

SIMPSONSTM

COMICS

BONGO[®]
COMICS

#201

\$2.99



MATT
GROENING

DIRECT EDITION



20111



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bongocomics.com

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THE MURDER PARTY



MATT
GREENING

CAROL LAY
STORY & ART

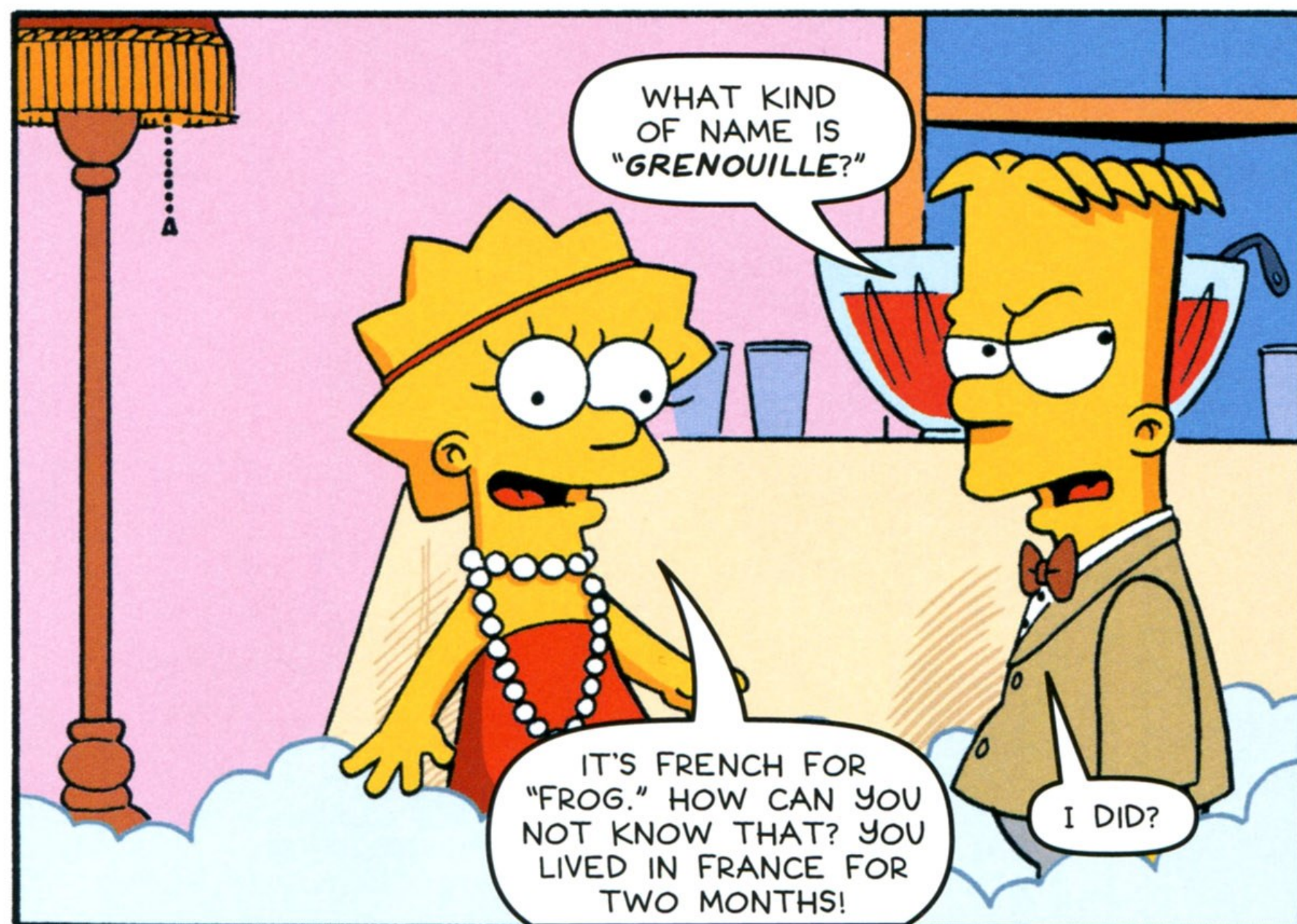
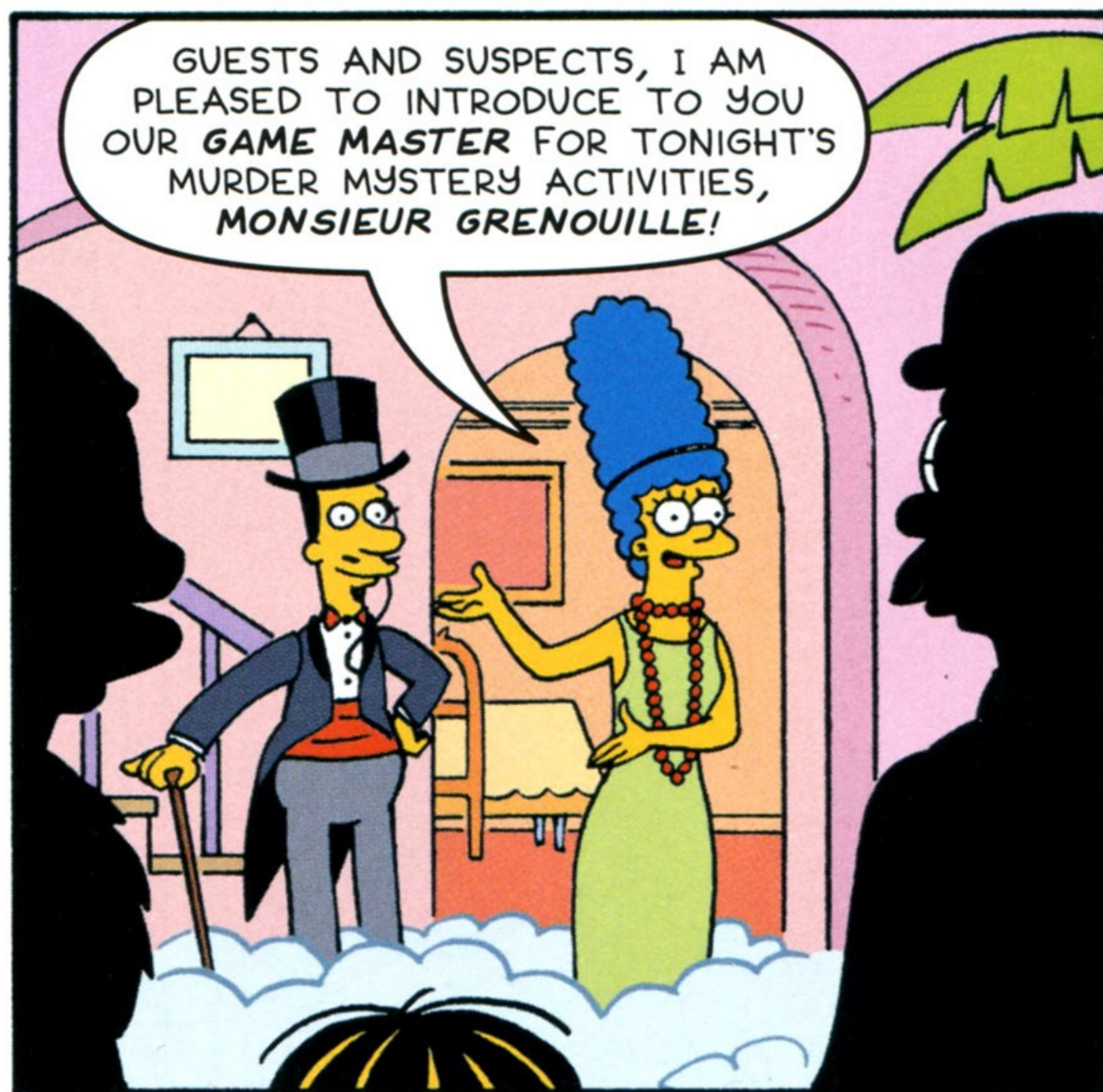
ART VILLANUEVA
COLORS

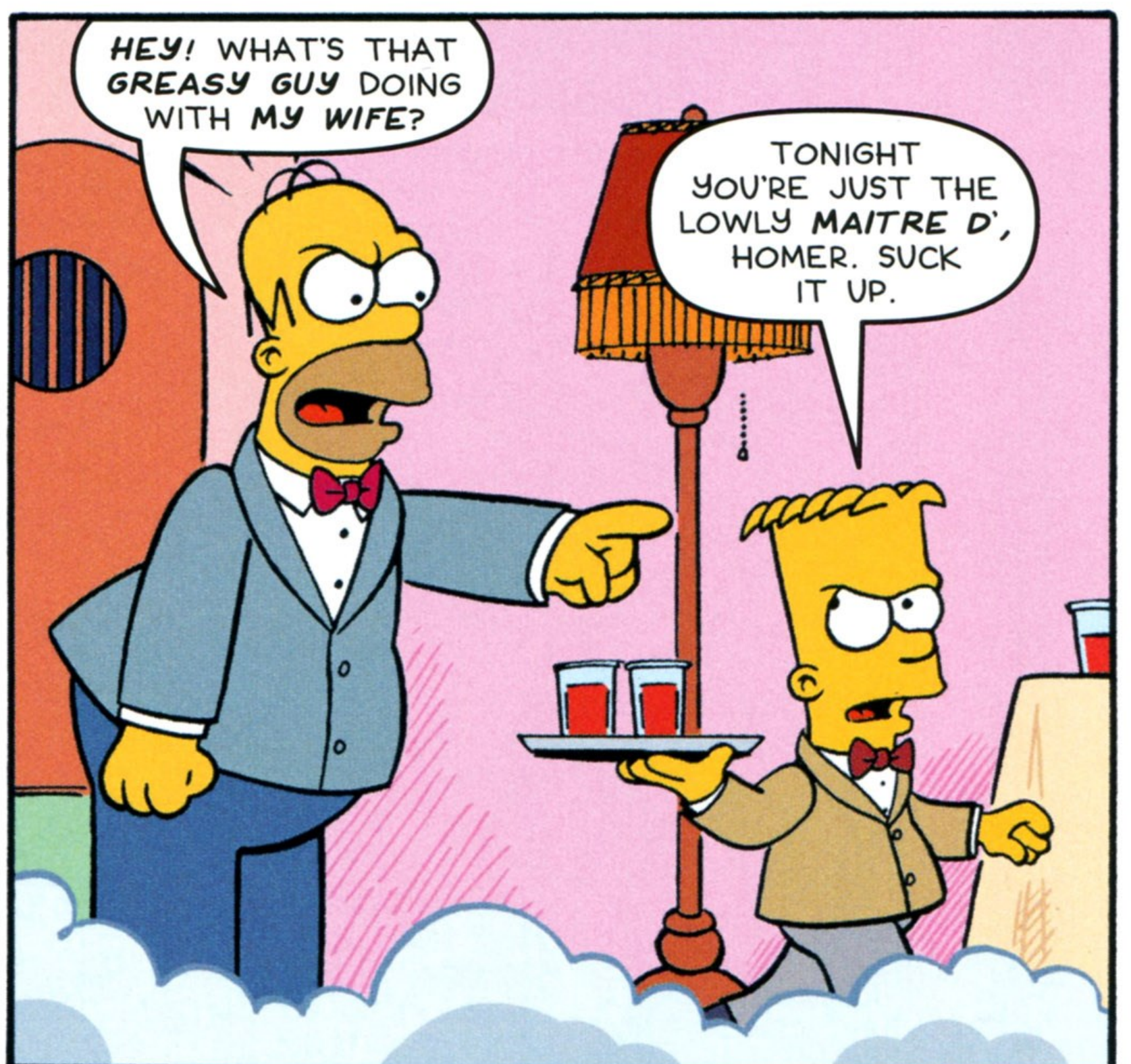
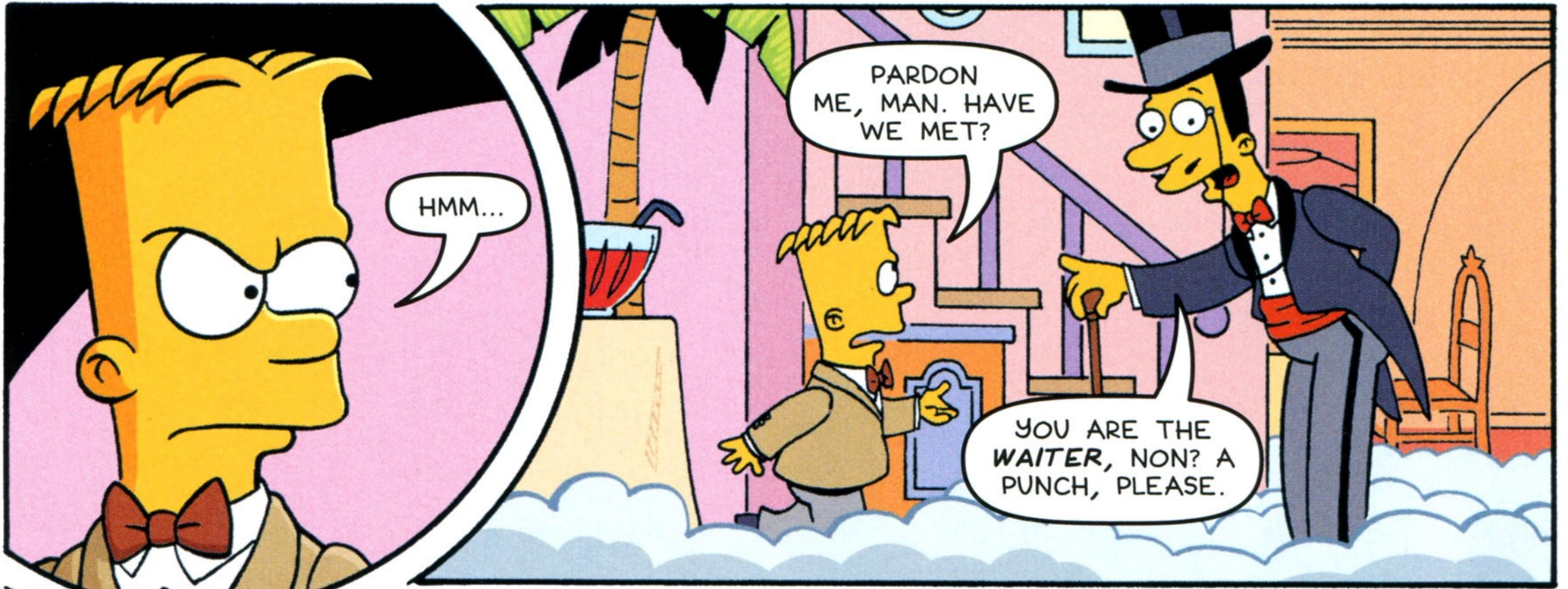
KAREN BATES
LETTERS

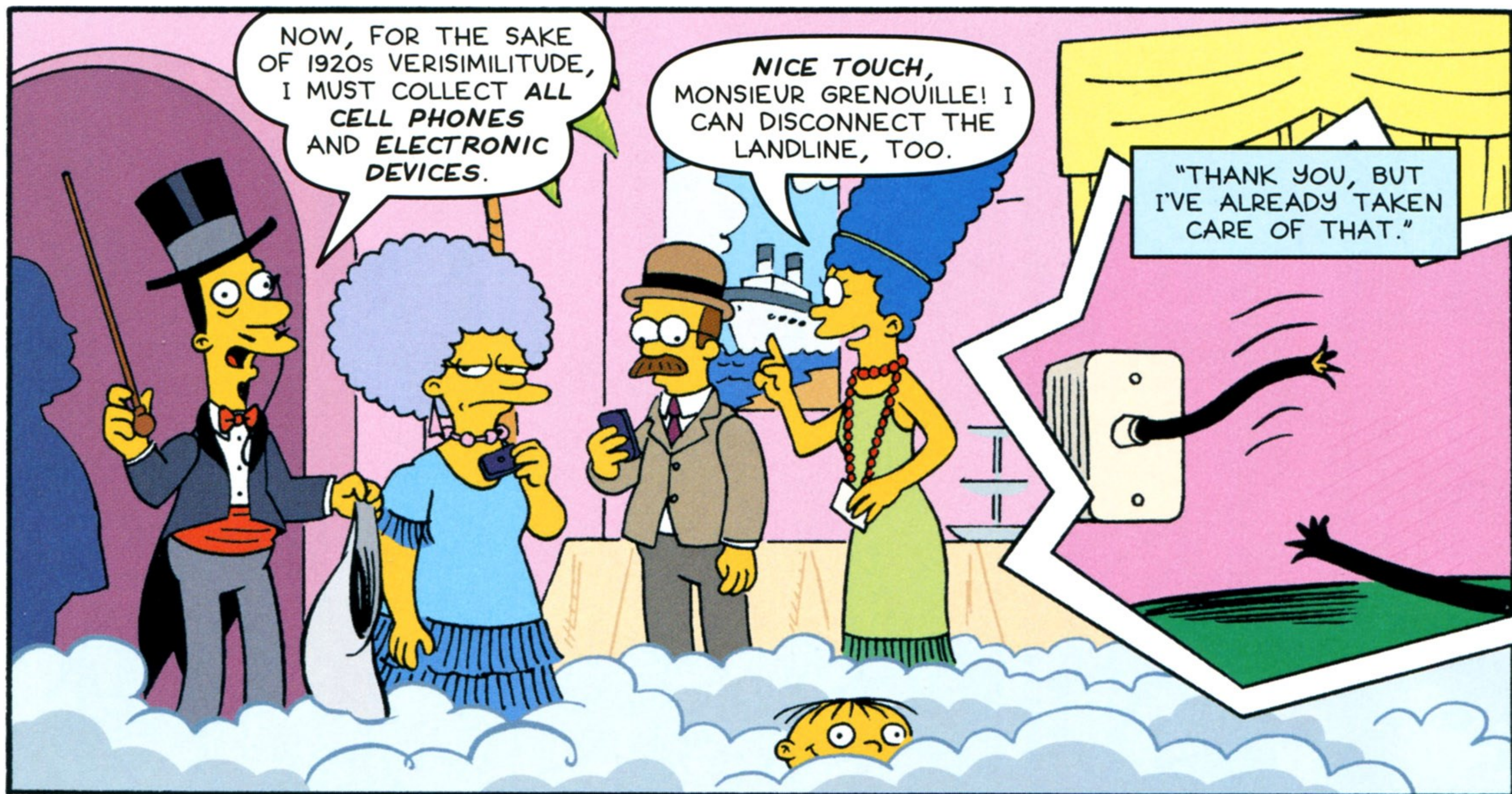
NATHAN KANE
EDITOR

COVER BY JASON HO, MIKE ROTE, AND NATHAN KANE

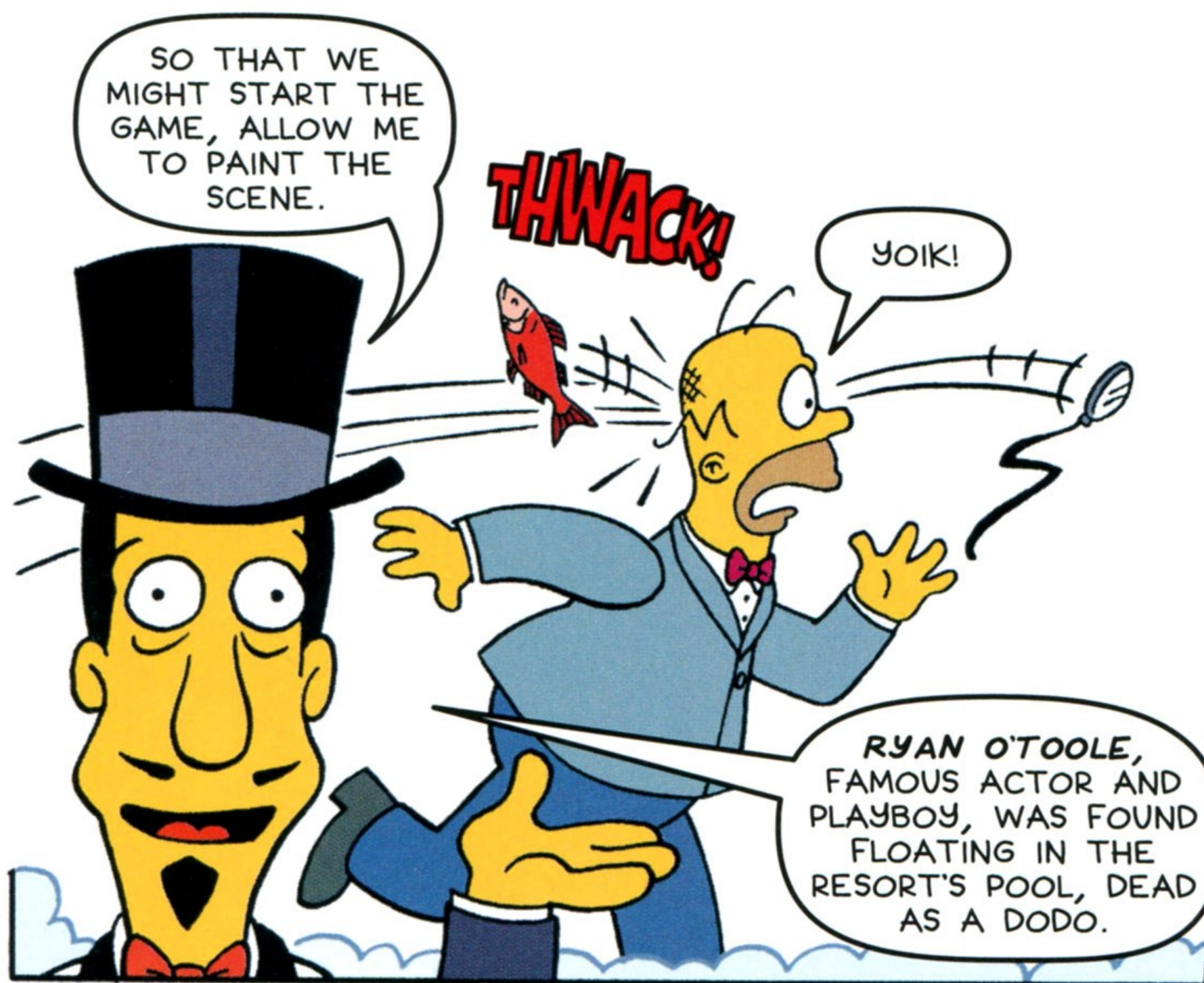


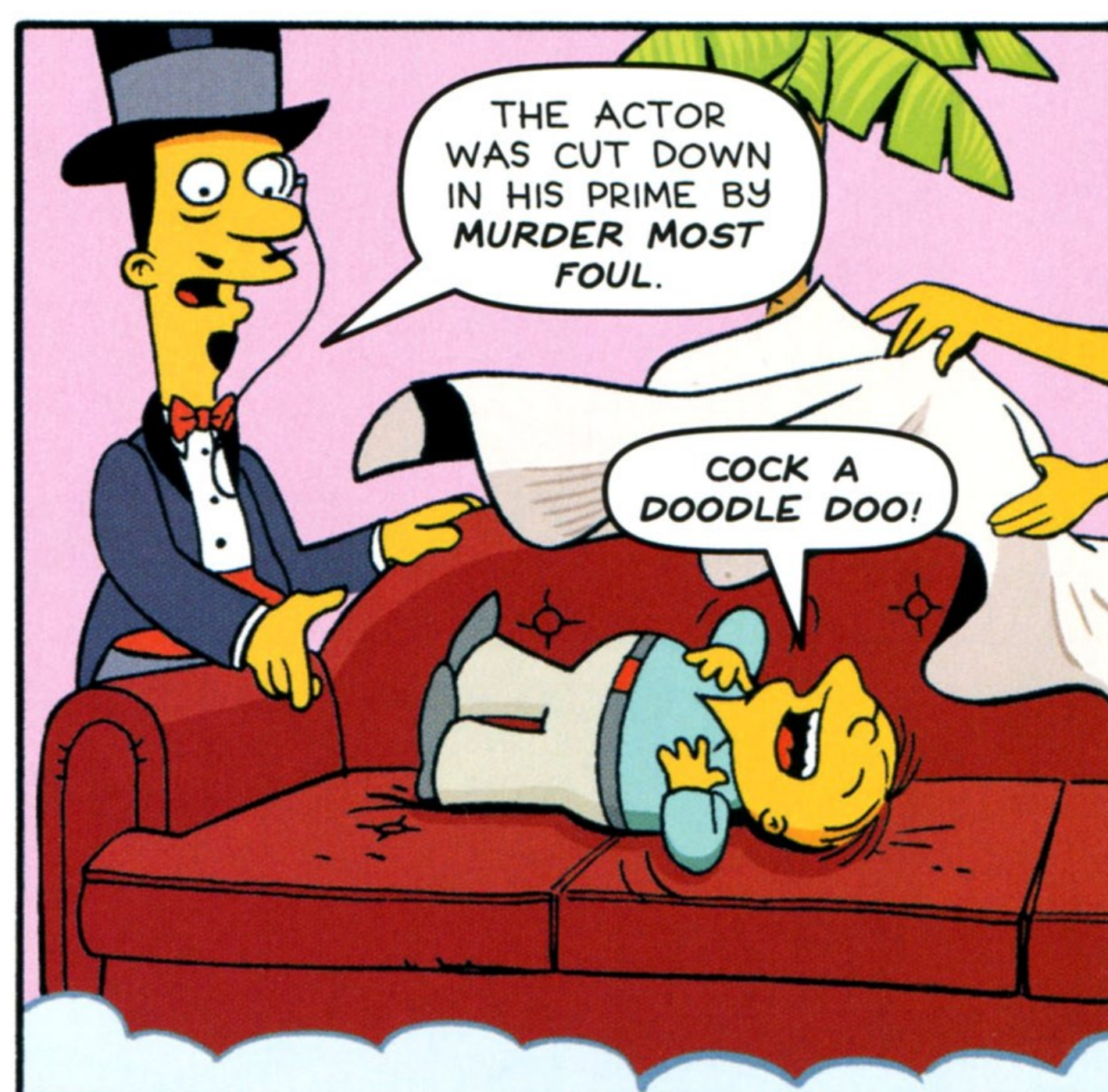


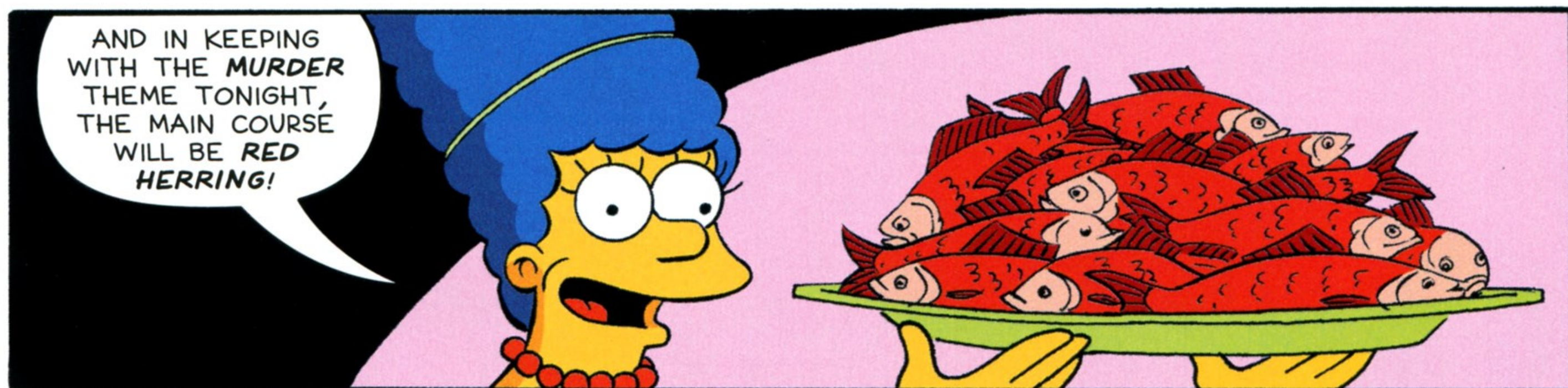




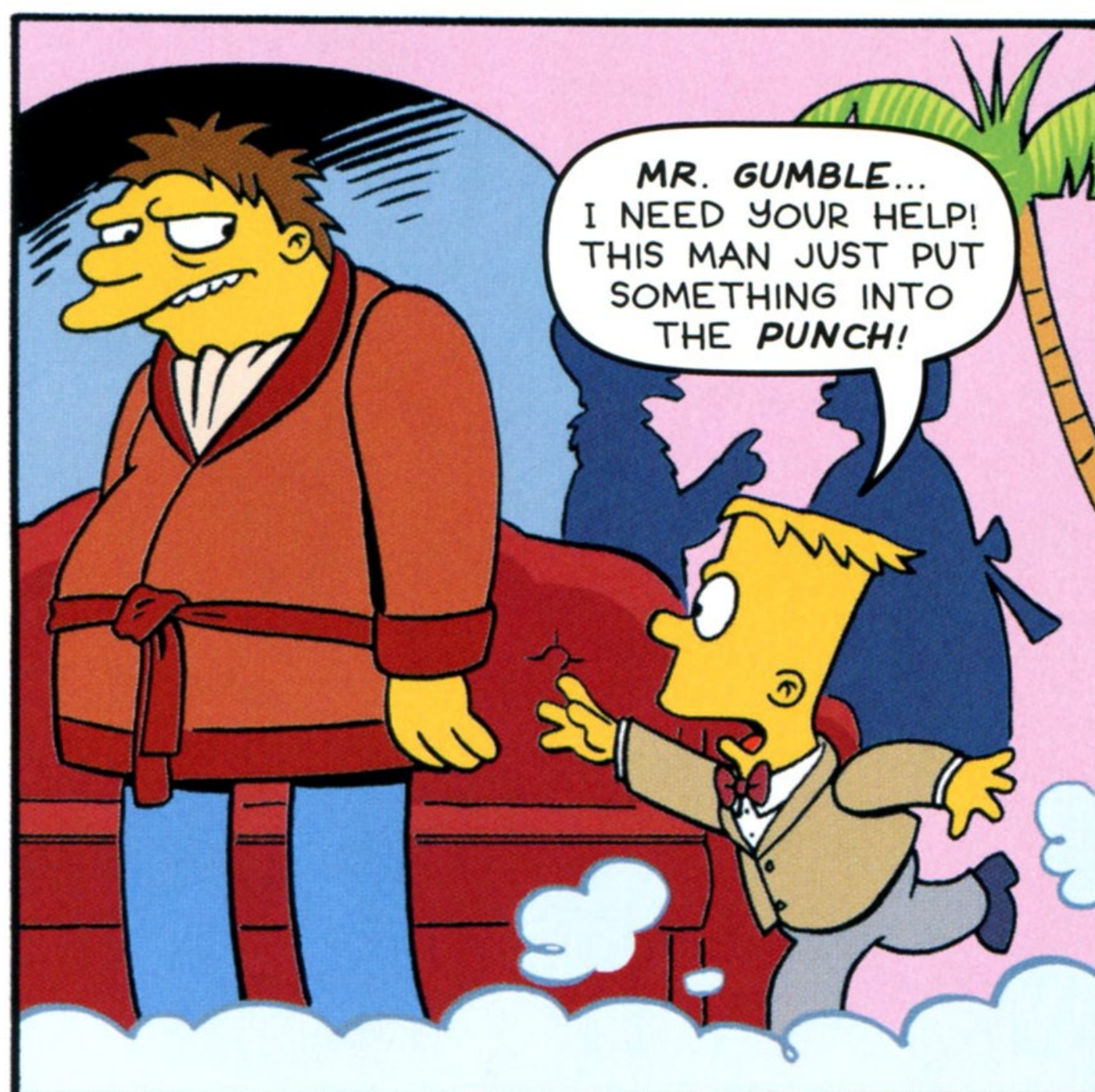


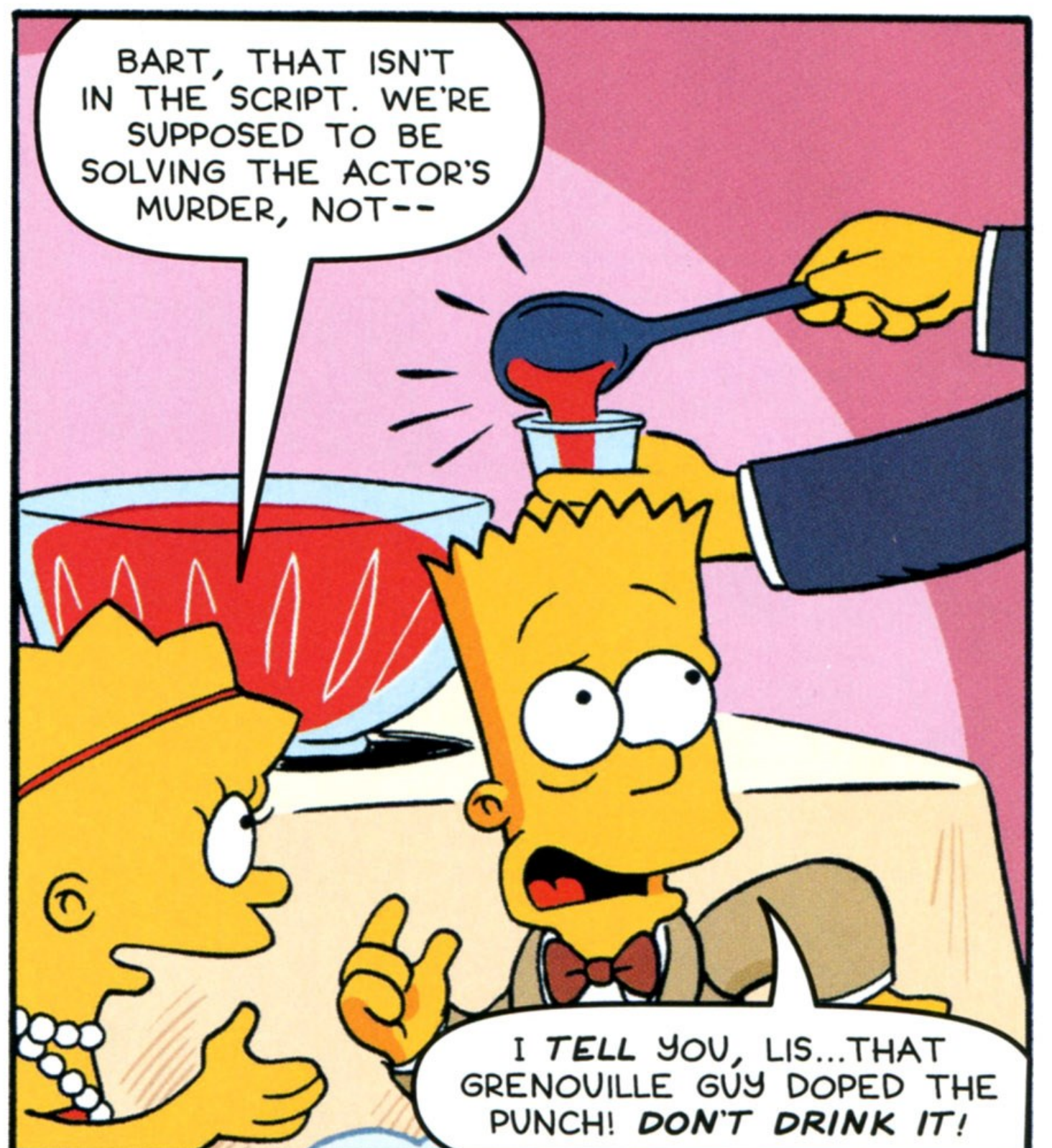


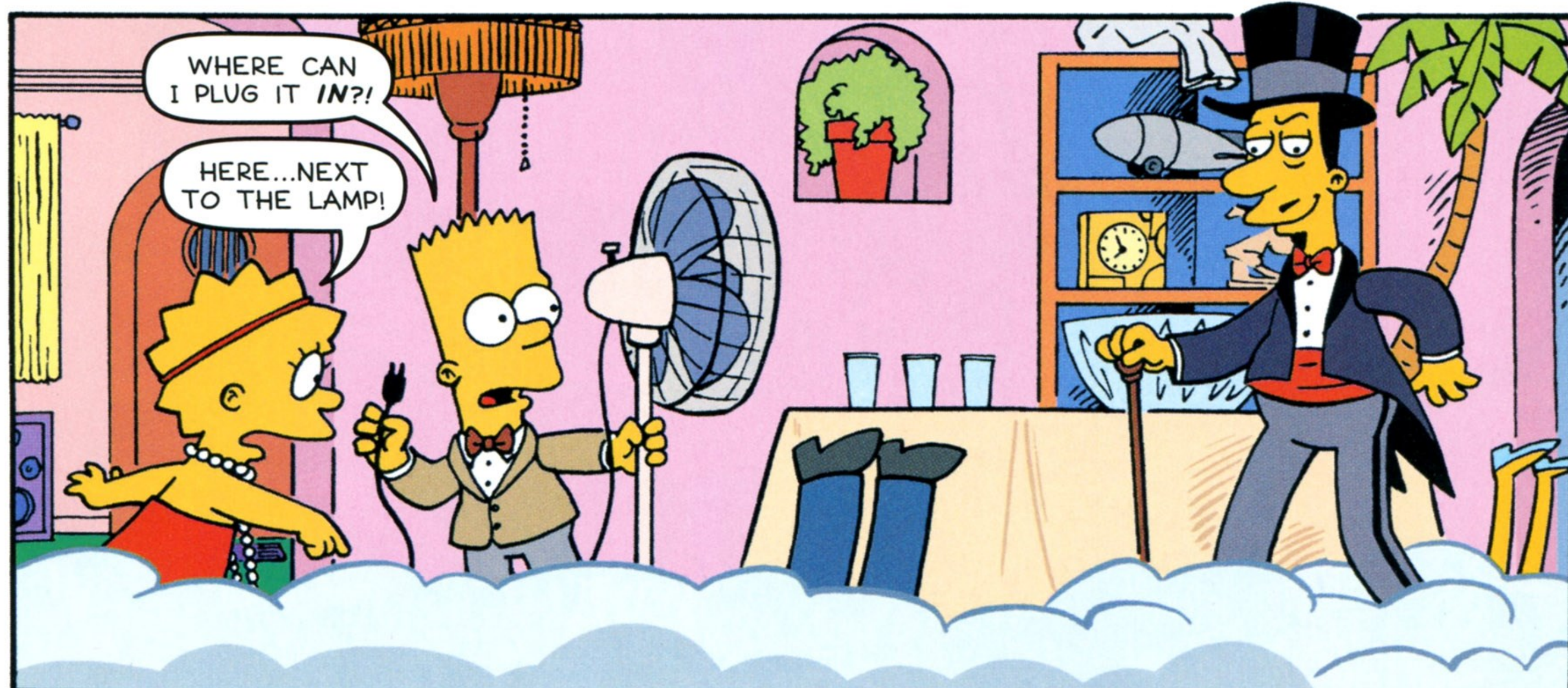
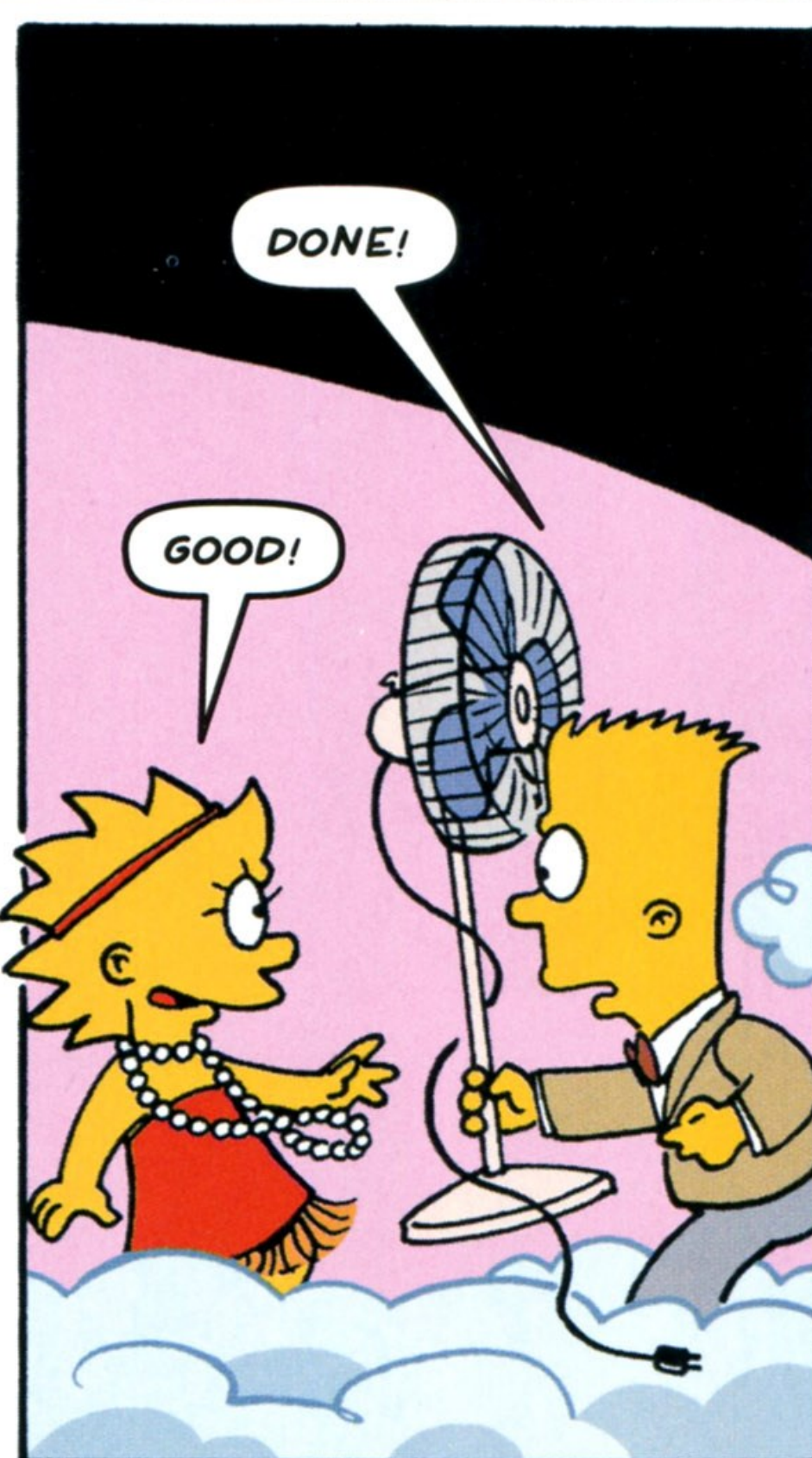
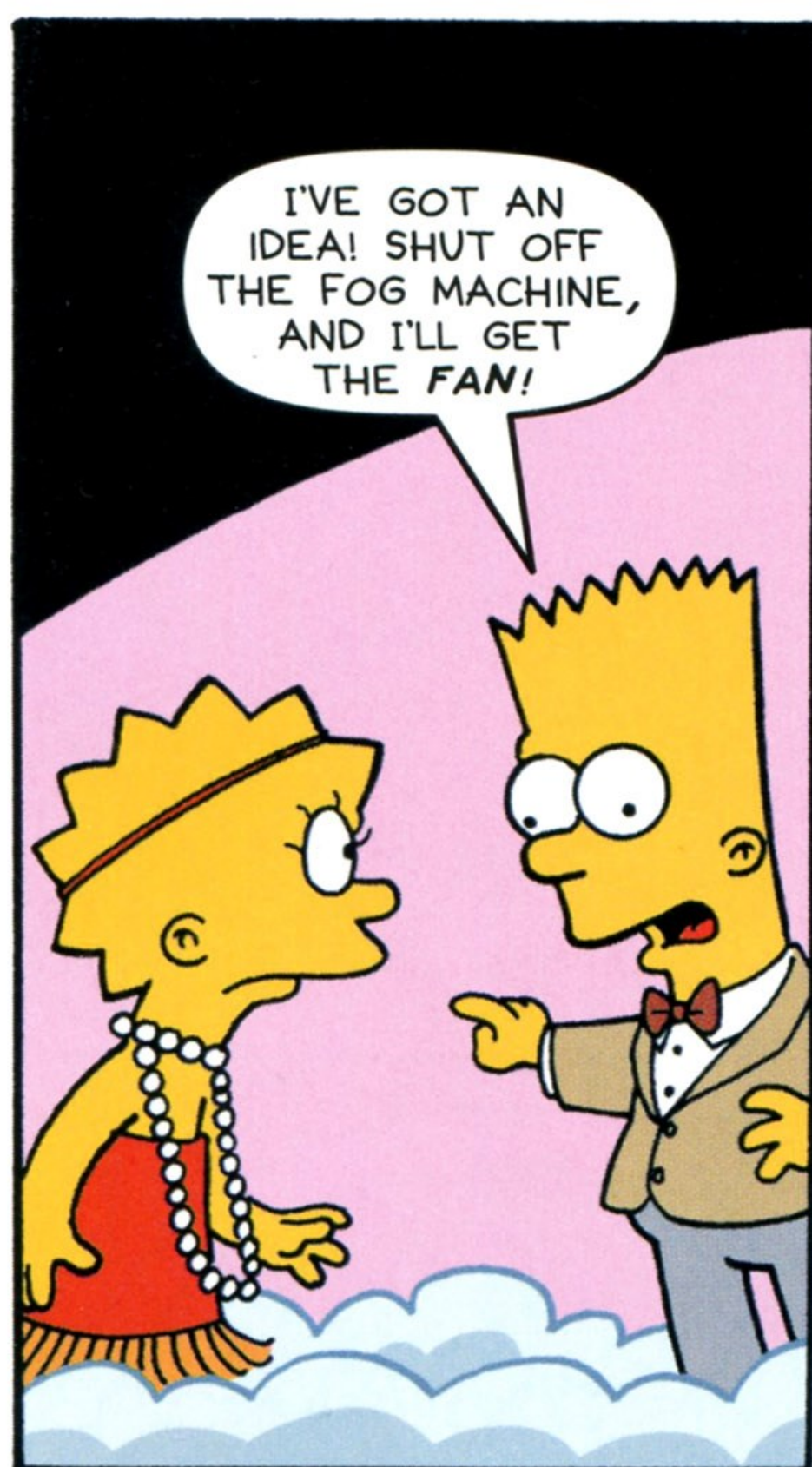
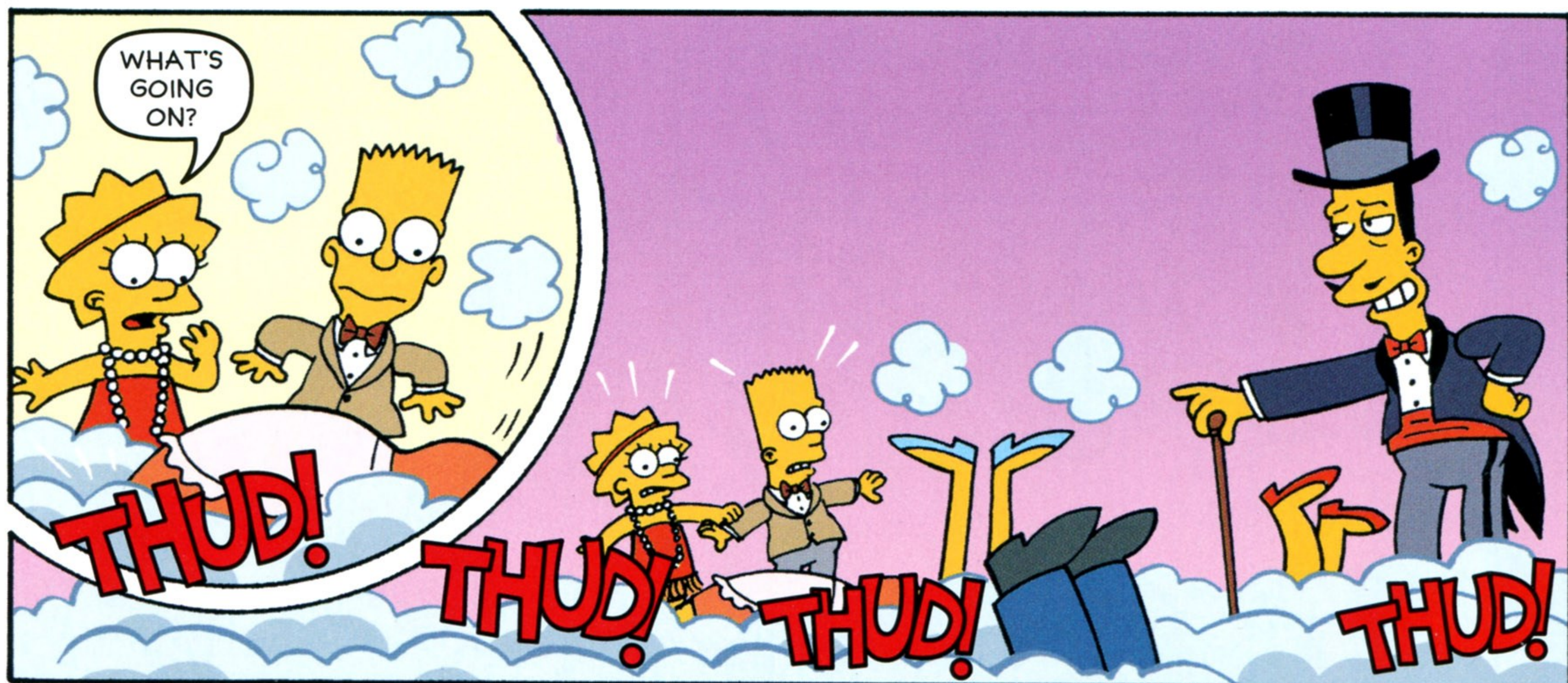


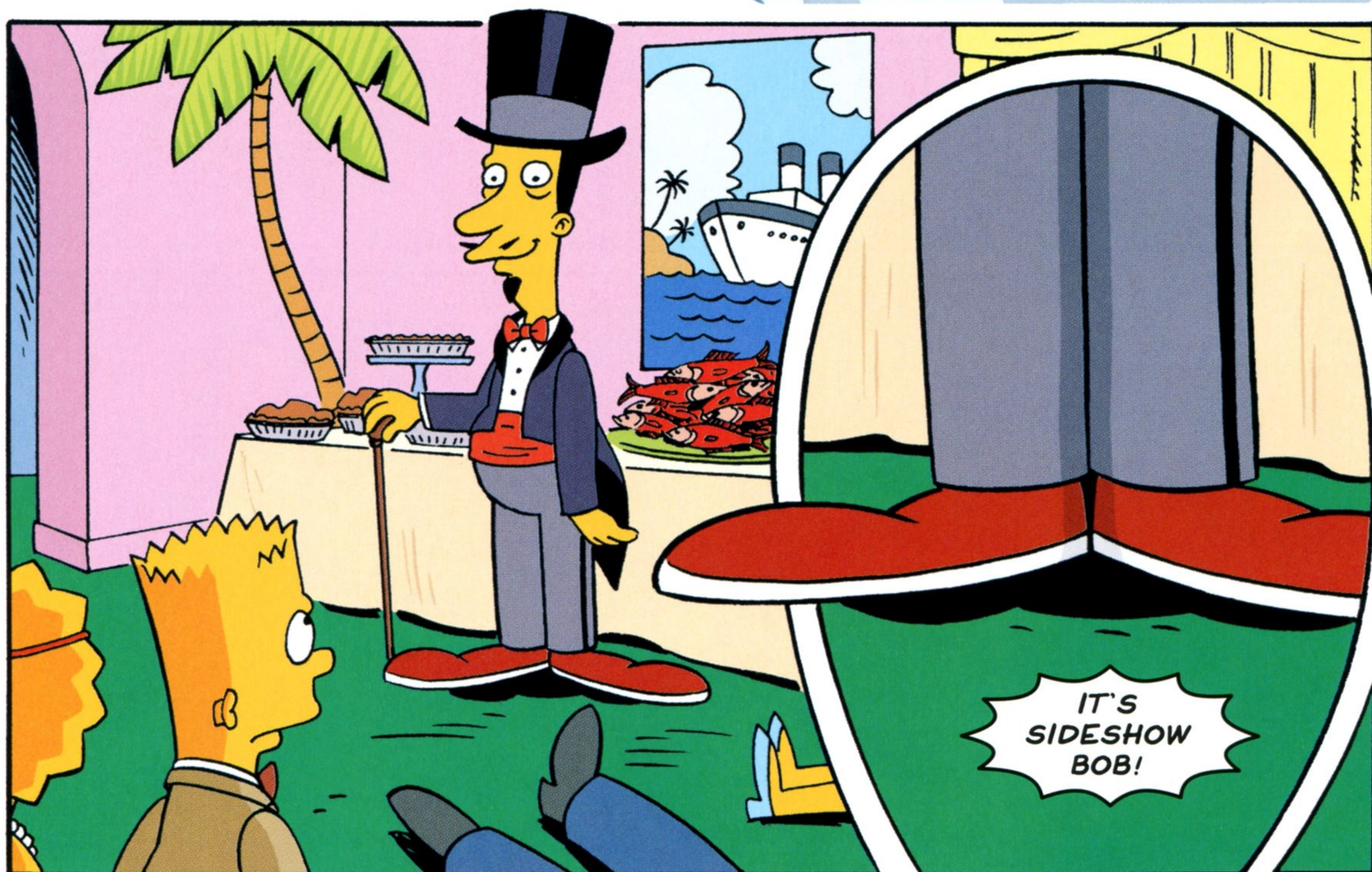
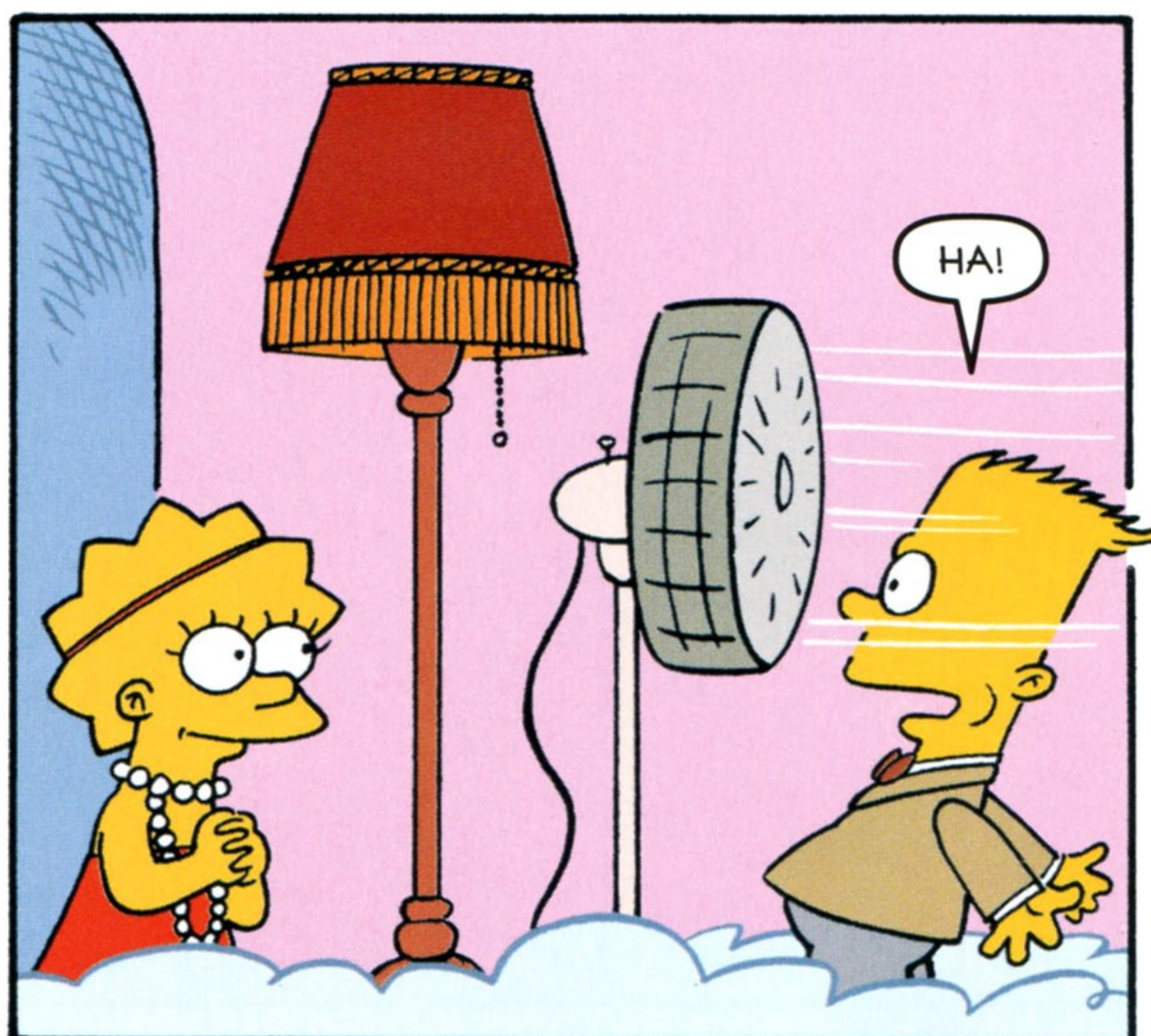
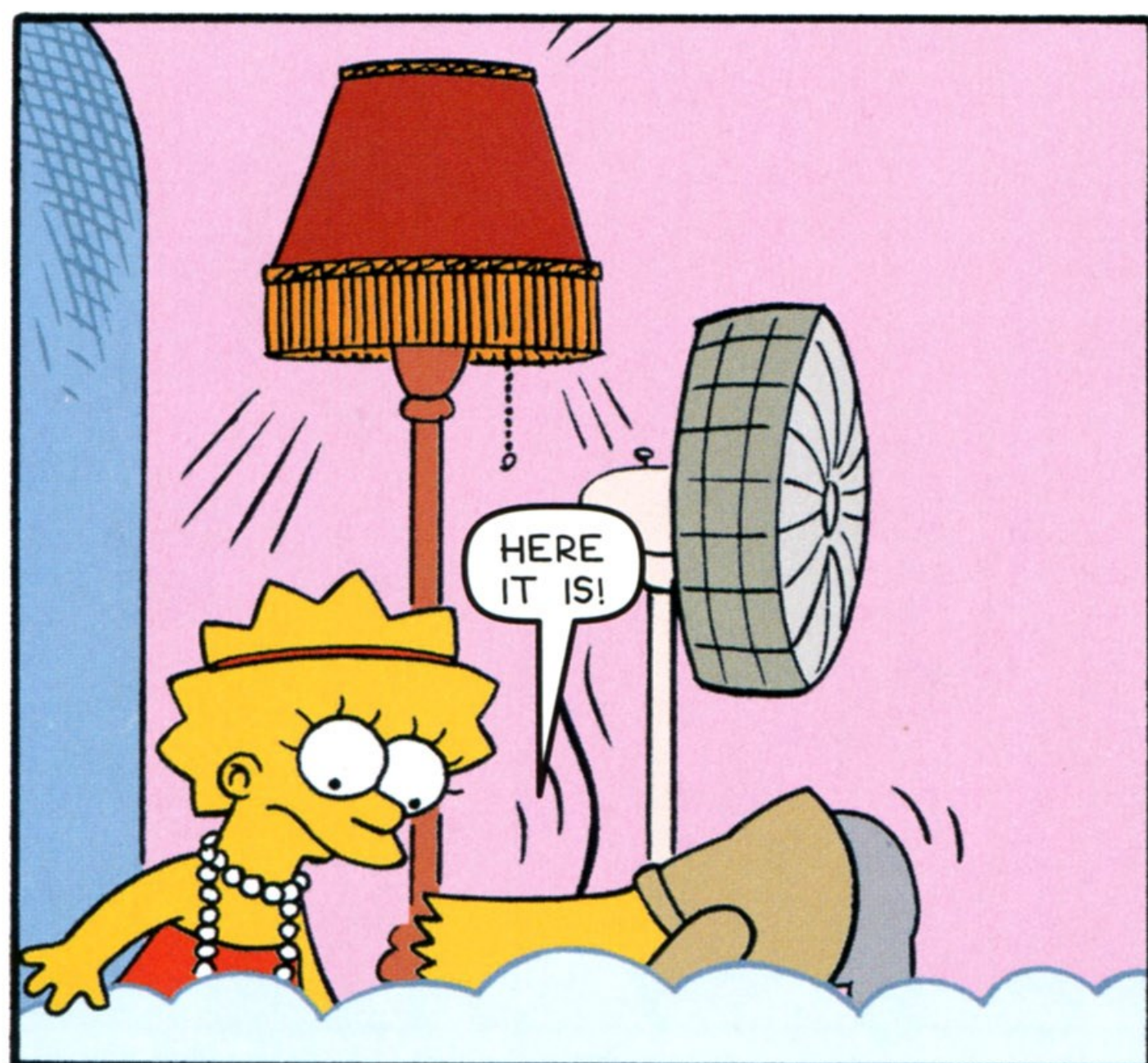


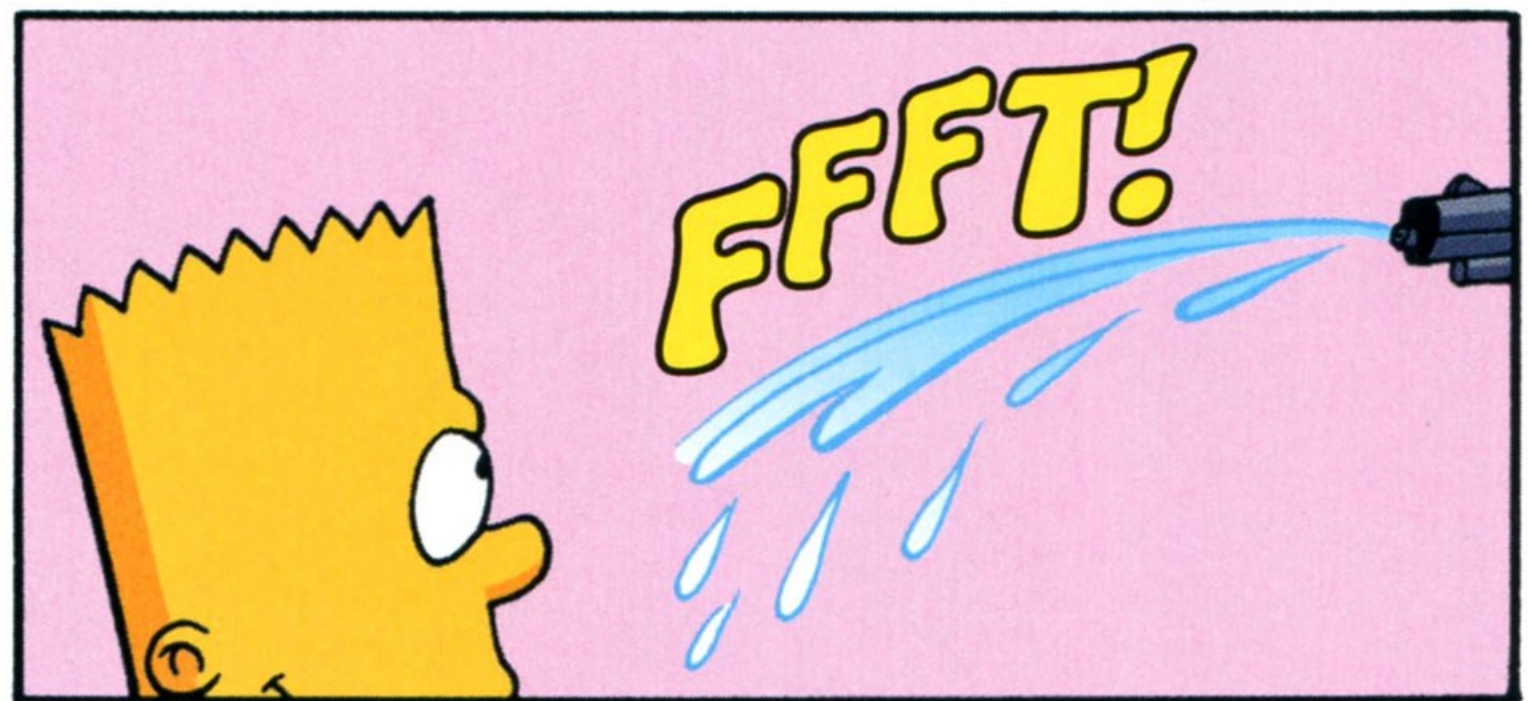
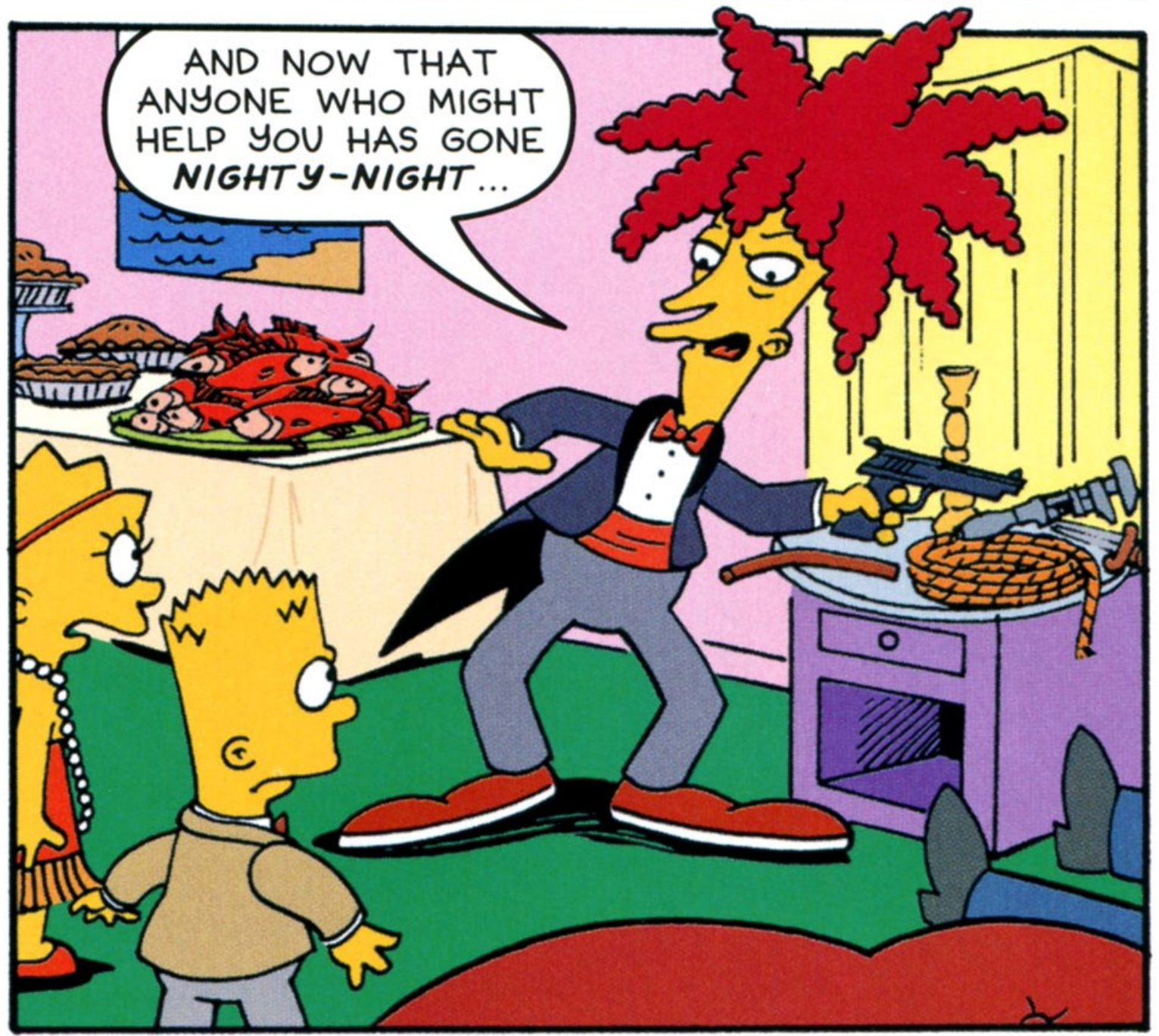


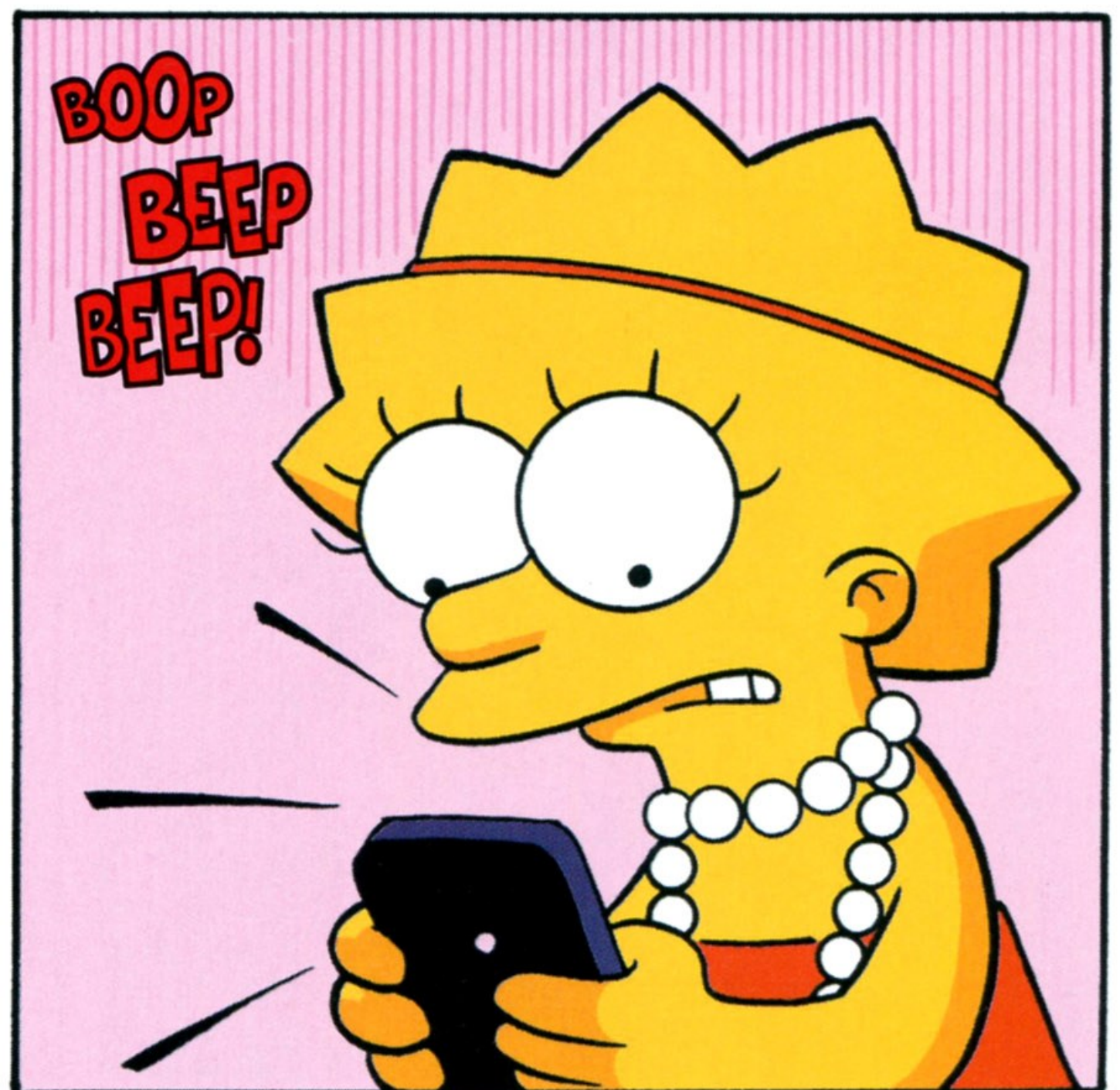
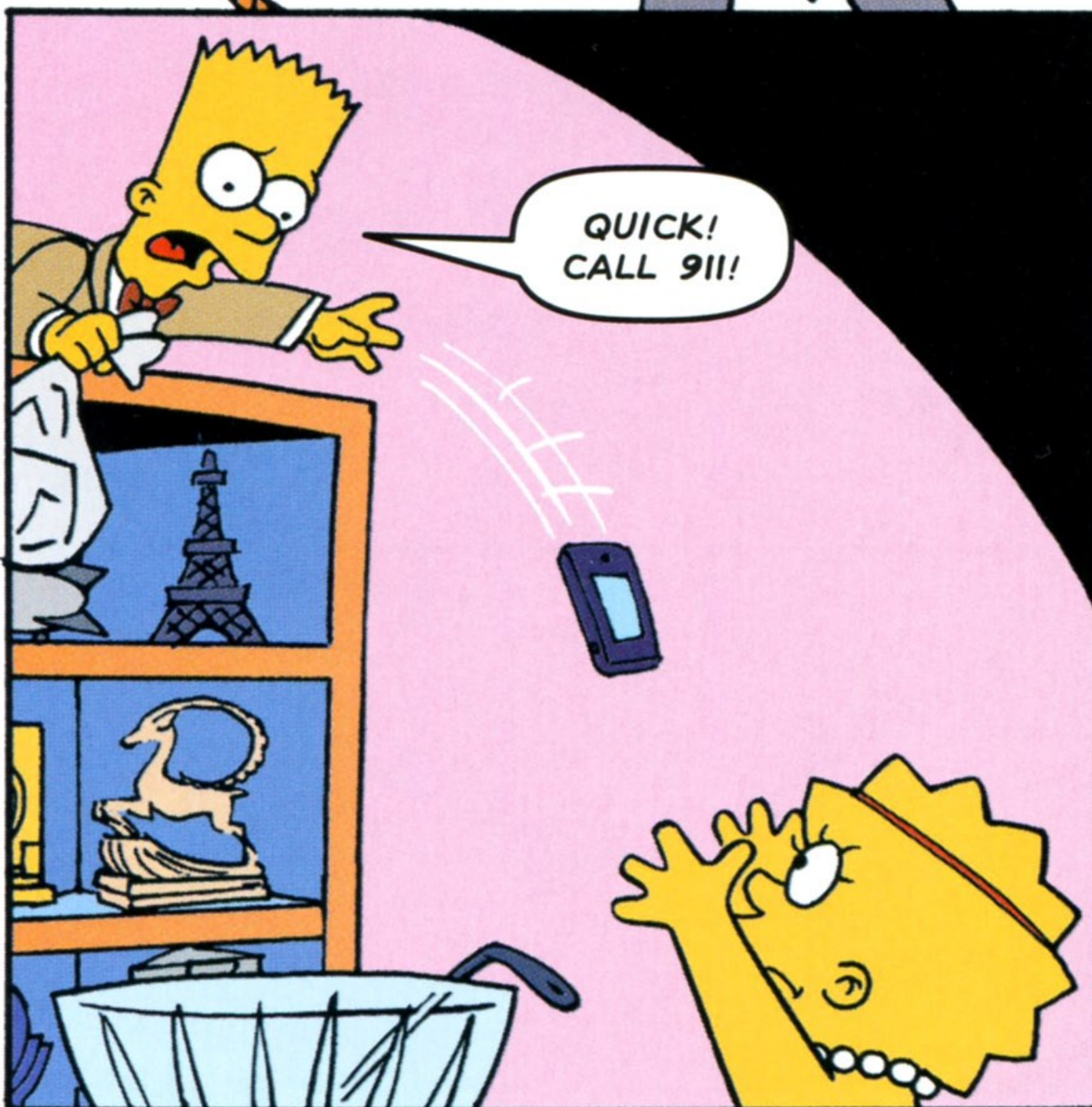
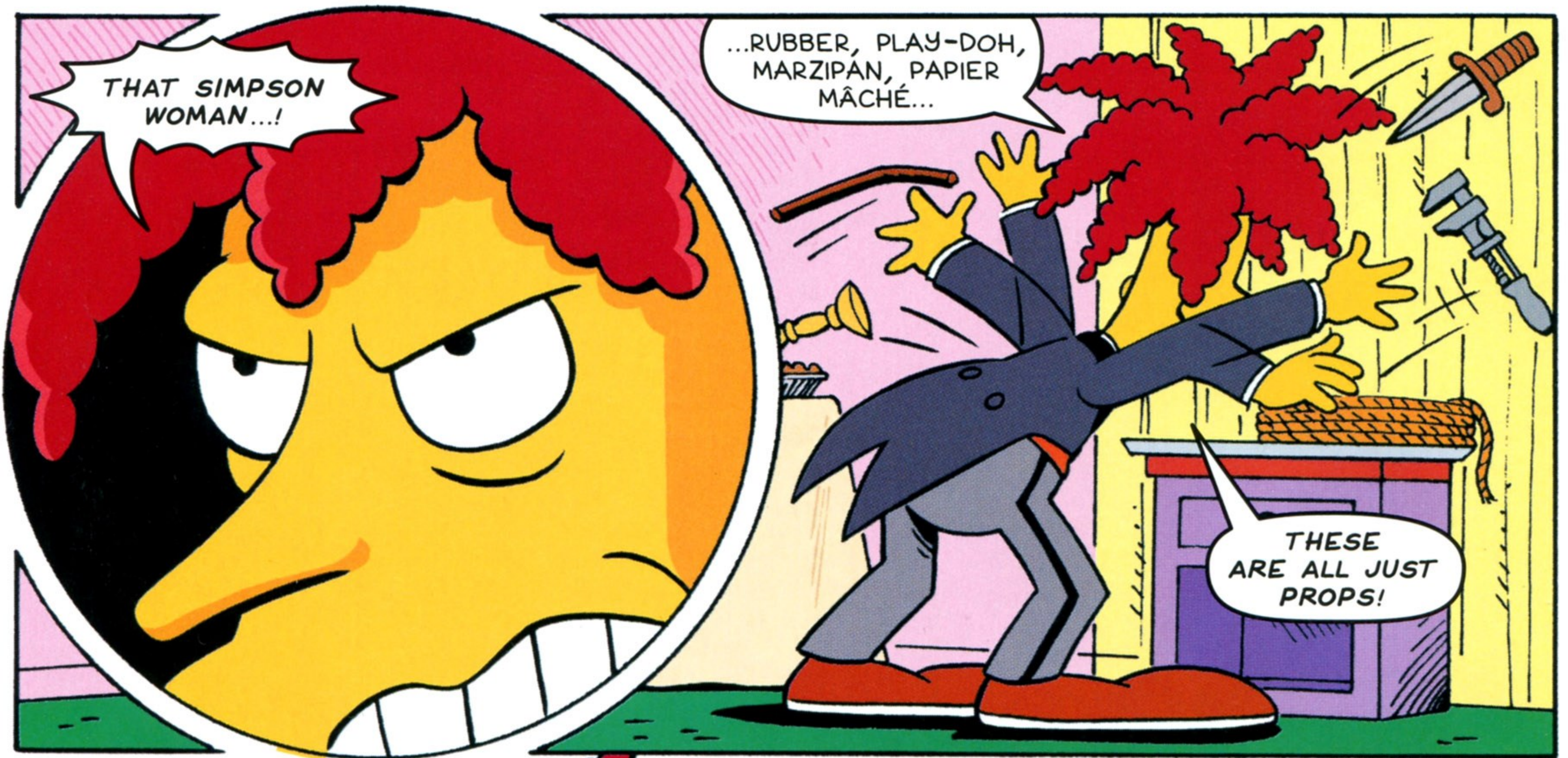


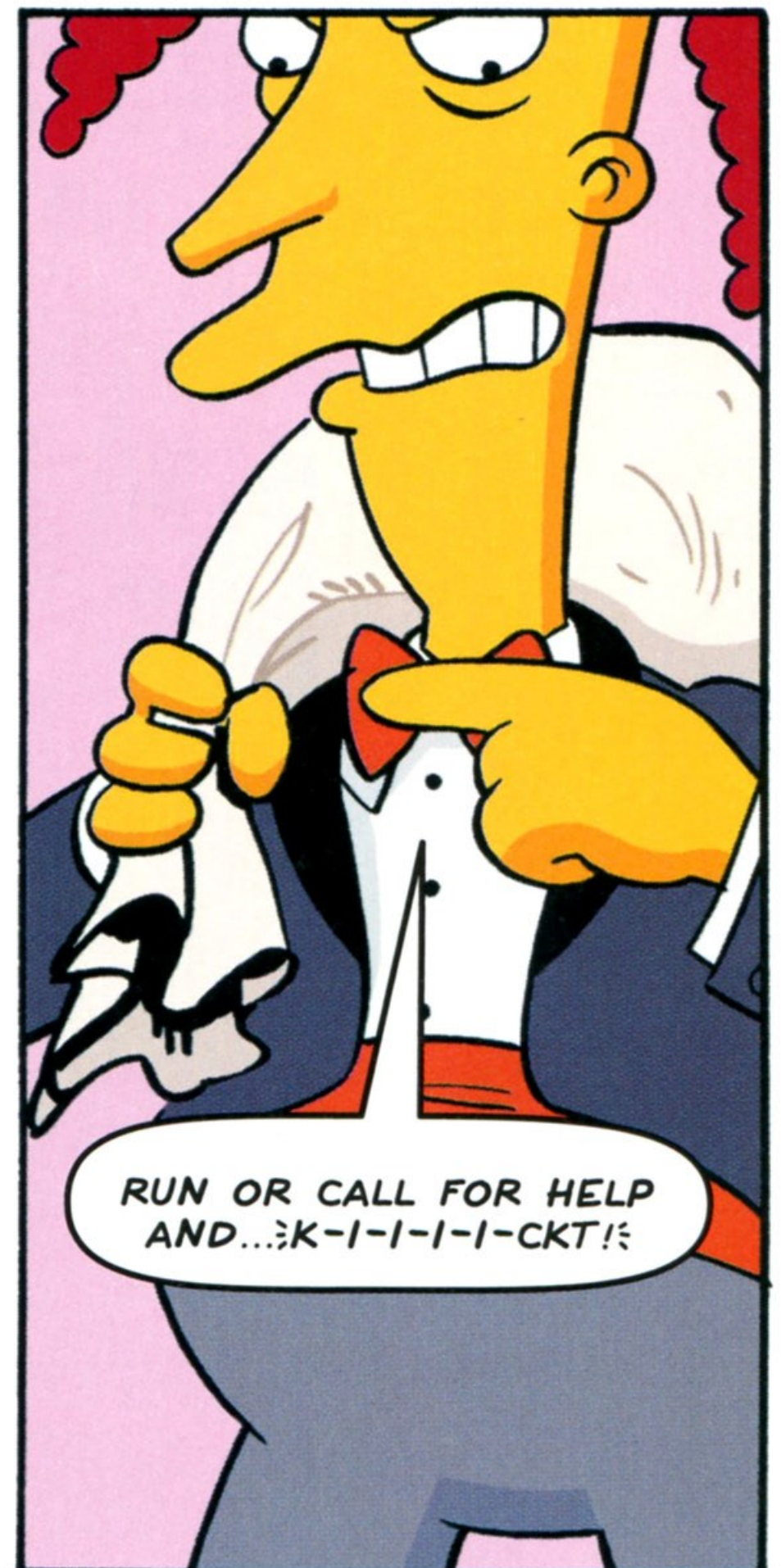
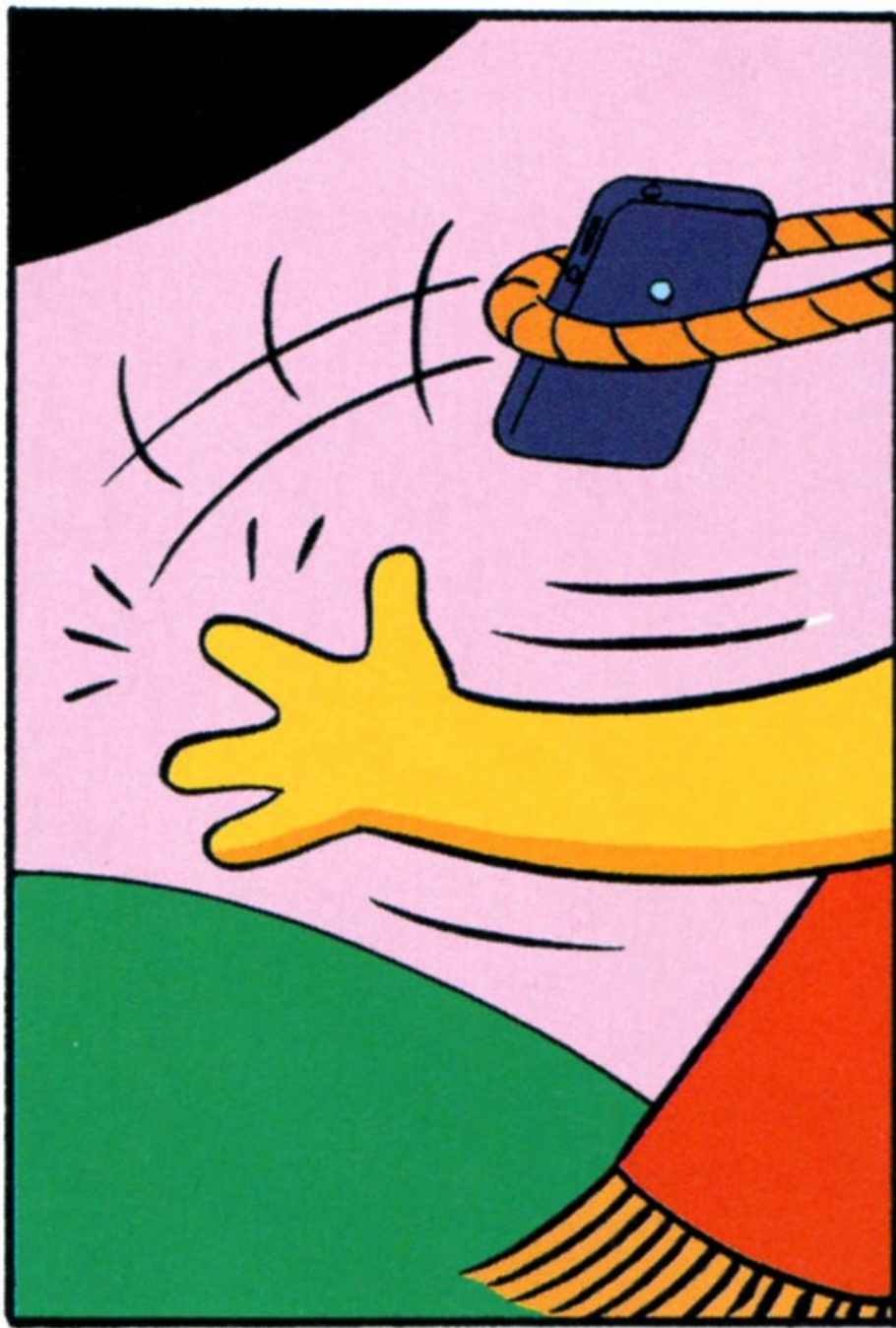
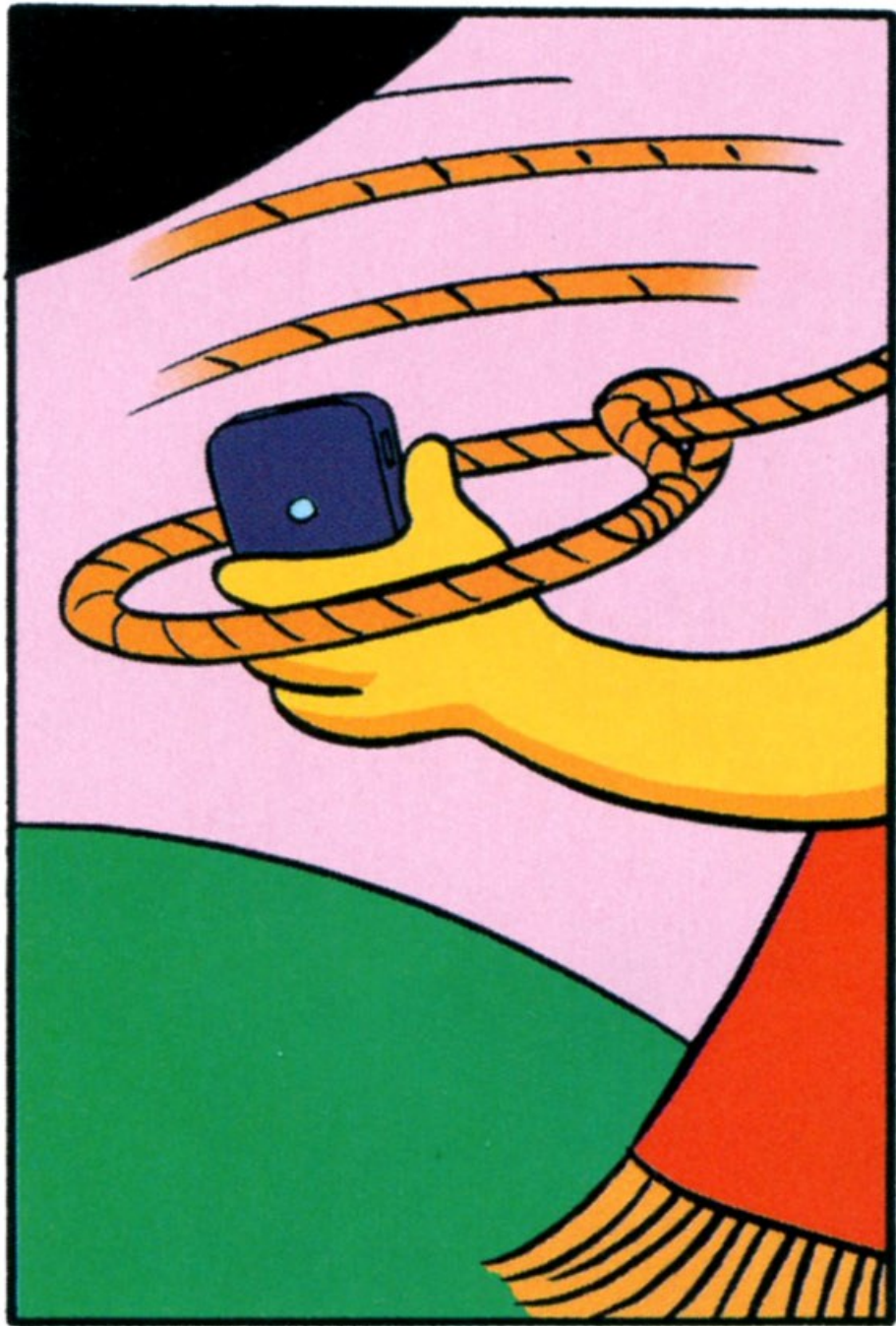


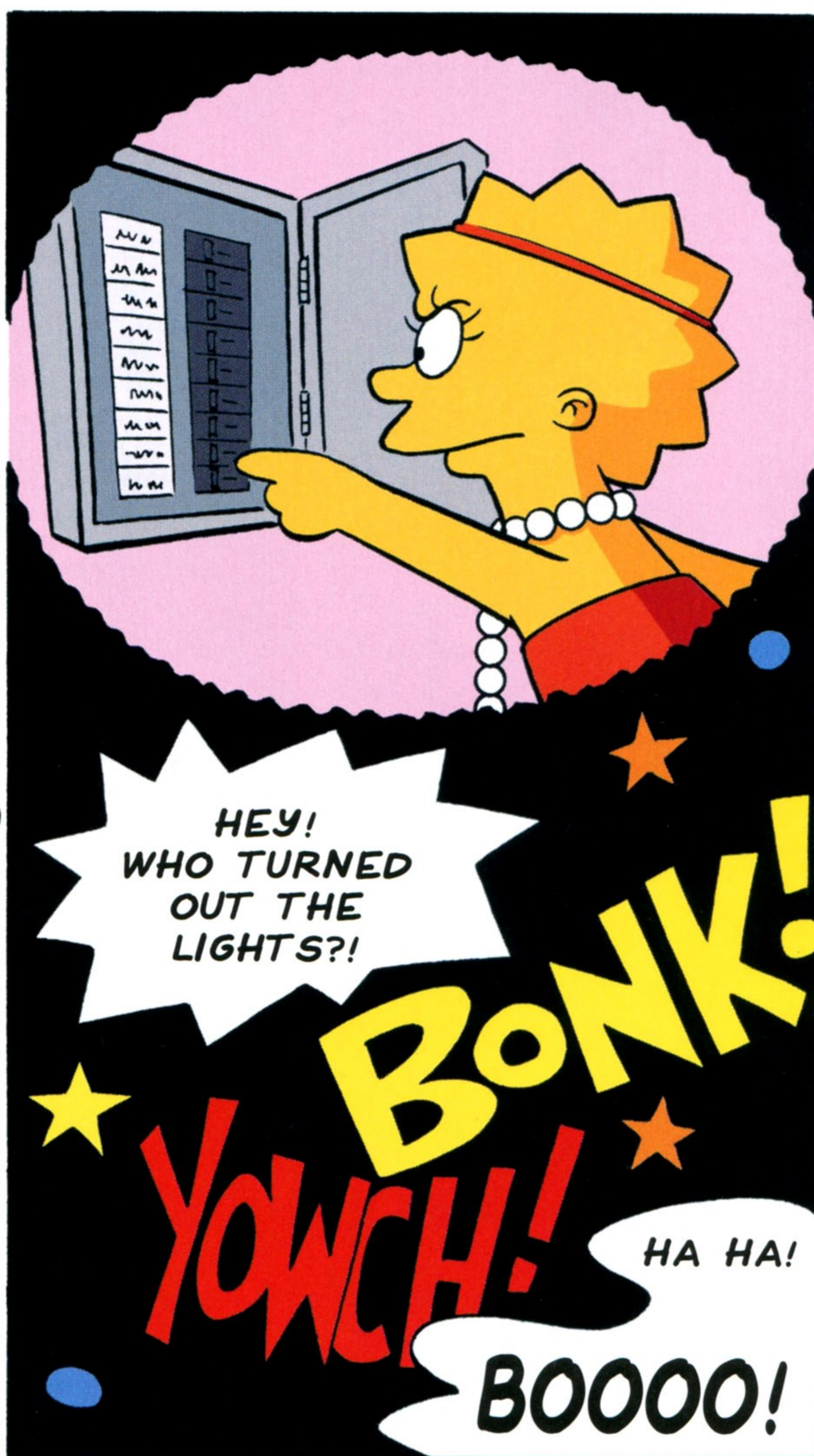
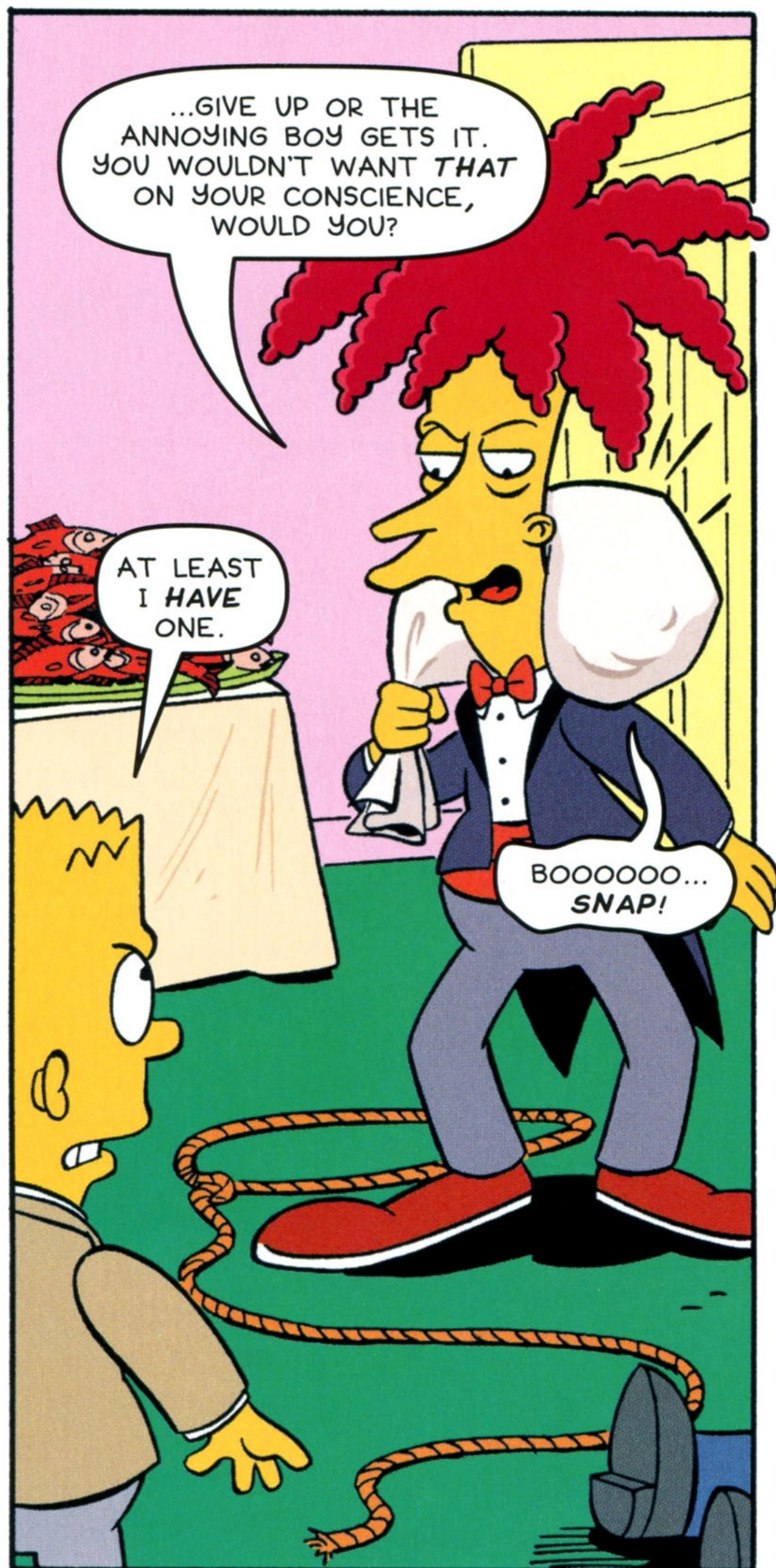
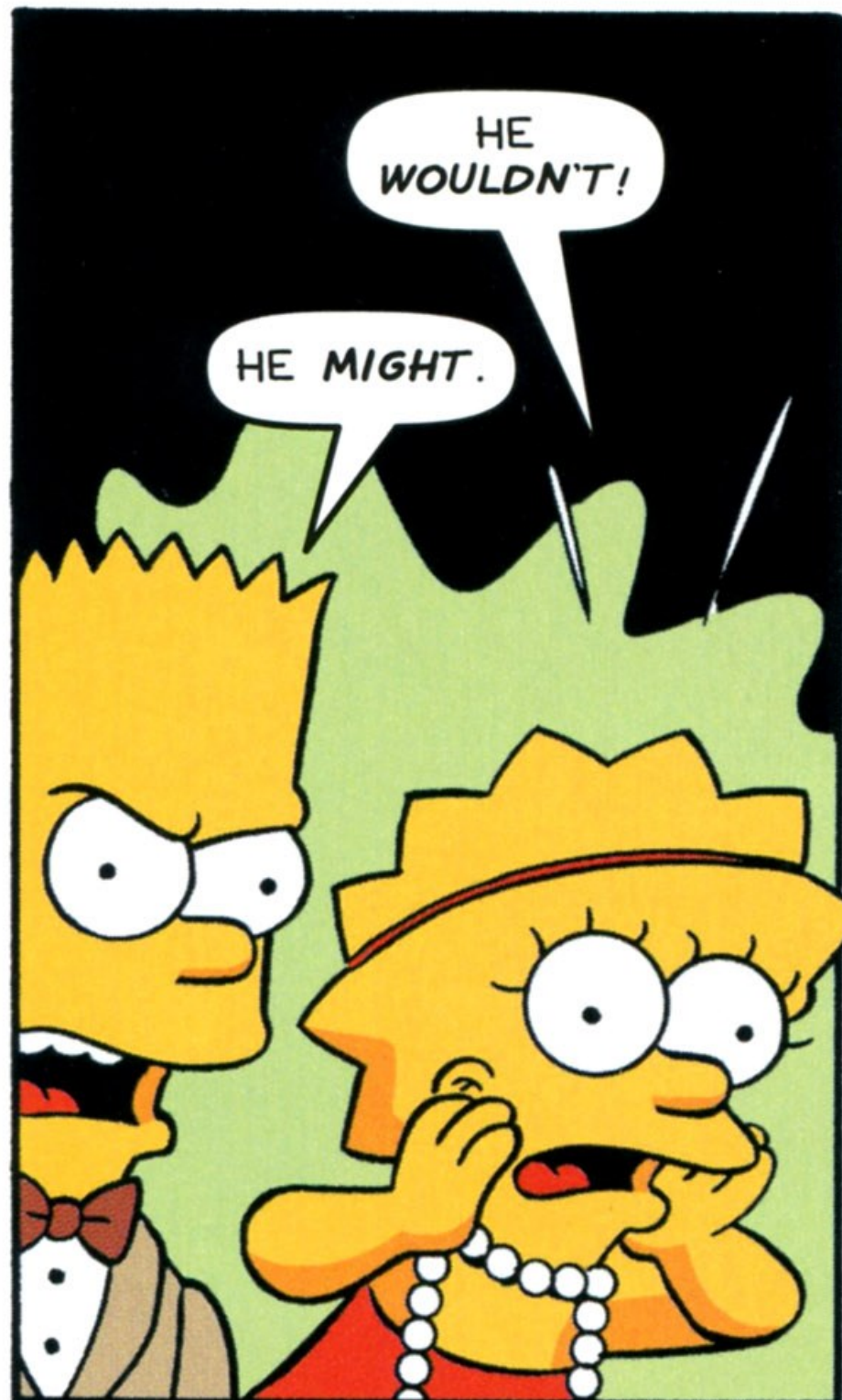


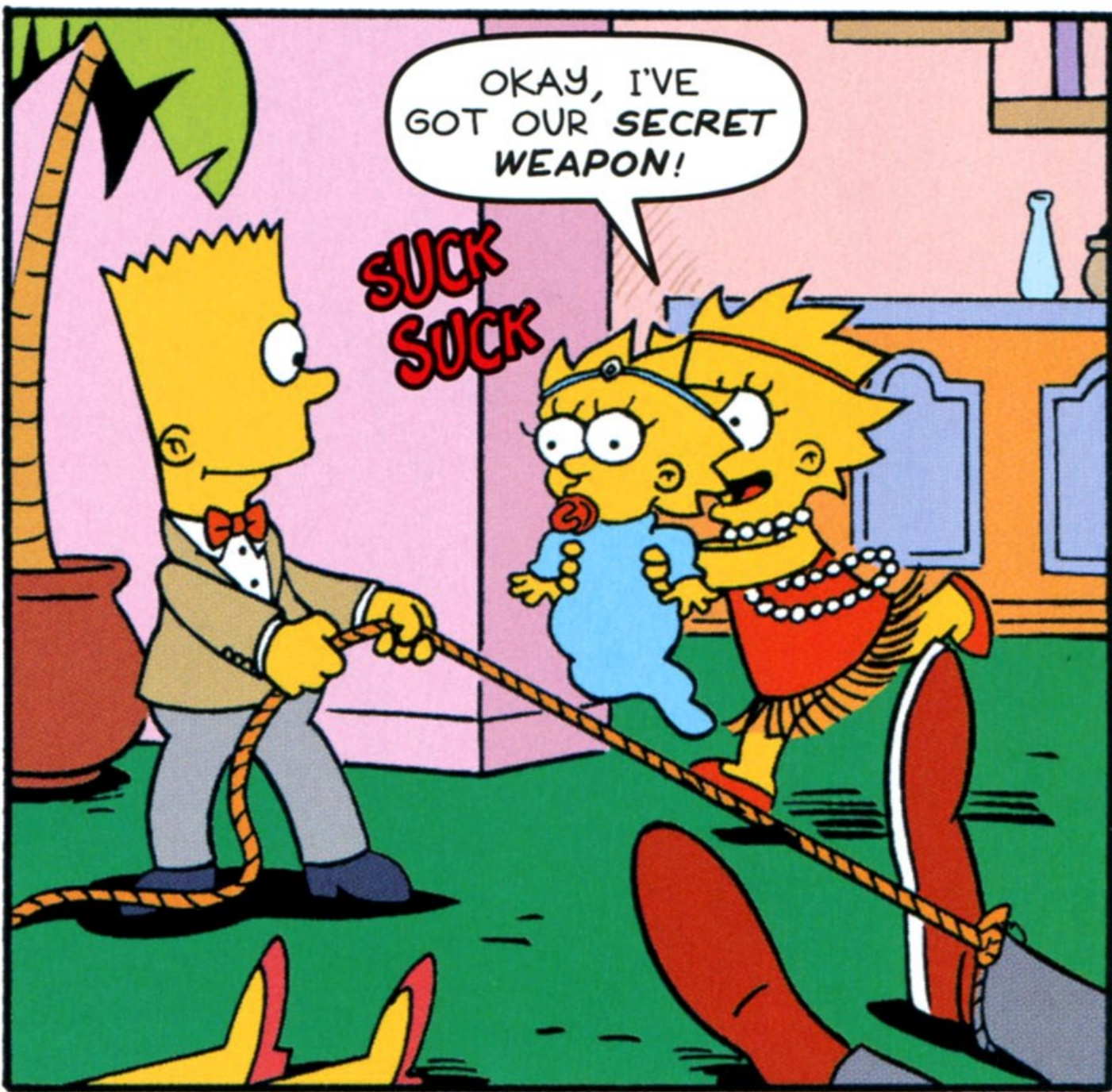
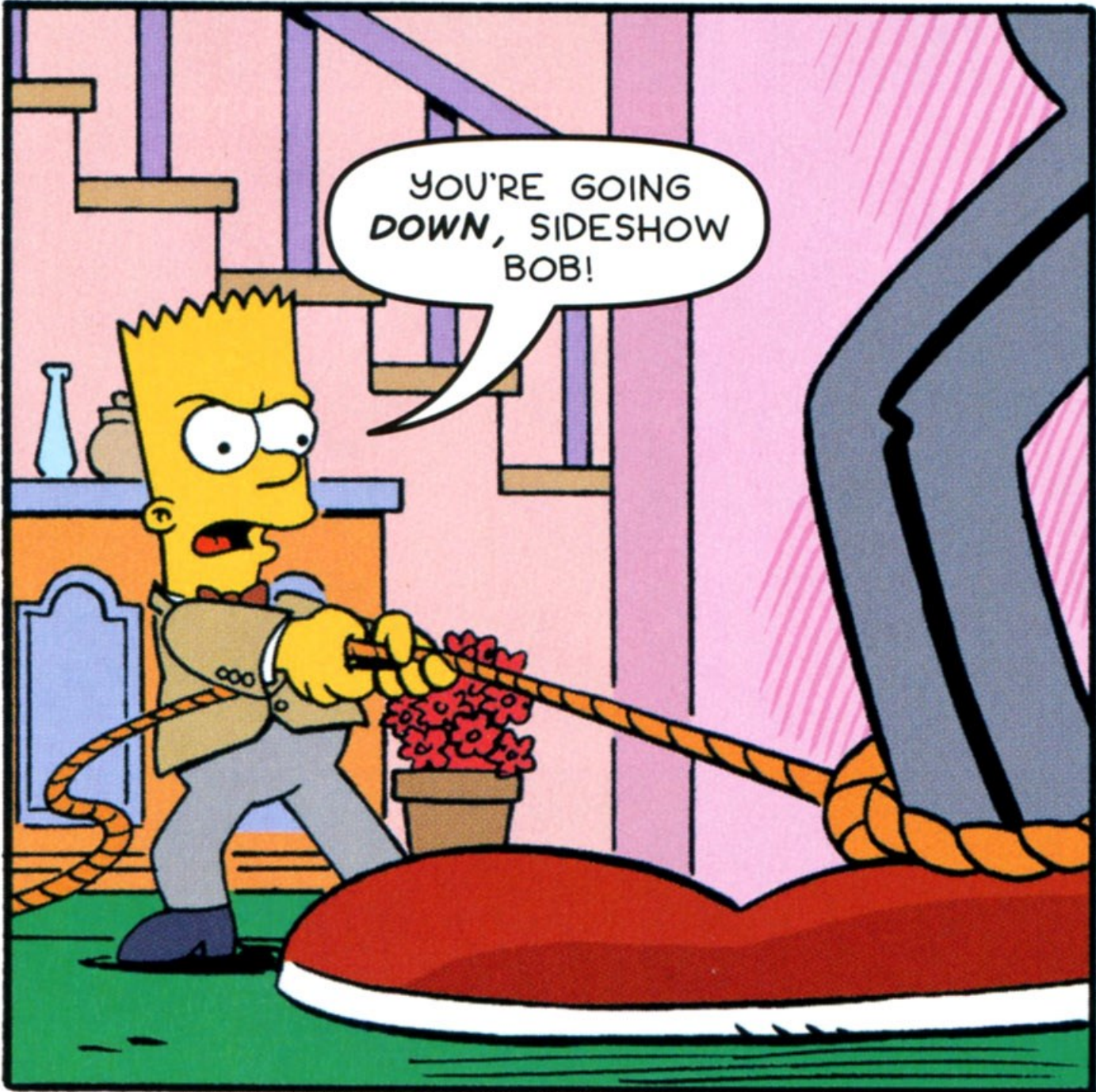


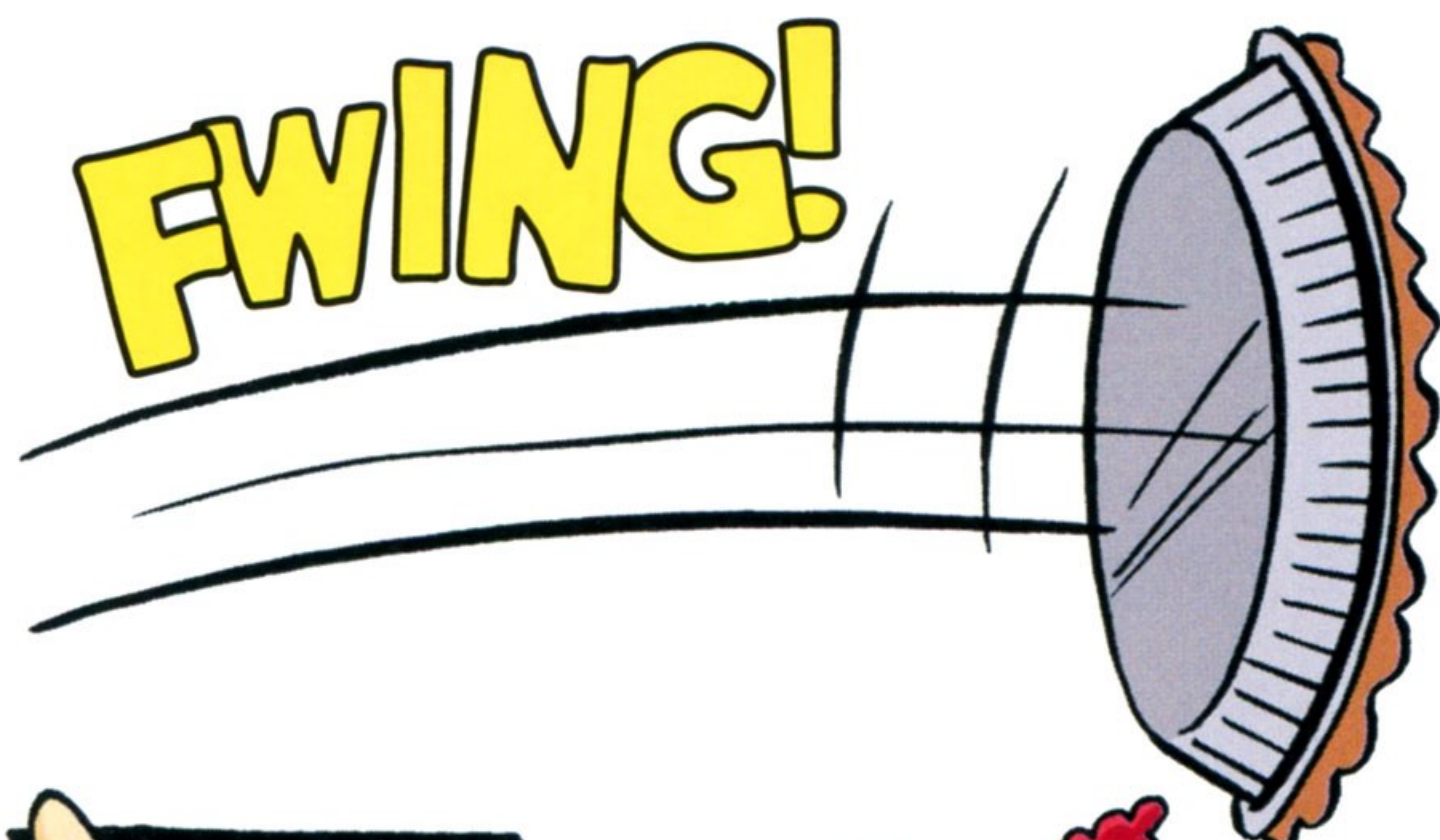
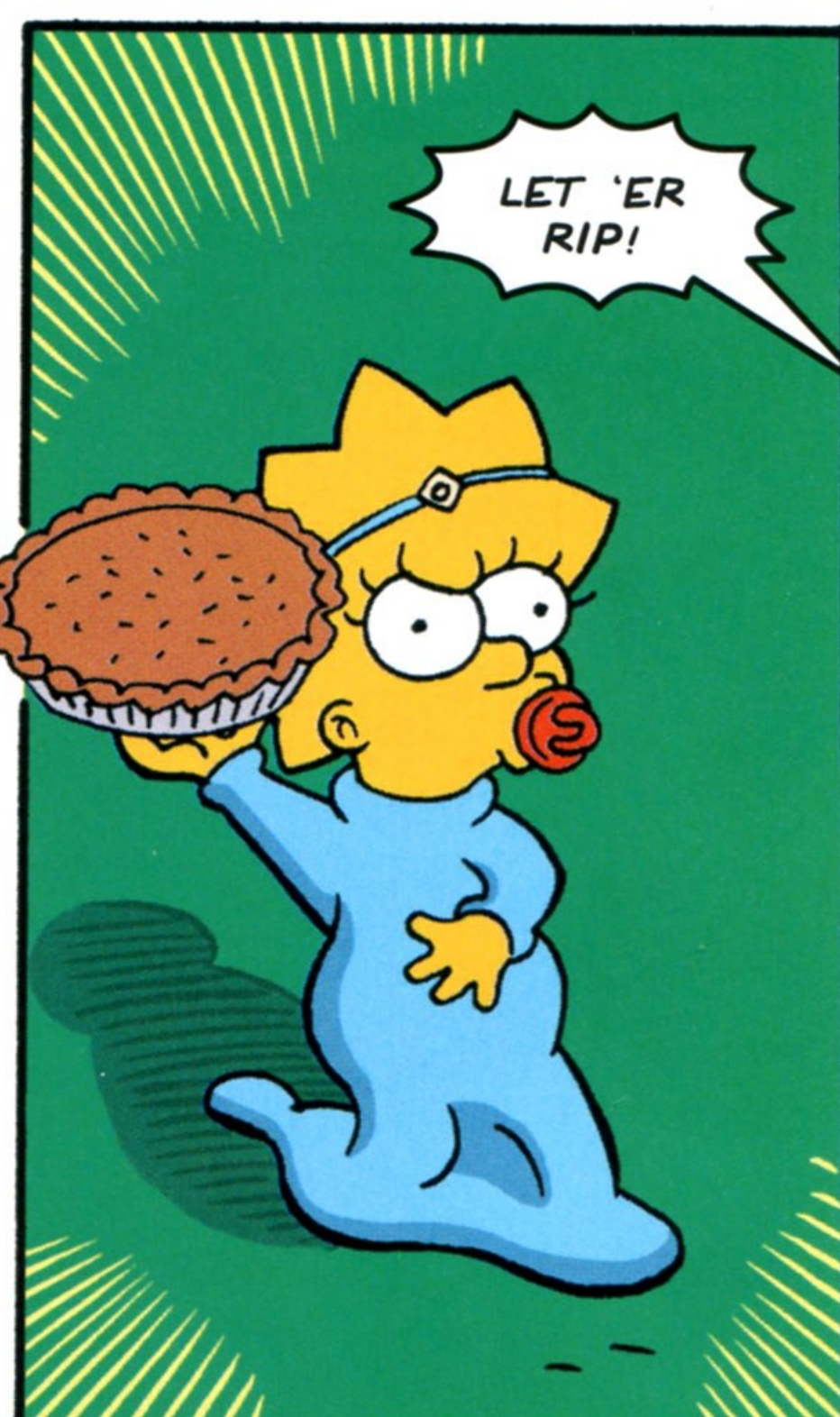


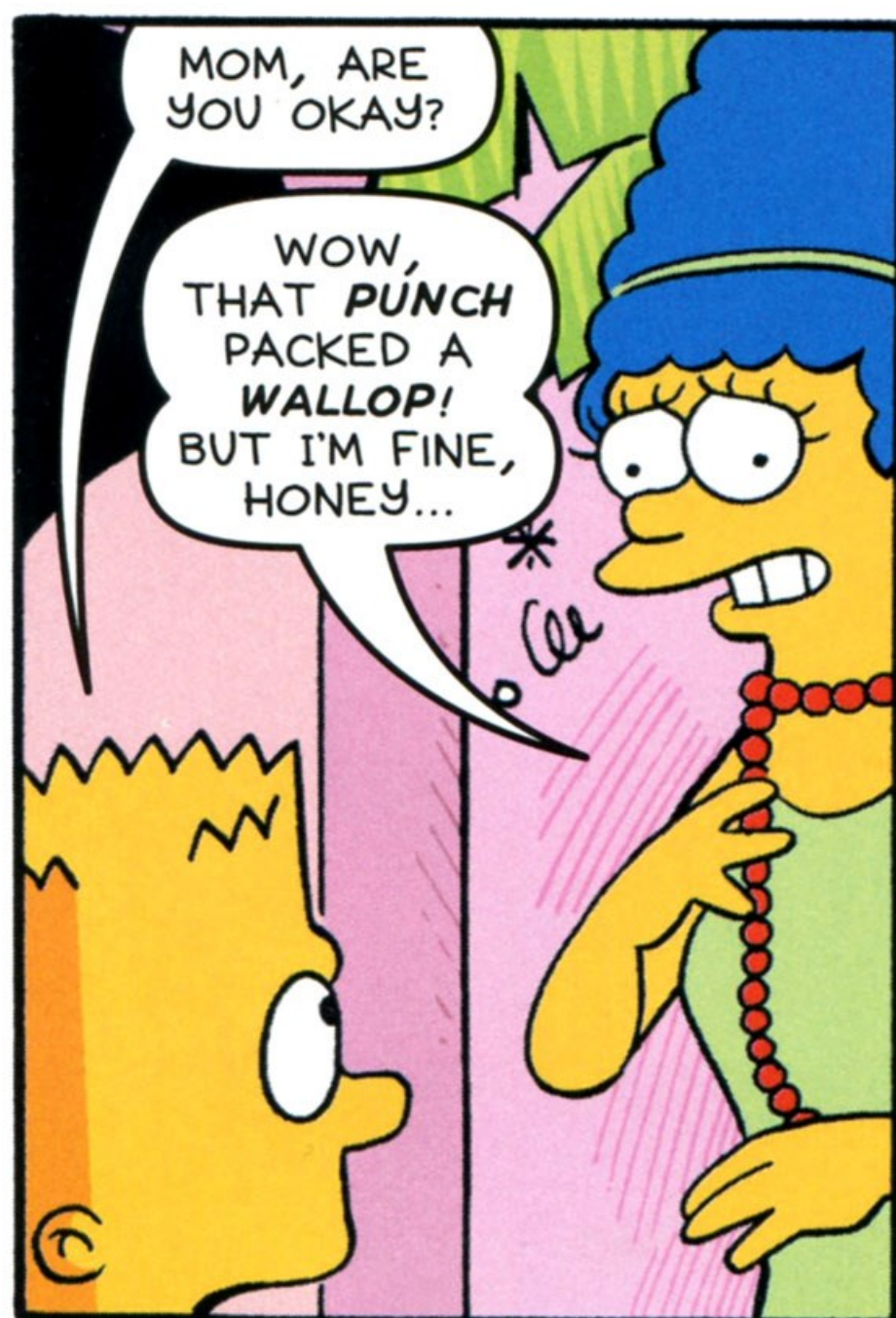


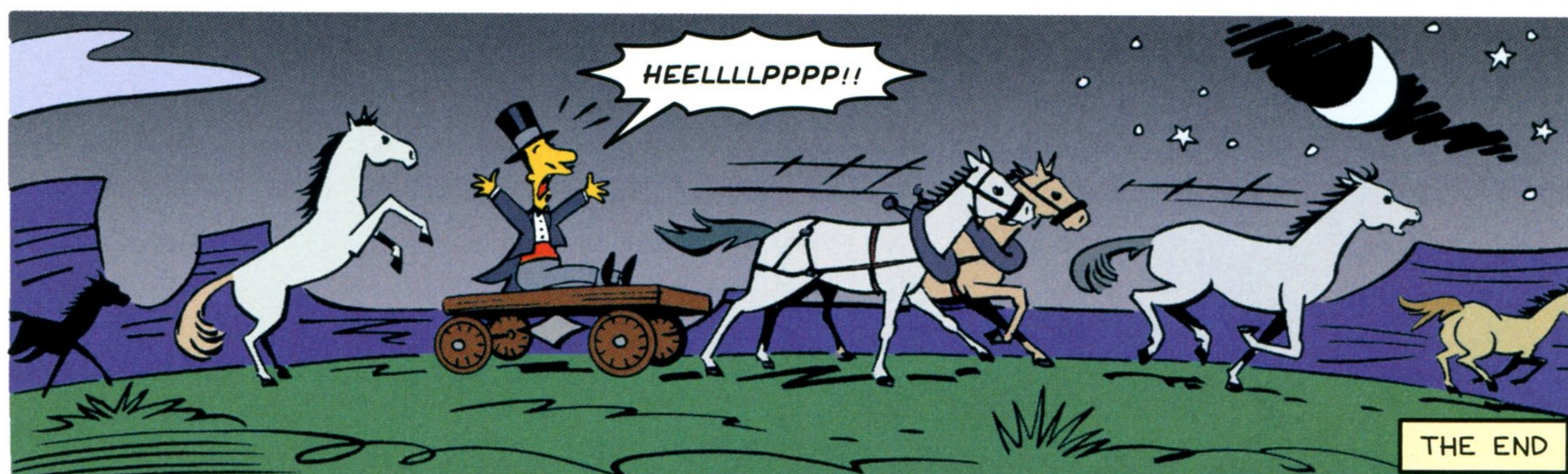














THE BONGO BEAT

by Louis Lane

TAKE COVER!

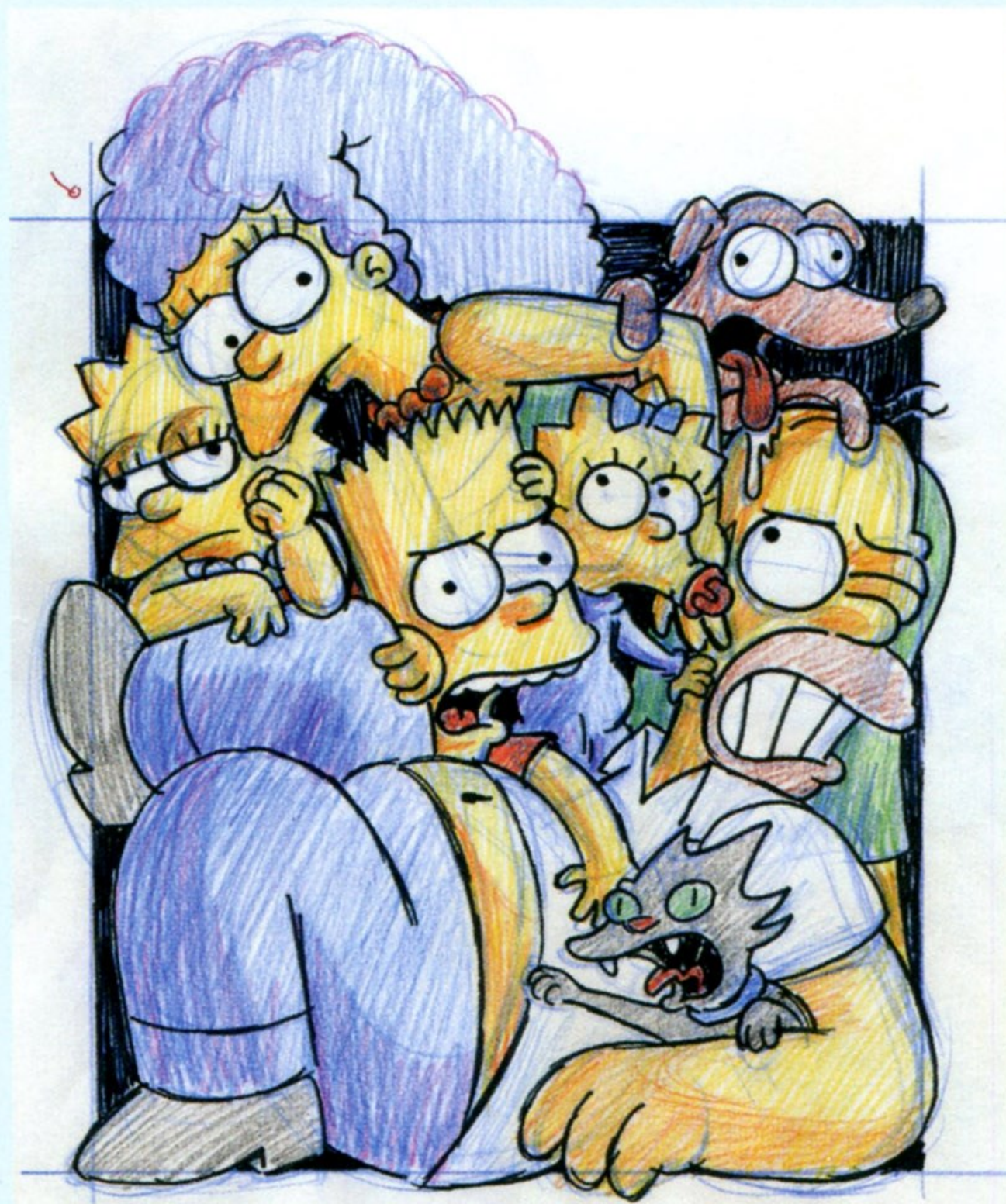
Hello once again, Bongoheads! Louis Lane here, bringing to you those hypnotizing rhythms of the ol' Bongo Beat. This month, I thought I'd share a bit of the inner workings here at "Casa de Groening." A lot of people wonder just how we create all the awesome cover art you see every month. Let me tell you, it's no small task. To meet all our deadlines, there's a lot of inspiration, perspiration, and no room for hesitation. Allow me to use the cover to *Simpsons Comics* #199 as an example.

It all begins when Bongo artist extraordinaire Jason Ho reads that issue's script and brainstorms a few ideas. For this cover, he thought the idea of the family crowded together in a storage unit was the way to go.



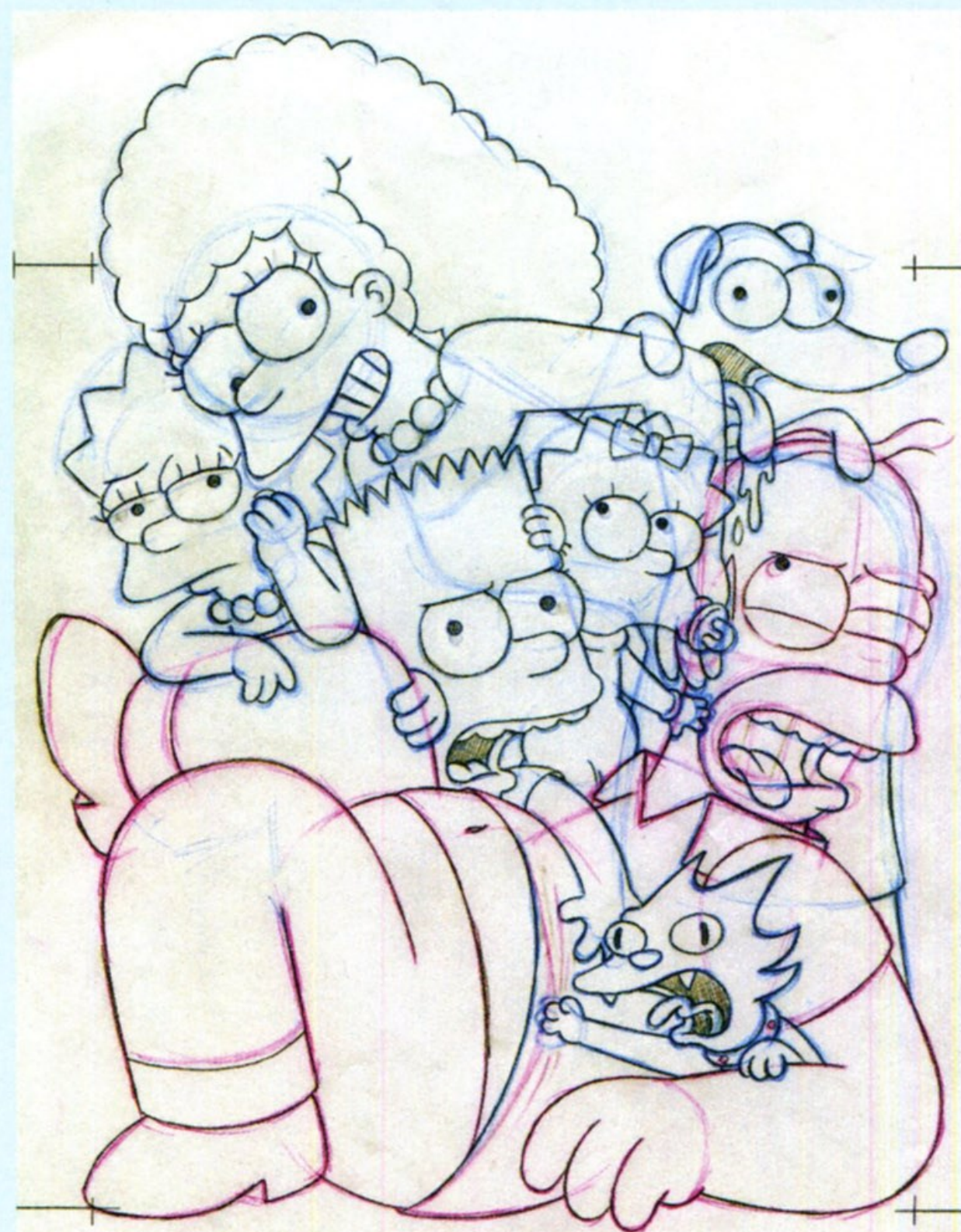
The Thumbnail Concept

Nathan Kane, our Creative Director, loved the idea, but he wanted to explore other character poses. Jason took it back to the drawing board (literally!) and returned with a beautiful color comp. Talk about putting in some extra effort!



The Rough Comp

After the comp was approved, the work began on the final pencils. In this stage the drawing and expressions are fine-tuned. Can you spot the differences? If so, you may have a future as an overpaid art director!



The Pencil Clean-Up

The completed pencils are then turned over to Mike Rote, Bongo's "Botticelli of the brush." We think Mike's ink line is unparalleled in the comic biz. Whether it's his dedication to technique or his cybertronic implants, we're not sure.



Finished Inks

Lastly, the piece is given to Nathan Kane for what he calls a complete "Coloronomy." Core shadows, color holds, reflected light, and key lines are all terms he uses that I don't understand. Anyway, he swears they're all in there! Oh, yeah...and he added the door for the family to peer out from under.



Final Art

So there you have it! Our covers are a perfect example of the collective effort and teamwork that goes into producing each and every Bongo comic. From our remarkable writers to our amenable artists, everyone involved is bringing their best work to the table. So fasten your seatbelts, 'cause Bongo's got plenty more in store for 2013 and beyond! We hope you'll enjoy the ride!

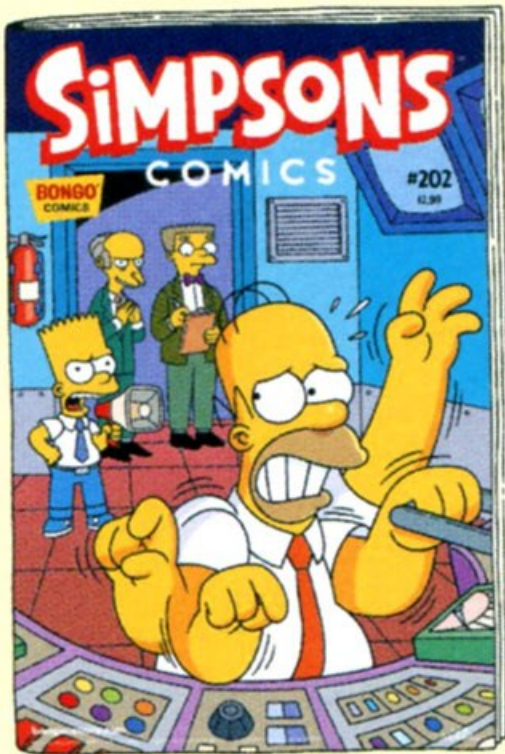
**HERE'S YOUR
BONGO
BONUS STAMP!
COLLECT
THEM ALL!
(YOU CAN'T REFUSE!)**



NEXT ISSUE!

SIMPSONS COMICS #202

Homer's lifelong dream of becoming his own boss comes true at last, but his new boss is a lot harder on him than he ever imagined. And while it is all work and no play, Homer spends less time with his family, which becomes surprisingly difficult for both Bart and Grampa.



**BONGO
COMICS**

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PUBLISHER**

**Nathan Kane
CREATIVE DIRECTOR**

**Robert Zaugh
OPERATIONS**

**Serban Cristescu
SPECIAL PROJECTS**

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ASST. ART DIRECTOR**

**Art Villanueva
COLORS**

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**Christopher Ungar
PRODUCTION MGR.**

**Jason Ho
ART DIRECTOR**

**Karen Bates
ASST. EDITOR**

**Nathan Hamill
COLORS**

**Pete Benson
COORDINATOR**

**Louis Lane
INTERN**

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Do you have a question? A query? A quixotic conundrum? We've got your answers to all things Bongo and more! Send your letters, artistic renderings, photos, and whatnot to: JUNK MAIL, Bongo Comics Group, P.O. Box 1963, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1963, or contact us online at bongoheads@bongocomics.com. If you wish to have your letter or artwork published in our comics, you need to include the following statement in your letter or attached to your artwork: "For consideration for publication in Bongo Comics. I agree if you publish my submission it becomes your property." and sign your name. Unfortunately, because we require your signature, we cannot publish emails at this time. (That instruction comes courtesy of our watchful legal eagles.)

SIMPSONS COMICS FOREVER

Greetings Bongoheads!

I'm writing this letter as I watch "The Simpsons" on TV and reading *Simpsons Comics* #198. Getting close to issue #200. Very exciting! Love how you guys have brought in different artists and let them draw Our Favorite Family in their own vision. Keeps everything fresh. Here's to 200 more issues, which by my calculations will be in 16 years and 8 months. See y'all then!

P.S. Love the stamps!

Cesar Barajas
San Diego, CA



Art by Cesar Barajas

Thanks, Cesar! We're glad you like our different artists and writers, because we're excited to showcase their work. Keep your eyes out for upcoming stories by a whole plethora of new talent (in addition to all of our Bongo mainstays).

What do you say we start the official countdown to *Simpsons Comics* #400? Boy, do we have something crazy planned for that issue. (SPOILER

ALERT: It involves beaming the comic book right into your brain!)

Louis Lane

MAKE WAY FOR BONGO

Hi! My name is Bongo. (Really!) I'm a 6th grader in Spokane. I love your comics, especially *Ralph Wiggum* and *Bart Simpson*! I hope to hear back from you soon!

Bongo Thompson
Spokane, WA

Bongo! We meet at last! And if we ever meet in person, I might have to ask for your autograph. Thanks for the letter! I have a question for you: What's it like being the kid on the playground with the coolest name?

LL

BIRTHDAY Q AND A

I am 8 years old and I was watching the episode "The Dad Who Knew Too Little." It shows Lisa's birthday. I have 5 questions. 1) When is Lisa's birthday? 2) When is Bart's birthday? 3) When is Homer's birthday? 4) When is Marge's birthday? 5) How old is Marge? That's all. Thank you!

Wishing the Simpsons a happy birthday,

Jesse Nathan
Rhinebeck, NY

Lisa was born on May 9. Bart was born on April 1. When Homer was born the headline on the *Springfield Shopper* read: "Unusually Large, Ugly Baby Born." I'll let you hunt down that newspaper and check the date. Marge shares a birthday with Randy Quaid: October 1. Marge is the same age as Homer.

LL

OTTO ON DEMAND

I am a huge Simpsons fan, and I love the comics! My favorite character is Otto. Unfortunately, he's barely in any comics! Please put Otto in more comics and/or do an Otto Man comic book! Can you at least put my drawing of him in a comic?

P.S. Who is Otto's favorite band?

Elio Bortolin
San Mateo, CA

If we ever put out an Otto One-Shot Wonder, it will have to be at least half as awesome as your artwork, Elio! Now that we know the legions of Otto fans are out there, we'll do what we can to feature him in more comics.

As for his favorite band...? Otto loves The Who, particularly their song "Magic Bus."

LL



Art by Elio Bortolin

Can't get enough Bongo Comics? We've got you covered. Like us on Facebook to share your thoughts, post a review, and chat with the Bongo Bigwigs! Fun stuff added all the time, so come see what everyone's talking about!



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