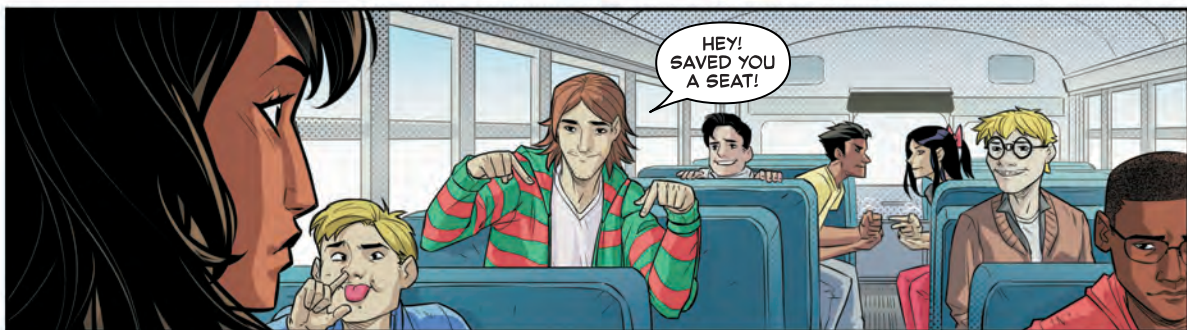




GAH--  
PLEASE DON'T  
LEAVE!



OKAY,  
CLASS, LET'S GET  
GOING. NOW WE'RE  
REALLY RUNNING  
BEHIND.



HEY!  
SAVED YOU  
A SEAT!



**VRRRR**  
MORNING.  
YOU'RE WELCOME!  
FOR SAVING YOU A  
SEAT AND MAKING  
SURE WE DIDN'T  
LEAVE YOU.

HEY. THANKS,  
BRUNO.

AREN'T YOU  
A BUNDLE OF  
SUNSHINE?



SORRY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S  
WITH ME. MAYBE I NEED  
MORE SLEEP?

TOO MUCH  
SCREEN TIME IN  
THE WEE HOURS,  
PROBABLY.

MAYBE.  
BUT I DIDN'T  
EVEN FEEL LIKE  
PLAYING WORLD OF  
BATTLECRAFT  
LAST NIGHT.

I'M  
JUST FEELING  
DOWN.



DON'T YOU EVER WONDER... WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO BE **DIFFERENT?** TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE **FREEDOM?**

YOU HAVE **LOTS OF FREEDOM.** WE BOTH DO.



EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. I MEAN, YOU'RE A **BOY**, FIRST OF ALL. I JUST...

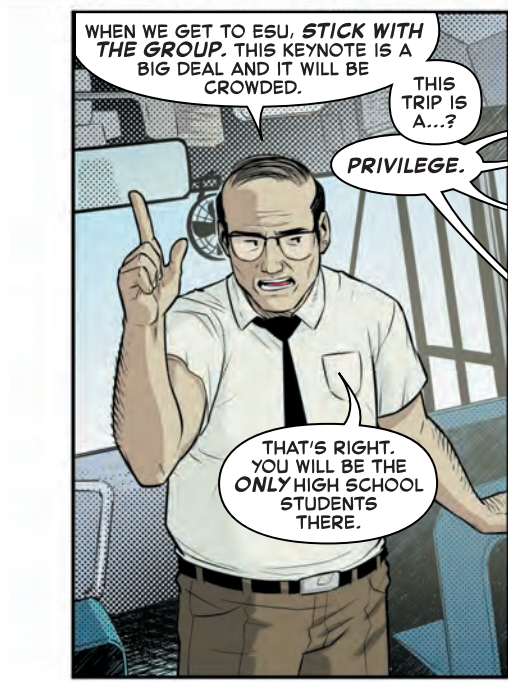
DON'T YOU EVER WANT TO HURRY UP AND GET **OLDER?**

**PFFFT.** NO. OLDER PEOPLE PAY RENT AND HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

NO, I MEAN--

AHEM! LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!

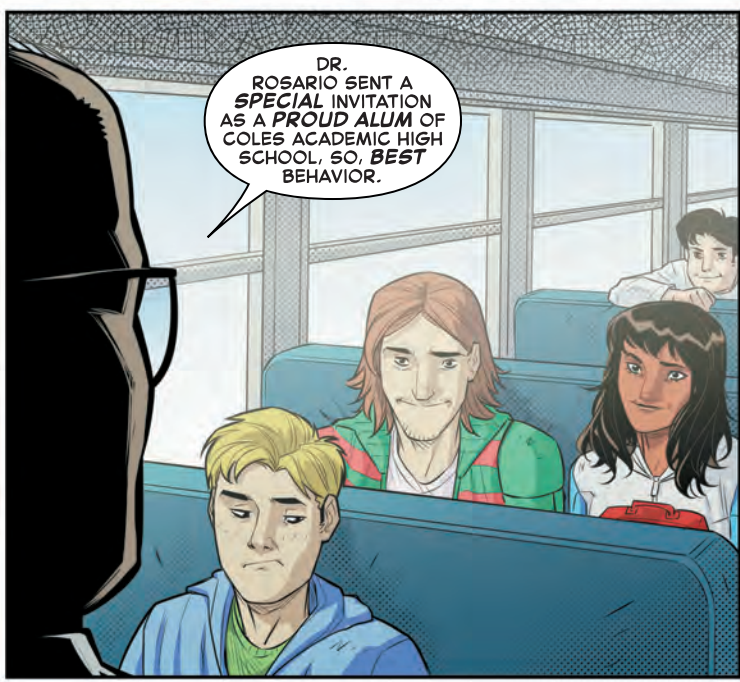


WHEN WE GET TO **ESU**, **STICK WITH THE GROUP.** THIS KEYNOTE IS A BIG DEAL AND IT WILL BE CROWDED.

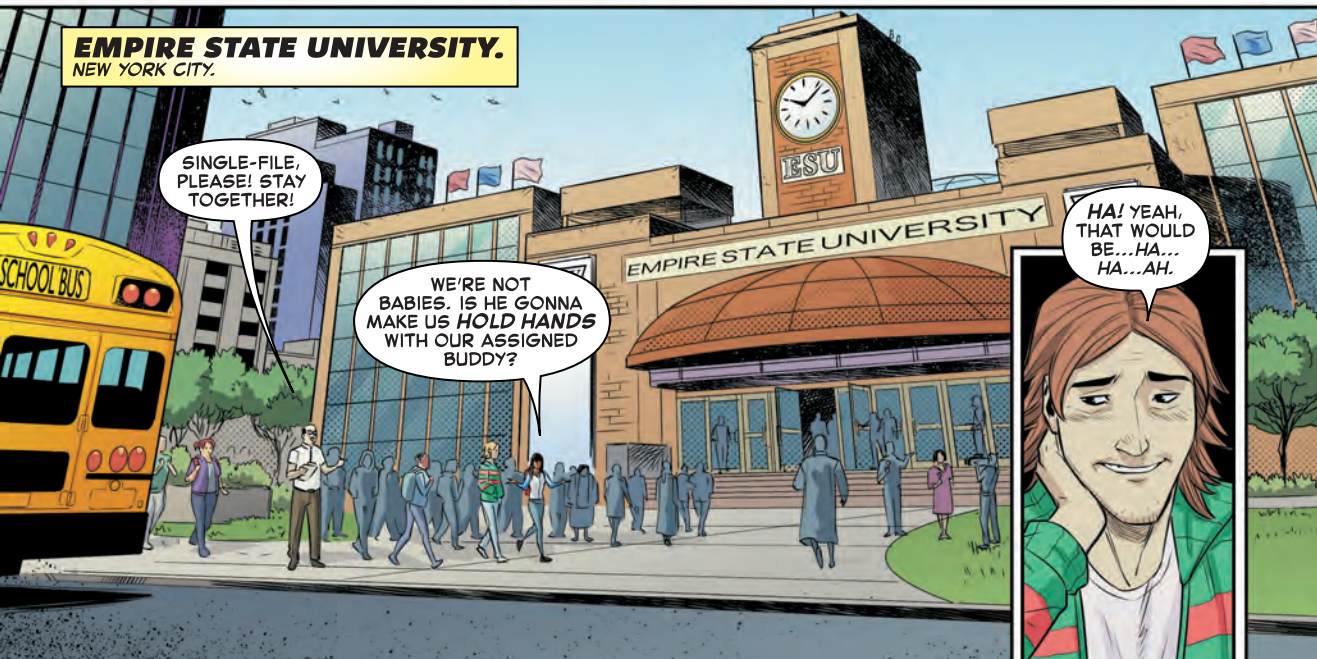
THIS TRIP IS A...?

**PRIVILEGE.**

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WILL BE THE **ONLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** THERE.



DR. ROSARIO SENT A **SPECIAL INVITATION** AS A **PROUD ALUM** OF COLES ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL, SO, **BEST BEHAVIOR.**



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**SINGLE-FILE, PLEASE! STAY TOGETHER!**

WE'RE NOT BABIES. IS HE GONNA MAKE US **HOLD HANDS** WITH OUR ASSIGNED BUDDY?

HA! YEAH, THAT WOULD BE...HA... HA...AH.





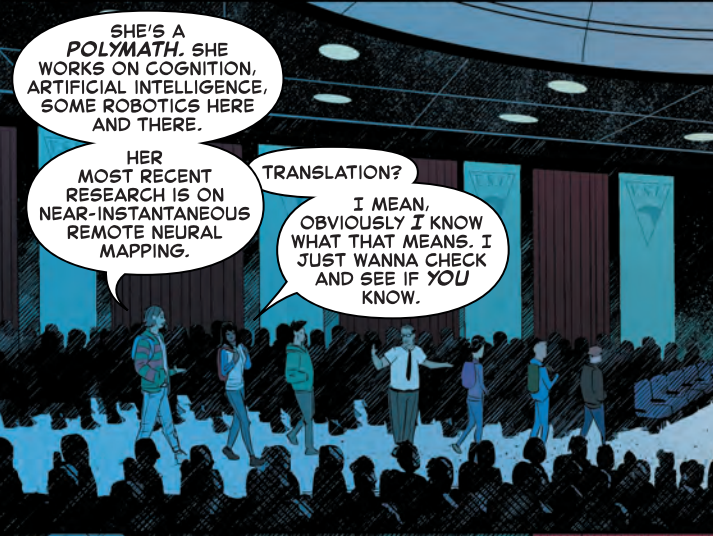
OH MAN. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE HERE. WE'RE GONNA SEE **ACTUAL YESENA ROSARIO**. I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WENT TO OUR **ACTUAL SCHOOL**. I MIGHT WEEP.



I MEAN, HER RESEARCH IS... **CUTTING-EDGE** ISN'T EVEN THE WORD. IT'S BEYOND.

WHAT DOES SHE DO, EXACTLY?

OOF! SORRY!



SHE'S A **POLYMATHEM**. SHE WORKS ON COGNITION, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, SOME ROBOTICS HERE AND THERE.

HER MOST RECENT RESEARCH IS ON **NEAR-INSTANTANEOUS REMOTE NEURAL MAPPING**.

TRANSLATION?

I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. I JUST WANNA CHECK AND SEE IF YOU KNOW.

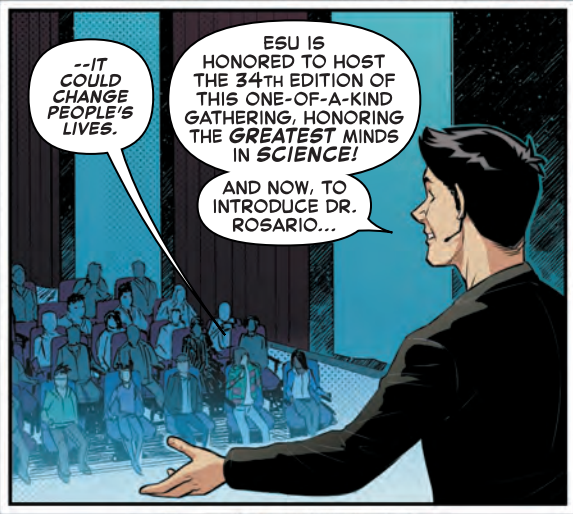


SHHH!

IT MEANS SHE CAN TRANSFER SOMEONE'S **CONSCIOUSNESS** INTO REMOTE STORAGE. SHE CAN **DOWNLOAD SOMEONE'S BRAIN**.

THAT... SOUNDS KINDA SCARY. AND MORALLY QUESTIONABLE?

COULD BE. BUT DR. ROSARIO HAS ALSO WON AWARDS FOR HER WORK AS A **BIOETHICIST**. SHE THINKS A LOT ABOUT THIS STUFF. AND IT COULD--



--IT COULD CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

ESU IS HONORED TO HOST THE 34TH EDITION OF THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND GATHERING, HONORING THE **GREATEST MINDS IN SCIENCE!**

AND NOW, TO INTRODUCE DR. ROSARIO...

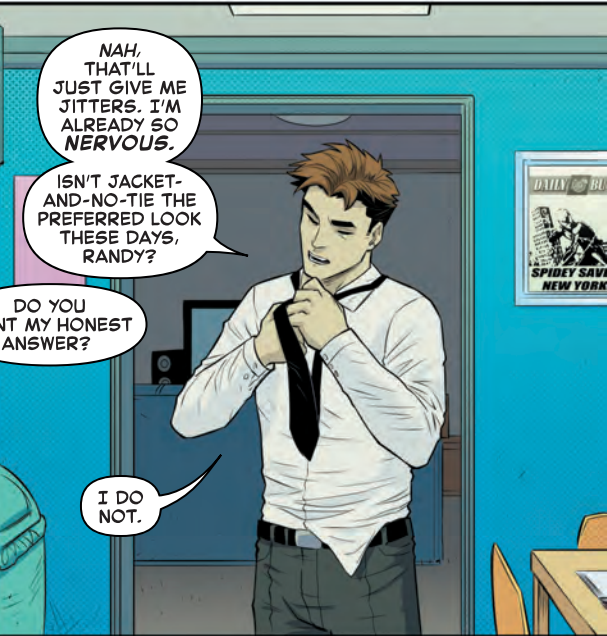


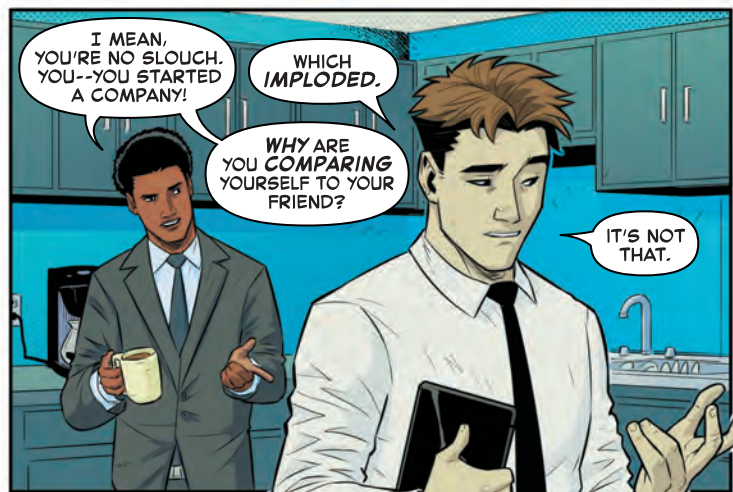
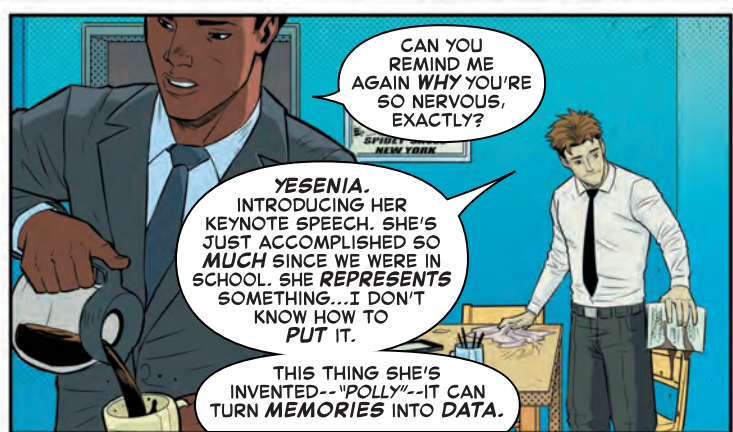
...PETER PARKER.

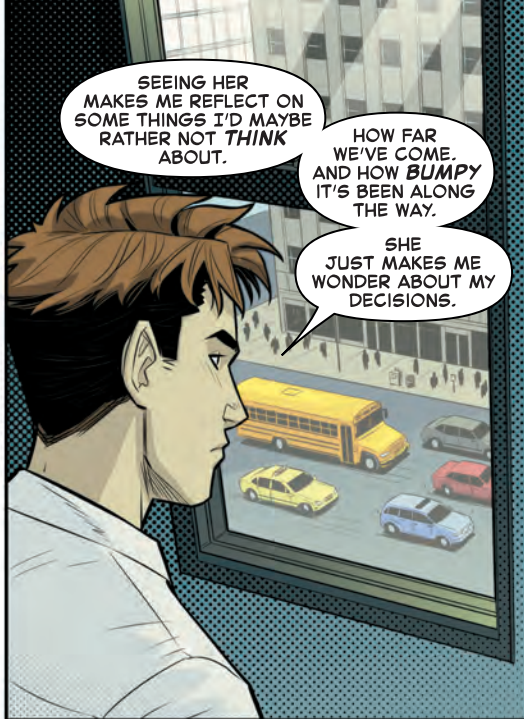
ISN'T IT DR. PARKER?

NO. HE GOT HIS ESU DEGREE STRIPPED AWAY FOR SUPPOSEDLY **PLAGIARIZING**.

IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA WEIRD THAT HE'S THE ONE INTRODUCING HER.







SEEING HER  
MAKES ME REFLECT ON  
SOME THINGS I'D MAYBE  
RATHER NOT *THINK*  
ABOUT.

HOW FAR  
WE'VE COME.  
AND HOW *BUMPY*  
IT'S BEEN ALONG  
THE WAY.  
  
SHE  
JUST MAKES ME  
WONDER ABOUT MY  
DECISIONS.



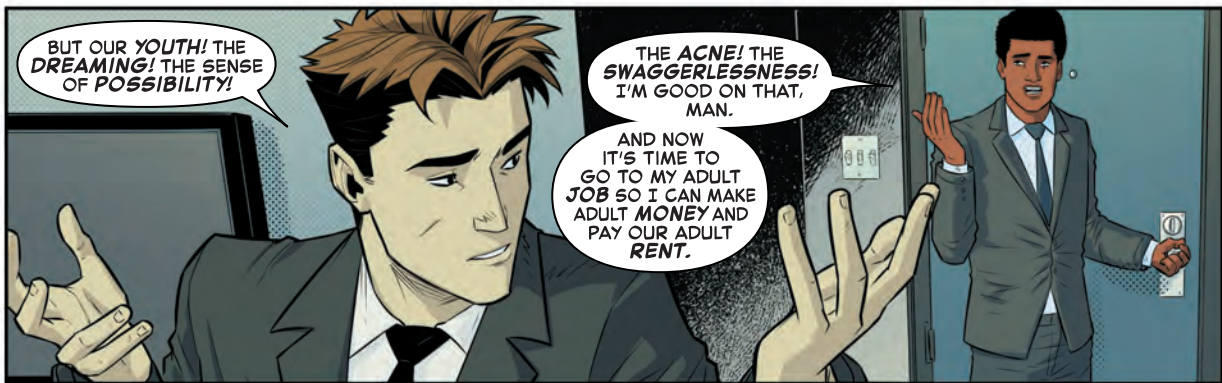
WASN'T IT  
ALL SIMPLER?  
WHEN WE WERE  
*YOUNGER*?

THAT  
WOULD BE  
A NO.



DON'T YOU  
EVER WANT TO GO *BACK*?  
WOULDN'T IT BE AMAZING IF WE  
HAD A CHANCE TO DO THINGS  
*DIFFERENTLY*?

DID  
SOMEONE HIT  
YOU ON THE  
HEAD?



BUT OUR *YOUTH!* THE  
*DREAMING!* THE SENSE  
OF *POSSIBILITY!*

THE *ACNE!* THE  
*SWAGGERLESSNESS!*  
I'M GOOD ON THAT,  
MAN.

AND NOW  
IT'S TIME TO  
GO TO MY ADULT  
*JOB* SO I CAN MAKE  
ADULT *MONEY* AND  
PAY OUR ADULT  
*RENT.*



"*SWAGGERLESSNESS*"  
IS NOT EVEN A WORD.

**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXPO.**  
EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

