

A HARDER IMAGE

STORY AND ART:
PETIT MAUDITE

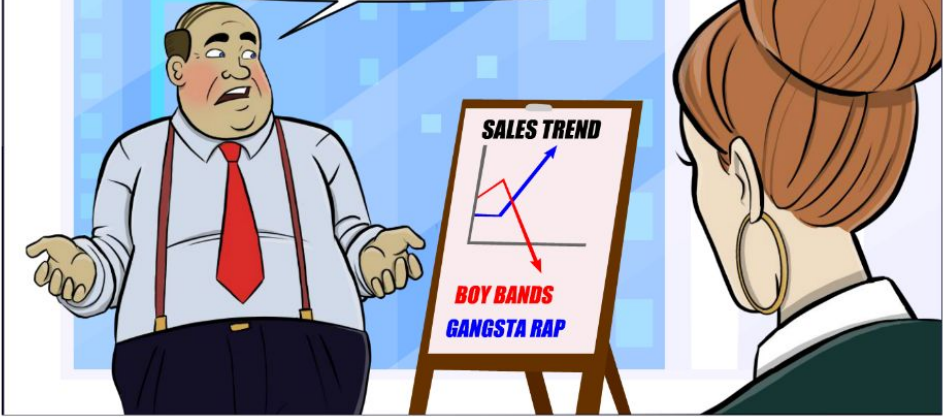


TODAY IN THE **BOARD ROOM** AT **TREND POP RECORD STUDIO HEADQUARTERS**, AN **URGENT MEETING** IS TAKING PLACE.



THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE. OUR SALES ARE **TANKING!**

JUST LOOK AT OUR FIRST QUARTER EARNINGS REPORT. IT SEEMS OUR **BOY BAND** STRATEGY HAS RUN IT'S COURSE. MEANWHILE, THIS **GANGSTA RAP** TREND LOOKS TO BE WHAT ALL THE FOLKS ARE BUYING THESE DAYS.



YES. **MARKET RESEARCH** IS SHOWING WE MAY BE A LITTLE **BEHIND THE CURVE**.

THE REAL CRUX OF THE ISSUE IS THAT WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH **BUDGET MONEY** IN THE COFFERS TO GO OUT AND SIGN A **HIP HOP** ARTIST!

IF ONLY WE HAD OUR OWN **EDGY HIP HOP** ARTIST...

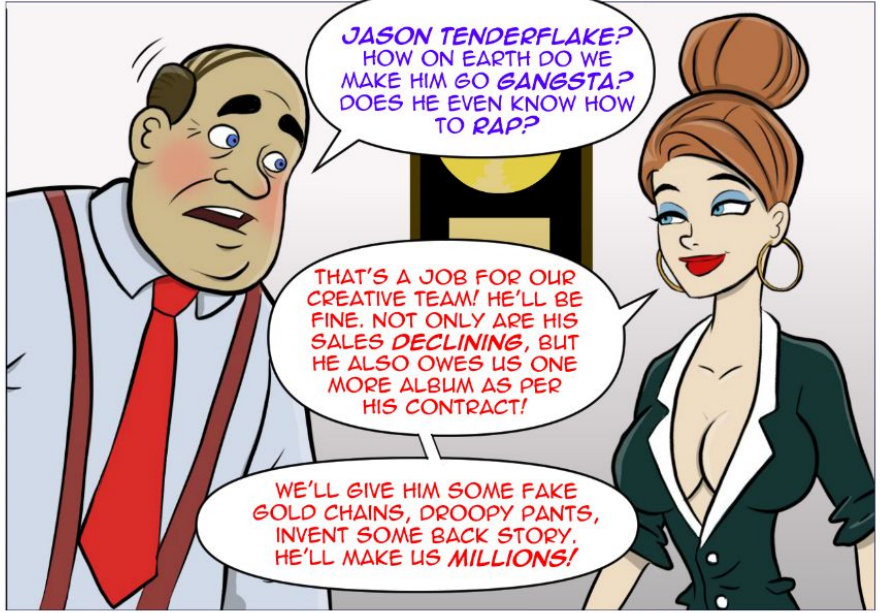
WOULD IT BE EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO **REBRAND** ONE OF OUR EXISTING STARS?

BUT **WHO?** NONE OF OUR TALENT FITS THE JOB. **RAP** IS ALL ABOUT **IMAGE** AND OUR CURRENT STABLE OF **RADIO FRIENDLY** POP STARS WOULD REQUIRE SOME **SERIOUS CULTIVATION** AND **RETOOLING**...HMMMM...



OH I KNOW!

WE CAN USE **JASON TENDERFLAKE!**



JASON TENDERFLAKE? HOW ON EARTH DO WE MAKE HIM GO **GANGSTA?** DOES HE EVEN KNOW HOW TO **RAPP?**

THAT'S A JOB FOR OUR **CREATIVE TEAM!** HE'LL BE FINE. NOT ONLY ARE HIS **SALES DECLINING**, BUT HE ALSO OWES US ONE MORE ALBUM AS PER HIS **CONTRACT!**

WE'LL GIVE HIM SOME **FAKE GOLD CHAINS**, **DROOPY PANTS**, INVENT SOME **BACK STORY**. HE'LL MAKE US **MILLIONS!**



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FOLLOWING THE MEETING...

JASON! HOW'S MY FAVORITE CLIENT? I'VE GOT AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION FOR YOU. IT COULD MAKE YOU LOTS OF MONEY AND POTENTIALLY SAVE THE COMPANY! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS AFTERNOON?

UM... HEY TIFFANY. I'M ALWAYS PRETTY BUSY BUT I SUPPOSE I CAN MAKE SOME TIME.

GREAT! WE'LL DO LUNCH. IT'S ON ME! MEET ME AT THE DINER ON THE CORNER OF 6TH AND 7TH.

OH, YOUR CUM TASTES SOOOOOO GOOD!

UM, OKAY. WELL, I'LL SEE YOU THERE SOON! TRUST ME, THIS COULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! CHOW!



A BIT LATER...

WOW. I THOUGHT YOU WERE PROPOSING A BACKLANE BOIS REUNION TOUR, NOT THIS!

SO YOU WANT TO REBRAND ME AS A GANGSTA RAPPER?

EXACTLY, YOU'RE GOING TO RECORD A NEW ALBUM, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST. WE'LL EVEN FIND YOU A DJ WHO WILL, UM, PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME MUCH NEEDED STREET CRED.

I CAN DO GANGSTA RAP, IT'S NO PROBLEM. BUSTIN' RHYMES IS ALOT LIKE SINGING CORPORATE R AND B POP MUSIC. ALL I NEED TO DO IS GET ME A PAIR OF AIR JOHNSONS AND A BALL CAP.



TIME TO DROP SCIENCE! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?



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DEEJAY G-LOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE. GREAT TO SEE YOU! IT'S BEEN ABOUT 15 YEARS, HASN'T IT? ANYWAYS, CORPORATE WAS THINKING OF PAIRING YOU UP WITH OUR LATEST HIP HOP STAR. HE GOES BY THE NAME OF TENDER JAY. YOU TWO ARE GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST THING IN RAP MUSIC THIS COMING YEAR!

WHAT THE? AIN'T HE THAT PUNK ASS FROM THE BACKLANE BOIS?

YOU WANT ME DROPPIN' BEATS FOR THAT LOSER? DON'T YOU REMEMBER, I'M AN ORIGINAL GANGSTA WHEN IT COMES TO THE RAP BIZ. YOU TELLIN' ME SOME BOY BAND SINGER GOT GAME? THIS PANTYWAIST IS AN INSULT TO THE HIP HOP MEDIUM. NO NO NO ZERO! I AIN'T DOING IT!



AND YET YOU ARE. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN, YOU STILL OWE THE RECORD COMPANY ONE MORE RECORD. *SIGH* LOOK, I HEAR YOU AND I TOO RESPECT YOUR ART, BUT REMEMBER BACK IN THE DAY WHEN YOU'D RAP ON ABOUT MONEY, POWER, AND RESPECT? WELL, I'M GIVING YOU A SHOT AT ALL THREE! BACKLANE BOIS HAD MILLIONS OF FANS AND THOSE FANS WILL MAKE YOU VERY RICH!



...AND DON'T FORGET ALL THE GROUPIES!



COME AND GET IT, LADIES!

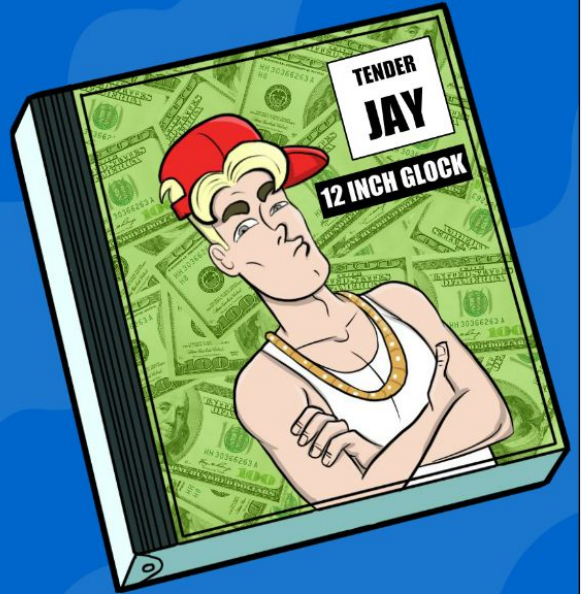
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. WHERE DO I SIGN?



I GOT A **TWELVE INCH GLOCK**,
WITH AN EXTRA **BUMP STOCK**,
HOES THINK I'M ALL JUST TALK,
'TIL THEY SEE MY **BIG COCK!**

I'M STRAIGHT OFF THE **STREET**,
I'M NOT SOME **WHITEBREAD ELITE**,
I CALL THE **GHETTO** MY HOME,
WHERE ALL THE **FLY HONIES** ROAM!

TIME TO TEAR SHIT UP!
SHOUT OUT TO
DEEJAY G-LOW!



VERY QUICKLY, **TENDER JAY'S** NEW ALBUM DROPPED AND SALES SOARED. **TREND POP STUDIO EXEC'S** WERE VERY PLEASED AND ADDED INCENTIVES FOR MORE **RECORDINGS** AND PAID **TRENDY MEDIA** TO ENDLESSLY PLUG THEM. **JASON TENDERFLAKE'S GANGSTA RAP MAKEOVER** SEEMED ALMOST TOO PERFECT.

THAT EVENING, MINUTES BEFORE THE **CONCERT...**

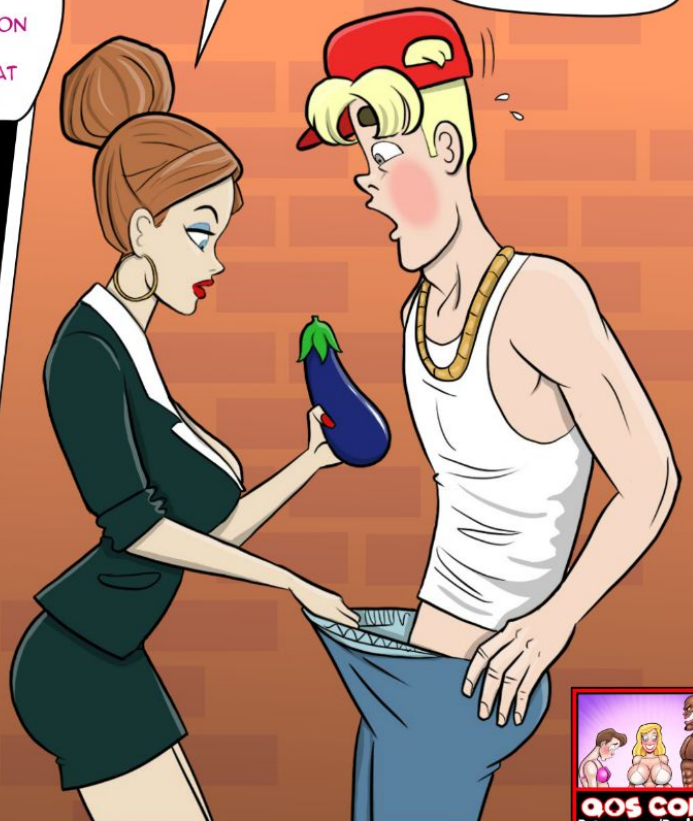
AND IN **HIP HOP NEWS**, **GANGSTER RAPPER TENDER JAY** AND HIS **DEEJAY G-LOW** ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A **WORLD TOUR!** THE TOUGH TALKING **RAPPER** SHARED HIS STORY OF GROWING UP ON THE **MEAN STREETS OF FENTANILDELPHIA** AND HIS RISE TO **HIP HOP STARDOM**. THE **RAP DUO** WILL BE PERFORMING TONIGHT AT THE **MAPLE CENTER** IN **LOS ANGELES** TO A **SOLD OUT CROWD**.

THIS IS **AMY WONG**
FOR **BMZ NEWS**.



SO, I DON'T WANT TO SOUND
MEAN BUT PLEASE STUFF **THIS**
IN YOUR **BOXER SHORTS**.

GANGSTA RAPPERS
AREN'T SUPPOSED TO
HAVE **PINT-SIZED**
PROTRUSIONS.



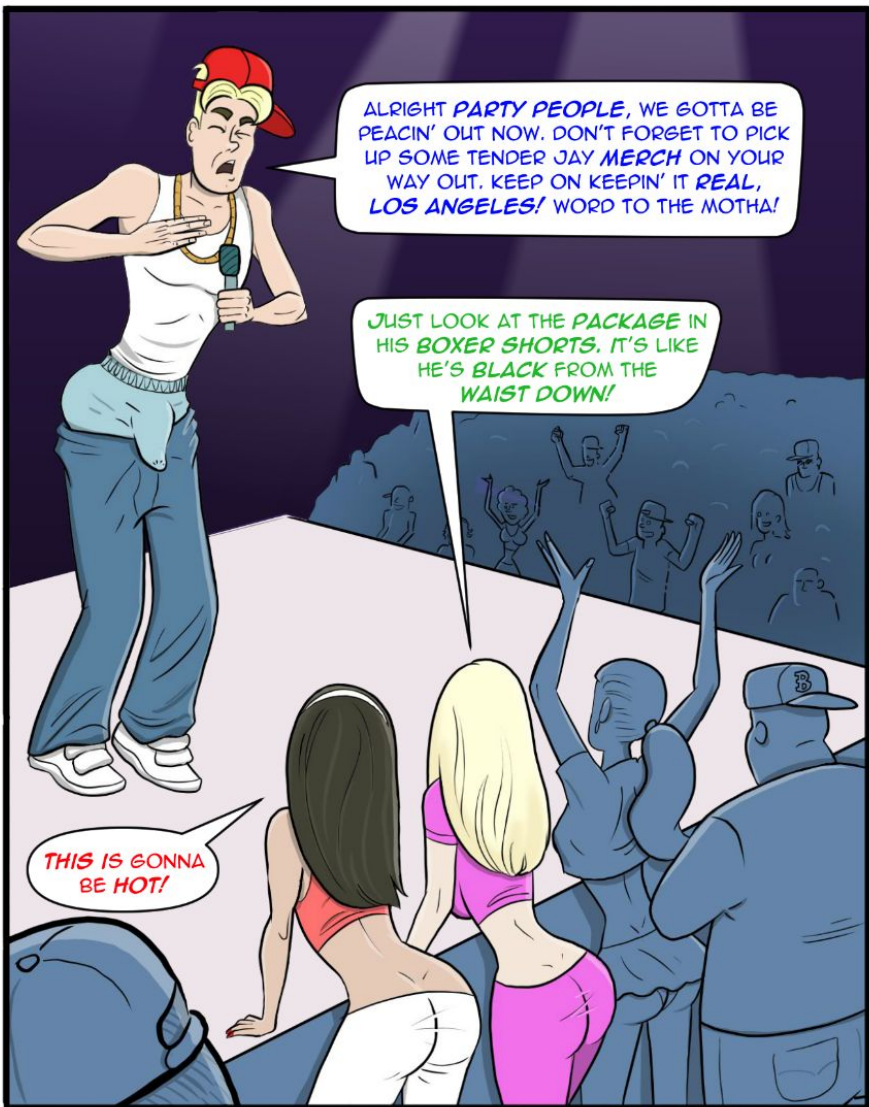


YO I AIN'T **PLAYIN'** KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'? STRAIGHT UP **GANGSTA**, HERE TO **ROB BANKSTA!**

WOW! HE'S SO MUCH **DREAMIER** IN REAL LIFE!

GOT THAT RIGHT, **GIRLFRIEND!**

YOU KNOW, **STEPHANIE**, WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT WHICH HOTEL **TENDER JAY** IS STAYING AT AND WE CAN PAY HIM A VISIT AFTER THE **SHOW**... WE'LL GIVE HIM A NIGHT HE'LL NEVER FORGET!



ALRIGHT **PARTY PEOPLE**, WE GOTTA BE PEACIN' OUT NOW. DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP SOME **TENDER JAY MERCH** ON YOUR WAY OUT. KEEP ON KEEPIN' IT **REAL**, **LOS ANGELES!** WORD TO THE **MOTHA!**

JUST LOOK AT THE **PACKAGE** IN HIS **BOXER SHORTS**. IT'S LIKE HE'S **BLACK** FROM THE **WAIST DOWN!**

THIS IS GONNA BE **HOT!**



AFTER THE SHOW **TENDER JAY** AND **6-LOW** ARE CHILLING OUT AT THEIR **LUXURY SUITES**.

I DON'T CARE HOW **WACK** IS YOUR **RAP GAME**. WE GOT PAID IN **FULL**. LOOK AT ALL THIS **PAPER!** WE GOT TO CELEBRATE, **HOMIE!** LET'S HIT THE **CLUB**, FIND SOME **FLY HONIES** AND **BUST SOME CHEEKS**.

MAYBE ANOTHER TIME. I'M GONNA **REST** FOR TONIGHT.

I'VE GOT TO **HOLD OUT** ON **SEX**. IF SOME **GROUPIE** EVER FOUND OUT ABOUT MY **SIZE**, MY **STREET CRED** IS RUINED.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

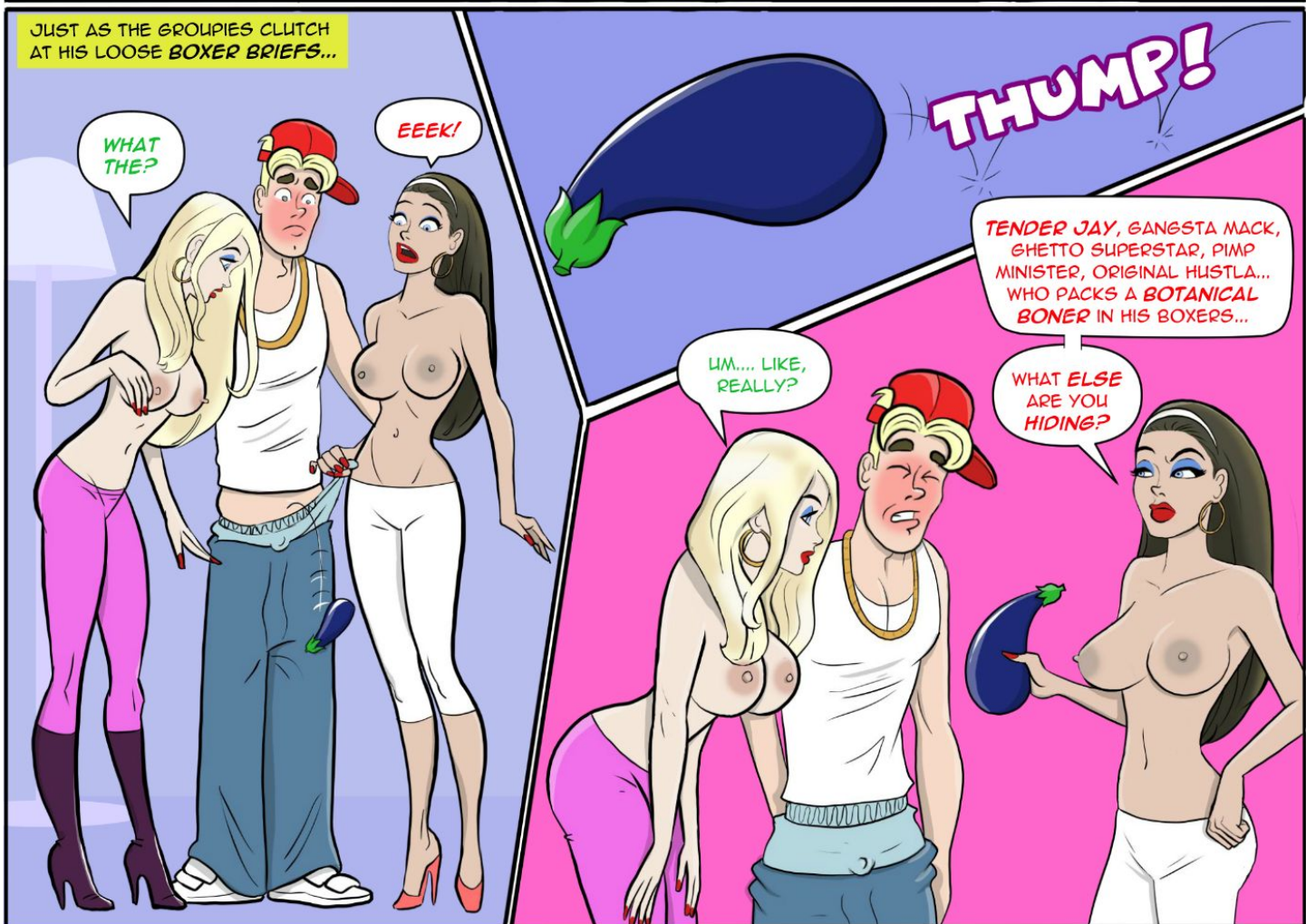
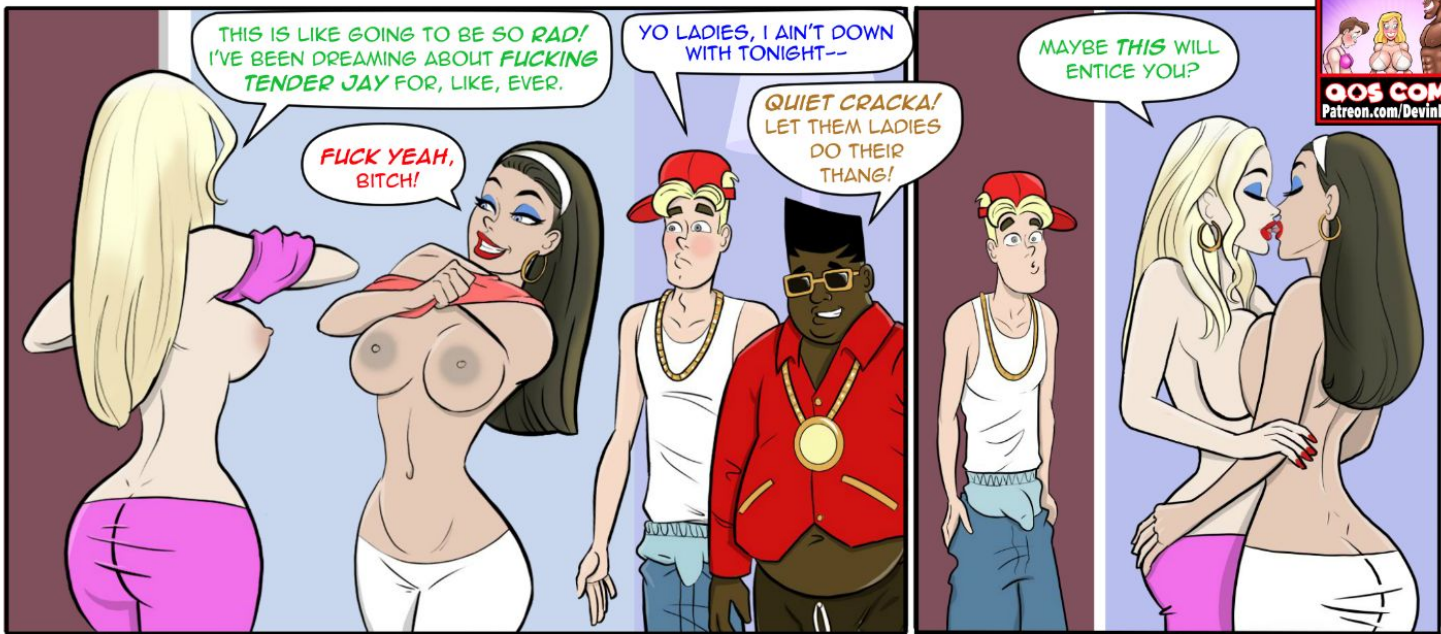


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OH MY GOD! **JASON TENDERFLAKE**. IT REALLY IS YOU! I'M, LIKE, YOUR **BIGGEST FAN**. CAN WE COME IN?

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO **BUST US OUT**, **PLAYA?**





JUST AS THE GROUPIES CLUTCH AT HIS LOOSE BOXER BRIEFS...