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SECOND EDITION

# FAUX PAW

THE TECHNO CAT™



# ADVENTURES IN THE INTERNET

Written by Jacalyn S. Leavitt & Sally Shill Linford  
Original Art by J. Chad Erekson

Foreward by Former First Lady Laura Bush

**PEACE OF MIND FOR FAMILIES ONLINE™**

# **FAUX PAW**

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**Original Art by J. Chad Erekson**

**Faux Paw the Techno Cat® Series created**  
**by Jacalyn S. Leavitt**

*For our children and grandchildren  
and every child*

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## FOREWORD



THE WHITE HOUSE

Dear Parents,

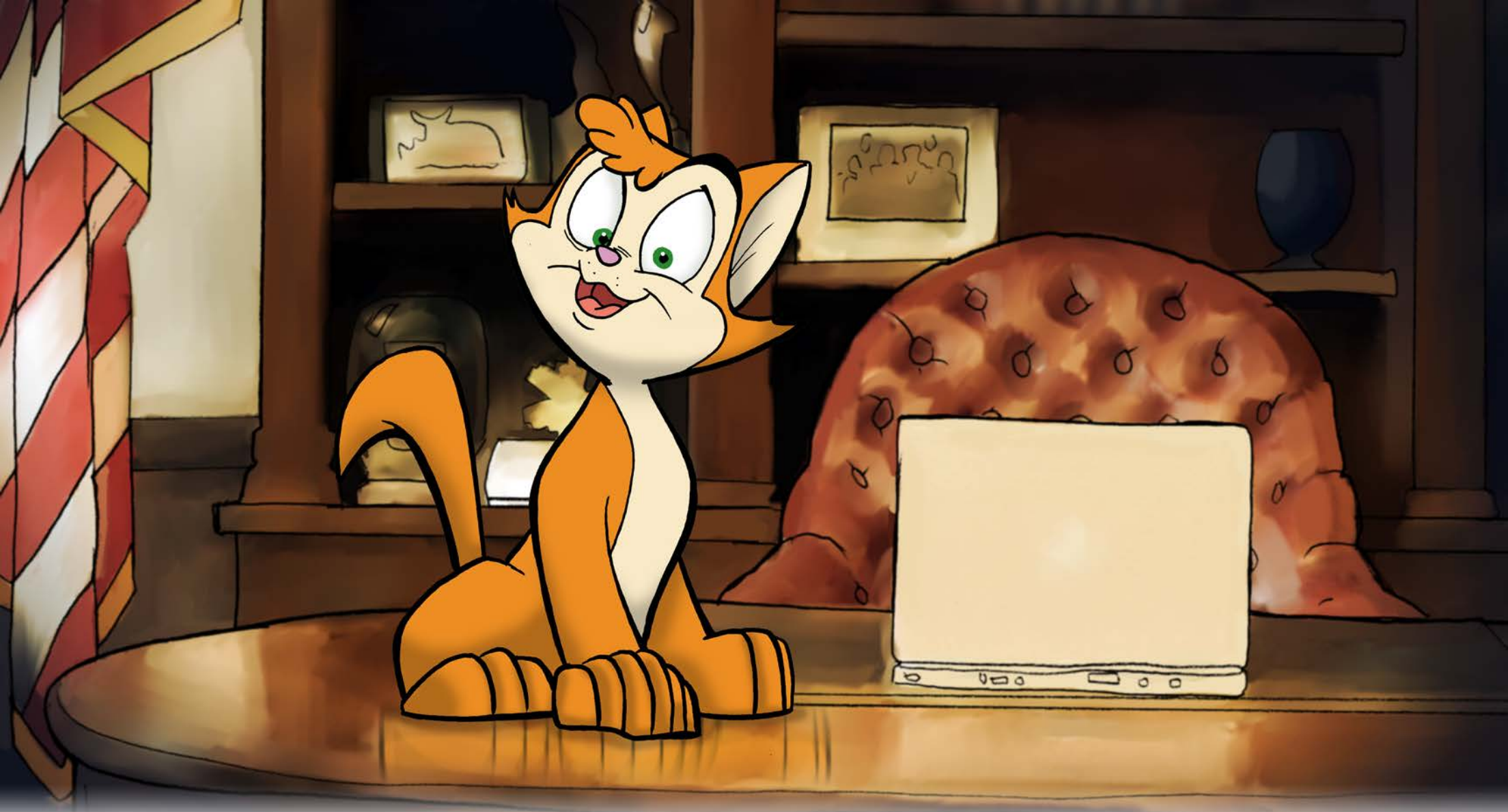
Recent news stories have made us all aware how sexual predators use the Internet to entrap and victimize children. As part of President Bush's *Helping America's Youth* initiative, we want to reinforce to parents, educators, youth leaders, and law enforcement officials that you don't have to be a computer expert to protect a child from this growing threat. If children learn early to safeguard their personal information and to keep far away from Internet strangers, they will not become victims of this frightening epidemic.

As community members, we can and must work together to ensure that all children receive this urgent message. I encourage all adults to teach children the basic principles of online safety that are found in this book. Thank you for your commitment to our shared priority of protecting children everywhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Bush".

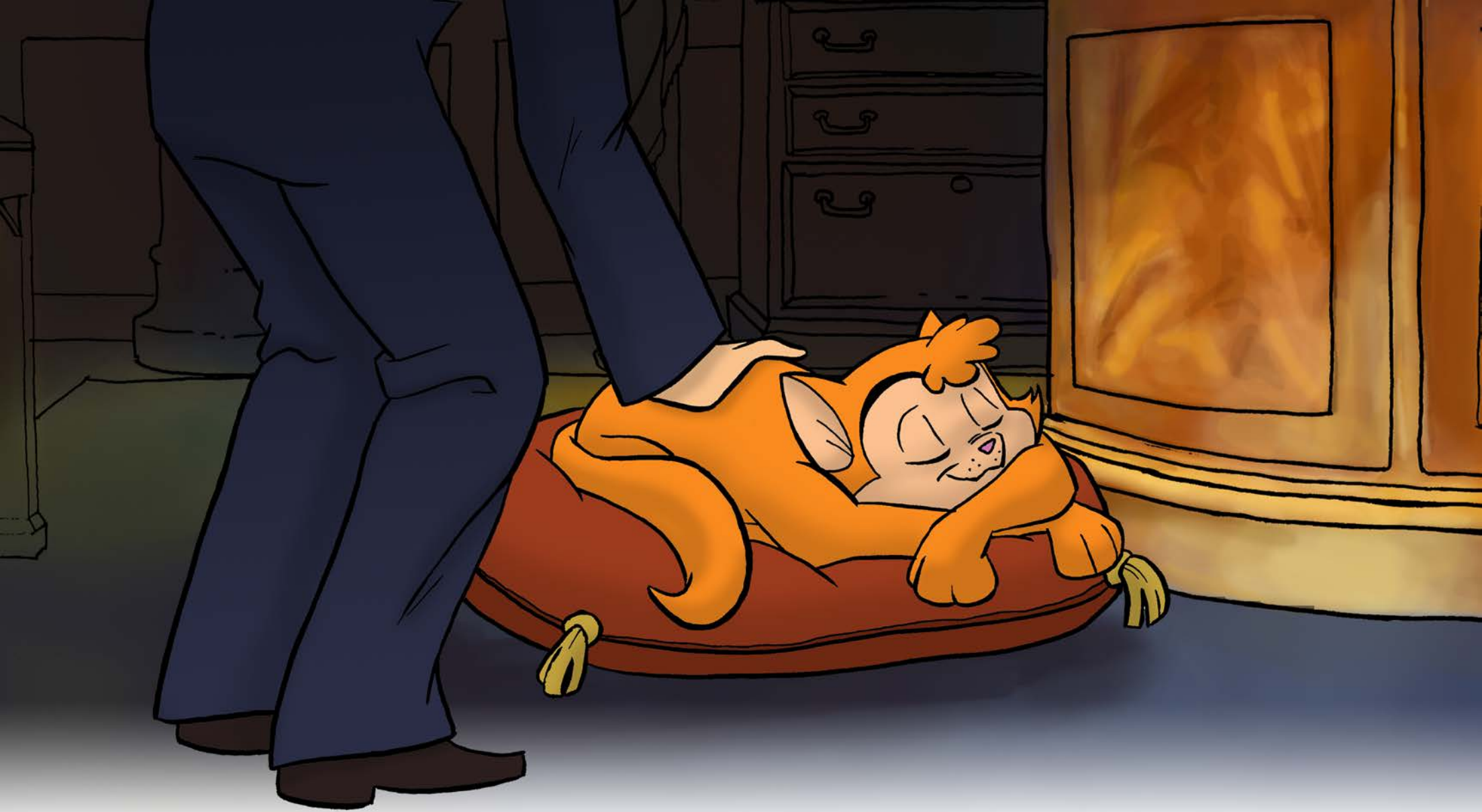




Hello, I'm Faux Paw the Techno Cat.



I used to live in the animal shelter, but not anymore.  
The governor rescued me. Now the state capitol  
building is my home.



I live in the governor's office where I'm an important part of the team. There's a big ball of yarn that I'm in charge of. And when the governor's had a tough day, I sit at his feet. I can tell he feels better.



You say my name “foe-paw.” In France, *faux pas* means mistake or false step, but I’m named Faux Paw because I have an extra toe on each of my front paws. (Get it?)

Everybody makes *faux pas* sometimes, but let me tell you about a really big mistake I made.





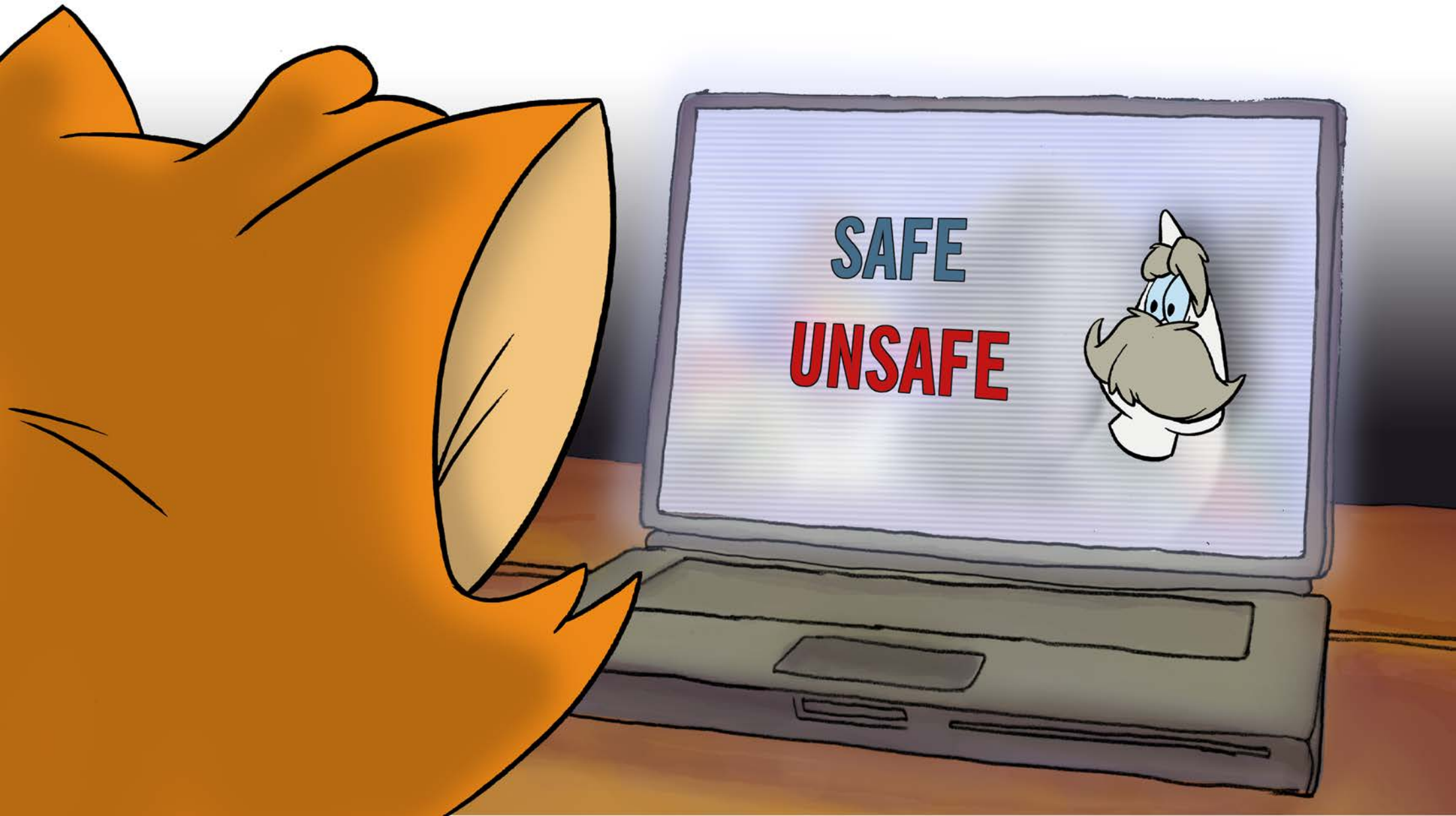
It happened on the computer. Most people don't put cats and computers together, but I'm the Techno Cat for a good reason. I'm a computer whiz! At night when everyone goes home, the governor lets me use his laptop. I am sooo good at games.

One night I was cruising around Internet City using my favorite part of the computer—the mouse! LOL. (On the Internet, that means “laugh out loud.” Sometimes I even make myself LOL.)

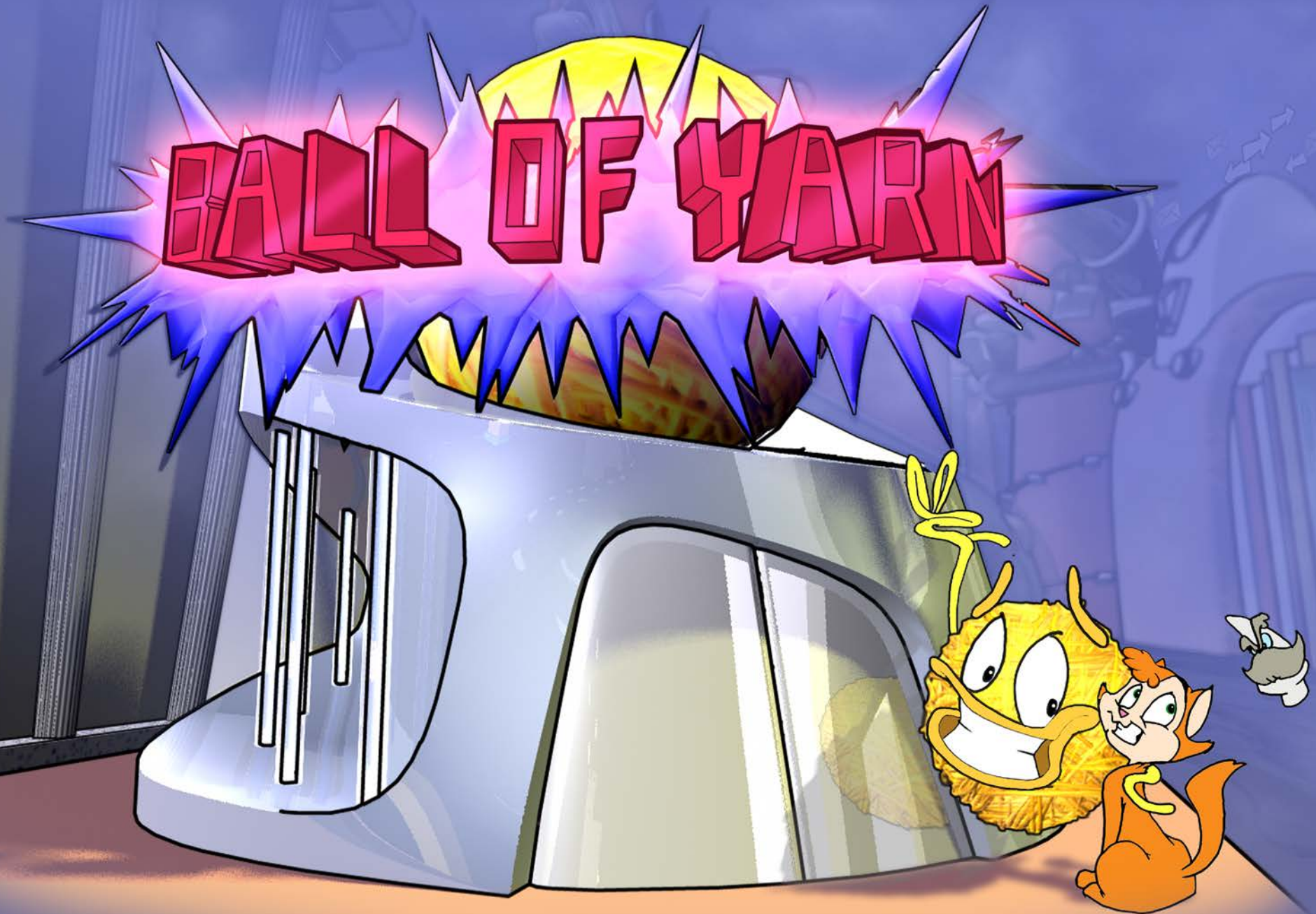


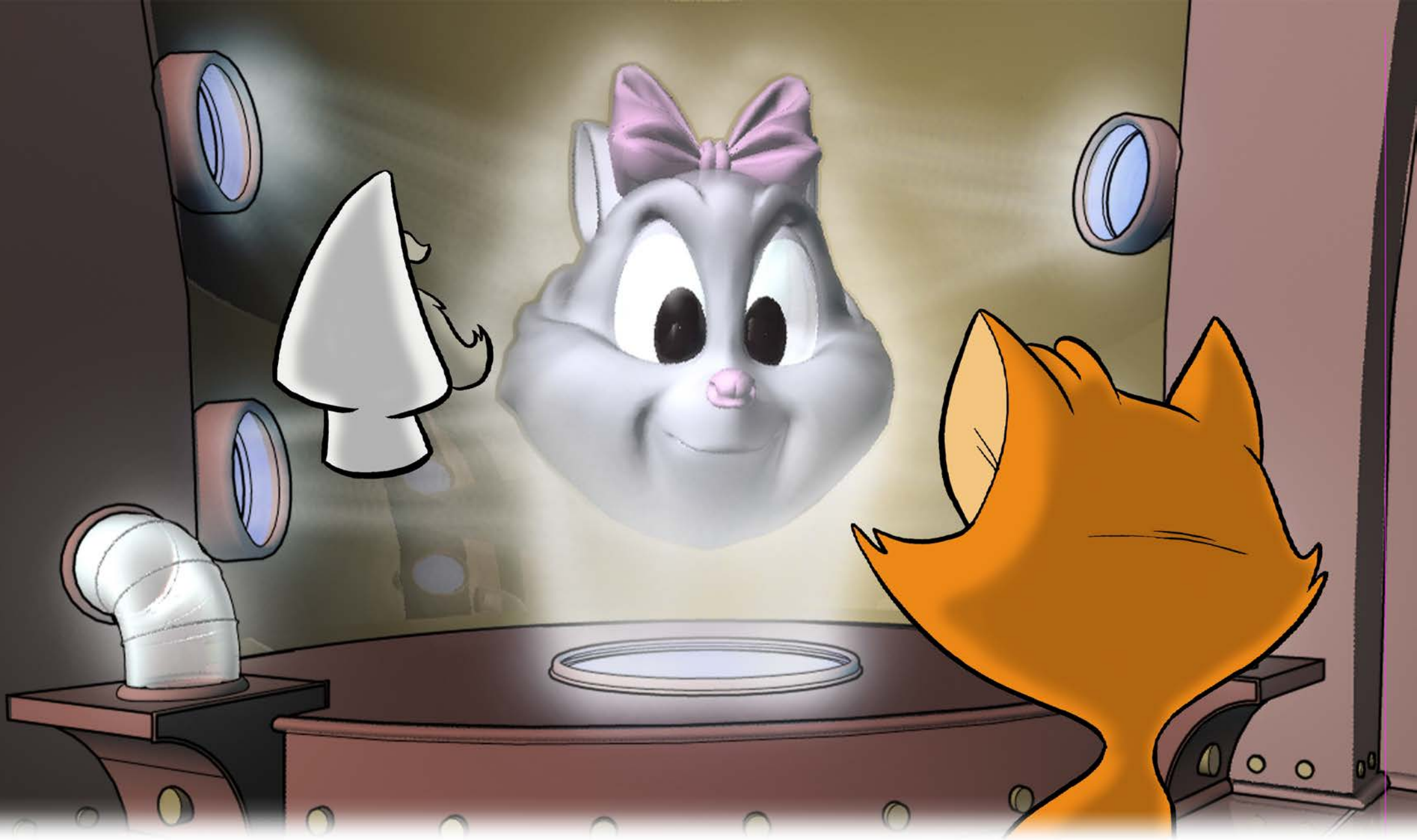
While I was mousing around, “I bumped into the governor’s old friend, Cursor. He and the governor work together all the time.

“Howdy, Faux Paw,” he said. “Don’t forget—the Internet is like a big city. Some places are safe, other places aren’t, and it’s important to know the difference.”



But how could I listen to Cursor? Right before my eyes was the Ball-of-Yarn Chat Room—a dream come true! Flashing signs, piles of yarn, free catnip giveaways! And . . .





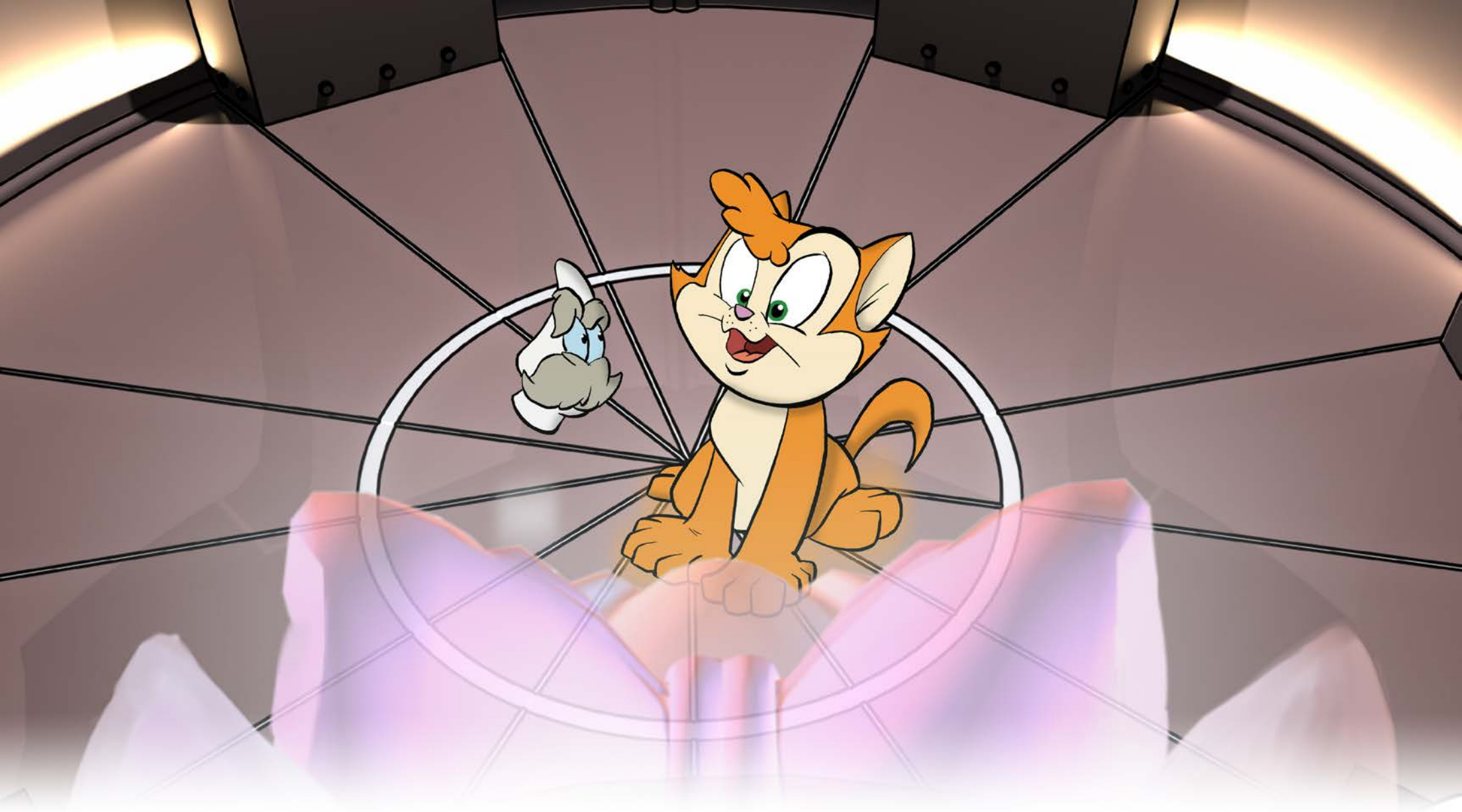
... a new friend: Happy Fluffy Kittyface! Words just showed up on my screen. **“Hello, Faux Paw,”** she typed, **“I’m Happy Fluffy Kittyface. Wanna chat?”**

So I typed back: **“Oh, Kittyface, I haven’t had anyone to talk to all day. Everyone’s so busy here.”**



**“That’s okay,” she typed, “I’d love to be your Internet friend. I like to purr in the sunshine and play with yarn, how about you?”**

**“THAT’S MY FAVORITE, TOO!”** I shouted back.



**“Faux Paw,” she asked, “maybe we go to the same school. Do you go to Meow-Meow Elementary?”**

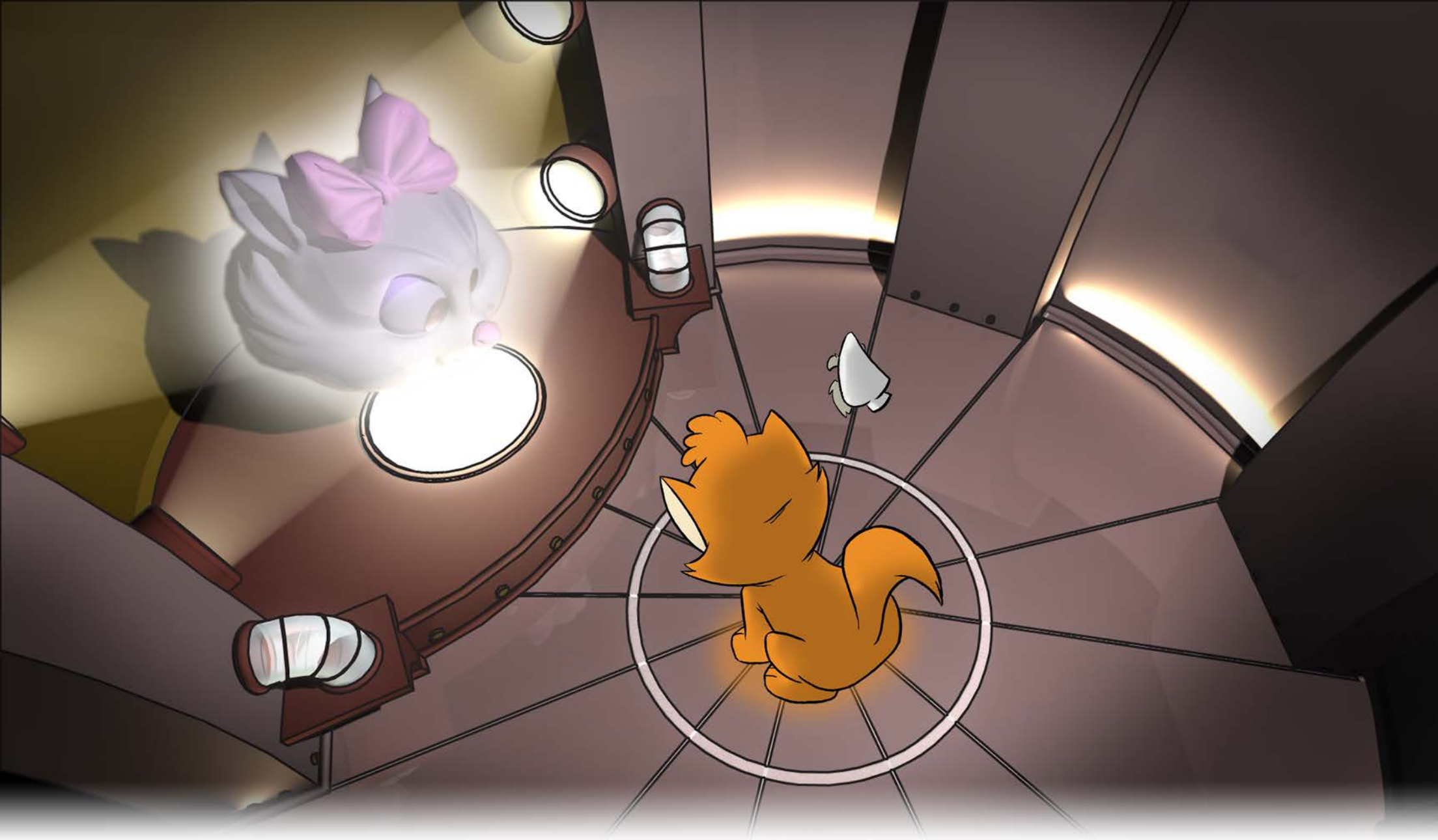
I was about to tell her that I go to Cool Cats Elementary, but Cursor jumped in: “No, Faux Paw! Never tell anyone on the Internet the name of your school!”

“Silly Cursor,” I thought, “he loves to say things like that—he’s such a worrier.”



She typed, **“Faux Paw, I have a new ball of yarn—bright red—wanna see it?”**  
**“Oh, yes! I’d love to see your yarn,”** I typed.





**“Let’s play,” she typed. “I’ll bring my yarn, and you bring yours. Maybe we can watch a movie. Where do you live?”**



Cursor went crazy. "No, Faux Paw! Never give your name, address, phone number, or the name of your school to anyone on the Internet."

I thought, "Cursor just doesn't understand—Happy Fluffy Kittyface is my friend." So I kept typing: **"Let's meet by the lamp post in front of the capitol building."**

“Stop, Faux Paw! Never, ever meet anyone in person that you found online.”

But I thought I knew better than silly Cursor. “Sorry, Cursor, got to go. I have a new best friend to meet,” I said.

“Faux Paw, I’m worried! I’d better alert the governor!” he said, as I ran out the door.





When I got to the lamp post, it was a lot darker than I thought it would be. “Where’s Happy Fluffy Kittyface?” I thought.



I can't wait to show her my official pillow by the governor's desk and the candy machines in the basement. I wonder if her ball of yarn is bigger than mine."

... She sure is taking her time."



Then, a voice came from behind me. It wasn't a happy, fluffy voice.



It was a low, terrible growl. “Hullo, Faux Paw, I’m Happy Fluffy . . .



“ . . . Kittyface!”





I ran as fast as my four legs and twenty-two toes would carry me, but it wasn't fast enough!

“Where can I hide? Somebody, help! Cursor!” I screamed.



Just when I thought I was doomed, the governor's car screeched around the corner. He threw open the door and yelled, "Hurry, Faux Paw!" I jumped straight into the arms of the governor, someone I knew I could trust.

“Wow, am I glad to see you!” I said. “Kittyface almost ate me alive.”

“You were lucky tonight, Faux Paw,” said the governor. “You’ve got a good friend in Cursor.”





Well, that's it, my big mistake, but I'm much wiser now. I stick with my real-world friends.

I have to get back to the office, now. My ball of yarn is waiting for me, and the governor might need my help. G2G.  
(For all of us tech people, that's "got-to-go.")

Bye, bye,  
—Faux Paw the Techno Cat

Howdy kids! I'm your friend, Cursor. Remember, the internet is like a big city with great places to go, but you have to be careful. That's why we have three rules for keeping safe online:

## **KEEP SAFE. KEEP AWAY. KEEP TELLING.®**

**I KEEP SAFE my personal information and my reputation.** I never share my whole name, address, phone number, the name of my school, or personal pictures online.

**I KEEP AWAY from Internet bullies,** hackers, scammers, and people who want to show me bad stuff. I never meet face-to-face with someone I only know online.

**I KEEP TELLING my parents or a trusted adult about everything I experience on computers, cell phones, iPads and games.** I especially tell them when something makes me feel uncomfortable.

If you want to read more about  
Faux Paw the Techno Cat, check out my website:

**[www.iKeepSafe.org](http://www.iKeepSafe.org)**





# iKeepSafe

**Brought to you by...**



# Wait 'til you hear what almost happened to me!

The Internet is like a big city with great places to go, but you have to be careful! I know. I had a REAL adventure on the Internet, and it wasn't the fun kind. When I tell you what almost happened, you'll see why it's so important to follow the rules for online safety!

Read this book and you'll find out what I'm talking about.  
Keep safe, okay?

G2G (that's "got to go" online - but you knew that!)



## Jacalyn S. Leavitt

Former First Lady of Utah and an elementary school teacher, founded the nonprofit Internet Keep Safe Coalition (iKeepSafe.org) to provide resources for online safety education.

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The Internet Keep Safe Coalition is a broad partnership of governors, first spouses, attorneys general, law enforcement, education, medical, and health organizations dedicated to keeping children safe online and providing resources to parents and educators that will ensure the safe and healthy use of technology and the Internet.

Find video tutorials and educator resources at

[www.iKeepSafe.org](http://www.iKeepSafe.org)