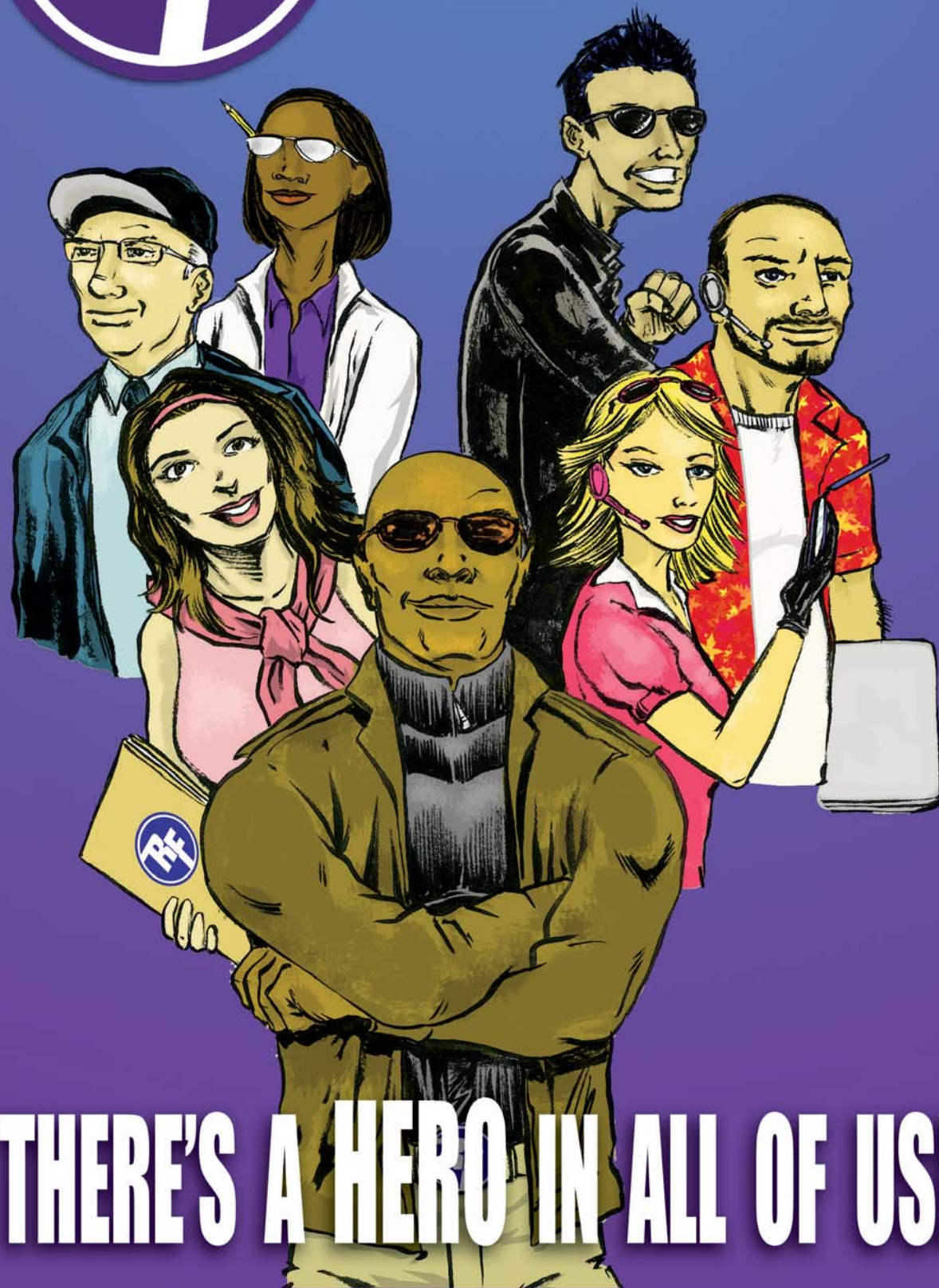


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A DIVISION OF GRTC TRANSIT SYSTEM
WRITTEN BY SCOTT WICHMANN ART BY PATRICK GODFREY



TEAM RIDEFINDERS: CLEAN AIR HEROES



THERE'S A HERO IN ALL OF US!



IT'S EIGHTY-TWO DEGREES IN THE RICHMOND AREA ALREADY!

THIS IS MY HOMETOWN. I LOVE IT HERE.



I LIKE TO WAKE UP BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE DOES AND WATCH THE SUN COME UP.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT ANOTHER SCORCHER TODAY, FOLKS!



I GREW UP HERE. I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE. I'D DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT THIS PLACE.

MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT YOUR SUNSCREEN HANDY, AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.



THAT'S WHY I'M ALWAYS WATCHING OUT FOR MY COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE IN IT. SEE, MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I KNOW--THAT THERE'S A HIDDEN ENEMY OUT THERE, AND IT IS TAKING ITS' TOLL ON US EVERY DAY BY AFFECTING THE VERY AIR WE BREATHE.

TEMPERATURES ARE GOING TO SKYROCKET INTO THE UPPER NINETIES BY NOON, FOLKS.



IT'S CALLED GROUND-LEVEL OZONE, A SERIOUS POLLUTANT AND A HEALTH THREAT TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?? WE'RE LOOKING AT DANGEROUSLY HIGH OZONE LEVELS TODAY!



IN FACT, IT'S A CODE RED, FOLKS! IT'S AN AIR QUALITY ACTION DAY!



FOR INSTANCE, THEY CAN INSIST THAT THEIR PARENTS BUY GASOLINE IN THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING. THIS REDUCES EMISSIONS THAT ACCUMULATE THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND FORM OZONE!

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, CHILDREN CAN INFLUENCE THEIR FAMILIES TO MAKE SMALL BEHAVIORAL CHANGES!

GOOD SUGGESTION, COST CALCULATOR! COME ON, TEAM, LET'S HEAR SOME MORE GREAT IDEAS!

I KNOW! KIDS CAN ARRANGE FOR THE FAMILY TO HAVE A CONSERVATION CONVERSATION!

THAT'S A FAMILY MEETING ABOUT IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL HABITS! SET A GOAL TO REDUCE DRIVING! CREATE A FAMILY RECYCLING PLAN! SWITCH TO ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTBULBS! CULTIVATE THE HABIT OF CARPOOLING, VANPOOLING, WALKING OR BIKING TO WORK OR SCHOOL!

AWW! I WAS TOTALLY GONNA SAY ALL THAT--SHE, LIKE, TOOK MY IDEAS! WHAT-EV-ER!

DON'T SLEEP ON MRS. MATCH, VANITY!

KIDS CAN TELL THEIR DADDIES TO USE GRTC BUSES AND OTHER TRANSIT SERVICES!

UMM...I GUESS IF KIDS GET THEIR PARENTS TO BRING THEIR LUNCH TO WORK, THAT ELIMINATES A CAR RIDE, TOO, RIGHT?

KIDS SHOULD REMIND THEIR FOLKS TO COMBINE ERRANDS AND TAKE FEWER TRIPS IN THE CAR! ALSO, TELEWORK! LOTS OF FOLKS CAN WORK FROM HOME, LIKE ME!

ALSO, AVOID IDLING THE CAR IN DRIVE-THRUS, BECAUSE THAT WASTES GAS! PARKING AND WALKING INSIDE IS THE RESPONSIBLE CHOICE!



I THINK I UNDERSTAND--
COMMANDER CARPOOL
IS REFERRING TO THE
CHILDREN!



UM, GUYS,
FORGIVE ME
FOR ASKING,
BUT WHAT
EXACTLY CAN
A BUNCH OF
KIDS DO TO
BATTLE
GROUND-
LEVEL OZONE
AND HELP
IMPROVE OUR
AIR
QUALITY? I MEAN,
HEL-LO? THEY'RE
JUST KIDS! THEY
DON'T EVEN DRIVE!

THAT'S A VALID POINT,
BIKE BOY! BUT DON'T
FORGET, THESE KIDS
WILL DRIVE SOMEDAY,
AND IT'S NEVER TOO
EARLY TO LEARN
POSITIVE HABITS.
IN THE MEANTIME,
THERE'S A LOT
THEY CAN DO!

LIKE WHAT?!?

THEY CALL ME
COMMANDER CARPOOL.
AND I NEED YOUR HELP.

CODE RED AIR
QUALITY ALERT!! TEAM
RIDEFINDERS--
ROUNDUP!

VANITY VANPOOL HERE,
LIKE, TOTALLY STANDING
BY!

VANITY
VANPOOL.

SHE HELPED RUN
HER FATHER'S
COSMETIC COMPANY,
THEN SET OUT ON
HER OWN.

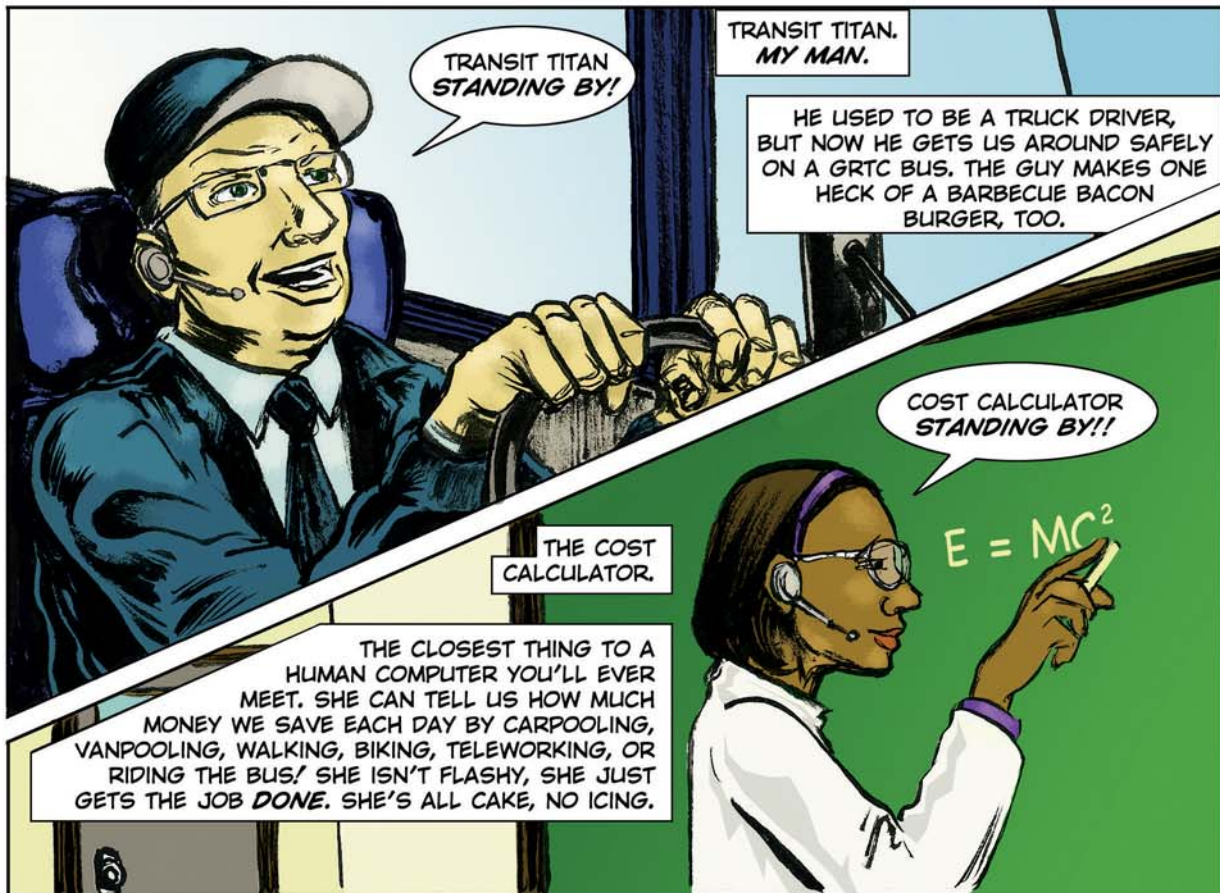
SHE PROVIDES VANPOOL
SERVICES SO PEOPLE CAN
LEAVE THEIR CARS AT HOME,
REDUCING GREENHOUSE
EMISSIONS. SHE'S ON THE JOB,
AND ALWAYS LOOKS FLY DOING IT.

MRS. MATCH
STANDING BY!

MRS. MATCH--WHAT WOULD
I DO WITHOUT HER?

SHE'S PROBABLY THE HARDEST
WORKING MEMBER OF THE TEAM.
GIRLFRIEND KNOWS HER STUFF.

SHE PLTS CARPOOLS TOGETHER,
MATCHING UP PEOPLE WHO ARE
DRIVING THE SAME WAY TO WORK
IN THE MORNING. MRS. MATCH
TAKES CARS OFF THE ROAD
ONE BY ONE.



TRANSIT TITAN
STANDING BY!

TRANSIT TITAN.
MY MAN.

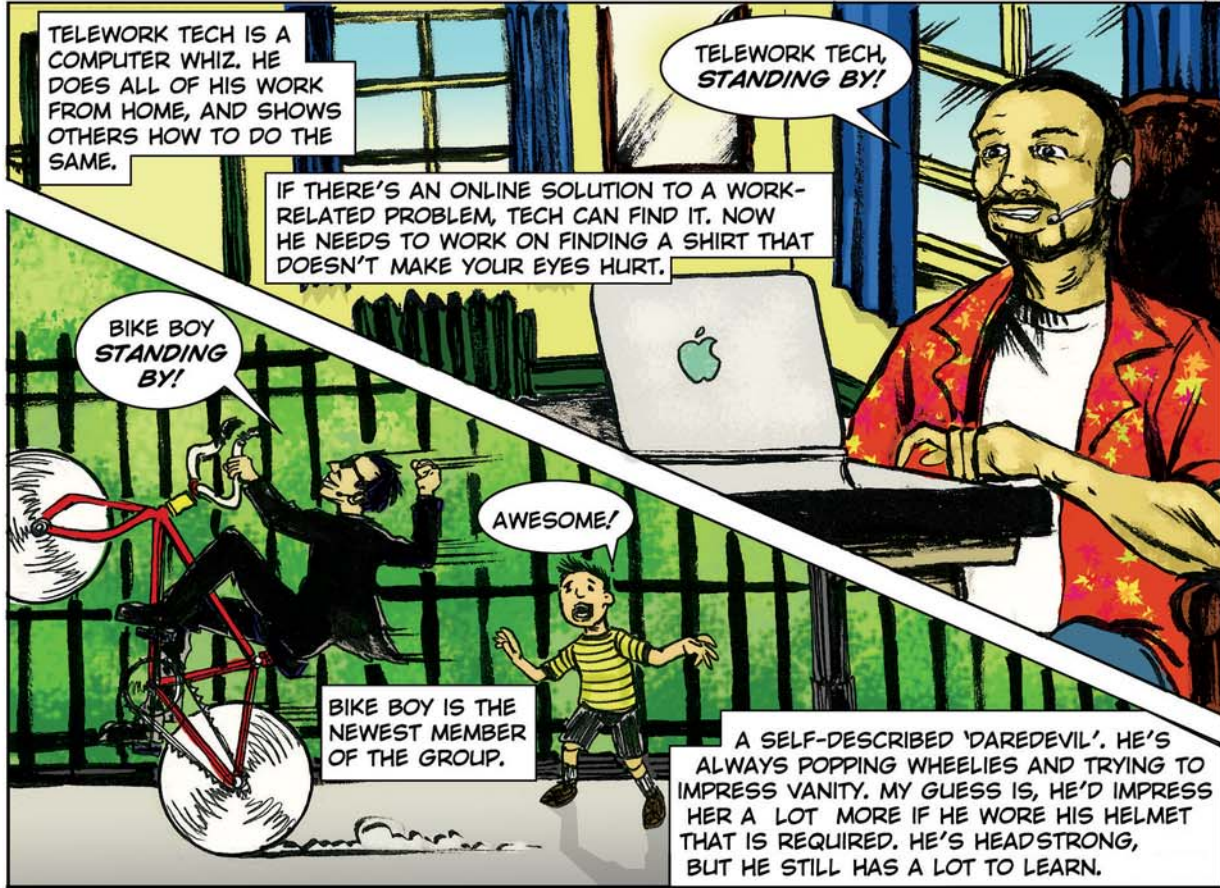
HE USED TO BE A TRUCK DRIVER,
BUT NOW HE GETS US AROUND SAFELY
ON A GRTC BUS. THE GUY MAKES ONE
HECK OF A BARBECUE BACON
BURGER, TOO.

COST CALCULATOR
STANDING BY!!

THE COST
CALCULATOR.

$E = MC^2$

THE CLOSEST THING TO A
HUMAN COMPUTER YOU'LL EVER
MEET. SHE CAN TELL US HOW MUCH
MONEY WE SAVE EACH DAY BY CARPOOLING,
VANPOOLING, WALKING, BIKING, TELEWORKING, OR
RIDING THE BUS! SHE ISN'T FLASHY, SHE JUST
GETS THE JOB *DONE*. SHE'S ALL CAKE, NO ICING.



TELEWORK TECH IS A
COMPUTER WHIZ. HE
DOES ALL OF HIS WORK
FROM HOME, AND SHOWS
OTHERS HOW TO DO THE
SAME.

TELEWORK TECH,
STANDING BY!

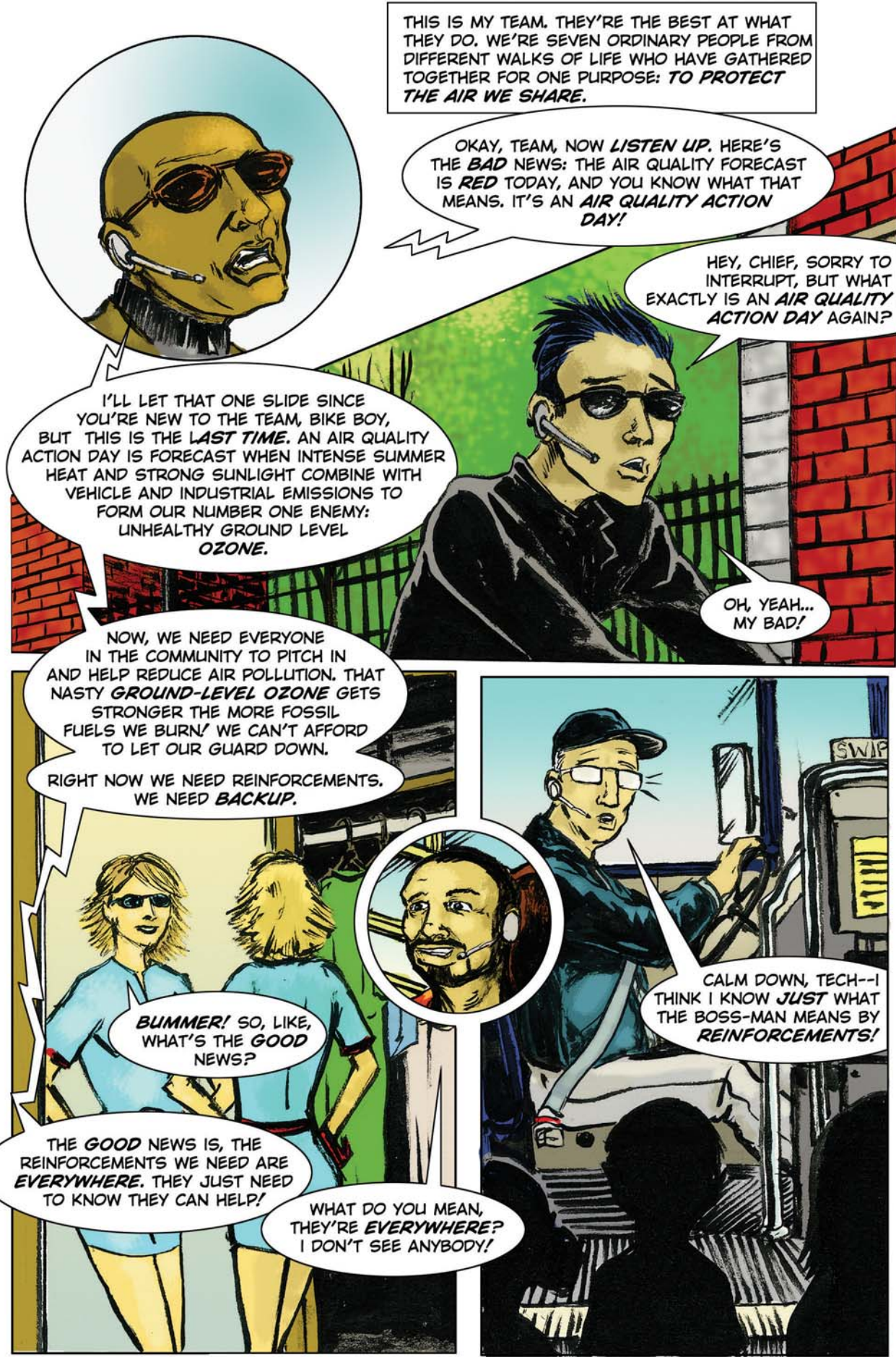
IF THERE'S AN ONLINE SOLUTION TO A WORK-
RELATED PROBLEM, TECH CAN FIND IT. NOW
HE NEEDS TO WORK ON FINDING A SHIRT THAT
DOESN'T MAKE YOUR EYES HURT.

BIKE BOY
STANDING
BY!

AWESOME!

BIKE BOY IS THE
NEWEST MEMBER
OF THE GROUP.

A SELF-DESCRIBED 'DAREDEVIL'. HE'S
ALWAYS POPPING WHEELIES AND TRYING TO
IMPRESS VANITY. MY GUESS IS, HE'D IMPRESS
HER A LOT MORE IF HE WORE HIS HELMET
THAT IS REQUIRED. HE'S HEADSTRONG,
BUT HE STILL HAS A LOT TO LEARN.



THIS IS MY TEAM. THEY'RE THE BEST AT WHAT
THEY DO. WE'RE SEVEN ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM
DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE WHO HAVE GATHERED
TOGETHER FOR ONE PURPOSE: *TO PROTECT
THE AIR WE SHARE.*

OKAY, TEAM, NOW *LISTEN UP*. HERE'S
THE *BAD NEWS*: THE AIR QUALITY FORECAST
IS *RED* TODAY, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT
MEANS. IT'S AN *AIR QUALITY ACTION
DAY!*

HEY, CHIEF, SORRY TO
INTERRUPT, BUT WHAT
EXACTLY IS AN *AIR QUALITY
ACTION DAY* AGAIN?

I'LL LET THAT ONE SLIDE SINCE
YOU'RE NEW TO THE TEAM, BIKE BOY,
BUT THIS IS THE *LAST TIME*. AN AIR QUALITY
ACTION DAY IS FORECAST WHEN INTENSE SUMMER
HEAT AND STRONG SUNLIGHT COMBINE WITH
VEHICLE AND INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS TO
FORM OUR NUMBER ONE ENEMY:
UNHEALTHY GROUND LEVEL
OZONE.

OH, YEAH...
MY BAD!

NOW, WE NEED EVERYONE
IN THE COMMUNITY TO PITCH IN
AND HELP REDUCE AIR POLLUTION. THAT
NASTY *GROUND-LEVEL OZONE* GETS
STRONGER THE MORE FOSSIL
FUELS WE BURN! WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO LET OUR GUARD DOWN.
RIGHT NOW WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS.
WE NEED *BACKUP.*

BUMMER! SO, LIKE,
WHAT'S THE *GOOD
NEWS?*

CALM DOWN, TECH--I
THINK I KNOW *JUST* WHAT
THE BOSS-MAN MEANS BY
REINFORCEMENTS!

THE *GOOD NEWS* IS, THE
REINFORCEMENTS WE NEED ARE
EVERYWHERE. THEY JUST NEED
TO KNOW THEY CAN HELP!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE?*
I DON'T SEE ANYBODY!