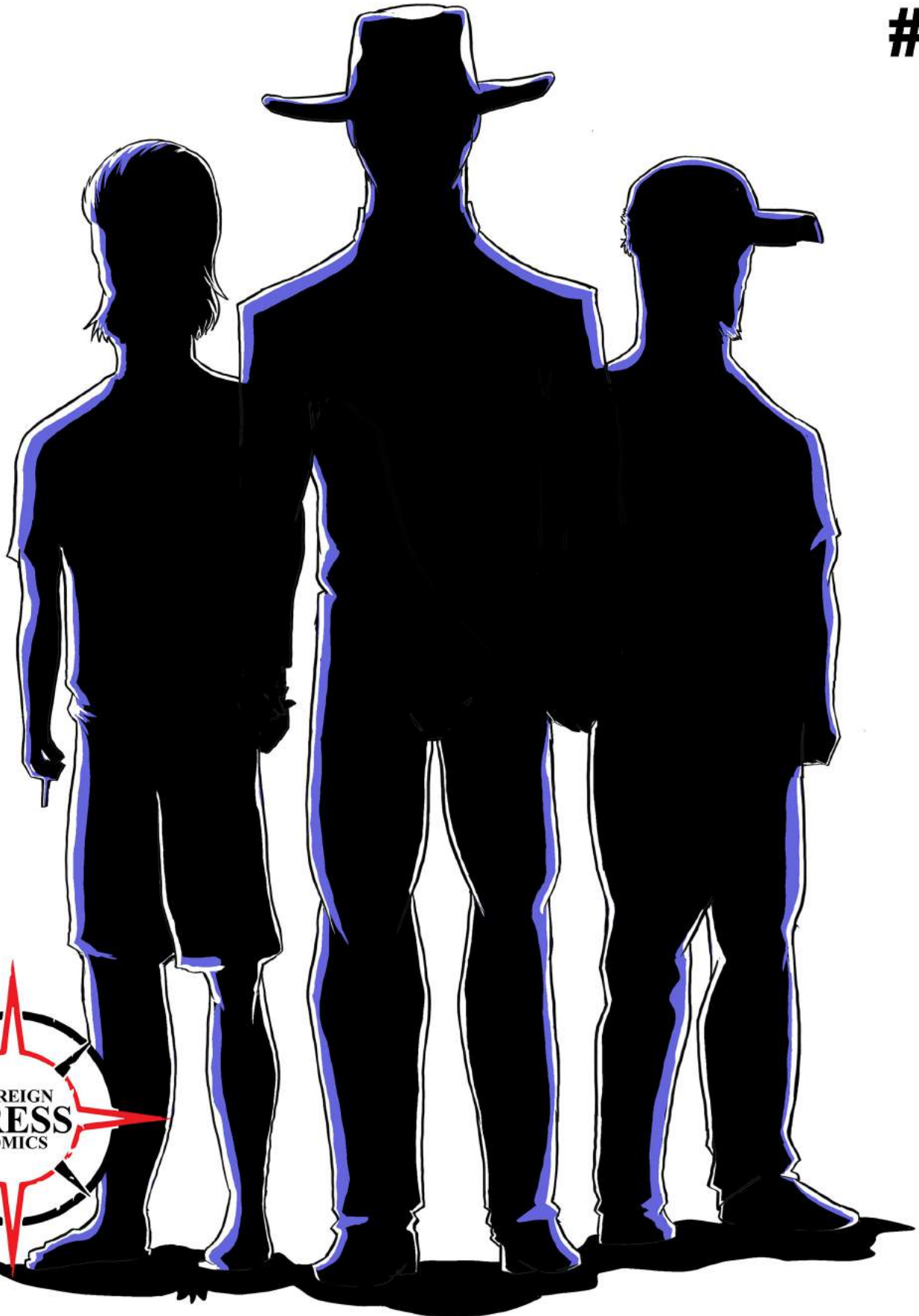


OUTLAW COUNTRY

#1



OUTLAW COUNTRY

STORY

ART

KYLAR MERRELL

EDITOR

DERRICK CROW

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2022**

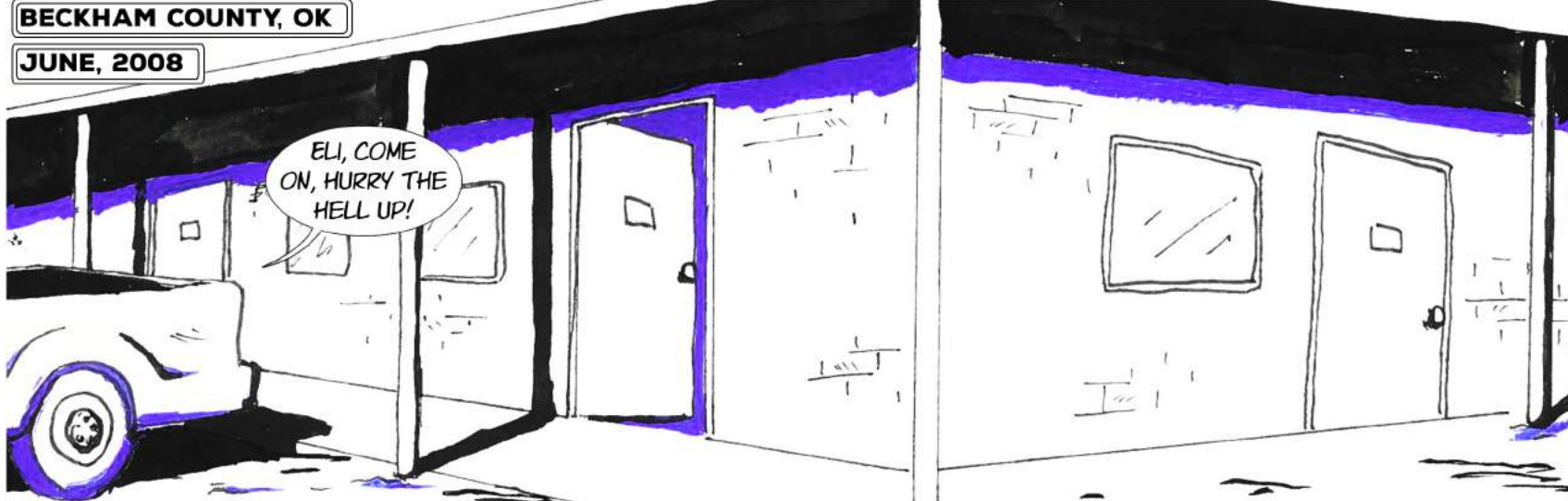
ELI, COME ON, HURRY THE HELL UP!

I KNOW, I KNOW.

SO CHRIS, WHAT'S ON THE DISC TODAY?

WE GOT SOME JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, A FEW OTHER THINGS THROWN IN, AND YOU KNOW ME, SO OF COURSE THERE'S SOME-

WAYLON!







SO ELI,
HOW'S MIKAYLA,
HMMM?



SHE'S STILL AT OBU.
WE TALKED A FEW NIGHTS
AGO. I SAW HER MOM AT PICK-IT'S
AND SHE GAVE ME THE WORST
LOOK.



YEAH, BUT
SHE NEVER LIKED YOU.
SHE DOESN'T LIKE
ANYBODY.

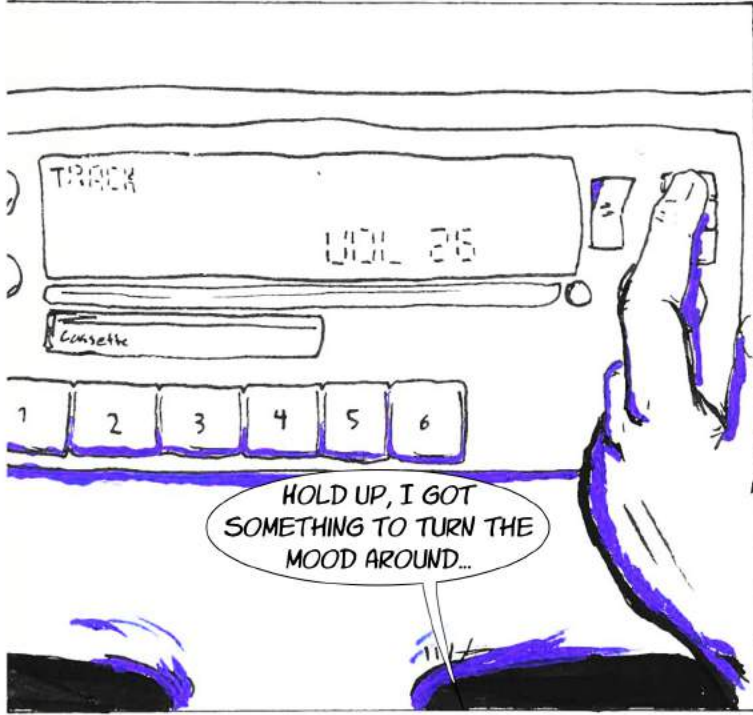
YEAH, BUT IT'S
WORSE WITH ME. 'CUZ
OF THE THING WITH
MY DAD.



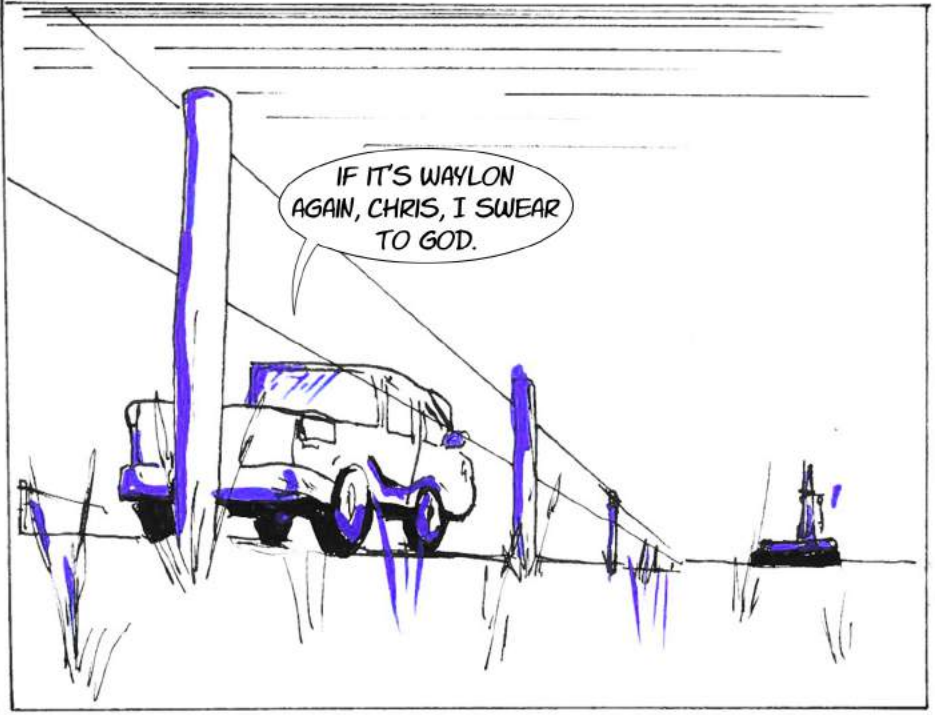
EH, #@\$ HER.



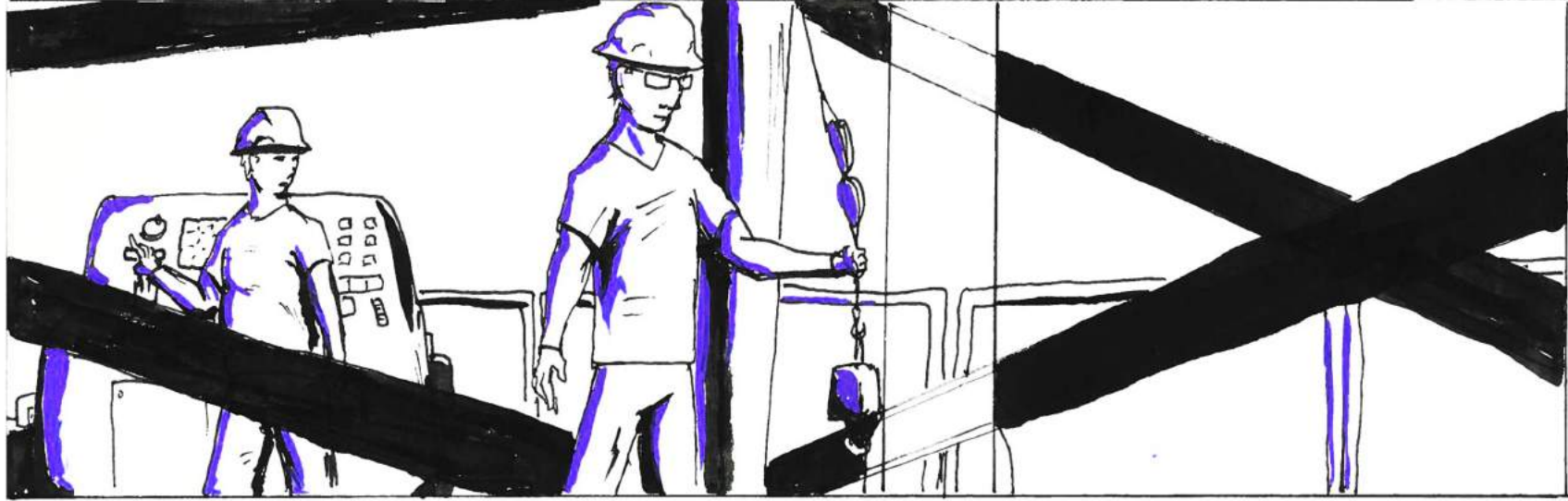
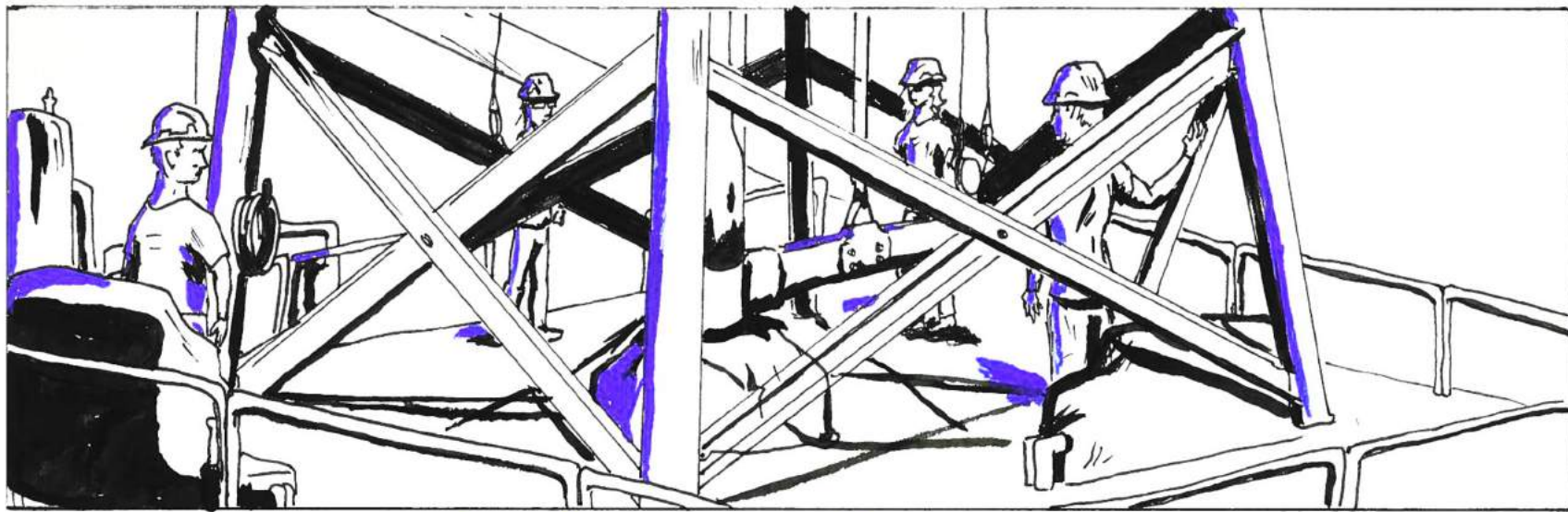
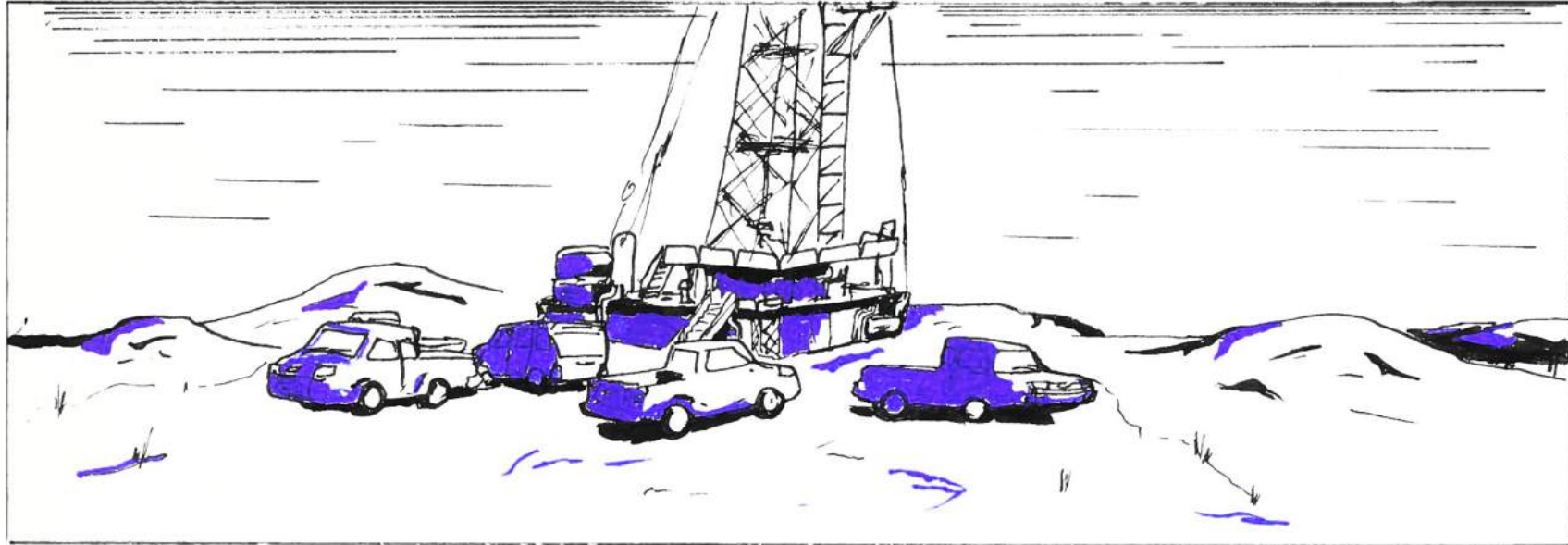
YEAH, I
GUESS YOU'RE
RIGHT.

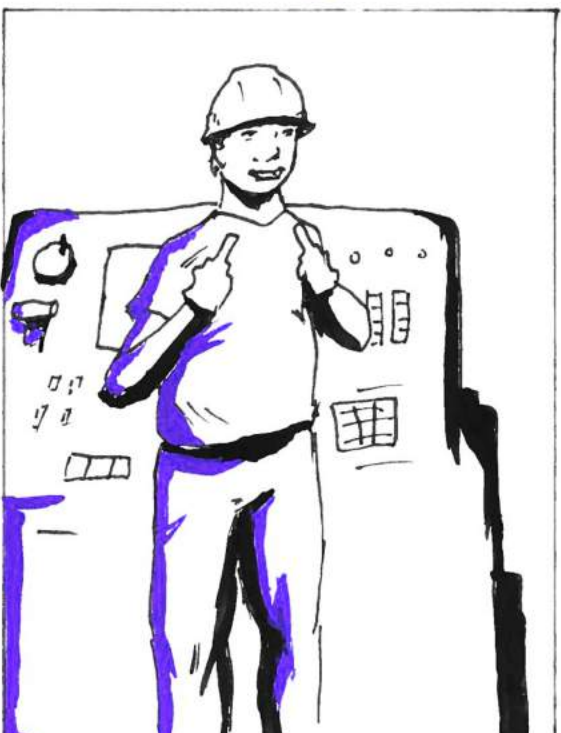
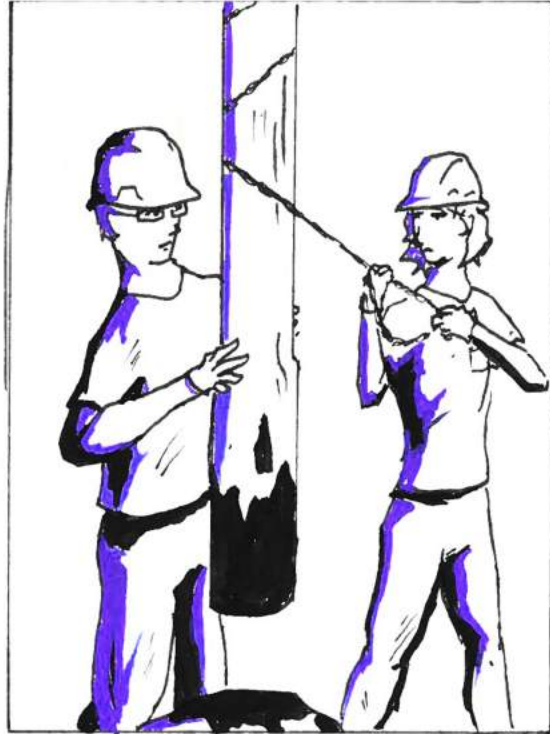


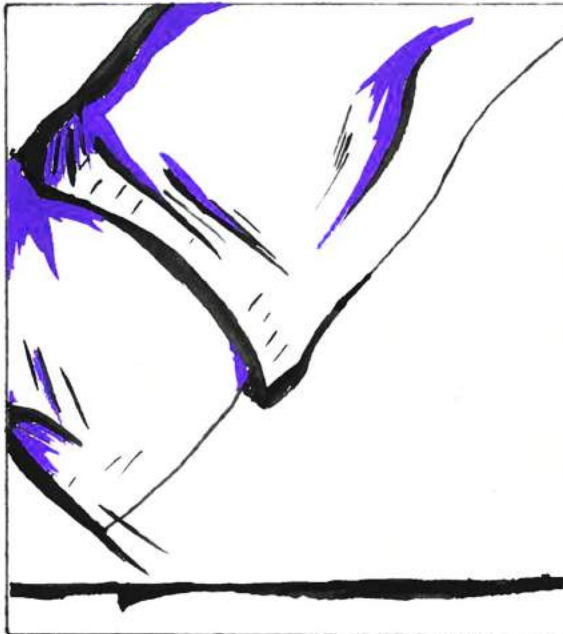
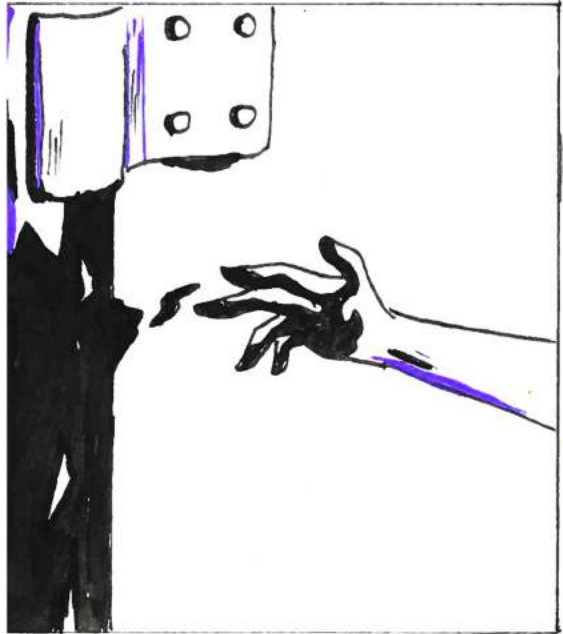
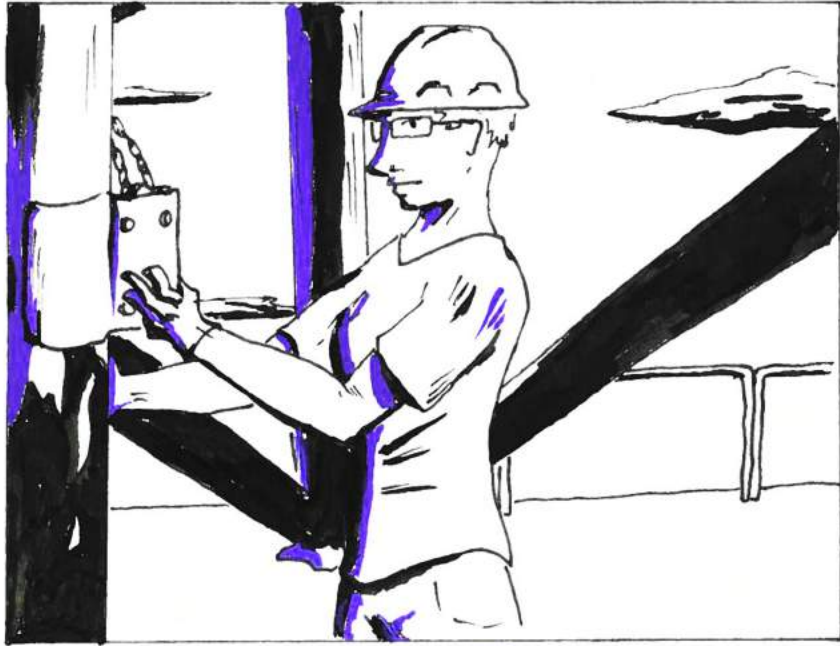
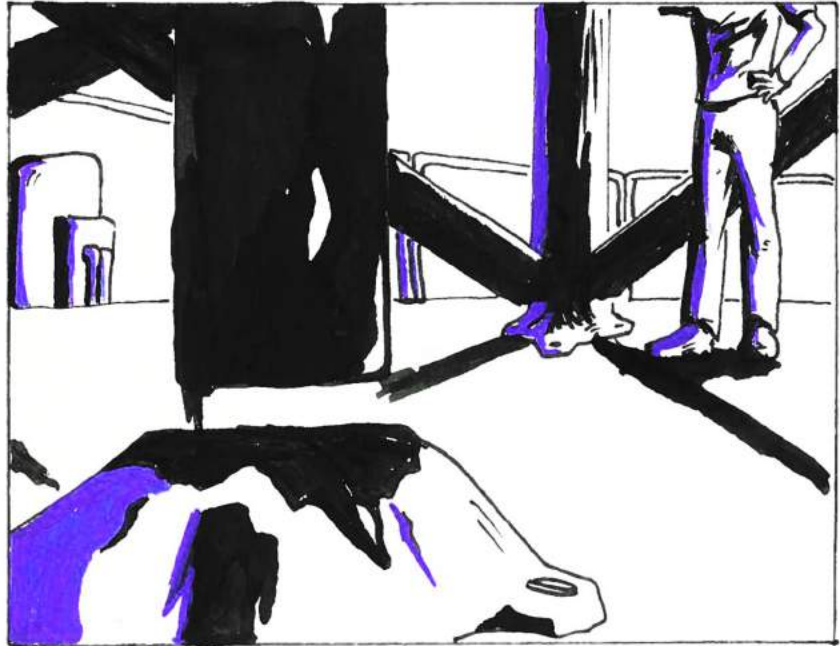
HOLD UP, I GOT
SOMETHING TO TURN THE
MOOD AROUND...



IF IT'S WAYLON
AGAIN, CHRIS, I SWEAR
TO GOD.

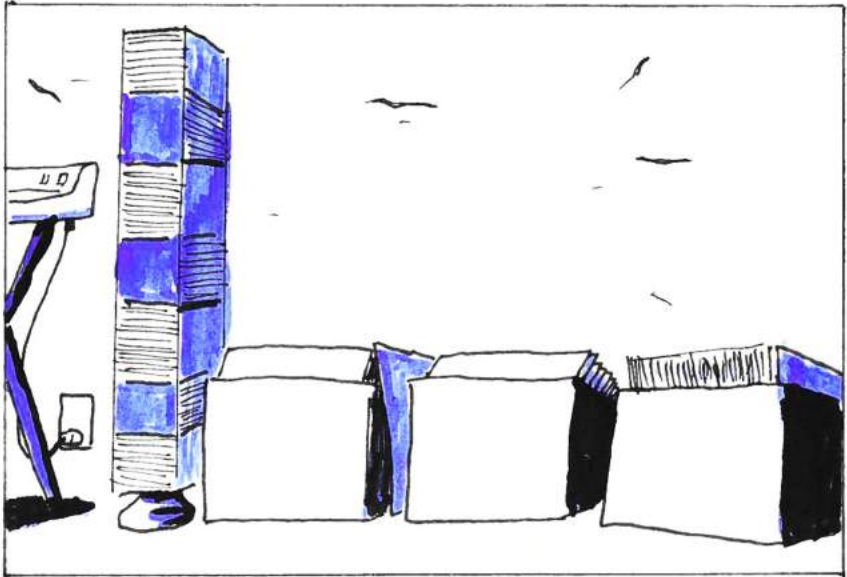
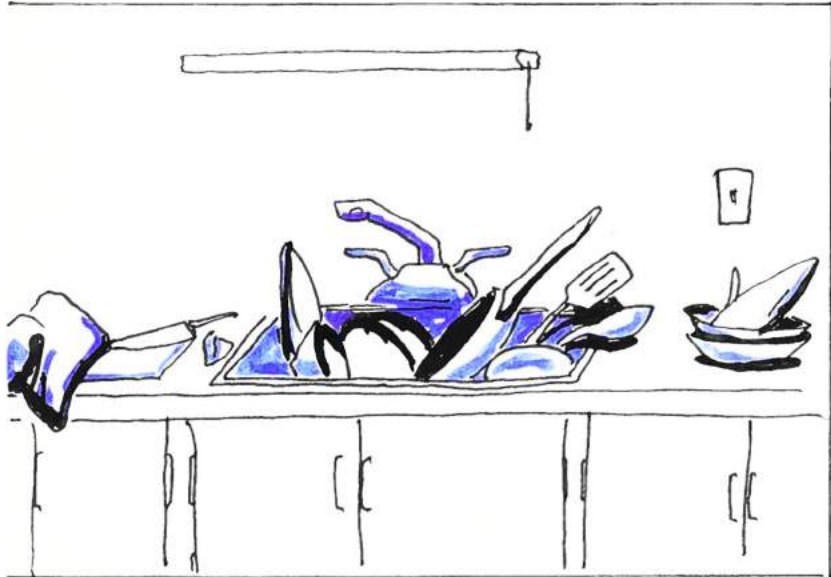
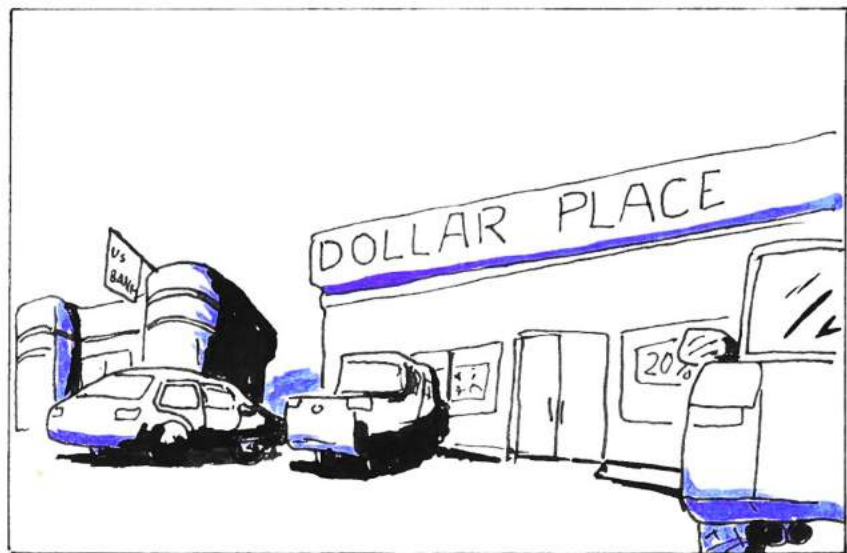
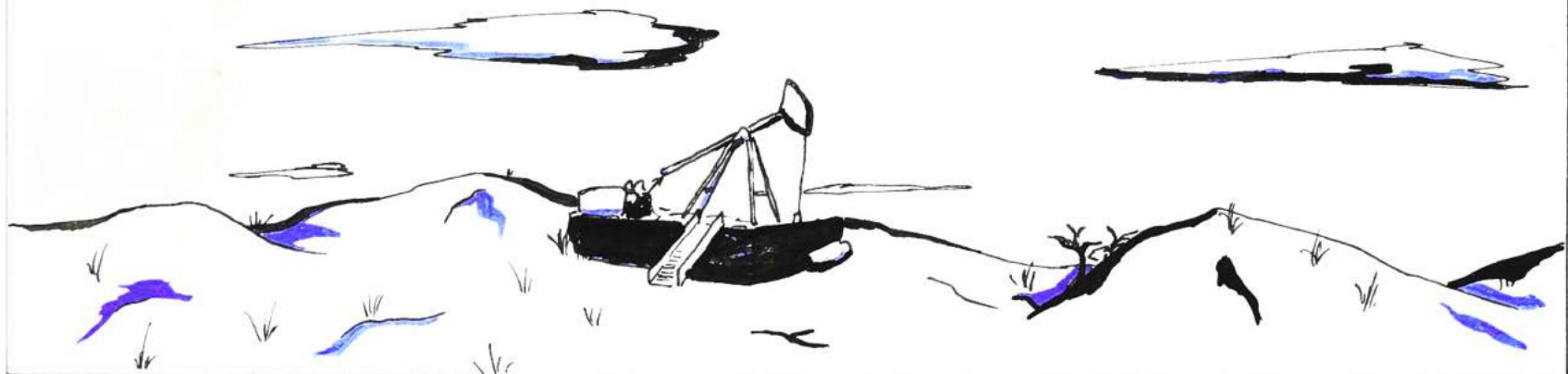


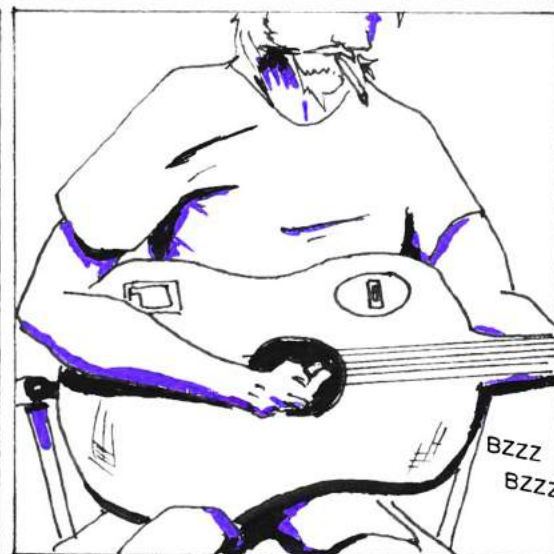
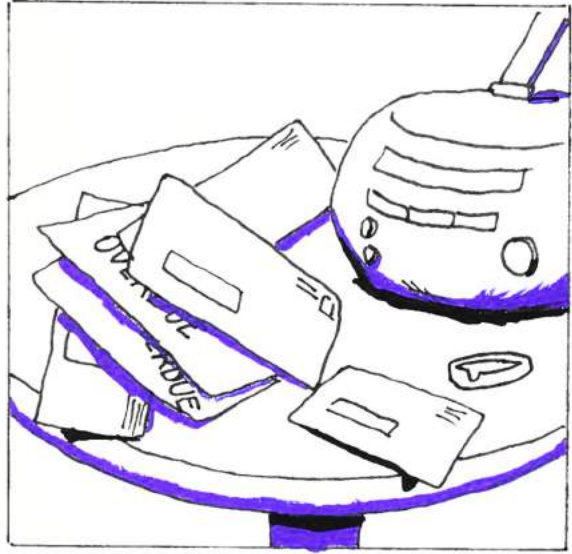


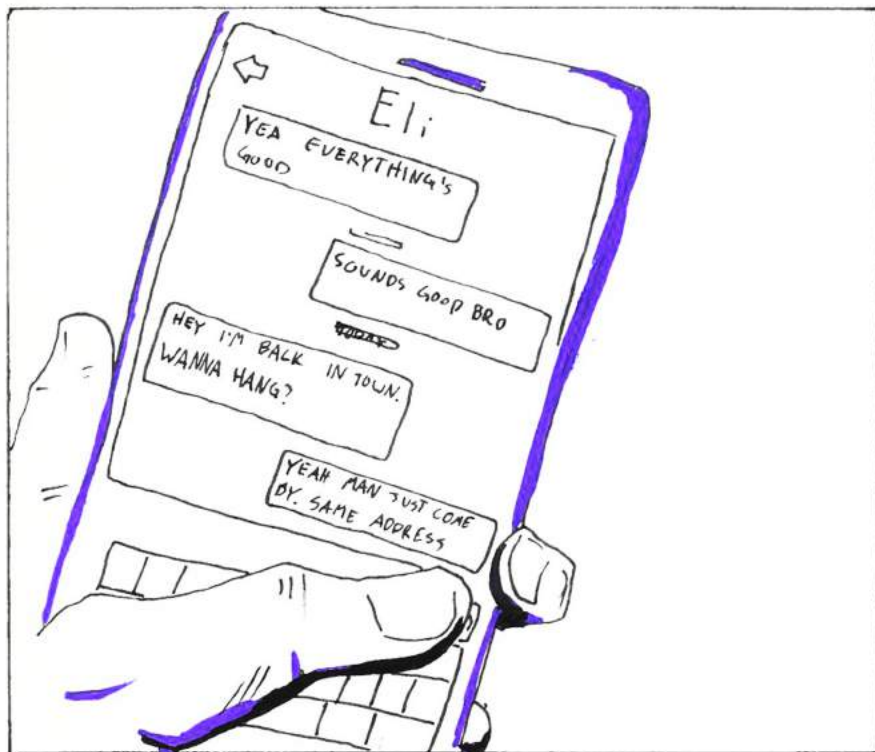
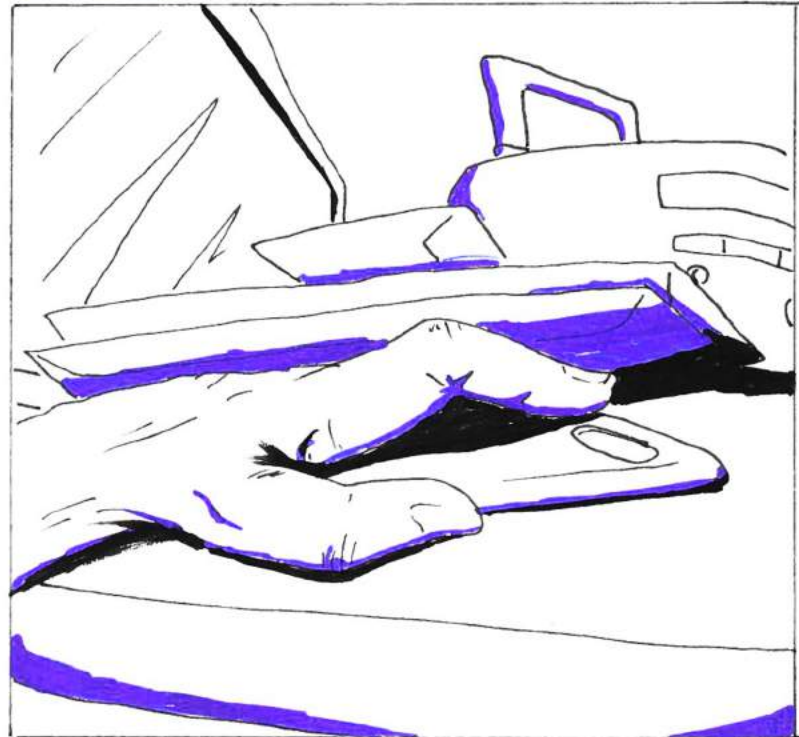
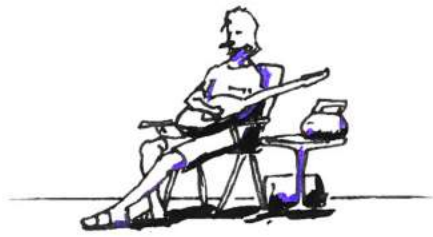


AUGUST, 2019

ELEVEN YEARS LATER

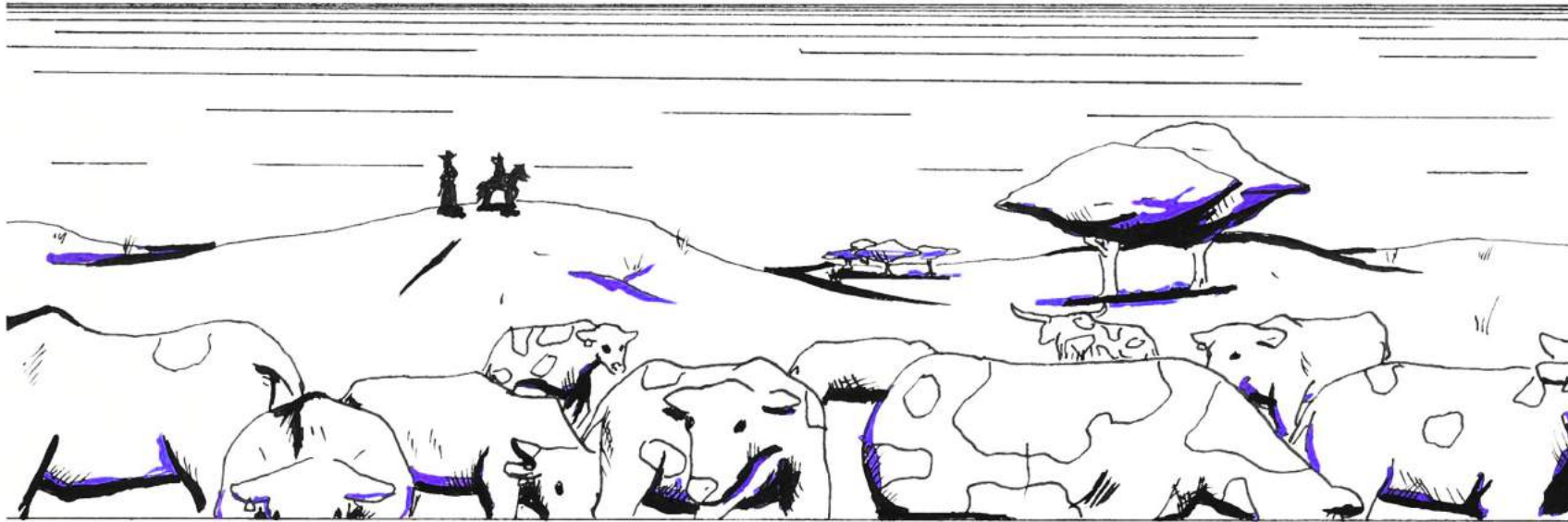








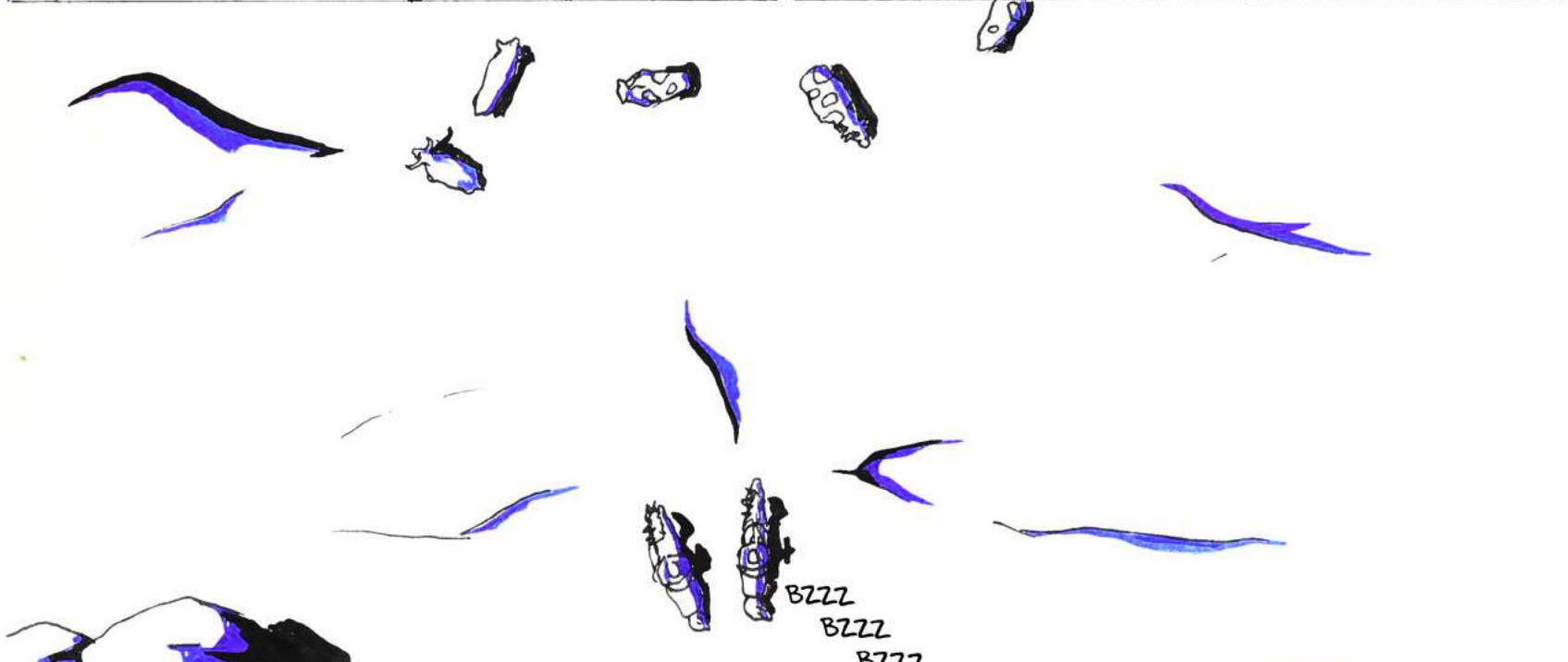
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT IT, LEE. YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU LIKE FAMILY.

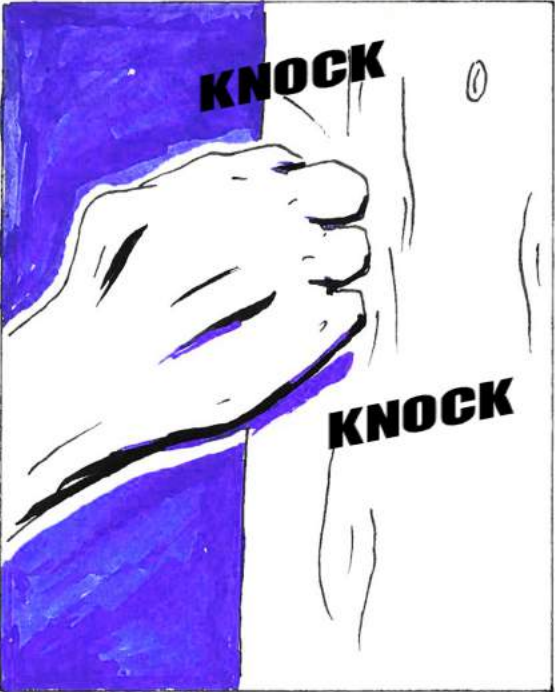
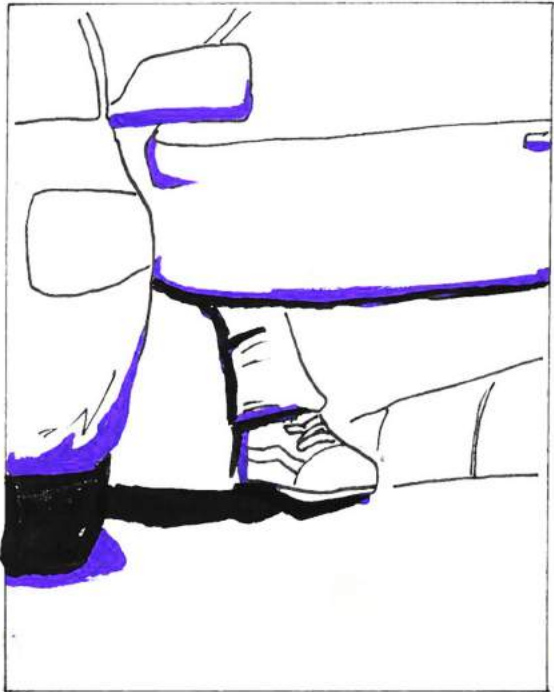
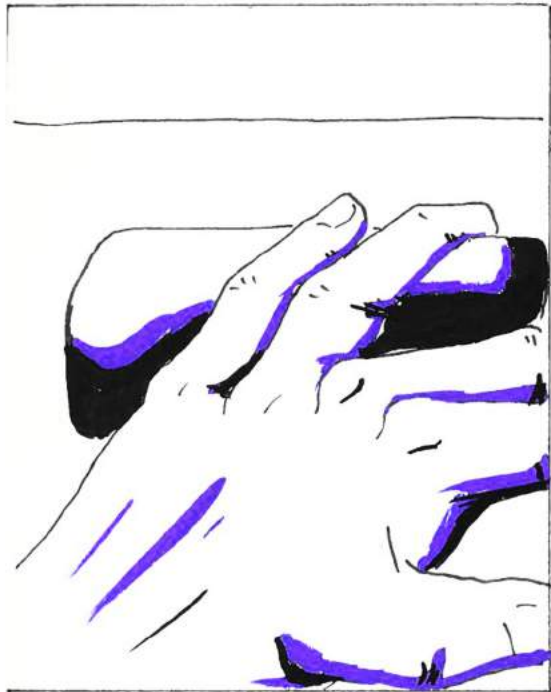
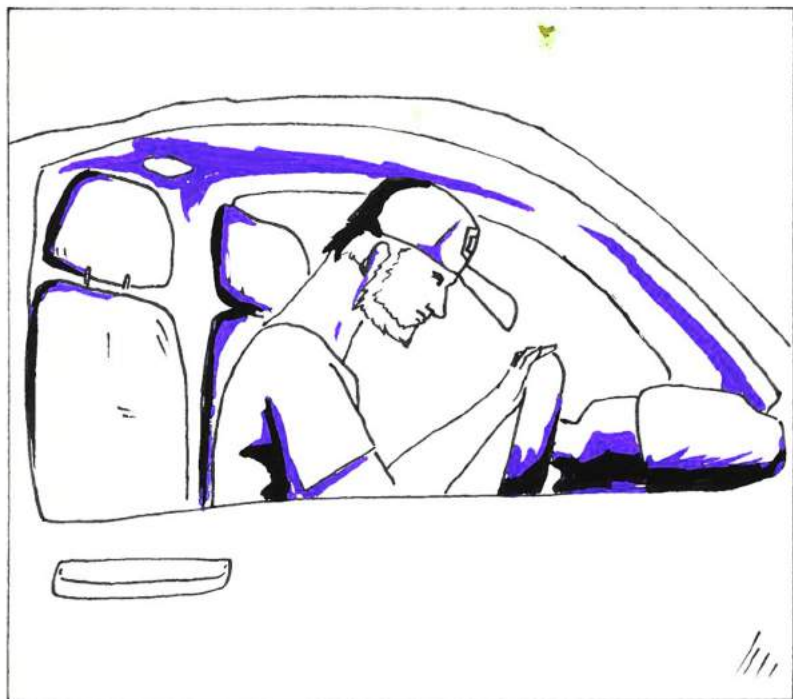


YEAH, VINCE. I KNOW. I GET IT.



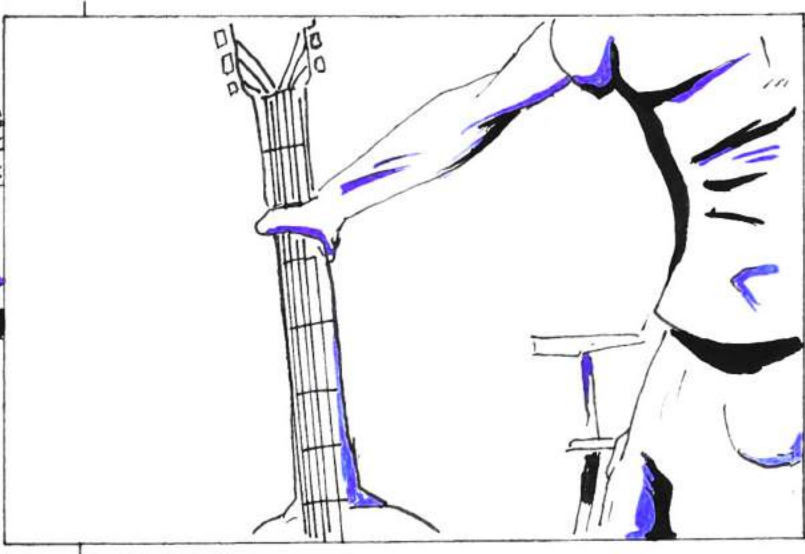
THE RANCH JUST AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE. WITH CATTLE HORN COMING IN, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER WE'LL BE AROUND.







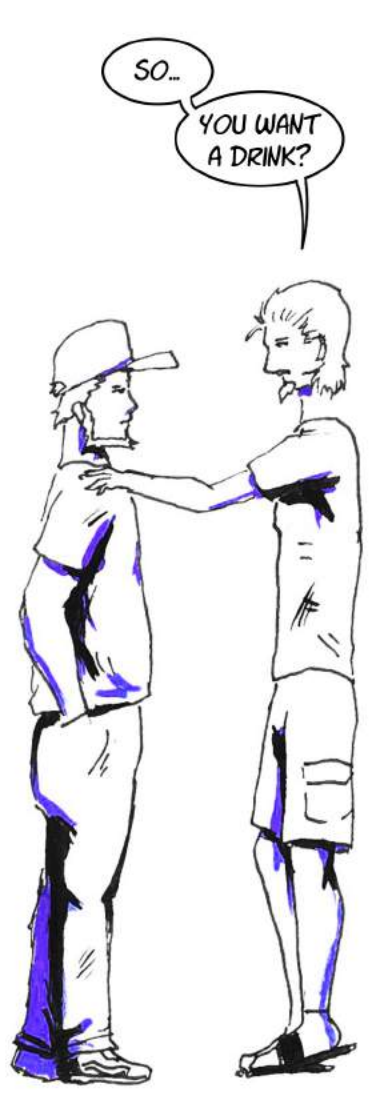
I'M IN THE BACK!



WHAT'S UP, MAN?



ELI, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE BACK!



SO...

YOU WANT A DRINK?



YEAH, I'LL ALWAYS TAKE A BEER.



**KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK**

WHAT THE HELL?



I INVITED LEE OVER. FIGURED IT COULD BE A LITTLE LIKE HIGH SCHOOL.



LOOK WHO CAME RUNNING BACK HOME!



YEAH, I GOT SUCKED BACK IN.



LONG TIME, NO SEE, NOAH.



IT HAS BEEN A COUPLE MONTHS, HASN'T IT?



ALRIGHT, SO IT'S THAT KIND OF PARTY!

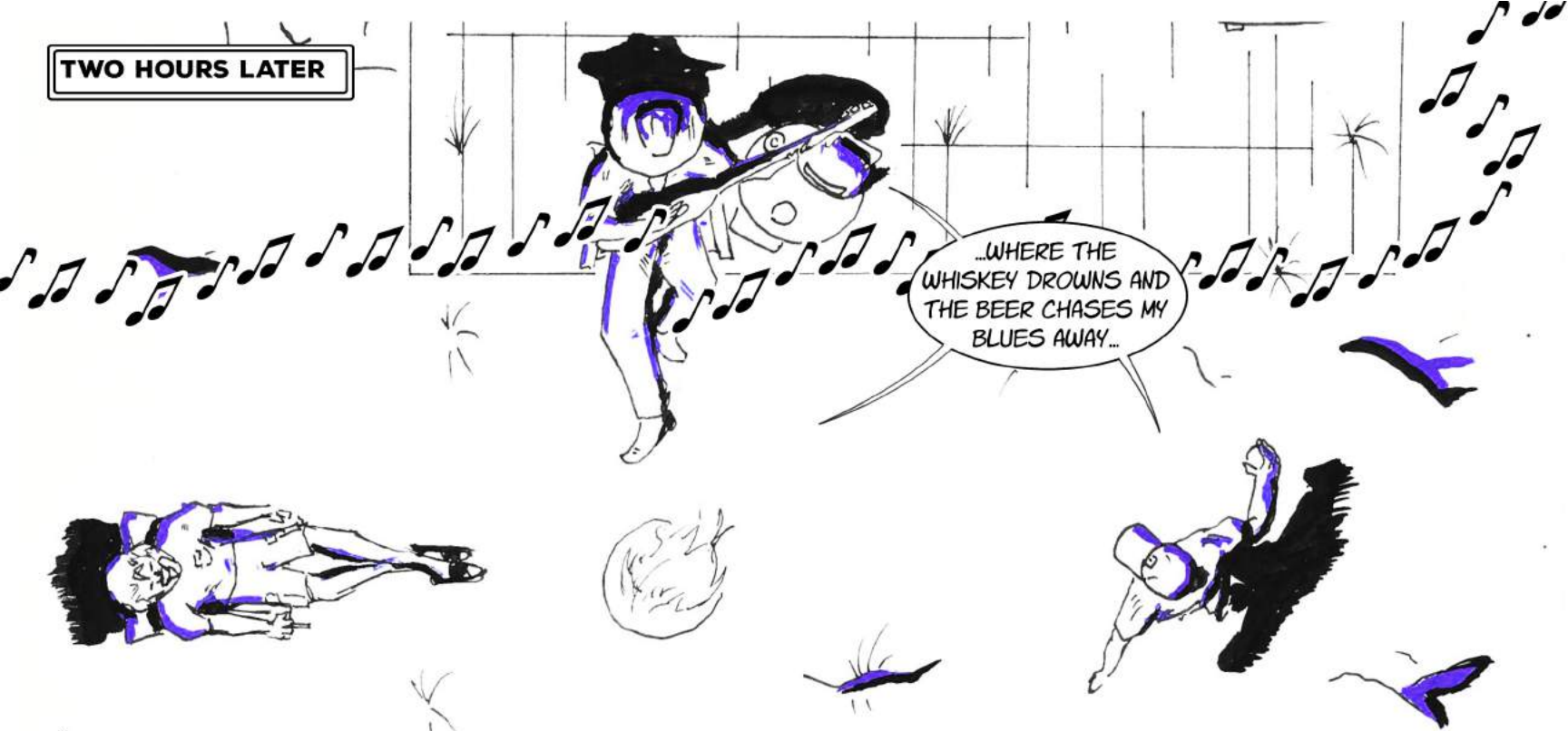


IT ALWAYS IS WITH HIM.



ALRIGHT, WHO'S READY TO PARTY?

TWO HOURS LATER



...WHERE THE WHISKEY DROWNS AND THE BEER CHASES MY BLUES AWAY...



...AND I'LL BE OKAY...



YOU GUYS, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU SEEM SO SAD.



YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, ELI, YOU WERE THERE.



CHRIS %*#\$ING DIED, MAN. AND THEN YOU JUST LEFT US HERE-



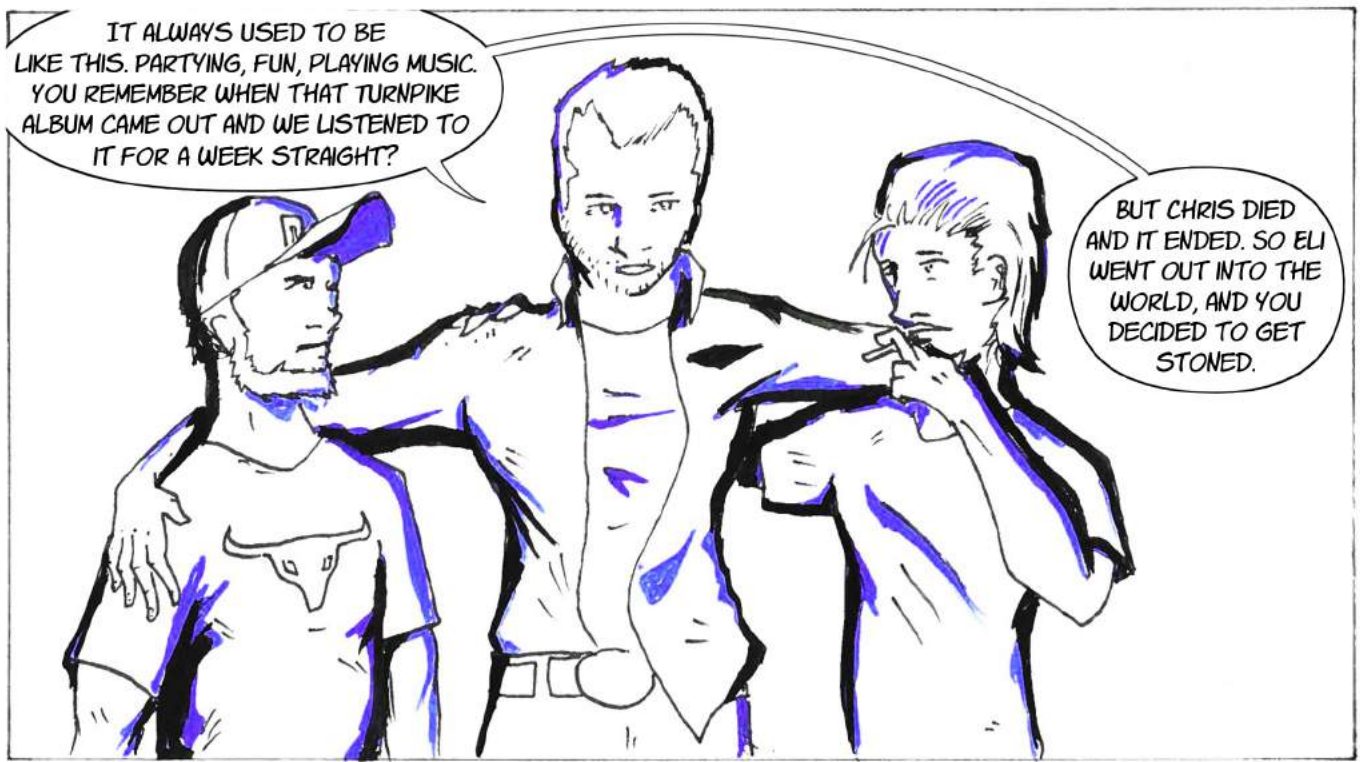
NO NO NO, I JUST COULDN'T BE HERE ANYMORE. IT WAS TOO MUCH.



-AND LEE RAN OFF TO BE A REAL-LIFE COWBOY. LEFT ME WITH THIS KICKASS LIFE.



BECAUSE IT WASN'T FAIR, NOAH. OKE JUST RUINED THIS.

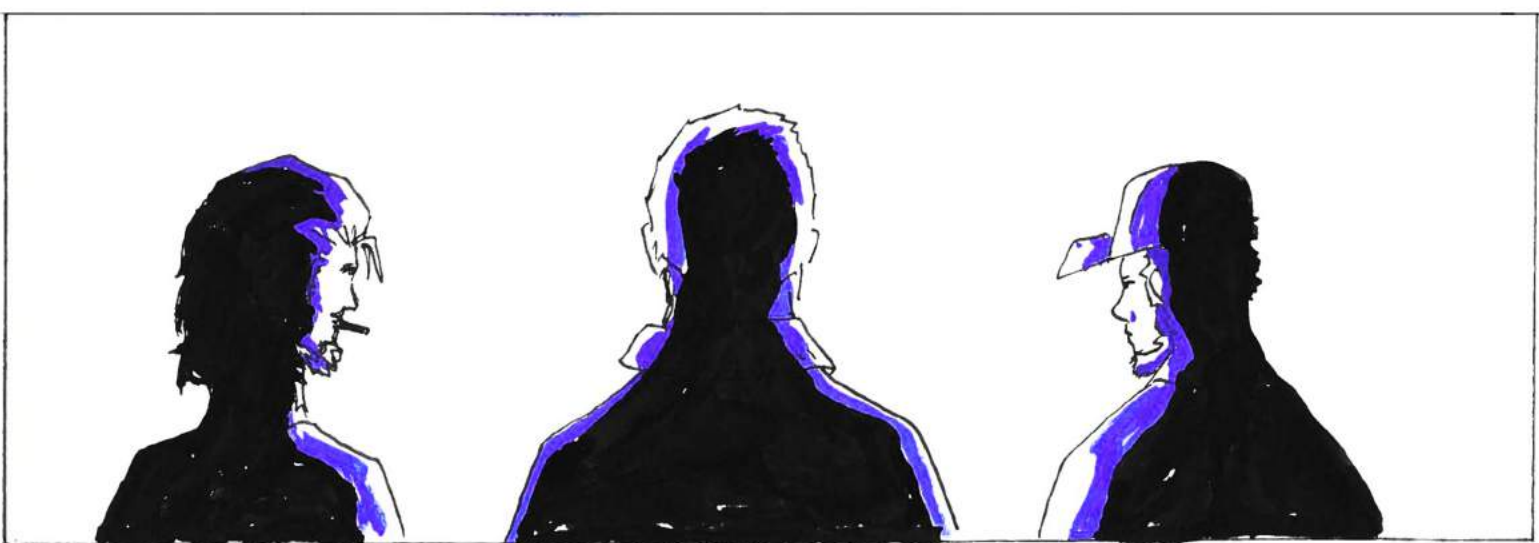


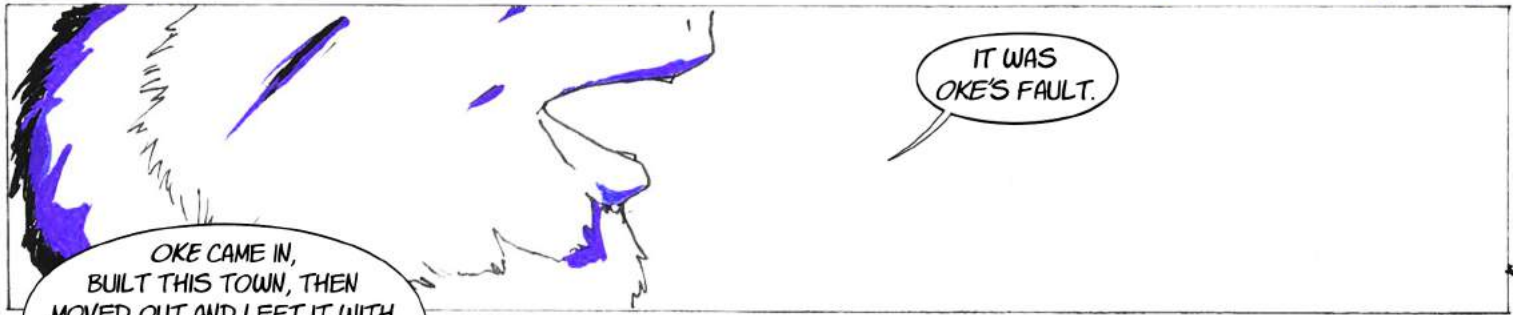
IT ALWAYS USED TO BE LIKE THIS. PARTYING, FUN, PLAYING MUSIC. YOU REMEMBER WHEN THAT TURNPIKE ALBUM CAME OUT AND WE LISTENED TO IT FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT?

BUT CHRIS DIED AND IT ENDED. SO ELI WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD, AND YOU DECIDED TO GET STONED.



AND I COULDN'T HANDLE IT.





IT WAS OKE'S FAULT.

OKE CAME IN,
BUILT THIS TOWN, THEN
MOVED OUT AND LEFT IT WITH
NOTHING. THEN THEY TOOK
ONE OF OUR OWN AND DIDN'T
DO \$#!%.



SO LET'S
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.



LIKE WHAT?





LOOKS GOOD.

DAMN GOOD.



SO WHAT WOULD HE THINK?



I THINK HE'D APPROVE.



IT'S NOT JUST FOR HIM. IT'S FOR THE WHOLE TOWN.



GOLD OORAD

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