2016

Home planet

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Acknowledgements

This senior project would not have been come to be without the inspiration, encouragement, and guidance I received from the people around me. I developed the concept for my graphic novel through conversations with friends, peers, and faculty mentors, and was able to follow through with it thanks to their encouragement and assistance.

I would like to thank my second reader, Peter Antelyes. His knowledge of comics and love for the medium has been invaluable over the past year, and I am grateful for his generosity in advising me and his commitment to seeing the project develop from a concept into a physical piece. I owe a lot of my growth as an artist, writer, and thinker this year to him.

I would like to thank my first reader, Tyrone Simpson, for believing in this project from the start and for his critical and challenging feedback. His brilliance and perspective have helped me to tie together the theoretical and creative elements of this project into a piece that addresses its larger themes in a way that is nuanced and grounded in American Studies.

I would like to thank Carlos Alamo for helping to me to expand on my initial interest in incarceration – this project in many ways grew from the work I did in his class "Imprisonment and the Prisoner"; Michael Joyce for encouraging me to experiment with mediums and to see feel comfortable working with narrative; Andy Bush for his thoughtful, compassionate presence and willingness to engage with and affirm the project at its various stages; Eve Dunbar for helping guide me into American Studies and for her support throughout my time at Vassar; and Stephen Gaffney, of the School of Visual Arts, for helping me to develop the visual vocabulary necessary to produce a graphic novel.

This graphic novel was very much an American Studies senior project, and I am truly grateful to have been part of a program that supports unconventional work, celebrates creativity in all of its forms, and merges scholarship and activism. I would like to thank Lisa Brawley for leading a senior seminar this fall that challenged me to place my project within the discipline and for her insightful and specific questions which helped me to stay on track throughout the process. I am grateful to have gotten to work with my fellow seniors, Lily Shell and Clyfford Young, and for their feedback, generosity, and humor throughout senior year. The thesis process was able to go as smoothly as it did because of the efforts and planning of Darcy Gordineer; it was an honor and a pleasure to work with her as an academic intern this year.

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Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the people who provided inspiration and encouragement at every stage of the process, and who were present to engage with my ideas as I developed them. I am lucky to call them my friends.

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Aaron Jones
Lillian Kalish

Wanda Noonan
Vassar College American Studies Program
Senior Project Statement
"Home Planet" (2016)

My senior project, "Home Planet," is a 162-page graphic novel that, using the fictional story of thirty men sent from America's death row to Mars in the year 2025, addresses capital punishment as an American institution and examines the relationship between expansion, expendability, and colonialism. I became critical of the death penalty while studying abroad in the fall of 2014 and working for the Human Rights League. Being involved in human rights work in Western Europe made me appreciate how unique it is among democratic nations that the United States continues to practice capital punishment. In addition to seeking to understand the historical and political factors that have gone into America's continued use of capital punishment, I wanted to examine the cultural narratives surrounding the death penalty.

A text that has been critical in my research has been "Murdering Myths: The Story Behind the Death Penalty" by Judith Kay (2005). In it, Kay explains the function of narratives in shaping how we think about crime, punishment, justice, and revenge. She argues that physical violence, whether conducted between individuals or by the state, arises from a need to correct perceived injustice and to assuage feelings of shame and powerlessness. The logic that harming others is an appropriate response to feeling victimized is thus reflected both in the actions of perpetrators of interpersonal violence and in actions undertaken by the state to punish such perpetrators in the name of justice. Furthermore, in declaring some people deserving of execution, we both cede to the state the power to kill its own citizens and consent to operate within a predator-victim binary in which we are cast as either dangerous or helpless to dangerous individuals.

As Kay explains, the use of violence as a tool to right wrongs and restore balance is not only misguided in that it does not typically bring about the closure and satisfaction that is promised by the dominant narrative, or significantly deter crimes, but unjust in that the practice of capital punishment disproportionately punishes people of color and low-income Americans. On a larger scale, we can see the death penalty as a form of racial and social control and an attempt to mitigate the unpredictable and violent elements of our society through further violence that contributes to a cycle of hurt, shame, revenge, and grief. Kay writes that, since many of our ideas about poverty, criminality, and justice through violence come from stories that we learn and reproduce within families, in schools, and through the media, a solution to capital

punishment and to the prison-industrial complex more broadly requires the formation of new stories. Many scholars, including Angela Davis, have spoken of the importance of implementing creativity to craft new narratives that envision a society without capital punishment and challenge the dominant narrative that posits the death penalty as perpetual and unchallengeable.

In the vein of creating stories that expose and contradict the dominant narrative, I have created a graphic novel set in the future that tells the fictional story of the colonization of Mars using inmates from America's death row. In "Home Planet," we follow thirty inmates who are selected to travel into space and settle on Mars in order to perform manual labor that will prepare the planet for further colonization efforts by the United States. This scenario, while speculative, is informed by my research on early colonial American history, and the prevalence of penal inmates from Great Britain who came to the colonies as indentured servants in exchange for being pardoned from execution. Drawing from this example of condemned men as a labor force to fuel a colonization project, I wanted to reflect the link between colonialism and capital punishment by creating a hypothetical futuristic situation that functions as a reference to past events and as an extreme form of the ways in which the modern prison-industrial complex addresses a variety of political and economic needs beyond simply keeping citizens safe from interpersonal crime. My understanding of incarceration as a foundational American institution that responds not just to the actual danger of crime in our society, but that serves a variety of other purposes including population control, generation of capital, and the establishment of a concept of good versus evil that promotes solidarity among non-incarcerated citizens is drawn from Scott Christianson's book With Liberty for Some: 500 Years of Incarceration in America (2005).

Having justified a connection between incarceration, labor, and the death penalty, I then chose Mars as a setting for my imagined penal colony because of its place in popular imagination as a potential next frontier for U.S. expansion. In "The Case for Mars," (1996) Mars activist Robert Zubrin draws explicit links between Britain's colonization of North America and the United States' future colonization of Mars. He argues that Mars can be a site of resource extraction, wealth generation, and ownership that will give America economic, political, and cultural advantages within the world economy. While Zubrin and others who push for the colonization of Mars reflect ideas of manifest destiny in arguing that the United States not only needs Mars in order to prompt growth on Earth and remain competitive with other nations, but is entitled to control the planet and its resources, these activists tend to treat Mars as a politically neutral frontier because humans do not live there, and we would thus not have to conquer or

exterminate in order to occupy the planet. I argue that a more nuanced look at America's history of expansion and colonialism indicates that, as George Lipsitz writes in his essay "Space," America has never undertaken expansion without it being at the expense of some group of people. In my graphic novel, I draw attention to the inherently exploitative nature of expansion and reference in particular the use of condemned persons as labor in America's founding.

Mars has also been valuable as a visual link to theories I explored during this project, including Avery Gordon's concept of the "zone of exclusion" present in every society for the people it doesn't want. Explained in her book Ghostly Matters, this idea of exclusion is highly relevant in a contemporary America that contains nearly a quarter of the world's imprisoned population. Because the ways in which incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people experience physical, social, and psychological alienation as well as legal disenfranchisement are largely under-discussed in mainstream media, and therefore easily dismissed by those not directly impacted by incarceration, setting Mars as a site of banishment was a helpful strategy in pushing myself and readers to acknowledge the permanent separation from loved ones and society that death row inmates experience, even before execution.

In approaching this project, I decided that a graphic novel would be an appropriate and effective form for several reasons, due to the subject matter of my project and to my personal goals for the work. I believe that comics have a strong potential in social justice outreach and education because, in addition to being accessible and catchy in a way that written work is typically not, reading sequential art requires a level of reader engagement that is important when addressing issues that are uncomfortable and high-stakes, and which require creative thinking. One way in which comics push readers to engage with the story actively is in presenting it through panels that are sequential but limited in what they show. The blank space between panels, called the gutter, thus becomes a place for readers to project their own ideas of what is happening, based on the images provided and their own prior associations. By choosing to leave certain spaces blank, or having panels cut off to imply but not show an entire image, graphic novelists call on the reader to actively fill in the story on their own.

As in fictional storytelling more generally, comics both encourages and relies on reader identification with characters. In drawing and viewing simplified human faces, we are pushed to see the characters as humans with whom we can relate. Such identification is particularly useful in talking about the death penalty, because one justification for capital punishment is that, in committing violent crimes, perpetrators forfeit their humanity and thus deserve imprisonment and execution. Taking the time to narratively and visually develop the characters of my novel into protagonists was helpful for me in reckoning with the fact that even the most violent

perpetrators - people whom we are conditioned to fear, hate, and dissociate from - are still humans who exist within particular social and personal contexts and must be considered as such for our sake as well as for theirs. Judith Kay argues that dehumanizing any group of people so as to justify inflicting violence upon them results in the inability of the dominant culture to apply full dignity and humanity to itself and to the people it claims to protect. My project seeks to overcome the apathy towards death row inmates encouraged by the dominant narrative through the humanizing of individuals and in particular through visual identification.

A challenge of this process was figuring out how to represent the men in my story so as to emphasize their humanity without making them overly sympathetic or endearing. I had in mind Avery Gordon's discussion of complex personhood as well as her warning that efforts to overturn systems of power sometimes end up denying full humanity, and the contradictions it entails, to marginalized people. I believe that attempts to discuss or treat incarcerated people that portray them as either monsters or victims without agency are ultimately unhelpful because they do not work to dismantle the monster-victim binary which justifies much of America's prison-industrial complex, and it was important to me not to present my characters at either extreme. Furthermore, I was working within my own limitations of experience and position, and had to balance telling the story I wanted to tell with not assuming authority of experiences that are not mine, namely of incarceration and economic and racial subjugation. While I am still working towards how to best treat death row inmates through fiction, as well as on the completion of my entire graphic novel, I believe that the two completed chapters I have submitted as excerpts for my senior project exhibit the potential of fictional, futuristic, illustrated stories to theorize about American culture and directly challenge the narratives that sustain capital punishment and other oppressive systems.

In conclusion, I believe that taking such a hands-on and layered approach as the creation of a graphic novel was critical to my work this year in thinking through capital punishment and considering both the dominant narrative and the underlying stories that contradict it. While I hope that readers will buy into and enjoy the scenario and plot I've created in the novel, my underlying objective is to tap into the potential of speculative fiction to push readers to rethink our own current place and moment. It is my hope that reading this graphic novel would prompt someone to think critically about the persistence of capital punishment in America, the humanity of people on death row, and the reader's own place in the equation.

Sources Used

The following is a list of books, novels, and graphic novels that have informed my understanding of capital punishment and American culture, as well as of the value of fiction in approaching these issues.

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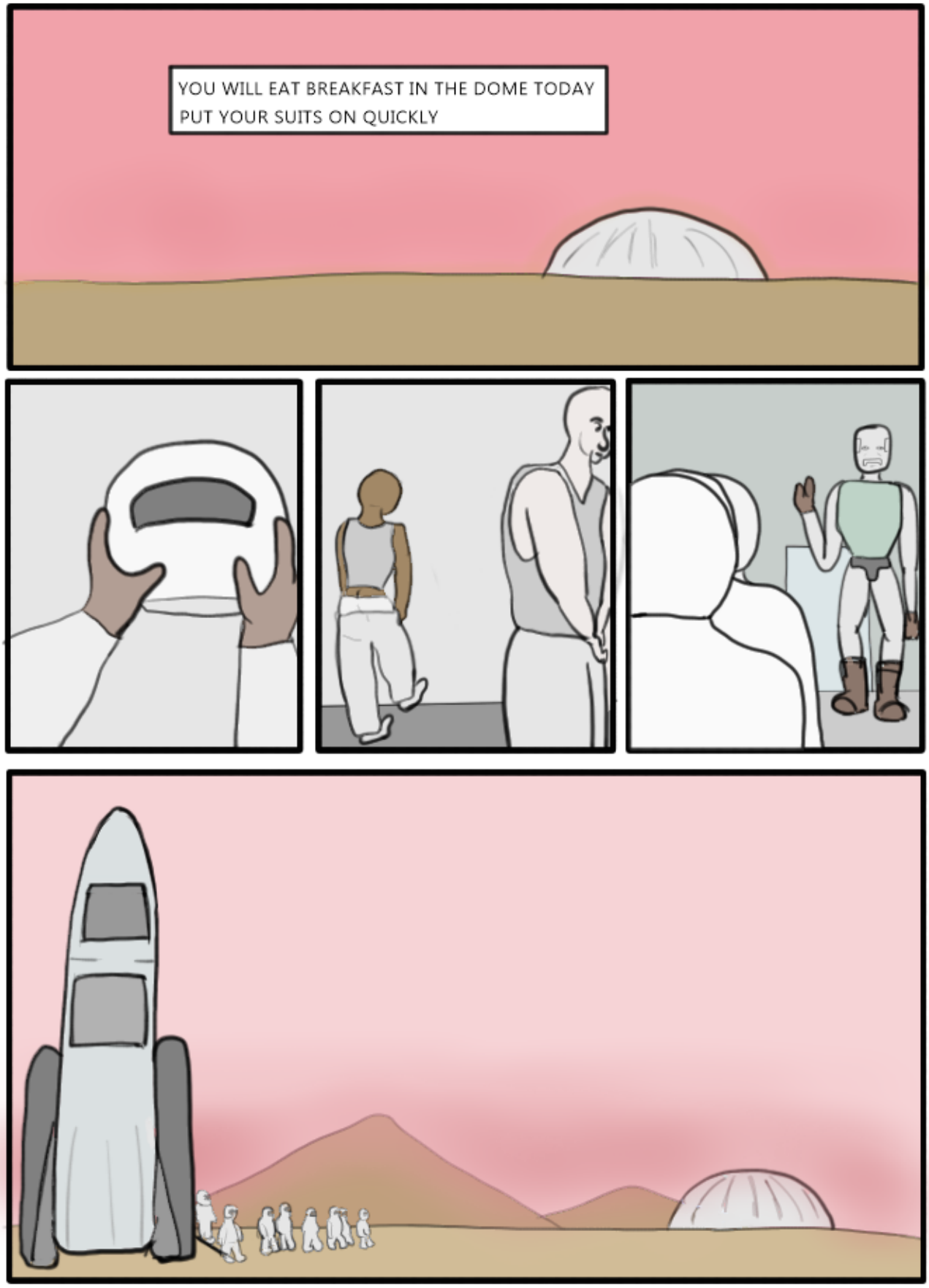
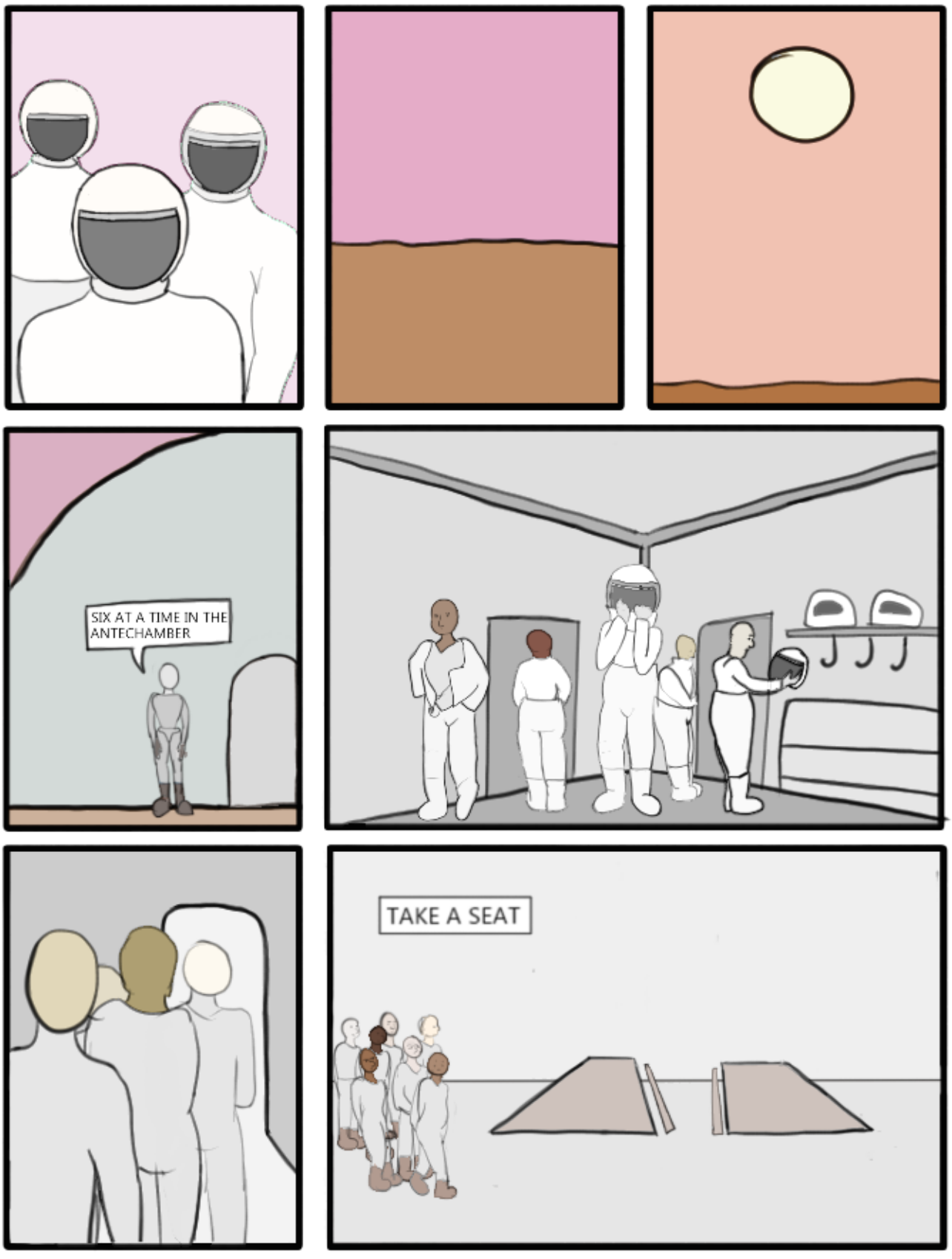
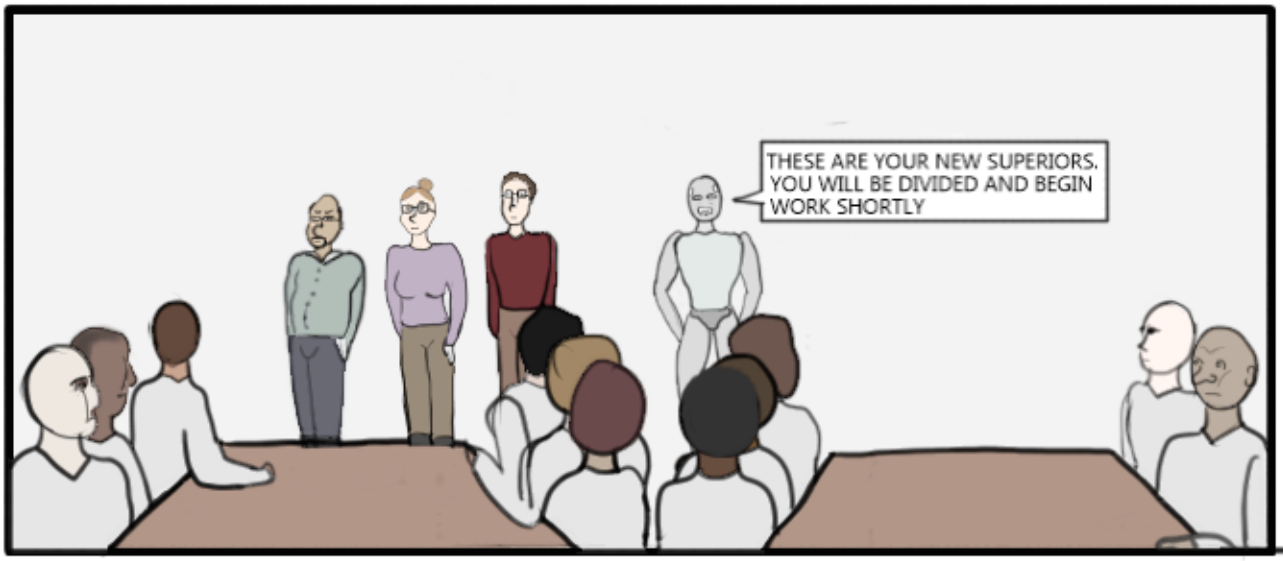
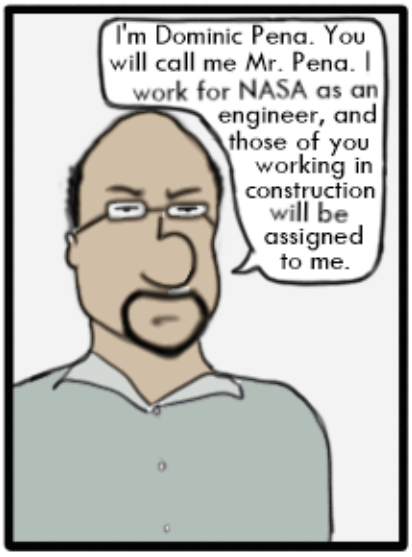

YOU WILL EAT BREAKFAST IN THE DOME TODAY
PUT YOUR SUITS ON QUICKLY


SIX AT A TIME IN THE ANTECHAMBER
TAKE A SEAT


Hey man.
What.
Can you tell me where we are?
We're in the dome that we BUILT.
Why'd we built a dome?
You for real?
This is a fucking joke - who -
Motherfucker!
Man, don't -
ATTENTION INMATES

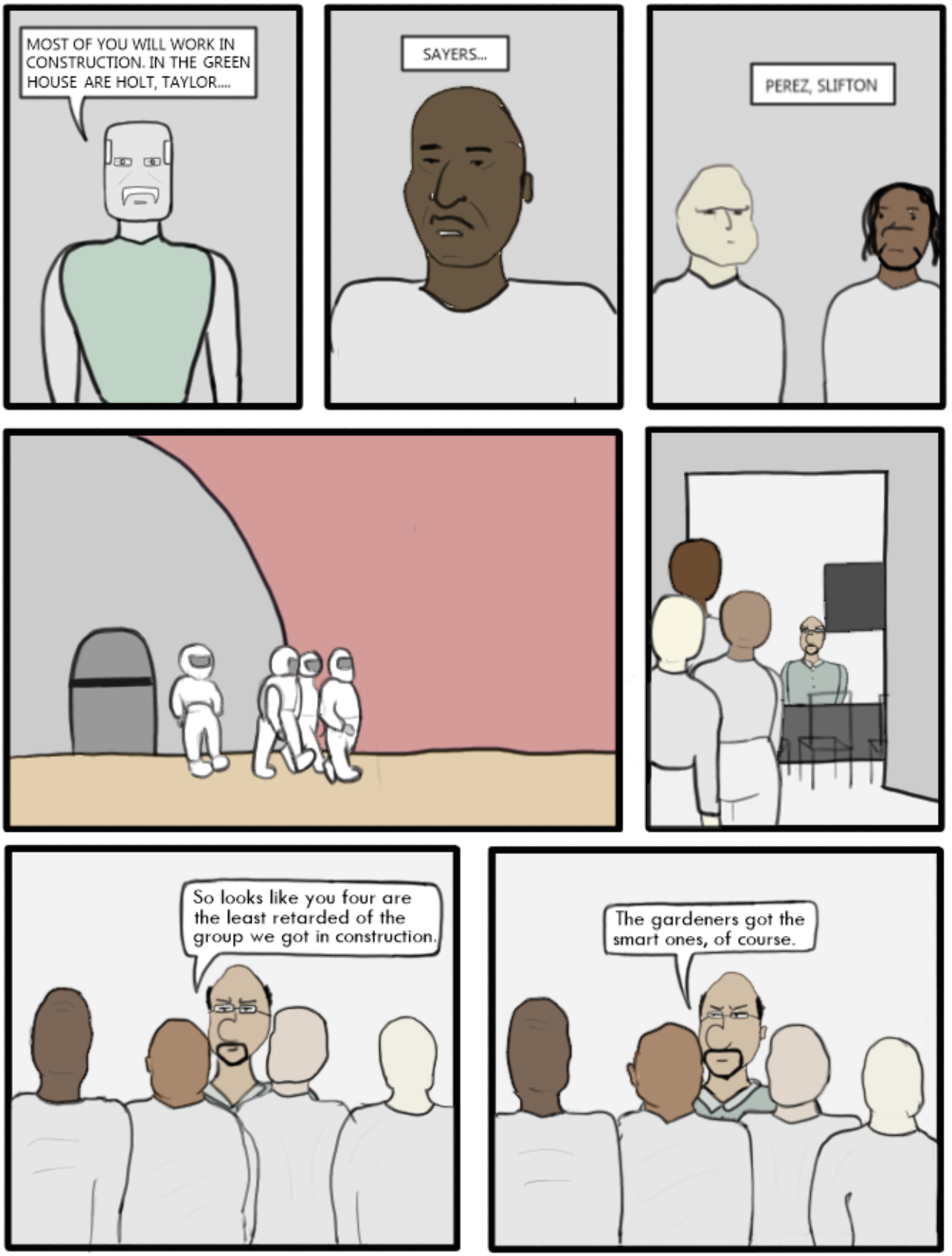

THESE ARE YOUR NEW SUPERIORS. YOU WILL BE DIVIDED AND BEGIN WORK SHORTLY


I'm Dominic Pena. You will call me Mr. Pena. I work for NASA as an engineer, and those of you working in construction will be assigned to me.


Welcome! I'm Dr. Elsa Ronsheim. Dr. Blasko and I run the greenhouse where some of you will be working.


I'll be straight with - this work is going to be hard. Follow my orders and behave yourselves and it will be bearable.


And those of you who show promise will get the chance to work on special projects.


MOST OF YOU WILL WORK IN CONSTRUCTION. IN THE GREEN HOUSE ARE HOLT, TAYLOR....
SAYERS...
PEREZ, SLIFTON
So looks like you four are the least retarded of the group we got in construction.
The gardeners got the smart ones, of course.

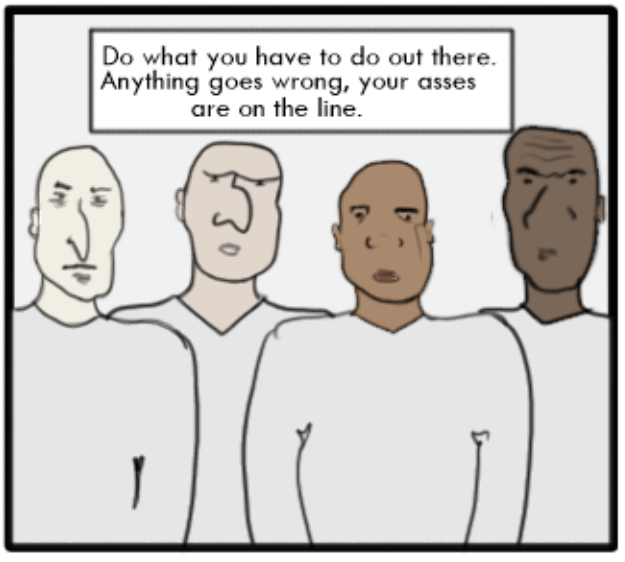

Though I suppose anyone who was really smart woulda stayed on Earth.

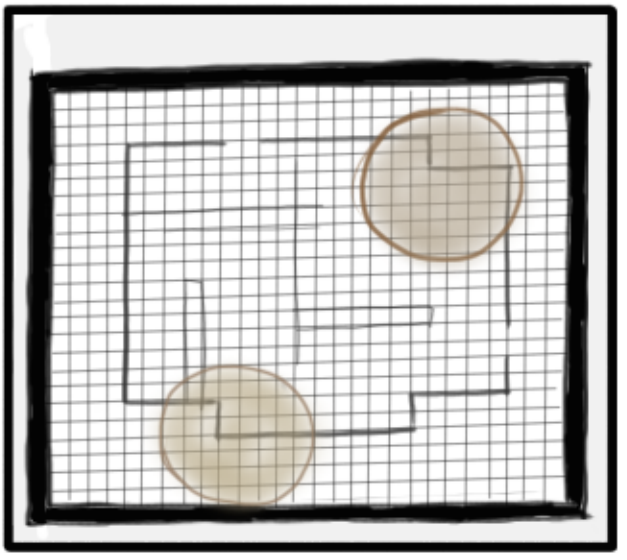

Heh heh

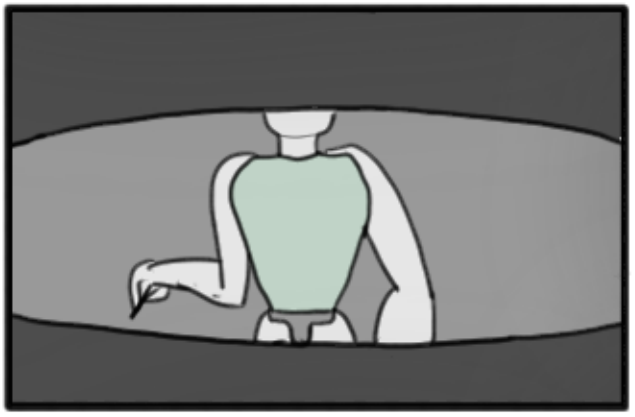

You four were selected to be in charge of the building crew. You'll be making sure that what I say gets done.

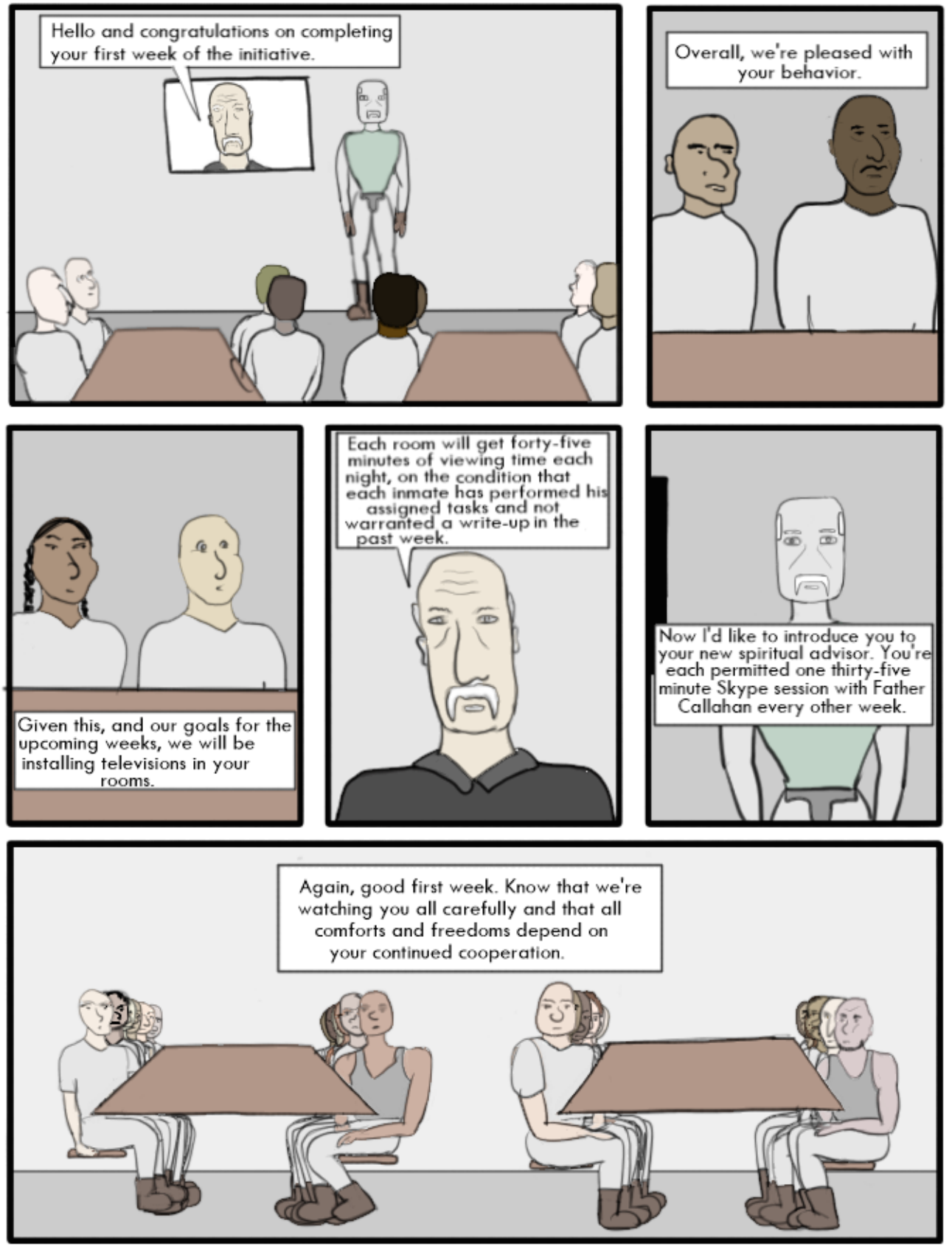

...starting with the foundation for this building.

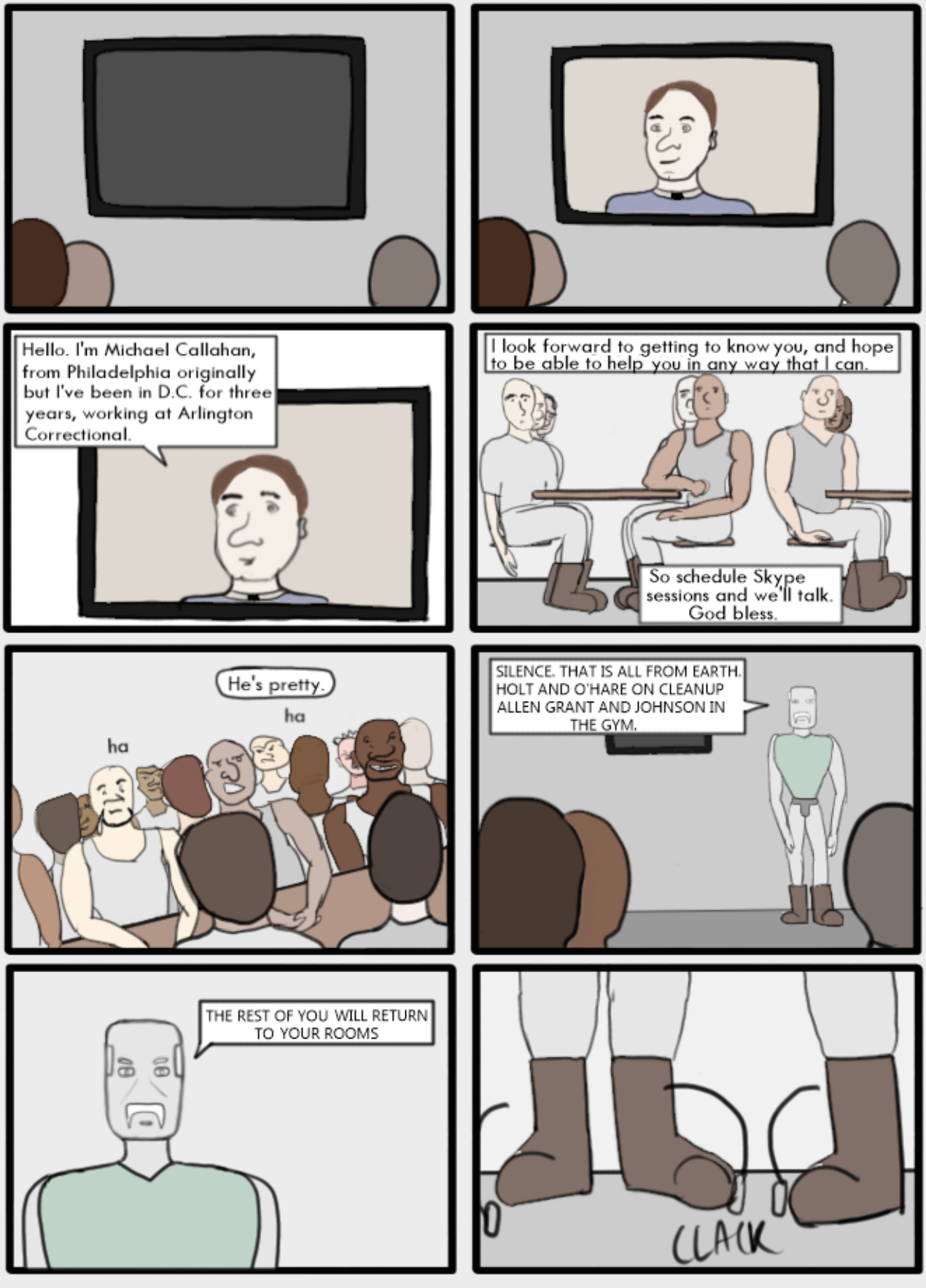

...digging out the base ...two weeks no longer.


Do what you have to do out there. Anything goes wrong, your asses are on the line.






Hello and congratulations on completing your first week of the initiative.
Overall, we're pleased with your behavior.
Given this, and our goals for the upcoming weeks, we will be installing televisions in your rooms.
Each room will get forty-five minutes of viewing time each night, on the condition that each inmate has performed his assigned tasks and not warranted a write-up in the past week.
Now I'd like to introduce you to your new spiritual advisor. You're each permitted one thirty-five minute Skype session with Father Callahan every other week.
Again, good first week. Know that we're watching you all carefully and that all comforts and freedoms depend on your continued cooperation.

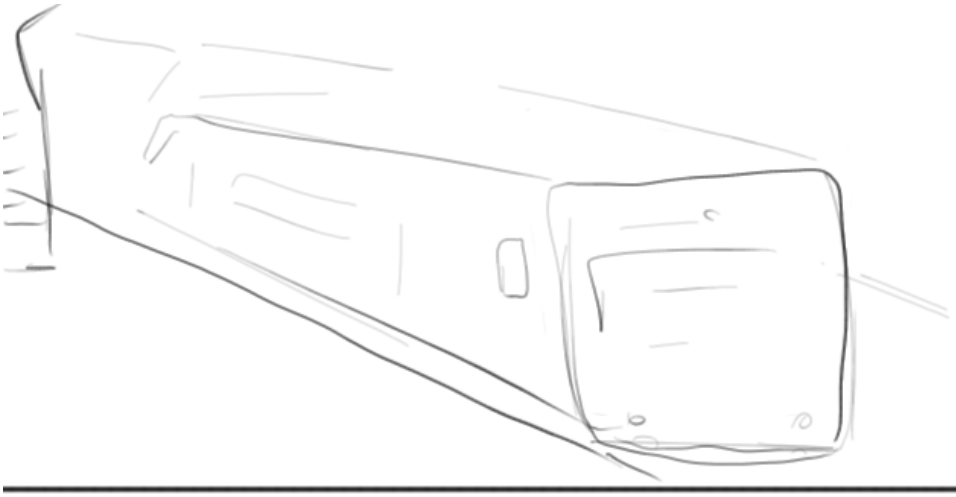

Hello. I'm Michael Callahan, from Philadelphia originally but I've been in D.C. for three years, working at Arlington Correctional.
I look forward to getting to know you, and hope to be able to help you in any way that I can.
So schedule Skype sessions and we'll talk. God bless.
He's pretty.
ha
ha
SILENCE. THAT IS ALL FROM EARTH. HOLT AND O'HARE ON CLEANUP ALLEN GRANT AND JOHNSON IN THE GYM.
THE REST OF YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS
CLACK


Night
Dad
Carhartt


Toad turned the wheel towards the alien planet and they headed for it.
See here? There's nine planets that use the same sun we do. Earth is only one of
If there are more planets, why do we only live here?
I guess it comes down to conditions.
We live here because there's water and its not too hot or too cold
Oh.
Anywhere else you'd freeze or burn.


7/11
LAYS
LAYS


Ramos. Checking in. 2:15.
Ramos, this is superintendant Cady. Fuse blew. We've stalling your train. Check back in 45.

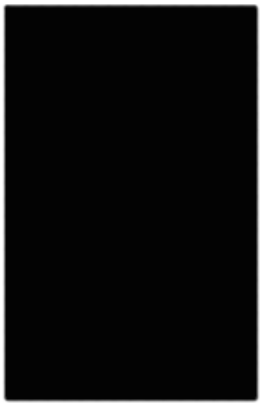


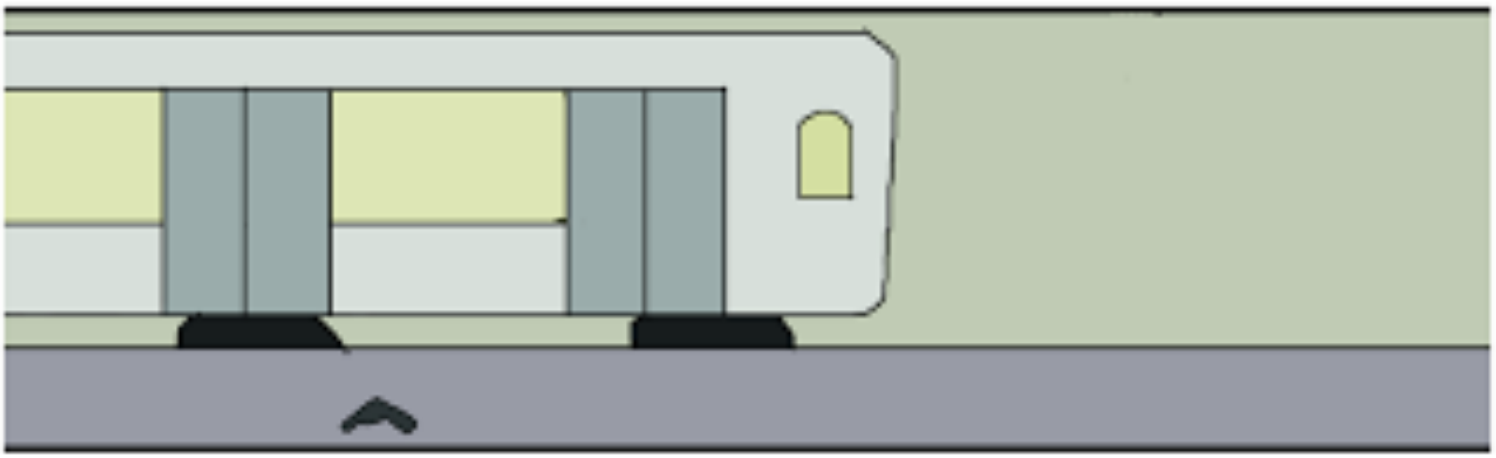

ray
ray


When's the train move?
we're held up


I don't have time to wait
Sorry man, nothing I can do


SAY THAT AGAIN
Sir-





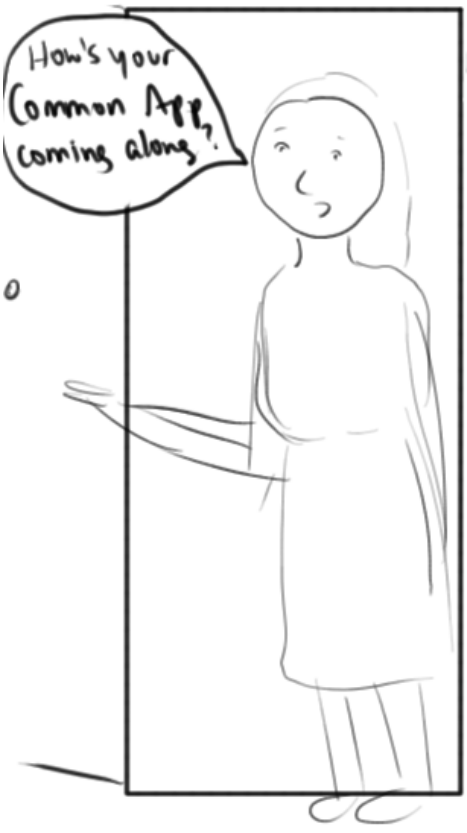

The Washington Times
Shooting Rampage, 2 Dead
Killer identified as
parolee Daniel K


The Washington Times
DA to seek Death Penalty for Killer Parolee
And now I will let Mr. Anderson himself explain the Committee's findings.
Thanks, Todd. I trust you've all read about the Mars Committee's recent work
...in addition to new breakthroughs concerning water distillation and radiation protection, we've come up with a new strategy for traveling to Mars in ten months.


With government support, the Committee believes that we can have the first Americans on Mars as early as 2014, with colonization under way within three to four years of landing.


But Mr. Anderson, there is still so much we don't know about Mars. Won't the first years be incredibly dangerous?
Yes, how can we lobby seriously for funding under such precarious circumstances?
Your concerns are valid, and in fact we are in the process of researching other solutions.


CLICK HERE ONLY IF YOU ARE 18 OR OLDER!!!


How's your Common App coming along?


GREAT! Jesus, can you knock?
Are you still applying to
YES!


Common Application
My Schools 11
Tasks 8
Notifications 3
FACEBOOK
Facebook
Common App
Facebook
MSNBC
Killers in Space?
Yesterday, secretary of State Tonn Burchett announced
Trending
- Convict Mars Initiative Approved by Congress
- Rihanna: Pregnant Again


Secretary of State Torin Burchett Defends Mars Initiative
CNN, HERE WITH US TODAY ARE PRESIDENT FINKEL, NEXT TO HER SECRETARY OF STATE TORIN BURCHETT, and far right NASA representative TIM CONN
President Finkel, why
What does this mean for the future of the Death Penalty?
Will these men die on Mars?
Thank you for your questions. Along with NASA and leaders in criminal justice, we at the White House have prepared a program that I believe all Americans can be proud of.
President Finkel is absolutely right. Not only will these inmates gain the opportunity to be useful, but their work will give us something we haven't had in 200 years:
A Frontier.


THE WORLD IS WATCHING
NO P.I.C. IN SPACE
HELL NO!
Excuse me, ma'am. Could you please explain why you're protesting?
It's an outrage! Sending convicted men into space means profiting further off of the Prison Industrial Complex and using citizens' lives to promote U.S. imperialism.
A program that all Americans can be proud of


Do you want to contribute to the progress of the United States of America?
o Yes o NO o I don't know
Do you like working on a team?
o yes o NO o I don't know
Would you like to leave Death Row to do important work?
o yes o NO o I don't know
Do you
yes


Hi there.


Hey.


How's Jordan?
You still making dumplings?
Food still good here?
You watch the same last night?

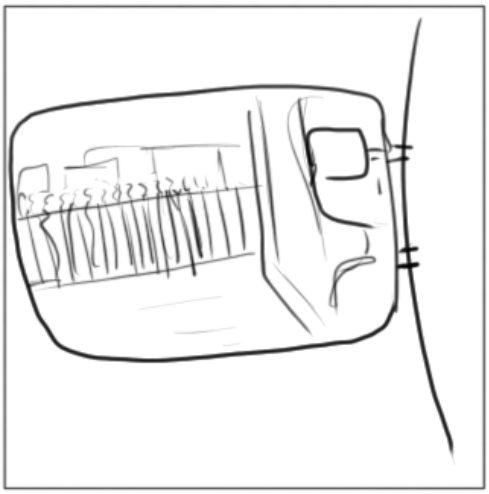

So you really thinking about going into space?
I took the test. Guess it's just wait and see now.


But you HAVE a choice.

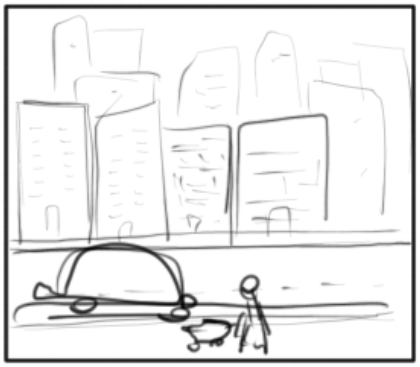

A choice between what?

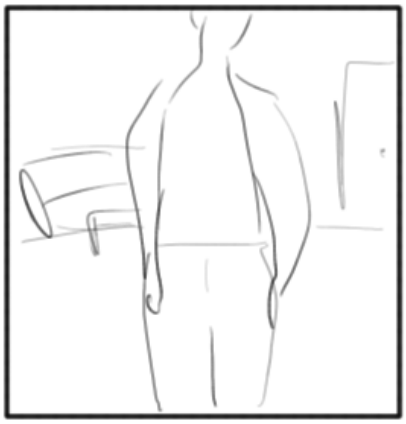

Baby, if I stay here I'm never...
If you go, I'll never see you again.
You wanna watch me fry?
I guess...
I guess I like being on the same planet as you, you fucker.


Take off your clothes.
Open your mouth
Lemme see both sides of your hands.
Pull your foreskin back.
Bend over.
Spread your cheeks.
Bottoms of your feet.
Get dressed.




XI'S DUMPLING HOUSE






GOOGLE
Is it legal
deathrow rights
Mars safe for humans


Google Prison Industrial Complex
What is the PIC?
The PIC is a term we use to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social and political problems


Do Death Row Inmates deserve a second chance?
Chase Dermatis
It's December, and Jeremy Raff won't be spending Christmas with his wife and two daughters. Jeremy awaits execution on on Austin's Death Row for the


Do Death Row Inmates Deserve a Second Chance?

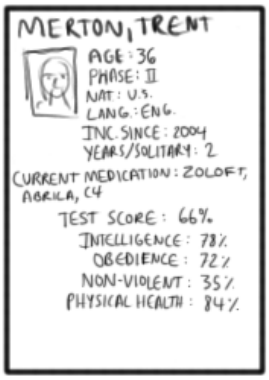

Article you read last night
Death Row
your thoughts?


I think everyone deserves a second chance.


Good point, but what about the argument about victims' families
But Kay writes that killing people doesn't actually provide closure to families


Locking people in cages is barbaric.
The death penalty makes everyone less safe

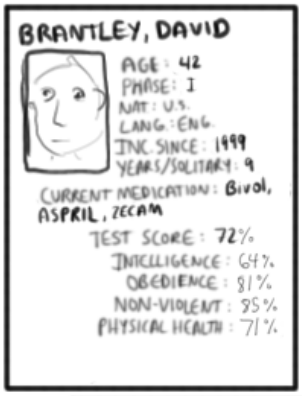

How's it looking?
Mixed bag. Check out this guy.


MERTON, TRENT
AGE: 36
PHASE: II
NAT: U.S.
LANG: ENG.
INC. SINCE: 2004
YEARS/SOLITARY: 2
CURRENT MEDICATION: ZOLOFT, AGRICA, C4
TEST SCORE: 66%
INTELLIGENCE: 78%
OBEDIENCE: 72%
NON-VIOLENT: 35%
PHYSICAL HEALTH: 84%


His physical health's impressive.
He seems kinda psycho.

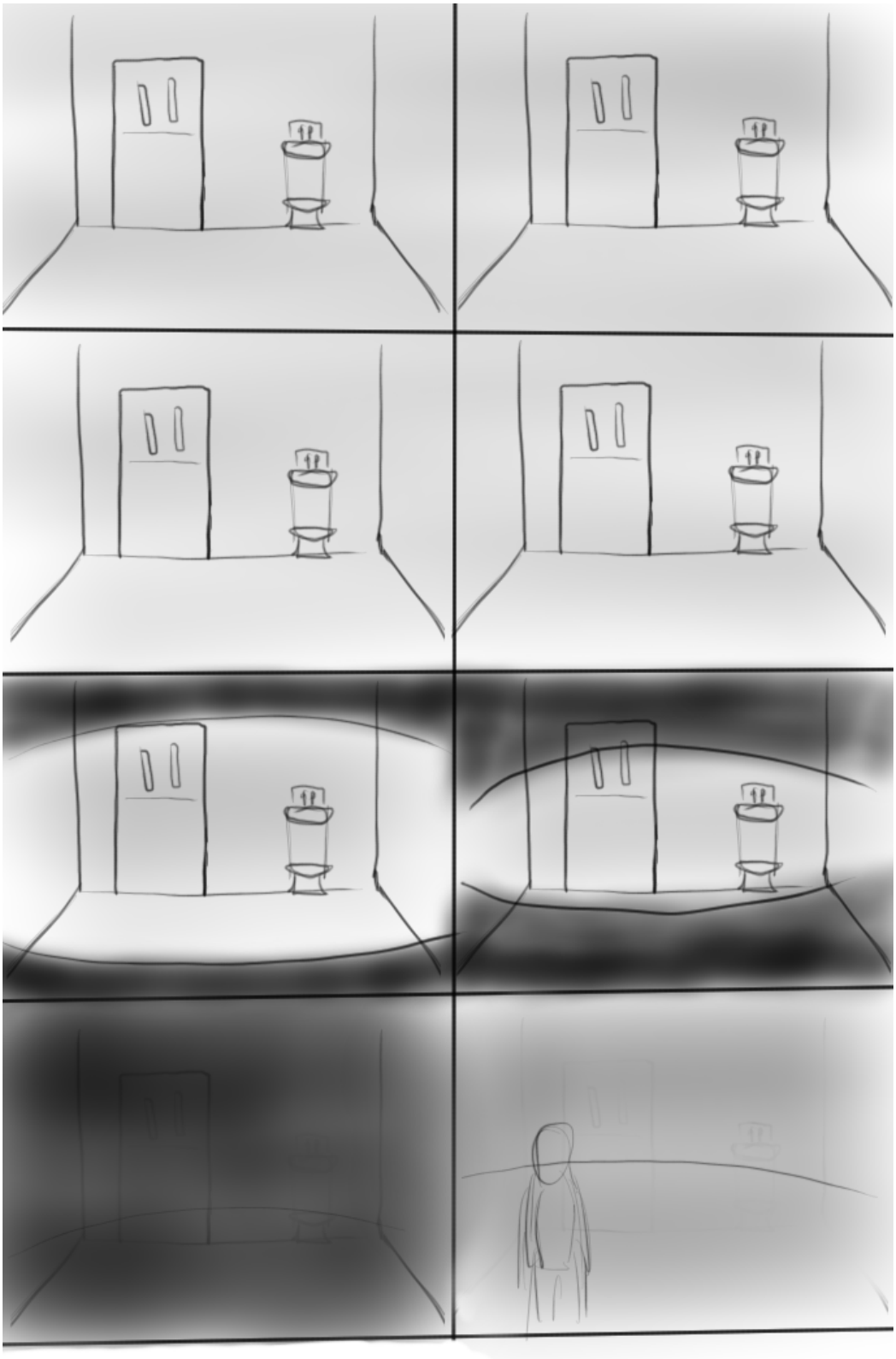

Well he's not going to be babysitting your children.

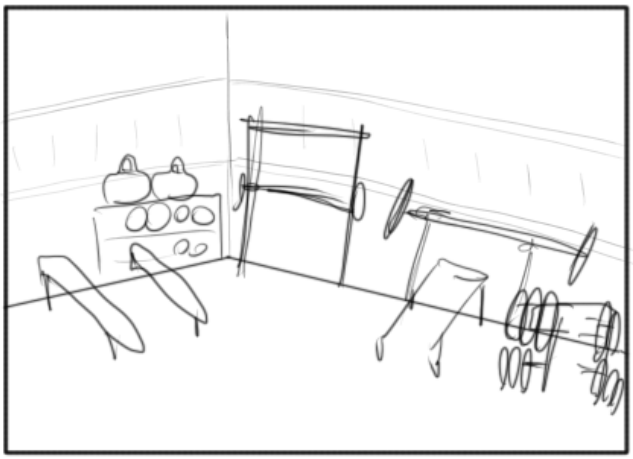
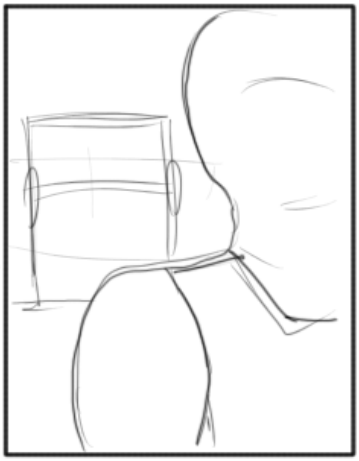

Besides, it's expected that they'll be a little cracked. We have meds for them.
What about this one?

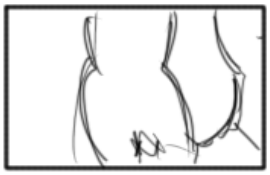
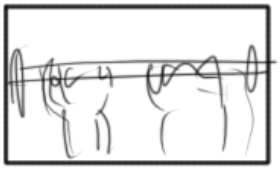

BRANTLEY, DAVID
AGE: 42
PHASE: I
NAT: U.S.
LANG: ENG.
INC. SINCE: 1999
YEARS/SOLITARY: 9
CURRENT MEDICATION: Bivol, ASPRIL, ZECAM
TEST SCORE: 72%
INTELLIGENCE: 64%
OBEDIENCE: 81%
NON-VIOLENT: 95%
PHYSICAL HEALTH: 71%

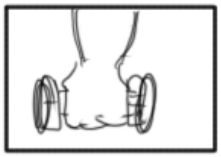
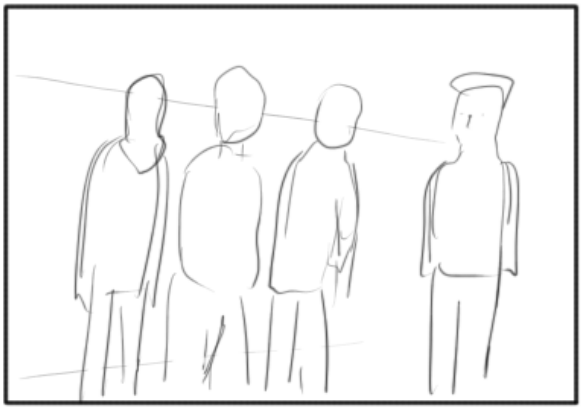

You kidding? Nine years in solitary! This fellow's not fit to toast bread!


He does look a little fried.



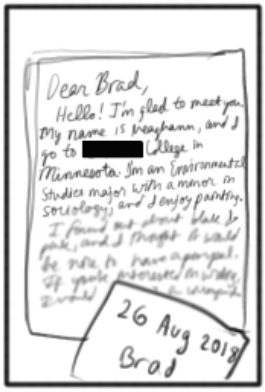



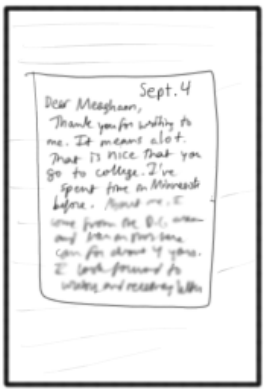




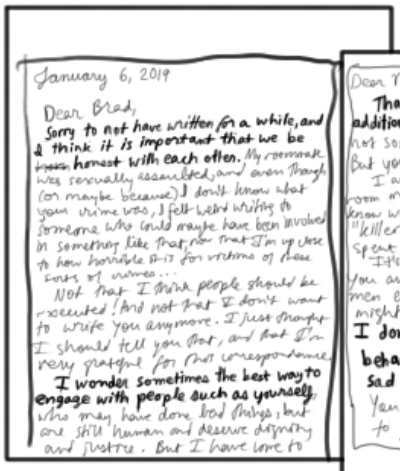


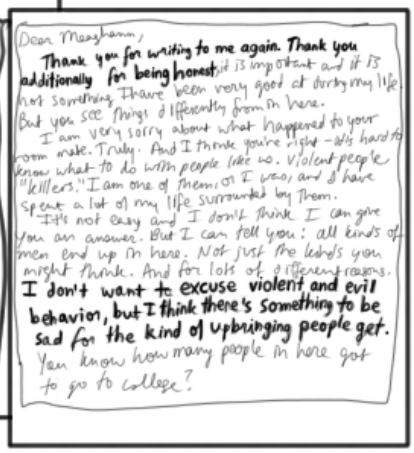
Dear MEAGHAN,
Well it looks like your friend might be going in to space.
Maybe you saw it in the papers but probably not my name.
So you heard it here first!


Dear Brad,
Hello! I'm glad to meet you. My name is Meaghann, and I go to [redacted] College in Minnesota. I'm an Environmental Studies major with a minor in sociology, and I enjoy painting.
I found out about Black Lives Matter, and I thought it would be nice to have a penpal. If you're interested in writing, I would
26 Aug 2018
Brad

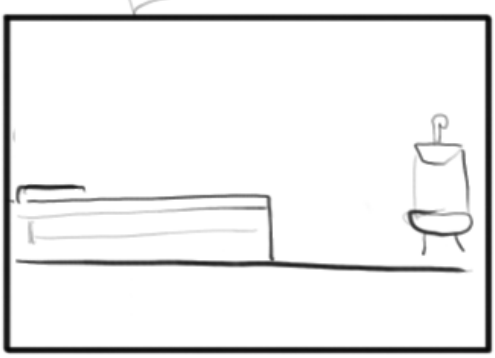

Sept. 4
Dear Meaghann,
Thank you for writing to me. It means a lot.
That is nice that you go to college. I've
Spent time in Minnesota before. Around me. I
come from the B.C. area
and been in prison
can for almost 4 years.
I look forward to

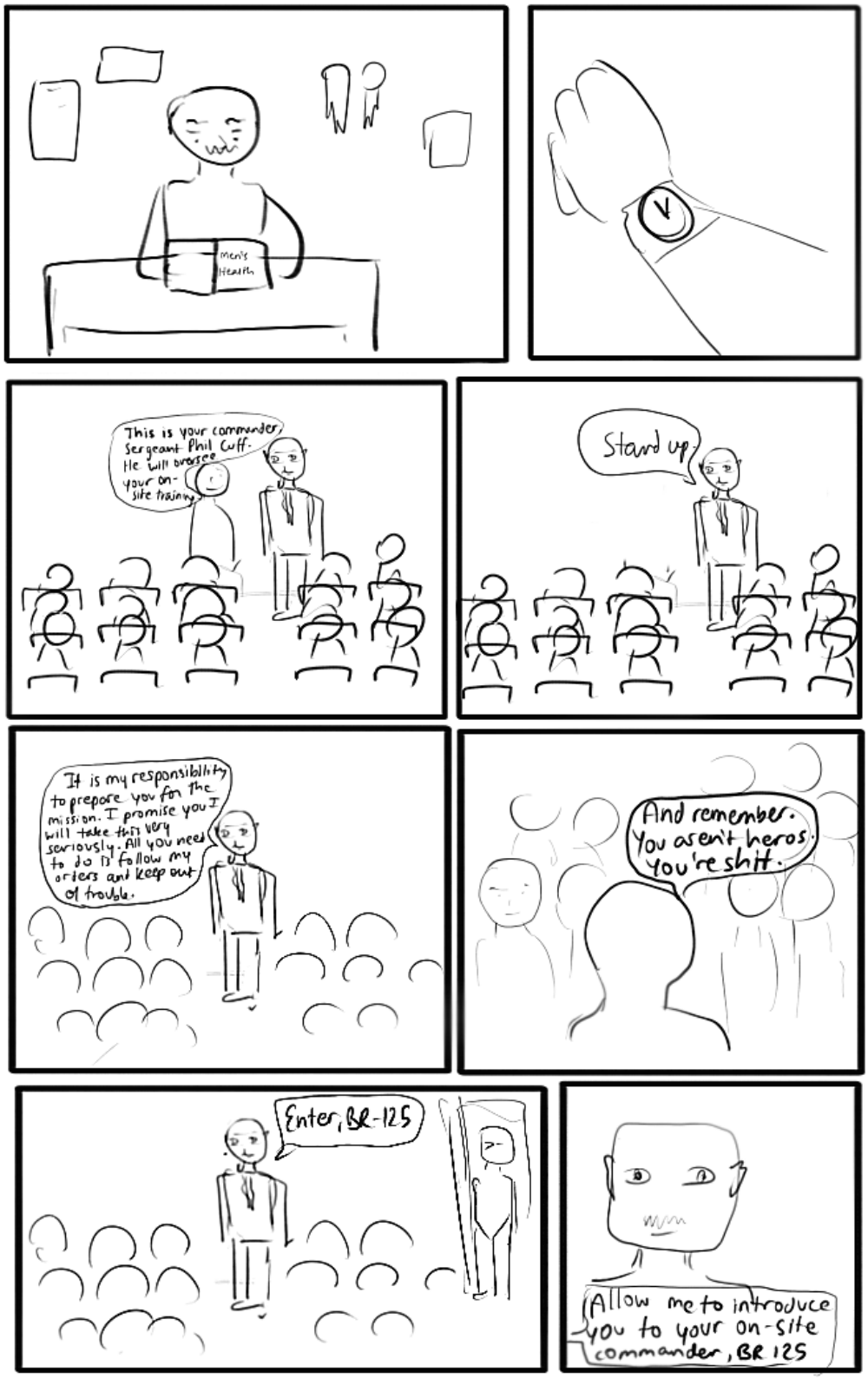

We might not be able to keep in touch once I'm gone.

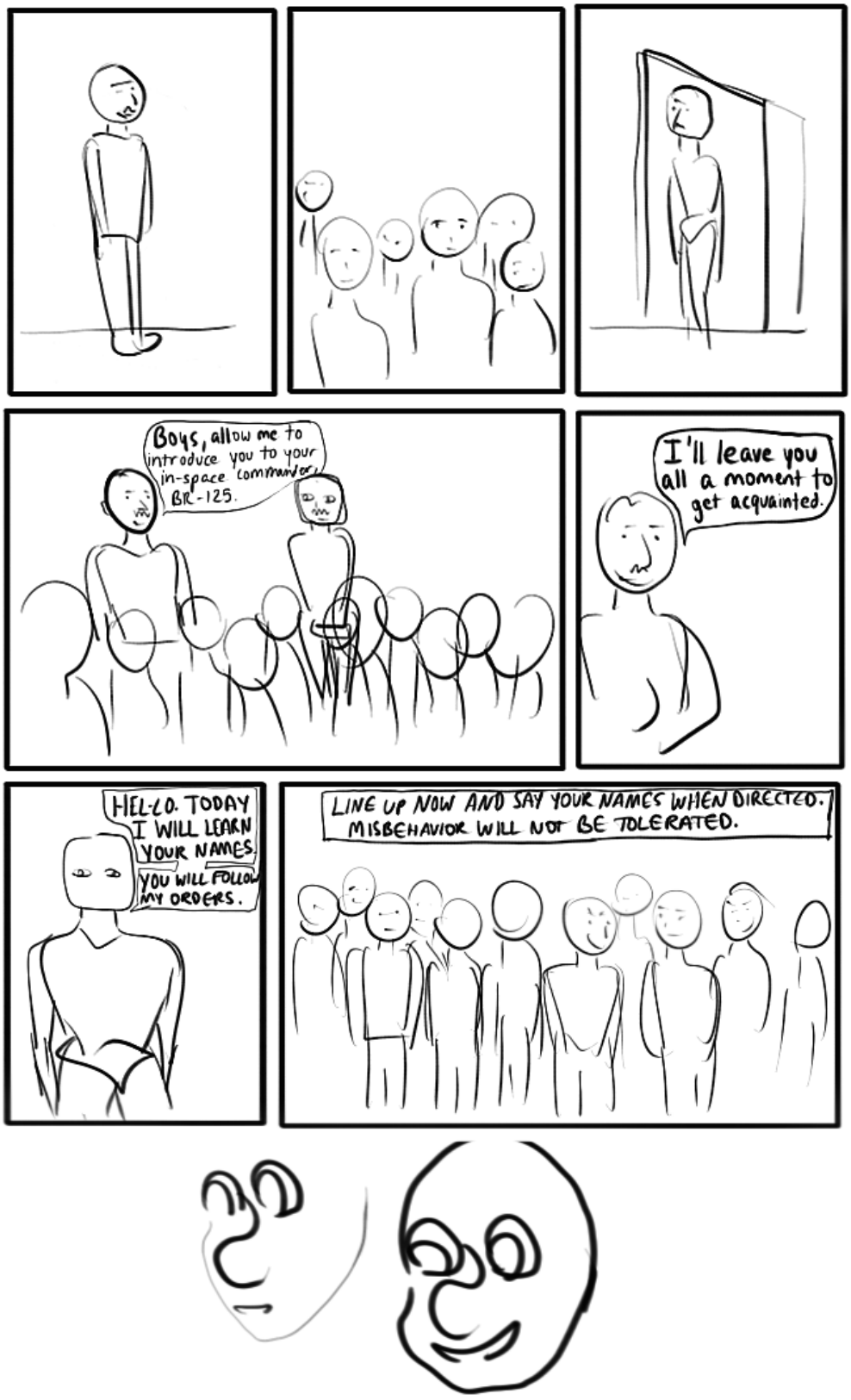

January 6, 2019
Dear Brad,
Sorry to not have written for a while, and I think it is important that we be ~~trans~~ honest with each other. My roommate was sexually assaulted, and even though (or maybe because) I don't know what your crime was, I felt weird writing to someone who could maybe have been involved in something like that, now that I'm up close to how horrible it is for victims of these sorts of crimes...
Not that I think people should be executed! And not that I don't want to write you anymore. I just thought I should tell you that, and that I'm very grateful for that correspondence.
I wonder sometimes the best way to engage with people such as yourself, who may have done bad things, but are still human and deserve dignity and justice. But I have love to

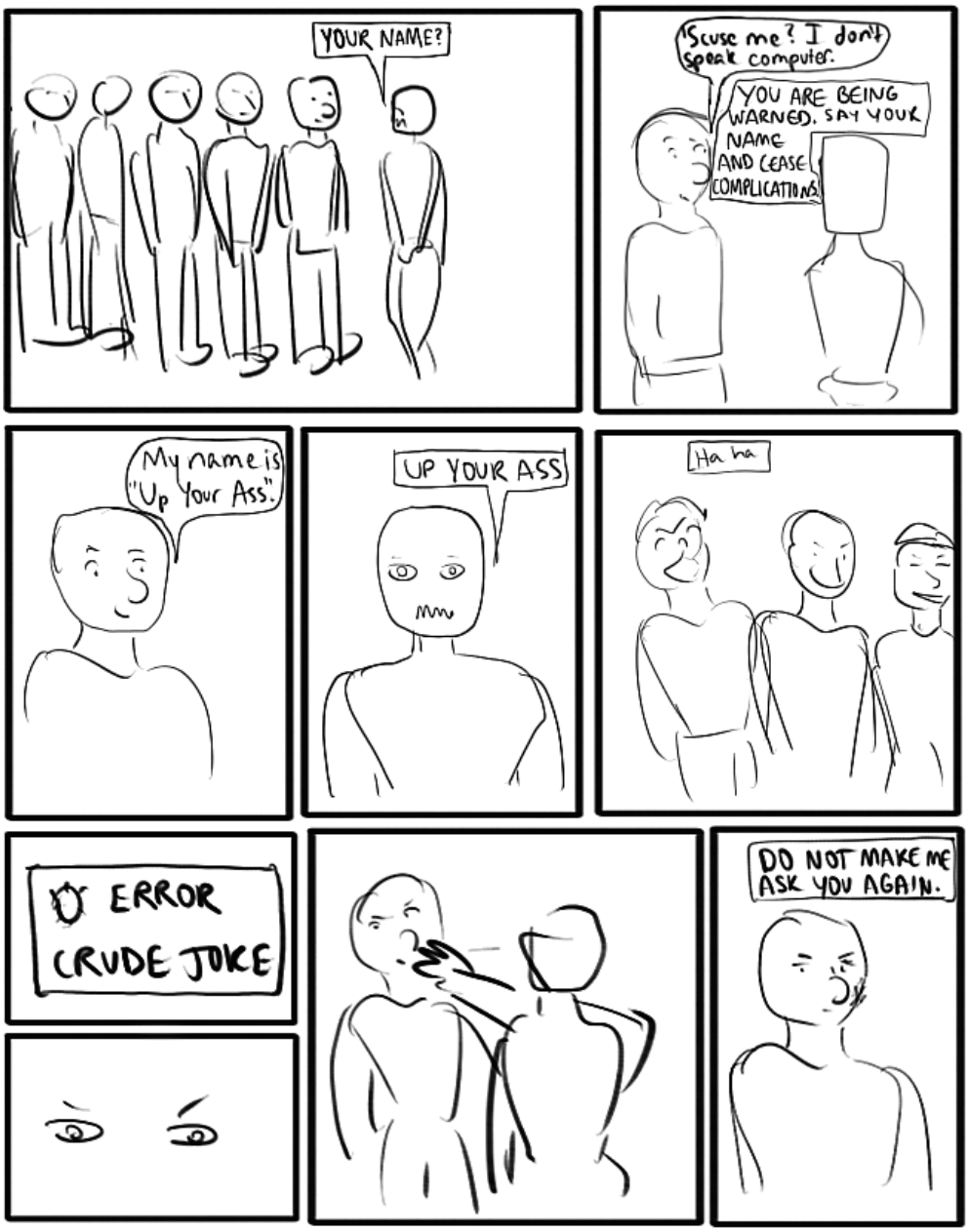

Dear Meaghann,
Thank you for writing to me again. Thank you additionally for being honest. it is important and it is not something I have been very good at during my life.
But you see things differently from in here.
I am very sorry about what happened to your room mate. Truly. And I think you're right - it's hard to know what to do with people like us. Violent people "killers." I am one of them, as I was, and I have spent a lot of my life surrounded by them.
It's not easy and I don't think I can give you an answer. But I can tell you: all kinds of men end up in here. Not just the lesbo's you might think. And for lots of different reasons.
I don't want to excuse violent and evil behavior, but I think there's something to be sad for the kind of upbringing people get.
You know how many people in here got to go to college?

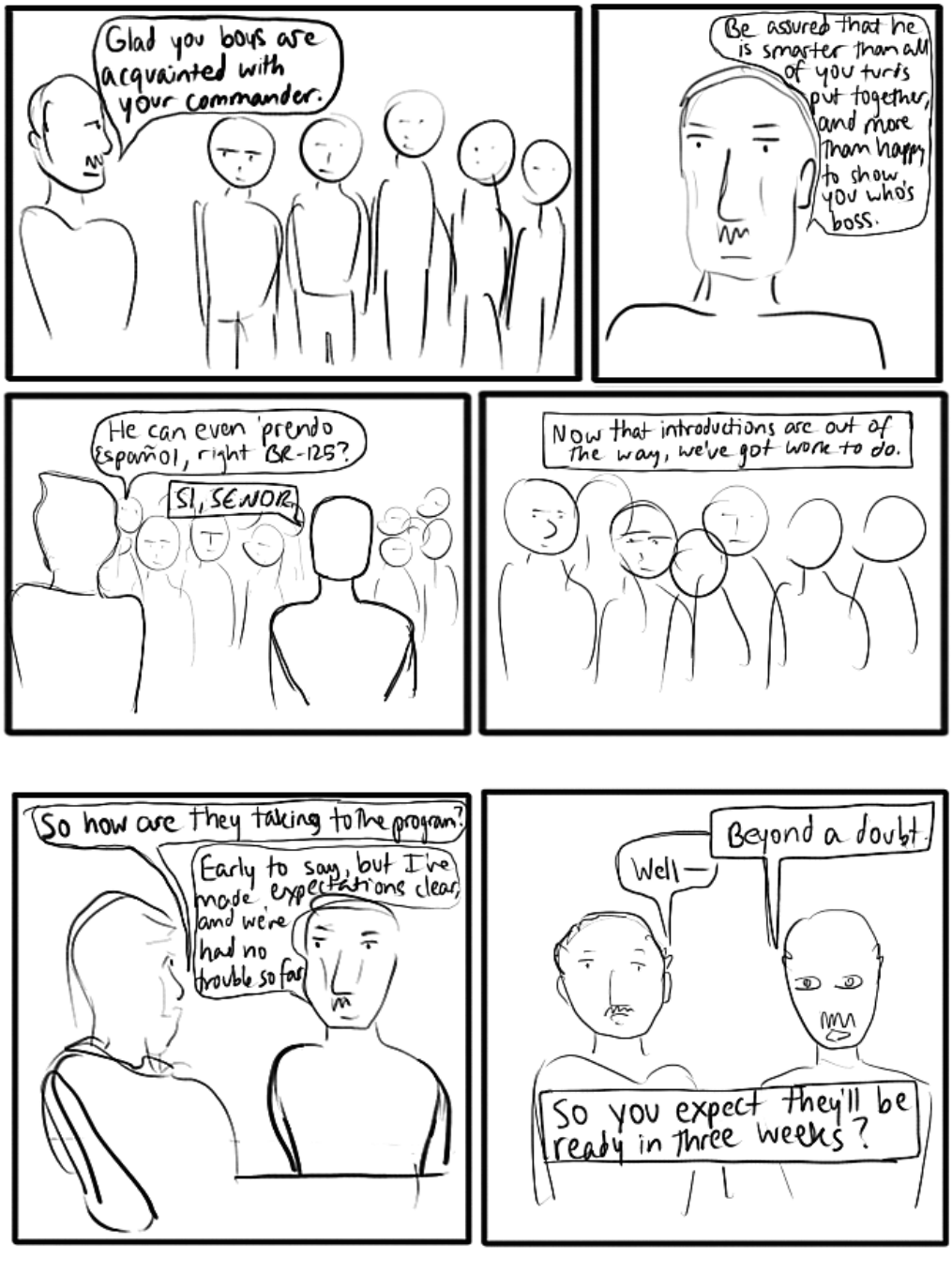
I wonder if you could tell me what you look like. I'll tell you about me: I'm 6'2, I have a beard usually but it's pretty close. I'm bald on top and pretty good looking! Haha, just kidding about that.




men's Health
This is your commander, Sergeant Phil Cuff. He will oversee your on-site training.
Stand up.
It is my responsibility to prepare you for the mission. I promise you I will take this very seriously. All you need to do is follow my orders and keep out of trouble.
And remember. You aren't heros. You're shit.
Enter, BR-125
Allow me to introduce you to your on-site commander, BR 125

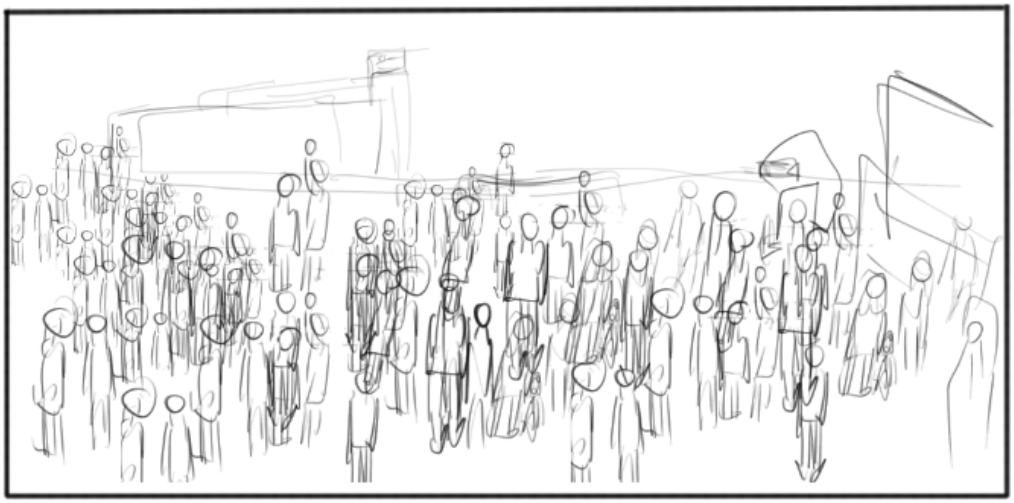

Boys, allow me to introduce you to your in-space commander, BR-125.
I'll leave you all a moment to get acquainted.
HEL-LO. TODAY I WILL LEARN YOUR NAMES. YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS.
LINE UP NOW AND SAY YOUR NAMES WHEN DIRECTED. MISBEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

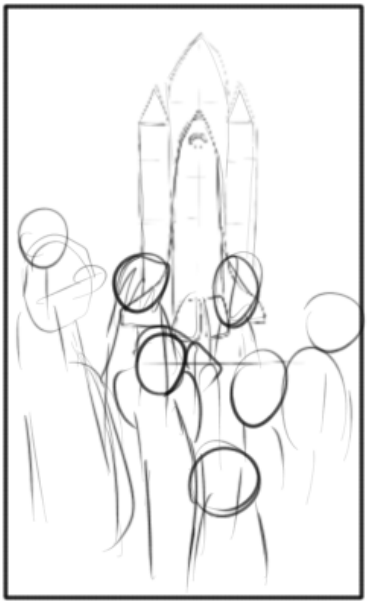

YOUR NAME?
'Scuse me? I don't speak computer.
YOU ARE BEING WARNED. SAY YOUR NAME AND CEASE COMPLICATIONS.
My name is "Up Your Ass".
UP YOUR ASS
Ha ha
ERROR
CRUDE JOKE
DO NOT MAKE ME ASK YOU AGAIN.


Glad you boys are acquainted with your commander.
Be assured that he is smarter than all of you turds put together, and more than happy to show you who's boss.
He can even 'prendo Español, right BR-125?
SI, SEÑOR.
Now that introductions are out of the way, we've got work to do.
So how are they taking to the program?
Early to say, but I've made expectations clear, and we're had no trouble so far.
Beyond a doubt.
Well—
So you expect they'll be ready in three weeks?


HUMAN SURVIVAL ON MARS
Air pressure
Radiation
Four
Down!
Five
UP


Maintaining Muscle Mass In Reduced Gravity
Growth
Why the PIC should not be in space
NO PIC
Abolish Prisons NOW
NO PIC
CONTROL

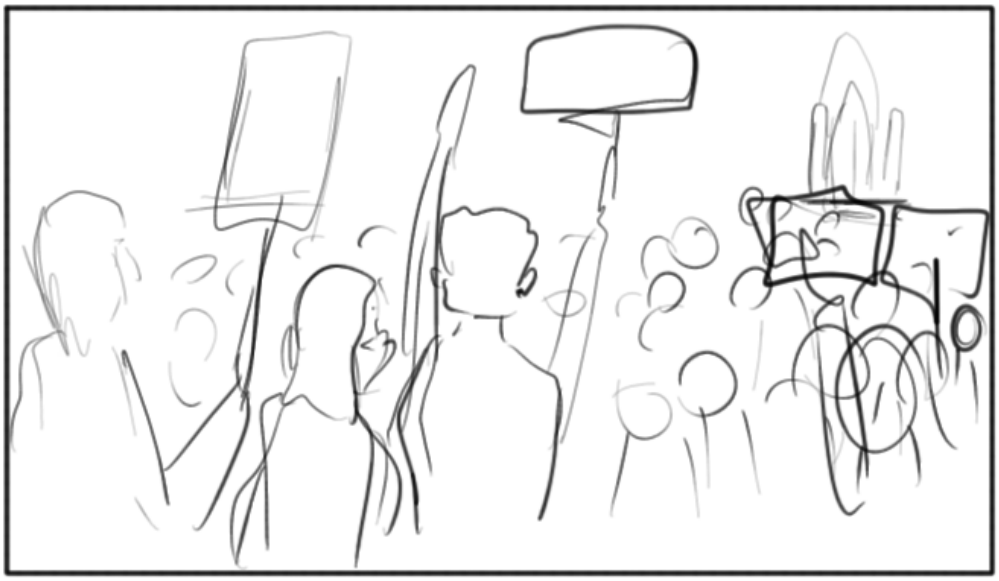





SOUVENIRS


Blake Campion Figurines
$7.00
The First American
to walk on Mars


YES
BR-125, are all the men triple strapped and checked?




NO P.I.C. ON EARTH OR MARS


Mommy, why are those people here?


They just want to spoil our fun!


They're idealists, making a statement.

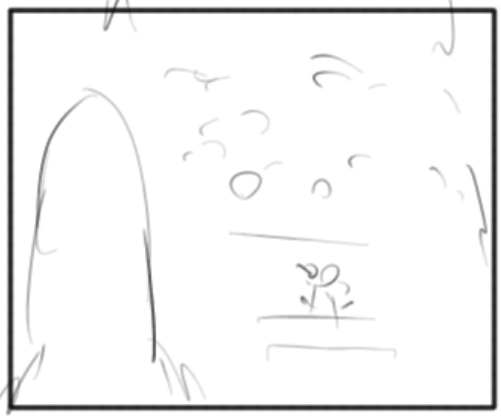

It's all set. In a few minutes, I'll give the command, and you cue the music.
Alright. The turbines are on. Seven minutes til blast off
Music
It's HOT

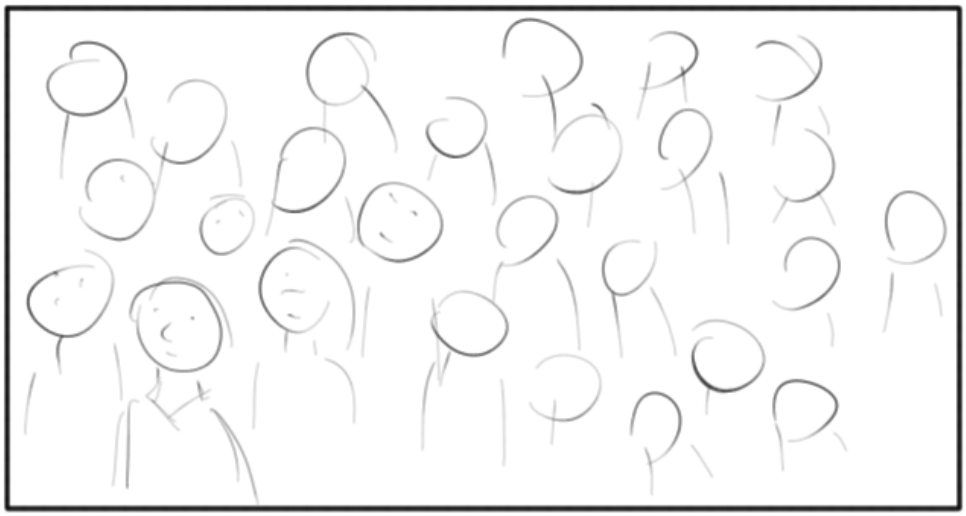

APPLAUSE
Hello, D.C.
I SAID HELLO D.C.
Applause
WOO!
Lyrics
Lyrics Lyrics Lyrics

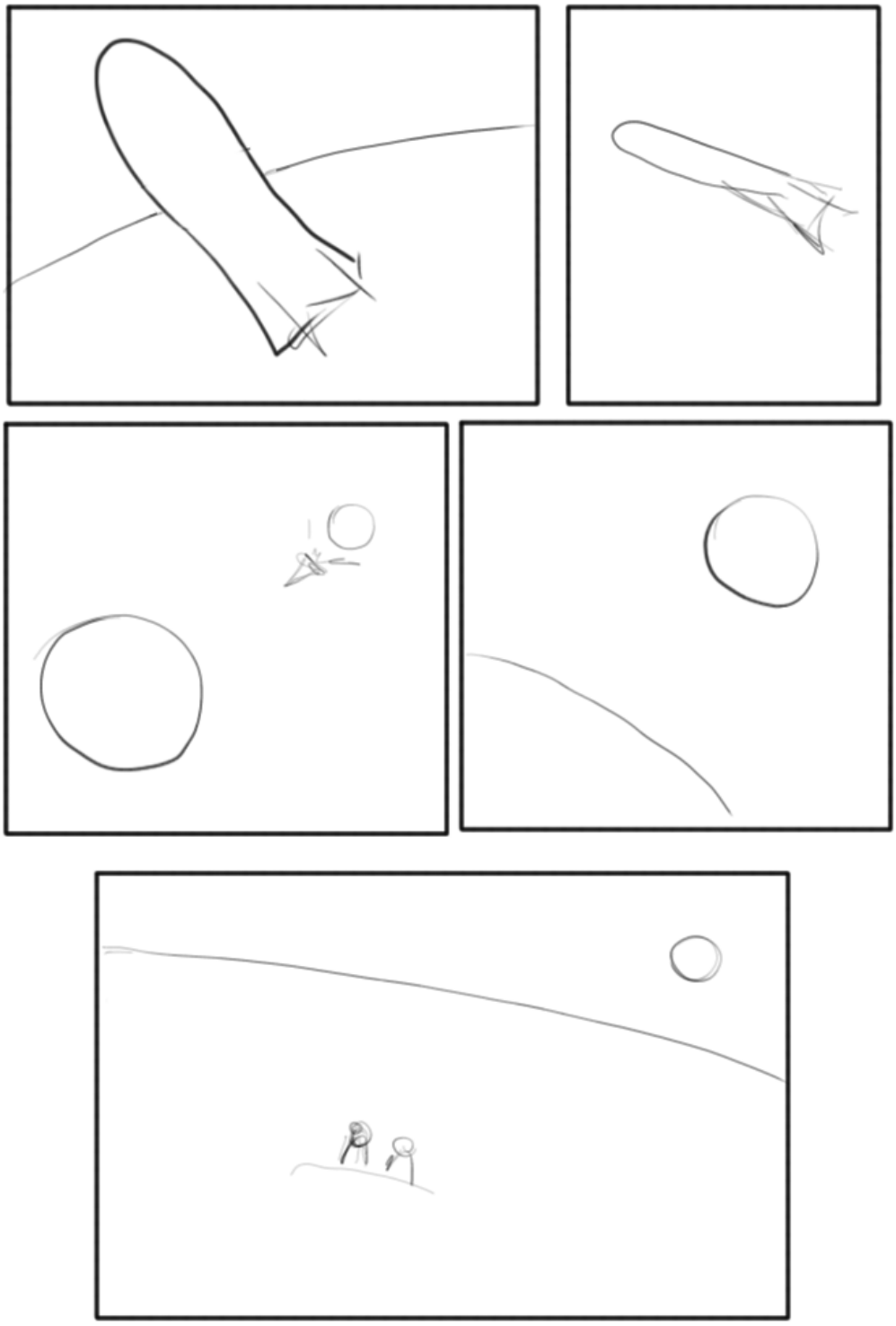

Now.

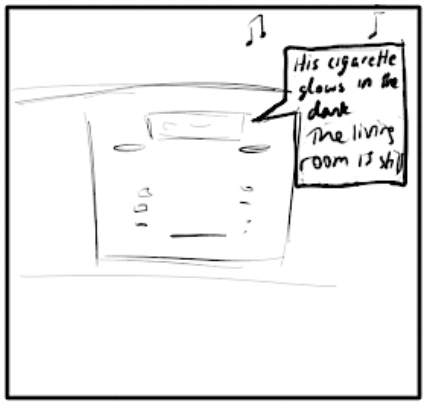

Lyrics
(concluding)


Please
God



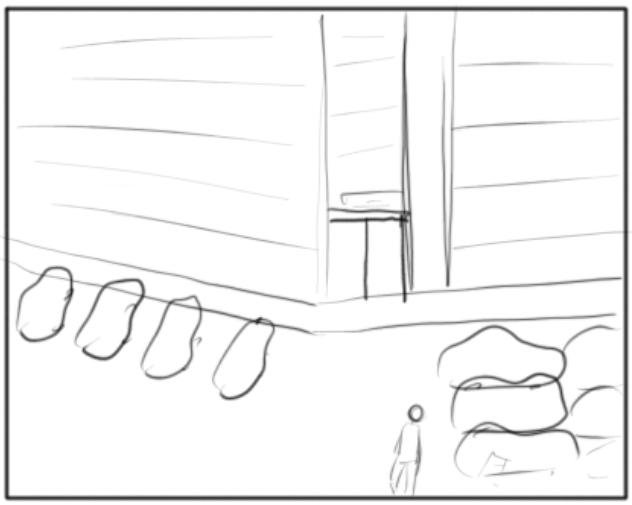


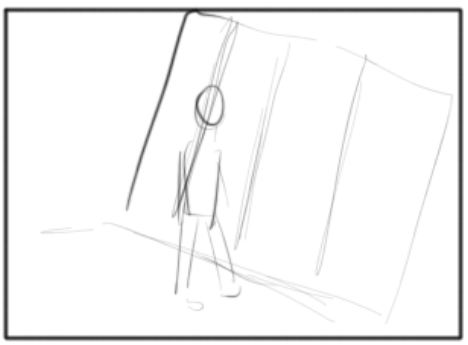



His cigarette glows in the dark
The living room is still


Masen bedroom where my mother reads her magazine

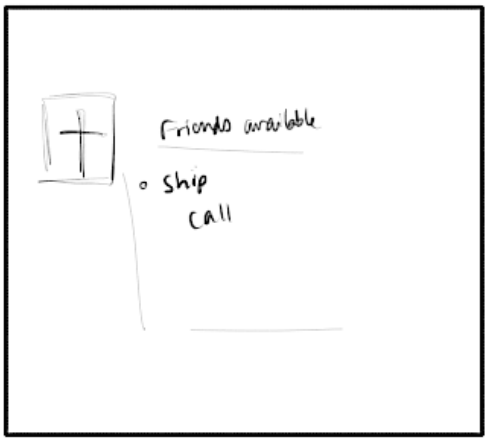

Welcome, Father. The inmates are being woken up now. Can I get you a cup of coffee?






This is where sessions will take place. We've got three scheduled for this morning

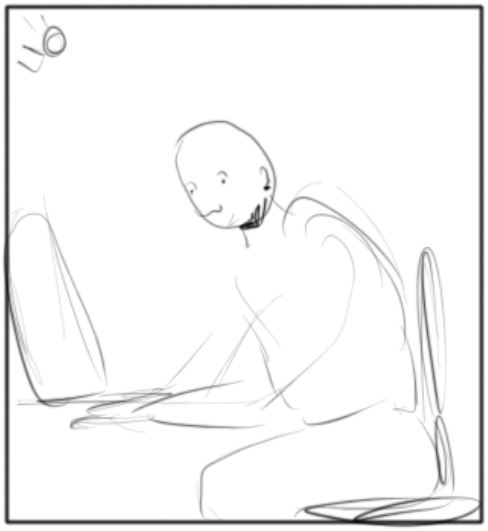

Skype
pict.mioero
Login


Friends available
Ship
Call

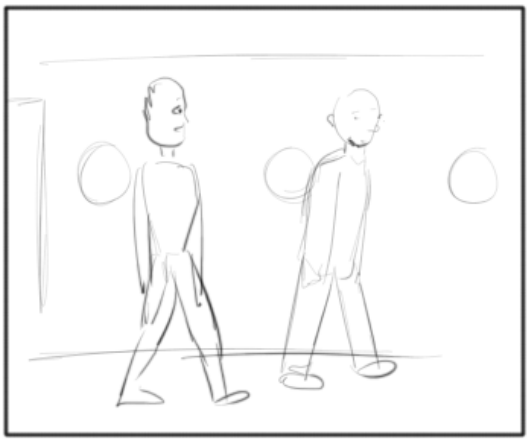

Calling Ship

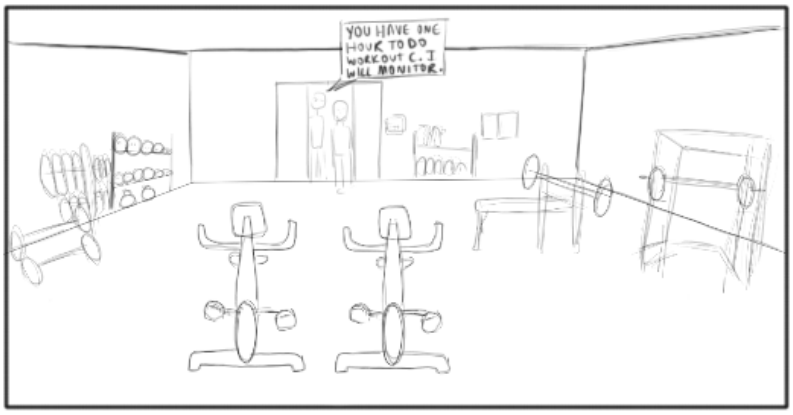

10:15
Skype
Hello, Brad. How are you today?
Been better. Yourself?
10:16
Uhm. Sure.
Are you adjusting to the routine set?
10:19
I dig that we have a gym.
10:20
D'you think we could get some... uh... barbells in here? The kind we had at Nam were okay.
I'm afraid I don't have a say in equipment.
10:21
Can't say I have.
Have you been finding time to reflect?
Thank you, Brad. Peace be with you.
10:25
Later, Father


Skype
call ended
10:05

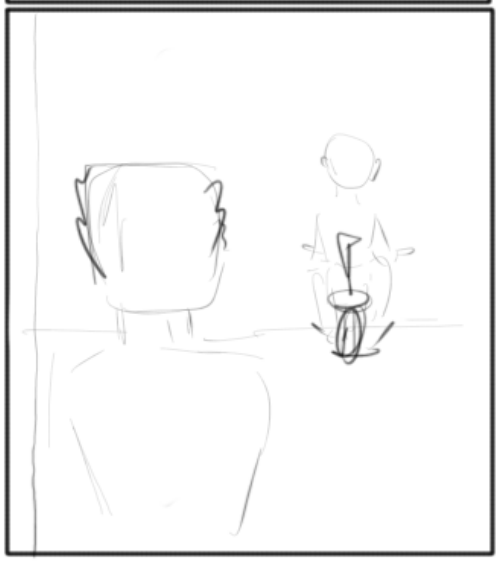


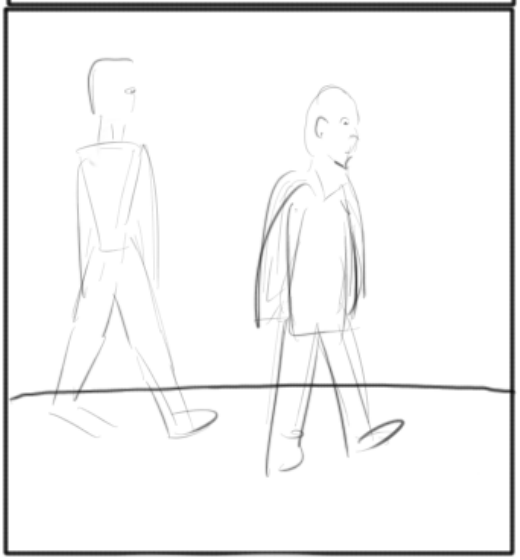

YOUR CALL IS COM PLETE

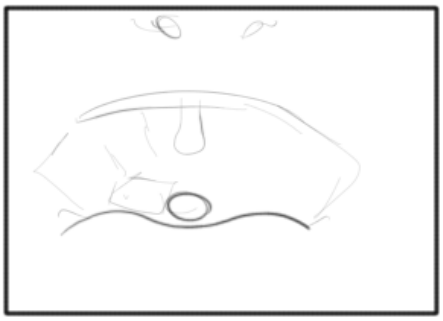


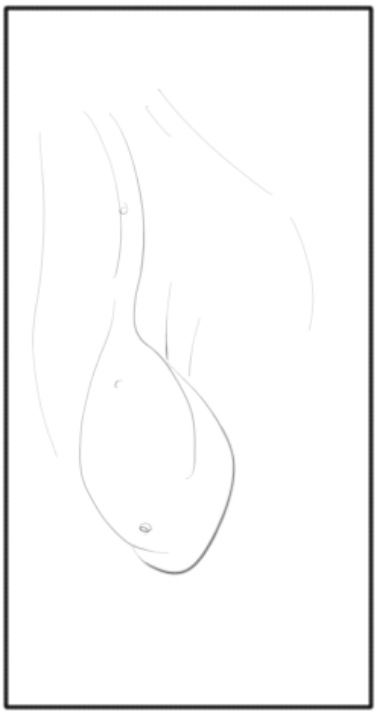

YOU HAVE ONE HOUR TO DO WORKOUT C.I WILL MONITOR.

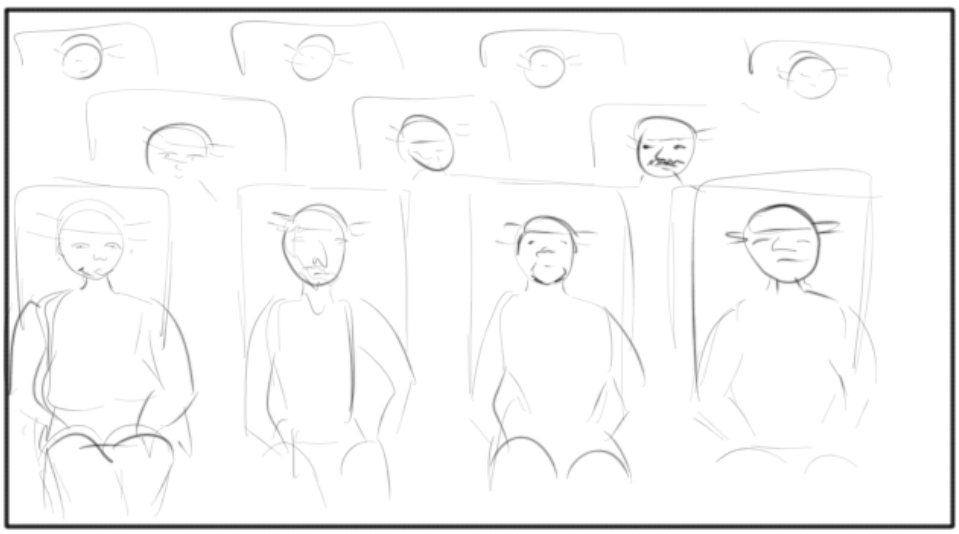

Workout C
30 minutes bike
3x10 chest press
3x10 squat





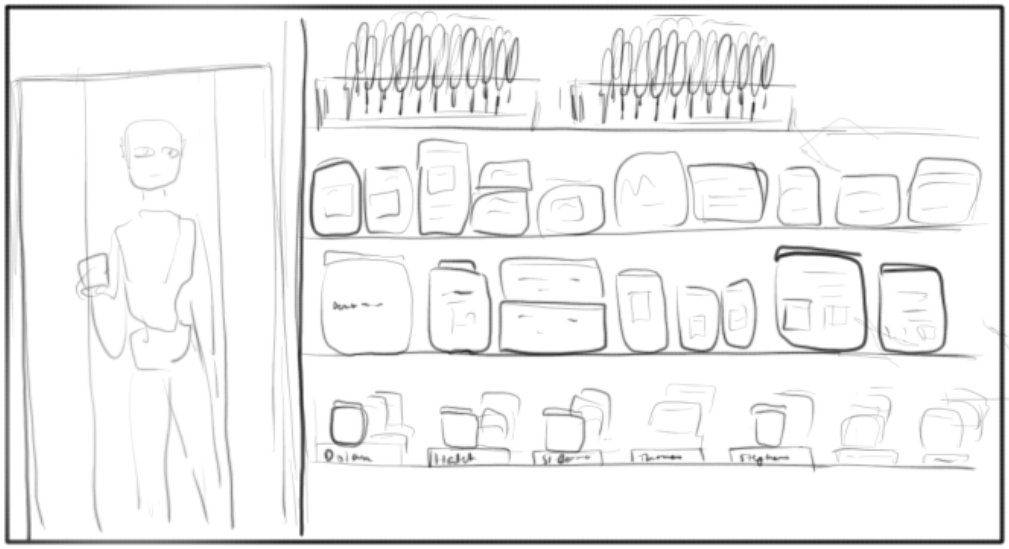


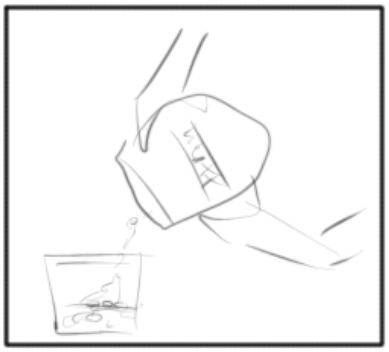


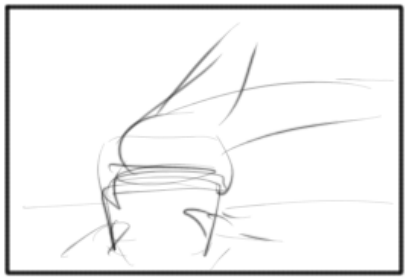


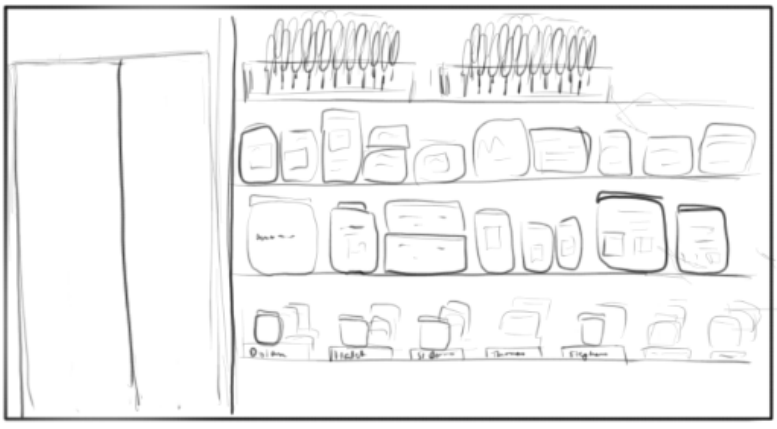

XR__
Enter
Lock

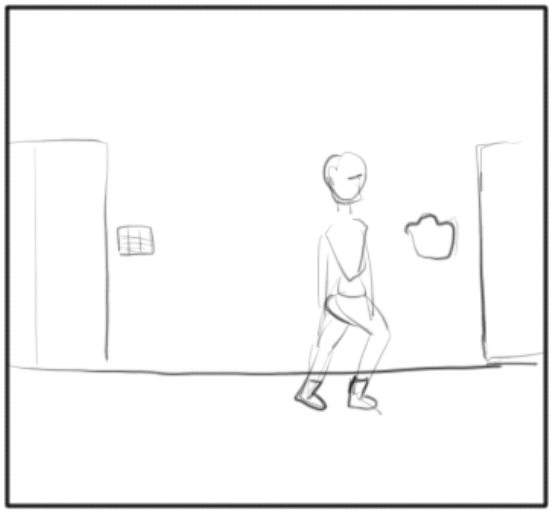

ACCESS GRANTED
Enter
Lock



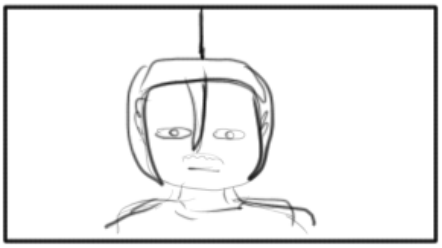









USER BR-125
Contacting Earth




Ship's calling! Nesbitt, that's you


Got it.


BR-125. You have reached headquarters. Show me the day.


GLADLY


Looking good. No problem in the pod!
When were they last weighed
I want to be sure their muscles are maintaining. Weigh 8 of them and send me the results tomorrow.


NO PROBLEM
4 DAYS AGO
O.K.


BR-125
CALL ENDED
4:08


COME IN

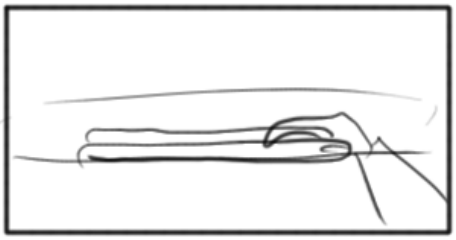

Any news?

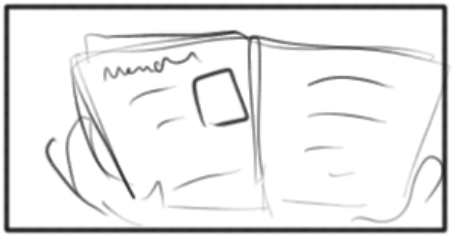

They're

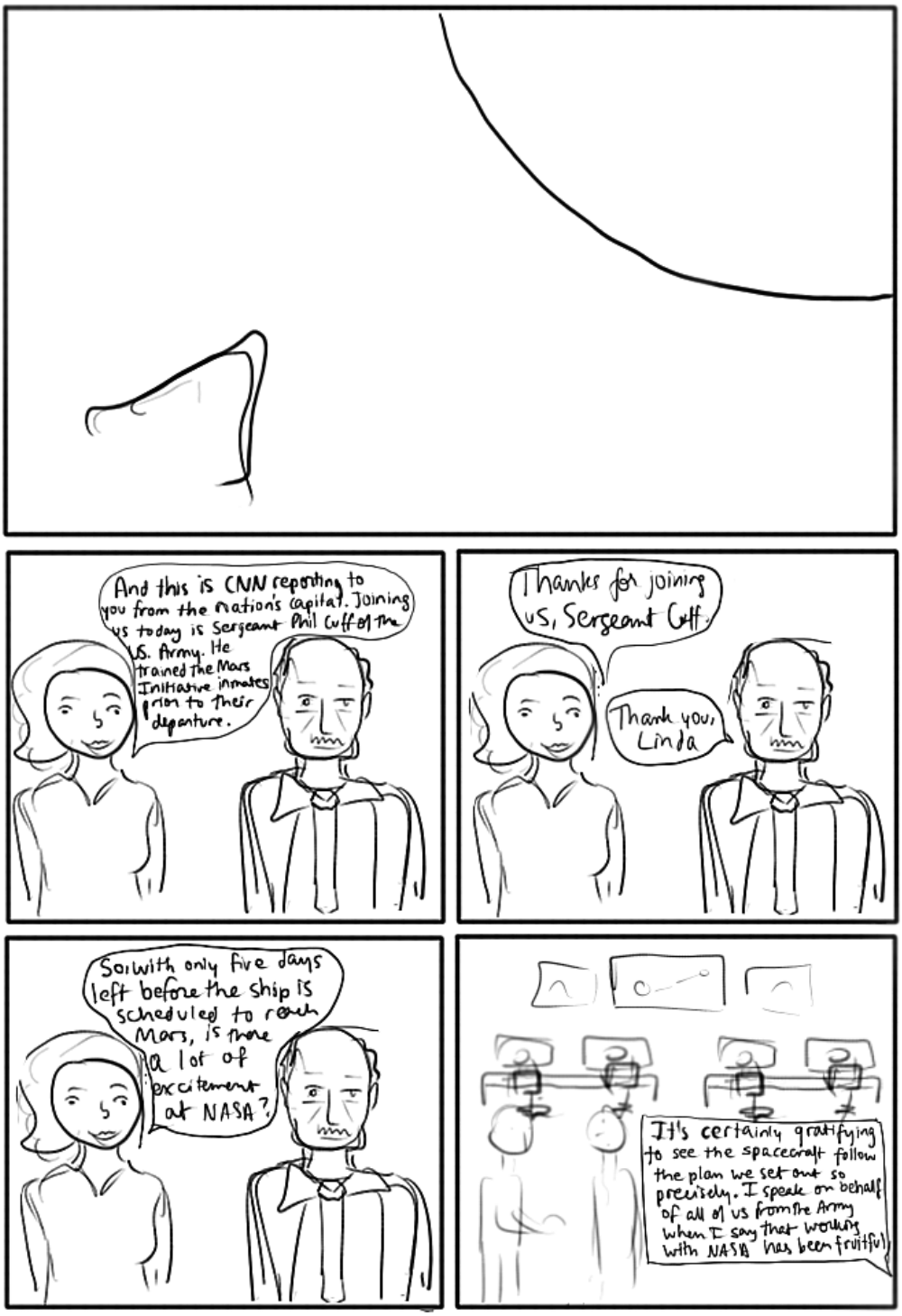

...?

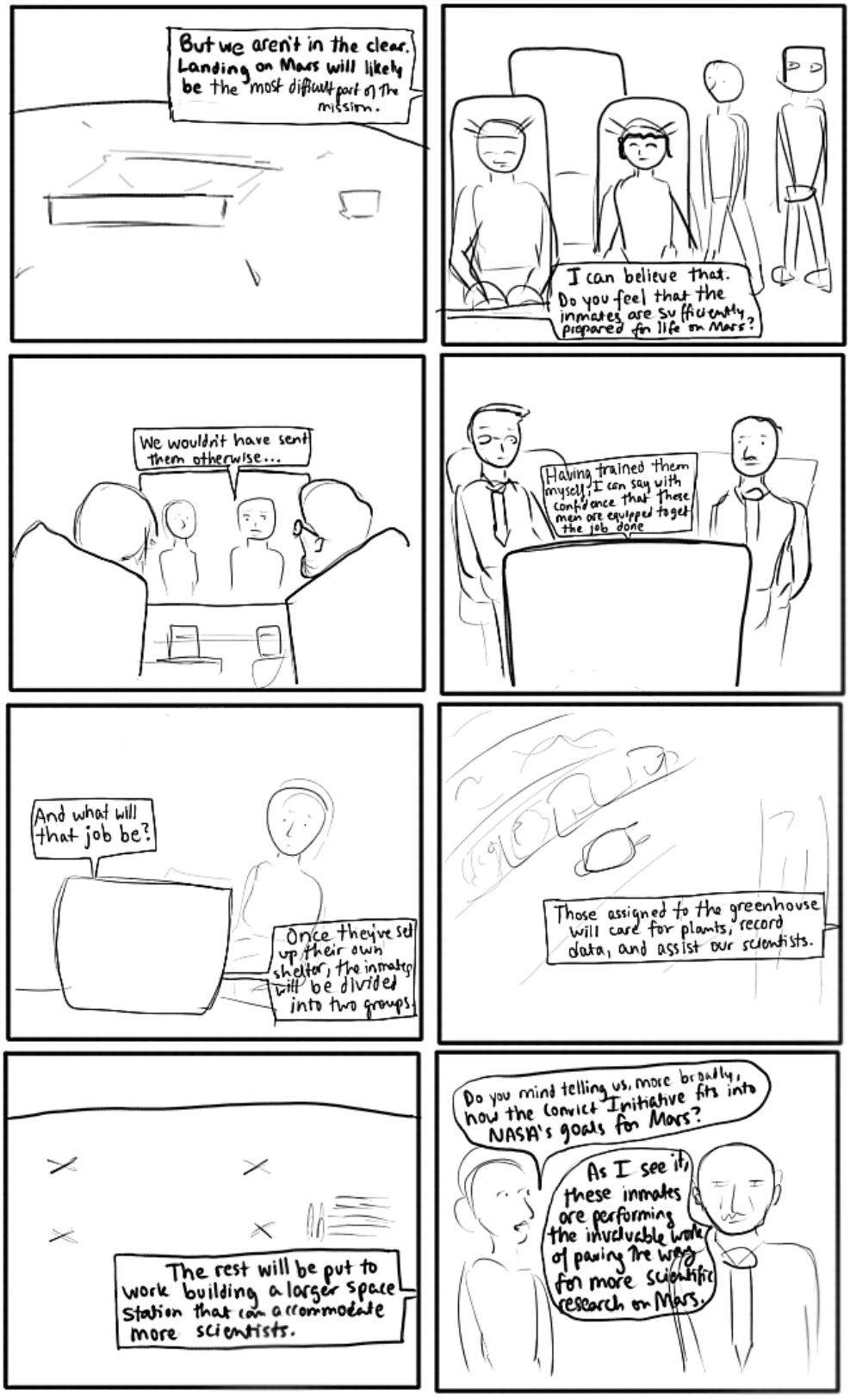

Let me know the results tomorrow. That should be all we need to do for today.


Gmail





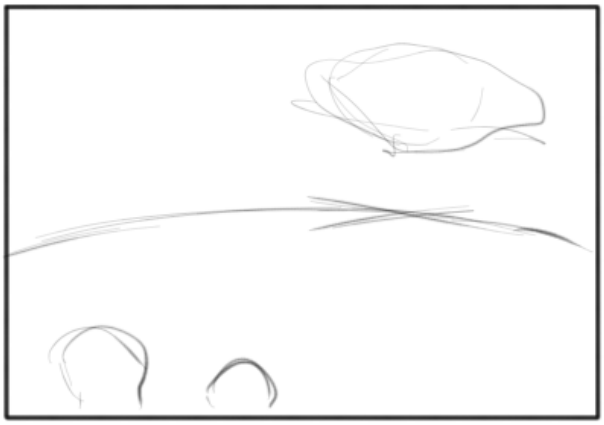

And this is CNN reporting to you from the nation's capital. Joining us today is Sergeant Phil Cuff of the U.S. Army. He trained the Mars Initiative inmates prior to their departure.
Thanks for joining us, Sergeant Cuff.
Thank you, Linda
So, with only five days left before the ship is scheduled to reach Mars, is there a lot of excitement at NASA?
It's certainly gratifying to see the spacecraft follow the plan we set out so precisely. I speak on behalf of all of us from the Army when I say that working with NASA has been fruitful.


But we aren't in the clear. Landing on Mars will likely be the most difficult part of the mission.
I can believe that. Do you feel that the inmates are sufficiently prepared for life on Mars?
We wouldn't have sent them otherwise...
Having trained them myself, I can say with confidence that these men are equipped to get the job done
And what will that job be?
Once they've set up their own shelter, the inmates will be divided into two groups.
Those assigned to the greenhouse will care for plants, record data, and assist our scientists.
The rest will be put to work building a larger space station that can accommodate more scientists.
Do you mind telling us, more broadly, how the Convict Initiative fits into NASA's goals for Mars?
As I see it, these inmates are performing the invaluable work of paving the way for more scientific research on Mars.

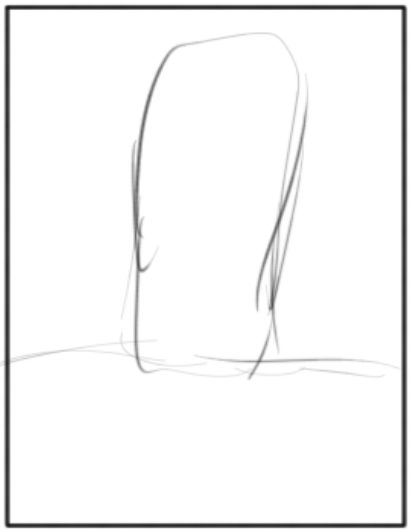

Our scientists have already taken steps towards terraforming Mars —
—That is, releasing gases that will stimulate the Greenhouse effect, bringing conditions on Mars close to those on Earth.
—which, once underway, will allow us to plan for permanent human colonies on Mars.
Can you tell us more about the training program you used to prepare the convicts?
It was quite rigorous. Along with physical training to help them withstand the effect of decreased gravity, on missions, they learned the necessary safety procedures
Every man on that ship can put a space suit on with his eyes closed.
We've developed their knowledge of the Martian environment. There should be no surprises.
Do you see the training as something that can be replicated in the future?
Absolutely. After judging this group's performance, I'll know what needs to be tweaked.
Thank you, Sergeant Cuff.
Thanks, Linda.


Come in.
knock knock
I heard from the ship and they're about four hours from landing.
4 hours later

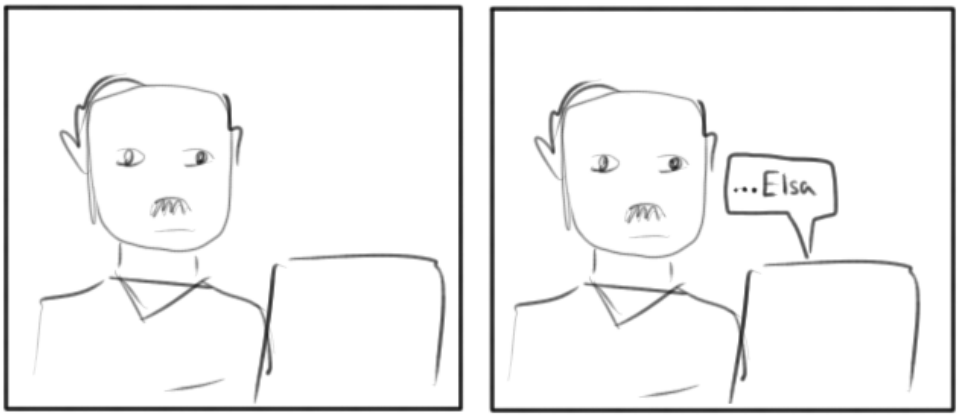

Looks like
they've found it
49 minutes later

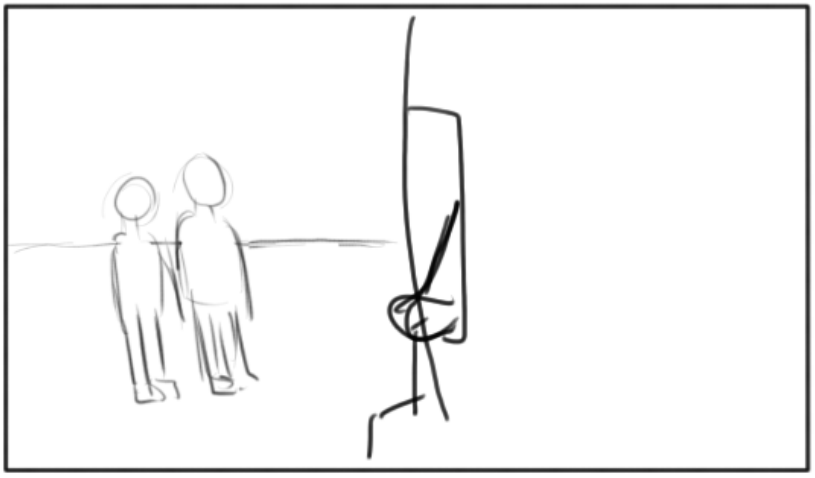


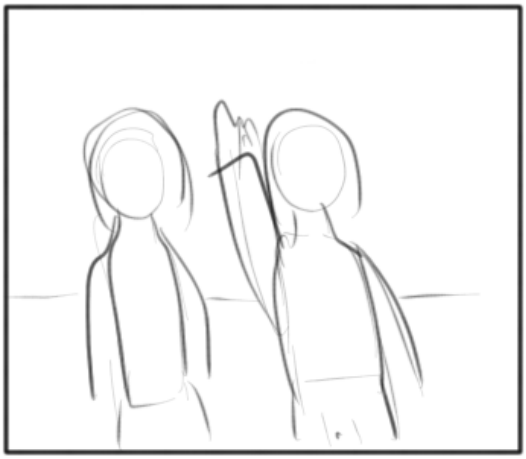

SPACECRAFT
HAS LANDED




Excellent. Go
speak with
Damian
now —
Elsa
Elsa


...Elsa

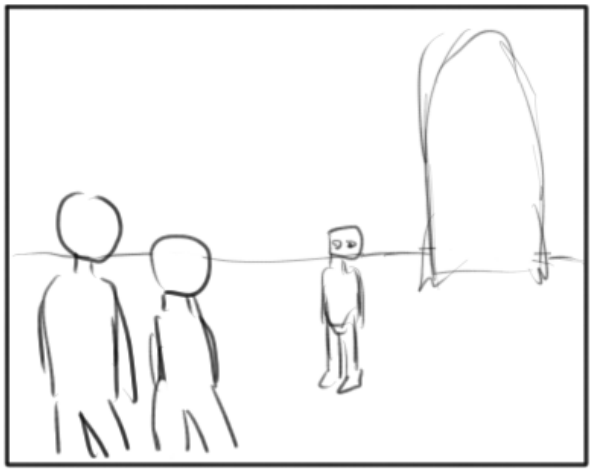


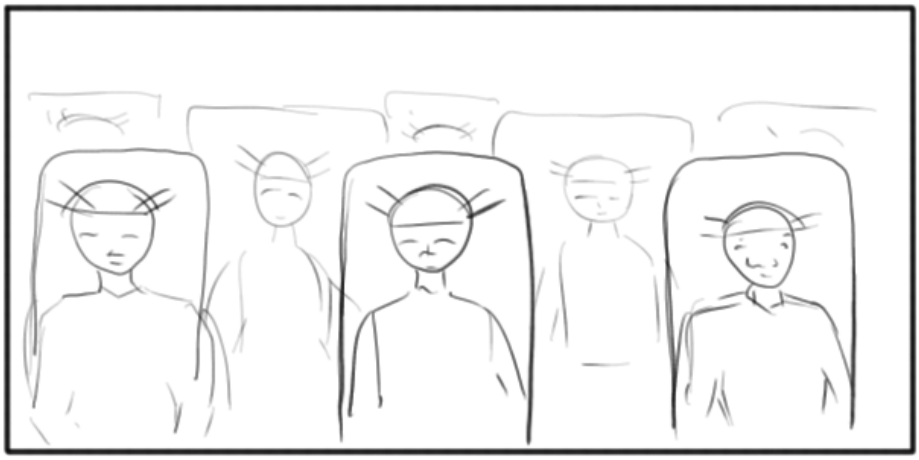



GREETINGS. BR-125 FROM NASA. THE SPACECRAFT IS PARKED.
Nice to meet you. I understand that there are 30 men aboard.


THAT IS CORRECT. THEY ARE A SLEEP AND RE STRAINED
How long until they wake up?
ABOUT TWO HOURS. WE DID NOT WANT ANY TROUBLE DURING LANDING
Makes sense.


Contact us if anything happens.
Our base building is 400 meters from here.
YES SIR

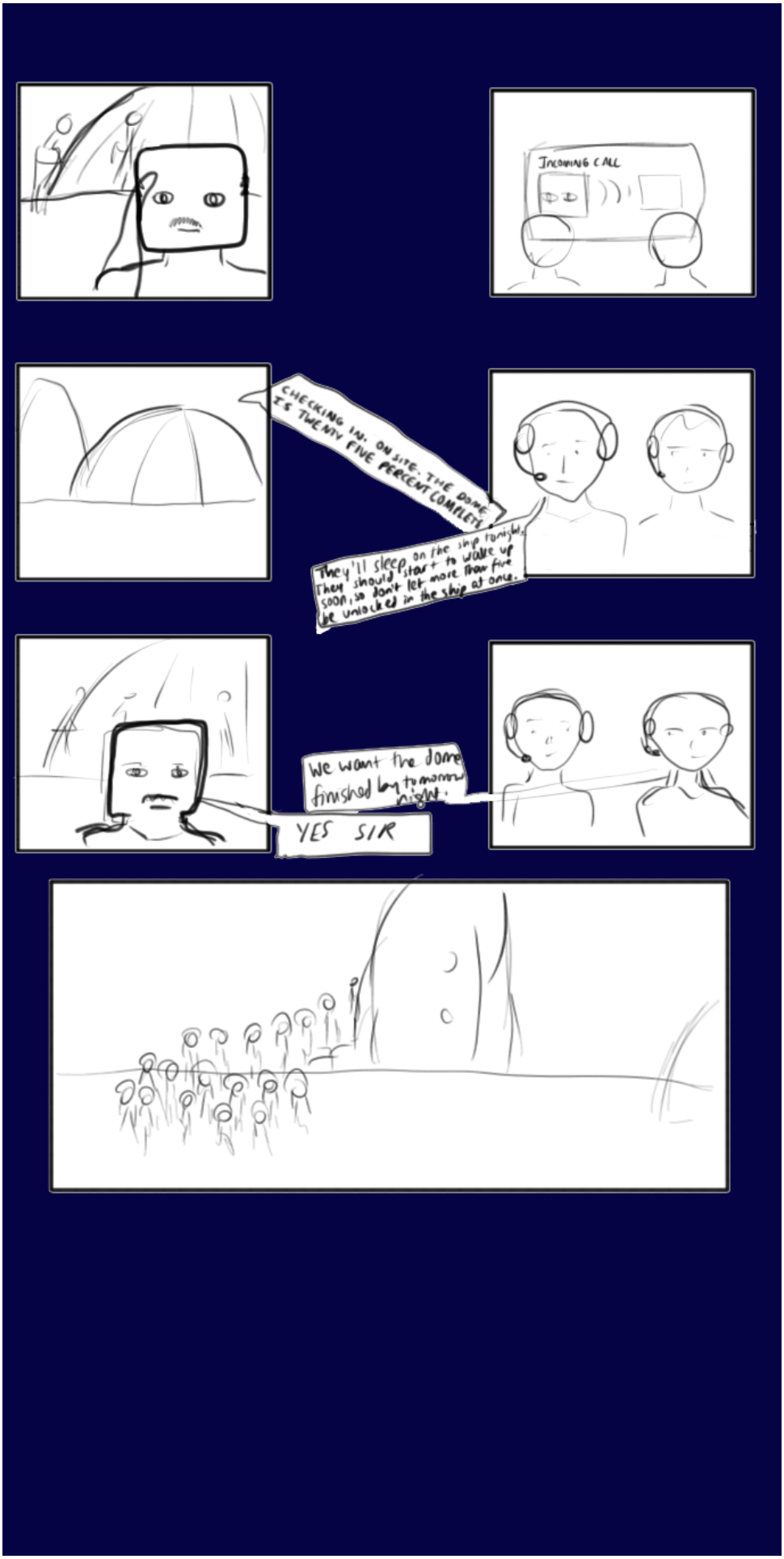




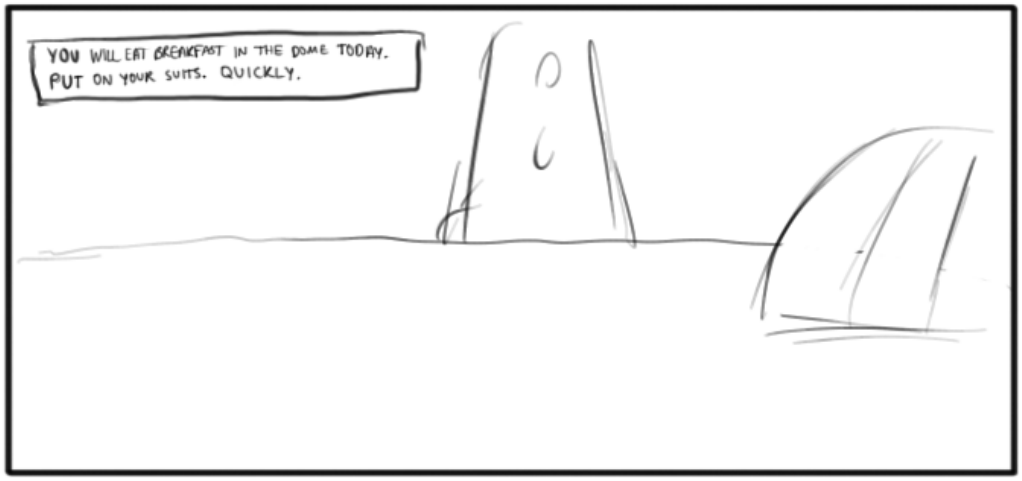

We aren't moving.

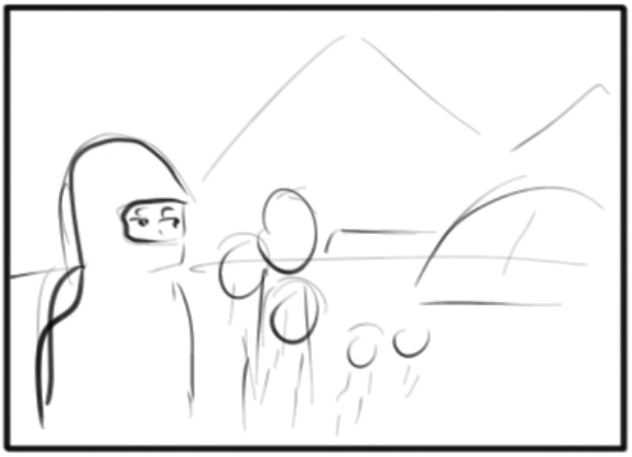

INMATES ARE REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS


Like the looks of our new neighbors?
Seems like they know what they're doing.
They've been trained. And drussed. They're like shifty robots.
Come off it!

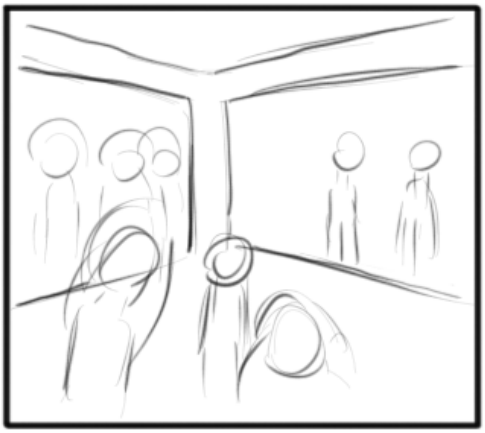

INCOMING CALL
CHECKING IN. ON SITE. THE DOME IS TWENTY FIVE PERCENT COMPLETE.
They'll sleep on the ship tonight. They should start to wake up soon, so don't let more than five be unlocked in the ship at once.
We want the dome finished by tomorrow night.
YES SIR


ONCE YOU HAVE REMOVED THE HELMET AND HARDSUITS, RETURN TO YOUR SEATS. DINNER WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU IN YOUR SEATS.


YOU WILL EAT BREAKFAST IN THE DOME TODAY.
PUT ON YOUR SUITS. QUICKLY.



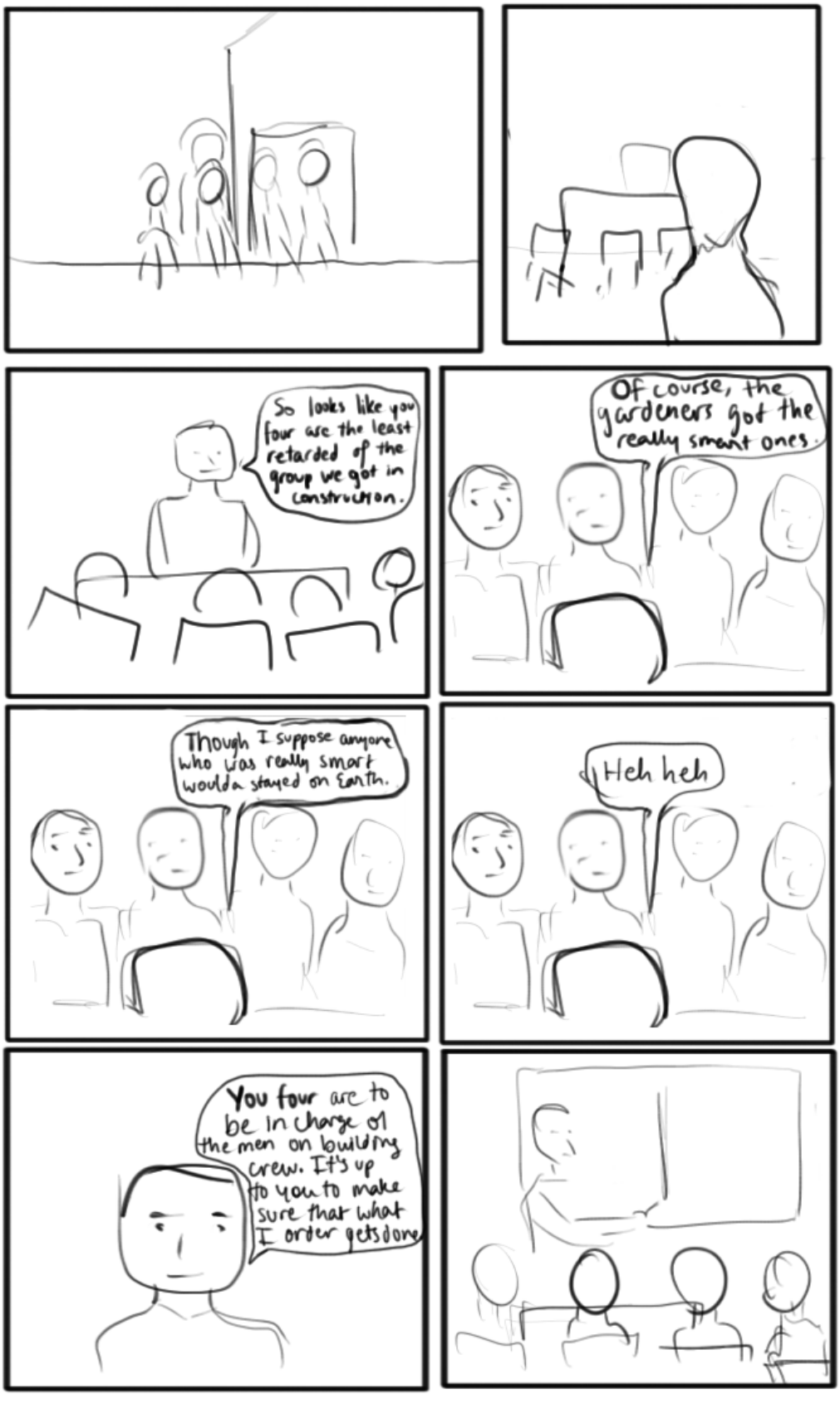

SIX AT A TIME IN THE ANTECHAMBER



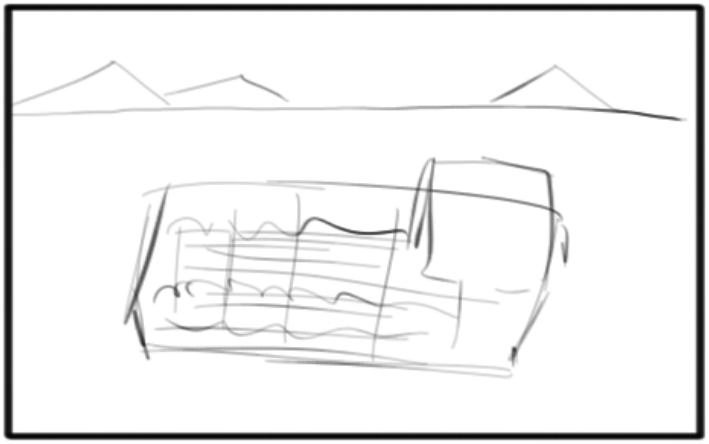

Hey man
Can you tell me where we are?
What?
We're in the dome that we BUILT
Why did we build a dome?
You for real?


Clack
This is a fucking joke. Who's in charge here?
Man be cool. You probably forgot. Robo Phil's gonna explain everything.
Who?
ATTENTION INMATES
THESE ARE YOUR NEW SUPERIORS. THEY WILL OVERSEE YOUR WORK.
Hello and welcome!
I am Dr. Elsa Ronsheim. Dr. Blasko and I run the greenhouse where some of you will be working.
And I'm Anthony Kerr. You will call me Mr. Kerr. I work for NASA as an engineer, and those of you in construction will be reporting to me.


You'll be working hard, I'll be clear on that. Following orders and behaving yourselves will make it bearable for all of us.
And those of you who show promise will have the chance to work on special projects.
We're glad to have your help. Very important work is going on here.
WORK BEGINS IN ONE HOUR. MOST OF YOU WILL BE IN CONSTRUCTION.
IN THE GREEN HOUSE ARE: HOLT TAYLOR
SAVERS


So looks like you four are the least retarded of the group we got in construction.
Of course, the gardeners got the really smart ones.
Though I suppose anyone who was really smart would a stayed on Earth.
Heh heh
You four are to be in charge of the men on building crew. It's up to you to make sure that what I order gets done.

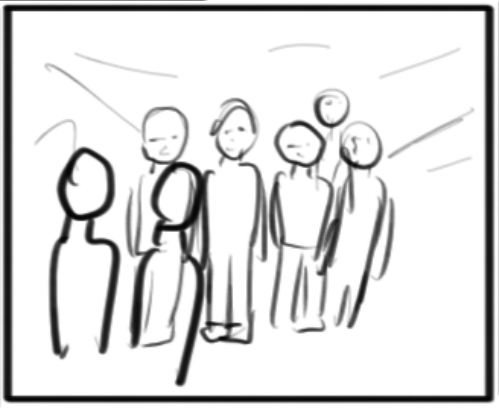

This is the first building you boys'll be working on, I expect you to know it.
We start with the foundation...
And keep on them. If anything goes wrong, your asses are on the line.



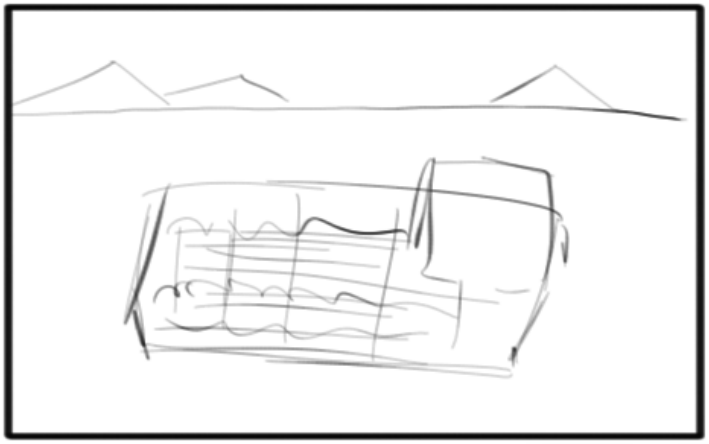

Welcome to the greenhouse. This is where Damian and I work.


We water the plants every day. Most twice, but there's a schedule. Damian and I will be in the lab a lot.


Dr. Ronsheim and I are currently looking at the radiation tolerance of C. Finedaus. You guys'll mostly be watering and taking records. It's pretty simple, you really just have to know how to read.




Exactly! You're Terrence, right?

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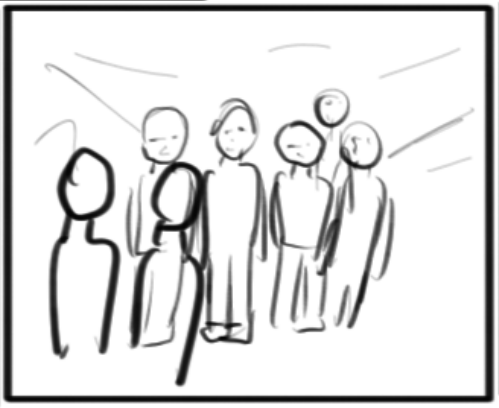


Exactly! You're Terrence, right?


Hi Janet. Hi from up here.
It's different here.
I hope you're doing good...
Sorry I didn't get in touch sooner. Honestly, I don't remember a lot of the trip here. I- uh, I'm pretty sure they were giving us stuff
No shit.
I don't think you'd like it here. It's really goddamn cold.
They got me doing construction work. I'm getting back in shape. Sort of.
It's really different h
sunsets
t too ba
Nah, too skinny
You've seen his girl. She nice?
So edit out the drugs and we should be good.
, baby. Love
This is D.C. corrections. You are invited to our headquarters Wednesday July 14


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It's different here.
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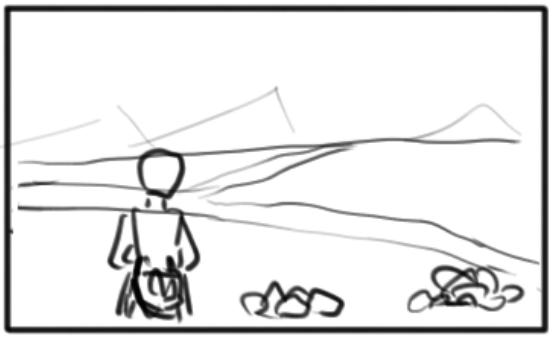
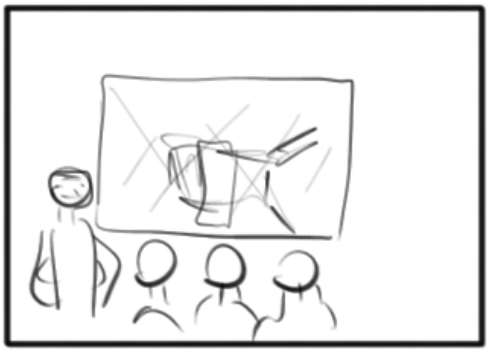
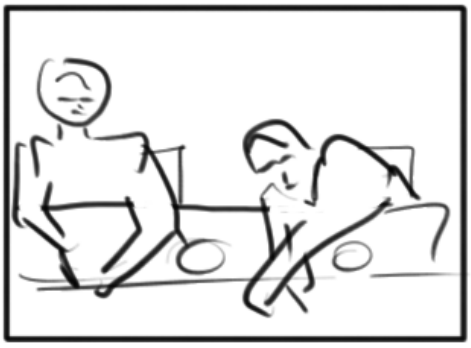







Your shoulders fucked too?
Yeah. This digging is really bitch work.


Hey COOPER. How much longer are we gonna be shoveling for?

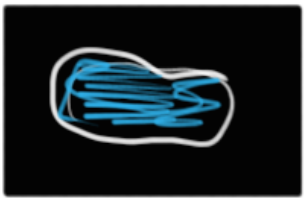

Until we're done.


That all you got? Come on man, I'm asking you when we're gonna stop shoveling. Huh?

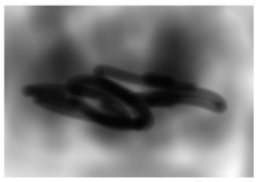

And I told you. We shovel hi kers gives us a new job. This isn't the boy scouts, Barrett


So you don't even know, huh. What do you do in Herr's office, suck his dick?


You piece of shit!




What the fuck? You fucking faggot.



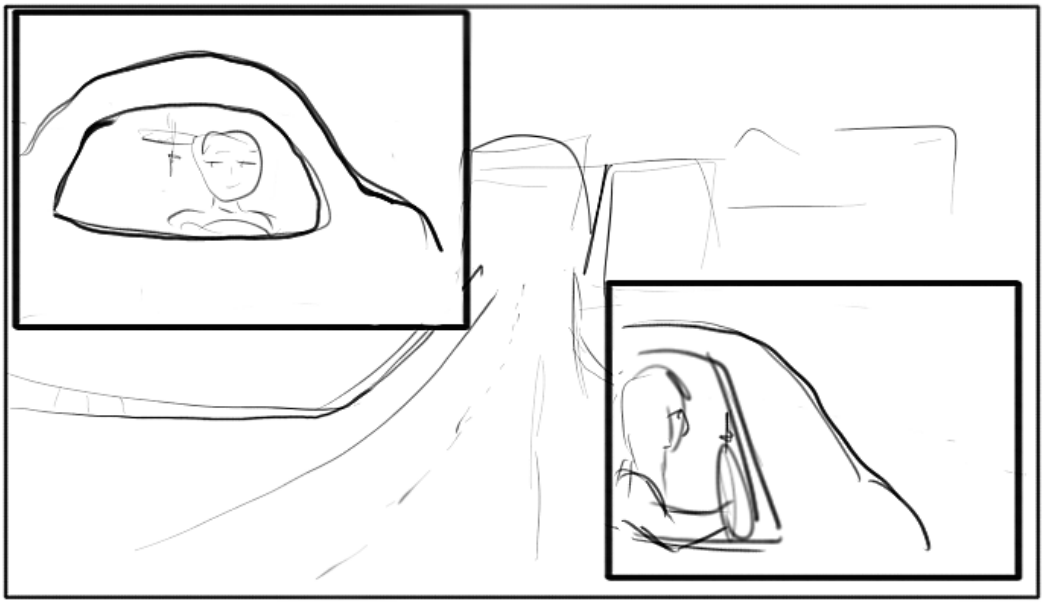

Name and ID?


NASA Authorized Visitor 04812
RANDALL, JANET
Relative
Age: 26
Address: 24 Wesson Ave
Apt 17
District of Columbia

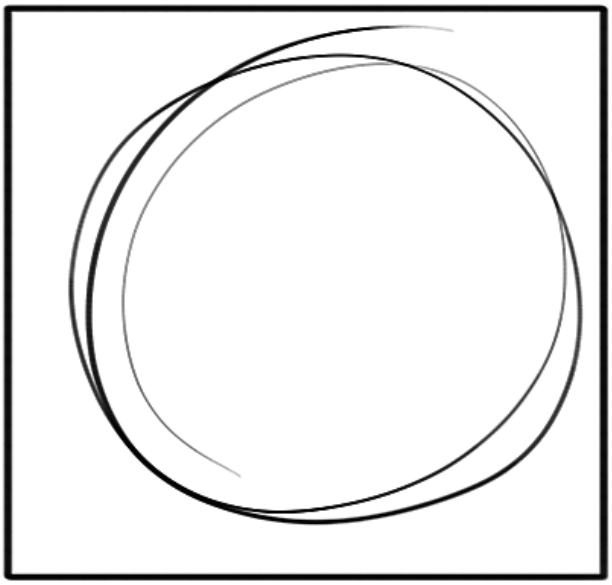

Hello. I'm Dr. Morganstern, from NASA. Father Milozo and I have been in touch with the ship since take off.


Now that the inmates are settled in, we're pleased to be able to show you videos they've recorded with our help.
Excuse me
Yes?
Why do we have to watch these here?
Mission security. The safety of everyone on that ship requires that we not release these videos to the public.
The public?
I'll call you in one at a time. Each video can play through twice. Father Miozzo is here if you'd like to speak with him after.
First up is Brad Morly.
That's my son
Mrs. Morly?
Berglund.
Hey Ma, Bradley here. It's been an okay first week. Working hard.
Overall it's an improvement. So don't worry about me.
...Bradley here... first week...

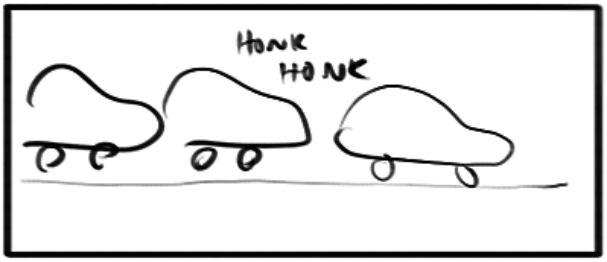

I really miss you baby. You know I'm doing this for us. It's hard being so far away from you, but...
I'm learning new skills.
The other guys are alright. I got, uh, four roommates.
Please send me a video back, if they let you.




♪ And when you're not you're with some underworld spy or the




wife of a close friend


HONK
HONK


Hello and congratulations on completing your first week.

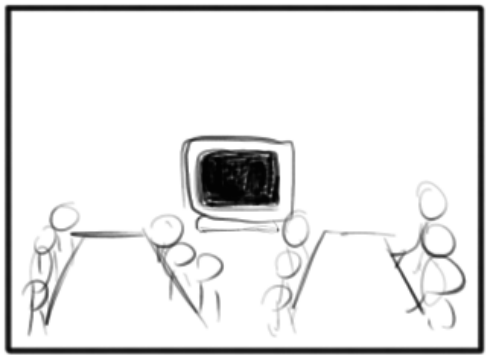

We're pleased overall with the behavior you've exhibited, and with how you've handled adjustments.

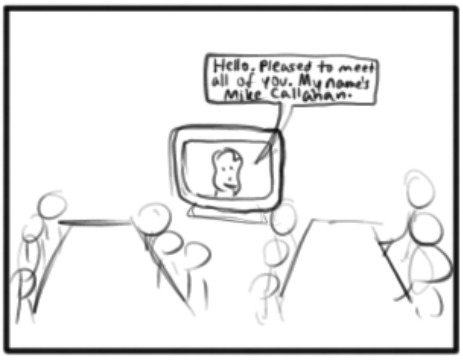

Given this, and our goals for the upcoming weeks, we will be installing televisions in your rooms


Each room will get 45 minutes of viewing time each night, on the condition that each inmate in the room has performed their assigned tasks and has not warranted a write-up in the past week.


And I'd like to introduce you to your new spiritual advisor. You're each entitled to one 35 minute Skype conversation with Father Callahan every other week.


Again, good first week. Know that we're watching you all carefully and that all comforts and freedoms depend on your continued good work.



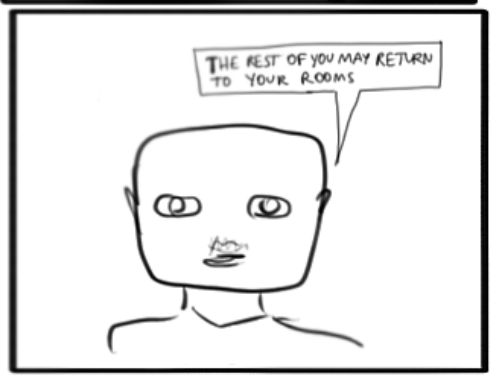

Hello. Pleased to meet all of you. My name's Mike Callahan.

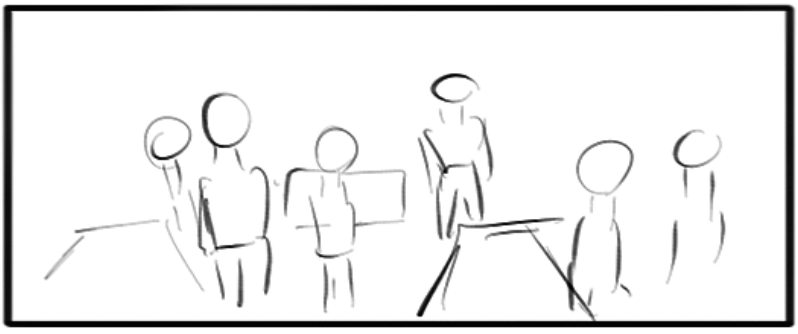

I'm from Philadelphia originally. I've been in D.C. for two years working as chaplain at Arlington Correctional.


I look forward to getting to know you, and I hope to be able to help you out in whatever ways I can. So schedule Skype sessions and we'll talk. God bless.

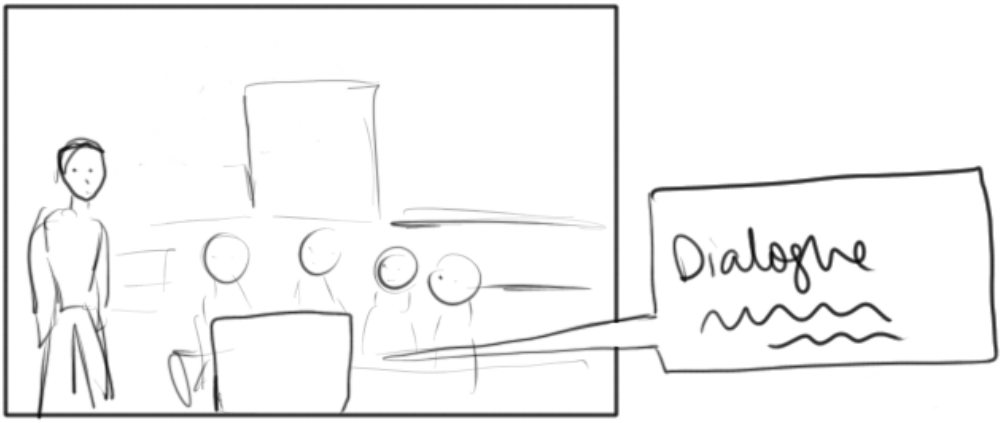

ha ha
He's pretty


SILENCE. THAT IS ALL FROM EARTH. HOLT AND O'HARE ON CLEAN UP TONIGHT. ANTHONY, ALLEN, BRANT, JOHNSON IN THE GYM.


THE REST OF YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS




TV dialogue
Dialogue
Dialogue
Ha Ha ha
Ha ha
Dialogue
Ha ha
ha ha
Ha



ha ha ha
ha ha
(studio audience laughter)

ha ha
ha ha


Nice to meet you, Brad. I see you're also from Philadelphia.
Aren't you young to be a priest?
Well, the... average age of new priests is 32. I'm 29, so only a little, in that sense.
Were you close to Father Lallathon, Brad?
Nah.
So are you an Eagles fan?
Patriots. I actually grew up in Boston.
So you're not really Philly...
Barely. My parents died when I was young, so I moved around a lot.
Is your mom still around? How's she taking all of this?
Shit... My dad died too...
But I didn't become a Patriots fan.
Oh, I guess not great...
Man what kind of question is that?


So, Father, how was getting to know the boys?
I enjoyed talking with them. I expect it'll take some time to build trust.
I guess someone's gotta do it.
While you're here, did anything strange come up? Anybody seem... restless?
I can tell you that a few inmates are uncomfortable being forced to give blood.
And one man had a dream the other night that the robot came into his room and injected him with a syringe.
Ha ha. I'm surprised he remembers that.
So he was injected? Why
We're developing new radiation protection for people who need to spend long periods of time on Mars. This one's administered by needle once a week, and it could replace the pill.
Pill's no good, you know. 1 in 10 people are allergic or can't absorb it.
And hell on the liver!
Trust me, this guy's the lucky one.
But everyone up there now can absorb it?
Ha ha, fuck if I know.
So why the injections?
We're testing for side effects. It's only been used on rodents so far.


Jamal
You hear about Barret?
What?

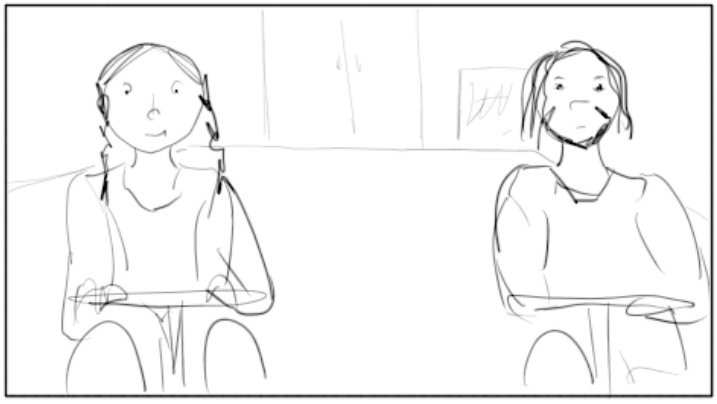

Uhh. nope.


He lost it! Forgot why we're here. Wanted to know when we go back.


Damn. Where's he now?


Well after he flipped out no one saw him for a day. Now he's back but he doesn't really talk.


Apparently he just mixes cement.




The meds wrecked his brain.
Yea think..


Come on'. You feel it, right? Half of us didn't even know we were on Mars when we got here. They've been doping us

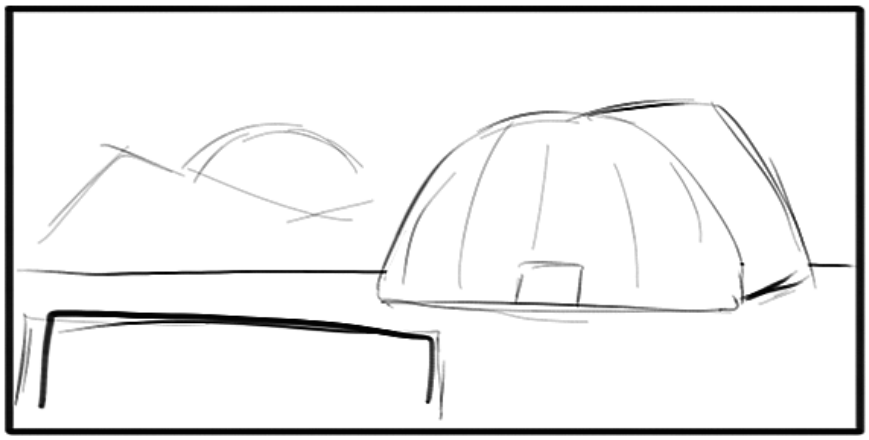

I mean I have been sleeping better since all this. But why now? Most of us were taking shit before we got here..

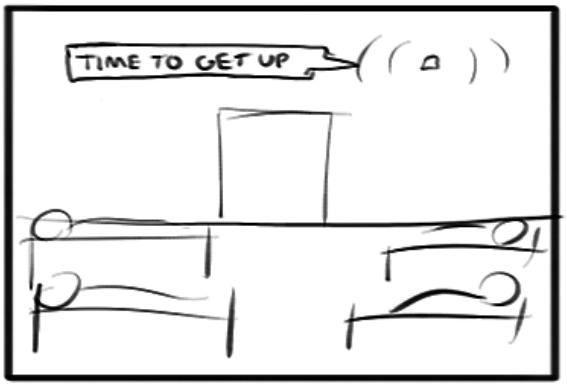

This must be harder stuff. They don't want us to feel things.

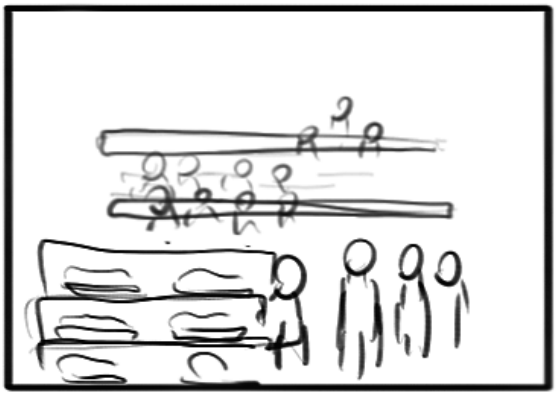

I'm gonna stop taking my pills.


Man that could be really dangerous.


I'll take my chances.




TIME TO GET UP

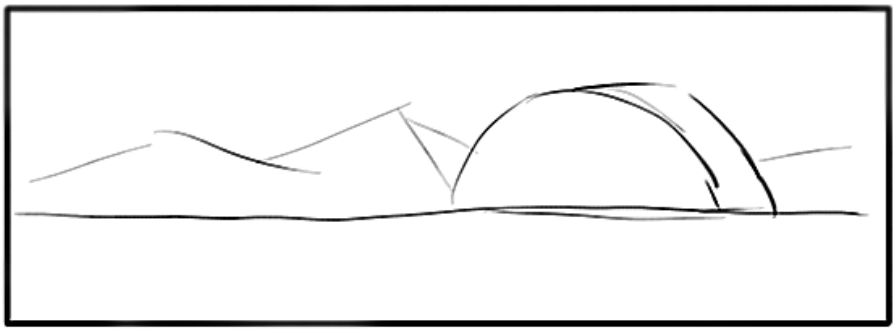



Yo I thought shoveling was fucked, but this drilling is killing my shoulder.
Worried it's gonna hurt your chances at the NBA?
Haha DAMN Gomez
Hey, maybe if you ask they'll put you in the greenhouse. Huh, Terrence?
You have to be pretty smart for that, right. Only our best and brightest get to pick flowers.
I don't know man. I've never seen this guy talk.

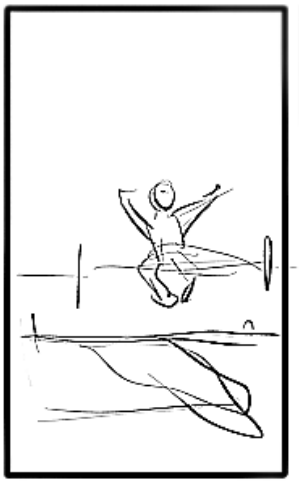

BREAKFAST IS OVER. SUIT UP AND GET TO YOUR WORK STATIONS
Hey.
MORNING ONLY
Water
- A. Sybracus (½ cup)
- Byla (½ cup)
Merid (½ cup)
ropendium (½ cup)
illus (A) (¼ cup)
illus (B) (½ cup)
ivernica (⅔ cup)
ilibenshum (?)


Terrence, this is Dr. Ronsheim. Could you come up to my office when you're done watering?
Dr. RONSHEIM
NASA
Hello Terrence. Come in.
So how has working in the greenhouse been for you? Are you enjoying it?
Mhm
Because I've been pleased with your work. You follow instructions well, and you remember details. It's impressive.


Anyway, I wanted to ask if you were interested in helping me on a project I'm working on.
I'm working on
Of course, it would be some extra work for you. But I've spoken with headquarters, and they're willing to increase your pay. That would go to your... parents, or whoever. We could probably work in some extra privileges here, too.
So. How does that sound?
Okay.
Great! I'm glad we'll be working together. This will be a great opportunity for you to learn field work skills
Bye, Terrence

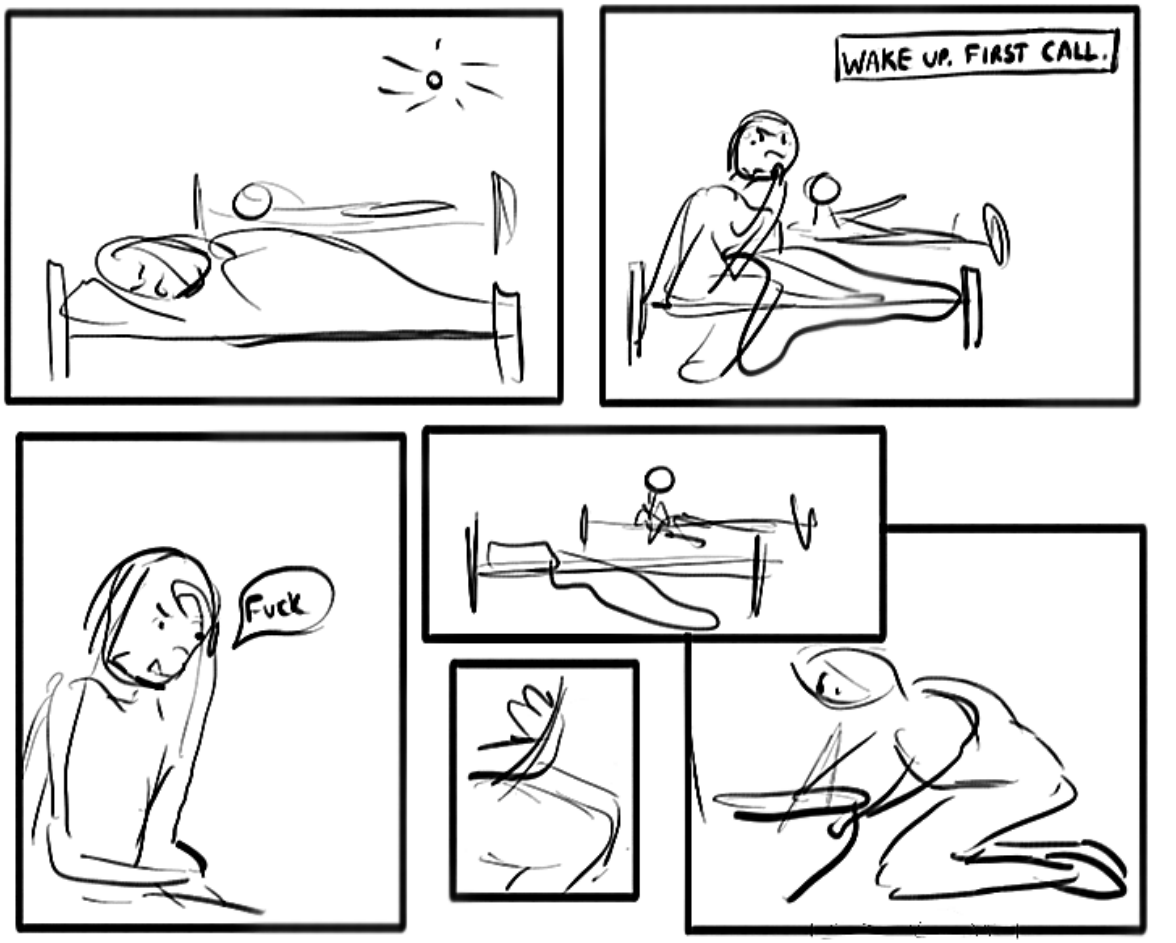



WAKE UP. FIRST CALL

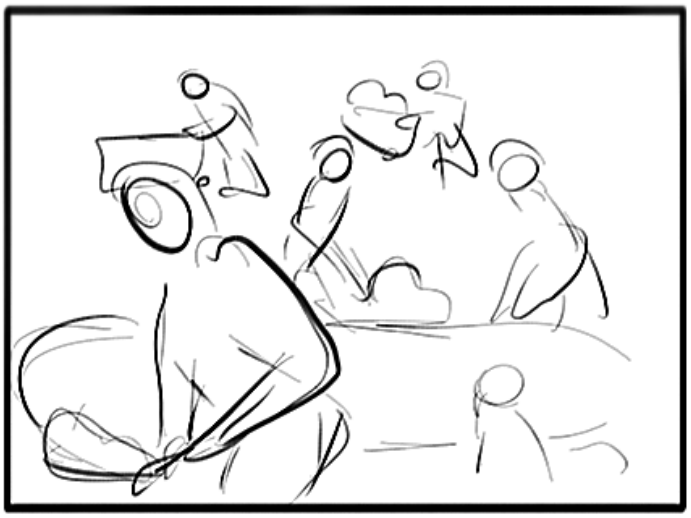


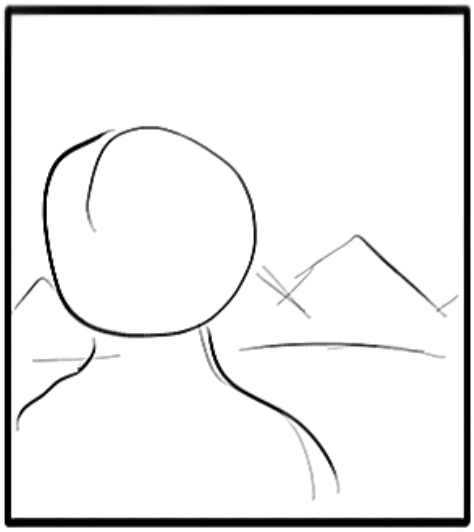

SECOND CALL

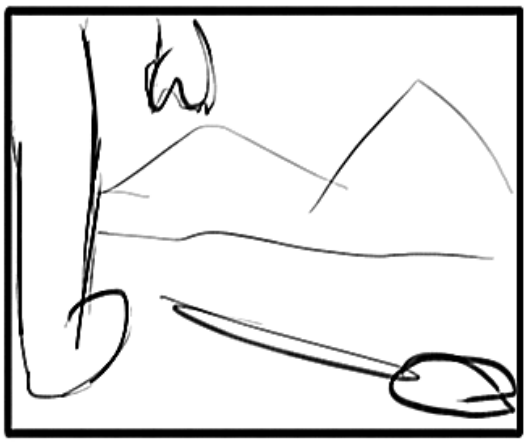

Shit. We got old.

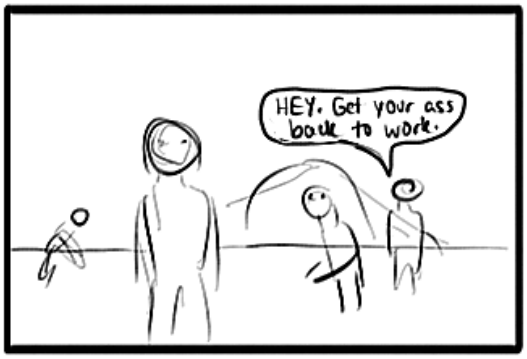

WAKE UP. FIRST CALL.
Fuck
SECOND CALL
Shit, man. You got old.

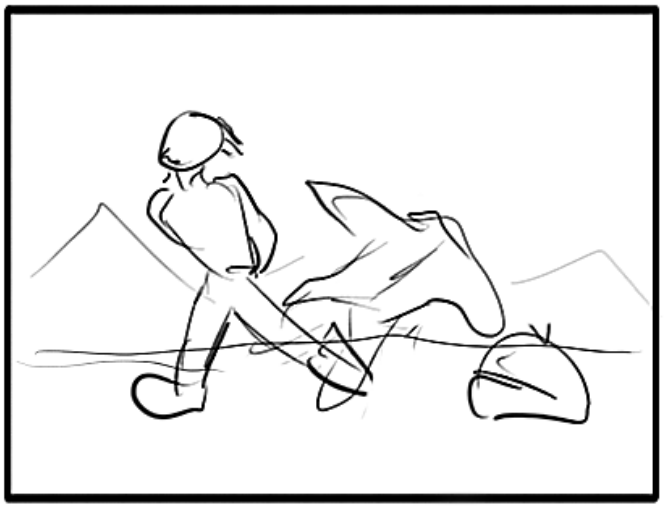

Oatmeal trying to tell you something, J?
How long you been off the pills for?
3 days!
I feel like shit
Why wouldn't you?
Who else went off?
Derik did. Hank wouldn't. Most of the rednecks. And Hardin, A-Train.
Was this a good idea, man?
Hell if I know.





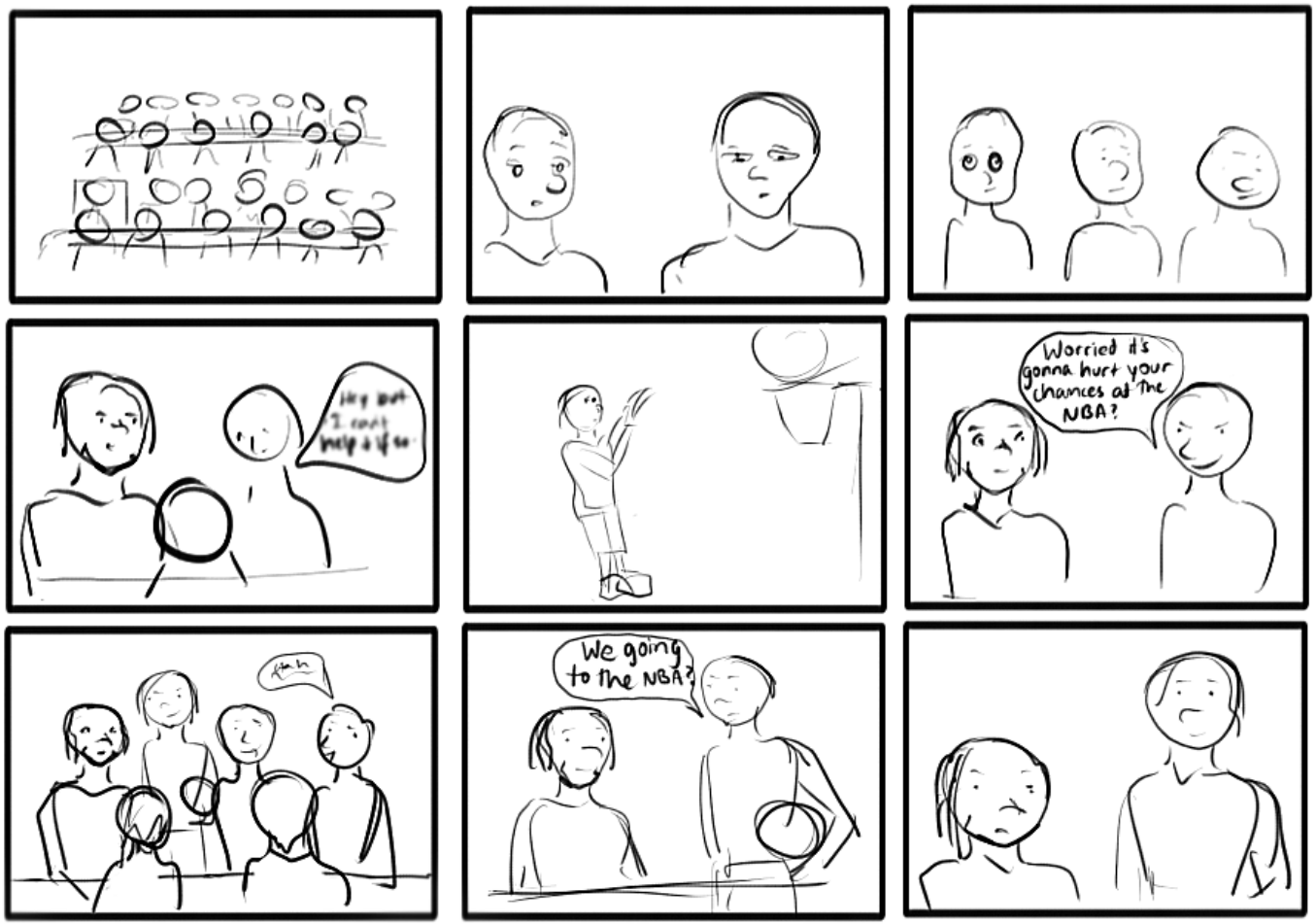



HEY. Get your ass back to work.

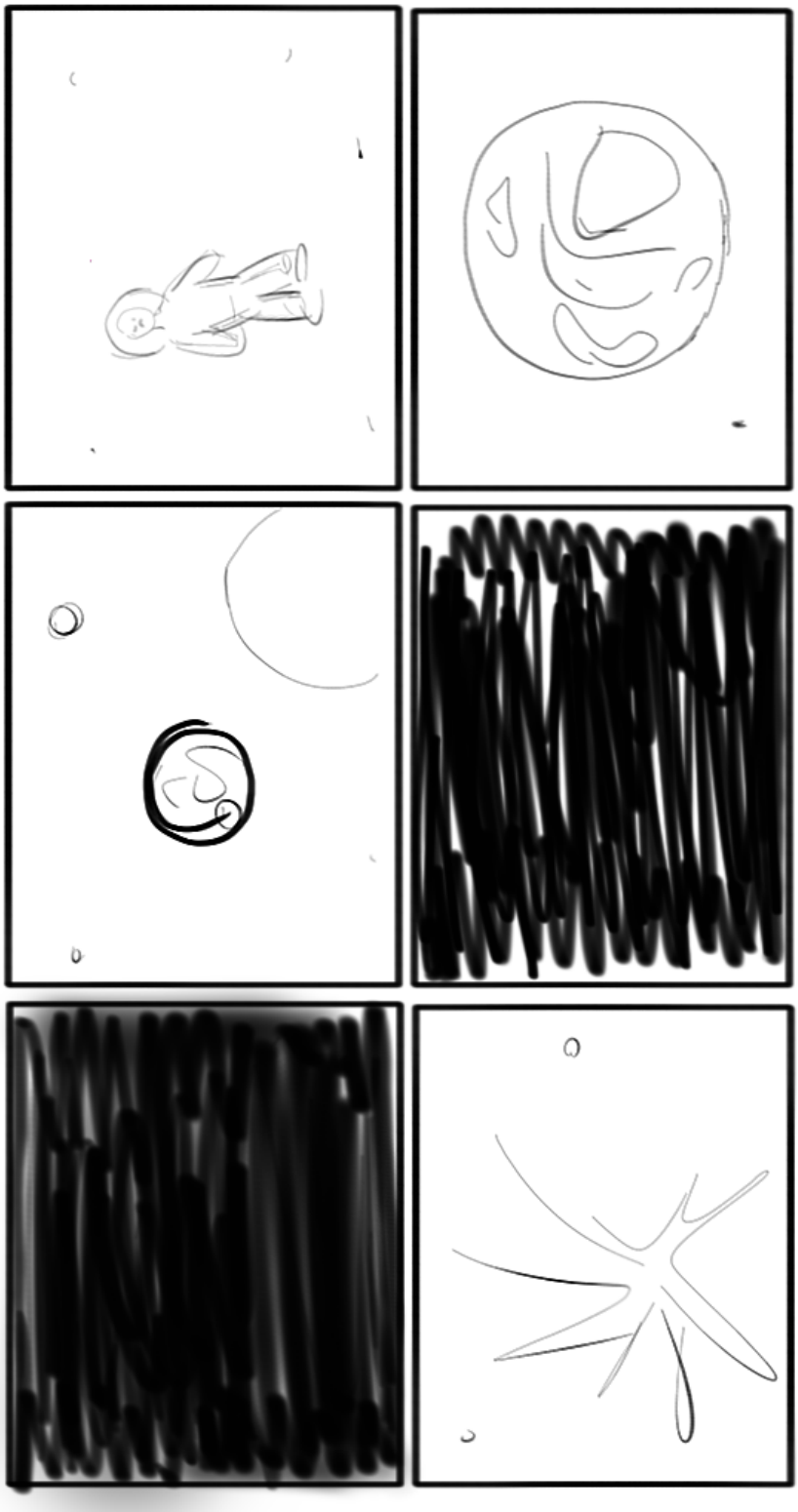


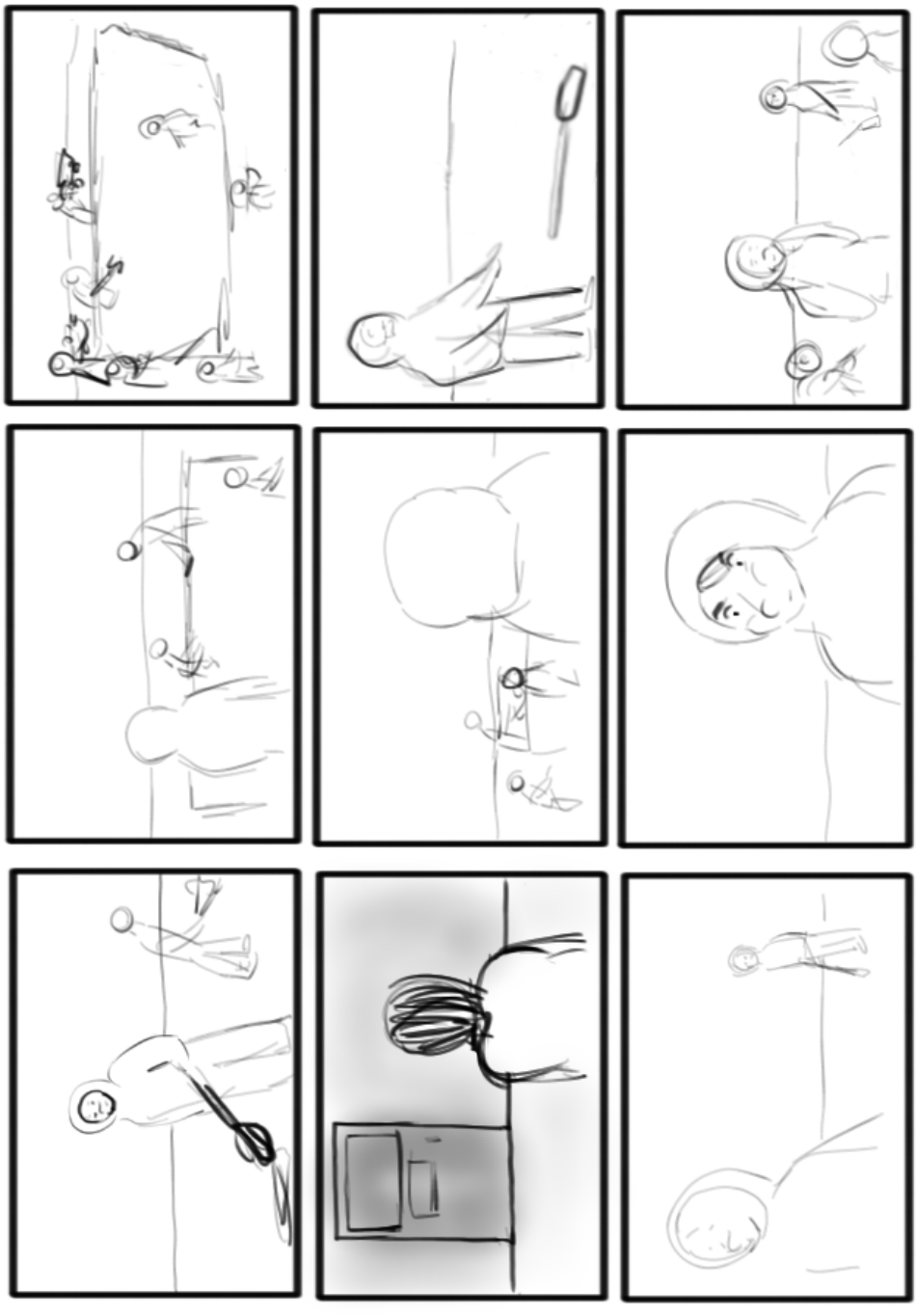

Damn, you see me just bench 125?
Too bad you're still ugly.
Fuck you, J.
Nah, I feel good too. Clear.
This is turning out to have been a solid idea.
I've been having some fucked-up dreams though. You know bout that?

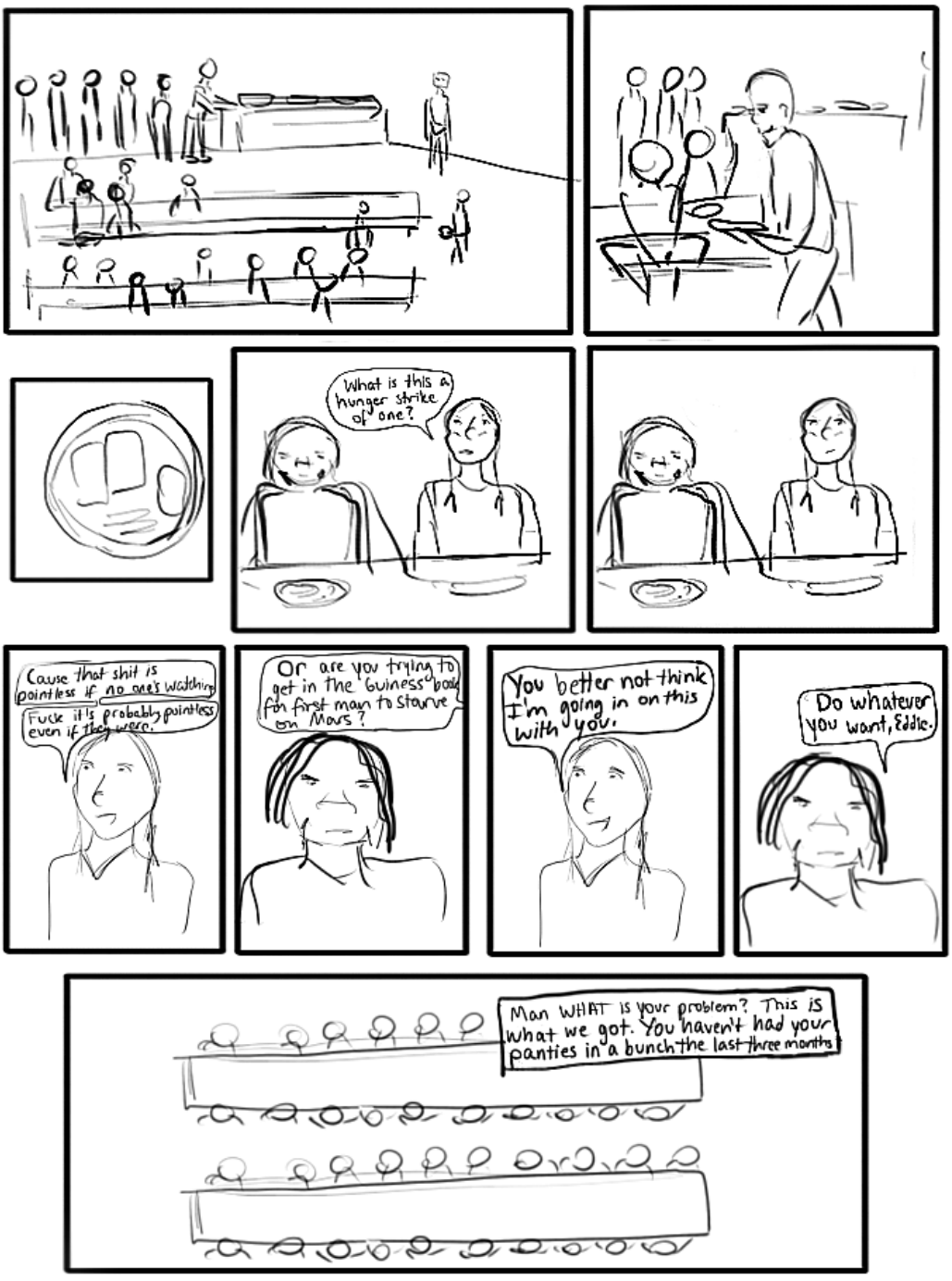

What, I look like a goddamn shaman? I don't give a fuck about your dreams.
Whatever you say...
Maybe you're not magic. But I feel clear.
I can't wait to tell Janet.
You trying to get yourself in trouble? You BETTER not talk about this shit over video.
I didn't mean over Skype, you dipshit.
J...
My set.
You gonna be okay?
You wanna get up so I can do my fucking lift?


Worried it's gonna hurt your chances at the NBA?
We going to the NBA?

You left me here.



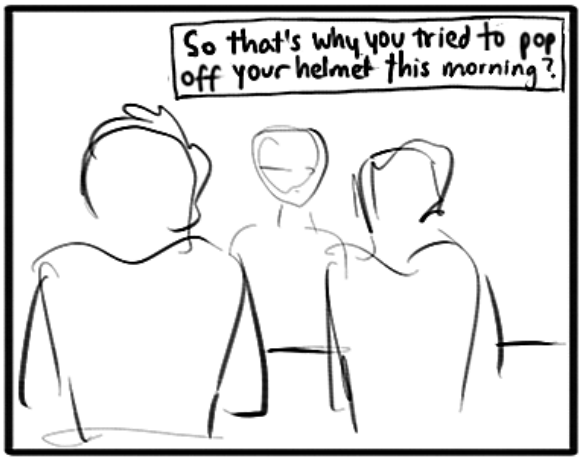


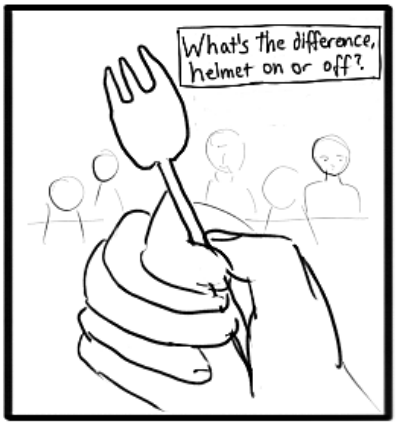

What is this a hunger strike of one?
Cause that shit is pointless if no one's watching
Fuck it's probably pointless even if they were.
Or are you trying to get in the Guiness book for first man to starve on Mars?
You better not think I'm going in on this with you.
Do whatever you want, Eddie.
Man WHAT is your problem? This is what we got. You haven't had your panties in a bunch the last three months


I was playing myself
You know, in all this time I never let myself think I'm not going home?

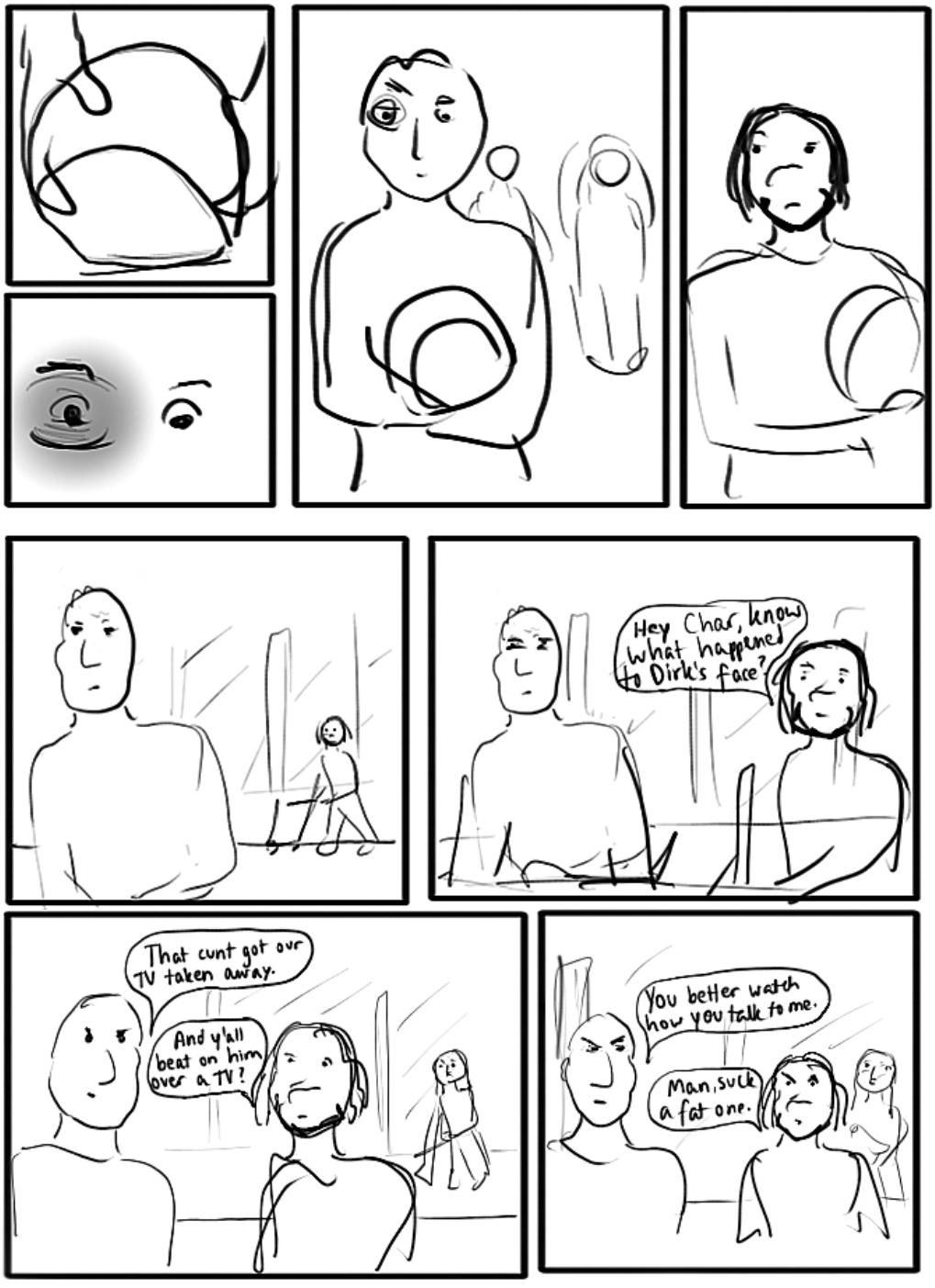

Sounds crazy, right? But how many guys here even know which way's left?
We're a bunch of sorry motherfuckers, man.

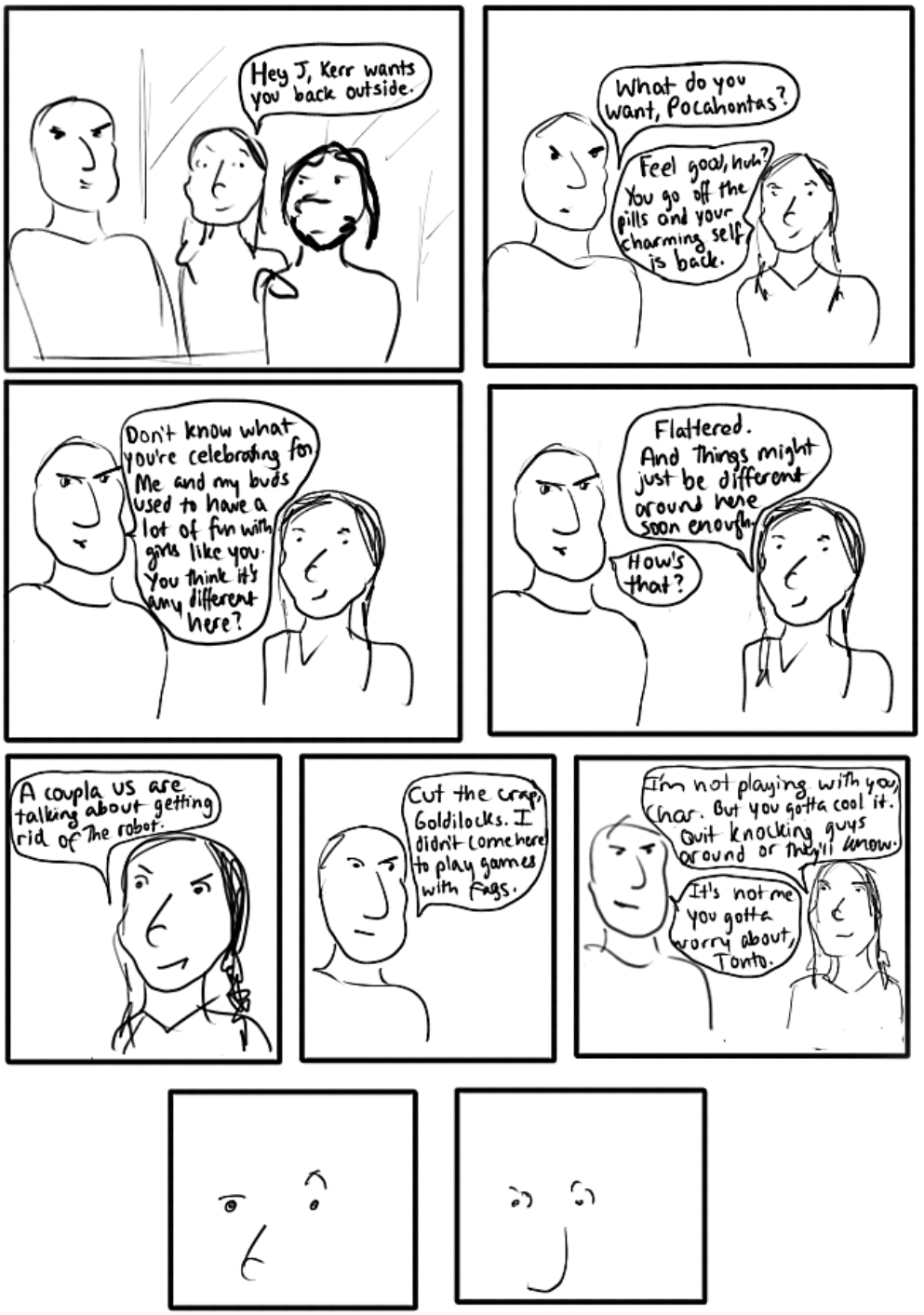

I couldn't even tell you how I got here. Just for them to watch me die on Mars

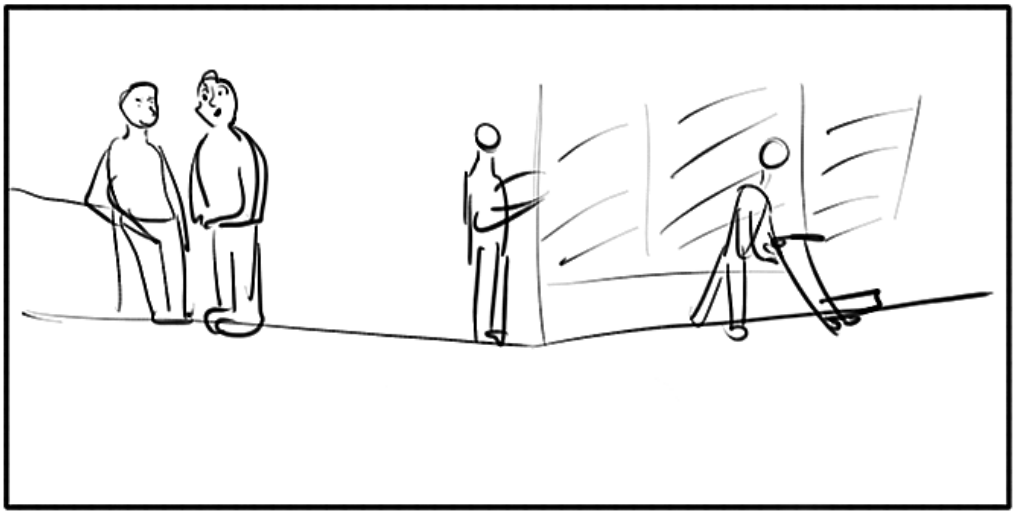

So that's why you tried to pop off your helmet this morning?


What's the difference, helmet on or off?


Seventeenth...
Eighteenth...
Nineteenth.
That makes it...
The World Series
They NEED me.

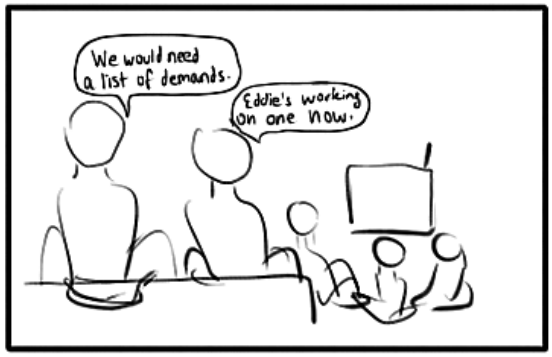

Hey Char, know what happened to Dirk's face?
That cunt got our TV taken away.
And y'all beat on him over a TV?
You better watch how you talk to me.
Man, suck a fat one.


Hey J, Kerr wants you back outside.
What do you want, Pocahontas?
Feel good, huh? You go off the pills and your charming self is back.
Don't know what you're celebrating for. Me and my buds used to have a lot of fun with girls like you. You think it's any different here?
Flattered. And things might just be different around here soon enough.
How's that?
A coupla us are talking about getting rid of the robot.
Cut the crap, Goldilocks. I didn't come here to play games with fags.
I'm not playing with you, Char. But you gotta cool it. Quit knocking guys around or they'll know.
It's not me you gotta worry about, Tonto.

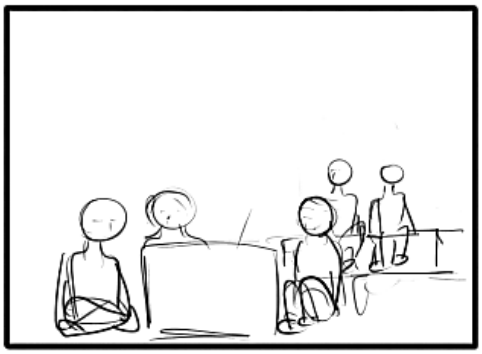


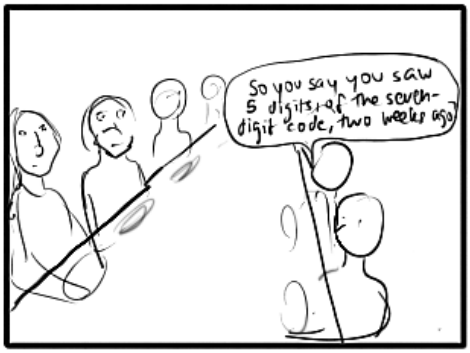

Well I'll be damned.
We've got no time to lose.

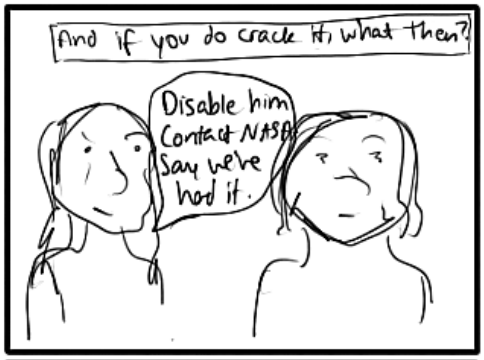

He's got weak points. Eddie says he's seen some of the passcode.
But that thing's practically invinceable. And what would we do once he's out of the way?
I'd love to see that bastard unplugged though.
Destroy Robophil? That's insane.
I mean, it's risky.
It's completely nuts.
We'd need a really tight plan.
And even then, no one here knows how to operate a spaceship.
No fucking way.
I can think of better ways to die.


We would need a list of demands.
Eddie's working on one now.

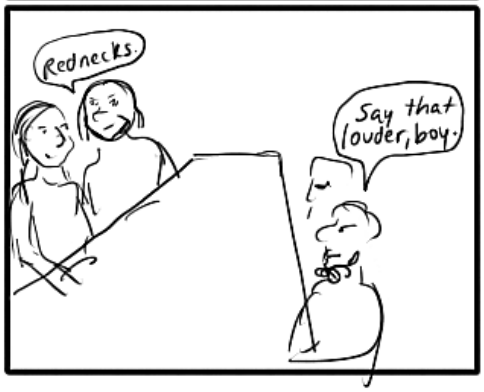

Program's starting so shut the fuck up.



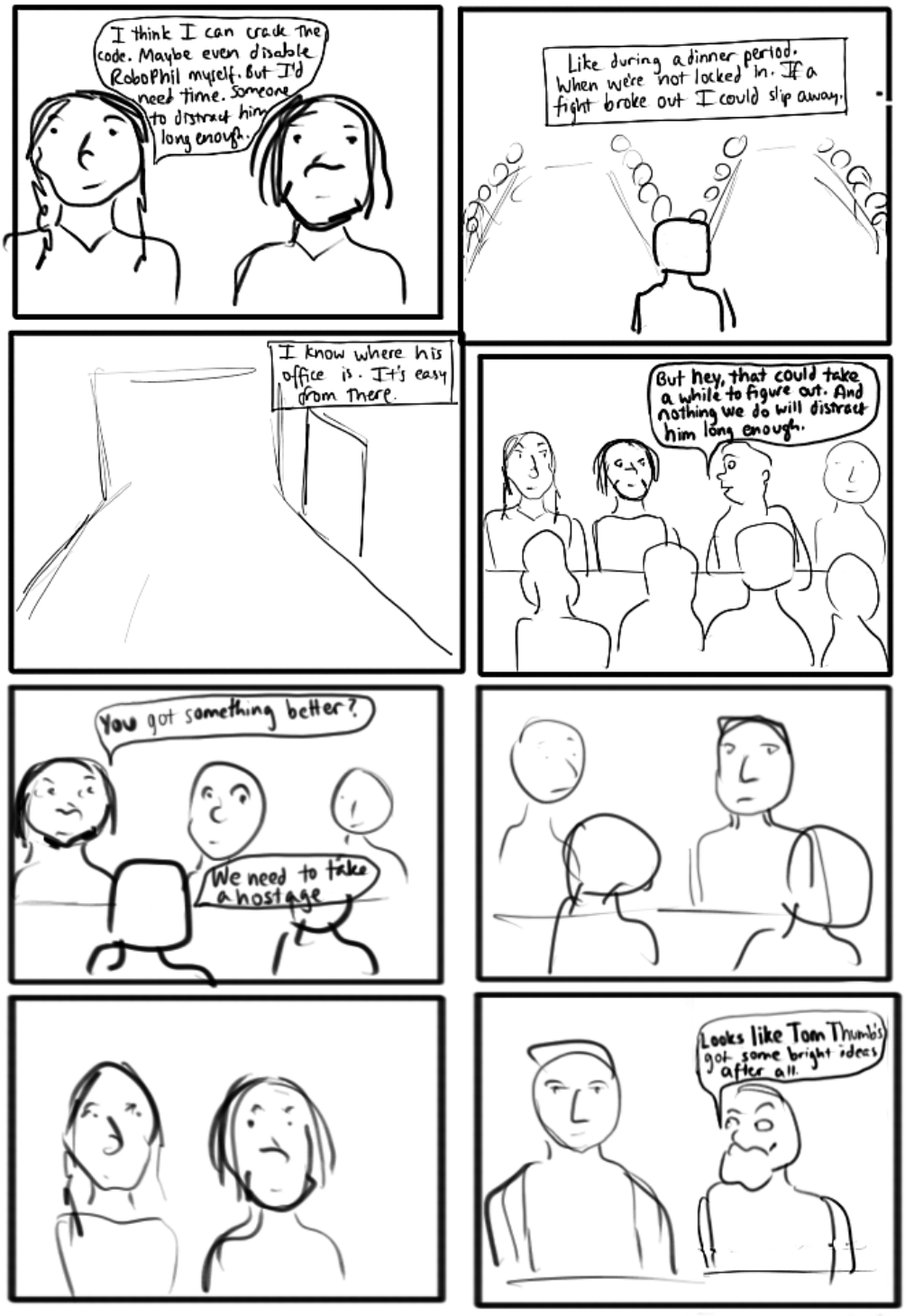

So you say you saw 5 digits of the seven-digit code, two weeks ago?

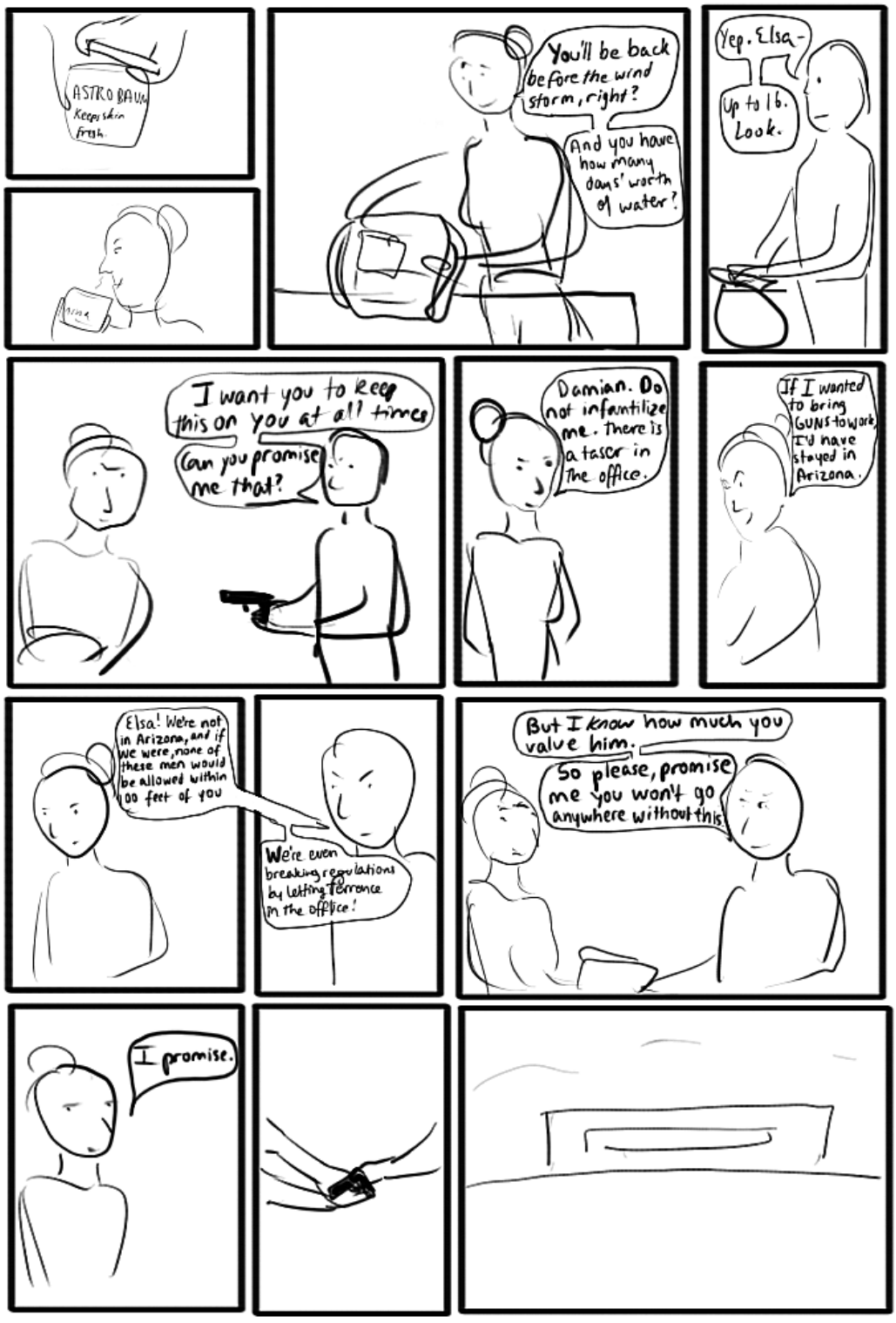

And if you do crack it, what then?
Disable him. Contact NASA. Say we've had it.


And you think they would made it that easy?
You real smart, huh. And stoic. Eh, Squanto?


Rednecks.
Say that louder, boy.


It might be easier than you think. But I'd need your help.
And how's that?

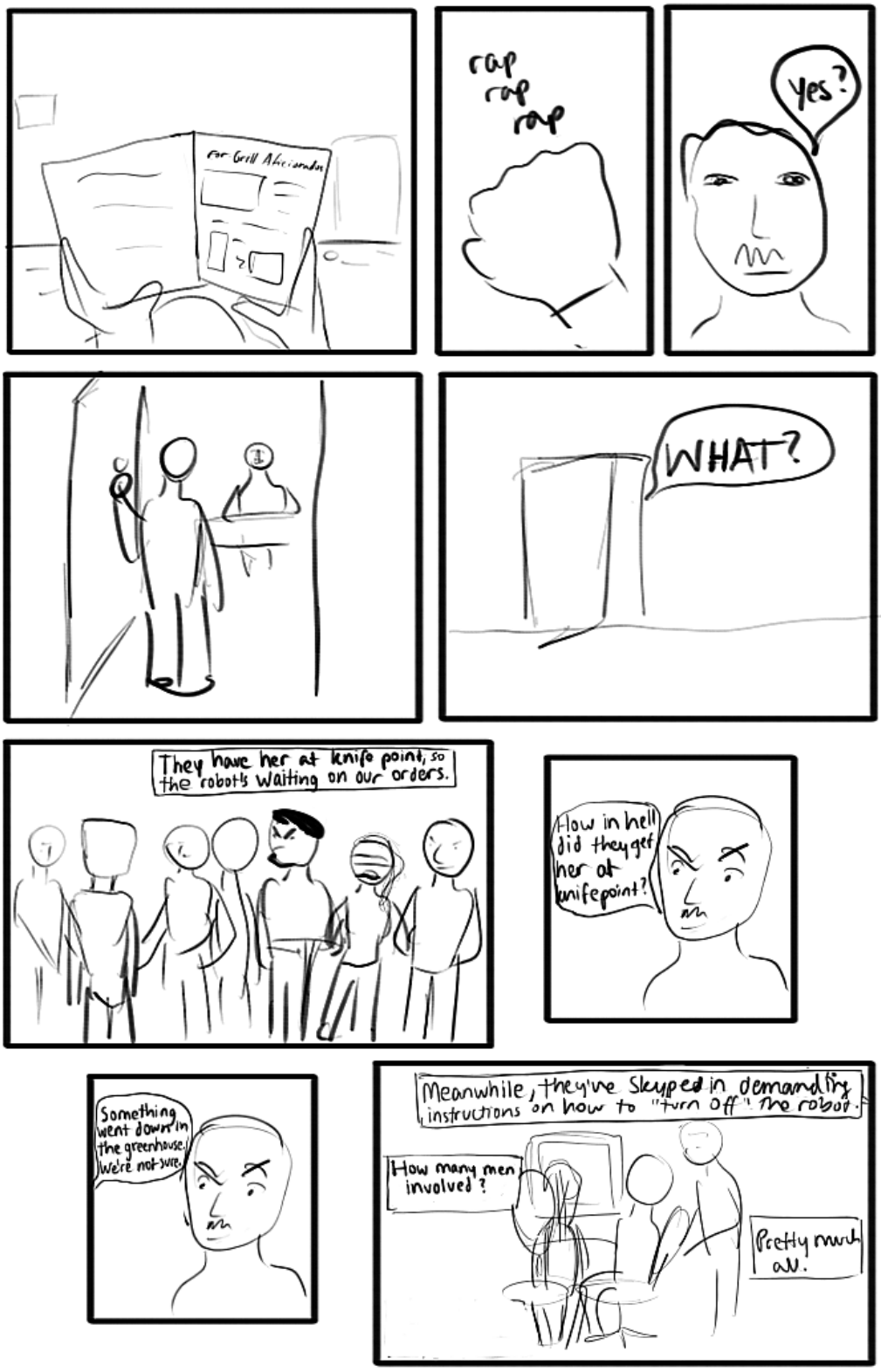

I think I can crack the code. Maybe even disable RoboPhil myself. But I'd need time. Someone to distract him long enough.
Like during a dinner period. When we're not locked in. If a fight broke out I could slip away.
I know where his office is. It's easy from there.
But hey, that could take a while to figure out. And nothing we do will distract him long enough.
You got something better?
We need to take a hostage
Looks like Tom Thumb's got some bright ideas after all.

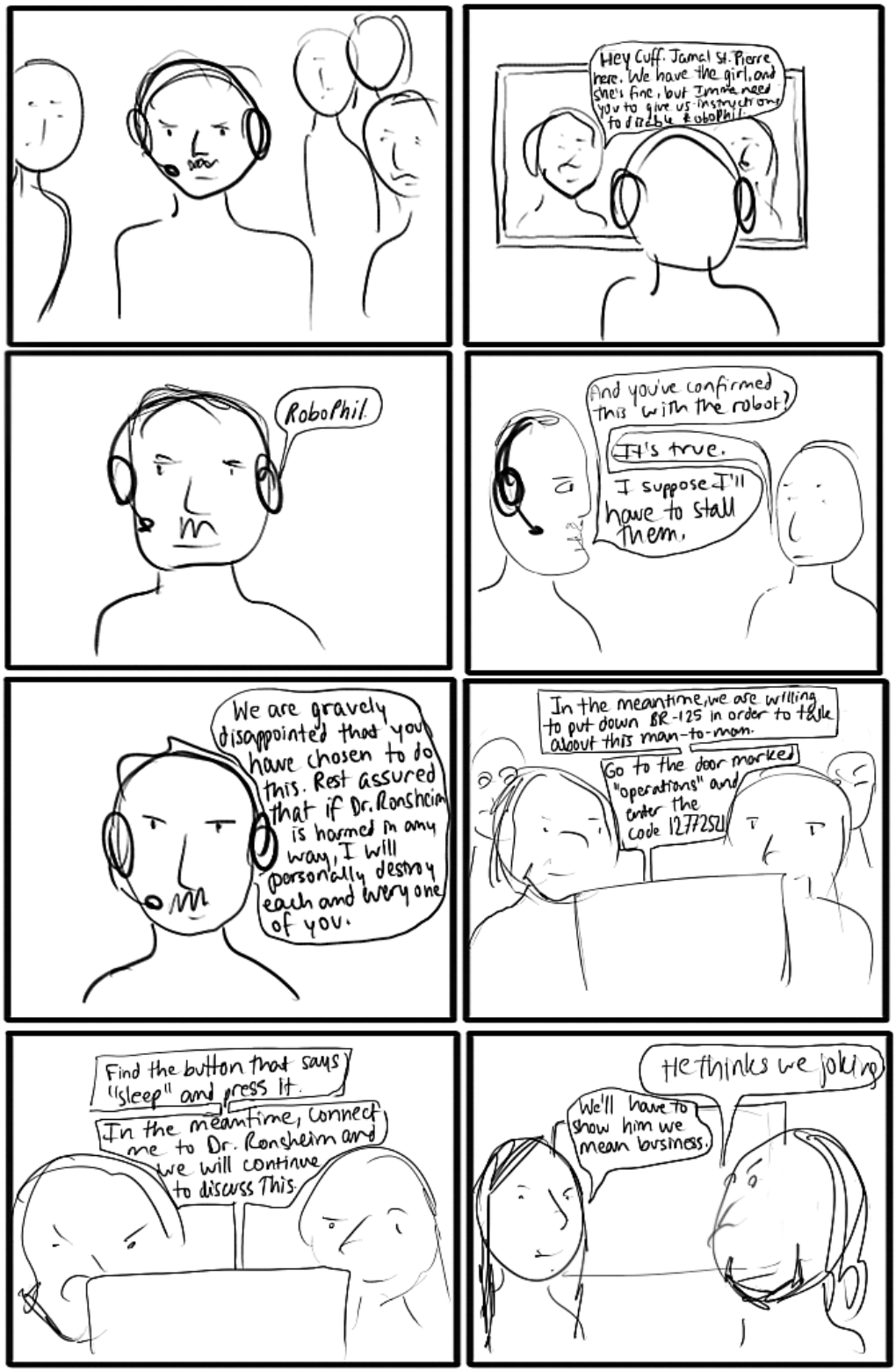

ASTRO BALM
Keeps skin fresh.
You'll be back before the wind storm, right?
And you have how many days' worth of water?
Yep. Elsa-
Up to 16. Look.
I want you to keep this on you at all times
Can you promise me that?
Damian. Do not infantilize me. There is a taser in the office.
If I wanted to bring GUNS to work, I'd have stayed in Arizona.
Elsa! We're not in Arizona, and if we were, none of these men would be allowed within 100 feet of you
We're even breaking regulations by letting Terrance in the office!
But I know how much you value him.
So please, promise me you won't go anywhere without this.
I promise.


To: Dr. Rawish, NASA
Dr. Ronsheim, reporting on R. habidinis.
Radium levels peaked in July, at 0.0761 m/mg...
... safe levels for human consumption
I propose that, for R. hibidinis, the optimal four-month growing season would go from October through February.
Send message
Greenhouse staff calling
Dr. Ronsheim speaking
Hello, Terrence.
The V. Stranglia? That's very unusual. Are you sure?
Leaking? What color is the fluid?
Mhm...
I'll come give it a check.
No, no, this could be serious.
Be there in a moment. Thanks.


There he is.


Cool it doc and do what I say.
Now I want you to drop your phone.
Thatta girl.
Look like she got a gun too!
V. Stranglia


rap
rap
rap
yes?
WHAT?
They have her at knife point, so the robots waiting on our orders.
How in hell did they get her at knifepoint?
Something went down in the greenhouse, we're not sure.
Meanwhile, they've Skyped in demanding instructions on how to "turn off" the robot.
How many men involved?
Pretty much all.

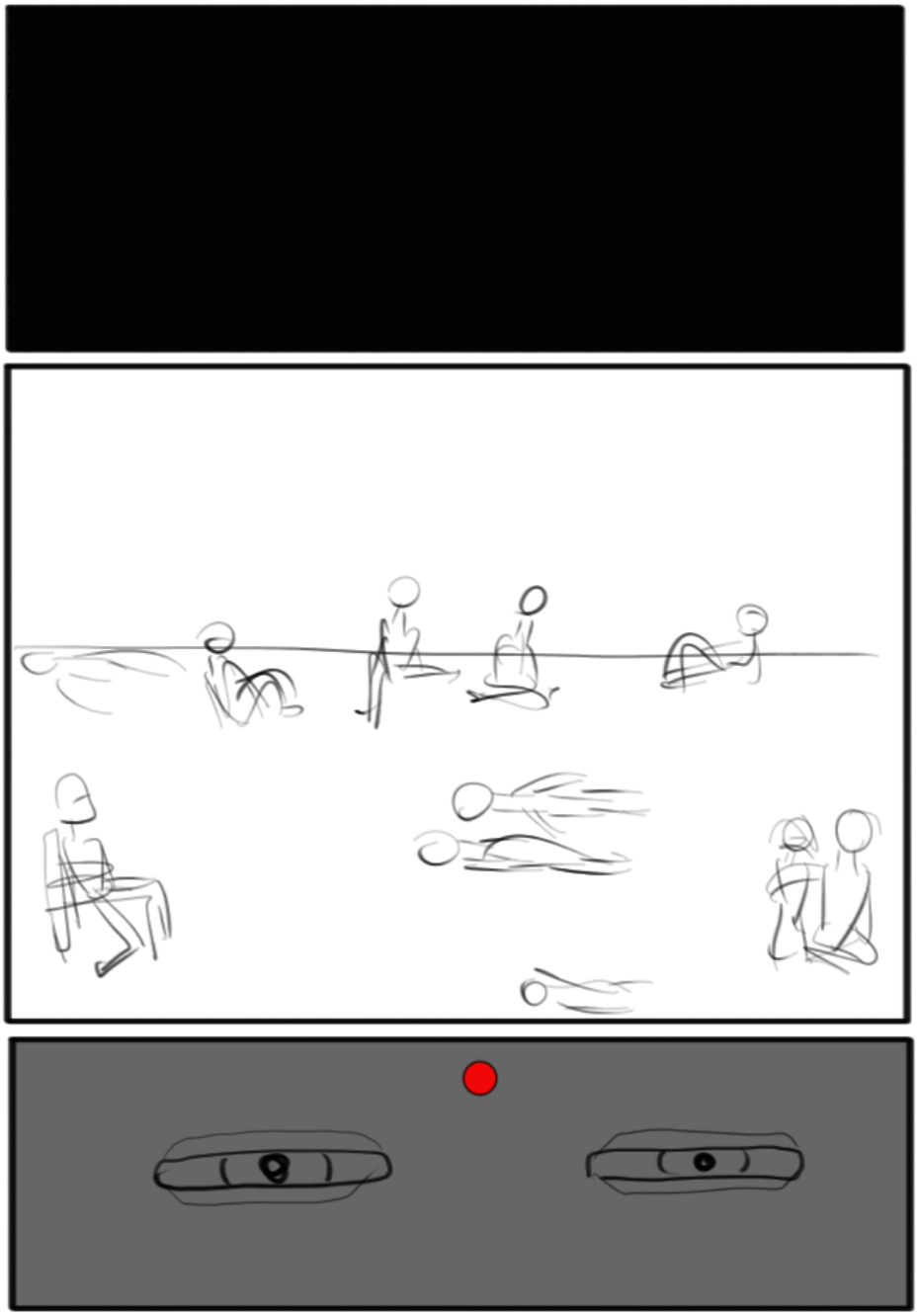

Hey Cuff. Jamal St. Pierre here. We have the girl, and she's fine, but I may need you to give us instructions to disable RoboPhil.
RoboPhil
And you've confirmed this with the robot?
It's true.
I suppose I'll have to stall them.
We are gravely disappointed that you have chosen to do this. Rest assured that if Dr. Ronsheim is harmed in any way, I will personally destroy each and every one of you.
In the meantime, we are willing to put down BR-125 in order to talk about this man-to-man.
Go to the door marked "operations" and enter the code 12772511
Find the button that says "sleep" and press it.
In the meantime, connect me to Dr. Ronsheim and we will continue to discuss this.
He thinks we joking
We'll have to show him we mean business.

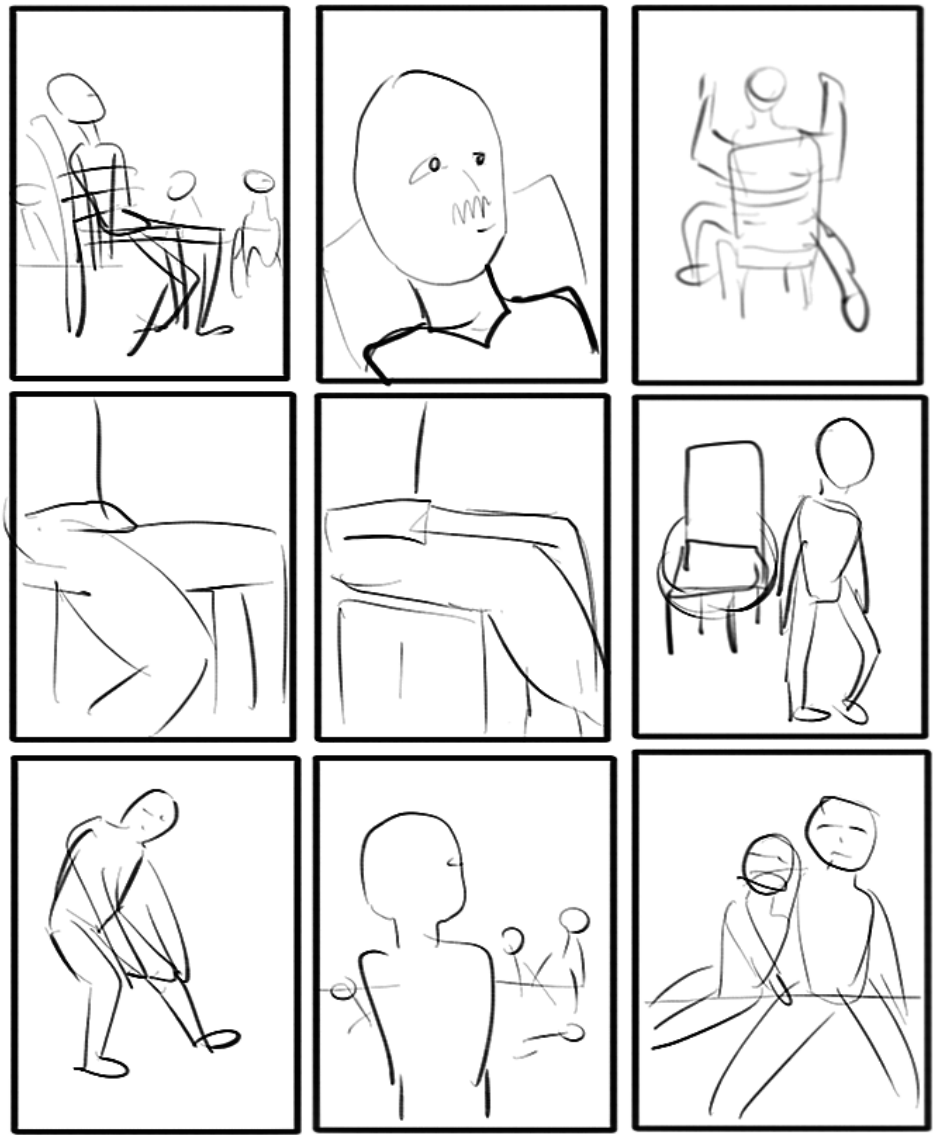

BRING HER IN
Mmmt Tr-mt
Mother of God.
Mr. Cuff, you seem to have misunderstood. You are not in control here. Terrence.
We are asking you to respond immediately with detailed instructions for shutting GR... whatever down For good. Otherwise get ready for a lot more blood.
Put in an order to release the gas, Chapin.
But Sergeant, use of gas requires presidential permission.
THEY ARE GOING TO KILL HER, you piece of shit. Do it now

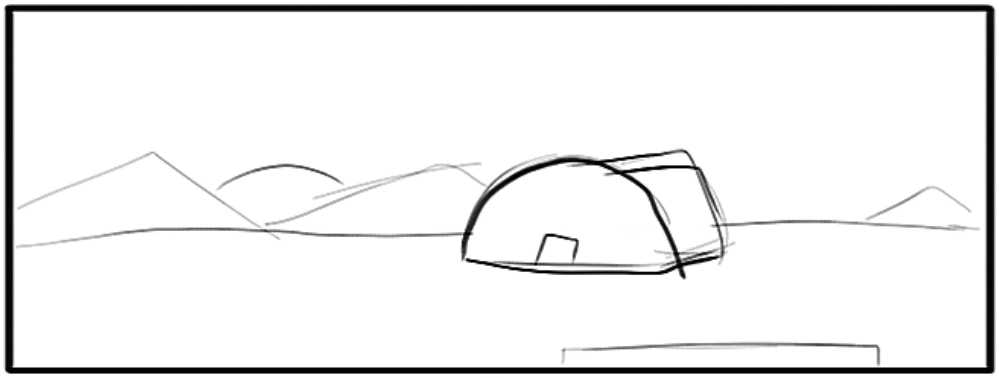

Go into the office. To disable, find the blue switch, to the left of the table, and set it to DEACTIVATE.
It will say "command," which is: when you enter the password, 3-0-M. Again, 3-0-M and press enter.
Perfect.
You wanna read him the demands while I go take care of Phil?
Sounds good.
Good work, brother.
Mr. Cuffi, thank you for your cooperation.
Now I'd like to talk to you about the next part.
We gonna keep Dr. Konsheim alive and well, in exchange for granting these demands that we wrote together
One: We will all be brought back to Earth after seven years of service on Mars. This is to include the time we have already put in.
Upon our return, our debt to society will have been repaid, and we will be released on parole.

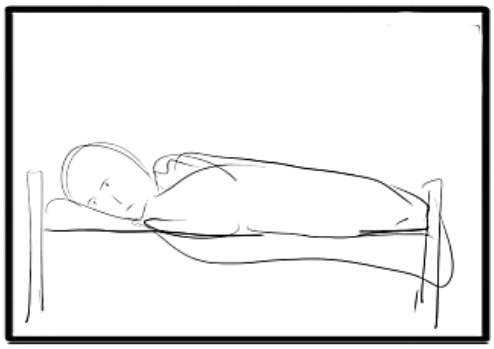

TWO: While we remain on Mars, we demand an expansion of our rights.
Each room shall have two hours of television time each evening. This is to include all major sporting events, taped by you.
NOW DEACTIVATING
THREE. We would like to Skype with selected family members and friends twice every week for one hour.
This will be three times per week for inmates with children under the age of 12.
FOUR. We demand a media contact to which we can relay our demands to be published.
In addition to informing the public of our lives here on a regular basis and our plan to return.
We would like a lawyer to advise us during the next six and a half years that we will all spend on Mars

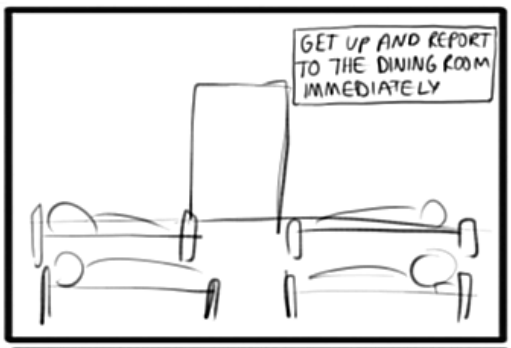

We believe that these demands are fair for the amount of hard work and risk we have thus provided.
And we look forward to our eventual reintegration as productive members of society.
Call ended
1:09:36

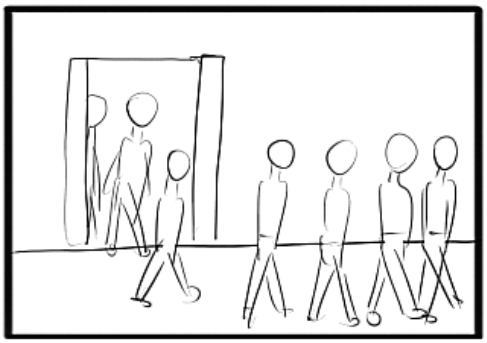


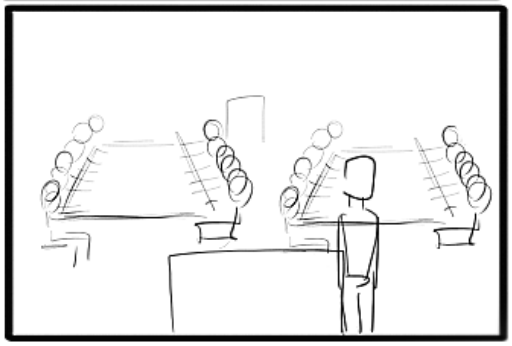


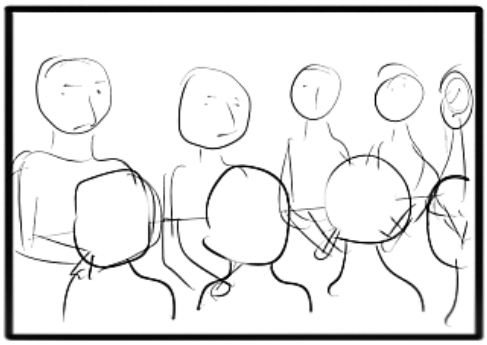


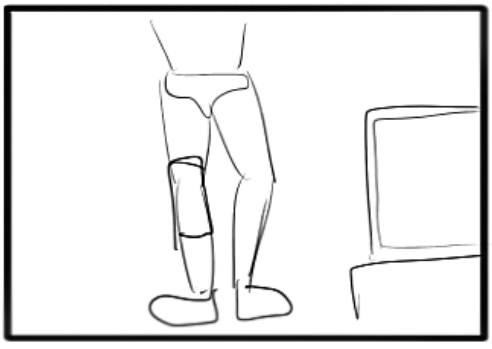


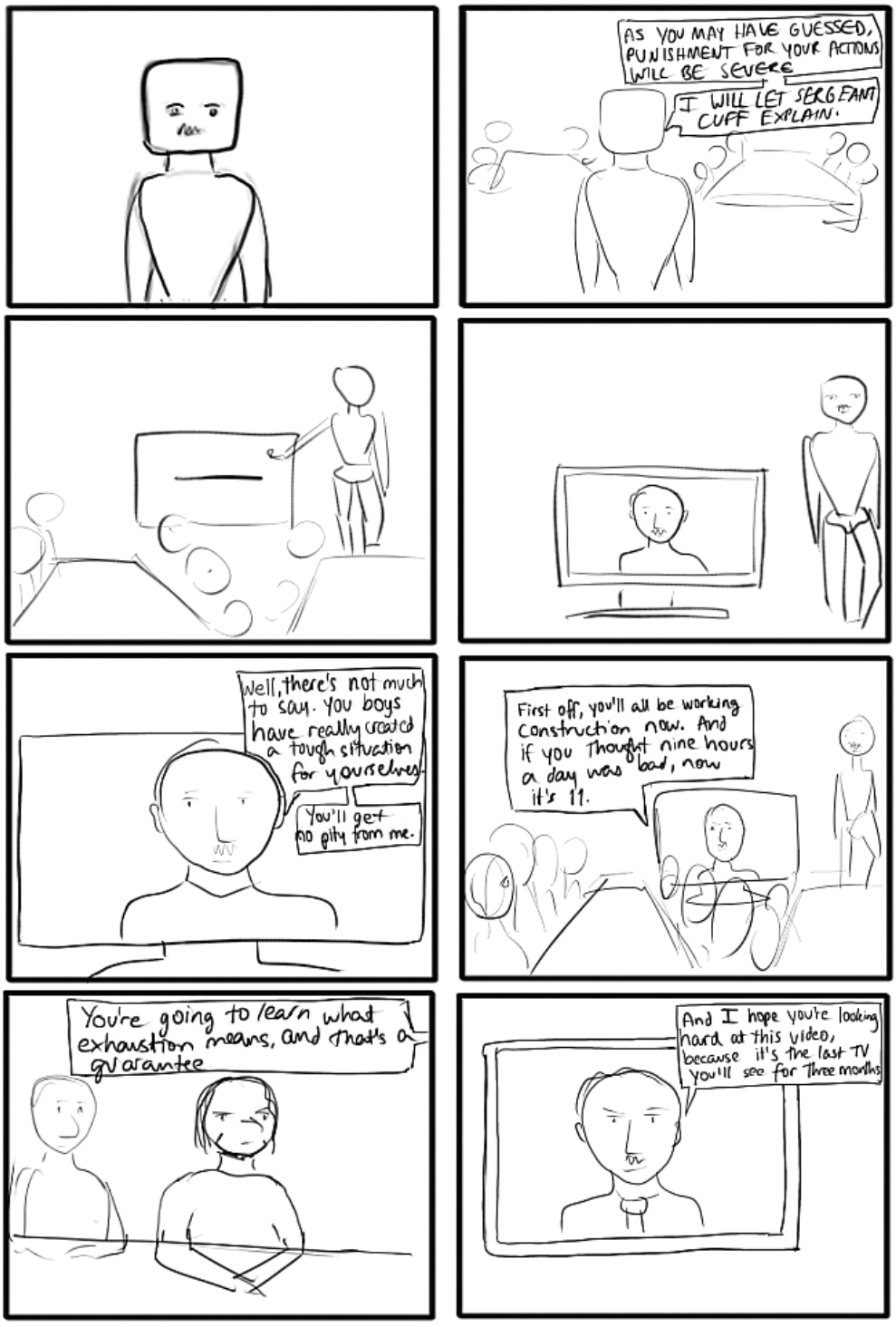

GET UP AND REPORT TO THE DINING ROOM IMMEDIATELY

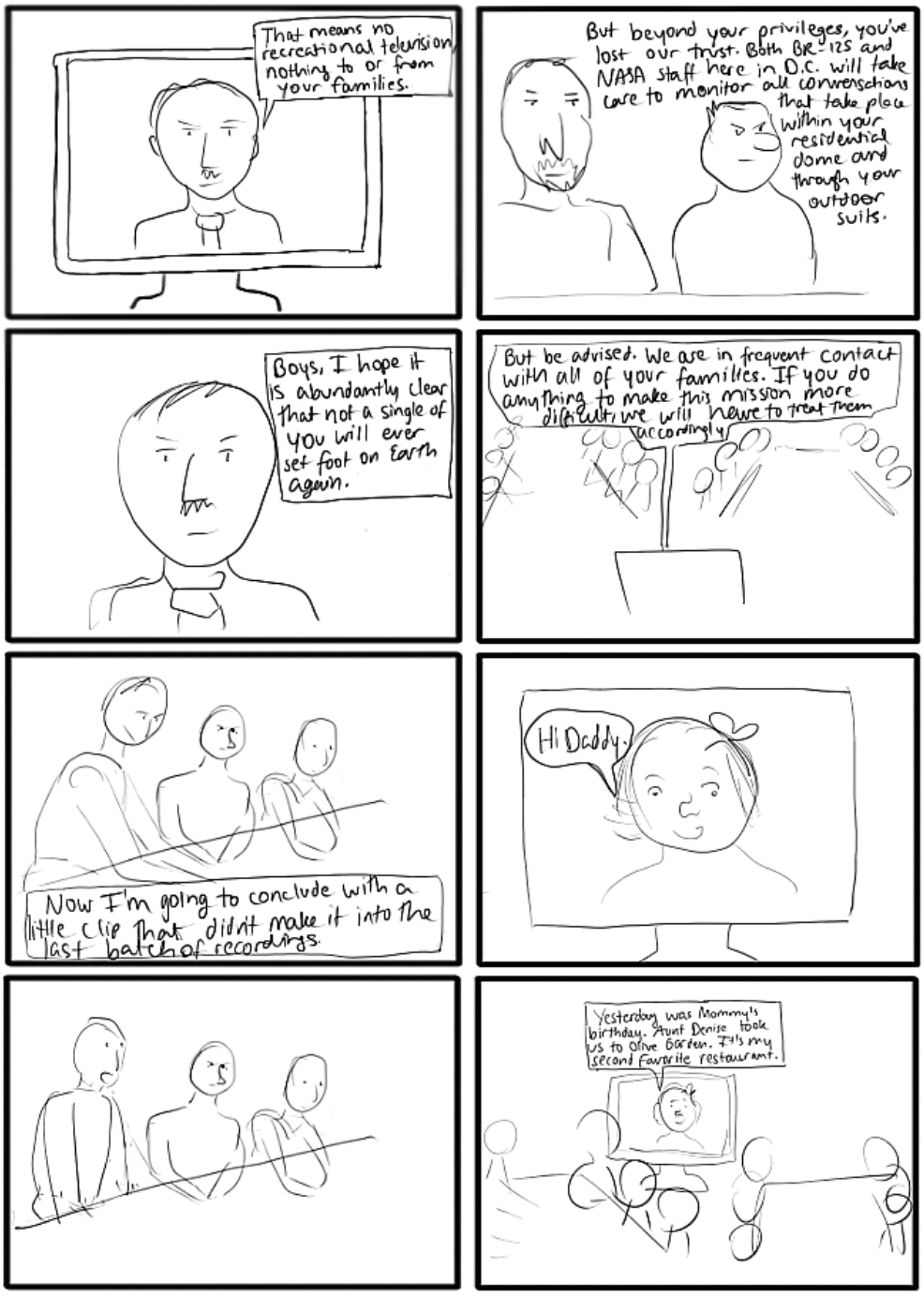


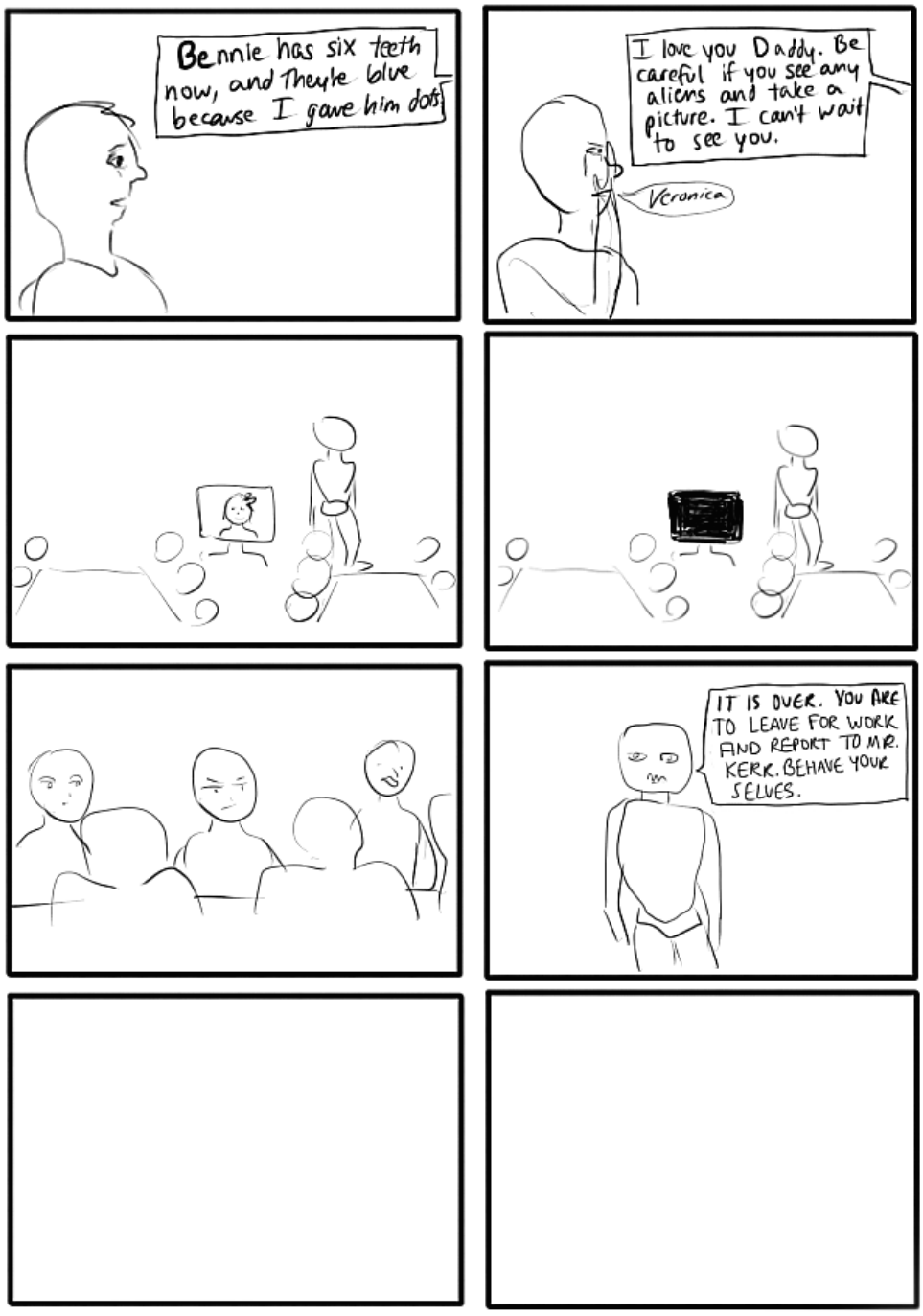


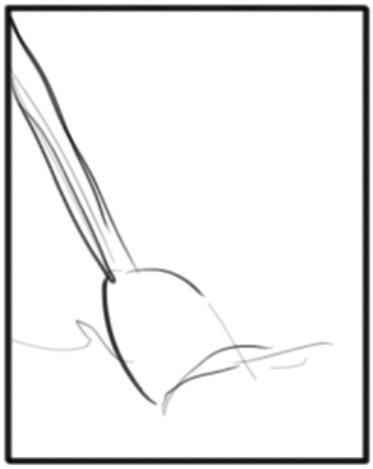


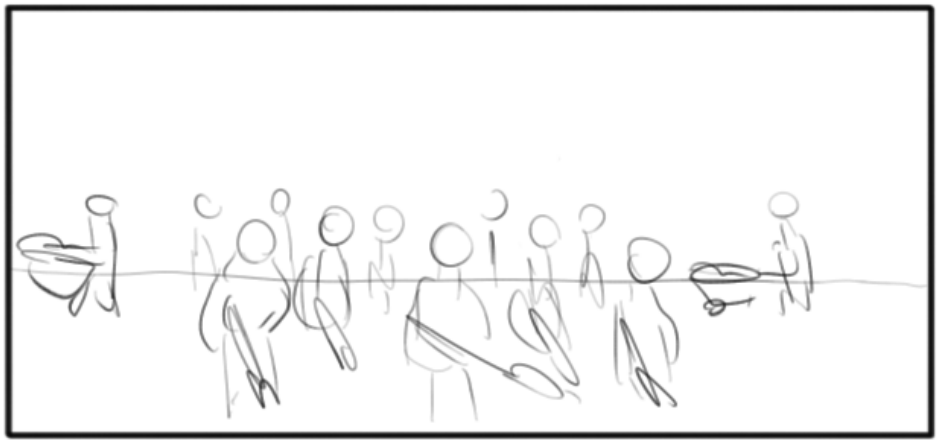


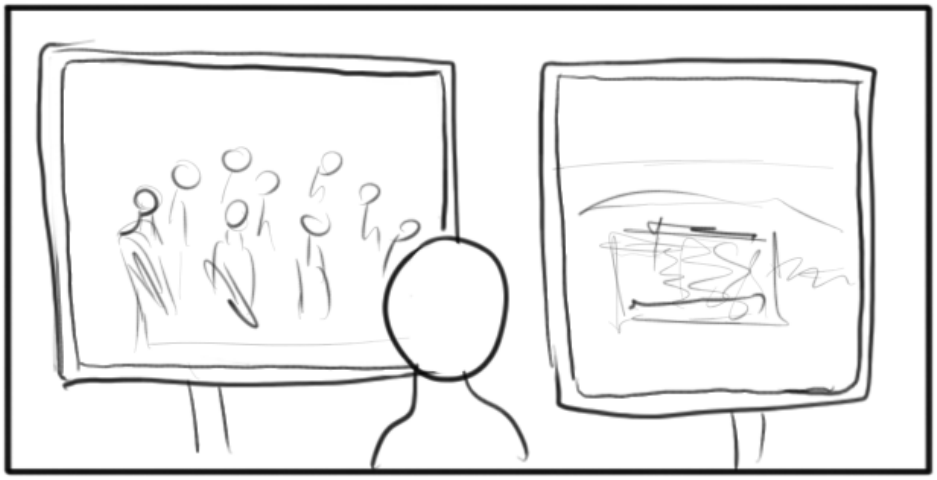

AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR ACTIONS WILL BE SEVERE
I WILL LET SERGEANT CUFF EXPLAIN.
Well, there's not much to say. You boys have really created a tough situation for yourselves.
You'll get no pity from me.
First off, you'll all be working construction now. And if you thought nine hours a day was bad, now it's 11.
You're going to learn what exhaustion means, and that's a guarantee
And I hope you're looking hard at this video, because it's the last TV you'll see for three months

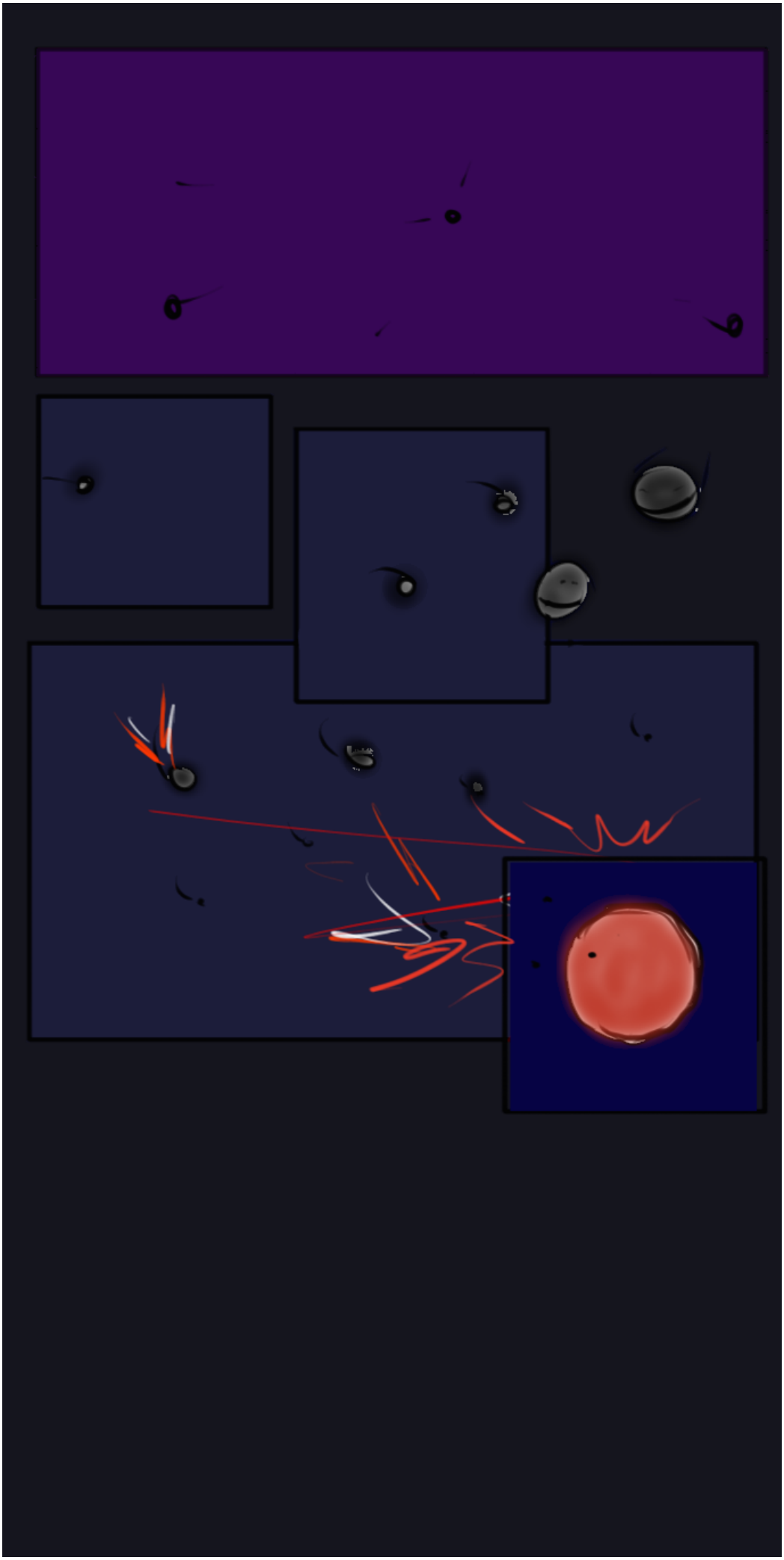

That means no recreational television nothing to or from your families.
But beyond your privileges, you've lost our trust. Both BR-125 and NASA staff here in D.C. will take care to monitor all conversations that take place within your residential dome and through your outdoor suits.
Boys, I hope it is abundantly clear that not a single of you will ever set foot on Earth again.
But be advised. We are in frequent contact with all of your families. If you do anything to make this mission more difficult, we will have to treat them accordingly.
Now I'm going to conclude with a little clip that didn't make it into the last batch of recordings.
Hi Daddy.
Yesterday was Mommy's birthday. Aunt Denise took us to Olive Garden. It's my second favorite restaurant.

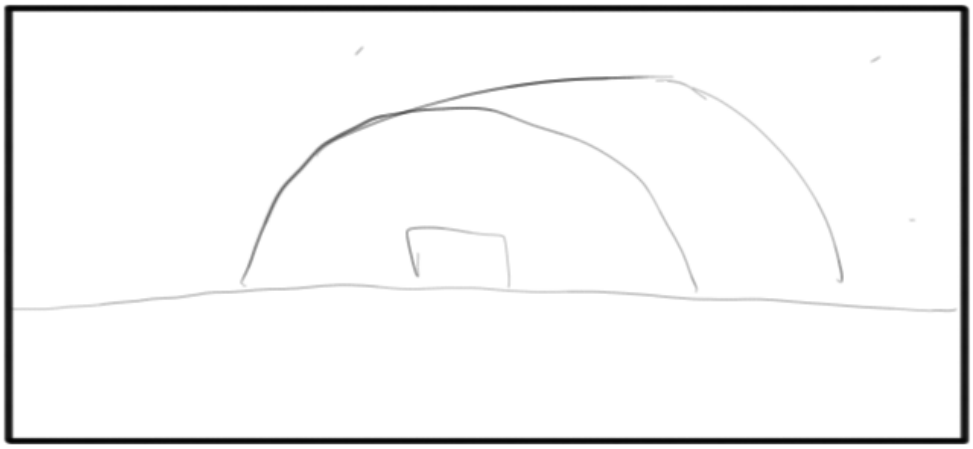

Bennie has six teeth now, and Theyre blue because I gave him dots
I love you Daddy. Be careful if you see any aliens and take a picture. I can't wait to see you.
Veronica
IT IS OVER. YOU ARE TO LEAVE FOR WORK AND REPORT TO MR. KERR. BEHAVE YOUR SELVES.

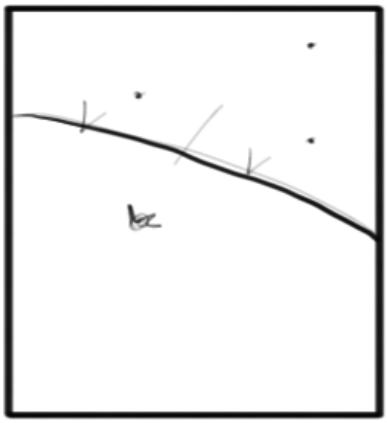


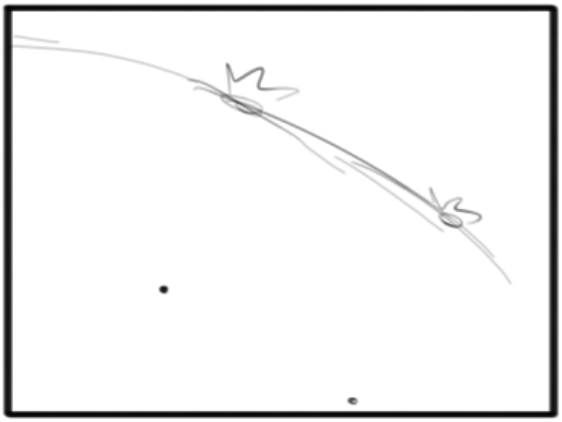


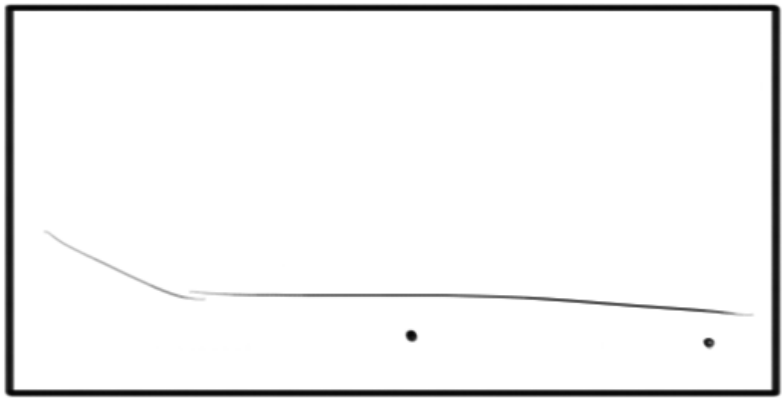


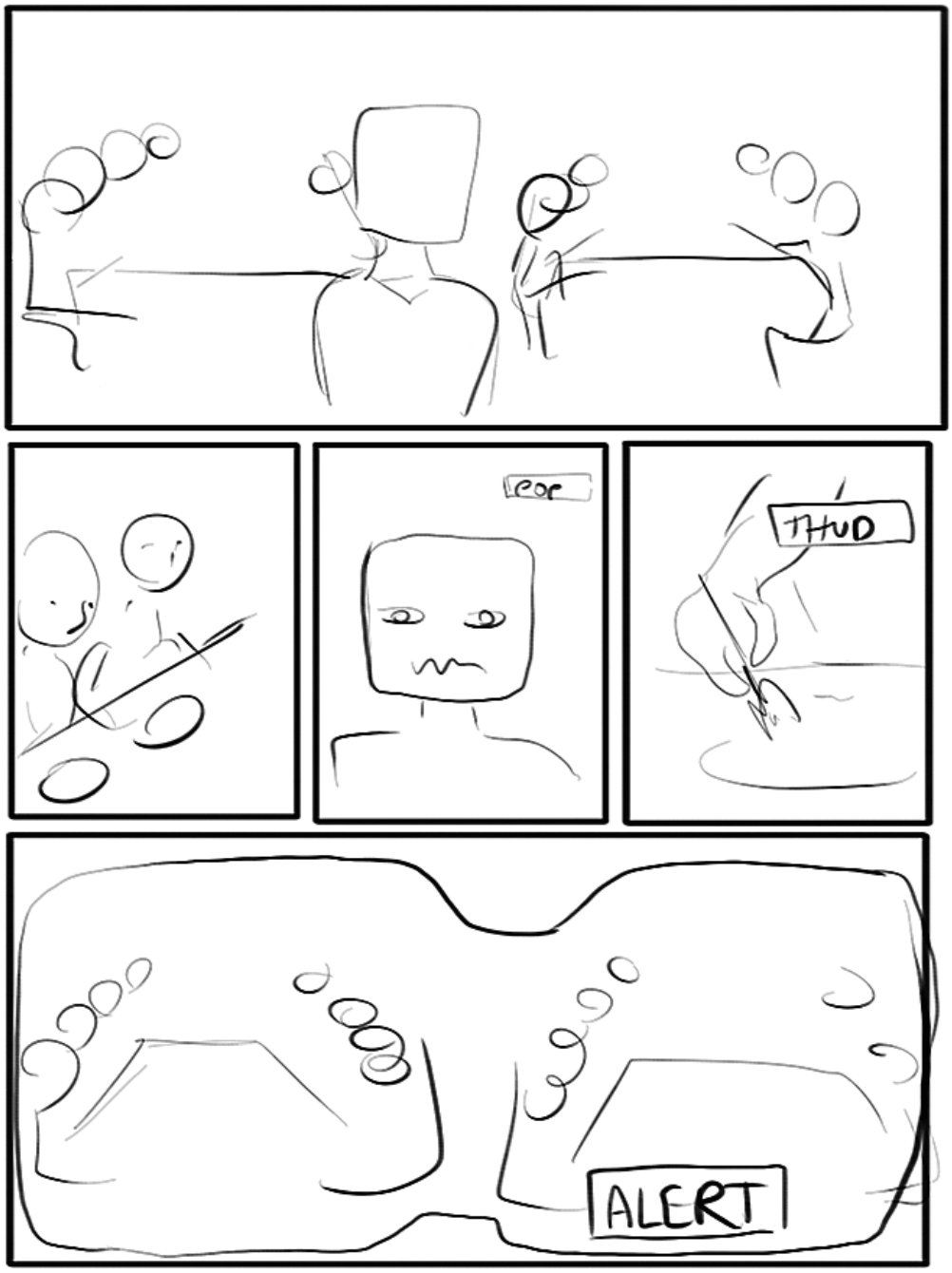


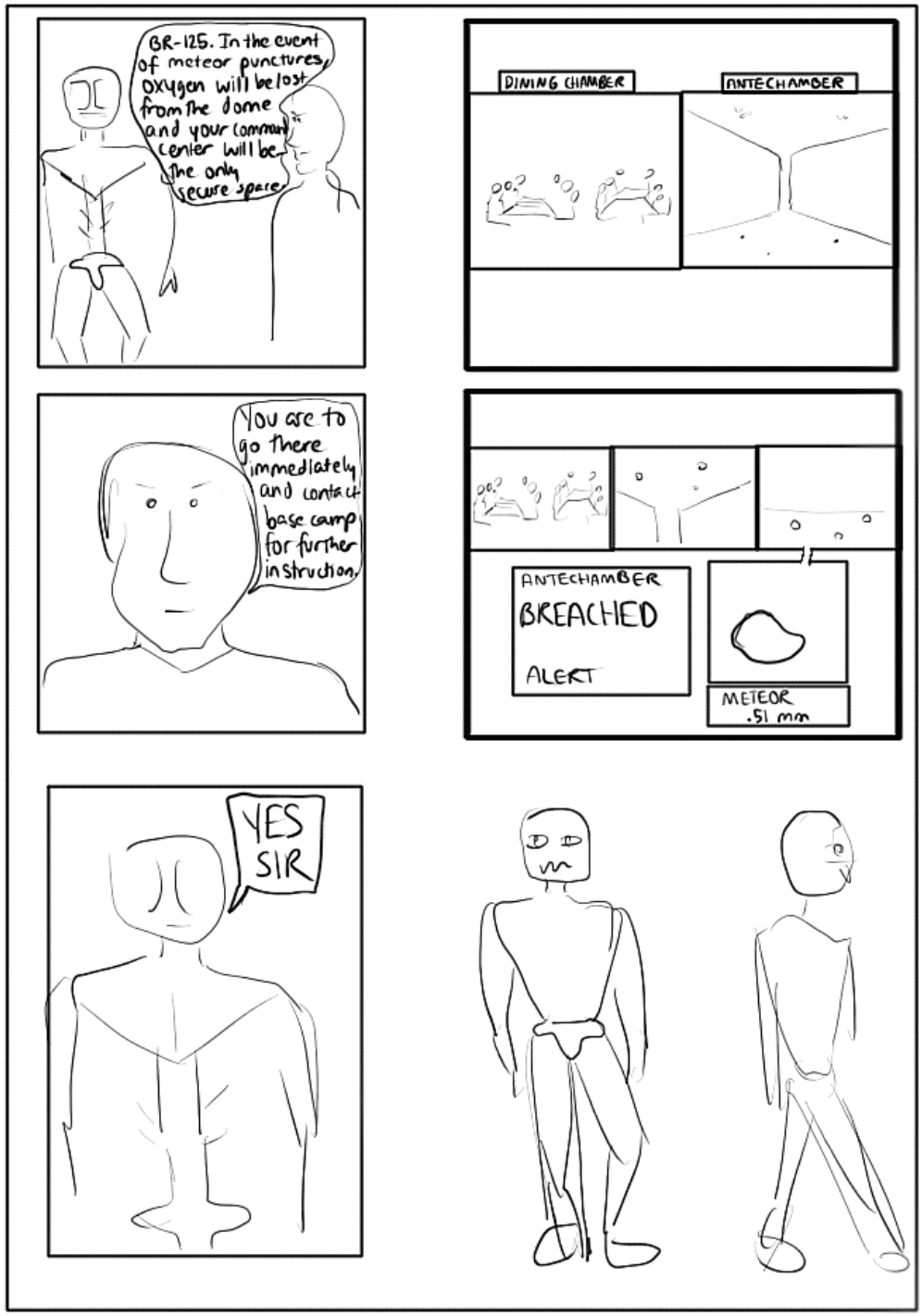








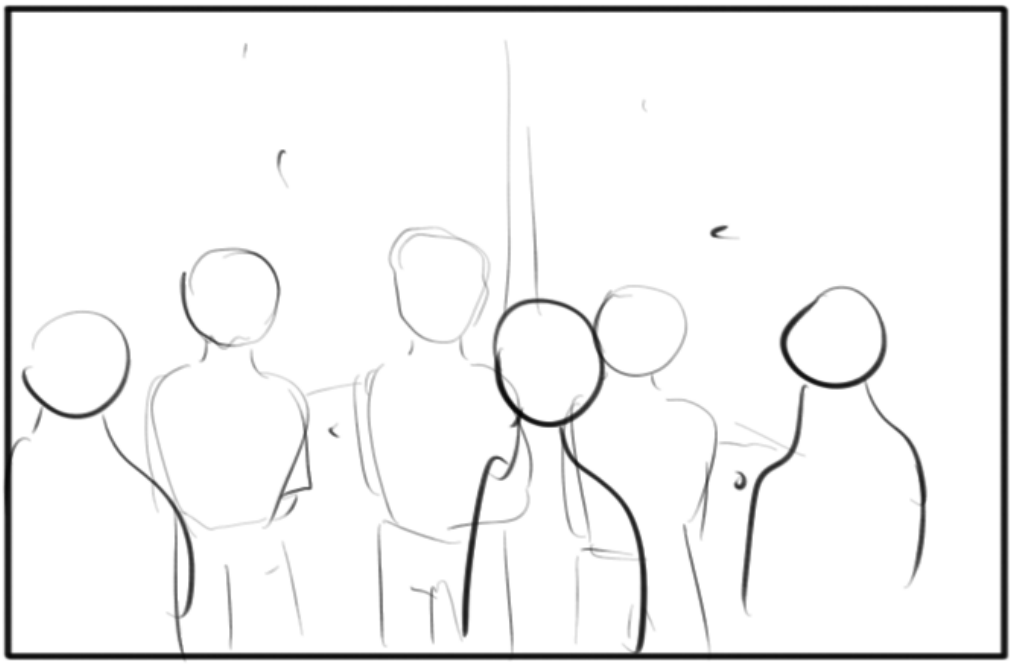

POP
THUD
ALERT

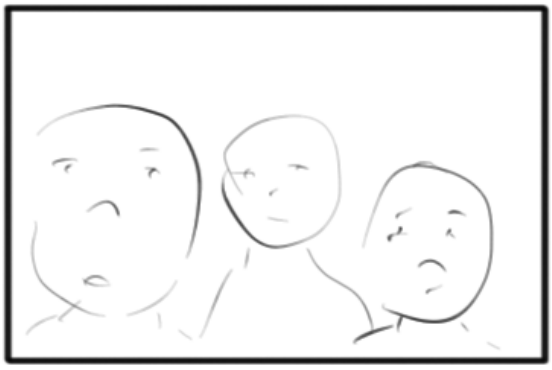

BR-125. In the event of meteor punctures, OXygen will be lost from the dome and your command center will be the only secure space.
DINING CHAMBER
ANTECHAMBER
You are to go there immediately and contact base camp for further instruction.
ANTECHAMBER
BREACHED
ALERT
METEOR
.51 mm
YES SIR

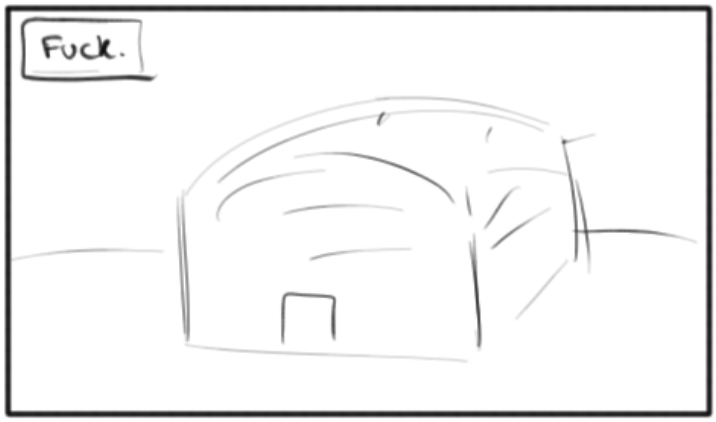

POP
You guys hear that?
POP
POP
Robolphil?
Boy, you better sit down. This could be a
POP
Where's the robot?
POP
POP
He's gone!
What the fuck?
Hey BJ 911!


He left the door open!
Man shut UP
Maybe he had to go to the john.
Mother of GOD


KNOCK KNOCK
...METEORS RANGING FROM 0.25 to 0.61 MILLIMETER...
They've punctured the antechamber so far.
Jesus H. Christ. He just left them all in the mess hall?
He needs instruction.
Bring me the headset.






Fuck.

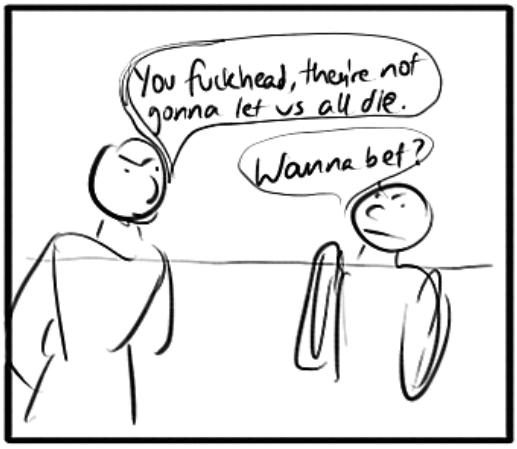

This is so fucked.
Yo if these things keep making holes we're not gonna be able to breath in here.


The robot's closet is sealed off.


We're not allowed in there!
But this is an emergency!


POP


You think Cuff gives a damn if we die?
We gotta seal off the cafeteria. It's only one door and we'll have food in there.

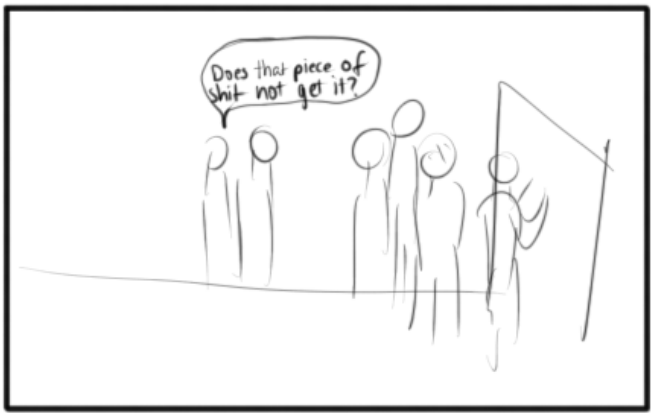

You fuckhead, they're not gonna let us all die.
Wanna bet?

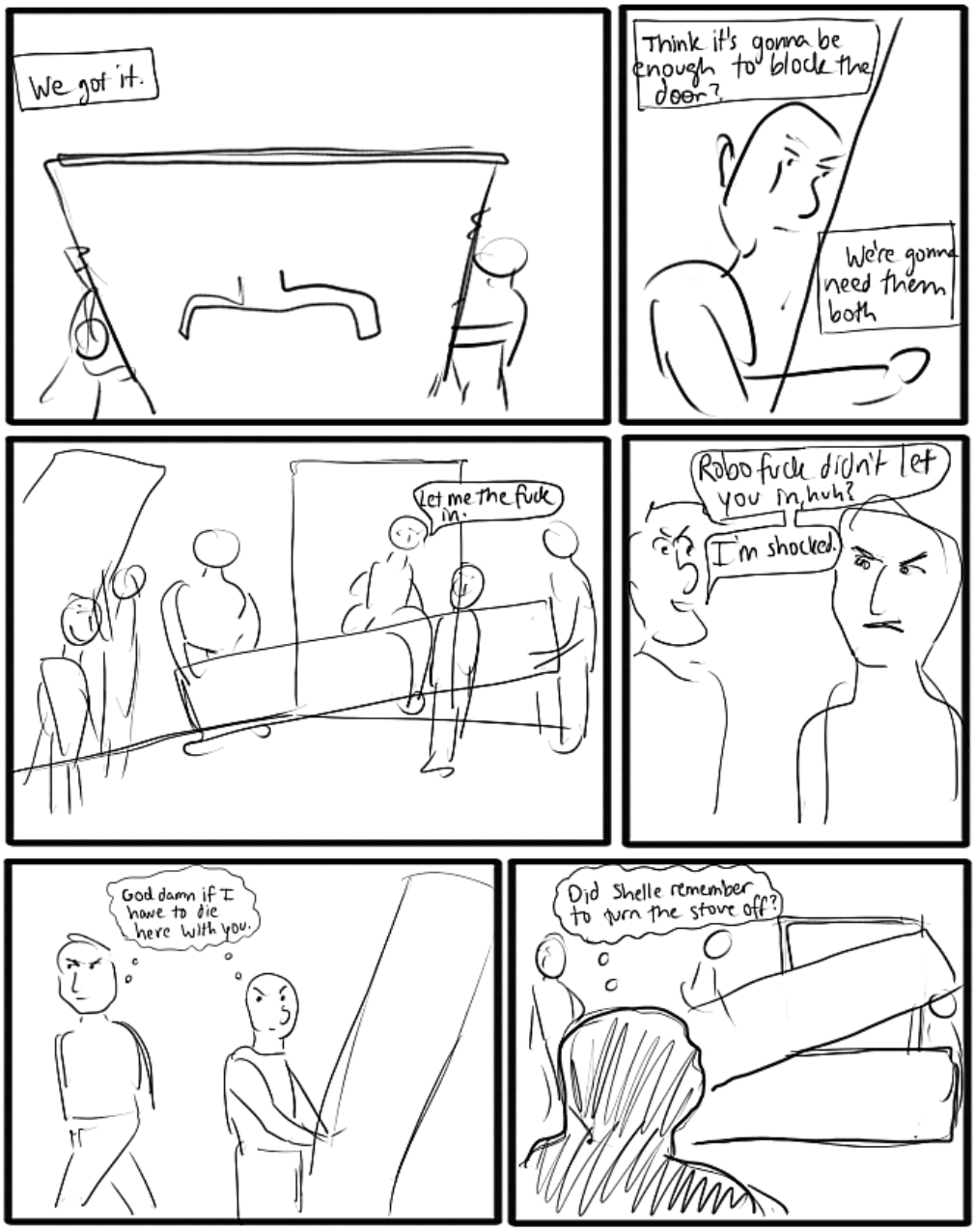

They can't lose me, I'm a construction leader.

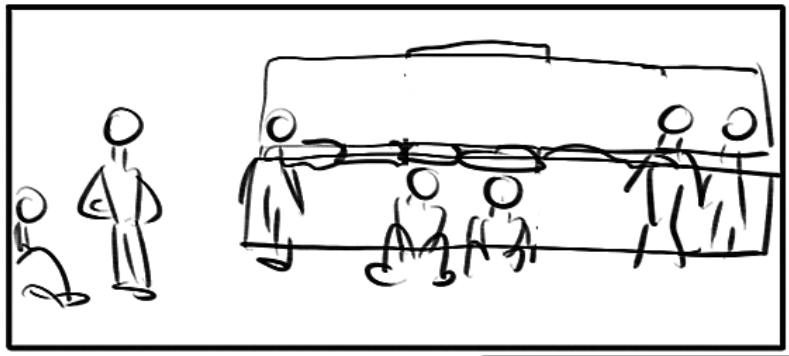

PUP
Is it bad?
It's fucked
Block the door how?
There's no way, man. We gotta wait for Robophil to let us in
How stupid are you? They don't give a damn if we fry.
He's right, it's on us.
Try to pick up the tables.
It's BOLTED!
Stop being a fag and pull.
Feel that?

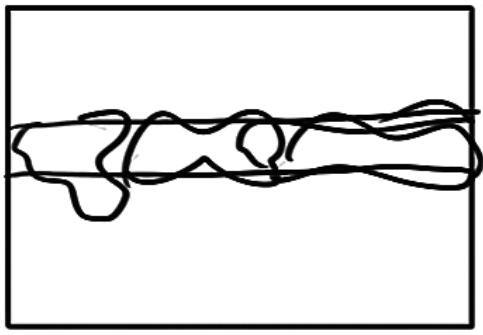

ROBO-PHIL


PLEASE! We are going to DIE out here!
BR-116!
This is serious.


Does that piece of shit not get it?

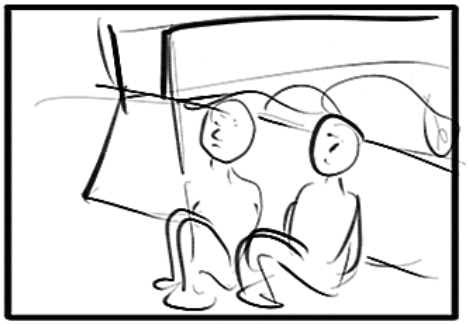

We got it.
Think it's gonna be enough to block the door?
We're gonna need them both
Let me the fuck in.
Robo fucks didn't let you in, huh?
I'm shocked.
God damn if I have to die here with you.
Did Shelle remember to turn the stove off?






It's fucking cold in here. We better sue these bastards.
It's the system. Robophil can't do shit without Cuff's permission
And those messages take a long time.


We're gonna move out of D.C. when I'm done with this.

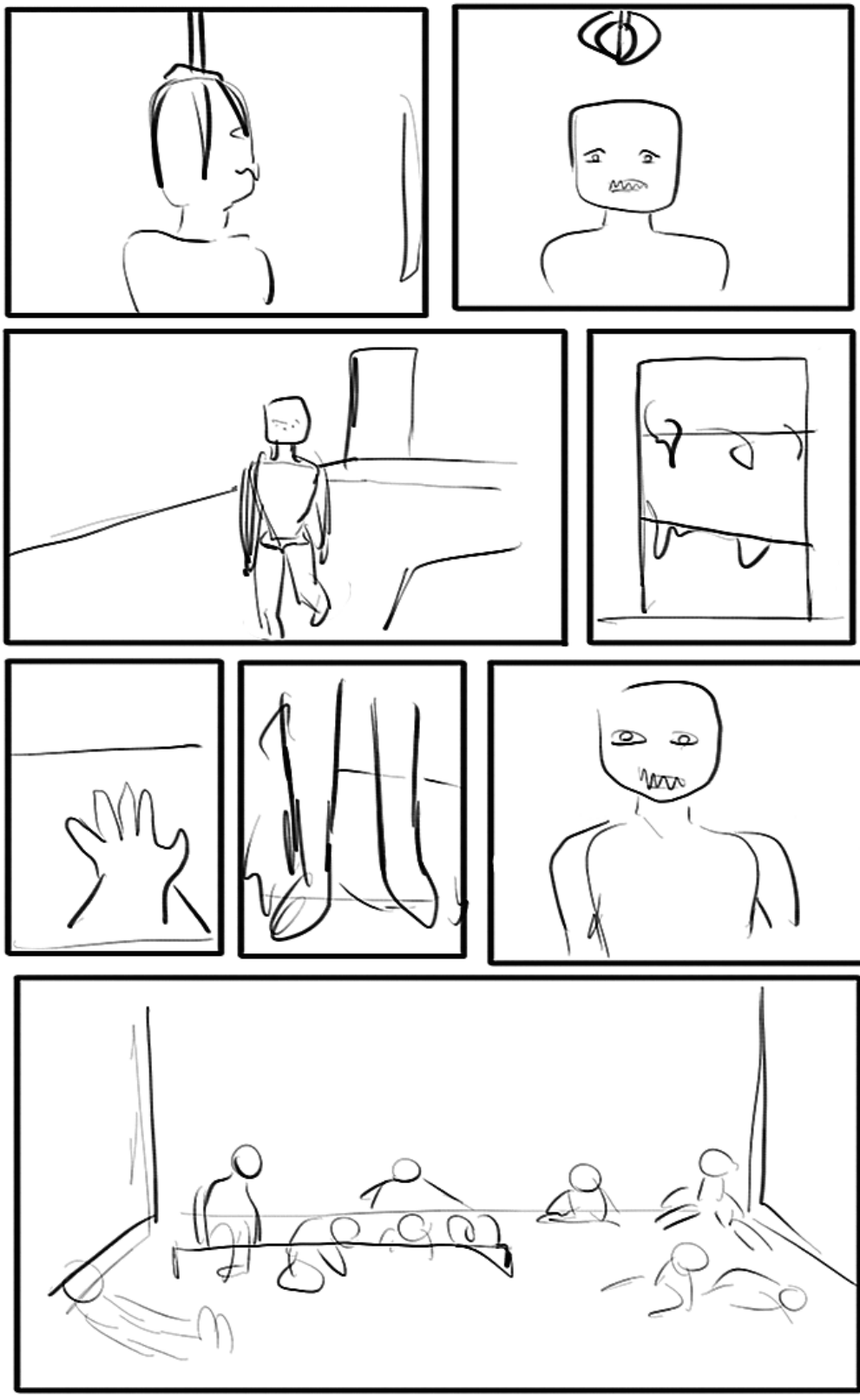


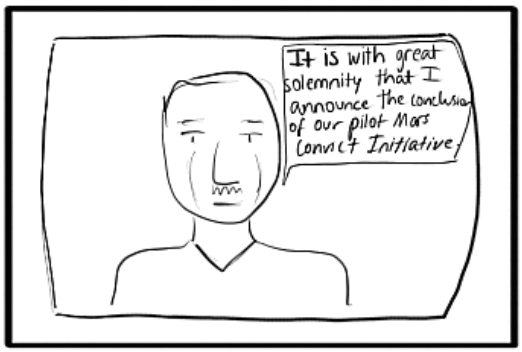

Just chill for a minute! He's gonna come get us, we just gotta keep the oxygen in the room.
What the fuck?
Who did that?
Man don't move! You're gonna fuck up the tables.


Are you crazy? You tryna hold in oxygen with a picnic table, who the fuck you think you are?
Man shut up and quit wasting air. I didn't come here to die next to your ugly ass.
You didn't what?
What the fuck do you think we're here to do?
We're here to -
- to - COUGH

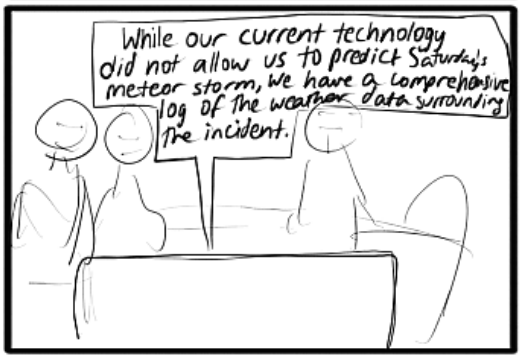

WAAAH
Eahh
Shh
Everything alright?
Yeah. He's just teething.
Ding Dong
Here, I'll get it.
Hey! Glad you could make it
Hey man! 'sup?
Good, yourself?


And Sayers catches at the 15 yard line...
How's the job going?
It's whatever.
You heard from Jamal lately?
Yeah, him and Janet moved to Arizona.
Damn.
Daddy, I want a chip.




It is with great solemnity that I announce the conclusion of our pilot Mars Convict Initiative.


BR-125, we need you to stay in the office until the storm ceases.


While our current technology did not allow us to predict Saturday's meteor storm, we have a comprehensive log of the weather data surrounding the incident.

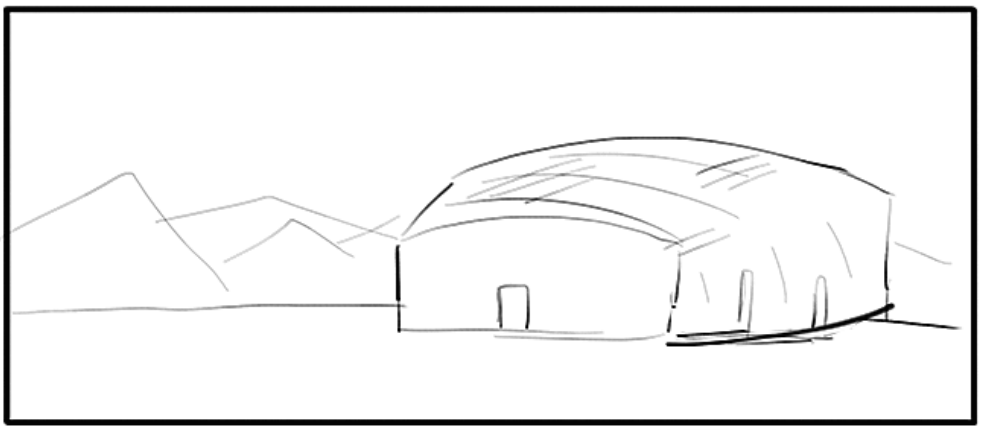

At that point, send us a report detailing the storm, as well as a count of meteors that have punctured the dome and their circumference and density.

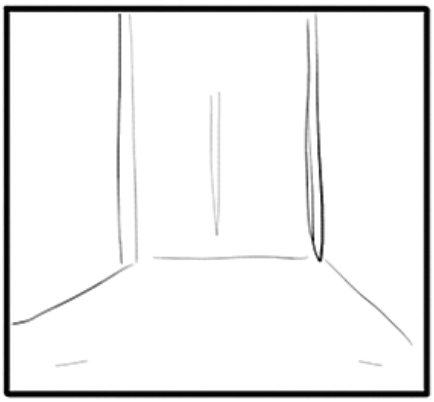

We move forward with a more thorough understanding of the conditions on Mars.

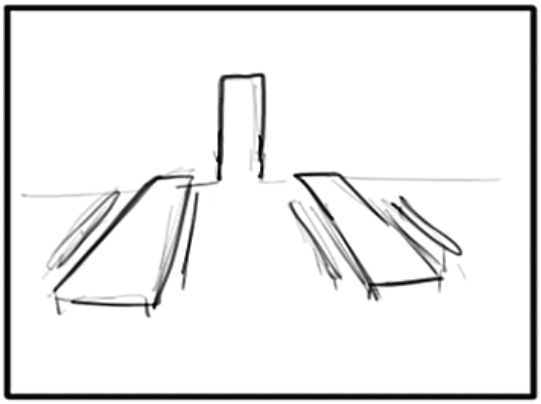

It is essential that the contents of the office be protected. Do not open the door under any circumstances, until cued to do so by me.

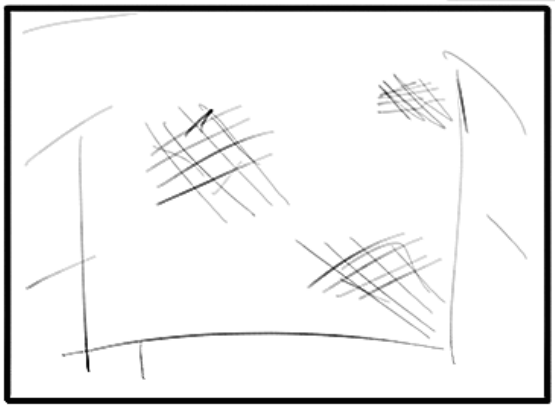

We acknowledge also the productivity of this mission. Our accomplishments on Mars are for every American to take pride in.

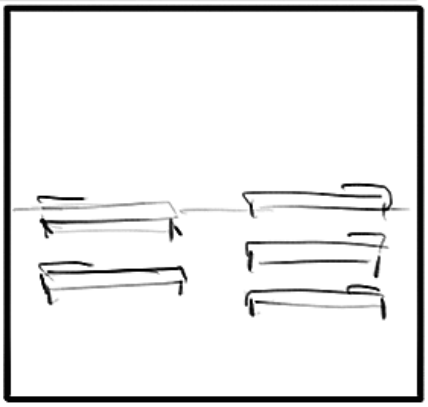

Cut!

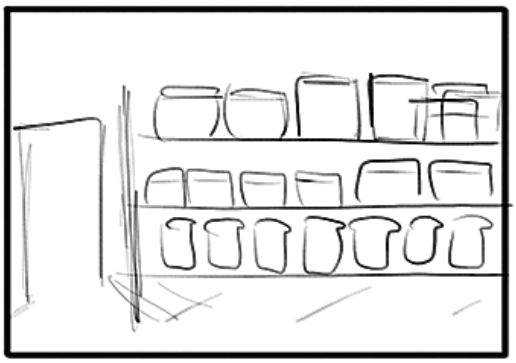


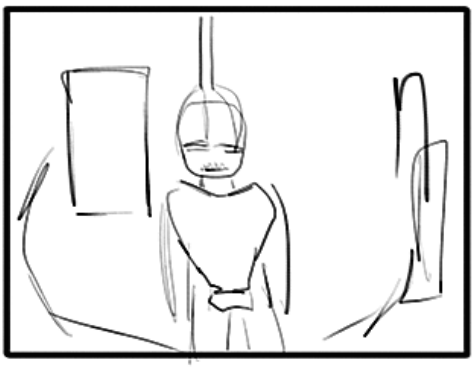


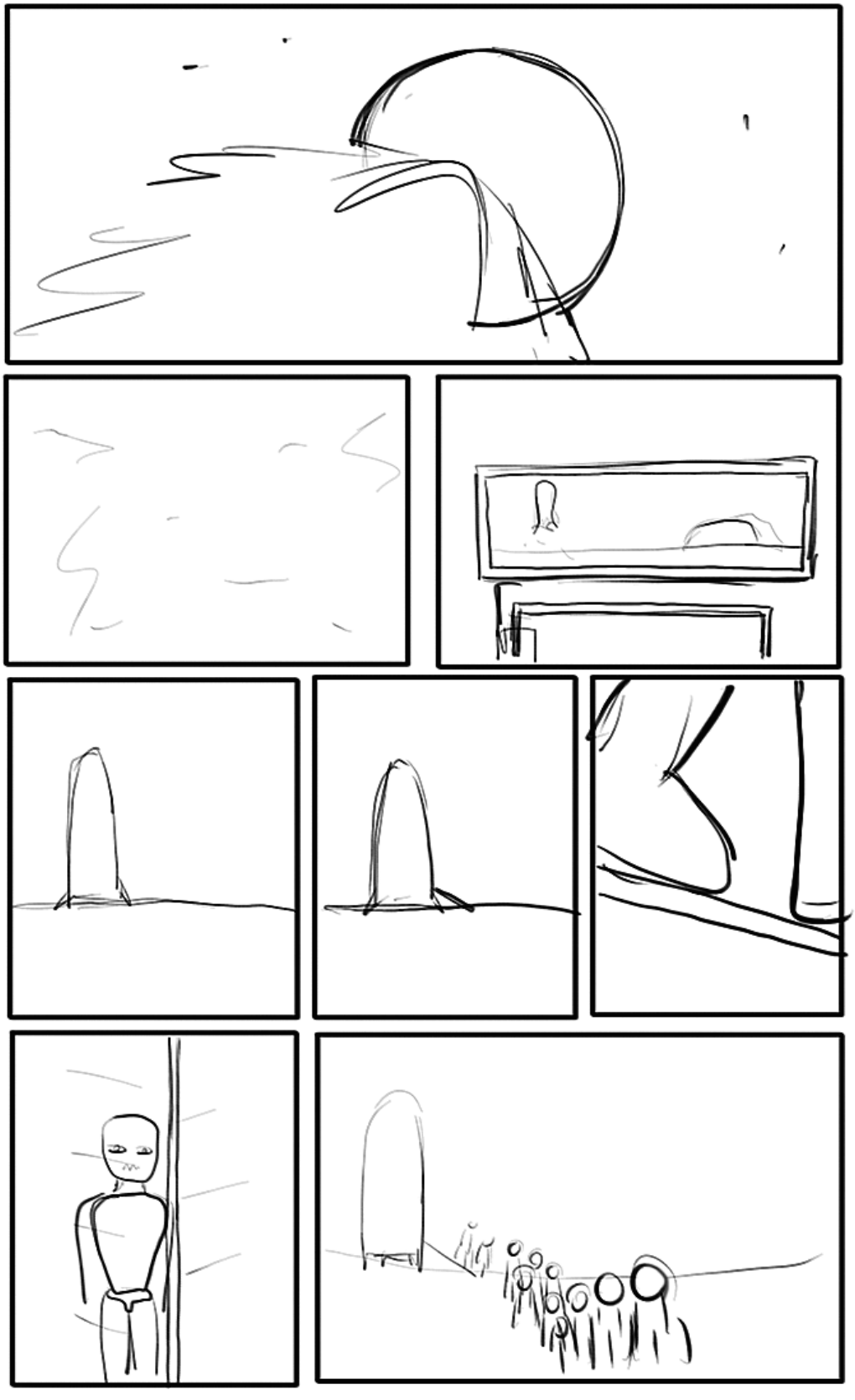


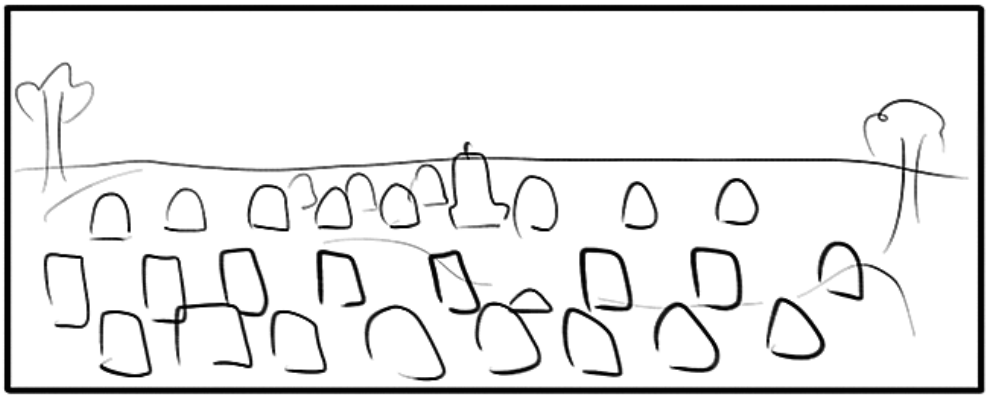


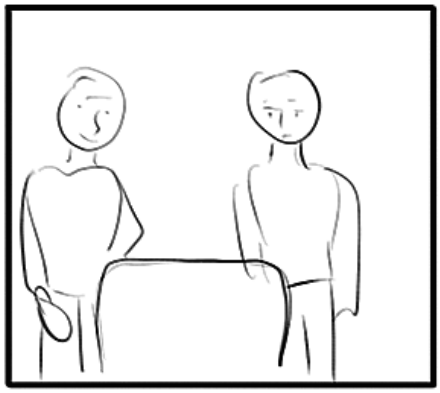






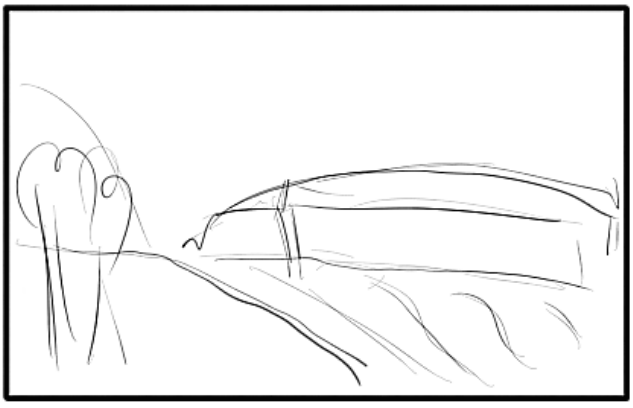







DAVID ERNESTO RAMOS
1973 – 2009


Forever
Beloved
Husband
& Father




Thanks for coming with me.
Of course, Liz. I miss him too.
You hear about what happened the other day? To those guys on Mars?
All dead, right?
Yeah, I keep thinking about it. That was like 30 guys, dead in 5 minutes.
I mean, it sucks, but that was gonna happen to them all along. Those guys came from Death Row.
But like that? Most of those guys have kids.
They probably killed guys that had kids, too. You think the piece of shit who shot your dad was thinking about that?
It's funny, because I believed in the Death Penalty for a long time. Even Mars made sense. And I thought it was because of my dad, and everything we went through after he got shot.
Mhm.
But now I just feel used.
Used?
Because I'm not gonna get my dad back. And now I feel like I got blood on my hands too, because a bunch more kids just lost their fathers.
Cept they don't even get a gravestone.


So you're saying you forgive the guy that shot your dad?
I don't know how I feel about "forgiving." But I mean, I don't think about him so much. Because when I think about all that, I just see my dad shot. And that's ugly.
And I wouldn't send him to Mars either, if it was up to me... That shit is just embarrassing.
But it's the future.
Jesus, I hope not.
Here man, let's open a beer. For your dad.
To Uncle Dave.
To the future.