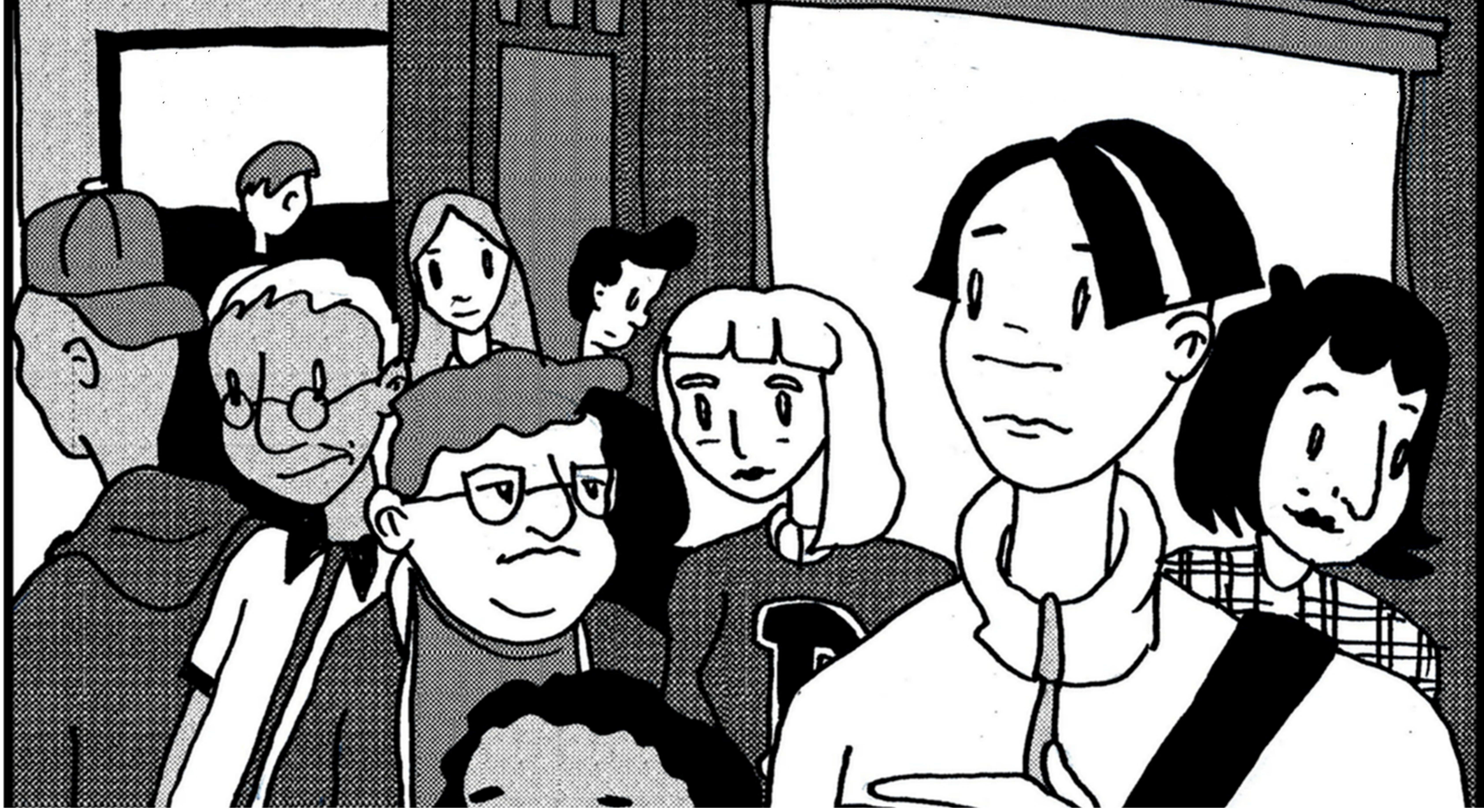
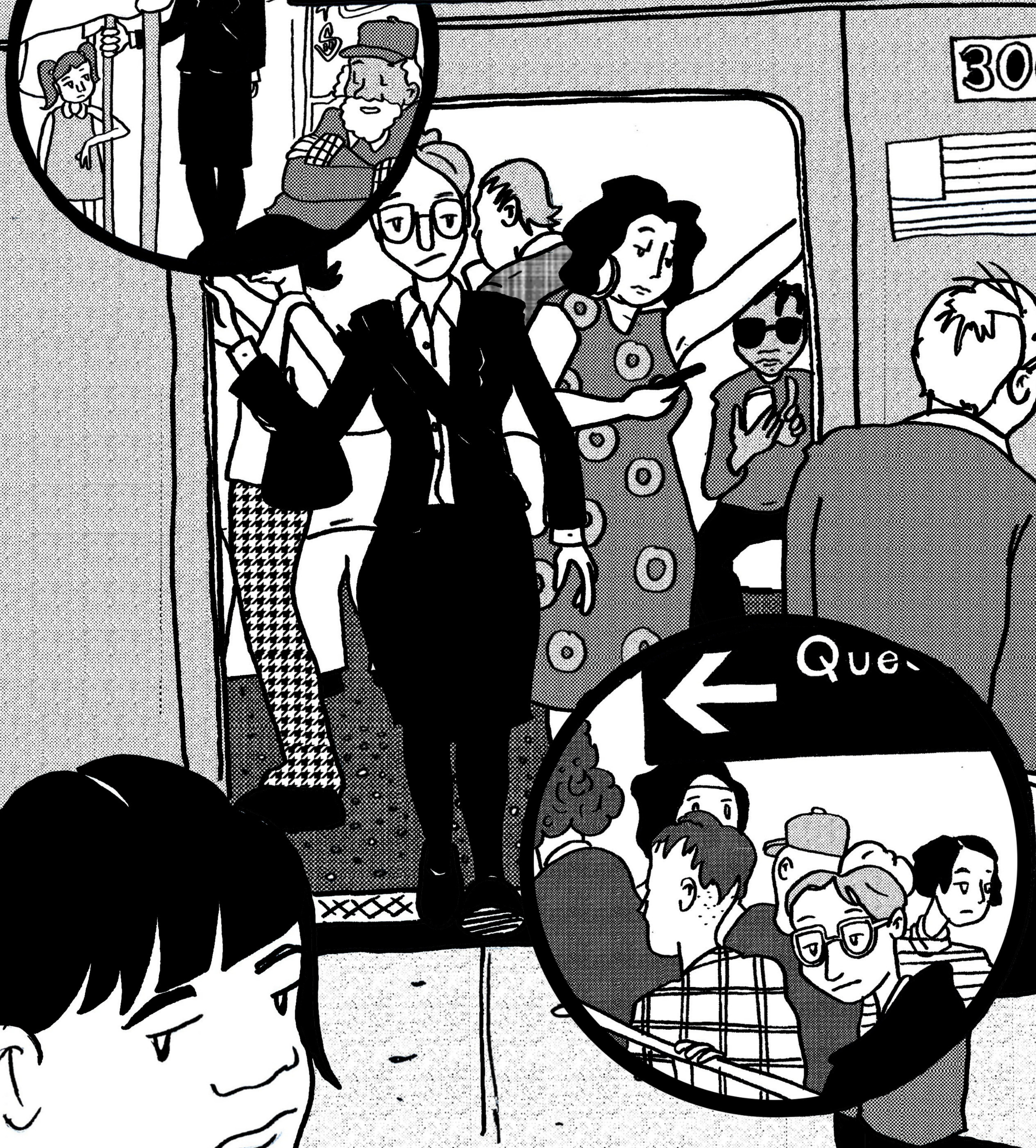
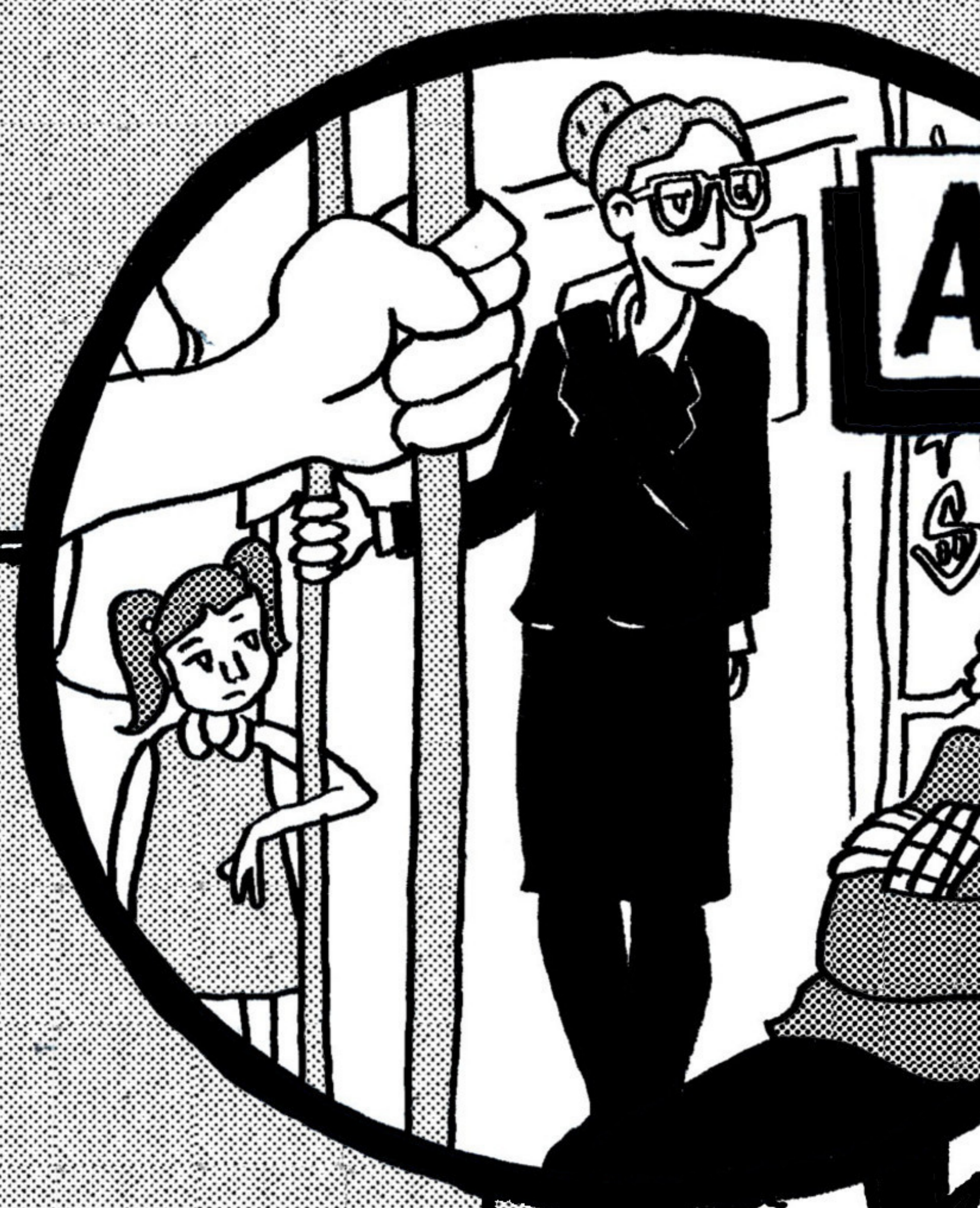


City of Sonnails

Report

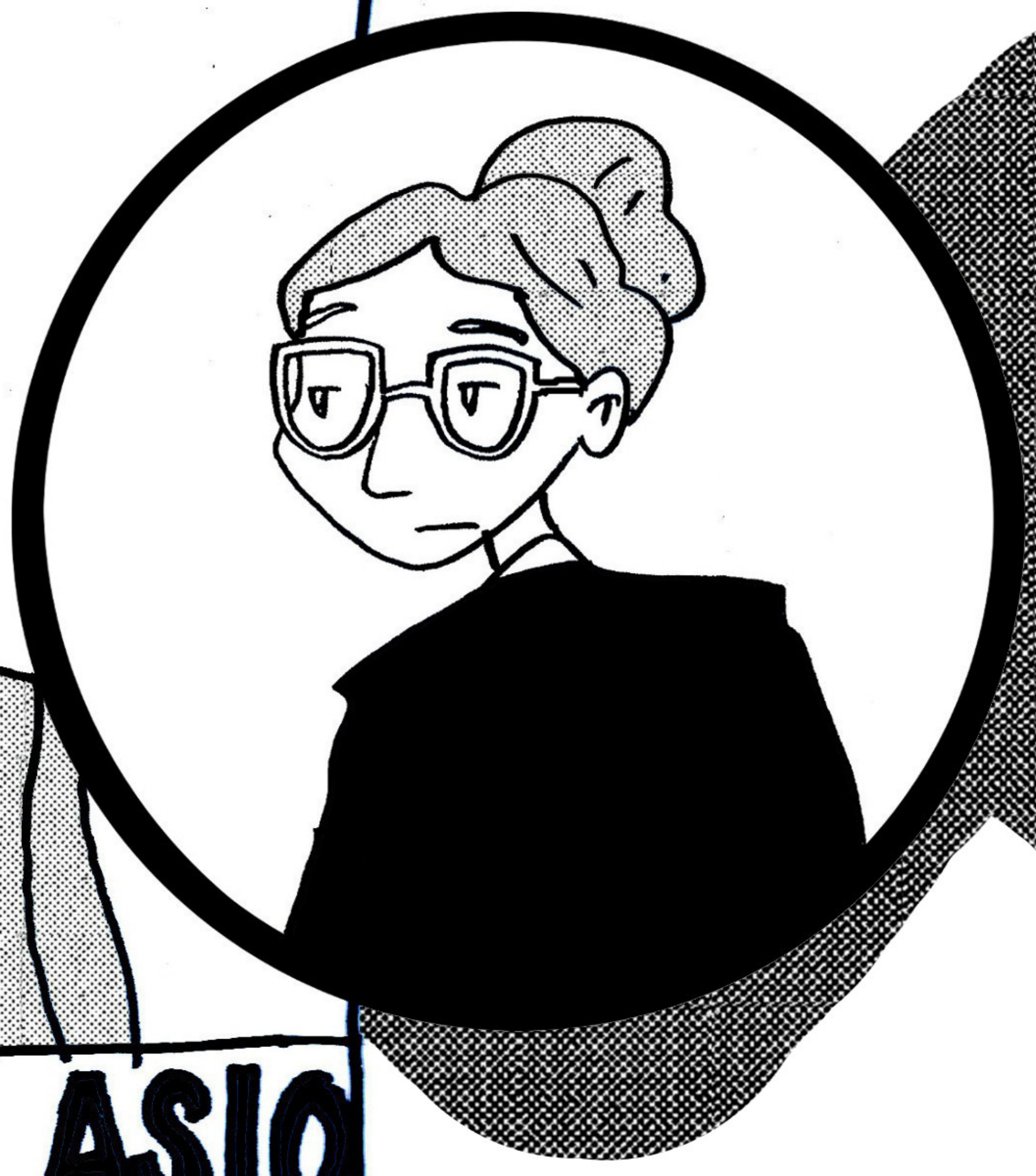


MY NAME IS TOVA.
AND THIS IS MY LIFE...



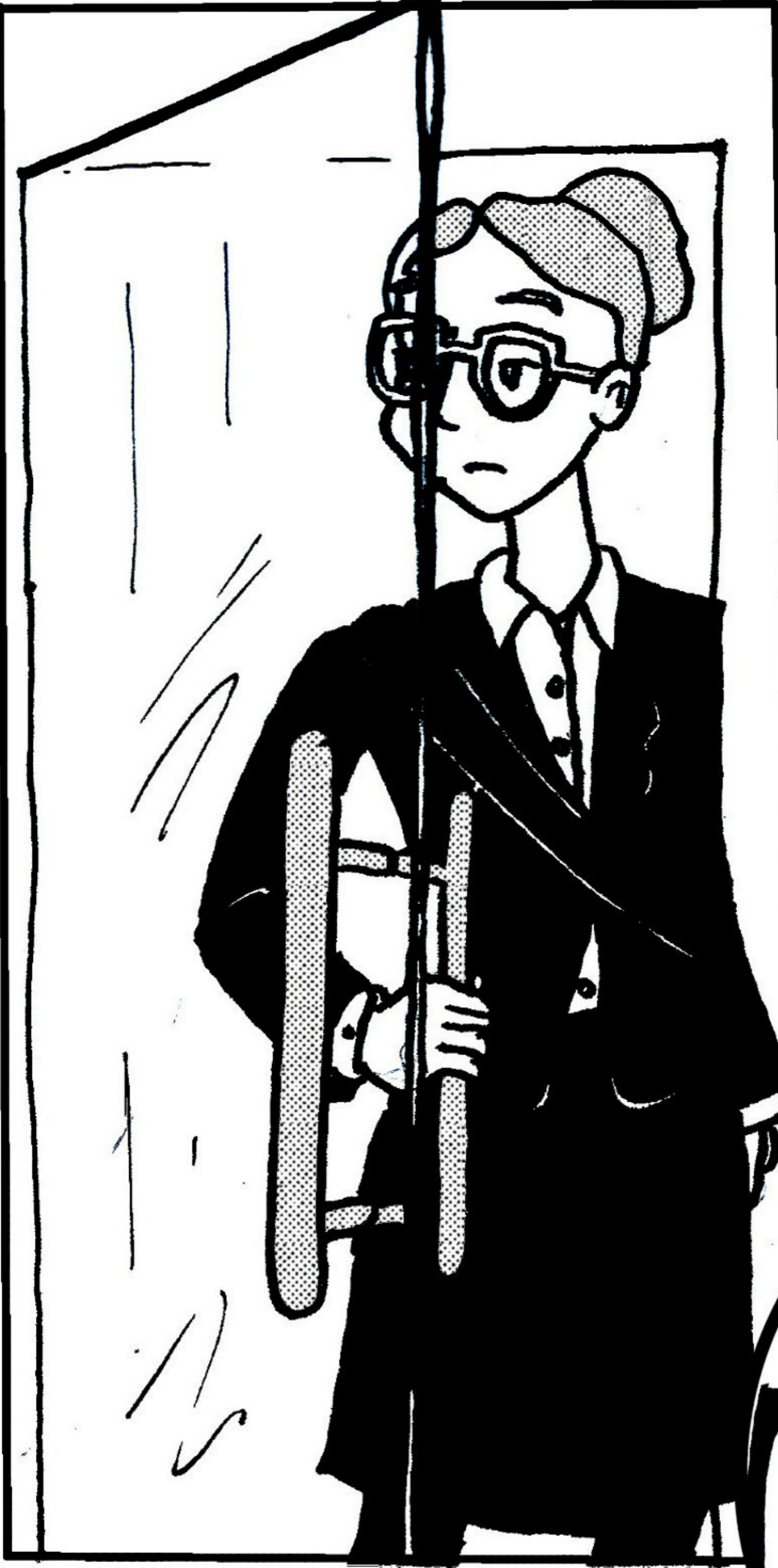


THIS CITY ISN'T
A PLAYGROUND
FOR THE RICH.
IT'S A HOME TO
WORKING PEOPLE
...



H MAYOR DEBLASIO

SUMMARY



EVERY SINGLE DAY...

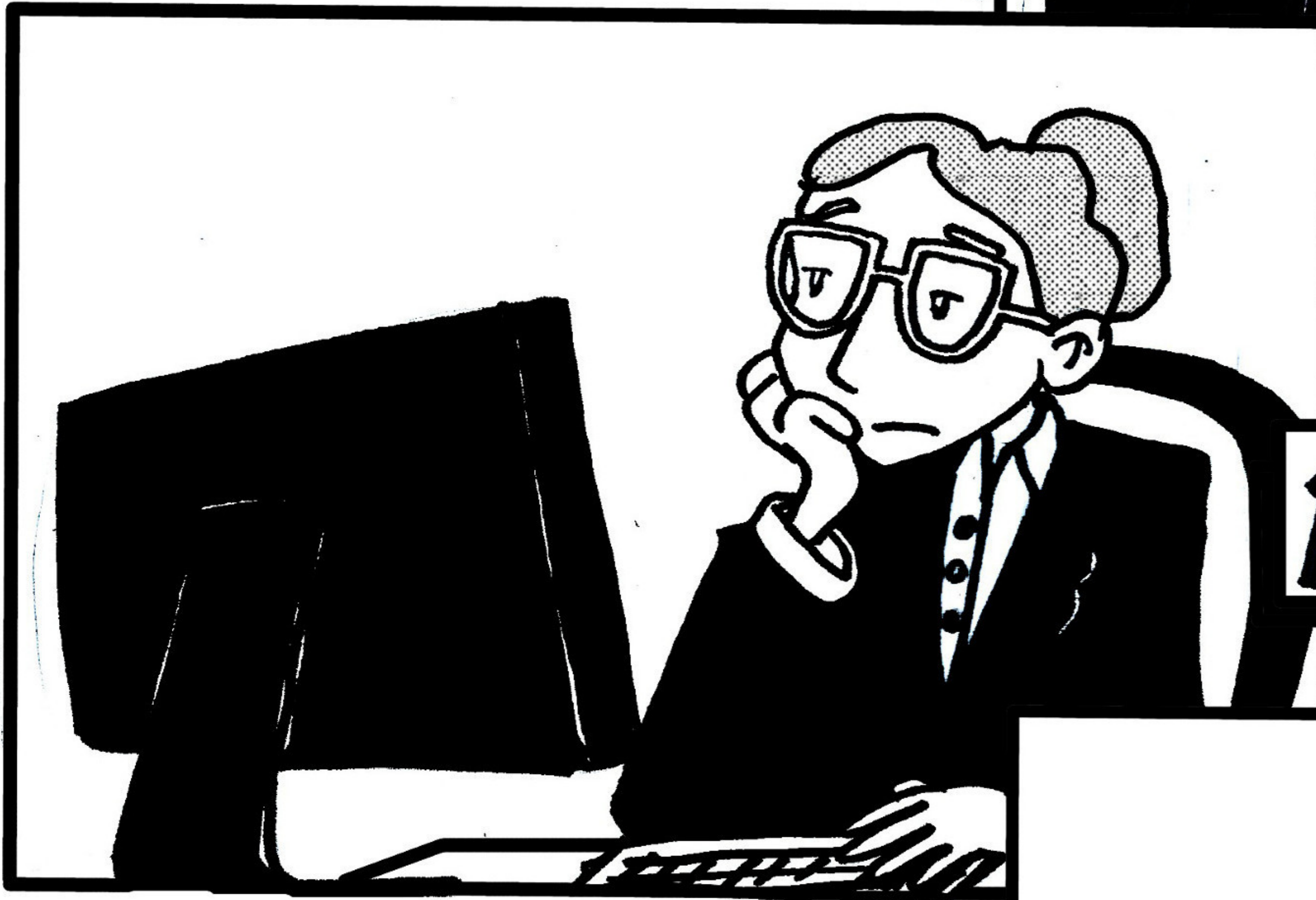
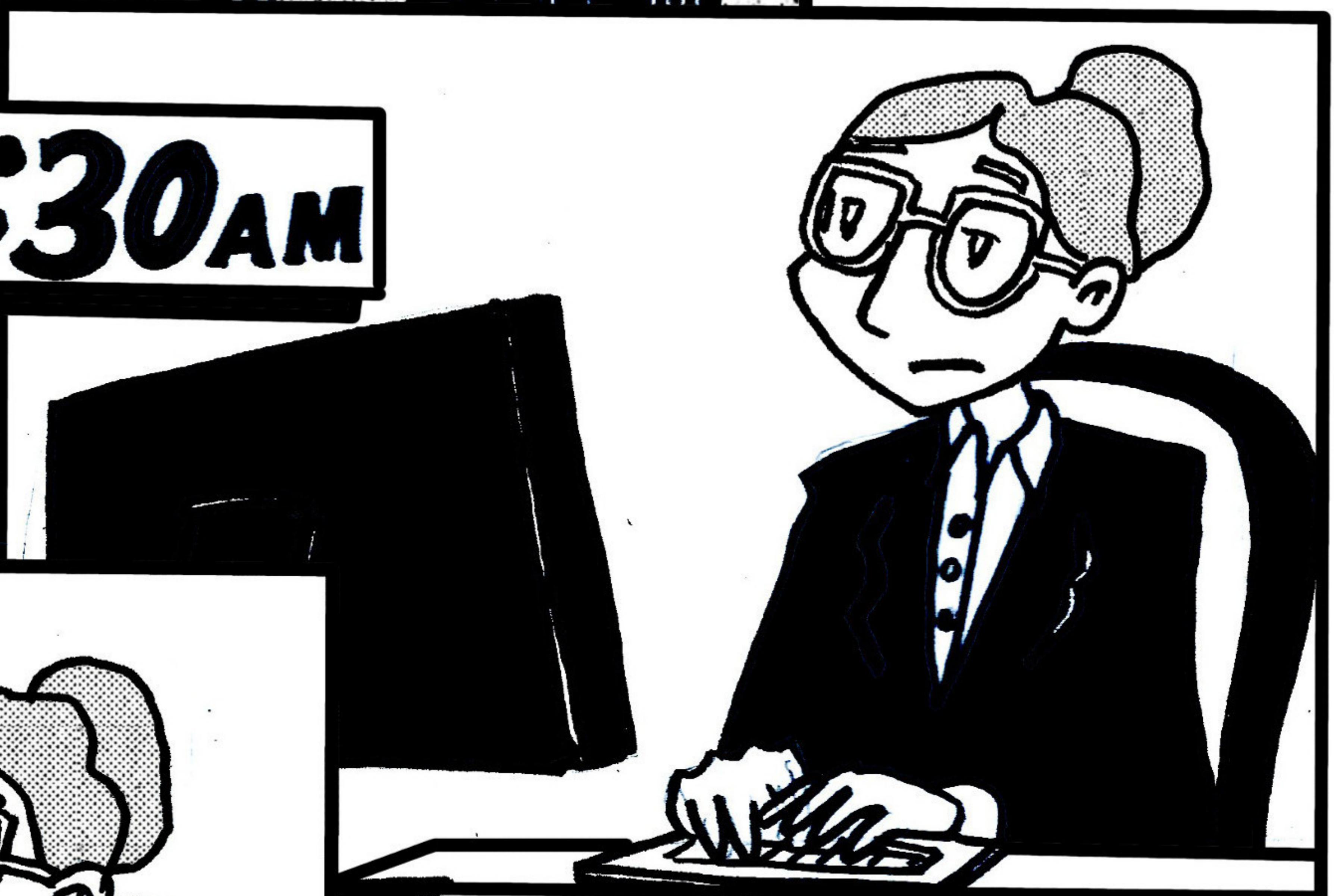


**THIS IS WHERE I WORK, ALONE,
AMONG MANY OTHERS.**



9:30 AM

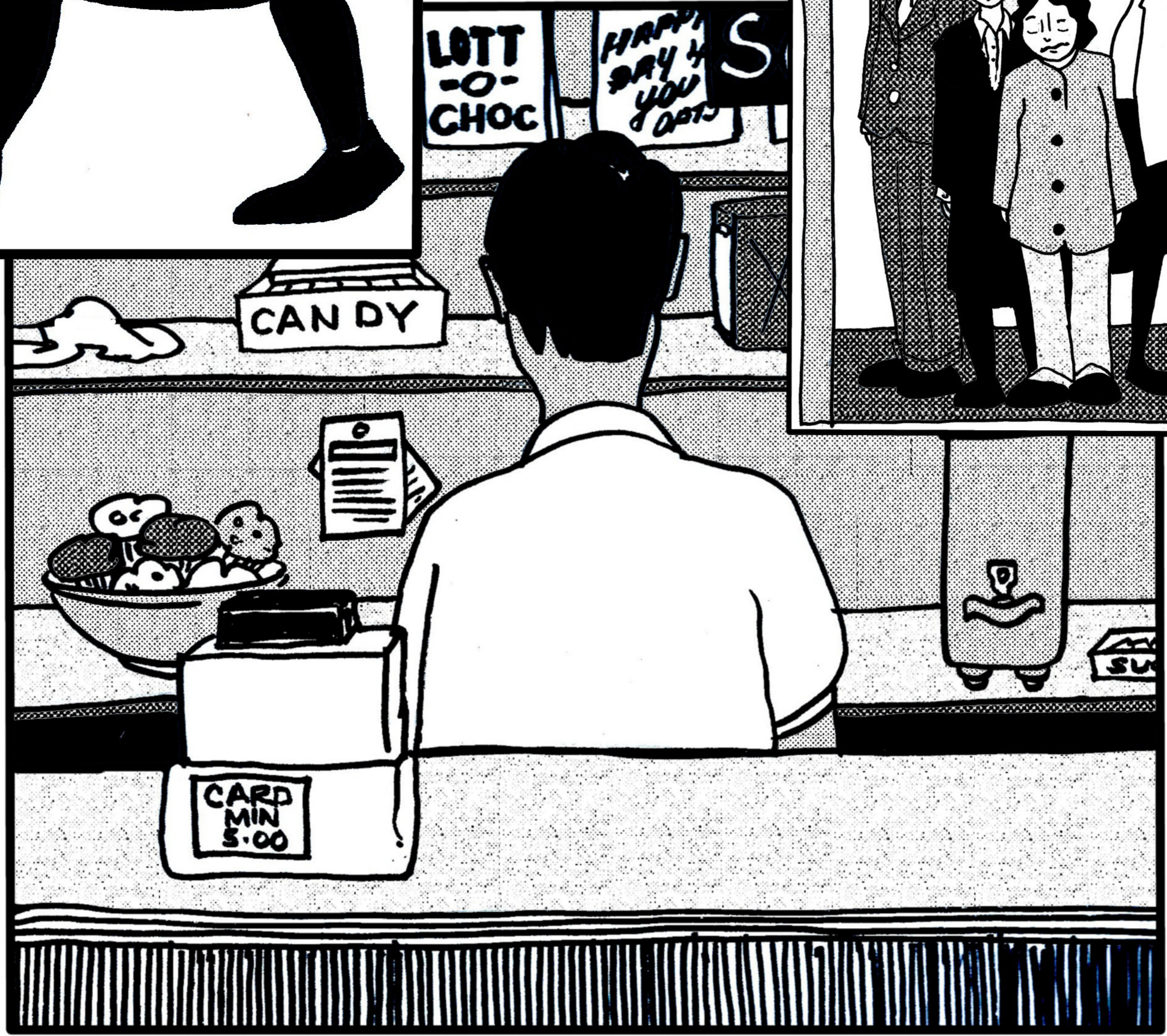
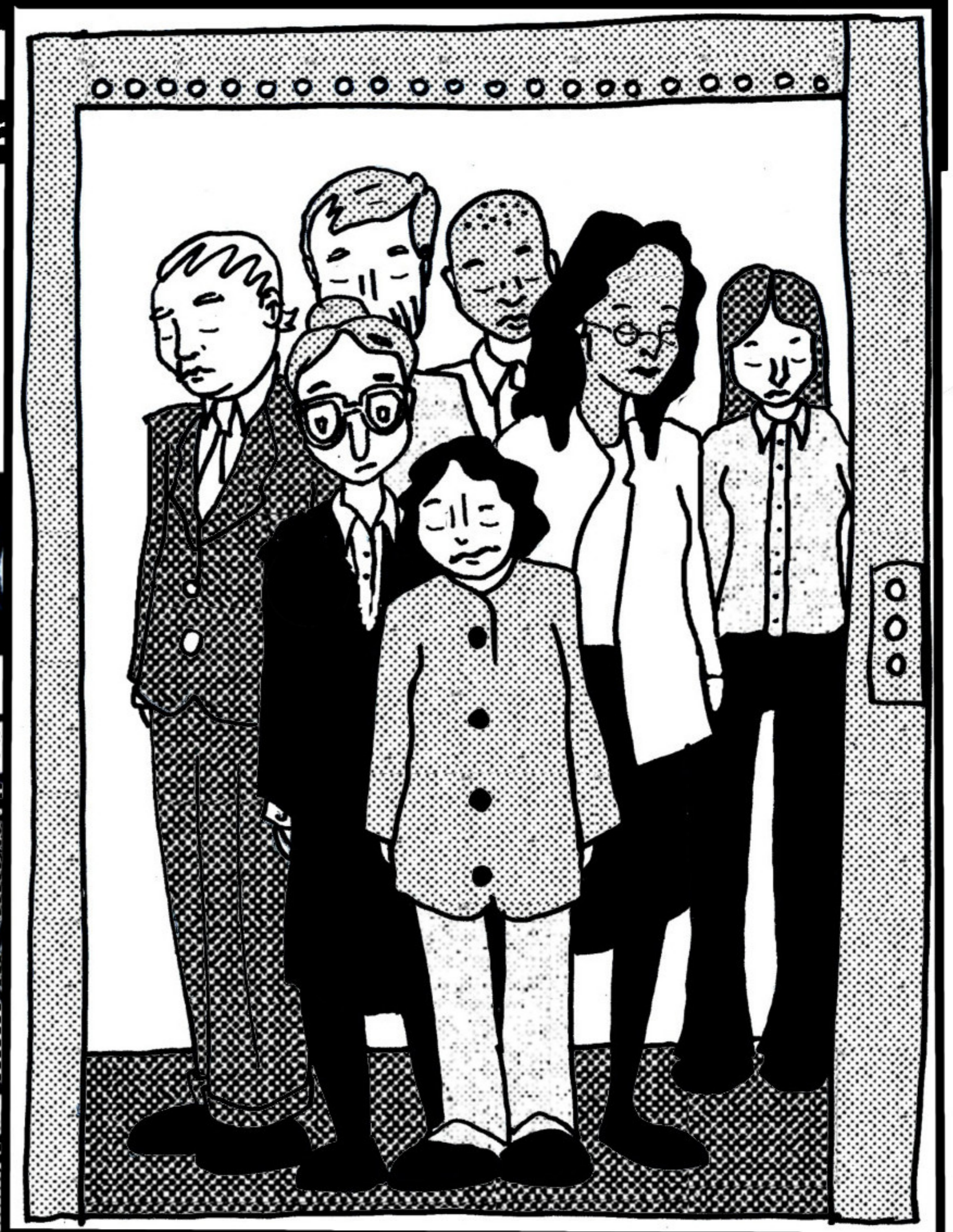
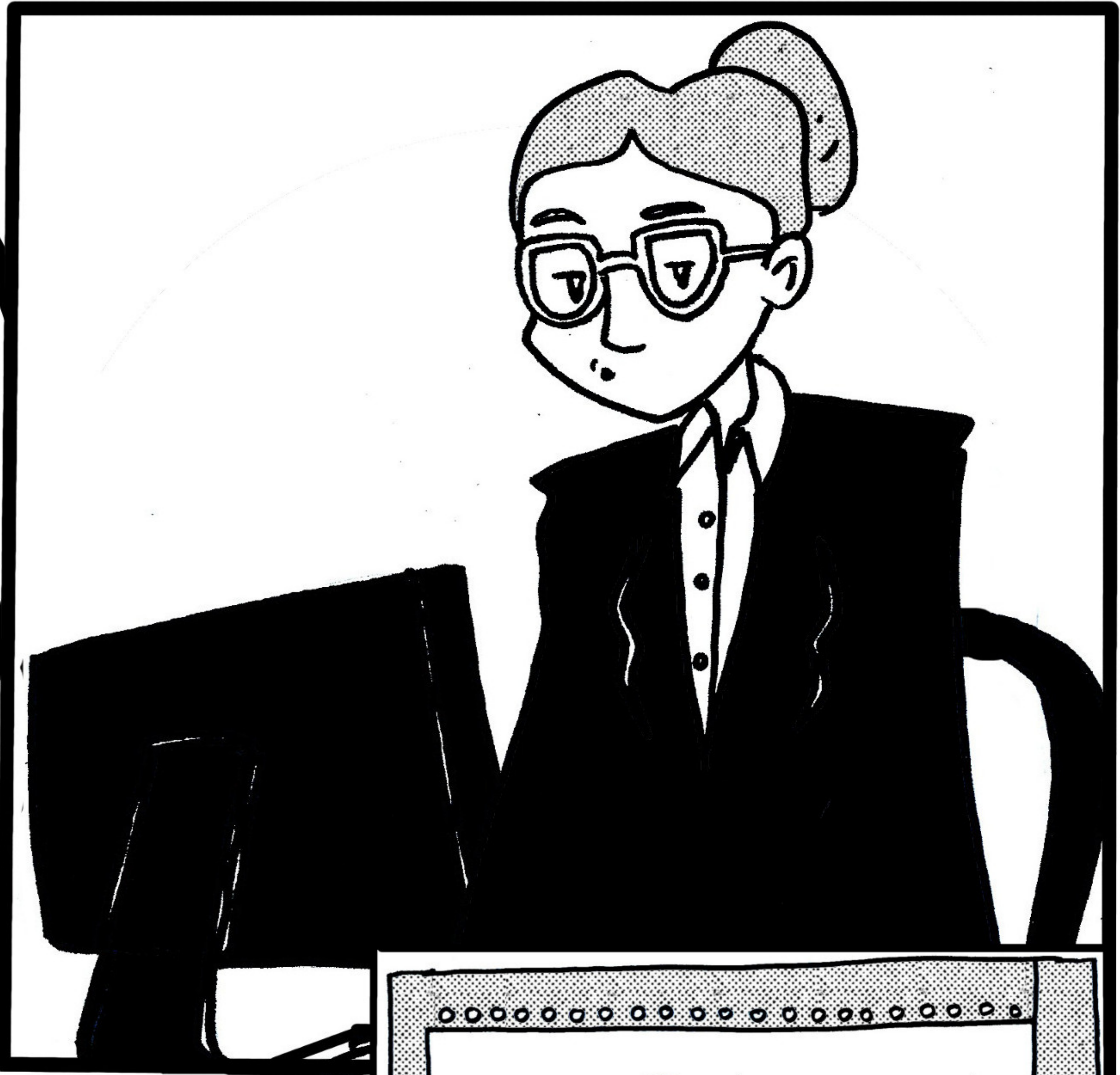
DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN



10:30 AM

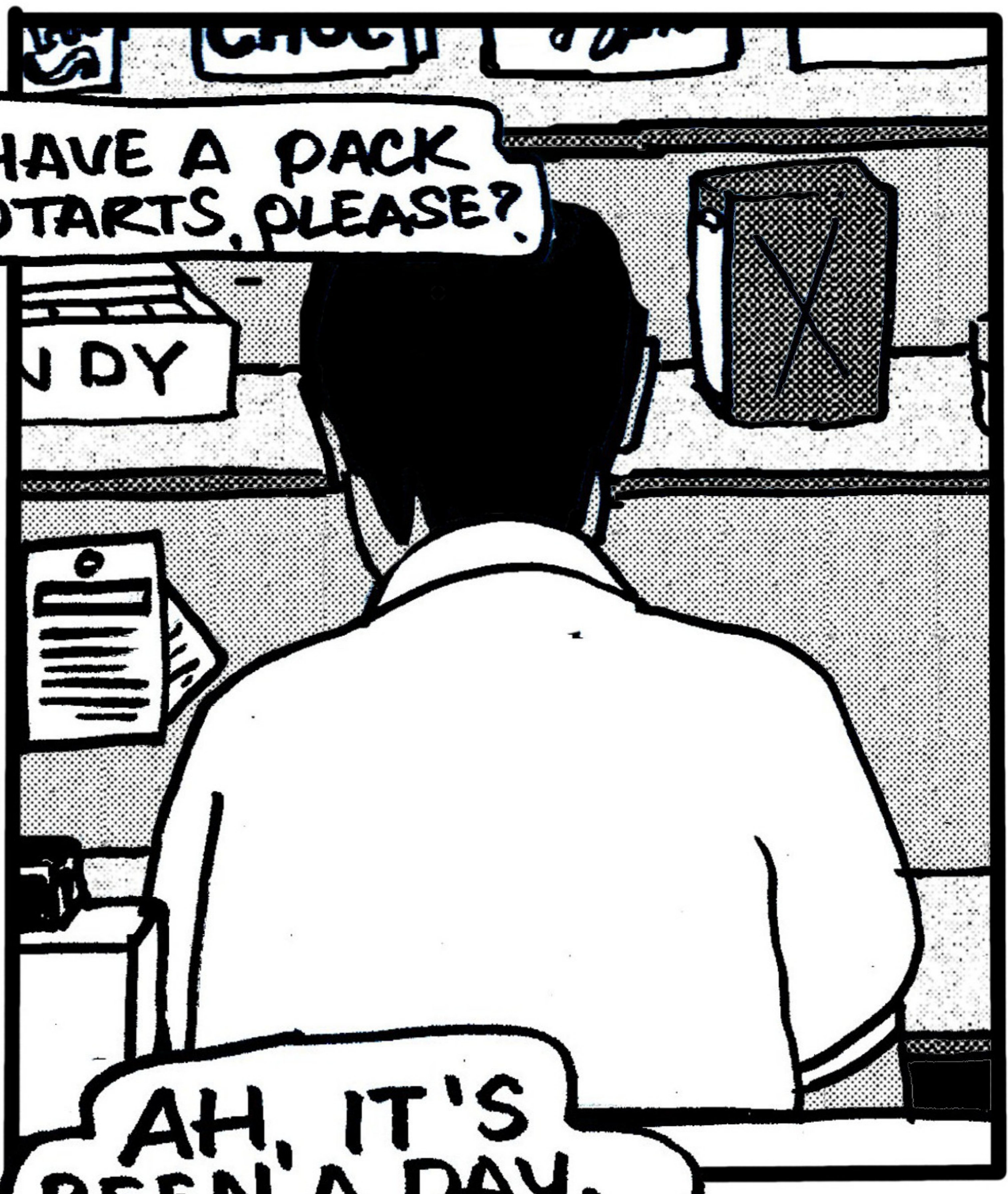


12:15 PM





CAN I HAVE A PACK OF POPTARTS, PLEASE?



AH, IT'S BEEN A DAY.



THE STORE IS CLOSING.



COME ON, YOU NEVER CLOSE THIS EARLY. YOU'RE FUNNY.

NO, GOOD NIGHT. FINISHED. NO MORE STORE.

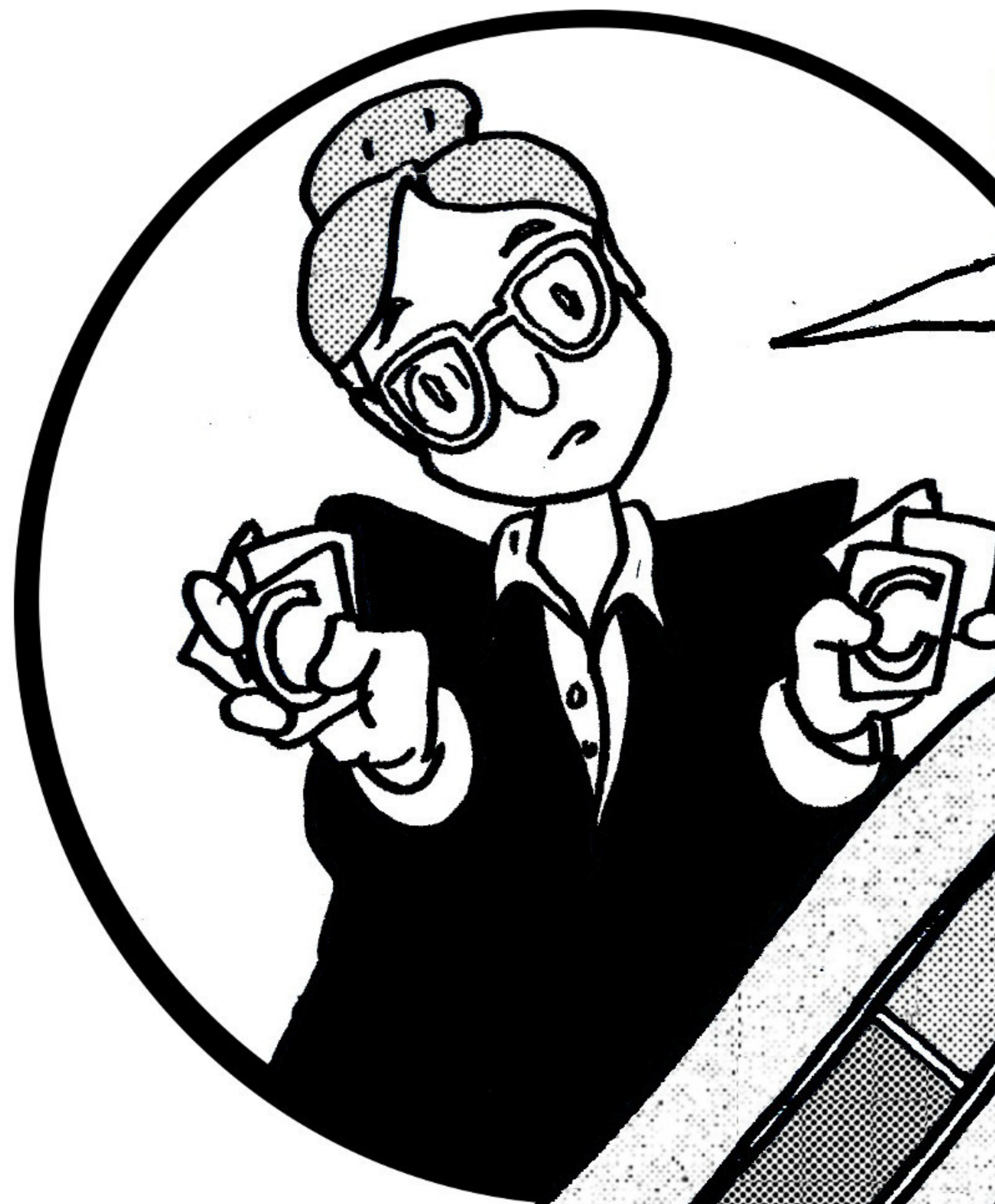
UM... YOU'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME. BUSINESS IS GOOD. YOU CAN'T CLOSE.

EXACTLY. A LONG TIME MEANS NOTHING TO THEM. THEY'RE JUST KICKING ME OUT.

THE LEASE IS UP?

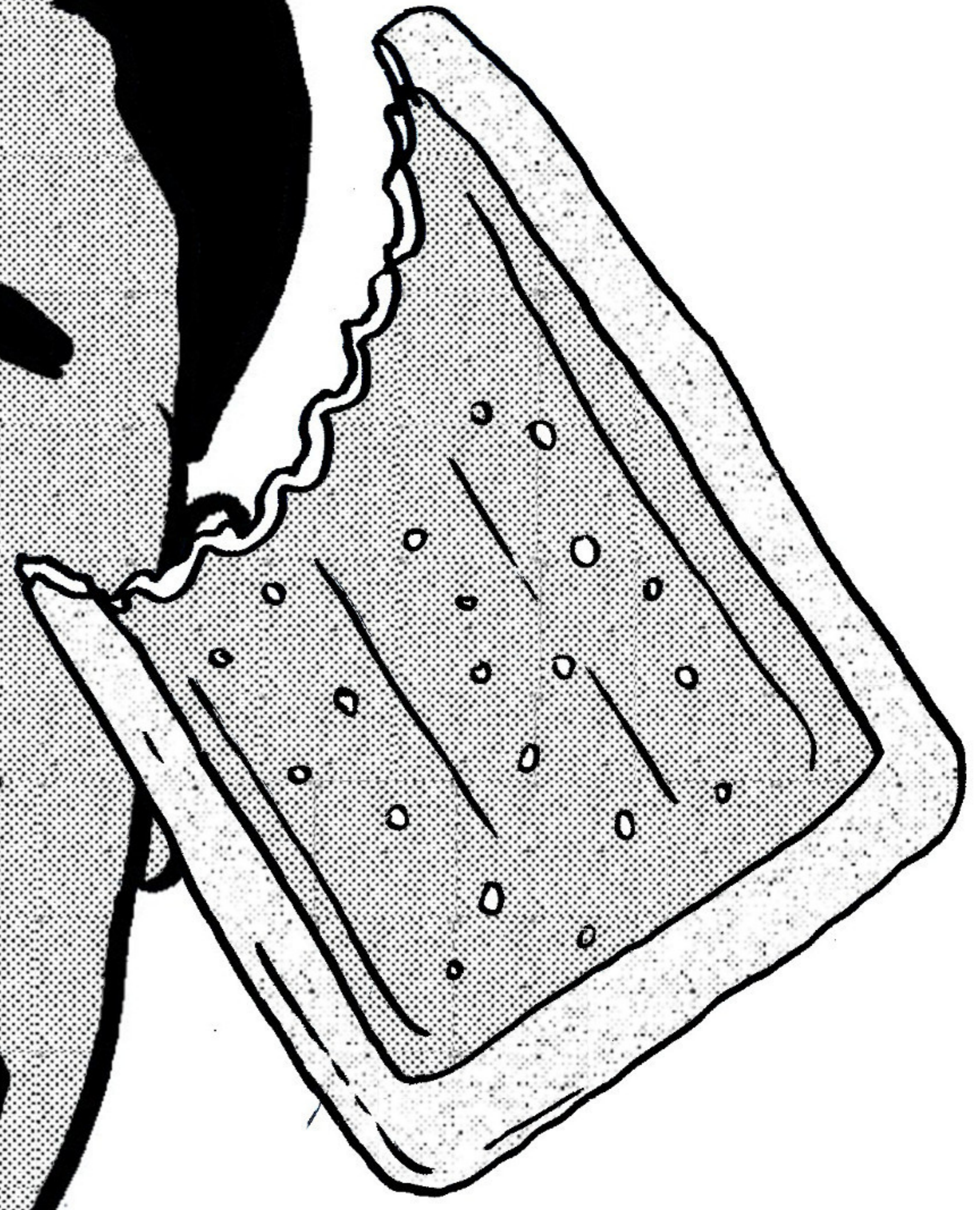
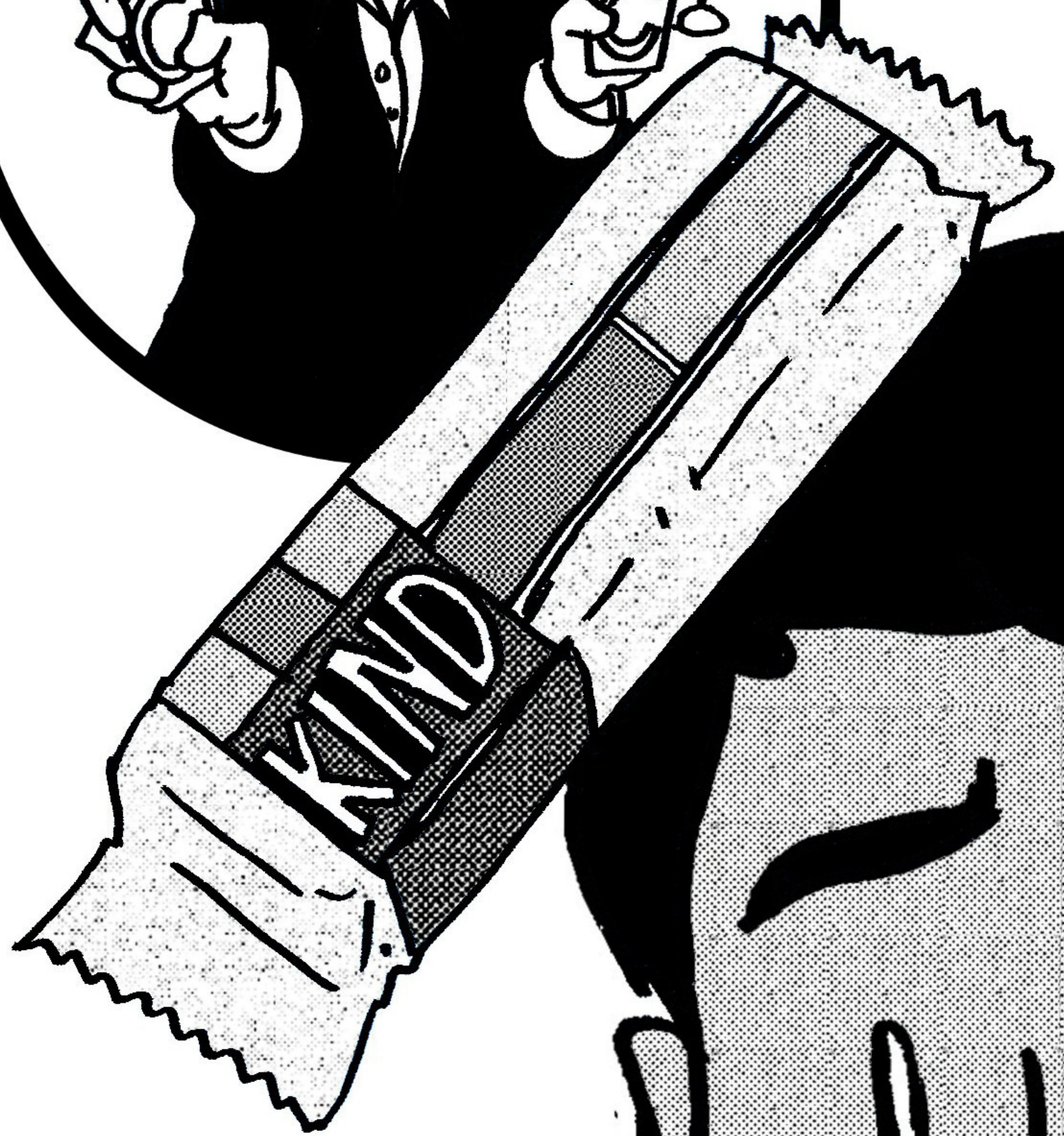
YES, AND THE LANDLORD WON'T LET US NEGOTIATE A RENEWAL.





OH, I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT
THESE VITAMINC
PACKS OR...

POP TARTS. OR KIND BARS.
3 FOR \$5. WHERE ELSE YOU
GONNA FIND THAT? AND
OUR COFFEE. PEOPLE CAN
GET IT AS THEY RUN UP TO
WORK OR TAKE A QUICK
BREAK. THEY WON'T BE LATE.



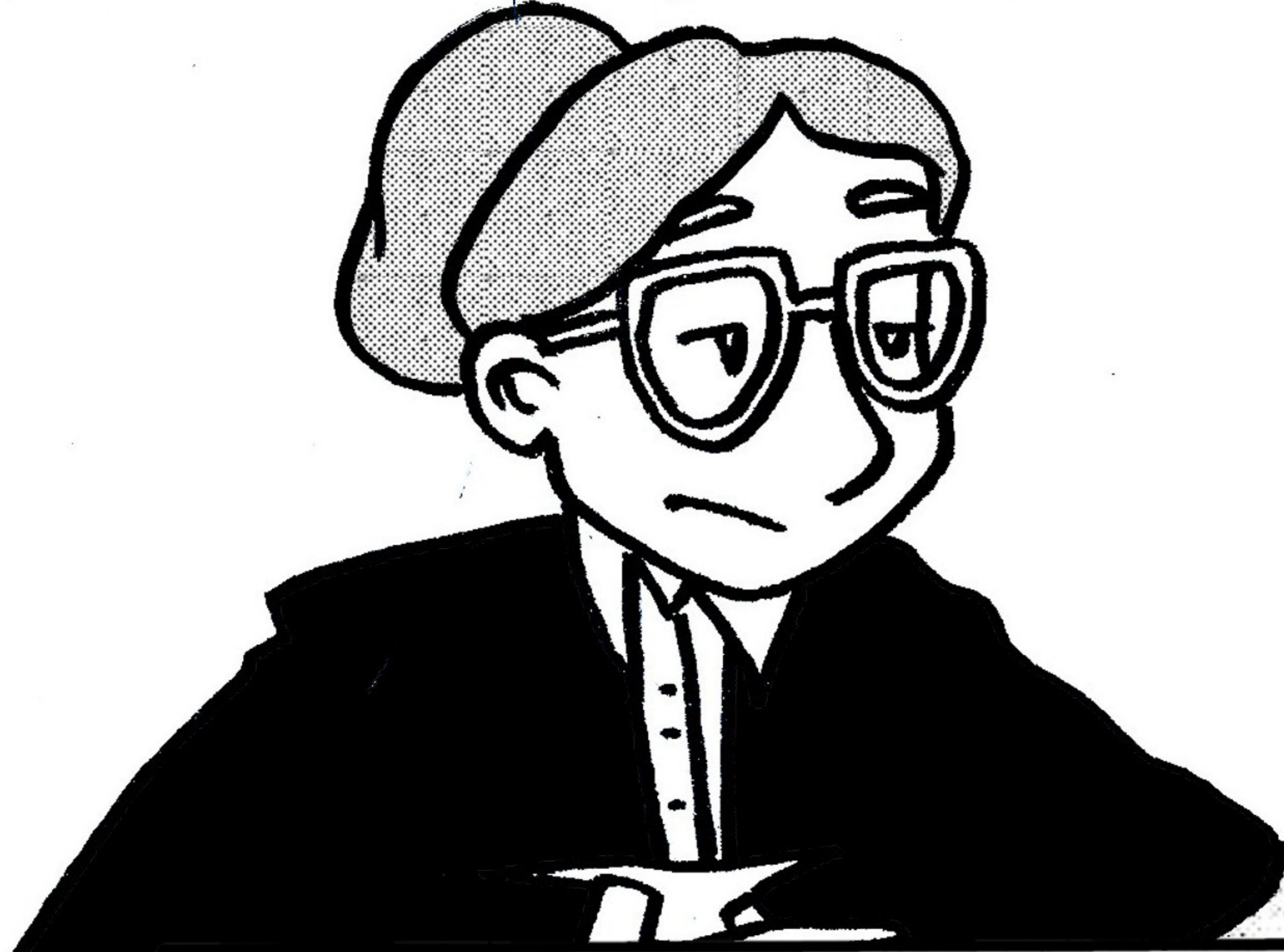
HMMMM...

THIS IS A BUSINESS BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES A BUSINESS? YOU COME IN HERE. I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO BUY. AND YOU TAKE THE TIME TO ASK ME WHAT'S UP EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BUSY.

BUT TO THE LANDLORD I'M JUST A REPLACEABLE OBJECT. THIS WILL BE A FANCY COFFEE SHOP. HIGHEST VALUE, BEST USE.

ANOTHER FANCY COFFEE SHOP IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN? THIS IS NOT THE HIGHEST VALUE FOR THE BEST USE. IT'S MORE RENT AND PROFIT FOR THE LANDLORD!

TOUGH LUCK SOHAIL, BUT THE LANDLORD NEEDS TO SACRIFICE YOU IN ORDER TO BUY A SECOND VACATION HOME IN LONG ISLAND.



WAIT, TODAY?
I DIDN'T
KNOW THIS!

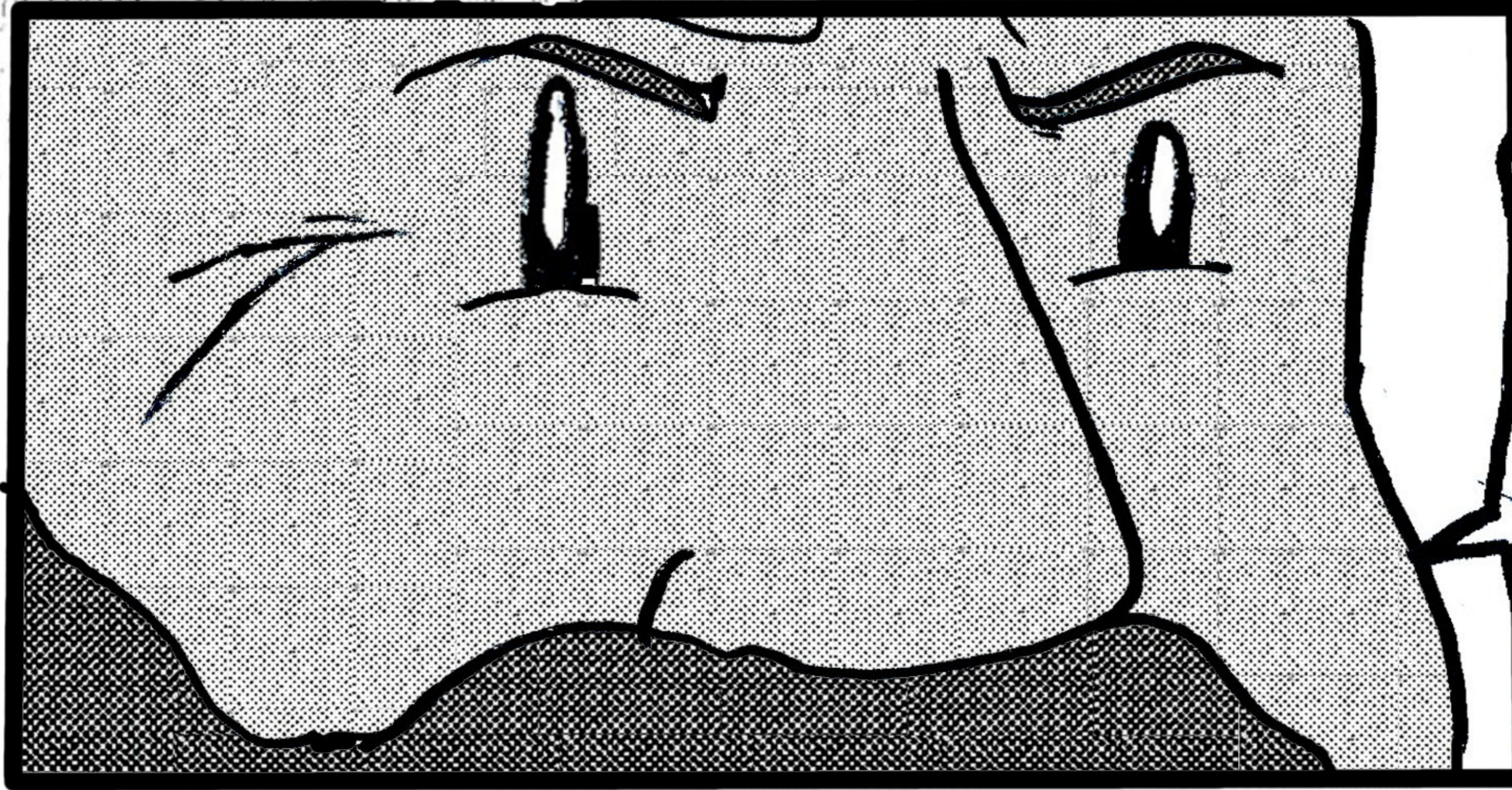
SOHAIL,
WHEN ARE
YOU CLOSING?

TODAY IS
MY LAST
DAY.

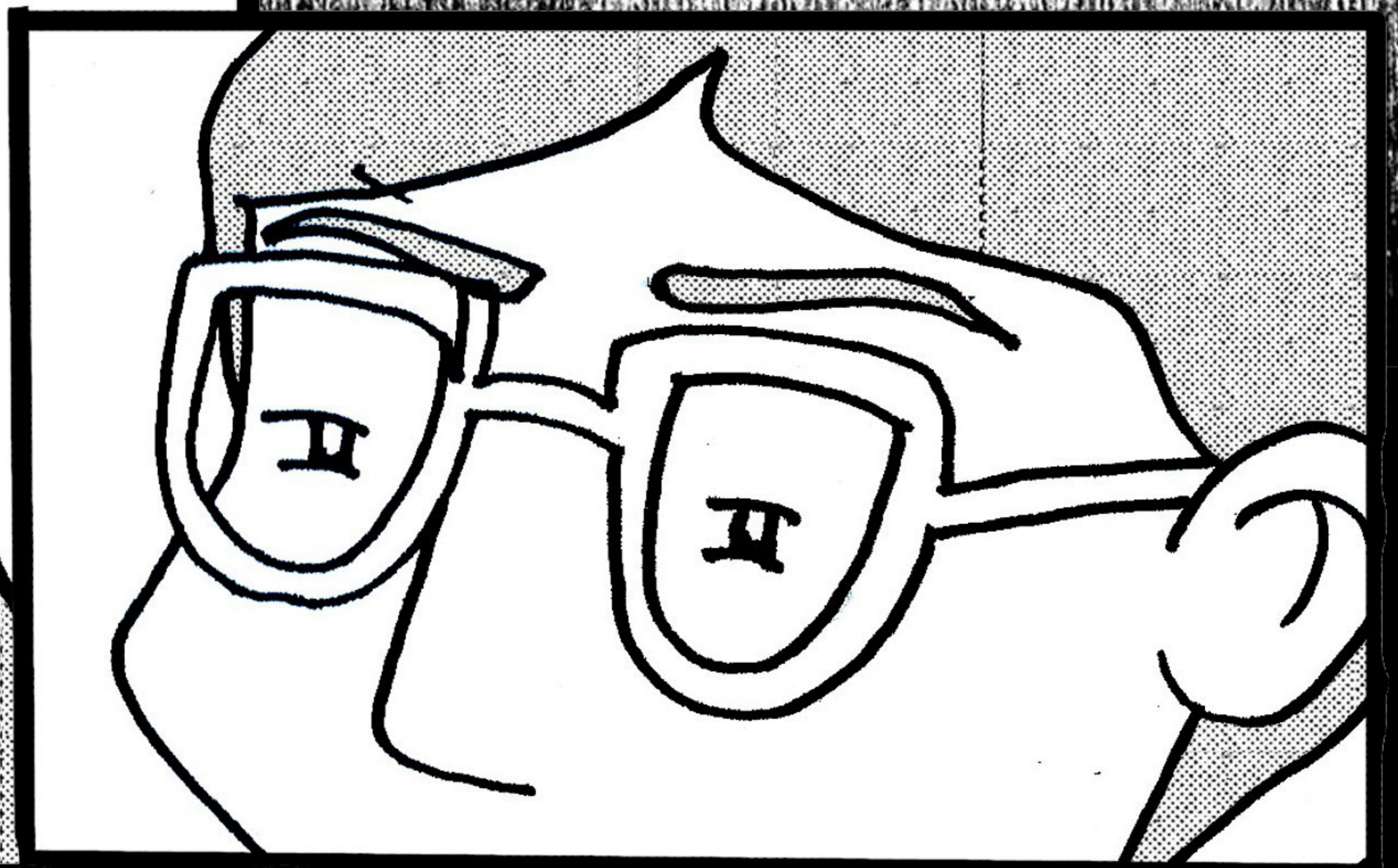
THEY DON'T LET US
PUT UP A SIGN TO
ALERT PEOPLE TO THE
CLOSURE. SO PEOPLE
CAN'T DO ANYTHING
ABOUT IT. THEN
WE'RE GONE, AS IF
WE WERE NEVER
HERE.



WHY SHOULD
WHOEVER
OWNS THIS
UGLY BUILDING
OFFICE GET
TO DECIDE
WHAT HAPPENS
TO EVERYONE
ELSE?




I HAVE A FAMILY.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED
TO...






LET'S DO A PETITION!


A PETITION?



YES, WE'LL GET PEOPLE TO SIGN IT TO OPPOSE THE LANDLORD CLOSING YOUR SHOP!

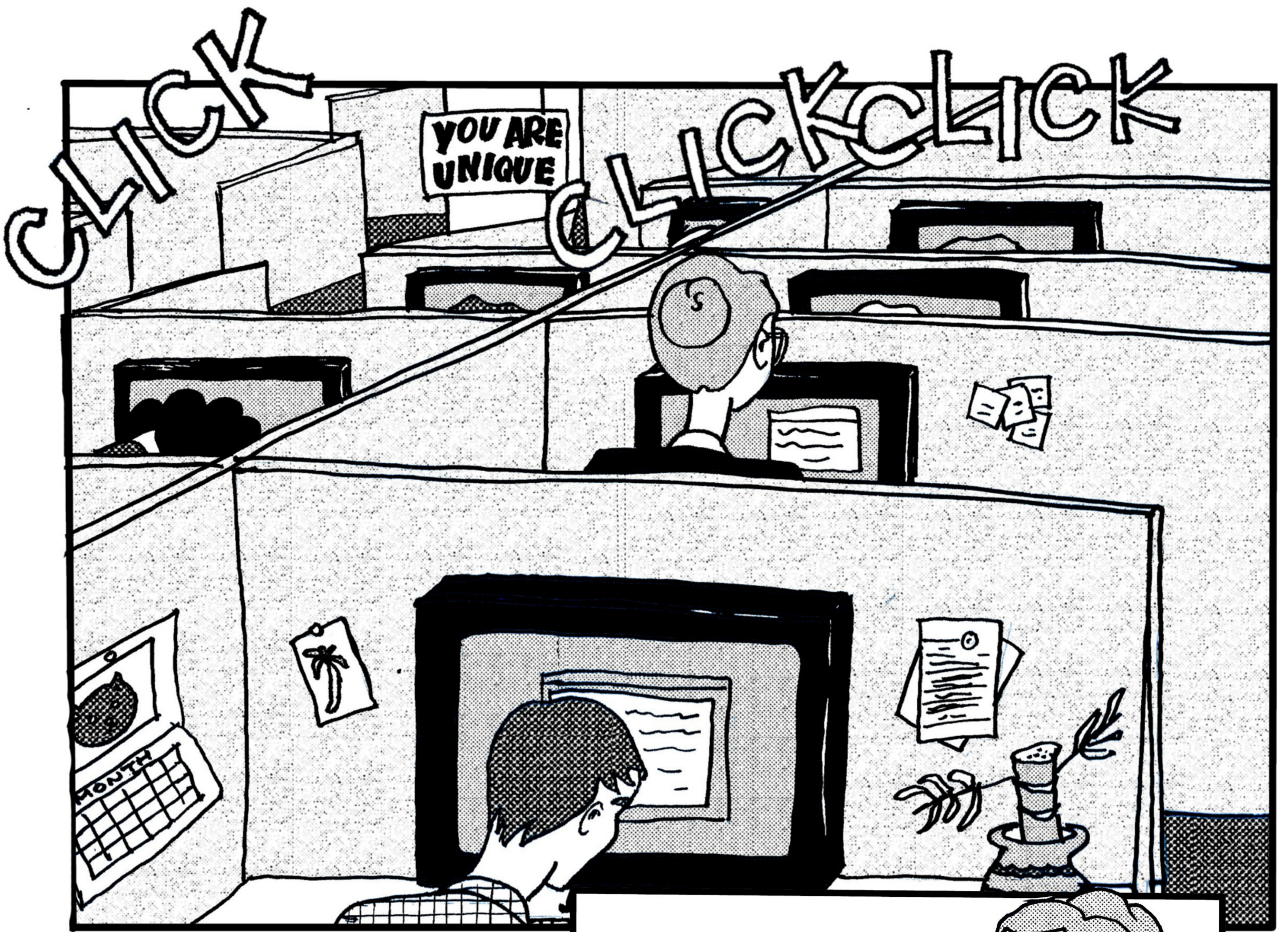


TOVA, LOOK, THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME. BUT, IT'S TOO LATE. AND THIS BUILDING IS OWNED BY A CORPORATION WITH OFFICES ALL OVER THE WORLD. THEY DON'T SEE US AS HUMAN BEINGS.



THEN WE NEED TO REMIND THEM WHO THEY'RE DEALING WITH, NO?





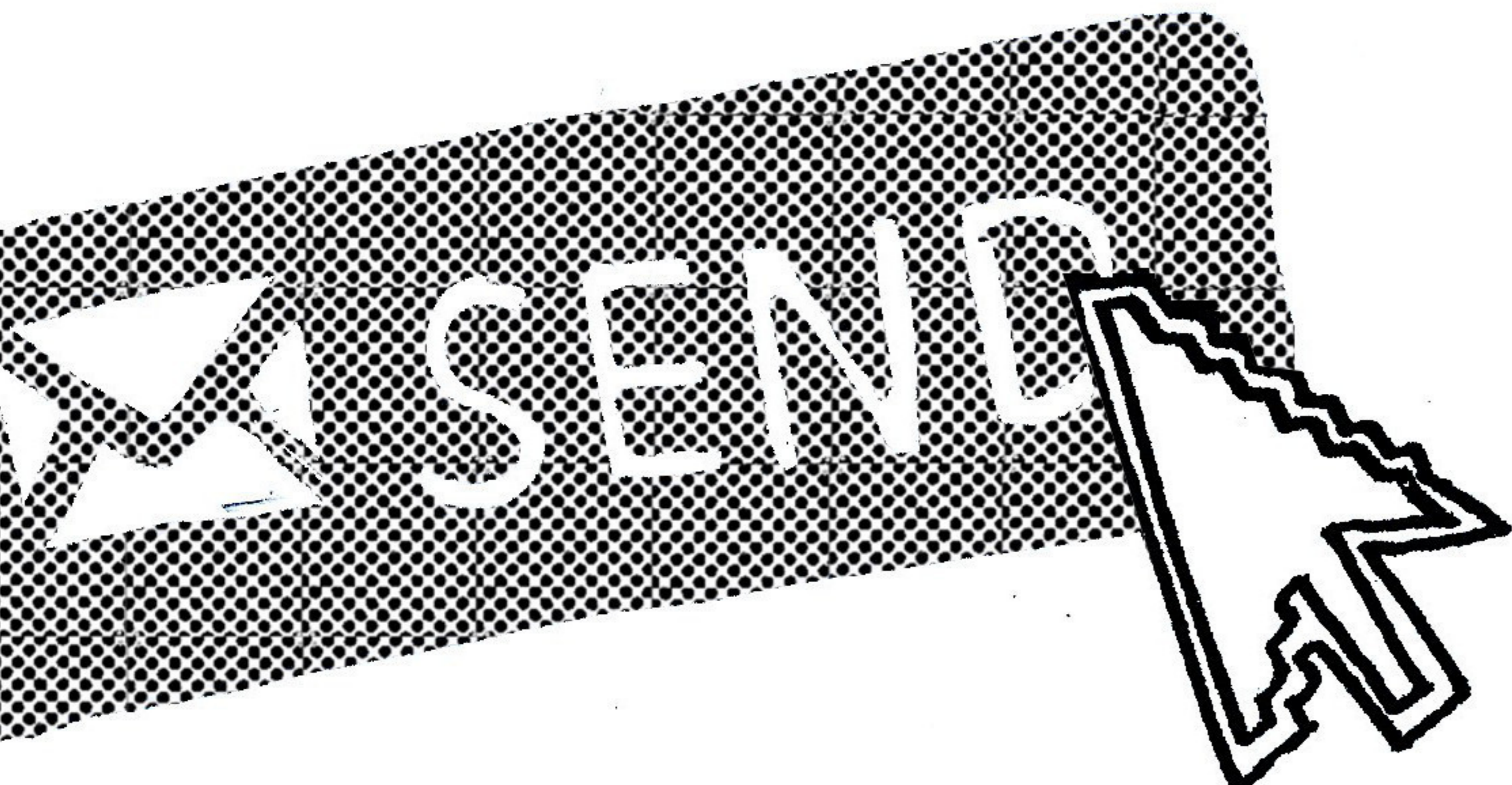
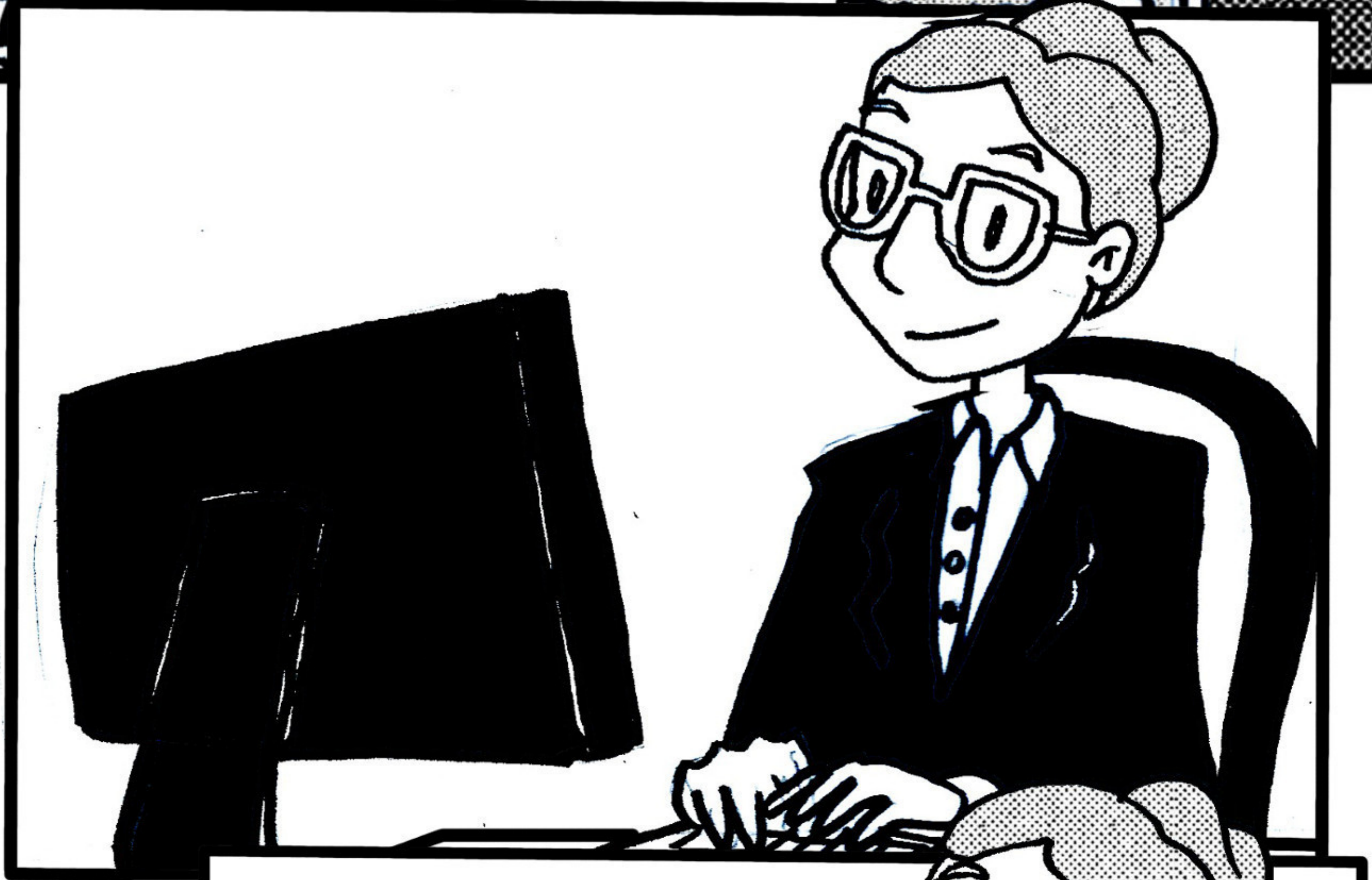
Draft

Peter

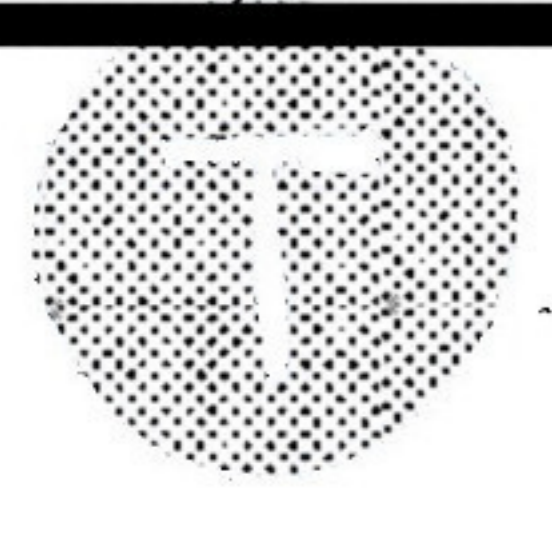
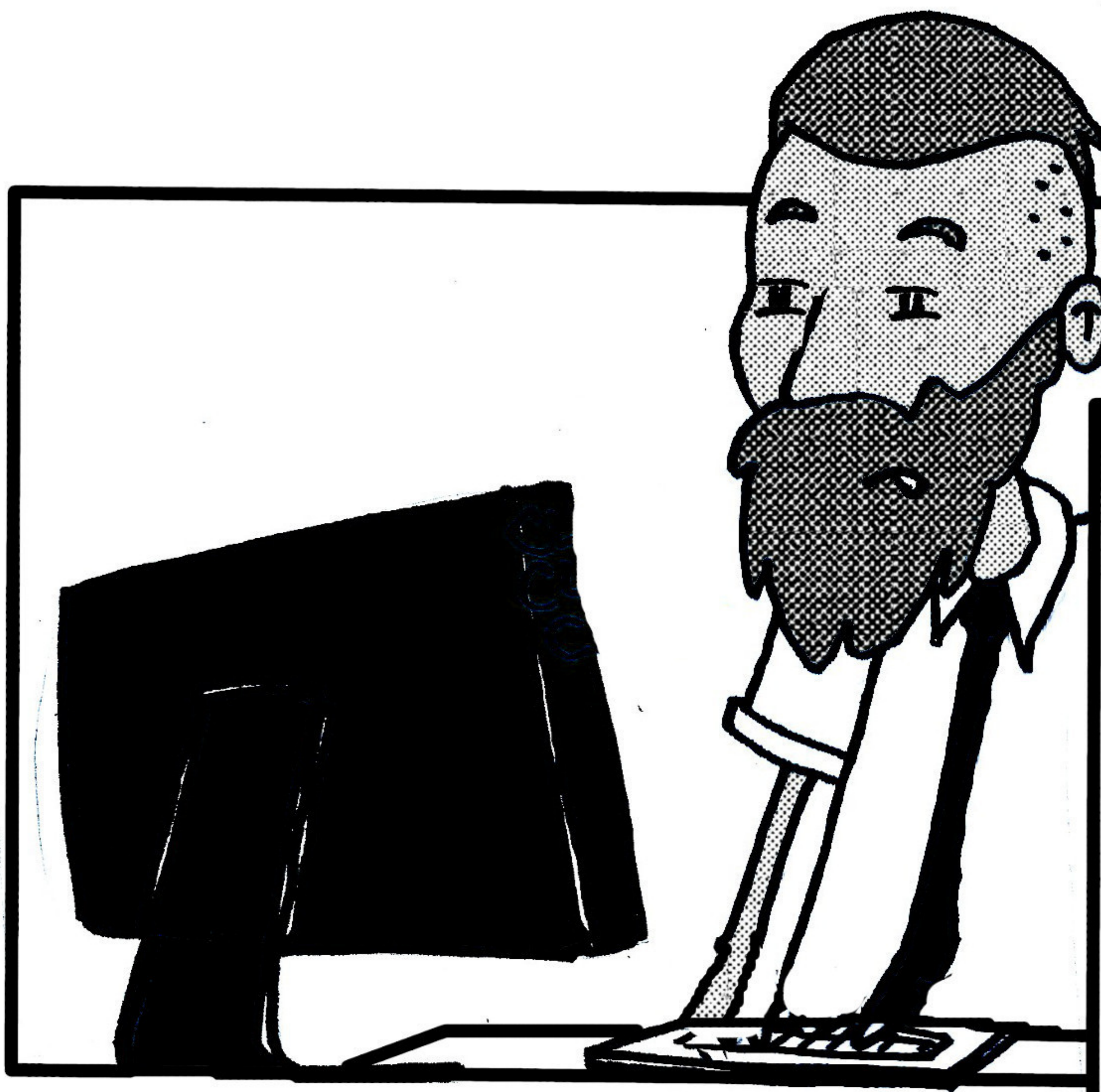
Draft Petition

Peter, can you help me take a look at the draft and give your brutally honest opinion?

--



Inbox (1)



Peter, can you help me take a look at the draft and give your brutally honest opinion?



Peter
to me ▾

We are organizing people to fight, so

1. Don't be so nice to the landlord;
2. It should come from various agencies and companies in the building, so that the landlord sees the whole building is revolting;
3. Tell the landlord what people's connections are to the store.

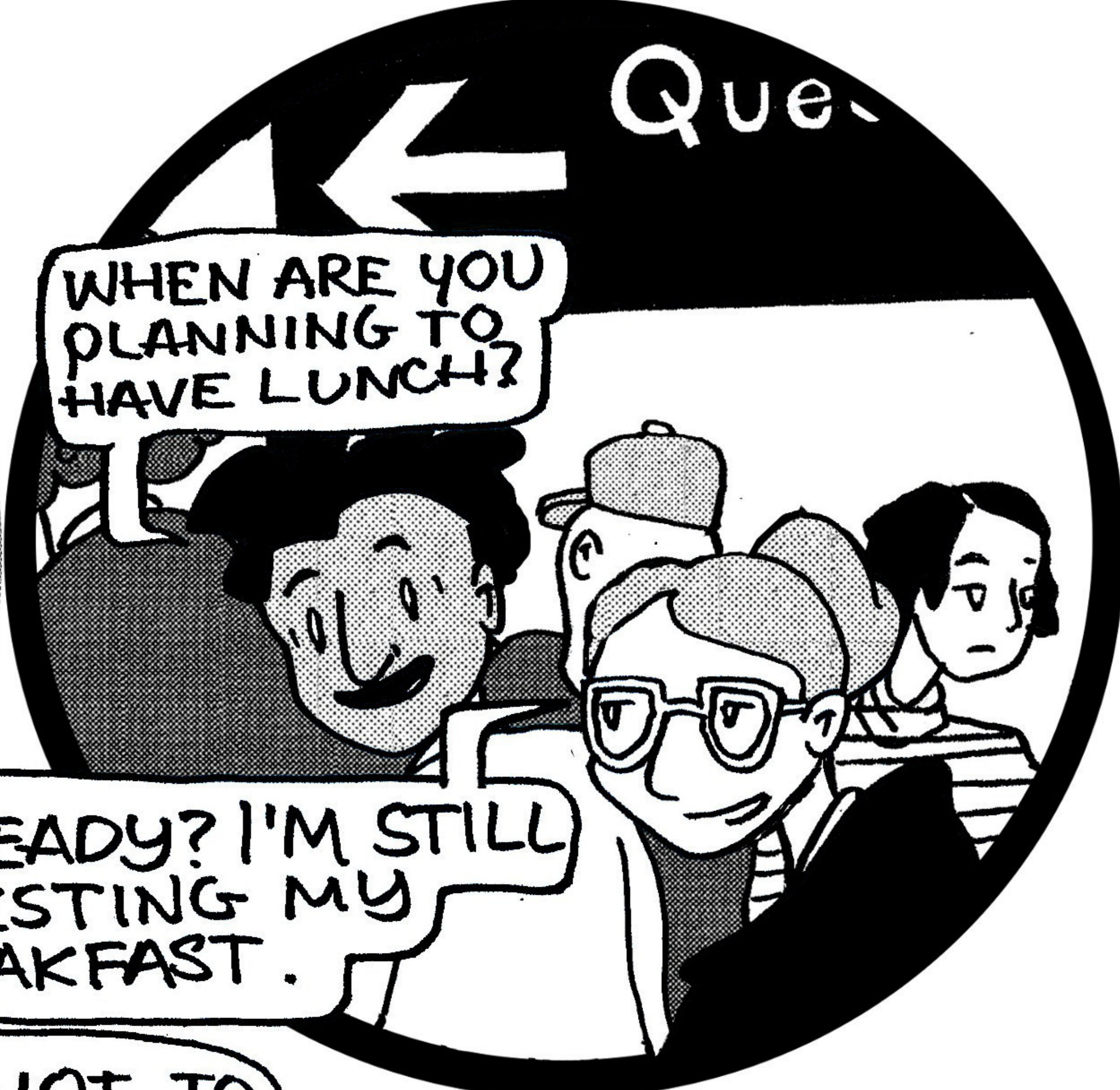


what the landlord
whole building

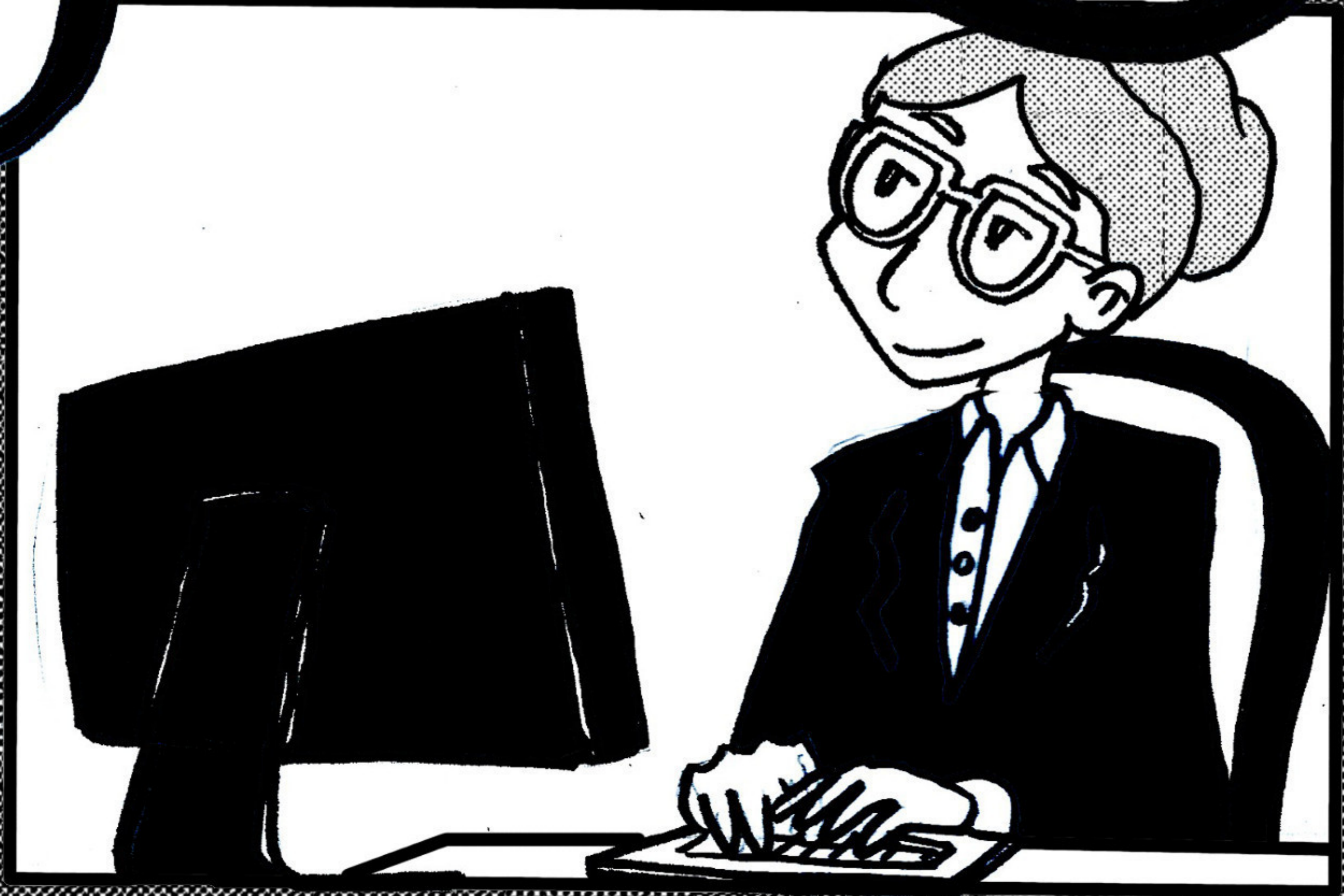
people's connections

THE WHOLE BUILDING?
PEOPLE'S CONNECTION?





HAHAHAHA





HMM...



"...we are disappointed and angry to hear that you intend to close the snackshop in the lobby..."

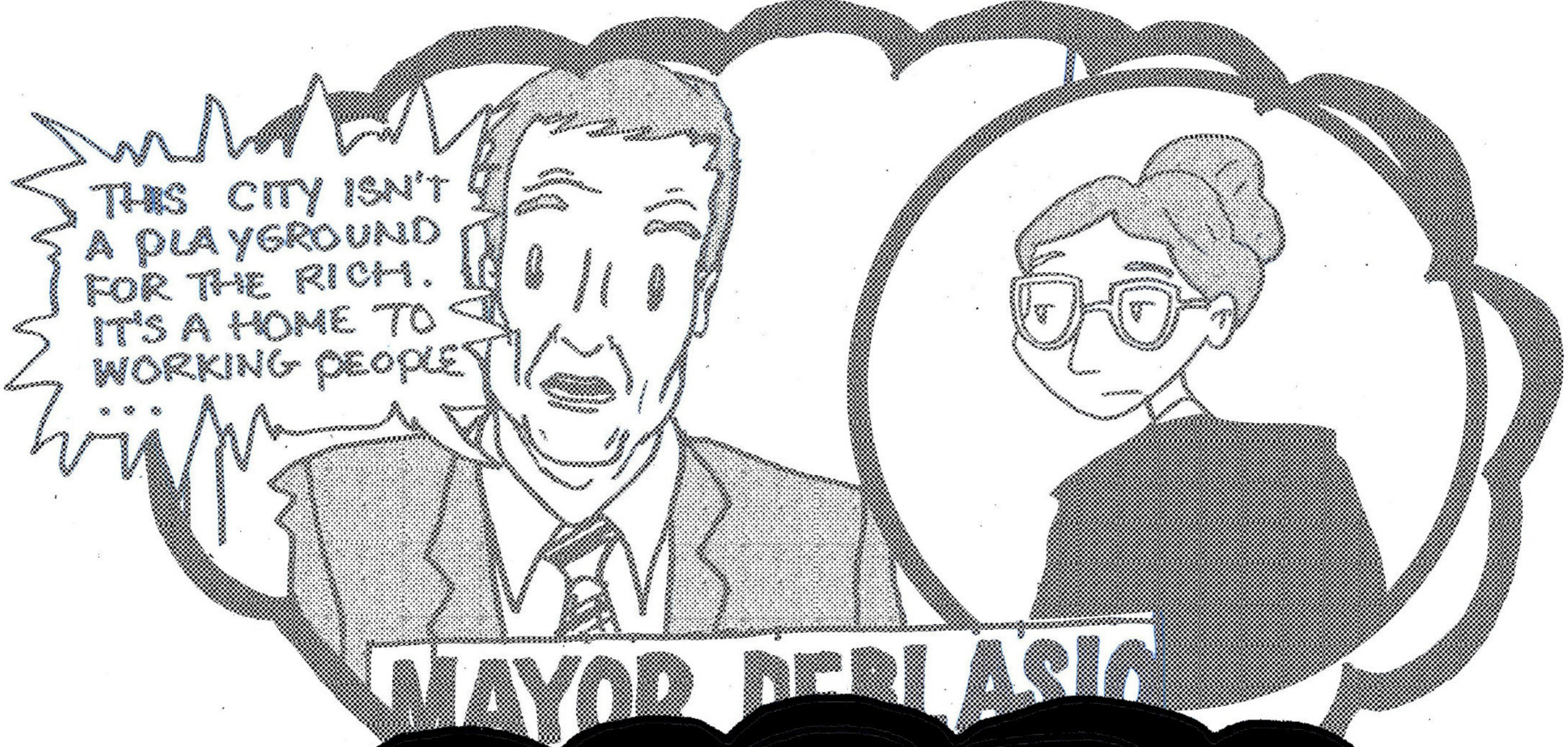
PERCEPTION CAN BE DECEIVING. MANY LITTLE THINGS CAN BE IGNORED BY A CERTAIN PERSPECTIVE DESPITE THEIR EXISTENCE.



HOW ARE YOU, SOHAIL?

GOOD, CAN'T COMPLAIN.

"...the store's affordable food, drinks, coffee and OTC medicine are perfect for our needs. We don't need a fancier business..."



THIS CITY ISN'T A PLAYGROUND FOR THE RICH. IT'S A HOME TO WORKING PEOPLE

MAYOR DEBLASIO



I'M SO SICK OF THE MAYOR. WORKING PEOPLE FIRST? MY ASS.

YEAH, ALL EMPTY TALK AND DOES THE OPPOSITE.

DEBLAS

THE QUESTION IS, WHAT KIND OF PERSPECTIVE SHOULD I CHOOSE?



ONE THAT REINFORCES MY SEPARATION FROM OTHERS? OR ONE THAT MAKES ME BREAK FROM IT? IF I WANT TO MAKE A CHANGE, THEN THERE REALLY IS NO CHOICE ...



... BUT TO BREAK FROM IT AND START ORGANIZING WITH PEOPLE.

PRINTING THE PETITION...

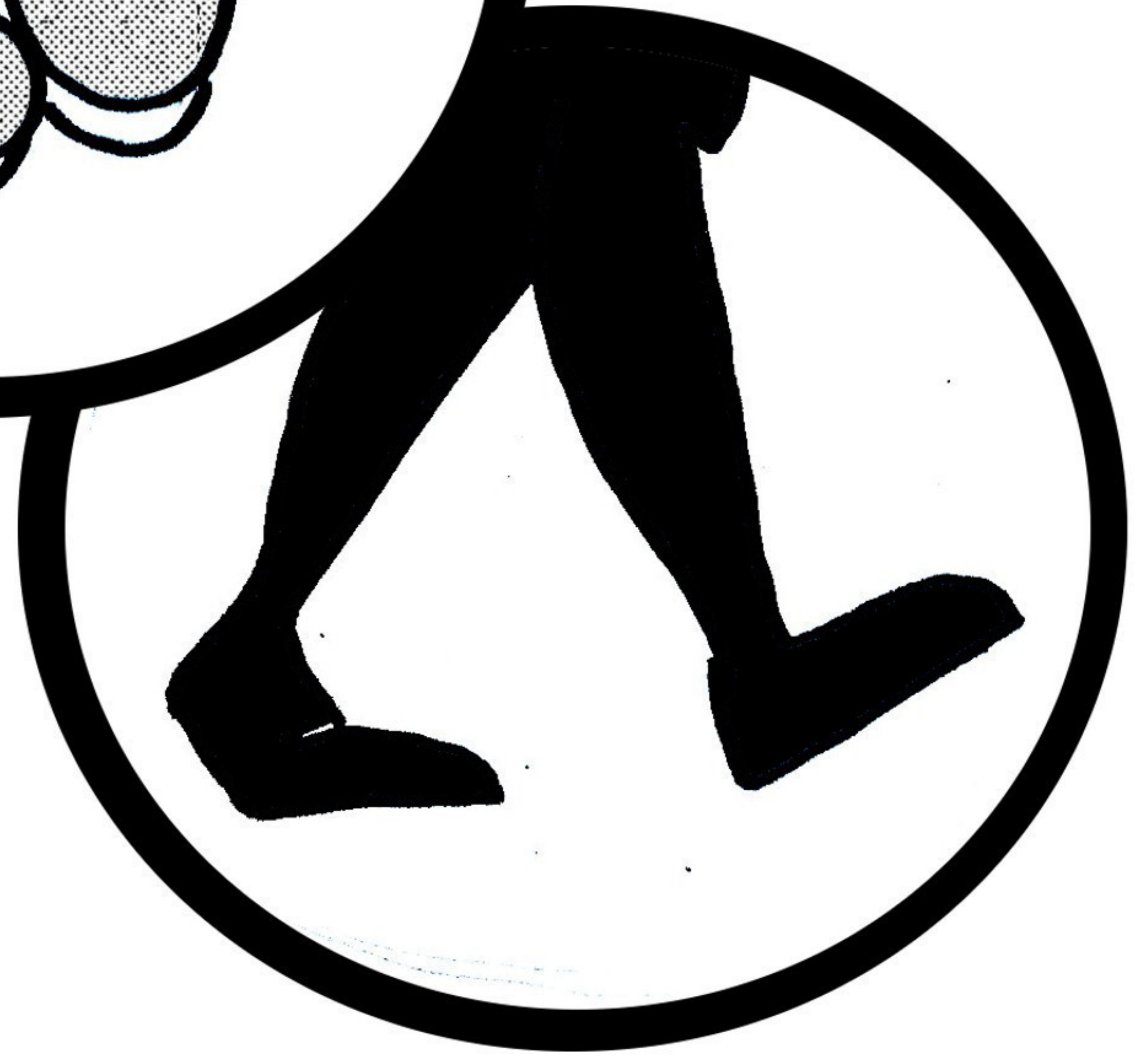
LET ME HIT THE SHOPS BY THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE. I COULD USE THE AIR.

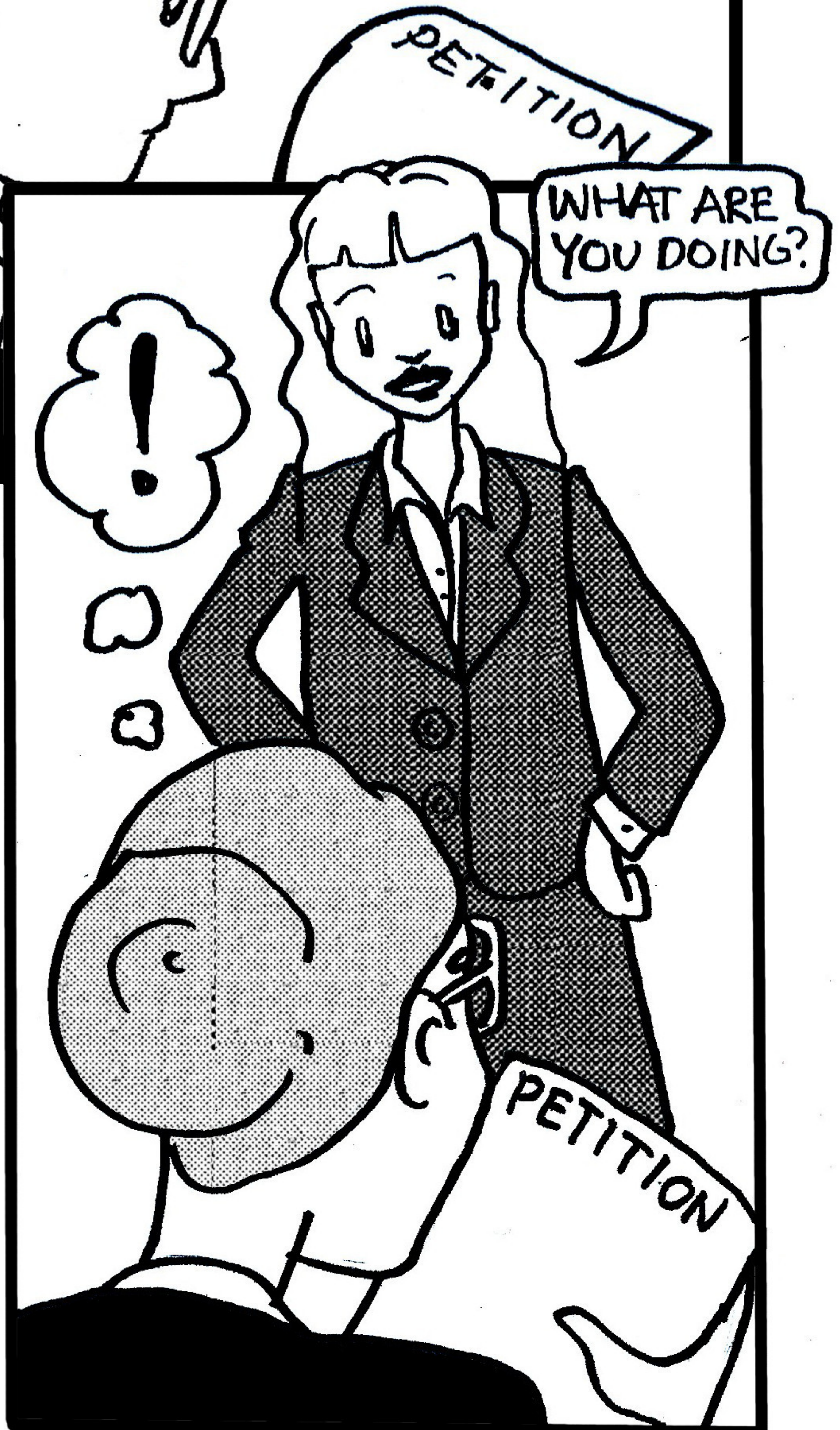
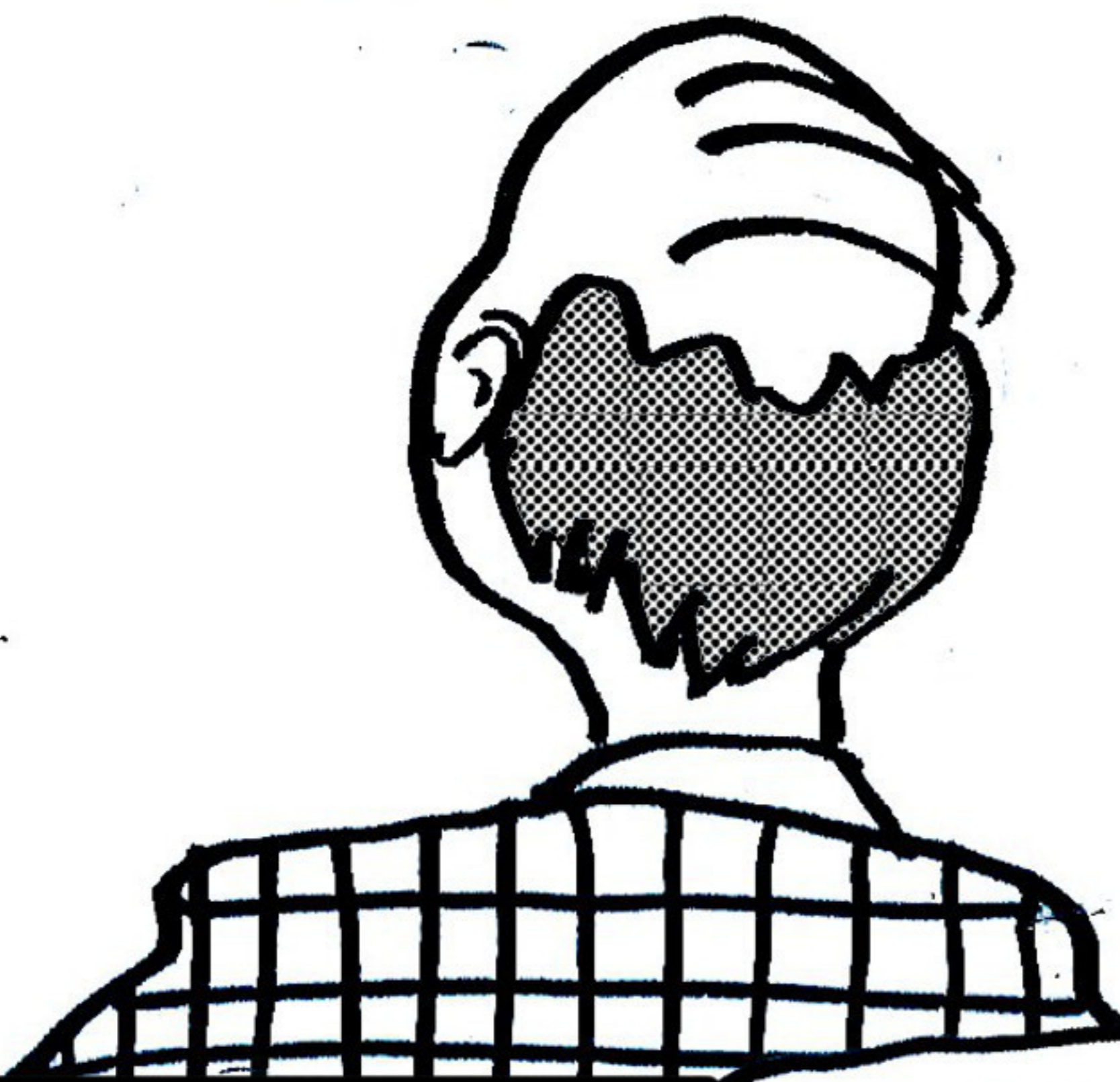
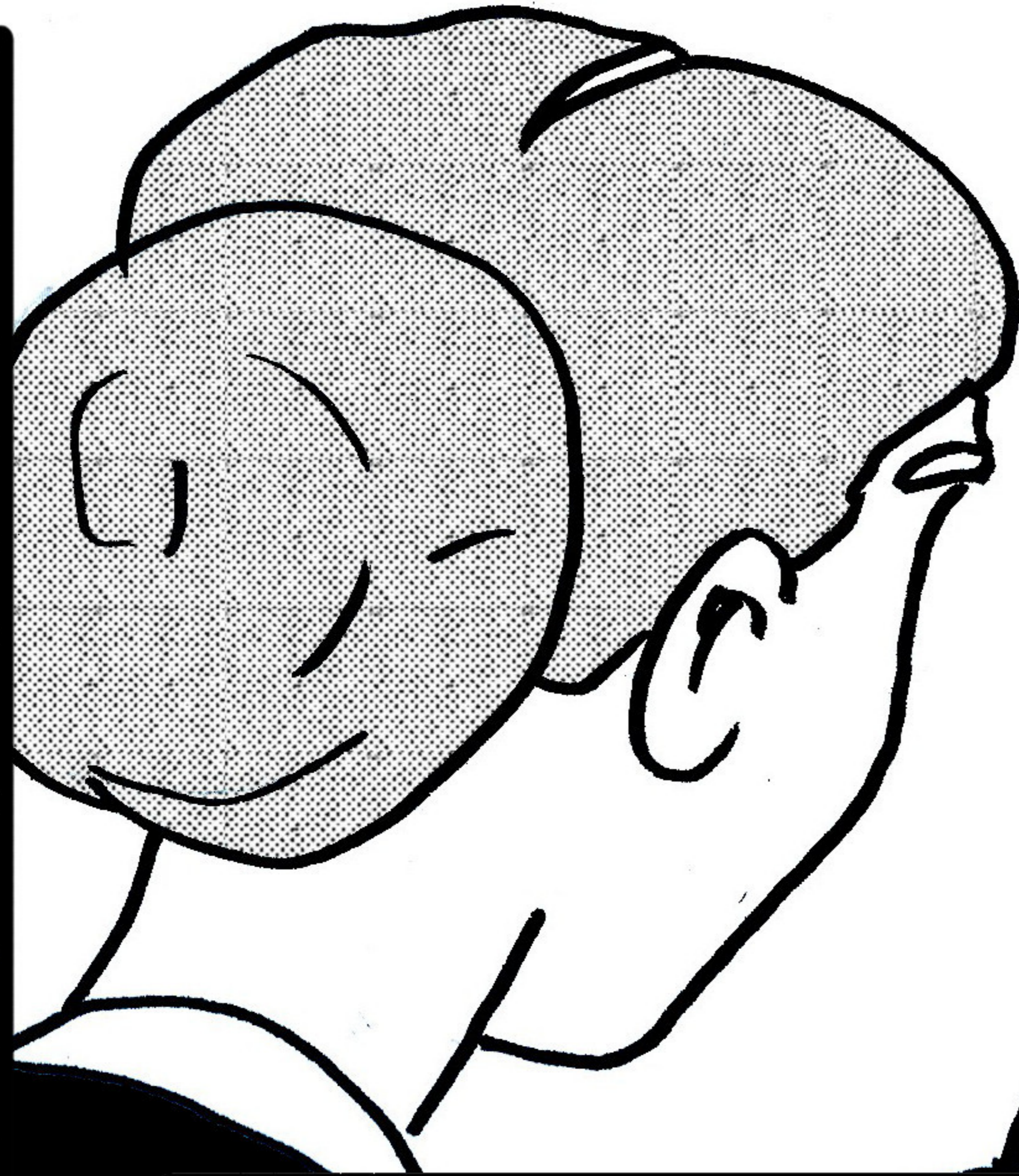
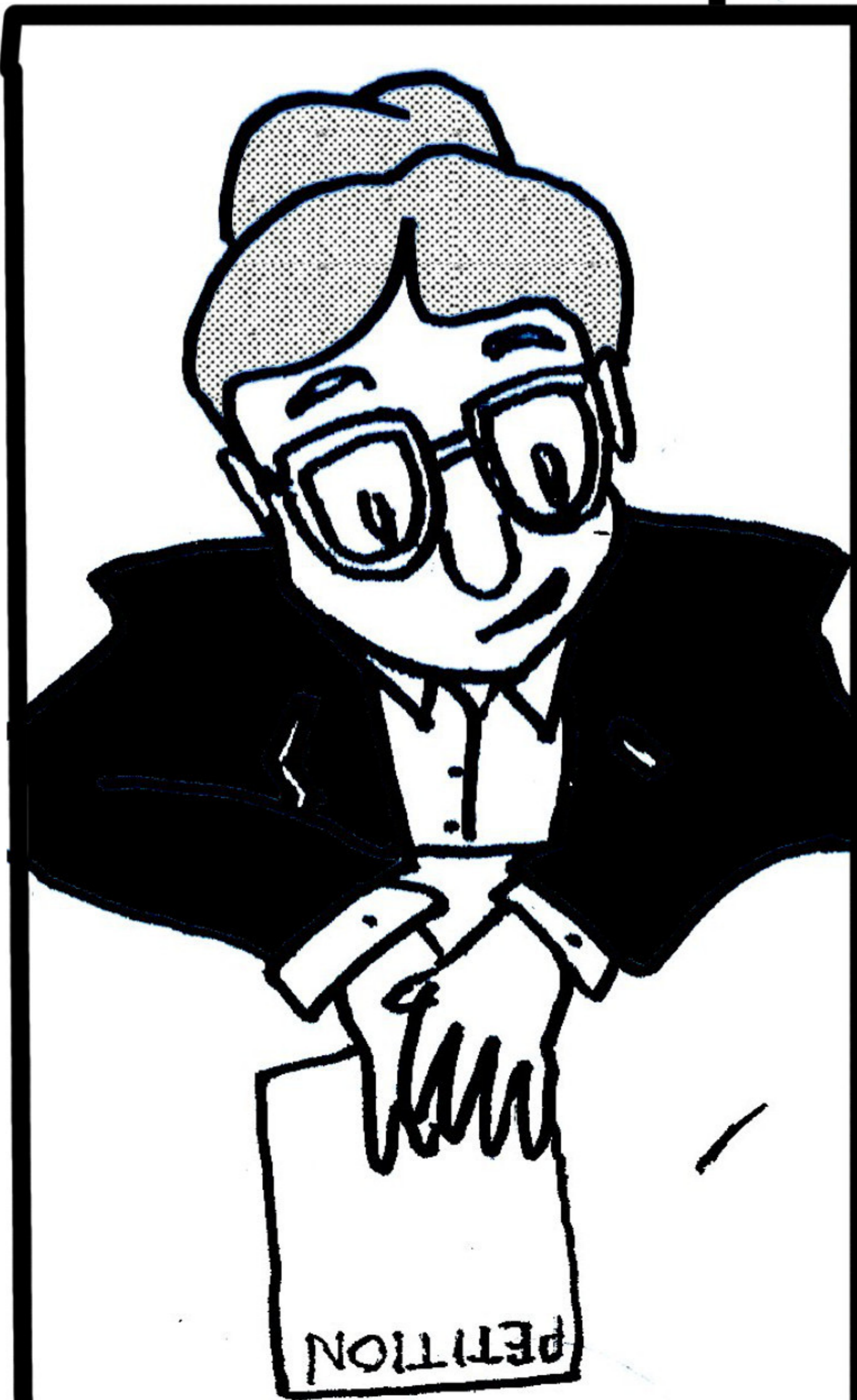
I'LL COVER THE 7TH FLOOR SINCE I KNOW A GUY THERE.

I'LL TRY THE SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE BUILDING. LET'S FINISH IT BEFORE THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT OFFICE CLOSES.

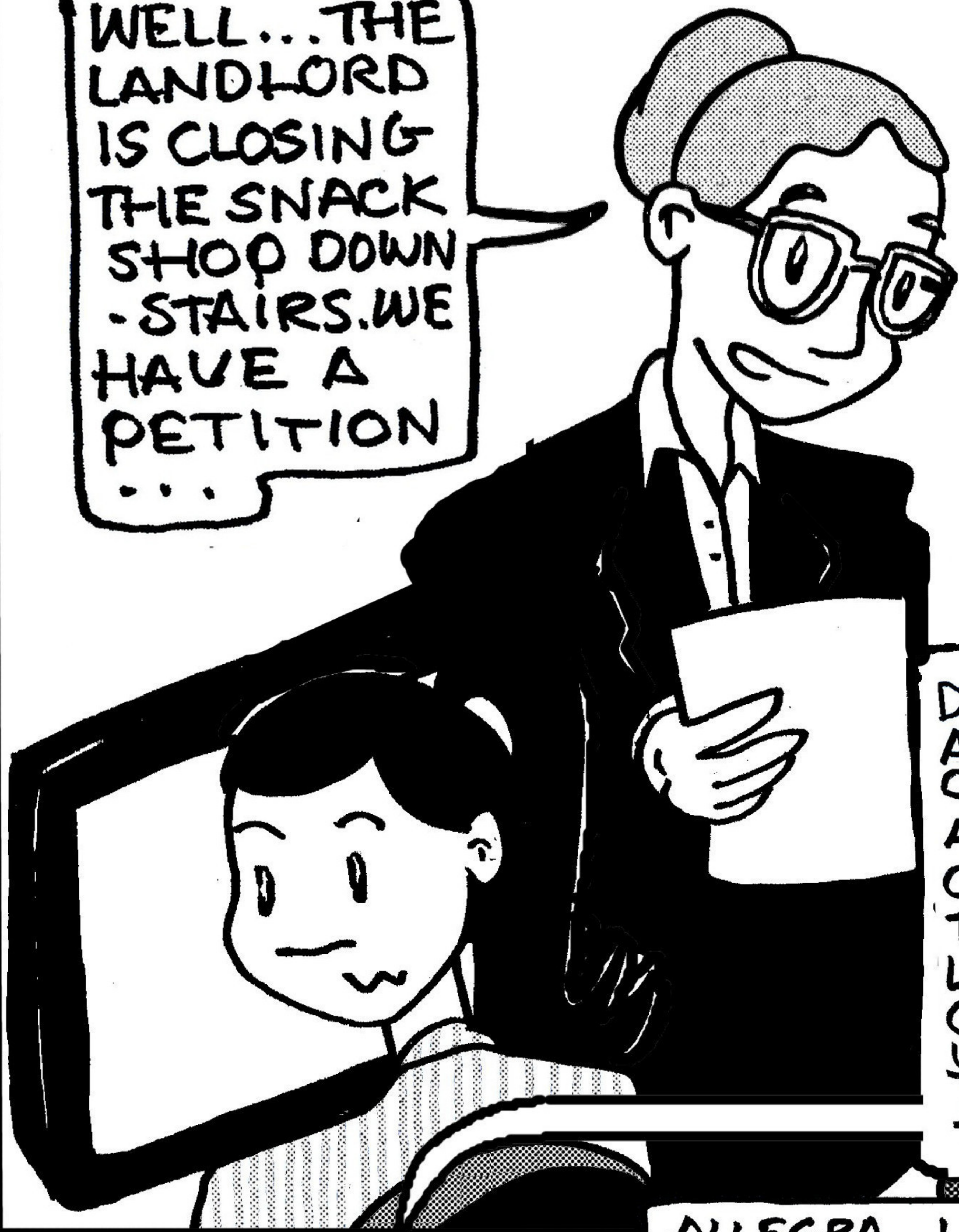
I'LL GET THE LAW FIRM NEXT DOOR.

AND I WILL GET THE STAFF HERE. THEY SHOULD ALL SEE OUR EMAIL BY NOW.





WELL...THE
LANDLORD
IS CLOSING
THE SNACK
SHOP DOWN
-STAIRS.WE
HAVE A
PETITION
...

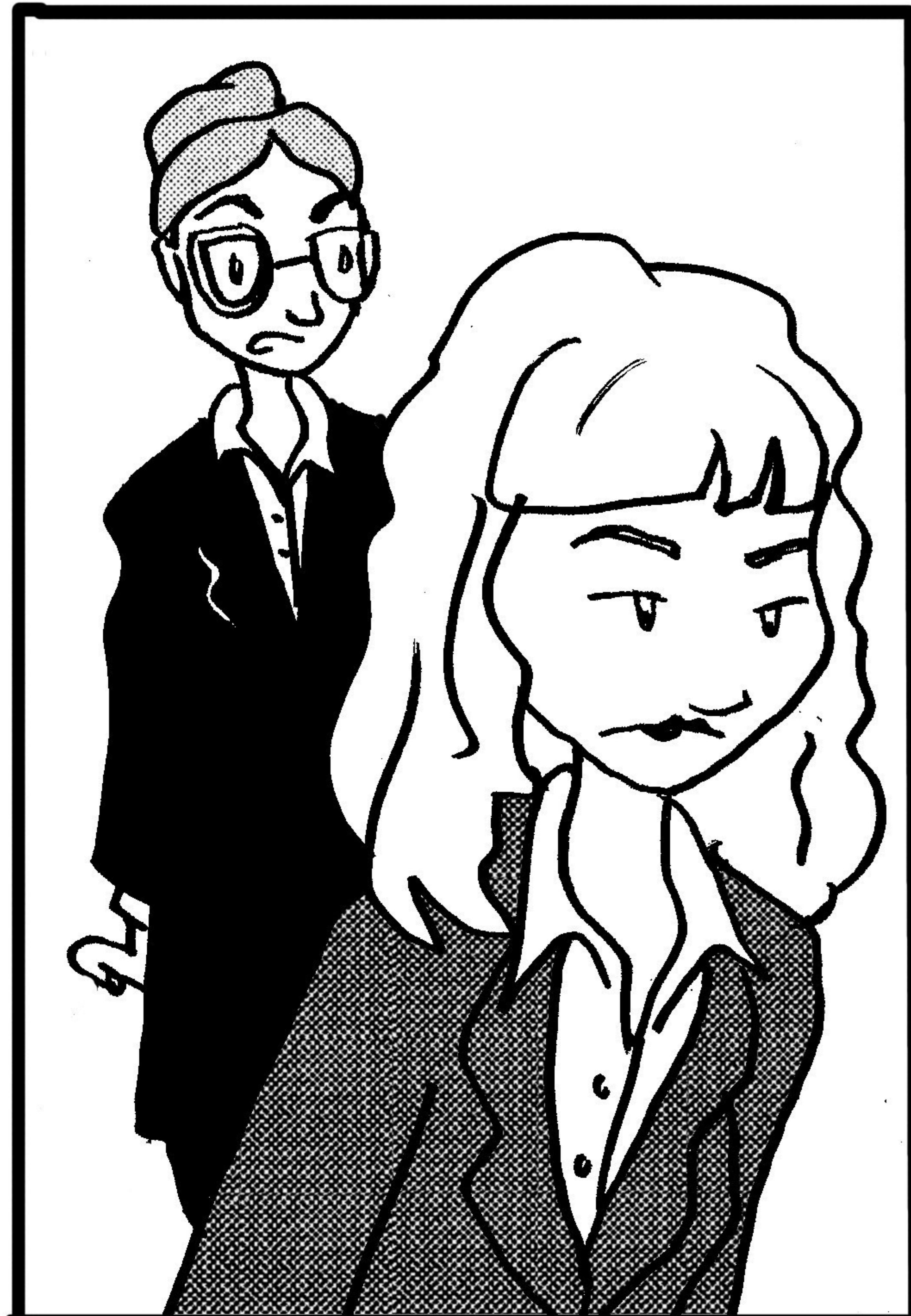


DOES DENNIS KNOW
ABOUT THIS? YOU
COULD GET ~~US~~ IN
A LOT OF TROUBLE.
OUR AGENCY IS IN
THE MIDDLE OF
LEASE NEGOTIATIONS
OURSELVES AND
YOU COULD
SERIOUSLY MESS
THINGS UP!

ALLEGRA, I WILL CLEAR THIS WITH
DENNIS. THIS PETITION IS FOR THE
WORKERS OF THIS WHOLE BUILDING
SO THE LANDLORD HAS TO RESPOND
TO ALL OF US.



**YOU CAN'T
GUARANTEE
THAT!**



WILL PEOPLE REALLY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS?

DON'T FALL INTO ALLEGRA'S INTIMIDATION. THAT'S WHAT SHE DOES.



AND IT'S BEEN WORKING...

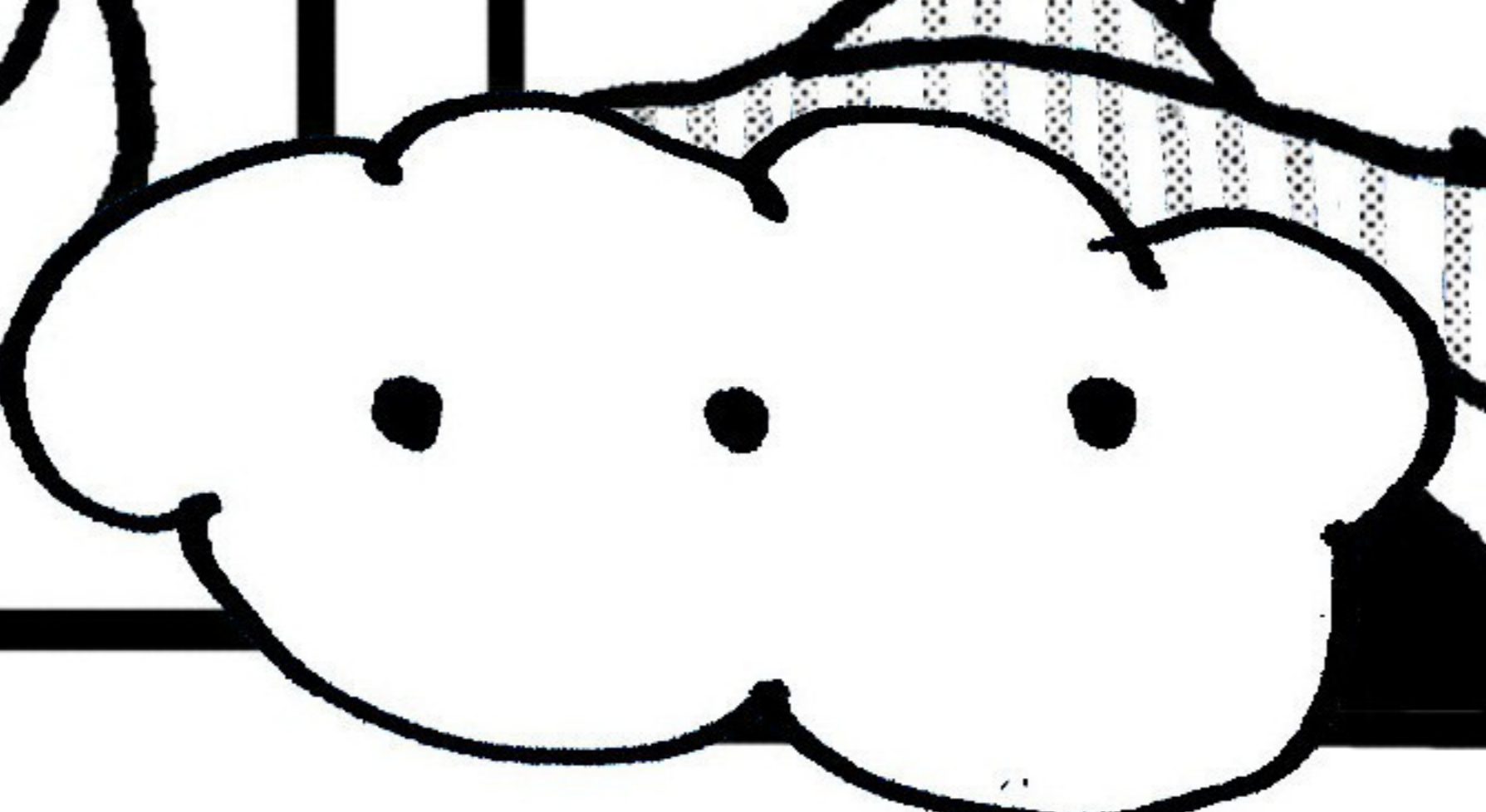
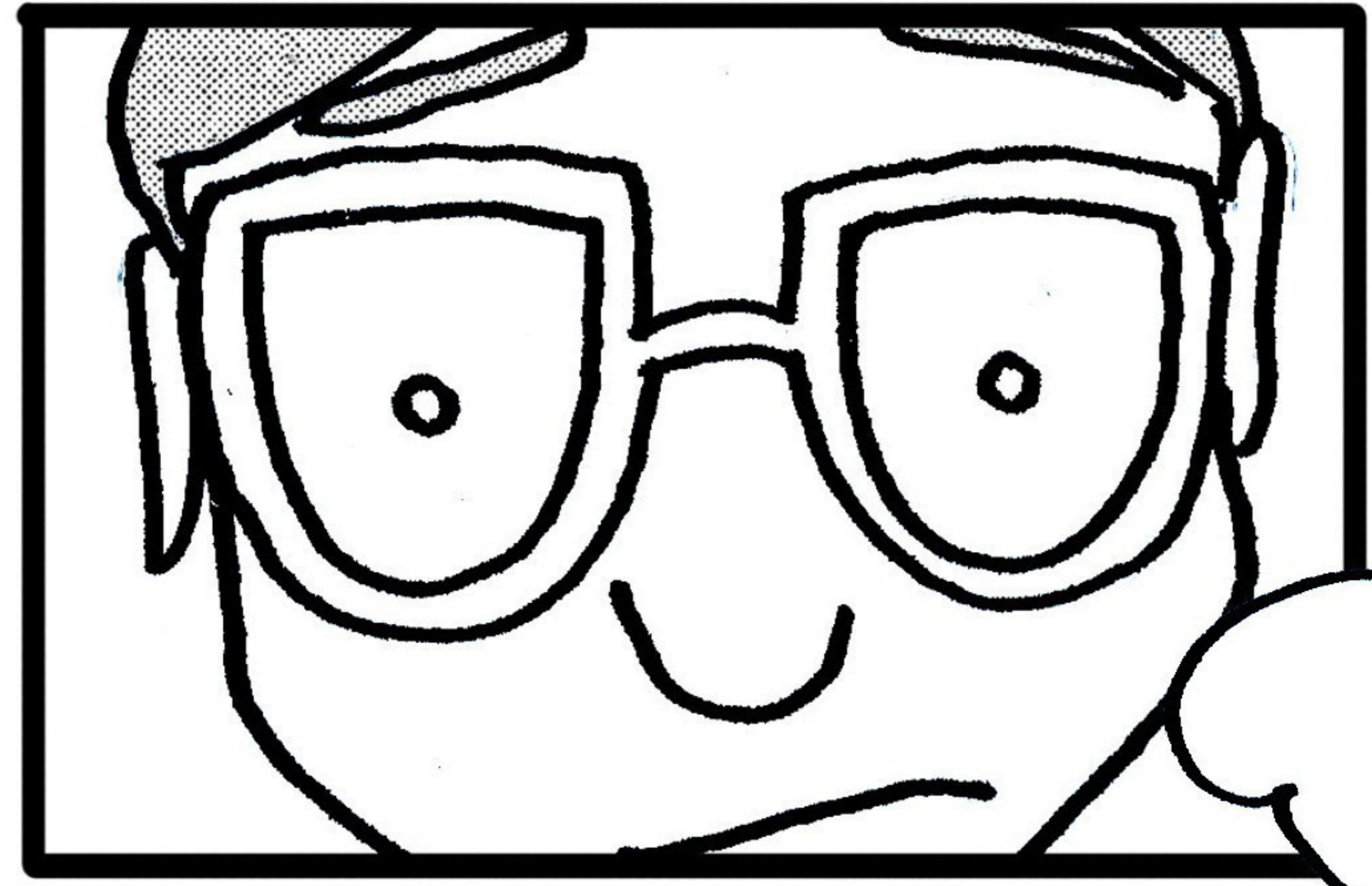
SMILE!
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

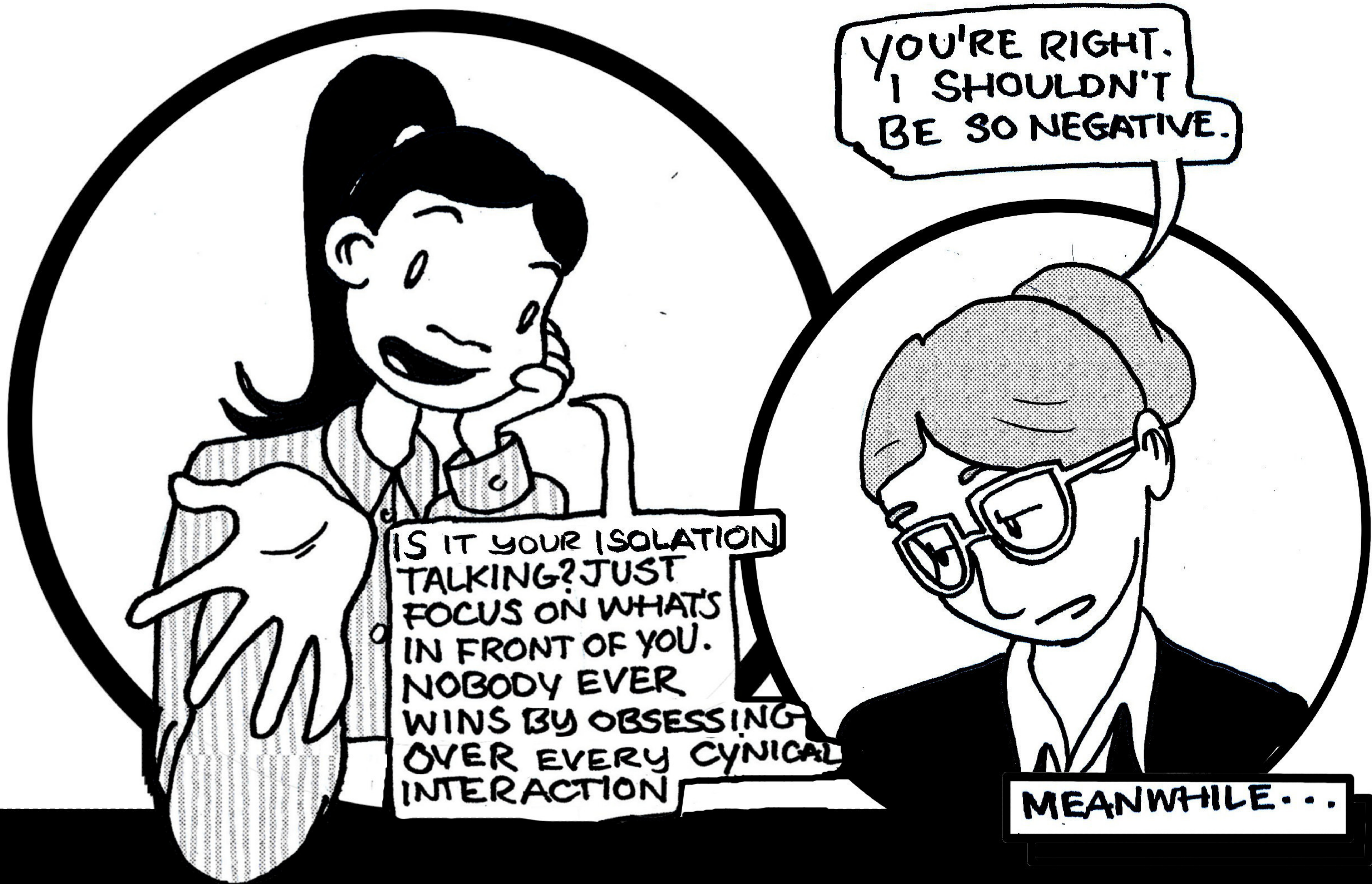
WE ♥ OUR EMPLOYEES



TOVA? HELLO?

YEAH, I'M HERE.





YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T BE SO NEGATIVE.

IS IT YOUR ISOLATION TALKING? JUST FOCUS ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU. NOBODY EVER WINS BY OBSESSING OVER EVERY CYNICAL INTERACTION

MEANWHILE...

LAW FIRM



YEAH, THIS IS BAD. OF COURSE. THERE'S NO COMMERCIAL RENT PROTECTION SO THE LANDLORD IS IN HIS RIGHTS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT, I KNOW...

BASEMENT

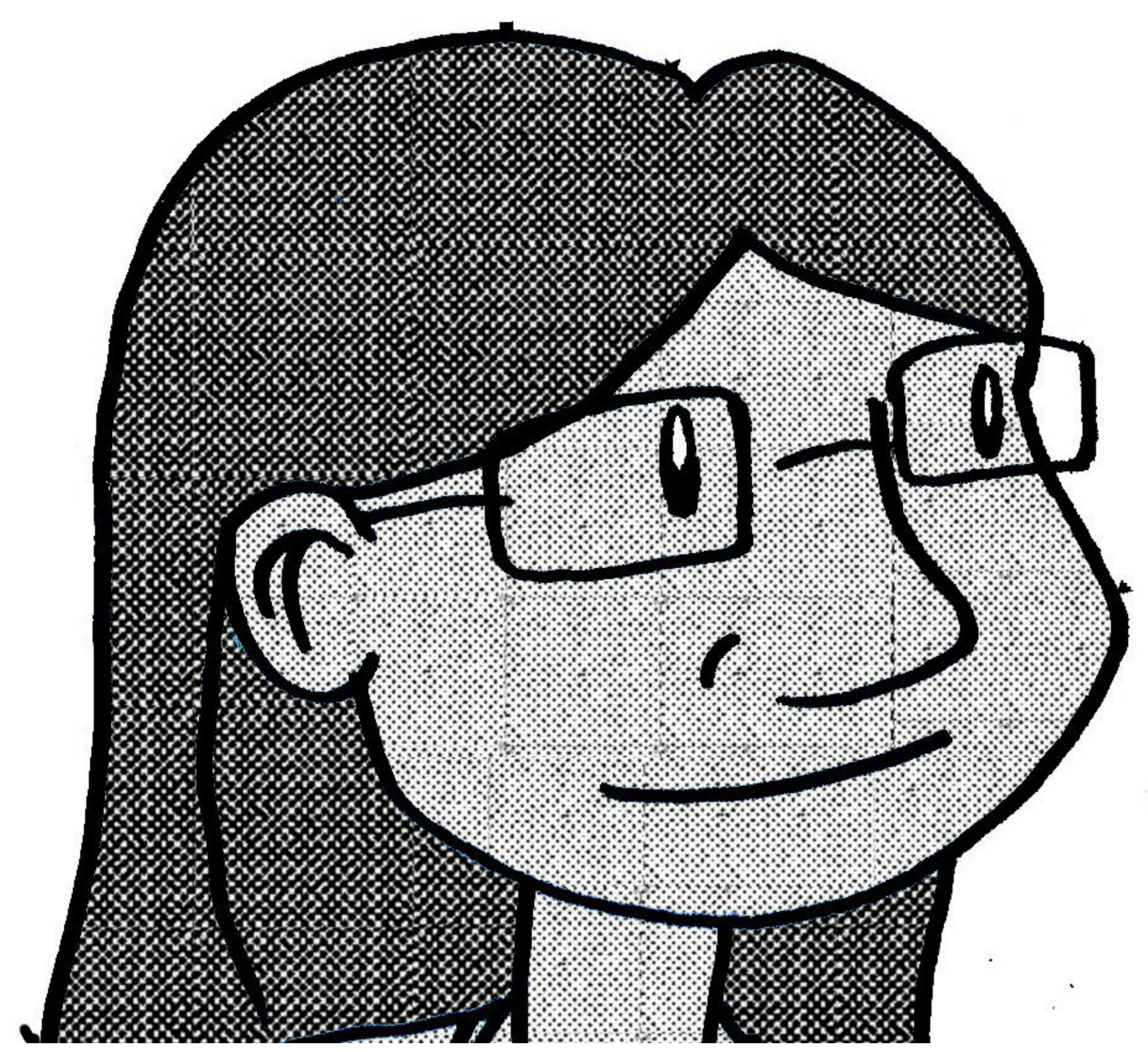


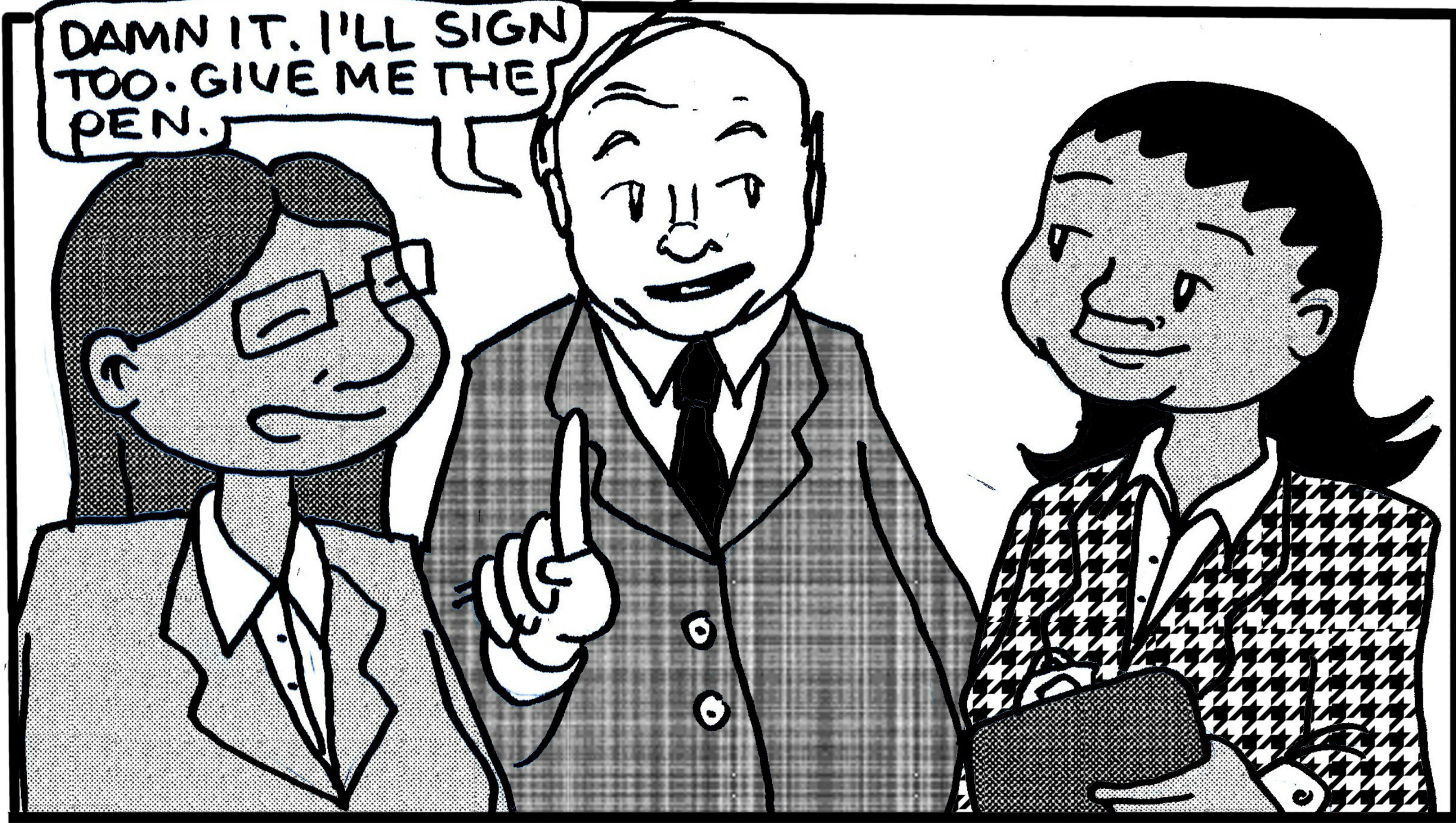
FAMILY SERVICES, 7TH FLOOR

THIS IS FOR SOHAIL, BUT IT'S FOR ME TOO. I MAKE SIX FIGURES, AND YET I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD TO BUY AN APARTMENT IN NEW YORK, SAVE FOR RETIREMENT, SUPPORT MY FAMILY.

REALLY EVEN YOU?

YEAH I HAD TO MOVE TO NEW JERSEY AND COMMUTE IN. THREE HOURS, DAY BY DAY. MEANWHILE, MANY LUXURY APARTMENTS ARE TAKING UP SPACE IN MANHATTAN SO SOME OVER-SEAS INVESTOR CAN COUNT ANOTHER MILL?





DAMN IT. I'LL SIGN TOO. GIVE ME THE PEN.

COFFEE SHOP, GROUND FLOOR



ER...THE LANDLORD WANTS A HIGH-END COFFEE SHOP?

YEAH. IT'S STUPID.

THE LANDLORD IS TRYING TO SCREW US OVER. YOU MADE MY DAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE MY BACK IF THIS HAPPENED TO US.



OUTSIDE THE BOSS'S OFFICE...

DENNIS L. COO

THAT'S DISGUSTING
THEY'RE KICKING
HIM OUT. DENNIS
COULD SUPPORT
THIS. HE GETS HIS
COFFEE THERE
EVERY DAY, SOME
-TIMES TWICE...

I KNOW.

HE SOMETIMES CLINGS
TO THE STATUS QUO
BUT I BET HE'D SEE
THIS AS A GOOD
THING, YOU SHOULD
ASK HIM TO SIGN ON.

SO YOU'RE
OK WITH US
CIRCULATING
THE PETITION?

YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO
ASK ME. IT'S
NOT UP TO
ME.





I KNOW.
BUT I WANT
TO KNOW
WHAT YOU
THINK.

I THINK YOU SHOULD
GIVE ALL OUR STAFF
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SIGN ON, IF
THEY WANT. MORE
PEOPLE WOULD
PROBABLY SUPPORT
THIS THAN YOU
MIGHT IMAGINE.



EVEN SENIOR
STAFF AND
MANAGEMENT?

YOU WANT ME
TO ASK THEM?

UM
YES!

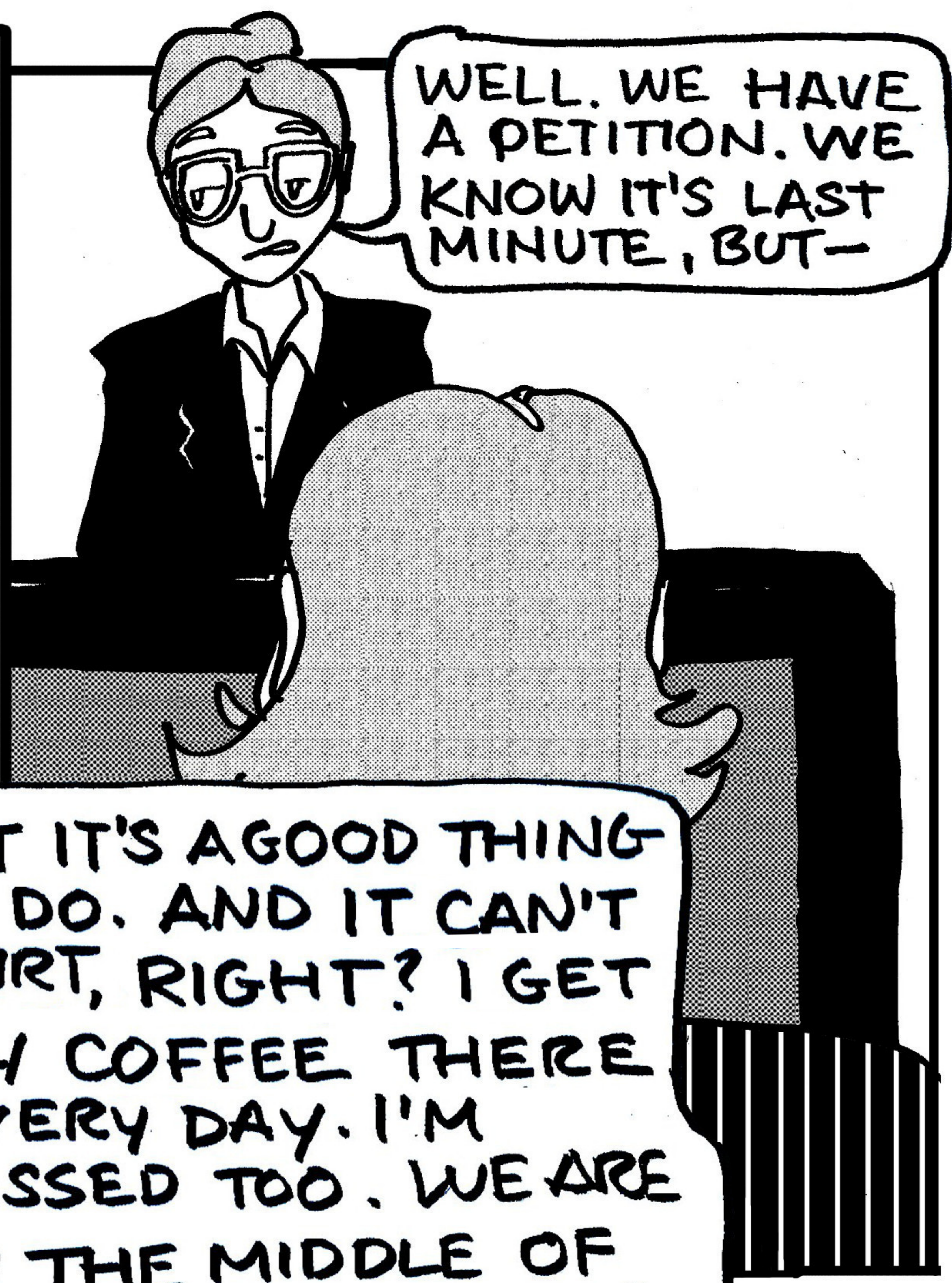




HE TOLD ME TODAY



WELL, WE HAVE A PETITION. WE KNOW IT'S LAST MINUTE, BUT—



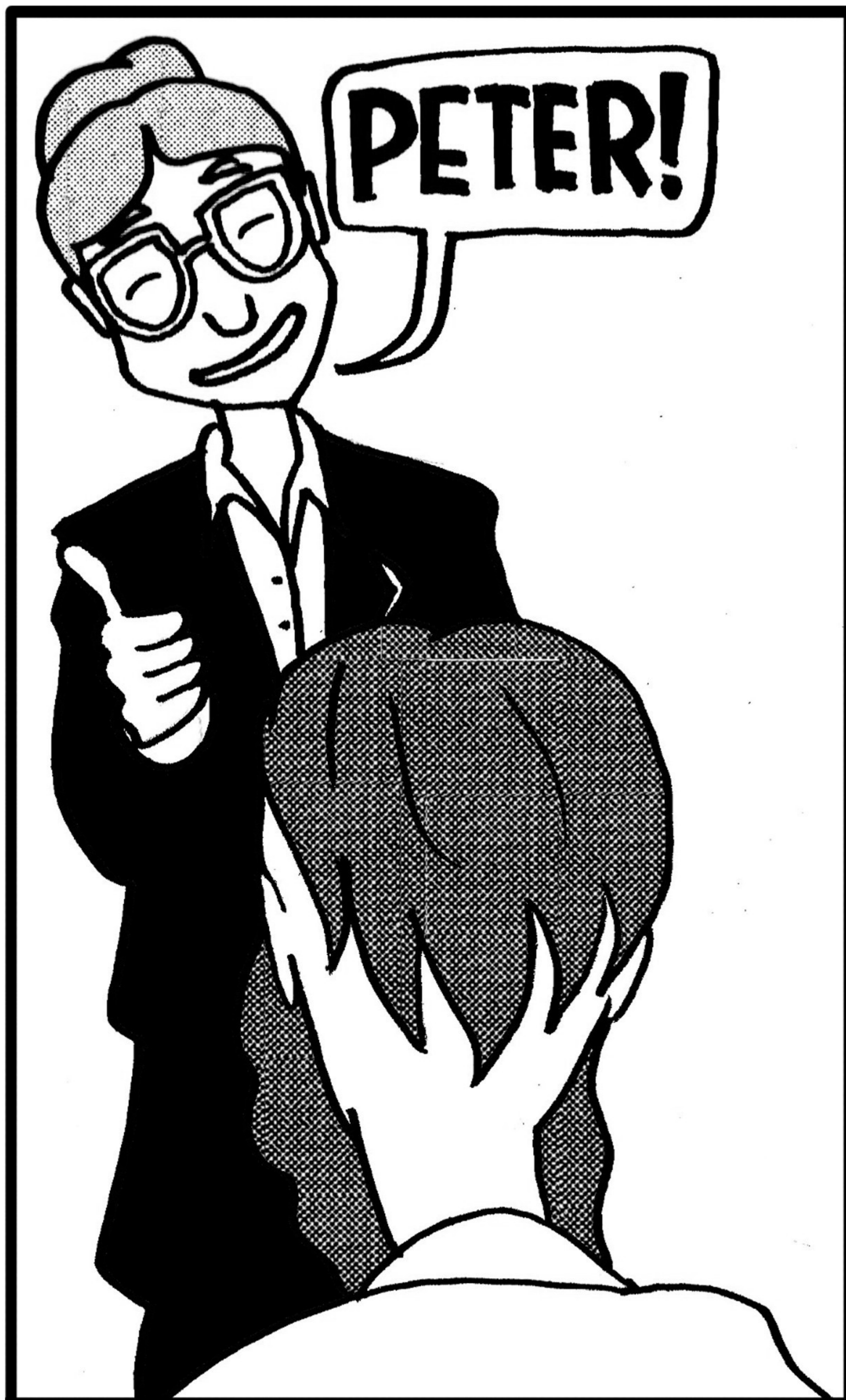
BUT IT'S A GOOD THING TO DO. AND IT CAN'T HURT, RIGHT? I GET MY COFFEE THERE EVERY DAY. I'M PISSED TOO. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF LEASE NEGOTIATIONS SO IT'S BEST I DON'T SIGN THIS PERSONALLY.



THAT'S FINE.

WHEN YOU ARE READY TO DELIVER TO THE LANDLORD, IT'S ON THE 32ND FLOOR.

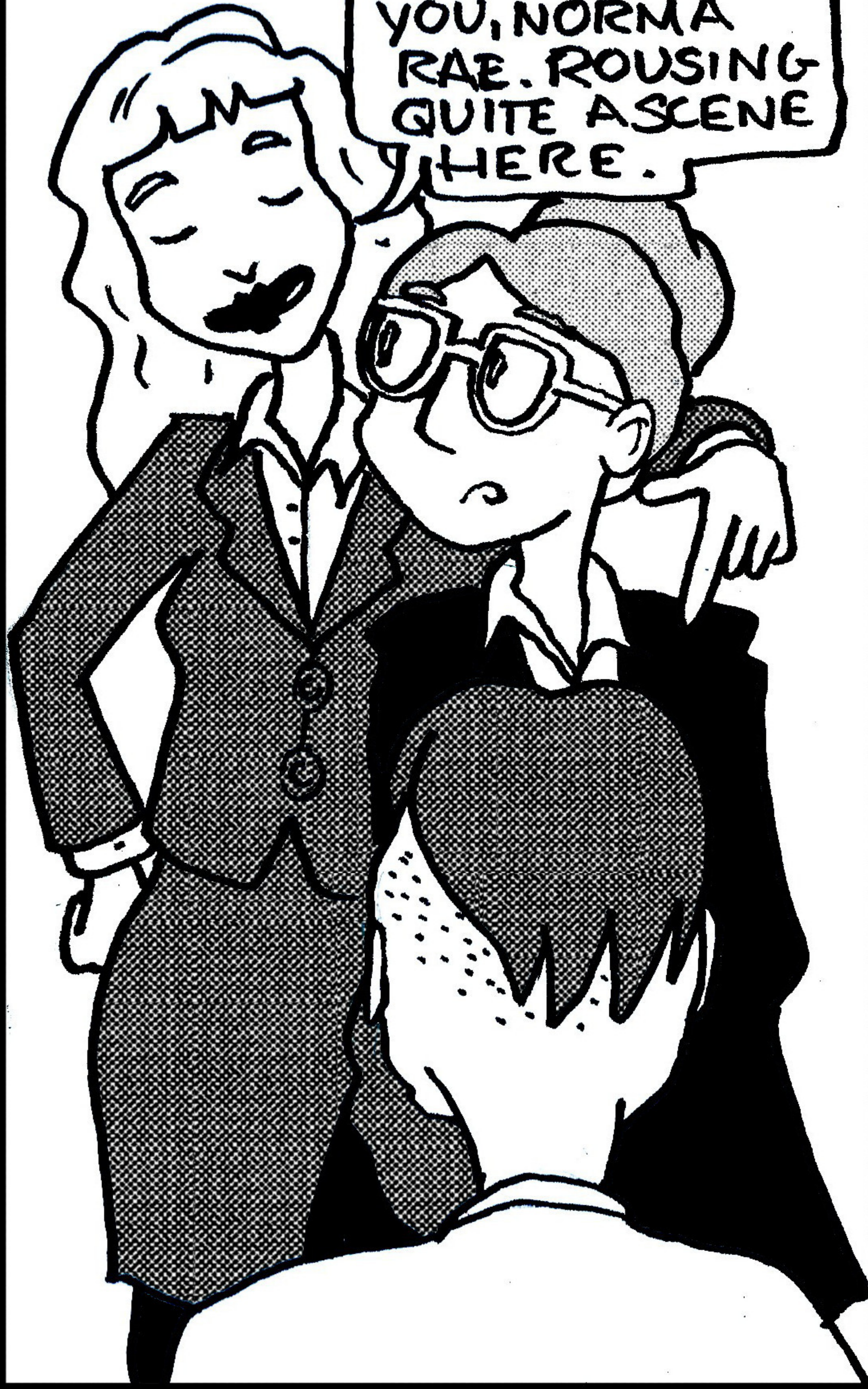




MAYBE, BUT THEY KNOW THEY WILL FALL INTO SOHAIL'S BOAT. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, AS ALL THESE HIGH-END SHOPS AND CHAIN STORES ARE COMING IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.



WOW, LOOK AT YOU, NORMA RAE. ROUSING QUITE A SCENE HERE.

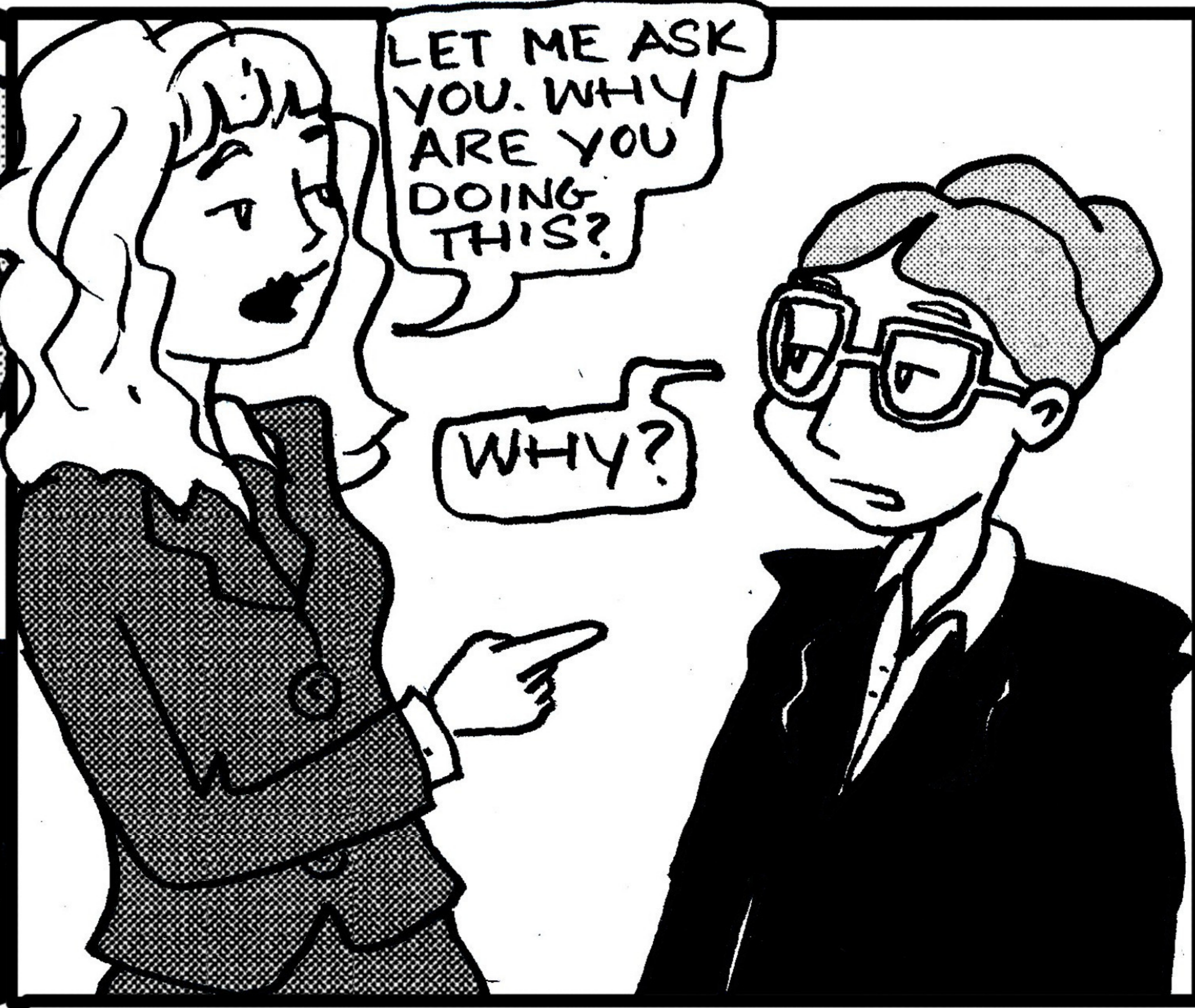


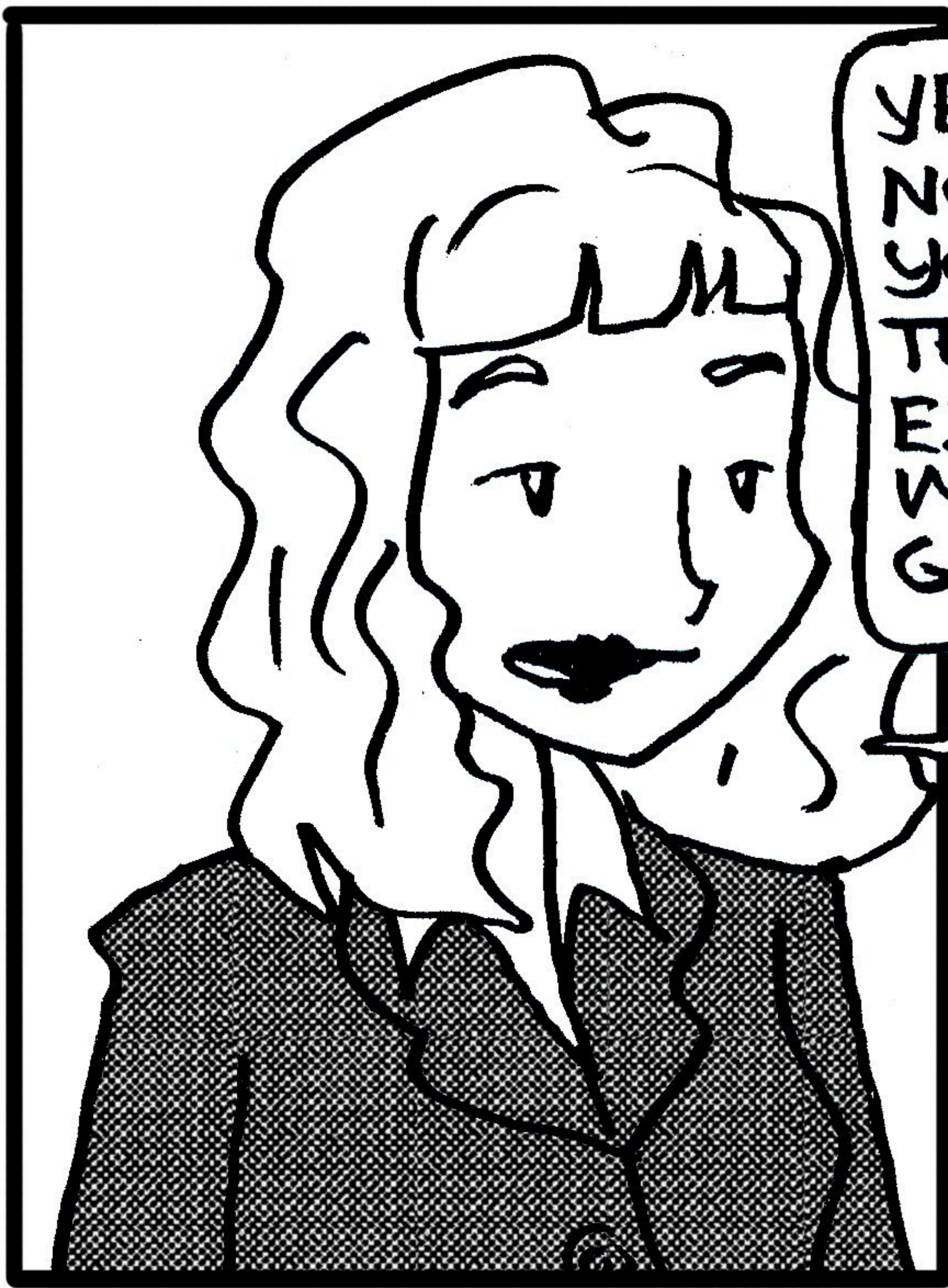
I'VE GOT DENNIS'S PERMISSION. NO NEED TO BE SO VIGILANT.



LET ME ASK YOU. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHY?



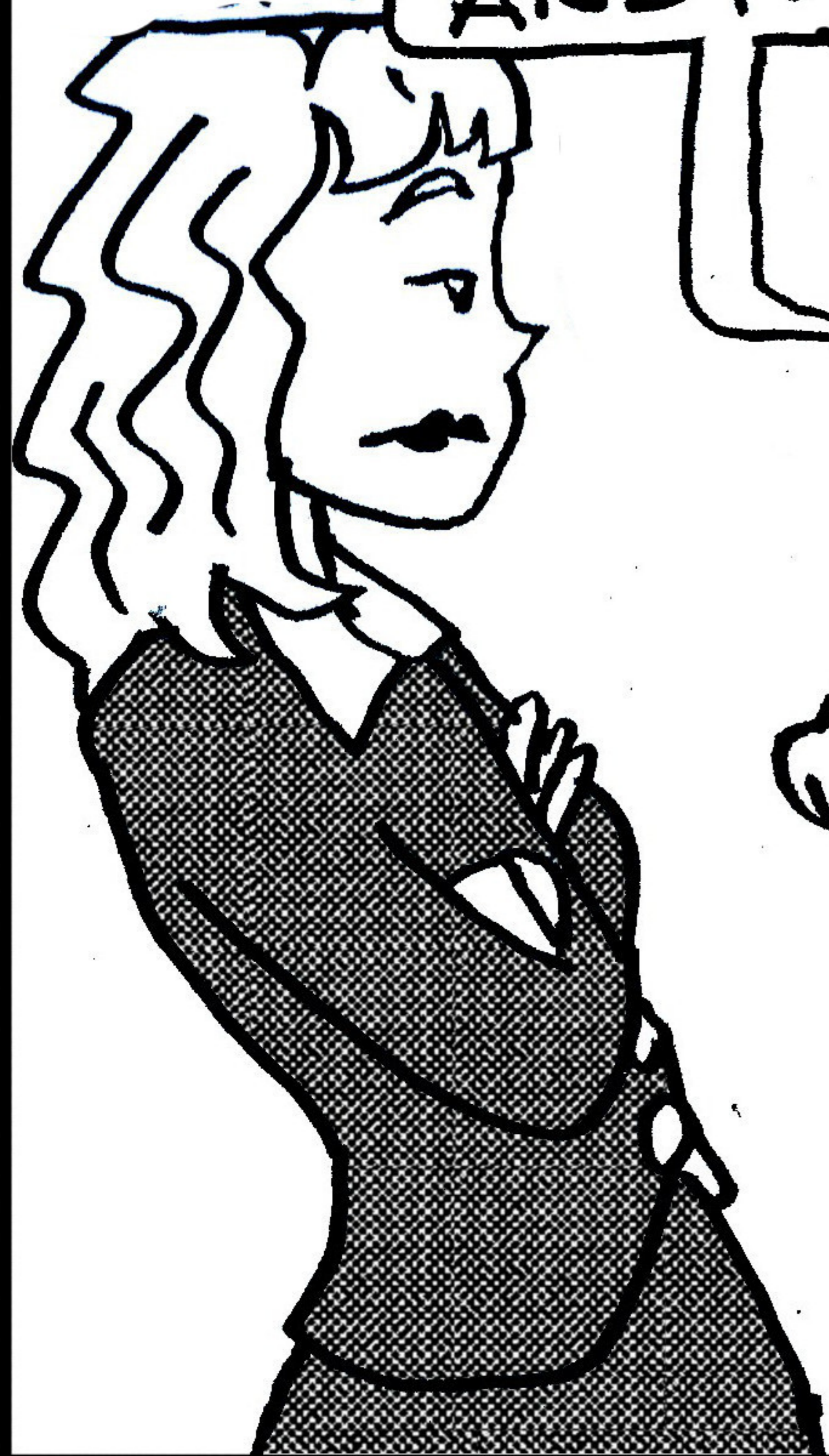


YES, WHY? YOU ARE NOT SOHAIL. ARE YOU SO AVAILABLE THAT YOU CAN DO EXTRA CHARITY WORK FOR POOR GUYS?



THIS IS NOT CHARITY WORK. IT'S FOR US. NO, I'M NOT A STRUGGLING IMMIGRANT BUSINESS AND I'M NOT CONFUSED ABOUT THAT, BUT I NEED SOHAIL. AND I NEED TO PAY MY RENT. AND IF I GOT FIRED RIGHT NOW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

MY RENT WAS RAISED 20 PERCENT LAST YEAR. IT'S GETTING IMPOSSIBLE. SOHAIL AND I...



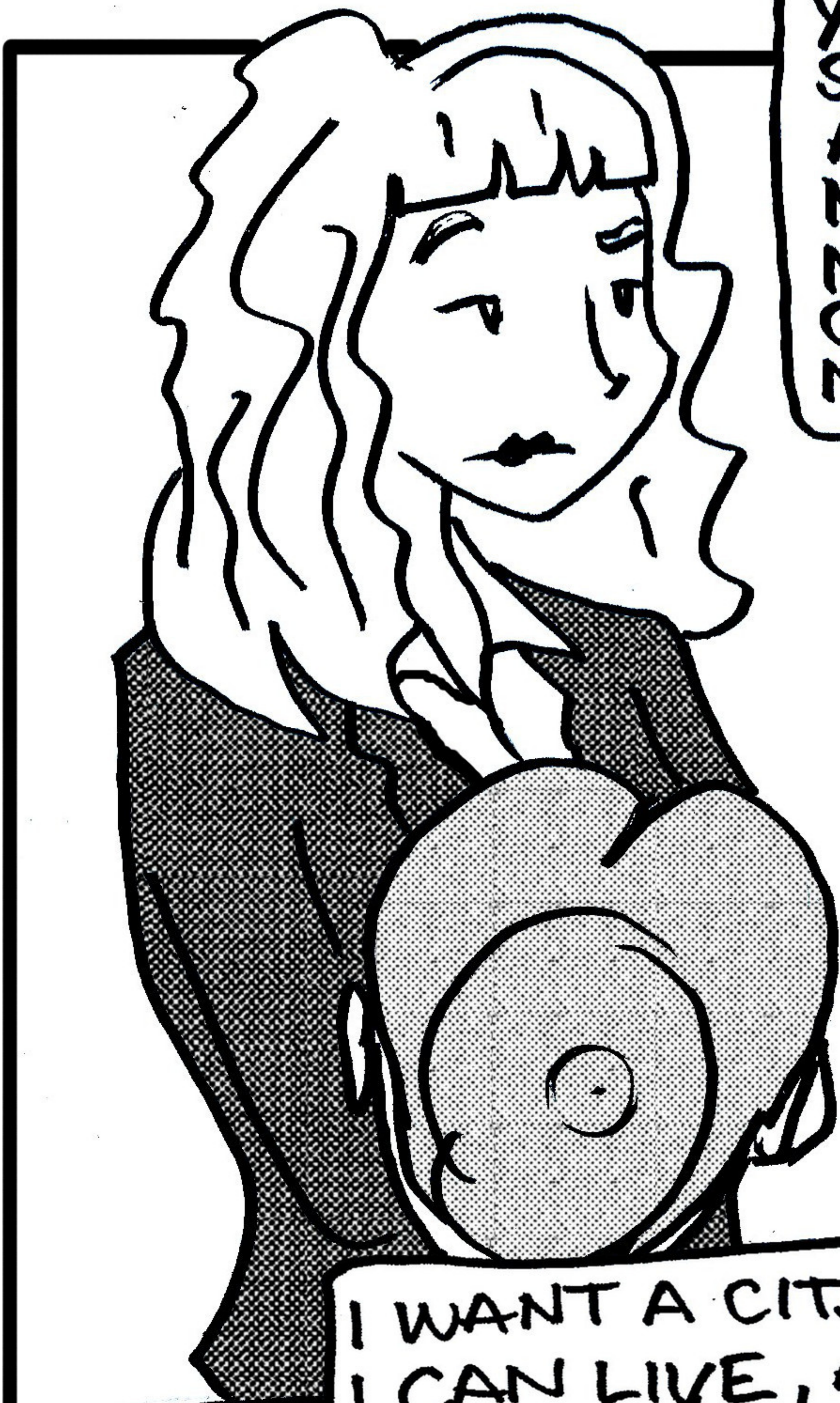
PLEASE. YOU'RE FROM THE SUBURBS AND YOU SIT HERE WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE.



WHAT? WE BOTH LIVE BY OUR WORK. I WRITE REPORTS SO THAT I CAN GET MY PAYCHECK. SOHAIL WORKS HARD TO MAINTAIN HIS BUSINESS AND PROVIDE SERVICES. I MEAN, WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT. WE MIGHT BE ROWING IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BOAT BUT WE'RE BOTH ROWING.



YOU KNOW, PEOPLE SAY THAT COMPUTERS ARE THE NEW SEWING MACHINES. OR, SAY, NEWER AND FANCIER OARS. BUT OARS NONETHELESS.



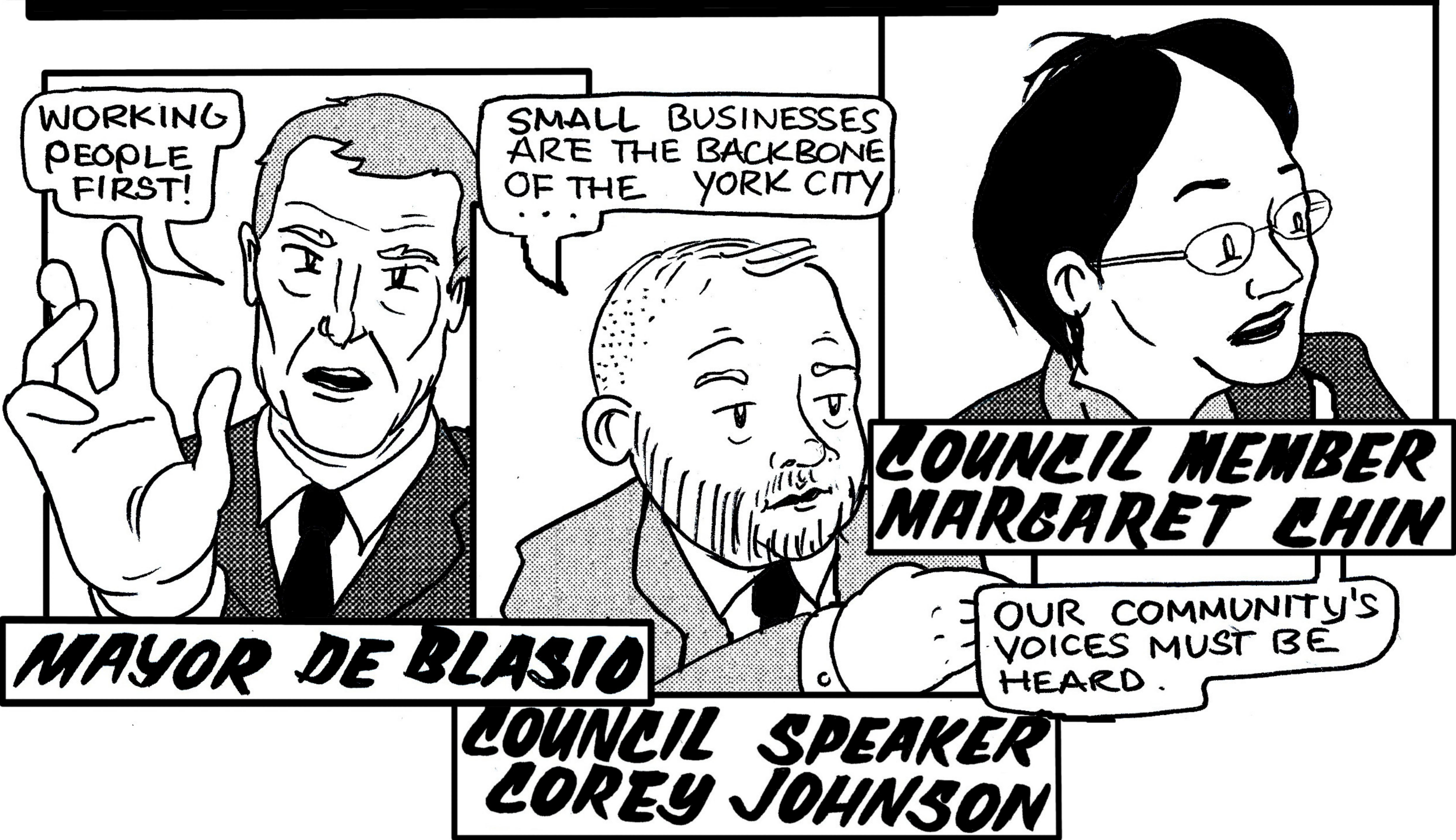
I WANT A CITY WHERE I CAN LIVE, AND SO CAN SOHAIL. I'M NOT A HERO. I'M AN ORDINARY NEW YORKER WHO'S SICK OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE SHE LOVES BEING TAKEN AWAY, BECAUSE THE CITY GOVERNMENT LETS RICH LANDLORDS AND DEVELOPERS RUN THE SHOW INSTEAD OF PROTECTING THE INTEREST OF THE ACTUAL CITY.





NEW YORK CITY IS THE FAIREST CITY IN THE WORLD

POLITICIANS LIKE MAYOR DE BLASIO ALL TALK VERY NICE...



WORKING PEOPLE FIRST!

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE YORK CITY ...

OUR COMMUNITY'S VOICES MUST BE HEARD.

MAYOR DE BLASIO

COUNCIL SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON

COUNCIL MEMBER MARGARET CHIN



BUT IN ACTION, THEY ALL

GREENLIGHT

LUXURY HIGH-RISES

AND HELP RICH

DEVELOPERS

KICK OUT

WORKING PEOPLE

AND SMALL

BUSINESSES.

AS A RESULT,

NEW YORK CITY

IS BECOMING

MORE AND MORE

UNAFFORDABLE.

THEN WHEN THERE ARE ACTUAL SOLUTIONS TO STOP THIS MADNESS, LIKE THE LEGISLATION THAT GIVES SMALL BUSINESSES THE RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE A NEW LEASE...



THEY FABRICATE PROBLEMS...

WELL, THERE ARE SOME LEGAL ISSUES REGARDING SMALL BUSINESS PROTECTION ... LAWYERS SAY IT'S LEGAL BUT I'M JUST NOT SURE...

OR THEY SAY THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO.



WE CAN'T STOP LUXURY TOWERS. HOW ABOUT WE ASK THE DEVELOPERS FOR SOME BENEFITS, LIKE A WIDER SUBWAY PLATFORM?



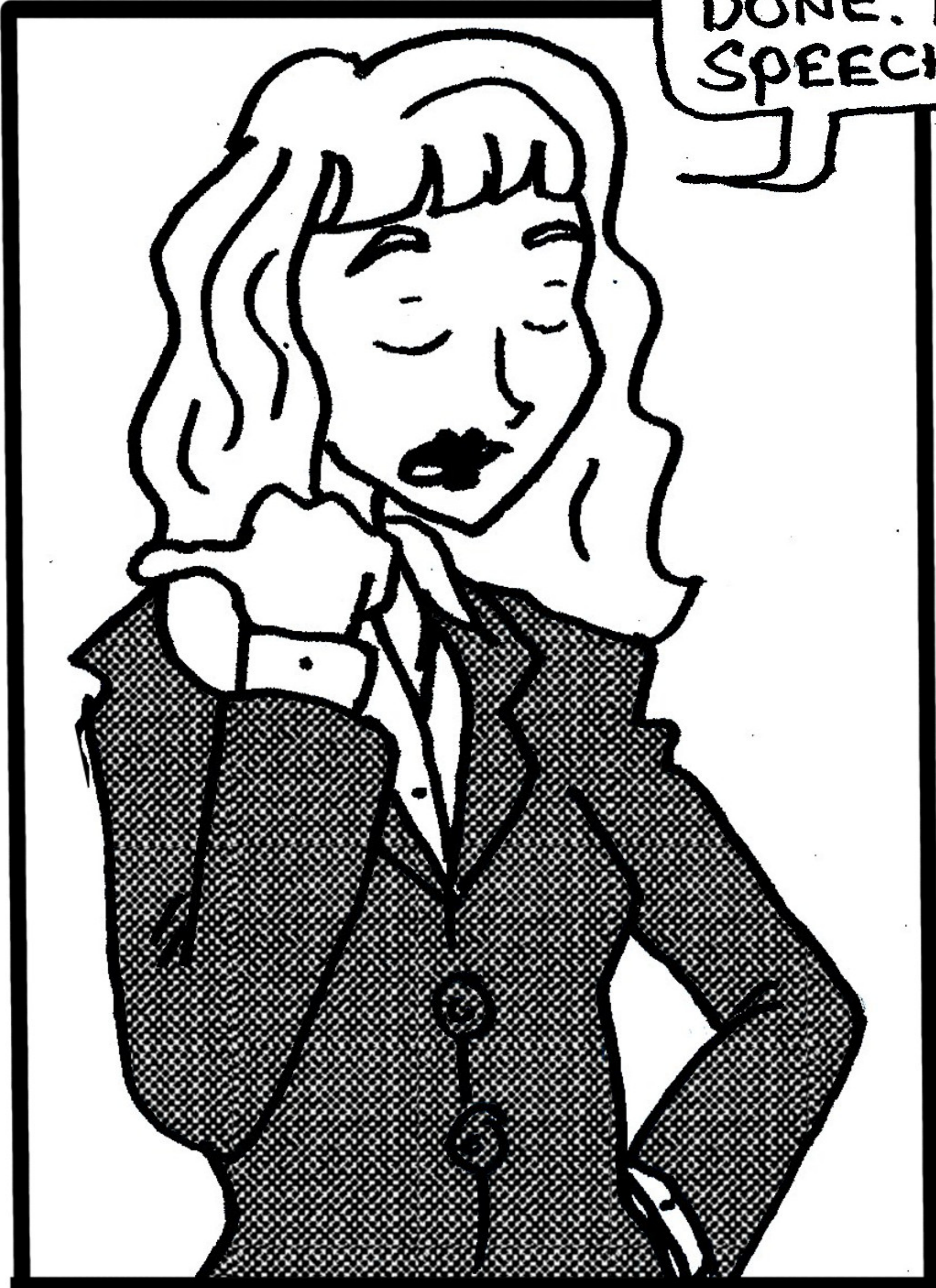
BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT CONTINUE BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONES WHO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THIS CITY. THIS CITY OF SOHAILS. NOT BLOOMBERG OR TRUMP OR WHATEVER ONE PERCENT WHO LET OUR NEIGHBORHOODS GET ROBBED. AND FOR SOME REASON WE ARE SUPPOSED TO ACCEPT IT FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL?

WE NEED TO ORGANIZE AND TURN IT AROUND AND SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

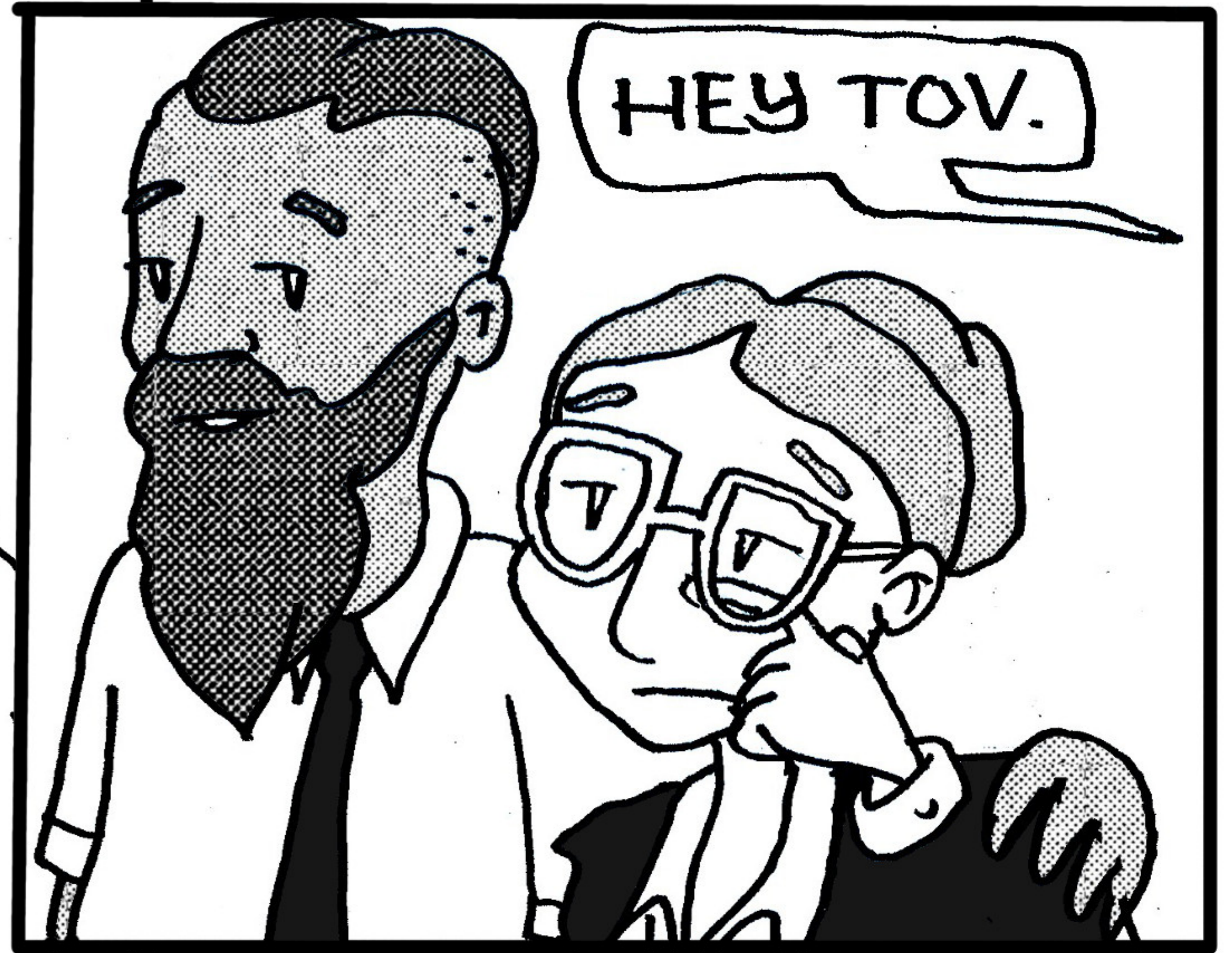




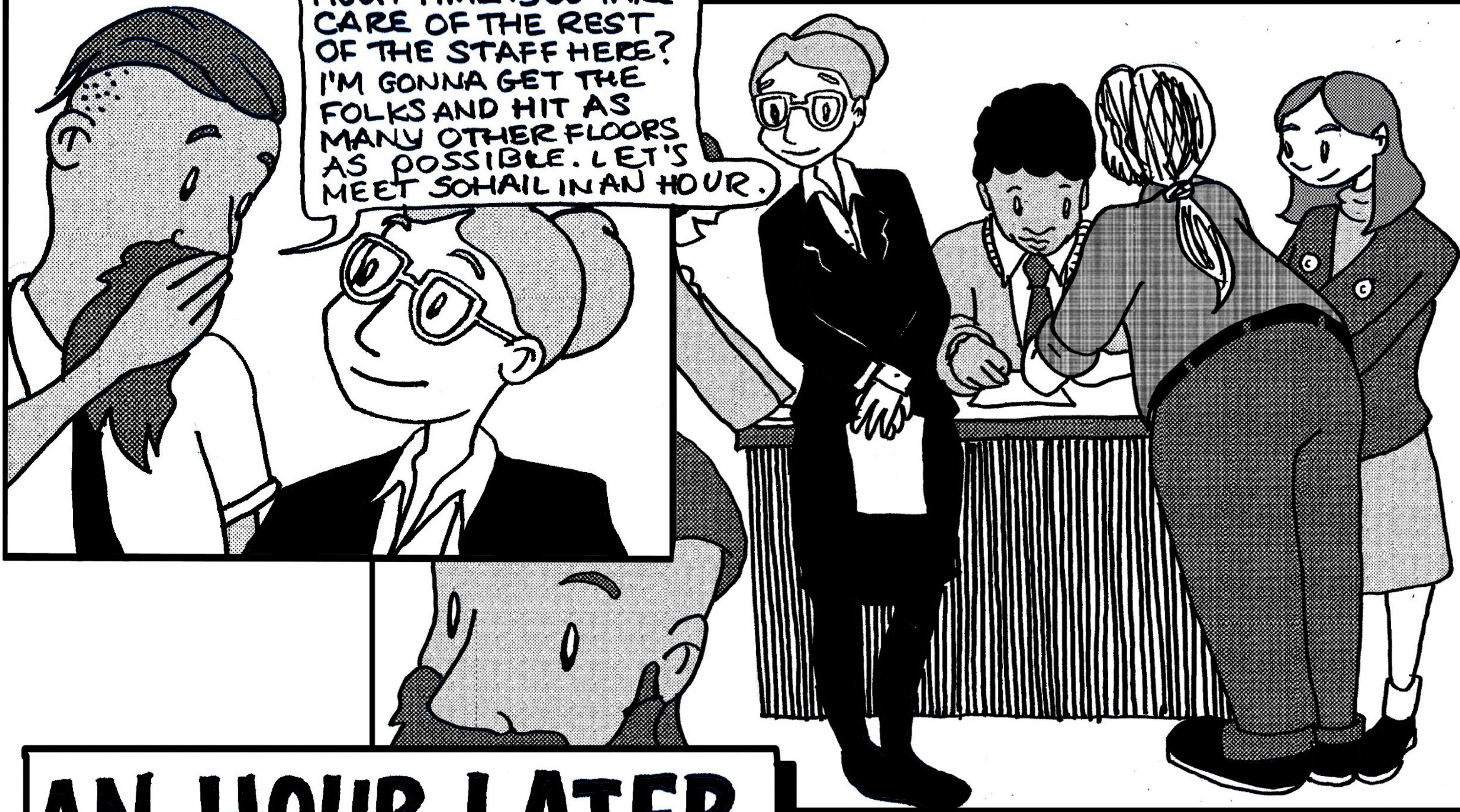
ALRIGHT, NEED TO
GET MY STUFF
DONE. NICE LITTLE
SPEECH THOUGH.



DON'T YOU
WANT TO SIGN
THE PETITION?



HEY WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. YOU TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF THE STAFF HERE? I'M GONNA GET THE FOLKS AND HIT AS MANY OTHER FLOORS AS POSSIBLE. LET'S MEET SOHAIL IN AN HOUR.



AN HOUR LATER.



LOOK AT THIS. 75 SIGNATURES, MY CHILD.

MOST SENIOR STAFF FROM OUR OFFICE SIGNED. ETHAN EVEN GRUMBLED THAT HE WOULDN'T BE BUYING A \$7 LATTE FROM THE NEW PLACE.

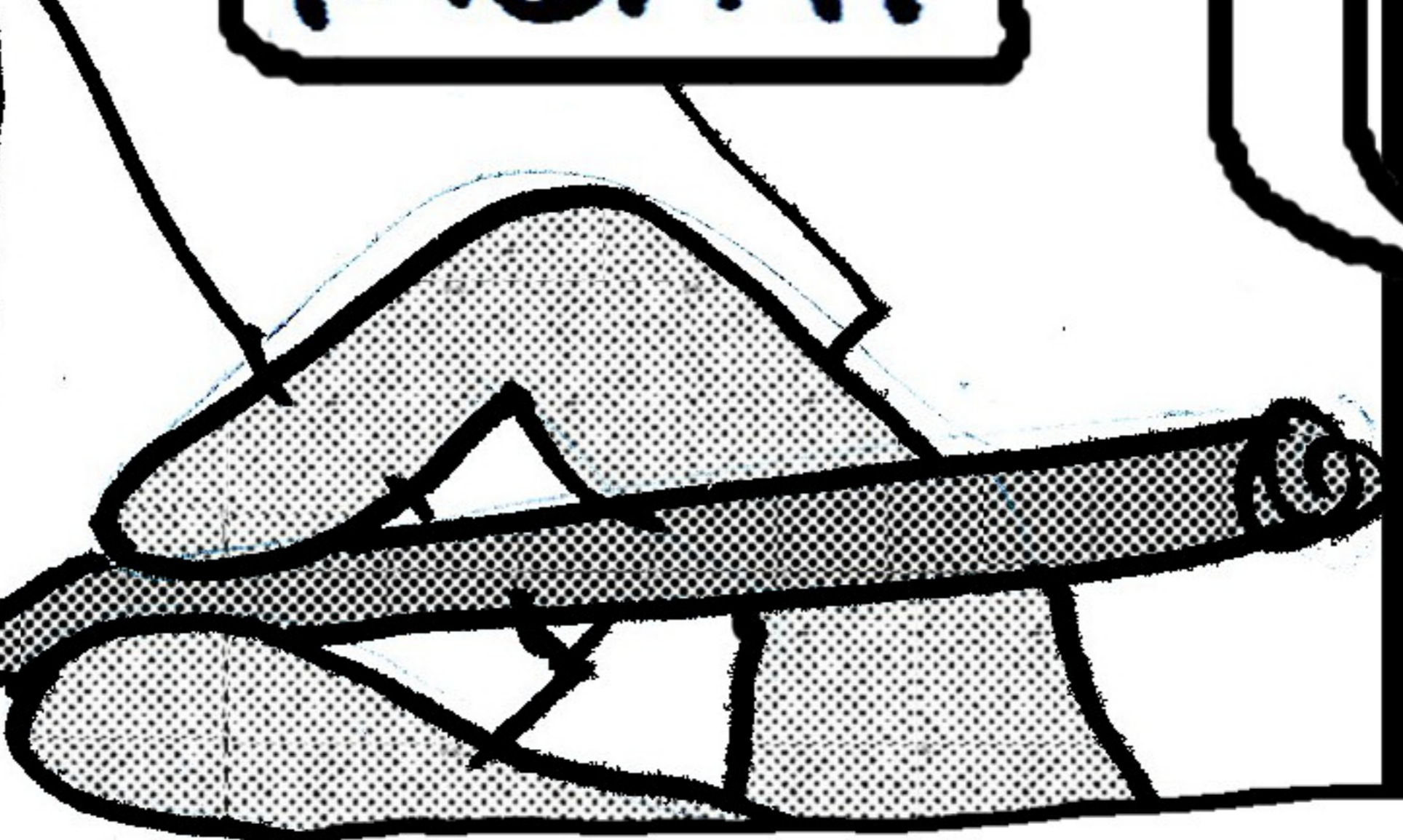


WOW, YOU GUYS DID THIS?

alt
HERE'S 76!

MANY PEOPLE IN THIS BUILDING ARE DOWN TO FIGHT.

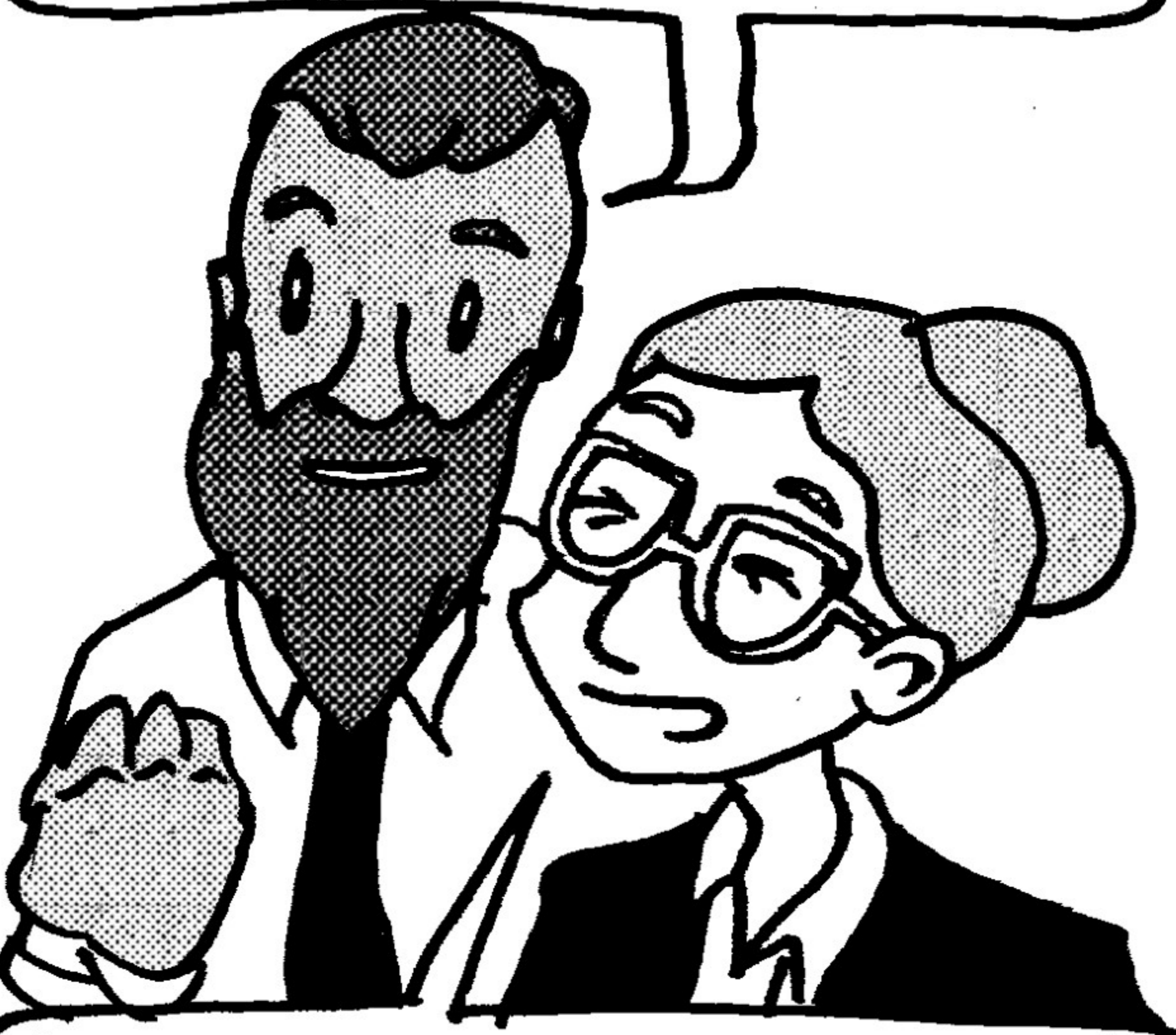
eh
ACK MESS!



Sohai!



THAT SHOULD BE WHAT DTF STANDS FOR. WE SHOULD CO-OPT THAT MILLENNIAL SLANG FROM THE DATING APPS. DOWN TO FIGHT.



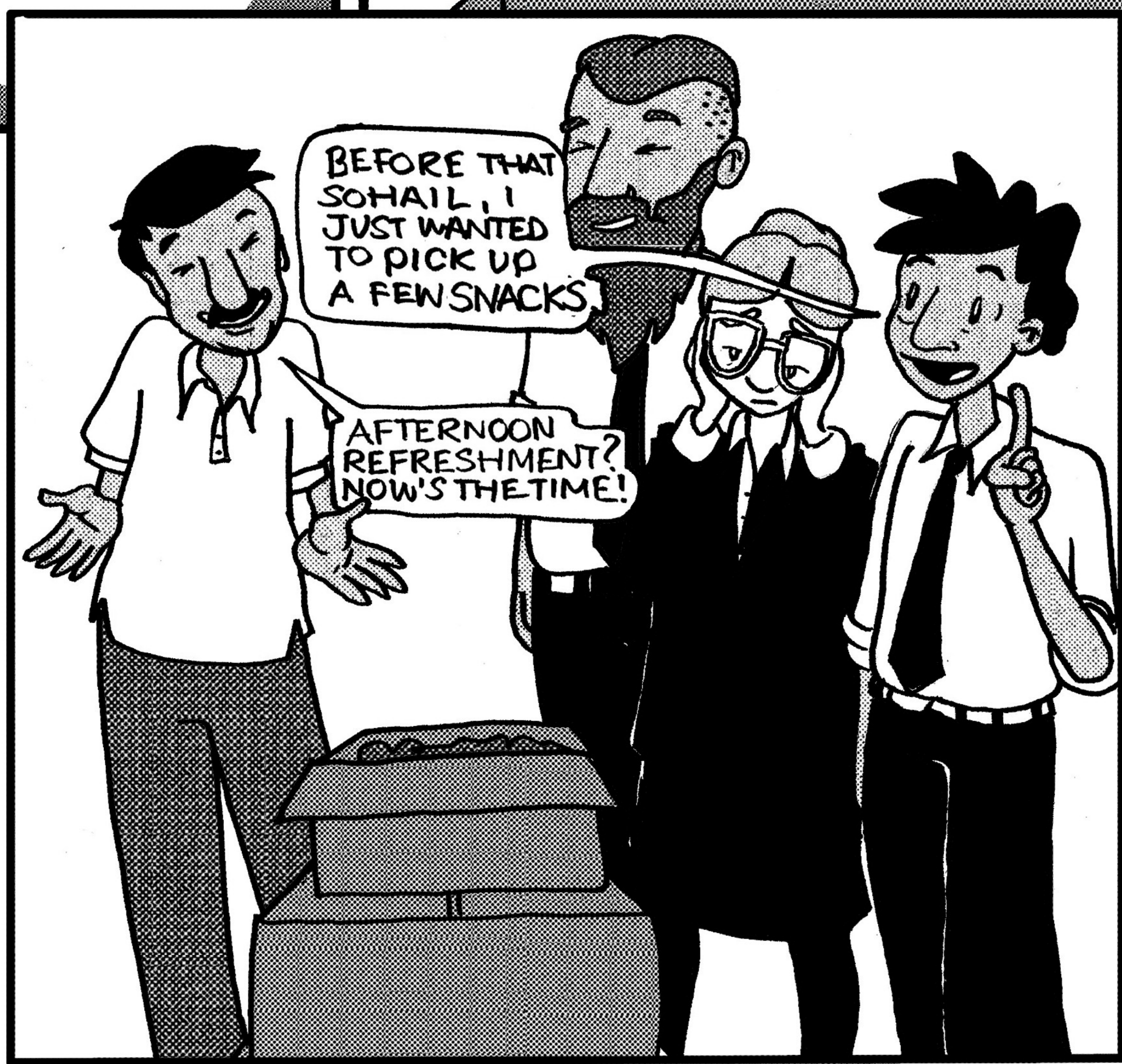
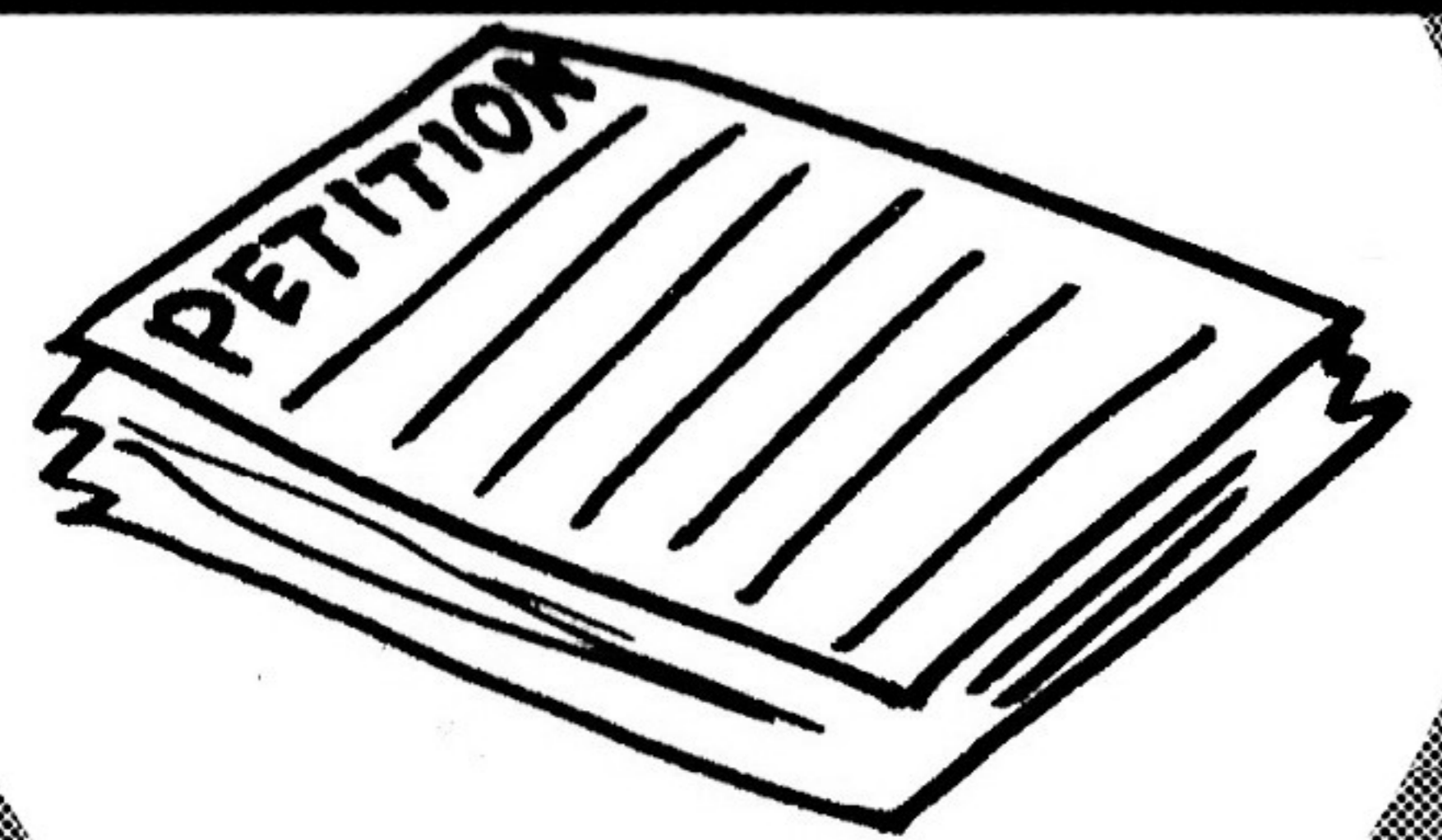
OH MY GOD PETER, THAT'S SO CHEESY, YOU IDIOT.



YOU GUYS HELP ME.

NOT REALLY...

I THINK IT MAKES AN IMPRESSION. SHOW THE LANDLORD... ER LANLORDS. I'M SURE THIS WILL SURPRISE THEM.



BEFORE THAT SOHAIL, I JUST WANTED TO PICK UP A FEW SNACKS.

AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT? NOW'S THE TIME!



32ND FLOOR



SO THIS IS WHERE THEY KEEP THE SUN.

WOW. WE WORK IN A CAVE. I MEAN, I KNEW THAT. BUT... THIS REALLY PUTS IT IN PERSPECTIVE.





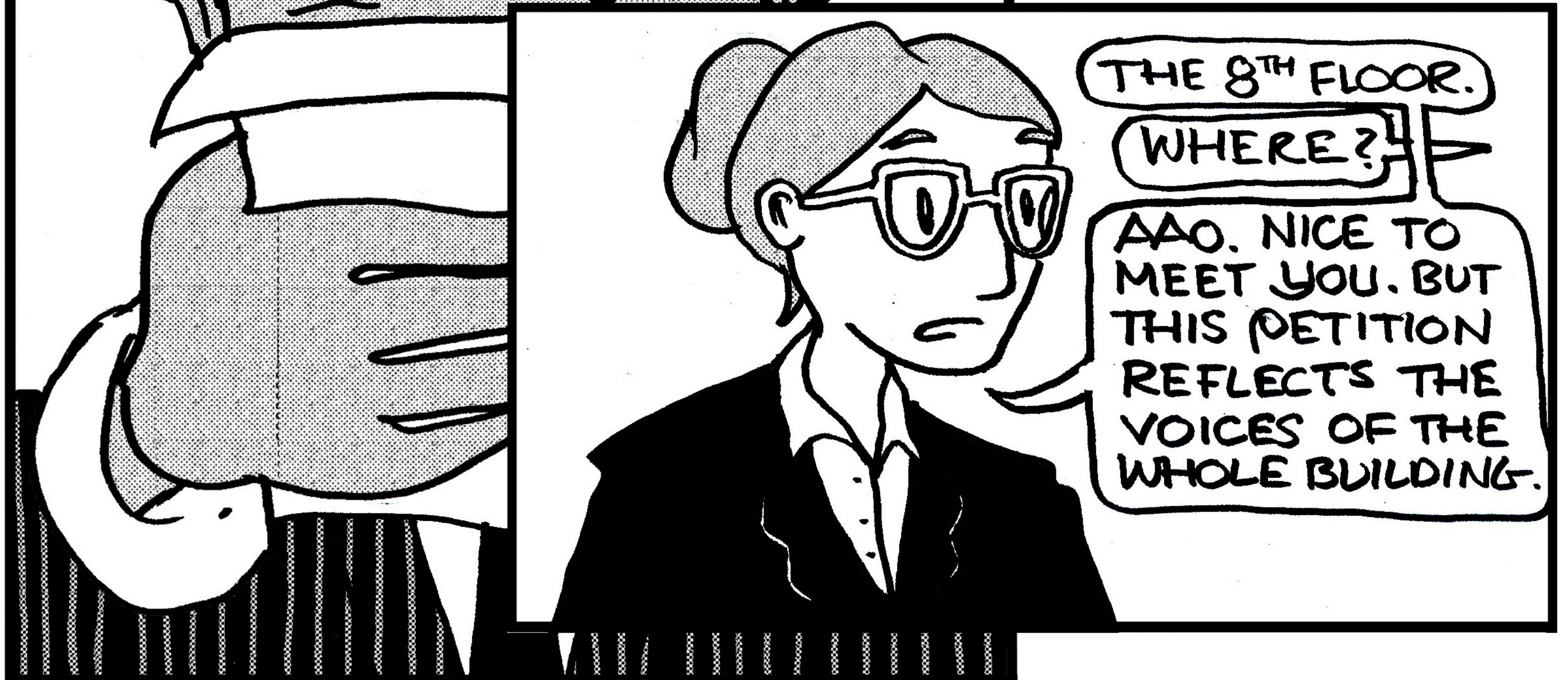
I'M ACTUALLY IN A RUSH. COULD YOU LEAVE IT TO THE MAILBOX NEXT TO THE OFFICE DOOR? I'LL REVIEW IT WHEN I COME BACK MONDAY.



IT IS STILL BUSINESS HOURS, AND THE SHOP IS CLOSING NOW. WE DEMAND THAT YOU TAKE SOME OF YOUR TIME TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION THAT AFFECTS THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE SHOP OWNER, AS WELL AS THE WELLBEING OF

PEOPLE IN YOUR BUILDING.

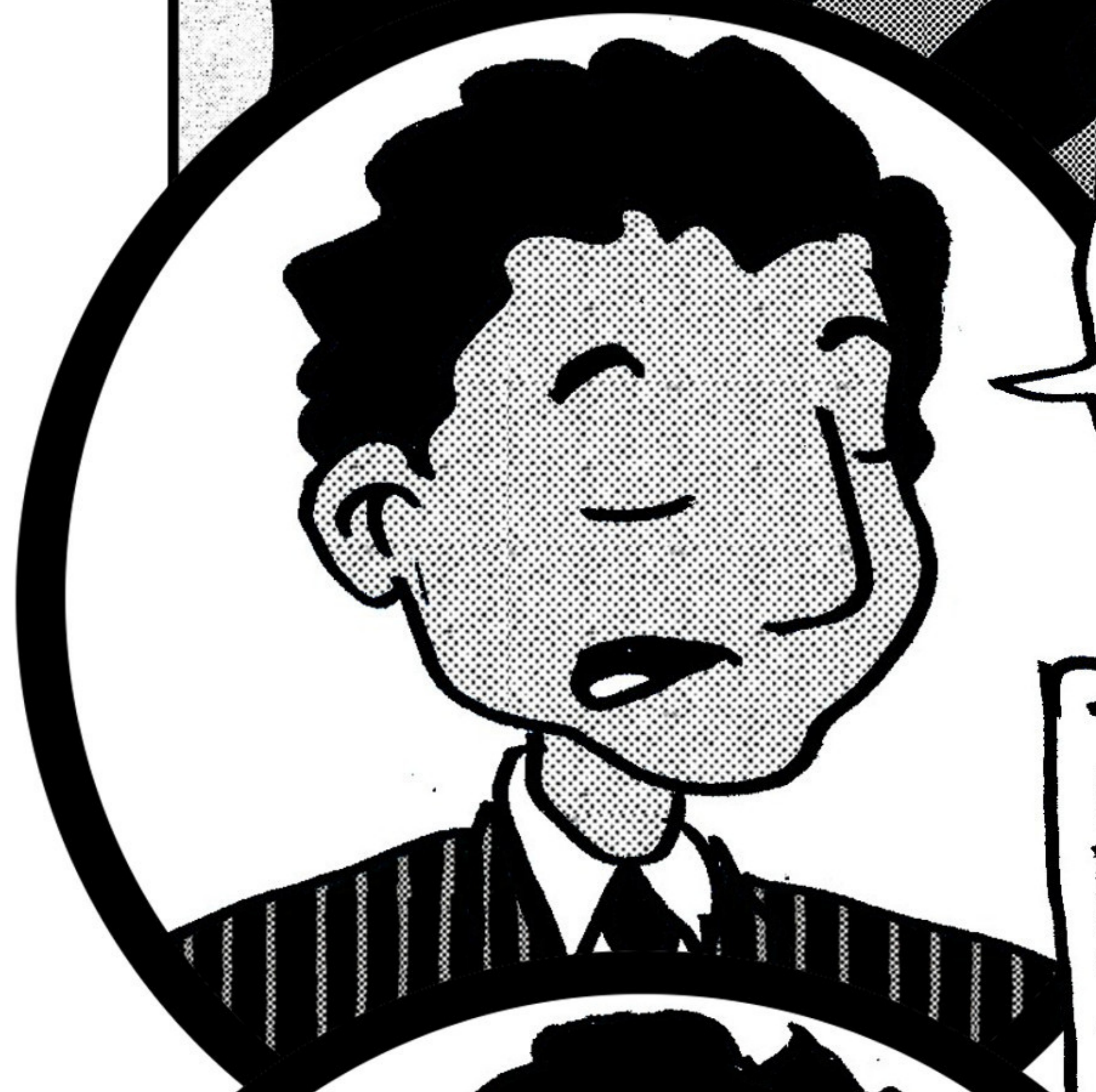






YOU GUYS GOT DOUBLE SIGNATURES. THIS IS FAKE.

IT'S NOT.



I SAW SOME DUPES ON THERE.



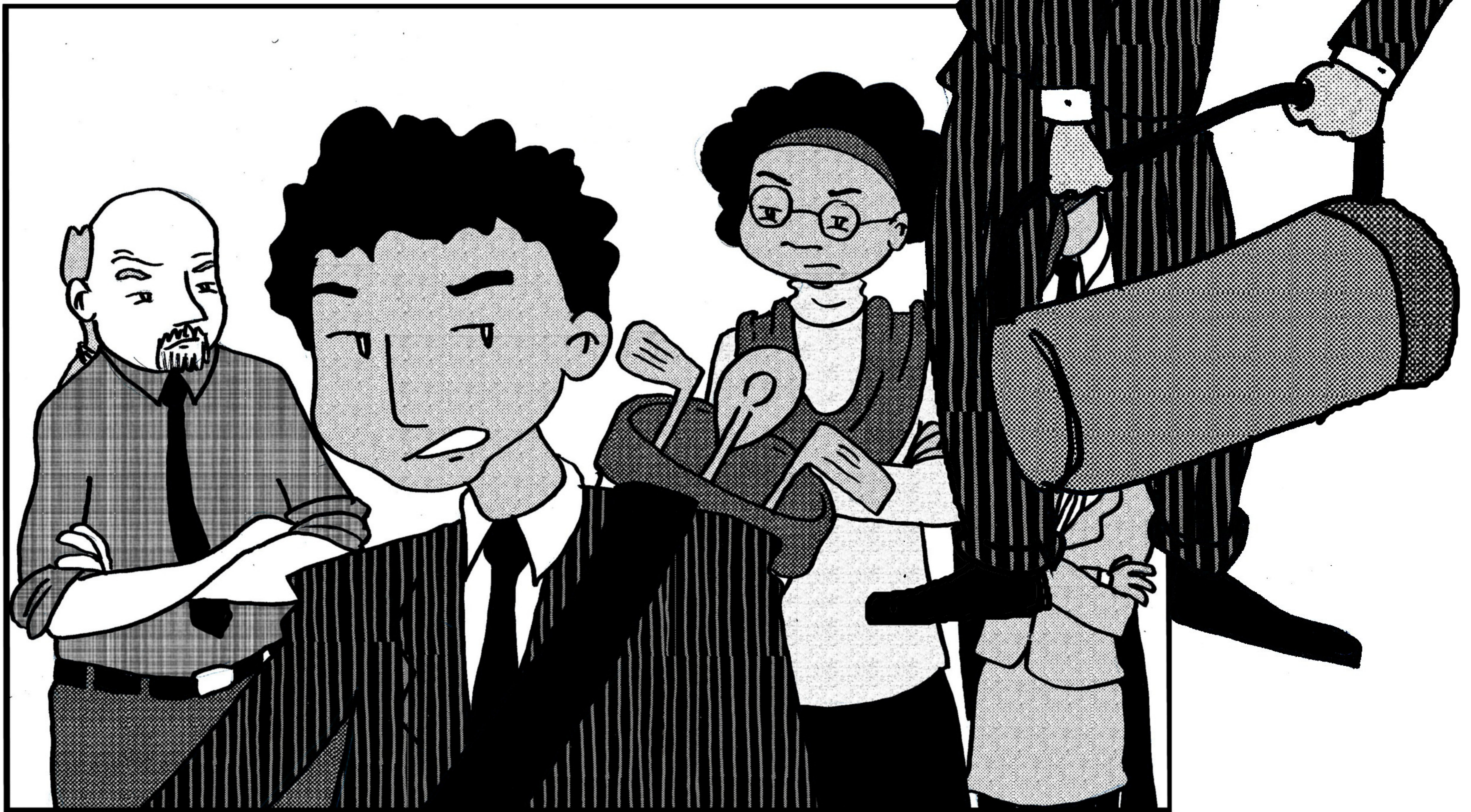
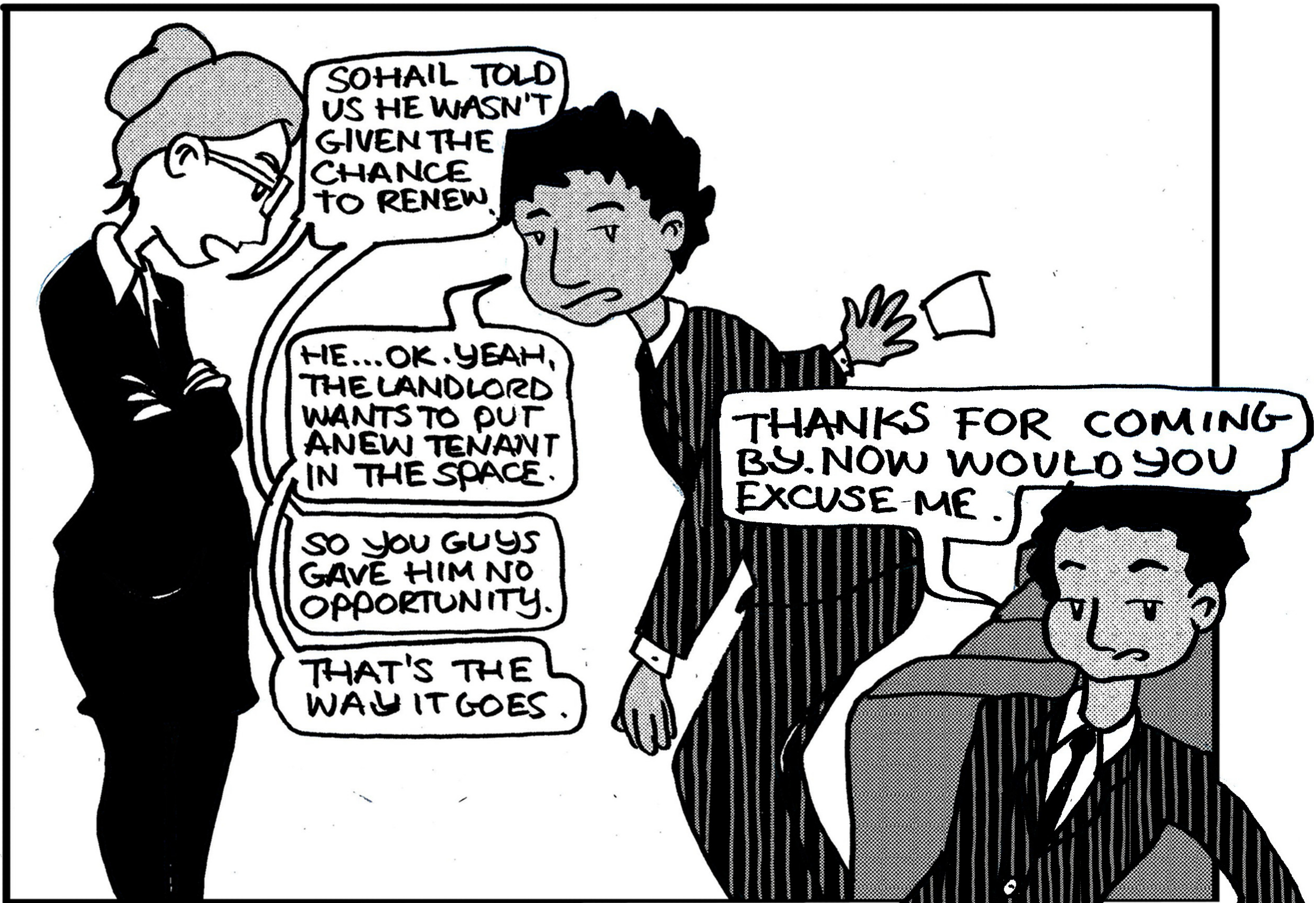
THAT LITERALLY DIDN'T HAPPEN. BUT WHAT'S THE DEAL? SOHAIL SAYS IT'S HIS LAST DAY.



HE DIDN'T WANT TO STAY



HA! AND I DON'T WANT MY PAYCHECK.





HAHA
HA

HAHA
HA



LATER THAT DAY...

I KNEW THIS LANDLORD WAS A PIECE OF SHIT!

"THE LANDLORD HAS REJECTED OUR PETITION AND ACCUSED US OF FALSIFYING SIGNATURES."



Aren't All landlords like that?

Why are landlords even ALLOWED to do this??

I love that man. He's nicer to me than my own family.

Where am I going to get midday goldfish now?

Yeah, right now the landlords are calling the shots and small businesses are powerless to fight back against high rent and eviction...

Oh Sohail...

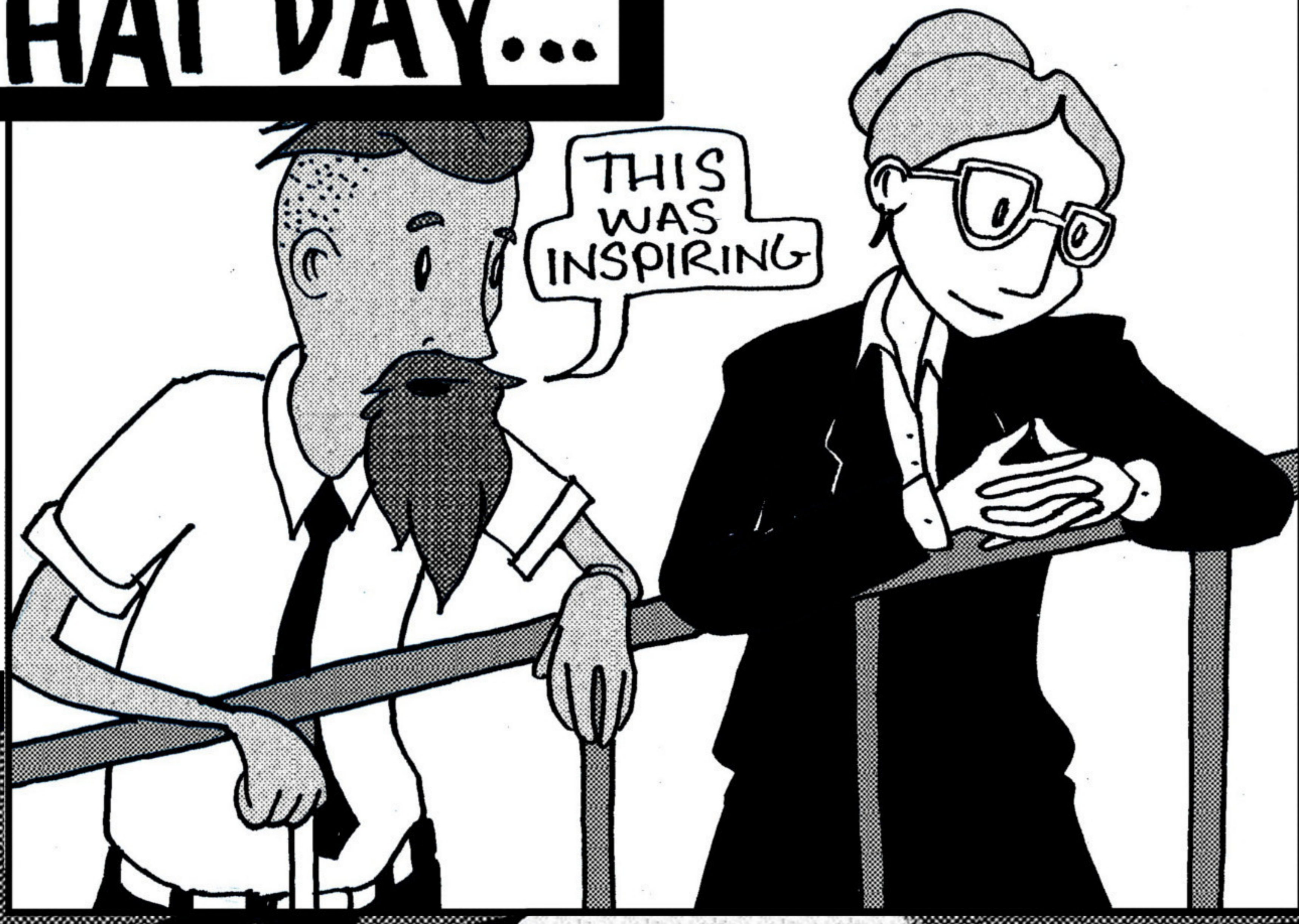
You guys its a real estate developer who eats people like us for dinner, what did you expect?

Can you believe they're just shutting him down like this?

We need protections like the SBJSA that will give small businesses the right to negotiate the lease.

Broligarchs must be stopped!!

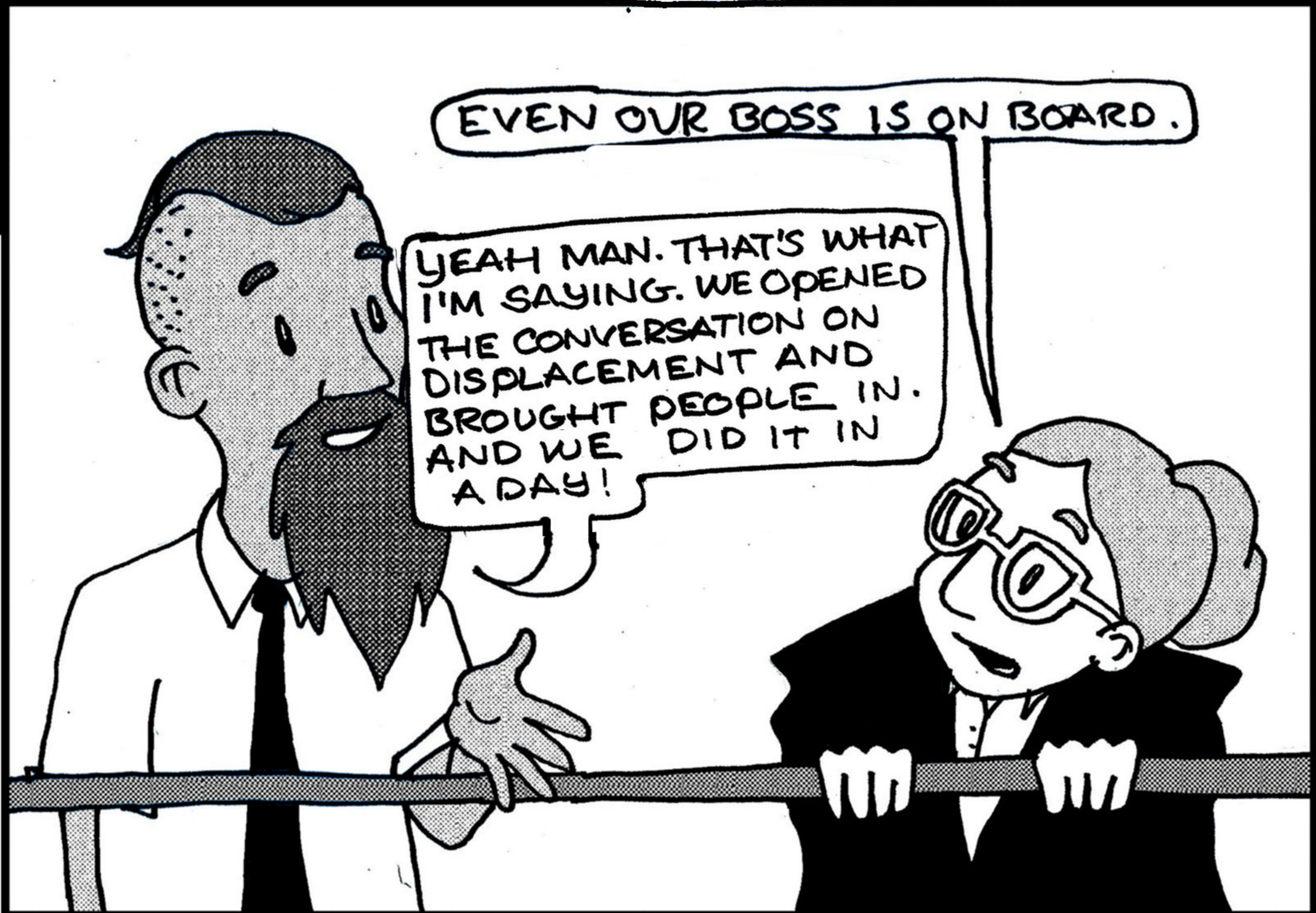
LATER THAT DAY...



THIS WAS INSPIRING



ALL THESE PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER. THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS FOR. SOHAIL JUST GIVES THIS A HUMAN FACE.



EVEN OUR BOSS IS ON BOARD.

YEAH MAN. THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING. WE OPENED THE CONVERSATION ON DISPLACEMENT AND BROUGHT PEOPLE IN. AND WE DID IT IN A DAY!



PEOPLE DROPPED WHAT THEY WERE DOING FOR THIS. I MEAN, IT'S REALLY COOL. IT SHOWS THAT WE CAN COME TOGETHER TO GET WHAT WE WANT. NOT IMMEDIATELY BUT WITH MORE ORGANIZING, OVER TIME.

AND THE PROPERTY MANAGER FELT THE PRESSURE. WHY ELSE WOULD HE HAVE ACCUSED US OF FALSIFYING SIGNATURES?



ONE BUILDING IN ONE AFTERNOON CAN HAVE SUCH AN IMPACT. IMAGINE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DEMANDING PROTECTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND OUR CITY.



WE CAN TOTALLY DO THAT.

THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY...



...AND I'M A PART OF IT.