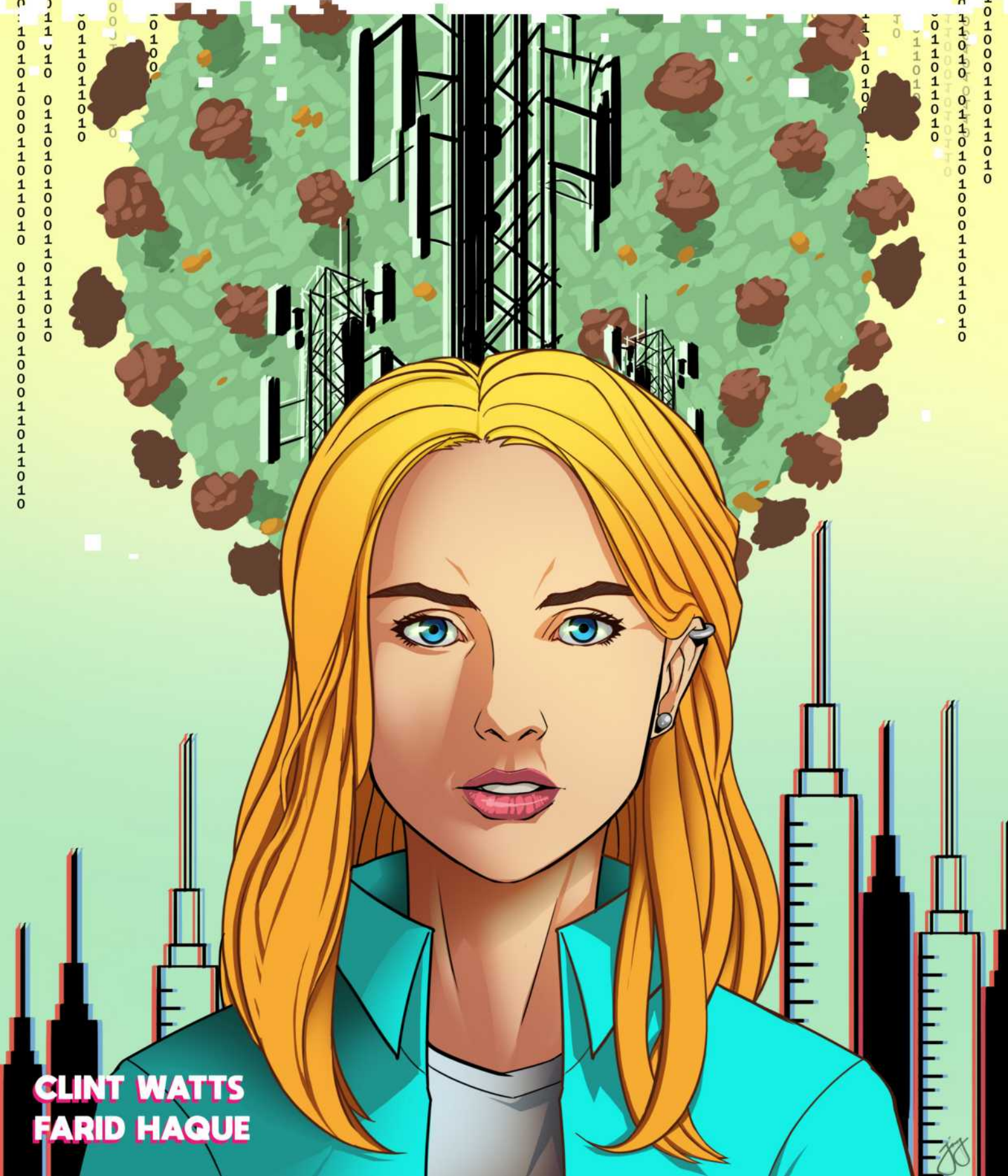


Resilience Series

BUG BYTES



CLINT WATTS
FARID HAQUE

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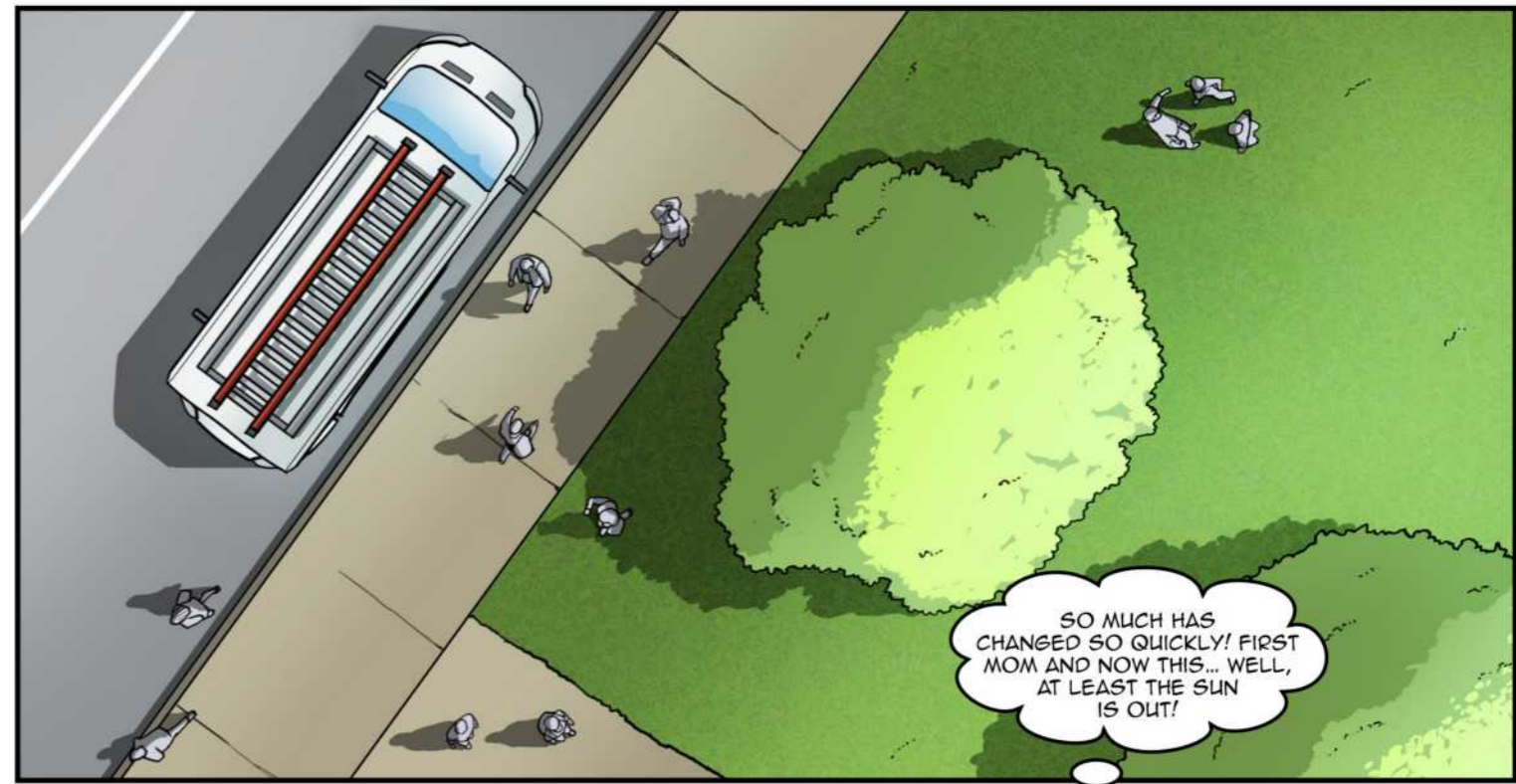
**STORY PRODUCTION
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ROBERT BALLAGH
JOHN ROSENBERG**



CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALREADY IN GRAD SCHOOL! FIRST GRADUATING CUM LAUDE IN CYBERSECURITY, AND THEN YOU GOT THAT FULL RIDE TO GRAD SCHOOL FOR JOURNALISM! AND YOU'RE A TEACHING ASSISTANT TOO! YOU MAKE ME SO PROUD, KID!

THANKS, DAD!



SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SO QUICKLY! FIRST MOM AND NOW THIS... WELL, AT LEAST THE SUN IS OUT!



C'MON SWEETHEART, IS THAT ALL YOU GOT FOR YOUR OLD MAN?! YOU EARNED THIS! YOU'RE THE FIRST OF US TO GET TO COLLEGE, LET ALONE GRAD SCHOOL.

NOW STOP ALREADY! YOU KNOW WHAT MOM WOULD HAVE SAID.



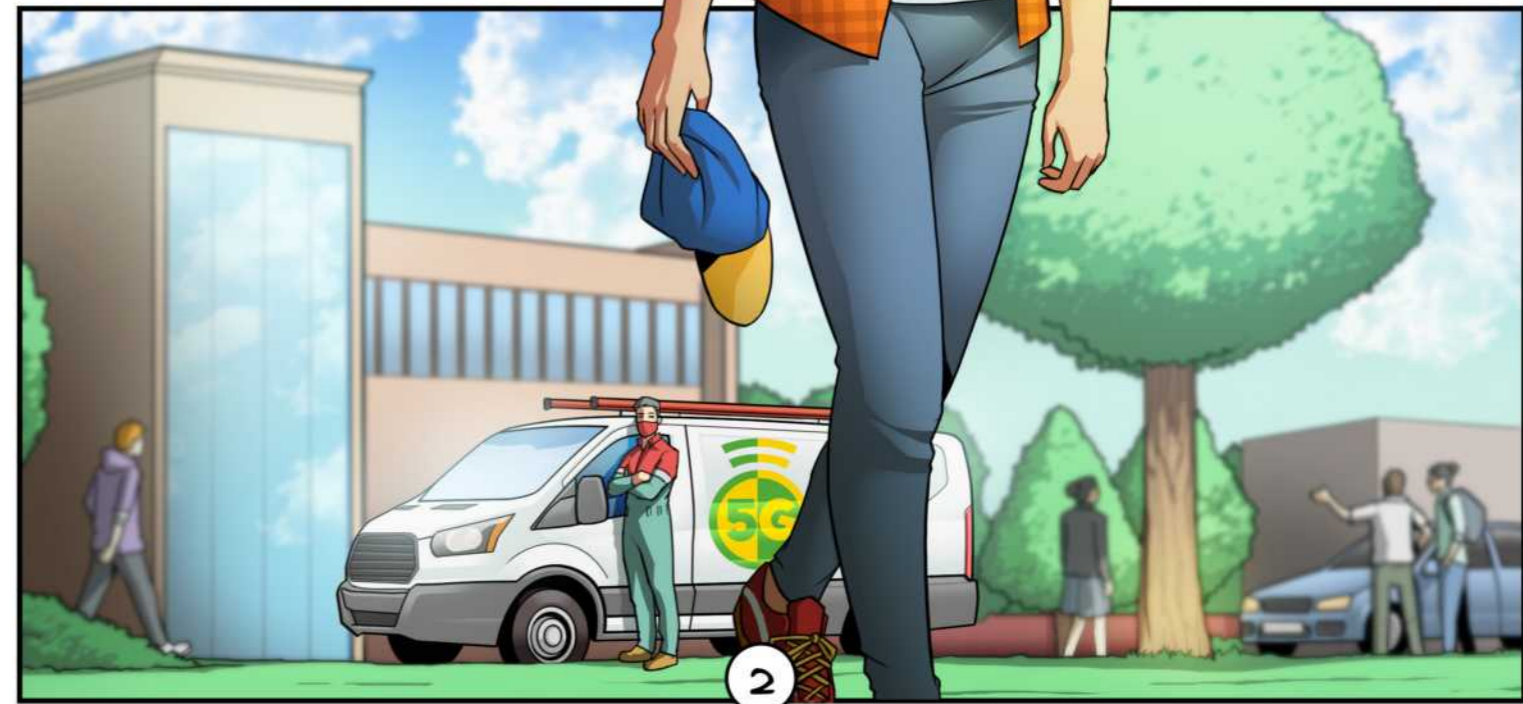
COULD YOU PLEASE PUT ON YOUR MASK! THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HERE! AND... I AM NOT READY FOR YOU TO BECOME A STATISTIC!

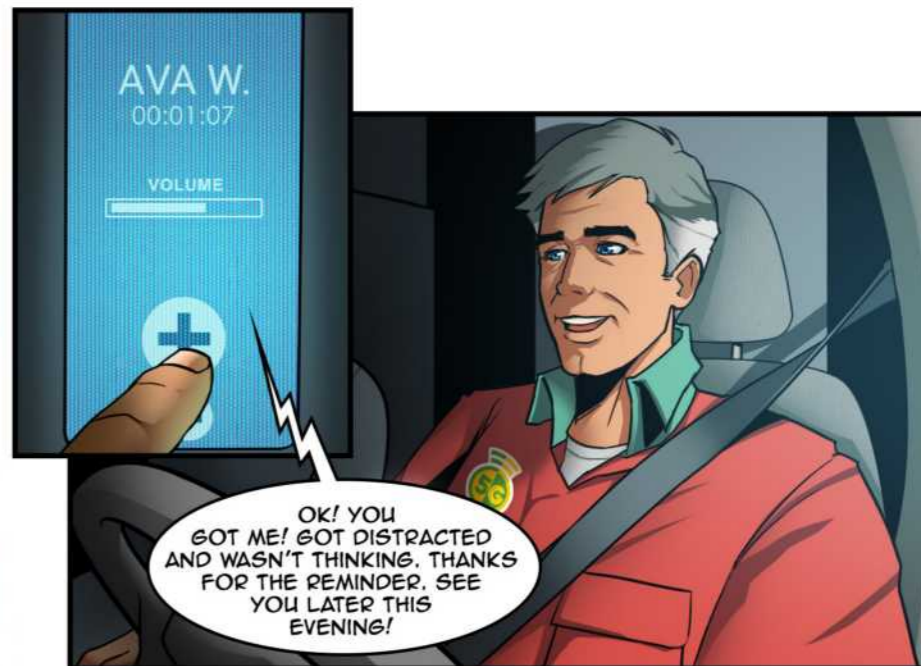


AAAAAND THIS IS ME... GOTTA GO, DAD!

FM 143.01
VOLUME IIIII

...SPECIAL BULLETIN AS COVID-19 NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE ACROSS THE NATION.







"YOU HAVE NO NEW MESSAGES."



MORNING, JIM!

MORNING, BUD. SAY, THERE'S A 56 TOWER NOT WORKING IN EAST ANN ARBOR. COULD YOU GET OVER THERE AND TAKE A LOOK? THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG... DON'T THINK IT'S COMMUNICATING BACK TO HQ.

SURE THING! ...SURE THING! JUST A FEW MILES OUT...LEMME TAKE A LOOK...

OH NO! FRANK, IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A FIRE. I'M CALLING 911. GET OVER THERE ASAP!



I'M ON IT, CHIEF.

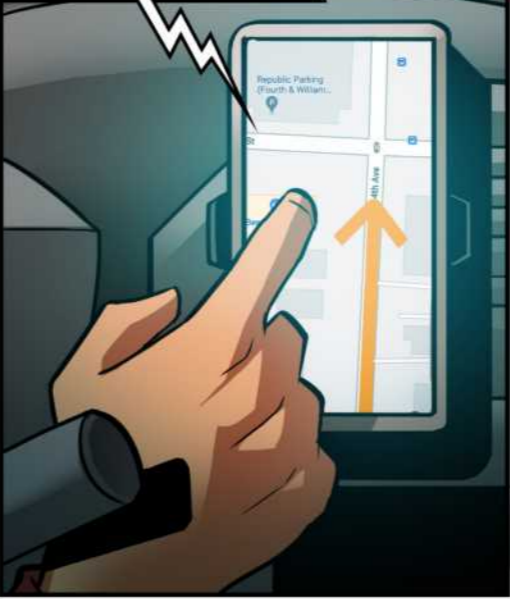
I HOPE THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ALL THAT CRAZY CONSPIRACY STUFF AROUND 56 AND ITS NONSENSICAL LINK TO THE VIRUS. HOW CAN PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT STUFF?!

5

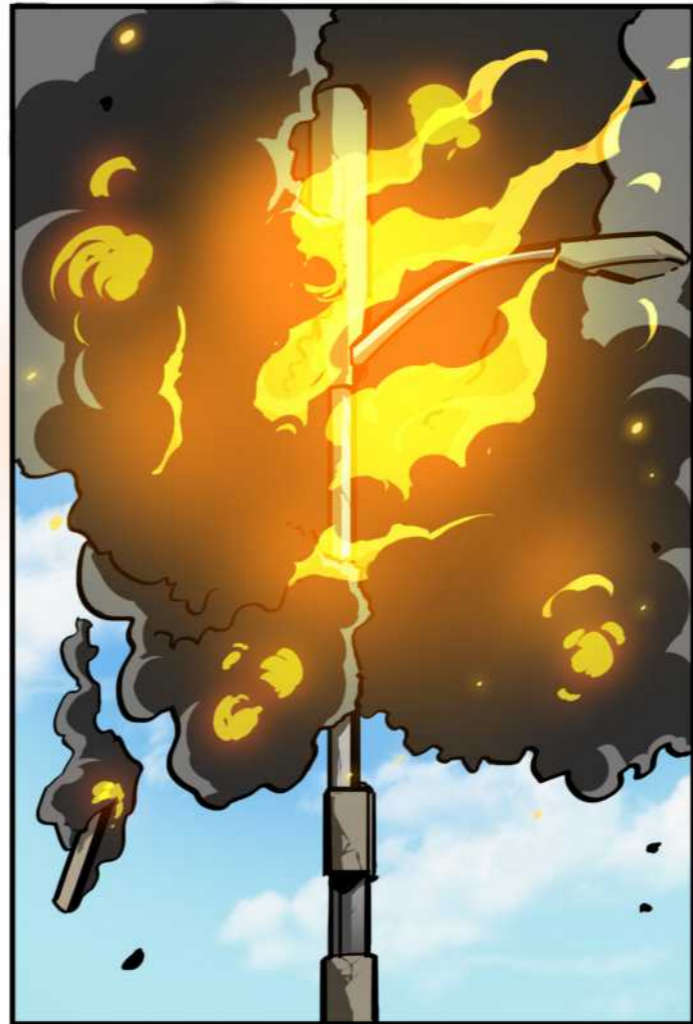


YOU HAVE 5 MINUTES TO DESTINATION... TURN LEFT IN...

YOU HAVE 3 MINUTES TO DESTINATION...

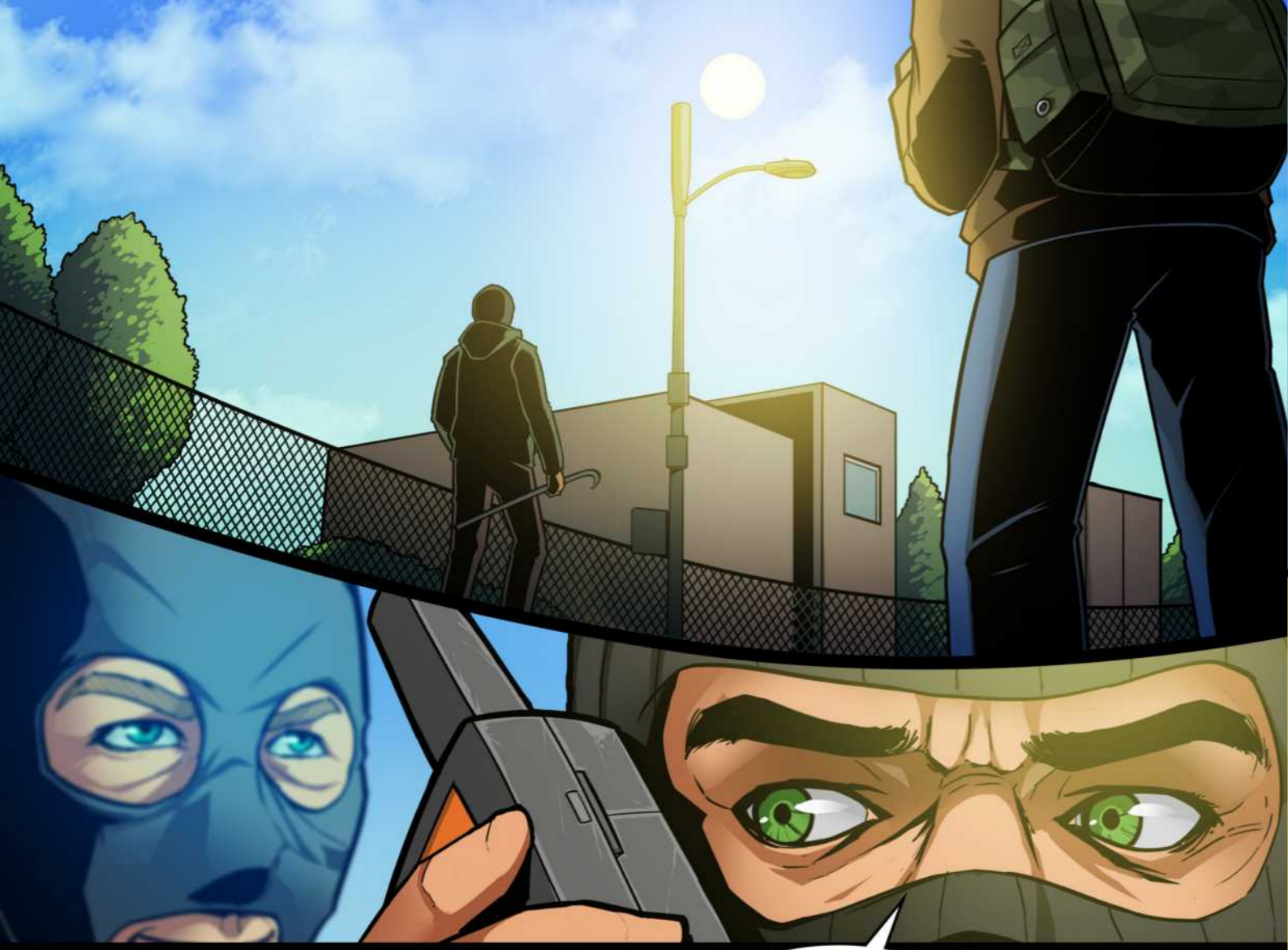


ARRIVING AT DESTINATION...



WHAT THE...

6



BURRRRN!
BABY BURRRN!
AND TAKE THAT
NASTY DISEASE
WITH YOU!



HEY!
QUIT THAT RACKET!
PACK UP AND LET'S
CLEAR OUT,
NOW!



LIGHT IT UP.

IT'S QUIET.
NO ONE'S IN SIGHT.
OVER!



7

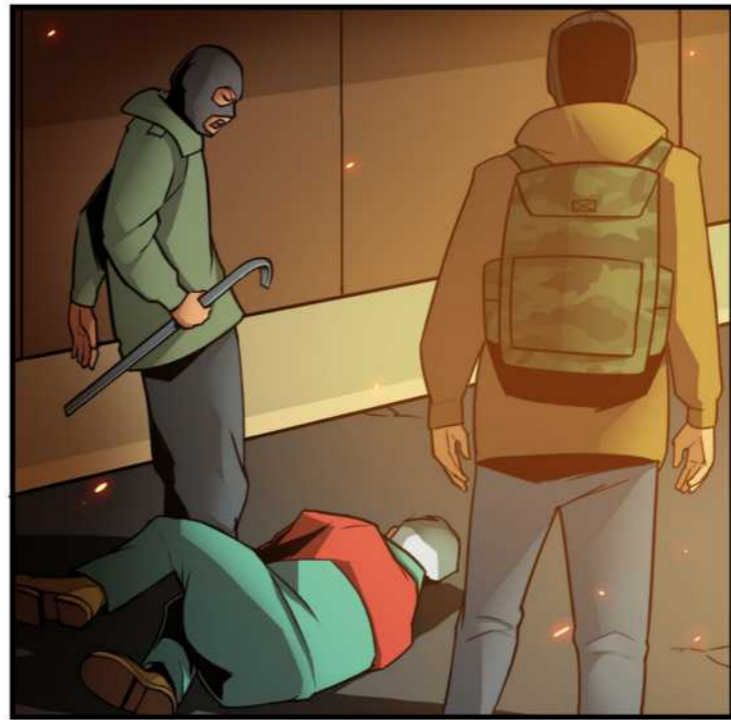


8





HEY!
STOP!



CCTV 03-A34
03-14



SON
OF A --



THUD



LET GO OF ME.
LET ME AT HIM!



GRAB A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
I KNOW YOU ARE ANGRY ABOUT
HOW THESE TOWERS ARE HARMING
US, BUT WE CAN'T HURT
OTHER PEOPLE.



NO. PLEASE!

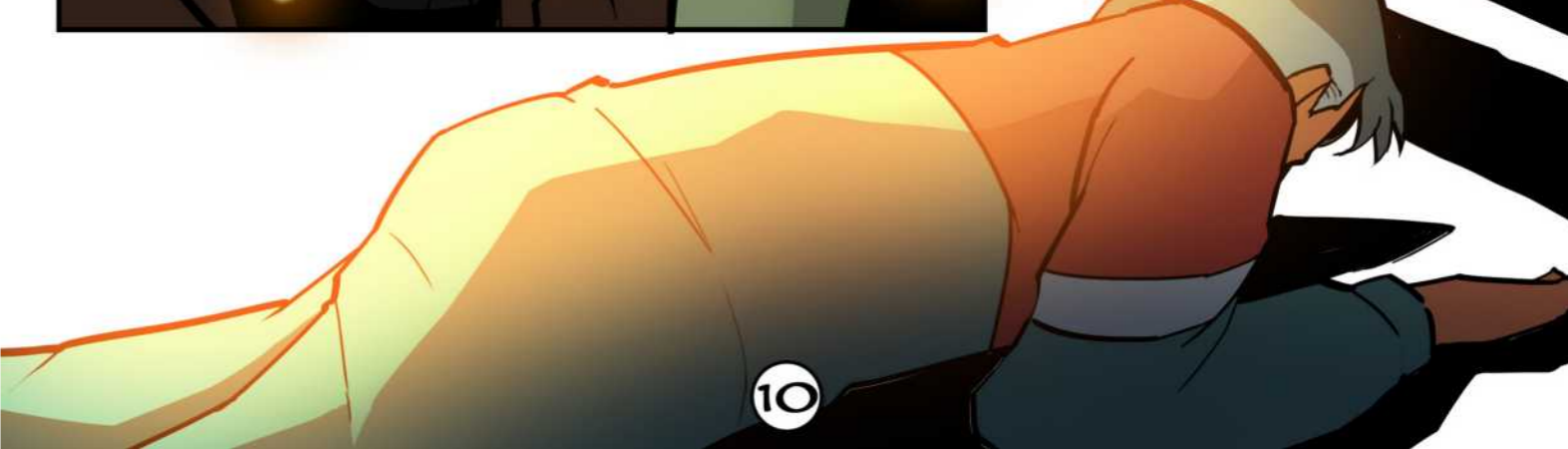


APRRGGHH...



ARE WE
CLEAR?

YES.





E33...



LET'S GET THIS BEAST UNDER CONTROL!



GENTLE...



MR. WILLIAMS, CAN YOU HEAR ME? SIR?



ALL CLEAR. WE HAD TO IMPROVISE A BIT. WE HAD SOME COMPANY, BUT HE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE.



HALF AN HOUR LATER, THE POLICE ENTER...



I'M REALLY SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS NOW...BUT DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE ATTACKERS? THE GETAWAY VEHICLES...

I REMEMBER THE PLATES. E33...



HEY, SWEETIE.

DAD?
ARE YOU
OK?

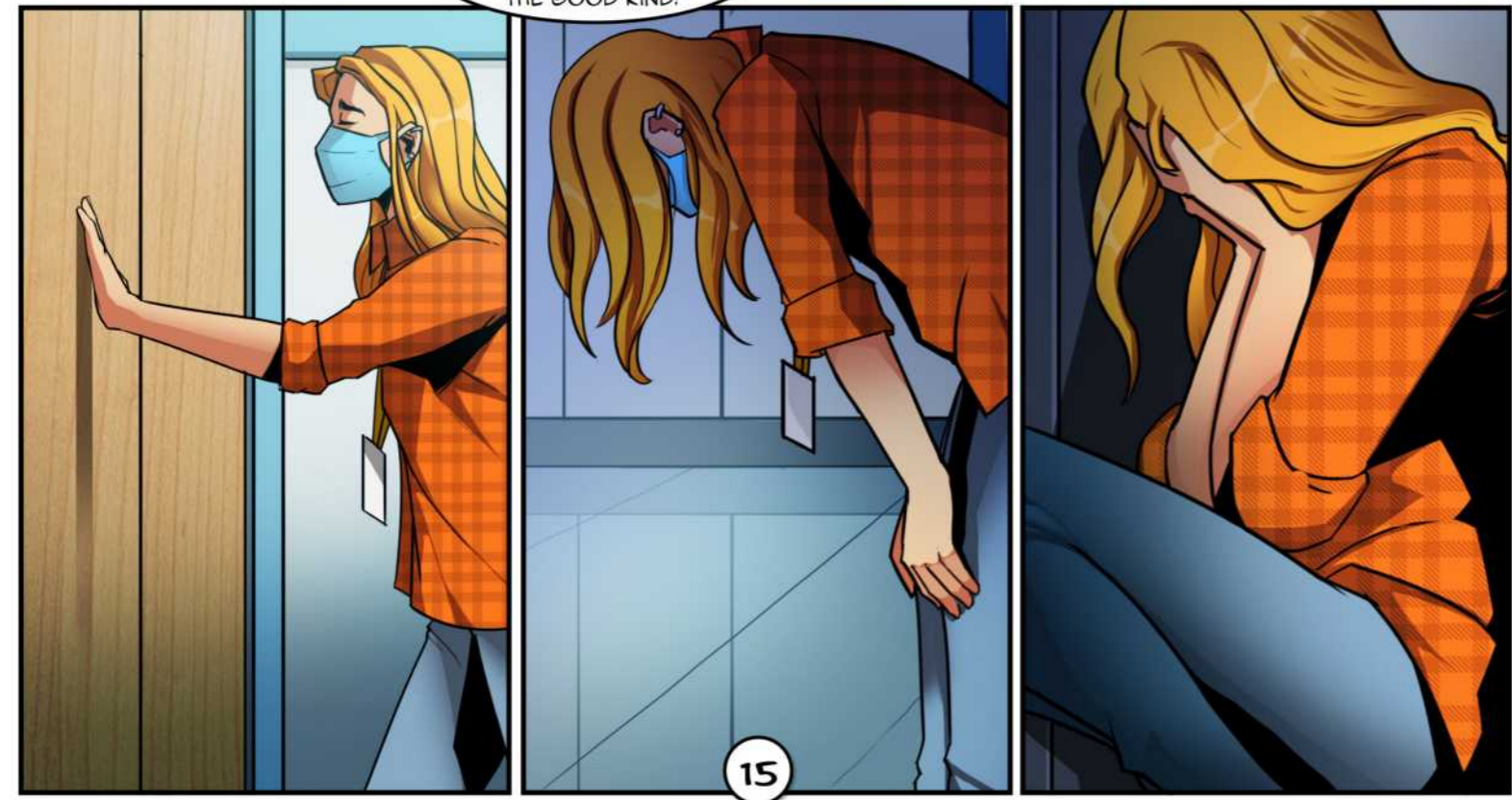
WHO COULD
HAVE DONE THIS TO
YOU?!



MA'AM, HE
NEEDS TIME TO
REST. PLEASE WAIT
OUTSIDE.

SURE...

I DON'T KNOW...
I... I WAS JUMPED BY A
COUPLE OF PUNKS! THEY HAD
MASKS ON...AND NOT
THE GOOD KIND!



OH, GOD...
DAD...

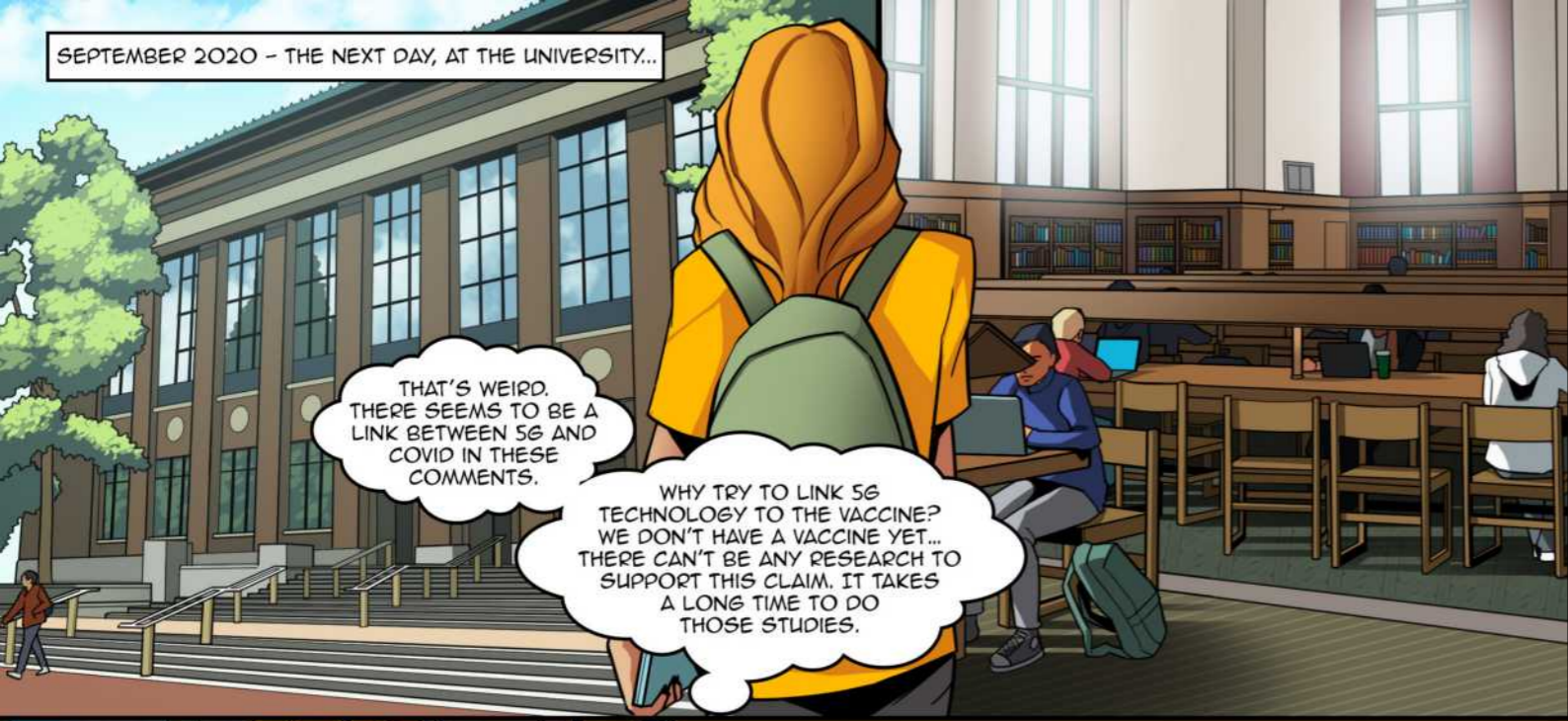
MISS WILLIAMS,
STAY STRONG. WE'LL DO
OUR BEST TO FIND WHOEVER
IS RESPONSIBLE.



DAD, I
PROMISE
I'LL FIND OUT
WHO DID THIS
TO YOU.

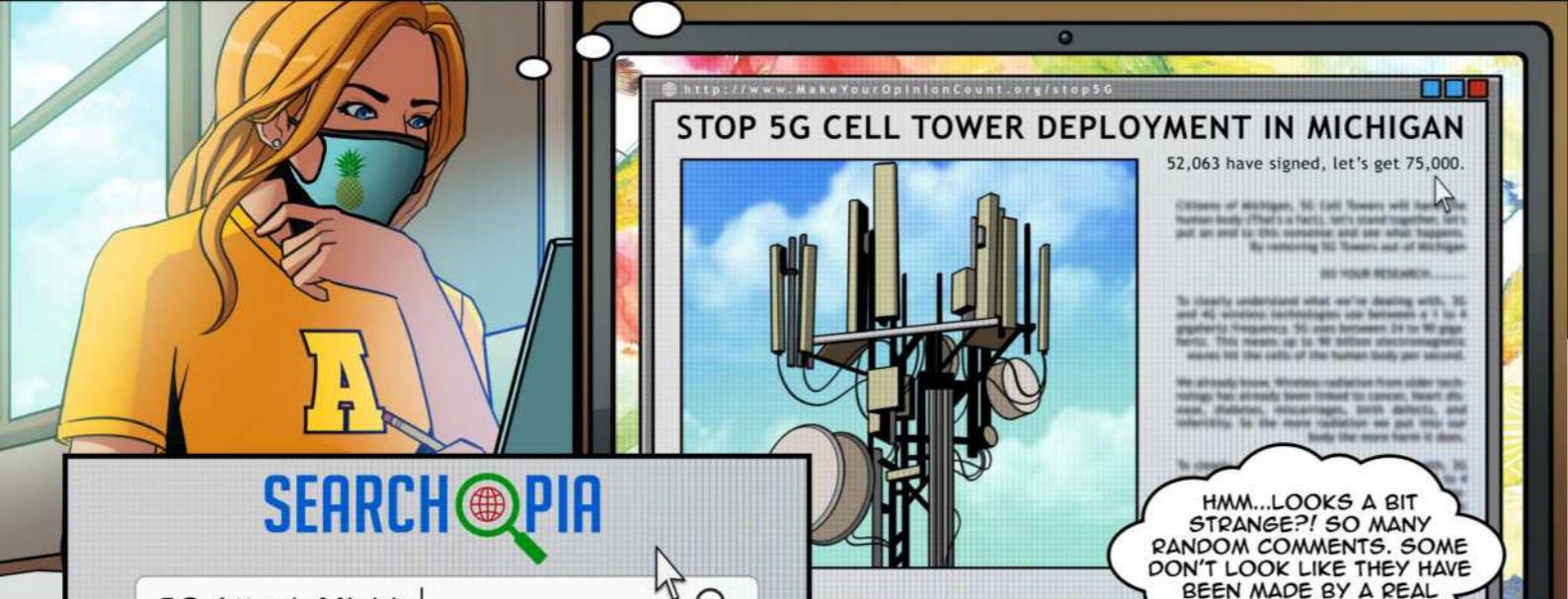


YOU'RE
ALL I HAVE
LEFT.



THAT'S WEIRD. THERE SEEMS TO BE A LINK BETWEEN 5G AND COVID IN THESE COMMENTS.

WHY TRY TO LINK 5G TECHNOLOGY TO THE VACCINE? WE DON'T HAVE A VACCINE YET... THERE CAN'T BE ANY RESEARCH TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM. IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO DO THOSE STUDIES.



<http://www.MakeYourOpinionCount.org/stop5g>

STOP 5G CELL TOWER DEPLOYMENT IN MICHIGAN

52,063 have signed, let's get 75,000.

5G is going to destroy our immunity. The radiowaves from 5G will make it impossible to resist the virus! This is all an experiment on humanity.

SEARCHOPIA

5G Attack Michig|



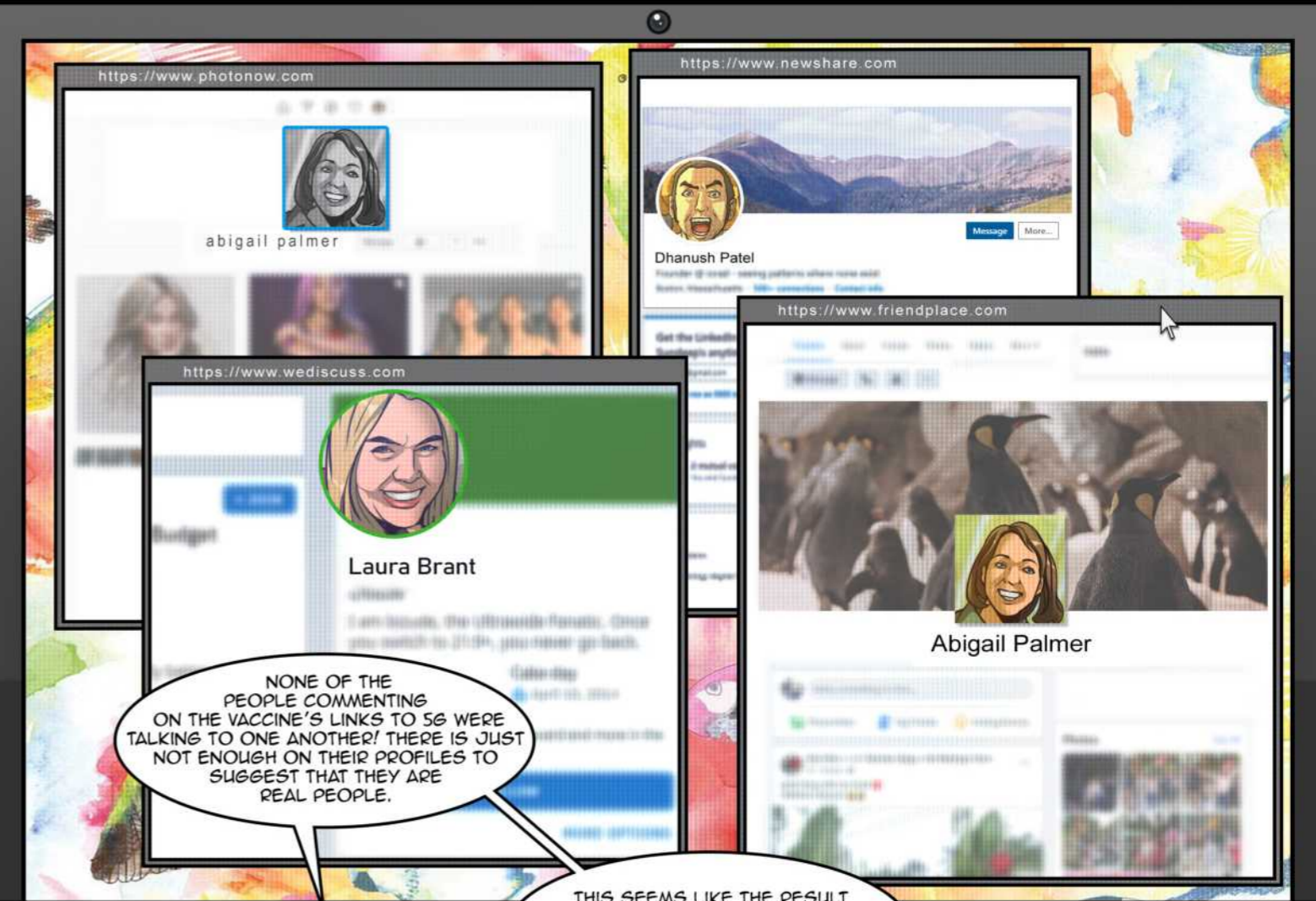
HMM...LOOKS A BIT STRANGE?! SO MANY RANDOM COMMENTS. SOME DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN MADE BY A REAL PERSON!

I WONDER IF THESE ARE REAL...

UPDATES

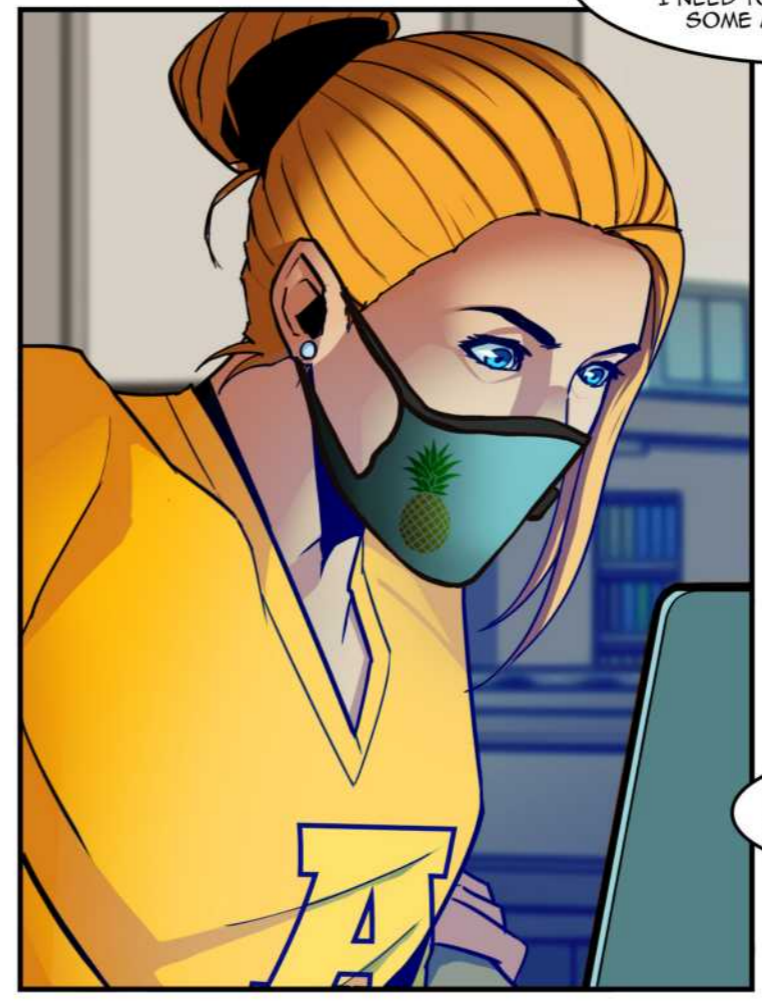
Abigail Palmer · 2 hours ago
5G is going to destroy our immunity. The radiowaves from 5G will make it impossible to resist the virus! This is all an experiment on humanity.
91 Reply

Tony S. · 2 hours ago
THIS IS A DANGER TO HUMANITY. IT HAS TO STOP!
52 Reply



NONE OF THE PEOPLE COMMENTING ON THE VACCINE'S LINKS TO 5G WERE TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER! THERE IS JUST NOT ENOUGH ON THEIR PROFILES TO SUGGEST THAT THEY ARE REAL PEOPLE.

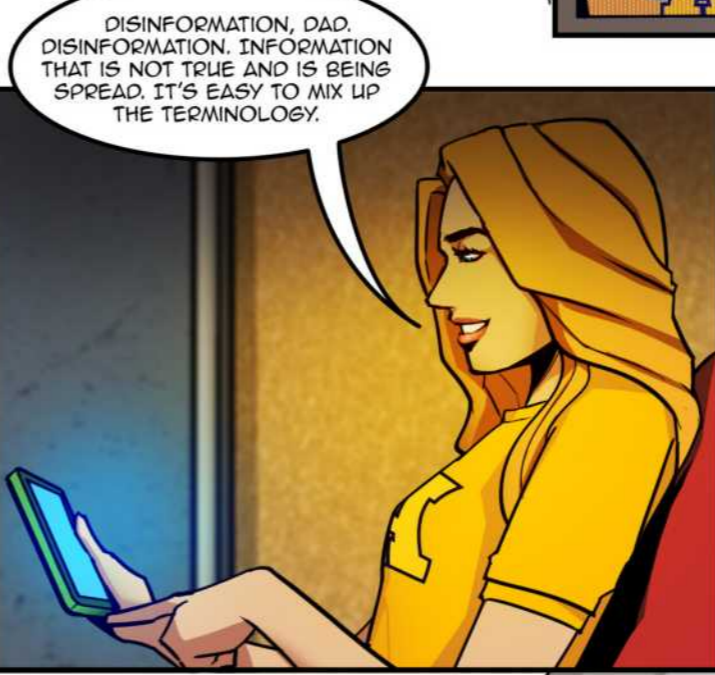
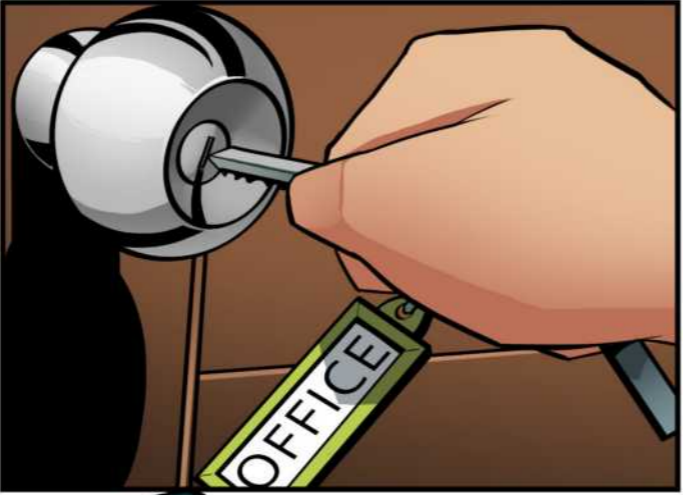
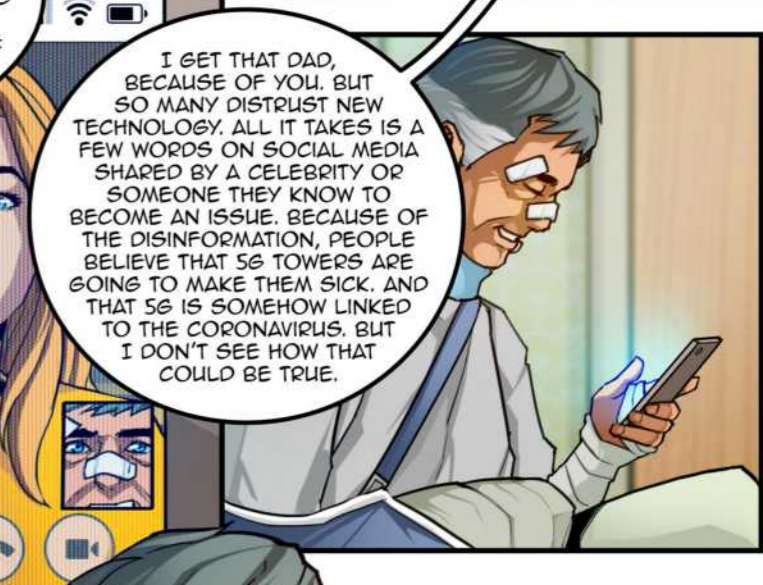
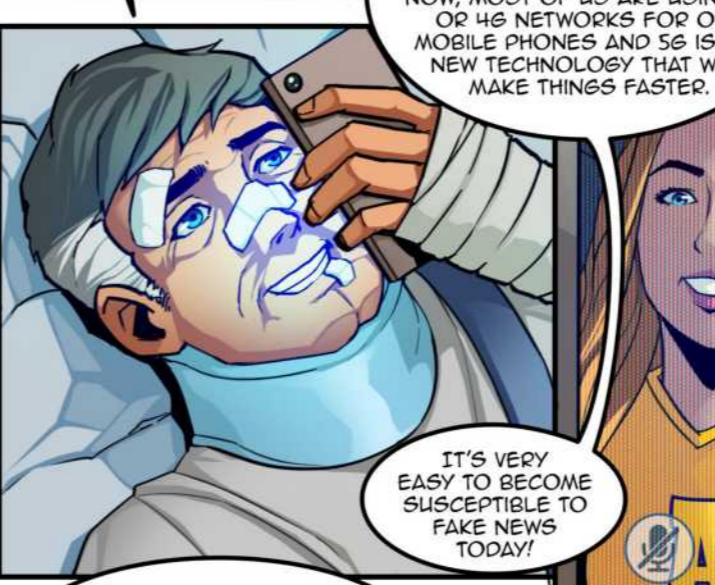
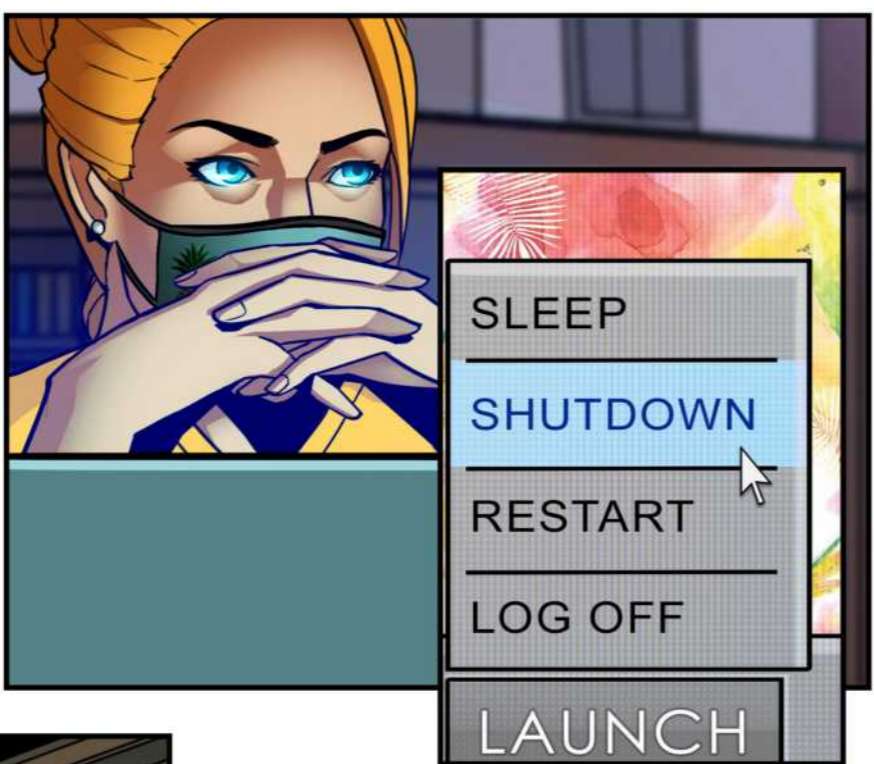
THIS SEEMS LIKE THE RESULT OF A MALICIOUS CYBER CAMPAIGN! BUT ORCHESTRATED BY WHOM? I NEED TO LOOK INTO THIS SOME MORE... HMMM...



Laura Brant, Abigail Palmer, Dhanush Patel.

DAY TURNS INTO NIGHT.

THAT'S ODD,
NONE OF THEM EXIST IN
PLACES YOU WOULD EXPECT
OUTSIDE OF THE PLATFORMS.
DIGITAL GHOSTS?



A FEW DAYS LATER, FRANK IS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL AND IS BACK HOME.

I'M FINE KIDDO. HAVE I MENTIONED HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU HAVE BEEN DOING ON DISPROVING THE LINK BETWEEN 5G AND COVID?

THAT'S RIGHT! PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT 5G IS SIMPLY THE FIFTH GENERATION OF WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY. RIGHT NOW, MOST OF US ARE USING 3G OR 4G NETWORKS FOR OUR MOBILE PHONES AND 5G IS THE NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL MAKE THINGS FASTER.

I GET THAT DAD, BECAUSE OF YOU. BUT SO MANY DISTRUST NEW TECHNOLOGY. ALL IT TAKES IS A FEW WORDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA SHARED BY A CELEBRITY OR SOMEONE THEY KNOW TO BECOME AN ISSUE. BECAUSE OF THE DISINFORMATION, PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT 5G TOWERS ARE GOING TO MAKE THEM SICK. AND THAT 5G IS SOMEHOW LINKED TO THE CORONAVIRUS. BUT I DON'T SEE HOW THAT COULD BE TRUE.

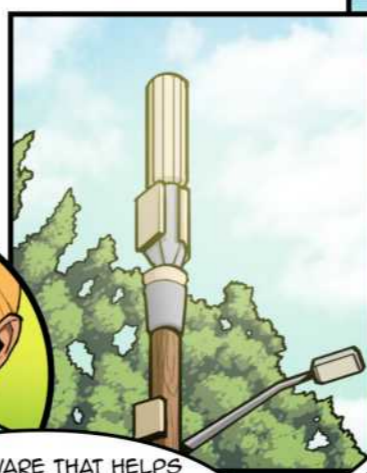
IT'S VERY EASY TO BECOME SUSCEPTIBLE TO FAKE NEWS TODAY!

DISINFORMATION, DAD. DISINFORMATION. INFORMATION THAT IS NOT TRUE AND IS BEING SPREAD. IT'S EASY TO MIX UP THE TERMINOLOGY.

THERE ARE SOME TRACES ONLINE, BUT THEY NEVER TALK TO ONE ANOTHER? THEY NEVER SEEM TO POST A COMMENT AND HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH ONE ANOTHER ON VERY OBVIOUSLY SHARED IDEALS... SOMETHING FUNNY'S GOING ON...



1. SOFTWARE THAT HELPS MANAGE THE NETWORK
2. LARGE TOWERS CALLED MACRO TOWERS THAT ARE CONNECTED THROUGH AN OPTICAL CABLE
3. SMALL CELLS THAT RECEIVE AND TRANSMIT DATA.



THAT'S RIGHT! ALL OF THIS IS LINKED TO THE CORE NETWORK, WHICH IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ROUTES DATA AND CONNECTS THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE ACCESS NETWORK. THE CORE NETWORK IS CONNECTED TO A SYSTEM CALLED THE RADIO ACCESS NETWORK OR RAN, WHICH CONSISTS OF A FEW DIFFERENT PARTS:



THIS INFRASTRUCTURE THEN CONNECTS TO OUR PHONES AND LAPTOPS, WHICH MEANS WE CAN DO THINGS LIKE DOWNLOAD MOVIES FASTER, LIKE YOU SAID. 5G ONLY CARRIES DATA AND PHYSICAL THINGS LIKE VIRUSES OR BACTERIA CANNOT TRAVEL IN RADIO WAVES OR TELEPHONE NETWORKS. IT VIRUSES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BIOLOGICAL VIRUSES, WHICH CANNOT TRAVEL THIS WAY.



IF THIS SPREADS MORE, IT COULD GET OUT OF HAND. CLAIMING THAT 5G TOWERS ARE LINKED TO THE VIRUS IS DANGEROUS - IT'S WRONG, AND THOSE CLAIMS MIGHT INSPIRE MORE ATTACKS LIKE THE ONE ON YOU, DAD!

BACK AT THE TEACHING ASSISTANT OFFICE...

THERE IS TOO MUCH DATA... I NEED TO GET SMART AND WRITE SOME CODE TO SCRAPE AND ANALYZE THIS. I KNEW THOSE COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASSES IN UNDERGRAD WOULD COME IN HANDY ONE DAY.

```

1 def crawl_profile(session, base_url, profile_url, post_limit):
2     ...
3     posts_id = 'recent'
4     profile_bs = profile_bs.find('div', id=posts_id).div.div.contents
5     except Exception as e:
6         logging.info('Error: {}'.format(e))
7     posts = profile_bs.find('div', id=posts_id).div.div.contents
8     posts_urls = profile_bs.find_all('a', text='Full Story')
9     for post_url in posts_urls:
10        # print(post_url)
11        try:
12            post_data = scrape_post(session, base_url, post_url)
13            scraped_posts.append(post_data)
14        except Exception as e:
15            logging.info('Error: {}'.format(e))

```

IT PAYS TO BE A JOURNALIST WITH A CYBER DEGREE.

SO, THE DATA SHOWS THAT A NUMBER OF BACKERS ARE SIGNING THE PETITION SIMULTANEOUSLY AT CERTAIN TIME INTERVALS OF 3:30PM, 5:30PM, AND 8:30 PM EASTERN TIME? THAT'S A TELL...

THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE IS THAT THIS... THIS IS A BOT FARM.

Time of Post	Day 1	Day 2	D
3:30:24 PM	26	54	
5:33:58 PM	53	62	
6:17:46 PM	21	253	

REMEMBERING COLLEEN, HER FRIEND FROM GRAD SCHOOL, AVA CALLS HER FOR THE CONTACT DETAILS OF A LAWYER THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY MET, WHO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

COLLEEN, CAN YOU PING ME THE NAME OF THAT LAWYER LADY WE MET FROM DC? THE ONE WHO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT CYBER LAWS AND DISINFORMATION. THANKS!

WOW, SHE SEEMS LIKE THE RIGHT PERSON. SHE PRACTICES CYBER LAW.

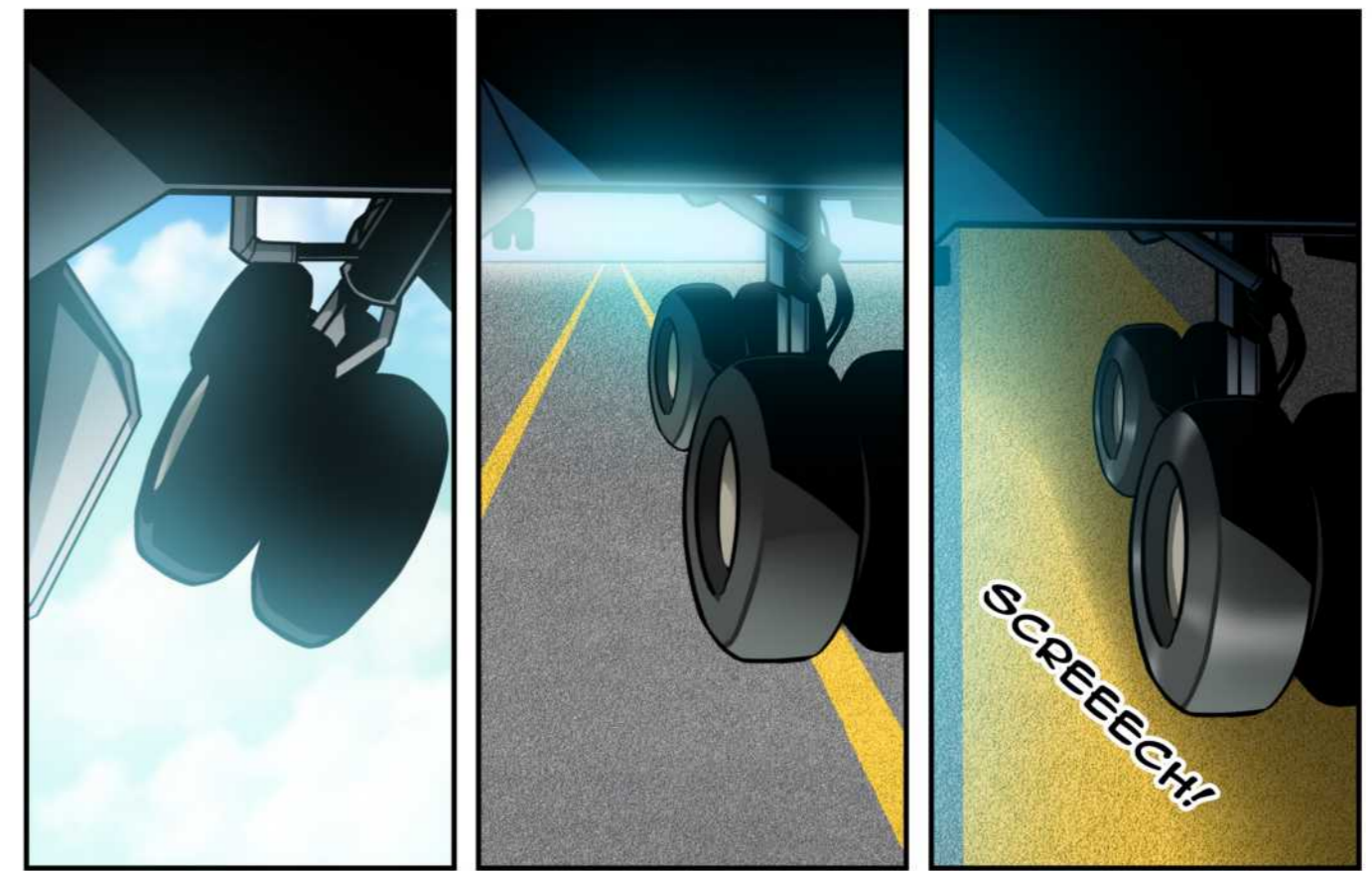
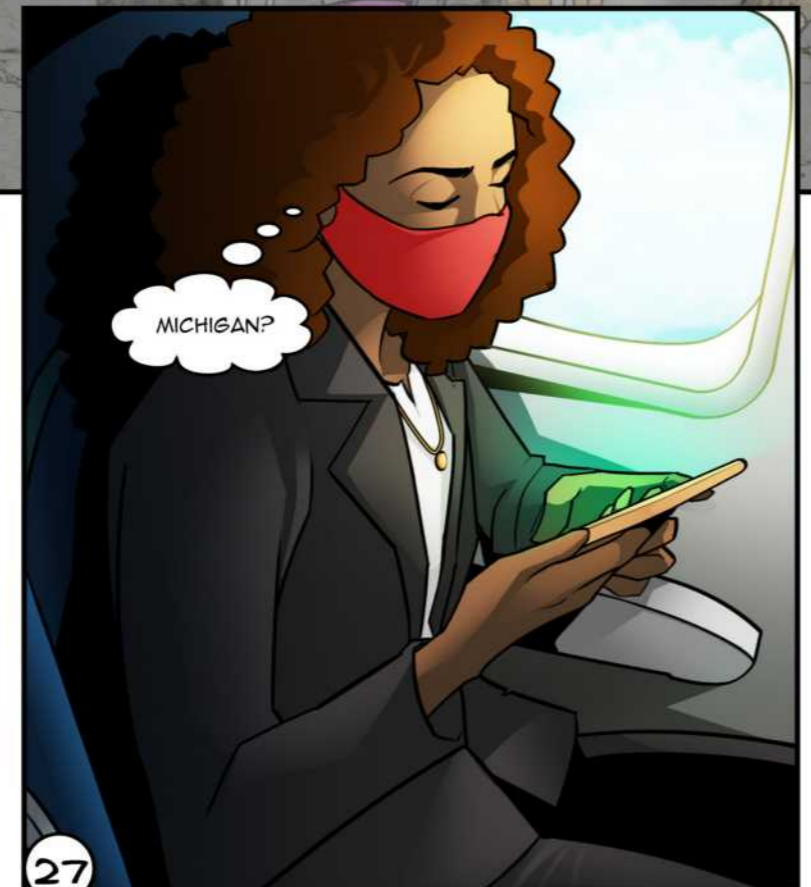
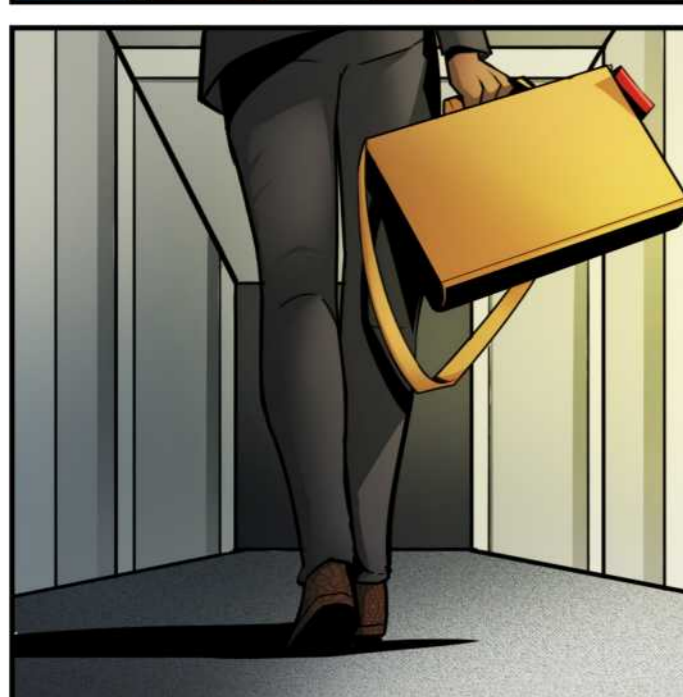
AND... HERE'S HER NUMBER... MAYBE SHE CAN HELP!

SONDRA HERE...

HI, THIS IS AVA WILLIAMS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ANN ARBOR'S JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT. WE PREVIOUSLY MET...

NOT INTERESTED!

NO! WAIT--



...THANK YOU FOR FLYING ON COAST 2 COAST AIRLINES.

PINE!
PINE!



YOU DON'T WASTE MUCH TIME DO YOU?

SORRY... I WAS TRACKING THE FLIGHT ONLINE...

LET ME GET MY EARPHONES ON AND WE CAN SPEAK PRIVATELY.

THE AFTERNOON TRANSITIONS INTO LATE EVENING AS SONORA MAKES HER WAY TO THE TAXI.



OF COURSE, I'M GLAD TO HELP. IF I MAY ASK, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? IS IT A STORY YOU ARE CHASING DOWN?

THANK YOU SO MUCH. I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED IF THIS WASN'T URGENT! MY FATHER IS ALREADY IN THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF THIS WHOLE MESS! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ABOUT CYBER LAW FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW. FEELS LIKE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO FIGHT ALL THIS MISINFORMATION FLYING AROUND.



AT FIRST IT WAS PERSONAL BECAUSE MY FATHER GOT HURT, BUT I REALIZED THAT THIS IS SO MUCH LARGER THAN THE TWO OF US.

MY FATHER WORKS AT A COMPANY THAT MAINTAINS 5G INFRASTRUCTURE IN MICHIGAN. HE WAS ATTACKED BY A GROUP OF MASKED MEN, WHO HE CAUGHT TRYING TO DESTROY A 5G TOWER. I DID SOME INTERNET SEARCHING AND FOUND A PETITION ON MAKEYOUROPINIONCOUNT.ORG THAT WANTED 5G TOWER CONSTRUCTION TO BE STOPPED IN MICHIGAN.

THE PERSON WHO STARTED IT WAS TRYING TO FOCUS ON THE RADIO WAVES AND THEIR IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH, BUT THE PETITION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN HIJACKED AND LINKED TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS. IT HAD A LITTLE OVER 50,000 SIGNATURES AND IT SEEMS THAT AROUND 15 PERCENT COME FROM WHAT LOOKS LIKE A BOT FARM. SOMEONE IS PULLING THE STRINGS ON THIS SITUATION.



SHOCKING WHAT SOME OF THESE OUTFITS ARE ABLE TO DO WITH JUST A FEW LINES OF CODE! I AM SURE THAT YOU NOW UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION. THIS APPEARS TO BE A CLASSIC DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN. WHERE FALSE INFORMATION IS BEING USED TO MISLEAD PEOPLE AND MANIPULATE THE MEDIA.

MISINFORMATION IS MORE WHEN SOMEONE MAKES A MISTAKE SUCH AS PROVIDING FACTUALLY INCORRECT INFORMATION, BUT IT'S NOT MALICIOUS...

THIS IS REALLY WHY I NEED YOUR HELP TO UNDERSTAND IF THERE IS ANY WAY TO SHUT DOWN THE PETITION AND - TO BE BLUNT - BRING THE BOT FARM OWNERS TO JUSTICE!

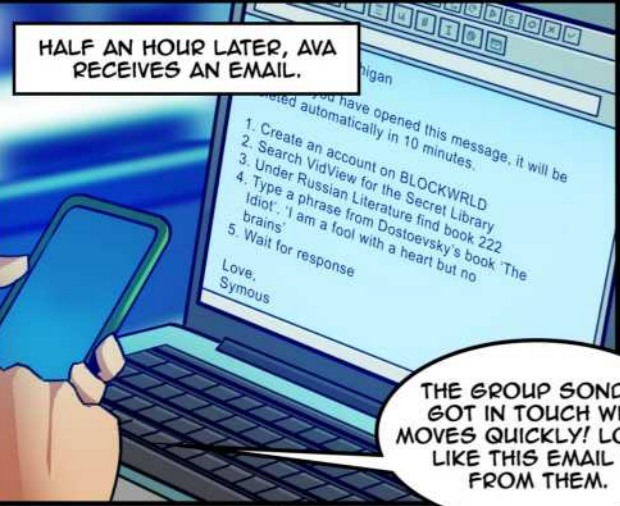
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, ESPECIALLY SINCE MOST FARMS ARE OVERSEAS. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN TALKING, I TEXTED SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN HELPING YOU. HIS GROUP LIKES TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, BUT YOU SHOULD BE HEARING FROM THEM ANY MOMENT NOW.

HAPPY TO LISTEN AND, AS I SAID, I WILL SEND SOMETHING YOUR WAY THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OUT A LITTLE MORE THAN I CAN. STAY SAFE AND GOODNIGHT.



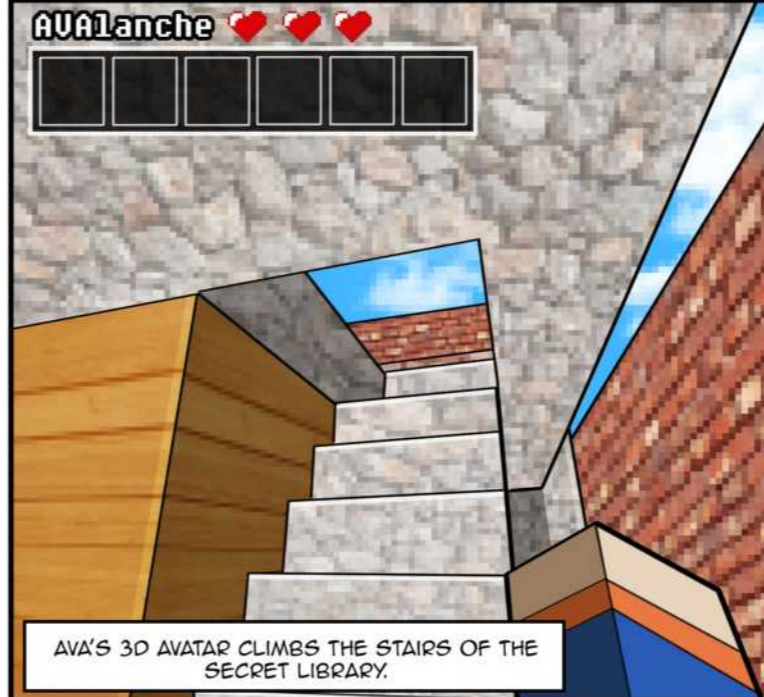
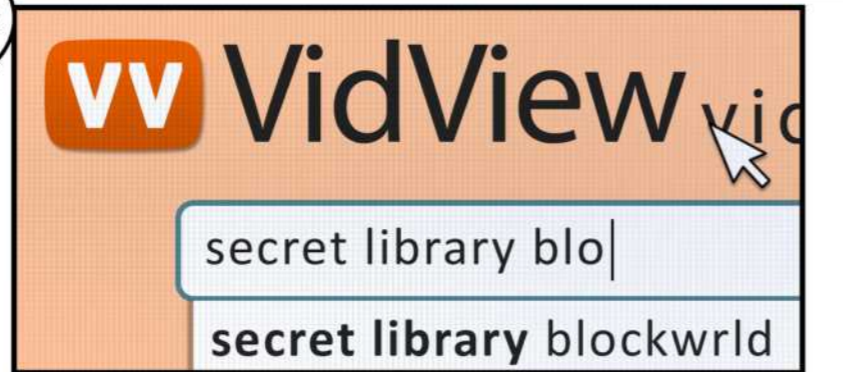
YES, OF COURSE. THANKS FOR LISTENING. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO HEAR ME OUT.

AND THANKS SO MUCH FOR MENTIONING ME TO YOUR CONTACT. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



THE GROUP SONORA GOT IN TOUCH WITH MOVES QUICKLY! LOOKS LIKE THIS EMAIL IS FROM THEM.

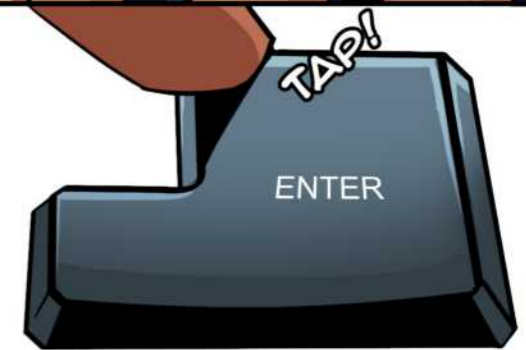
CREATE YOUR BLOCKWRLD ACCOUNT
You'll get a free code for BLOCKWRLD Free Edition once you set up a new account. If you already have one, LOG IN!
Email address: avawilliams@email.com
Repeat email address: avawilliams@ema
Password: []
Repeat password: []



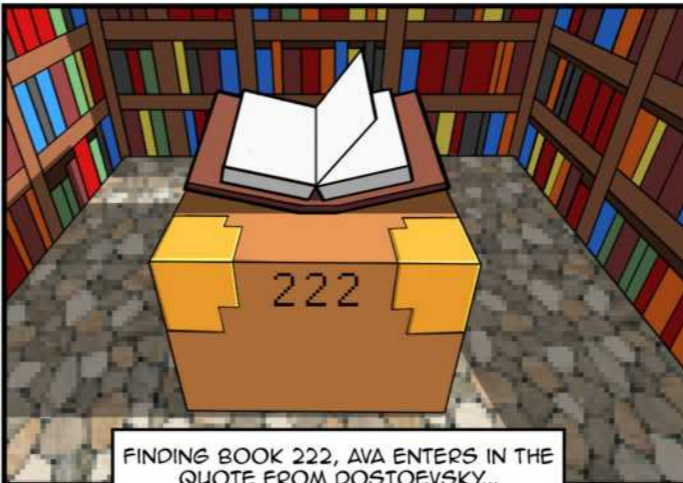
AVA'S 3D AVATAR CLIMBS THE STAIRS OF THE SECRET LIBRARY.



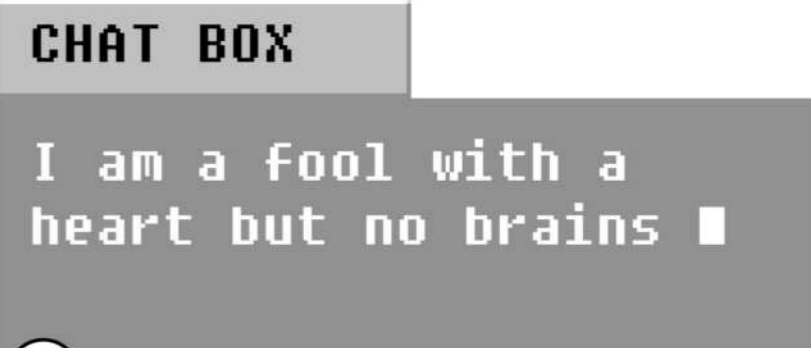
SHE TOURS AROUND THIS VAST FACILITY, LOOKING AT OTHER 3D COUNTERPARTS AS WELL.



HERE GOES NOTHING.



FINDING BOOK 222, AVA ENTERS IN THE QUOTE FROM DOSTOEVSKY...



AN HOUR LATER... NO RESPONSE.

CHAT BOX
I am a fool with a heart but no brains ■



AVALanche

I am a fool with a heart but no brains ■
??????????
And beauty will save the world. Nice to meet you Ava.



??????????
Lets talk on this link.
<https://chairman.12345/9685/sonon.php>
Don't worry. It's secure and can't be traced back to either of us.

AVALanche

And you are a fool with brains but no heart; and we're both unhappy, and we both suffer.

SEARCHPIA and beauty will save the world
«Beauty will save the world». This is one of Dostoevsky's most often quoted sentences, but few know precisely what it means.



HELLO...?
HI... I'M NOT LOOKING FOR ANY TROUBLE!

WAIT... HOW DO YOU KNOW MY FATHER?

MY FATHER WORKS FOR...

SEEMS LIKE YOU REALLY ARE IN THE KNOW. CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME THEN... WHY ON EARTH WAS THE 56 TOWER ATTACKED?! I HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE OF A LINKED DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN ONLINE. YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT IT ALREADY?

THE LOCAL 56 COMPANY, AND HE WAS JUMPED BY SOME ASSAILANTS WHO ATTACKED A 56 TOWER! LET'S SKIP TO WHAT YOU NEED, AVA. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!

AVA WILLIAMS... WELCOME! THIS IS THE CHAIRMAN.

RELAX. WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS! I'VE HEARD YOUR FATHER IS RECOVERING WELL AT ST. MARTHA'S?

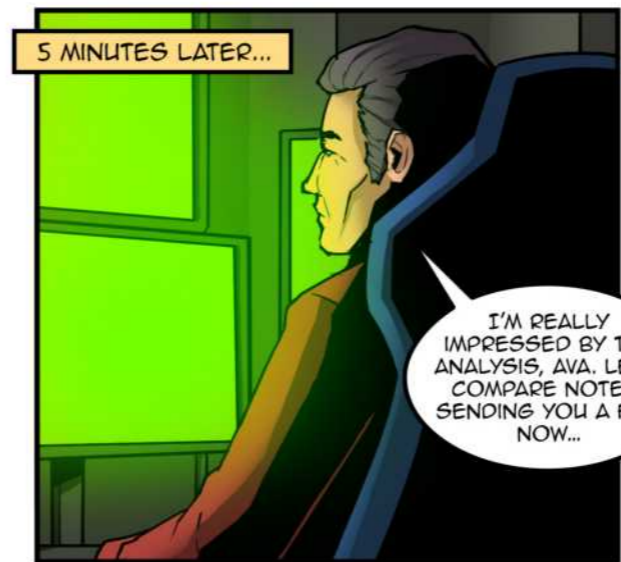
WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEWS, AVA. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR FATHER. NOT MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT! HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

SOMEONE HIJACKED THE PETITION AND LINKED IT TO THE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE. IT HAS ACCUMULATED 52,000 SIGNATURES 85% OF WHICH ARE BOTS. I GUESS THE LATTER GAVE IT THE TRACTION IT NEEDED.

GO ON...

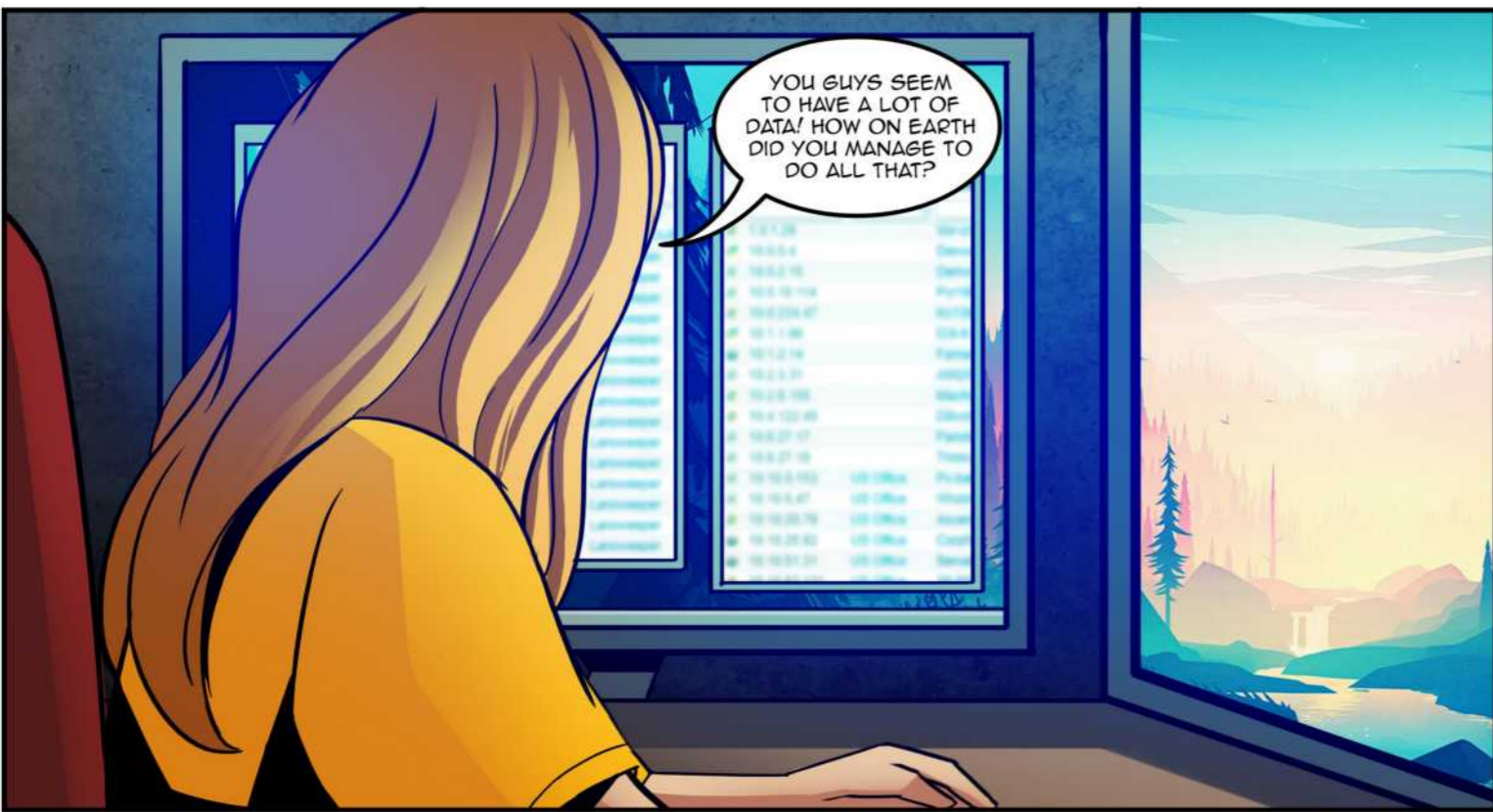
SEND ME THE DATA... WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOO FOCUSED ON MICHIGAN AS OF YET. THIS THING IS BIGGER THAN YOU KNOW. OTHER PARTS OF THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES - INCLUDING U.S. ALLIES - ARE EXPERIENCING SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

GIVE US ANOTHER 10 MINS TO ANALYZE THE DATA...

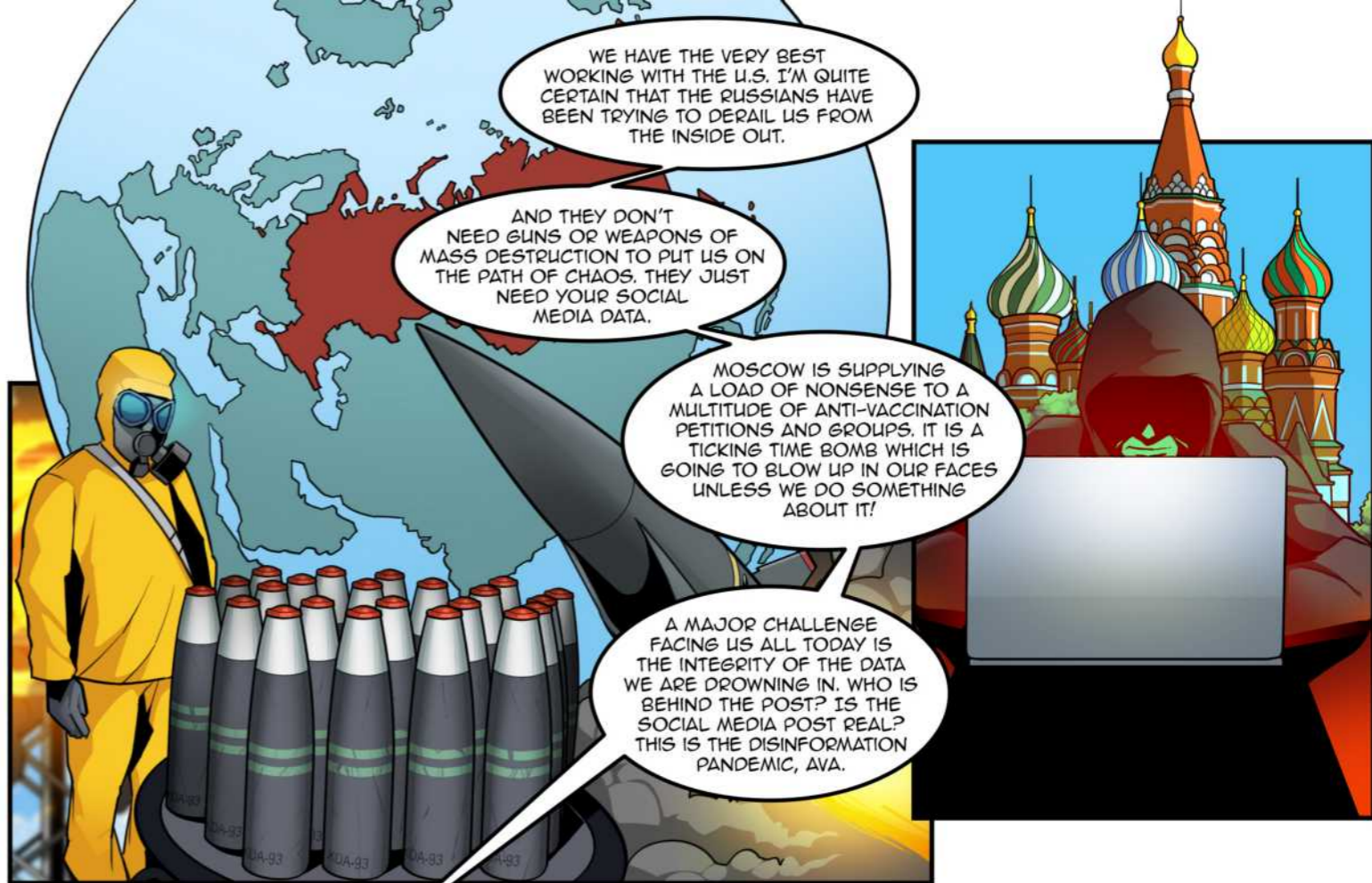


5 MINUTES LATER...

I'M REALLY IMPRESSED BY THE ANALYSIS, AVA. LET'S COMPARE NOTES! SENDING YOU A FILE NOW...



YOU GUYS SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF DATA! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU MANAGE TO DO ALL THAT?

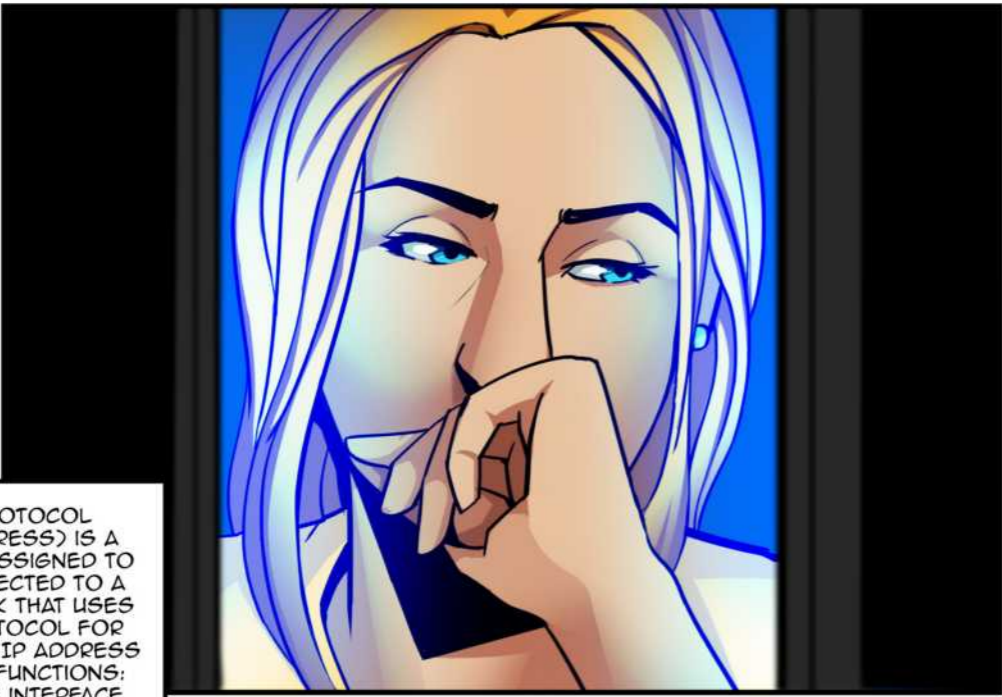


WE HAVE THE VERY BEST WORKING WITH THE U.S. I'M QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DERAIL US FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

AND THEY DON'T NEED GUNS OR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO PUT US ON THE PATH OF CHAOS. THEY JUST NEED YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA DATA.

MOSCOW IS SUPPLYING A LOAD OF NONSENSE TO A MULTITUDE OF ANTI-VACCINATION PETITIONS AND GROUPS. IT IS A TICKING TIME BOMB WHICH IS GOING TO BLOW UP IN OUR FACES UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

A MAJOR CHALLENGE FACING US ALL TODAY IS THE INTEGRITY OF THE DATA WE ARE DROWNING IN. WHO IS BEHIND THE POST? IS THE SOCIAL MEDIA POST REAL? THIS IS THE DISINFORMATION PANDEMIC, AVA.



AN INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS (IP ADDRESS) IS A NUMERICAL LABEL ASSIGNED TO EACH DEVICE CONNECTED TO A COMPUTER NETWORK THAT USES THE INTERNET PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION. AN IP ADDRESS SERVES TWO MAIN FUNCTIONS: HOST OR NETWORK INTERFACE IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION ADDRESSING.

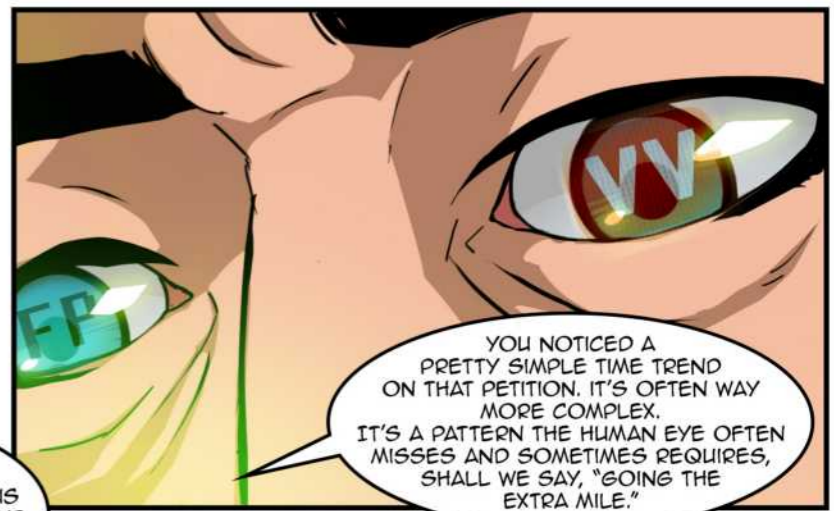
From IP	To IP	OWNER
204.204.1.0	204.204.204.255	"AX UKRAINE"
31.206.14.0	31.206.31.255	
137.206.12.0	137.206.27.255	"DIR RUSSIA"
63.206.44.0	63.206.63.255	



I HEAR YOU. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP.

WHAT SOCIAL NETWORK EVEN HAS TIME FOR EXTENSIVE FACT CHECKING THESE DAYS? THE VELOCITY OF NEWS OUTSTRIPS HUMAN INTERVENTION AND THE AI WE HAVE CAN BE TRAINED, BUT IS NOT QUITE THERE YET.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESEARCH OR DATA THAT MAY HELP US DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE ALGORITHMIC RESPONSES VERSUS THOSE BY THE TROLLS?



YOU NOTICED A PRETTY SIMPLE TIME TREND ON THAT PETITION. IT'S OFTEN WAY MORE COMPLEX. IT'S A PATTERN THE HUMAN EYE OFTEN MISSES AND SOMETIMES REQUIRES, SHALL WE SAY, "GOING THE EXTRA MILE."



ALSO, ONE OF OUR GUYS AT NICT PROVED THAT A BOT NEVER REPLIES TO ANOTHER BOT'S COMMENT.

IT'S TAKEN US YEARS TO DEVELOP THE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITY WE HAVE TODAY. THERE ARE MANY OF US LOOKING TO PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE. I WANT YOU TO JOIN THE FAMILY, AVA! WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD OUR GROUP OF DIGITAL PATRIOTS TO FACE THESE BAD ACTORS. AND MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOUR DAD CAN BE PROTECTED FROM THE FALLOUT OF WHAT IS LARGELY GOING UNNOTICED BY THE COUNTRY.



THIS IS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING I COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED. BUT, FORGIVE ME, ALL OF THIS FEELS LIKE A BAD DREAM! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

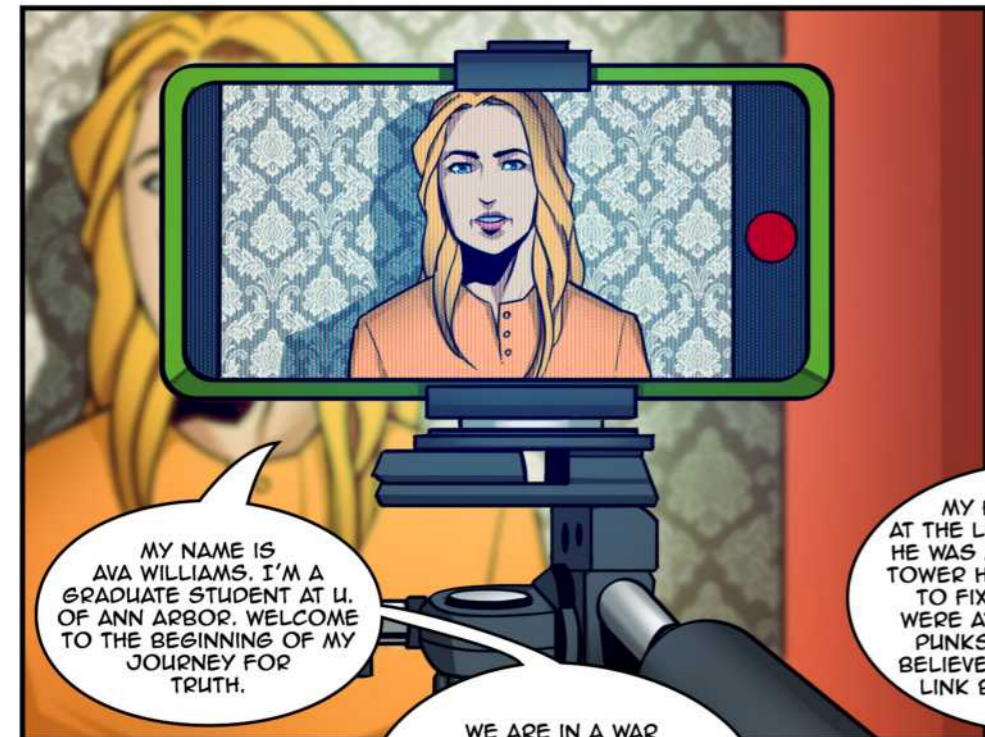
CHAIRMAN: Our secrecy is part of what keeps us all safe.

CHAIRMAN: We 'exist' in cyberspace. But should you choose to be our voice to the outside world, we can provide you with unparalleled resources to conduct your investigation. I'll leave you to it. You know what to do.



DEVELOPING AND ADMINISTERING VACCINES TO PEOPLE IS ONE WAY TO PROTECT CITIZENS AGAINST COVID-19 AND LOTS OF WORK IS BEING DONE TO PUSH THIS AHEAD. WE HAVE NOW DEVELOPED MULTIPLE GREAT VACCINES. HOWEVER, THIS IS CONTROVERSIAL AND FOREIGN FORCES HAVE FUELED THE ANTI-VACCINATION GROUPS BY CREATING A FALSE NARRATIVE AROUND HOW THESE NEW VACCINES ARE DANGEROUS AND SEEDING FALSE EVIDENCE. THE OUTCOME HAS HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE LIKE MY FATHER. EVEN AS AN ASPIRING JOURNALIST I DIDN'T REALIZE THE POTENCY OF DISINFORMATION UNTIL ALL THIS OCCURRED.

AND, IF WE DON'T PROTECT OUR SOCIETY FROM THE MENACE OF SYNTHETIC AND INACCURATE NEWS, WE MAY BE FACING OUTCOMES THAT NONE OF US ARE PREPARED FOR... AND ONES THAT OUR ENEMIES HOPE FOR!



MY NAME IS AVA WILLIAMS. I'M A GRADUATE STUDENT AT U. OF ANN ARBOR. WELCOME TO THE BEGINNING OF MY JOURNEY FOR TRUTH.

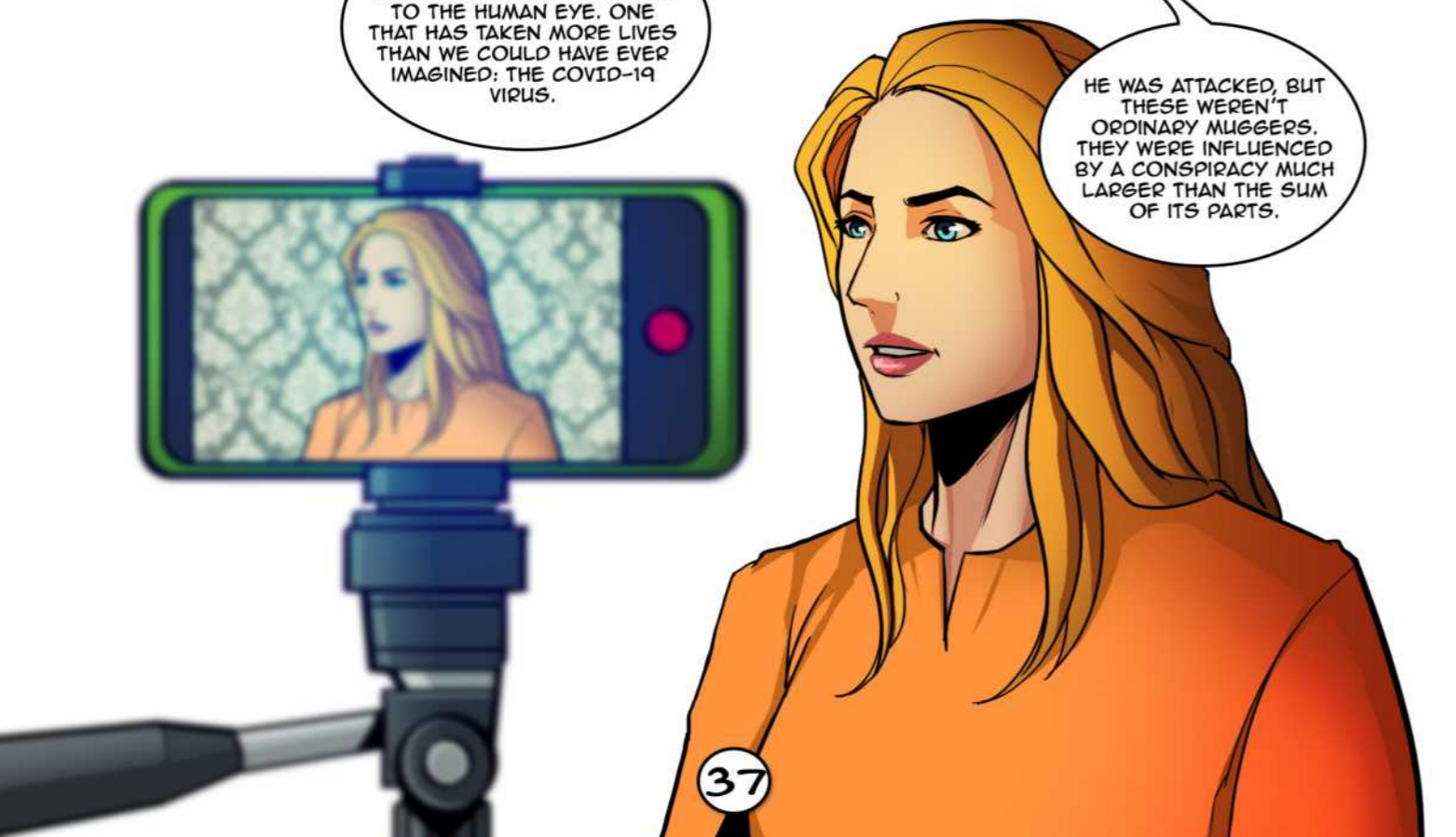


MY FATHER WORKS AT THE LOCAL 5G COMPANY, HE WAS AMBUSHED AT A 5G TOWER HE WAS CALLED OUT TO FIX. THESE TOWERS WERE ATTACKED BY SOME PUNKS, WHO WRONGLY BELIEVED THAT THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN 5G AND COVID.



8 h 12 min
(518.8 mi)
Toronto
NEW YORK
University of Ann Arbor
OHIO
NEW YORK
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania
Park College University
Park College University

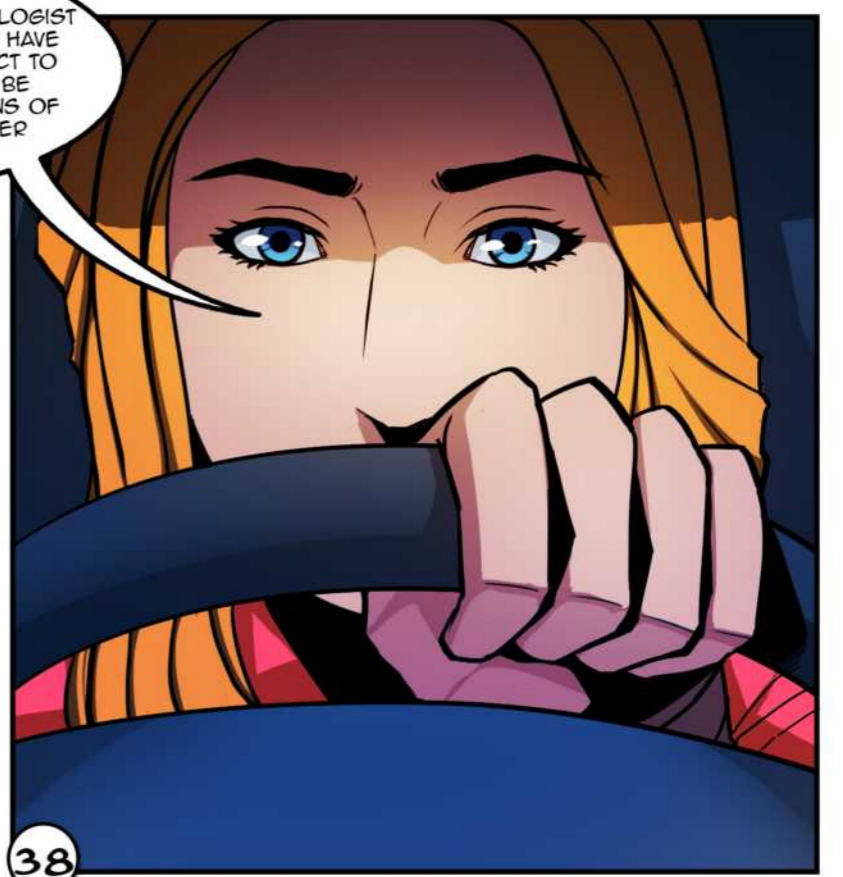
WE ARE IN A WAR AGAINST ENEMIES INVISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE. ONE THAT HAS TAKEN MORE LIVES THAN WE COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED: THE COVID-19 VIRUS.



HE WAS ATTACKED, BUT THESE WEREN'T ORDINARY MUGGERS. THEY WERE INFLUENCED BY A CONSPIRACY MUCH LARGER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS.



WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SILENT. THESE AREN'T JUST AMERICAN LIVES, BUT ALL OF HUMANITY IS AT STAKE HERE.



I WILL BE MEETING DR. EMILY HARTMAN WHO IS THE CHIEF VACCINOLOGIST AT PARK COLLEGE UNIVERSITY. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING ON A PROJECT TO INTRODUCE A VACCINE THAT WILL BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST FURTHER STRAINS OF THE VIRUS AND GENERATE GREATER SUPPLIES OF THE VACCINE.

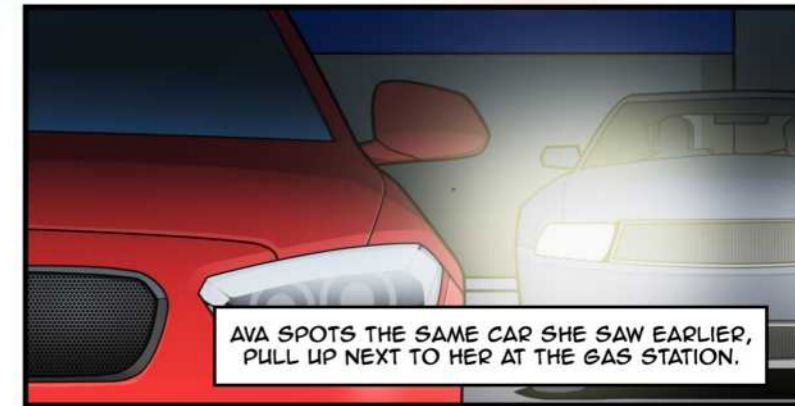
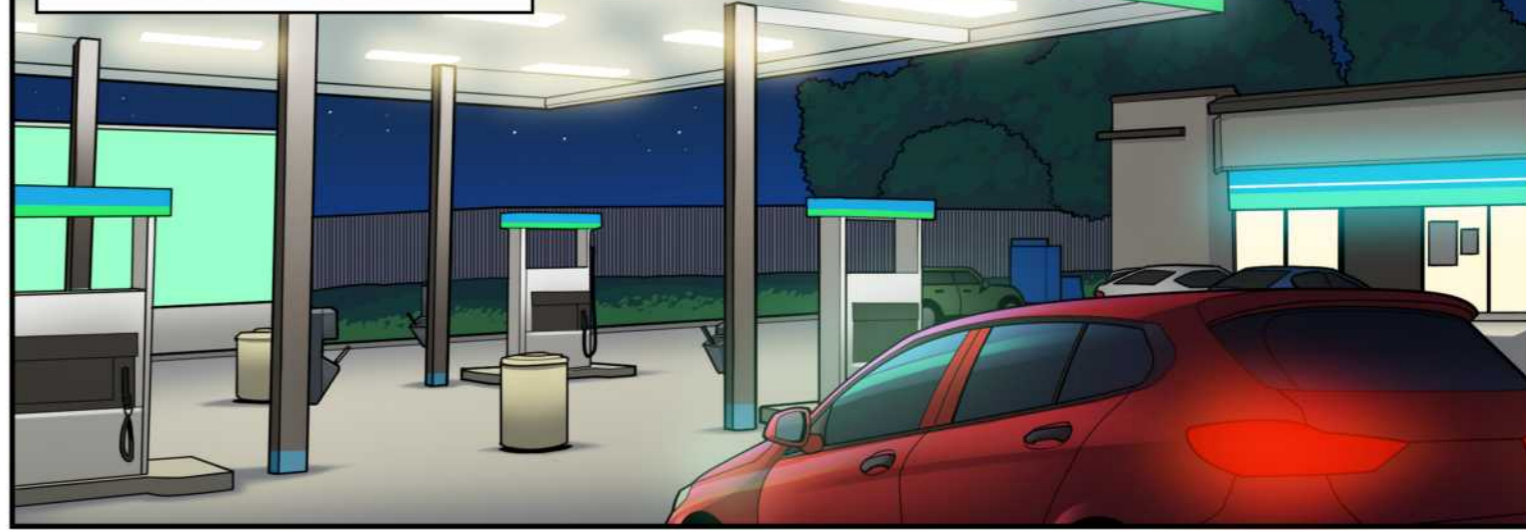
AVA BEGINS THE LONG JOURNEY FROM ANN ARBOR TO PARK COLLEGE UNIVERSITY.



AVA SPOTS A GAS STATION, SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO PITTSBURGH, ON HER GPS.



SHE STOPS TO TAKE A BREAK AND TO BUY SOME REFRESHMENTS.



AVA SPOTS THE SAME CAR SHE SAW EARLIER, PULL UP NEXT TO HER AT THE GAS STATION.



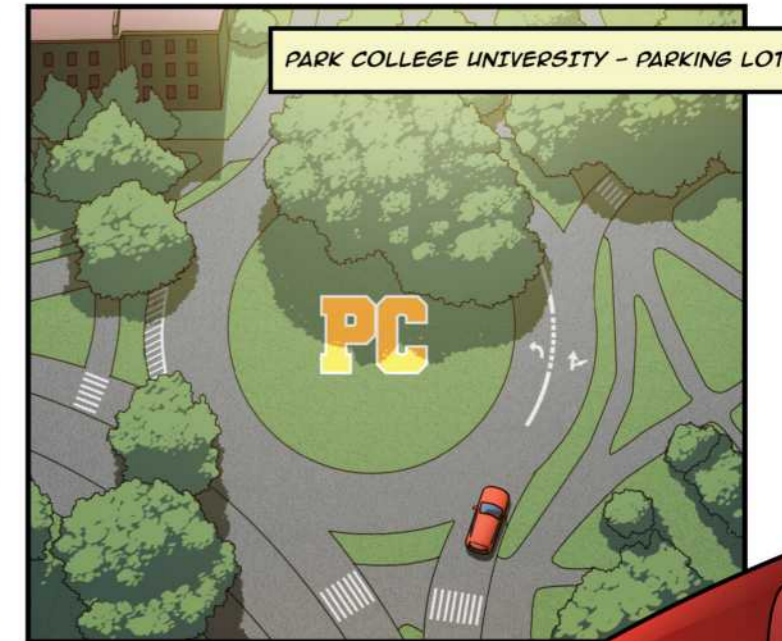
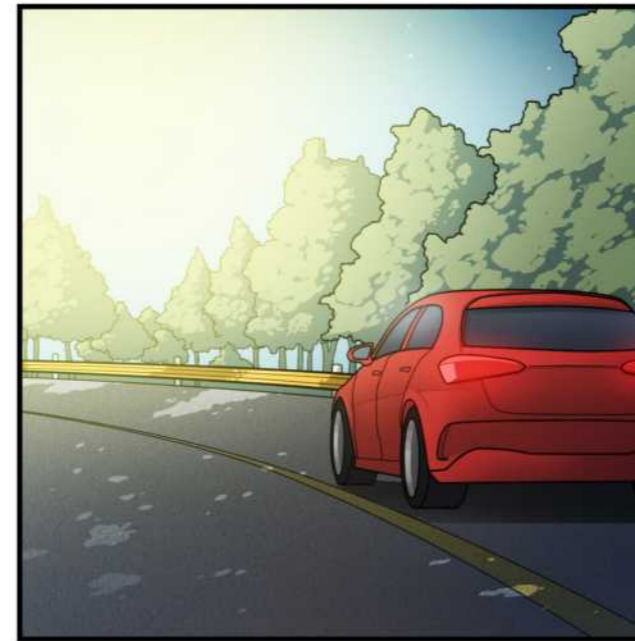
THAT'LL BE \$7.50.

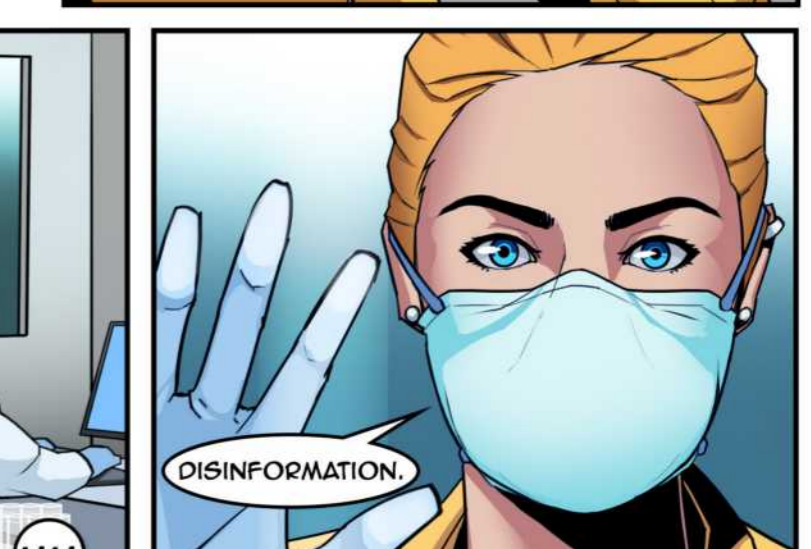
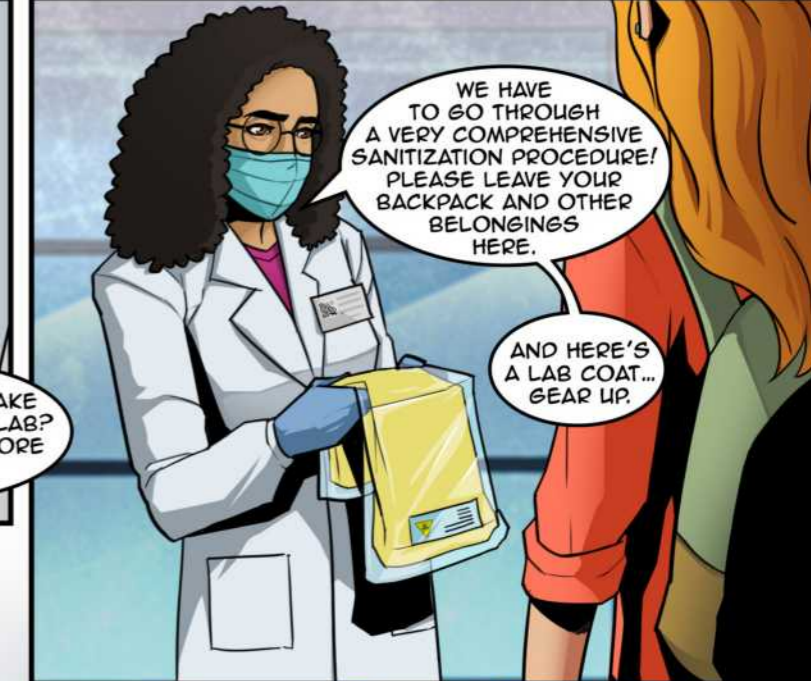
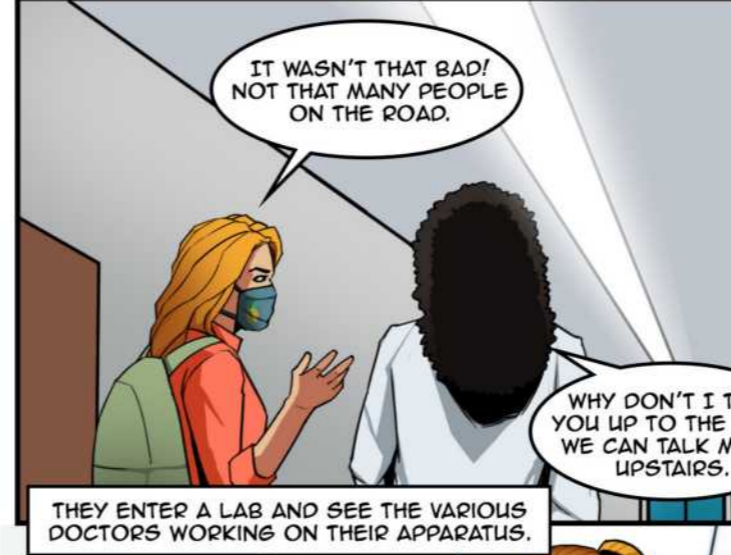
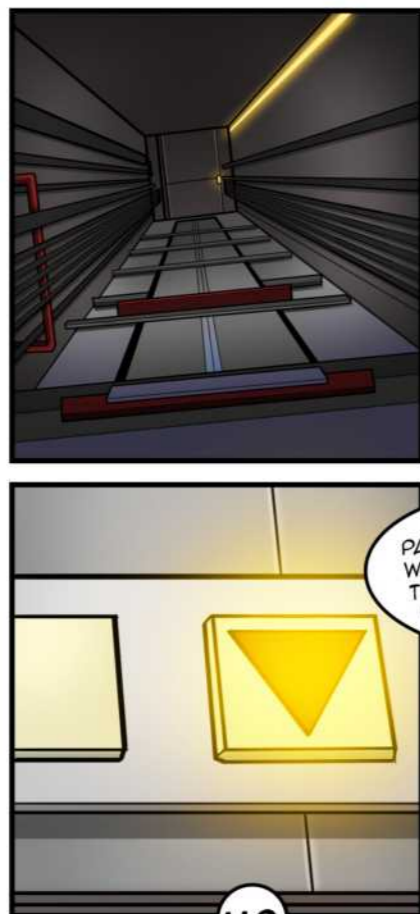
PING

THANKS.



AVA SPOTS TWO FIGURES ENTERING THE SHOP AND A WORRIED EXPRESSION APPEARS ACROSS HER FACE.







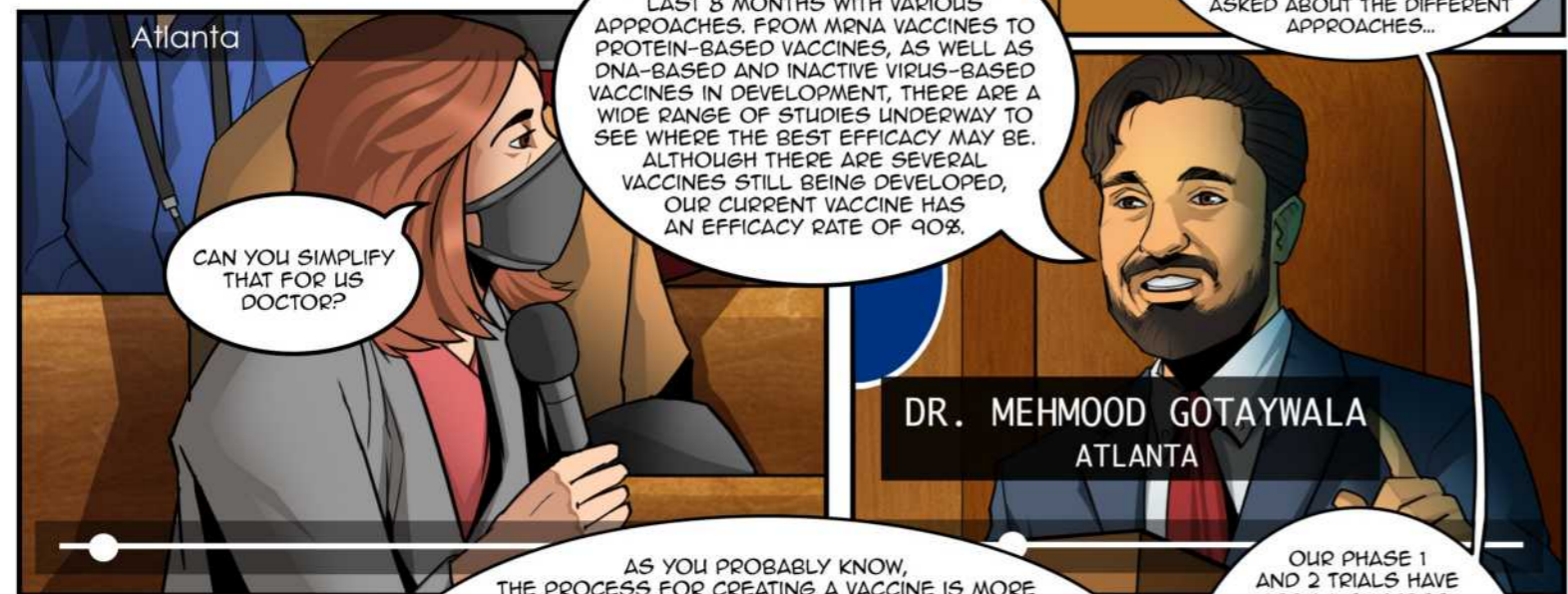
I UNDERSTAND. WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE HERE, AND THE STAKES ARE VERY HIGH. I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

WHAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED IS A MESSENGER RNA VACCINE. THIS WORKS BY CONVEYING GENETIC INSTRUCTIONS TO CELLS SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO SYNTHESIZE SPECIFIC PROTEINS WHICH, IN TURN, KICK OFF ANTIBODIES THAT PROTECT CELLS BY FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS.

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING I RECORDED AT THE COALITION FOR COVID VACCINE DEVELOPMENT, A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE WHERE A NUMBER OF THE MOST RESPECTED SCIENTISTS BROKE IT DOWN FOR ANOTHER JOURNALIST THAT ASKED ABOUT THE DIFFERENT APPROACHES...

INTERESTING. SO HOW HAVE THE TRIALS BEEN?

A NUMBER OF TRIALS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED OVER THE LAST 8 MONTHS WITH VARIOUS APPROACHES. FROM MRNA VACCINES TO PROTEIN-BASED VACCINES, AS WELL AS DNA-BASED AND INACTIVE VIRUS-BASED VACCINES IN DEVELOPMENT, THERE ARE A WIDE RANGE OF STUDIES UNDERWAY TO SEE WHERE THE BEST EFFICACY MAY BE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SEVERAL VACCINES STILL BEING DEVELOPED, OUR CURRENT VACCINE HAS AN EFFICACY RATE OF 90%.



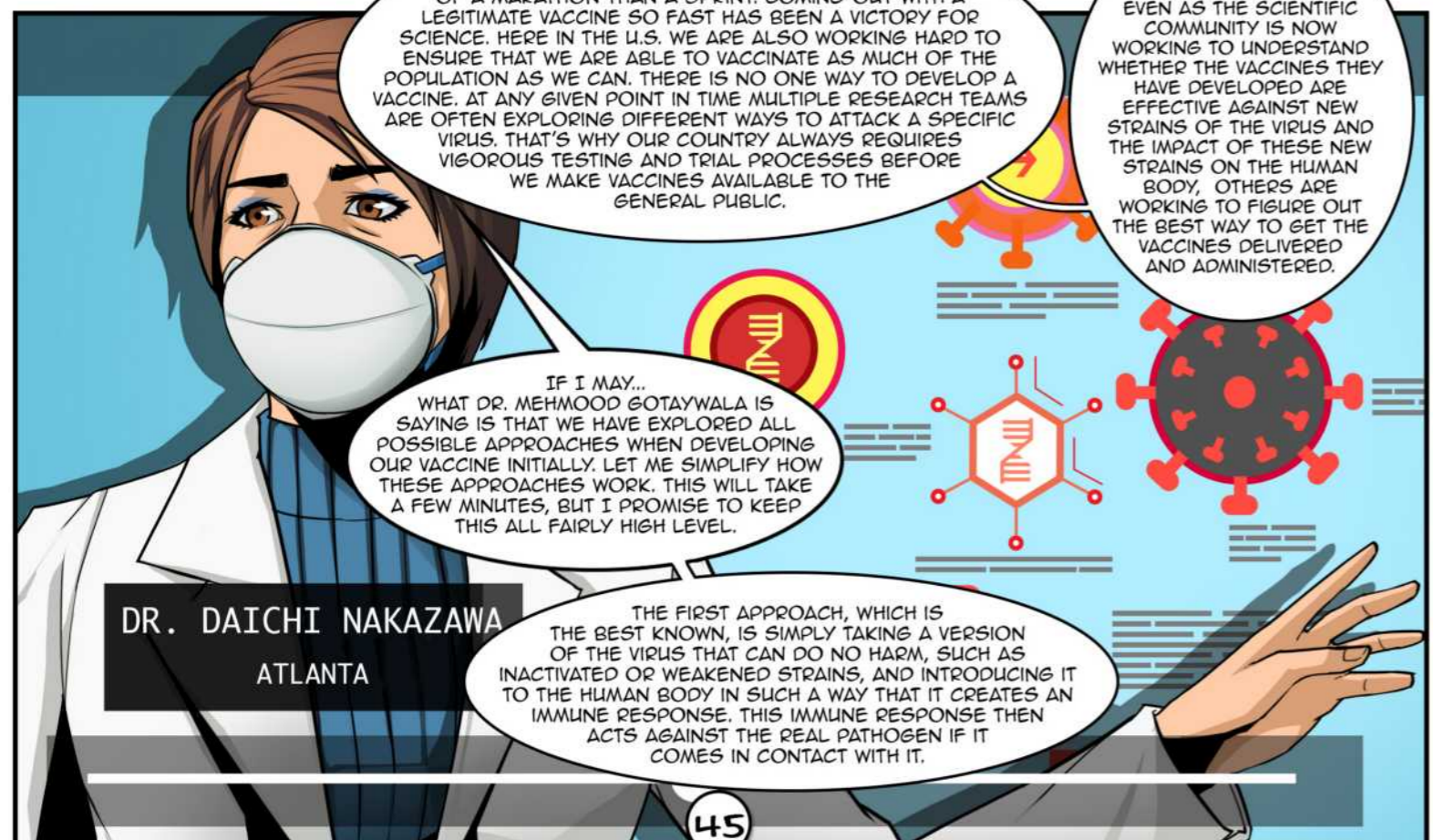
Atlanta

CAN YOU SIMPLIFY THAT FOR US DOCTOR?

DR. MEHMOOD GOTAYWALA
ATLANTA

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE PROCESS FOR CREATING A VACCINE IS MORE OF A MARATHON THAN A SPRINT. COMING OUT WITH A LEGITIMATE VACCINE SO FAST HAS BEEN A VICTORY FOR SCIENCE. HERE IN THE U.S. WE ARE ALSO WORKING HARD TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE ABLE TO VACCINATE AS MUCH OF THE POPULATION AS WE CAN. THERE IS NO ONE WAY TO DEVELOP A VACCINE. AT ANY GIVEN POINT IN TIME MULTIPLE RESEARCH TEAMS ARE OFTEN EXPLORING DIFFERENT WAYS TO ATTACK A SPECIFIC VIRUS. THAT'S WHY OUR COUNTRY ALWAYS REQUIRES VIGOROUS TESTING AND TRIAL PROCESSES BEFORE WE MAKE VACCINES AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

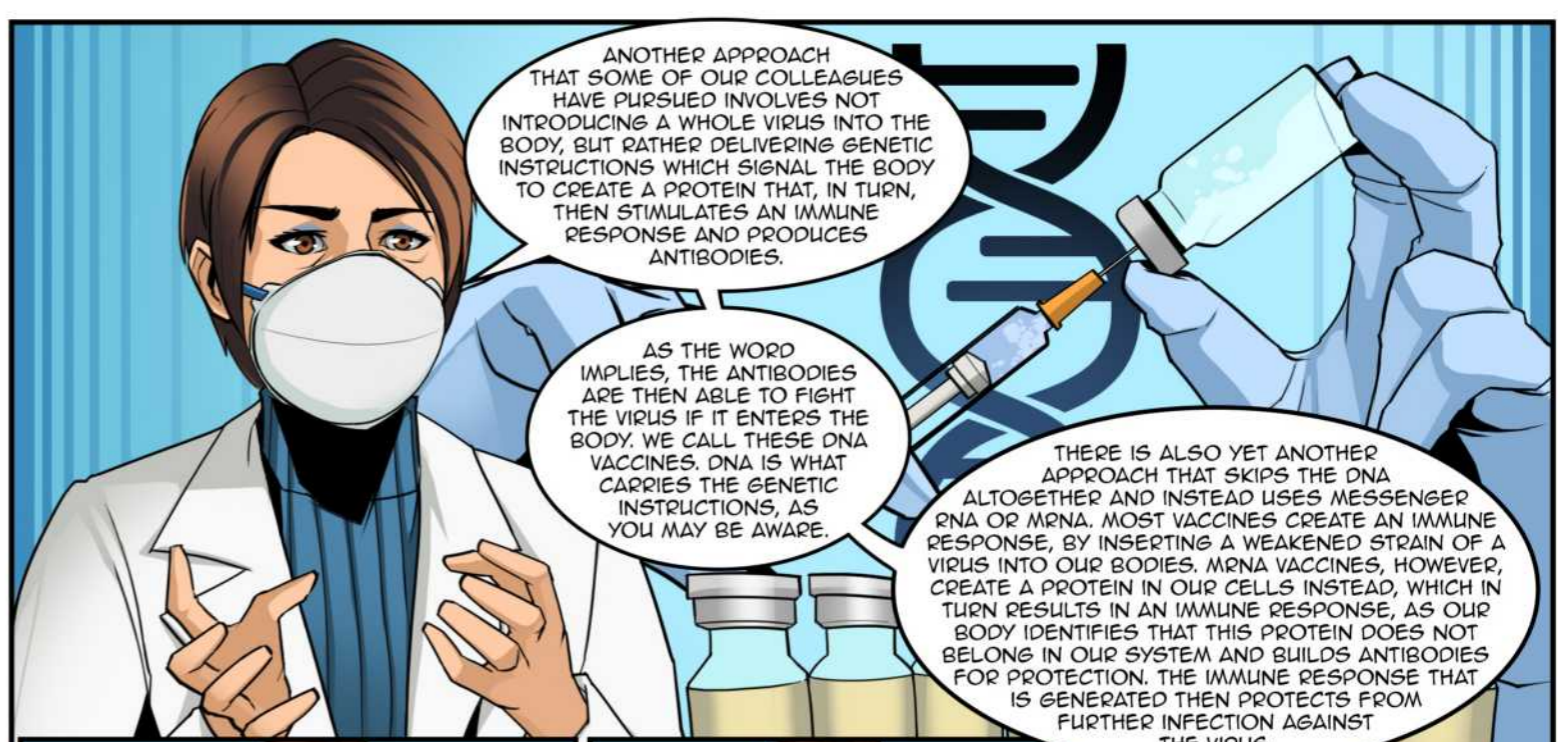
OUR PHASE 1 AND 2 TRIALS HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS. EVEN AS THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IS NOW WORKING TO UNDERSTAND WHETHER THE VACCINES THEY HAVE DEVELOPED ARE EFFECTIVE AGAINST NEW STRAINS OF THE VIRUS AND THE IMPACT OF THESE NEW STRAINS ON THE HUMAN BODY, OTHERS ARE WORKING TO FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO GET THE VACCINES DELIVERED AND ADMINISTERED.



DR. DAICHI NAKAZAWA
ATLANTA

IF I MAY... WHAT DR. MEHMOOD GOTAYWALA IS SAYING IS THAT WE HAVE EXPLORED ALL POSSIBLE APPROACHES WHEN DEVELOPING OUR VACCINE INITIALLY. LET ME SIMPLIFY HOW THESE APPROACHES WORK. THIS WILL TAKE A FEW MINUTES, BUT I PROMISE TO KEEP THIS ALL FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL.

THE FIRST APPROACH, WHICH IS THE BEST KNOWN, IS SIMPLY TAKING A VERSION OF THE VIRUS THAT CAN DO NO HARM, SUCH AS INACTIVATED OR WEAKENED STRAINS, AND INTRODUCING IT TO THE HUMAN BODY IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT CREATES AN IMMUNE RESPONSE. THIS IMMUNE RESPONSE THEN ACTS AGAINST THE REAL PATHOGEN IF IT COMES IN CONTACT WITH IT.



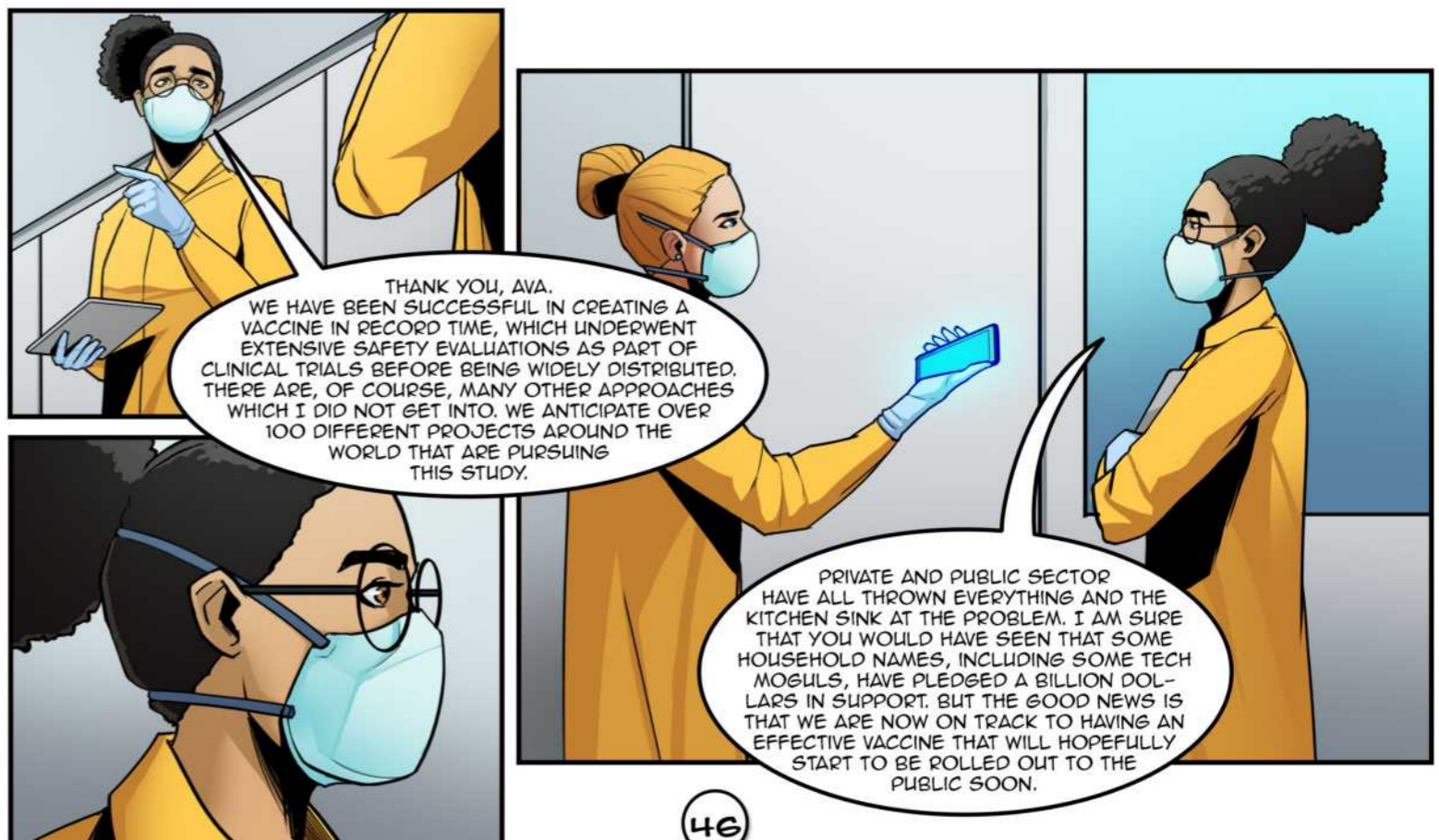
ANOTHER APPROACH THAT SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES HAVE PURSUED INVOLVES NOT INTRODUCING A WHOLE VIRUS INTO THE BODY, BUT RATHER DELIVERING GENETIC INSTRUCTIONS WHICH SIGNAL THE BODY TO CREATE A PROTEIN THAT, IN TURN, THEN STIMULATES AN IMMUNE RESPONSE AND PRODUCES ANTIBODIES.

AS THE WORD IMPLIES, THE ANTIBODIES ARE THEN ABLE TO FIGHT THE VIRUS IF IT ENTERS THE BODY. WE CALL THESE DNA VACCINES. DNA IS WHAT CARRIES THE GENETIC INSTRUCTIONS, AS YOU MAY BE AWARE.

THERE IS ALSO YET ANOTHER APPROACH THAT SKIPS THE DNA ALTOGETHER AND INSTEAD USES MESSENGER RNA OR MRNA. MOST VACCINES CREATE AN IMMUNE RESPONSE, BY INSERTING A WEAKENED STRAIN OF A VIRUS INTO OUR BODIES. MRNA VACCINES, HOWEVER, CREATE A PROTEIN IN OUR CELLS INSTEAD, WHICH IN TURN RESULTS IN AN IMMUNE RESPONSE, AS OUR BODY IDENTIFIES THAT THIS PROTEIN DOES NOT BELONG IN OUR SYSTEM AND BUILDS ANTIBODIES FOR PROTECTION. THE IMMUNE RESPONSE THAT IS GENERATED THEN PROTECTS FROM FURTHER INFECTION AGAINST THE VIRUS.

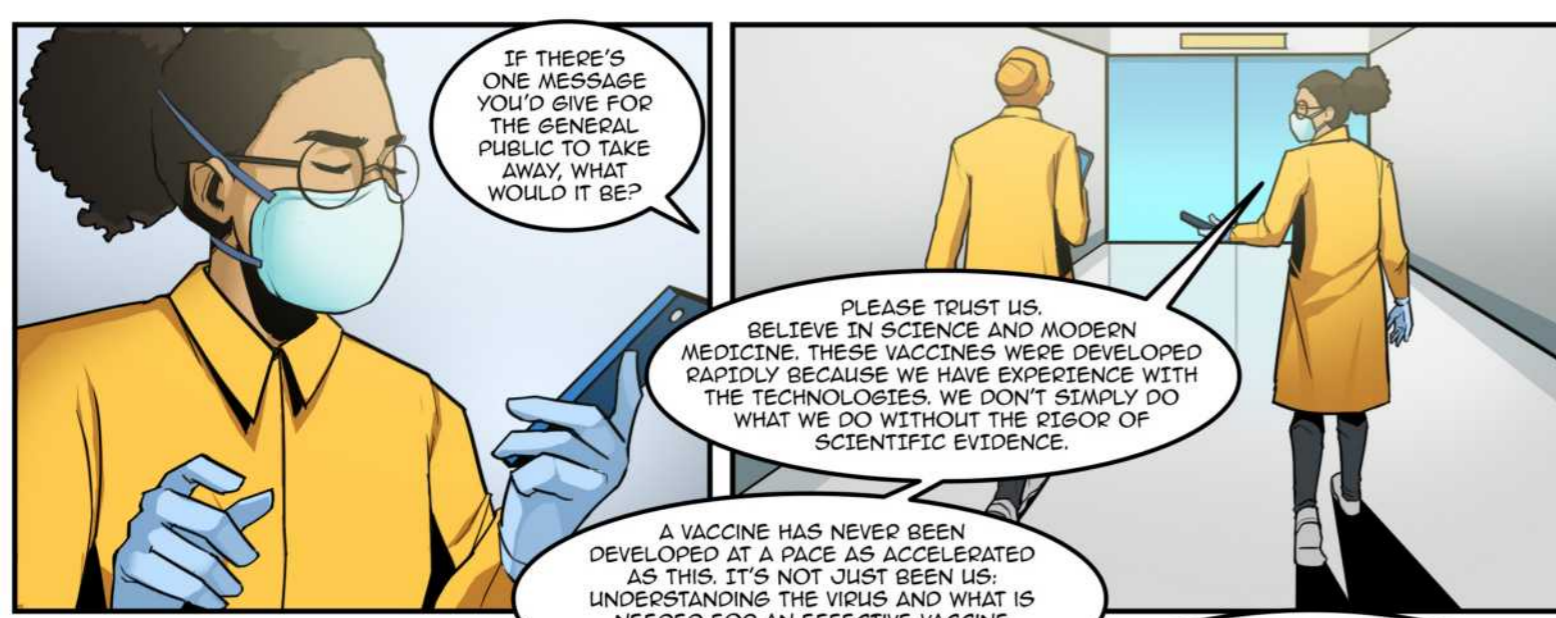


THAT'S PROBABLY THE CLEAREST EXPLANATION I HAVE EVER HEARD! I HAVE SO MUCH RESPECT FOR WHAT YOU ARE ALL DOING...



THANK YOU, AVA. WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING A VACCINE IN RECORD TIME, WHICH UNDERWENT EXTENSIVE SAFETY EVALUATIONS AS PART OF CLINICAL TRIALS BEFORE BEING WIDELY DISTRIBUTED. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, MANY OTHER APPROACHES WHICH I DID NOT GET INTO. WE ANTICIPATE OVER 100 DIFFERENT PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD THAT ARE PURSUING THIS STUDY.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR HAVE ALL THROWN EVERYTHING AND THE KITCHEN SINK AT THE PROBLEM. I AM SURE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN THAT SOME HOUSEHOLD NAMES, INCLUDING SOME TECH MOGULS, HAVE PLEDGED A BILLION DOLLARS IN SUPPORT. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE ARE NOW ON TRACK TO HAVING AN EFFECTIVE VACCINE THAT WILL HOPEFULLY START TO BE ROLLED OUT TO THE PUBLIC SOON.



IF THERE'S ONE MESSAGE YOU'D GIVE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE AWAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

PLEASE TRUST US. BELIEVE IN SCIENCE AND MODERN MEDICINE. THESE VACCINES WERE DEVELOPED RAPIDLY BECAUSE WE HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE TECHNOLOGIES. WE DON'T SIMPLY DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT THE RIGOR OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.

A VACCINE HAS NEVER BEEN DEVELOPED AT A PACE AS ACCELERATED AS THIS. IT'S NOT JUST BEEN US; UNDERSTANDING THE VIRUS AND WHAT IS NEEDED FOR AN EFFECTIVE VACCINE TAKES A MULTIDISCIPLINARY EFFORT FROM MANY GROUPS.

EVEN AS THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAS WORKED TO FINALIZE THE VACCINE, OTHERS ARE WORKING TO FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO GET THE VACCINES DELIVERED AND ADMINISTERED.

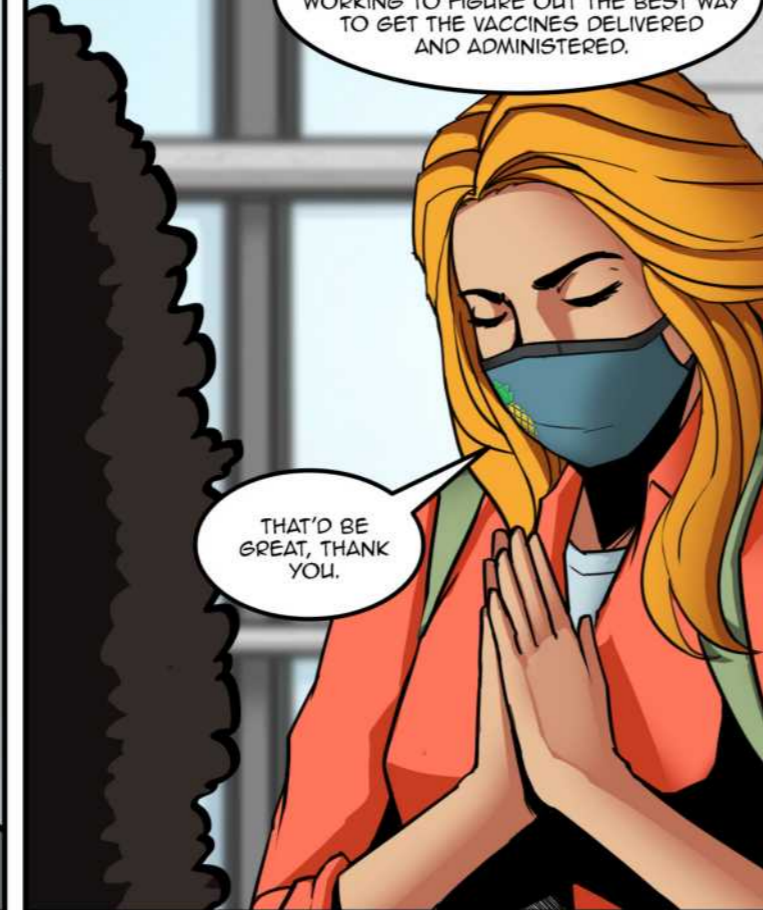


THANK YOU.

AVA, THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET. HE'D PROBABLY HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MOTIVES AND ORIGINS OF SOME OF THE ANTI-VAX GROUPS THAT ARE STRONGLY AGAINST THE IDEA OF A VACCINE.

HE'S A MEDIA STUDIES PROFESSOR HERE, DR. HARIS ADAMOS.

I HAD MENTIONED YOUR VISIT TO HIM IN PASSING AND HE SAID HE WOULD BE UP FOR SHOWING YOU HIS RESEARCH!



THAT'D BE GREAT, THANK YOU.



1328

KNOCK!
KNOCK!



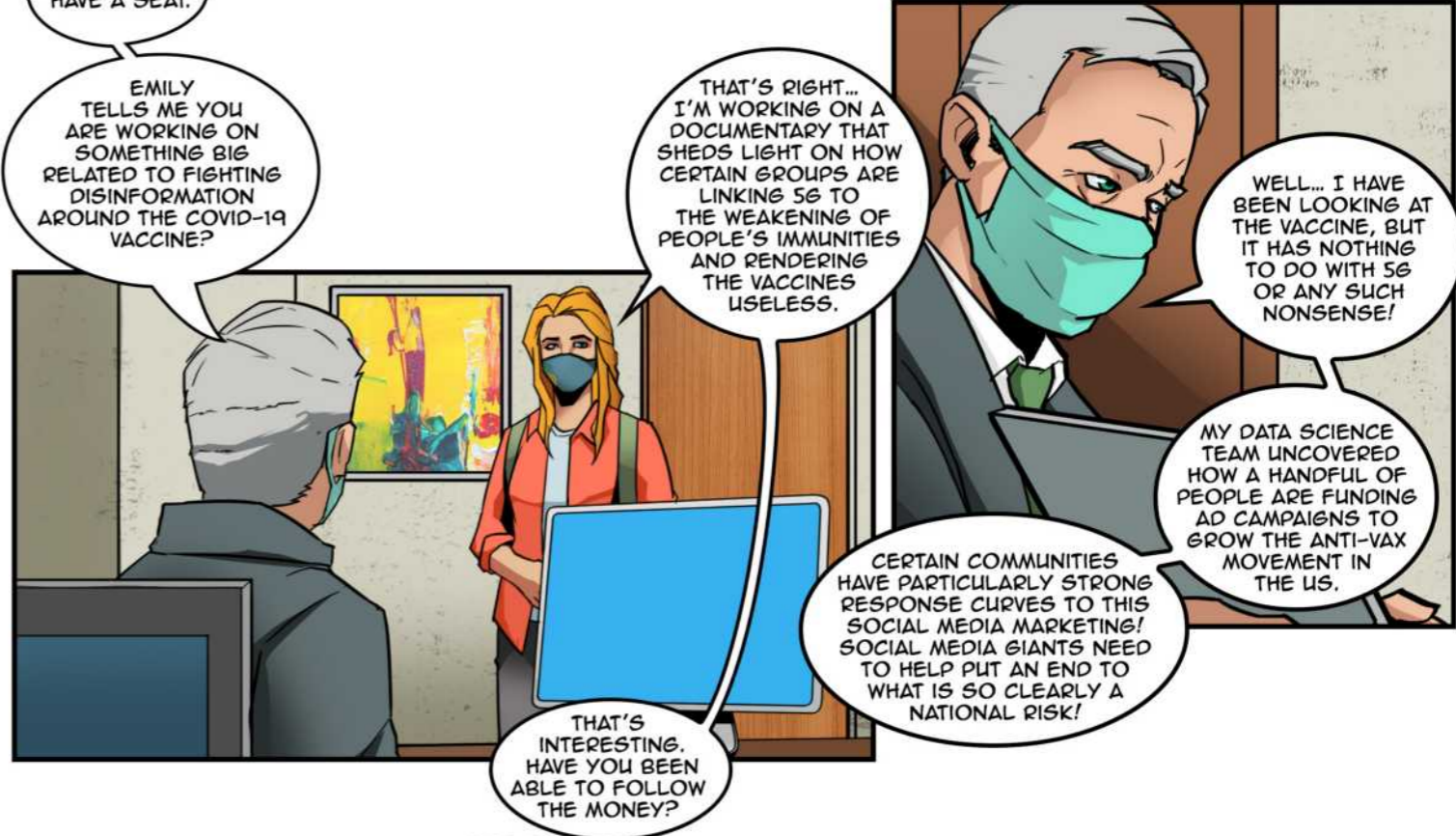
GOOD EVENING, DOCTOR?

PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.



YOU MUST BE AVA!

YES, SIR.



EMILY TELLS ME YOU ARE WORKING ON SOMETHING BIG RELATED TO FIGHTING DISINFORMATION AROUND THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

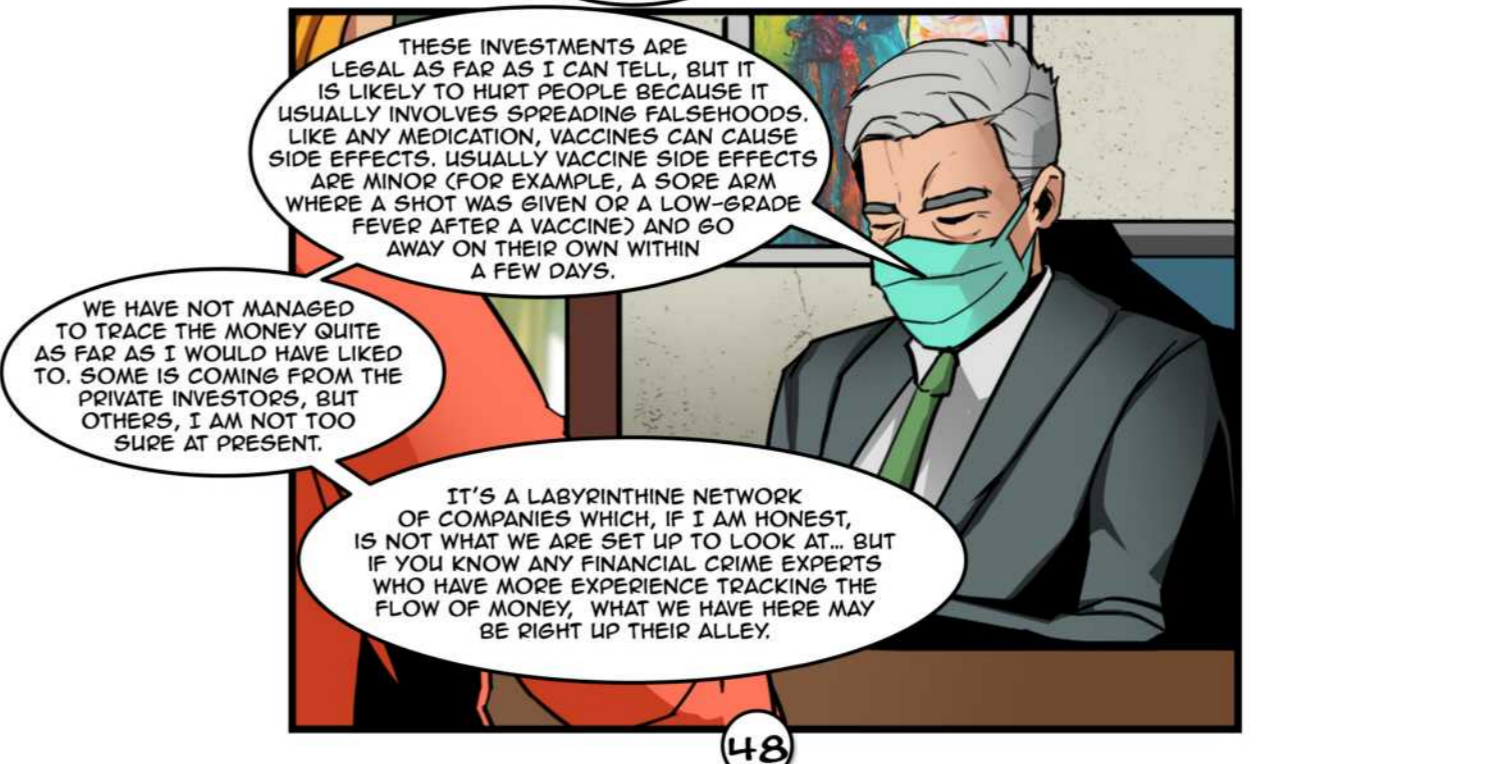
THAT'S RIGHT... I'M WORKING ON A DOCUMENTARY THAT SHEDS LIGHT ON HOW CERTAIN GROUPS ARE LINKING 5G TO THE WEAKENING OF PEOPLE'S IMMUNITIES AND RENDERING THE VACCINES USELESS.

WELL... I HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THE VACCINE, BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH 5G OR ANY SUCH NONSENSE!

MY DATA SCIENCE TEAM UNCOVERED HOW A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE ARE FUNDING AD CAMPAIGNS TO GROW THE ANTI-VAX MOVEMENT IN THE US.

CERTAIN COMMUNITIES HAVE PARTICULARLY STRONG RESPONSE CURVES TO THIS SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING! SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS NEED TO HELP PUT AN END TO WHAT IS SO CLEARLY A NATIONAL RISK!

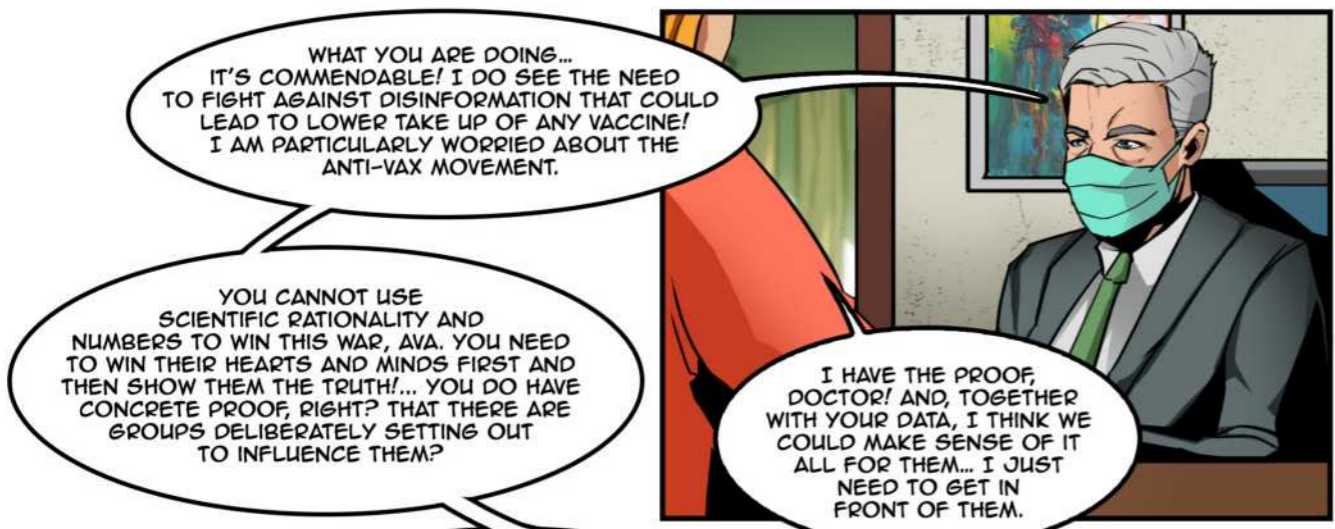
THAT'S INTERESTING. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW THE MONEY?



THESE INVESTMENTS ARE LEGAL AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, BUT IT IS LIKELY TO HURT PEOPLE BECAUSE IT USUALLY INVOLVES SPREADING FALSEHOODS. LIKE ANY MEDICATION, VACCINES CAN CAUSE SIDE EFFECTS. USUALLY VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS ARE MINOR (FOR EXAMPLE, A SORE ARM WHERE A SHOT WAS GIVEN OR A LOW-GRADE FEVER AFTER A VACCINE) AND GO AWAY ON THEIR OWN WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

WE HAVE NOT MANAGED TO TRACE THE MONEY QUITE AS FAR AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO. SOME IS COMING FROM THE PRIVATE INVESTORS, BUT OTHERS, I AM NOT TOO SURE AT PRESENT.

IT'S A LABYRINTHINE NETWORK OF COMPANIES WHICH, IF I AM HONEST, IS NOT WHAT WE ARE SET UP TO LOOK AT... BUT IF YOU KNOW ANY FINANCIAL CRIME EXPERTS WHO HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE TRACKING THE FLOW OF MONEY, WHAT WE HAVE HERE MAY BE RIGHT UP THEIR ALLEY.



WHAT YOU ARE DOING... IT'S COMMENDABLE! I DO SEE THE NEED TO FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION THAT COULD LEAD TO LOWER TAKE UP OF ANY VACCINE! I AM PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT THE ANTI-VAX MOVEMENT.

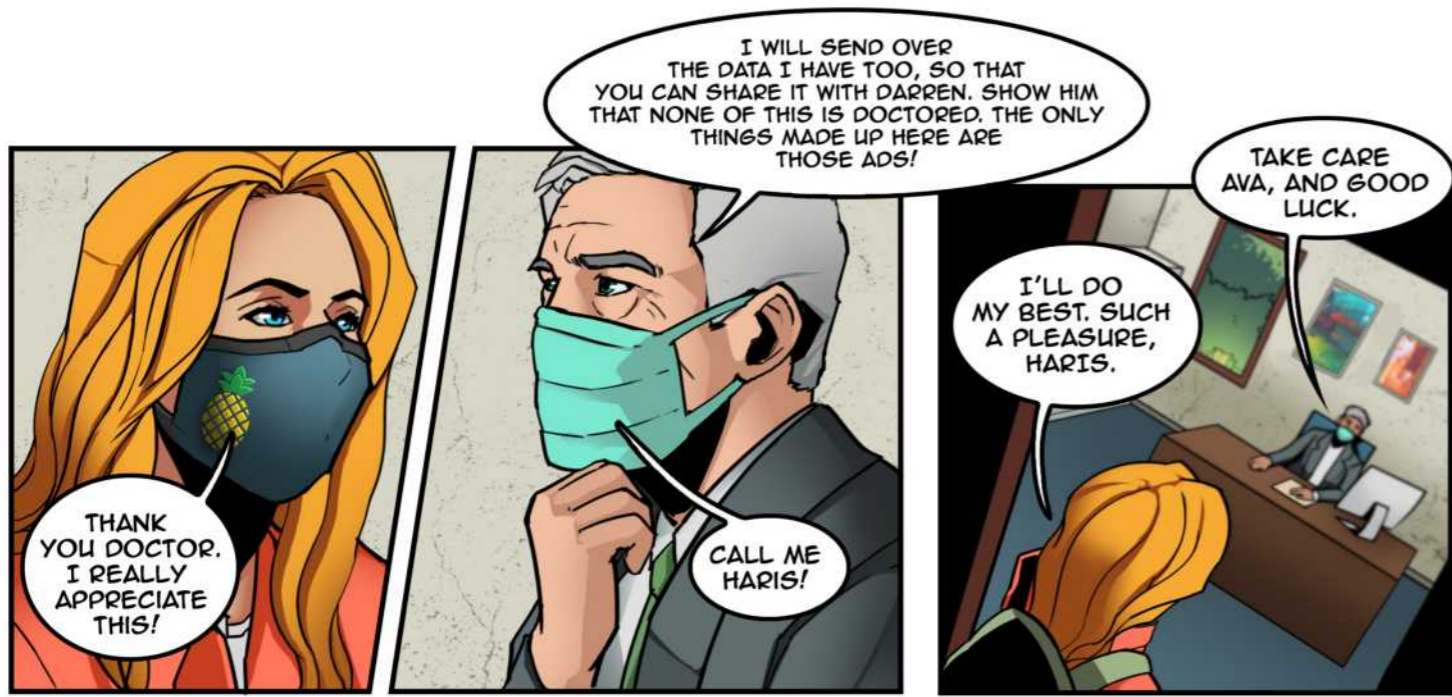
YOU CANNOT USE SCIENTIFIC RATIONALITY AND NUMBERS TO WIN THIS WAR, AVA. YOU NEED TO WIN THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS FIRST AND THEN SHOW THEM THE TRUTH!... YOU DO HAVE CONCRETE PROOF, RIGHT? THAT THERE ARE GROUPS DELIBERATELY SETTING OUT TO INFLUENCE THEM?

I HAVE THE PROOF, DOCTOR! AND, TOGETHER WITH YOUR DATA, I THINK WE COULD MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL FOR THEM... I JUST NEED TO GET IN FRONT OF THEM.

THE OTHER CHALLENGE IS THAT YOU HAVE TO PERSUADE THEM THROUGH THEIR OWN MEDIA. THEY DON'T TRUST MAINSTREAM NEWS, AS I AM SURE YOU WELL UNDERSTAND. YOU WILL NEED TO MEET WITH DARREN LANCASTER, WHO LEADS TRUSTINNATURE, THE MOST POPULAR ANTI-VAX SITE, AND BE "INVITED" TO SHARE A STORY... AND THE IRREFUTABLE PROOF.

MY RESEARCH IS ALL OUT THERE ALREADY, BUT I AM SEEN AS TOO PRO-VAX TO HAVE A VOICE THERE!

WELL, I DID HAVE THIS INCREDIBLY... SHALL WE SAY "ANIMATED" DEBATE WITH DARREN OVER A TEXT WAR. LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND HIS NUMBER... COULD GIVE YOU HIS -- AH! THERE IT IS... DARREN'S NUMBER...



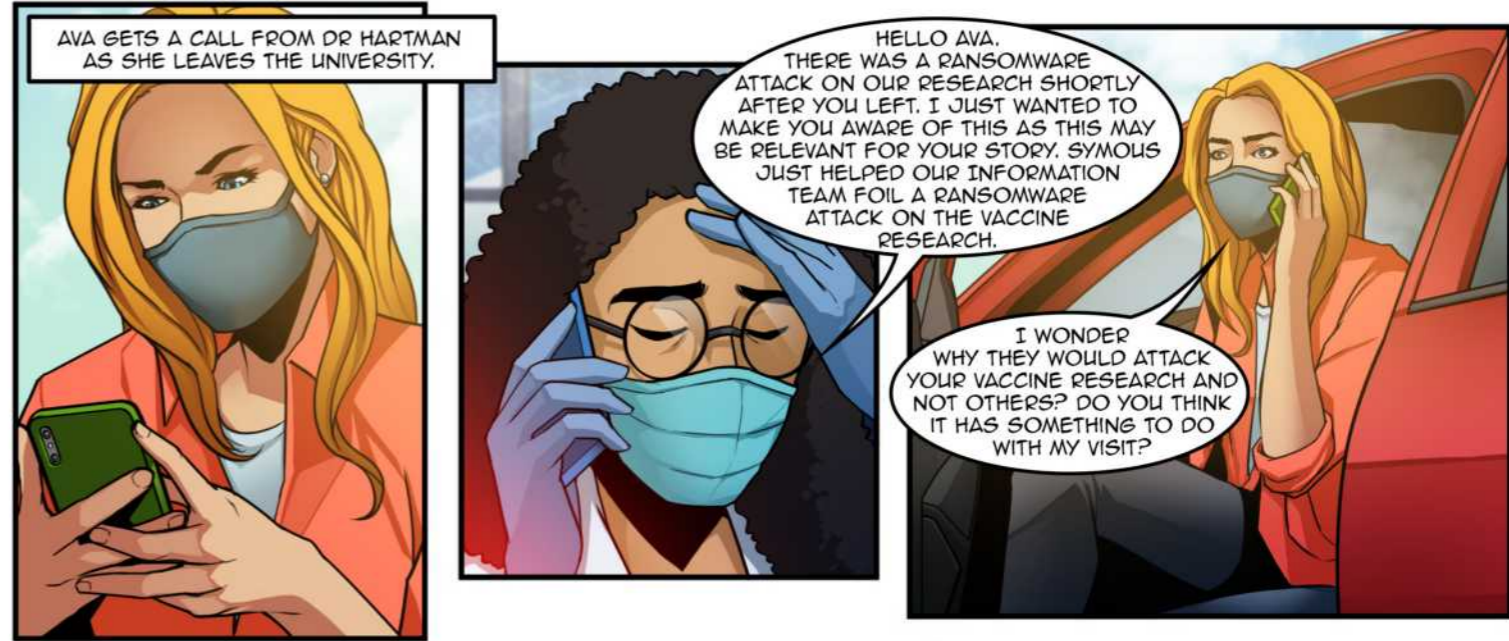
I WILL SEND OVER THE DATA I HAVE TOO, SO THAT YOU CAN SHARE IT WITH DARREN. SHOW HIM THAT NONE OF THIS IS DOCTORED. THE ONLY THINGS MADE UP HERE ARE THOSE ADS!

THANK YOU DOCTOR. I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS!

CALL ME HARIS!

TAKE CARE AVA, AND GOOD LUCK.

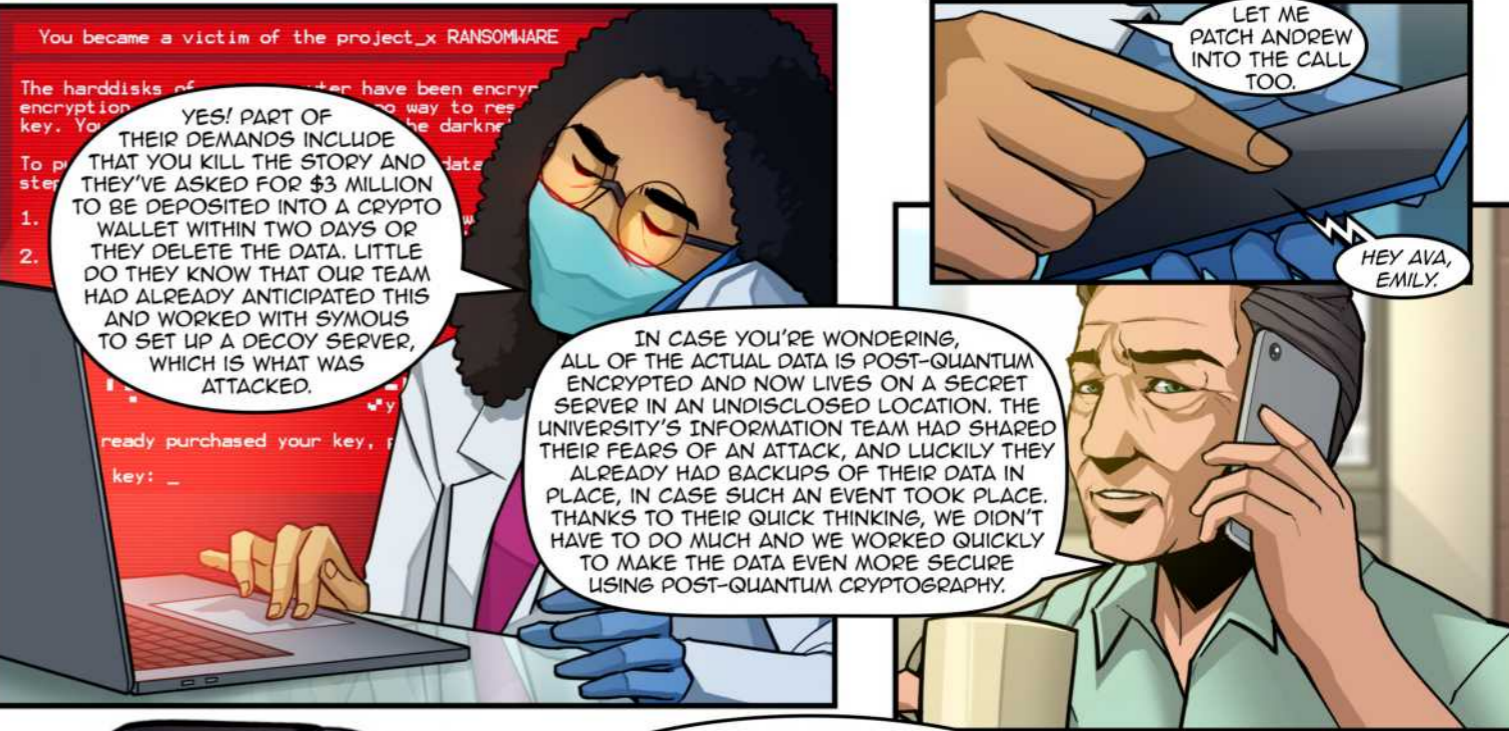
I'LL DO MY BEST. SUCH A PLEASURE, HARIS.



AVA GETS A CALL FROM DR HARTMAN AS SHE LEAVES THE UNIVERSITY.

HELLO AVA. THERE WAS A RANSOMWARE ATTACK ON OUR RESEARCH SHORTLY AFTER YOU LEFT. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF THIS AS THIS MAY BE RELEVANT FOR YOUR STORY. SYMOUS JUST HELPED OUR INFORMATION TEAM FOIL A RANSOMWARE ATTACK ON THE VACCINE RESEARCH.

I WONDER WHY THEY WOULD ATTACK YOUR VACCINE RESEARCH AND NOT OTHERS? DO YOU THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY VISIT?



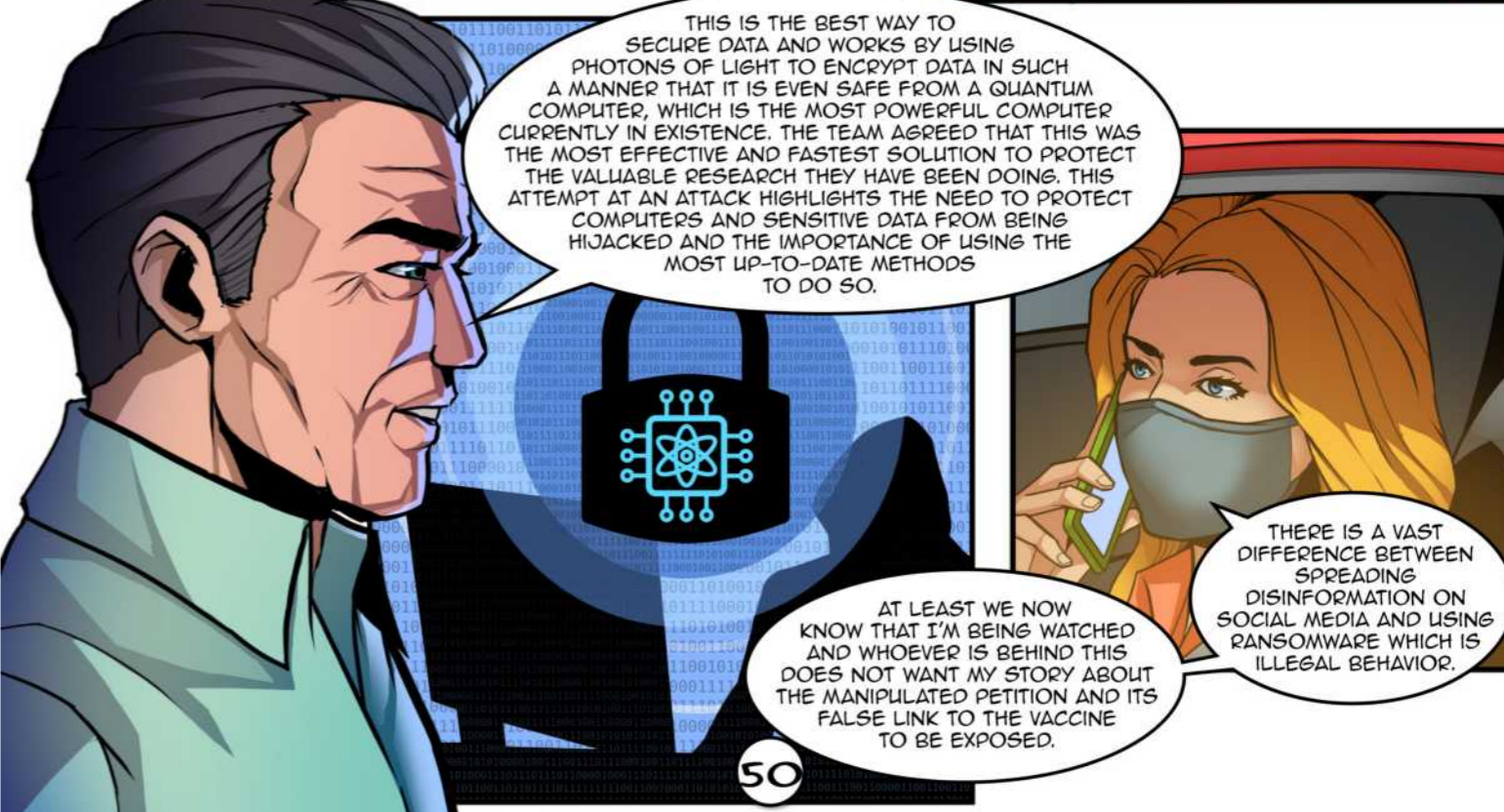
You became a victim of the project_x RANSOMWARE

YES! PART OF THEIR DEMANDS INCLUDE THAT YOU KILL THE STORY AND THEY'VE ASKED FOR \$3 MILLION TO BE DEPOSITED INTO A CRYPTO WALLET WITHIN TWO DAYS OR THEY DELETE THE DATA. LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THAT OUR TEAM HAD ALREADY ANTICIPATED THIS AND WORKED WITH SYMOUS TO SET UP A DECOY SERVER, WHICH IS WHAT WAS ATTACKED.

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, ALL OF THE ACTUAL DATA IS POST-QUANTUM ENCRYPTED AND NOW LIVES ON A SECRET SERVER IN AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION. THE UNIVERSITY'S INFORMATION TEAM HAD SHARED THEIR FEARS OF AN ATTACK, AND LUCKILY THEY ALREADY HAD BACKUPS OF THEIR DATA IN PLACE, IN CASE SUCH AN EVENT TOOK PLACE. THANKS TO THEIR QUICK THINKING, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO MUCH AND WE WORKED QUICKLY TO MAKE THE DATA EVEN MORE SECURE USING POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.

LET ME PATCH ANDREW INTO THE CALL TOO.

HEY AVA, EMILY.



THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO SECURE DATA AND WORKS BY USING PHOTONS OF LIGHT TO ENCRYPT DATA IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IT IS EVEN SAFE FROM A QUANTUM COMPUTER, WHICH IS THE MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE. THE TEAM AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND FASTEST SOLUTION TO PROTECT THE VALUABLE RESEARCH THEY HAVE BEEN DOING. THIS ATTEMPT AT AN ATTACK HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO PROTECT COMPUTERS AND SENSITIVE DATA FROM BEING HIJACKED AND THE IMPORTANCE OF USING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE METHODS TO DO SO.

AT LEAST WE NOW KNOW THAT I'M BEING WATCHED AND WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS DOES NOT WANT MY STORY ABOUT THE MANIPULATED PETITION AND ITS FALSE LINK TO THE VACCINE TO BE EXPOSED.

THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPREADING DISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND USING RANSOMWARE WHICH IS ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR.

AVA CONTINUES THE DRIVE BACK TO ANN ARBOR, AND GETS IN TOUCH WITH DARREN LANCASTER WHEN SHE RETURNS HOME.

Take the exit on to I-70 West
1 1/2 MILES

EXIT ONLY
Towards Pittsburgh



YES, THAT'S ME.

I'M AVA WILLIAMS, DR. HARRIS ADAMOS REFERRED ME TO YOU.

GOOD MORNING, IS THIS MR. DARREN LANCASTER?



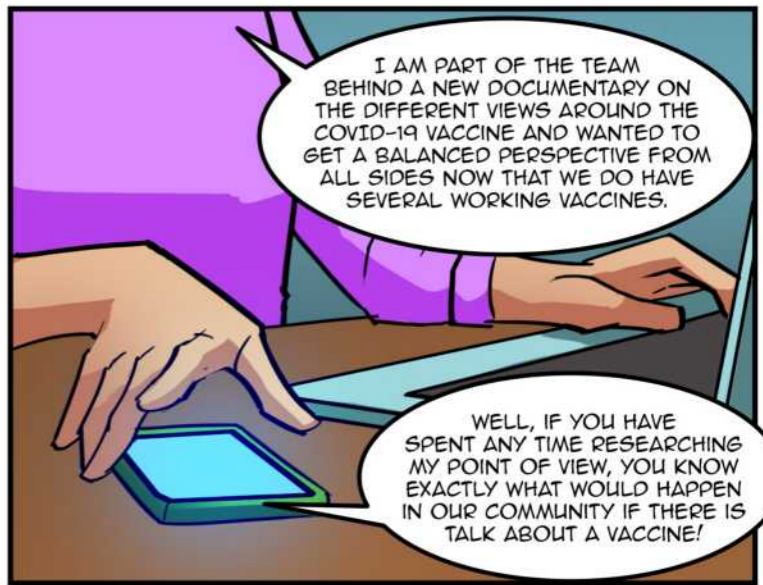
OH... HIM. I'M SURE HE HAD A LOT OF THINGS TO SAY!! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!



HE JUST SAID YOU BOTH AGREE TO DISAGREE ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS AND THAT YOU WERE AN EXPERT ON ANTI-VAX PERSPECTIVES. I WAS SIMPLY HOPING I COULD ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?



FAIR ENOUGH, WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS?



I AM PART OF THE TEAM BEHIND A NEW DOCUMENTARY ON THE DIFFERENT VIEWS AROUND THE COVID-19 VACCINE AND WANTED TO GET A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE FROM ALL SIDES NOW THAT WE DO HAVE SEVERAL WORKING VACCINES.

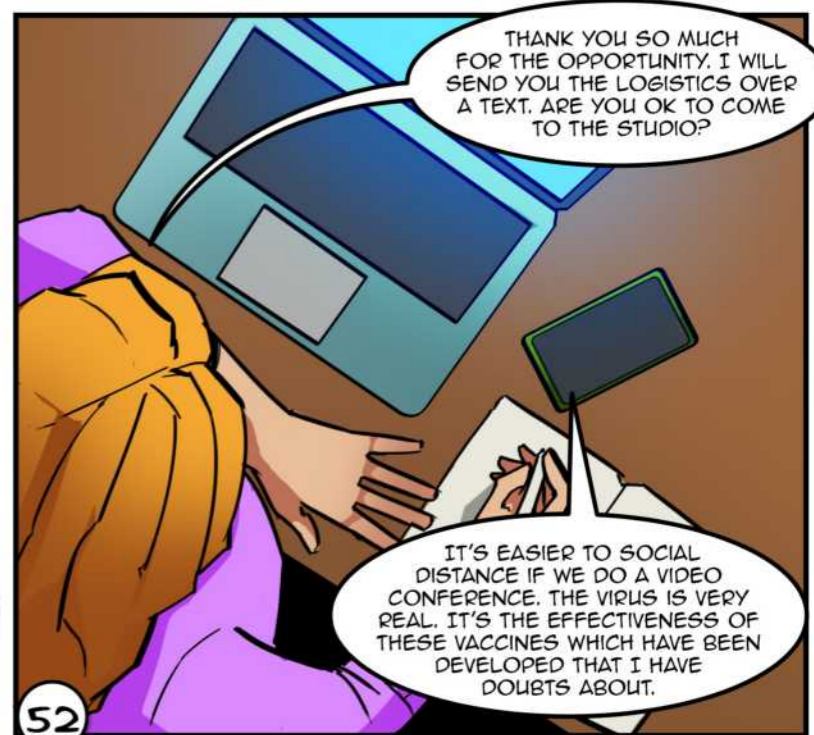
WELL, IF YOU HAVE SPENT ANY TIME RESEARCHING MY POINT OF VIEW, YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN OUR COMMUNITY IF THERE IS TALK ABOUT A VACCINE!



ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

I WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU. THINK OF THIS AS AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH A WIDE AUDIENCE!

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN. I'M GOOD WITH MONDAY. THIS IS A SURPRISE, BUT A WELCOME ONE. WE NEED DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY. I WILL SEND YOU THE LOGISTICS OVER A TEXT. ARE YOU OK TO COME TO THE STUDIO?

IT'S EASIER TO SOCIAL DISTANCE IF WE DO A VIDEO CONFERENCE. THE VIRUS IS VERY REAL. IT'S THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE VACCINES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED THAT I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT.

ONE WEEK LATER, IN THE MEDIA RECORDING LAB IN THE UNIVERSITY.

PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU WITH US, DARREN. LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN... CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT TRUSTINNATURE?

SURE. I HEAD UP THE NATION'S LARGEST DIGITAL ANTI-VAX COMMUNITY. WE HAVE OVER 15 MILLION MEMBERS AROUND THE NATION!

THAT'S QUITE A FOOTPRINT. WHAT IS THE CORE REASON YOU'RE AGAINST VACCINATION?

PERSONALLY, DO YOU THINK THE VERY IDEA OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR PROMOTING VACCINES IS WRONG?

YES, I DO THINK IT'S WRONG. THE INFLUENZA VACCINE HAS NOT QUITE WORKED.

LIKE I SAID EARLIER AND AS WE CAN NOW SEE, VACCINES AREN'T PERFECT. THEY'RE NOT EVEN FREE!

MUCH OF WHAT WE SEE BEING PEDDLED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS PSEUDOSCIENCE WITH INCONCLUSIVE DATA SUPPORTING THEIR HYPOTHESIS. WE HAVE OUR OWN SCIENCE TEAMS THAT HAVE SHOWN THAT THE DATA ITSELF IS QUESTIONABLE AROUND HOW WELL THESE NEW VACCINES WORK! OUR BACKERS BELIEVE IN OUR MISSION TOO. WE ARE HERE TO PROTECT AMERICA.

DO YOU EVER THINK WHATEVER YOU BELIEVE COULD AT LEAST BE REMOTELY CONNECTED TO DISINFORMATION OR SOME SOCIAL MEDIA WILDFIRE?

LIVE

Ava Williams

2003

EVEN IF IT IS TRUE, I STILL BELIEVE IT'S THE SELFISHNESS OF THE SYSTEM. AND FOR WHAT? THE NEWS AND EVIDENCE IS THERE.

WHAT IF IT'S NOT GENUINE?

MANY DISEASES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED FROM THIS COUNTRY, SO WHY PERPETUATE THE VICIOUS CYCLE? FLU SHOTS HAVE EVEN BEEN CORRELATED TO INFLUENZA IN THE PAST.

THERE ARE MANY INTERVENTIONS THAT DON'T INVOLVE A VACCINE... HERD IMMUNITY IS A THING, RIGHT?

DON'T PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY? NO ONE BATS AN EYE. WAR, POVERTY, CORRUPTION. WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ABLE TO ERADICATE INFLUENZA FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.

BUT WHAT ABOUT COVID-19? IT'S A DISEASE NO ONE HAS REALLY HEARD OF TILL NOW.

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'LL BE TOO MANY DEATHS BEFORE WE REACH THAT?

SO ARE WE GOING TO KEEP GIVING MAINSTREAM MEDIA TOTAL POWER?

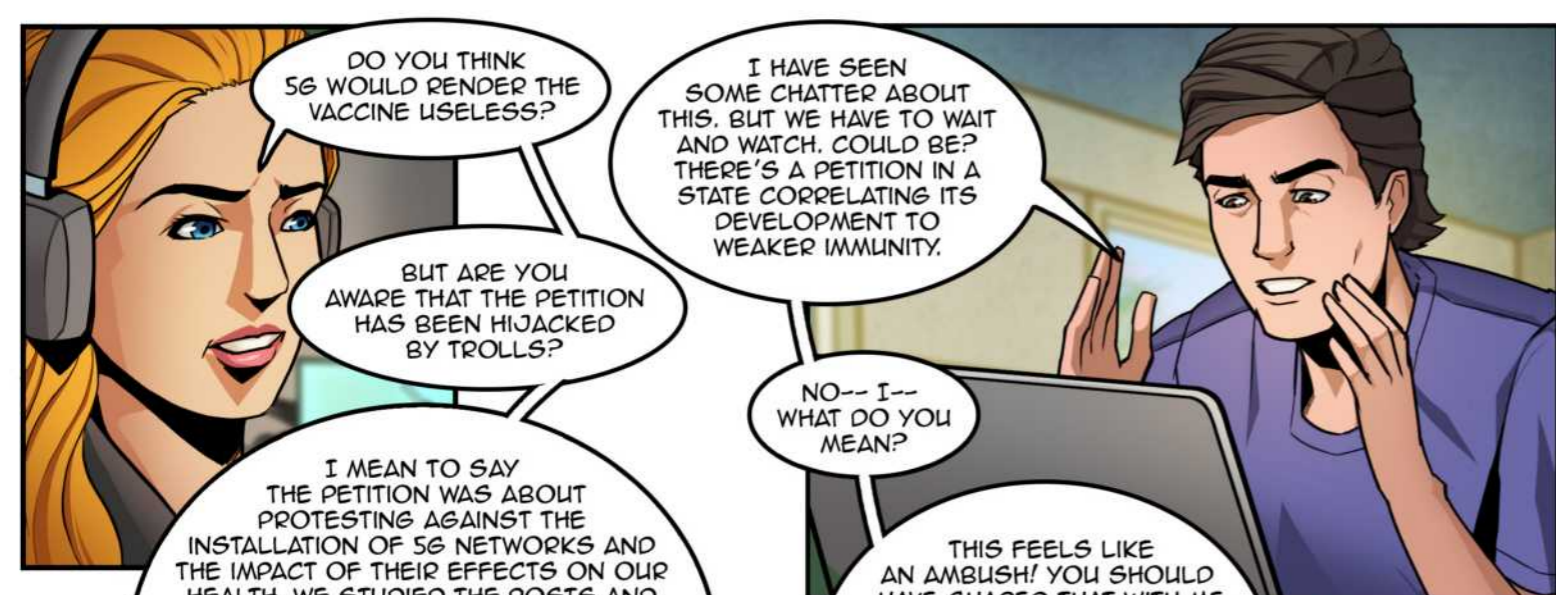
WE HAVE SOME HARD SACRIFICES TO MAKE. ALL THE VACCINES AMERICAN KIDS HAVE BEEN HIT WITH, DON'T YOU BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN CLOGGING UP THEIR IMMUNE SYSTEMS?

WHAT ABOUT THE FACTS AND STATISTICS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE UNITED NATIONS PUBLISH?

JUST BECAUSE IT'S A NUMBER DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE. DON'T YOU THINK METRICS ARE USED TO PUSH AN AGENDA, UNDER A COVER OF BEING OBJECTIVE? WE NEED TO LISTEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND WITH SEVERAL MILLION VOTERS AS MEMBERS, WE THINK THAT TRUSTINNATURE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE SPACE. WHY NOT THE SAME HERE? PARENTS HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DECIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN, NOT THE GOVERNMENT. WHAT PARENT WOULD WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE PLAGUED BY AUTISM OR ARTHRITIS? APPARENTLY, IT SEEMS THAT WAY, GIVEN THE BILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF MARKETING THESE MEDICAL COMPANIES INVEST IN.

SPEAKING OF MARKETING DOLLARS, IT APPEARS AS IF YOUR GROUP IS ONE OF THE TWO SPENDING TENS OF MILLIONS ON DIGITAL ADVERTISING ON FRIENDPLACE AND OTHER PLATFORMS? CAN YOU ELABORATE ON YOUR DONOR BASE?

NO COMMENT ON OUR DONORS. SOME ARE PUBLIC AND OTHERS PREFER TO BE KEPT OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT. SO, IN DEFERENCE TO THEIR PRIVACY, LET'S PLEASE MOVE TO THE NEXT QUESTION. BUT "YES," TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, WE ARE SPENDING ON DIGITAL ADVERTISING AS IT SEEMS TO BE THE BEST WAY TO GROW OUR BASE.



DO YOU THINK 5G WOULD RENDER THE VACCINE USELESS?

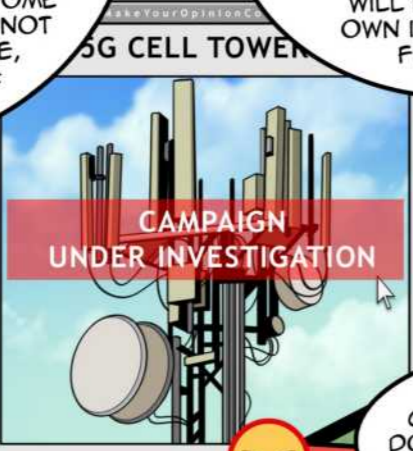
BUT ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE PETITION HAS BEEN HIJACKED BY TROLLS?

I HAVE SEEN SOME CHATTER ABOUT THIS. BUT WE HAVE TO WAIT AND WATCH. COULD BE? THERE'S A PETITION IN A STATE CORRELATING ITS DEVELOPMENT TO WEAKER IMMUNITY.

NO-- I-- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN TO SAY THE PETITION WAS ABOUT PROTESTING AGAINST THE INSTALLATION OF 5G NETWORKS AND THE IMPACT OF THEIR EFFECTS ON OUR HEALTH. WE STUDIED THE POSTS AND CAN CONCLUSIVELY PROVE THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF COMMENTS AND POSTS ON THE PETITION WERE "SUSPICIOUS." WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE NOT MADE BY PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES. IN FACT, SOME OF THESE POSTS HERE WERE NOT EVEN MADE BY REAL PEOPLE, INSTEAD THEY WERE MADE BY BOTS!

THIS FEELS LIKE AN AMBUSH! YOU SHOULD HAVE SHARED THAT WITH ME BEFORE THIS... NEVERTHELESS, PLEASE SHARE YOUR ANALYSIS WITH OUR TEAM OF DATA SCIENTISTS AND FORENSIC TECHNOLOGISTS AND WE WILL PUBLISH OUR OWN INDEPENDENT FINDINGS.



MY APOLOGIES, MY INTENTION WASN'T TRYING TO SPRING ANYTHING ON YOU, BUT I WANTED TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF THESE DATA POINTS. I KNOW THAT DR. HARI ADAMOS HAS ALSO SHOWCASED ANALYSIS THAT HAS HIGHLIGHTED HOW MUCH OF THE ADVERTISING ONLINE AROUND THE ANTI-VAX MOVEMENT IS JUST TWO PARTIES: ONE OF WHICH IS YOURSELVES, AND ONE OTHER IS A QUESTIONABLE ORGANIZATION THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY COMMENTS FROM AHEAD OF THIS!

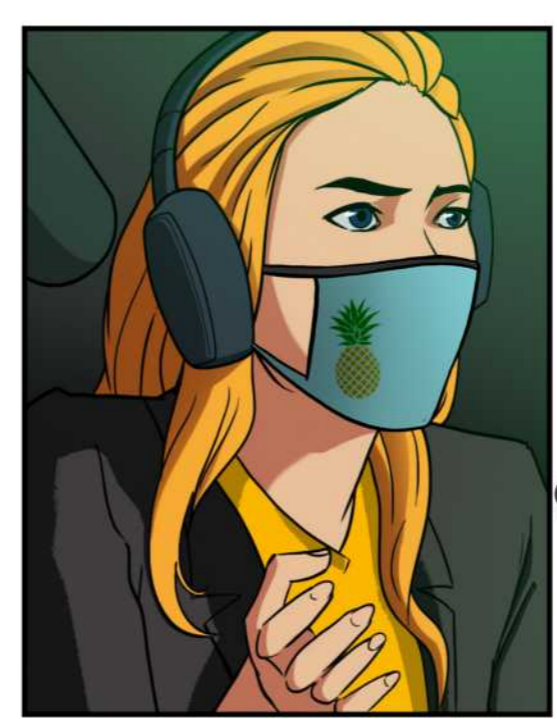
WE CAN'T CONTROL WHAT OTHERS DO ON THE INTERNET! IT IS THEIR PREROGATIVE TO ADVERTISE!



DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT LACK OF INTERVENTIONS AGAINST COVID-19 COULD LEAD TO HARM?

I BELIEVE THAT A VACCINE IS NOT THE ONLY INTERVENTION. OUR COMMUNITIES ARE FULLY COMPLIANT WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TAKE ALL PROTECTIVE STEPS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR LOVED ONES! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR PERSPECTIVE. BUT I NOW BELIEVE THAT WE ARE NOT SHARING ANY NEW INFORMATION WITH VIEWERS AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO WRAP UP. THANK YOU AGAIN, MS. WILLIAMS.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. WHEN WE RETURN WE WILL MEET WITH A FAMILY THAT HAVE COME AROUND TO THE IDEA OF A VACCINE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THEIR VALUE SYSTEM.



AVA HAS REMOVED HER MASK, AS SHE EXITS THE BUILDING.



SANCHEZ FAMILY, WE ARE READY FOR YOU!



PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT SEGMENT BEGIN.



Hey Ava, this is the chairman. That went about as well as could be expected :) Message me here when you are done. I have some news for you!

Feels creepy that you are always watching.

Just remember... we are not the only ones watching.



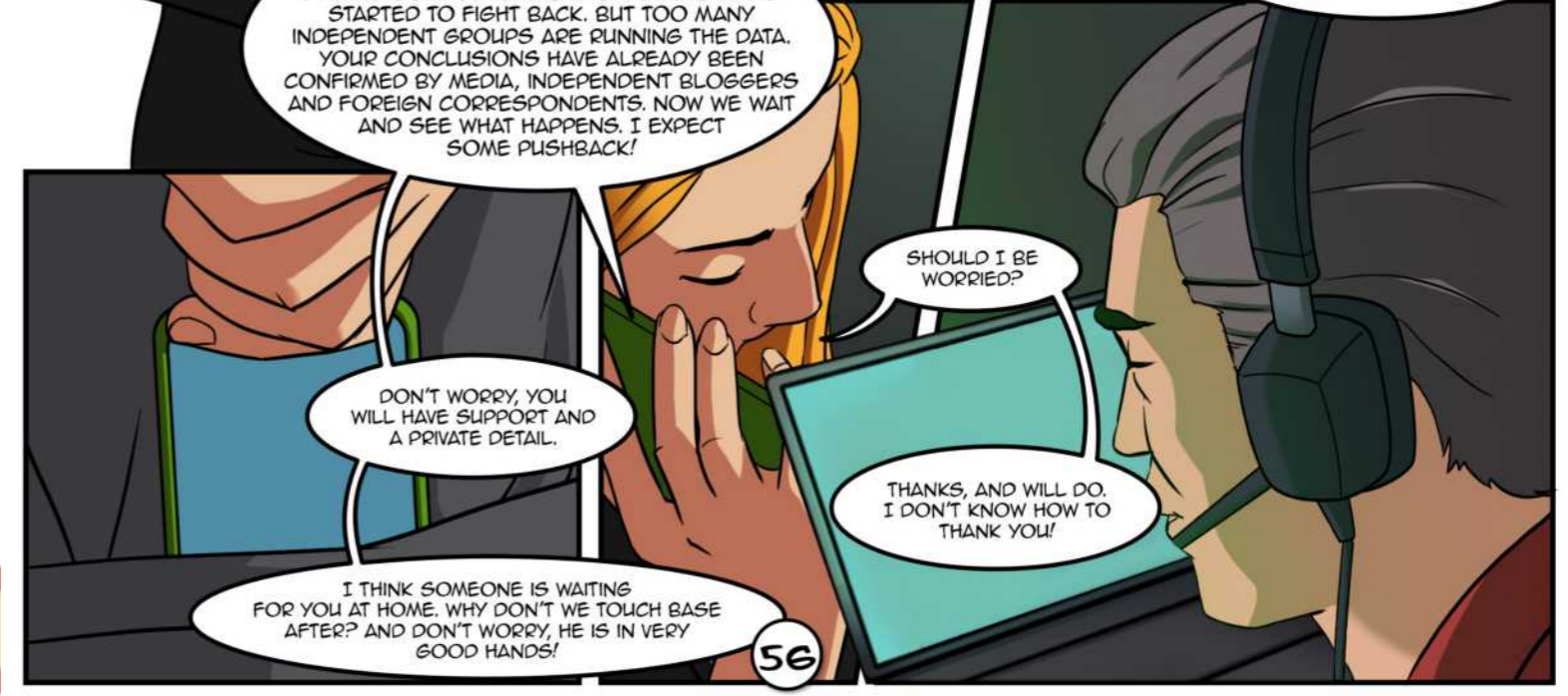
HELLO, CHAIRMAN.

LOOKS LIKE WE ARE MAKING SOME HEADWAY.

YES. I THINK IT'S GOING WELL. WE NEED TO SEED THAT INTERVIEW AS WIDELY ACROSS THE INTERNET AS POSSIBLE. AND I KNOW THAT TRUSTINATURE WILL COVER IT AS LANCASTER IS ON IT. I MADE SOME TIME TO SPEAK TO THE CHIEF AT MARYLAND.

WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE NEEDED TO DO AND OUR INFLUENCERS HAVE BEEN PAID TO SEED YOUR SEGMENT ACROSS EVERY MAJOR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNEL. YOUR INTERVIEW IS ALREADY BLOWING UP ALL OVER THE WEB. AND THE PETITION IS GETTING HEAT!

NO WONDER MY PHONE IS PINGING LIKE CRAZY. I HAD TO TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS!!



THAT IS THE POWER OF THE NEW NORMAL WHEN IT COMES TO NEWS. IT CUTS BOTH WAYS. THE TROLLS HAVE ALSO STARTED TO FIGHT BACK. BUT TOO MANY INDEPENDENT GROUPS ARE RUNNING THE DATA. YOUR CONCLUSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONFIRMED BY MEDIA, INDEPENDENT BLOGGERS AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. NOW WE WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. I EXPECT SOME PUSHBACK!

DON'T WORRY, YOU WILL HAVE SUPPORT AND A PRIVATE DETAIL.

SHOULD I BE WORRIED?

THANKS, AND WILL DO. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!

I THINK SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT HOME. WHY DON'T WE TOUCH BASE AFTER? AND DON'T WORRY, HE IS IN VERY GOOD HANDS!

AVA PULLS UP OUTSIDE A RESIDENTIAL AREA.



I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THIS HAS HAPPENED IN JUST ONE WEEK.

SORRY, SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING. JUST SOME PEOPLE WORKING WITH ME ON THE STORY. I'VE BEEN ALRIGHT. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS THE LOOKING AFTER, MR. SUPERHERO. TRY NOT TO GO AFTER THE BAD GUYS YOURSELF NEXT TIME!



SAYS MS. LANE WITH ALL HER REPORTING! HAH!



AVA? HONEY, IS THAT YOU?

AVA? I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU. SOMEONE CALLED AND TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY. WHO WAS THAT? NEVER HEARD YOU MENTION THEM BEFORE? THEN I SAW YOU ON THE NEWS! I AM SO PROUD, KIDDO!



HONEY, YOU LOOK TIRED. HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP?

NOT GOING TO PRETEND OTHERWISE. IT'S BEEN A BIT MUCH EVER SINCE... THE INCIDENT. I DO FEEL I MAY BE COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING!



RING! RING!

WHO IS IT, HONEY?

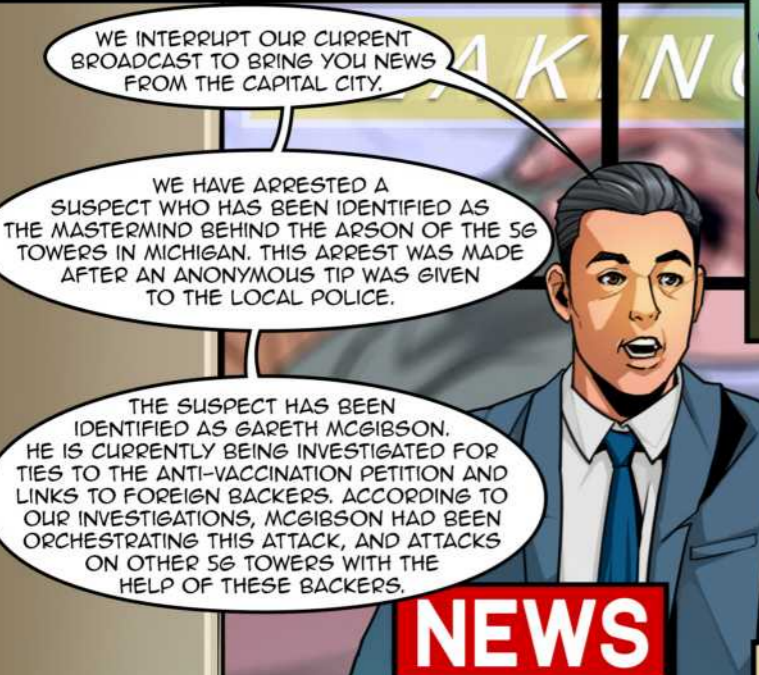
JUST WORK, DAD. IT'S PERPETUAL.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON, HONEY. CAN'T YOU TAKE SOME TIME AND REST??

I WILL. JUST NEED TO SEE THIS THING THROUGH. I THINK I'M ONTO SOMETHING. I PROMISE I'LL GET MY 8 HOURS OF SLEEP AFTER THIS IS OVER.

ME TOO, DAD. IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.

THAT'S MY GIRL. I'M SO THANKFUL THE INJURIES AREN'T SEVERE. YOU AND ME, ALL WE HAVE IS EACH OTHER.



WE INTERRUPT OUR CURRENT BROADCAST TO BRING YOU NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL CITY.

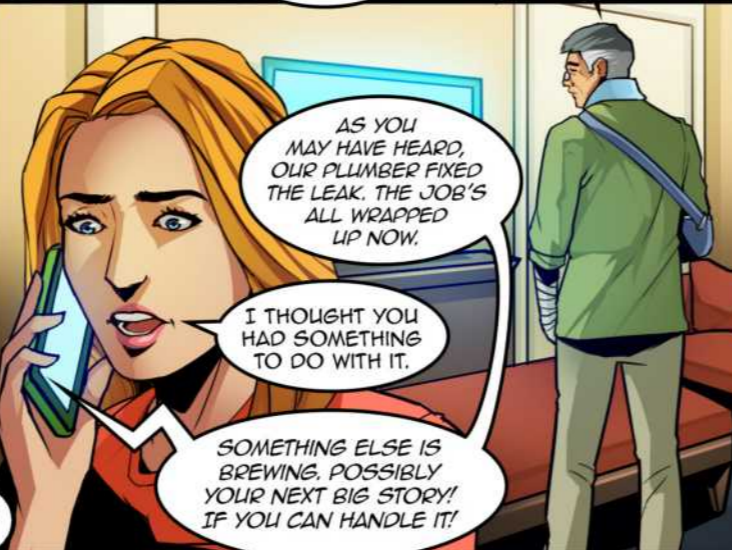
WE HAVE ARRESTED A SUSPECT WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE ARSON OF THE 56 TOWERS IN MICHIGAN. THIS ARREST WAS MADE AFTER AN ANONYMOUS TIP WAS GIVEN TO THE LOCAL POLICE.

THE SUSPECT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS GARETH MCGIBSON. HE IS CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED FOR TIES TO THE ANTI-VACCINATION PETITION AND LINKS TO FOREIGN BACKERS. ACCORDING TO OUR INVESTIGATIONS, MCGIBSON HAD BEEN ORCHESTRATING THIS ATTACK, AND ATTACKS ON OTHER 56 TOWERS WITH THE HELP OF THESE BACKERS.

NEWS



POLICE CAM 01



AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, OUR PLUMBER FIXED THE LEAK. THE JOB'S ALL WRAPPED UP NOW.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.

SOMETHING ELSE IS BREWING. POSSIBLY YOUR NEXT BIG STORY! IF YOU CAN HANDLE IT!

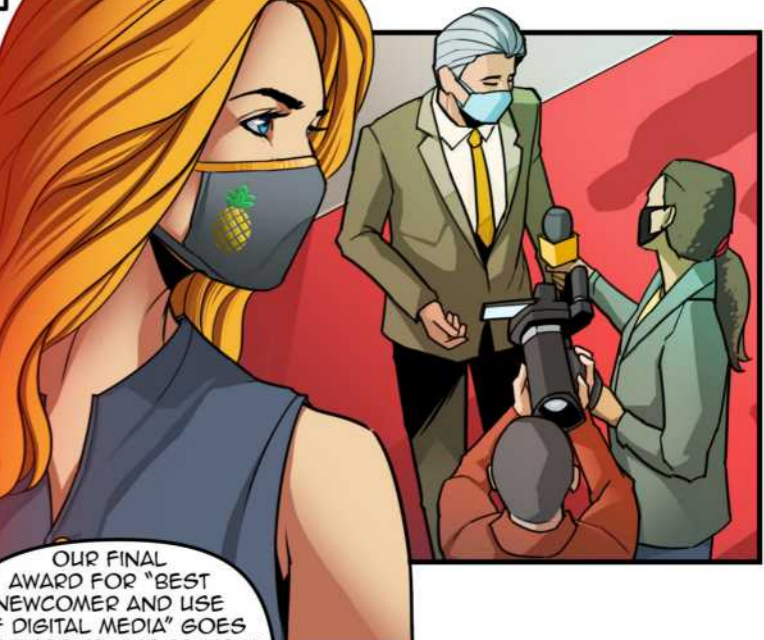
A FEW MONTHS LATER -AVA ARRIVES AT THE NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARD CEREMONY.



NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS



THE PAPARAZZI IS PRESENT AND AVA SEES SOME FAMILIAR FACES.



OUR FINAL AWARD FOR "BEST NEWCOMER AND USE OF DIGITAL MEDIA" GOES TO SOMEONE WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN EDUCATING PEOPLE DURING A TIME WHERE DISINFORMATION IS RAMPANT AND PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO BELIEVE NEWS WITHOUT VERIFYING ITS ACCURACY.



THE CEREMONY IS THIS WAY, MISS WILLIAMS.

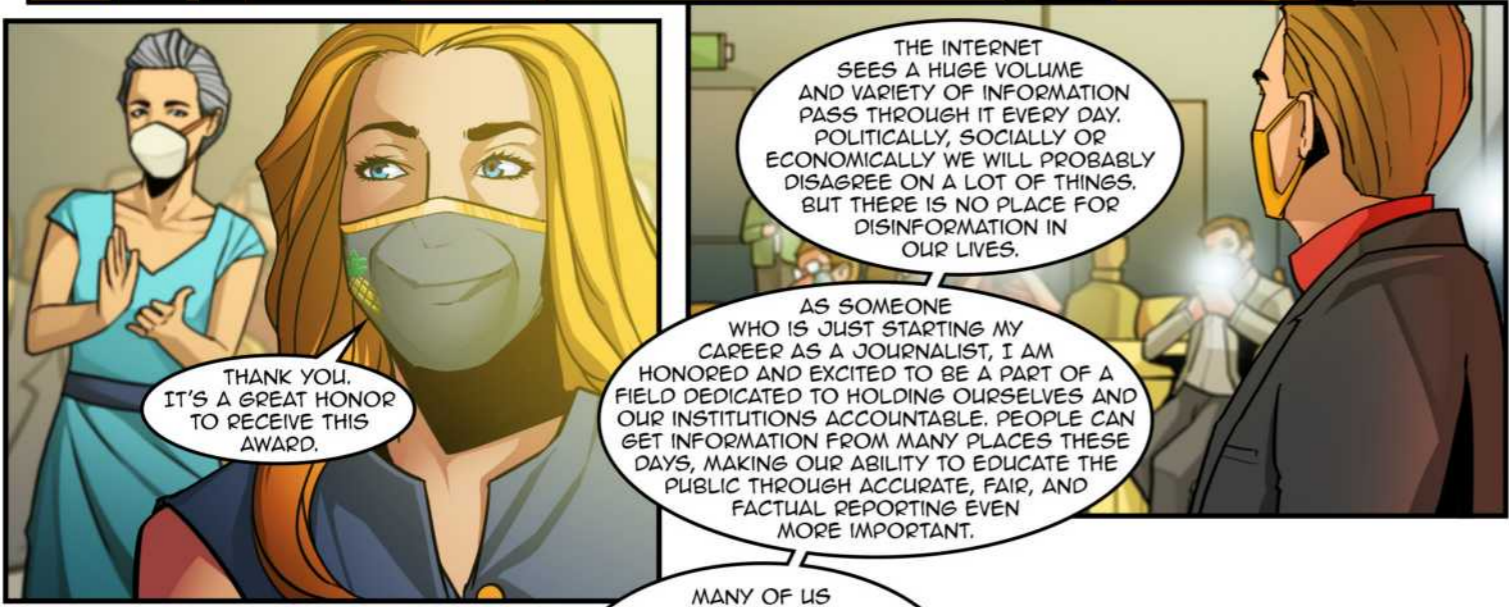


THE AWARD GOES TO MISS AVA WILLIAMS!



SHE HAS DONE GREAT WORK AROUND HIGHLIGHTING THE BENEFITS OF A VACCINE WHICH WILL COUNTER THE VIRUS AND ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO EXPLORE DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS. MOST NOTABLY, HER WORK RESULTED IN A TIP-OFF THAT THWARTED AN ATTACK ON AN IMPORTANT VACCINE STOCKPILE.

WE OWE MISS WILLIAMS A LOT OF GRATITUDE FOR HER EFFORTS AND SHE IS A VERY WORTHY RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD.



THANK YOU. IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD.

THE INTERNET SEES A HUGE VOLUME AND VARIETY OF INFORMATION PASS THROUGH IT EVERY DAY. POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY OR ECONOMICALLY WE WILL PROBABLY DISAGREE ON A LOT OF THINGS. BUT THERE IS NO PLACE FOR DISINFORMATION IN OUR LIVES.

AS SOMEONE WHO IS JUST STARTING MY CAREER AS A JOURNALIST, I AM HONORED AND EXCITED TO BE A PART OF A FIELD DEDICATED TO HOLDING OURSELVES AND OUR INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE. PEOPLE CAN GET INFORMATION FROM MANY PLACES THESE DAYS, MAKING OUR ABILITY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC THROUGH ACCURATE, FAIR, AND FACTUAL REPORTING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.

MANY OF US ARE WORKING TO FIGHT DISINFORMATION. I THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING MY EFFORTS AND AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE PLAYED A SMALL PART IN A MUCH BIGGER STORY.



THANK YOU!

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PAGE 46:

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PAGE 50:

**S. GHOSE, "ARE YOU READY FOR THE QUANTUM
COMPUTING REVOLUTION?" 2020**

**[HTTPS://HBR.ORG/2020/09/ARE-YOU-READY-FOR-T
HE-QUANTUM-COMPUTING-REVOLUTION](https://hbr.org/2020/09/are-you-ready-for-the-quantum-computing-revolution)**

NOTES FROM CISA

DISINFORMATION IS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES, OUR DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE, AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE ON WHICH IT RELIES. THE RESILIENCE SERIES (OF WHICH THIS IS THE SECOND TITLE) USES THE GRAPHIC NOVEL FORMAT TO COMMUNICATE THE DANGERS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DIS- AND MISINFORMATION THROUGH FICTIONAL STORIES THAT ARE INSPIRED BY REAL-WORLD EVENTS.

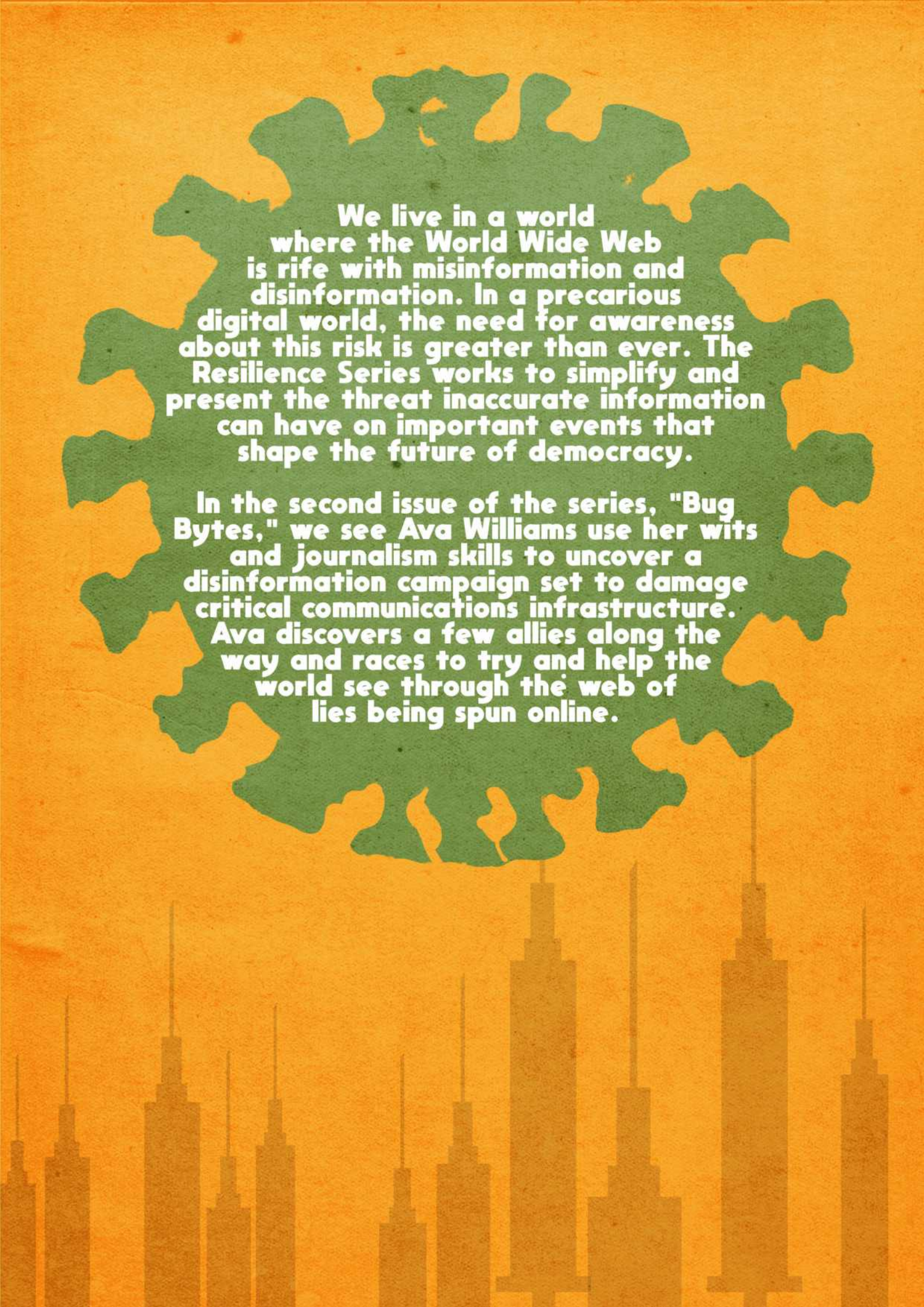
THE RESILIENCE SERIES GRAPHIC NOVELS WERE COMMISSIONED BY THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY (CISA) TO SHARE INFORMATION TO ILLUSTRATE:

1) FOREIGN ACTORS ARE TRYING TO INFLUENCE U.S. SECURITY, ECONOMY, AND POLITICS THROUGH THE MALICIOUS USE OF ONLINE MEDIA TO CREATE AND AMPLIFY DISINFORMATION.

2) WHILE THE STRATEGY OF USING INACCURATE INFORMATION TO WEAKEN AND DIVIDE A SOCIETY IS NOT NEW, THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA ALLOW DISINFORMATION TO SPREAD MORE QUICKLY THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST.

3) DEEPFAKES, BOTS, AND TROLL FARMS ARE JUST SOME OF THE EMERGING TECHNIQUES FOR CREATING AND SPREADING DISINFORMATION.

CISA ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO CONSUME INFORMATION WITH CARE, PRACTICING MEDIA LITERACY INCLUDING VERIFYING SOURCES, SEEKING ALTERNATIVE VIEWPOINTS, AND FINDING TRUSTED SOURCES OF INFORMATION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY IN LIMITING THE EFFECT OF DISINFORMATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FURTHER READING ABOUT DISINFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY WEBSITE, WWW.CISA.GOV.



We live in a world where the World Wide Web is rife with misinformation and disinformation. In a precarious digital world, the need for awareness about this risk is greater than ever. The Resilience Series works to simplify and present the threat inaccurate information can have on important events that shape the future of democracy.

In the second issue of the series, "Bug Bytes," we see Ava Williams use her wits and journalism skills to uncover a disinformation campaign set to damage critical communications infrastructure. Ava discovers a few allies along the way and races to try and help the world see through the web of lies being spun online.