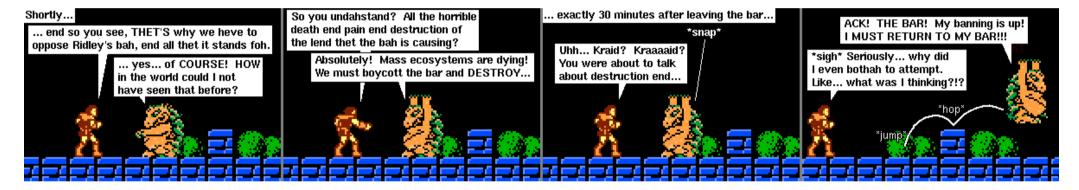
Do you have the bricks?



Heeding the call



Irrelevant details



Overlords don't help



Deep-down flavour



You all knew it was coming



162 482-484

Hal's Discount Signs N' Stuff



Proud to be an ass



Get to the damn point!



Flashback theft



Under-jar slidey goo



Epic tale of mass proportions



164 488-490

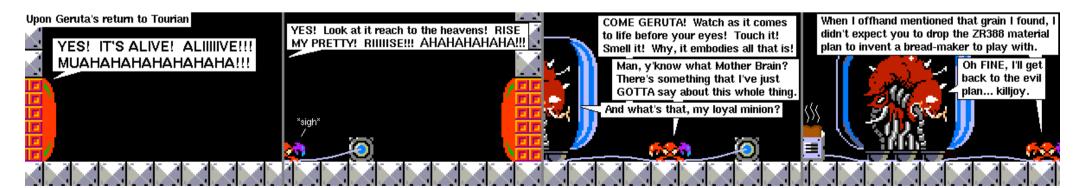
Feelin' fine



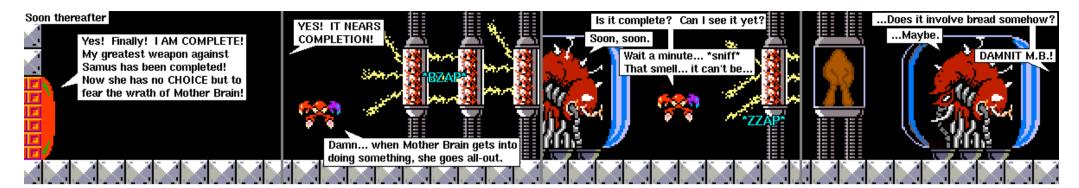
What's up?



Rise, riiiiiise!



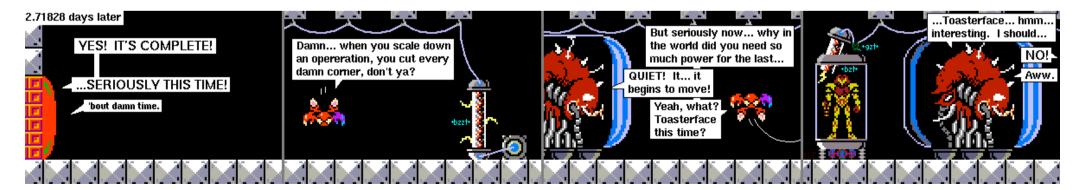
Diabolical creation v.1



Diabolical creation v.2



Diabolical creation v.3



166 494-496

First contact



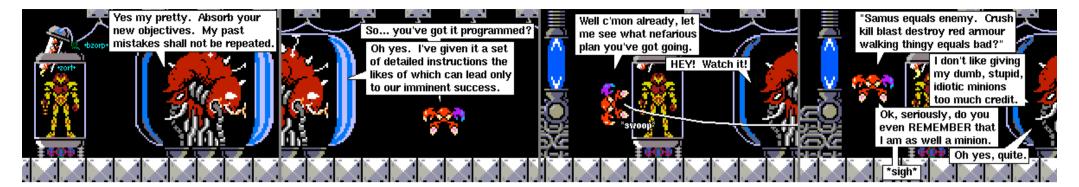
Problem solved



Set in her ways



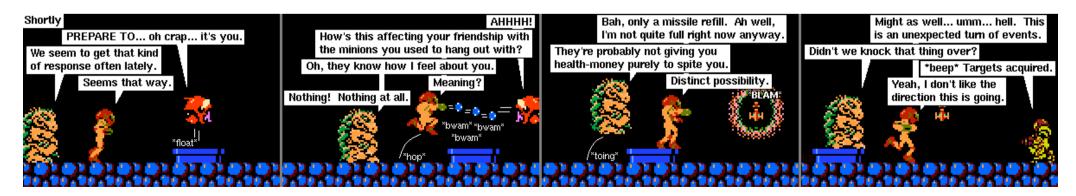
Still just a minion



Stupidity test

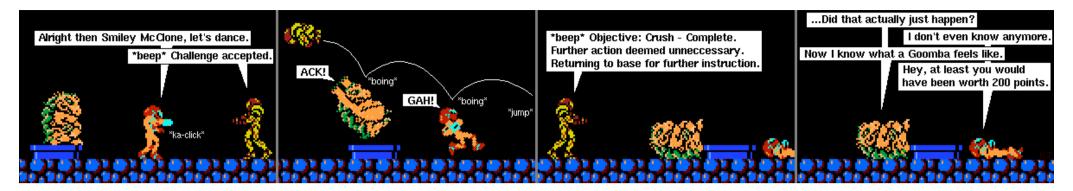


Targets acquired

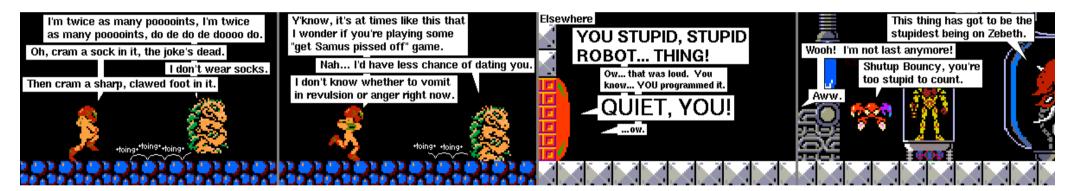


168 500-502

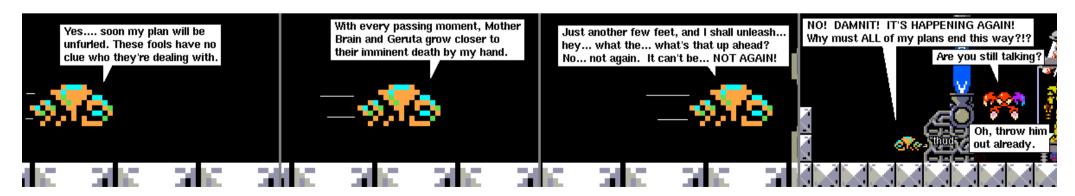
Objective complete



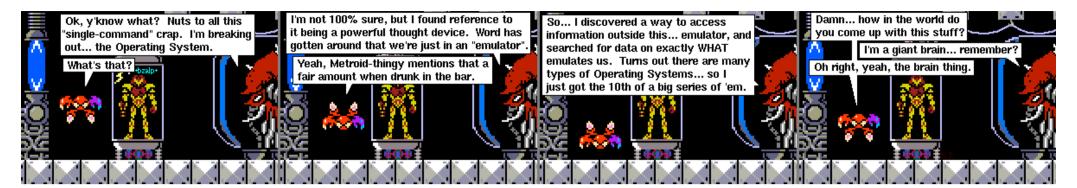
Easily amused



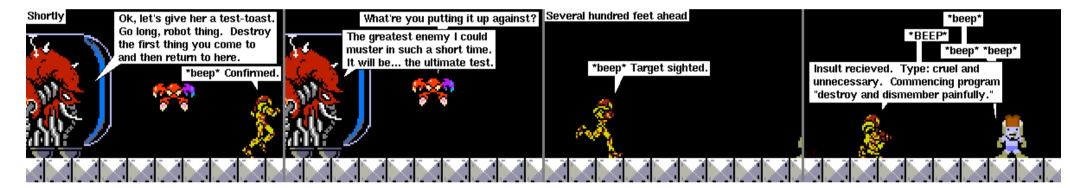
Display of intelligence



Enter the operating system



The ultimate test



Less helpful abilities

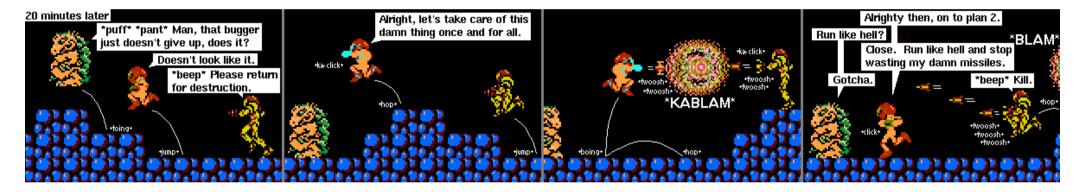


170 506-508

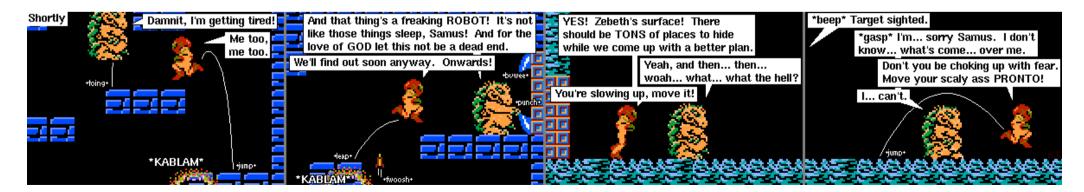
Retaliation



Hot missile-on-missile action



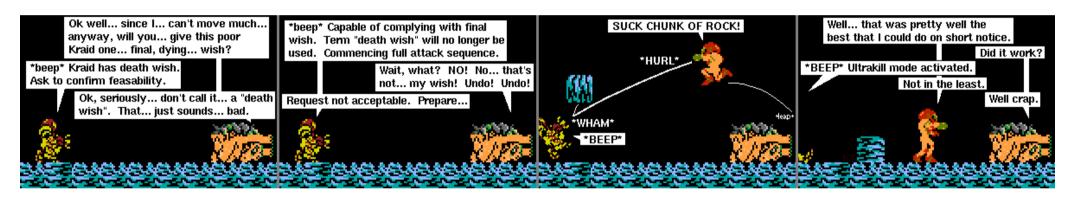
Overcome



509-511 171



Ultrakill mode activated



Flagrant system error



172 512-514

Not gonna make it



Wakeup call



Bottom floor



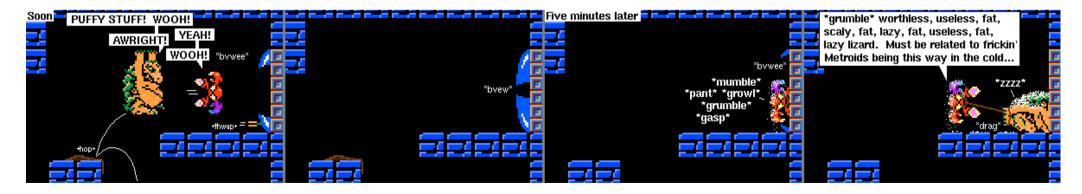
Hallucinations



White puffy stuff



He's gotta learn eventually



174 518-520

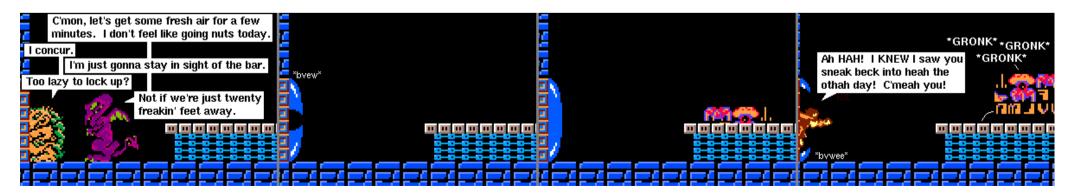
Snow Samii



Cabin-fever



Hiding out



Why wrangling isn't done in public



Gronky revealed



Kraid's new fear

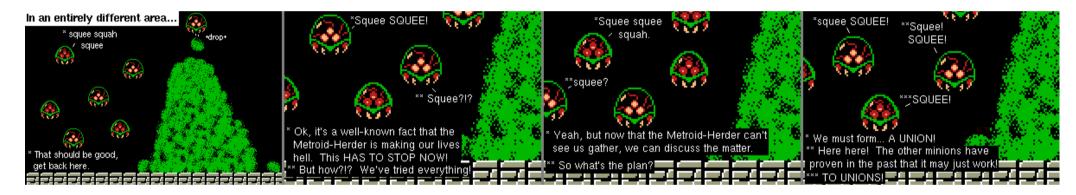


176 524-526

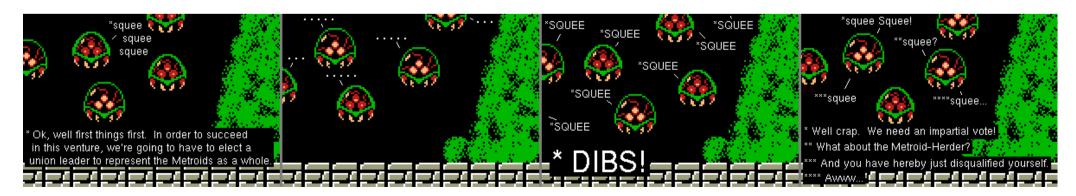
Lack of intervention



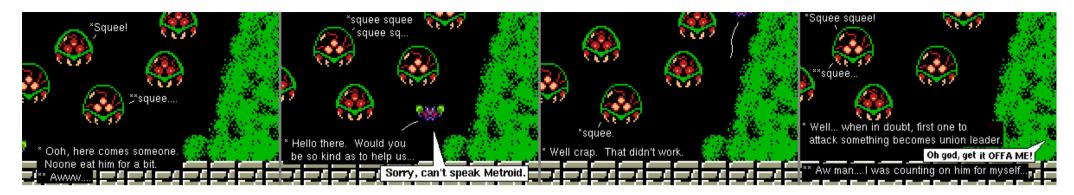
It's been a while



Impartial herding



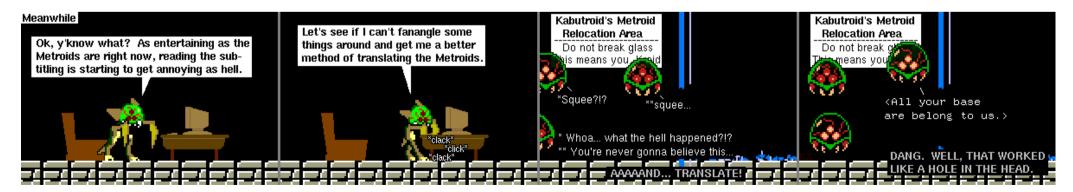
Bad time for sightseeing



Not again



Language barriers

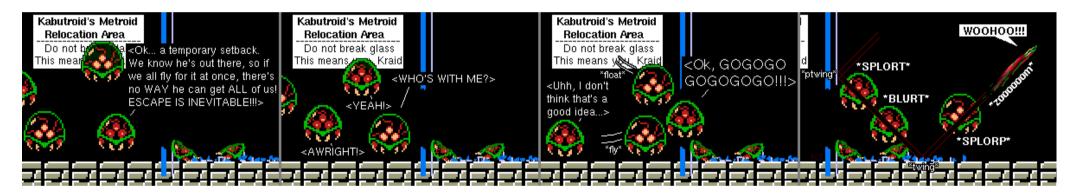


178 530-532

Still doing his job



Safety in numbers



Near-Metrocide



Vacation or bust II

Yep... that was some sweet, sweet vacation. Why, I'm sure TONS of unexpected, plot-furthering, suspension-climaxing things have occured while I was away. Why, it's things like that that people would want to see the continuation of. Yep... definitely continuation.

BUT... first things first. I made a journal of my vacation, and I think it's time to tell the tale, as it were. It's only 10 days worth... how long can it POSSIBLY put off the further continuation of earlier occurences? That said, leave us tell the tale of this year's vacation.

Vacation Journal Day 1

June 30: 8:30am - Currently driving. Writing this at the same time on palm pilot doesn't work. Will do when Daemona drives

June 30: 10:20am - Woke up at about 5:00. On the road by 5:30. Got McDonalds for breakfast. Left Winnipeg itself at about 6:00. Nothing but rain. Only took about 1:15 hrs to get to the "Tolstoi" border crossing, only to discover the border doesn't open until 8:00. Got to sit around for 45 minutes. Fun. Several hours into the states, and still nothing but rain. Just passed the #59 (which was ~90 km/h the second we hit the states) and the #2 hwy (which is ~110 km/h). Need to nap now, and I'm caught up anyway, so I'll write more later:

June 30: 7:08pm - Still stuck going ~90km/h. About 1 hour from Marquette, MI. where we'll spend the night. Those Red Bull energy drinks are good at keeping you awake for the drive though. Pretty much nothing but trees on either side of the road. Trees are nice and all, but after ~11 hours, it gets boring. At least there's the occasional lake to break up the monotony. And the quality of roads SUCKS in the states. Man, I thought Winnipeg was bad. That's about it for now. Probably more if I'm bored tonight. 7:30 now, so about a 1/2 hour to go until we hit the hotel.

A driving rain... get it?

June 30: 7:58pm - Well super. The worthless towns of Negaunee & Ishpeming had a detour that looped us about 10 minutes back to the start of the towns after putting us through both town's downtowns. Damn towns. Gignored the detour signs the second time through and escaped. Because of that, I'm making a "List o' towns I hate" at the bottom of the journal for each day I run across one that mildly irritates me somehow.

List o' towns I now hate due to minor, petty annoyances: Tolstoi, MB.

Cohasset, MI. Negaunee, MI. Ishpeming, MI. Vacation Journal Day 2

July 1: 5:40am - It's currently 4:40 Manitoba time. I am strangely awake, but get the feeling that's excitement about vacation. Odds are after an hour or two I'll be dead tired. Time to go get that complementary breakfast and head out. Probably drive first since I feel more awake.

July 1: 9:00am - Driver switchover. Passed Naubinway, MI. a bit ago. Every time there's a break in the trees we can see Lake Michigan. Nice view in general. Want to swim. Think I'm better at writing in the palm pilot. Getting faster. Still freakin' ~90 km/h here. Learn to drive, ya damn country!!! At 110, we'd shave off a few hours of driving a day. Now at Brevort. Get to cross that big bridge between lake Huron & Michigan soon.

July 1: 9:26am - What the hell is a "pastie"?!? Everything here is advertising they have them.

July 1: 10:57am - Mmmmm... trail mix flavoured granola bars kick ass.

July 1: 11:09am - Bored stiff. Raining. At least the I-75 is ~115 km/h. Just saw a semi carrying lumber. The thing had 8 axles on the trailer alone! I think the total vehicle came to 42 seperate tires (most axles had duals). Damn... a 42-wheeler. The fact that I'm writing this should indicate my boredom. Well... time to play Frogger on here. July 1: 4:15pm - Just finished my second driving shift of the day. Just passed London, Ont. Home stretch until we hit Toronto. Might even still have time to do stuff tonight. Made excellent time today. Surprisingly awake for having woken up at 5:00 two days in a row now. That Red Bull must be good stuff. It says to only take one a day, and I've done 3, so that might help. And no rain for like... 6 hours now! It's a freakin' miracle! There's even this weird, warm, bright stuff hitting me that I can only hypothesize as being "sunlight".

List o' towns I now hate due to minor, petty annoyances: Gould City, MI. Saginaw, MI.

Prepared for theft

Vacation Journal Day 3

July 2: 7:36am - We got into my brother's place in Toronto at about 5:30pm last night. Relaxed for a while... went to a nearby park to wander around while my bro's dog ran around. Later that evening watched the Canada Day fireworks. Helluva lot better than anything our city puts out. Staying at my bro's place in a sleeping bag for 2 nights to save money. Basically went to sleep the second my head hit the pillow. Woke up, and here I am. Not sure why I'm even bothering to keep a journal, but I'm planning to work it into the comic somehow. Not sure what we're doing later today, but I'll figure that out later.

July 2: 12:46pm - Ehehehehe... I'm currently on a subway for the first time ever. I'm sure it's boring for most, but I'm rather entertained by all this. But yeah, woke up, took a walk with my bro, as he walked his dog. Currently going to Queen street to check out the shops. Going to put this away now to avoid someone trying to steal it. That's right... if you're reading this before it's online, that means you stole it, and I'm acknowledging it beforehand. What... I'm paranoid.

Vacation Journal Day 4

July 3: 11:50pm - Well, you can safely assume that both my palm pilot wasn't stolen, and this will be today's only entry. Generally, yesterday Daemona and I went to the Queen street shops. We're going back to look around more on the 5th, as our feet were sore for some reason. Went to the bar "Velvet Underground" with my bro. that night. Much fun to be had. Today, we slept in and then checked into our hotel. Due to a "headache", I had a nap there. On a completely unrelated note, "Goldschläger" is awesome. Later visited Daemona's relatives and had dinner there. Got back to the hotel, and here I am now, making an entry in here. Generally, today was more of a relaxing day. Tomorrow, we stock up on food, and head to the R.O.M. But, now I must charge this thing's battery and sleep.

Vacation Journal Day 5

July 4: 9:40am - Ahh... sleep-in. Feeling much better. Currently killing time until we meet Daemona's grandma for brunch. Although, I've gotta say... trying to write in the palm pilot while lying on your side, on the arm using the stylus is exceedingly hard. Thank you makers of the palm for the keyboard I can just tap letters on.

July 4: 9:10pm Busy. Details tom<u>orrow.</u>

180 536-538

Voluptuous

Vacation Journal Day 6

July 5: 10:20am - Yesterday was a perfect definition of "a quiet usy". Visited various relatives... shopped for food and other junk. An itemized list o' stuff will be made at the end of vacation anyway. Not that I'm sure anyone even cares, but it'll also be somewhat of a personal reminder as to what crap got suckered into buying this year. Won't be able to buy as much as if I were to go somewhere closer to home, because we had to save up money for gas and hotels and such. But eh, Daemona and I like sightseeing and the like.

July 5: 12:20pm - Ehehehehehe... I'm currently on a TRAIN! First time ever being on one. Taking it from near our hotel to downtown to see the museum and visit more Queen street shops we didn't get to visit last time. Probably note how it all went later. Although, some guy came up to us while we were waiting for the train and just suddenly started talking about his childhood in a really fast voice... and was wearing a baseball glove for no reason... kinda weirded me out... but once we got aboard, we sat away from him to avoid an hour ride of psychobabble. Ehehehehehehe... TRAIN!!!

July 5: 11:53pm - Well... you see some unusual things on Queen. street. For example, a bum kid that was holding up a sign that said "Kick me in the nuts for \$1". I'd have almost considered it if he didn't look like he'd knife me for the rest of my change.

Vacation Journal Day 7

July 6: 1:31pm - I'm currently crouched in the corner of a women's clothing store called "Voluptuous" behind some luggage. Yep... bras and panties are to my left, and the change rooms are a little off to the right. Don't ask...

July 6: 3:42pm - For the record... never ever ever stay at Comfort Inn. Ever. I looked at my balance to see what I'm at, and discover that they "pre-authorized" an extra \$300 withdrawal... a day early... without telling me they do this... for incidental purposes. Ok... that's 60% of the hotel bill itself (\$500). I'd have to do a helluva lotta damage to make that required. Basically, if I was unable to increase my credit limit temporarily, a mess of stores would be sending my credit card to collections, I wouldn't be able to pay for gas to drive home, and my credit history would be dead. Basically, if it weren't for my random thought to check my credit balance, my financial life would have been completely ruined, PURELY because of Comfort Inn. In case you can't tell... I'm a tad angry with them.

Let the driving continue

July 6: 11:30pm - Well, the day turned out better. Went shopping... found some stuff I've been looking for for ages on sale. Just before we got home (actually, it was while I was waiting for Pizza Hut to finish my order. Mmm... Canadiantype pizza and cheesy breadsticks), I got a call from my roommate telling me to call the place that I was applying at for a new job. Called, and now shortly after vacation, I'll have a better, higher paying job. Score.

Vacation Journal Day 8

July 7: 10:59am - Woke up at 5:00am to get everything packed into the car. Had 4 hours of sleep for various reasons. Took first driving shift... was tired as hell. Slept when Daemona took would bring those suckers down onto whatever's underneath over, and here I am. The border was interesting. The guy asked them. Get some actual poles, ya cheap country. if we had any meats, so we said some sandwich meat of salami and ham, and some Pizza Hut pizza. They actually asked what toppings to check for beef (the whole mad-cow scare and all). It was "Canadian" type, so bacon, salami, cheese. I was almost tempted to say "with stuffed crust... stuffed with COW that is! and start laughing maniacally. We figured I shouldn't. Oh, and we found several "Tim Hortons" in the states! They're in Almont, Lapeer, and Flint MI. Yes... Canada is slowly taking in over the States... muahahaha!!!

July 7: 12:03pm - Is it my imagination, or is there like... 10 different types of license plates in Michigan? And another thing... what's with the traffic lights in the States hanging from set for tomorrow, we want to get in as early as possible. We an aircraft cable? One Canadian winter and the ice and wind

July 7: 5:48pm - God the middle of Michigan is useless. I swear maybe 1 in 20 towns have gas stations... and there's a vehicle for sale every 5 miles on the side of the road. How do these people have running vehicles? Do they buy brand new vehicles with full tanks of gas, then just kinda... leave them on the side of the road where they stop, put them up for sale and buy a. new one?

July 7: 8:20pm - Going to sleep early. Getting our wake-up call at 4:00am tomorrow morning. With about 14 hours of driving can just trade off driving shifts more than usual. Just one more day of driving.

List o' towns I now hate due to minor, petty annoyances: Munsing, MI.

You're a poké-freak when...

Vacation Journal Day 9

July 8: 4:16am - Ugh... we start driving off at 4:30. I got first shift. Let's see if I stay awake at the wheel. Also, they never gave us a wake-up call. Good thing I set the alarm.

July 8: 10:51am - Ehehehe... just passed "Pokegama Dam". I'm gonna go pull out my super rod and catch me a Dratini :D. In other news... we're taking shorter shifts. Just finished driving shift two. Slept entirely through my first break. Well, at least going home, we switch from Eastern time zone to Central, so we saved an hour instead of losing it on the way out.

July 8: 2:35pm - Wooh! Making excellent time. Now about an hour to the Canadian border and metric speed. From there, it's a comic. Let's see how it turns out. about another hour until we're back home. Soon... soon. Have been pumping energy drinks into myself to make up for the early, early wakeup time. Red Bull bottle-type, Red Bull cantype, and Bawls. Still tired. Daemona's taking the last drive.

July 8: 3:34pm - Got searched at the border. Nothing happened that we didn't expect, except the guy was kind of a prick. Now seeing speed limit signs saying 100, and crappy road patching jobs. Ahh... back in Manitoba. Also, bah... stupid cellphone. It's supposed to work anywhere in Canada. It didn't have signal the second we crossed the border at the most obscure, isolated border crossing in Manitoba, if not Canada! I want my usage from anywhere! :P

July 8: 7:45pm - I am currently starting to turn this journal into | Vacation Journal Day 10

July 8: 9:55pm - Well... I've now caught up to current time. I'm currently adding this directly into Kolourpaint, inside of comic 541. Won't update this online though. Still have to do the summary and list of items that will occur tomorrow. BUT... I need sleep bad, so it's time to go and get some of said sleep.

List o' towns I now hate due to minor, petty annoyances: Superior, WI. Duluth, MN. Gowan, MN. Lake Bronson, MN.

Tolstoi, MB... again

July 9: 11:24pm - Well, back on the palm for the final entry (Daemona's using the computer). Today, we went out on a "back from vacation and need to buy food because we left the fridge bare"run. Filled our fridge, and then went to Daemona's family's place for dinner. Mmmm... chinese food. About to watch the movie "Donnie Darko", so it be time to finish this epic journal with the list o' stuff obtained. Although, approximating how much space this text will take, I get the feeling that'll be inside the final "Vacation or bust" comic.

Conclusion



The need to feed



Tired of complaints

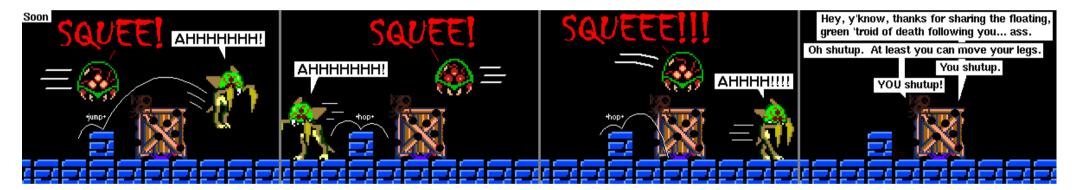


182 542-544

A woman scorned



Coveted goods



Unwanted guests



Cold Metroid death



Partial autophobia



Forgotten secrets



184 548-550

Sudden realizations



Plausible deniability



Grief of loss





Ocular difficulties



Telling it like it is



186 554-556

Dangerous tests



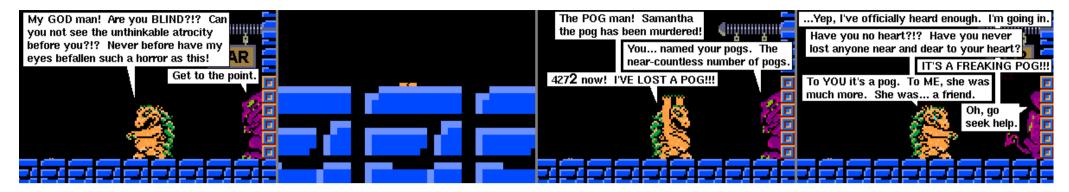
Women problems



Samantha!



A great loss



Abomination!



Ruined jokes



188 560-562

Priorities 2



Security systems



Sneaky, tricksy Ridleyses



Almost too easy



Random notes



The better offer



190 566-568

A better plan



Falling on deaf ears



Reasons to leave



Drifts of fury



Poor baby



Know-it-all



192 572-574

When plans fail



No silver lining



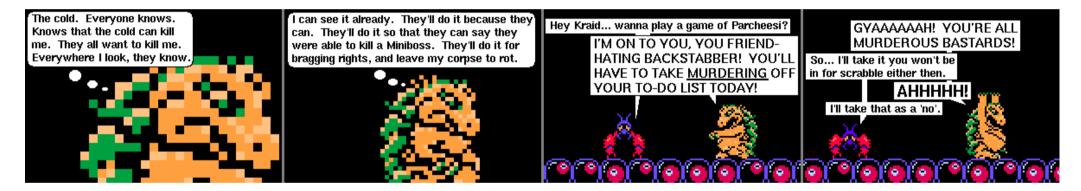
Just not working



Sweetening the deal



Paranoid delusions



Automatic response



194 578-580

Things to get



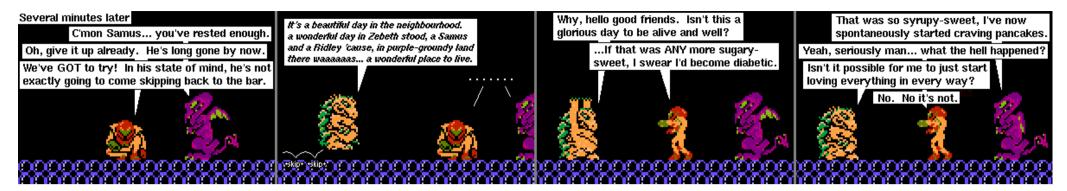
No privacy



Can it really be???



A beautiful day



Feigning sarcasm



Naked testing



196 584-586

I hacked it apart



17th century humour



Forgotten problems



Why minions are minions



Incoming hordes



On the spot pricing



198 590-592

Revelations



Lessons not learned



On the other hand...



Disgusting tasks



Instant wake-up call



If you don't cooperate...



200 596-598