


"A riotous and fearlessly real story of figuring out that you're trans"
— Alice Oseman, bestselling author of *HEARTSTOPPER*

WELCOME TO ST. HELL

MY TRANS TEEN MISADVENTURE



LEWIS HANCOX



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WELCOME TO
ST. HELL

BY LEWIS HANCOX

TO MY GRANDAD.
FOR EVERY COMIC YOU BOUGHT ME
AS A KID, NOW I HAVE MY OWN!
MISS YOU EVERY DAY, GRAMPS.



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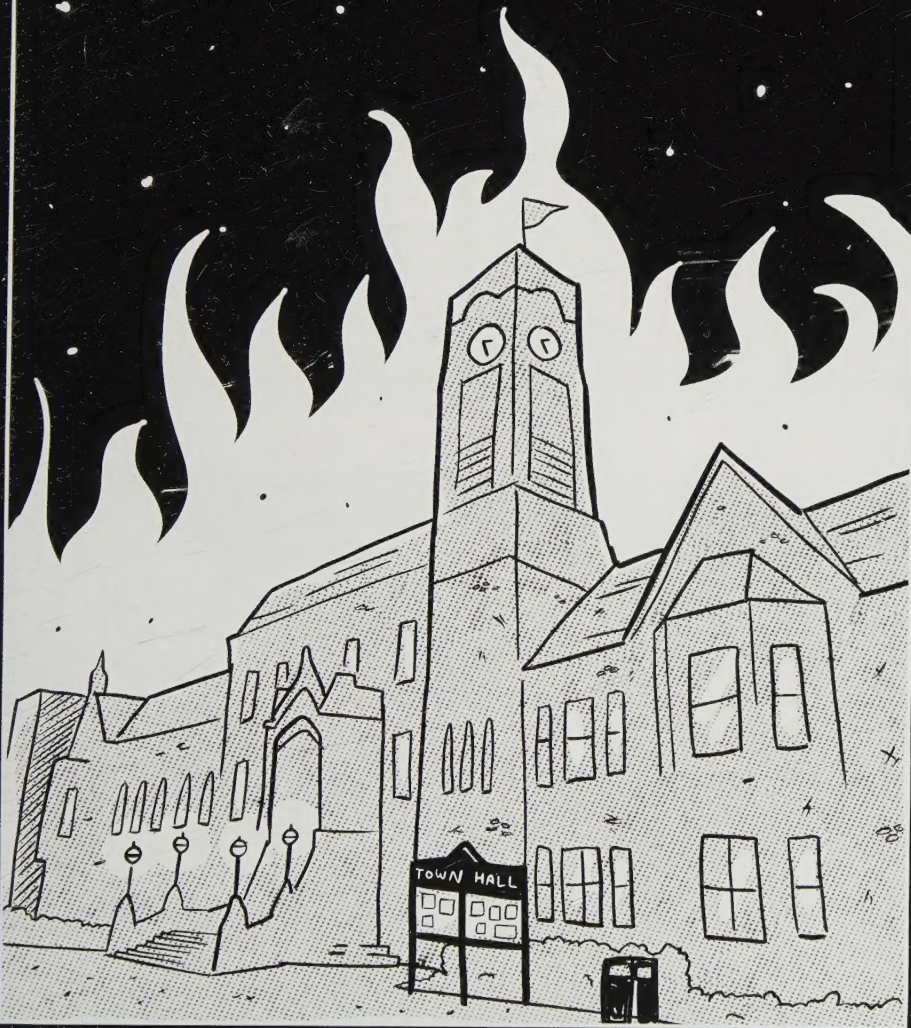
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1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

WWW.SCHOLASTIC.CO.UK

WELCOME TO ST.HELL, WHERE ALL IS GREY.



HIYA! I'M LEWIS. I GREW UP IN
A SMALL TOWN, ST. HELENS.



OR AS ME AND ME MATES
LIKED TO CALL IT...



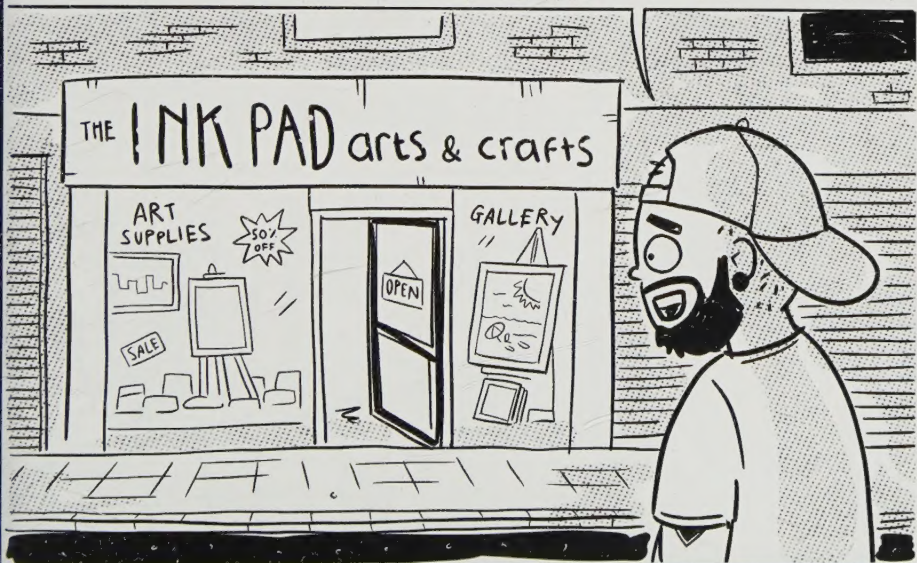
I'M BACK 'ERE ON A MISSION... TO REASSURE MY PAST SELF
THAT I MADE IT THROUGH. I LIVED TO TELL THE TALE!



MOST OF THESE PLACES HAVE SHUT DOWN NOW... BUT THIS STREET IS WHERE ALL THE DRUNK DISASTERS OCCURRED.

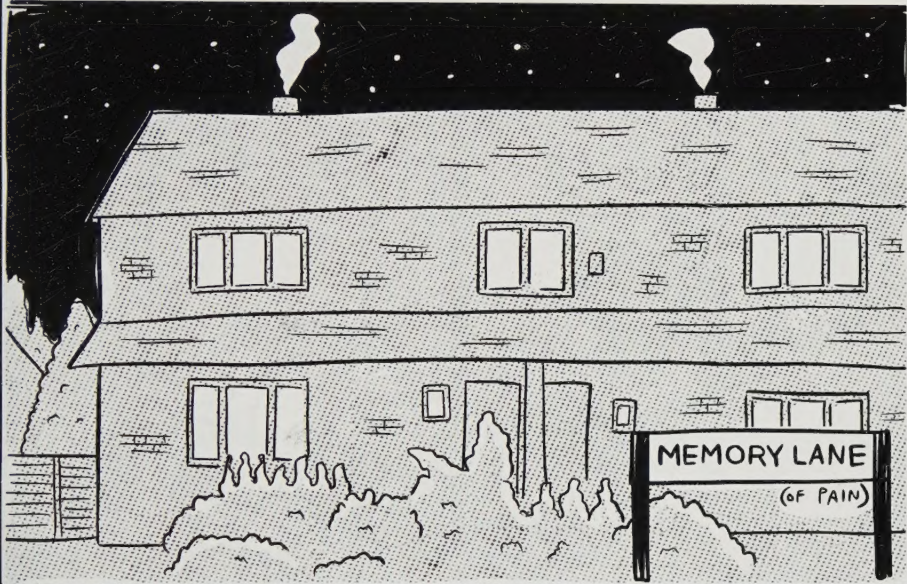


THAT'S THE SHOP I USED TO WORK AT! IT WAS A RIGHT BORE. WE'D STAND AROUND DRINKING CUPPAS ALL DAY. I MISS IT.



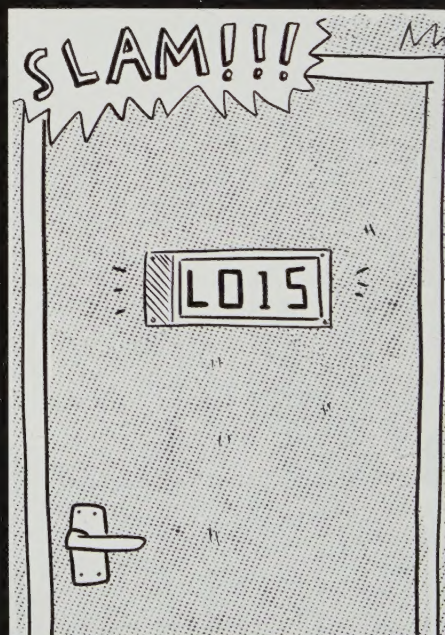
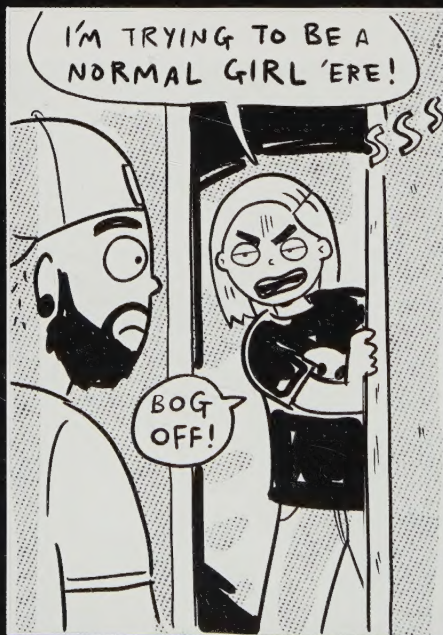


MUM STILL LIVES IN THE L'IL HOUSE I GREW UP IN.



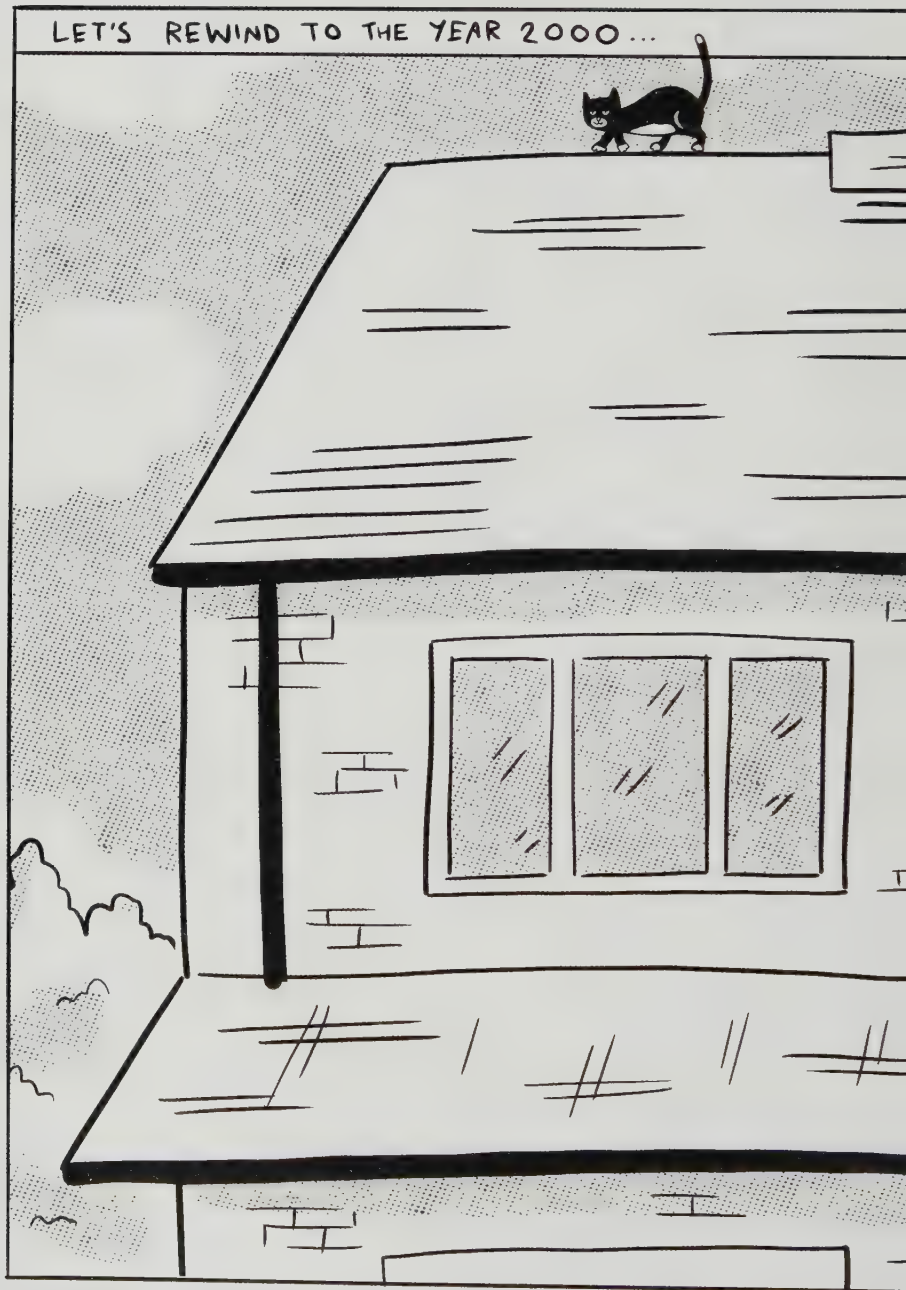
MY BEDROOM HASN'T CHANGED SINCE I WAS A TEEN...
BUT I HAVE.





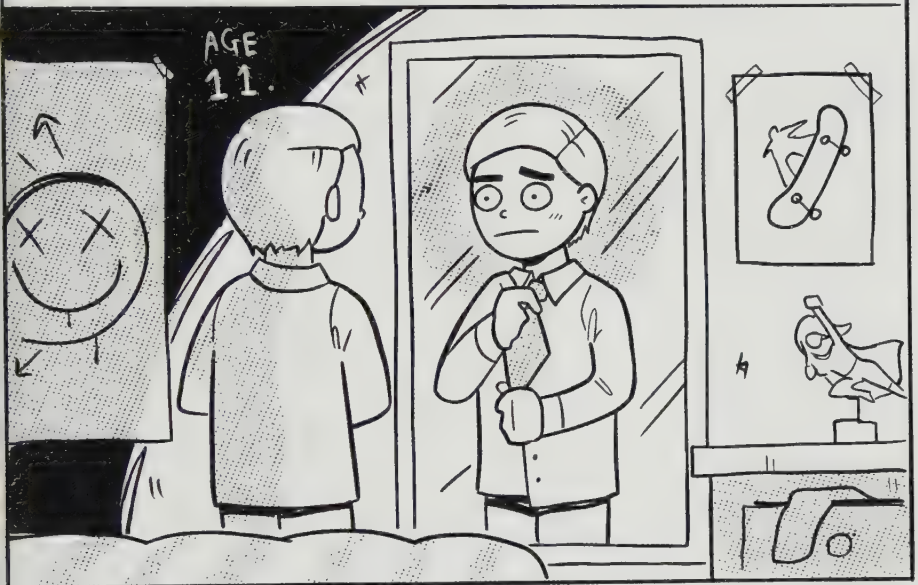
PART ONE:
BOY PROBLEMS

LET'S REWIND TO THE YEAR 2000...

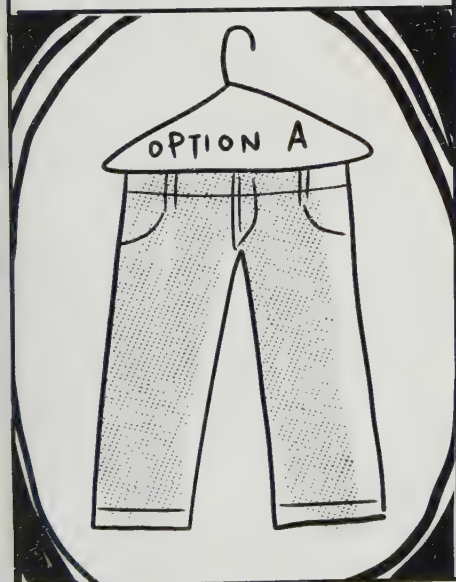


I WAS PROPER DREADING STARTING HIGH SCHOOL.

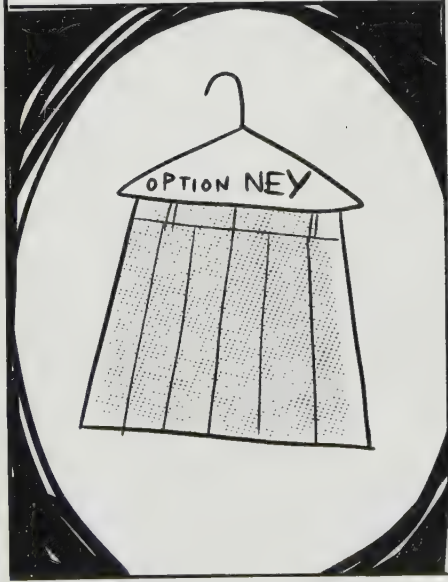
AGE
11.



I HAD TO MAKE...



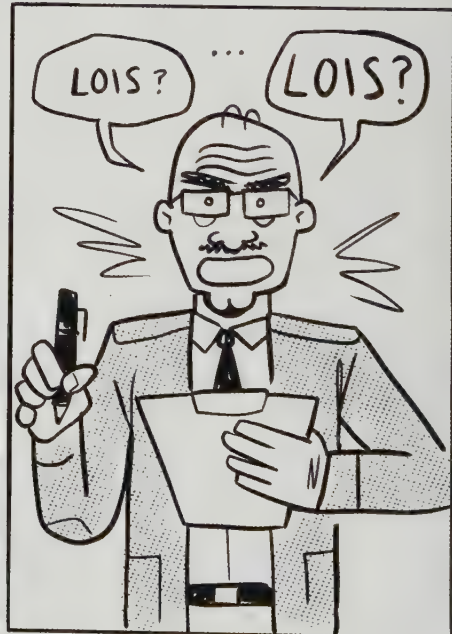
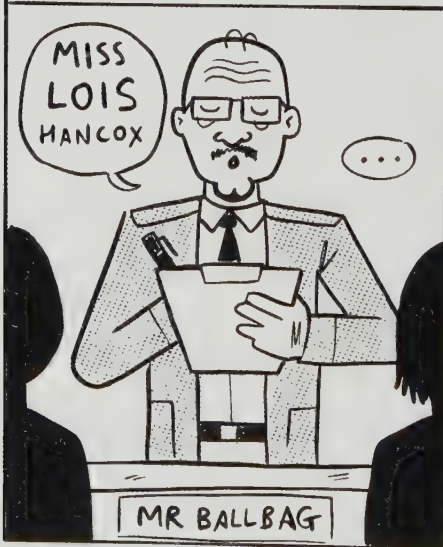
A DECISION OF DOOM:

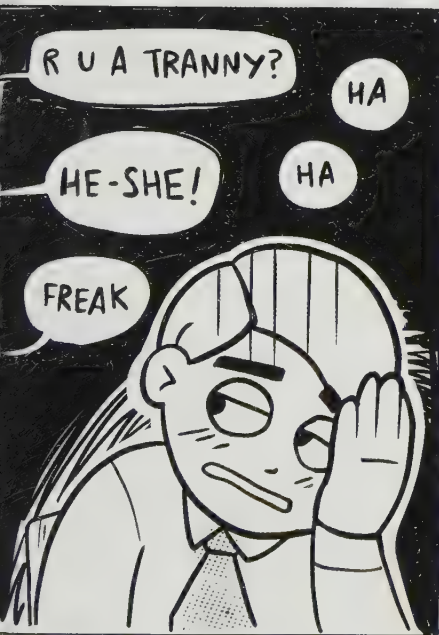
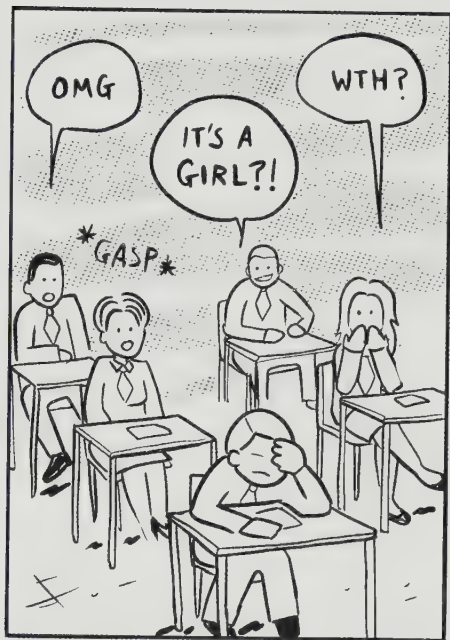


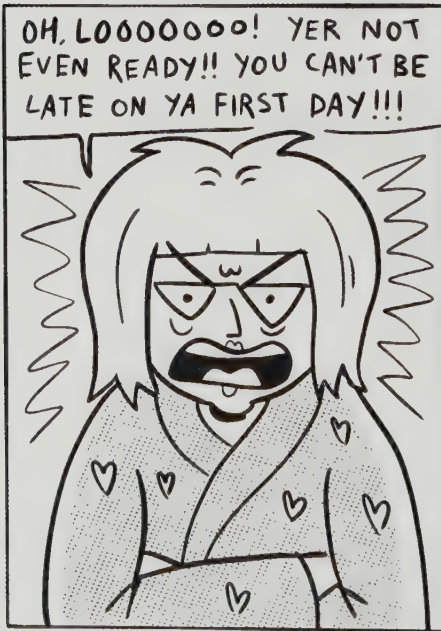
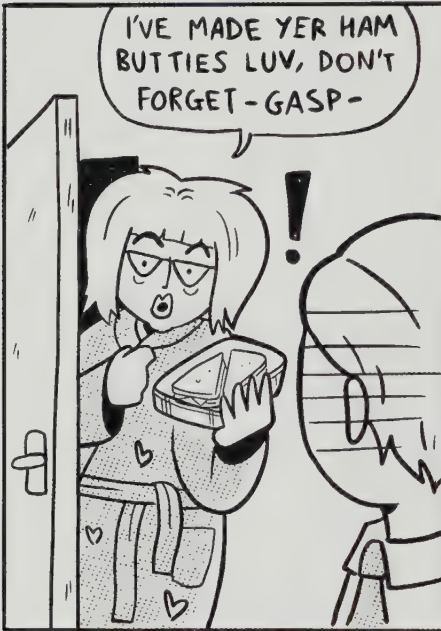
I THOUGHT Y'D DEFO LOOK LIKE A BOY IF I WORE THE PANTS...



BUT MY COVER WAS BOUND TO GET BLOWN PRETTY QUICK.



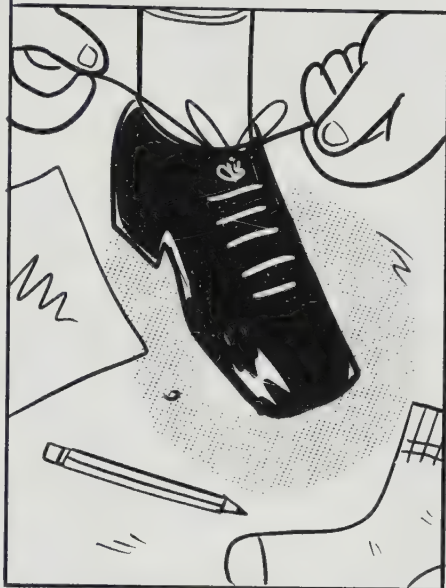




SO I WENT WITH...



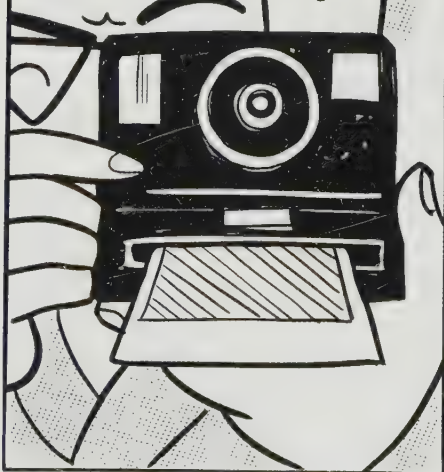
THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.



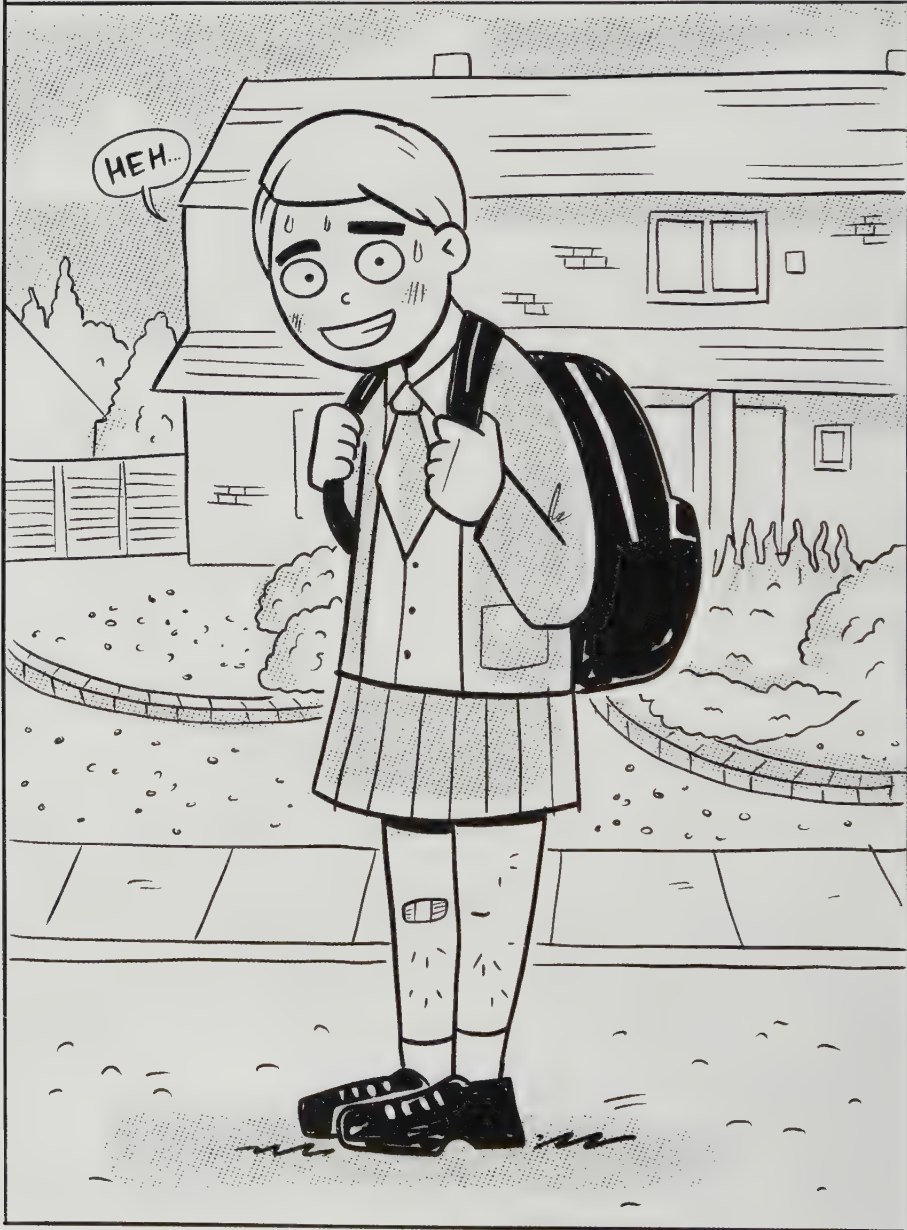
YOU LOOK LOVELY, CHICKEN.



SNAP!



TIME TO BE A 'REAL GIRL' FOR ONCE.



I CAUGHT THE BUS DEEPER INTO HELL.

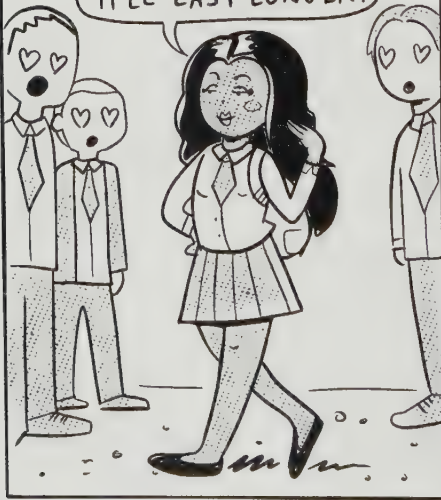


I WANTED TO FIT IN SO MUCH. I WAS BRICKING IT.



UNLIKE MY BEZZY MATE.

TAKE A PICCY,
IT'LL LAST LONGER.



SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SUCH
A LIL SASSPOT, OUR JESS.



JESS WAS LIKE THE SISTER I NEVER HAD. MUM AND DAD WOULD BRING HER ON OUR HOLIDAYS SO I DIDN'T GET BORED.



MY FAVE PHOTO OF US, AGE 6, IN MUM AND DAD'S CLOTHES. WE WERE ODD LIKE THAT.



WE WERE CHALK AND CHEESE BUT SHE MADE LIFE LESS SCARY.





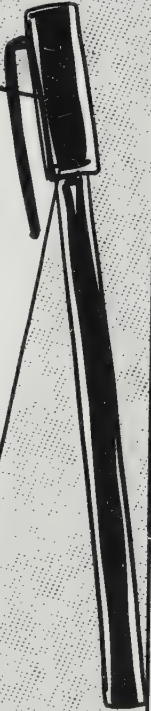
I WAS A BOY IN A SKIRT.



AGE 14



LOIS HANCOX
MATHS
Y10
2003



$$\sqrt[3]{526}$$

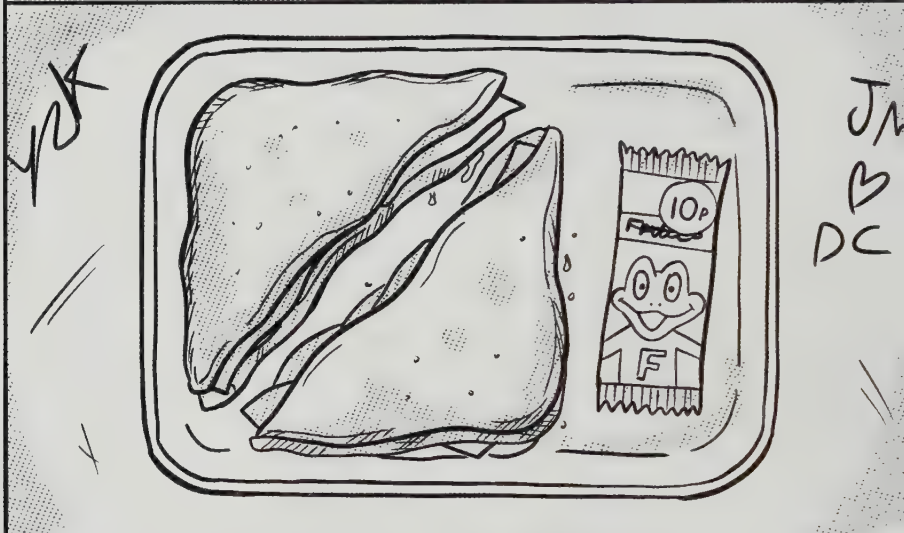


CBA



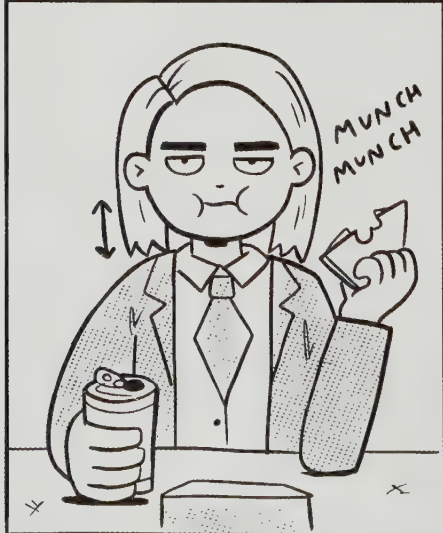
WMM

TURNS OUT HIGH SCHOOL WAS ABOUT AS FUN AS MY SOGGY HAM BUTTIES. (THANKS MUM.)

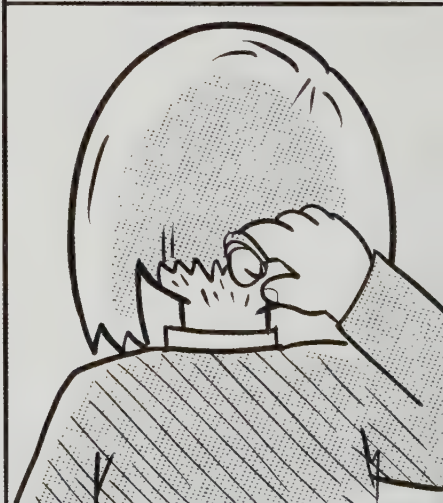


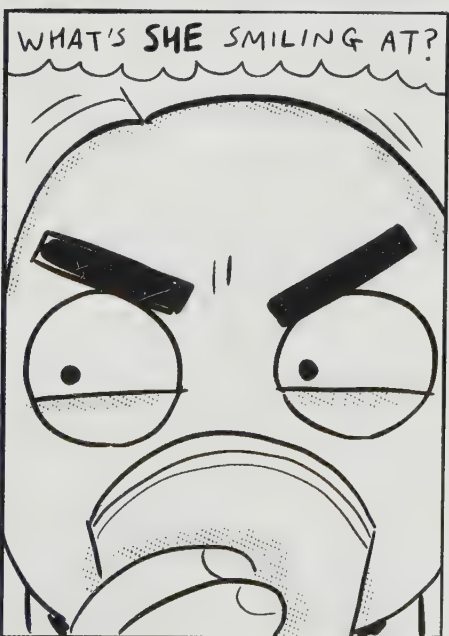
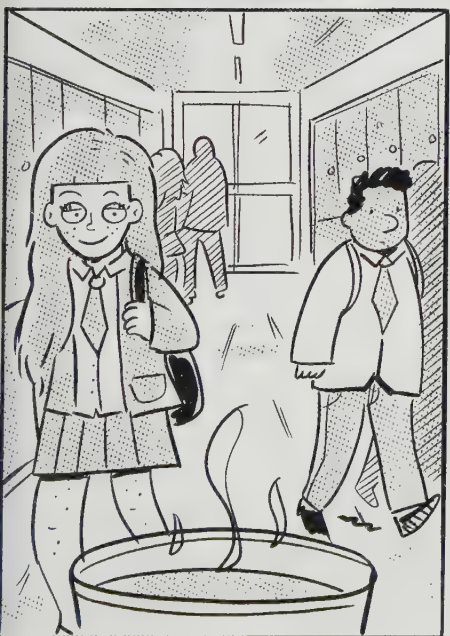
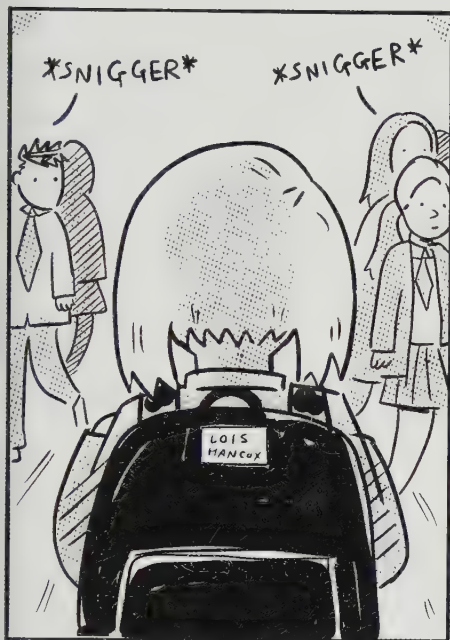
JM
B
DC

IT TOOK TIL YEAR 9 TO GROW MY HAIR THIS LONG:

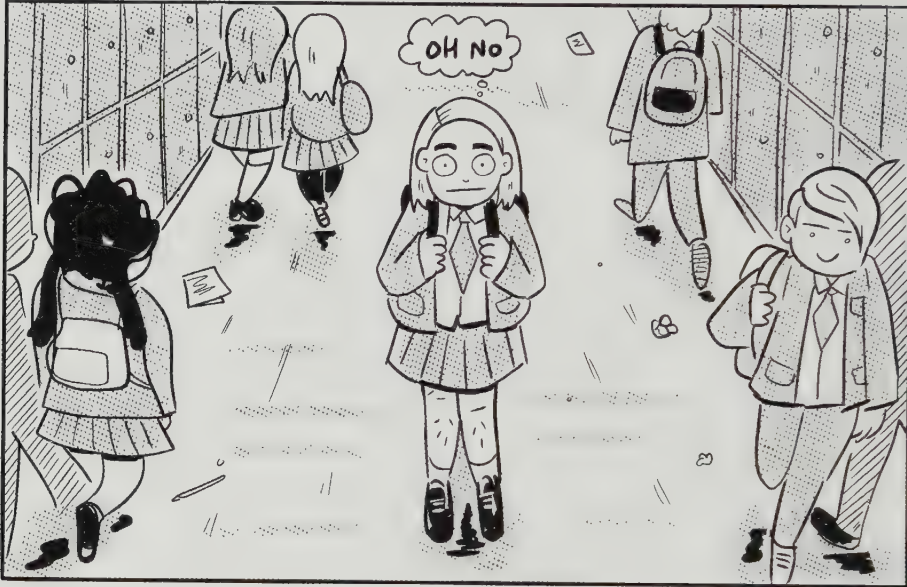


I HAD A NERVOUS HABIT OF TWISTING AND PULLING IT OUT AT THE BACK.

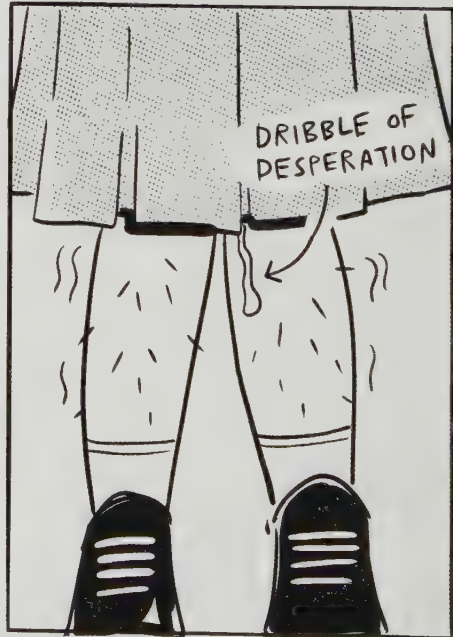
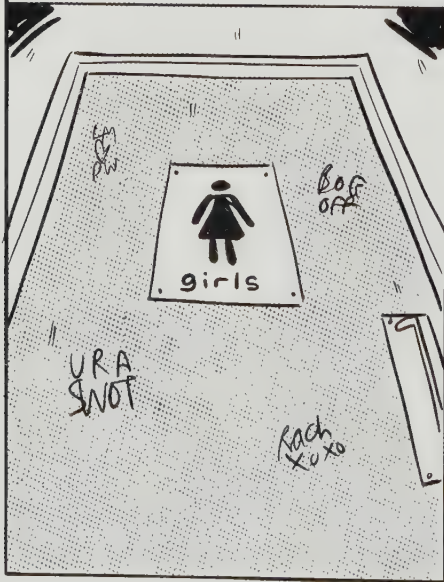




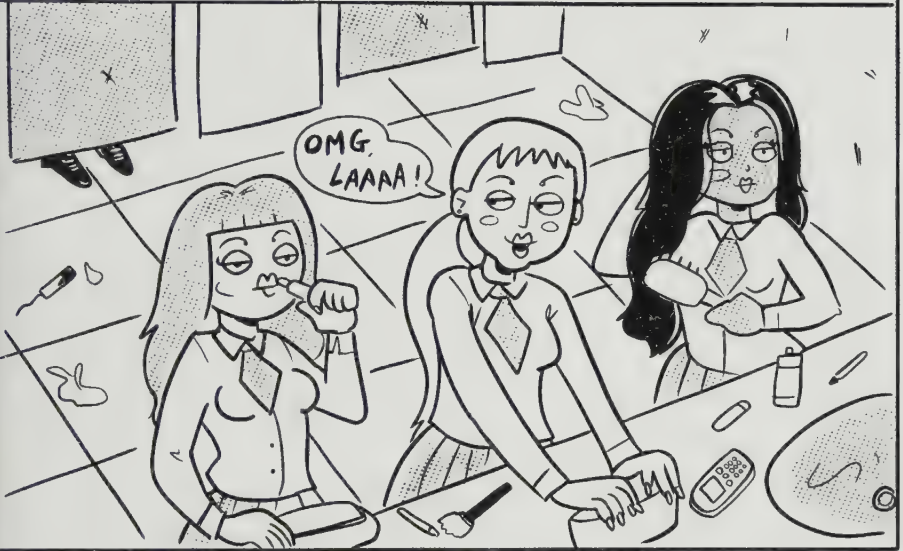
USING THE GIRLS' TOILETS DIDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME.



I'D HOLD IT IN UNTIL ...



THE POPULAR GIRLS WERE CALLED THE TRENDIES. JESS HUNG OUT WITH 'EM WHEN SHE WAS AFTER SOME GOSS.



IF YOU WERE DEAD CLEVER
YOU WERE CALLED A :



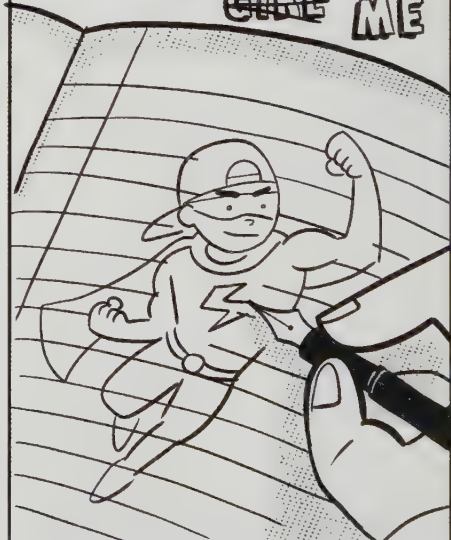
WHICH I DEFO WAS NOT.

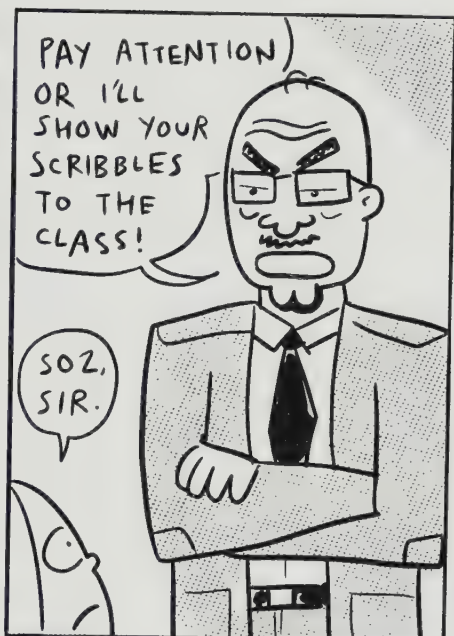
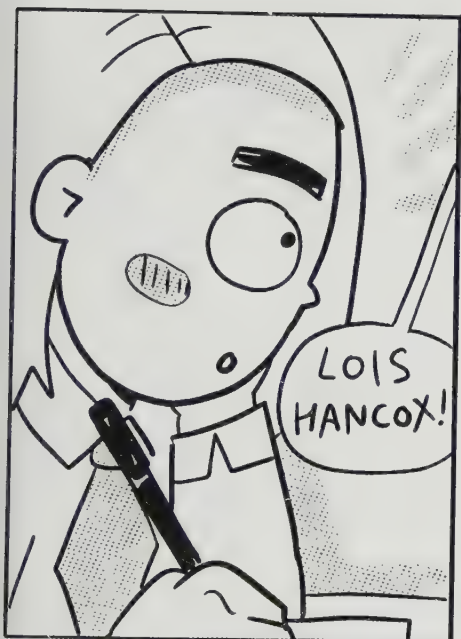


I WAS WAY TOO IN MY
OWN WORLD...

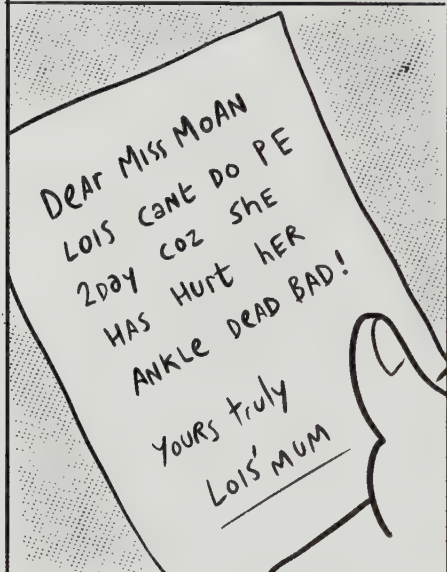


STUPENDOUS ~~BOY~~
~~GIRL~~ ME

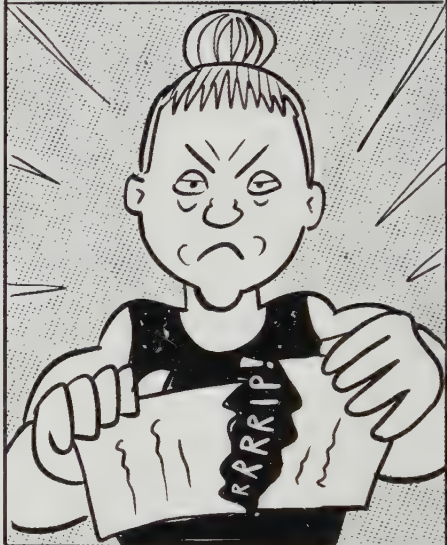




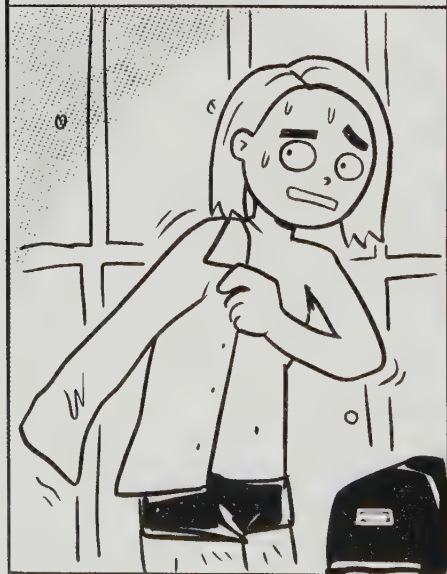
I HATED PE CLASS LOADS.



OUR PE TEACHER HAD IT
IN FOR ME WELL BAD!



THE WORST PART...



THE
CHANGING ROOM



(OF DOOM)

I DIDN'T SHAVE LIKE ALL
THE OTHER GIRLS...



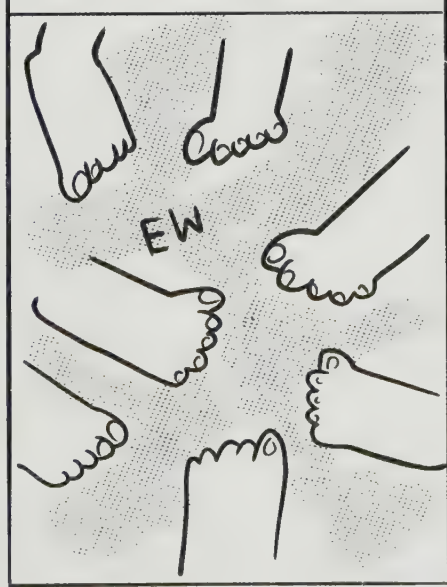
OR WEAR A BRA...

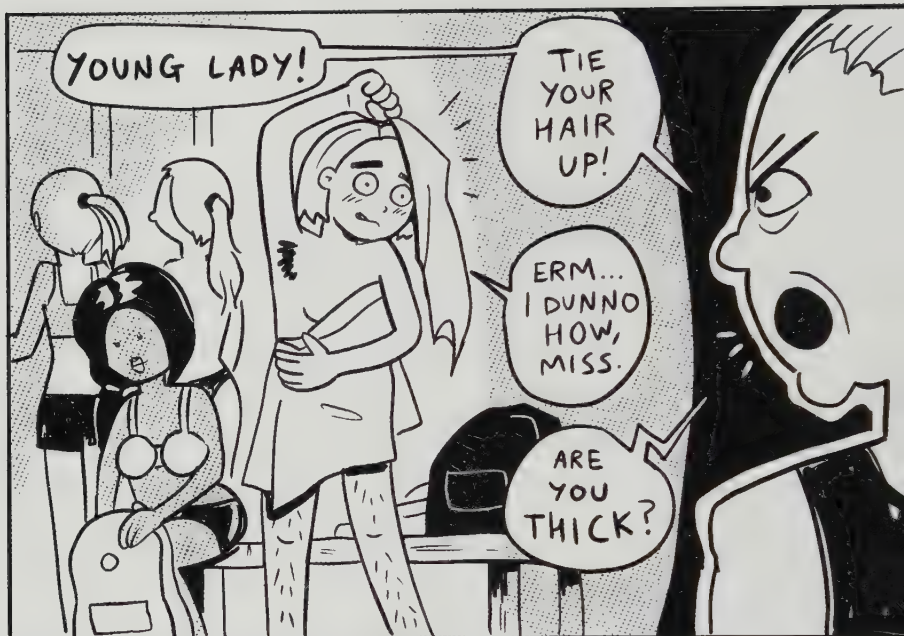


PLUS I REALLY HATE FEET.



WAY TOO MANY TOES ABOUT.







FLASHBACK TO WHEN I JOINED A JUNIOR BASKETBALL CLUB



BEING CALLED HE WAS GOALS.



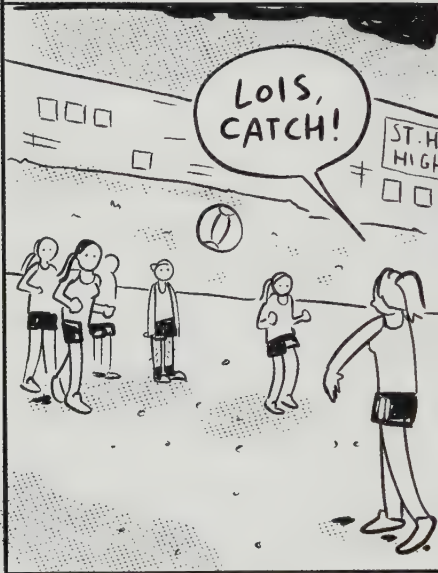
THEN ONE TIME DAD PICKED ME UP...



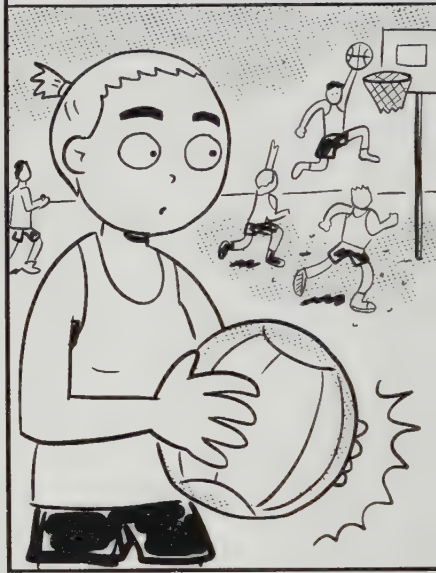
I NEVER WENT BACK AFTER THAT.



IN HIGH SCHOOL...



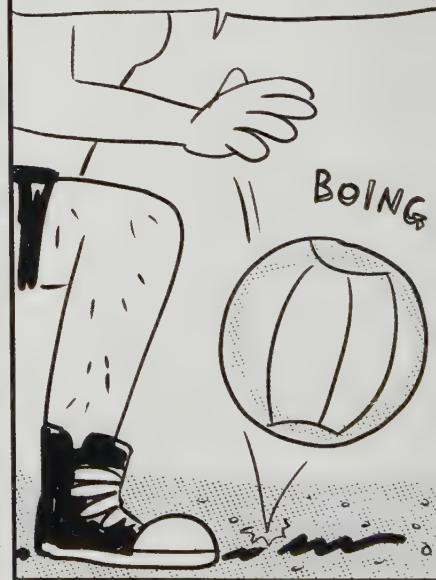
GIRLS PLAYED NETBALL

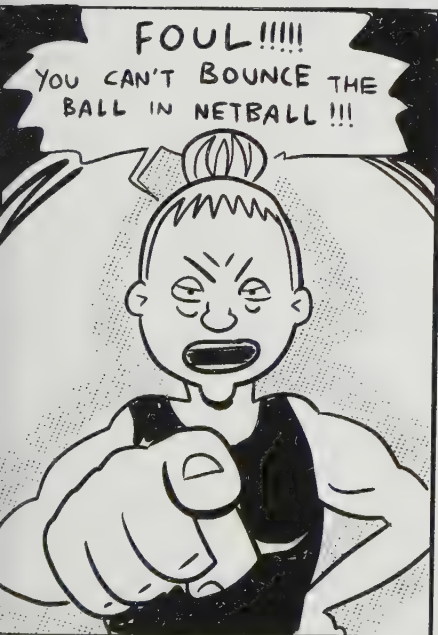
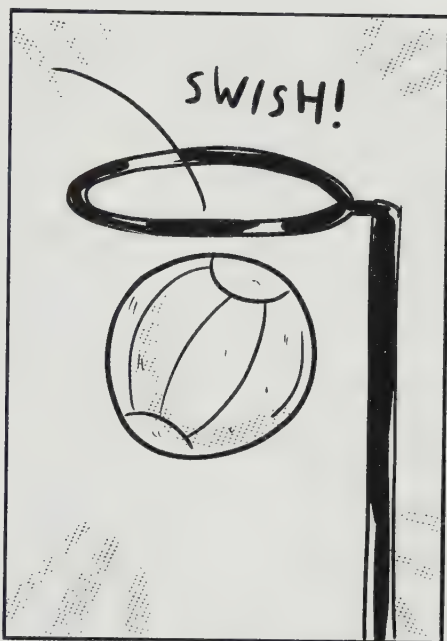
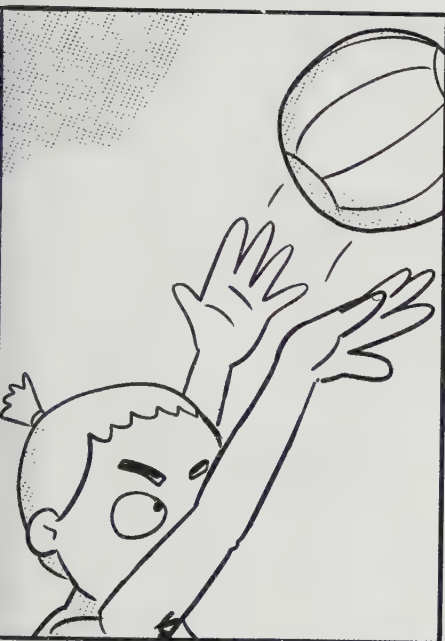


IT PROPER PISSES ME OFF THAT THE LADS GET TO PLAY BASKETBALL!

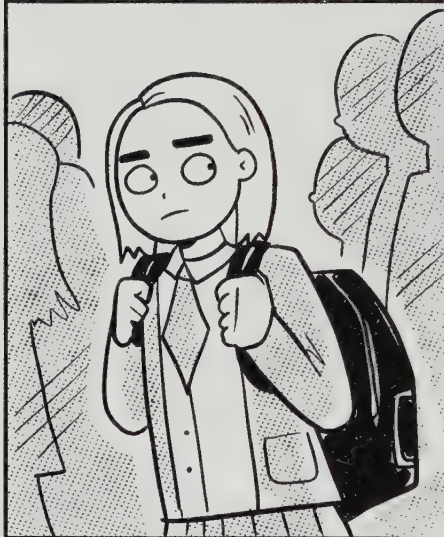


WHO MAKES THE RULES?





I WASN'T SMART ENOUGH TO
BE A SWOT...



AND I DEFO WASN'T KEWL
ENOUGH TO BE A TRENDY.

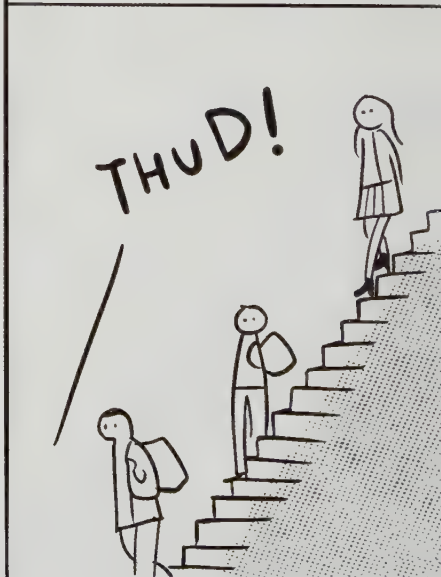


АННННН



GUESS I DIDN'T FIT A LABEL.

THUD!

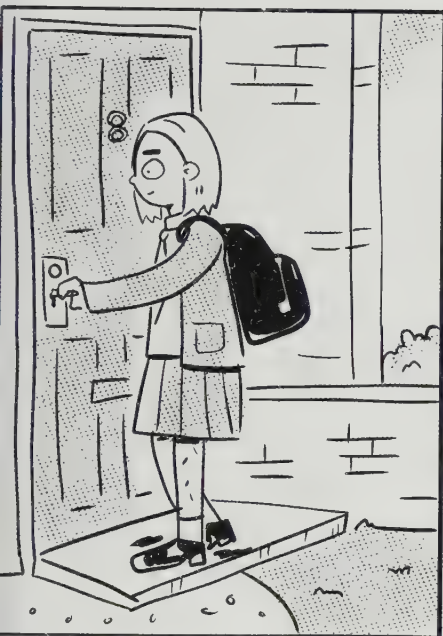


MAYBE WEIRDO WOULD SUFFICE.



I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET CHANGED AFTER SCHOOL...

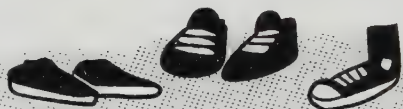




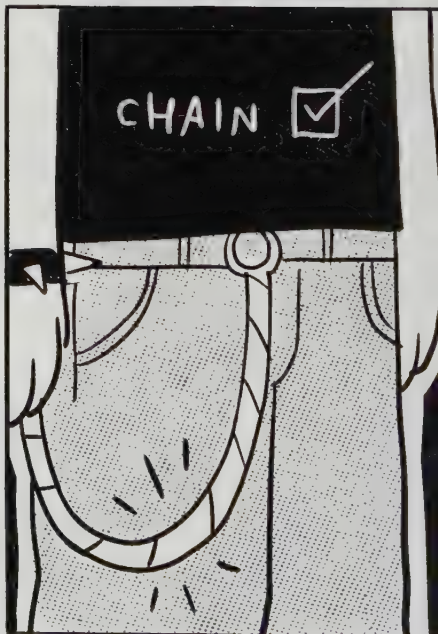
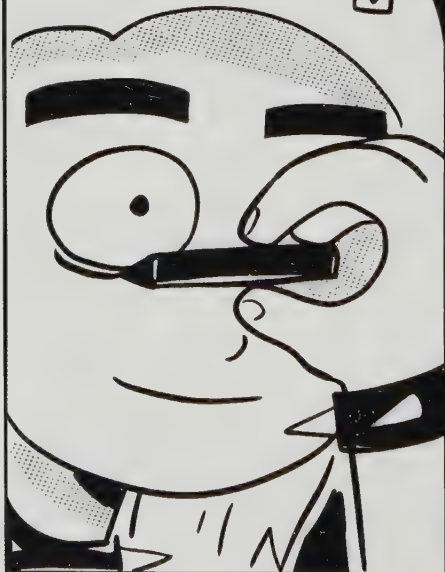
TEENAGE GOTH CHECKLIST



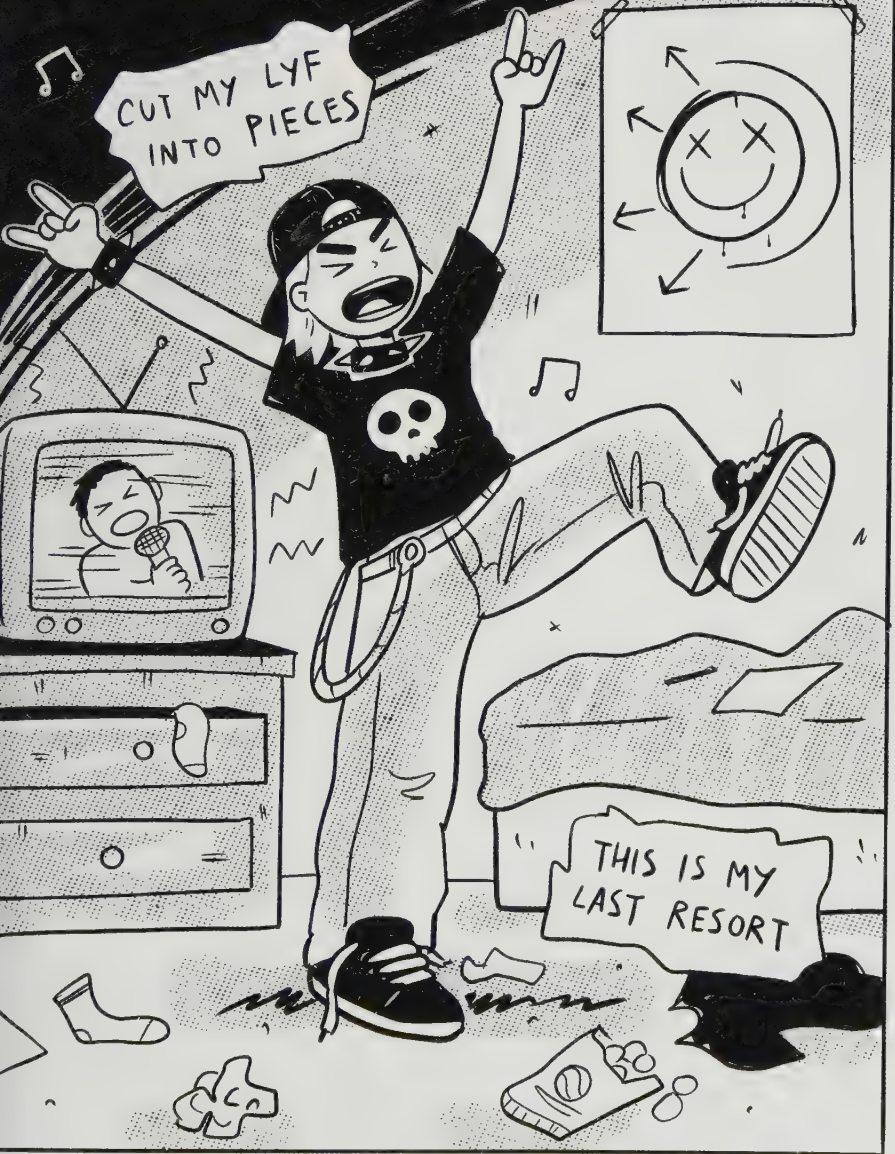
BLACK WARDROBE



BLACK EYELINER



MOSHING IN MY ROOM TO KERRANG THINKING I'M
WELL HARDCORE



ME AND MUM WEREN'T
GETTING ON VERY WELL...



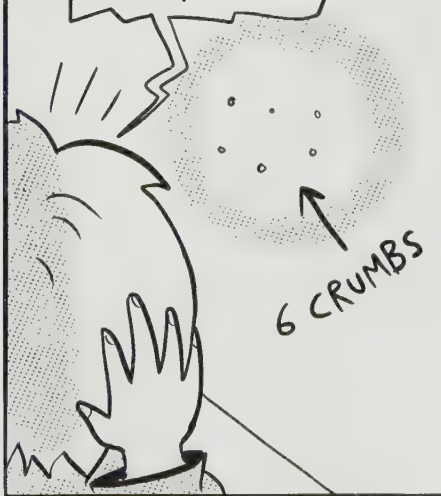
SINCE DAD LEFT, REALLY.

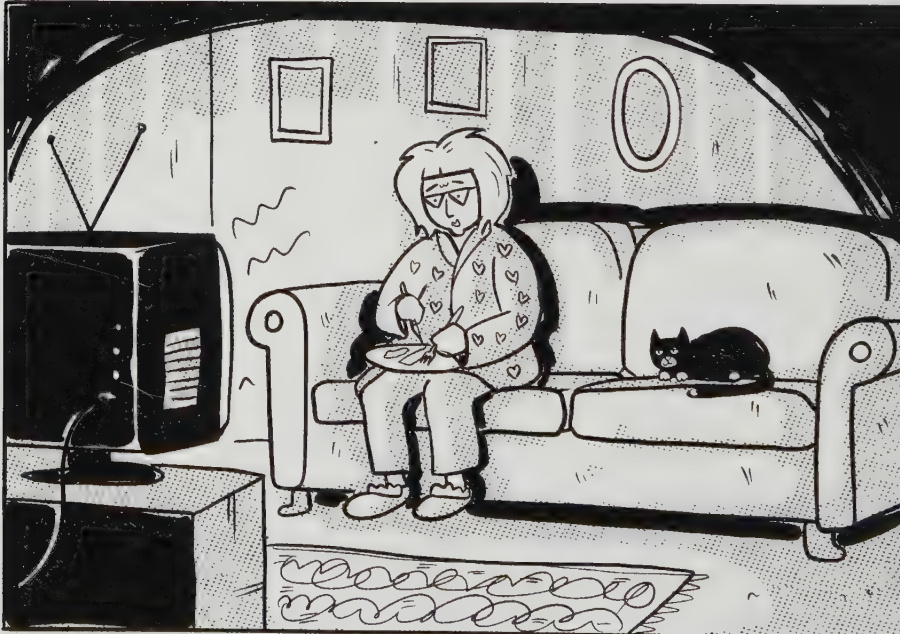
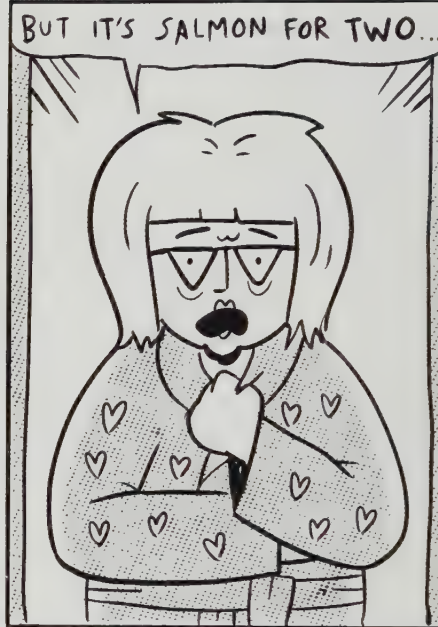


SHE WAS ALWAYS STRESSIN'!
IT DID ME HEAD IN.



OH, LOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
YOU'VE MADE A RIGHT
RUDDY MESS!





WE'D TURNED THE ABANDONED CAR WASH INTO A SKATEPARK. IT SMELT OF PISS.



MATTY WAS THE BEST SKATER. I WAS WELL JELL.



NOT JUST COZ OF HIS SKILLZ...



MATTY WAS GROWING INTO A MAN. WHY WASN'T I?



OH YEH... COZ I WAS A 'GIRL'.



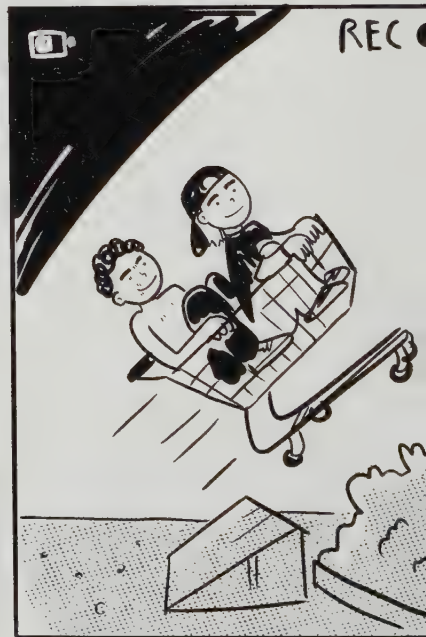
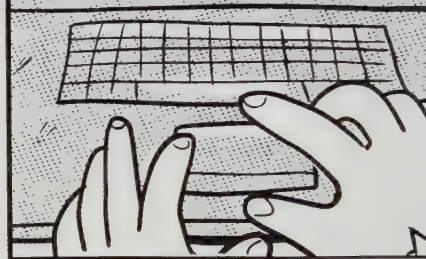
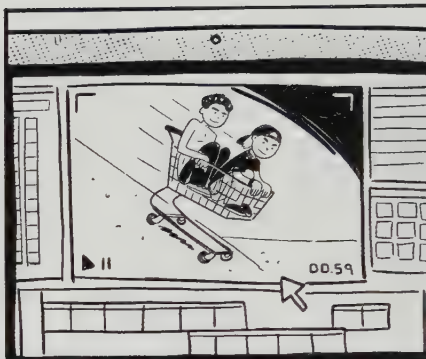
SUPPOSEDLY. LOL.



MY IDOL WAS BAM MARGERA (YOU KNOW, FROM 'JACKASS'.)



SO I LEARNED HOW TO MAKE
MY OWN LITTLE FILMS.



SOMETIMES, I FELT LIKE AN ALIEN.





WE DID DAFT STUFF LIKE
14-YR-OLDS DO.



JESS AND MATTYYY,
SITTIN' IN A TREE!

♡ SMOOCH ♡



I WONDERED WHAT IT WAS
LIKE TO SNOG SOMEONE..





OH SHIT. MY TURN.



I REALLY DO NOT
WANNA KISS A BOY,
THO!



NAH, I GOTTA
GO HOME B4
MUM KILLS
ME!

WUSS!



I THOUGHT THERE WAS
SUMMAT WRONG WITH ME.

SPOIL
SPORT

WOT A MELT

I JUST WANTED TO BE NORMAL !



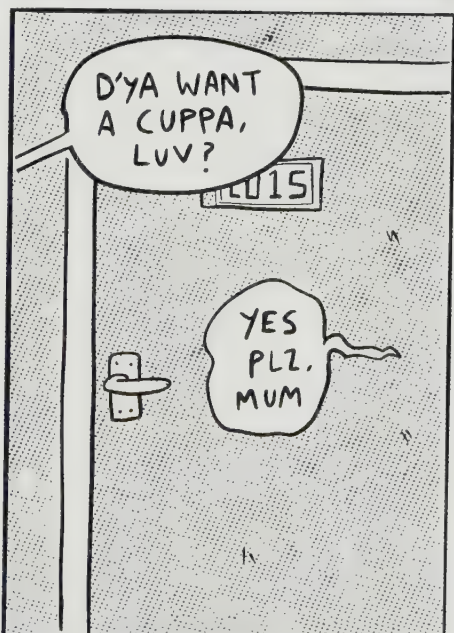
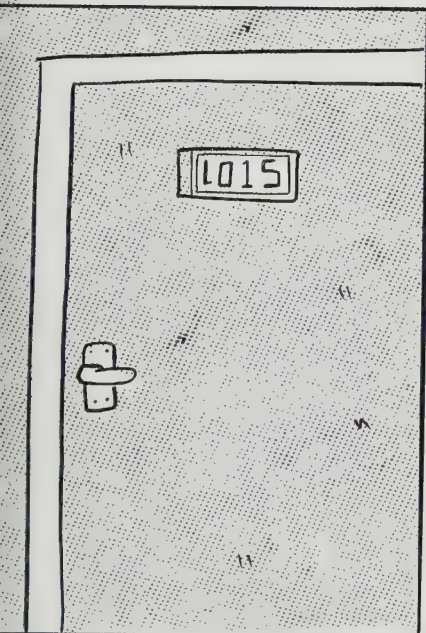
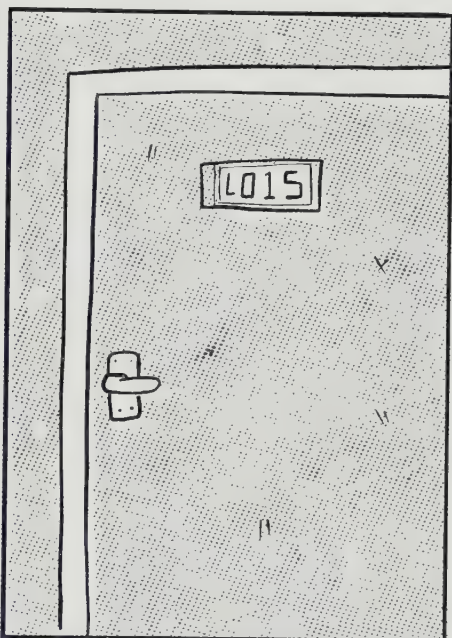
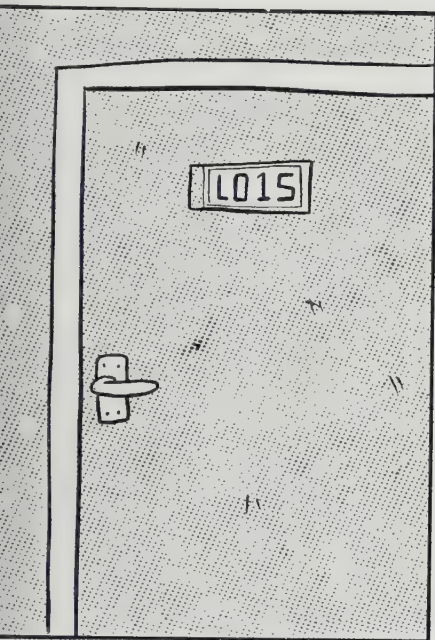
YA KNOW,
THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS
NORMAL!

YEH,
WHATEVS.

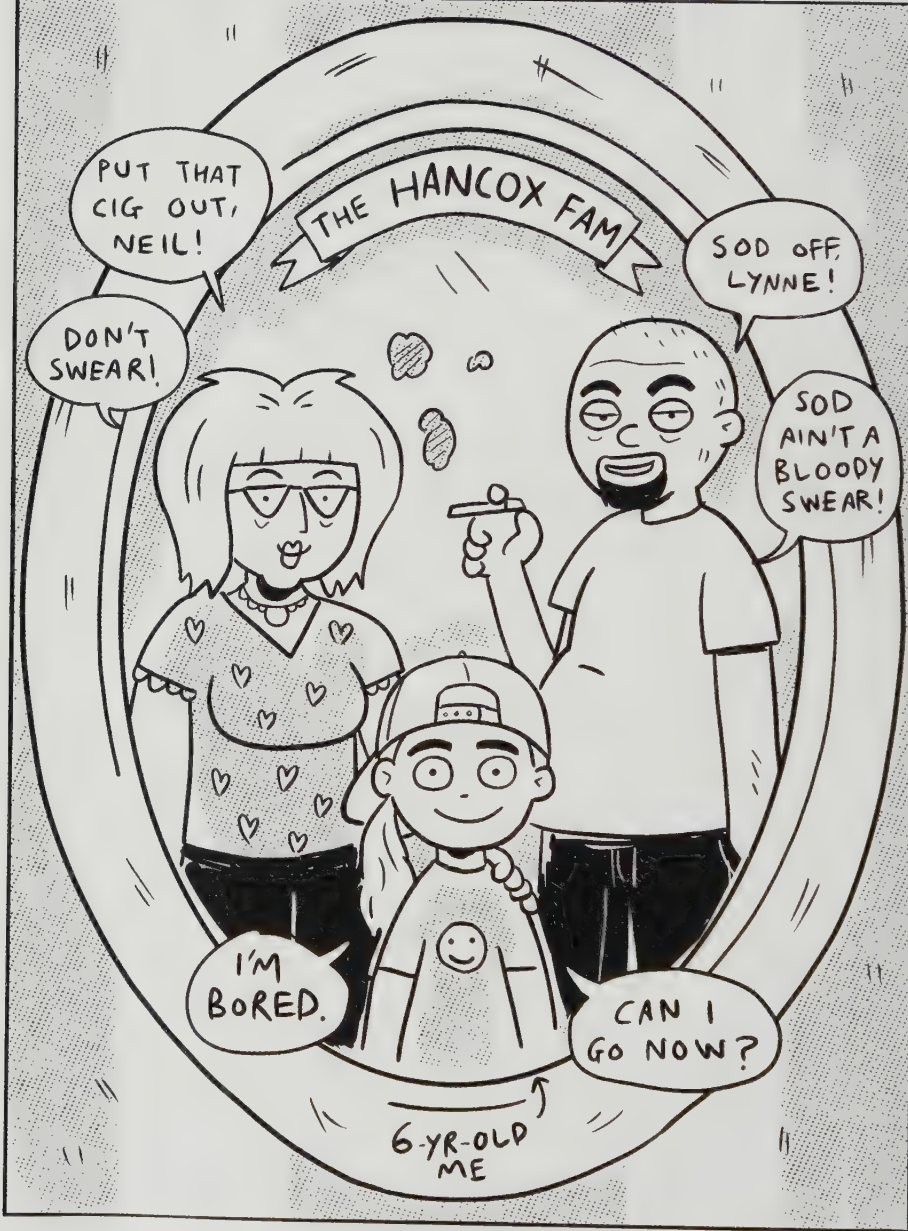
FINE
THEN,
BE ALL
EMO.

I'M NOT
EMO!!!
I'M GOTH.





ONCE UPON A TIME WE WERE A HAPPY LI'L FAMILY.

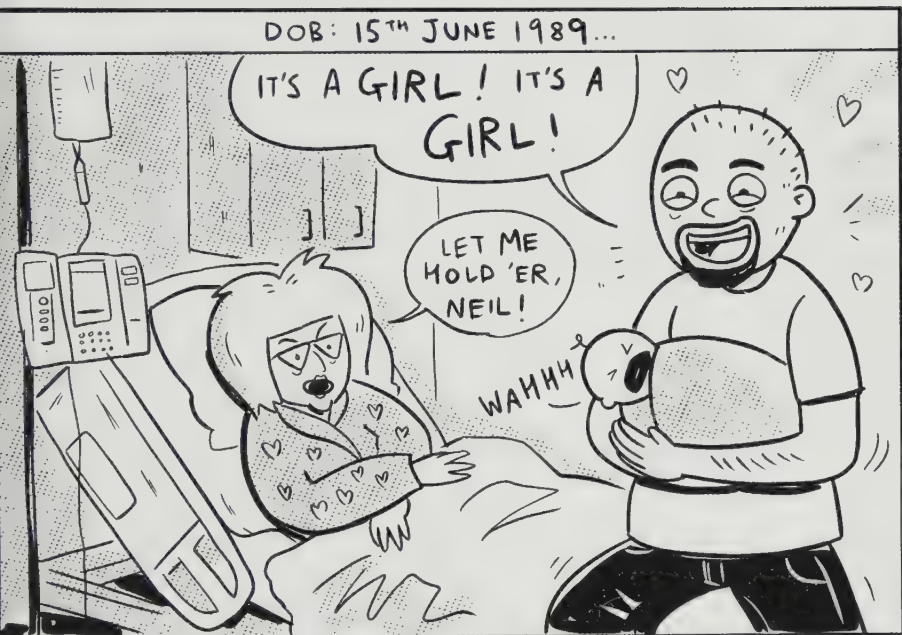


DOB: 15TH JUNE 1989...

IT'S A GIRL! IT'S A GIRL!

LET ME HOLD 'ER, NEIL!

WAHHH



BIRTH NAME: LOIS JOY

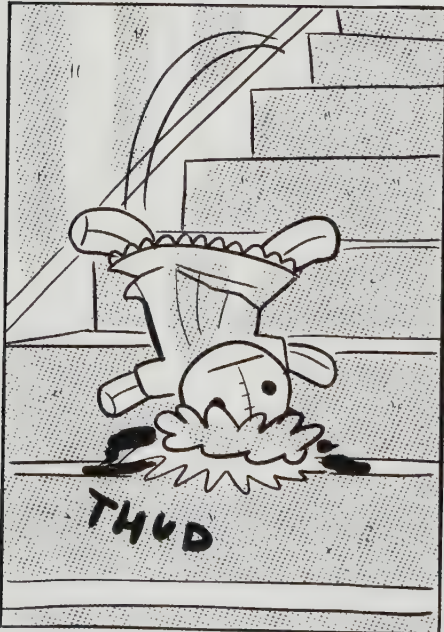
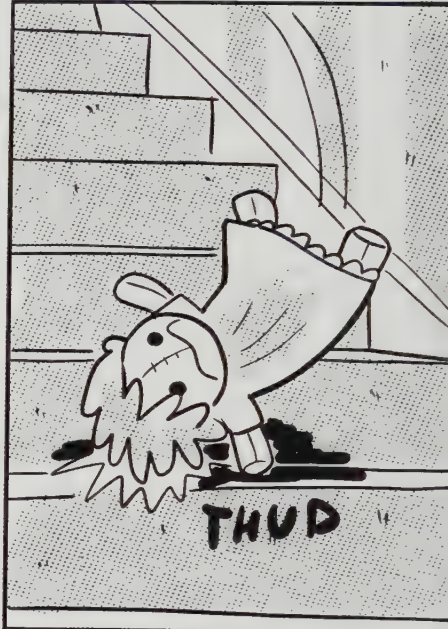
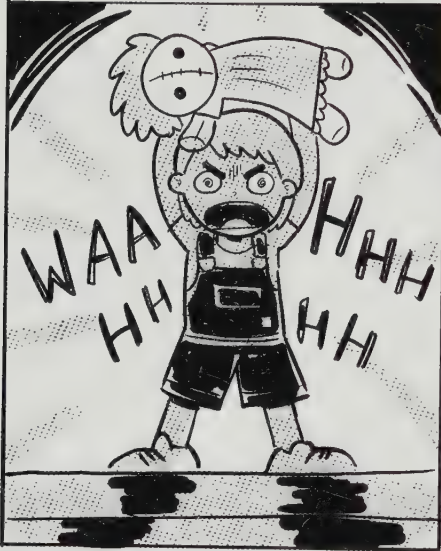
COS OUR ONLY DAUGHTER WILL BRING US BUNDLES OF JOY.



LITTLE DID THEY KNOW...



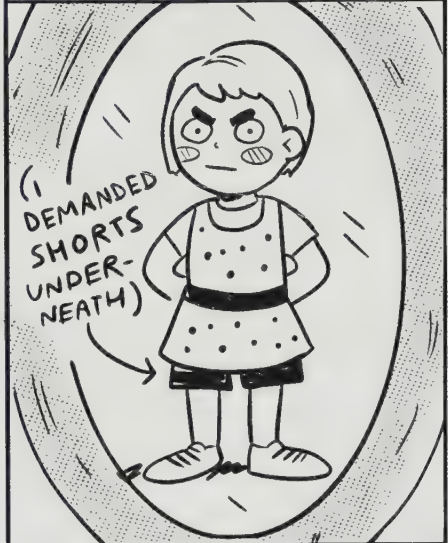
THAT I WOULDN'T BRING
MUCH JOY.



SO MY CHILDHOOD WAS LIKE:



ME AND MUM MADE SOME COMPROMISES...



I WAS SUPER CLOSE WITH MY GRAM AND GRAMPS.



DAD BANNED ME FROM WATCHING 'HOME ALONE' COS I PLAYED TOO MANY TRICKS ON HIM.



MY CLUB HAD ONE RULE:



AGE 8 I GOT MY
DREAM HAIRCUT.

I WANT IT
LIKE JACK
FROM TITANIC!
I DREW
A PICTURE...



HAIR
SALON

PLEASE LOOK LIKE
A BOY. PLEASE LOOK
LIKE A BOY.

SNIP
SNIP

BIT SHORT INNIT?

SHUSH,
NEIL!

BOY LEVEL:

100%

EVERY NIGHT BEFORE BED:



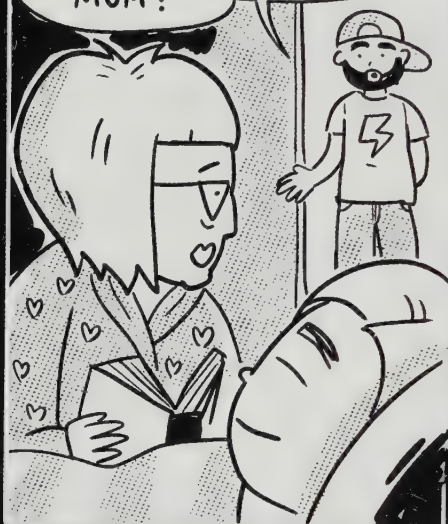
MUM TRIED HER BEST...

WELL, CHICKEN... IF YOU STILL FEEL LIKE THIS WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOU CAN HAVE THE OPERATION.





HOW DID YOU REALLY
FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS,
MUM?



WELL, CHICKEN...
WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT BEING
TRANS GENDER
BACK
THEN...



I THINK I JUST BRUSHED
IT UNDER THE CARPET,
HOPING YOU'D GROW
OUT OF IT...

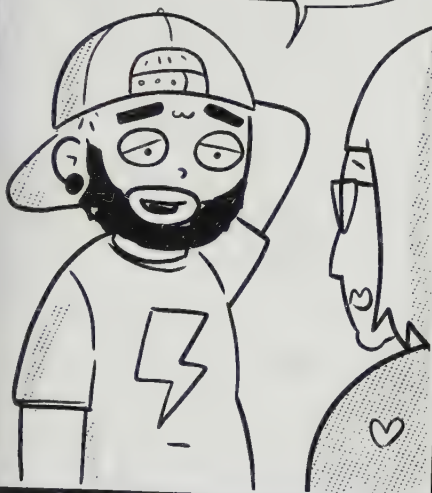
I DIDN'T
WANT
LIFE
TO
BE
HARD
FOR YOU.



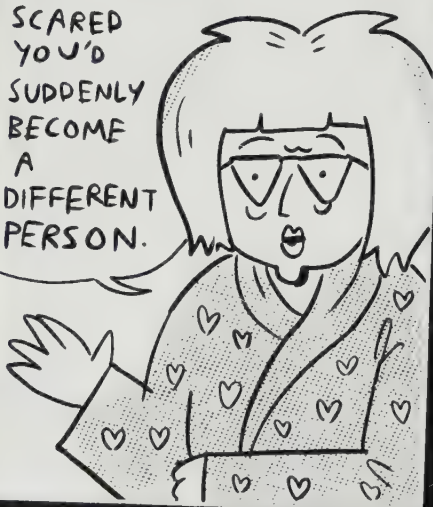
I ALWAYS HAD THIS
NIGGLING FEELING,
THOUGH...



DO YOU EVER MISS ME, AS, LIKE, LOIS?



I THOUGHT I WOULD. I WAS SCARED WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED HORMONES. SCARED YOU'D SUDDENLY BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON.



BUT IT WAS GRADUAL. AND I SAW YOU WERE BECOMING MORE YOU.



IT'S ONLY YOUR OUTSIDE THAT CHANGED. I DIDN'T LOSE ANYONE.

PLUS IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER REALLY HAD A LITTLE 'GIRL'. I HAD TO DO ALL THE GIRLY THINGS WITH JESS INSTEAD!



AGE 10, MY WORLD CHANGED:



I ALREADY KNEW WHAT MUM AND DAD WERE GONNA SAY





BUT AS DAD LEFT, I HAD A HUNCH...



FAST FORWARD TO 2003. DAD LIVES ON A BOAT NOW.



STAYING WITH DAD HAD ITS PROS...



AND ITS CONS.



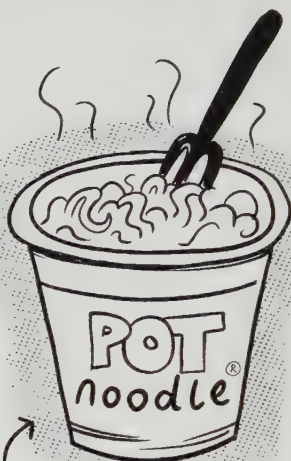
MUM'S COOKING:

SALMON
(AGAIN) ↴



GREENS ↴
(YUK)

DAD'S COOKING:



HIS 'SPECIALITY'

MUM'S HOUSEKEEPING:

OH, LOOO!
YAV RUINED
ME FLOOR!!



YER
MOVING
OUT!!

↴ 2 DROPS
OF POP

DAD'S HOUSEKEEPING:

IT'S
FIIINE.



JUST
RUB
IT
IN!

MY BEDROOM @ MUMS:



MY BEDROOM @ DAD'S:



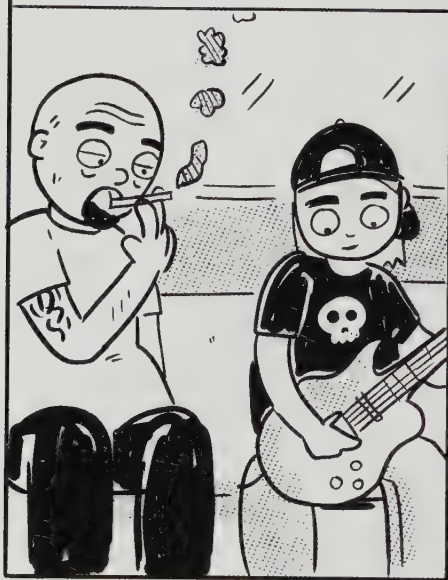
MUM'S CHEER-UP TACTIC:



DAD'S CHEER-UP TACTIC:



I SAW DAD ONCE A WEEK.



HE WAS TEACHING ME HOW TO PLAY GUITAR.



I WAS IN A GLAM-ROCK BAND, YANNO!



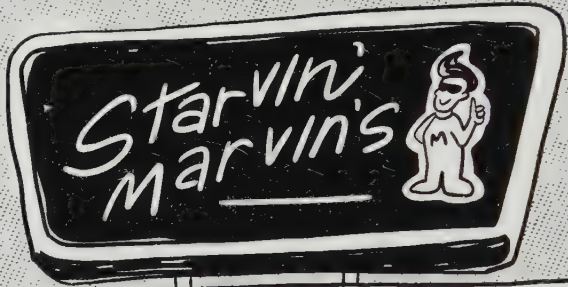
HE KNEW MORE ABOUT MAKE-UP THAN ME...



I PERFORMED MY OWN ORIGINAL SONGS FOR HIM.



AT LEAST NOWT IN DAD'S FRIDGE MEANT FAST FOOD FRIDAYS



DINER

AWKWARD DAD BONDING COMMENCE:

SO, ERR, HOW'S,
ERR, SCHOOL?

FINE. (AWFUL)

HOW'S,
ERR, YER
MUM?

FINE. (STRESSED)

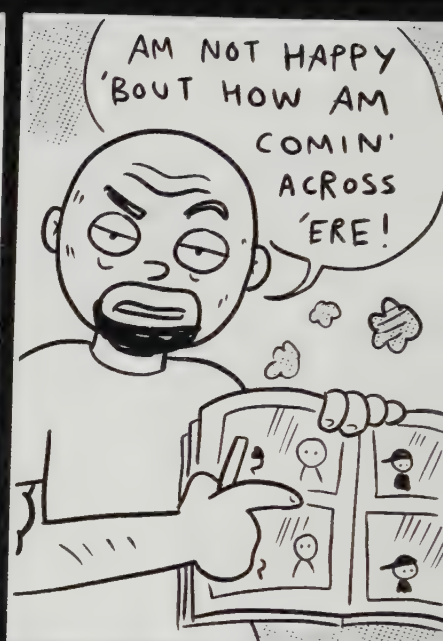
HOW'S
THE, ERR,
WEATHER
BACK IN
ST. HELL?

FINE.
(SHIT)



THE FOLLOWING SITCH HAPPENED A LOT:





EXACTLY, DAD. I GOTTA
SHOW SOME PROGRESSION!



YER DAD GETS OFF LIGHTLY!
AT LEAST HE'S NOT ALWAYS
IN A FLIPPIN' DRESSING GOWN.



WILL YOU TWO SHUSH?
THIS IS MY COMIC!!



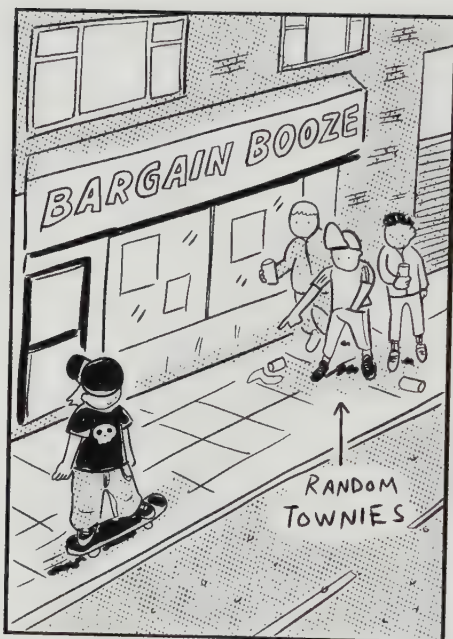
DON'T BELIEVE
A WORD OF IT!

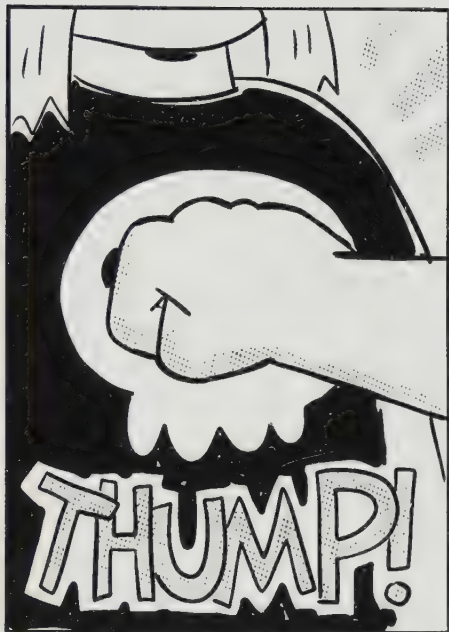
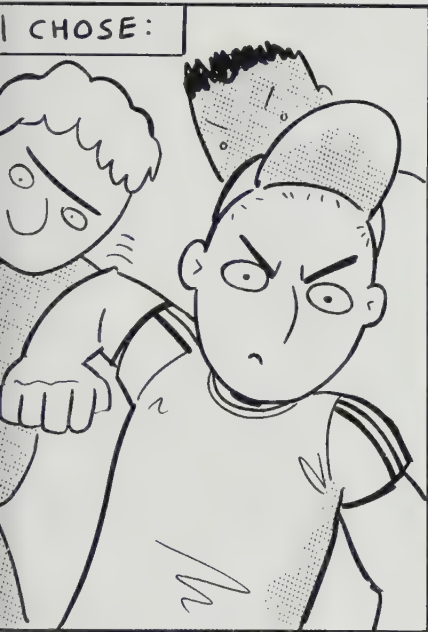


THE THING ABOUT ST. HELL IS, ANYONE THE SLIGHTEST BIT DIFFERENT STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.









THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL...

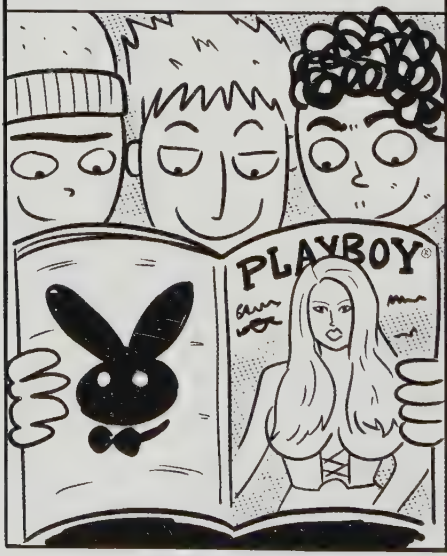


AND CAR WASH



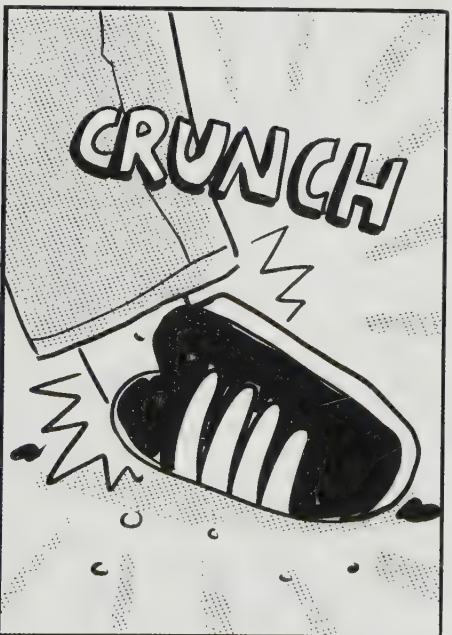
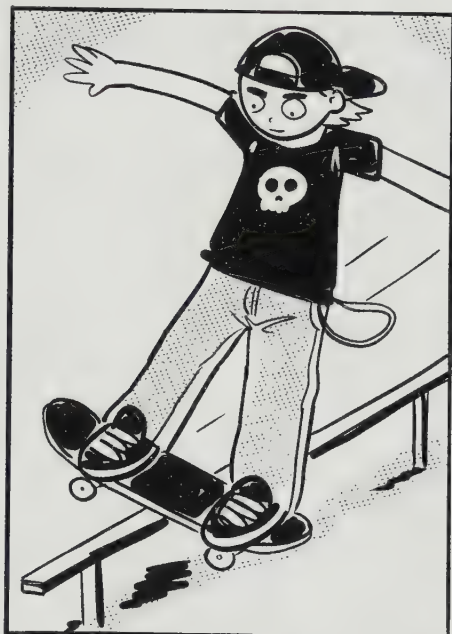
LAD BANTS LOL!

I DIDN'T REALLY FIT IN WITH THE LADS ANYMORE.



YOU LOT SKATING OR WOT!?

HA
YEH, WHEN WE CAN STAND UP AGEN.
HA



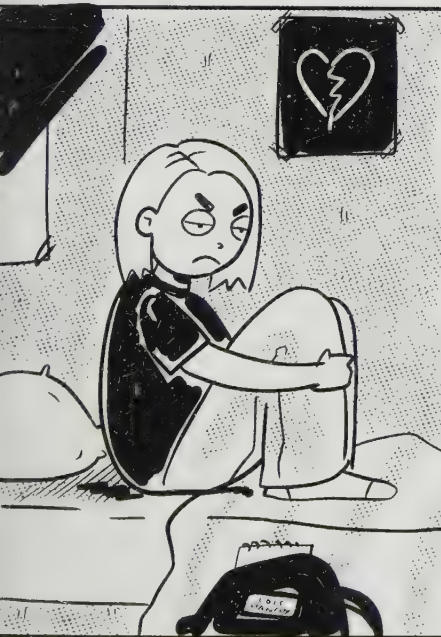


KARMA FOR ALL MY FAKE PE NOTES, BASICALLY.



THAT WAS 6 MONTHS AGO. I HAVEN'T SKATED SINCE!





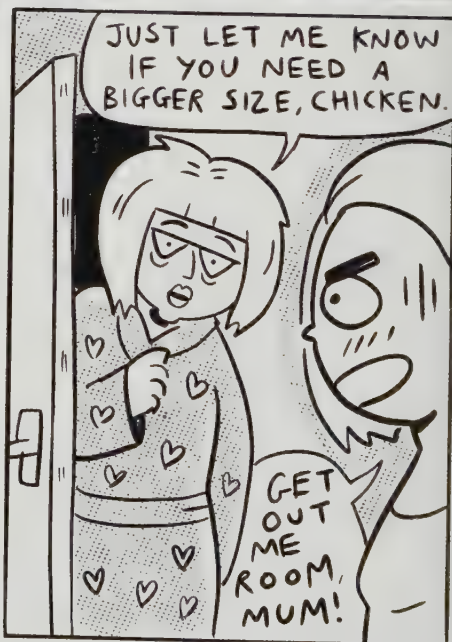
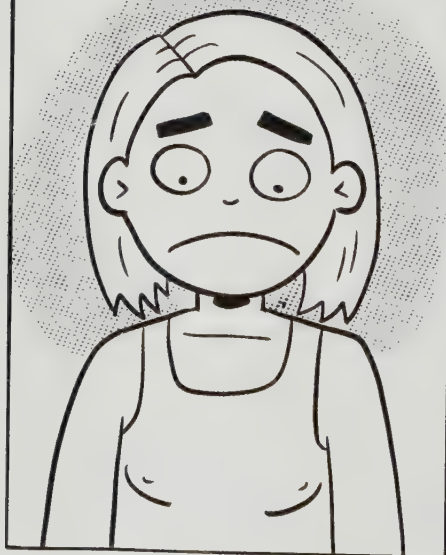
NORMAL BRA



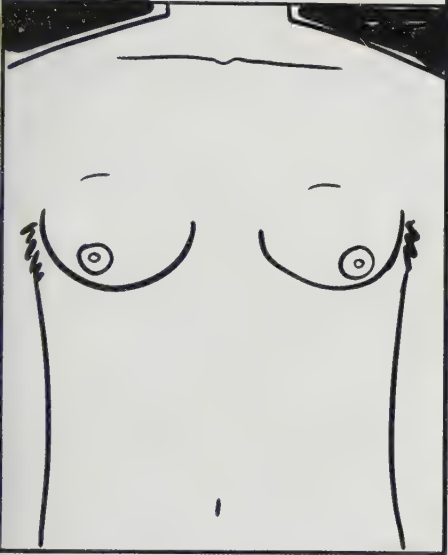
SPORTS BRA



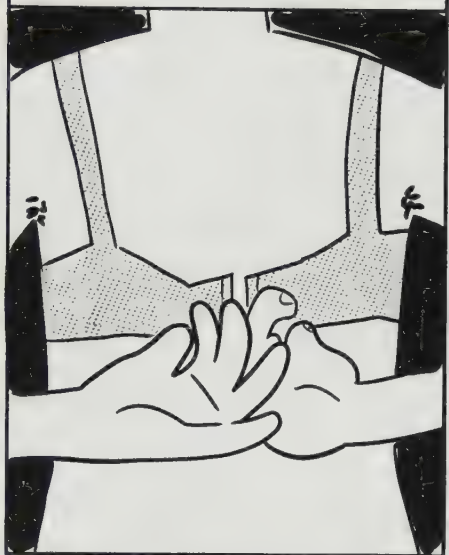
THAT WAS THE QUESTION.



WHEN I WAS LITTLE,
I'D PUNCH MY CHEST...



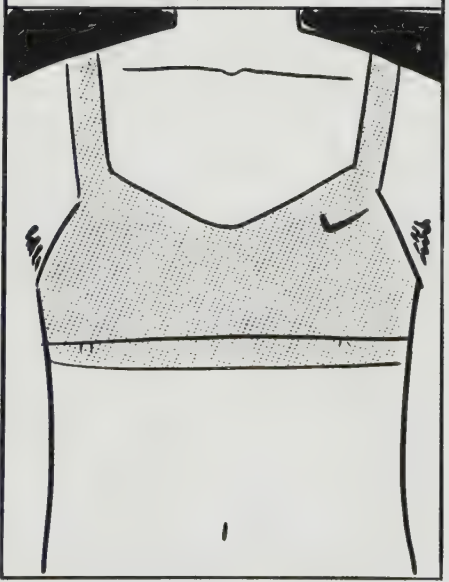
HOPING NOWT WOULD
GROW THERE.

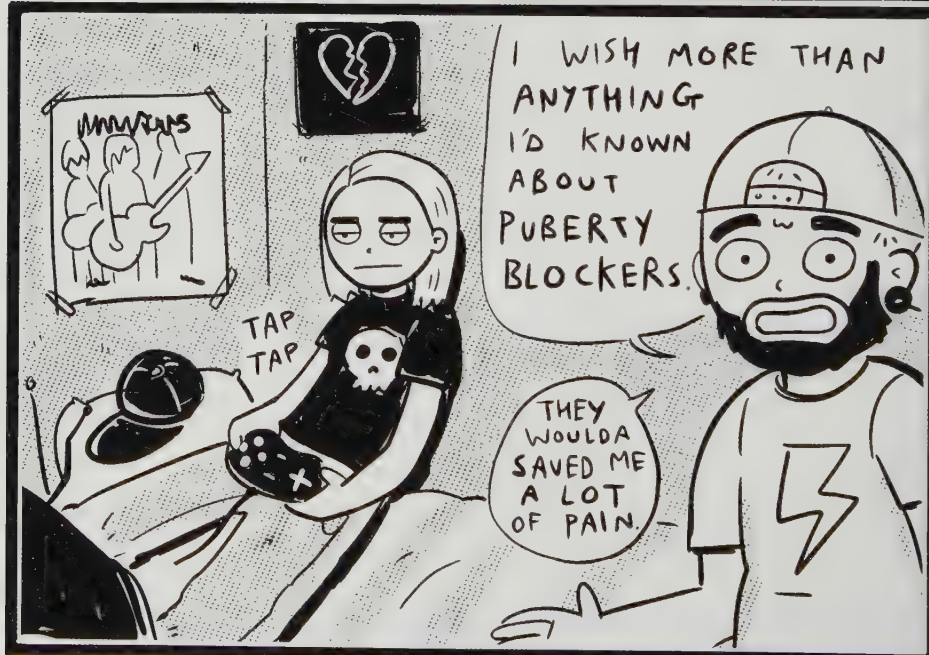
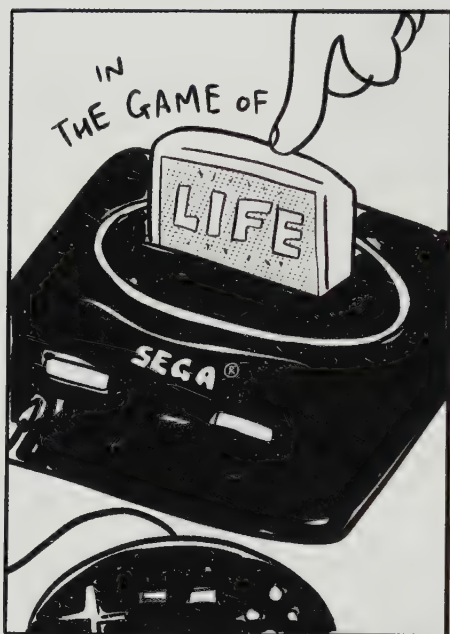


DIDN'T BLOODY WORK.



SPORTS BRA IT IS.





BLOCKERS BASICALLY PRESS
PAUSE ON PUBERTY!
STOP YOU DEVELOPING
BREASTS N' STUFF.

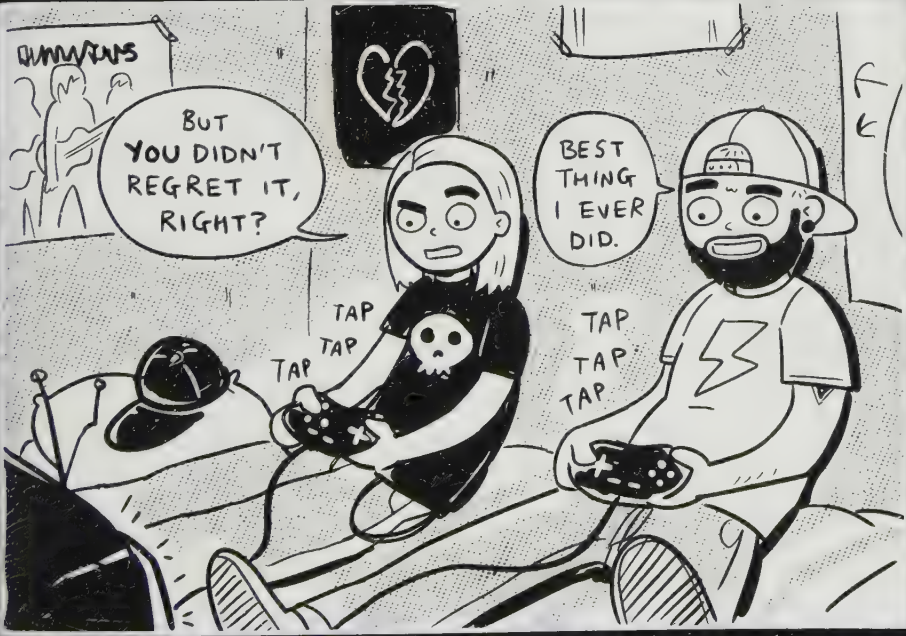


THEY WERE NEARLY MADE
IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ÉRE IN
THE UK, WHEN
SOMEONE
TOOK THE
GENDER
CLINIC
TO COURT
COZ THEY
REGRETTED
EVERYTHING.

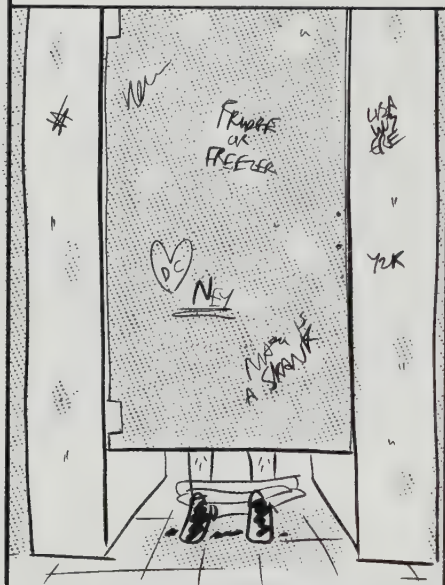


BUT
YOU DIDN'T
REGRET IT,
RIGHT?

BEST
THING
I EVER
DID.



2004. AGE 15.

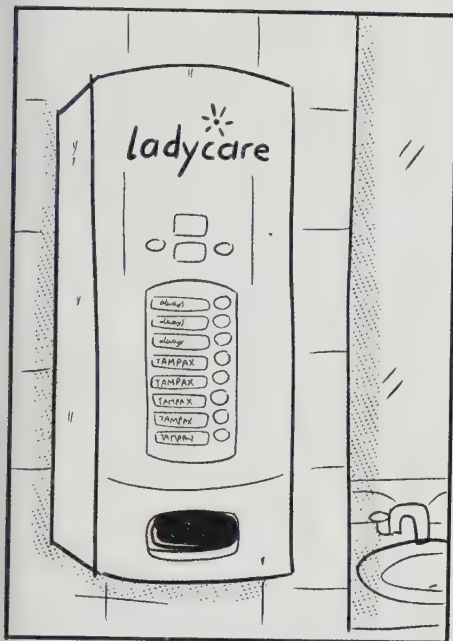


WHAT'S ON MA TIMETABLE TODAY... DOUBLE PE - KILL ME NOW.

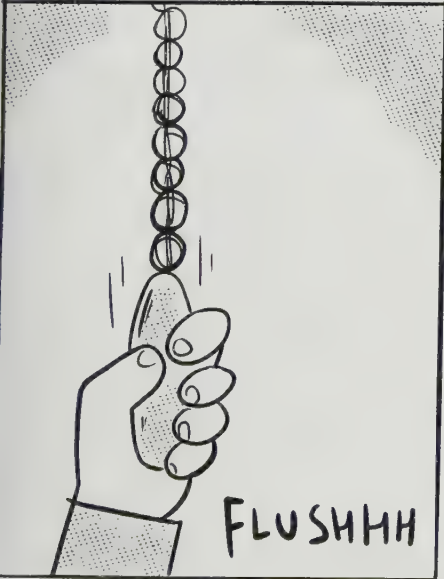


GAME OVER





I DID WHAT I HAD TO...



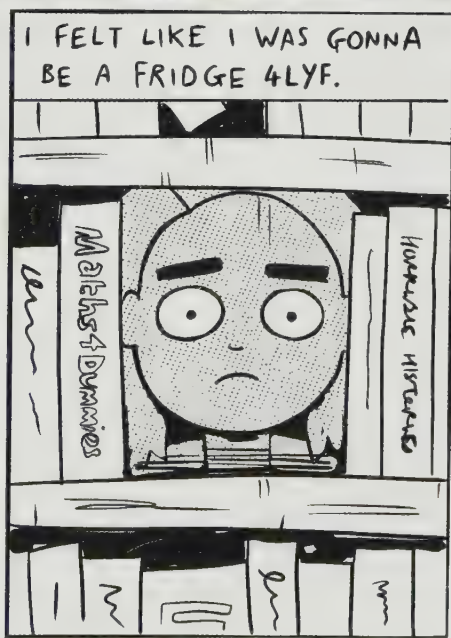
STUFF SOME BOG ROLL IN MA BOXERS AND PRETEND IT'S NOT HAPPENING!



I WAS IN YEAR 11, MY FINAL HIGH SCHOOL YEAR (THANK GOD).



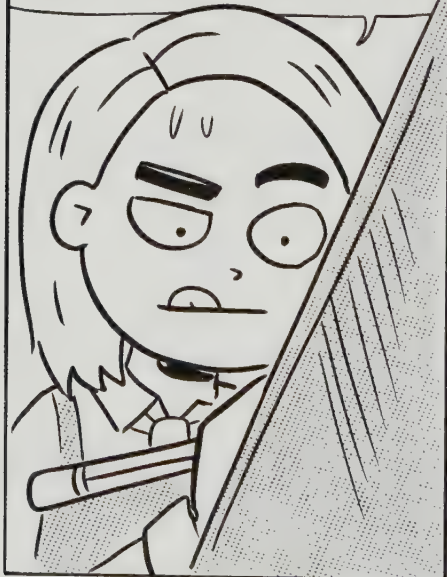
JESS HAD STARTED HANGING OUT IN THE LIBRARY WITH THE SWOTS COZ SHE FANCIED DWEBBY DANIEL.



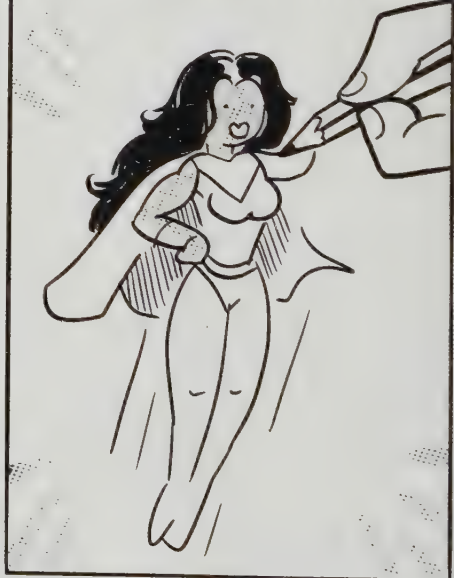
SO I WAS ACTUALLY DOING QUITE WELL IN ART CLASS!



JESS, I SHALL CALL YOU...

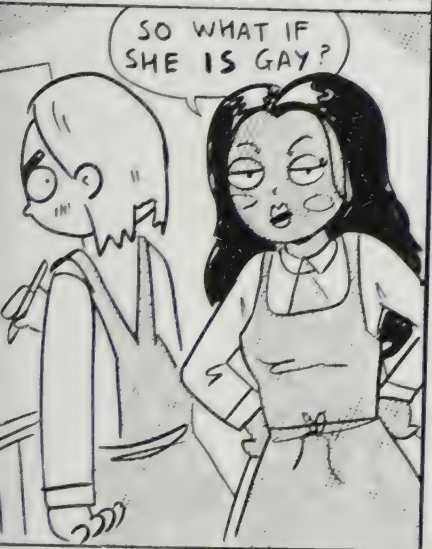


THE VALOROUS VIXEN!





TRUST THE TRENDIES TO TOUCH A RAW NERVE.



SHOWERING AFTER PE WAS MANDATORY.

I CAN SEE MUCK ON YOUR LEGS, LOIS!



SHOWER AGAIN!



AND HALF THE SHOWERS HAD NO BLOODY CURTAIN!

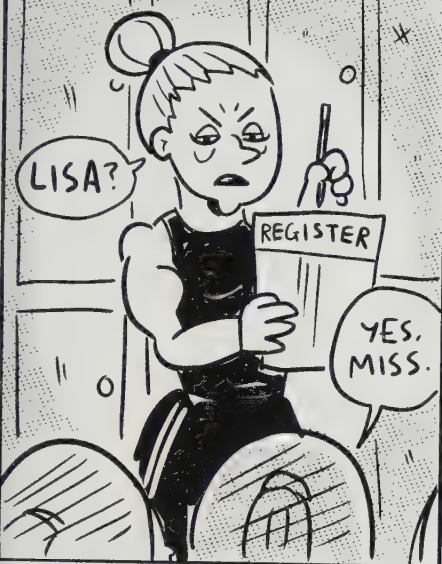
H8 LYF



HIDE ME FEET, JESS!



THERE WAS ONE EXEMPTION.



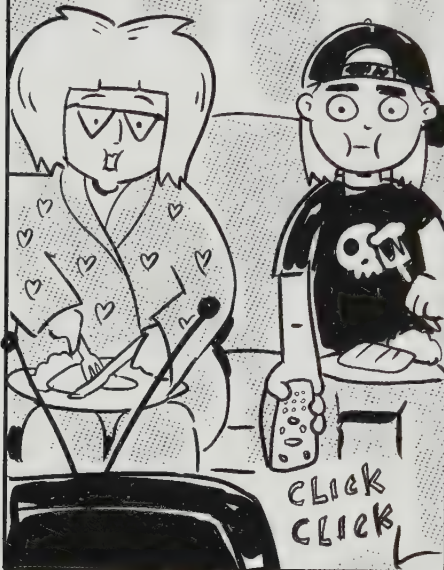
PERIOD + PE = NO SHOWER



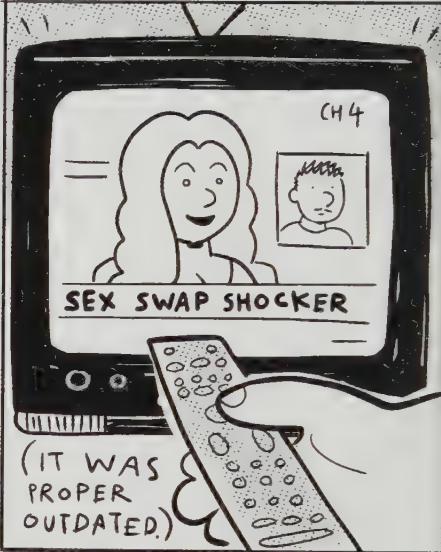
= ANSWERING THE REGISTER WITH:



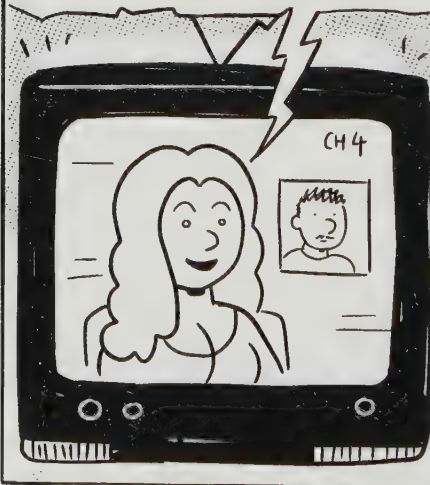
BACK AT HOME...



A DOCUMENTARY POPPED
ON TELLY.



I WAS BORN A BOY!
TEN YEARS OF HORMONES
AND SURGERIES TO BECOME
THE WOMAN I AM TODAY.



I KNEW WHAT MUM
WAS GONNA ASK...



DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE
A BOY, CHICKEN?



WHAT!? EW, NEY, MUM!!
I'M NOT WEIRD!!!!



SORRY,
LUV.

WHY WOULD
YOU EVEN
ASK
THAT?!?

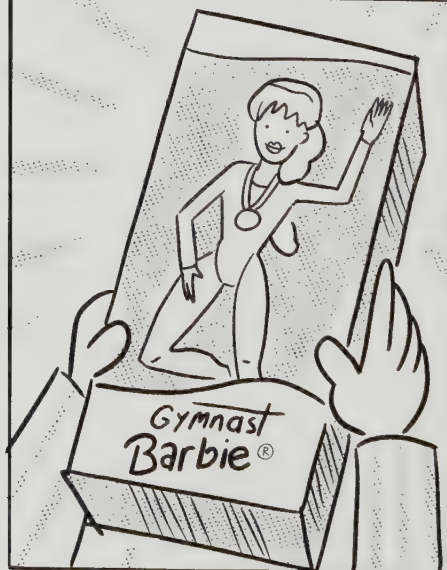
FINISH
YER
SALMON!



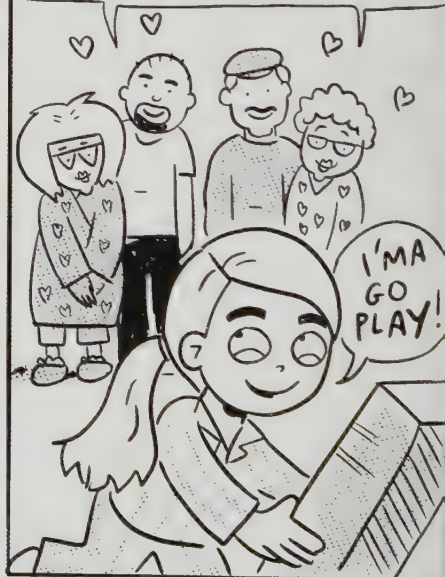
MUM SAYS I ASKED FOR A DOLL ONCE, WHEN I WAS LITTLE...



I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED:



OUR LOVELY LITTLE GIRL!



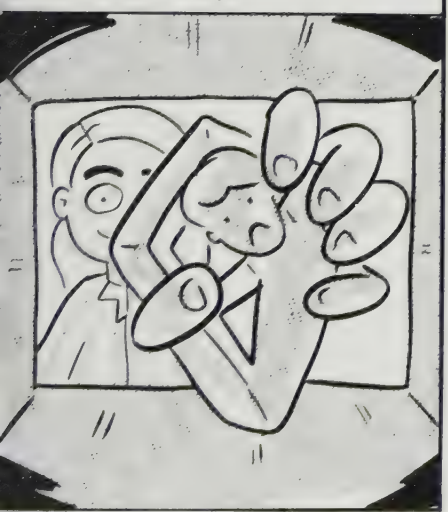
BUT I HAD OTHER PLANS FOR GYMNAST BARBIE.



FIRST, I TOOK HER CLOTHES OFF AND STUDIED HER.

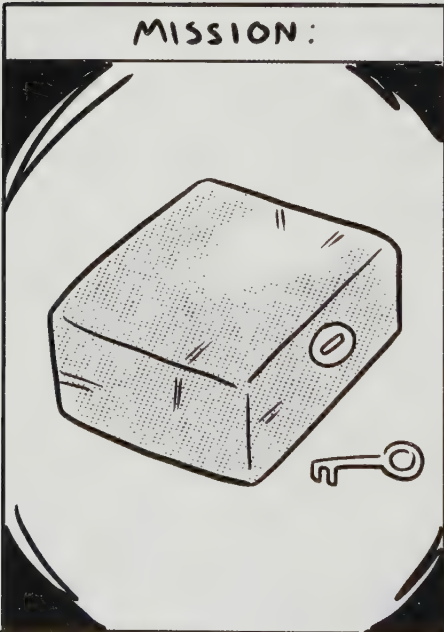
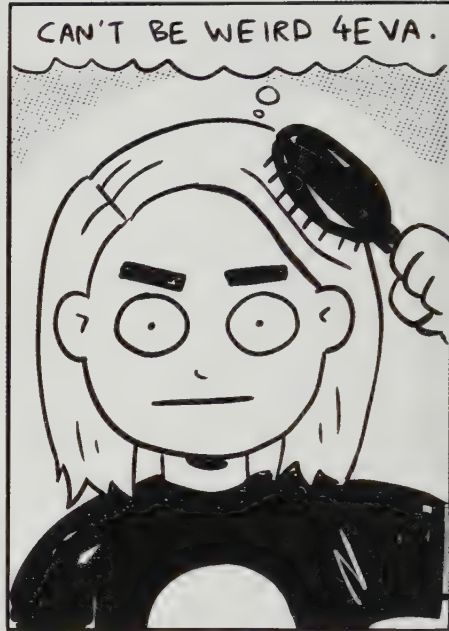
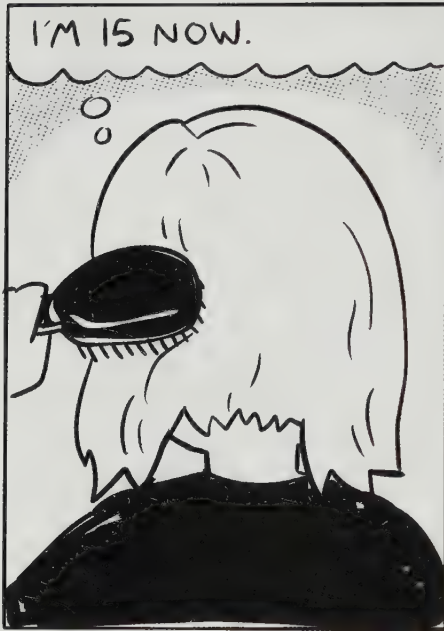


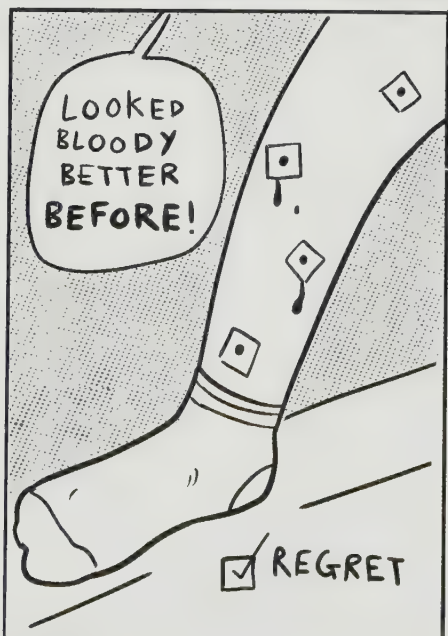
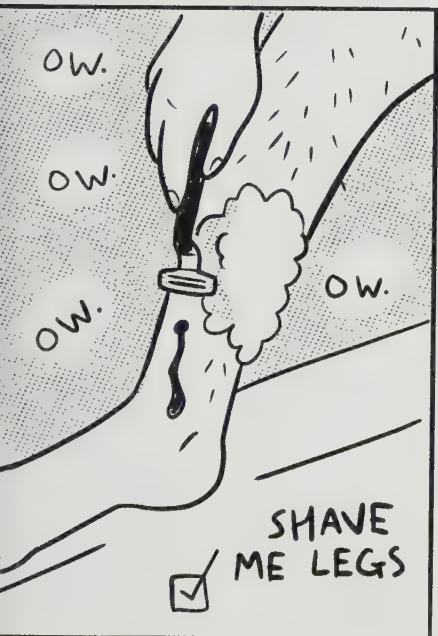
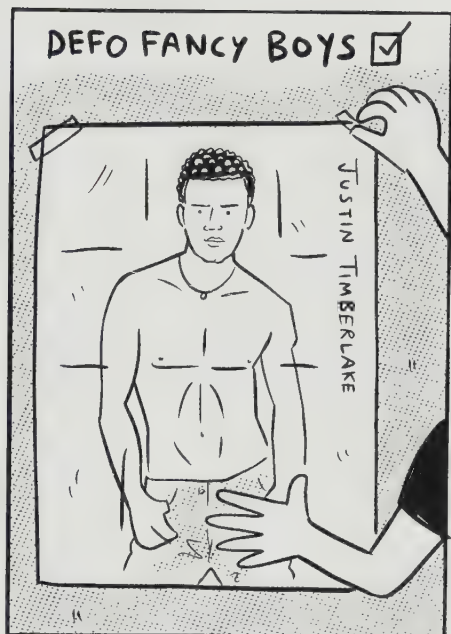
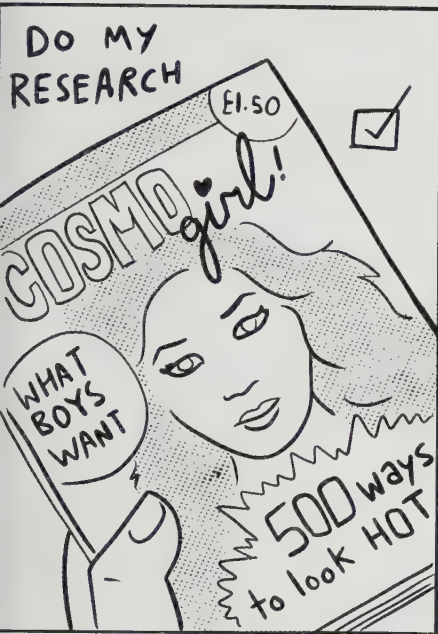
THEN I CONTORTED HER AND STUFFED HER INTO A SMALL BOX.



SHE NEVER SAW DAYLIGHT AGAIN.





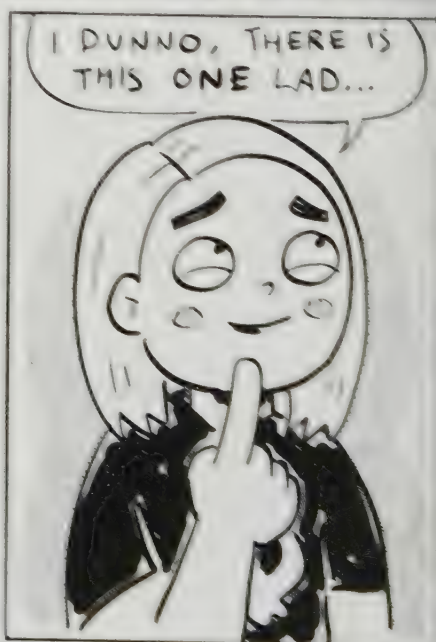


SLEEPOVER AT JESS'S HOUSE. (GIRLS ONLY.)





SECRET: WHEN I WAS A KID I THOUGHT I KINDA FANCIED JESS A BIT. BUT DONT TELL!



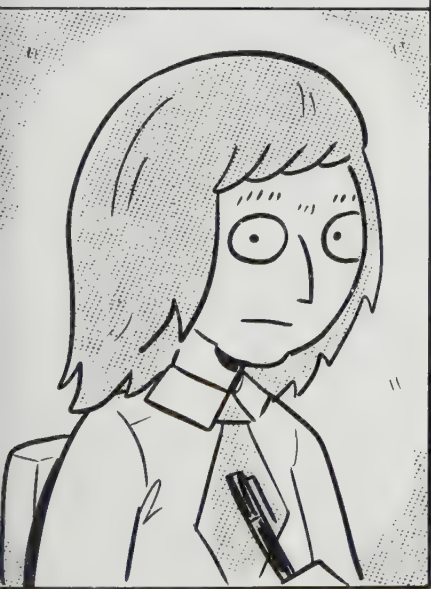
BARNEY WAS IN MY HISTORY CLASS.



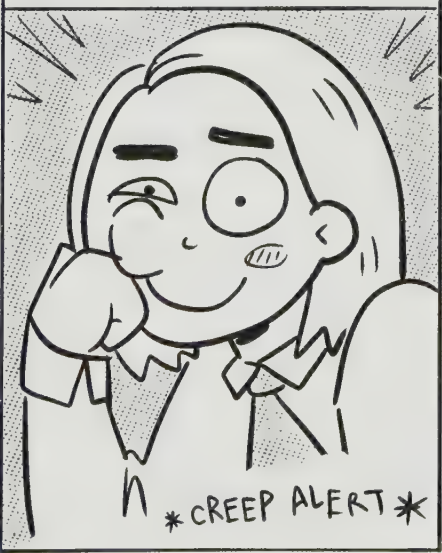
SHORT AND SHY WITH LONG GOLDEN LOCKS.



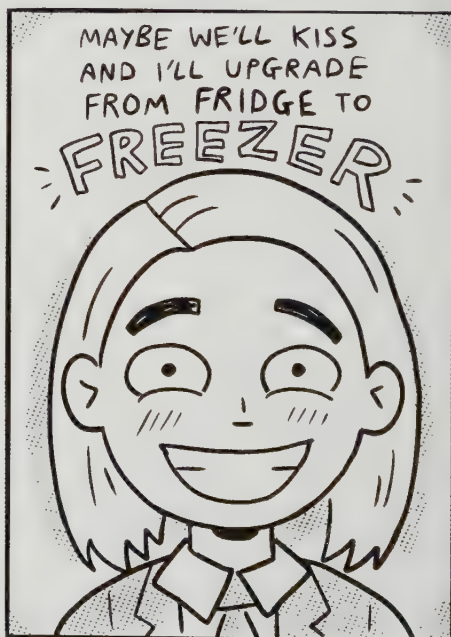
HE FASCINATED ME.



I'D BEEN STARING AT HIM LIKE:



ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER...

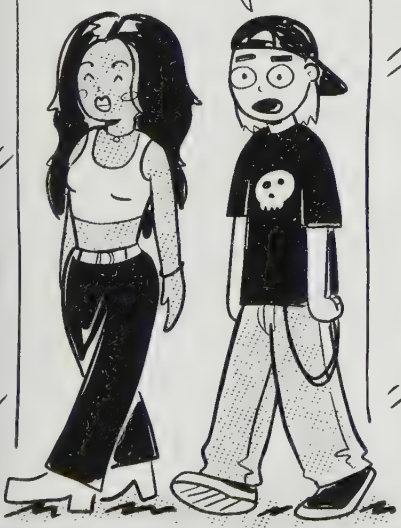


WARDROBE UPDATE

TAMMY *girl*



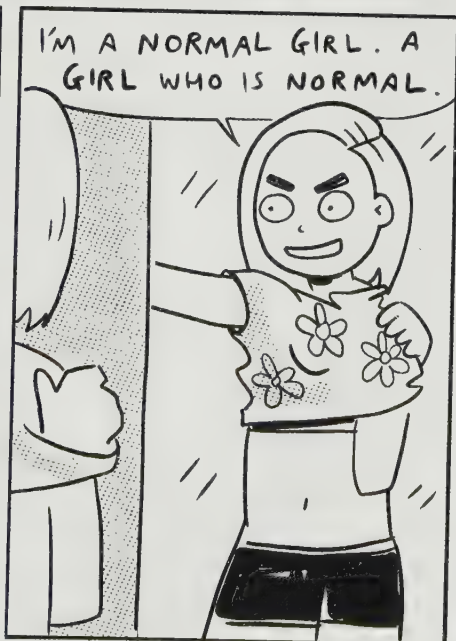
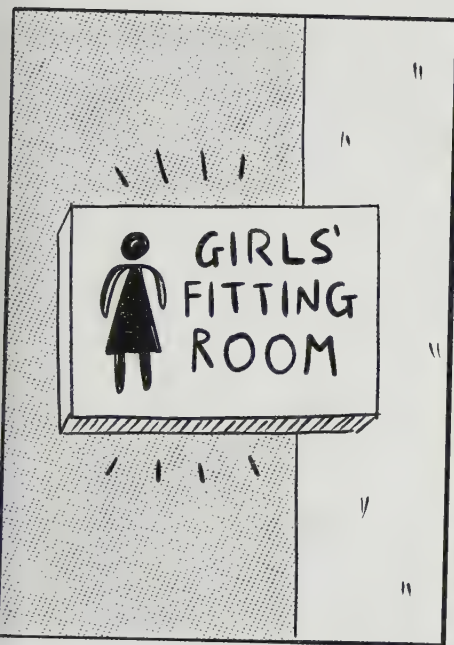
PLS HELP ME, JESS,
FASHION GURU.



I WAS WAY OUT MY DEPTH.
NOT A SKULL IN SIGHT.







BOTTLE UP THE BOY INSIDE



IT WAS UNDER 18'S NIGHT AT THE SKANKY CITADEL.



STUPID
TRENDIES.

OMG, JESS,
NOT R U WEARING?

ON
WEDNESDAYS,
WE WEAR
TRACKIES!



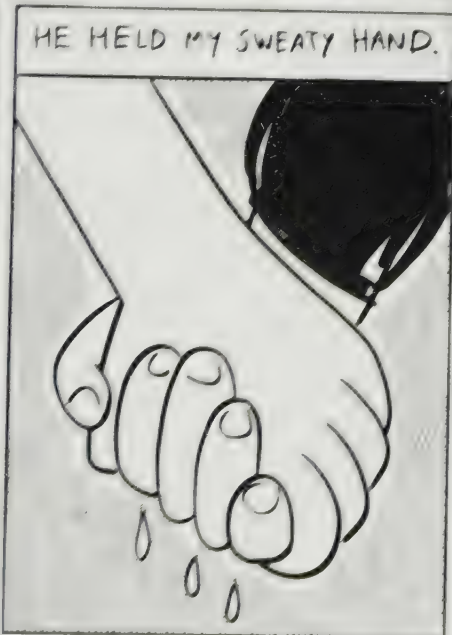


INSIDE WAS HOT AND SWEATY AS HELL.



I DON'T THINK DANIEL COULD REALLY PLAY THE BASS.





I THINK JESS MUSTA TOLD
THE TRENDIES SUMMAT:

I'VE TOTES
DOLLED LOIS
UP...

BUT SHE'S
TOO SHY
TO SHOW
HER BODY
OFF!



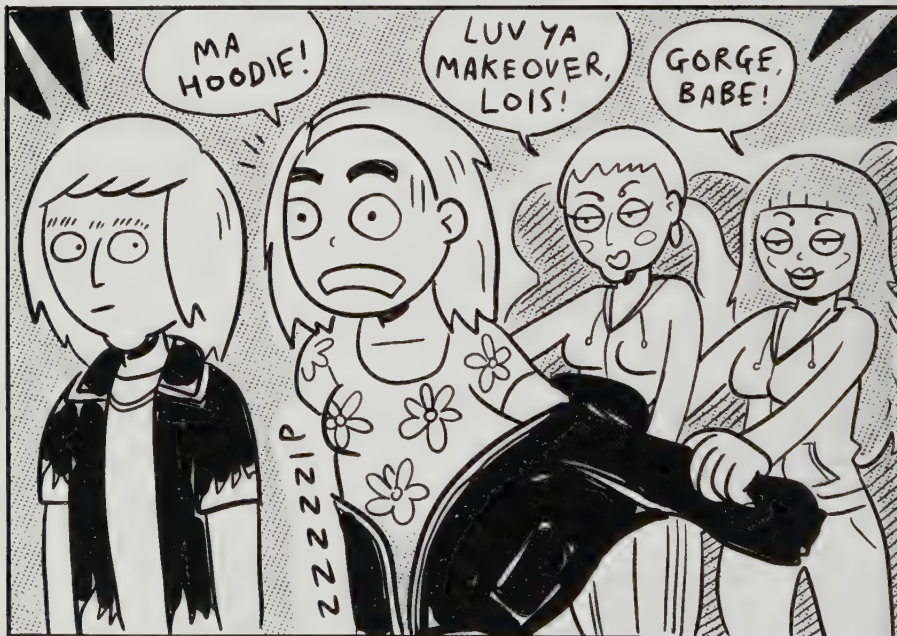
COZ THEY CAME FOR ME..



MA
HOODIE!

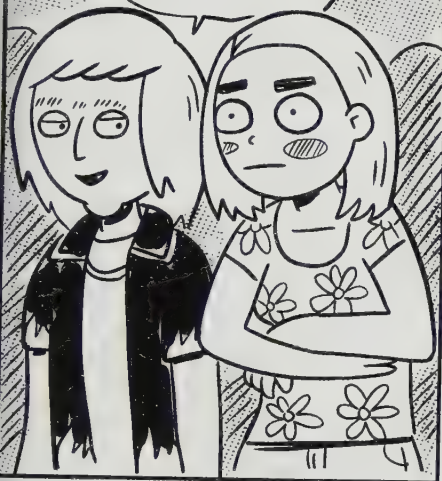
LUV YA
MAKEOVER,
LOIS!

GORGE,
BABE!



DIDN'T MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAID...

I THINK YOU LOOK NICE.



I FELT NAKED. RANK.



I WANTED THE GROUND...



TO SWALLOW ME UP!





ONE DAY YOU'LL
FEEL RIGHT IN
YOUR BODY.



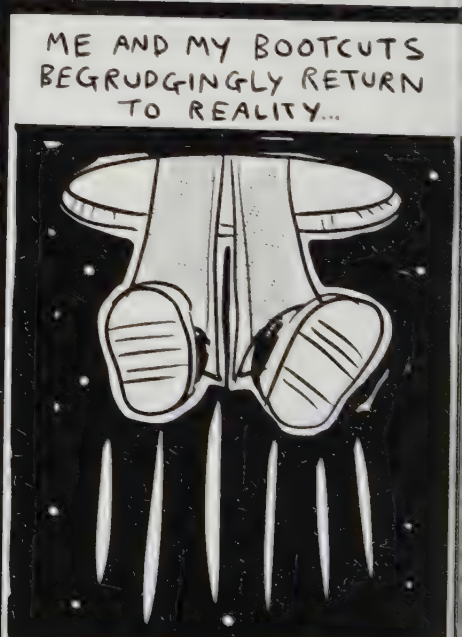
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IF YOU'RE MA
FUTURE,
CAN'T
WE JUST
SKIP
TO THE
END
???

LIKE
SRSLY?

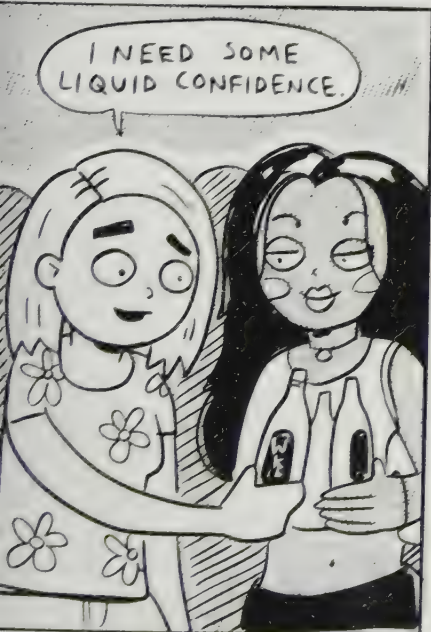
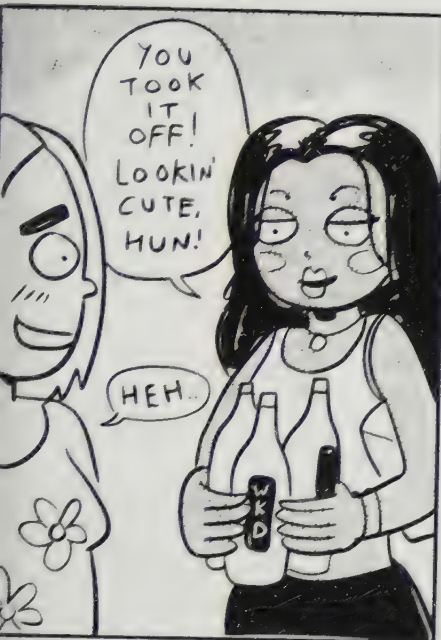


NEY, SOZ!
IT'S ALL
ABOUT
THE
PROCESS.

@*@*



ME AND MY BOOTCUTS
BEGRUDGINGLY RETURN
TO REALITY...



THE MORE I DRANK...



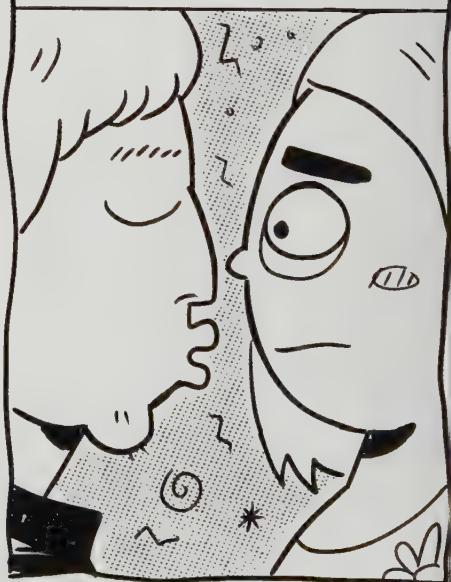
MY DREAM OF DE-FRIDGING
GOT CLOSER.

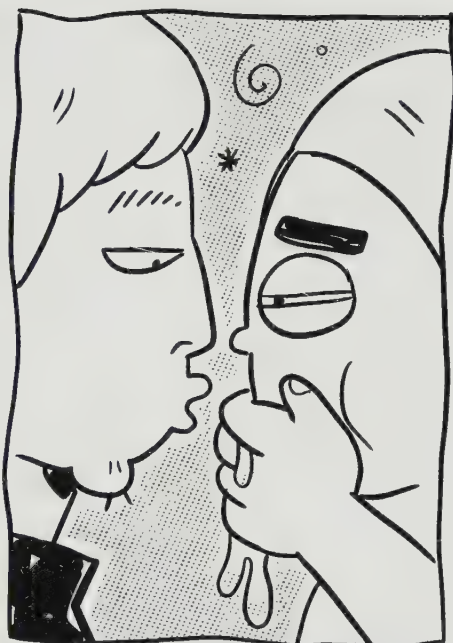
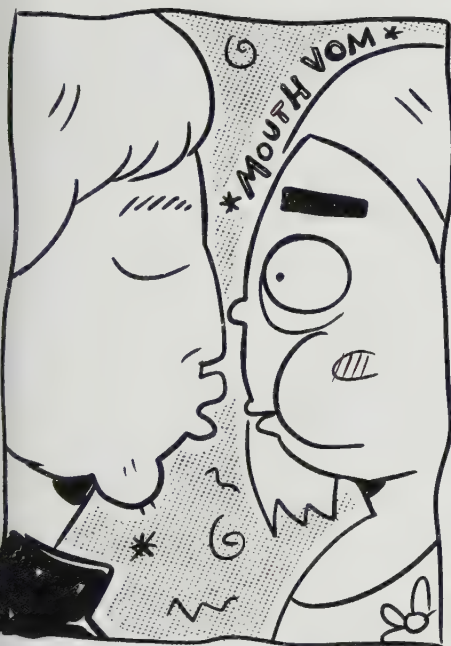


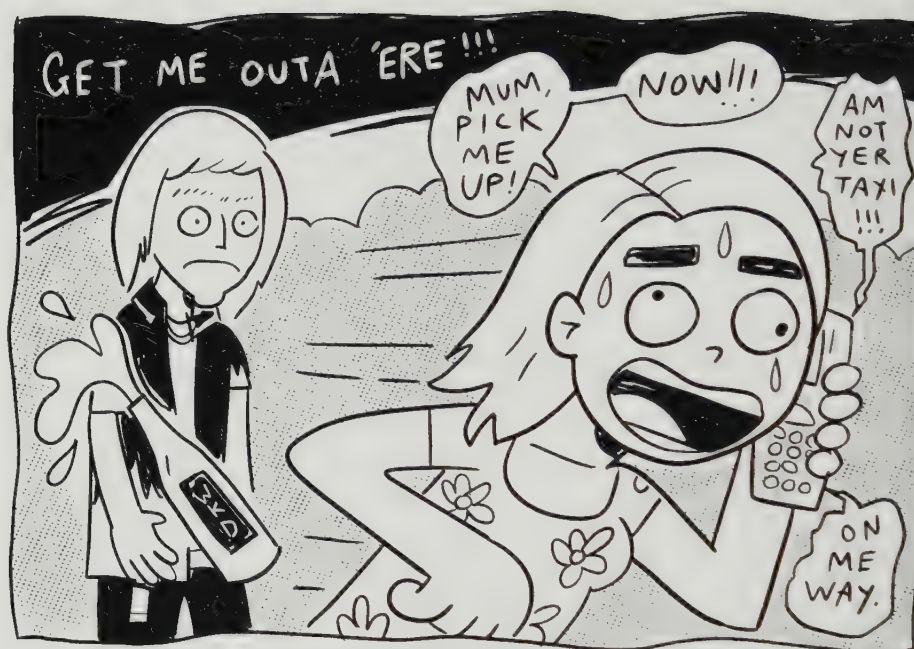
AND CLOSER...



AND CLOSER...







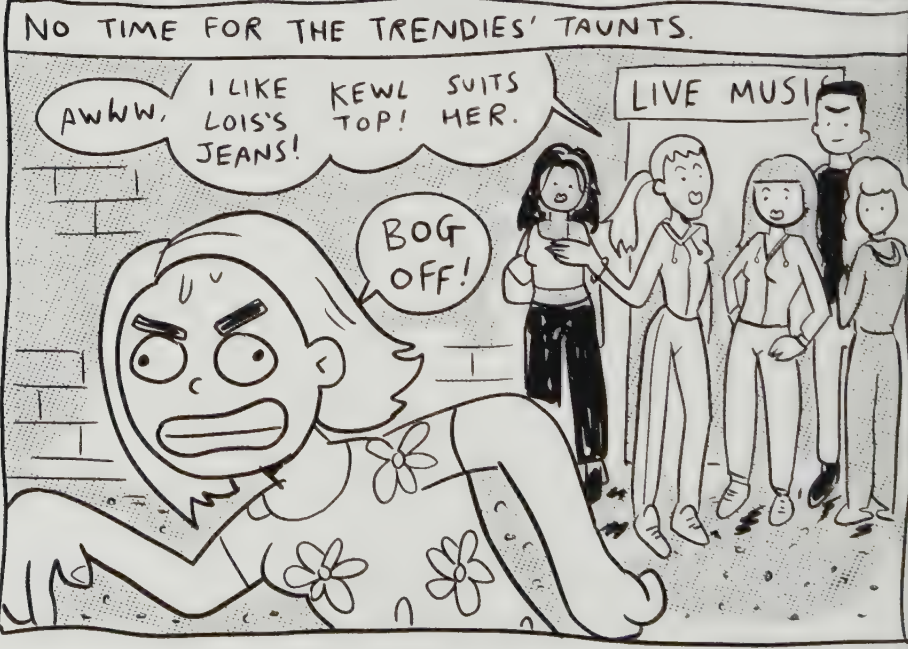
GET ME OUTA 'ERE !!!

MUM, PICK ME UP!

NOW!!!

AM NOT YER TAXI !!!

ON ME WAY.



NO TIME FOR THE TRENDIES' TAUNTS.

AWWW,

I LIKE LOIS'S JEANS!

KEWL SUITS TOP! HER.

BOG OFF!

LIVE MUSIC

IT WAS TIME TO FACE THE TRUTH...



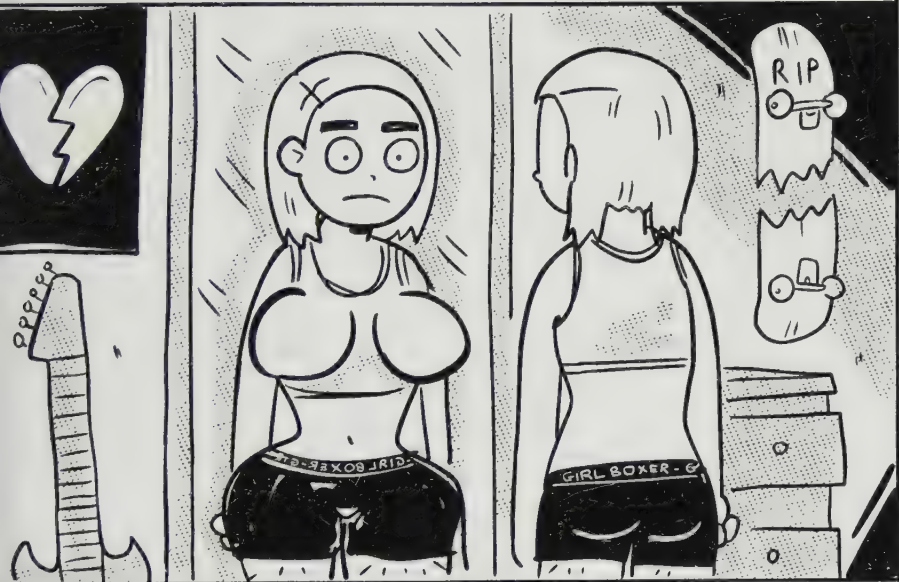
DEFO DID NOT FANCY BOYS



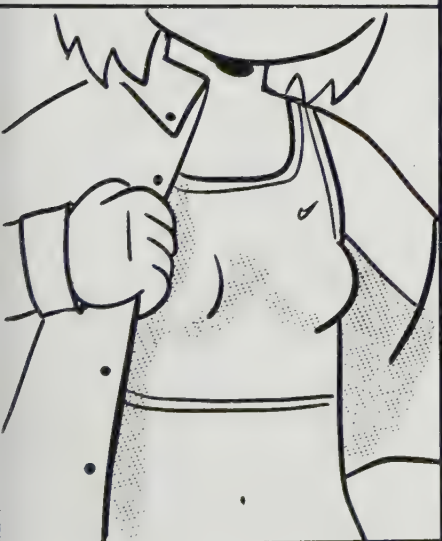
THE ONE OUTFIT I COULDN'T CHANGE... MY OWN BODY.



MY REFLECTION WAS PLAYING TRICKS.



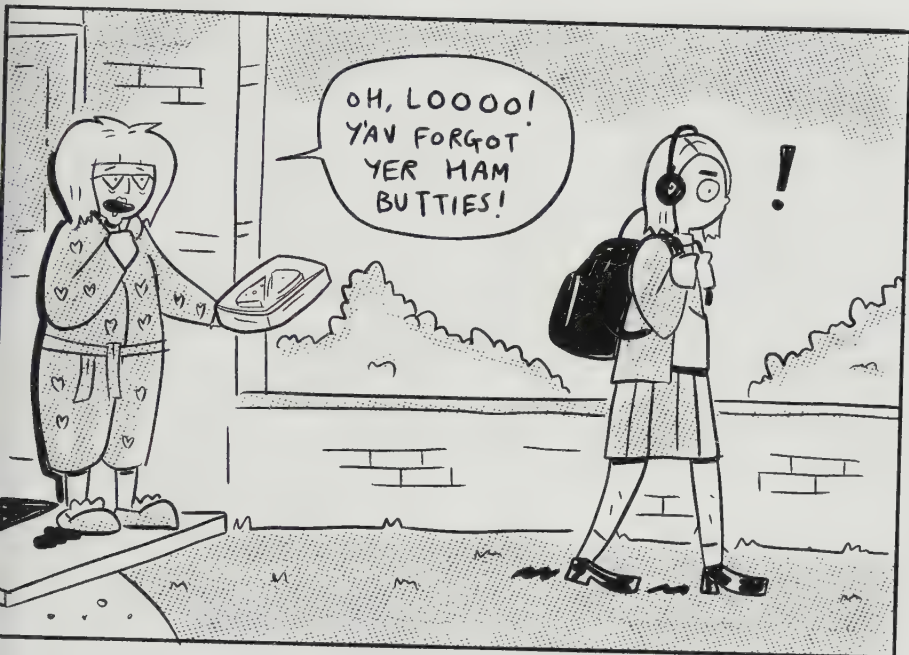
MY SCHOOL UNIFORM FELT TIGHTER...



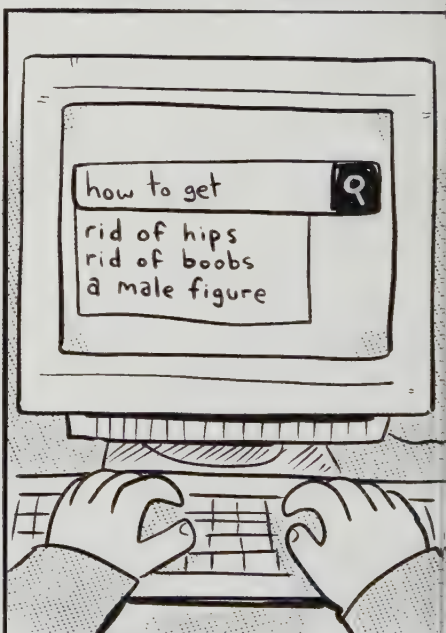
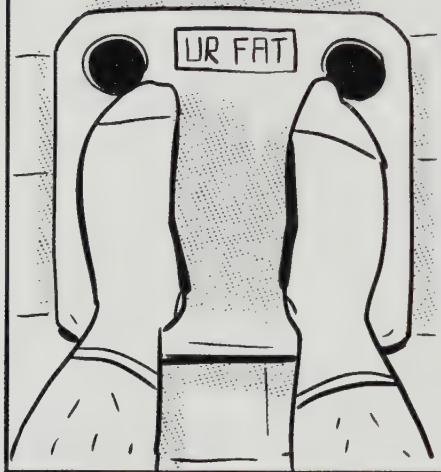
CLINGING TO EVERY CURVE.

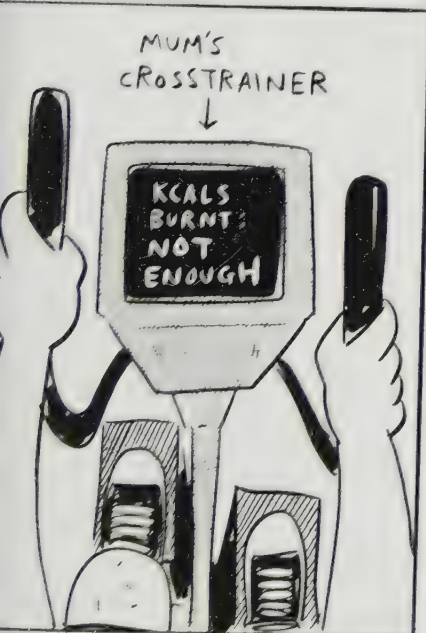
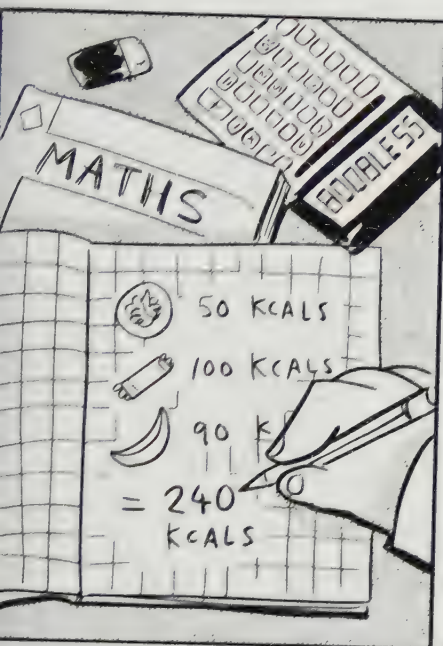


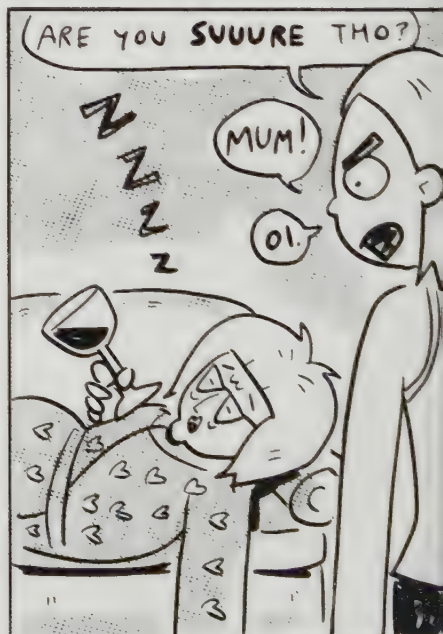
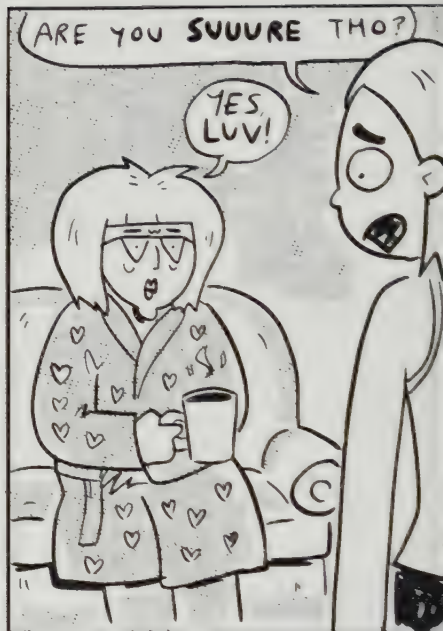




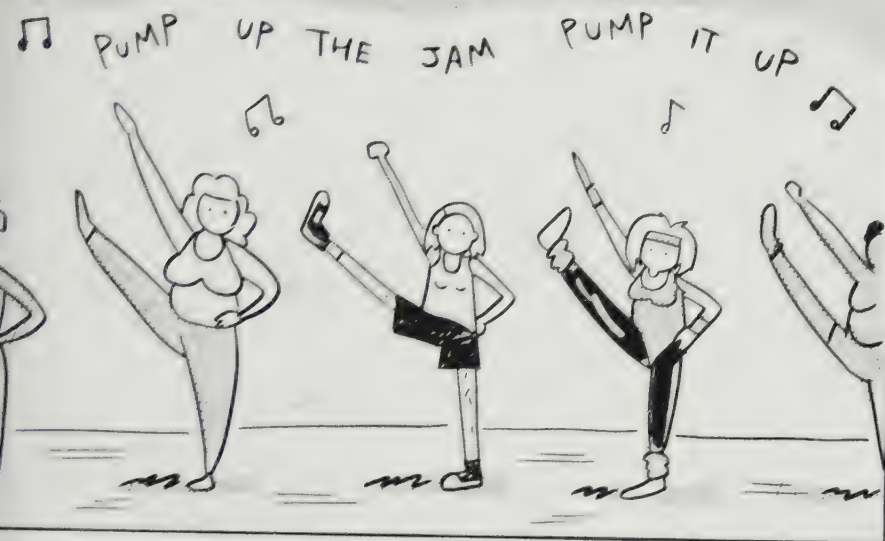
SO I GOT A BIT
OBSESSIVE...

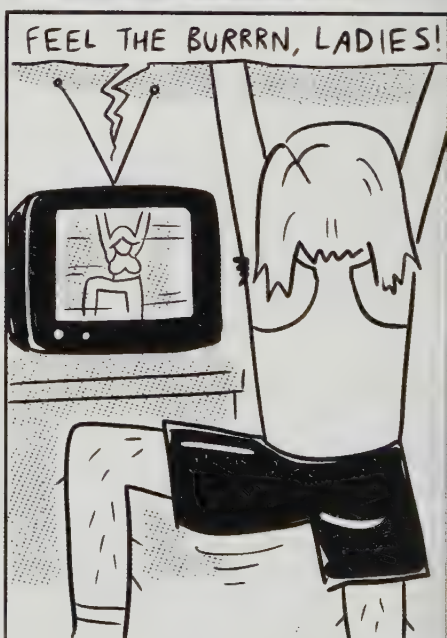
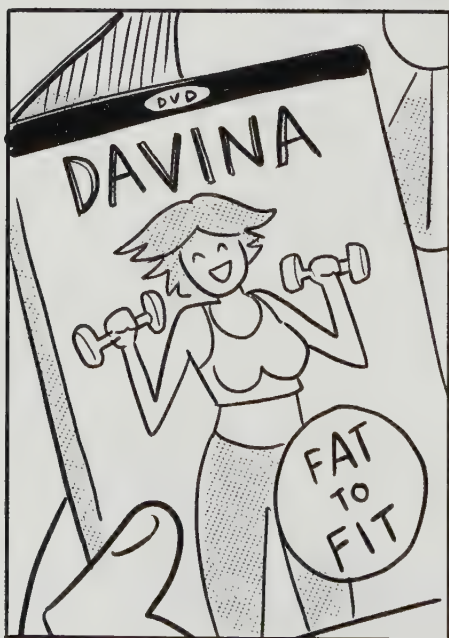






I EVEN JOINED MUM ON HER KEEP FIT CLASS!

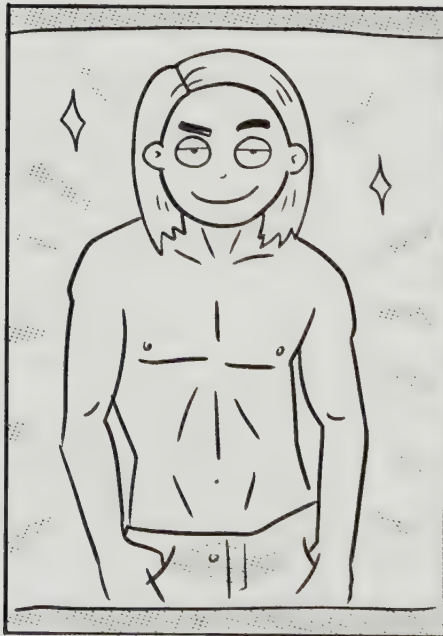
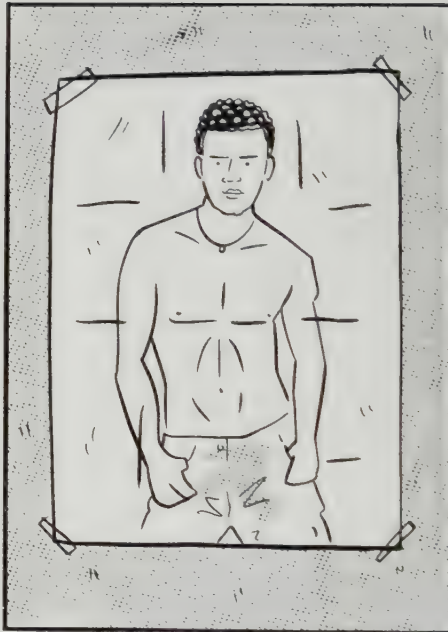




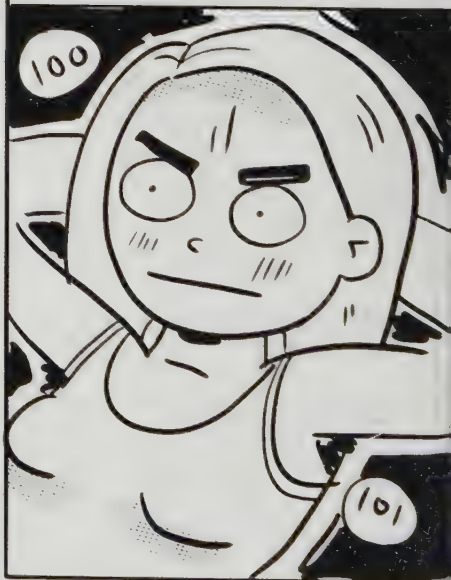
I HAD TO KILL THE CURVES SOMEHOW!



MY DREAM BODY FELT SO CLOSE...



YET SO FAR.

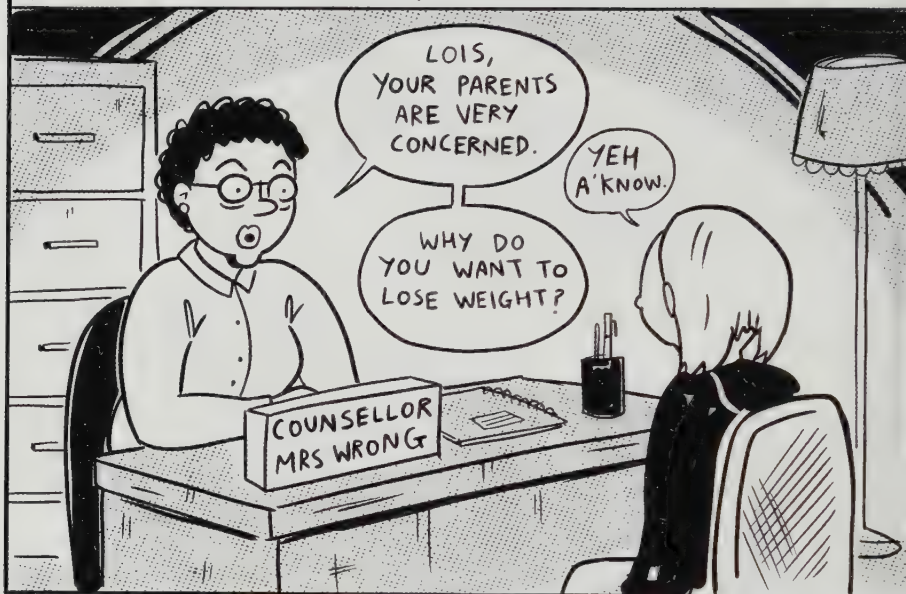


THE BEST PART ABOUT
ALL THIS DIETING...

I DON'T GET MY
'TIME OF THE MONTH'
ANY MORE.

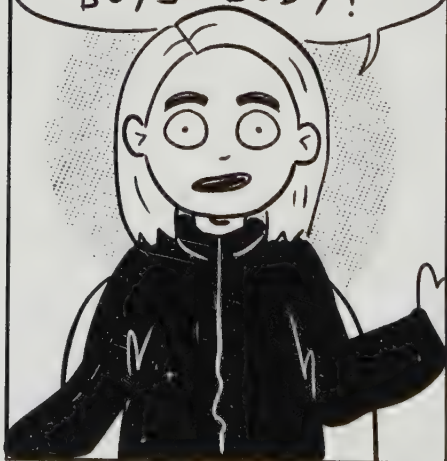
IS IT REALLY
BAD I'M HAPPY
ABOUT THAT?

YEAH, THINGS GOT PRETTY SERIOUS...



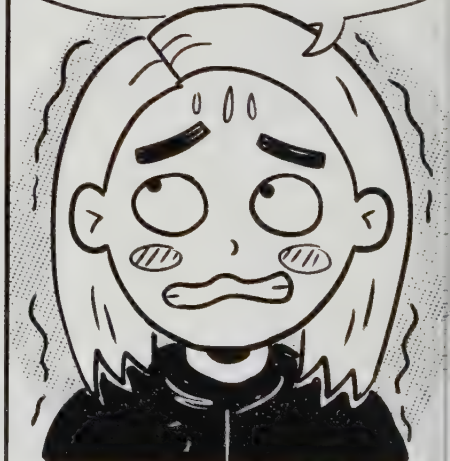
WHAT I WISH I'D SAID :

I DON'T WANNA BE THIN...
I JUST WANT A
BOYS' BODY!



WHAT I REALLY SAID:

IT'S LIKE, ERR, LIKE,
DEAD HARD TO EXPLAIN...
LIKE.



DIAGNOSIS: ANOREXIA



A TEENAGE GIRL FROM A BROKEN HOME. LOIS IS TEXTBOOK ANOREXIC!



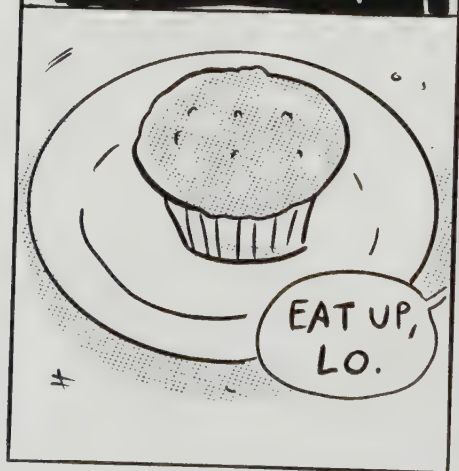
WHAT A MISSED OPPORTUNITY THAT WAS...



IT DID USED TO UPSET ME
A BIT. MUM AND DAD
SPLITTING UP.

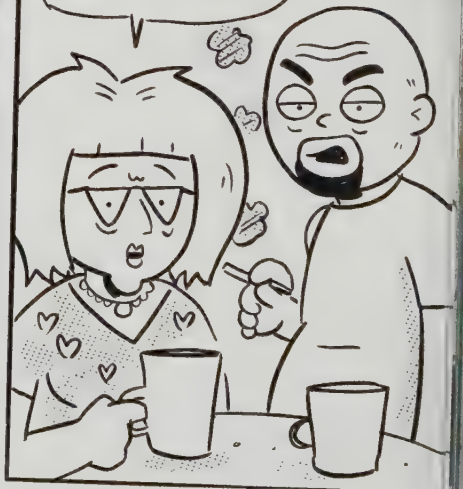


BUT IT'S COOL HOW THEY
STILL GET ALONG (SOMETIMES)



IF YOU DON'T
PUT WEIGHT ON,
YOU COULD WIND
UP IN HOSPITAL.

YOU
'EARD!



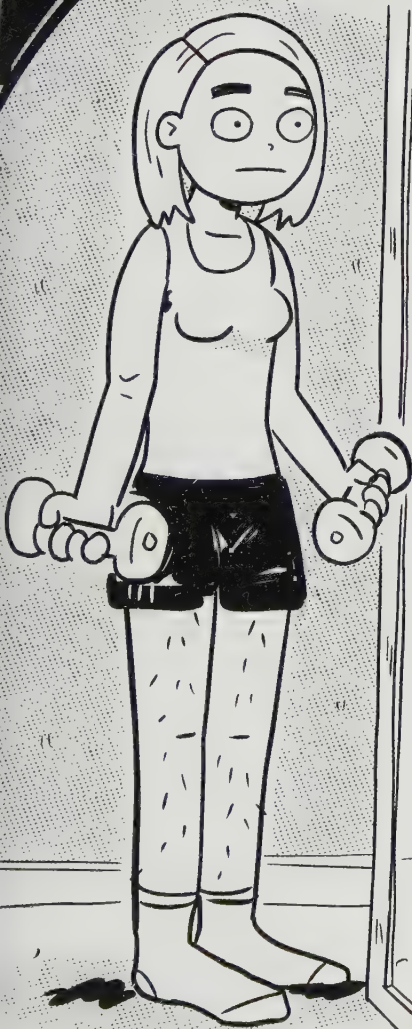
IN THE WORDS OF
DANIEL BEDINGFIELD...



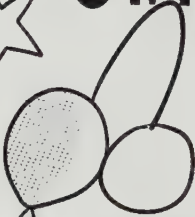
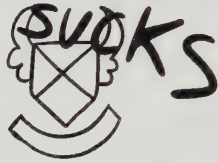


IF ONLY TEEN ME COULD SEE ME NOW...

#GLOWUP



ST. HELL HIGH



CLASS OF
2005

LEAVERS DO

30th June
St. Hell Hall
7.30pm

SUM
WUZ

FREE



AGE

16

I GOTTA
GIRL UP
ONE LAST
TIME.

DEATH CAB
FOR CUTIE



IF THERE'S **ONE** THING I LEARNED IN HIGH SCHOOL...



IT'S THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS SUMMAT TO BE SKITTED FOR.

IT'S THAT GIRL...

ST. HELEN HIGH



MAY AS WELL HAVE WORN THE BLOODY PANTS ALL ALONG.

HA

LMAO

HA

HA

HA

...WITH THE WEIRD HAIR!

HAIRY LEGS!

BET SHE'S A FRIDGE!

LOIS HAN COX HANDLES COOL

SLOWIS!



FOR MY ART GCSE I MADE A WHOLE COMIC.

RESULT:

A*

STUPENDOUS ME



FT.
THE
VALOROUS
VIXEN

NOT
SO
SLOWIS
ANY MORE!

IS IT
A BIRD?

IS IT
A BOY?

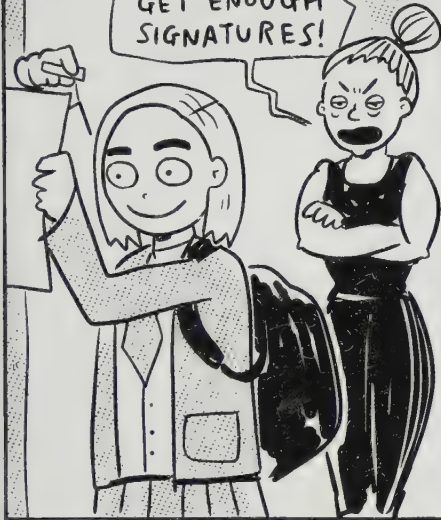
VS.
THE
TRENDIES

LJ HANCOX



AT LEAST I LEFT MY MARK...

YOU'LL NEVER
GET ENOUGH
SIGNATURES!



(I PROVED MISS MOAN WRONG.)

☆ GIRLS ☆
BASKETBALL
CLUB

<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
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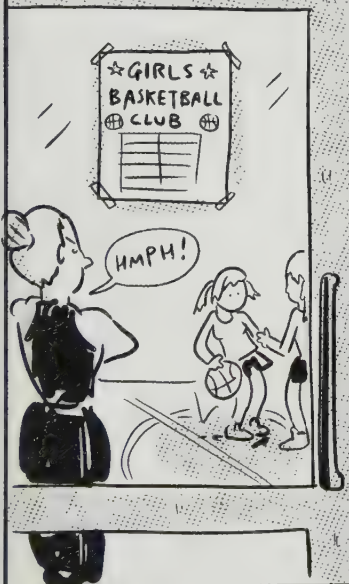
SIGN UP

SPORTS HALL



☆ GIRLS ☆
BASKETBALL
CLUB

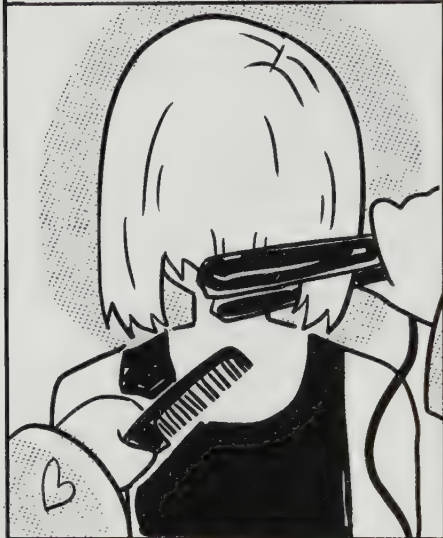
HMPH!



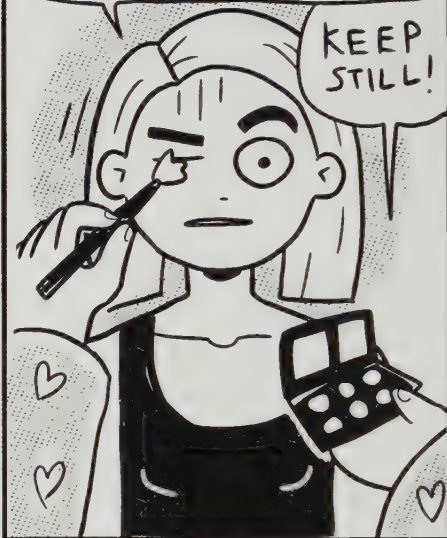
I JUST NEVER
ACTUALLY BOTHERED
TO GO MESELF!



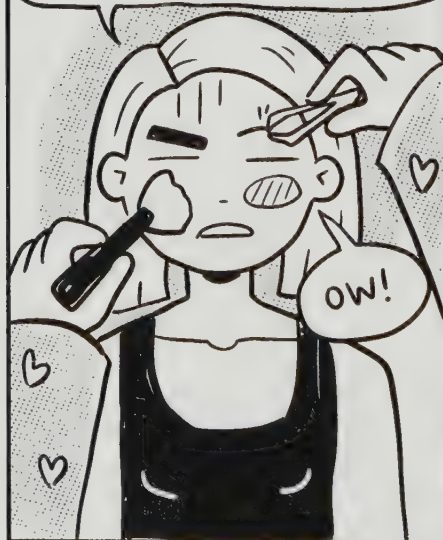
MUM HELPED DOLL ME UP FOR THE LEAVER'S DO.



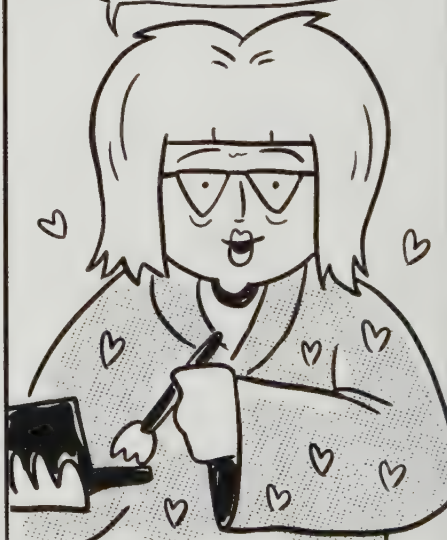
DON'T MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A CLOWN!!!



IS THIS ALL REALLY NECESSARY?!



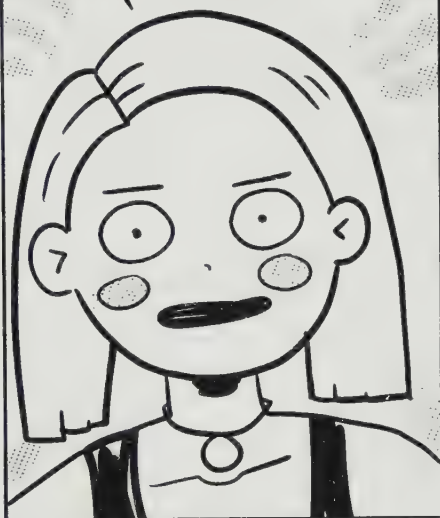
YOU LOOK FAB, CHICKEN!



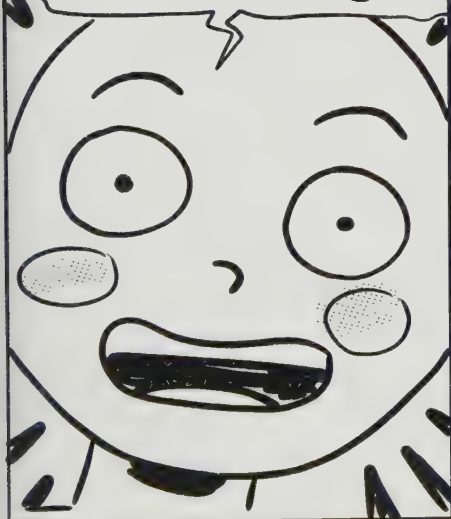
AND WORE HER HAND-
ME-DOWNS.



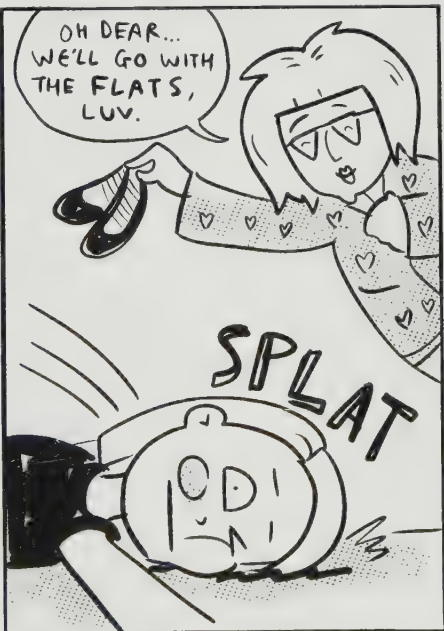
THE GROUND IS GETTING
CLOSER...



THE GROUND IS
GETTING CLOSE-



OH DEAR...
WE'LL GO WITH
THE FLATS,
LUV.



I FELT LIKE A MAN IN DRAG...



← I'D BE
FROWNING
IF MUM
HADN'T
PLUCKED
ME BROWS
SO HIGH.

I SHARED A LIMO WITH JESS'S GAL PALS. ACTUAL PHOTO.

EVERYONE
PULL A SILLY
FACE!!!!

DMG

WOOP

EEK

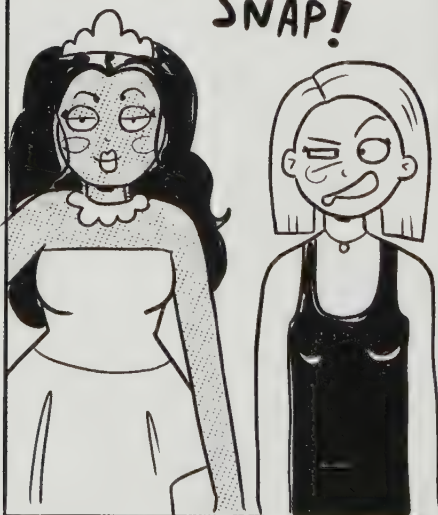
FEEEK

YAY

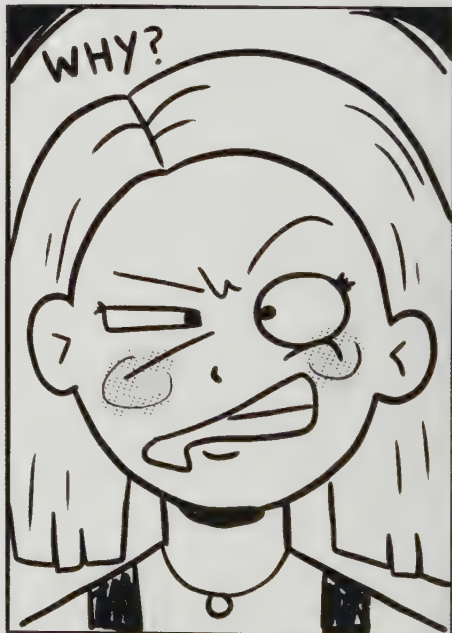


OBVIOUSLY I WAS THE ONLY
ONE WHO DID PULL A FACE...

SNAP!



WHY?



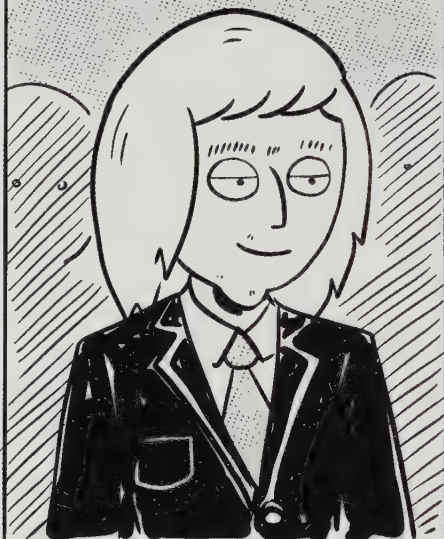
I COULDN'T WAIT TO NEVER SEE THE TRENDIES AGAIN.



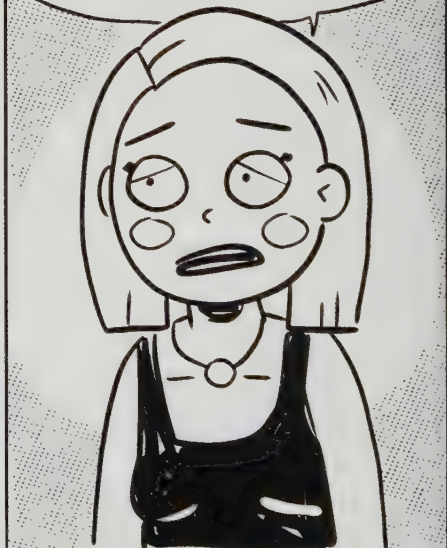
AND JUST THE GENERAL ARSEHOLES.



I SAW BARNEY LOOKING ALL SMART IN HIS SUIT.



I COULDA LOOKED LIKE THAT.



THE NIGHT WENT SUMMAT LIKE THIS:

WE HOPE YOU
ALL ENJOYED YOUR
TIME AT ST.HELL
HIGH, BLAH
BLAH BLAH...

Donk

BAWBAG!

NEY!

TWIST
PULL

I DIDN'T EAT THE MEAL COZ... CALORIES.

OMG
THIS
IS MY
SONG!!

CAN
YOU MIND
ALL OUR
BAGS FOR
US, LOIS,
TA.

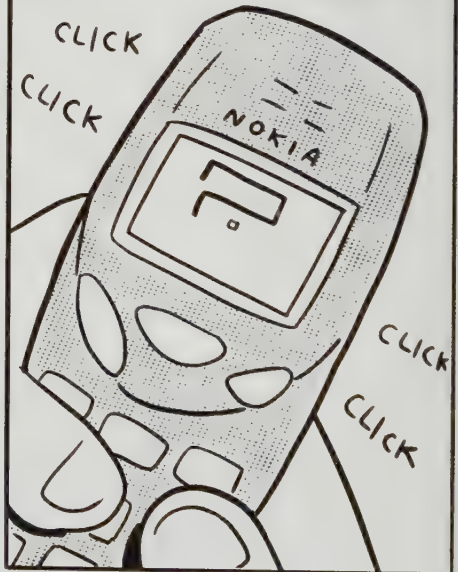
EVERYONE DANCED TO POP SONGS I DIDN'T KNOW.



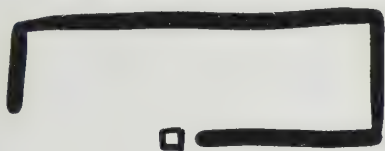
I'M BUSY TEXTING BACK ALL MY ADMIRERS, ANYWAY!



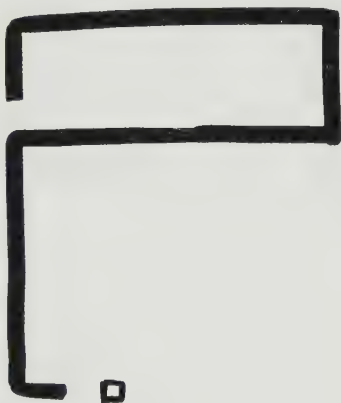
LOL JK. I WAS PLAYING SNAKE.



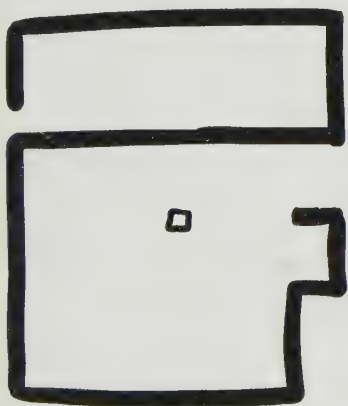
I MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN
WHO I WAS, BACK THEN...



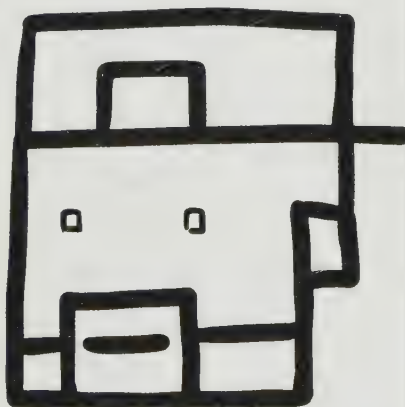
BUT I WAS STARTING TO
LEARN WHO I WASN'T.



A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION,
I GUESS.



BUT IF I COULD REWIND...



I'D HAVE COME OUT AS ME WAY SOONER.

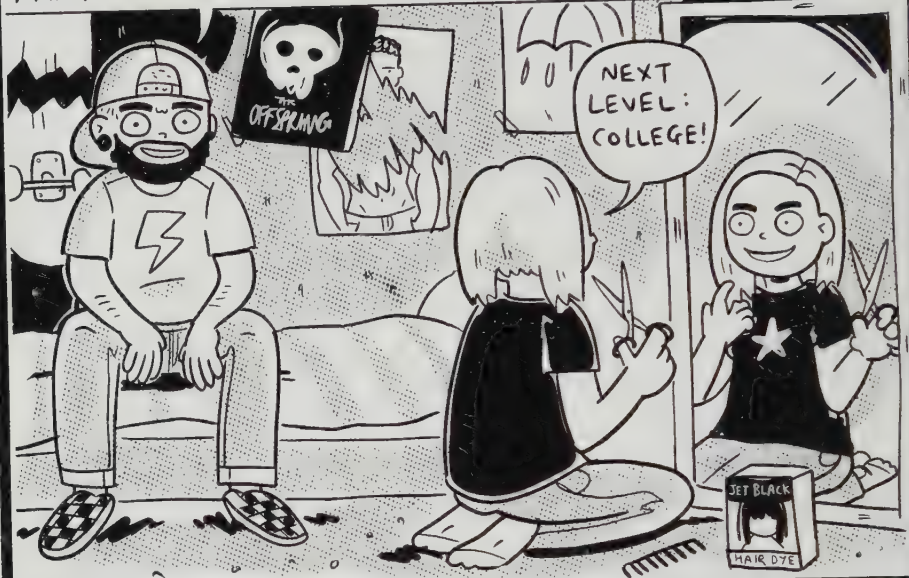
CALL ME
LEWIS. K
THX
BYE.



PART TWO:

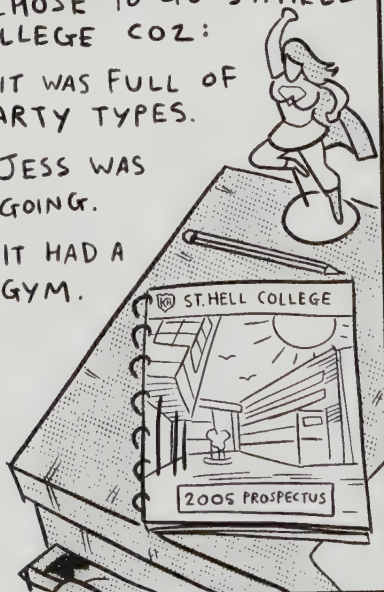
LOIS TO LEWIS

I DID IT! I SURVIVED FIVE HELLISH YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL.



I CHOSE TO GO ST.HELL COLLEGE COZ:

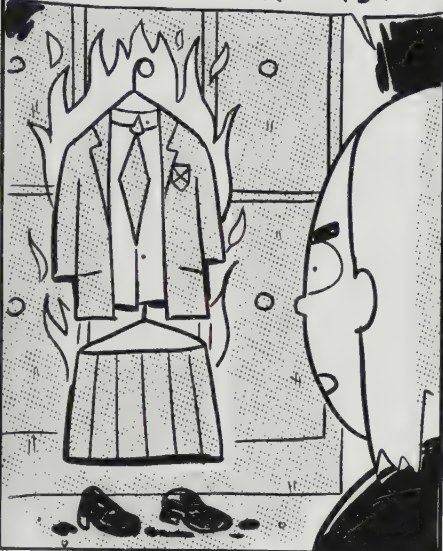
- A) IT WAS FULL OF ARTY TYPES.
- B) JESS WAS GOING.
- 3) IT HAD A GYM.



HOPEFULLY IT'LL CUT OUT ALL THE BADI'UNS.



TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO
LITTLE LOSER LOIS.



I'M SICK
OF ALWAYS
TRYING TO
FIT A
MOULD!



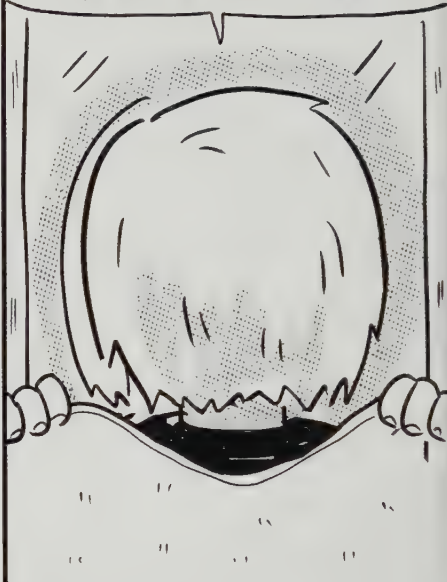
I'M NOT A JELLY.



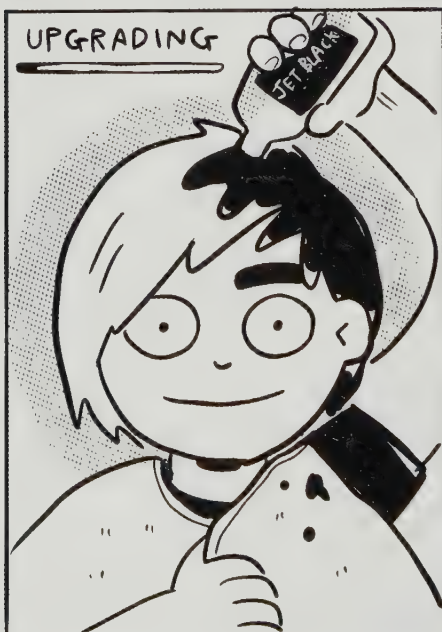
SNIP SNIP



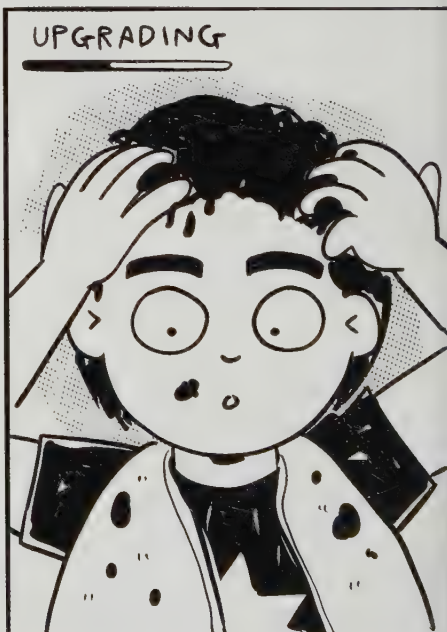
I CAN BE A MORE ME ME.



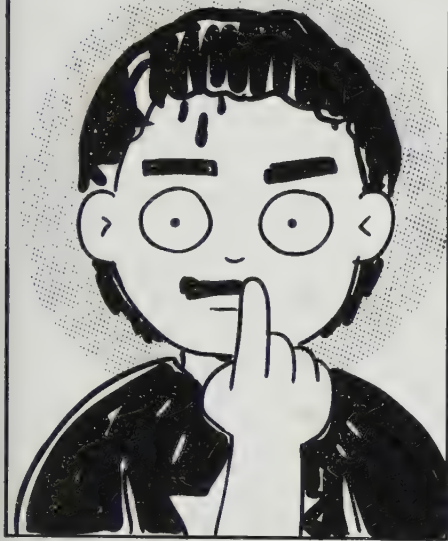
UPGRADING



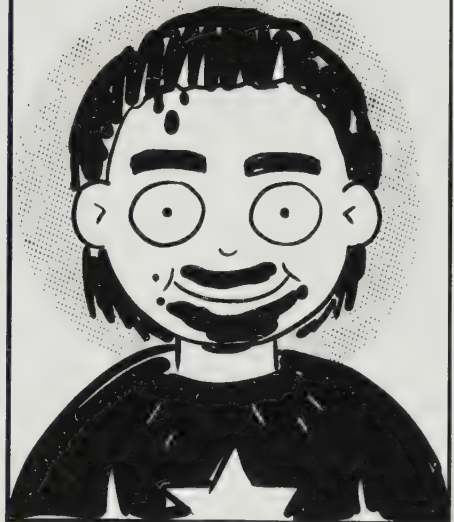
UPGRADING



UPGRADING



LOIS 2.0



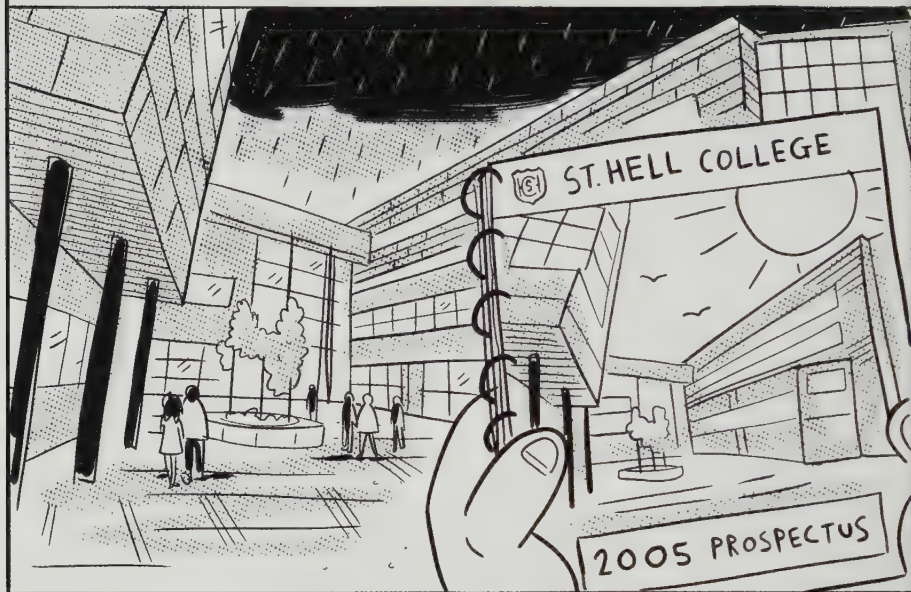
OH, LOOOOOO, WHAT ARE YA PLAYIN' AT!!!?



Y'AV RUINED ME BEST TOWEL!!



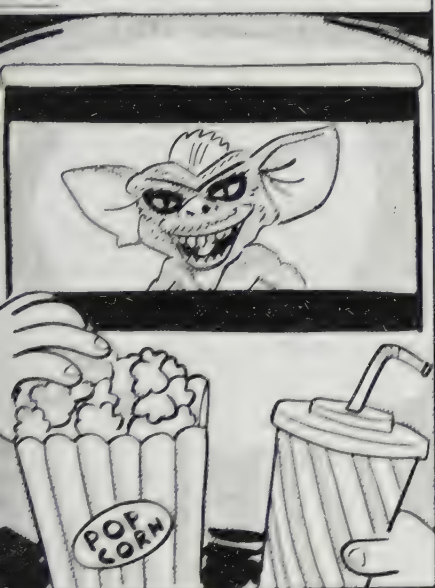
THIS WAS MY CHANCE FOR A BIG FAT FRESH START...



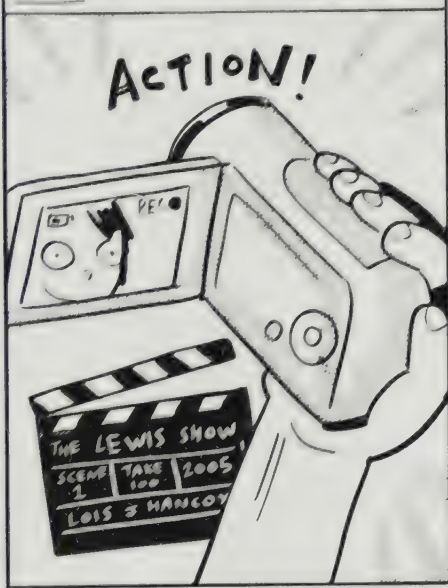
EVERYONE HAD THEIR OWN STYLE GOING ON. WE GOT TO WEAR WHATEVER AND STUDY WHATEVER WE WANTED! I CHOSE...



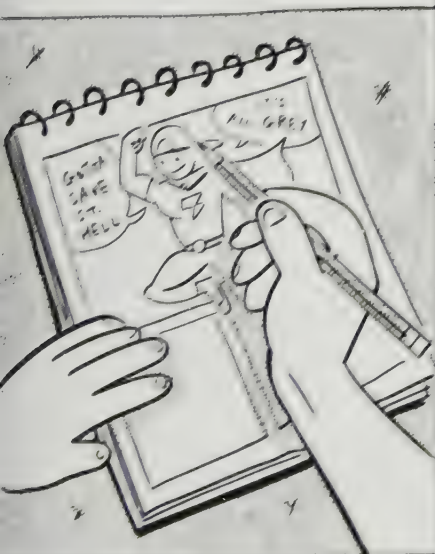
FILM SO I COULD WATCH FILMS



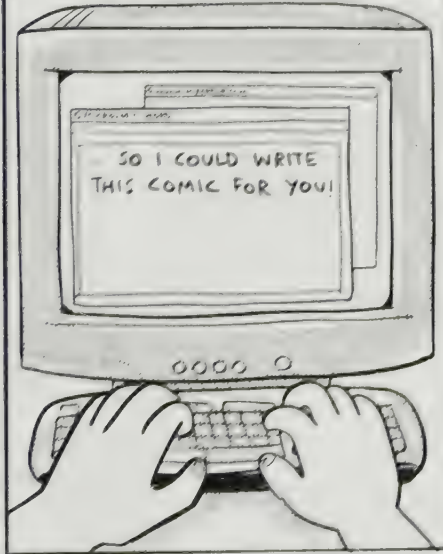
MEDIA SO I COULD MAKE FILMS



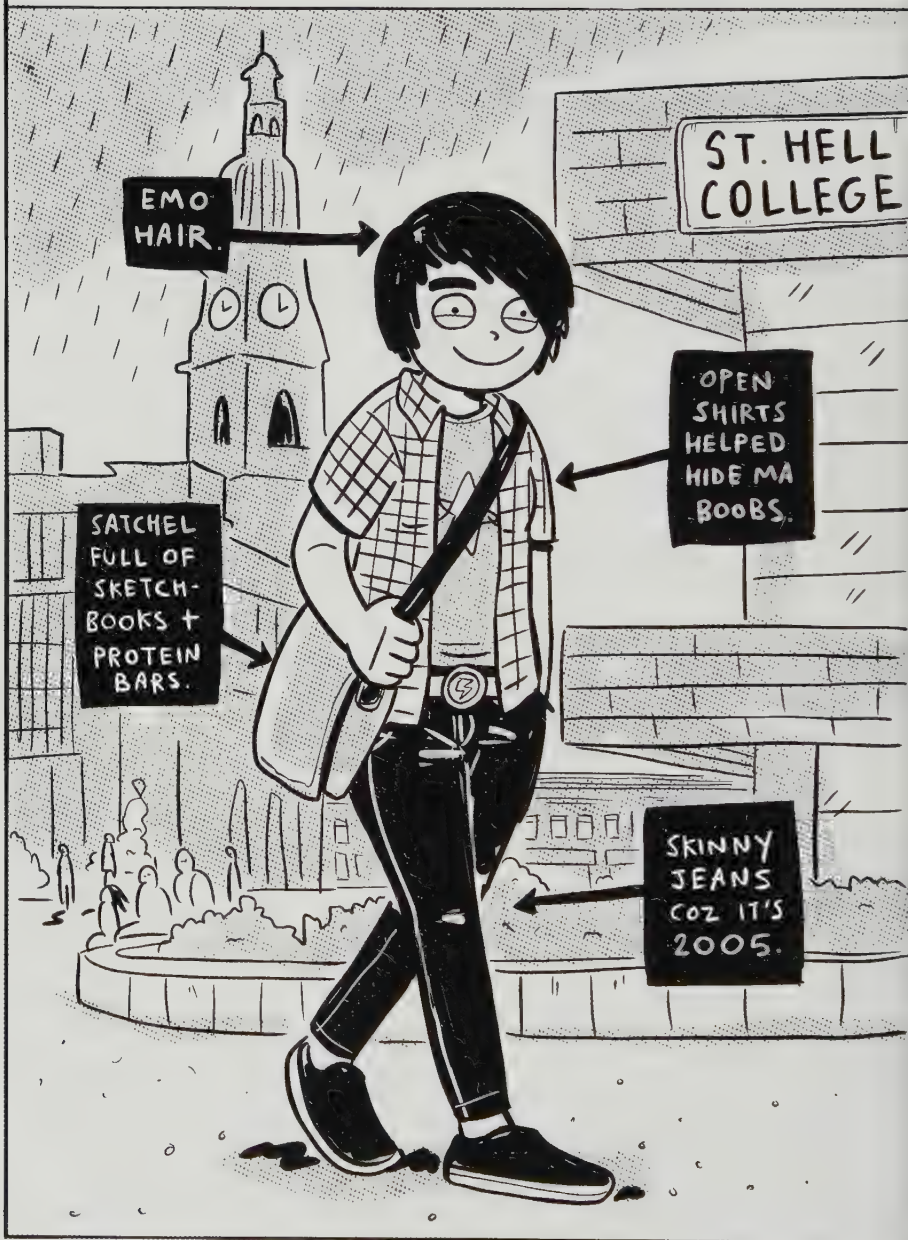
ART SO I COULD DRAW.

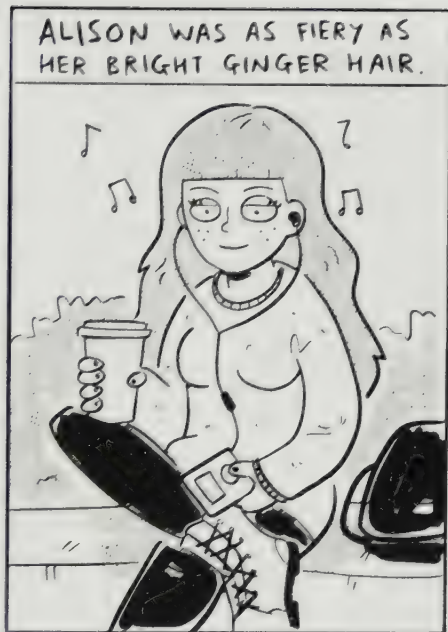
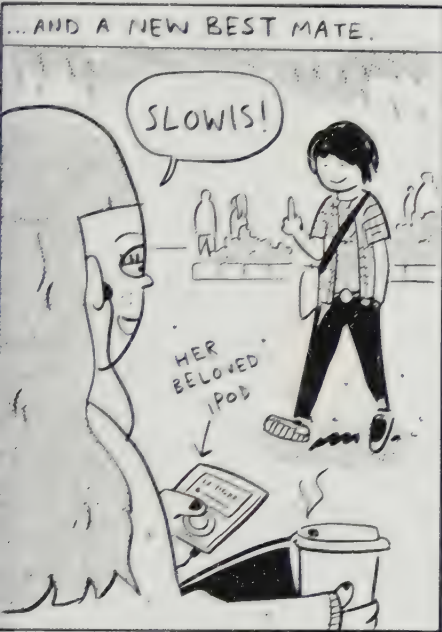


AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE



IN COLLEGE I HAD A WHOLE NEW LOOK:

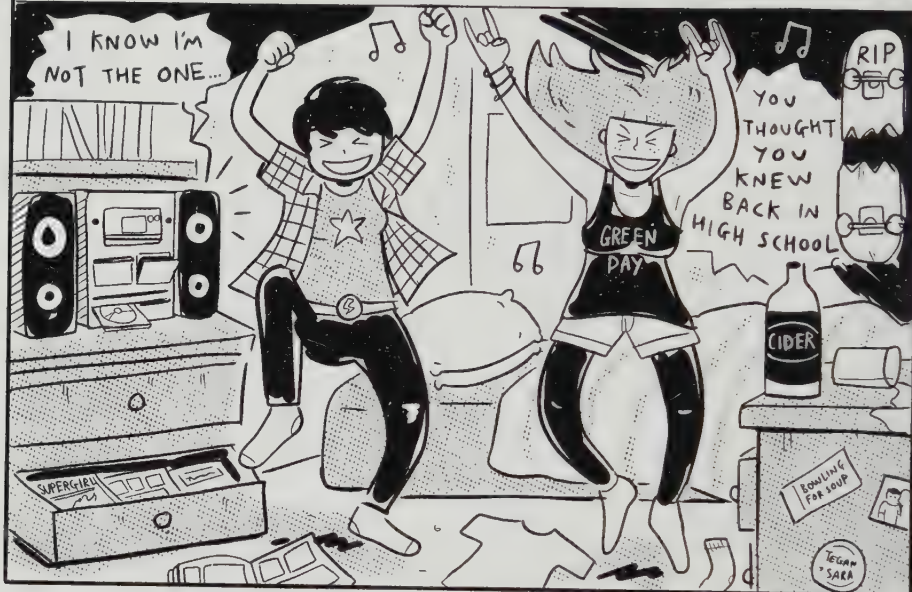




I ACTUALLY KNEW HER FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BUT WE ONLY GOT CLOSE IN COLLEGE. TURNED OUT WE WERE QUITE ALIKE!

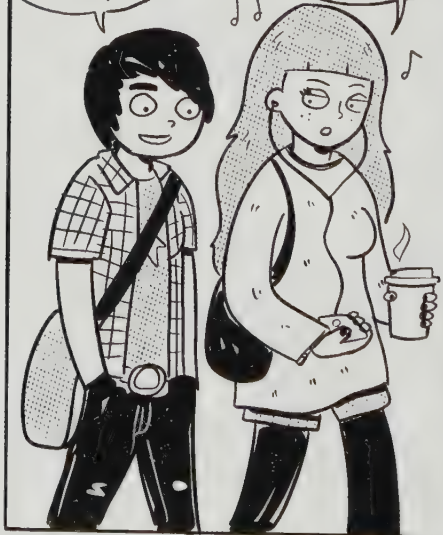


WE WERE SO UNCOOL WE WERE COOL... IN A TOTALLY UNCOOL WAY.

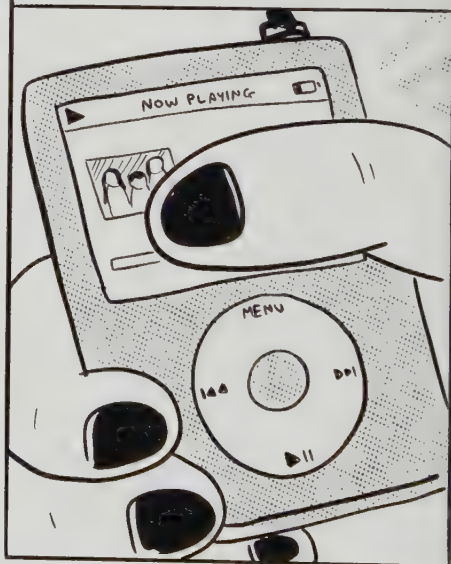


WHO YA LISTENING TO?

OH, ERR...
JUST SOME
BAND...



I ALWAYS HAD THE FEELING SHE
WAS HIDING SUMMAT THO...



I INTRODUCED ALISON TO JESS AND WE BECAME A PERFECT TRIO.

OMG, HOW WASTED WERE WE ON WEDNESDAY?

I'M STILL DYING. HOPING THIS COFFEE WILL CURE ME.

HUH? YOU GUYS WENT OUT?

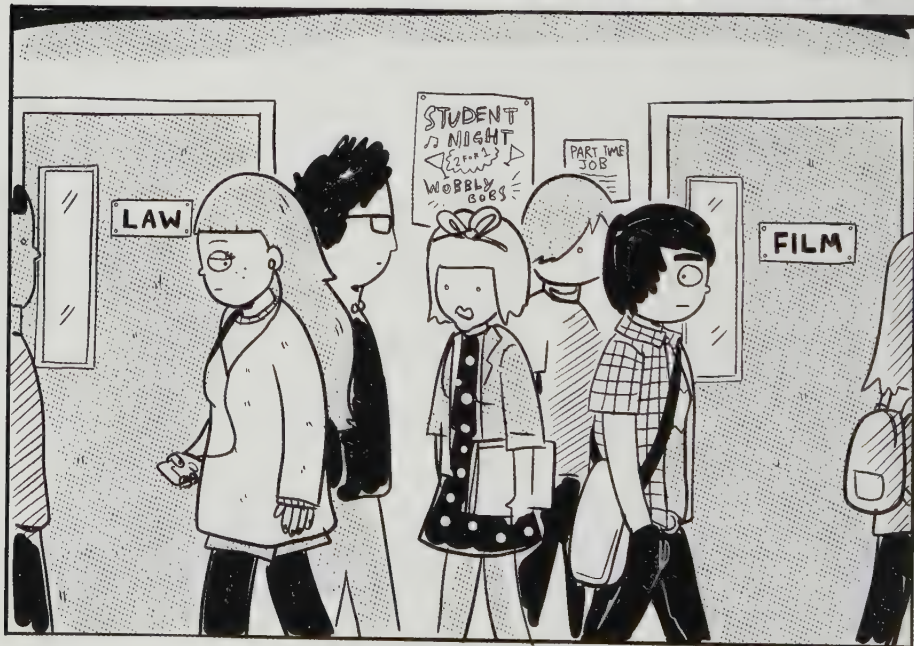
DON'T WORRY, LOIS, YOU DIDN'T MISS OUT. WOBBLY BOBS IS A DIVE.

PLUS JESS ONLY GOT US KICKED OUT COZ SHE KEPT STEALING DRINKS.

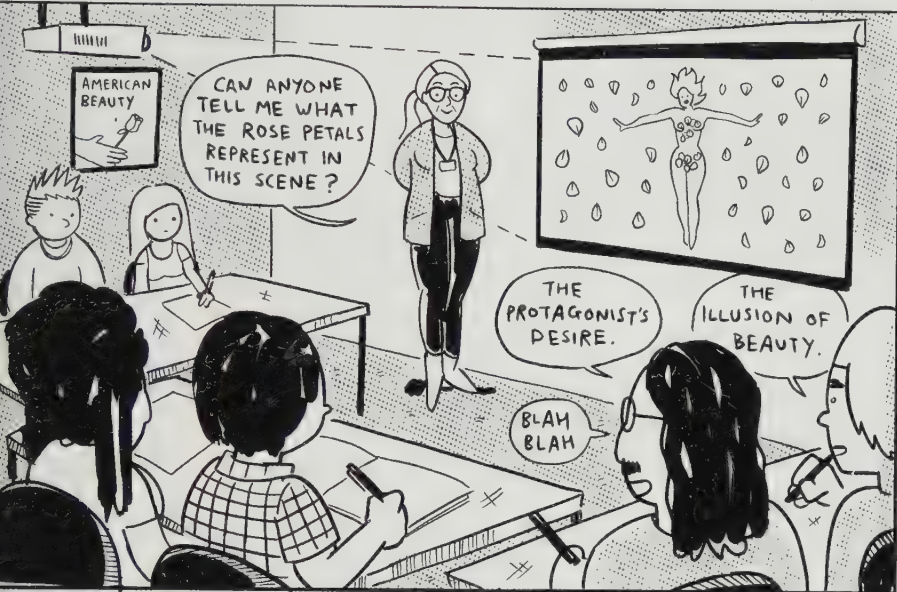
DID YOU KISS-

-NO ONE, AHEM.





FILM CLASS WAS MOSTLY FULL OF PRETENTIOUS FILM BUFFS.



BUT I DID MEET THIS ONE QUIRKY GIRL ...

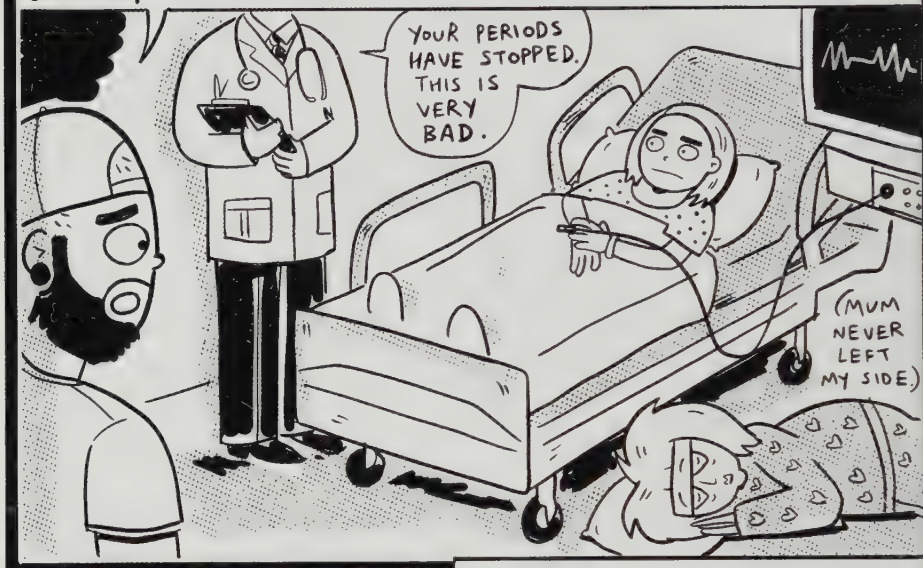


MARIA MADE MA CHEEKS GO BRIGHT RED. I HATED IT.





I SPENT A FEW NIGHTS IN HOSPITAL AT THE START OF SUMMER SO THEY COULD CHECK THAT I HADN'T DAMAGED MY INSIDES...



I HAD WEEKLY WEIGH-INS...



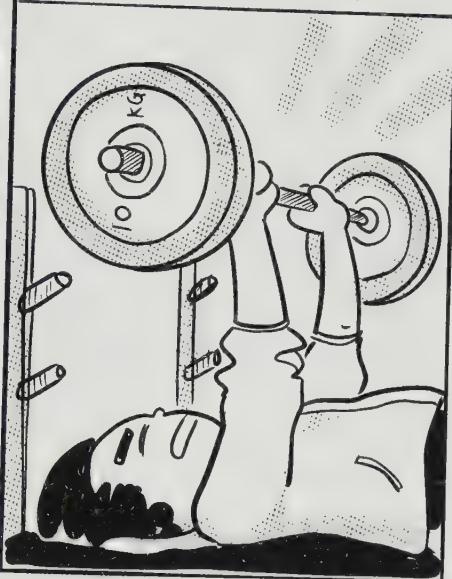
AND TRIED SOME SNEAKY TRICKS.



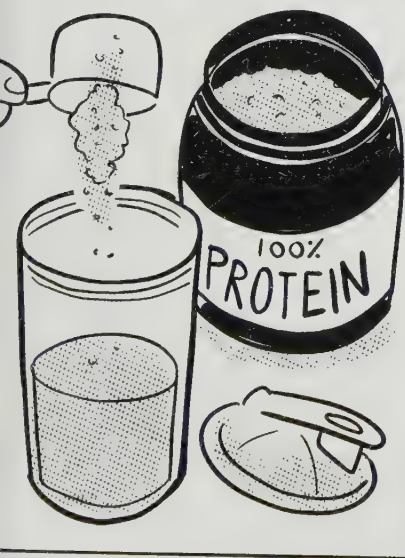
I HAD TO FIND A NEW WAY...



TO BUILD A NEW BOD.



AKA BODY BUILDING.



DIETING IS SO
LAST YEAR...

IT'S ALL
ABOUT
BULKING
UP NOW!



BASICALLY, I HAD REPLACED ONE OBSESSION WITH ANOTHER...



I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'D BEEN PUMPING IRON (YEAH, JESS AND DANIEL BROKE UP).



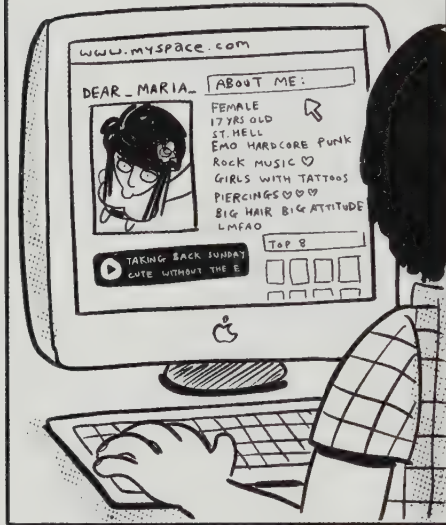
RIGHT, GUYS, I'M OFF TO THE LIBRARY! GOTTA STUDY!



SHE NEVER STUDIES...



* STUDIES MARIA *



DEAR_MARIA_ TOOK UP A LOT OF MY BRAIN SPACE.



I'D SEE HER IN THE SMOKING SHELTER LOOKING ALL MOODY.



WITH HER BIG... PERSONALITY.



SMOKY EYES...

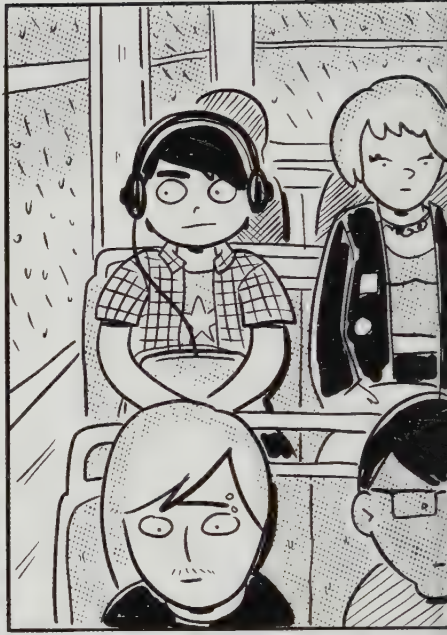
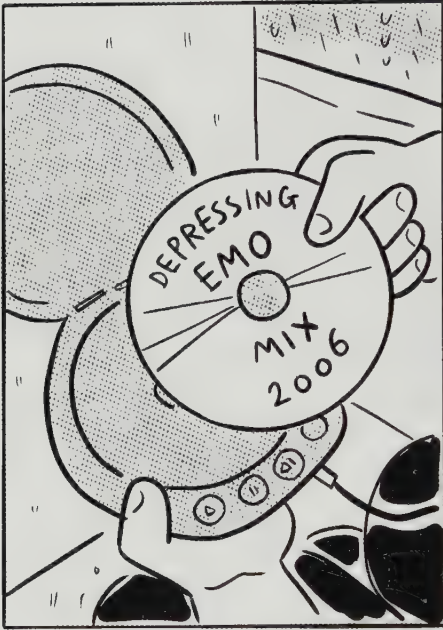


AND SNOGGABLE LIPS...

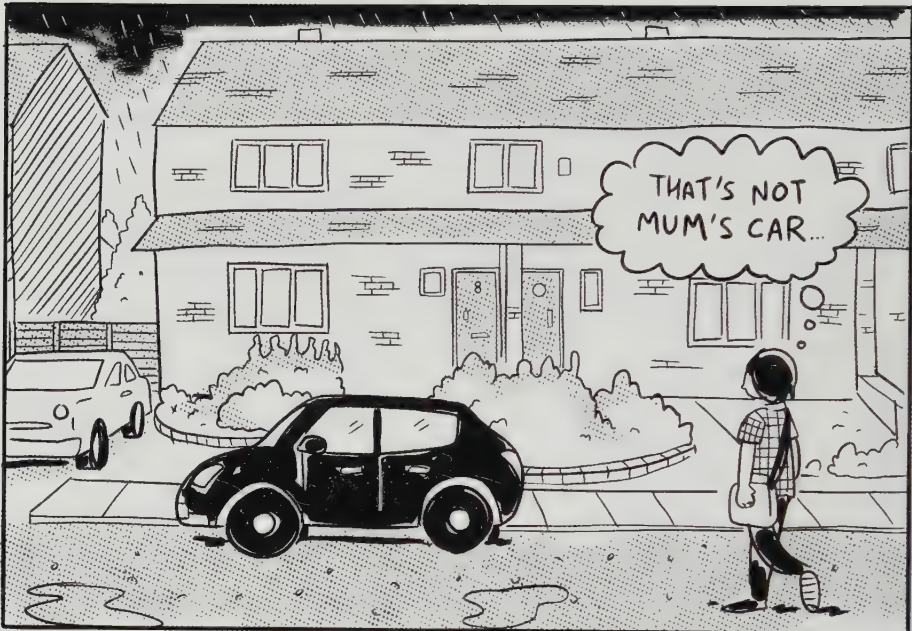


⊗ In My Dreams . com





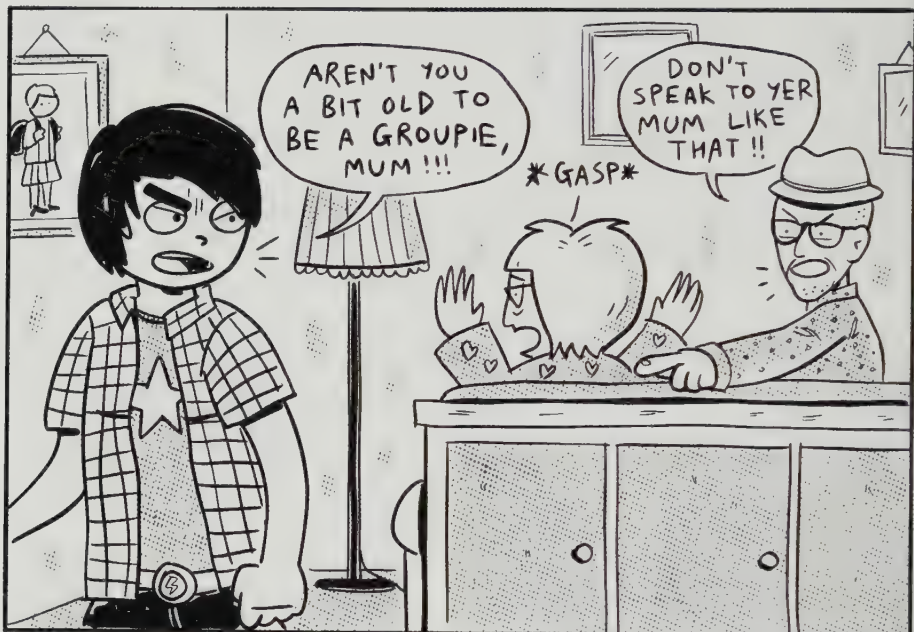


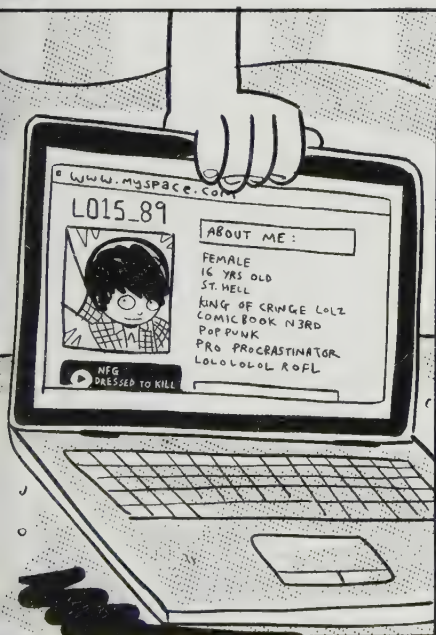




SO MUM IS NOW SEEING DAD'S OLD BAND MATE. NO LIE.







OMG A WINK!

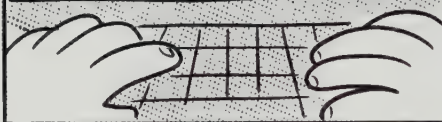
myspace.com

Comments:

DEAR_MARIA_



hi bubz 😊
u looked
so pretty
today.
rawr!



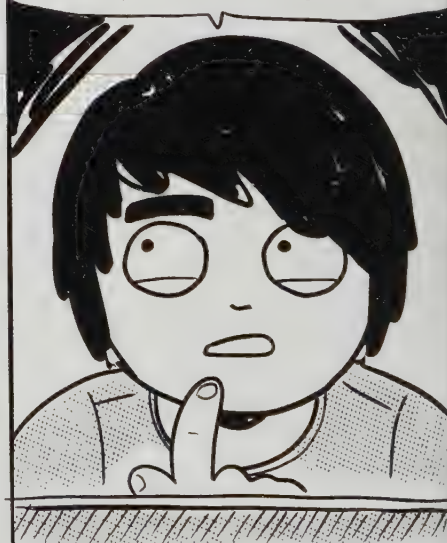
BUT "PRETTY"?
YUK!



OKAY, LET'S JUST SAY
I DO FANCY MARIA ...



WOULD THAT MEAN I'M A
LESBIAN?



I GUESS SO, ACCORDING TO LIFE, FEELS WEIRD THO...



THE THOUGHT OF ME BEING SOMEONE'S GIRLFRIEND...



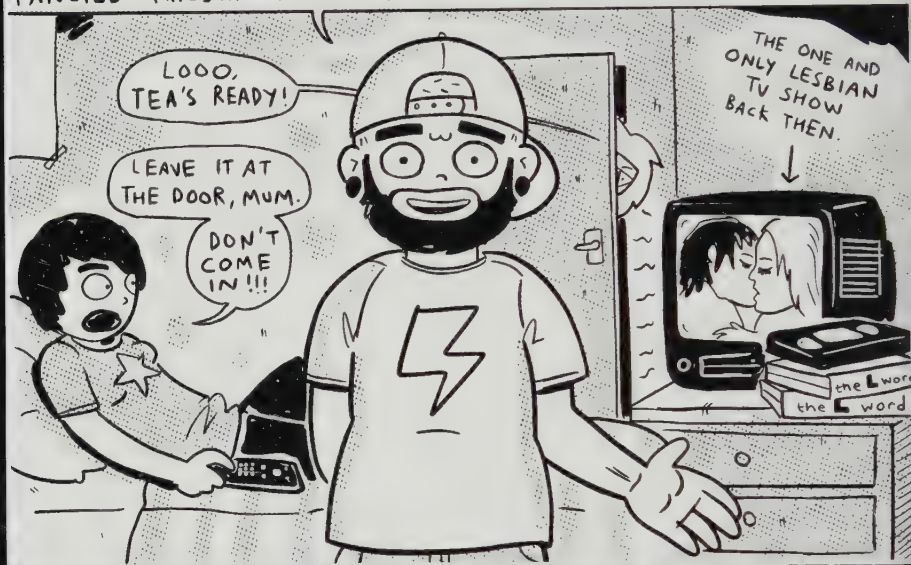
I DON'T SEE MYSELF LIKE THAT. I WANNA BE A...



BOYFRIEND. WISHFUL THINKING...



IT WAS A CONFUSING TIME FOR ME. ALL I KNEW WAS THAT I FANCIED GIRLS... THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GIRL...



... AND THAT I'D FOR SURE BE LABELLED.



MY FIRST COMING OUT WAS RELATIVELY EASY...



I BUILT IT UP TO BE THIS HUGE THING. UNTIL ONE DAY...

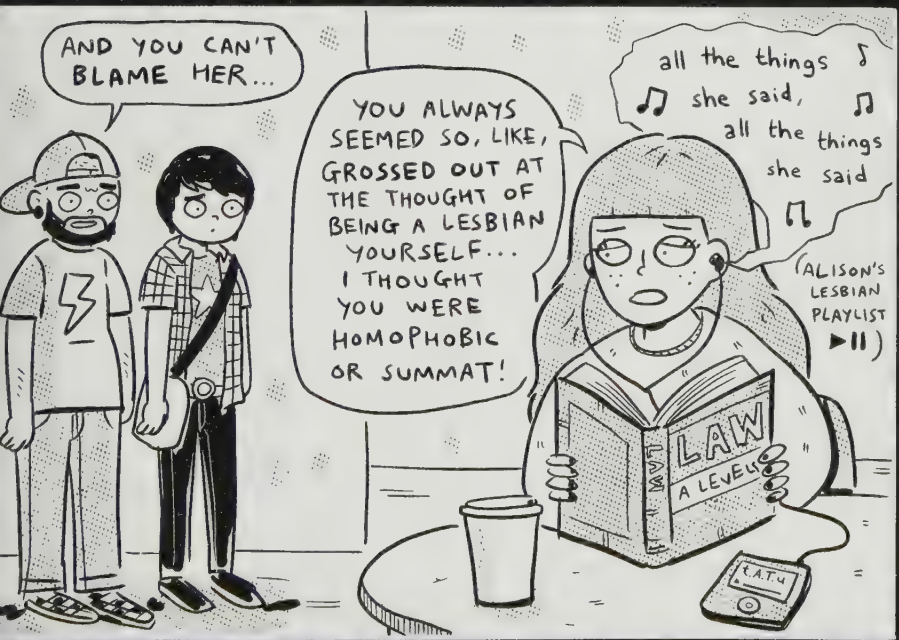






MARIA CAN'T BE RIGHT ABOUT ALISON. SHE WOULD'VE TOLD ME IF SHE HAD A GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?

ALISON TOTALLY IS A LESBIAN. SHE'S JUST BEEN SUPER SCARED TO TELL YA.



AND YOU CAN'T BLAME HER...

YOU ALWAYS SEEMED SO, LIKE, GROSSED OUT AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING A LESBIAN YOURSELF... I THOUGHT YOU WERE HOMOPHOBIC OR SUMMAT!

all the things she said, all the things she said

(ALISON'S LESBIAN PLAYLIST ▶||)

OF COURSE I TOLD JESS
BEFORE ANYONE.

I FANCY GIRLS.



AM I S'POSED TO
BE SHOOK, OR...?



(ANTICLIMATIC, MUCH.)

LOIS, YOU'RE MA
SISTER FROM ANOTHER
MISTER! I GUESSED YOU
WERE GAY AGES AGO.



I GAVE JESS PERMISSION TO
TELL ALISON FOR ME.

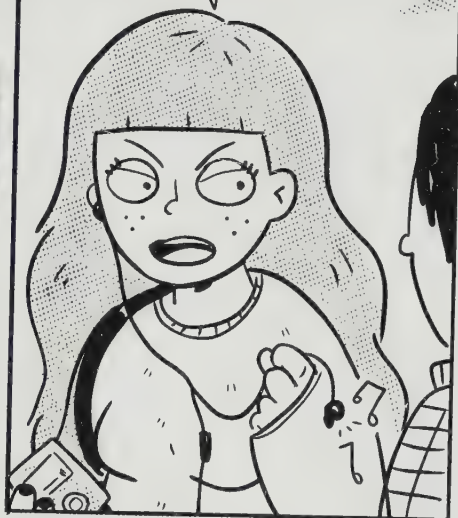


CRINGE

SHE KNOWS.



YOU LITTLE SHIT!



WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

YOU'RE A FINE ONE TO TALK!



I WAS HOPING FOR ALISON'S HELP...

HOW DID YOU TELL YOUR PARENTS?



I HAVEN'T! MA DAD WOULD KILL ME.

ME MATES NEARLY OUTED ME TO MUM ONCE...



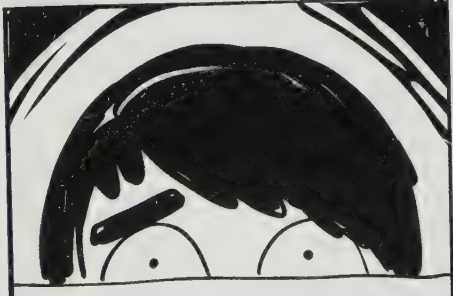


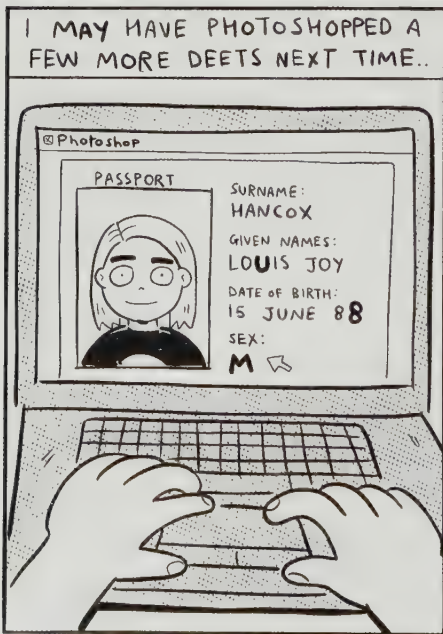
IF MUM DID HEAR, SHE DIDN'T LET ON.



ST. HELL'S NIGHTLIFE WAS CONFINED TO ONE STREET.





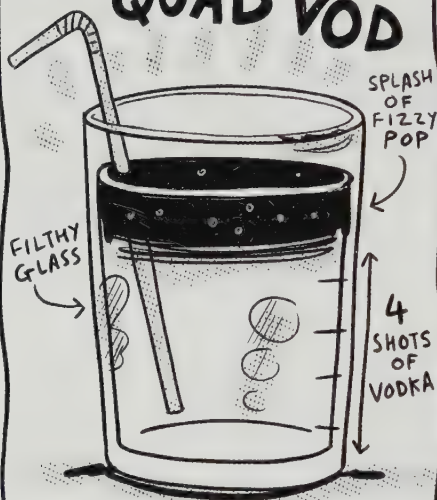


YOU 'AD TO BE OFF YER 'EAD TO ENJOY GOOD OL' WOBBLY BOBS.



LUCKILY IT HAD THESE CHEAP DRINKS, KNOWN AS A:

QUAD VOD



LET'S GET A PICCY FOR MYSPACE!



AS SMALL-MINDED AS ST. HELL SEEMED... IF YOU KNEW WHERE TO LOOK... BEYOND ALL THE TYPICAL, TRASHED TOWNIES...



ALL THE LESBIANS CAME OUT TO PLAY ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT. THERE WERE ALL THESE DIFFERENT TYPES, WHO KNEW?



ALISON'S GF WAS QUEEN OF THE SCENE.



EVEN JESS COULDN'T RESIST A HARMLESS FLIRT!



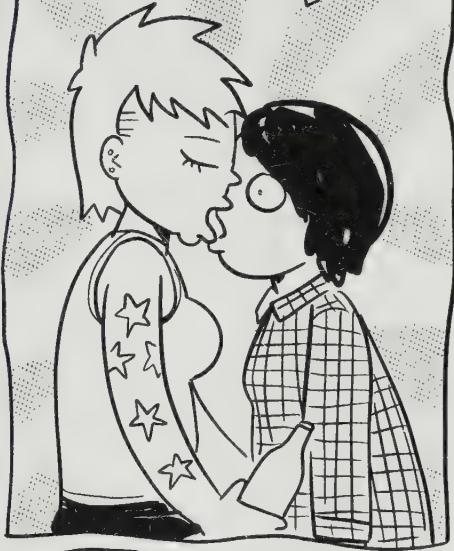


THE VALOROUS VIXEN USED
HER PERSUASIVE POWERS.

KISS 'ERRRR!

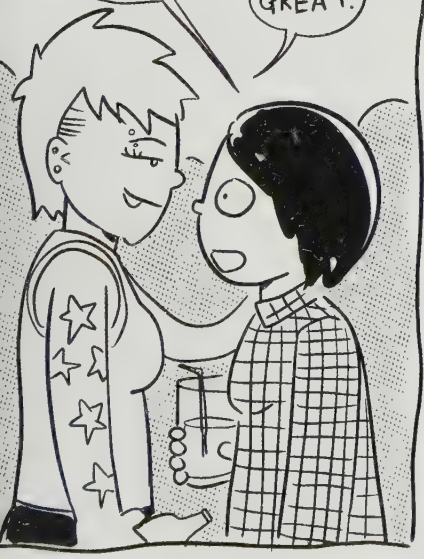


SNOG



WAS THAT
OKAY??

IT WAS
GREAT.



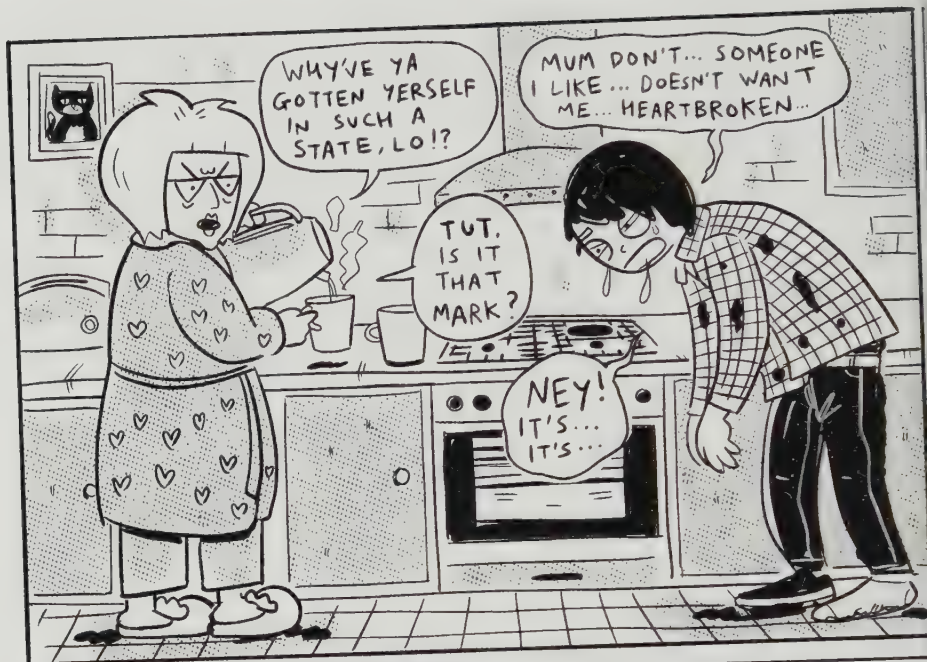
GREAT.
NOW I CAN
GO KISS
MARIA!

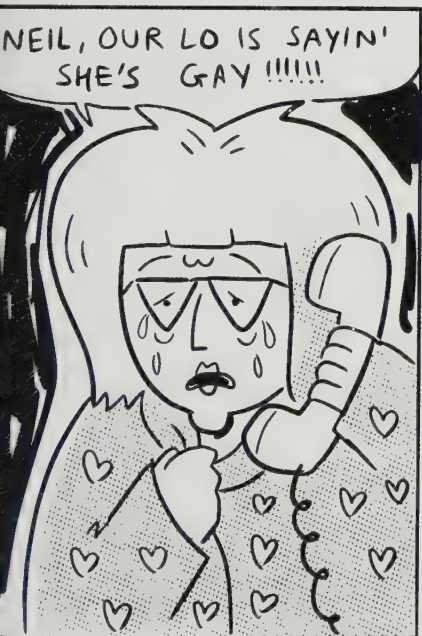




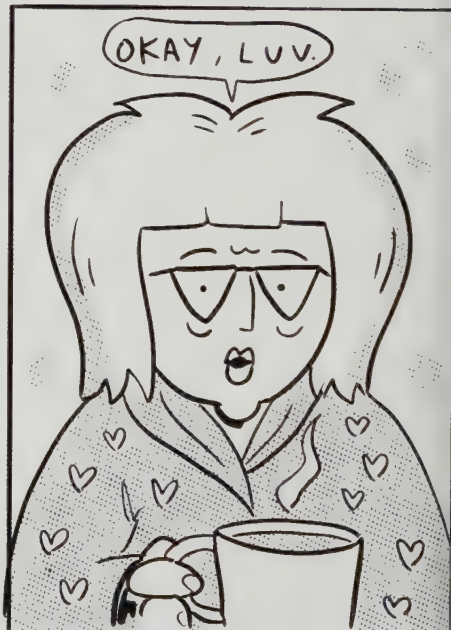
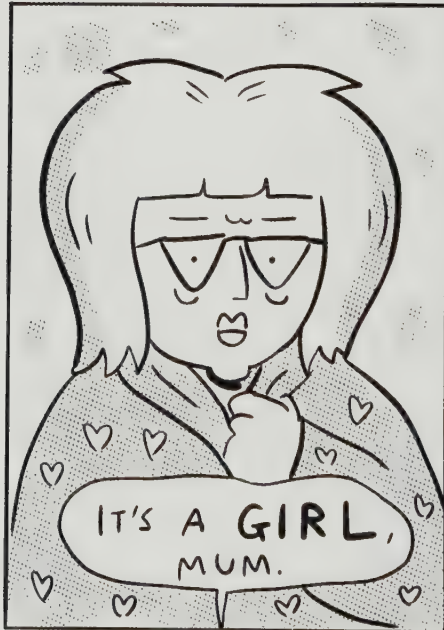
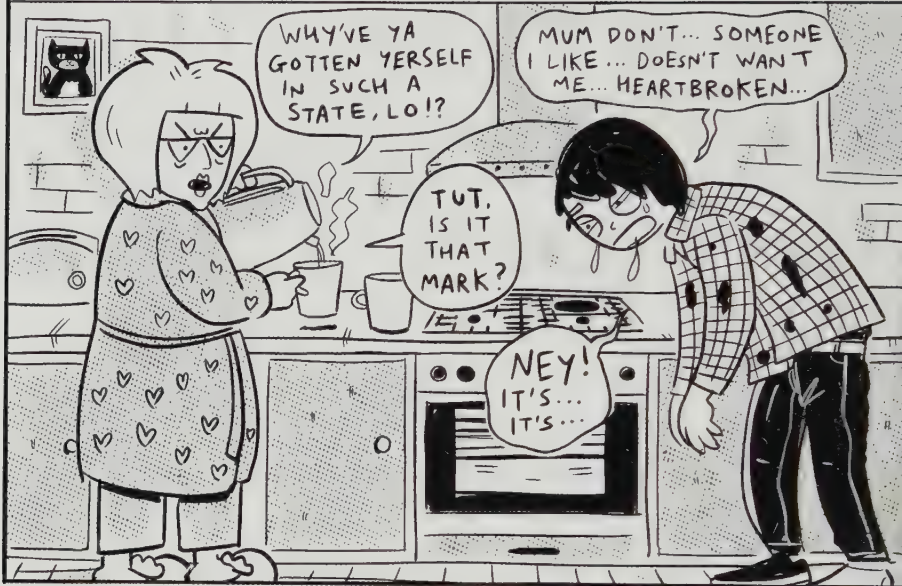
MEMORY
BLACKOUT!
JESS'S DISPOSABLE
CAMERA PICCIES
HELPED FILL IN
SOME GAPS.







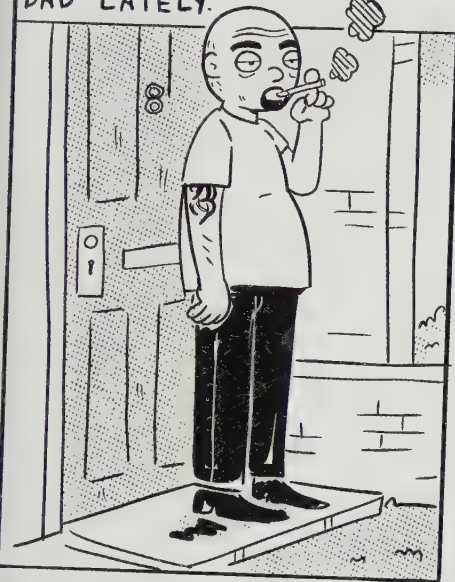
BUT IT ACTUALLY WENT LIKE THIS :







I HADN'T SEEN MUCH OF
DAD LATELY.



EY UP, LYNNE. NOT GOT
CHRIS 'ERE 'AV YA?



NO,
NEIL.

REET, AL
'AV A QUICK
BREW.

LO'S DEAD DOWN.



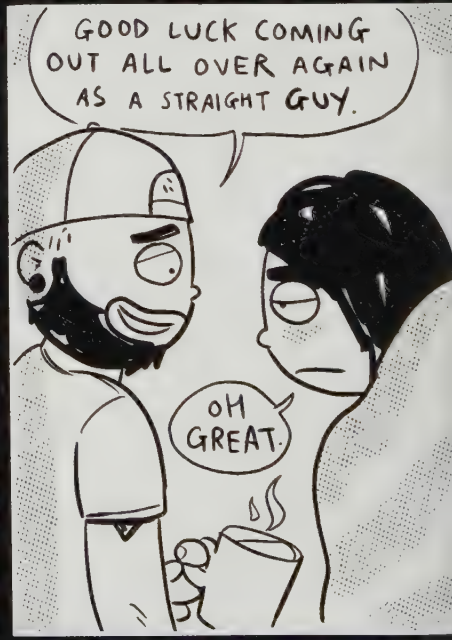
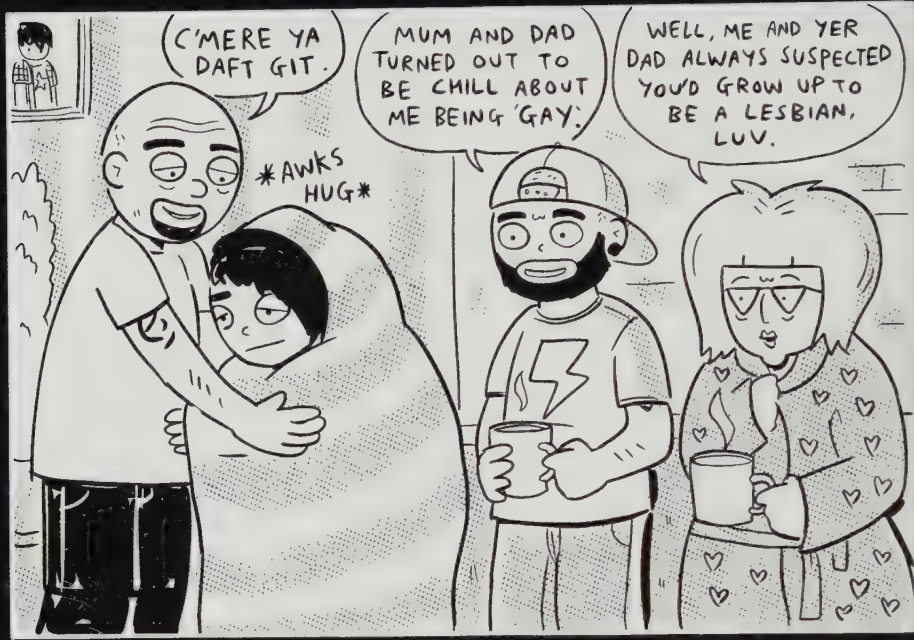
WHY?

OVER
SOME
GIRL.

MUM!



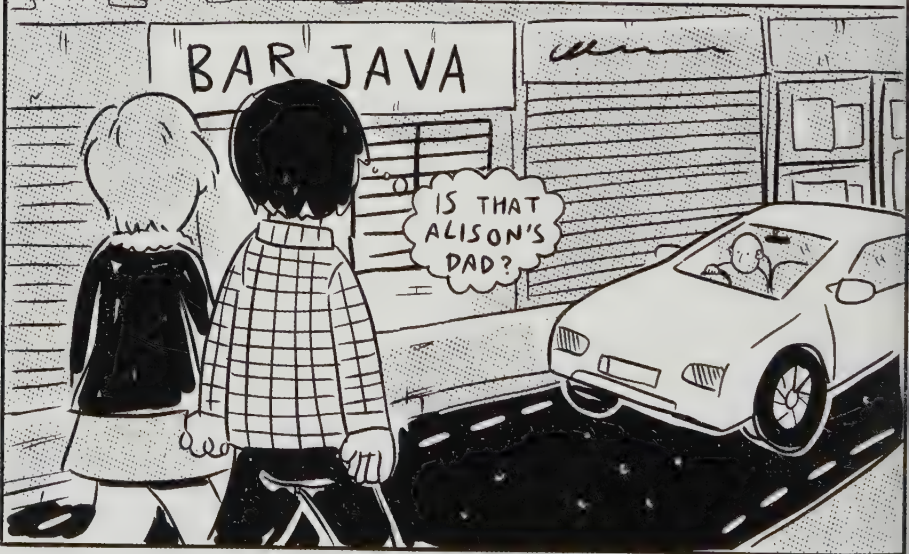
CAN I
COME OUT
TO DAD
MYSELF
PLEASE!?

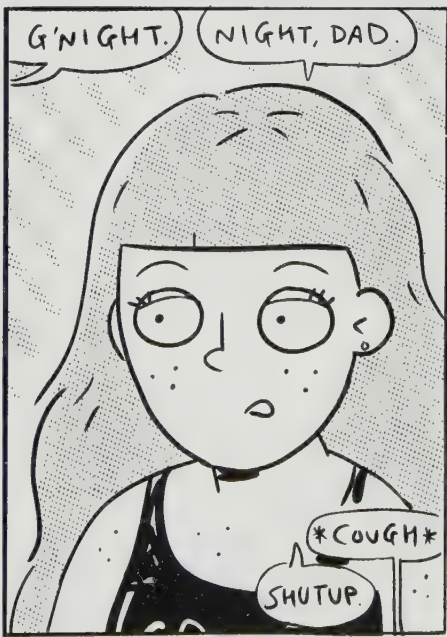
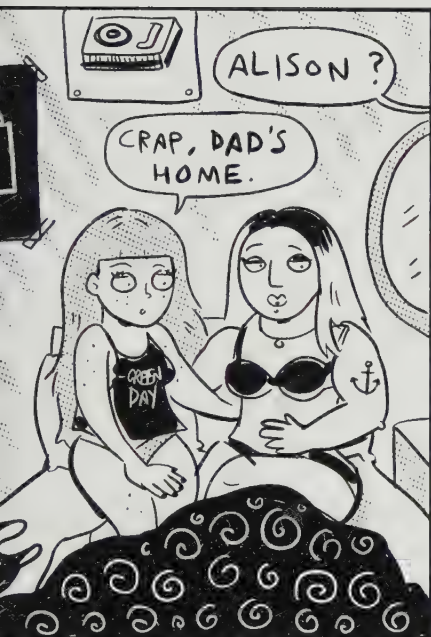






I'M LUCKY TO HAVE A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY. COMING OUT ISN'T SO SIMPLE FOR EVERYONE.

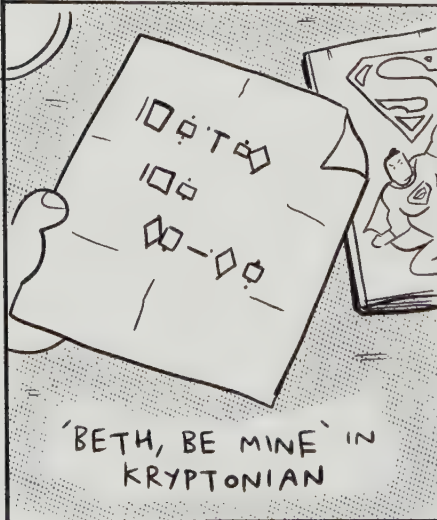




HERE I AM, ON AN ACTUAL DATE, WITH AN ACTUAL GIRL!



I ASKED HER OUT IN SUPERMAN LANGUAGE, GAVE HER A COMIC TO DECODE IT. WOT A NERD.



BETH HAD NO IDEA



WHO I REALLY WAS.



IT FELT DECEITFUL.

CLICK



BUT I'D WAITED FOR EVER
FOR A GIRLFRIEND.



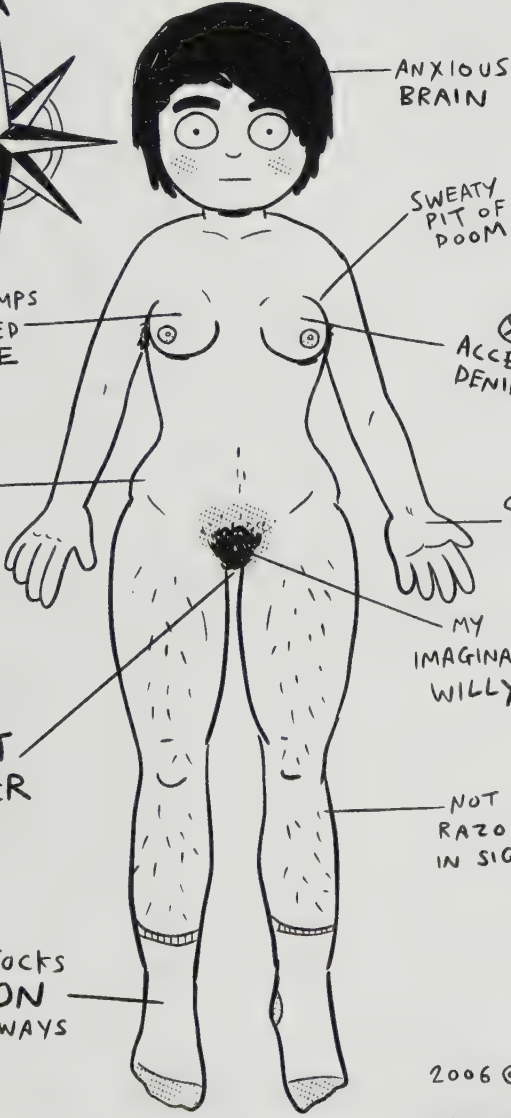
THERE WAS A PROBLEM THO...



EVERY TIME THINGS GOT
HOT AND HEAVY...



IF ONLY I COULD GIVE HER A MAP TO MY BODY.



ANXIOUS BRAIN

SWEATY PIT OF DOOM

ACCESS DENIED

CLAMMY HANDS

MY IMAGINARY WILLY

NOT A RAZOR IN SIGHT

SOCKS ON ALWAYS

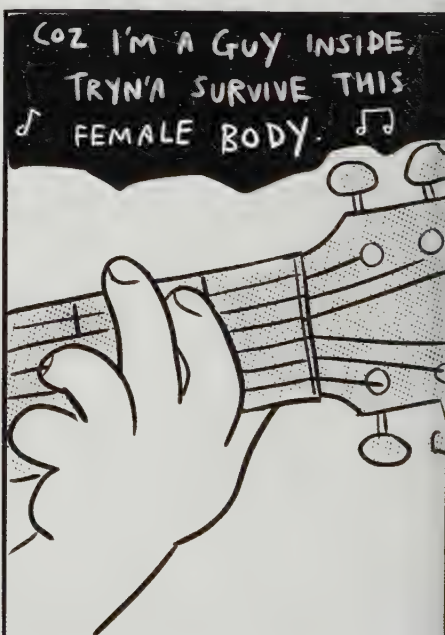
DO NOT ENTER



FATTY LUMPS THAT NEED BE GONE

HIPS FROM HELL

2006 ©

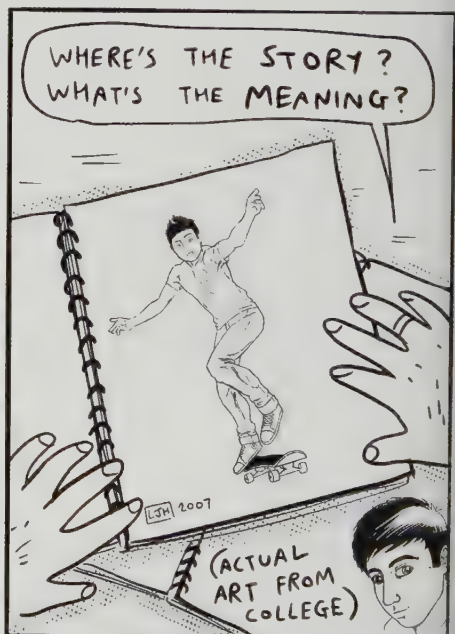


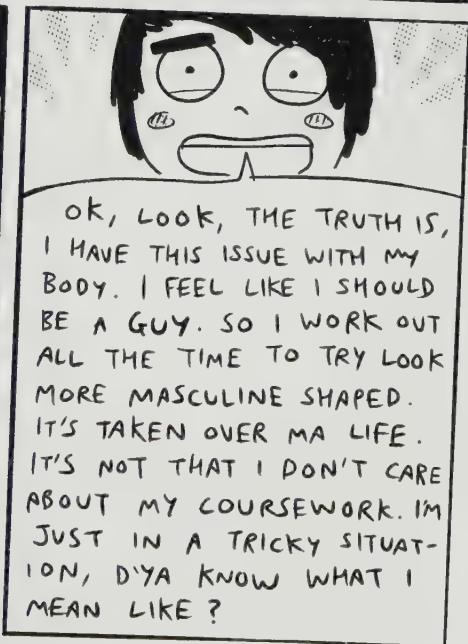


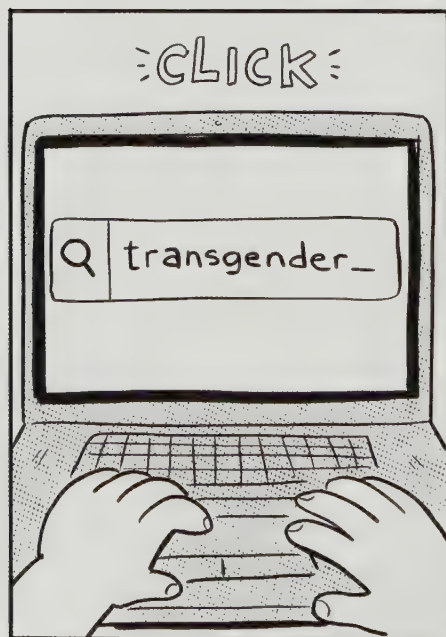
IT WASN'T JUST MY NON-EXISTANT LOVE LIFE GOING DOWN THE DRAIN.



COLLEGE WASN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD EITHER...

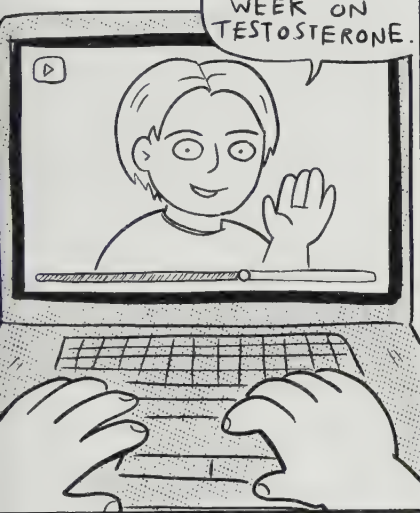






COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I FOUND ON YOUTUBE...

I'M ONE WEEK ON TESTOSTERONE.

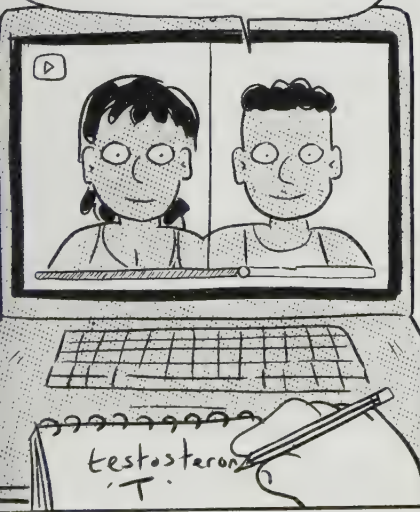


I'M TWO YEARS ON TESTOSTERONE NOW.



TRANS GENDER GUYS

MY 3-YEAR TRANSITION.



LIVING HAPPY LIVES.

MY GF IS MY BIGGEST SUPPORT.



YOUTUBE WAS STILL NEW.

I LOVE HOW
FLAT MY
CHEST
LOOKS
...

IN THIS
NEW
BINDER!



THERE WEREN'T MANY OF US
ON THERE.

I HAD MY TOP
SURGERY LAST
MONTH.



THEY ALL LIVED IN THE USA.

I GOT THE PENIS
I ALWAYS WANTED...

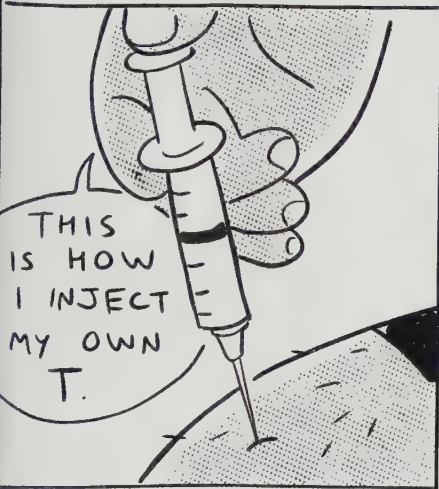


BUT I LEARNED LOADS...

THIS IS
MY PACKER.
I WEAR IT IN
MY BOXERS.

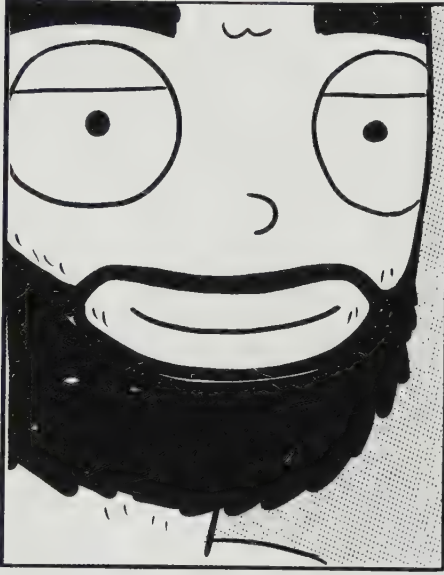


THE EFFECTS OF HORMONE THERAPY, TESTOSTERONE.



THIS IS HOW I INJECT MY OWN T.

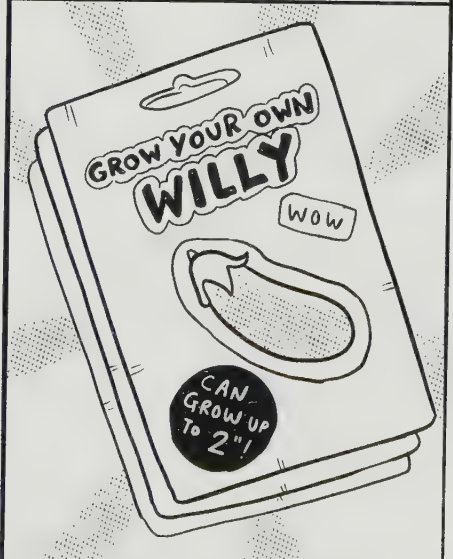
INCREASED BODY HAIR.



VOICE DEEPENING.



CLITORIS GROWTH, AKA:



BODY FAT REDISTRIBUTION.



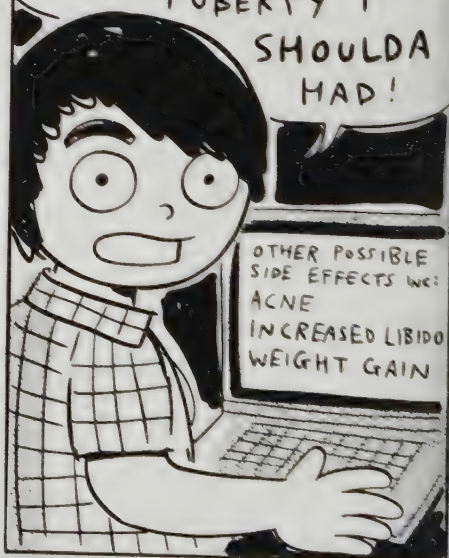
(LESS PEAR SHAPE, MORE APPLE)

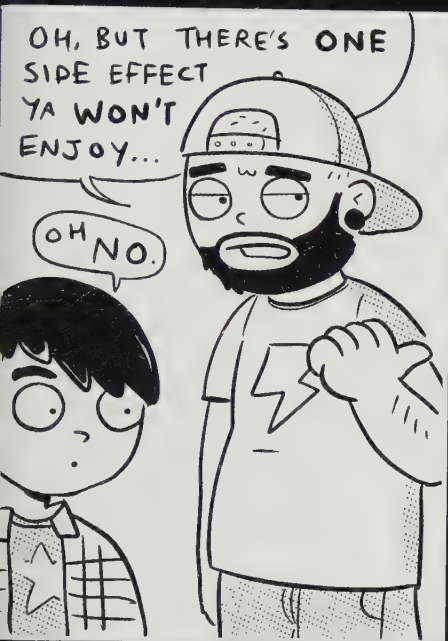


NO MORE PERIODS.

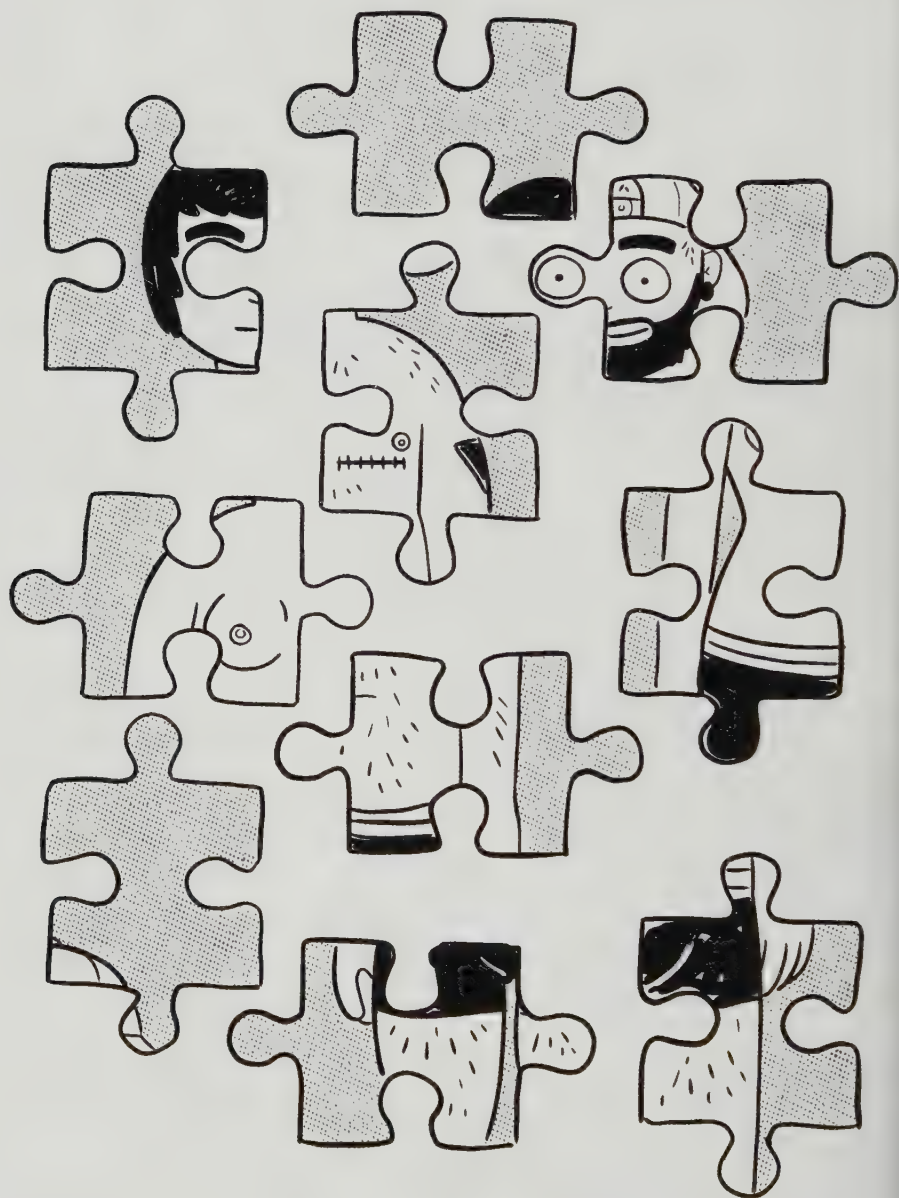


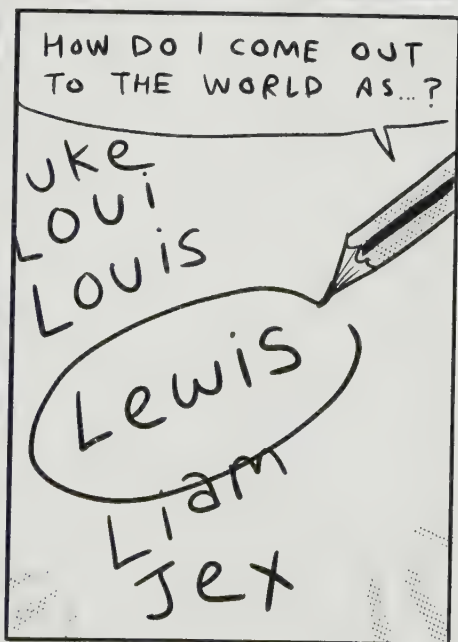
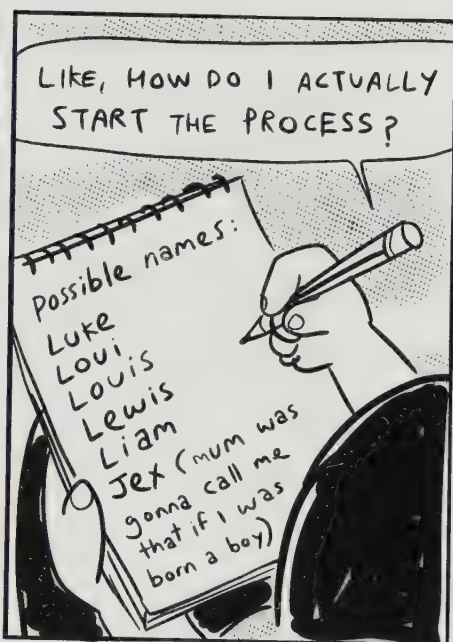
THIS IS BASICALLY THE
PUBERTY I
SHOULDA
HAD!





IT WAS LIKE ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE FINALLY FIT.







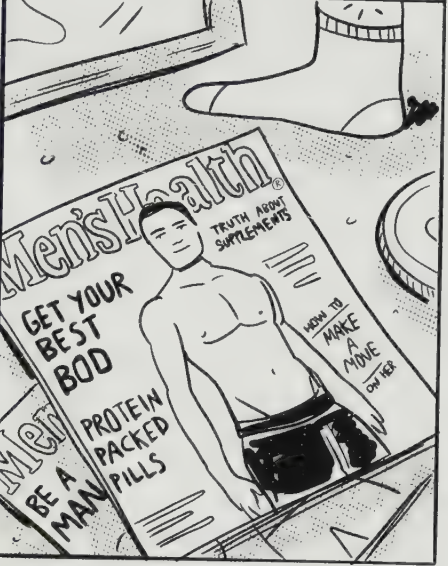
BREAKFAST WAS A COCKTAIL OF PILLS AND POWDERS THAT CLAIMED TO NATURALLY BOOST TESTOSTERONE LEVELS.



I TRIED EVERYTHING POSSIBLE



TO GET THE BODY I WANTED.



I STILL DON'T SEE MYSELF IN THE MIRROR.



NOTHING WAS ENOUGH.



COMMENCE COMING OUT #2. I'D REACHED BREAKING POINT.



I'M TRANS GENDER.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

...

OKAY,
CHICKEN.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD MAKE
AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE
DOCTOR. I'M SURE THEY'LL
KNOW ALL
ABOUT IT.

SPOILER
ALERT:
THEY
DIDN'T.

MUM DID A GOOD JOB OF HIDING ALL HER CONCERNS.

I HOPE
SHE DOESN'T
GO ALL
THE WAY.

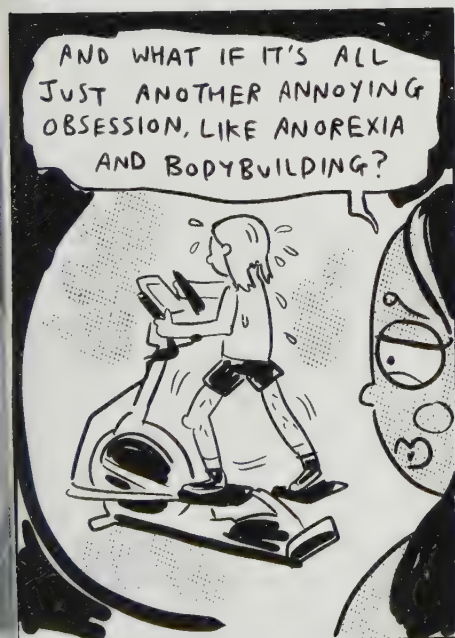
HOW DO
I TELL
PEOPLE?

EVERYONE
WILL HATE US.

WILL THE
HORMONES
MAKE HER A
DIFFERENT
PERSON?

WHAT WILL
MY MUM
AND DAD
THINK?







ARE YOU
KIDDING?
I WAS WELL
JEALOUS
OF YOU!

LOIS IS SO KEWL.
I WISH I WAS MORE
LIKE HER.

HAND CAFE

NO
WAY.

I'M SORRY, JESS. I WAS SO
WRAPPED UP IN ME OWN
PROBLEMS.

I MEAN, IT
WAS A PRETTY
BIG PROBLEM
TO BE WRAPPED
UP IN. I'M
SORRY TOO.

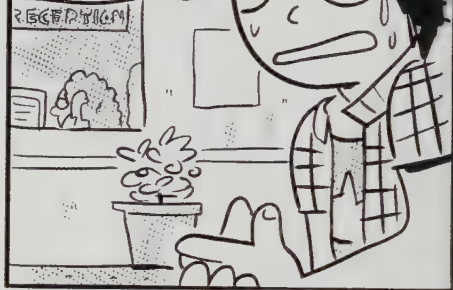
WE WERE YOUNG, LEW.
THE IMPORTANT PART
IS, WE MADE IT
THROUGH.

MA BROTHER
FROM ANOTHER
MOTHER.

I WENT TO THE DOCTORS:



I WORRY OUR HEARTS ONLY HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TICKS IN THEM ... WHEN I GET ANXIOUS MA HEART BEATS SO FAST... WHAT IF I'M USING UP ALL MA TICKS?!





IT'LL TAKE DECADES OF ASSESSMENTS BEFORE YOU'RE EVEN CONSIDERED FOR ANY TREATMENT. WE PRIORITIZE PATIENTS WITH REAL CONDITIONS.



THIS IS A LIFESTYLE CHOICE!



WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE TO BE TRANSGENDER AND GO THROUGH ALL OF THIS!!



... IS WHAT I SHOULD SAID.

WELL, ERM... CAN I STILL AT LEAST, GIVE IT A GO?



LET ME LOOK UP WHERE EXACTLY TO REFER YOU TO. WE'VE NEVER DEALT WITH TRANSFORMERS BEFORE.

(TRANS GENDER)

CLACK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK



SEEMS LIKE I NEED TO REFER YOU TO A LOCAL PSYCHOLOGIST.

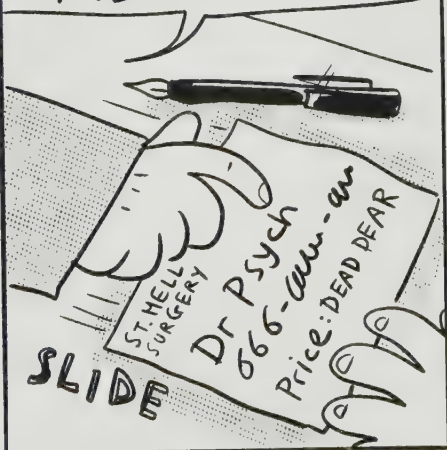
HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?



THE WAITING LIST IS INFINITY LONG.



ALTERNATIVELY, HERE'S A NUMBER FOR A PRIVATE PSYCHOLOGIST THAT YOU'LL NEVER AFFORD.



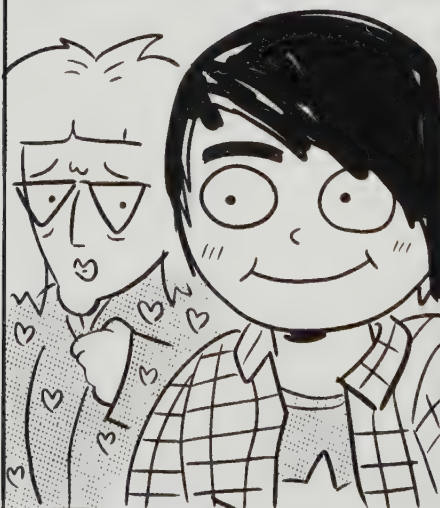
I SAVED MY POCKET MONEY UP TO AFFORD ONE PSYCHOLOGY SESSH.



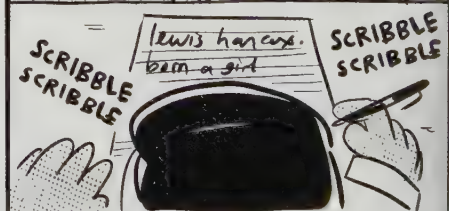
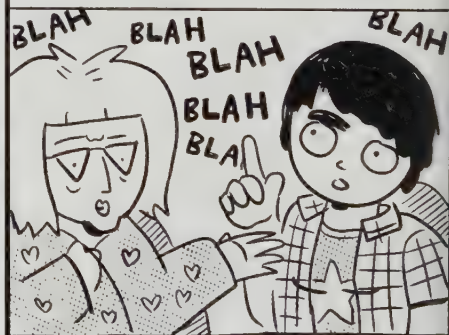
HE WAS NICER THAN I EXPECTED.



GOOD TO MEET YOU, LEWIS.



ME AND MUM FILLED HIM IN ON MY LIFE STORY.



DIAGNOSIS:

GENDER DYSPHORIA.

MEANING:
DISTRESS BECAUSE
OF A MISMATCH
BETWEEN YOUR
BIOLOGICAL SEX
AND GENDER
IDENTITY.



I CAN'T PRESCRIBE HORMONES,
YOU'LL NEED A SPECIALIST.
AND THEY'LL REQUIRE YOU
LIVE LEGALLY AS
MALE FOR AT
LEAST ONE
YEAR FIRST.

WOT!!



AFTER A FEW MORE SESSIONS
I'LL BE HAPPY TO MAKE A
REFERRAL TO CHARING CROSS,
THE GENDER IDENTITY
CLINIC IN LONDON.

↑
THE ONLY
ONE IN
THE UK
AT THE
TIME.



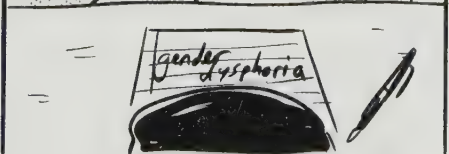
A FEW? BUT IT'S
£100 A SESSION,
I CAN'T BE YER
CASHPOINT
FOR EVER!

BUT
MUMMM,
I NEED
THEM!

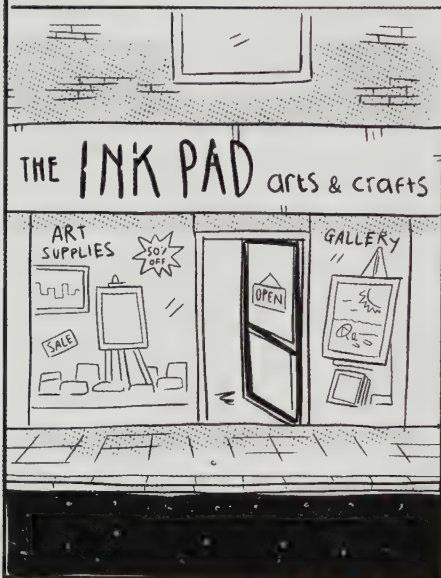
GET
A JOB,
LO.



gender dysphoria



SO I GOT A SATURDAY JOB.

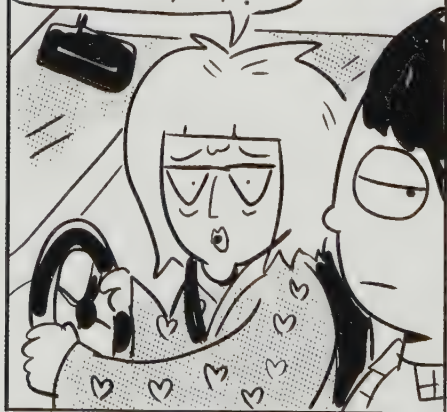


OOOH, LOIS, WHAT A PRETTY NAME FOR A PRETTY GIRL!
HIRED!



MUM SAID TO ME:

DON'T TELL 'EM ON YER FIRST DAY, LO! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW PEOPLE WILL REACT!



AND I DIDN'T WANNA GET

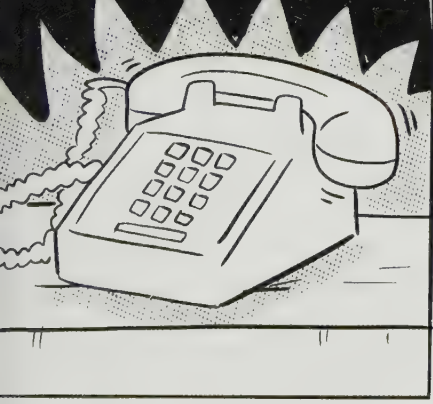


THE SHOP WAS FULL OF THINGYMABOBS AND WHATDYACALLITS. I'D MOSTLY DO LUNCH COVER. BUSINESS WAS SLOW.



I HAD PHONE PHOBIA.

BRRRRING
BRRRRING



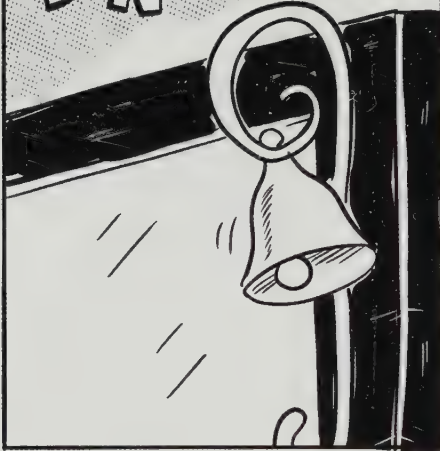
AHEM HELLO, THE INK PAD? ← MY STUPID SQUEAKY VOICE.

OH HELLO, KIND YOUNG LADY. DO YOU SELL THINGY-MABOBS?



OUR CUSTOMERS WERE ALL
PROPER WEIRDOS.

DING DING



LIKE THIS ONE CREEPY MAN.



BE BETTER IF YOU 'AD A
THONG ON, BEAUTIFUL!



GIRLS SHOULD NOT
HAVE FER DEAL WITH
THIS KINDA CRAP.



TWO WEEKS IN, I DECIDED TO REVEAL THE REAL ME...



SO IT TOOK A BIT OF EXPLAINING, OBVS, BUT FROM THEN ON WORK MADE SURE ALL THE CUSTOMERS GOT IT RIGHT.



THE 'LIVE AS A MAN FOR A YEAR' RULE MADE ZERO SENSE TO ME...

TOP BLOKE



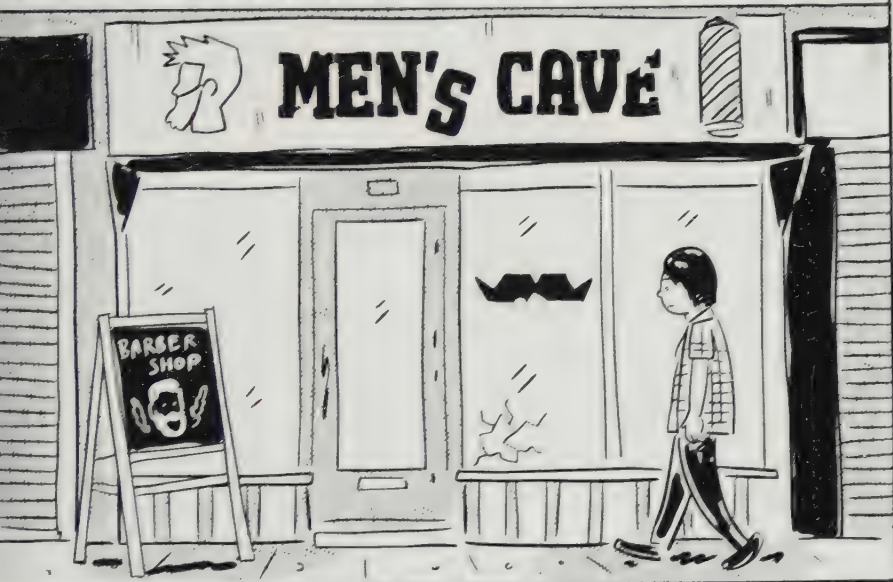
EXPECTATION:



REALITY:



HOW WAS I MEANT TO PASS AS MALE 100% BEFORE HORMONES?



EXPECTATION:



REALITY:

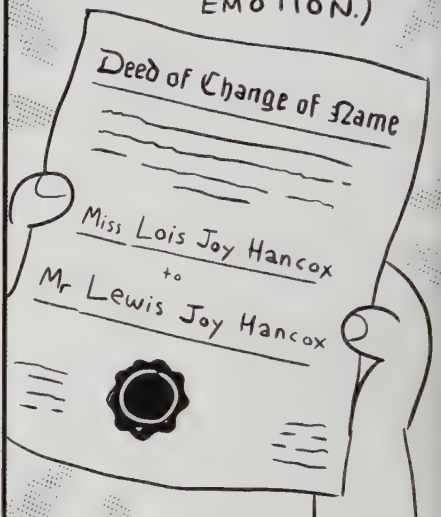


LIVE AS MALE™ CHECKLIST:

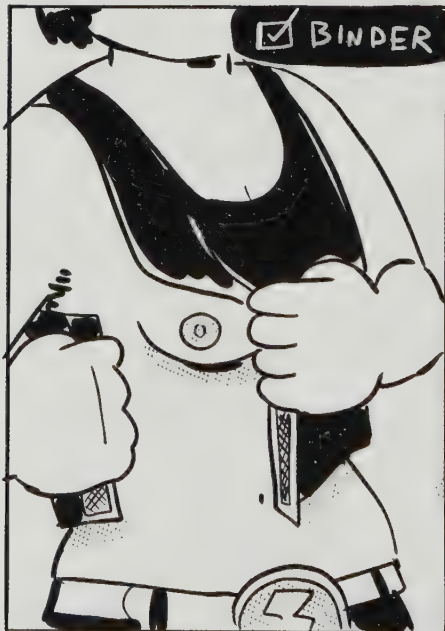
NAME CHANGE



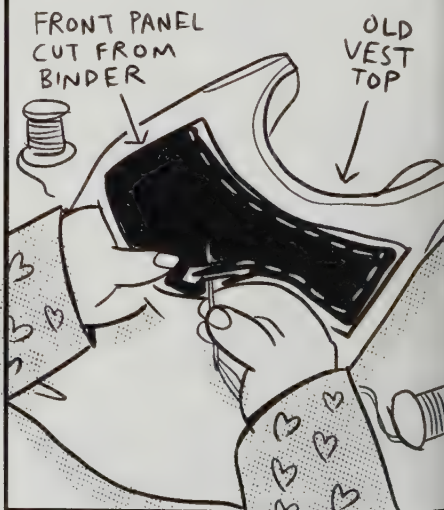
(I KEPT MY MIDDLE NAME IN THE END, COZ IT'S AN EMOTION.)



BINDER



(WHICH WAS SO UNCOMFY I GOT MUM TO DO A HACK.)

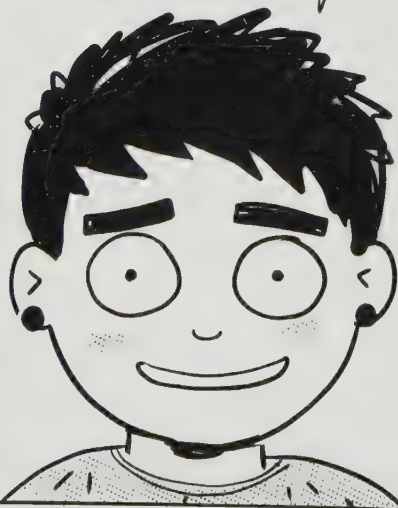


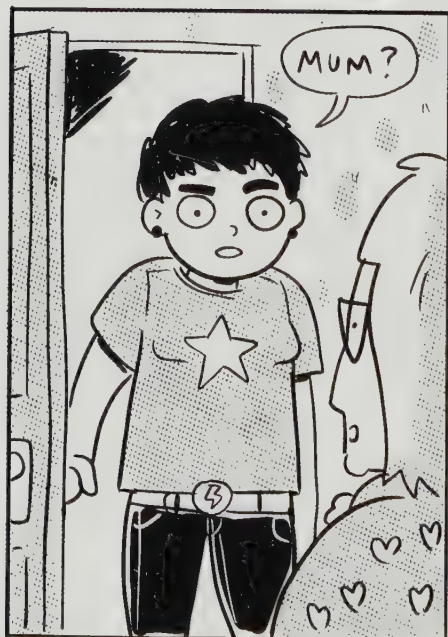


(OK I PUT A SOCK DOWN THERE BUT IT MADE ME FEEL MORE AWARE OF MY CROTCH SO I VETOED.)



DO I PASS MORE NOW?

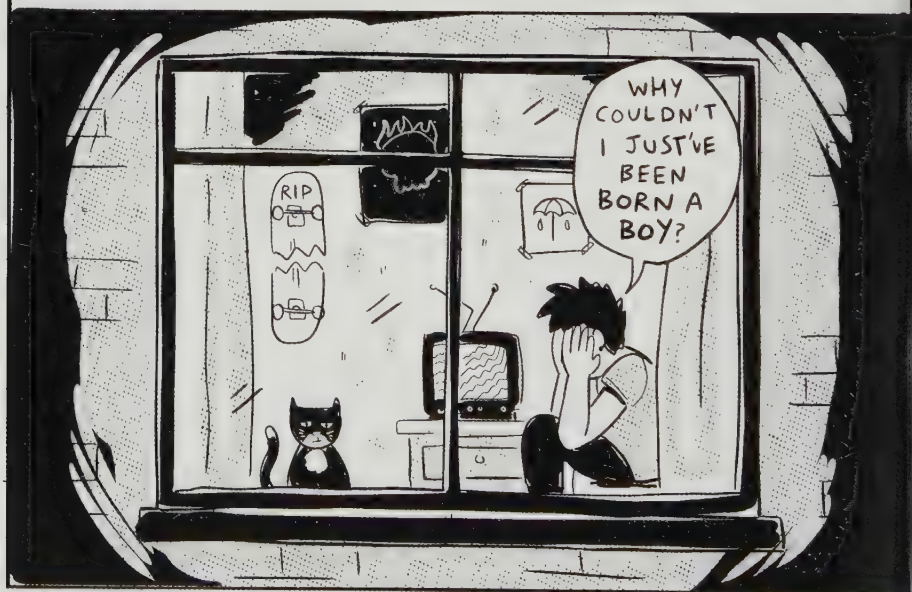


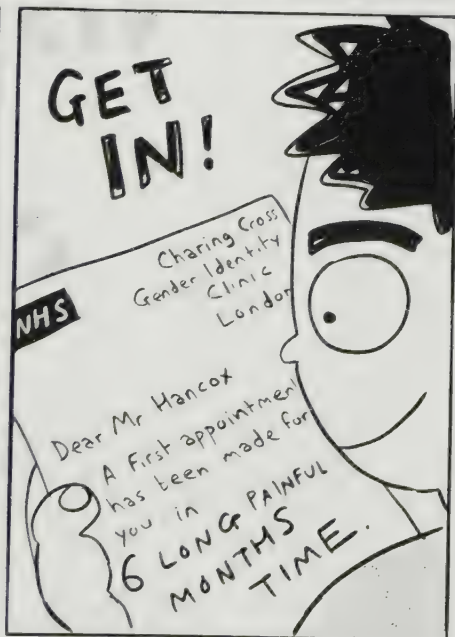
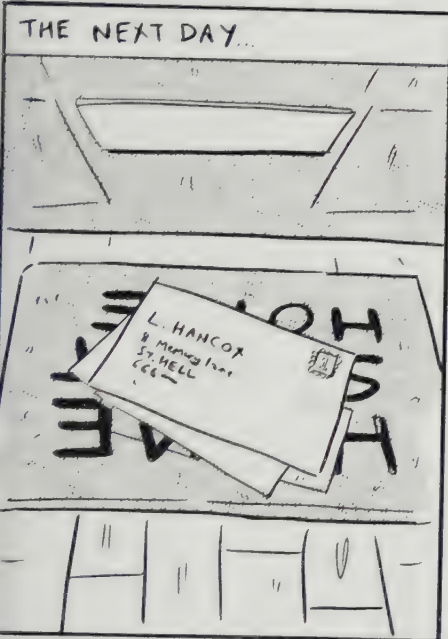






I JUST WANTED TO BE UNDERSTOOD.





I REMEMBER MY 1ST ATTEMPT AT USING THE RIGHT COLLEGE TOILETS. I WAS STILL FIGURING IT ALL OUT.

THE MYSTERY DOOR GAME



EEK! PERV! GET OUT!

NOT USIN' THE URINALS?

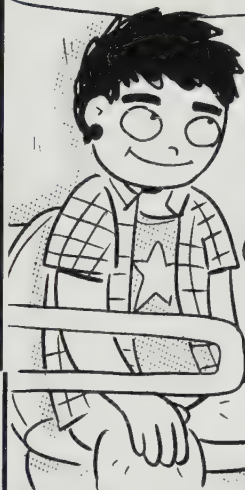
NOT GOT A WILLY?



OK, SO I CHICKENED OUT.



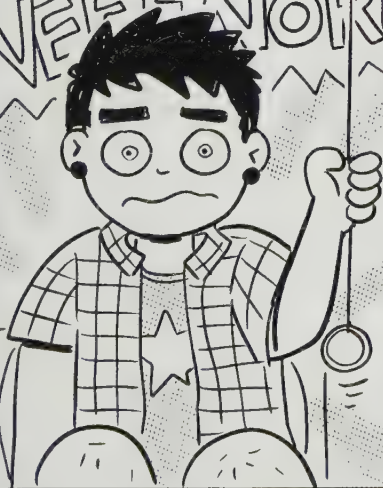
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON
YASELF, YOU'LL GET THERE.
AND BY THERE, I MEAN THE
SKANKY MALE BOGS.



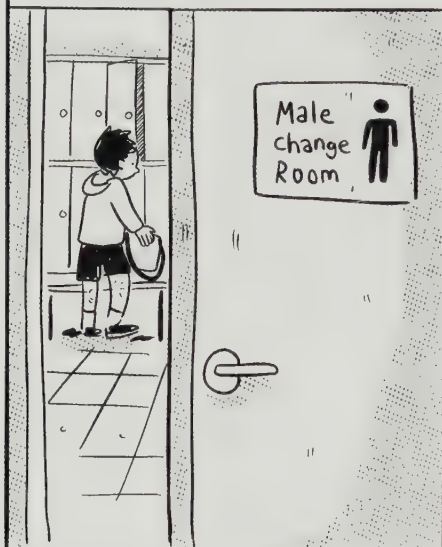
DREAMS
CAN COME
TRUE.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE
FLUSH BUT IT'S THE BLOODY
EMERGENCY ALARM. →

NEEFENORM



I WORKED MY WAY UP TO
THE GYM CHANGING ROOM.



DO THEY NOTICE I NEVER
TAKE ME HOODIE OFF?



OR THE LACK OF BULGE
IN ME BOXERS?



MY GIRLY-ARSE VOICE?



DEEP VOICE YEAH MATE,
GOT A DATE WIV A FIT BIRD.



I THINK ME AN' YOU NEED
A LIL CHAT.



YOU WEAR ONE O' THESE.
DON'T WANT BE KNOCKIN'
'ER UP!



TA MATE,
WILL SURE DO!



I SAID TO MASELF I'D PUT DATING ASIDE TO FOCUS ON MY TRANSITION. THAT WAS UNTIL THIS COOL GIRL CAME INTO WORK...



IT WAS NICE MEETING SOMEONE NEW AS LEWIS.





ME AND LINZI GOT THIS TEXTING THING GOING ON.

wyd?

chillin in bed. :)

imagine me there with u.

I wish...

LO - I MEAN - LEW, COME 'ERE A SEC!

I WISH MUM WOULD GO AWAY.

I'M GOING AWAY, LUV. WITH CHRIS.

A ROMANTIC GETAWAY!

EW.

I DID WHAT ANY GOOD TEENAGER WOULD DO...

OK, MUM. HAVE FUN...

IN HINDSIGHT, POSTING A MAP TO ME HOUSE ON MYSPACE WASN'T THE CLEVEREST IDEA...



IT FELT DEAD GOOD...



TO BE SEEN AS ME.



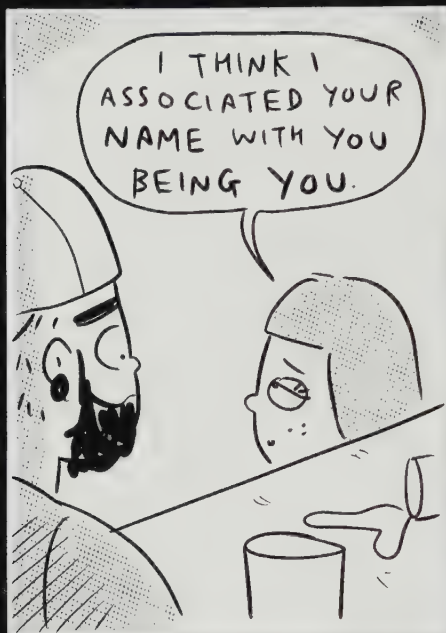
THE RIGHT NAME.



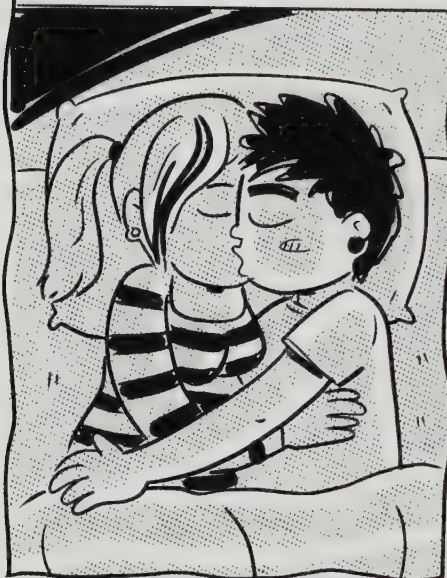
GOODBYE, OLD NAME.







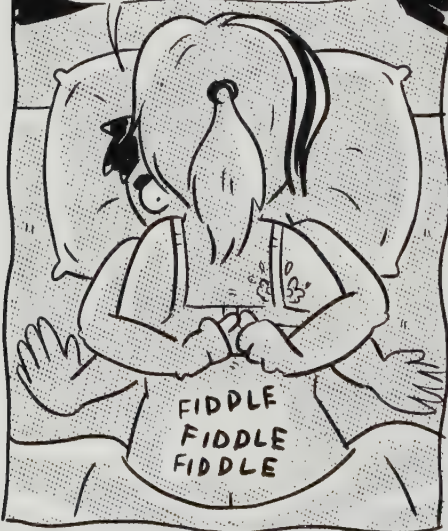
MY FIRST SEXPERIENCE



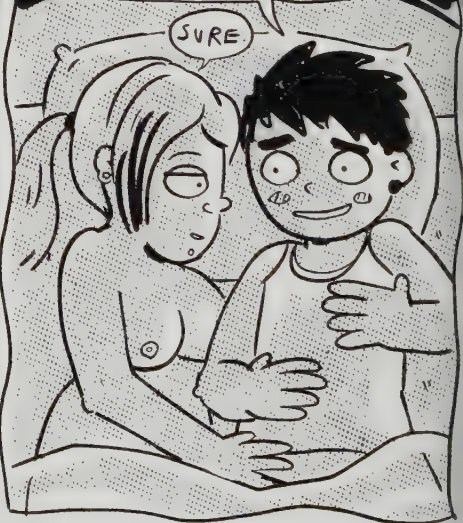
WENT SUMMAT LIKE THIS...



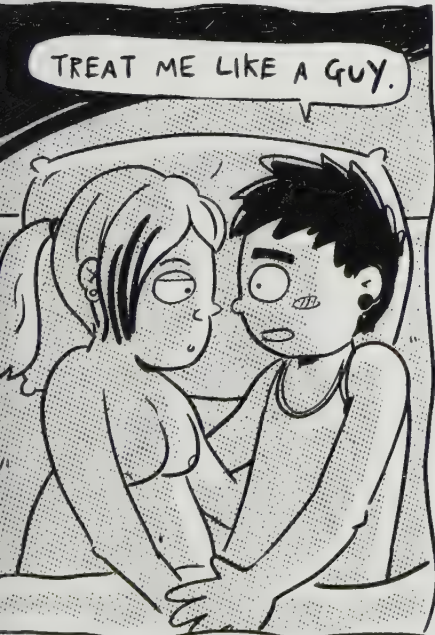
HOW D'YA UNDO THESE THINGS AGEN? HEH...



I'LL, ERR, KEEP THIS ON IF THAT'S OK?



SURE



THE NEXT DAY:

DUMPED.

From: Linzi

Heya Lew! party was such a rave! just wanted to say i rly like u but Im not over my ex yet. can we just be friends? ur so fun. oh an sorry for smashing ur mums lamp. oops lol Xx



BUT I HAD NO TIME TO DWELL. MUM WAS EN ROUTE HOME AND MY DEATH WAS INEVITABLE...

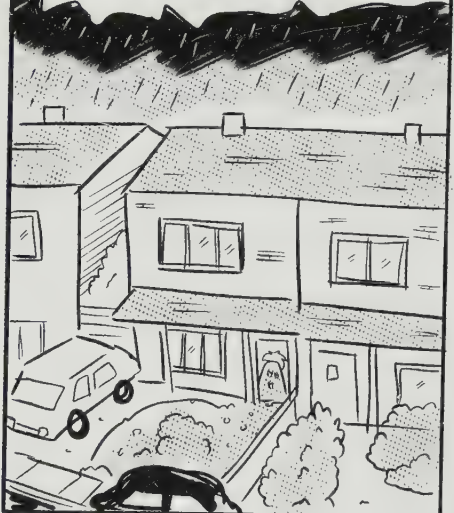


WHEN MUM CAME HOME
TO ALL THE MESS:

OH H H H H H H...



LEEEEEE



EWWW



WWWW!

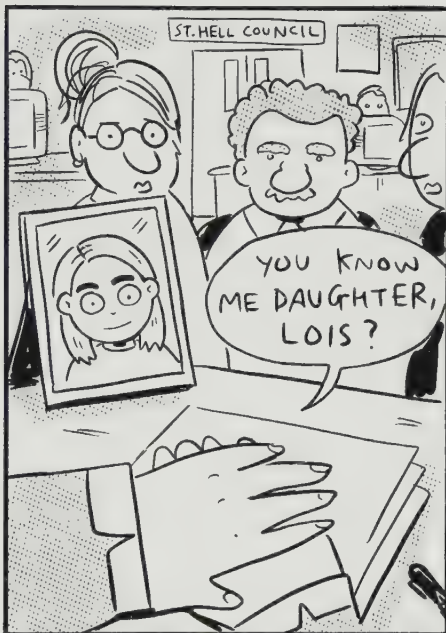




THEN I REMEMBER
SITTIN' EVERYONE
DOWN AT WORK
AN' SAYIN' ...

AN' GOT
SUMMAT
TO TELL
YOU ALL...

TOWN HALL



YOU KNOW
ME DAUGHTER,
LOIS?

WELL, LOIS IS NOW LEWIS.
SHE - I MEAN - HE - IS
LIVING AS MALE.

TUT, IS
THAT IT?

WE ALL THOUGHT
YOU WERE GONNA
TELL US YOU'RE
PREGNANT!

I TOLD GRAM MYSELF ON THE PHONE.



MUCH TO MUM'S SURPRISE, THEY TOOK IT SO WELL!



OOH NO, LUV. MAKES US
EVEN MORE PROTECTIVE.
WE CAN'T IMAGINE YOU
ANY DIFFERENT NOW. YOU'RE
JUST LEWIS. WE ONLY
WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.



AND WE ALWAYS KNEW YOU
WEREN'T HAPPY BEIN' A GIRL.
EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE
AND YOU'D SNATCH THE
CLOTHES OFF THE DOLL AND
THROW IT DOWN THE STAIRS!



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO
ANYONE HAVING A HARD TIME
ACCEPTING THEIR TRANS
GRANDCHILD?



THE SOONER
THEY GET THEIR
HEAD IN THE
REAL WORLD,
THE BETTER!

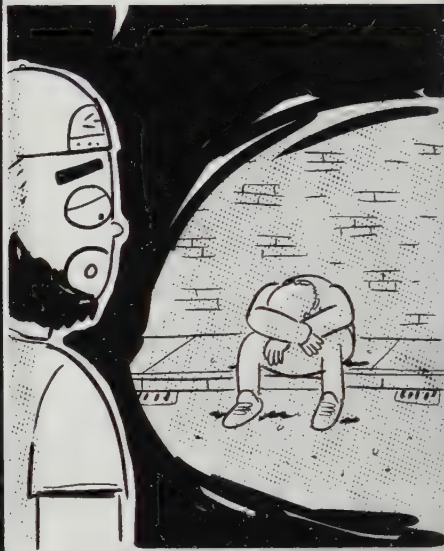


GRAMPS DROPPIN' TRUTH BOMBS.



SADLY, NOT ALL TRANS TEENS
ARE AS LUCKY AS I WAS.

SOME DON'T HAVE ANY
SUPPORT AROUND THEM.



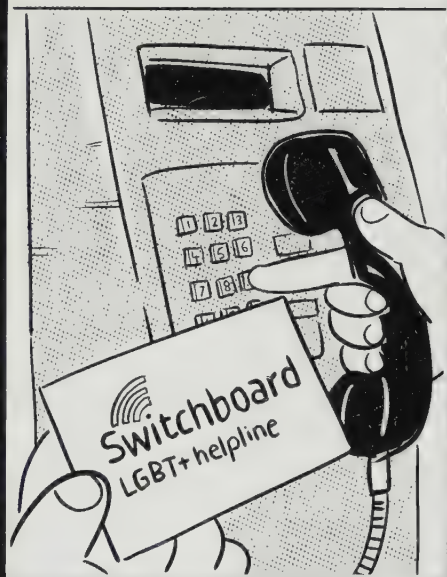
JUST KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THE WORLD.



FIND SOMEONE TO CONFIDE IN, A MATE, A COUNSELLOR, A TUTOR.



THE SUPPORT IS OUT THERE.



LOOK ONLINE FOR TRANS CHARITIES, GROUPS, FILMS.
I WISH ALL THIS EXISTED BACK WHEN I WAS GROWING UP...



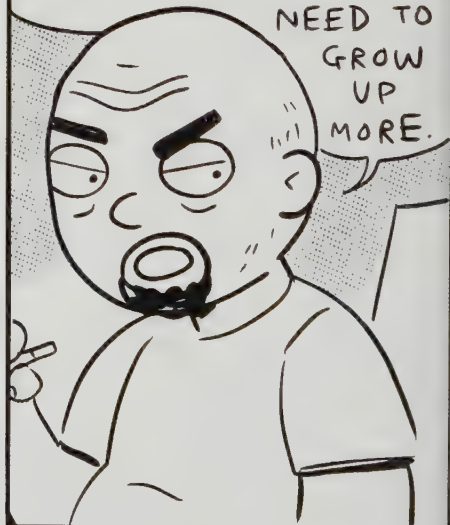
IT'D BEEN LIKE 6 MONTHS SINCE I LAST SAW DAD. I TOLD HIM THE NEWS...



I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO LIVE WITH THIS BODY UNDER MA CLOTHES!



LISTEN TO ME! YER NOT READY FOR IT! YOU NEED TO GROW UP MORE.





THESE DAYS DAD'S GOT A NEW LIFE. HE MOVED OFF HIS BOAT INTO A LIL' FLAT THAT CAME WITH A LAUNDERETTE. I SEE HIM OFTEN.

LAUNDERETTE



WHAT DID YOU MEAN
WHEN YOU SAID I WASN'T
READY TO TRANSITION?



LOOKIN' BACK,
IT WERE ME WHO
WASN'T READY.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS
INVOLVED. I WAS SCARED
FOR YA OUT IN
THE BIG WIDE
WORLD. YA
KNOW HOW
LADS GET
IN SCRAPS
N' THA. I
DIDN'T
WANT YA
GETTIN'
BEAT UP
OR OWT.



I SEE NOW YA'V
ABSOLUTELY
DONE
THE
RIGHT
THING.



AND WHAT A REET GUD
MAN YA'V MADE.

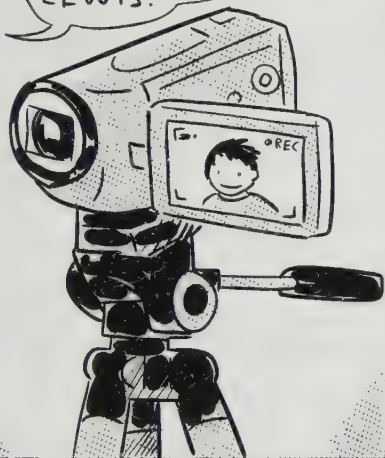


IT TOOK SOME TIME BUT EVENTUALLY, EVERYONE ACCEPTED ME.



I STARTED MAKING FILMS TO
PUT MASELF OUT THERE.

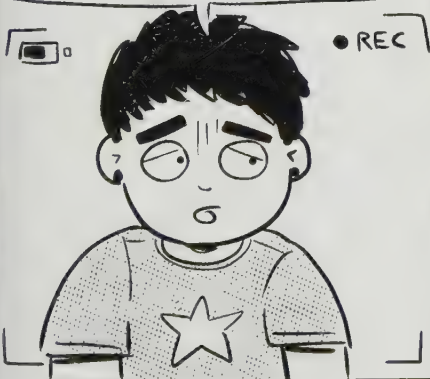
HEY, GUYS, IT'S
LEWIS.



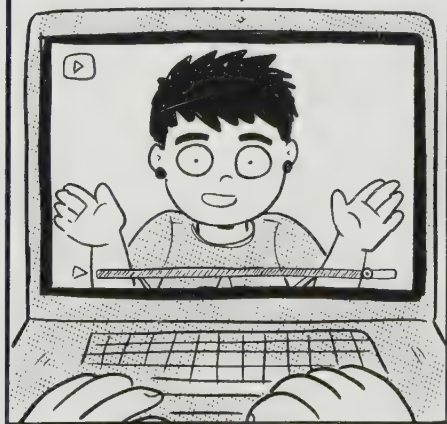
WELCOME TO MY YOUTUBE.
I'M A 19-YEAR-OLD TRANS
GUY AND I'VE GOT MY FIRST
APPOINTMENT AT THE
GENDER CLINIC TOMORROW!

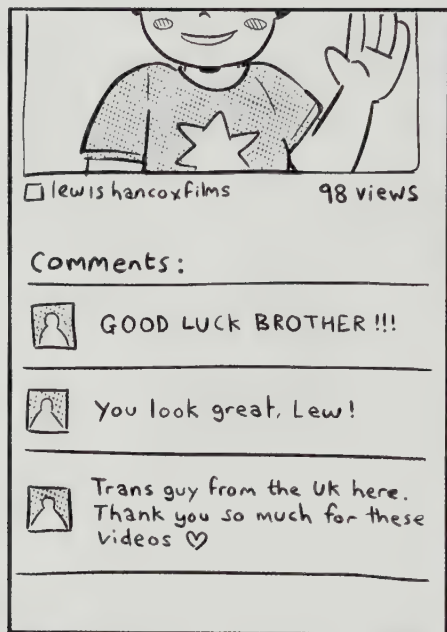


I REALLY HOPE I CAN START
TESTOSTERONE BY THE TIME
I GO OFF TO UNIVERSITY IN
SEPTEMBER SO I COULD BE
SEEN AS, LIKE, JUST A
REGULAR GUY.






IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE
HOLDING THE KEY TO
MA FUTURE AND I GOTTA
CONVINCE 'EM I NEED IT!



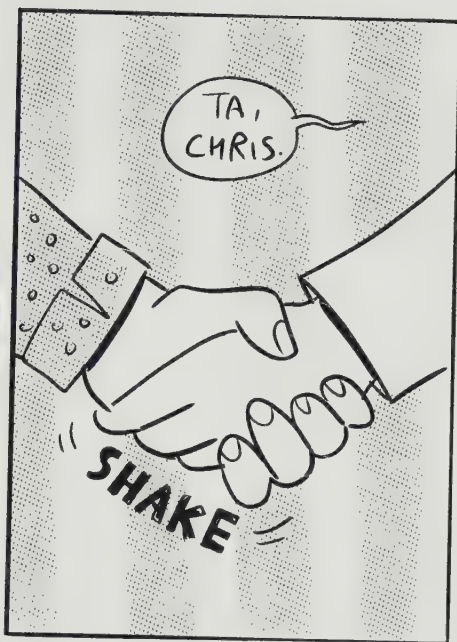


□ lewis hancox films 98 views

Comments:

-  GOOD LUCK BROTHER !!!
-  You look great, Lew!
-  Trans guy from the UK here. Thank you so much for these videos ♡





I CAUGHT THE 6 AM TRAIN STRAIGHT OUTA ST. HELL.



THE JOURNEY WAS TAKING FOREVER...



AND IT'D ONLY JUST BEGUN.

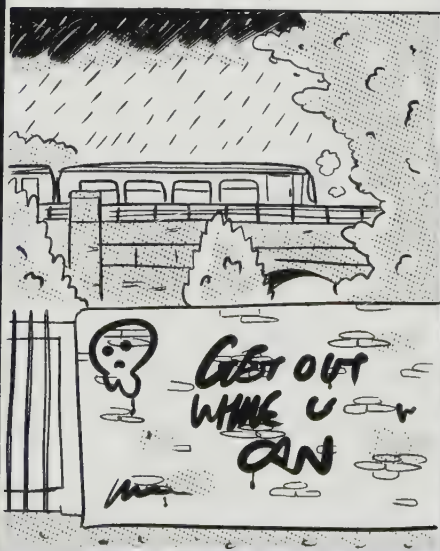
THIS WOULD BE THE LAST SUMMER I SPENT 'ERE BEFORE ESCAPING TO MANCHESTER CITY FOR UNI.



WHATEVER KINDA HELL YOU'RE GOIN' THROUGH, DON'T GIVE UP. OK? COZ IN THE END...



AND IF IT AIN'T REET, IT AIN'T THE END.



THE FIRST OF MANY TRIPS TO LONDON. YOU HAD TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO APPOINTMENTS BEFORE GETTING HORMONES. WAH!



THE DOOR TO YOUR DESTINY.



BZZZZZ



duuuu 3

Gender Identity **NHS** Clinic 2

uuuu 1

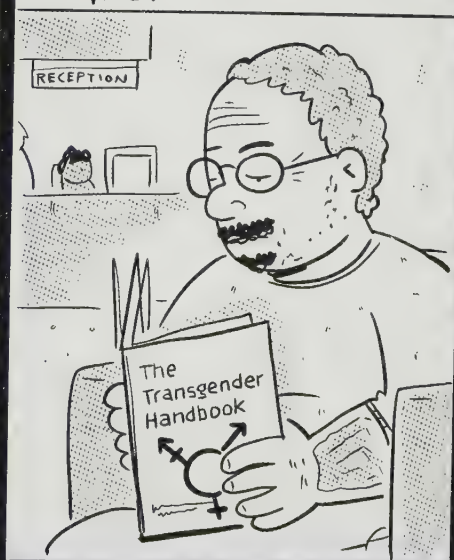
THE WAITING ROOM IS, ASTONISHINGLY, FULL OF PEOPLE LIKE US.



TOTAL STRANGERS. ALL DEAD DIFFERENT.



THIS ONE THING CONNECTS US ALL.

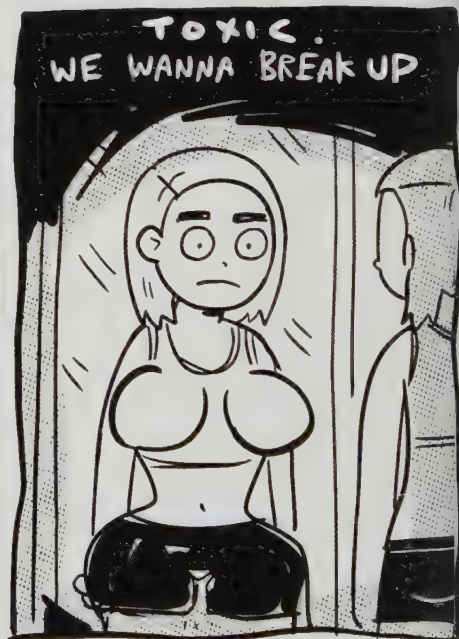


LEVEL 1 BOSS:

WHEN DID YOU FIRST SHOW
SIGNS OF FEELING DISCOMFORT
WITH YOUR GENDER?

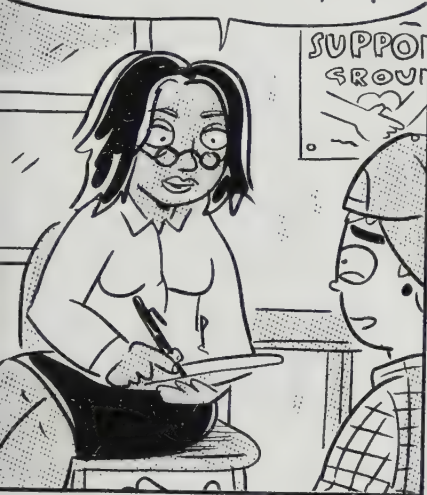


WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP
LIKE WITH YOUR BODY?

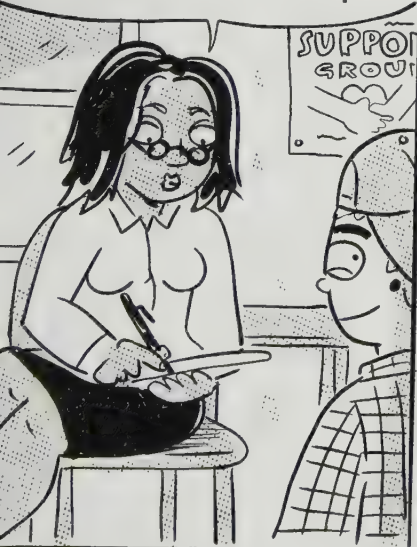


LEVEL 2 BOSS:

WHAT WAS GROWING UP AS A GIRL LIKE FOR YOU?

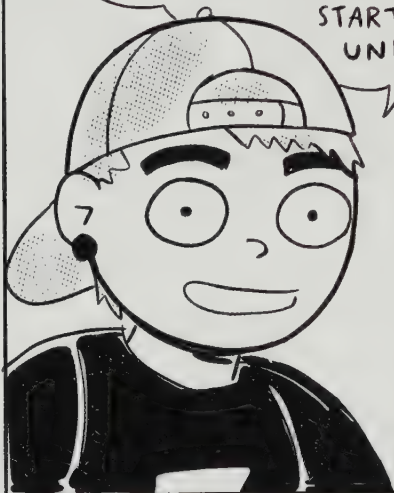


WHAT DOES YOUR IDEAL FUTURE LOOK LIKE?



SEPTEMBER 2008.

JUST IN THE NICK OF
TIME BEFORE I
START
UNI...



I GOT THE KEY.



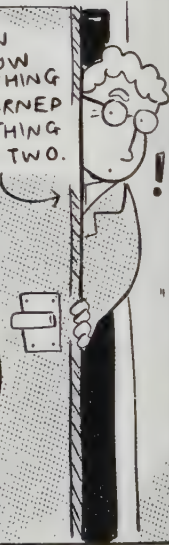
...WHICH I TOOK TO MA LOCAL NURSE TO INJECT INTO MY
BUTT WITH A 2-INCH NEEDLE. THE JOYS OF TRANSITIONING.

STI's

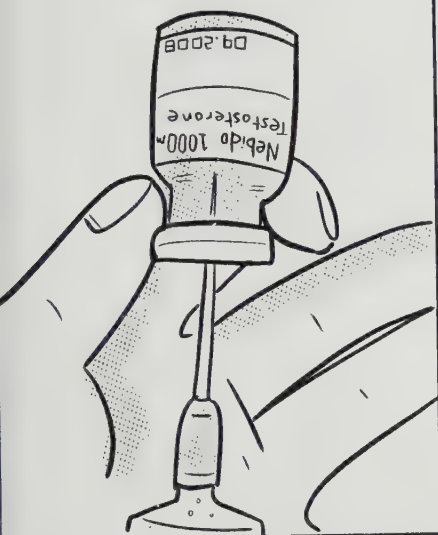
ARE YOU
ONE O' THEM
TRANSFORMERS,
LUVVY?

YOU MEAN-
NEVERMIND-
YES, YES
I AM.

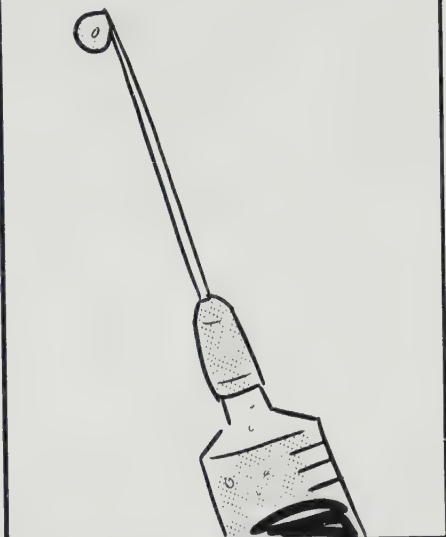
EVEN
DR. KNOW
NOTHING
LEARNED
A THING
OR TWO.



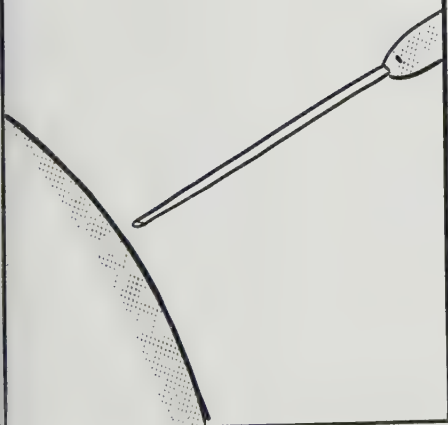
IT'S LIKE THIS WHOLE TIME



MY LIFE WAS ON PAUSE...



AND ONLY NOW...



WAS I ABOUT TO

**Press
Start**





ME, AGE 10, AND MUM



YR 11



AGE 7, IN THE ST. HELL PAPER



YR 7

AGE 16



ME AND JESS
@ THE LEAVERS' DO

2005

ME, ALISON AND JESS. 2007



WEDNESDAYS @

WOBBLY BOBS



ME AND MUM. 2021



LIVIN' AS
LEWIS

AGE 19



DAD AND ME. 2018



1989
-2012

GIZZY



ME, GRAMPS, AND GRAM. 2017

UK Charities Offering Support, Advice and Information

The Beaumont Society beaumontsociety.org.uk – help and support from the trans community

Gender Identity Research and Education Society gires.org.uk – improving the lives of trans and gender diverse people of all ages, including those who are non-binary and non-gender

LGBT Foundation lgbt.foundation – national charity based in Manchester with trans services and resources

Mindline transt mindlinetrans.org.uk; 0300 330 5468 – emotional and mental health support helpline for anyone identifying as trans, non-binary, gender variant, and their families, friends, colleagues and carers

Transbucket transbucket.com – health care and surgery resource for the online trans community

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) wpath.org – non-profit organization devoted to trans health

Gender Identity Services in the UK

Indigo Gender Service (Manchester): indigogenderservice.uk

NHS Gender Identity Clinics:

Glasgow: sandyford.scot/sexual-health-services/gender-identity-service

Leeds: leedsandyorkpft.nhs.uk/our-services/gender-identity-service

London: gic.nhs.uk

Northamptonshire: nhft.nhs.uk/gic

Sheffield: shsc.nhs.uk/services/gender-identity-clinic

West of England: dpt.nhs.uk/our-services/gender-identity

NHS Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service (Newcastle): cntw.nhs.uk/services/northern-region-gender-dysphoria-service-specialist-service-walkergate-park

The Nottingham Centre for Transgender Health: nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/nottingham-centre-for-transgender-health

Welsh Gender Service: gender.wales

Projects

All About Trans allabouttrans.org.uk – positively changing how the media understands and portrays trans people

My Generation mygeneration.com – films about trans people by trans people, for everyone. Also offering trans training workshops. Co-founded by Lewis Hancox, Fox Fisher and Owl Fisher.

