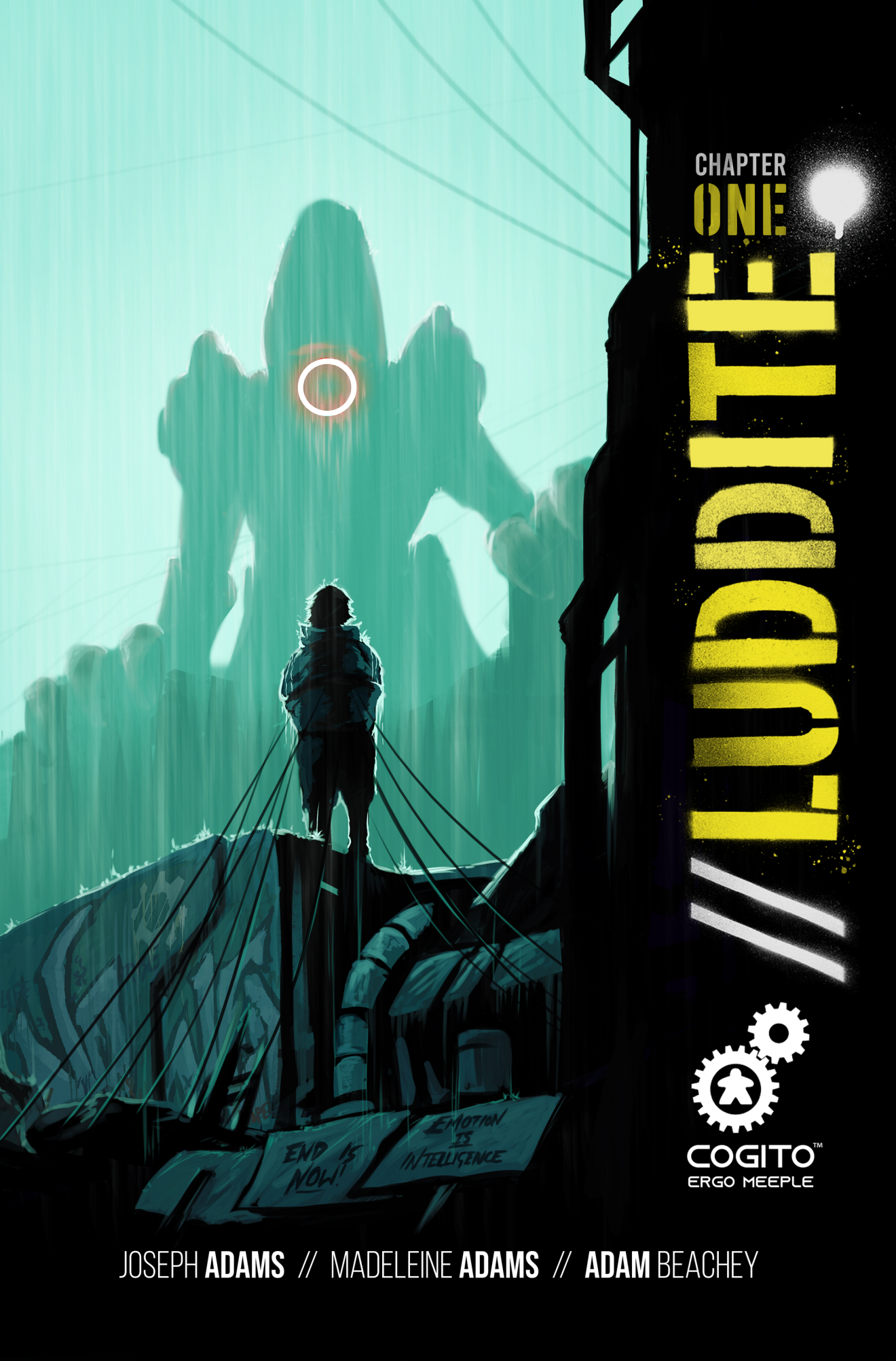


COGITO™
ERGO MEEPLE

JOSEPH **ADAMS** // MADELEINE **ADAMS** // **ADAM** BEACHEY

SAITAMA SLUMS,
YURUSHI CITY
175 YEARS AFTER THE
UNSPEAKABLE WAR
SILVERSHINE

SHINZ'S
OFF LICENSE CONVENIENCE
½ PRICE
WE DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE COMING
I'M SORRY, THERE WERE POLICE PATROLS OUTSIDE SHINZ'S
I HAD TO BE CAREFUL
SO, HAVE YOU HEARD FROM RED?
IF THERE WERE PATROLS, WE CAN'T HACK IN FROM SHINZ'S PLACE
NO, NOT THERE, WE'LL BE OPERATING FROM THE STEELWORKS HALL

I'LL GET THE RIG SET UP. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN PULL THIS OFF?
I MEAN WE'RE ALL TAKING A BIG RISK HERE
RED SAYS HE'S GOOD ENOUGH AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME
YOU ARE UP TO THIS AREN'T YOU?
YEAH... I'VE JUST NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE...
ME NEITHER... LOOK IF YOU DON'T FEEL UP TO IT YOU CAN STILL WALK AWAY
WOULD YOU?
NO, I WOULDN'T... I MEAN I'M TERRIFIED BUT, I'VE GOT MY OWN REASONS TO BE HERE. I HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF THE SAME QUESTION...

//LUDDITE

CHAPTER 1

BY JOSEPH ADAMS AND MADELEINE ADAMS
ART BY ADAM BEACHEY

...IS IT WORTH TAKING THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING CAUGHT?

...WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?...

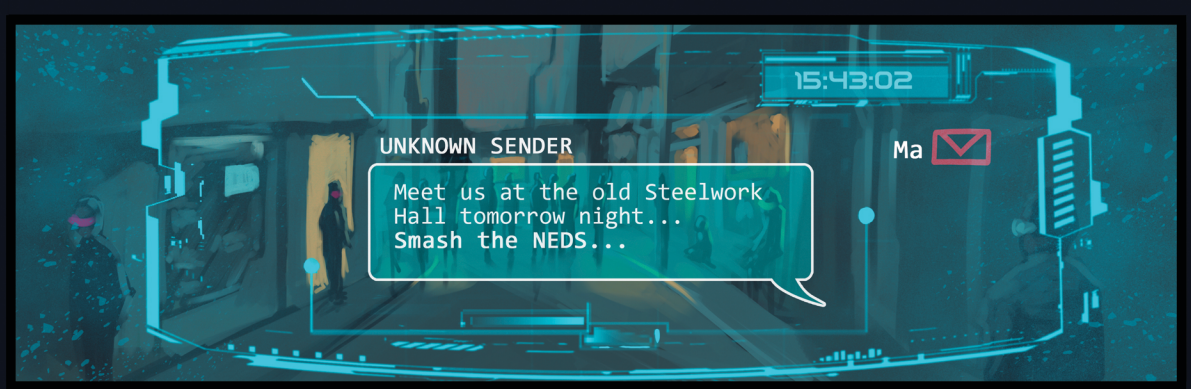
A FEW WEEKS EARLIER
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE BEEN MADE REDUNDANT FROM YOUR POSITION,,,
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE BEEN MADE REDUNDANT FROM YOUR POSITION,,
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE BEEN MADE REDUNDANT FROM YOUR POSITION,,
SLEG
注意
注意
TELLING MY MA WAS THE HARDEST PART
Ma, Niven are replacing my whole department with the NEDS
Ma
Oh no! Can you switch to a different department?
I'll try but it's the same everywhere, there's been over a thousand layoffs this week already, everyone is panicking!
Ma
You're not everyone, you're the best engineer they have, I'm sure they won't want to lose you

Ma, can I come and live with you? They're saying I need to leave my apartment
Ma
Of course little one! You know you've always got a home with me
SILVERSHINE
I'm so sorry, I know how much you sacrificed to get me through school. I feel like I've let everyone down
Ma
Don't be silly, the world will always need good engineers. You haven't let anyone down…
Ma
Come home, we'll find you something else… I'm very proud of you!
SAITAMA SLUMS
POPULATION 54,970,026

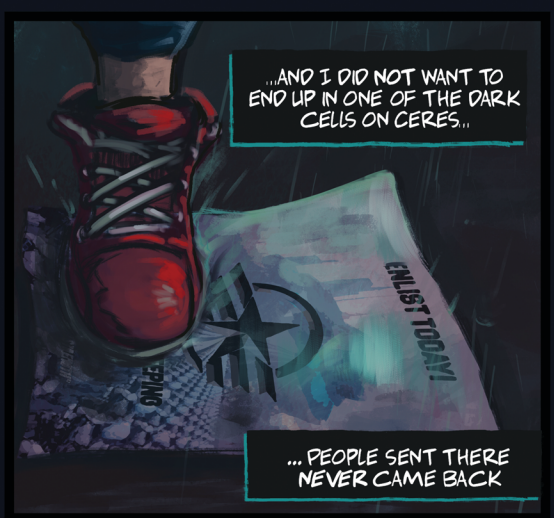
Ma
How's the protest? It looks like thousands of people showed up, which is promising!
It's a waste of time, no one cares about yet another protest in Saitama, Niven probably won't even hear about it
EMOTION IS INTEL
WHAT ABOUT
NIVEN EMPLOY DRONE SLAVES
NEEDS
NO NEDS
WORK IS HUMAN RIGHT
Ma
Don't lose hope little one… AI can't replace humans long term, even the Corps will learn that eventually
BUT THE TRUTH IS, THESE HUGE MACHINES CAN OUTPERFORM US IN ANY TASK
THEY DON'T SLEEP, DON'T EAT, DON'T UNIONISE OR REQUIRE PAYMENT
THEY JUST WORK RELENTLESSLY...

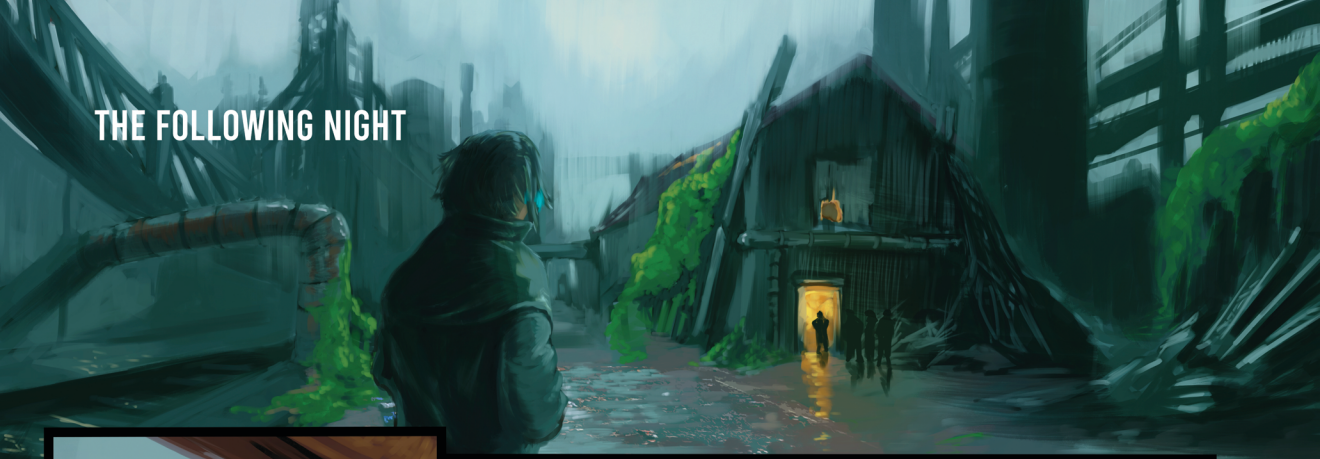
NEDS RISE
END LIVES
THE NEDS WOULD REPLACE US ALL EVENTUALLY

Hold up Ma I'm getting another message… I'll talk to you later


15:43:02
UNKNOWN SENDER
Meet us at the old Steelwork Hall tomorrow night...
Smash the NEDS...
Ma

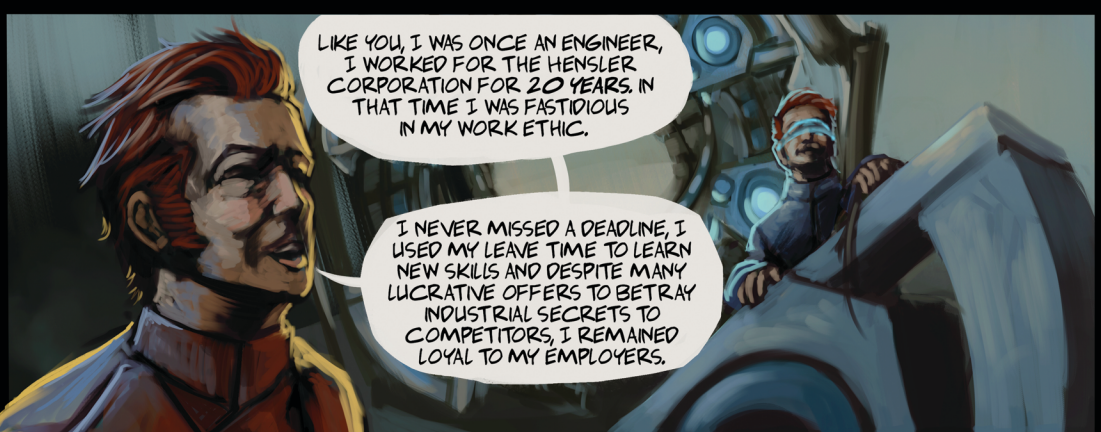
MY INITIAL THOUGHT WAS TO IGNORE IT, THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE HAD BEEN KNOWN TO SEND OUT FAKE RECRUITMENT MESSAGES.
THOSE THAT REPLIED WOULD BE ARRESTED AND SENT TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS ON THE ASTEROID CERES...


...AND I DID NOT WANT TO END UP IN ONE OF THE DARK CELLS ON CERES...
ENLIST TODAY!
... PEOPLE SENT THERE NEVER CAME BACK


THE FOLLOWING NIGHT

I RECOGNISED SOME OF THE FACES, FELLOW ENGINEERS, LAID OFF FROM NIVEN.

COMRADES! MY NAME IS RED LUDD AND I HAVE CALLED YOU HERE TODAY BECAUSE A GREAT INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE TO EACH ONE OF US...


LIKE YOU, I WAS ONCE AN ENGINEER, I WORKED FOR THE HENSLER CORPORATION FOR 20 YEARS. IN THAT TIME I WAS FASTIDIOUS IN MY WORK ETHIC.
I NEVER MISSED A DEADLINE, I USED MY LEAVE TIME TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND DESPITE MANY LUCRATIVE OFFERS TO BETRAY INDUSTRIAL SECRETS TO COMPETITORS, I REMAINED LOYAL TO MY EMPLOYERS.

ALL I ASKED IN RETURN WAS FOR THAT LOYALTY TO BE RETURNED TO ME, SO THAT WHEN THE NEW SHINY PERFECT NEDS APPEARED I WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF JUST AS I HAD TAKEN CARE OF THEM.
BUT WE ALL KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, FOR IT HAS HAPPENED TO EACH OF US HERE IN OUR OWN WAY.
WE HAVE BEEN CAST ASIDE, SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS... USELESS, OUTDATED BIOLOGICAL ENTITIES IN THE AGE OF THE DIGITAL.
BUT OUR PREVIOUS MASTERS HAVE MADE A GRAVE ERROR. THEY HAVEN'T COUNTED ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
THE COUNTLESS YEARS OF TRAINING, OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAVE IN THIS ROOM.
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE CAST ASIDE AS "USELESS" IS IN FACT VERY USEFUL INDEED.
THE CORPORATIONS THAT REJECTED US HAVE INADVERTENTLY CREATED A TERRIBLE WEAPON TO BE USED AGAINST THEM.

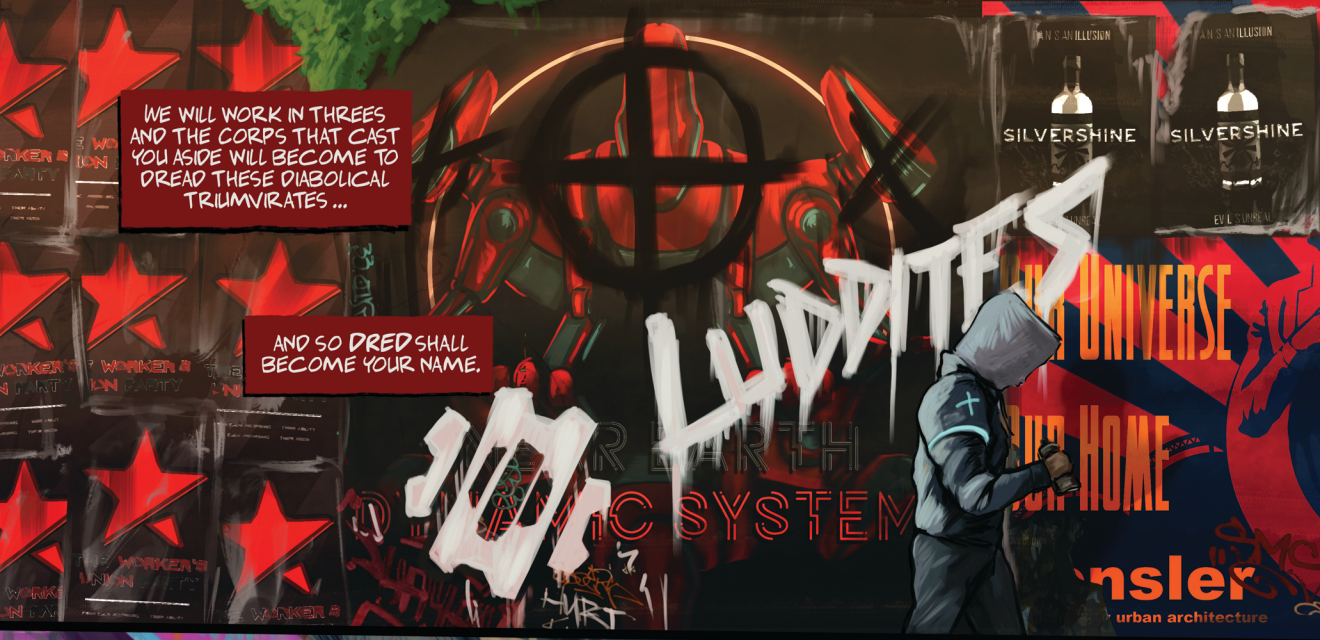
WE ARE THE ONES WHO BUILT THEIR EMPIRES WHILST THEY SAT AROUND SMOKING NARCO PIPES IN FANCY RESTAURANTS.
WE KNOW THEIR SYSTEMS BETTER THAN THEY DO, WE KNOW THEIR VULNERABILITIES
AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM HURT.

COMRADES, I CANNOT PROMISE YOU YOUR LIVELIHOODS BACK, BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU THIS...
WE WILL MAKE THEM PAY!

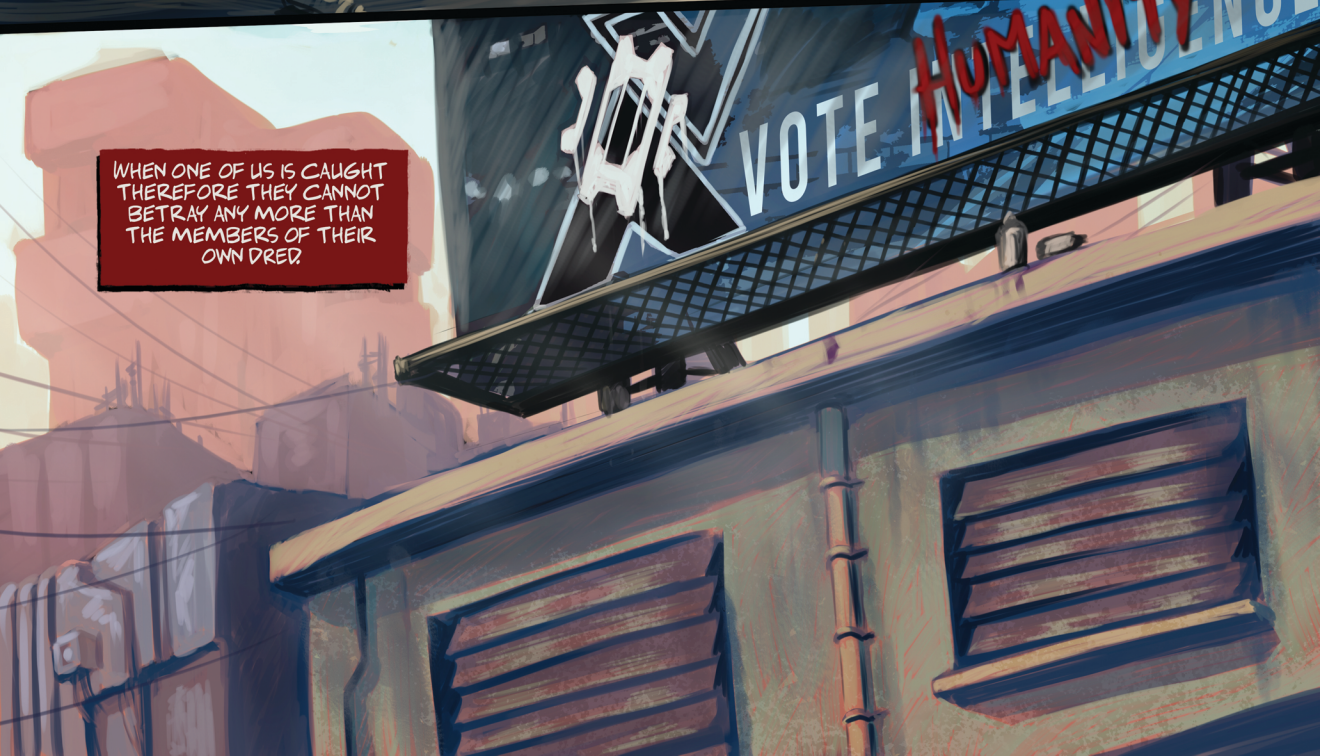
RED ASKED US ALL TO CUT OUT OUR OLD EMPLOYMENT CHIPS FROM OUR ARMS...
AND WE MELTED THEM ALL TOGETHER TO FORM A GIANT COG, THE SYMBOL OF OUR REVOLUTION...

YOUR TRAINING STARTS TOMORROW, AND FROM THIS POINT FORWARD EVERYTHING WE DO IS OFF GRID...
NO USING YOUR KOMS - MESSAGES ARE TO BE SPOKEN OR HANDWRITTEN AND THEN BURNED.

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS OUR TRAINING BEGAN...
WE ARE NOT HERE TO CREATE, WE ARE HERE TO DESTROY AND DESTRUCTION IS BY FAR THE EASIER OF THE TWO... WE ARE ON THE WINNING SIDE!
OUR TARGETS WERE THE NEDS THEMSELVES.

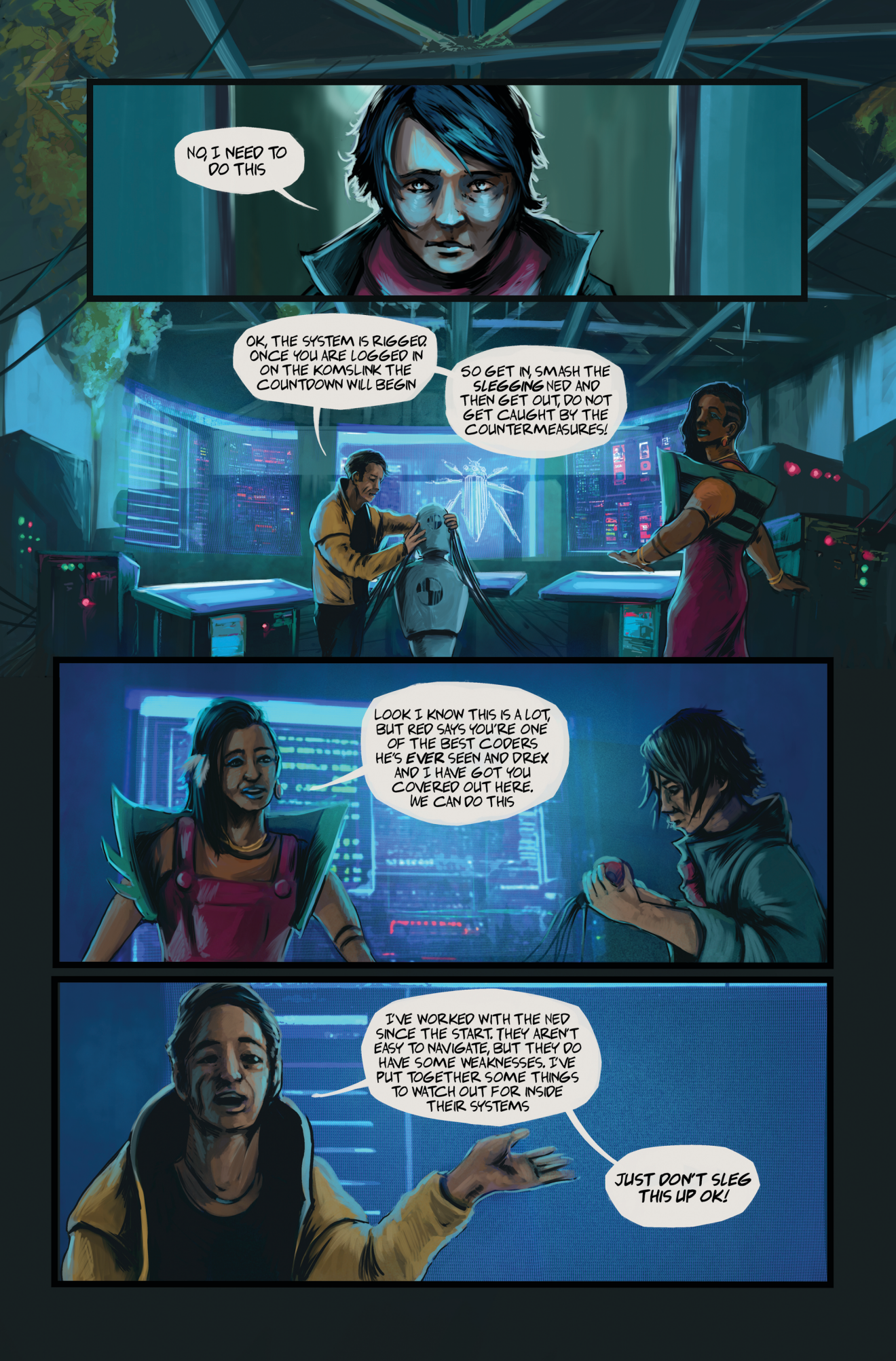

WE WILL WORK IN THREES AND THE CORPS THAT CAST YOU ASIDE WILL BECOME TO DREAD THESE DIABOLICAL TRIUMVIRATES ...
AND SO DRED SHALL BECOME YOUR NAME.
SILVERSHINE
SILVERSHINE
urban architecture

EACH DRED WILL ONLY KNOW THE DETAILS OF THOSE IN THEIR OWN TRIO.

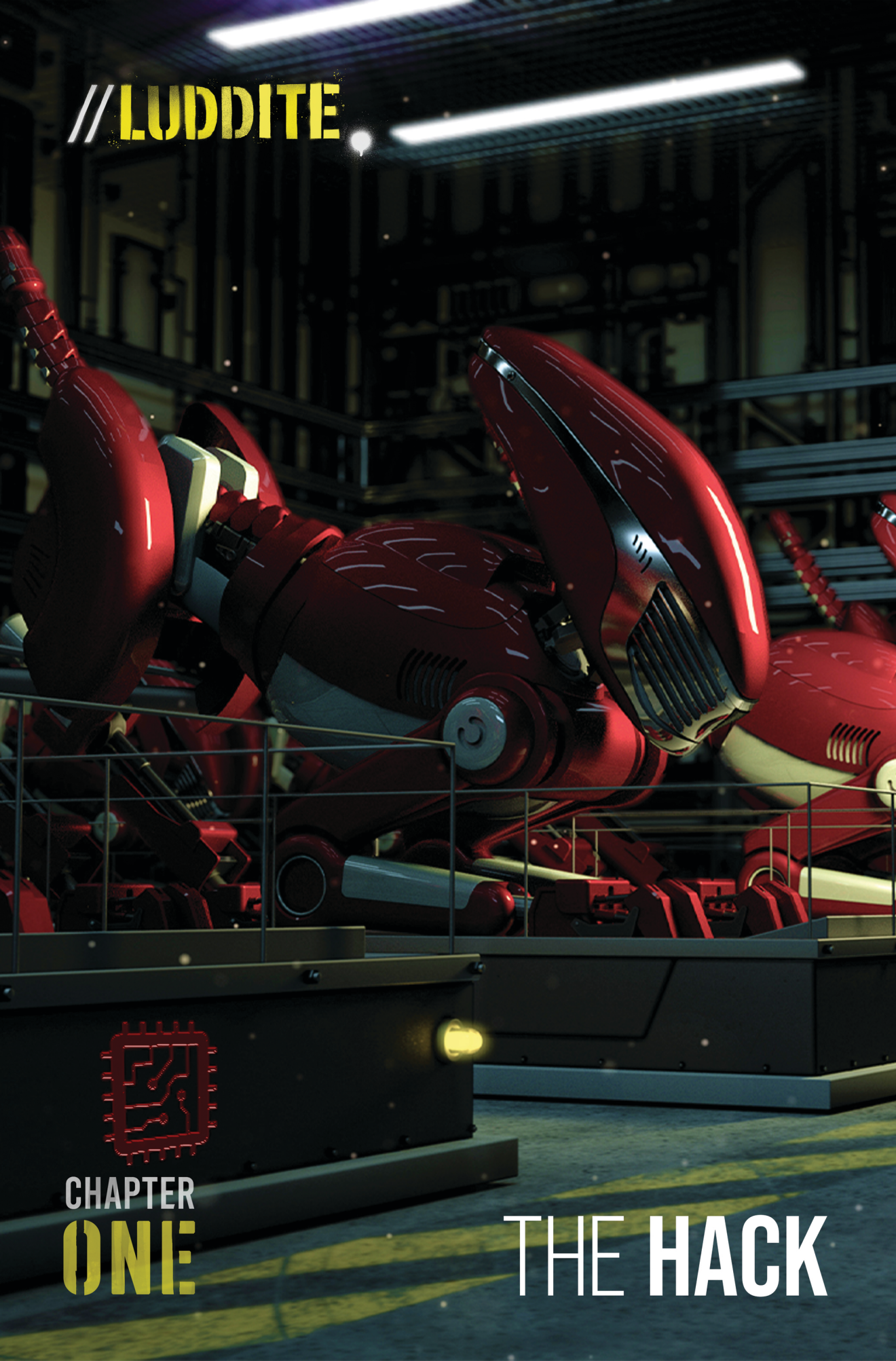

WHEN ONE OF US IS CAUGHT THEREFORE THEY CANNOT BETRAY ANY MORE THAN THE MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN DRED.
VOTE
HUMANITY

TAO-AN, THESE TWO WILL CONSTITUTE YOUR DRED. DREX YOU ALREADY KNOW OF COURSE
HUMANITES
BUT I BELIEVE THIS YOUNG ENGINEER WILL BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO YOU ALSO
HEY

SO YOU'RE GONNA BE OUR HACKER
I HOPE YOU'RE GOOD, THESE NEDS AREN'T JUST GONNA LET US HURT 'EM
IGNORE DREX, IF RED SAYS YOU'RE GOOD THEN THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
YEAH DON'T MIND ME, HAPPY TO HAVE ANOTHER ENGINEER ON BOARD. WHICH CORP D'YU TRAIN WITH?
NIVEN, YOU?
I'M FROM THE HEART OF DARKNESS MATE, I HAD THE JOY OF BEING FIRED FROM NEAR EARTH DYNAMIC SYSTEMS THEMSELVES
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOU WANT TO WALK AWAY NOW?


NO, I NEED TO DO THIS
OK, THE SYSTEM IS RIGGED. ONCE YOU ARE LOGGED IN ON THE KOMSLINK THE COUNTDOWN WILL BEGIN
SO GET IN, SMASH THE SLEGGING NED AND THEN GET OUT, DO NOT GET CAUGHT BY THE COUNTERMEASURES!
LOOK I KNOW THIS IS A LOT, BUT RED SAYS YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST CODERS HE'S EVER SEEN AND DREX AND I HAVE GOT YOU COVERED OUT HERE. WE CAN DO THIS
I'VE WORKED WITH THE NED SINCE THE START. THEY AREN'T EASY TO NAVIGATE, BUT THEY DO HAVE SOME WEAKNESSES. I'VE PUT TOGETHER SOME THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR INSIDE THEIR SYSTEMS
JUST DON'T SLEG THIS UP OK!

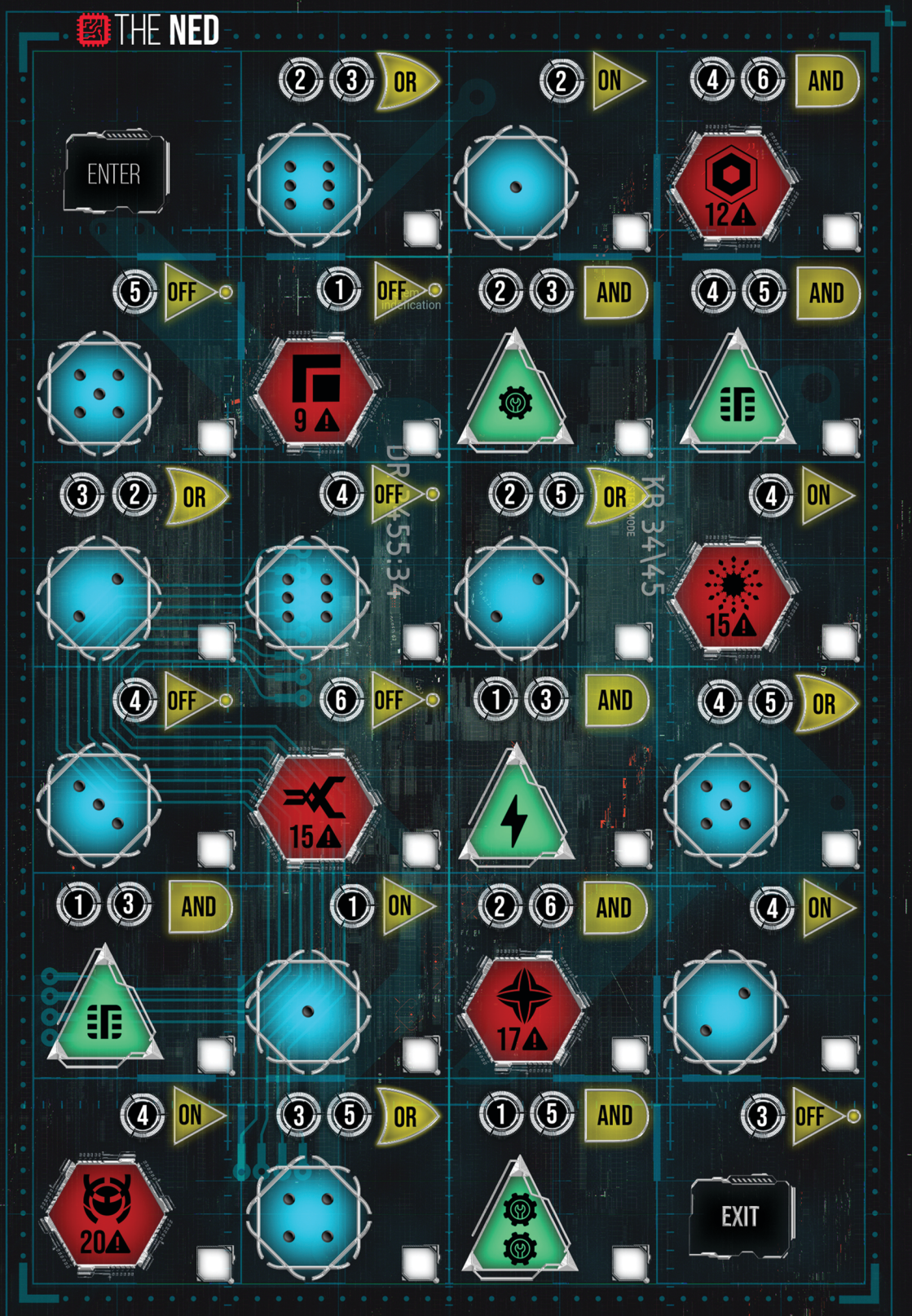
IGNORE DREX, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND WHEN YOU'RE READY LOG IN TO THE SYSTEM...
YOU CAN DO THIS!

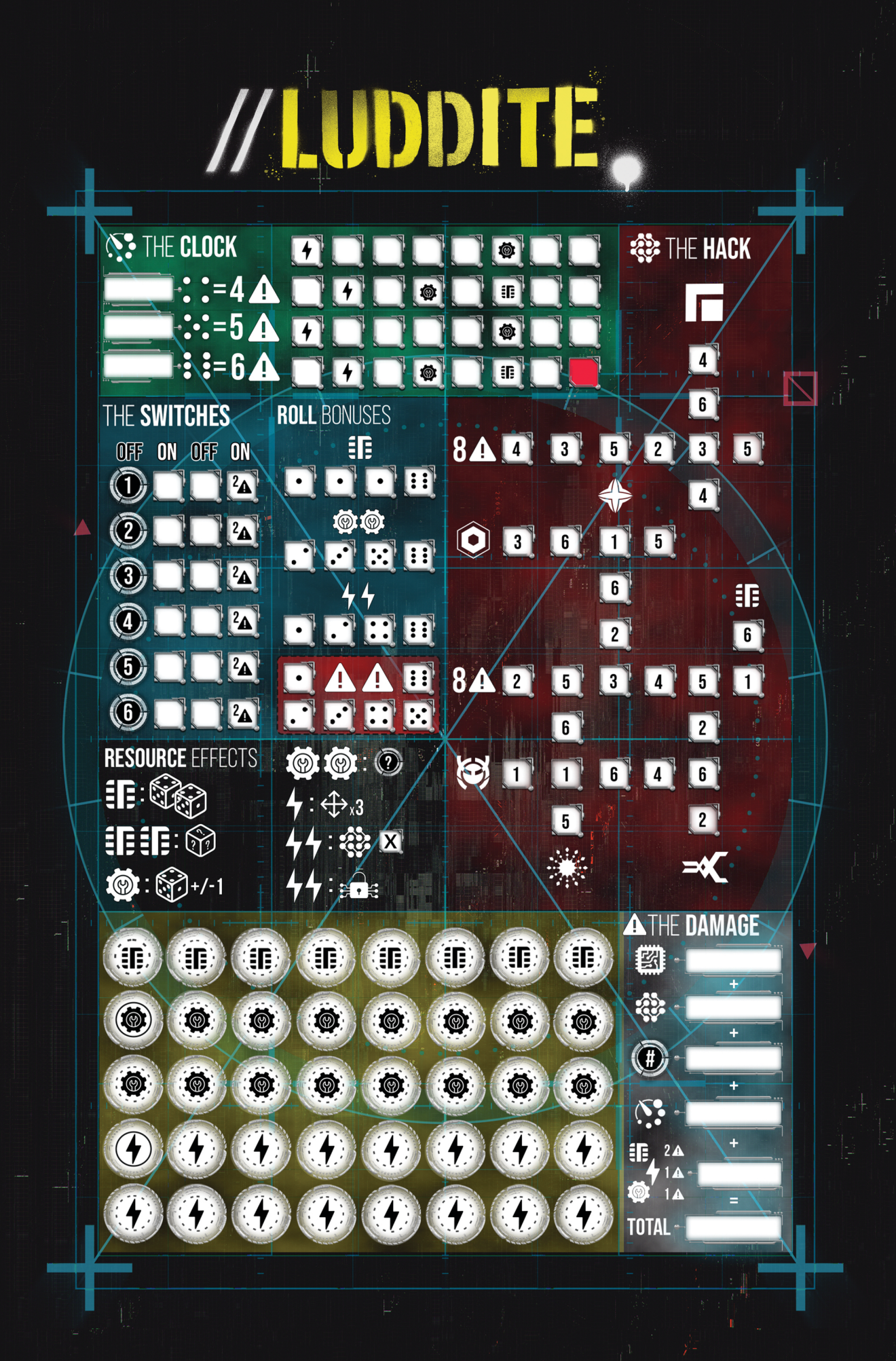


CHAPTER
ONE

THE HACK

CHAPTER ONE

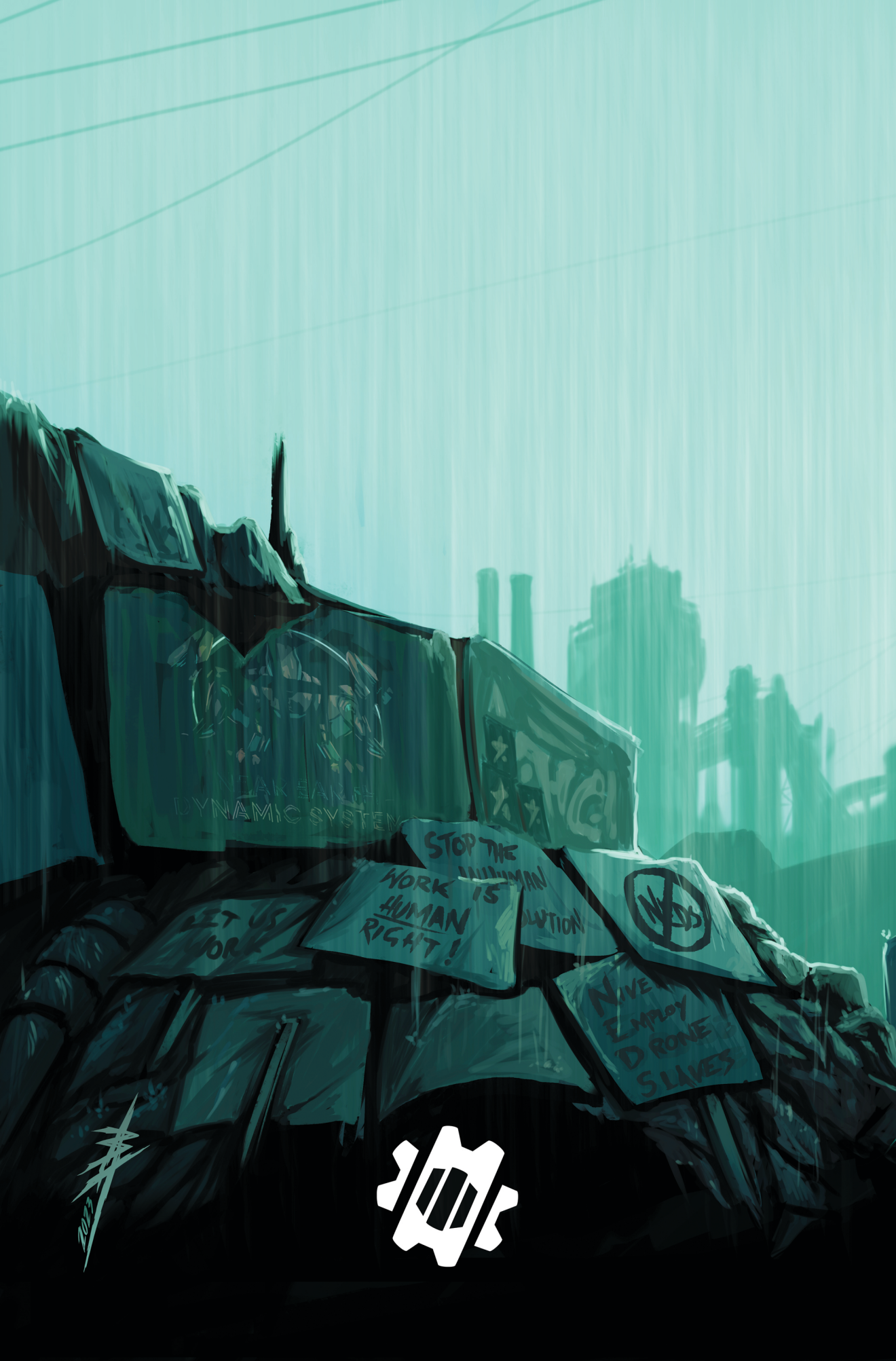

THE NED
ENTER
2 3 OR
2 ON
4 6 AND
12
5 OFF
1 OFF
2 3 AND
4 5 AND
9
3 2 OR
4 OFF
2 5 OR
4 ON
15
4 OFF
6 OFF
1 3 AND
4 5 OR
15
1 3 AND
1 ON
2 6 AND
4 ON
17
4 ON
3 5 OR
1 5 AND
3 OFF
20
EXIT


//LUDDITE
THE CLOCK
=4
=5
=6
THE HACK
THE SWITCHES
OFF ON OFF ON
ROLL BONUSES
RESOURCE EFFECTS
+/-1
x3
THE DAMAGE
2
1
1
TOTAL

MINE SIX
RIO ASTRO SEGMENT
PSYCHE
(232,012,312 MILES FROM EARTH)
SO... WE JUST WATCH THEM?
YEP
IF THEY DO ALL THE WORK THOUGH, WHY ARE WE HERE?
IT'S BEST NOT TO ASK THAT QUESTION TOO LOUDLY SON

I CAME OUT OF MY KOMSLINK WITH A HUGE BEAM ON MY FACE. I KNEW I HAD DONE SOMETHING POWERFUL FOR OUR CAUSE TODAY.
THAT WAS AMAZING!
SOMEWHERE IN AN OFF-EARTH FACTORY A NED WOULD BE SERIOUSLY MALFUNCTIONING
IT WOULD BE FIXED OF COURSE, BUT NOT FOR A WHILE. IN THAT TIME IT WAS USELESS AND HUMANS WOULD NEED TO BE EMPLOYED INSTEAD
YEAH YOU DID OK. WE'LL HAVE TO SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST ONE OF THE NEWER MODELS
DON'T TELL ANYONE OK?
I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE BUT I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE. I HAD TO STOP MYSELF FROM SEARCHING FOR NEWS OF DAMAGED NEDS ON THE KOMS. SEARCH ACTIVITIES WERE ROUTINELY TRACKED FOR KEY WORDS AND A QUERY LIKE THAT WOULD BE A MASSIVE RED FLAG

BUT IT FELT GOOD TO BE DOING SOMETHING...
I WASN'T USELESS ANYMORE...
I WAS A LUDDITE.
TO BE CONTINUED...


DYNAMIC SYSTEM
STOP THE
WORK IS
HUMAN
RIGHT!
NWO
NAVE
EMPLOY
D RONE
S LAVES