LATE NIGHT COMICS NL

SMILE, IT CONFUSES PEOPLE.

STRIP 2

FIRST JOB AT ZANDVOORT

ZANDVOORT →

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Córdoba

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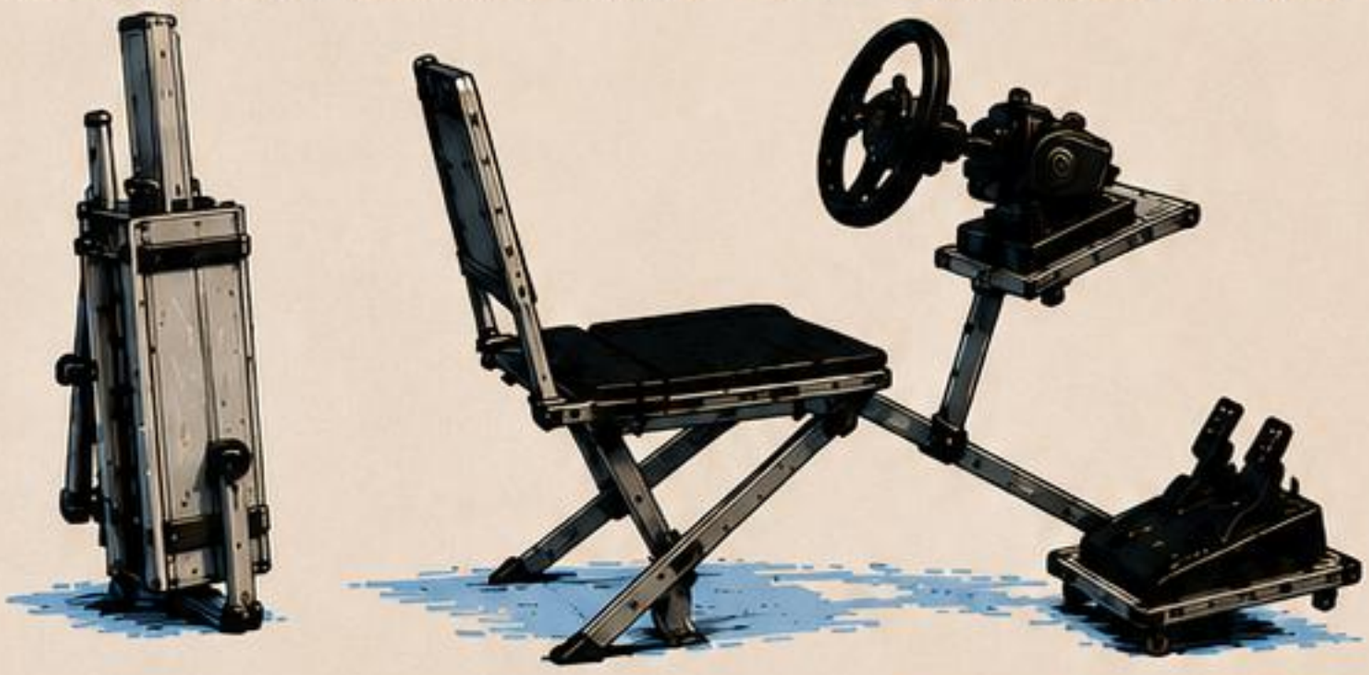
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LATE NIGHT COMICS - STRIP 2



MY MEMORIES, JUST AS I EXPERIENCED THEM

IN 2002, I DECIDED TO GET INTO SIMULATION. I CAME FROM THE GAMES INDUSTRY. THE BUSINESS I WAS IN WAS FALLING APART AS PLAYSTATION AND XBOX TOOK OFF. BUT ANYWAY, ROB WAS ON HIS WAY — AND I WAS GETTING INTO SIMULATION.



MY FIRST SIMULATOR WAS A GAMESHOPPER. IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT THE GAMESHOPPER WAS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE. THEN I GOT A JOB FROM CODEMASTERS. I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT ONE.

I WAS ASKED TO SET UP SIMULATORS AT THE DTM IN ZANDVOORT, IN THE SILVER MERCEDES PADDOCK, AS A GIFT FOR MERCEDES TO PROMOTE THE DTM GAME.





I ARRIVED AT ZANDVOORT EARLY IN THE MORNING AND HAD TO REPORT TO THE SILVER AMG PADDOCK IN THE AUDI S-BEND. THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL HOSPITALITY TENT THERE, TWO STOREYS HIGH.



IN THE DISTANCE, I SPOTTED DTM CHAMPION BERND SCHNEIDER'S CAR — SO I KNEW I WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.



I HAD TO REPORT IN, SO I WALKED INSIDE, WHERE THIS SERIOUSLY BIG GUY WAS STANDING. HE MUST HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO TWO METRES TALL. I INTRODUCED MYSELF AND, IN MY BEST GERMAN, EXPLAINED THAT I WAS THERE TO SET UP THE SIMULATORS ON BEHALF OF CODEMASTERS FOR MERCEDES NETHERLANDS. HE SAID NO, THAT WASN'T GOING TO HAPPEN. THAT COULDN'T BE RIGHT. I WAS ACTUALLY STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE NERVOUS.

AND YES, I BACKED OFF. THIS WAS MY VERY FIRST JOB IN THAT WHOLE CIRCUS AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BE RUDE. BUT I HAD THE NAME AND NUMBER OF MY CONTACT AT MERCEDES NL, SO I GAVE HIM A CALL. THE MAN SAID: WAIT THERE, I'LL BE THERE IN FIVE MINUTES.

THAT MAN WAS A GOOD HEAD SHORTER THAN THE GERMAN. THEY HAD A FAIRLY HEATED LITTLE DISCUSSION, SHALL WE SAY, AND THEN HE GAVE ME A WAVE TO COME OVER. AND THAT WAS IT — I WAS ALLOWED IN.



THEN HE SAID: "ROB, OVER THERE IN THE CORNER, BEHIND BERND'S CAR, YOU CAN SET UP TWO SIMULATORS."

FOUR SIMULATORS HAD BEEN ORDERED, BUT WITH A SMILE HE SAID: "BUILD THEM AND THEY'LL BE THERE FOR THE WEEKEND." AND JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS USHERED INSIDE.

AND THAT GERMAN — THE ONE FROM BEFORE — SAID: "WE'VE GOT ROOM FOR YOU HERE." AND THEN HE STARTED HELPING ME. REALLY NICE GUY.

AT FIRST HE'D BEEN VERY CLEAR THAT I WASN'T ALLOWED IN. AFTER THAT, HE WAS JUST AS CLEAR THAT I WAS WELCOME. SO THAT WAS COOL.

WE STARTED SETTING UP THE MACHINES. WELL, THEY WEREN'T REALLY MACHINES, HAHA. THEY WERE SEATS WITH A STEERING WHEEL AND PEDALS ATTACHED. AND AS FAR AS WE COULD ADJUST THEM, THAT WAS ABOUT IT. IN FRONT OF EACH ONE WAS A WIDESCREEN TV. WITH A GAMES CONSOLE, WE COULD THEN PLAY DTM RACE DRIVER.

WE COULDN'T EVEN RACE AGAINST EACH OTHER. THESE DAYS EVERYTHING IS NETWORKED, BUT BACK THEN IT WASN'T. THERE WASN'T EVEN A NETWORK FUNCTION. BUT NEVER MIND — WE WERE GOING DTM RACING.

THOSE SEATS WERE THERE, SO WE DID A BIT OF TESTING.



ZANDVOORT 2002



AND THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, DTM DRIVER PATRICK HUISMAN WAS STANDING BEHIND ME.
HE SAID, "MAY I?"
SO HE SAT DOWN, CHOSE HIS OWN CAR AND DROVE A FEW LAPS.



THEN UWE ALZEN CAME OVER AND WANTED TO TAKE ON PATRICK.
SO THE RACE WAS ON. AND I'LL NEVER FORGET PATRICK'S TEAM MANAGER
HAVING TO PULL HIM OUT OF THE SEAT BECAUSE HE HAD TO GO TO PRACTICE.

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, THE DRIVERS WERE PLAYING AND
THE HOSPITALITY GUESTS WERE QUEUING UP.



THE GUESTS COULD ALL HAVE A GO AS WELL, YOUNG AND OLD, THREE-PIECE SUIT OR RED JEANS. IT DIDN'T MATTER, BECAUSE EVERYONE GOT OUT WITH A BIG SMILE ON THEIR FACE. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.







P. HUISMAN JR. WANTS TO FOLLOW IN DAD'S FOOTSTEPS.

THIS EVENT PROVED THAT THE GAMESHOPPER WAS A UNIQUE DESIGN IN 2002. ITS SIMPLICITY AND VERSATILITY SPOKE FOR THEMSELVES, ENQUIRIES STARTED COMING IN, AND EVEN THE PRICE TAG WAS UNIQUE.

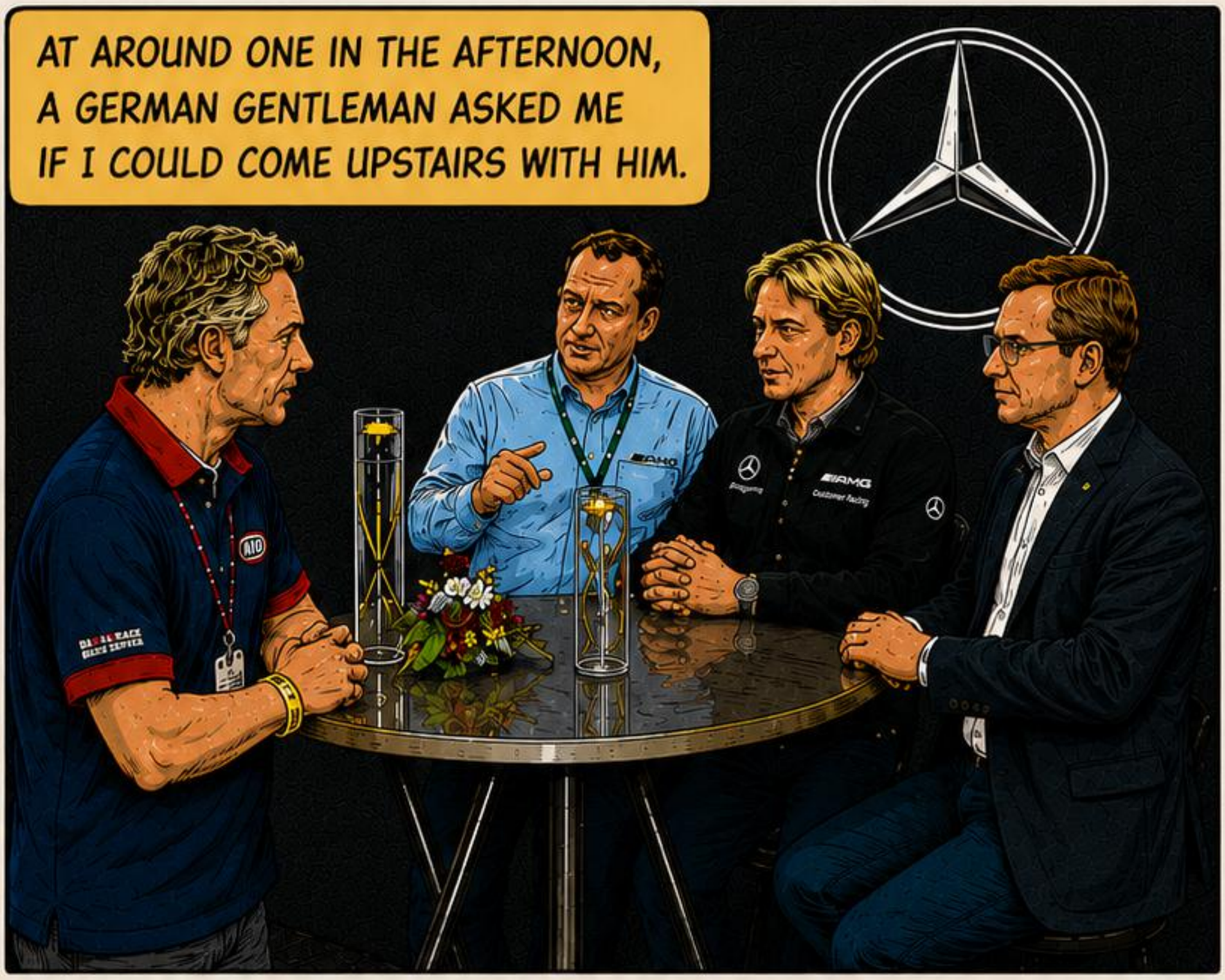
FORMULA 3 WAS PART OF THE DTM SUPPORT PROGRAMME, AND NICO ROSBERG WAS RACING IN IT. HE SOON FOUND HIS WAY OVER AND IMMEDIATELY STARTED ADJUSTING THE SETTINGS.



DUNCAN HUISMAN JOINED IN, AND THE GUESTS WERE HAPPY ENOUGH WITH ONE SCREEN – BUT WITH TWO DRIVERS SIDE BY SIDE, THEY COULD EVEN SEE EACH OTHER'S SECTOR TIMES!



ONLY MUCH LATER YOU REALISE JUST WHO HAD BEEN SITTING IN YOUR CRAZY LITTLE SEAT THAT WEEKEND.



WORD HAD OBVIOUSLY GOT AROUND THAT THINGS WERE GOING REALLY WELL AT ZANDVOORT, AND THEY ASKED WHETHER WE COULD SUPPLY TWO SIMS FOR THE FINAL RACE IN AMG HOSPITALITY AT HOCKENHEIIM AND WHETHER WE WOULD ALSO COME TO STARS & CARS IN STUTTGART WITH SIX SIMS IN THE MUSEUM.

AROUND 60,000 MERCEDES-BENZ FANS CAME THERE EVERY YEAR.

SO WE HAD TO TALK PRICE STRAIGHT AWAY, AND HOW MANY PEOPLE WE WOULD BRING.

THEY WANTED A DISCOUNT.
THAT WAS FINE — BUT ONLY FOR
A MULTI-YEAR DEAL.

AND THAT WAS THAT.

THE DEAL WAS FOR THREE YEARS: THE FIRST AND LAST RACE OF THE SEASON AT HOCKENHEIM, AND STARS & CARS IN STUTTGART.

IT WAS ALL AGREED THERE AND THEN, AND WITH THE HELP OF MERCEDES NETHERLANDS, CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE MERCEDES-BENZ AMG TEAM.

AT THE END OF THE WEEKEND, THE MAN FROM MERCEDES CAME OVER TO ME WITH A MESSAGE:

THIS WEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME AT THE OFFICE IN UTRECHT, BECAUSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO AMG AT HOCKENHEIM, YOU'RE NOT GOING IN THAT OLD SMOKING FORD OF YOURS. THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A GOOD ADVERT FOR MERCEDES NETHERLANDS!

Den Haag 52 km

Hockenheim 532 km

Courier

VR-TP-12

3 WEEKS LATER!

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THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING...

COMING SOON:

MY FIRST JOB AT HOCKENHEIM!

DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THESE ADVENTURES?
CLICK THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUTTONS ON THE NEXT PAGE!

HI READER,

I'M ROB AND I'VE RECENTLY TAKEN UP A NEW HOBBY: MAKING COMICS. I THINK EVERYONE HAS THINGS THEY GET REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT. FOR ME, IT STARTED AT A YOUNG AGE WITH CHESS AND COMIC BOOKS. THEN CAME MY LOVE OF TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, THE SOUND OF ENGINES, THE SMELL OF PETROL AND BURNING RUBBER. AND BEFORE LONG, MOTORSPORT BECAME PART OF MY LIFE TOO.

IN THE EARLY NINETIES, WHEN I MOVED TOWARDS THE HAGUE, I FOUND MY WAY INTO THE WORLD OF SIMULATION THROUGH THE GAMES INDUSTRY. I MADE A LOT OF GREAT CONTACTS, MET SOME REMARKABLE PEOPLE AND, ABOVE ALL, HAD SOME WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES. THEN I FOUND MYSELF AT HOME, WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS AND NO LONGER ALLOWED TO DRIVE. MY RADIUS WENT FROM UNLIMITED MOBILITY TO LIMITED MOBILITY ON A SCOOTER. THAT'S NOT A DISASTER — UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAPPENS TO MORE PEOPLE. BUT YOUR WORLD AND YOUR SOCIAL LIFE DO BECOME SMALLER.

SO I STARTED LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO KEEP MY MIND BUSY. AT FIRST I WAS MOSTLY JUST BORED. UNTIL I THOUGHT: WHY NOT TURN ALL THOSE STORIES INTO COMICS?

AS A CHILD I DEVOURED THEM. MICHEL VAILLANT, ASTÉRIX & OBÉLIX, DAN COOPER, SUPERMAN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR — YOU NAME IT. I'VE READ HUNDREDS OF THEM. AND SUDDENLY, ALONGSIDE ALL THOSE OLD PASSIONS, SOMETHING NEW APPEARED: MAKING COMICS.

NOT BECAUSE I THINK THE WORLD IS DESPERATELY WAITING FOR MY LIFE STORY. I'M DOING THIS FIRST AND FOREMOST FOR MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

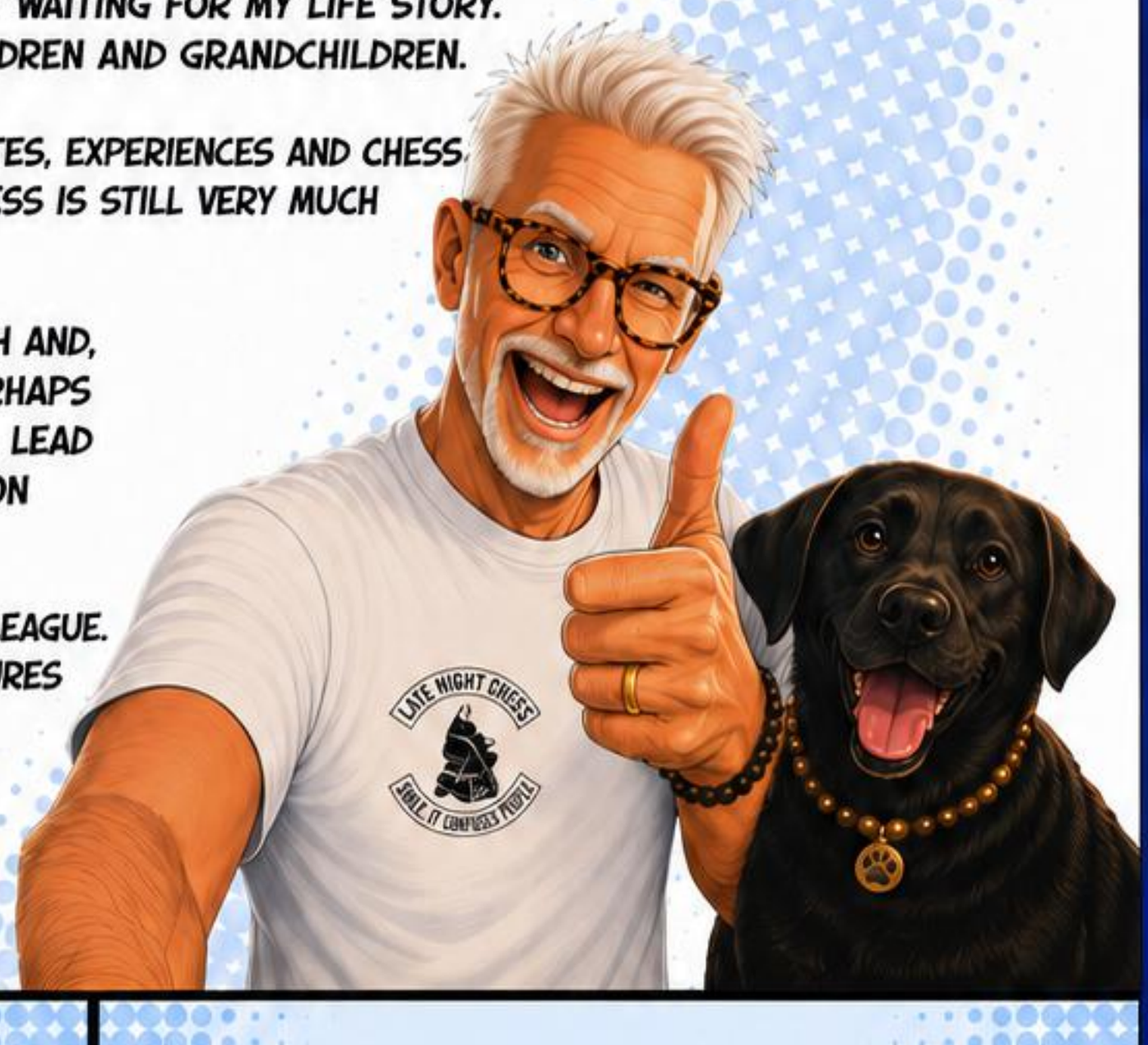
I'LL BE MAKING ALL SORTS OF COMICS, WITH ANECDOTES, EXPERIENCES AND CHESS GAMES YET TO BE PLAYED. BECAUSE, OF COURSE, CHESS IS STILL VERY MUCH PART OF IT.

I WANT TO FIND PEOPLE ONLINE TO PLAY CHESS WITH AND, ABOVE ALL, HAVE A GOOD CONVERSATION WITH. PERHAPS THOSE NEW ENCOUNTERS, GAMES AND STORIES WILL LEAD TO NEW COMICS. FOLLOW LATE NIGHT CHESS NL ON THE SOCIALS BELOW!

AI HAS NOW BECOME MY SLIGHTLY ODD INTERNET COLLEAGUE. TOGETHER, WE TURN MY MEMORIES AND NEW ADVENTURES INTO THESE COMICS.

BELOW YOU'LL FIND ALL MY NEW COMICS AND YOU CAN FOLLOW MY CHESS GAMES.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS COMIC





LATE NIGHT CHESS

ENJOYED READING ALONG? THEN JUST FOLLOW ME!