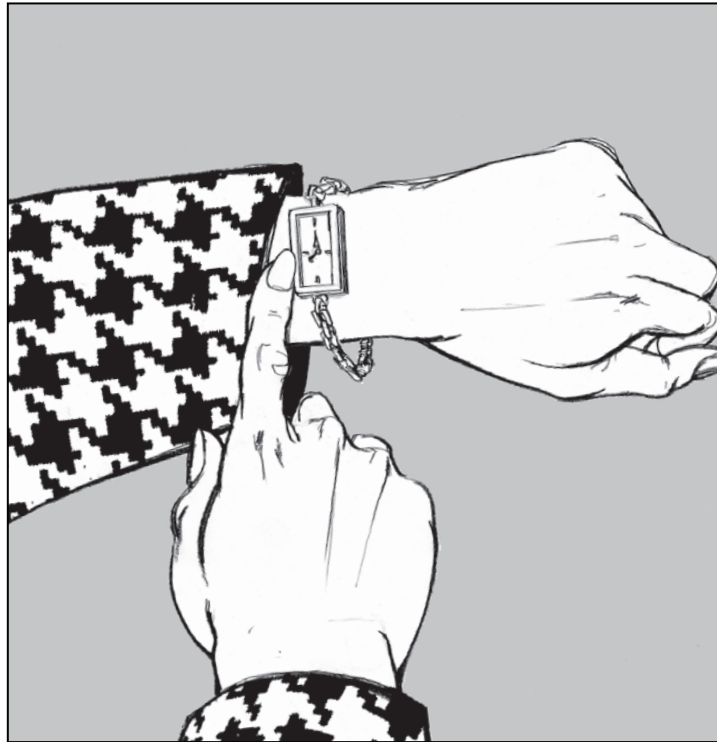


SOYUZBLUE



VOLUME
TWO

STEVEN JOHN FUCHS

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ALL CHARACTERS APPEARING IN THIS WORK ARE FICTITIOUS.
ANY RESEMBLANCE TO REAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

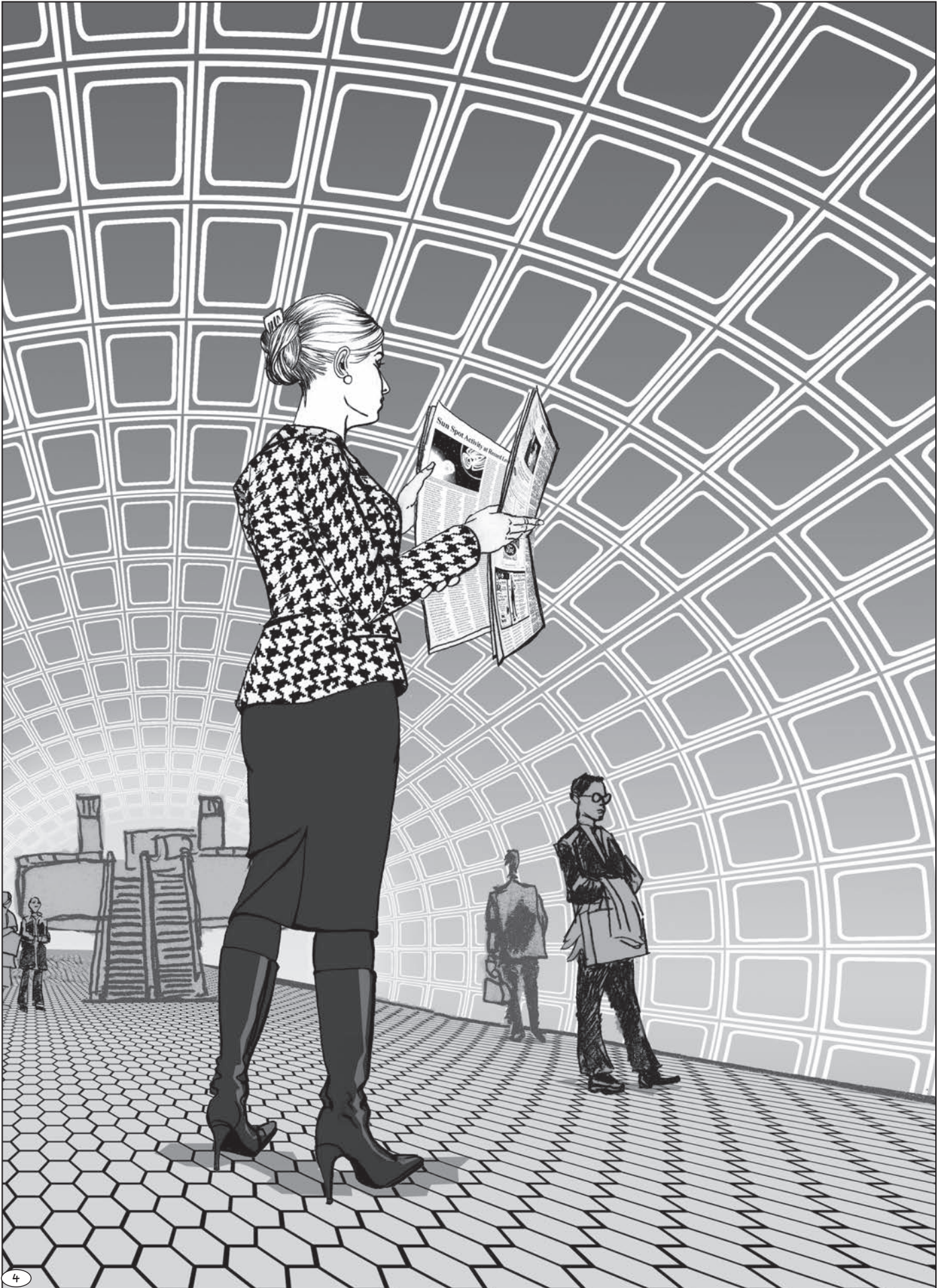


08:00 Local Time

Wednesday, October 8

Ballston Metro Station

Outside Washington, DC



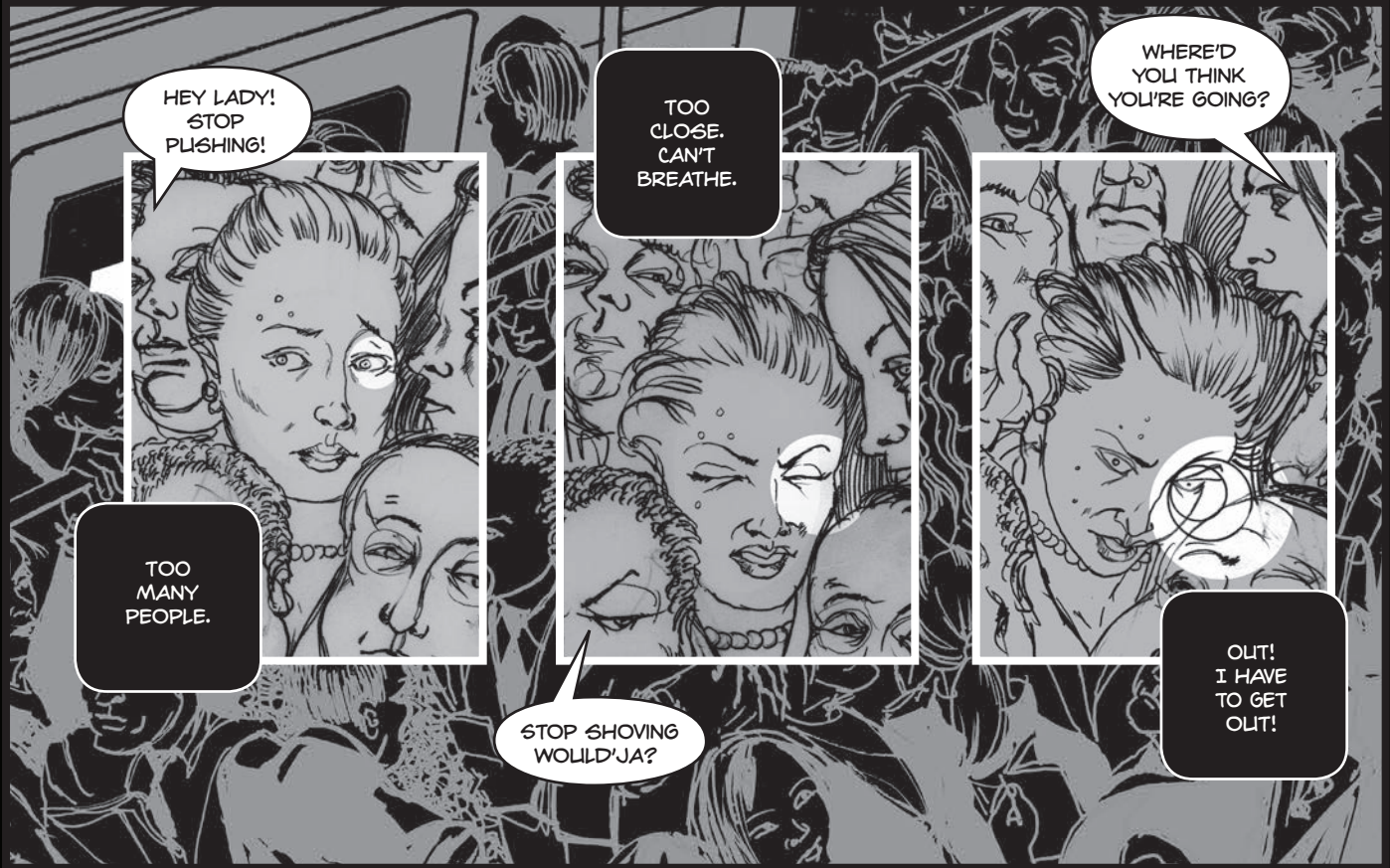


UH... PASSENGERS: WE
UH... SEEM TO
BE EXPERIENCING A
POWER OUTAGE.
METRO CONTROL IS... UH...
WORKING TO CORRECT
THE PROBLEM AND WE HOPE
TO BE MOVING UH...
SHORTLY.

RRFTZZZZ

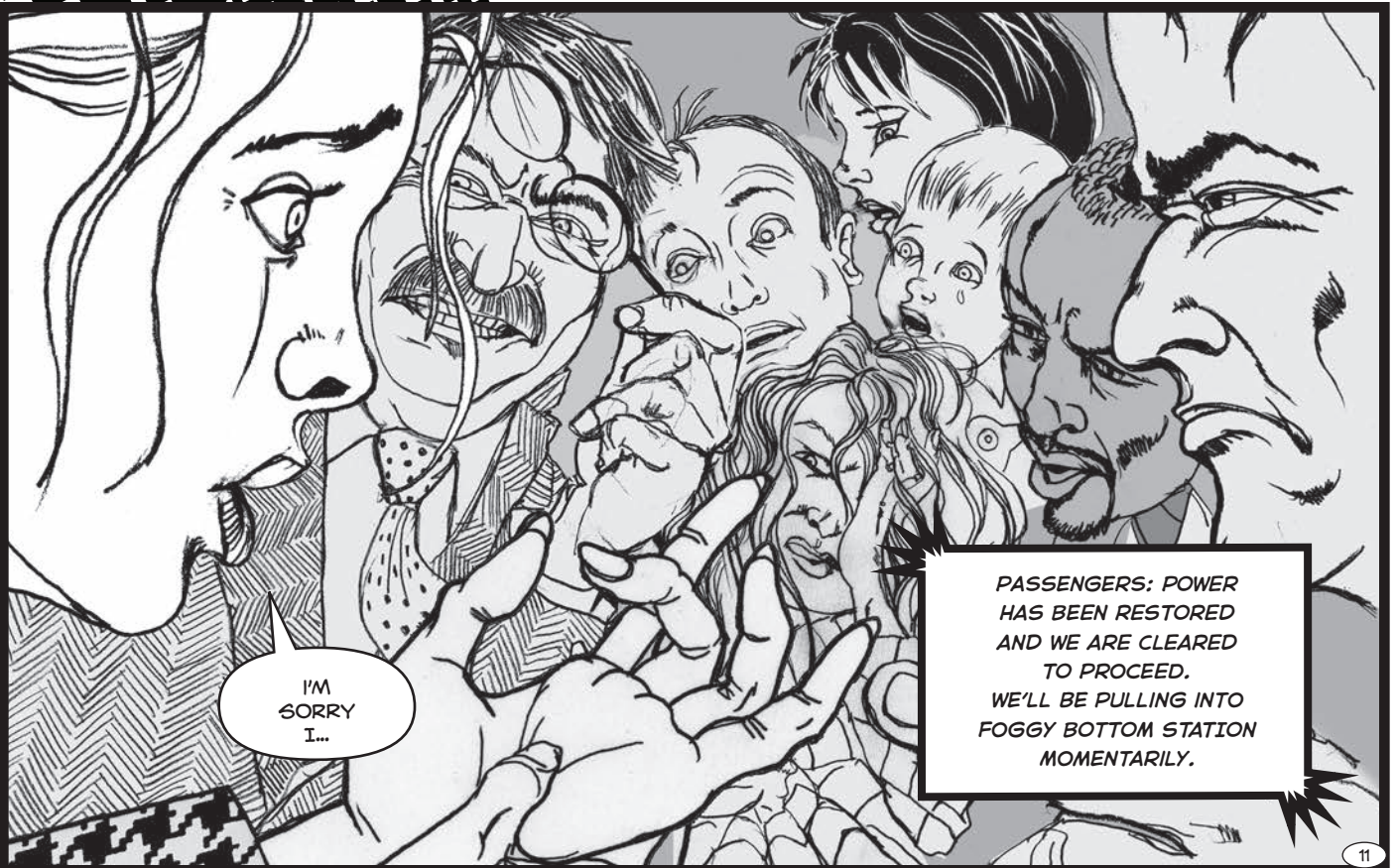


UH... PASSENGERS:
CENTRAL CONTROL IS
WORKING ON THE
POWER PROBLEM... UH...
WE APPRECIATE YOUR
PATIENCE AND HOPE TO BE
MOVING... UH... SOON.





ZZTFRRRRRRR



I'M
SORRY
I...

PASSENGERS: POWER
HAS BEEN RESTORED
AND WE ARE CLEARED
TO PROCEED.
WE'LL BE PULLING INTO
FOGGY BOTTOM STATION
MOMENTARILY.



"WXQR PRESENTS THE MORNING NEWSFEST!

"I'M YOUR HOST, DR. DOCTOR. WATCH OUT D.C.! WE GOT RAGING SOLAR STORMS! WE GOT POWER FAILURES! WE GOT BLOND BIMBO METRO RAGE! J.R. THE NEWS GUY: WHAZA STORY?"

"DOC! METRO PASSENGERS WERE ROUGHED UP THIS MORNING WHEN A POWER OUTAGE STALLED A TRAIN PACKED WITH RUSH HOUR COMMUTERS UNDER THE POTOMAC RIVER. WITNESSES CLAIM AN ATTRACTIVE BLOND WOMAN BECAME HYSTERICAL, PUSHING OTHER PASSENGERS ASIDE AND PUTTING HER FIST THROUGH A WINDOW IN AN EFFORT TO GET OUT OF THE METRO CAR."

"WHEN POWER WAS RESTORED AND THE TRAIN ARRIVED AT FOGGY BOTTOM, IT HAD TO BE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE. POLICE ARE SEEKING THE WOMAN FOR QUESTIONING AND MAY PRESS ASSAULT AND VANDALISM CHARGES."

"WHOA J.R., SOUNDS LIKE MY GIRLFRIEND. LAST NIGHT SHE WAS SCREAMING AND POUNDING ON MY BEDROOM DOOR, SO I FINALLY HAD TO GET UP AND LET HER OUT."

"DON'T GO AWAY, LISTENERS. DR. DOCTOR WILL TAKE YOUR PHONE CALLS ABOUT BLOND BIMBOS, SUNSPOTS AND TRAFFIC RIGHT AFTER THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE."



11:17 Local Time

Wednesday, October 8

Bellatrix Corporation

L'Enfant Plaza, Washington DC



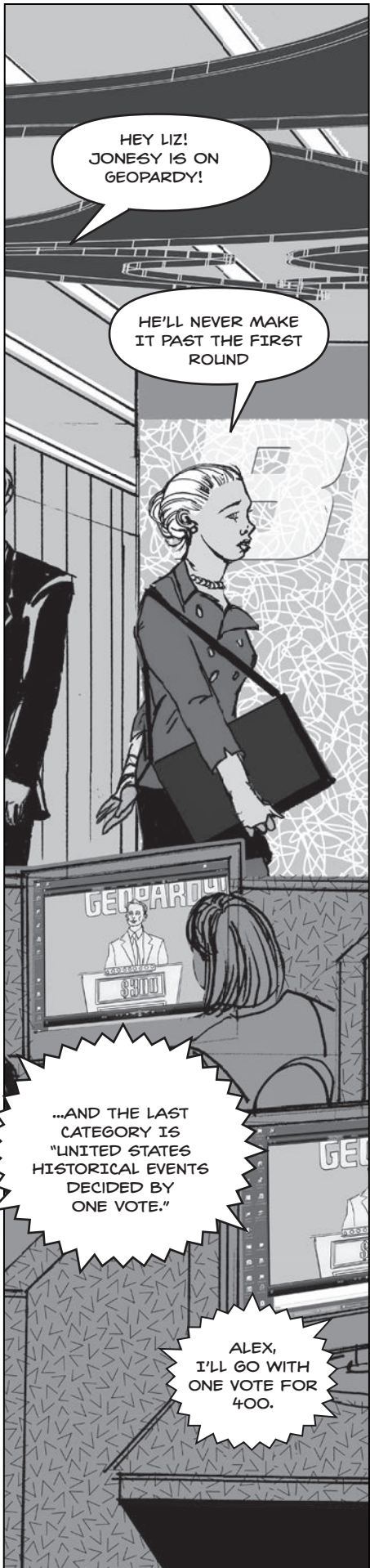
LIZ! WE WERE ABOUT TO SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY!

SORRY. OVERSLEPT.

...AND LAST WE HAVE "JONESY" FROM WASHINGTON, DC...

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT PLAYING GEOPARDY, MR. JONES?

I'M AN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER FOR BELLATRIX CORPORATION...



HEY LIZ! JONESY IS ON GEOPARDY!

HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST ROUND

...AND THE LAST CATEGORY IS "UNITED STATES HISTORICAL EVENTS DECIDED BY ONE VOTE."

ALEX, I'LL GO WITH ONE VOTE FOR 400.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?

ROLLERBLADE ACCIDENT.

IN 1776 A SINGLE VOTE DECIDED ENGLISH WOULD BE THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND NOT THIS EUROPEAN TONGUE.

Bing

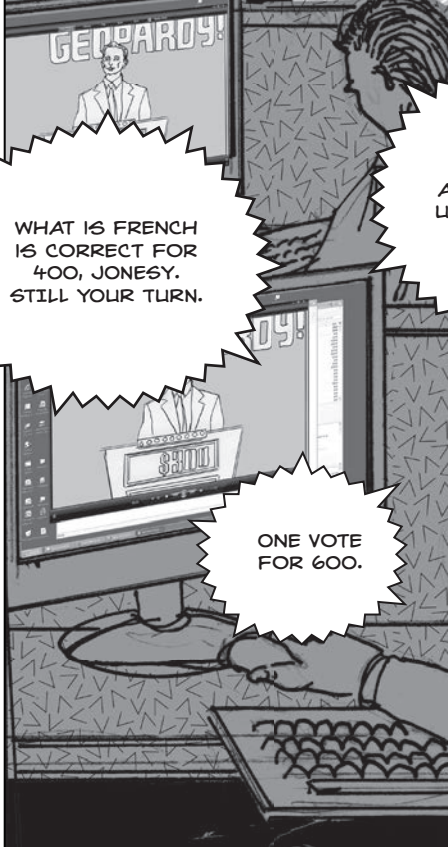
WHAT IS FRENCH?

LIZ! MORE PROBLEMS WITH THE CARBON NANO KILN.

NOT MY PROJECT ANYMORE!

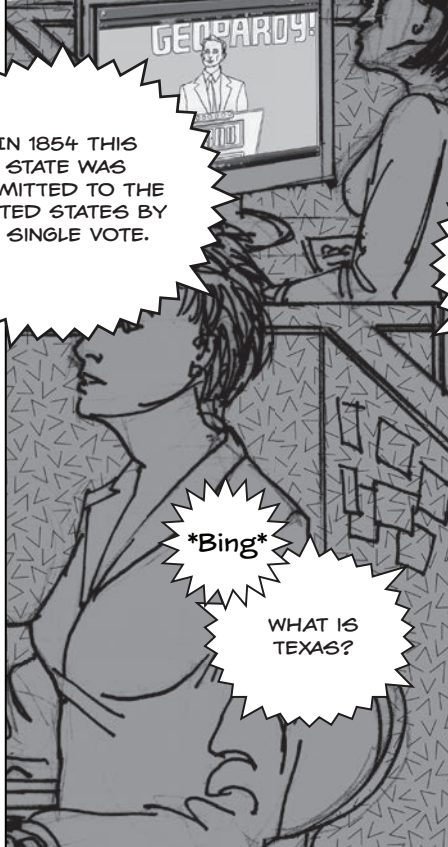


THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEAR.



WHAT IS FRENCH IS CORRECT FOR 400, JONESY. STILL YOUR TURN.

ONE VOTE FOR 600.



IN 1854 THIS STATE WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES BY A SINGLE VOTE.

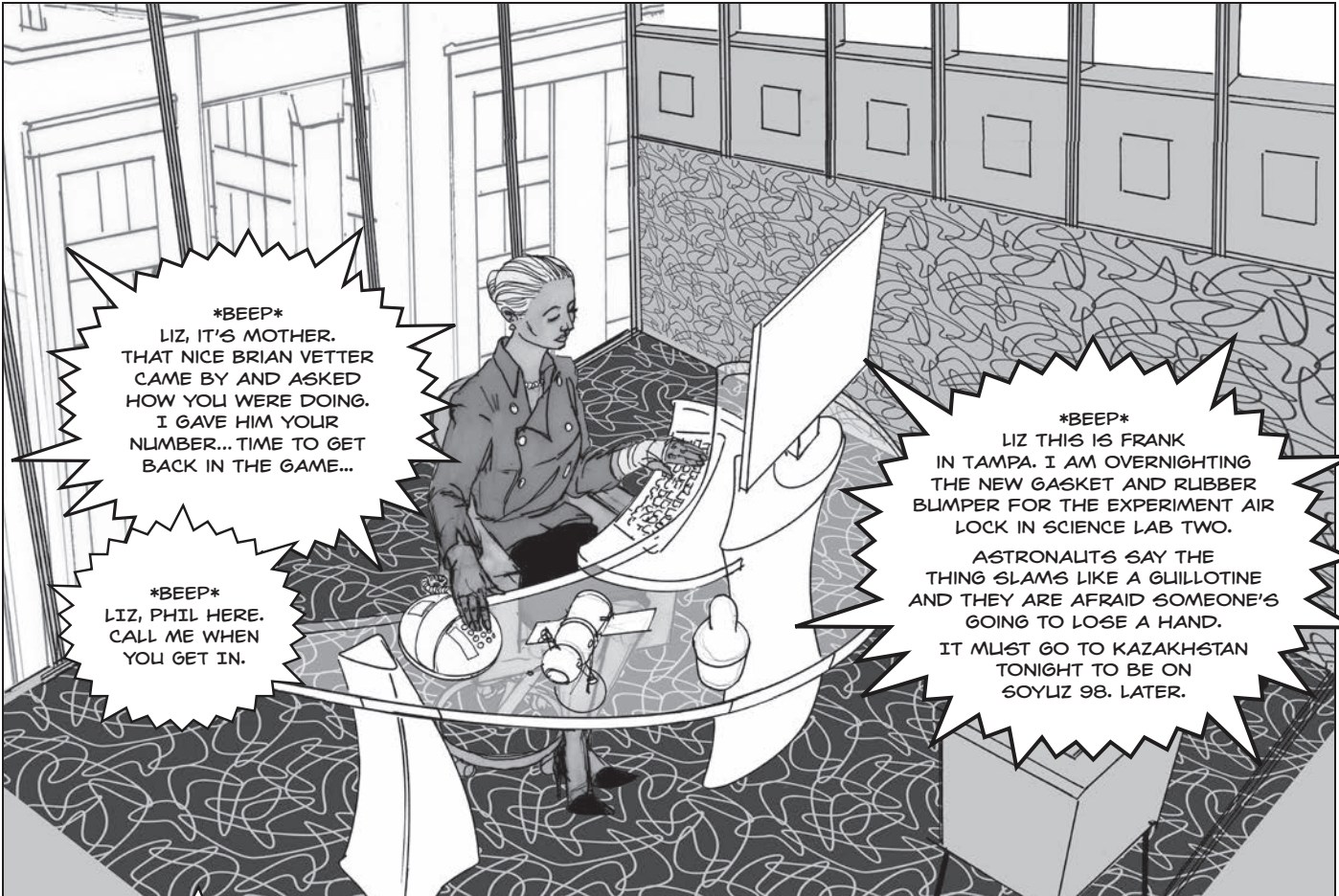
Bing

WHAT IS TEXAS?



WHAT IS TEXAS IS CORRECT FOR 600! JONESY, YOUR PICK.

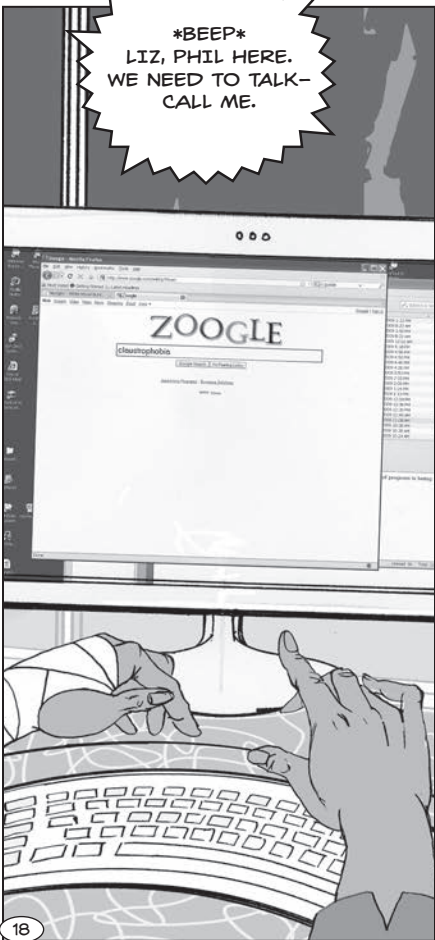
ALEX, ONE VOTE FOR 600!



BEEP
 LIZ, IT'S MOTHER.
 THAT NICE BRIAN VETTER
 CAME BY AND ASKED
 HOW YOU WERE DOING.
 I GAVE HIM YOUR
 NUMBER... TIME TO GET
 BACK IN THE GAME...

BEEP
 LIZ, PHIL HERE.
 CALL ME WHEN
 YOU GET IN.

BEEP
 LIZ THIS IS FRANK
 IN TAMPA. I AM OVERNIGHTING
 THE NEW GASKET AND RUBBER
 BUMPER FOR THE EXPERIMENT AIR
 LOCK IN SCIENCE LAB TWO.
 ASTRONAUTS SAY THE
 THING SLAMS LIKE A GUILLOTINE
 AND THEY ARE AFRAID SOMEONE'S
 GOING TO LOSE A HAND.
 IT MUST GO TO KAZAKHSTAN
 TONIGHT TO BE ON
 SOYLIZ 98. LATER.



BEEP
 LIZ, PHIL HERE.
 WE NEED TO TALK-
 CALL ME.



BEEP
 THIS MESSAGE IS
 FOR DR. FLOYD. THIS IS
 BENDER TOYOTA. LOOKS
 LIKE YOUR CAR NEEDS
 A NEW TRANSMISSION.
 GIVE US A CALL...



BEEP
 HEEEEEY LIZ,
 IT'S BRIAN.
 LONG TIME NO SEE!
 LET'S GRAB
 DINNER SOME
 NIGHT...



MAN, THAT'S THE FOURTH POWER INTERRUPTION THIS MORNING...

HEAR ABOUT THAT CRAZY WOMAN WHO GOT STUCK ON THE METRO AND PUNCHED HER HAND THROUGH A WINDOW?



LIZ HAS A BANDAGED HAND. MEBBE IT WAS HER...

THE "ICE QUEEN?" SHE'D EAT THE OTHER PASSENGERS BEFORE SHE'D PANIC. THAT IS ONE COLD WOMAN.



YEA, ADDISON'S LUCKY HE ESCAPED WITH HIS BALLS!



BEEP
DR. FLOYD, THIS IS PAT AT THE CONDO ASSOCIATION. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STORE BICYCLES ON YOUR BALCONY. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE.

LIZ, MEETING IN FIVE MINUTES... WHAT'D YOU DO TO YOUR HAND?

BEEP
LIZ? PHIL. WHERE ARE YOU? I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE PEGASUS REPORT THIS MORNING. BERN NEEDS TO SEE THE NUMBERS. CALL ME WHEN YOU GET IN...



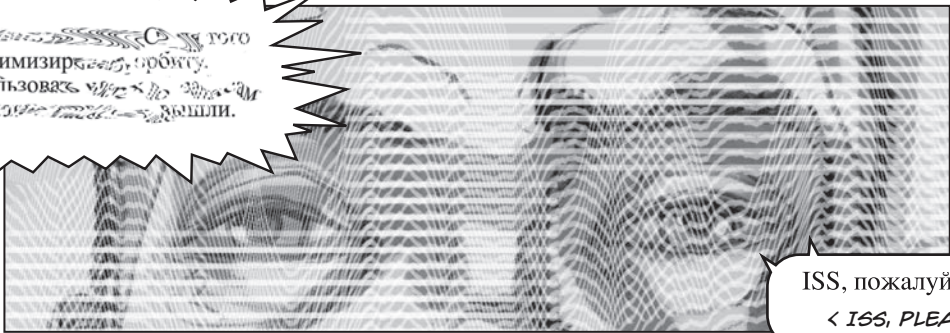
17:00 Local Time

Wednesday, October 8

International Space Station Control Center

Star City, Russia

Мы reboost делаем для того
чтобы оптимизировать орбиту.
Это будет использовать вверх по запасам
топлива. Никакие запасы не вышли.



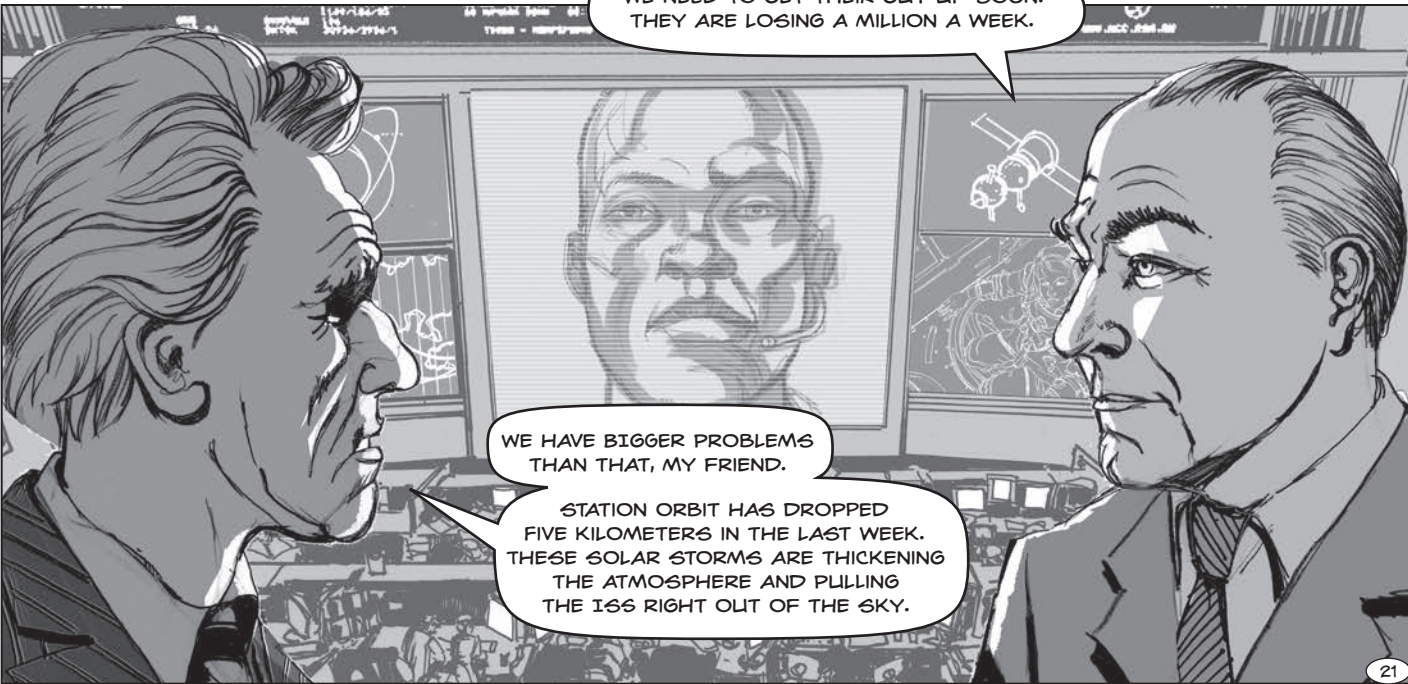
ISS, пожалуйста повторяют.
< ISS, PLEASE REPEAT. >

Мы reboost воли на 19:00UTC для того
чтобы оптимизировать орбиту.
Это будет использовать вверх по запасам
топлива. Никакие запасы не вышли.
< WE WILL REBOOST AT 19:00UTC TO OPTIMIZE
ORBIT. THIS WILL USE UP FUEL RESERVES.
NO RESERVES LEFT. >



ISS, мы понимаем ваши чтения топлива.
Никакой допустимый предел не вышел.
< ISS, WE UNDERSTAND YOUR FUEL
READINGS. NO MARGIN LEFT. >

BELLATRIX IS MOST DISTRESSED.
THE NANO CARBON EXPERIMENT IN LAB
SEVEN IS STILL DOWN.
WE NEED TO GET THEIR GUY UP SOON.
THEY ARE LOSING A MILLION A WEEK.



WE HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS
THAN THAT, MY FRIEND.
STATION ORBIT HAS DROPPED
FIVE KILOMETERS IN THE LAST WEEK.
THESE SOLAR STORMS ARE THICKENING
THE ATMOSPHERE AND PULLING
THE ISS RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY.



AT THIS RATE WE WILL BE AT 190 KILOMETERS BY WEEK'S END...
150 IS THE MISSION RULES EVACUATION POINT. WE WILL NEED SOYUZ 98 ALOFT A WEEK EARLY. ZHLUKOV?

THIS WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM. WE WILL LAUNCH THURSDAY TO GET AN OPTIMAL ORBIT.
WITH A SUCCESSFUL SOYUZ 98 REBOOST, ISS SHOULD STABILIZE AT 350 KILOMETERS.

GOOD. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE RADIATION SHIELDING. MOST OF ISS HAS 10 MIL OF SHIELDING. THAT COVERS THEM FOR EVERYTHING THEY'RE GETTING NOW...
BUT ANYTHING WORSE THAN THESE STORMS, OR LASTING MORE THAN A WEEK, AND OUR PEOPLE WILL GET DANGEROUS EXPOSURE.

WHAT IS MORE, WE ONLY HAVE THREE SEATS ON THE SOYUZ 97 TAXI FOR SIX COSMONAUTS.



GEORGE, WHAT DO THE AMERICANS LOOK LIKE?

CHET HARRIS AT NASA SAYS DRAGON 5 IS PREPPED AND READY TO GO FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER.

WELL, I SUPPOSE IF THE STORMS DO NOT GET ANY WORSE WE WILL BE ALL RIGHT. BUT THIS IS CUTTING OUR MARGINS OF SAFETY TOO CLOSELY. I DO NOT LIKE IT.

CONTINUED IN SOYUZ BLUE, VOLUME ONE

AFTER SUNSPOT ACTIVITY THREATENS THE ORBIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION, CORPORATE COSMONAUT ELIZABETH FLOYD IS ASSIGNED TO THE RUSSIAN MISSION TO SAVE THE OUTPOST. BUT TERRORISTS, A CRIPPLING SOLAR STORM, AND SCIENTIFIC FRAUD ALL SERVE TO TURN HER RESCUE FLIGHT INTO A JOURNEY OF INTRIGUE AND MYSTERY. THIS VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATED TALE PUTS YOU INTO THE COCKPIT OF THE VENERABLE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT AS IT LIFTS OFF ON AN ODYSSEY OF DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE.

“...a tragic human drama running parallel to the geeky space facts...”

Andy Shaw
GROVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEW

“...very highly recommended to the attention of all science fiction fantasy and graphic novel enthusiasts.”

Able Greenspan,
MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

"There is no escape velocity powerful enough to pull the reader from a cosmonaut's dream in this scifi nightmare of mind bending reality ripping space and time adventure."