

Issue 12 Dec 2024

De La Salle College  
Senior School



# LibraryLink



## Writing Chinese Characters

写汉字

talk and demonstration  
by  
Stephen Cachia

Session 1: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
at 12:45pm  
Session 2: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
at 12:45pm



- ◆ How and when do Chinese characters originate?
- ◆ What do they mean and how do you read them?
- ◆ How do you write Chinese characters?
- ◆ How do you write your name in Chinese?
- ◆ What about writing in Chinese on mobile phones and e-mail?



The Senior Library Team  
Editor: Mr C Saliba

The library is more than just books,

Explore. Engage.  
Excel.

it's a world of endless possibilities. Through LibraryLink, we invite you to explore new horizons, engage with knowledge and creativity, and excel in ways you never imagined. Every resource, every story, and every moment in the library is a step toward your dreams. Let's grow, learn, and inspire together!



## A Note From Mr. Zahra



Only a few weeks ago, we had our Prize Days for 2023-24, during which we celebrated the hard work of many students over the past year.

The spirit that gives life to any Lasallian body is the spirit of zeal (in Maltese, hegga), and therefore, as Lasallians, we should all show our 'hegga' in our work. By showing such zeal, people will see that we are Lasallians.

May this spirit be the light that guides your life throughout this Christmas and into 2025.

Read More On

Teams Library



## Christmas Greetings from the Library! 🎄

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, may your hearts be filled with peace, love, and hope. This time of year reminds us of the importance of kindness, togetherness, and sharing the light within us.

To our amazing educators, thank you for inspiring and guiding our students with passion and dedication. To our wonderful students, continue to shine brightly and strive for excellence in all you do.



## 🌟 Christmas Cheer from the De La Salle Library! 🌟

As we gather with loved ones, let's take a moment to embrace the spirit of Christmas: the joy of giving, the warmth of family, and the hope for a brighter future.

The library will remain a hub of knowledge and creativity in the new year, so keep an eye out for exciting activities, reading challenges, and new books waiting to be discovered.

From all of us at the De La Salle Library, may your Christmas be filled with laughter, love, and meaningful moments. Wishing you a blessed and joyful holiday season and a fantastic start to 2025!



We had the incredible honour of hosting Joseph Elliott, the talented author of *The Good Hawk*, *The Broken Raven*, and *Nora & the Map of Mayhem*. The students were captivated by Joseph's inspiring stories, creative quizzes, and interactive sessions!

Joseph shared fascinating insights about his writing journey, and students had the chance to ask questions, participate in a fun quiz, and even explore their artistic side with some creative challenges!

Check out the highlights:

- Interactive discussions on storytelling and character creation
- A quiz session where students guessed how long it took Joseph to write his book
- Creative mashups like "rhino + elephant = optimus elephant"
- A wonderful book signing session and personalised advice: **Never stop reading!**



# BOOK BINDING WORKSHOP AT THE LIBRARY WITH MS. KAREN



Our library came alive with creativity as Ms. Karen Grech led a midday session on the art of bookbinding.

From assembling pages to stitching them together and crafting durable, elegant covers, Ms. Grech guided us through each step of the process with skill and patience.

Her passion for the craft was evident, reminding us just how much care and effort goes into something we often take for granted. The session wasn't just educational, it was a chance to slow down and truly appreciate the artistry behind every book.

A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Grech for sharing her expertise and giving us a deeper connection to the stories we hold in our hands.



Mr Peter  
Magro

5 Dec 2024

Q&A ON  
**COMIC**  
MAKING


Midday  
**Break**

Senior  
Library

# BOOK LAUNCH

## Road Show






 **Story & Discovery:**  
Explore the fascinating story behind  
il-Misteru tas-Sinjali (The Mysterious Signs).

 **Maritime Insights:**  
Learn intriguing maritime facts and the  
secrets of the sea.

 **Career Talk:**  
Discover Exciting career paths  
in the maritime industry.

 **Fun Activities:**  
Join a fun maritime signal flag  
game and interactive session.

 **Blue Economy:**  
Understand the importance of  
preserving our oceans.

 **14th January 2025**  
 **Midday Break**  
 **Senior School Library**



**MaritimeMT™**  
EXCELLENCE IN SEAFARER EDUCATION



GOVERN TA' MALTA  
MINISTRIJA GĦAL TRASPORT,  
L-IMPRESARJATIJA U L-AGRICOLTURA



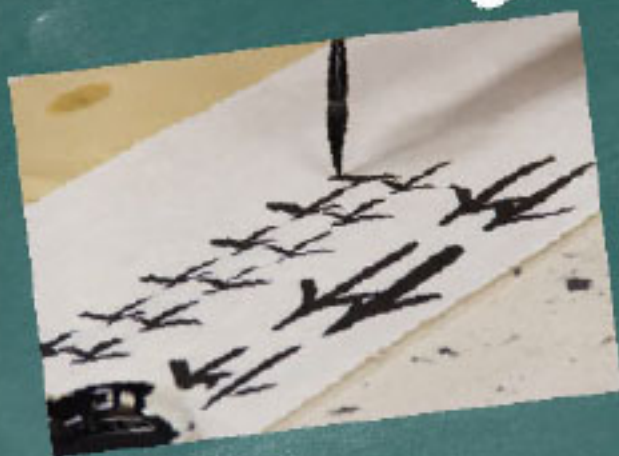
# Writing Chinese Characters

## 写汉字

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by  
Stephen Cachia

**Session 1:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January  
at 12:45pm

**Session 2:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
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# KICKOFF WITH A PRO

## Q&A SESSION

# JOSEPH FARRUGIA



**FORMER FOOTBALL  
PLAYER**

**UEFA A COACH**



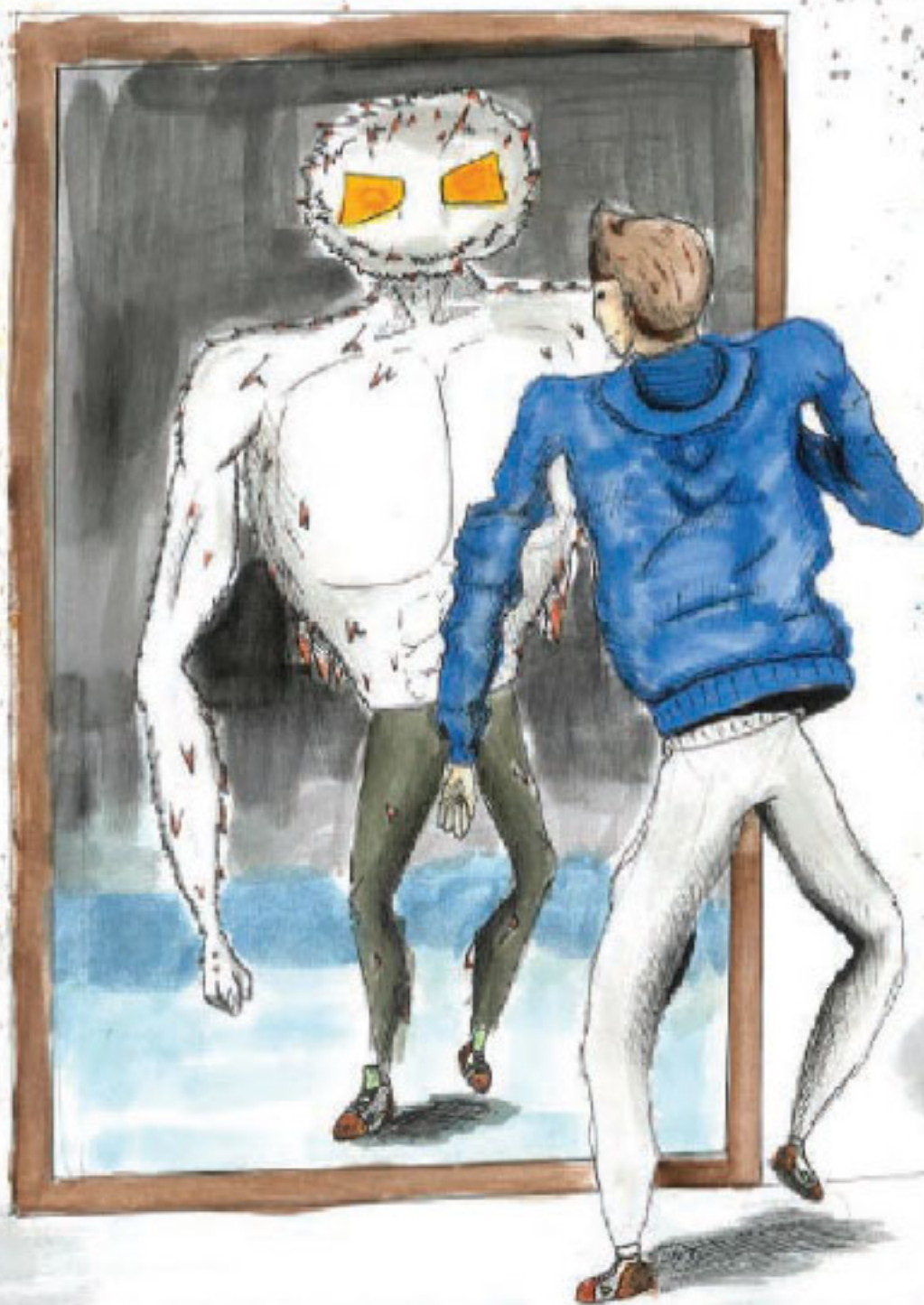
## 30 JANUARY 2025 | 12.40PM

### SENIOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Career challenges & dedication.  
Coaching, teamwork, leadership.  
Questions, techniques, inspiration.

# THE SPYNE

ISSUE 1  
SEPT 23-  
JULY  
2024  
Adam Bueja

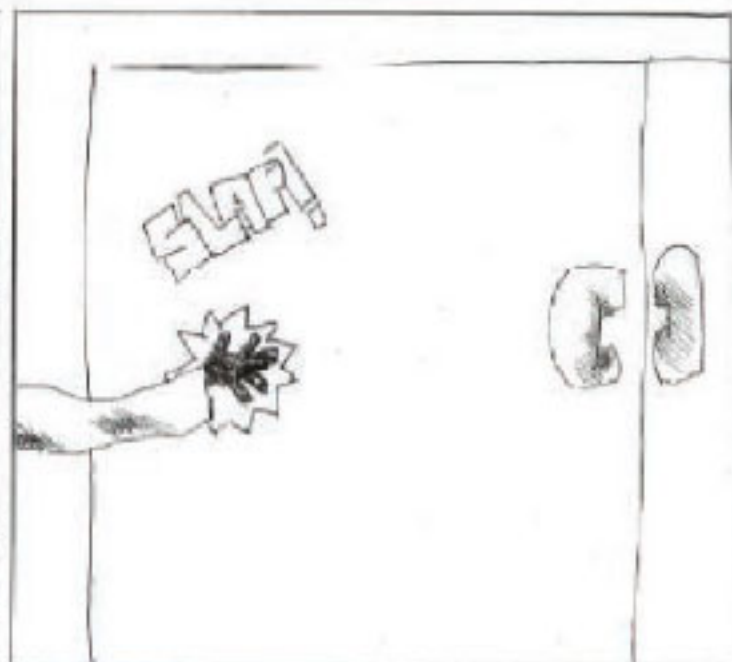
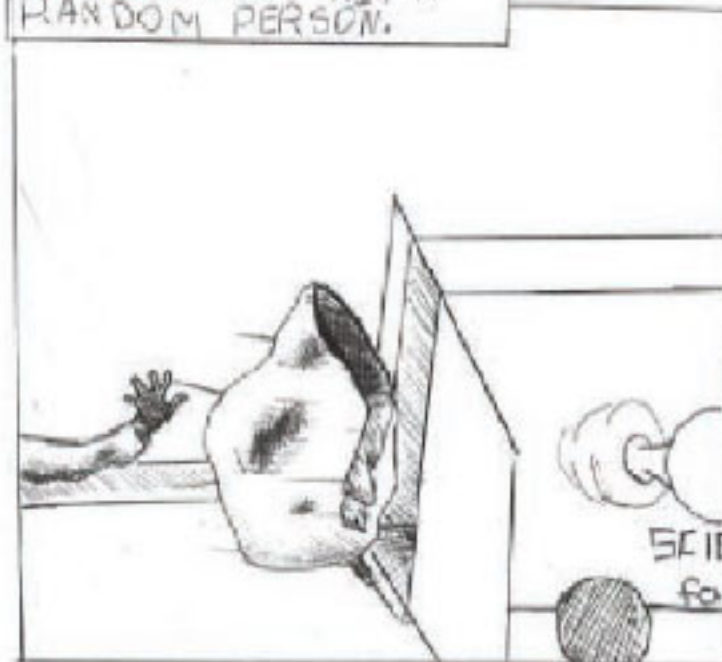
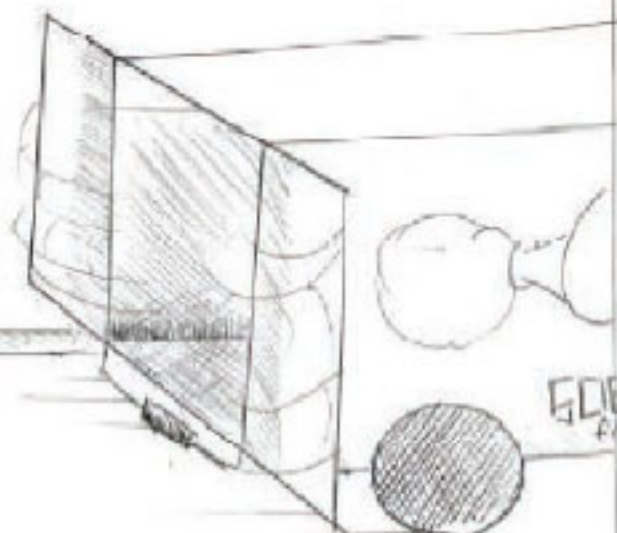


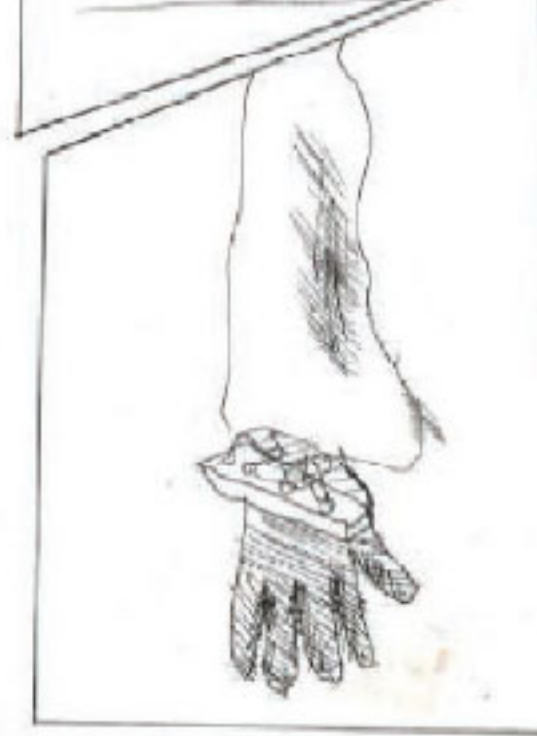
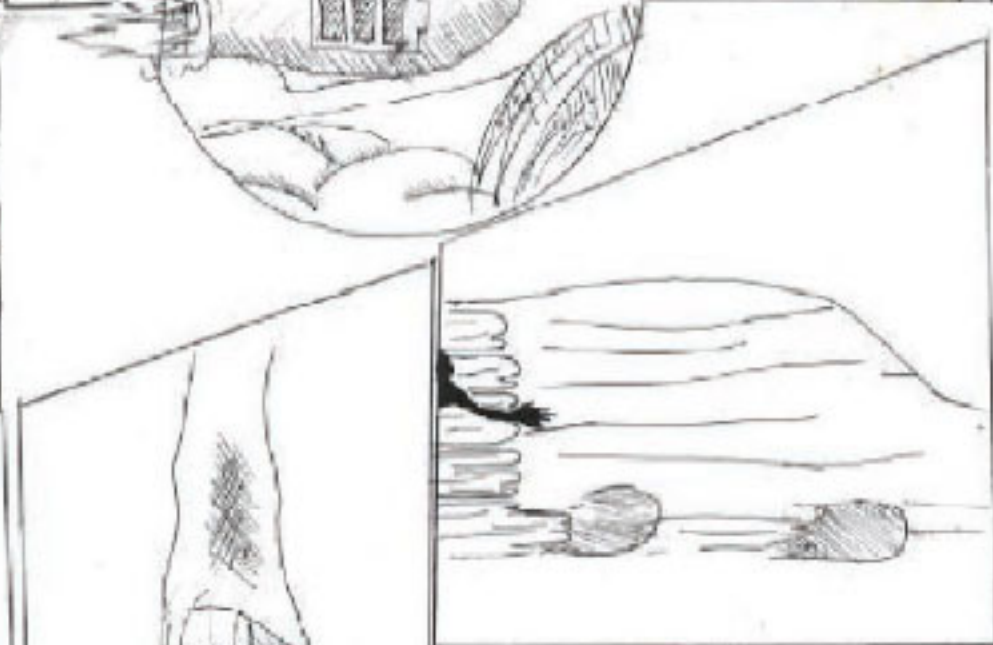
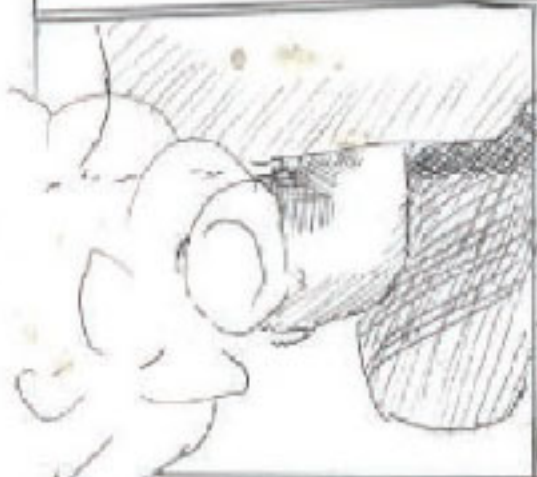
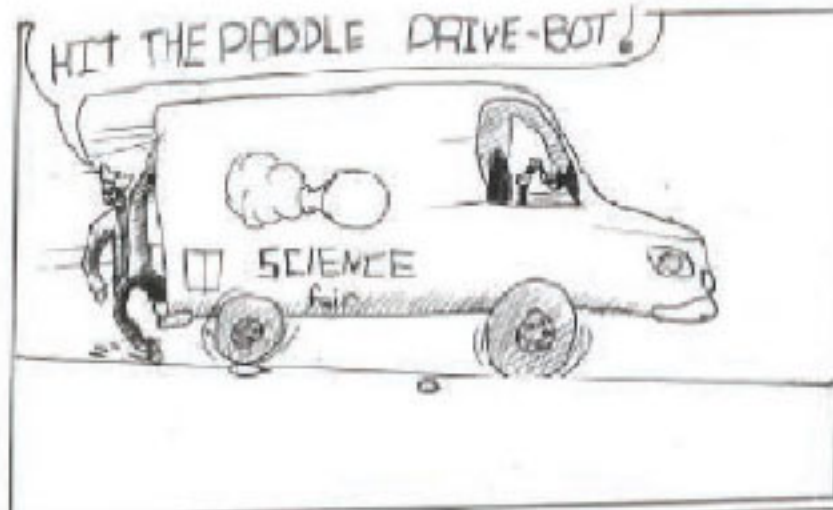


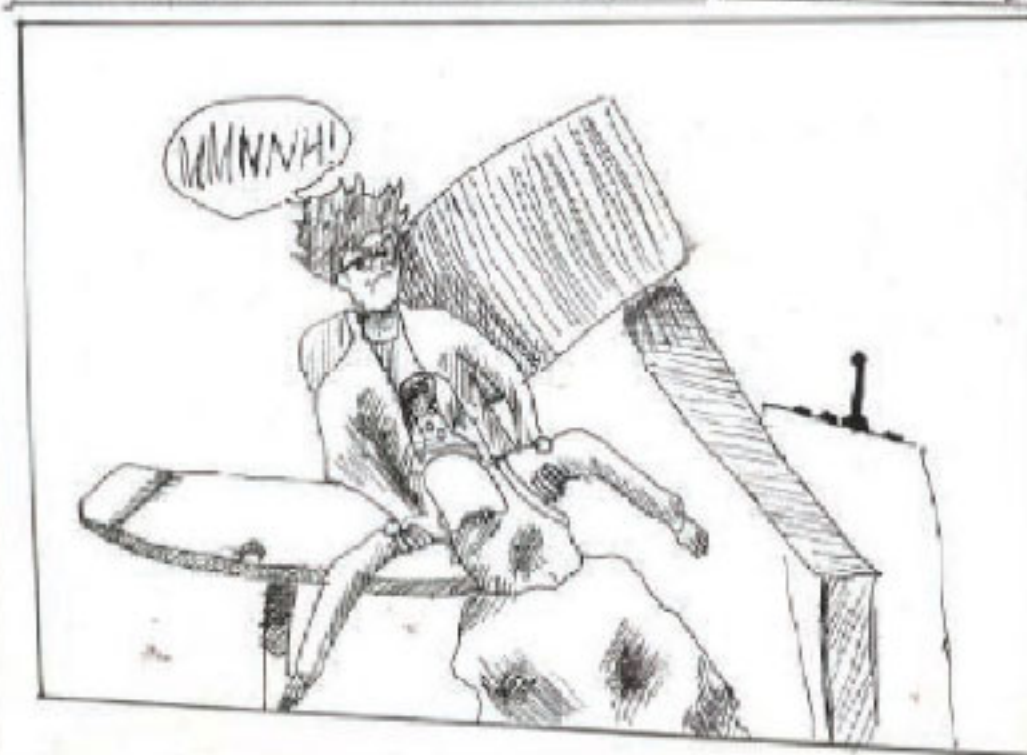
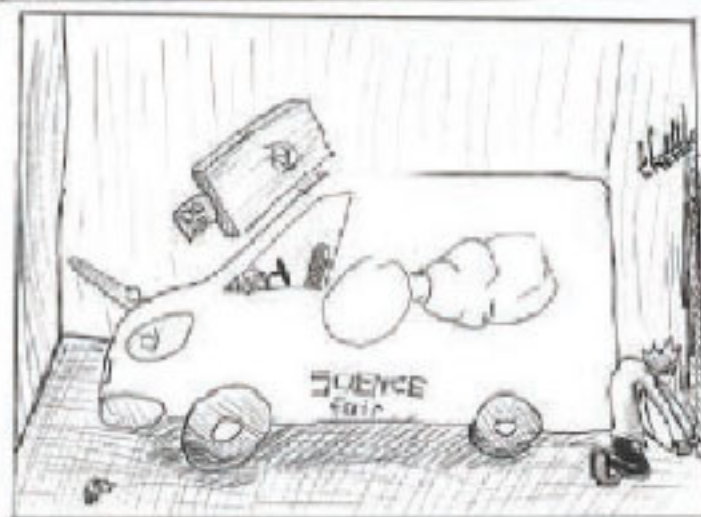
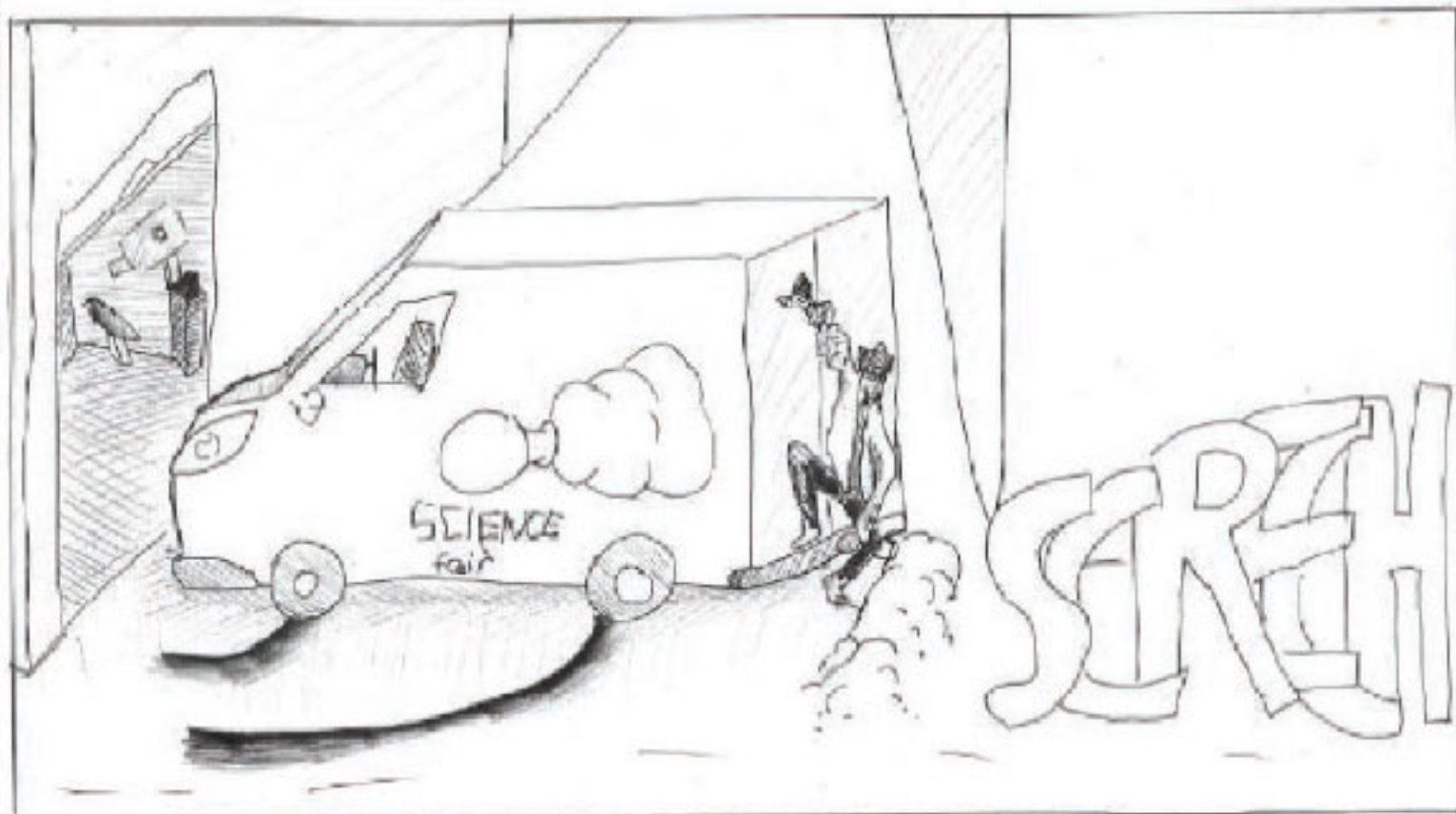
THIS IS BEN. HE IS AN ORDINARY 17 YEAR OLD BOY FOR NOW...



HOW STRANGE? WHY BEN, NOT ANY OTHER TEEN? MAYBE THE SCIENTIST HIT A RANDOM PERSON.







CLICK!



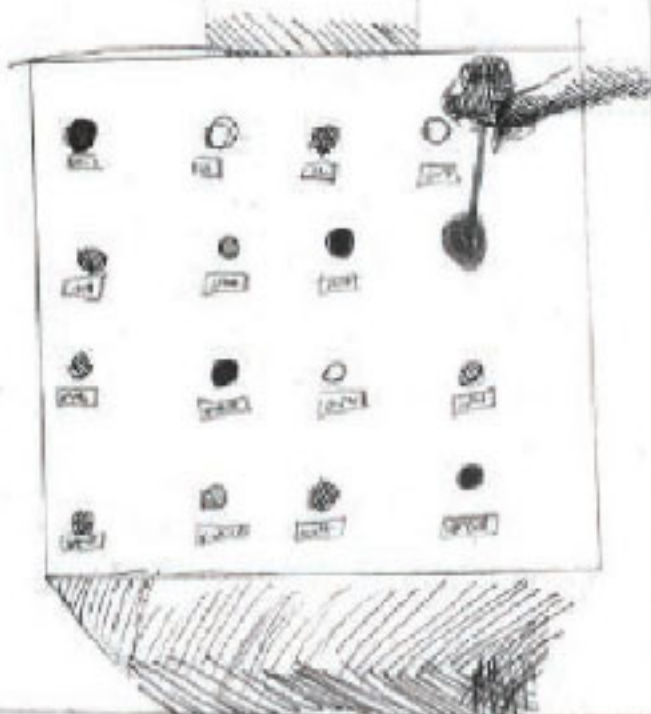
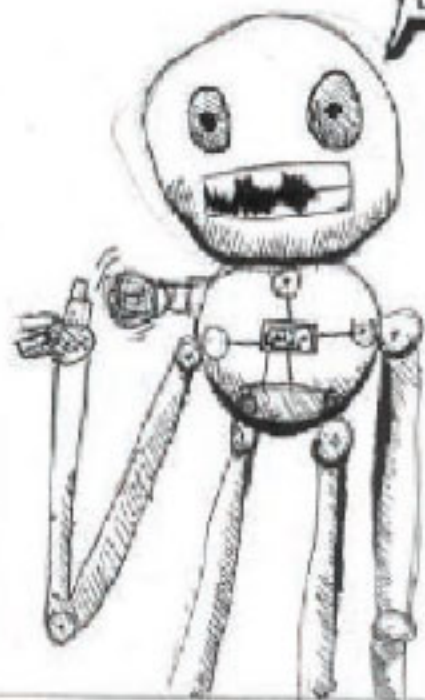
CLICK

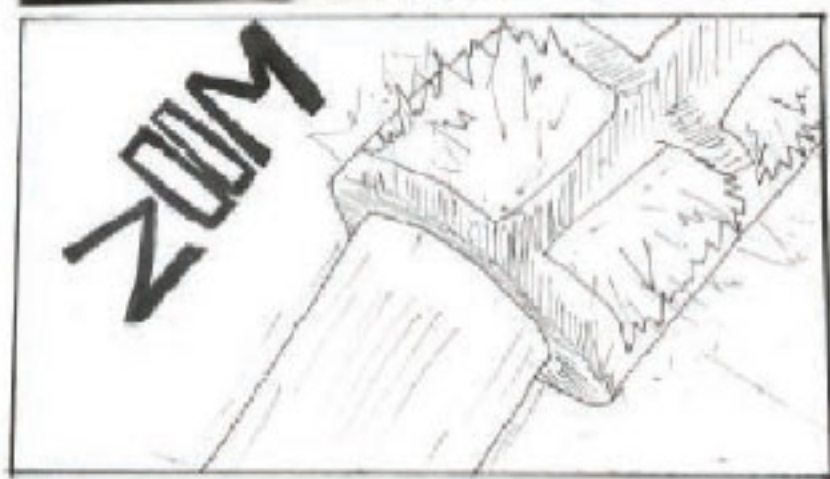
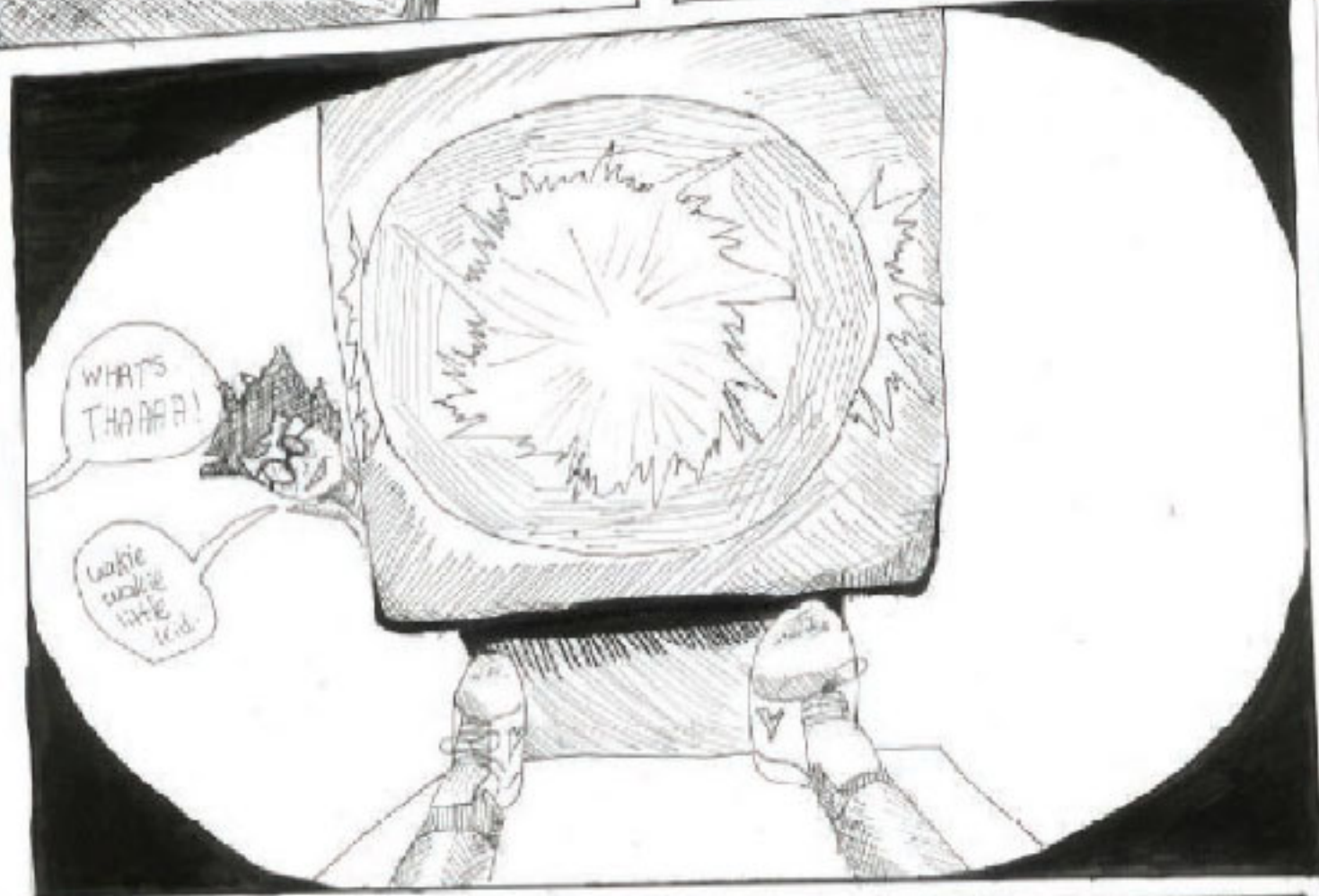
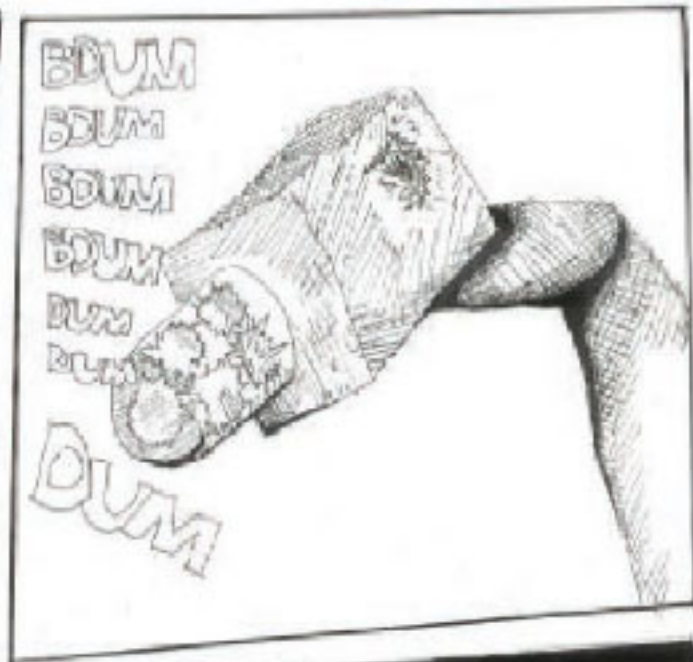
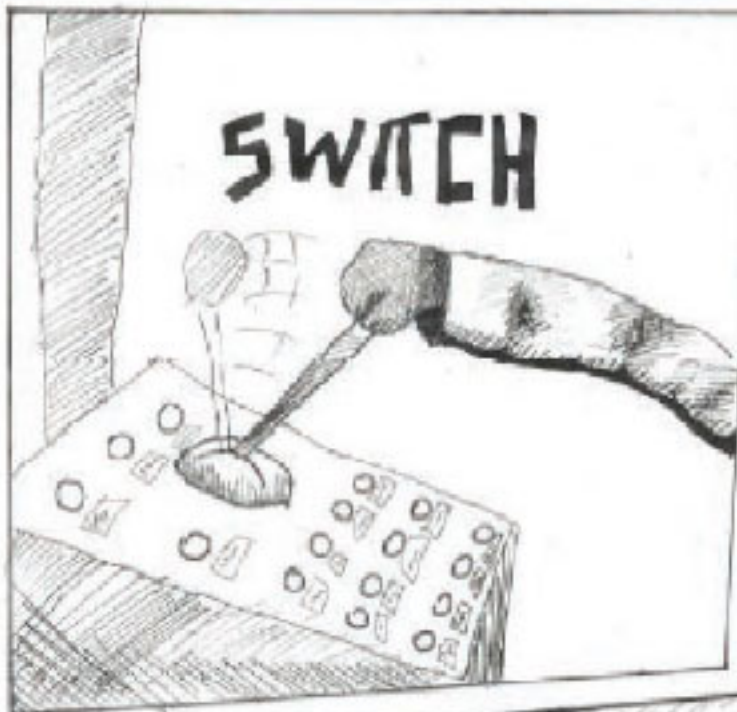


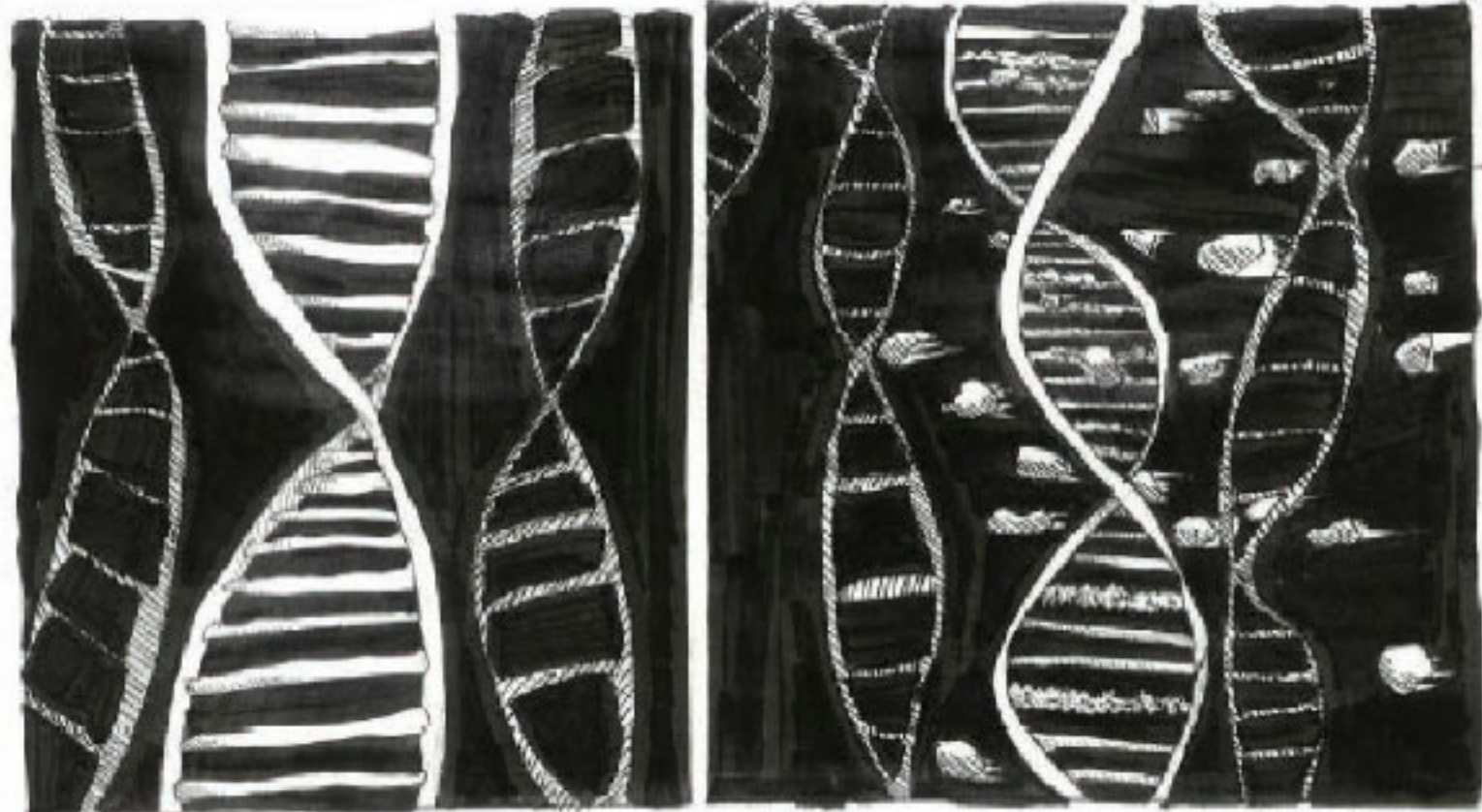
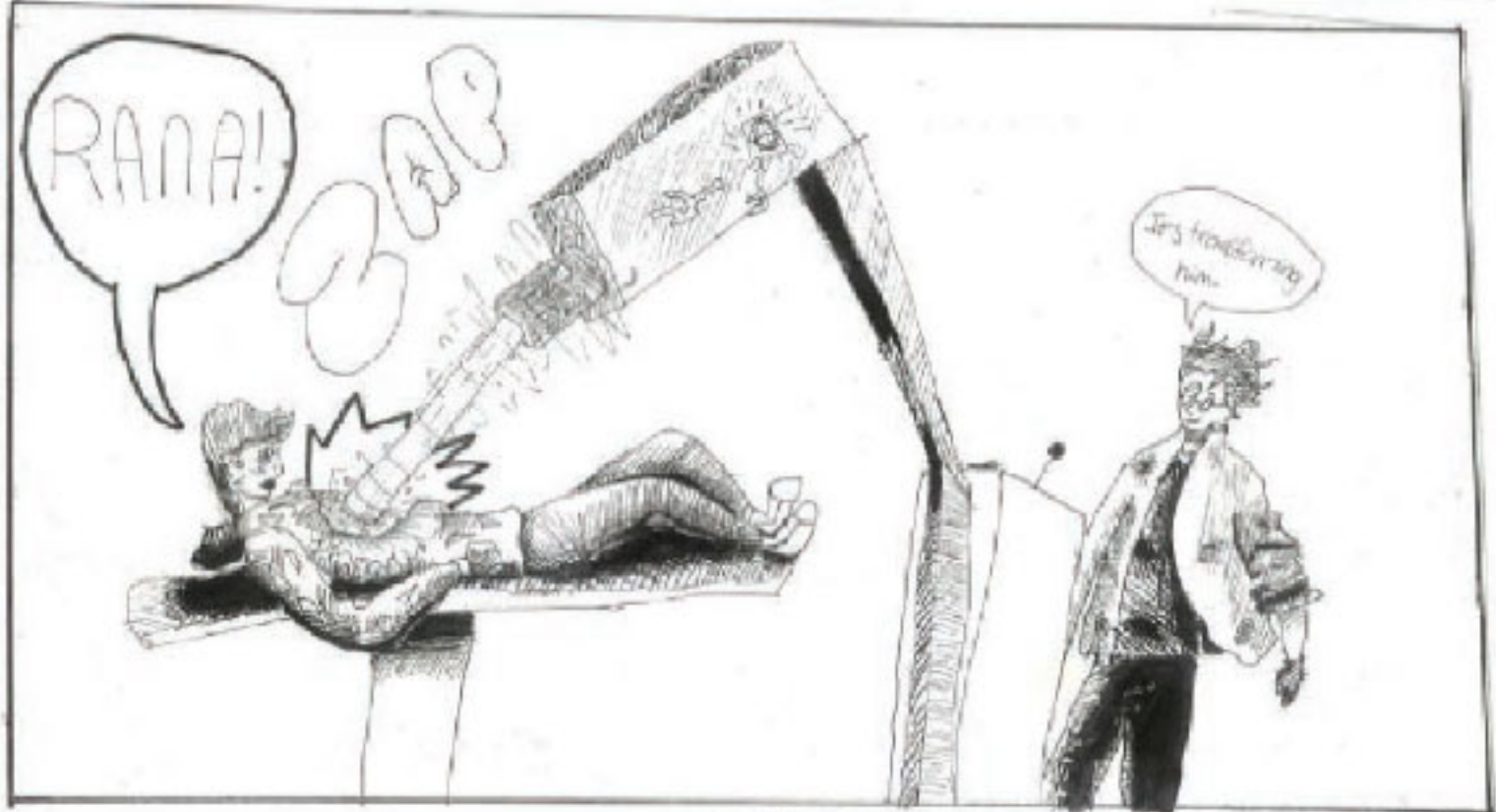
Hey Drive Bar  
Records. Recently found Alien  
gem to test I found a  
volunteer to be tested on.  
I hypothesize that the  
person will gain lots  
of energy and lose  
all of its energy all  
at once.

Let's see  
how it goes.

ALL  
DONE  
BOSS.



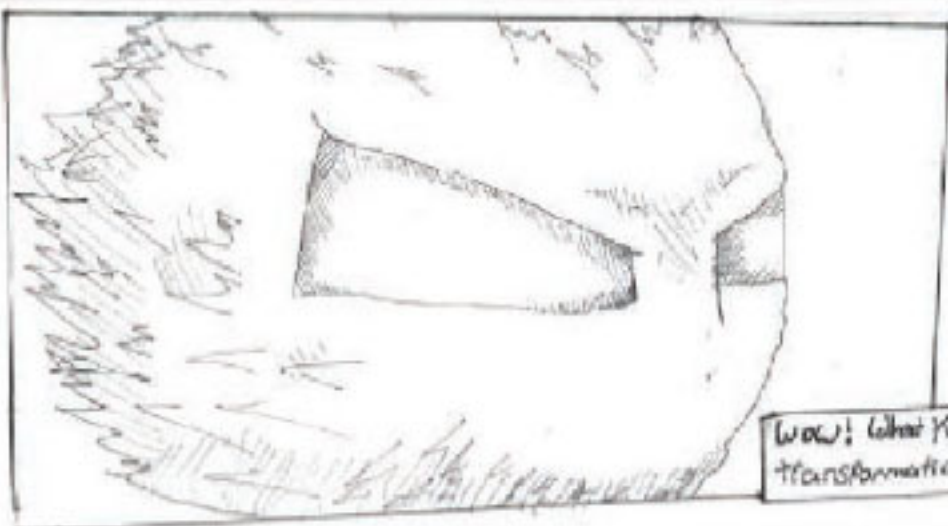






**KRANK!**





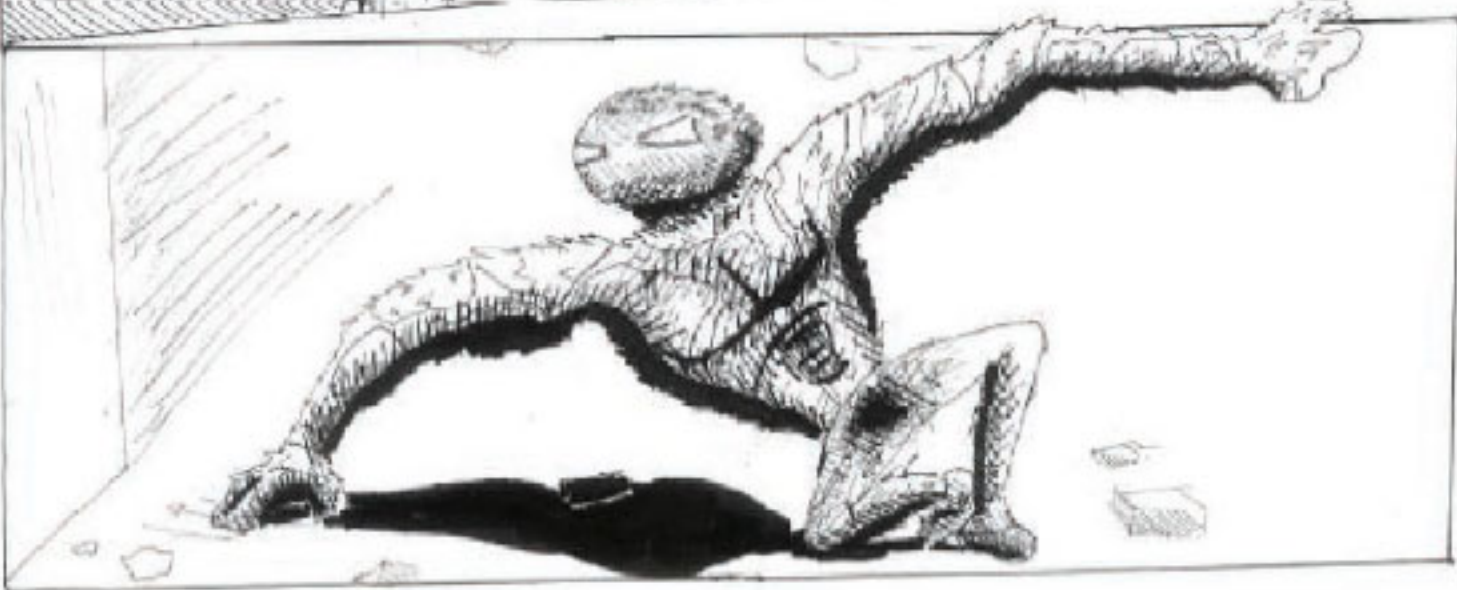
Wow! What kind of transformation is that?

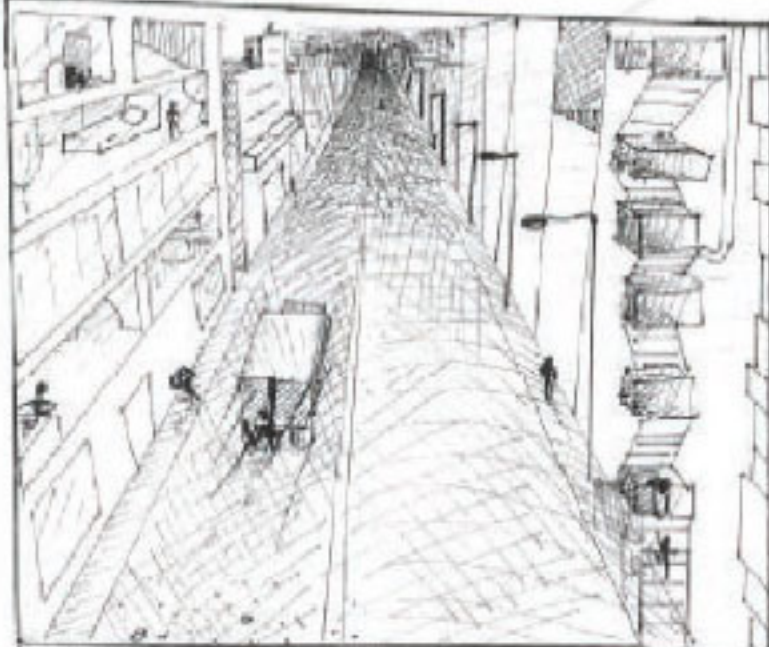


It seems powerful to see what it has done to that scientist.

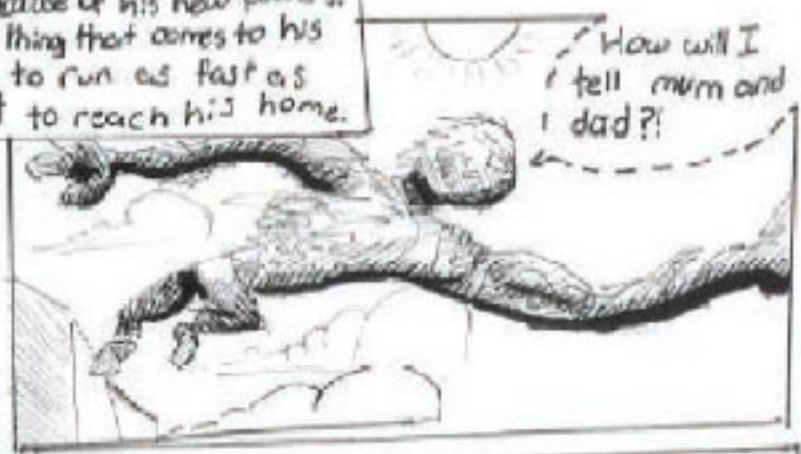
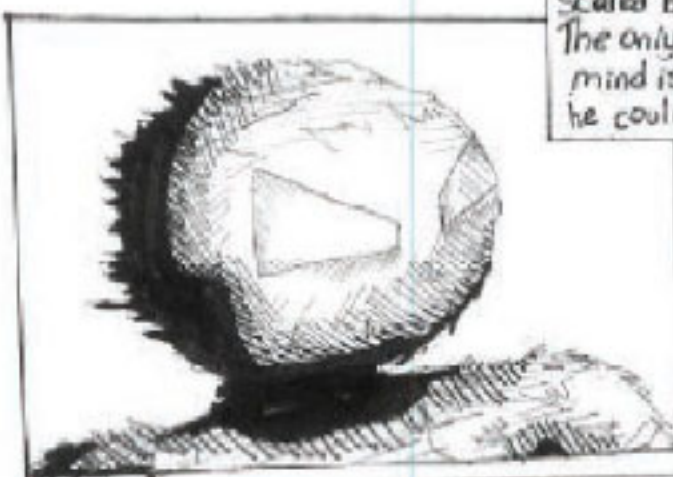
Thanked he destroyed that gem.

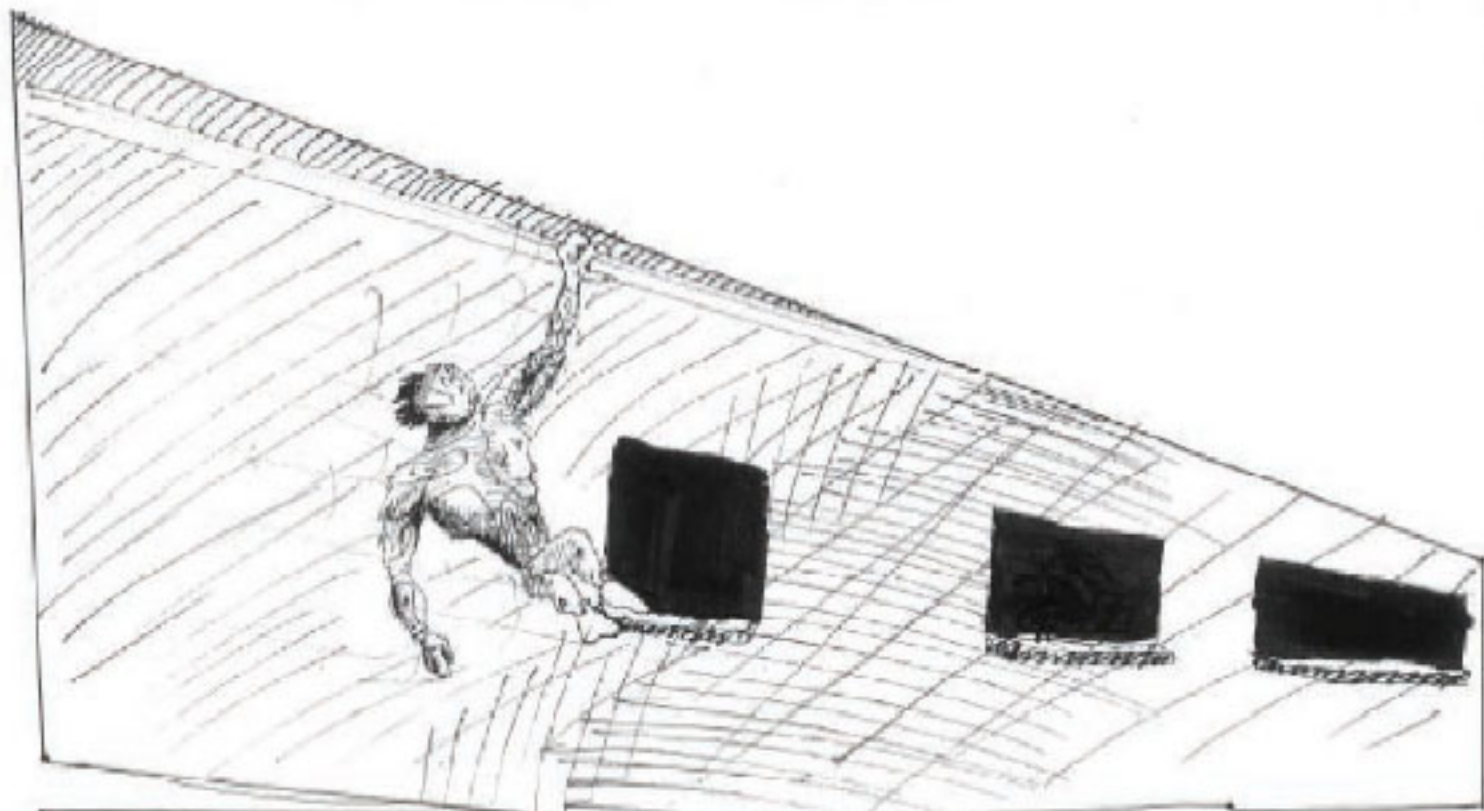
How much power does that gem have?



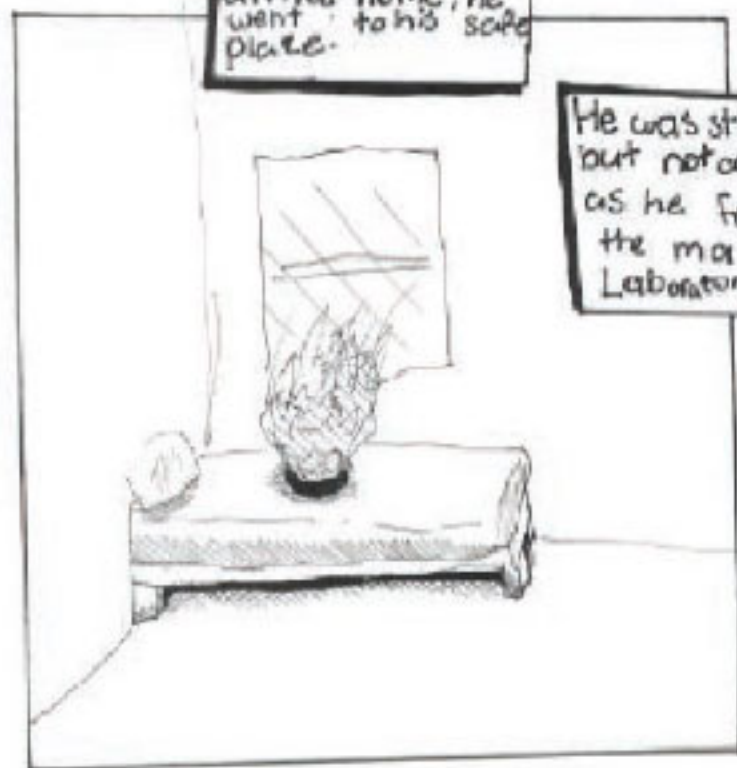


Ben was running home  
Scared because of his new powers.  
The only thing that comes to his  
mind is to run as fast as  
he could to reach his home.

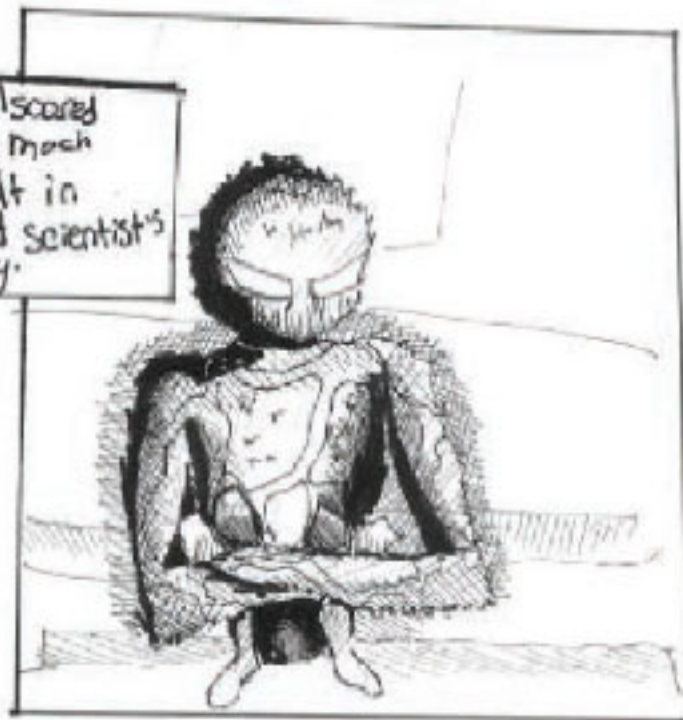


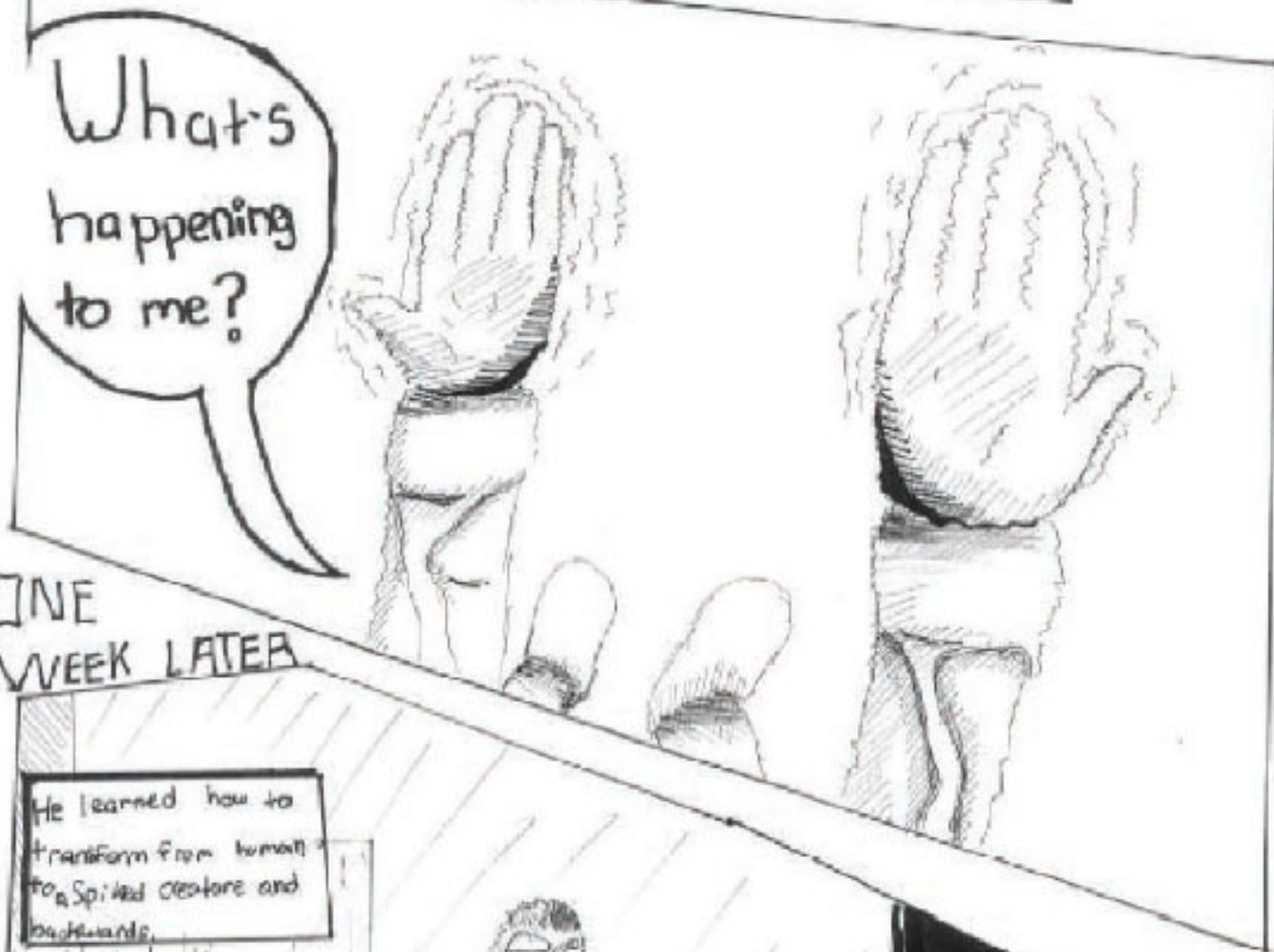
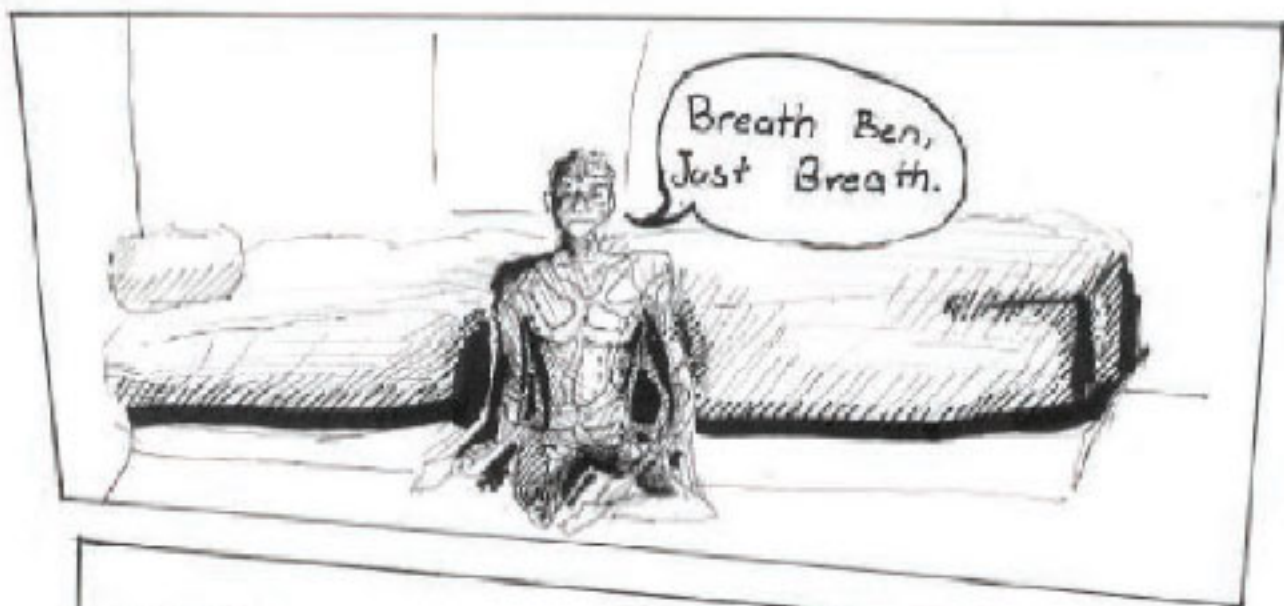


As soon as Ben arrived home, he went to his safe place.



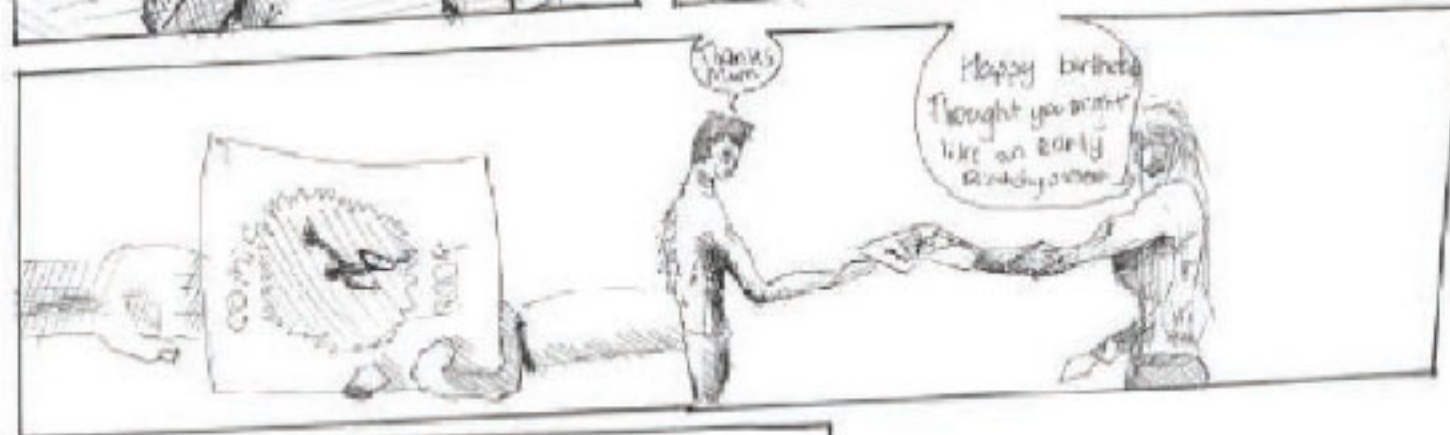
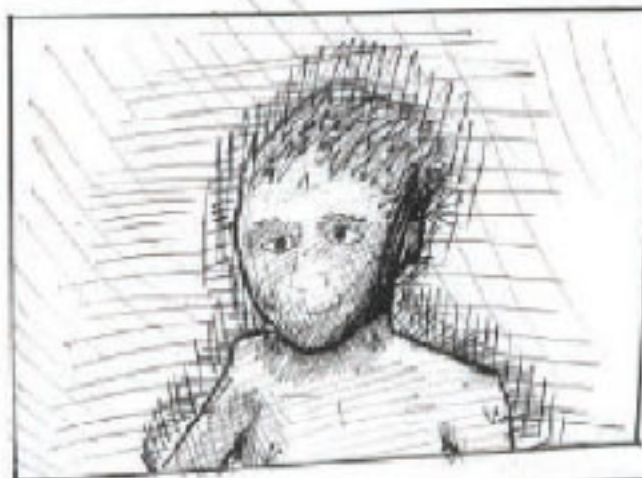
He was still scared but not as much as he felt in the mad scientist's Laboratory.





ONE  
WEEK LATER





ONE  
WEEK  
LATER

Bens mom was driving home from work ...

And she died ...

There was an explosive underground and her car drove over it and that's what happened.

NO!

Ben thought he lost his only aim. To protect his family.

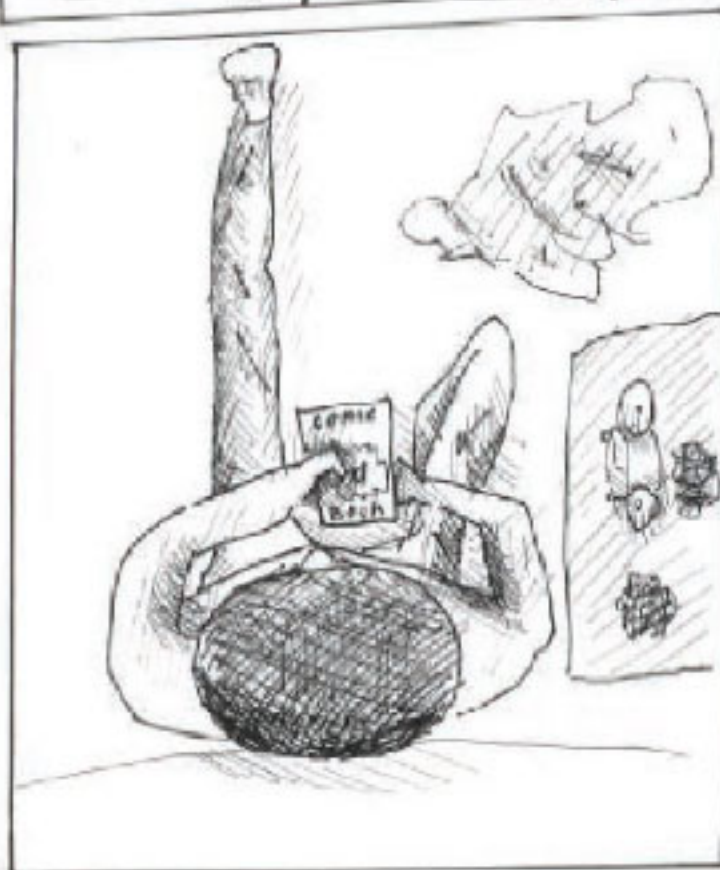
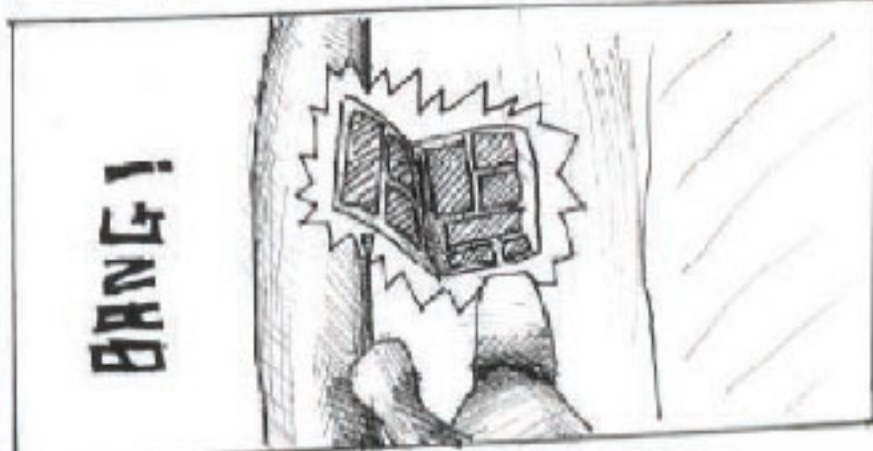
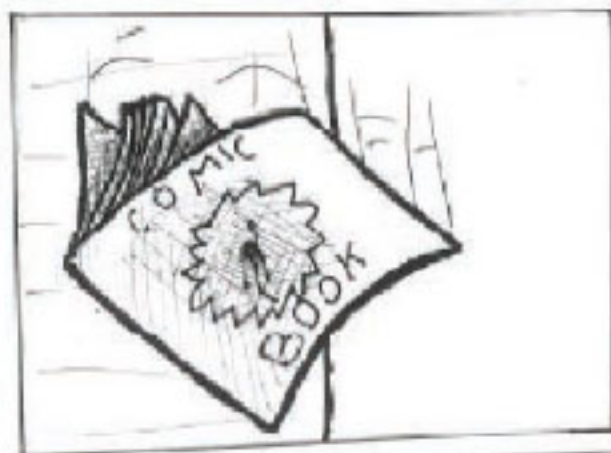
I'm going to hunt the person who did this!

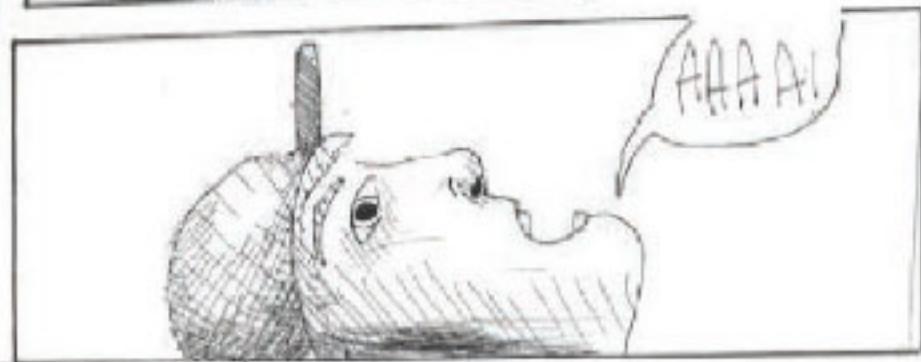
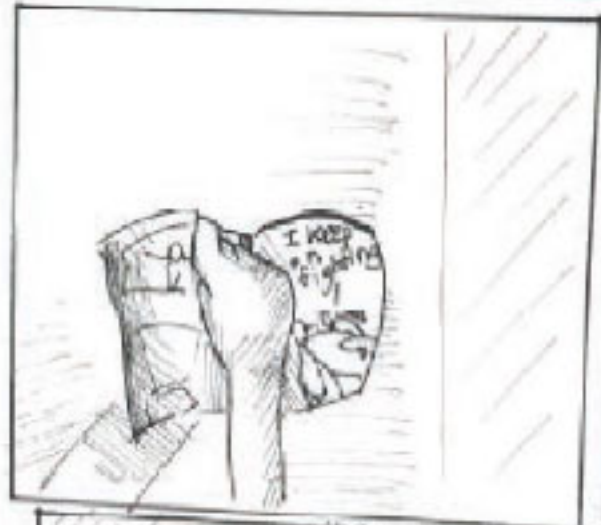
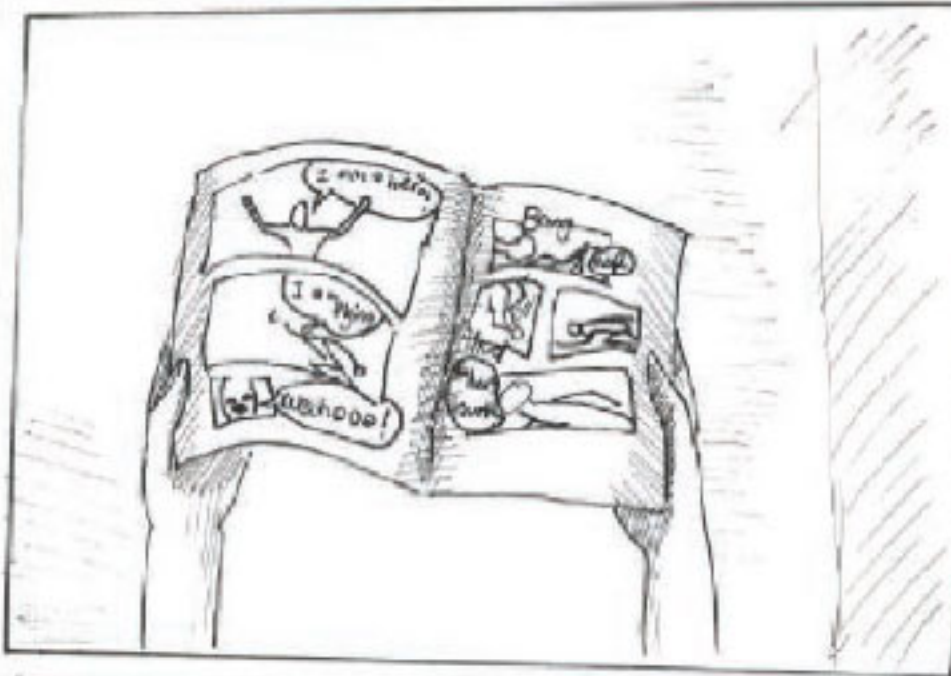
Now both me and my brother lost a loving mother that night. Now we can only live with our father. Our dad had to get a new job because of the school hours, and our school excused us for not going to school.

Yes, Ben my brother.

But I need to remember what mom used to say.

She used to say that when you get angry calm down because you could hurt the people around you.







I think it's better  
to go where  
you belong.



That was the coolest thing I have ever done in my...



BAM BAM BAM!

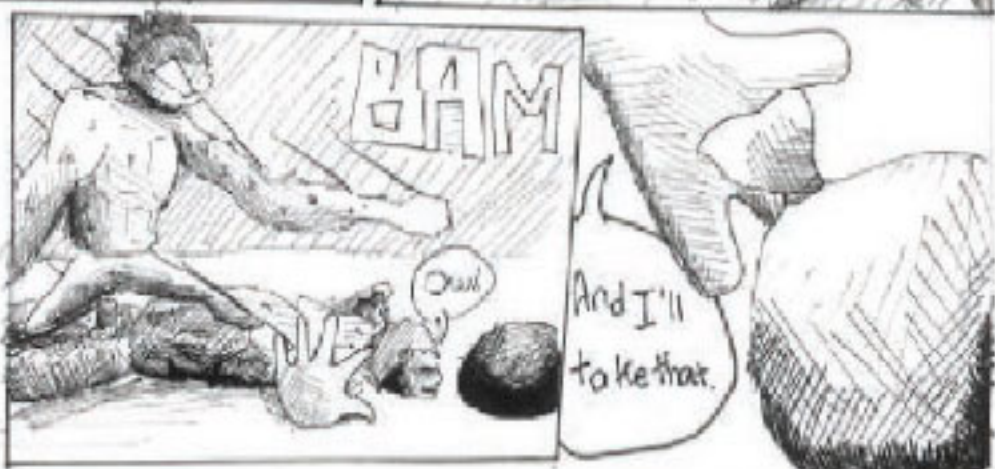
Candy Shop



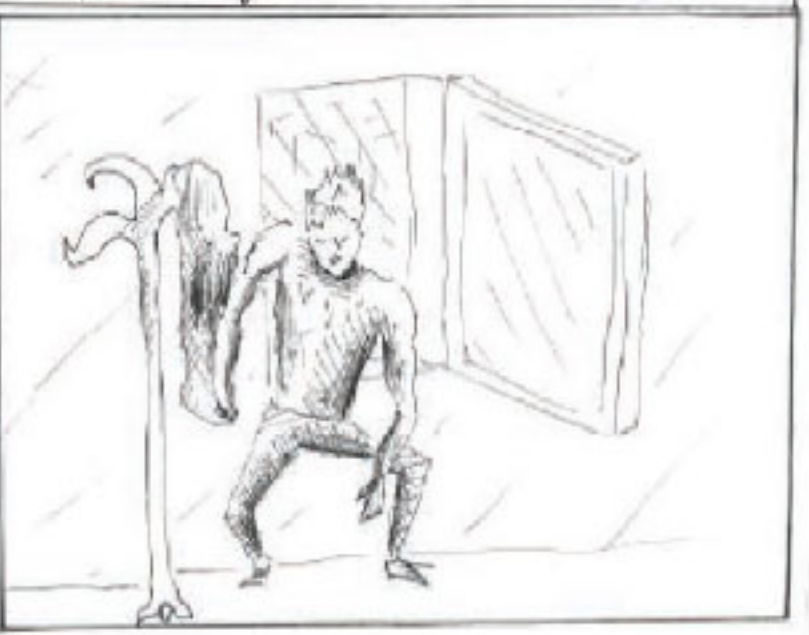
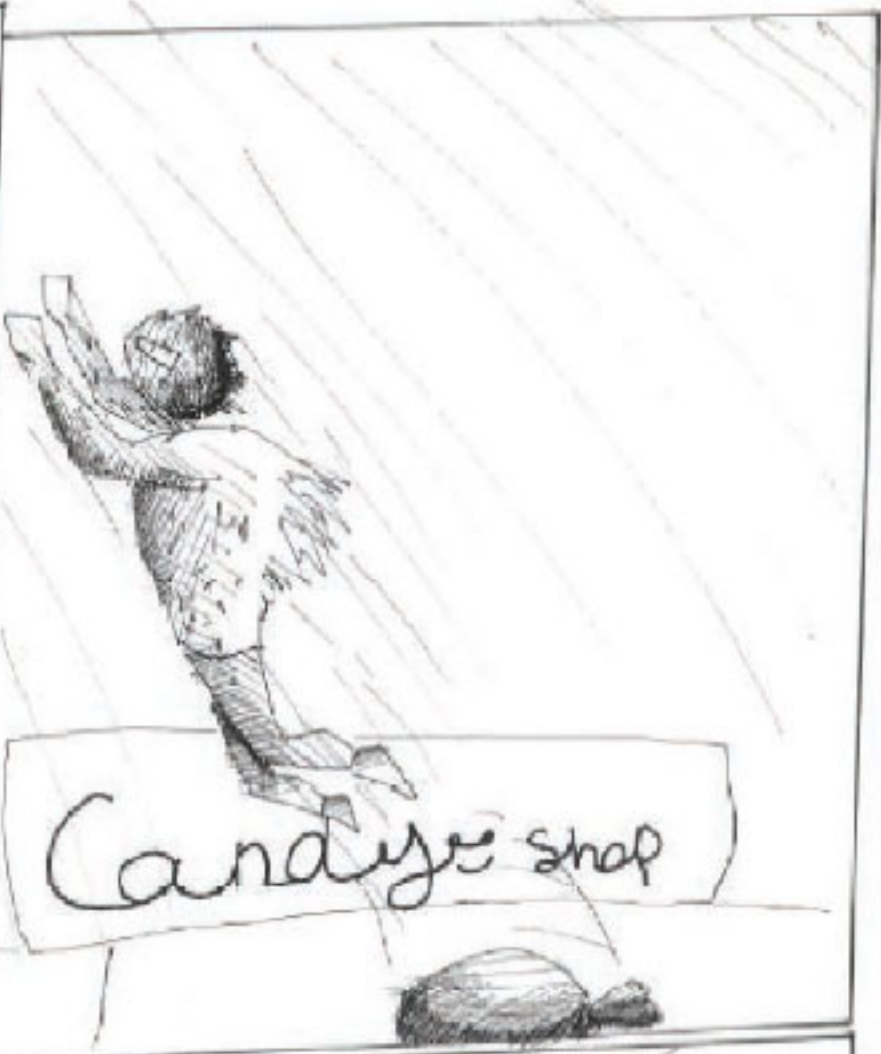
Oh! This day just keeps on getting better.



Seriously! Who robs a candy shop?! IS this guy still eight?!



And you stay!



# MEANWHILE



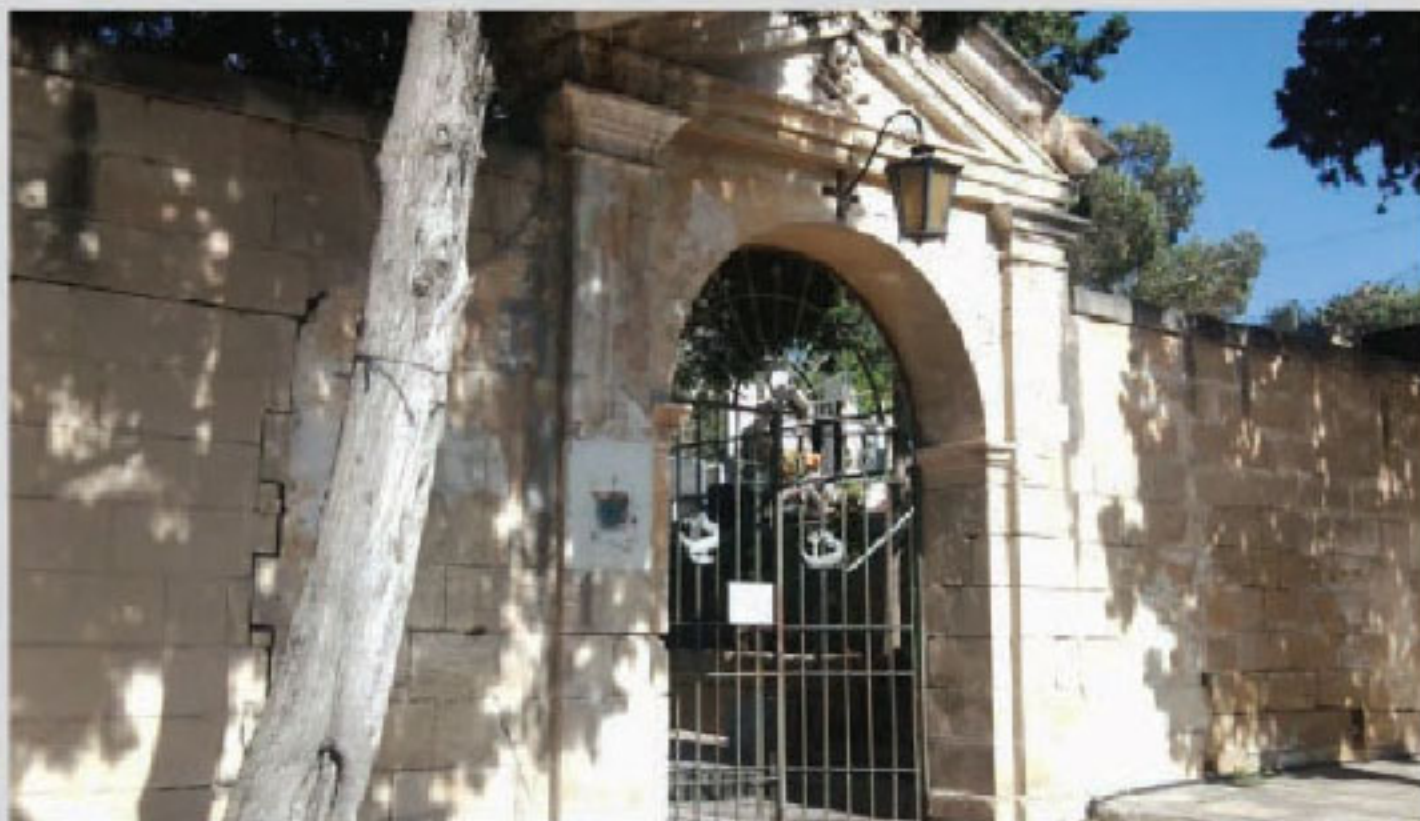
The scientist had to inject himself with another alien gem to prevent death.





# **MURDERER OR SAINT?**

## **The Story of an Execution and a Haunting**



You might have noticed this place many times when passing by our school and of course you will have realised that it is a cemetery. The site belongs to the parish of Birgu and it has a very interesting history in its own right.

You might have also visited the cemetery and noticed some details like the statue of Saint Lawrence - the patron saint of Birgu standing just inside the gate or the chapel behind it.

The cemetery was opened in 1806, but very little remains of the original graves! When the cemetery was enlarged some years ago, many of the old tombstones were removed - however one tomb was spared. The stone tablet on this tomb marks the last resting place of a British Royal Marine - Thomas McSweeney who was buried here in 1837. The inscription reads:

Sacred  
to the memory  
of  
**THOMAS MC SWEENEY**  
EXECUTED ON HMS RODNEY  
8th JUNE 1837  
AGED 22 YEARS





The British battleship HMS Rodney was commissioned in September 1835, and it was under the command of Captain Hyde Parker. She formed part of the British Fleet which was stationed in the Mediterranean. Rodney had a crew of 720 made up of officers, sailors and marines - the red coated, sea going soldiers who provided security on the ship and mounted amphibious attacks on land. Most of the men on board this ship came from the southwest of England.

While the ship was at anchor off Barcelona in Spain, on July 16, 1836, a fateful incident took place involving Royal Marine private Thomas McSweeney.

McSweeney, who came from southern Ireland, was the only Roman Catholic among the crew, most of whom were Protestants. He was 21 years old when he joined the Rodney in 1835. He always tried to do his duty to the best of his abilities, but he was often teased by crew members and officers because of his religion and his Irish origins.

Serving on the same ship and being his immediate superior was Lance Sergeant James T. Allen, a 24-year-old from Kent. The fact that Allen was English and a Protestant resulted in the two being incompatible. The sergeant would sneer at McSweeney and reprimand him for the silliest of reasons.

One day, the marines were hoisting the ship's boat on board, when Allen noticed that McSweeney was absent .

Going below decks, he found the missing marine putting up his hammock in his billet on the main deck quarter.

Allen was furious and reported McSweeney to the officer in charge for neglecting his duty.

Heave ho! Come on lads, we're nearly there!

Now where's that no good for anything Irish swine?!



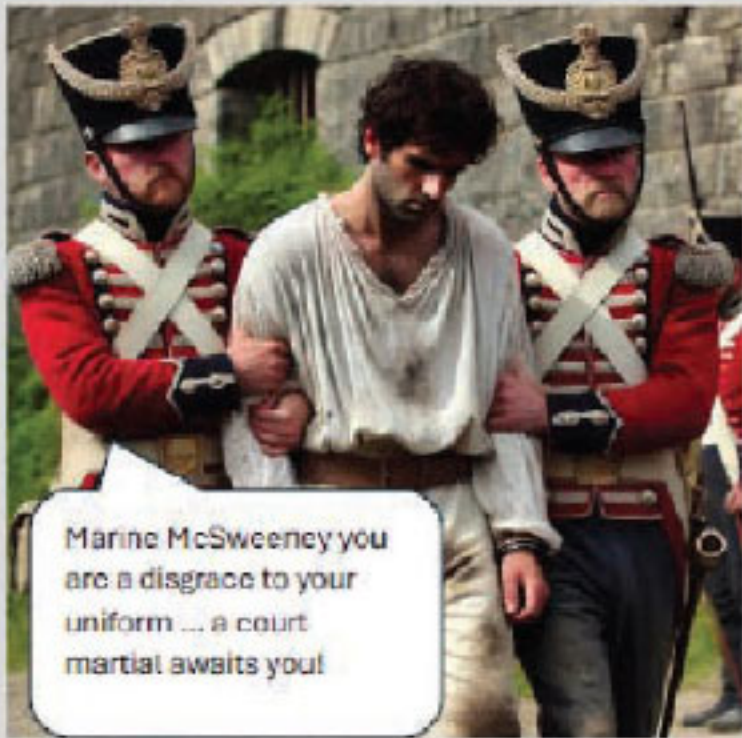
Marine McSweeney is to be kept under guard until he is investigated for skiving.

There's nothing much we can do for Sergeant Allen. He's a goner!



McSweeney lost his temper and assaulted Allen. He rushed at the sergeant and pushed him into the deck below.

The sergeant had no warning of the attack and although he threw out his arms in an attempt to break his fall of just six feet, unfortunately he struck his head on the deck below. Sergeant Allen was carried to HMS Rodney's sick bay. He was examined by the ship's surgeon, who found him suffering from symptoms of violent concussion of the brain. On July 21, Allen died from the injuries sustained and was buried at sea the following morning.



Marine McSweeney you are a disgrace to your uniform ... a court martial awaits you!

On August 1, Captain Parker wrote to the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet based in Malta.

He wanted McSweeney to face a court martial.

Clapped in irons, McSweeney was transferred from the Rodney to another ship which was sailing for Malta.

McSweeney's court martial took place over two days – Friday, February 25, and Monday, February 27, 1837 – aboard HMS Revenge, at anchor in Malta.

On February 27, McSweeney was allowed to address the court. He said: "I was furious because the sergeant was calling me names, so I made a short run to catch hold of him, without even thinking he could possibly fall...I was not thinking of taking the sergeant's life."

However, despite this explanation, the officers making up the court martial panel reached the unanimous opinion that McSweeney was guilty. The following sentence was given: "The prisoner is to be hanged by the neck until he is dead..."

The sentence was approved by the Commander-in-Chief of the Admiralty in London who ordered that it was to be carried out on HMS Rodney. The ship was ordered to sail to Malta so that the death sentence could be carried out.



You are guilty of striking a superior officer – there is only one punishment for that: Death!



McSweeney was kept in a cell and was not allowed any contact with the outside world, except for two Maltese priests, Padre Maestro Vincenzo Tonna and Rev. Dott. Carmelo Falzon, who did their bests to prepare the young sailor for his forthcoming execution.

It is unlikely that McSweeney had intended to kill Allen, and the sergeant was very unfortunate to die considering that he had not fallen a great height.

It was pre-dawn, at 5.15am on June 8 1837. As the dew dried and the mist cleared, a boat with the prisoner on board headed towards HMS Rodney. McSweeney boarded the Rodney and stood at the foot of the main mast in front of his mates. Large crowds of people gathered on the bastions. The crews of the other ships were also mustered on decks to witness the hanging.

Captain Parker read out the death sentence in front of the doomed McSweeney.

The hangman adjusted the noose around the young man's neck. The other end of the rope was held by sailors and marines, all waiting for the signal to haul him up.

Upon the firing of a gun, at exactly six o'clock, they pulled at the rope, quickly pulling the young man up the yard-arm, a height of 60 feet. His death was immediate, for he had lost much of his strength from his long stay in prison.



McSweeney's corpse turned in the breeze for half an hour. After that, the body was lowered and transported to the Tas-Salvatur chapel, behind Bighi's Naval Hospital, in Vittoriosa (today Kalkara).

Many Maltese from Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua joined the hooded members of the Rosarianti Confraternity of Valletta who according to tradition, organised the procession and funeral of executed prisoners.

McSweeney was carried in a procession and buried in the cemetery of St Lawrence in Vittoriosa. It was definitely, a most moving sight.



SACRED  
TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
OMAS MC SWEENEY  
EXECUTED ON  
H. M. S. RODNEY  
8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1837  
AGED 23 YEARS.



Some people believed that McSweeney was a saint and that he was hanged because of his Catholic beliefs. Others thought that the sentence was unfair, since what happened on HMS Rodney was an unfortunate accident.

In time, people started reporting that they had seen the ghost of a young, polite, fair-haired man in the cemetery. They believed that it had to be McSweeney. McSweeney's ghost is said to linger by the grave and to possess mystical powers and that he had even granted graces to people who prayed to him!

Over the years, McSweeney's burial place has become a shrine for pilgrims commemorating what they declare are the many wrongs inflicted by the English on the Irish. It is still visited nowadays by people who believe they have received graces through his intercession, and candles are always alight and flowers are placed on his grave in the furthest corner of the cemetery.



*Thank you!*

*If you have any questions or would like to submit your own article, feel free to reach out to us via the email below.*

[seniorlibrary@delasalle.edu.mt](mailto:seniorlibrary@delasalle.edu.mt)



*Thank you!*

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