

OSCAR RIVAS BÁEZ WAS 14
YEARS OLD WHEN THE
EARTHQUAKE HIT.



HE WAS IN THE LIBRARY OF
THE NÚÑEZ VÁSQUEZ
SECONDARY SCHOOL, READING
ABOUT A 2022 FACTORY FIRE
IN GUANDONG, CHINA.

SANTIAGO, SANTIAGO METROPOLITAN
REGION, CHILE, OCTOBER 21, 2024

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS WAS 39, AND THIS IS WHAT CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF ÓSCAR RIVAS BÁEZ, NOT YET CONCERNED WITH THE NUANCES OF SAFE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN.

HE REALIZED EACH OF THESE THESE PEOPLE
HAD A LIFE AS HEAVY AS HIS.

HE IMAGINED 39
MORNING GOODBYES,
ALL UNWITTINGLY
FINAL.

THE THOUGHT IS NOT AN UNCOMMON ONE, BUT TO ÓSCAR RIVAS BÁEZ, WHO CONSIDERED HIMSELF ABOVE HIS PEERS FOR SPENDING LUNCH BREAK IN THE LIBRARY, IT HAD THE FORCE OF REVELATION

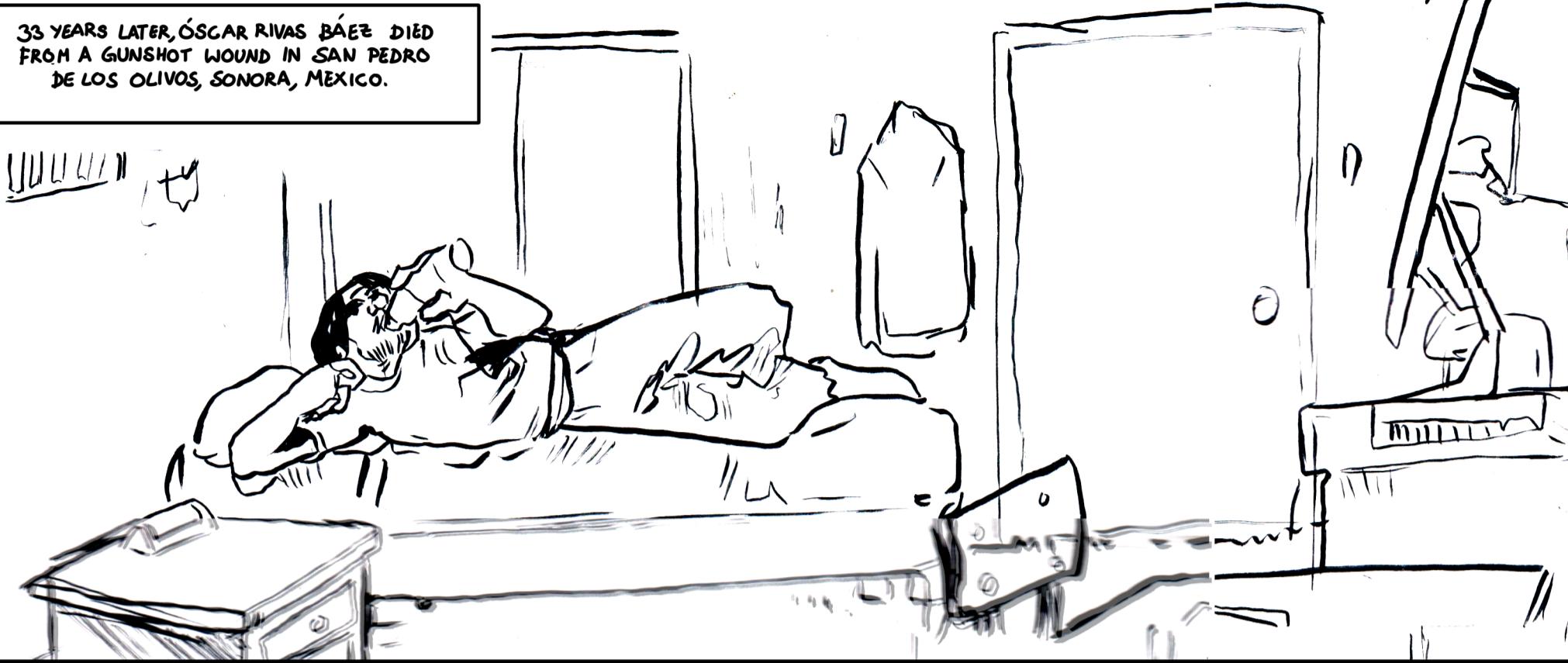
NOT LEAST
BECAUSE IT
WAS FOLLOWED
BY THE EARTH
SPLITTING
OPEN

A black and white line drawing of a man in a suit and tie, looking shocked or surprised. He is surrounded by several large, dark, spidery hands reaching towards him from all sides. The background shows a window with multiple panes.

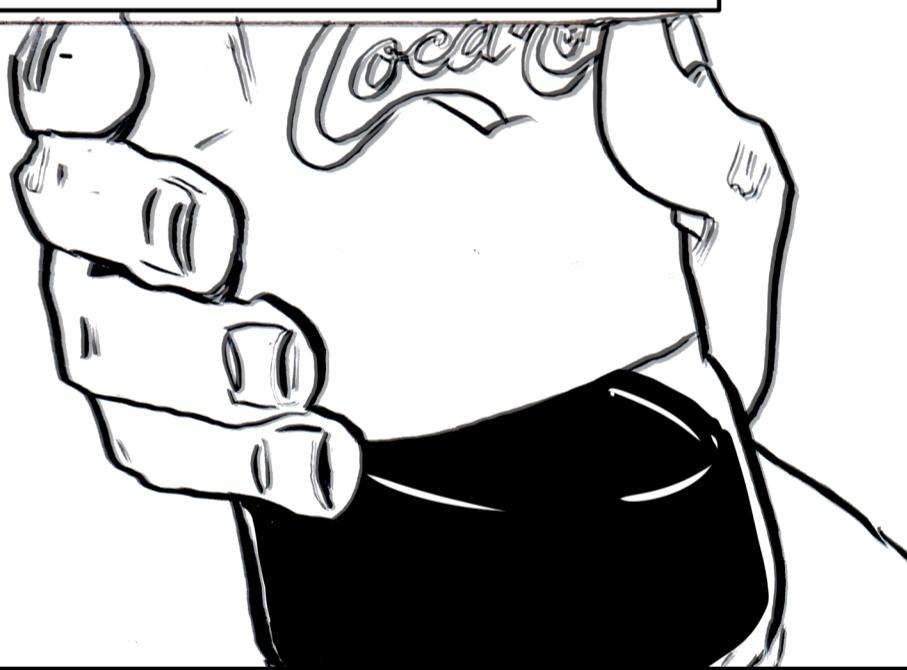
A black and white comic panel depicting a man in a suit and tie, looking shocked or distressed. He is surrounded by a chaotic scene of broken glass and debris. A sign with the letters "G.P." is visible in the background, suggesting a gas station. The art style is dynamic and expressive, with heavy use of lines and shading.

A black and white illustration depicting several open books scattered across a surface. In the center, a book is open to pages 39 and 40. The left page contains the text 'L'HARAH OLAH
TANAH V'YAMIN
V'YAMIN V'YAMIN'. The right page contains 'Y'ADAH
V'YADAH V'YADAH'. Above this central book, a speech bubble contains the text 'THEY ALL FELL OPEN ON A PARTICULAR PAGE.' Other books are visible in the background and foreground, some with their pages numbered (39, 40) and others with wavy lines representing text.

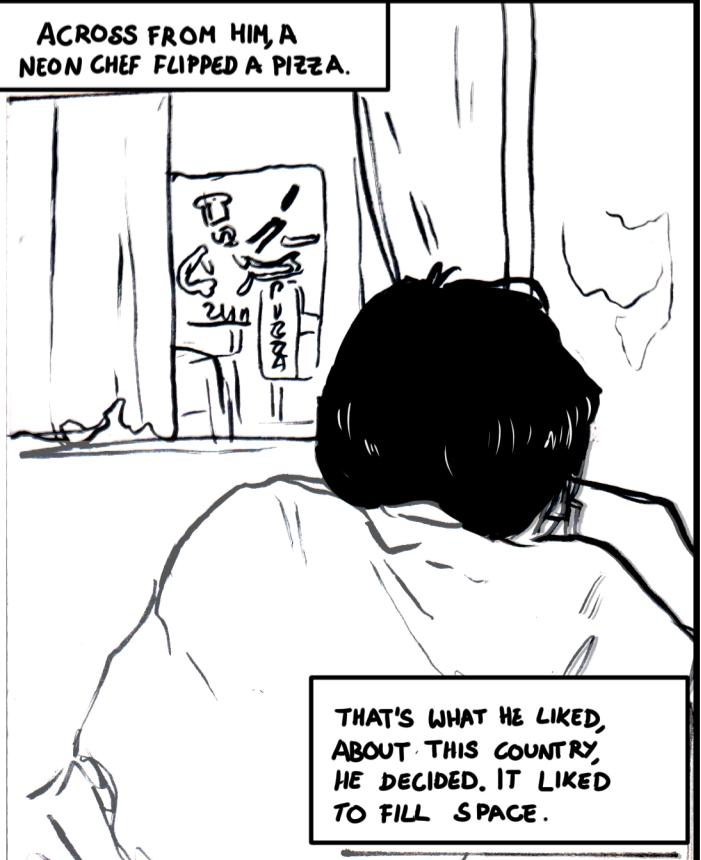
33 YEARS LATER, ÓSCAR RIVAS BÁEZ DIED FROM A GUNSHOT WOUND IN SAN PEDRO DE LOS OLIVOS, SONORA, MEXICO.



THE NEXT NIGHT, IN A RUN-DOWN MOTEL A FEW KILOMETERS FROM TUCSON, ARIZONA, JOSÉ ANDRÉS TORO CONTRERAS LAY ON HIS SIDE, READING THE INGREDIENTS LIST ON THE BACK OF HIS COCA-COLA BOTTLE.



ACROSS FROM HIM, A NEON CHEF FLIPPED A PIZZA.



IN 2047, JOSÉ ANDRÉS TORO CONTRERAS FLED CHILE VIA THE ATACAMA



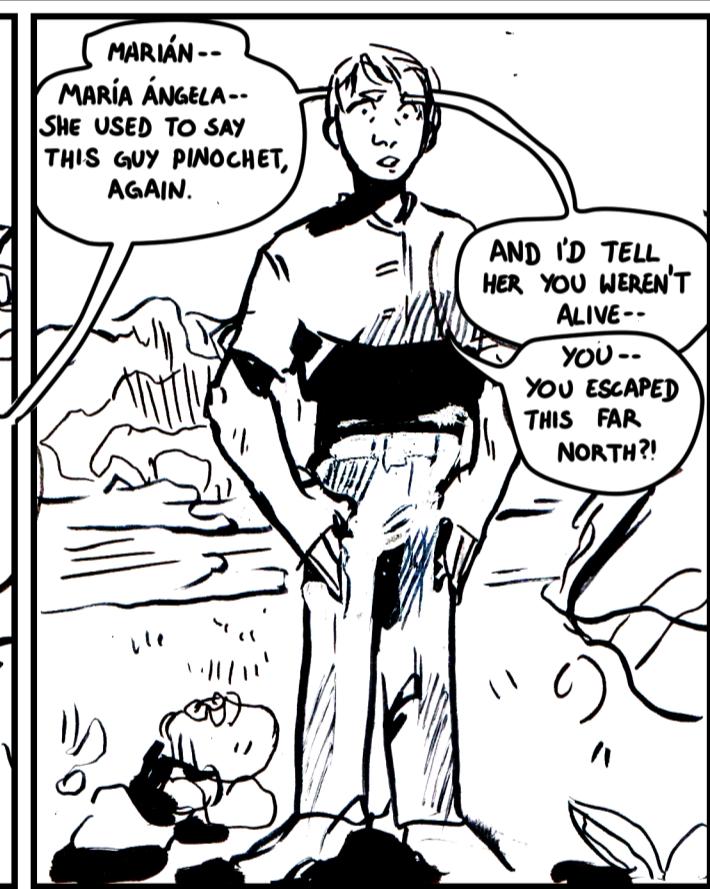
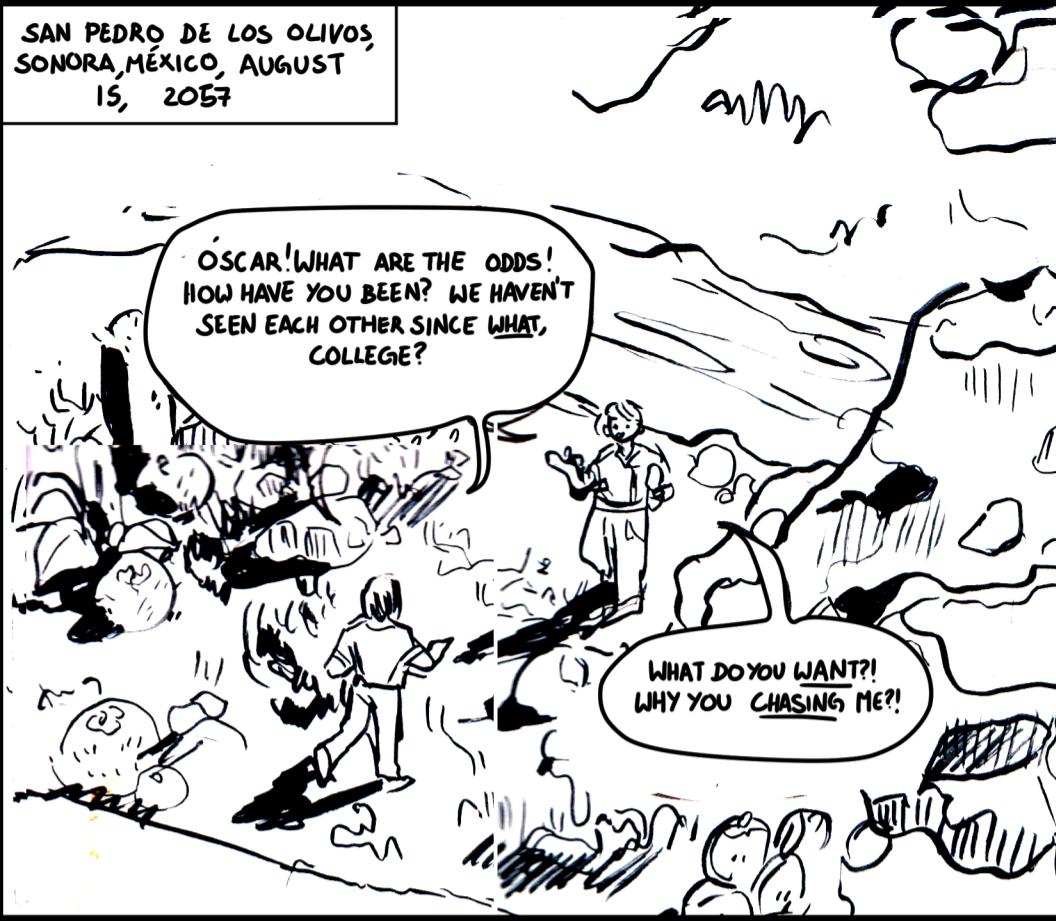
THEY JUST SET HIM ON EDGE

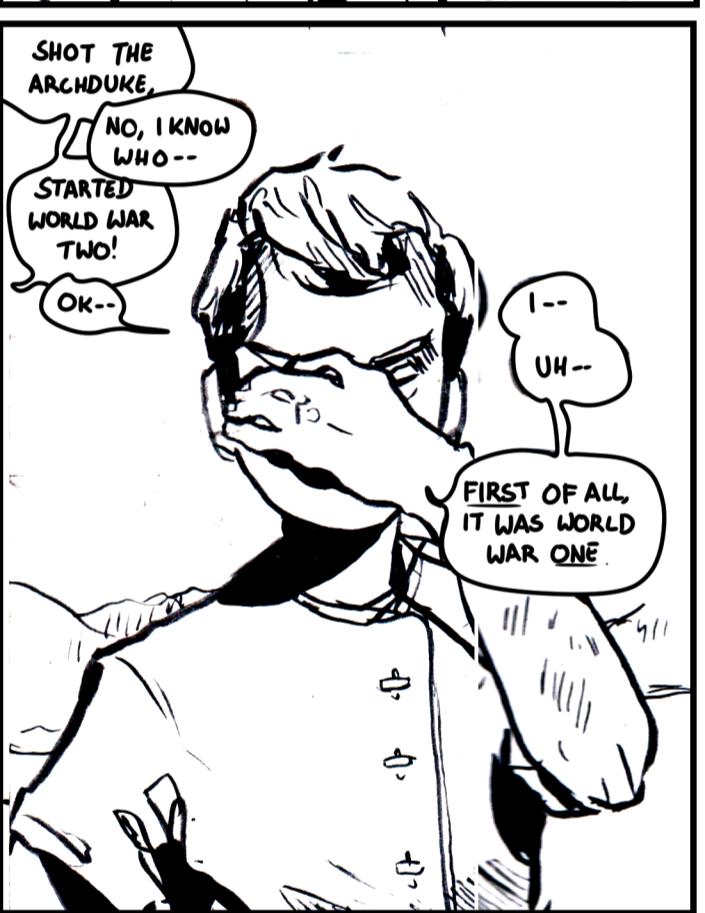
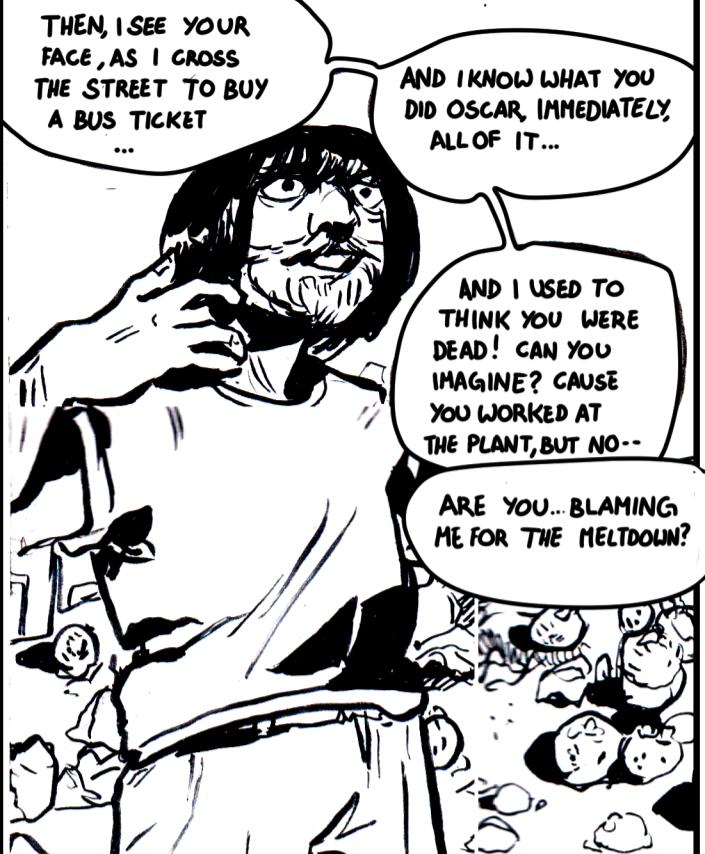


THAT'S WHAT HE LIKED, ABOUT THIS COUNTRY, HE DECIDED. IT LIKED TO FILL SPACE.

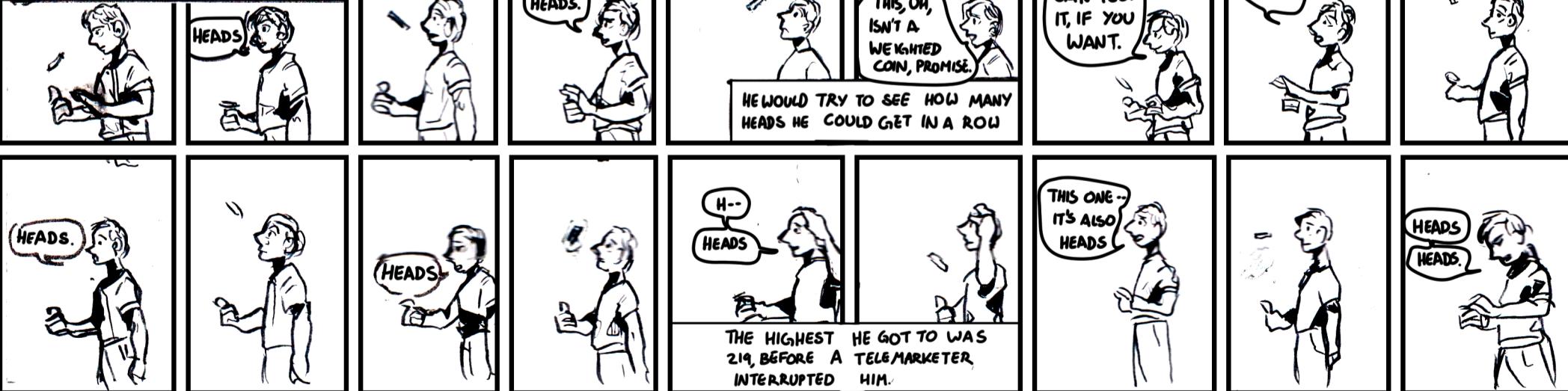
HE KNEW DESERTS WELL. HE APPRECIATED THEIR MATHEMATICAL BEAUTY.

SAN PEDRO DE LOS OLIVOS,
SONORA, MÉXICO, AUGUST
15, 2057



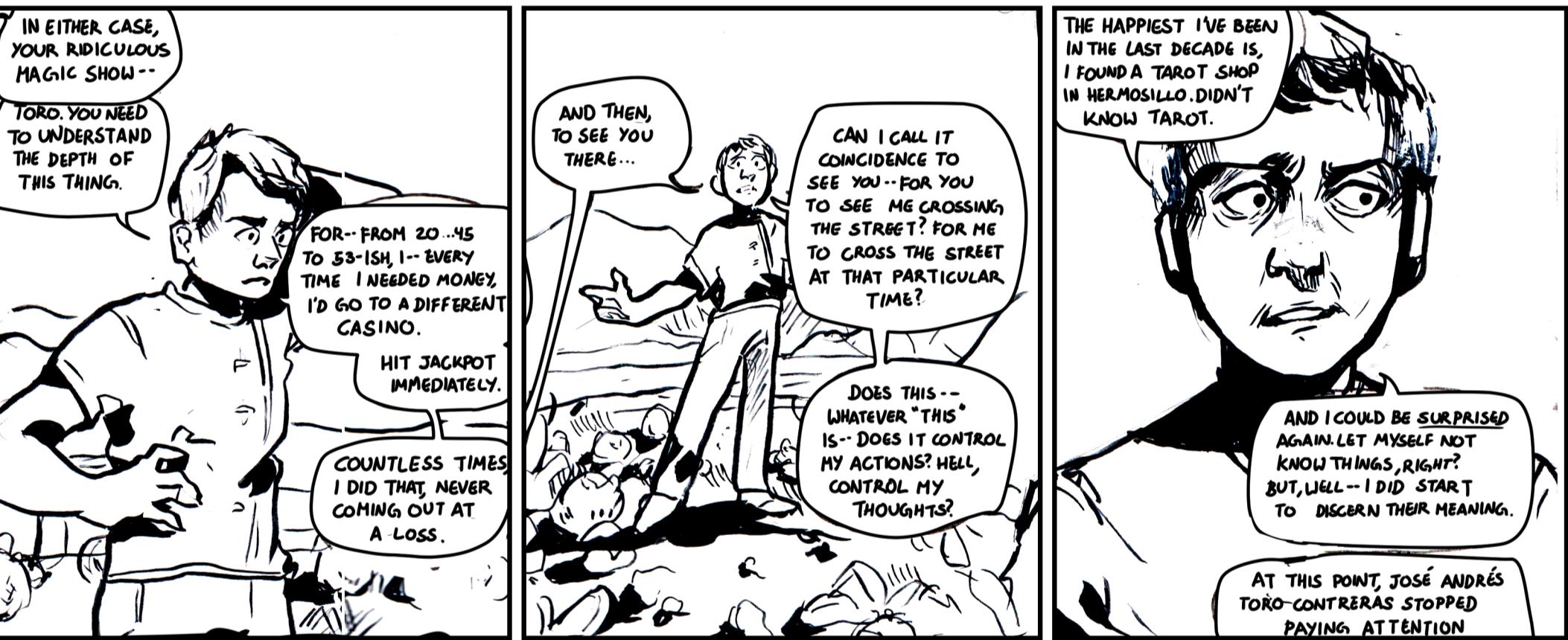
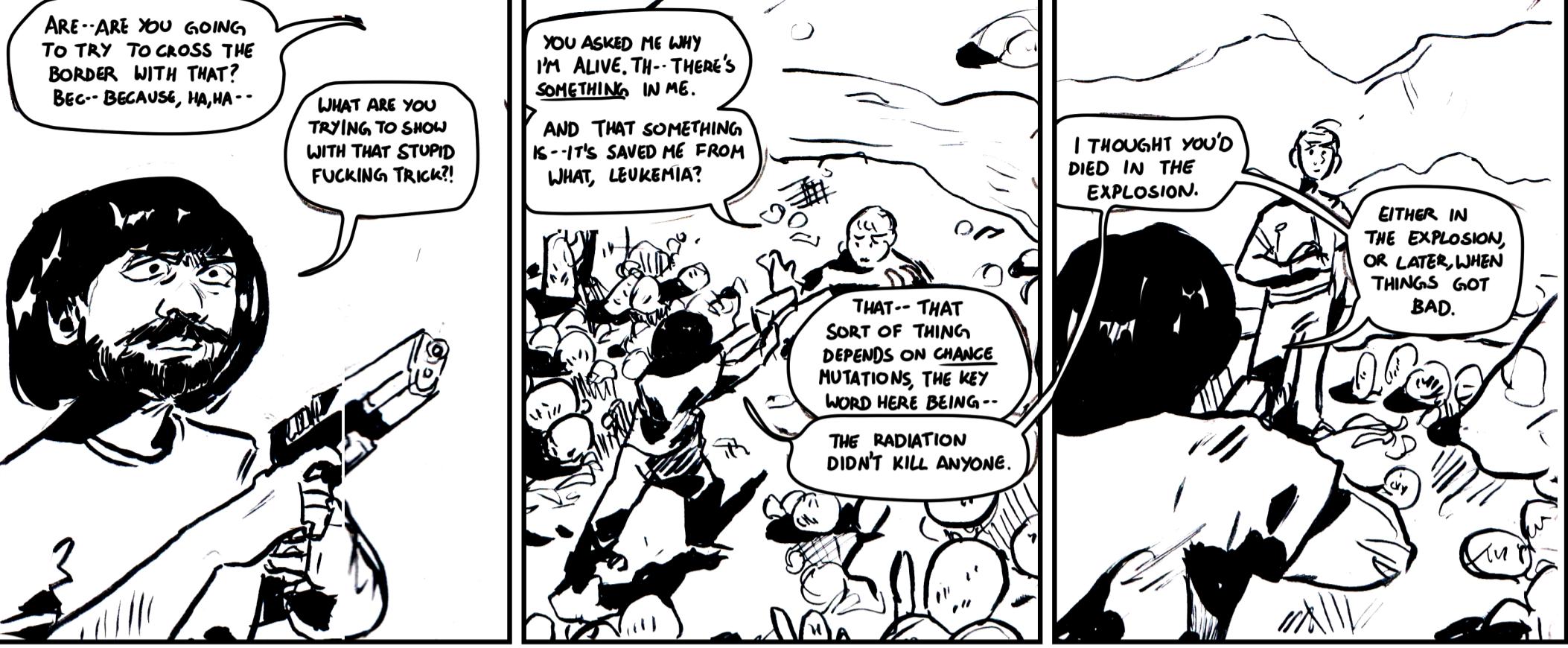


ÓSCAR RIVAS BÁEZ DEVELOPED A COIN-FLIPPING HABIT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

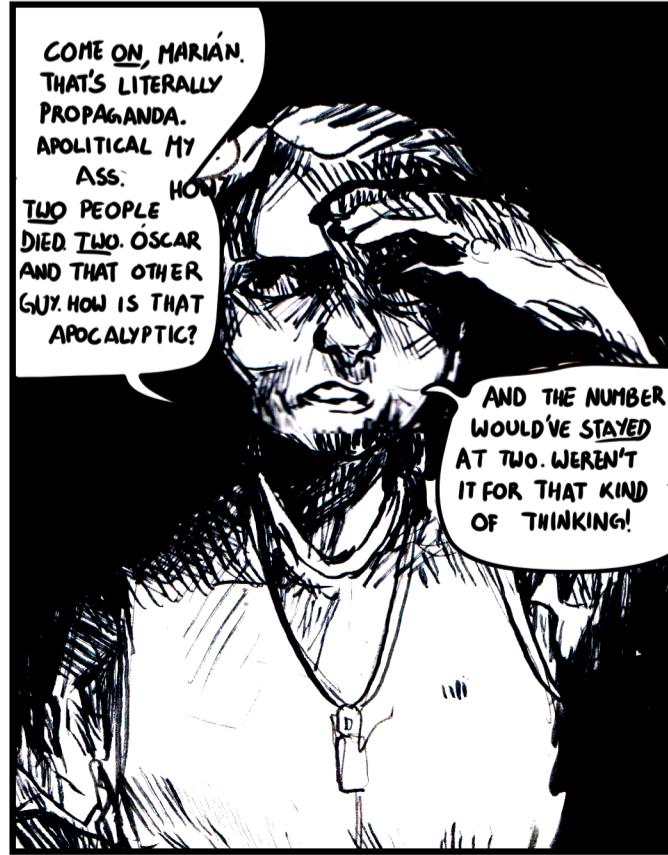
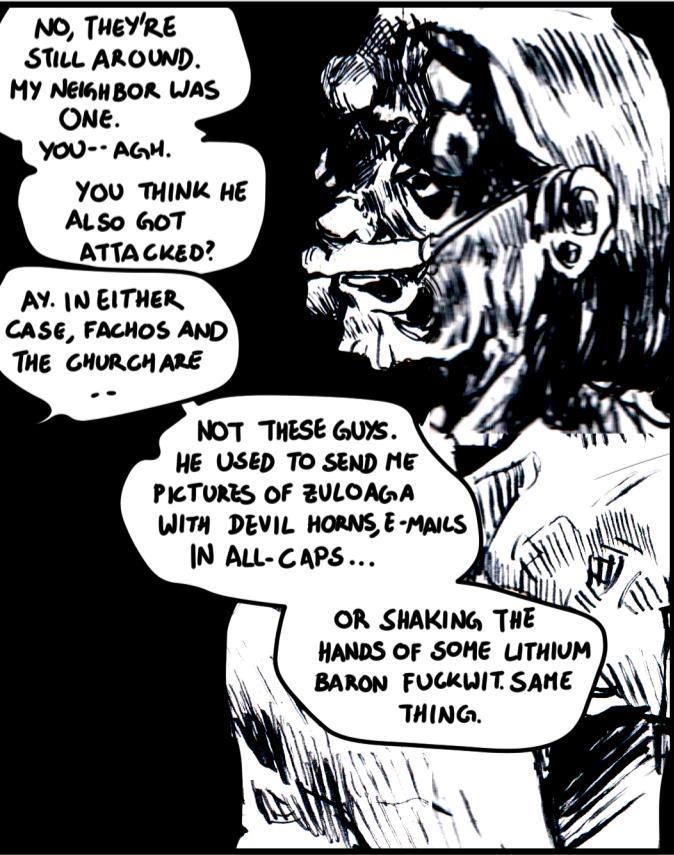


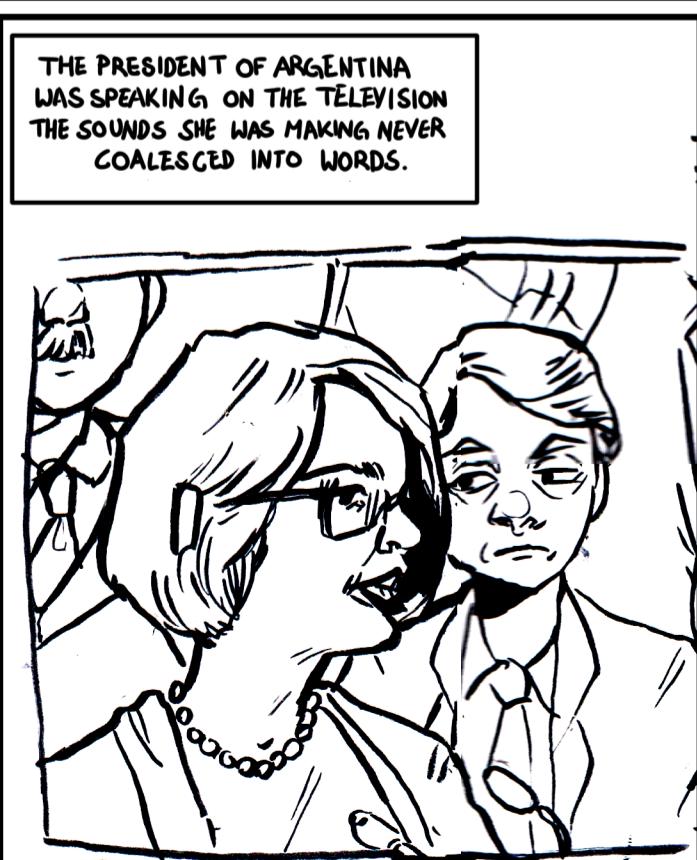
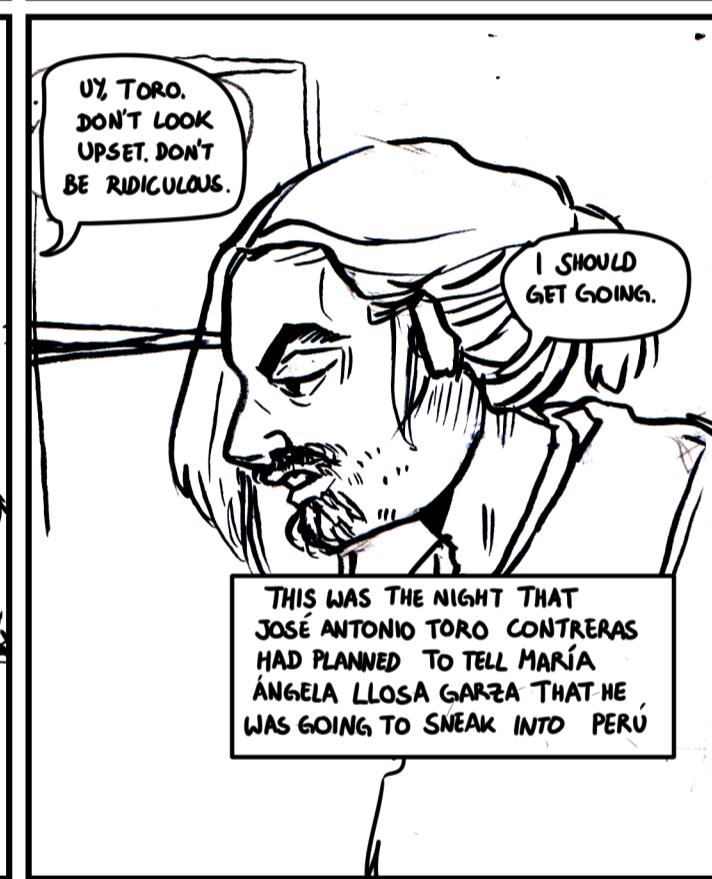
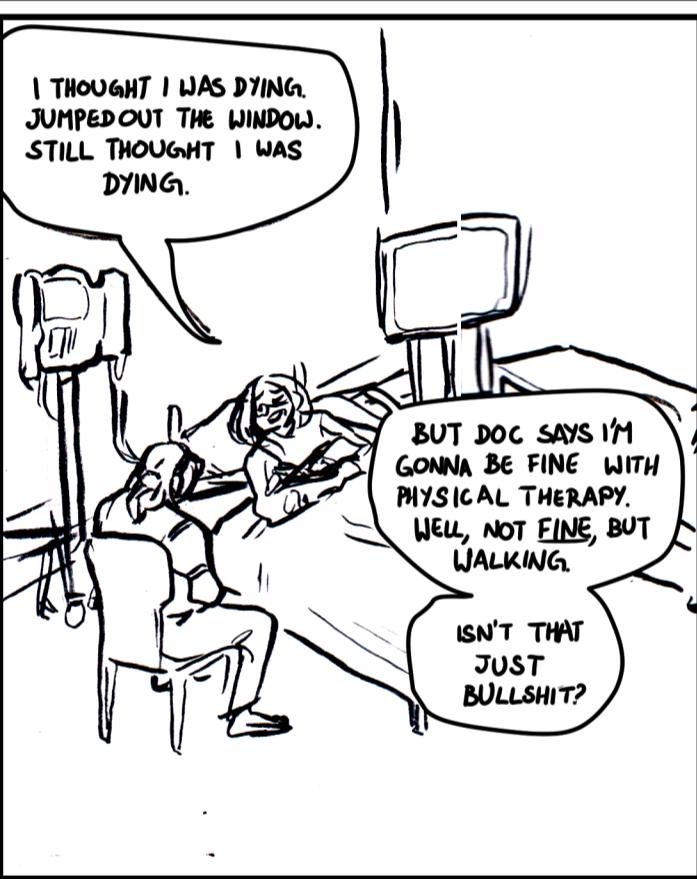
THE HIGHEST HE GOT TO WAS
219, BEFORE A TELEMARKETER,
INTERRUPTED HIM.

IN THE SONORA DESERT, HE GOT TO 13 HEADS BEFORE HIS OLD COLLEGE FRIEND PULLED OUT A GUN.



CANDLELIGHT, BECAUSE THE HOSPITAL
HAD TO RESERVE POWER FOR THE VENTILATORS.







THE BULLET HIT IN SUCH A WAY
THAT OSCAR RIVAS BAEZ DID NOT
IMMEDIATELY LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.

