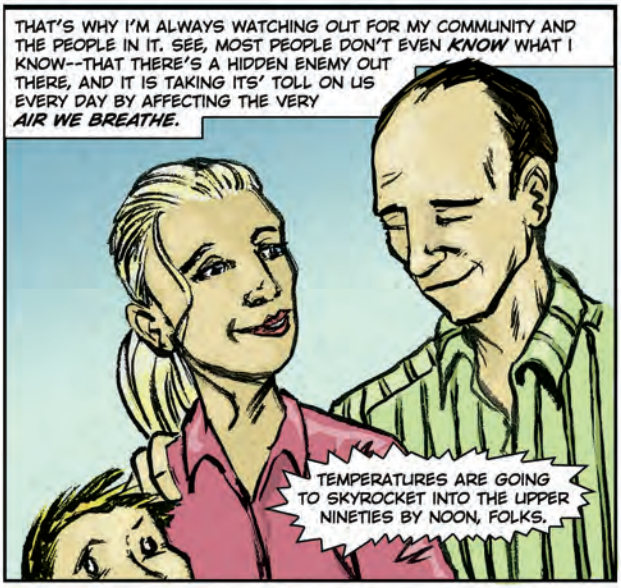
TEAM RIDEFINDERS: CLEAN AIR HEROES

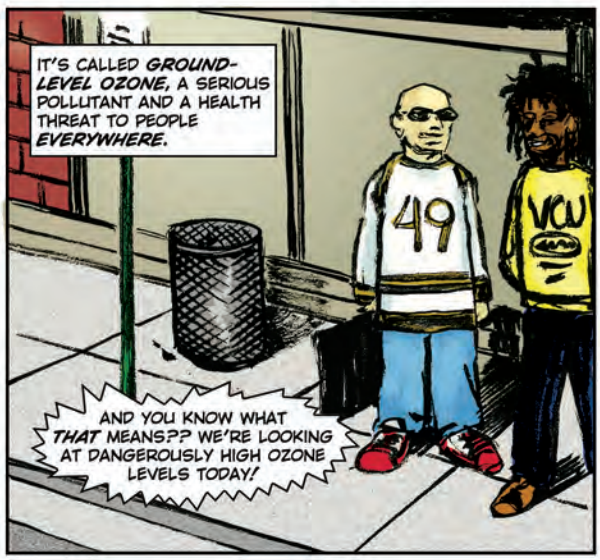



IT'S EIGHTY-TWO DEGREES IN THE RICHMOND AREA ALREADY!
THIS IS MY HOMETOWN. I LOVE IT HERE.


I LIKE TO WAKE UP BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE DOES AND WATCH THE SUN COME UP.
Franklin
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT ANOTHER SCORCHER TODAY, FOLKS!

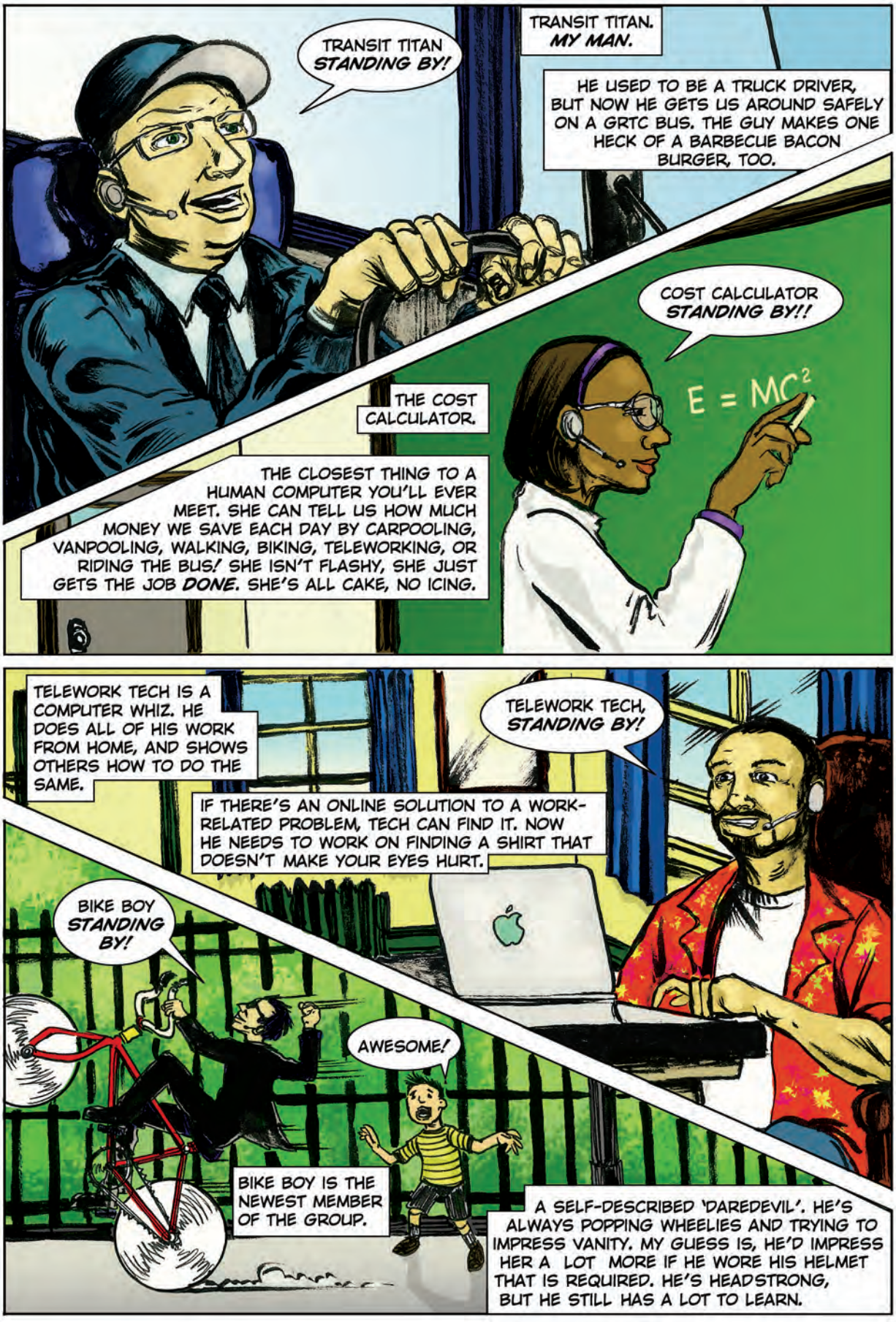

VELOCITY COMICS
OPEN
I GREW UP HERE. I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE. I'D DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT THIS PLACE.
MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT YOUR SUNSCREEN HANDY, AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.

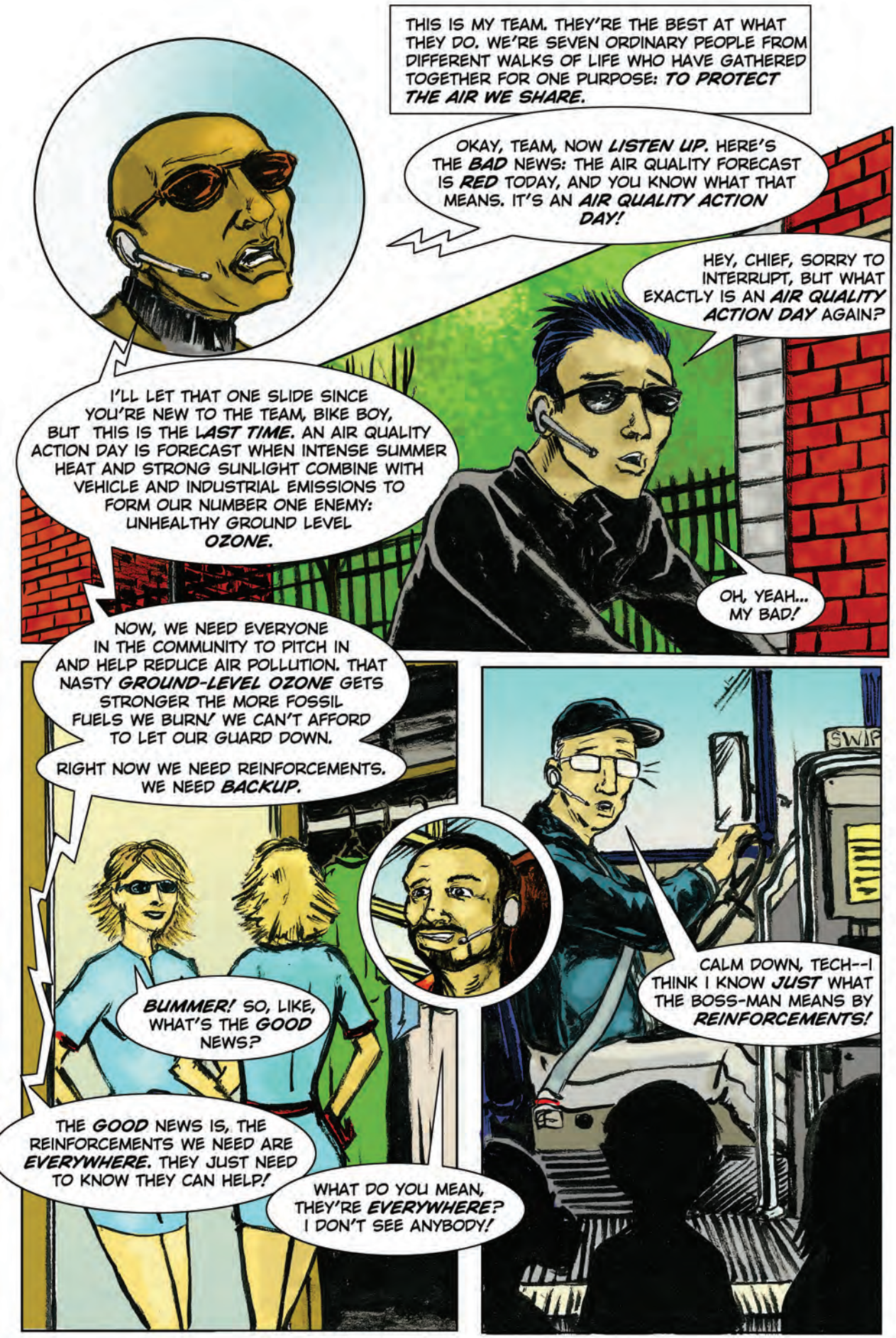

THAT'S WHY I'M ALWAYS WATCHING OUT FOR MY COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE IN IT. SEE, MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I KNOW--THAT THERE'S A HIDDEN ENEMY OUT THERE, AND IT IS TAKING ITS' TOLL ON US EVERY DAY BY AFFECTING THE VERY AIR WE BREATHE.
TEMPERATURES ARE GOING TO SKYROCKET INTO THE UPPER NINETIES BY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


IT'S CALLED GROUND-LEVEL OZONE, A SERIOUS POLLUTANT AND A HEALTH THREAT TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.
49
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!


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 PUTS 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!!
E = MC²
THE COST CALCULATOR.
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.

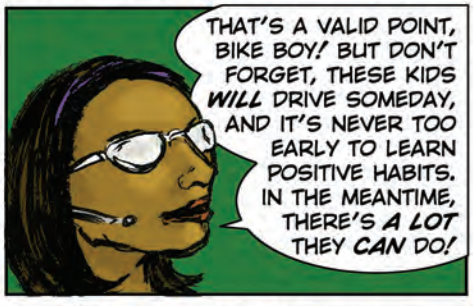

THIS IS MY TEAM. THEY'RE THE BEST AT WHAT THEY DO. WE'RE SEVEN ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE WHO HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER FOR ONE PURPOSE: TO PROTECT THE AIR WE SHARE.
OKAY, TEAM, NOW LISTEN UP. HERE'S THE BAD NEWS: THE AIR QUALITY FORECAST IS RED TODAY, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. IT'S 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?
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!
CALM DOWN, TECH--I THINK I KNOW JUST WHAT THE BOSS-MAN MEANS BY REINFORCEMENTS!




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?!?*

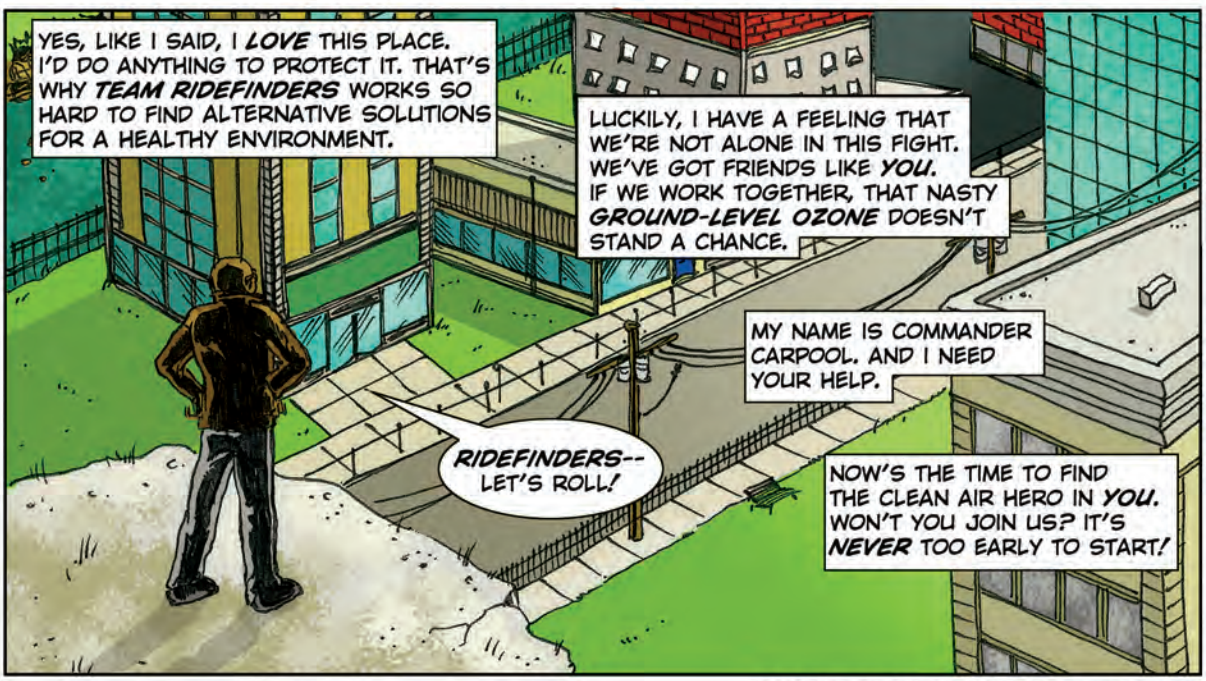

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, CHILDREN CAN INFLUENCE THEIR FAMILES TO MAKE SMALL BEHAVIORAL CHANGES!
FOR INSTANCE, THEY CAN INSIST THAT THEIR PARENTS BUY GASOLINE IN THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING. THIS REDUCES EMISSIONS THAT ACCUMULATE THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND FORM OZONE!
GOOD SUGGESTION, COST CALCULATOR! COME 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!











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