



Engaging young people around issues relating to community safety

With support from West Yorkshire Police and Calderdale Young People's Service we have been given a unique opportunity to address community safety by creating a graphic novel and posters to highlight young people's concerns.

What makes you feel safe in your community?

What makes you feel unsafe in your community?

Can you tell us a story or write a story about something that made you feel safe in your community?

Can you tell us a story or write a story about something that made you feel unsafe in your community?

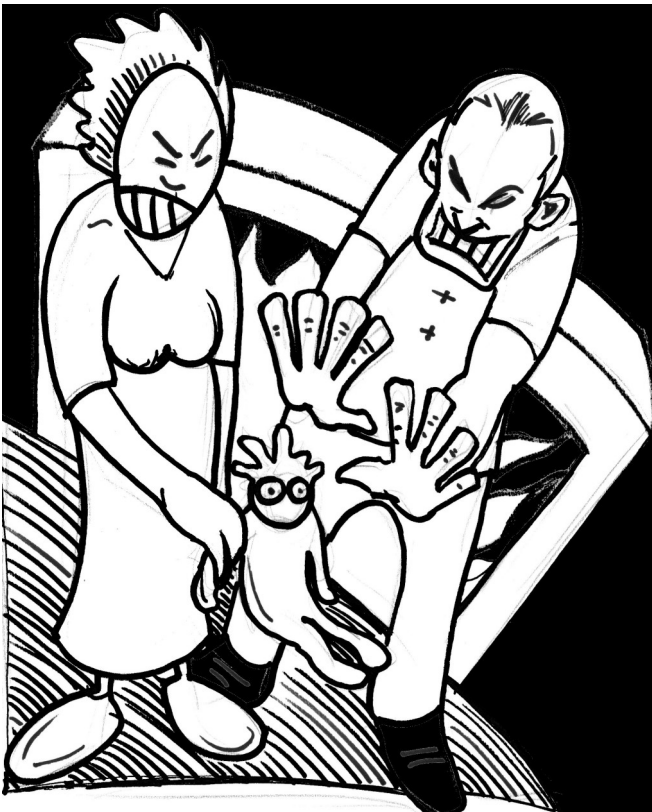
What can you do to make things safer for you and your family/friends in your community?

What can others do to make things safer for you and your family/friends in your community?

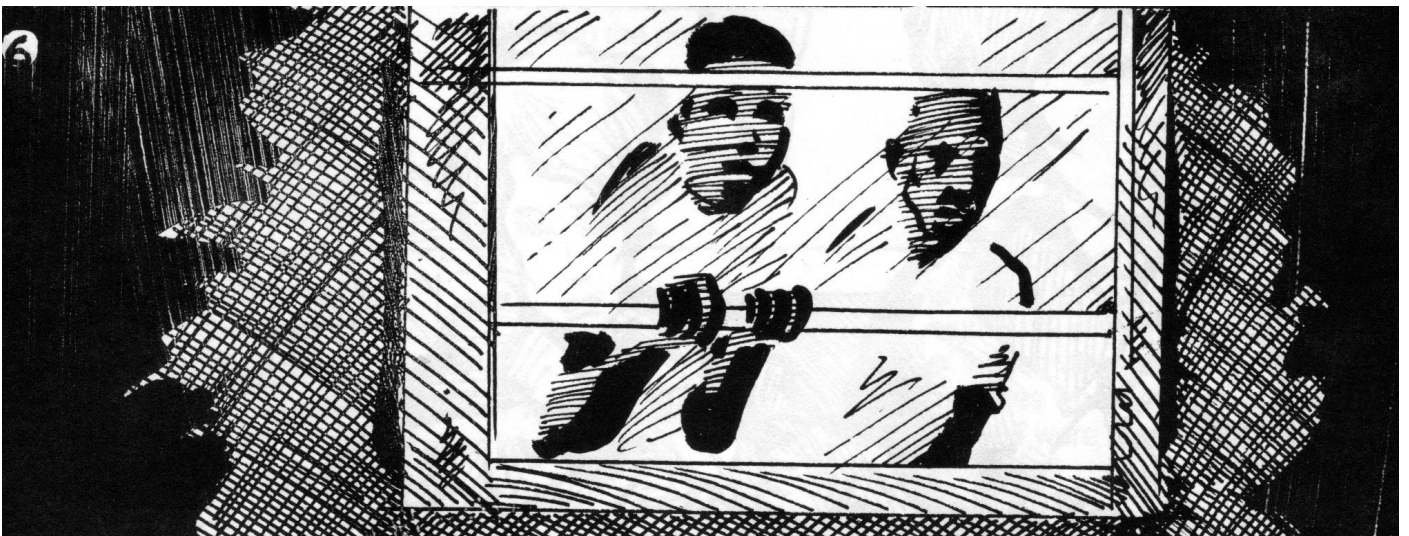
What are the main things that worry you in your community?

How would you define the word safety?

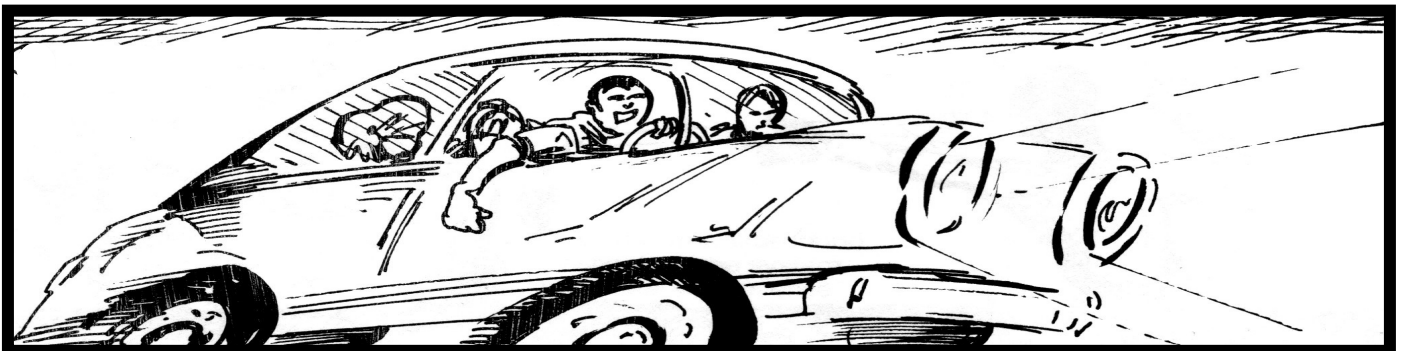
The following pages are sketches created by local comic book artist Howard Priestley through years of working with young people. Howard will be working with you to show you storytelling techniques and look at some key artists throughout the history of comics. The images here are to help you to formulate your ideas and let you think about the above questions.

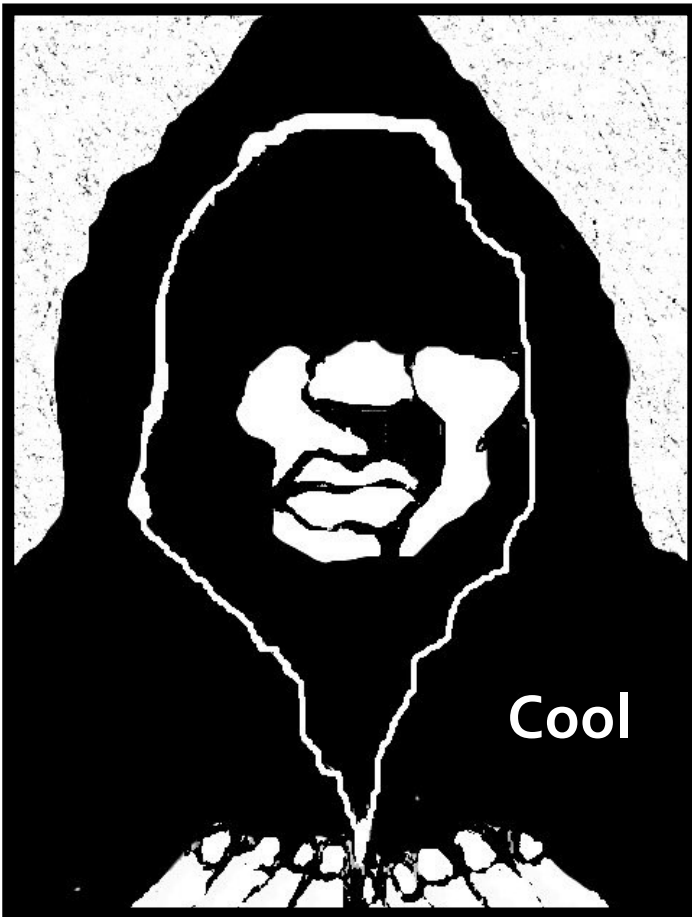


Safety can mean different things to different people. Child neglect to body shaming can put people at risk and make them feel unsafe. Having their home broken into can make people scared to leave their property and can leave them feeling vulnerable.

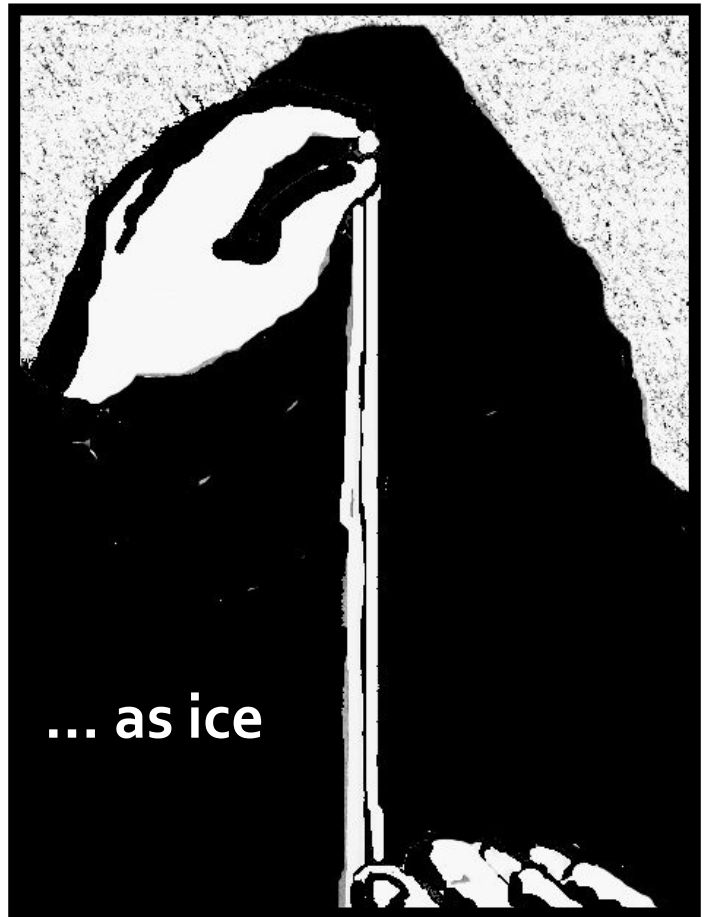


Having a car stolen can also leave people scared to leave their car parked on the street. Worse, though, are the consequences of 'joy riding'. What might be the consequences of an underage, inexperienced driver behind the wheel of a vehicle, probably driving over the speed limit?





Cool

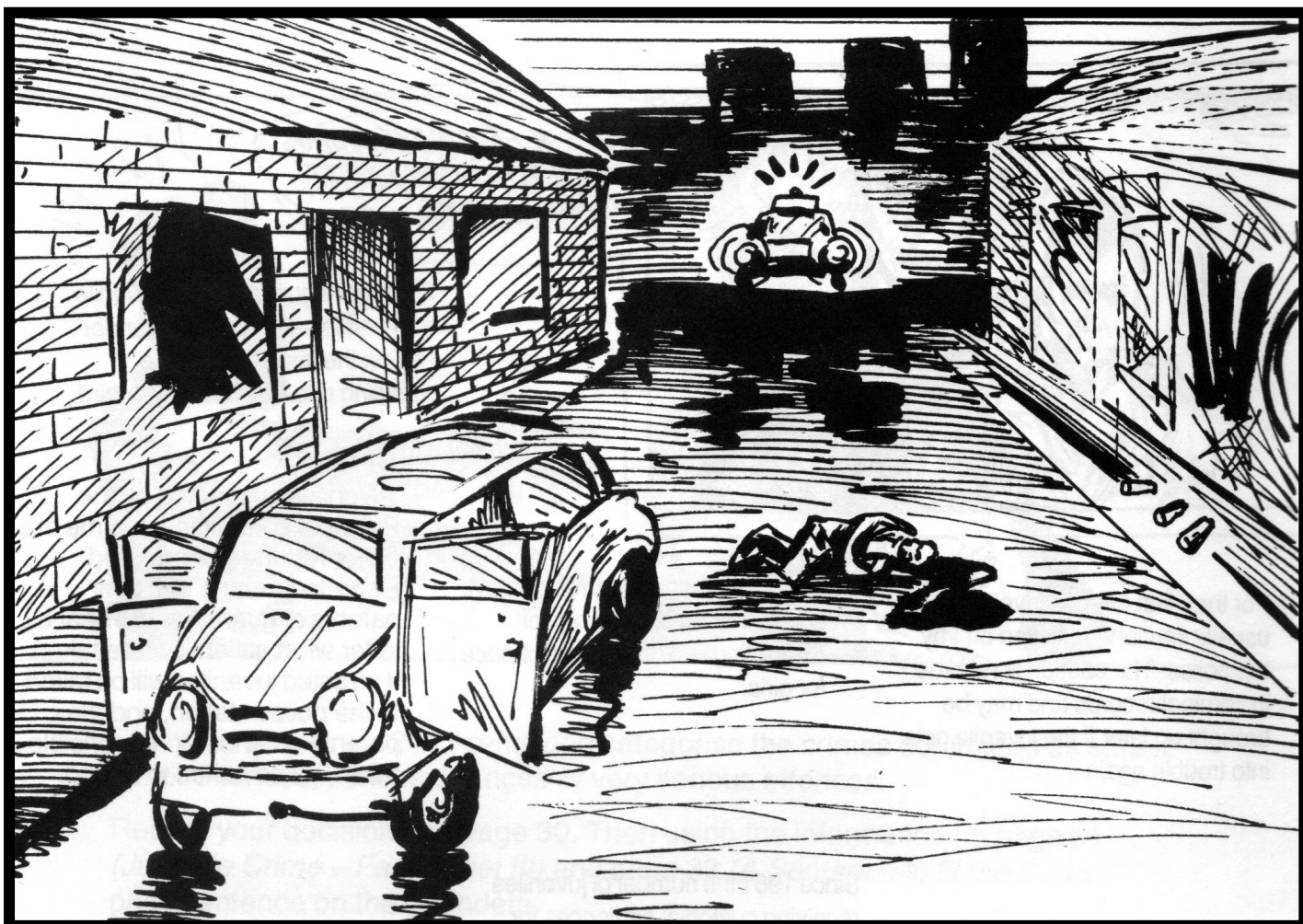


... as ice

Gang culture

A gang can come in any form, usually it's going to be made up of like-minded people with the same thing in mind... usually not forming a choir or a knitting group.





Homophobic crime has risen, people being attacked on buses and even on their own doorstep.



Quad Bikes being driven through neighbourhoods have led to fatalities.

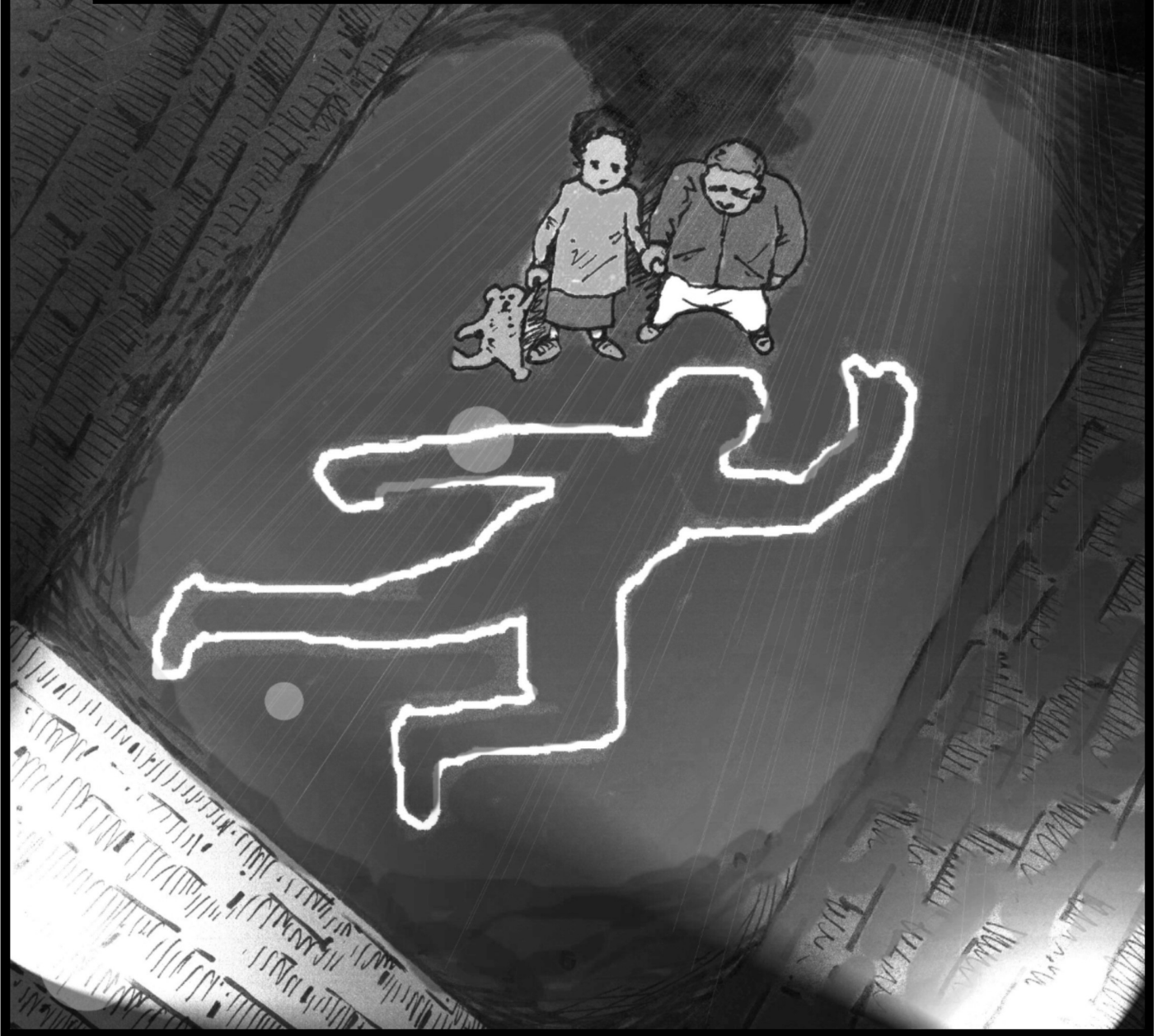


Underage drinking and knife crimes have risen dramatically.





There are better ways
to leave an impression
in your community



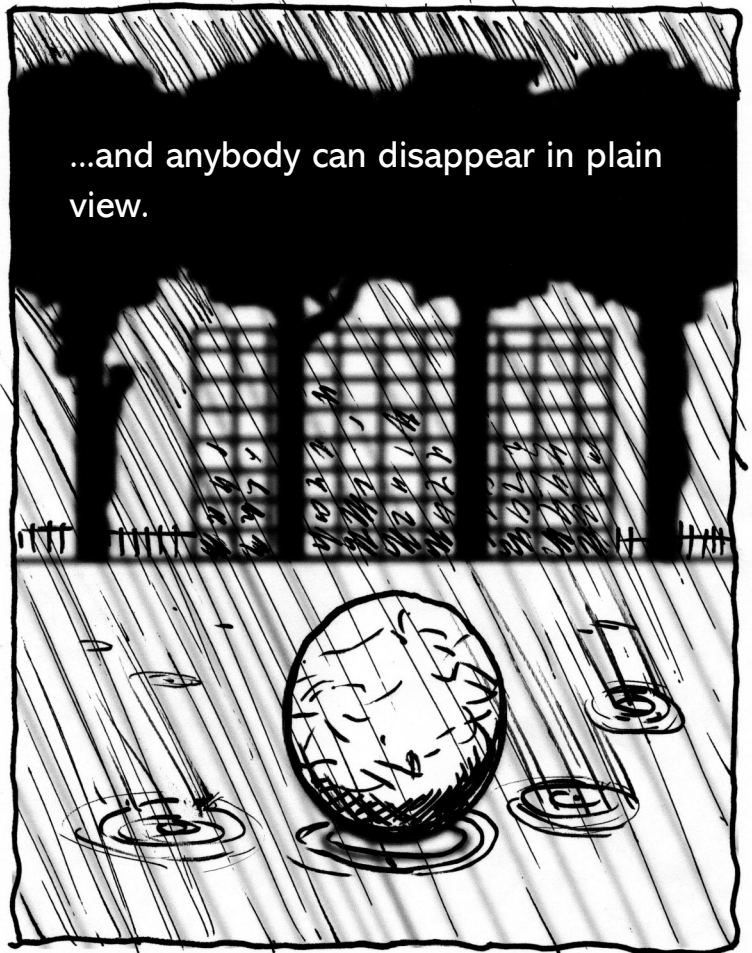
Every story has a starting point. The image above was originally a poster. It can equally be the final panel of a story.

Create a scenario around this image to tell the reader how the story ended like this.

Sexual harassment can happen to anybody...



...and anybody can disappear in plain view.



Peer pressure and gang initiations can lead to random attacks.



So, stop and think. Have the images given you food for thought?

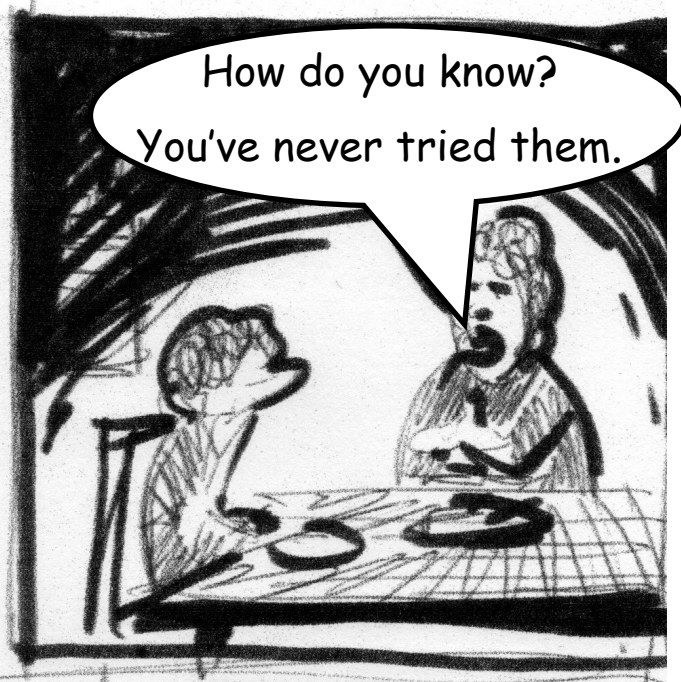
Being safe can be more complicated than you first think. Getting involved with other peoples activities can put you at risk. As we said earlier, having your house broken into can make you feel unsafe but what if you're the one doing it ? Why would you ? What's going through your mind ? Is it peer pressure ?



When you see a group of young men driving around, what goes through your mind?

When you walk towards a group of people do you feel safe?





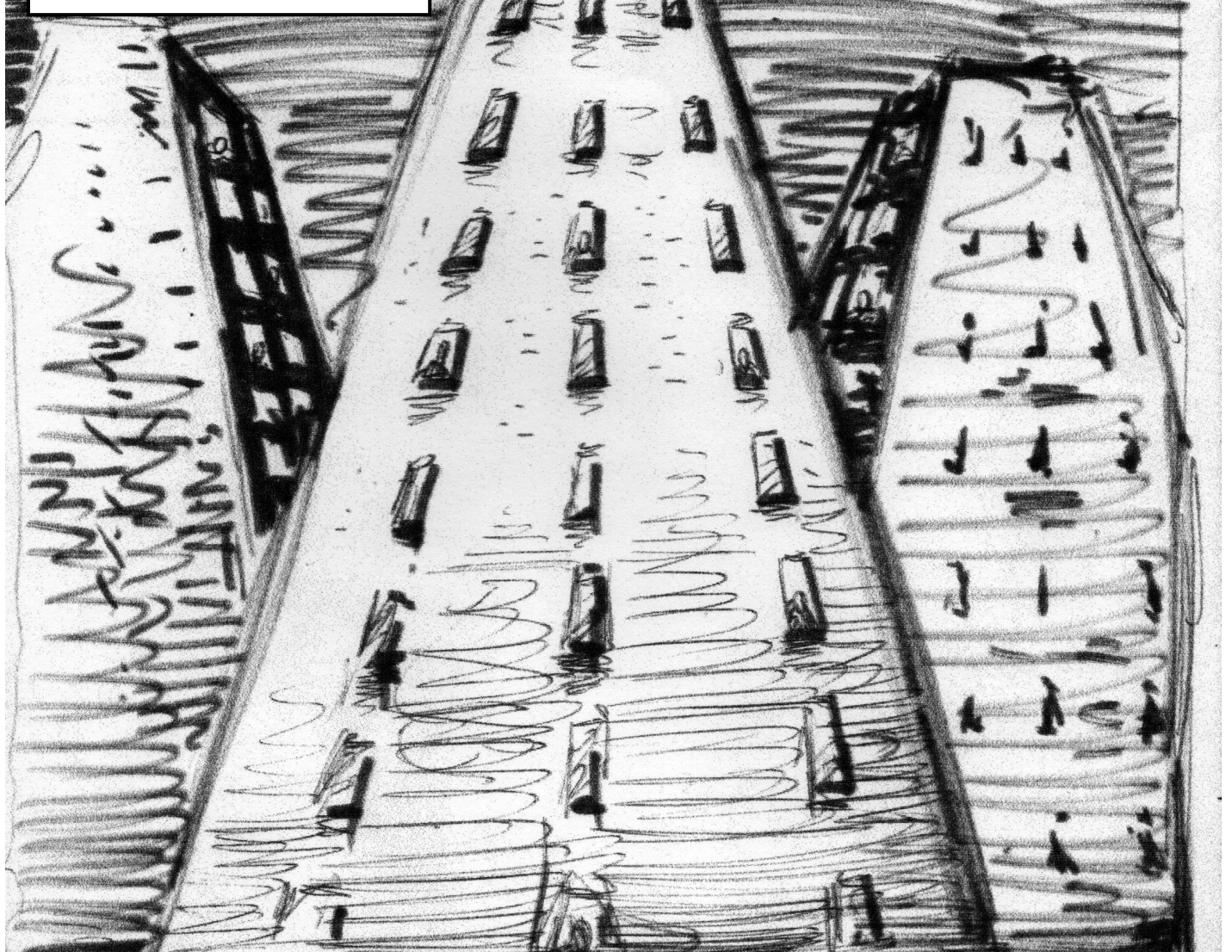
SONG OF THE ISLANDS

*I live on an Island at the
edge of the City.*

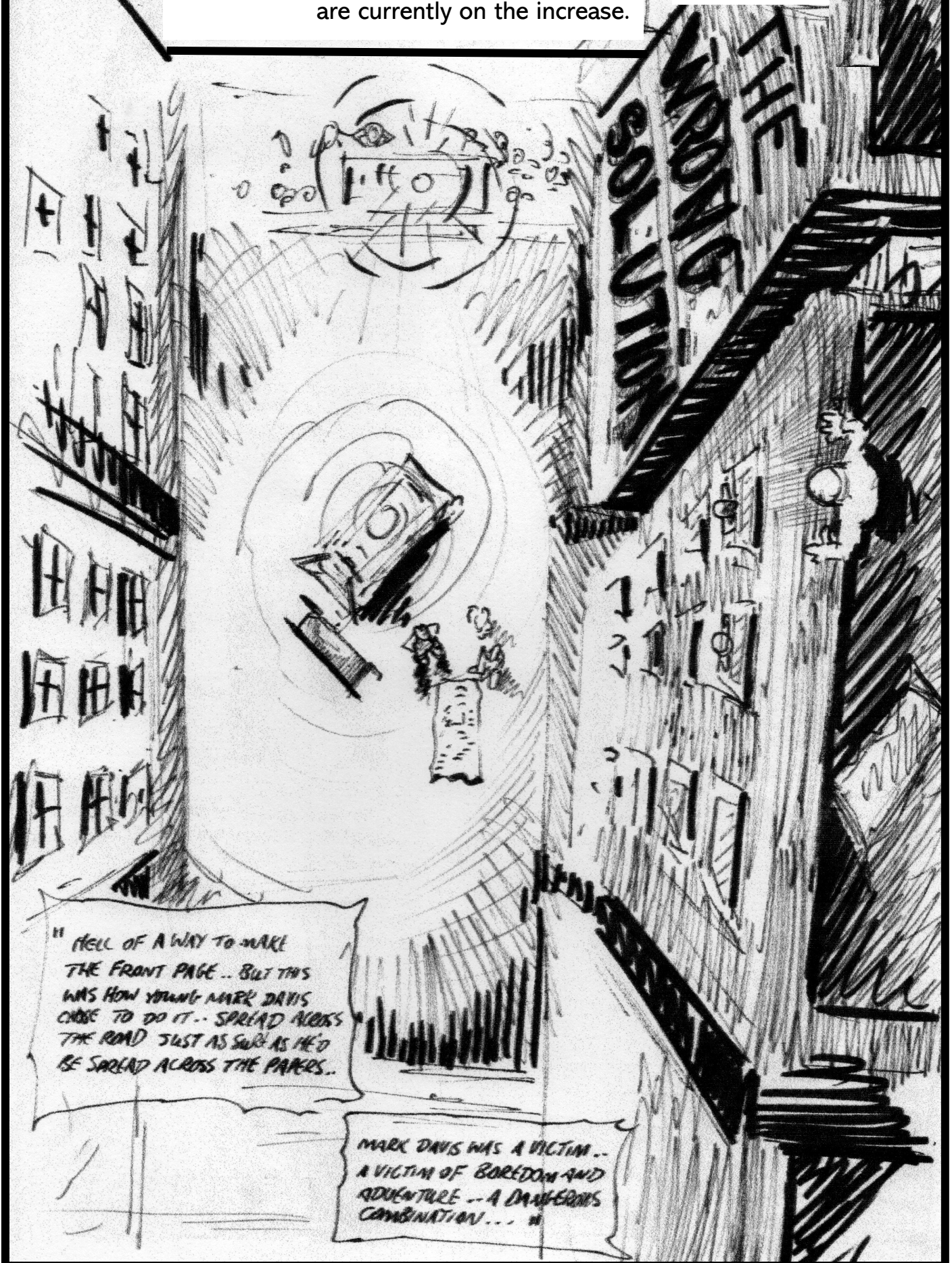
*Worn away by waves of self
pity.*

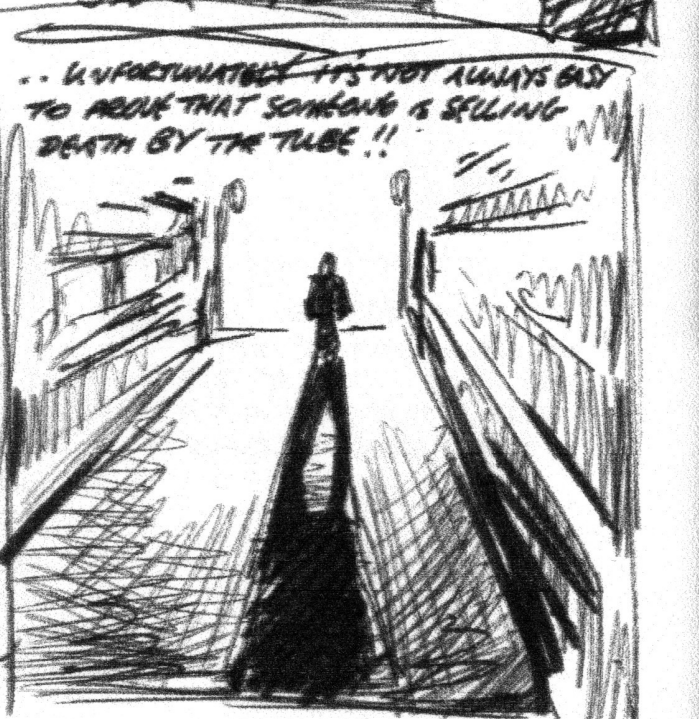
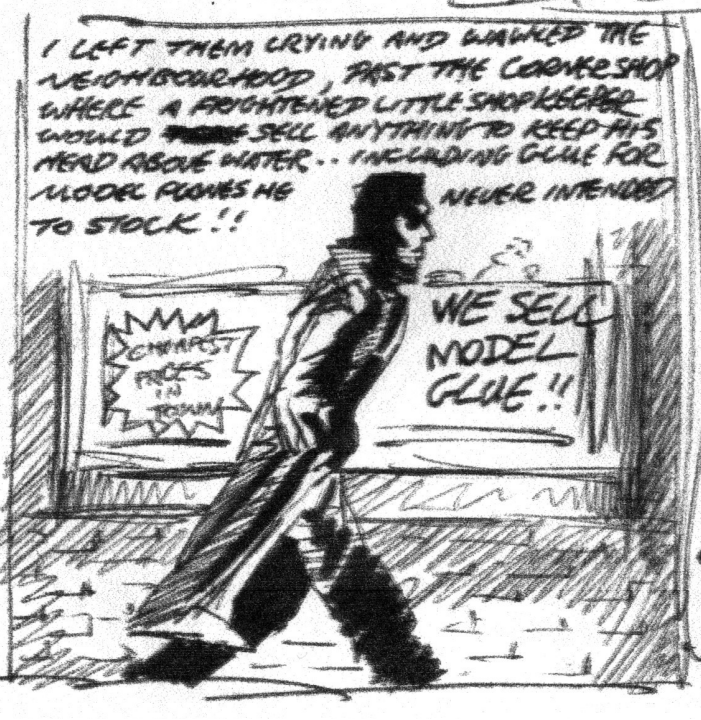
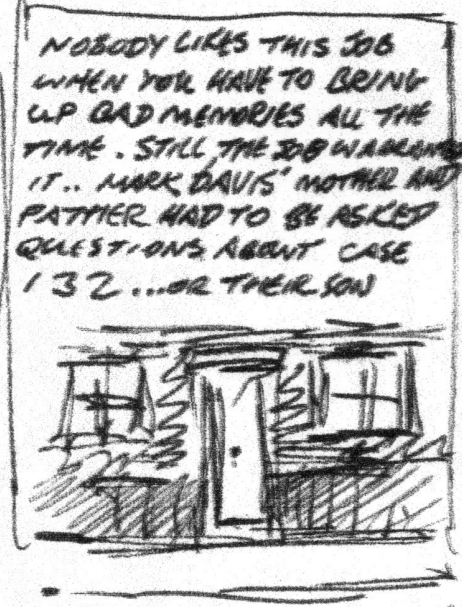
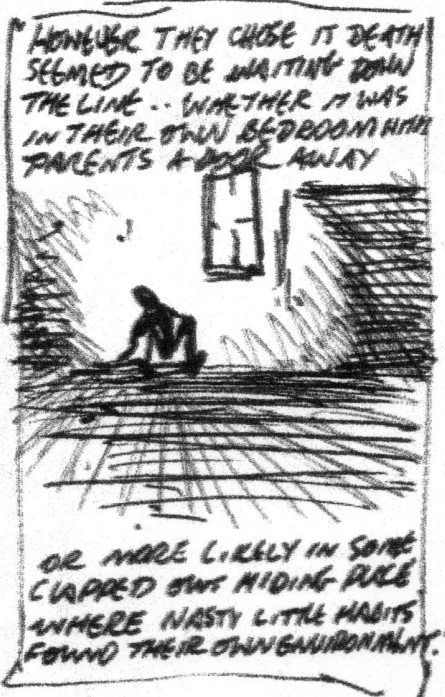
*Lonely I live and alone I'll
die*

*On my desolate island in
the sky.*



This story was originally sketched out 30 years ago when solvent abuse was rife amongst young people, causing many teenage deaths. The basis of the story remains relevant as drug related deaths are currently on the increase.





MAYBE IT STARTED AS A DARE...
BUT NOWADAYS THE GAME OF BARE
HAS HIGHER STAKES!



AND BEFORE LONG THE ROT IN
THE MIND SHOWS ON THE FACE!



SOON MARK DAVIS' SCHOOL
WORK SUFFERED LIKE THE
REST - ~~AND~~ THE OLD DARE
ABOUT GOOD SCHOOL RESULTS
MAKING WAY FOR A GOOD JOB
WOULDN'T MATTER...
MARK DAVIS' WAS NEVER
GOING TO TAKE THAT BIG
STEP FROM SCHOOL ROOM
TO BOARDROOM..



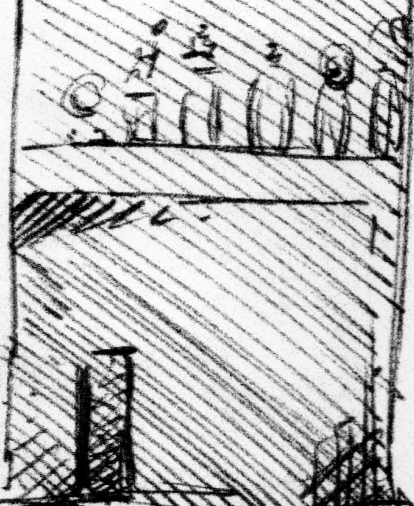
THE SHELF FULL OF SPORTING
TROPHIES MAY JUST AS WELL HAVE
BEEN ACHIEVED BY SOMEONE ELSE..



THE SWIMMING HE PROVIDED HIMSELF
ON BECAME A THING OF THE PAST..
NOT HALF AS EXHILARATING AS
HIS NEW PASTIME...

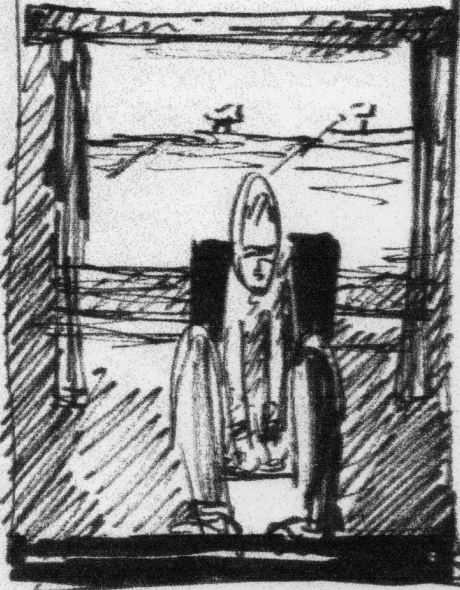


... BUT THE PIECES WERE
NOW FITTING TOGETHER ..



ANGRY SCENES FROM ~~THE~~
FRUSTRATED PARENTS WHOSE
PRIDE HAD BEEN SHATTERED!
A FATHER WHO HAD TRIED TO
DO THE RIGHT THING THE
ONLY WAY HE KNEW HOW..
WHO HAD SPENT HOURS AND
YEARS PROTECTING, ADVISING,
A MOTHER WHO HAD DRESSED
AND FED AND LOVED A SON
THROUGH ILLNESS AND WESET
BUT WHO WAS NOW LOSING
HIM ALL TOO QUICKLY!!..

SITTING BACK IN HIS ROOM A
PORTION OF SANITY PULLED
HIM BACK TO REALITY



AND ALTHOUGH HE WANN
UP TO IT HE TOOK OUT HIS
TRELKES AND TOWEL AND
MADE HIS WAY INTO TOWN..



..CUTTING THROUGH THE
OLD DUMP HIS FRIENDS
SPOTTED HIM..



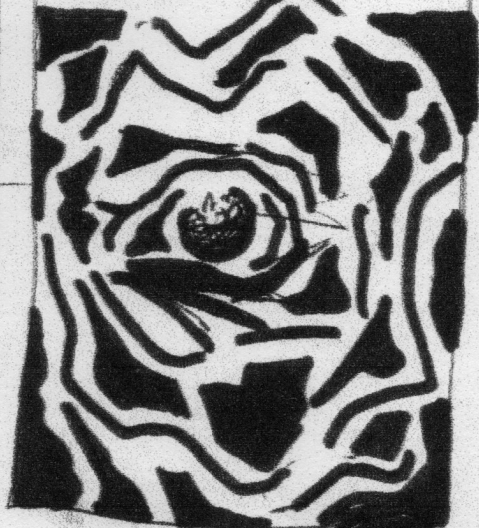
AND THE TEMPTATION
BECAME TOO STRONG...



A MIND FULL OF DREAMS
FUSED WITH A SOLVENT
BOND TO REALITY BEGAN
TO SHORT CIRCUIT...



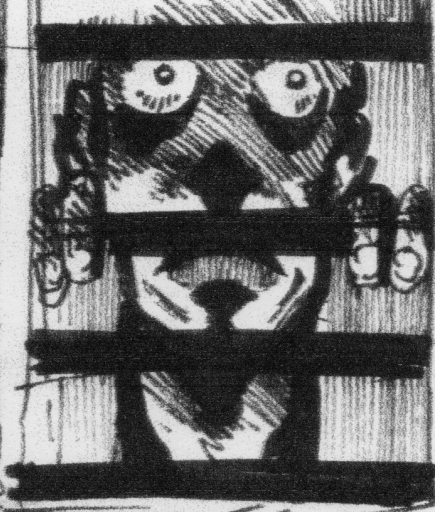
MARK DAVIS WAS STILL
DETERMINED TO GO SWIMMING
TODAY!



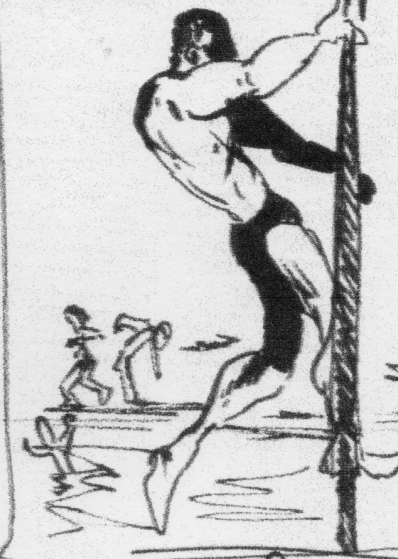
THE PAIN IN HIS HEAD FORCED
HIM TO STOP AND HE STEPPED
INTO AN ALLWAY TO AVOID
STARING EYES...



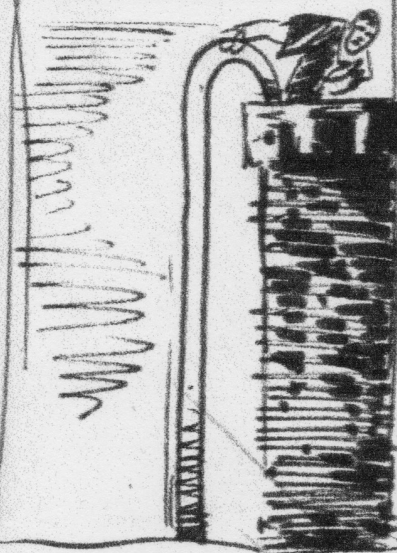
THAT WAS WHEN THE
HALLUCINATIONS TOOK
CONTROL...



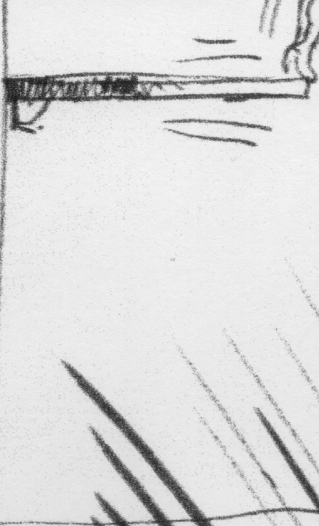
WITH CONFIDENCE HE CLIMBED
TO THE TOP BOARD...



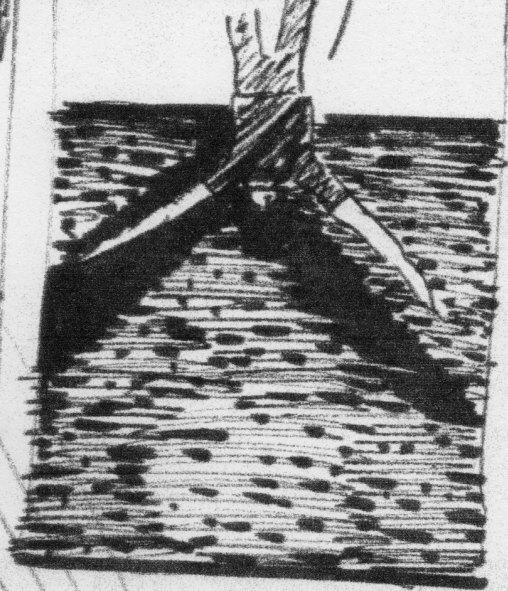
SCALING THE LADDER WITH EASE



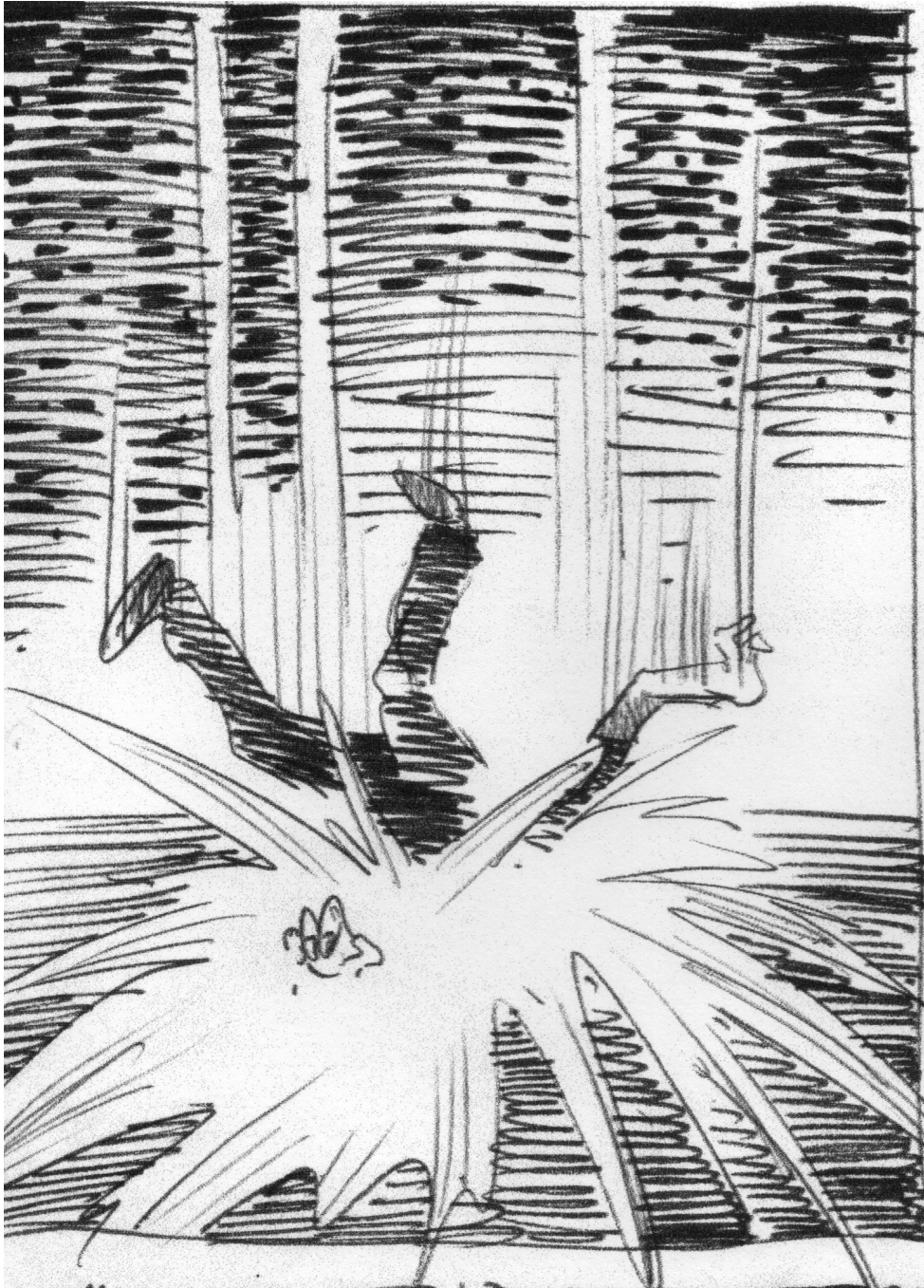
HE STEPPED TO THE EDGE
OF THE BOARD...



AND DIVED



AND THAT WAS HOW MARK
DAVIS BECAME FRONT PAGE
NEWS... A HIGH PRICE TO
PAY...



SORRY, I DIDN'T
CATCH YOUR
NAMES....



JUST FOR FUTURE
REFERENCE YOU
UNDERSTAND..!!

Now it's your turn.

Over the next few weeks and months you will be shown how to :

Develop specific themes

Break storylines down

Look at comic book artists and study their techniques, particularly the work of Frank Miller and Will Eisner



Create storyboards

Make initial 'thumbnail' sketches to develop storytelling methods

Use traditional and computer-generated art and design methods

Create finished artwork and structure finished book and posters

