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Philip K. Dick's

TONY AND THE BEETLES

a comic adaptation by Jason Payne



PAYNE

TONY AND THE BEETLES

ORIGINAL STORY
PHILIP K. DICK

COMIC ADAPTATION
JASON PAYNE

The story that the following comic is adapting was originally published at a time when the United States of America was involved in seemingly one war after another. In 1953, the Korean War would have been wrapping up just as the USA was readying itself for the Laotian War, Lebanon, The Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, and so on, right up to the 1990s; all part of a string of battles that came to be known collectively as The Cold War - aka the US government's war against communism. Today the US military is fighting against terror.

In *Tony and the Beetles*, Dick echoed this ceaselessness with the lines "The War. Always the War." Lines used to describe Tony's attitude toward a news broadcast his parents are listening to. And from there, Dick echoes more attitudes about war, noting how it poisons all the lives that it touches. So this story serves as an allegory for many issues, yet surface wise it's deceptively simple in its fairytale like structure. It just feels very different from Dick's later work, especially his novels, but no less potent in its message.

That's what struck me the most about Tony. That's the "why" behind why I wanted to adapt this story. For four years it was on my mind, even before I started work on adapting *The Hanging Stranger*, another of PKD's stories that echoed the ills of the era, because this story is so strong and immediately relevant even after sixty plus years since its publication.

I believe that those well versed in PKD's works (or "Dickheads") will find that all of his personal themes of paranoia, suspicion, humanity, and the search for identity are present and accounted for. And for everyone else, you'll find a reflection of our own times. So it is with great pleasure that I present to you my comic adaptation of Philip K. Dick's *Tony and the Beetles*, a true fairytale for the space age and beyond.

- Jason Payne
November 13, 2019

P.S. If anyone asks "Why the cartoony style?", tell them because "it felt right."

Original story by Philip K. Dick, published in Orbit volume 1 number 2, 1953, and is a work in the public domain.

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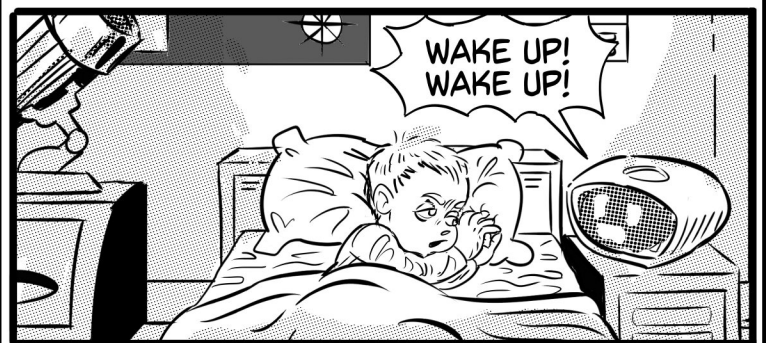
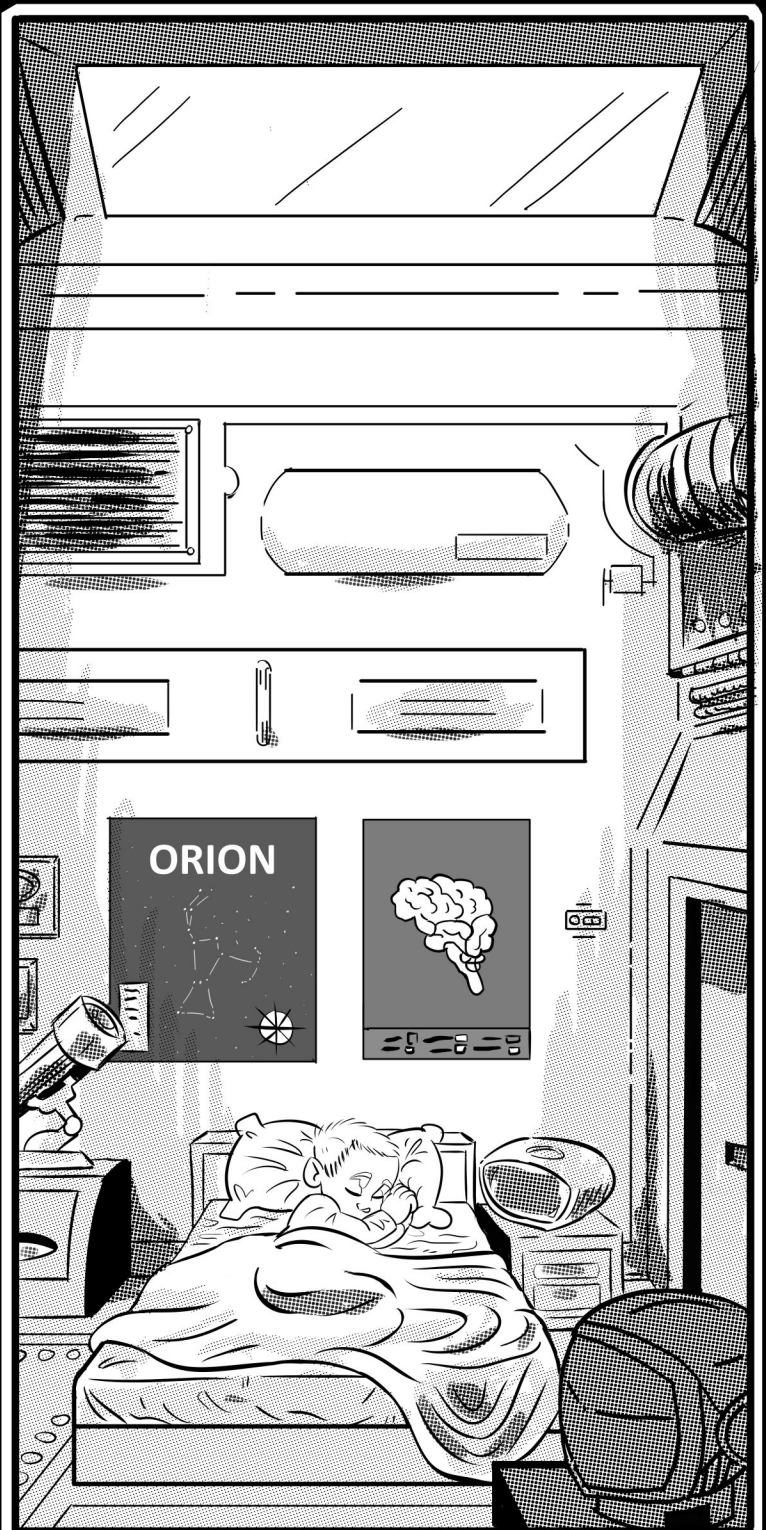
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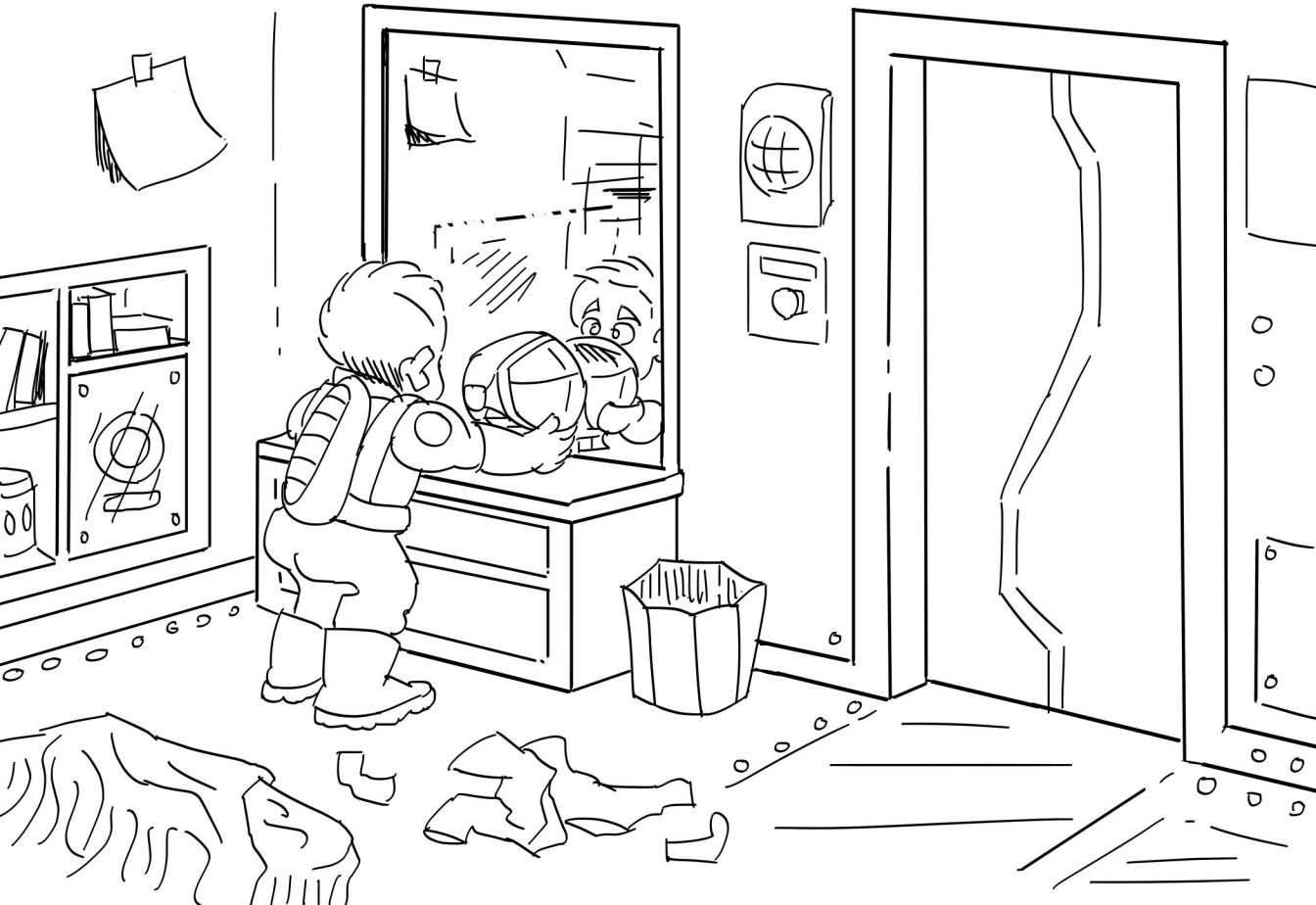
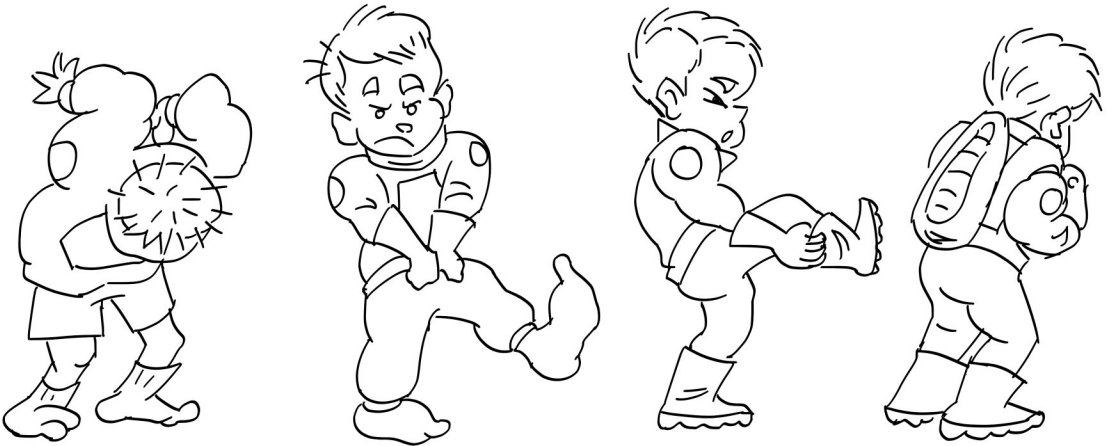
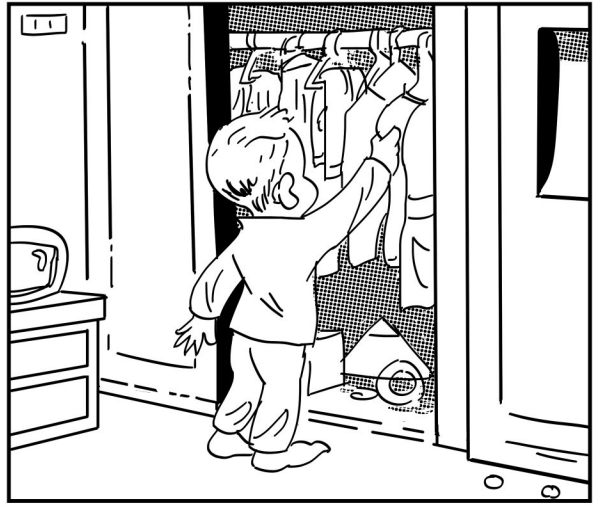
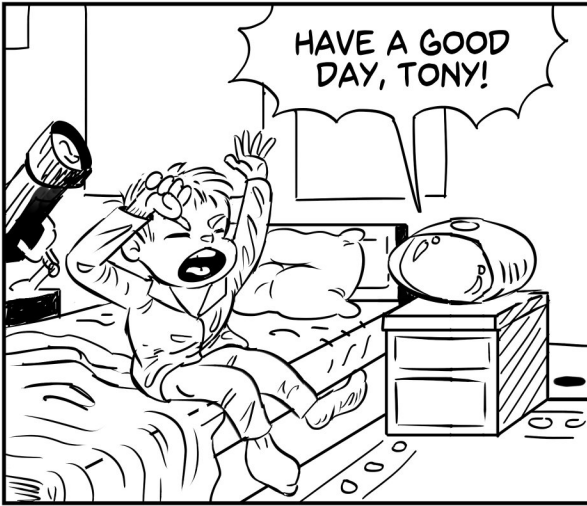
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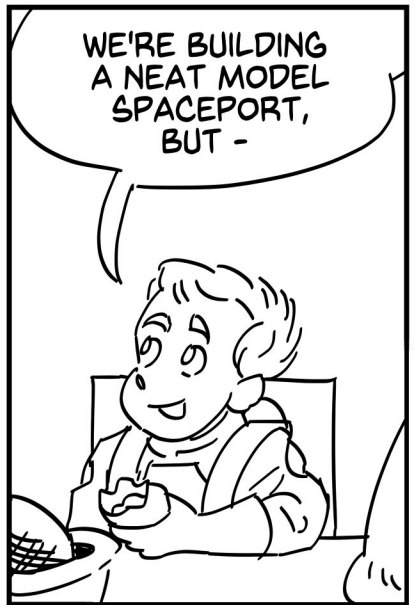
TONY AND THE BEETLES

PHILIP K DICK
STORY

JASON PAYNE
ART









IF ONLY WE'D BUILT UP STRONG SUPPLY BASES, WE COULD HAVE REALLY CLOBBERED THOSE BEETLES.



DON'T SAY "BEETLE." THEY'RE PAS-UDETI, SAME AS HERE.



THE WORD 'BEETLE' COMES FROM BETELGEUSE. AN ARABIAN WORD WE INVENTED.



WHAT ARE YOU? A GODDAMN BEETLE LOVER?!

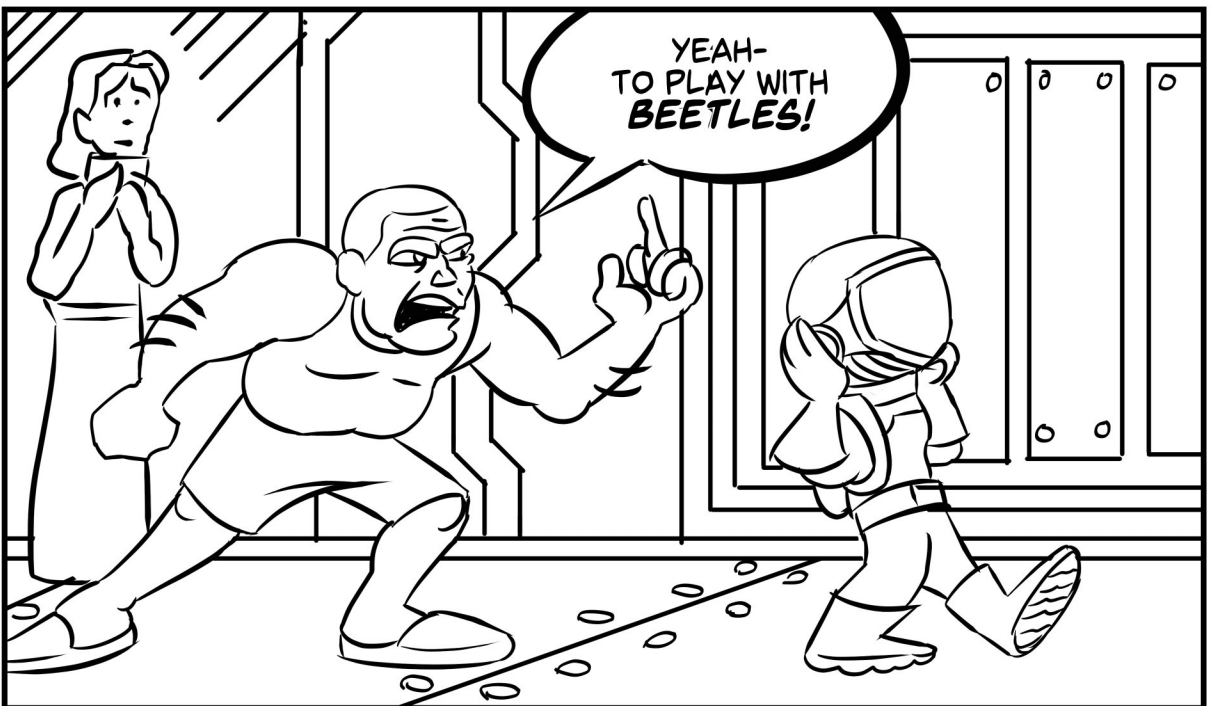
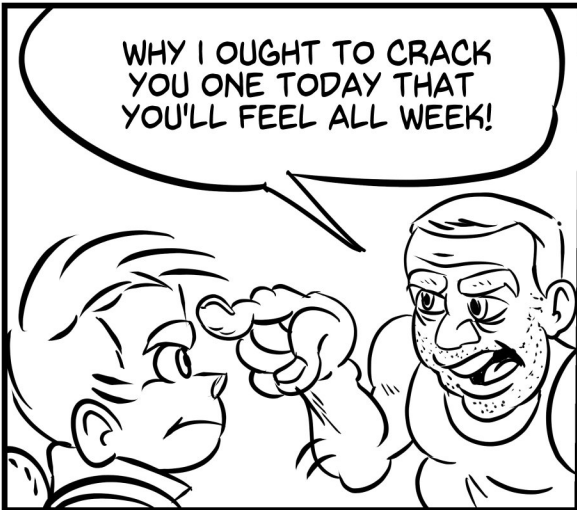
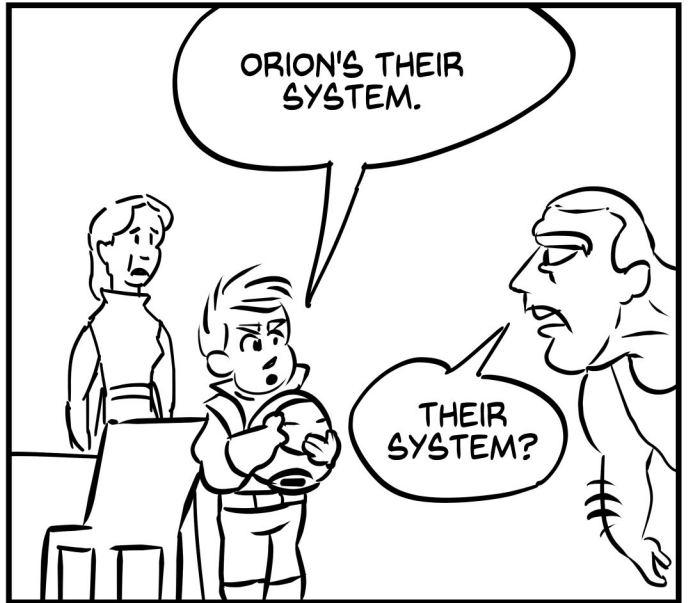


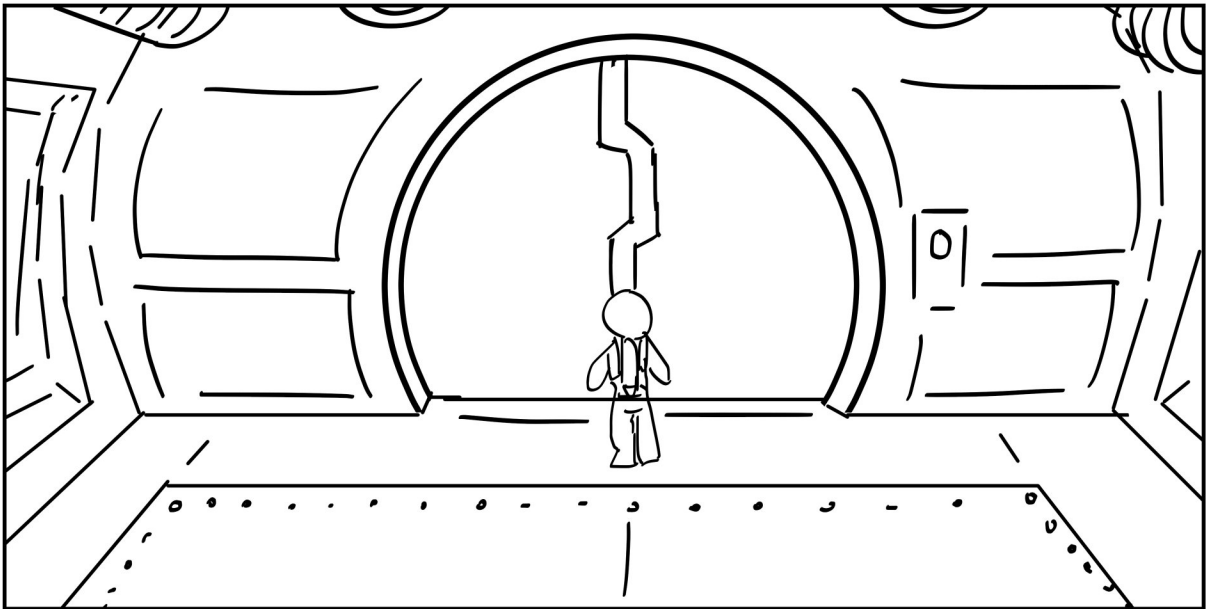
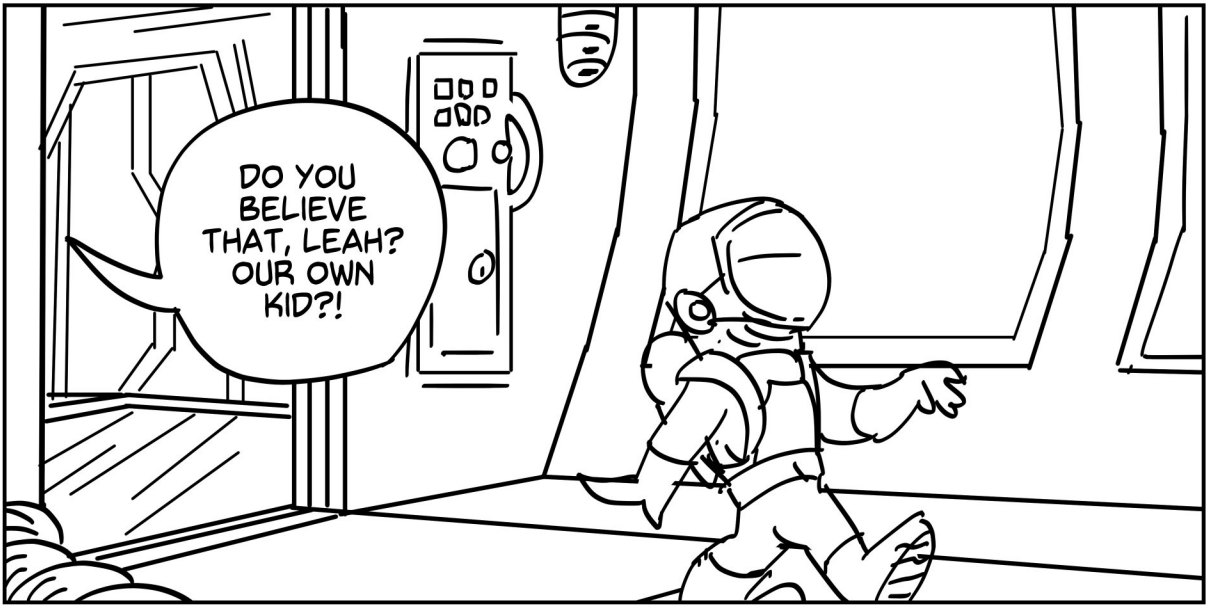
JOE!
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

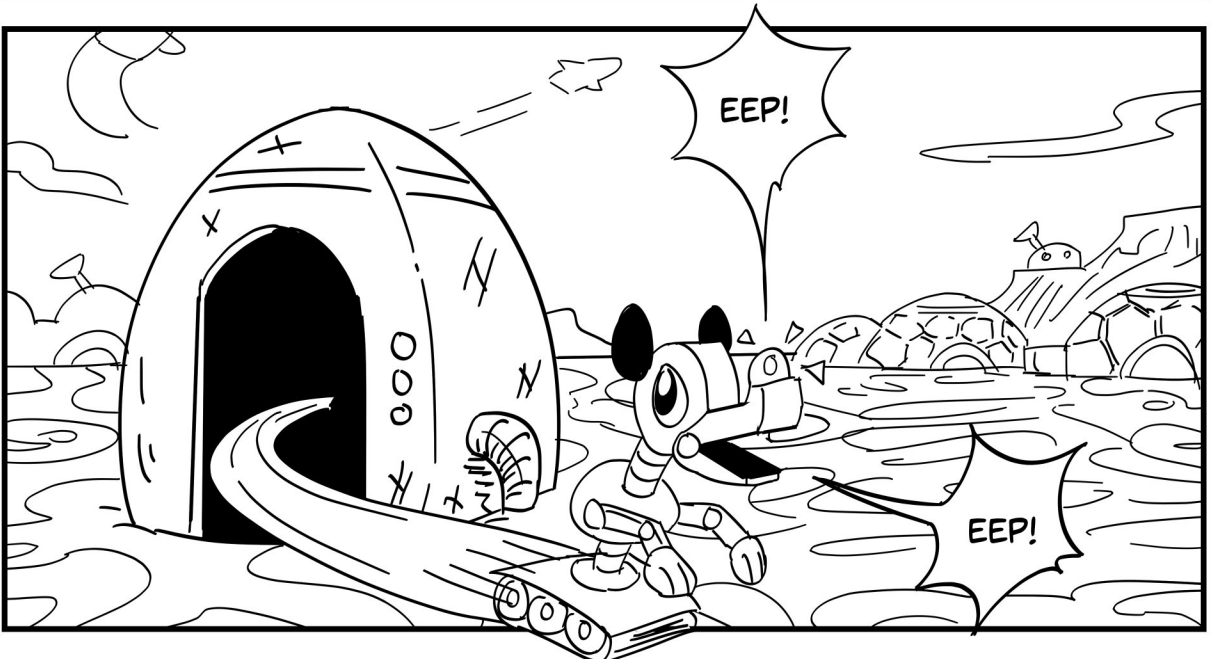
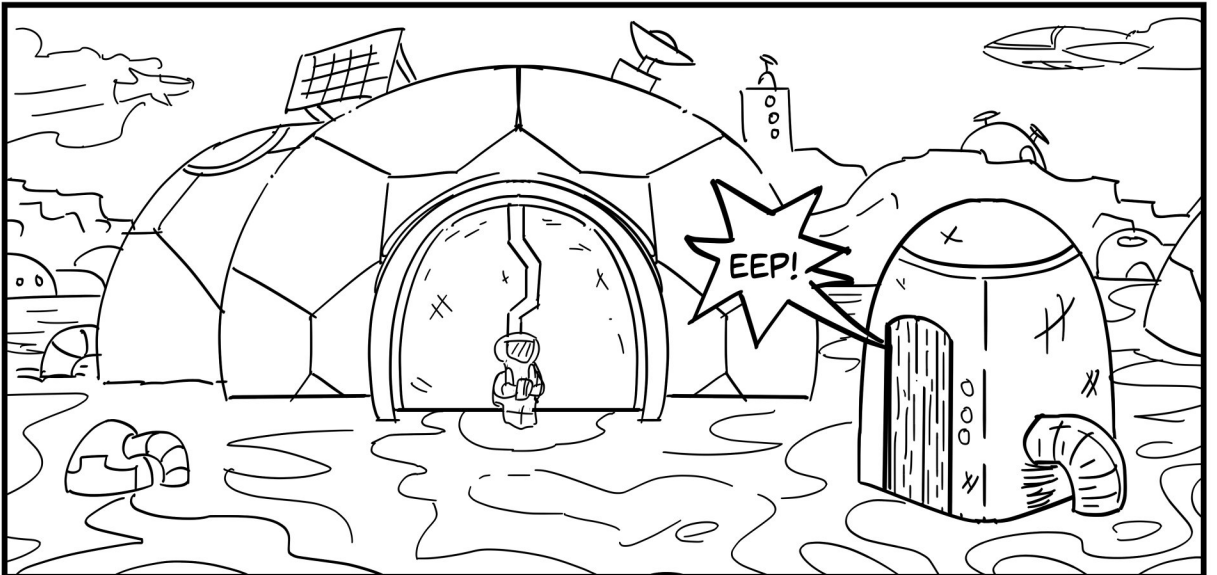
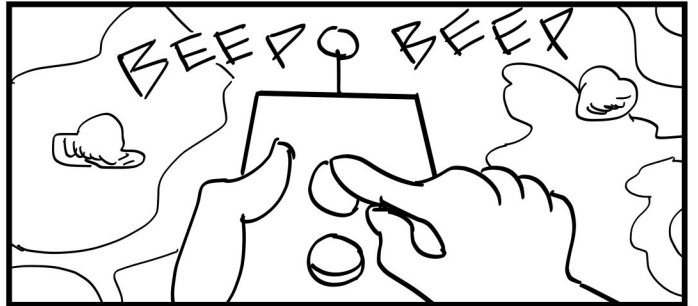
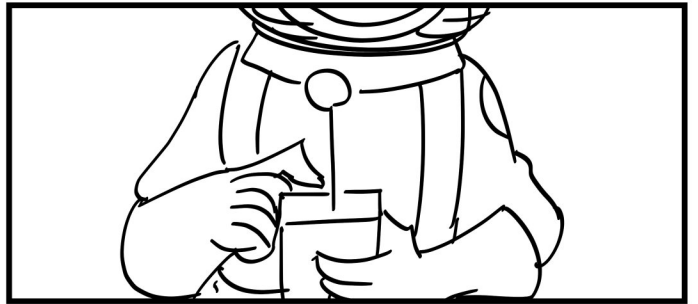
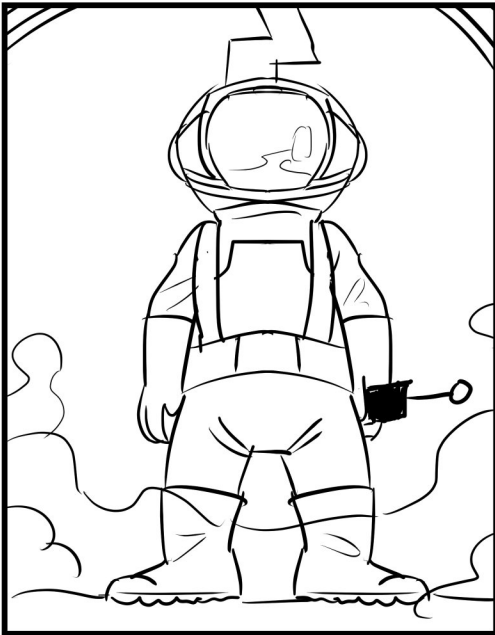
IF I WAS TEN YEARS YOUNGER, I'D BE OUT THERE.

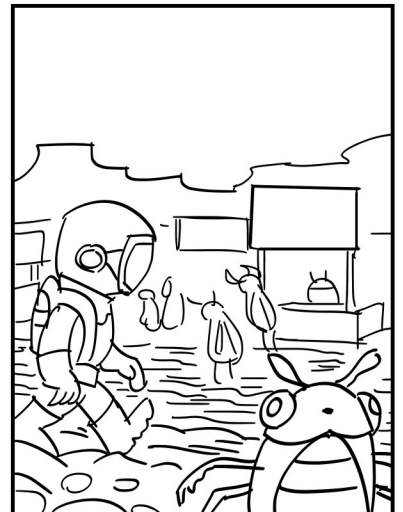
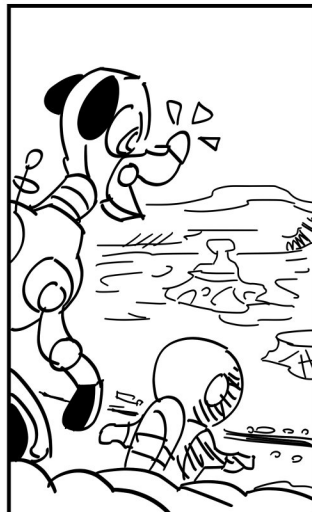
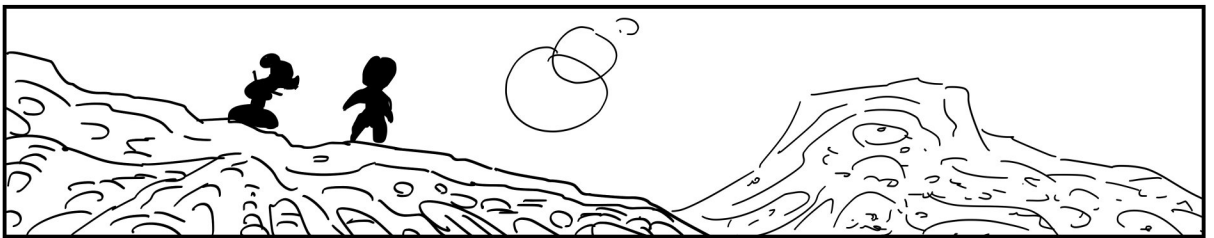
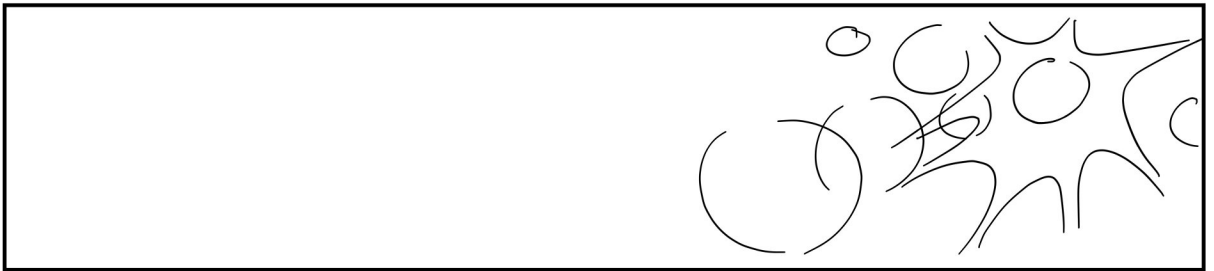
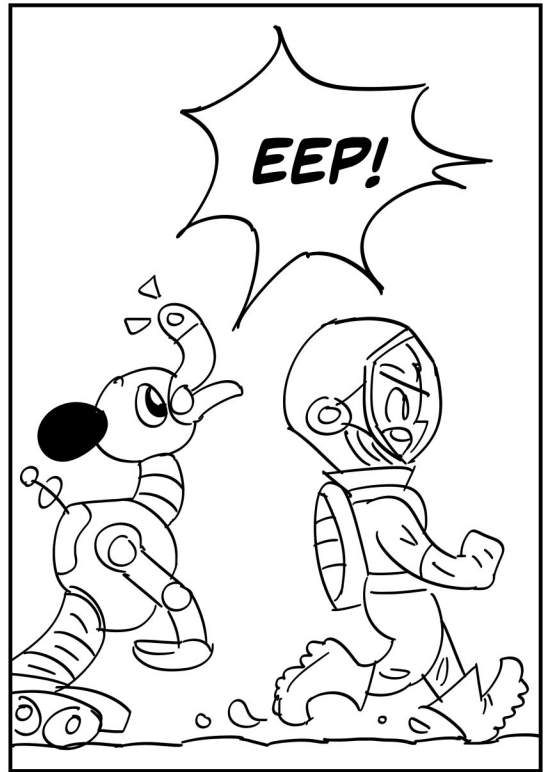
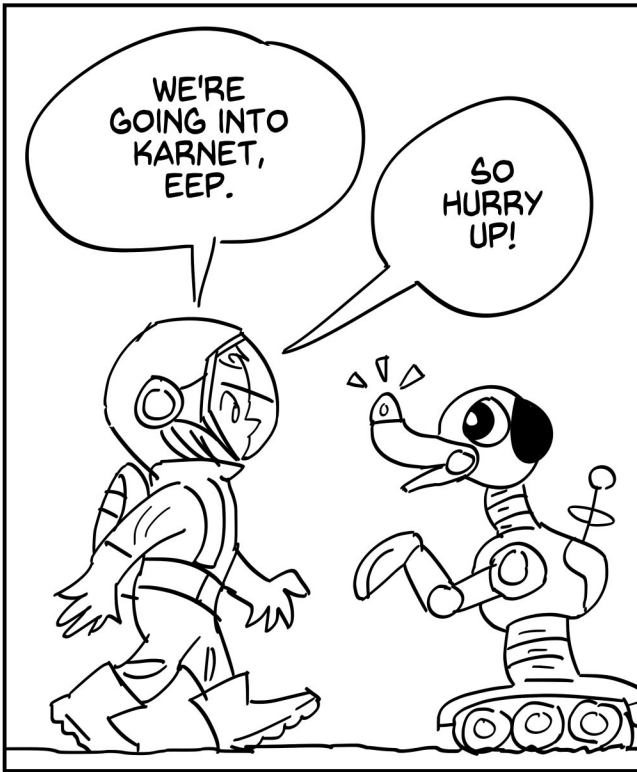
AND I'D REALLY SHOW THOSE INSECTS WHAT THEY'RE UP AGAINST!

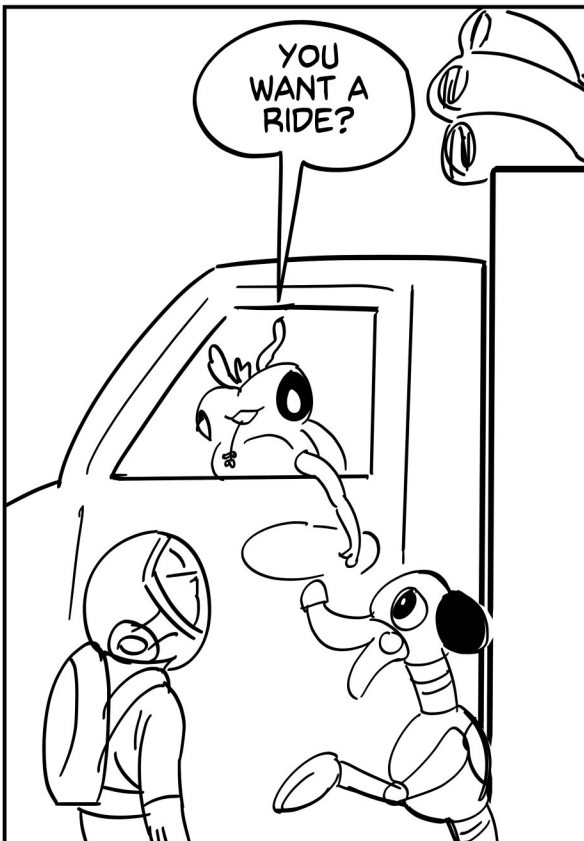
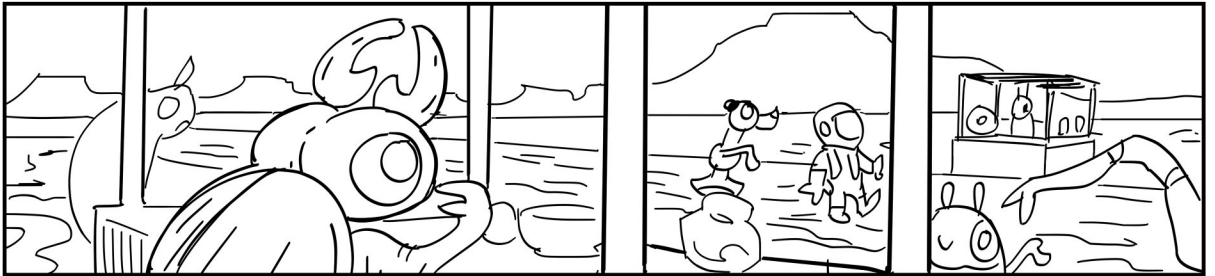
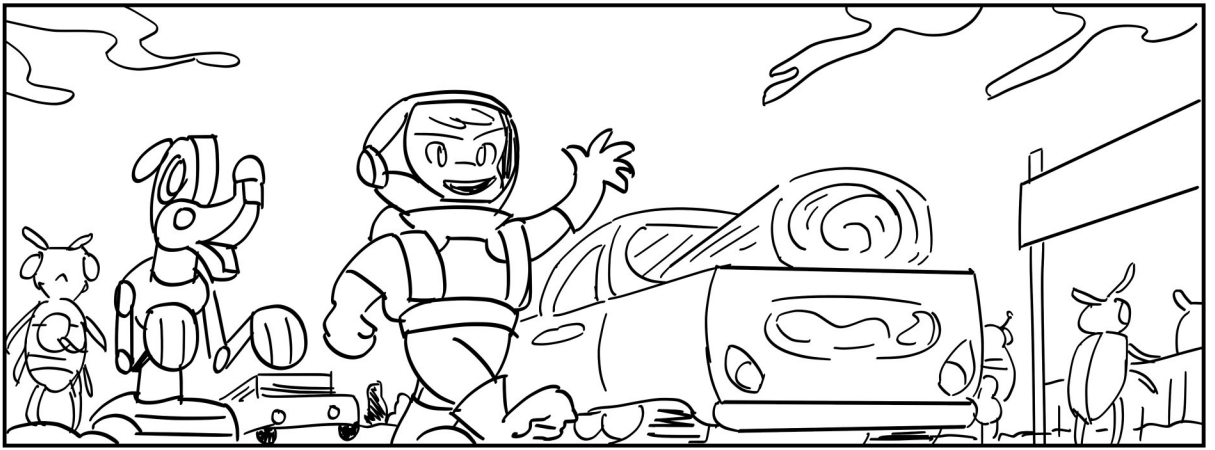


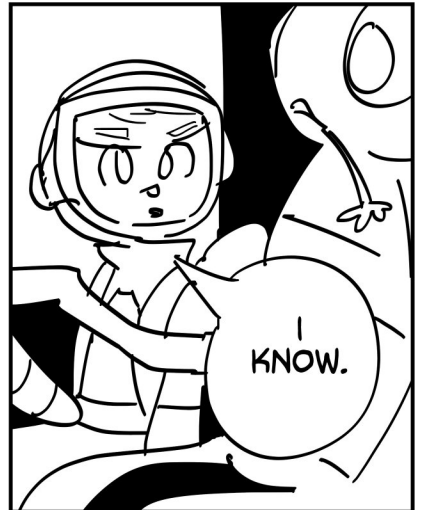
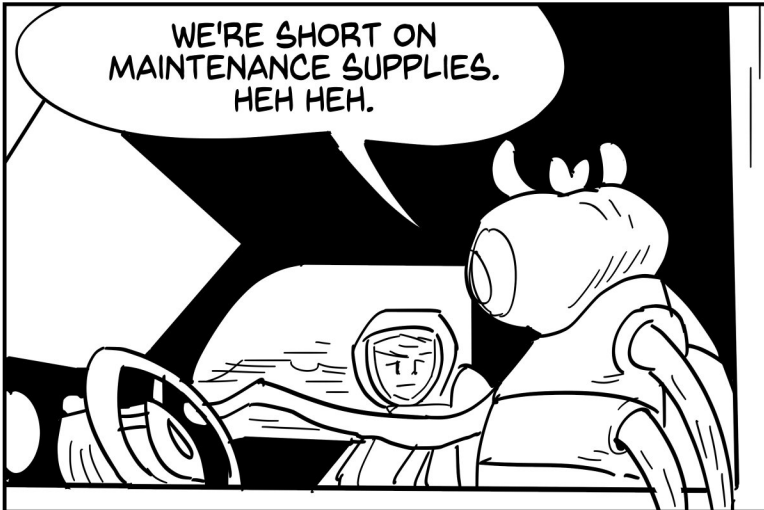
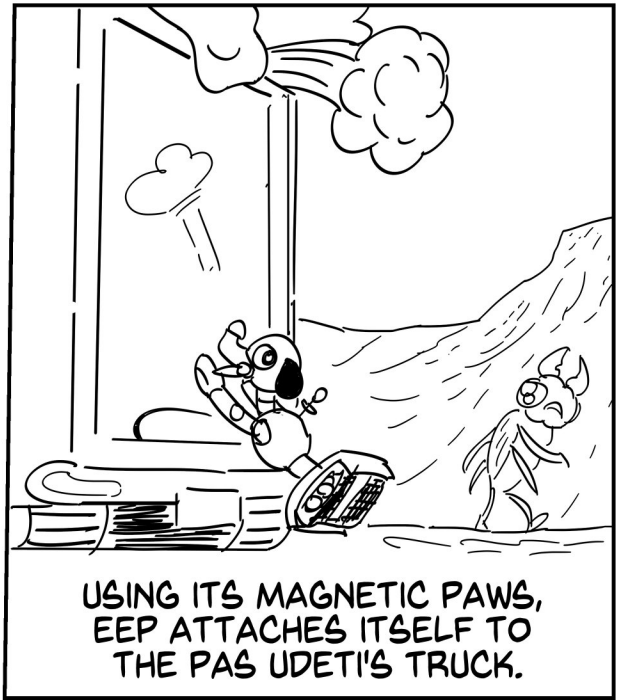


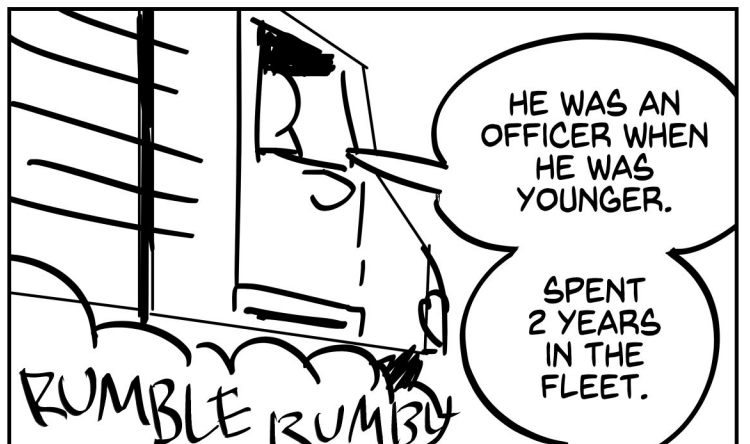
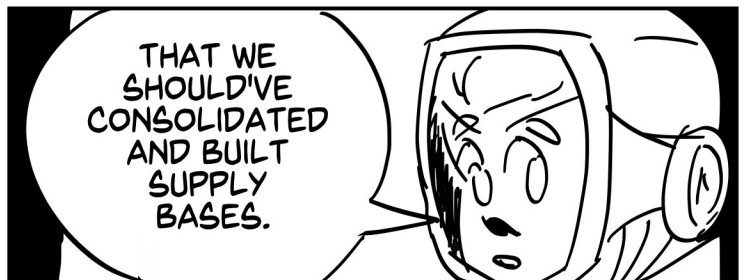
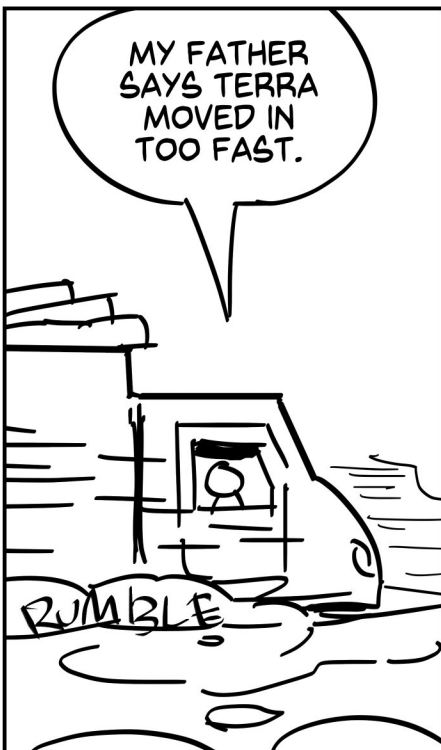
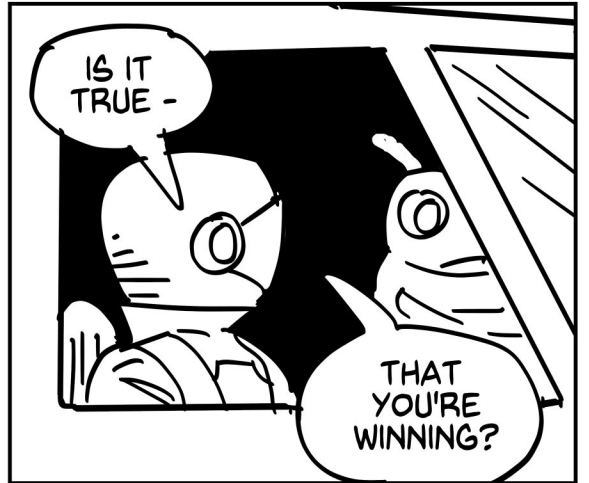


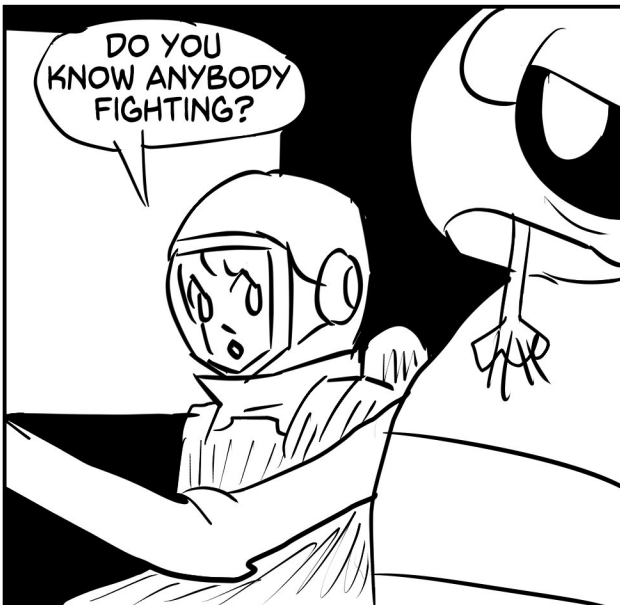
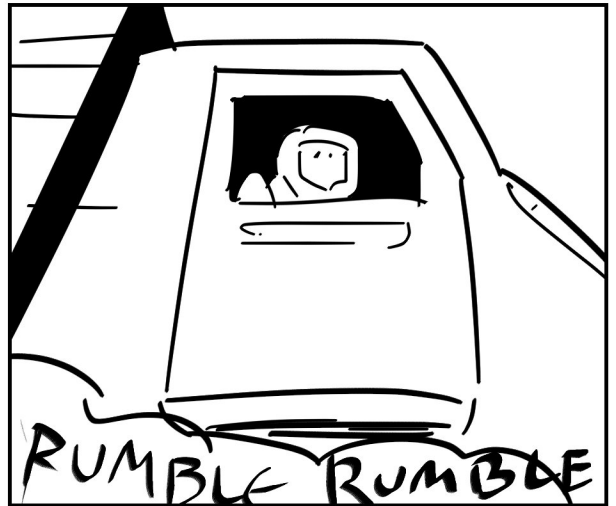
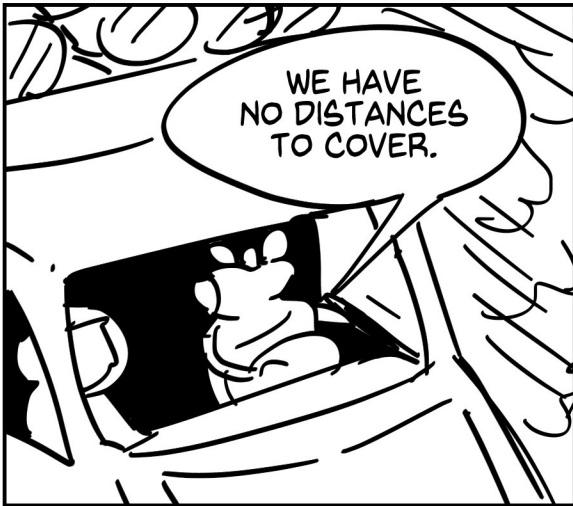


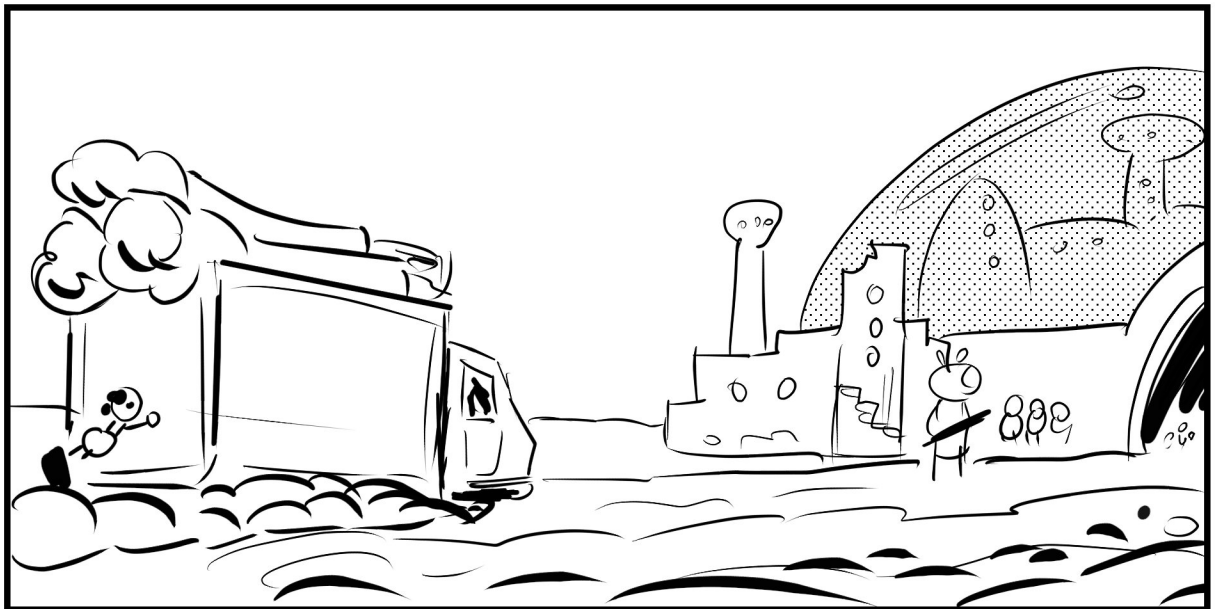
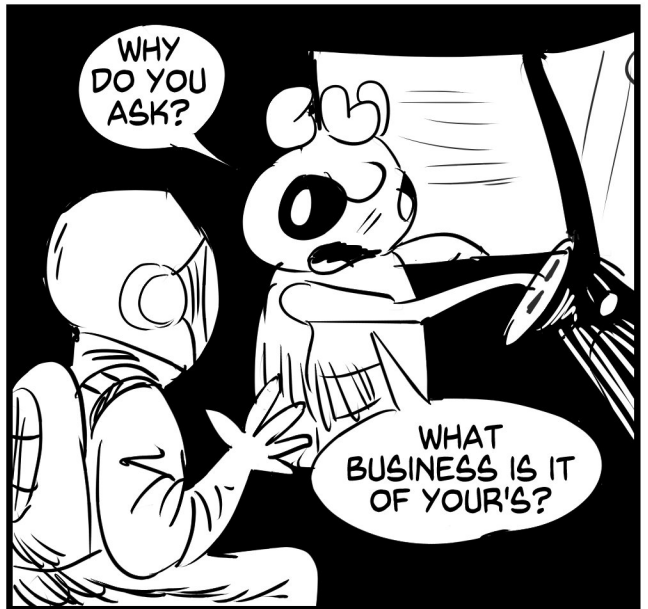
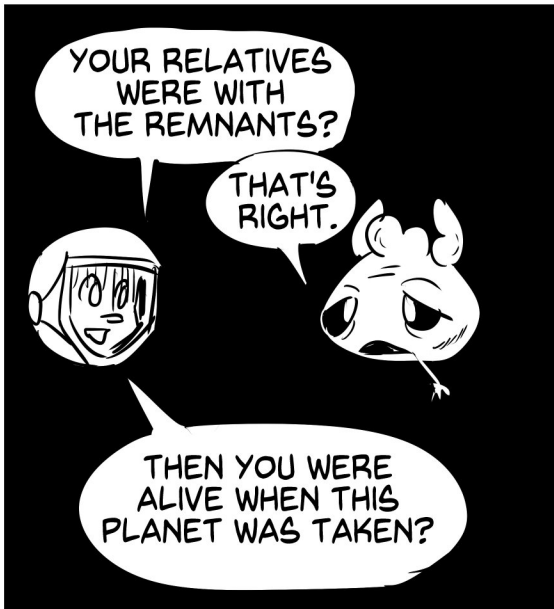
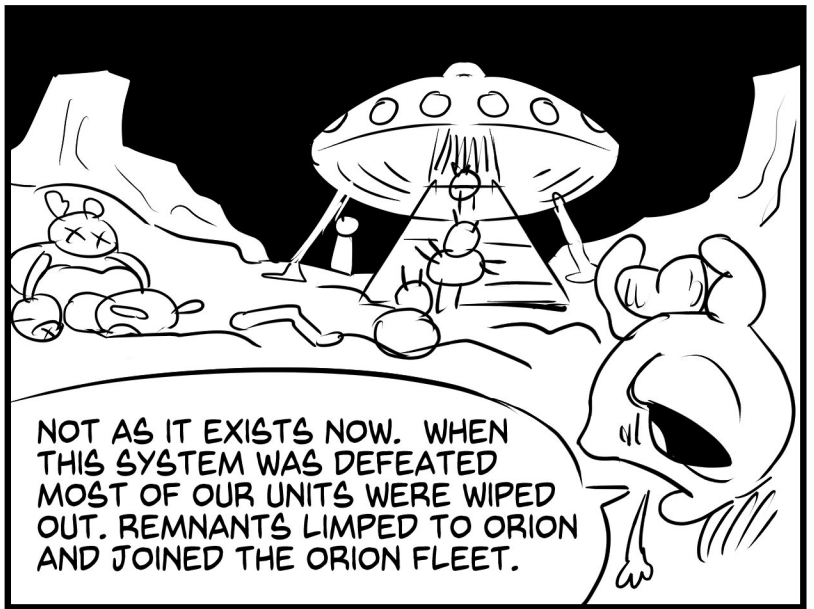


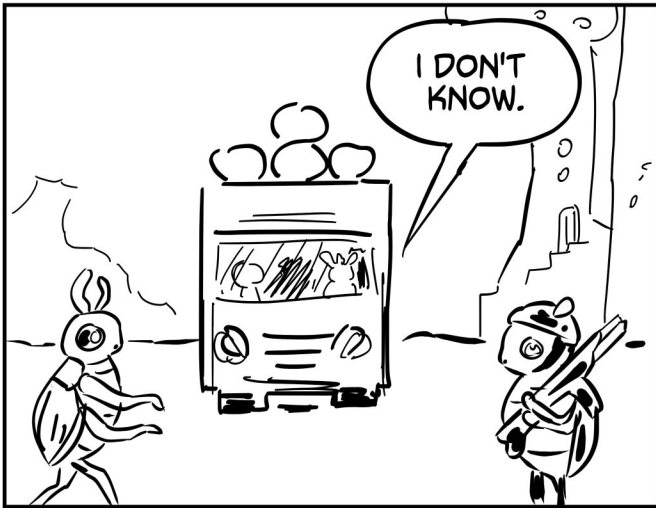
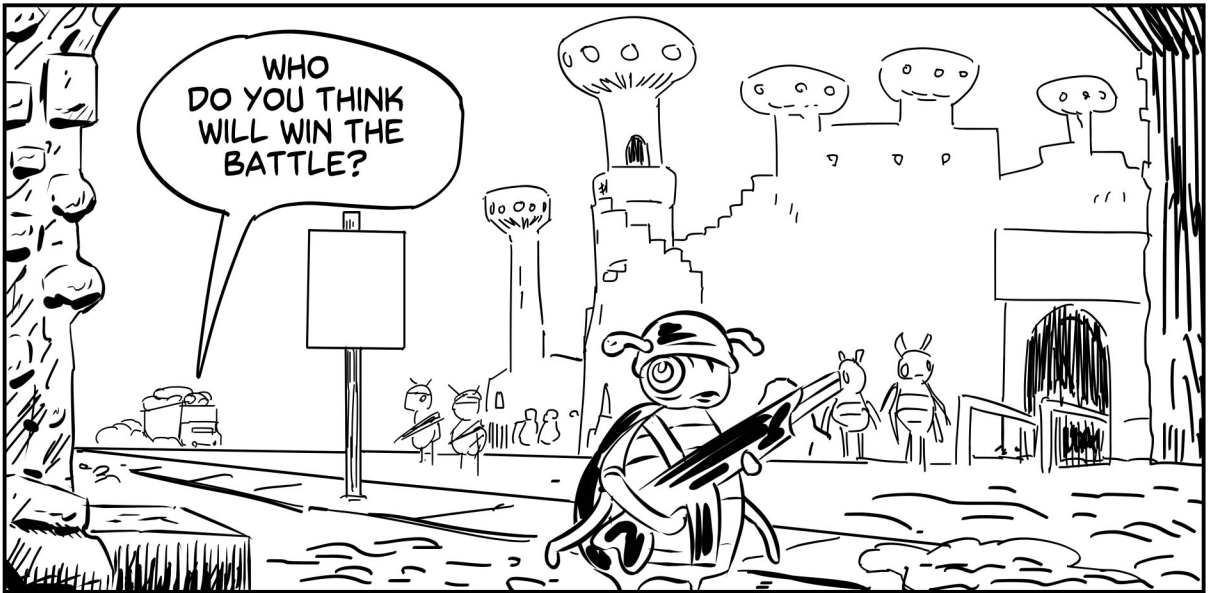


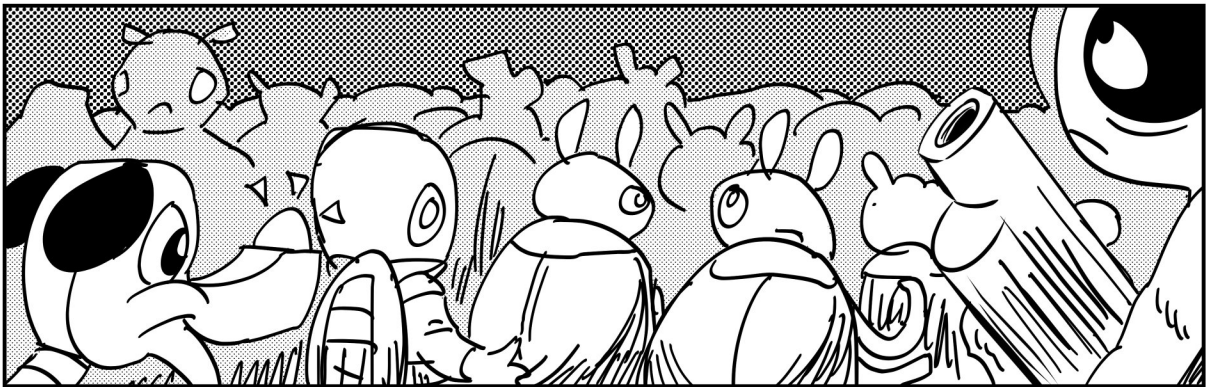
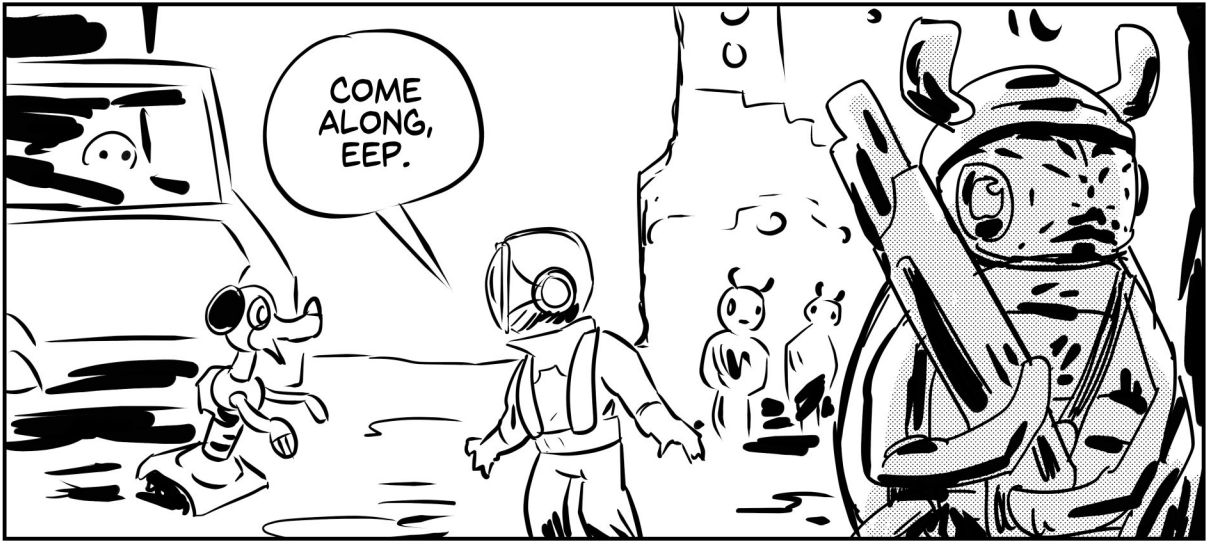
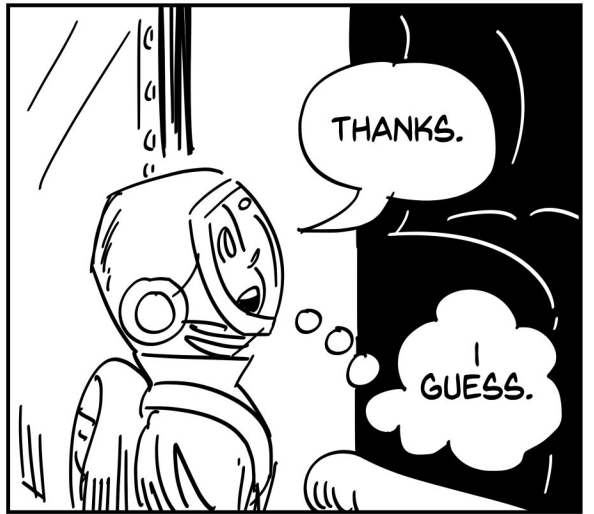
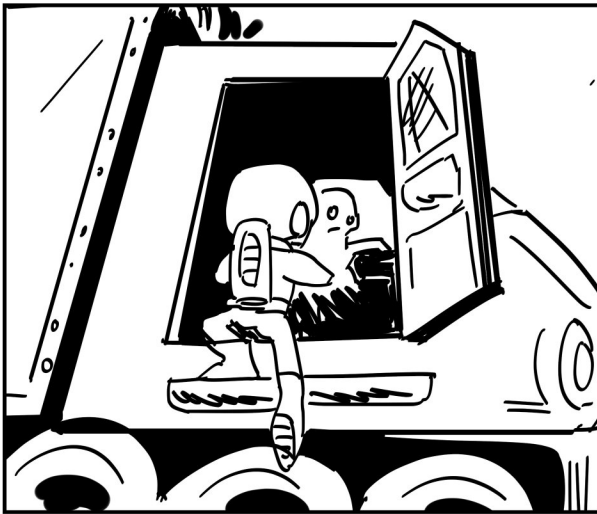


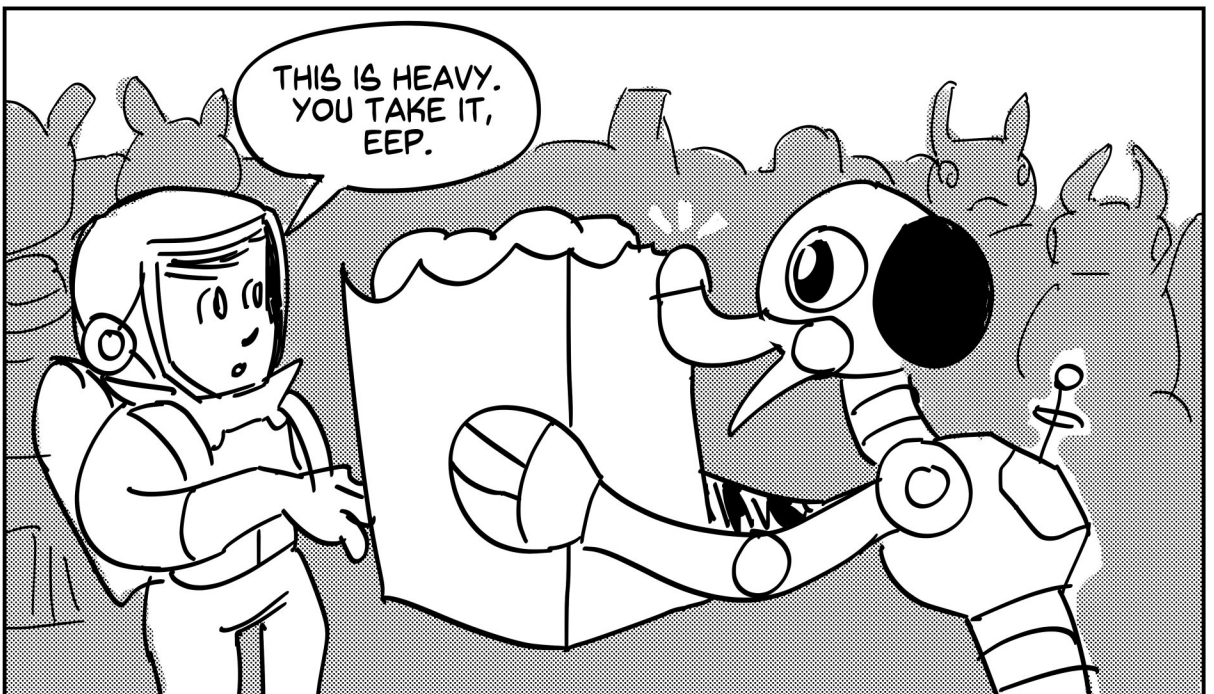
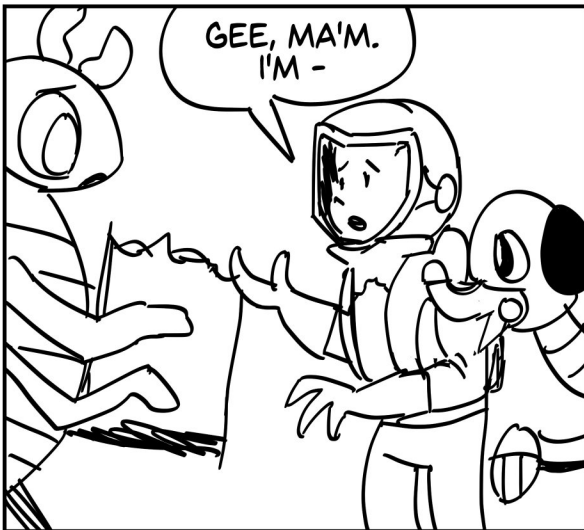
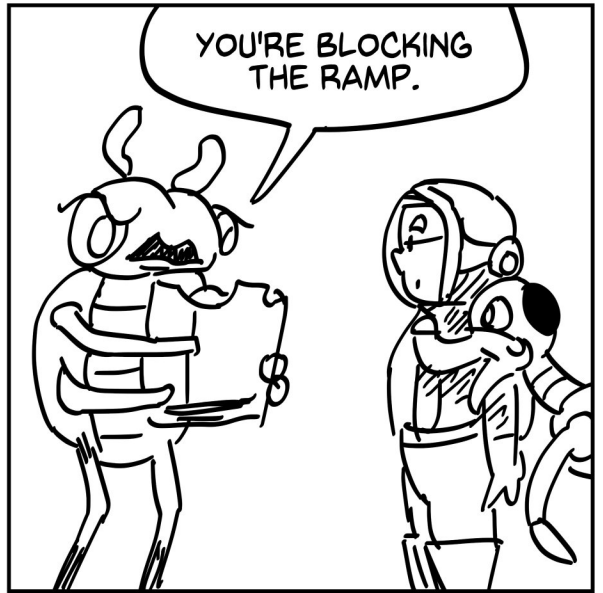
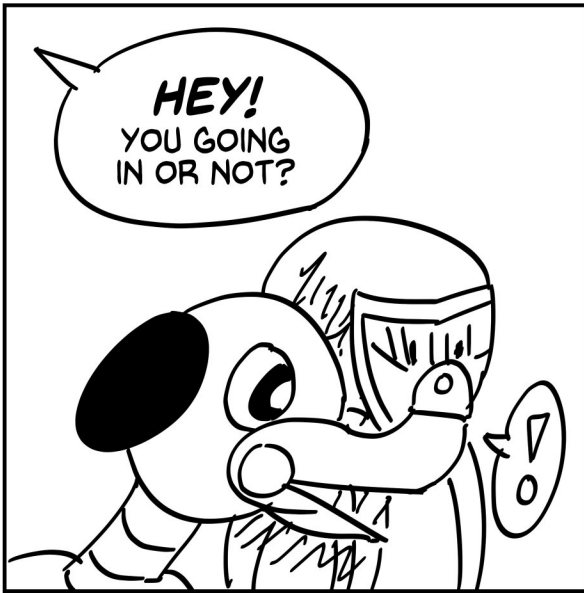


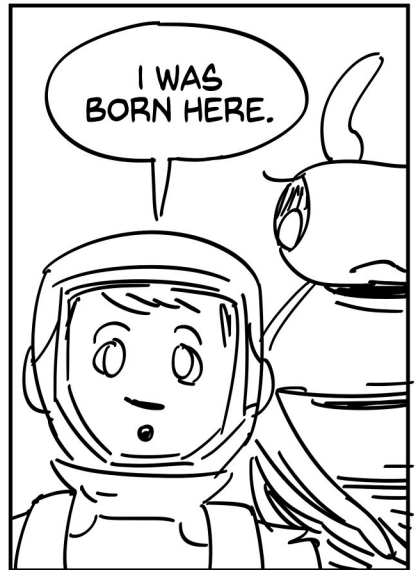
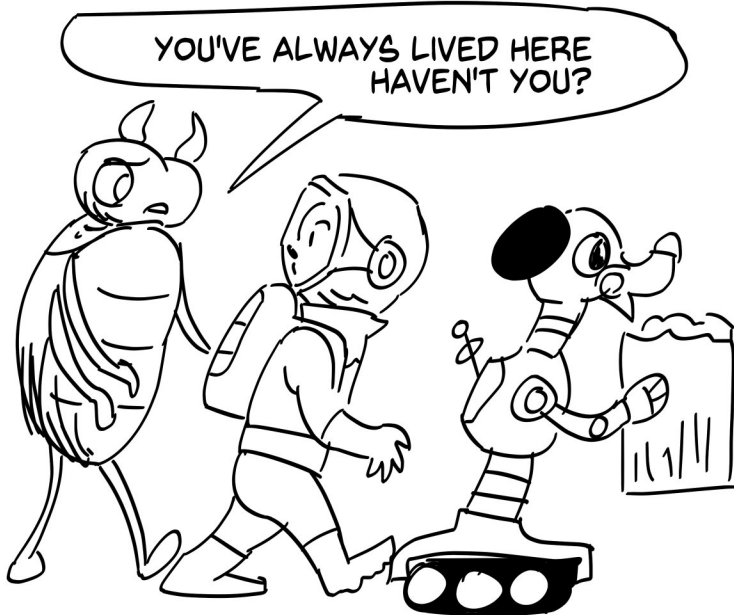
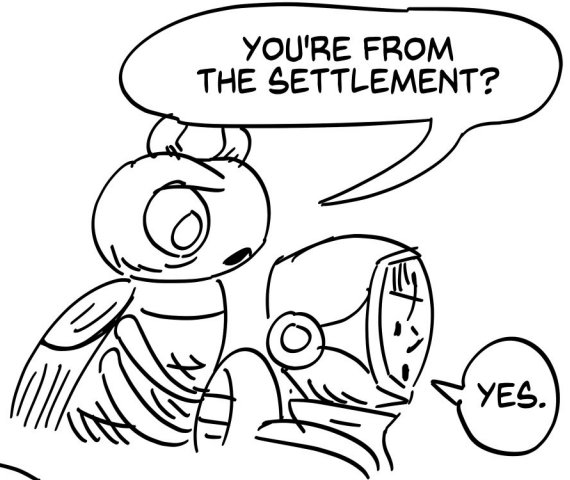
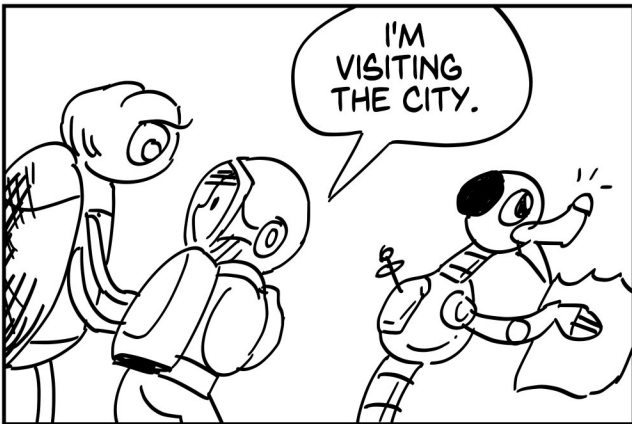
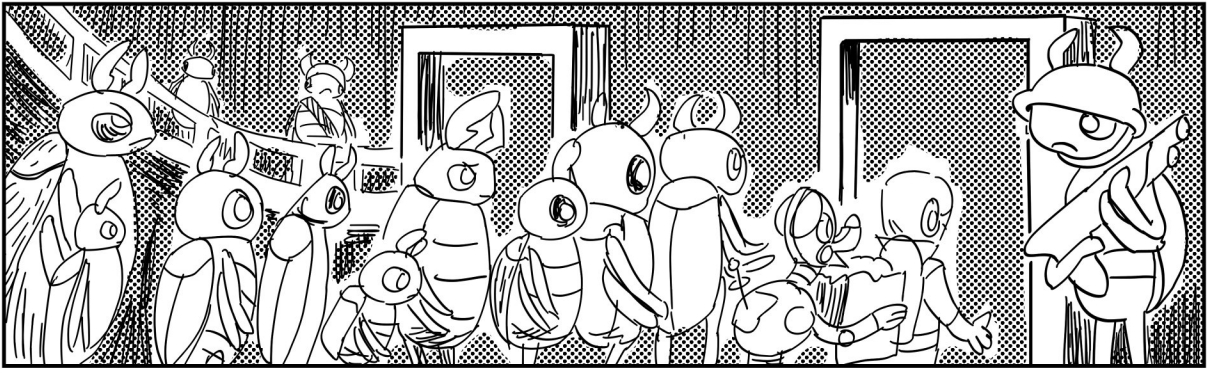


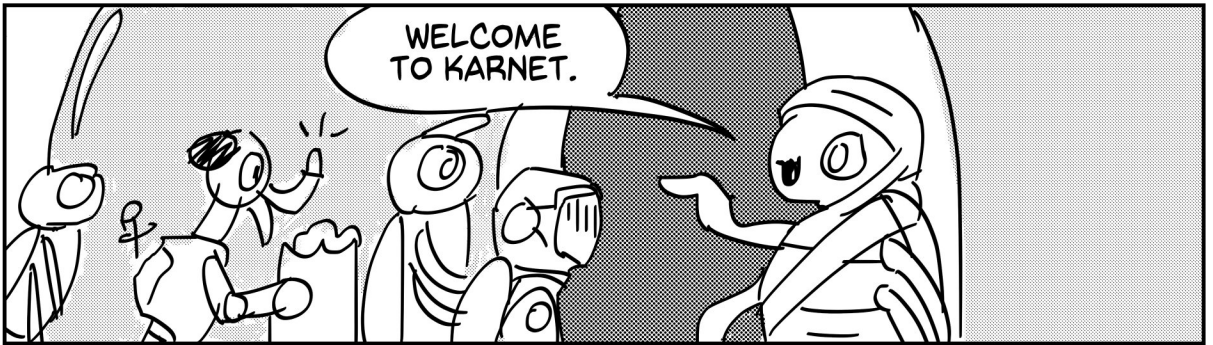
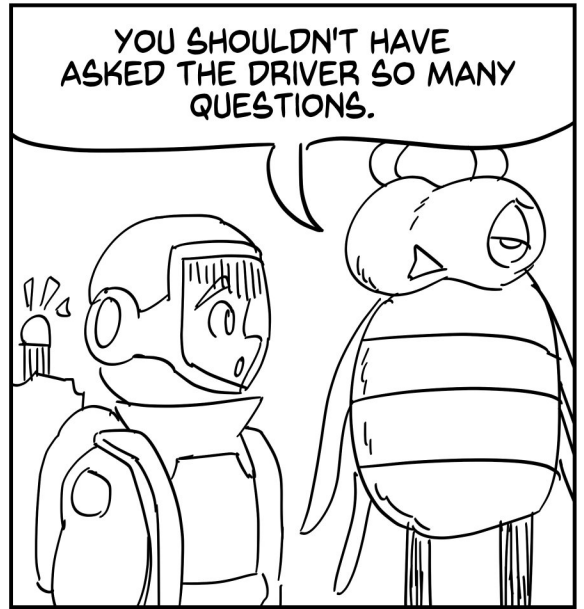
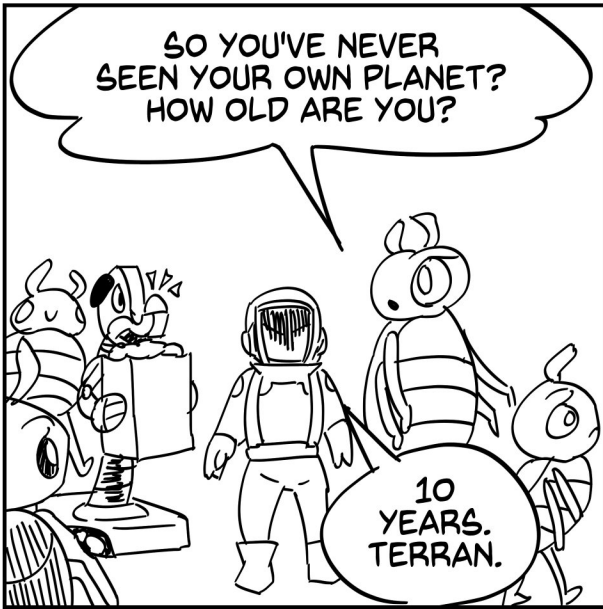


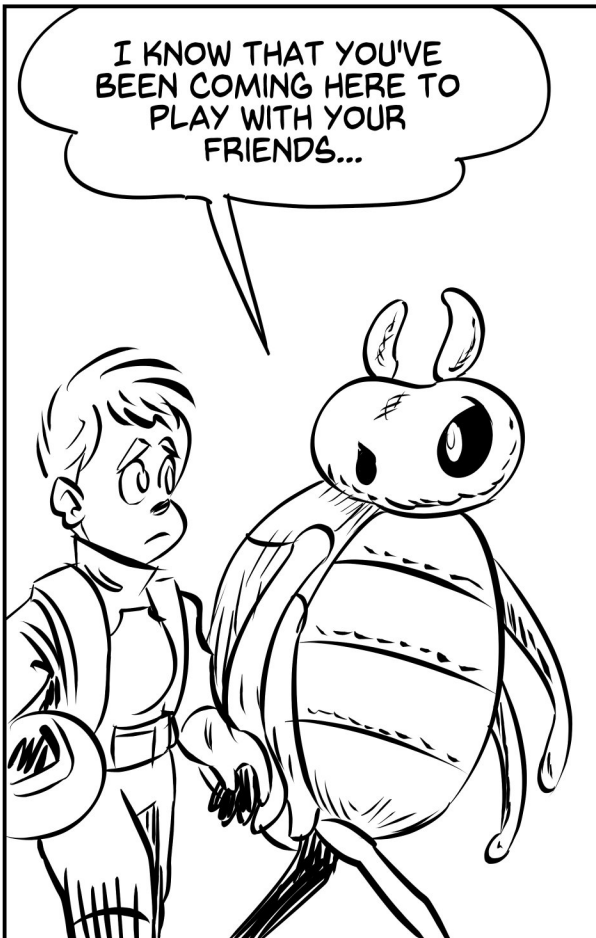
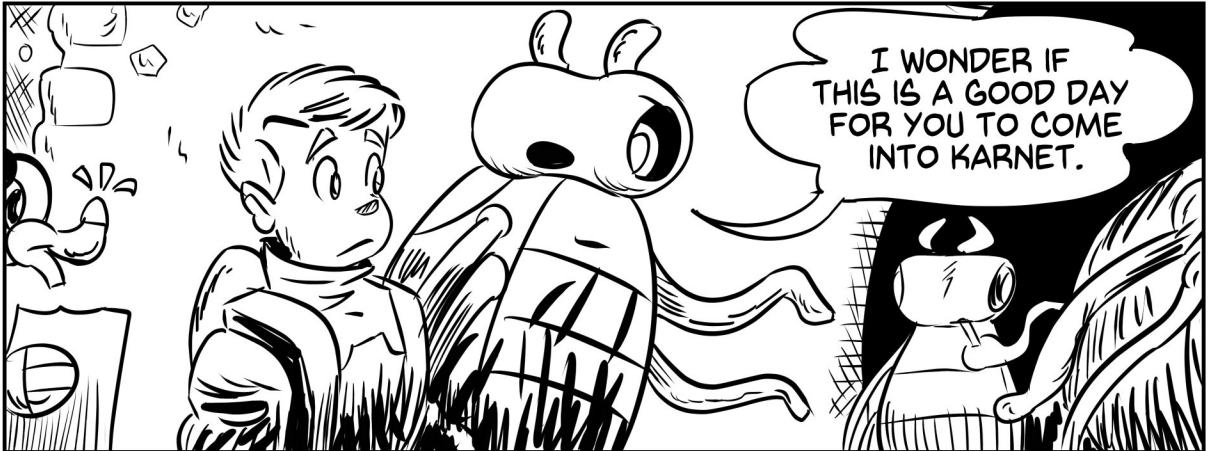


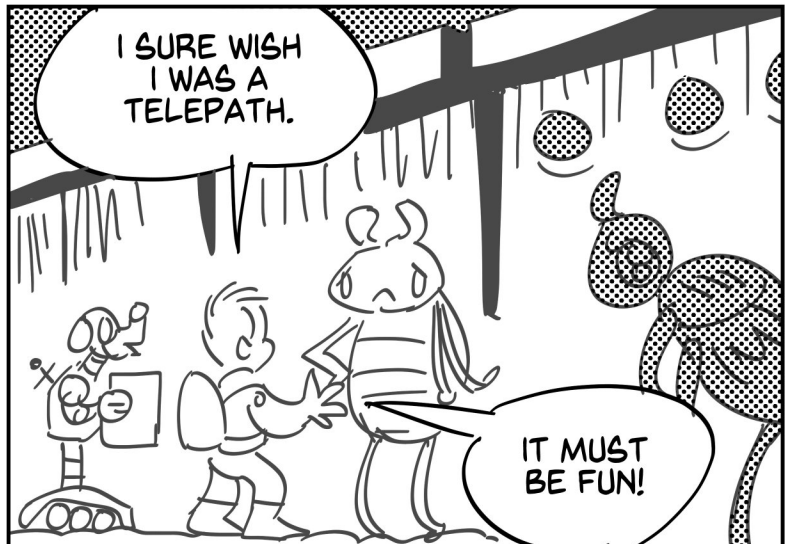
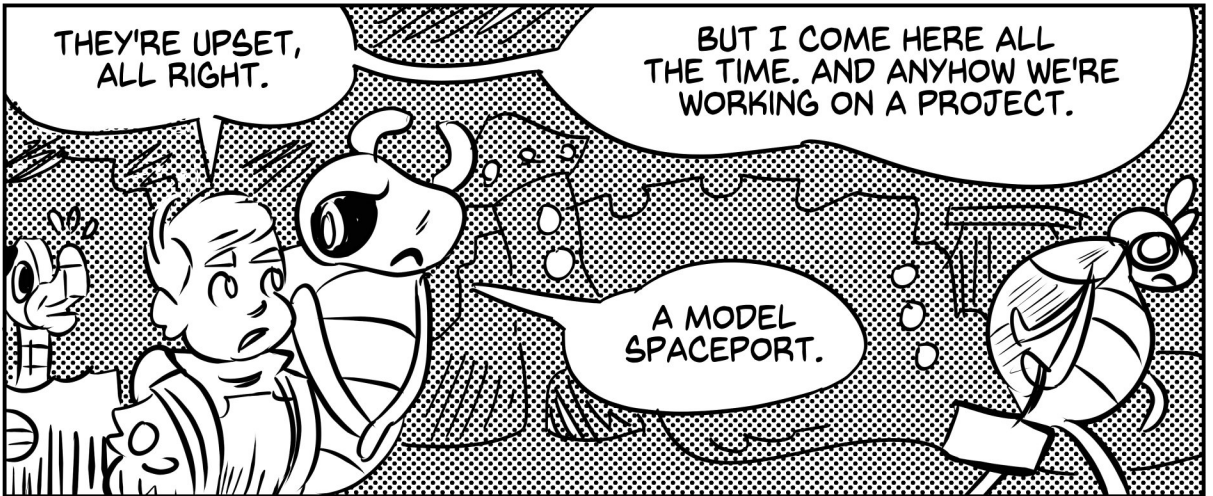
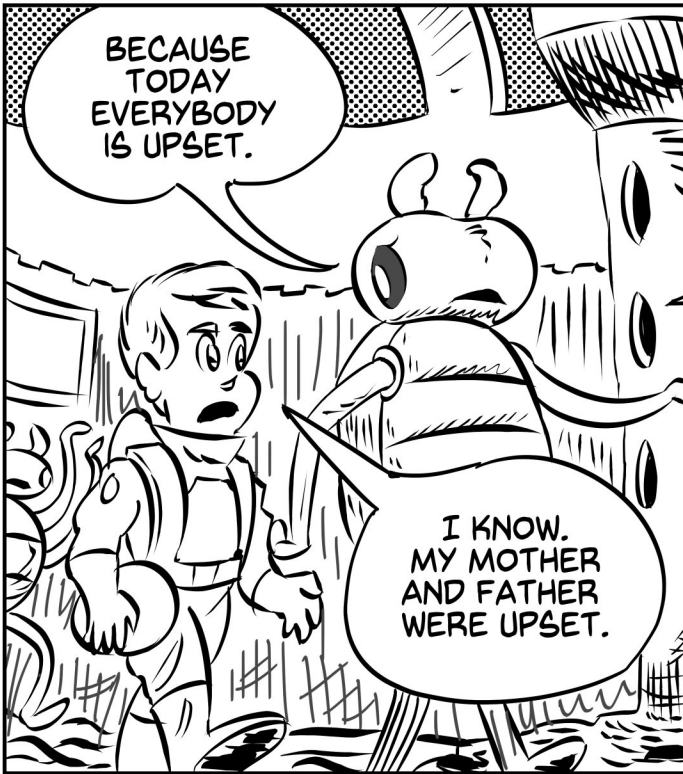


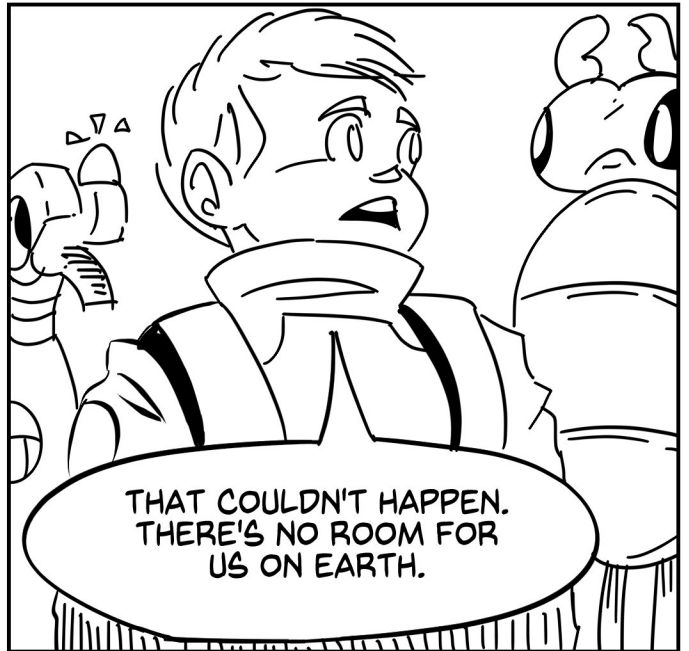
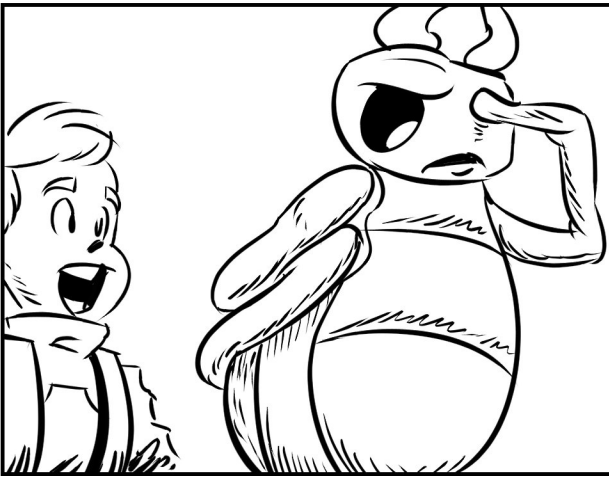


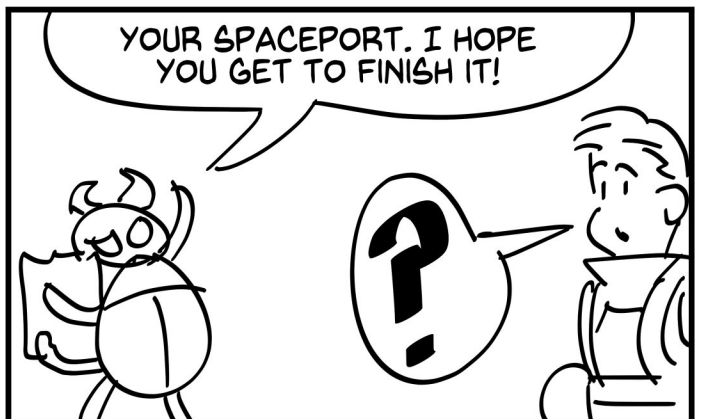
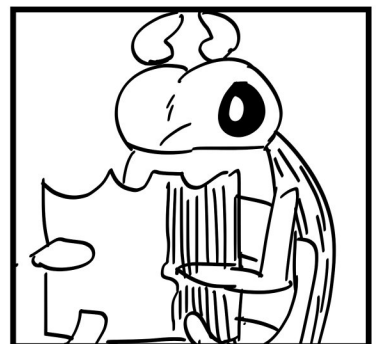
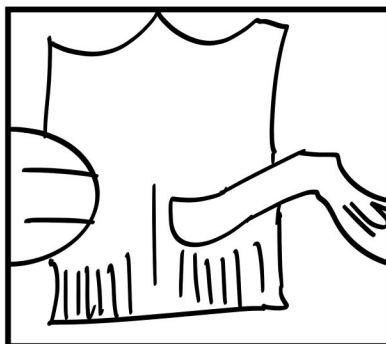
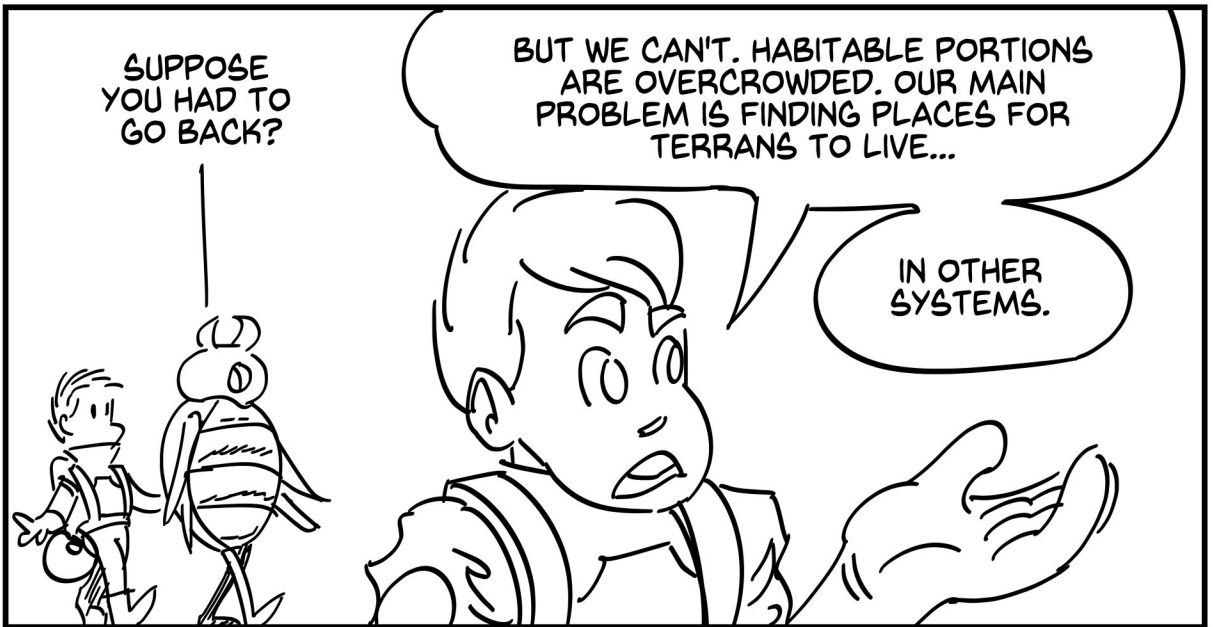


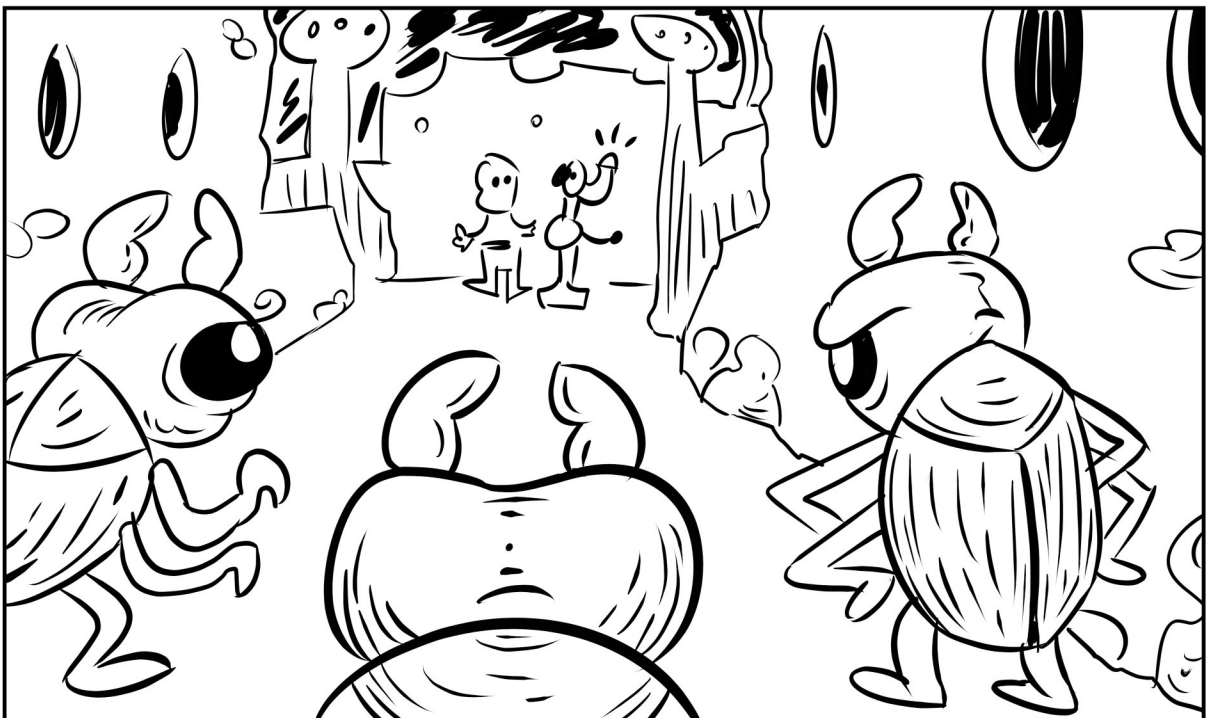
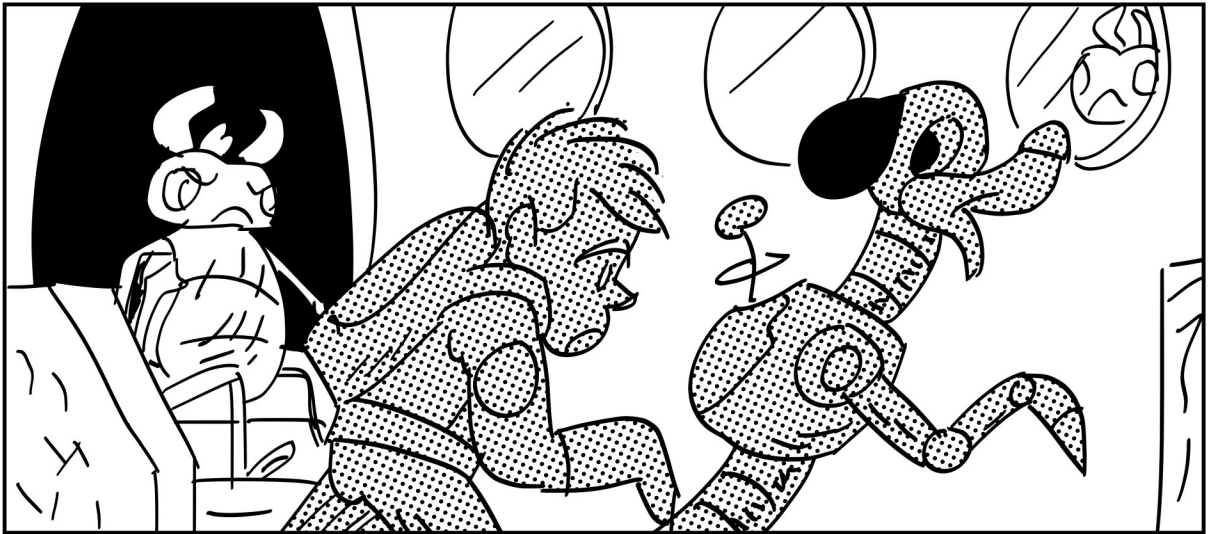
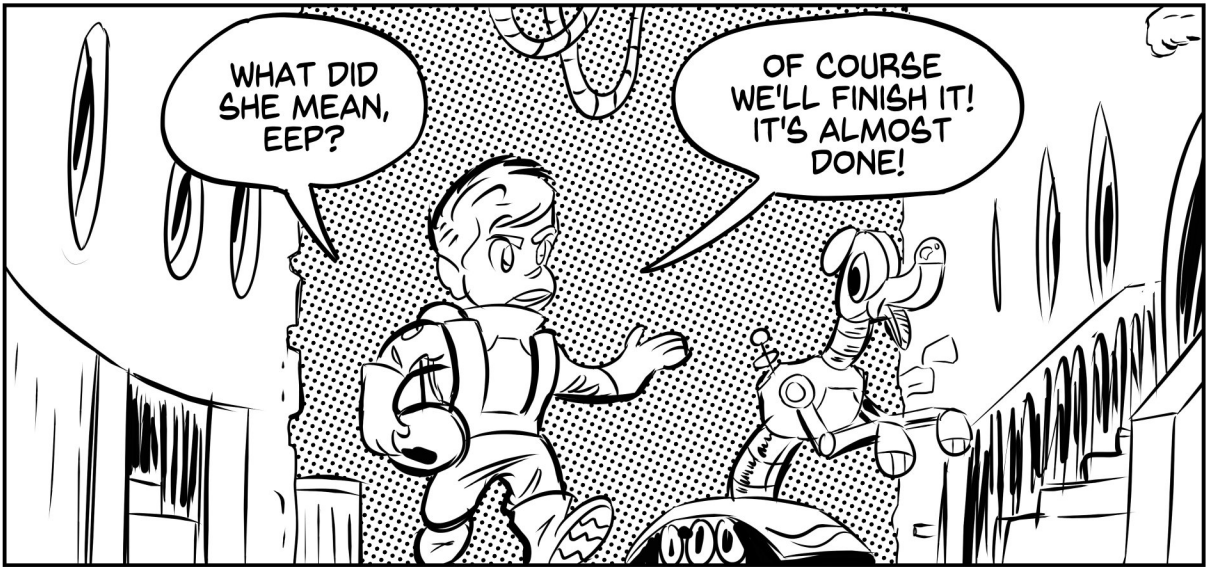


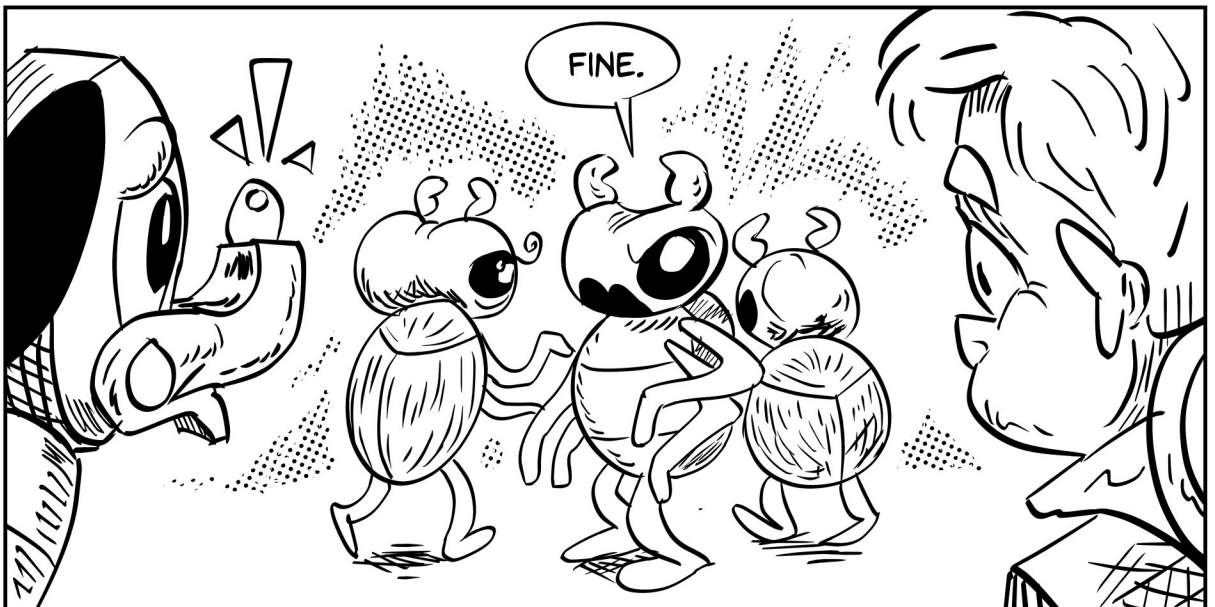
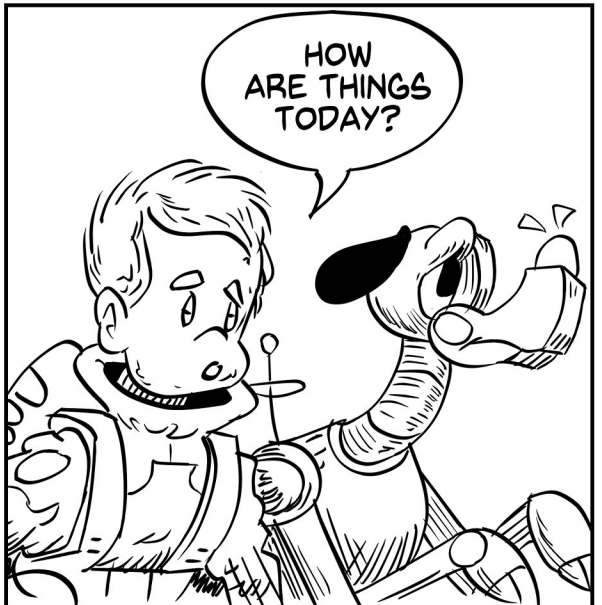
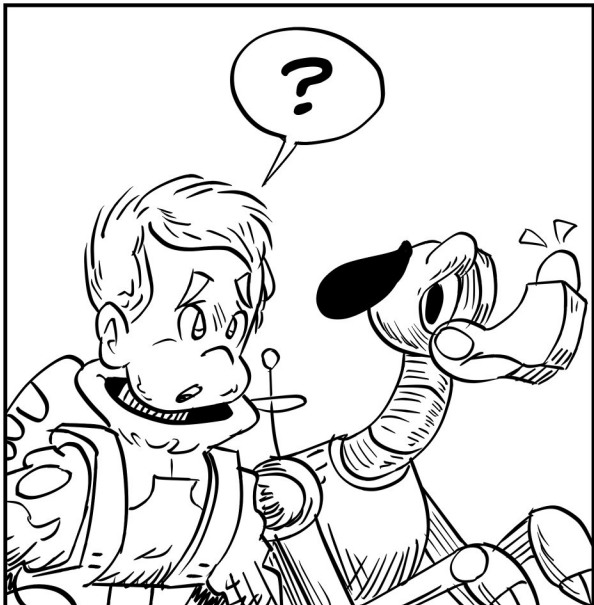
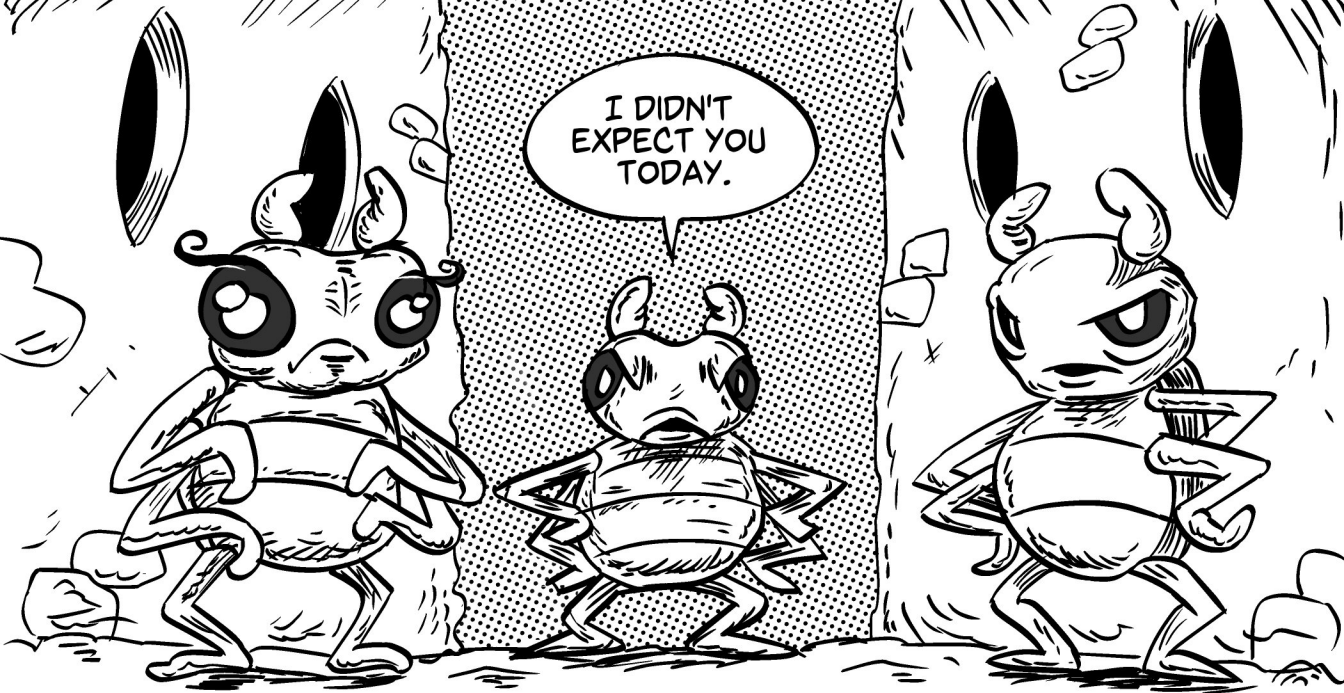


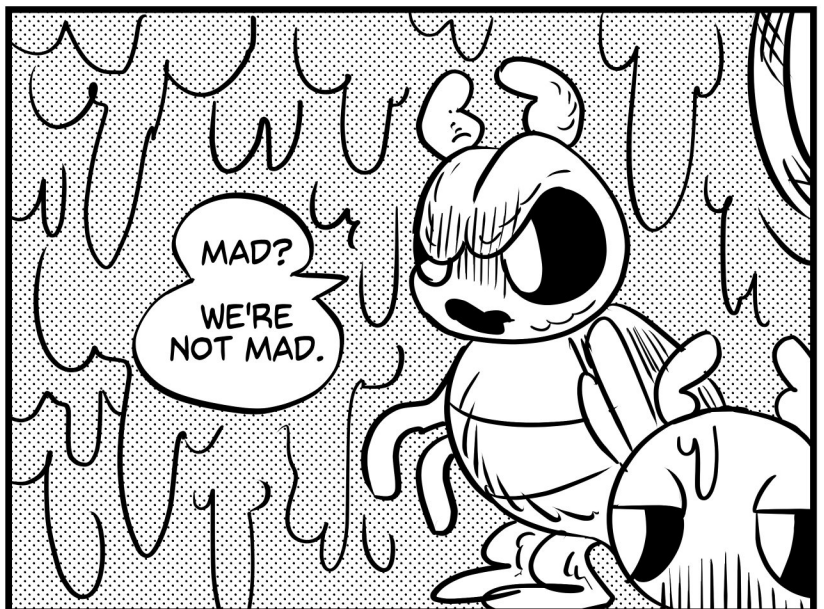
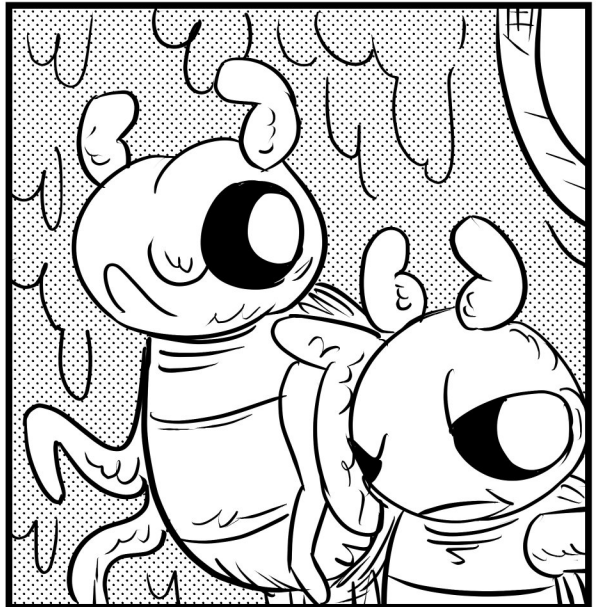
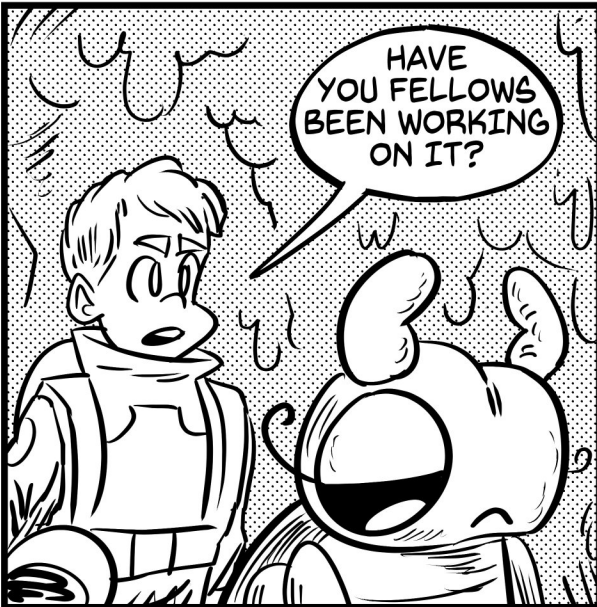
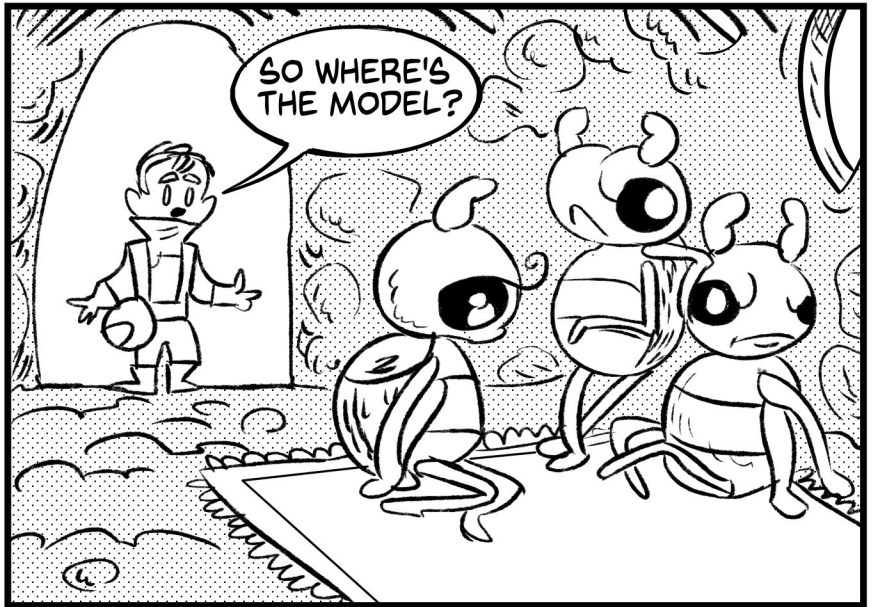
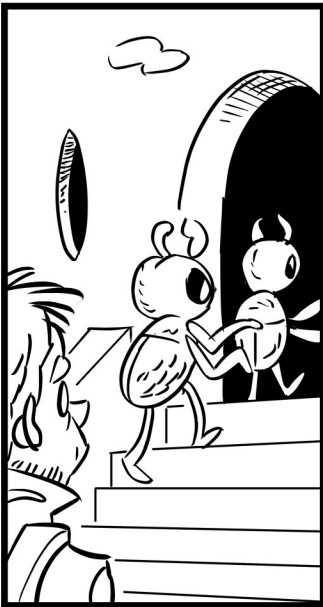












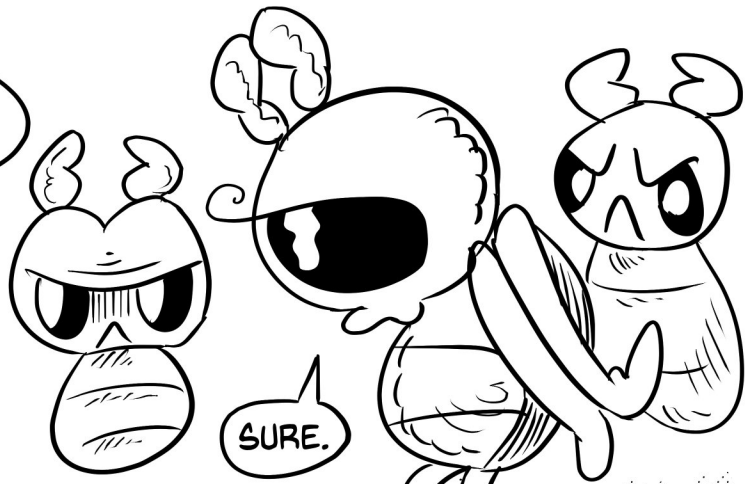
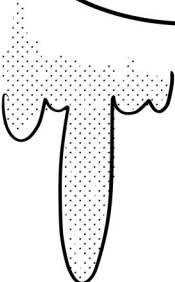
THE WAR.



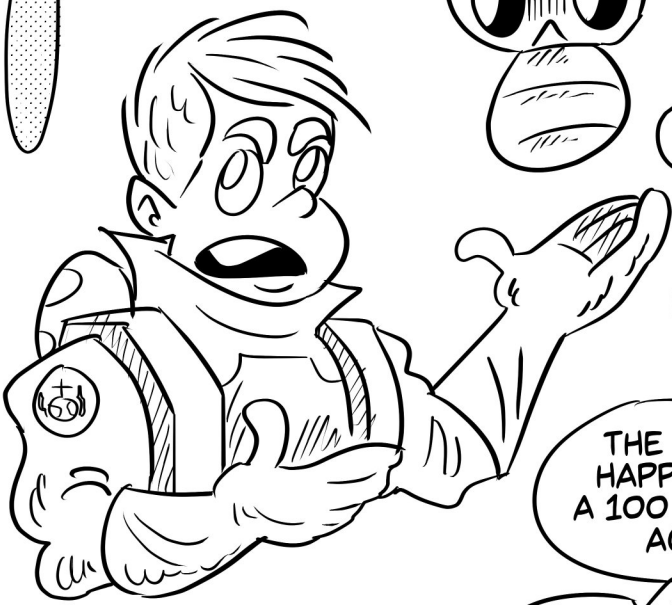
FORGET THE WAR!



EVERYTHING WAS FINE YESTERDAY, BEFORE THE BATTLE.



SURE.



THE WAR HAPPENED A 100 YEARS AGO.



IT'S NOT MY FAULT.



SURE.



SURE.



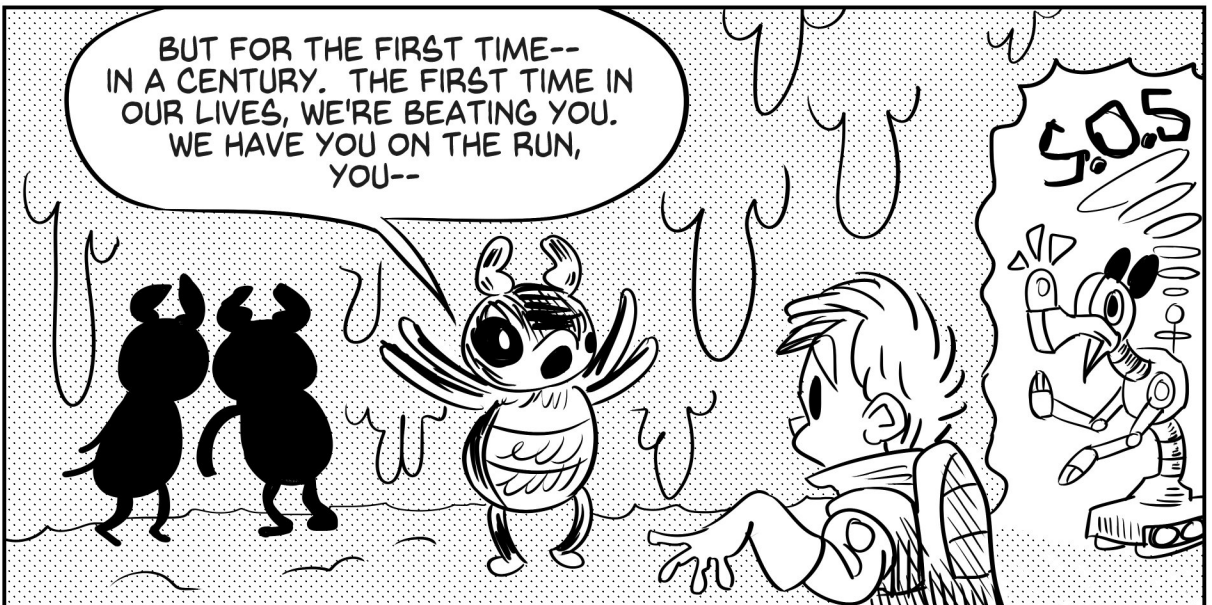
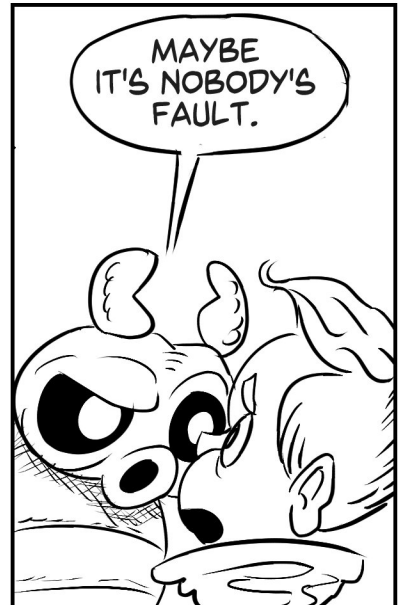
THIS PLANET IS MY HOME. ISN'T IT? I HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HERE.

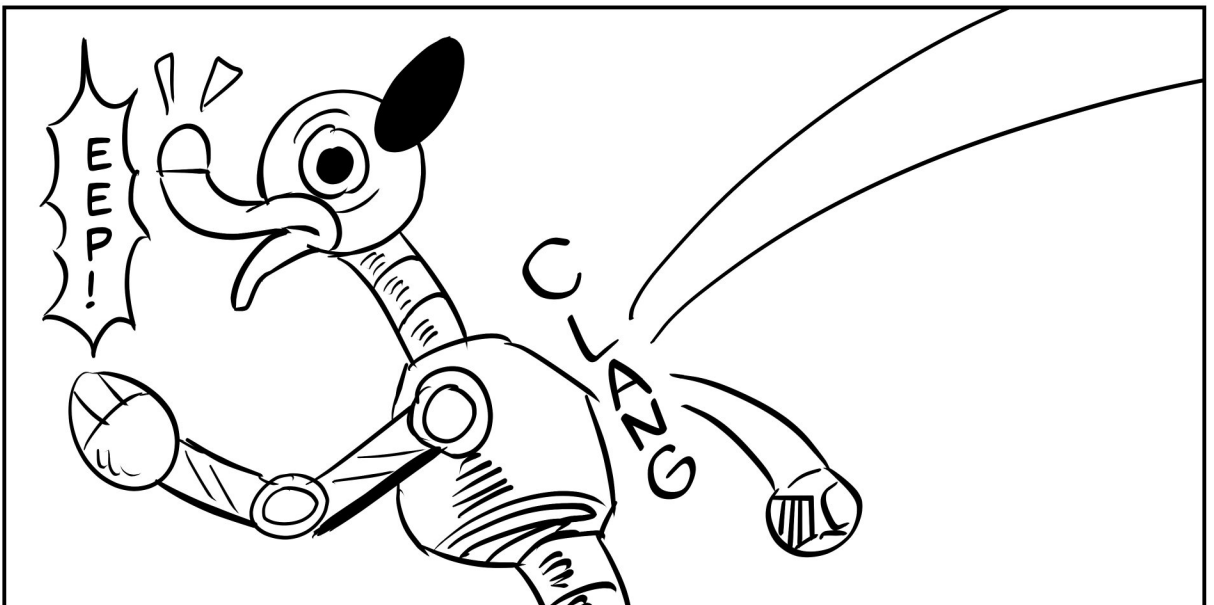
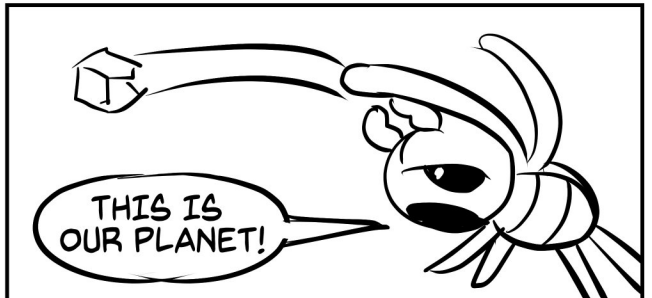
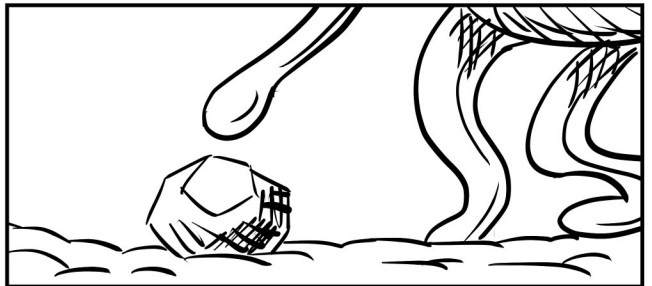
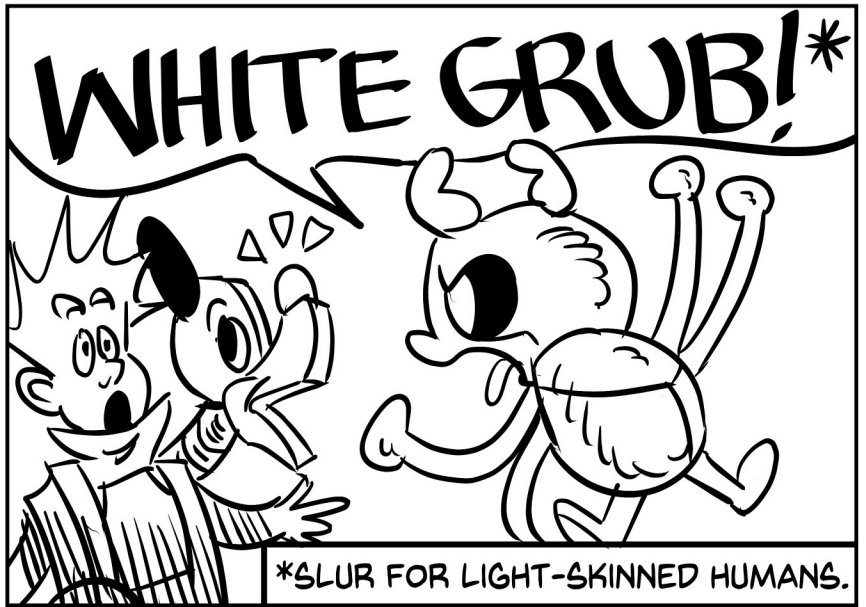
SURE.

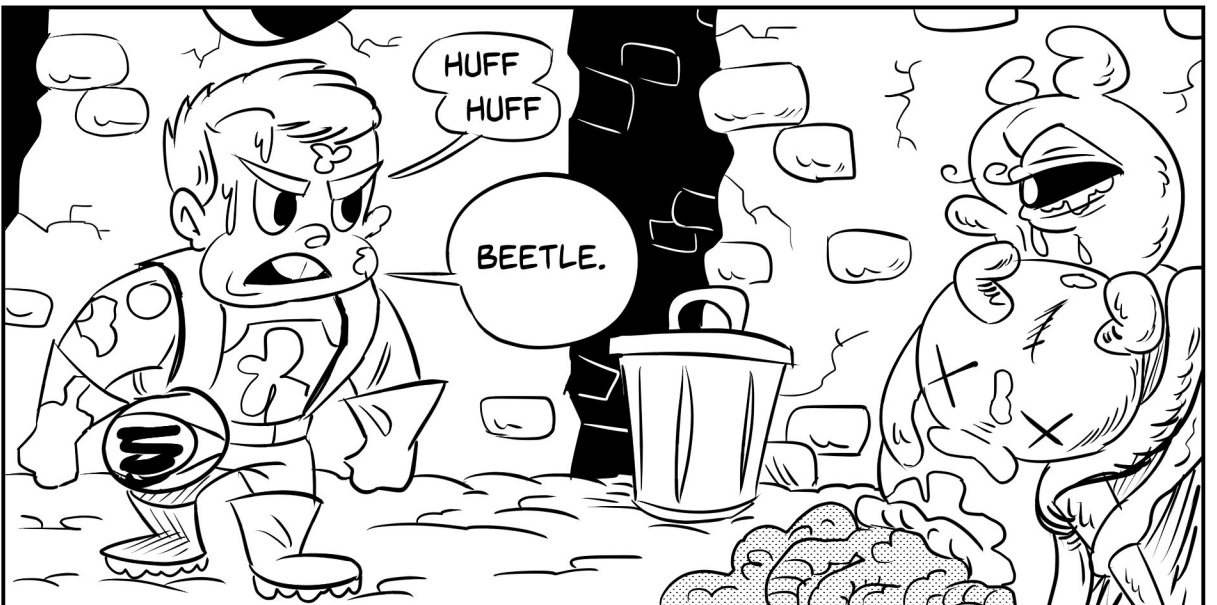
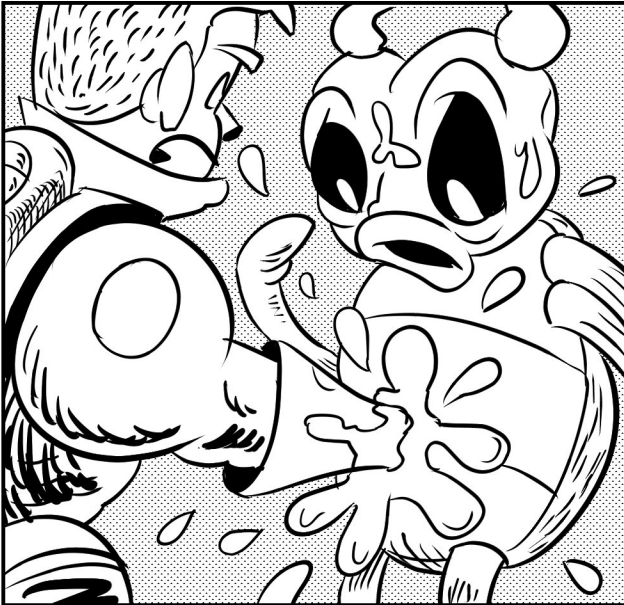
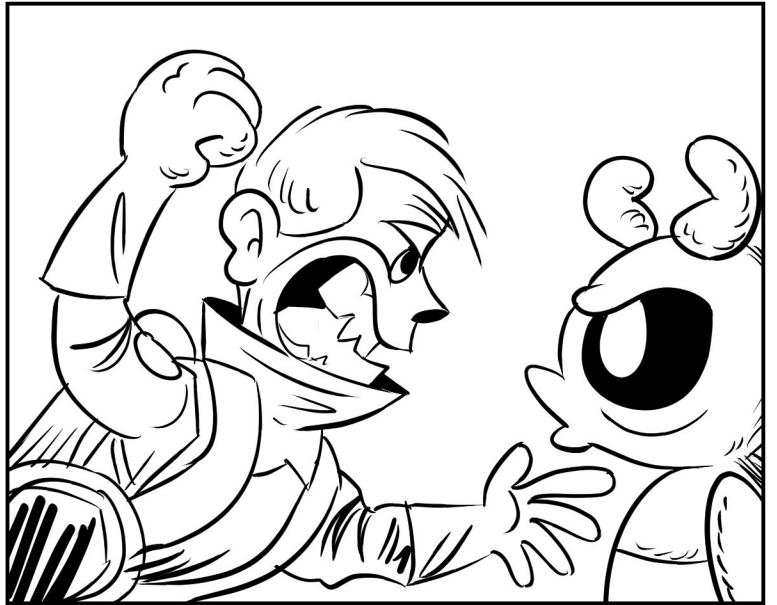
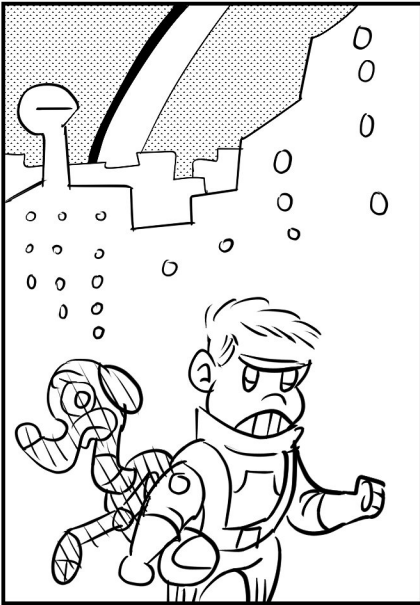


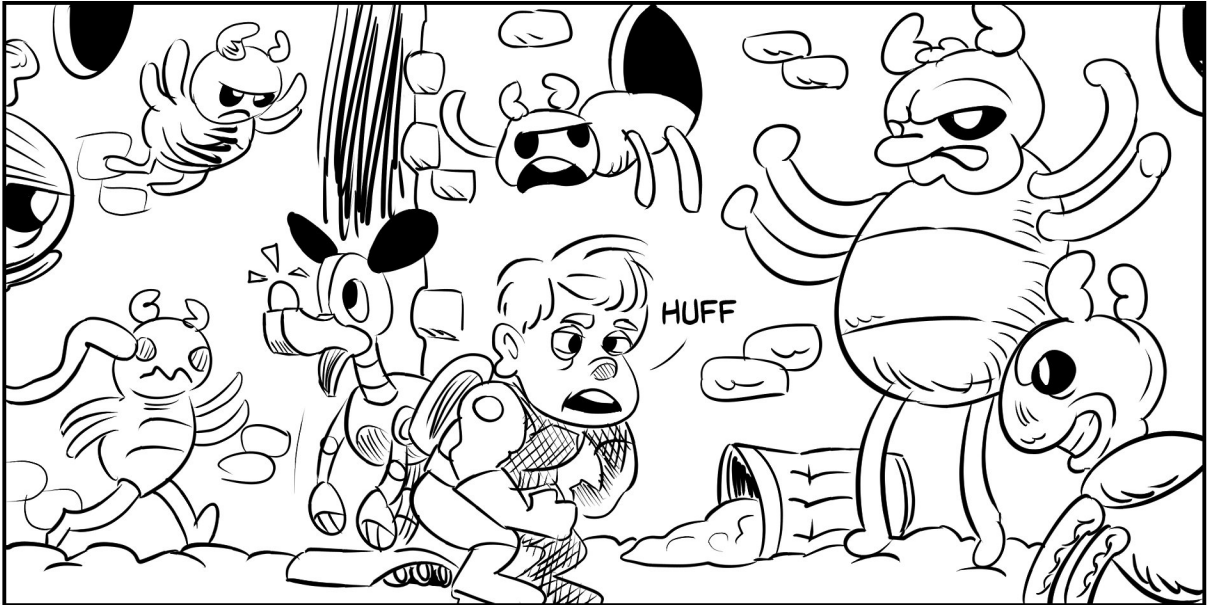
THERE'S BATTLES ALL THE TIME, AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

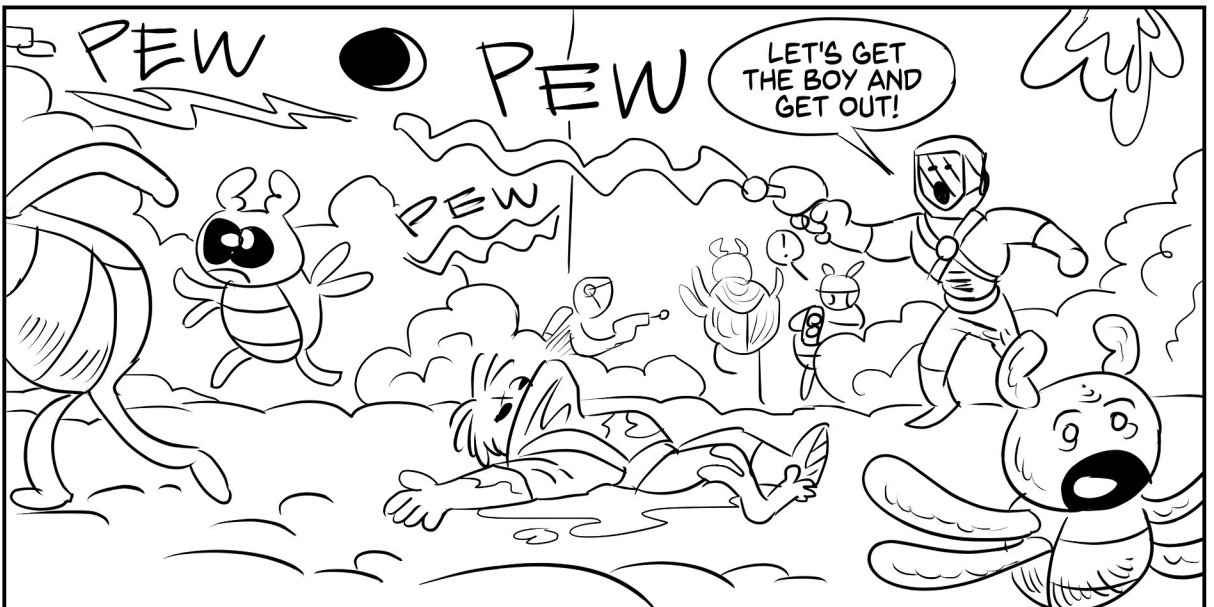
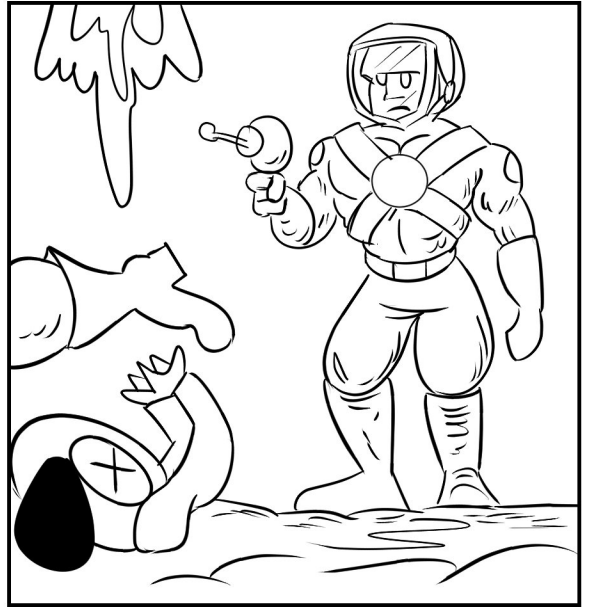
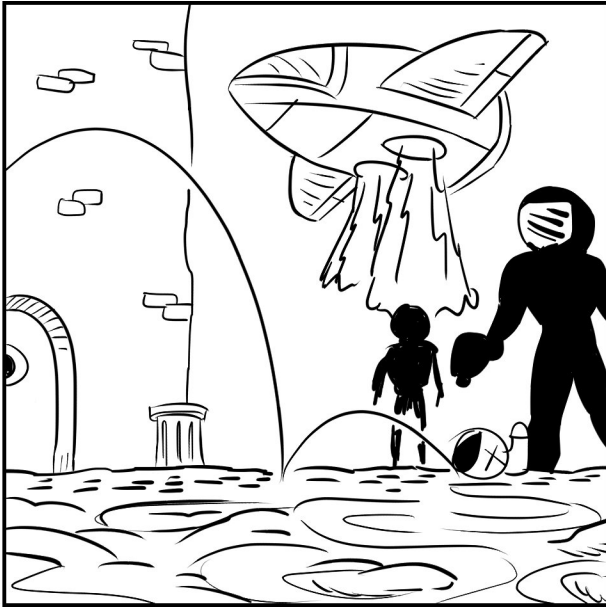
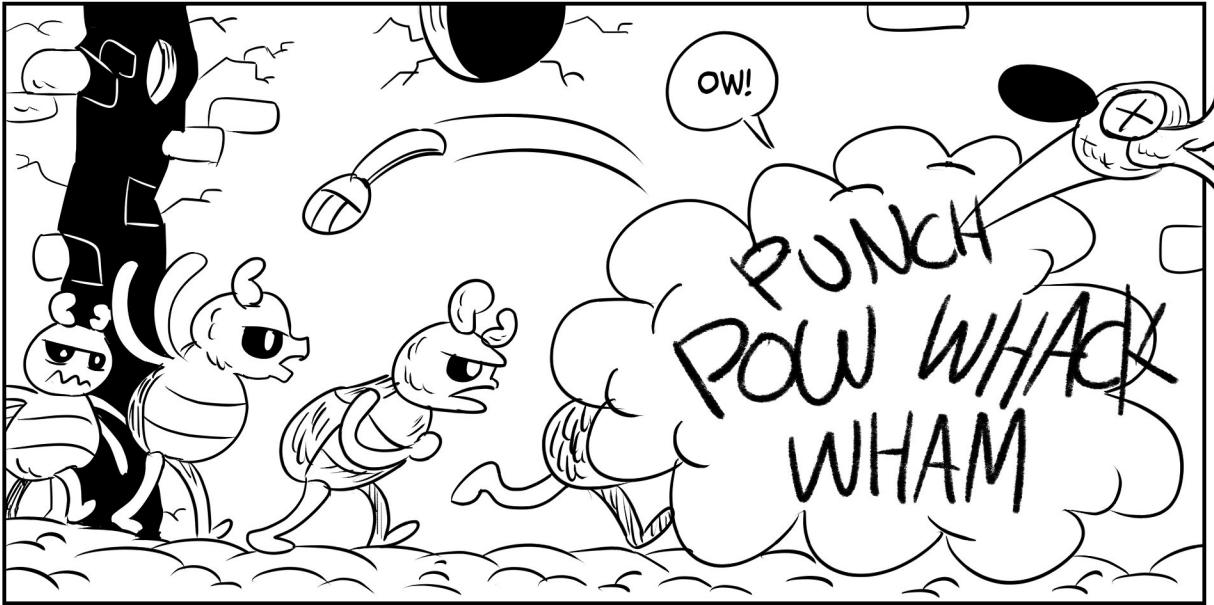
SO WHAT'S CHANGED THEN SINCE YESTERDAY?

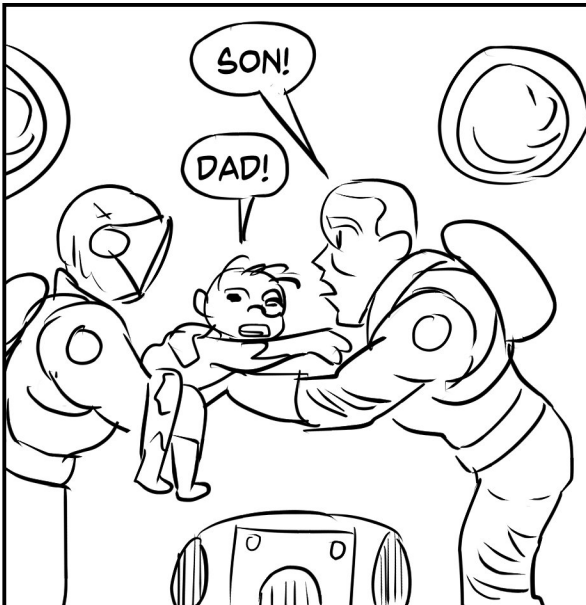
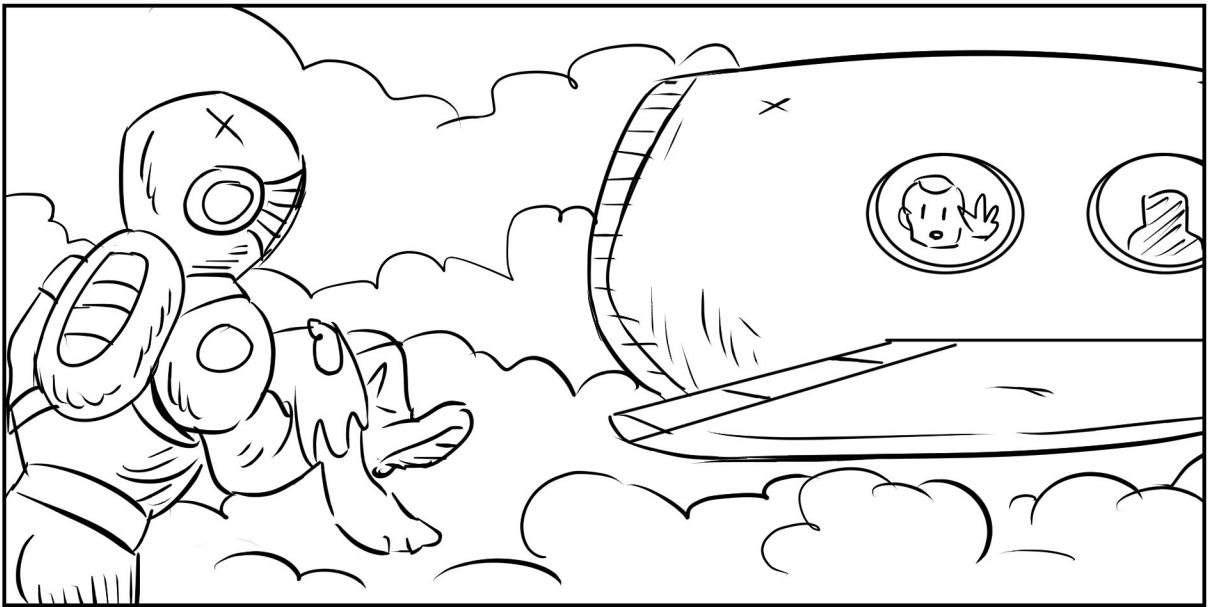


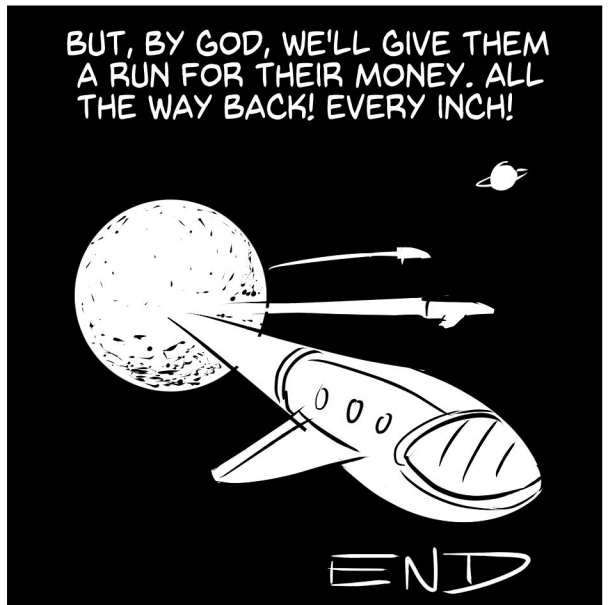
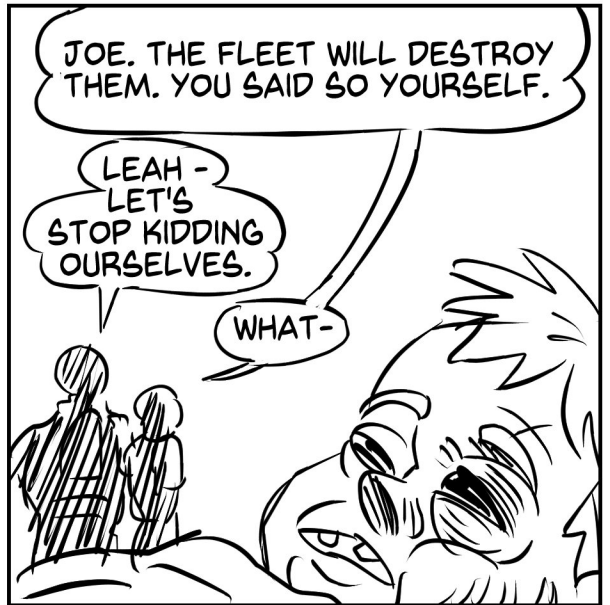












Philip K. Dick (1928 - 1982) was an American writer best known for his science fiction stories and novels. His stories included themes of suspicion, resistance to authority, the search for identity, and the paranormal, all themes which bled in to his personal and public life as he had reported many strange occurrences in his life time. Several of his books have since been adapted in to film, television, and comics; the most celebrated adaptation is perhaps *Blade Runner* directed by Ridley Scott, an adaptation of Dick's novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*.

Jason Payne (1983) is an American cartoonist, photographer, and game designer best known for their comic series Princezz. Jason has reported many strange occurrences, mostly involving insects, since having undertook the task of adapting Philip K. Dick's public domain stories in to comic books. www.artofpayne.com

Syrup Pirates is an independent micro-press publisher and distributor focused on delivering quality comic books, zines, and games. Visit us online at SyrupPirates.com

Adaptation Notes:

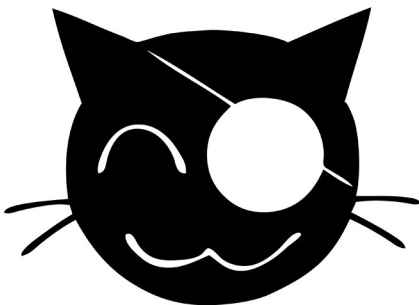
Thank you for reading my comic book adaptation of Philip K. Dick's 1953 short story *Tony and the Beetles*.

In this adaptation I have kept the majority of PKD's original dialogue and plot in tact, save for moments where brevity was key, or improvised dialogue was necessary. And in keeping with the story's tone and point of view (that of a child's), I chose to do this comic in a cartoony style. In fact, at one point I had considered doing a children's picture book based on the story instead before deciding against it.

I trust that you will find that I stayed as true as possible to the original work and its creator's intent. Bon voyage!

- Jason Payne

SYRUP



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**THE WAR.
ALWAYS
THE WAR.**

