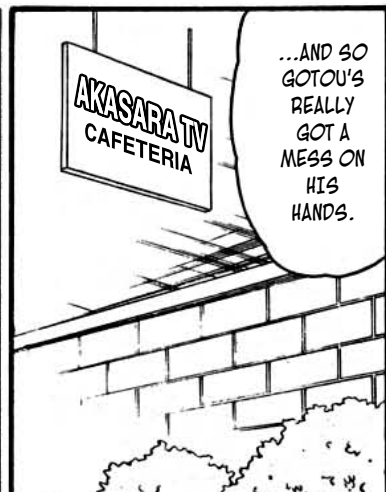
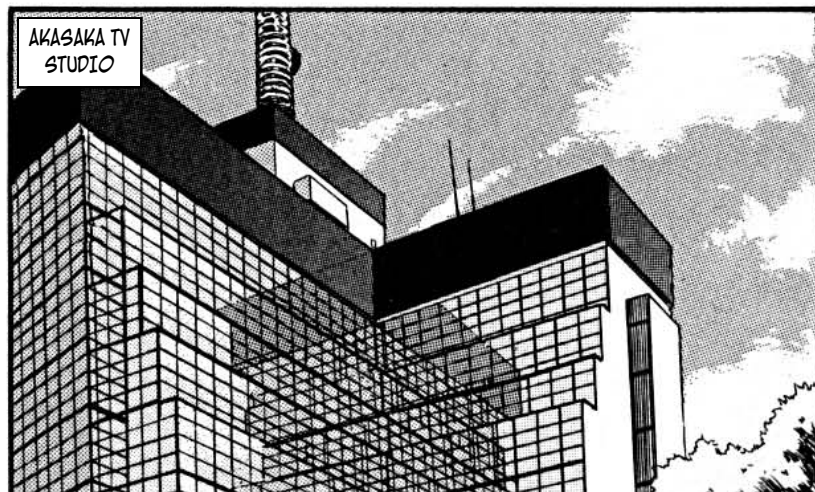
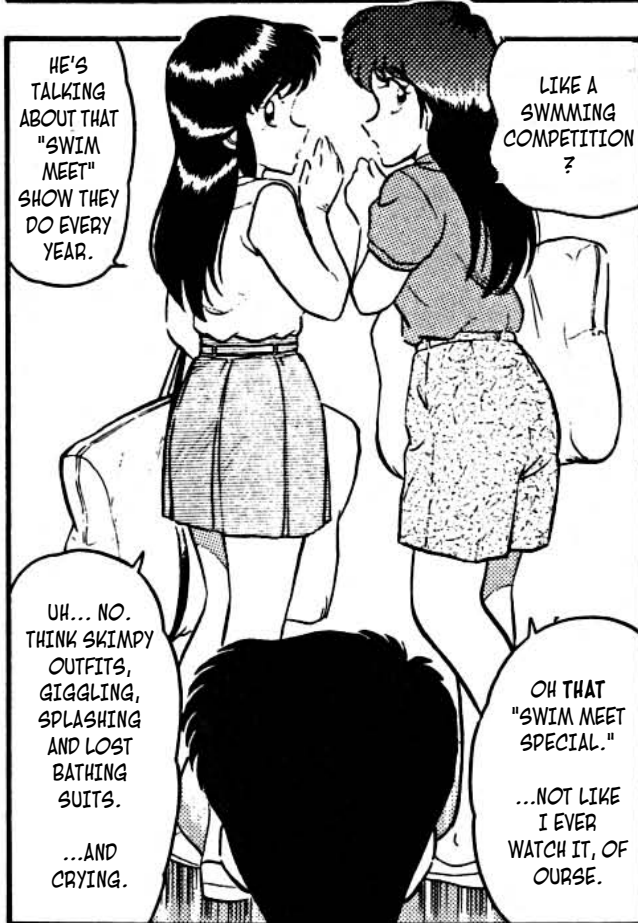


↑ TWINKLE²♀ iDOL★STAR



STAGE 2: IDOL DANGER

と お や ま ひかる
遠山 光



GOTOU?
OH, YEAH.
FUMI TV'S
FAMOUS
"MR.
IDEAS."
THAT
GOTOU.

HE HASN'T BEEN
ABLE TO BOOK
ANY OF THE
NEW IDOLS
FOR HIS
"SWIM MEET"
SHOW. AND
THEY'VE ONLY
GOT A WEEK
UNTIL
BROADCAST!

HUH. WAS
THAT GUY
THIS
"GOTOU?"

THE "SWIM MEET"
SPECIAL? THAT
THING IS ALWAYS A
BIG HASSLE. SURE,
IT GETS GOOD
RATINGS, BUT IT'S
ALWAYS A HEADACHE
TO MAKE.

HAVING SAID
THAT, THERE'S
NOBODY BETTER
THEN GOTOU AT
PROMOTING NEW
TALENT AND
GETTING GREAT
RATINGS WITH
THEM.

YOUR
DRESSING
ROOMS
ARE DOWN
THIS WAY.



HUMM
...

MARIKO!
HURRY UP!

"NOBODY
BETTER AT
PROMOTING
NEW TALENT,"
HUH?

THE SWIM
MEET
SPECIAL!?

YOU DID
WHAT!?

I CALLED MR.
GOTOU AND
SIGNED US UP!
IT'LL BE A BIG
BREAK FOR US!

YOU
SIGNED US
BOTH UP
WITHOUT
ASKING
ME!?

SWIM-
SUITS!

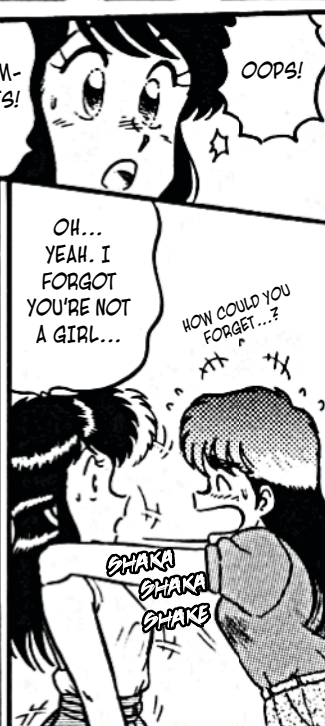
OOPS!

WHAT
ABOUT
THE
SWIM-
SUITS
!?

OH...
YEAH. I
FORGOT
YOU'RE NOT
A GIRL....

HOW COULD YOU
FORGET...?

SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKE



14TH ANNUAL IDOL SWIM MEET

DAYS LATER AT THE SWIM MEET SET, AYUMI'S "LITTLE PROBLEM" IS BEING SOLVED IN A SURPRISING WAY.

WHAT'S THAT THING !?

JUST SOMETHING I PICKED UP THE OTHER DAY.

LADIES LOCKERS

I GOT IT JUST FOR YOU AT THE DRESS SHOP.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

IT'S TIME FOR MISS AYUMI'S VERY FIRST SWIM SUIT!

SO CUTE!

GAH !!



NO WAY !!

NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY!!

NO FREAKIN' WAY!!

BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS, I WEAR THESE RIDICULOUS IDOL OUTFITS, AND I EVEN PUT ON MAKEUP AND A WIG!

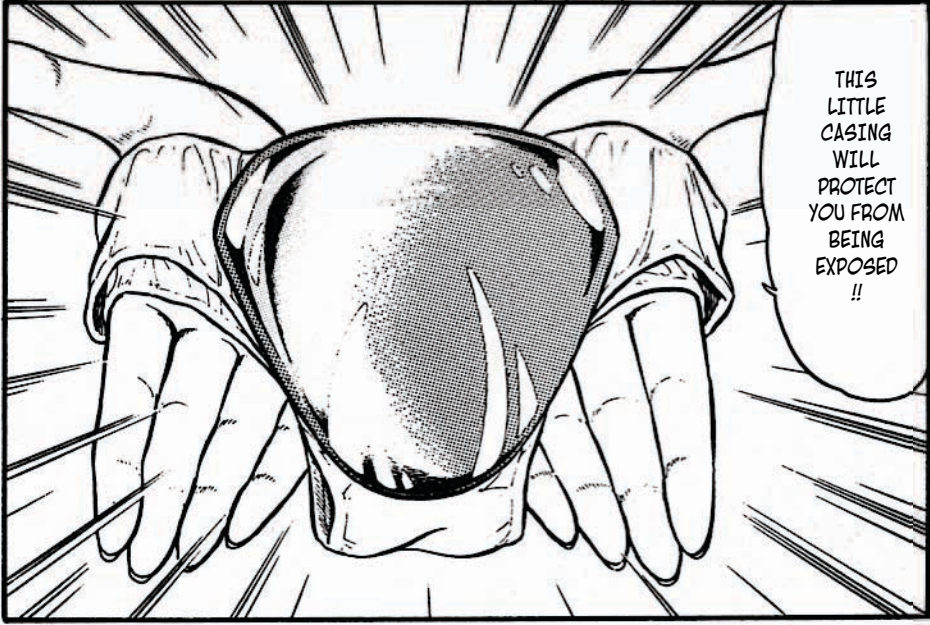
BUT I'D BE EXPOSED AS A GUY WEARING A SWIMSUIT IN PUBLIC!! EVERYONE WOULD SEE!!



EXPOSED!?

NOT AT ALL! I'VE GOT THAT COVERED, SO TO SPEAK.

CHECK THIS OUT!

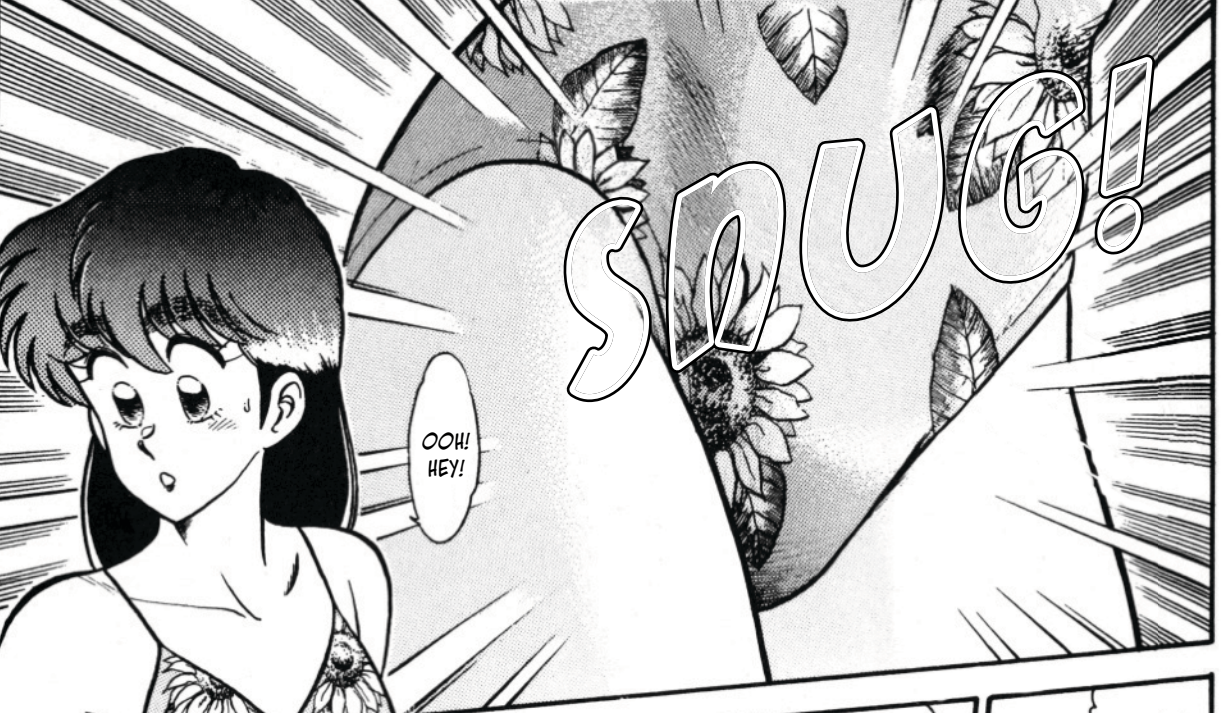


THIS LITTLE CASING WILL PROTECT YOU FROM BEING EXPOSED !!



!?

?





OHMIGOSH!
LOOK!
LOOK!
WAVES IN A
POOL!
WOW!!

SPLISH
SPLISH

SPLISH
SPLASH

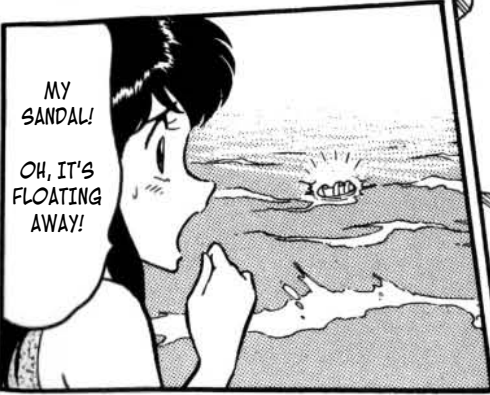
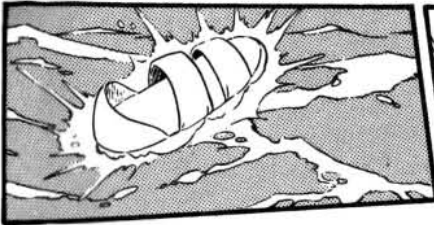
CRISHHH--

CRISHHH--



MARIMO!
DON'T ACT
LIKE A DORK!
IT'S JUST A
WAVEMAKER!

OOP!



MY
SANDAL!

OH, IT'S
FLOATING
AWAY!

HA!
HA!

HA!
HA!

WHAT A
LITTLE
KLUTZ!

CUTE
THOUGH!
RIGHT?

OH WELL...

I GUESS
IT'S UP TO A
BIG MAN
LIKE ME TO
SAVE HER
SANDAL.





HERE YOU GO, MARIMO.



HUH? WHAT ...? BUT I...



SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GOOF OFF? YOU LOSE STUFF.



I'M SORRY, AYUMI.



WAY TO GO, "BIG MAN!"

LOOKS LIKE HE'S MET HIS MATCH IN TWINKLE!

NO FAIR ...

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, ROMEO!



AYUMI, YOU ACT LIKE SUCH A BIG SISTER TO MARIMO. YOU REALLY MUST LOVE HER!

YOU'RE A GREAT DUO!

AW COME ON! WE'RE JUST IDOL SINGERS LIKE YOU GUYS!

JUST BECAUSE I'M HELPING HER LIVE HER DREAM DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE'S ANYTHING MORE THAN JUST FRIENDSHIP ...

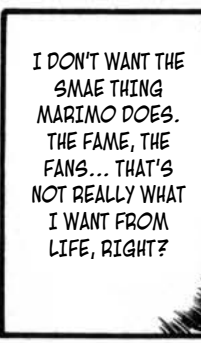


SINCE MARIMO'S FINALLY GOTTEN INTO THE IDOL BUSINESS, IT'S PROBABLY TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT GETTING BACK TO MY REAL LIFE.

BUT THINGS ARE SO HECTIC RIGHT NOW, I SHOULD PROBABLY WAIT UNTIL THERE'S TIME TO WORK OUT HOW TO DO IT. I DON'T WANT TO SCARE HER OUT OF THE BUSINESS LIKE I DID LAST TIME.



AND YET ...



I DON'T WANT THE SMAE THING MARIMO DOES. THE FAME, THE FANS... THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I WANT FROM LIFE, RIGHT?



BUT I'VE COME THIS FAR TO HELP MARIMO REACH HER DREAM...

MAYBE I SHOULD DO MORE...



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...

HOW MANY IDOLS FROM LAST YEAR ARE CONTESTANTS IN THIS YEAR'S SHOW? 40 PERCENT? 30?

?

EVERY YEAR THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED NEW SINGERS MAKE THEIR DEBUT.

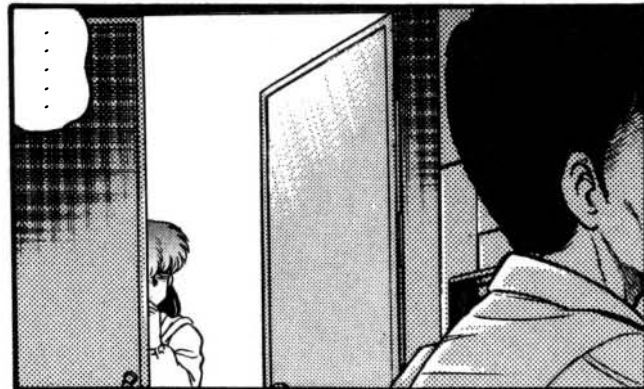
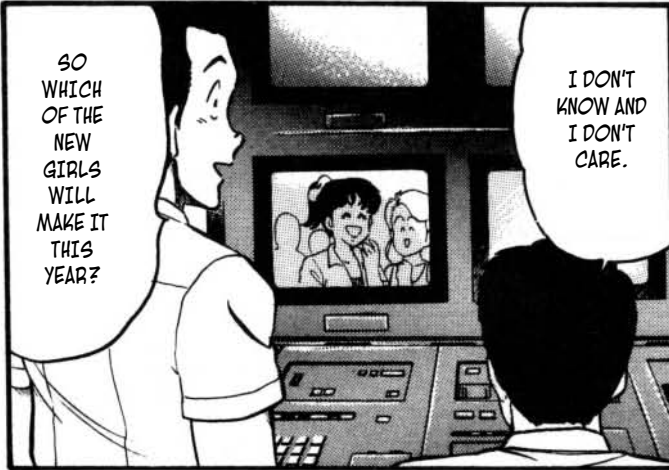
ONLY HALF OF THEM ARE PRESENTED AS IDOLS TO THE PUBLIC.

BUT THEN A YEAR LATER, ONLY ABOUT TEN OF THOSE ARE STILL IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

LIFE'S CRUEL, YOU KNOW?



TWINKLE TWINKLE IDOL STAR - STAGE 2





SOLO!?

MARIMO IS GOING SOLO!?

MARIMO AND I HAVE BEEN A DUO UP UNTIL NOW, BUT...

SHE PAIRED UP WITH ME EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE A SOLO ACT. ME, I'M REALLY NOT INTO ALL THIS IDOL STUFF.

SHE'S MUCH MORE TALENTED THAN I AM, AND SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN IDOL. IF SHE WENT SOLO, SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO BE AN EVEN BIGGER STAR.

YOU'RE BREAKING UP! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! TWINKLE IS BREAKING UP!

KIND OF.



UH HUH ...

WELL THEN... THIS CERTAINLY DOES MAKE THINGS INTERESTING. HOW SHOULD WE PRESENT THIS?



I'VE GOT IT !!

WELL, THAT'S A SHAME FOR YOU TWO. BUT LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME. I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO.



MR. GOTOU! THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING !!

BOW!

THIS AYUMI FUJIMARA GIRL ...

VERY INTERESTING ...



WILLING TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING TO HELP HER PARTNER'S CAREER ...



OR MAYBE SHE'S PLANNING SOMETHING ...?

I'LL SEE YOU ON SET!

A BIG WELCOME BACK TO EVERYONE TUNING IN TODAY!

14TH ANNUAL IDOL SWIM MEET

IT'S THE 14TH ANNUAL IDOL SWIM MEET SPECIAL!

WARM UP YOUR VIDEO RECORDERS! IT'S A FRESH CROP OF NEW FACES! YOUR FAVORITE IDOLS ARE ALL TOGETHER FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT!

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!





OH, WHAT A TIME TO NEED TO TAKE A LEAK!

SHIFF SHIFF SHIFF

OOPS!



WRONG BATHROOM! NOT WHILE I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS!



CREAK

TOILET



!!

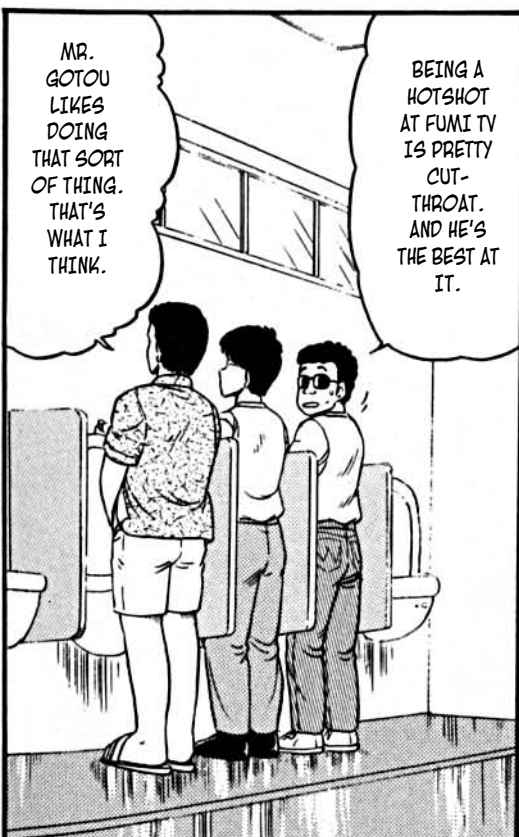
UH OH !!

MR. GOTOU IS REALLY ROUGH ON THOSE KIDS.



CREAK

REMEMBER MIKI FROM LAST YEAR? AFTER GOTOU SPREAD ALL THOSE RUMORS ABOUT HER, NO ONE EVER HEARD FROM HER AGAIN!



MR. GOTOU LIKES DOING THAT SORT OF THING. THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

BEING A HOTSHOT AT FUMI TV IS PRETTY CUT-THROAT. AND HE'S THE BEST AT IT.



IF SOMEONE'S A PROBLEM, JUST DESTROY THEM. THAT'S THE WAY HE PLAYS THE GAME.

THAT GUY CAN MAKE OR BREAK CAREERS OF EVERY KID IN THIS SHOW. AND IF HE'S CARRYING A GUDGE... LOOK OUT.



I WOULDN'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF HIM, THOUGH. HE CAN KILL OUR CAREERS JUST AS FAST AS ANY IDOL.

GOT THAT RIGHT ...

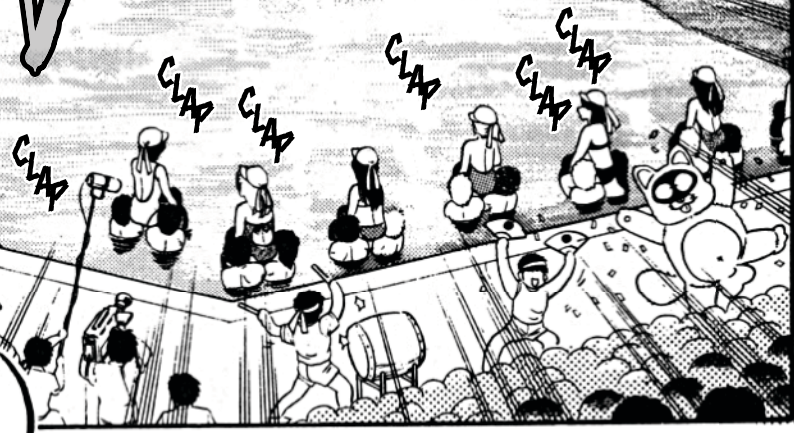
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS ...

AND IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS FINAL EVENT! OUR TEAMS ARE ONLY NINE POINTS APART!

IT'S THE BOYS AND GIRLS CAVALRY CHARGE! THE NAME OF THE GAME IS CAPTURING EACH OTHER'S CAPS FOR POINTS!

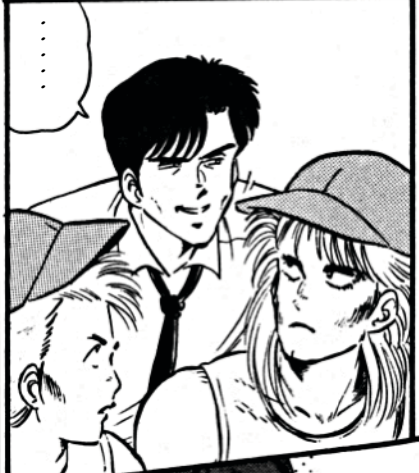
ANYONE CAN STILL WIN!

DRAMA!



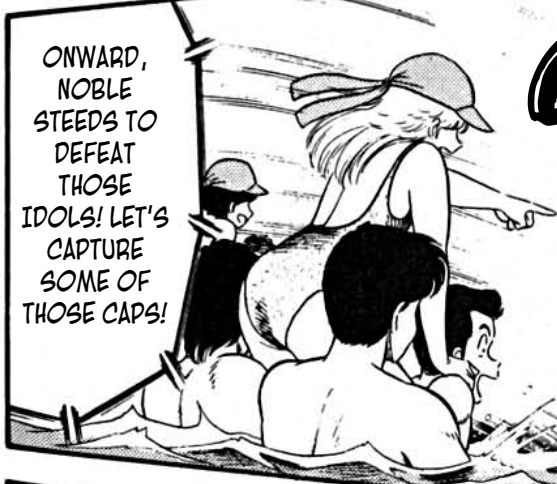
AND A BIG WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL GUEST STARS - PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM THE NAKANO BRUISERS!

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN OUT THERE!



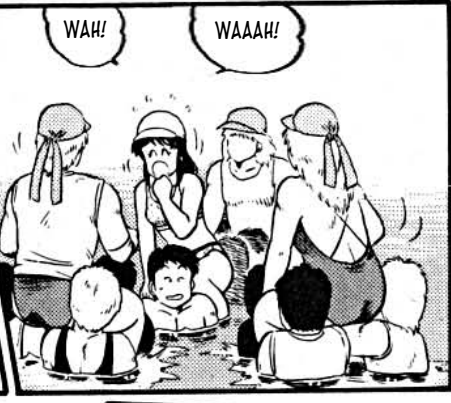
HE-LOO...

WHAT'S MR. GOTOU UP TO?



CHARGE!







NOW !!

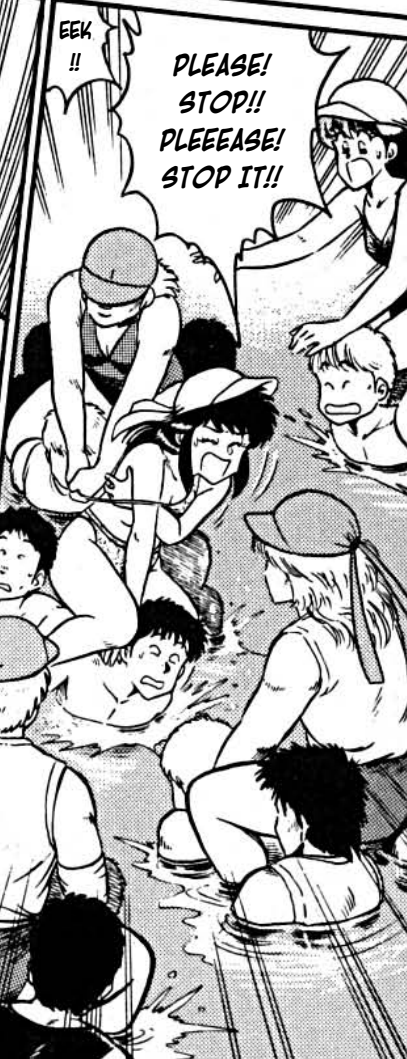


LUNGE!



HUH? WHAT!?

WAAAH



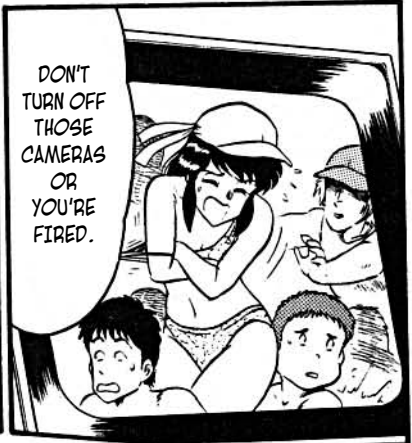
EKK !!

PLEASE!
STOP!!
PLEEEASE!
STOP IT!!

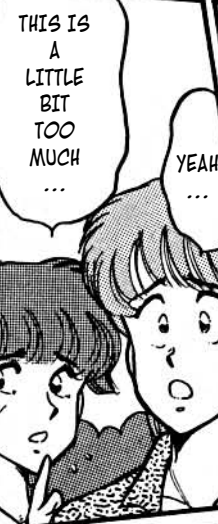


MR. GOTOU! THOSE WRESTLERS! THEY'RE PRACTICALLY ASSAULTING THAT GIRL! WHAT DO WE DO!?

OH... OH... GOSH... OH... OH...



DON'T TURN OFF THOSE CAMERAS OR YOU'RE FIRED.



THIS IS A LITTLE BIT TOO MUCH ...

YEAH ...



WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO STRIP THAT POOR GIRL!

STOP !!

WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY STOP THEM?!



GET BACK !!

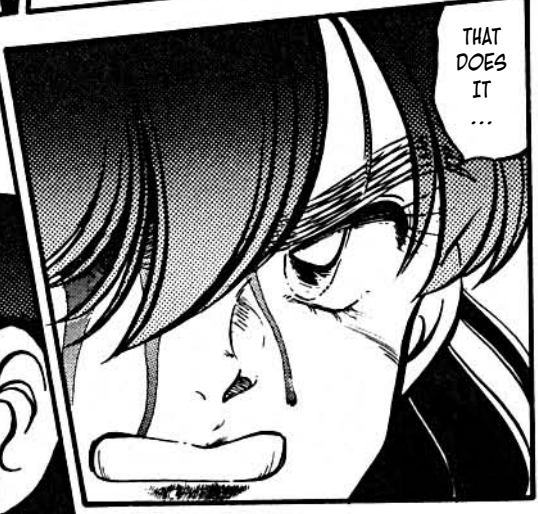
WHACK!



OH MY GOSH !!

GUH ...

POOL



THAT DOES IT ...



NO, AYUMI!

DON'T ...

PARDON
MY FIST
!!

WHOA!

AYUMI
HAS
GONE
CRAZY!
SHE'S GOT
THE FURY
OF...
OF...

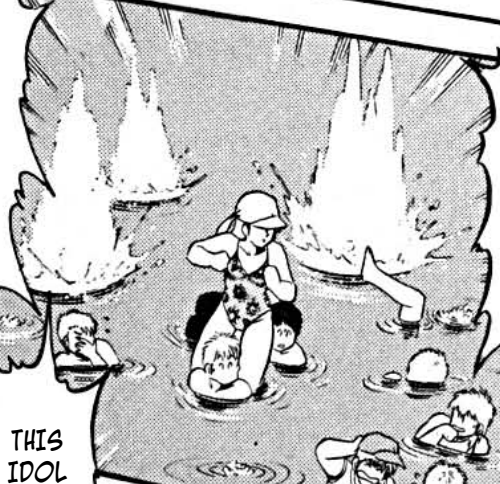
OF
A
MAN
!!

CUT TO
COMMERCIAL
!!
CUT TO
COMMERCIAL
!!

MISS
AYUMI'S
RIGHT HOOK
HAS LEVELED
ALL OF THE
LADY
WRESTLERS!
THEY'RE
KNOCKED
OUT!

MACHO
TOUGH
!!

THIS
IDOL
STAR
IS...



ARE YOU
OKAY,
MARIMO?!

WHAT
HAPPENED!?
EVERYONE
SAW ME
...

STUFF LIKE
THIS IS
GONNA
HAPPEN IF
YOU STAY IN
THIS CRAZY
BUSINESS!!

IS BEING A
SINGING
IDOL WORTH
THIS KIND OF
HUMILIATION
!?

BUT
AYUMI
...

HEY, GOTOU!
WHY DID YOU
JUST SIT
THERE!? WHY
DIDN'T YOU
STOP THAT!?

STOP IT?
JUST
WHEN IT'S
GETTING
GOOD?

BESIDES, WHAT
DO YOU CARE?
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO
QUIT TWINKLE?

WHY SHOULD A
FEW TEARS
BOTHER YOU?
YOU SAID
YOU'RE
MOVING ON.

YOU... YOU
TOLD HIM
YOU'RE
QUITTING?
YOU'RE
BREAKING UP
TWINKLE?

NO!
NO! I
DIDN'T
MEAN
IT LIKE
THAT!

I ASKED
HIM FOR
A FAVOR
TO START
YOUR
CAREER
OFF. NOT
FOR THIS
ATTACK!

I WANTED
HIM TO
HELP
LAUNCH
YOUR
SOLO
DEBUT
...

ARE YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THAT?

MARMO HIMENOGI'S REPUTATION AS AN IDOL NEEDED TO BE DESTROYED. WHAT BETTER WAY THAN AT THIS SWIM MEET?

ONCE SHE'S BEEN HUMILIATED ENOUGH, SHE'LL JUST FADE AWAY. THAT LEAVES THE DOOR WIDE OPEN FOR YOU TO BREAK UP AND START YOUR OWN NEW CAREER.

AYUMI? YOU WANTED TO BREAK US UP FOR YOUR SAKE?

NO! THAT'S NOT RIGHT! I WANTED TO MAKE YOUR SOLO DEBUT EASIER FOR YOU!

MAKE IT EASIER FOR HER OR FOR YOURSELF? IT'S OF NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN WHAT I NEED.

BUT I DIDN'T WANT ANY OF THIS!

THAT'S A SHAME.

IN MY LINE OF WORK, I SEE A THOUSAND GIRLS WITH A CUTE FACE, LIKE MARIMO HERE. BUT YOU, AYUMI FUJIMURA - YOU WERE DIFFERENT. INTERESTING. YOU COULD BE A STAR.

BUT YOU'VE GOT NO AMBITION. NO KILLER INSTINCT.

IN SHOWBIZ, YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO WIN.

OH WELL ...

I GUESS I JUST MAKE A MISTAKE. SHIT HAPPENS.

SHAKE

BIP

SO WE'RE JUST A "MISTAKE," HUH?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'D DO TO SUCCEED IN SHOWBIZ.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART, DUMBASS?

WHO DOESN'T WANT TO SUCCEED AT SOMETHING? IDOLS, YOU ME, WHOEVER. WE ALL WANT THAT.

PSSSHH

UH ...

FLINCH

EEP!

GASP!

!!

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT SUCCESS! SUCCESS IS DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET MARIMO THAT SOLO DEBUT!

THIS KID ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING AN IDOL, WORKING HARD EVERY DAY TO GET IN FRONT OF THOSE SPOTLIGHTS!!

I'VE KNOWN HER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME, AND IF ANYONE CAN SUCCEED, SHE CAN!

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED AND SUPPORTED HER AND WHAT I DID TODAY I DID TO HELP HER ACHIEVE HER DREAM!

BUT HER DREAM AND MY DREAM ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS! IF SHE'S GOING TO SUCCEED...

TO TRULY BECOME THE IDOL STAR SHE DESERVES TO BE...

THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS TO HELP MY FRIEND SHINE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE! ALL OF THESE IDOLS HERE WANT TO SUCCEED JUST AS BADLY! THEY'VE ALL WORKED HARD TO GET HERE!

YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT WE'VE ALL PUT INTO THIS!

...THEN SHE'S GOT TO GO SOLO!!



AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU BELIEVE! YOU CAN SHOVE YOUR CYNICAL, PARANOID TAKE ON LIFE WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T SHINE!

I WON'T BE LECTURED TO BY SOME WEAK-WILLED GIRL!

I DEAL WITH YOU STUCK-UP PUNKS ALL THE TIME AND YOU'RE ALL THE SAME! LOTS OF TALK!

I CAN RUIN YOUR CAREER! I CAN RUIN ALL THESE KIDS' CAREERS! AND DON'T THINK I WON'T!



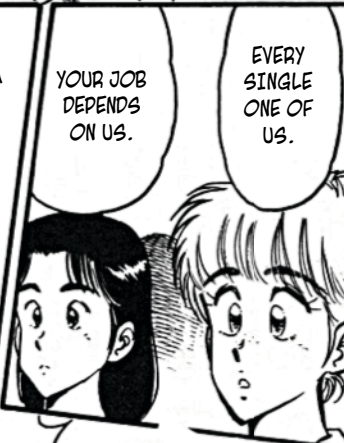
UH ...

WHAT I MEANT WAS...



THAT'S YOUR TRUE COLORS SHOWING, MR. GOTOU.

YOU MAY BE A BIG-TIME TV EXECUTIVE, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR JOB.



YOUR JOB DEPENDS ON US.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US.

IF WE DON'T SHOW UP FOR YOUR PROGRAMS, YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB.

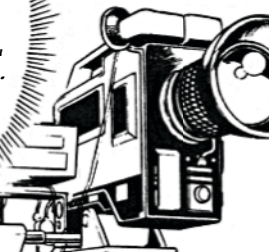
WITHOUT US, YOU HAVE NOTHING!

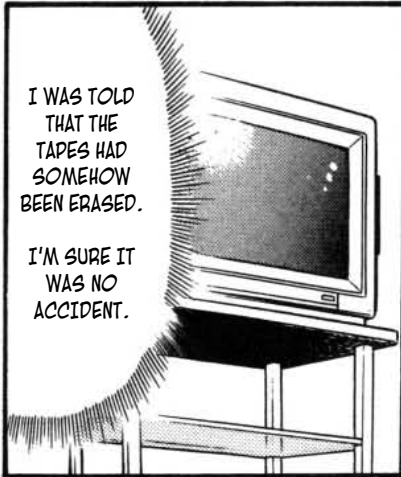
YOU KNOW WHAT? UNLESS YOU'RE VERY NICE TO US, WE MIGHT NOT EVEN SHOW UP FOR YOUR NEXT PROGRAM. TRY AND EXPLAIN THAT TO YOUR BOSS!

YEAH!



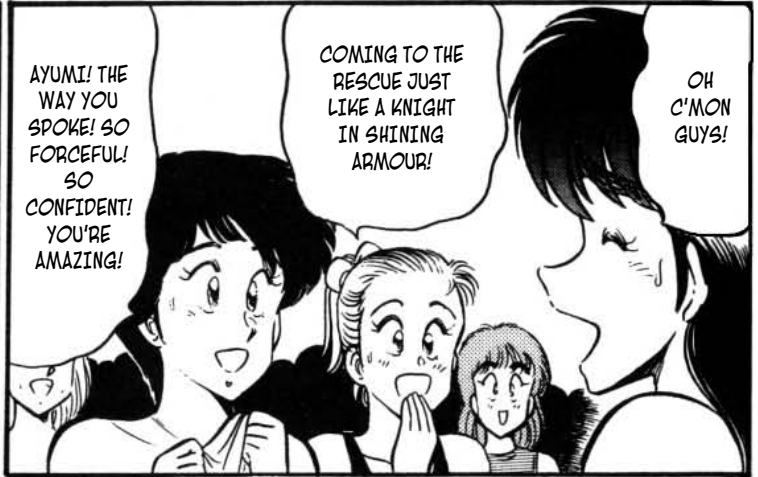
THAT PART OF THE SHOW WAS NEVER BROADCAST, OF COURSE. MARIMO WAS SAFE.





I WAS TOLD THAT THE TAPES HAD SOMEHOW BEEN ERASED.

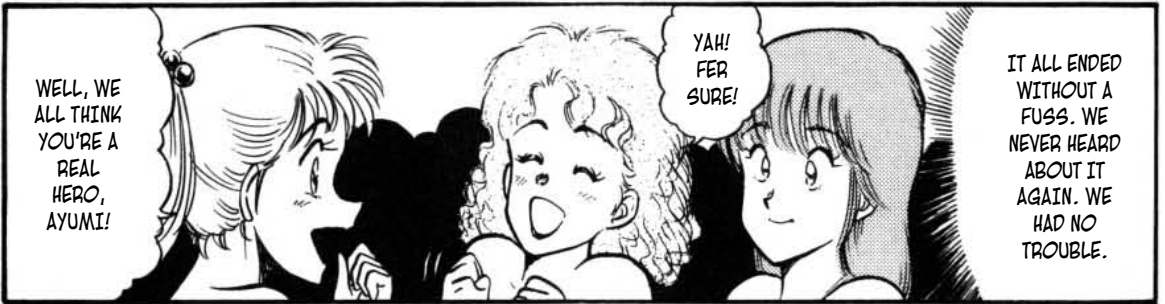
I'M SURE IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.



AYUMI! THE WAY YOU SPOKE! SO FORCEFUL! SO CONFIDENT! YOU'RE AMAZING!

COMING TO THE RESCUE JUST LIKE A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR!

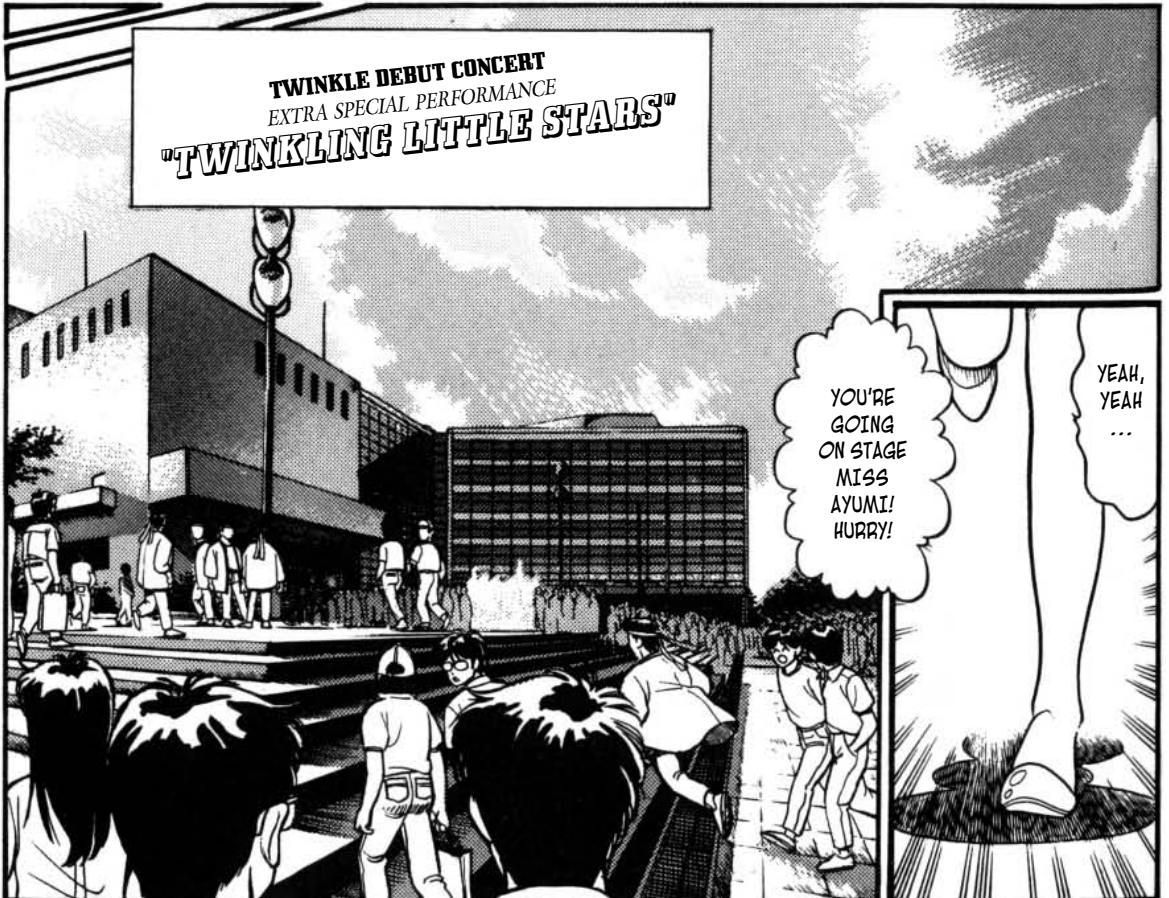
OH C'MON GUYS!



WELL, WE ALL THINK YOU'RE A REAL HERO, AYUMI!

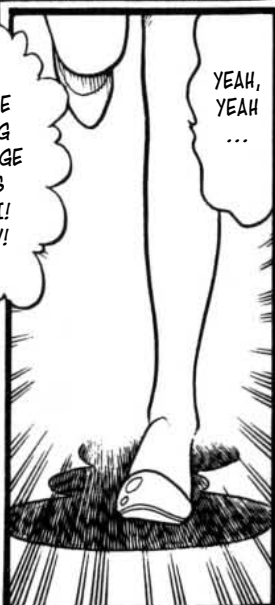
YAH! FER SURE!

IT ALL ENDED WITHOUT A FUSS. WE NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT AGAIN. WE HAD NO TROUBLE.



TWINKLE DEBUT CONCERT
EXTRA SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
"TWINKLING LITTLE STARS"

YOU'RE GOING ON STAGE MISS AYUMI! HURRY!



YEAH, YEAH ...



MARIMO?
WHERE'S
MARIMO?



MISS
MARIMO
SHOULD
BE
WAITING
IN THE
WINGS!

WHERE DID YOU
GO WITHOUT
ME, MARIMO?
AND TODAY OF
ALL DAYS!



AYUMI! WE
HAVE A
PROBLEM!

MISS
MARIMO
...

DASH!

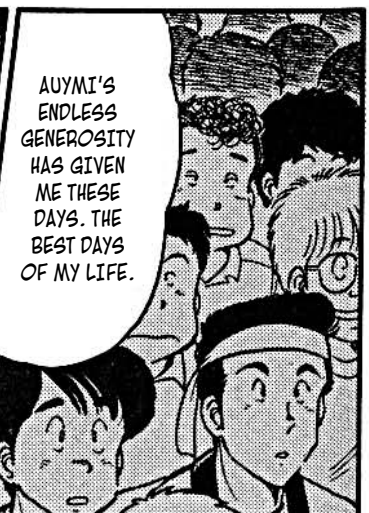
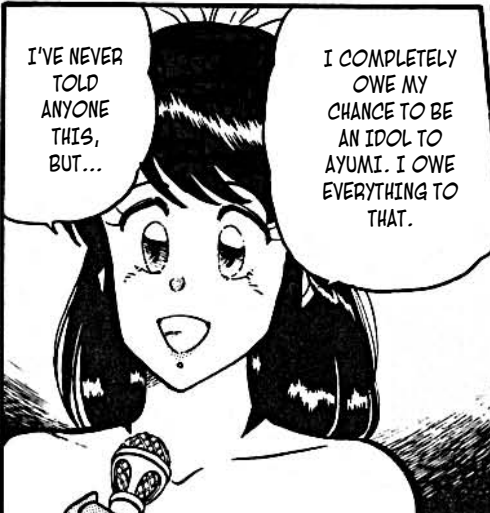
SHE
WENT ON
STAGE
WITHOUT
YOU!



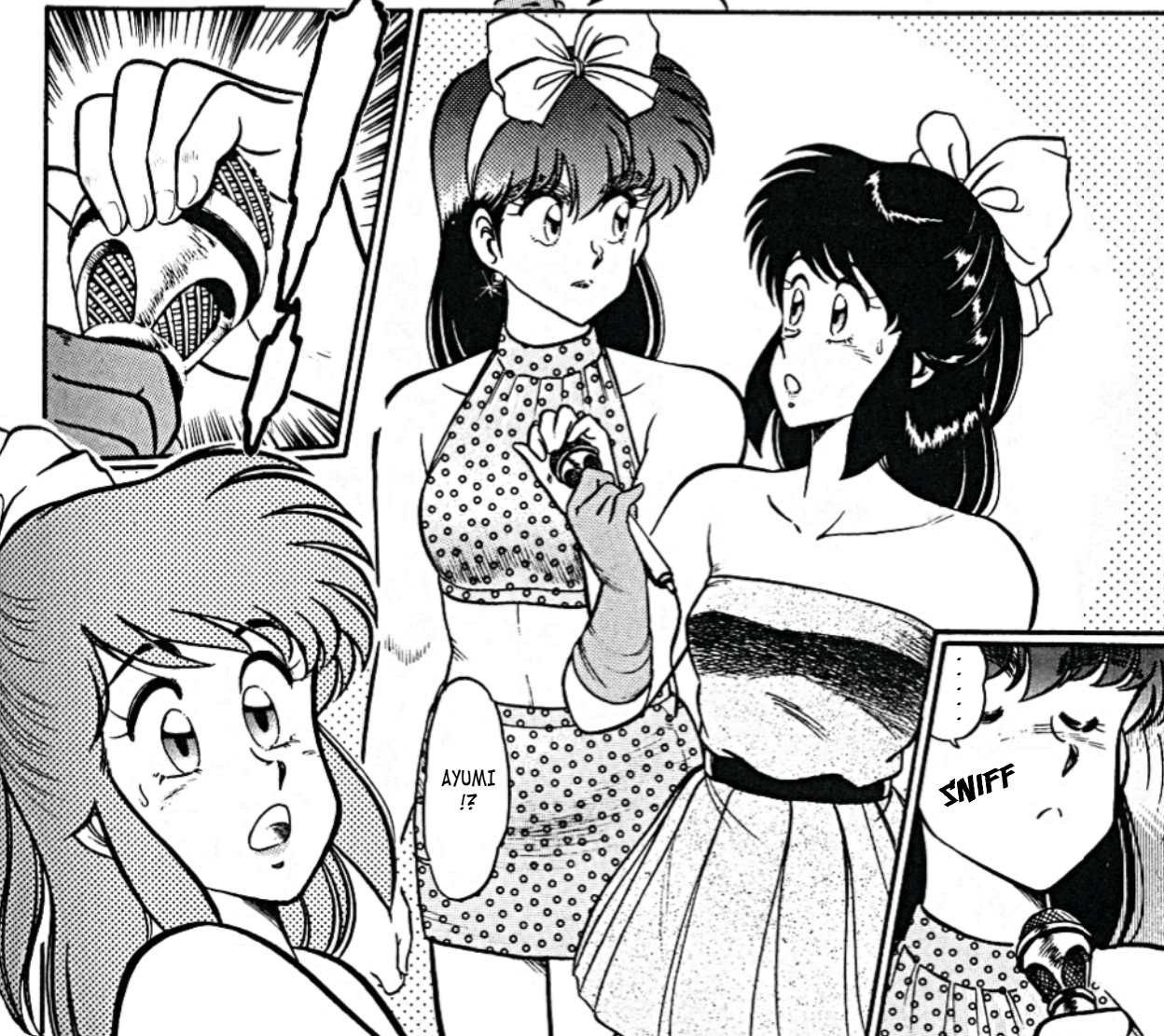
ROAR!

AYUMI
!!
MARIMO
!!

AYUMI
!!
MARIMO
!!



TWINKLE TWINKLE IDOL STAR - STAGE 2



TODAY
TWINKLE
ANNOUNCES
THAT
...

WE'RE
GOING TO
BE THE
BIGGEST
IDOL DUO
IN JAPAN!

FORA!

TOTAL
FAKE
OUT!!

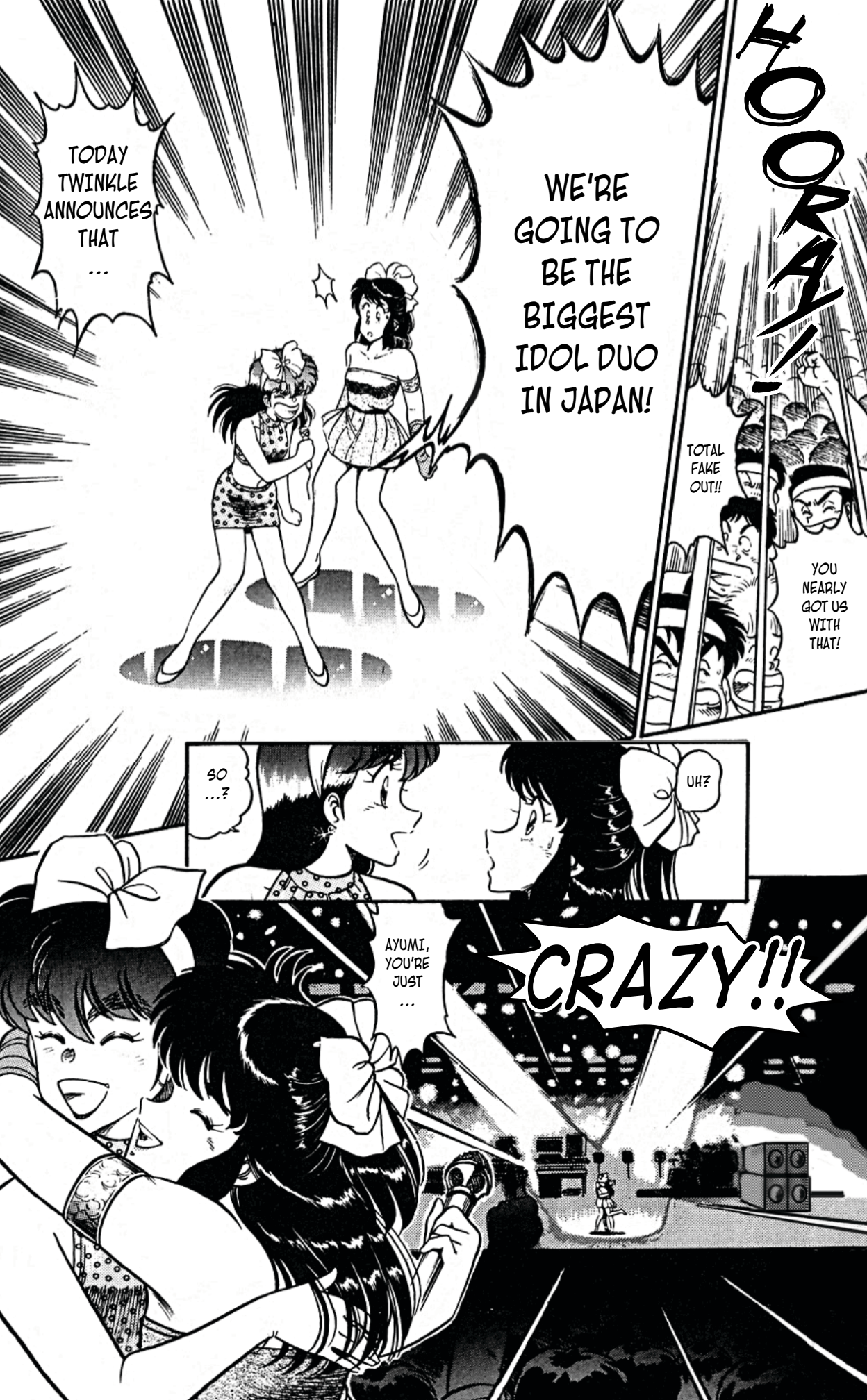
YOU
NEARLY
GOT US
WITH
THAT!

SO
...?

UH?

AYUMI,
YOU'RE
JUST
...

CRAZY!!



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