

H

The Very Best Place To Start?



John Nicol

Thursday, April 15, 2018, 4:07 P.M.

Anything yet?

Nope.

Keep looking.

Is it my fault that
everyone in this store
is honest?

SOUP

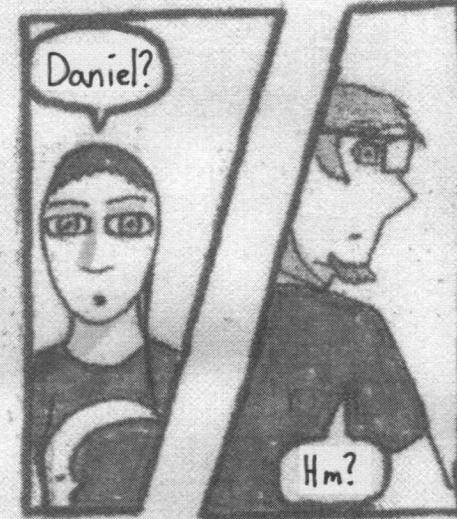
SOU SOU SOU S

Spinach... got that.

Milk... got that.



Beef... cheese... bread...
...peanut butter... yep, got it.



DOUBLE FLAMING...



Saturday, April 14, 2018, 3:51 P.M.



Where'd that crit come from?!

The best laid plans of mice and men...

...Go awry because of malicious RNG.

I've got to go. There's some stuff at home to do.

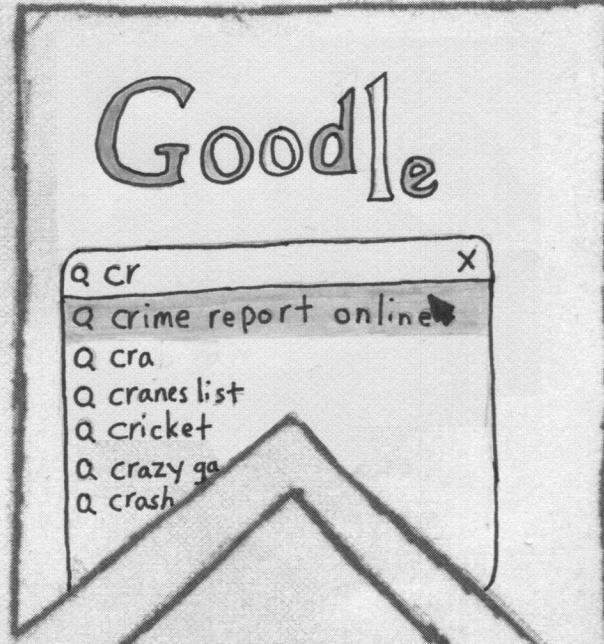
See you tomorrow?

If I know you, you'll have yet another plan for this boss by then.

FIAT
JUSTIA
CAE

See you then.

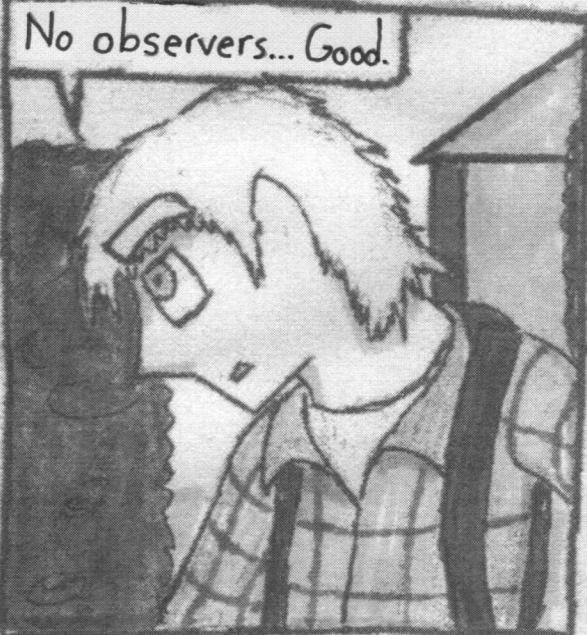
10%



209. This is the place.



No observers... Good.

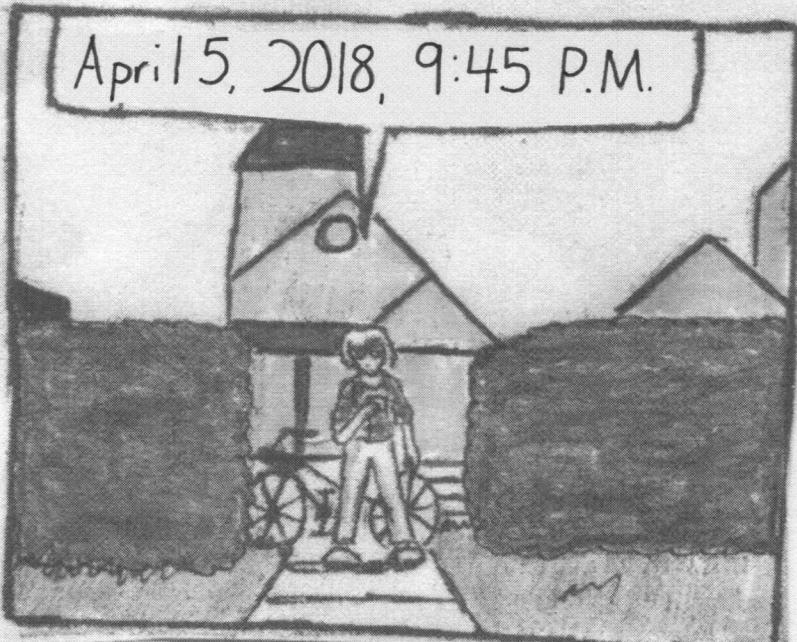


I don't want to miss it, so
I'd better shoot early...

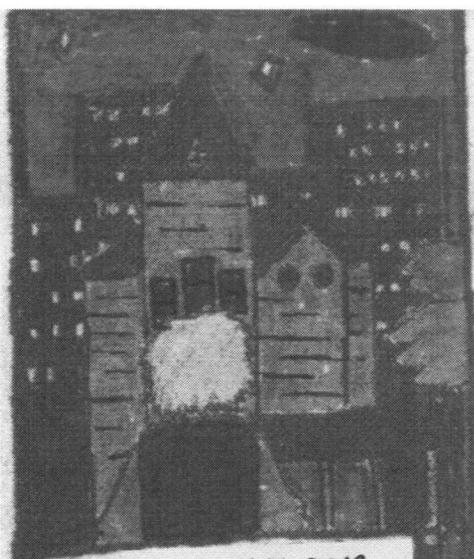
...so...



April 15, 2018, 9:45 P.M.

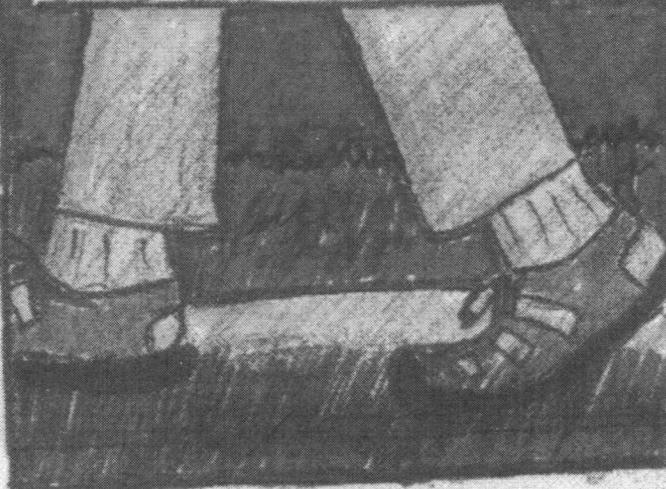




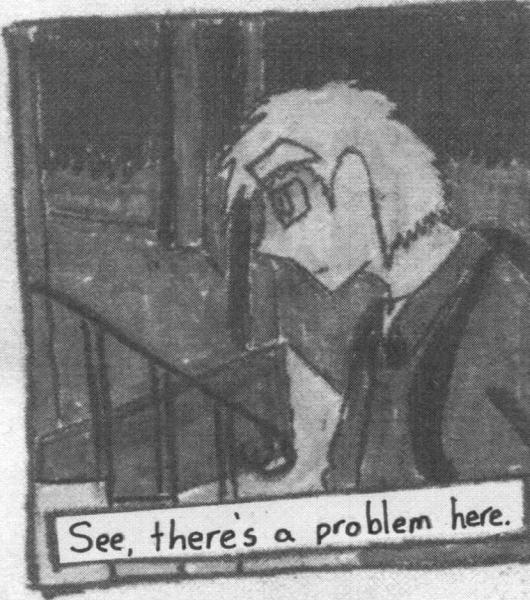


My name is Michael Hayes, and I've been able to travel through time ever since I can remember.

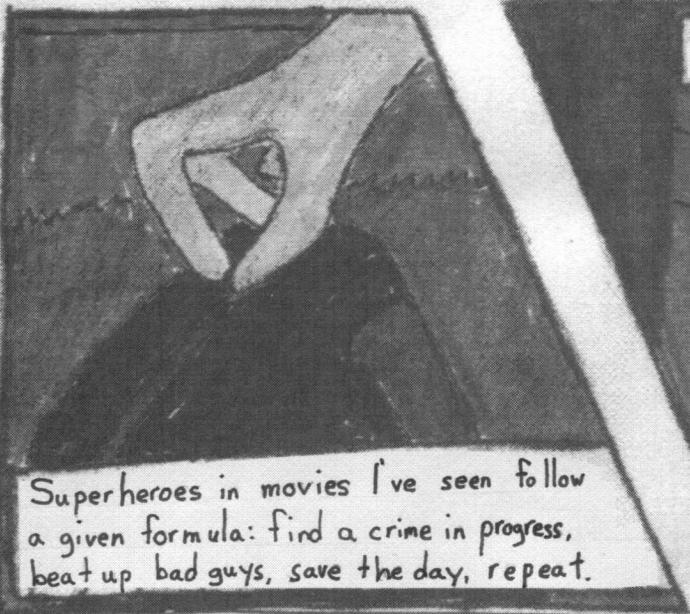
Thursday, April 15, 2018,
9:45 P.M. (one week previous)



I believe that it's my moral duty to help people with my power, but I couldn't figure out how until a year ago.



See, there's a problem here.



Superheroes in movies I've seen follow a given formula: find a crime in progress, beat up bad guys, save the day, repeat.

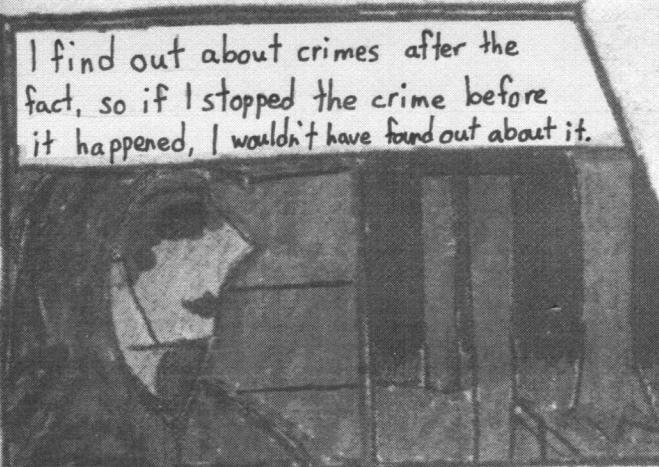


But I can't do that.

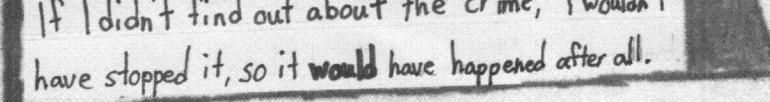
First, I'm a 150-odd pound 16-year-old who hasn't beaten anyone up in his life.



But, more to the point...



I find out about crimes after the fact, so if I stopped the crime before it happened, I wouldn't have found out about it.



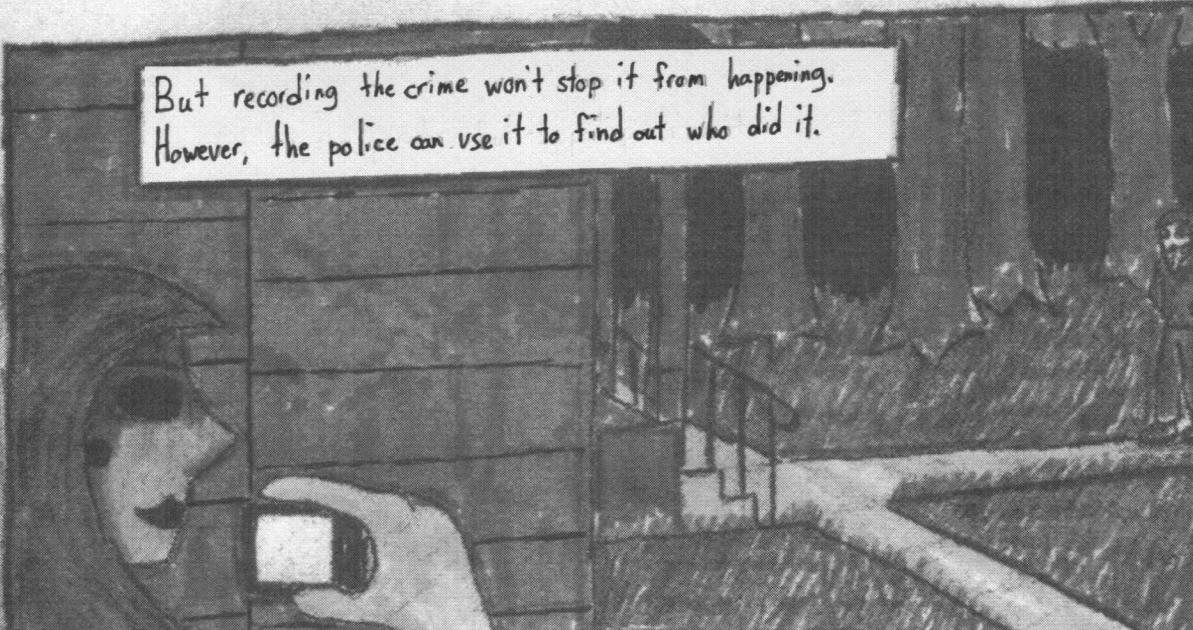
If I didn't find out about the crime, I wouldn't have stopped it, so it would have happened after all.



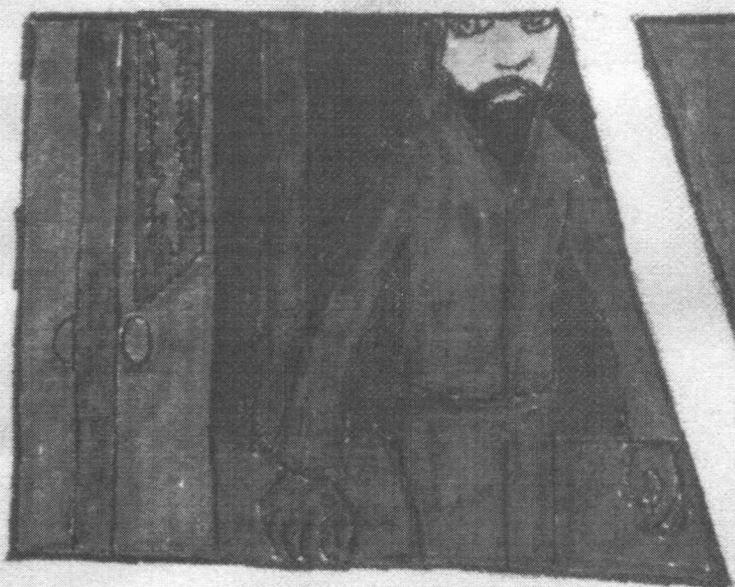
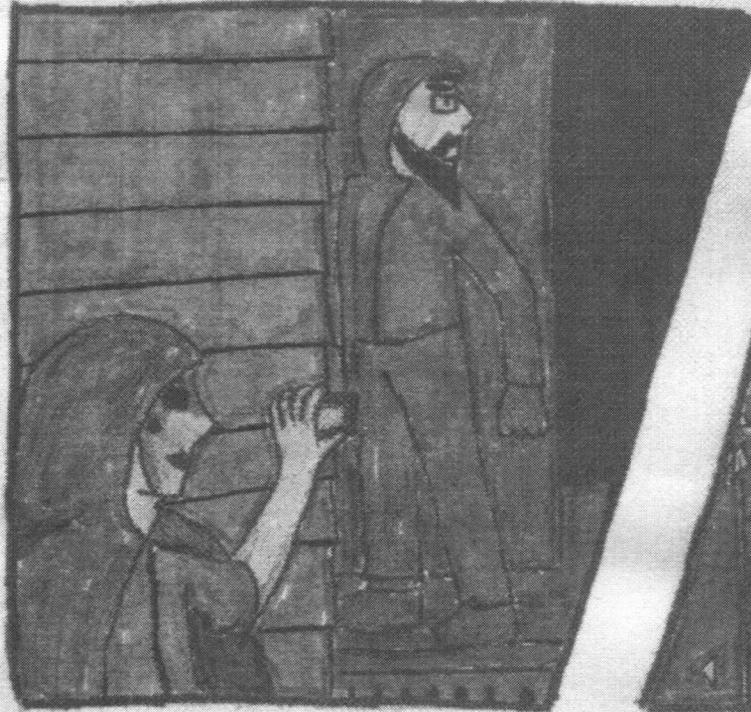
...I mustn't create a paradox.

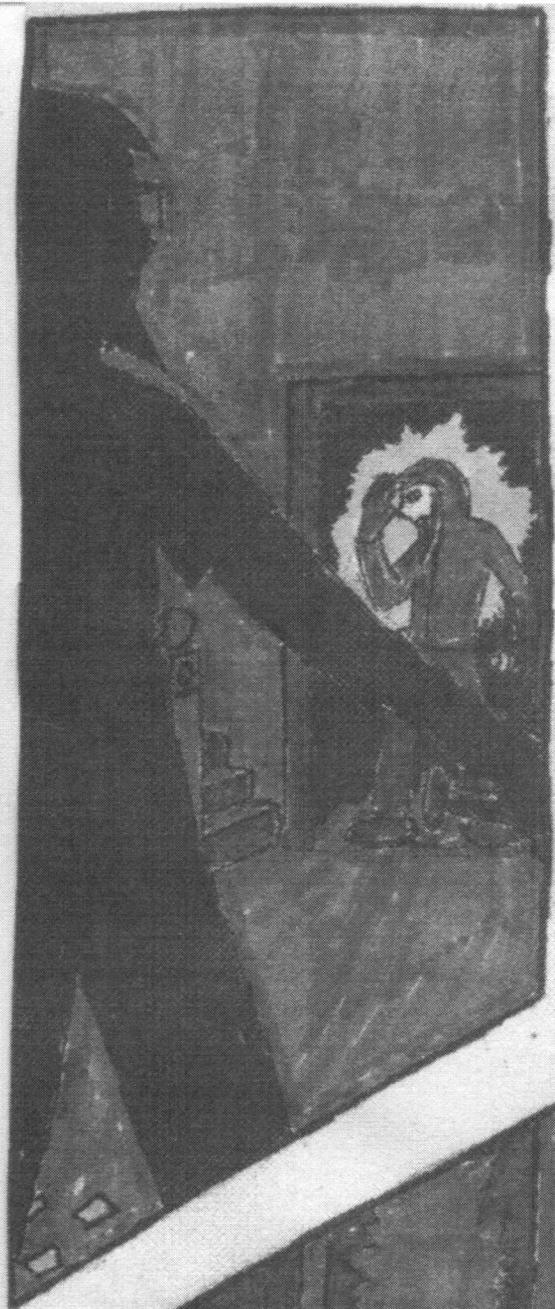


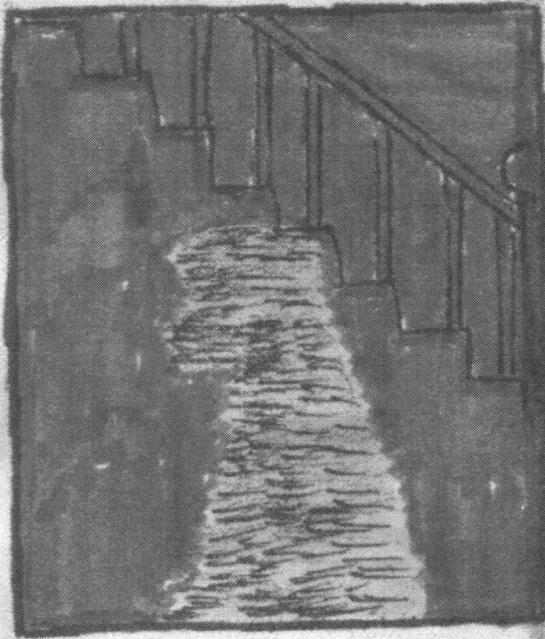
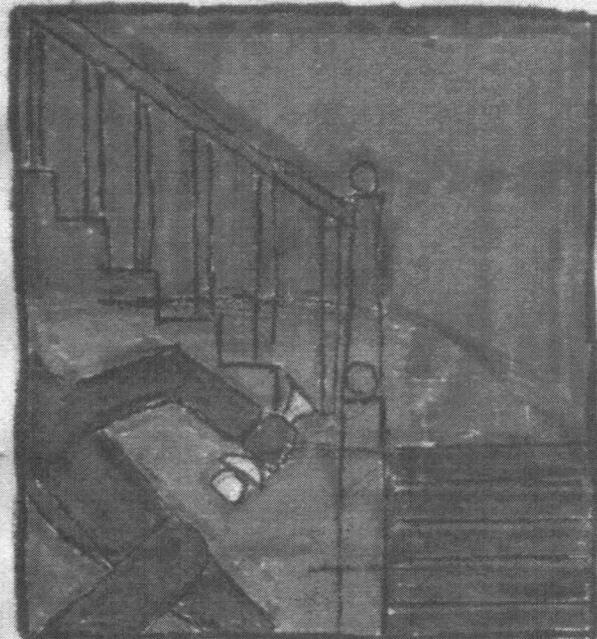
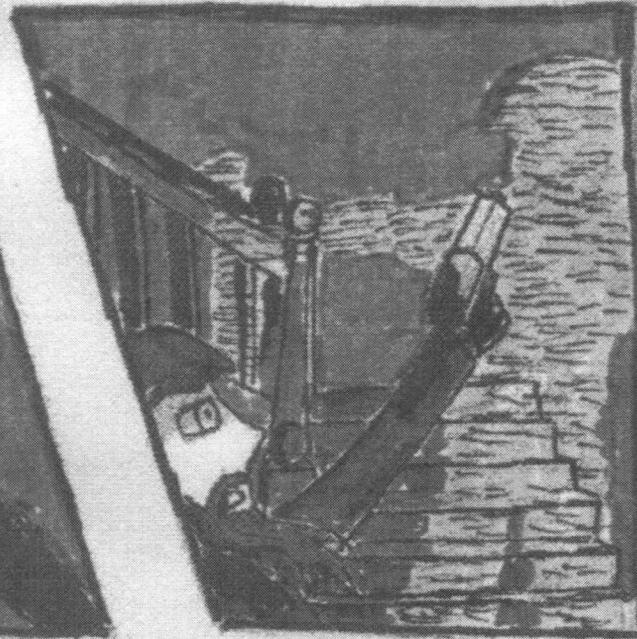
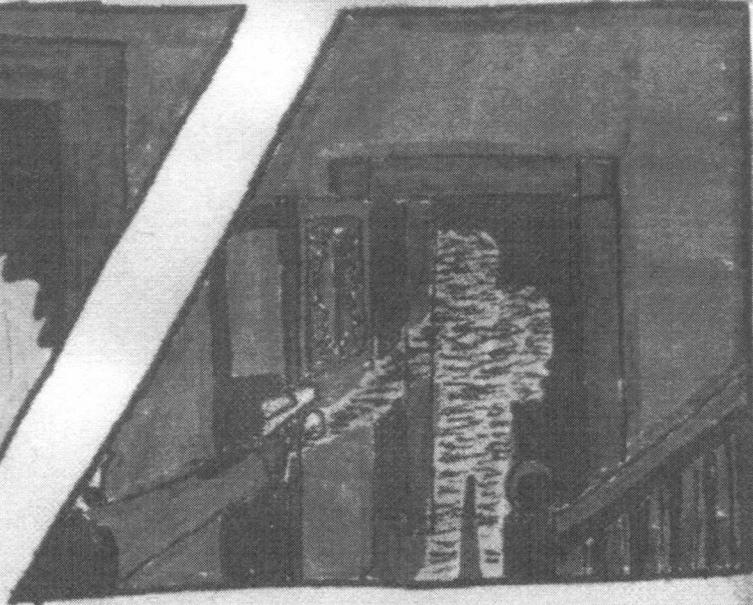
So I would have found out about it, so it wouldn't have happened. It logically makes no sense.

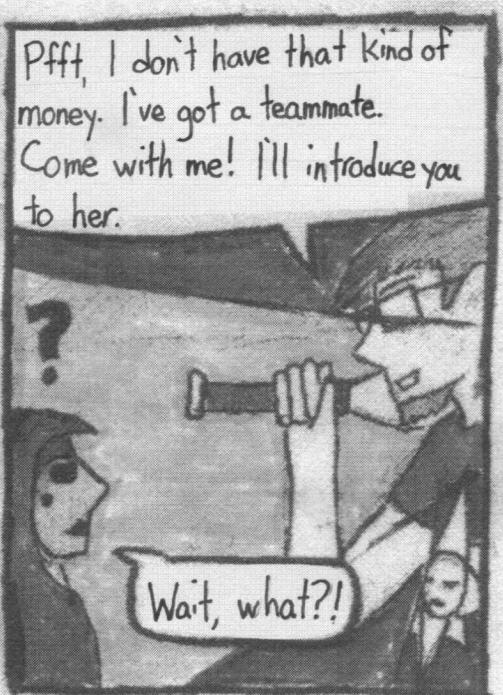
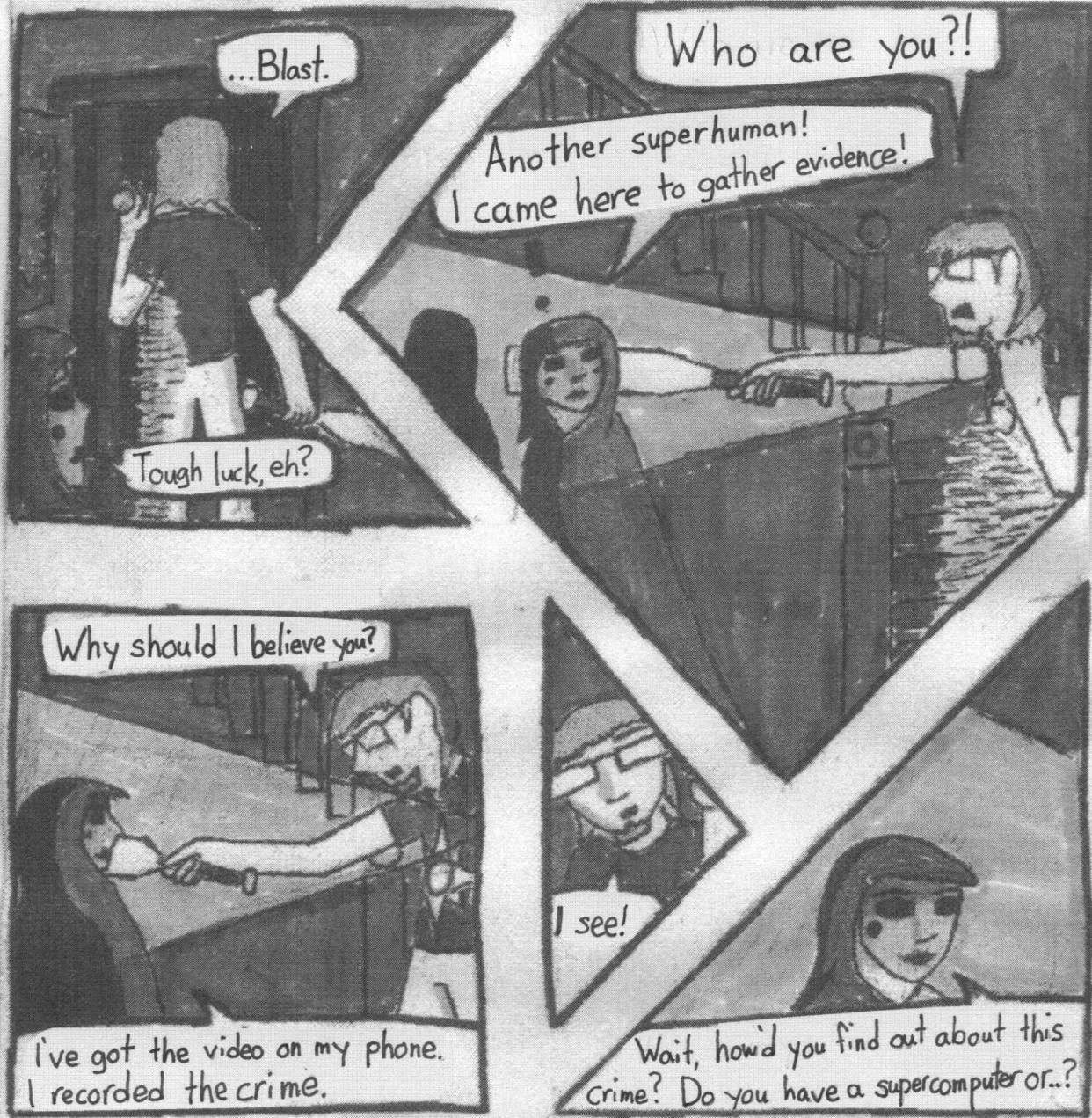


But recording the crime won't stop it from happening. However, the police can use it to find out who did it.







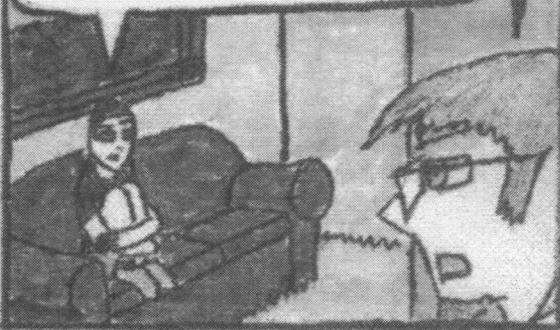


This is my house and base of operations.
Oi, Andrea! We've got a super-guest!

Another one?! Seriously, Daniel!
You make the **weirdest** friends!

Hi, I'm -

-Michael.



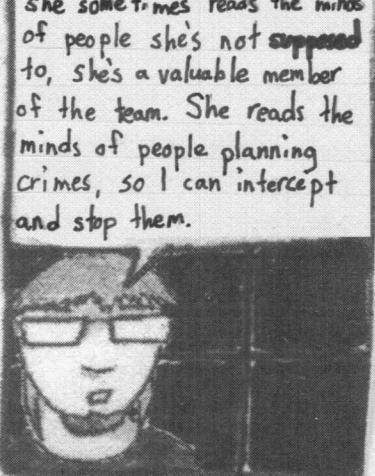
Andrea! Not cool!! You **know** you're not supposed to lock onto guests!

But I...

I don't want to hear it.

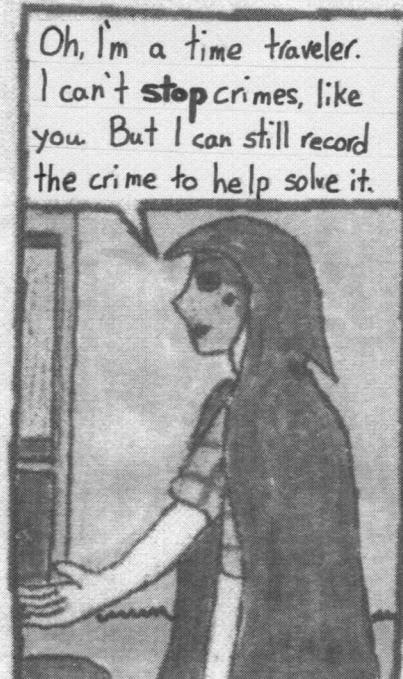
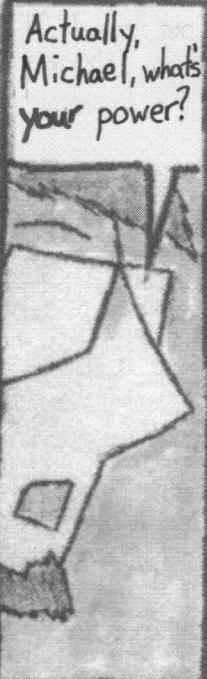
Whatever.
Just get out from in front of the screen. Hiro-kun might actually confess this time.

This is my sister Andrea. She's a psychic, and although she sometimes reads the minds of people she's not supposed to, she's a valuable member of the team. She reads the minds of people planning crimes, so I can intercept and stop them.



Actually,
Michael, what's
your power?

Oh, I'm a time traveler.
I can't **stop** crimes, like you. But I can still record the crime to help solve it.



Wait, what's wrong?

You said time travel?

Uh, yeah...

But that's reckless!
You could create a paradox!

Don't worry. I make sure to keep
the past exactly as I remember it.
I know the threat of paradox, so-

Even
So!

One mistake, one small misstep,
and you know what happens?

Reality, as we know it—
comes to an end.

Do you know what happens?!

You have to stop time travelling.

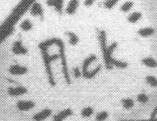
What? No! I can't just sit back
while crimes go unsolved!

The universe is at stake!

The universe is fine!

I hope you realize
the position this puts me in.

Look, as a superhero. I have a duty
to keep people safe. You know that.



Your power is a threat.
If I have to kill you to stop the threat-

-So be it.

BACK 10 MINUTES!

Thursday, April 15, 2018,
10:00 P.M. (Ten minutes previous)

?

Oh... there's another problem...

Andrea knew my name before I said it.



I don't know the limits of her power.

All I know is that she's a psychic.



But it's a fair guess to say that if she knows my name...

...She knows other things about me and my life...



...Enough so that her brother can track me down with ease.



...But wait...

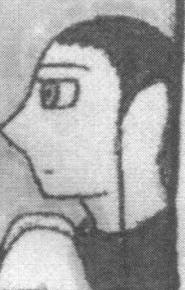
There's one other reason why she knows my name.

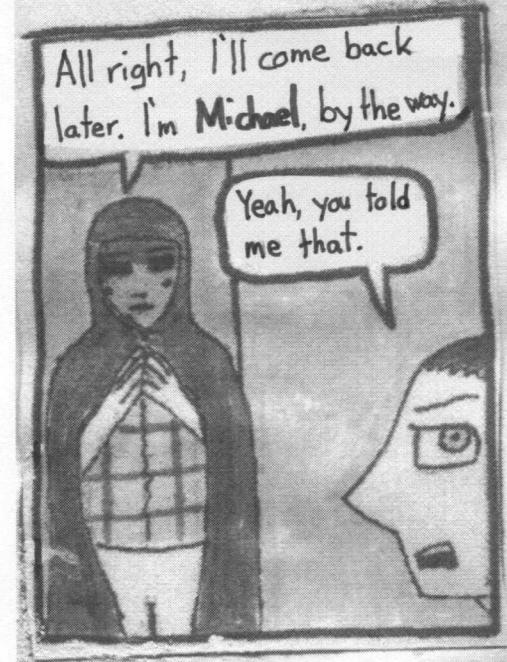
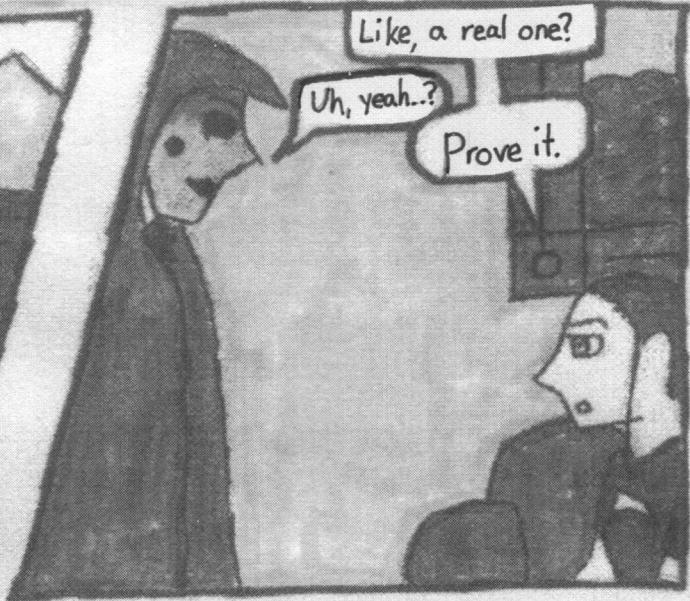


'Scuse me, is Daniel in?



!





Saturday, April 14, 2018, 4:26PM
(One week later)



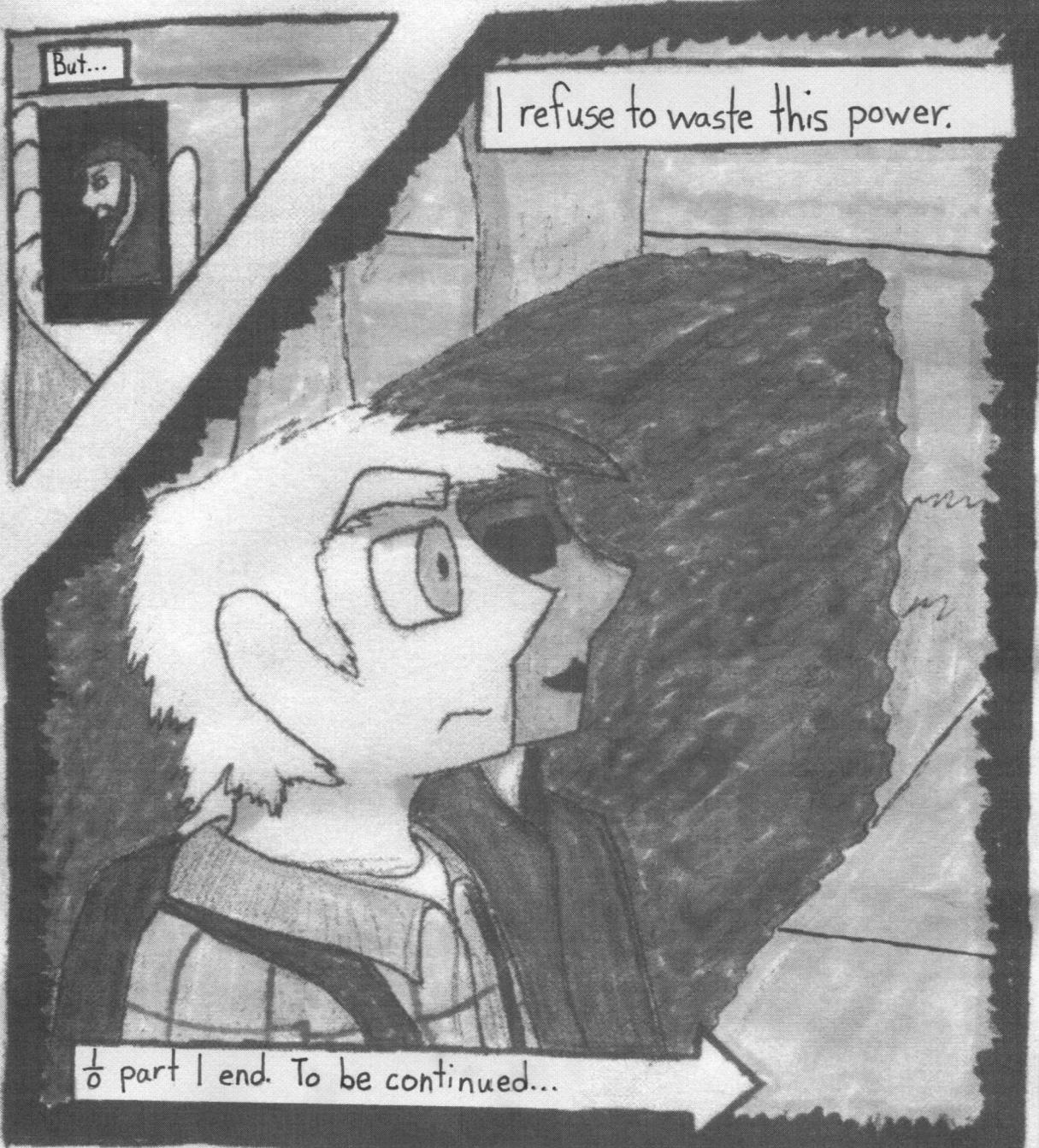
He's made his intentions very clear.



And I doubt that hell stop at anything to execute them.



I refuse to waste this power.



to part 1 end. To be continued...