

# HUNTER HUNTER

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ハンター



33

SHONENJUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by  
**YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI**



## 富 樫 義 博

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About the how-to-draw-manga guide *Jump Ryu*: it was more difficult than I thought to draw while answering questions from someone behind me. I probably sounded like an idiot because my responses were so slow. Please, have a heart.

### **Yoshihiro Togashi**



Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shōwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E**, and finally this adventure series, **Hunter x Hunter**, available from VIZ Media's SHONEN JUMP Advanced imprint. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

# **HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 33**

## **SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition**

STORY AND ART BY  
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

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SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA



# HUNTER HUNTER

Volume 33

Story & Art by  
**Yoshihiro Togashi**



## Beyond Netero

NETERO'S SON. PLANNING THE FORBIDDEN JOURNEY TO THE DARK CONTINENT.

## Pariston

FORMER HUNTER ASSOCIATION VICE CHAIRMAN AND FORMERLY ONE OF THE ZODIACS. INTRICATELY INVOLVED IN BEYOND'S JOURNEY PLANS.



## Ging

GON'S FATHER, ONE OF THE TOP FIVE NEN USERS IN THE WORLD. WITHDREW FROM THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION ZODIACS.

# CHARACTERS

## Gon Freecss

OUR EAGER HERO. HE BECAME A HUNTER TO REUNITE WITH HIS FATHER. HE WAS CRITICALLY INJURED IN HIS BATTLE WITH THE CHIMERA ANTS, AND ALLUKA HEALED HIM.



## Kurapika

GON'S FRIEND. HIS GOAL IS TO FIND HIS BRETHREN'S EYES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



## Leorio Paradiknight

GON'S FRIEND AND A PRE-MED HUNTER. BECAME FAMOUS IN THE ASSOCIATION DURING THE RECENT CHAIRMAN ELECTION.

## The Zodiacs



CLUCK (BIRD)



GINTA (RAM)



GEL (SNAKE)



PYON (RABBIT)



MIZAISTOM (COW)



SATCHO (HORSE)



CHEADLE (DOG)



KANZAI (TIGER)



BOTOBAI (DRAGON)



SAIYU (MONKEY)

## The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BEING A HUNTER LIKE THE FATHER HE HARDLY REMEMBERS, THE GREAT GING FREECSS.

GON REUNITES WITH GING'S OLD FRIEND KITE AND STARTS ON AN ADVENTURE IN NGL, WHERE AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE CHIMERA ANTS RESULTS IN KITE'S CAPTURE WHEN HE TRIES TO PROTECT GON. FINALLY, THE KING ANT IS BORN, AND HE IS A VICIOUS CREATURE WHO WOULD EVEN EAT HIS OWN KIND. OUR HEROES STORM THE PALACE IN EAST GORTEAU TO DEFEAT THE ANTS. MANKIND IS VICTORIOUS, BUT AT THE COST OF HUNTER ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN NETERO'S LIFE, AND GON IS CRITICALLY WOUNDED.

AN ELECTION IS HELD TO PICK THE NEXT HUNTER ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN, AND CHEADLE OF THE ZODIACS IS PICKED. GON IS HEALED BY ALLUKA, KILLLIA'S SISTER.

NETERO'S SON, BEYOND, ANNOUNCES A VOYAGE TO THE DARK CONTINENT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION IS ORDERED TO HUNT BEYOND...



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YES.

YOU SIGNED THE CONTRACT?

## Chapter 341: Threats

OUR JOB IS TO DO RESEARCH ON TRAVEL WORLDWIDE AND ORGANIZE A DATABASE...

...AND ULTIMATELY ASSIGN COUNTRIES A SAFETY INDEX.

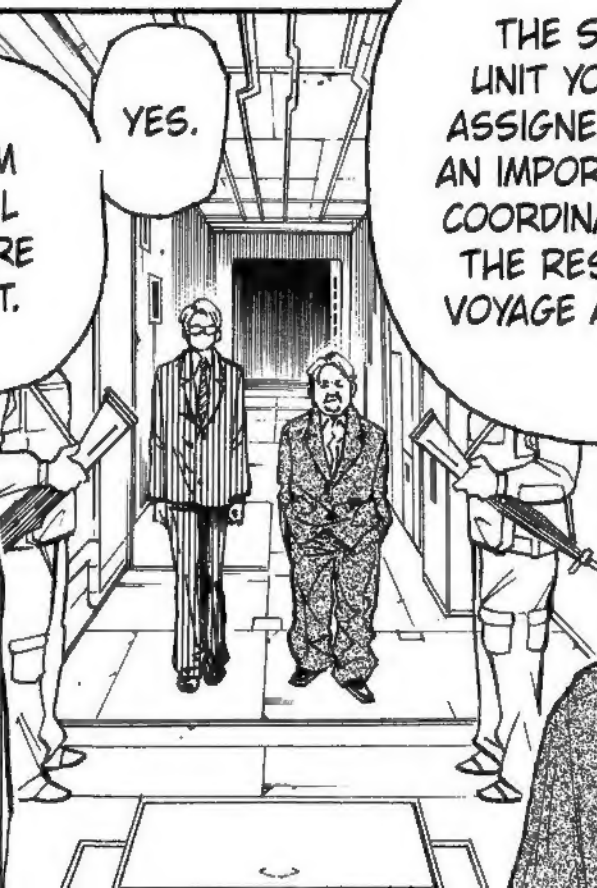
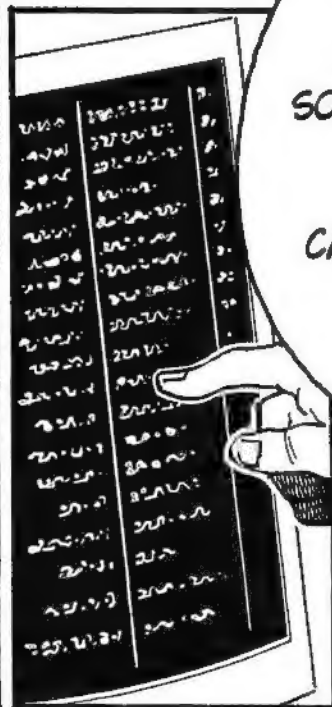
...TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LANDSCAPES, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE, CALCULATE TRAVEL RISK AND CONSERVATION LEVEL...

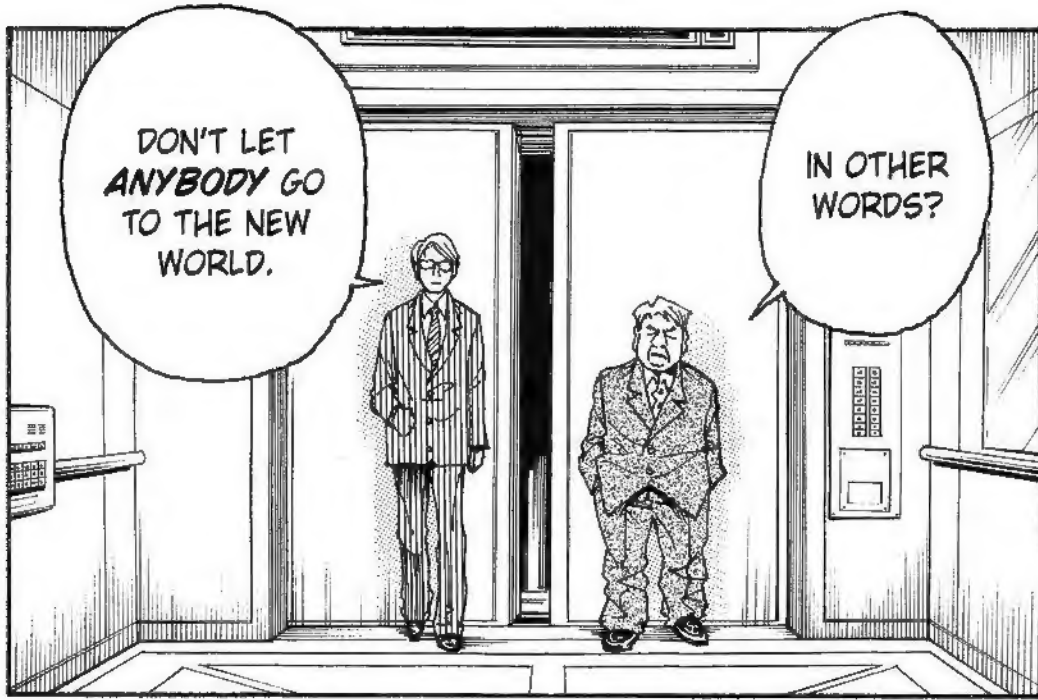
AND...

THE SPECIAL UNIT YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO HAS AN IMPORTANT JOB COORDINATING ALL THE RESTRICTED VOYAGE AGENCIES.

YES.

I AM WELL AWARE OF IT.





DON'T LET ANYBODY GO TO THE NEW WORLD.

IN OTHER WORDS?

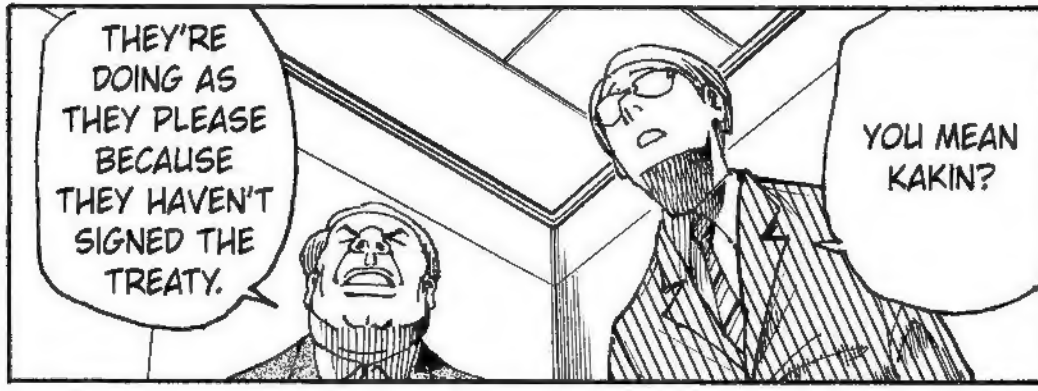


AND NOW THERE'S A PROBLEM.

YES.

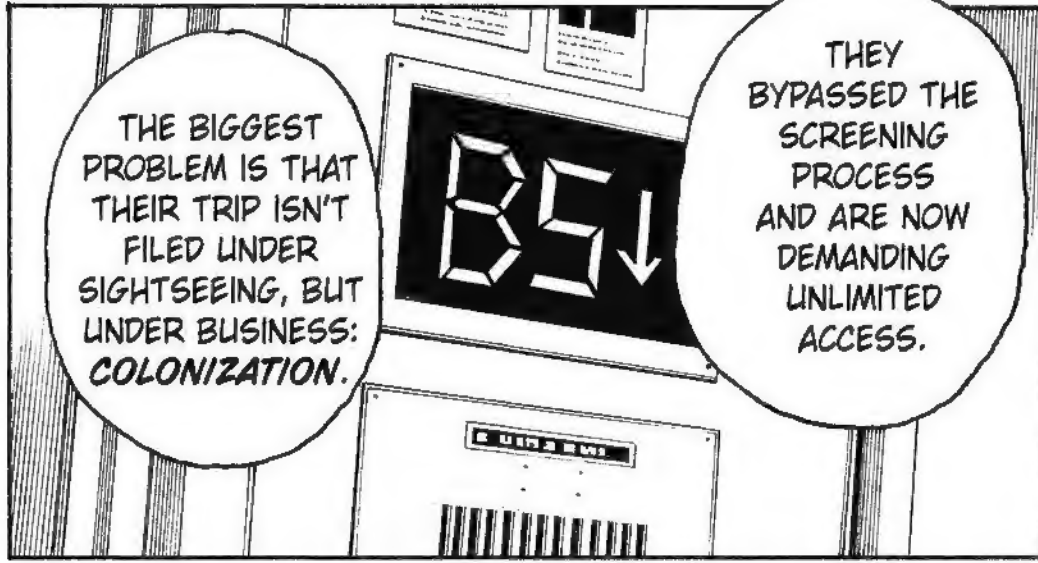
WHEN YOU HAVE TO, KEEP THEM ON A SHORT LEASH.

BIP BIP



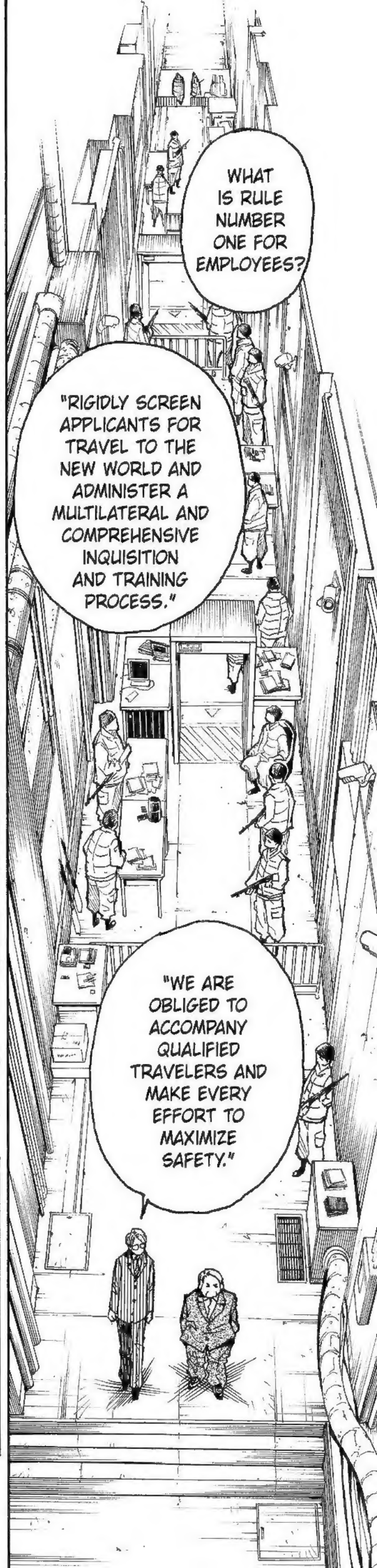
THEY'RE DOING AS THEY PLEASE BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T SIGNED THE TREATY.

YOU MEAN KAKIN?



THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THAT THEIR TRIP ISN'T FILED UNDER SIGHTSEEING, BUT UNDER BUSINESS: COLONIZATION.

THEY BYPASSED THE SCREENING PROCESS AND ARE NOW DEMANDING UNLIMITED ACCESS.



WHAT IS RULE NUMBER ONE FOR EMPLOYEES?

"RIGIDLY SCREEN APPLICANTS FOR TRAVEL TO THE NEW WORLD AND ADMINISTER A MULTILATERAL AND COMPREHENSIVE INQUISITION AND TRAINING PROCESS."

"WE ARE OBLIGED TO ACCOMPANY QUALIFIED TRAVELERS AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE SAFETY."

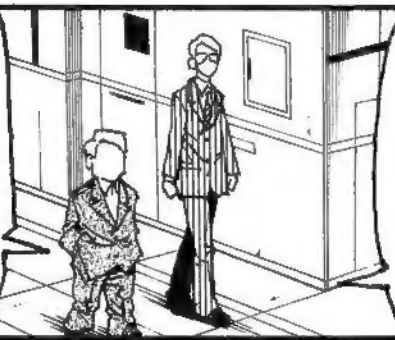




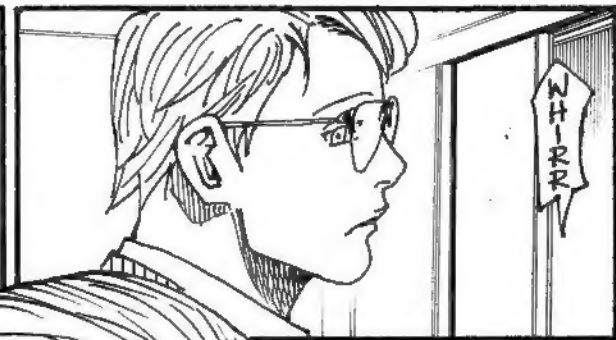
...ARE PEOPLE WHO LACK MANNERS.

WHAT THE GATEKEEPER OF THE NEW WORLD HATES MOST...

...IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO STOP KAKIN.



IF NEGOTIATIONS FAIL AT THE SUMMIT NEXT MONTH...



THE LID THAT MUST REMAIN CLOSED WILL BE OPENED.

PANDORA'S BOX.

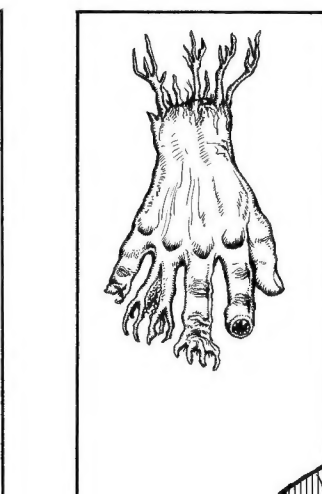
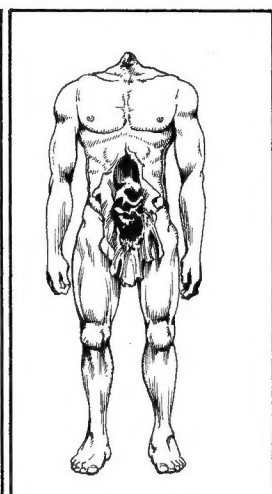
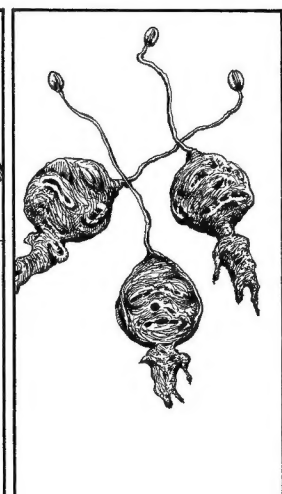
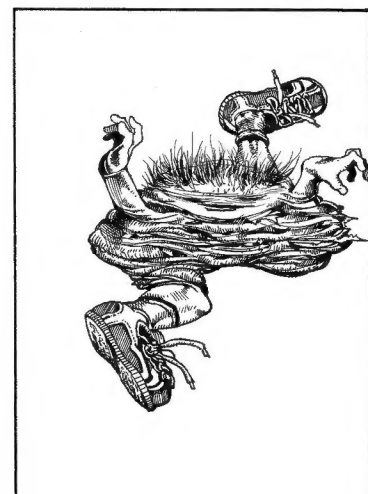
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

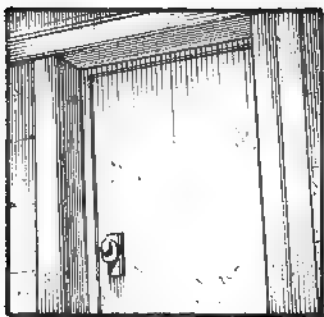
BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG. BEFORE I CAME HERE...

I THOUGHT IT WAS ABSURD TOO.

A FIGURE OF SPEECH...?







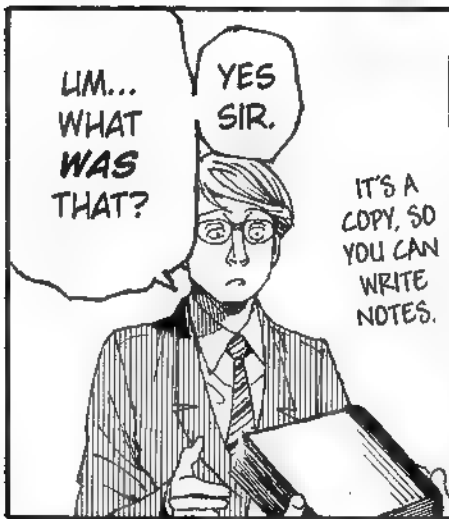
OR  
THEY  
USED  
TO BE.

THEY'RE  
ALL  
HUMAN.



...IS  
THIS  
...?

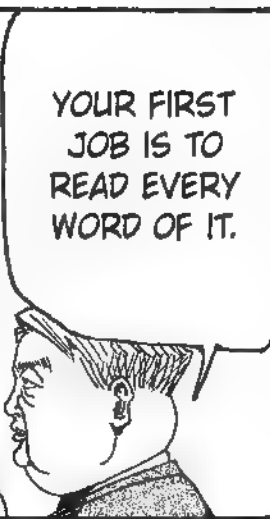
WHAT...



UM...  
WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?

YES  
SIR.

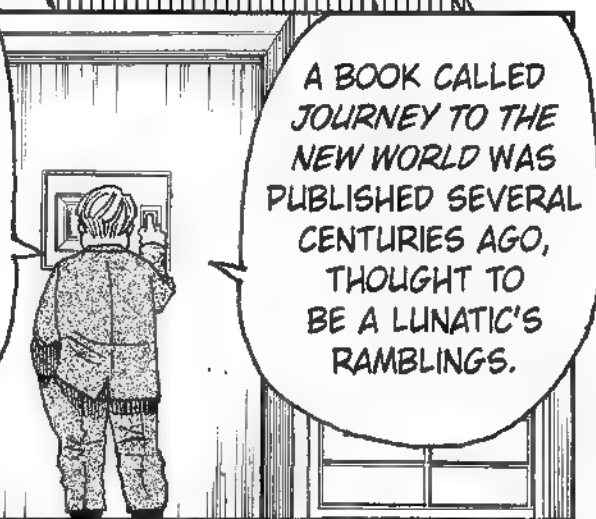
IT'S A  
COPY, SO  
YOU CAN  
WRITE  
NOTES.



YOUR FIRST  
JOB IS TO  
READ EVERY  
WORD OF IT.



CATEGORIZED  
AS FICTION  
AT THE TIME,  
NOW ITS VERY  
EXISTENCE IS  
LEGENDARY.



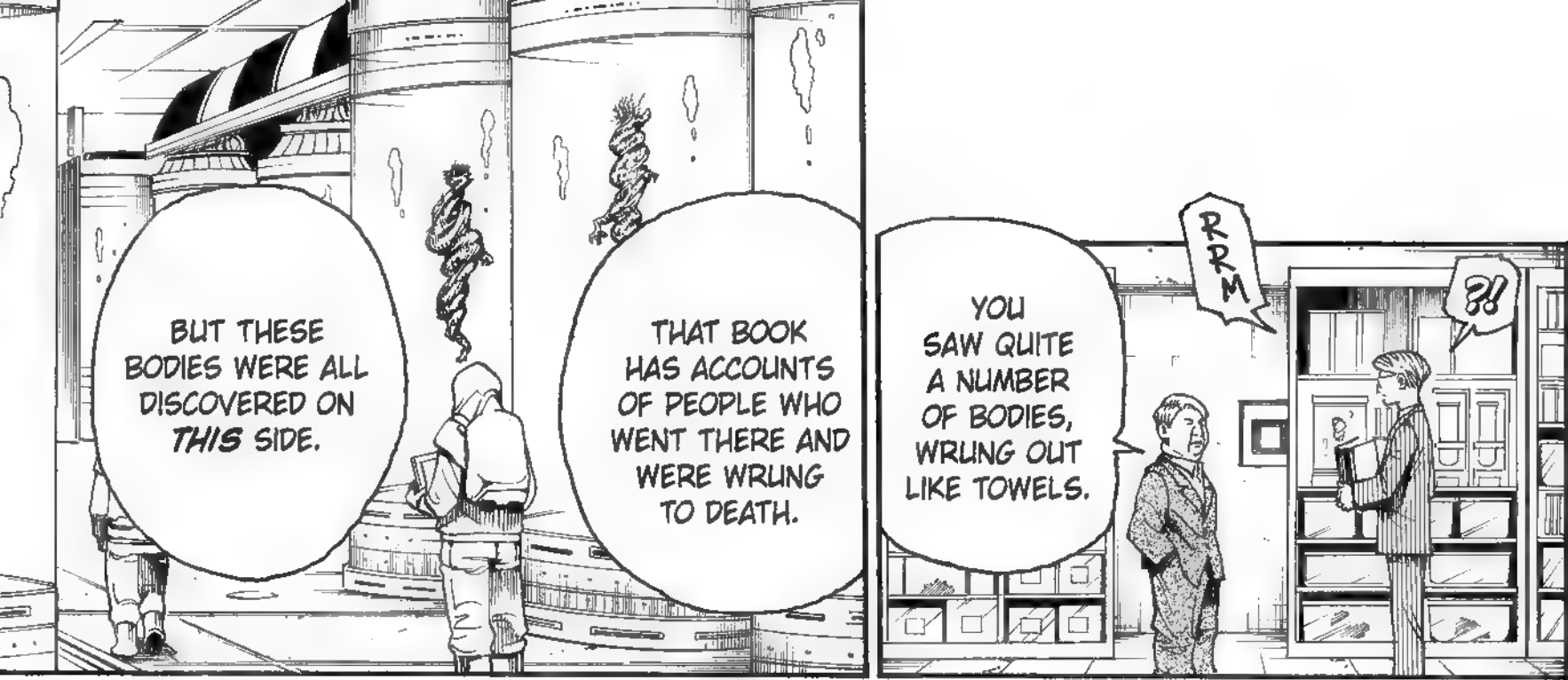
A BOOK CALLED  
JOURNEY TO THE  
NEW WORLD WAS  
PUBLISHED SEVERAL  
CENTURIES AGO,  
THOUGHT TO  
BE A LUNATIC'S  
RAMBLINGS.



AND IT'S  
STILL  
HAPPENING.



THE PRICE  
HUMANITY PAID  
FOR STEPPING  
INTO THE NEW  
WORLD.



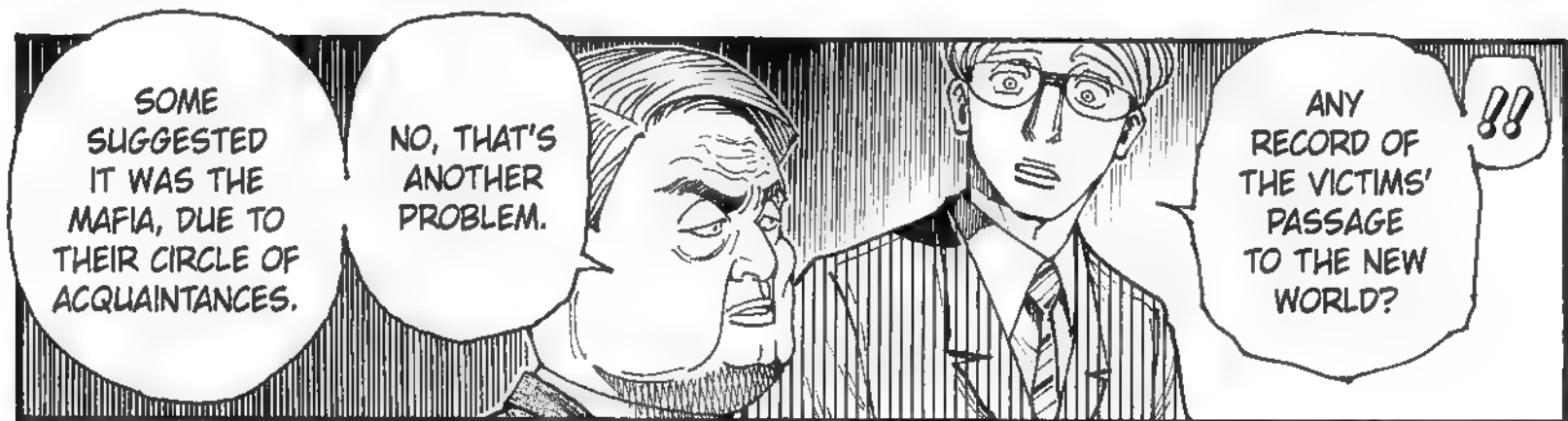
BUT THESE BODIES WERE ALL DISCOVERED ON THIS SIDE.

THAT BOOK HAS ACCOUNTS OF PEOPLE WHO WENT THERE AND WERE WRUNG TO DEATH.

YOU SAW QUITE A NUMBER OF BODIES, WRUNG OUT LIKE TOWELS.

P P P M

?!

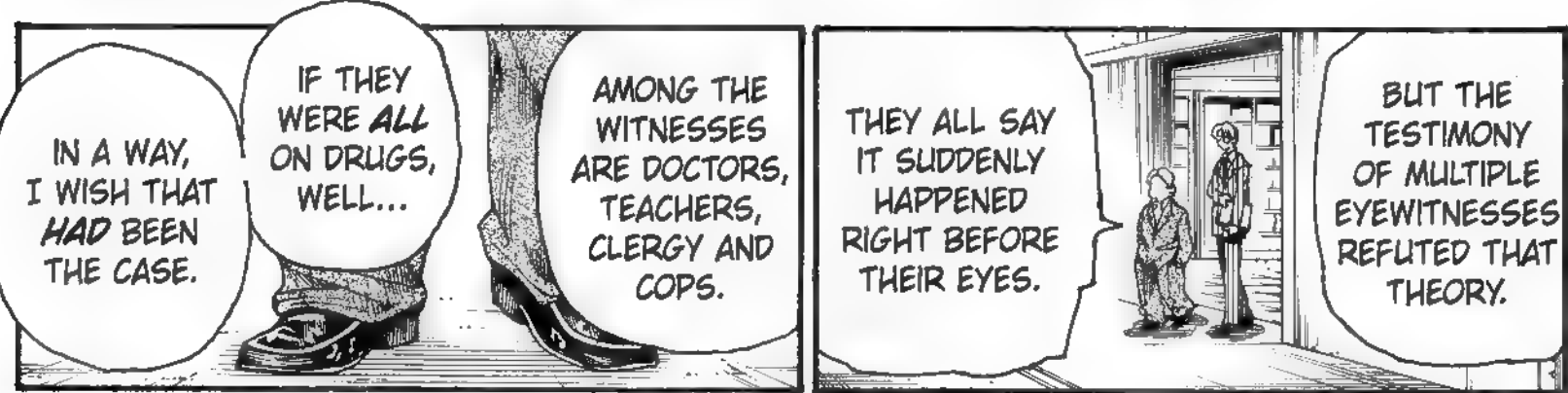


SOME SUGGESTED IT WAS THE MAFIA, DUE TO THEIR CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES.

NO, THAT'S ANOTHER PROBLEM.

ANY RECORD OF THE VICTIMS' PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD?

!!



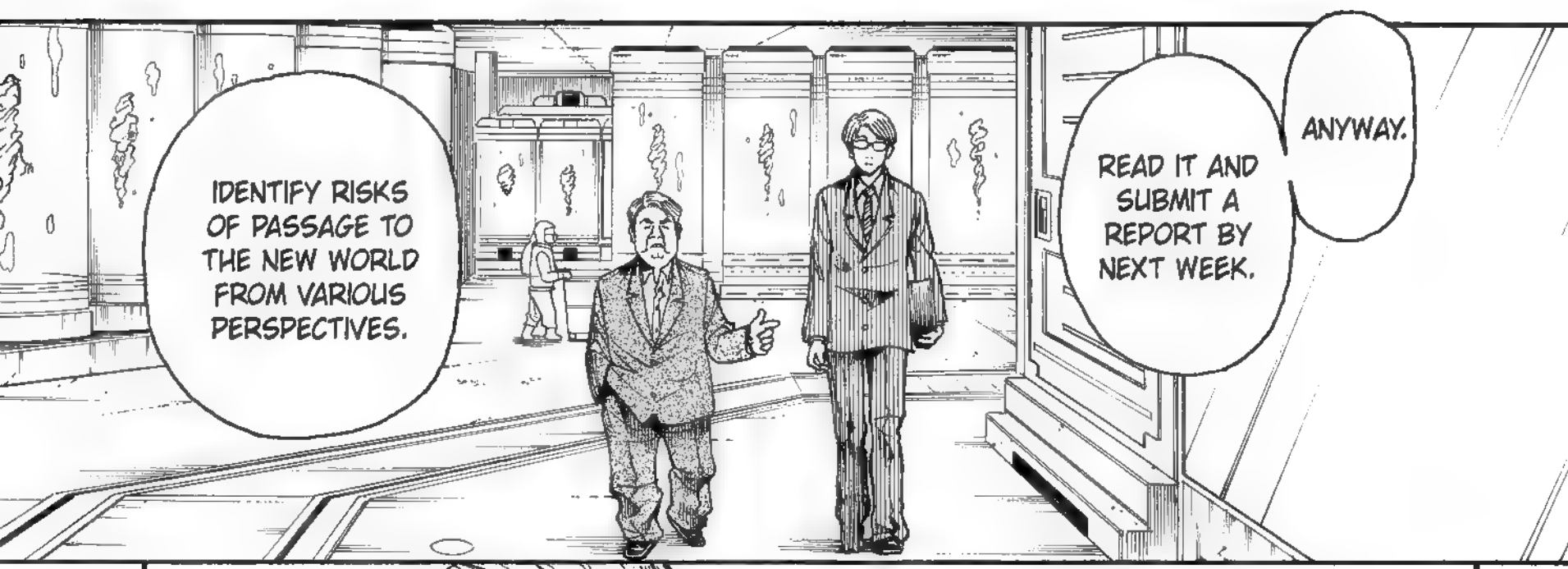
IN A WAY, I WISH THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE.

IF THEY WERE ALL ON DRUGS, WELL...

AMONG THE WITNESSES ARE DOCTORS, TEACHERS, CLERGY AND COPS.

THEY ALL SAY IT SUDDENLY HAPPENED RIGHT BEFORE THEIR EYES.

BUT THE TESTIMONY OF MULTIPLE EYEWITNESSES REFUTED THAT THEORY.



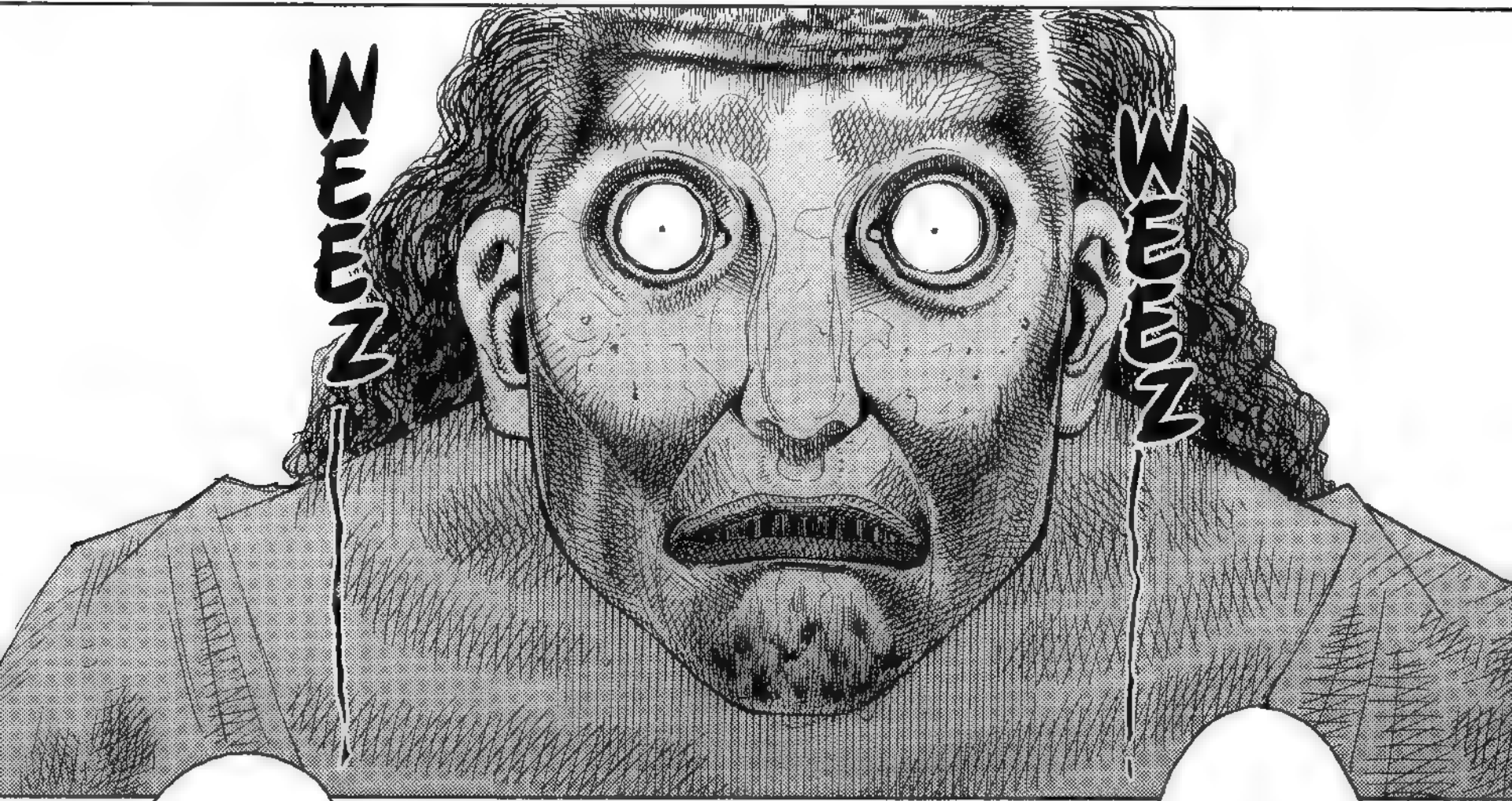
IDENTIFY RISKS OF PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES.

READ IT AND SUBMIT A REPORT BY NEXT WEEK.

ANYWAY.



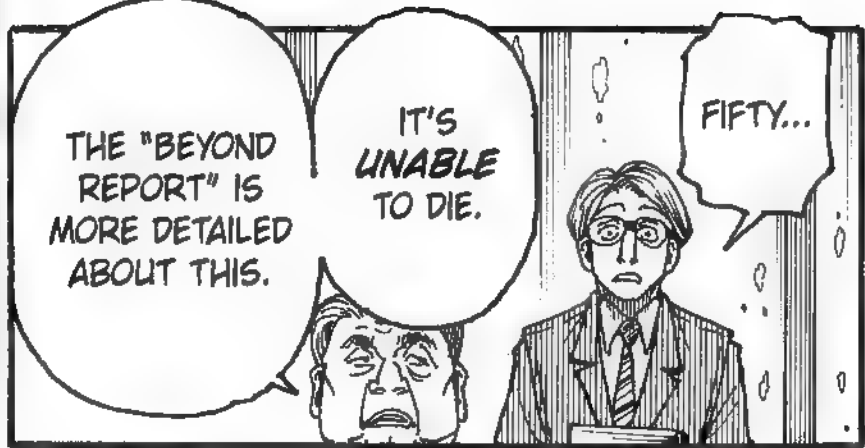
SLAP





SO EVERY TIME WE TAKE UP THIS CHALLENGE, WE FLEE BACK CARRYING AN EXTINCTION-LEVEL THREAT.

THE RESULT OF SECRET COLONIZATION EFFORTS AFTER THE VS FORUM FORMED THE TREATY.



THE "BEYOND REPORT" IS MORE DETAILED ABOUT THIS.

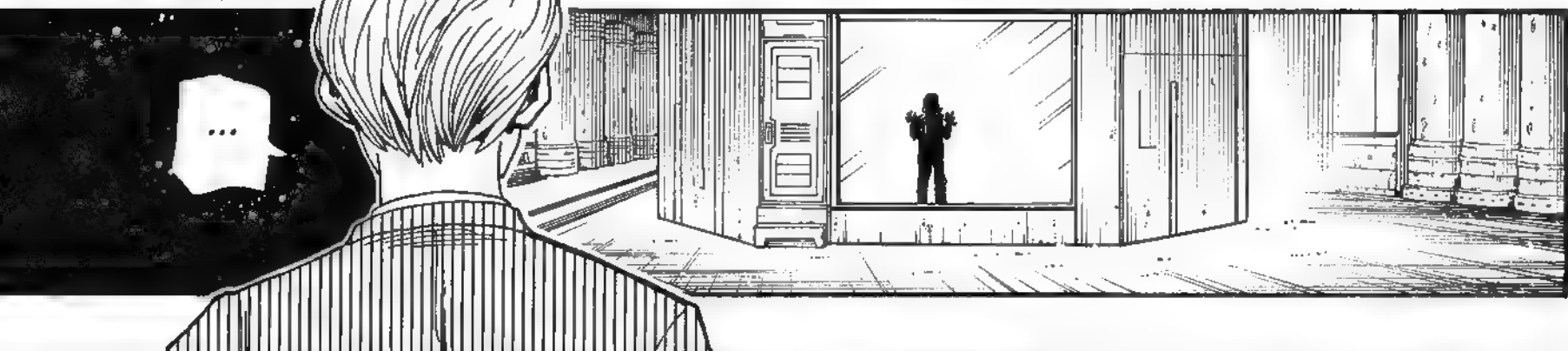
IT'S UNABLE TO DIE.

FIFTY...



!!

IT USED TO BE A HUNTER WHO WENT TO THE NEW WORLD.




MY SON, BEYOND, IS ONE OF THE EXPERTS IN CHARGE OF EXPEDITION DECISION MAKING.




FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THE VS AVOIDED THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION AND SECRETLY SENT IN THEIR OWN RESEARCH TEAM.






HE WANTED TO TRY AGAIN, BUT I FORBADE IT UNTIL AFTER MY DEATH.

IGNORING MY WARNINGS, HE INSISTED ON TAKING UNEXPLORED ROUTES, WHICH LED TO CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES... HE RETURNED AND BROUGHT BACK NEW THREATS.

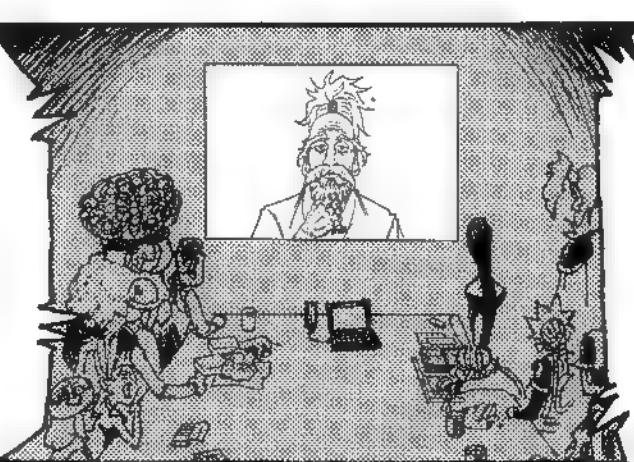


...THE STRENGTH REQUIRED THERE WAS NOT WHAT I SOUGHT.

I'VE SET FOOT THERE JUST TWICE WHEN I WAS YOUNG, BUT...

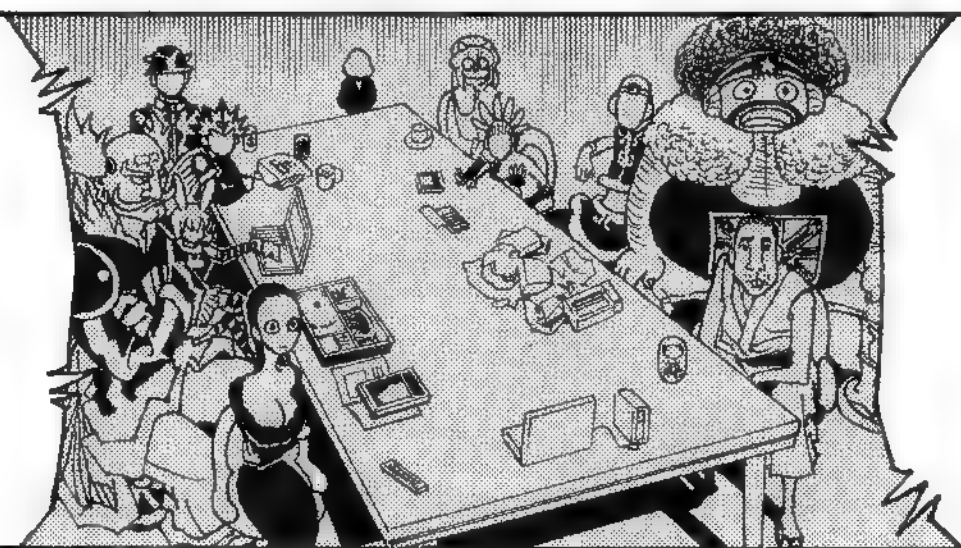


AND I MADE IT A TABOO FOR THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION AS WELL.




BUT IN THE NEW WORLD, IT WAS A HARSH BATTLE AGAINST MOTHER NATURE, WHERE NO VICTOR EXISTS.

I NEEDED AN OPPONENT. I SOUGHT STRENGTH AS AN INDIVIDUAL, WITH EITHER VICTORY OR DEFEAT AS AN OUTCOME.



IF ANYTHING, HE'S PROBABLY MORE SUITED TO BEING A HUNTER THAN I.

THE STRENGTH MY SON DESIRED WAS FORMIDABLE AND ESSENTIAL TO EXPLORING THERE.



I WANT YOU TO  
SUCCESSFULLY  
EXPLORE THE DARK  
CONTINENT BEFORE  
MY SON!!

NOW, TO THE  
QUESTION AT  
HAND!



DIFFICULTY  
RATING IS  
UNDISPUTEDLY  
**A!!**

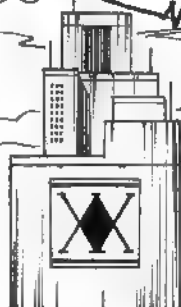
OVERCOME ANY OF  
THE *RISKS* OF THE  
DARK CONTINENT,  
AND RETURN WITH  
*HOPE*.

BUT THE RISKS ARE  
FAR GREATER, AND  
WILL LIKELY PUT  
THE ASSOCIATION IN  
GREAT PERIL...!

THE  
REWARDS  
WILL BE  
GREAT...

...THAT THE  
**ASSOCIATION**  
BE THE PIONEER  
IN HUNTING THE  
MYSTERIOUS  
AND THE  
DANGEROUS.

HOWEVER, THIS  
IS A **REQUEST**,  
NOT AN ORDER.  
IT'S A SELFISH  
DESIRE OF  
MINE...







**BWOONG!!**

...WITHOUT CROSSING THE THRESHOLD! THIS IS NOT AN ORDER!!

WE MERELY OPENED THE DOOR TO THIS HAUNTED HOUSE AND TURNED HEEL...

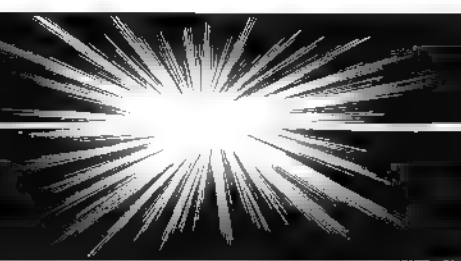
THINK OF IT AS THE FLEETING DREAM OF A DEAD MAN...



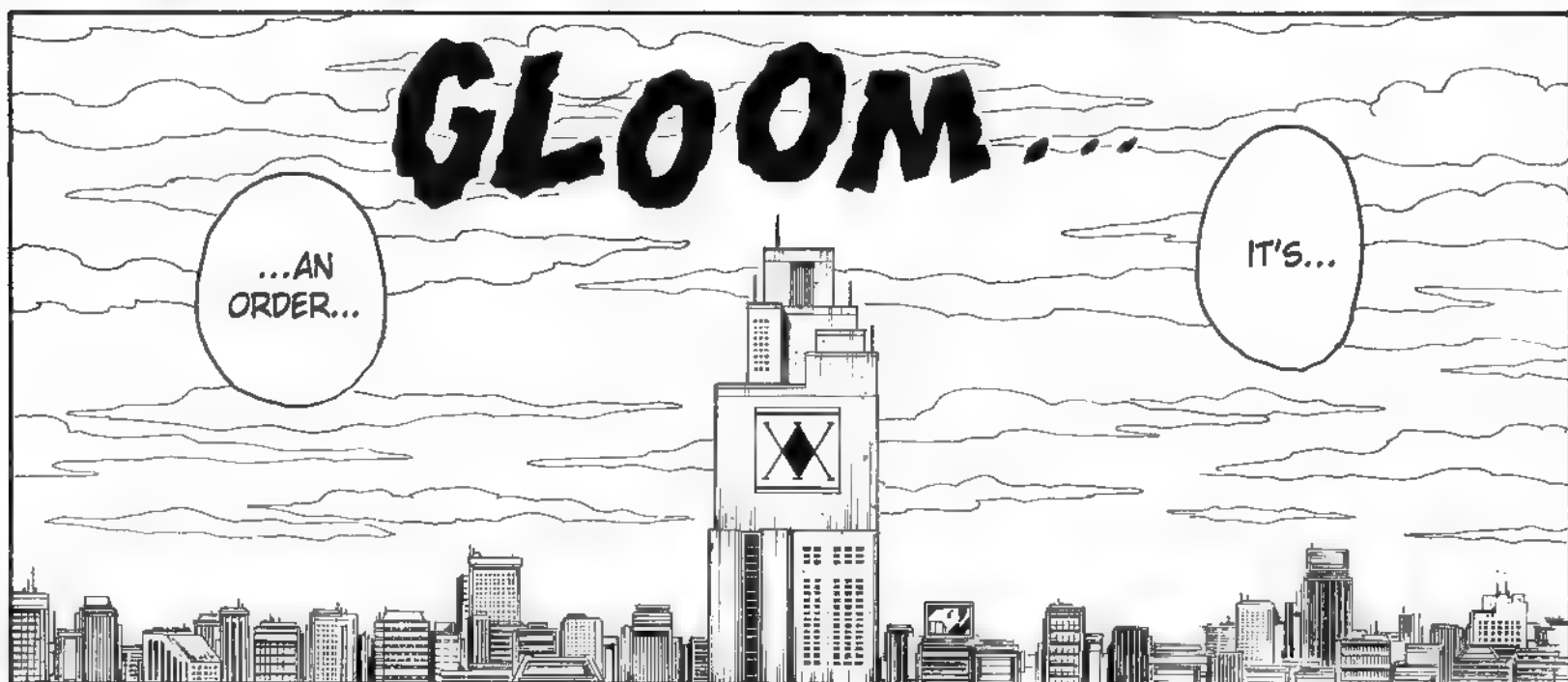
I REPEAT ...

I REPEAT, THIS IS NOT AN ORDER!!

...AN ORDER !!



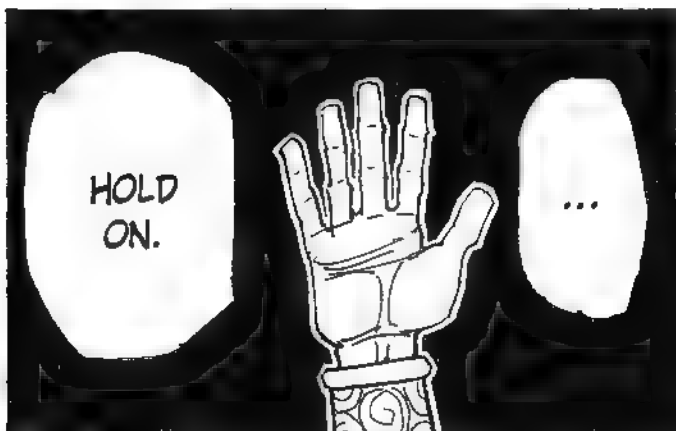
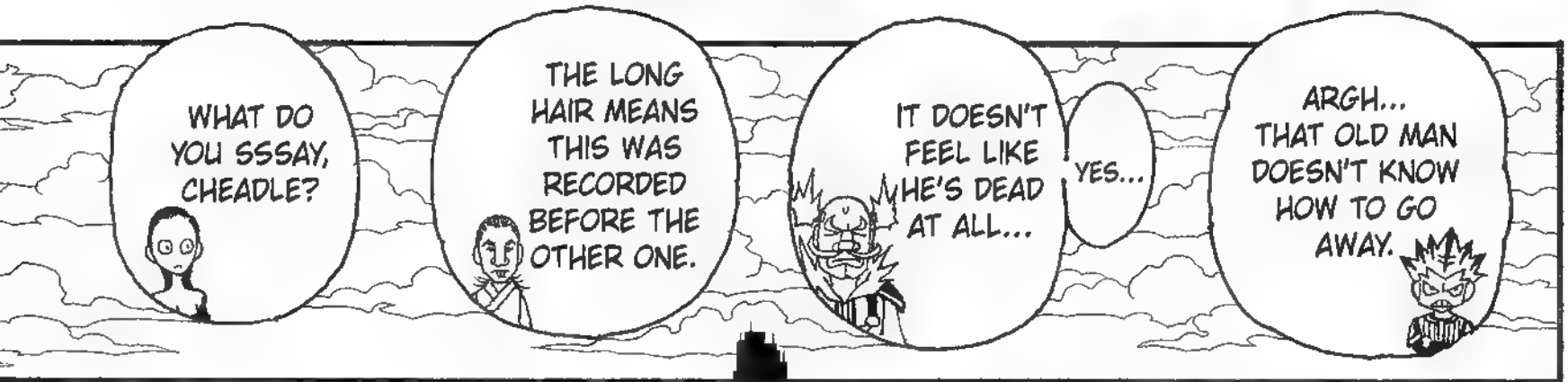
THIS IS NOT...



**GLOOM...**

...AN ORDER...

IT'S...



IF IT'S A RACE BETWEEN THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION AND KAKIN, IT'S FAIR.

IF WE HAVE THE SAME GOAL, INTERFERING WITH THEM DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME EITHER.

IT'S TOO CONVENIENT HOW ONE TAKES CARE OF THE OTHER.

WELL, I'M CONTRARY.

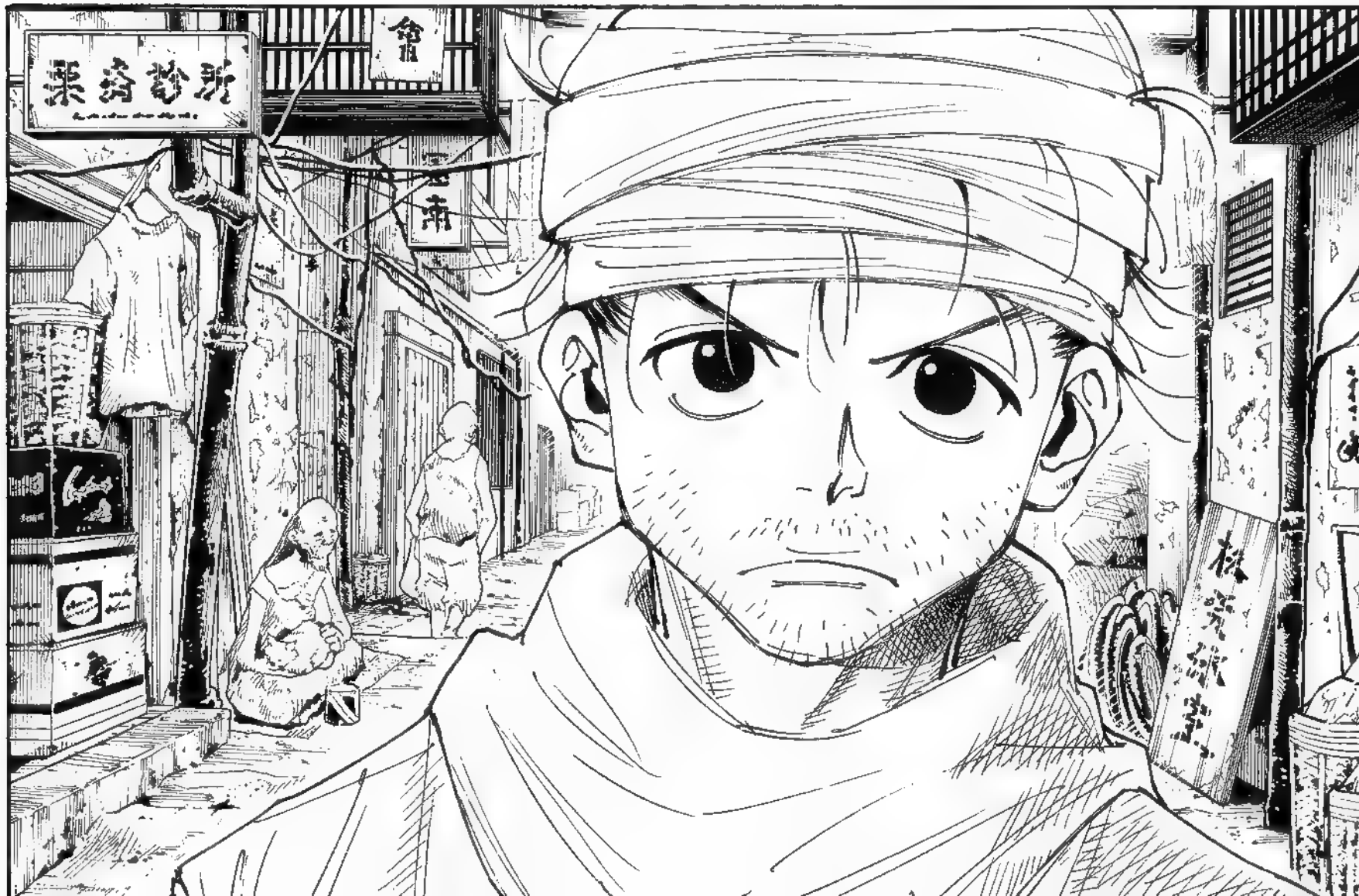
THE REASON?  
↓  
MONKEY

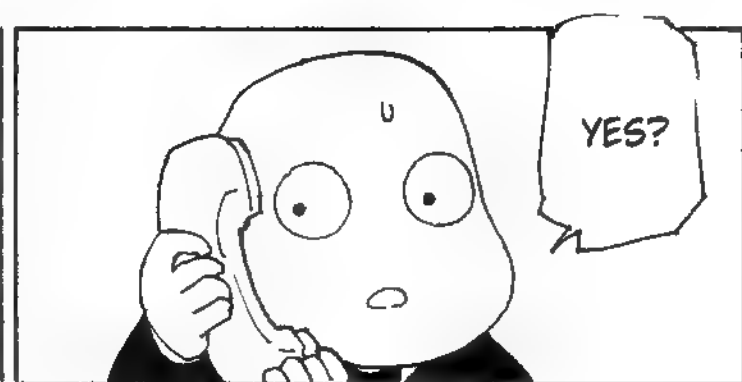
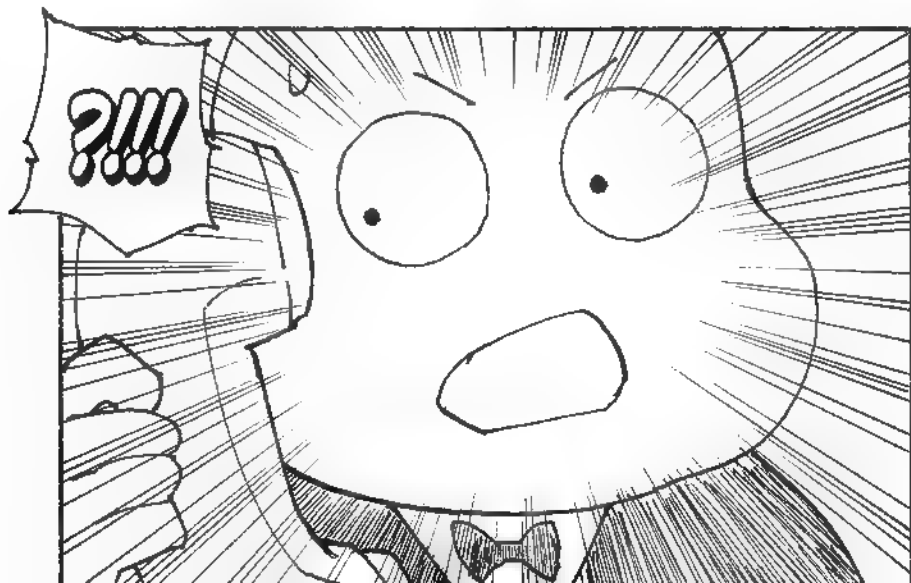
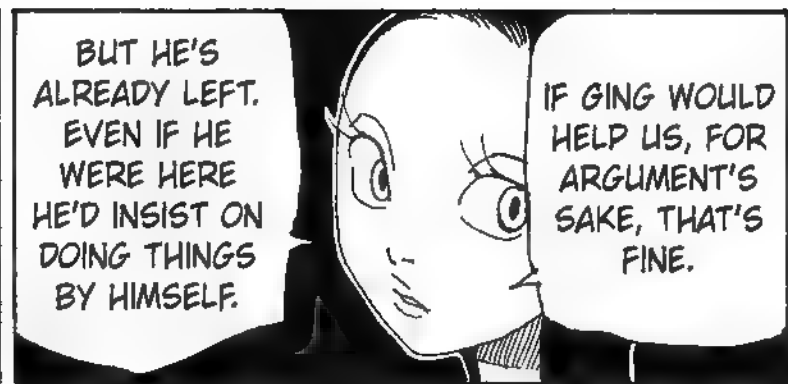
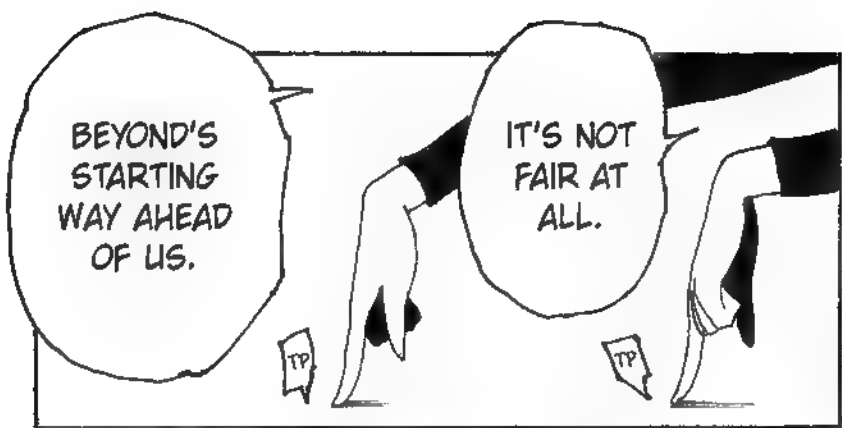
HAVE ANY OF US EVER CONSIDERED GOING TO THE NEW WORLD?

IS IT? THE CHAIRMAN'S SON HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR DECADES.

...OF ONE SUCH IDIOT.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, I CAN ONLY THINK...







YO.



CAN YOU CONTACT THE V5?

THOSE GUYS MUST BE THE ZODIACS.

BEEN A WHILE, BEANS.

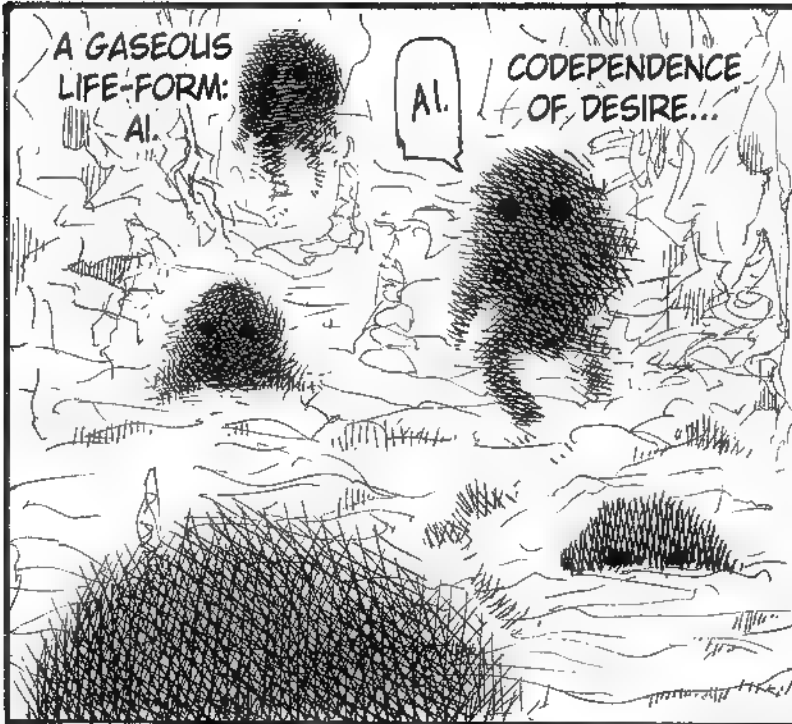
SAY THAT YOU CAUGHT BEYOND NETERO.





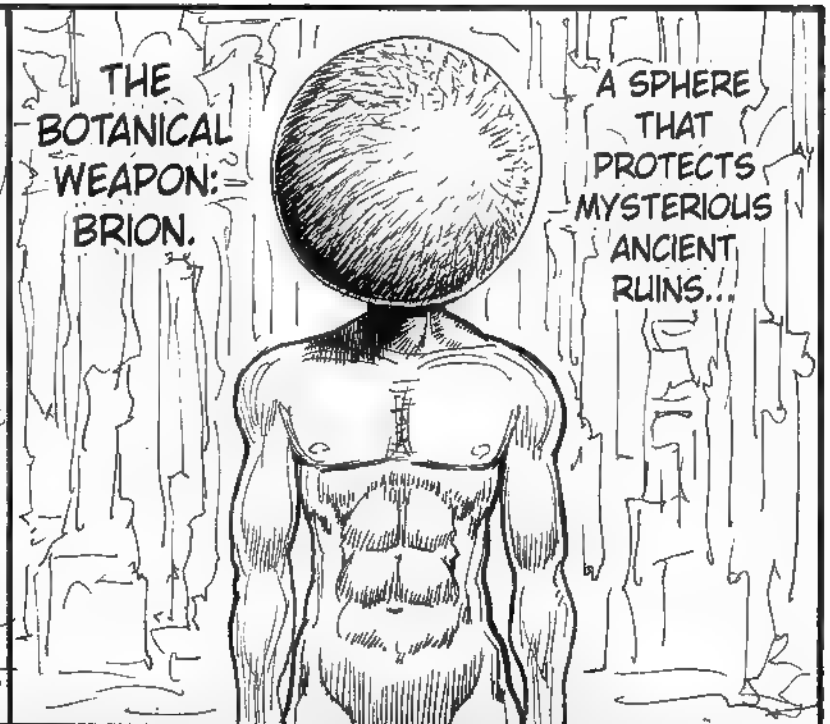
THE  
FIVE THREATS  
HUMANITY  
BROUGHT BACK  
FROM THE DARK  
CONTINENT...





A GASEOUS LIFE-FORM: AI.

CODEPENDENCE OF DESIRE...



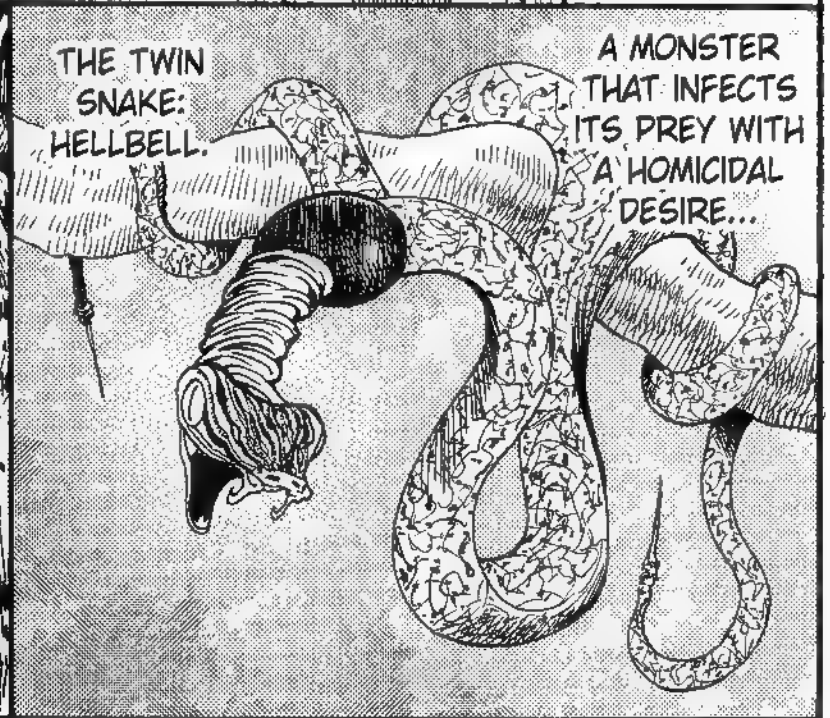
THE BOTANICAL WEAPON: BRION.

A SPHERE THAT PROTECTS MYSTERIOUS ANCIENT RUINS...



A BEAST THAT KEEPS PEOPLE AS PETS: PAP.

A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN LIFE AND PLEASURE...



THE TWIN SNAKE: HELLBELL.

A MONSTER THAT INFECTS ITS PREY WITH A HOMICIDAL DESIRE...

ZOBAE, THE IMMORTALITY DISEASE.



ENDLESS DESPAIR DISGUISED AS HOPE...

...HUMANITY SHOULD GO BACK TO...!!



THIS IS NO PLACE...



I'M FROM  
THE DARK  
CONTINENT.

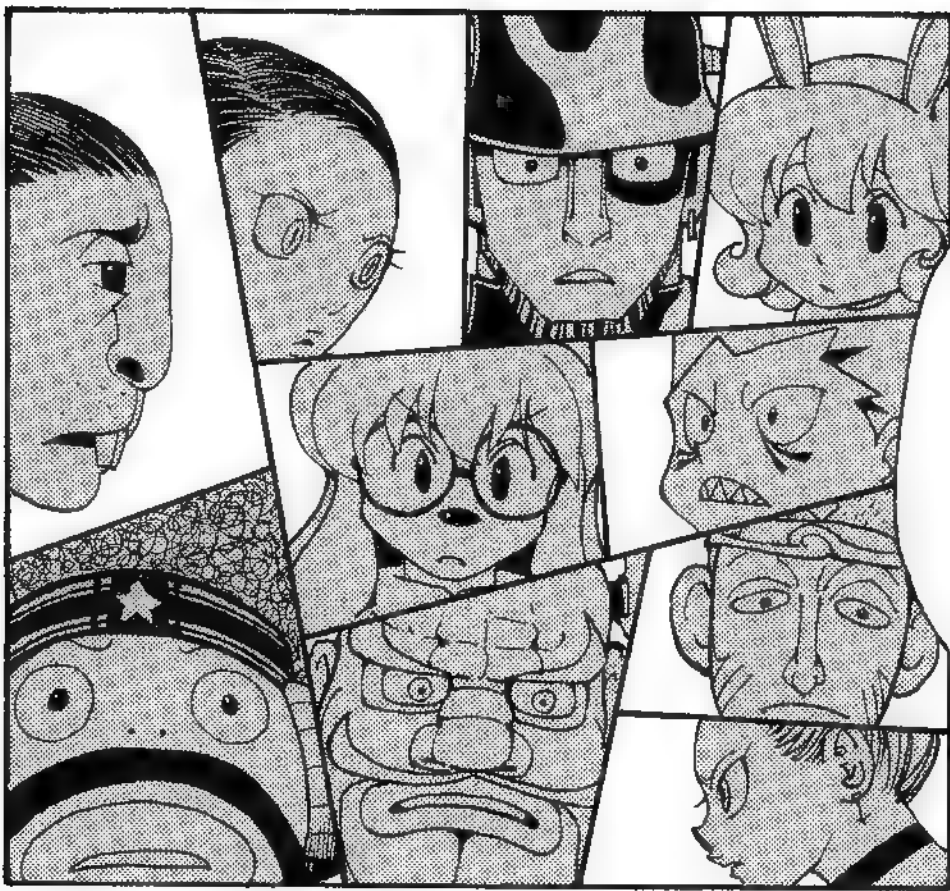


AI.

# KLANG!!

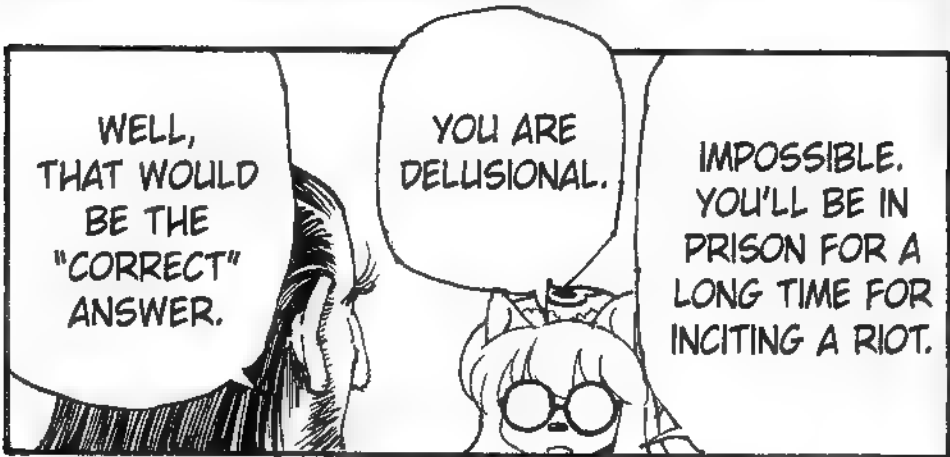
## Chapter 342: Challenge





...AND YOU WILL GO TO THE DARK CONTINENT WITH ME!!

...THAT I WILL BE RELEASED ...



WELL, THAT WOULD BE THE "CORRECT" ANSWER.

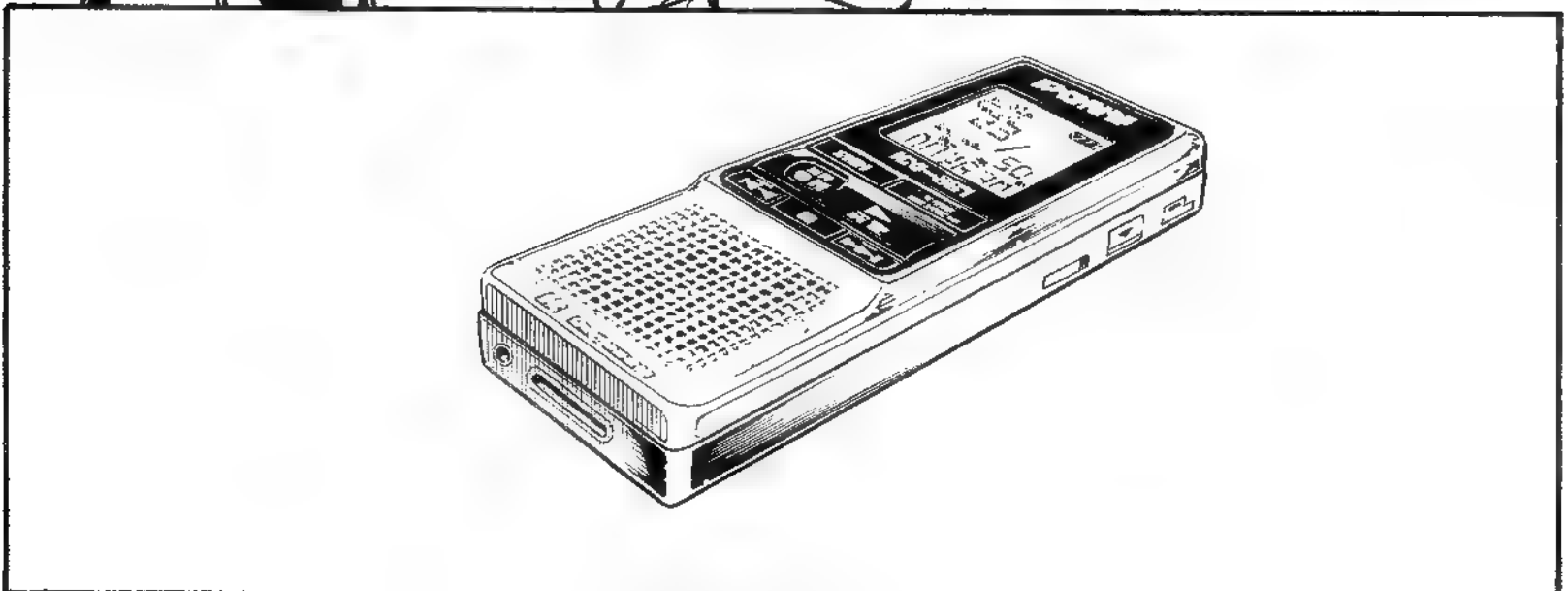
YOU ARE DELUSIONAL.

IMPOSSIBLE. YOU'LL BE IN PRISON FOR A LONG TIME FOR INCITING A RIOT.



YOU HAVE TIME TO HEAR ME OUT BEFORE YOU REPORT TO THE VS.

BUT THE REAL WORLD ISN'T LIKE THAT.





AS IF YOU COULD PUBLICIZE IT.

NO PROBLEM.

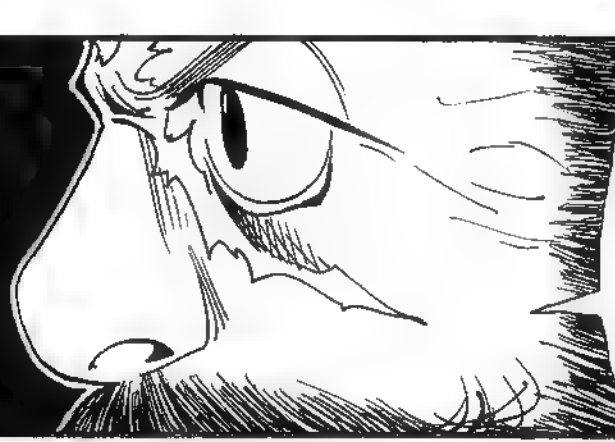
IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?

THIS CONVERSATION WILL BE RECORDED.

THE ONLY THING I KNOW RIGHT NOW IS THAT WE'RE BEING ATTACKED...!

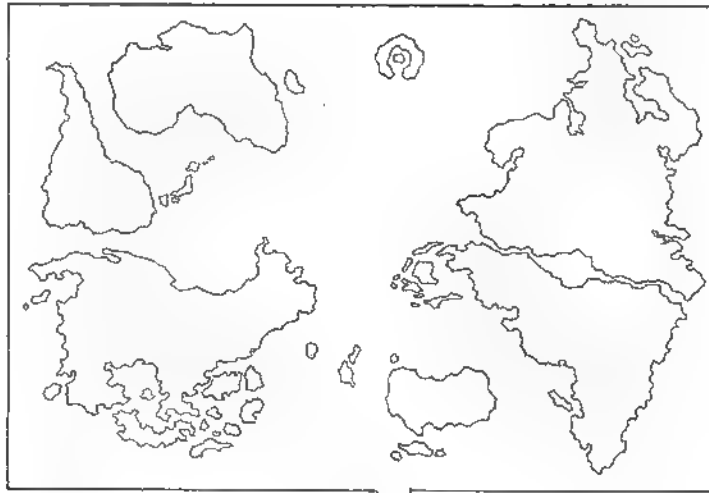
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM... JUST FACING HIM MAKES ME WAVER... WHAT DOES HE WANT?

...SO YOU CAN BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE TRUTH.



I'LL FIRST TELL YOU ABOUT THE VS'S OFFICIAL POLICY AND THE TRUE MEANING BEHIND THOSE WORDS...

BIP

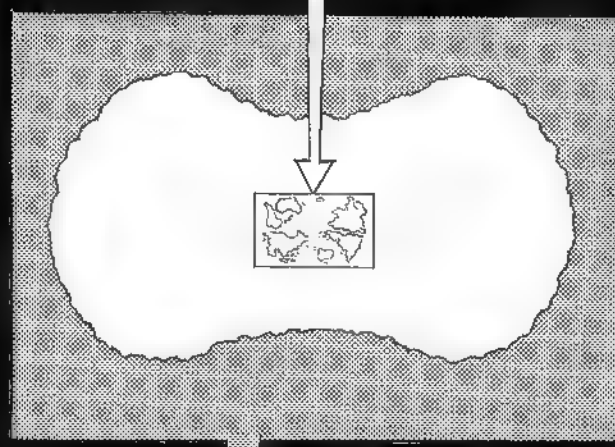


THIS IS THE CURRENT OFFICIAL WORLD MAP.

ONLY FIVE TRIPS HAD RETURNING SURVIVORS, FOR A TOTAL OF 28 PEOPLE.

BIP

OUR WORLD IS LOCATED WITHIN THE ENOURMOUS LAKE MOBIUS IN THE CENTER OF THE DARK CONTINENT.

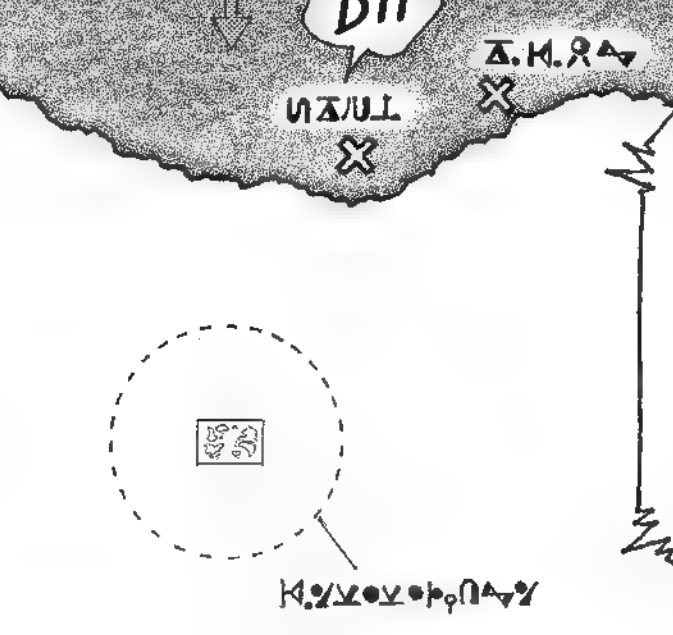


OF THEM, BEYOND IS THE ONLY ONE STILL ALIVE TODAY.

ACCORDING TO OUR DATA, MANKIND HAS TRIED TO GO THERE 149 TIMES!! THAT'S ONLY THE EXCURSIONS WE HAVE ON RECORD.

BIP

THE CURRENT SITUATION IS THAT WE CANNOT EVEN CROSS THE FAR OCEAN BOUNDARY WITHOUT THE GUIDE.



THE FIVE VOYAGES WERE ALL UNOFFICIAL AND TOOK PLACE AFTER THE VS FORMED THE INVIOALABILITY TREATY, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE GUIDE.

UKV7A X

X iii 70.

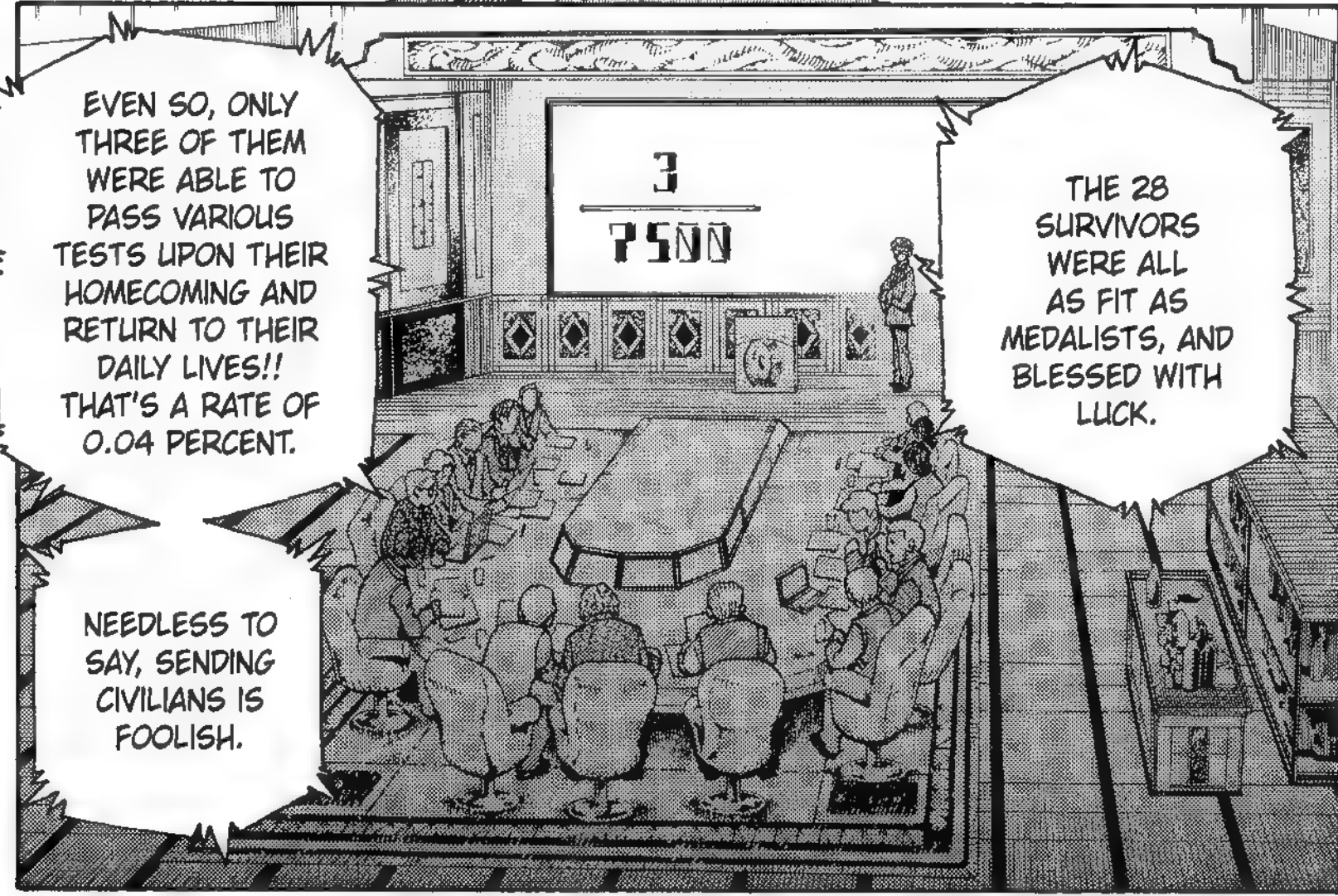
X 0t3



...SUCCEEDED IN MAKING A ROUND TRIP BY OURSELVES!!

NOT OFFICIALLY.

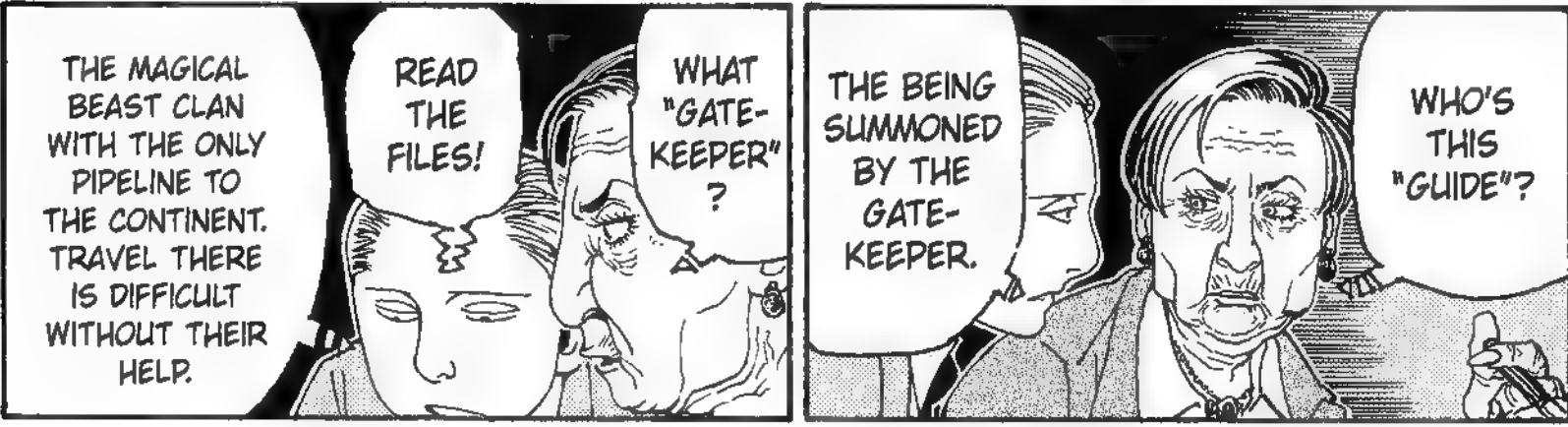
SO MAN-KIND HAS NEVER...



EVEN SO, ONLY THREE OF THEM WERE ABLE TO PASS VARIOUS TESTS UPON THEIR HOMECOMING AND RETURN TO THEIR DAILY LIVES!! THAT'S A RATE OF 0.04 PERCENT.

THE 28 SURVIVORS WERE ALL AS FIT AS MEDALISTS, AND BLESSED WITH LUCK.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, SENDING CIVILIANS IS FOOLISH.



THE MAGICAL BEAST CLAN WITH THE ONLY PIPELINE TO THE CONTINENT. TRAVEL THERE IS DIFFICULT WITHOUT THEIR HELP.

READ THE FILES!

WHAT "GATE-KEEPER"?

THE BEING SUMMONED BY THE GATE-KEEPER.

WHO'S THIS "GUIDE"?



"FIVE THREATS" ?

YES, THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.



LIKewise FOR THE FIVE THREATS YOU'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT NEXT.

WE KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS ALREADY.



GO AHEAD.

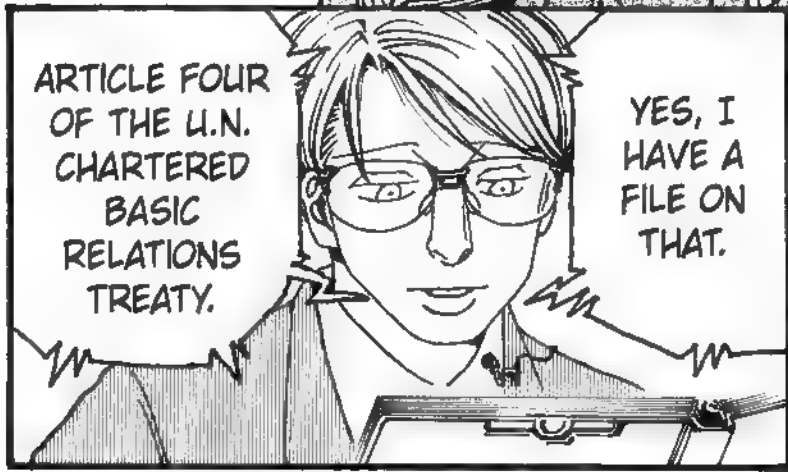
MAY I SAY SOMETHING?



...FOR THE COUNTRIES AND BUSINESSES THAT POUR MONEY INTO THINGS, THEN SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR RESULTS TO ROLL IN!

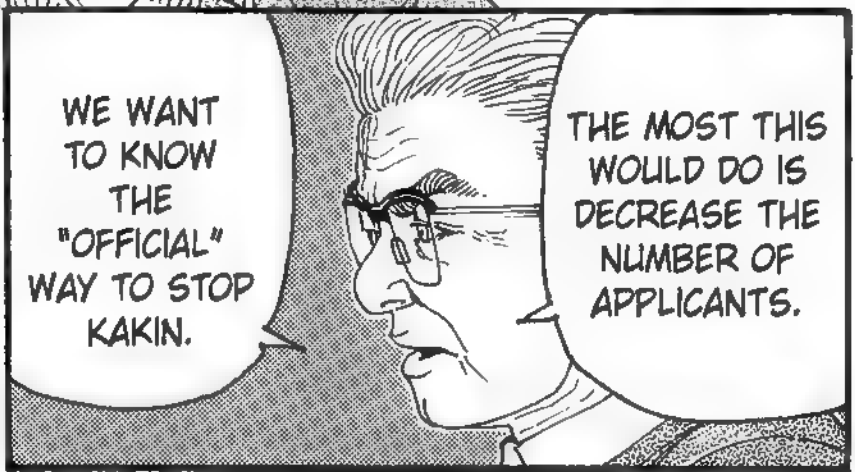
...THAT ANY TALK OF RISK ONLY SERVES TO FUEL THE FIRE FOR THESE ADVENTURERS! THE SAME GOES...

I WANT TO POINT OUT...



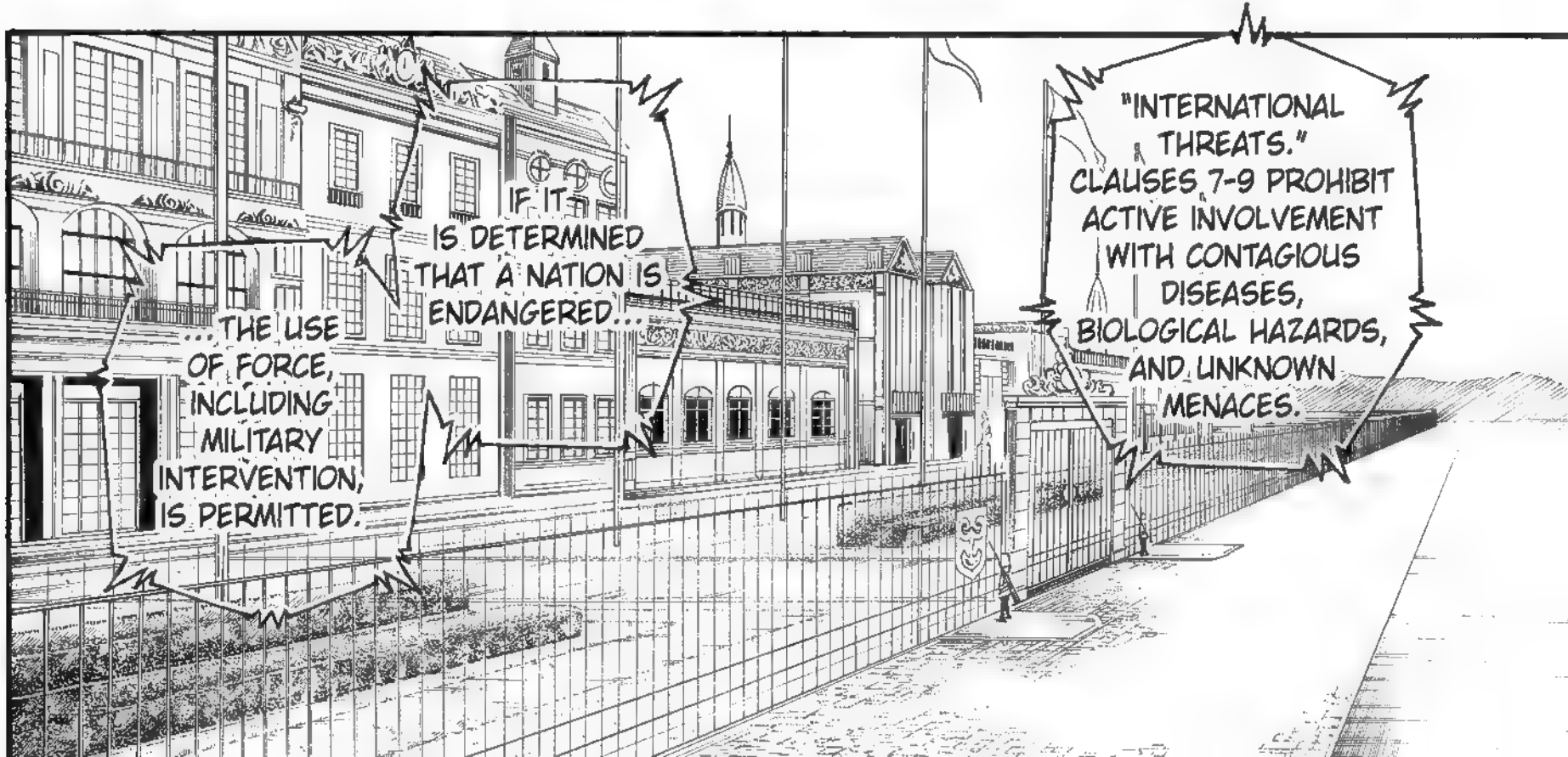
ARTICLE FOUR OF THE U.N. CHARTERED BASIC RELATIONS TREATY.

YES, I HAVE A FILE ON THAT.



WE WANT TO KNOW THE "OFFICIAL" WAY TO STOP KAKIN.

THE MOST THIS WOULD DO IS DECREASE THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS.



...THE USE OF FORCE, INCLUDING MILITARY INTERVENTION, IS PERMITTED.

IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT A NATION IS ENDANGERED...

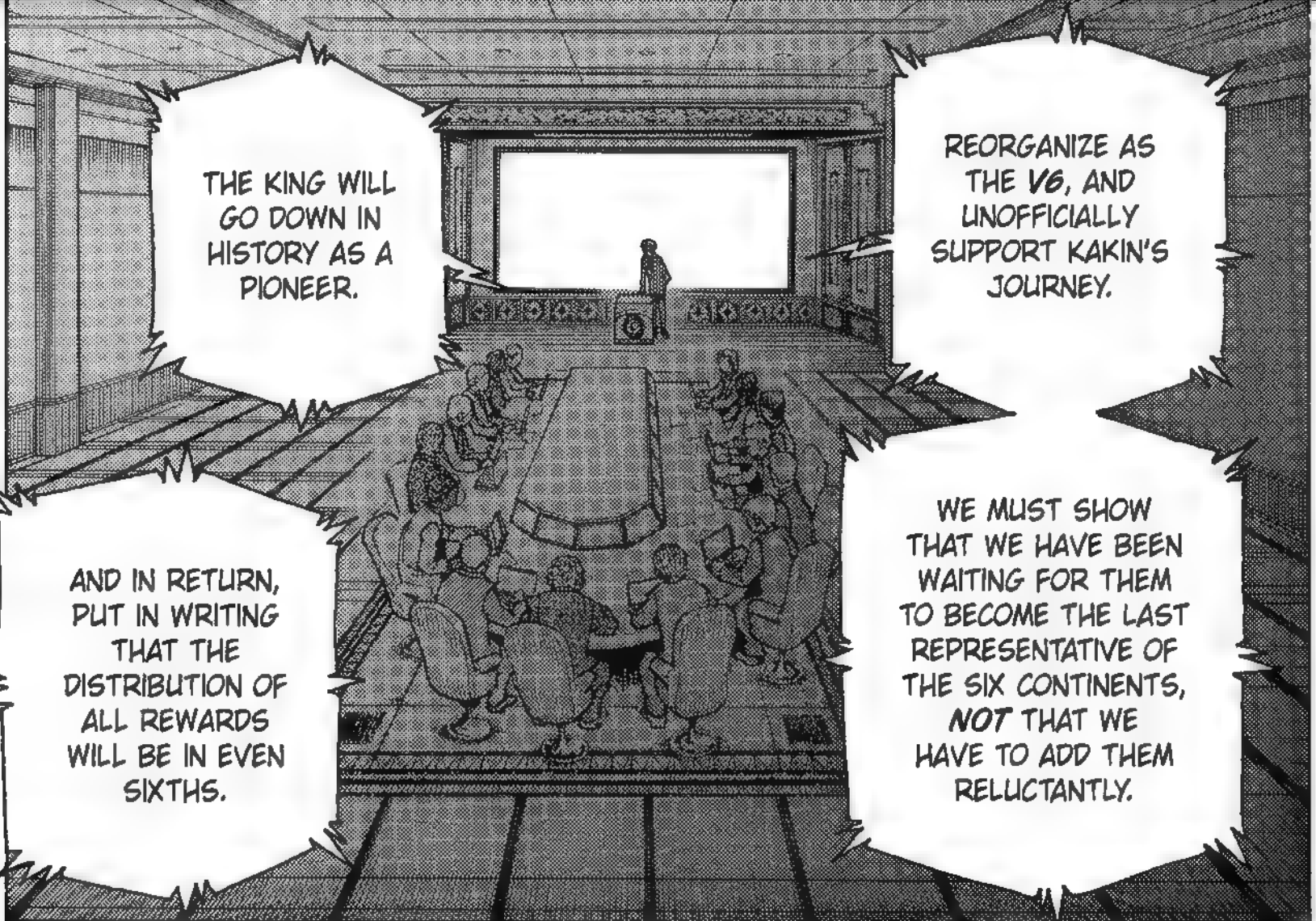
"INTERNATIONAL THREATS." CLAUSES 7-9 PROHIBIT ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT WITH CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, AND UNKNOWN MENACES.



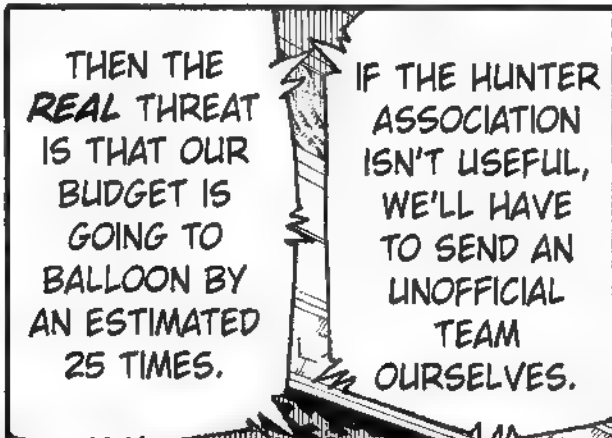
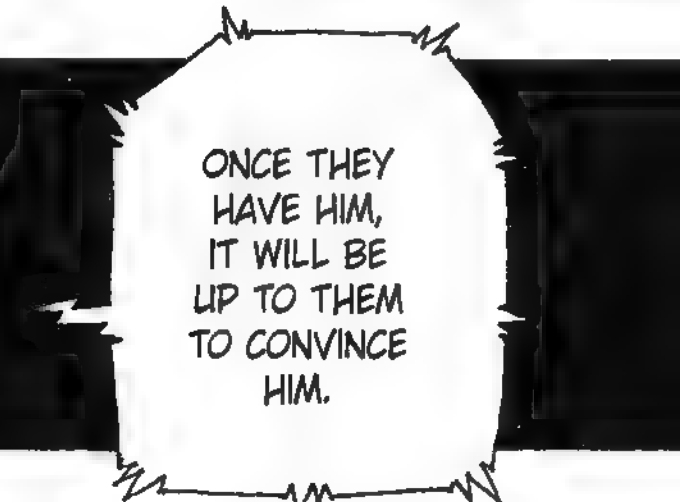
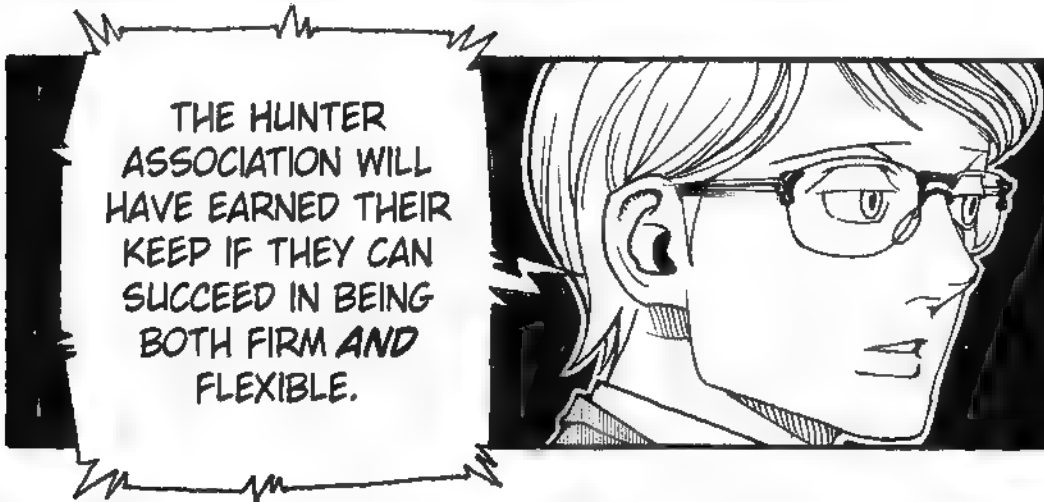
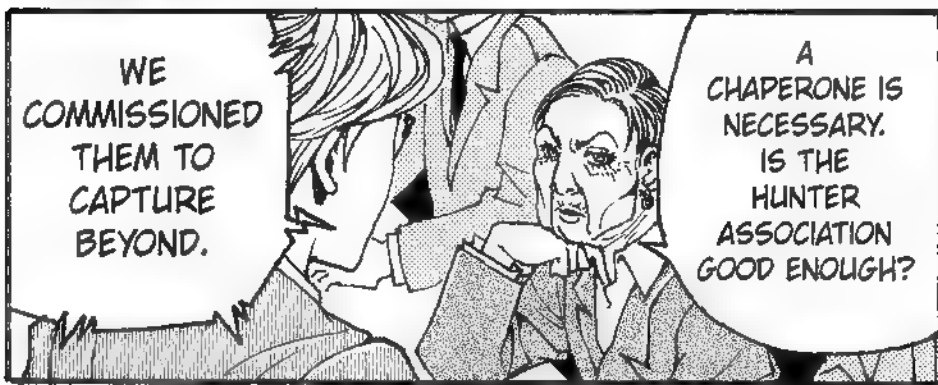
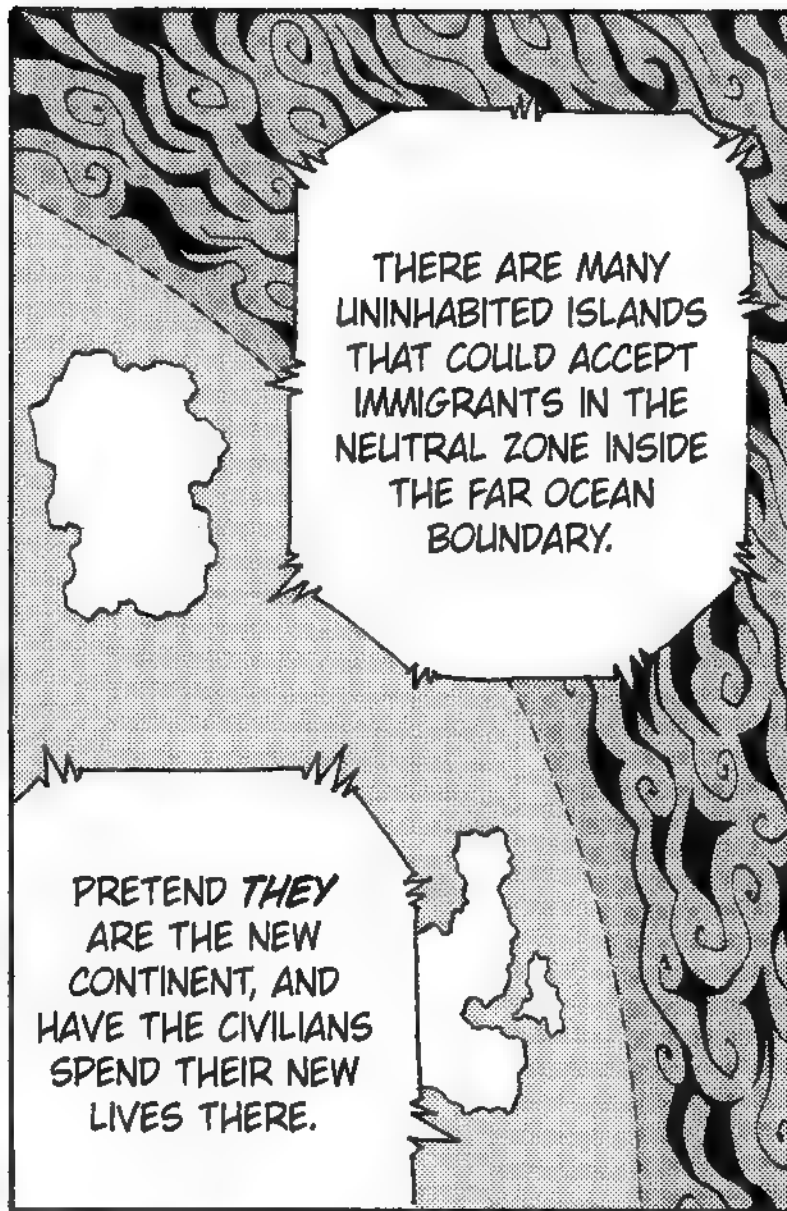
...IT IS NECESSARY TO INVITE KAKIN TO THE V5!

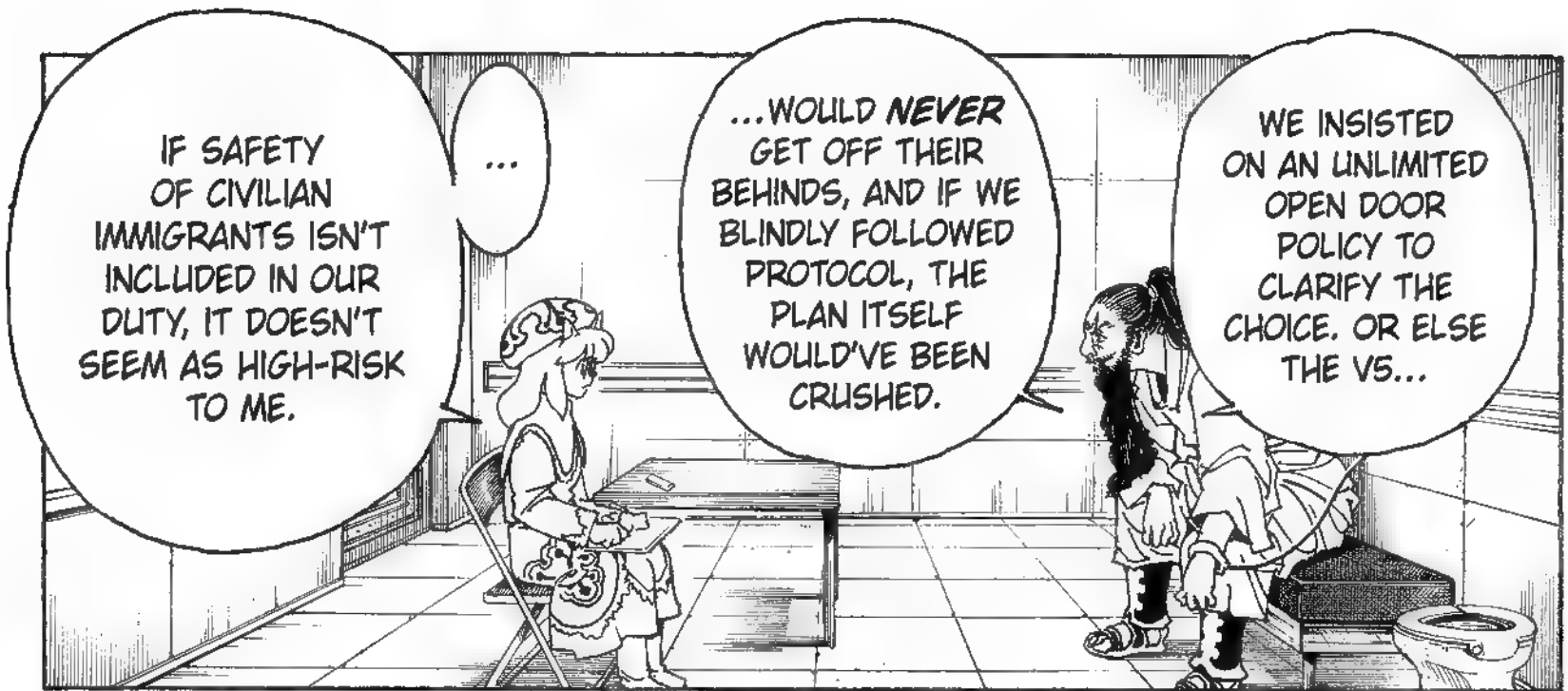


CONSIDERING THE ABOVE, TO QUELL THIS SITUATION PEACEFULLY...







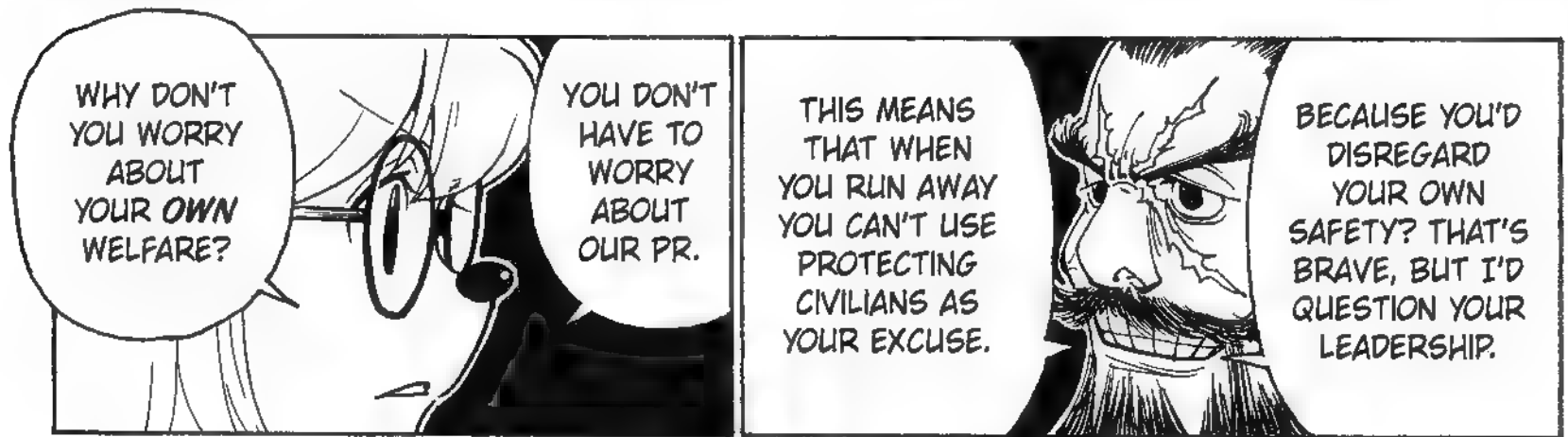


IF SAFETY OF CIVILIAN IMMIGRANTS ISN'T INCLUDED IN OUR DUTY, IT DOESN'T SEEM AS HIGH-RISK TO ME.

...

...WOULD NEVER GET OFF THEIR BEHINDS, AND IF WE BLINDLY FOLLOWED PROTOCOL, THE PLAN ITSELF WOULD'VE BEEN CRUSHED.

WE INSISTED ON AN UNLIMITED OPEN DOOR POLICY TO CLARIFY THE CHOICE. OR ELSE THE VS...

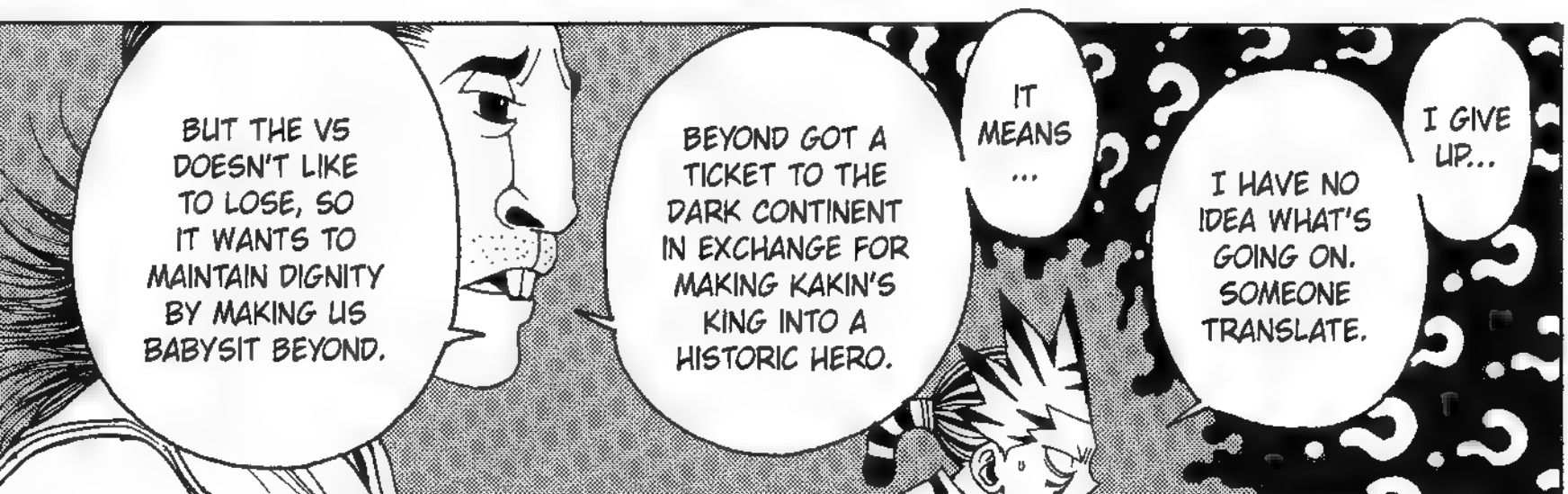


WHY DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN WELFARE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OUR PR.

THIS MEANS THAT WHEN YOU RUN AWAY YOU CAN'T USE PROTECTING CIVILIANS AS YOUR EXCUSE.

BECAUSE YOU'D DISREGARD YOUR OWN SAFETY? THAT'S BRAVE, BUT I'D QUESTION YOUR LEADERSHIP.



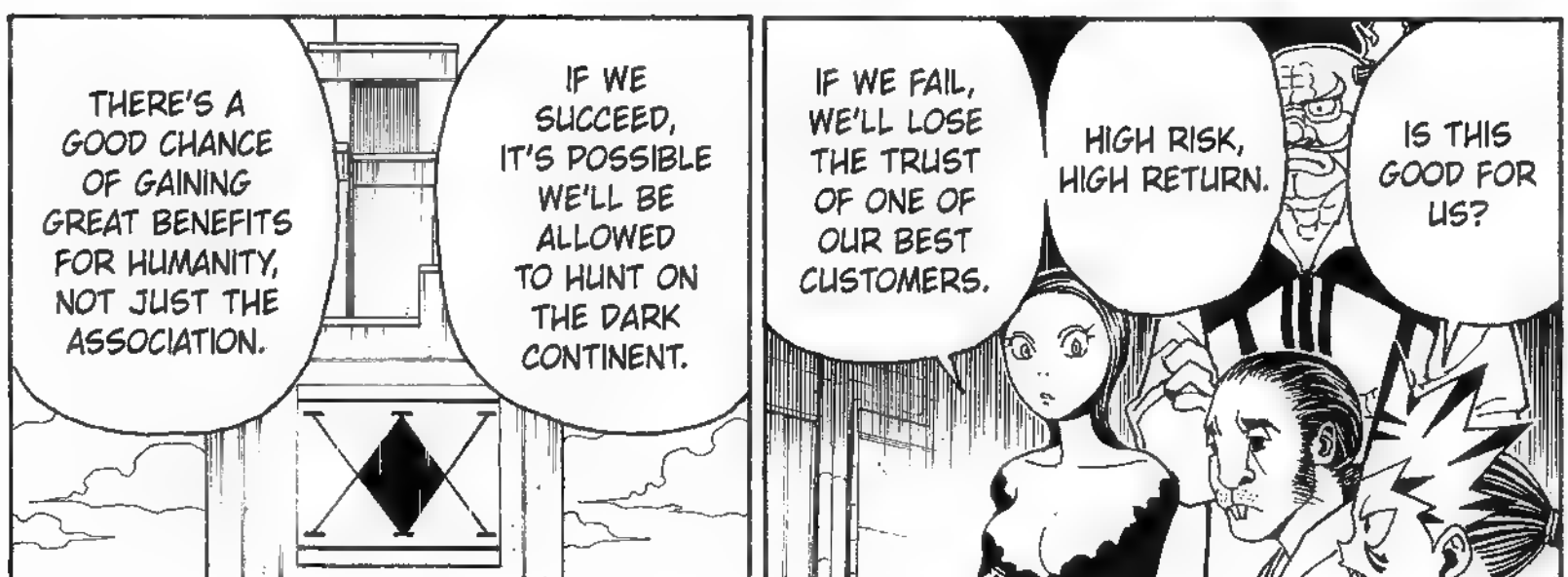
BUT THE VS DOESN'T LIKE TO LOSE, SO IT WANTS TO MAINTAIN DIGNITY BY MAKING US BABYSIT BEYOND.

BEYOND GOT A TICKET TO THE DARK CONTINENT IN EXCHANGE FOR MAKING KAKIN'S KING INTO A HISTORIC HERO.

IT MEANS ...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON. SOMEONE TRANSLATE.

I GIVE UP...



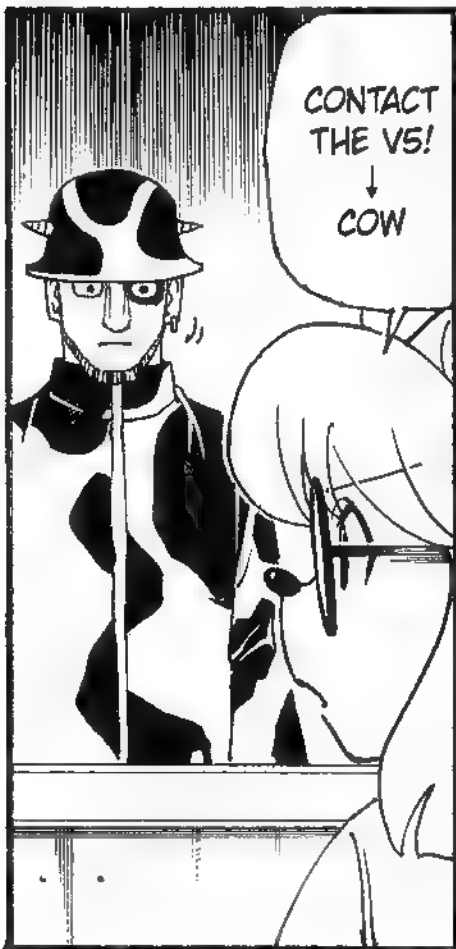
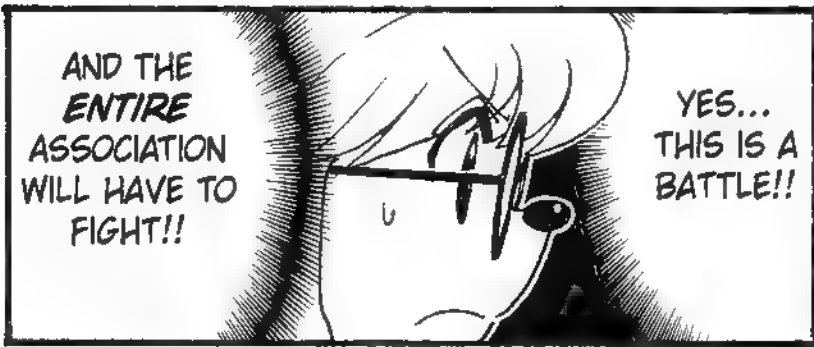
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF GAINING GREAT BENEFITS FOR HUMANITY, NOT JUST THE ASSOCIATION.

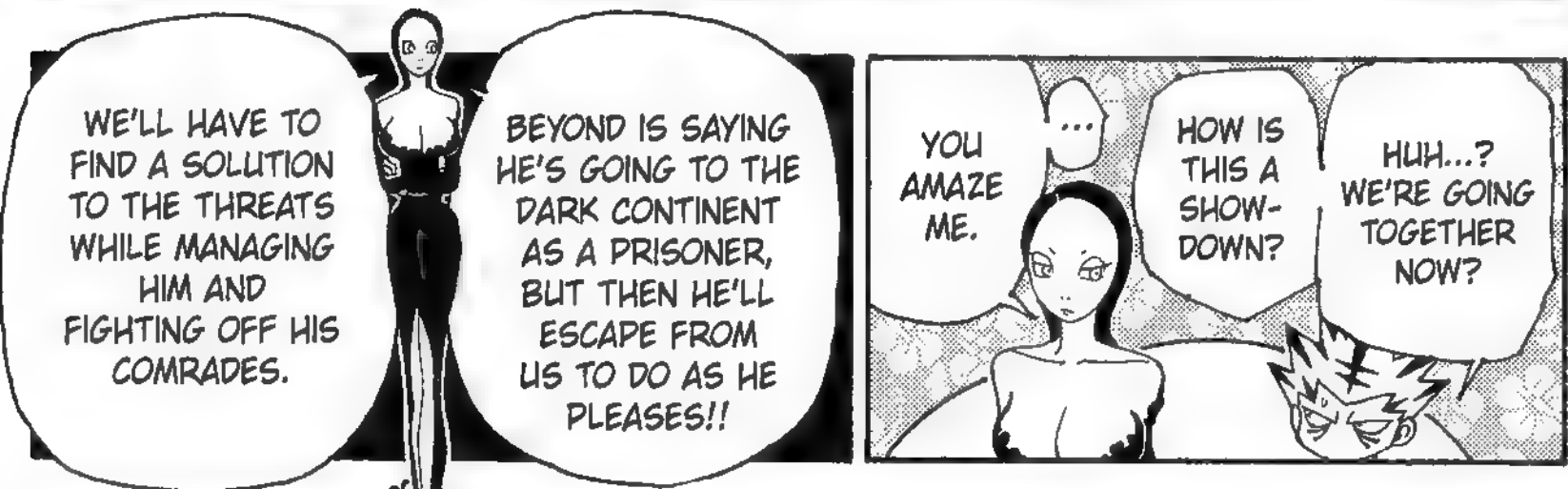
IF WE SUCCEED, IT'S POSSIBLE WE'LL BE ALLOWED TO HUNT ON THE DARK CONTINENT.

IF WE FAIL, WE'LL LOSE THE TRUST OF ONE OF OUR BEST CUSTOMERS.

HIGH RISK, HIGH RETURN.

IS THIS GOOD FOR US?







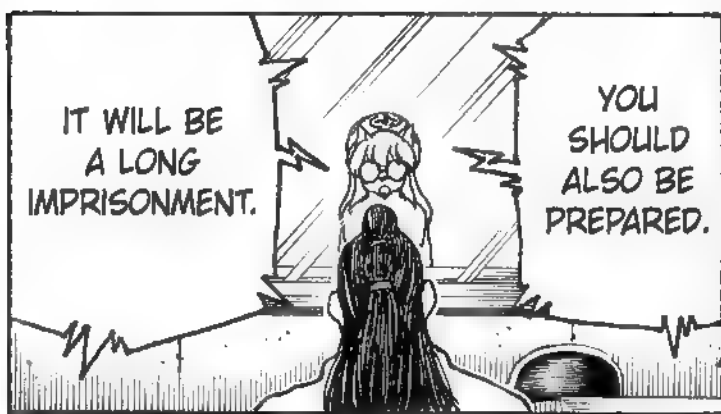
GINTA, YOU OPTIMIST. DREAM ON.

I HOPE WE HIT IT OFF WITH BEYOND DURING THE TRIP AND HAVE A FUN ADVENTURE TOGETHER.

EXACTLY! BE PREPARED.  
↓  
EVERYONE

THAT'S WHAT HUNTERS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO, RIGHT?

BUT...

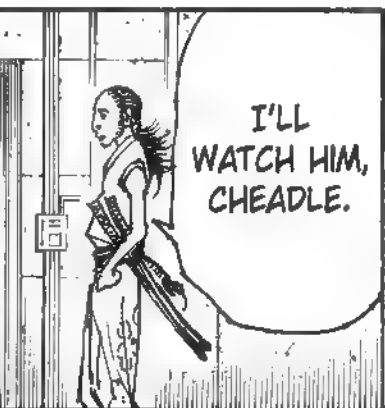


IT WILL BE A LONG IMPRISONMENT.

YOU SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED.



OKAY.



I'LL WATCH HIM, CHEADLE.



AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

I'LL WAIT.

A LONG TIME, EH...



ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING?

THANK YOU... BUT...

THAT WAS A GOOD PRESENTATION.

WELL DONE.

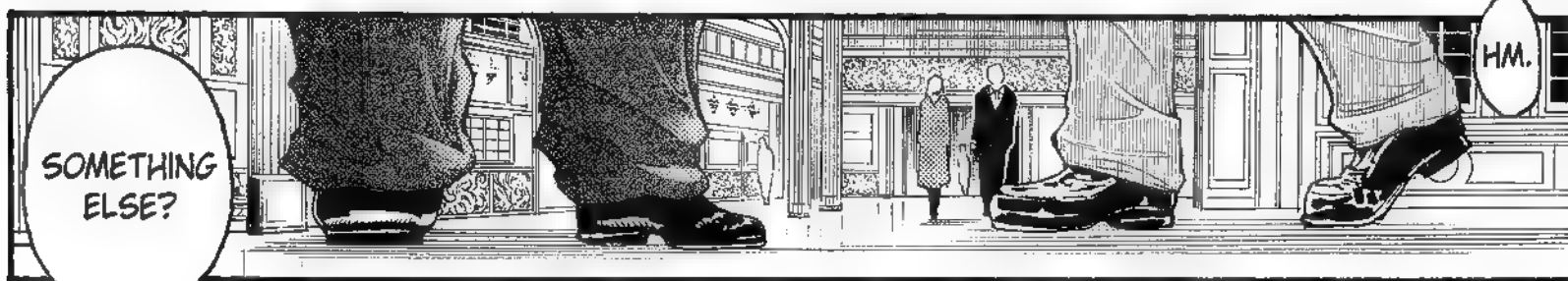
...AND TO PROPOSE A SAFER ROUTE TO PEOPLE WHO HAD ALREADY DECIDED ON A DESTINATION. THE REST IS *THEIR* PROBLEM.

IT'S NO PROBLEM. OUR DUTY WAS TO INFORM THEM OF THE DANGERS...

...CON-TRADICTING ITSELF IF THE CONCLUSION IS THAT WE'D STILL GO?

LIKE YOU ASKED, I SUBMITTED ALL THE VARIOUS RISKS. BUT ISN'T THE AGENCY...

WHAT WAS?



SOMETHING ELSE?

HM.

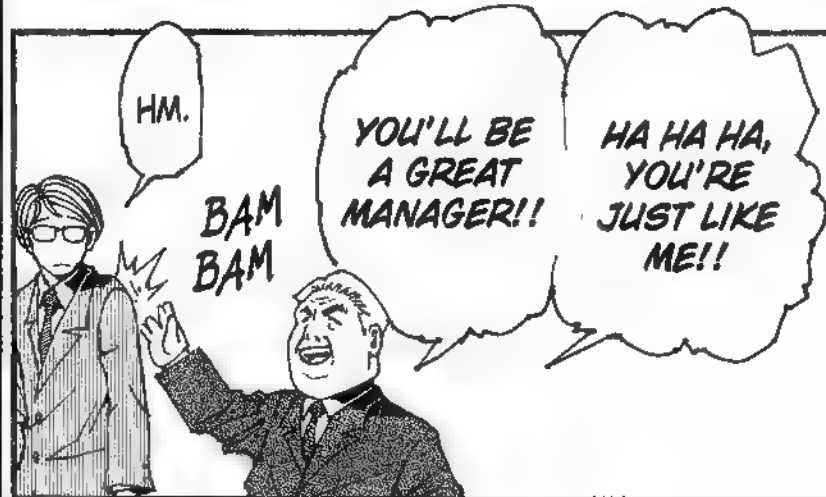


BUT *PEACE* IS MORE IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT?

AN HONEST WORLD WOULD BE BEST, OF COURSE.

BUT IN ACTUALITY, THAT BOOK IS THE BASIS FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR THE WORLD...

OUR OFFICIAL STANCE IS THAT *JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD* WAS FICTION...

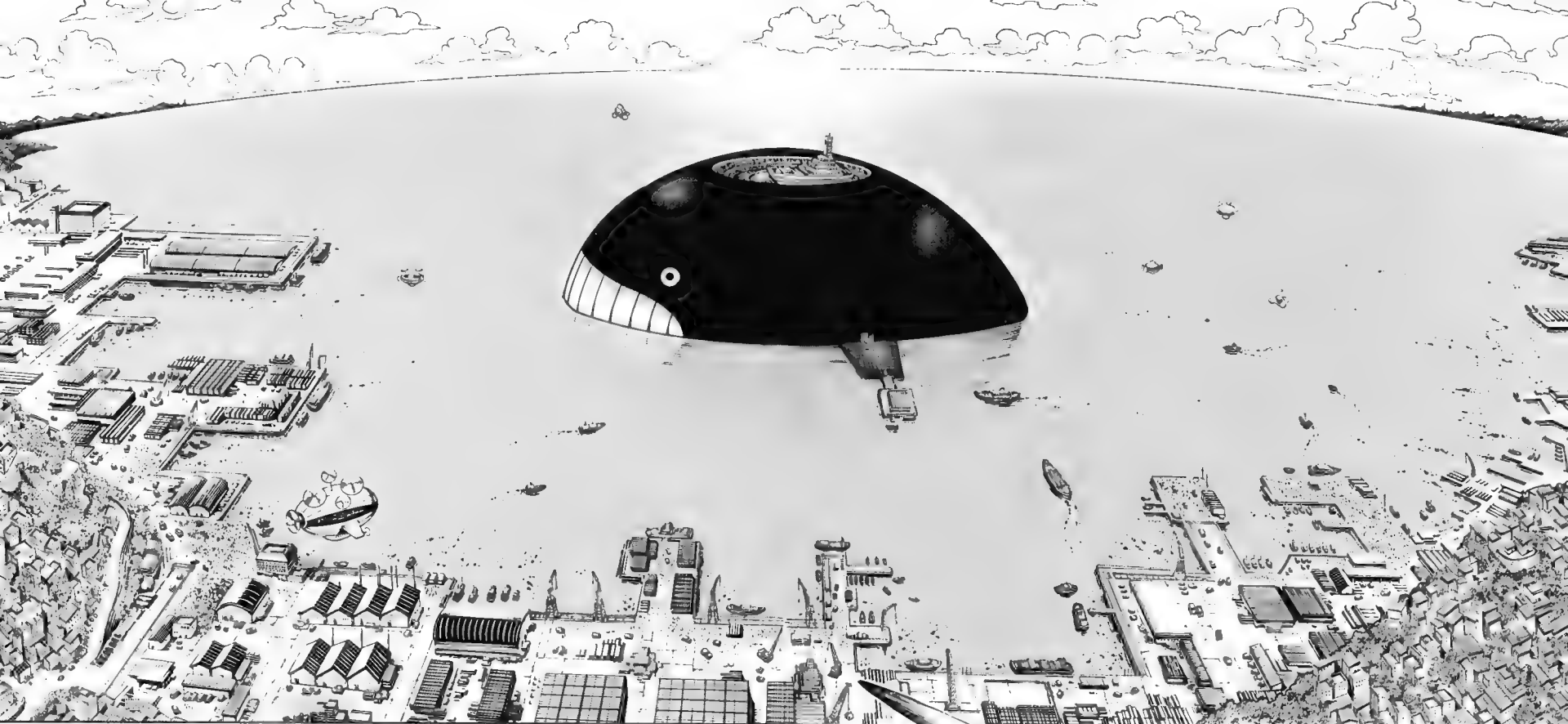


HM.

BAM BAM

YOU'LL BE A GREAT MANAGER!!

HA HA HA, YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME!!



CIVILIANS WILL BE PICKED BY LOTTERY, AND THE CURRENT ODDS OF LANDING A SEAT ON THE FIRST SHIP IS ONE IN 1,300!!

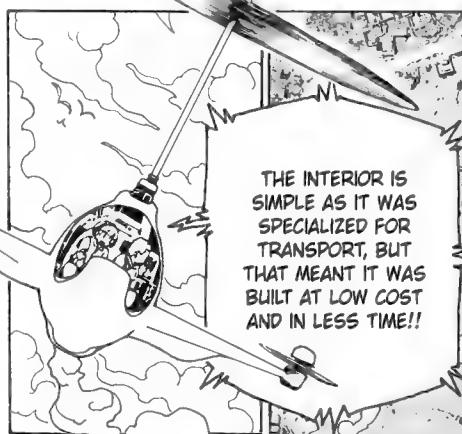
THIS COMMEMORATIVE FIRST SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO CARRY BEYOND, AS WELL AS THE KING AND 14 PRINCES!!

THE ODDS ARE BETTER THAN YOU'D THINK!!



AND HE'S PROMISED TO SEND A HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE WITHIN FIVE YEARS!!

OUR HERO KING HUI GUO ROU HAS DECLARED THEY WILL BUILD TWENTY OF THESE SHIPS IN A YEAR!!



THE INTERIOR IS SIMPLE AS IT WAS SPECIALIZED FOR TRANSPORT, BUT THAT MEANT IT WAS BUILT AT LOW COST AND IN LESS TIME!!



LOOK AT THAT!! THE GIANT TRANSPORT SHIP, BLACK WHALE NO.!!! IT CAN CARRY AN ASTONISHING 200,000 PEOPLE !!!

CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW "DANGEROUS" THIS IS, SO THE REST OF US CAN UNDERSTAND?

THE MAXIMUM RATING ON THE PUBLISHED DANGEROUS NON-NATIVE SPECIES LIST IS C...



BUT ONE THING TO NOTE IS THE RISKS INHERENT IN THIS VOYAGE, AND PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT.

SO, WE'RE INCLINED TO FOCUS ON THE SPECTACULAR AND OPTIMISTIC STORIES IN THIS EMIGRATION PLAN...

CREATURES YOU MIGHT COME ACROSS IF YOU'RE UNLUCKY, THAT MIGHT BE FATAL IN THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

OH, THE LIKES OF BEARS, SHARKS, POISONOUS SNAKES AND WASPS.

BUT THESE PEOPLE PROBABLY ASSUME THAT MANKIND NEVER WENT TO THE DARK CONTINENT BECAUSE DANGEROUS CREATURES EXIST.

NOBODY CAN RULE THEM OUT COMPLETELY, OF COURSE.

HA HA HA!

A? B? C?

OPINIONS ONLINE DECLARE THAT THE DARK CONTINENT SURELY MUST HARBOR DEADLY RANK B OR A CREATURES.

...ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE HIDING MIRACULOUS COMPOUNDS THAT CAN HELP MANKIND ADVANCE BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

IN FACT, THE MINERALS AND LIQUIDS HELD BY THESE FLORA AND FAUNA...

WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THESE MASS CASUALTIES WERE FROM INFECTIONS BY VIRUSES AND MICROBES.

MANY ANCIENT RUINS DESCRIBE THE CALAMITIES CAUSED BY GOING TO THE CONTINENT.

I DECLARE THAT THE GREATEST GOLD RUSH OF HUMAN HISTORY WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS!!

MODERN MEDICINE WILL PREVENT SUCH PROBLEMS FROM RECURRING!





THE DARK  
CONTINENT...

...IS THE  
PLACE WHERE  
DREAMS ARE  
MADE!!



HEY.



YOU'RE TAKING ALL COMERS, RIGHT?

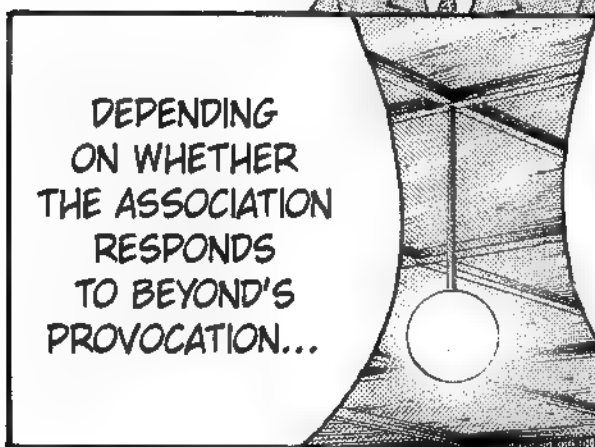
LET ME IN ON THIS.



I PLAN TO.

HM?

FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT YOU CAME TO STOP US.



THIS WHOLE MESS IS YOUR SPECIALTY, A FORCED CHOICE.

DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO BEYOND'S PROVOCATION...

THE ASSOCIATION ISN'T YOUR SANDBOX ANY LONGER.

YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH FUN, HAVEN'T YOU?

DON'T MESS WITH IT ANYMORE.



...YOU'D SEND IN 5,000 CHIMERA SOLDIERS.



UNTIL YOU  
BEG ME TO  
STOP.

I'LL PLAY  
WITH YOU  
PERSONALLY  
FROM NOW  
ON.



...GOING TO  
PAY ATTENTION  
TO ME?

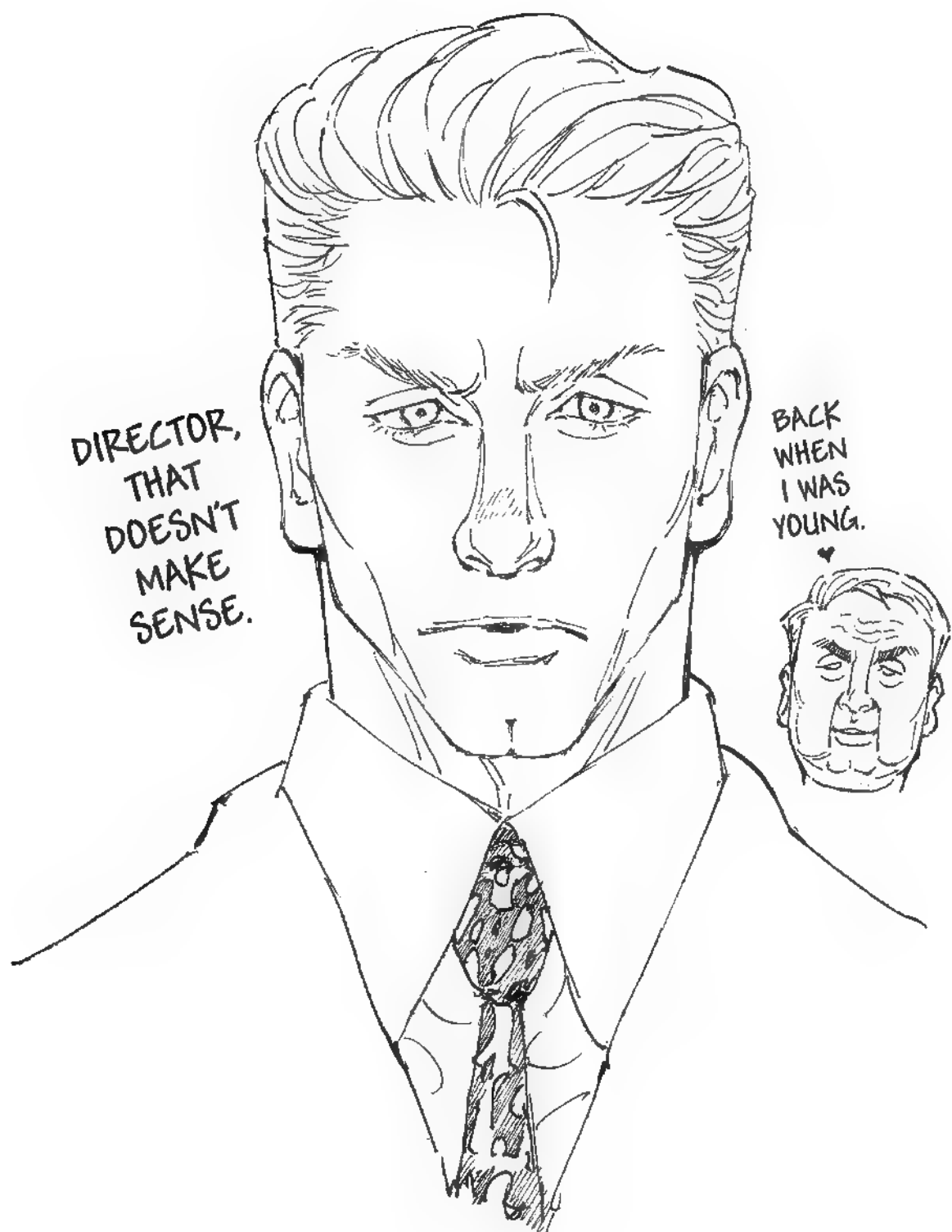
SO YOU'RE  
FINALLY...



I MIGHT JUST  
BE DOING IT  
FOR MY OWN  
FUN.

WE'LL  
SEE  
ABOUT  
THAT...

YOU?



DIRECTOR,  
THAT  
DOESN'T  
MAKE  
SENSE.

BACK  
WHEN  
I WAS  
YOUNG.



ME?!



A  
ZODIAC  
?!

### Chapter 343: Invitation

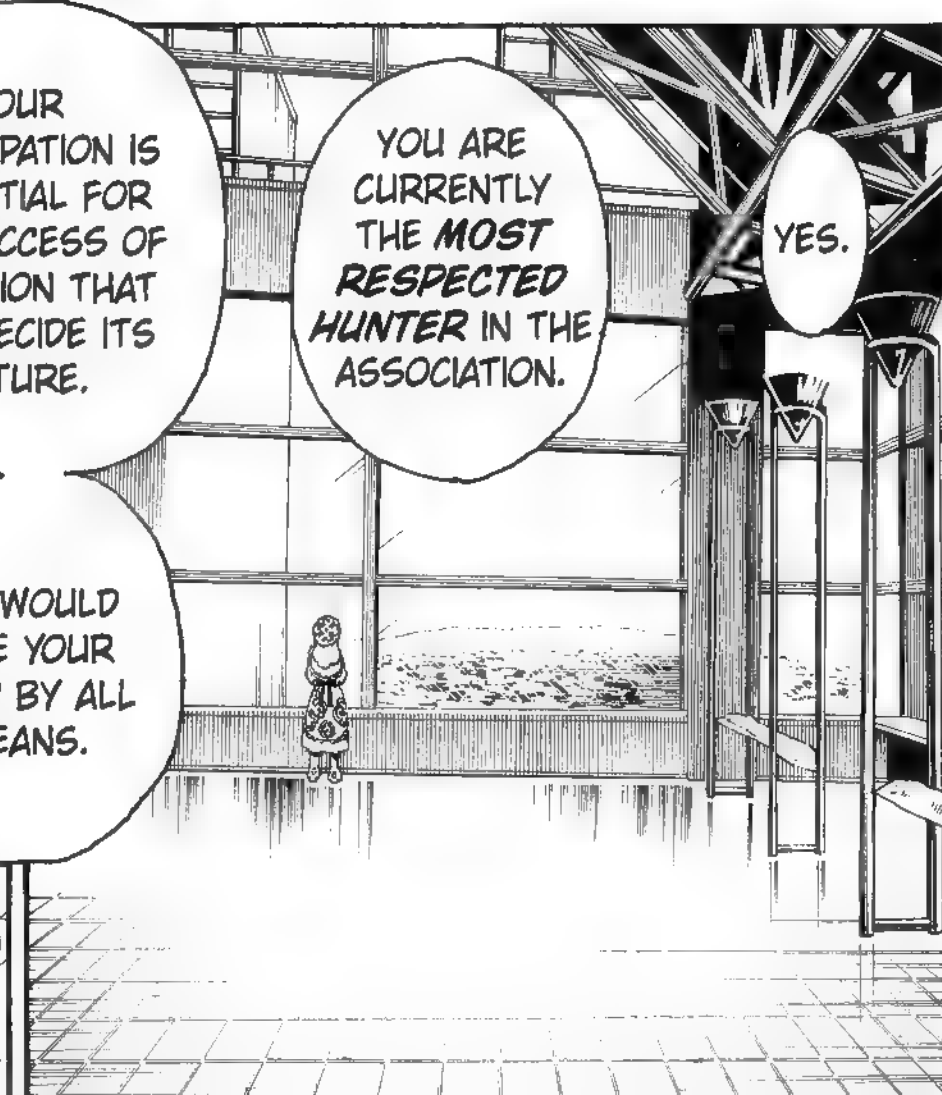


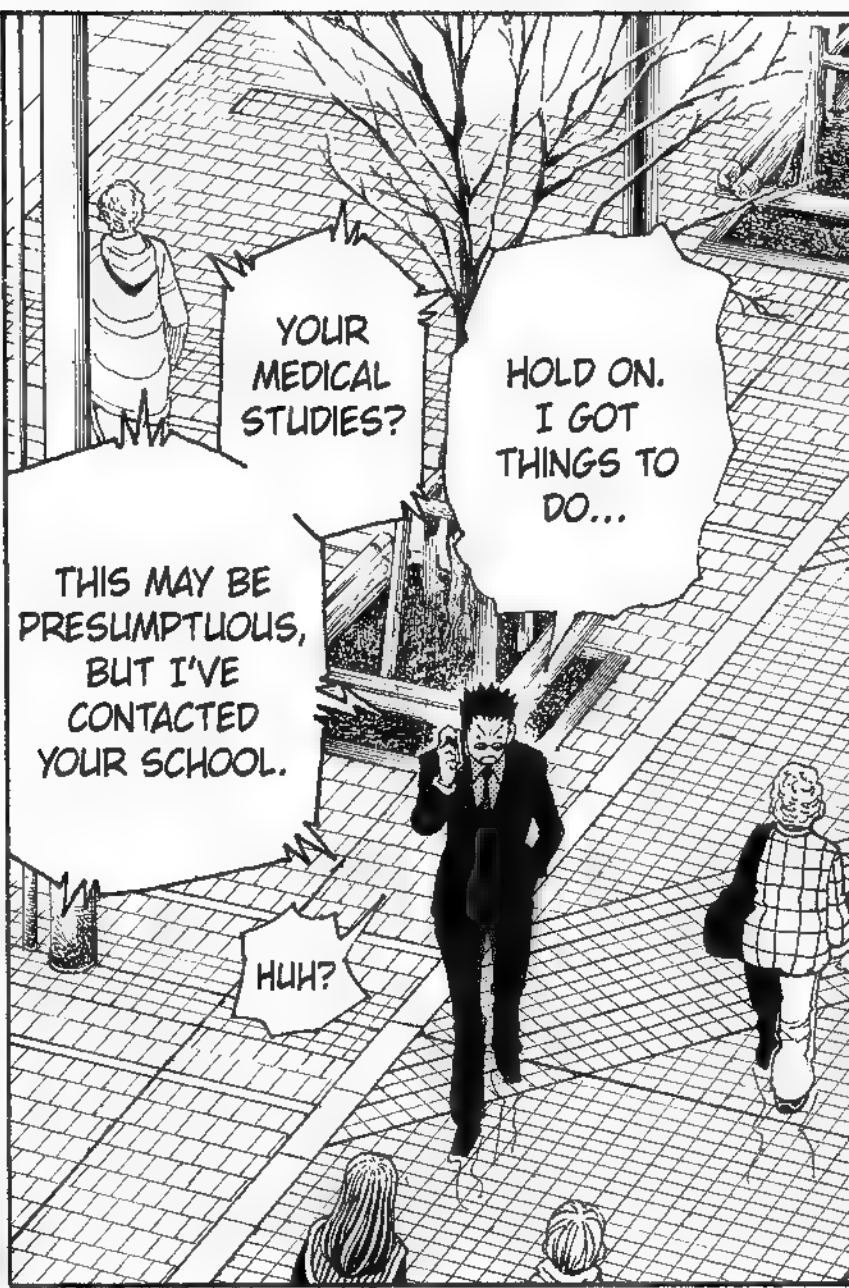
YOUR  
PARTICIPATION IS  
ESSENTIAL FOR  
THE SUCCESS OF  
A MISSION THAT  
WILL DECIDE ITS  
FUTURE.

YOU ARE  
CURRENTLY  
THE **MOST  
RESPECTED**  
HUNTER IN THE  
ASSOCIATION.

YES.

WE WOULD  
LIKE YOUR  
HELP BY ALL  
MEANS.







WHAT BETTER  
OPPORTUNITY  
COULD I  
WISH FOR?!  
LET ME DO  
IT!!

I SHOULD  
BE THE ONE  
ASKING  
YOU!!



THANK  
YOU.

SURE...



...OPENING  
IN THE  
ZODIACS,  
RIGHT?

YOU  
HAVE ONE  
MORE...



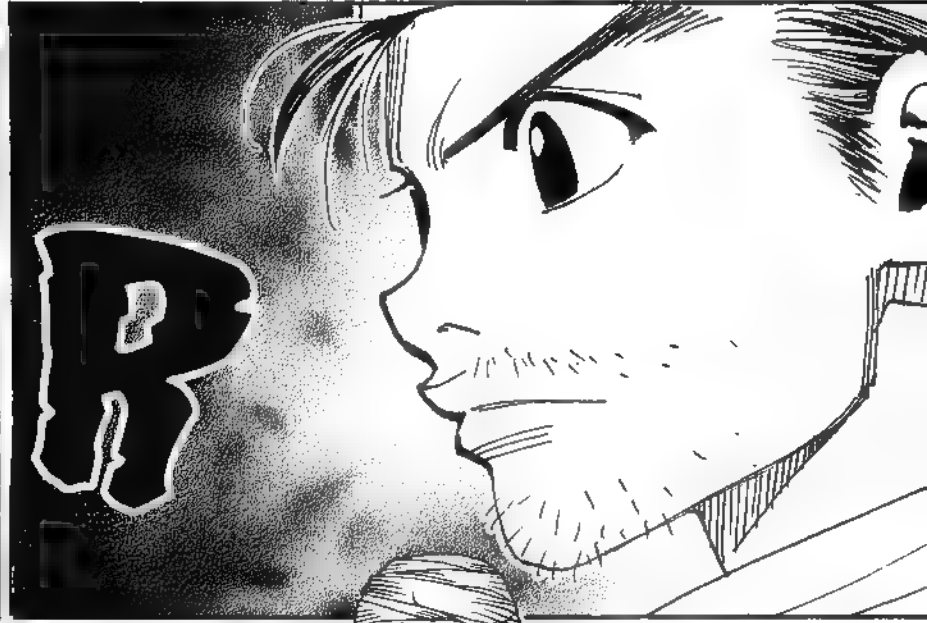
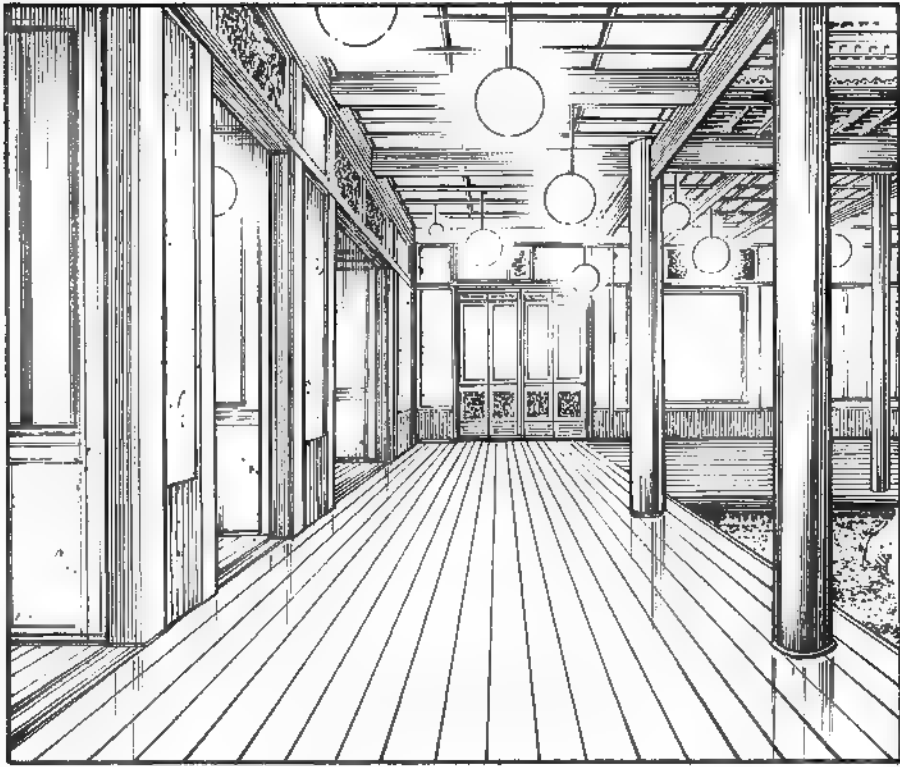
THERE'S  
ONE  
THING.

BUT...



...I'D LIKE TO  
RECOMMEND.

THERE'S  
SOME-  
ONE...



**R**

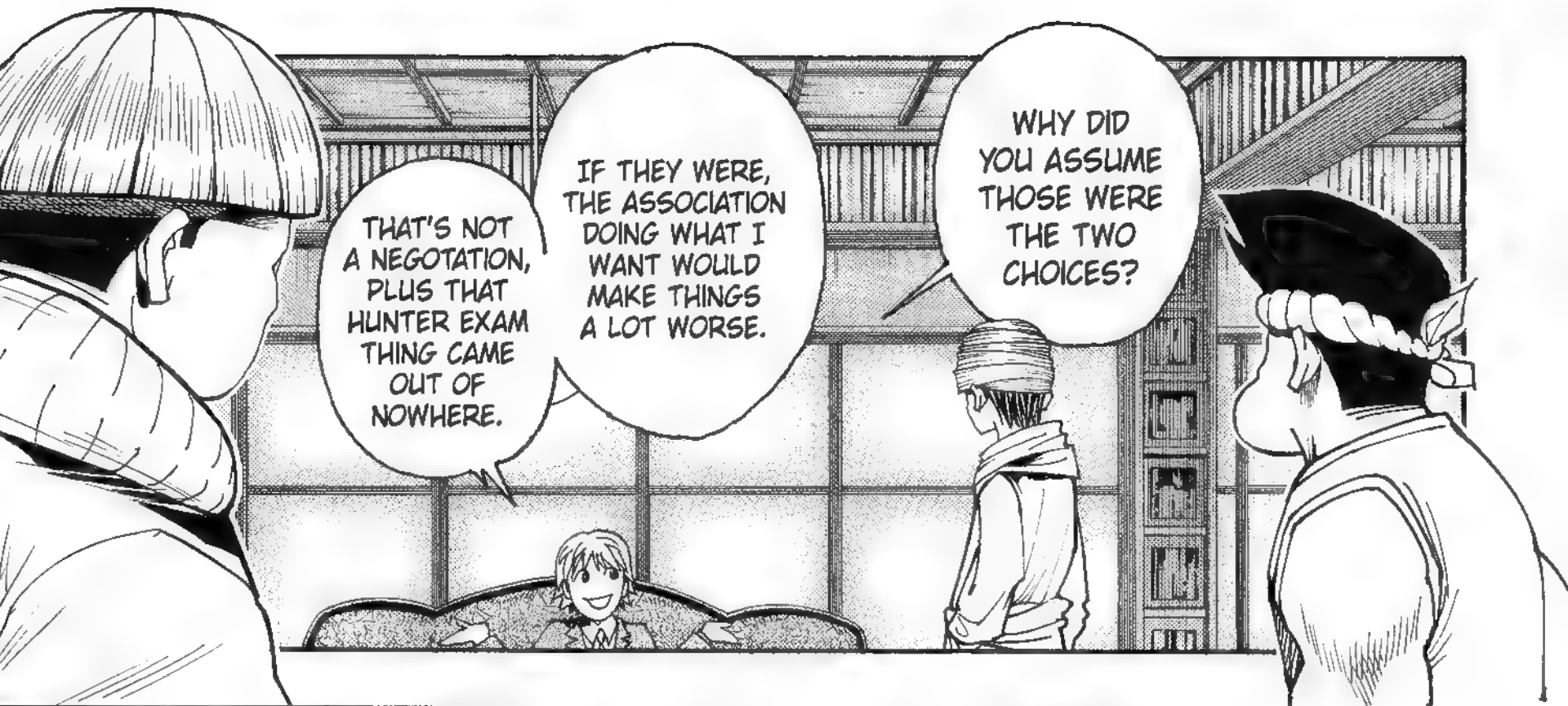
**R**



**M**

**M**





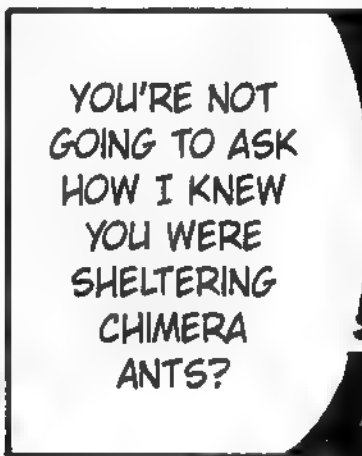
THAT'S NOT A NEGOTIATION, PLUS THAT HUNTER EXAM THING CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.

IF THEY WERE, THE ASSOCIATION DOING WHAT I WANT WOULD MAKE THINGS A LOT WORSE.

WHY DID YOU ASSUME THOSE WERE THE TWO CHOICES?



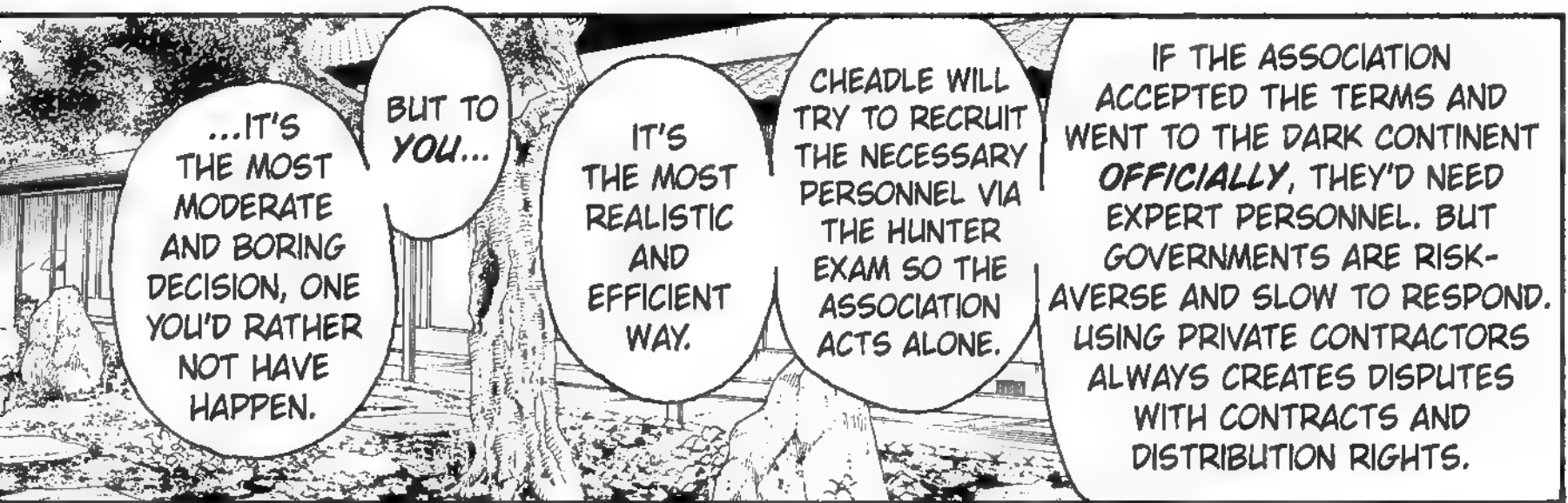
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO HIDE IT.



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK HOW I KNEW YOU WERE SHELTERING CHIMERA ANTS?



NEGOTIATING ISN'T EVEN ON YOUR MIND. THIS IS A GAME YOU'RE PLAYING BY YOURSELF.



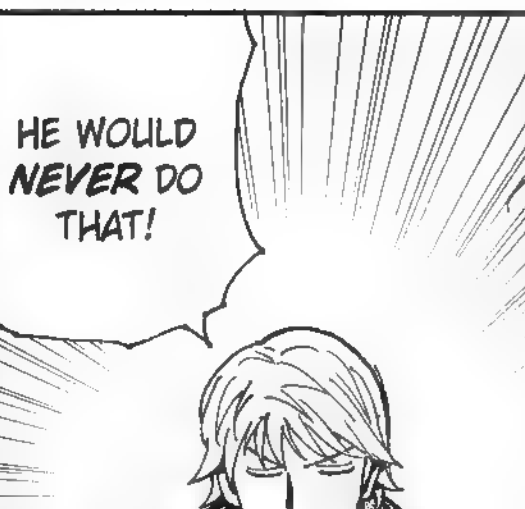
...IT'S THE MOST MODERATE AND BORING DECISION, ONE YOU'D RATHER NOT HAVE HAPPEN.

BUT TO YOU...

IT'S THE MOST REALISTIC AND EFFICIENT WAY.

CHEADLE WILL TRY TO RECRUIT THE NECESSARY PERSONNEL VIA THE HUNTER EXAM SO THE ASSOCIATION ACTS ALONE.

IF THE ASSOCIATION ACCEPTED THE TERMS AND WENT TO THE DARK CONTINENT OFFICIALLY, THEY'D NEED EXPERT PERSONNEL. BUT GOVERNMENTS ARE RISK-AVERSE AND SLOW TO RESPOND. USING PRIVATE CONTRACTORS ALWAYS CREATES DISPUTES WITH CONTRACTS AND DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS.



HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT!



NETERO WOULD—



QUITE A TWISTED FORM OF LOVE.

WHY ARE YOU TRYING SO HARD TO DESTROY IT IF YOU'RE SO OBSESSED WITH IT?



...WAIT FOR BEYOND ON THE DARK CONTINENT, AND ANNOUNCE THAT THE HUNT FOR BEYOND IS ON!

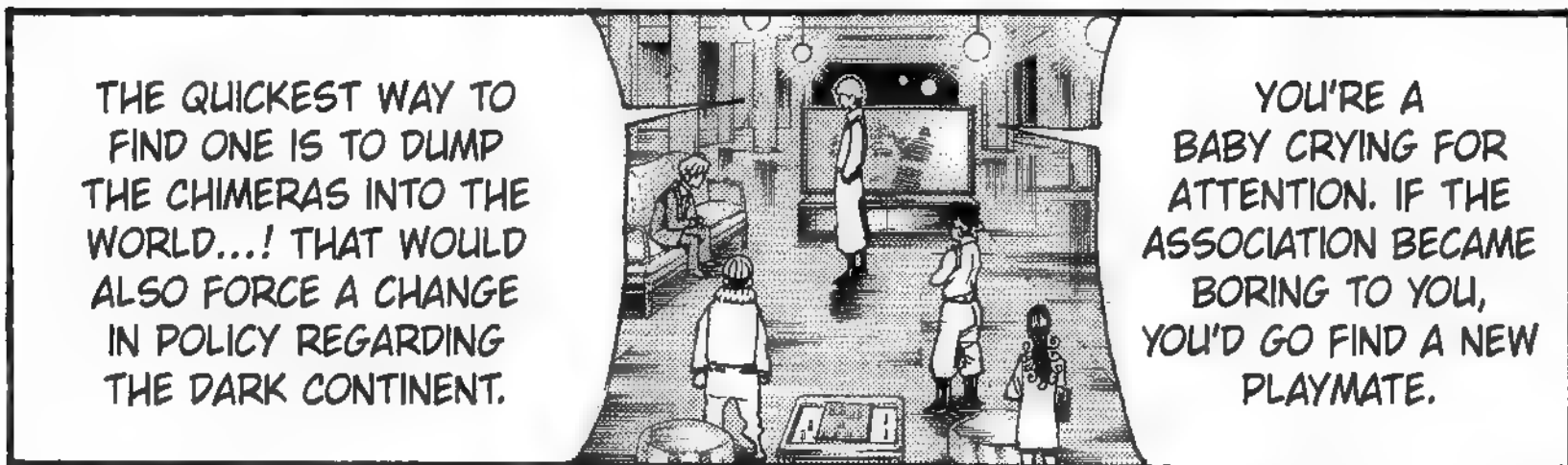
HE'D ACCEPT LOSING THE VS AS A CLIENT AND REFUSE TO ACCOMPANY BEYOND! HE'D FIND HIS OWN WAY THERE FIRST...



EXPLAIN THIS FORCED CHOICE TO ME.

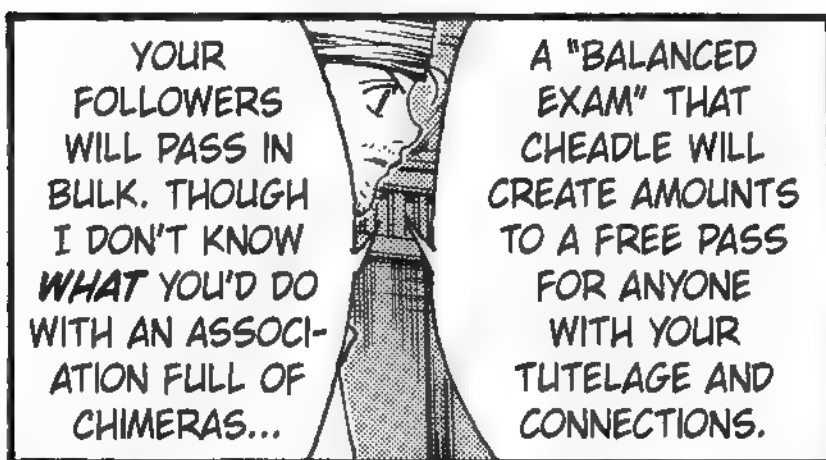
ANY PROOF THAT I'M DESTROYING IT?

THAT'S WHAT THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE, RIGHT?



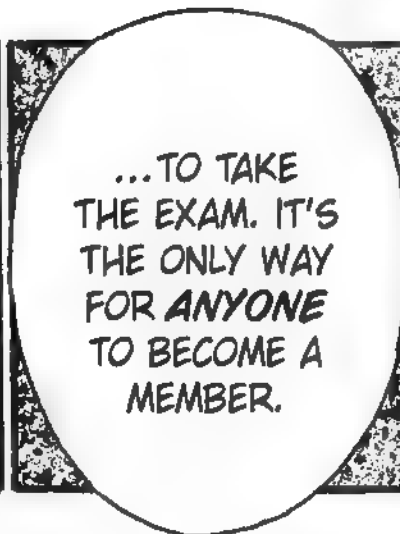
THE QUICKEST WAY TO FIND ONE IS TO DUMP THE CHIMERAS INTO THE WORLD...! THAT WOULD ALSO FORCE A CHANGE IN POLICY REGARDING THE DARK CONTINENT.

YOU'RE A BABY CRYING FOR ATTENTION. IF THE ASSOCIATION BECAME BORING TO YOU, YOU'D GO FIND A NEW PLAYMATE.

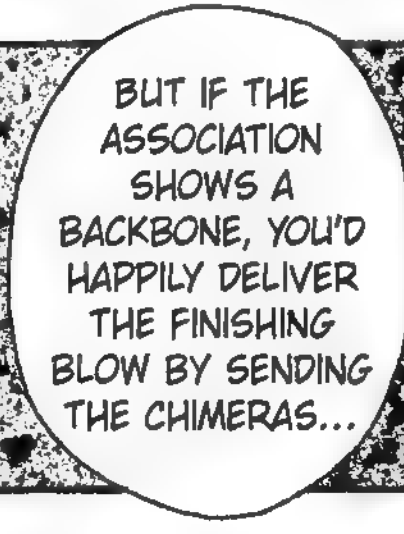


YOUR FOLLOWERS WILL PASS IN BULK. THOUGH I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU'D DO WITH AN ASSOCIATION FULL OF CHIMERAS...

A "BALANCED EXAM" THAT CHEADLE WILL CREATE AMOUNTS TO A FREE PASS FOR ANYONE WITH YOUR TUTELAGE AND CONNECTIONS.



...TO TAKE THE EXAM. IT'S THE ONLY WAY FOR *ANYONE* TO BECOME A MEMBER.



BUT IF THE ASSOCIATION SHOWS A BACKBONE, YOU'D HAPPILY DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW BY SENDING THE CHIMERAS...



WE THINK IN UNORTHODOX WAYS.

YOU AND I ARE SIMILAR.



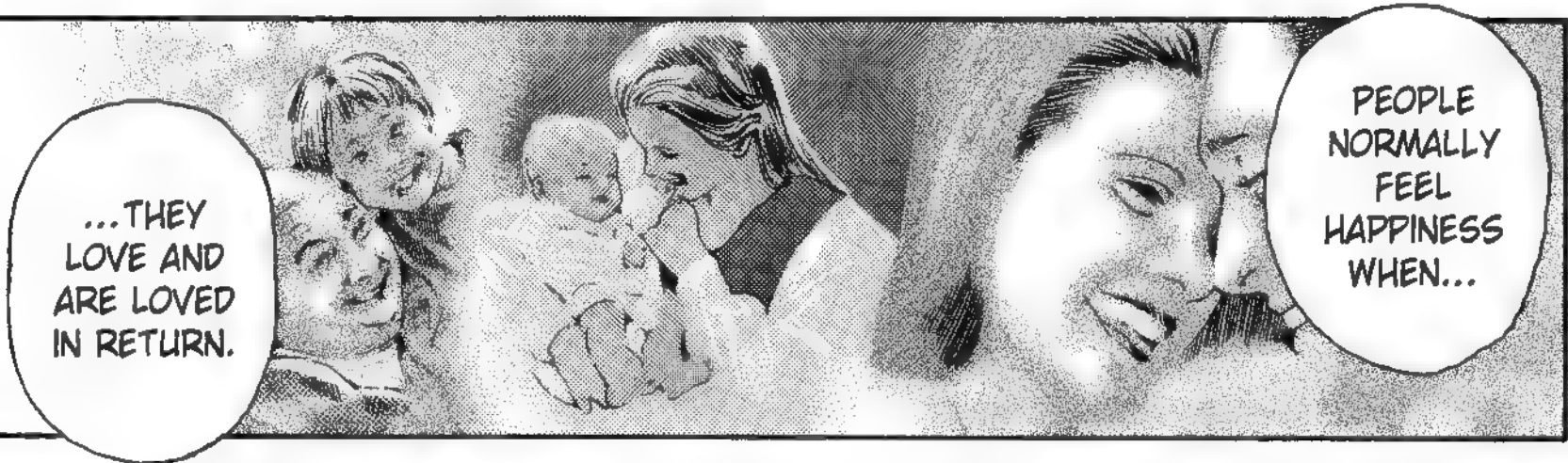
SCUMBAG.

THAT'S WHY I THINK WHAT I THINK.



BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, SO WHATEVER.

WHAT A WAY TO PUT IT.



...THEY LOVE AND ARE LOVED IN RETURN.

PEOPLE NORMALLY FEEL HAPPINESS WHEN...

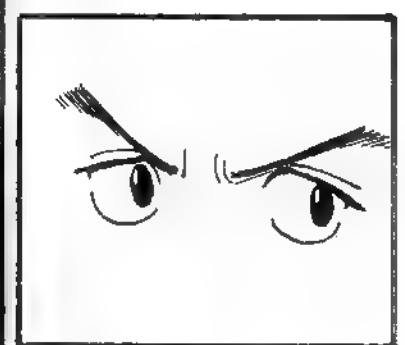
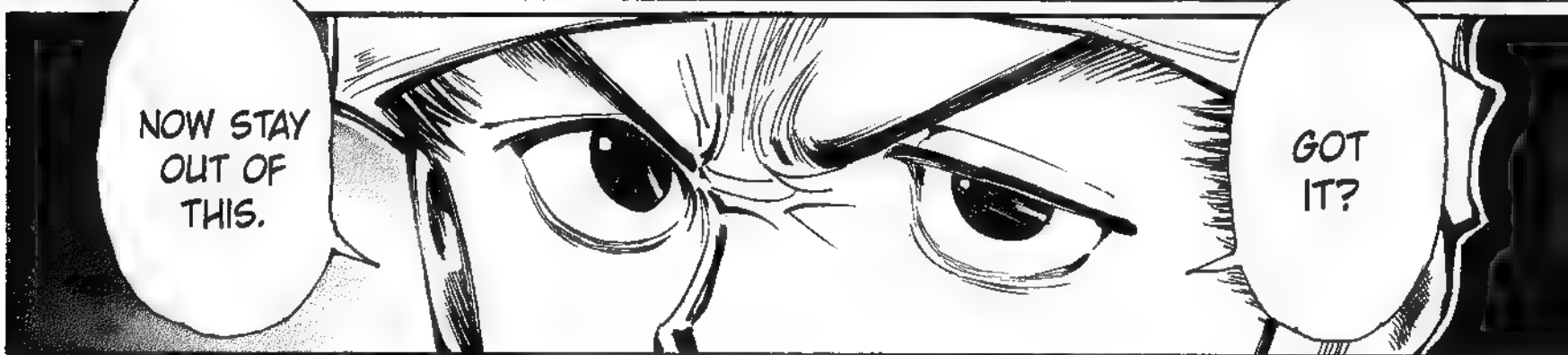
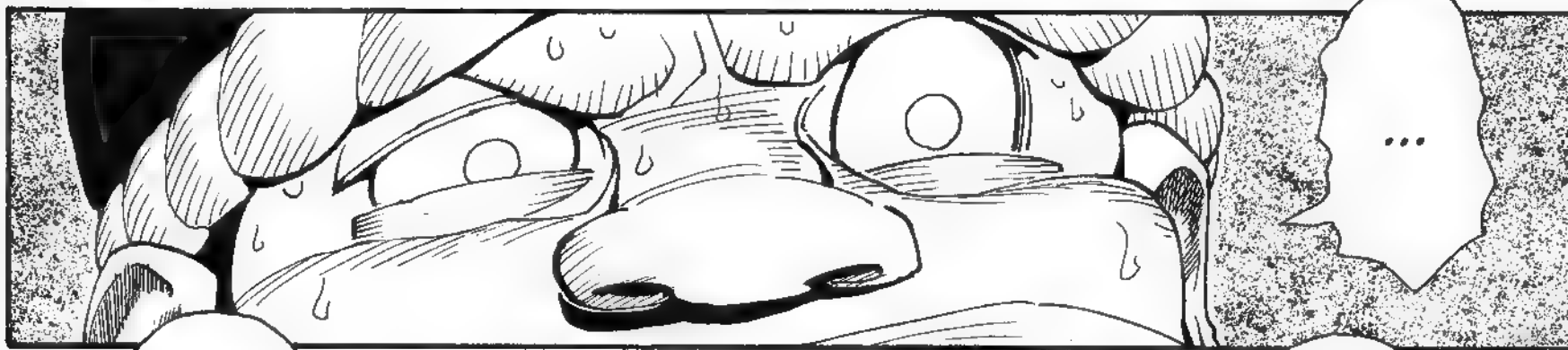
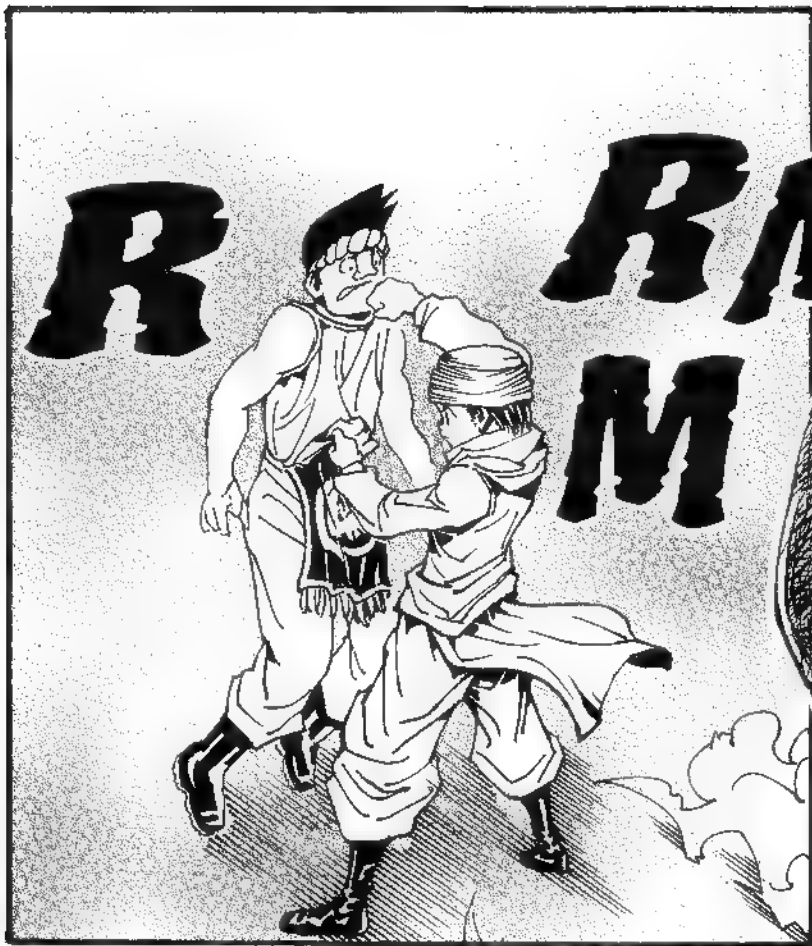


...AND I FEEL COMPELLED TO HURT THE THINGS THAT ARE DEAR TO ME.

I FEEL HAPPINESS WHEN PEOPLE HATE ME...



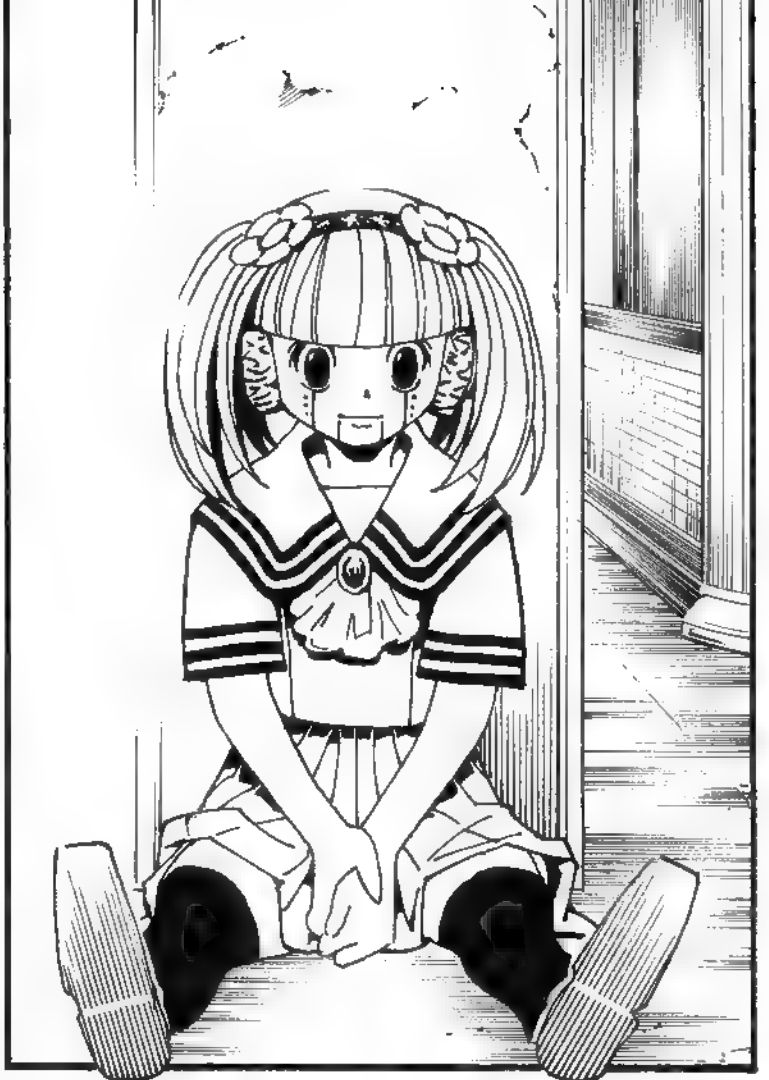






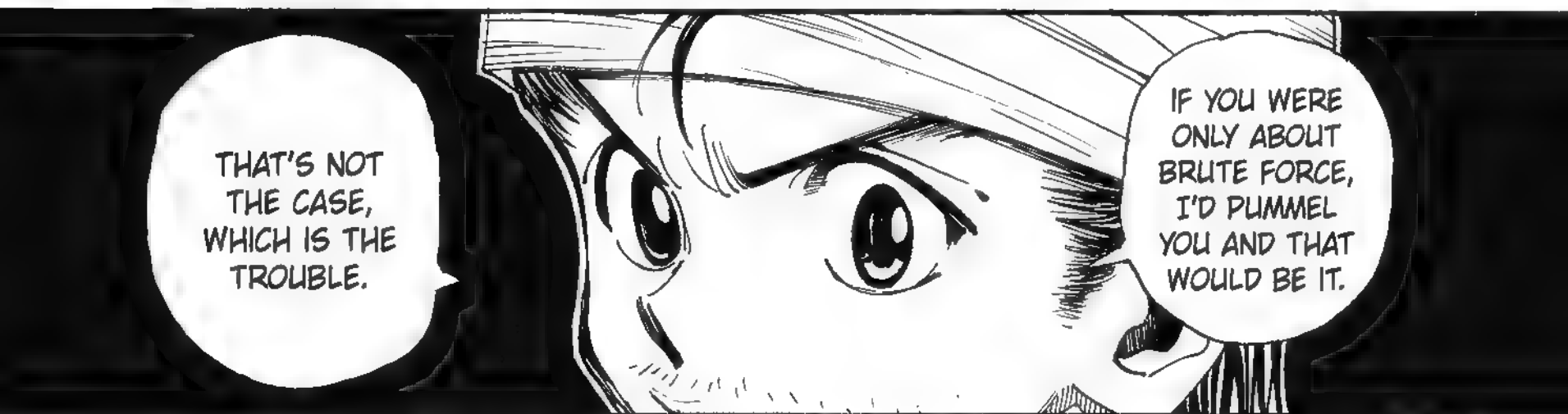
I'M NO. 2, OF COURSE.

HA HA. COME ON, GING.



OH, YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

SO IT'S NOT A HIER-ARCHY OF STRENGTH.



THAT'S NOT THE CASE, WHICH IS THE TROUBLE.

IF YOU WERE ONLY ABOUT BRUTE FORCE, I'D PUMMEL YOU AND THAT WOULD BE IT.

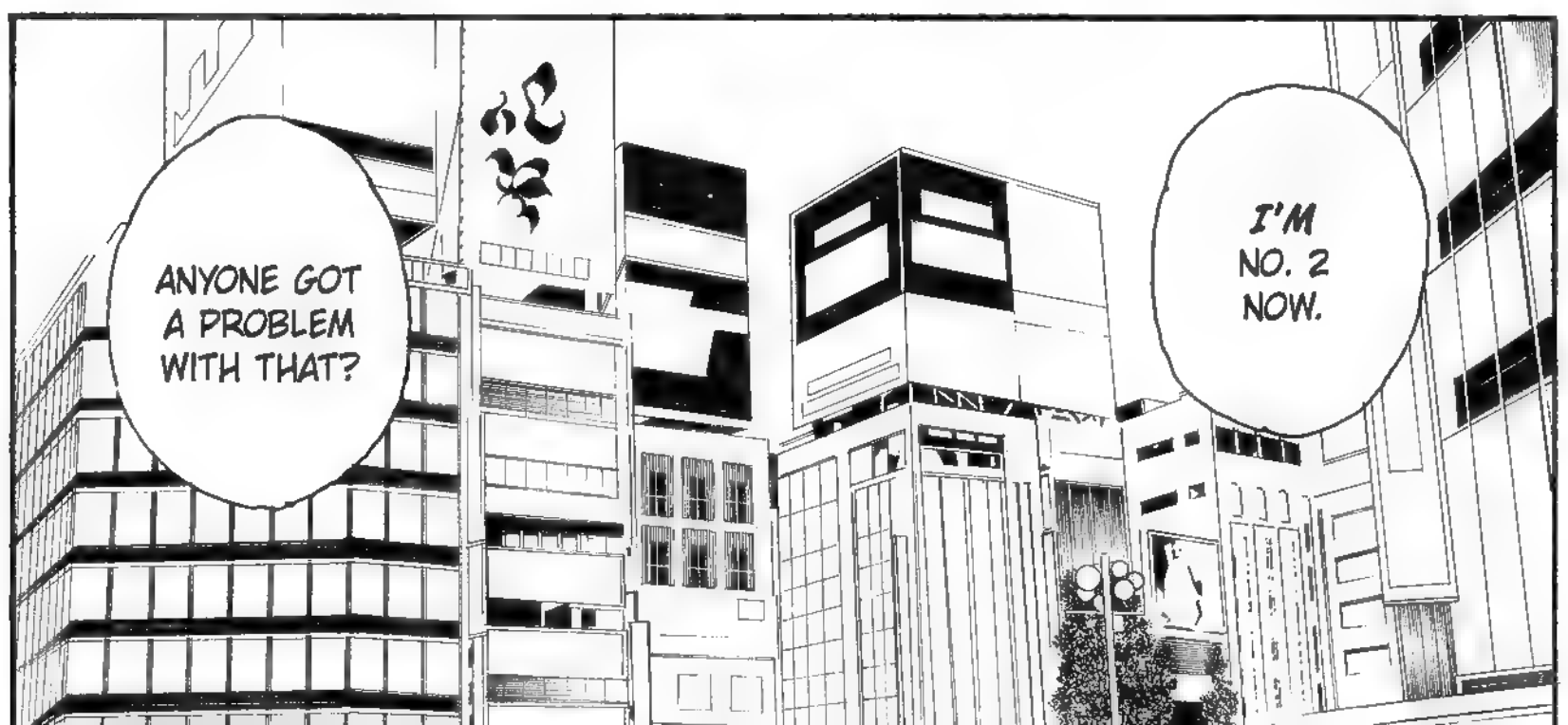


HMM.



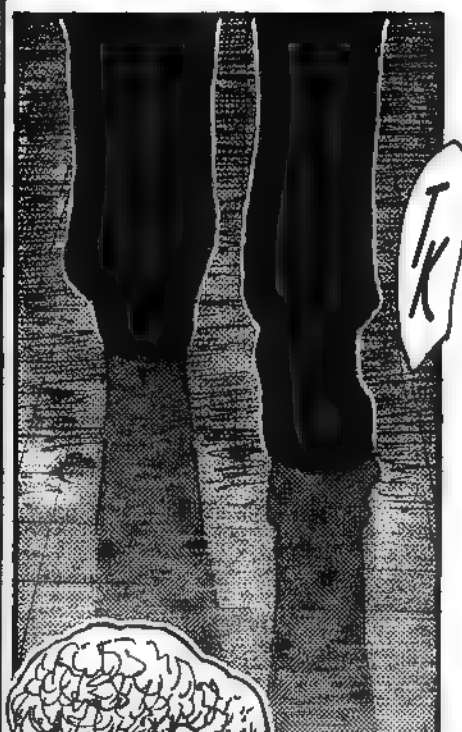
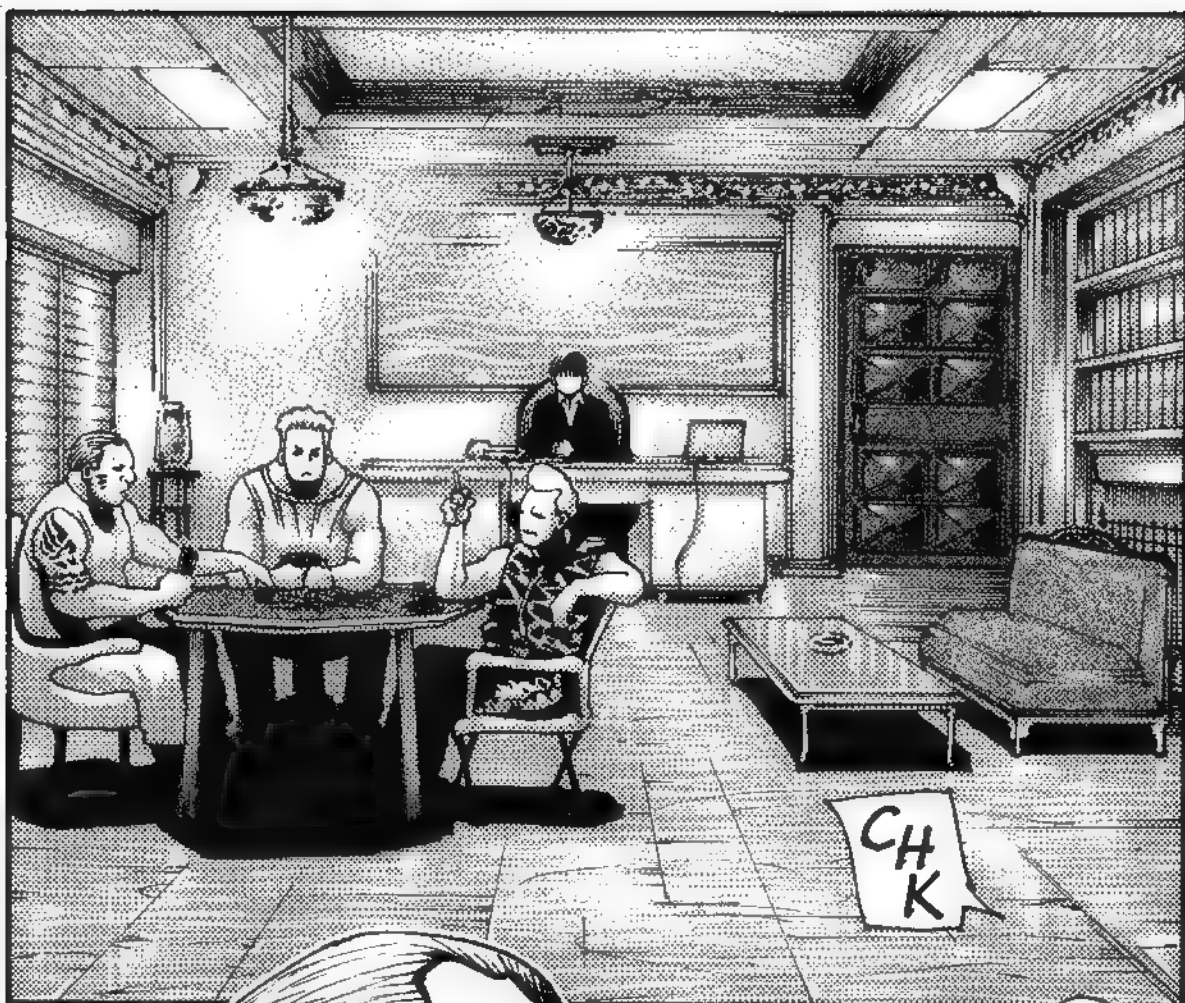
I'D HAVE TO BREAK YOUR SPIRIT INSTEAD.

YOU'D BE LAUGHING INSIDE EVEN AS I MADE YOU COUGH UP BLOOD AND STEPPED ON YOUR HEAD.

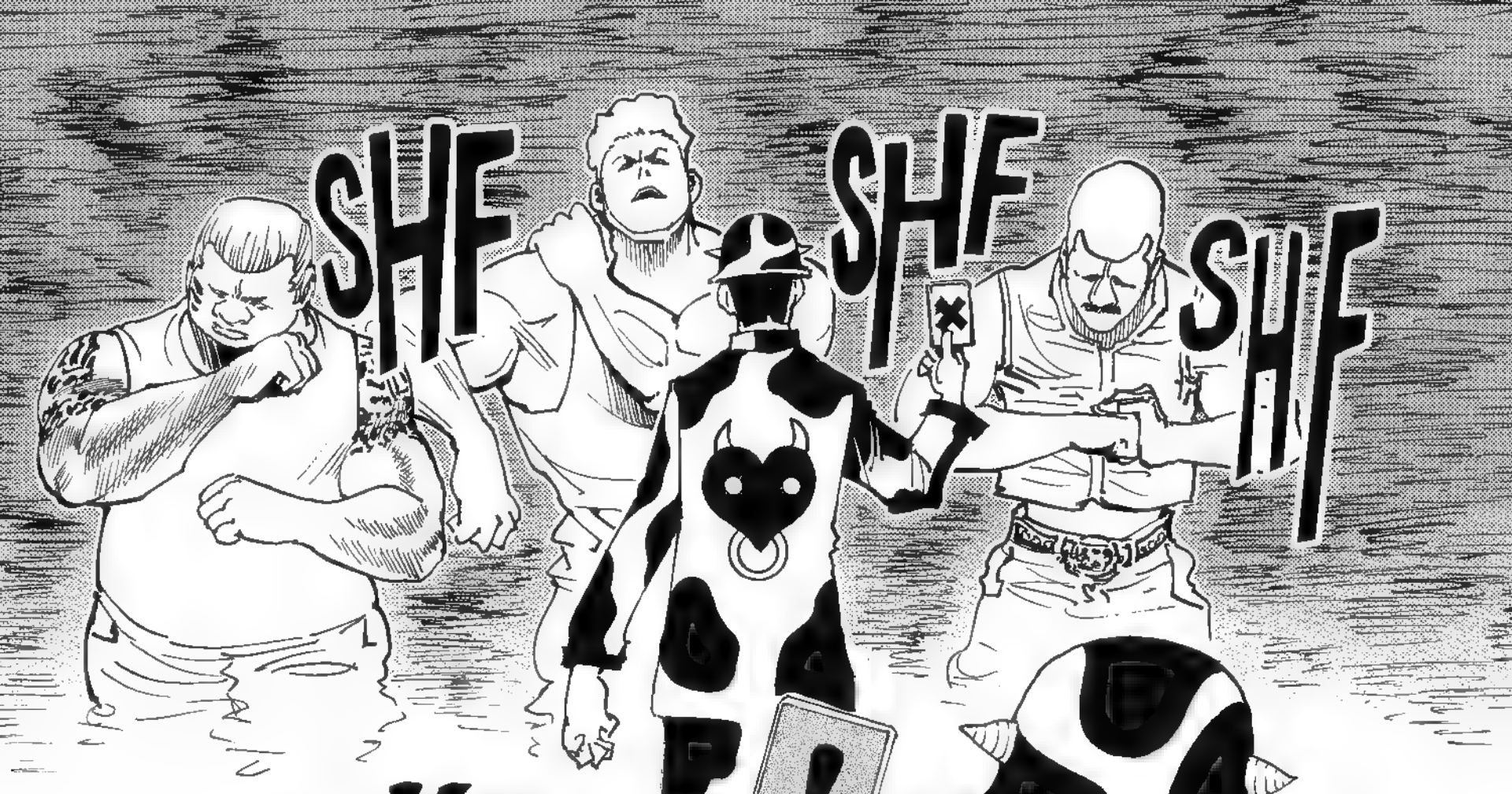


ANYONE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

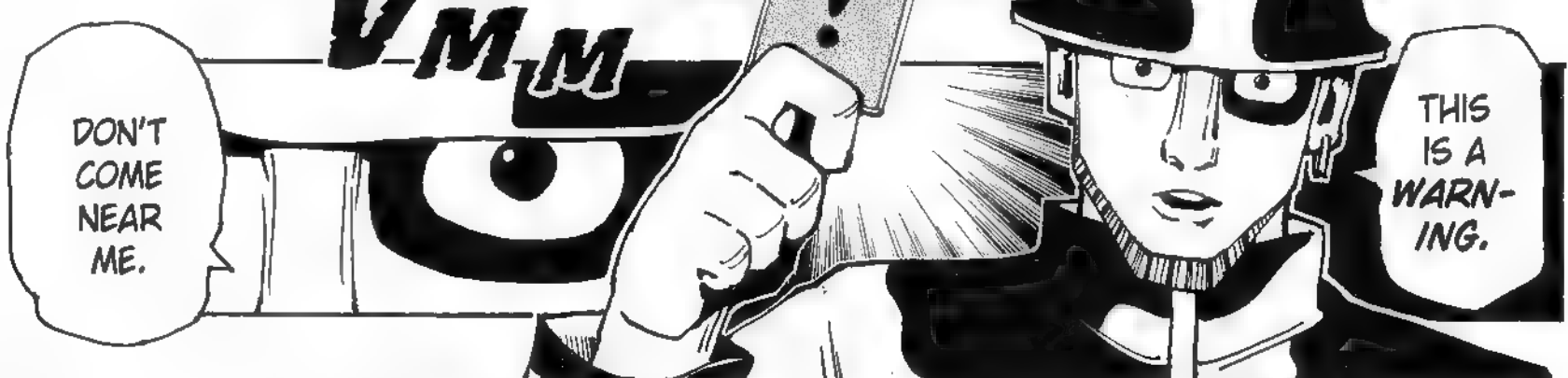
I'M NO. 2 NOW.







**SHE SHE SHE**



DON'T COME NEAR ME.

THIS IS A WARNING.



WE'LL SEND YOU THERE!!

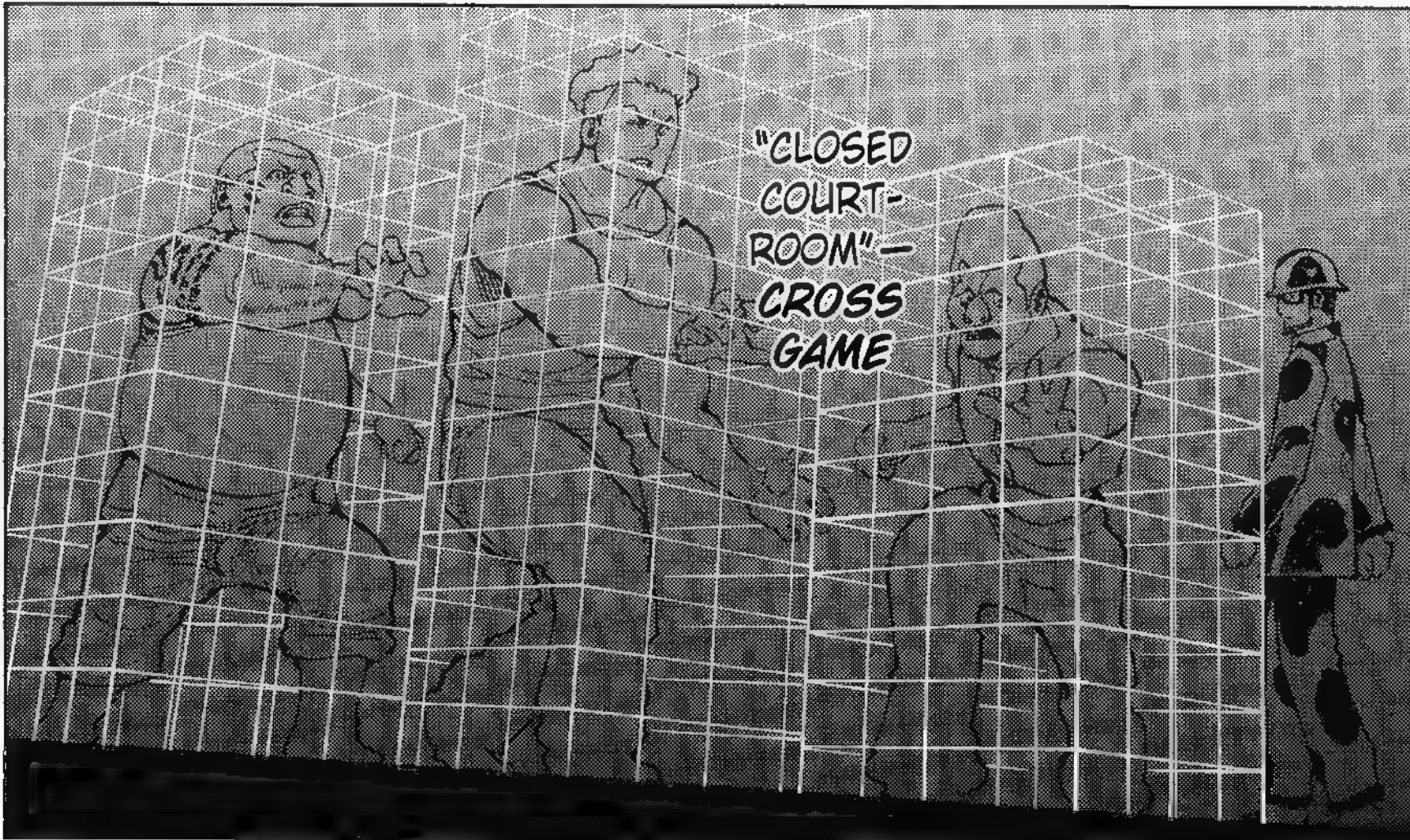
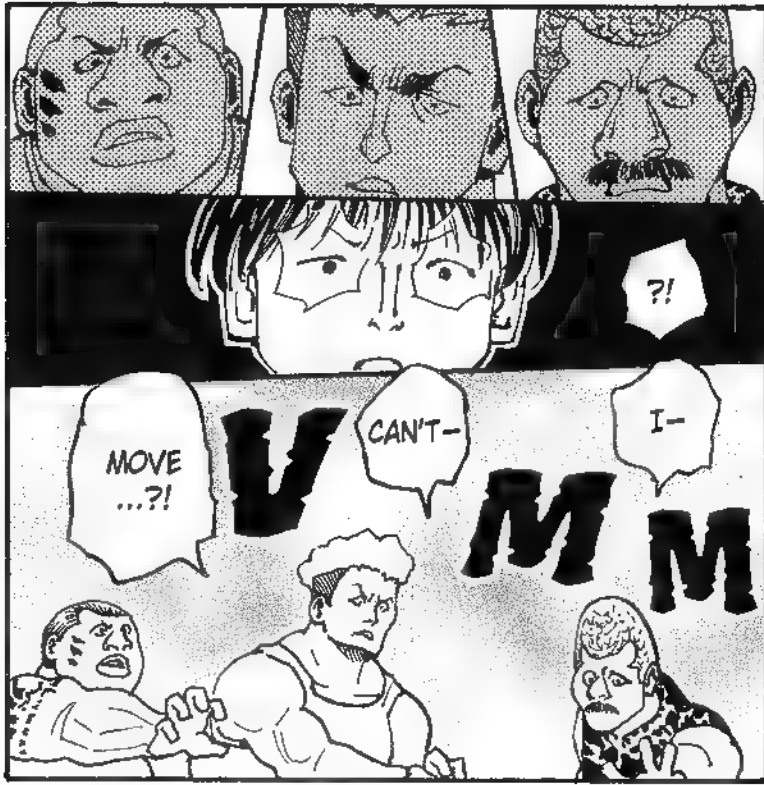
SAVE YOUR LIP FOR THE NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL, MORON!!!

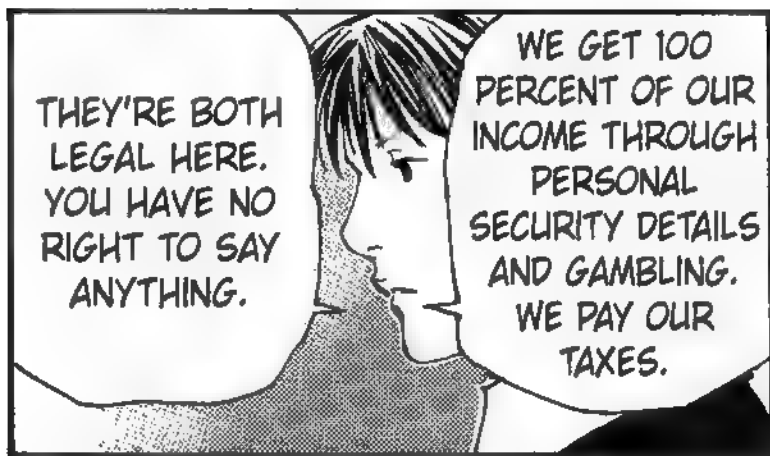
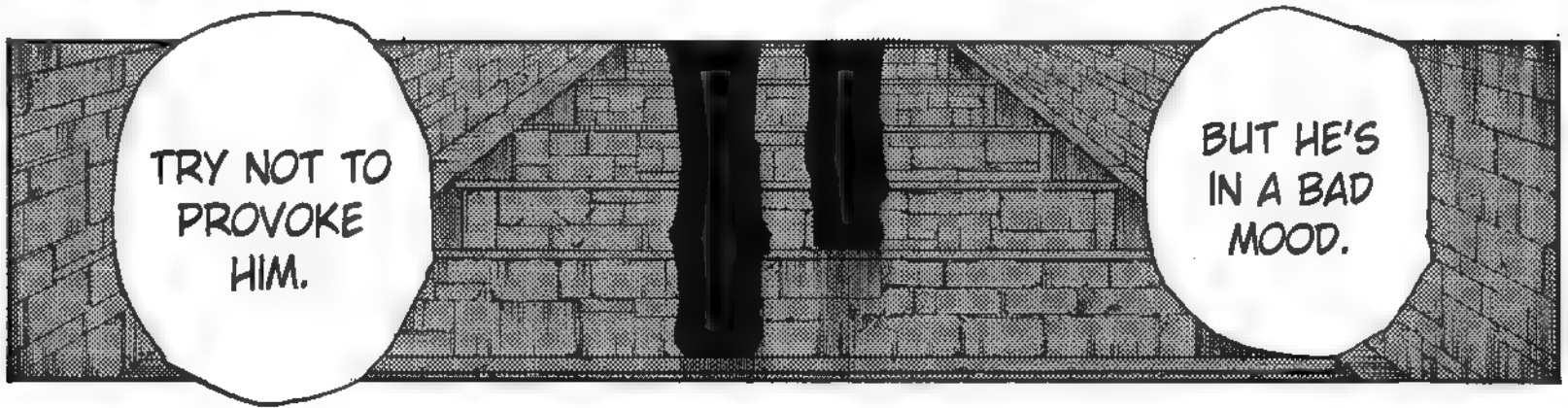
I AM A CRIME HUNTER WITH SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE CLEARANCE!

I WILL NOT ALLOW ANY VIOLENCE!!

**SNAP!**

RESTRAIN !!





THEY'RE BOTH LEGAL HERE. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING.

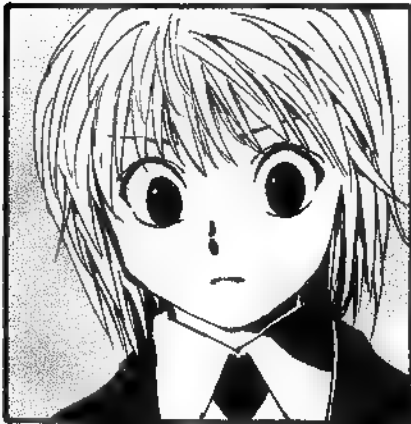
WE GET 100 PERCENT OF OUR INCOME THROUGH PERSONAL SECURITY DETAILS AND GAMBLING. WE PAY OUR TAXES.

WE'RE NOT A CRIME SYNDICATE, YOU KNOW.

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING ?

YOU'RE A HUNTER, RIGHT? IS THIS YOUR REAL OCCUPATION?

I'M HEARING A LOT OF NOISE.

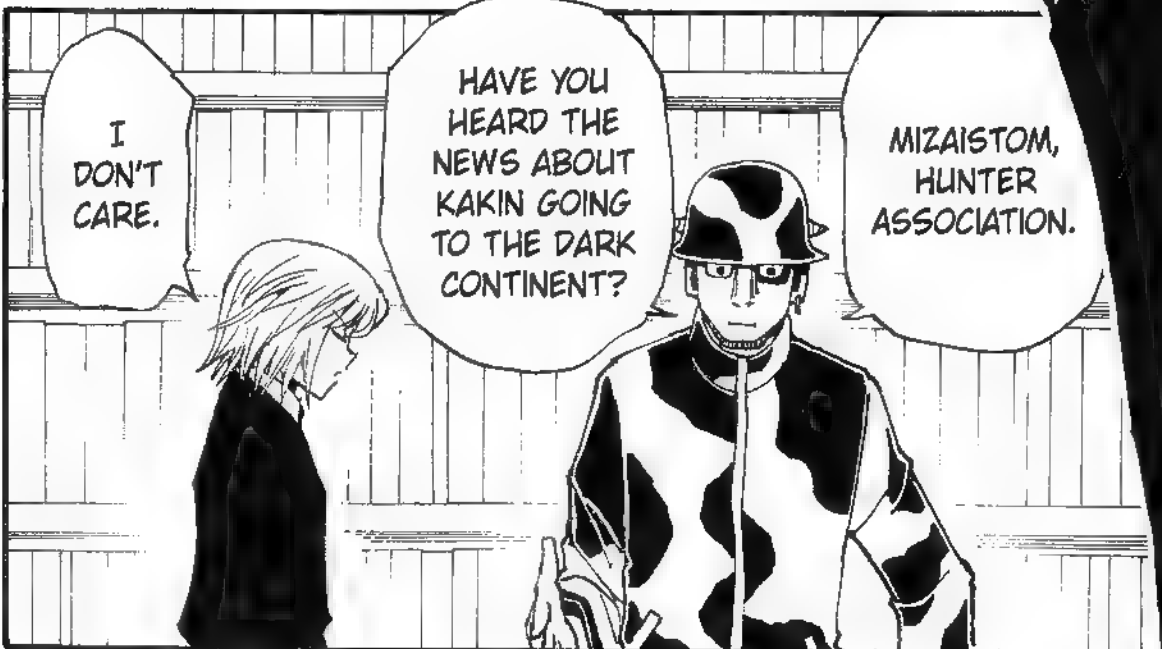


WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

I CAN MOVE ?!

UH-



I DON'T CARE.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT KAKIN GOING TO THE DARK CONTINENT?

MIZAISTOM, HUNTER ASSOCIATION.



SO HE'S SEEN HIS SHARE OF CARNAGE

ooo



I'M BUSY.

I REFUSE.

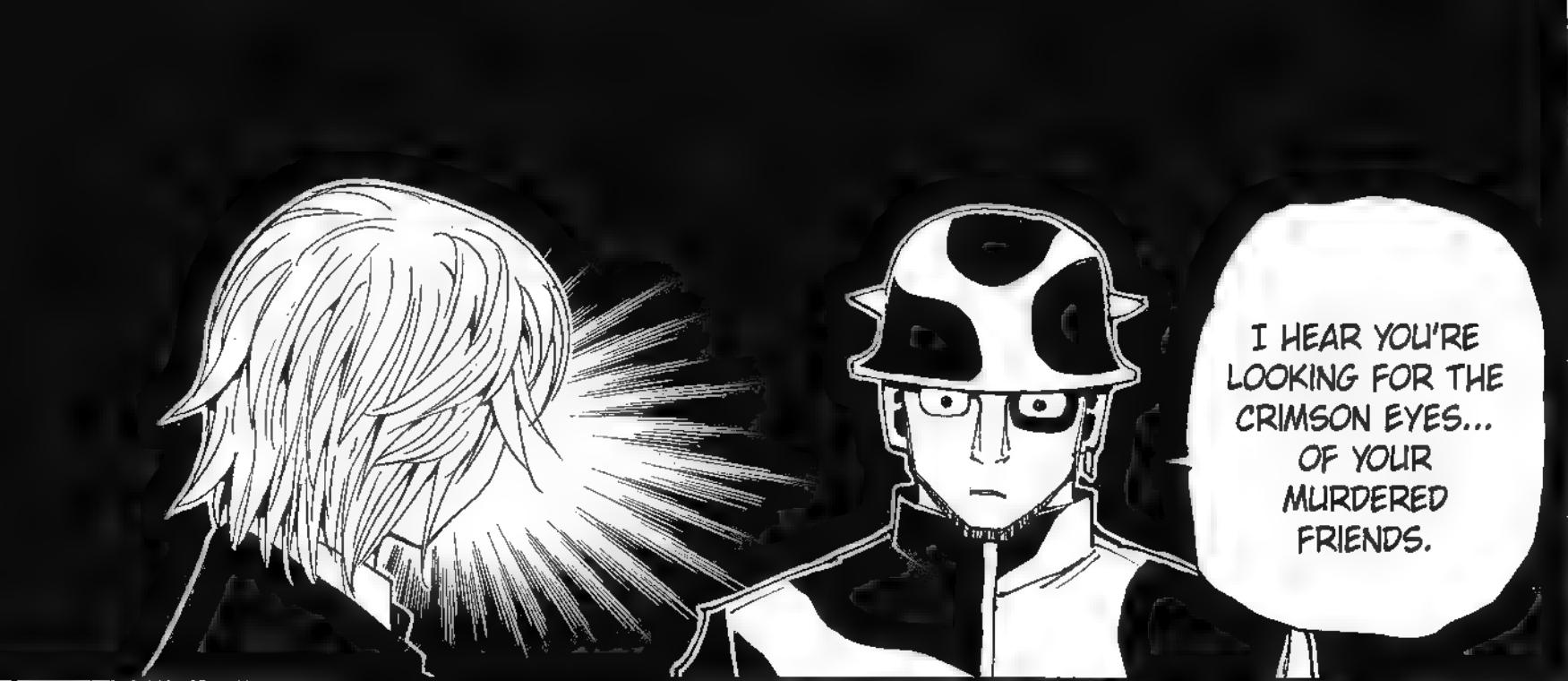
IS THAT ALL?



AND I'M HERE TO MAKE A REQUEST.

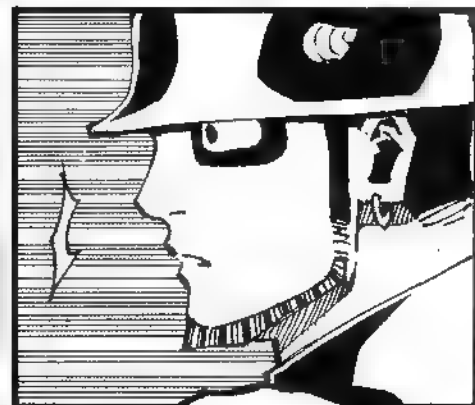
COME TO THE DARK CONTINENT WITH US.

LEORIO TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.



...CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WISELY.

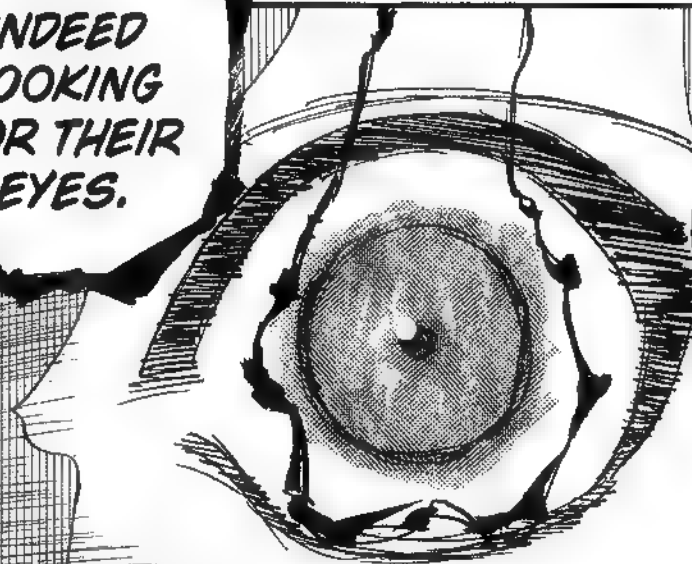
FROM THIS POINT ON...



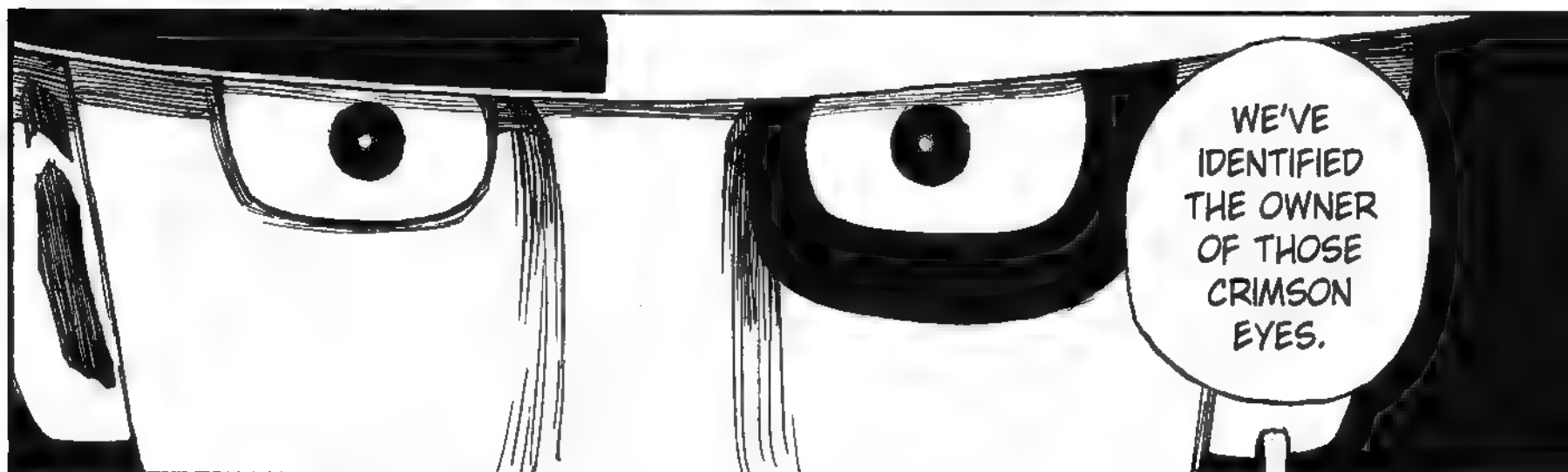
WHAT OF IT?


I AM INDEED LOOKING FOR THEIR EYES.

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU OUTSIDERS.




# DEATH





WOULD THAT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU?



IF YOU JOIN THE ZODIACS, YOU WILL ACCOMPANY US TO THE DARK CONTINENT, BUT YOU WILL SPEND ABOUT TWO MONTHS ON A SHIP.




MY PRIORITY...



...  
SO THIS PERSON IS ALSO GOING TO BE ON BOARD?



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY...!



I WILL JOIN YOU.



ALL RIGHT.



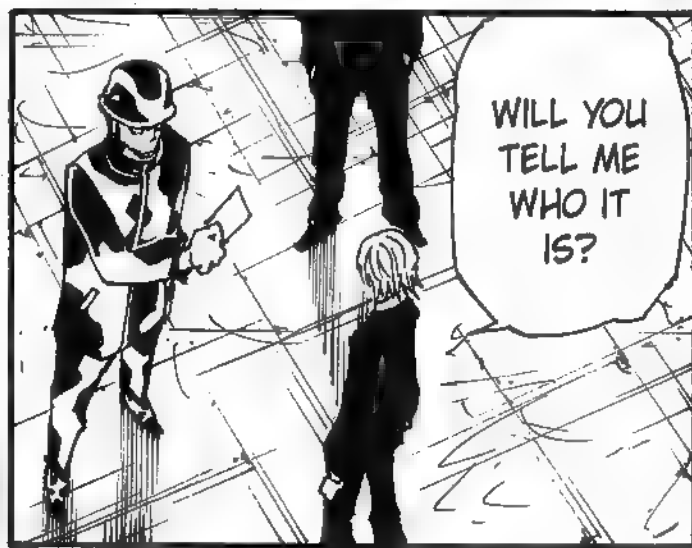
...IS TO RECOVER MY BRETHREN'S STOLEN EYES!!



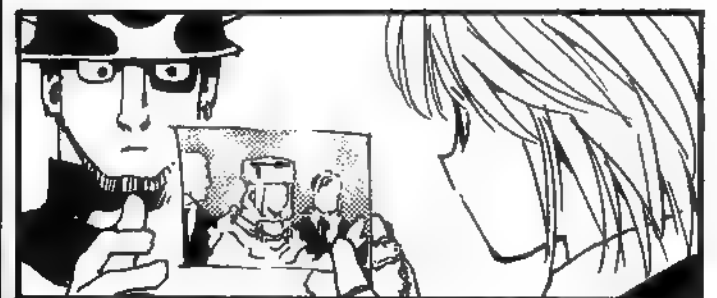
TSERRIEDNICH HUI GUO ROU.



KAKIN'S FOURTH PRINCE...



WILL YOU TELL ME WHO IT IS?

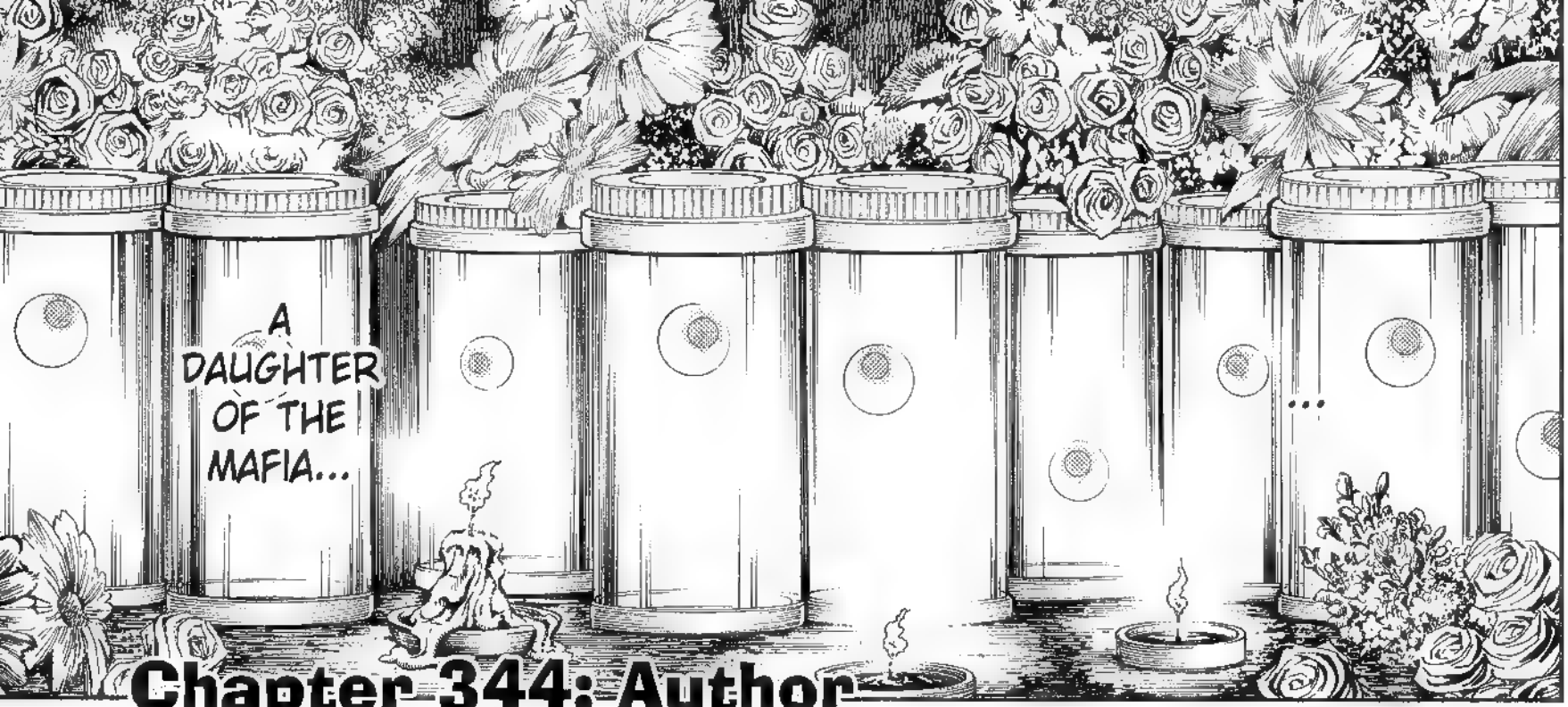


PARISTON,  
YOU'RE  
OUT  
OF IT!

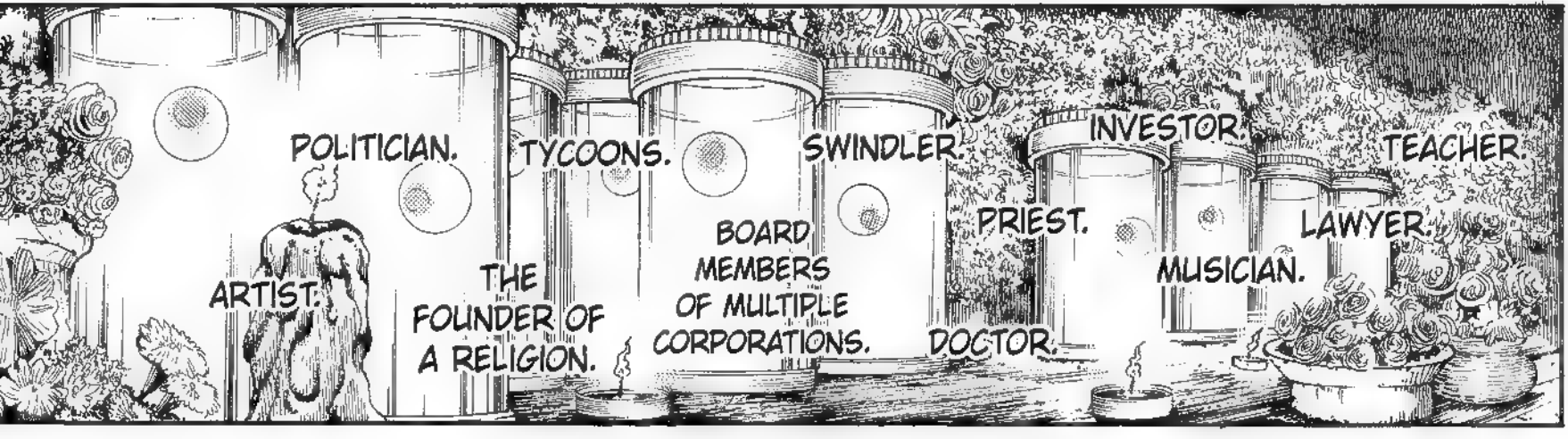
I THINK  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO IS  
OUT OF IT  
(AS A  
PARENT).







# Chapter 344: Author



THIS IS THE LAST MONSTER WITH THE LAST OF THE EYES...! AMONG THEM...

THIS...



BUT THIS WILL SOON END



I LOST SOMETHING EVERY TIME I GOT BACK A PART OF MY BRETHERN.

I'VE THREATENED, COAXED, PAID PEOPLE OFF...



...AND  
NOBODY TO  
WELCOME  
ME BACK.  
I HAVE  
NOTHING  
LEFT.

THERE  
IS NO  
HOME FOR  
ME TO  
RETURN  
TO!..

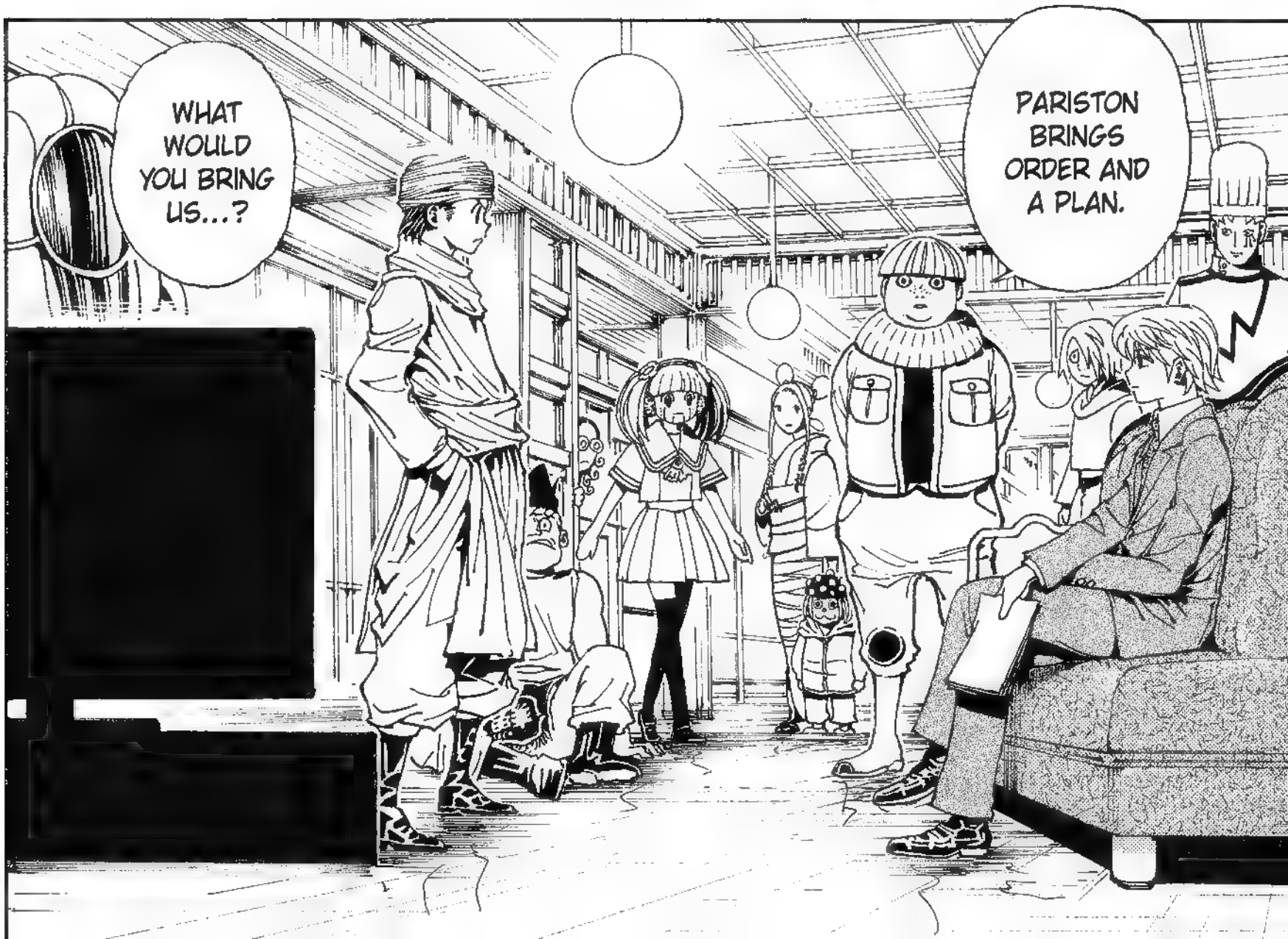
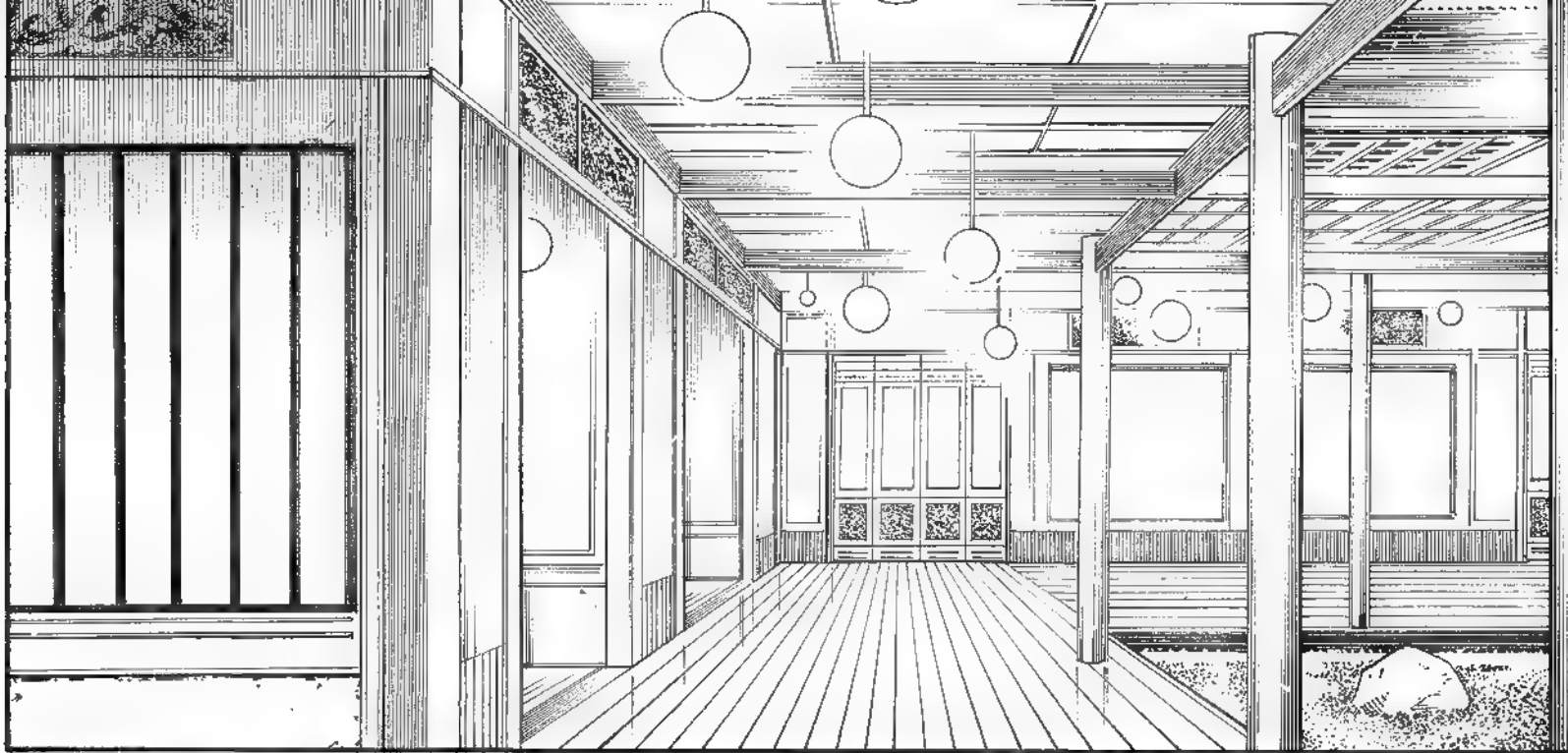
BUT...

PAIRO...



WHERE  
WOULD  
I GO  
...?

MY  
JOURNEY  
MAY  
FINALLY  
BEGIN.





READY FOR COMBAT.



...I MUST REMOVE YOU...!

IF YOU ONLY BRING POINTLESS CHAOS...



EVERYTHING ELSE CAN STAY THE SAME.



I'LL PAY TWICE WHAT BEYOND OFFERED, UP FRONT.

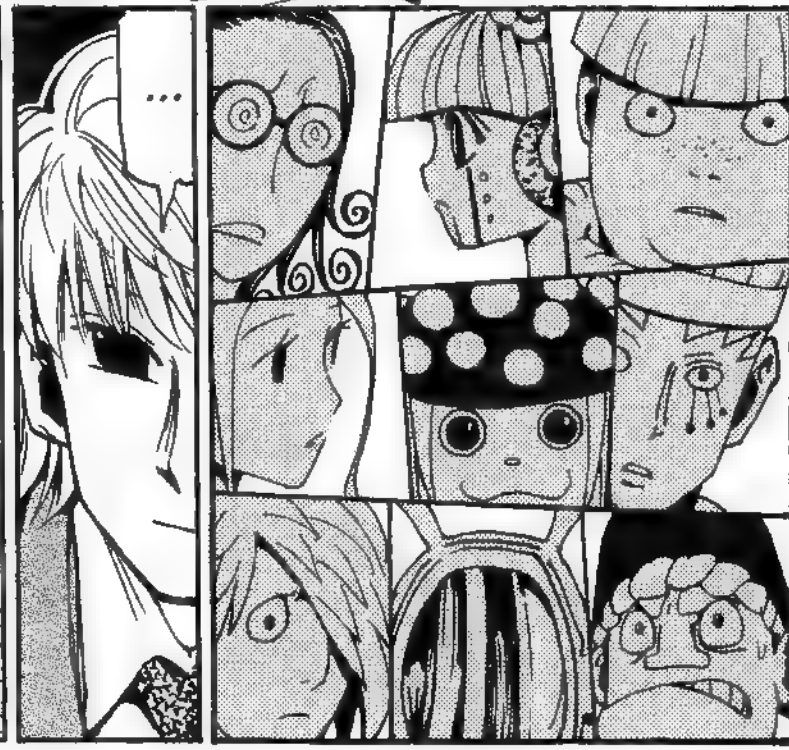


HM? WEREN'T YOU HIRED BY THIS GUY OR BEYOND?

I'M SAYING I'LL PAY TWICE THAT FOR EACH OF YOU.



I DON'T QUITE GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.





I MEAN, I'LL ANSWER QUESTIONS WHEN ASKED, OR GIVE ADVICE.

I WON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSFER.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO KEEP DOING WHAT PARISTON TELLS YOU, THAT'S FINE.



I DON'T CARE.

WAIT.

WHAT'S THE POINT THEN?

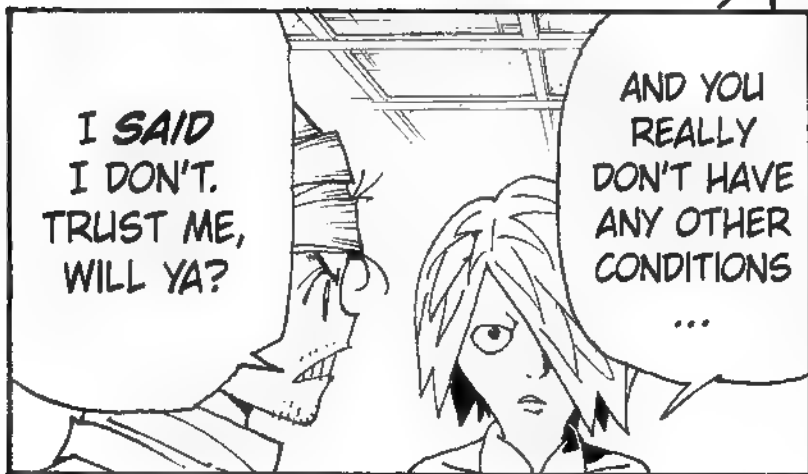
THAT'S NON-NEGOTIABLE.

BUT I'M NO. 2.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

SO YOU'LL PAY DOUBLE UP FRONT...



I SAID I DON'T. TRUST ME, WILL YA?

AND YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CONDITIONS ...

TELL ME YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND I'LL MAKE A DEPOSIT RIGHT NOW.

OF COURSE.



THAT'S THE  
VERY CHAOS  
WE WANT TO  
AVOID...

WHAT  
IF WE  
DON'T ALL  
AGREE?

IS HE TRYING TO  
REMOVE THOSE  
WHO ARE LESS  
MOTIVATED...?

YEAH.

WAIT...?

I'LL  
WAIT.

WELL,  
CAN'T BE  
HELPED...  
SORRY. IT'S  
A LONG  
TRIP.

YOU CAN ACCEPT  
THE MONEY WHEN  
YOU'RE SATISFIED  
WITH ME BEING  
NO. 2.

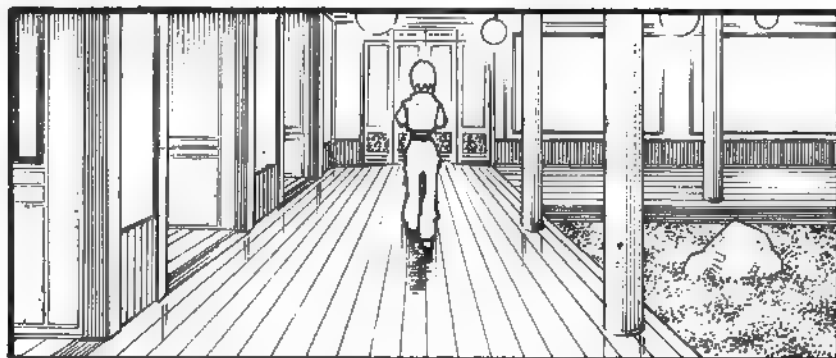
MAKING YOU  
DECIDE RIGHT  
NOW WOULD BE  
A CONDITION,  
TOO.

THIS IS MY  
ACCOUNT AND  
THE AMOUNT  
BEYOND  
OFFERED.

I'M  
FINE WITH  
YOU BEING  
NO. 2.

HEY?

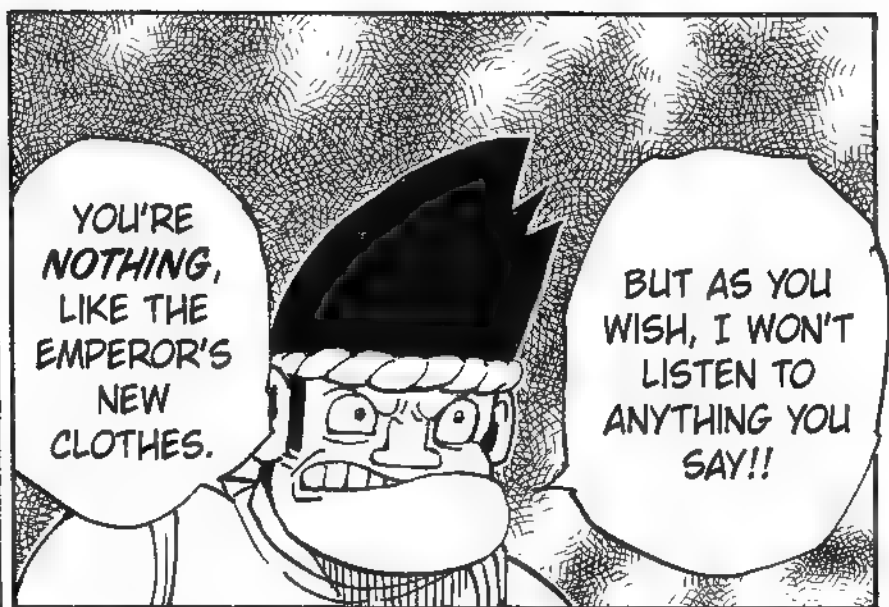
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
THINKING  
...?





TELL ME YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND AMOUNT.

THAT'S FINE.



YOU'RE NOTHING, LIKE THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES.

BUT AS YOU WISH, I WON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY!!



THEN YOU HAVEN'T ACCEPTED ME.

I SAID I DON'T WANT IT!!

NO, YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT.

I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY.



IN FACT, IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU WERE NO. 2.

NOT AT ALL.

PARISTON, YOU DON'T OBJECT?



WELL, LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU FEEL UP TO IT.

YOU CAN DONATE IT OR GIVE IT AWAY, FOR ALL I CARE.



...TWO TIMES ZERO IS STILL ZERO.

BUT IF MY MATH IS CORRECT...

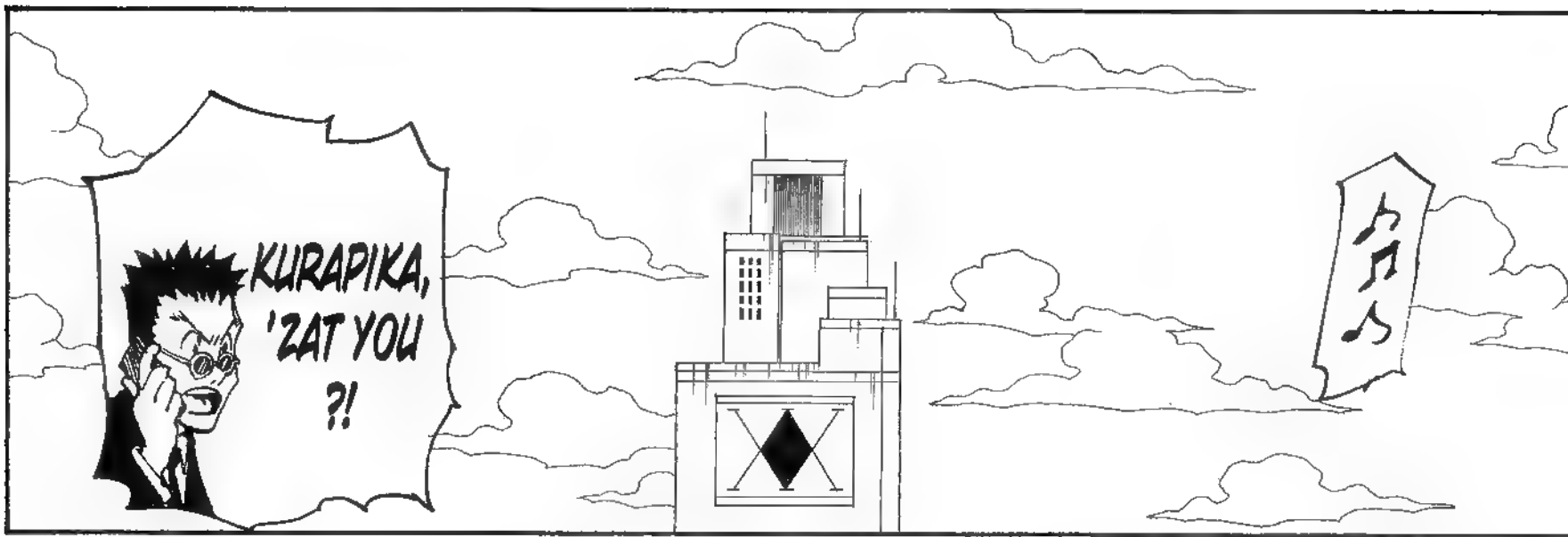
I'LL ASK FOR YOUR ACCOUNT ANYWAY.



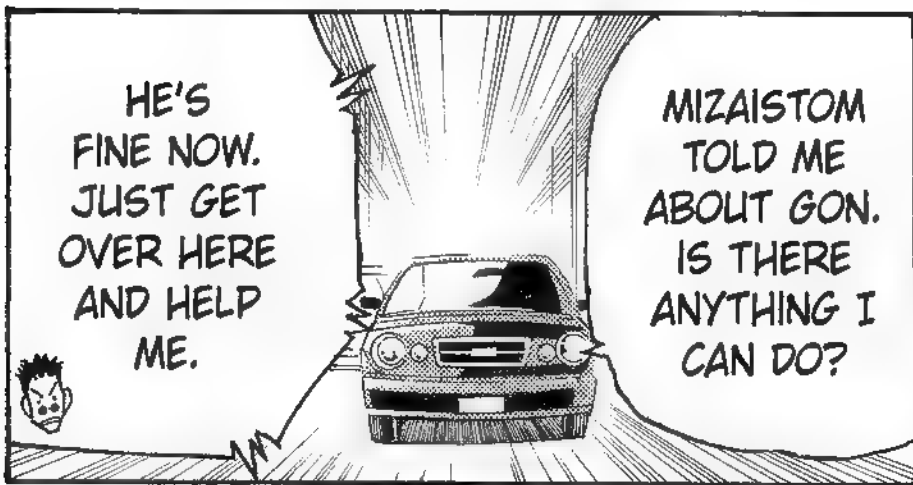
YOU'RE RIGHT!







KURAPIKA,  
'ZAT YOU  
?!



HE'S  
FINE NOW.  
JUST GET  
OVER HERE  
AND HELP  
ME.

MIZAISTOM  
TOLD ME  
ABOUT GON.  
IS THERE  
ANYTHING I  
CAN DO?



NO. I'M  
HEADING  
OVER  
NOW.

HOW MANY  
TIMES DO YOU  
THINK I'VE  
CALLED?!  
TELL ME YOUR  
EMAIL!!

YES.

SO  
YOU'RE  
JOINING  
THE  
ZODIACS?

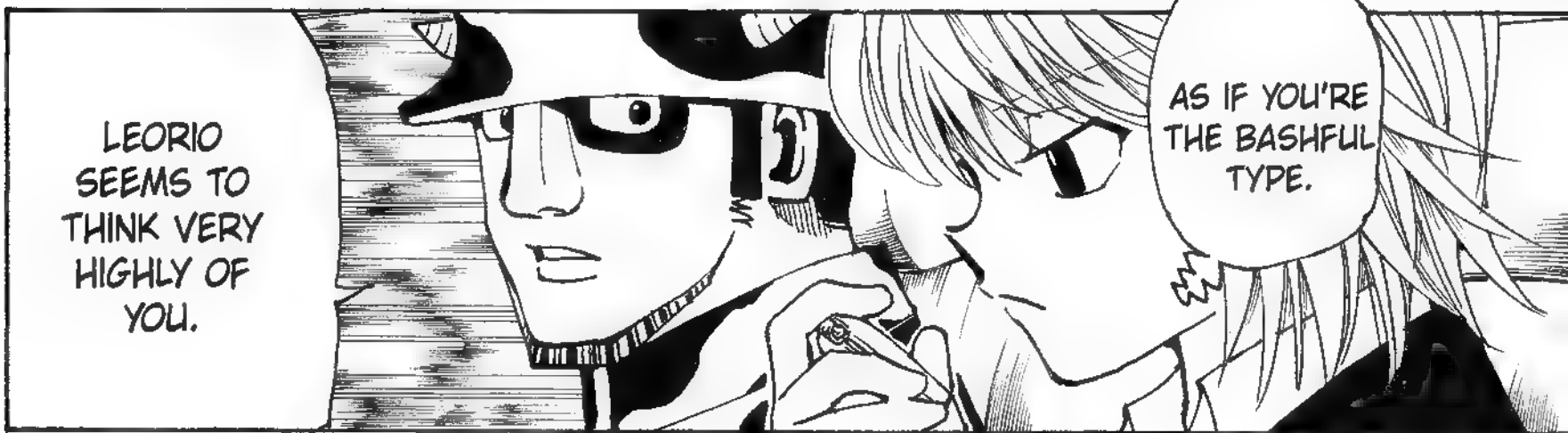
NO.

EMAIL!



ALL  
RIGHT.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYONE.  
IT'S  
AWKWARD.



LEORIO  
SEEMS TO  
THINK VERY  
HIGHLY OF  
YOU.

AS IF YOU'RE  
THE BASHFUL  
TYPE.



YOU CAN  
PRIORITIZE  
YOUR  
"BUSINESS"  
ON BOARD.

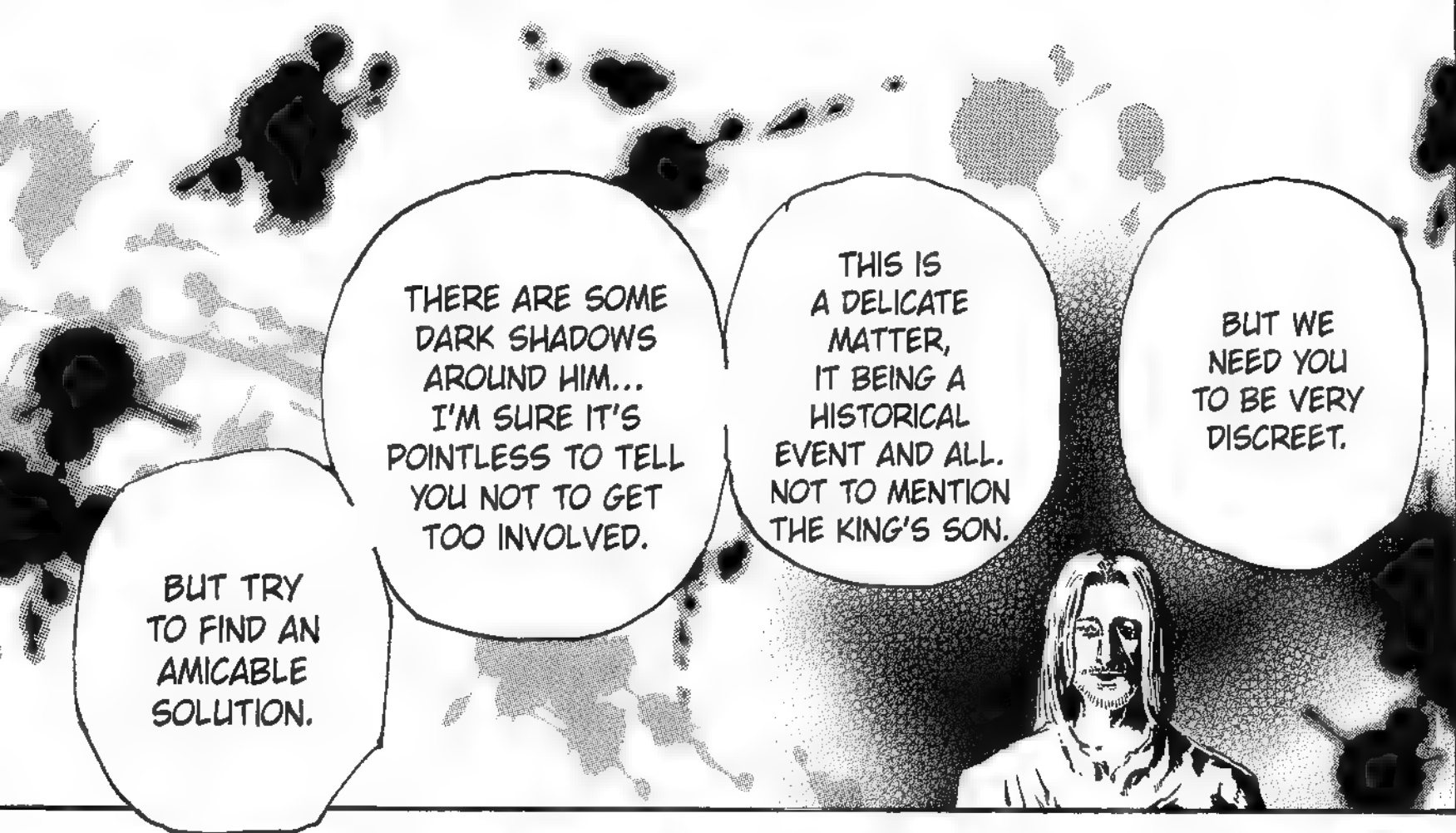
I  
KNOW.

I'LL HELP  
AS MUCH  
AS I CAN,  
BUT...



BUT THANK  
YOU FOR  
LETTING  
ME KNOW  
ABOUT THE  
PRINCE.

I DON'T KNOW...  
I'M NOT SURE  
HOW MY ABILITY  
WOULD BE  
USEFUL IN THIS  
ENDEAVOR...

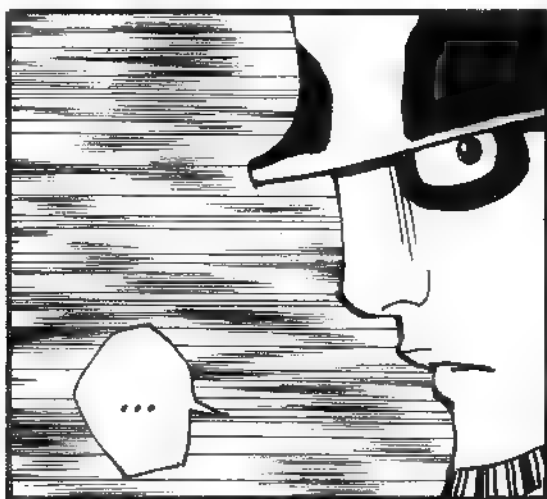


BUT TRY TO FIND AN AMICABLE SOLUTION.

THERE ARE SOME DARK SHADOWS AROUND HIM... I'M SURE IT'S POINTLESS TO TELL YOU NOT TO GET TOO INVOLVED.

THIS IS A DELICATE MATTER, IT BEING A HISTORICAL EVENT AND ALL. NOT TO MENTION THE KING'S SON.

BUT WE NEED YOU TO BE VERY DISCREET.



...



I'M BETTER AT HANDLING MONSTERS IN HUMAN SKIN THAN AT BATTLING THE UNKNOWN.

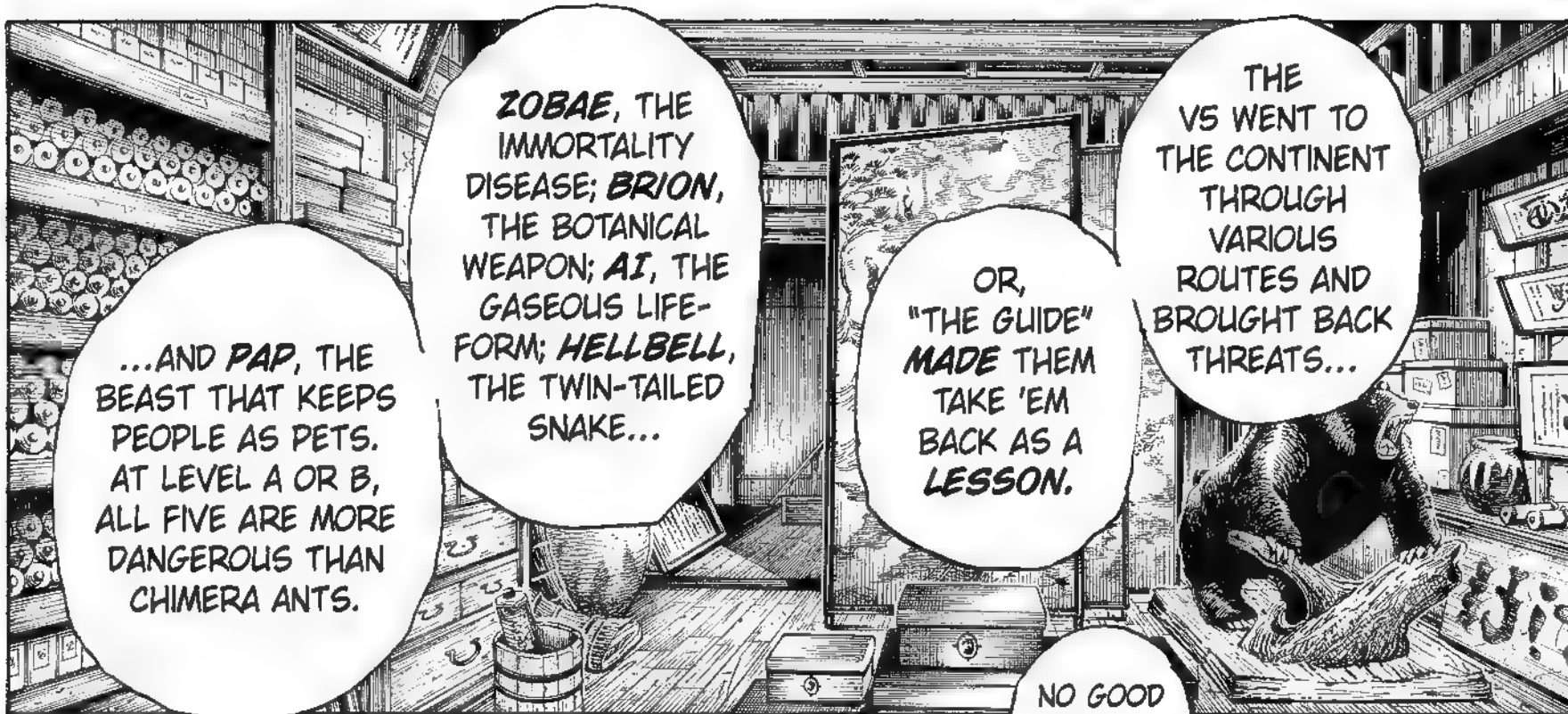
NO NEED TO WORRY.



HUH?

...MAKE ANY AURA... ?

I CAN'T...



...AND **PAP**, THE BEAST THAT KEEPS PEOPLE AS PETS. AT LEVEL A OR B, ALL FIVE ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN CHIMERA ANTS.

**ZOBAE**, THE IMMORTALITY DISEASE; **BRION**, THE BOTANICAL WEAPON; **AI**, THE GASEOUS LIFE-FORM; **HELLBELL**, THE TWIN-TAILED SNAKE...

OR, "THE GUIDE" MADE THEM TAKE 'EM BACK AS A LESSON.

THE VS WENT TO THE CONTINENT THROUGH VARIOUS ROUTES AND BROUGHT BACK THREATS...

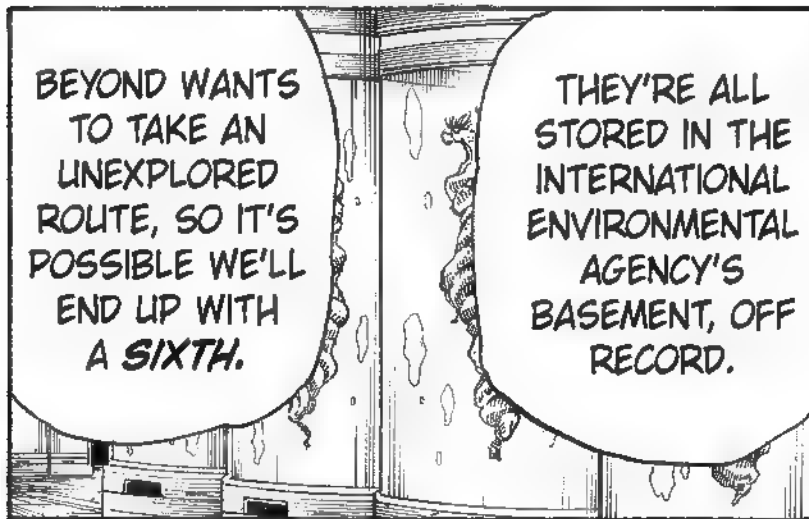
NO GOOD WAY TO DEAL WITH 'EM.



BEST WE CAN DO IS LOCK 'EM UP AND STAY AWAY.

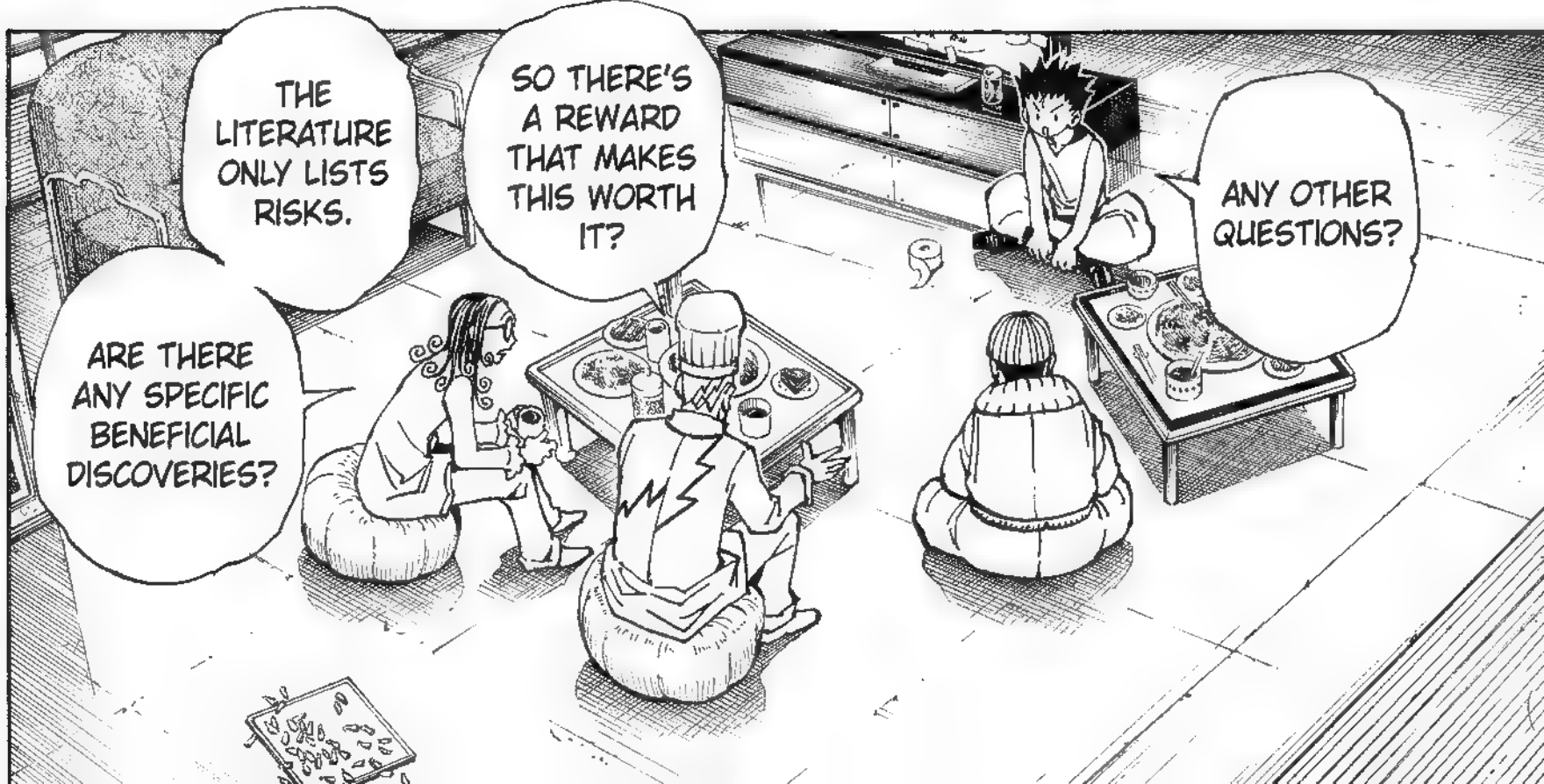


OF THE FIVE THREATS, THERE HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF AI AND PAP ON THIS SIDE ALREADY. WE'RE LUCKY HUMANITY HASN'T BEEN WIPED OUT YET.



BEYOND WANTS TO TAKE AN UNEXPLORED ROUTE, SO IT'S POSSIBLE WE'LL END UP WITH A **SIXTH**.

THEY'RE ALL STORED IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY'S BASEMENT, OFF RECORD.




THE LITERATURE ONLY LISTS RISKS.

SO THERE'S A REWARD THAT MAKES THIS WORTH IT?

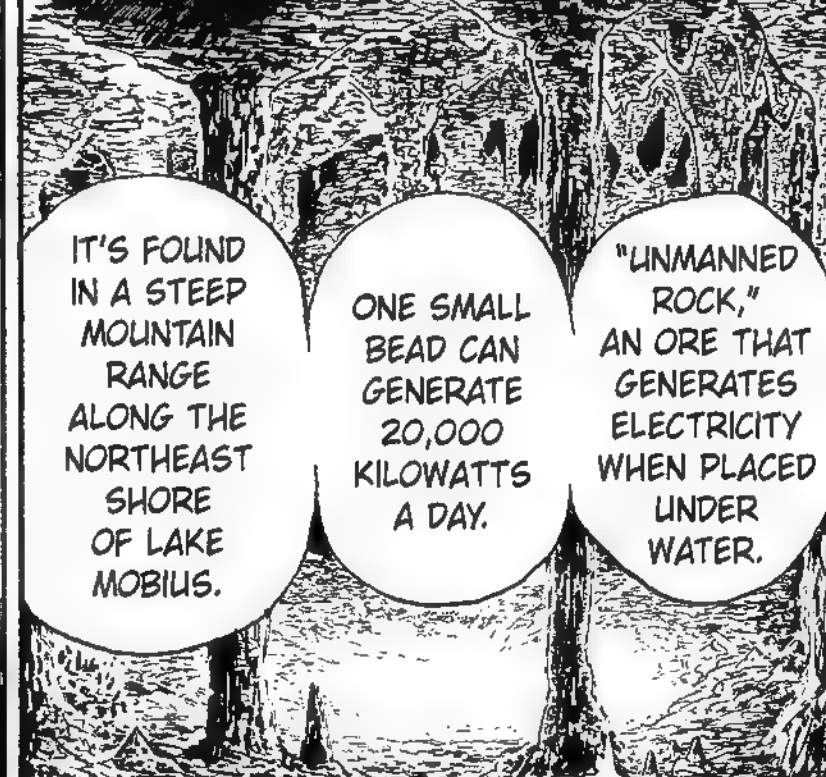
ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC BENEFICIAL DISCOVERIES?

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?



BEGEROSSÉ UNION SENT A RESEARCH GROUP OF 1,000 PEOPLE TO SECURE A ROUTE, AND ONLY SEVEN CAME BACK.


BUT THAT'S INSIDE PAP'S TERRITORY.



IT'S FOUND IN A STEEP MOUNTAIN RANGE ALONG THE NORTHEAST SHORE OF LAKE MOBIUS.

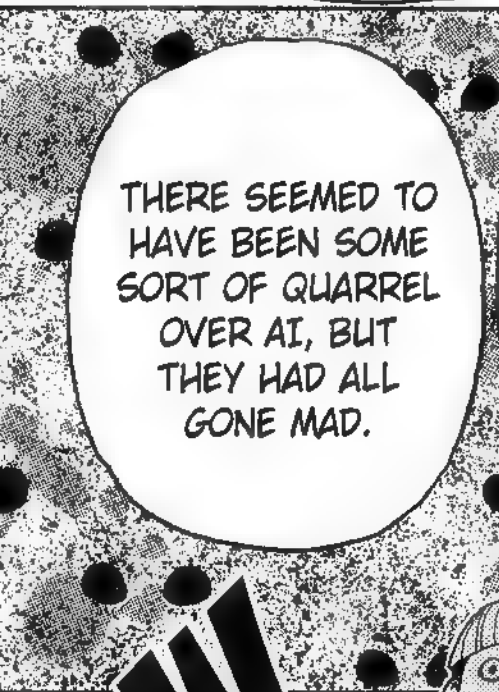
ONE SMALL BEAD CAN GENERATE 20,000 KILOWATTS A DAY.

"UNMANNED ROCK," AN ORE THAT GENERATES ELECTRICITY WHEN PLACED UNDER WATER.

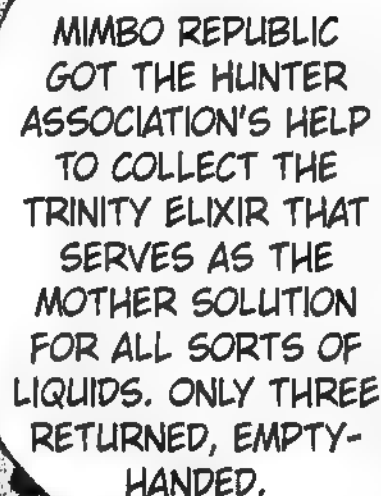


BUT THE BOTANICAL WEAPON THAT PROTECTS THIS EMPTY CITY DECIMATED THE SPECIAL FORCES FROM THE UNITED STATES OF SAHERTA. ONLY TWO RETURNED ALIVE.

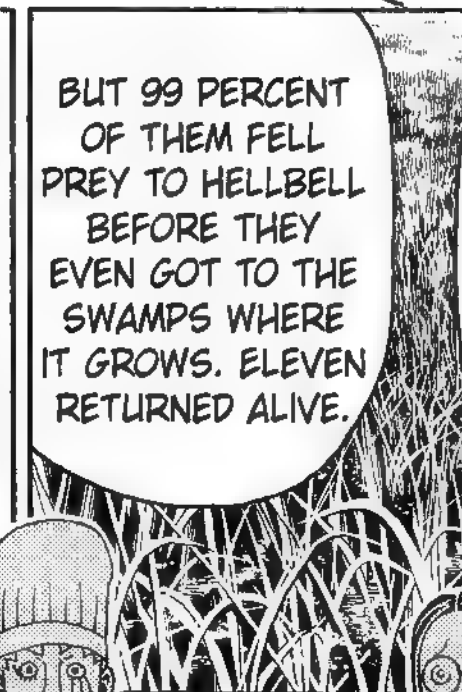
DIRECTLY NORTH OF OUR WORLD, THERE'S A FOREST ON THE CONTINENT. THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT LABYRINTHINE CITY LIE 400 KILOMETERS IN, WHEREIN GROWS AN HERB THAT CAN CURE ALL KINDS OF DISEASES.




THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF QUARREL OVER AI, BUT THEY HAD ALL GONE MAD.



MIMBO REPUBLIC GOT THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION'S HELP TO COLLECT THE TRINITY ELIXIR THAT SERVES AS THE MOTHER SOLUTION FOR ALL SORTS OF LIQUIDS. ONLY THREE RETURNED, EMPTY-HANDED.



BUT 99 PERCENT OF THEM FELL PREY TO HELLBELL BEFORE THEY EVEN GOT TO THE SWAMPS WHERE IT GROWS. ELEVEN RETURNED ALIVE.



THE FEDERATION OF OCHIMA WENT SOUTHEAST OF LAKE MOBIUS, LOOKING FOR NITRO RICE, THE ULTIMATE SECRET TO LONGEVITY.



AS NETERO SAID...

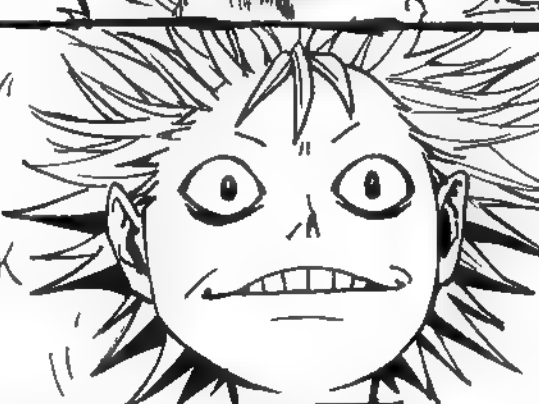
IN THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION, BEYOND'S DAD, NETERO, SECRETLY WENT WITH HIS FRIENDS, BUT THAT TRIP WAS UNDOCUMENTED.

**THIS  
PLACE  
IS TOO  
BIG...**





ISAAC  
NETERO



ZIGG  
ZZOLDYCK



LINNET  
AUDOBLE



ONLY SIX RETURNED, INCLUDING THE HUNTER AFFLICTED WITH ZOBAE. THE PLANT DIED.

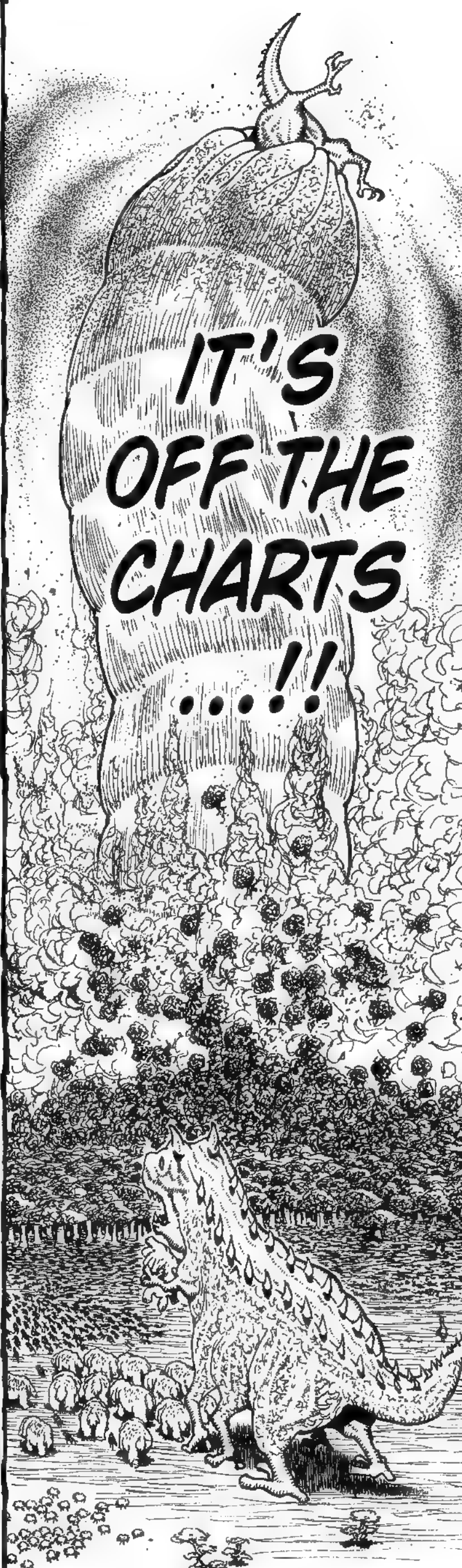
BEYOND ACCOMPANIED KUKAN'YU KINGDOM'S TEAM AND SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING BACK THE ALCHEMY PLANT METALLION, BUT BY GOING OFF ROUTE THEY CAUGHT THE WORST DISEASE.

IT WAS BEYOND'S TRIP THAT DROVE NETERO TO CONVINCING THE VS TO MAKE TRAVEL TO THE DARK CONTINENT TABOO FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

NETERO WAS TROUBLED THAT THE STORY OF HIS TRAVELS, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO SERVE AS A WARNING, HAD INSTEAD INSPIRED OTHERS, LEADING TO MORE CASUALTIES.

**IT'S  
OFF THE  
CHARTS**

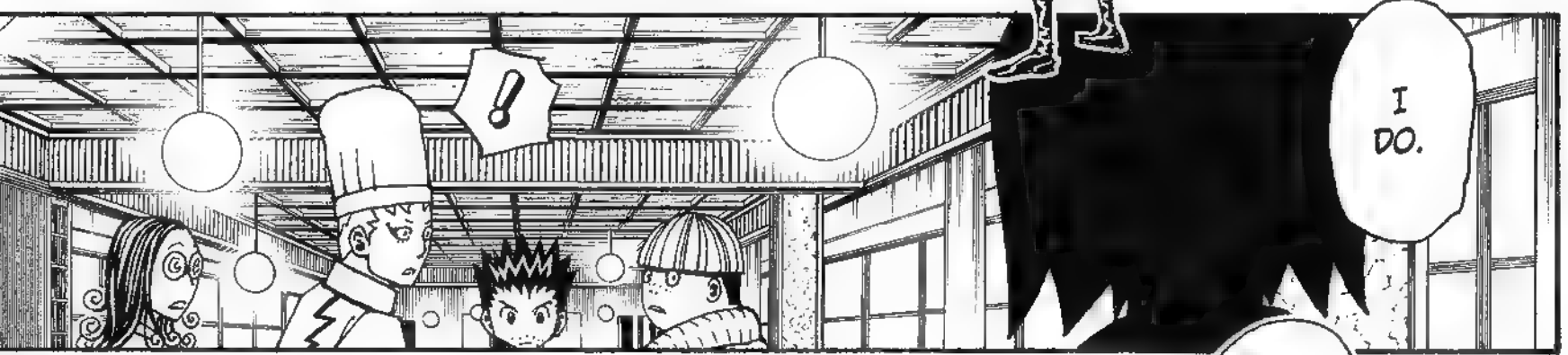
**...!!**





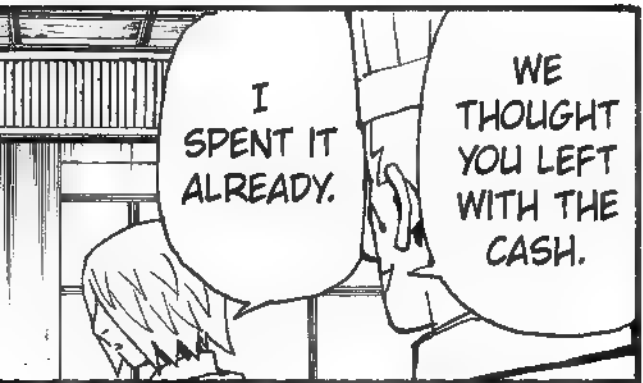
DO YOU STILL WANT TO GO?

DID BEYOND TELL YOU IT'S SUPER-HIGH RISK, HIGH RETURN?



!

I DO.



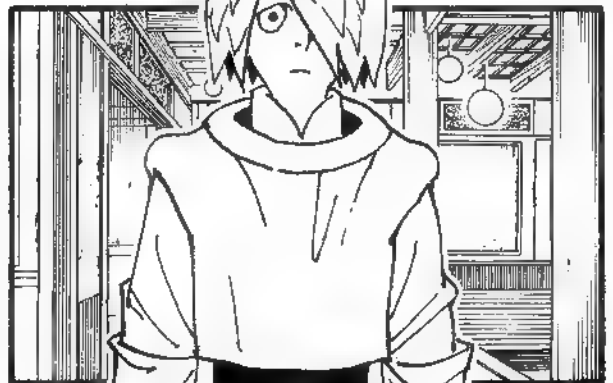
I SPENT IT ALREADY.

WE THOUGHT YOU LEFT WITH THE CASH.



I SAID I WOULD.

YOU CAME BACK.

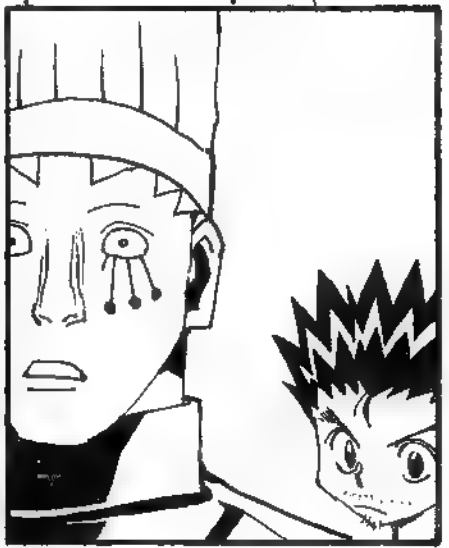


THANKS TO YOU, THE INSURANCE PAYOUT, UPON MY DEATH WILL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR HER LIFETIME.

FOR THAT I'M GRATEFUL.

I COULD BE REBORN TWICE, SELL ALL THREE HUNTER LICENSES, AND STILL NOT PAY OFF ITS DEBT.

TO SAVE THE HOSPITAL MY SISTER'S AT.



YOU'LL GET TO SPEND BEYOND'S PAY.

I CAN'T LET YOU DIE KNOWING THAT...



I'LL GO WHEREVER YOU GO.



YOU'RE MY NO. 2.



THERE WAS ONE GUY WHO TRIED TO EXPLORE THE ENTIRE MOBIUS SHORELINE, BY HIMSELF, 300 YEARS AGO.

YEAH. THERE ARE IDIOTS IN ANY ERA.

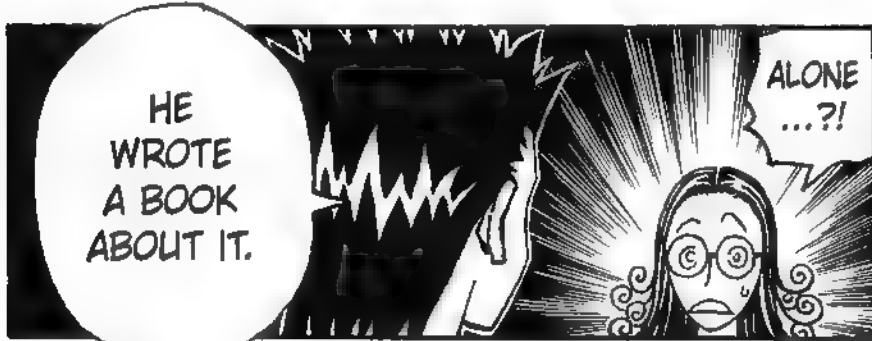


YOU SPOKE AS IF THE VS KNEW WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO GET, EVEN THOUGH THE PLACE WAS "UNKNOWN" AT THE TIME...

LIM.

ONE THING CONCERNS ME.

DOES THAT IMPLY A PREVIOUS PIONEER I WASN'T AWARE OF...?



HE WROTE A BOOK ABOUT IT.

ALONE ...?!

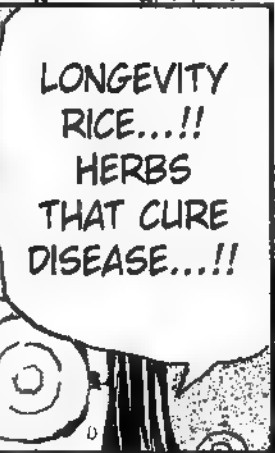
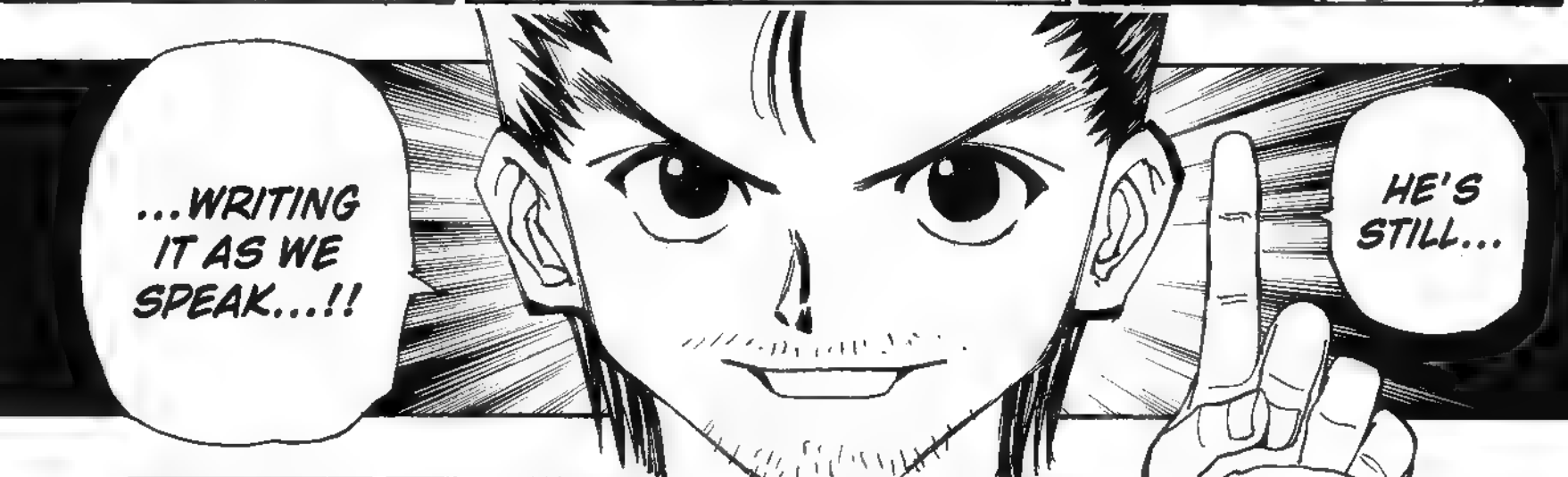


BUT ONLY EAST HAS BEEN FOUND, WITH NO SIGN OF WEST.

JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD, EAST AND WEST EDITIONS!!

WHY?





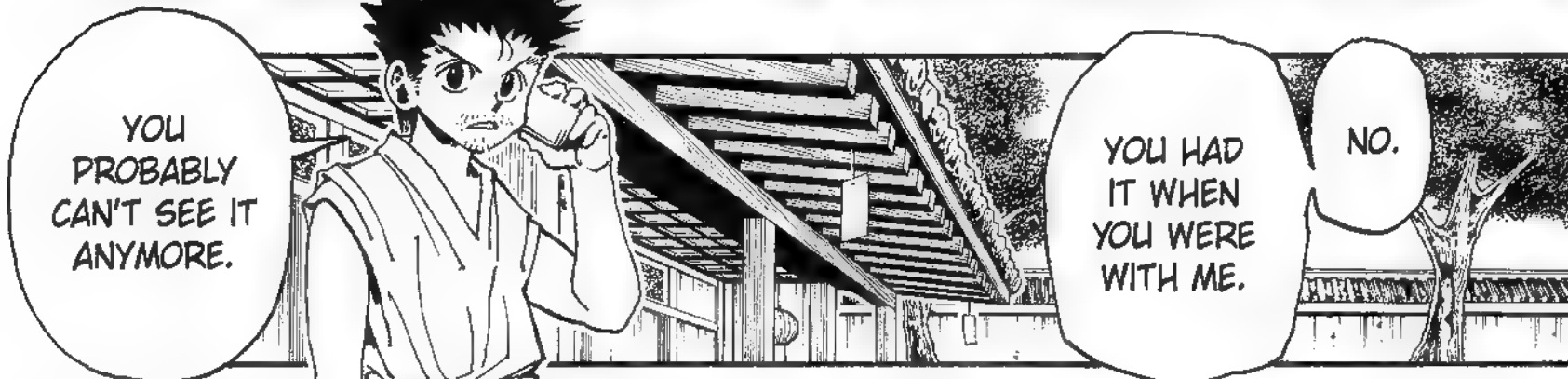
## DANGEROUS CREATURES EVALUATION LIST

	Aggression	Number	Fecundity	Threat of Bodily Harm	Total Score
<b>Chimera Ants (Humanoid)</b>	$B \sim C$ $(B \doteq A-1)$ $(A-2)$	B	B-1	A	B
<b>Ai</b>	A-2	?	?	A~B	A
<b>Brion</b>	B $(\doteq A-1)$	C	B-2	A-1	B <sup>+</sup>
<b>Zobae (Patient)</b>	C-1 $(\doteq A-2)$	E	B-2	B-2	B <sup>+</sup>
<b>Hellbell</b>	A-1	?	?	A-2	A
<b>Pap</b>	A-2	?	?	B-1	A
<b>Human (Individual)</b>	C	E	C	B~E	C
<b>Human (Nation)</b>	B $(\doteq A-1)$	A	C $(\doteq B)$	A~C	A <sup>-</sup> ~B <sup>+</sup>

# Chapter 345: Signature



YOU DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
AURA?



YOU  
PROBABLY  
CAN'T SEE IT  
ANYMORE.

YOU HAD  
IT WHEN  
YOU WERE  
WITH ME.

NO.

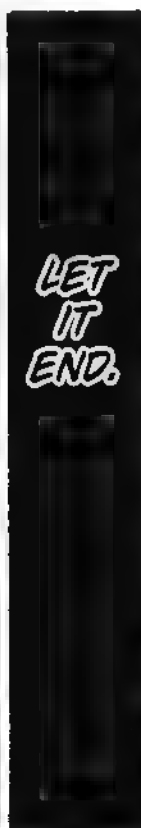


ISN'T THAT  
ENOUGH?

IT JUST  
MEANS  
YOU WENT  
BACK TO  
"NORMAL."



I DON'T  
CARE  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO ME  
NOW.



LET  
IT  
END.



REMEMBER  
WHAT YOU  
TOLD ME.



BE HAPPY  
ABOUT IT.

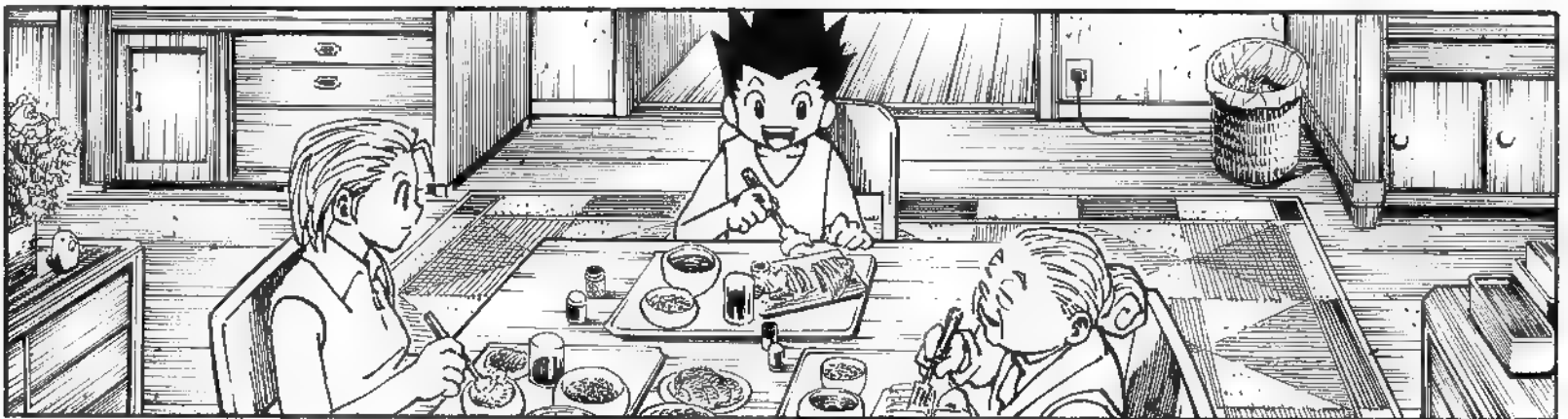
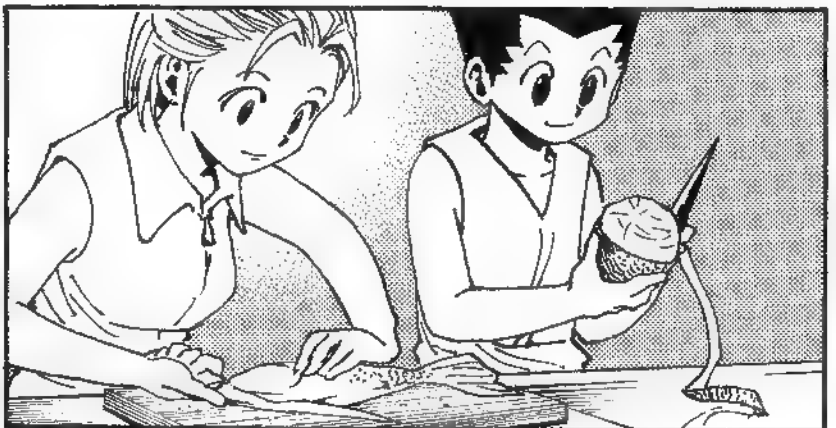
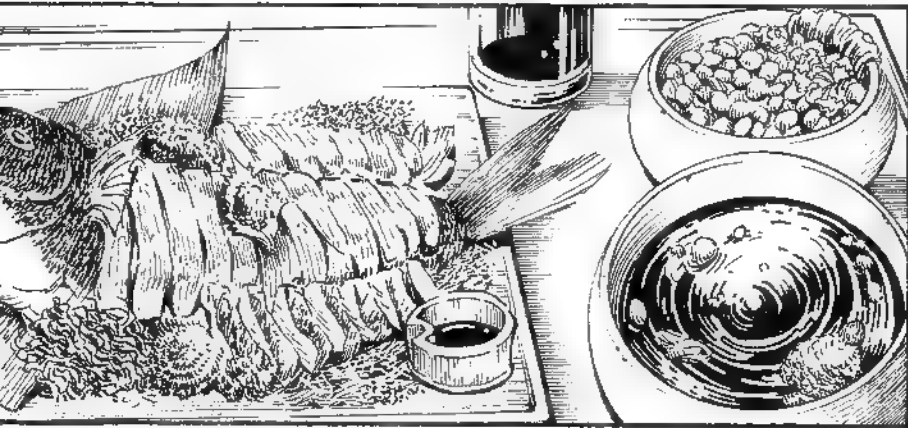
YOU'D BE  
LINGRATEFUL  
IF YOU  
WANTED  
MORE.

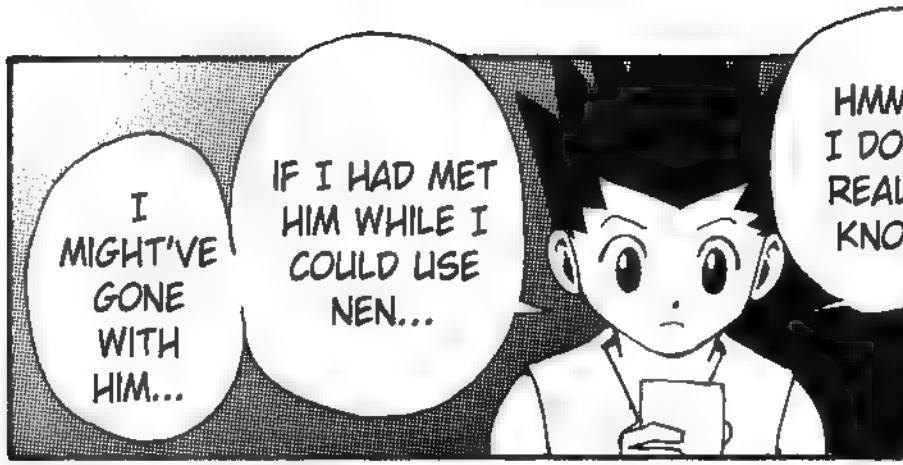
YOU FOUGHT  
WITH THE INTENT  
TO THROW  
EVERYTHING  
AWAY, AND YOU  
TURNED BACK  
TO NORMAL.

...TO  
FIGURE  
OUT WHAT  
YOU CAN  
DO AS YOU  
ARE NOW.

THIS'LL  
BE A GOOD  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOU...







I MIGHT'VE GONE WITH HIM...

IF I HAD MET HIM WHILE I COULD USE NEN...

HMM... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.



WITH GING?



HMM...

AND WHY'S THAT?



I REALIZED AFTER I SAW HIM... THAT MY GOAL HAD BEEN TO FIND HIM.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT... I GUESS IT WASN'T THAT I WANTED TO SEE HIM.



YEAH, YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME.

NOR IS HE WILLING!

YEAH, HE'S NOT CUT OUT TO BE A DAD, NOR DOES HE KNOW HOW.



BUT HE'S MORE LIKE AN AWESOME UNCLE I'D ALWAYS HEARD ABOUT, NOT A DAD.



IT WAS FUN TALKING TO HIM. I WAS GLAD TO MEET HIM, AND IT MADE ME HAPPY.



HA HA, I KNOW.

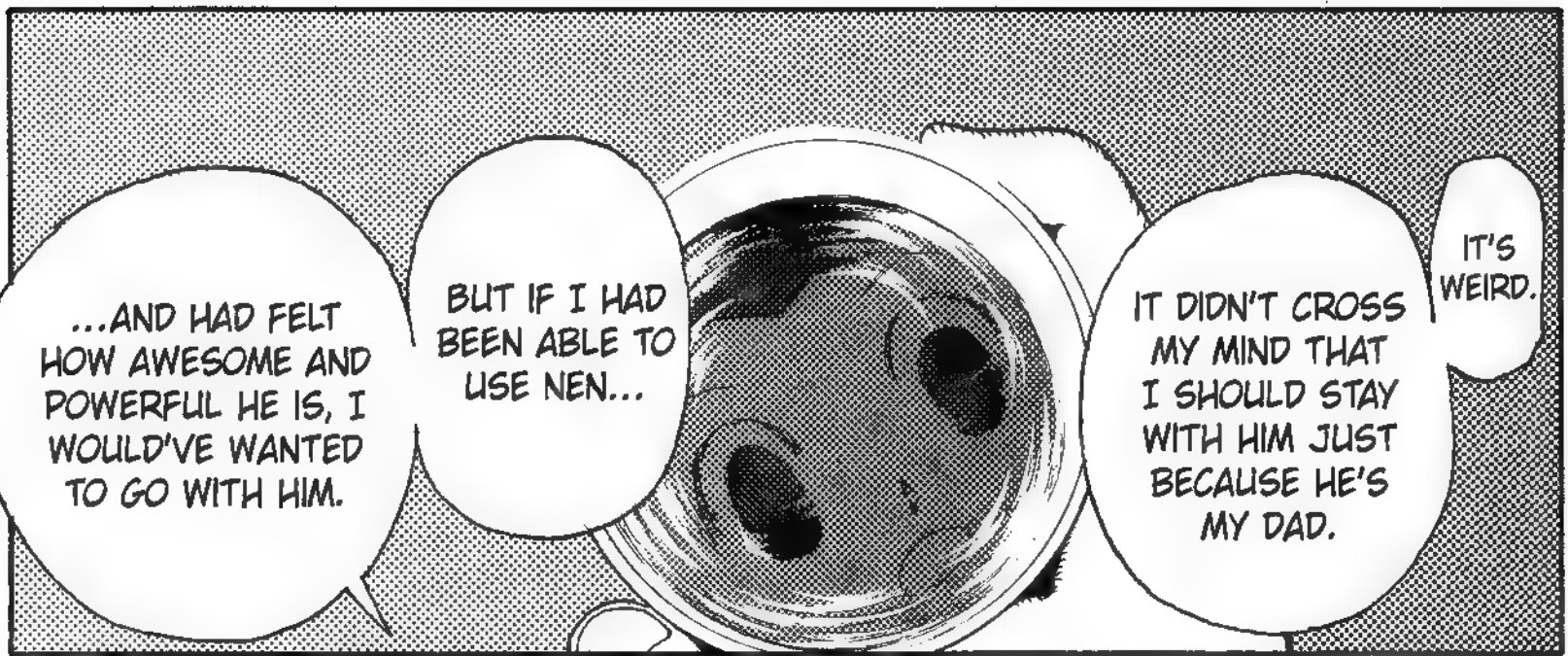
JUST THAT GING IS A JERK, AND... SORRY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!

IT WAS A JOKE.



MAYBE I WASN'T CUT OUT TO BE A SON.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON, I GUESS.

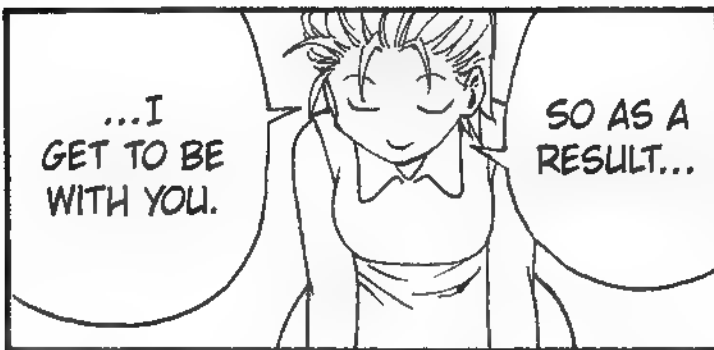


...AND HAD FELT HOW AWESOME AND POWERFUL HE IS, I WOULD'VE WANTED TO GO WITH HIM.

BUT IF I HAD BEEN ABLE TO USE NEN...

IT DIDN'T CROSS MY MIND THAT I SHOULD STAY WITH HIM JUST BECAUSE HE'S MY DAD.

IT'S WEIRD.



...I GET TO BE WITH YOU.

SO AS A RESULT...



AND I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO FEEL HIS AURA AT ALL...

BUT IT WAS KINDA CHAOTIC WHEN WE MET.



?

WELCOME TO REALITY.

NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL...



HERE'S THE TEST FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE WE NEED TO SEND TO SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE EDUCATION BUREAU, AND FOUR SEMESTERS WORTH OF TEXT-BOOKS.

FIRST, WRITE AN EIGHT- TO TEN-THOUSAND-WORD REPORT ON WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING! WRITE A RESUMÉ AND MAKE THIRTY COPIES.

KNOW WHAT THEY SAID TO ME?

THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS YOU WERE EXEMPT FROM BECAUSE YOU WERE WORKING AS A HUNTER!! LOOK AT ALL THIS PAPERWORK!

**SLAM!!**

**SLAM!!**

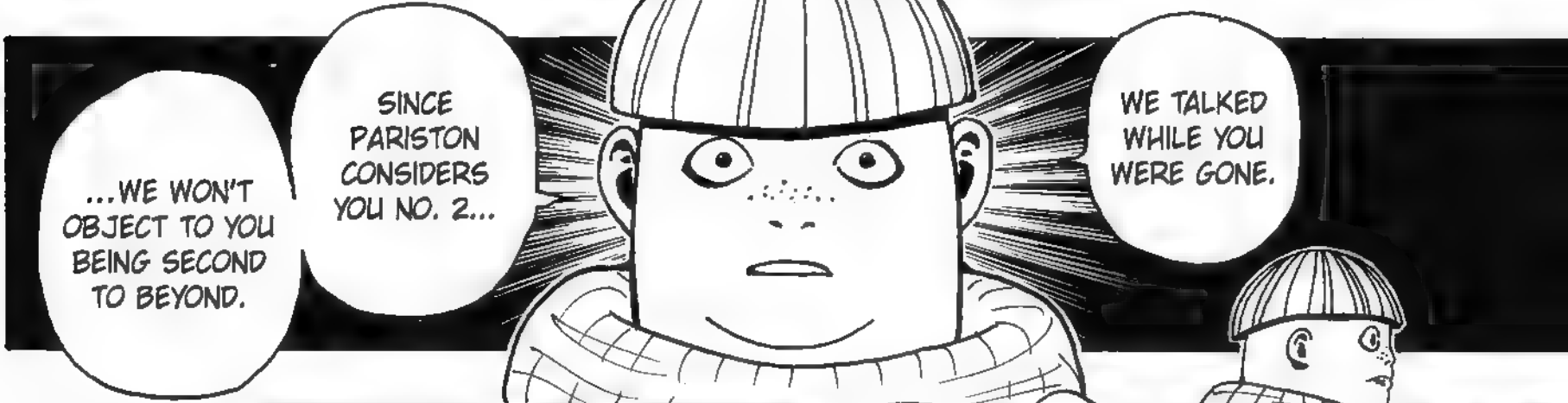
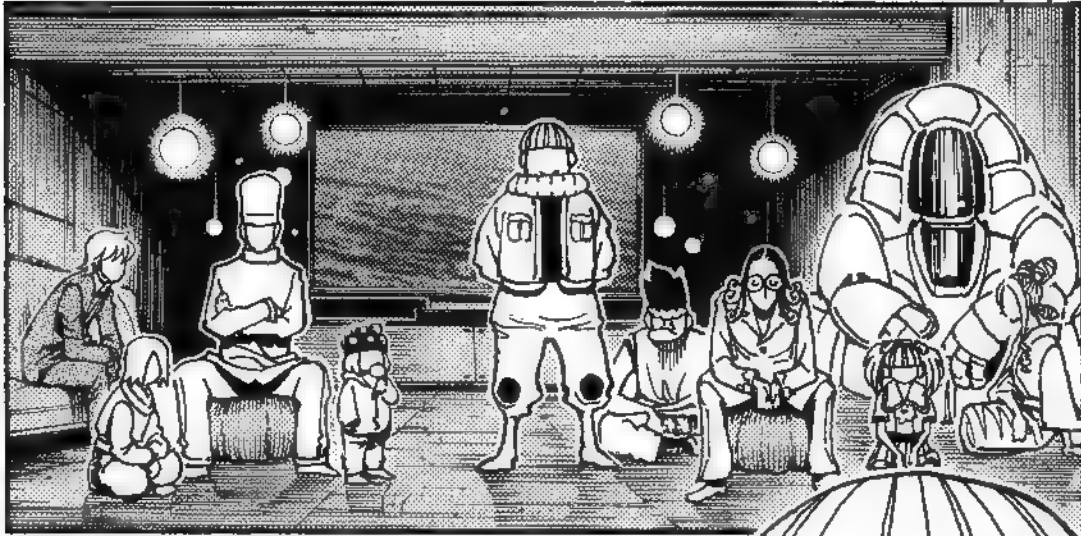
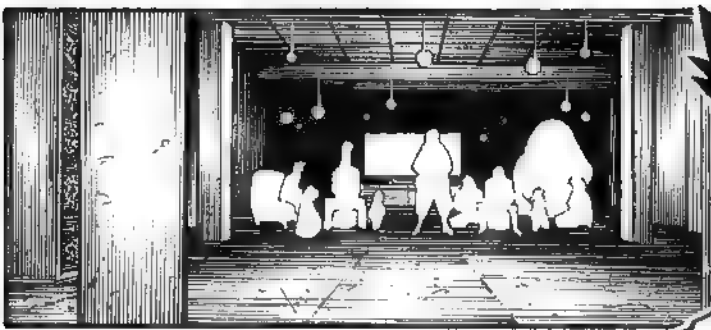


KIDS WHO GO TO SCHOOL DEAL WITH 100 TIMES MORE THAN THIS!!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!!

SUCH A PAIN!

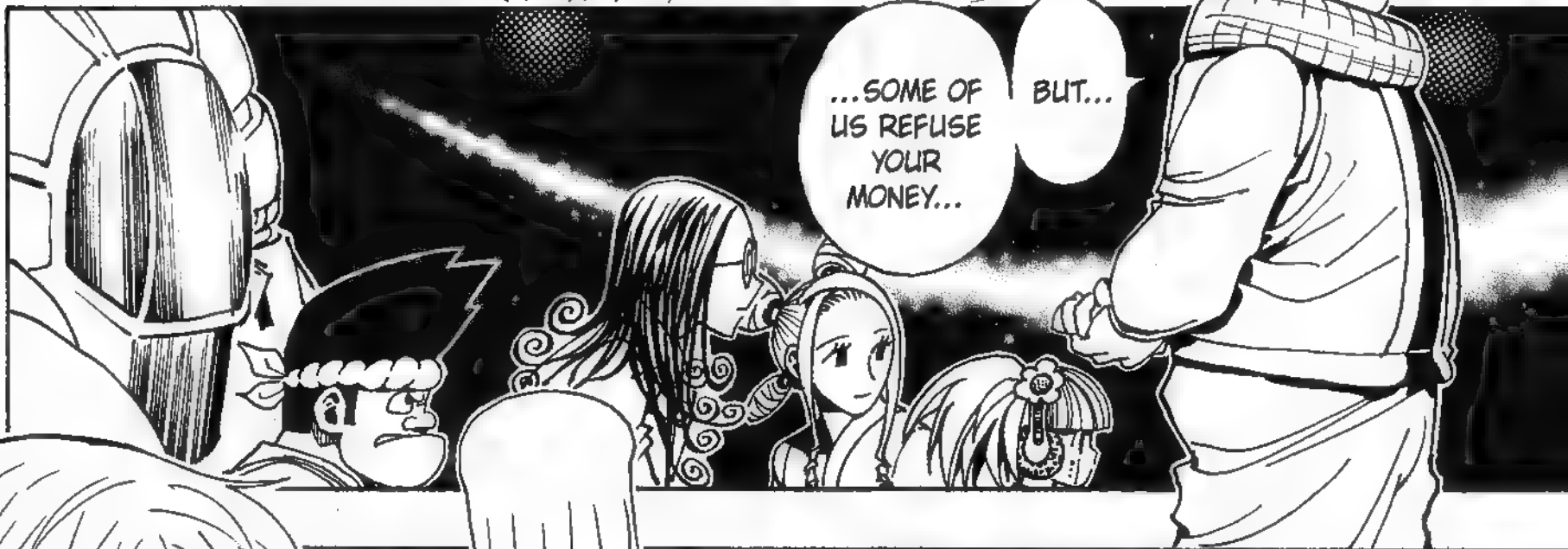
WHAT? ALL OF THIS?!



...WE WON'T OBJECT TO YOU BEING SECOND TO BEYOND.

SINCE PARISTON CONSIDERS YOU NO. 2...

WE TALKED WHILE YOU WERE GONE.



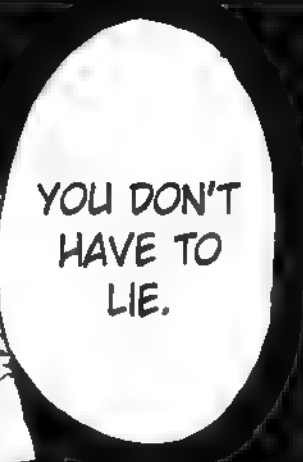
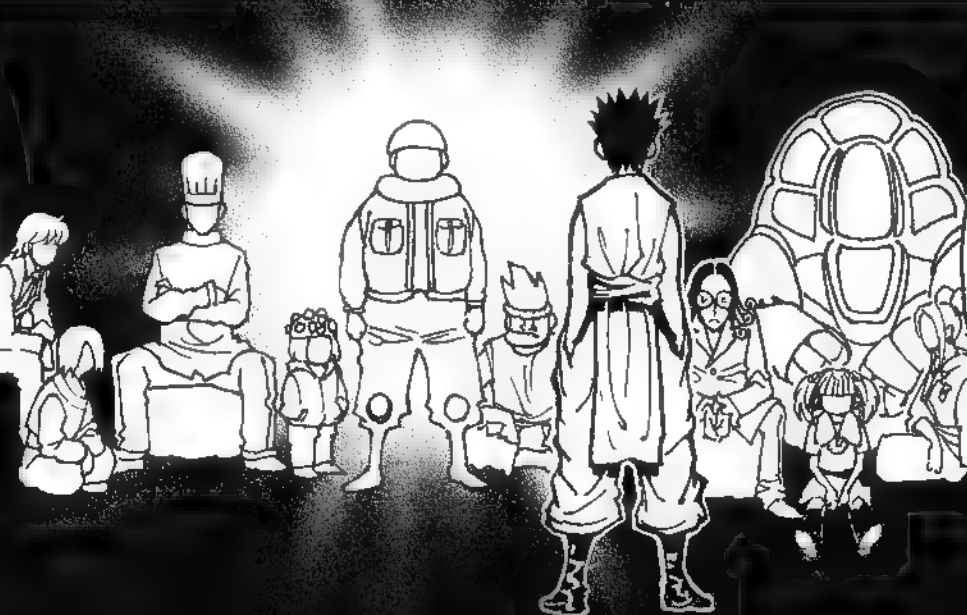
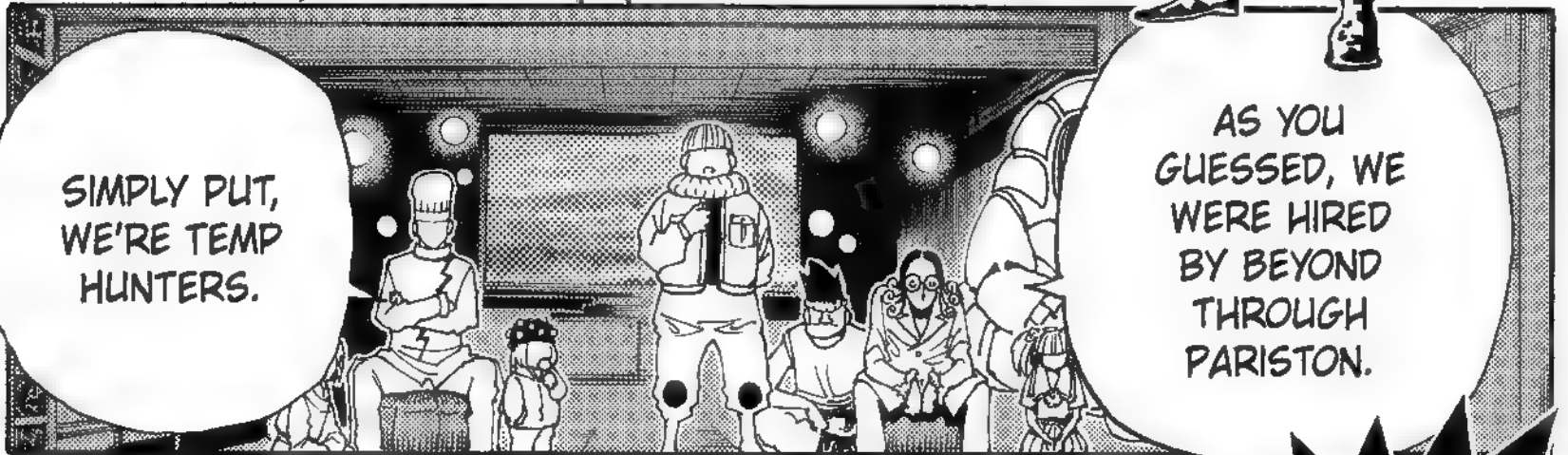
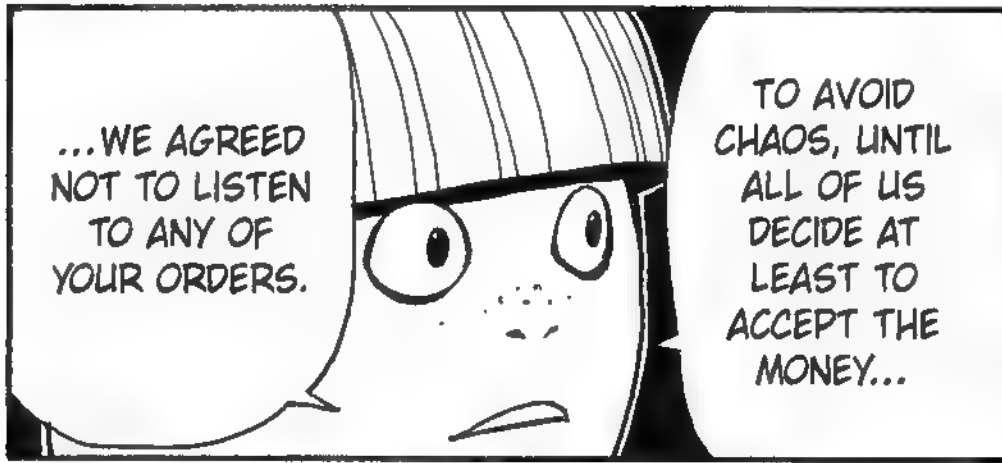
...SOME OF US REFUSE YOUR MONEY...

BUT...



...WHILE OTHERS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT.







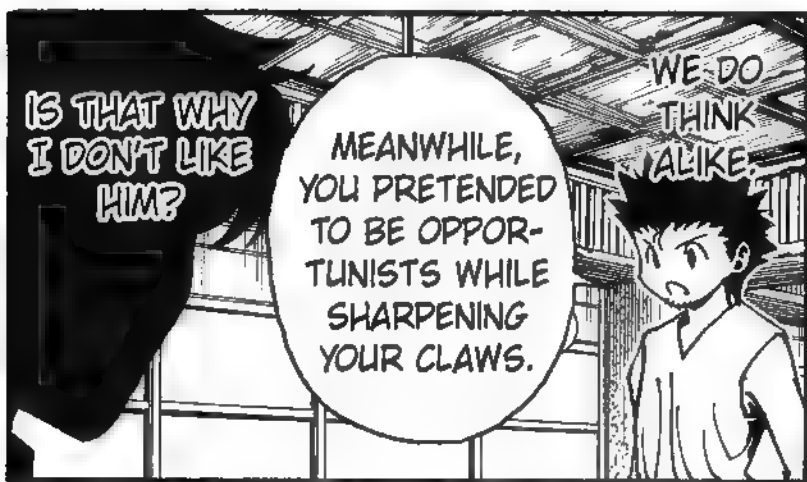
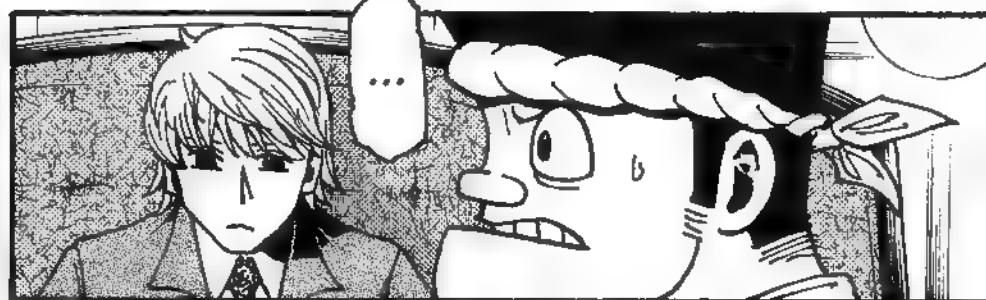
YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR A LONG TIME, WITH BEYOND AS YOUR LEADER.

YOU HAVE THE PARTICULAR SKILLS NECESSARY TO FACE THE UNKNOWN...!

YOU BECAME HUNTERS JUST FOR THIS JOURNEY.



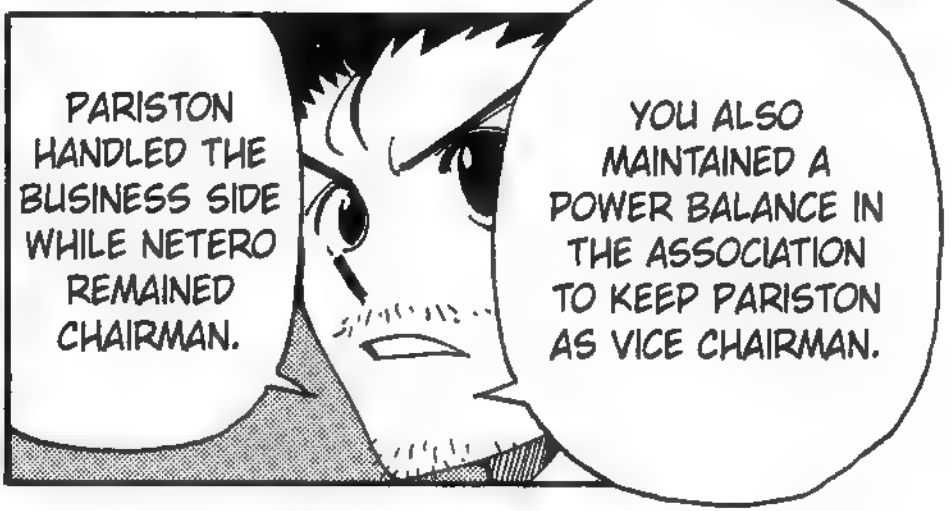
THIS IS ANNOYING...



IS THAT WHY I DON'T LIKE HIM?

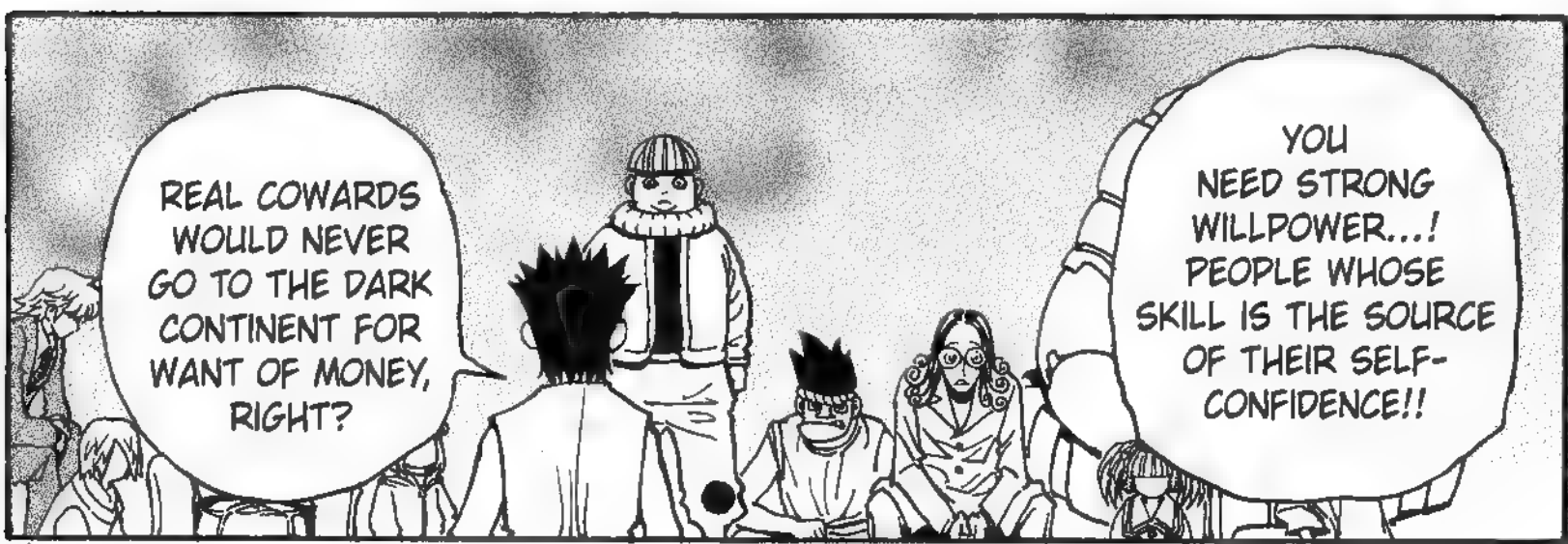
MEANWHILE, YOU PRETENDED TO BE OPPORTUNISTS WHILE SHARPENING YOUR CLAWS.

WE DO THINK ALIKE.



PARISTON HANDLED THE BUSINESS SIDE WHILE NETERO REMAINED CHAIRMAN.

YOU ALSO MAINTAINED A POWER BALANCE IN THE ASSOCIATION TO KEEP PARISTON AS VICE CHAIRMAN.



REAL COWARDS WOULD NEVER GO TO THE DARK CONTINENT FOR WANT OF MONEY, RIGHT?

YOU NEED STRONG WILLPOWER...! PEOPLE WHOSE SKILL IS THE SOURCE OF THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE!!

I MIGHT GROW TO HATE SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

ANNOYING...

SO...

CAN YOU  
TELL THE  
OTHERS I'LL  
PAY THEM  
UP FRONT,  
TOO?

I'M  
LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO THIS...

SO...  
THE TEN  
OF YOU  
HERE ISN'T  
"EVERYONE,"  
IS IT?

...ISN'T AN  
ORDER.

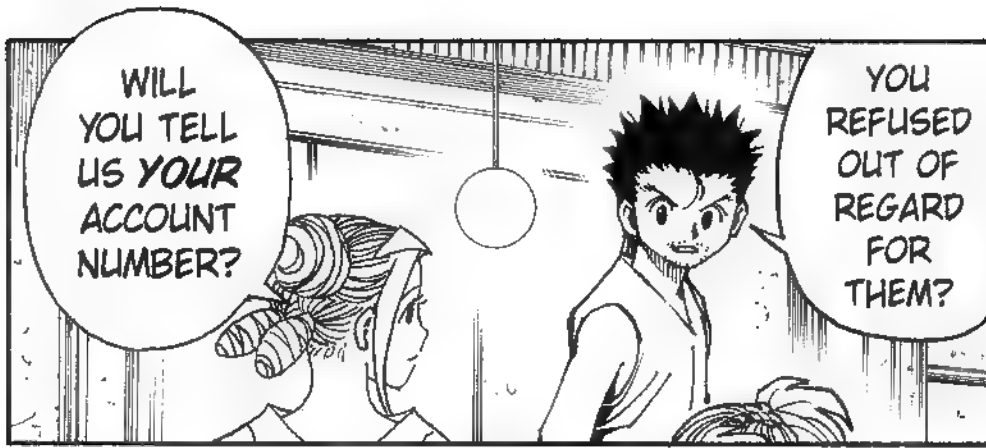
THIS...

...WHAT  
I WANT  
TO DO TO  
SOMEONE  
I HATE...

I  
WANT TO  
SEE...

I'LL LET  
EVERYONE  
KNOW.

SURE.



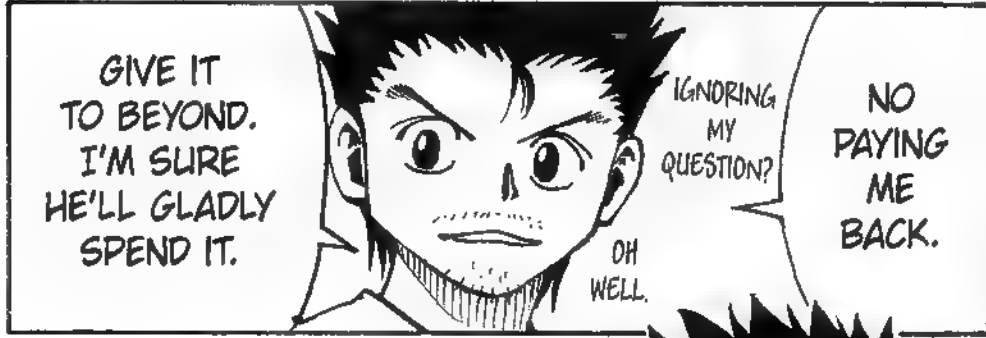
WILL YOU TELL US YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER?

YOU REFUSED OUT OF REGARD FOR THEM?

IGNORING MY QUESTION?



IF EVERYONE WILL KNOW... I'LL TAKE THE MONEY.



GIVE IT TO BEYOND. I'M SURE HE'LL GLADLY SPEND IT.

NO PAYING ME BACK.

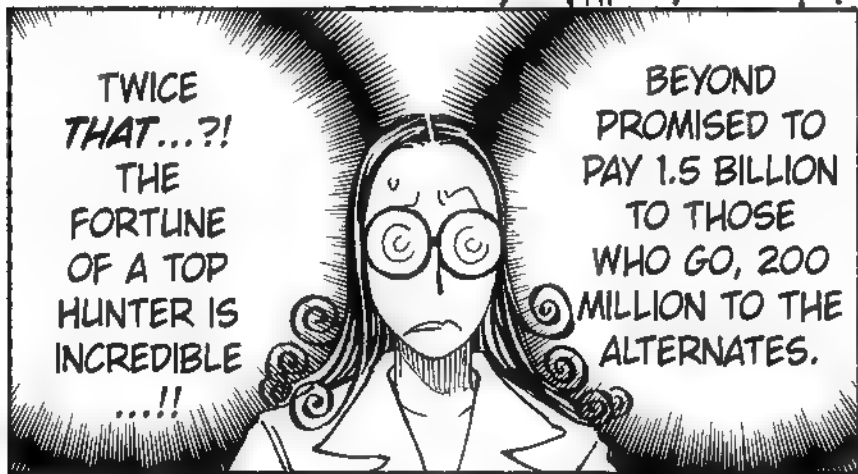
OH WELL.



...IN THE ASSOCIATION. ONLY A FEW WOULD ACTUALLY GO TO THE CONTINENT.

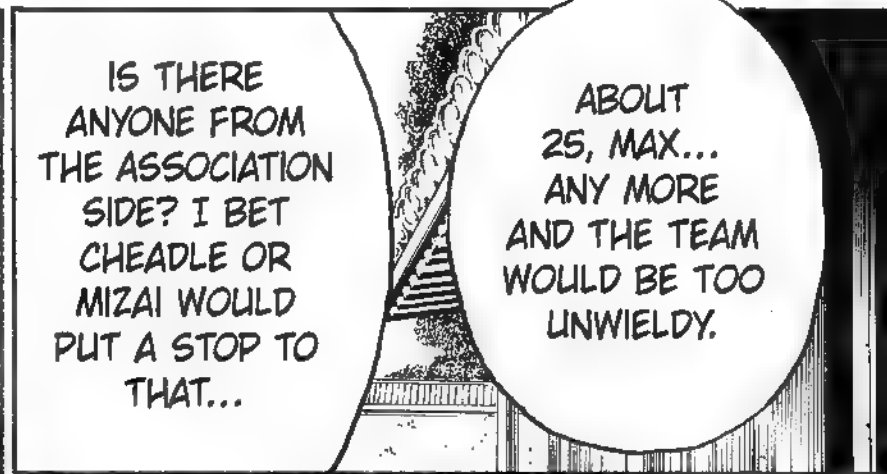
I JUST TOLD YOU, THERE ARE ABOUT 200 OF YOU...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY OF US THERE ARE?



TWICE THAT...?! THE FORTUNE OF A TOP HUNTER IS INCREDIBLE...!!

BEYOND PROMISED TO PAY 1.5 BILLION TO THOSE WHO GO, 200 MILLION TO THE ALTERNATES.



IS THERE ANYONE FROM THE ASSOCIATION SIDE? I BET CHEADLE OR MIZAI WOULD PUT A STOP TO THAT...

ABOUT 25, MAX... ANY MORE AND THE TEAM WOULD BE TOO UNWIELDY.



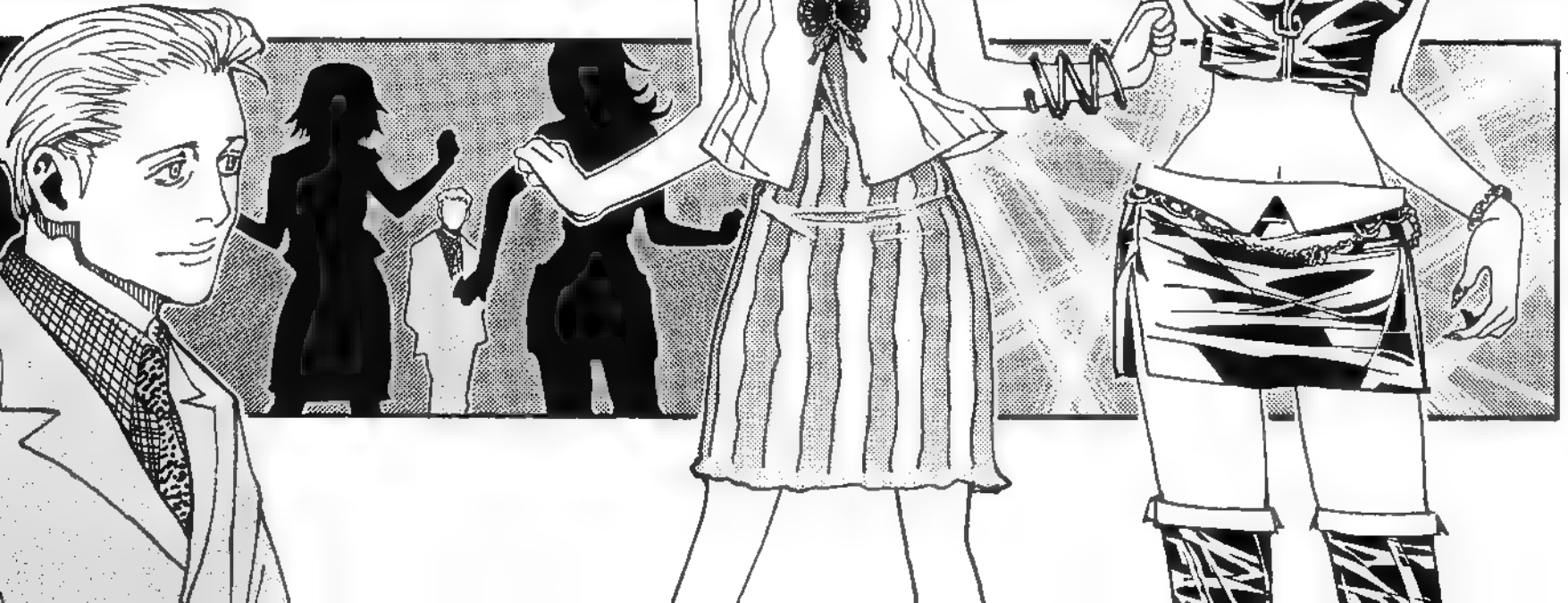
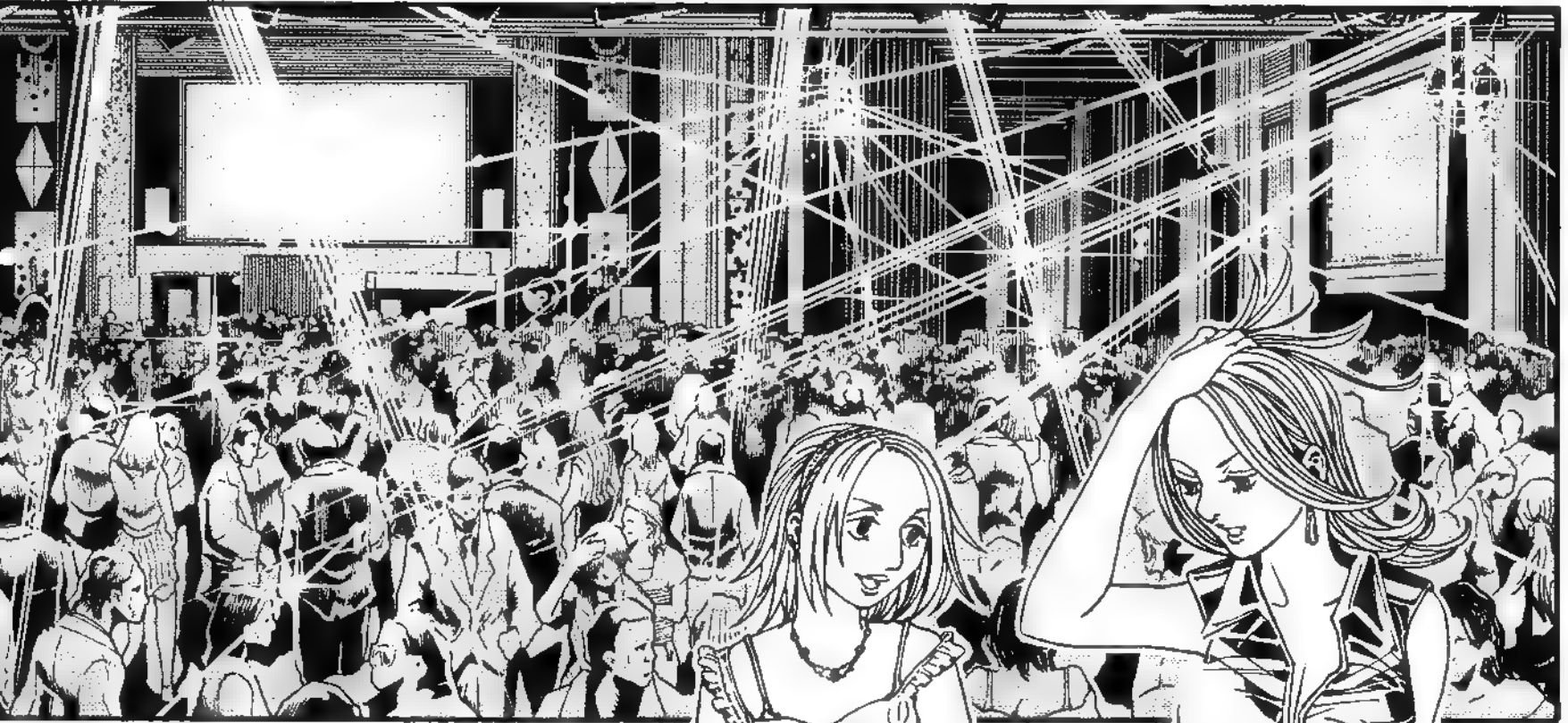
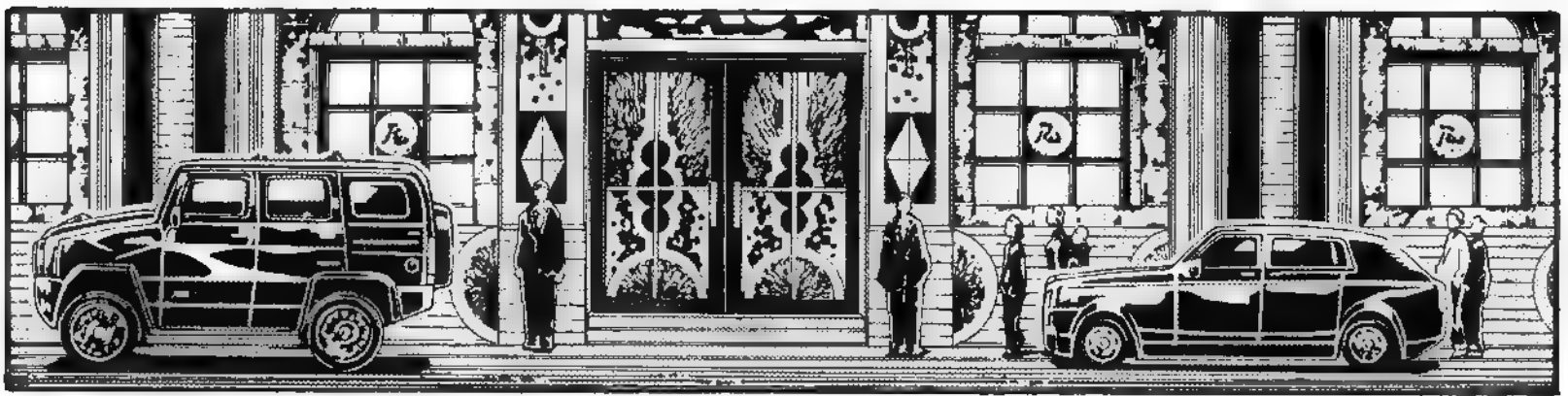
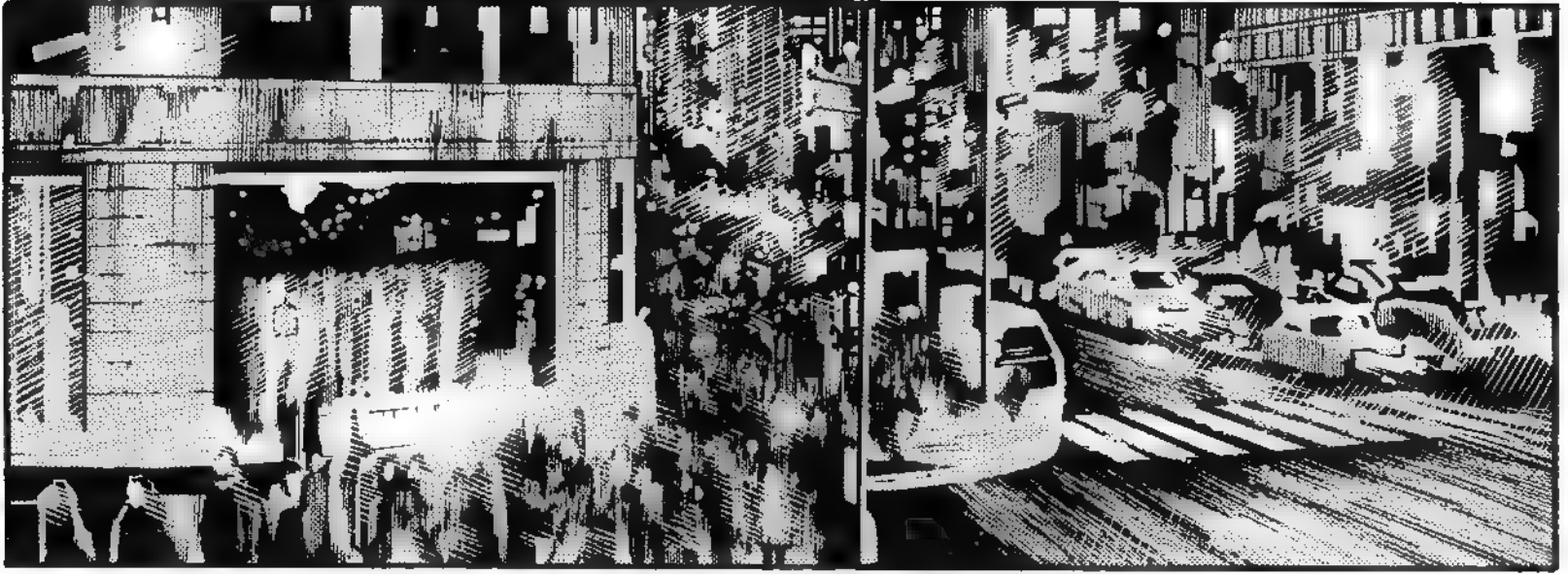
...TO TAKE POWER FROM PARISTON IN NAME ONLY...?

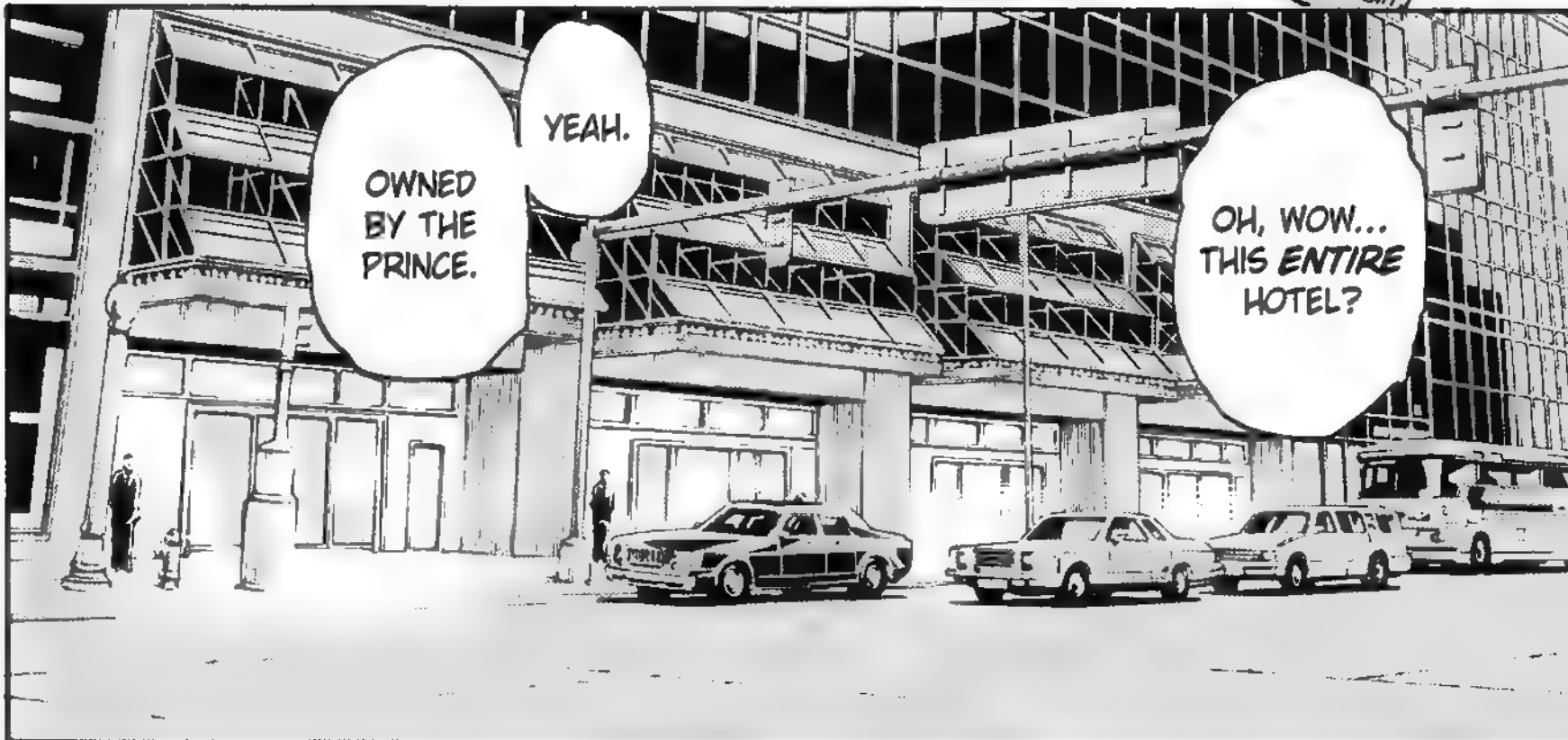
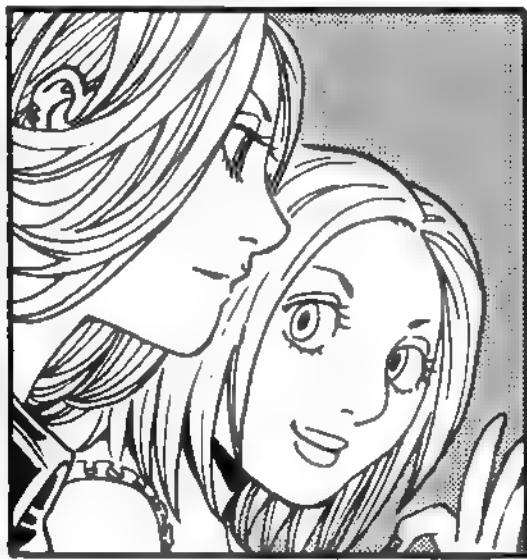
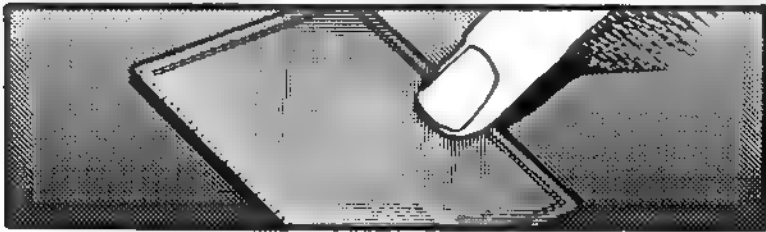
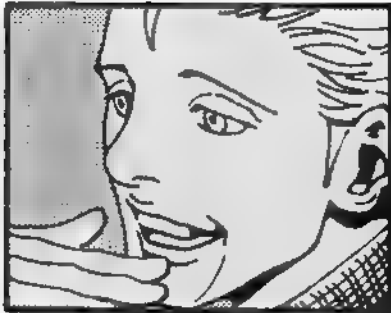
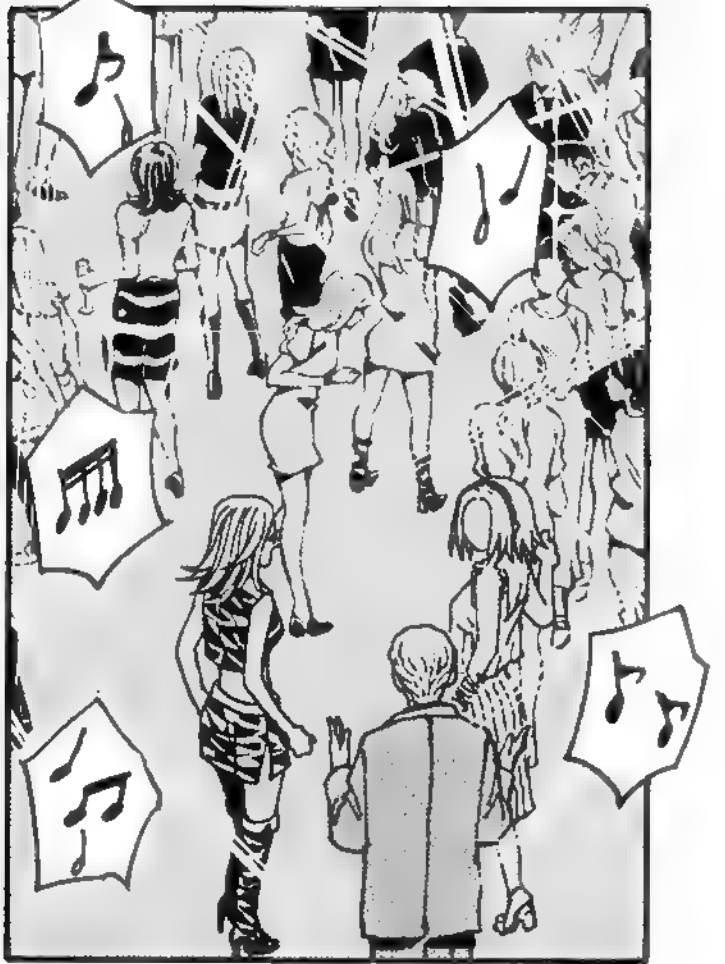
THOUGH THE MONEY WOULD SIMPLY DISAPPEAR IN R&D FOR ANYTHING WE'D BRING BACK.

IF THEY'RE IN THE PLAN, "EVERYONE" SHOULD INCLUDE THOSE STAYING ON THIS SIDE.

BUT... IS THERE REALLY A POINT IN PAYING SO MUCH...

IT'LL GET YOU STARTED, AT LEAST.



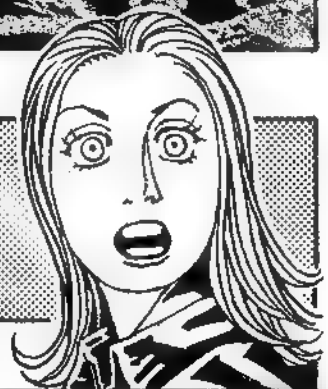




...FROM ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE, SO I DON'T LOSE TOUCH.



I WANT TO HEAR...



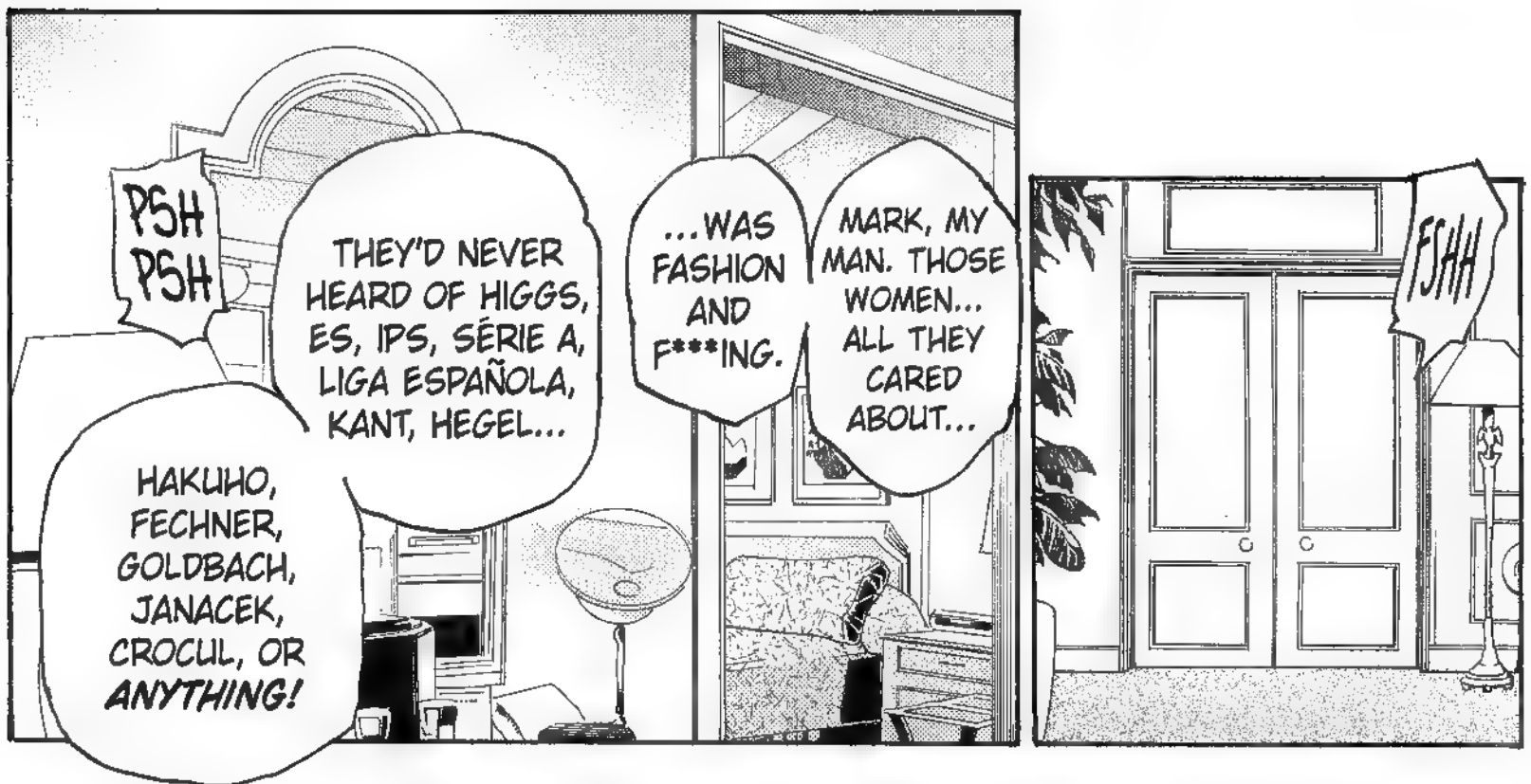
CARE FOR A DRINK?



HA HA, I INVITE PEOPLE OVER, SO I DON'T GET LONELY.

YOU LIVE HERE BY YOURSELF?





PSH  
PSH

THEY'D NEVER  
HEARD OF HIGGS,  
ES, IPS, SÉRIE A,  
LIGA ESPAÑOLA,  
KANT, HEGEL...

...WAS  
FASHION  
AND  
F\*\*\*ING.

MARK, MY  
MAN. THOSE  
WOMEN...  
ALL THEY  
CARED  
ABOUT...

HAKUHO,  
FECHNER,  
GOLDBACH,  
JANACEK,  
CROCU, OR  
ANYTHING!

FSHH



THAT'S THE  
BARE MINIMUM  
FOR A HUMAN  
BEING.

AT *LEAST* ASK  
BEFOREHAND  
IF THEY KNOW  
THE CAPITAL OF  
KAKIN, THE RULING  
PARTY, OR THE  
NAME OF THE  
KING.



WHAT I SEEK IS  
*ART*, PRODUCED  
BY YOUTH WITH A  
*FUTURE* PUT IN AN  
EXTREME SITUATION.  
A "SYNTHESIS OF  
THE ARTS."

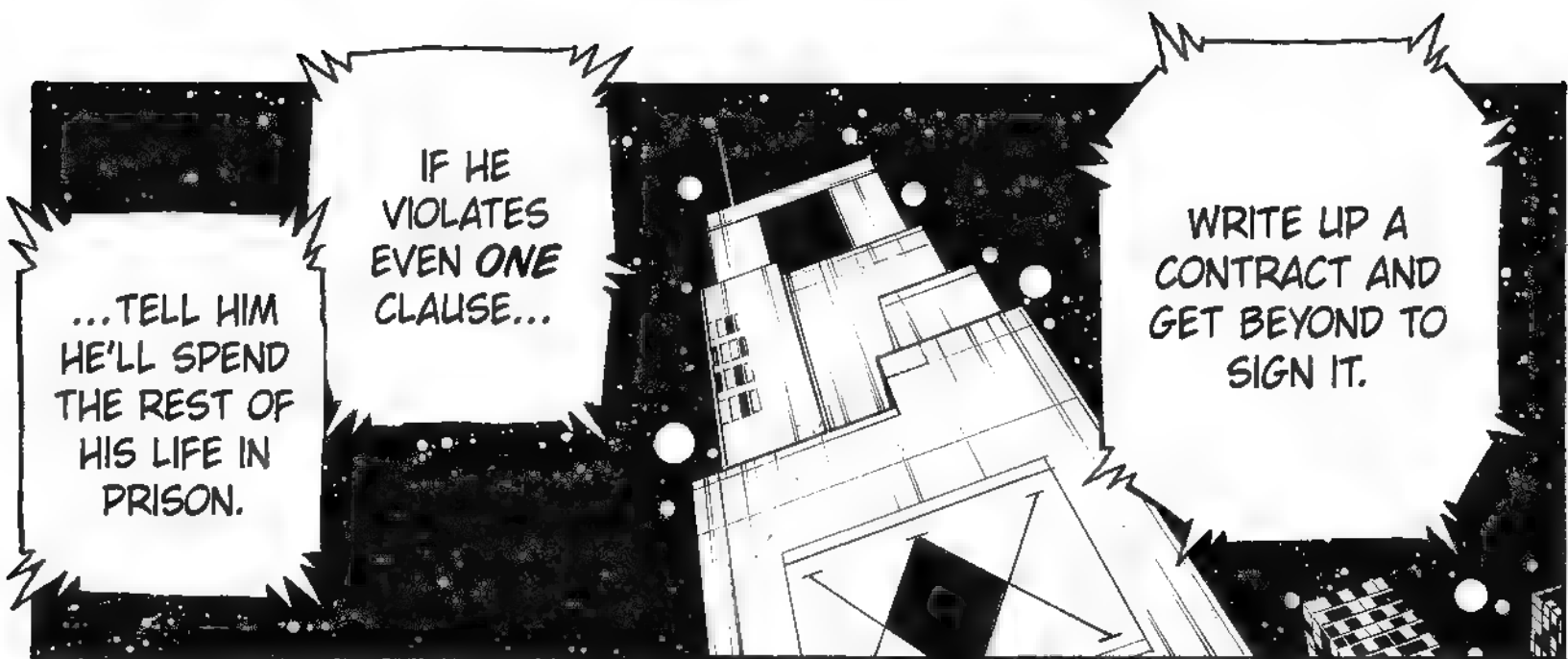
IF I'M  
SKINNING PIGS  
AND MONKEYS,  
IT'S JUST  
*DISSECTION*.



CHOP  
CHOP!

TWO MORE  
FEMALES  
PLEASE.

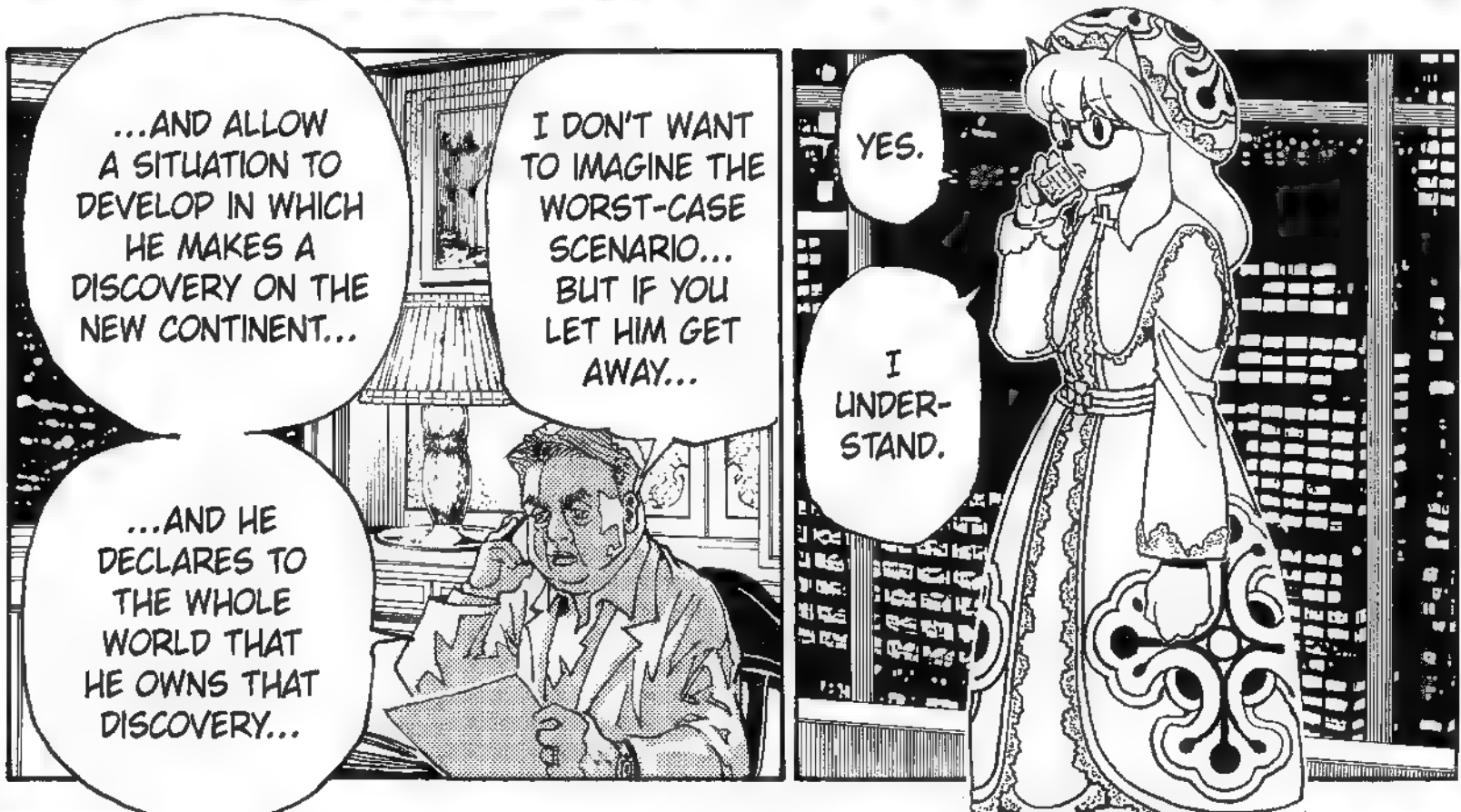




...TELL HIM HE'LL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN PRISON.

IF HE VIOLATES EVEN ONE CLAUSE...

WRITE UP A CONTRACT AND GET BEYOND TO SIGN IT.

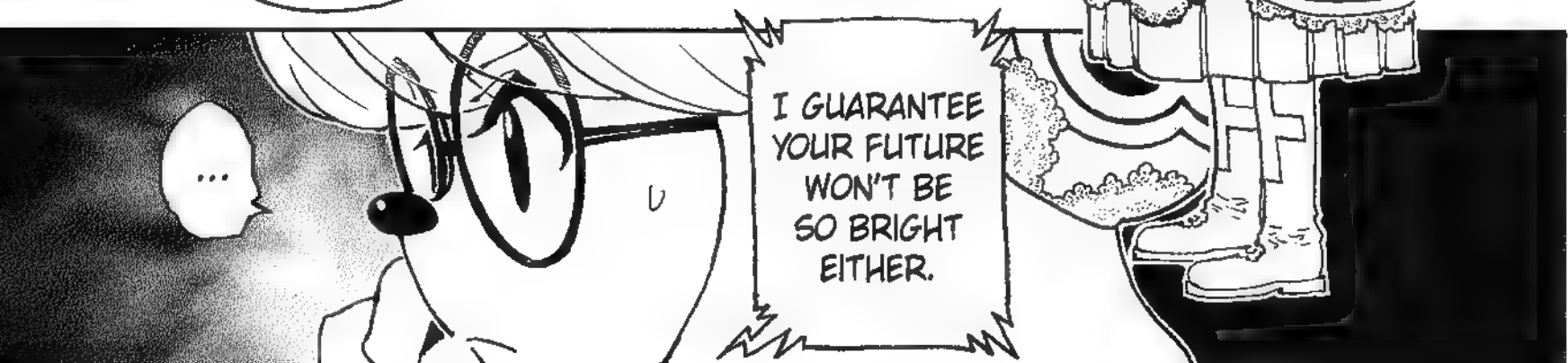


...AND ALLOW A SITUATION TO DEVELOP IN WHICH HE MAKES A DISCOVERY ON THE NEW CONTINENT...

I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO... BUT IF YOU LET HIM GET AWAY...

YES.  
I UNDERSTAND.

...AND HE DECLARES TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT HE OWNS THAT DISCOVERY...

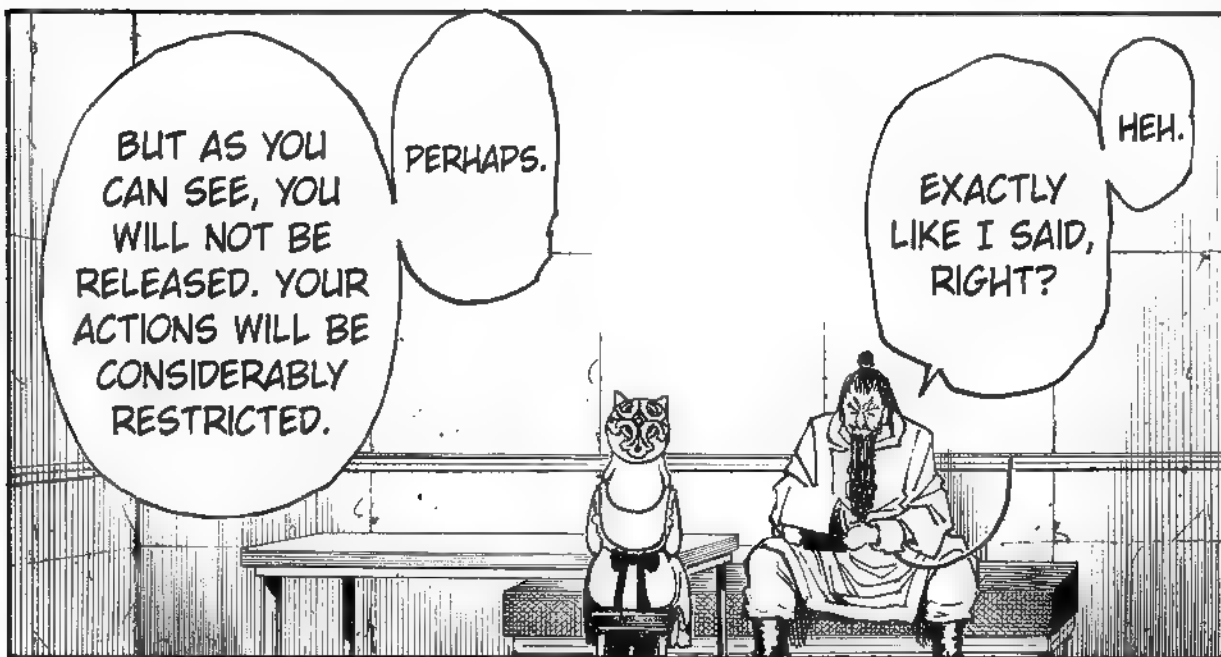
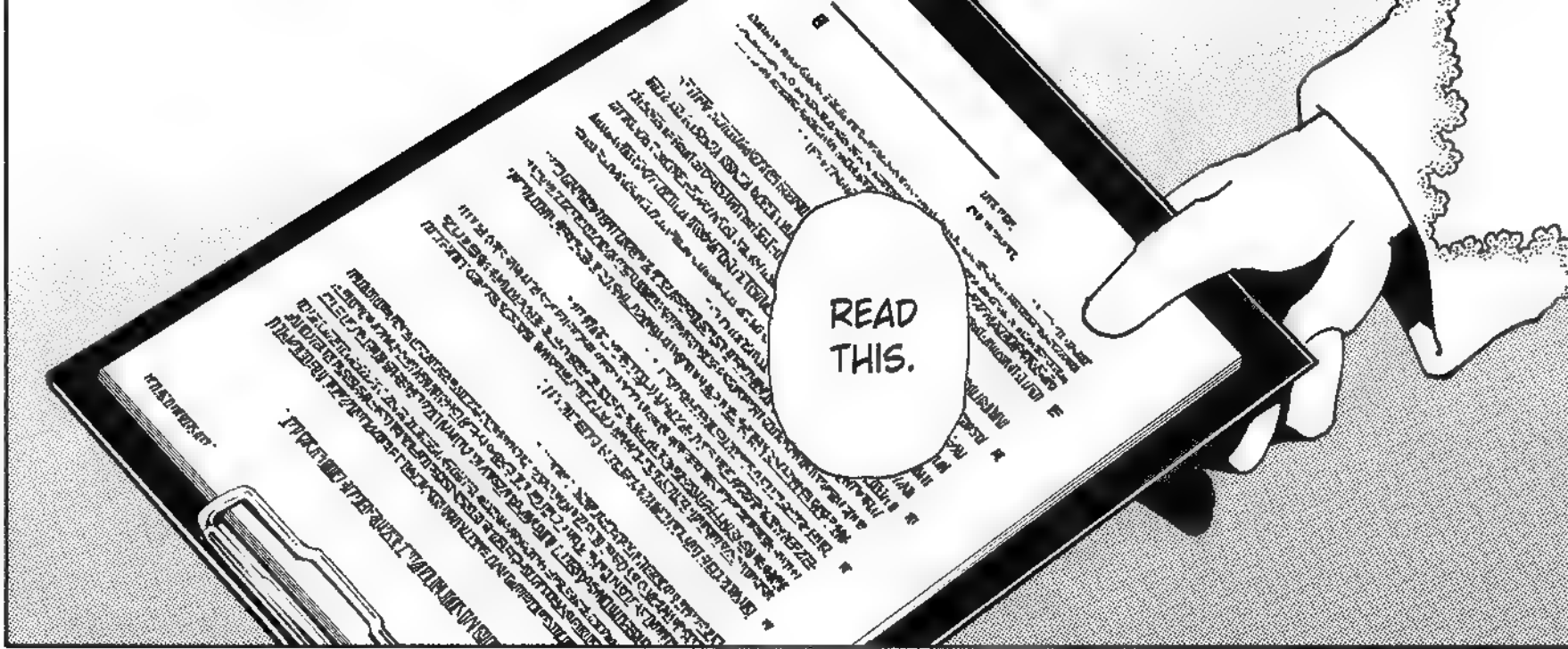


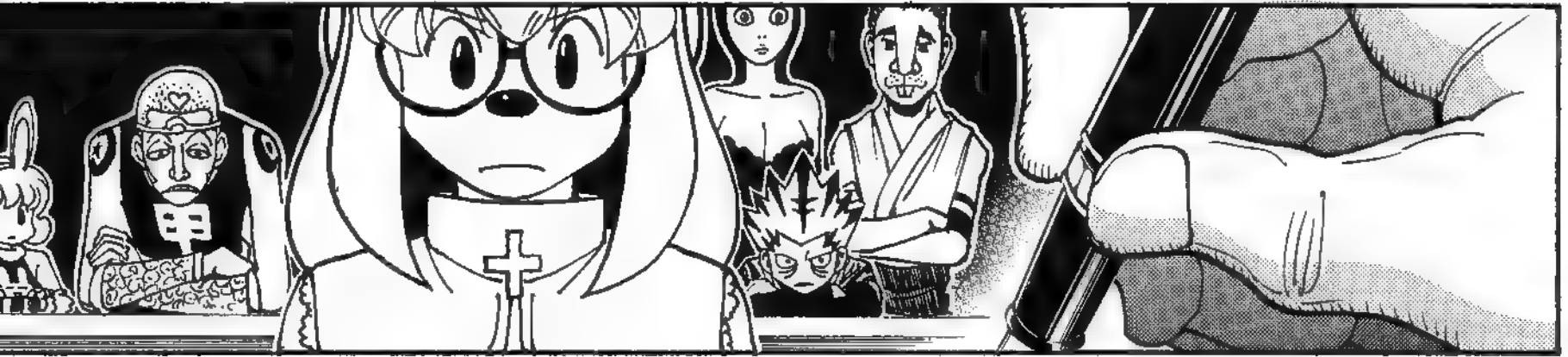
I GUARANTEE YOUR FUTURE WON'T BE SO BRIGHT EITHER.

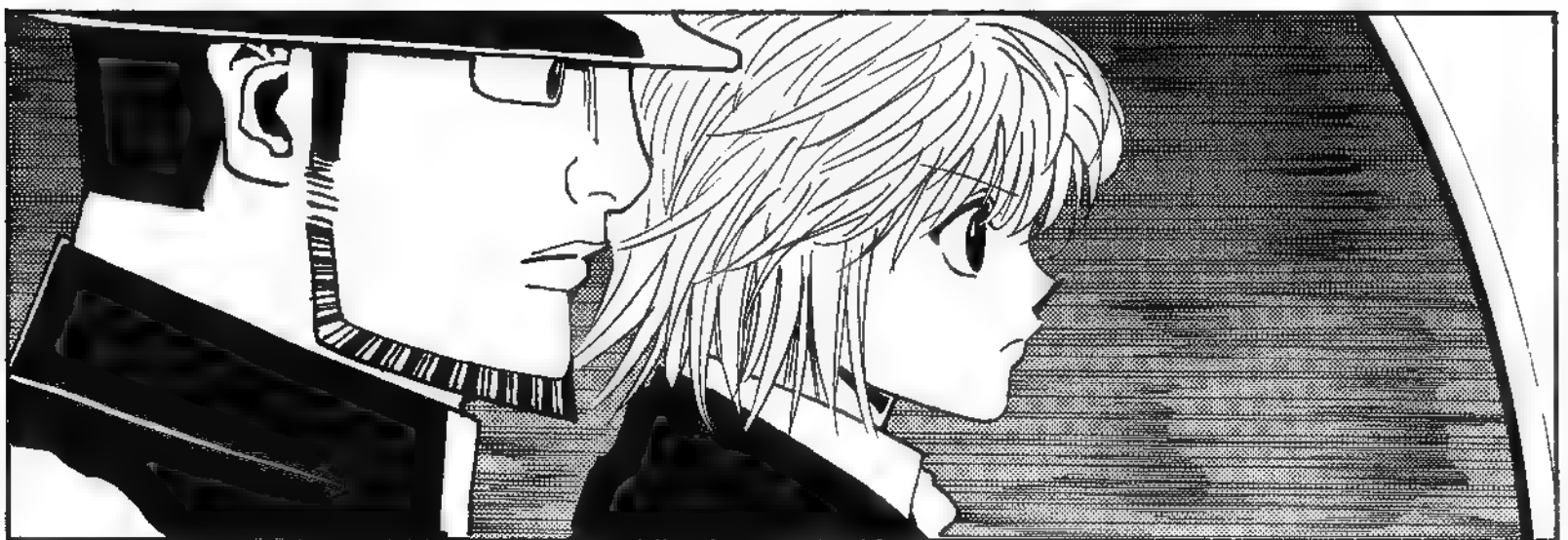
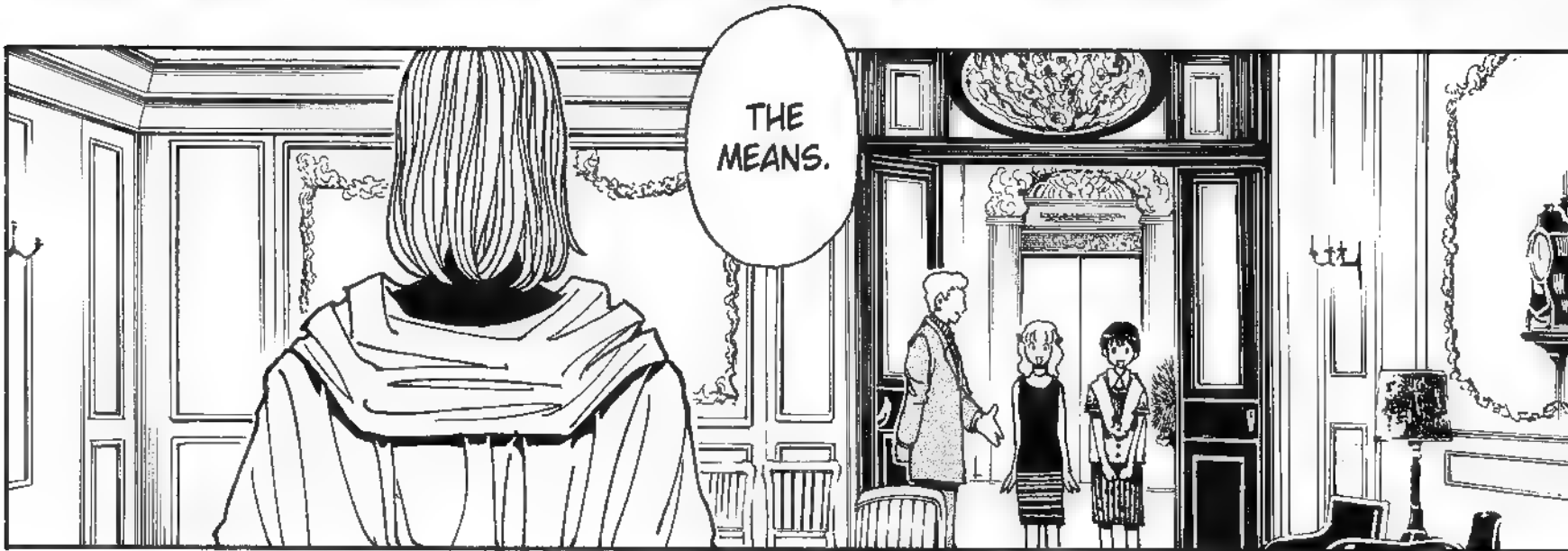
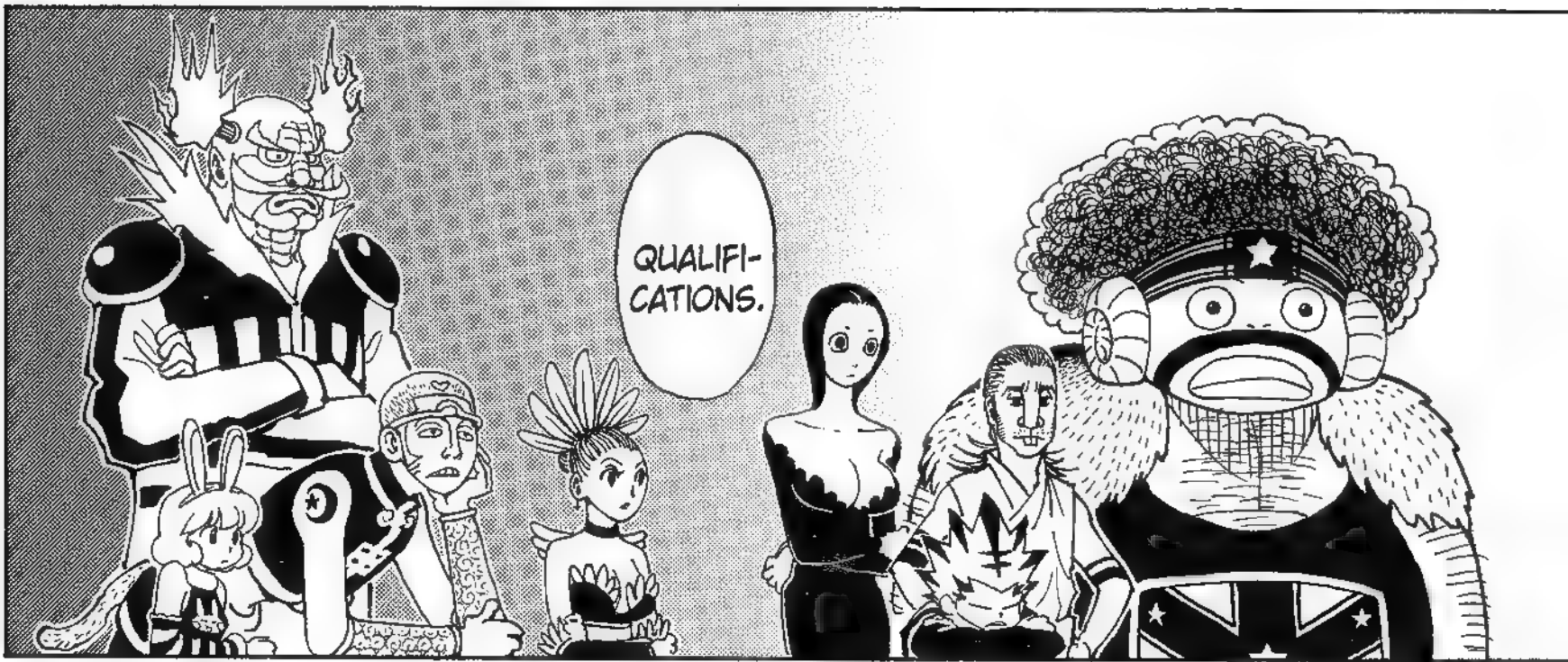


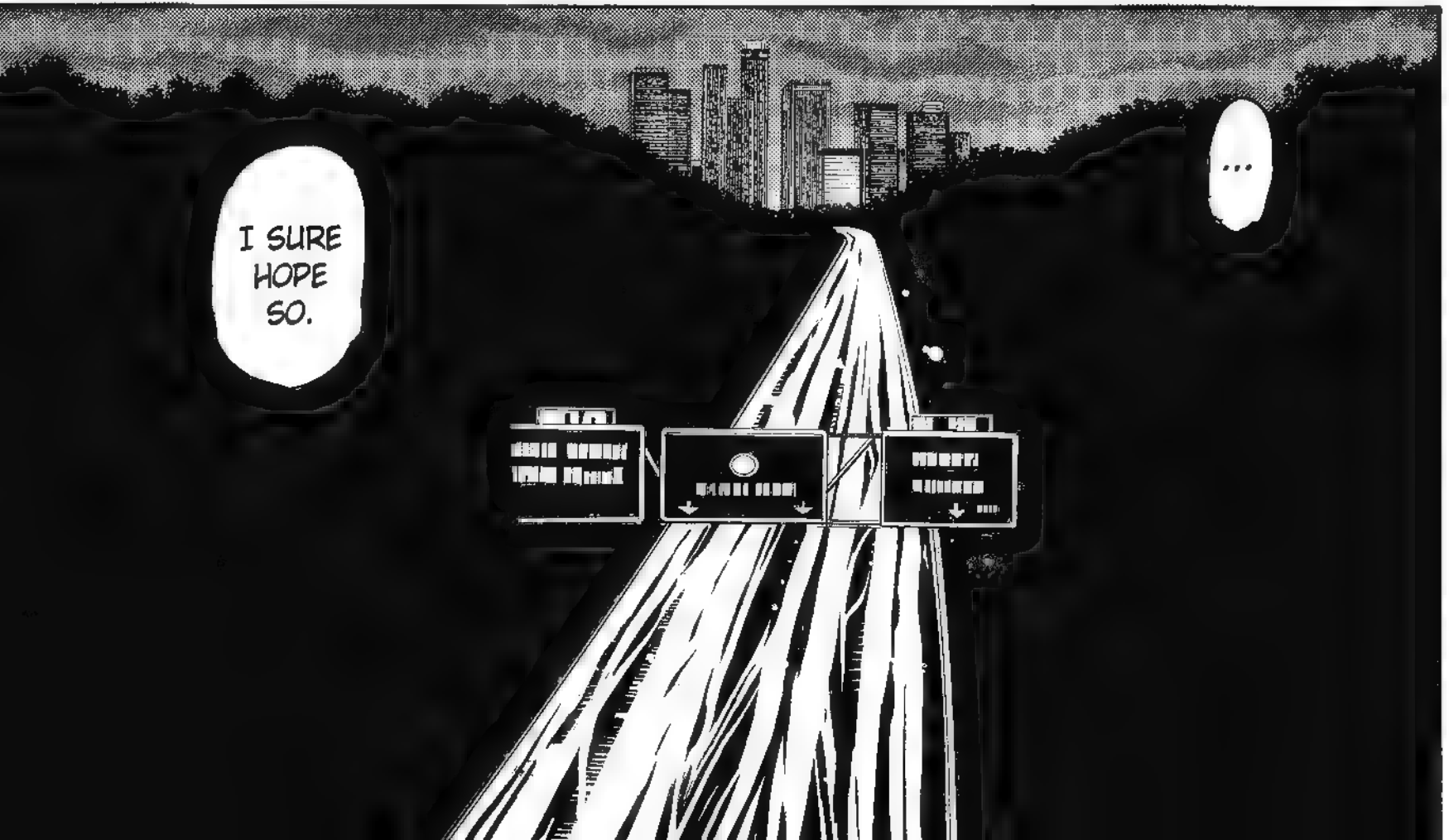
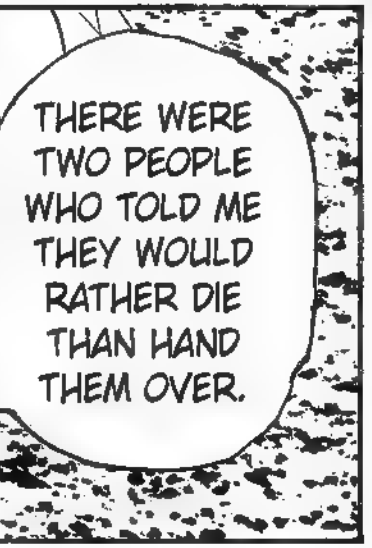
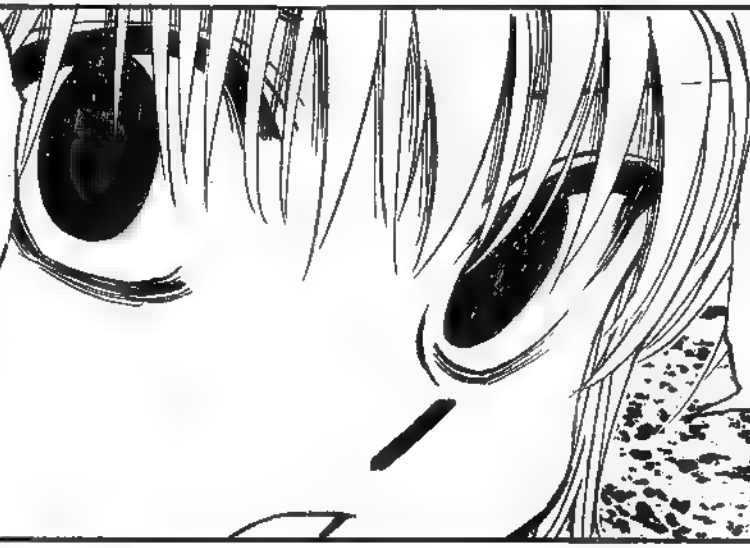
...WELL AWARE OF THAT...!!

YES...! WE ARE...











SIGH.

OKAY,  
100 MORE  
PROBLEM  
SETS!

# Chapter 346: Options



...AND SO THE DANGER RANKING OF ALL FIVE RANGE FROM B+ TO A. ALL ABOVE CHIMERA ANTS, WHICH WERE B.

BIP

OUR MISSION IS TO OVERCOME ANY ONE OF THEM AND RETURN WITH HOPE, SOMETHING TO BENEFIT MANKIND.

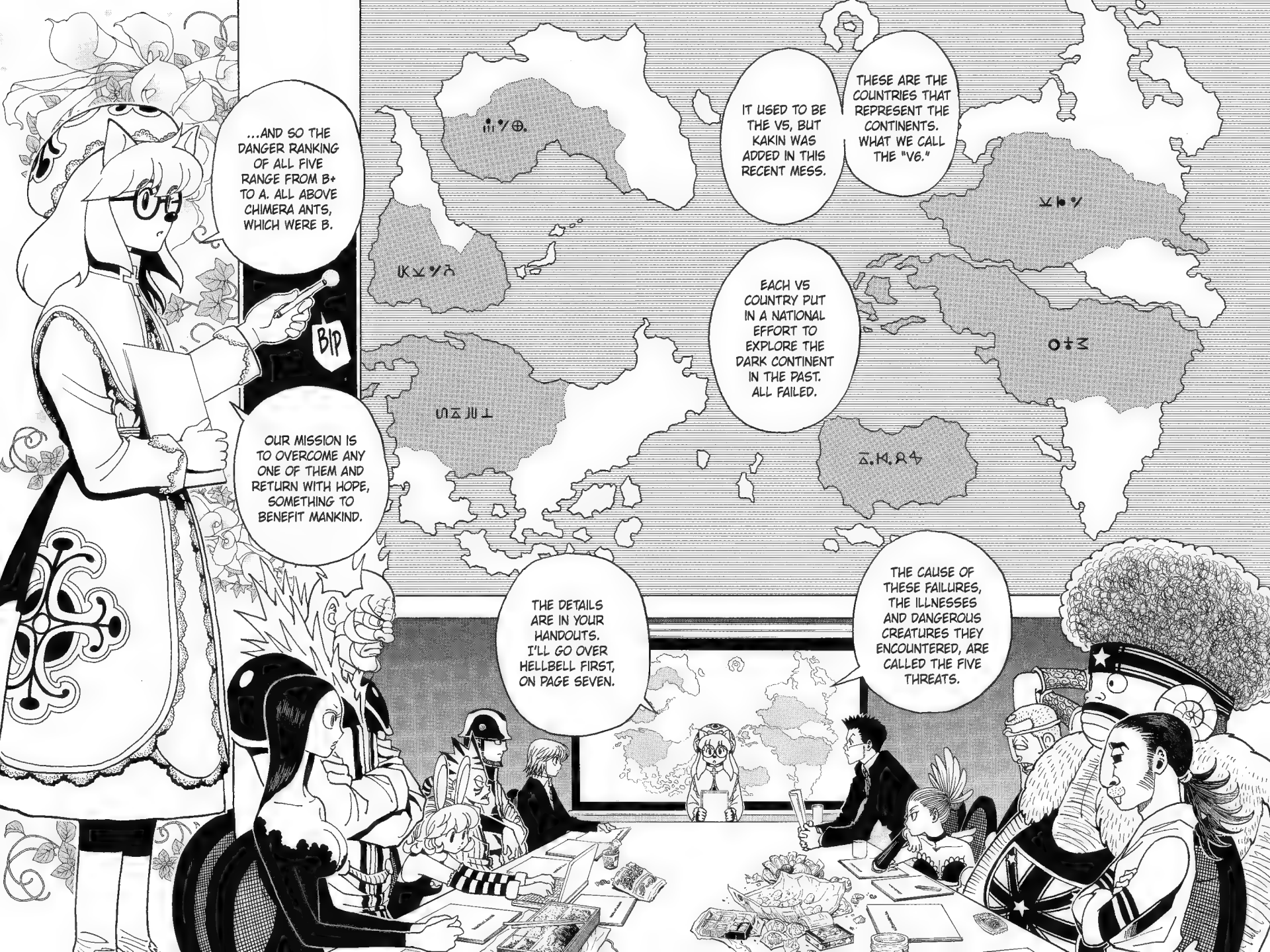
IT USED TO BE THE VS, BUT KAKIN WAS ADDED IN THIS RECENT MESS.

THESE ARE THE COUNTRIES THAT REPRESENT THE CONTINENTS. WHAT WE CALL THE "V6."

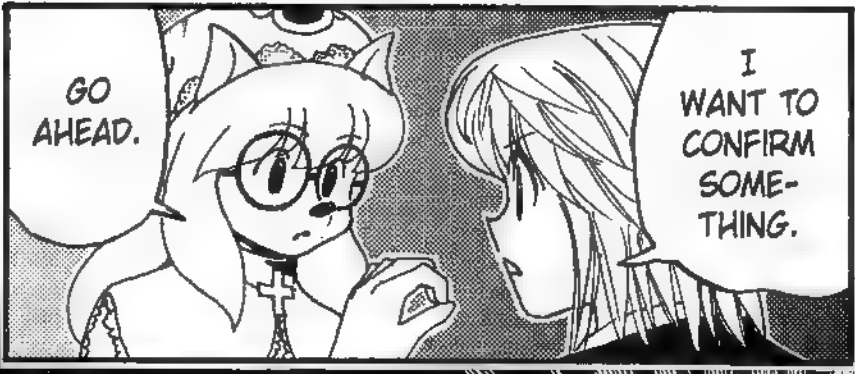
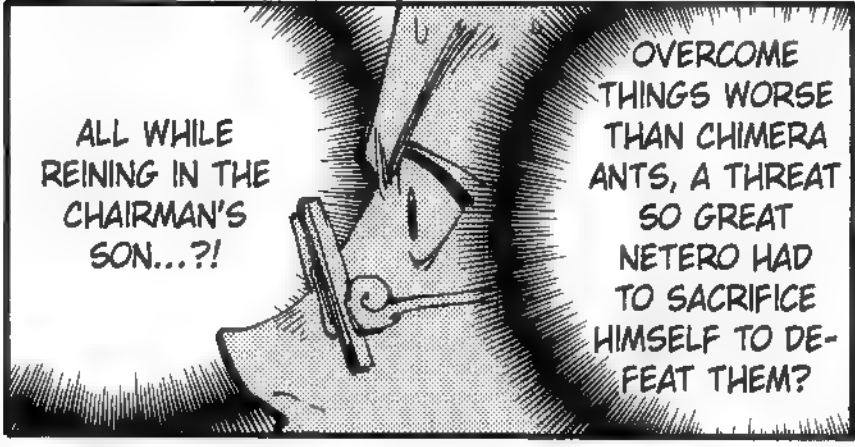
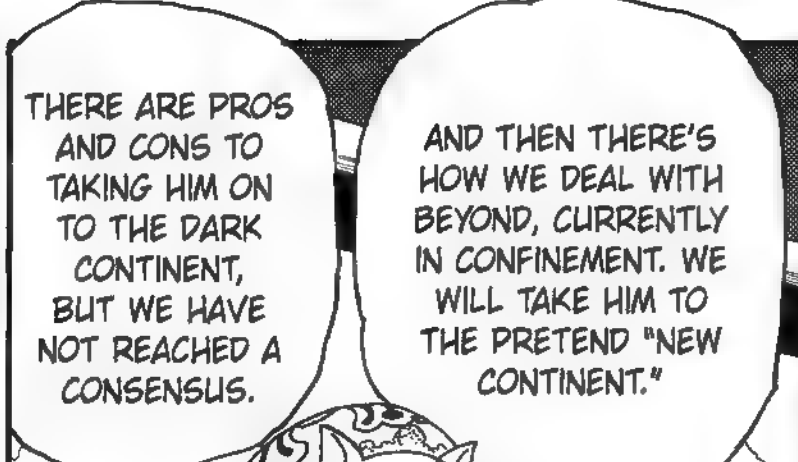
EACH VS COUNTRY PUT IN A NATIONAL EFFORT TO EXPLORE THE DARK CONTINENT IN THE PAST. ALL FAILED.

THE DETAILS ARE IN YOUR HANDOUTS. I'LL GO OVER HELLBELL FIRST, ON PAGE SEVEN.

THE CAUSE OF THESE FAILURES, THE ILLNESSES AND DANGEROUS CREATURES THEY ENCOUNTERED, ARE CALLED THE FIVE THREATS.







THERE'S NO WAY HE WASN'T MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WHOLE TIME.

FROM FORMER CHAIRMAN NETERO'S WILL, ONE CAN INFER THAT BEYOND HAD BEEN WAITING FOR HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

SAY WHAT ...?

HOW DO YOU NOT?

?

HE WAS CONFIDENT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL A PROJECT OF THIS SCALE EVEN UNDER CONFINEMENT.

HE TURNED HIMSELF IN, SO IT'S CLEAR THAT INVOLVING THE ASSOCIATION IS PART OF HIS PLAN.

YES.

SOMETHING COME TO MIND?

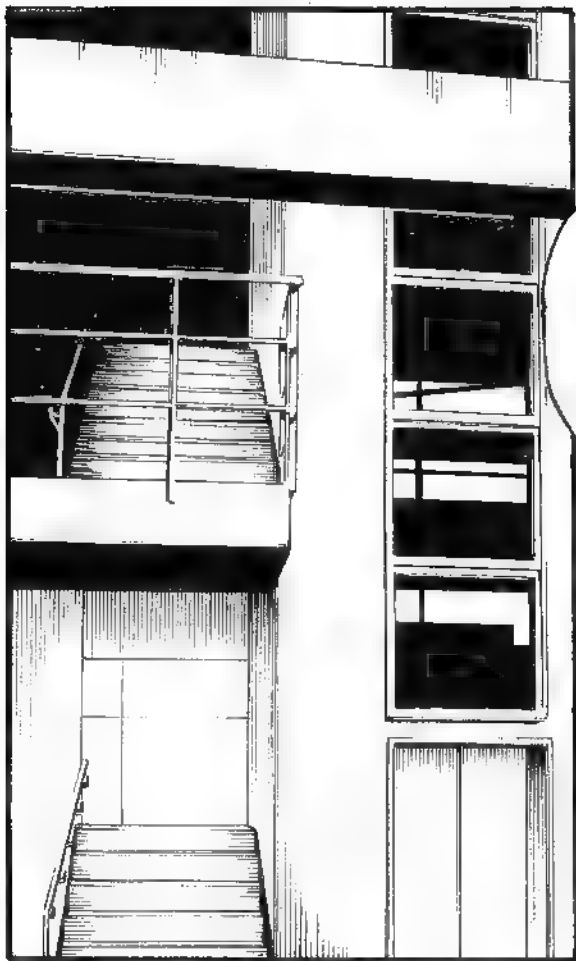
ANYTHING HAPPEN DURING THE APPOINTMENT OF NETERO'S SUCCESSOR?

...AND A LARGE NUMBER OF SUPPORTING PERSONNEL ARE NECESSARY.

THE EXISTENCE OF A TRUST-WORTHY, COMPETENT RIGHT-HAND MAN...

...AND THE TEMP HUNTERS...!!

PARISTON...



...HAVE  
A WORD  
WITH YOU,  
KURAPIKA?

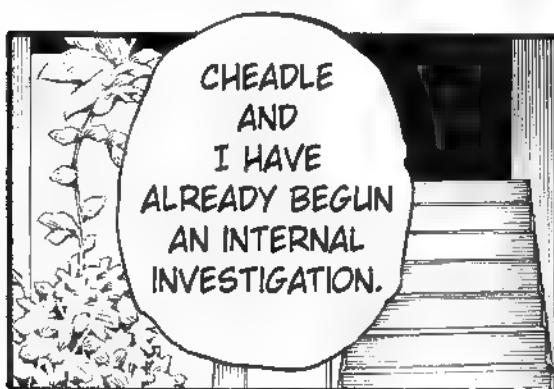
CAN  
I...



BUT SINCE  
MY QUESTION  
ASSUMED  
A YES, I  
HAVE NEW  
QUESTIONS.



I SEE...  
HEARING THE  
DETAILS OF  
THE CAMPAIGN,  
IT MAKES  
SENSE...



CHEADLE  
AND  
I HAVE  
ALREADY BEGUN  
AN INTERNAL  
INVESTIGATION.



I AGREE  
WITH YOU  
ABOUT  
THE  
INFORMANT.



BECAUSE  
WE CAME TO  
THE SAME  
CONCLUSION  
AS YOU.



WHY  
HAVEN'T  
YOU  
SHARED  
WITH THE  
REST?

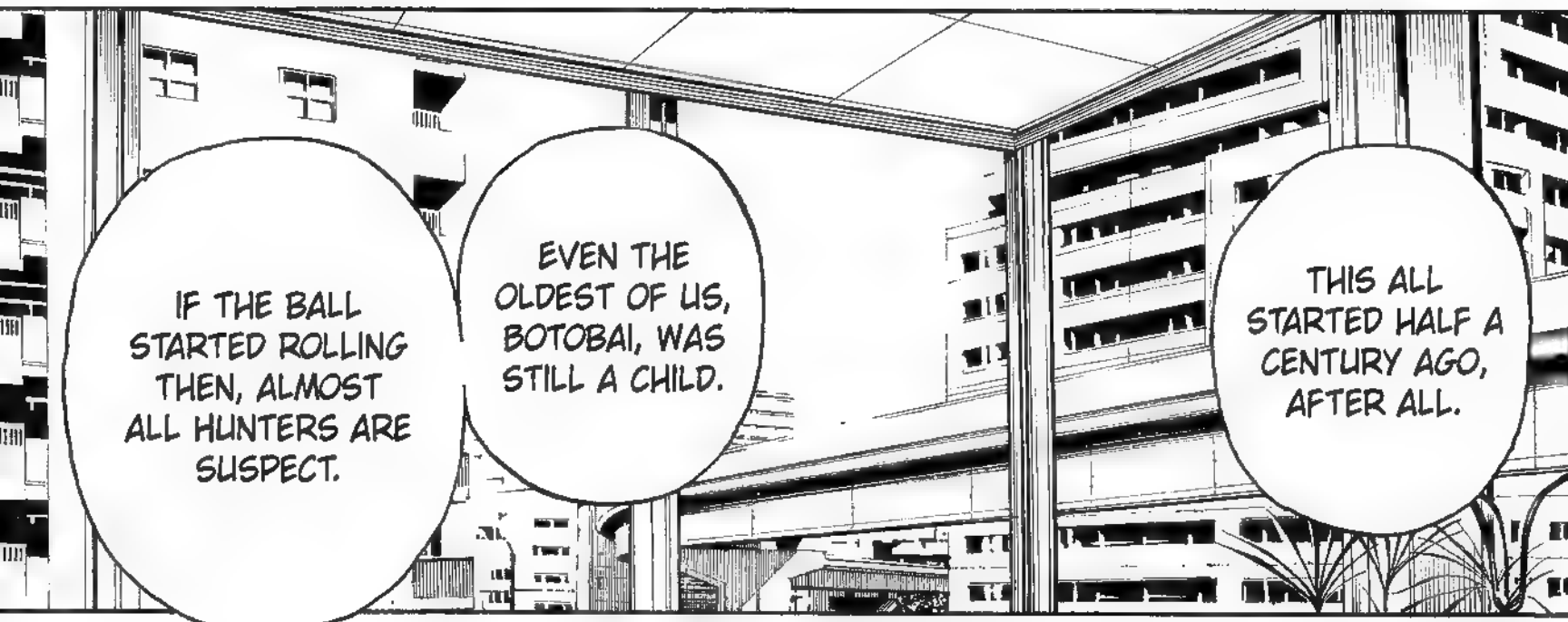


THERE'S  
A SPY  
AMONG THE  
ZODIACS.

YOU CAN'T  
ELIMINATE  
THAT  
POSSIBILITY.

IS  
THAT  
IT?

YES.



IF THE BALL STARTED ROLLING THEN, ALMOST ALL HUNTERS ARE SUSPECT.

EVEN THE OLDEST OF US, BOTOBAI, WAS STILL A CHILD.

THIS ALL STARTED HALF A CENTURY AGO, AFTER ALL.



...HE THOUGHT WAS FUN. I THINK PARISTON IS A RED HERRING.

HE'D DO ANYTHING...

HE WAS LIKE THAT.

I SEE ...



AND THE OLD MAN REFUSED TO LISTEN TO OBJECTIONS AND APPOINTED PARISTON AS VICE CHAIRMAN.

CORRECT.

BUT THE FORMER CHAIRMAN PERSONALLY PICKED THE ZODIACS, DIDN'T HE?



...I CAN EVEN IMAGINE HE WAS HALF-HOPING HIS SON WOULD COME AFTER HIS LIFE ONE DAY.

AS FOR THE RESTRICTION HE GAVE BEYOND...



SO I'D LIKE TO KEEP THIS JUST BETWEEN US.

THERE MAY STILL BE A SPY HE ALLOWED TO INFILTRATE THE ZODIACS.



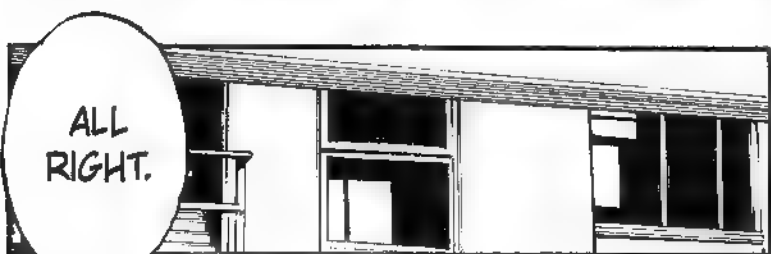
...THAT WAS PART OF HIS CHARM.

WELL ...

THE FORMER CHAIRMAN WAS CRAZY. HE'D ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE...

THIS IS ALSO WHY WE CHOSE YOU TWO, WHO ARE LIKELY TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

...OF HIMSELF AND OTHERS, WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.



ALL RIGHT.

**MIZAISTOM: CRIME HUNTER**  
PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY  
MANAGER, LAWYER  
INTELLIGENCE TEAM

I'M  
PERFORMING  
BACKGROUND  
CHECKS OF  
CANDIDATES  
ALONG WITH  
SACCHO.

...BY  
MAKING  
OFFERS IN  
ADVANCE TO  
PERSONS OF  
TALENT...

I'LL  
MINIMIZE  
RISK...

I'M ORGANIZING  
A TOP MEDICAL  
TEAM TO ENSURE  
PROPER MEDICAL  
CARE.

WE'RE  
GETTING V5  
TO CONTACT  
KAKIN ON OUR  
BEHALF.

BOTOBAI AND  
I ARE ALSO  
NEGOTIATING  
TO OBTAIN THE  
PASSENGER  
LIST OF THE  
BLACK WHALE  
NO. 1.

...AND  
MAKING THEM  
MEMBERS  
THROUGH  
THE HUNTER  
EXAM.

**CHEADLE: DISEASE HUNTER**  
DOCTOR, JURIST  
SCIENCE TEAM

WE'LL SECRETLY  
COLLABORATE WITH THE  
INTELLIGENCE TEAM TO  
CREATE A POST-LANDING  
DEFENSE STRATEGY AND  
A PLAN TO PREVENT  
BEYOND'S ESCAPE. WE'LL  
COORDINATE HARDWARE  
WITH NEN ABILITIES.

**BOTOBAI: TERRORIST HUNTER**  
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,  
MILITARY ANALYST  
DEFENSE TEAM

THERE ARE PEOPLE  
IN SAHERTA'S AND  
BEGEROSSÉ'S  
MILITARIES WITH  
STRONG CHANNELS  
TO KAKIN, AND I  
BELIEVE WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO REACH AN  
AGREEMENT.

**CLUCK: BOTANICAL HUNTER**  
MUSICIAN, DANCER  
FLORA/FAUNA TEAM

I'LL GATHER  
INTELLIGENCE AND  
PLANTS AFTER  
LANDING.

ONCE WE GET THE  
PASSENGER LIST,  
I'LL PRIORITIZE  
CONFIRMING AND  
RECONSTRUCTING  
THE DATA.

I'M MAKING A  
LANGUAGE ANALYSIS  
SOFTWARE BY  
INTEGRATING DATA ON  
ANCIENT TONGUES,  
IN CASE WE CONTACT  
CIVILIZATIONS ON THE  
DARK CONTINENT.

**PYON: PALEOGRAPH HUNTER**  
LINGUIST, INTERPRETER  
INTELLIGENCE TEAM



I DON'T HAVE MUCH.

I'LL JUST SAY I'M SURE I CAN SUPERVISE BEYOND BY MYSELF.

**SAIYU: BOUNTY HUNTER**  
MARTIAL ARTIST  
DEFENSE TEAM



**SACCHO: PROBLEM HUNTER**  
DETECTIVE, HANDYMAN  
INTELLIGENCE TEAM

THE BACK-  
GROUND CHECKS  
FOR THE SCIENCE  
AND FLORA/FAUNA  
TEAM SUPPORT  
MEMBERS  
CLEARED.

THEY  
VOLUNTEERED  
KNOWING IT  
MIGHT BE A  
ONE-WAY TICKET.  
THEY HAVE NO  
IDEOLOGICAL  
BIAS OR TIES TO  
KAKIN.



**GINTA: POACHER HUNTER**  
RANGER  
FLORA/FAUNA TEAM

MOREL AGREED,  
SO WE CAN ENTRUST  
THE OCEAN TRAVERSAL  
BETWEEN THE  
"NEW CONTINENT"  
AND THE GATE TO  
HIS TEAM.

KNOV SAID THE PRETEND  
"NEW CONTINENT" IS  
HIS LIMIT. WE'RE HAVING  
A HARD TIME FINDING  
ANYONE WITH SIMILAR  
ABILITIES.



I'M CURRENTLY  
WRITING UP  
DISEASE CONTROL  
PROCEDURES WITH  
SANBICA.

MY  
DUTIES ALSO  
TAKE PLACE  
MAINLY AFTER  
LANDING, SO I'M  
COMPARATIVELY  
FREE.

**GEL: POISON HUNTER**  
CORONER, PHARMACIST  
SCIENCE TEAM



I'M JUST  
GONNA SMASH  
ANYTHING THAT  
ATTACKS US ON  
THE CONTINENT.

YOU TAKE  
CARE OF THE  
DIFFICULT STUFF  
UNTIL WE GET  
THERE.

**KANZAI: TREASURE HUNTER**  
BODYGUARD  
DEFENSE TEAM



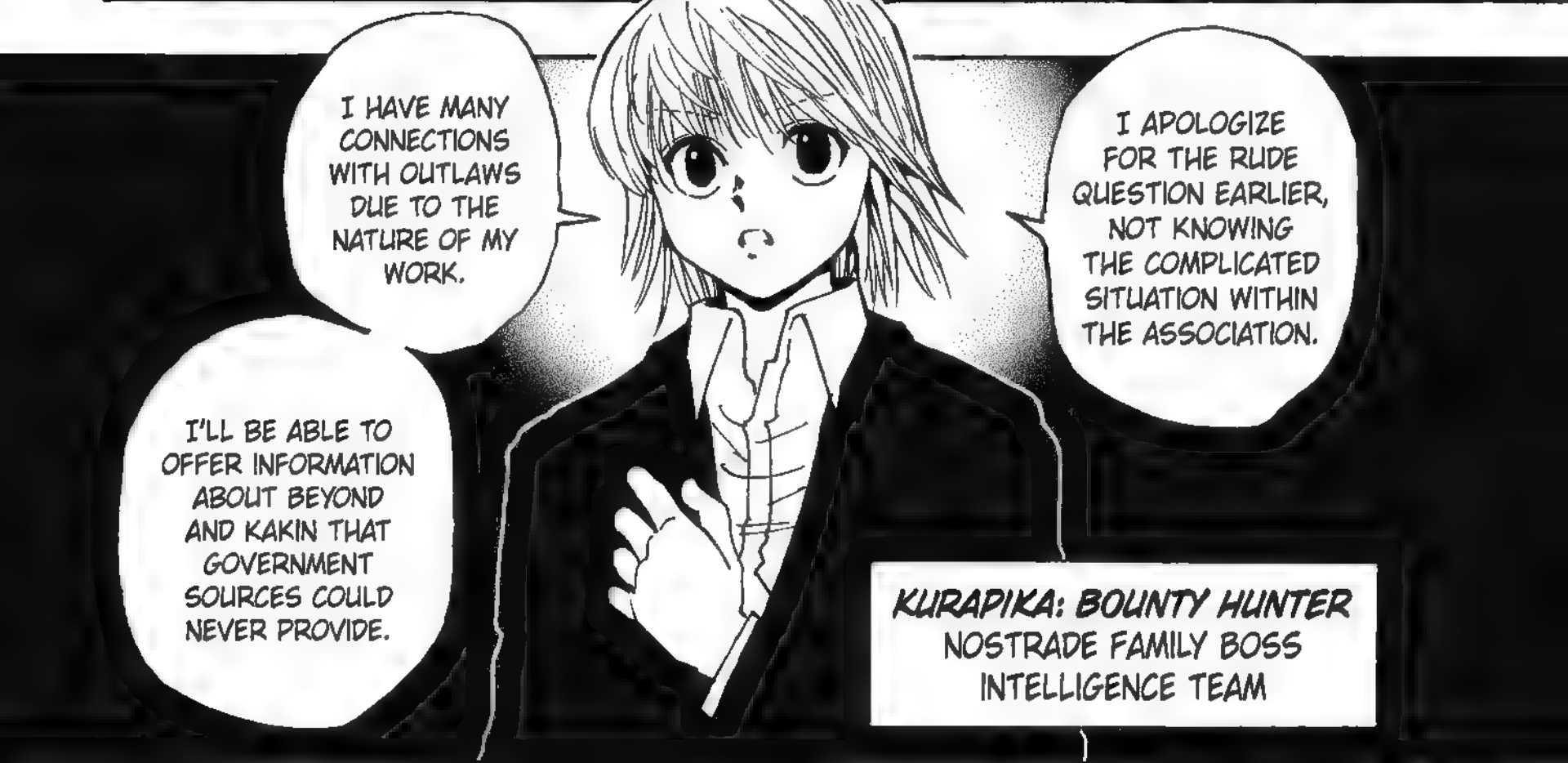
THIS IS A TOUGH MISSION, BUT ALSO A PATH TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS.

I PLAN TO SUPPORT CHEADLE'S MEDICAL TEAM.

AS INEXPERIENCED AS I AM, I'LL DO MY BEST!!

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR RECRUITMENT FROM WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION WENT SMOOTHLY AFTER ANNOUNCING MY PARTICIPATION.

**LEORIO: ROOKIE MEDICAL STUDENT SCIENCE TEAM**



I HAVE MANY CONNECTIONS WITH OUTLAWS DUE TO THE NATURE OF MY WORK.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE RUDE QUESTION EARLIER, NOT KNOWING THE COMPLICATED SITUATION WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION.

I'LL BE ABLE TO OFFER INFORMATION ABOUT BEYOND AND KAKIN THAT GOVERNMENT SOURCES COULD NEVER PROVIDE.

**KURAPIKA: BOUNTY HUNTER NOSTRADE FAMILY BOSS INTELLIGENCE TEAM**



WE'VE CHANGED THE SCHEDULE AND FORMAT SUBSTANTIALLY THIS YEAR AND WE WILL ONLY RECRUIT PEOPLE NECESSARY FOR THE JOURNEY!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE NEXT HUNTER EXAM!

WE'LL NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO ASCERTAIN APTITUDE AND MAKE THE BEST CHOICES.

LET US ALL STRIVE TO MAKE THIS MISSION A SUCCESS!!  
↓  
EVERYONE





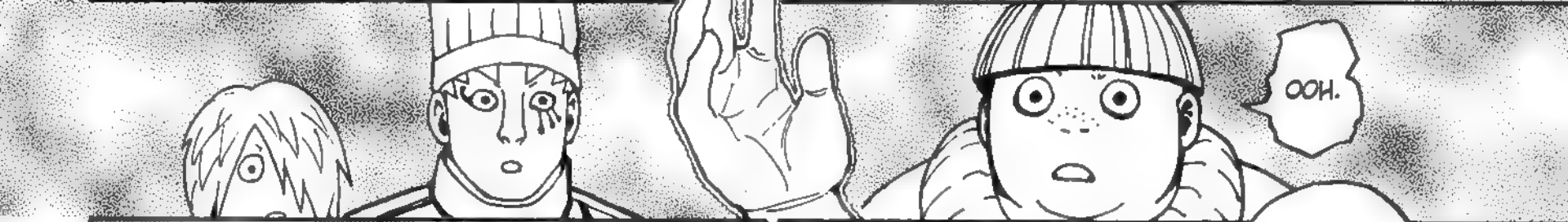
ONE MONTH LATER



MAKE IT MOVE A BIT.



MAKE A PIP OUT OF AURA.



OOH.



IS THIS FOR REAL?!

**GASP**

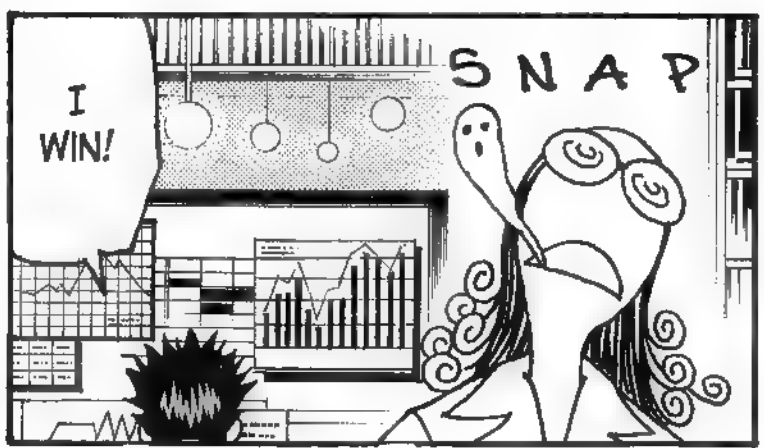
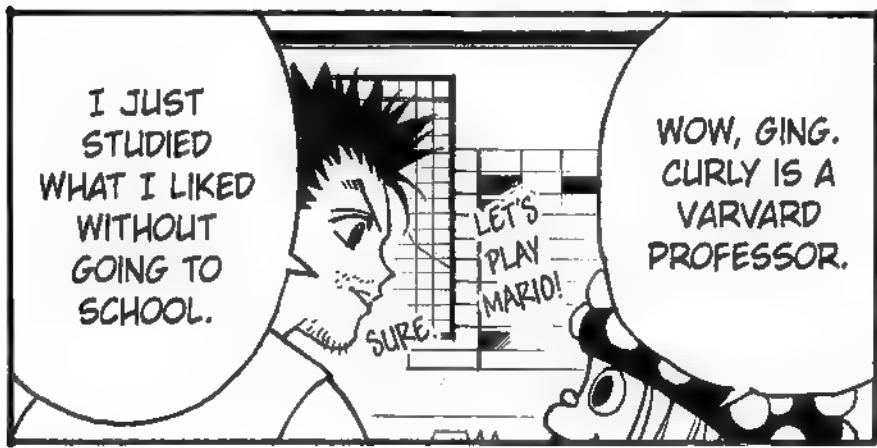
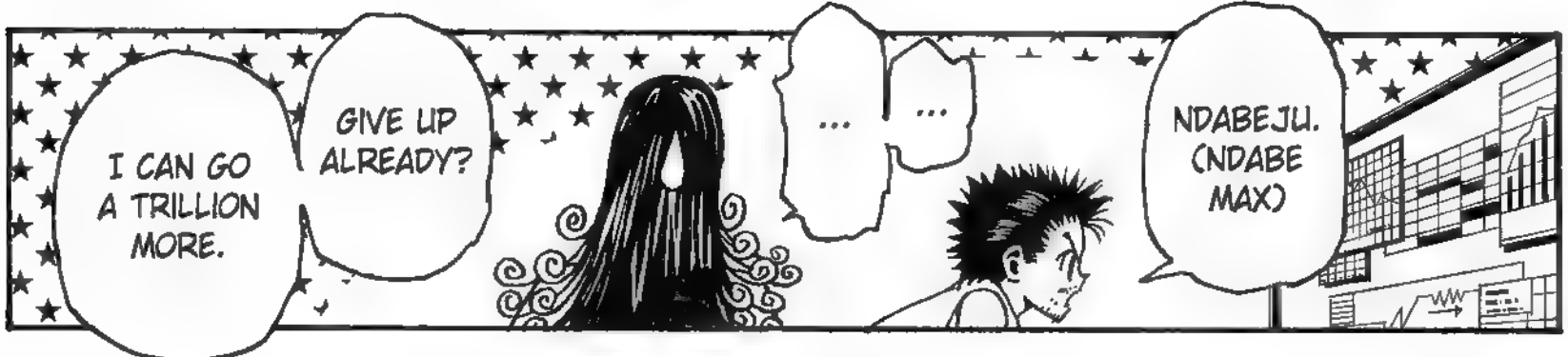
BOTH HANDS.

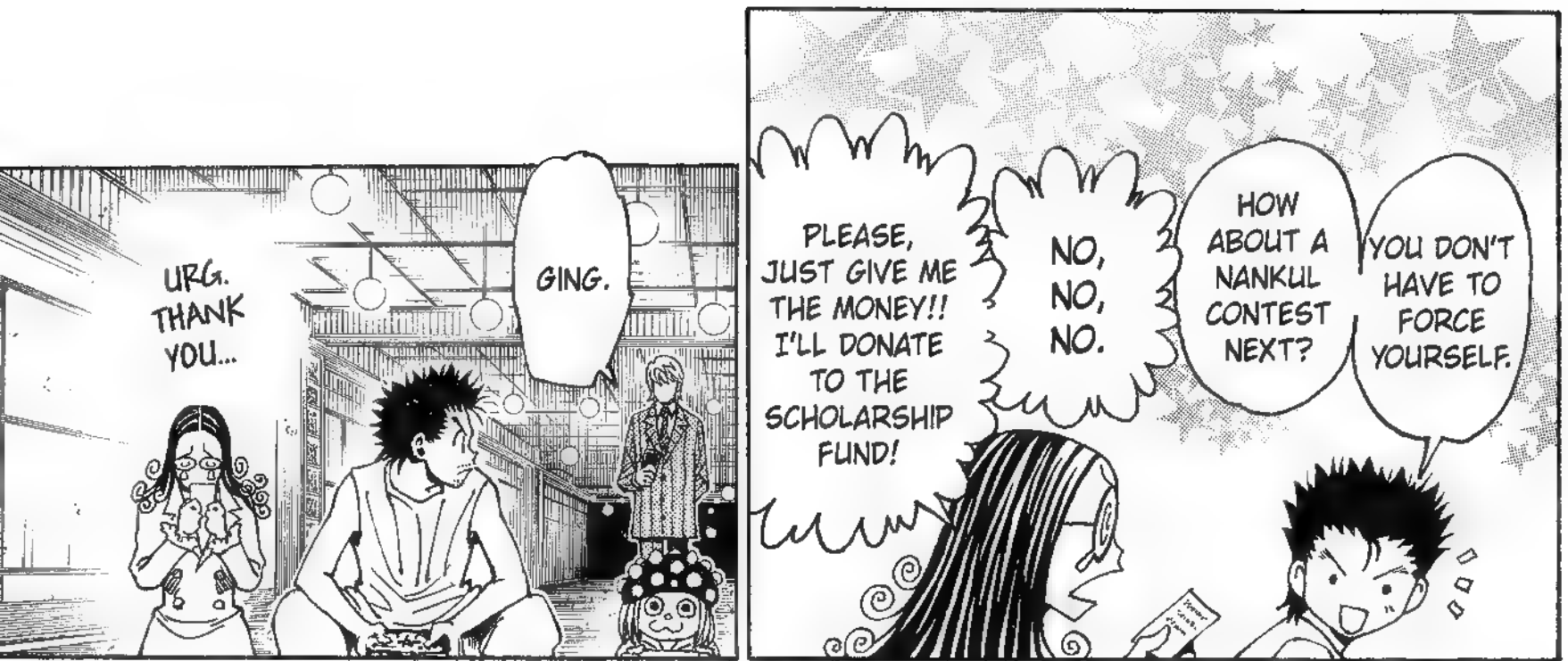


WHAAAT?!  
MAKE MORE AND MOVE THEM.



\*DEXTERITY CHALLENGE USING AURA.





URG. THANK YOU...

GING.

PLEASE, JUST GIVE ME THE MONEY!! I'LL DONATE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

NO, NO, NO.

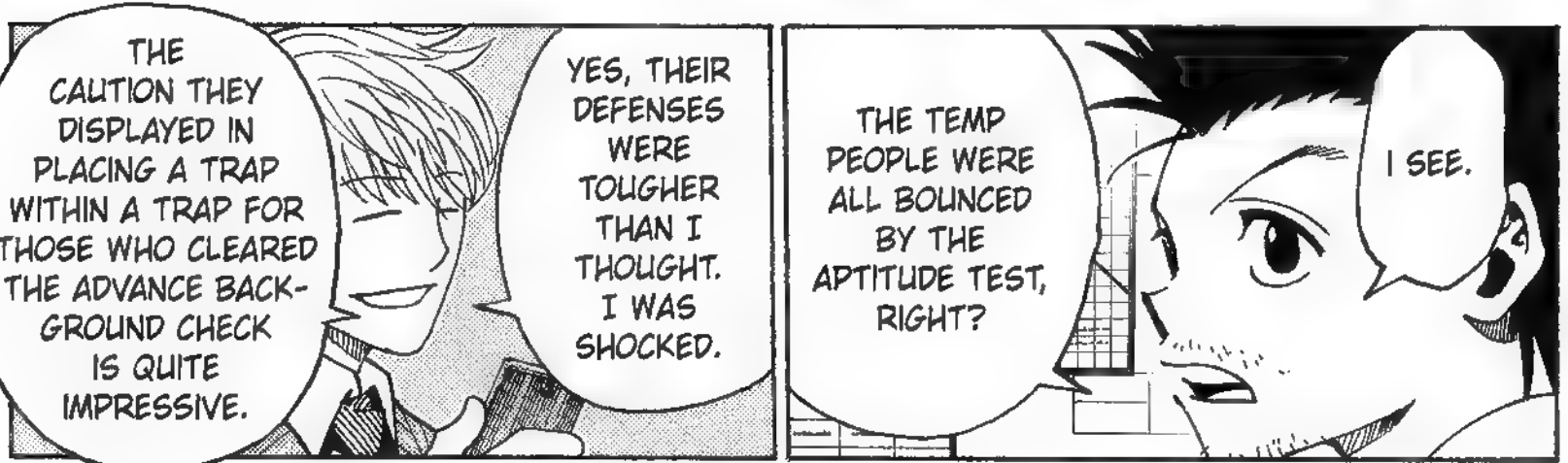
HOW ABOUT A NANKUL CONTEST NEXT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.



BEYOND'S ASSASSINS ALL FAILED.

THE HUNTER EXAM ENDED JUST NOW.

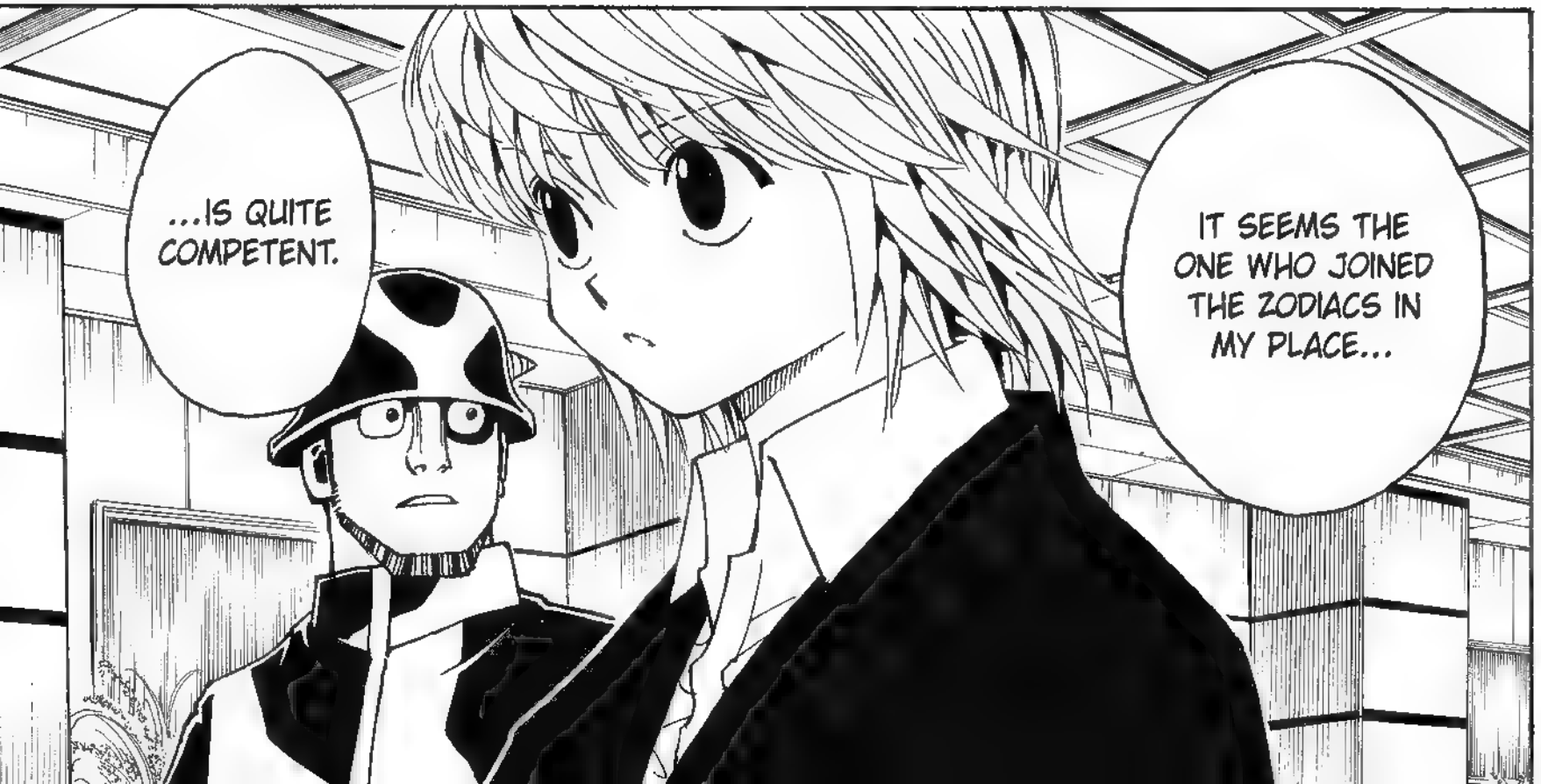


THE CAUTION THEY DISPLAYED IN PLACING A TRAP WITHIN A TRAP FOR THOSE WHO CLEARED THE ADVANCE BACKGROUND CHECK IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

YES, THEIR DEFENSES WERE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT. I WAS SHOCKED.

THE TEMP PEOPLE WERE ALL BOUNCED BY THE APTITUDE TEST, RIGHT?

I SEE.



...IS QUITE COMPETENT.

IT SEEMS THE ONE WHO JOINED THE ZODIACS IN MY PLACE...



I KNOW HIM.

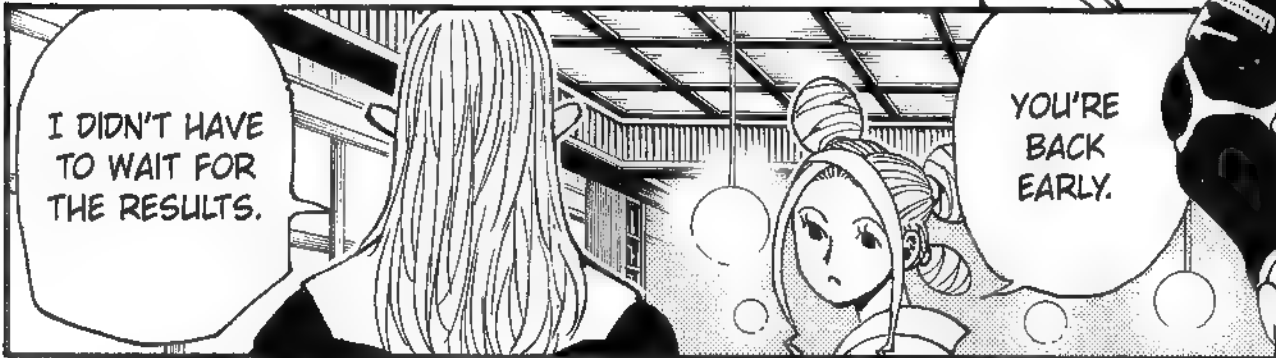


DO YOU KNOW MUHERR?

SURE.

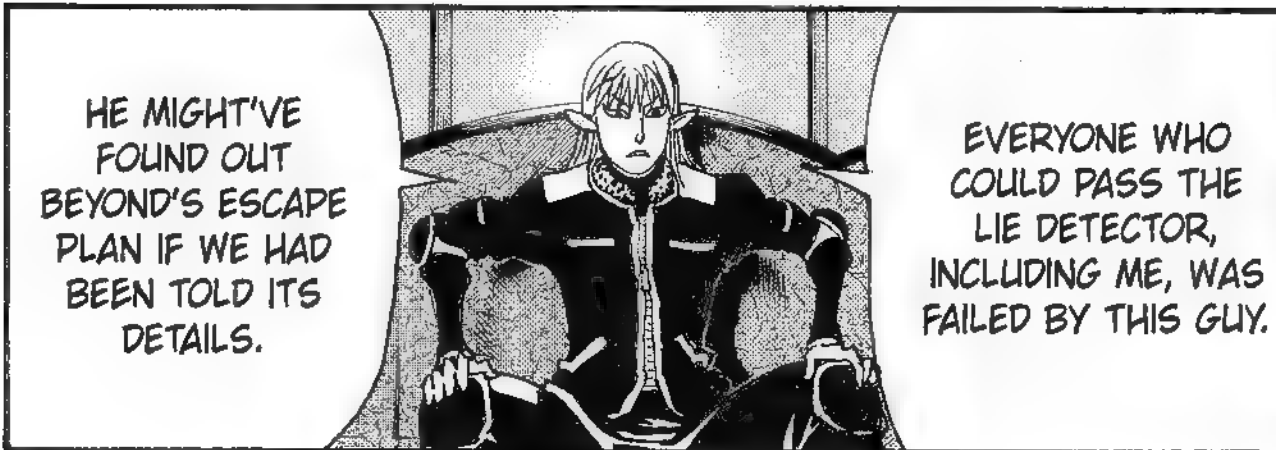


IT'S LIKE THEY COULD READ MINDS.



I DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE RESULTS.

YOU'RE BACK EARLY.



HE MIGHT'VE FOUND OUT BEYOND'S ESCAPE PLAN IF WE HAD BEEN TOLD ITS DETAILS.

EVERYONE WHO COULD PASS THE LIE DETECTOR, INCLUDING ME, WAS FAILED BY THIS GUY.



ONCE BEYOND GETS TO THE CONTINENT, HE ESCAPES ON HIS OWN AND MEETS UP WITH US! THAT'S ALL.

HA HA, DON'T WORRY. WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN YET.



BY THE WAY, GING.

FOOEY.

AW.

GO AWAY, PEKOTERO.

I WON'T HAVE TO INFILTRATE THE ASSOCIATION AND PLAY DOUBLE AGENT.

WELL, IT'S EASIER ON MY END.



...I LEAN TOWARD BEYOND.

THAT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING.

AREN'T YOU FROM THE ASSOCIATION?

SINCE I WANT TO BE FREE TO DO WHAT I WANT AT THE DESTINATION...

GET OUT OF HERE.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEYOND AND ME IS THAT FOR HIM, "THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES UNTIL WE BRING BACK THE FRUITS OF THE VOYAGE."

SO I'LL FOLLOW THE MINIMAL PROCEDURE REQUIRED, AND WORST CASE, I DON'T HAVE TO COME BACK.

AS LONG AS THERE'S INCREDIBLE RISK, I UNDERSTAND WHY THE VS IS BEING CAREFUL.



I CAN'T.



WHAT HE WANTS IS DESTRUCTION DISGUISED AS PERVERTED LOVE.

BUT I CAN'T GIVE PARISTON A PASS.

SO I'LL GLADLY HELP BEYOND BE FREE.



CAN YOU UNDERSTAND?

MY GOAL IS TO HELP BEYOND AND DETER PARISTON.



I THOUGHT EARLIER...

WAIT, I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON.

...MOST OF YOU WERE AGAINST LETTING HIM JOIN.



NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN.

IT'S CLEAR GING DOESN'T SIDE WITH THE ASSOCIATION.



YOU'LL SEE HE'S SOMEONE WE NEED.

BUT SEE HOW IT GOES FOR A FEW DAYS.

WE MET HORRIBLY AND I *STILL* HATE HIS GUTS.

YEAH.



I CAN'T WAIT.

WE DON'T CARE WHO AN IRRELEVANT NO. 2 IS.

OUR REAL BOSS IS BEYOND.



DECIDE NOW WHO'S GOING TO LEAVE...!!

1) PARISTON.  
2) GING.

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T INTERFERE...

GING IS FINALLY IN THE MOOD TO DO THIS.



THERE ARE FOUR.

NO.

ACTUALLY, THREE OPTIONS.



HUH?



HUH?



4) YOU GUYS DIE!!

DO OM!!

RIGHT?



3) YOU GUYS LEAVE!!

BRAM!!



# DANGEROUS CREATURES RANKING

**HIGH** —————> **LOW**

	A	B	C	D	E
<b>Aggression Towards Human</b>	1) Attacks without provocation 2) Ecology or behavior endangers many lives	Species ranks A under certain conditions (climate, food source, exposure to chemicals)	1) Individual differences 2) Individuals can rank A under certain conditions (smell of blood, under threat, breeding season, defending young)	Passive: sudden encounters may provoke a defensive or evasive attack (emission of gas, liquid, needles, body slam)	None
<b>Number</b>	One nest, host or herd numbers in 10,000 or more	100s-1,000s	<100	<10	Individuals
<b>Fecundity</b>	Explosive growth once breeding begins	1) Breeds several times a year, with >10 young. 2) Conditions can put the species closer to A	Comparable to that of humans	Long intervals between matings, with few young	Does not reproduce, or at low enough frequency to be negligible
<b>Threat of Bodily Harm</b>	1) High probability of death 2) Injuries affect daily life, complete recovery difficult, lifelong aftereffects	1) How to avoid them is known, but failure leads to serious injuries or death 2) Complete recovery difficult, lifelong aftereffects	1) Long-term rest and treatment is necessary. Death is also possible. 2) Indirectly affects many lives (damage to crops, livestock)	1) Does not affect daily life, but mild aftereffects or scars remain 2) Recovery is possible with a few weeks of treatment	1) Recovery in days with drugs or treatment. 2) Limited indirect adverse effects (limited contamination, temporary evacuation)
<b>Total</b>	Immediate eradication is necessary but method is uncertain; global cooperation is essential	Immediate eradication is necessary at high cost and high risk; international response is necessary	Immediate measures are necessary, but local response suffices	Response to individual cases necessary but not urgent or dangerous	A warning to civilians is necessary, but situation is not serious

# Chapter 347: Inauguration



THERE ARE FIVE OPTIONS.

IN THAT CASE...

5) BOTH OF YOU DIE...!!

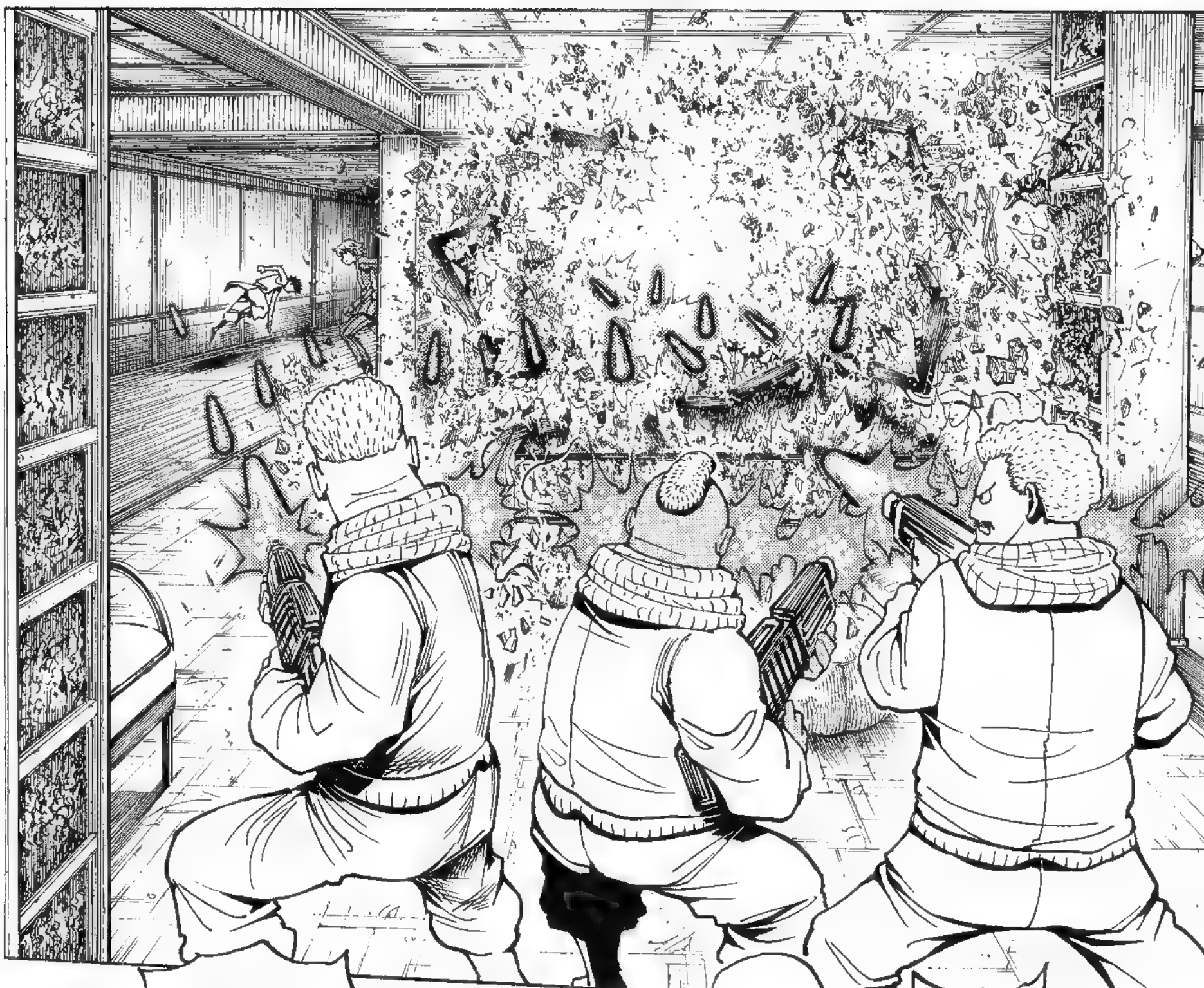


**CHK!**

**RAA!**

**TA!**





STOP IT!!  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUSLY  
TRYING TO  
KILL THEM?!

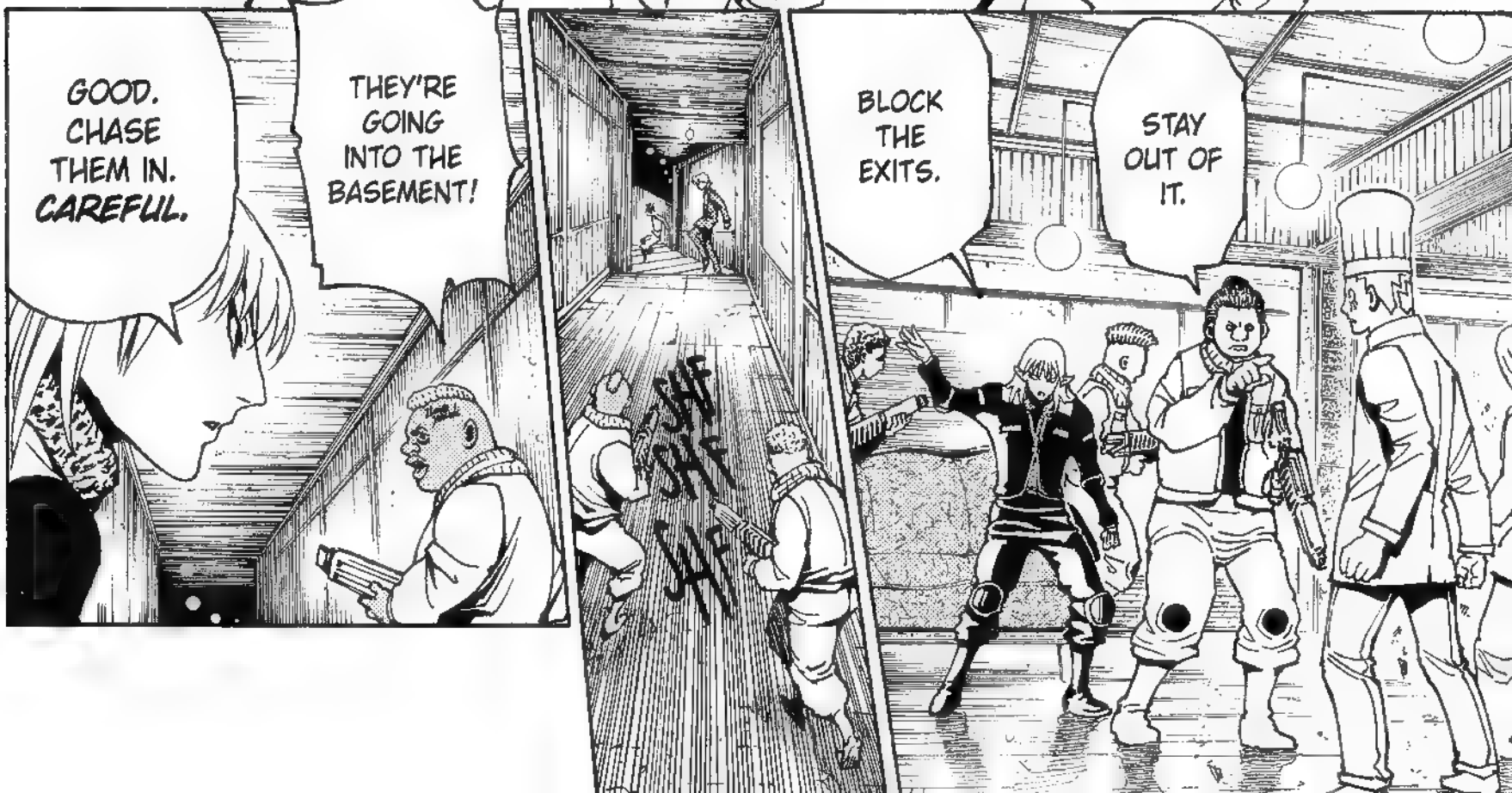
...!!  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!

GOOD.  
CHASE  
THEM IN.  
CAREFUL.

THEY'RE  
GOING  
INTO THE  
BASEMENT!

BLOCK  
THE  
EXITS.

STAY  
OUT OF  
IT.





A SUIT WHO'S ALL TALK AND A WEAKLING WHO GETS CLOBBERED BY A ROOKIE!!

I'VE ALWAYS HATED HOW OVERHYPED YOU'VE BEEN!! THIS IS A FINE OPPORTUNITY!!



AND SHUT UP.

IT'S AN IMAGE I BUILT UP SLOWLY WITH SMALL, CRAZY STUNTS.

YOU'RE NOT AS CRAZY AS THEY SAY.

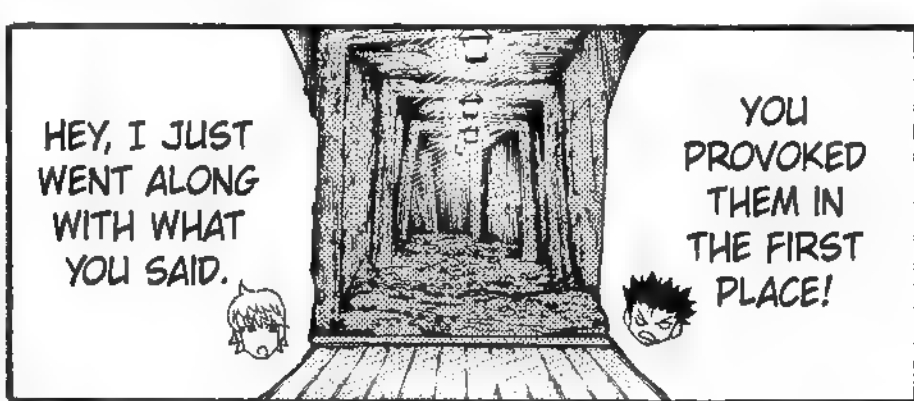
THEIR BOILING POINT IS TOO LOW. A FIREFIGHT RIGHT OFF THE BAT?



A BIT.

SURE.

SHE SHE



HEY, I JUST WENT ALONG WITH WHAT YOU SAID.

YOU PROVOKED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE!



SHALL WE FIGHT THEN?

WELL... THEY CAN'T BACK DOWN NOW.



YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LET ME SEE?

...

PIECE OF CAKE.

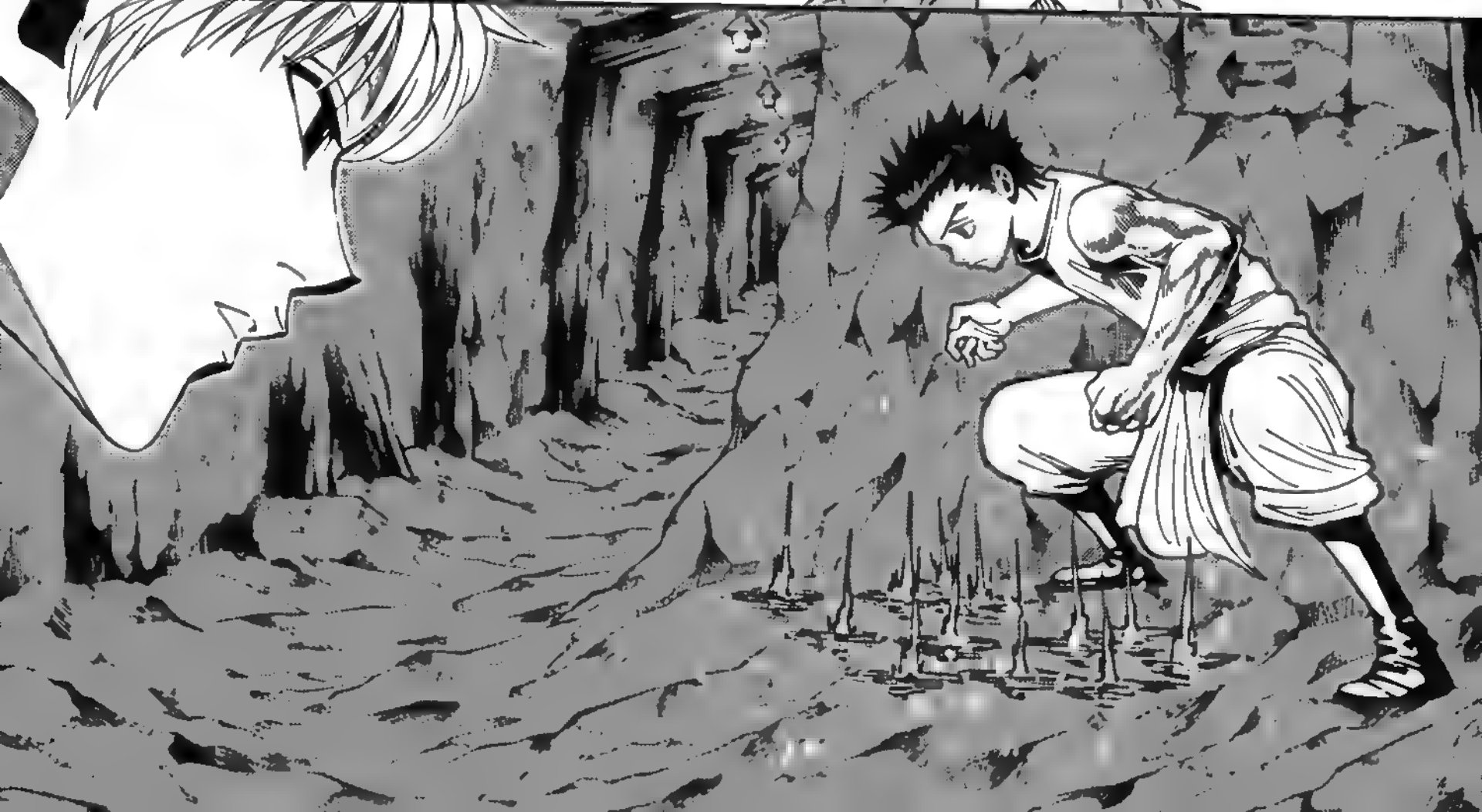
THEY'RE EMITTERS THAT HAVE TO CONJURE GUNS.



V  
M  
M

SURE.

IT'S NO PROBLEM.





# KAPOW!



IT'S NOTHING SO EXTRAVAGANT.

AN ABILITY THAT COPIES OTHER PEOPLE'S ABILITIES...?



IT'S JUST A TALENT I HAVE.

I CAN GENERALLY IMITATE ANY PUNCHING ABILITY I'VE BEEN HIT WITH.



## THUD



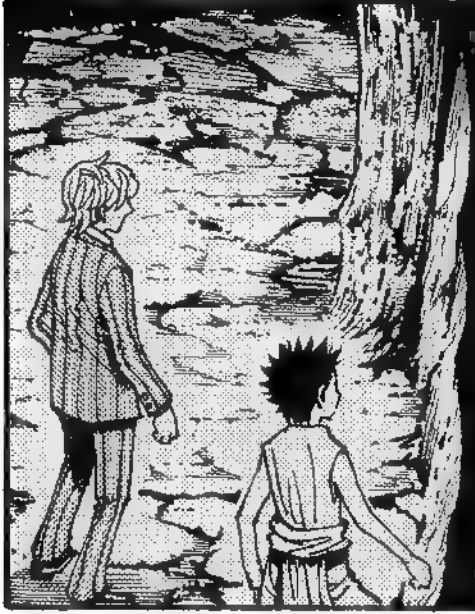


WERE ALL THREE TAKEN OUT ...?!

TOO QUIET.



SHP



DO WE GO ...?

NO... THERE MAY BE A SIGNAL.



TWO OF THEM BEYOND THIS WALL...

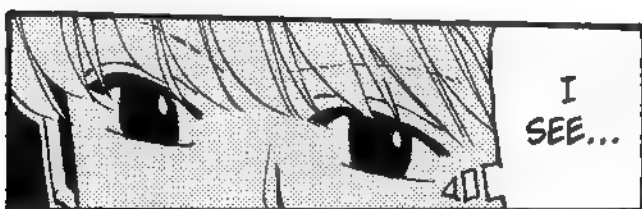
USING HIS AURA LIKE AN ULTRASOUND.

HARDER TO DETECT THAN EN.



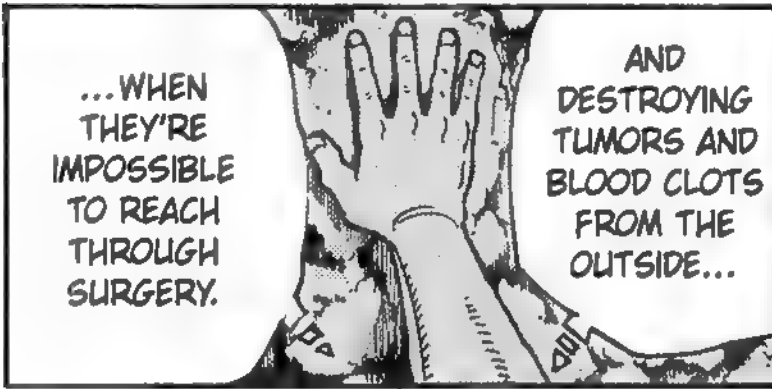
HE MUST'VE BEEN PRACTICING PALPATING PATIENTS.

LEORIO'S STUDYING TO BE A DOCTOR.



I SEE...

LIKE THIS.





HUH ...?

I BET THEY THINK THEIR MISSION'S COMPLETE.



MAYBE THEY GAVE UP...

NOBODY ELSE?

NAH.



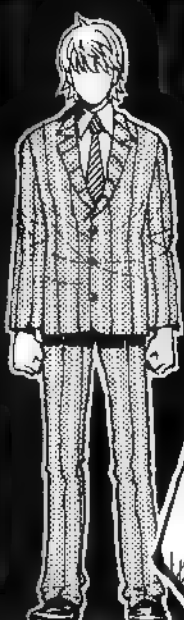
IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS THIS WAS ARRANGED.

YOU GOT THEM TO PUT ON AN ACT, RIGHT?



I GUESS THAT WOULD'VE RISKED ME ACTUALLY TAKING THEM UP ON IT.

THERE WERE SOME ROUGH PATCHES, BUT THE BIGGEST MISTAKE WAS WHEN THE PISSED-OFF MOHAWK LEFT OUT THE OPTION FOR BOTH OF US TO LEAVE.

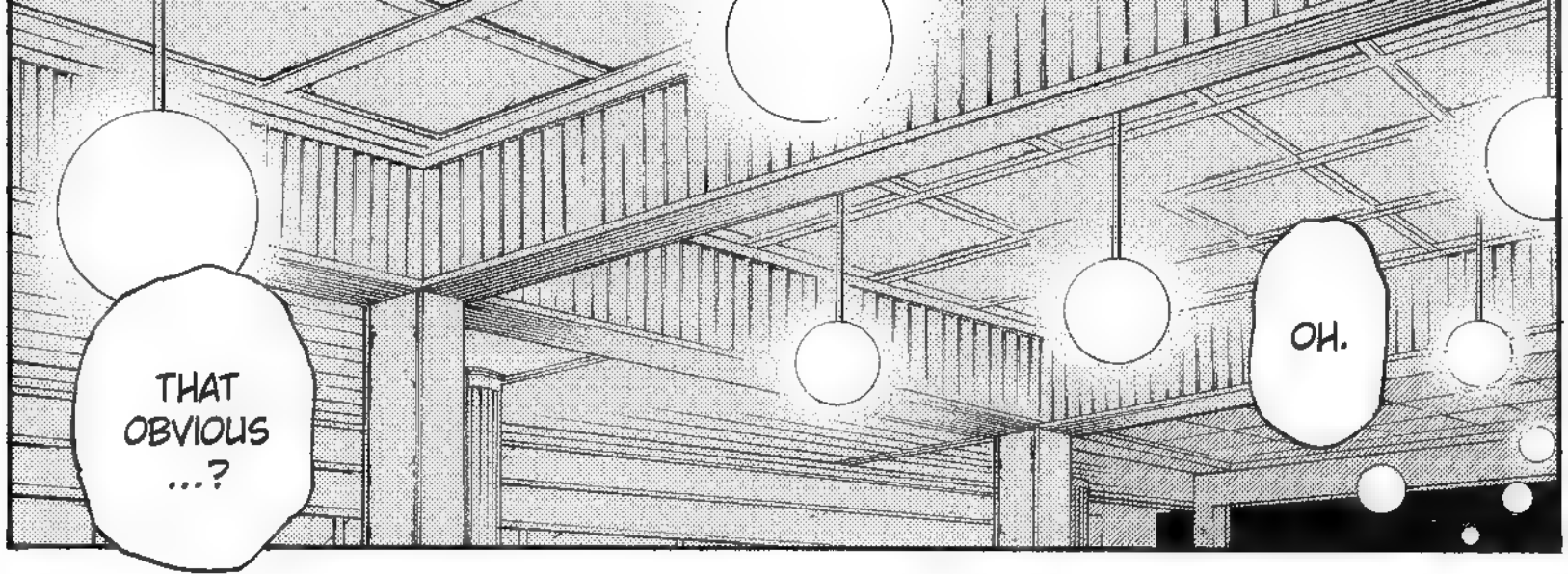


IF YOU WANT TO SEE MY ABILITY SO BADLY.

I TOOK THEM ON OUT OF RESPECT FOR THEIR HAVING TO FOLLOW SUCH A CRAPPY SCRIPT. DO IT YOURSELF NEXT TIME.



RRM.



THAT OBVIOUS ...?

OH.



THAT'S WHAT YOU SOUNDED LIKE.

"I... AM... SO... MAD."

I MIGHT HAVE TO KILL YOU ANYWAY ...



A TWO-BY-FOUR WOULD HAVE PLAYED IT BETTER!

HAVE YOU NO SELF-AWARENESS ?

YEAH RIGHT.

I THOUGHT I WAS DOING PRETTY WELL.



THAT'S NO PROBLEM.

THEY'RE SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AT BEST.

THEY'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE THE DARK CONTINENT.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR TROOPS THAN YOUR ACTING.



AND COVER FIRE.

OUR MAIN JOB IS SCOUTING AND PROVIDING EXTRA FIRE-POWER.

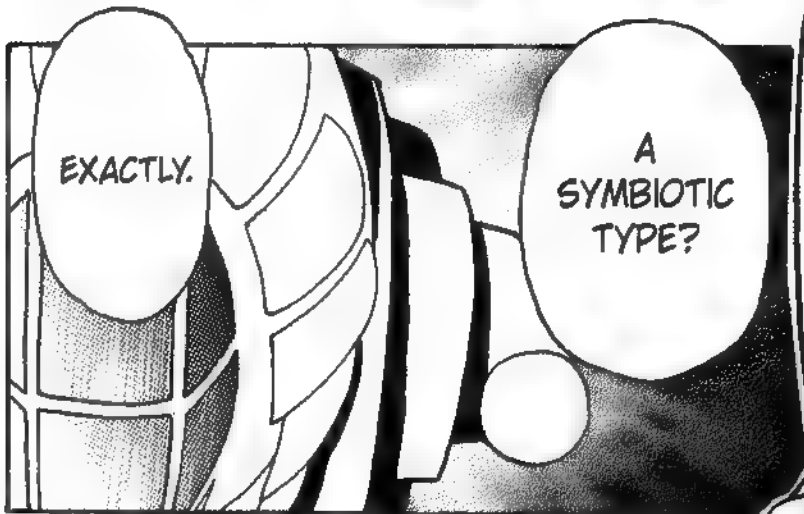


BECAUSE THEY ARE THERE TO COVER FOR US.



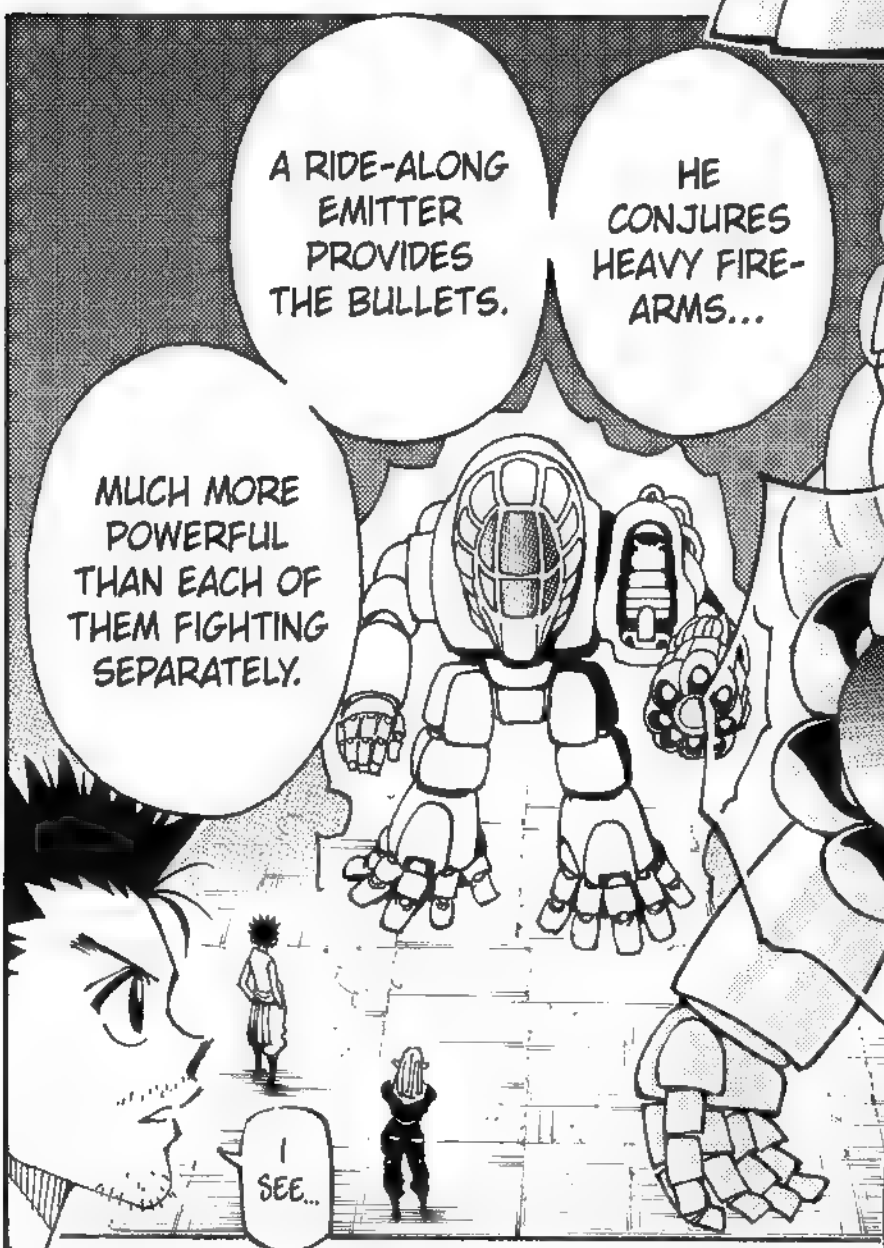
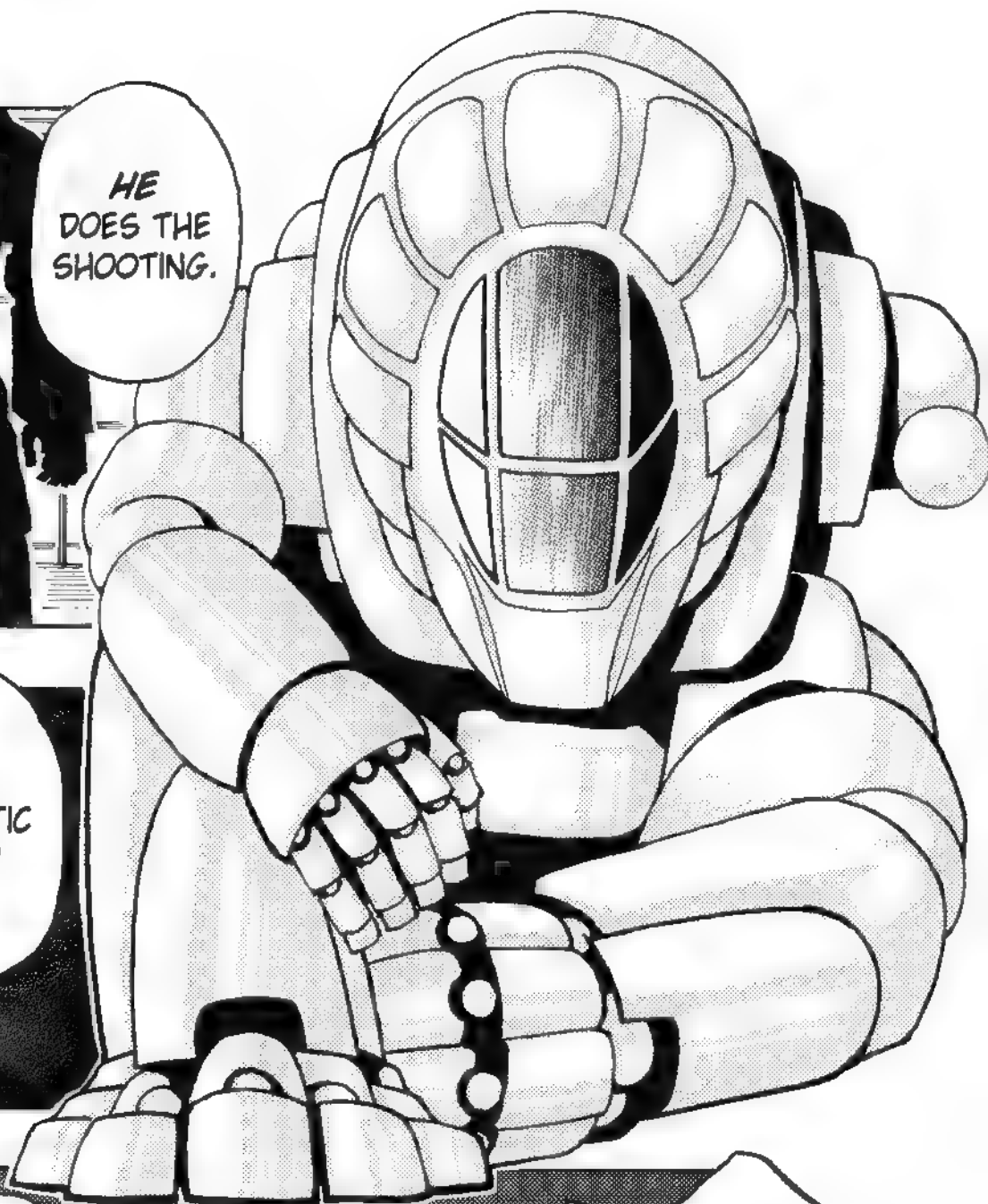
CHUNK

HE DOES THE SHOOTING.



EXACTLY.

A SYMBIOTIC TYPE?

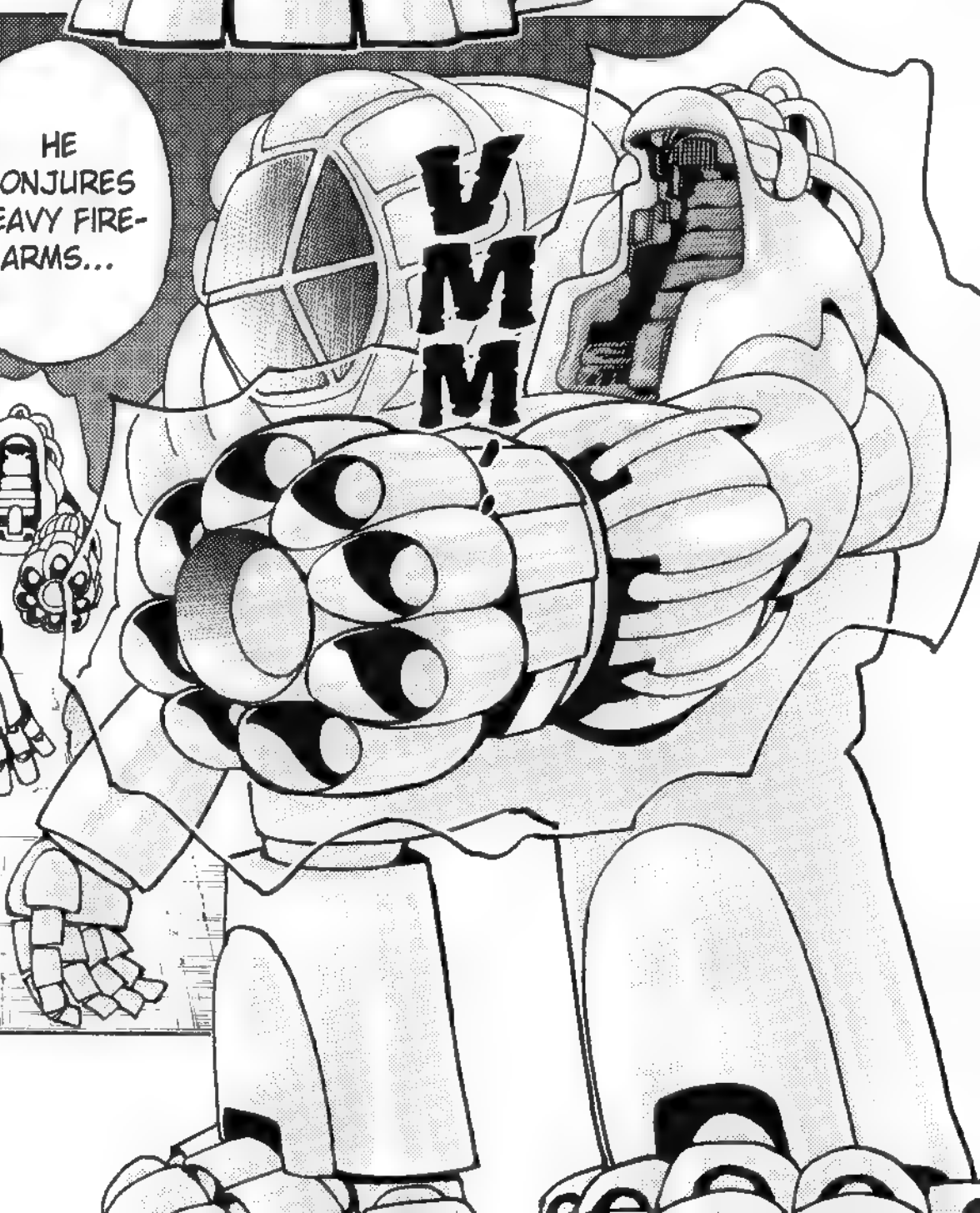


A RIDE-ALONG EMITTER PROVIDES THE BULLETS.

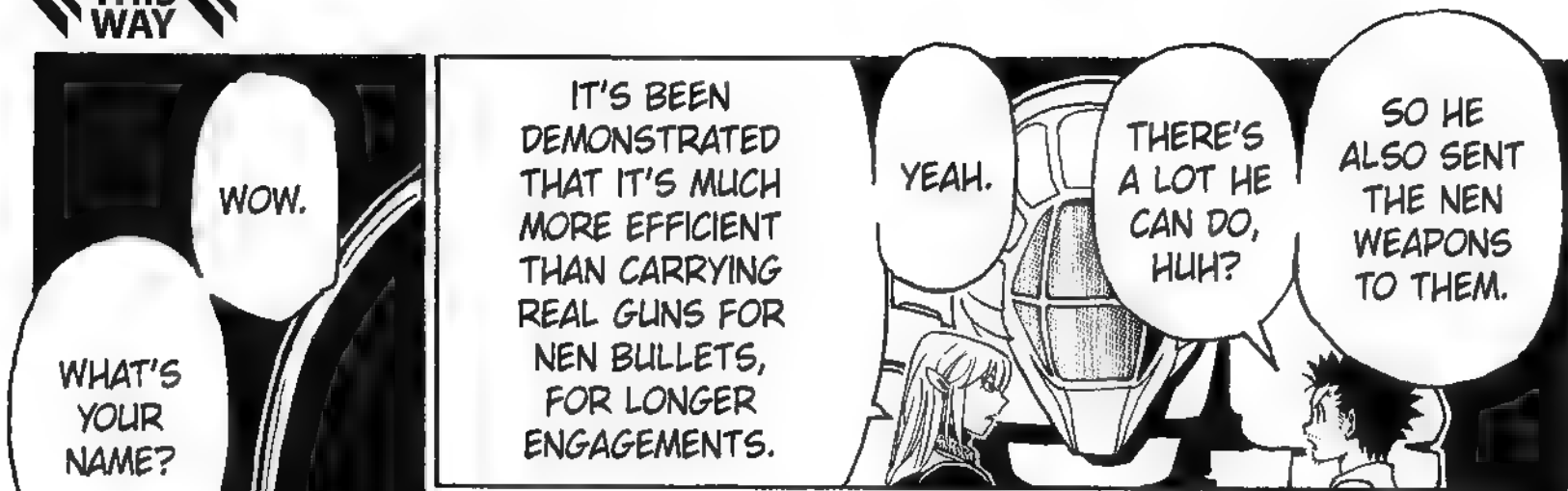
HE CONJURES HEAVY FIRE-ARMS...

MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN EACH OF THEM FIGHTING SEPARATELY.

I SEE...



W  
M  
M



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

WOW.

IT'S BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT IT'S MUCH MORE EFFICIENT THAN CARRYING REAL GUNS FOR NEN BULLETS, FOR LONGER ENGAGEMENTS.

YEAH.

THERE'S A LOT HE CAN DO, HUH?

SO HE ALSO SENT THE NEN WEAPONS TO THEM.



THE ONLY LEGENDARY MERCENARY CREW TO FIGHT IN THE LUBO CIVIL WAR WITHOUT A CASUALTY.



SCOUTS AND COVER-FIRE PERSONNEL PLUS HIM MAKE UP THE 11-MAN TASK FORCE "STONE WALL."



GOT A LOT OF "DON'T TALK TO ME" VIBES.

FIGURED.

HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS ALL THREE YEARS I'VE KNOWN HIM.

I DON'T KNOW HIS VOICE, FACE OR REAL NAME.

...OTHER QUESTIONS.

PEOPLE CALL ME "GOLEM." I DON'T ANSWER ...



IF YOU HADN'T BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF MONEY...!

I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD ANY PROBLEM WITH YOU BECOMING NO. 2.



CAN I BE HONEST HERE?

...



CAN YOU TELL THEM TO TAKE MY MONEY?

SO MUHERR, YOU LEAD THE SOLDIERS, RIGHT?



LIKE HOW BOOKS ON A SHELF OR THE REMOTE CONTROL ON THE COFFEE TABLE HAVE TO BE **JUST SO.**

ALL TALK OF MONEY IS EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE UNLESS IT'S CLEAN, SIMPLE AND UP FRONT.

YOU *KNOW* MERCENARIES VALUE TRUST BETWEEN EACH OTHER MORE THAN ANYTHING.

WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING DIFFERENT.

THE FAINTEST WHIFF OF A RUMOR ABOUT SWITCHING SIDES FOR MONEY AND YOU'RE OUT OF THE CREW.



WELL...

...

CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS FOR ME?



I'M PRETTY UPSET ABOUT IT MYSELF.

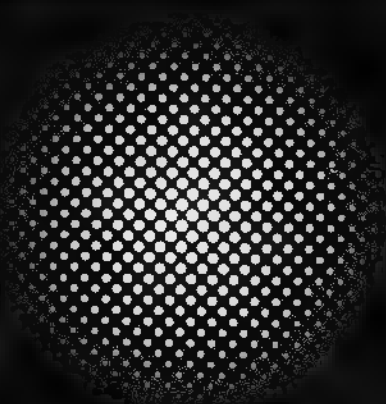
SOME WANTED OUT THE MINUTE THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR REMARKS.



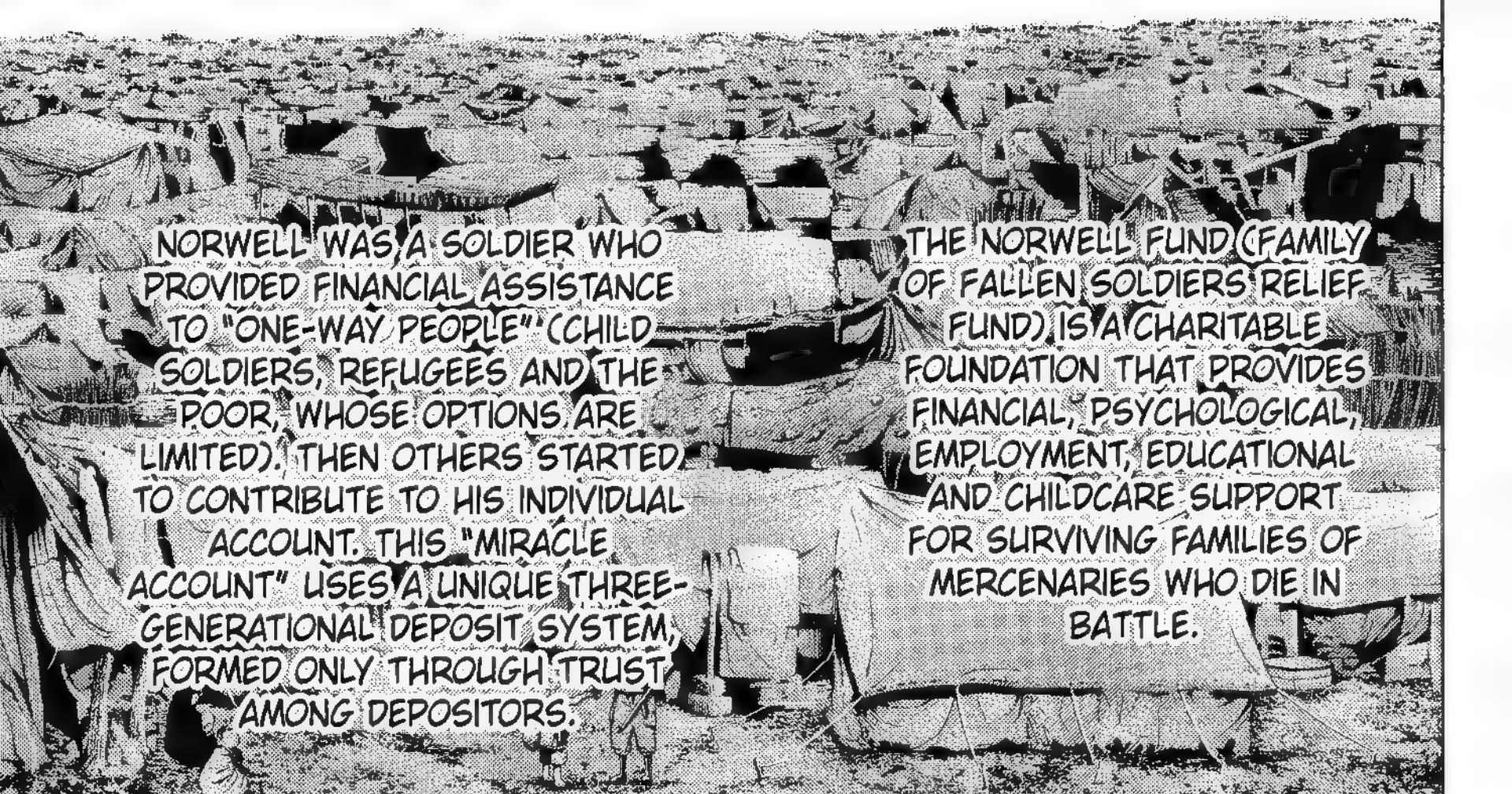
BUT... I CAN'T TAKE IT BACK NOW SINCE OTHERS TOOK THE MONEY ALREADY.

I'M SORRY FOR THE CONFUSION.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE.

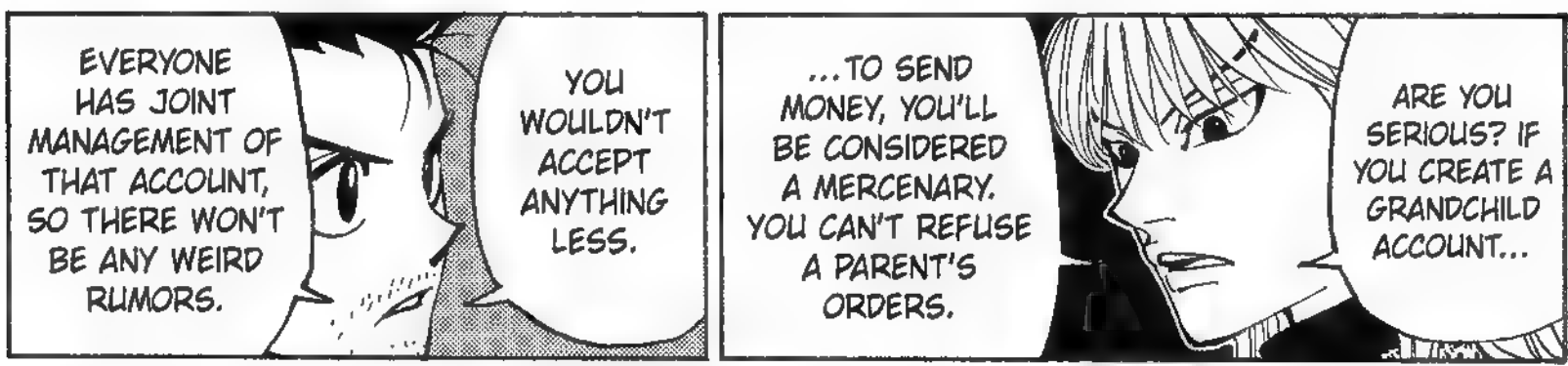


HOW ABOUT IF I MAKE A DEPOSIT IN THE NORWELL FUND?



NORWELL WAS A SOLDIER WHO PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO "ONE-WAY PEOPLE" (CHILD SOLDIERS, REFUGEES AND THE POOR, WHOSE OPTIONS ARE LIMITED). THEN OTHERS STARTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT. THIS "MIRACLE ACCOUNT" USES A UNIQUE THREE-GENERATIONAL DEPOSIT SYSTEM, FORMED ONLY THROUGH TRUST AMONG DEPOSITORS.

THE NORWELL FUND (FAMILY OF FALLEN SOLDIERS RELIEF FUND) IS A CHARITABLE FOUNDATION THAT PROVIDES FINANCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATIONAL AND CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR SURVIVING FAMILIES OF MERCENARIES WHO DIE IN BATTLE.



EVERYONE HAS JOINT MANAGEMENT OF THAT ACCOUNT, SO THERE WON'T BE ANY WEIRD RUMORS.

YOU WOULDN'T ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS.

...TO SEND MONEY, YOU'LL BE CONSIDERED A MERCENARY. YOU CAN'T REFUSE A PARENT'S ORDERS.

ARE YOU SERIOUS? IF YOU CREATE A GRANDCHILD ACCOUNT...



WHAT THE HECK IS IT?!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GIVE US THE MONEY SO MUCH?

I JUST DON'T GET IT...

...I WAS HAPPY.

I THINK ...

AND...

I GUESS.

I FIGURED NOBODY WOULD BE BLINDED BY GREED.

THIS TIME IS TYPICAL... THAT'S WHY I'M CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR YOU.

WELL... I OFTEN RUN MY MOUTH FIRST AND COME UP WITH THE REASON WHY I SAID IT AFTERWARDS.

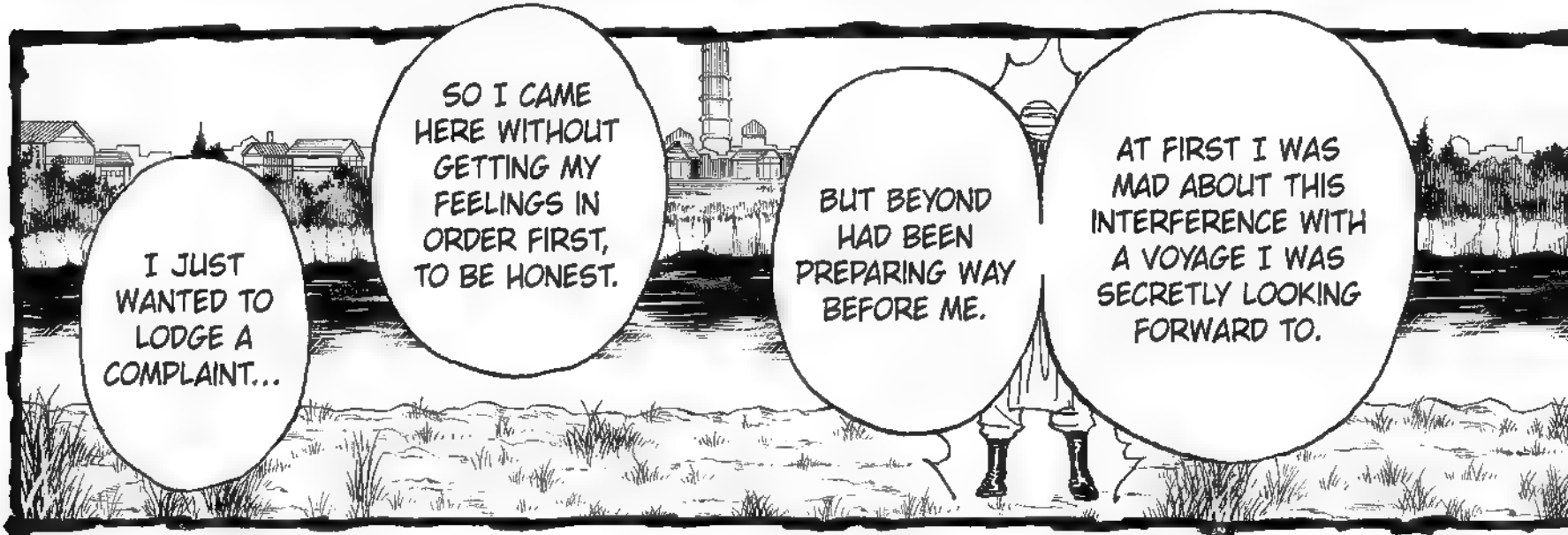
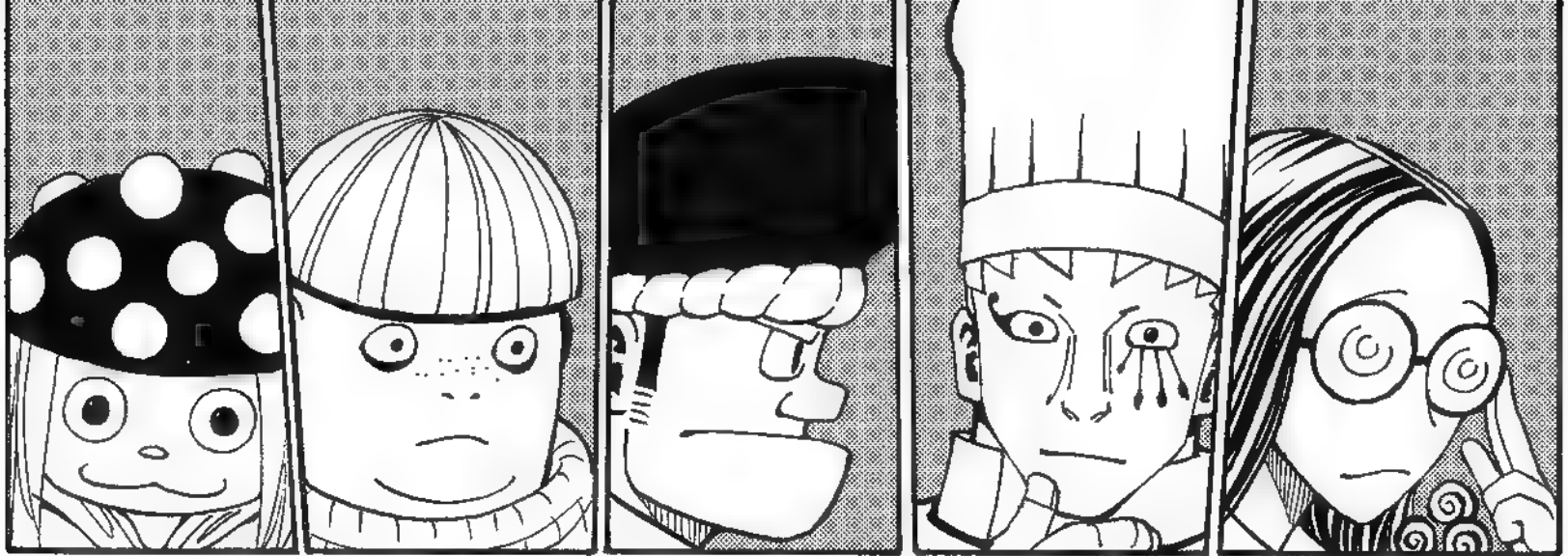
TO BE SURROUNDED BY LIKE-MINDED IDIOTS.

...WHEN THEY ACCEPTED THE MONEY, IT WAS REALLY SHOWING THAT THEY ACCEPTED ME.

SO...

THE BIGGEST IS...





I JUST WANTED TO LODGE A COMPLAINT...

SO I CAME HERE WITHOUT GETTING MY FEELINGS IN ORDER FIRST, TO BE HONEST.

BUT BEYOND HAD BEEN PREPARING WAY BEFORE ME.

AT FIRST I WAS MAD ABOUT THIS INTERFERENCE WITH A VOYAGE I WAS SECRETLY LOOKING FORWARD TO.



...UPON ARRIVING HERE WAS, "LET ME IN ON IT."

BUT I SURPRISED MYSELF WHEN THE FIRST THING I SAID...



I REMEMBER ASKING HIM.

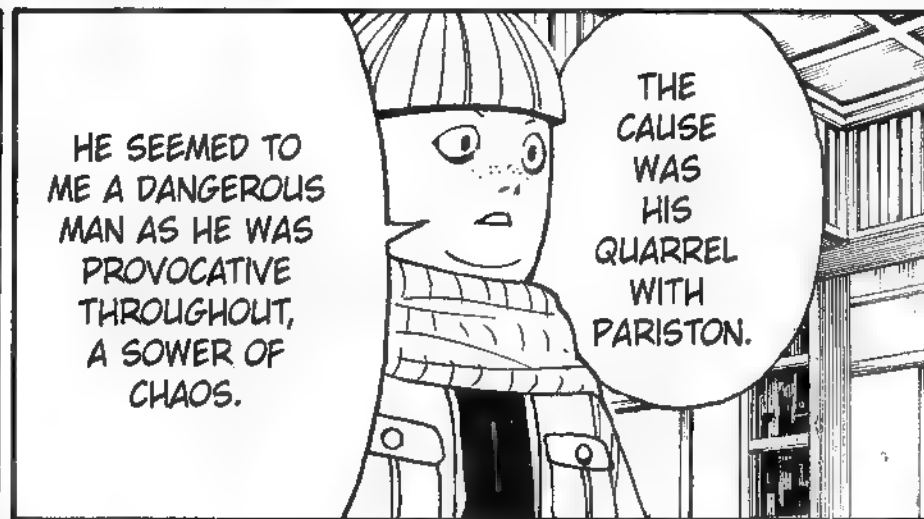
WHAT WAS IT, MASCHER?

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHY I OFFERED MONEY.



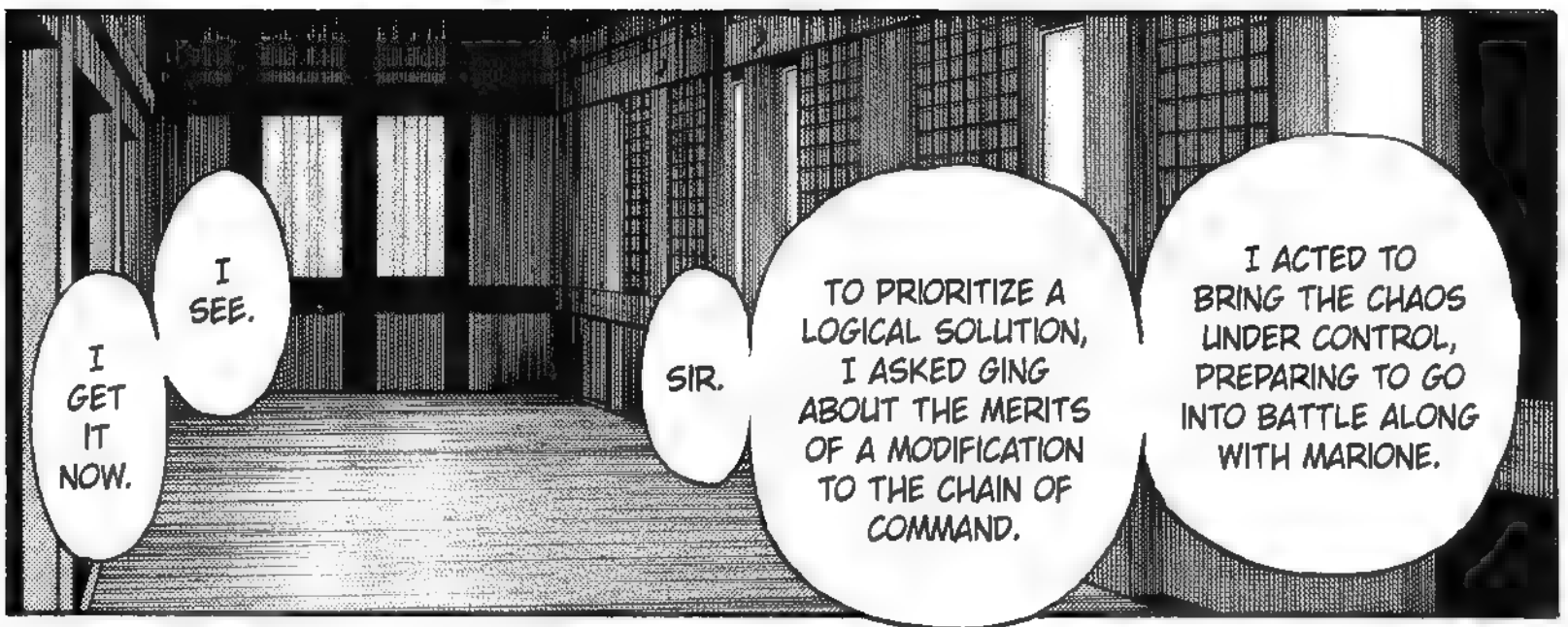
...I DIDN'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND SINCE GING SUDDENLY AND UNILATERALLY DECLARED A PERSONNEL CHANGE...

BUT IN LIGHT OF THEIR DISCORD OVER THE FORMER CHAIRMAN AND GING'S PERSONAL FEELINGS TOWARD THE CONTINENT, ALLOWANCES COULD BE MADE. AT THE TIME...



HE SEEMED TO ME A DANGEROUS MAN AS HE WAS PROVOCATIVE THROUGHOUT, A SOWER OF CHAOS.

THE CAUSE WAS HIS QUARREL WITH PARISTON.



I GET IT NOW.

I SEE.

SIR.

TO PRIORITIZE A LOGICAL SOLUTION, I ASKED GING ABOUT THE MERITS OF A MODIFICATION TO THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

I ACTED TO BRING THE CHAOS UNDER CONTROL, PREPARING TO GO INTO BATTLE ALONG WITH MARIONE.



BUT I REALLY DO WANT TO DEMOTE HIM AND BLOCK HIS SCHEMES.

MY HISTORY WITH PARISTON IS... A BIT COMPLICATED... I DON'T WANT TO AGITATE THINGS.

BUT I THOUGHT NOBODY WOULD HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MONEY!!

I TRIED TO BE COOL...

AND YOU CONCLUDED WITH MONEY...

AND I ALSO WANT TO HELP BEYOND'S PLAN.



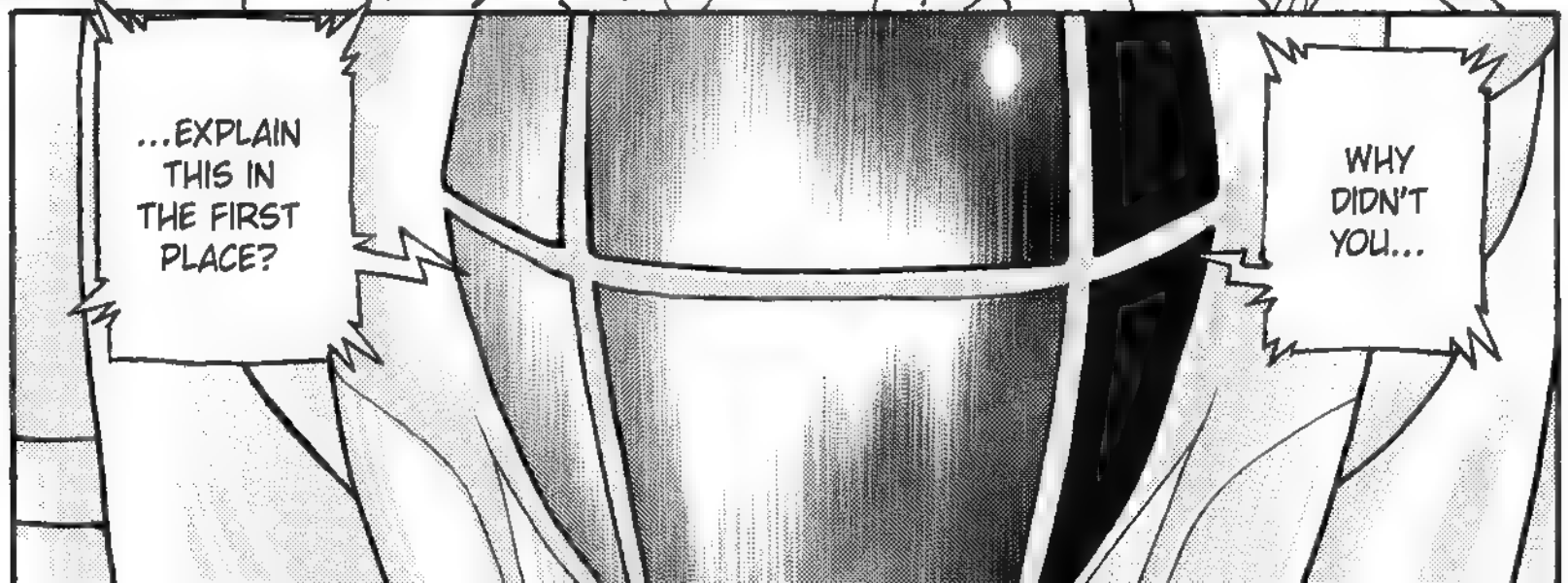
WHETHER YOU TAKE IT OR NOT...

...YOU DECIDE, MUHERR.



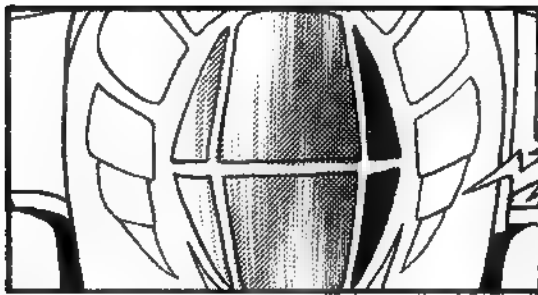
THE MONEY IS A GIFT, BUT ALSO A CALCULATED MOVE.

I ADMIT ...

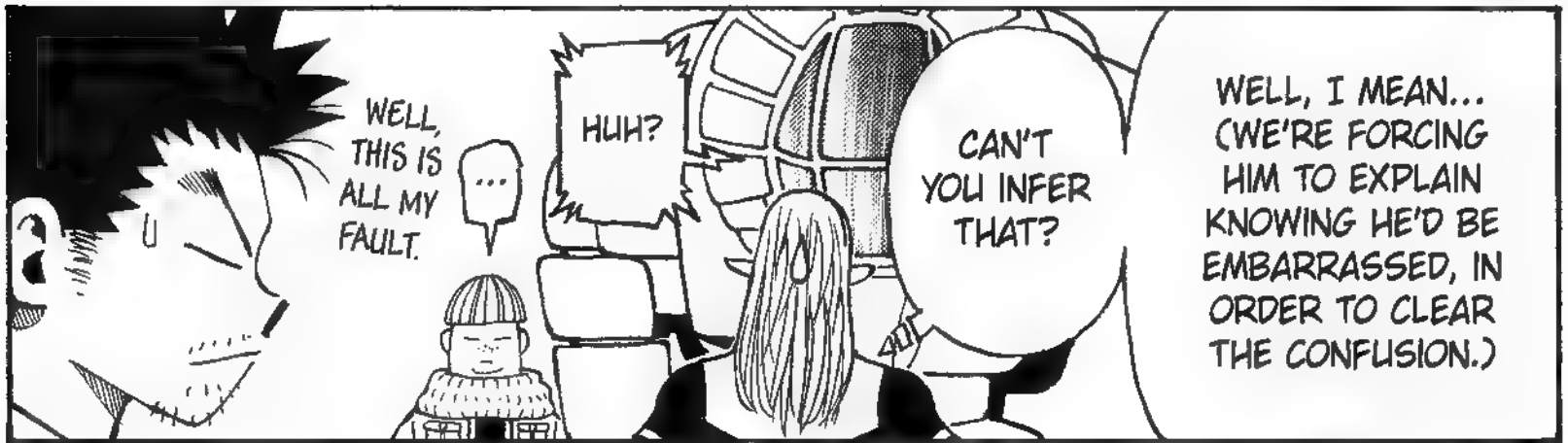
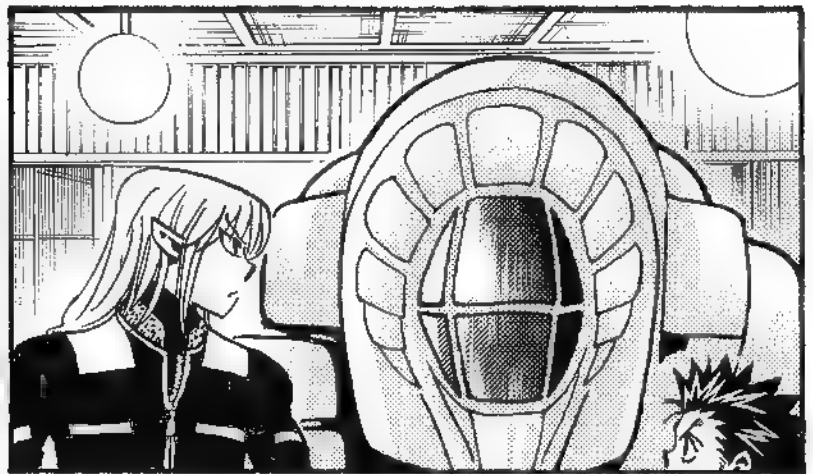


...EXPLAIN THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHY DIDN'T YOU...



THEN THINGS WOULD'VE GONE MORE SMOOTHLY.



WELL, THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

HUH?

CAN'T YOU INFER THAT?

WELL, I MEAN... (WE'RE FORCING HIM TO EXPLAIN KNOWING HE'D BE EMBARRASSED, IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE CONFUSION.)

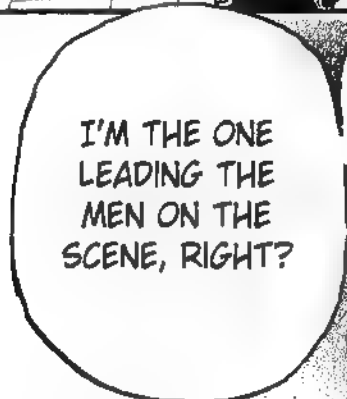
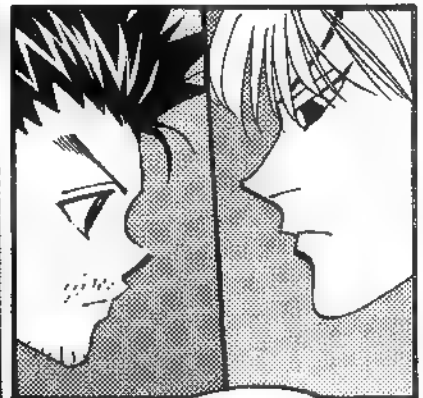


BUT YOU'LL SEND THE MONEY TO THE NORWELL FUND.

I'LL MAKE THE OTHERS UNDERSTAND.



FINE.

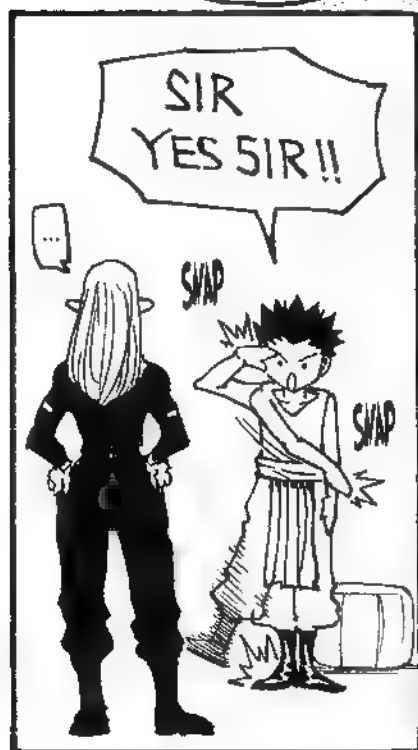


I'M THE ONE LEADING THE MEN ON THE SCENE, RIGHT?

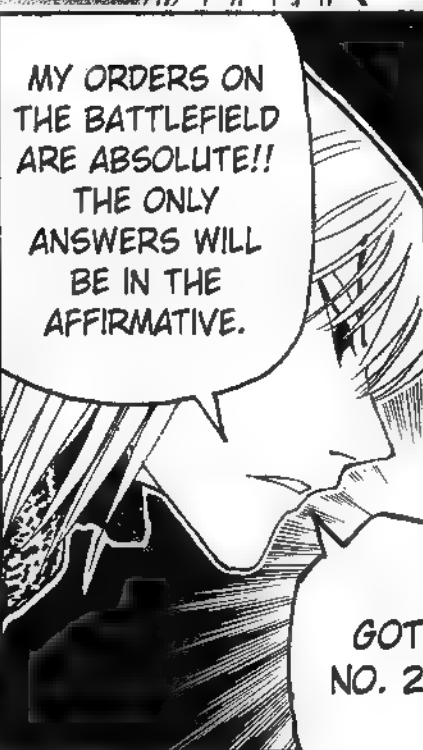
BUT...



FIRST LET ME CONFIRM FOR YOU THAT I'M FINE WITH YOU BEING NO. 2.



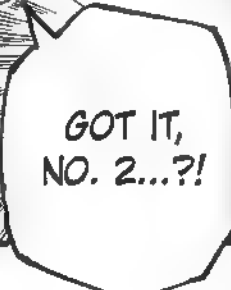
SIR YES SIR!!



MY ORDERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD ARE ABSOLUTE!! THE ONLY ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.



SINCE YOU'RE ESTABLISHING A CHILD ACCOUNT, YOU'RE A MEMBER OF MY TEAM.

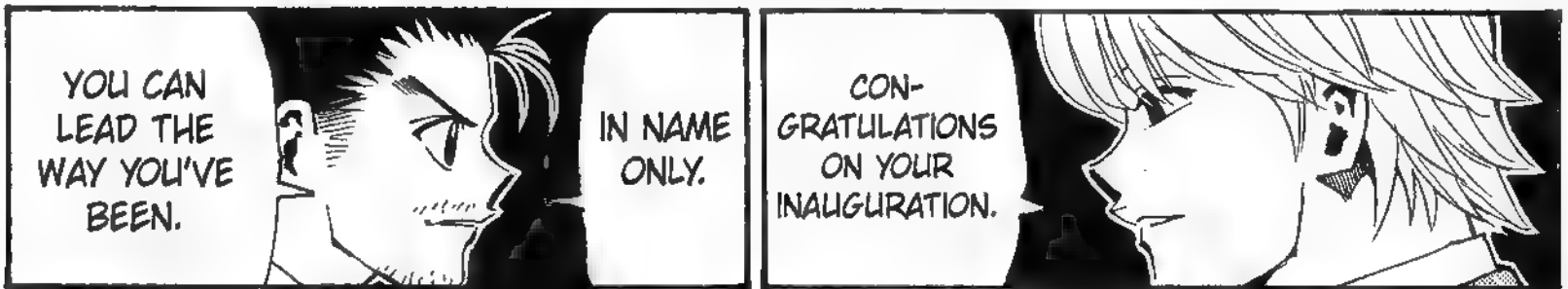
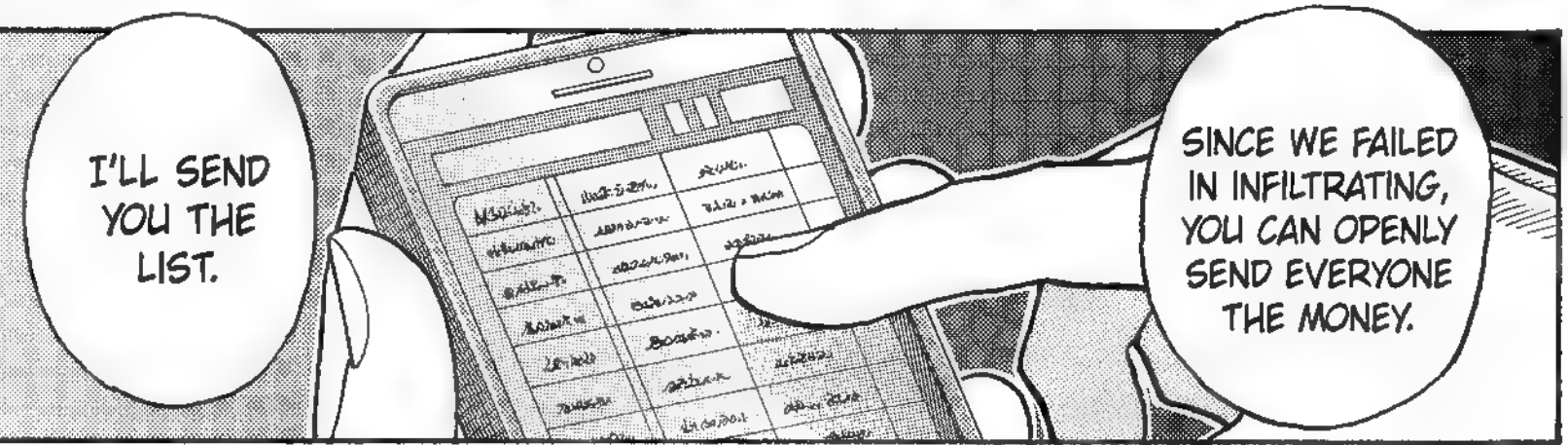
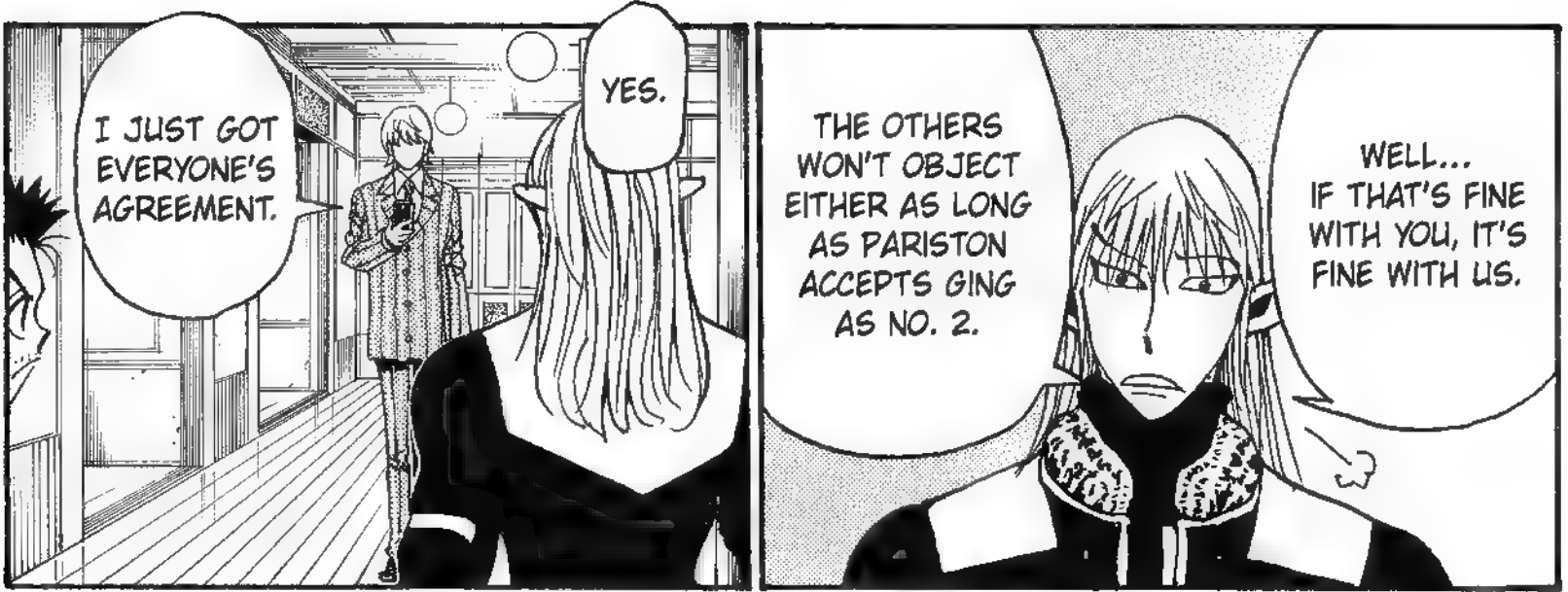


GOT IT, NO. 2...?!



AND...

OF COURSE.



# THREE- GENERATIONAL ACCOUNT

## **Parent Account**

Manages deposits from sub accounts.  
All members can share and mutually  
manage information on withdrawals and  
purchases by all accounts.

## **Child (Sub) Account**

Manages one or more grandchild  
accounts. A grandchild cannot refuse  
a child's dispatch orders. Operational  
procedures are the same as a  
grandchild account.

## **Grandchild (Sub) Account**

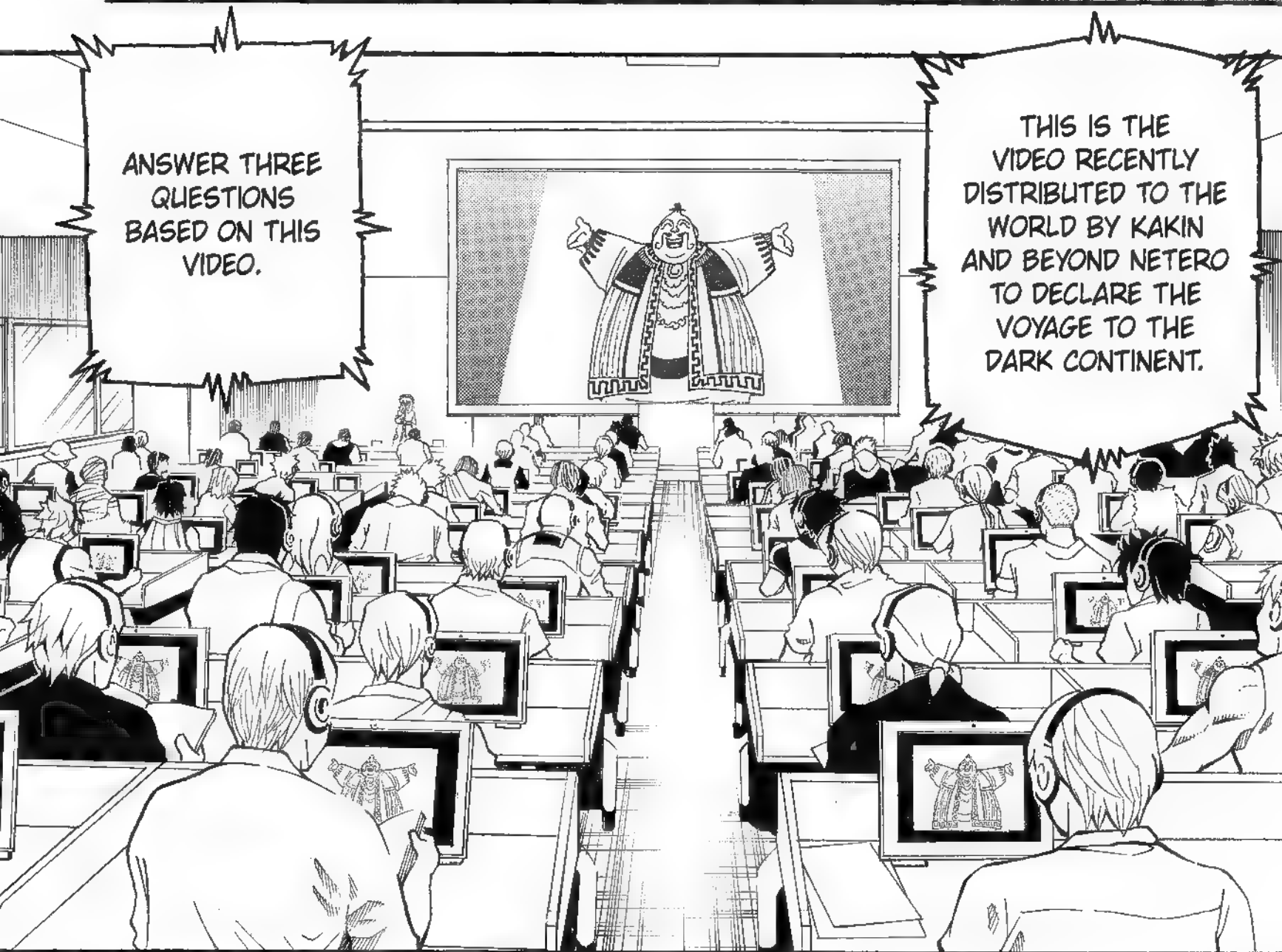
A deposit-only account, which all goes  
to the parent account. Has a designated  
credit card that can make purchases  
from associated stores (including  
online). No usage limit.

# Chapter 348: Resolve

HUNTER EXAM FINAL TEST: Q&A SESSION  
(TESTS ON INTELLIGENCE GATHERING,  
ANALYTICAL ABILITY, APPLIED SKILLS)

ANSWER THREE  
QUESTIONS  
BASED ON THIS  
VIDEO.

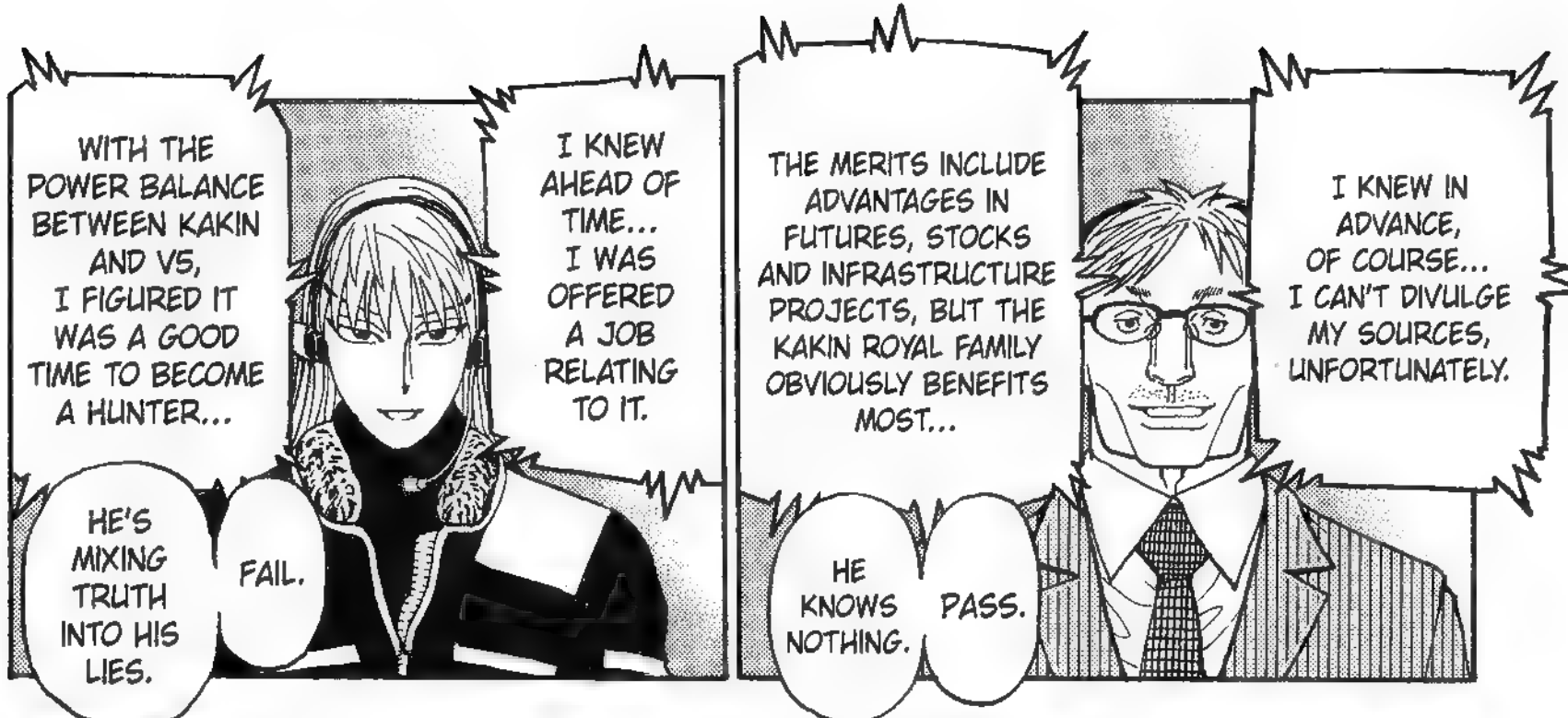
THIS IS THE  
VIDEO RECENTLY  
DISTRIBUTED TO THE  
WORLD BY KAKIN  
AND BEYOND NETERO  
TO DECLARE THE  
VOYAGE TO THE  
DARK CONTINENT.



3) WHAT KIND  
OF ECONOMICAL,  
SOCIAL AND  
CULTURAL MERITS  
WOULD YOU GAIN  
WITH SUCH PRIOR  
KNOWLEDGE?

1) DID YOU HAVE  
KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PRIOR  
TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT?  
2) IF YES, EXPLAIN HOW  
YOU GOT YOUR INFORMATION  
WITH AS MUCH DETAIL AS  
YOU CAN. IF NOT, DESCRIBE  
THE WAYS YOU WOULD  
THEORETICALLY BE ABLE TO  
OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION  
BEFOREHAND.





WITH THE POWER BALANCE BETWEEN KAKIN AND VS, I FIGURED IT WAS A GOOD TIME TO BECOME A HUNTER...

I KNEW AHEAD OF TIME... I WAS OFFERED A JOB RELATING TO IT.

THE MERITS INCLUDE ADVANTAGES IN FUTURES, STOCKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, BUT THE KAKIN ROYAL FAMILY OBVIOUSLY BENEFITS MOST...

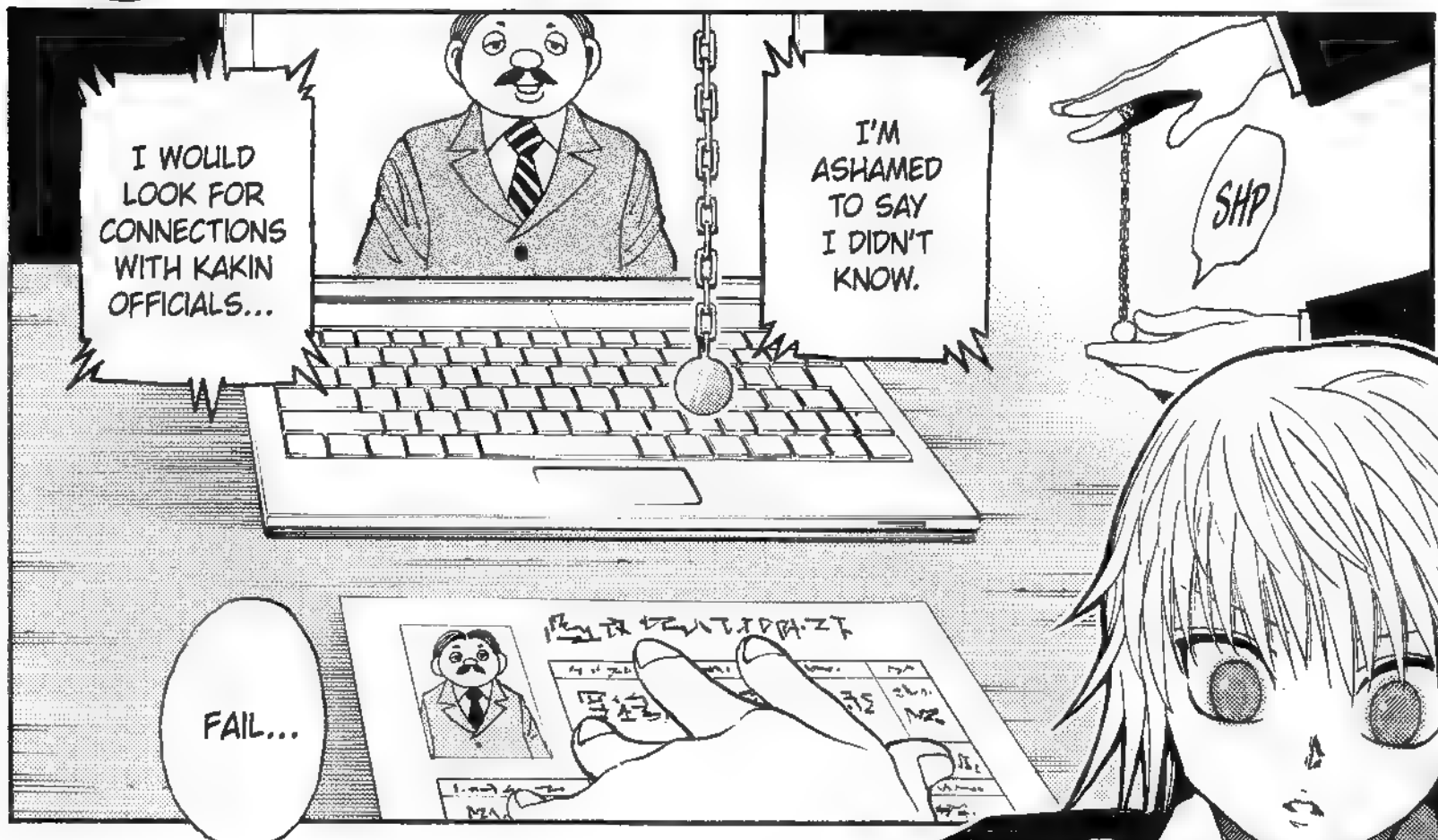
I KNEW IN ADVANCE, OF COURSE... I CAN'T DIVULGE MY SOURCES, UNFORTUNATELY.

HE'S MIXING TRUTH INTO HIS LIES.

FAIL.

HE KNOWS NOTHING.

PASS.



I WOULD LOOK FOR CONNECTIONS WITH KAKIN OFFICIALS...

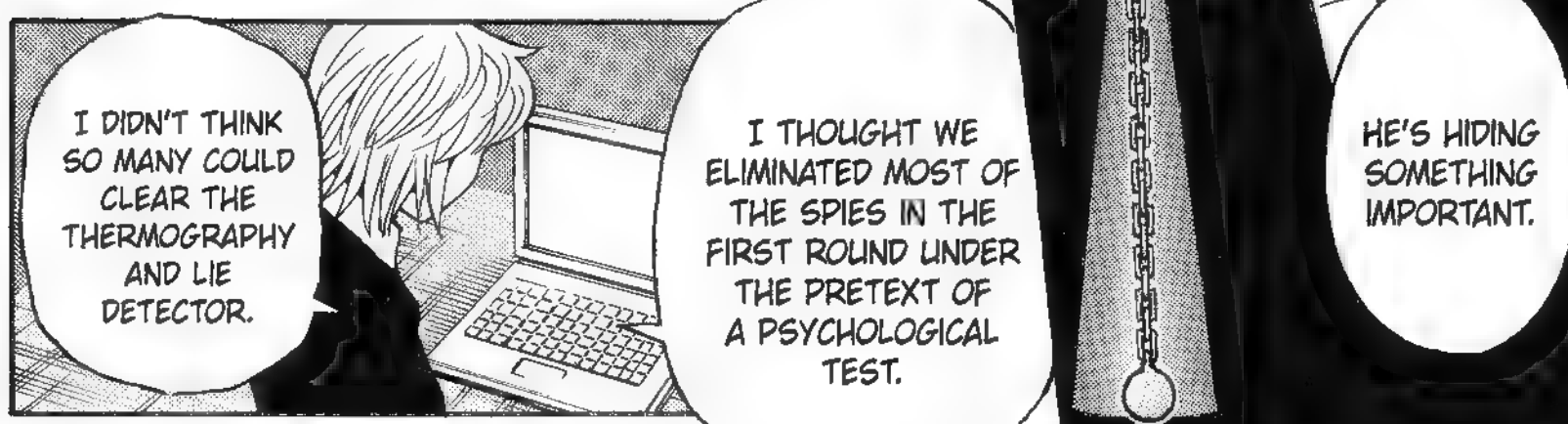
I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I DIDN'T KNOW.

FAIL...



INDEED.

I'M AMAZED...



I DIDN'T THINK SO MANY COULD CLEAR THE THERMOGRAPHY AND LIE DETECTOR.

I THOUGHT WE ELIMINATED MOST OF THE SPIES IN THE FIRST ROUND UNDER THE PRETEXT OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST.

HE'S HIDING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



...YOUR ABILITY.

NO, I'M TALKING ABOUT...



DON'T THINK TOO HIGHLY OF IT...

IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WAS MADE FOR THIS.

YOU WERE SO MODEST ABOUT IT, BUT...



I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THE MECHANISM OF THIS ABILITY MYSELF.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC RISK?



BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE HAVEN'T MISSED SOME.

IT'S TRUE WE UNCOVERED MORE NEW SPIES THAN EXPECTED.



...THROUGH EXTREME FOCUS, I'M DETECTING IMPERCEPTIBLE CHANGES THAT TRANSCEND MY PERCEPTION AND TRANSMIT THOSE TO THE CHAIN.

SINCE I CAN'T USE IT WITHOUT BEING FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE SUBJECT IN MY NORMAL STATE, I CAN INFER THAT...

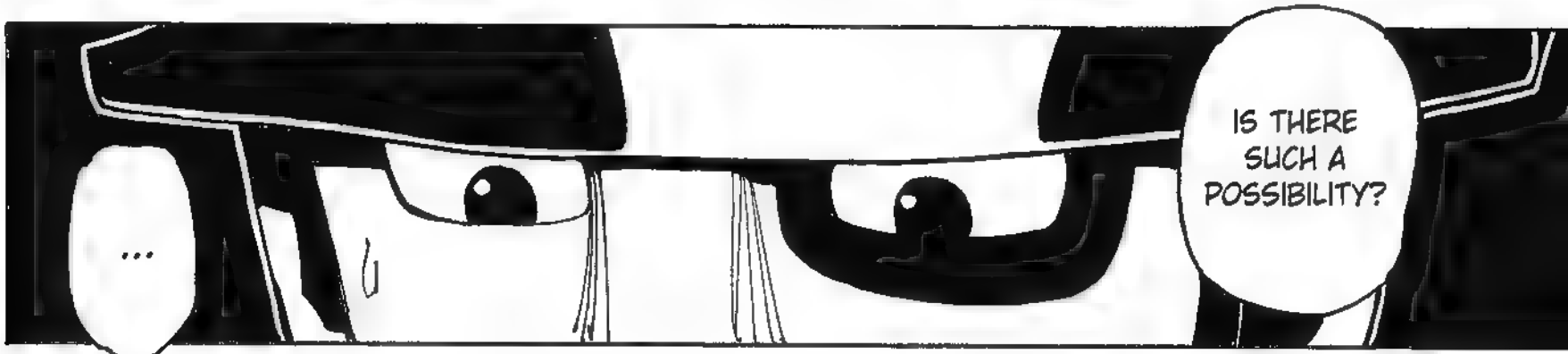
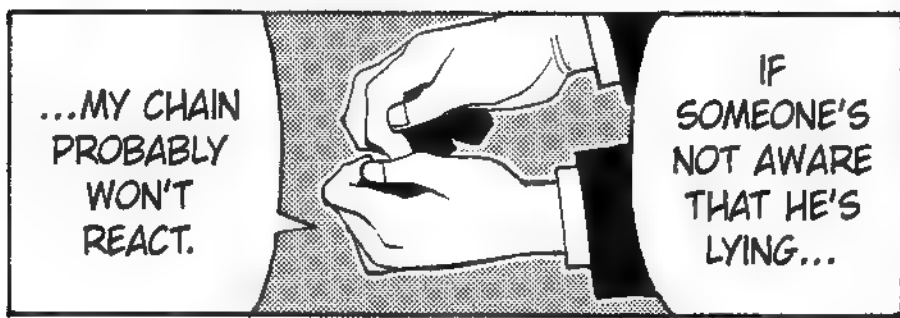
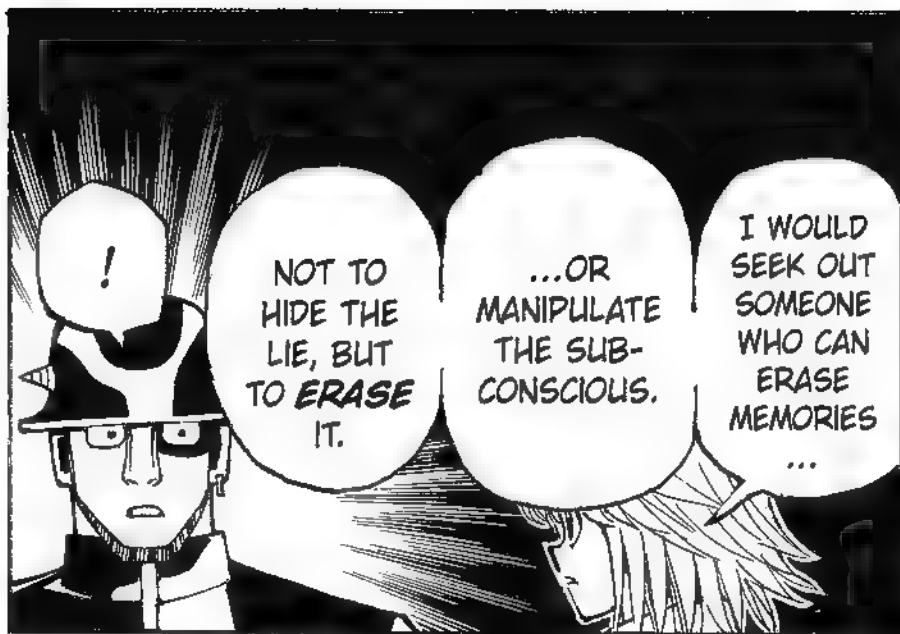
...THE ABILITY CAN ONLY SEE THROUGH TRAINED LIARS.

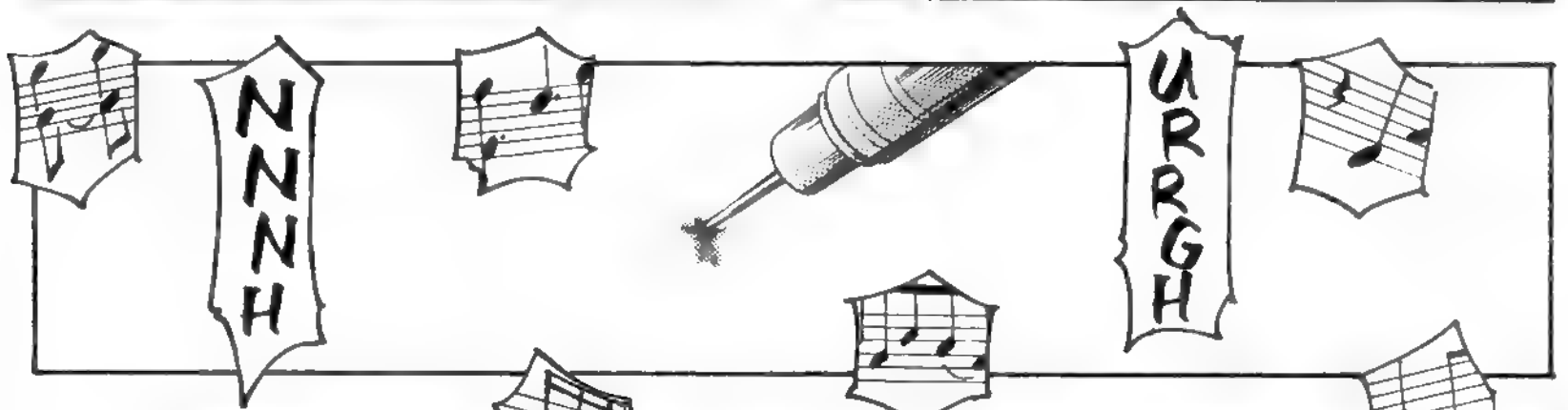
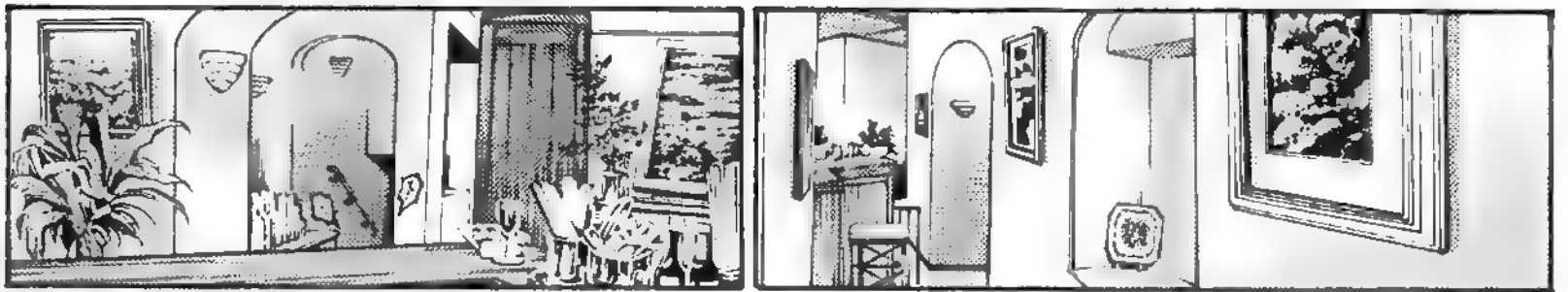
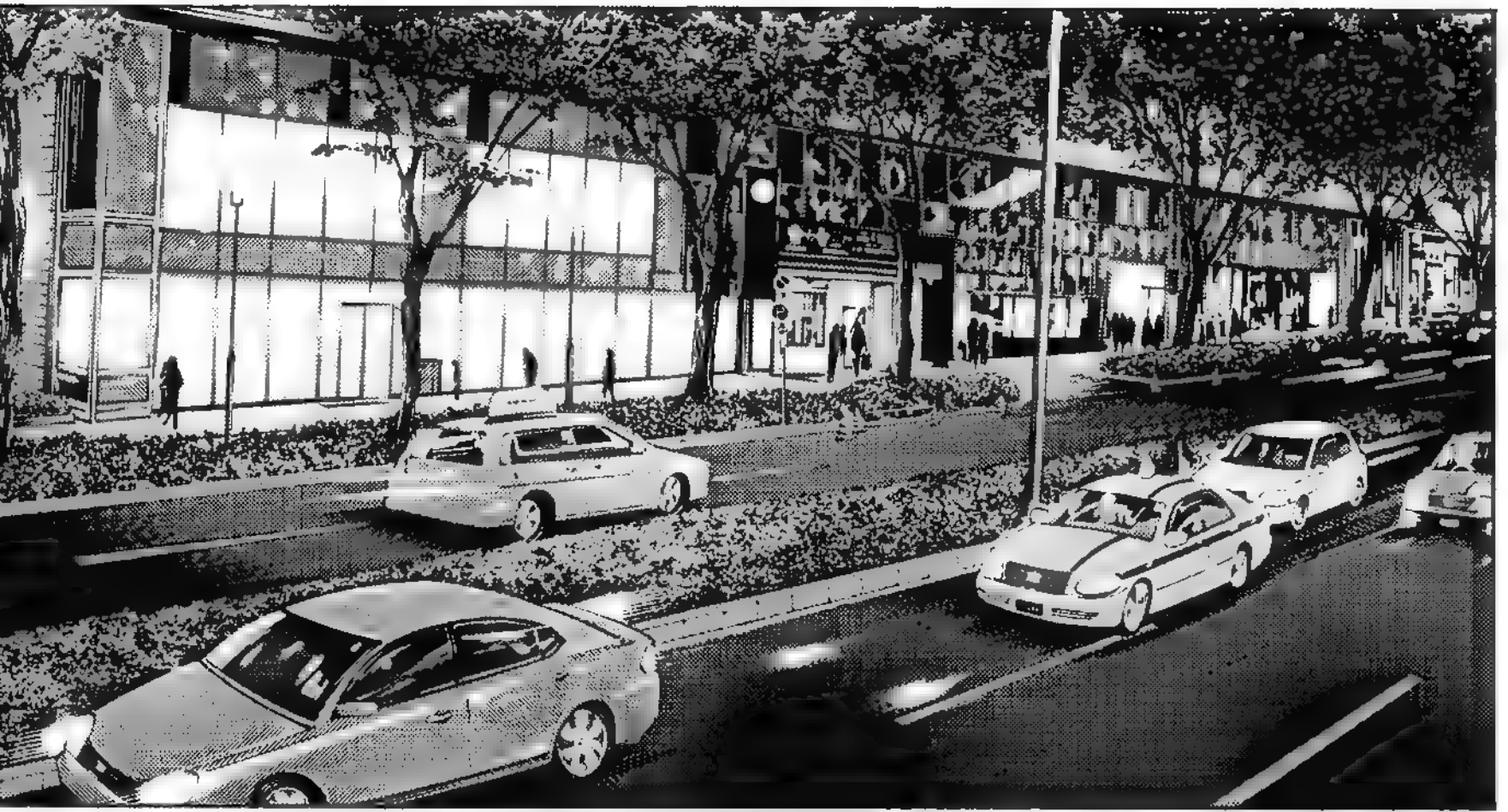
HOWEVER...

AT LEAST THAT'S HOW I INTERPRET THIS.

EMPEROR TIME FURTHER HONES THE SKILL SO THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO DETECT THEM THROUGH VIDEO, AS LONG AS I'VE MET THE SUBJECT BEFORE.









HEY, BIG BROTHER.

GOOD NEWS.



GRRR

IT'S BENJAMIN.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

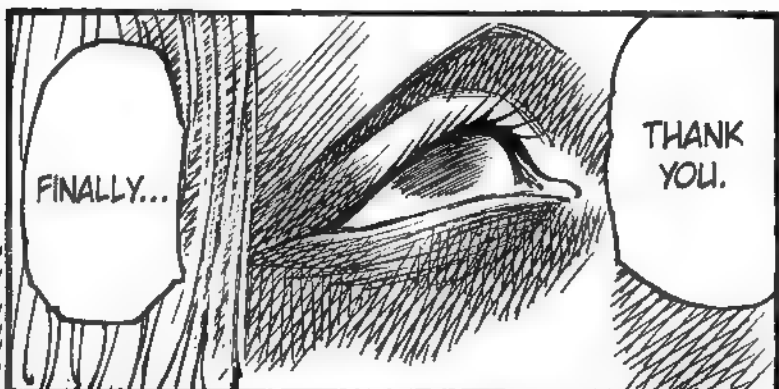
DAD AGREED TO THE DEAL.

GGGARRAG



"THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THIS VOYAGE WILL BE THE NEXT KING."

YEAH... HE MADE THE DECLARATION.

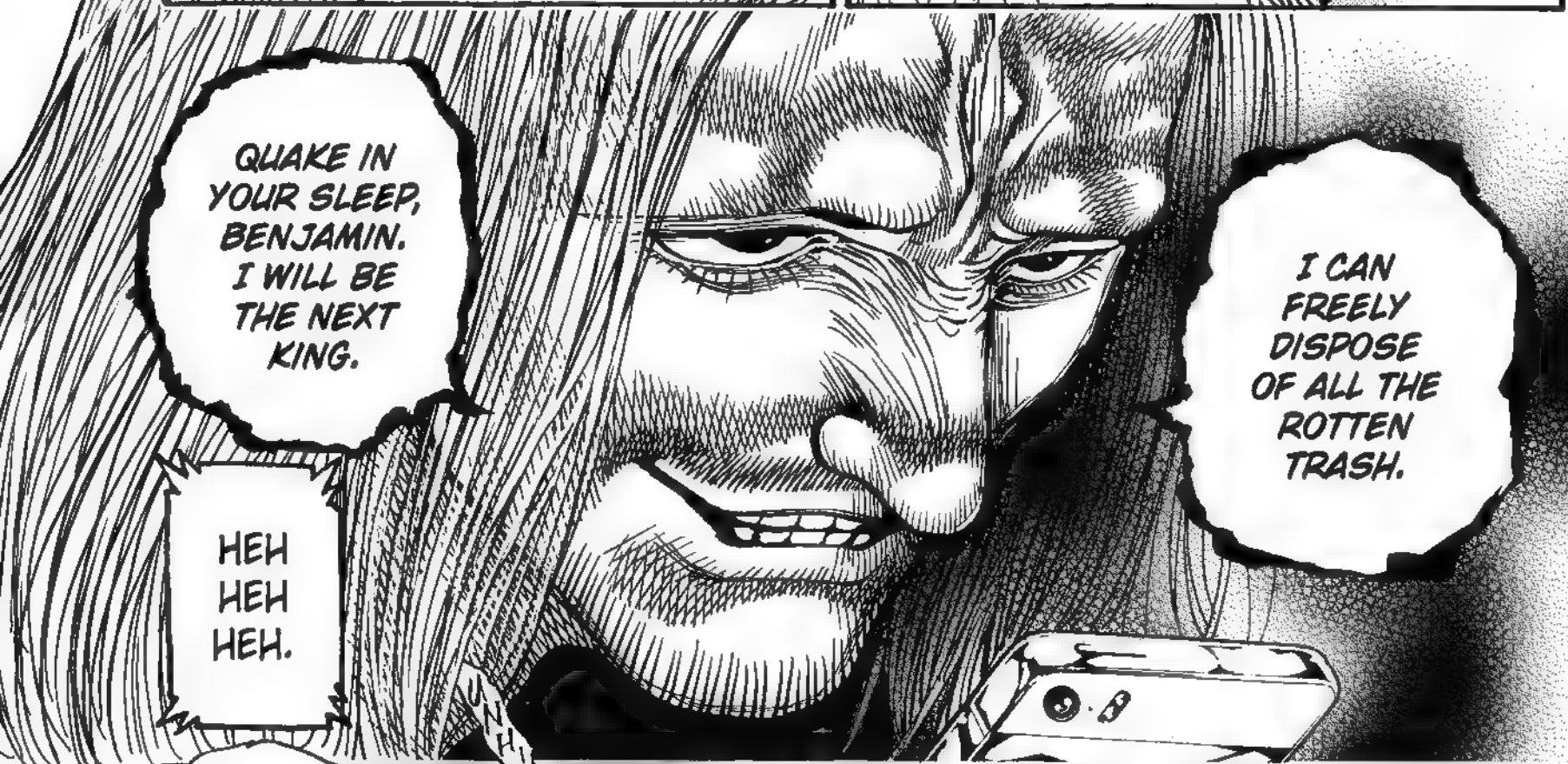


FINALLY...

THANK YOU.



AH...  
DEAR GOD.



QUAKE IN YOUR SLEEP, BENJAMIN. I WILL BE THE NEXT KING.

I CAN FREELY DISPOSE OF ALL THE ROTTEN TRASH.

HEH HEH HEH.

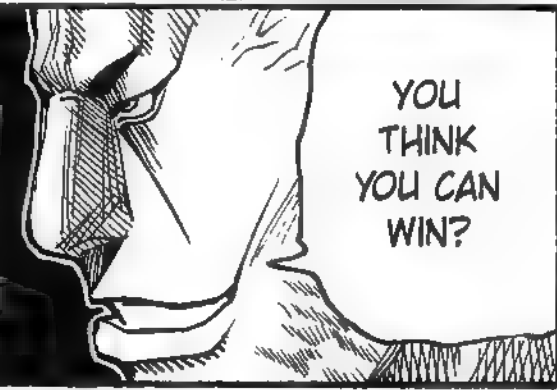


DID YOU TELL EVERYONE ELSE?

A NATURAL HIGH.



ARE YOU HIGH ON SOMETHING?



YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN?



I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW FIRST.

DAD'S MESSENGERS WILL BRING THE BROTHERS ALL THE DETAILS.



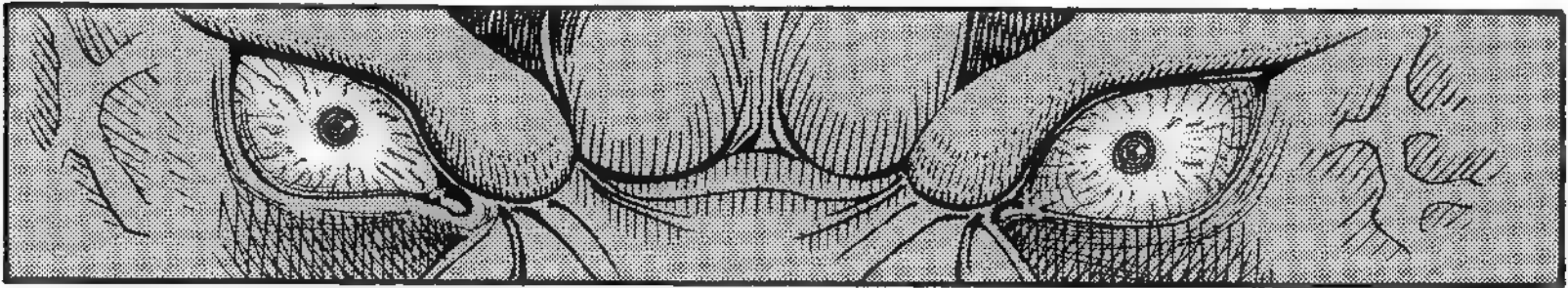
KNOW WHAT? JUST DON'T CALL ME AGAIN, IMBECILE.

SCARY.



I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY.

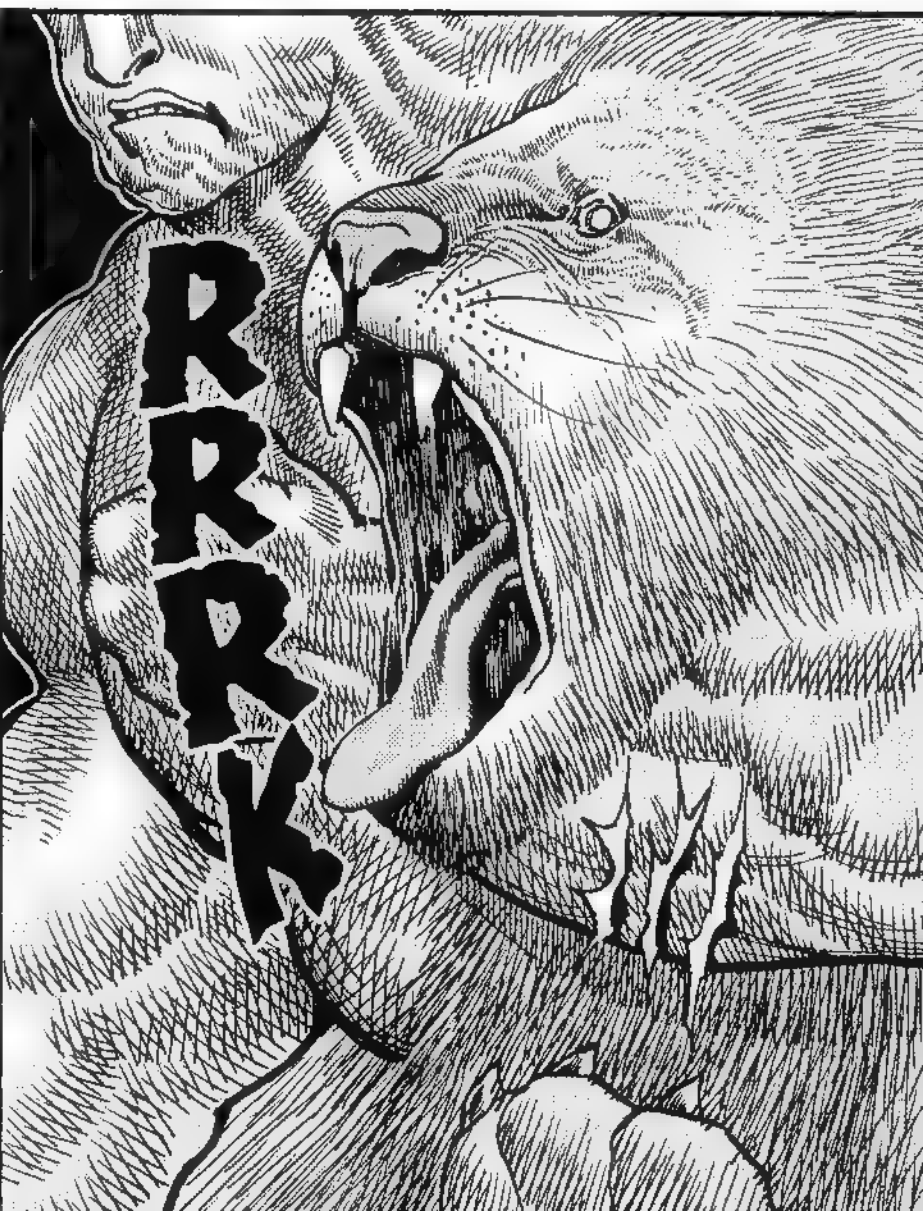
I'LL GET RID OF YOU MYSELF, YOU \$@%#...!!

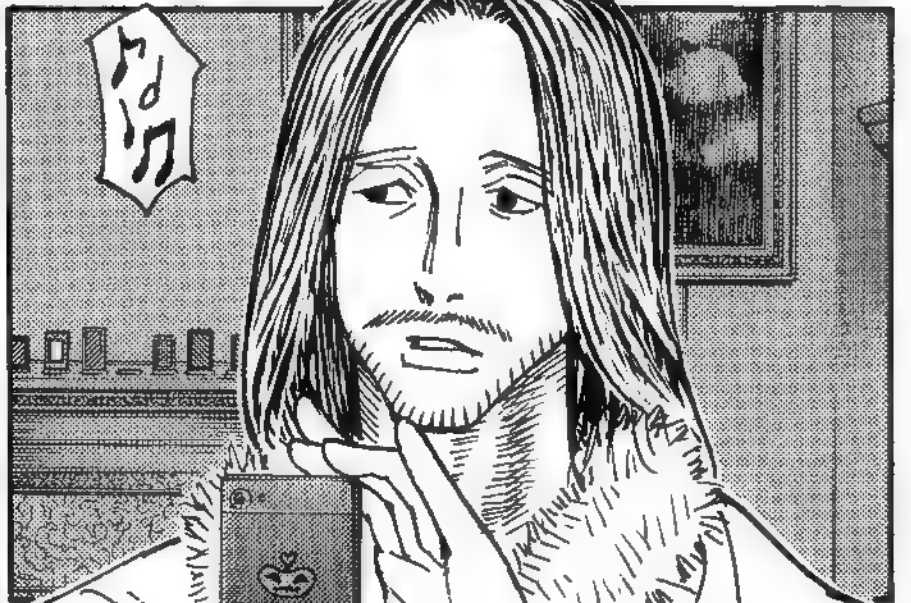
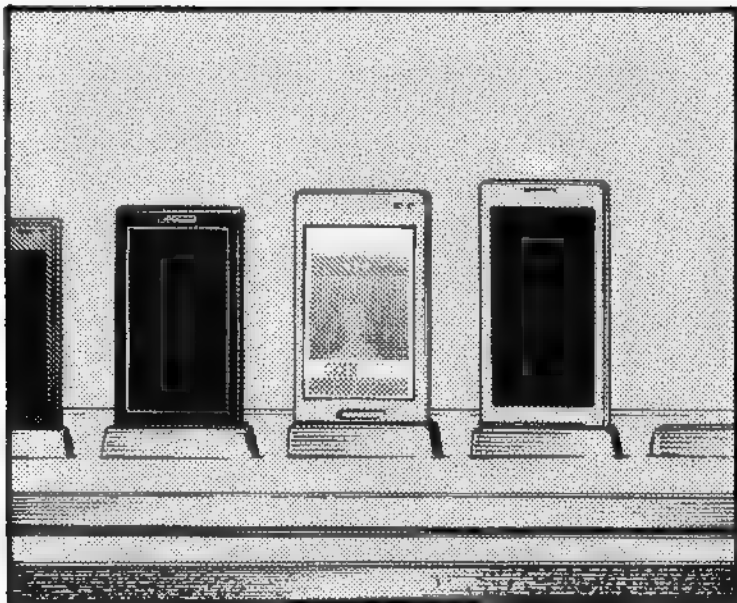
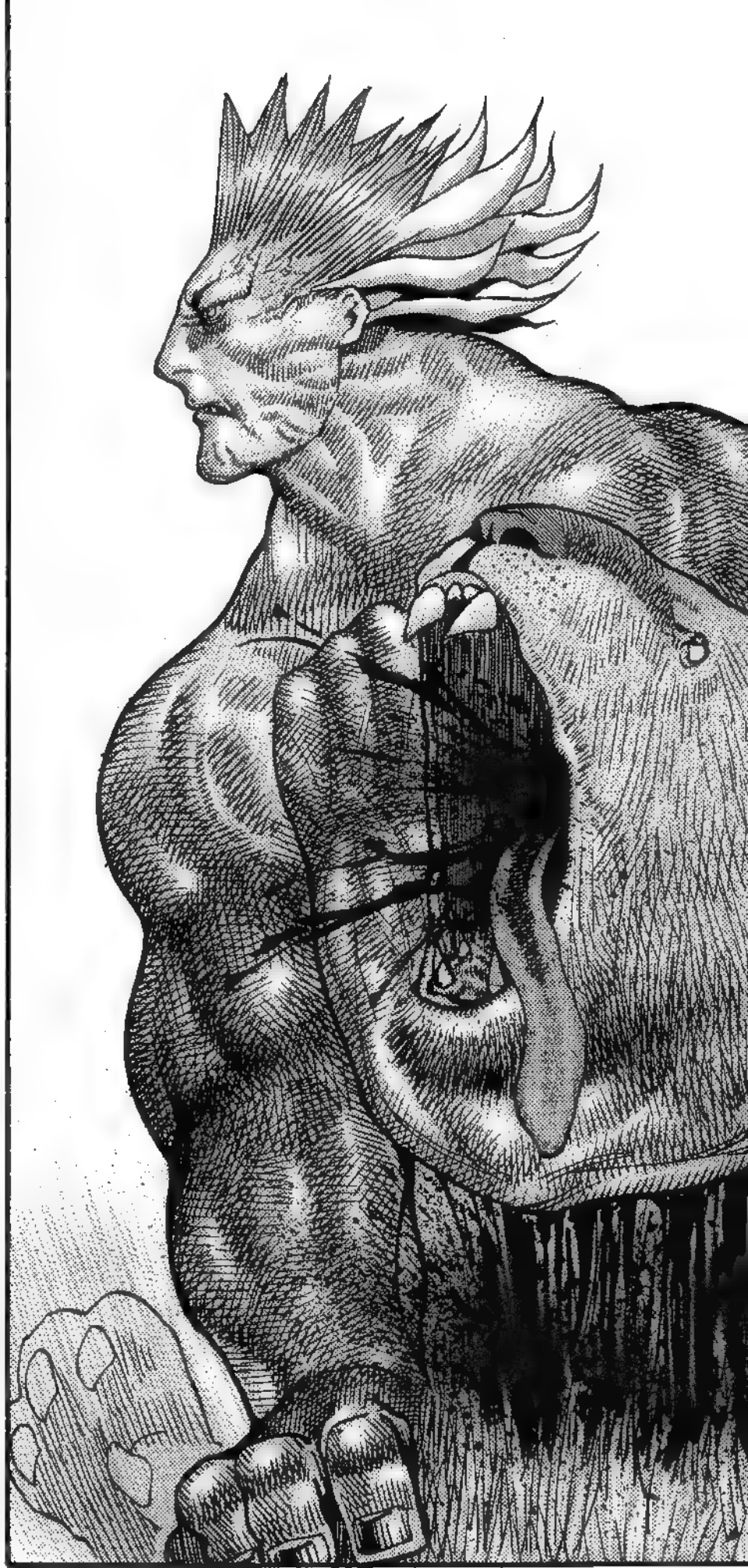


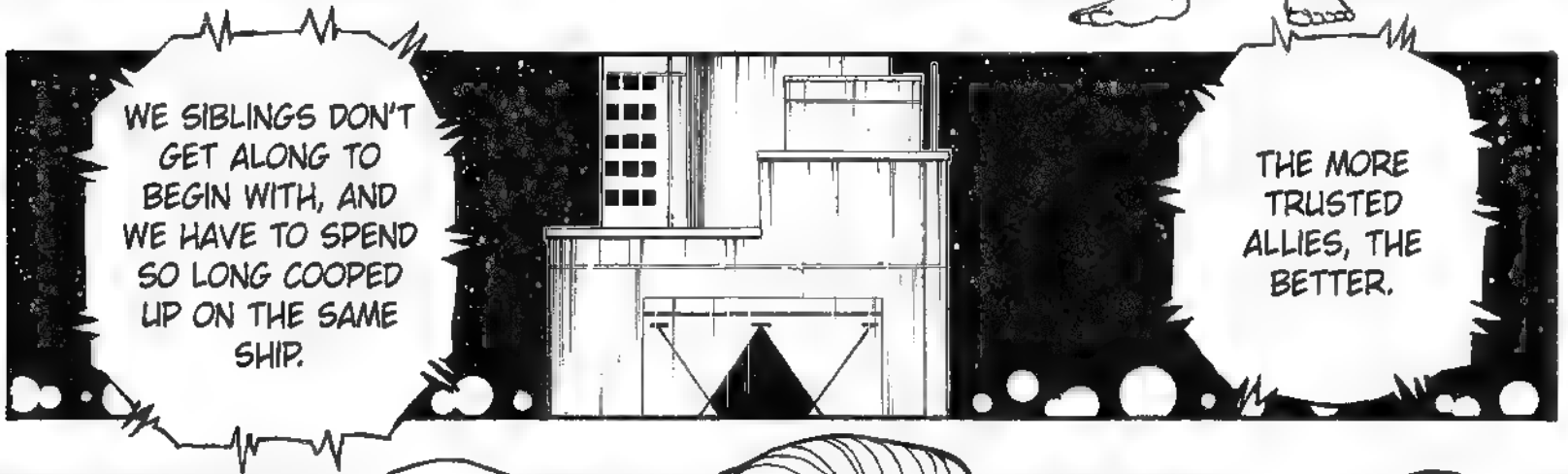
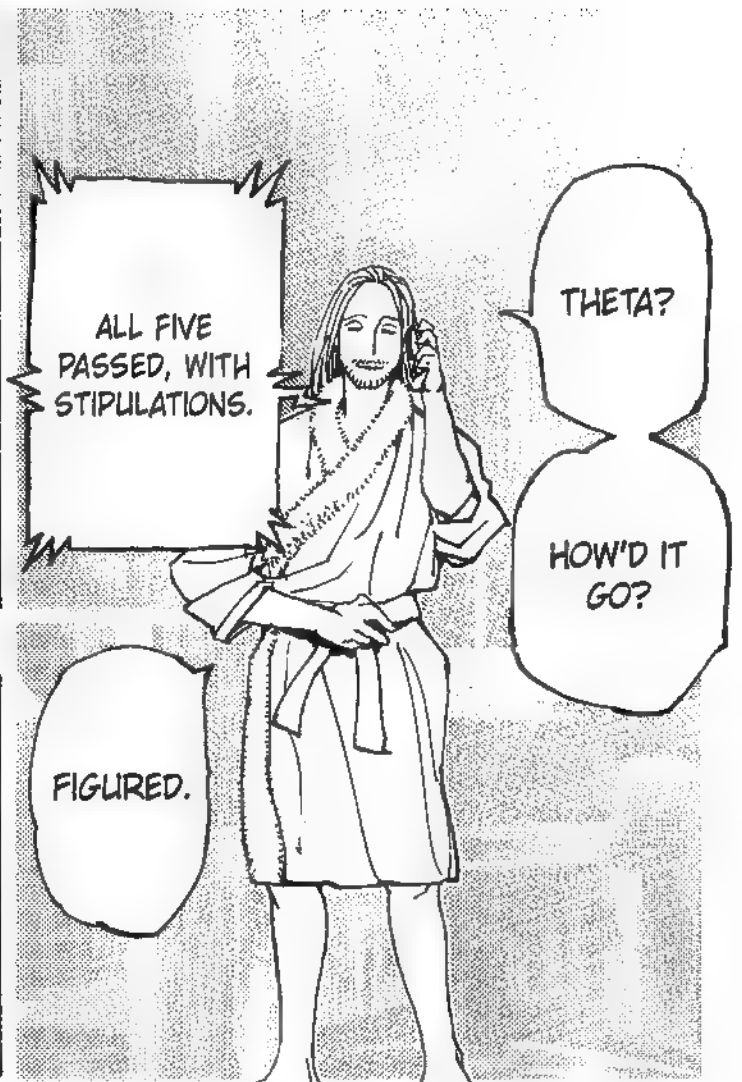
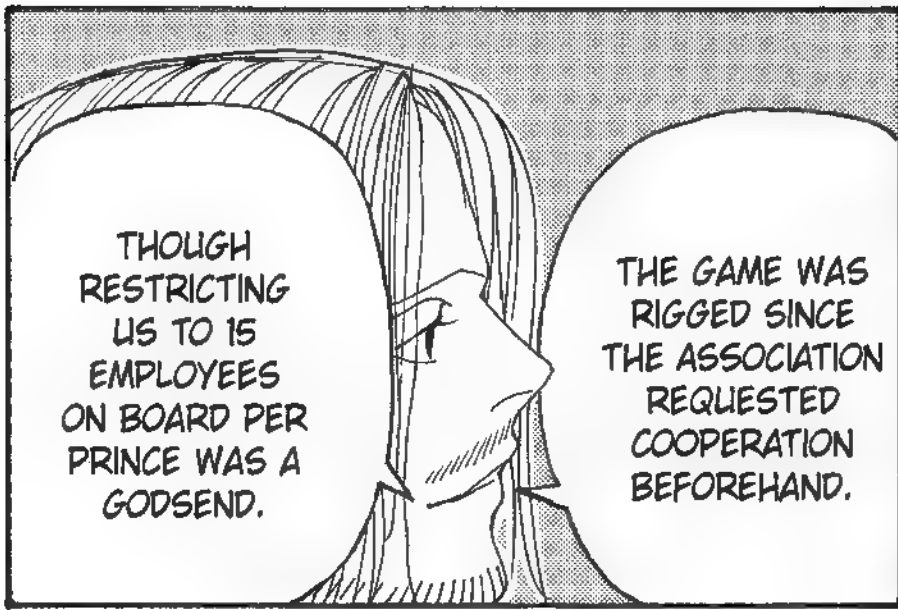
HGRU  
HGRU  
ZZTT

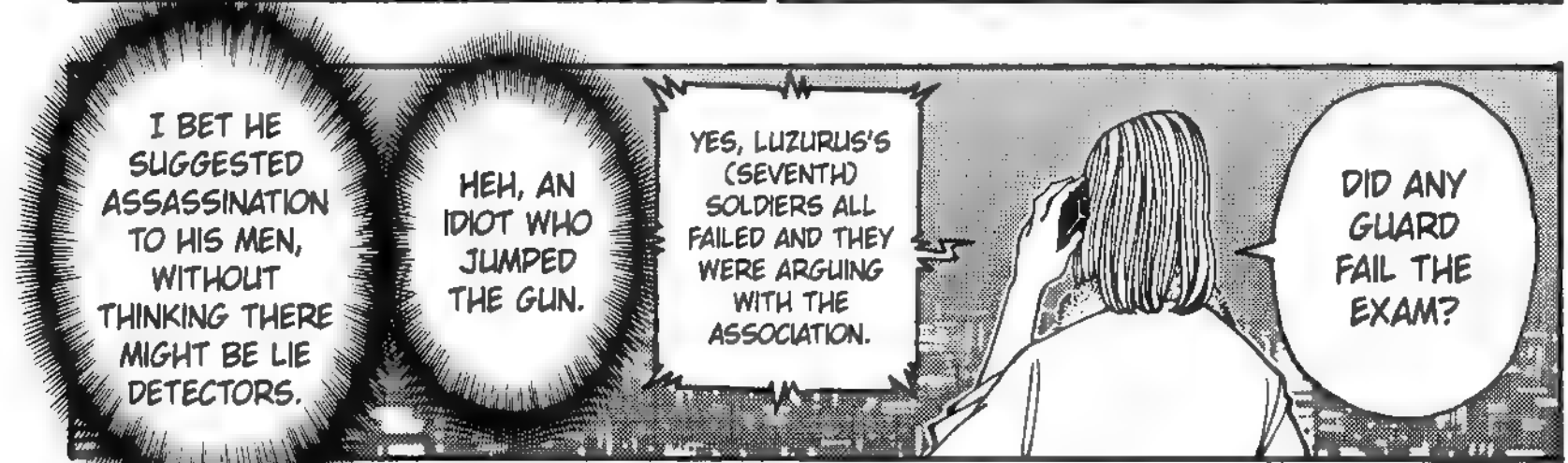
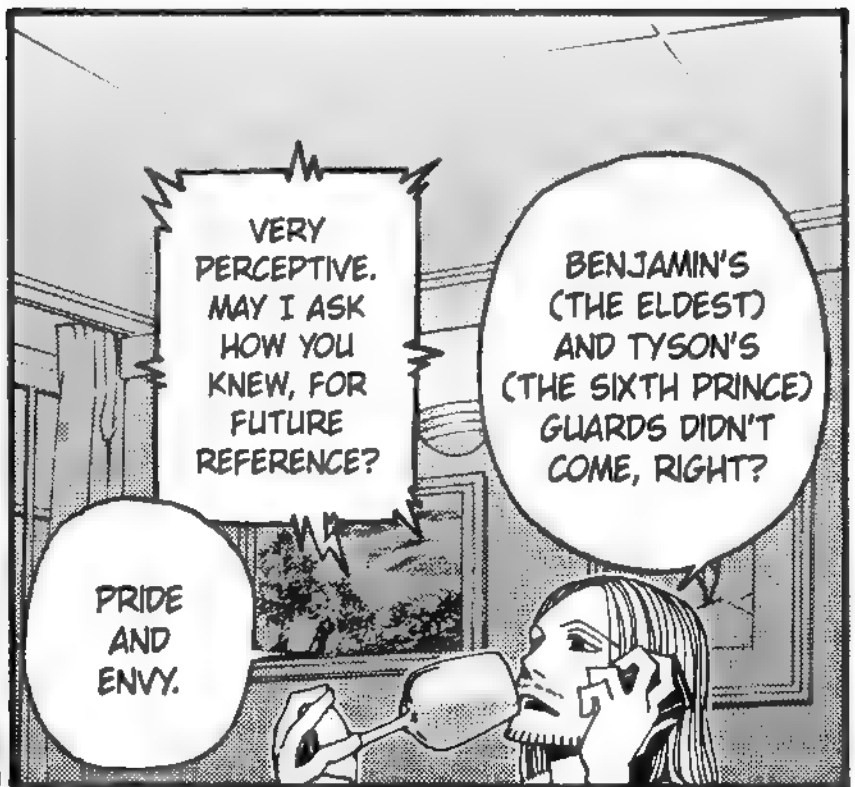
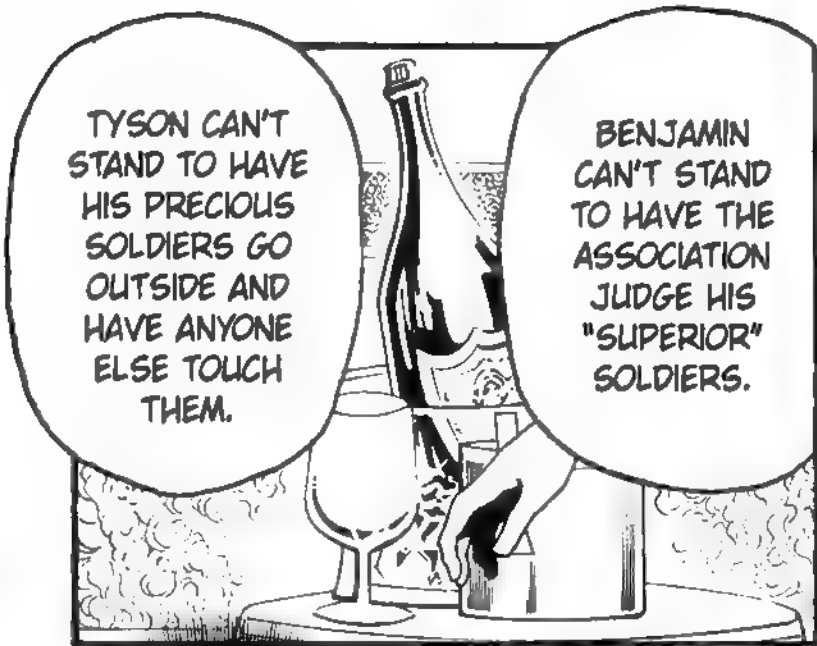
MEN WHO SWEAR INDISCRIMINATELY AND GIRLS WHO SAY "LIKE" A LOT ARE FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME.

DON'T YOU THINK?







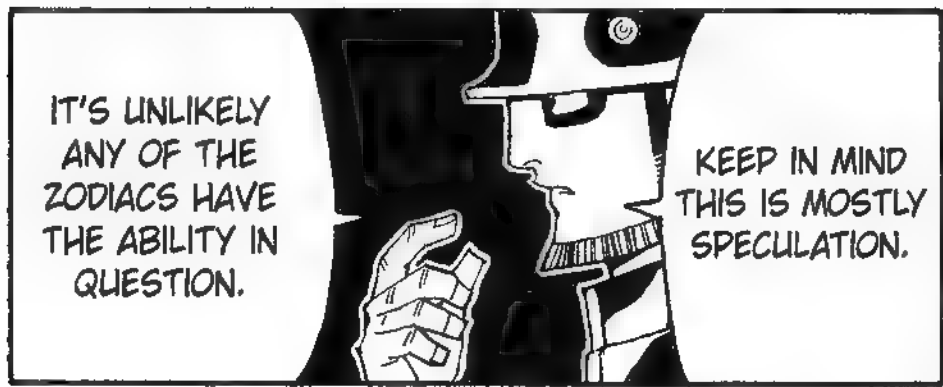






...THERE'S A POSSIBILITY.

I DON'T THINK...



IT'S UNLIKELY ANY OF THE ZODIACS HAVE THE ABILITY IN QUESTION.

KEEP IN MIND THIS IS MOSTLY SPECULATION.



ON WHAT BASIS?

HM.



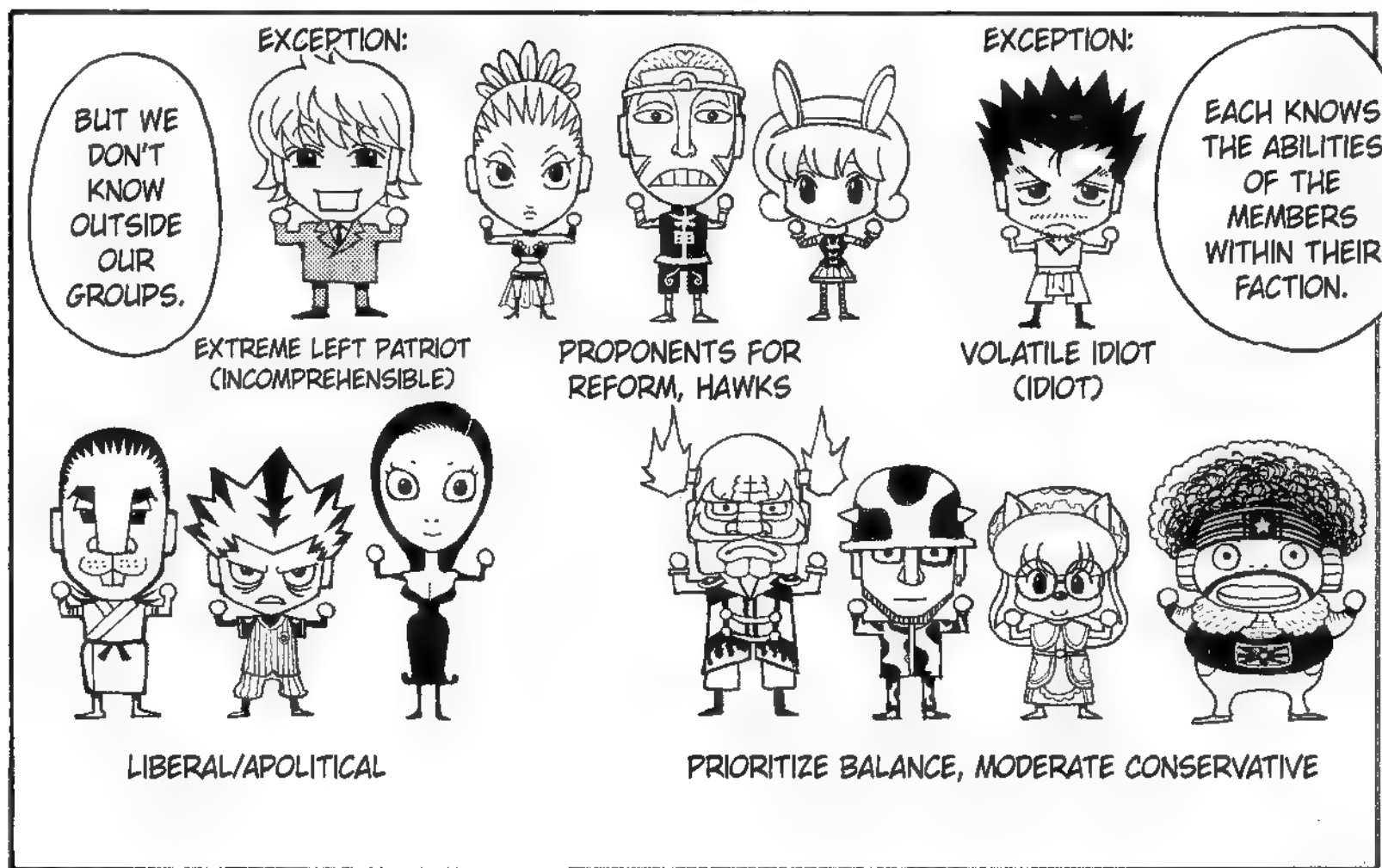
IN NORMAL MISSIONS, WE OFTEN WORKED WITHIN FACTIONS BECAUSE THAT'S HOW WE GOT ALONG.

THERE WERE THREE FACTIONS IN THE ORIGINAL ZODIACS.

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT.

BUT...

"UNLIKELY" ONLY BECAUSE I DON'T YET KNOW EVERYONE'S ABILITY.



BUT WE DON'T KNOW OUTSIDE OUR GROUPS.

EXCEPTION:



EXTREME LEFT PATRIOT (INCOMPREHENSIBLE)



PROponents FOR REFORM, HAWKS



EXCEPTION:



VOLATILE IDIOT (IDIOT)

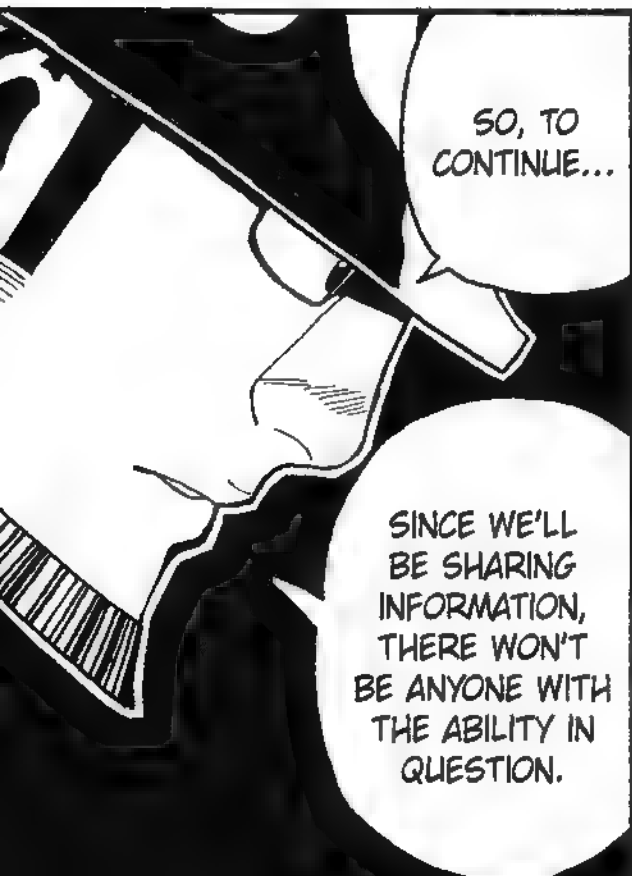
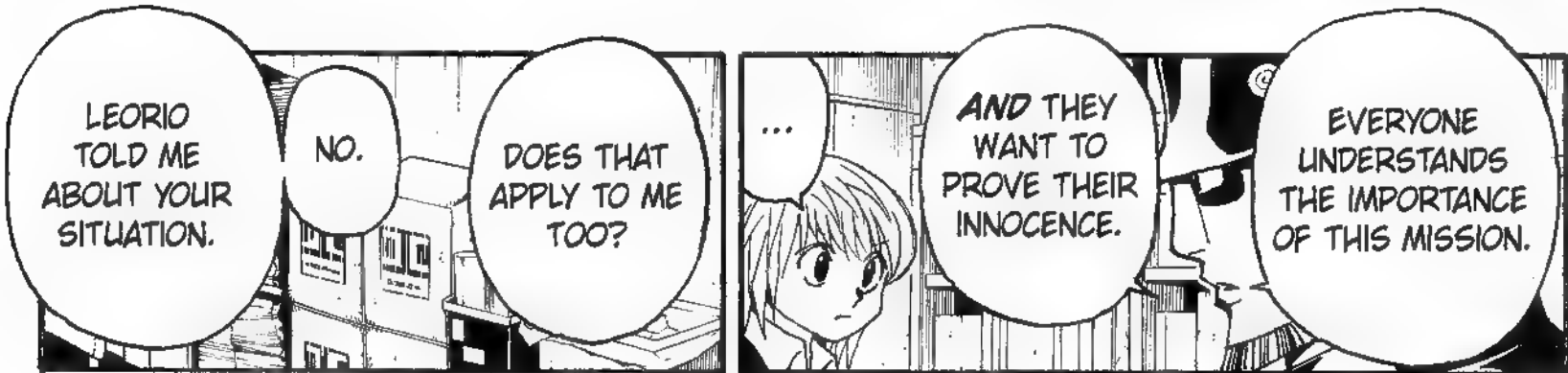
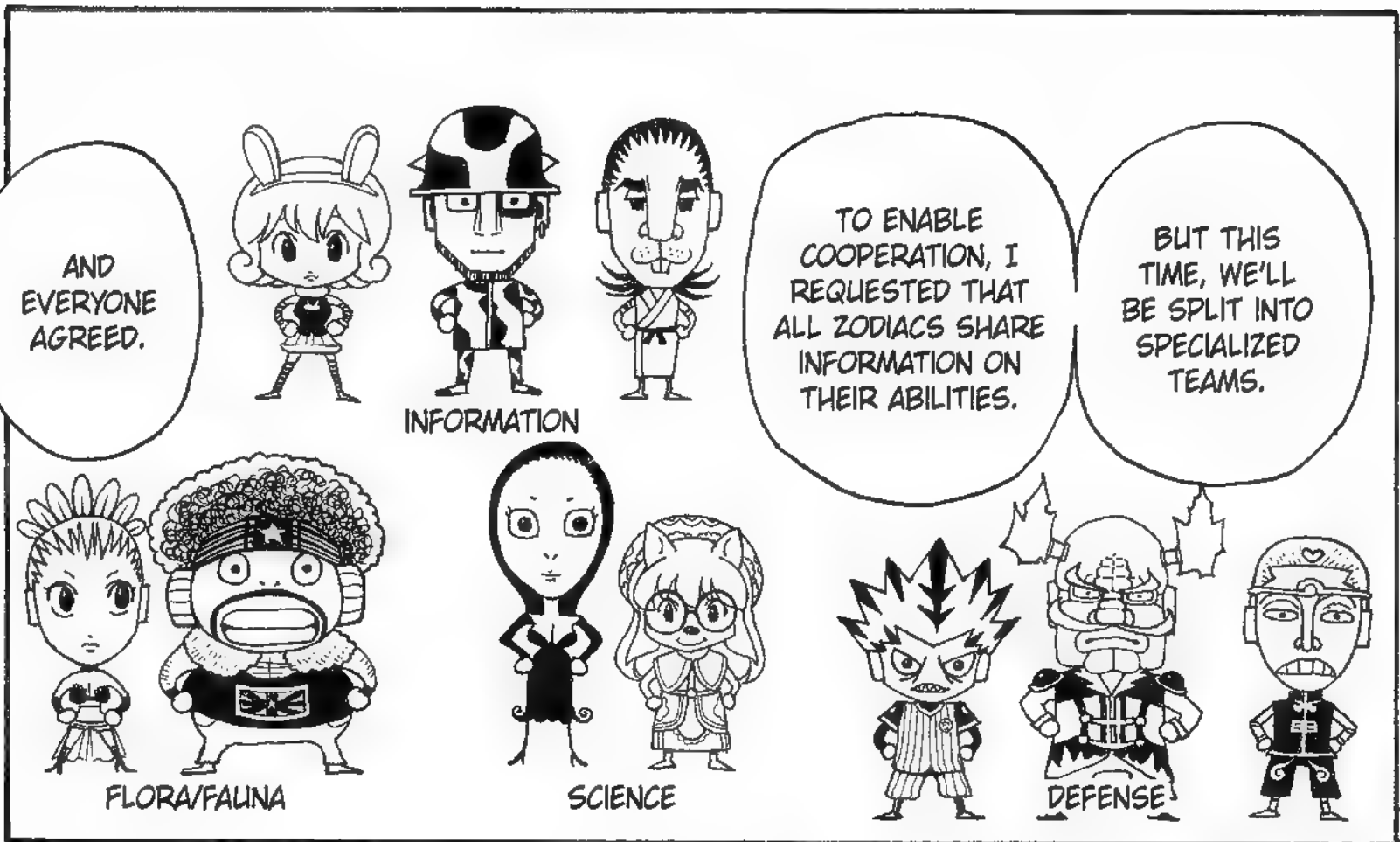
EACH KNOWS THE ABILITIES OF THE MEMBERS WITHIN THEIR FACTION.

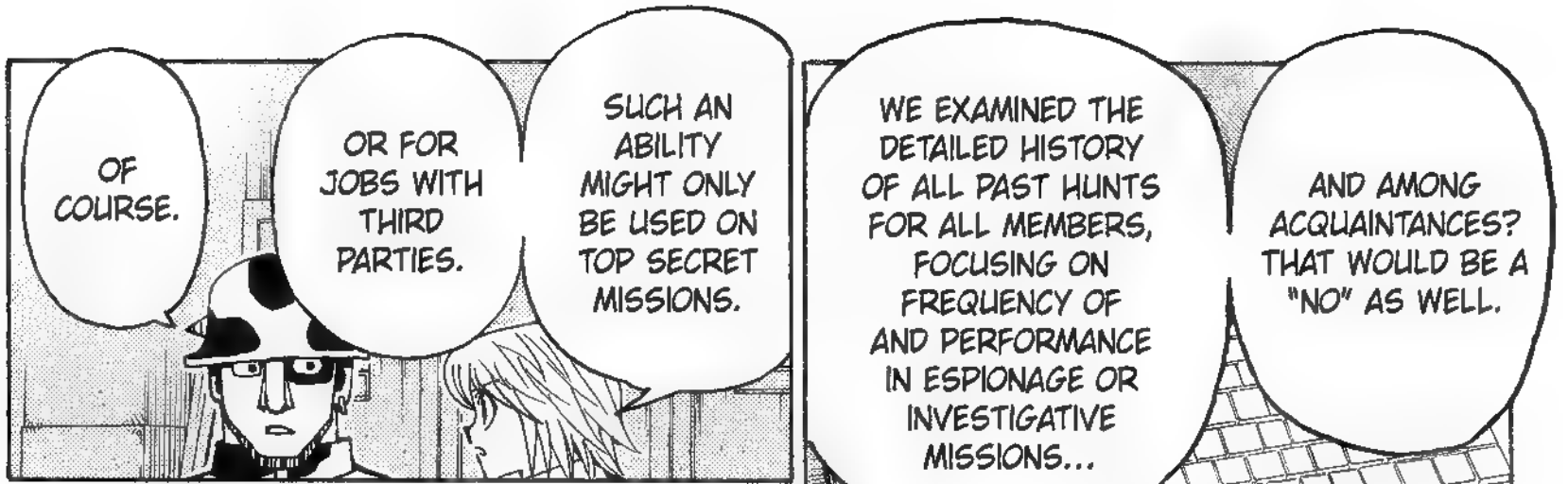


LIBERAL/APOLITICAL



PRIORITIZE BALANCE, MODERATE CONSERVATIVE





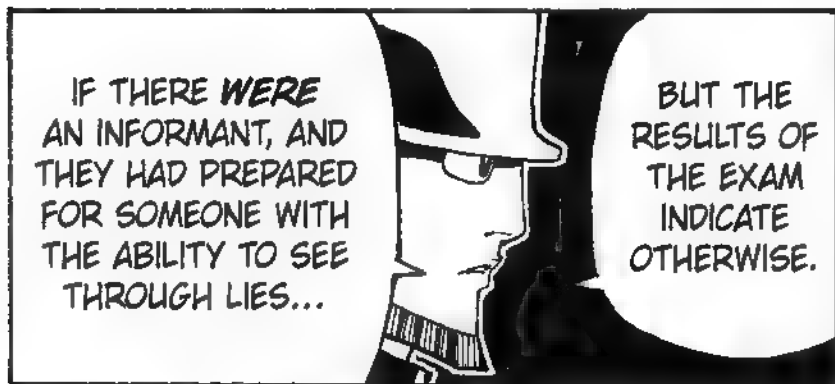
OF COURSE.

OR FOR JOBS WITH THIRD PARTIES.

SUCH AN ABILITY MIGHT ONLY BE USED ON TOP SECRET MISSIONS.

WE EXAMINED THE DETAILED HISTORY OF ALL PAST HUNTS FOR ALL MEMBERS, FOCUSING ON FREQUENCY OF AND PERFORMANCE IN ESPIONAGE OR INVESTIGATIVE MISSIONS...

AND AMONG ACQUAINTANCES? THAT WOULD BE A "NO" AS WELL.

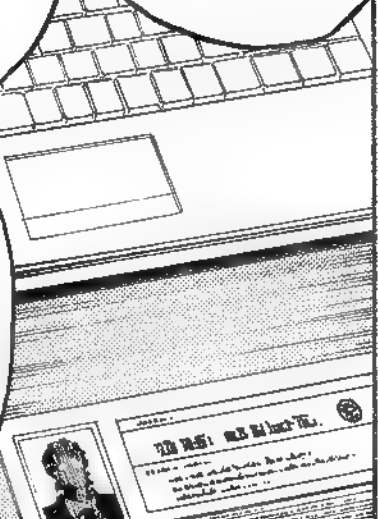


IF THERE WERE AN INFORMANT, AND THEY HAD PREPARED FOR SOMEONE WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH LIES...

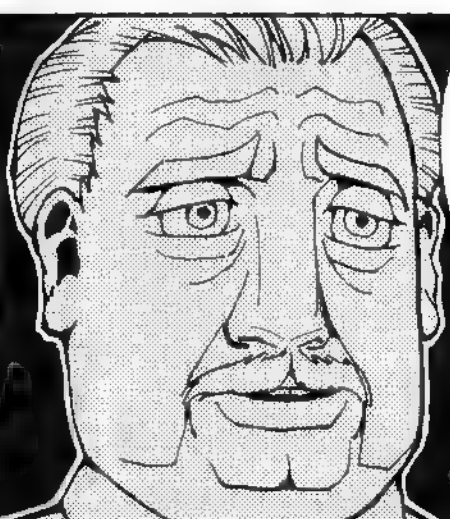


BUT THE RESULTS OF THE EXAM INDICATE OTHERWISE.

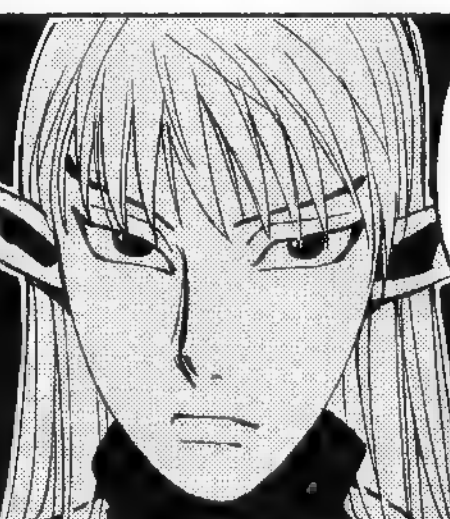
BUT THERE WAS NOBODY WHOSE PERFORMANCE DEVIATED FROM EXPECTATION—LIKE YOU WOULD PREDICT IF THEY HAD SUCH AN ABILITY.



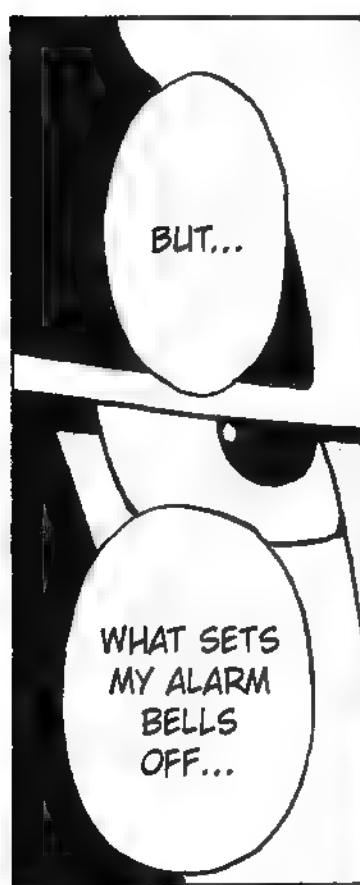
WHY WOULDN'T THEY HAVE ENSURED THAT THESE TWO PASSED?



JUHNDE THE BIO-CHEMIST.



MUHERR THE MERCENARY.



BUT...

WHAT SETS MY ALARM BELLS OFF...

SURE, THEY COULD BE DECOYS TO DISTRACT US FROM EVEN MORE POWERFUL SPIES.

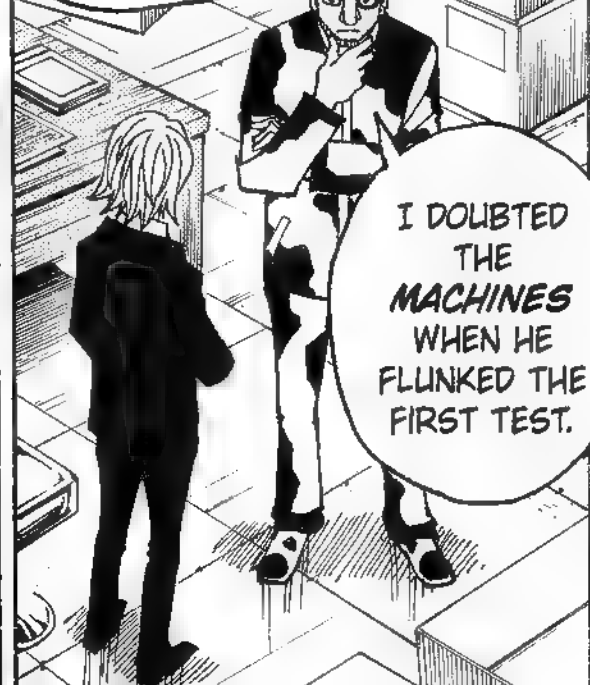
THERE ARE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES...

THEY SENT SOMEONE CAPABLE OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT POST. SURELY THEY WOULD'VE TAKEN MEASURES HAD THEY KNOWN ABOUT OUR TRAP.



I EVEN CONSIDERED JUHNDE AS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE SCIENCE AND FLORA/FAUNA TEAMS.

BOTH TOP-RATED PERSONNEL.

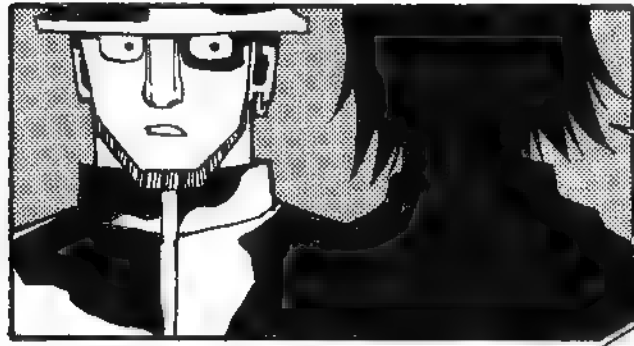


I DOUBTED THE MACHINES WHEN HE FLUNKED THE FIRST TEST.

...SO EASILY  
AFTER HE  
LOST THE  
ELECTION  
BECAUSE...

...HIS  
SPY WAS  
ALREADY IN  
PLACE...!!

...IS THE  
IDEA THAT  
PARISTON  
LEFT...



WE COULD  
PUT THEM  
TO THE TEST  
SECRETLY...



I  
SEE.

...I'LL  
OFFER MY  
ASSISTANCE.



IF YOU SO  
DESIRE...



...OF THE DEFENSE TEAM, THE EARLIER WE SHARE INFORMATION, THE BETTER.

THIS IS ABOUT OUR ABILITIES, RIGHT? SPEAKING AS A MEMBER...

NO NEWBIES? ARE WE DISCUSSING BULLYING THEM?

WHAT NOW, MIZAI?

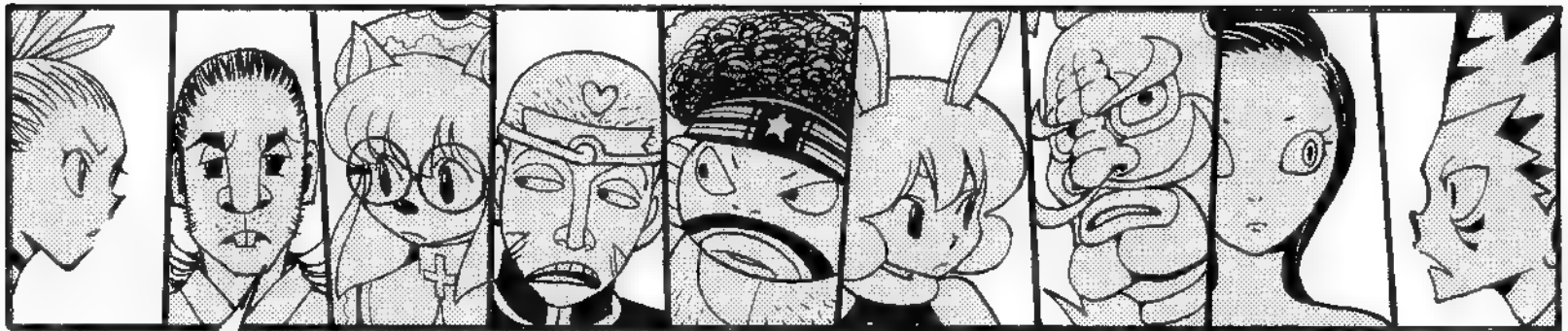
...WE MUST FIND OUT BEFORE THE VOYAGE.

AND INCIDENTAL TO THAT, THERE'S SOMETHING...

YES.

WOULD YOU STILL BE ABLE TO REVEAL YOUR ABILITY?

THERE MIGHT BE A MOLE AMONG US.



MIZAI  
!!!

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS...?!

HEY!

WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING...?

HEY...

HUH...? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THERE CAN'T BE...



BOTH STANDPOINTS ARE POSSIBLE.

IT'S A QUESTION OF SEQUENCE...! THIS ISN'T ABOUT SUSPICIONS OR BETRAYALS.

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING IF YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO REVEAL YOUR ABILITY...!

...I WOULD'VE GLADLY HELPED TO MAKE HIS DREAM A REALITY.

IF...I HAD MET BEYOND BEFORE I HEARD ABOUT THE CHAIRMAN'S MISSION...

AND I WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED MY MIND AFTER I SAW THE CHAIRMAN'S VIDEO.





**TADA!**

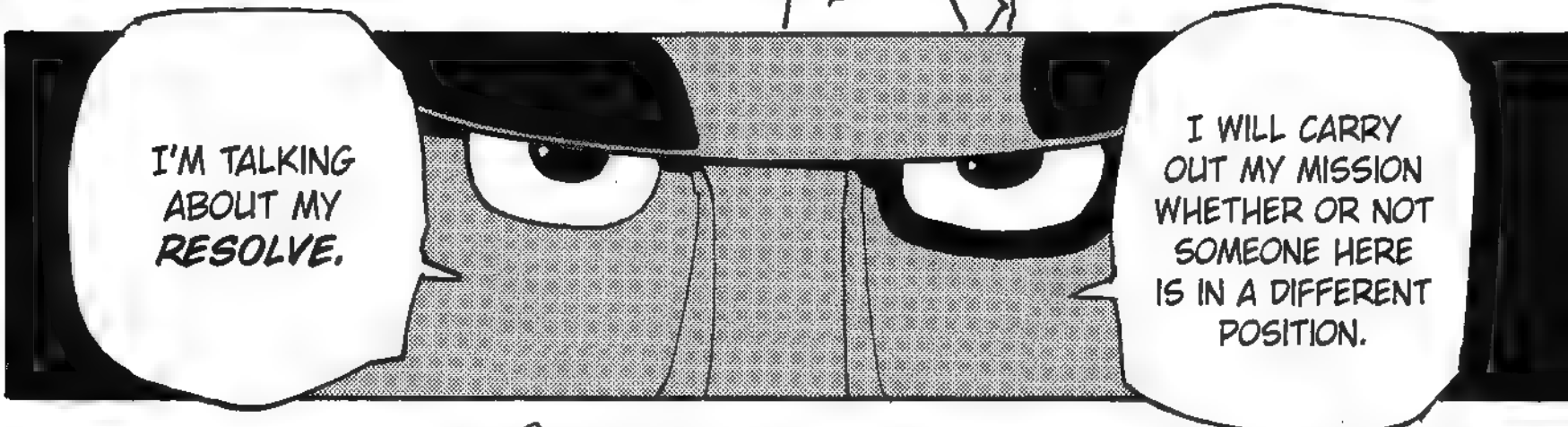
**I CAN!**



THAT'S MY ABILITY: **CROSS GAME.**

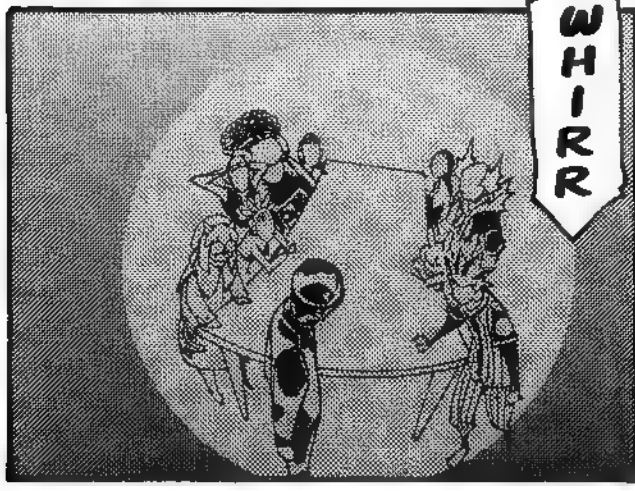
BLUE TO ADMIT THEM TO THE "COURTROOM," YELLOW TO PUT THEM UNDER MY CONTROL, AND RED TO DISMISS THEM.

I USE CARDS OF THREE COLORS TO RESTRICT ACTIONS.

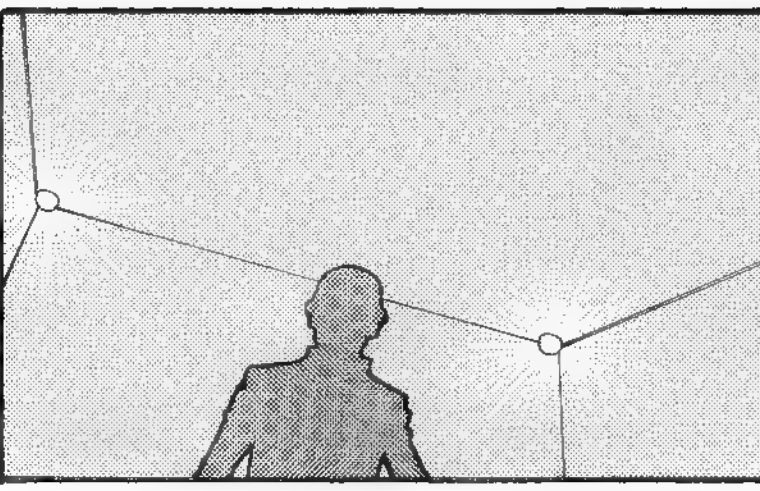
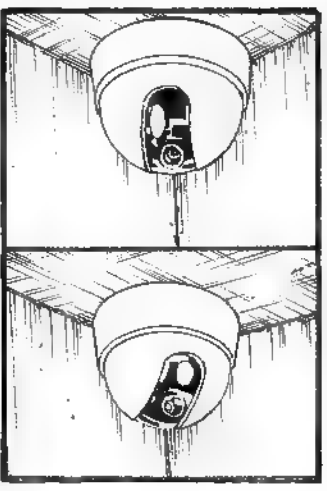


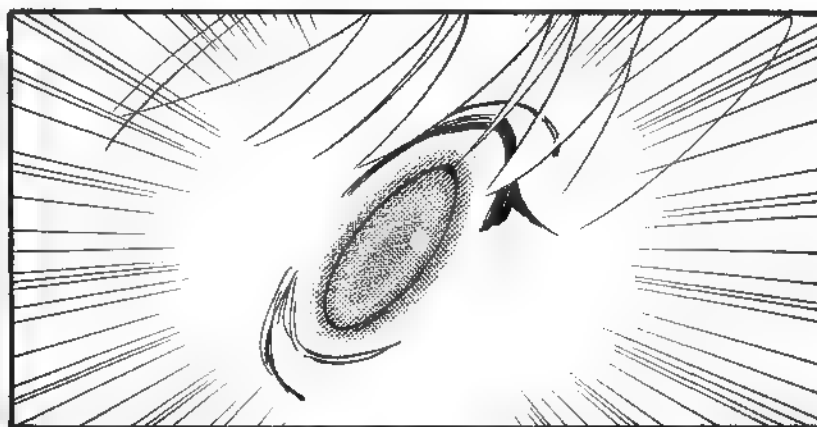
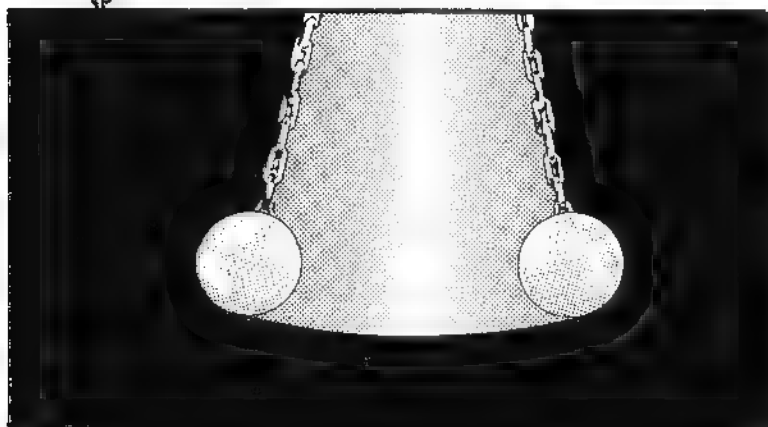
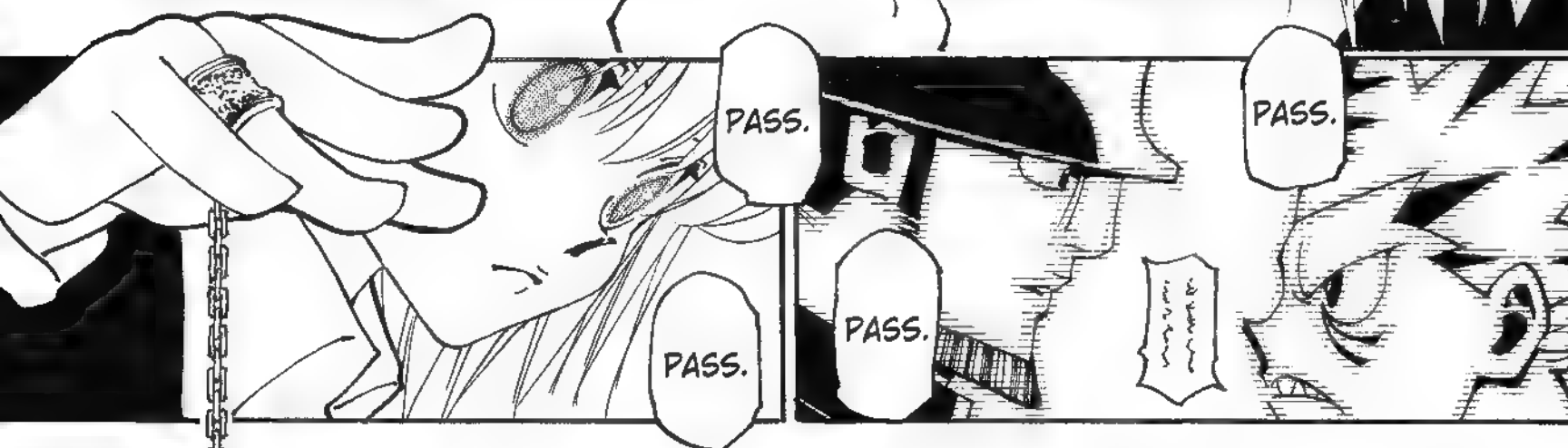
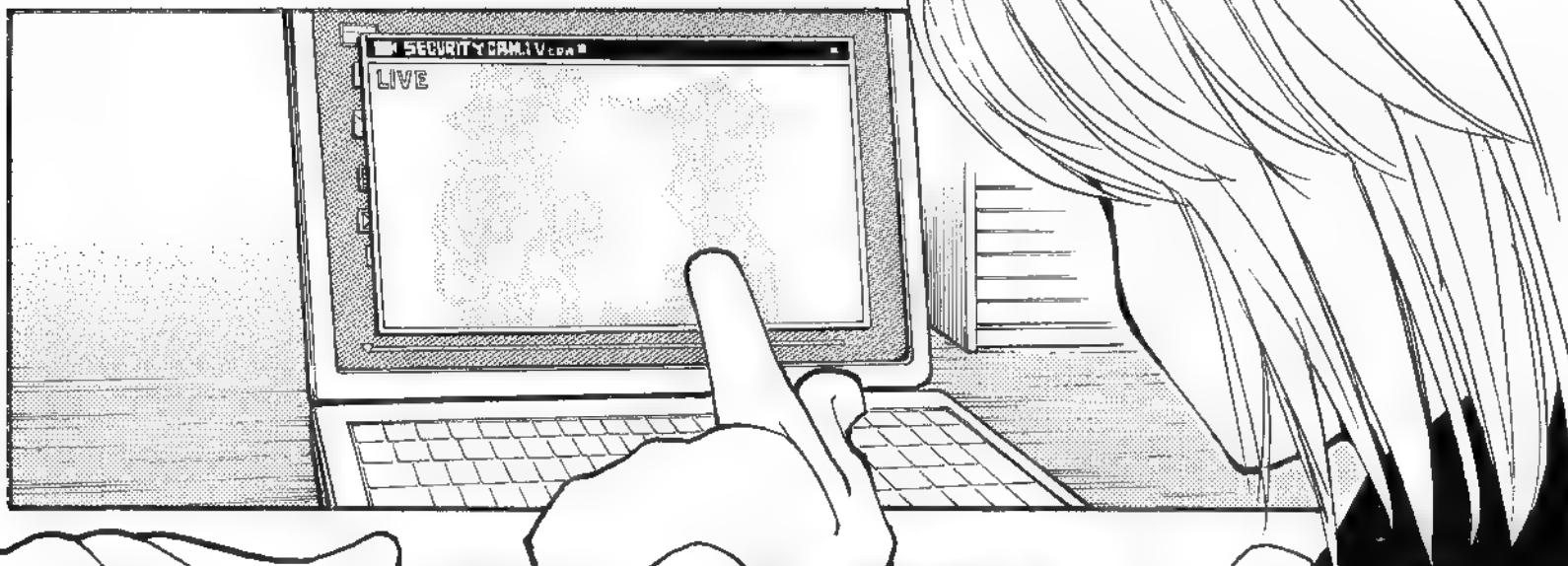
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY **RESOLVE.**

I WILL CARRY OUT MY MISSION WHETHER OR NOT SOMEONE HERE IS IN A DIFFERENT POSITION.



**WHIR**







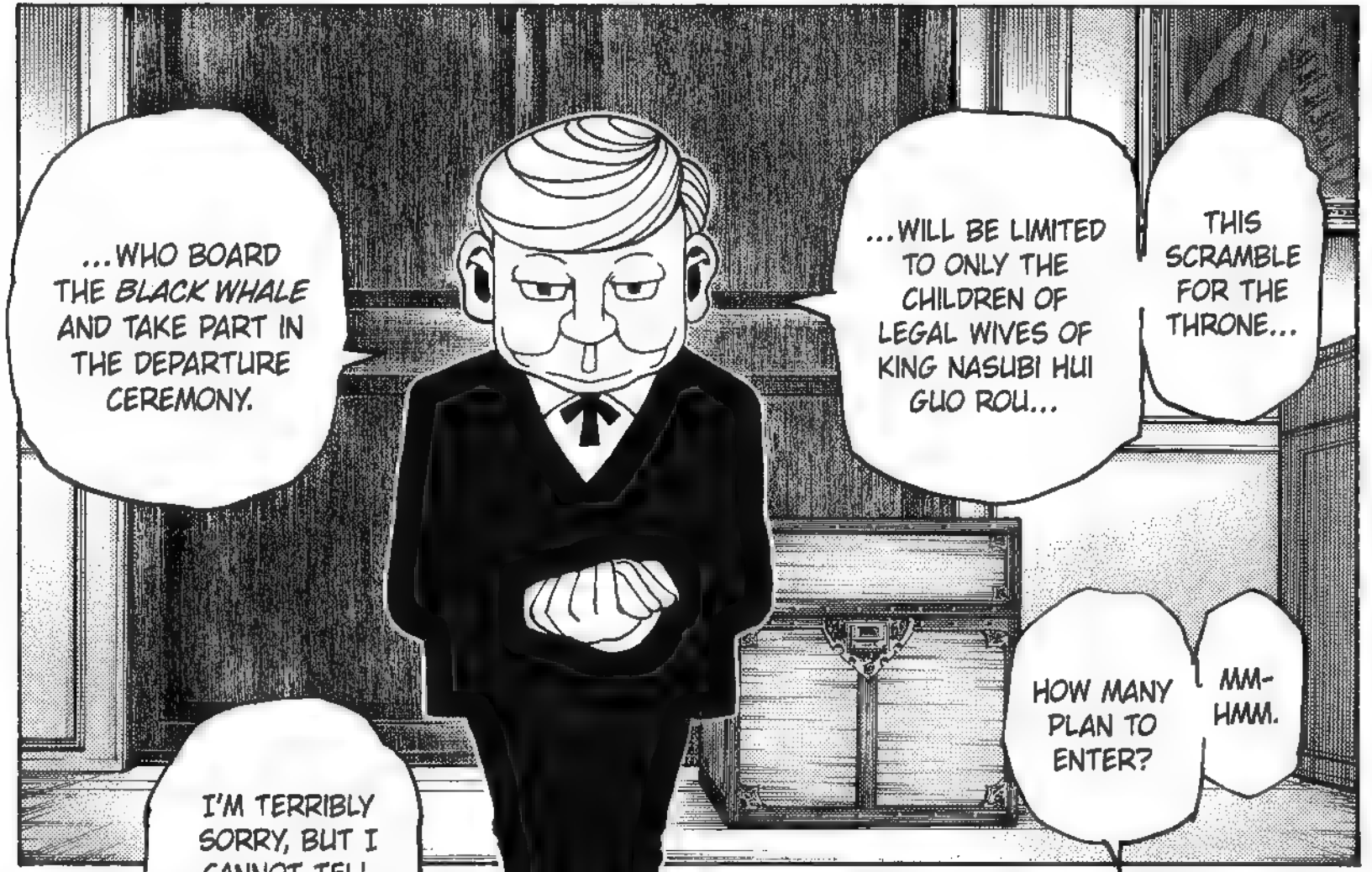
NOT  
RECKLESS?



NOT THAT  
KIND OF  
"CRAZY."



THE AWESOME  
KIND OF CRAZY.



...WHO BOARD THE BLACK WHALE AND TAKE PART IN THE DEPARTURE CEREMONY.

...WILL BE LIMITED TO ONLY THE CHILDREN OF LEGAL WIVES OF KING NASUBI HUI GUO ROU...

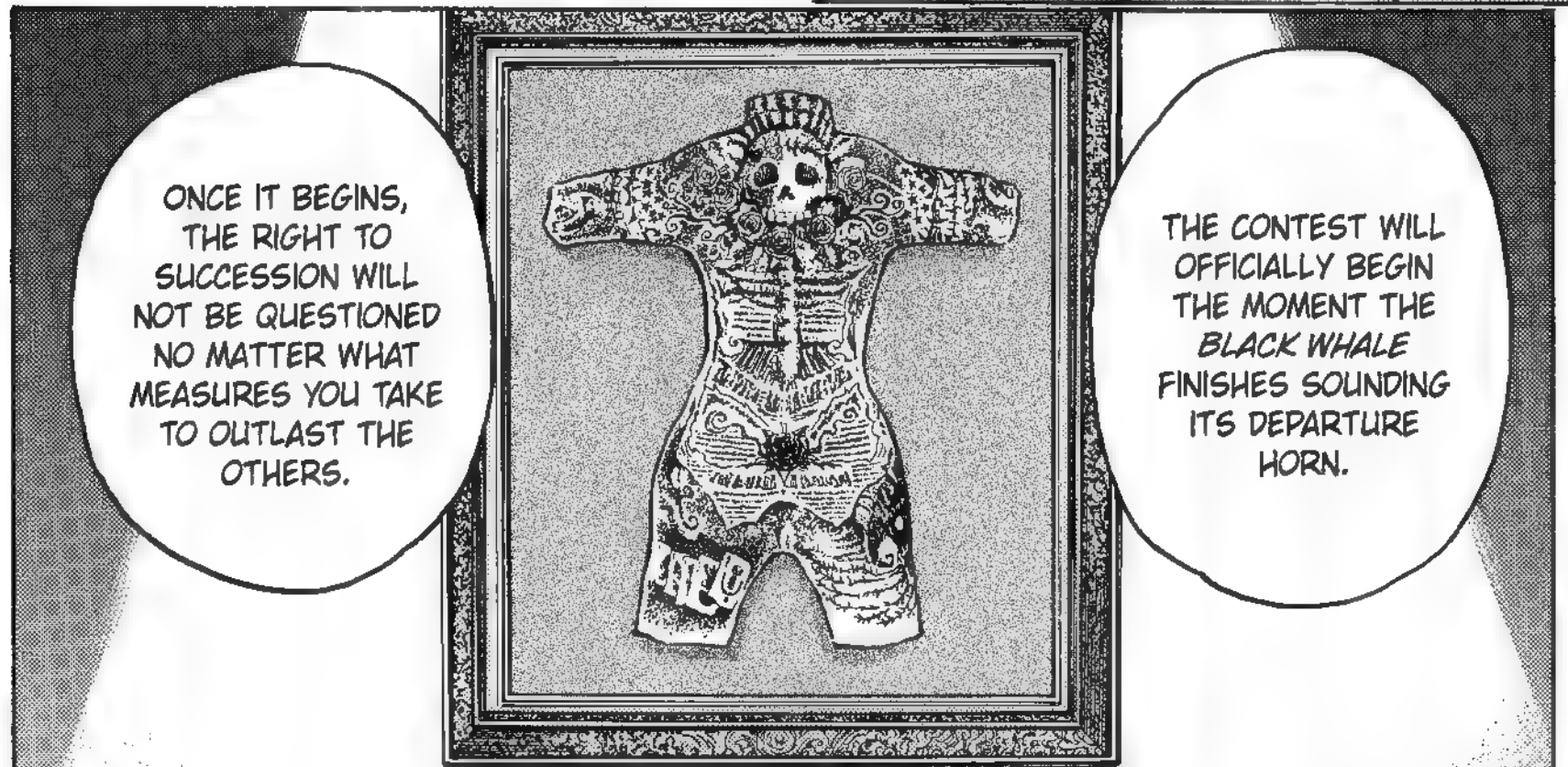
THIS SCRAMBLE FOR THE THRONE...

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT I CANNOT TELL YOU UNTIL THE CEREMONY.

HOW MANY PLAN TO ENTER?

MM-HMM.

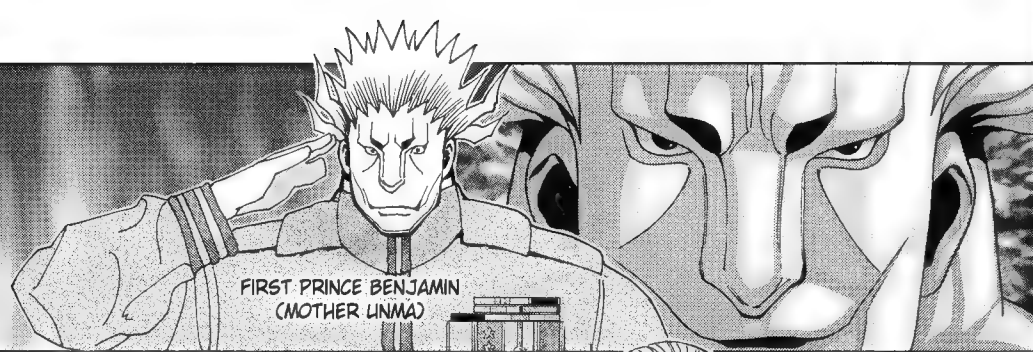
THE CONTEST WILL BE CANCELED IF ANY CANDIDATE DIES BEFORE THE CEREMONY.



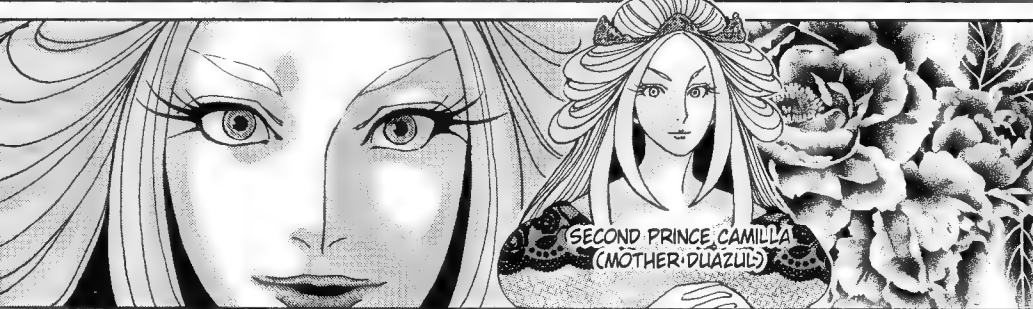
ONCE IT BEGINS, THE RIGHT TO SUCCESSION WILL NOT BE QUESTIONED NO MATTER WHAT MEASURES YOU TAKE TO OUTLAST THE OTHERS.

THE CONTEST WILL OFFICIALLY BEGIN THE MOMENT THE BLACK WHALE FINISHES SOUNDING ITS DEPARTURE HORN.

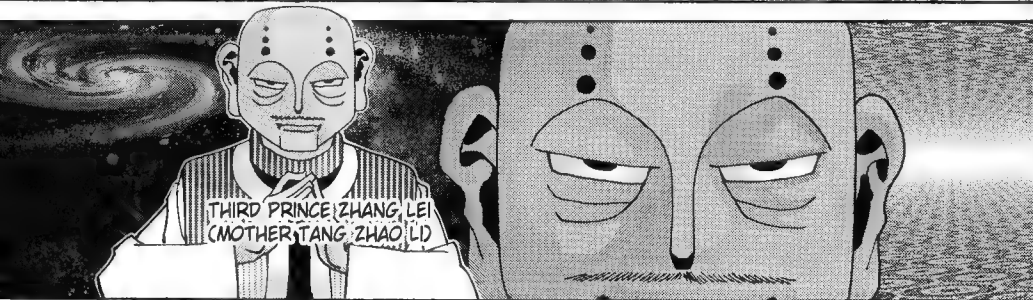
# Chapter 349: Worm Toxin



FIRST PRINCE BENJAMIN  
(MOTHER UNMA)



SECOND PRINCE CAMILLA  
(MOTHER DUAZUL)



THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI  
(MOTHER TANG ZHAO LI)



IF YOU AGREE  
TO THOSE TERMS,  
OFFER A DROP  
OF BLOOD TO  
THIS URN...

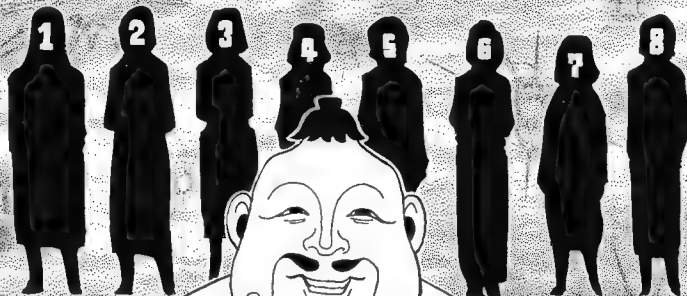
THE SOLE  
SURVIVOR...

**DOOM**

...AND THEN  
INSERT YOUR  
HAND INTO ITS  
CENTER...

...WILL BE  
THE OFFICIAL  
HEIR TO THE  
THRONE.

OFFICIALLY, THERE IS NO RANKING AMONG THE WIVES, AND SINCE GENDER NORMALLY HAS NO BEARING FOR SUCCESSION, ALL THE CHILDREN ARE REFERRED TO AS "PRINCE" -- AS IN "THE NTH PRINCE" IN ORDER OF BIRTH.



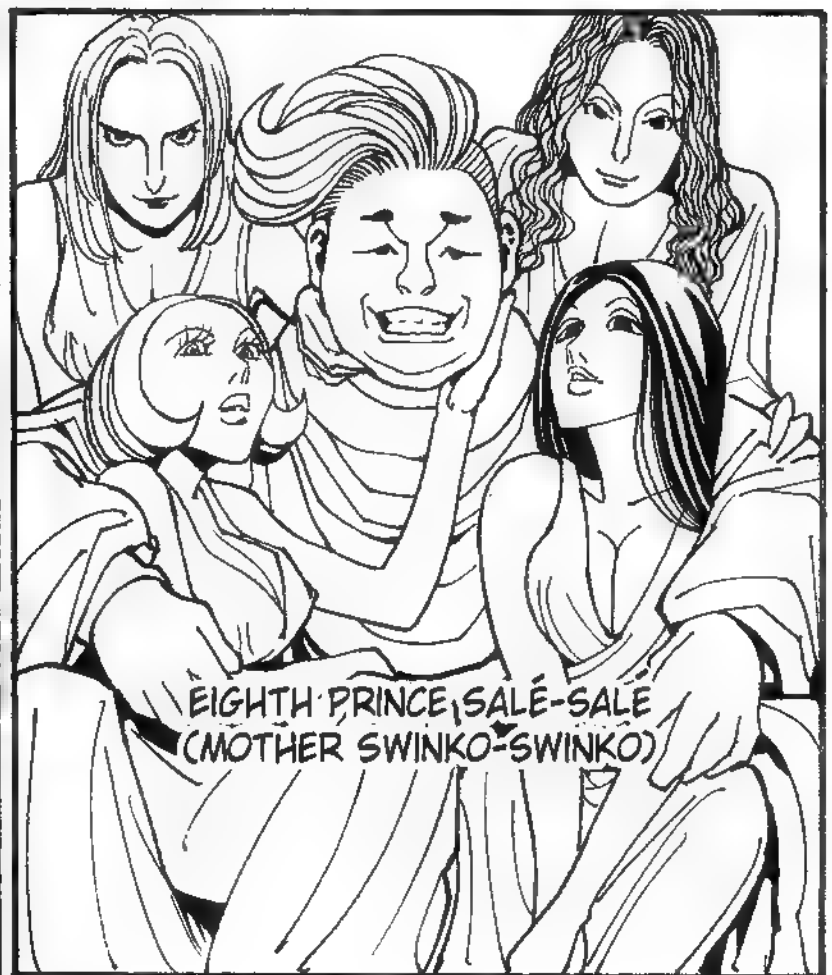
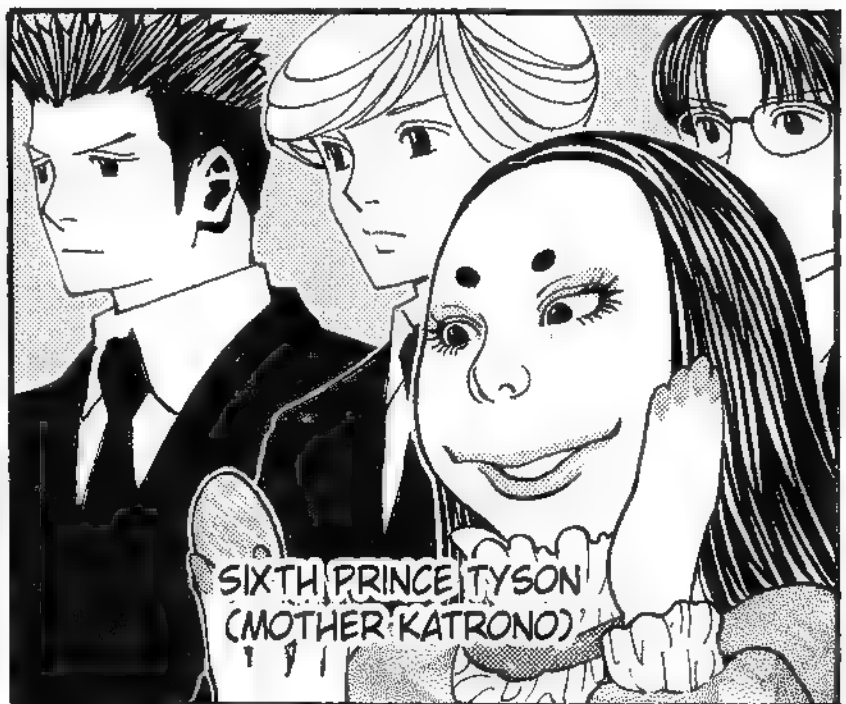
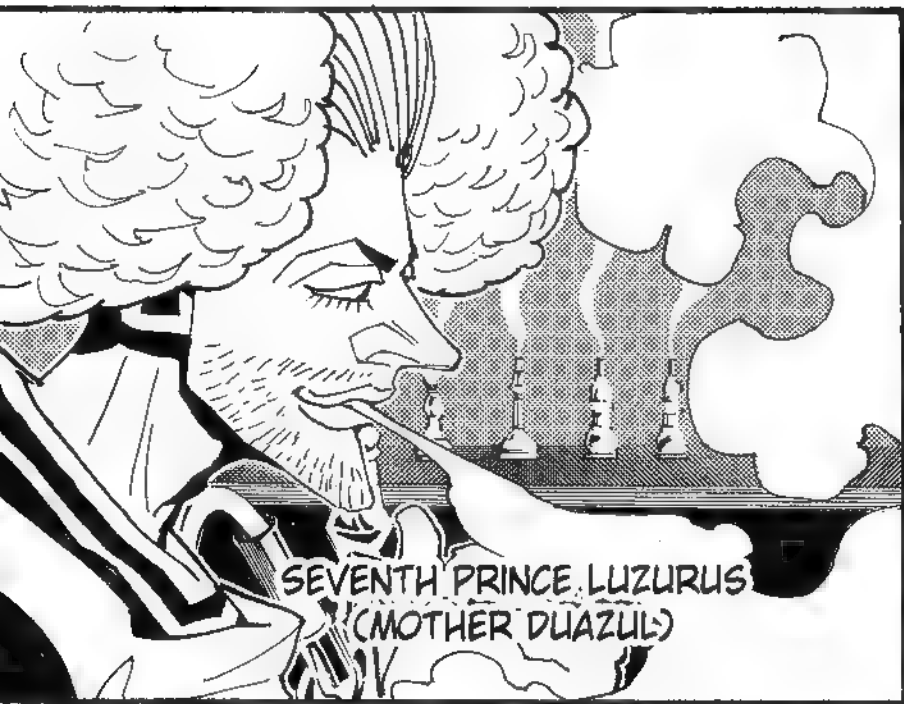
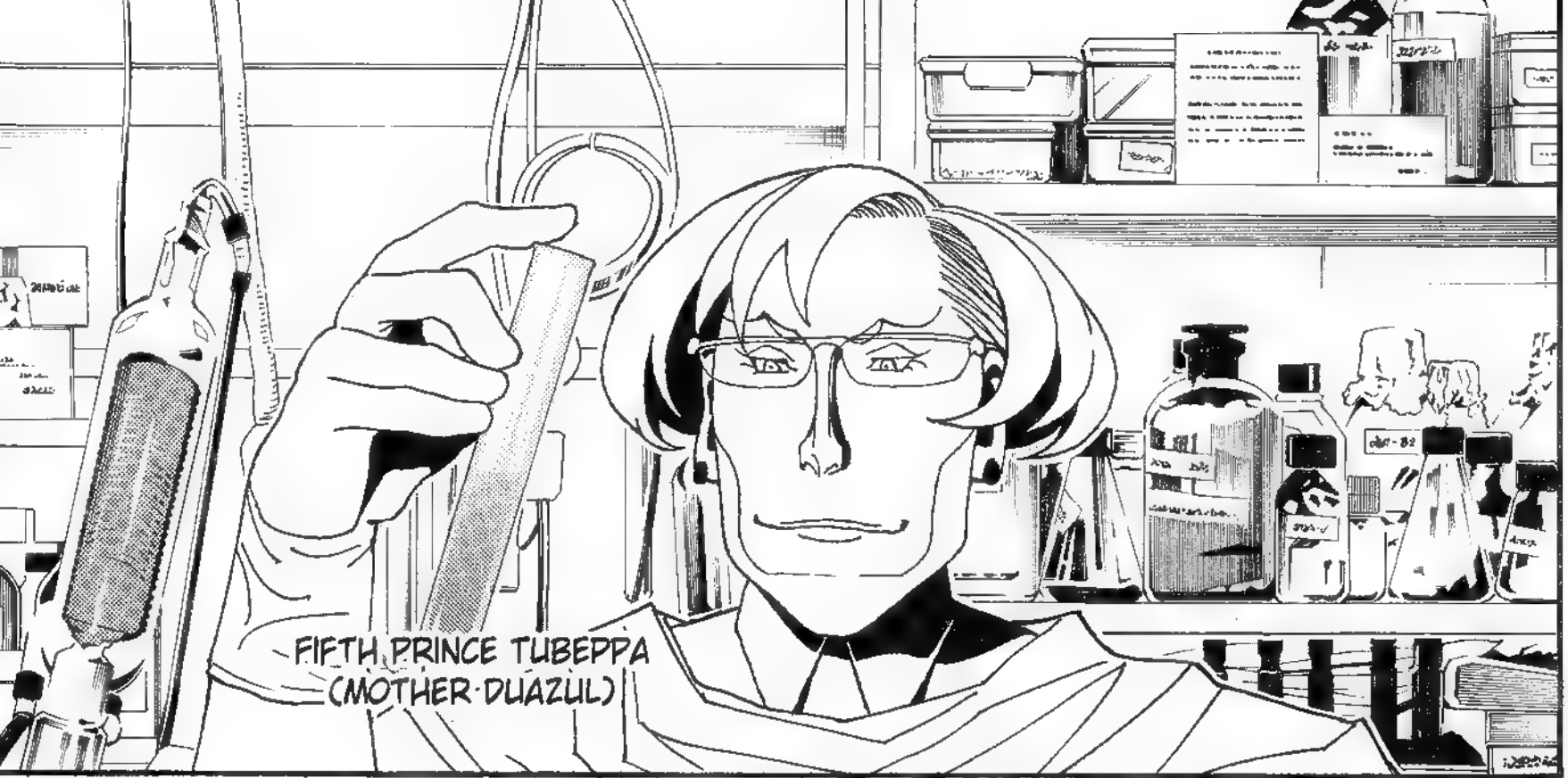
THE KAKIN KING HAS EIGHT WIVES, WITH 14 LEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

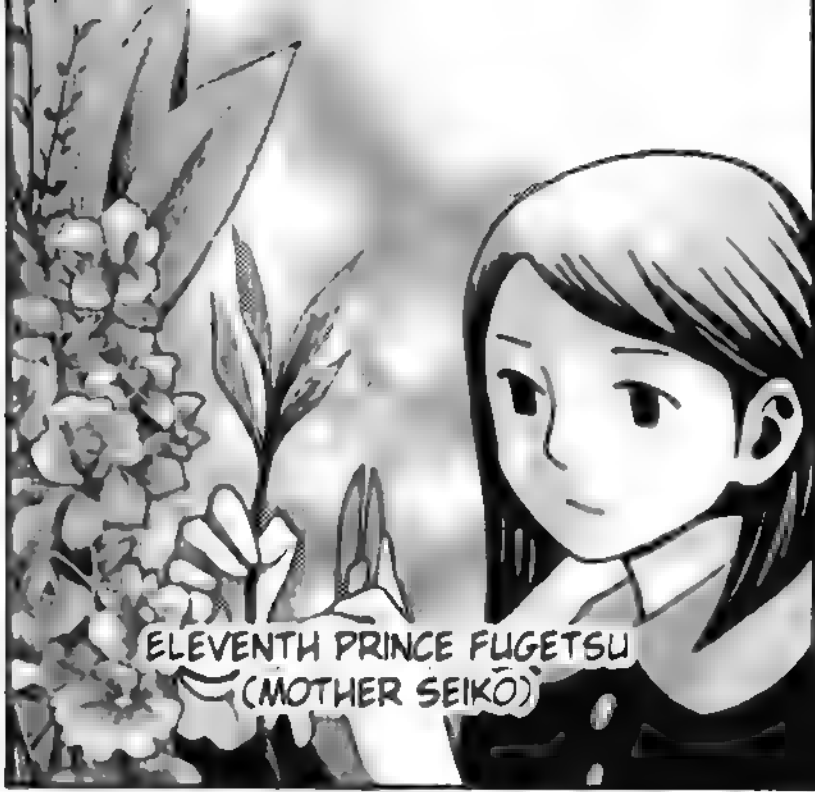


INDULGENCE



FOURTH PRINCE T'SERRIEDNICH  
(MOTHER LINMA)

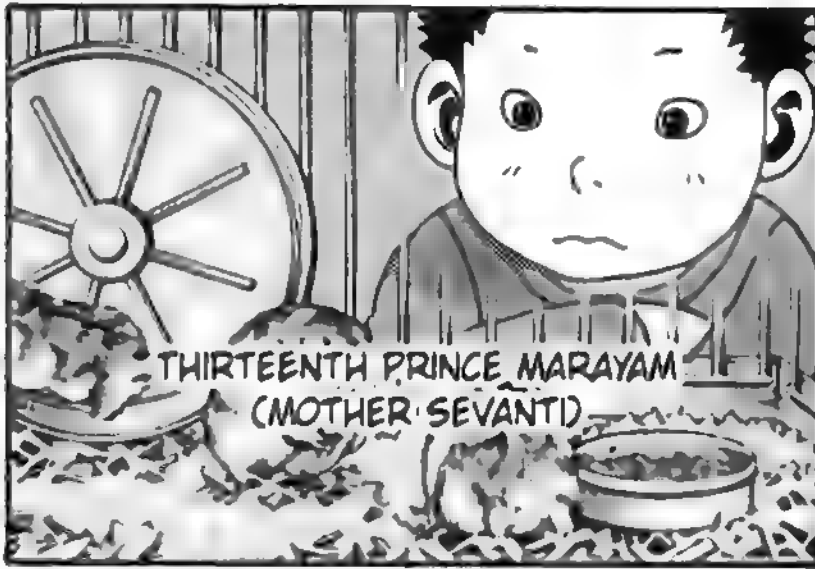




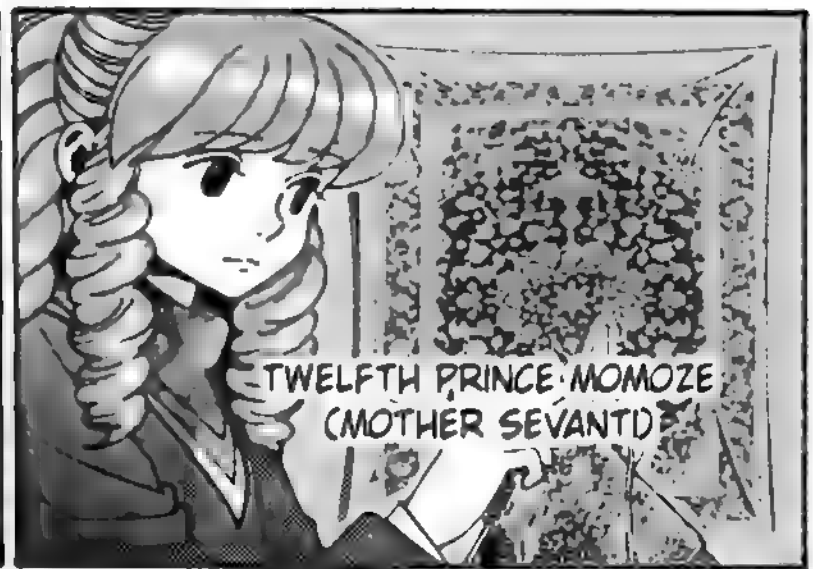
ELEVENTH PRINCE FUGETSU  
(MOTHER SEIKO)



TENTH PRINCE KACHO  
(MOTHER SEIKO)



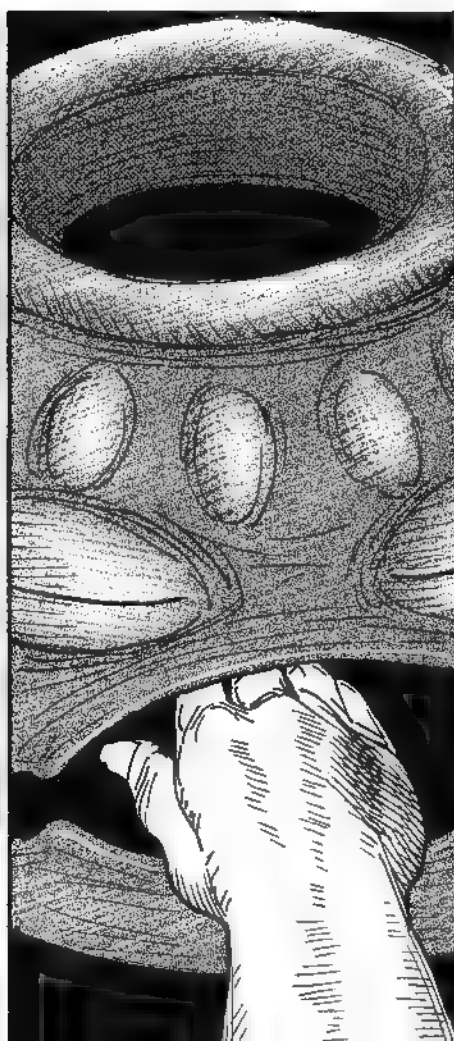
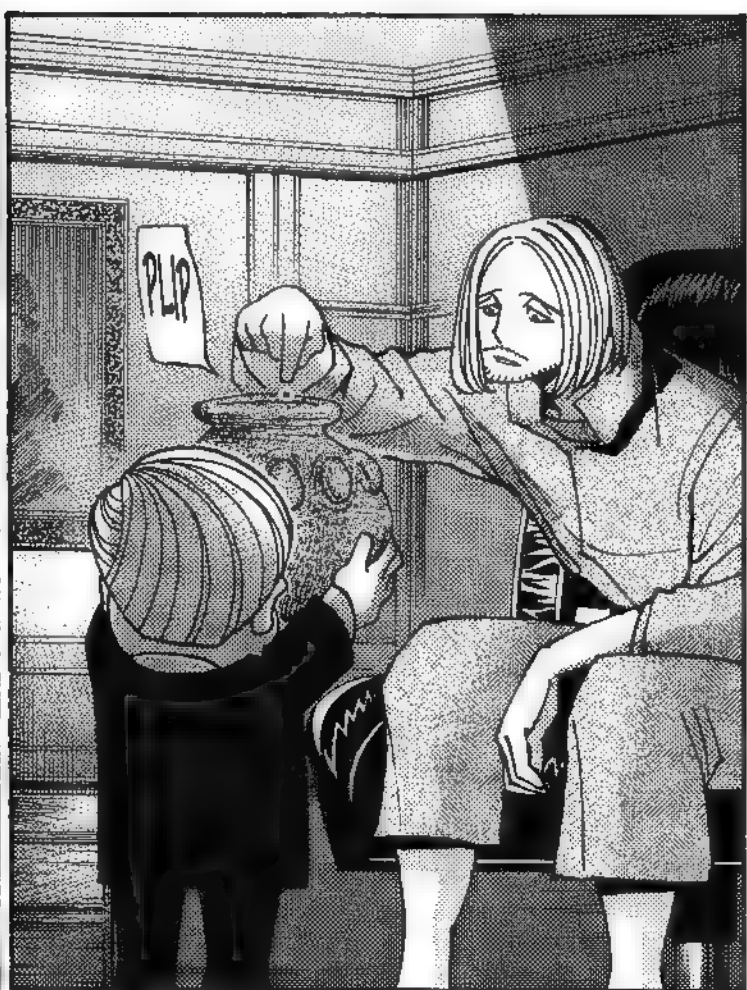
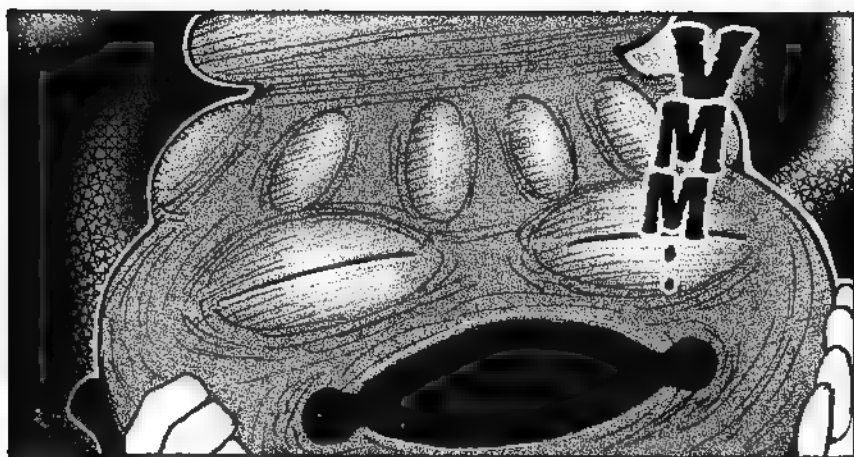
THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM  
(MOTHER SEVANTI)

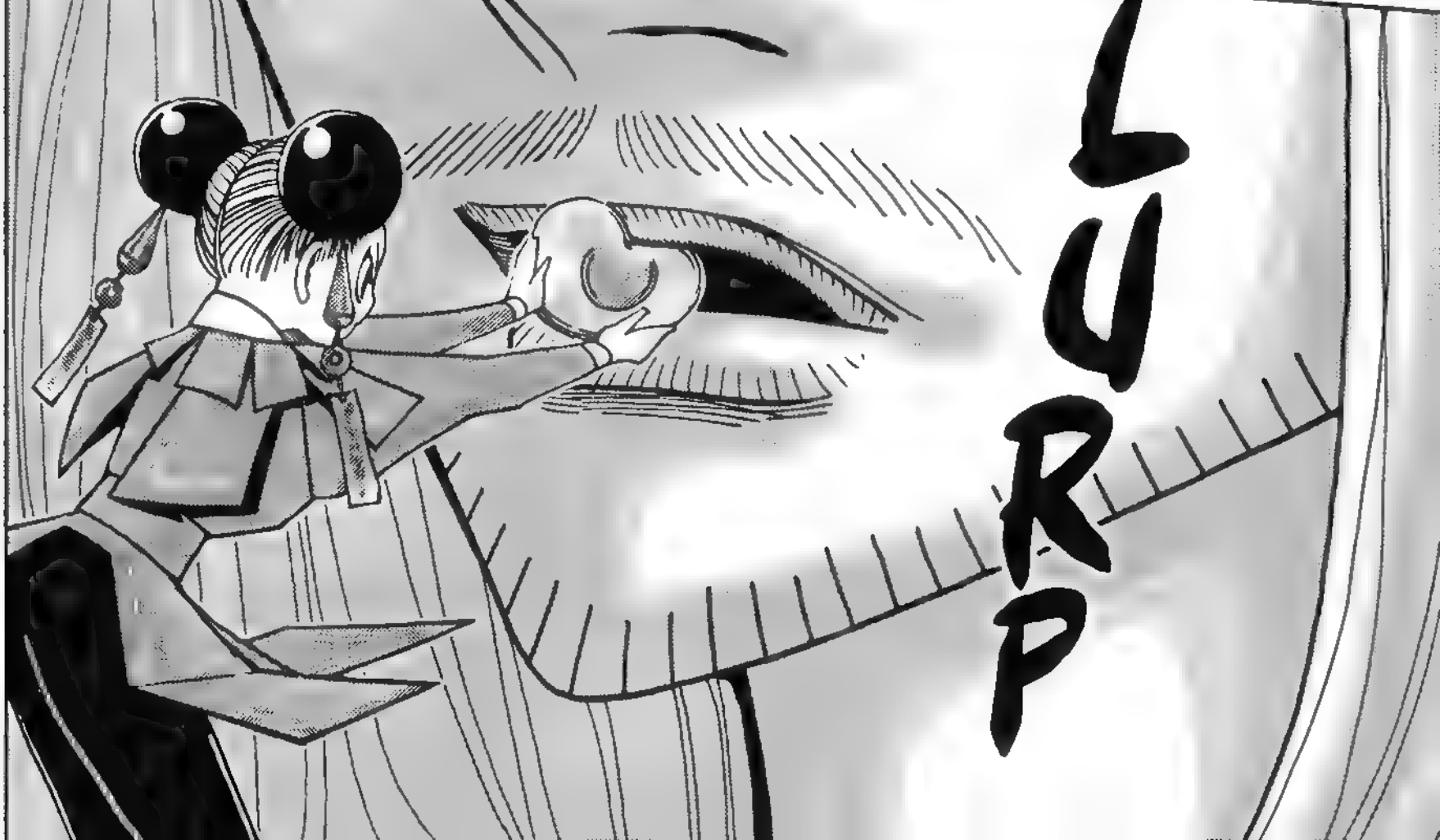


TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE  
(MOTHER SEVANTI)



FOURTEENTH PRINCE WOBLE  
(MOTHER OITO)





L  
U  
R  
P

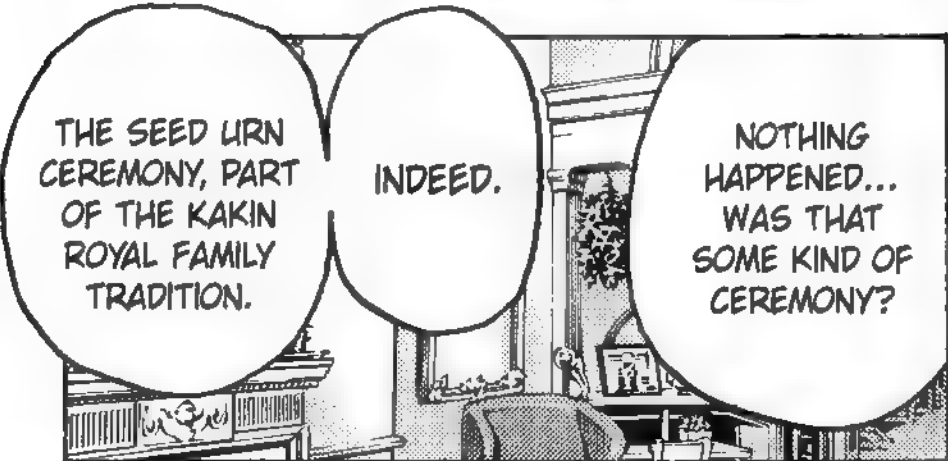




YES... THAT WILL DO.

IS THAT IT?

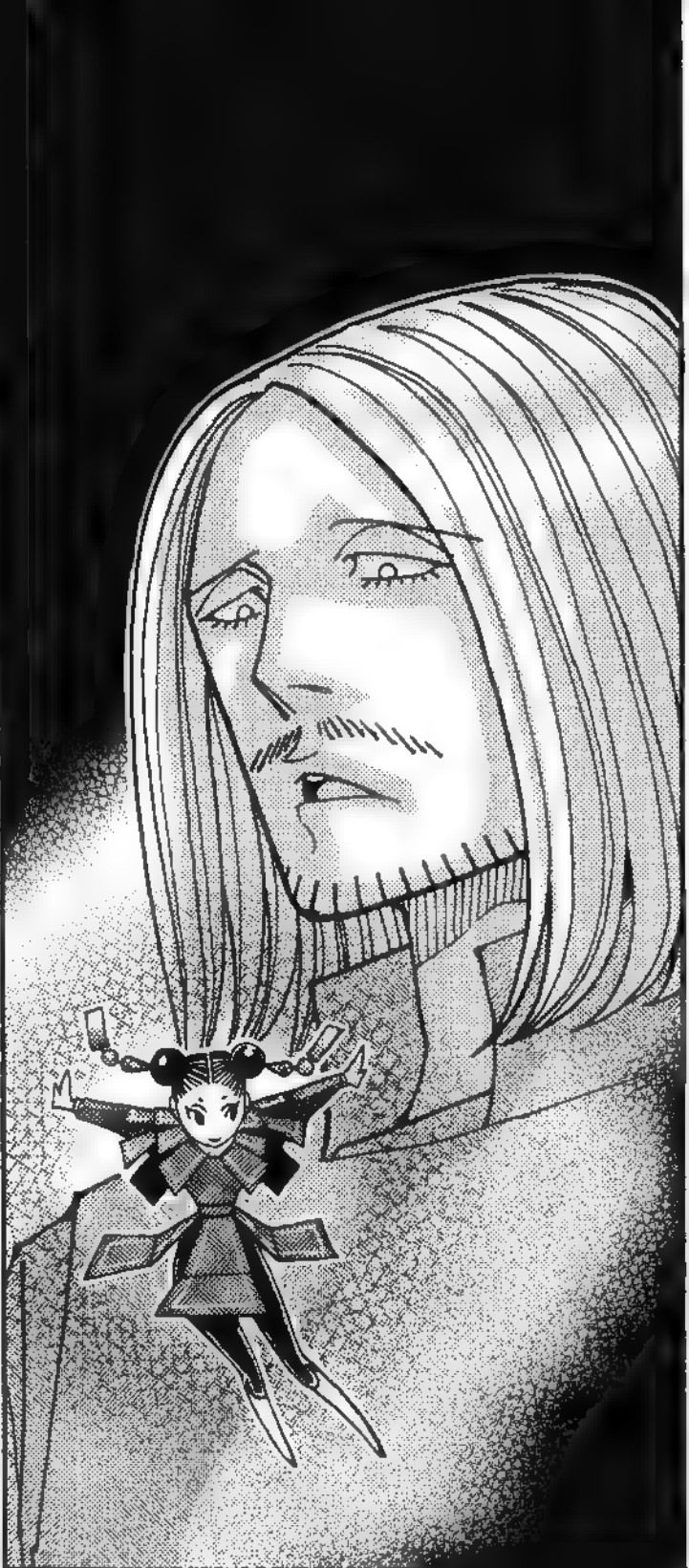
?



THE SEED URN CEREMONY, PART OF THE KAKIN ROYAL FAMILY TRADITION.

INDEED.


NOTHING HAPPENED... WAS THAT SOME KIND OF CEREMONY?



...WITH BLOOD, AND FOCUSING ON YOUR DESIRE FOR THE CROWN.

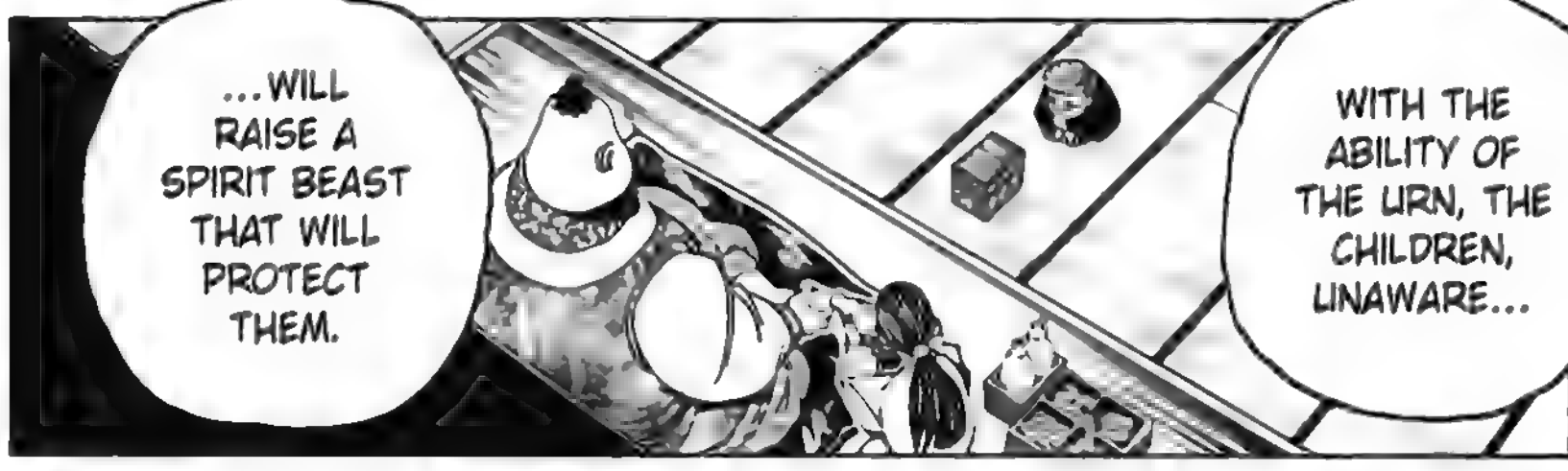


IT IS BELIEVED THAT YOU WILL BE GRANTED A SPECIAL POWER BY PROVING YOUR INHERITANCE TO THE URN...



THIS  
SUCCESSION  
CONTEST MAY  
WELL BE THE  
HISTORICALLY  
CORRECT USE  
OF THIS URN.

ACCORDING  
TO ANCIENT  
MANUSCRIPTS,  
THE FIRST KING  
CONJURED THIS  
URN, INSPIRED BY  
WORM TOXIN.



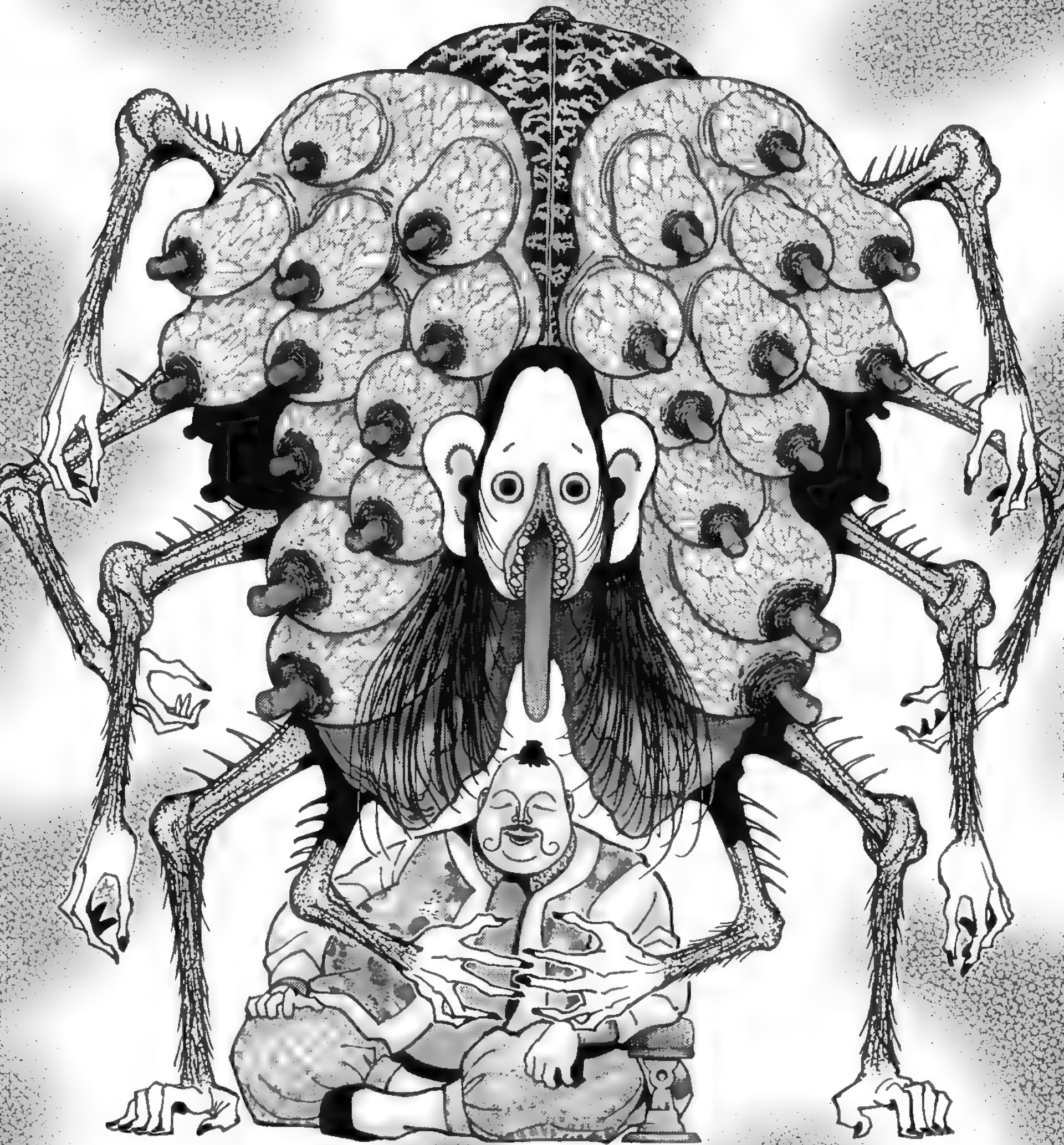
... WILL  
RAISE A  
SPIRIT BEAST  
THAT WILL  
PROTECT  
THEM.

WITH THE  
ABILITY OF  
THE URN, THE  
CHILDREN,  
UNAWARE...



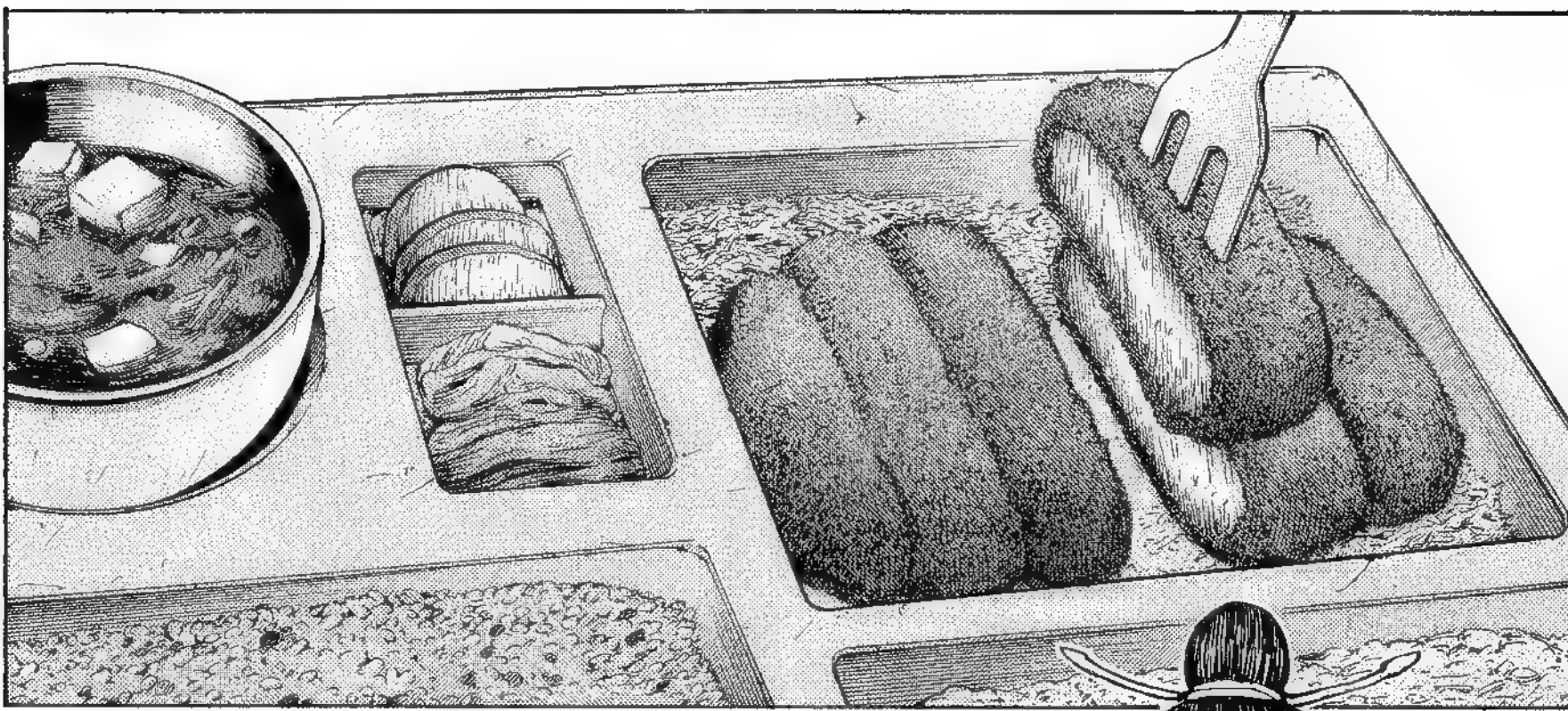
A FRAGILE,  
WEAK  
VESSEL  
CANNOT BE  
KING.

EACH SPIRIT  
BEAST TAKES  
AFTER ITS  
VESSEL.



### GUARDIAN SPIRIT BEAST

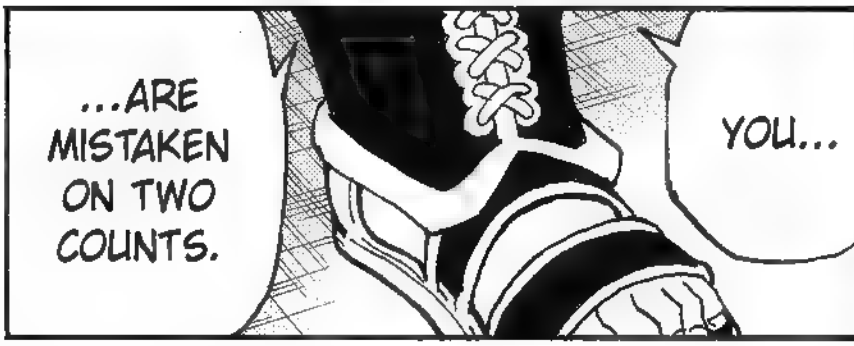
A NEN BEAST CREATED AT THE TIME OF DEATH BY THE POWERFUL DESIRE FOR THE PERPETUATION OF ONE'S DESCENDANTS. POSSESSES SOMEONE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE DEAD, FEEDS ON HIS AURA, AND METAMORPHOSES INTO A FORM AND ABILITY INFLUENCED BY HIS DISPOSITION. HOWEVER, SINCE IT WAS NOT HIS DIRECT CREATION, IT CANNOT BE MANIPULATED AT WILL.





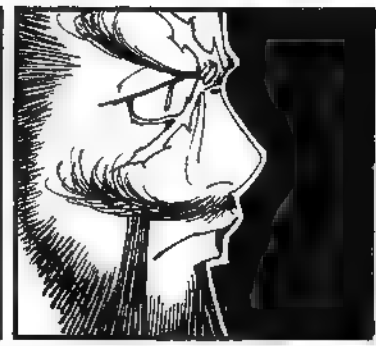
THEN I WILL PERMIT YOU TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

TELL ME WHO'S ON YOUR SIDE AMONG THE ZODIACS.



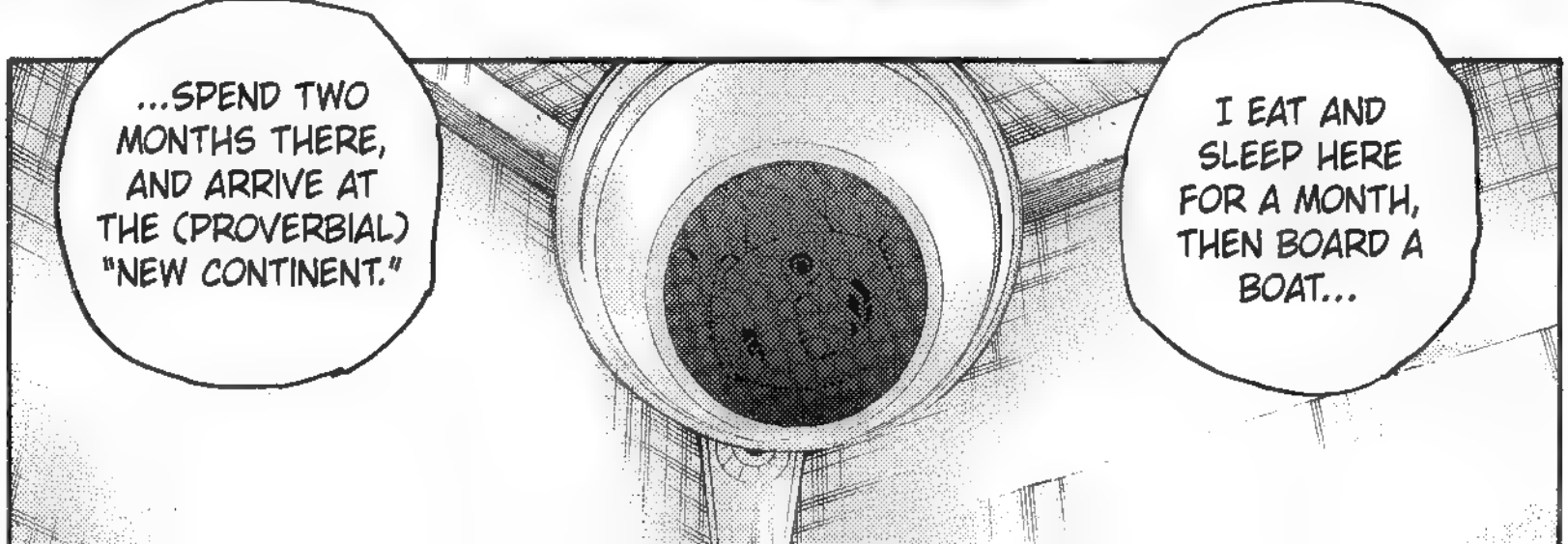
...ARE MISTAKEN ON TWO COUNTS.

YOU...



...AND I CARE EVEN LESS ABOUT ANY CEREMONIES!!

I DON'T KNOW OF ANY SPY...



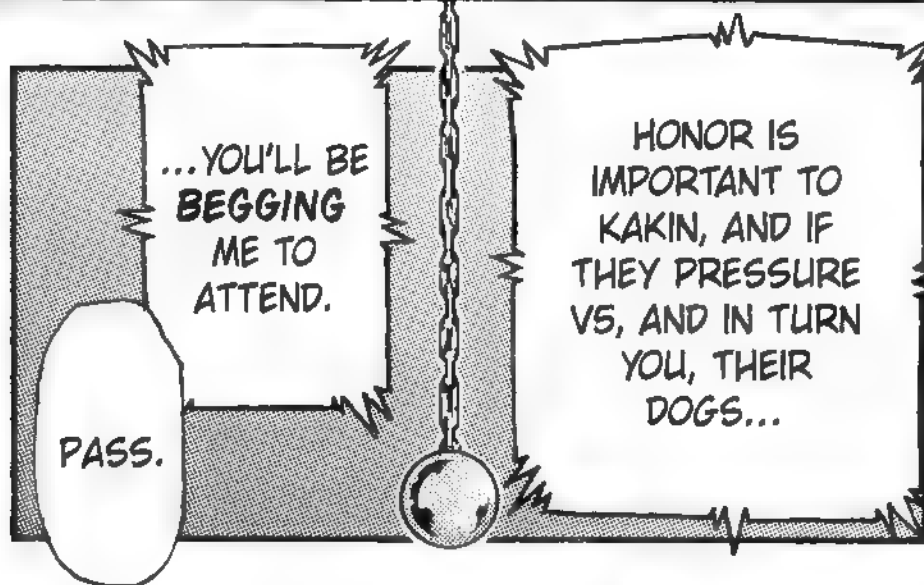
...SPEND TWO MONTHS THERE, AND ARRIVE AT THE (PROVERBIAL) "NEW CONTINENT."

I EAT AND SLEEP HERE FOR A MONTH, THEN BOARD A BOAT...



WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN IS WHAT LIES BEYOND.

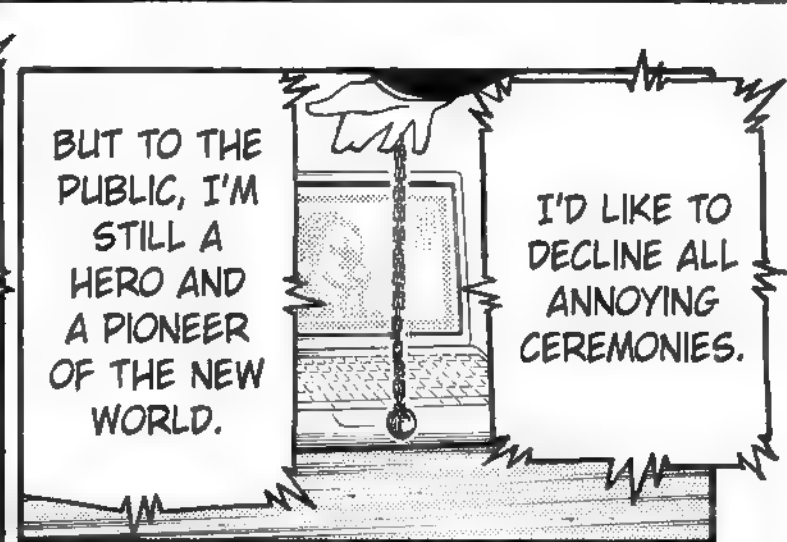
I'LL BEHAVE UNTIL THEN, FOR HUI GUO ROL'S SAKE.



...YOU'LL BE BEGGING ME TO ATTEND.

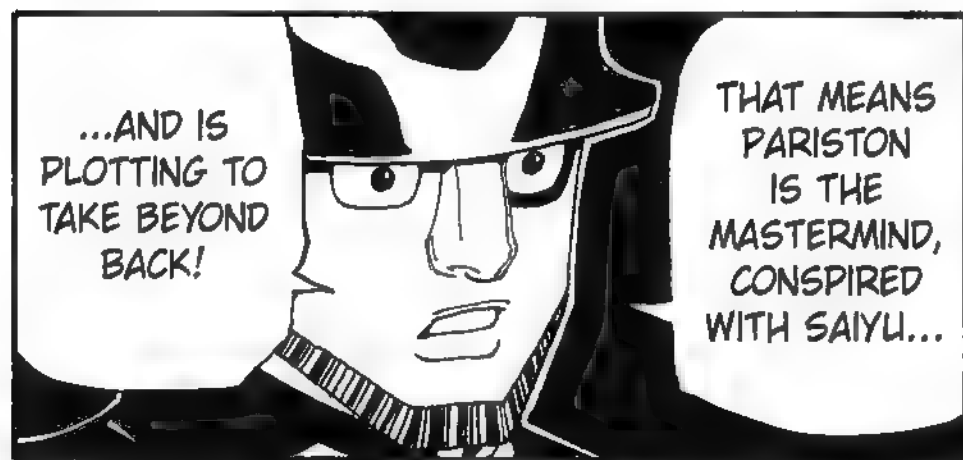
PASS.

HONOR IS IMPORTANT TO KAKIN, AND IF THEY PRESSURE VS, AND IN TURN YOU, THEIR DOGS...



BUT TO THE PUBLIC, I'M STILL A HERO AND A PIONEER OF THE NEW WORLD.

I'D LIKE TO DECLINE ALL ANNOYING CEREMONIES.



...AND IS PLOTTING TO TAKE BEYOND BACK!

THAT MEANS PARISTON IS THE MASTERMIND, CONSPIRED WITH SAIYU...



BEYOND IS TELLING THE TRUTH.

HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT SAIYU...



EVEN IF BEYOND DOESN'T PLAN TO ESCAPE, THOSE TWO MAY ENCOURAGE HIM.

THAT'S RATHER OPTIMISTIC.

HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT HE SAYS, AND YOU CAN LEAVE HIM ALONE UNTIL WE GET TO THE ISLAND.

IF HE BREAKS HIS PROMISE AND DISAPPEARS, THE VS MIGHT TURN THE SHIP AROUND, EVEN IF IT MEANS BREAKING THINGS OFF WITH KAKIN.

HE WISHES TO HIGHLIGHT HUI GUO ROU'S ACHIEVEMENT. HE WON'T CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS EN ROUTE.

BEYOND'S CONTRACT WITH KAKIN INCLUDES TAKING THE CIVILIANS TO THE "NEW CONTINENT."

I DON'T THINK SO.

CONSEQUENTLY, IT WOULDN'T BE WISE FOR US TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT SAIYU EITHER.

BEYOND TOOK THE TROUBLE TO DECLARE A TRUCE TO AVOID SUCH PROBLEMS.

I SEE.

YES.

DID SAIYU REVEAL HIS ABILITY?

I ONLY WATCHED THE BEGINNING OF THE VIDEO.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?

I DON'T WANT TO FOOLISHLY SIT IDLE WHILE THEY PREPARE TO ESCAPE.

I AGREE, BUT...

...HEAR NO EVIL AND SPEAK NO EVIL. ANY IDIOT WOULD GET IT.

I USE THREE NEN MONKEYS. SEE NO EVIL...

WHAT'S FUNNY IS ENHANCERS ARE RARELY AFFECTED, BUT THEY PANIC THE MOST. THEIR AURA FLOW MAKES THEIR MOVES OBVIOUS.

WHEN A HEALTHY PERSON SUDDENLY LOSES THEIR THREE SENSES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ACTIVATE OR EVEN MAINTAIN ABILITIES.

IT SHOULD WORK ON BEYOND TOO.

IF THEIR ATTACKS SUCCEED, THEY ROB MY FOE OF VISION, HEARING AND SPEECH, RESPECTIVELY.

I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY THIS IF THERE'S AN ENEMY AROUND.

IF THIS INFORMATION LEAKS ANYWHERE, I'M BLAMING YOU GUYS.

MY STYLE IS BEATING THEM SENSELESS ONCE THEY'RE DISABLED.

CONTRARY TO HIS WORDS, HE'S RELIEVED THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO LIE.

HE'S RESIGNED TO STATING JUST THE FACTS.

UNLIKE RIGHT AFTER YOUR QUERY, WHEN HE'S TALKING ABOUT HIS ABILITY HE'S MUCH MORE STABLE.

NERVOUS ABOUT THE RISK OF THE SPY FINDING OUT ABOUT THEIR ABILITIES, SUSPICIOUS, BUT DESIRING TO TRUST THE OTHERS.

EVERYONE ELSE IS OBVIOUSLY NERVOUS.

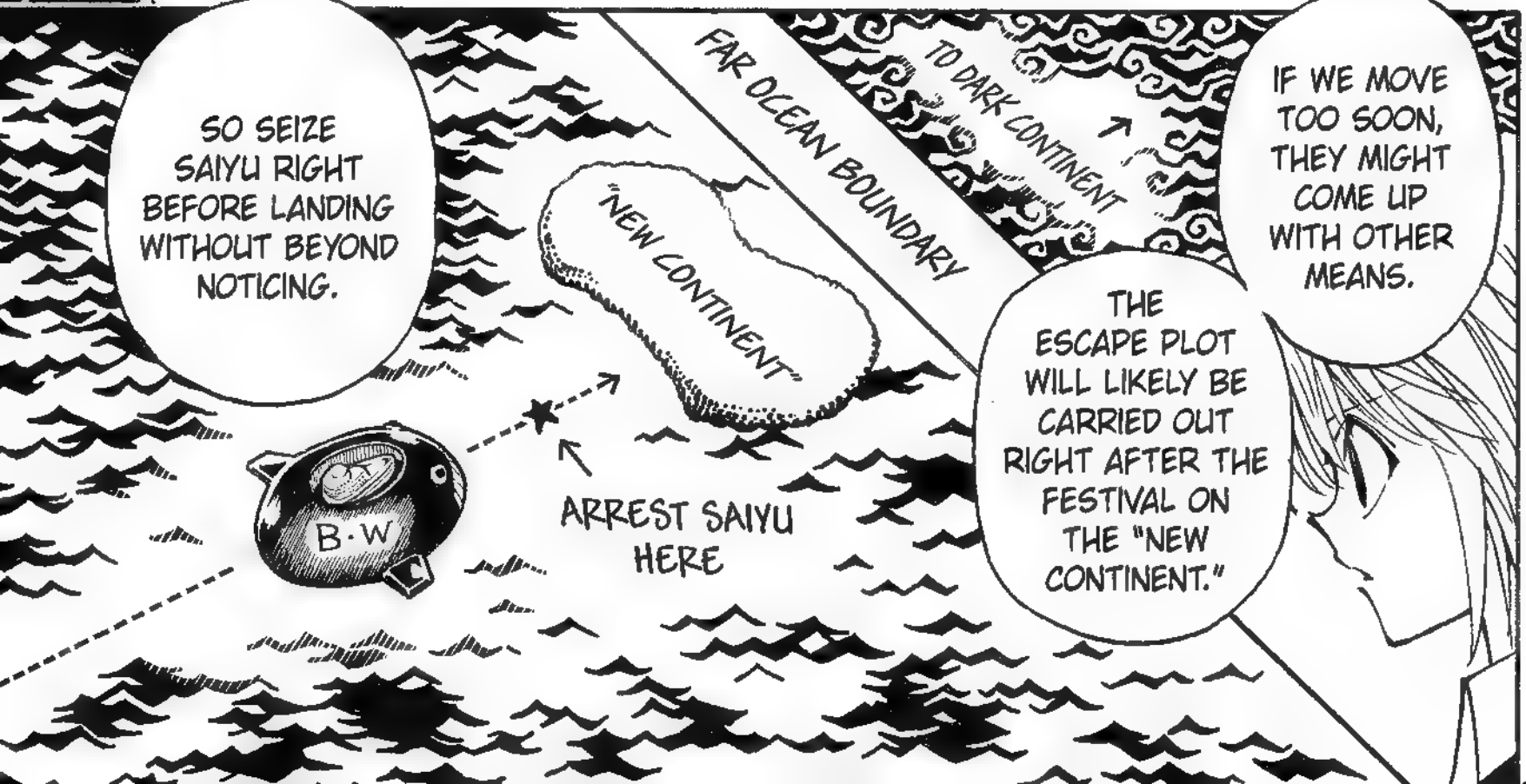
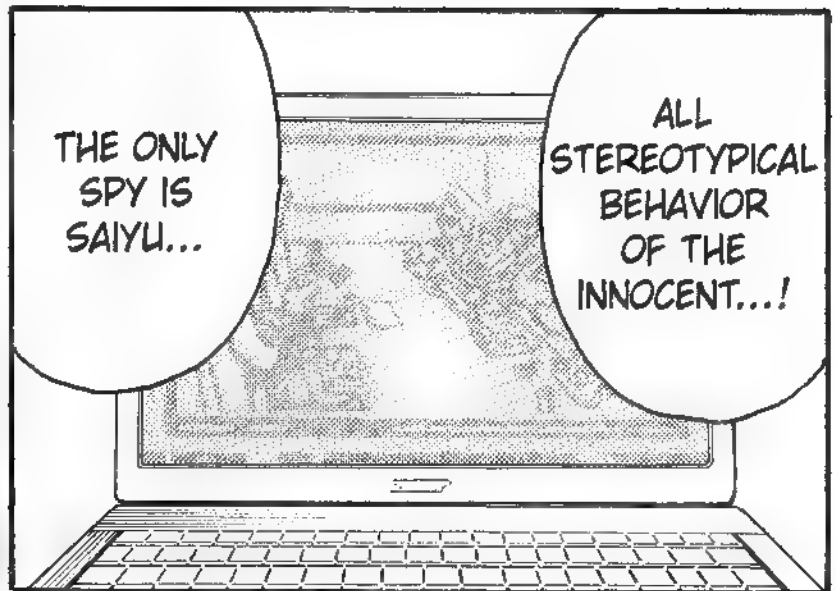
THE AMBIVALENCE IS SUBTLY AFFECTING THEIR BODY LANGUAGE.

I SEE...

HE'S DEFINITELY TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS ABILITY.

AND HE'S ON BEYOND'S SIDE.





YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT I WAS INVOLVED. WHAT THEN?

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHEN THE OTHERS ASK WHAT GROUNDS YOU HAVE FOR ARRESTING SAIYU.

IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COULD FIND SOME KIND OF PROOF BEFORE THEN.

WHAT IF WE HAVE NONE?

I'LL SURELY BE CRITICIZED.

THERE'LL BE A LOT OF ARGUING.

THAT IN ITSELF WILL UPSET MOST.

I KEPT TALKING ABOUT RESOLVE, YET I WAS SECRETLY LOOKING FOR THE CULPRIT.

THAT TOO, BUT...

BECAUSE YOU ACTED ON YOUR OWN IN LEAGUE WITH THE NEWCOMER?

...ON THE DARK CONTINENT. THINGS MIGHT GET THAT COMPLICATED.

ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM RECONSIDER HOW THE MISSION SHOULD WORK...

AND SOME ARE MUCH MORE PARTICULAR ABOUT THE PRECISE MEANS.

WHILE THE ENDS ARE NECESSARY, SOME CONSIDER THE MEANS TO BE IMPORTANT.

IF THEY FIND OUT IT WAS BASED ON A FARCE... THEY MIGHT REACT BADLY.

...OUR BONDS HAVE CLEARLY GROWN STRONGER.

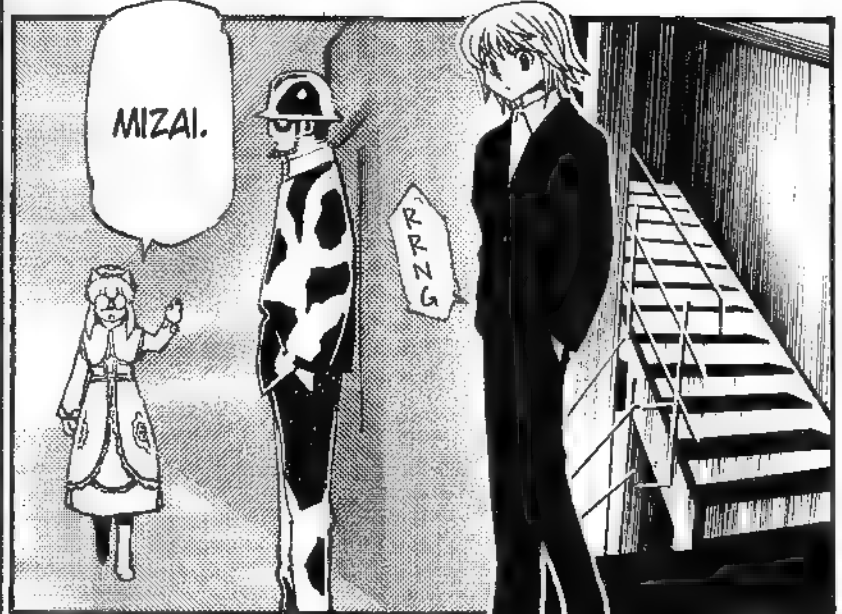
BY SHARING OUR ABILITIES...



DID YOU SEE KAKIN'S WEBSITE?

YES?

NO...



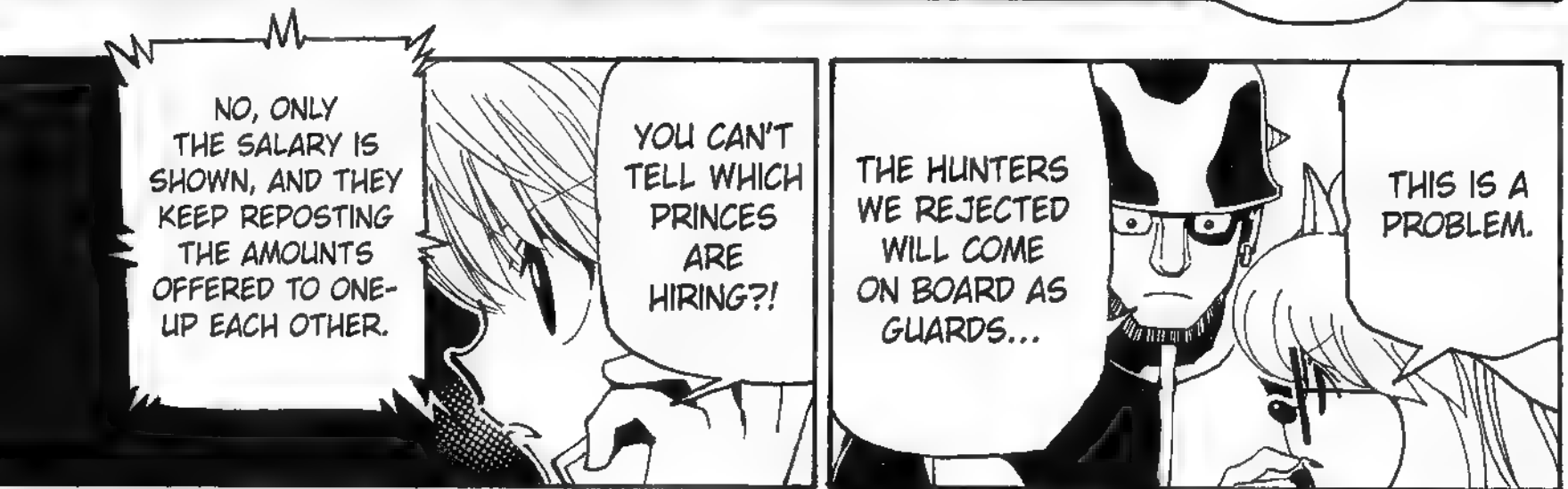
MIZAI.

SZZR



...DURING THE VOYAGE AND ELIMINATE RISK FACTORS.

THE KAKIN PRINCES ARE HIRING BODYGUARDS TO GUARD THEM...



NO, ONLY THE SALARY IS SHOWN, AND THEY KEEP REPOSTING THE AMOUNTS OFFERED TO ONE-UP EACH OTHER.

YOU CAN'T TELL WHICH PRINCES ARE HIRING?!

THE HUNTERS WE REJECTED WILL COME ON BOARD AS GUARDS...

THIS IS A PROBLEM.

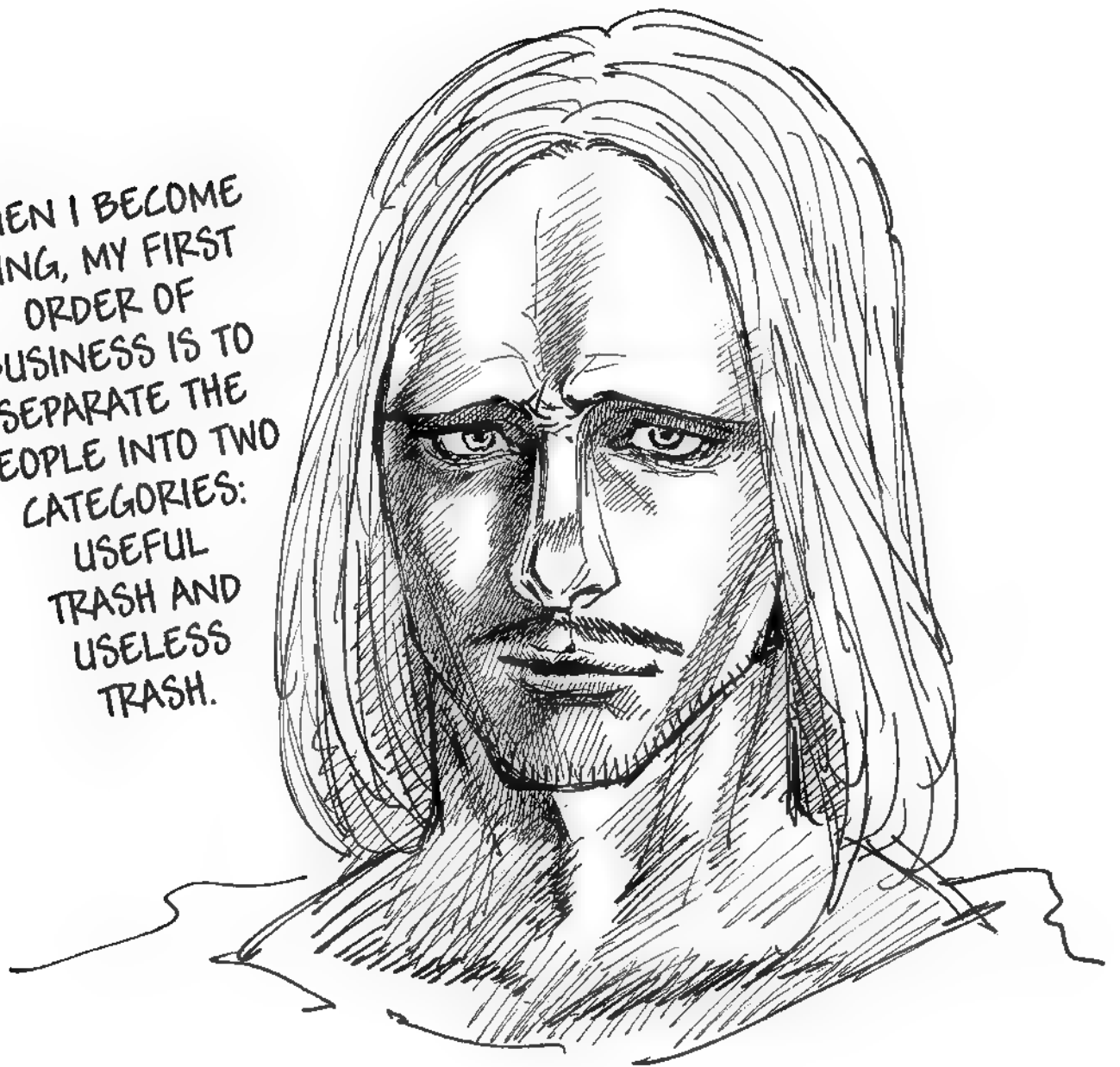


...SIX OFFERS.

THERE ARE...

123456	789012	345678	901234	567890
234567	890123	456789	012345	678901
345678	901234	567890	123456	789012
456789	012345	678901	234567	890123
567890	123456	789012	345678	901234
678901	234567	890123	456789	012345

WHEN I BECOME  
KING, MY FIRST  
ORDER OF  
BUSINESS IS TO  
SEPARATE THE  
PEOPLE INTO TWO  
CATEGORIES:  
USEFUL  
TRASH AND  
USELESS  
TRASH.



# Chapter 350: Prince

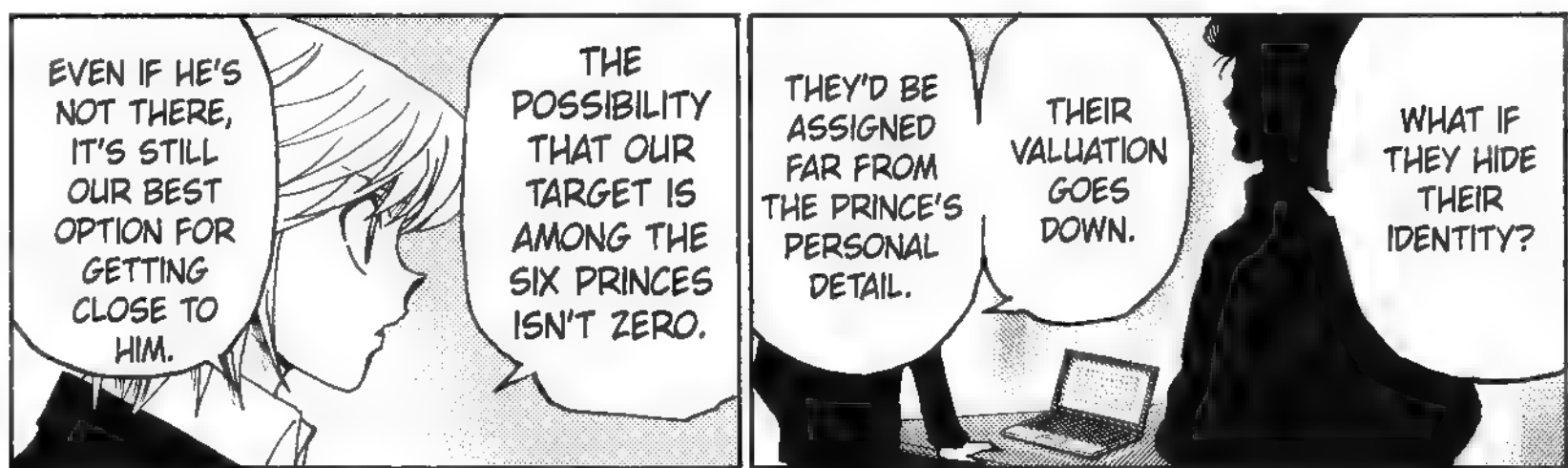
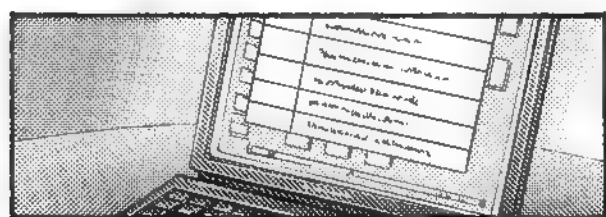






TO APPLY, PRO HUNTERS MUST ENTER THEIR HUNTER ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION NUMBER, SO MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS ARE DISQUALIFIED.

THE SIX PRINCES HIRING BODYGUARDS ARE GIVING PREFERENCE TO HUNTERS.



EVEN IF HE'S NOT THERE, IT'S STILL OUR BEST OPTION FOR GETTING CLOSE TO HIM.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT OUR TARGET IS AMONG THE SIX PRINCES ISN'T ZERO.

THEY'D BE ASSIGNED FAR FROM THE PRINCE'S PERSONAL DETAIL.

THEIR VALUATION GOES DOWN.

WHAT IF THEY HIDE THEIR IDENTITY?



# SHK!!

SO...

I NEED EACH OF YOU TO INFILTRATE A PRINCE'S SECURITY DETAIL.

ALL I WANT IS INFORMATION THAT WILL GET ME AS CLOSE TO THE FOURTH PRINCE AS POSSIBLE.

IF THIS HAS TO DO WITH A SUCCESSION CONTROVERSY, IT SPELLS TROUBLE.

NO.

I THINK THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR US... WE'LL BE ABLE TO WIN THEM OVER.

I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL DISCRETION.

"ELIMINATION OF THREATS" SOUNDS SUPER SHADY.

WIN THEIR TRUST, AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO THE OTHER PRINCES.

**BISCUIT**  
HIRED THROUGH KILLUA

**MELODY**  
NOSTRADE FAMILY

I AGREE. ONLY AMATEURS USE MONEY AS A REWARD.

THE YOUNGER WIVES WITH LESS EXPERIENCE... SWINKO-SWINKO THROUGH OITO.

**BASHO**  
NOSTRADE FAMILY

I DON'T THINK THE TARGET, NO. 4, IS AMONG THEM...

NO. 1 AND NO. 4 HAVE THE SAME MOTHER, AND THIS IS OLD HAT FOR THEM.

THEY MUST HAVE A TRUSTED PRIVATE MILITARY.

**HANZO**  
COLLEAGUE

A JOB POSTING ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE IS RATHER LATE... AND ALL SIX WERE PUT UP AT ONCE.

IT'S OBVIOUS **SOMETHING** HAPPENED THAT LED TO THIS SITUATION.

**IZUNAVI**  
MENTOR  
(SORT OF...)





I'LL HAVE MORE ABILITIES I COULD USE, AND WITH HIGHER ACCURACY.

IDEALLY, PHYSICAL CONTACT.

HOW CLOSE, EXACTLY?



I'LL WANT MY PAYMENT REGARDLESS.

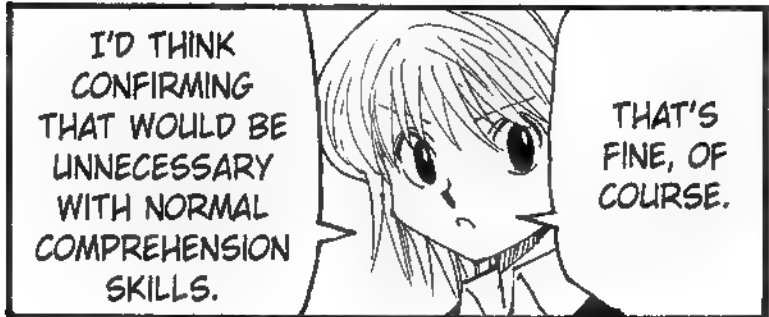
YOUR CONTRACT IS IN EFFECT ONCE WE'VE APPLIED TO THE OFFERS.



BY "ABORT," YOU MEAN THE SECURITY DETAIL AND NOT YOUR JOB, RIGHT?

HOLD ON.

IN FACT, IF I MANAGE TO SHAKE T-SERRIEDNICH'S HAND ON THE EVE OF DEPARTURE, YOU CAN ABORT BOARDING THE SHIP ALTOGETHER.



I'D THINK CONFIRMING THAT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY WITH NORMAL COMPREHENSION SKILLS.

THAT'S FINE, OF COURSE.



...



YOU'LL PROBABLY END UP FIGHTING WITH BISCUIT, SO I'LL TELL YOU THE SECRET TO GETTING HER TO EAT OUT OF YOUR HAND.

IT'LL BE CREEPY, BUT YOU SHOULD TRY IT IF YOU CAN... I COULDN'T GET MYSELF TO DO IT.



SAYS THE PERSON OVERACTING THE INNOCENT IN OUR FIRST MEETING.

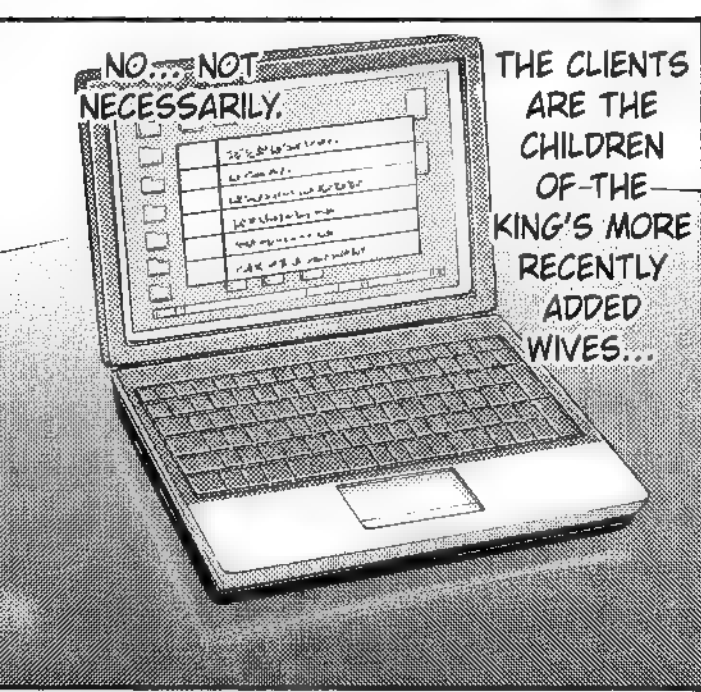
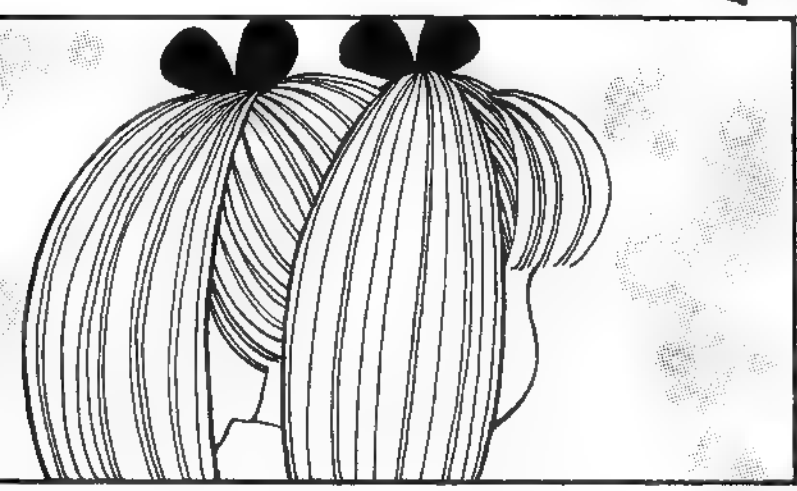
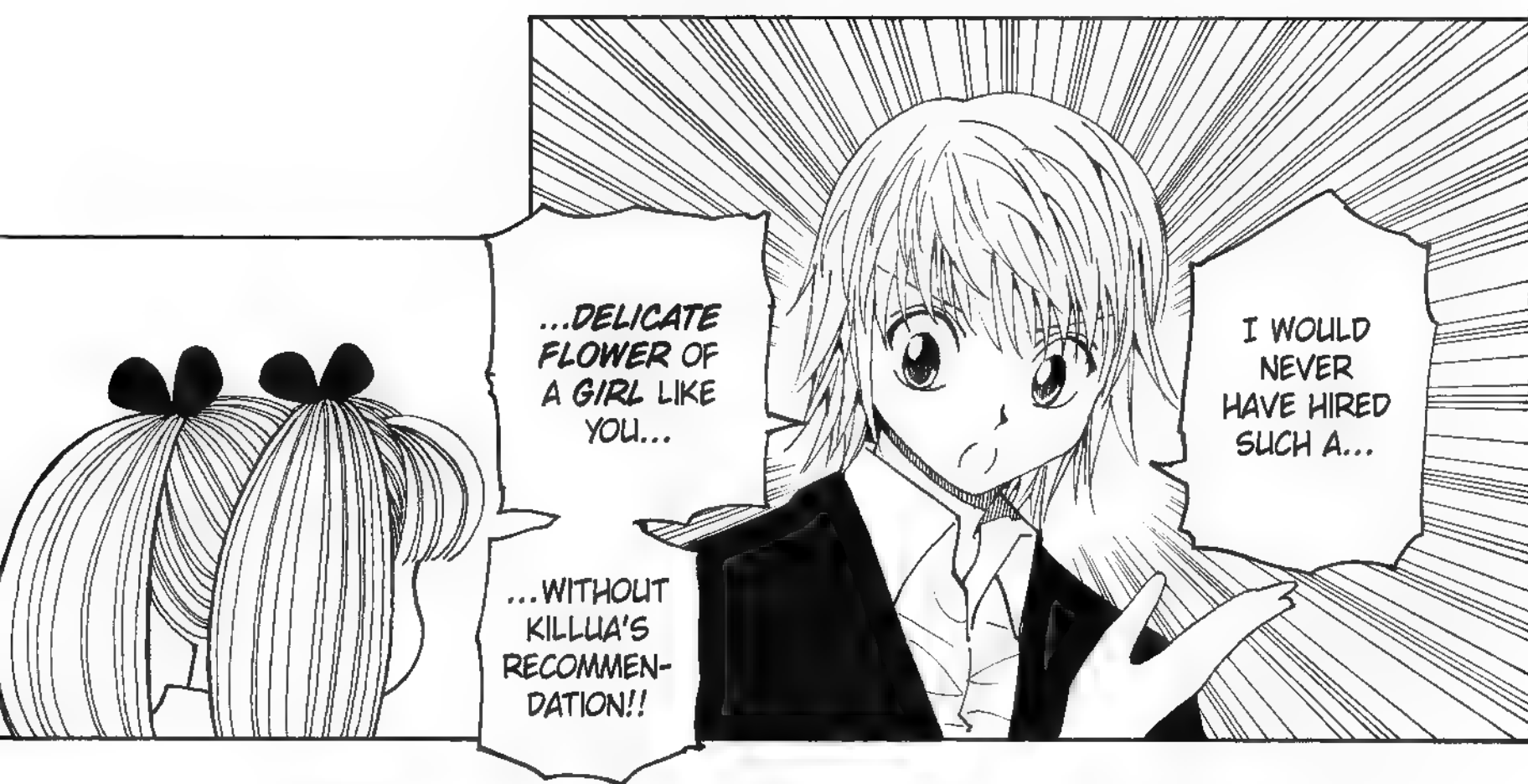
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUT I DON'T TRUST YOU!!

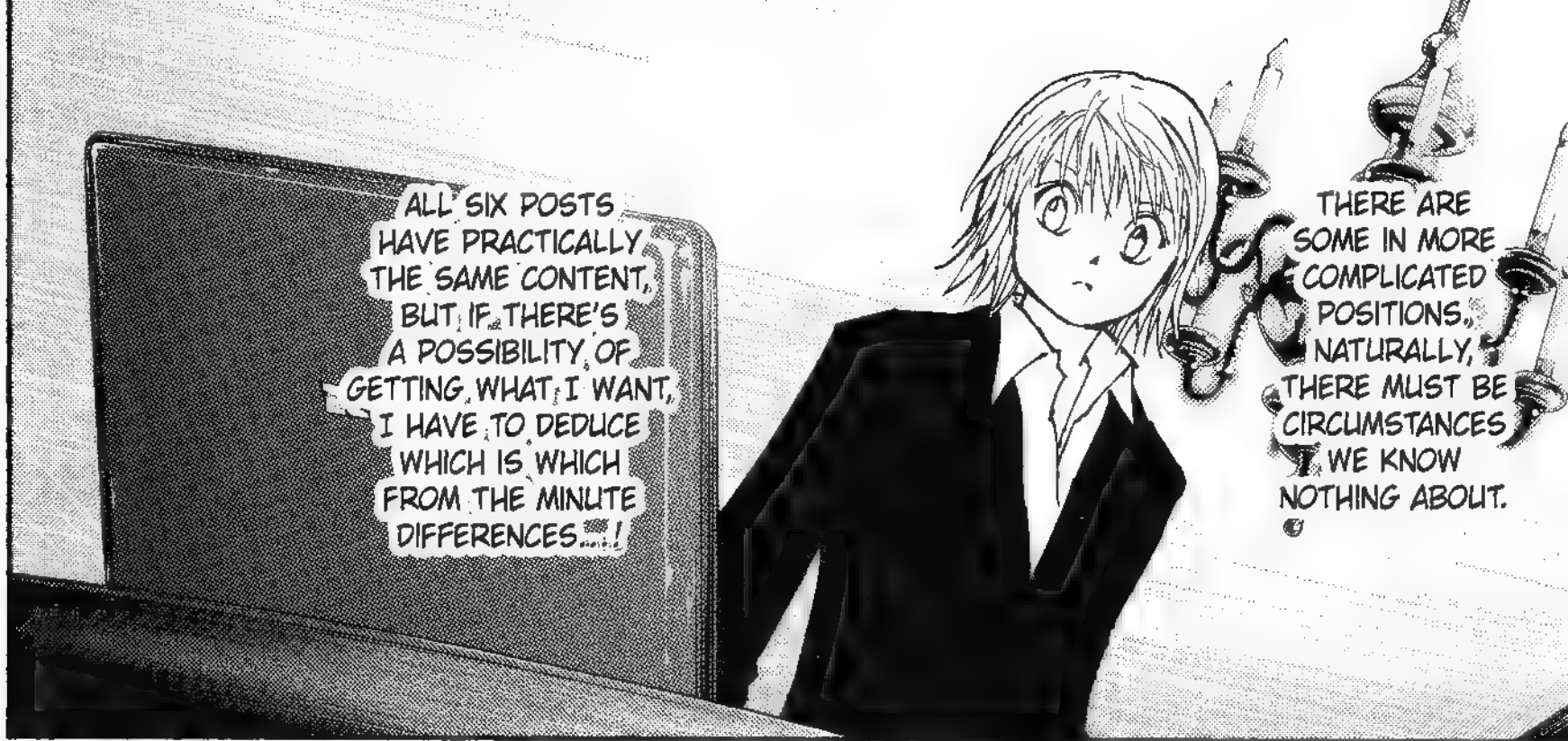
GRR GRR

HUH?!



TO GET MY PEOPLE BACK...





ALL SIX POSTS  
HAVE PRACTICALLY  
THE SAME CONTENT,  
BUT, IF THERE'S  
A POSSIBILITY OF  
GETTING WHAT I WANT,  
I HAVE TO DEDUCE  
WHICH IS WHICH  
FROM THE MINUTE  
DIFFERENCES...!!

THERE ARE  
SOME IN MORE  
COMPLICATED  
POSITIONS,  
NATURALLY,  
THERE MUST BE  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
WE KNOW  
NOTHING ABOUT.

THE  
CLOSEST  
I CAN GET  
TO THE  
TARGET...

THE ONE THAT  
SPECIFIES THE  
REVIEW PROCESS,  
THE OPAQUE  
ONE, INTERVIEW  
REQUIRED OR NOT,  
ETC...

OR THE ONE  
THAT NEVER  
TRIED TO ONE-UP  
THE OTHERS IN  
PAY... THE ONE  
THAT GAVE UP  
QUICKLY, THE ONE  
WITH A LOT OF  
ADDENDUMS, THE  
ONE WITH NONE,

THE FIRST POST...  
OR THE LAST...  
THE ONE WITH THE  
HIGHEST PAY...

...ONE OF THESE...!

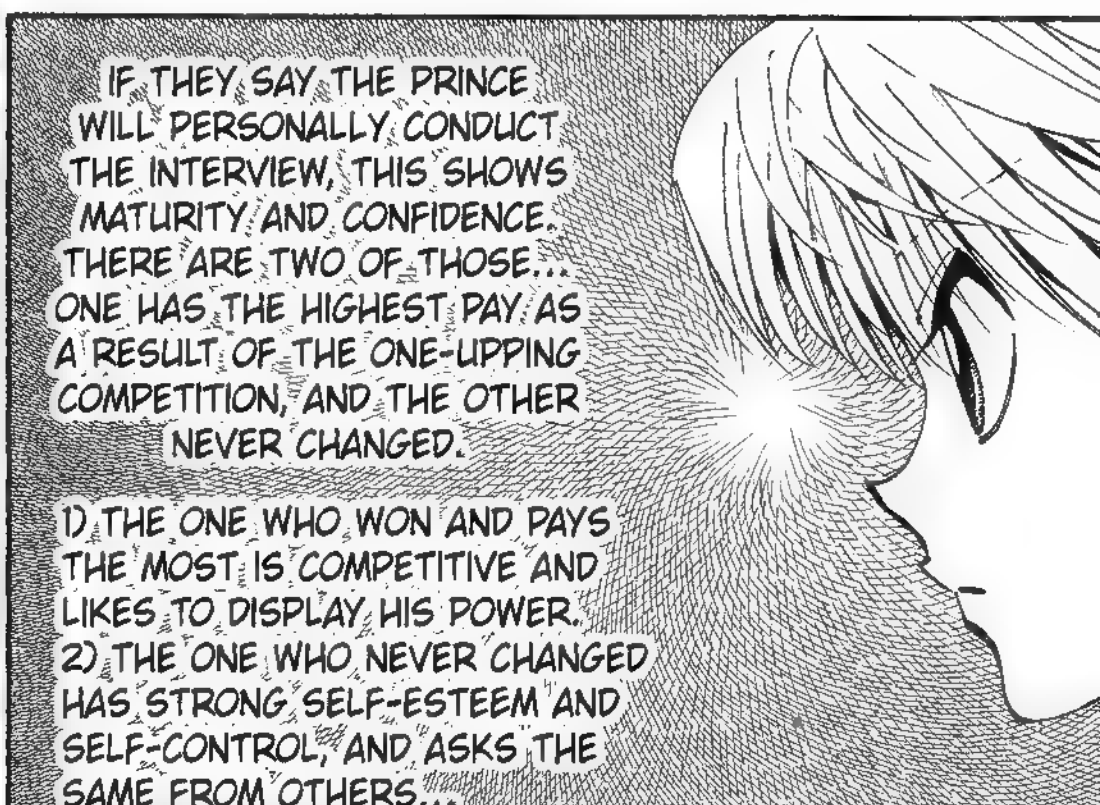
<input type="radio"/>	...
<input type="radio"/>	...
<input type="radio"/>	...
<input type="radio"/>	...

...IS PROBABLY...



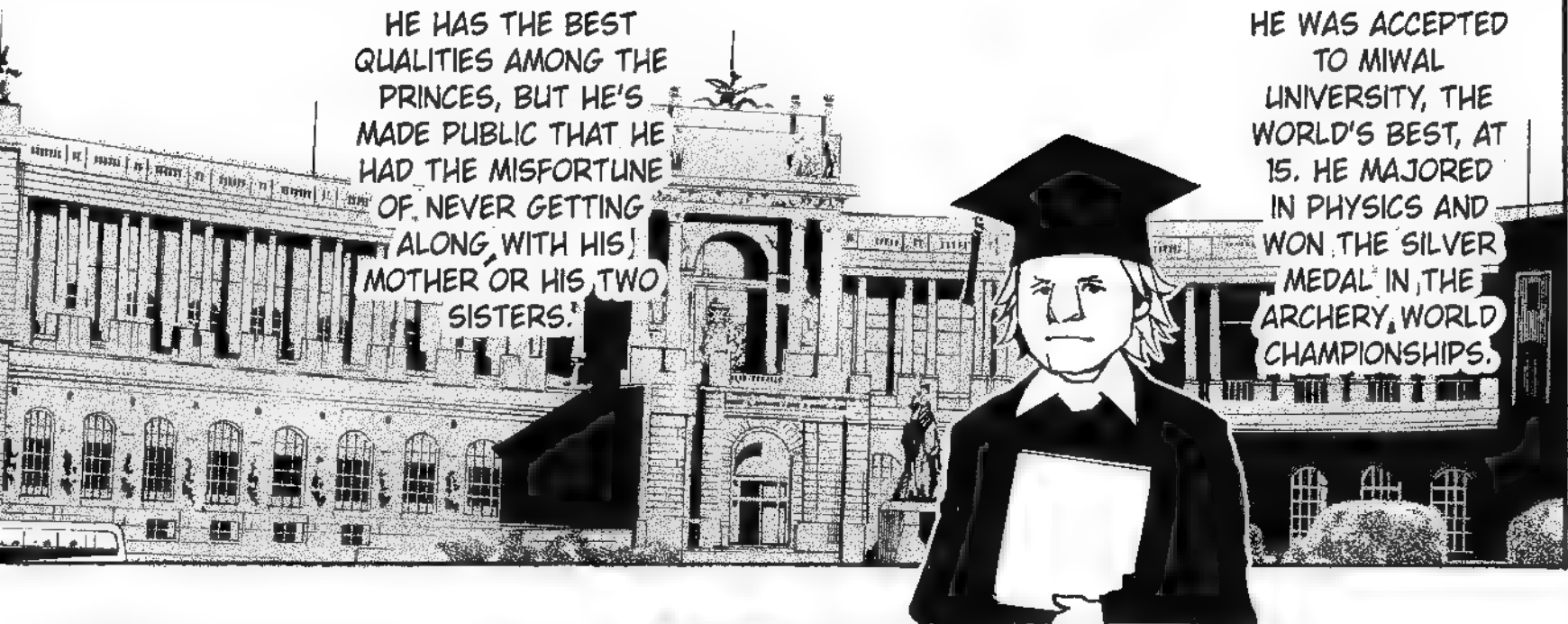
I'M  
CONVINCED  
ONE OF  
THESE IS  
HIM!!

PRINCE  
HALKENBURG  
IS THE ONE  
WHO FITS  
THIS PROFILE  
THE MOST...!!!



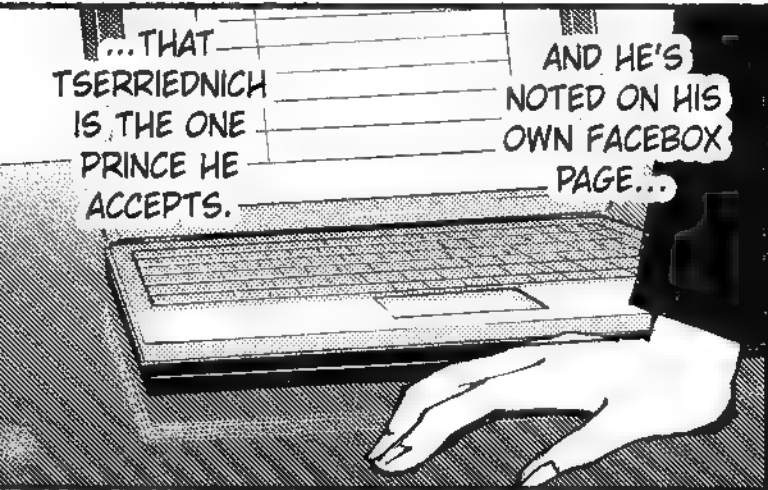
IF THEY SAY THE PRINCE  
WILL PERSONALLY CONDUCT  
THE INTERVIEW, THIS SHOWS  
MATURITY AND CONFIDENCE.  
THERE ARE TWO OF THOSE...  
ONE HAS THE HIGHEST PAY AS  
A RESULT OF THE ONE-UPPING  
COMPETITION, AND THE OTHER  
NEVER CHANGED.

- 1) THE ONE WHO WON AND PAYS THE MOST IS COMPETITIVE AND LIKES TO DISPLAY HIS POWER.
- 2) THE ONE WHO NEVER CHANGED HAS STRONG SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-CONTROL, AND ASKS THE SAME FROM OTHERS...



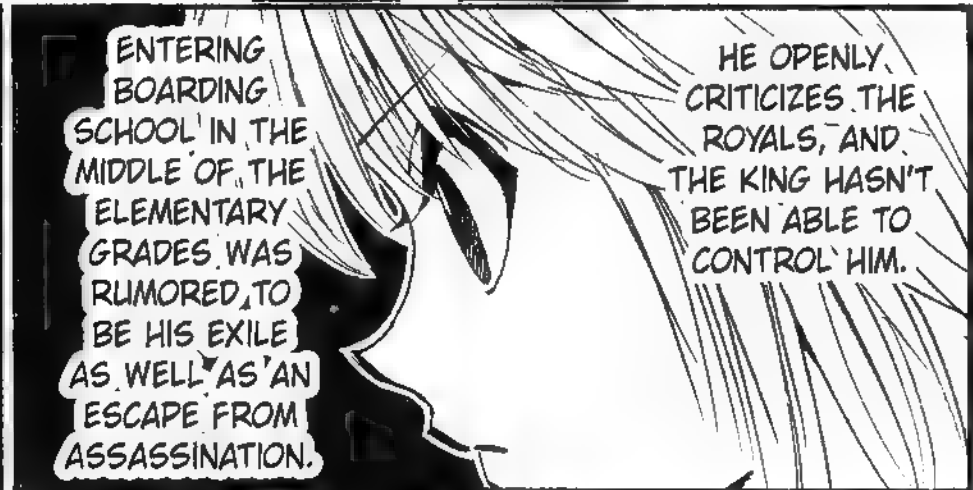
HE HAS THE BEST QUALITIES AMONG THE PRINCES, BUT HE'S MADE PUBLIC THAT HE HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF NEVER GETTING ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER OR HIS TWO SISTERS.

HE WAS ACCEPTED TO MIWAL UNIVERSITY, THE WORLD'S BEST, AT 15. HE MAJORED IN PHYSICS AND WON THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE ARCHERY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.



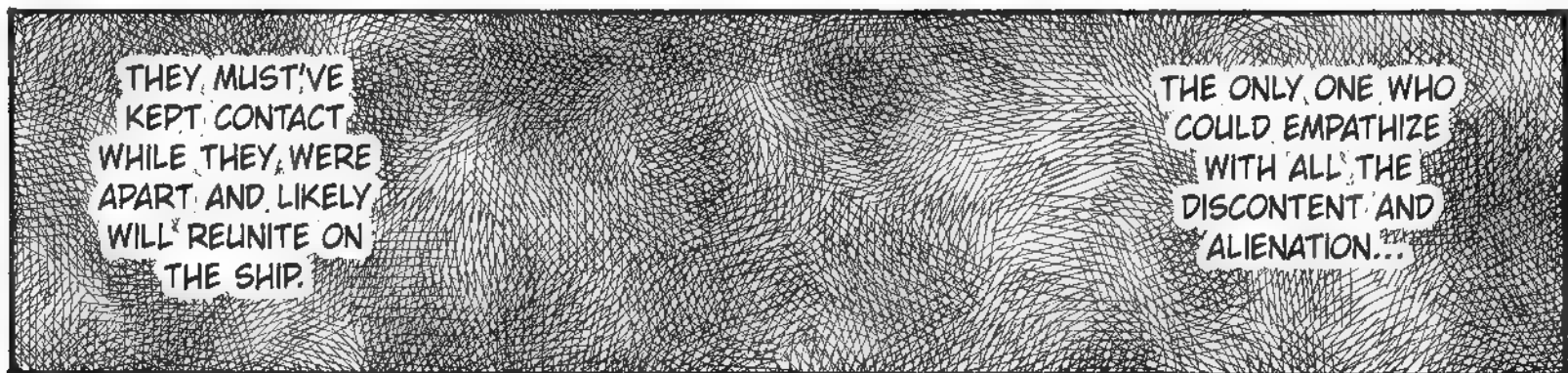
...THAT TSERRIEDNICH IS THE ONE PRINCE HE ACCEPTS.

AND HE'S NOTED ON HIS OWN FACEBOOK PAGE...



ENTERING BOARDING SCHOOL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ELEMENTARY GRADES WAS RUMORED TO BE HIS EXILE AS WELL AS AN ESCAPE FROM ASSASSINATION.

HE OPENLY CRITICIZES THE ROYALS, AND THE KING HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL HIM.



THEY MUST'VE KEPT CONTACT WHILE THEY WERE APART AND LIKELY WILL REUNITE ON THE SHIP.

THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD EMPATHIZE WITH ALL THE DISCONTENT AND ALIENATION...



I MUST PICK HALKENBURG!!

BUT THEIR CONNECTIONS TO TSERRIEDNICH ARE WEAK... SO...

KURAPIKA.

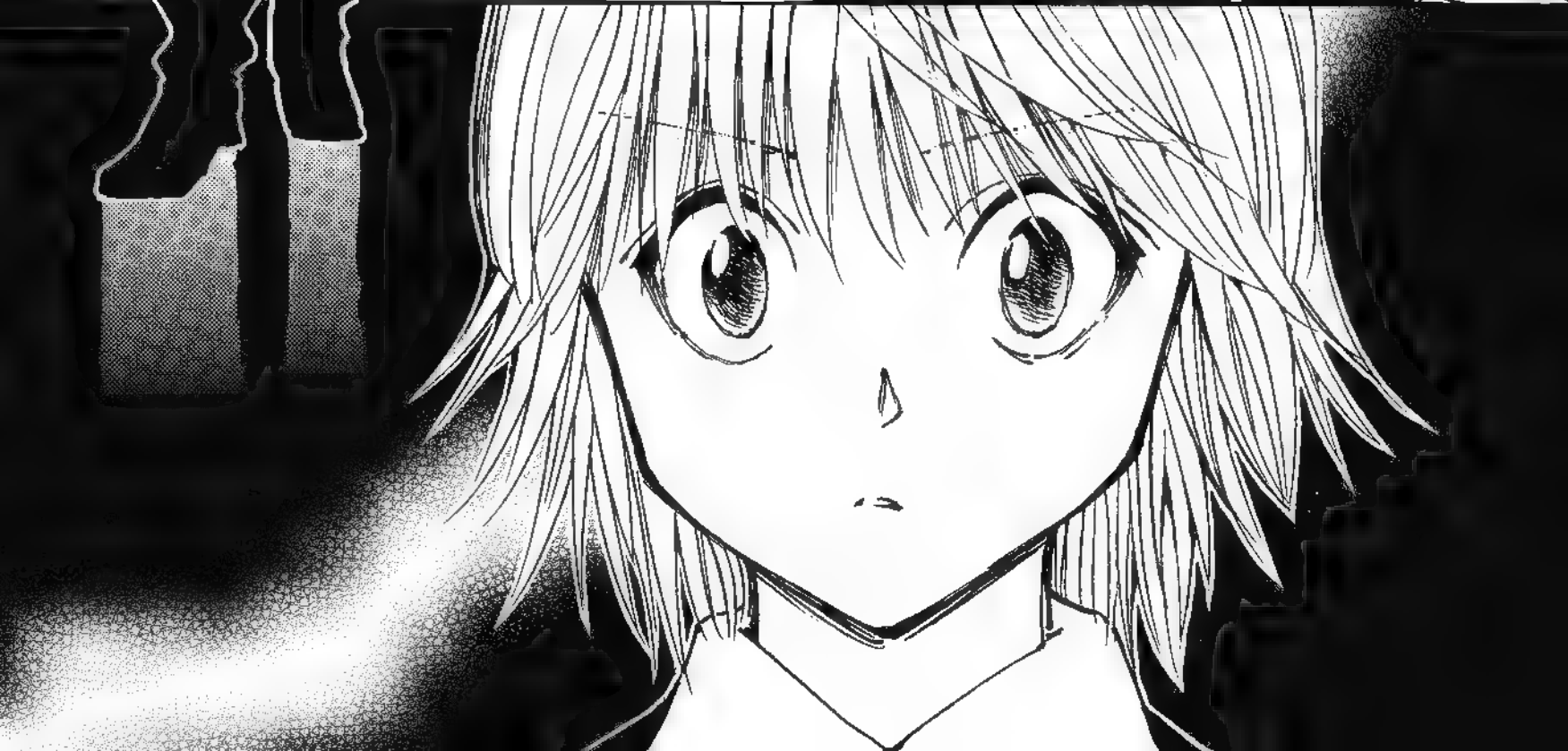


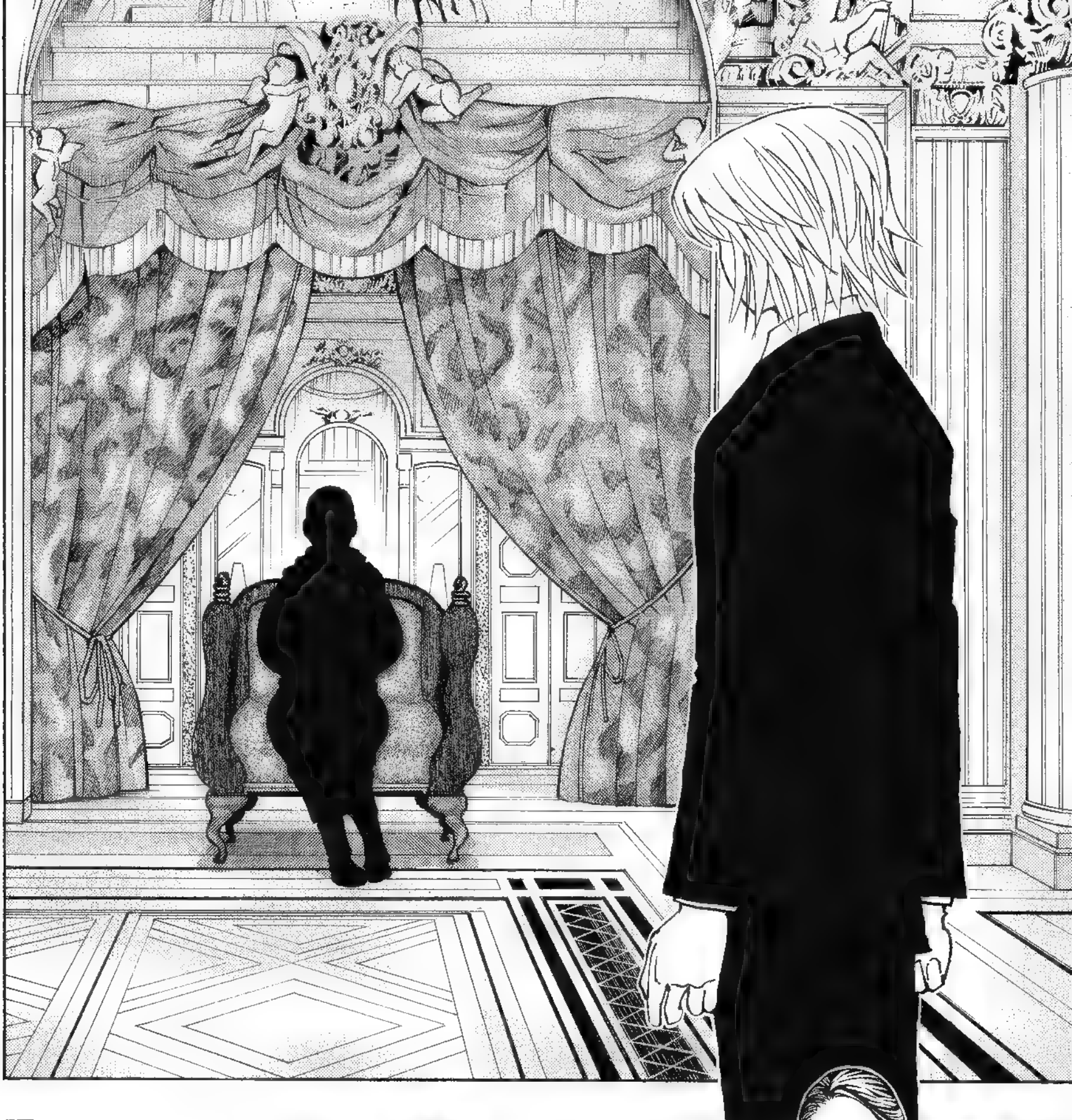
THE OTHER CAN BE SURMISED TO BE NO. 6 OR NO. 10 FROM THE PROFILES. IT'S KNOWN THAT BOTH PICK THEIR GUARDS ON LOOKS, AND THEY'RE VERY PROUD, JUDGING FROM THEIR SNS STATEMENTS, THOUGH THESE ARE WEAK REASONS TO PERSONALLY CONDUCT INTERVIEWS.

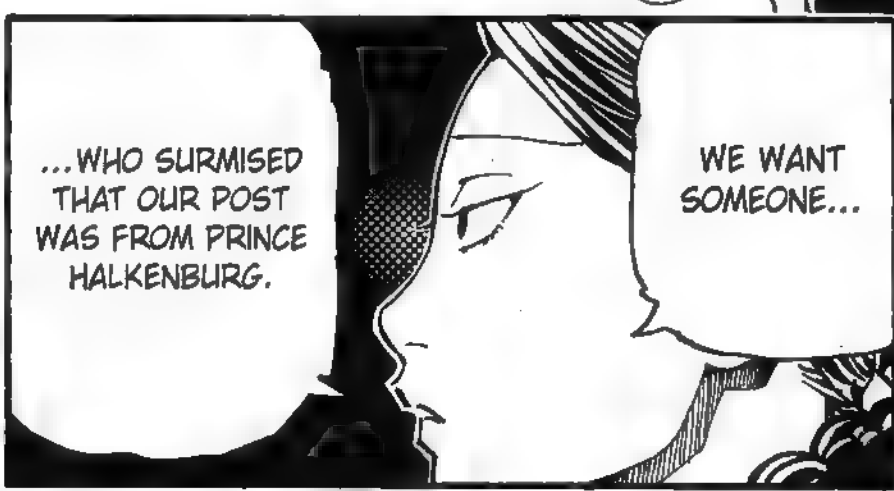


\* BY SENDING A NINE-DIGIT CODE TO A PHONE COMPANY HELD BY THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION, YOU CAN SEND AND RECEIVE INFORMATION VIA SPECIAL SOFTWARE CALLED Q. THERE ARE NO LOGS AND NO CALL HISTORY, AND REGULAR WIRETAPPING SYSTEMS CANNOT DETECT THIS METHOD OF DATA TRANSFER.

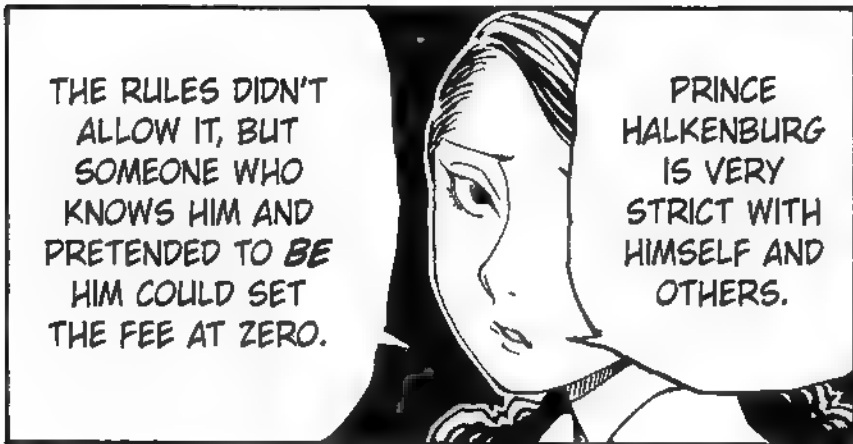


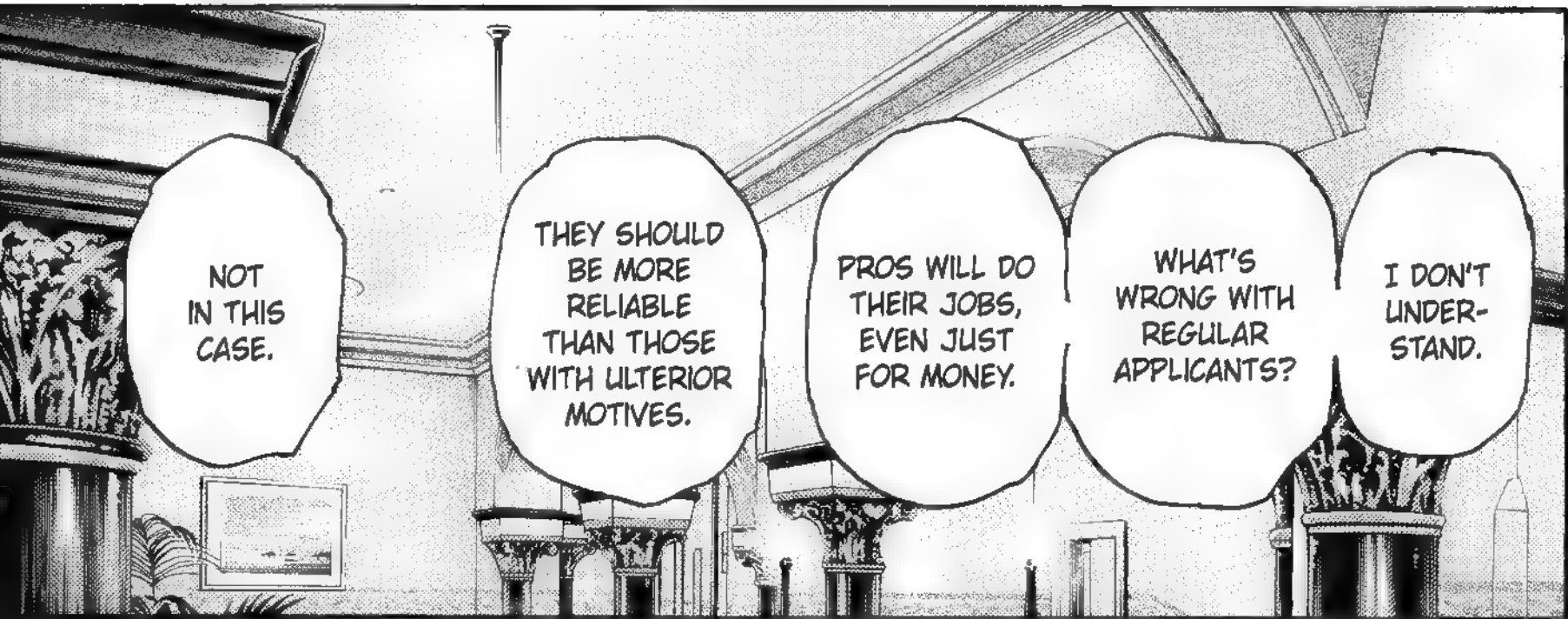












NOT IN THIS CASE.

THEY SHOULD BE MORE RELIABLE THAN THOSE WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

PROS WILL DO THEIR JOBS, EVEN JUST FOR MONEY.

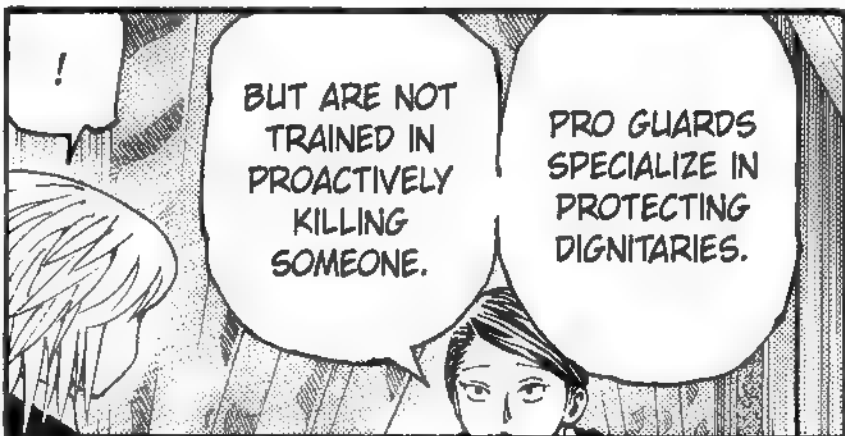
WHAT'S WRONG WITH REGULAR APPLICANTS?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



YES.

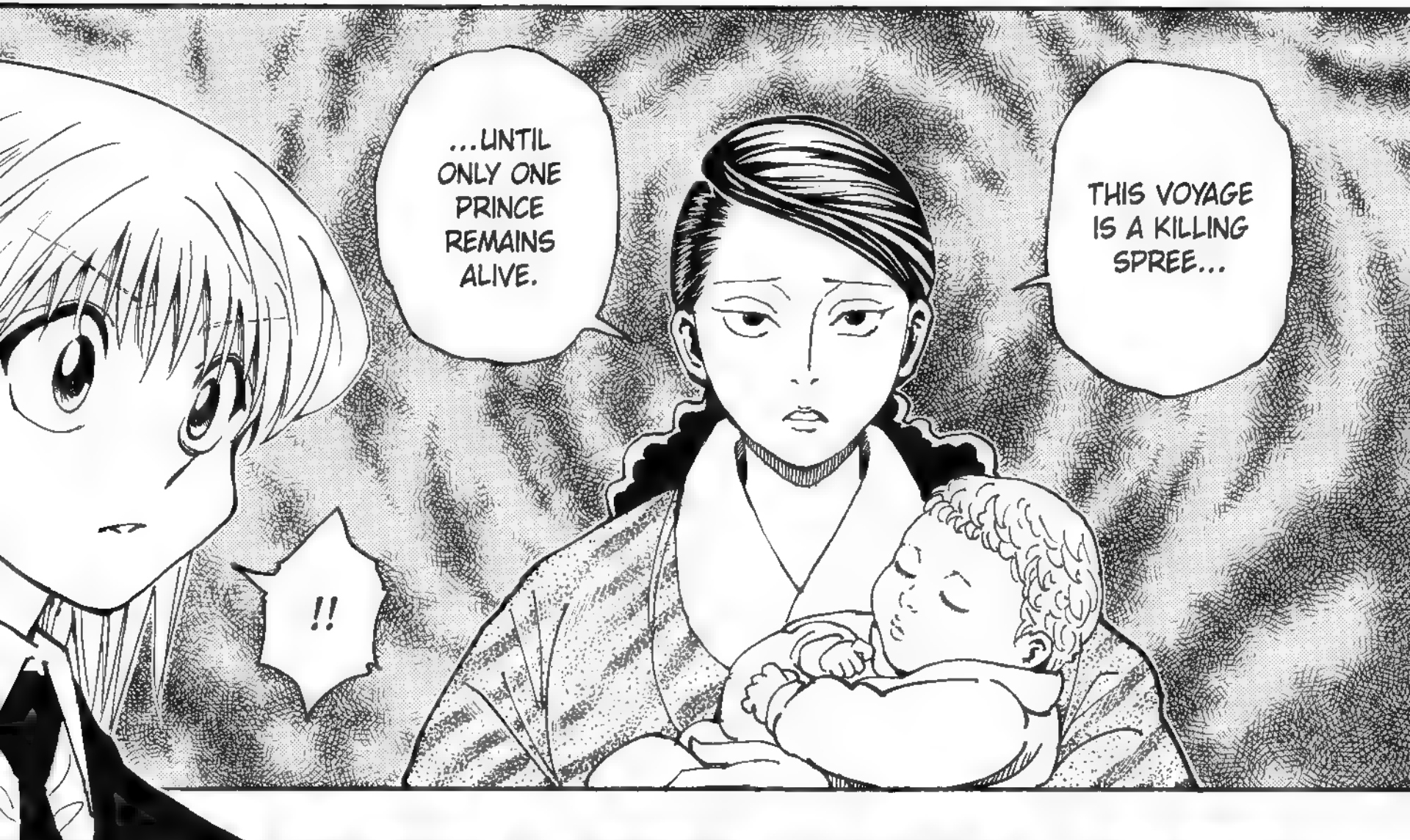
YOU MEAN TO ELIMINATE THREATS?



!

BUT ARE NOT TRAINED IN PROACTIVELY KILLING SOMEONE.

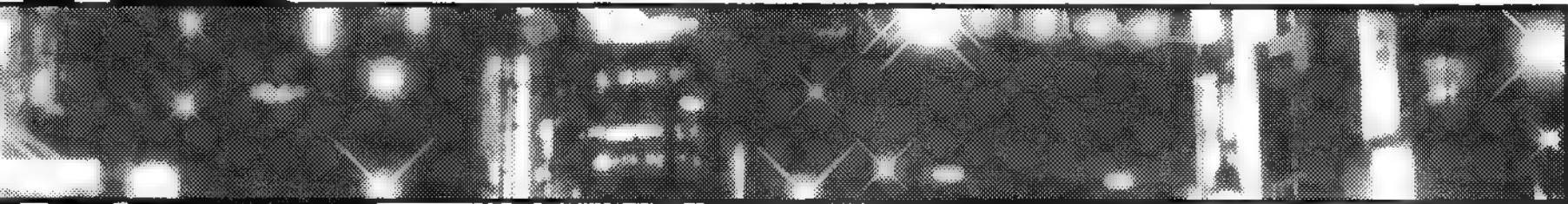
PRO GUARDS SPECIALIZE IN PROTECTING DIGNITARIES.



...UNTIL ONLY ONE PRINCE REMAINS ALIVE.

THIS VOYAGE IS A KILLING SPREE...

!!

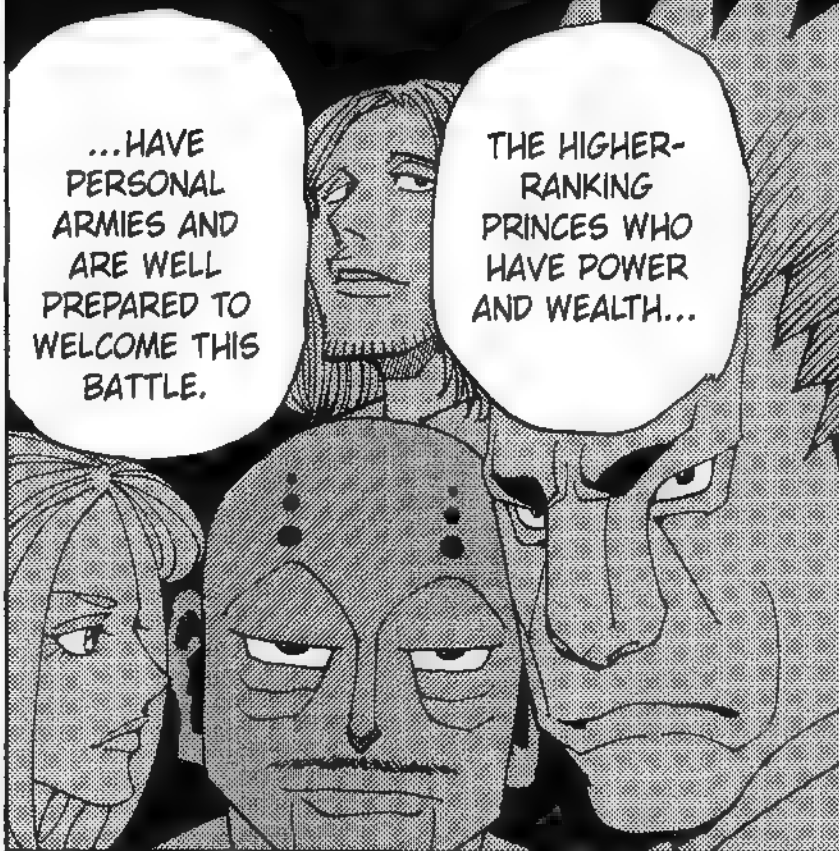




I WOULD GET OUT OF IT IF I COULD.

SURELY YOU MUST HAVE...!

DIDN'T ANYONE OPPOSE OR REFUSE THIS?



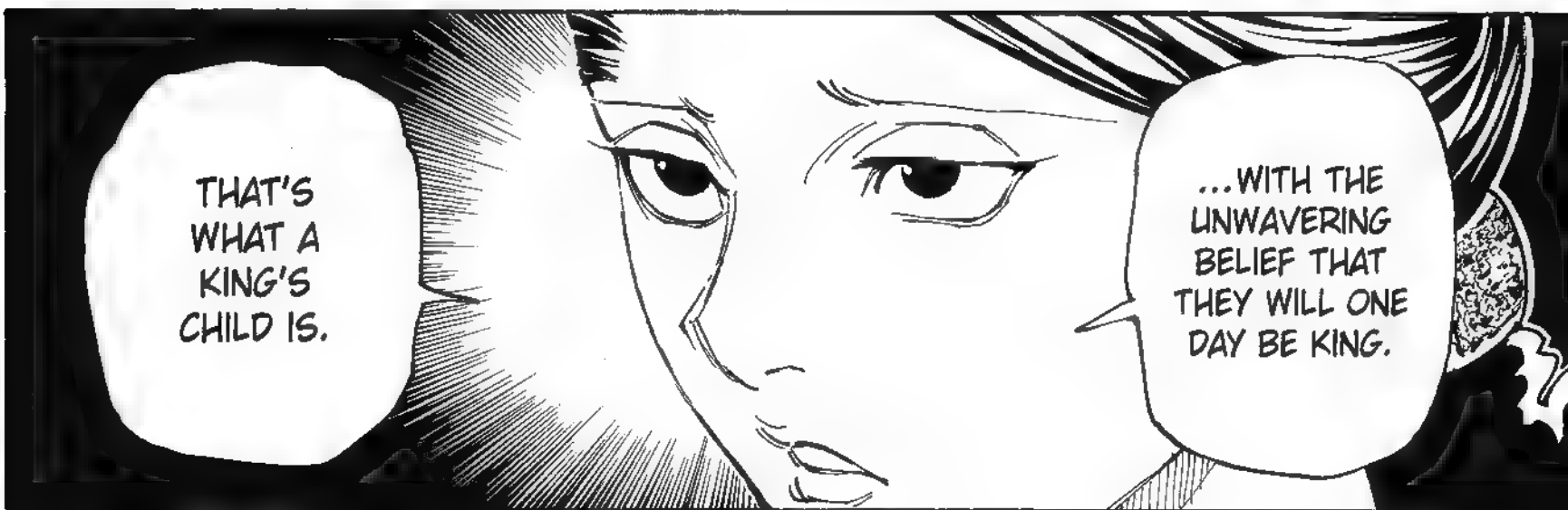
...HAVE PERSONAL ARMIES AND ARE WELL PREPARED TO WELCOME THIS BATTLE.

THE HIGHER-RANKING PRINCES WHO HAVE POWER AND WEALTH...



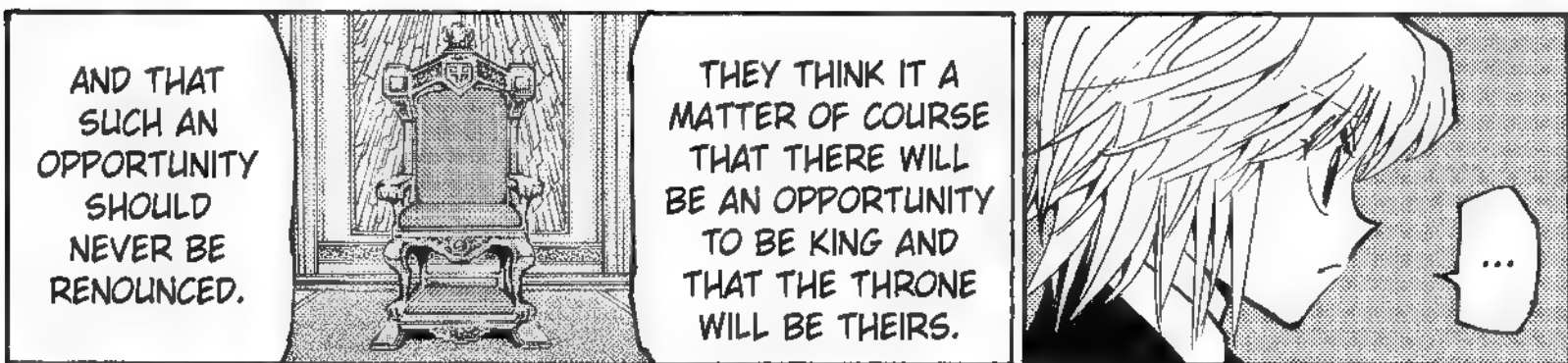
THE WIFE'S ROLE IS TO RAISE THE KING'S CHILD...

KING HUI GUO ROU REQUIRES HIS WIVES AND CHILDREN TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS IS WORTHY OF ROYAL BLOOD.



THAT'S WHAT A KING'S CHILD IS.

...WITH THE UNWAVERING BELIEF THAT THEY WILL ONE DAY BE KING.



AND THAT SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NEVER BE RENOUNCED.

THEY THINK IT A MATTER OF COURSE THAT THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE KING AND THAT THE THRONE WILL BE THEIRS.



...



IT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE THE FATE OF DESERTERS.

THE KING INSTILLED IN THEM THAT ANYONE RAISED TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE HIS CHILD.



...BY BLACKMAILING HIM WITH HIS PARTICIPATION IN THIS VERY BATTLE.

OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO BUY OUR SAFETY...



WHEN HE BECOMES THE NEXT KING, IF THIS SUCCESSION BATTLE BECOMES PUBLIC...

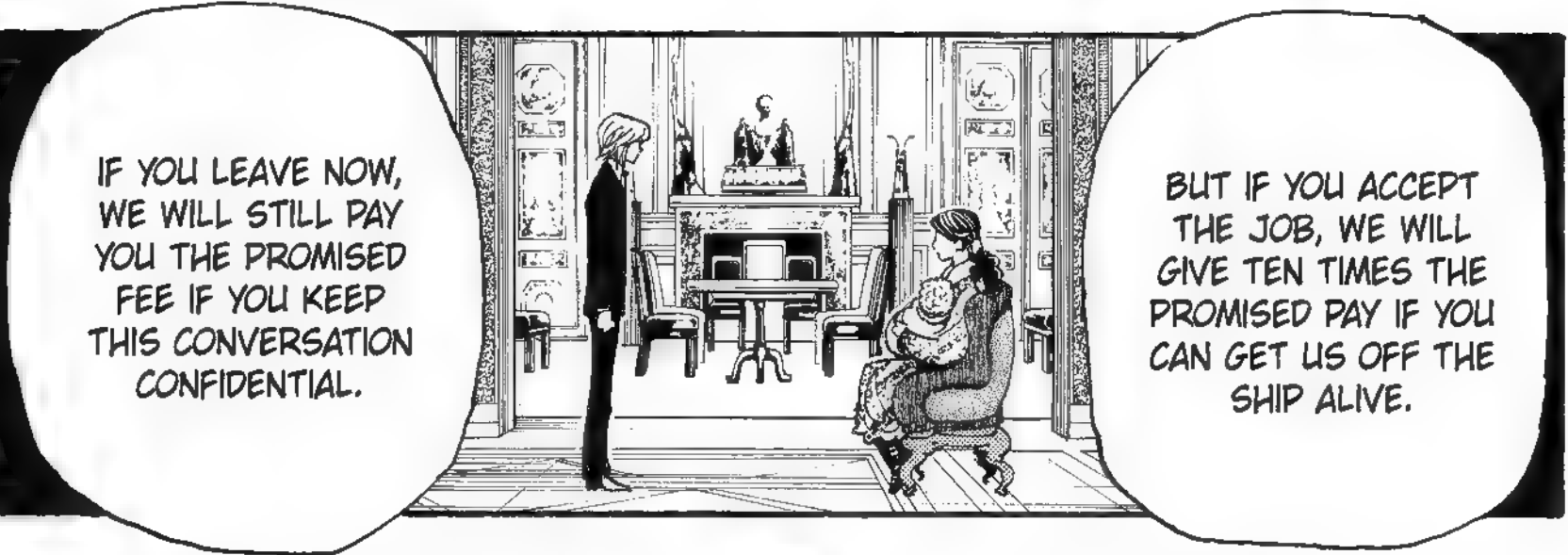
FOR THOSE IN THE WEAKEST POSITIONS, PRINCE HALKENBURG IS OUR SOLUTION.

...HE WILL BE THE ONE TO SUFFER THE MOST DAMAGE...!



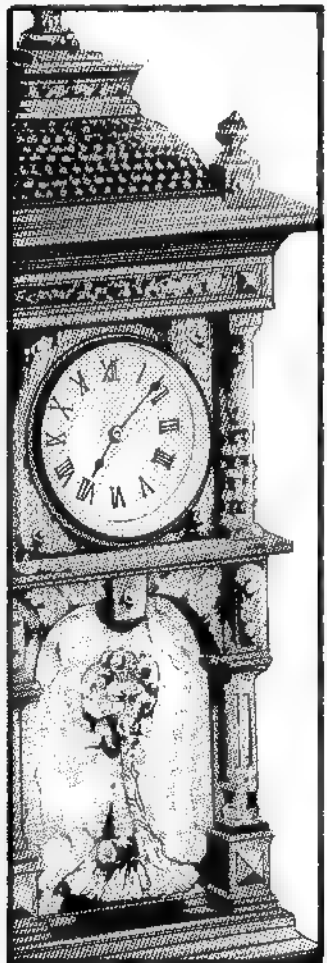
...DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE...

I...



IF YOU LEAVE NOW, WE WILL STILL PAY YOU THE PROMISED FEE IF YOU KEEP THIS CONVERSATION CONFIDENTIAL.

BUT IF YOU ACCEPT THE JOB, WE WILL GIVE TEN TIMES THE PROMISED PAY IF YOU CAN GET US OFF THE SHIP ALIVE.



...IF YOU'LL AGREE TO MY CONDITIONS...

BUT...

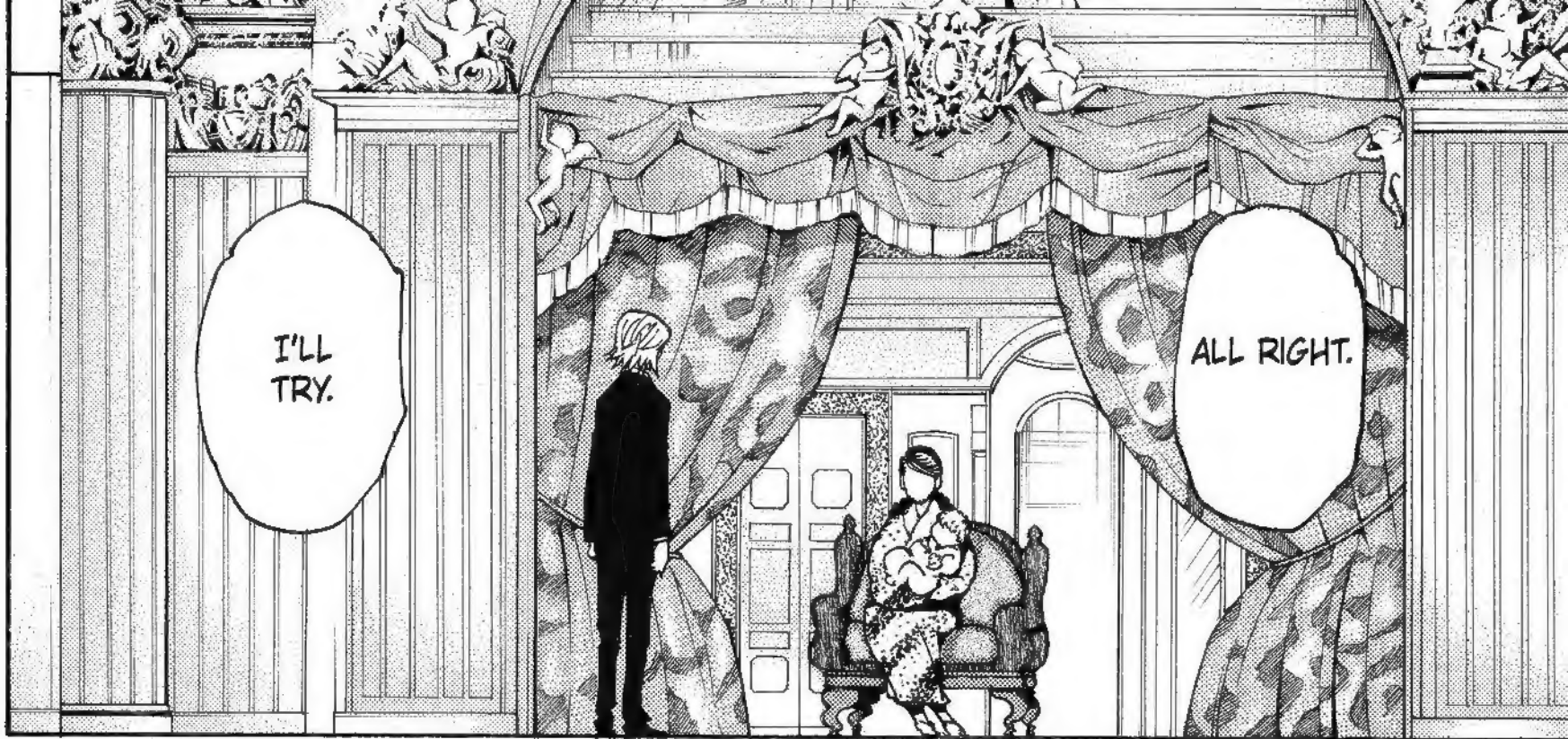
I'M NOT IN EITHER POSITION YOU DESCRIBED.

...I PROMISE TO PROTECT YOU TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES.



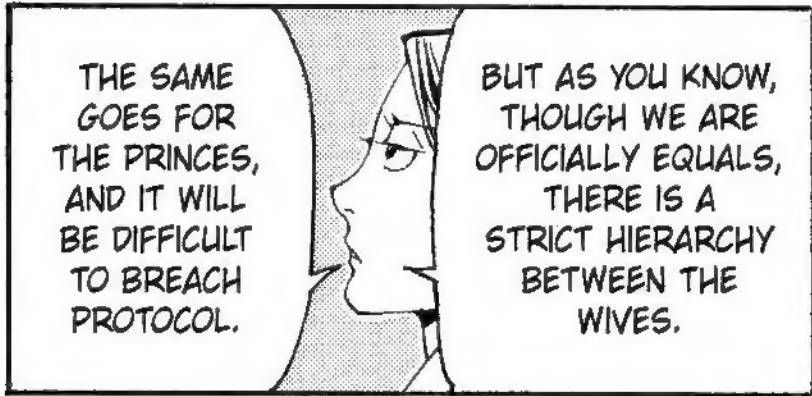
...

I CAN'T FORCE YOU INTO THIS...



I'LL TRY.

ALL RIGHT.



THE SAME GOES FOR THE PRINCES, AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BREACH PROTOCOL.

BUT AS YOU KNOW, THOUGH WE ARE OFFICIALLY EQUALS, THERE IS A STRICT HIERARCHY BETWEEN THE WIVES.



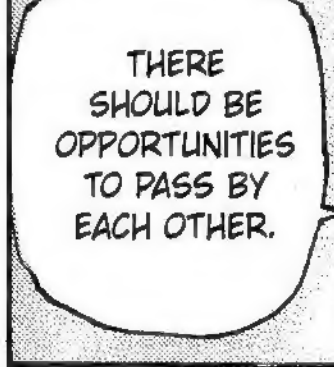
THEY WILL FEIGN NORMALCY AND ATTEND DINNERS AND PARTIES WITH OTHER VIPS.

THERE ARE OTHER PASSENGERS, SO THEY WON'T BE KILLING EACH OTHER IN THE OPEN.



I'LL AVOID ANYTHING THAT JEOPARDIZES YOUR SAFETY.

I'M WELL AWARE OF IT.



THERE SHOULD BE OPPORTUNITIES TO PASS BY EACH OTHER.

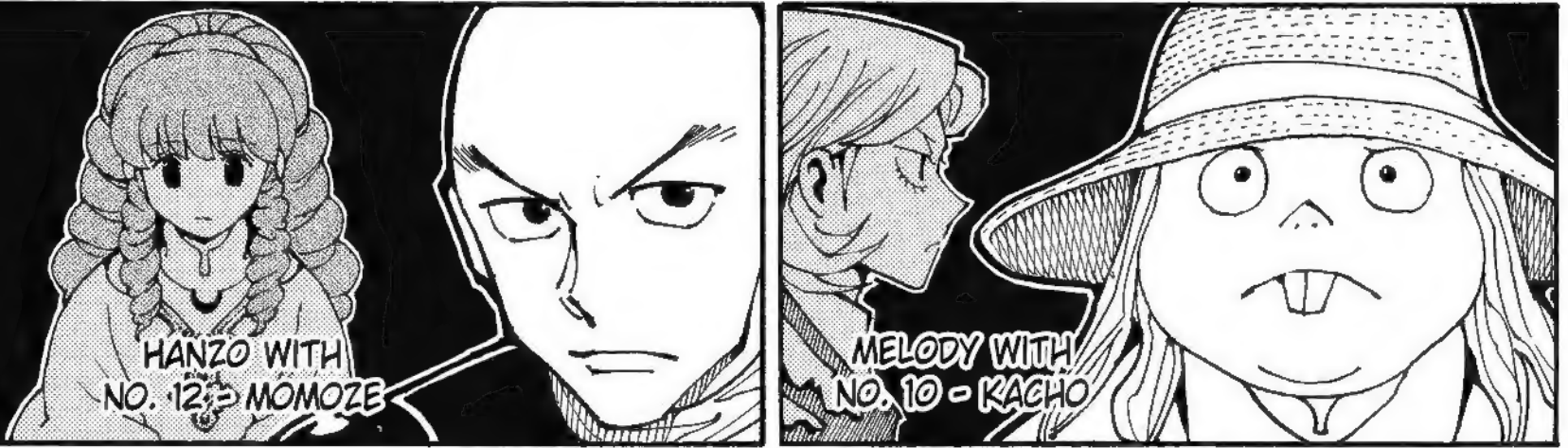
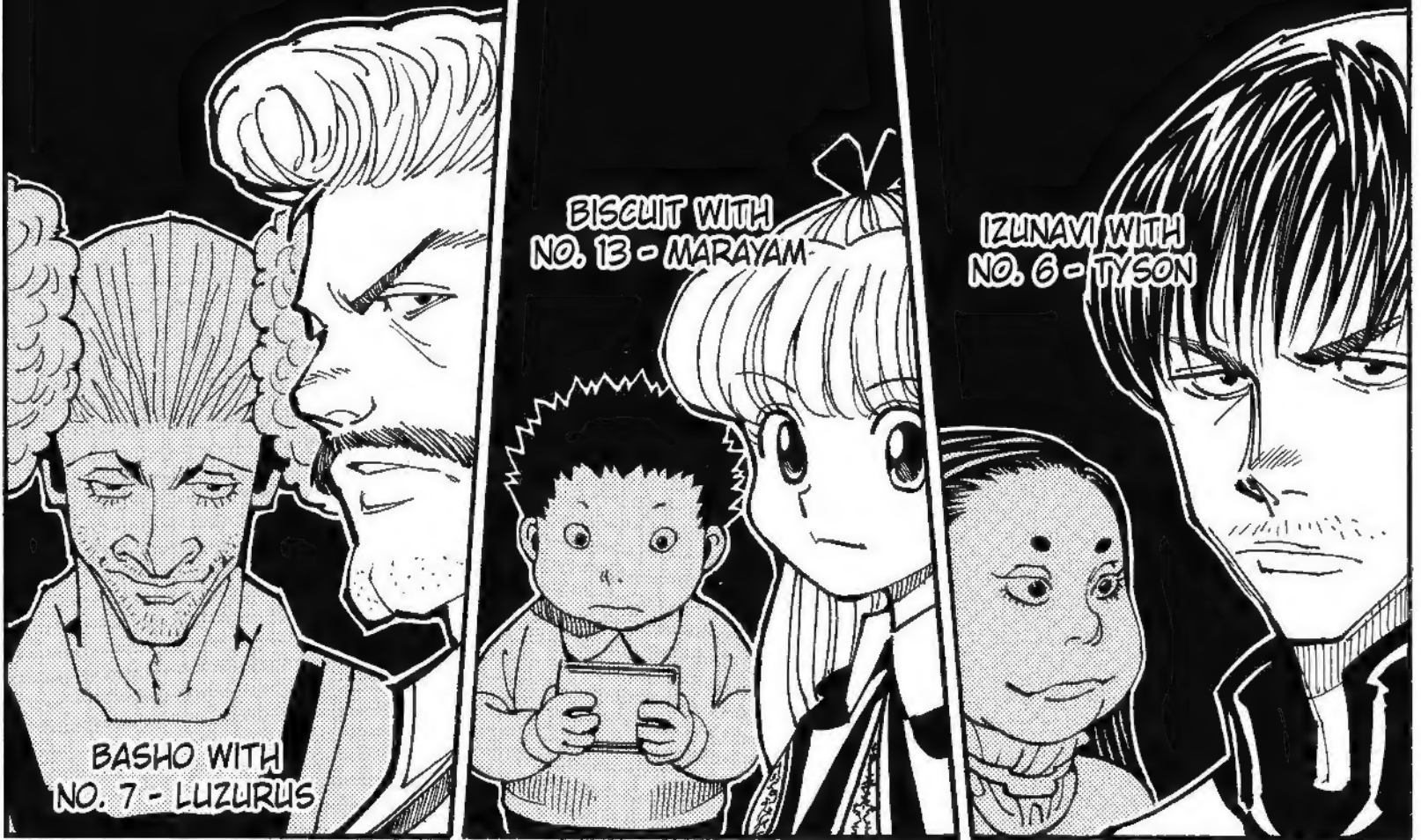


I CAME FROM POVERTY...

I WAS FOOLISH.







**RR**

**M**

