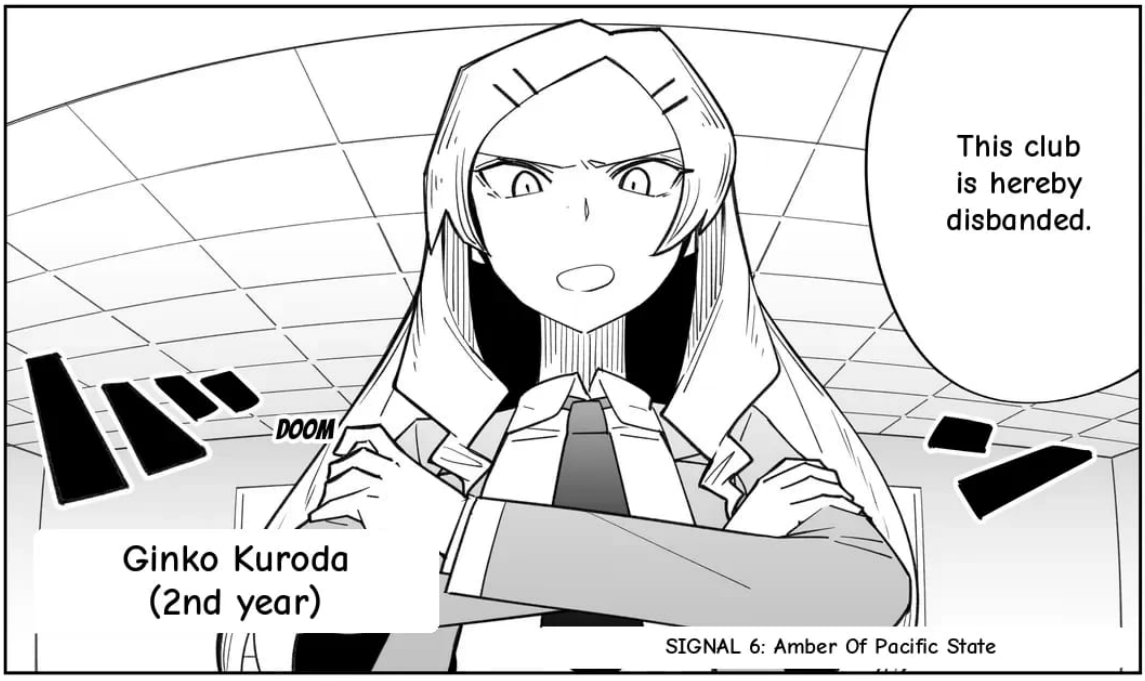
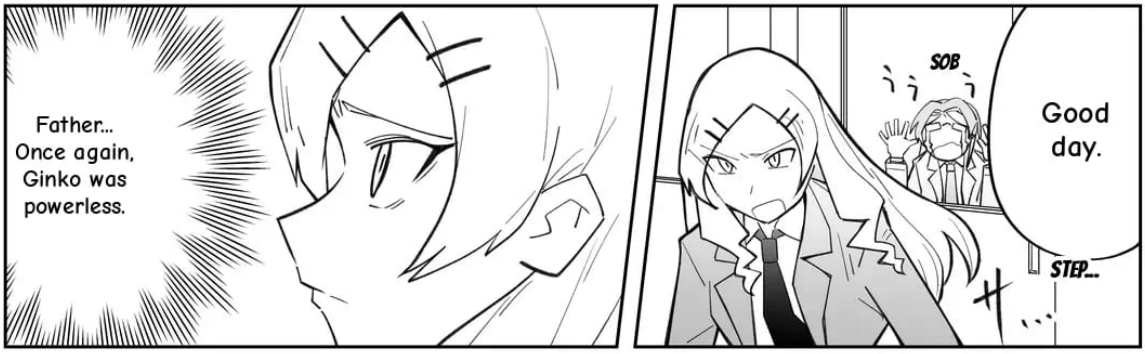
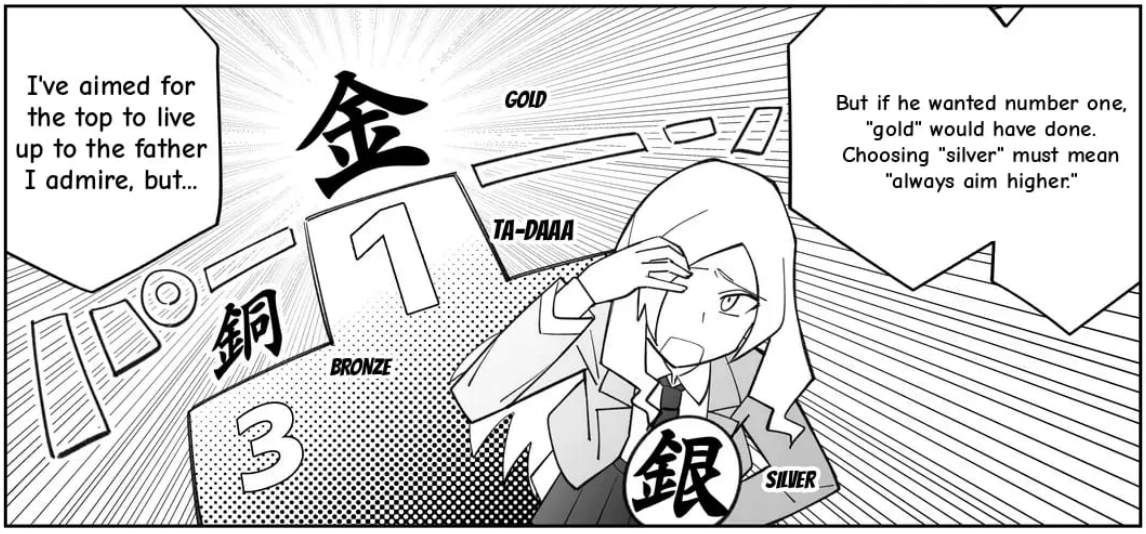
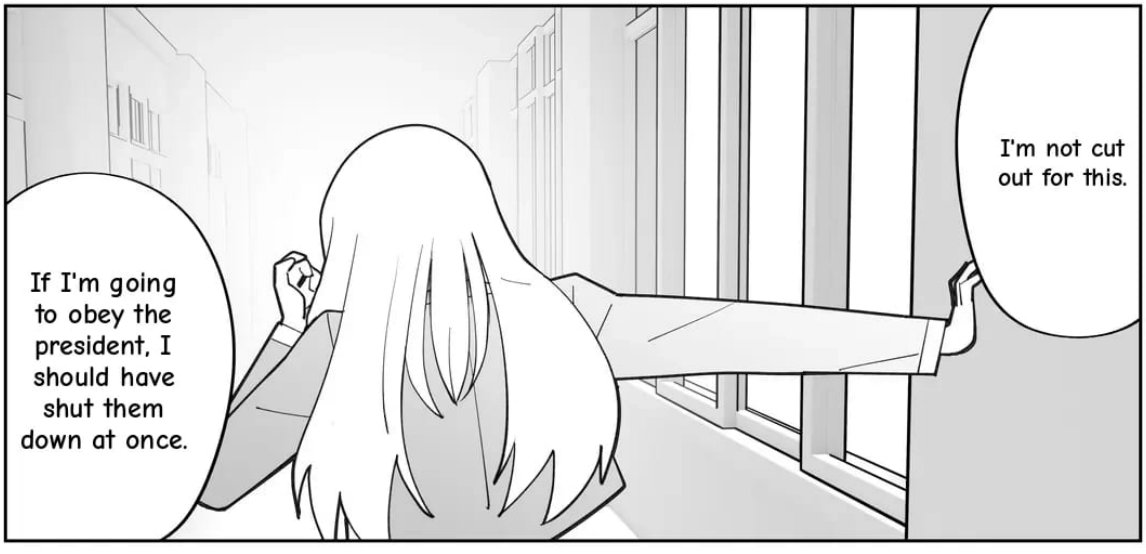

This club is hereby disbanded.
DOOM
Ginko Kuroda (2nd year)
SIGNAL 6: Amber Of Pacific State

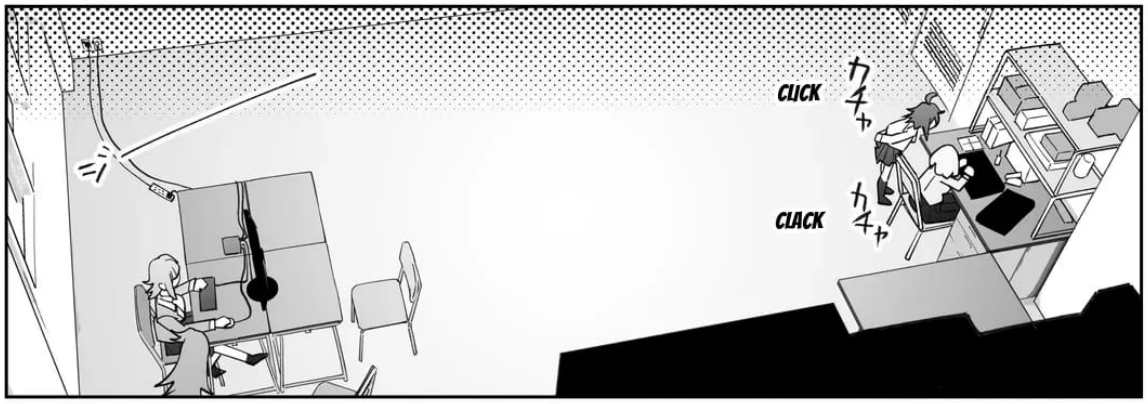

I gave you six months! You didn't recruit or do anything, did you? Your laziness brought this on.
GRAB
Wh-what?! But our Internet Club has 25 years of history...!


Father... Once again, Ginko was powerless.
SOB
Good day.
STEP...

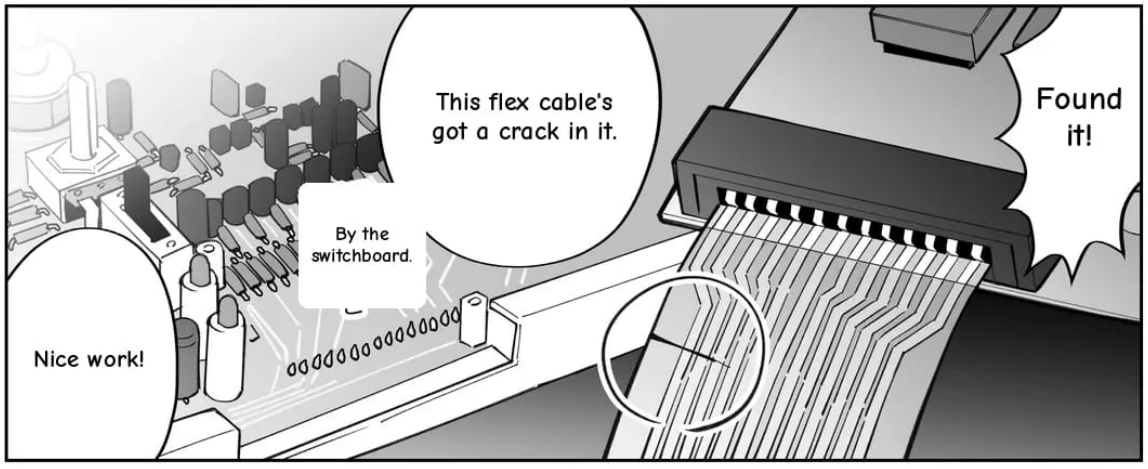

I once asked Father why he named me Ginko, "silver child."
He said it was "in the hope that you'll be number one."

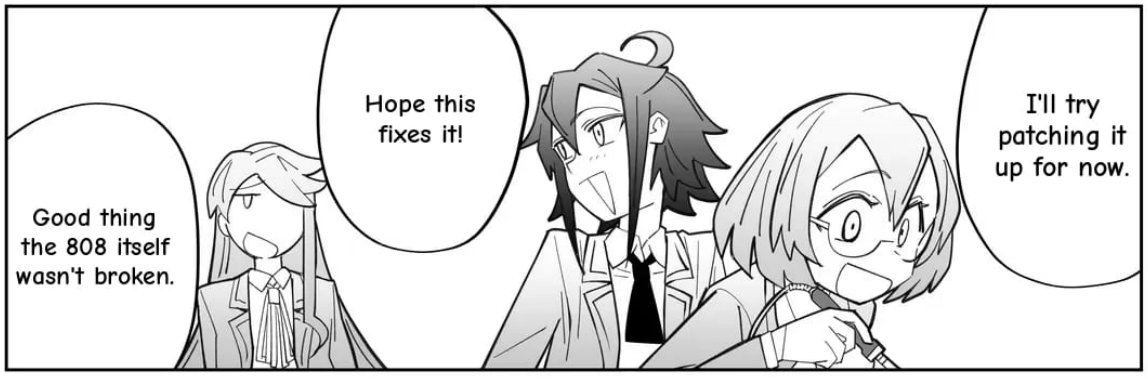

But if he wanted number one, "gold" would have done. Choosing "silver" must mean "always aim higher."
I've aimed for the top to live up to the father I admire, but...
金
GOLD
1
TA-DAAA
銅
BRONZE
3
銀
SILVER

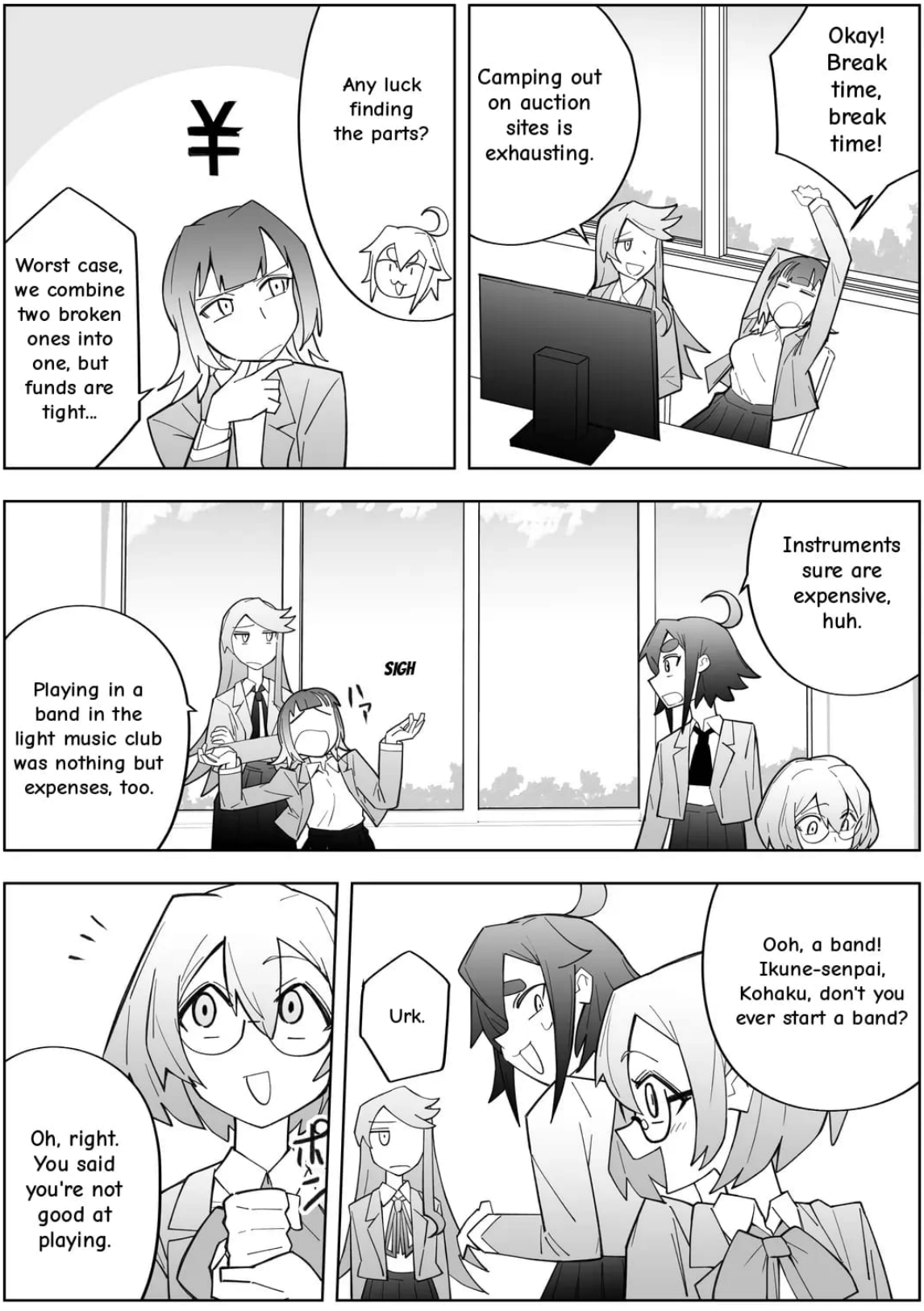

I'm not cut out for this.
If I'm going to obey the president, I should have shut them down at once.

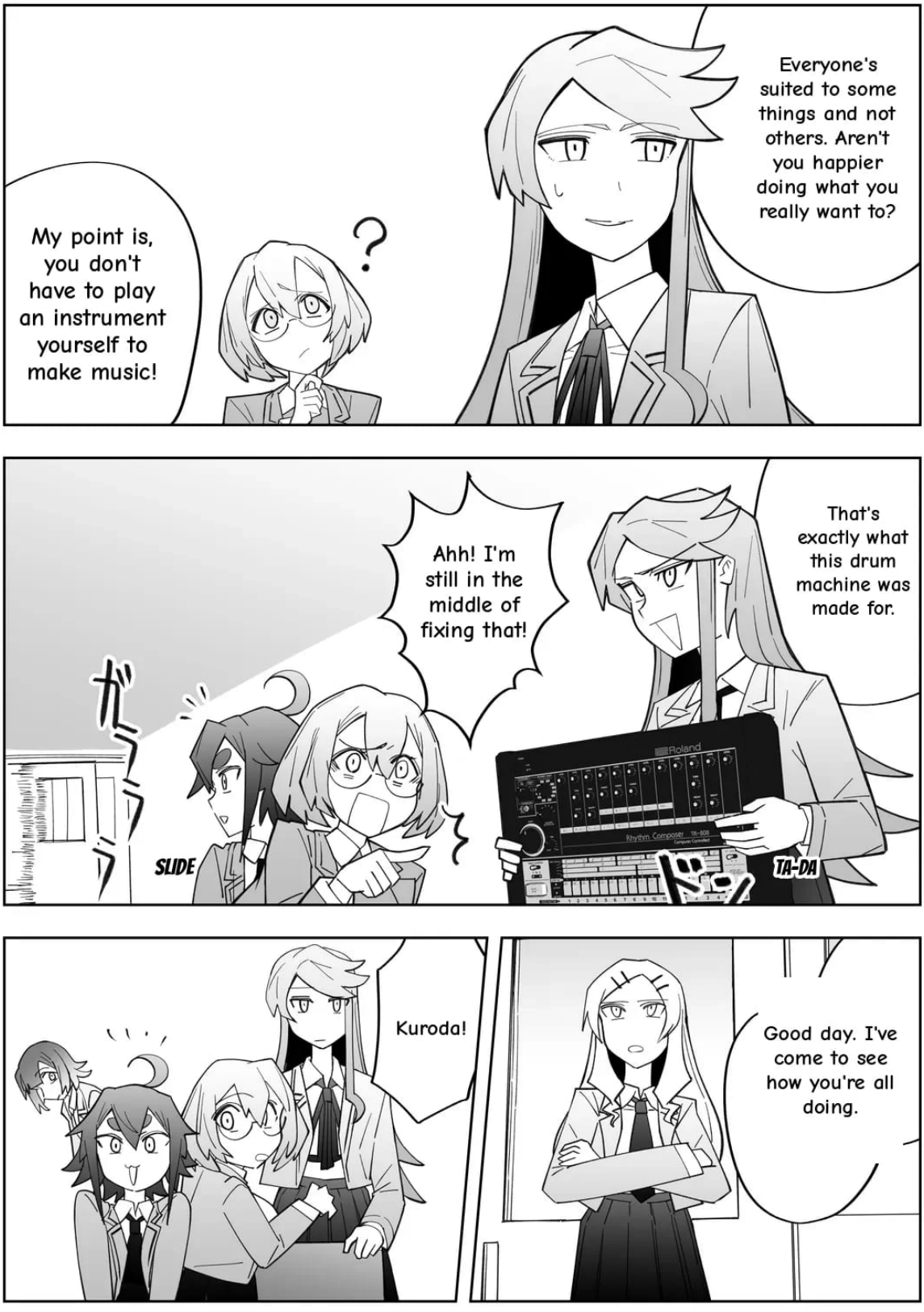

CLICK
カチャ
CLACK
カチャ

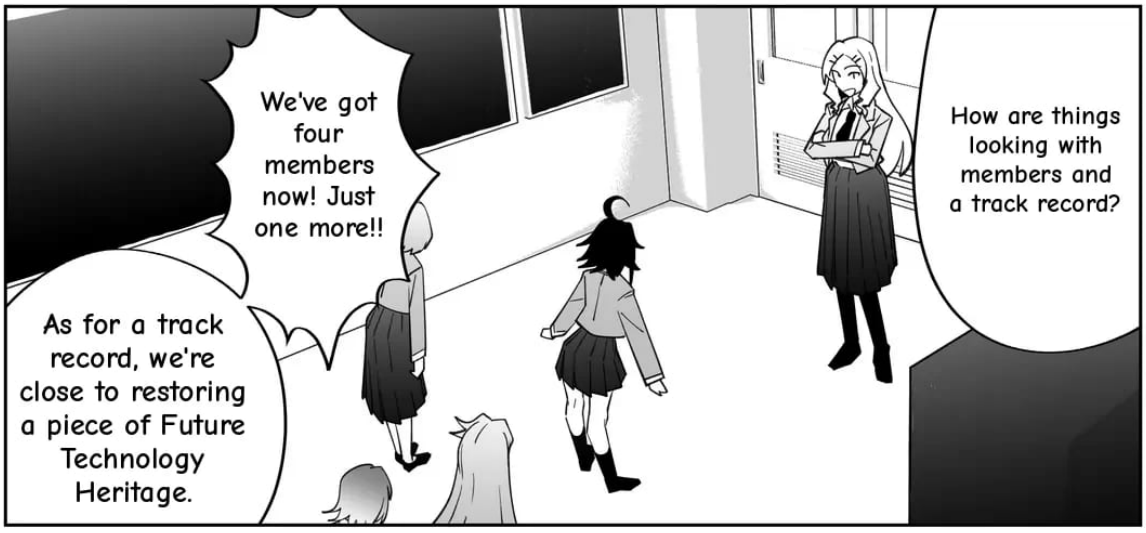

Any luck?


This flex cable's got a crack in it.
Found it!
By the switchboard.
Nice work!


Hope this fixes it!
I'll try patching it up for now.
Good thing the 808 itself wasn't broken.


Any luck finding the parts?
Worst case, we combine two broken ones into one, but funds are tight...
Okay! Break time, break time!
Camping out on auction sites is exhausting.
Instruments sure are expensive, huh.
SIGH
Playing in a band in the light music club was nothing but expenses, too.
Ooh, a band! Ikune-senpai, Kohaku, don't you ever start a band?
Urk.
Oh, right. You said you're not good at playing.

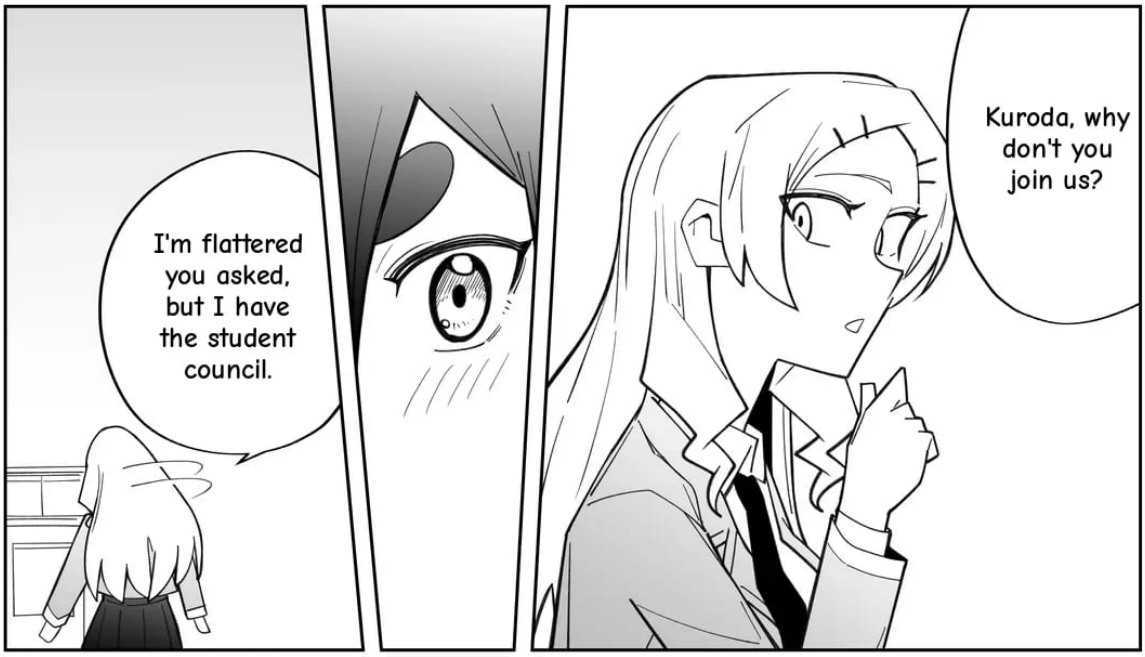

Everyone's suited to some things and not others. Aren't you happier doing what you really want to?
My point is, you don't have to play an instrument yourself to make music!
That's exactly what this drum machine was made for.
Ahh! I'm still in the middle of fixing that!
ガララ
SLIDE
Roland
Rhythm Composer
TA-DA
Kuroda!
Good day. I've come to see how you're all doing.

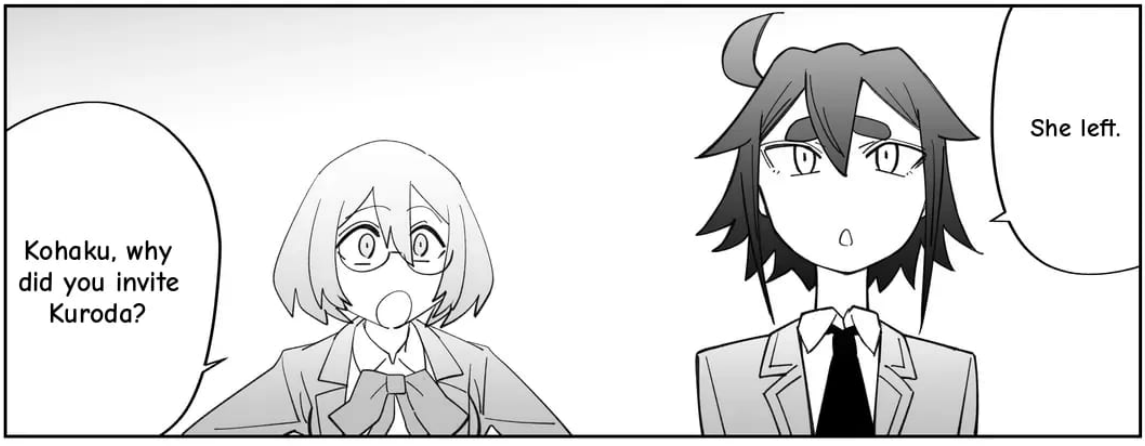

How are things looking with members and a track record?
We've got four members now! Just one more!!
As for a track record, we're close to restoring a piece of Future Technology Heritage.

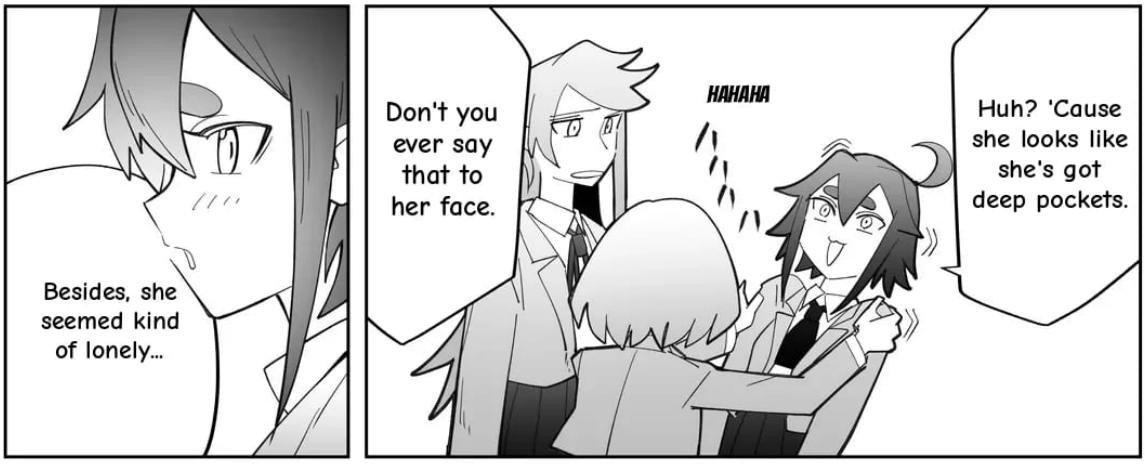

Looks like you'll make it in time, then.
Well done.
Well done.
If only everyone were as diligent as you.

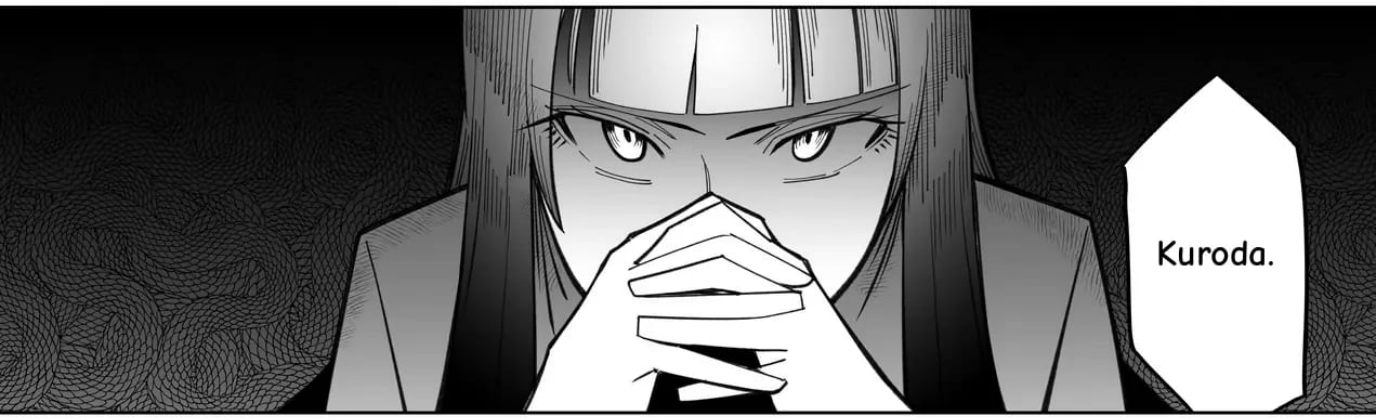

Oh, I know!

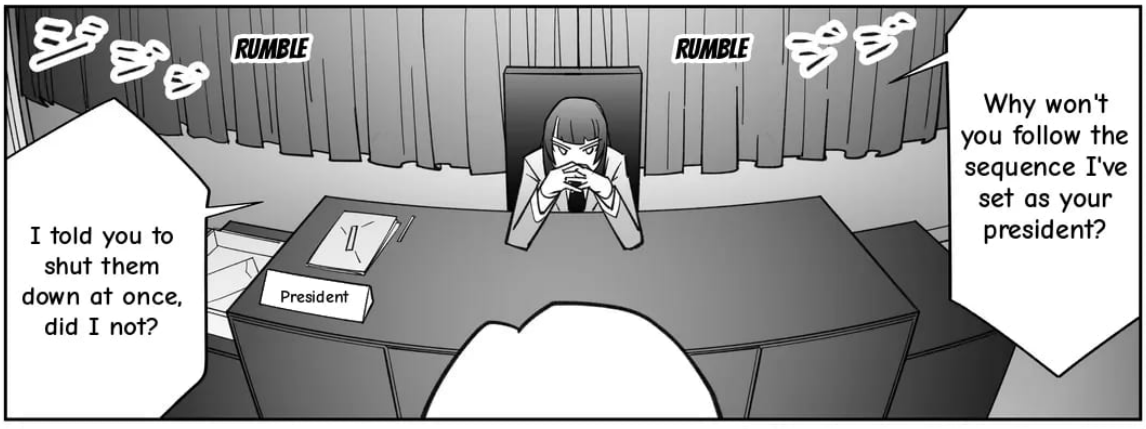

For now, if you can just get one more member, I think I can persuade the president.


Kuroda, why don't you join us?
I'm flattered you asked, but I have the student council.

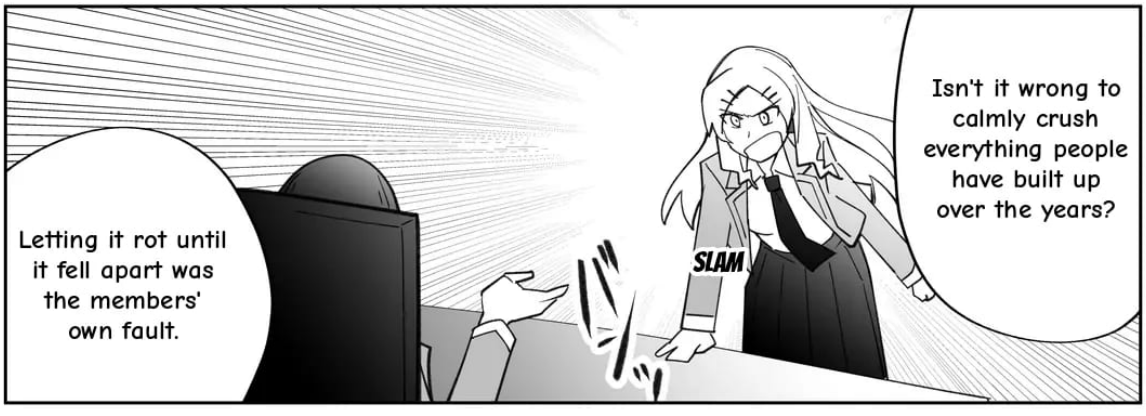

She left.
Kohaku, why did you invite Kuroda?

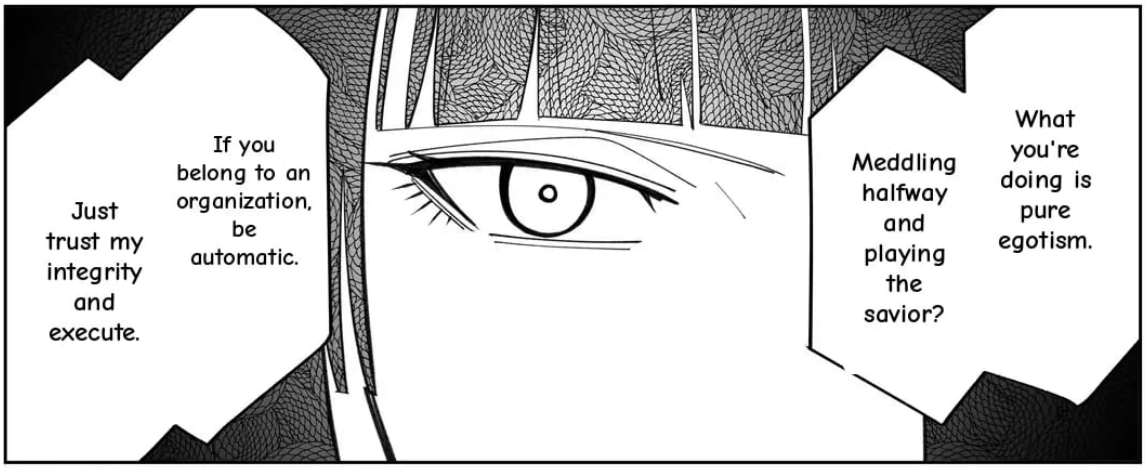

Huh? 'Cause she looks like she's got deep pockets.
HAHAHA
Don't you ever say that to her face.
Besides, she seemed kind of lonely...


Kuroda.


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
President
I told you to shut them down at once, did I not?
Why won't you follow the sequence I've set as your president?

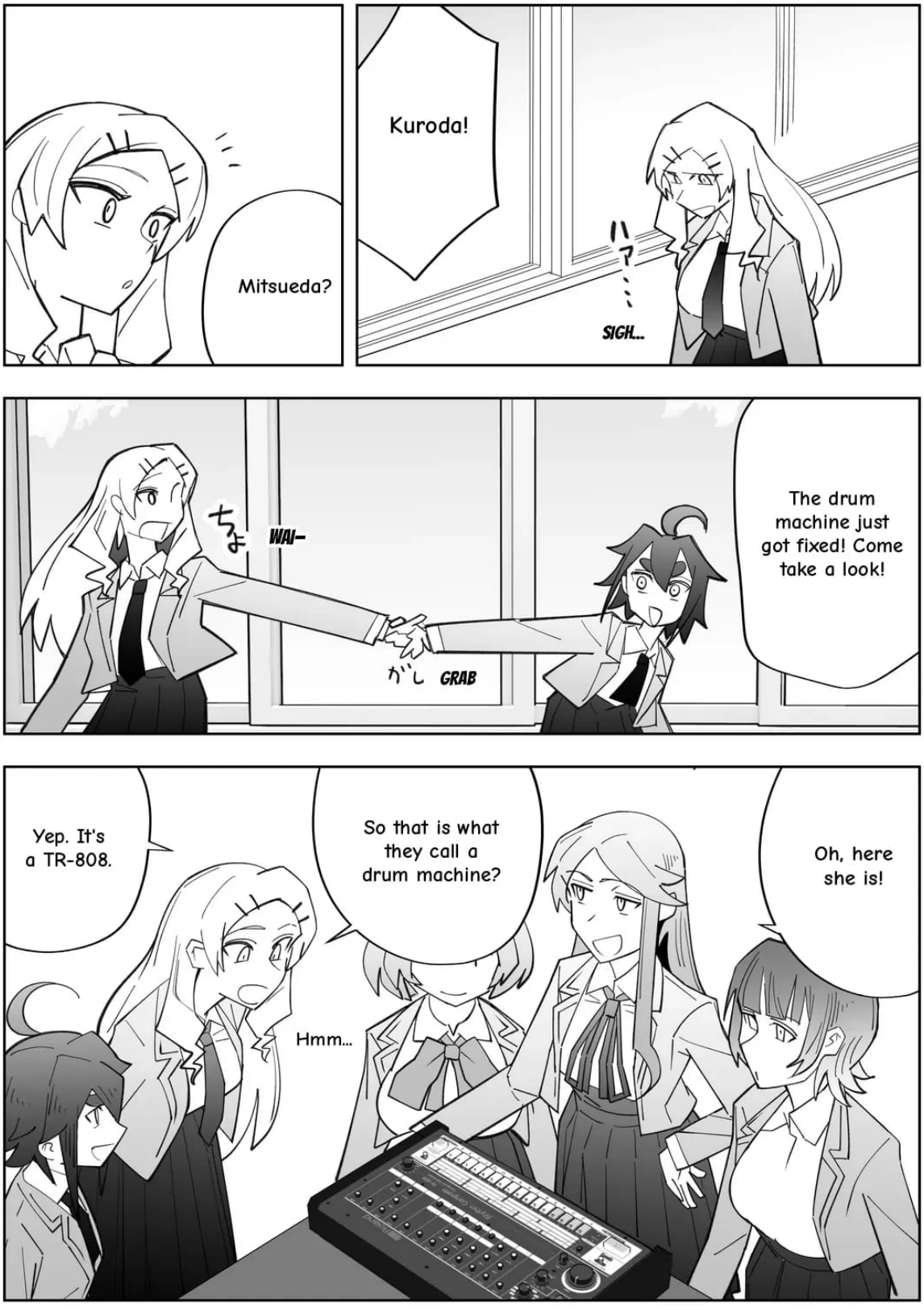

Who was made any happier by dragging out the Internet Club's end?
But you don't mean to keep them either, do you?
I haven't broken any rules.


Letting it rot until it fell apart was the members' own fault.
SLAM
Isn't it wrong to calmly crush everything people have built up over the years?

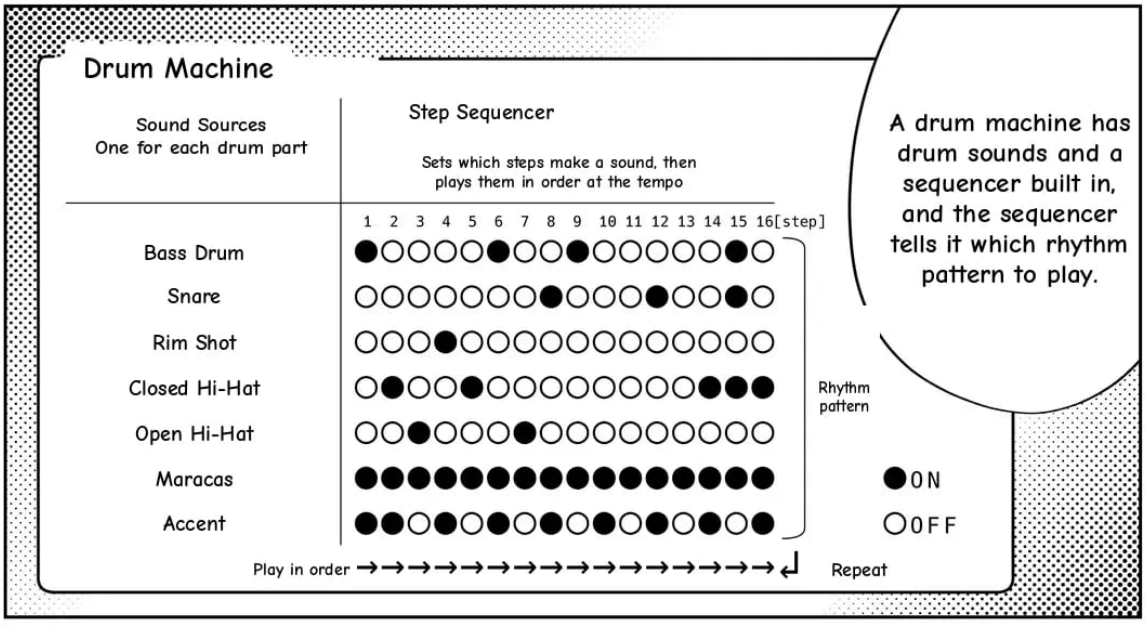

What you're doing is pure egotism.
Meddling halfway and playing the savior?
If you belong to an organization, be automatic.
Just trust my integrity and execute.

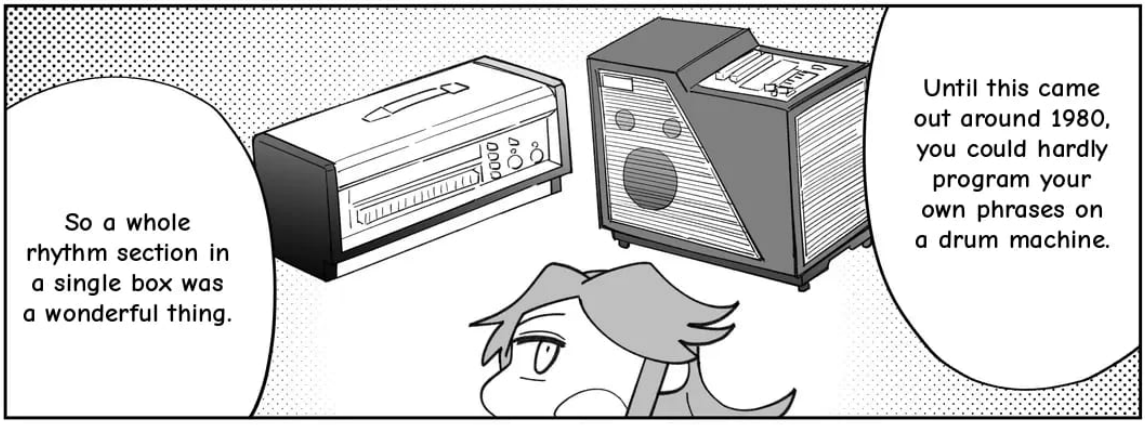

You want to be number one... the next president, don't you?
Ginko Kuroda?


Come to think of it, you've also been putting off the Electronic Instrument Society's eviction.
Cut them loose too. Quickly.
HMPH

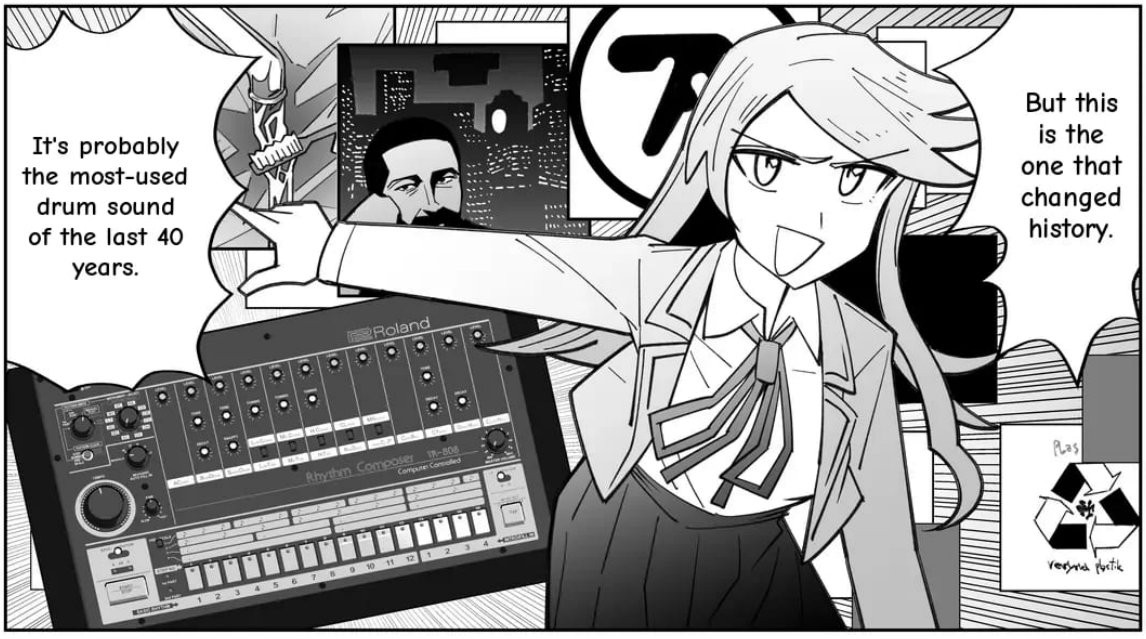

Mitsueda?
Kuroda!
ハァ…
SIGH...
ちょ
WAI-
がし
GRAB
The drum machine just got fixed! Come take a look!
Yep. It's a TR-808.
So that is what they call a drum machine?
Hmm...
Oh, here she is!

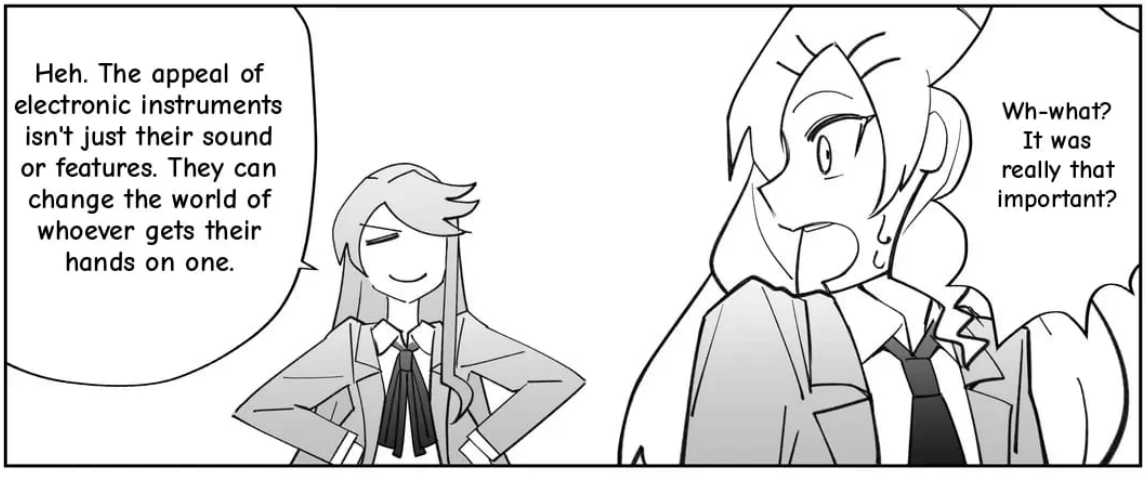

TR-808
Japan / 1980 / Roland
Roland
Rhythm Composer TR-808
Computer Controlled
Just like the name says, it's an electronic instrument that plays drums and percussion automatically.
And what exactly does it do?
BAM
ドン

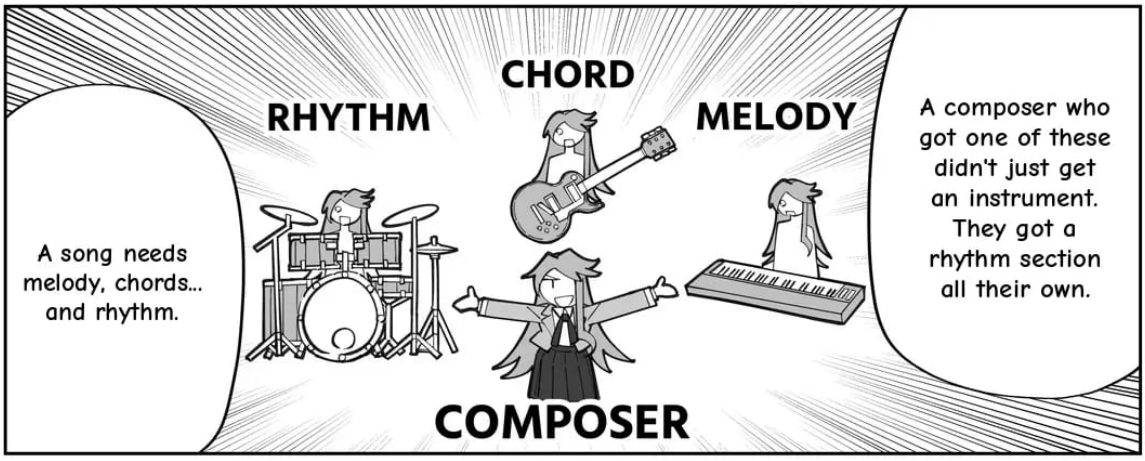

Drum Machine
Sound Sources
One for each drum part
Step Sequencer
Sets which steps make a sound, then plays them in order at the tempo
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16[step]
Bass Drum
Snare
Rim Shot
Closed Hi-Hat
Open Hi-Hat
Maracas
Accent
Rhythm pattern
●ON
○OFF
Play in order → → → → → → → → → → → → → → → ↵ Repeat
A drum machine has drum sounds and a sequencer built in, and the sequencer tells it which rhythm pattern to play.

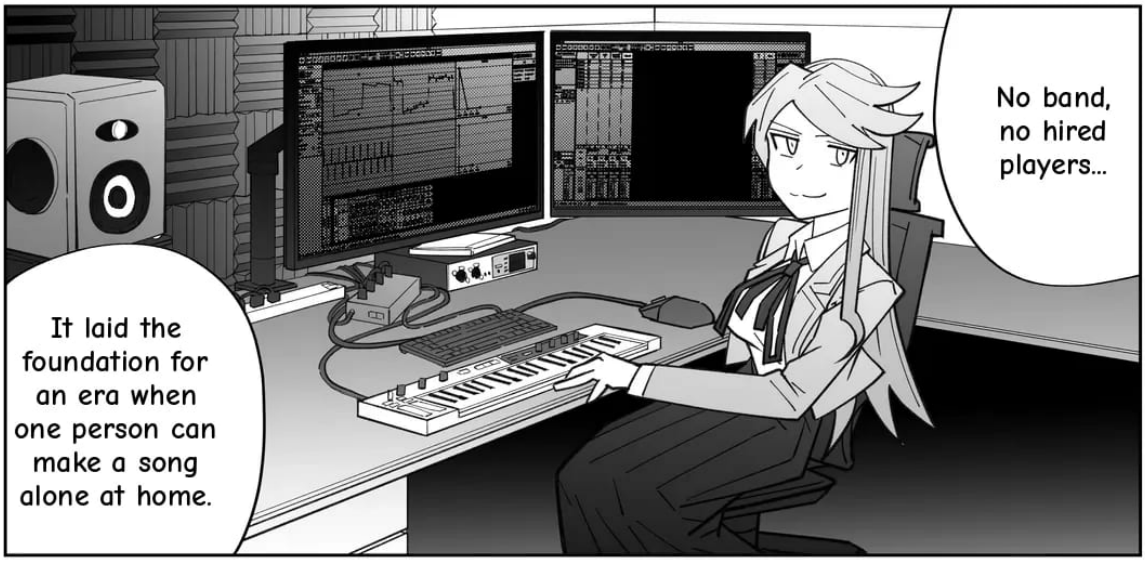

So a whole rhythm section in a single box was a wonderful thing.
Until this came out around 1980, you could hardly program your own phrases on a drum machine.

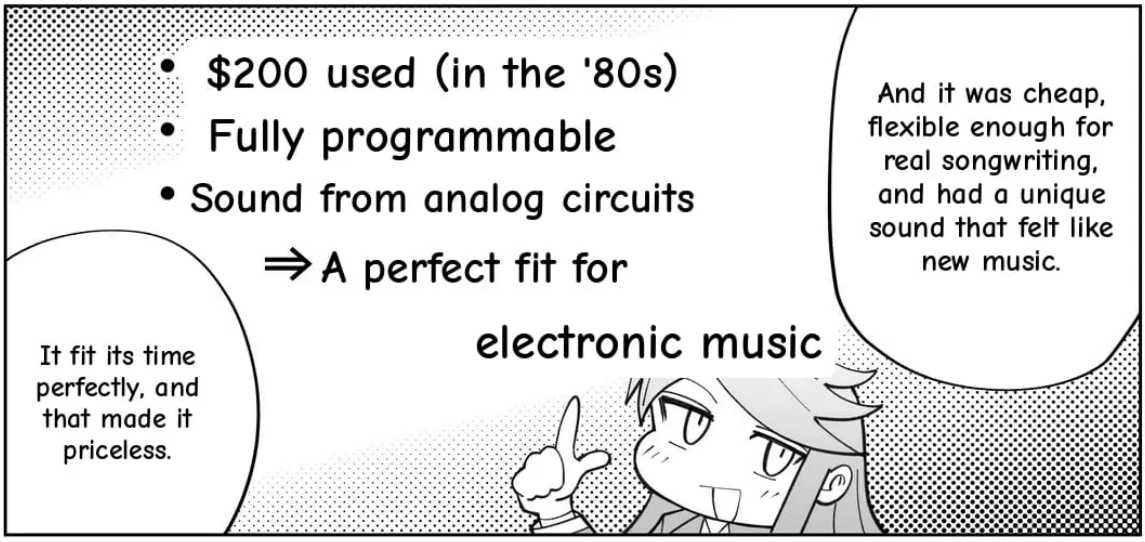

LinnDrum
It's a unique sound, right?
I see there was demand for what it can do, but... how shall I put it? Even being kind, it doesn't sound very realistic.
In fact, around the same time there were pricier models with much more realistic sounds.
LinnDrum etc.

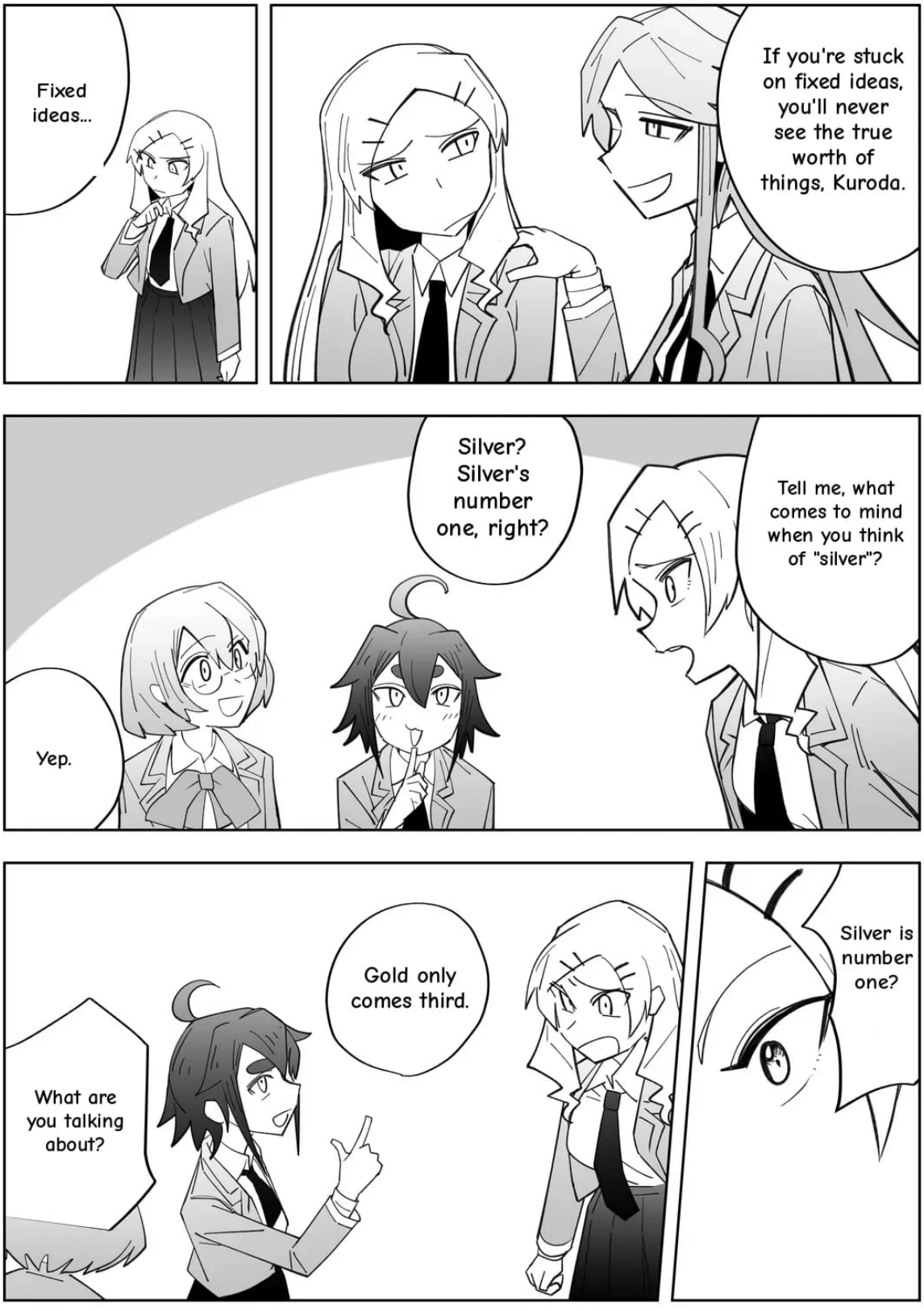

It's probably the most-used drum sound of the last 40 years.
But this is the one that changed history.
Roland
Rhythm Composer TR-808
Computer Controlled

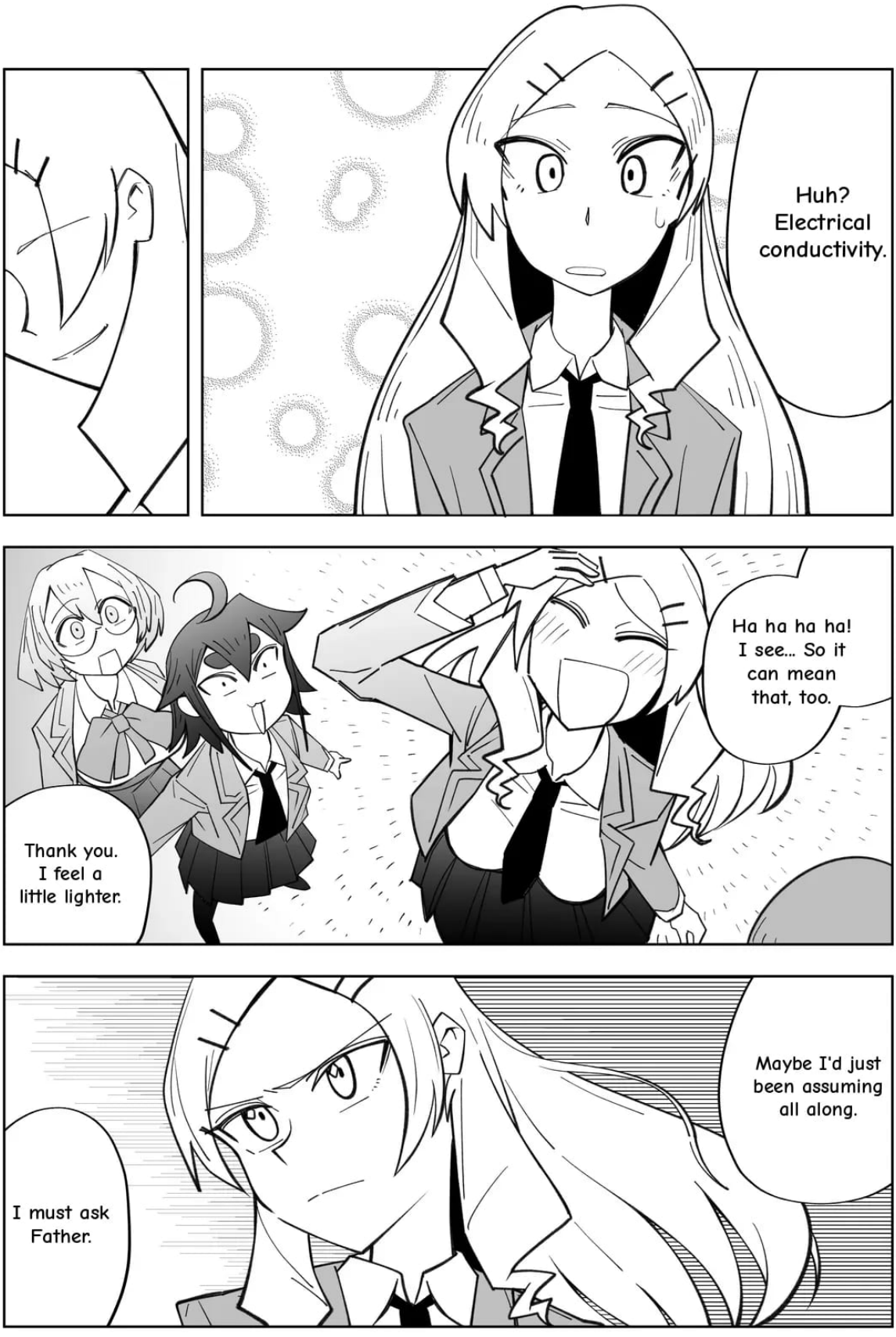

Heh. The appeal of electronic instruments isn't just their sound or features. They can change the world of whoever gets their hands on one.
Wh-what? It was really that important?


CHORD
RHYTHM
MELODY
COMPOSER
A song needs melody, chords... and rhythm.
A composer who got one of these didn't just get an instrument. They got a rhythm section all their own.


No band, no hired players...
It laid the foundation for an era when one person can make a song alone at home.


• $200 used (in the '80s)
• Fully programmable
• Sound from analog circuits
⇒ A perfect fit for electronic music
And it was cheap, flexible enough for real songwriting, and had a unique sound that felt like new music.
It fit its time perfectly, and that made it priceless.

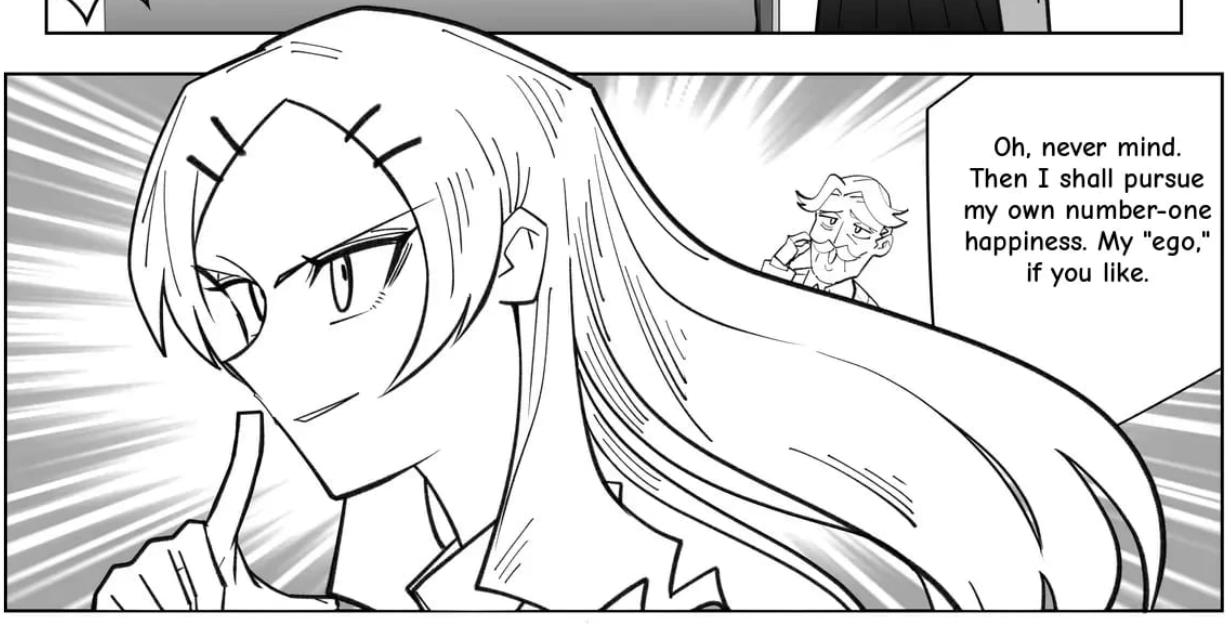

Fixed ideas...
If you're stuck on fixed ideas, you'll never see the true worth of things, Kuroda.
Tell me, what comes to mind when you think of "silver"?
Silver? Silver's number one, right?
Yep.
Silver is number one?
Gold only comes third.
What are you talking about?


Huh? Electrical conductivity.
Ha ha ha ha! I see... So it can mean that, too.
Thank you. I feel a little lighter.
Maybe I'd just been assuming all along.
I must ask Father.










TO NEXT SIGNAL↵