FRANKEN 9 SPINS-OFF AN ALL-NEW SERIES...

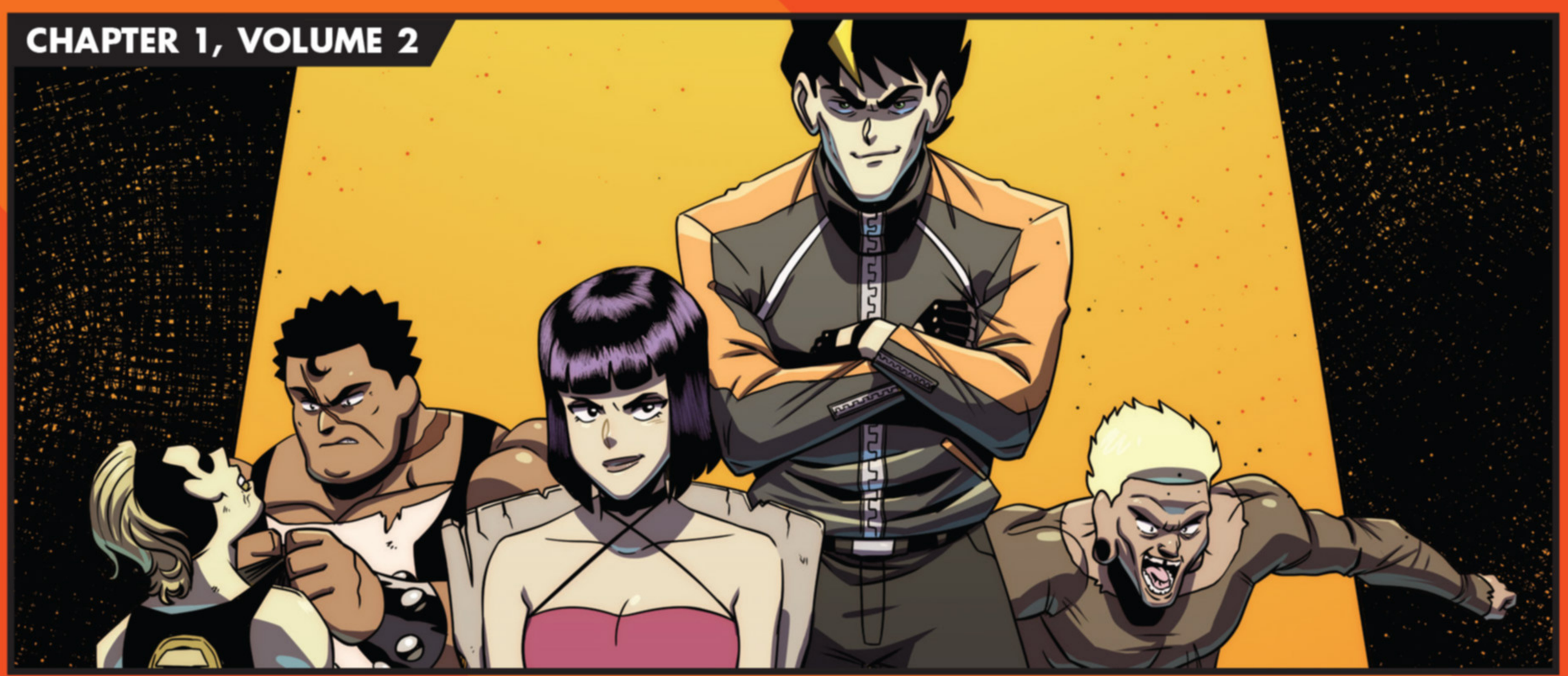
ROGUE STATE®

VOLUME 2: CHAPTER 1

FRANKEN 9® SPINS-OFF AN ALL-NEW SERIES...

ROGUE STATE®

CHAPTER 1, VOLUME 2



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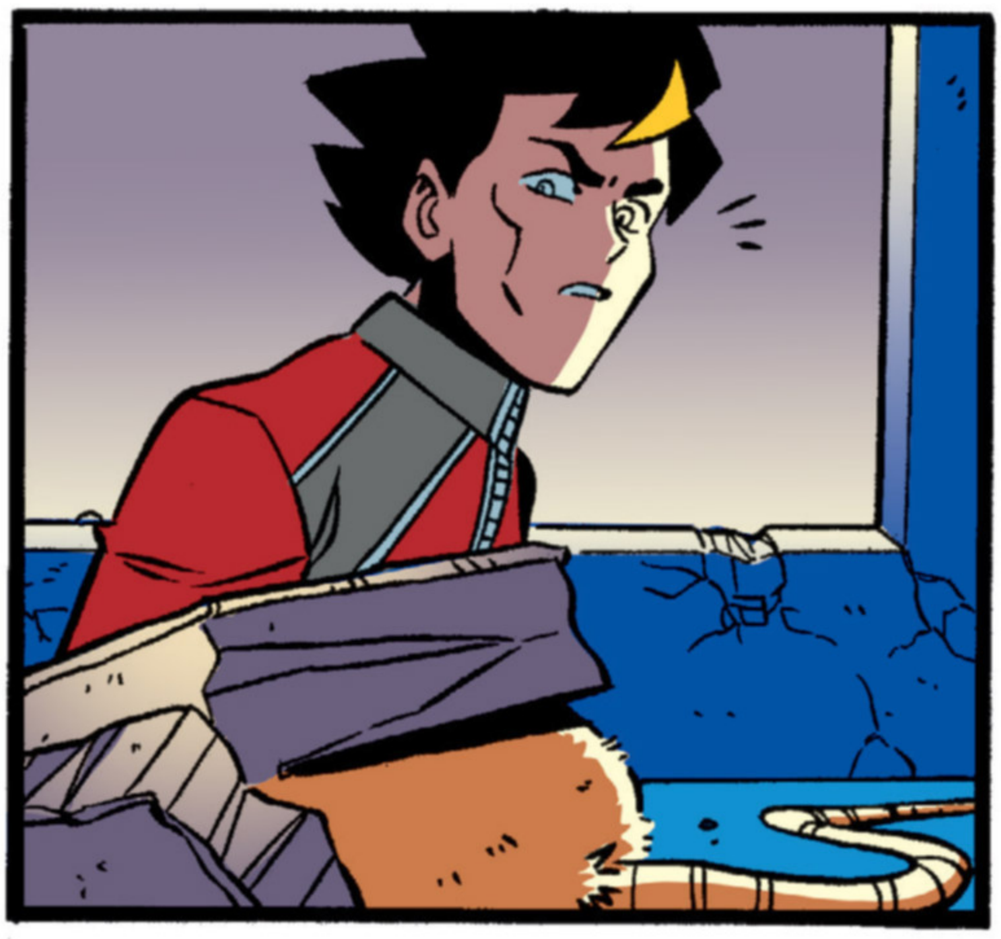
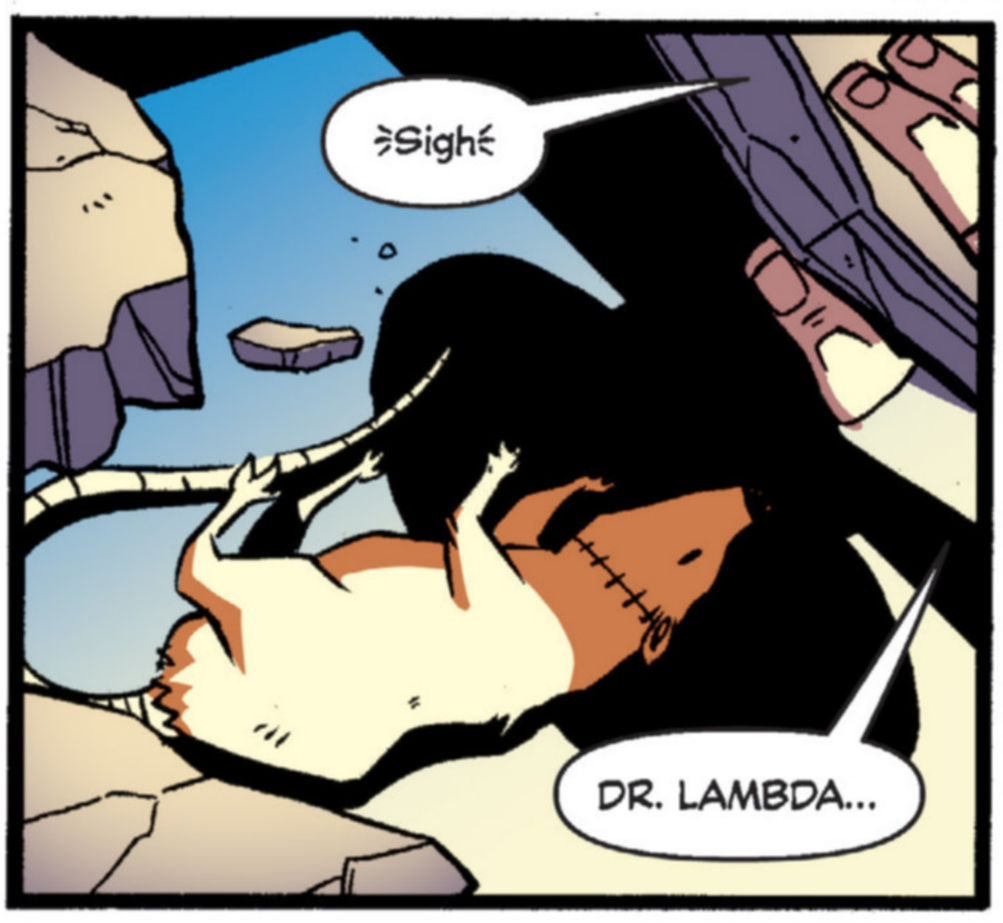
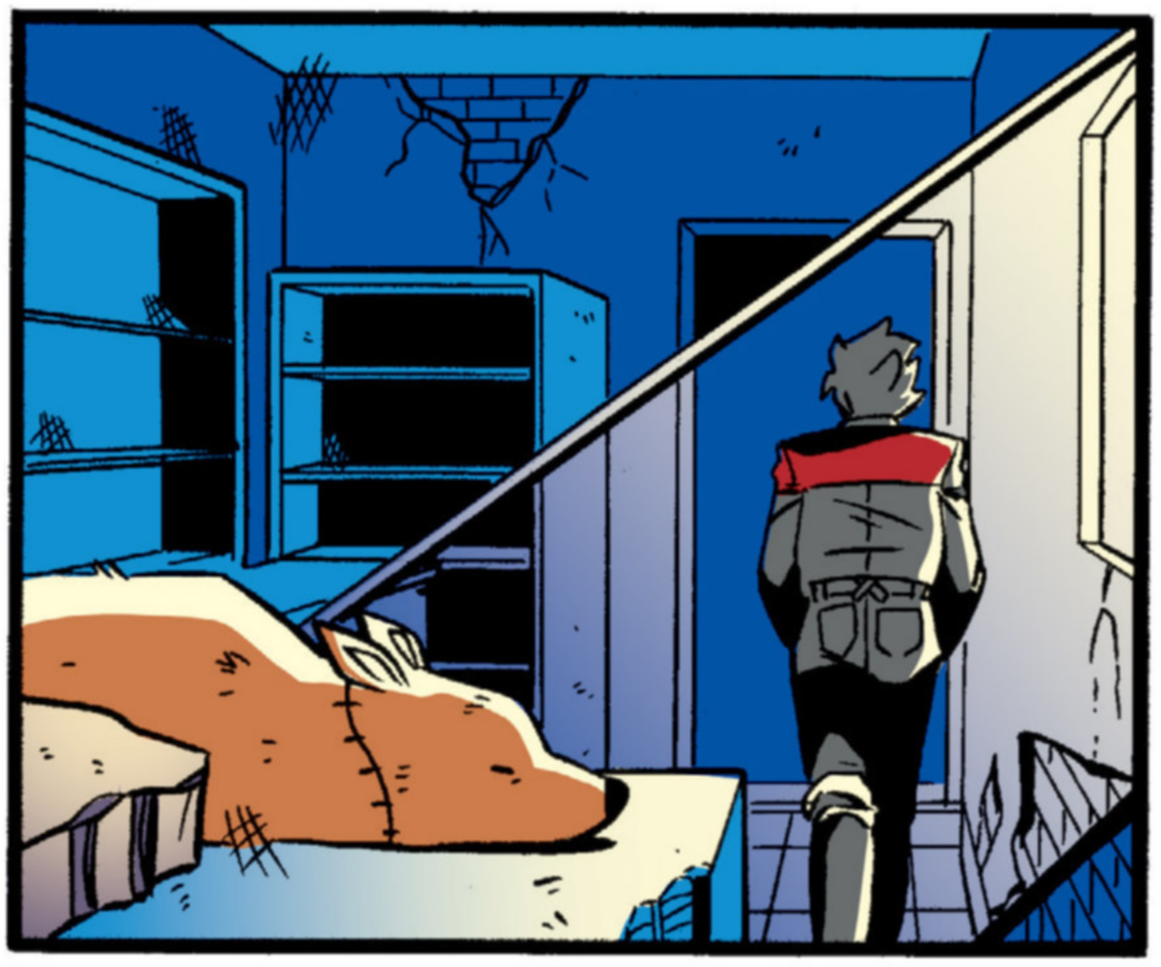
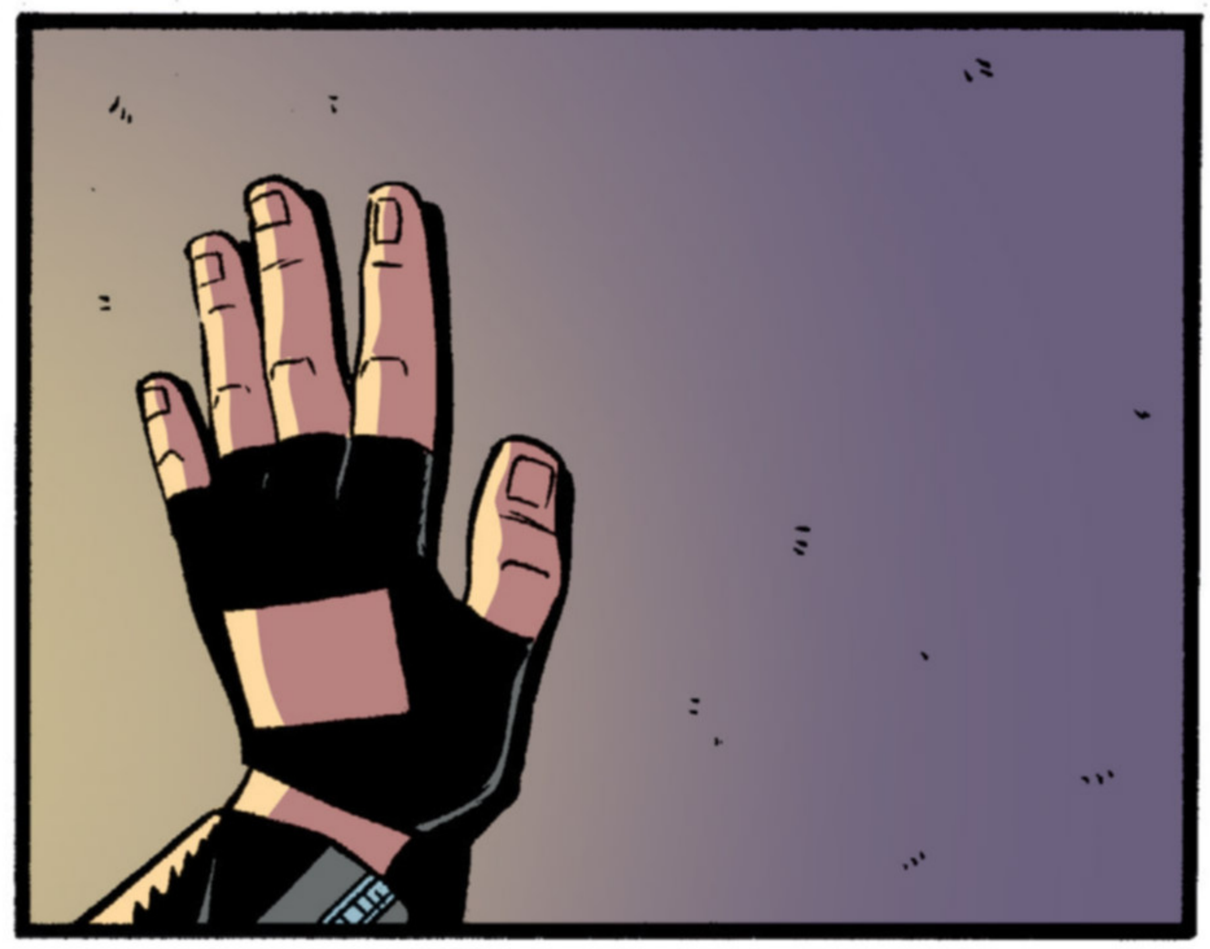
AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
FIVE YEARS AGO.
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS




Sigh
DR. LAMBDA...

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING TOO SMALL FOR YOU TO CORRUPT, WAS THERE?





BEEP
SCAN VERIFIED. EXECUTE VOICE COMMAND.

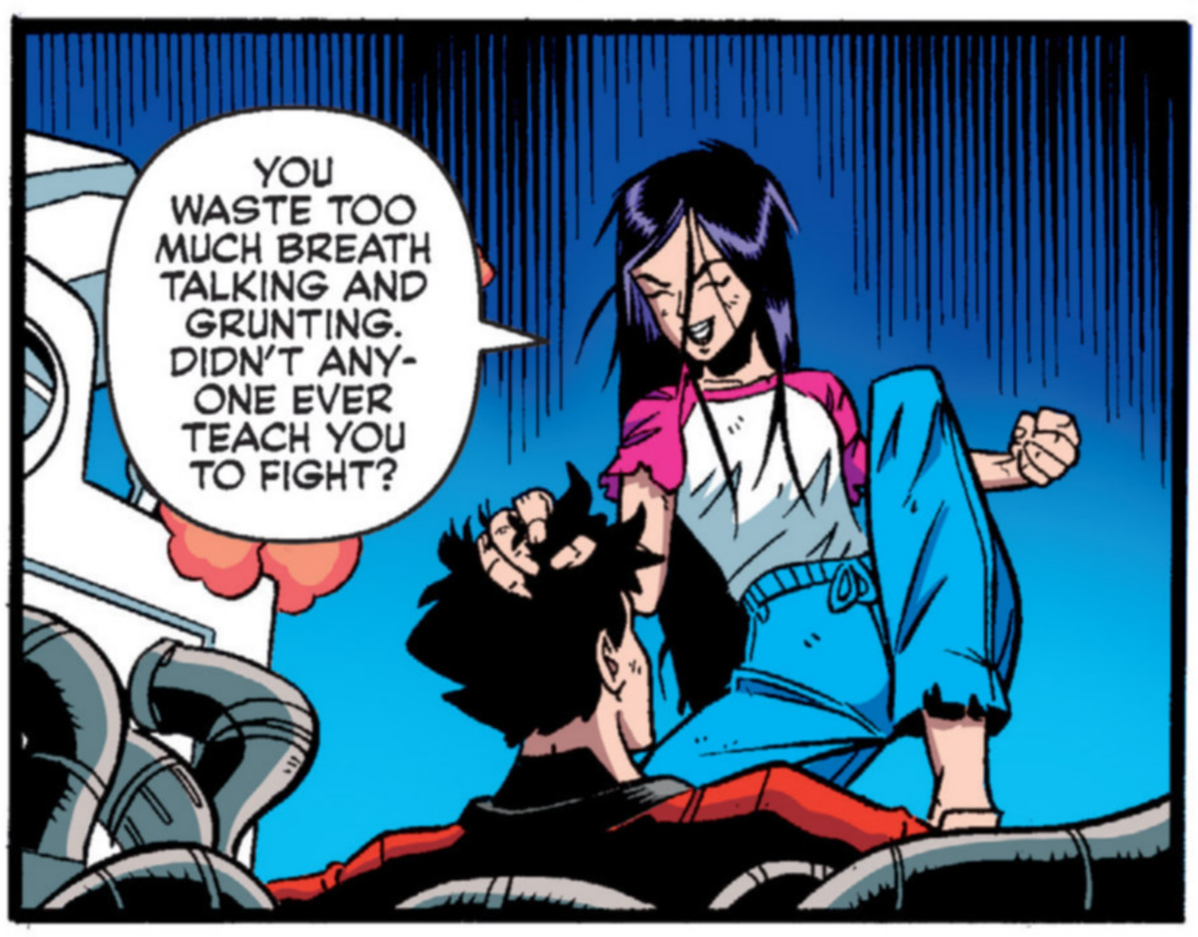
"MAN'S NEXT EVOLUTION."
BEEP
VOICE COMMAND CONFIRMED.

THE HIDDEN LAIR OF DR. LAMBDA.
THE FEDS ARE PROBABLY PATTING THEMSELVES ON THE BACK THAT THEY GOT ALL HIS DIABOLICAL INVENTIONS AND NOTES FROM UPSTAIRS...
...ONLY THE BEST... AND THAT MEANS ME!
WHAT TH--?!
...BUT THE DOCTOR KEPT HIS BEST SECRETS HIDDEN DOWN HERE...
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, BUTT-WIPE...

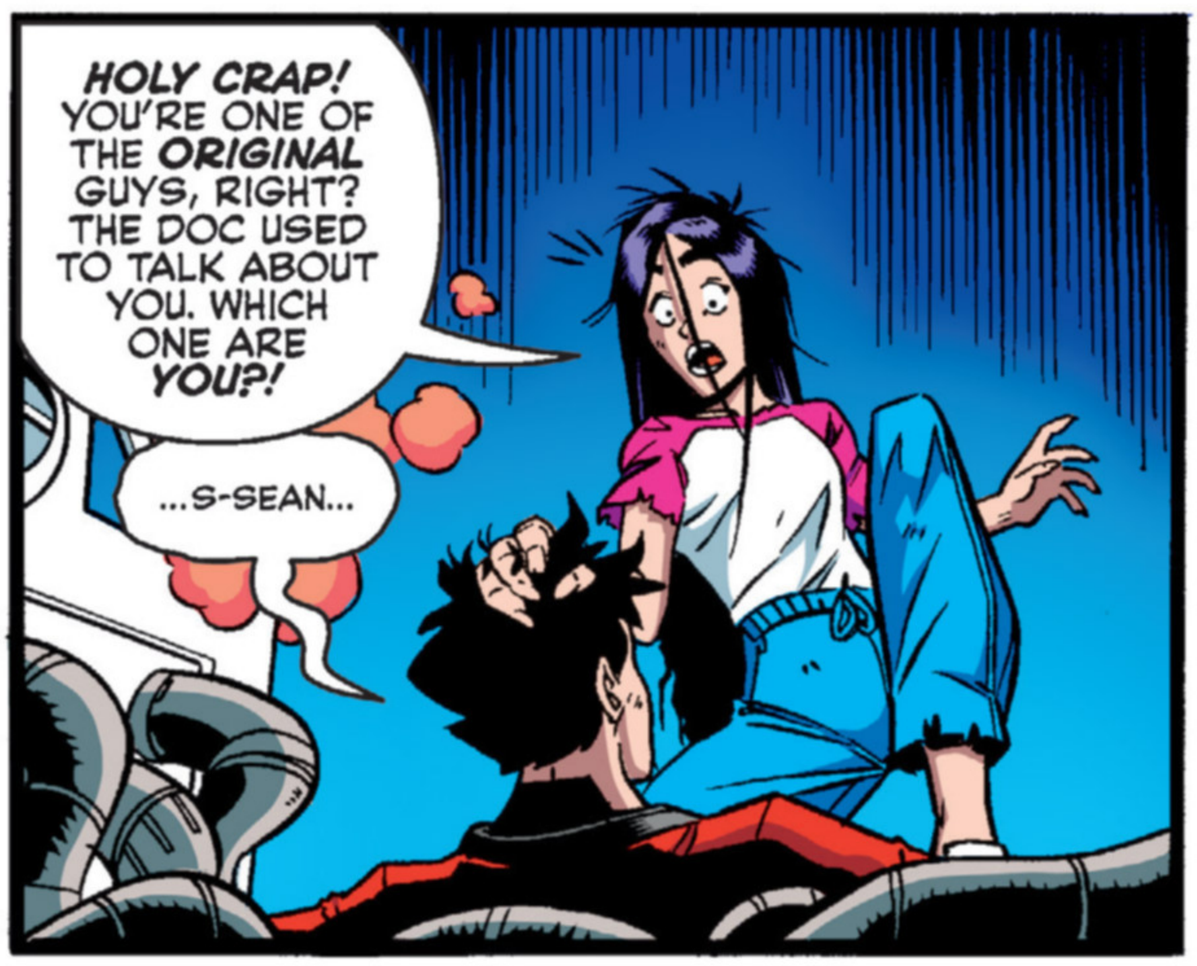
Uhnnn!
THWAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
OOF!
AHH!!
KRAK
HEY!

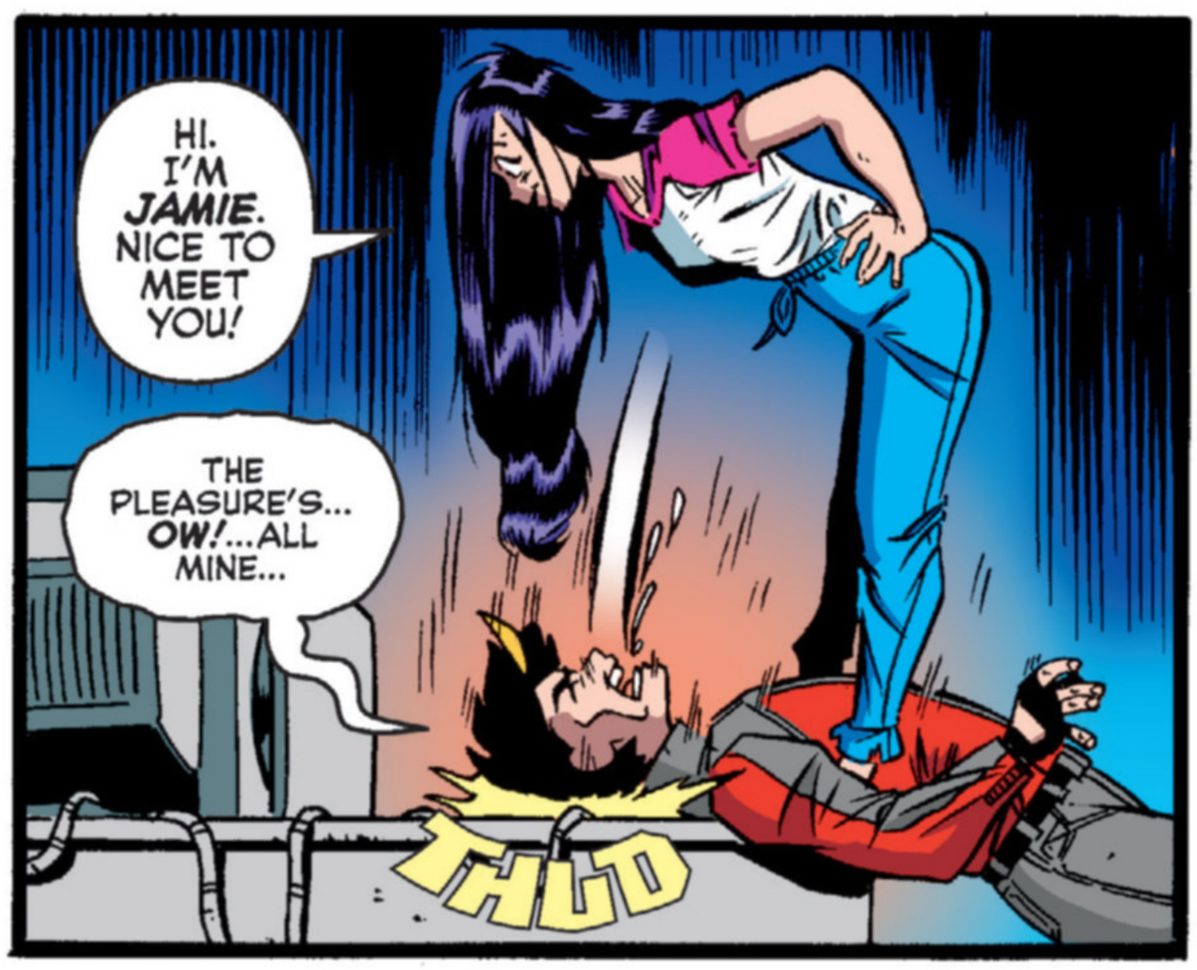
KRASH

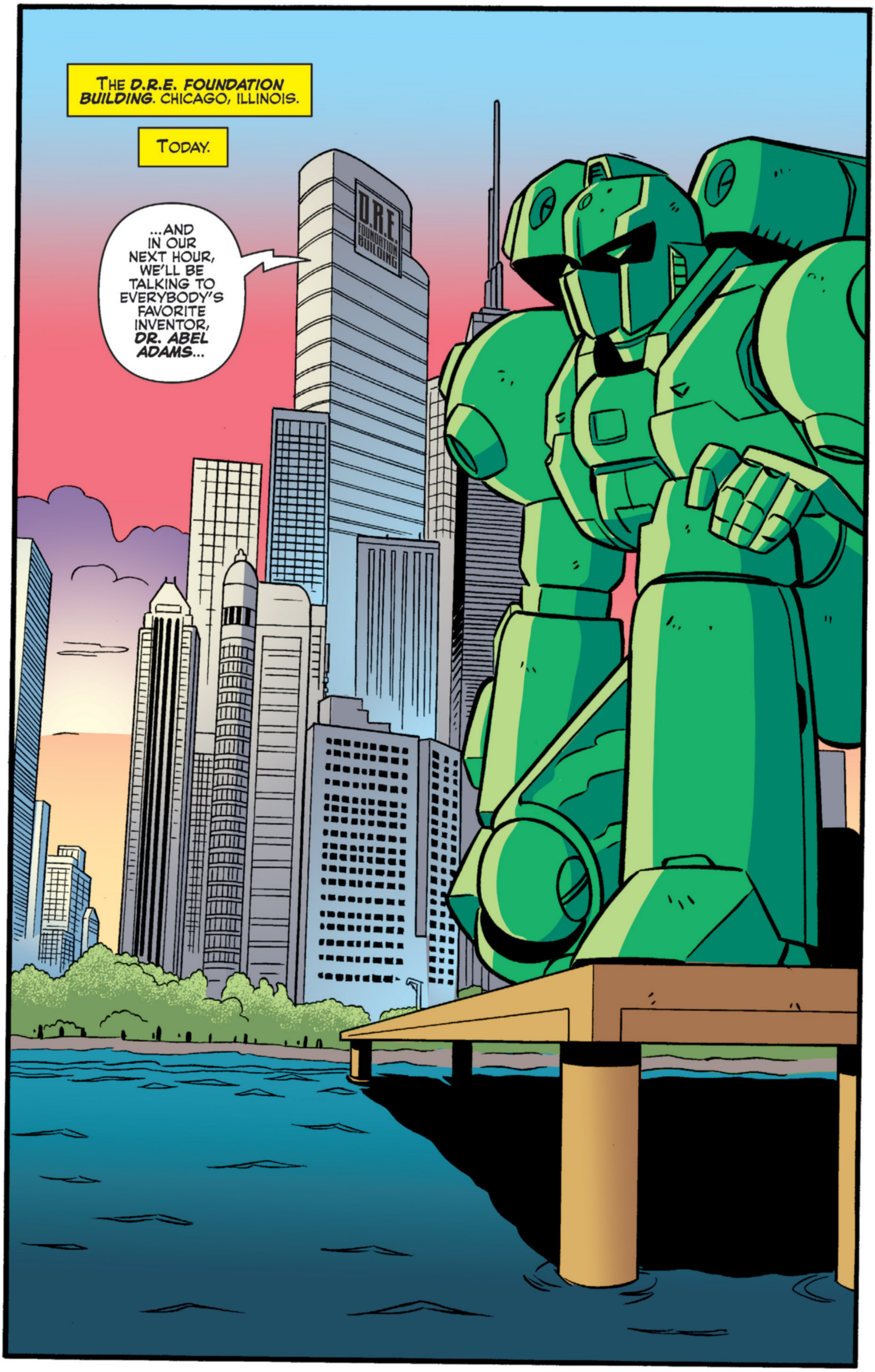
THUNK


YOU WASTE TOO MUCH BREATH TALKING AND GRUNTING. DIDN'T ANY-ONE EVER TEACH YOU TO FIGHT?

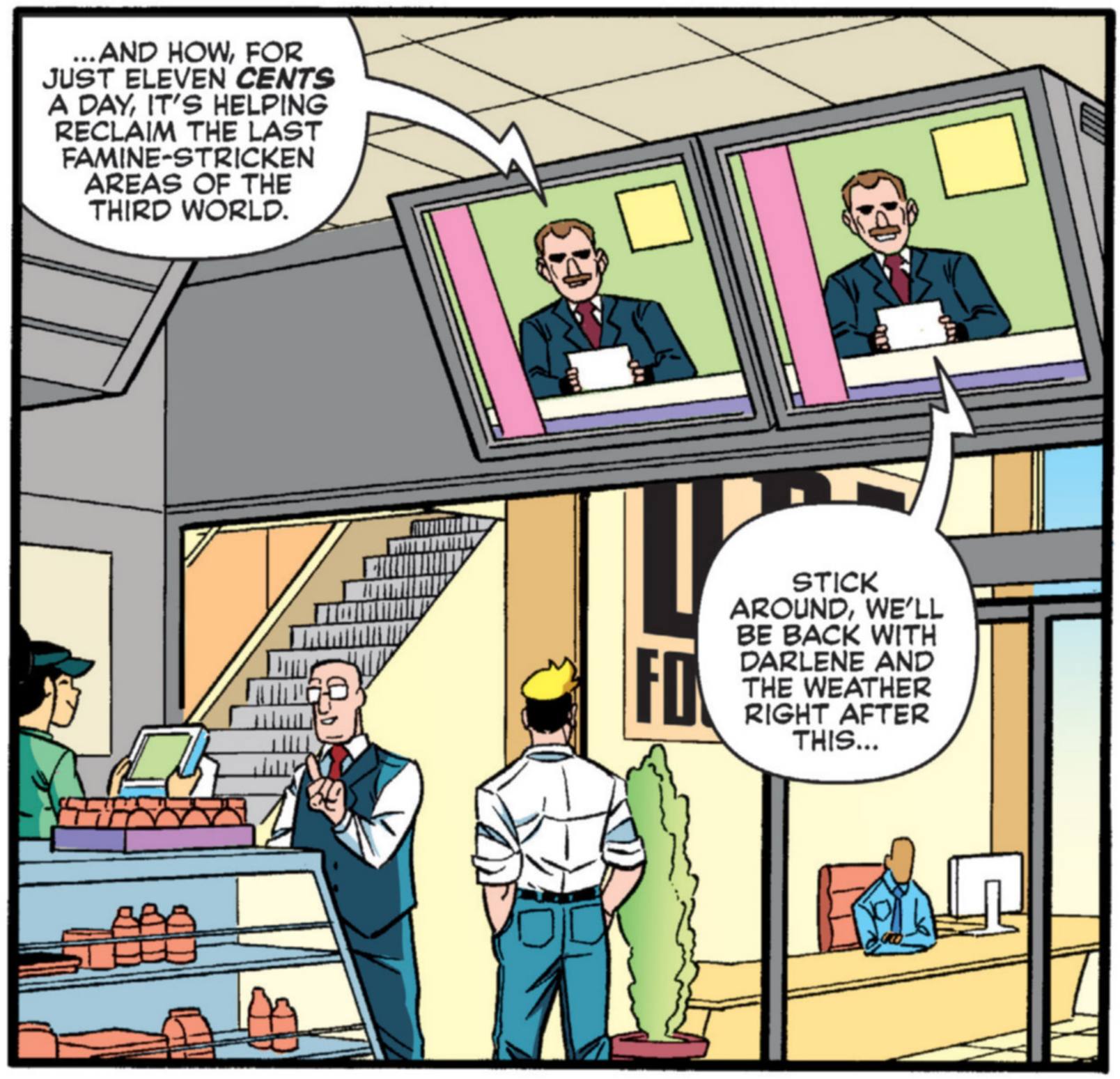
NEVER MIND. IT SURE AS HELL DOESN'T MATTER NOW...!
LA... LAMBDA... TRAINED US...

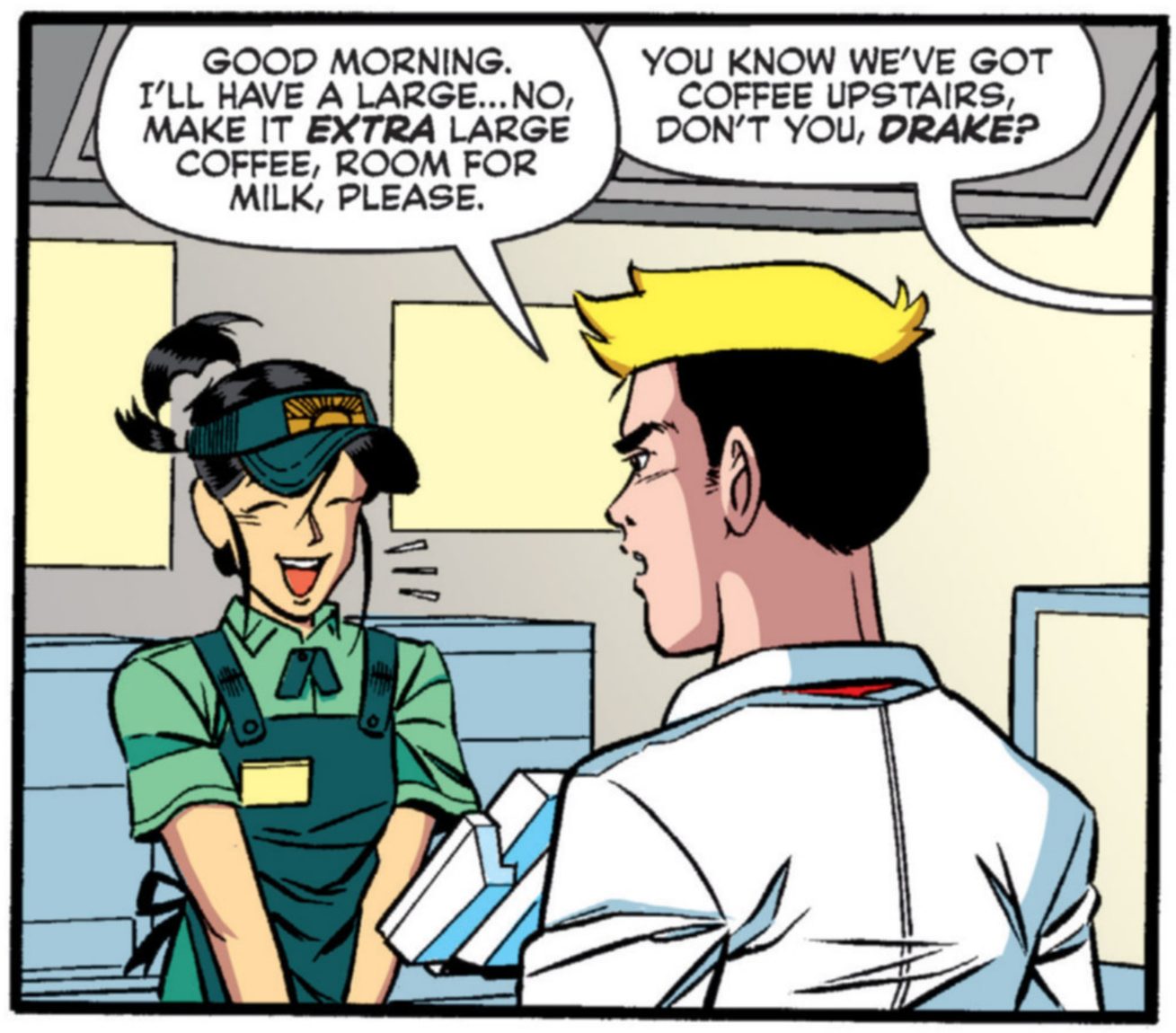

HOLY CRAP! YOU'RE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GUYS, RIGHT? THE DOC USED TO TALK ABOUT YOU. WHICH ONE ARE YOU?!
...S-SEAN...

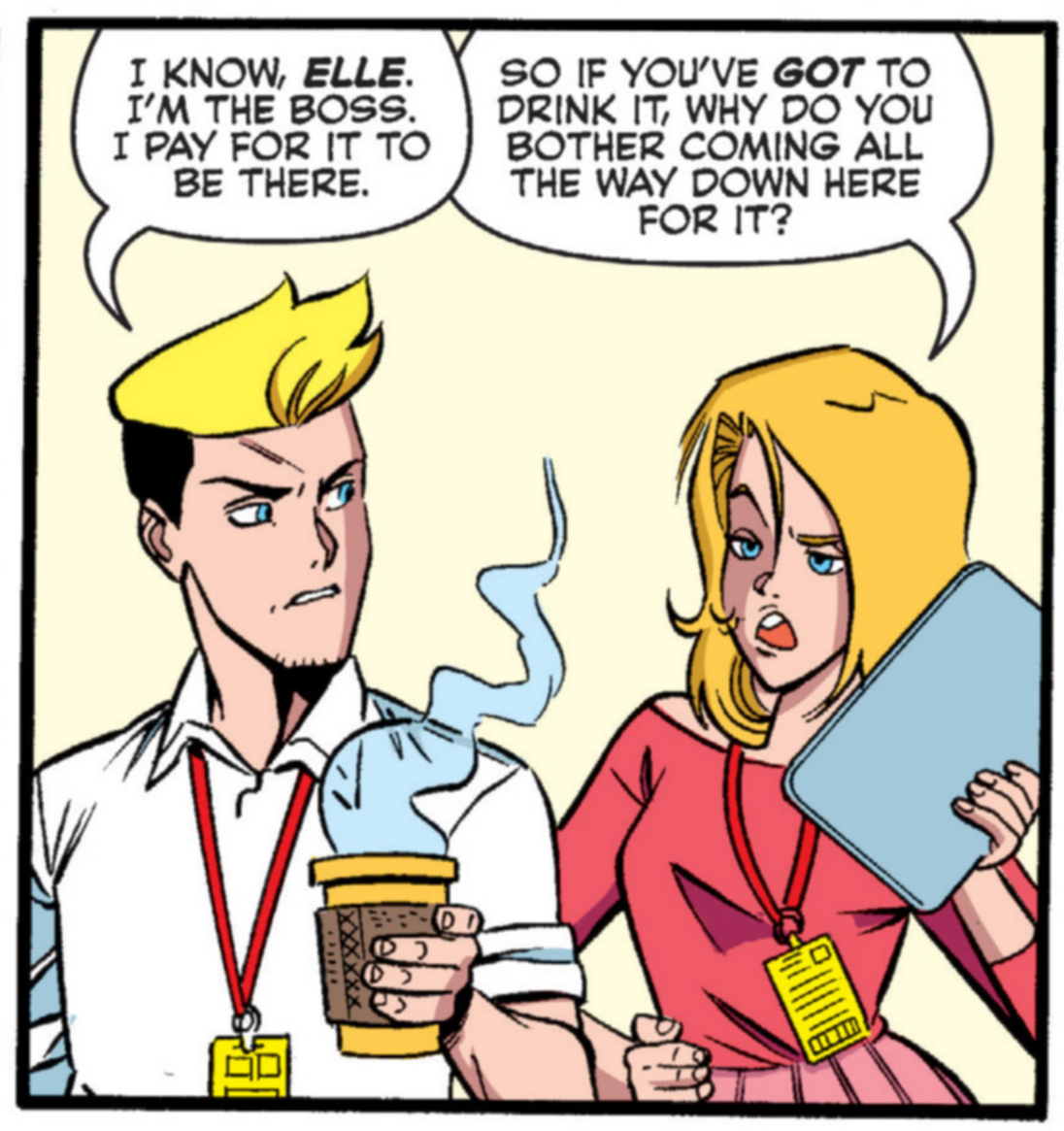

HI. I'M JAMIE. NICE TO MEET YOU!
THE PLEASURE'S... OW!...ALL MINE...
THUD

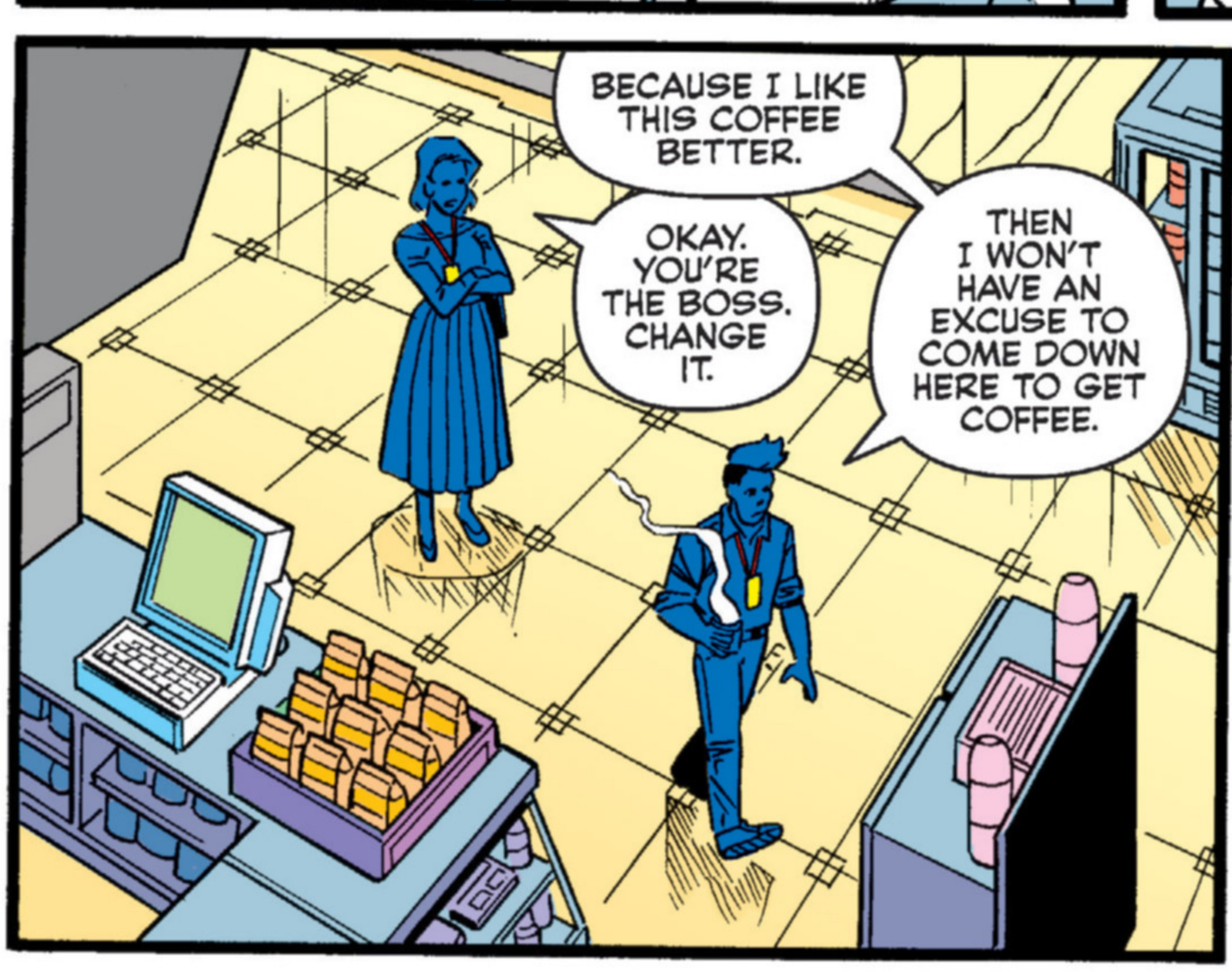

THE D.R.E. FOUNDATION BUILDING. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
TODAY.
...AND IN OUR NEXT HOUR, WE'LL BE TALKING TO EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE INVENTOR, DR. ABEL ADAMS...
D.R.E. FOUNDATION BUILDING

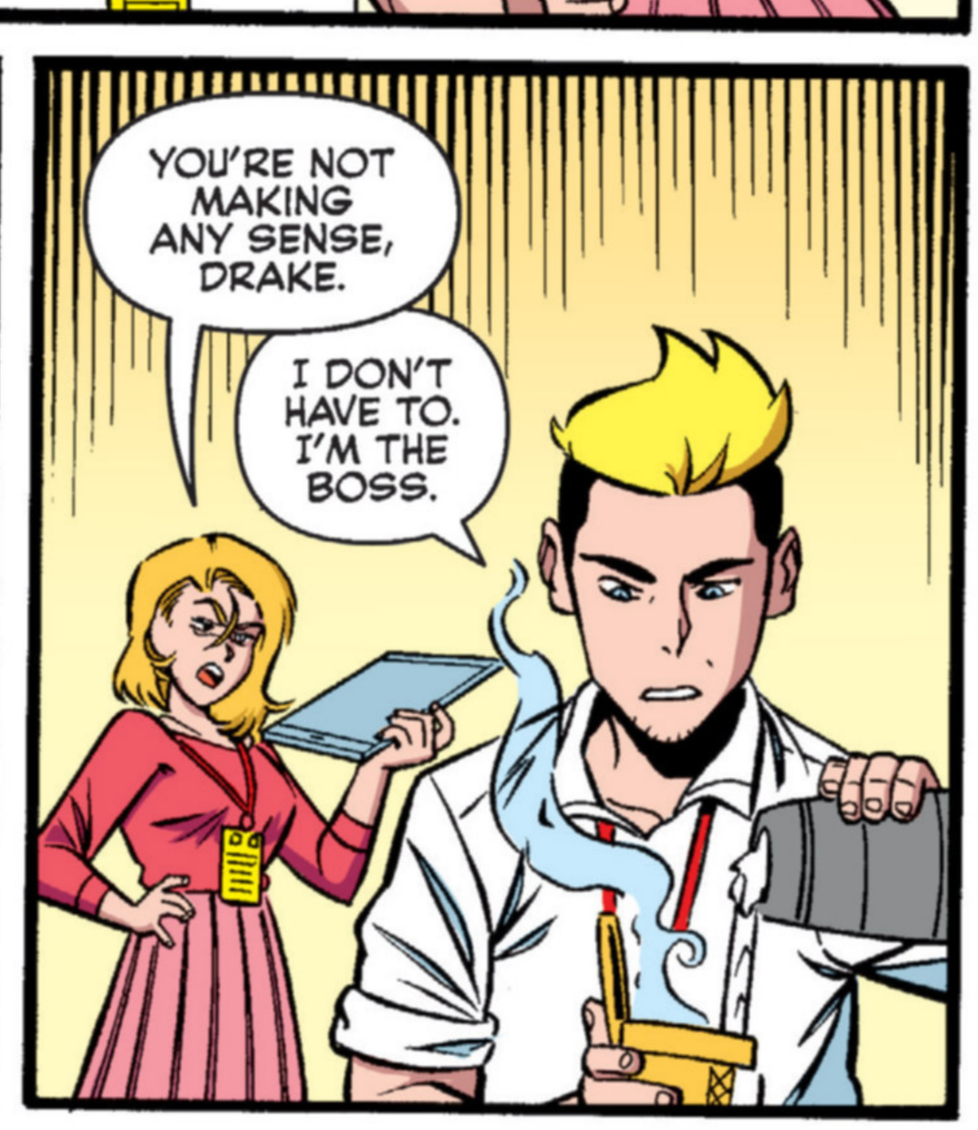
...WHO'S DROPPED BY THIS MORNING TO FILL US IN ON THE LATEST APPLICATIONS OF HIS MATTER CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY...
D.R.E. FOUNDATION BUILDING

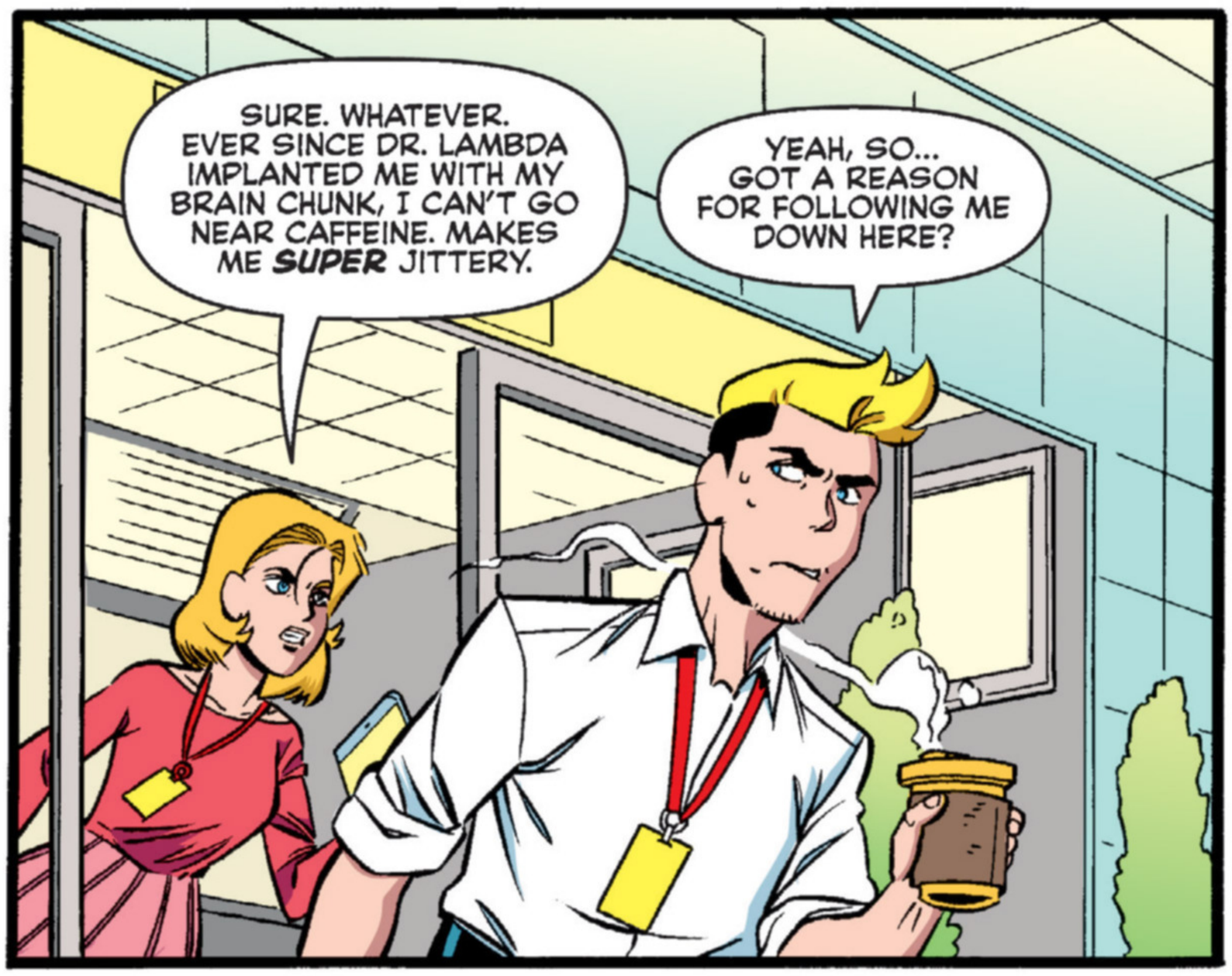

...AND HOW, FOR JUST ELEVEN CENTS A DAY, IT'S HELPING RECLAIM THE LAST FAMINE-STRICKEN AREAS OF THE THIRD WORLD.
STICK AROUND, WE'LL BE BACK WITH DARLENE AND THE WEATHER RIGHT AFTER THIS...

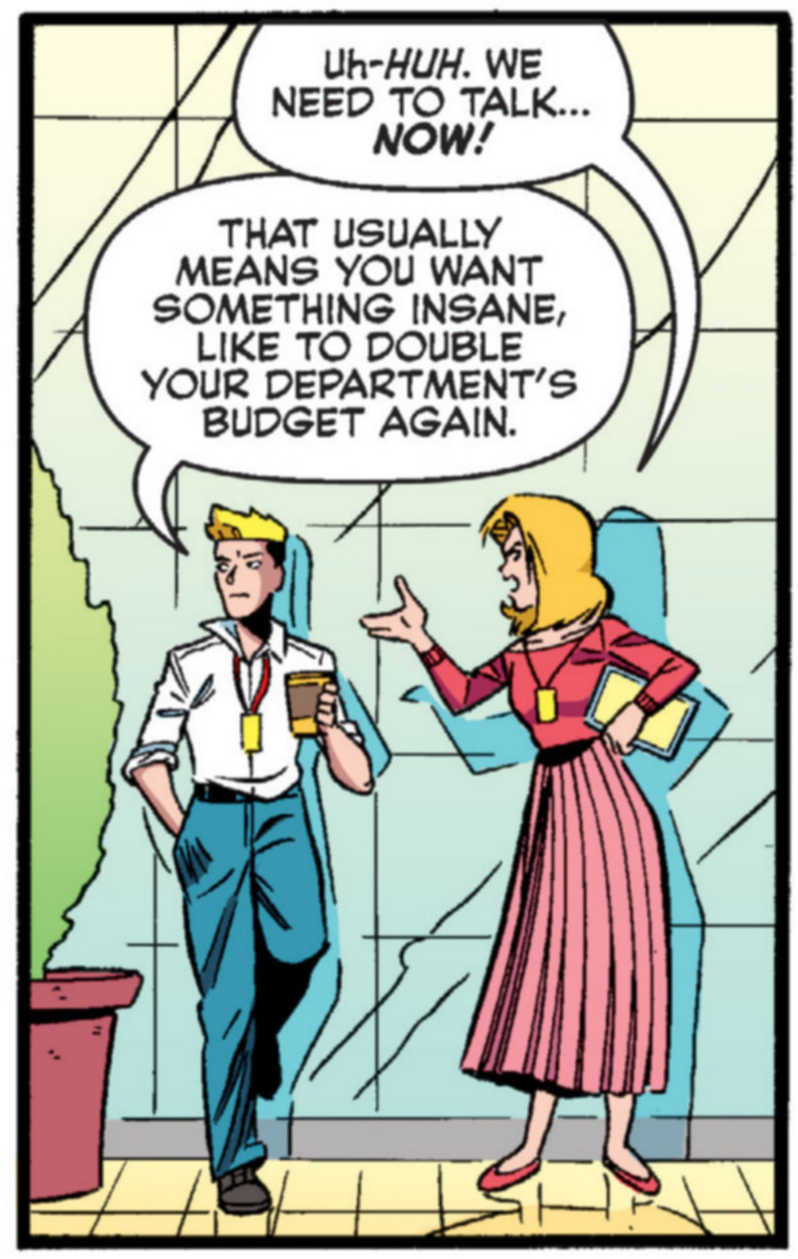

GOOD MORNING. I'LL HAVE A LARGE...NO, MAKE IT EXTRA LARGE COFFEE, ROOM FOR MILK, PLEASE.
YOU KNOW WE'VE GOT COFFEE UPSTAIRS, DON'T YOU, DRAKE?

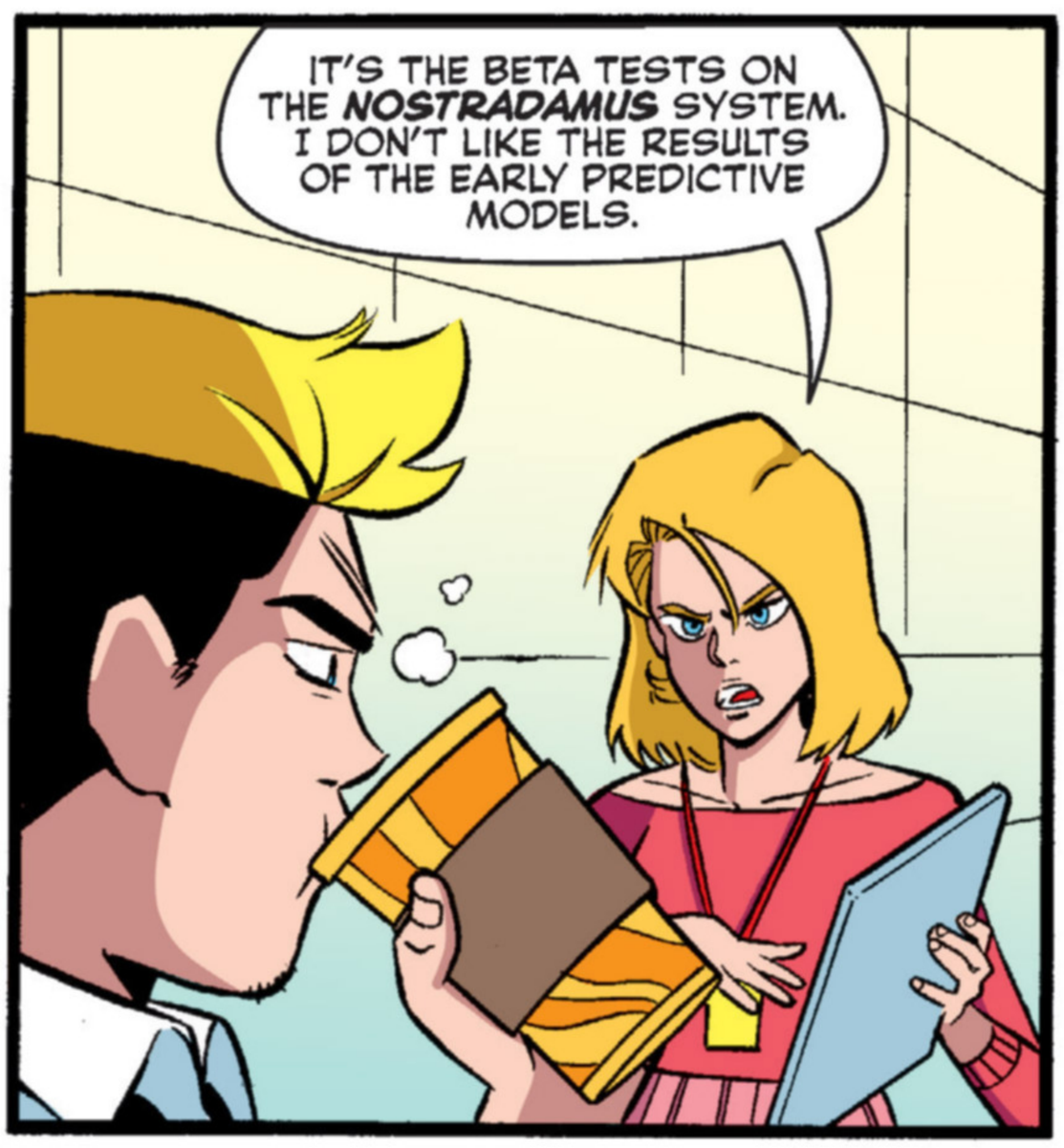

I KNOW, ELLE. I'M THE BOSS. I PAY FOR IT TO BE THERE.
SO IF YOU'VE GOT TO DRINK IT, WHY DO YOU BOTHER COMING ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE FOR IT?

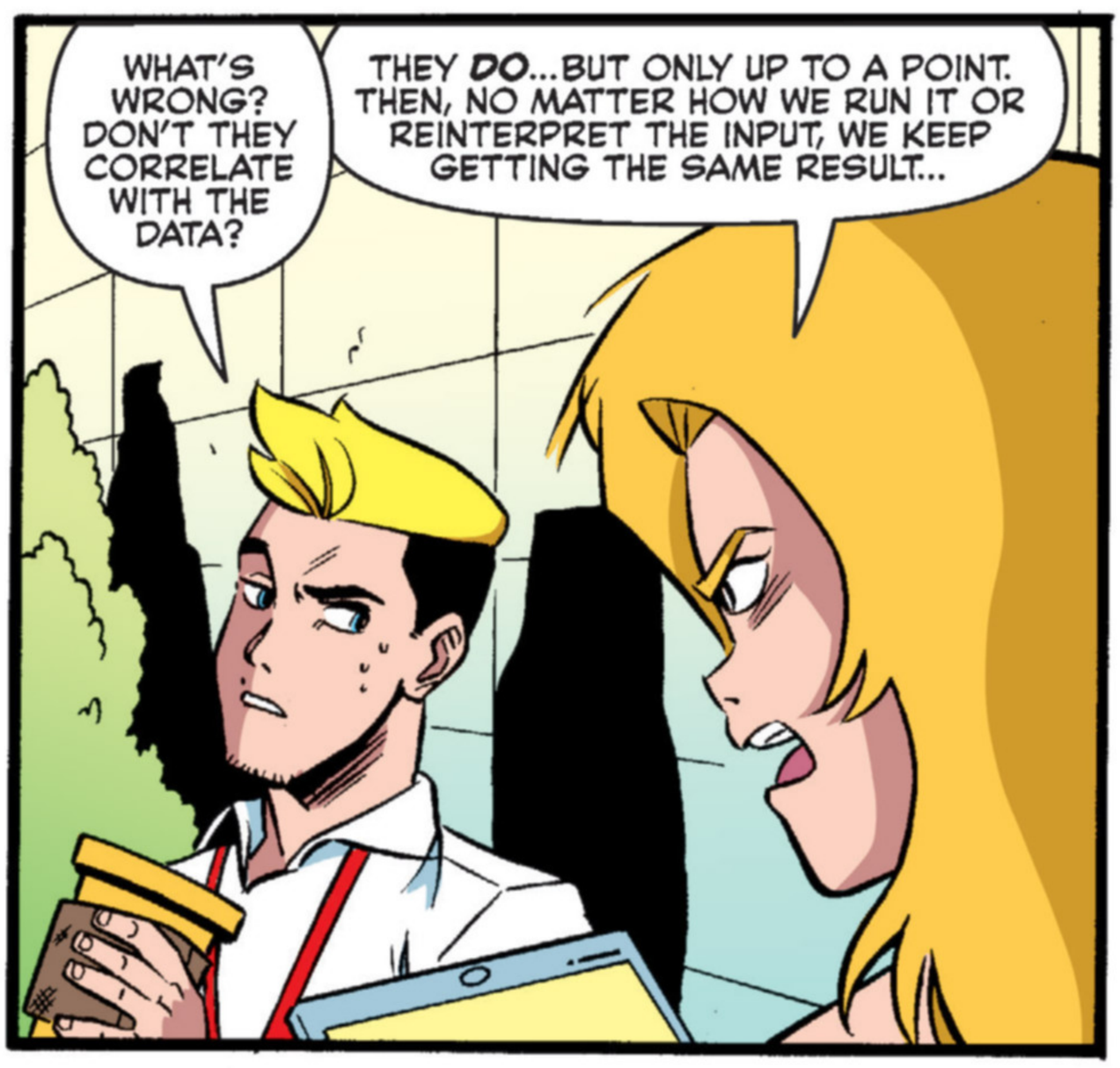

BECAUSE I LIKE THIS COFFEE BETTER.
OKAY. YOU'RE THE BOSS. CHANGE IT.
THEN I WON'T HAVE AN EXCUSE TO COME DOWN HERE TO GET COFFEE.

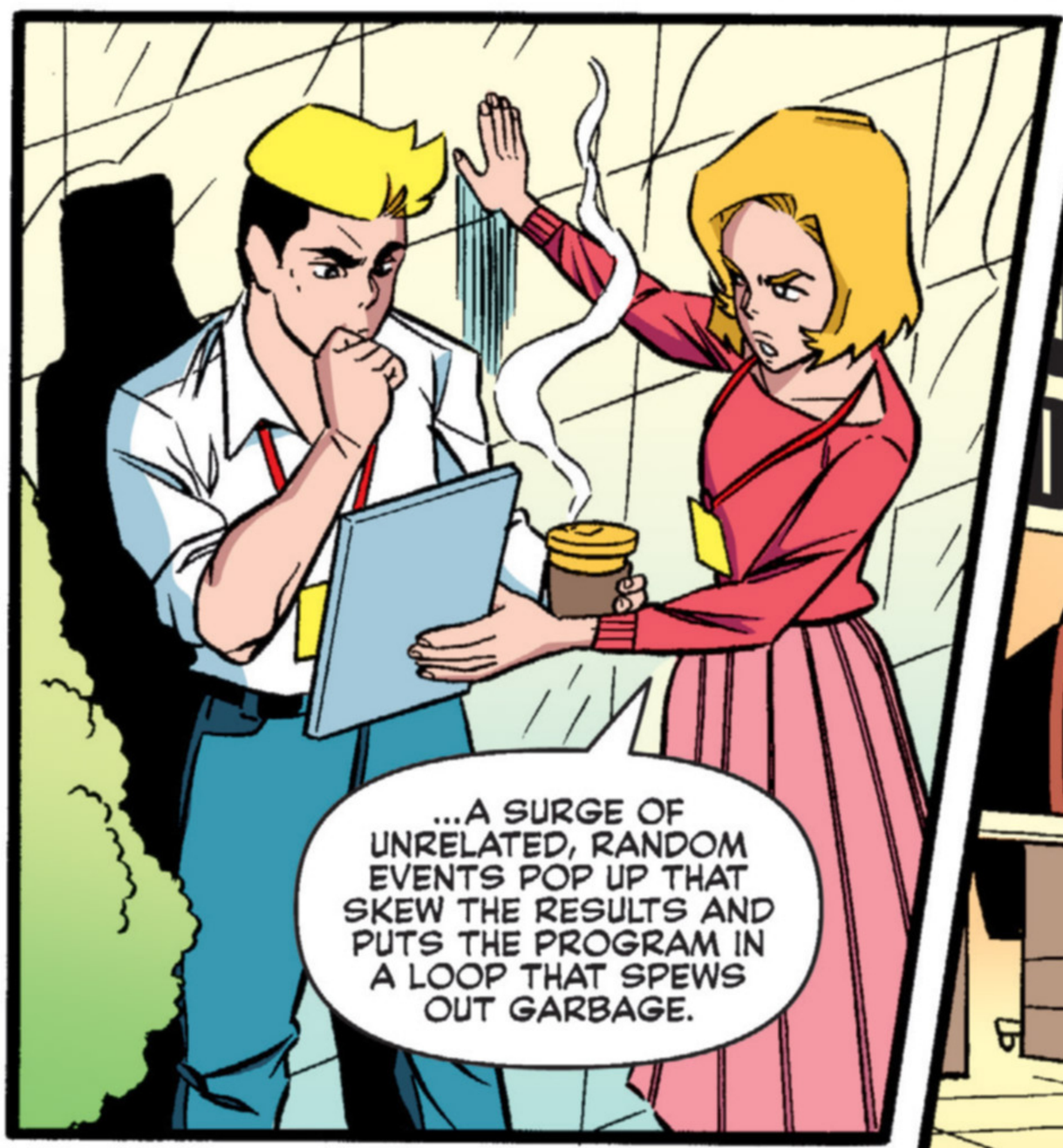

YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, DRAKE.
I DON'T HAVE TO. I'M THE BOSS.

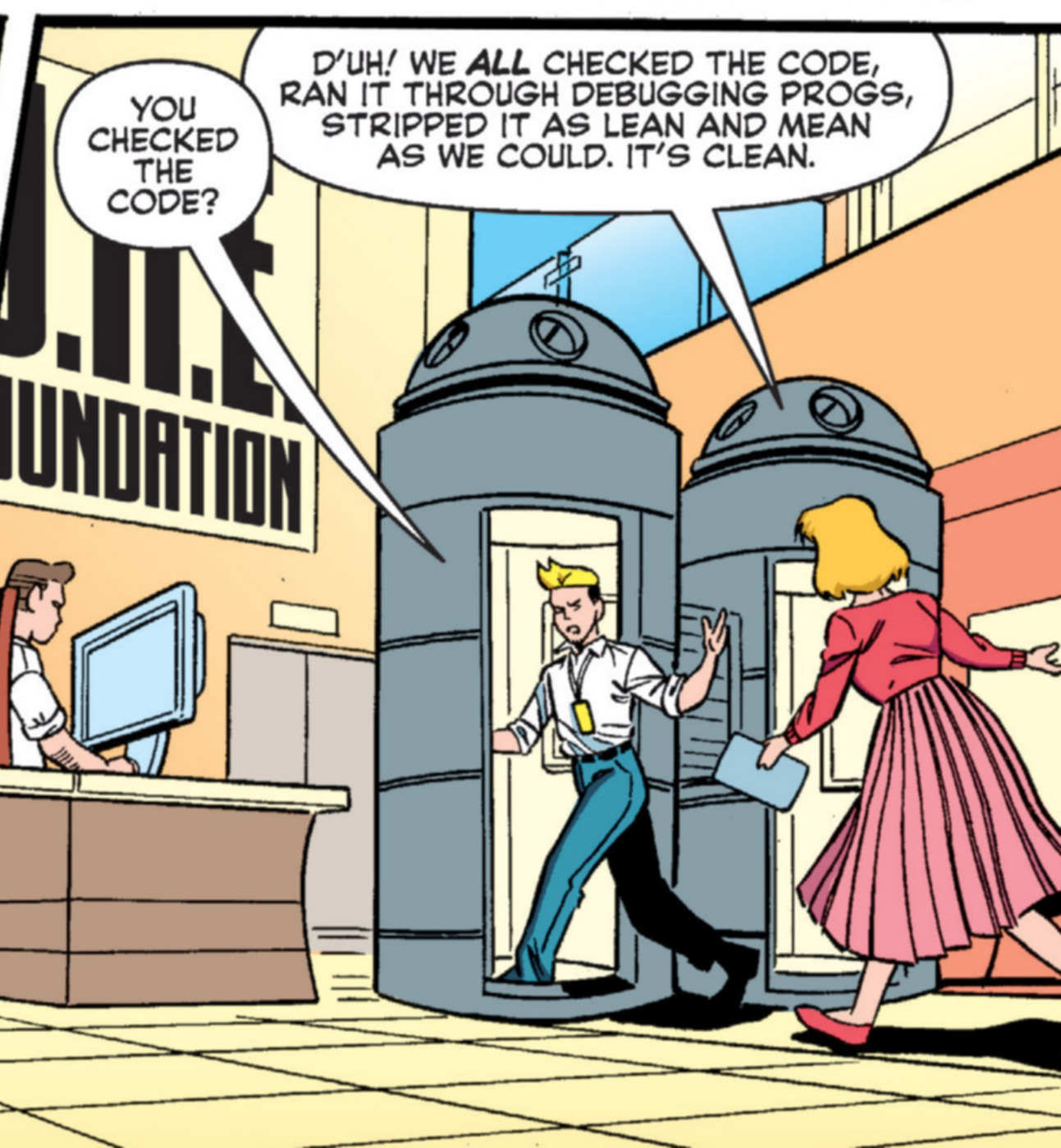

SURE. WHATEVER. EVER SINCE DR. LAMBDA IMPLANTED ME WITH MY BRAIN CHUNK, I CAN'T GO NEAR CAFFEINE. MAKES ME SUPER JITTERY.
YEAH, SO... GOT A REASON FOR FOLLOWING ME DOWN HERE?

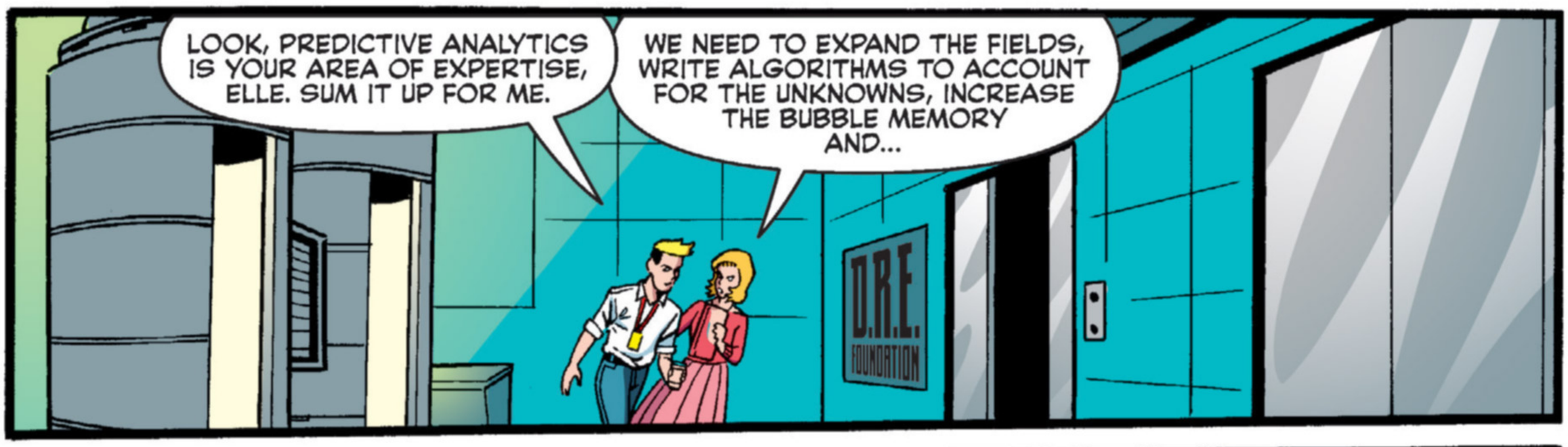

Uh-HUH. WE NEED TO TALK... NOW!
THAT USUALLY MEANS YOU WANT SOMETHING INSANE, LIKE TO DOUBLE YOUR DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET AGAIN.


IT'S THE BETA TESTS ON THE NOSTRADAMUS SYSTEM. I DON'T LIKE THE RESULTS OF THE EARLY PREDICTIVE MODELS.

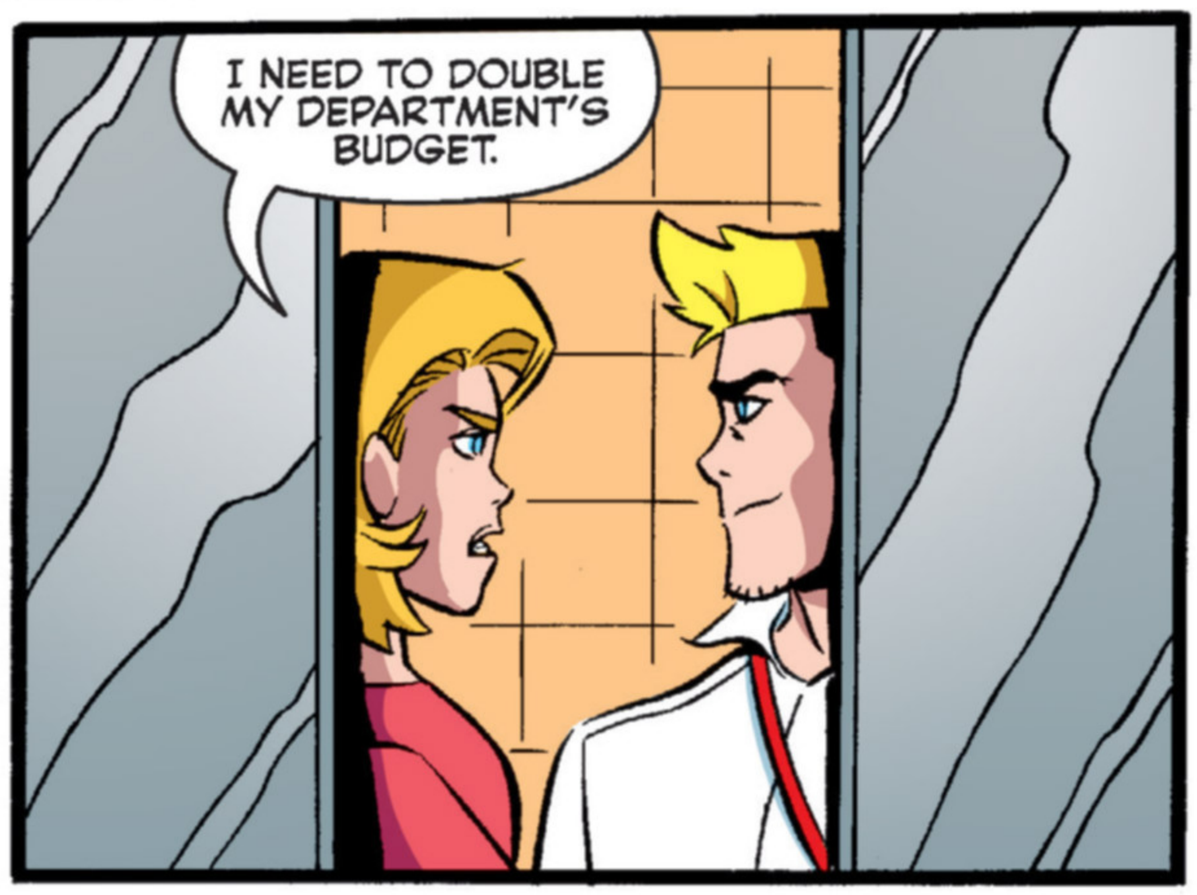

WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T THEY CORRELATE WITH THE DATA?
THEY DO...BUT ONLY UP TO A POINT. THEN, NO MATTER HOW WE RUN IT OR REINTERPRET THE INPUT, WE KEEP GETTING THE SAME RESULT...

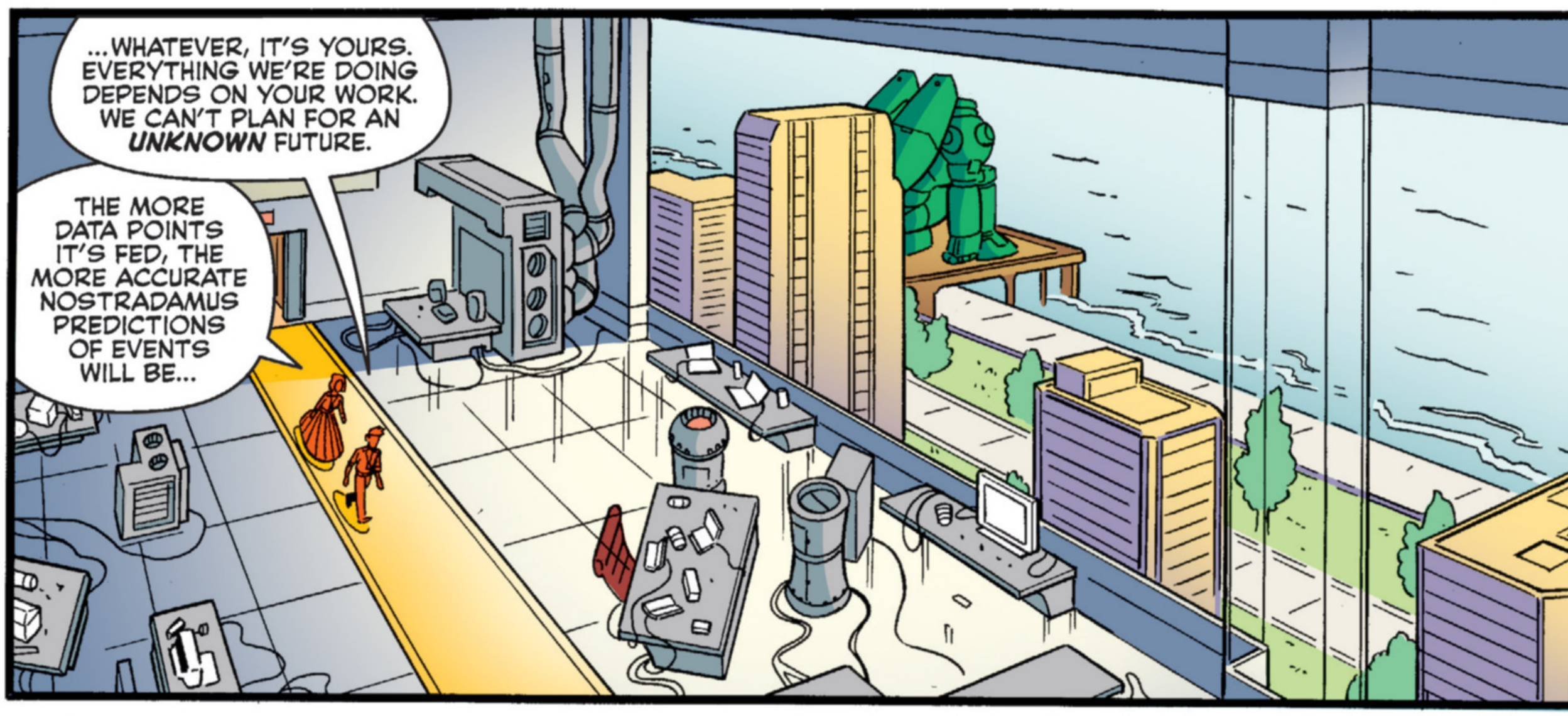

...A SURGE OF UNRELATED, RANDOM EVENTS POP UP THAT SKEW THE RESULTS AND PUTS THE PROGRAM IN A LOOP THAT SPEWS OUT GARBAGE.

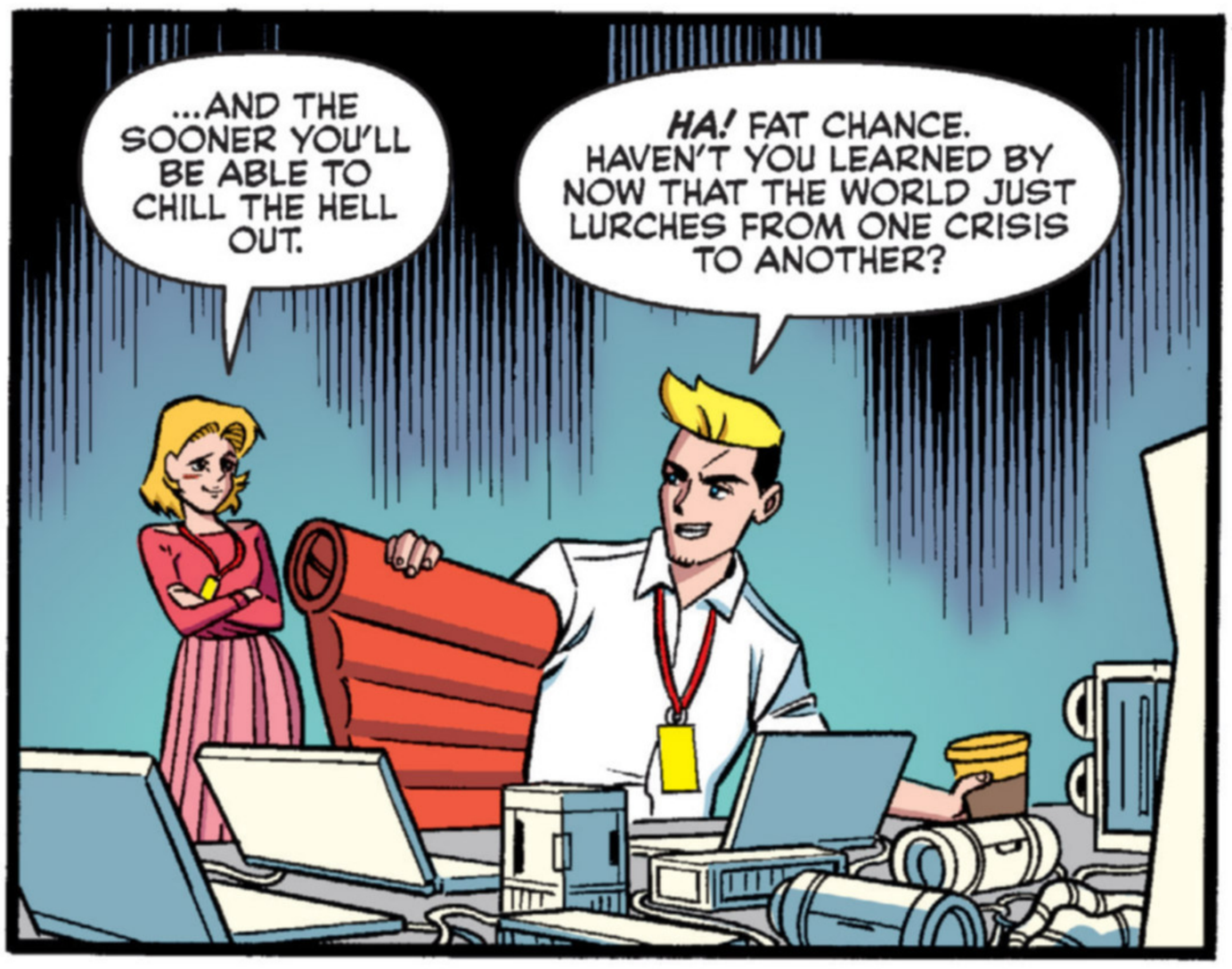

YOU CHECKED THE CODE?
D'UH! WE ALL CHECKED THE CODE, RAN IT THROUGH DEBUGGING PROGS, STRIPPED IT AS LEAN AND MEAN AS WE COULD. IT'S CLEAN.
DUNDATION


LOOK, PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE, ELLE. SUM IT UP FOR ME.
WE NEED TO EXPAND THE FIELDS, WRITE ALGORITHMS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE UNKNOWNS, INCREASE THE BUBBLE MEMORY AND...
D.R.E. FOUNDATION

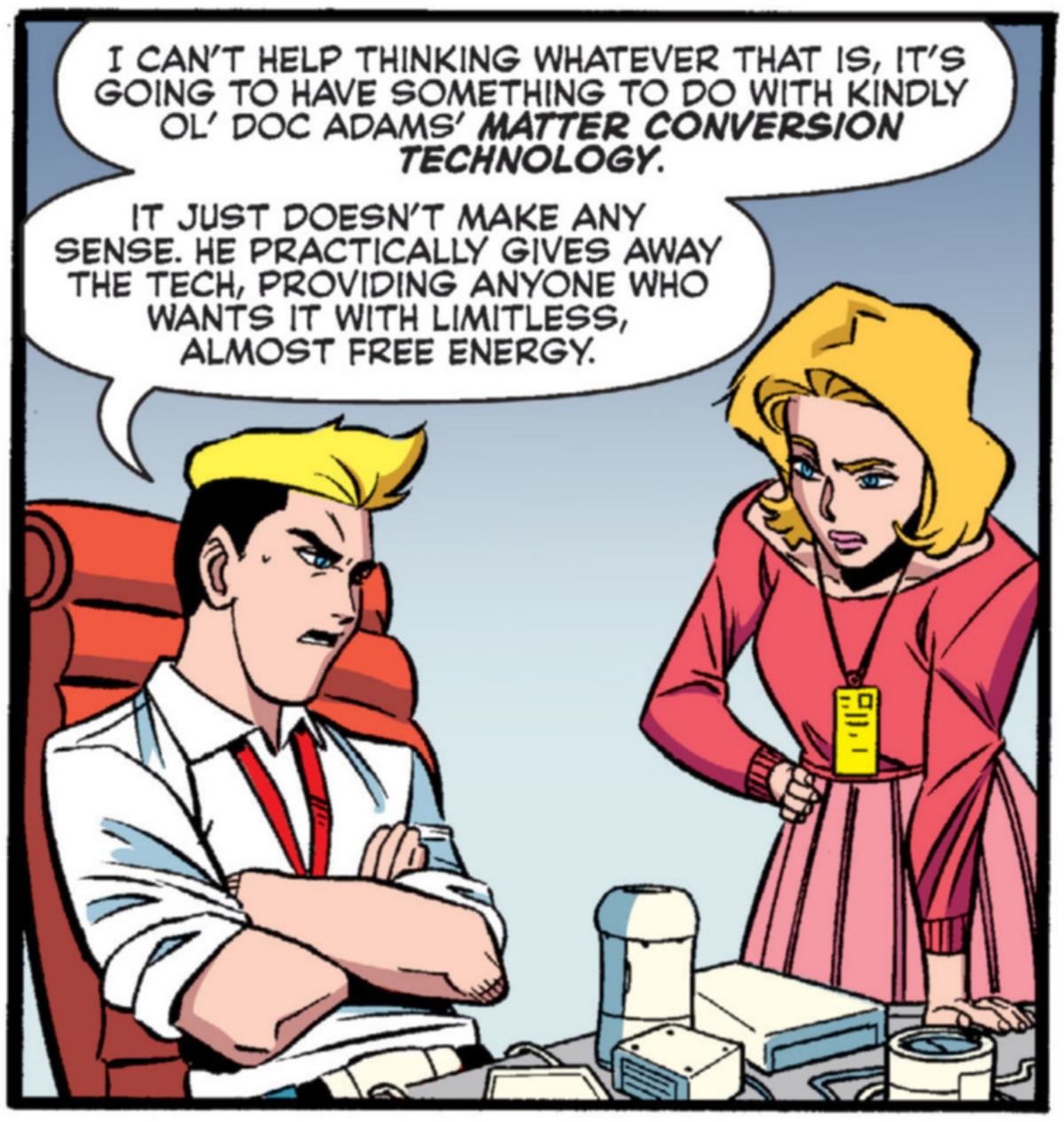
OKAY. IN OTHER WORDS...?

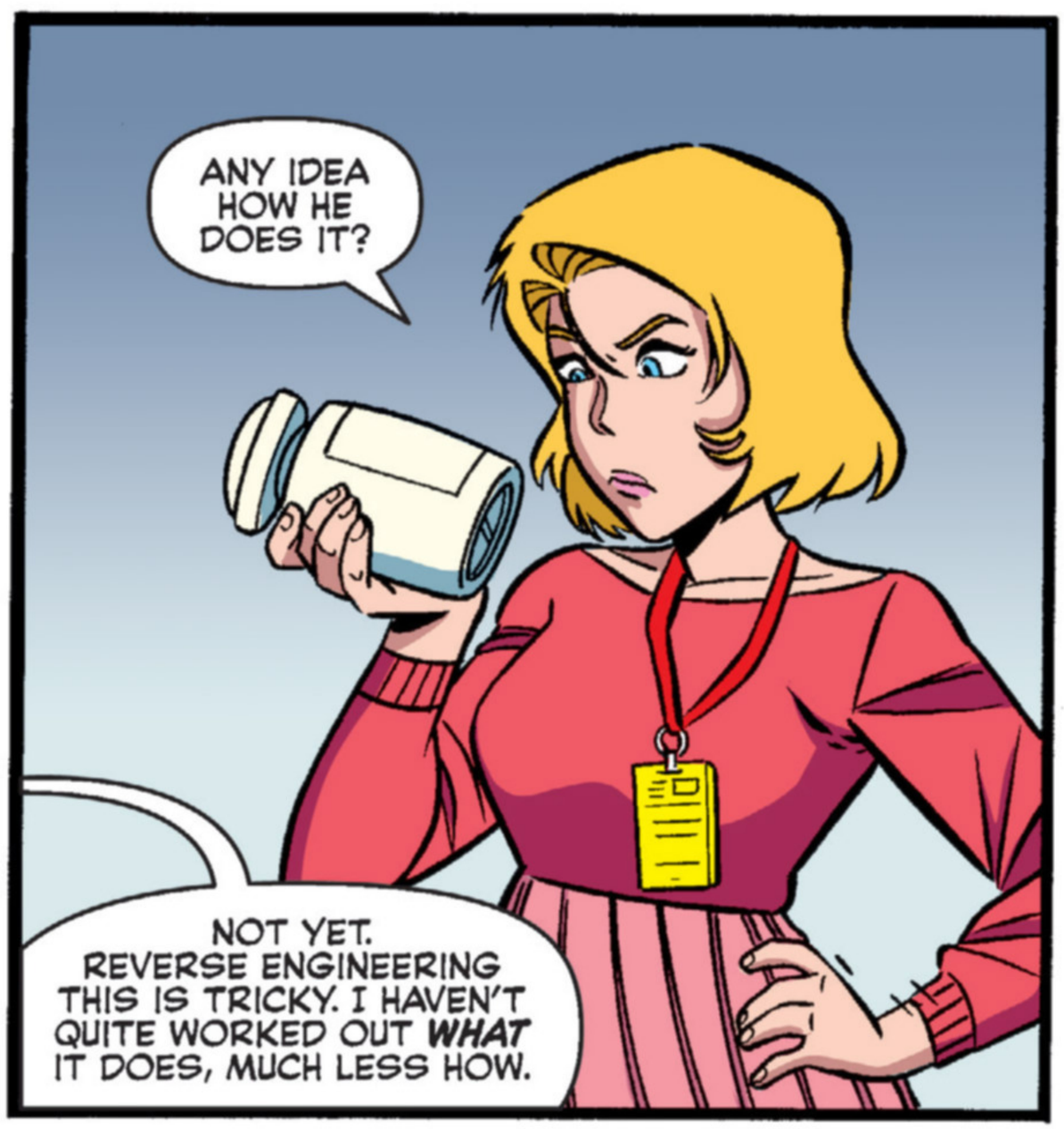

I NEED TO DOUBLE MY DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET.

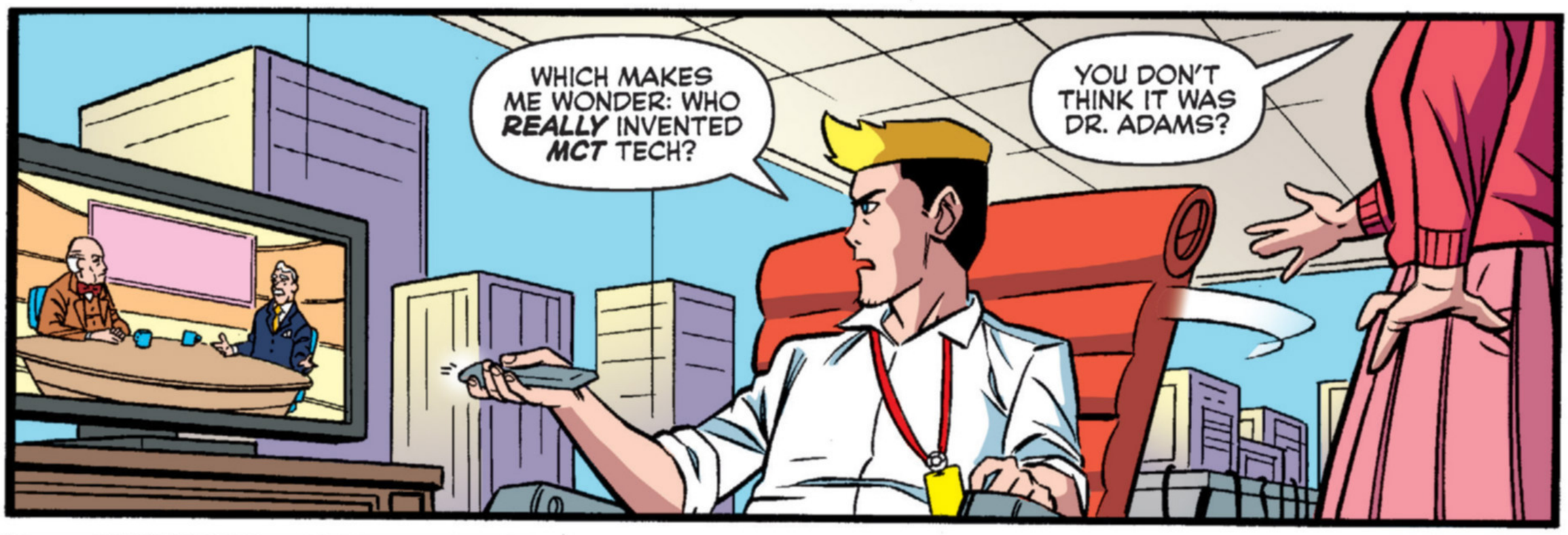

...WHATEVER, IT'S YOURS. EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING DEPENDS ON YOUR WORK. WE CAN'T PLAN FOR AN *UNKNOWN* FUTURE.
THE MORE DATA POINTS IT'S FED, THE MORE ACCURATE NOSTRADAMUS PREDICTIONS OF EVENTS WILL BE...

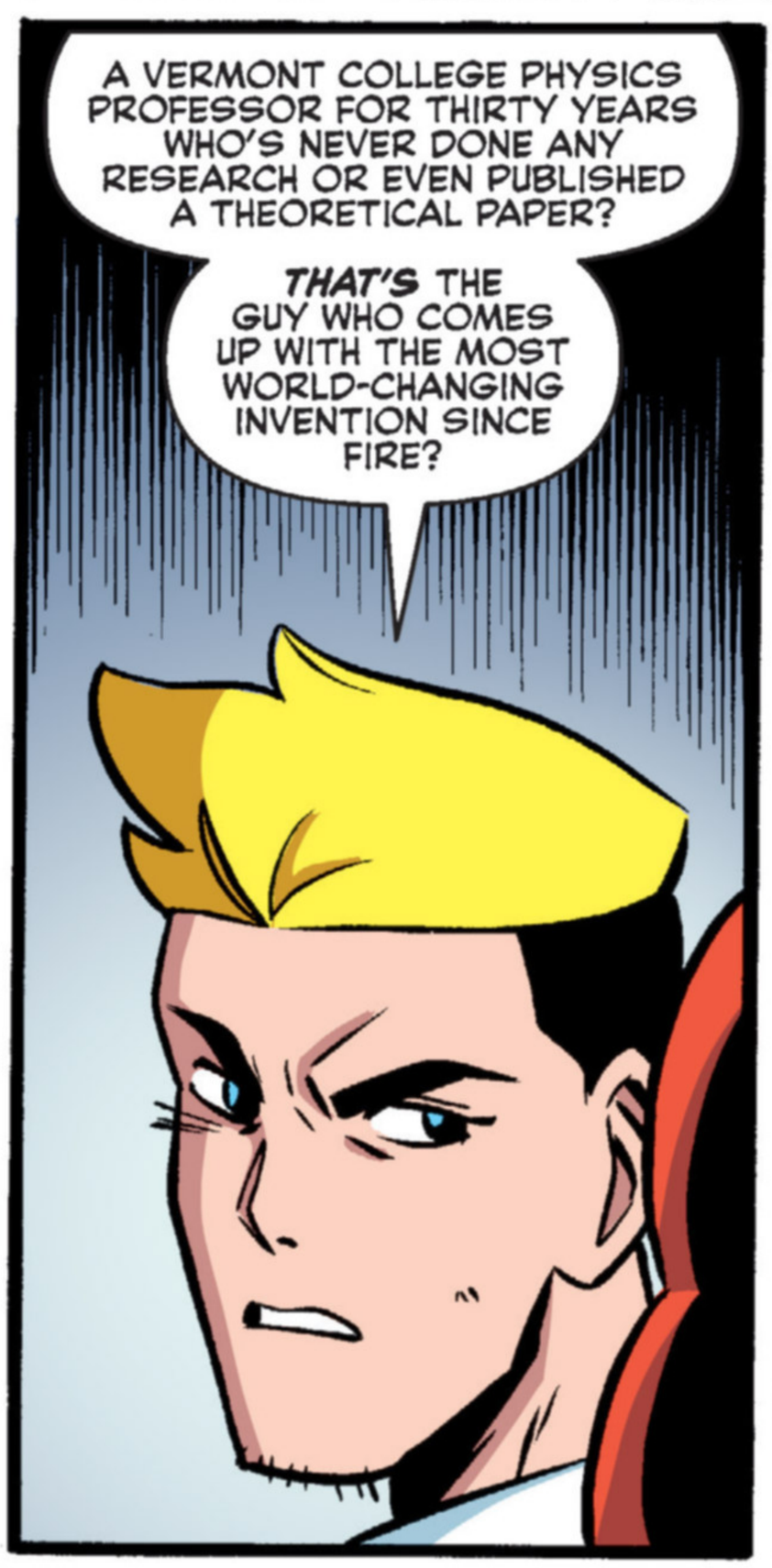

...AND THE SOONER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHILL THE HELL OUT.
HA! FAT CHANCE. HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED BY NOW THAT THE WORLD JUST LURCHES FROM ONE CRISIS TO ANOTHER?

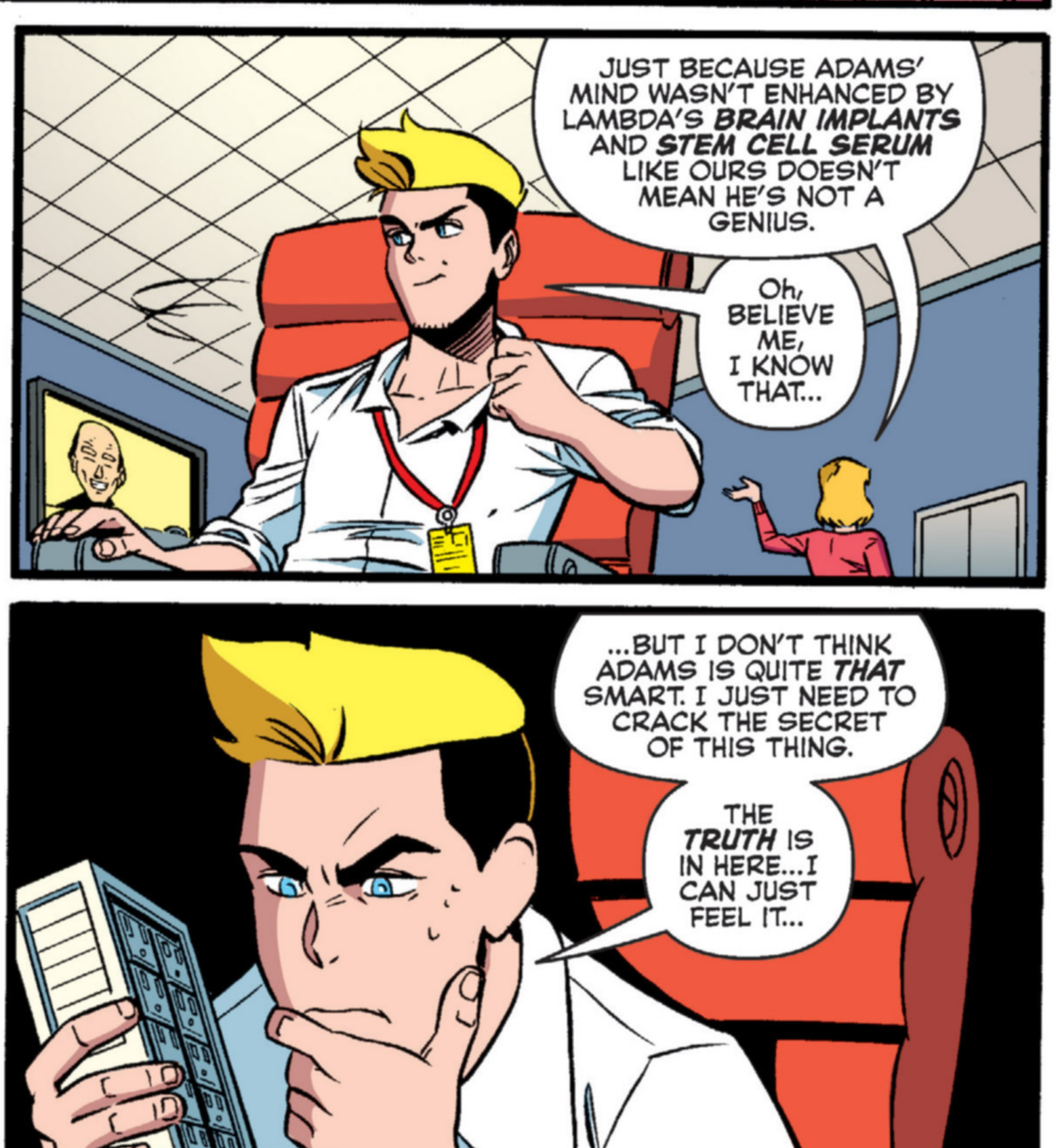
FIVE YEARS AGO, WE ONLY BARELY PREVENTED THE LAUNCHING OF AN *ACCIDENTAL* NUCLEAR WAR BECAUSE OF DR. LAMBDA'S ACTIONS.
AT THE RATE THE WORLD'S CHANGING, WE'VE GOT TO BE READY FOR WHATEVER COMES NEXT.

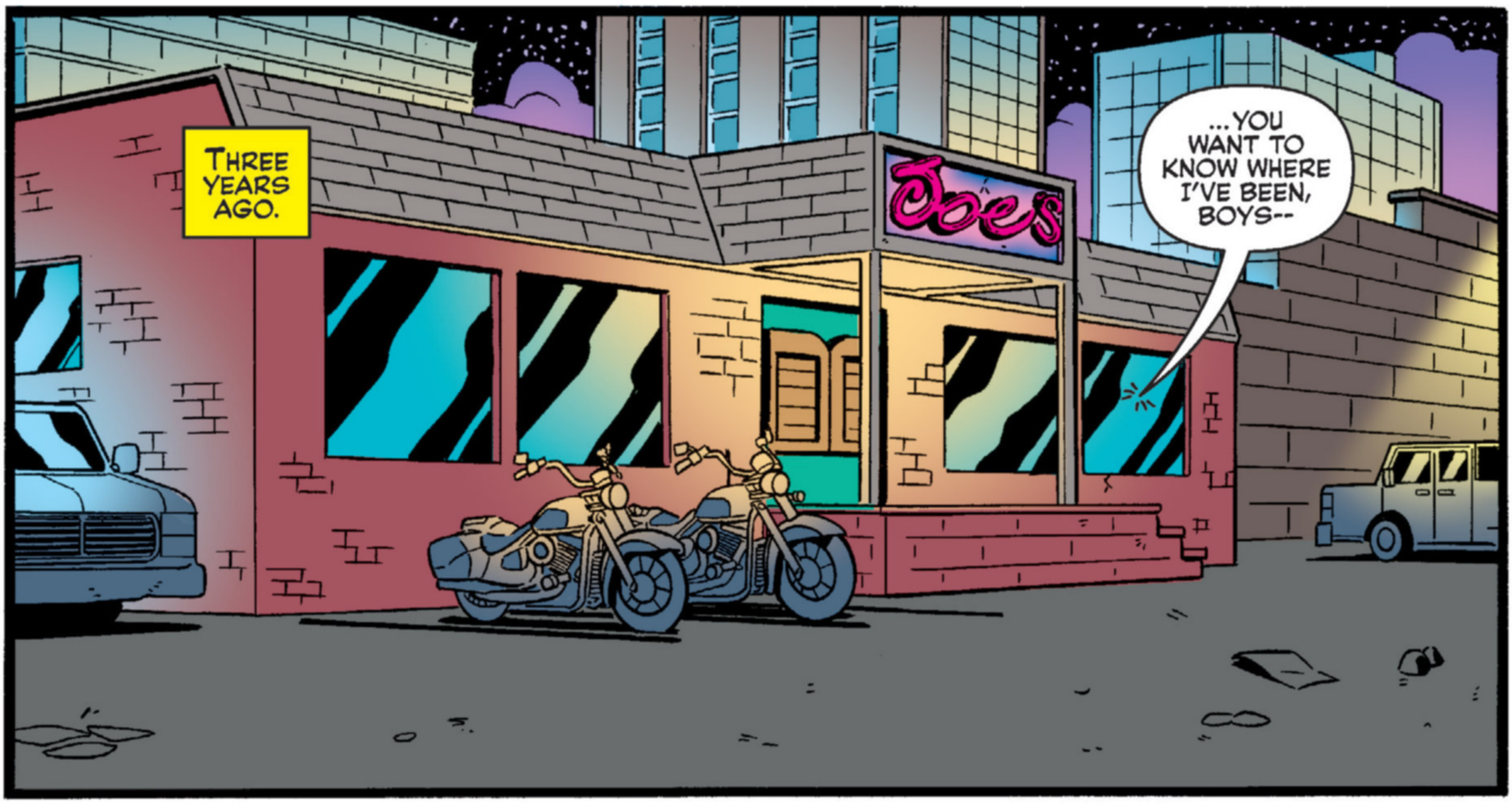

I CAN'T HELP THINKING WHATEVER THAT IS, IT'S GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH KINDLY OL' DOC ADAMS' ***MATTER CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY***.
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. HE PRACTICALLY GIVES AWAY THE TECH, PROVIDING ANYONE WHO WANTS IT WITH LIMITLESS, ALMOST FREE ENERGY.

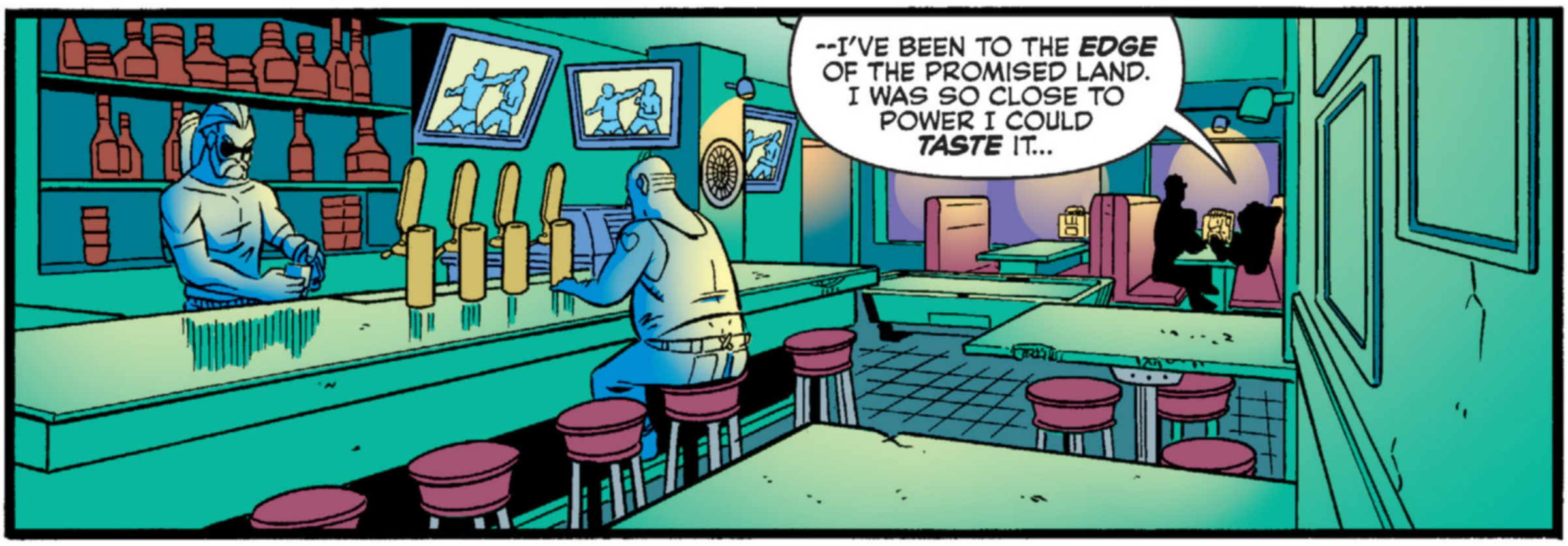

ANY IDEA HOW HE DOES IT?
NOT YET. REVERSE ENGINEERING THIS IS TRICKY. I HAVEN'T QUITE WORKED OUT ***WHAT*** IT DOES, MUCH LESS HOW.

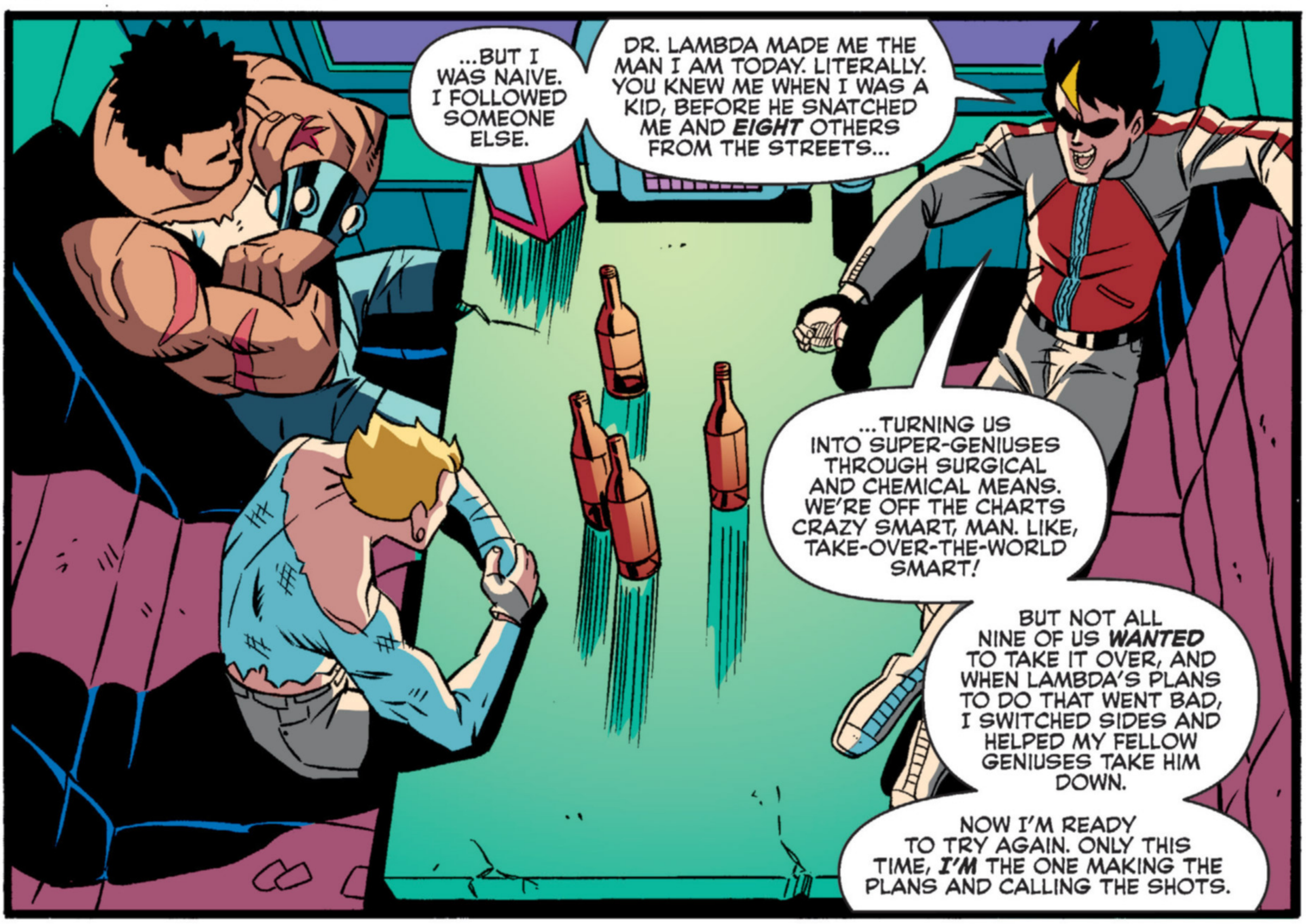

WHICH MAKES ME WONDER: WHO ***REALLY*** INVENTED ***MCT*** TECH?
YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS DR. ADAMS?


A VERMONT COLLEGE PHYSICS PROFESSOR FOR THIRTY YEARS WHO'S NEVER DONE ANY RESEARCH OR EVEN PUBLISHED A THEORETICAL PAPER?
THAT'S THE GUY WHO COMES UP WITH THE MOST WORLD-CHANGING INVENTION SINCE FIRE?


JUST BECAUSE ADAMS' MIND WASN'T ENHANCED BY LAMBDA'S ***BRAIN IMPLANTS*** AND ***STEM CELL SERUM*** LIKE OURS DOESN'T MEAN HE'S NOT A GENIUS.
Oh, BELIEVE ME, I KNOW THAT...
...BUT I DON'T THINK ADAMS IS QUITE ***THAT*** SMART. I JUST NEED TO CRACK THE SECRET OF THIS THING.
THE ***TRUTH*** IS IN HERE...I CAN JUST FEEL IT...


THREE YEARS AGO.
Joe's
...YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN, BOYS--


--I'VE BEEN TO THE EDGE OF THE PROMISED LAND. I WAS SO CLOSE TO POWER I COULD TASTE IT...


...BUT I WAS NAIVE. I FOLLOWED SOMEONE ELSE.
DR. LAMBDA MADE ME THE MAN I AM TODAY. LITERALLY. YOU KNEW ME WHEN I WAS A KID, BEFORE HE SNATCHED ME AND EIGHT OTHERS FROM THE STREETS...
...TURNING US INTO SUPER-GENIUSES THROUGH SURGICAL AND CHEMICAL MEANS. WE'RE OFF THE CHARTS CRAZY SMART, MAN. LIKE, TAKE-OVER-THE-WORLD SMART!
BUT NOT ALL NINE OF US WANTED TO TAKE IT OVER, AND WHEN LAMBDA'S PLANS TO DO THAT WENT BAD, I SWITCHED SIDES AND HELPED MY FELLOW GENIUSES TAKE HIM DOWN.
NOW I'M READY TO TRY AGAIN. ONLY THIS TIME, I'M THE ONE MAKING THE PLANS AND CALLING THE SHOTS.

THEM GIANT ROBOTS ARE COOL, SEANY. YOU INVENT THOSE?
SOUNDS REALLY AMBITIOUS, DUDE. YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO IT EVEN WITH A SUPERBRAIN?

IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION THE MECHA, TAG. THREE OF MY FELLOW SUPER-BRAINS CAME UP WITH THOSE. BUT MORE ABOUT THEM LATER.
AND, YEAH, REMO, I GOT THIS. DR. LAMBDA PLANNED TO TAKE IT BY SENDING US BACK IN TIME TO CHANGE HISTORY IN HIS FAVOR.

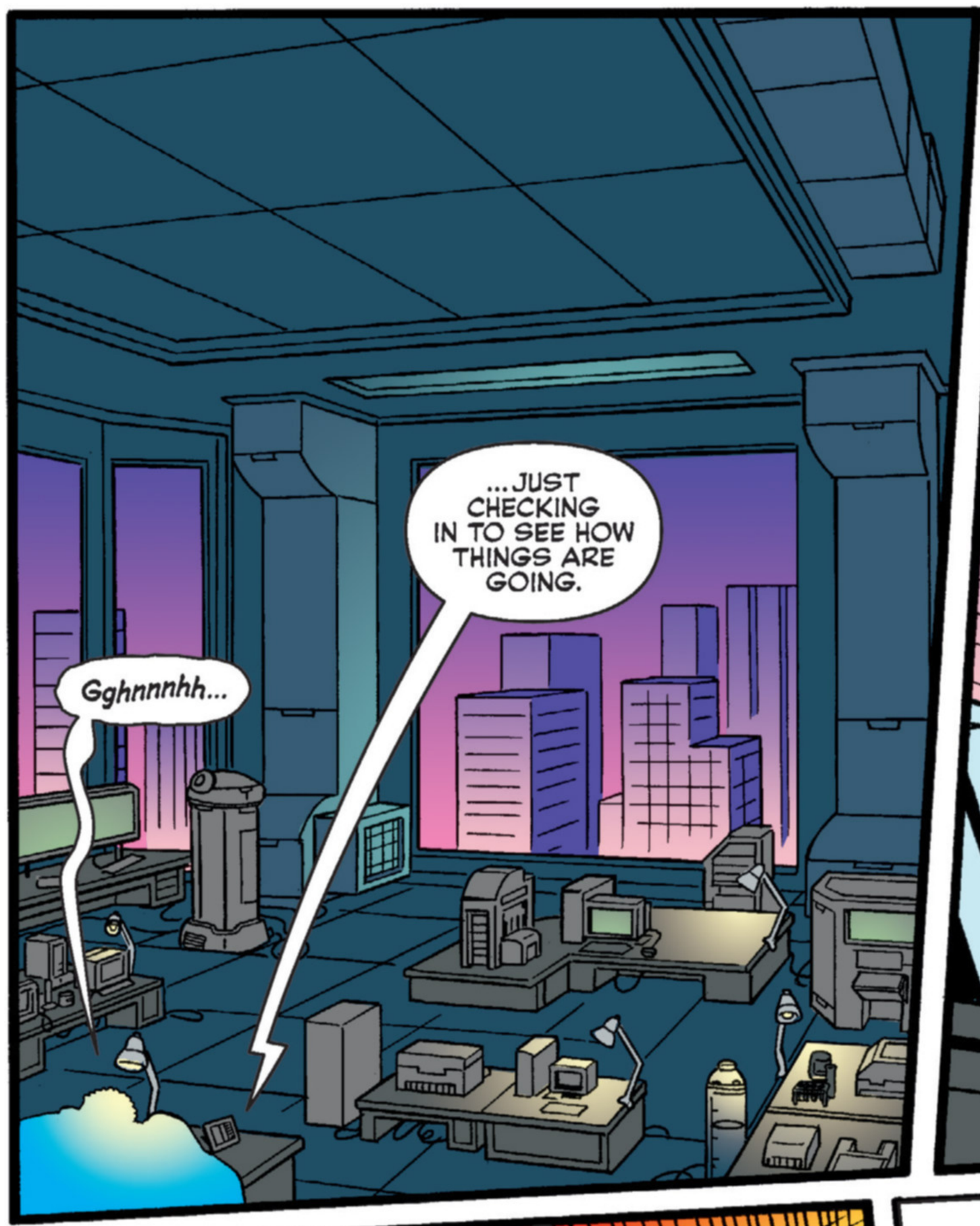
BUT WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR THE WORLD TO HAND ITSELF OVER TO US--IF NOT QUITE OF ITS OWN FREE WILL.
WHAT'D YOU MEAN "WE," MAN? I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING UP FOR NOTHIN'.

IT WON'T BE FOR NOTHING, REMO. IT'LL BE FOR A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY AND POWER...
...A SUPER-BRAIN OF YOUR OWN, AND POWERS AND ABILITIES YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE!

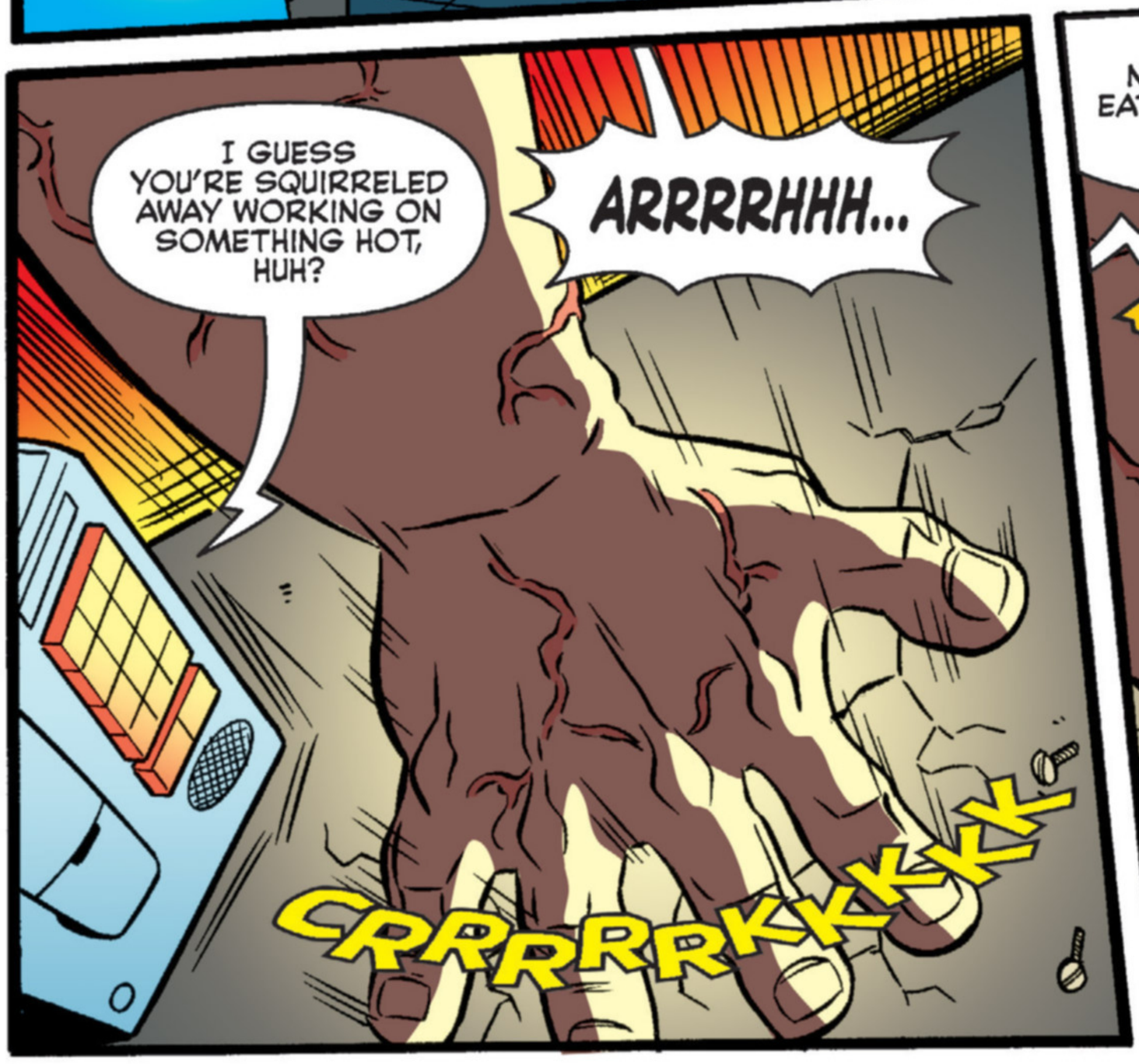
POWERS AND STUFF... YOU MEAN, LIKE A SUPERHERO? CAN YOU MAKE ME FLY, SEANY?
I COULD DIG SUPER-POWERS, YEAH. BUT... YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SURGERIES...?

HURTS LESS THAN A PUNCH IN THE FACE, DUDE.
HA! BEEN THERE PLENTY, MAN! 'AIGHT, WHAT'D WE GOT TO LOSE?
YEAH! HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT'D BE REALLY COOL TO HAVE... X-RAY VISION, MAN!

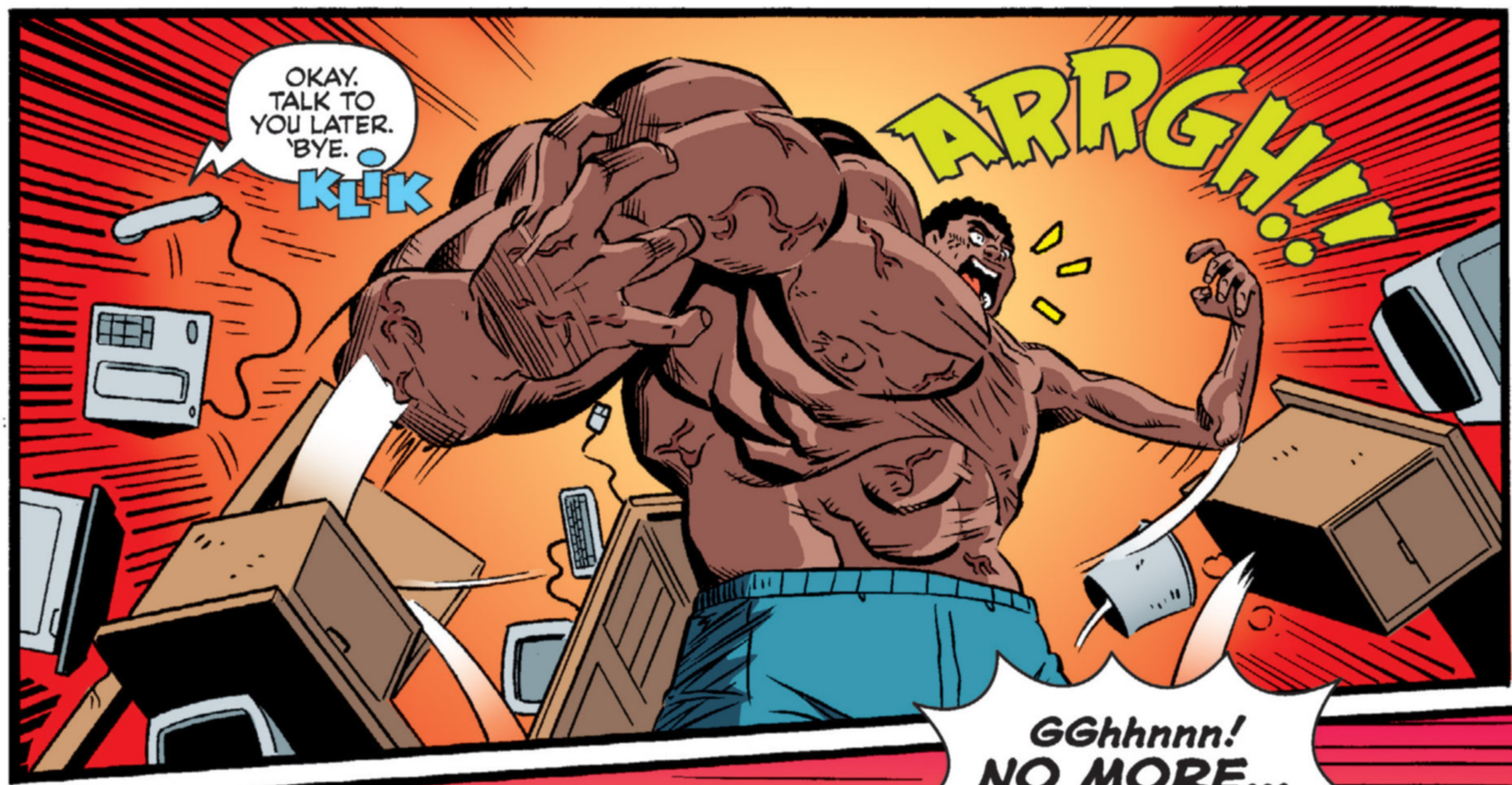
THE D.R.E. FOUNDATION BUILDING. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
TONIGHT.
D.R.E. FOUNDATION BUILDING
HEY, RUSS. IT'S ELLE...

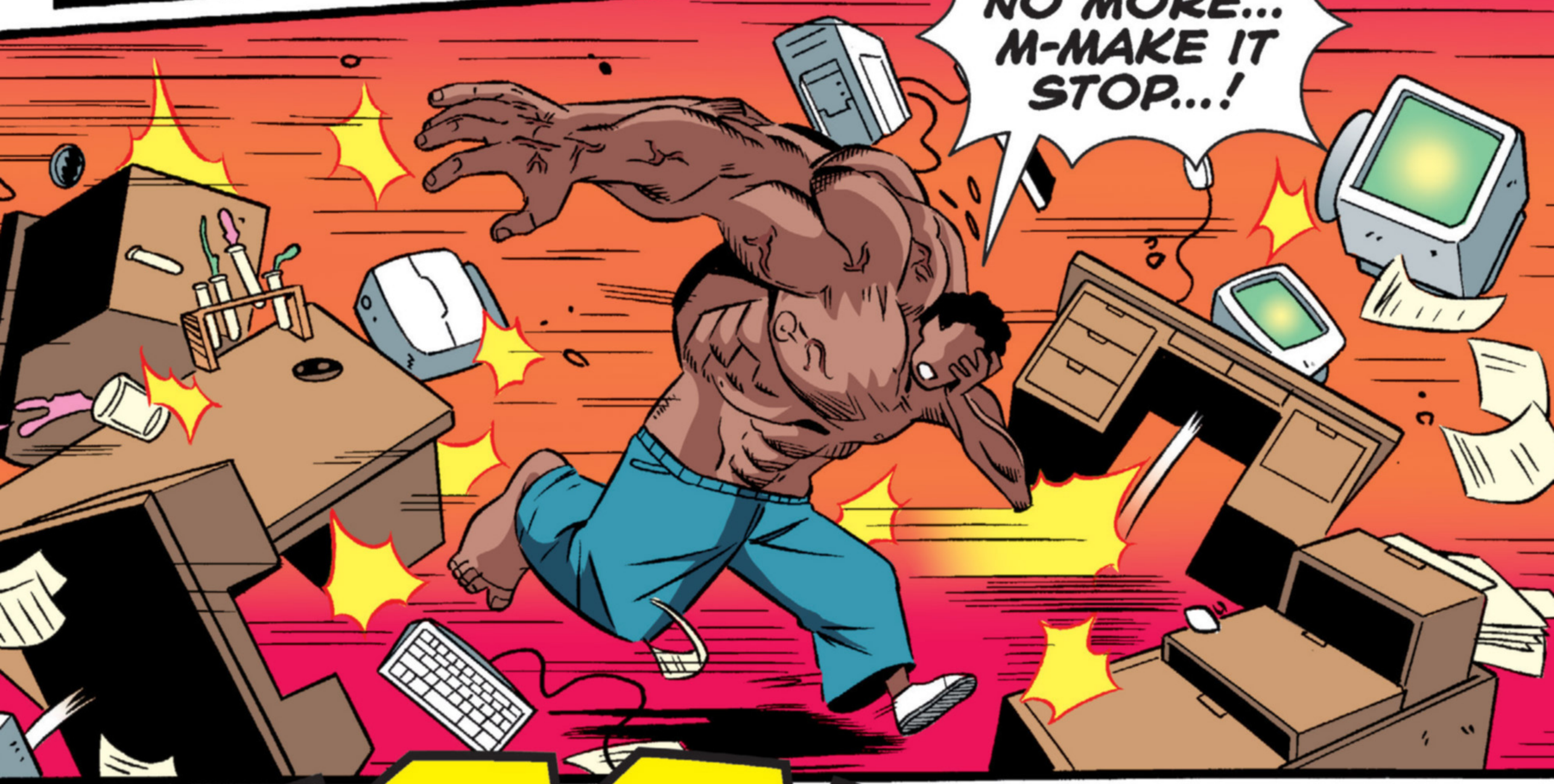

...JUST CHECKING IN TO SEE HOW THINGS ARE GOING.
Gghnnnhh...

BEEN A WHILE SINCE ANY OF US HEARD FROM YOU.
Ahhh... AAHHH...


I GUESS YOU'RE SQUIRRELED AWAY WORKING ON SOMETHING HOT, HUH?
ARRRRHHH...
CRRRRRKKKK

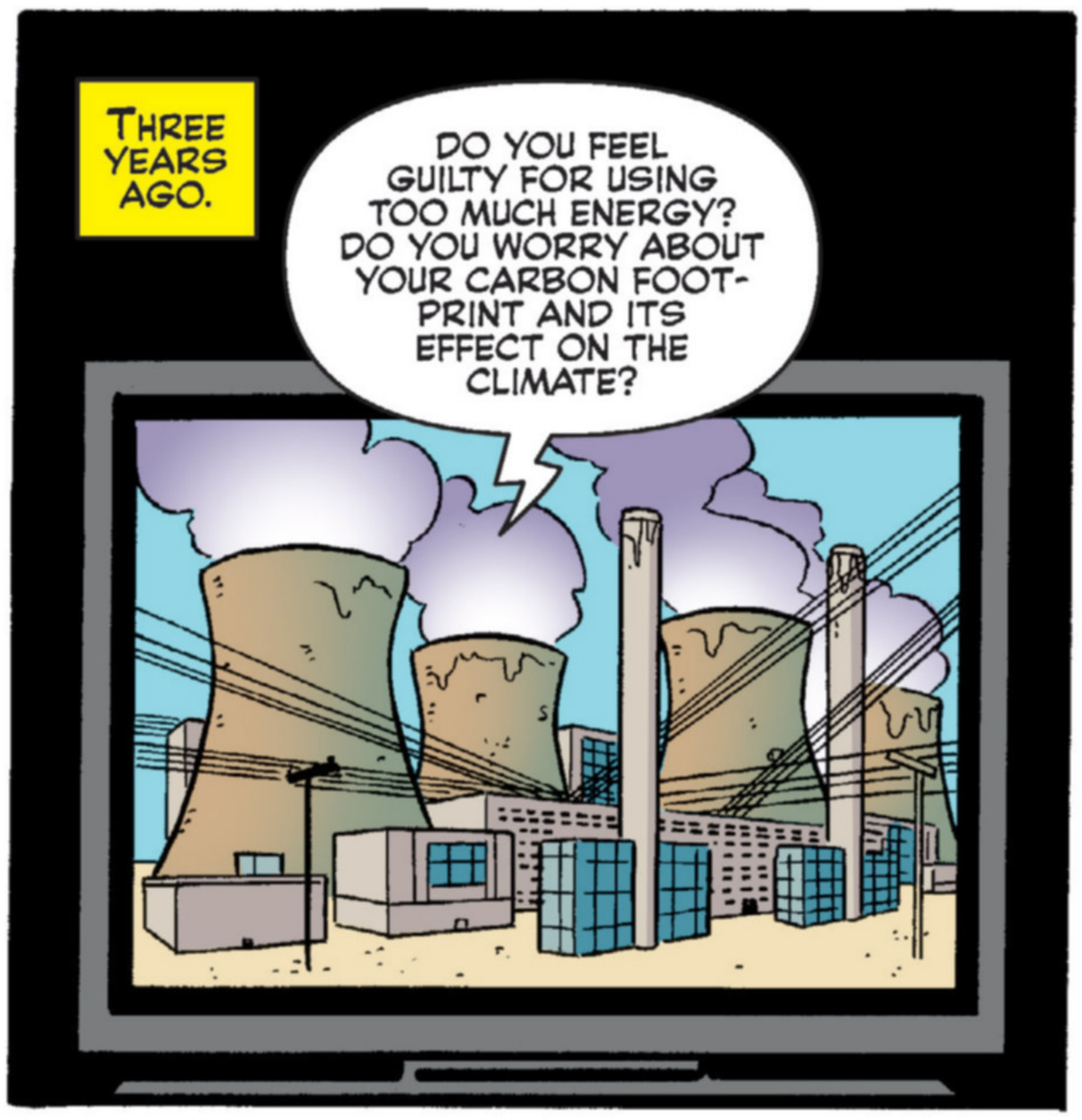
ANYWAY, NEXT TIME YOU STOP TO EAT OR PEE OR SOMETHING, LET ME KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
ARRGH!!
KRAK

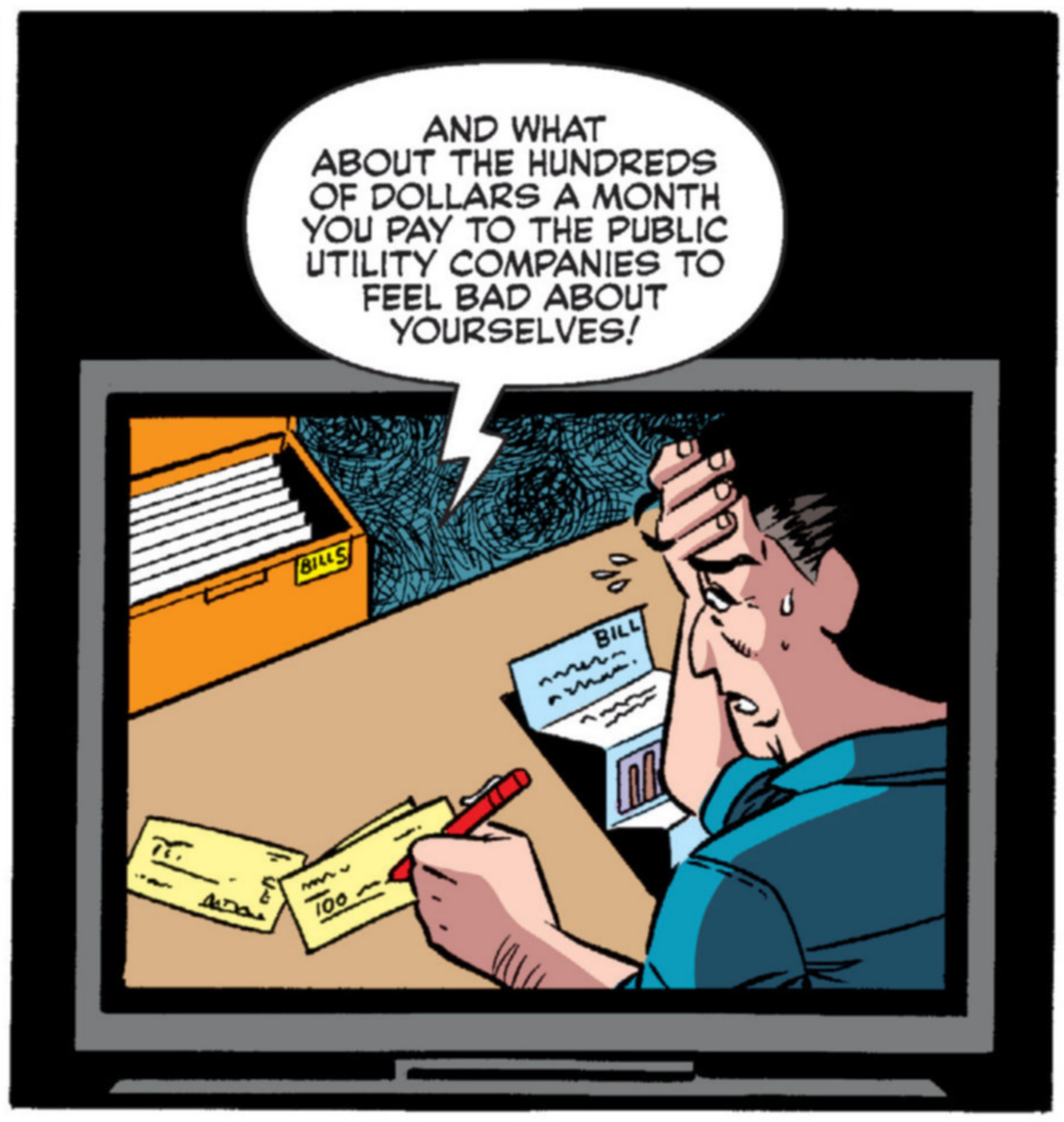

OKAY. TALK TO YOU LATER. 'BYE.
KLIK
ARRGH!!

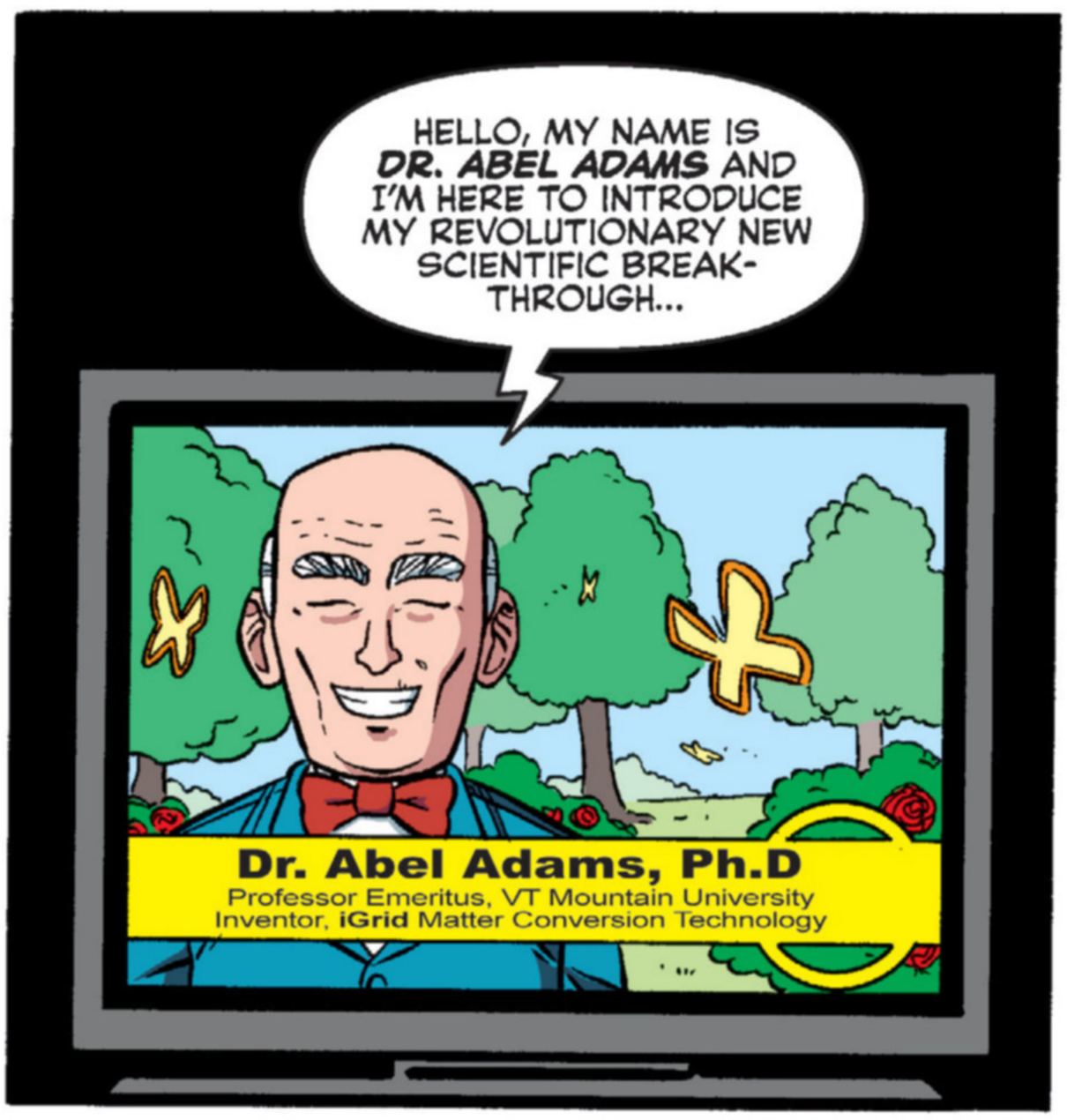

GGhhnnn! NO MORE... M-MAKE IT STOP...!

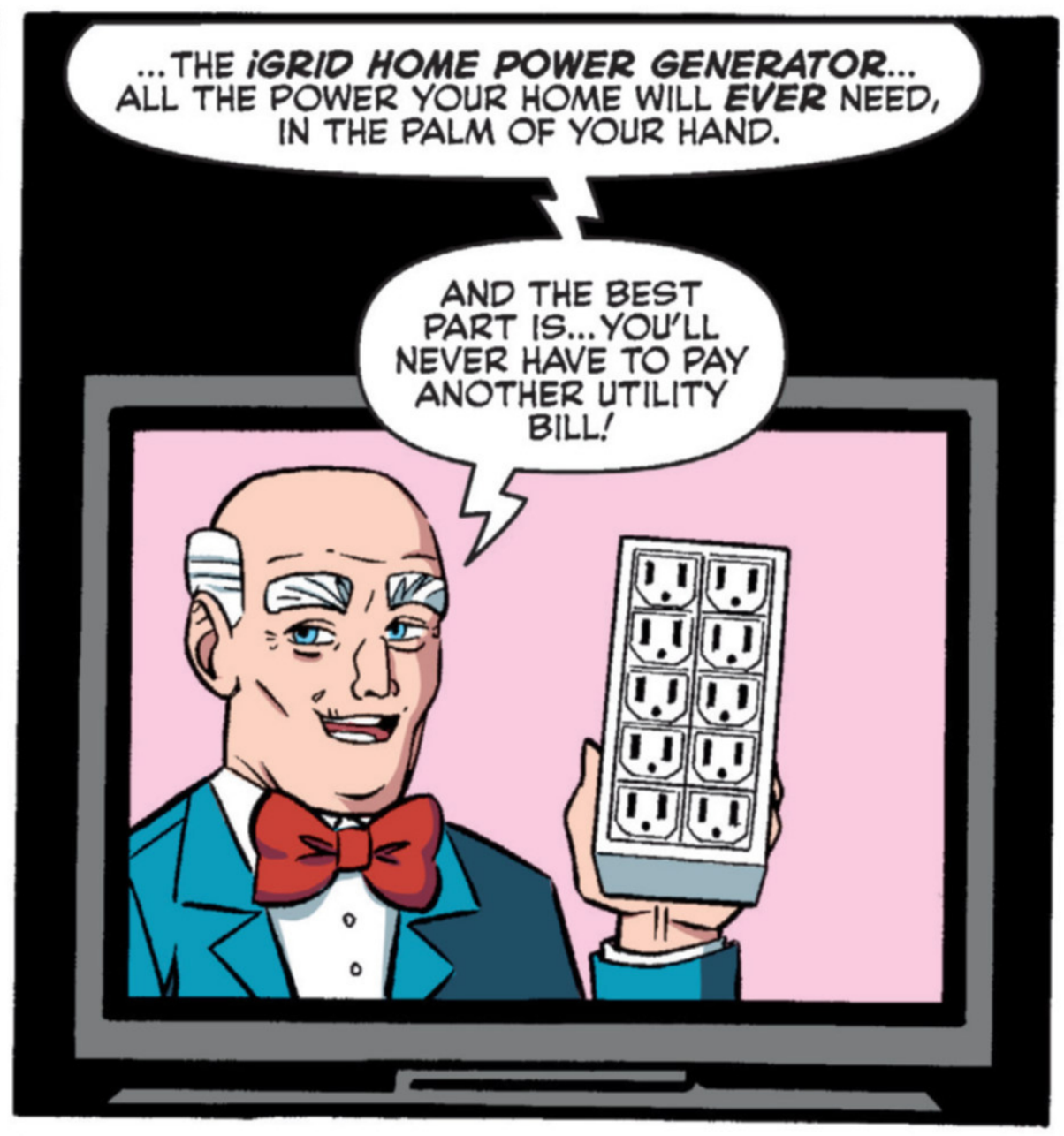
THOOM
STOP!

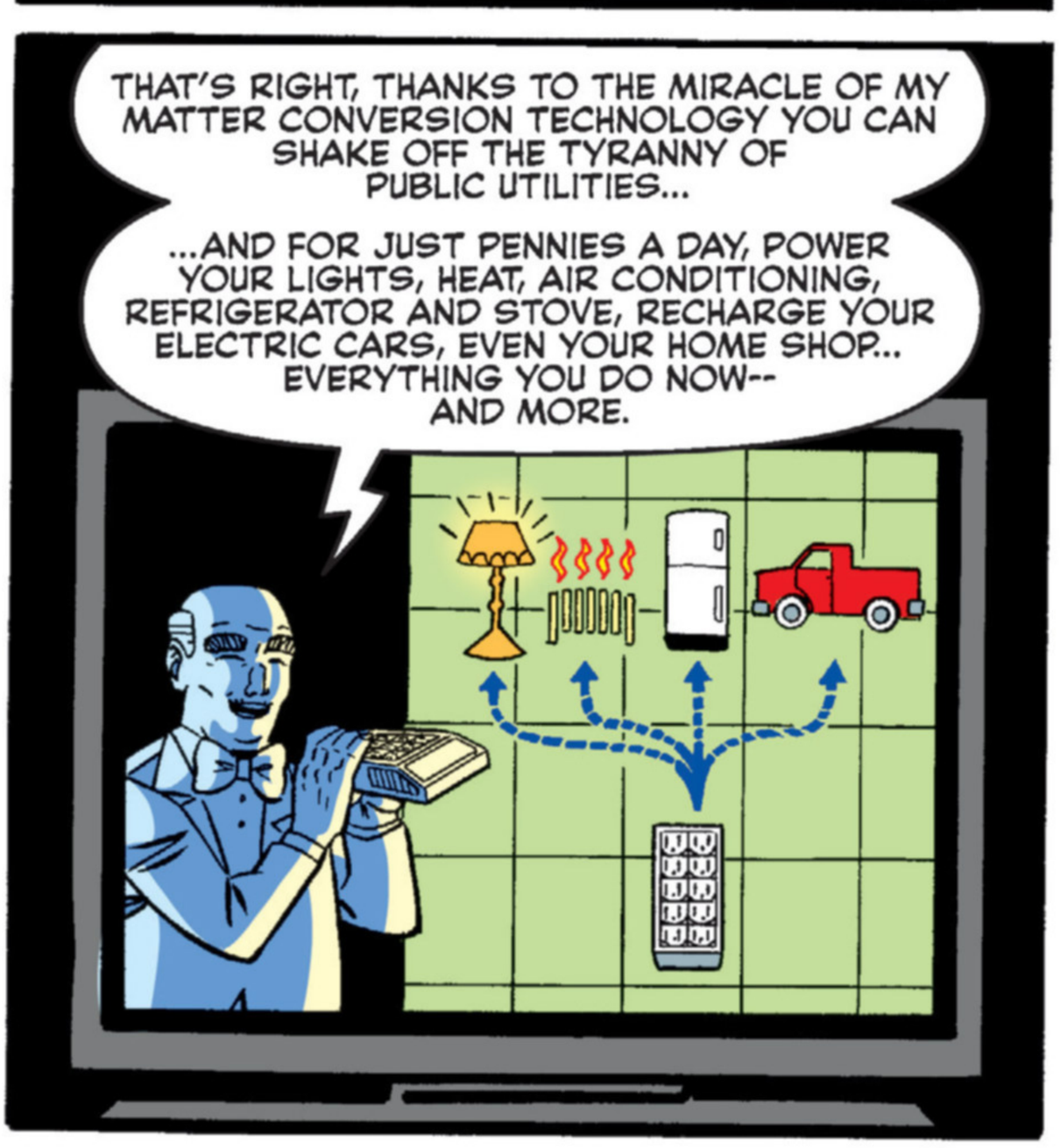
≥Sob!≤
PLEASE... STOP...

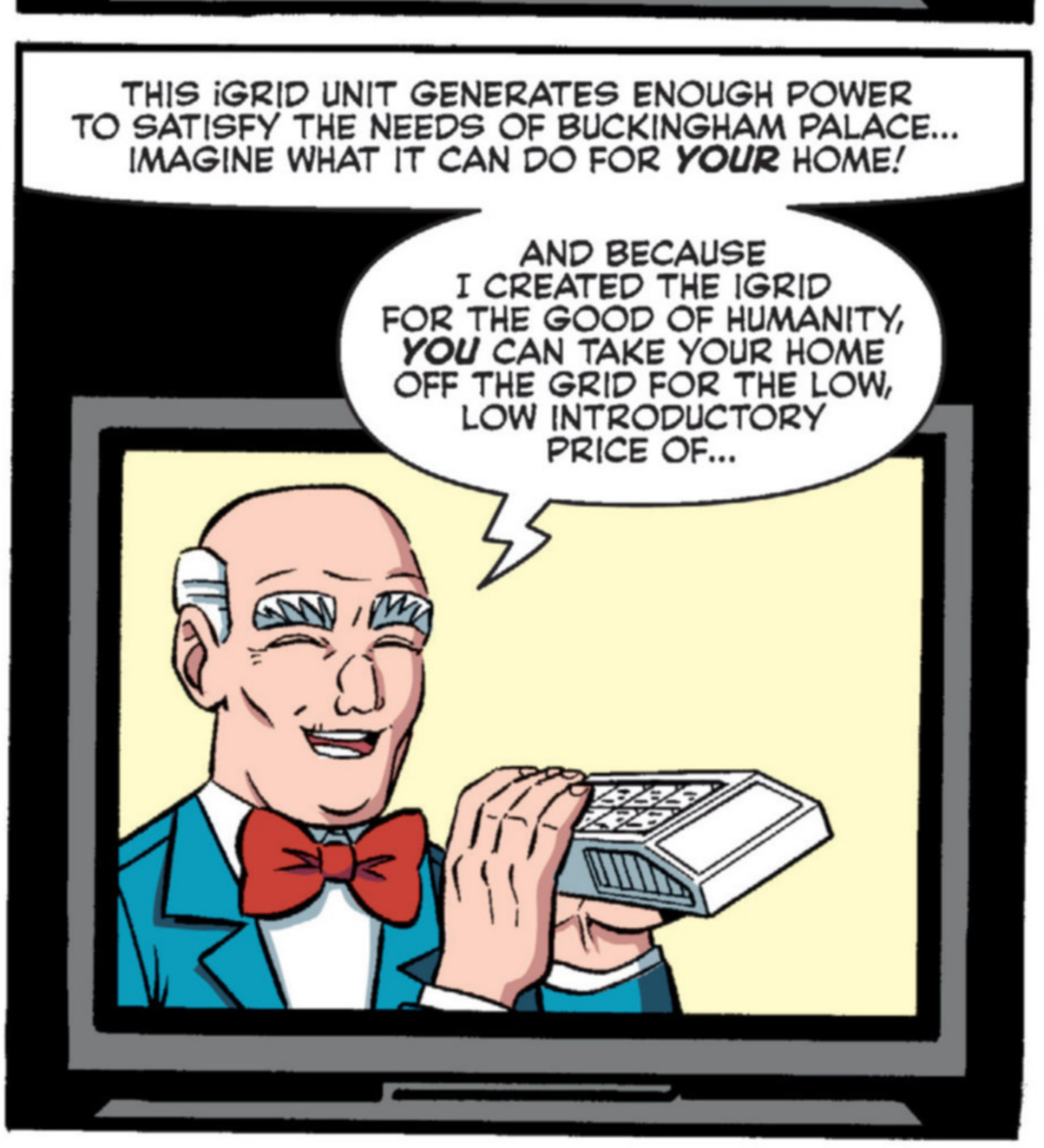

THREE YEARS AGO.
DO YOU FEEL GUILTY FOR USING TOO MUCH ENERGY? DO YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR CARBON FOOT-PRINT AND ITS EFFECT ON THE CLIMATE?


AND WHAT ABOUT THE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS A MONTH YOU PAY TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES TO FEEL BAD ABOUT YOURSELVES!
BILLS
BILL


HELLO, MY NAME IS DR. ABEL ADAMS AND I'M HERE TO INTRODUCE MY REVOLUTIONARY NEW SCIENTIFIC BREAK-THROUGH...
Dr. Abel Adams, Ph.D
Professor Emeritus, VT Mountain University
Inventor, iGrid Matter Conversion Technology


...THE iGRID HOME POWER GENERATOR... ALL THE POWER YOUR HOME WILL EVER NEED, IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
AND THE BEST PART IS...YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO PAY ANOTHER UTILITY BILL!

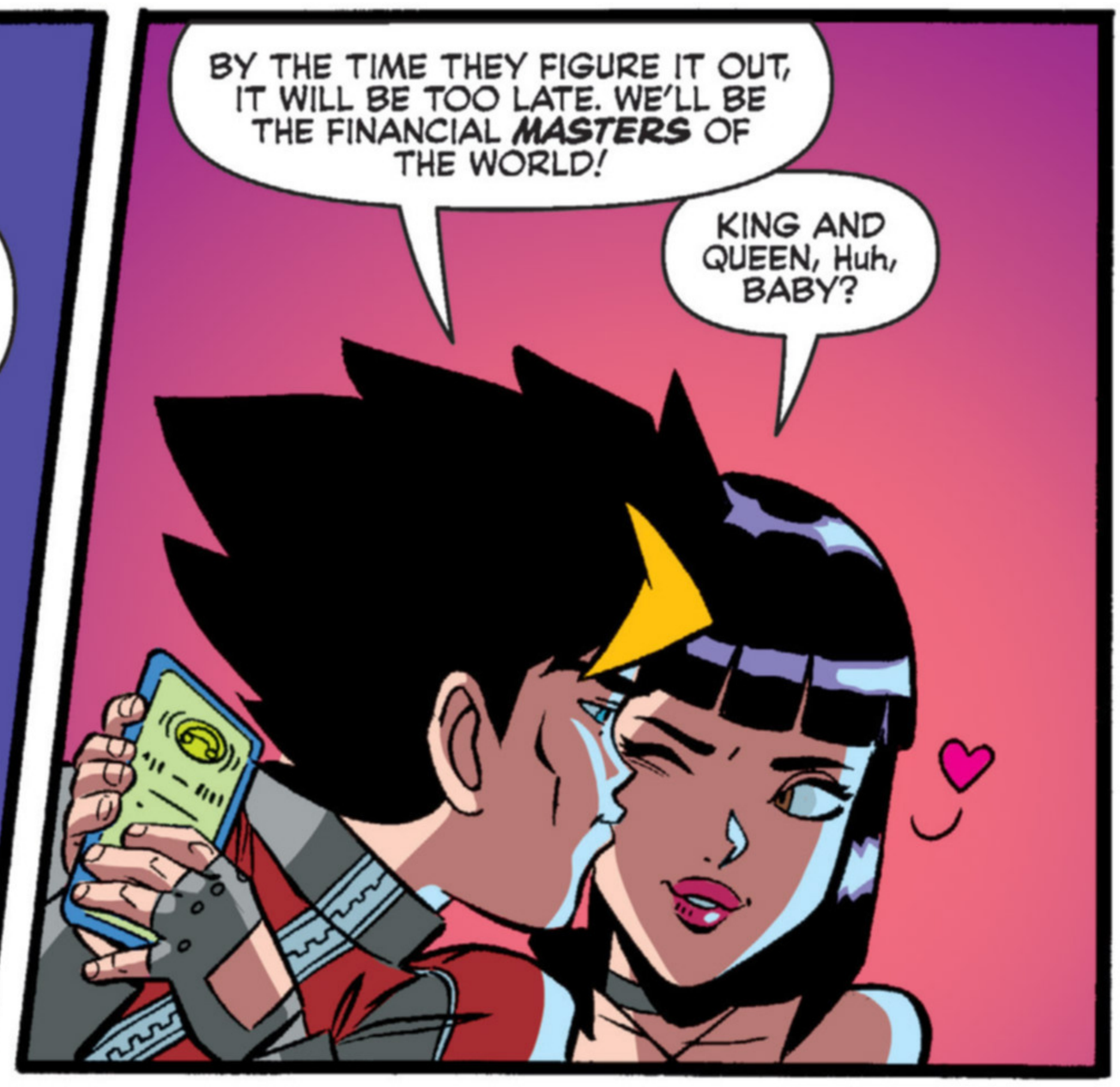

THAT'S RIGHT, THANKS TO THE MIRACLE OF MY MATTER CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY YOU CAN SHAKE OFF THE TYRANNY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES...
...AND FOR JUST PENNIES A DAY, POWER YOUR LIGHTS, HEAT, AIR CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATOR AND STOVE, RECHARGE YOUR ELECTRIC CARS, EVEN YOUR HOME SHOP... EVERYTHING YOU DO NOW-- AND MORE.


THIS iGRID UNIT GENERATES ENOUGH POWER TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE... IMAGINE WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOUR HOME!
AND BECAUSE I CREATED THE IGRID FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR HOME OFF THE GRID FOR THE LOW, LOW INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF...

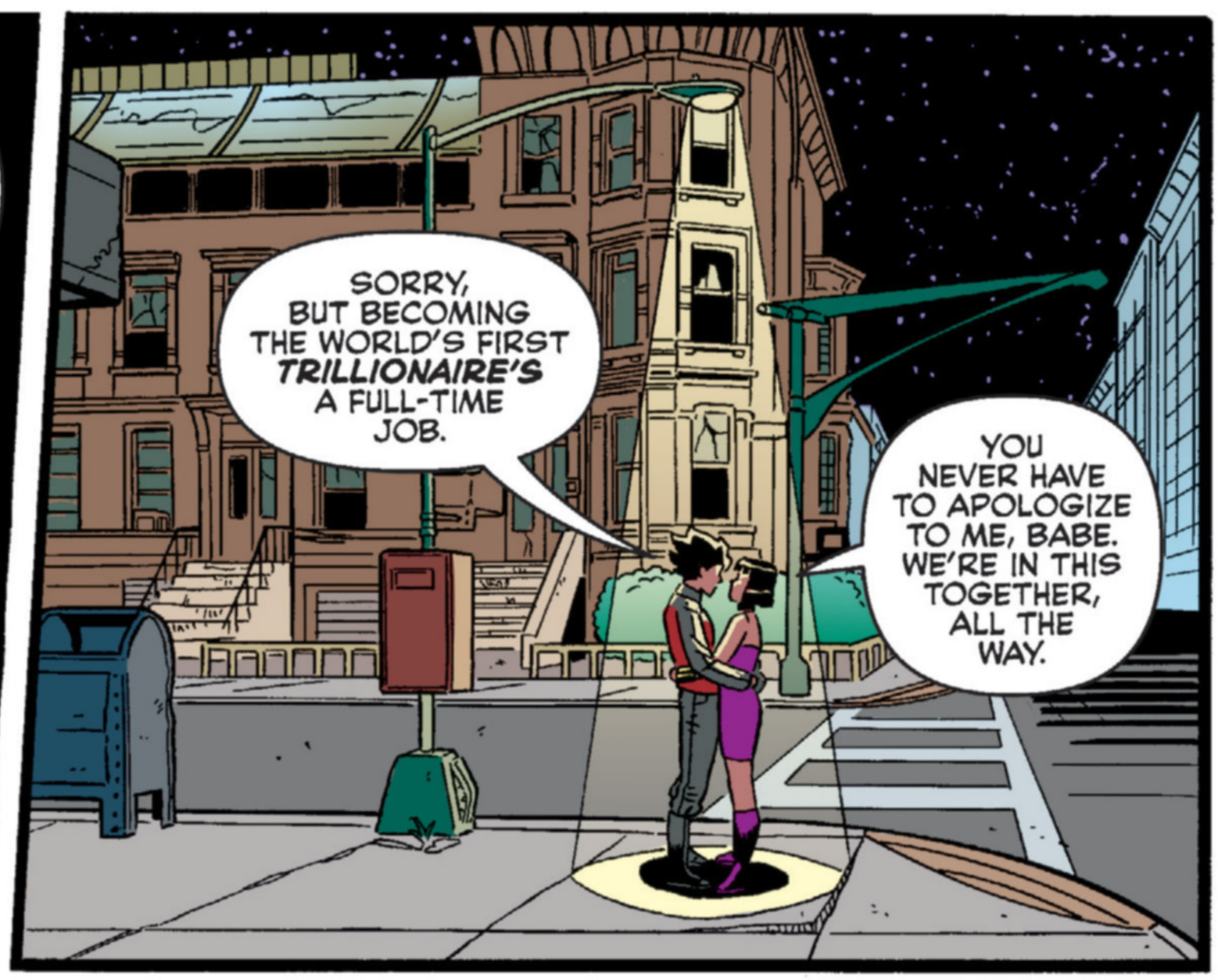
NEW YORK CITY.
TWO YEARS AGO.
...KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON CHINA. THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T ANNOUNCED IT YET, BUT THEY'LL BE SHUTTING DOWN THREE MORE NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANTS...

...AND AT LEAST A DOZEN WIND-FARMS IN THE NORTHEAST. THEY'RE ADOPTING THE iGRID FASTER THAN WE'D HOPED.
WHY NOT? IT FREES UP BILLIONS IN RESOURCES AND MAKES THEM LOOK GOOD TO THE KYOTO CLIMATE CHANGE BUNCH.

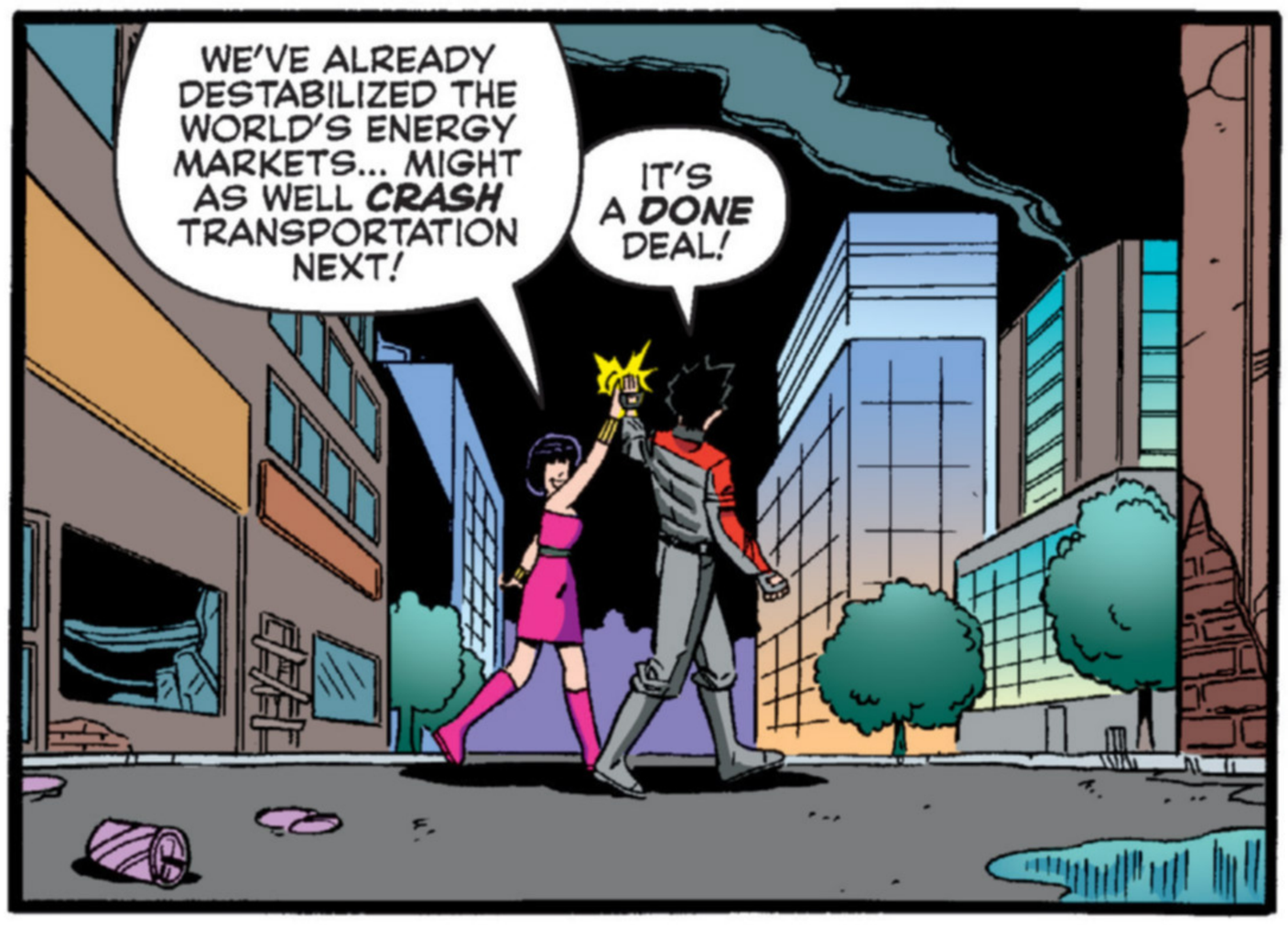
AND THANKS TO THE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF THE iGRID, WE'VE MANIPULATED THE FINANCIAL MARKETS TO EARN HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS IN PROFIT!
HA! JUST WAIT UNTIL THE WORLD SEES WHAT THE iGRID CAN REALLY DO!


BY THE TIME THEY FIGURE IT OUT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE. WE'LL BE THE FINANCIAL MASTERS OF THE WORLD!
KING AND QUEEN, Huh, BABY?

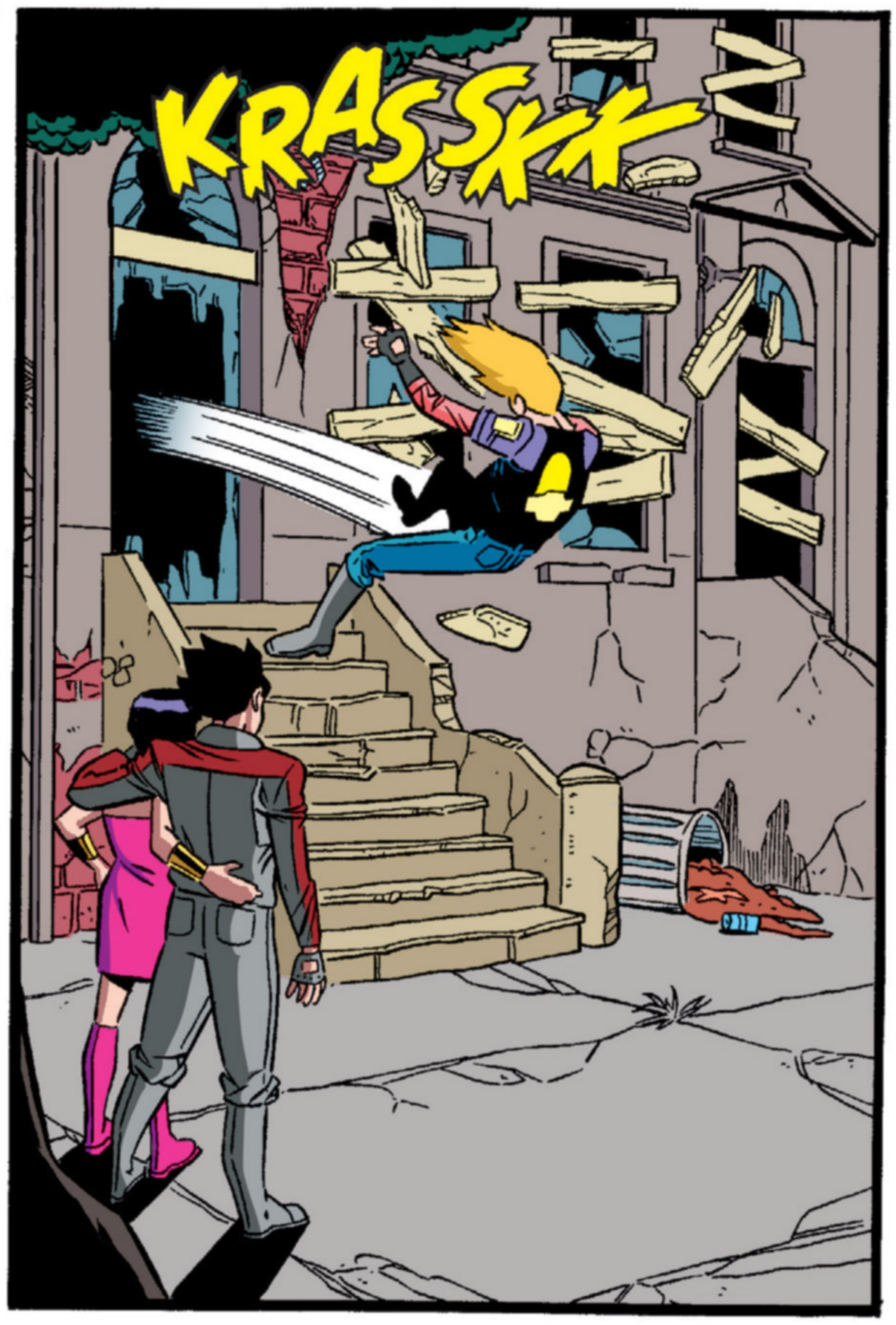
YOU KNOW I COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU, JAMIE.
HEY, YOU STILL THERE? OKAY, I WANT THE STURDY HARDWARE TAKEOVER WRAPPED UP BY END OF WEEK, GOT IT?


SORRY, BUT BECOMING THE WORLD'S FIRST TRILLIONAIRE'S A FULL-TIME JOB.
YOU NEVER HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ME, BABE. WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, ALL THE WAY.

THE STURDY HARDWARE CHAIN WILL GIVE US OUR OWN SALES OUTLETS ON THREE CONTINENTS, BUT THAT'S JUST THE START.
WAIT UNTIL WE INTRODUCE THE iGRID AUTOMOTIVE AND AIRCRAFT LINES NEXT MONTH!

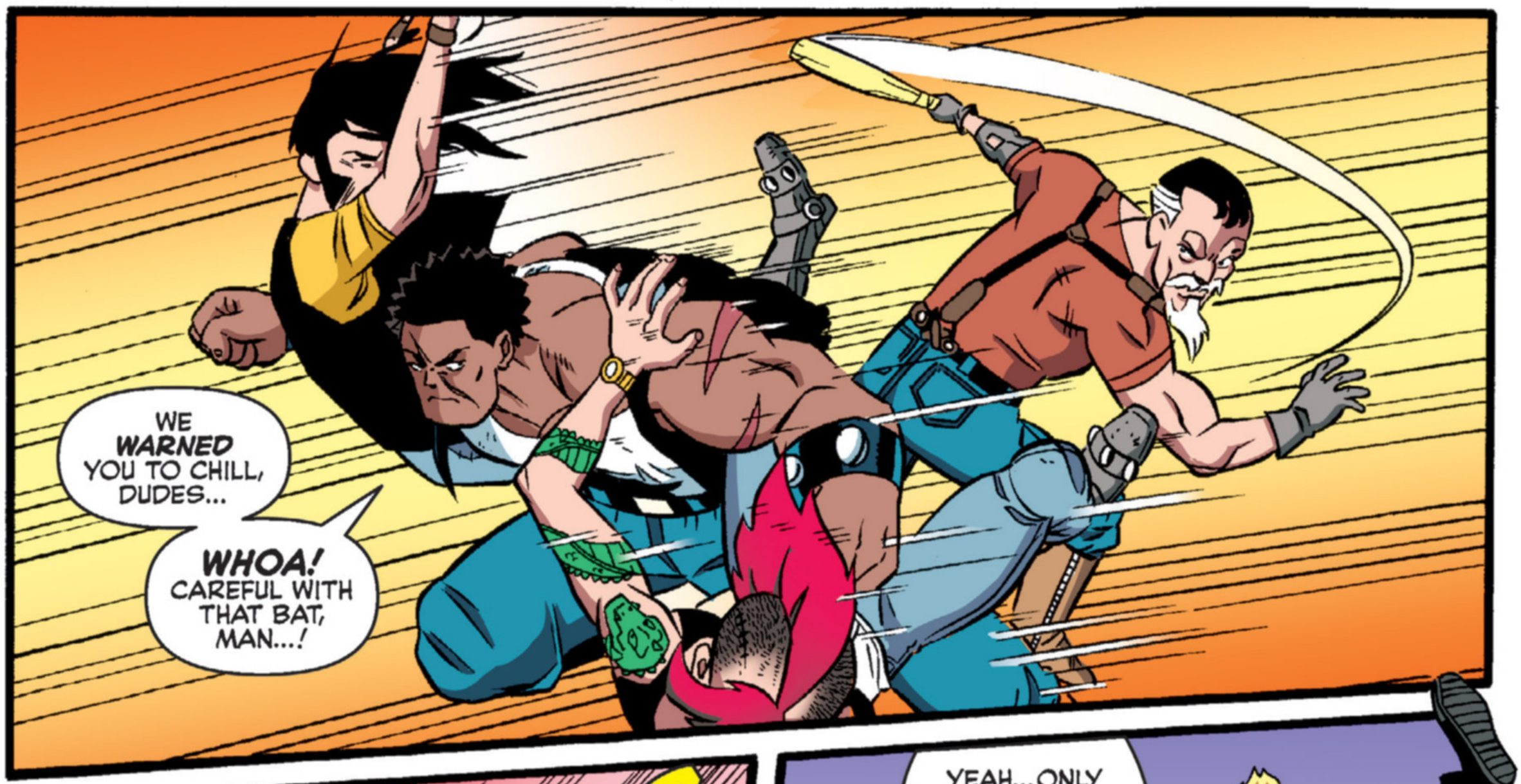

WE'VE ALREADY DESTABILIZED THE WORLD'S ENERGY MARKETS... MIGHT AS WELL CRASH TRANSPORTATION NEXT!
IT'S A DONE DEAL!

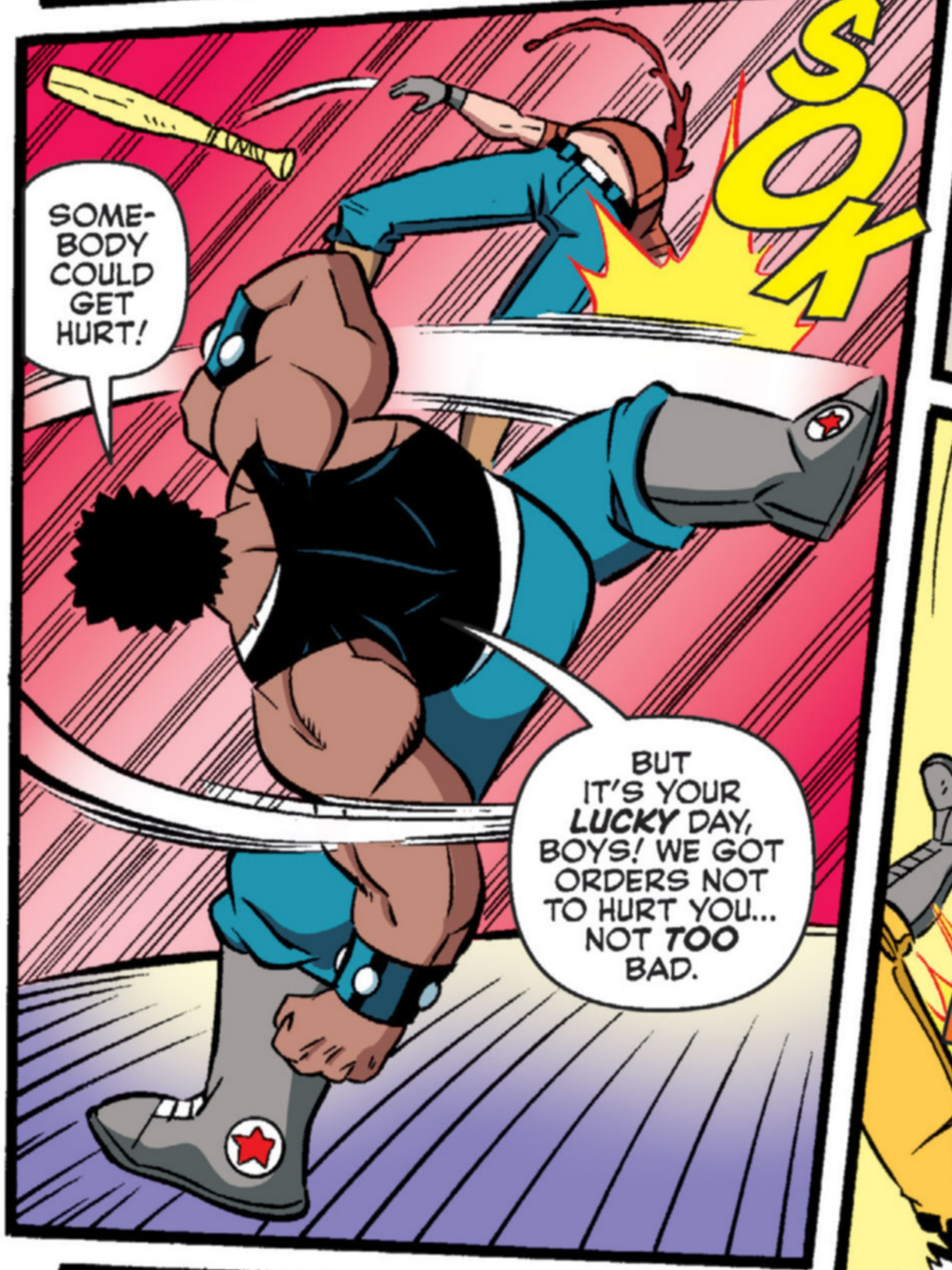
I THINK THIS IS THE PLACE WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME TO ME IN THE DARK. ARE YOU SURE, BABE?


KRASSKK

PRETTY SURE.

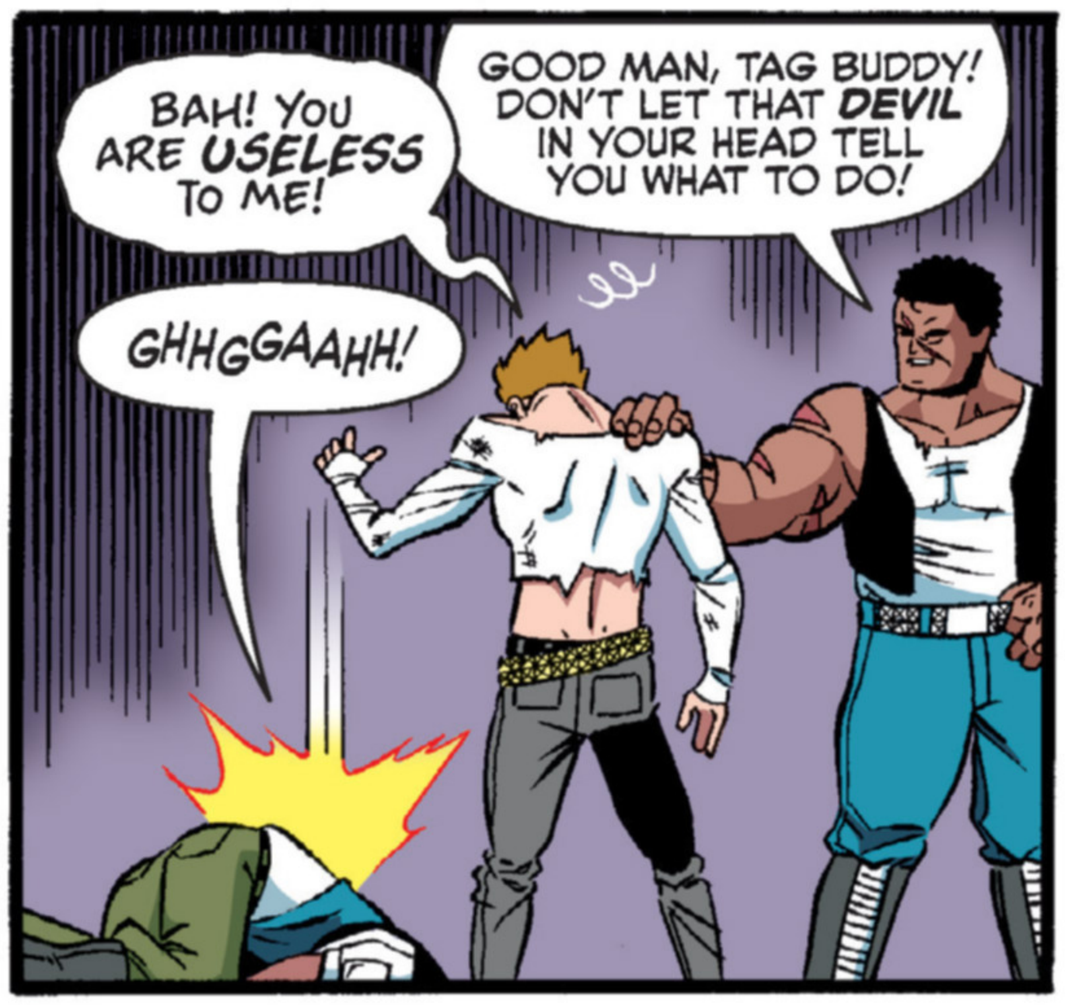
HELLO--? ANYBODY HOME?
I DON'T THINK THEY CAN HEAR YOU, JAMIE...
...OVER THE PARTY!


WE WARNED YOU TO CHILL, DUDES...
WHOA! CAREFUL WITH THAT BAT, MAN...!


SOME-BODY COULD GET HURT!
SOK
BUT IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY, BOYS! WE GOT ORDERS NOT TO HURT YOU... NOT TOO BAD.

YEAH...ONLY JUST ENOUGH TO GET YOUR ATTENTION...
...BUT NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU DEAD! HEE-HAW!
KRAK
DON'T BE A FOOL--WE SHOULD KILL THEM ALL!

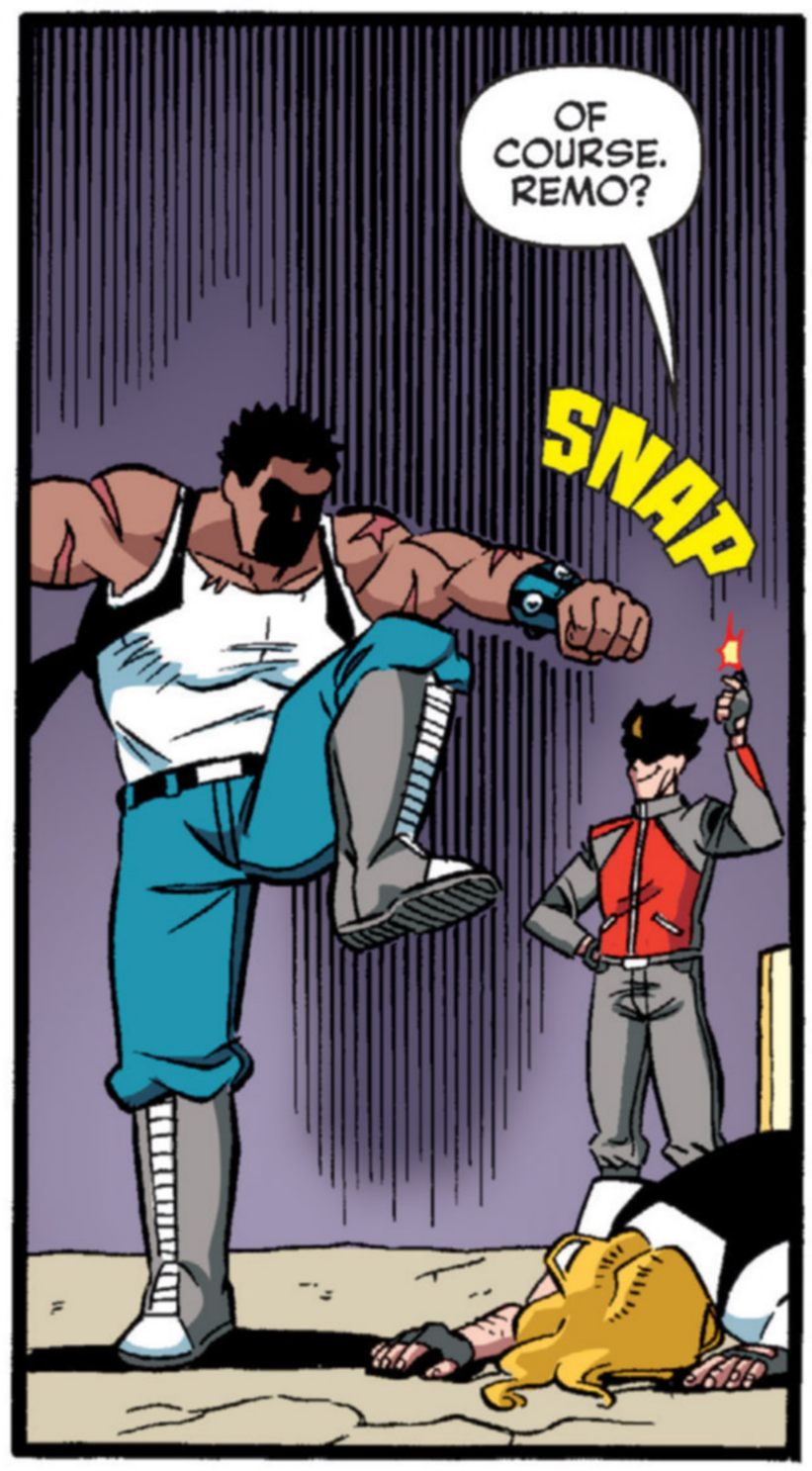
NAW, NAW, SEAN SAID WE NEED 'EM ALIVE!
SEAN KNOWS NOTHING! LISTEN TO ME--!
I...I CAN'T, MAN! SEANY'S THE BOSS...

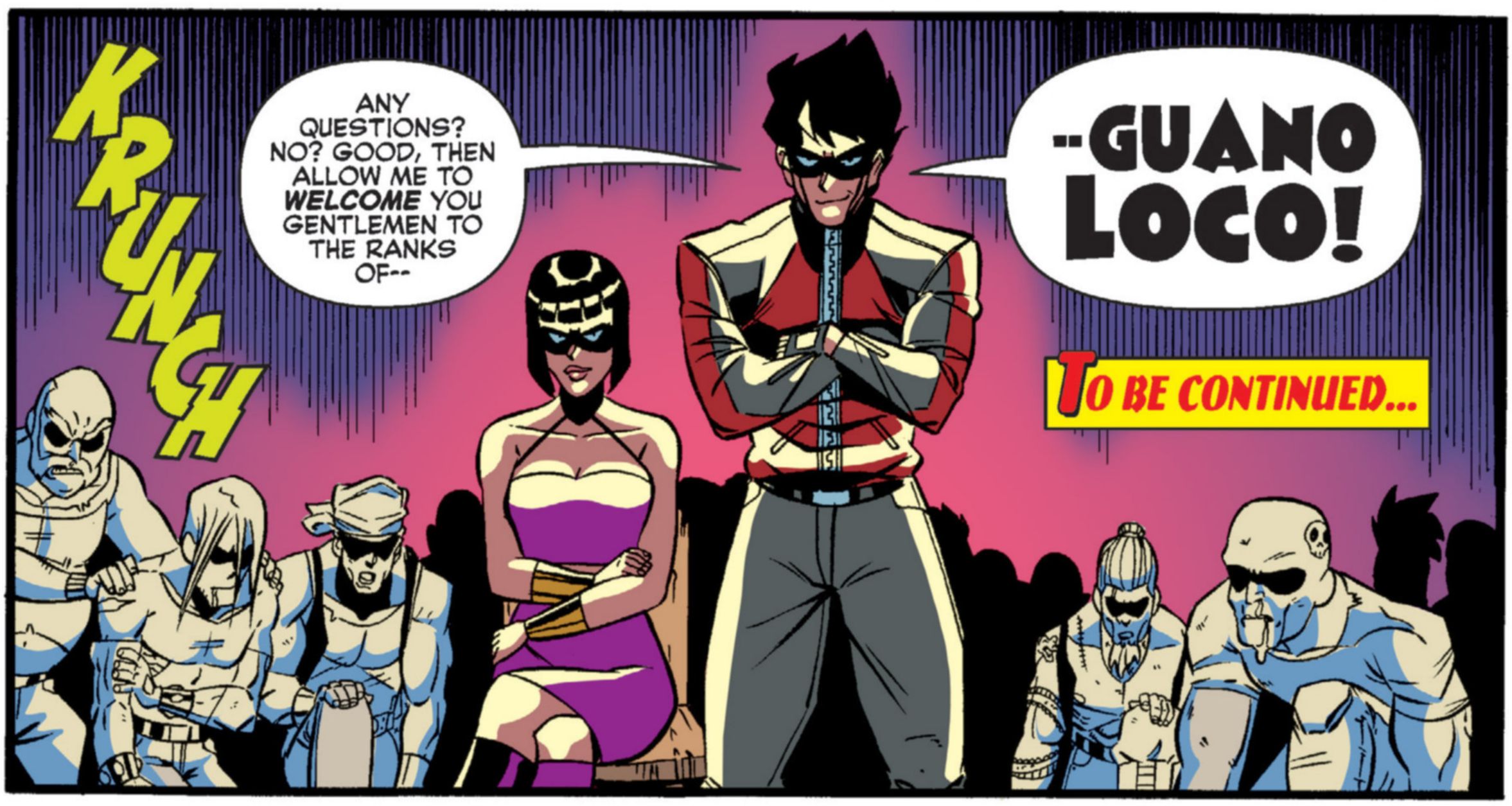

BAH! YOU ARE USELESS TO ME!
GOOD MAN, TAG BUDDY! DON'T LET THAT DEVIL IN YOUR HEAD TELL YOU WHAT TO DO!
GHHGGAAHH!

REMO'S RIGHT. THAT'S MY JOB.
YO, DUDE. RIGHT ON TIME. WE JUST CALLED THIS MEETING TO ORDER!
I SAY BURY THEM WHERE THEY LAY!
WHO ASKED YOU, DEVIL?

LISTEN UP! MY NAME'S SEAN. THE LADY IS JAMIE. THE TWO GUYS WHO BEAT YOU ALL SENSELESS IN UNDER FIFTEEN SECONDS ARE REMO AND TAG.
FROM NOW ON, REMO AND TAG ARE LEADING THIS GANG.

AND JAMIE AND I LEAD THEM. I THINK THAT'S ALL YOU NEED KNOW ABOUT GANG HIERARCHY.
SORRY, BABE, BUT YOU FORGOT TO MENTION WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS OR BETRAYS US.


OF COURSE. REMO?
SNAP


KRUNCH
ANY QUESTIONS? NO? GOOD, THEN ALLOW ME TO WELCOME YOU GENTLEMEN TO THE RANKS OF--
--GUANO LOCO!
TO BE CONTINUED...

DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF...

ROGUE STATE - CHAPTER 2