, temp-- you know why?



Because **then** you'll know too much. You'll be dangerous.



And **then** I'll have to **kill** you. I'll have no choice! No choice at-- "



HALT! I order you to...



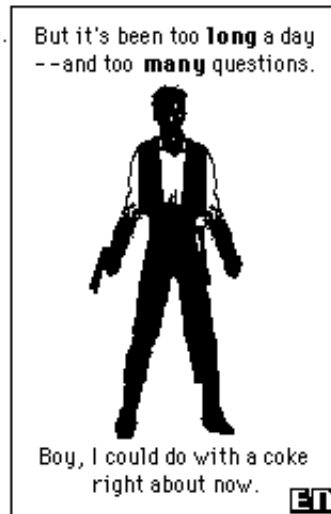
\$ 75,000.



And something I never had before.



But it's been too **long** a day  
--and too **many** questions.



Boy, I could do with a coke  
right about now.

**END**

# SWATTER



# the revolution will be digitized



## SHATTER



**AIT PLANETLAR**  
WWW.AIT-PLANETLAR.COM US\$14.95

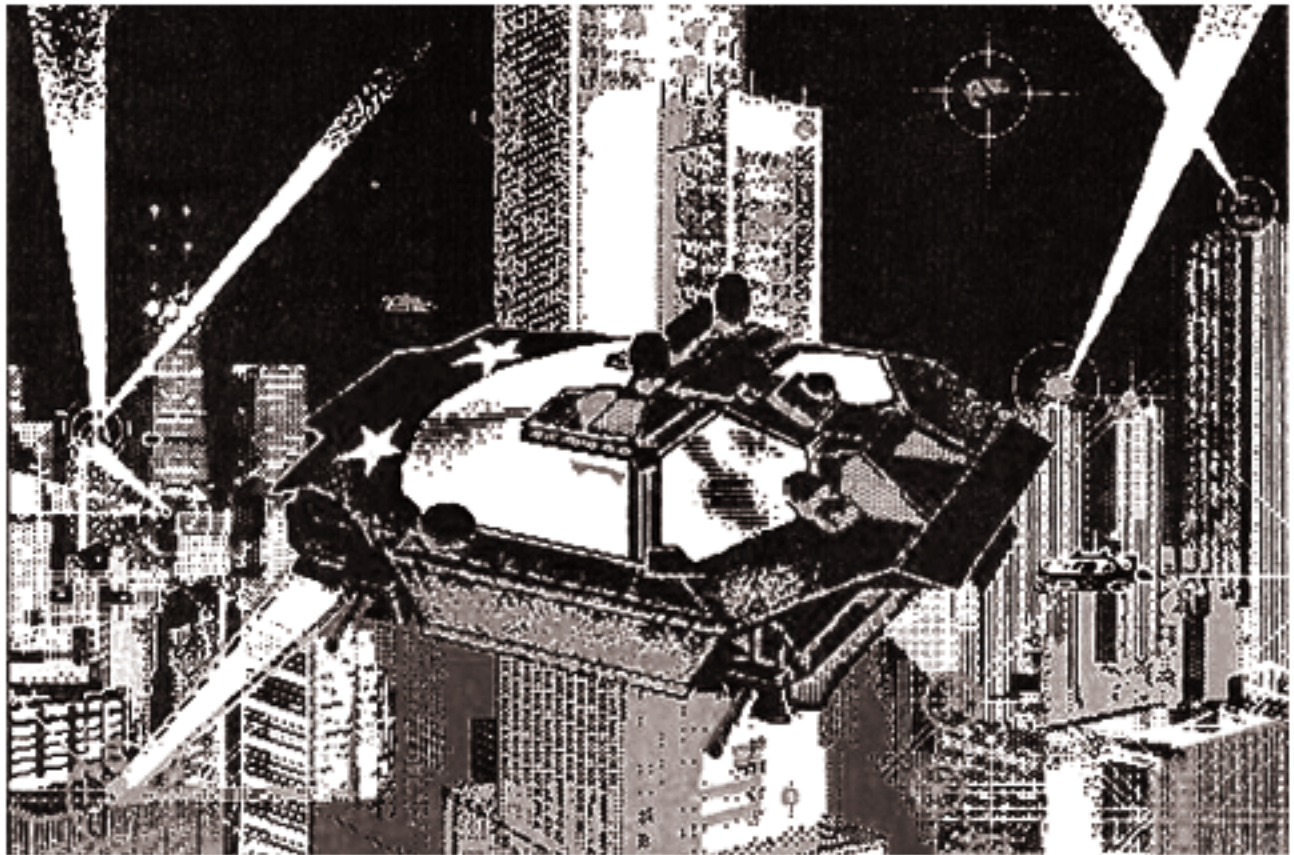


1985's revolutionary first all digital comic  
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