

# FIRST WARD LEADERS



# THESE ARE THE ART 390 COMICS ARTISTS:



**Katy (Kat) Arnold**, from Imlay City says her pet hedgehog inspires a sidekick character in her cartoons.

**Chengxiao Dai** studied ink painting in China, likes Asian comics & anime, seeks other styles too..



**Caoilann Ferguson**, going for a BFA in print-making, apparently has no pens in her house.

**Anthony Gaskin**, Graphic Design major/Art minor, read a few cartoons & comics as a kid in Detroit.



**Karlee Gourd's** storyteller boyfriend comes up with book, movie, & anime ideas to create together.

**Jericho Long** of Bay City. likes graphic novels, manga & different comics & cartoon drawing styles.



**Jalee Martin**, loves the simplicity of comics, learning its skills for her future design career.

Metro Detroit's **Elissa Mughannem** plans to post comics to the independent artists' app Webtoon.



For **Jenna Schaufele** from Cass City, Grandma saved newspaper comics that she thought she'd like.

**Katrina Stevenson** from Ubly will use advanced comics skills to illustrate future graphic design jobs



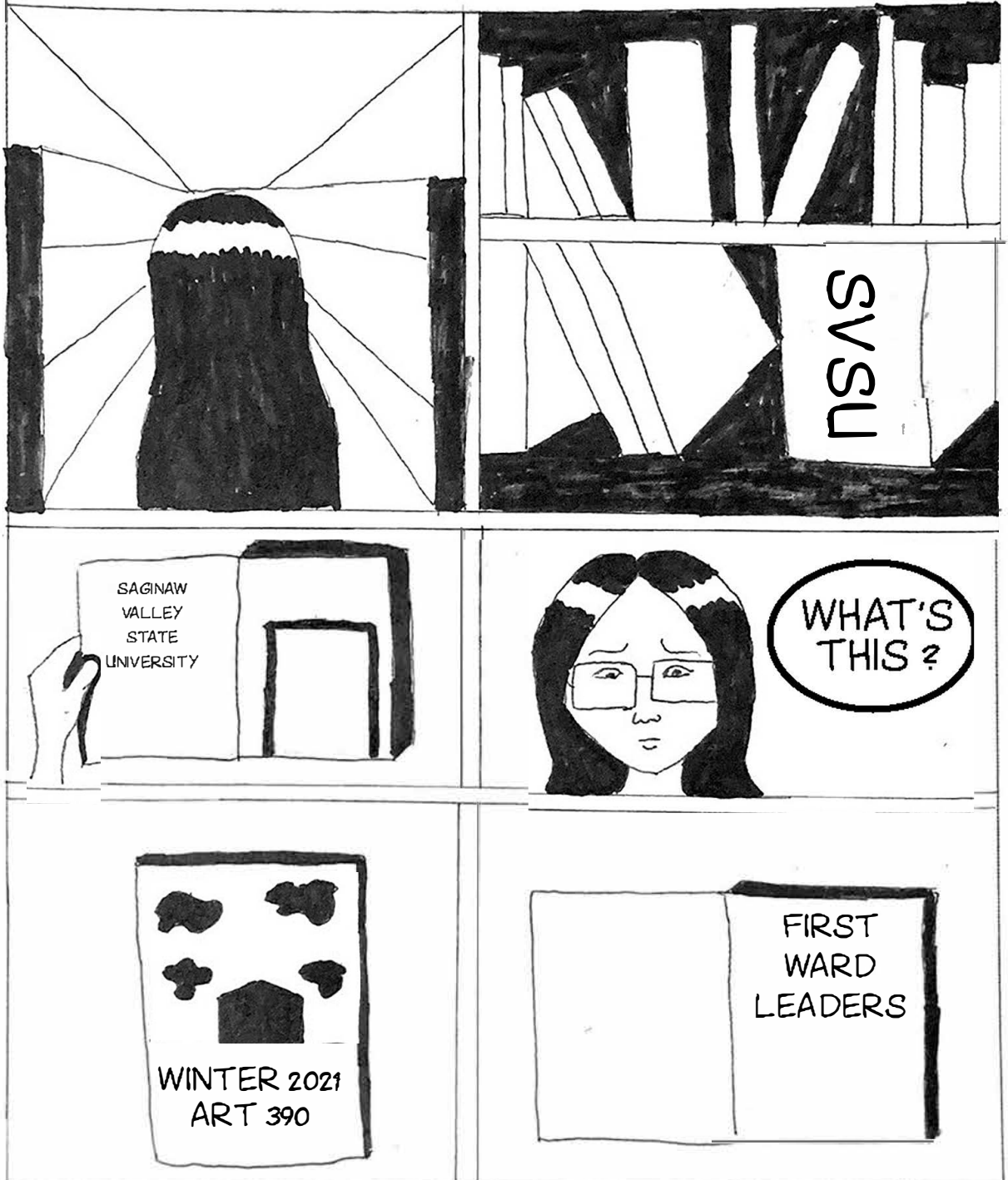
**Kai Zhu** from China loved Japanese comics since he was a kid, hopes to create his own comics.



# THE FUTURE IN FIRST WARD LEADERS HANDS

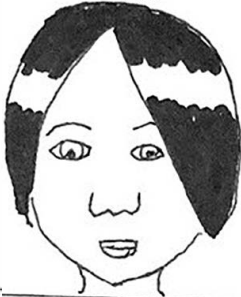
OUR SVSU PROJECT TO CHANGE THE WORLD

BY : ELISSA MUGHANNEM





**BRIA**



**TESS**



**INDIGO**



**JESSE**

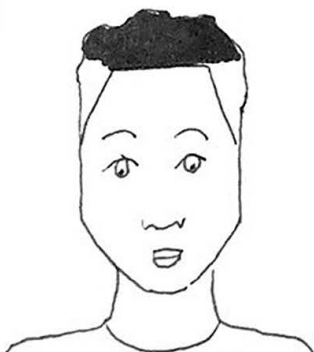


**JALEN**

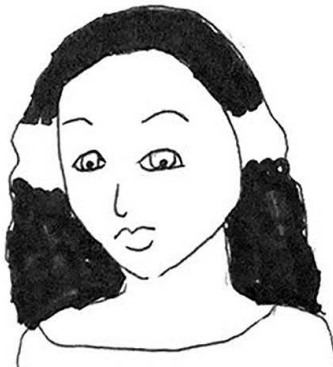


SOMEBODY  
DROPPED  
OUT !!!

**DAEVEON**



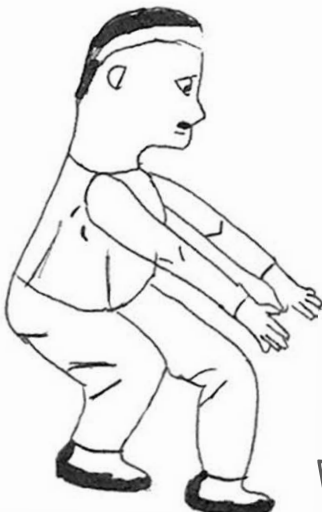
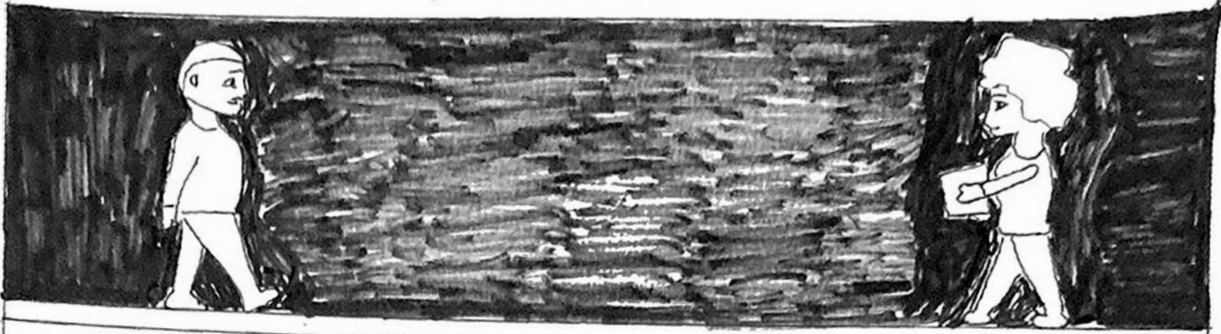
**DEMETRIA**



**SIMONE**







YOU SHOULD  
MAKE A STORY  
ABOUT YOUR  
STUDENTS !!!

BUT WHO  
WOULD  
CREATE  
IT ?



## ZOOM MEETING

OF  
COURSE  
I'LL HELP  
YOU



MOSHER



HINTON



DANKWA



RZESZUTEK



MONASTIERE



LEAVE

# THE NEXT DAY

ARE YOU GUYS  
READY TO MAKE  
A COMIC ?

## ZOOM MEETING



MOSHER



ELISSA



KARLEE



JERICO



ANTHONY



JENNA



CAOILANN



KATRINA



KAI



CHENGXIAO



JALEE



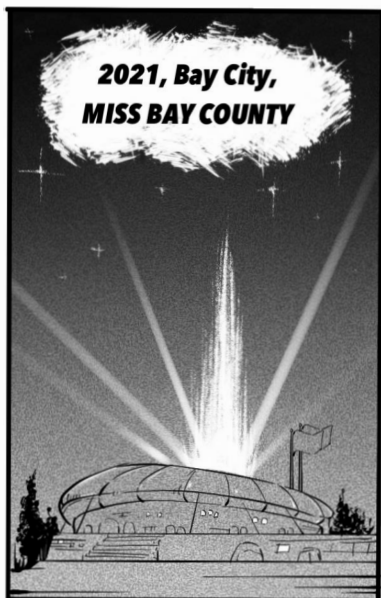
KATHRYN



ADAM

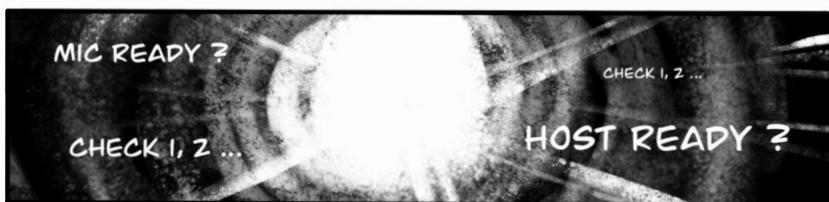


LEAVE

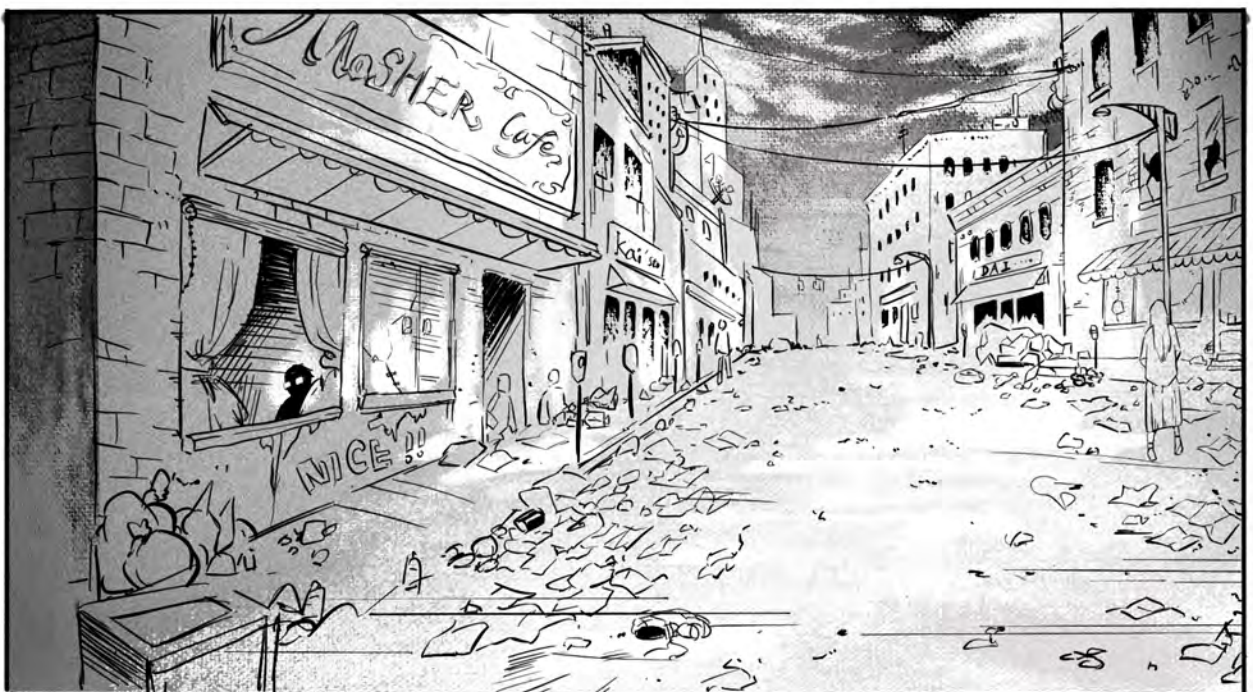


# SIMONE

BY KAI ZHU















MAINTAINING A  
POSITIVE OUTLOOK  
ON LIFE AND  
FACING SETBACKS  
WITH COURAGE.

THIS IS WHAT I  
CONSIDER TO BE THE  
BIGGEST CHALLENGE  
IN MY GROWTH.



SO, INSTEAD OF USING MY  
SHORTCOMINGS AS A  
CRUTCH, I DECIDED TO USE  
IT TO UPLIFT AND INSPIRE  
OTHERS WHO MAY BE GOING  
THROUGH THE SAME CAN  
SEE FIRST HAND THAT  
THERE'S LIGHT AT THE END  
OF THE TUNNEL.

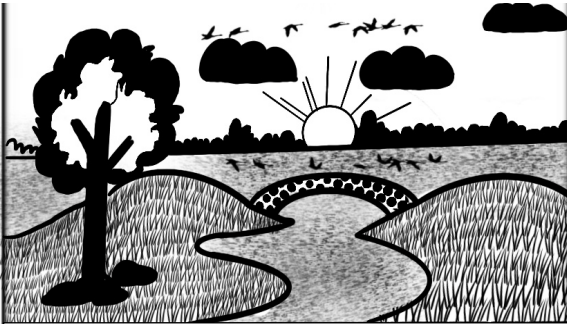
GROWING UP, ONE OF MY  
BIGGEST LESSONS AND  
REALIZATIONS WAS IT'S NOT  
ABOUT WHERE YOU'RE FROM,  
BUT WHERE YOU'RE GOING.  
SOMETIMES WE GET SO  
CAUGHT UP IN OUR STRUGGLES  
AND SHORTCOMINGS THAT WE  
FORGET THAT THIS CAN BE  
USED AS OUR WEAPON.

THROUGH MY LIFE  
I HAVE EXPERIENCED  
HOMELESSNESS, STRUGGLES  
WITH MENTAL HEALTH, AND  
POVERTY. I REFUSE TO LET  
THIS DEFINE ME, SO I WORK  
HARD EVERYDAY TO PROVE  
THAT THERE IS A WAY OUT.

**I'D CHANGE TO  
ALTHOUGH LIFE  
IS NOT ALWAYS  
THE BEST, I  
WILL ALWAYS  
DO MY BEST!**

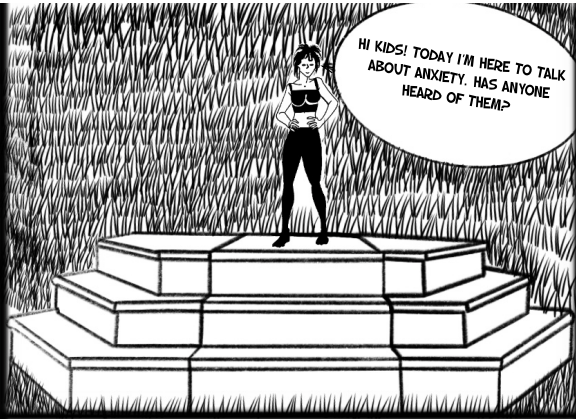
ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOUR LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS



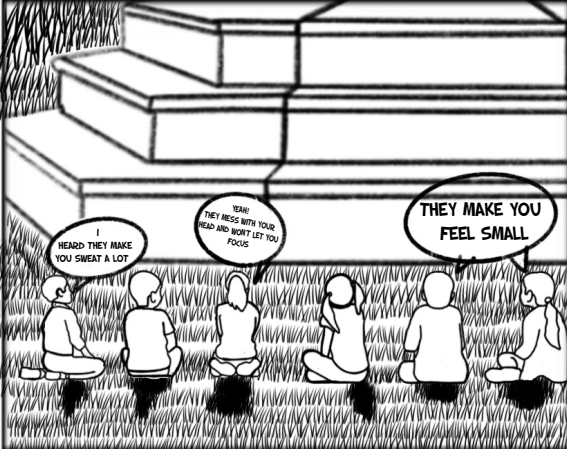


TODAY'S SPEAKER FOR THE SAGINAW SUPERHERO ACADEMY IS

## VELOCITY



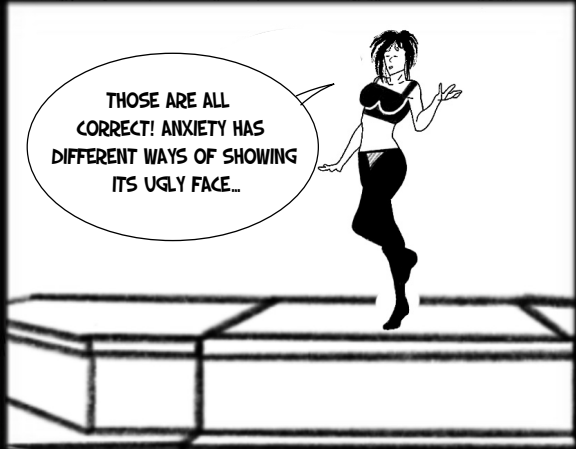
HI KIDS! TODAY I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT ANXIETY. HAS ANYONE HEARD OF THEM?



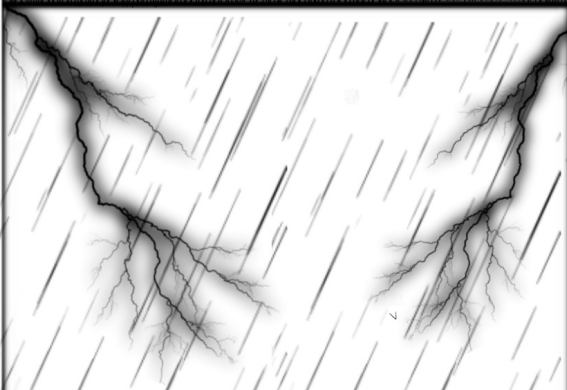
I HEARD THEY MAKE YOU SWEAT A LOT

YEAH! THEY MESS WITH YOUR HEAD AND WON'T LET YOU FOCUS

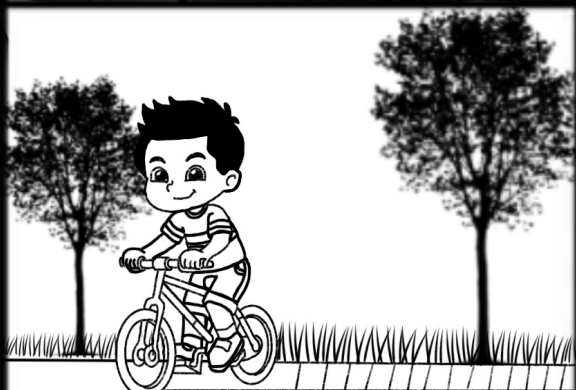
THEY MAKE YOU FEEL SMALL



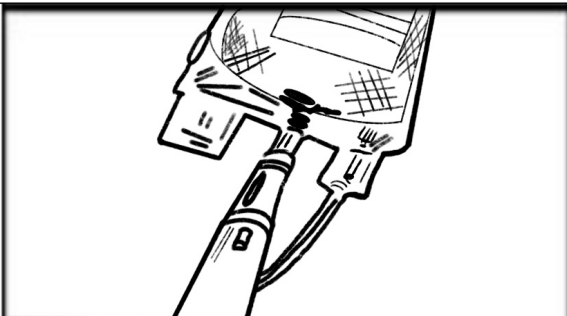
THOSE ARE ALL CORRECT! ANXIETY HAS DIFFERENT WAYS OF SHOWING ITS UGLY FACE...



IT MAY COME WHEN THERE'S A THUNDERSTORM OUTSIDE...



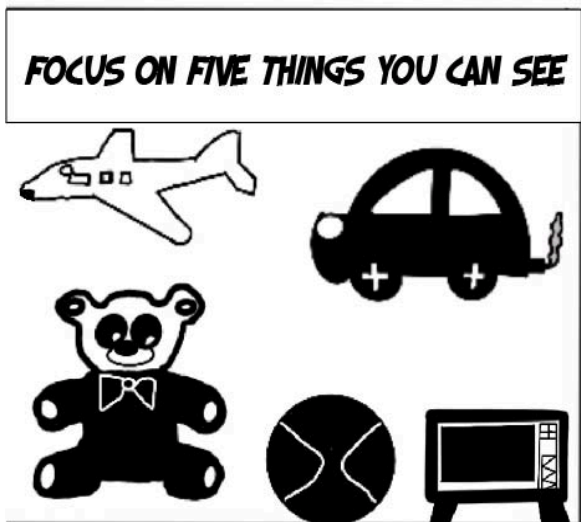
...WHEN YOU'RE TRYING SOMETHING NEW FOR THE FIRST TIME...



...OR WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE GETS REALLY SICK.



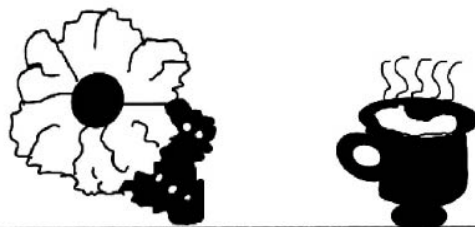
IT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL ALL DIFFERENT THINGS, LIKE ANGER, SADNESS, OR JUST BEING SCARED.



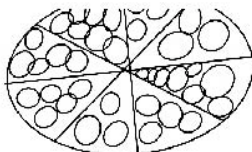
**THREE YOU CAN HEAR**



**TWO YOU CAN SMELL**



**ONE THING YOU CAN TASTE**



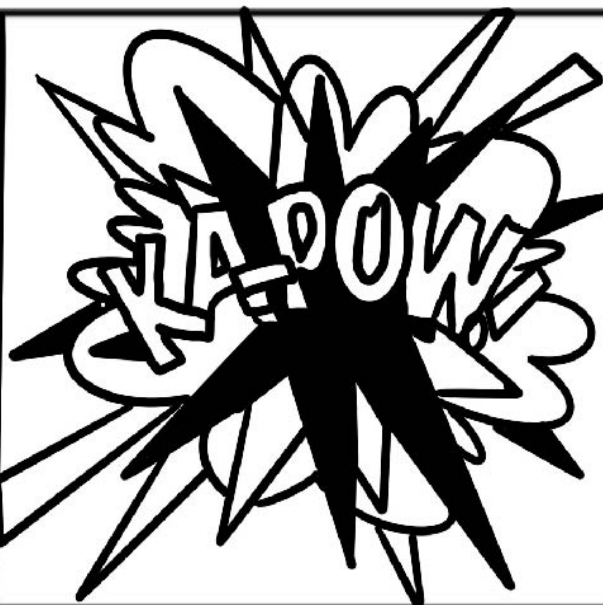
AFTER  
I DID MY TRICK, I REALIZED  
ANXIETY WASN'T SO SCARY AFTER  
ALL, AND IT WAS EASY TO BEAT  
THEM.

**SO REMEMBER KIDS. ANXIETY IS VERY REAL AND  
DANGEROUS, BUT WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS, YOU CAN  
BEAT THEM NO MATTER WHAT.**

**AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH**





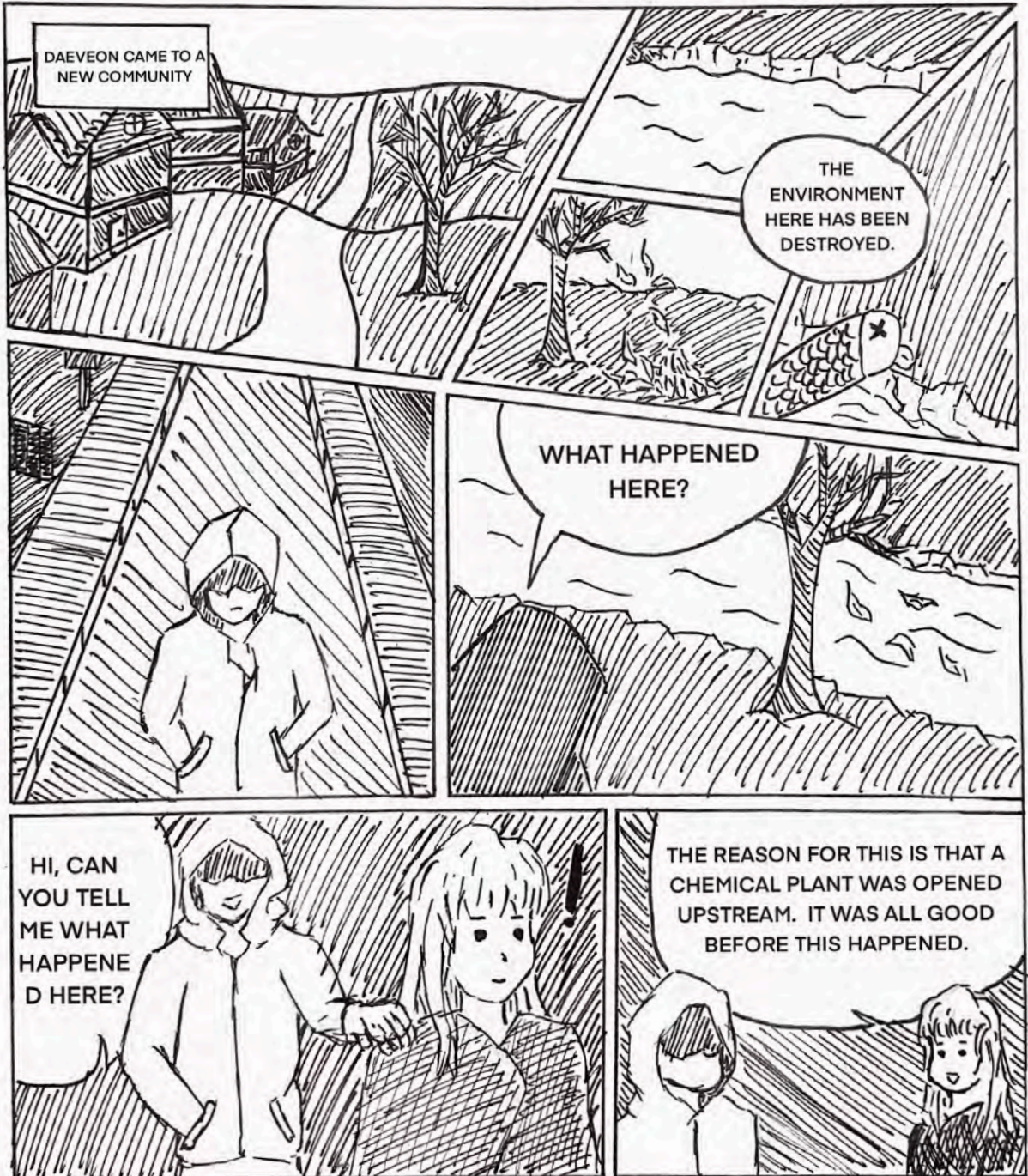


Comic by Anthony Gaskin  
Inspired by Bree Gregory

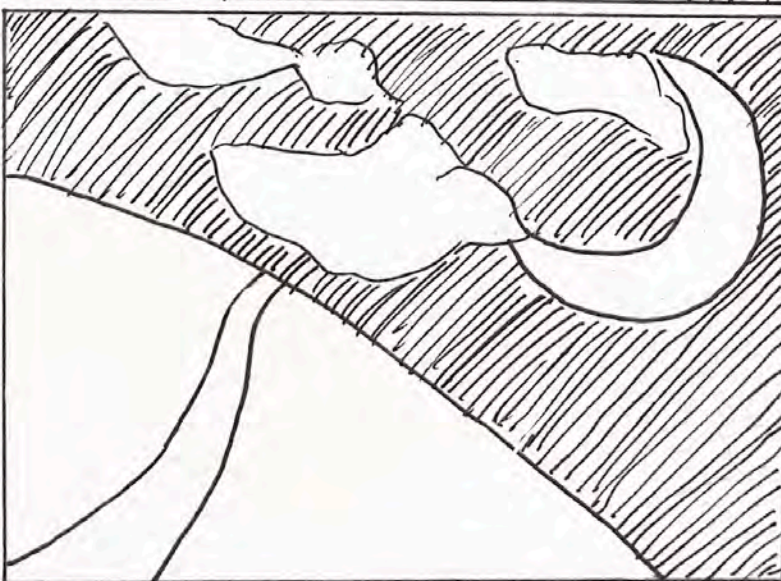
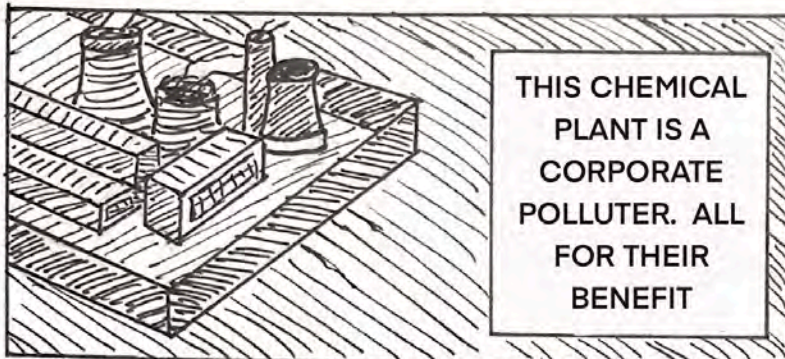


# DAEVEON

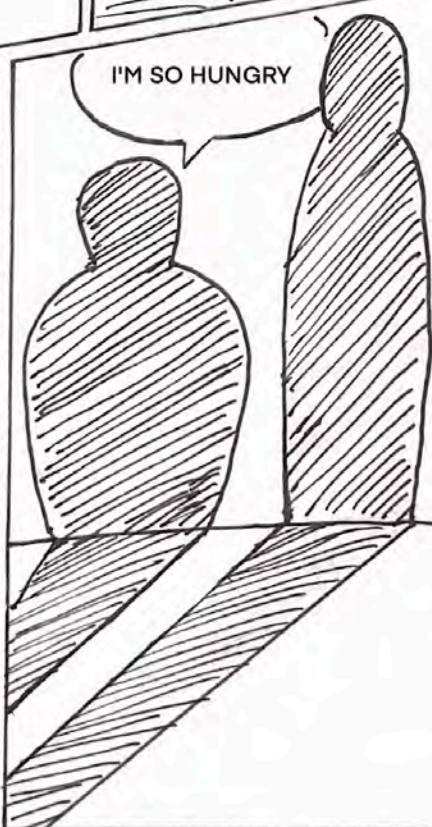
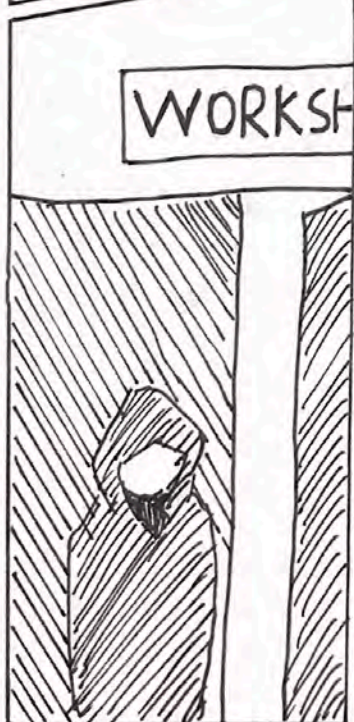
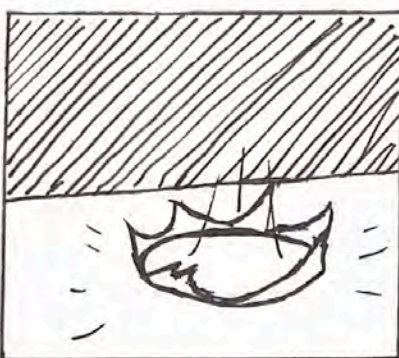
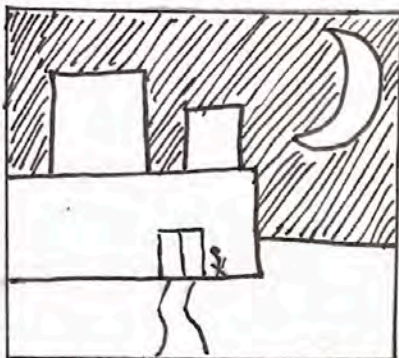
By Chenxiao Dai • Inspired by Daevon Clemons











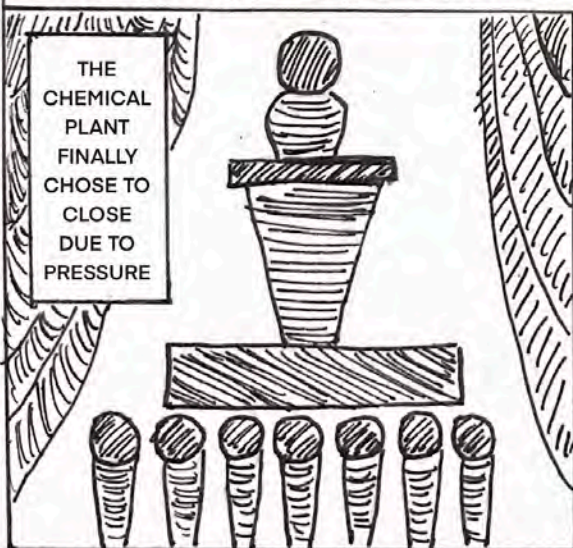
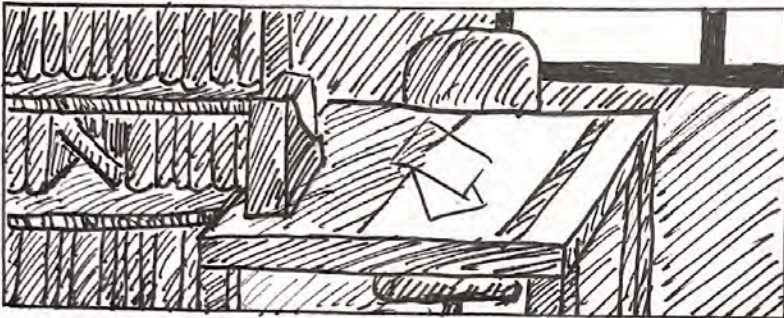
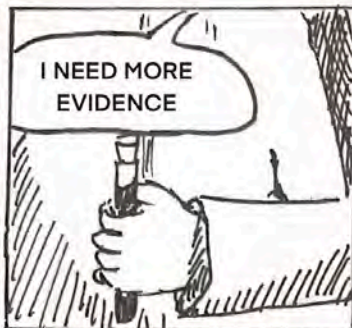
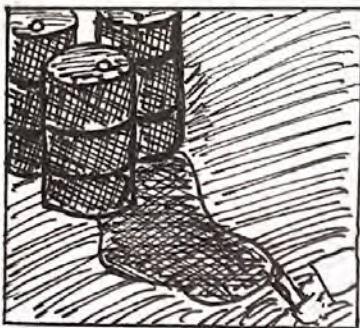
I'M SO HUNGRY

WE STILL HAVE THREE BUCKETS OF "BLACK WATER" THAT NEED TO BE DUMPED.

STOP YOUR COMPLAINING.  
I'LL TREAT YOU TO A SUPPER AFTER FINISHING THE BUSINESS QUICKLY.







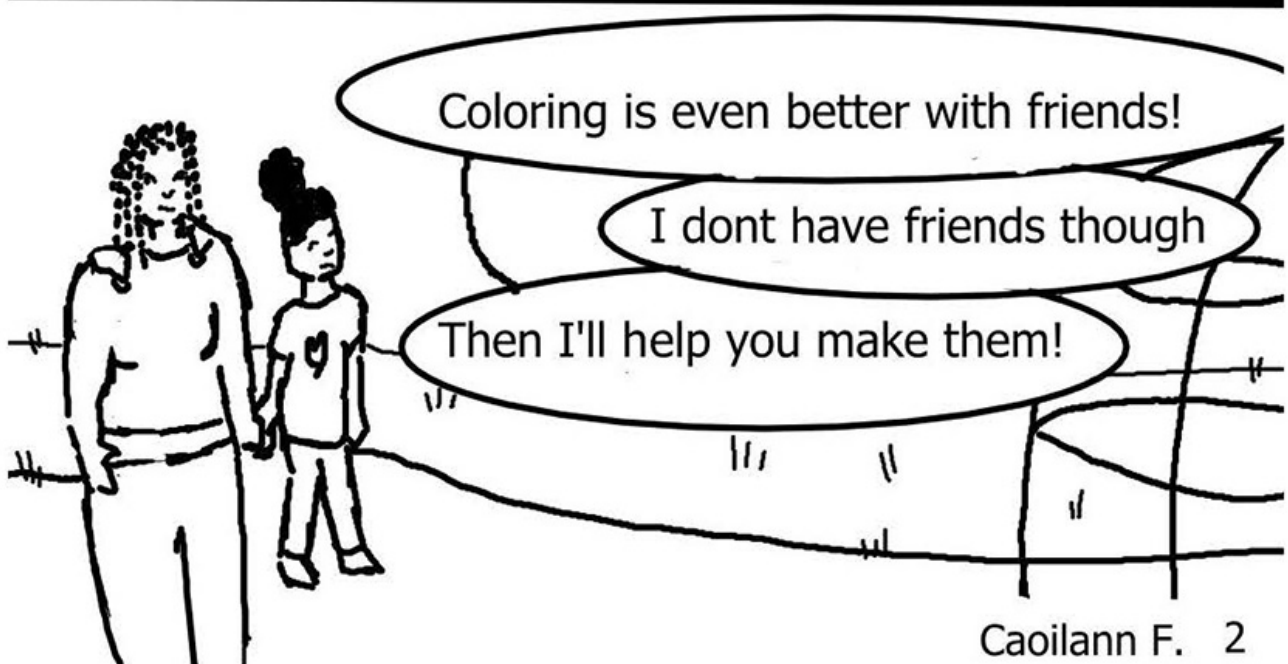
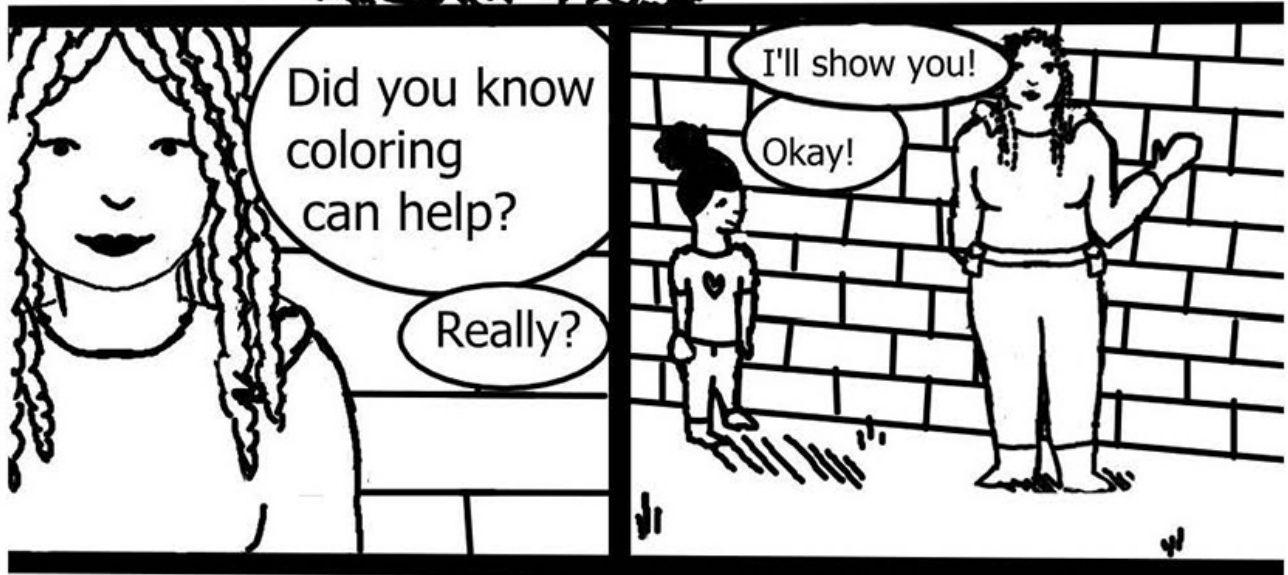


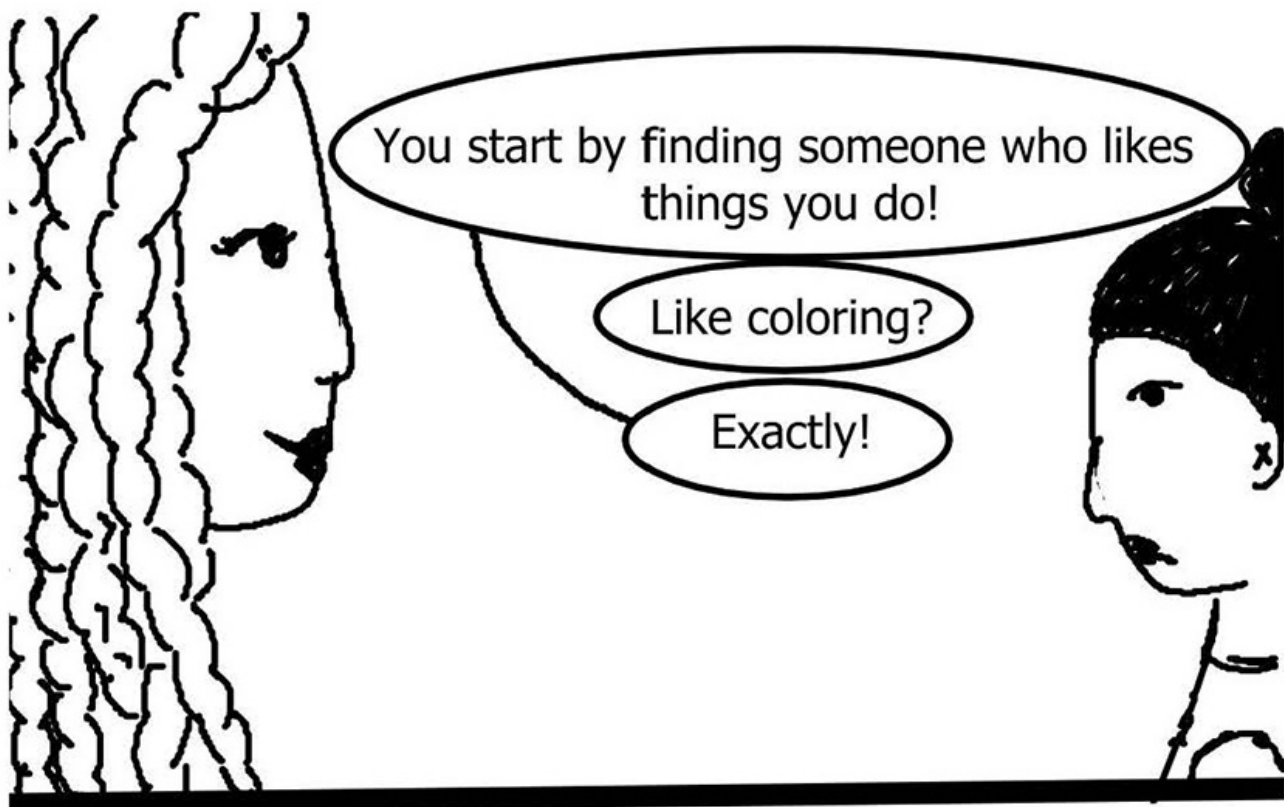
# Fighting the Sadness Within

By Caoilann Ferguson • Inspired by Indigo Dudley

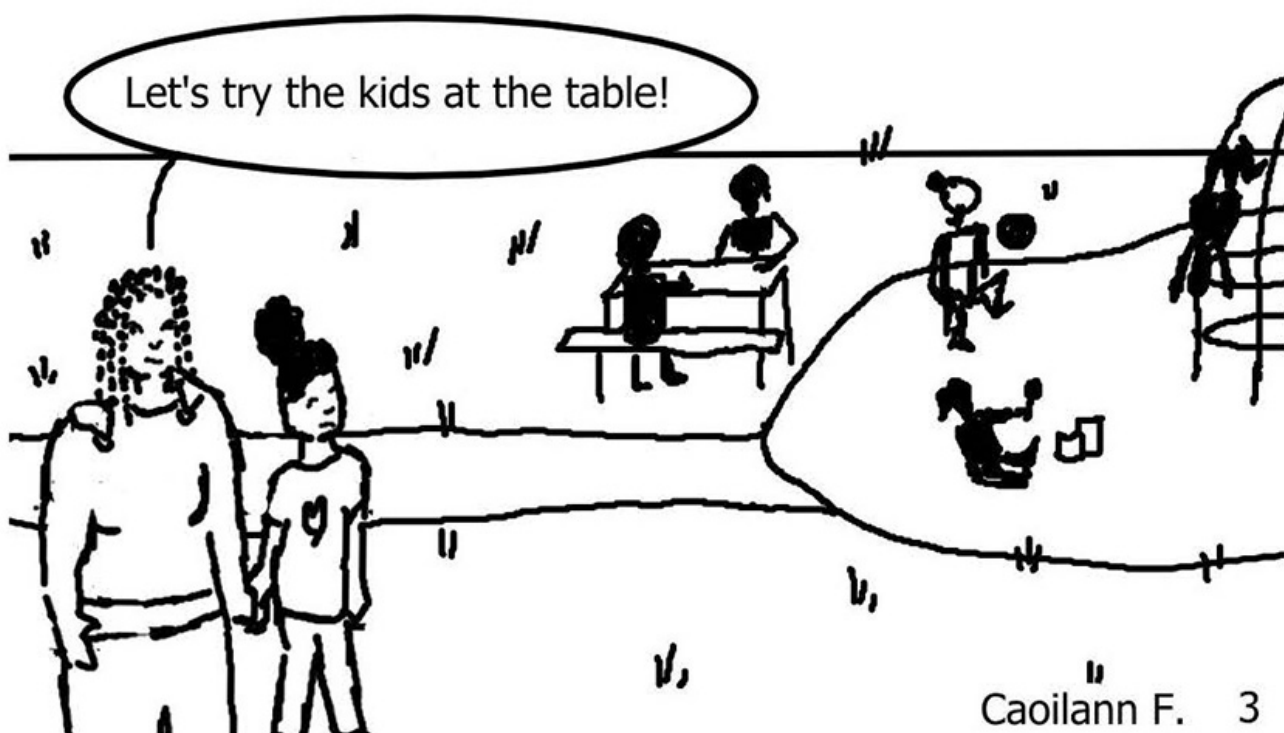








## We can start at the park!

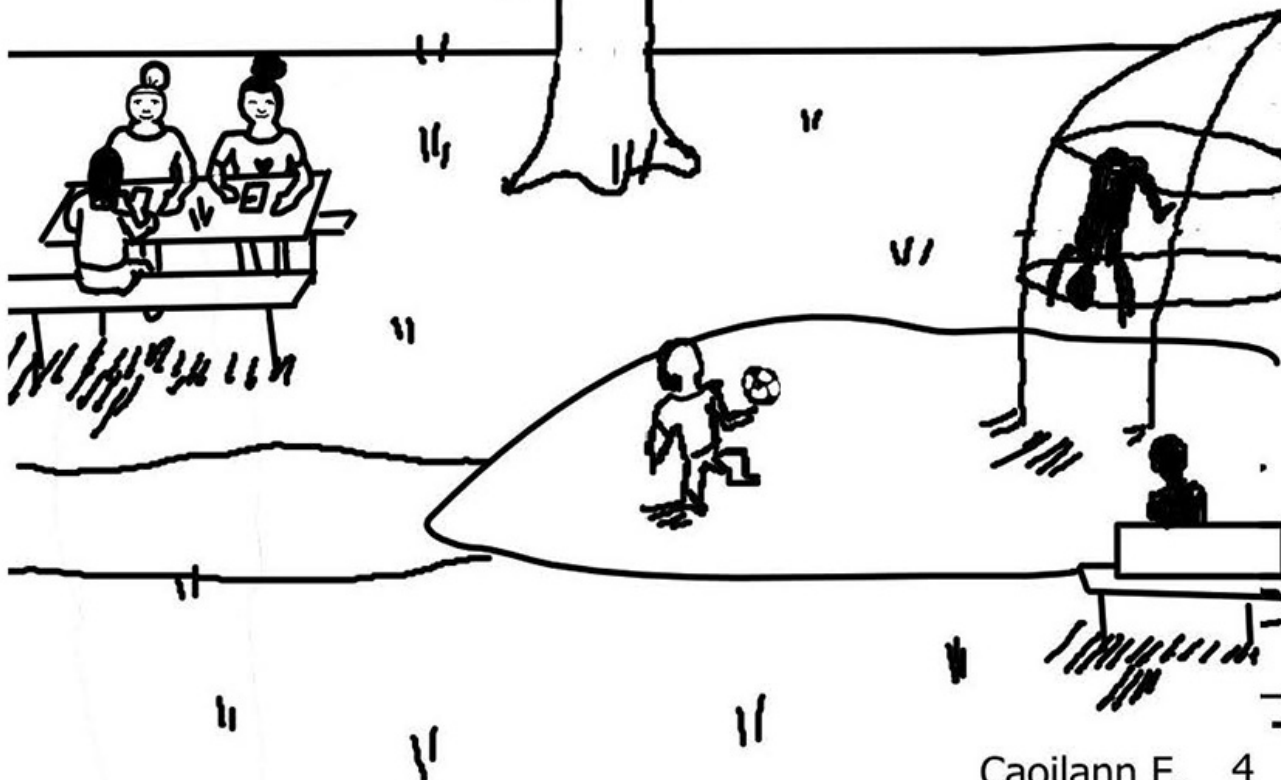
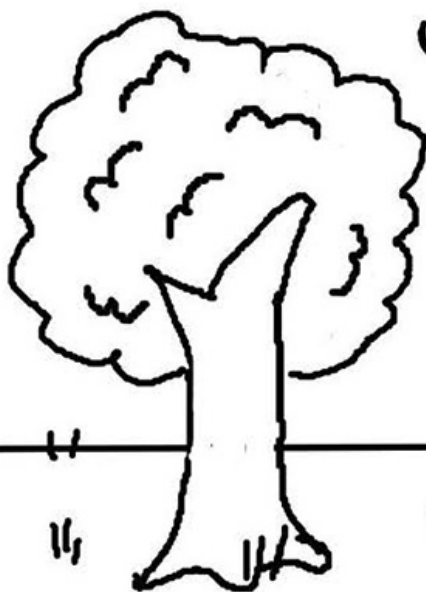


Can I join you guys?

Yeah, of course!

Thank you!

Of course!





# Lawyer in the Making

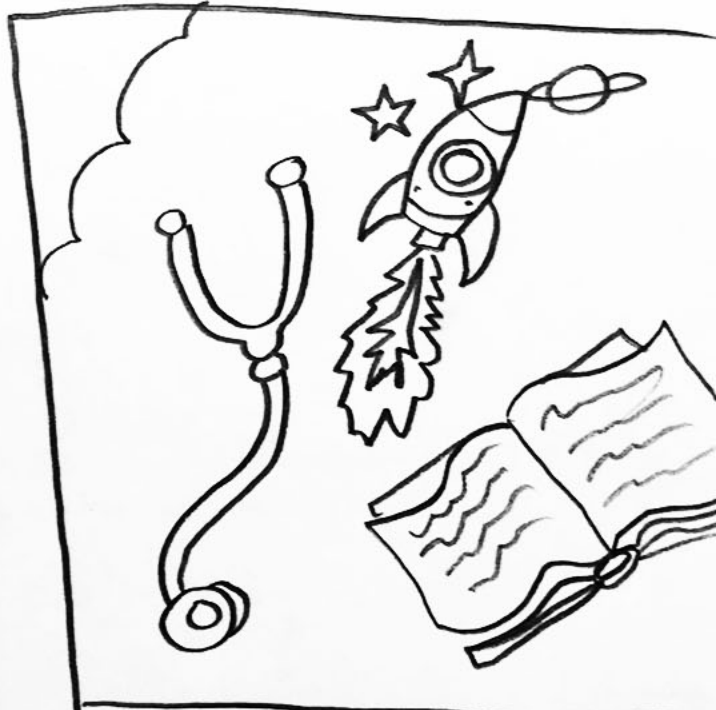


"What do I  
Envision Myself  
doing in the future?"

Growing up, I always  
Believed in myself



I always wanted to be  
Someone Inspiring. I can  
do anything.



The Possibilities  
are endless



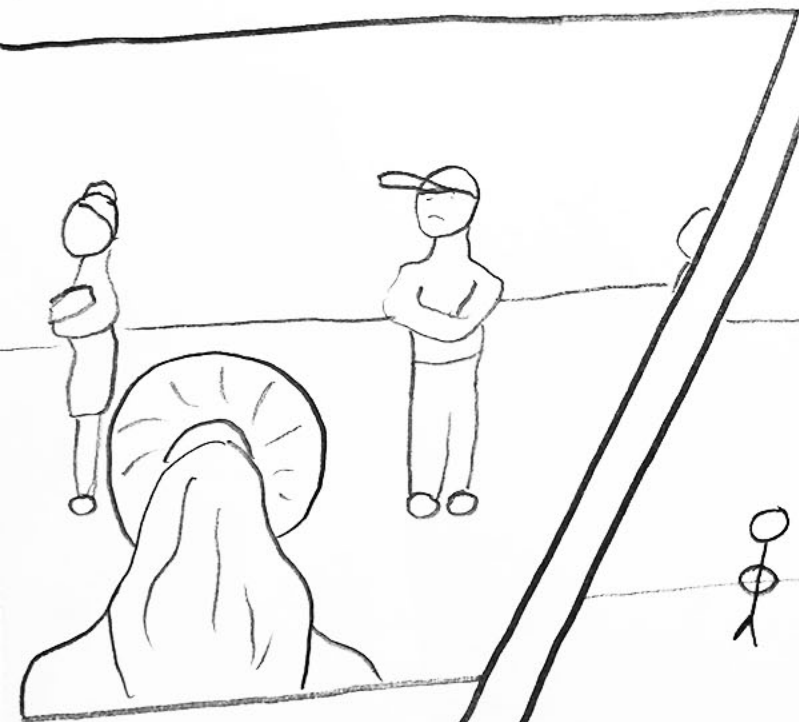
"I Know!  
I can be a  
lawyer!  
I would  
Be Perfect  
for the job!"

I Can  
See myself  
Speaking  
for  
People

College app

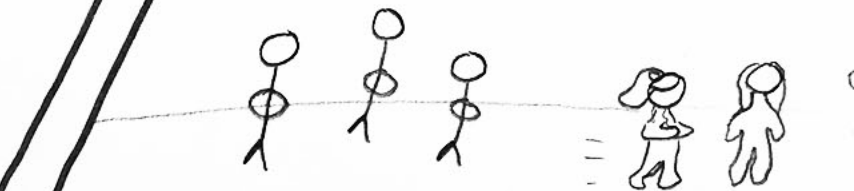


Moving in I felt excited. the new Possibilities, People, Classes. I felt Somuch support From family and friends.



I also faced obstacles like doubters.

I kept persevering. Nothing was going to Stop me.



I worked hard in all of my classes







Being a woman comes with its challenges.

No You Can't

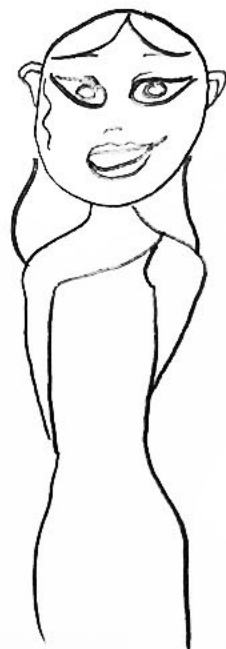


even more so  
Being a woman of color. No one can tell you what you can and can't achieve. and you can do anything!

No You Can't



Be empowered by all you are and chase your dreams.



Comic By: Kat Arnold  
Inspired By: Alisana Scott

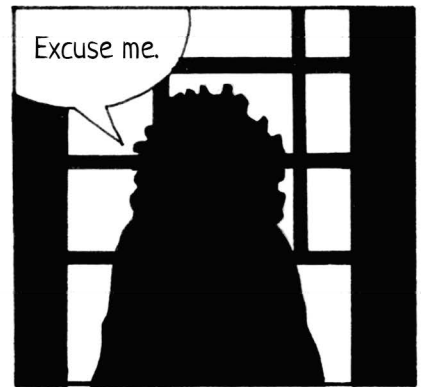
# STRONG & BRIGHT

COPYRIGHT © KATRINA STEVENSON

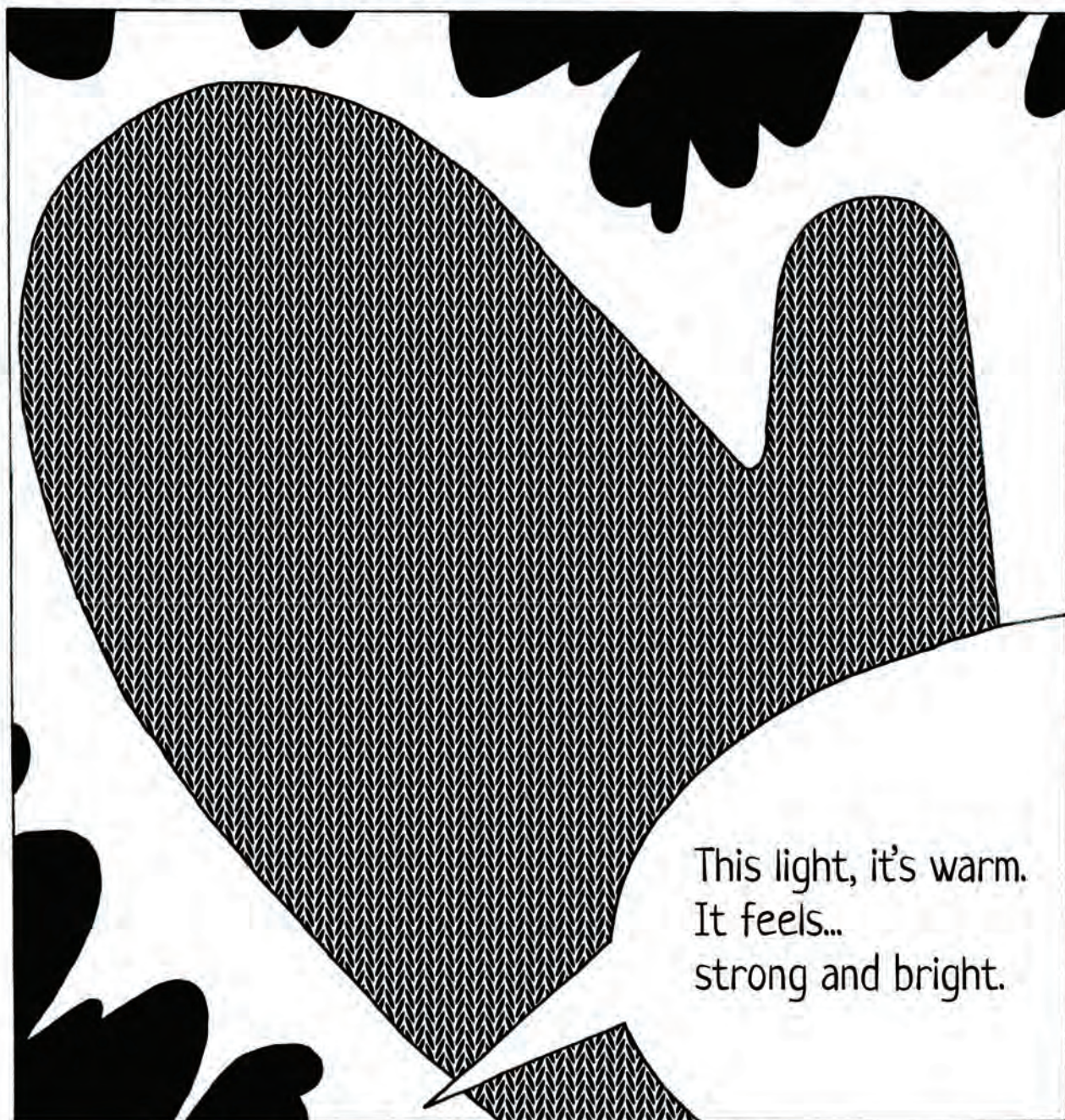
THE DARKNESS IS COLD.  
THE DARKNESS TURNS PEOPLE COLD.  
BUT LIFE GOES ON.



I REFUSE TO BECOME JUST A SHADOW IN THIS WORLD.











THIS COULD BE THE KEY  
TO DEFEATING THE  
DARKNESS. I HAVE TO  
KEEP FEELING LIKE  
THIS.



WHY ISN'T IT WORKING?  
EVERYTHING I DO IS JUST TEMPORARILY  
FIGHTING AGAINST THE DARKNESS.  
I GOTTA DO SOMETHING STRONGER,  
SOMETHING BRIGHTER!





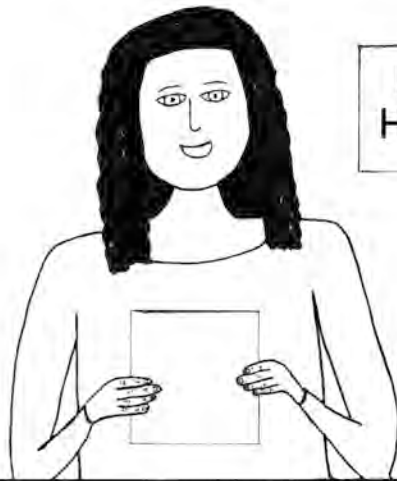


# Local Heroes:

Jesse Sanchez

By: Jenna Schaufele

Local  
Heroes



Welcome to this week's segment of Local Heroes. We have a local Saginaw resident who is a member of The First Ward Fellows, a program of distinction with a focus on leadership at Saginaw Valley State University. Let me introduce you to Jesse Sanchez. Jesse is currently serving in the National Guard. What made you want to join the National Guard, Jesse?

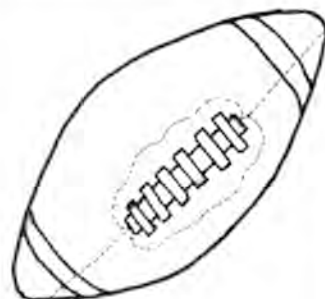
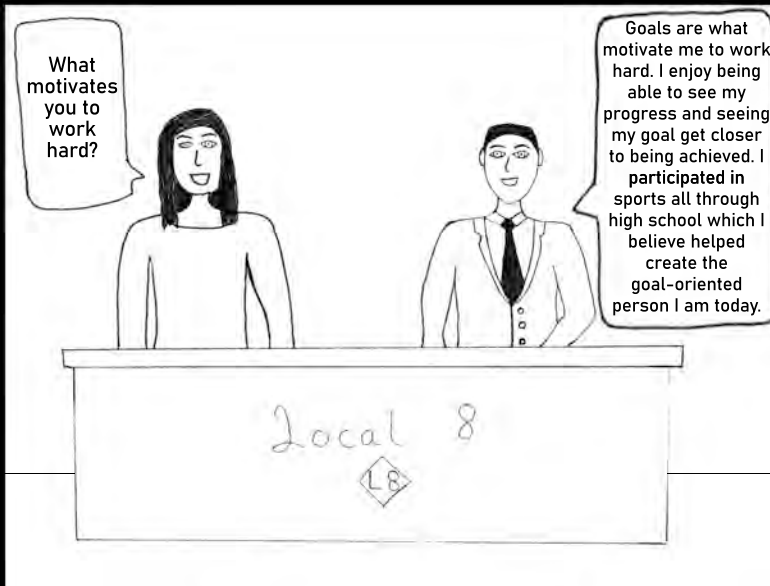


Thank you for having me. I wanted to join a branch of the military because when I was in 4th grade my older brother was in the Marines and I wanted to be like him. I wanted to help people and change the world.

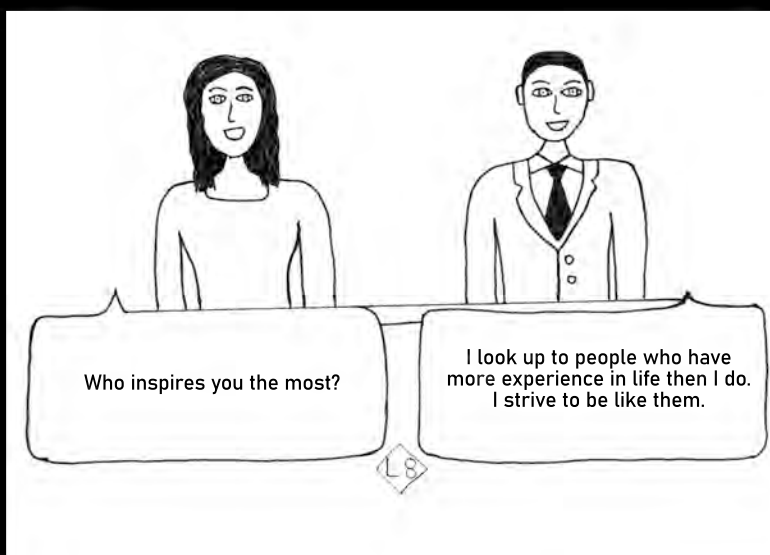


How long have you been in the military?

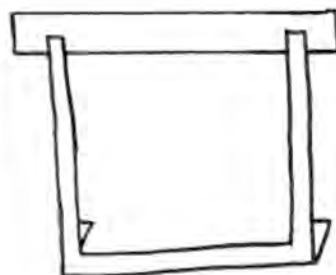
I signed up to be in the National Guard when I was 17. I would like to serve at least 20 years. I feel like the military is a great career and life experience. There are several opportunities that the military offers that I am able to try and do that I wouldn't be able to experience without being in the military.



Football



Baseball



Track & Field



Band

Recently you have helped out Prisons around Michigan during the pandemic. Would you mind telling us a bit about your experience?



During 2020, I volunteered to do a Covid-19 mission to assist in testing inmates at prisons around Michigan.



Local 8



We had to go through Covid testing training. I learned how to test some for Covid, how to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) the correct way, and the do's and don'ts of visiting a prison.



1 8

# PPE

Personal Protective Equipment







Each day we went to a different prison and tested each inmate. Each prison had at least 1,000 different people that needed to be tested if not more.



cal 8

Being tested wasn't required for the inmates but almost every one of them did get tested. The inmates appreciated that we were there for them, when they felt they were forgotten and even more isolated from the rest of the world.



l 8



Wow! What a great cause to volunteer for. Thank you, Jesse, for joining us today and sharing your experiences.



Local 8

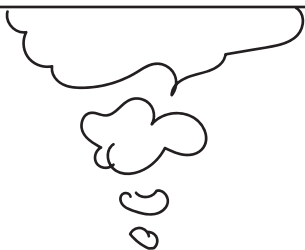
"You have **ONE**  
unheard message."



"Hey Tess! It's **MOM**.  
I just called to ask if  
you have thought  
anymore about  
going to college..."

# TESS AND THE BATTLE AGAINST DOUBT

Why does she keep  
pushing me to go  
to college?



Illustrated by:  
Jalee Martin

Inspired by:  
Tess Martin

Sometimes self doubt can cause  
people to miss important  
opportunities.

**DUMB**

“Obviously  
I am not  
smart  
enough.”

**I AM A  
FAILURE**

“Even if I tried...  
...I would fail.”







Tess knows that negative self talk can stop her from believing in herself. But she can learn to trust herself again.



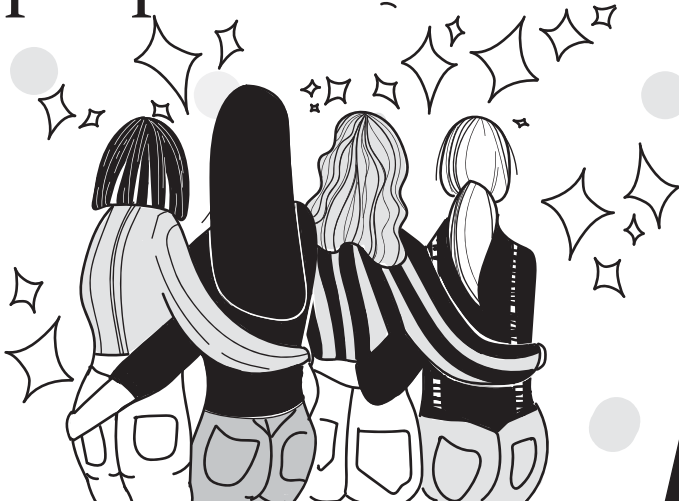
Have happier thoughts



Be kind to myself



Surround myself with people who lift me up



And say goodbye

to those who don't

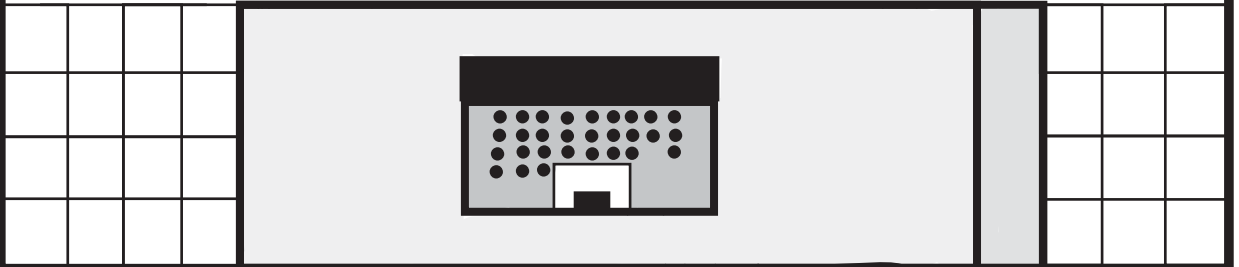


After  
some time...



I might  
believe  
I can do  
ANYTHING

...APPLY TO SVSU...APPLY TO SVSU APPL...



“Hey... Mom?  
I was accepted  
to SVSU.”



Inspired by Jalen Latimore

# TAKING ACTION

written  
by Jericho Long

SAGINAW, MI - 2019

HELPING HAND WOMEN'S SHELTER



HELLO MY NAME IS JALEN. HOW CAN I HELP YOU TONIGHT?

WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A ROOM AVAILABLE FOR ME AND MY BOY?



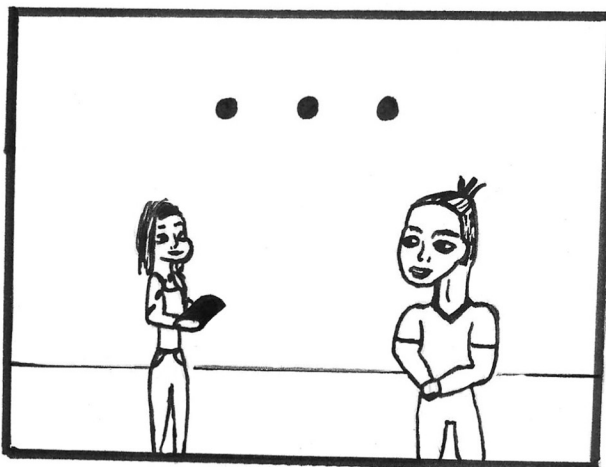
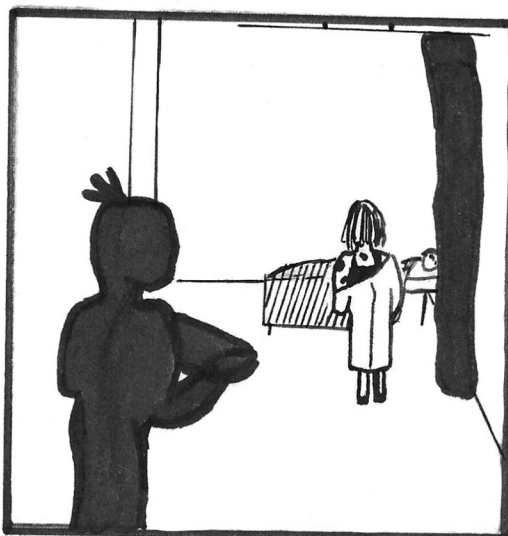
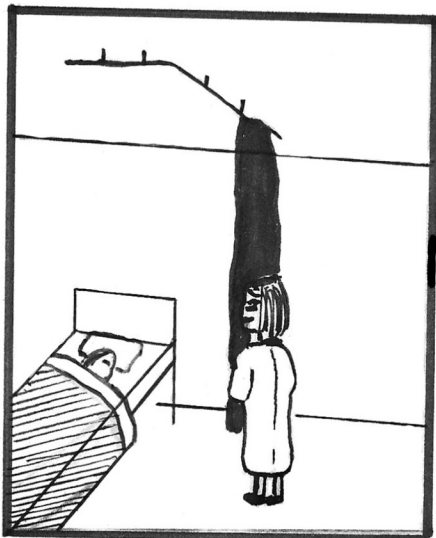
SURE. THIS WAY.

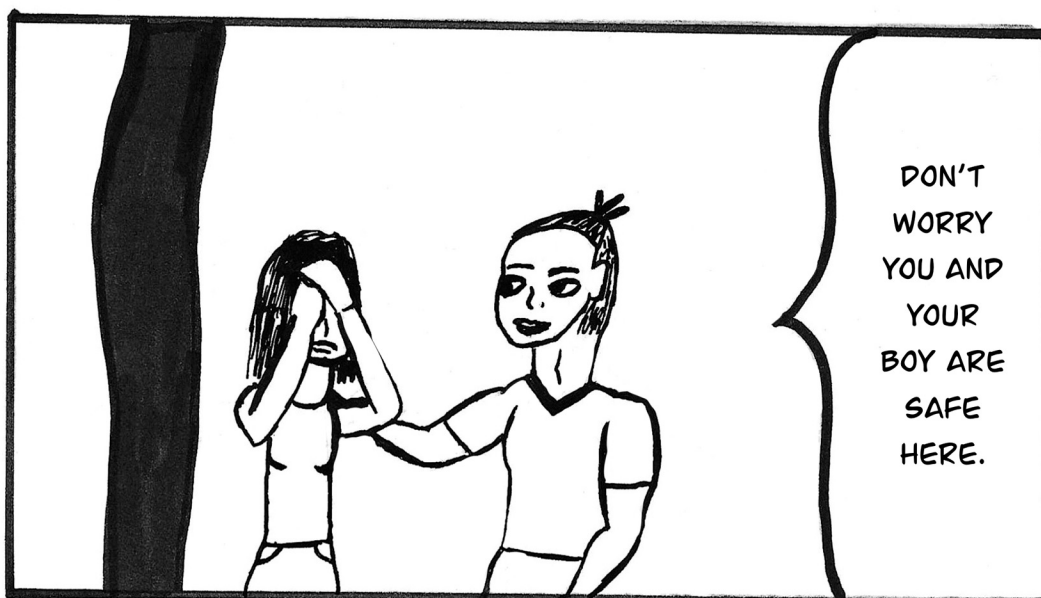
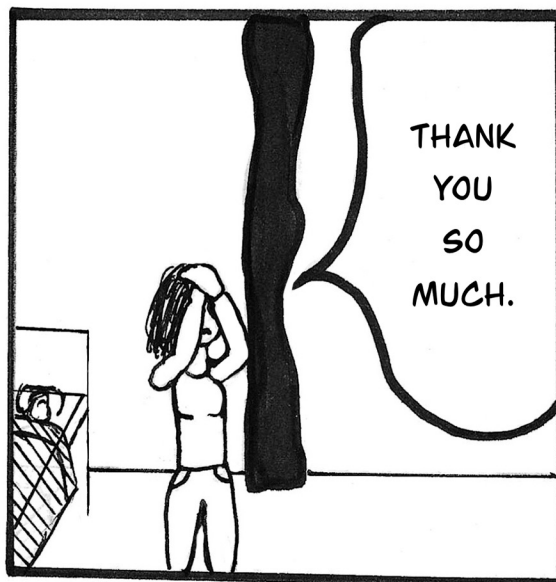
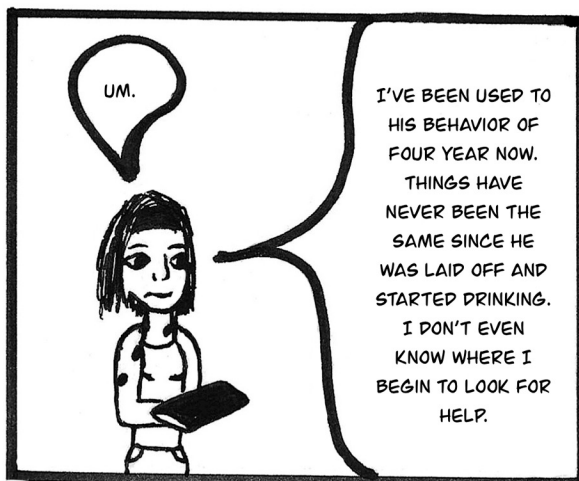
THANK YOU.

NO PROBLEM. I'LL BE BACK WITH SOME BLANKETS.

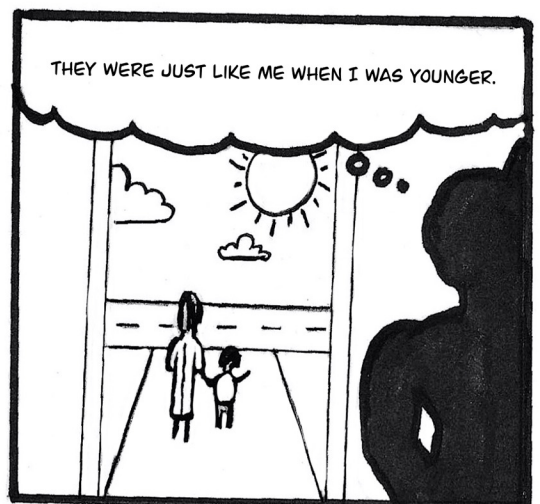












# THE LOUIS BOOKER STORY

LOUIS! NOW  
YOU'RE A HIGH  
SCHOOL GRADUATE.  
SO WHAT ARE  
YOUR PLANS?



HMM... WHAT ARE MY  
DESIRES & DREAMS?  
WHAT'S MY PLAN?



HEY FELLA!  
YOU SHOULD  
CONSIDER THE  
US AIR  
FORCE!



OK,  
WHERE  
DO I  
SIGN?



TWO YEARS OF THIS  
SHOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT!

WELL, I'M OUT OF THE  
AIR FORCE, BACK IN  
SAGINAW. BUT WHAT'S  
MY NEXT STEP?

IF THINGS DON'T WORK  
OUT FOR ME SOON, I'LL  
HAVE TO GO INTO THE  
FOUNDRY...OR MOVE TO  
BAY CITY.

MAYBE I'VE GOT  
**ENTREPRENEURIAL**  
SKILLS I CAN PUT TO USE...!

HELLO, MA'AM.  
GLAD TO SEE YOU  
LOOKING SO RADIANT ON  
THIS FINE, FINE DAY!  
I'M **LOUIS BOOKER**,  
WANTING TO TALK  
TO YOU ABOUT YOUR  
**INSURANCE!**

NICE MAN...  
HEY, MY  
**COUSIN'S**  
SINGLE...!



AND HE DIDN'T LEAVE!  
HE GOT INVOLVED IN  
COMMUNITY WORK  
IN **SAGINAW!**

BOOKER, WE NEED YOU  
TO JOIN US "OLD TIMERS"  
TO HELP THE KIDS IN THE  
FIRST WARD NEIGHBORHOOD.

LET'S BUY  
SOME VEHICLES.

LET'S TAKE THE  
KIDS ON TRIPS.

LET'S SET UP  
SOME  
**AFTER-  
SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS.**

**Yes!**

TO KEEP THE KIDS  
**OUT OF TROUBLE!**



Y'KNOW, SAGINAW'S BEEN PRETTY GOOD TO ME!  
GLAD I STUCK AROUND!



MY MESSAGE FOR YOUTH?  
WELL, THREE BIG  
THINGS TO REMEMBER:



THERE WILL BE BARRIERS  
IN LIFE, BUT YOU MUST  
PERSEVERE!



WISE  
MAN  
RIGHT  
THERE!



FOLLOW YOUR **DESIRES**  
AND YOUR **DREAMS!**

AND ALWAYS, THROUGH IT ALL,  
LOOK TO  
**HELP OTHERS!**



DR. DAWN HINTON & DR. JOSEPH OFORI-DANKWA  
DESIGNED THE FIRST WARD LEADERSHIP FELLOWS  
PROJECT OF 2021 TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN SAGINAW COUNTY.

EACH FIRST WARD LEADERSHIP FELLOW PARTICIPATED  
IN WORKSHOPS INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS  
FROM CITY COUNCIL, COUNTY COMMISSION & LOCAL BOARD  
MEMBERS WITH VALUABLE INSIGHT ON HOW POLITICAL  
PROCESS WORKS. THEY THEN REVIEWED THE VACANCIES  
ON THE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS IN  
THE CITY OF SAGINAW & SAGINAW COUNTY.

MR. DOM MONASTIERE, (EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE,  
CARMONA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS) & THEATRE PROF.  
DAVID RZESZUTEK PROVIDED COACHING, BOARD  
MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC SPEAKING LESSONS. THE  
VITITO FELLOWS GAVE PEER LEADERSHIP MENTORING.

PROF. MIKE MOSHER'S ART 390 COMICS STUDENT  
ARTISTS WORKED WITH THEM ALL TO PRODUCE THIS  
COMMEMORATIVE COMIC BOOK OF THE FIRST WARD  
FELLOWS' INSPIRATIONAL STORIES.

OUR GOAL IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SAGINAW WHO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS  
& THEIR APPLICATION TO SERVE ON  
VARIOUS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS  
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.



THE FIRST WARD LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROJECT  
& ITS COMIC BOOK WERE GENEROUSLY  
SPONSORED BY THE SVSU FOUNDATION.





THE BATS PROJECT: BUSINESS, ART, THEATRE &  
SOCIOLOGY REINVENT URBAN COMMUNITES  
AT **SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY** SOLEMNLY  
CHALLENGED **ART 390 COMICS** STUDENTS TO  
DEPICT THE STORIES OF SAGINAW'S  
**FIRST WARD LEADERS!**

AND THE ARTISTS ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE...  
TO PRODUCE MICHIGAN'S BEST STUDENT  
COMIC BOOK OF 2021!

SPECIAL FEATURE: THE INSPIRATIONAL STORY  
OF MR. **LOUIS BOOKER!**



FACES BY ELISSA MUGHANNEM • UNIVERSE LOGO BY RYAN FOLDIE