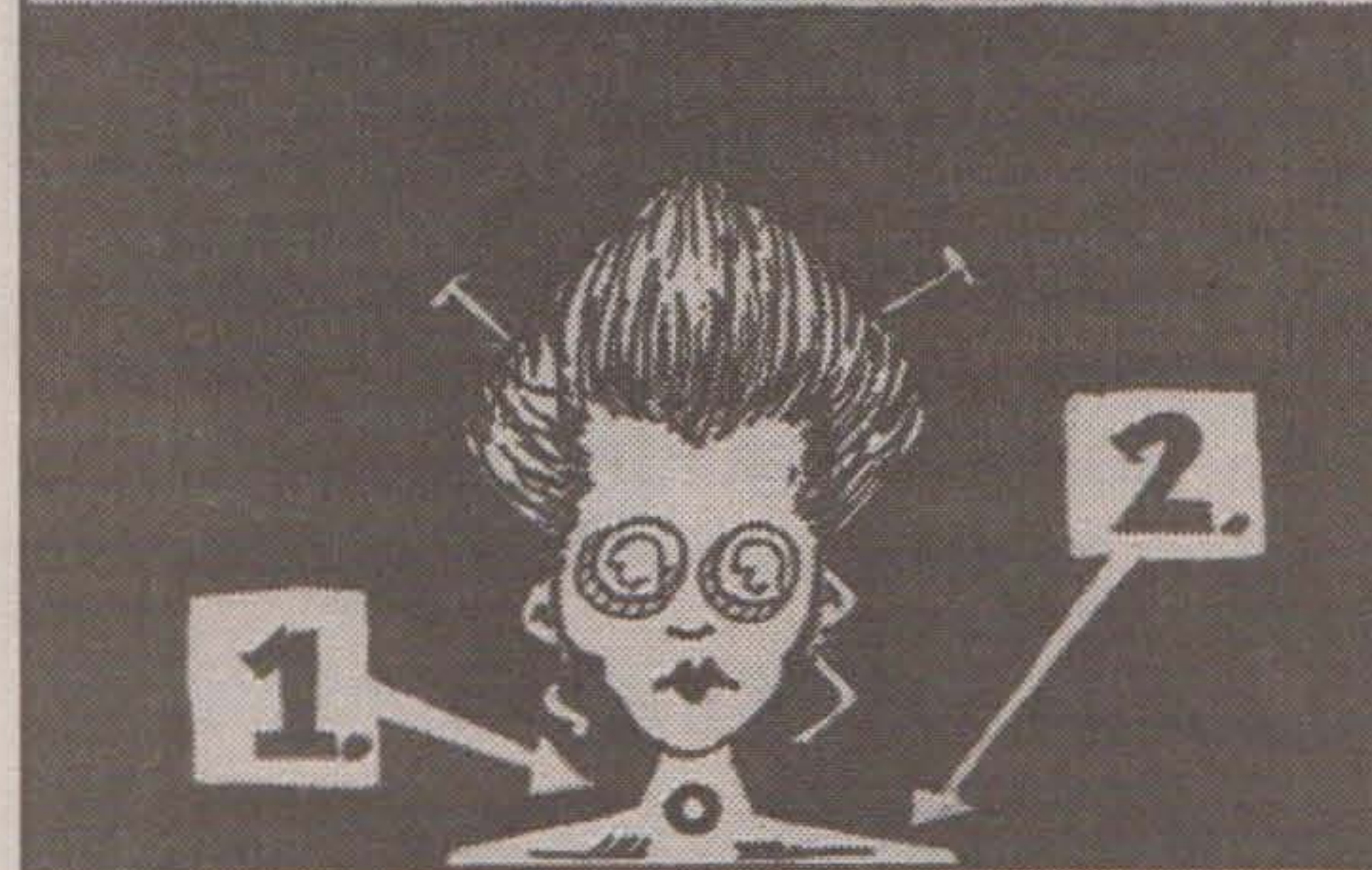


EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! DR. WILLIAM DEERFOOT KILLS HIS WIFE IN FRONT LAWN SHOOTOUT! HE SAYS SHE SHOT FIRST, BUT HE ESCAPES UNHARMED! DEERFOOT TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER! READ ALL ABOUT IT IN:

IA. Confidential

ALL INFO FROM THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1913 ISSUES OF THE IOWA CITY DAILY PRESS


THE AUTOPSY THE TESTIMONY THE EVIDENCE



1.

2.

CORONER C.K. HURD FOUND FOUR WOUNDS:
1-THE FATAL SHOT TO THE NECK. THE BULLET RICOCHETED OFF HER BROOCH, TRAVELLING STRAIGHT DOWN INTO MRS. DEERFOOT'S HEART.
2-INTO HER LEFT SHOULDER,



3.

4.

THROUGH BOTH LUNGS, AND STOPPING IN THE UPPER BACK.
3-SHOT TO LEFT SIDE, THROUGH BOTH LUNGS, OUT THE RIGHT SIDE, LODGING IN RIGHT ARM.
4-FLESH WOUND TO LEFT ARM.

LITTLE NETTIE EAGAN SAID: "I HEARD THREE OR FOUR SHOTS"

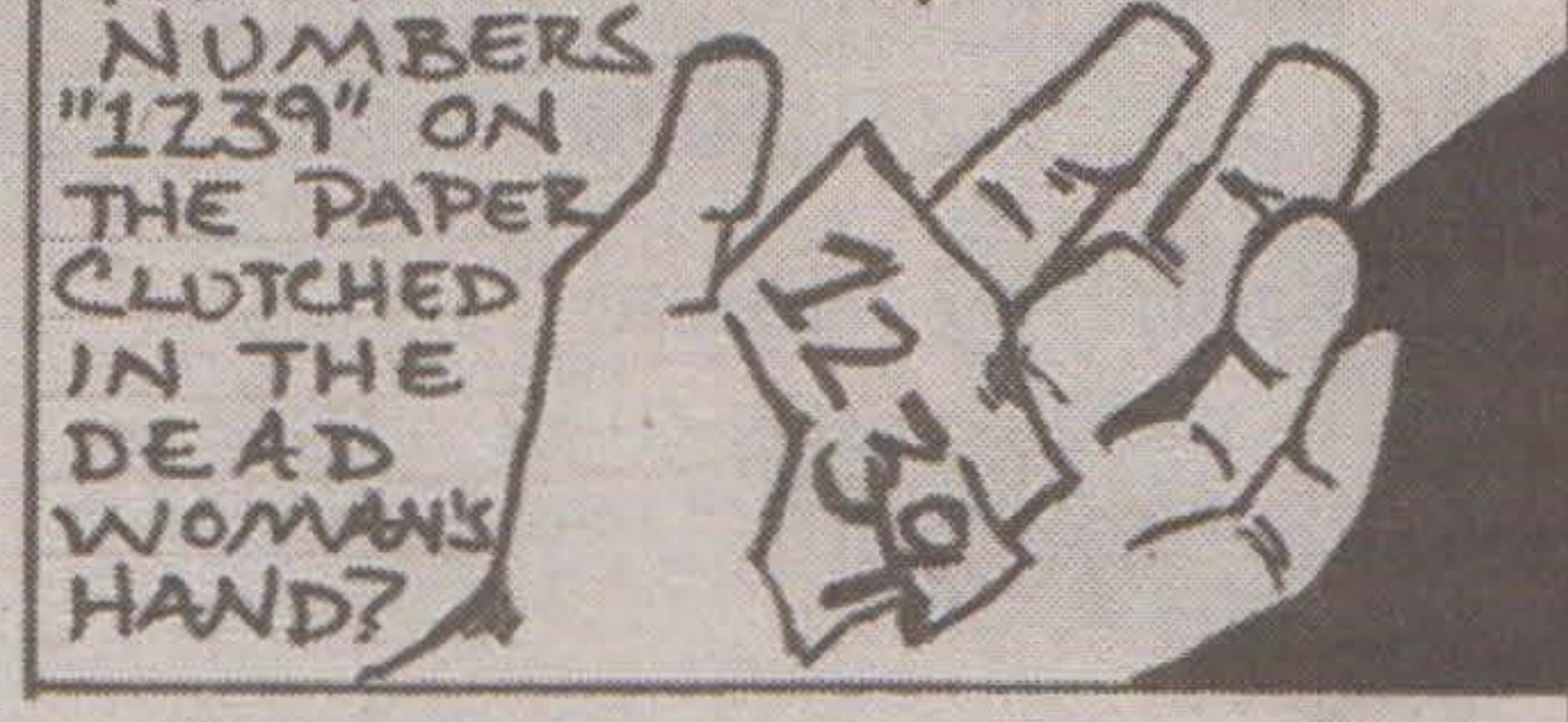
"SIX OR SEVEN SHOTS," CLAIMS JAMES GILL.

"SEVEN," POLLY SMITH TESTIFIED, "DEFINITELY SEVEN"

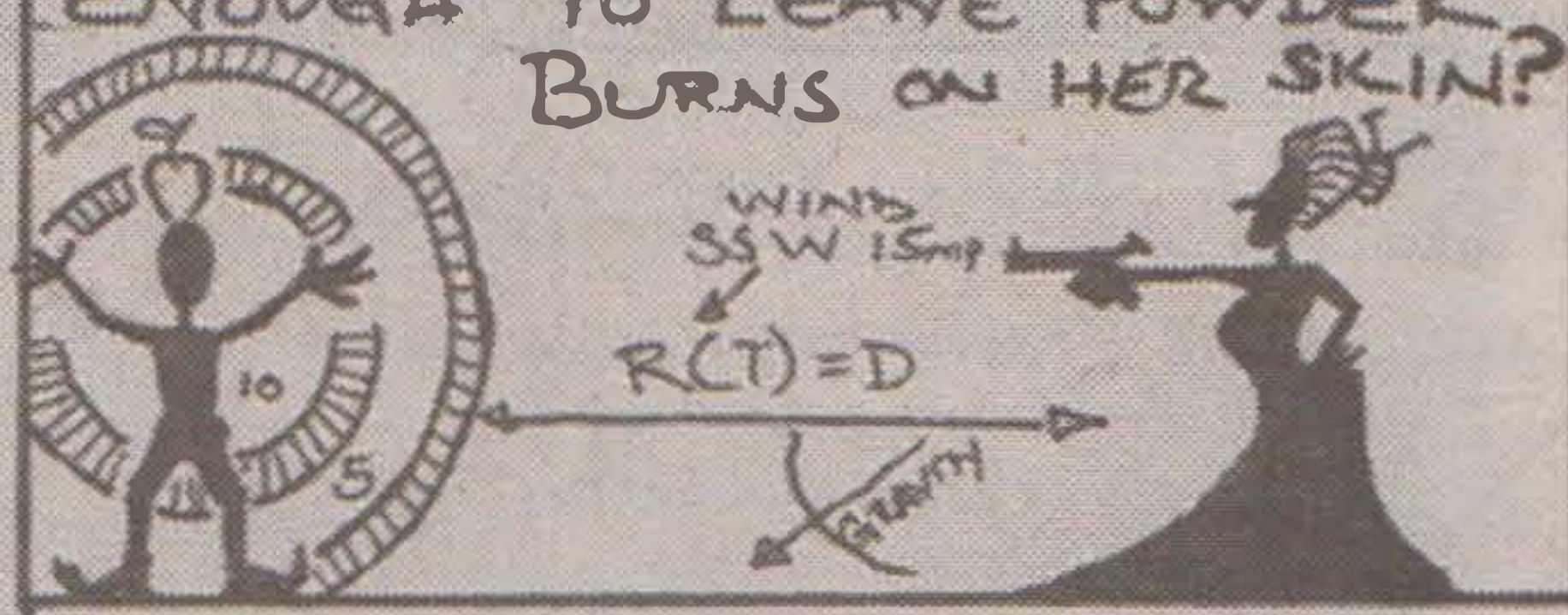
BUT MRS SWATCHUE HEARD "FIVE SHOTS-EXACTLY"

SO WHICH IS IT? WITH FOUR WOUNDS ON THE BODY, AT LEAST FOUR SHOTS HAD BEEN FIRED, BUT THE DOCTOR CLAIMED HIS WIFE FIRED THE THREE SHOTS FIRST, FOR A TOTAL OF SEVEN SHOTS, OR THREE SHOTS AND ONE "MAGIC BULLET."

SEVERAL MYSTERIOUS CLUES SURFACED-LIKE WHAT WAS THE MEANING OF THE NUMBERS "1239" ON THE PAPER CLUTCHED IN THE DEAD WOMAN'S HAND?




ALSO, MRS DEERFOOT HAD SPENT YEARS AS A SHARP-SHOOTER IN THE CARNIVAL, SO WHY DID SHE MISS ALL THREE SHOTS, ESPECIALLY IF HIS SHOTS WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO LEAVE POWDER BURNS ON HER SKIN?



AND WHY WAS FIREARMS EXPERT WESLEY KUBICHEK UNSURE IF THE DOCTOR'S GUN HAD RECENTLY BEEN FIRED AT ALL...

...OR IF IT WAS JUST DIRTY?



AND THOSE WERE THE FACTS IN THE SENSATIONAL 1913 MURDER TRIAL OF DR. WILLIAM DEERFOOT. COUNTY ATTORNEY W.R. HART LED THE PROSECUTION, ARGUING THAT DEERFOOT KILLED HIS WIFE-SHOOTING HER IN COLD BLOOD AND THEN LEAVING A GUN BY HER SIDE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SHE SHOT FIRST. THE MOTIVE? TO MAKE WAY FOR HIS MISTRESS. THE HONORABLE O.A. BYINGTON LED THE PLEA FOR SELF-DEFENSE: DR. DEERFOOT WAS "A MAN WHO DID NOT SLAY TO BE A MURDERER, BUT TO PRESERVE HIS OWN LIFE." FOR A MONTH THE TRIAL WAS THE BIGGEST SHOW IN TOWN, AND IT WAS A HUGE CROWD THAT CRAMMED THE COURT ON OCTOBER 4TH, 1913, WHEN THE JURY RETURNED WITH THEIR VERDICT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Adam Witte teaches at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, when he is not busy doodling and reading musty old

newspapers. The information in this comic comes from the September and October, 1913 issues of the Iowa City Daily Press,

and was gathered by an efficient and enticing reference librarian of the Iowa City Public Library.