

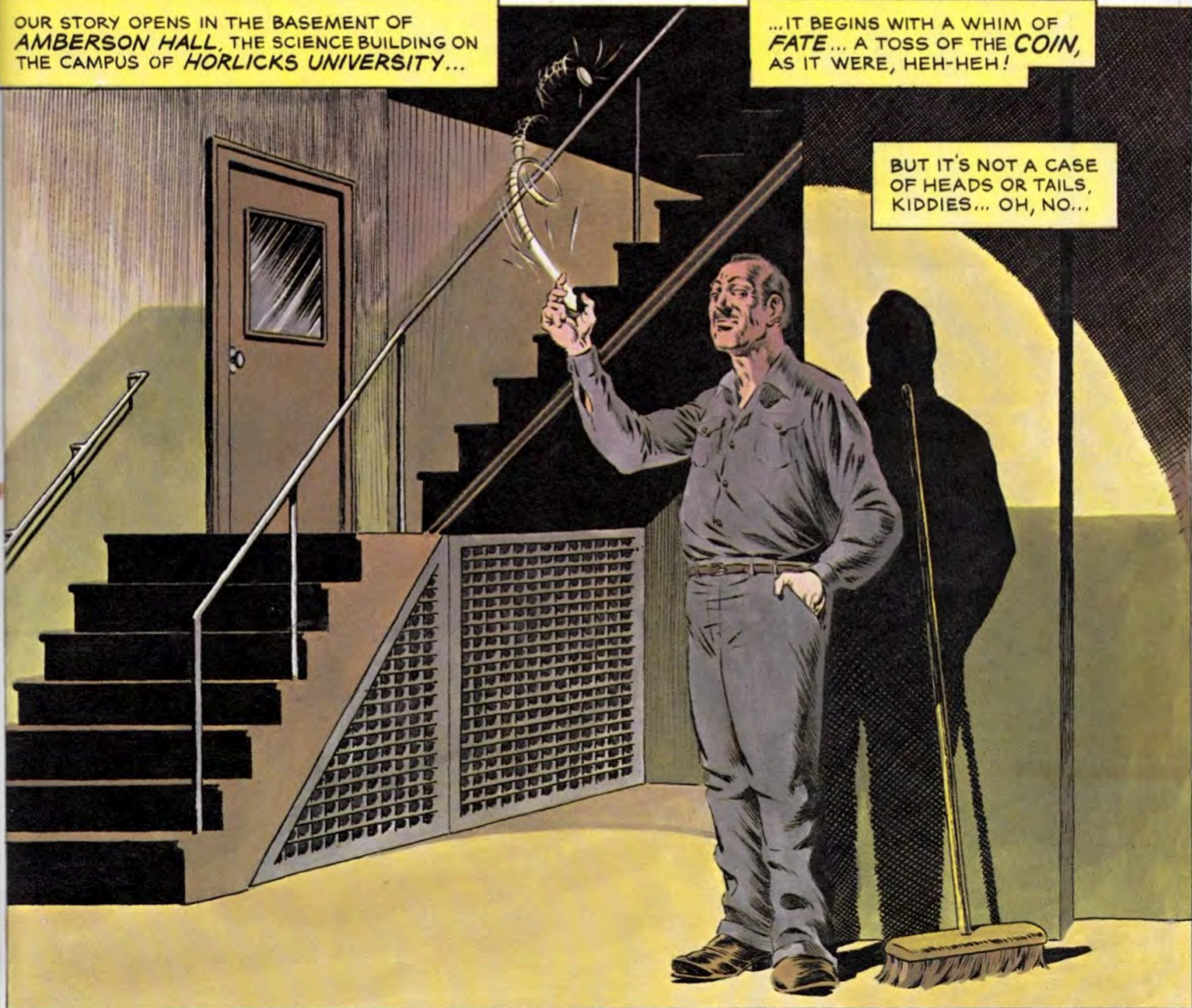
HEH-HEH! WELCOME, KIDDIES... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT *YOU*, BUT I'M FEELING A BIT *EDGY*! MAYBE I'M STILL FEELING THE EFFECTS OF OUR LAST STORY... OR MAYBE IT'S JUST BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN *OUT* IN A LONG TIME! THAT'S *IT*! I'VE GOT THAT *BOXED-IN* FEELING, HEH-HEH! WHICH REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER TALE IN MY *LURID LEXICON*! A LITTLE *FEAR FABLE* CALLED...

THE CRATE

OUR STORY OPENS IN THE BASEMENT OF *AMBERSON HALL*, THE SCIENCE BUILDING ON THE CAMPUS OF *HORLICKS UNIVERSITY*...

...IT BEGINS WITH A WHIM OF *FATE*... A TOSS OF THE *COIN*, AS IT WERE, HEH-HEH!

BUT IT'S NOT A CASE OF HEADS OR TAILS, KIDDIES... OH, NO...



... IT'S THE CASE OF A QUARTER THAT WENT WRONG... DEAD WRONG!

THERE! LOOK AT THAT! DAMMIT!

OR MAYBE IT WAS FATE AFTER ALL!

@#!!☆?!

WHO KNOWS? HEH-HEH-HEH!

WHAT THE HELL?

THE JANITOR'S FLASHLIGHT REVEALS A CRATE... A VERY OLD CRATE!

GUESS I GOT TO CALL PERFESSOR STANLEY! YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I GOT TO DO...

MEANWHILE, AT A DULL FACULTY PARTY ACROSS TOWN, A FACULTY WIFE NAMED WILMA NORTHRUP HAS BEEN STRUCK EXCEEDINGLY DRUNK... AND NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME!

PROFESSOR DEXTER STANLEY, YOU ARE SUCH A CHILD! YOU AND HENRY BOTH, SUCH CHILDREN! BUT AT LEAST HENRY HAS ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIM... DON'T YOU, DEAR?

YES, BILLIE...

AND THIS IS HENRY AND WILMA NORTHRUP, IN THE ENGLISH DE-

JUST CALL ME BILLIE, EVERYONE DOES... IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO SHOW YOU THE ROPES, HON, COME SEE ME. YOU BUYING OR RENTING?

RENTING, RIGHT NOW, BUT WE...

THAT'S ALL FOR THE BEST, HONEY. BELIEVE ME, BUYING A HOUSE IN A COLLEGE TOWN IS A FRIGGING PAIN IN THE ASS... AT OUR HOUSE ALL I DO IS TAKE CARE OF HENRY... HENRY! WE'RE GOING TO FRESHEN OUR DRINKS... STAY PUT!

DROP DEAD, BILLIE!

GIMMEE A **B**... GIMMEE AN **I**... GIMMEE A **T**... GIMMEE A ... YOU KNOW THE REST, EH, KIDDIES? HEH-HEH-HEH! THE CHEER IS AS OLD AS MARRIAGE ITSELF!

CHALK UP ANOTHER KILL FOR BILLIE... THE RED BARON PALES INTO INSIGNIFICANCE COMPARED TO HER!

HEY, COME ON. IT'S NOT THAT BAD...

HOW I'VE GROWN TO HATE HER, DEX...

HENRY, YOU DON'T...

THERE'S A TELEPHONE CALL FOR YOU, PROFESSOR STANLEY.

JUST CALL ME **BILLIE!** EVERYONE DOES!

DUTY CALLS, HENRY... SEE YOU LATER, OKAY?

HELLO? DEXTER STANLEY HERE...

PROFESSOR STANLEY? THIS IS MIKE LATIMER, JANITOR AT THE COLLEGE? I FOUND SOMETHIN' YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

MIKE TELLS OF HIS DISCOVERY...

...AN' IT SAYS **ARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1834...**

1834? REALLY?

...WHILE OUTSIDE, WILMA GOES FROM **BAD** TO... WELL...

... SO I SAID, HENRY, YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR BUTT FROM **THIRD BASE!** IF YOU THINK I... **OOOPS!**

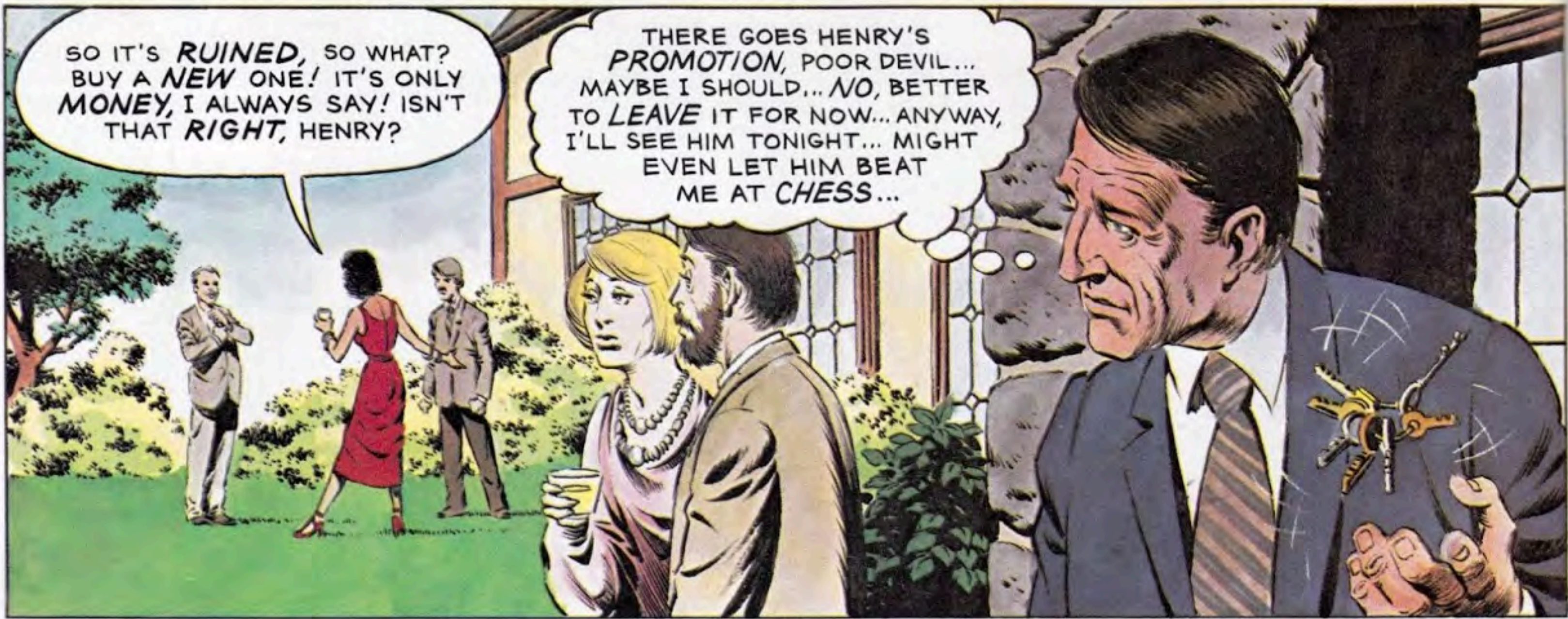
WELL, I'LL BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT FIRST THING ON **MONDAY**...

I KNOW YOU GOT THE PARTY FOR THE INCOMING FACULTY AN' ALL, BUT I SURE WISH...

OH, YOUR POOR **TIE!** HERE, LEMME HELP...

Y'KNOW, MIKE, MAYBE I **COULD** GET UP THERE THIS AFTERNOON. IT'S A PRETTY **DULL** PARTY...

SAY, THAT'D BE **GREAT**, PROFESSOR! I'LL BE WAITIN' RIGHT HERE...



SO IT'S **RUINED**, SO WHAT? BUY A **NEW ONE!** IT'S ONLY **MONEY**, I ALWAYS SAY! ISN'T THAT **RIGHT**, HENRY?

THERE GOES HENRY'S **PROMOTION**, POOR DEVIL... MAYBE I SHOULD... **NO**, BETTER TO **LEAVE** IT FOR NOW... ANYWAY, I'LL SEE HIM TONIGHT... MIGHT EVEN LET HIM BEAT ME AT **CHESS**...

... AN HOUR LATER, AT AMBERSON HALL...

... SO I MISSED IT AN' IT ROLLED UNDER THERE ... WOULDN'T'VE BOTHERED, BUT IT WAS MY LAST QUARTER FOR THE COKE MACHINE...

I'M NOT GETTING A GOOD LOOK, MIKE. RAISE THE LIGHT A BIT... OH, YES! THERE IT IS...



SURE **LOOKS** OLD ENOUGH... LET'S GET THIS GRILL OFF AND HAVE A CLOSER LOOK...

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK, PROFESSOR!



... LONG MINUTES AND SEVERAL SCRAPED KNUCKLES LATER...

THERE WE GO! WATCH IT, DOC... HEAVY SUCKER...

I'M OKAY, MIKE. LET'S GET THAT CRATE OUT OF THERE.



NOT VERY NICE UNDER THERE, AT ALL! GOD, I **HATE** TIGHT PLACES.

I THINK **GRUNT** WE MIGHT REALLY **HAVE** SOMETHING HERE... LET'S TAKE IT DOWN TO THE MAIN **LAB**...



STRAINING AND HEAVING, THE TWO MEN MANAGE TO GET THE CRATE DOWN THE HALL, INTO THE LAB AND...

...ONTO THE TABLE **GASP!** **THERE!** WE... WHAT'S **WRONG**, MIKE?

I... **LORD!!** I DUNNO...

... FELT LIKE... WELL, LIKE SOMETHING **MOVED** IN THERE... DIDN'T YOU **FEEL** IT?

IF THERE EVER **WERE** ANY LIVING SPECIMENS IN THERE I DOUBT IF THEY'RE FEELING VERY **LIVELY** A HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX YEARS...

SURE! BUT, IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING **SHIFTED**...

... GUESS I BEEN SPENDIN' TOO MUCH TIME IN THE HOT SUN, HUH, DOC?

MAYBE, MIKE! LET'S GET IT **OPEN!**

SURE! I GOT A **CROWBAR** IN MY CLOSET... JUST WAIT WHILE I GO GET IT...

... UH-OH... NOT GOOD, DEX! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TURNED TO WATCH MIKE LEAVE! IF YOU'D KEPT LOOKING AT THE CRATE, YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN IT **MOVE**... JUST A LITTLE... BUT IT **DID MOVE**... HEE-HEE...

MEANWHILE, WILMA'S GETTING READY TO GO TO HER NIGHT-CLASS... AT LEAST, SHE SAYS SHE'S GOING TO A CLASS! AND IF SHE LOOKS MORE AS IF SHE'S PLANNING TO BOOGIE DOWN TO THE LOCAL DISCO... WELL...



YES, BILLIE!

... AND DON'T LEAVE THE PANS JUST SOAKING LIKE LAST WEEK, HENRY, **SCRUB** THEM! JUST BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR INTELLECTUAL FRIEND ARE GOING TO PLAY **CHESS**, DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO LEAVE A MESS FOR ME!



AND KINDLY HAVE HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE MY CLASS IS OVER. FRANKLY, THAT TOBACCO HE SMOKES MAKES ME WANT TO **RALPH!!**

YES, BILLIE!



I DON'T KNOW, BILLIE...

"YES, BILLIE, YES, BILLIE!" DEAR HENRY, WHAT **WOULD** YOU DO WITHOUT ME?

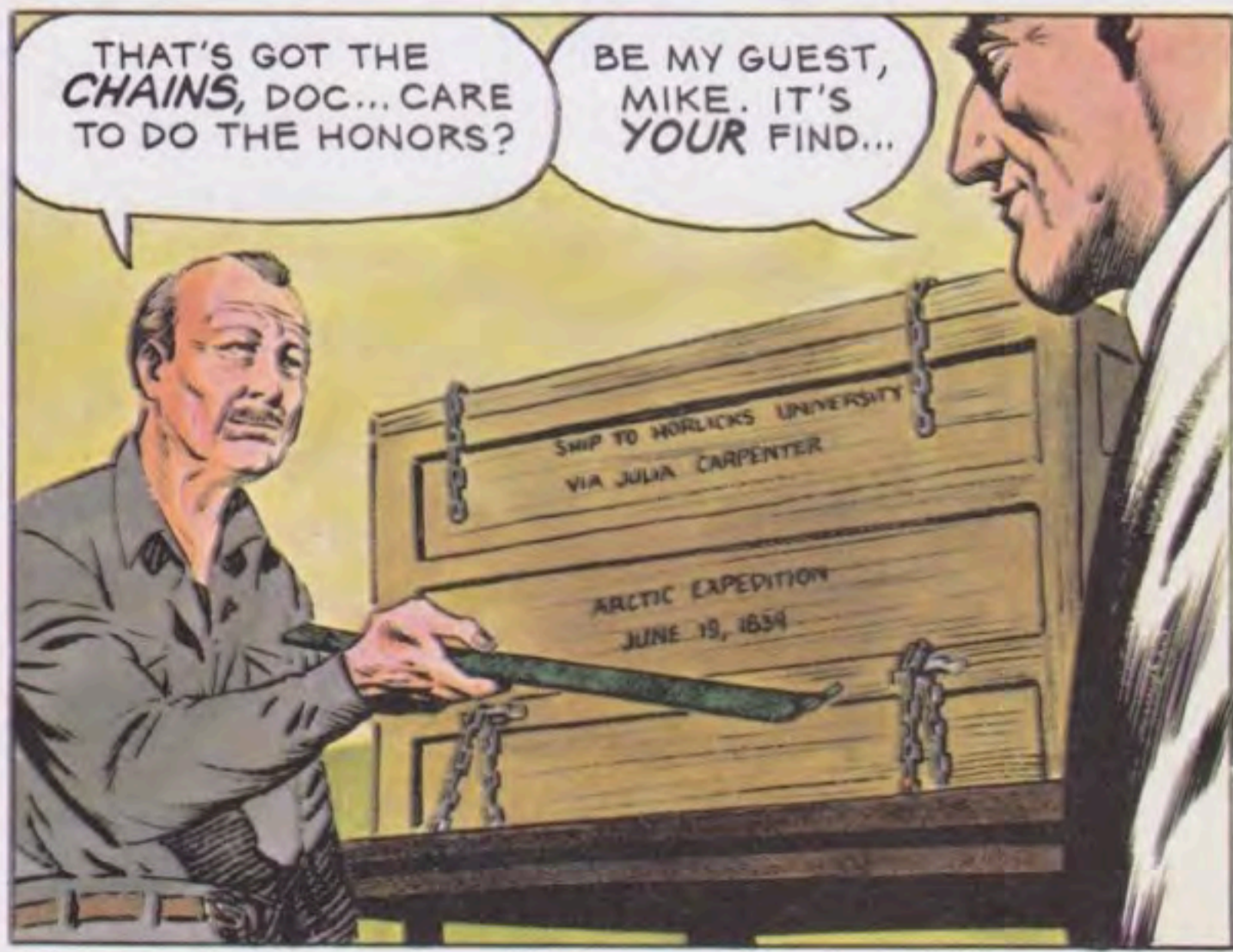
WELL, ON **THAT**, WE'RE EVEN, HENRY, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW **EITHER!**



DO ME A FAVOR, WILMA! HAVE A FEW **MORE** ON THE WAY IN AND **KILL YOURSELF**... YOU MAD-DOG BITCH!



... BACK AT THE LAB...



THAT'S GOT THE **CHAINS**, DOC... CARE TO DO THE HONORS?

BE MY GUEST, MIKE. IT'S **YOUR** FIND...



PROBABLY NOTHIN' IN HERE BUT A BUNCH OF ROCKS AND PLANTS SO OLD THEY'LL TURN TO DUST IF YOU TOUCH 'EM...

... BUT I'M PRETTY HOT TO SEE, JUST THE SAME...



THAT'S WHAT MAKES SCIENTISTS, MIKE. JUST LAST YEAR WE FOUND AN ANTIQUE GERBIL-RUN UP ON THE FOURTH FLOOR...



...LOVELY GLASS PANELS... PROBABLY WORTH A THOUSAND OR TWO...



... BUT I'M STILL BETTING *YOUR* CRATE'S FULL OF OLD MAGAZINES OR JUST PLAIN JUNK...

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, DOC...



... STILL... THAT **ARCTIC EXPEDITION** BUSINESS... AND THE **DATE**...

YEAH! KINDA MAKES YOU WONDER IF... **MAYBE**...



SURE HOPE YOU FELLOWS DIDN'T WAKE ANYTHING UP...HEE-HEE!

DOC, DO **YOU** HEAR...?

...YES! THAT LOW, **WHISTLING** NOISE... PROBABLY JUST ESCAPING GASES...



... EXCEPT IT'S **STILL** WHISTLING! I DON'T KNOW IF...

LOOK! SOMETHIN' IN THERE! SOMETHIN' **SHINY!**



DEX STANLEY IS GRIPPED WITH A SUDDEN, ATAVISTIC FEAR...

...LOOKS LIKE A COUPLA **EMERALDS**, OR...

MIKE! DON'T...



...THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SCIENCE!

WHA? OH, PROFESSOR, COME ON... YOU DON'T...



...!?



OH MY GOD!! MY ARM! IT'S GOT ME!! OH, GOD, HELP ME...



HELP ME!!
OH, HELP ME,
DOC...



IT'S GOT
ME!!

HOLD ON,
MIKE!



IT'S BITING
MEEEE!!

HOLD
ON, NOW

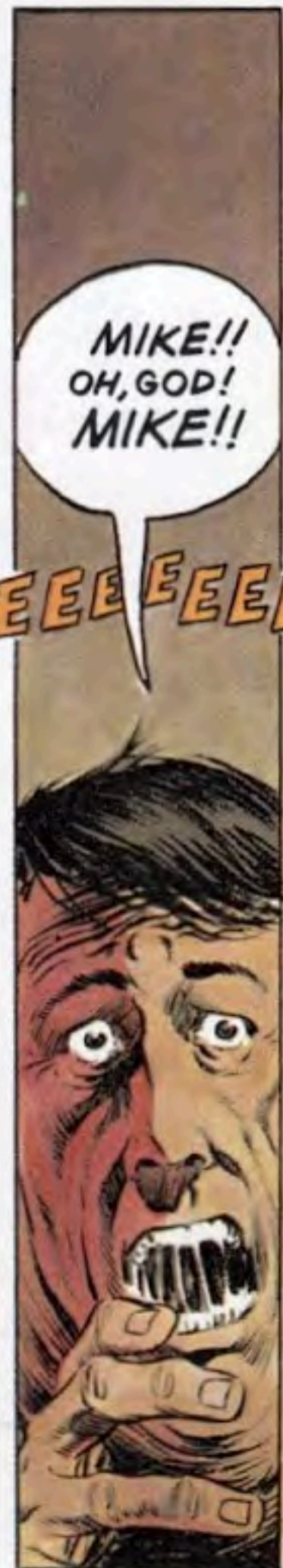


OH, DEAR
LORD!!

MIKE!!



...GET ME OUT!
IT'S BITING
ME!!



MIKE!!
OH, GOD!
MIKE!!



OH GOD THAT
HURTS! IT HURTS!!
IT HURRRRRR--



OH MIKE
SOB
MIKE...



IT HURTS!!
IT'S BITING...
IT...ARRGHHH!

MIKE'S SCREAMS ARE CUT SHORT... REPLACED BY THE SOUNDS OF... **CRUNCHING...** OF **CRACKING BONES...**

CHOMP CHOMP

HE... HE'S DEAD!! OH, LORD!!



...THE SICKENINGLY UNMISTAKABLE SOUNDS...

CRACK MUNCH

I'VE GOT TO... **CHOKE**...



OF **EATING!**

CRUNCH SMACK

...HELP! MUST FIND SOME-ONE TO...



...UNTIL THEY ARE REPLACED BY A SOFT, DRIPPING SOUND...
...LIKE **RAIN...**

HELP! HELP!!



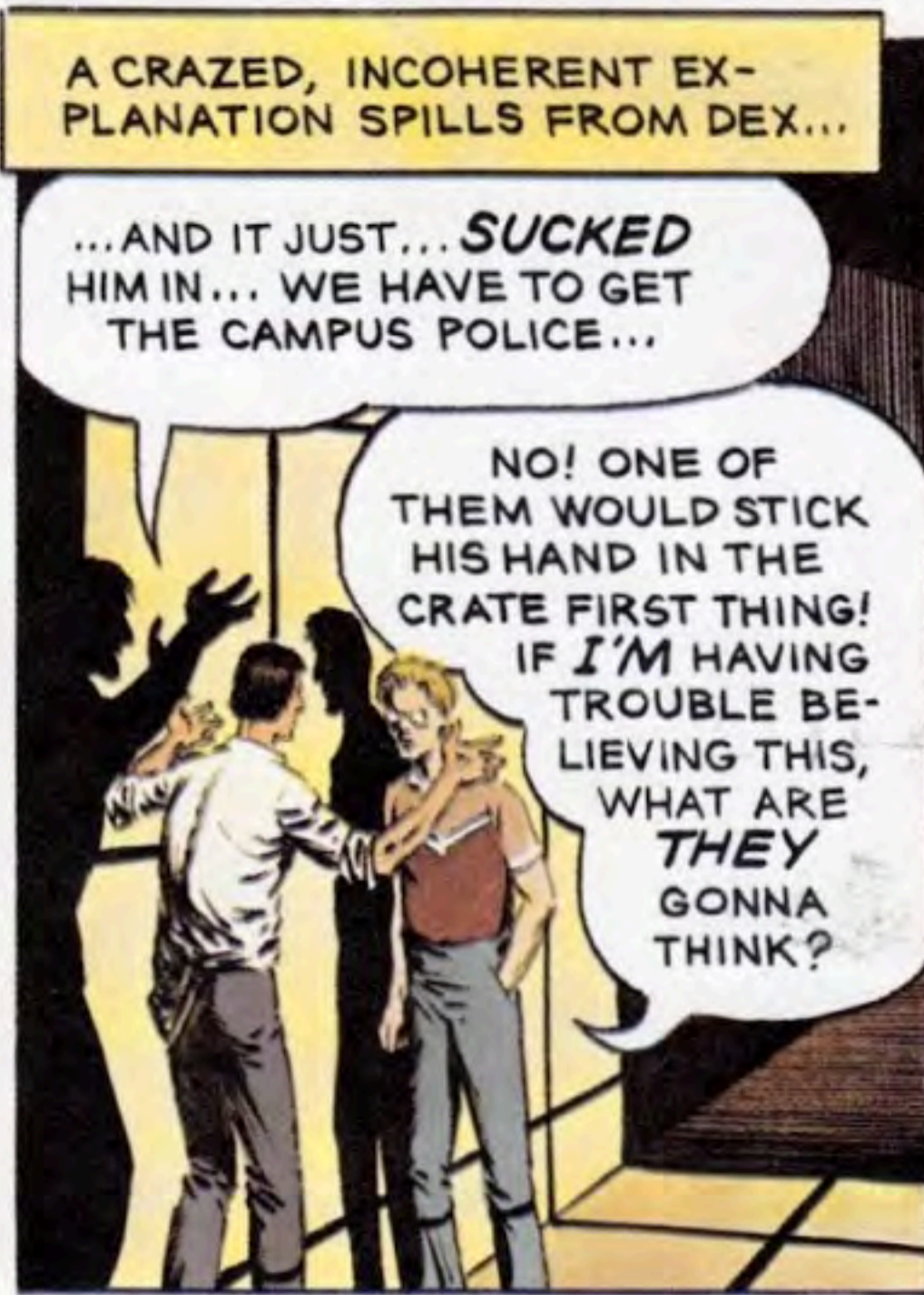
... HELP... I...
CHARLIE!
CHARLIE GERESON!
THANK GOD!

PROFESSOR STANLEY!
WHA...?



...THE JANITOR... THE CRATE... IT WHISTLES... *IT WHISTLES WHEN IT'S HUNGRY... WHEN IT'S ANGRY...* WE HAVE TO... CAMPUS SECURITY... WE HAVE TO...

SLOW DOWN, PROFESSOR! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...



A CRAZED, INCOHERENT EXPLANATION SPILLS FROM DEX...

...AND IT JUST... *SUCKED* HIM IN... WE HAVE TO GET THE CAMPUS POLICE...

NO! ONE OF THEM WOULD STICK HIS HAND IN THE CRATE FIRST THING! IF I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING THIS, WHAT ARE *THEY* GONNA THINK?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'D THINK... I...

THEY'D THINK YOU'D... WE'D *BOTH* BEEN OFF ON ONE HELLUVA *TOOT...* AND GOT TO SEEING TASMANIAN DEVILS INSTEAD OF PINK ELEPHANTS...



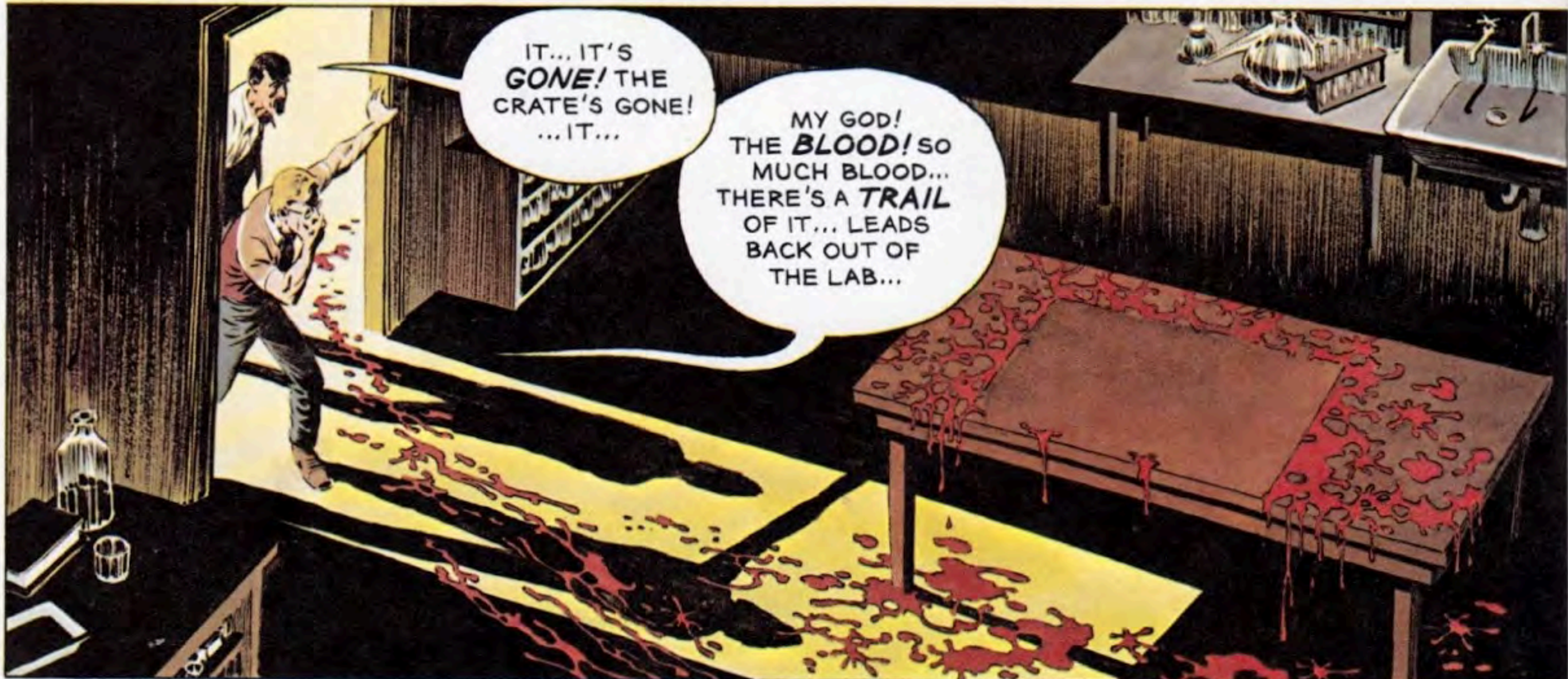
I THINK WE OUGHT TO GO DOWN AND SEE HOW THE LAND LIES BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING ELSE...

BUT...



... IT MAY BE OUT...

OH, I DOUBT... *GOOD LORD!*



IT... IT'S *GONE!* THE CRATE'S GONE! ...IT...

MY GOD! THE *BLOOD!* SO MUCH BLOOD... THERE'S A *TRAIL* OF IT... LEADS BACK OUT OF THE LAB...



IF CHARLIE DOESN'T LOOK OUT, KIDDIES, HE MAY GET A CHANCE TO MEASURE THOSE **BITE MARKS**...

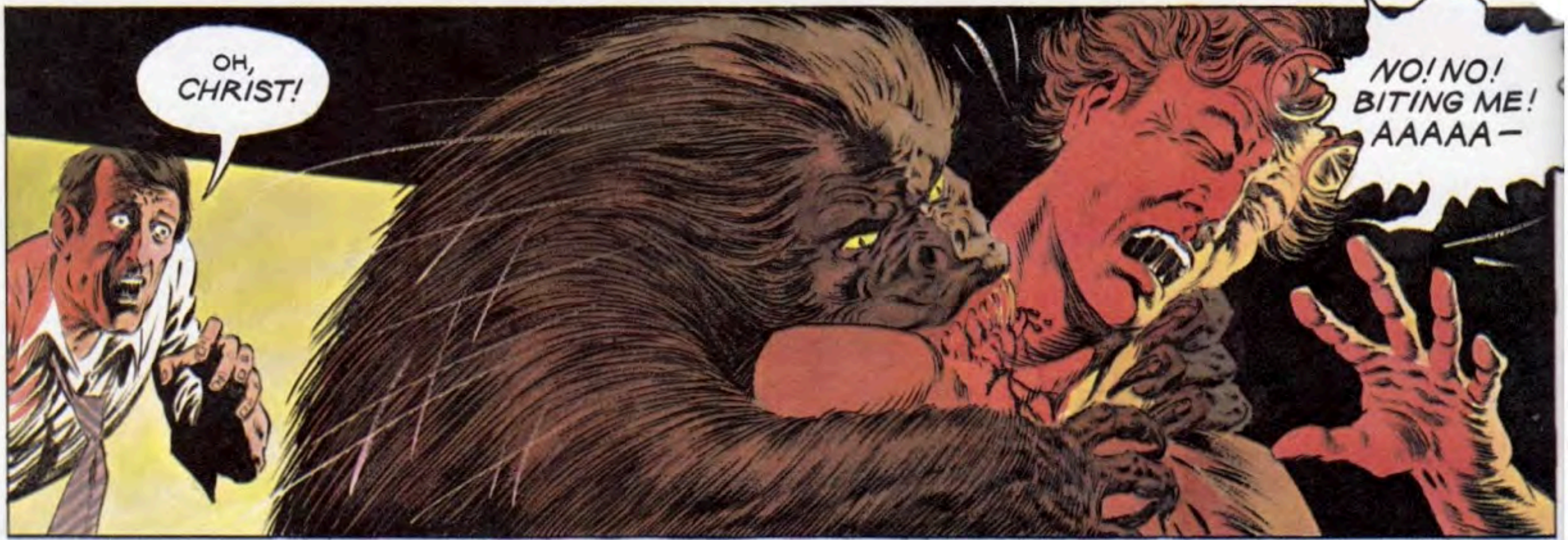


PERSONALLY!



TOO LATE, CHARLIE!





OH, CHRIST!

NO! NO! BITING ME! AAAAA-



CHARLIE! GRAB MY HAND... GRAB...

OH, GOD, PROFESSOR! PLEASE... I...



OH, GOD IT'S GOT ME AGAIN! IT...

CHARLIE!!



YAAHHHH!

CHARLIE! OH, MY GOD!! I... I'M... SORRY...



POOR DEX IS IN BAD SHAPE, EH KIDDIES... AFTER ALL, TWICE IN ONE DAY, HEH-HEH! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING HE CAN DO, NOW... ONLY ONE PLACE HE CAN GO... TO THE ONLY PERSON WHO WILL BELIEVE HIM...

... SORRY... SOB... SO... SORRY...

EEEEEEEEEE

AT HENRY'S...

... AND THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF HIM... HIS LEGS DISAPPEARING UNDER THE STAIRWELL... I... I WOULD HAVE SAVED HIM IF I COULD, HENRY... I... I CAME HERE...



HENRY... HENRY? YOU DO BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU, HENRY?

YES, DEX... I BELIEVE YOU...



BUT, DEX... WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO...

RYDER'S QUARRY IS PROBABLY DEEP ENOUGH...

WHAT?



YES, HENRY BELIEVES YOU, ALL RIGHT, DEX... AND HE SEES CERTAIN POSSIBILITIES IN THE SITUATION...

RYDER'S QUARRY... THE CRATE... WE CAN DROP IT IN RYDER'S QUARRY! TWO MEN ARE DEAD, HENRY... TWO MEN DEAD AND I... I COULD BE BLAMED...



... AND HENRY HAS HIS OWN MONSTER, DOESN'T HE, KIDDIES?

CHA... CHARLIE GERESON WANTED TO MEASURE THE BITE MARKS! I GUESS HE GOT HIS CHANCE, EH, HENRY? I SURELY GUESS HE GOT HIS CHANCE...

I HAVE TO USE THE FACILITY, DEX... THEN WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO...



A MONSTER NAMED WILMA!!

POOR GUY'S IN SHOCK... HYSTERICAL... NEEDS REST... NOW WHERE ARE WILMA'S SLEEPING PILLS?



THESE SHOULD DO THE TRICK... THEY CERTAINLY WORK FOR WILMA...



WILMA... OH, YES... WILMA...



SHE'S NEVER FAR FROM YOUR THOUGHTS, IS SHE, HENRY? THAT SHRILL, BRAYING VOICE IS ALWAYS THERE... TELLING YOU... REMINDING...

"OH, HENRY, HA-HA! YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD..."





A CHILD, HENRY! HA-HA
 A CH HENR HA-HA
 JUST A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING-CHILD! HA-HA-HA...
 HA-HA-HA...
 HA-HA GOOD-FOR-NOTHING CHILD HA-HA
 HA-HA CH HA
 A NOTHING CHILD HA-HA

BUT GUESS WHAT, WILMA?



I JUST GREW UP!!



BAM!



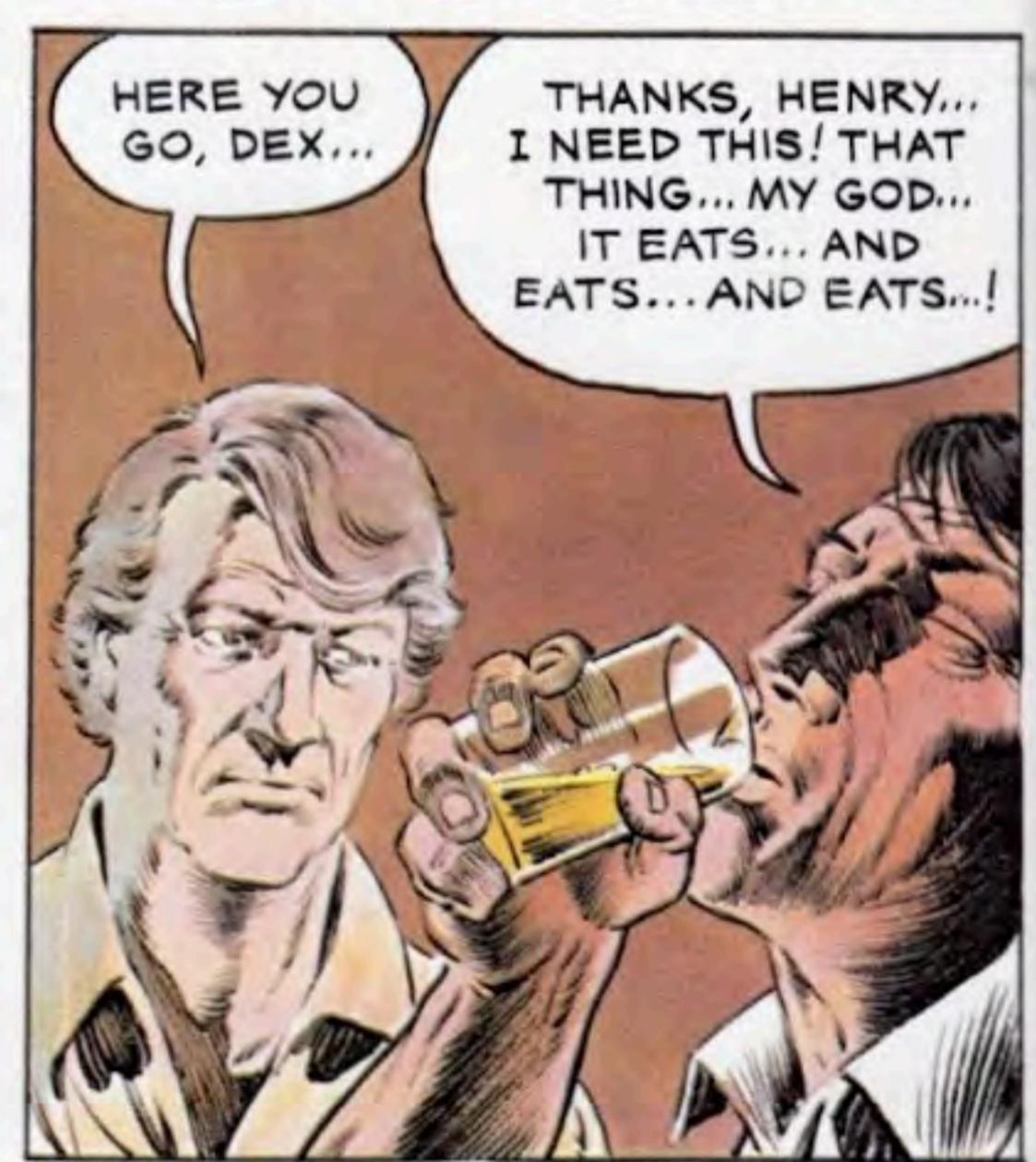
AL GO HOOTIN HENRY
 DEAD CENTER!
 GOOD SHOOTING GO HENRY!
 REAL GOOD SH HENRY
 ...SHOT, HENRY...

UH... OH, I'M SORRY, DEX! WHAT DID YOU SAY?



MY DRINK... IT'S GONE. I SAID I COULD USE ANOTHER SHOT...

BE RIGHT THERE, DEX!



HERE YOU GO, DEX...

THANKS, HENRY... I NEED THIS! THAT THING... MY GOD... IT EATS... AND EATS... AND EATS...!



I MEAN... LORD! TWO HUMAN BEINGS... JUST GONE! ERASED! WIPED OFF... THE... FACE... OF... zzz

SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT, DEX, BUT I NEED YOU ASLEEP AND OUT OF THE WAY FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS... YOU SEE, OLD FRIEND...



...THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!



A SHORT TIME LATER, AT AMBERSON HALL...

YOU WERE *WRONG*, DEX... MIKE AND CHARLIE *WEREN'T* ERASED! NOT COMPLETELY... NOT *YET*...

HAVE TO GET STARTED... WILMA WILL BE GETTING HOME ANY TIME, NOW... SHE'LL FIND THE...



NOTE? WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

WILMA, I'VE HAD TO LEAVE IN A HURRY BECAUSE OF A CALL FROM DEXTER STANLEY. HE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE...



... AT LEAST THE BLOOD'S NOT COMPLETELY DRY YET...

... MAKES IT A LITTLE EASIER TO CLEAN...

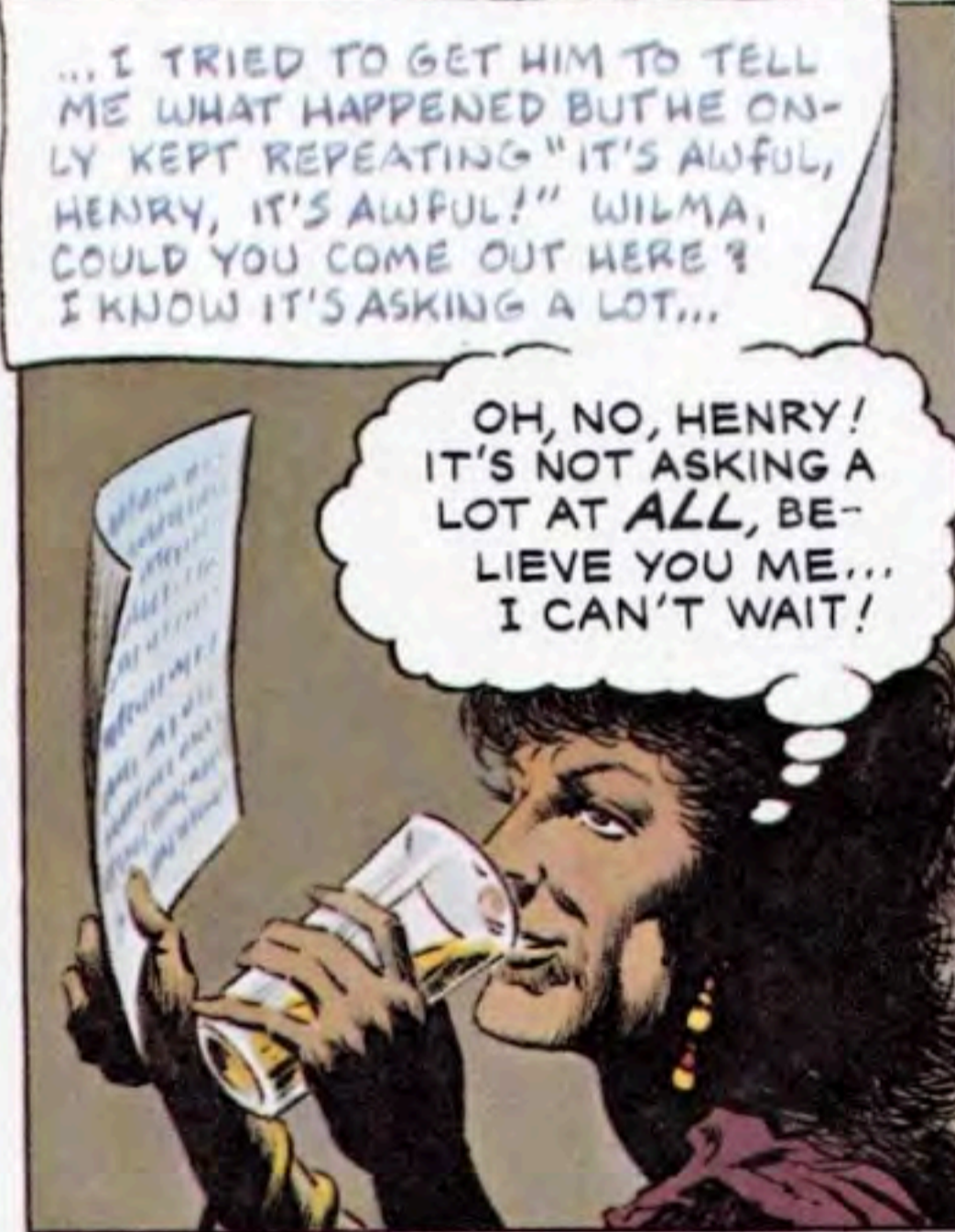


... IT SEEMS HE GOT A YOUNG WOMAN TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO AMBERSON HALL, AND THEN ATTACKED HER, I'M SORRY BUT THAT'S THE KINDEST WAY TO PUT IT...

OH, HENRY, THIS IS GOOD! DEX STANLEY - A SEX FIEND!



... THERE... THERE'S JUST SO MUCH OF IT... NEVER SEEN SO MUCH BLOOD...



... I TRIED TO GET HIM TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED BUT HE ONLY KEPT REPEATING "IT'S AWFUL, HENRY, IT'S AWFUL!" WILMA, COULD YOU COME OUT HERE? I KNOW IT'S ASKING A LOT...

OH, NO, HENRY! IT'S NOT ASKING A LOT AT ALL, BELIEVE YOU ME... I CAN'T WAIT!



... HAVE TO HURRY! WILMA WILL BE SHOWING UP HERE ANY TIME NOW... HAVE TO BE READY...



... BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CLEAR-HEADED ABOUT THESE THINGS. AS YOU SO OFTEN SAY, WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?

WHAT, INDEED, HENRY, HA-HA! WHAT INDEED?



... A BIT LATER, AT AMBERSON HALL...

HENRY? WHERE ARE YOU?

DOWN HERE, WILMA...



THE *GIRL*, HENRY... WHERE *IS* SHE? WHERE... WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT...

IT... HEH-HEH... IT DOES HAVE ITS *FUNNY* SIDE, BILLIE... ...C'MON, YOU'LL SEE...



YOUR BEST FRIEND GETS INTO A SCRAPE AND YOU'RE LAUGHING? WHAT KIND OF...

BUT IT... HEH-HEH... IT'S SO *FUNNY*, BILLIE! C'MON, *LOOK!* SHE'S CRAWLED UNDER THE STAIRWELL... *LOOK*, BILLIE... YOU'LL LAUGH, TOO! YOU... HEH-HEH... YOU'LL *DIE* LAUGHING!!



GO ON, BILLIE! *LOOK!* TAKE A LOOK, AND DIE LAUGHING! *LOOK*, YOU *BITCH*!!

HENRY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



WHAT I *SHOULD* HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGO! *GET UNDER THERE, WILMA*!!



C'MON *OUT!* WAKE UP WHAT-EVER YOU ARE!



WAKE UP! DINNER TIME!! *POISON MEAT!* WAKE UP!
JUST TELL IT TO CALL YOU *BILLIE*, YOU *BITCH*!



...JUST TELL IT... TO... CALL...



OH, THAT WAS GREAT, HENRY... JUST *GREAT*!! YOU THINK THIS IS THE *FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS*?



IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, HENRY? WANNA SEE SOME *REAL* PUNCHING? HUH, HENRY?



YOU KNOW WHAT, HENRY? YOU'RE A REGULAR **BARNYARD EXHIBIT**-- EVERYTHING ROLLED UP INTO ONE, **SHEEP EYES, CHICKEN GUTS, PIGGY FRIENDS...** AND **CRAP FOR BRAINS!** NO GOOD AT DEPARTMENTAL POLITICS, NO GOOD AT MAKING AN IMPRESSION...



... AND **NO GOOD AT ALL IN BED!!** DEX STANLEY MAY BE A **RAPIST** BUT AT LEAST HE'S STILL GOT SOME **RAM** IN HIS **RAMROD!** WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU...



...YOU... GOT... IT...



HENREEEE!!

GOOD LORD!!



DON'T... HEH-HEH... DON'T **HURT** IT, NOW, WILMA...



... OFFER IT... HEH-HEH... OFFER IT A **DRINK** AND TELL IT...



... TO JUST CALL YOU **BILLIE**...

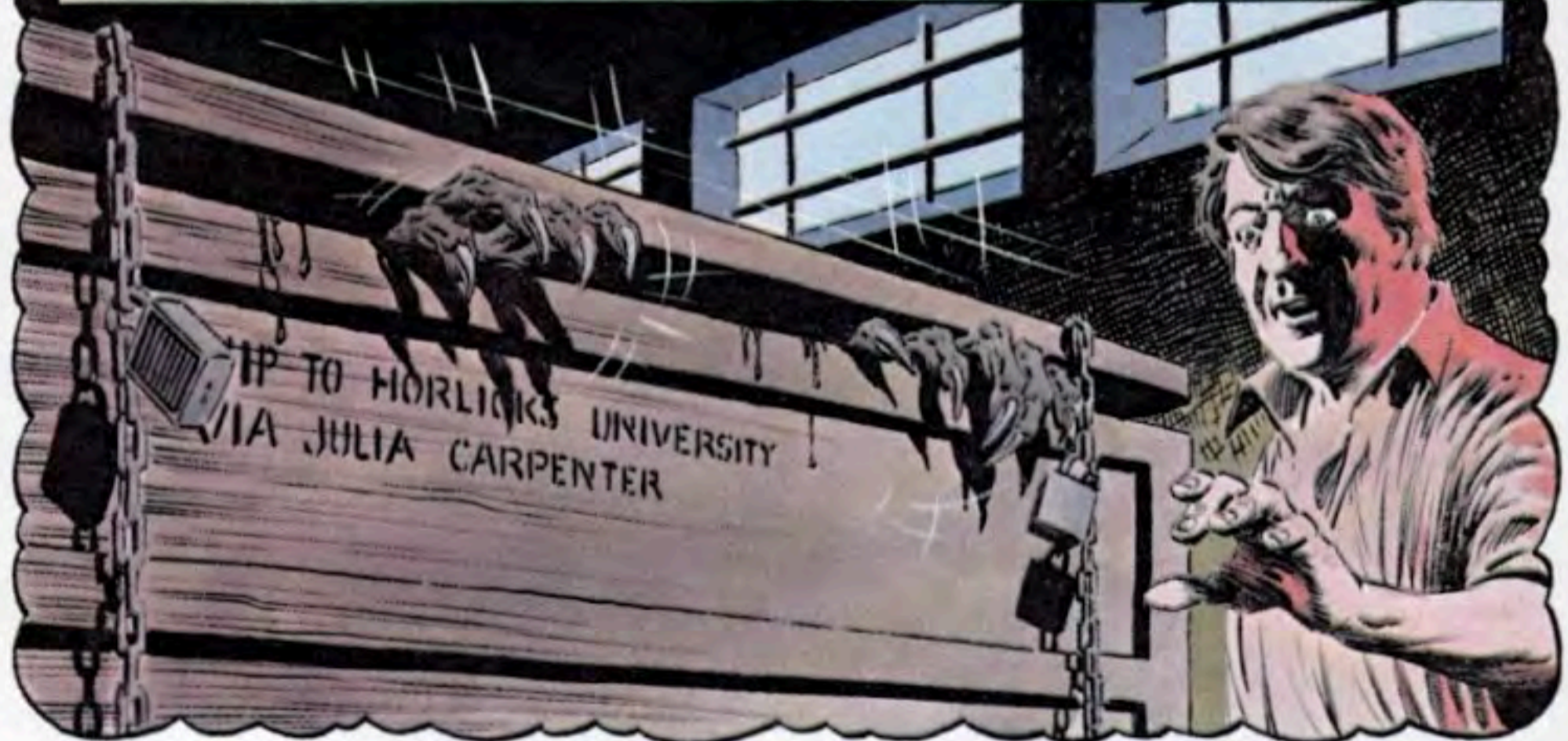
... HOURS LATER, IN THE KITCHEN OF THE NORTHRUP HOME...

... AND WHEN THOSE HORRIBLE **EATING** SOUNDS FINALLY **STOPPED**... AND I HEARD IT CLIMBING BACK INTO THE **CRATE**...

YES, HENRY... THE **CRATE**... TELL ME WHAT YOU **DID** WITH THE CRATE...

THAT'S THE **BEAUTY** OF IT! YOU PUT THE FINAL PIECE IN THE JIGSAW YOURSELF... THE CRATE IS AT THE BOTTOM OF **RYDER'S QUARRY**...

...AFTER WILMA WAS... **AFTERWARDS**, WHEN I WAS CERTAIN THE THING WAS BACK IN THE **CRATE**, I CHAINED IT UP, AGAIN. FOUND A COUPLE OF LOCKS IN THE JANITOR'S CLOSET... THE BEAST WOKE UP OR CAME TO OR WHATEVER... MADE A HELL OF A RACKET, BUT FINALLY SETTLED DOWN...



...AT ANY **OTHER** TIME OF YEAR, I COULD NEVER HAVE DONE IT, YOU KNOW... BUT, RIGHT NOW THE CAMPUS IS **DESERTED**... I DIDN'T SEE ANOTHER LIVING SOUL... THE WHOLE THING WAS ALMOST **HELLISHLY PERFECT**...

... ANYWAY, I DROVE OUT TO **RYDER'S QUARRY**... I COULD **HEAR** THE THING INSIDE THE CRATE AND I THINK MAYBE, AT THE VERY END, IT SUSPECTED WHAT WAS HAPPENING...



...SO THE **CRATE** IS NOW AT THE BOTTOM OF **RYDER'S QUARRY**... WITH THE REMAINS OF THREE HUMAN BEINGS IN IT...

SK-LASHH

...WELL, **TWO** HUMAN BEINGS... AND **WILMA**...

THEN YOU CAME BACK HERE?

FIRST I WENT BACK TO AMBERSON HALL... AND **CLEANED** UNDER THE STAIRS...

THERE WAS A LOT OF STUFF FROM WILMA'S PURSE... THE JANITOR'S KEYS...

...I THINK I CLEANED UP **EVERYTHING**...

THE QUESTION IS, WHAT HAPPENS **NOW**?

...THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF **FOUL PLAY**... I SAW TO THAT...

...AND THERE REALLY ARE **NO** BODIES...

...WHAT ABOUT **YOU, DEX**? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY?

NOTHING, HENRY... AFTER ALL, WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?


THANK YOU... **THANK YOU, DEX**...

NO NEED TO THANK ME, HENRY. JUST UNDERSTAND THAT I EXPECT TO WHIP YOUR BUTT AT **CHESS** TWICE A WEEK FOR THE REST OF OUR **LIVES**...

WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT **THAT**, WON'T WE?

ONLY ONE THING **BOTHERS** ME... WHAT IF IT GETS **OUT, HENRY**?

IF YOU SAW THE WAY I CHAINED IT UP, YOU WOULDN'T WORRY, DEX. THAT THING IS **DROWNED** IN ITS BOX SEVENTY FEET DOWN... SO **RELAX**...



SHIP TO HORLICKS UP
VIA JULIA CARPENTER

HEH-HEH! WELL, I GUESS
WILMA GOT WHAT WAS COMING
TO HER, EH KIDDIES? BUT, SUCH
MANNERS! NOT SO MUCH AS A
THANK YOU... THE ONLY WORD
TO DESCRIBE WILMA NOW IS...
ARE YOU READY, KIDDIES...
INCRATE!! HEH-HEH!

THE END?