

Special issue

MARCH/APRIL 2015

Donnons un sens à l'innovation

# Interactions



To celebrate its 40 year anniversary, UTC started a historic comic strip in its two-monthly magazine *Interactions*.



## Interactions interactions.utc.fr

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Ever since it was created in 1972, the University of Technology at Compiègne (UTC) has always stood at the frontier between knowledge and imagination. Widening the realm of “possible” worlds to explore, bolstering them with new knowledge, has always been the prime concern of the UTC’s research scientists and the academic teaching staff. Applied science here become blue sky research, outlining tomorrow’s technologies in a sensitive exercise that calls for a blend of technical skills and creativity.

In order to perfectly take the measure of the constant sway between the two poles – a true driving force behind an already somewhat unusual university – the 9th art becomes self-evident. Illustrator-artists Will Eisner and Scott McCloud have largely described the sequential operation of a comic book. They demonstrated the primordial role of the gutter, the empty space between the panels on a page or separating page graphics.

The gutter as the frontier between panels is the most imaginative part of a comic book. That is where the action occurs most often. Time is suspended, the instant that separates the past from the future. Readers ‘in the gutter’ can fathom their emotions and expectations while remaining captives of the story. For a fraction of a second, they can imagine another twist to the tale...

When we think about it, that is how scientific discovery progresses. Likewise for student creativity. And likewise yet again for the paths followed by UTC since 1972. Page after page, panel after panel, idea after idea ... its story-line progresses. And the next panels of the UTC story-line, that will be written and drawn by the research scientists and students, probably are already sketched in the gutter of today’s pages ! ■

## Claude-Olivier Sarde

Lecturer and research scientist, Head of the specialty course “Bioproduct design and Innovation” - UTC-Department of Bio-engineering and also a keen fan of comic books

# DELIUS

French Comic Book illustrator and author, adept of the « Ligne Claire » movement and “Streamline” architecture and infinitely grateful disciple of the Dessau School of art. My key influence must be Hergé, especially in his masterpiece Professor Tournesol and his own expression in Ligne Claire. That work has always fascinated me and I refer to it almost daily, admiring its pure lines, the brilliant mix of reality and stylization, the fresh, intelligent colour schemes, the graphic legibility and clear-cut narration. As a child, I explored with passion the school of Marcinelle and the galaxies of Belgian comic books, full of admiration for Tillieux, Will, Piroton, Jidéhem, Vandersteen, the enigmatic Mr Barelli by Bob de Moor, Franquin’s Spirou and, last but not least, the extraordinary Edgar Pierre Jacobs to mention but the main actors of this art. ■

[delius-dessinateur.blogspot.com](http://delius-dessinateur.blogspot.com)



# SOMEWHERE IN THE FUTURE

THE LITC TALE BEGINS SOMEWHERE IN THE FUTURE...

BACK TO GRASS-ROOTS...

LET'S BEGIN WITH  
THE INTRODUCTIONS

Hi, I'm SANDRA, I'm  
DOING MY PHD ON THE TIME  
TRAVEL EXPERIMENT

Hi SANDRA, I'm TOBY -  
I'm JUST A REBEL ROBOT,  
A CONCENTRATE OF  
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

COUNTING... HOLD ON...

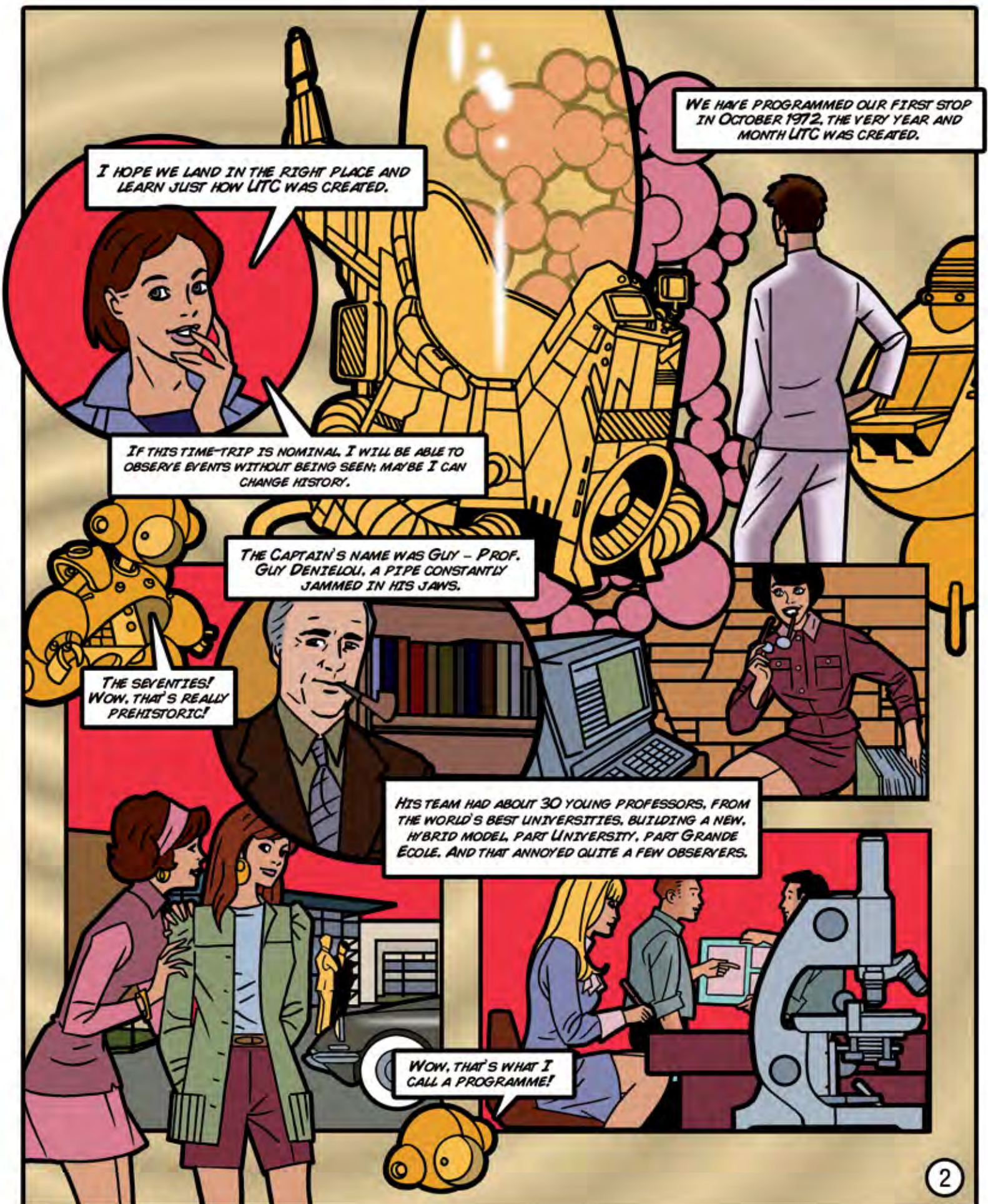
DESTINATION : 1972  
1982  
1992  
2012  
2022  
2050

LET'S GO !

TOBY! ARE YOU REALLY  
CONCENTRATED? READY FOR  
THE COUNT-DOWN?

1

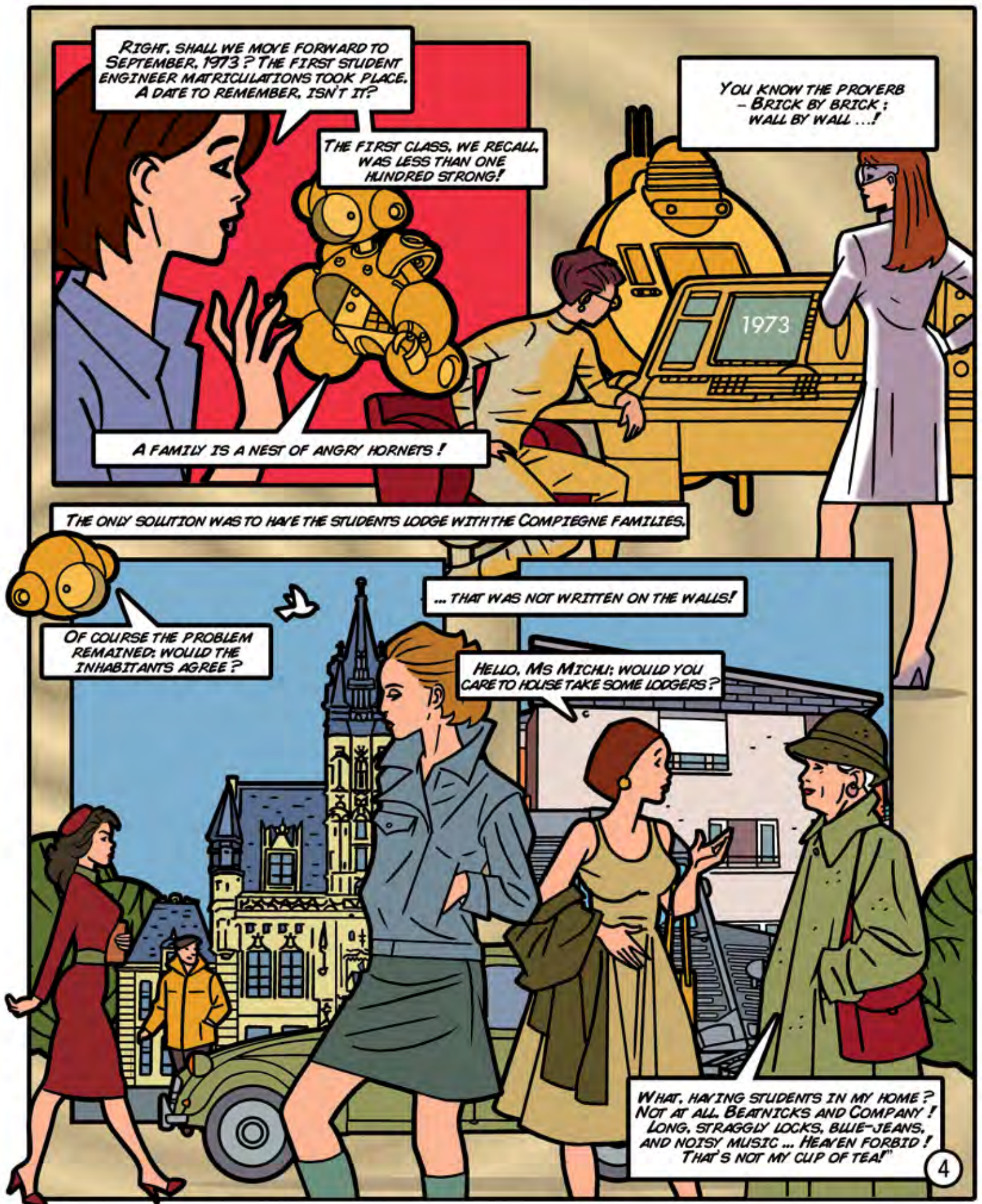














BUT GUY DENTELLOU HAS AN IDEA

AND THE IDEA IS... ?

TO HOLD AN EXHIBITION  
IN THE MARCHÉ AUX HERBES

EXPOSITION  
UTC  
Marché aux

AN EXHIBITION ?  
ON WHAT ?

I HAVEN'T  
A CLUE !

BUT IT'S TO DO WITH THE  
UTC, SO THEY SAY.

AND WILL THERE  
BE FOOD ?

WITH LECTURES,  
INFORMAL  
TALKS...

GETTING THE INHABITANTS OF  
COMPIEGNE ON OUR SIDE IS  
IMPORTANT IF WE ARE TO  
SUCCEED HERE.

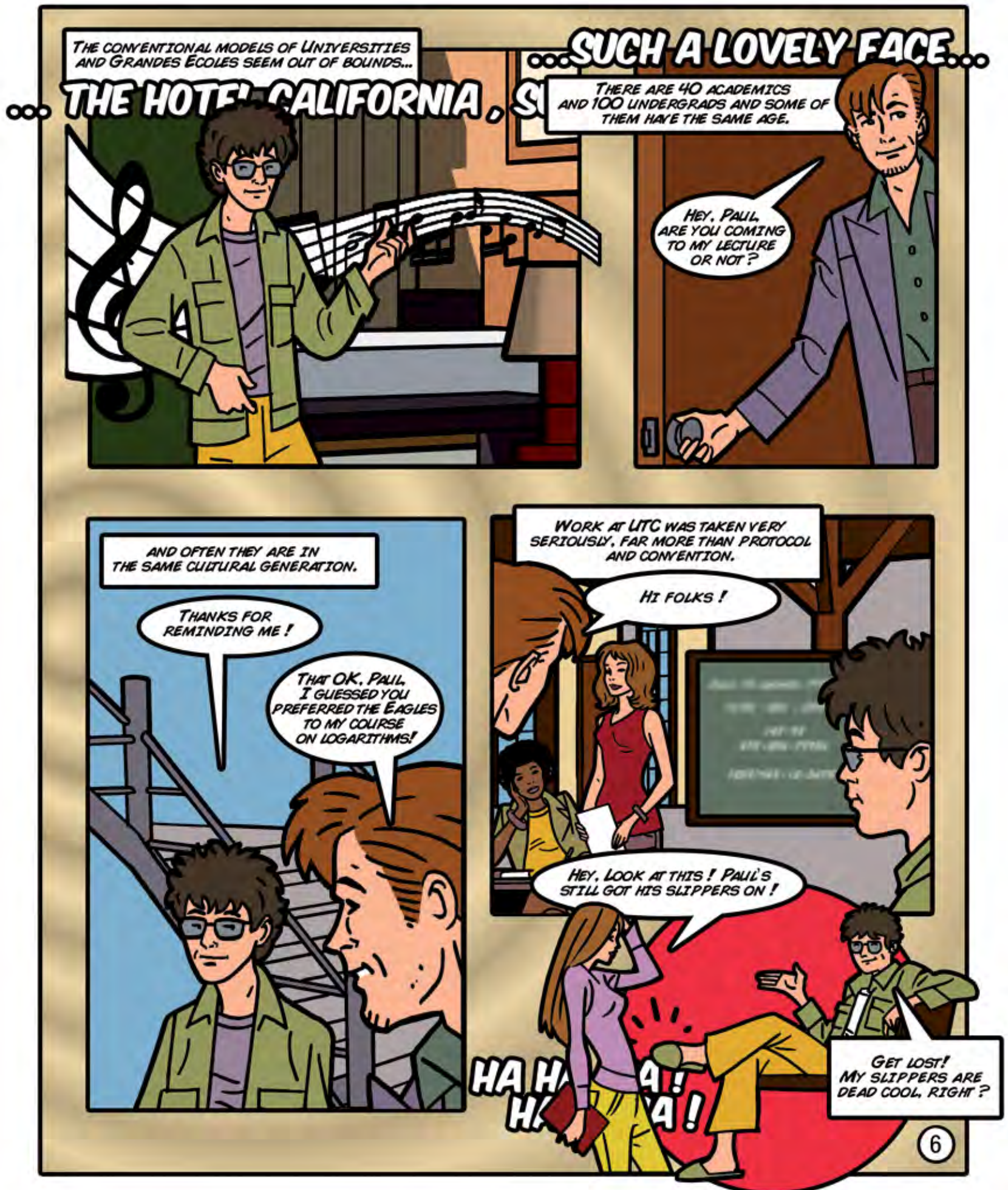
HE'S NICE YOU KNOW  
AND HE PAYS HIS  
RENT REGULARLY.

WELL, WELL, MS DUPONT. FINALLY  
YOU RENTED A ROOM TO A STUDENT !

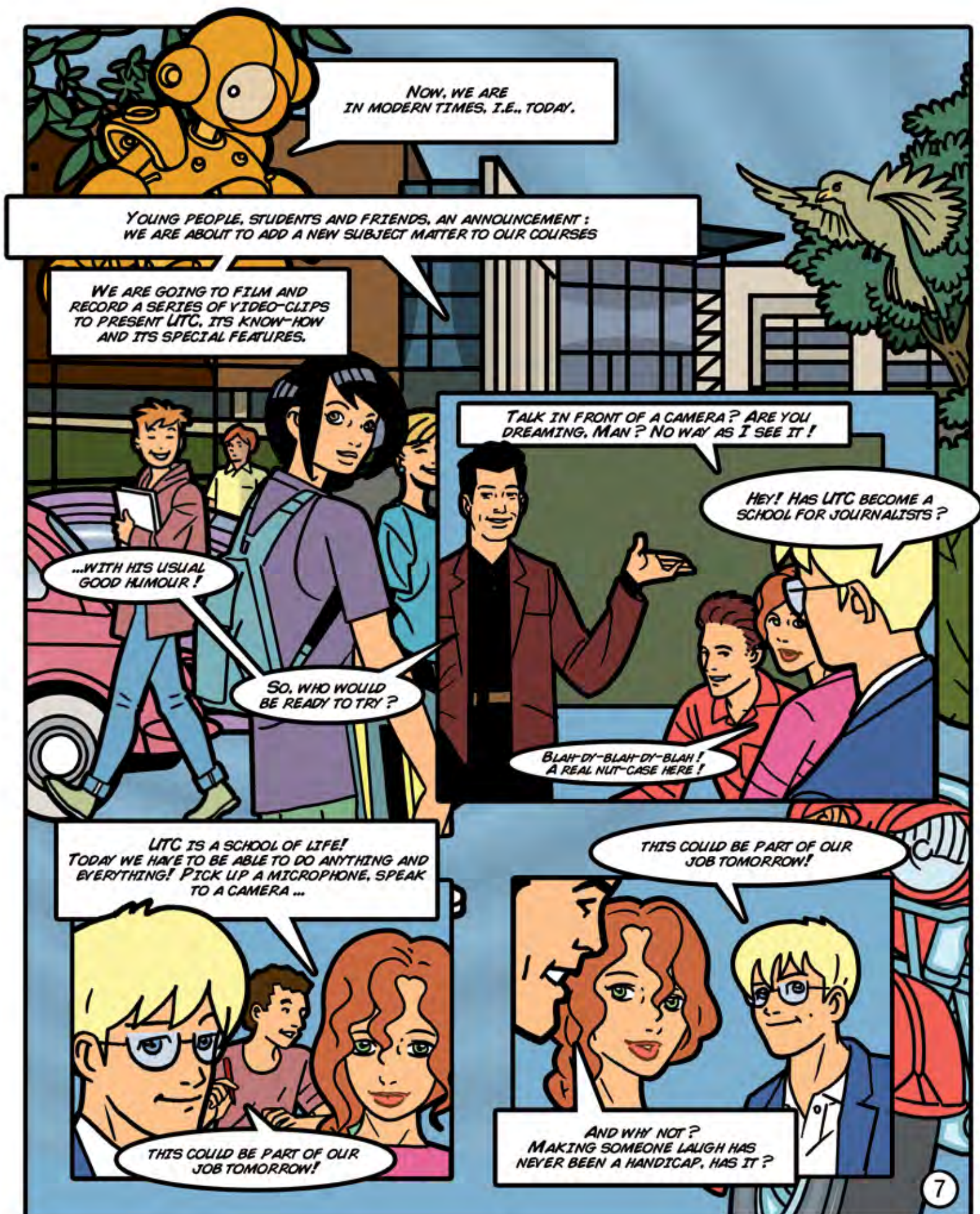
AND HE'S VERY  
STUDIOUS,  
DON'T YOU THINK ?

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NOW, WE ARE  
IN MODERN TIMES, I.E., TODAY.

YOUNG PEOPLE, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS, AN ANNOUNCEMENT :  
WE ARE ABOUT TO ADD A NEW SUBJECT MATTER TO OUR COURSES

WE ARE GOING TO FILM AND  
RECORD A SERIES OF VIDEO-CLIPS  
TO PRESENT LTC, ITS KNOW-HOW  
AND ITS SPECIAL FEATURES.

...WITH HIS USUAL  
GOOD HUMOUR !

SO, WHO WOULD  
BE READY TO TRY ?

TALK IN FRONT OF A CAMERA ? ARE YOU  
DREAMING, MAN ? NO WAY AS I SEE IT !

HEY ! HAS LTC BECOME A  
SCHOOL FOR JOURNALISTS ?

BLAH-DY-BLAH-DY-BLAH !  
A REAL NUT-CASE HERE !

LTC IS A SCHOOL OF LIFE !  
TODAY WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING AND  
EVERYTHING ! PICK UP A MICROPHONE, SPEAK  
TO A CAMERA ...

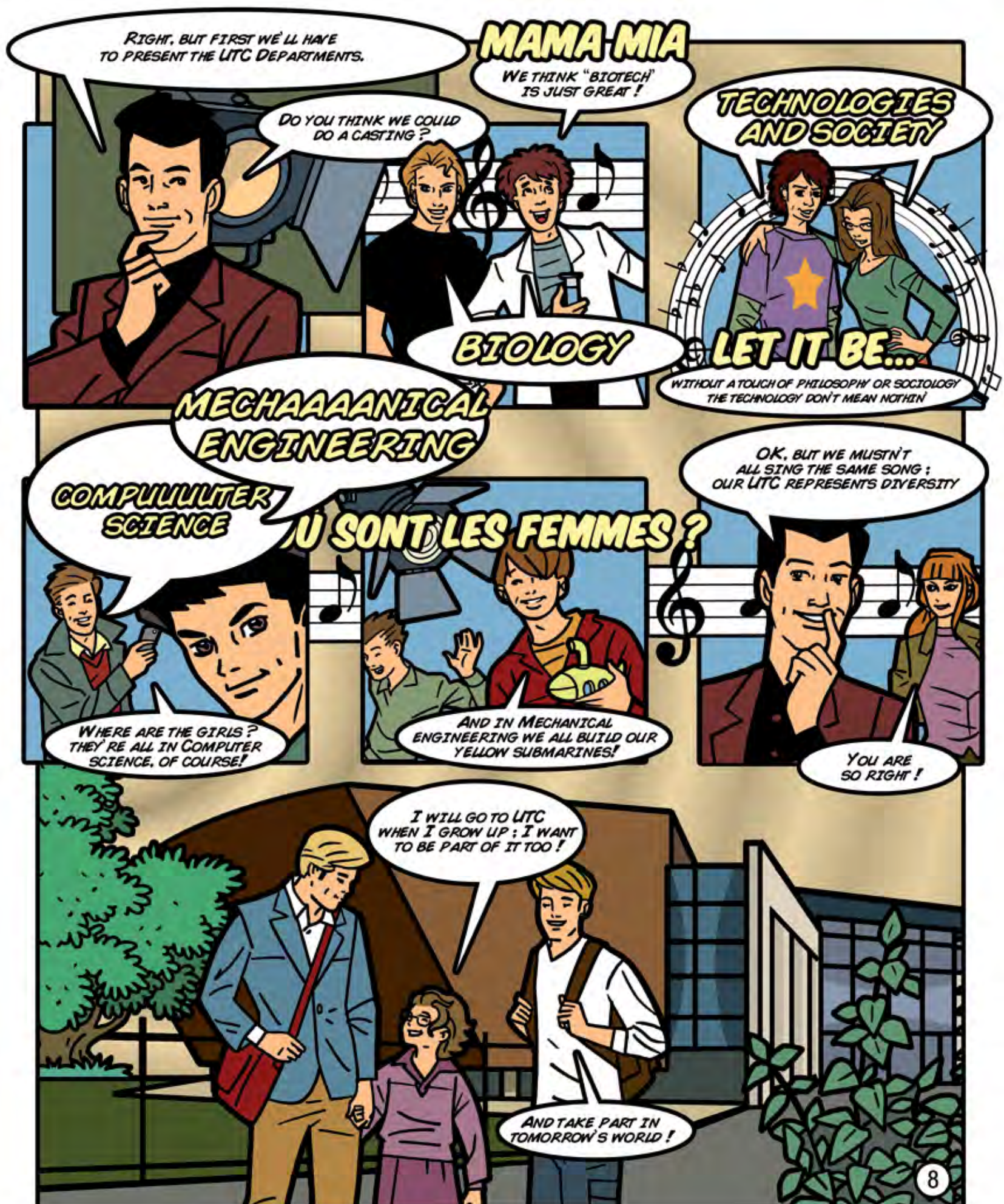
THIS COULD BE PART OF OUR  
JOB TOMORROW !

THIS COULD BE PART OF OUR  
JOB TOMORROW !

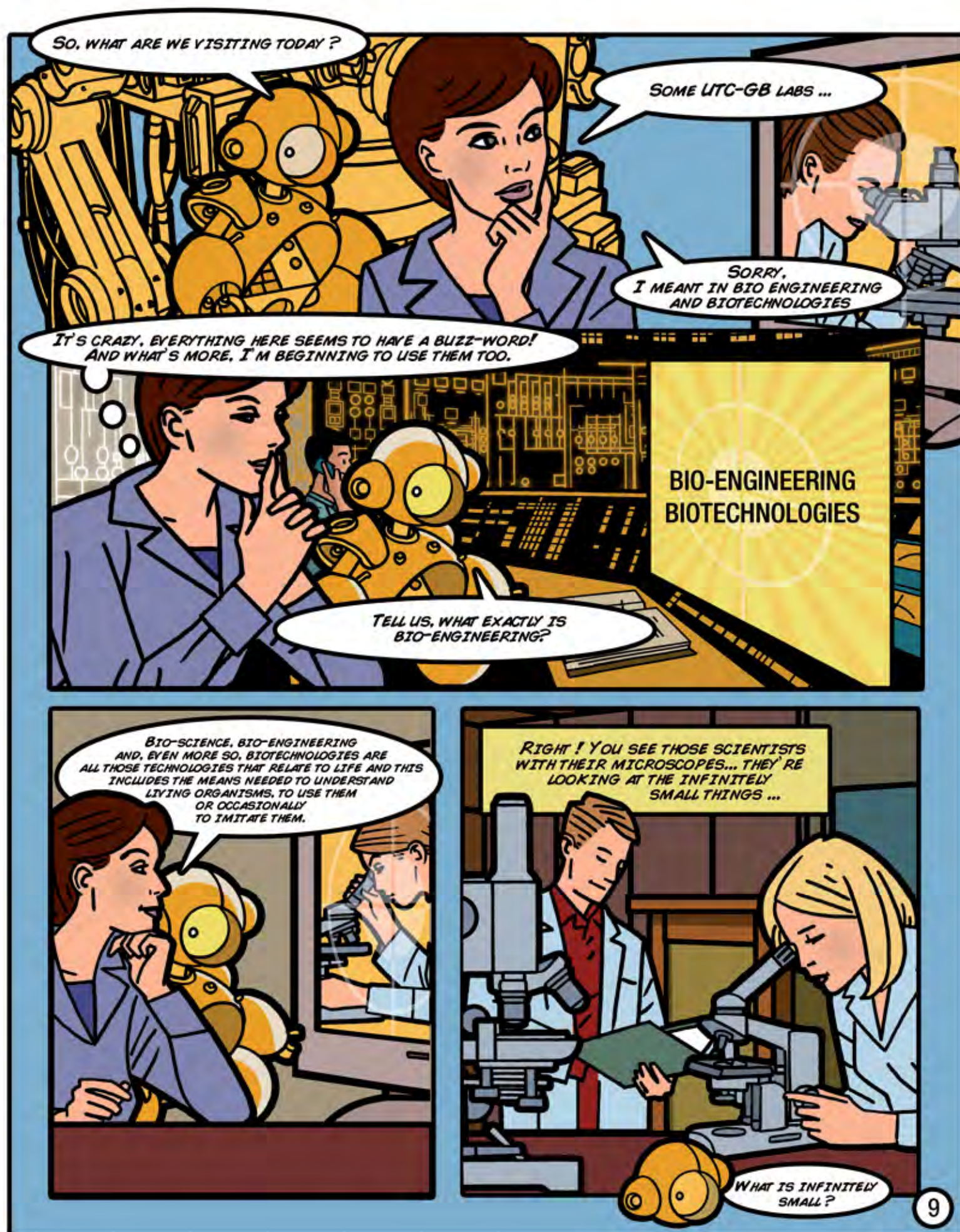
AND WHY NOT ?  
MAKING SOMEONE LAUGH HAS  
NEVER BEEN A HANDICAP, HAS IT ?

7

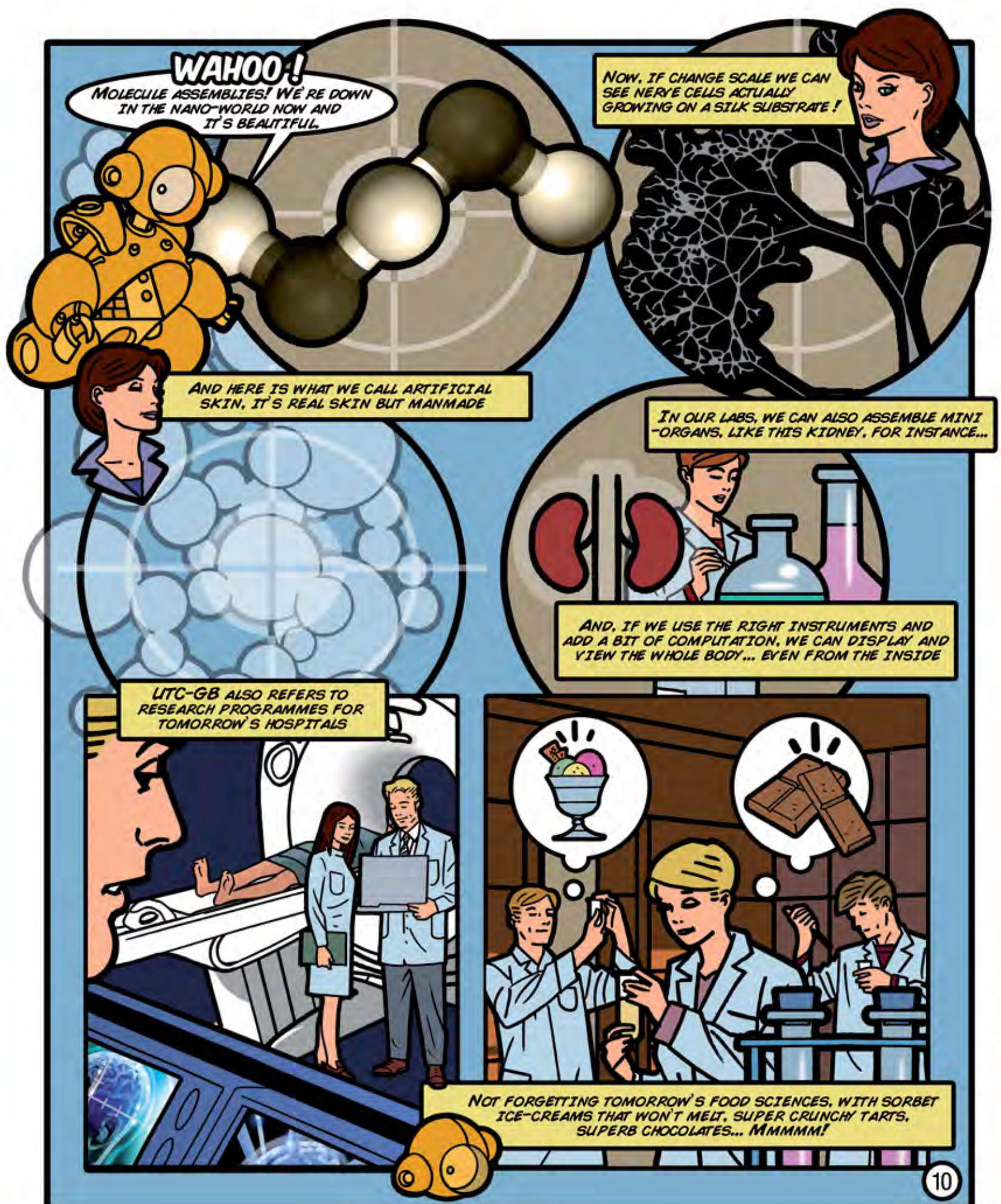














THE BIO-ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (UTC-GB) ALSO ADDRESSES THE INTERFACE BETWEEN MEN AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT, NOT ONLY IN AN URBAN CONTEXT...

... BUT ALSO IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, QUESTIONING THE ISSUE OF AGRO-RESOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, FIELDS LIKE MAKING OILS FOR INDUSTRY... AND EVEN BUILDING MATERIALS.

WHEN YOU SAY 'FIELDS', THAT IS SURELY A VAST CHALLENGE, LIKE A RESEARCH FIELD...

THE GB SPECIALTY IS NOT ALONE HERE. IT HAS SET UP STRONG LINKS WITH THE OTHER UTC DEPARTMENTS

YES, THAT IS THE ASSIGNED OBJECTIVE: THINK BIG, SEE FAR!

AND WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?

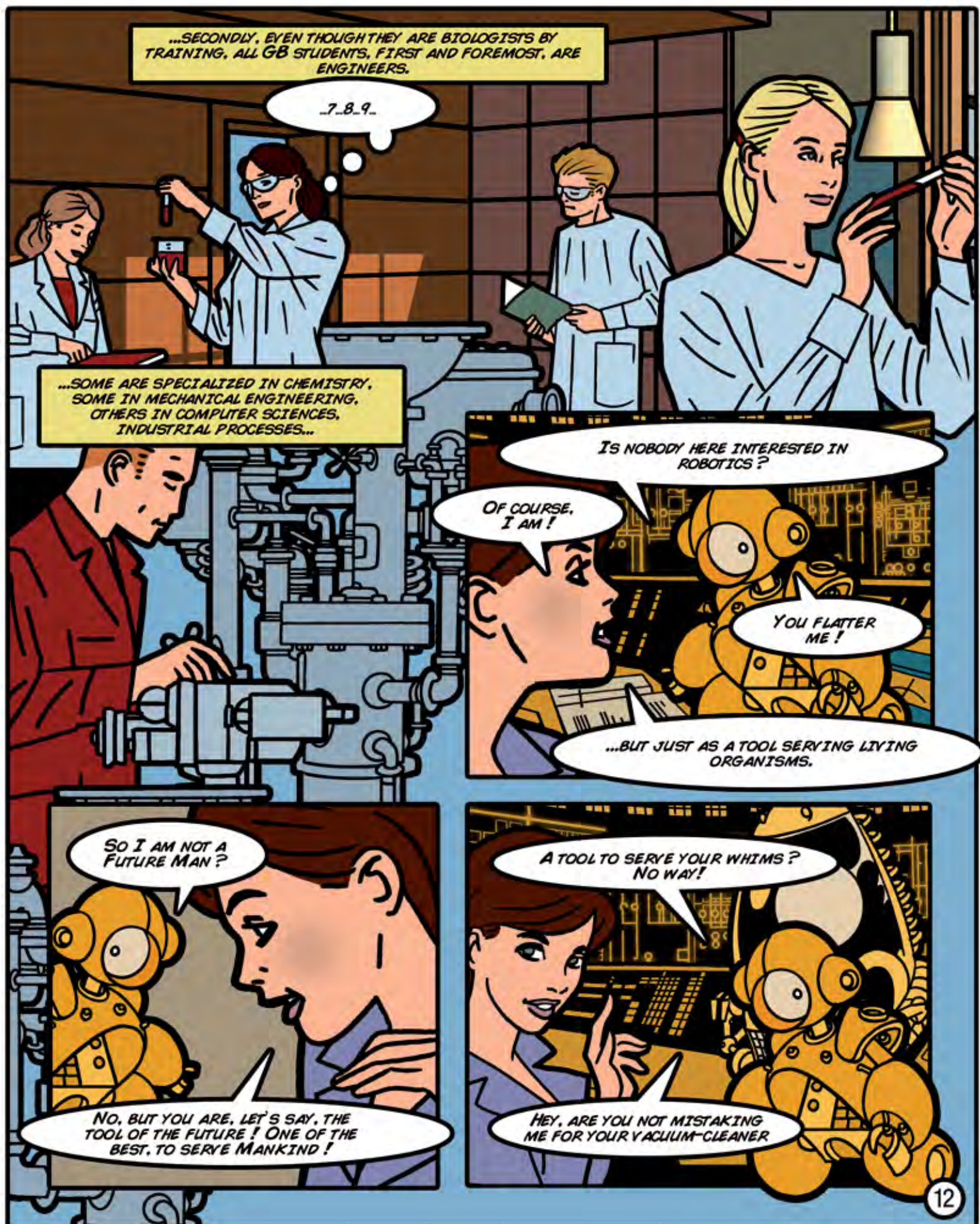
A CAR STEERING JOINT BEARING!

HEY! THAT'S COOL. I CAN MAKE BEARINGS TOO, FOR KNEE JOINTS!

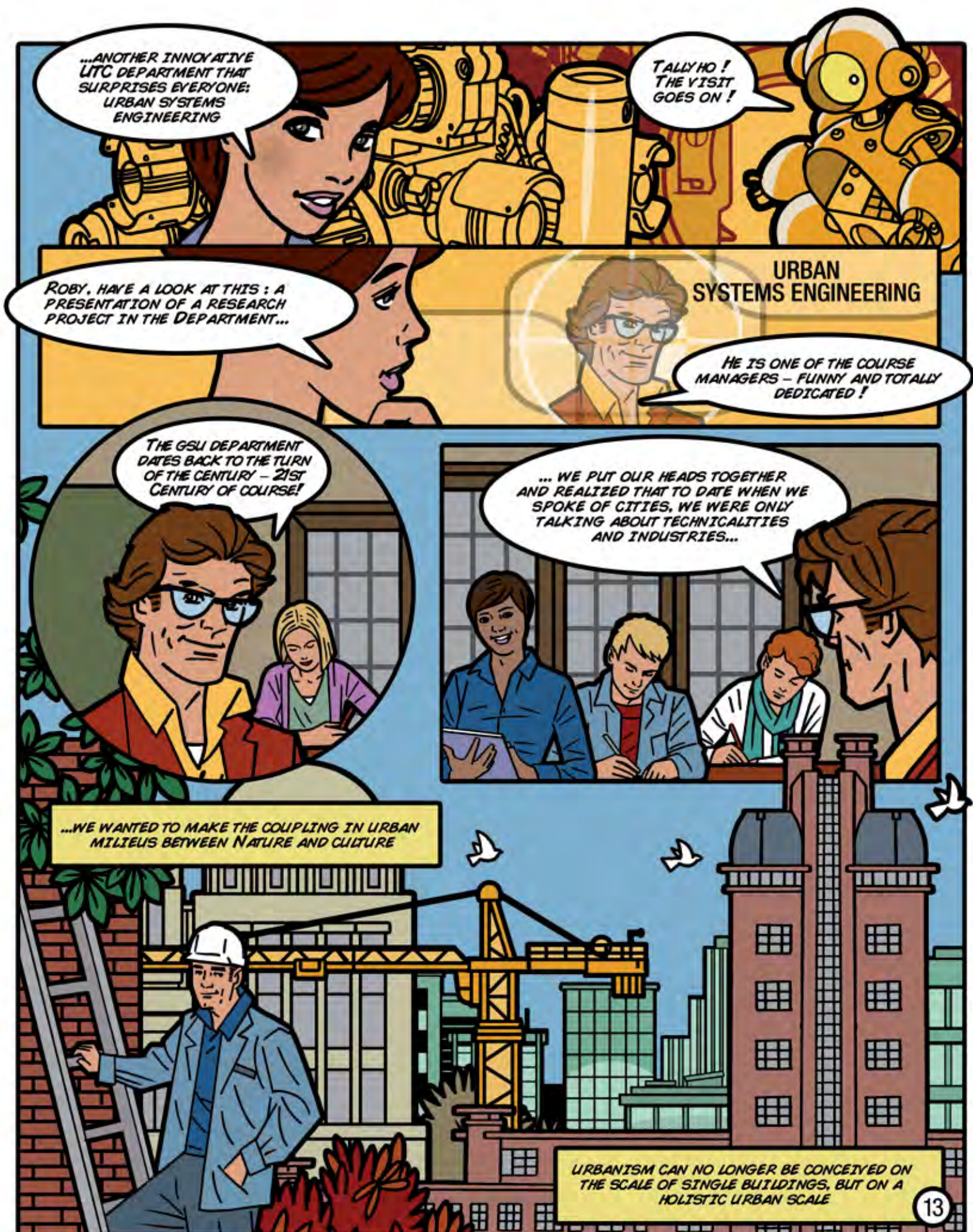
AND DO THEY QUALIFY AS BIOLOGISTS TOO?

FIRSTLY, GB IS THE MOST FEMININE OF UTC'S DEPARTMENTS! YOUR IMPLICIT "MALE" HERE SHOULD BE "FEMALE"! AND, SECONDLY...









...ANOTHER INNOVATIVE  
UTC DEPARTMENT THAT  
SURPRISES EVERYONE;  
URBAN SYSTEMS  
ENGINEERING

TALLY HO !  
THE VISIT  
GOES ON !

ROBY, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS : A  
PRESENTATION OF A RESEARCH  
PROJECT IN THE DEPARTMENT...

## URBAN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

HE IS ONE OF THE COURSE  
MANAGERS - FUNNY AND TOTALLY  
DEDICATED !

THE GSU DEPARTMENT  
DATES BACK TO THE TURN  
OF THE CENTURY - 21ST  
CENTURY OF COURSE!

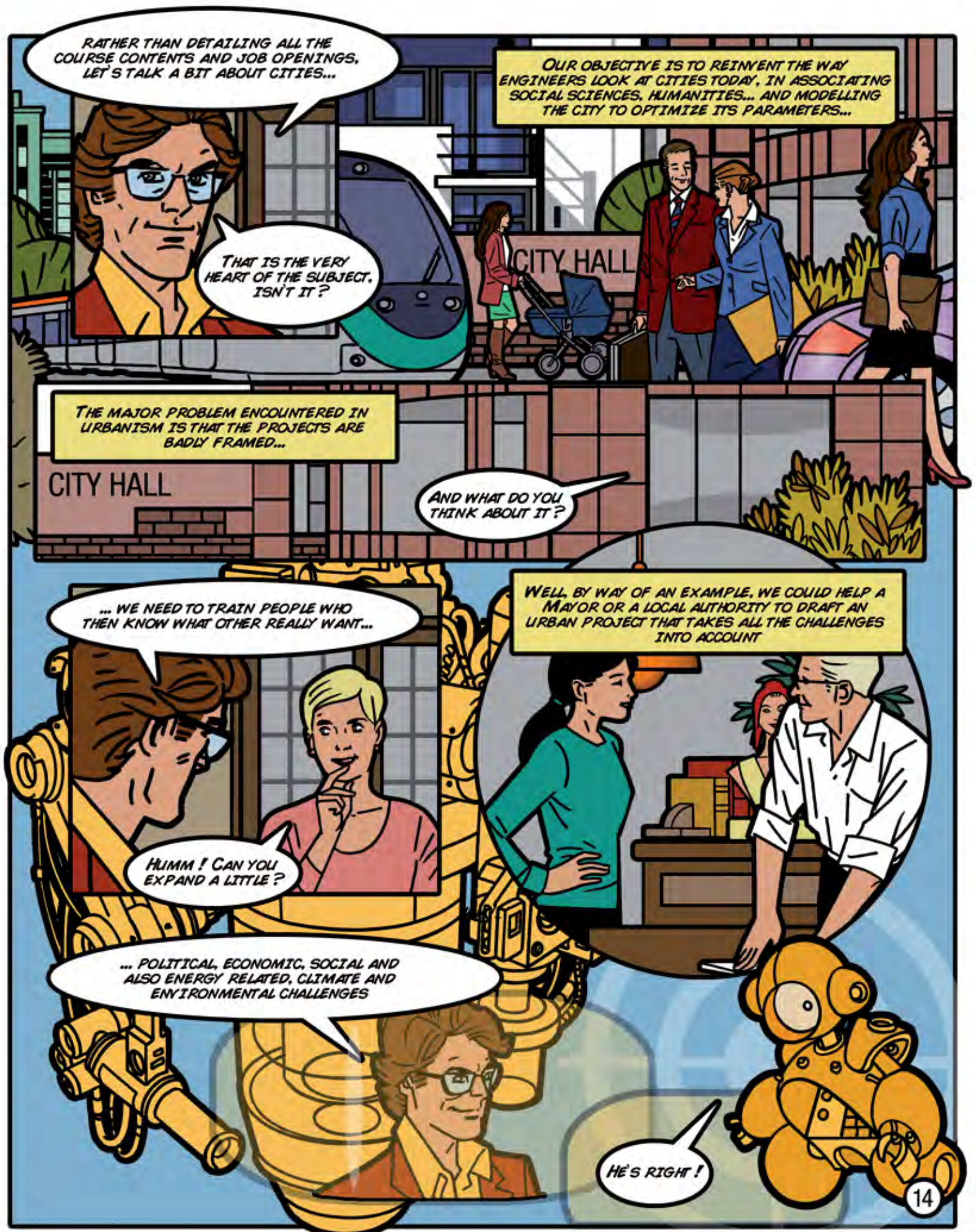
... WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER  
AND REALIZED THAT TO DATE WHEN WE  
SPOKE OF CITIES, WE WERE ONLY  
TALKING ABOUT TECHNICALITIES  
AND INDUSTRIES...

...WE WANTED TO MAKE THE COUPLING IN URBAN  
MILIEUS BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE

URBANISM CAN NO LONGER BE CONCEIVED ON  
THE SCALE OF SINGLE BUILDINGS, BUT ON A  
HOLISTIC URBAN SCALE

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SOMETHING DIFFERENT: THE ARCHITECTS' PROFESSION HAS CHANGED ENORMOUSLY OVER RECENT YEARS. BEFORE, THE JOB WAS LEARNT SLOWLY IN AN ARTISAN MANNER.

EVERYTHING IS EVOLVING AT FULL SPEED AND YOUNG GRADUATE ARCHITECTS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK IMMEDIATELY VERY FAR FROM HOME.

AND THAT'S WHERE NEW PARAMETERS APPLY! CAN WE ERECT A BUILDING THE SAME WAY IN LILLE, PARIS, CALCUTTA OR MEXICO CITY?

SHOULD WE, FOR INSTANCE, INTEGRATE THE AGE-OLD SAVVY OF MEXICAN VILLAGERS IN MEXICO CITY'S URBAN PLANNING?

AND WHAT OTHER DIFFERENCES ARE THERE?

WELL, DID YOU REALIZE THAT 10% OF FRANCE'S LAND IS EITHER ASPHALTED OVER OR UNDER CONCRETE?

OUR CITIES ARE NOT 'THOUGHT OUT' CORRECTLY ARE TOO SPREAD OUT?

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IN TERMS OF URBANISM, THE GOOD EXAMPLES ARE NEW YORK OR HONG KONG, "TIGHTLY" BUILT, DENSIFIED TO OPTIMIZE CLIMATE AND ENERGY CAPACITY, PRESERVING THE LIFE-STYLE OF NEW YORKERS OF THE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG.

WHAT WILL TOMORROW'S CITIES BE LIKE? THAT'S A HUGE QUESTION AND MANY HYPOTHESES HERE CAN CLASH IN CONTRADICTIONS!



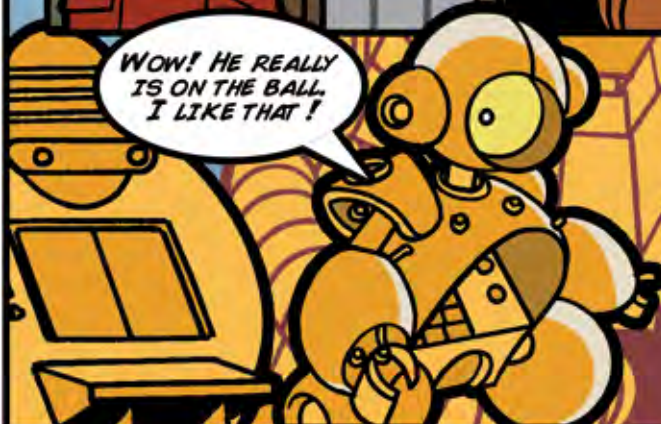
...IT'S FOR THESE VERY REASONS THAT WE SHALL TEACH YOU HOW TO THINK ABOUT URBAN MODELS YOU WILL BE DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING AND OPTIMISING.

... TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT ALL THE DATA ARE CLOSELY LINKED, AND INTER-RELATED.



WOW! HE REALLY IS ON THE BALL, I LIKE THAT!

CITIES ARE HOLISTIC ENTITIES, ENSEMBLES THAT CANNOT BE DISSOCIATED... A BIT LIKE THE HUMAN BODY...



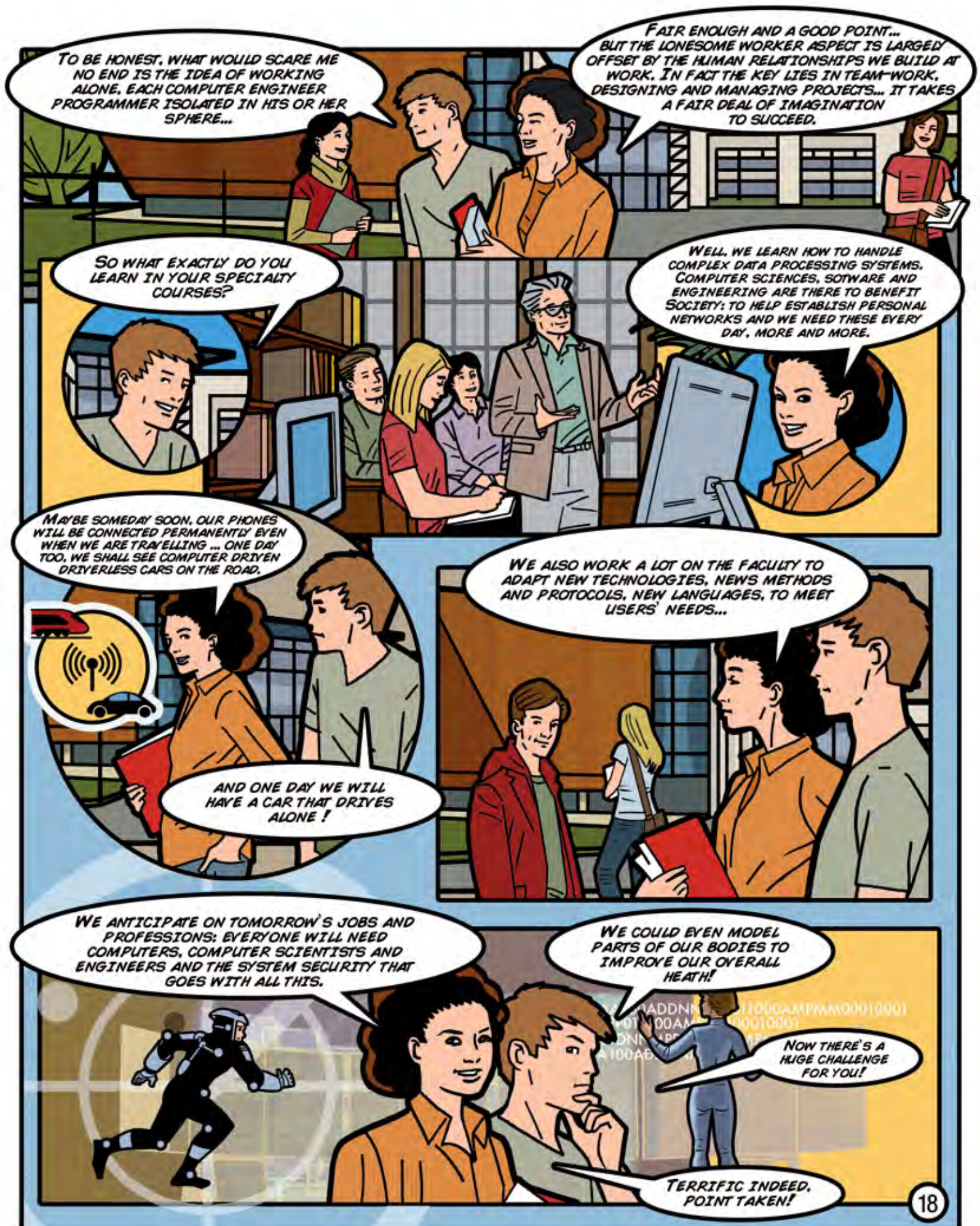
DO YOU WANT TO SIGN UP FOR HIS CLASS?



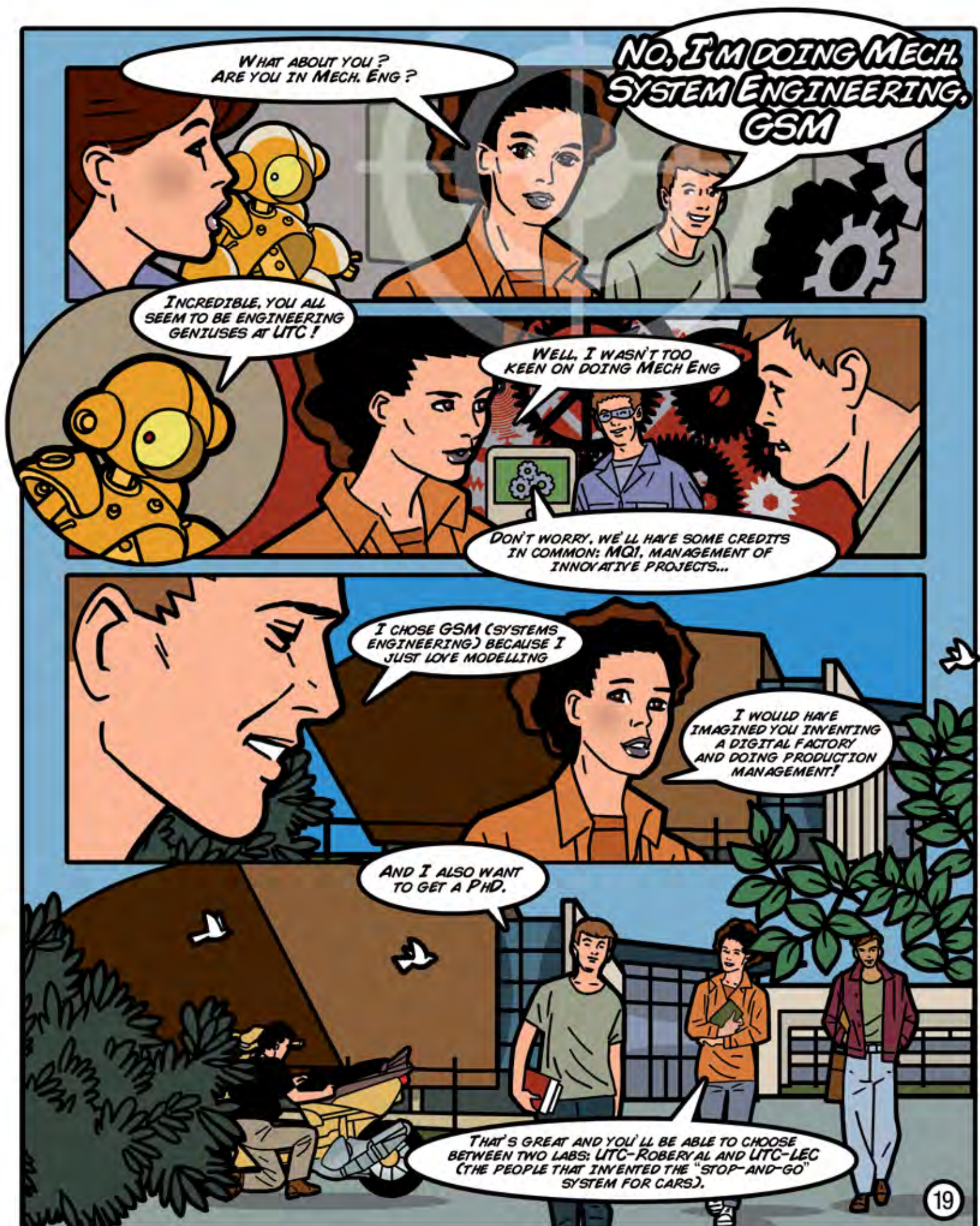




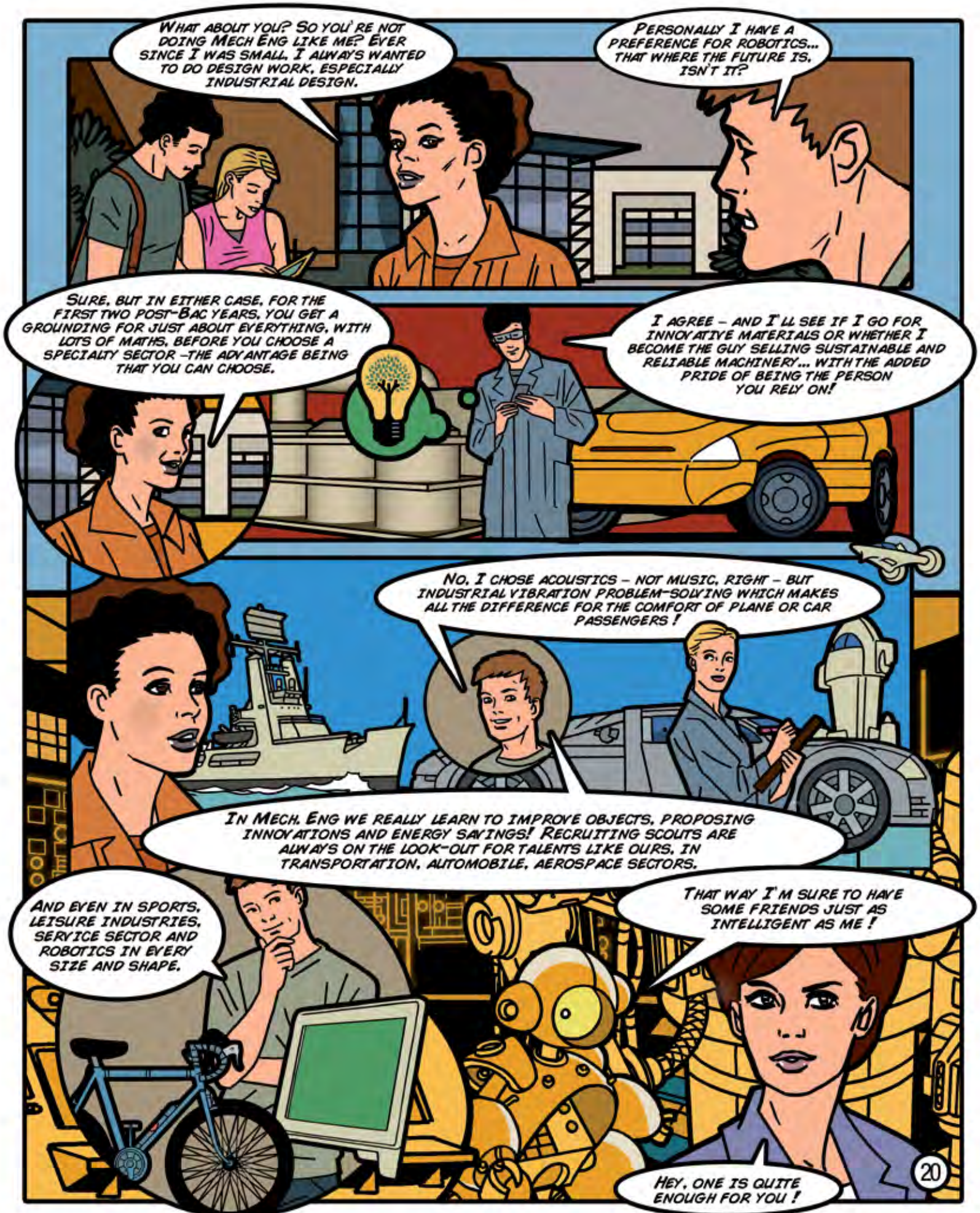














## PROCESS ENGINEERING

SO, HERE I AM  
AT THE OD

AT LAST, I SHALL BE ABLE  
TO CHECK OUT, FIRST HAND,  
THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION  
AT UTC!

OPEN DAY  
(OD) AT  
UTC

HELLO, I'M IN MY LYCEE  
'PREP CLASS' AND I WANT TO GET  
INVOLVED IN REDUCING  
GREENHOUSE GAS (GHGS)  
EMISSIONS.

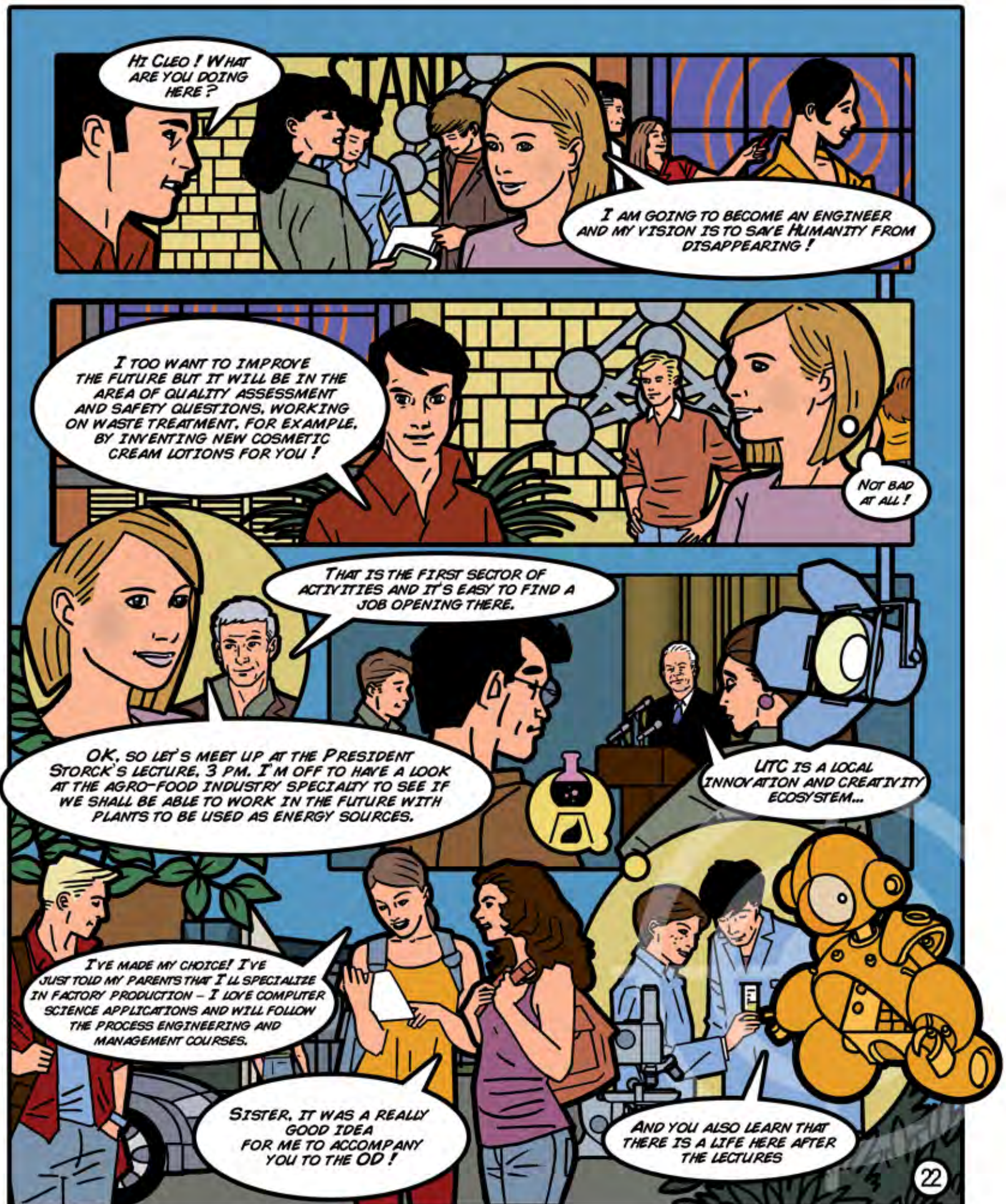
WHAT SPECIALTIES,  
WHAT COURSES DO YOU  
RECOMMEND?

YOU'VE MADE A GOOD CHOICE!  
BUT HERE AT UTC, YOU MUST FIRST  
LEARN WHAT WE CALL THE FUNDAMENTALS,  
AFTER WHICH THERMAL ENGINEERING  
IS THE SPECIALTY YOU WANT; THIS WILL  
ALLOW YOU TO WORK, FOR EXAMPLE,  
ON CHANGING DEPOLUTION  
PROCESSES.

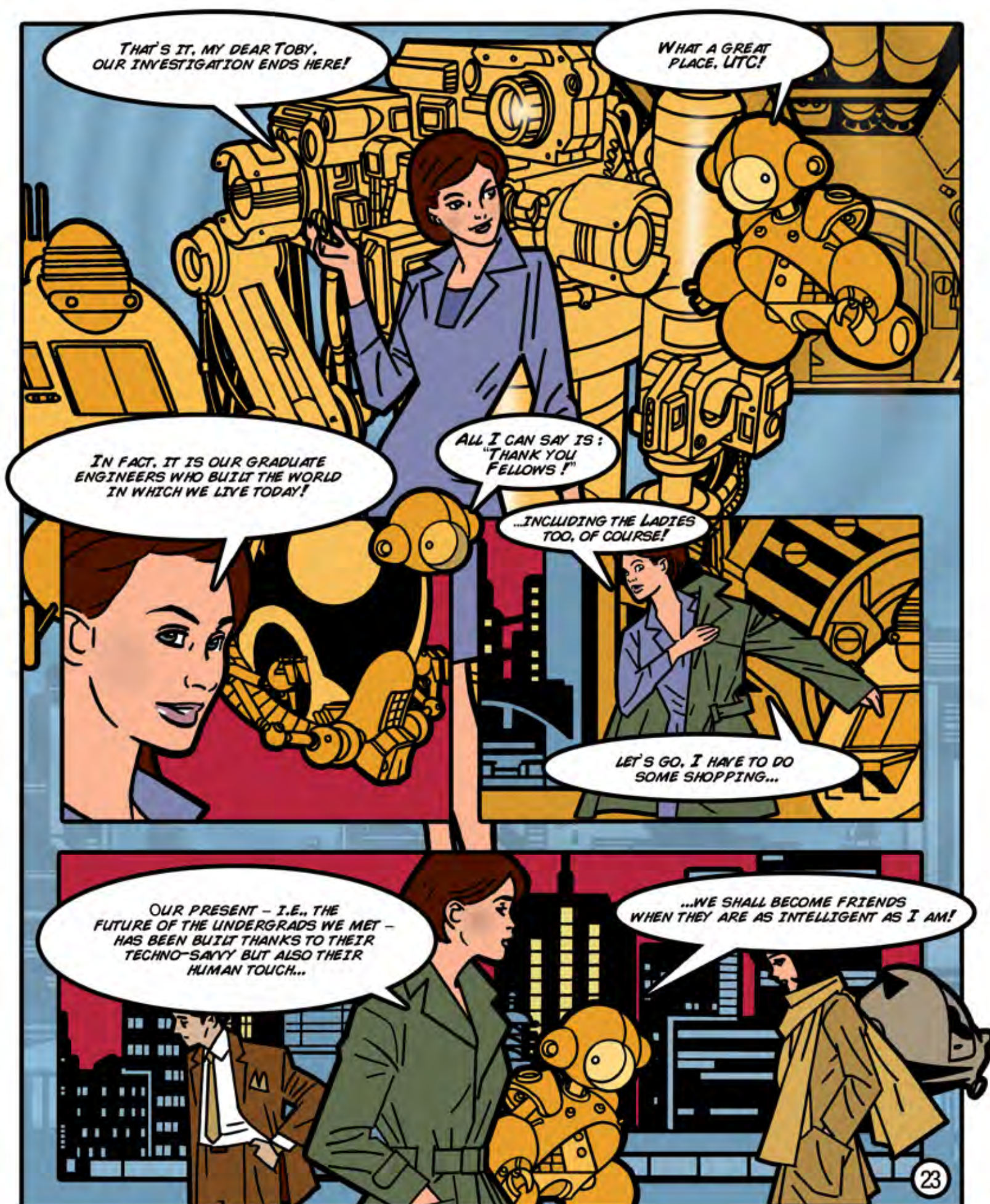
COULD MY SON DO SOME INTERSHIPS  
IN COMPANIES BEFORE HE COMES  
TO GRIPS WITH REALITY?

YES, OF COURSE; LIKE ALL UTC UNDERGRADS,  
AND WHAT IS MORE, HE WILL TAKE PART IN  
PROJECT-ORIENTED WORKSHOPS (AP, PR, TX). THESE ARE  
JUST TERMS THAT SAY THE STUDENTS WILL REALLY BE  
WORKING ON CASE STUDIES IN PARTNER  
ENTERPRISE OR PROPOSED BY  
THE LABORATORIES.

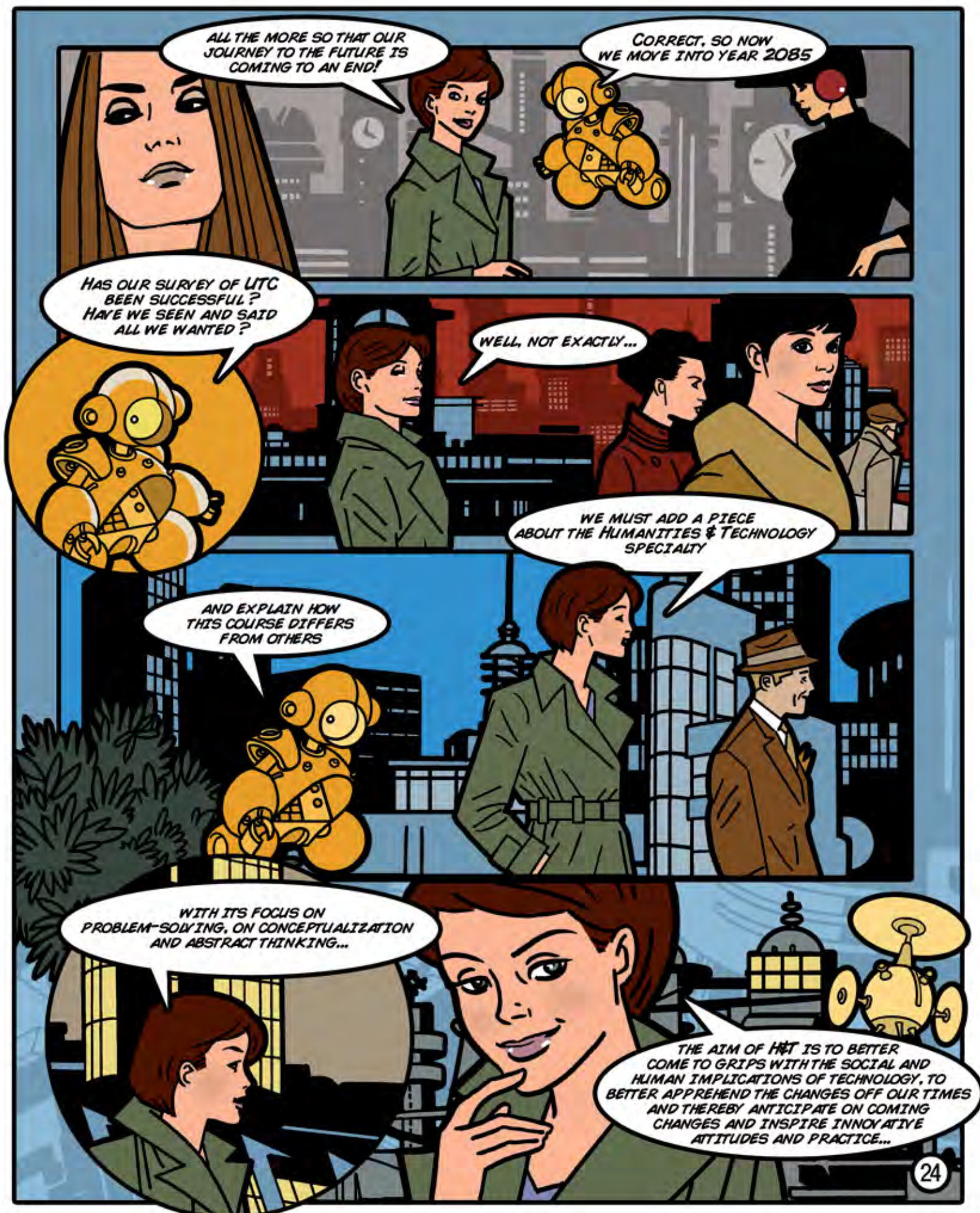




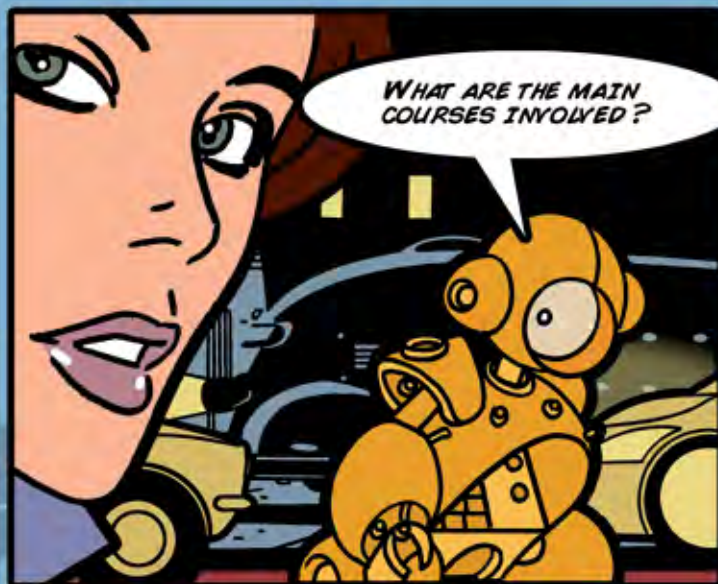
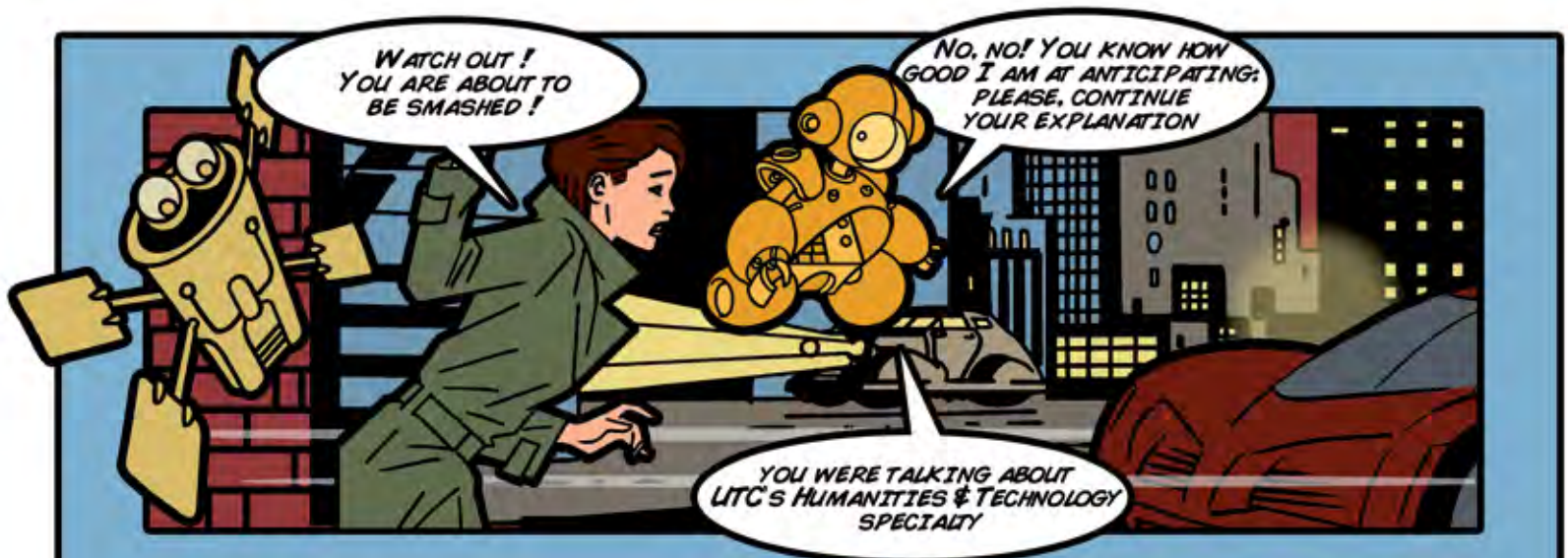












AFTER WHICH THE  
UNDERGRADS INTEGRATE THE  
SPECIALTIES : BIO-ENGINEERING,  
COMPUTER SCIENCES OR  
URBAN SYSTEMS  
ENGINEERING





