

A HARDER IMAGE

STORY AND ART:
PETIT MAUDITE

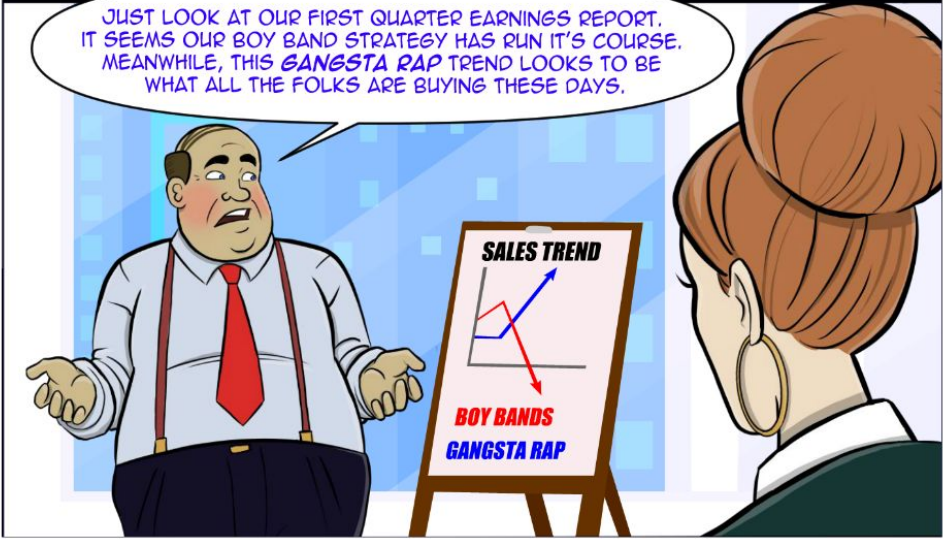


TODAY IN THE **BOARD ROOM** AT **TREND POP RECORD STUDIO HEADQUARTERS**, AN **URGENT MEETING** IS TAKING PLACE.



THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE. OUR SALES ARE **TANKING!**

JUST LOOK AT OUR FIRST QUARTER EARNINGS REPORT. IT SEEMS OUR **BOY BAND** STRATEGY HAS RUN IT'S COURSE. MEANWHILE, THIS **GANGSTA RAP** TREND LOOKS TO BE WHAT ALL THE FOLKS ARE BUYING THESE DAYS.



YES. **MARKET RESEARCH** IS SHOWING WE MAY BE A LITTLE **BEHIND THE CURVE**.

THE REAL CRUX OF THE ISSUE IS THAT WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH **BUDGET MONEY** IN THE COFFERS TO GO OUT AND SIGN A **HIP HOP** ARTIST!

IF ONLY WE HAD OUR OWN **EDGY HIP HOP** ARTIST...

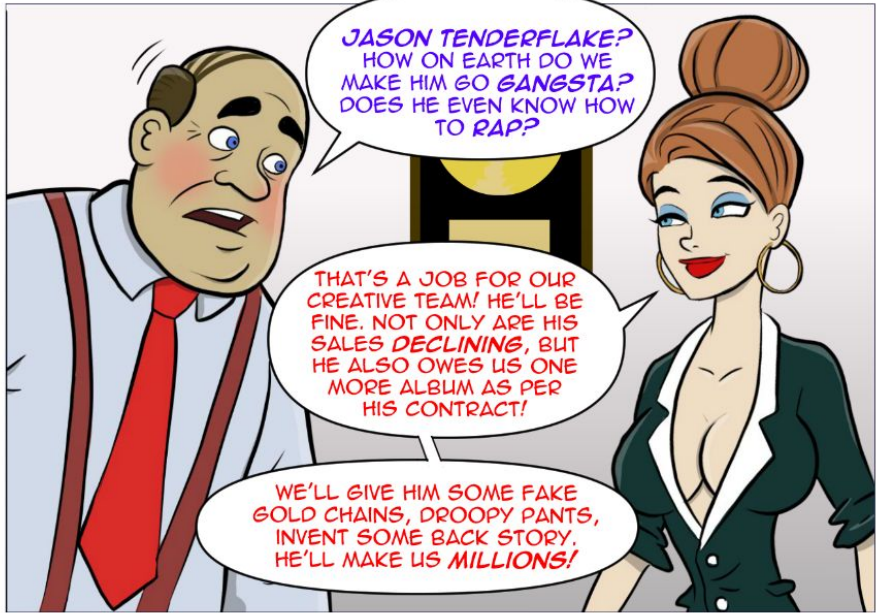
WOULD IT BE EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO **REBRAND** ONE OF OUR EXISTING STARS?

BUT **WHO?** NONE OF OUR TALENT FITS THE JOB. **RAP** IS ALL ABOUT **IMAGE** AND OUR CURRENT STABLE OF **RADIO FRIENDLY** POP STARS WOULD REQUIRE SOME **SERIOUS CULTIVATION** AND **RETOOLING**...HMMMM...



OH I KNOW!

WE CAN USE **JASON TENDERFLAKE!**



JASON TENDERFLAKE? HOW ON EARTH DO WE MAKE HIM GO **GANGSTA?** DOES HE EVEN KNOW HOW TO **RAPP?**

THAT'S A JOB FOR OUR **CREATIVE TEAM!** HE'LL BE FINE. NOT ONLY ARE HIS **SALES DECLINING**, BUT HE ALSO OWES US ONE MORE ALBUM AS PER HIS **CONTRACT!**

WE'LL GIVE HIM SOME **FAKE GOLD CHAINS**, **DROOPY PANTS**, INVENT SOME **BACK STORY**. HE'LL MAKE US **MILLIONS!**



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JASON! HOW'S MY FAVORITE CLIENT? I'VE GOT AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION FOR YOU. IT COULD MAKE YOU LOTS OF MONEY AND POTENTIALLY SAVE THE COMPANY! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS AFTERNOON?

UM... HEY TIFFANY. I'M ALWAYS PRETTY BUSY BUT I SUPPOSE I CAN MAKE SOME TIME.

GREAT! WE'LL DO LUNCH. IT'S ON ME! MEET ME AT THE DINER ON THE CORNER OF 6TH AND 7TH.

OH, YOUR CUM TASTES SOOOOOO GOOD!

UM, OKAY. WELL, I'LL SEE YOU THERE SOON! TRUST ME, THIS COULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! CHOW!



WOW. I THOUGHT YOU WERE PROPOSING A BACKLANE BOIS REUNION TOUR, NOT THIS!

SO YOU WANT TO REBRAND ME AS A GANGSTA RAPPER?

EXACTLY, YOU'RE GOING TO RECORD A NEW ALBUM, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST. WE'LL EVEN FIND YOU A DJ WHO WILL, UM, PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME MUCH NEEDED STREET CRED.

I CAN DO GANGSTA RAP, IT'S NO PROBLEM. BUSTIN' RHYMES IS ALOT LIKE SINGING CORPORATE R AND B POP MUSIC. ALL I NEED TO DO IS GET ME A PAIR OF AIR JOHNSONS AND A BALL CAP.



TIME TO DROP SCIENCE! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?



DEEJAY G-LOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE. GREAT TO SEE YOU! IT'S BEEN ABOUT 15 YEARS, HASN'T IT? ANYWAYS, CORPORATE WAS THINKING OF PAIRING YOU UP WITH OUR LATEST HIP HOP STAR. HE GOES BY THE NAME OF TENDER JAY. YOU TWO ARE GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST THING IN RAP MUSIC THIS COMING YEAR!

WHAT THE? AIN'T HE THAT PUNK ASS FROM THE BACKLANE BOIS?

YOU WANT ME DROPPIN' BEATS FOR THAT LOSER? DON'T YOU REMEMBER, I'M AN ORIGINAL GANGSTA WHEN IT COMES TO THE RAP BIZ. YOU TELLIN' ME SOME BOY BAND SINGER GOT GAME? THIS PANTYWAIST IS AN INSULT TO THE HIP HOP MEDIUM. NO NO NO ZERO! I AIN'T DOING IT!



AND YET YOU ARE. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN, YOU STILL OWE THE RECORD COMPANY ONE MORE RECORD. *SIGH* LOOK, I HEAR YOU AND I TOO RESPECT YOUR ART, BUT REMEMBER BACK IN THE DAY WHEN YOU'D RAP ON ABOUT MONEY, POWER, AND RESPECT? WELL, I'M GIVING YOU A SHOT AT ALL THREE! BACKLANE BOIS HAD MILLIONS OF FANS AND THOSE FANS WILL MAKE YOU VERY RICH!

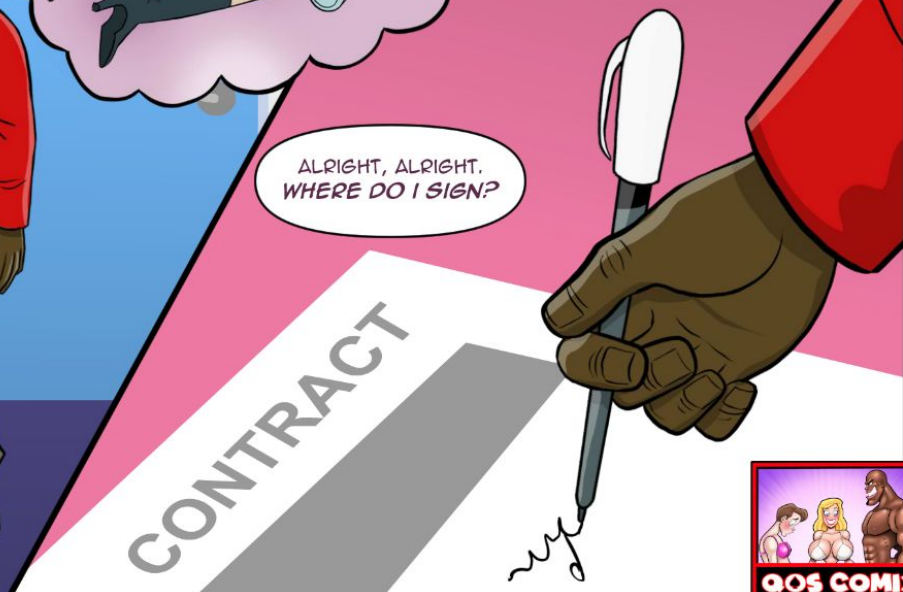


...AND DON'T FORGET ALL THE GROUPIES!



COME AND GET IT, LADIES!

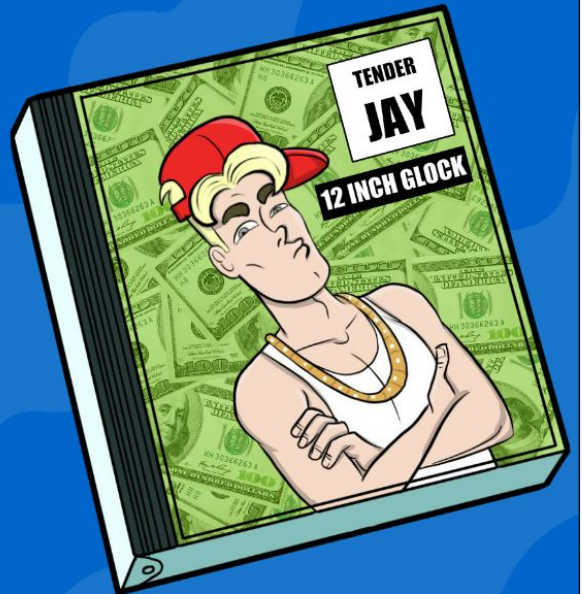
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. WHERE DO I SIGN?



I GOT A **TWELVE INCH GLOCK**,
WITH AN EXTRA **BUMP STOCK**,
HOES THINK I'M ALL JUST TALK,
'TIL THEY SEE MY **BIG COCK!**

I'M STRAIGHT OFF THE **STREET**,
I'M NOT SOME **WHITEBREAD ELITE**,
I CALL THE **GHETTO** MY HOME,
WHERE ALL THE **FLY HONIES** ROAM!

TIME TO TEAR SHIT UP!
SHOUT OUT TO
DEEJAY G-LOW!



VERY QUICKLY, **TENDER JAY'S** NEW ALBUM DROPPED AND SALES SOARED. **TREND POP STUDIO EXEC'S** WERE VERY PLEASED AND ADDED INCENTIVES FOR MORE **RECORDINGS** AND PAID **TRENDY MEDIA** TO ENDLESSLY PLUG THEM. **JASON TENDERFLAKE'S GANGSTA RAP MAKEOVER** SEEMED ALMOST TOO PERFECT.

THAT EVENING, MINUTES BEFORE THE **CONCERT...**

AND IN **HIP HOP NEWS**, **GANGSTER RAPPER TENDER JAY** AND HIS **DEEJAY G-LOW** ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A **WORLD TOUR!** THE TOUGH TALKING **RAPPER** SHARED HIS STORY OF GROWING UP ON THE **MEAN STREETS** OF **FENTANILDELPHIA** AND HIS RISE TO **HIP HOP STARDOM**. THE **RAP DUO** WILL BE PERFORMING TONIGHT AT THE **MAPLE CENTER** IN **LOS ANGELES** TO A **SOLD OUT CROWD**.

THIS IS **AMY WONG**
FOR **BMZ NEWS**.



SO, I DON'T WANT TO SOUND
MEAN BUT PLEASE STUFF **THIS**
IN YOUR **BOXER SHORTS**.

GANGSTA RAPPERS
AREN'T SUPPOSED TO
HAVE **PINT-SIZED**
PROTRUSIONS.



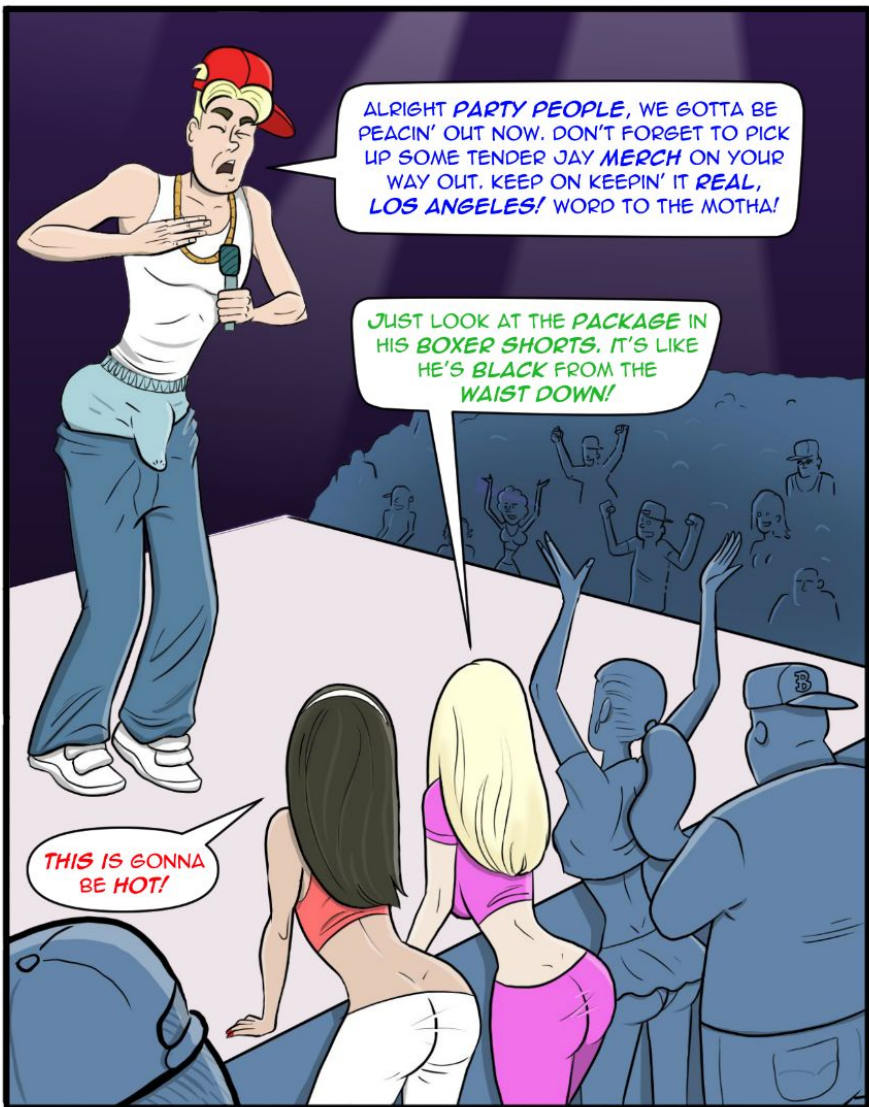


YO I AIN'T PLAYIN' KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'? STRAIGHT UP GANGSTA, HERE TO ROB BANKSTA!

WOW! HE'S SO MUCH DREAMIER IN REAL LIFE!

GOT THAT RIGHT, GIRLFRIEND!

YOU KNOW, **STEPHANIE**, WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT WHICH HOTEL **TENDER JAY** IS STAYING AT AND WE CAN PAY HIM A VISIT AFTER THE SHOW... WE'LL GIVE HIM A NIGHT HE'LL NEVER FORGET!



ALRIGHT PARTY PEOPLE, WE GOTTA BE PEACIN' OUT NOW. DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP SOME TENDER JAY MERCH ON YOUR WAY OUT. KEEP ON KEEPIN' IT REAL, LOS ANGELES! WORD TO THE MOTH!

JUST LOOK AT THE PACKAGE IN HIS BOXER SHORTS. IT'S LIKE HE'S BLACK FROM THE WAIST DOWN!

THIS IS GONNA BE HOT!



AFTER THE SHOW **TENDER JAY** AND **6-LOW** ARE CHILLING OUT AT THEIR LUXURY SUITES.

I DON'T CARE HOW WACK IS YOUR RAP GAME. WE GOT PAID IN FULL. LOOK AT ALL THIS PAPER! WE GOT TO CELEBRATE, HOMIE! LET'S HIT THE CLUB, FIND SOME FLY HONIES AND BUST SOME CHEEKS.

MAYBE ANOTHER TIME. I'M GONNA REST FOR TONIGHT.

I'VE GOT TO HOLD OUT ON SEX. IF SOME GROUPIE EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT MY SIZE, MY STREET CRED IS RUINED.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

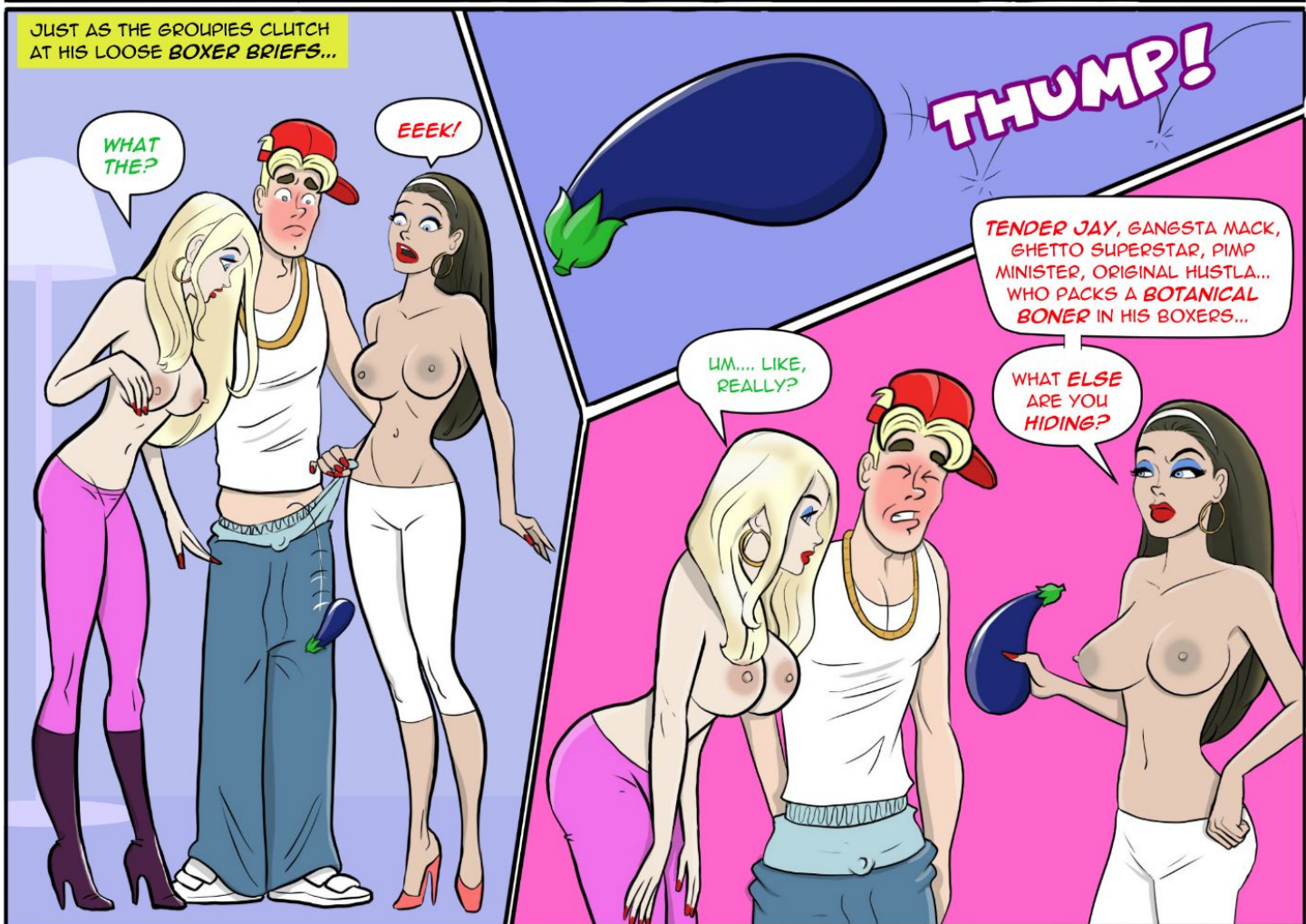
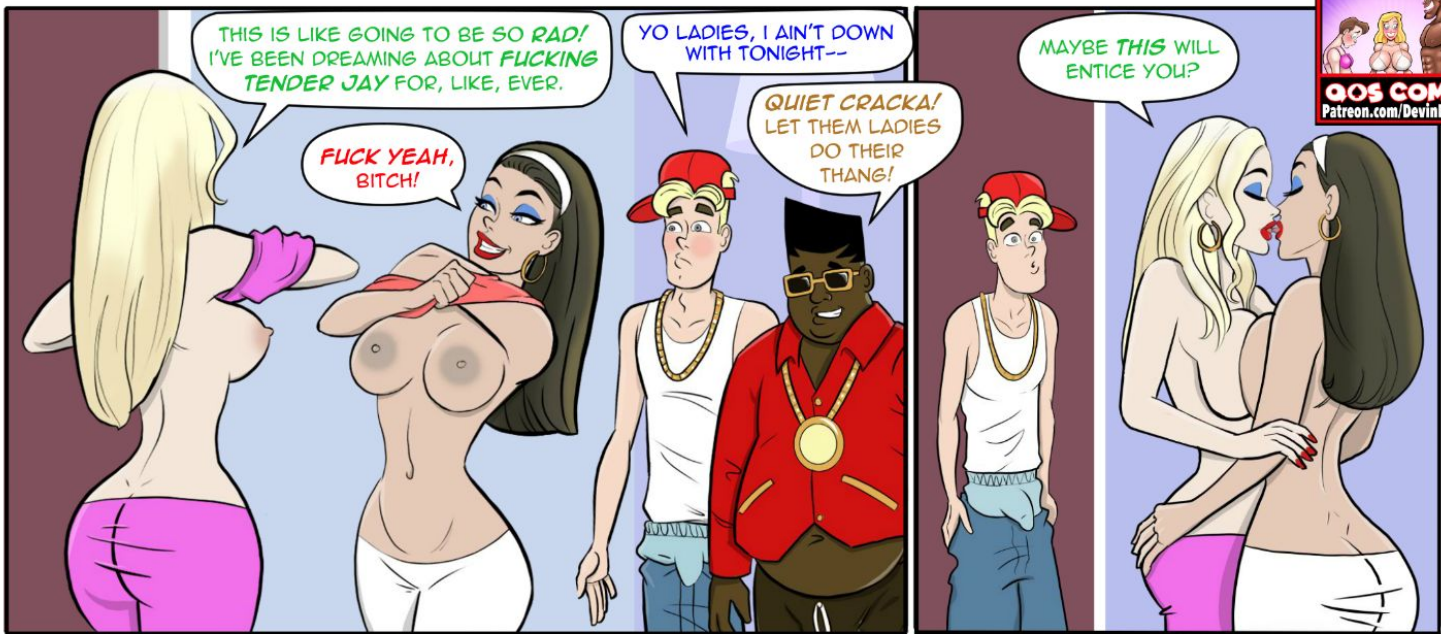


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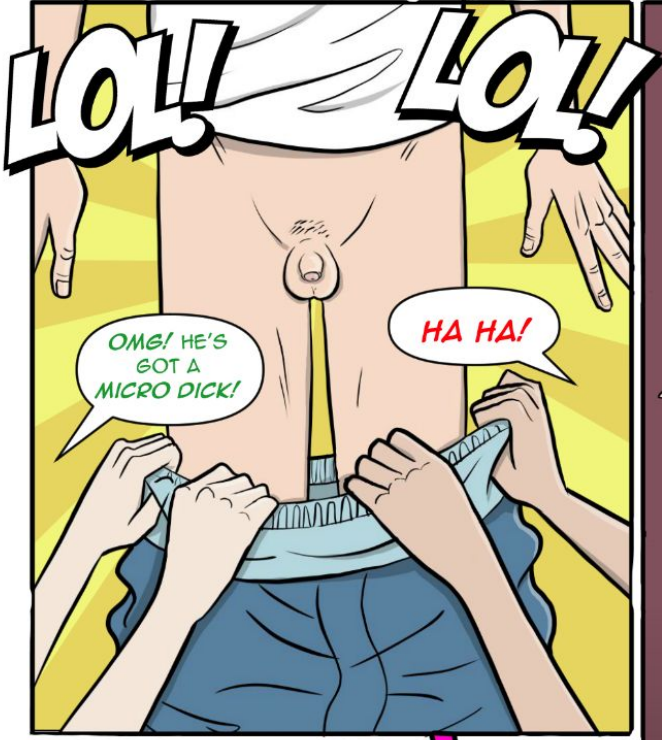
OH MY GOD! **JASON TENDERFLAKE**. IT REALLY IS YOU! I'M, LIKE, YOUR BIGGEST FAN. CAN WE COME IN?

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BUST US OUT, PLAYA?





JUST AS THE GROUPIES CLUTCH AT HIS LOOSE BOXER BRIEFS...



LOL! **LO!**

OMG! HE'S GOT A MICRO DICK!

HA HA!



YO! DON'T BE DISRESPECTIN'! I JUST TOOK A COLD SHOWER AND--

LOOK, IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU. JUST DON'T LEAK THIS TO THE PRESS!

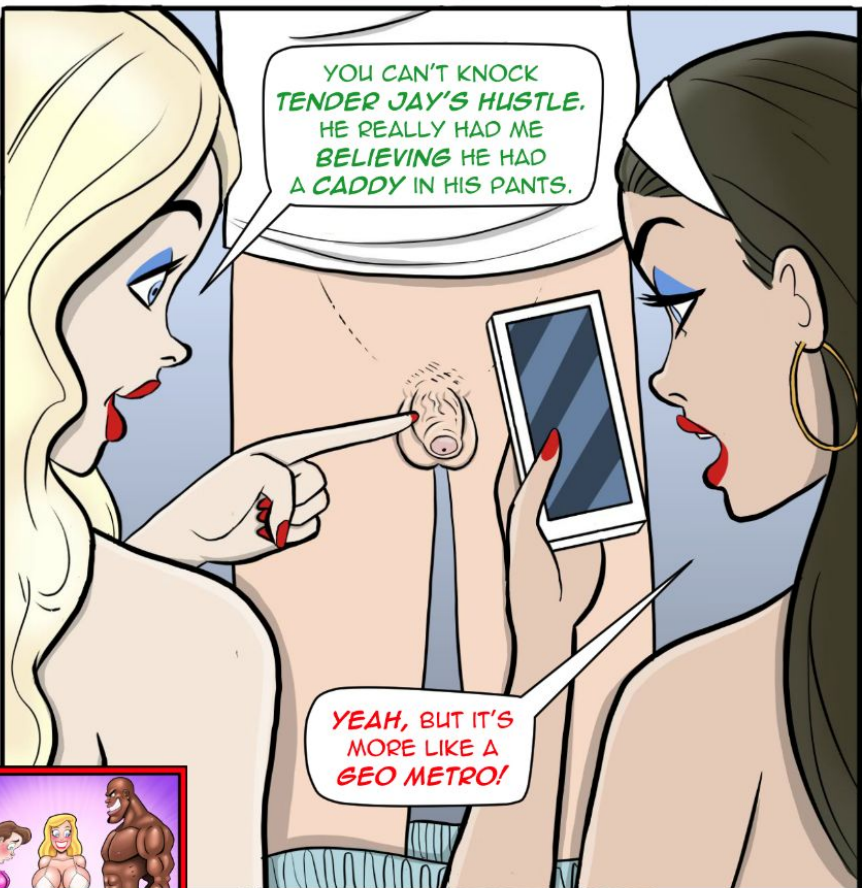
PIMPIN' AIN'T EASY? MORE LIKE SHRIMPIN' AIN'T EASY!

NO WORRIES! IT'LL BE OUR VERY LITTLE SECRET!



HAHA!

HAHA!



YOU CAN'T KNOCK TENDER JAY'S HUSTLE. HE REALLY HAD ME BELIEVING HE HAD A CADDY IN HIS PANTS.

YEAH, BUT IT'S MORE LIKE A GEO METRO!



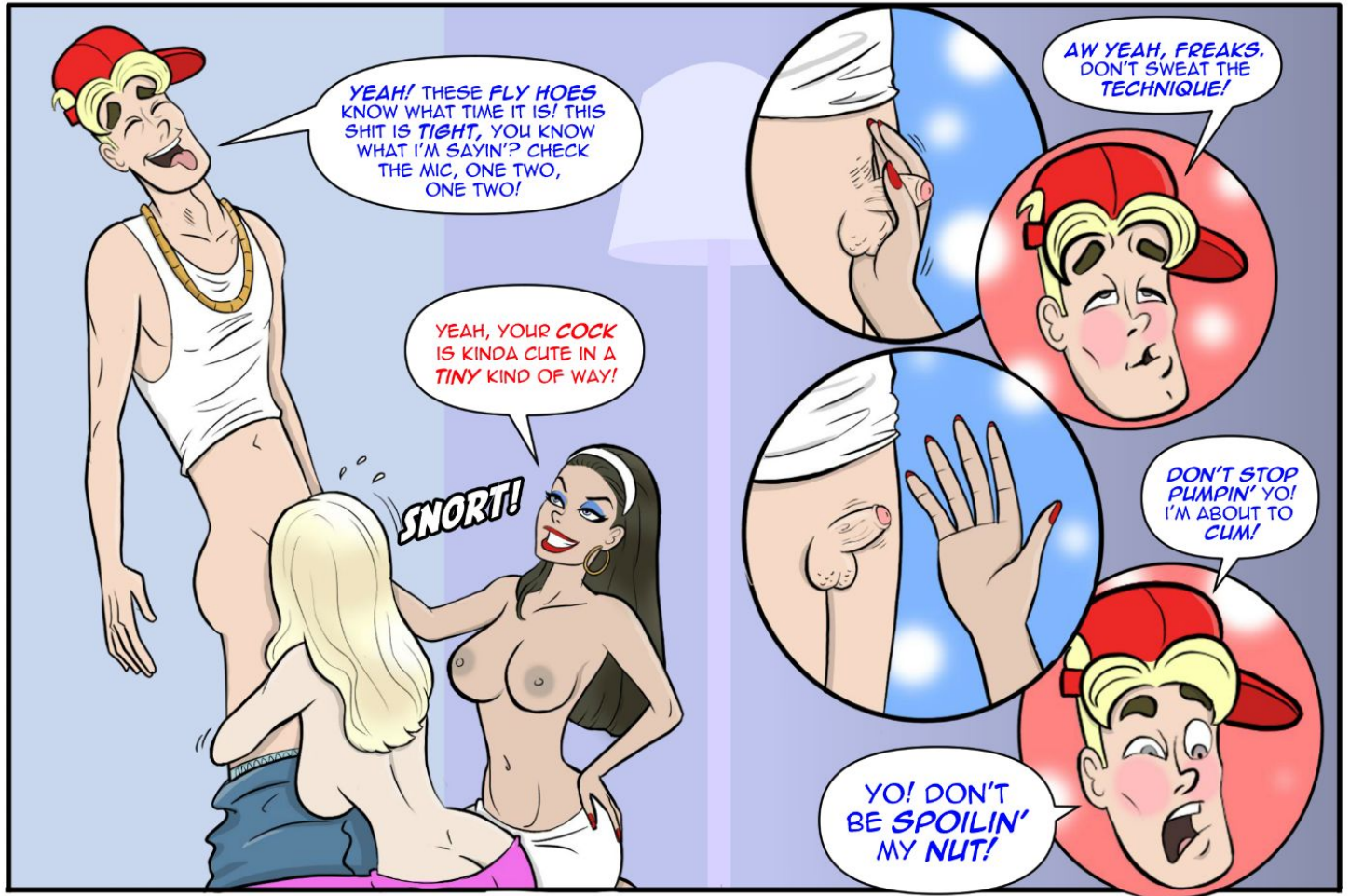
...BUT SINCE WE'RE ALREADY HERE, WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A GOOD TIME.

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THIS UP AN INCH OR TWO!

giggle!



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THE TWO **GROUPIES** QUICKLY REALIZED IT WAS ONLY THE **DEEJAY** WHO COULD GET THE PARTY **PUMPING**. UNFORTUNATELY THAT MEANT **TENDER JAY** WAS STUCK WATCHING IN AWE AS **G-LOW'S GIANT COCK** GOT THE FULL TREATMENT.

GURGLE!
GURGLE!

SHLURP!



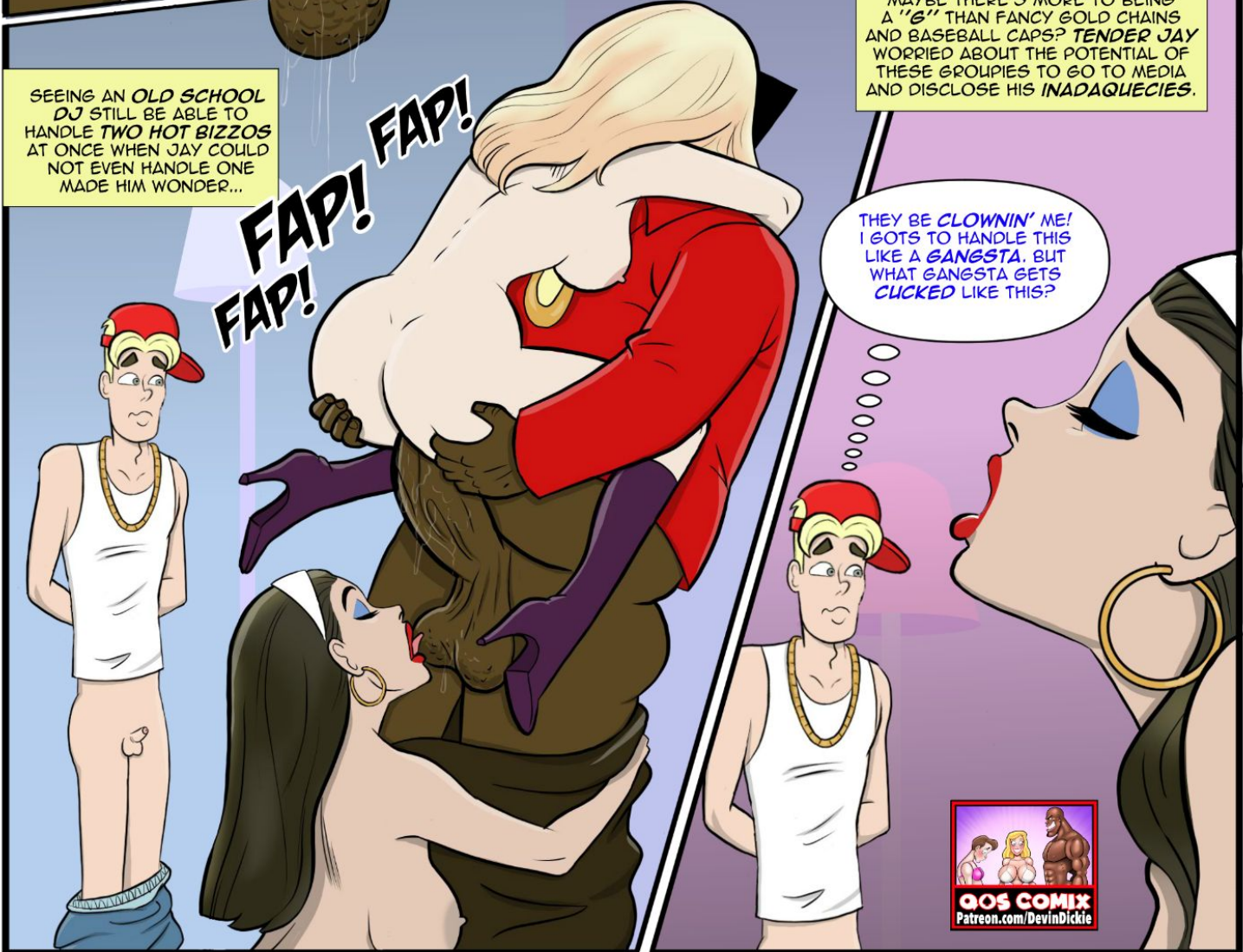
AFTER HAVING RECEIVED A **HANDJOB** UP TO **99%** **ORGASM** BY THE TWO BEAUTIES, **TENDER JAY'S** TINY DICK WAS THROBING HELPLESSLY. THE **GROUPIES** HAD FOUND A WORTHIER CAUSE. **TENDER JAY'S** BLUE BALLS WERE CAUSING EXTREME PAIN.

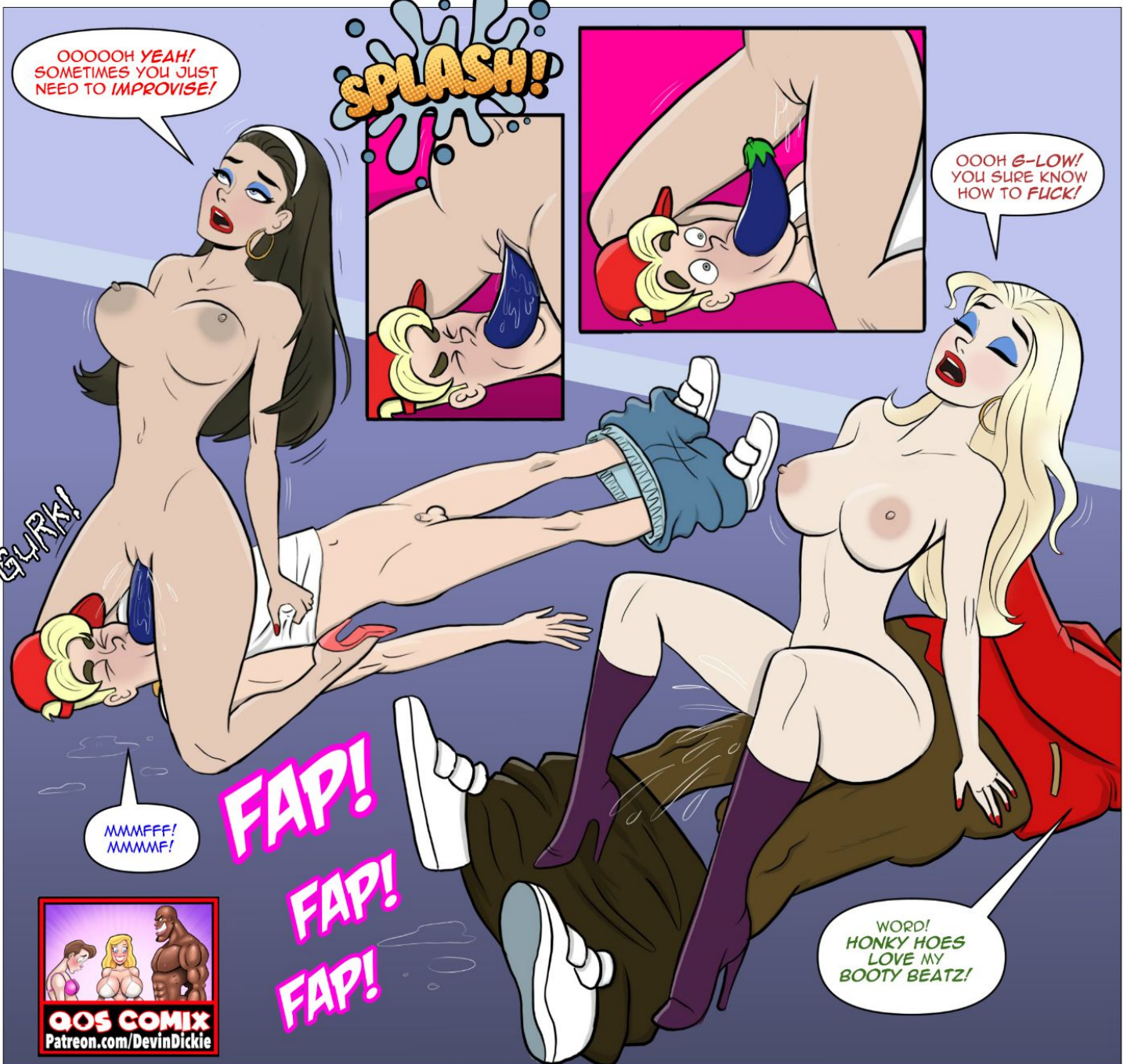
SEEING AN OLD SCHOOL **DJ** STILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE **TWO** HOT **BIZZOS** AT ONCE WHEN **JAY** COULD NOT EVEN HANDLE ONE MADE HIM WONDER...

FAP!
FAP!
FAP!

MAYBE THERE'S MORE TO BEING A "**G**" THAN FANCY GOLD CHAINS AND BASEBALL CAPS? **TENDER JAY** WORRIED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF THESE **GROUPIES** TO GO TO MEDIA AND DISCLOSE HIS **INADAQUENCIES**.

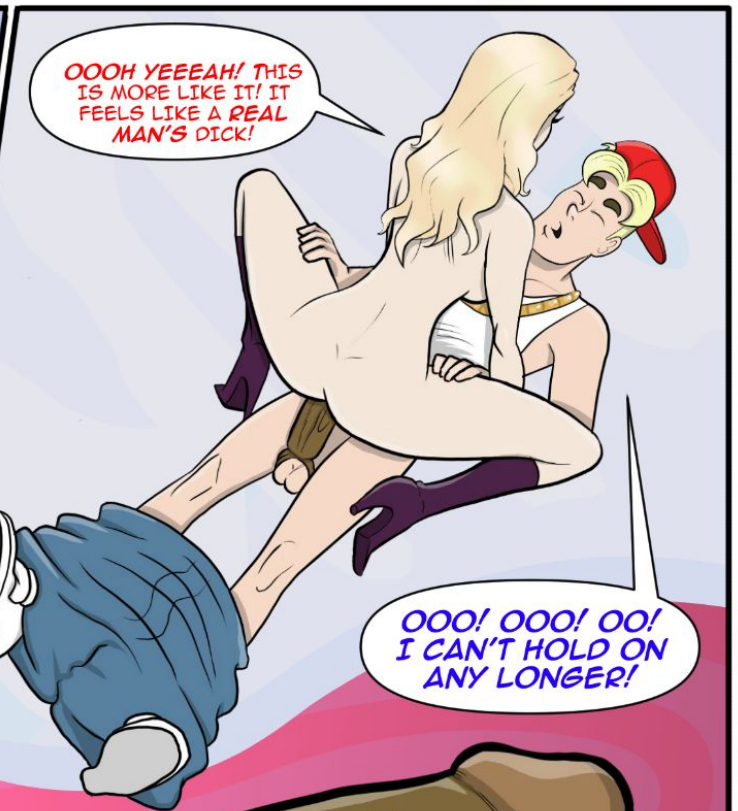
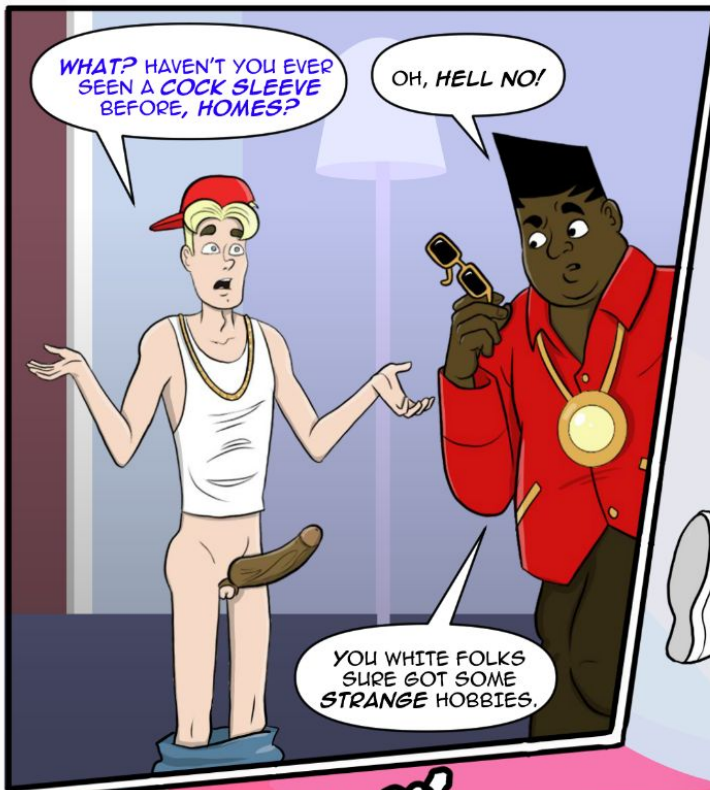
THEY BE **CLOWNIN'** ME! I GOT TO HANDLE THIS LIKE A **GANGSTA**. BUT WHAT **GANGSTA** GETS **CUCKED** LIKE THIS?













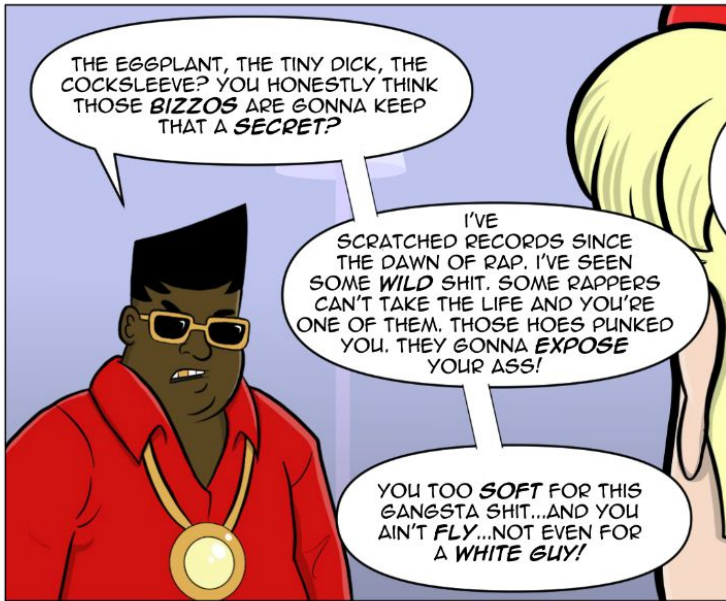
YO! THANKS FOR STOPPIN' BY. WE SHOULD CATCH UP NEXT TIME I'M TOURING THIS TOWN. HOPE I DIDN'T WEAR YOU TWO OUT!

YEAH. I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT. WELL, NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.



MAN, YOU'S A DUMB ASS. YOU GOT PLAYED, FOOL!

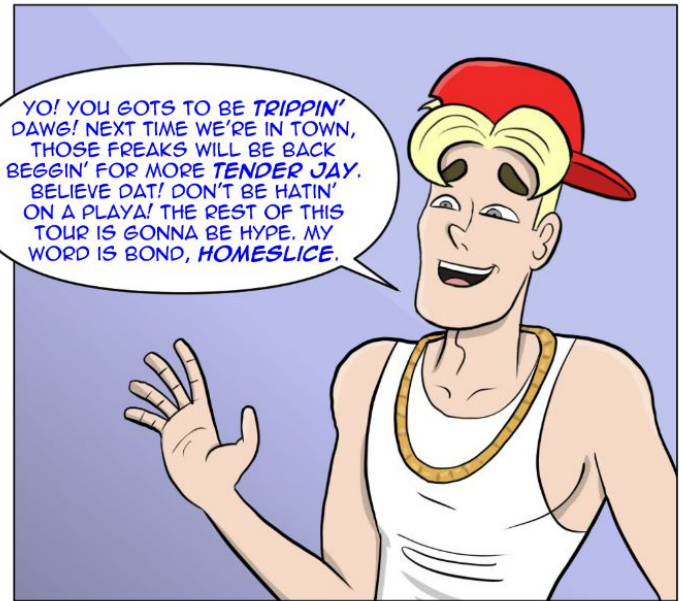
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!



THE EGGPLANT, THE TINY DICK, THE COCKSLEEVE? YOU HONESTLY THINK THOSE BIZZOS ARE GONNA KEEP THAT A SECRET?

I'VE SCRATCHED RECORDS SINCE THE DAWN OF RAP. I'VE SEEN SOME WILD SHIT. SOME RAPPERS CAN'T TAKE THE LIFE AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM. THOSE HOES PUNKED YOU. THEY GONNA EXPOSE YOUR ASS!

YOU TOO SOFT FOR THIS GANGSTA SHIT...AND YOU AIN'T FLY...NOT EVEN FOR A WHITE GUY!



YO! YOU GOTTS TO BE TRIPPIN' DAWG! NEXT TIME WE'RE IN TOWN, THOSE FREAKS WILL BE BACK BEGGIN' FOR MORE TENDER JAY. BELIEVE DAT! DON'T BE HATIN' ON A PLAYA! THE REST OF THIS TOUR IS GONNA BE HYPE. MY WORD IS BOND, HOMESLICE.



YOU REALLY THINK IT'S ALL ABOUT FANCY CARS AND BIG BOOTY? MAN, JUST WAIT 'TIL THE SHIT DROPS. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.



WHAT THE?! THOSE BITCHES STOLE MY WALLET!

I TOLD YOU. SHIT JUST GOT REAL!



ONE MONTH LATER...

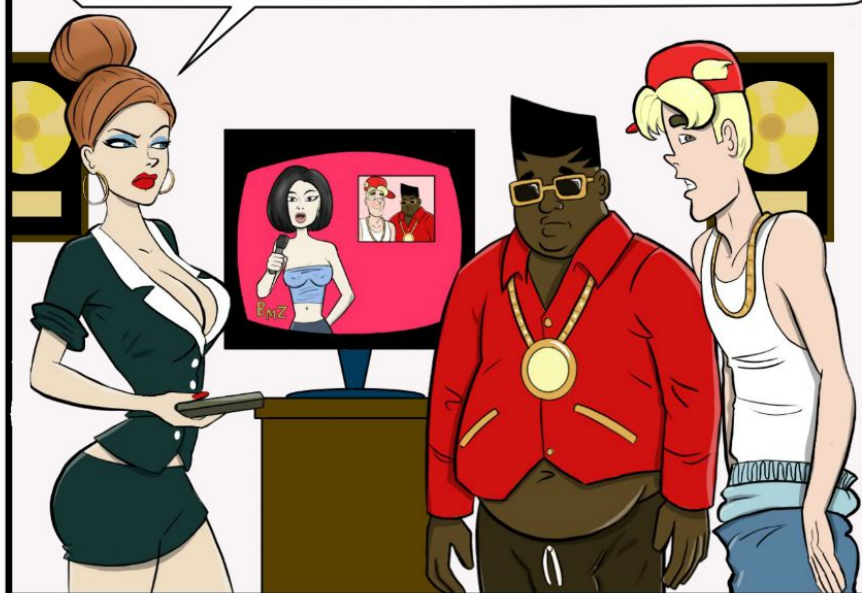
BMZ HAS BREAKING NEWS ON RISING HIP HOP STAR JASON TENDERFLAKE, KNOWN AS TENDER JAY. A WOMAN CLAIMING TO BE AN EX-LOVER OF THE RAPPER SITS DOWN WITH US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AS SHE REVEALS SOME SHOCKING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR TIME TOGETHER...



SO THEN HE DEMANDED I PULL DOWN HIS PANTS. WHEN I DID SO, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT... IT WAS THE SMALLEST PENIS I HAD EVER SEEN! IT WAS SHAPED LIKE A PIGEON EGG, MAYBE SMALLER THAN THAT! ALSO, HIS ID CARD JUST HAPPENED TO FIND IT'S WAY INTO MY COAT POCKET. WHEN I FIRST LOOKED, I NOTICED HIS BIRTH PLACE LISTED AS RICHMAN HILLS, CALIFORNIA...WHICH IS WEIRD BECAUSE HE ALWAYS RAPS ABOUT HIS HARD UPBRINGING IN FENTINYLIDELPHIA.



JASON TENDERFLAKE, YOU BLEW IT! THIS IS GOING TO MAKE YOU LOOK REALLY BAD. HOW CAN YOU REGAIN YOUR REPUTATION? OUR COMPANY IS AT A CRITICAL POINT. WE CAN'T AFFORD FOR YOU TO FADE INTO OBSCURITY.



WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY LISTEN TO ME? RAP IS ALL ABOUT KEEPIN' IT REAL! TENDER JAY IS BUILT ON A LIE. YOU CAN'T KEEP SPINNING MORE LIES!

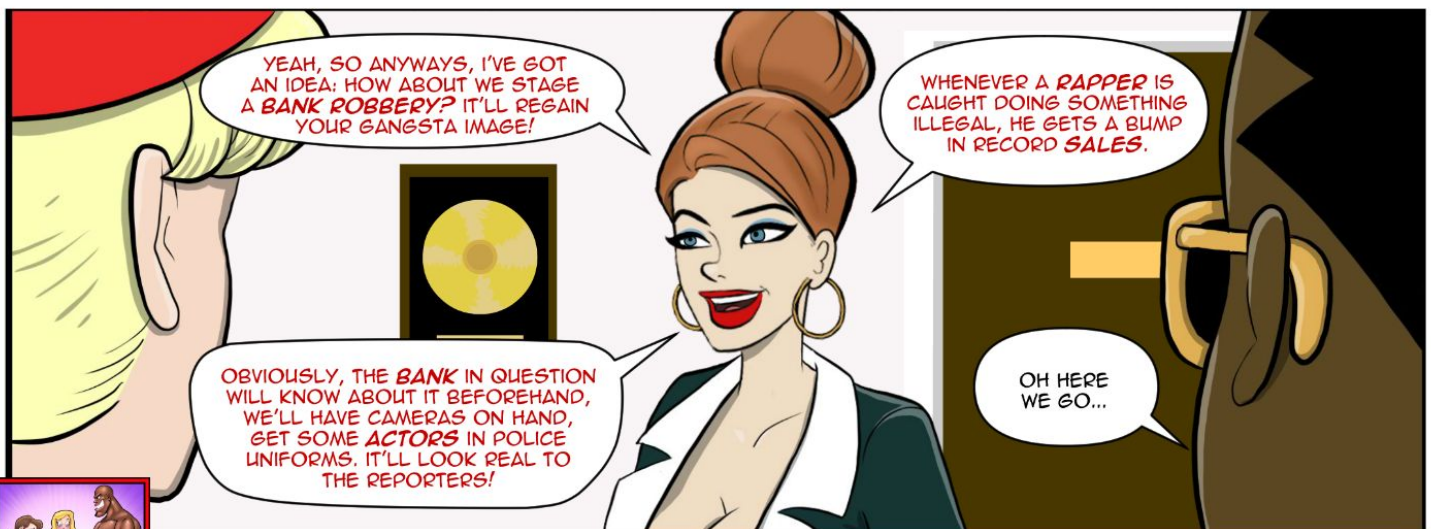


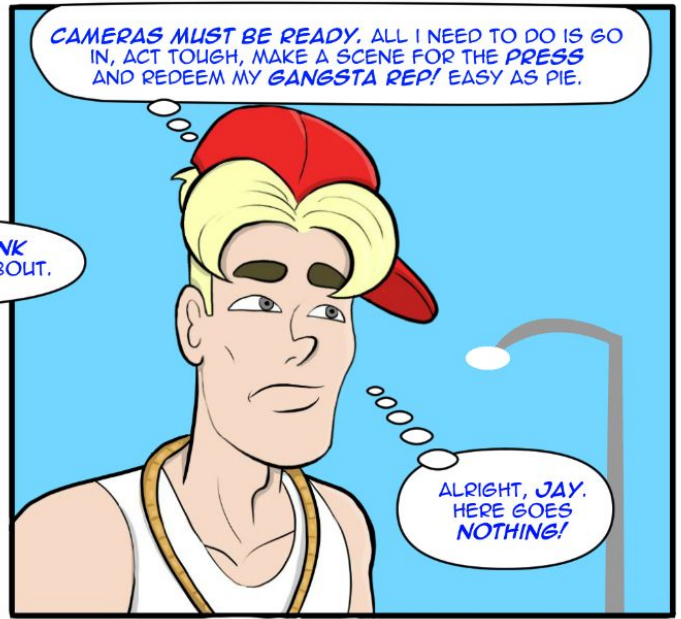
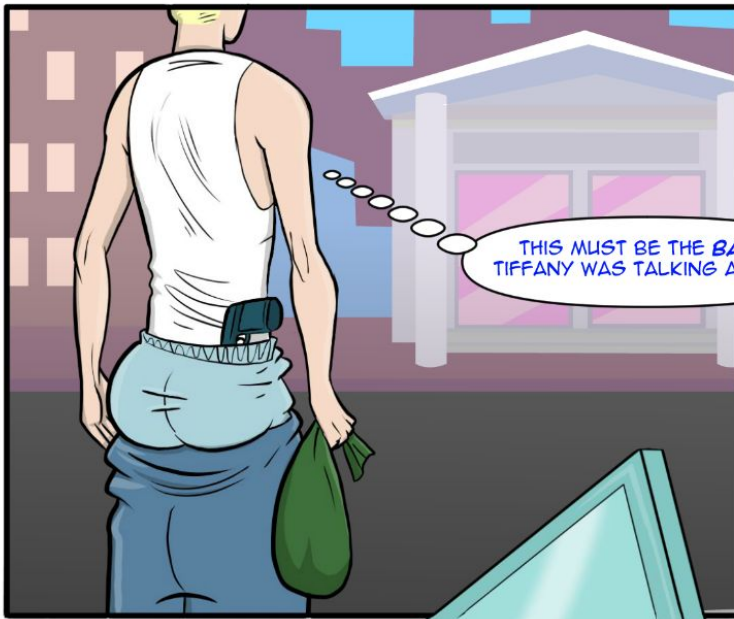
YEAH, SO ANYWAYS, I'VE GOT AN IDEA: HOW ABOUT WE STAGE A BANK ROBBERY? IT'LL REGAIN YOUR GANGSTA IMAGE!

WHENEVER A RAPPER IS CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL, HE GETS A BUMP IN RECORD SALES.

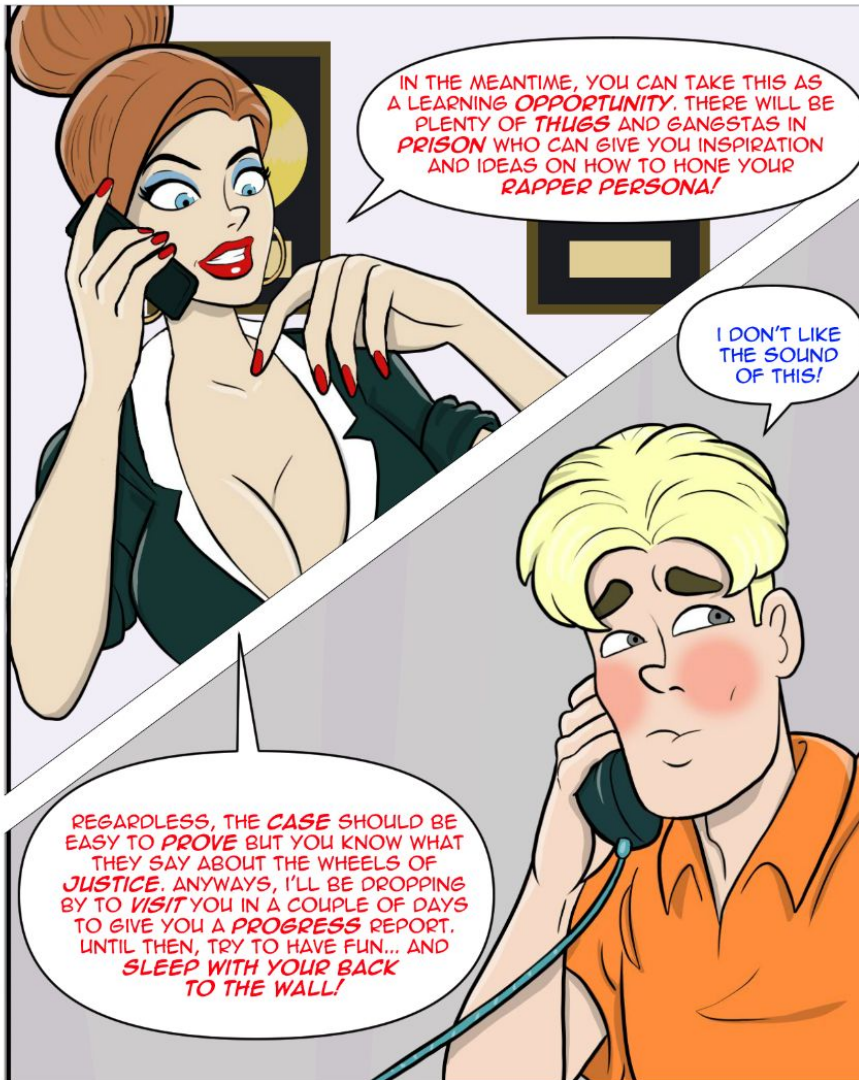
OBVIOUSLY, THE BANK IN QUESTION WILL KNOW ABOUT IT BEFOREHAND, WE'LL HAVE CAMERAS ON HAND, GET SOME ACTORS IN POLICE UNIFORMS. IT'LL LOOK REAL TO THE REPORTERS!

OH HERE WE GO...











DON'T WORRY ABOUT **BORIS**. HE'S GOT HIS OWN **CEL**.

HEY **BLONDIE!** YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE MY **EX-WIFE...** BEFORE I **ATE HER!**



WHAT THE **FUCK** YOU LOOKIN' AT, **TRICK?**

SORRY!
SORRY!
SORRY!



THE **WARDEN** KNOWS ABOUT YOUR **CELEBRITY STATUS**, SO WE THOUGHT IT BEST TO FIND YOU A **CELMATE** WHO COULD PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME **PROTECTION...** CUZ THINGS CAN SOMETIMES GET A BIT **ROWDY**.

THANKS, **OFFICER**.

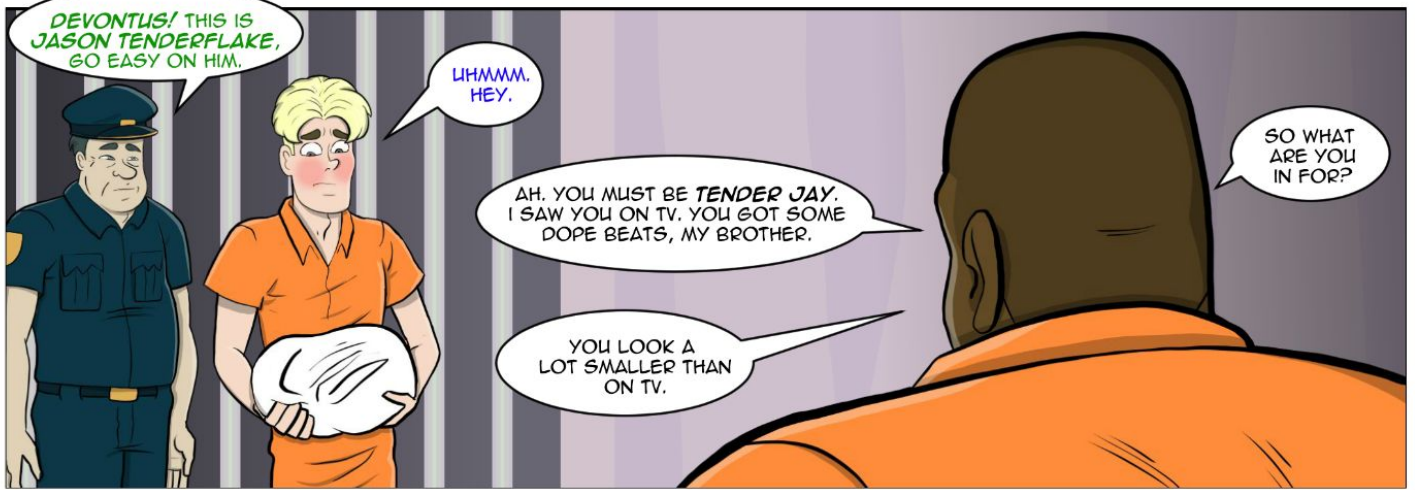


YOUR NEW **CELMATE** WAS ARRESTED ON **CRIMINAL CHARGES** INVOLVING **GANG ACTIVITY**. SINCE I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE A **GANGSTER** RAP ARTIST, YOU TWO MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING IN **COMMON!**...THAT IS, **ASSUMING** YOUR CLAIMS ARE **REAL** AND NOT SOMETHING **INVENTED** BY YOUR **RECORD LABEL!**

JASON, MEET **DEVONTUS!**

UHMMM.
UH...





DEVONTUS! THIS IS JASON TENDERFLAKE, GO EASY ON HIM.

UHMMMM. HEY.

AH. YOU MUST BE *TENDER JAY*. I SAW YOU ON TV. YOU GOT SOME DOPE BEATS, MY BROTHER.

YOU LOOK A LOT SMALLER THAN ON TV.

SO WHAT ARE YOU IN FOR?



ATTEMPTED *ARMED ROBBERY*. SOME OF MY HOMIES *DISRESPECTED* ME BY *SNITCHIN'* ON THE 5-0!

I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT GOES DOWN IN THE HOOD, RIGHT?



YOU MIGHT BE A *BALLER* ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT YOU'RE STILL TAKING TOP BUNK IN MY *CEL!*

IT'S ALL *GOOD!*

LISTEN, I'VE GOT A LOT OF *CLOUT* INSIDE THIS JAIL AND YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF *CLOUT* ON THE OUTSIDE...

HOW ABOUT WE CAN *HELP EACH OTHER* OUT, BIG GUY?

UM, ER... *SURE.*





SWEET SO THE GUYS TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO GIVE YOU A WISHLIST. IF YOU COULD GET YOUR LAW MAN TO HELP SMUGGLE THESE IN THAT'D BE GREAT!

NO PROB!



POCKET PUSSY FOR TERRELL, GIRLIE MASS FOR BIG JOE, CIGARETTES FOR MARKICE, COMIC BOOKS FOR ANTONIO, T-BONE STEAK FOR JERMEAL.

YEAH, NONE OF THESE SHOULD BE A PROBLEM, GIMME A FEW DAYS. I'LL TALK TO SOME OF MY HOMIES!



WAIT, WHAT'S THIS... PINK PANTIES? WHO THE FUCK THEY FO'? THERE BETTER NOT BE SOME PUNK SHIT GOING ON IN THIS STATE PEN!

BOY, YOU DON'T KNOW SHIT! IT HAPPENS ALRIGHT. I DON'T DO NO PUNK SHIT, BUT LOTS DO. I TRY MY BEST TO KEEP OUTTA OTHER FOLKS BUSINESS.

IT HELPS THAT NOBODY TRIES NO SHIT ON ME. THEY ALL KNOW THAT'S A ONE WAY TRIP TO THE MORGUE FOR HIM.



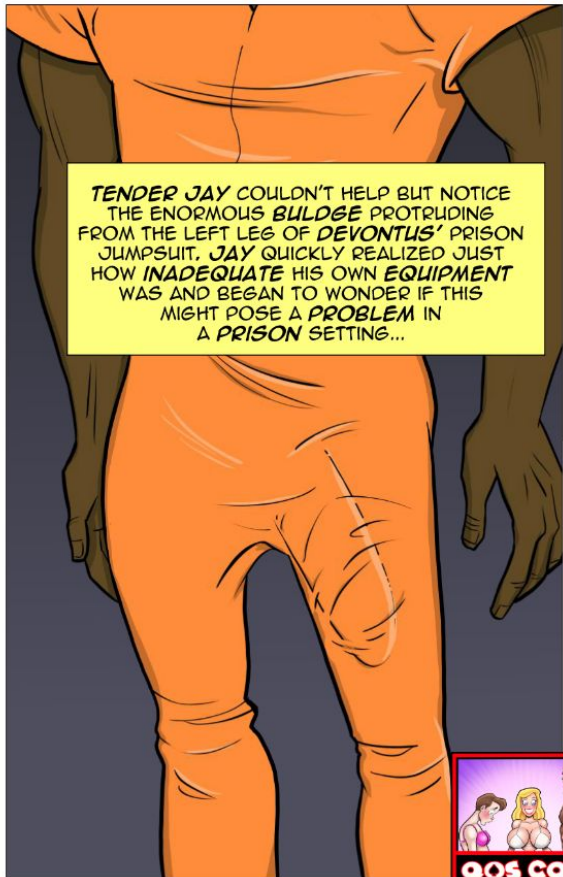
LISTEN. IF YOU DO AS I SAY AND DON'T EMBARRASS ME, YOU CAN ROLL WITH ME...

THAT WAY HOPEFULLY, YOU WON'T BECOME THE PRISON MATTRESS.



BUT LIKE I SAID, IT'S NOT ALL BAD. YARD TIME STARTS IN A FEW MINUTES. I'LL TAKE YOU OUT THERE TO MEET SOME OF MY BOYS. THEY'RE A GREAT GROUP. I'M SURE YOU'LL FIT IN PERFECTLY!

COOL BRO!



TENDER JAY COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE ENORMOUS BULGE PROTRUDING FROM THE LEFT LEG OF DEVONTUS' PRISON JUMPSUIT. JAY QUICKLY REALIZED JUST HOW INADEQUATE HIS OWN EQUIPMENT WAS AND BEGAN TO WONDER IF THIS MIGHT POSE A PROBLEM IN A PRISON SETTING...





TENDER JAY, WELCOME TO THE POSSE. THIS IS TERRELL, MARKICE AND ANTONIO.

MAN, YOU GOTTA BE TRIPPIN'! THIS DUDE DON'T LOOK LIKE NO GANGSTA! HE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE MISS MUFFET!

I DON'T TRUST HIM. HE'S TOO SOFT. HE LOOKS MORE LIKE AN INFORMANT FOR THE PO PO.



NAH! IT'S ALL GOOD. LET'S MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE HOME. FIRST OFF, YOU WANNA ROLL WITH US, WE GOTTA TRAIN YOU FOR IT!



HA HA HA! LITTLE MACK CAN'T HANDLE TWENTY POUNDS!

C'MON. WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAWG? I SAID YOU WAS A STRAIGHT UP GANGSTA IN YOUR MUSIC! WHAT KIND OF LIGHT WEIGHT RUNS THE STREET? WHAT KIND OF BITCH ASS CAN'T LIFT THAT?

TAKE IT EASY ON HIM, TERRELL. DUDE'S USEFUL TO US.

I THINK YOU GUYS ARE RIGHT. I COULD USE A GOOD LAUGH!

N-N-N-NO. C'MON G-G-GUYS. I GOT THISSSSS!

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