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FIRST
ISSUE!

the Intrepid Savvies



Tek Savvy

THE STORY SO FAR...

2020

PhoneCorp gets regulatory breaks in exchange for investing in communications networks. Current and past executives are installed in key government roles.

2022

Foreign tech companies scale back. PhoneCorp re-establishes media and advertising domination. Quid-pro-quo censorship of anti-government messaging begins.

2024

PhoneCorp expands into food production and distribution, housing, real estate, transportation, banking, energy and health care.

2027

Censorship is rampant and household costs skyrocket — typical cellphone bills are now \$1,000, plus \$6.95 system access fee. Police refuse to enforce overage fees so PhoneCorp promises reforms, but secretly begins building PhoneBots: flying police-like drones.

2021

PhoneCorp enacts mass layoffs of journalists at its news divisions. Legislators enact cultural and privacy laws favouring domestic firms over foreign technology companies.

2023

The Great Connection Mergers begin. PhoneCorp merges with PhoneCo. In response, CableCorp, CableCo and LeCable merge. The combined entities complete their insinuation into key government and regulatory roles.

2026

PhoneCorp acquires CableCorp, forming a full monopoly. The Savvies, a resistance movement that provides underground internet access through unlicensed airwaves and portable, covertly deployed fibre networks, are formed.

2029

PhoneCorp deploys PhoneBots to stamp out protests with crippling overage fees. Military and police forces are replaced with drones.

2030

Parliament is renamed PhoneCorp Centre. Cabinet ministers are now Key Shareholders and the Prime Minister is replaced by the Prime Executive Officer. The corporate takeover is complete.

Teksavvy
PRESENTS:

THE INTREPID SAVVIES IN

PETER NOWAK / WRITER • KALMAN ANDRASOFSZKY / ARTIST • PARIS ALLEYNE / COLOURS
ANDWORLD DESIGN / LETTERS • MARCUS TO & JIM CHAMPARALADIS / COVER • RAMÓN K PÉREZ / DESIGN



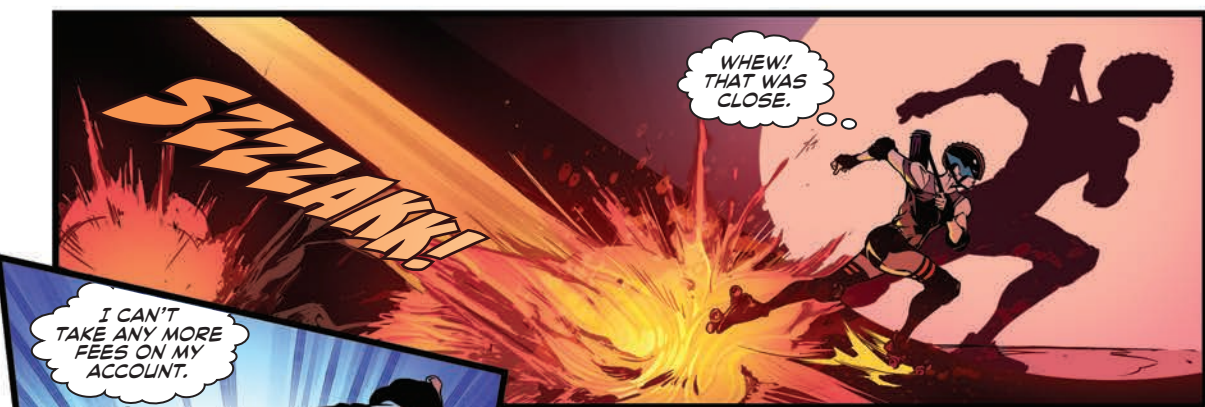
THIS STREET WAS ONCE
THE HEART OF A BUSTLING
SHOPPING DISTRICT. BUT
THEN CAME THE GREAT
CONNECTION MERGERS.

NOW, PEOPLE HUDDLE
IN SHACKS, AFRAID OF
BEING HIT WITH Overage
CHARGES. IN 2030, ONE
COMPANY RULES ALL.
PHONECORP!

GOTTA GET
THIS VIDTUBE
BACK TO THE
OTHERS. THEY'LL
NEVER BELIEVE
WHAT'S ON IT.

IF I COULD
ONLY SHAKE
THESE DAMN
PHONEBOTS!

BUT THERE
HOPE



WHEW!
THAT WAS
CLOSE.



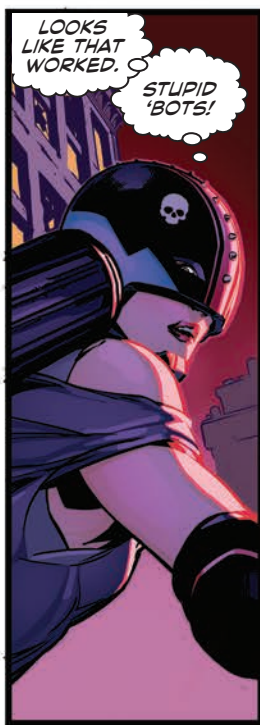
I CAN'T
TAKE ANY MORE
FEES ON MY
ACCOUNT.

ONE HIT BY
THOSE OVERAGE
BEAMS AND I'M
DONE!

DERBY GARRL:
SCOUT AND HACKER



MAYBE I
CAN LOSE THEM
BY DUCKING
DOWN THIS
WAY.



LOOKS
LIKE THAT
WORKED.

STUPID
'BOTS!



ATTENTION
CITIZEN! YOU ARE
IN VIOLATION OF
PHONECORP
CURFEW.

SURRENDER
NOW AND YOUR
OVERAGE CHARGES
WILL BE LIMITED TO
THE SYSTEM ACCESS
FEE, PLUS TAX.

DAMMIT,
I'M SUNK!



THWACKK!!



NOT SO FAST YOU DUMB 'BOTS!

**JIM BRO:
THE MUSCLE**



I GOT YOUR OVERAGES RIGHT HERE.

SHRAK



HEADS UP JIMMY,

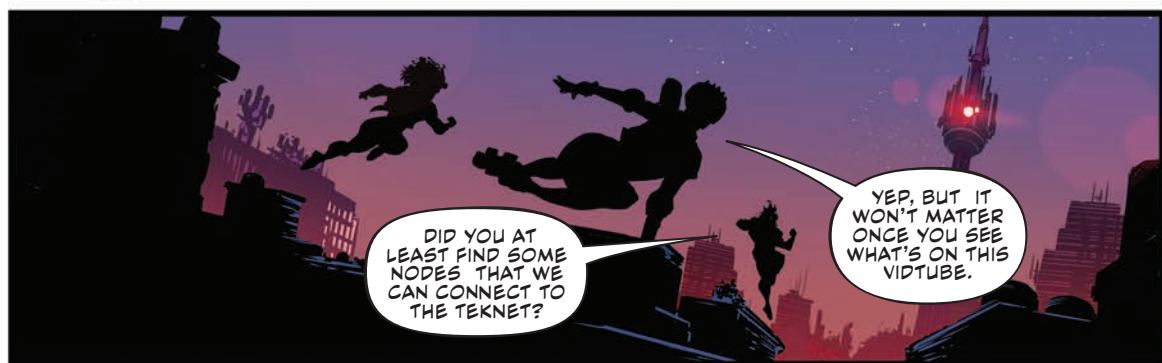
BOOM



THIS ONE ALMOST GOT THE DROP ON YOU!

**SUE PERMON:
COMBAT SPECIALIST**

THANKS SUE! I KNEW YOU HAD MY BACK.





CURM VOGELON:
COMIC RELIEF

GENE YUS:
HEAD ENGINEER

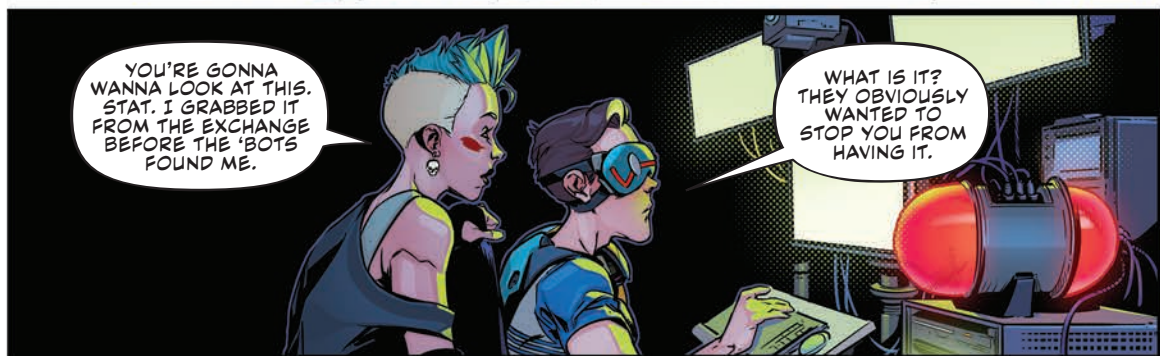


IT'S THANKS TO YOU AND "YOUR DAY'S" BELIEF IN "FACILITIES-BASED COMPETITION" THAT WE'RE IN THIS MESS.

IF YOU HAD REINED IN THOSE TELCOS BEFORE THEY GOT TOO BIG, WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.

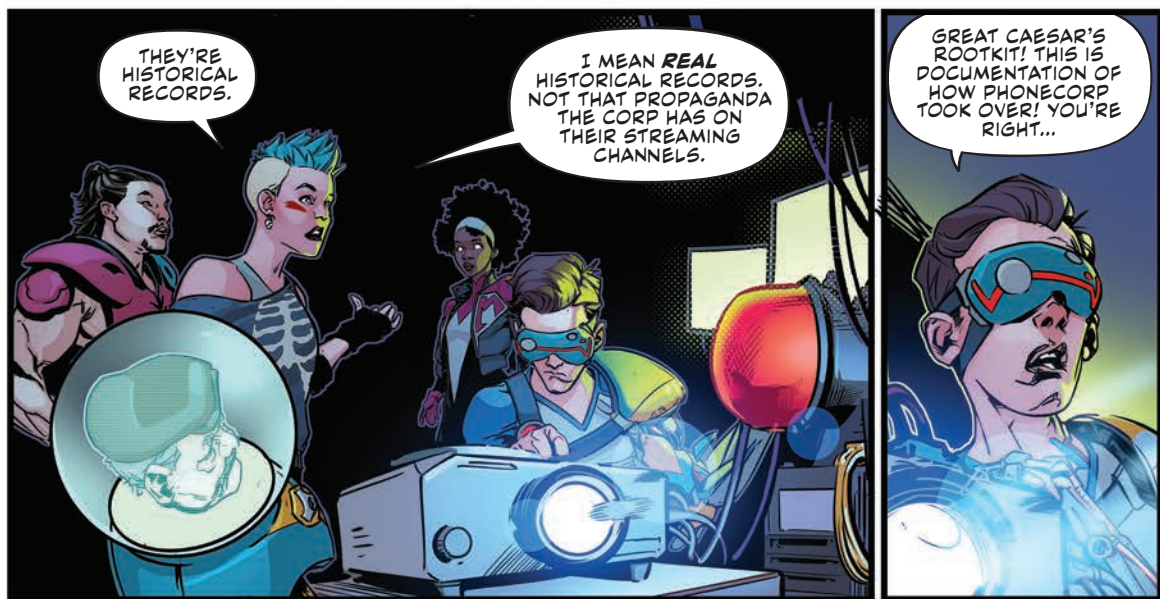
NOT ALL OF US WERE THAT DUMB! YOU KNOW I VOTED FOR IT.

BACK WHEN YOU COULD STILL VOTE.



YOU'RE GONNA WANNA LOOK AT THIS. STAT. I GRABBED IT FROM THE EXCHANGE BEFORE THE 'BOTS FOUND ME.

WHAT IS IT? THEY OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO STOP YOU FROM HAVING IT.



THEY'RE HISTORICAL RECORDS.

I MEAN **REAL** HISTORICAL RECORDS. NOT THAT PROPAGANDA THE CORP HAS ON THEIR STREAMING CHANNELS.

GREAT CAESAR'S ROOTKIT! THIS IS DOCUMENTATION OF HOW PHONECORP TOOK OVER! YOU'RE RIGHT...



EVERYONE, CHECK THIS OUT!

2021: Before the Great Connection Mergers.



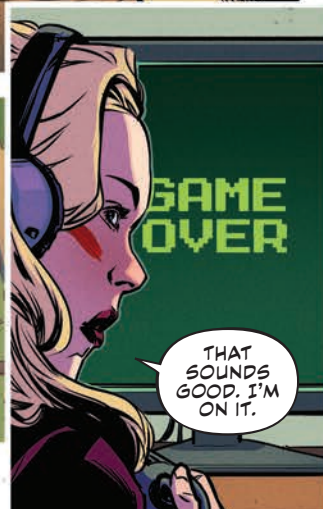
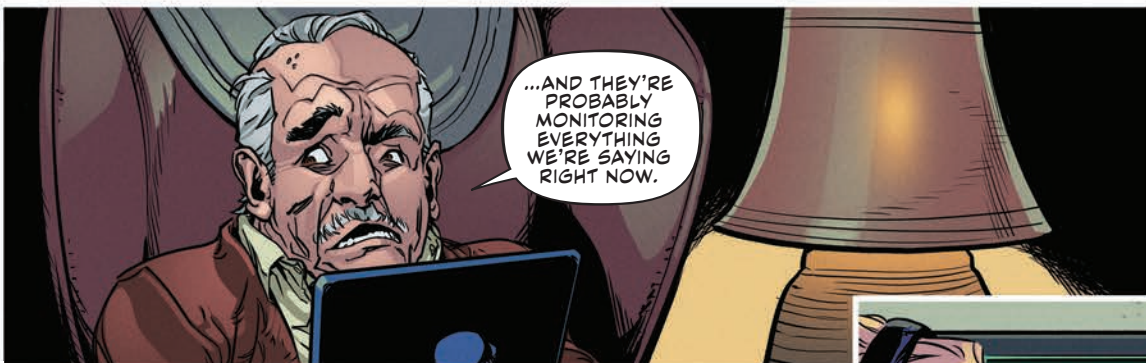
HEY, DID YOU DUDES GET THAT ARTICLE I SHARED ABOUT THE CRAZY LOBBYING ALL THE BIG TELCOS ARE DOING?

YES, I READ THAT. HOLY MOLY THAT'S BAD! THOSE COMPANIES ARE IN THERE WITH POLITICIANS EVERY DAY, GETTING WHAT THEY WANT.

MORE LIKE TWICE A DAY. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE HOW MUCH ACCESS THEY HAVE. AND WE'RE GETTING SCREWED BECAUSE OF IT.

IT'S ROBBERY! YOU KNOW WHAT THE EUROPEANS PAY? PRACTICALLY NOTHING! AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON CENSORSHIP!

HONEY, DEAR, STOP YELLING. YOU'LL AGGRAVATE YOUR HERNIA.



Still 2021:
The capital city.



OH, LORD VLAD! YOU STARTLED ME!



CALM YOURSELF, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. AS LONG AS I FIND YOU... ACCOMMODATING.



YES, I KNOW THE DRILL. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS PETITION? HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HAVE SIGNED IT. THEY WANT MORE COMPETITION, LOWER PRICES.

THEIR DEMANDS ARE OF NO CONCERN. I HAVE BEEN CLEAR. YOUR PEOPLE MUST GIVE ME WHAT I WANT OR I WILL CUT NETWORK INVESTMENT.



BUT YOU'VE PROMISED MORE INVESTMENT FOR YEARS AND YOU KEEP DELIVERING ONLY THE BARE MINIMUM...

I WILL STOP YOU BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING YOU REGRET.

YOU KNOW THAT ONLY PHONECORP CAN CONNECT THIS LAND. IT IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT, OUR DESTINY. OUR SHAREHOLDERS DEMAND IT!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS TO UPSET SHAREHOLDERS IN NEW YORK? IN FRANKFURT? IN TRANSYLVANIA?

I ASSURE YOU, THEY ARE NOT PLEASANT. DO NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY BENEVOLENCE!



BUT...

YOU ARE TO DISREGARD THAT PETITION AND THE RABBLE WHO ARRANGED IT.

INSIDE THIS BOX ARE GIFTS... FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES.



WHAT ARE THESE?

THESE ARE FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT FRIENDS. THEY WILL ENSURE THE DESTINY OF PHONECORP.



WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE HERE. IT BEHOOVES YOU NOT TO FAIL ME.

DO NOT FORCE ME TO RECONSIDER ANY... FUTURE PATRONAGE YOU MAY HAVE COMING.

≡GULP≡

Shortly after...

WELCOME TO THE EVENING NEWS, BROUGHT TO YOU BY PHONECORP!

breaking news

WE TAKE YOU NOW TO PARLIAMENT, WHERE THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER IS SET TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE FUTURE OF OUR CONNECTIVITY.

OUR GOVERNMENT HAS PARTNERED WITH PHONECORP TO DELIVER NEXT-GENERATION INTERNET FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST...

ALONG WITH THOSE NETWORKS, PHONECORP WILL DELIVER AFFORDABLE SERVICES BECAUSE, OF COURSE, THEY HAVE PROMISED TO...

THIS SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING DIRECTLY FROM VLAD.

OF COURSE IT IS. YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS WORK.

...COMPETITION BETWEEN PHONECORP AND CABLECORP IS RELENTLESS AND PRICES ARE DROPPING BECAUSE, WELL, THEY SAY THEY ARE...

WHAT ABOUT THE PUBLIC PETITION?

I MADE SURE TO DOWNPLAY IT AS A BUNCH OF ONLINE TROLLS.

WELL DONE. WELL DONE INDEED.

The 2021 Savvies watch in horror.

WHAT?!?!?!?

GREAT CAESAR'S REGULATORY CAPTURE, I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT FELL FOR THIS NONSENSE!

DUDES, THEY IGNORED OUR PETITION!

WHY? WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT? I DON'T GET IT?!?

(SQUAWK) END TRANSMISSION (SQUAWK)

PHONECORP USED MIND CONTROL DEVICES! IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.

THE PETITION GOT BURIED. I BET THE MINISTER DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT!

THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP HERE. THE DEATH OF COMPETITION, THE MERGERS, THE TAKEOVER OF MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT...

AND THE CENSORSHIP! DON'T FORGET THE CENSORSHIP!

I TOLD YOU THEY WERE MONITORING US.



MY MOM, WHO YOU GUYS KNEW AS THE ORIGINAL SUE PERMOM, SHE WAS A NURSE BEFORE THE MERGERS. PRICES WERE ALREADY HIGH...

WHEN THE CORP GOT INTO BANKING, FOOD... IT ALL WENT THE SAME. EVERYTHING GOT SO EXPENSIVE.

SHE GOT OVERAGED OUT AND HAD TO WORK FOR THE CORP TO PAY HER DEBTS. ALL SHE EVER WANTED TO DO WAS HELP PEOPLE...

I KNOW SUE. IT WAS THE SAME FOR MY COUSIN, JOE BRO.

HE BUILT A FOLLOWING FOR HIS WEIGHT-TRAINING VIDEOS, BUT COULDN'T AFFORD THE ONLINE BROADCAST LICENSE.

HE GOT OVERAGED OUT TOO. ALL BECAUSE PHONECORP WAS MIND-CONTROLLING DECISION MAKERS.

WE'VE ALL HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCES. BUT THAT'S WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. WHY WE TRY TO CONNECT PEOPLE THROUGH THE TEKNET.

TO GIVE THEM THEIR CHOICE BACK.

GENE IS RIGHT. THIS IS WHY WE FIGHT. THE VIDEO PROVES THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS WERE IGNORED. THE CORP HAD CONTROL THE WHOLE TIME.

THE CORP IS GOOD AT WHAT IT DOES. KUDOS TO THEM. BUT NOW WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE? LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO? IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN GO BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE THE PAST.

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT. THERE WAS ANOTHER FILE IN THAT VIDIUBE THAT LOOKS VERY INTERESTING.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT HERE?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE... A TIME MACHINE?

WHAT?!? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! PHONECORP WAS RUMOURED TO BE WORKING ON ONE, BUT REALLY?

ACCORDING TO THESE FILES, IT'S IN A LAB AT PARLIAMENT... I MEAN PHONECORP CENTRE.

SO... ARE YOU PROPOSING WE GO BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE THE PAST?

EXACTLY! WE STOP THE MIND CONTROL AND MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD!

Later that night...

YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS, GENE?

WE JUST HAVE
TO HOPE THE TIME
MACHINE WORKS. SO
LITTLE CORP TECH
DOES, SO IT'S NOT
A GIVEN.

CURM, YOU
READY?

DAMN
STRAIGHT.
I'M READY TO
TAKE THOSE
PHONEBOTS
TO HELL!

YOU'RE A
HERO AND A
GENTLEMAN,
CURM.

AM NOT! I
JUST HATE THIS
\$@%# COMPANY
MORE THAN ANY
OF YOU!

WHY DOES THAT
OLD COOT HATE
PHONECORP SO
MUCH? HE DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE A
CELLPHONE OR
INTERNET.

MAKE
SURE YOU GET
THEM TO SHOW MY
STORIES! STOP THE
CENSORSHIP!

WISH I
KNEW...

HEY, YOU
STUPID TIN CANS!
OVER HERE! I'LL
SHOW YOU WHAT YOU
CAN DO WITH YOUR
DATA CAPS!

GENE, DUDE,
YOU GOT THAT
SCRAMBLER
WORKING?

PHONECORP'S
SECURITY HAS ALWAYS
BEEN PATHETIC. I'M
JAMMING THEIR
SENSORS AS WE
SPEAK.





LET'S
REACH OUT
AND TOUCH
SOMEONE!




PRIME
EXECUTIVE VLAD!
THE SAVVIES
HAVE BROKEN
IN!

*Elsewhere in
PhoneCorp Centre...*




I AM AWARE.
THEY MATTER
NOT.

THEY DON'T?
BUT THEY MUST
BE HERE FOR
THE TIME
MACHINE!




WHY DOES IT
MATTER? EVEN IF
THEY GO BACK IN
TIME, WHAT WOULD
THEY ACHIEVE?

WOULD THEY CHANGE
ANYONE'S MIND? WE
HAVE CREATED THE
PERFECT SOCIETY HERE,
ONE NATION UNDER
PHONECORP.



WELL, YOU DID
HAVE MY ENTIRE
FAMILY OVERAGED
OUT, AND I'M JUST
A LOWLY BUTLER
NOW...

I'M SORRY,
WHAT WAS
THAT?



ERRR, NOTHING MY
LIEGE. I WAS MERELY
SAYING I WILL TAKE MY
LEAVE AND ENSURE THE
PHONEBOTS STOP THE
SAVVIES.

EXCELLENT.
YOU DO
THAT.

Meanwhile...

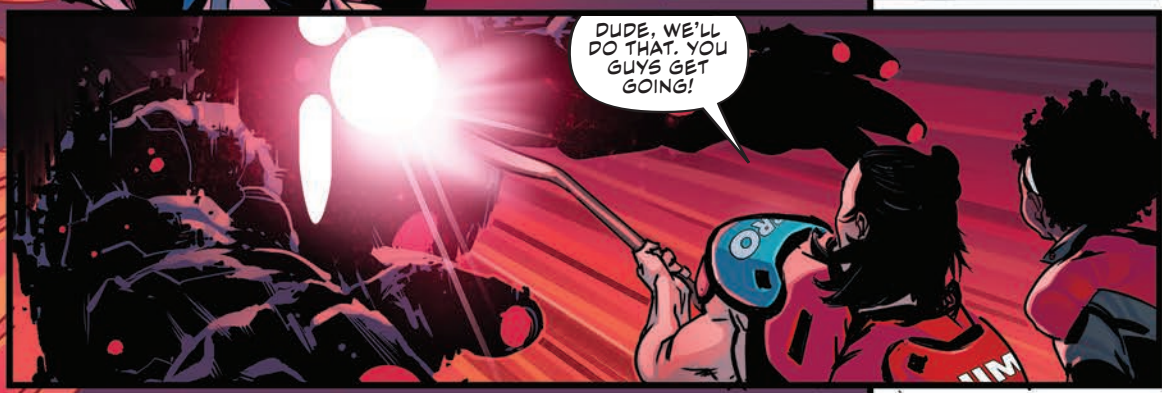
I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH LONGER WE
CAN HOLD OUT
AGAINST THIS
THING...

KAPOW

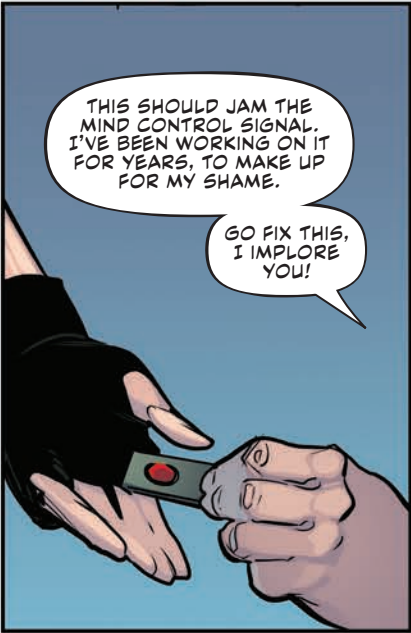
EVEN I'M
RUNNING OUT
OF STEAM
HERE!

DERB, WE'VE
GOT TO GET TO
THE TIME MACHINE.
IT'S OUR ONLY
HOPE.

JIM, SUE, CAN
YOU DRAW ITS
ATTENTION?



A few moments later, The Savvies find the lab...



Back in 2021.

IT GIVES ME
GREAT PLEASURE
TO ANNOUNCE THE
FUTURE OF OUR
CONNECTIVITY...



HOLD IT!
YOU'RE MAKING
A HUGE MISTAKE!
PHONECORP IS
ABOUT TO TAKE
OVER!



OWWWW!
WHAT
THE?!!



MINISTER,
YOU WERE UNDER
PHONECORP'S MIND
CONTROL AND ABOUT
TO DOOM THE
FUTURE.

I WAS? OH MY!
I DON'T KNOW HOW
THIS HAPPENED.
SOMEONE IS GOING
TO ANSWER FOR
THIS.

THE FUTURE ISN'T
WRITTEN. THERE'S
STILL TIME FOR A
BETTER-CONNECTED
TOMORROW.

WE ALL JUST
HAVE TO MAKE THE
RIGHT CHOICES AND
MAKE SURE WE
DON'T LISTEN TO
THE WRONG
PEOPLE.

WILL
YOU?





Every Canadian deserves high-speed internet access at an affordable price. Unfortunately, very few are getting it because of a reliance by policy makers on only a small number of the biggest companies to deliver it.

These companies do not have the public's interest at heart. Their only purpose, as required of them by law, is to deliver ever-higher profits to their shareholders.

To do that, they lobby policy makers to sway the rules in their favour. By consolidating their market power they are tilting the playing field to exploit consumers and prevent competition so that they can raise prices and spend less on improving services.

Competition is the best response to this. Competition keeps prices low, spurs innovation and ensures companies of all sizes invest in networks and services to win customers. Canadians win as a result.

But competition is under threat right now — in fact, it is nearly dead. The big companies are running the table, merging with each other and delivering outsized bills to customers and higher dividends to shareholders while smaller firms like TekSavvy struggle.

Policy makers need to use every tool at their disposal to stop monopoly consolidation and consumer exploitation. To do this, they must restore competition and encourage additional players both big and small, to give Canadians more choice and therefore the affordable internet services they need.

Canadians deserve better.



INTERNET, TV and WIRELESS FOR ONLY \$3,999 / month.*



Bundle and Save with **PHONECORP**

* Terms and conditions apply. Prices subject to change without notice. Fifteen-year contract and limb sacrifice required, early termination charges apply. Activation fee \$99. SIM card fee \$99. System access fee \$6.95. 911 fee \$1.95. Regulatory recovery fee \$6.95. Darcy McGee's beer fee \$8.95. Janky modem rental \$7.95. Slightly less janky modem rental \$10.95. Speeds depend on technology, weather and our current mood. Usage beyond 50 GB, speeds will be decreased to 5 kilobits per second. Overage fees of \$1,000 per MB apply. Channels can be pulled or changed at any time. Don't even think of calling in for customer service, 18-hour wait times are assured. Tough cookies, you have no other choice. There's also no one to complain to because we control them too. By beginning service, you agree to surrender your eternal soul. Ha ha ha, we own you entirely.

The Only Telecommunications Provider