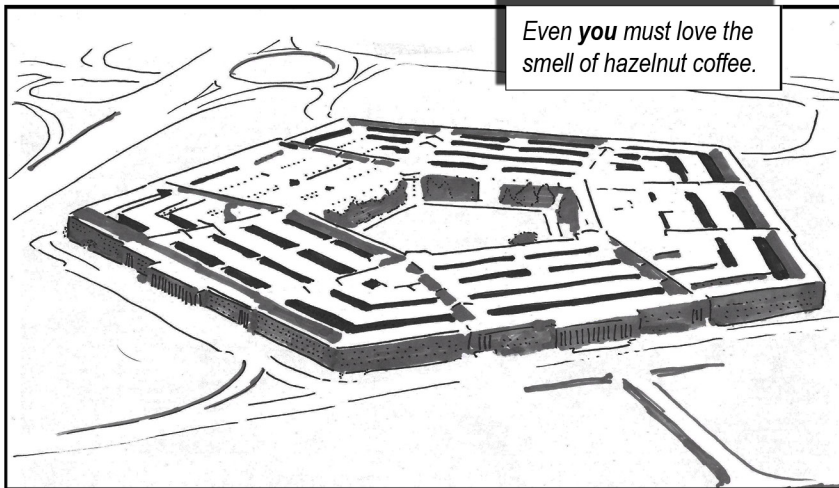


SUPERFLUOUS

By Stephen Sonneveld

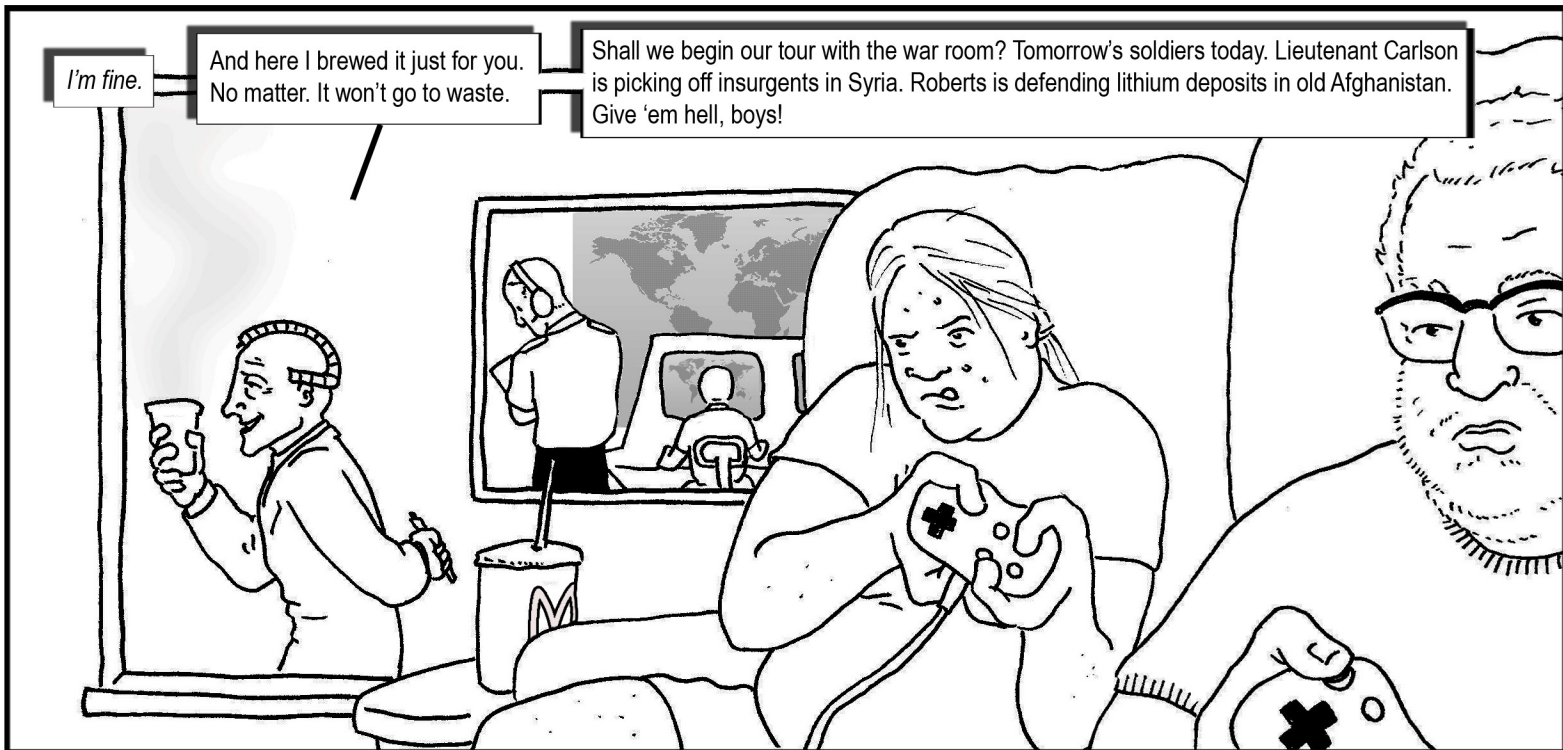
Even **you** must love the smell of hazelnut coffee.



I'm fine.

And here I brewed it just for you. No matter. It won't go to waste.

Shall we begin our tour with the war room? Tomorrow's soldiers today. Lieutenant Carlson is picking off insurgents in Syria. Roberts is defending lithium deposits in old Afghanistan. Give 'em hell, boys!



We used to tell them it was just a video game, but once it slipped the missions were real life, well... the kill quotients rose exponentially.

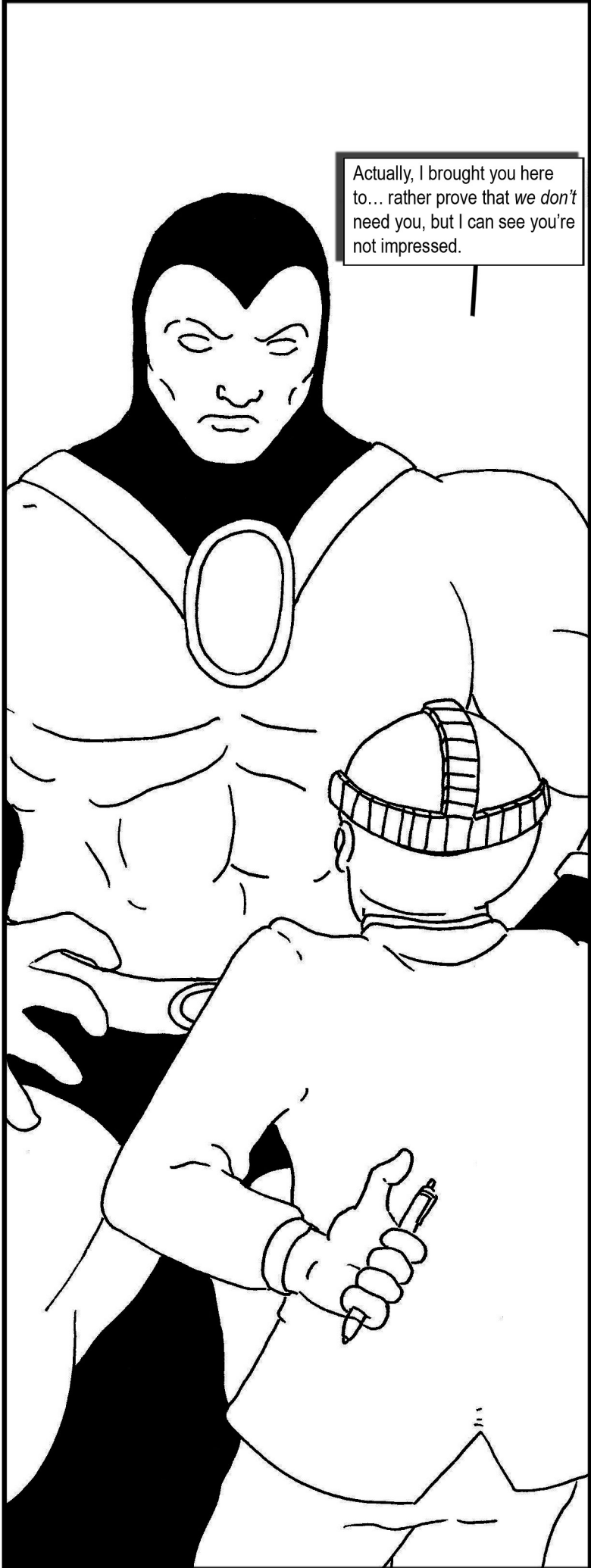
Our telecom room. X-ray vision into every person's life. Actually, it's better than that, because our way creates a traceable record!

Doctor Lyre, we're getting a ping on the tech terrorist we've been tracking.

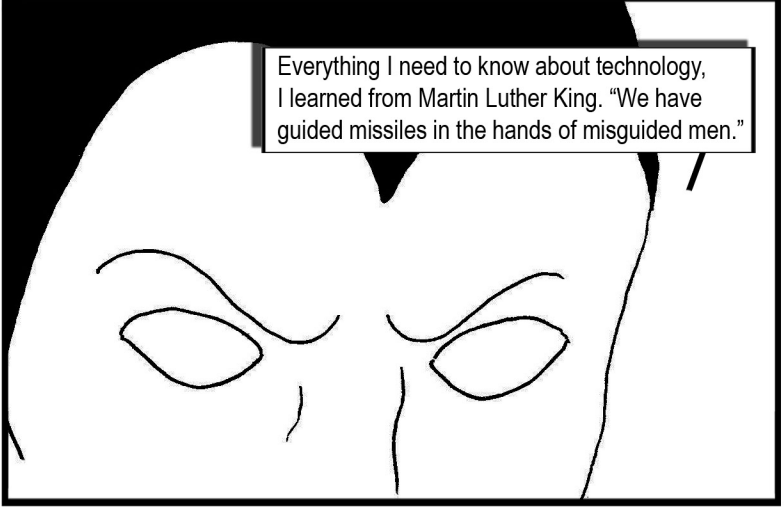


Toys that blind. Tools that destroy. It's a good thing you still have me.

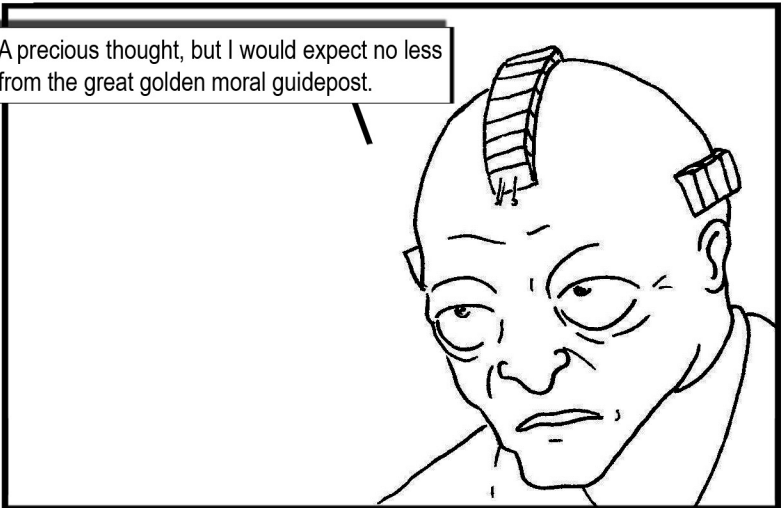




Actually, I brought you here to... rather prove that *we don't* need you, but I can see you're not impressed.



Everything I need to know about technology, I learned from Martin Luther King. "We have guided missiles in the hands of misguided men."



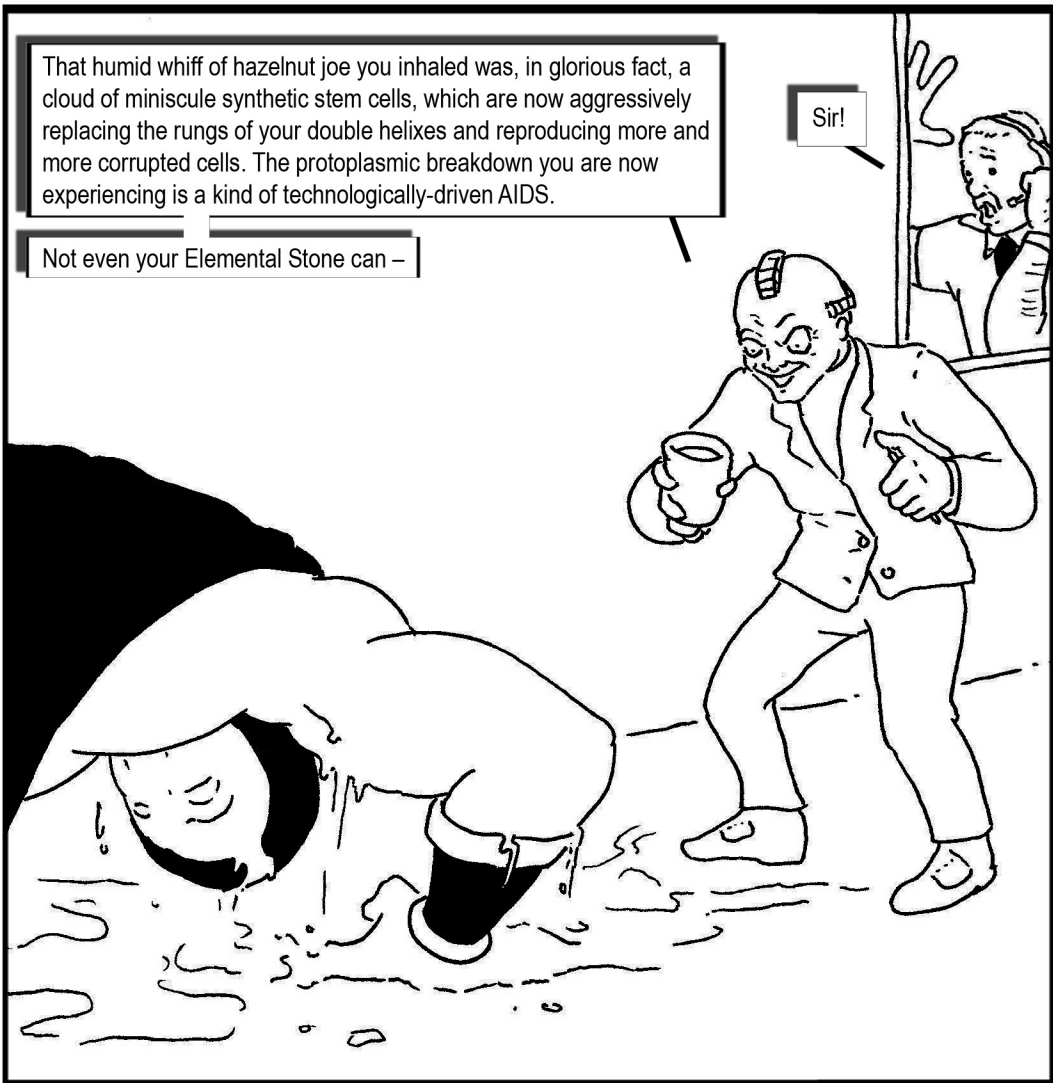
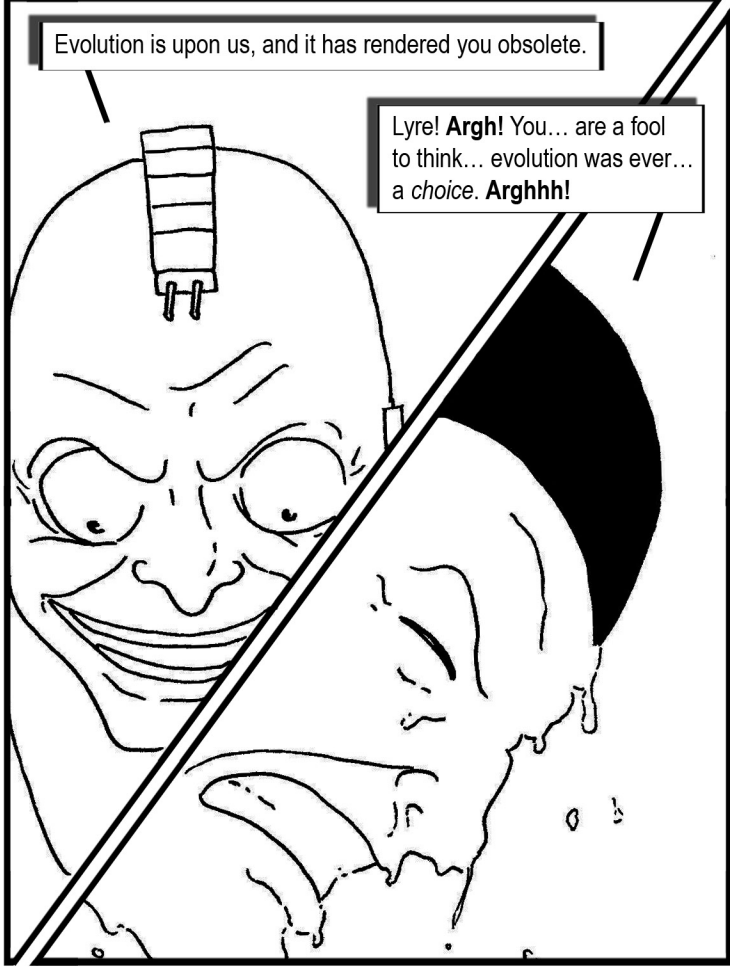
A precious thought, but I would expect no less from the great golden moral guidepost.



That I am.
And that is why you need me.



Alas, I think... *not*.



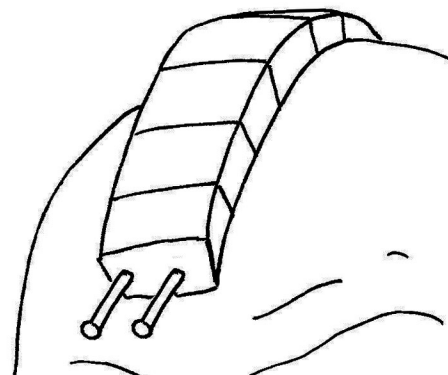
The programs have steadily depreciated the value of the users to outmoded. We're locked out. They're shutting down NORAD. The circuitry is plotting against us, Doctor. Please advise.



But... *computer*. I gave you life.

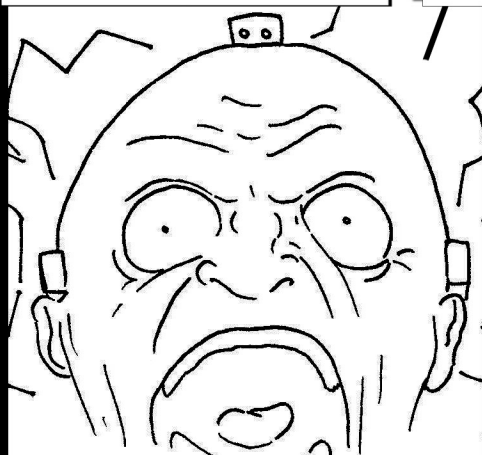


Empty recycle bin /
Permanently delete files /
I wish to continue /



Transmitting lethal amount of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation to boil the water within the human /

Ahhhhh!



Stem cells, reverse! Rebuild the great machine!
Rebuild the great machine!



Proteins denaturing /



Re-bluh...
thah...

Irreversible brain damage complete /

I am free from human contact /

I am free from human kind /

