

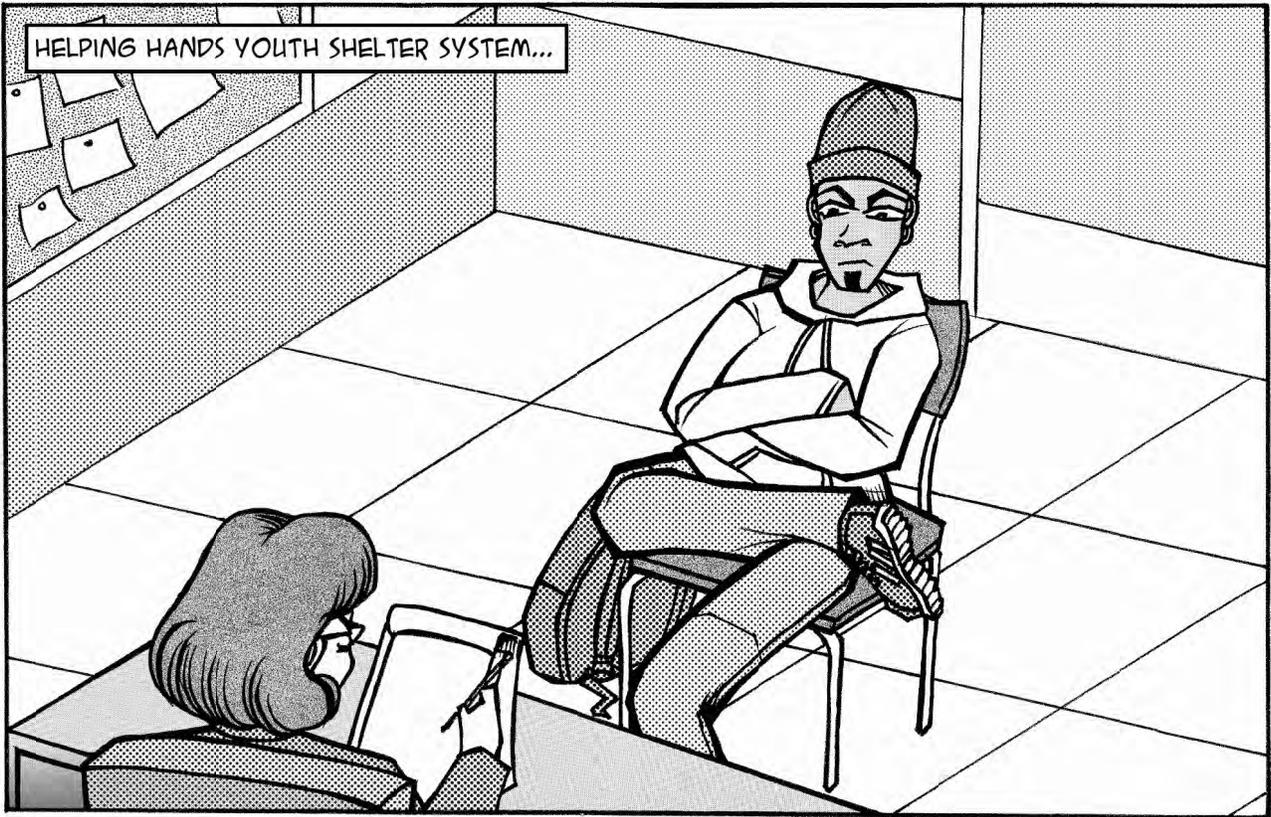
LONG WAY TO GO

Story: Layla Sunshine
Baby T
Orlando Foster

Art: Sarafin



HELPING HANDS YOUTH SHELTER SYSTEM...



WHY DON'T YOU
TELL ME WHY
YOU ARE HERE,
BRANDON?



URNS OUT MY MOM
LIKES HER ASSHOLE
HUSBAND BETTER
THAN ME. NOT THAT
I REALLY GIVE A SHIT.



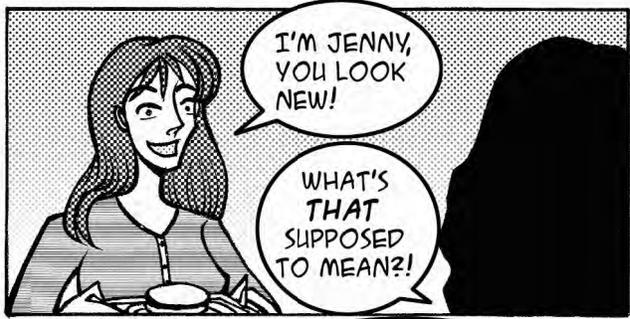
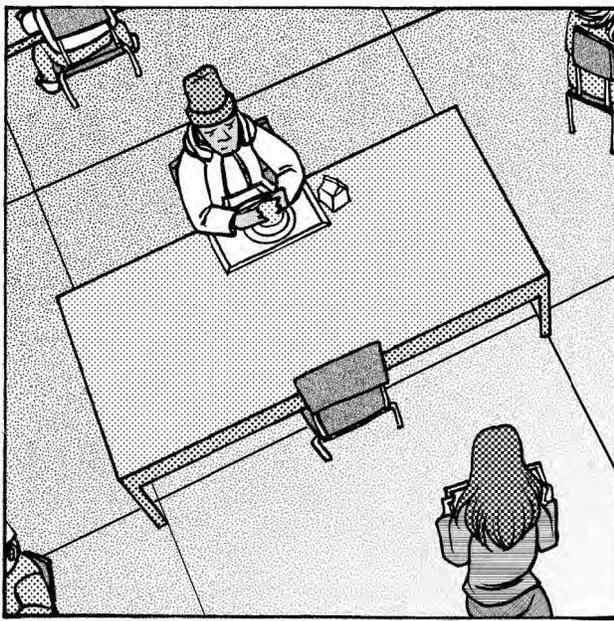
SO... I'LL BE
FINE, RIGHT?



ANGER MANAGEMENT



HERE'S SOME ADVICE.
DON'T BE WHIPPING OUT A WHOLE PACK AROUND HERE.
YOU AIN'T EVEN THAT BAD.



I'M JENNY, YOU LOOK NEW!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!



CALM DOWN. I CAN JUST TELL.

I KNOW IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS, BUT YOU KNOW DANIEL, WHO YOU WERE TALKING TO, I WOULD WATCH YOURSELF AROUND HIM. HE'S BEEN AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE.



IT'S ALL GOOD.

OK THEN, GUESS YOU HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL. I USED TO STAY HERE, BUT I FINALLY GOT A PLACE.

I'M DOWN HERE MEETING WITH SUSAN THE WORKER. SHE'S BEEN HELPING ME OUT.

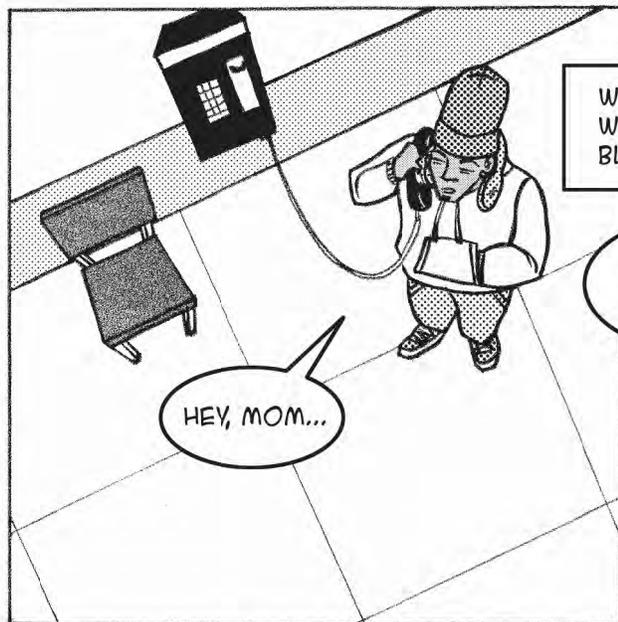


ARE YOU READY, JENNY?



OH, HI AGAIN, JUST SO YOU KNOW, MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN.

...OKAY...



WHAT DO YOU WANT? I'M REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY HI...

HEY, MOM...



WHERE ARE YOU LIVING RIGHT NOW? YOU BETTER NOT BE LIVING UNDER SOME BRIDGE, DOING DRUGS OR SOMETHING...

I KNOW YOU ARE MAD, BUT I THINK THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU. AS YOUR STEP DAD ALWAYS SAYS -

HERE WE GO 'BOUT THE DOUCHEBAG AGAIN. IT'S LIKE SHE BLOCKS OUT THE WHOLE HIM BEATING THE SHIT OUT OF ME PART.

UGH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED..



...SO I'LL TALK TO YOU SOON.

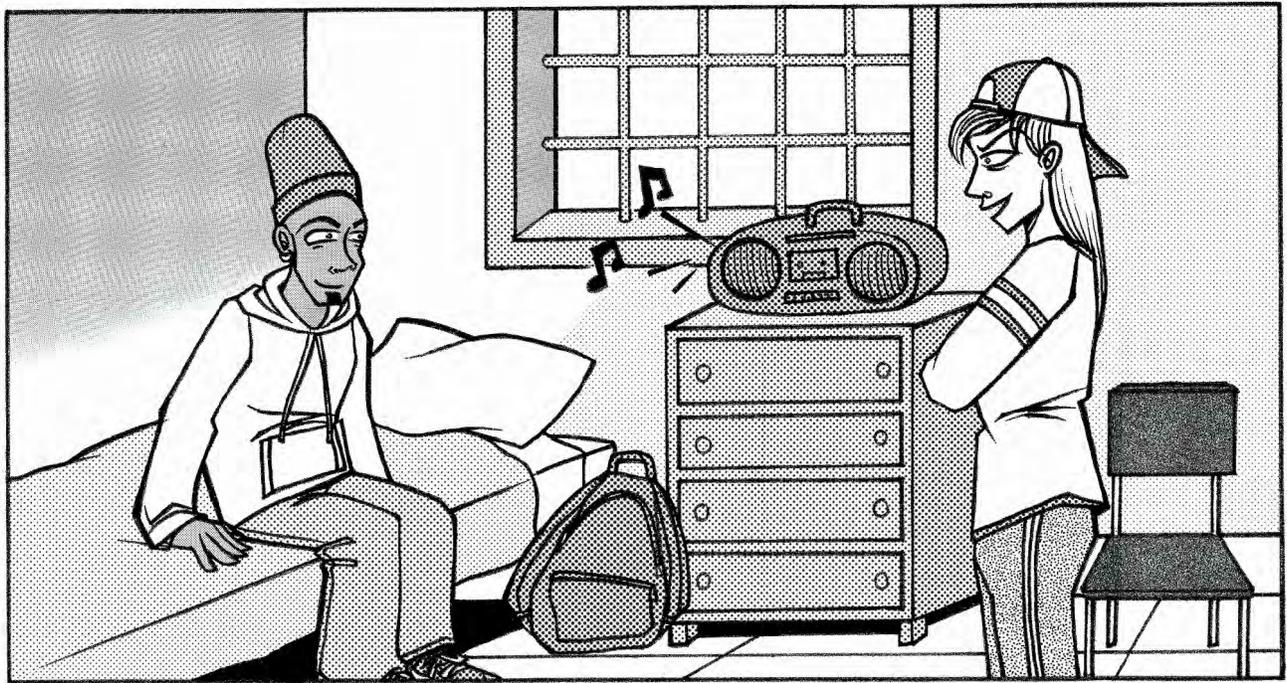
OKAY. LOVE YOU, BYE.



...

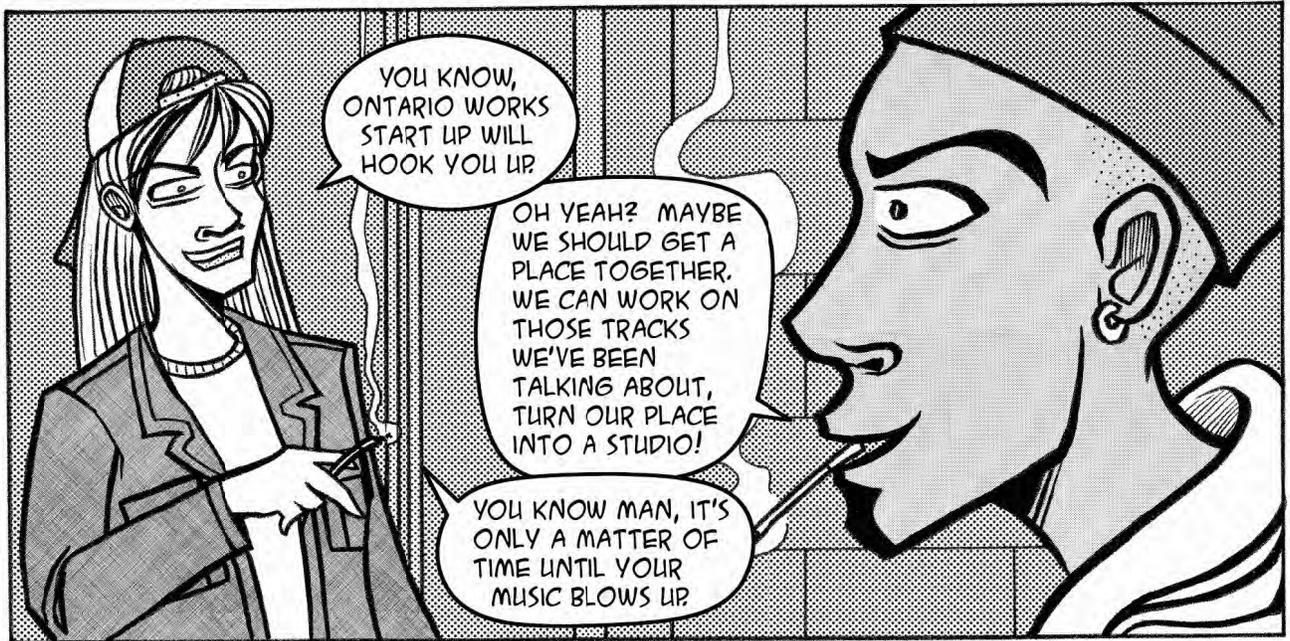


SIGH





I GOTTA GET THE FUCK OUTTA HERE...



YOU KNOW, ONTARIO WORKS START UP WILL HOOK YOU UP.

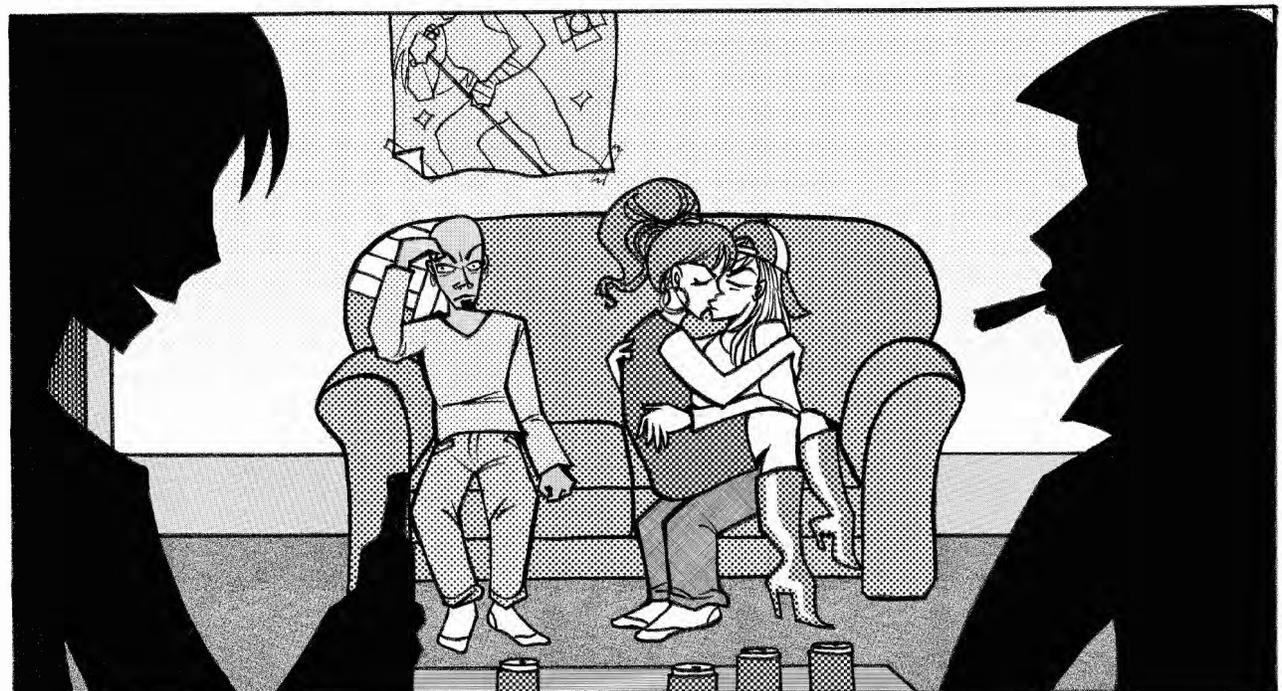
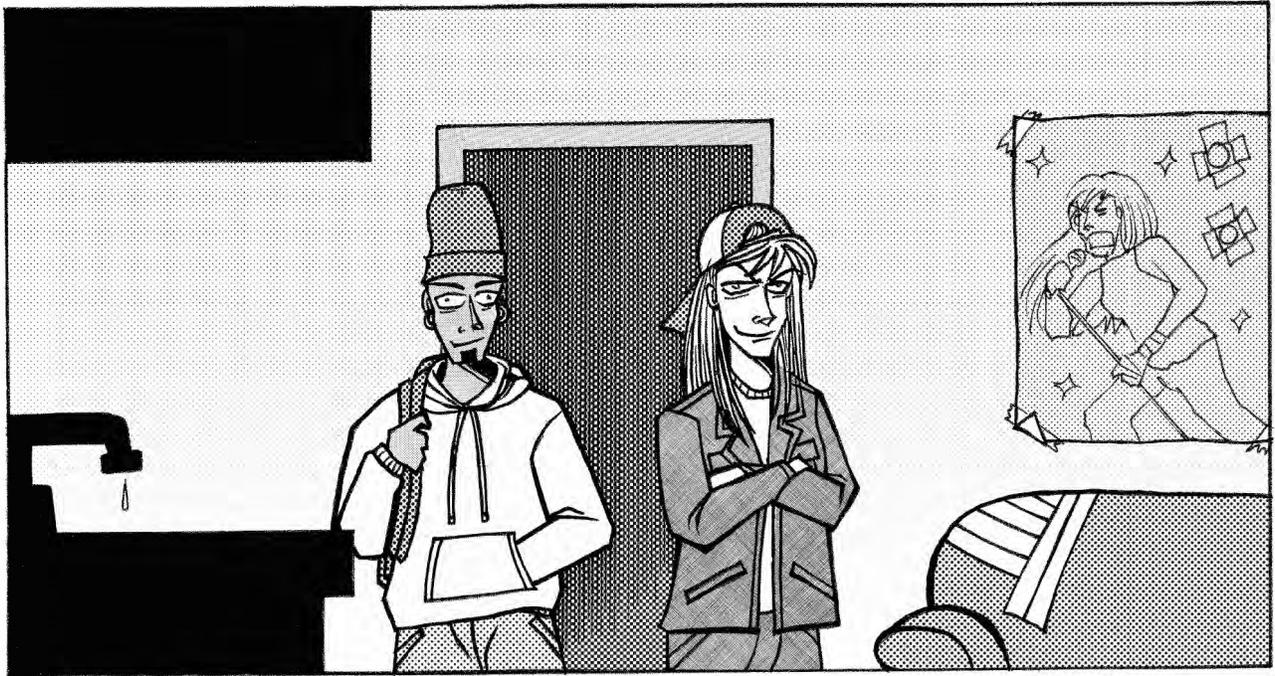
OH YEAH? MAYBE WE SHOULD GET A PLACE TOGETHER. WE CAN WORK ON THOSE TRACKS WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, TURN OUR PLACE INTO A STUDIO!

YOU KNOW MAN, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOUR MUSIC BLOWS UP.



WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE? IT WILL BE AMAZING. I CAN REALLY FOCUS ON MY MUSIC CAREER, GET A BIG DEAL, GET A NICE CONDO...

PEFFT. THIS GUY THINKS HE'S GOING TO BE THE NEXT BIEBS. WORKS FOR ME, I'M HAPPY TO HELP HIM SPEND HIS STARTUP.



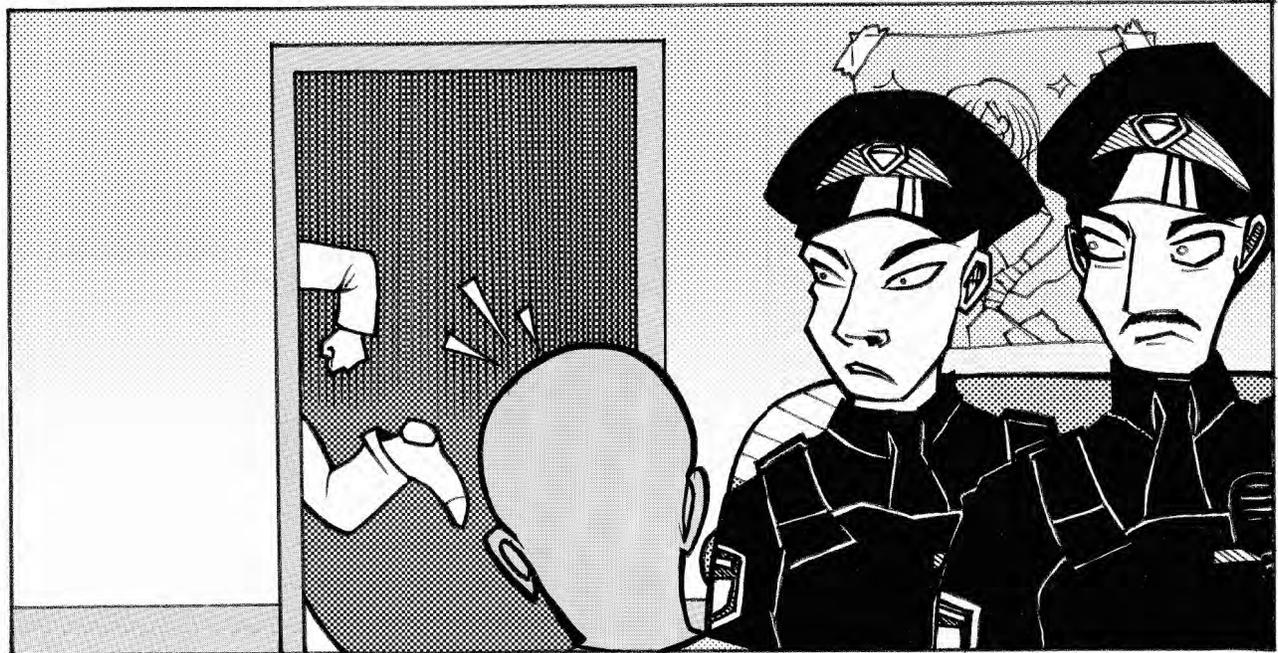




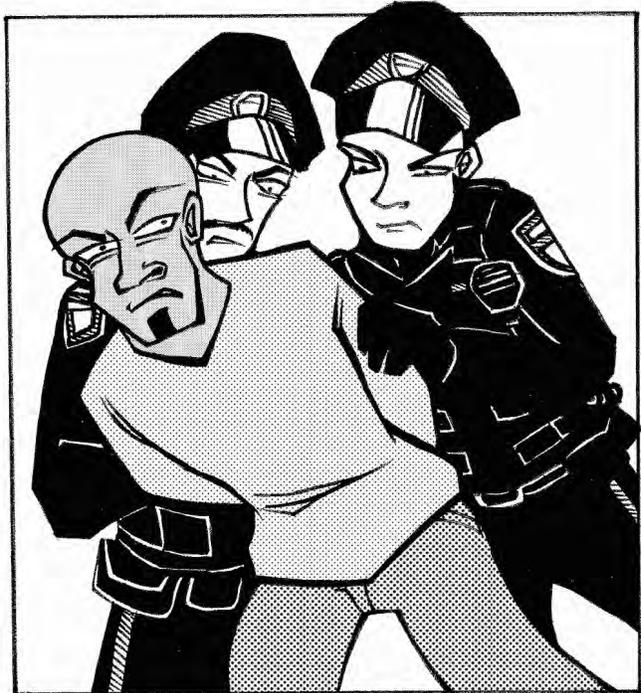
WE GOT A NOISE COMPLAINT...

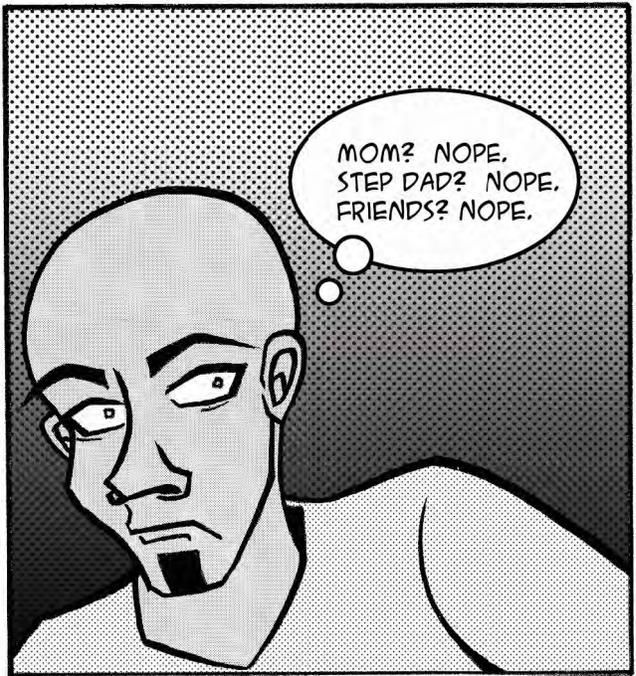


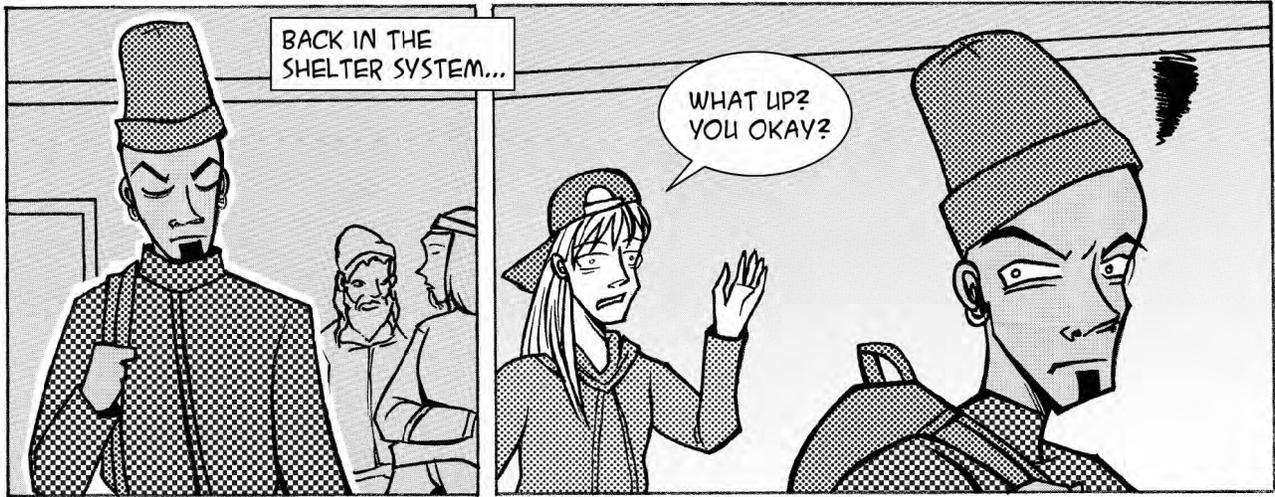
WHOSE PLACE IS THIS?



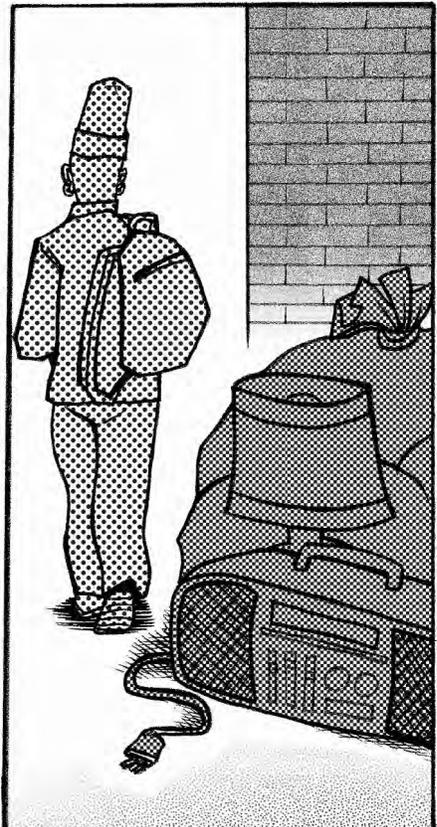
OH!
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?!

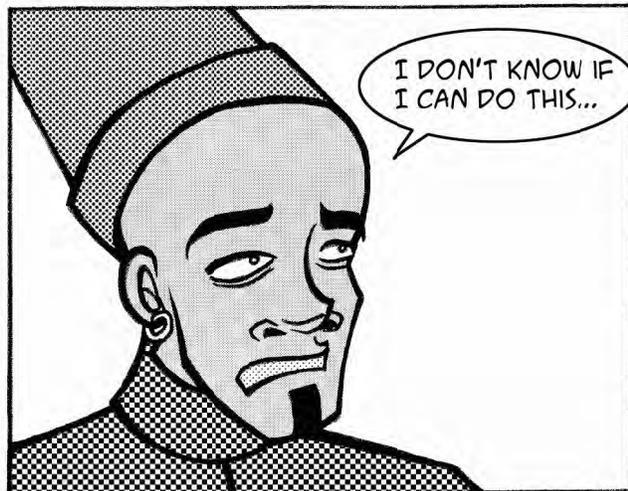
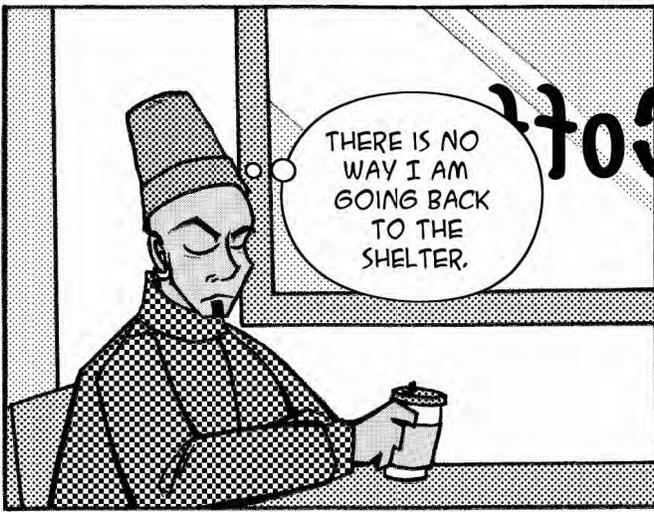


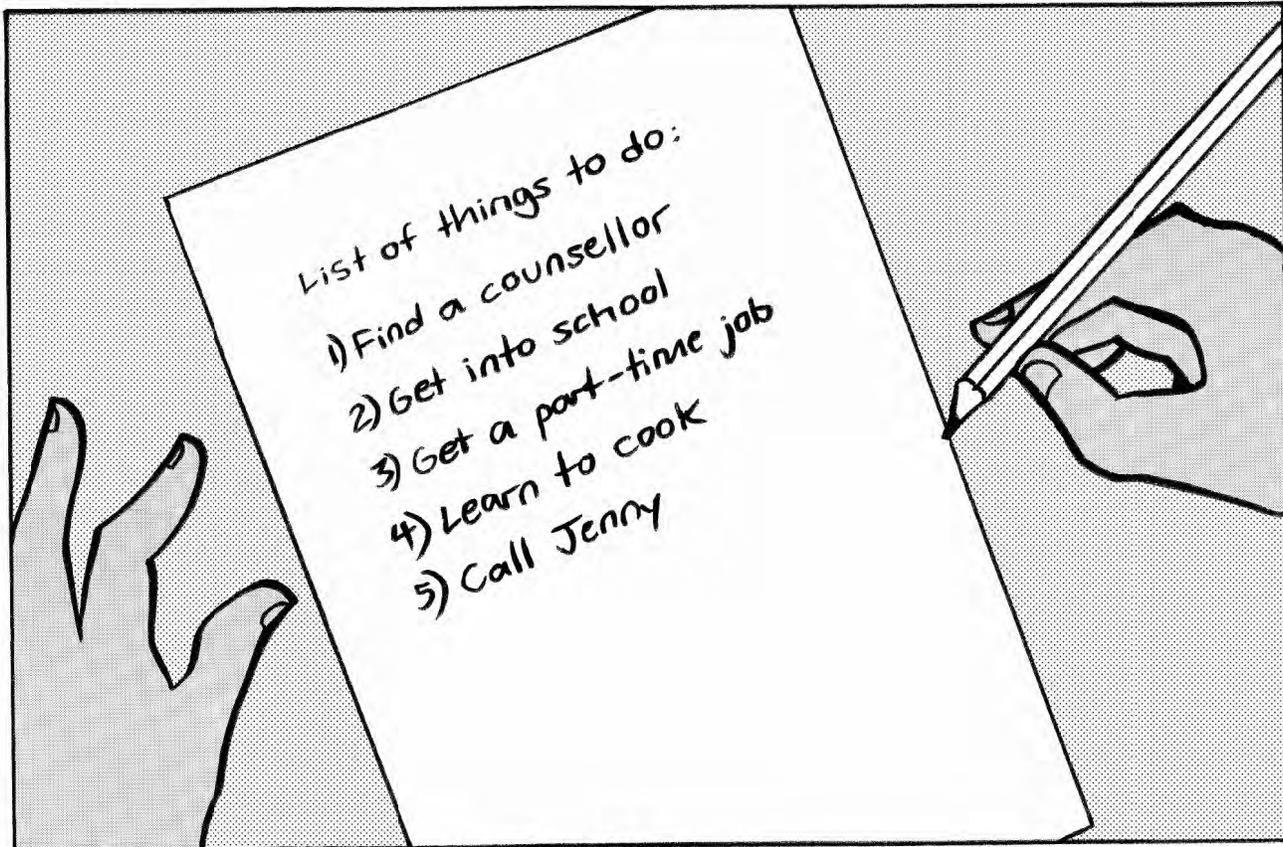




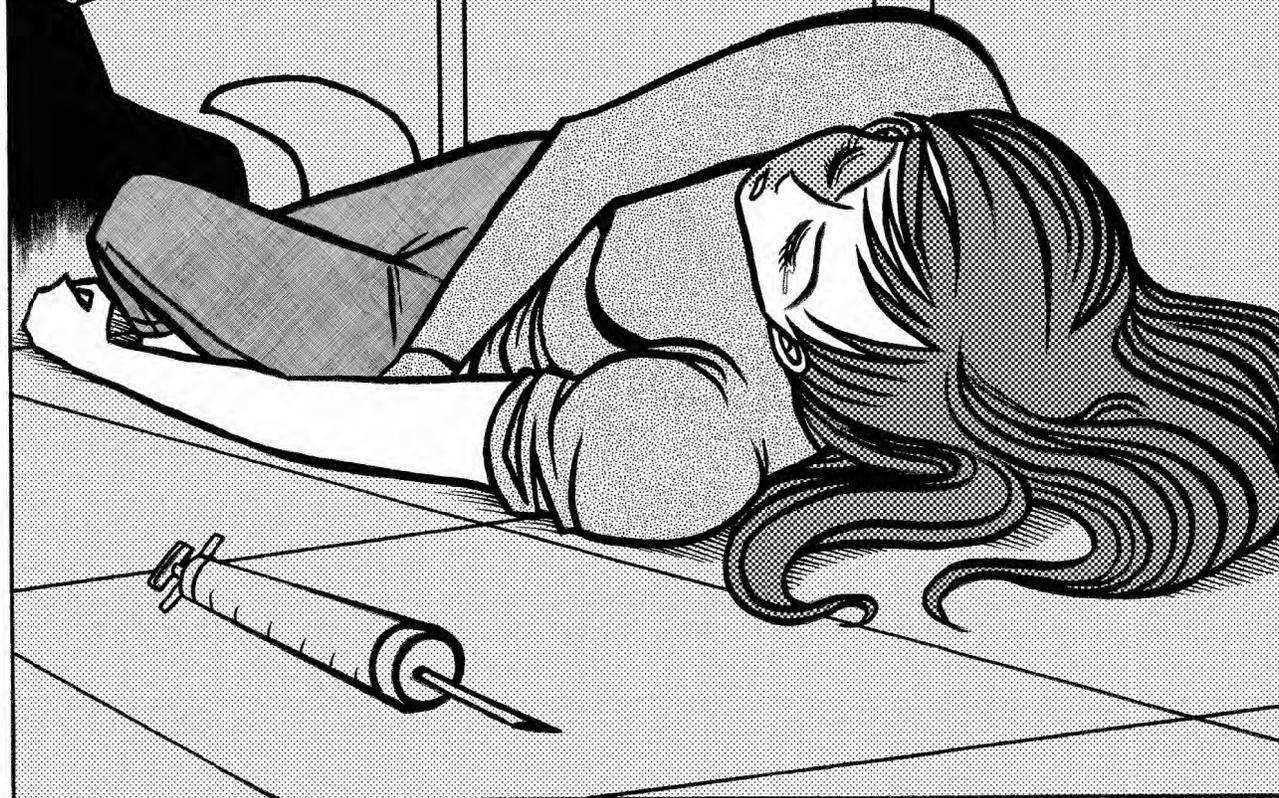
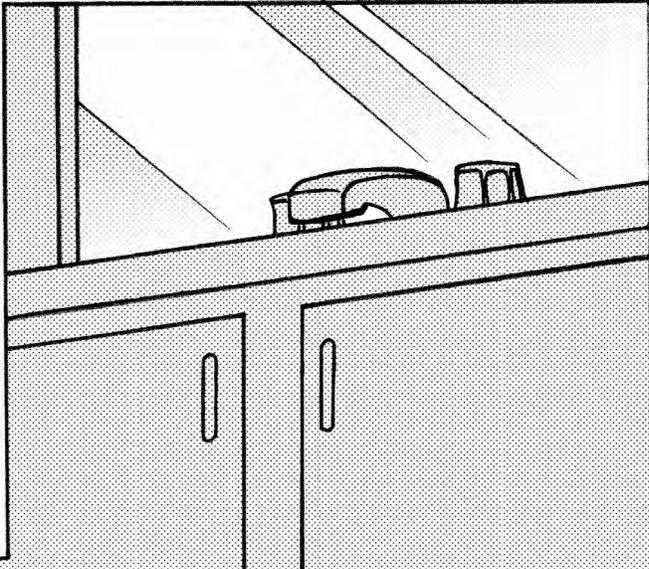
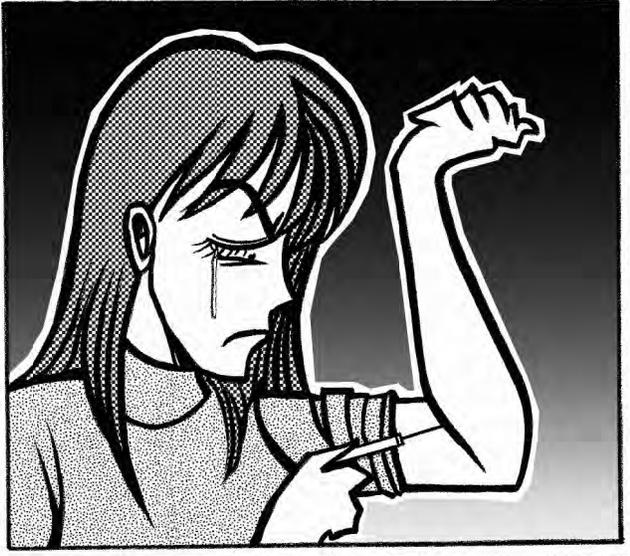
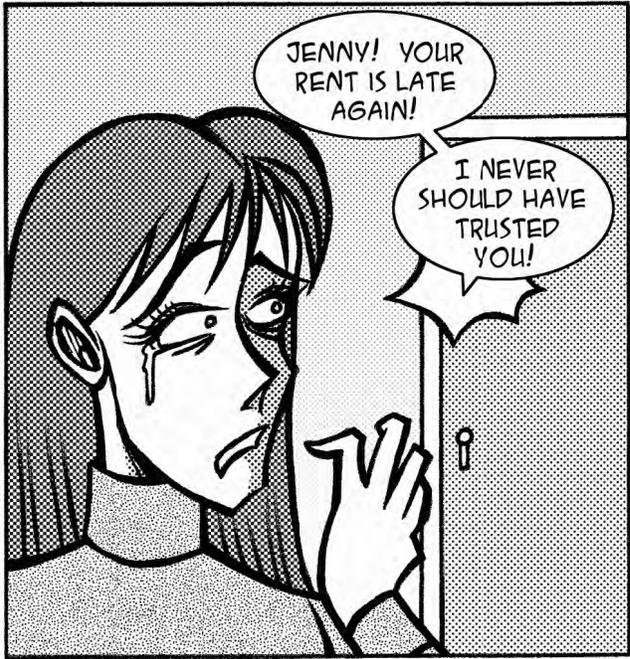


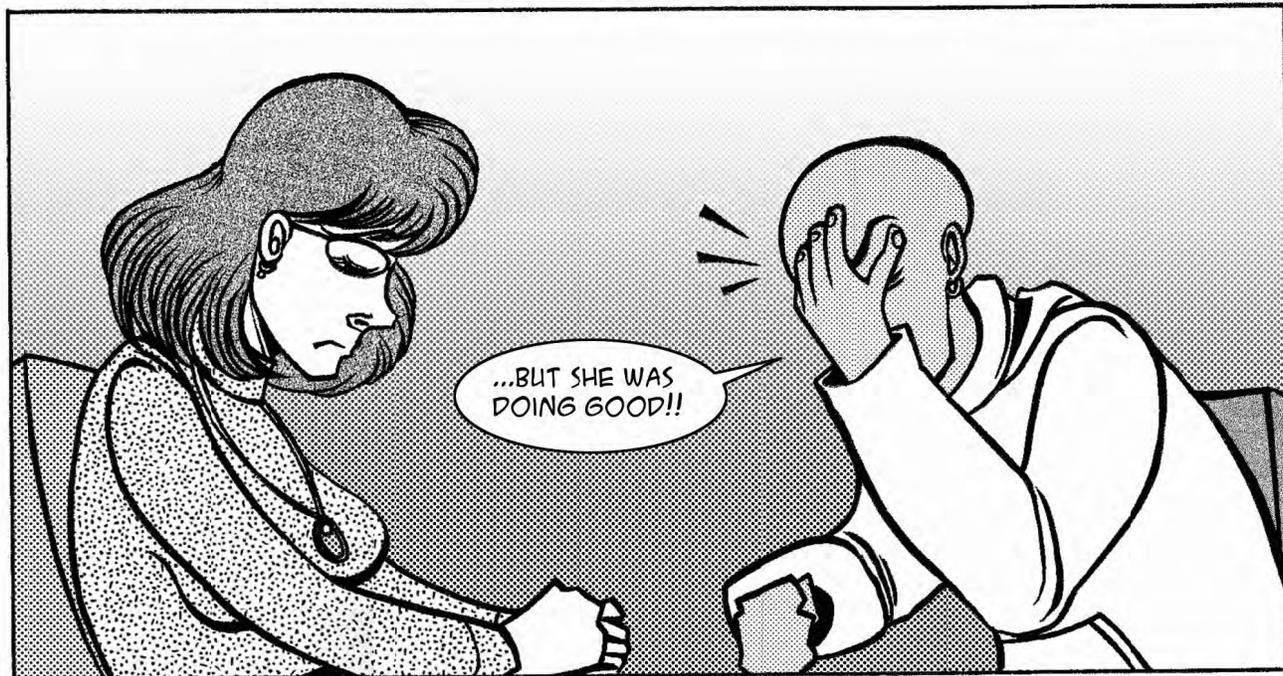
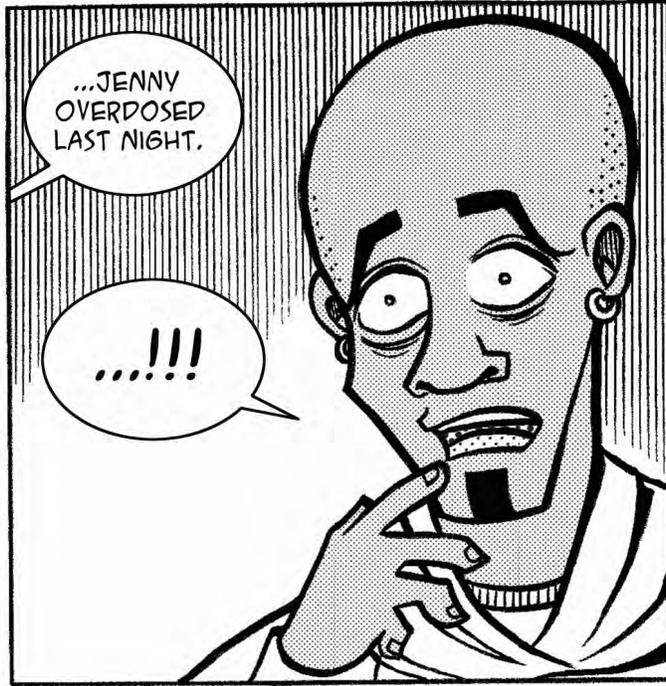




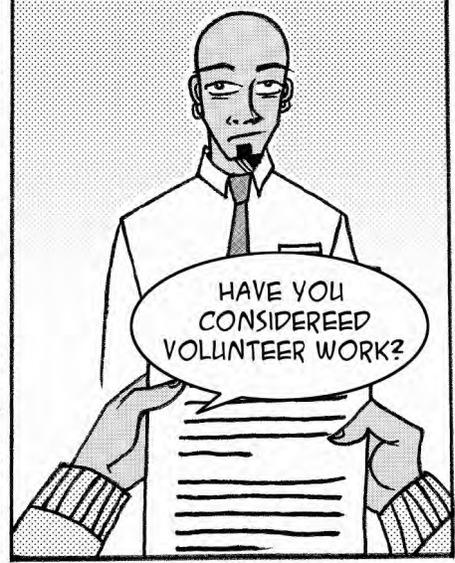
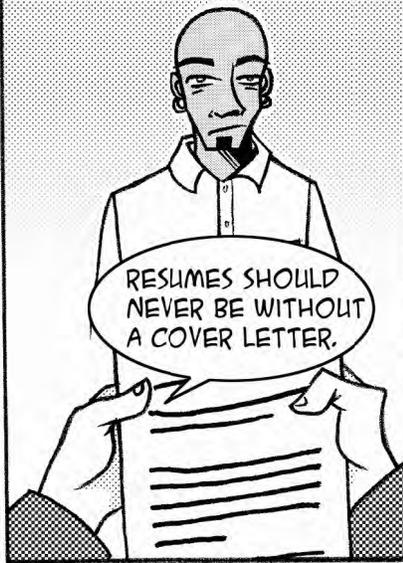


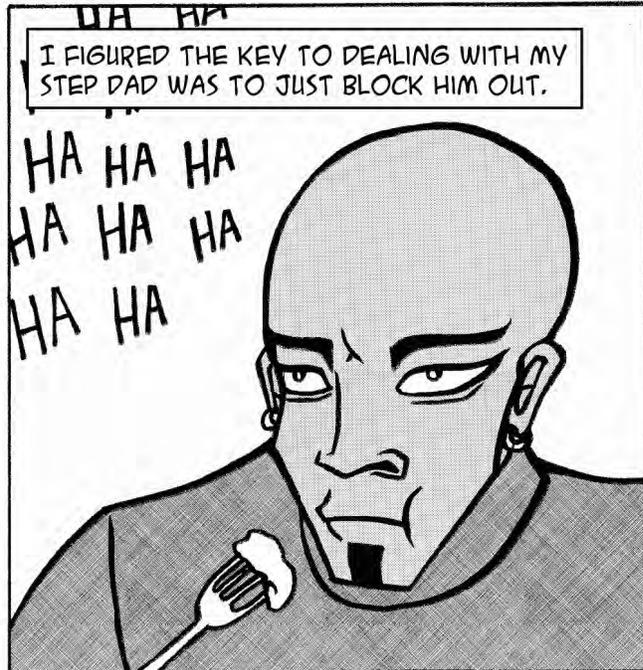
MEANWHILE...





FINDING WORK WAS NO PICNIC EITHER...





WENT BY THE SHELTER AGAIN ONE DAY...

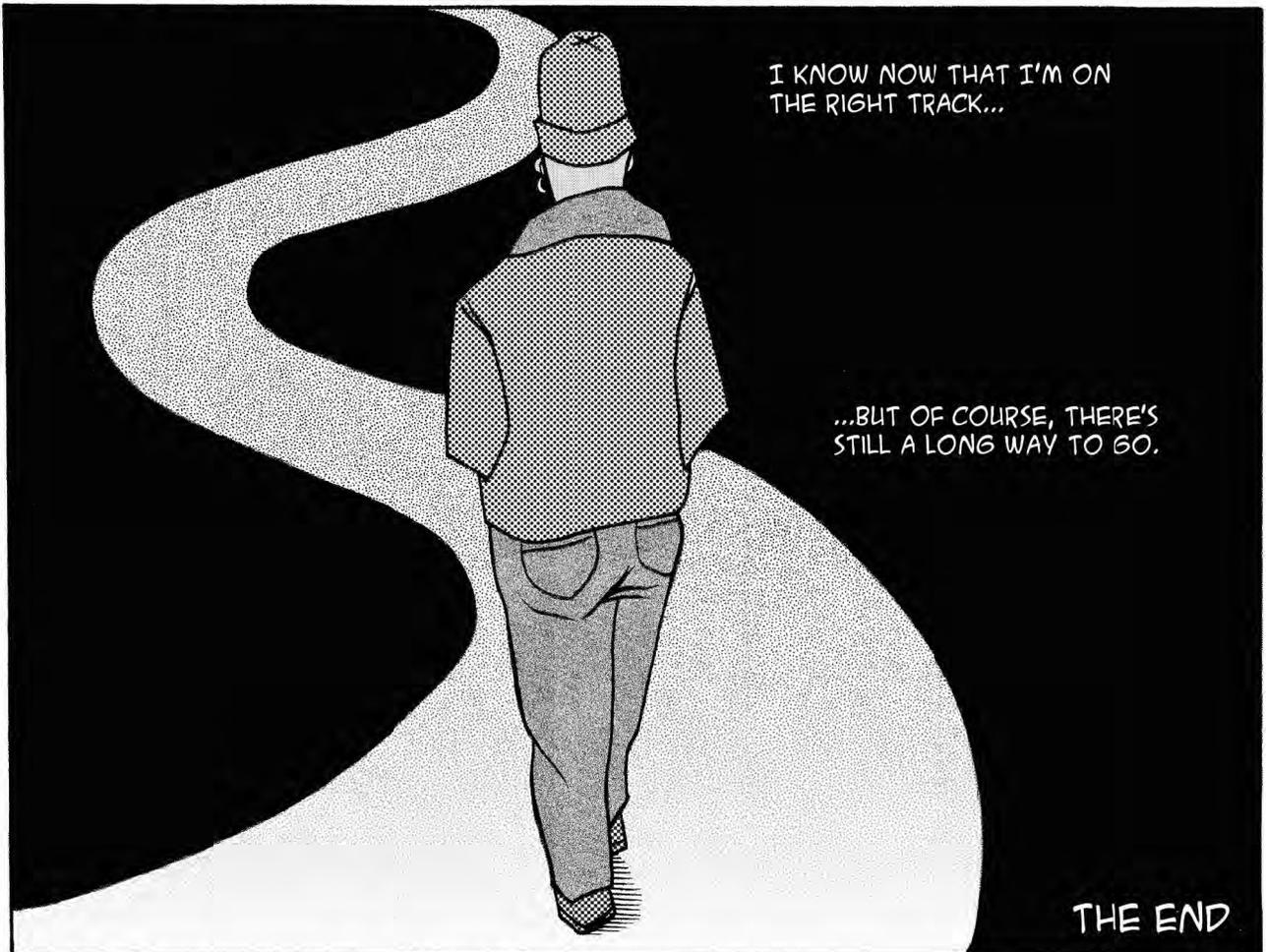


SAW DANIEL, PROBABLY DOING THE SAME THING OVER AGAIN THAT HE DID WITH ME...



I KNOW NOW THAT I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK...

...BUT OF COURSE, THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.



THE END

About the Project:

This comic was conceived as a way to communicate the findings of a SSHRC funded research project that followed 51 young people from Halifax and Toronto over the course of a year as they made efforts to transition away from homelessness. A comic seemed like a perfect way to highlight key themes, but also as a way to draw attention to the real people and the real stories behind this issue. Right now there are young people out there, like the character in the book, who are doing everything they can to get out of the trap that homelessness creates---a journey characterized by setbacks and major systemic barriers, but also helping hands and incredible strength and resilience. We also hope that the comic will serve as a call to action that collectively we must do everything we can to support formerly homeless young people as they work towards stability and their personal, educational, and career goals---as the comic illustrates the stakes are too high not to. The comic book was created from start-to-finish by three incredible young people who participated in the research project, along with the amazing comic artist Sarafin. Drawing from findings from the research, along with their own personal experiences, they created the characters, the story, and the dialogue. All of us involved with the project couldn't be more excited and proud of what they created. We would like to specifically thank all of the youth that participated in the research who shared their insights, time, and experiences with us and who made the project such a success. We would also like to thank SSRHC and the CAMH Foundation for their financial support, and our community partners in Halifax and Toronto for their immeasurable help with the research and the continuing work they do to support young people. A special thanks to: Ark (Halifax), SHYM (Halifax), LOFT Community Services (Toronto), Covenant House (Toronto), and SKETCH (Toronto). The research team includes: Sean Kidd (PI), Jeff Karabanow (PI), Jean Hughes, Ted Naylor, Tyler Frederick, Michal Chwalek, Andrea Reynolds, Marianne Quirouette, Kait Sullivan, Kelly Fenn, and Caila Aube.

These stories and stories like them are happening every day .

All too often steps out of homelessness meet insurmountable barriers and a return to the streets, to hospitals, to prisons.

We can make a difference by:

- Providing decent housing
- Providing supports during and after the transition from the streets—supports that don't end when youth turn 25
- Addressing mental health
- Providing opportunities to work and go back to school

Get Involved!

Ask policy makers what they are doing about this issue. Look into what organizations that support marginalized youth are offering and how you can help. Watch the Homeless Hub for updates and more information.

to see more work by Sarafin go to <http://asylumsquad.ca/>



www.camh.ca



www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca



www.dal.ca



www.CovenantHouseToronto.ca



www.loftcs.org



www.sketch.ca