

GOLDEN RULES

by Seth T. Hahne



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I happen to believe in
a little-liked philosophical idea
known as

TOTAL DEPRAVITY



(because of toilets)

Total Depravity is the
idea that, deep down,
people are not good.



Essentially think:
ANNE FRANK...

Despite everything
I believe that people are
really good at heart.



... And now imagine she
wasn't helplessly naive.

"Unfair," you might say.

She endured the Holocaust
and died for her trouble.

And that's true.
Credit where credit is due.

One thing though...

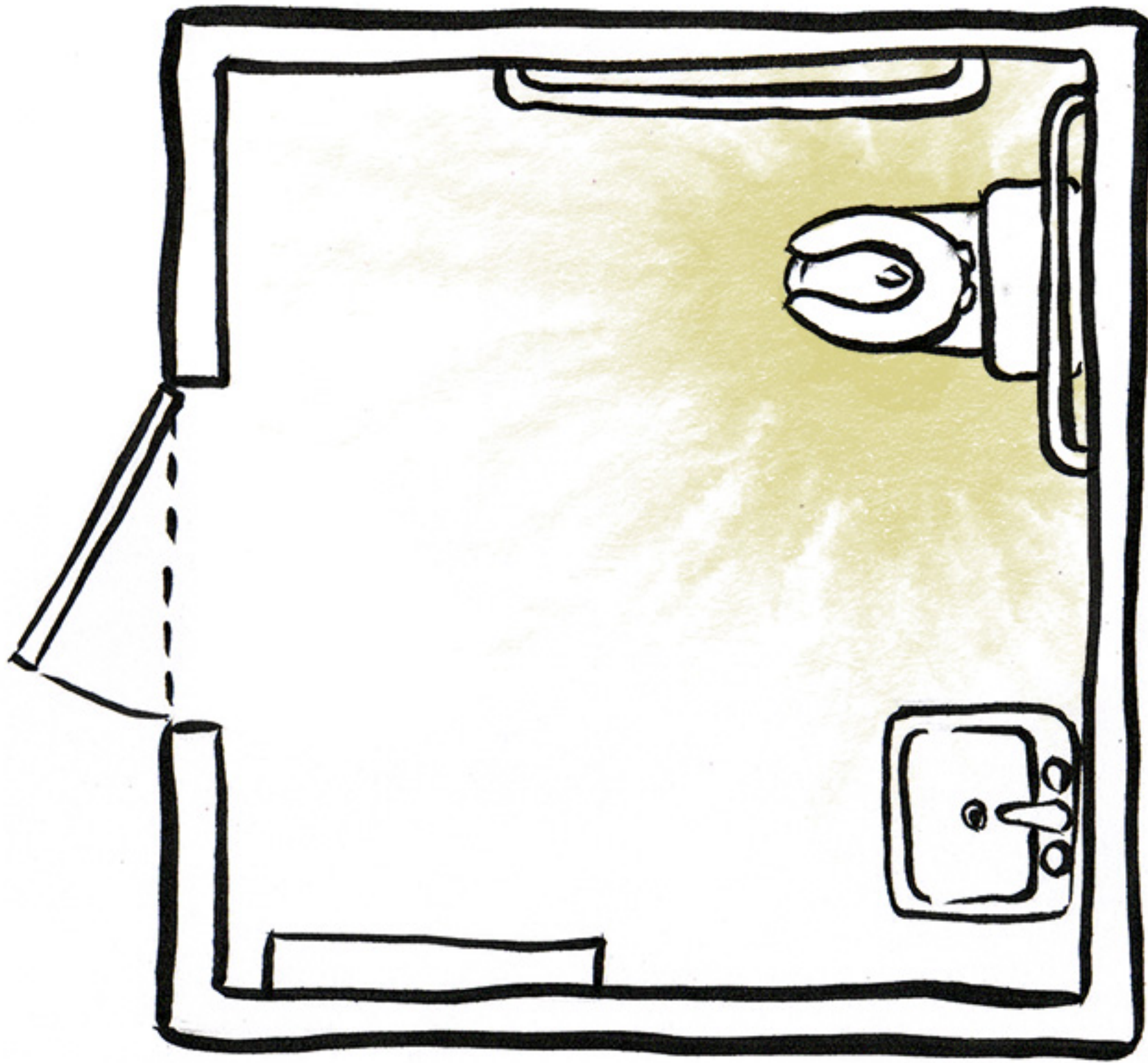


MEN



Anne Frank never used
a men's public restroom.

Let's investigate, shall we?



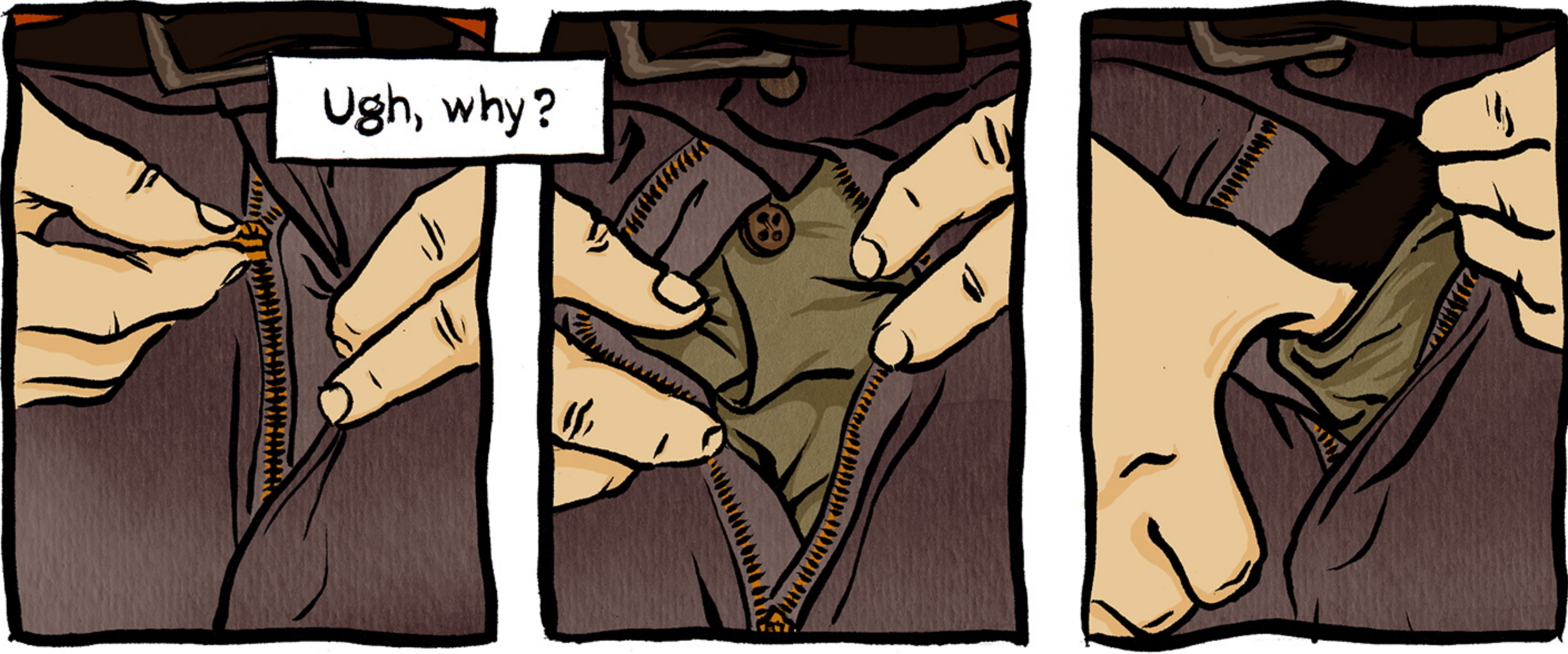
For simplicity's sake, we'll stick with single-use restrooms, ok? Like the kind you'd find at a Starbucks.

Picture it.



If there was a line for the restroom, you'll likely even be able to see urine dripping off the seat. Lucky you!



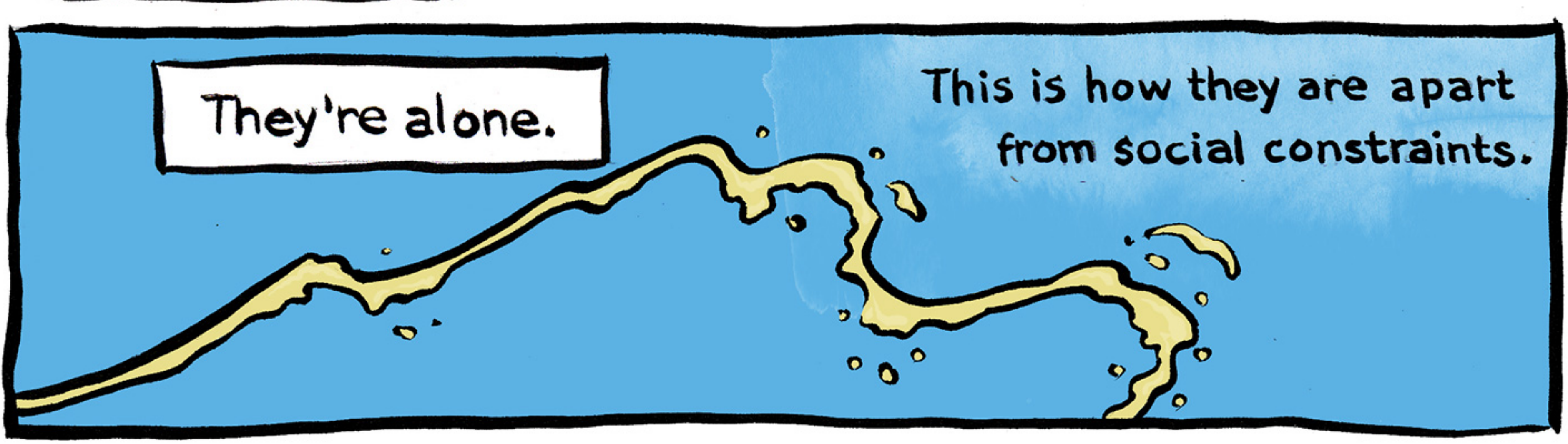


Ugh, why?



After all, it's not as if
these people have any
external motivation
acting on them.

Remember.



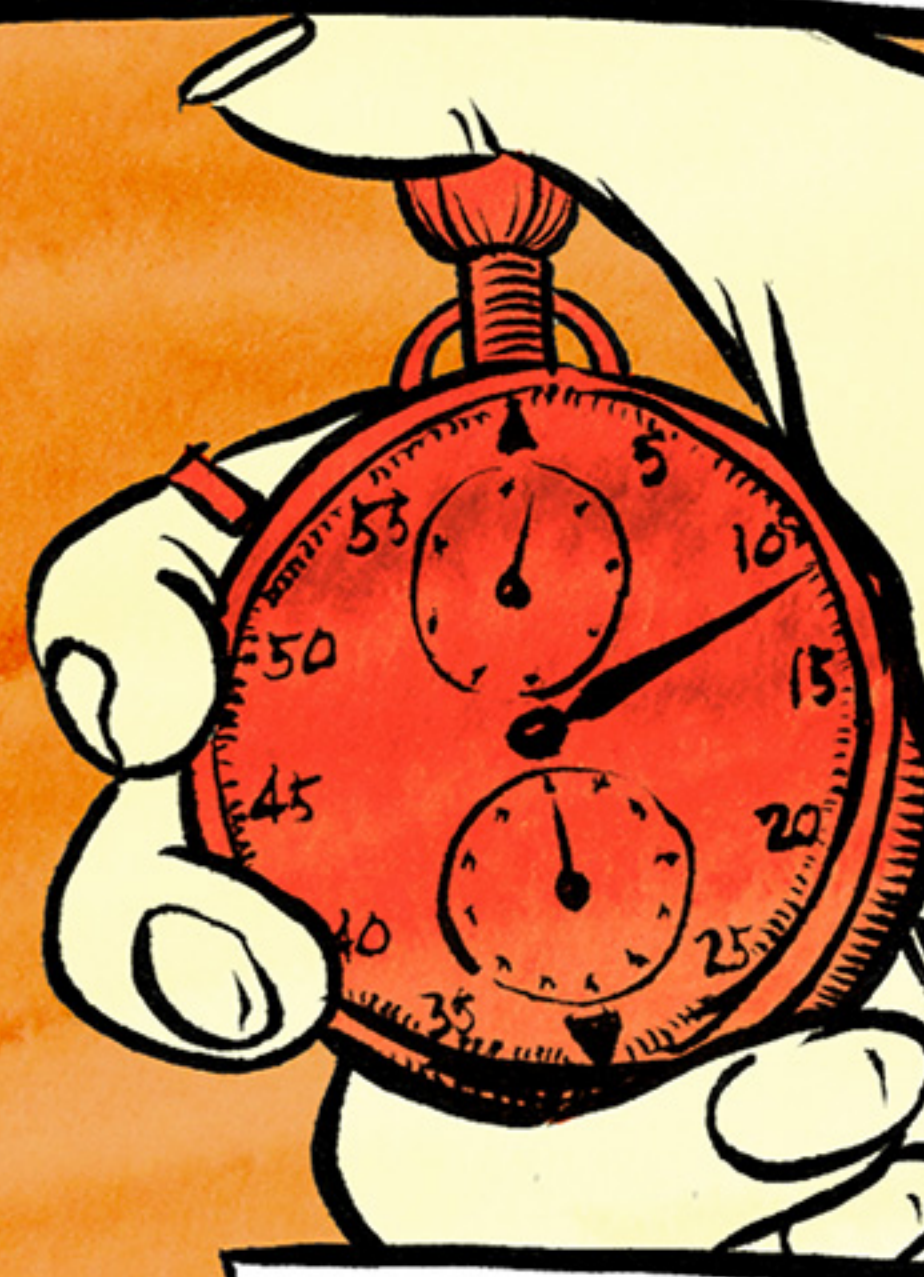
They're alone.

This is how they are apart
from social constraints.

It's not like there's peer pressure.

if you wanna join our gang you gotta pee on the seat, man.

just do it



It's not that there's any great hurry.

Instead, they're just lazy.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK

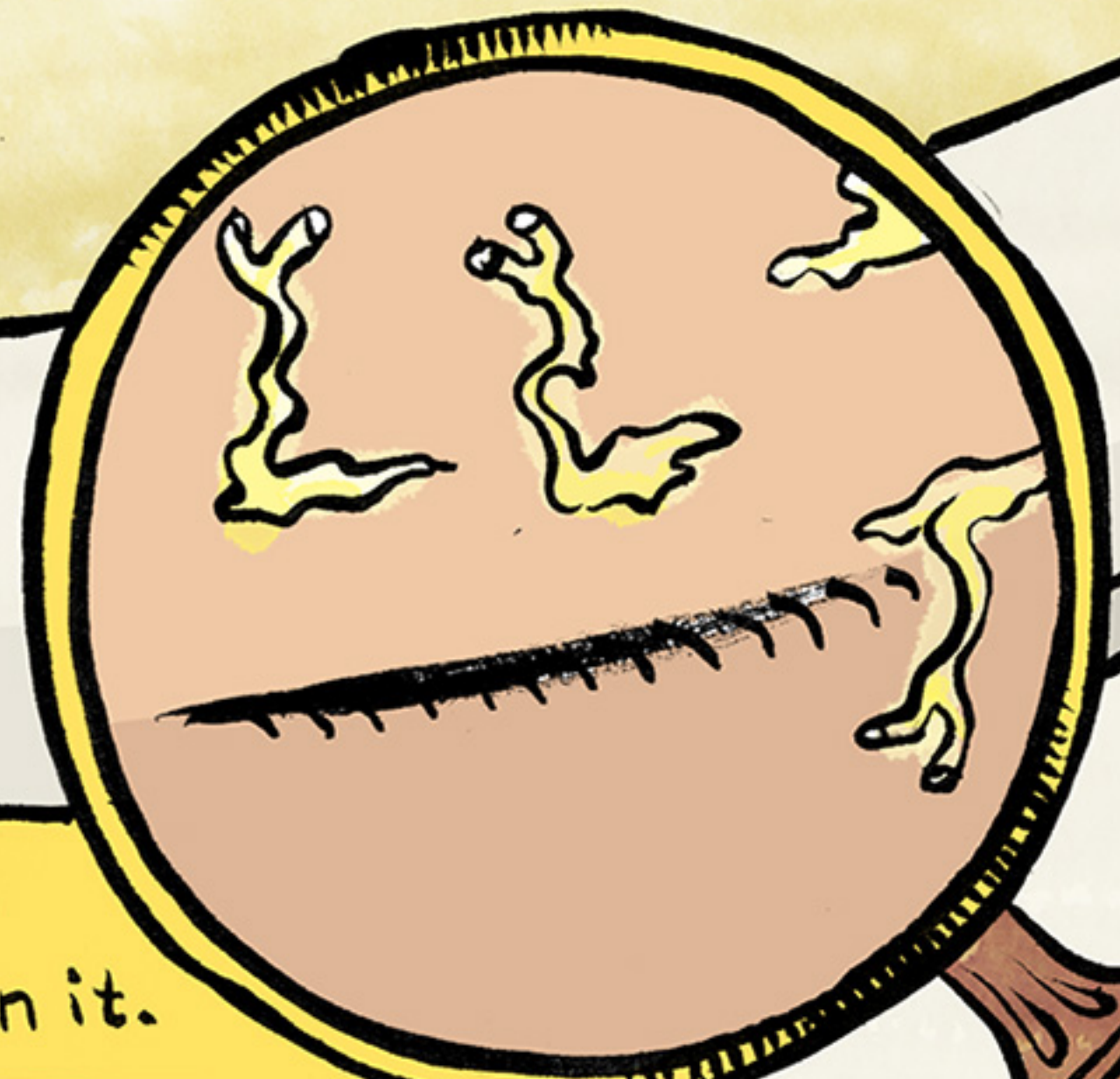


Here's the scene.

You are a dude and you have to pee.

You basically just assume that the seat has pee on it.

Even if it looks clean, it's got invisible pee germs on it.



Now, you could use
a paper towel...



...or your foot.



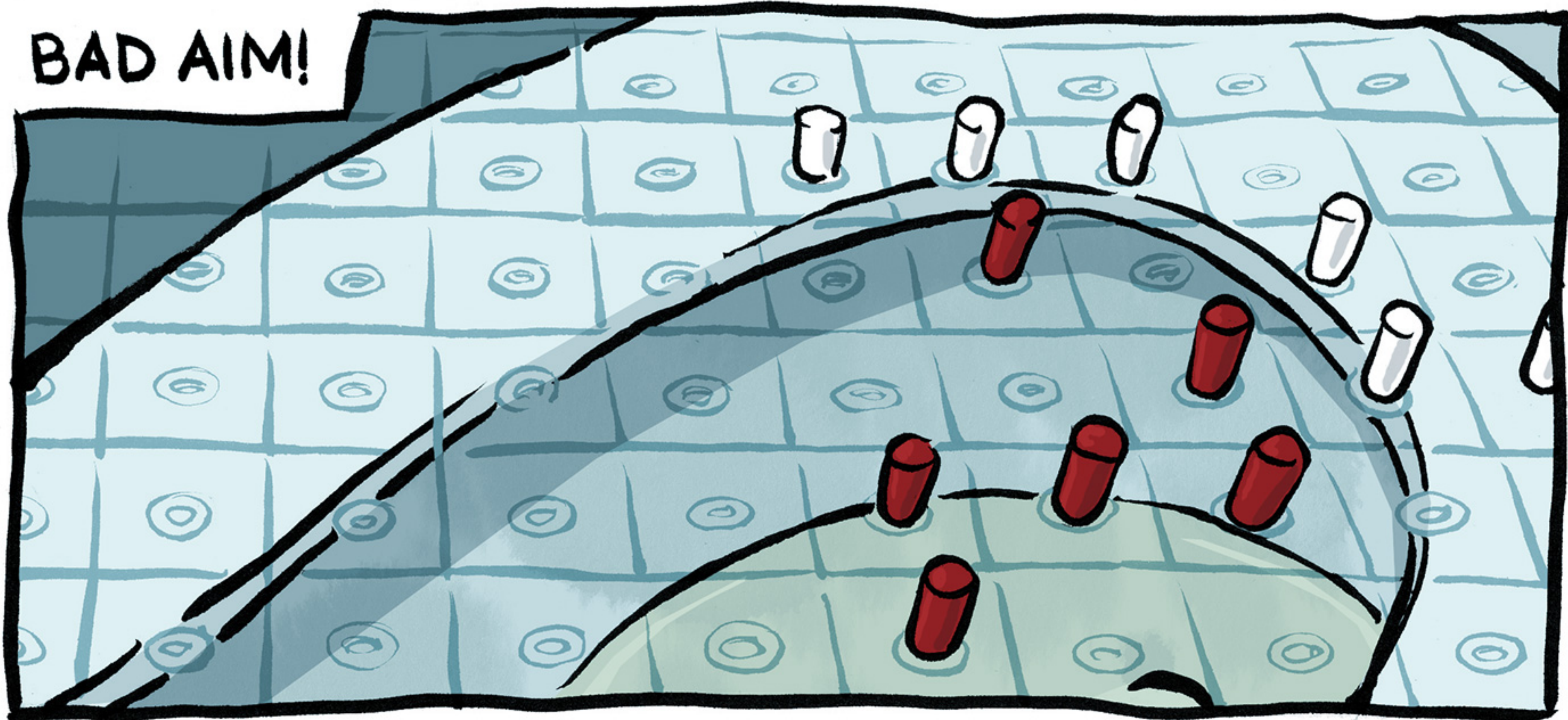
Either of these would remove
you from moral culpability
for What Happens Next.



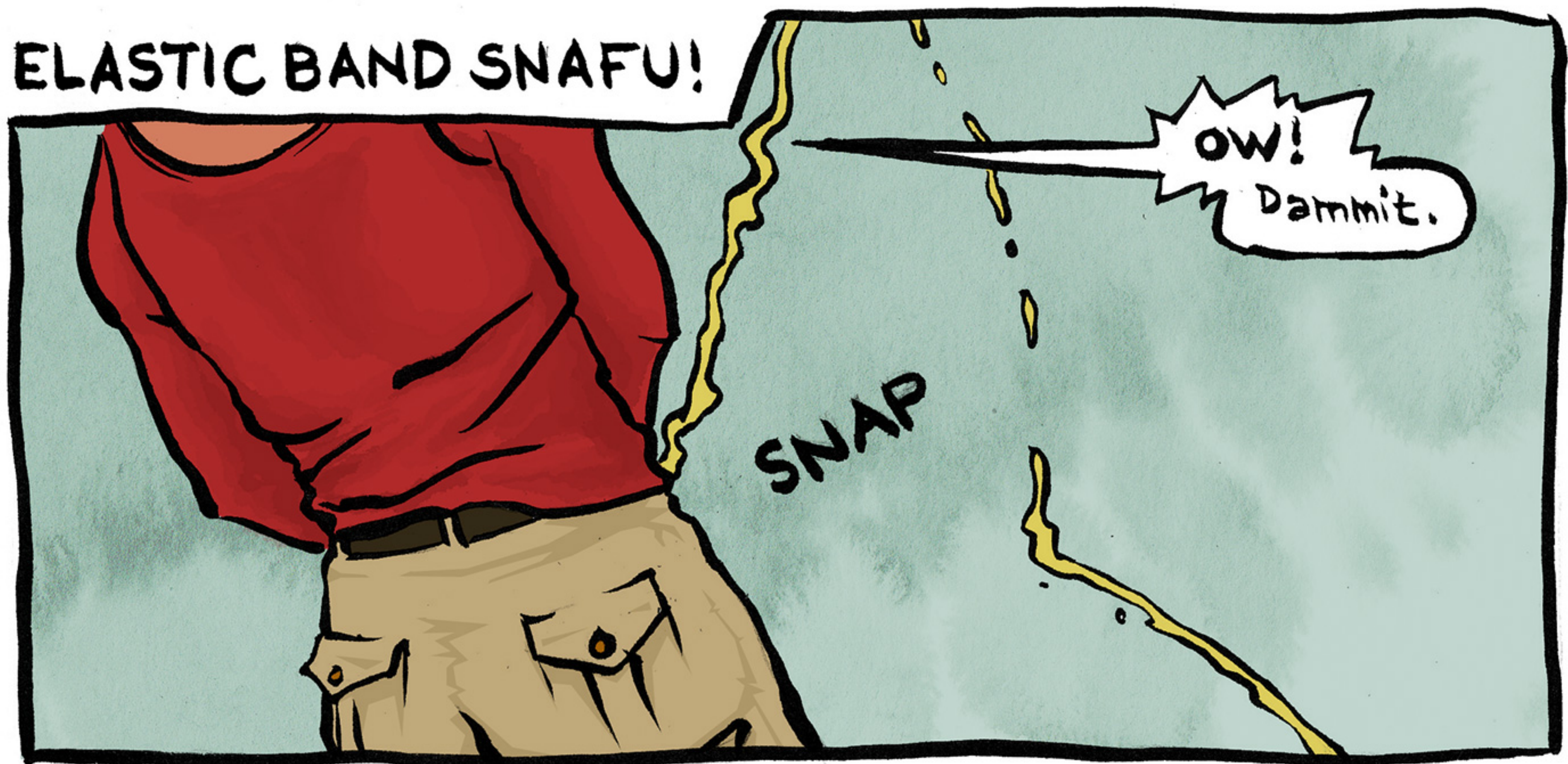
SPLIT STREAM!



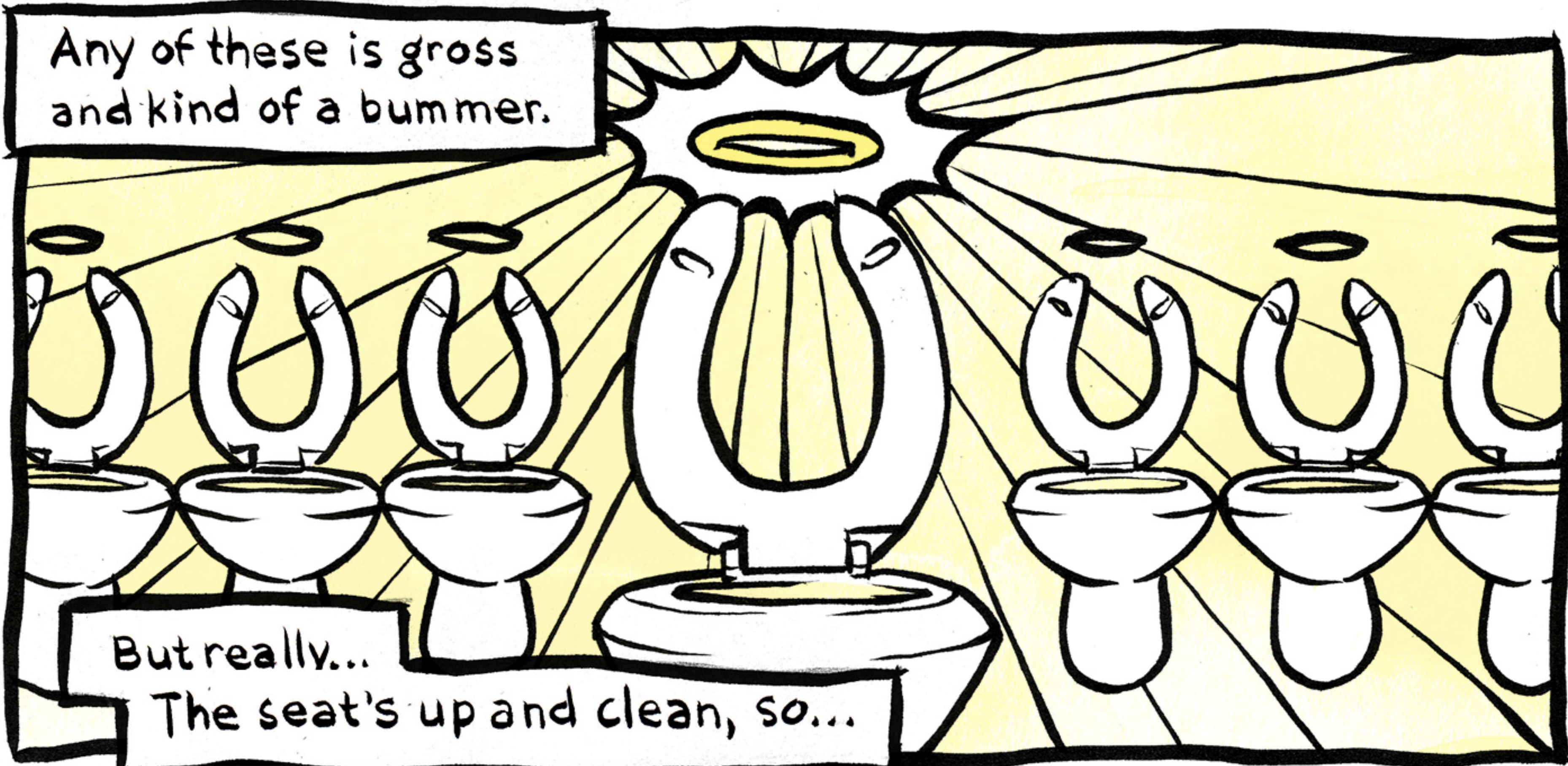
BAD AIM!



ELASTIC BAND SNAFU!



Any of these is gross
and kind of a bummer.



But really...
The seat's up and clean, so...

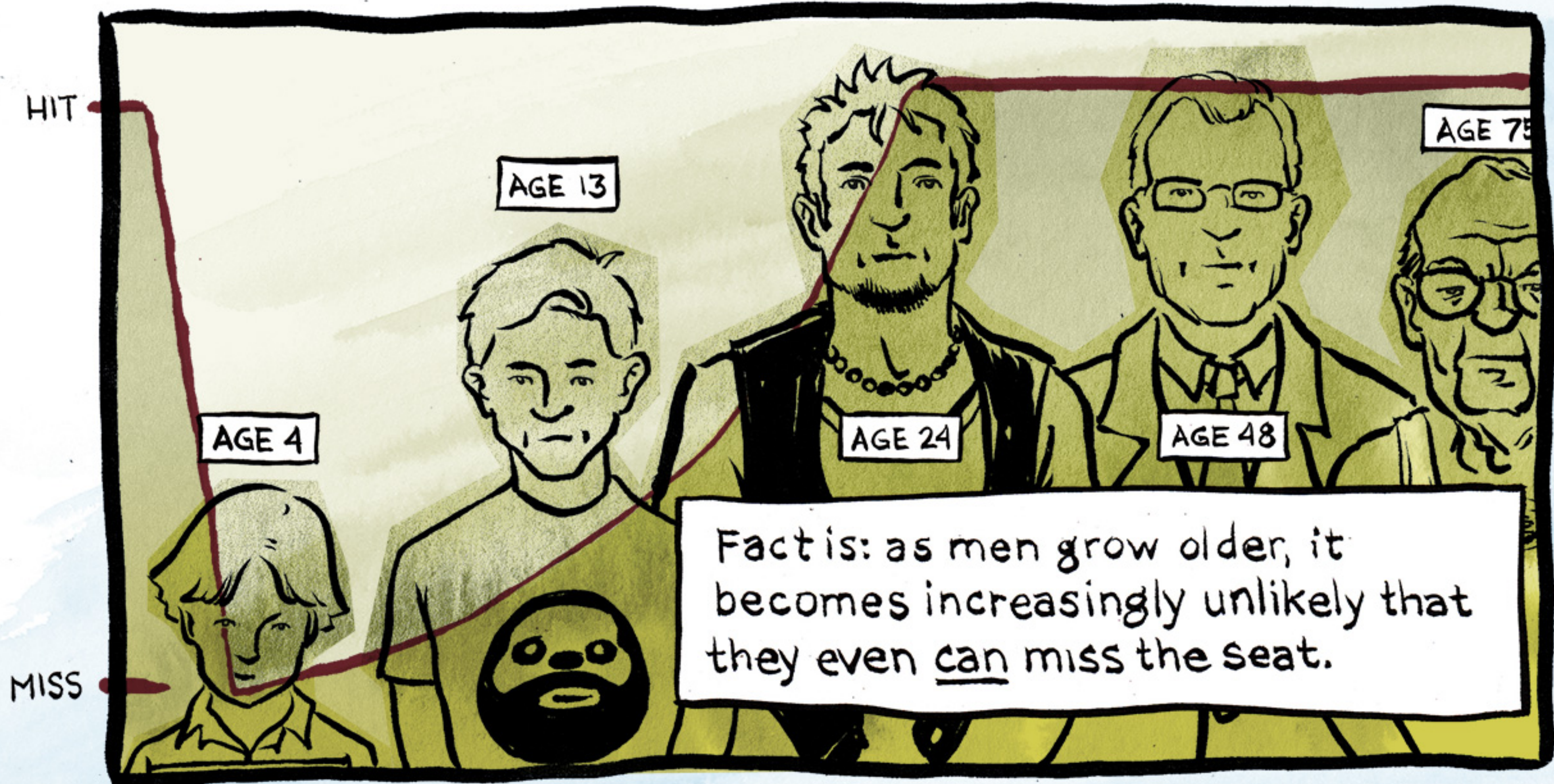
NO HARM NO FOUL

But these circumstances
with the seat down?

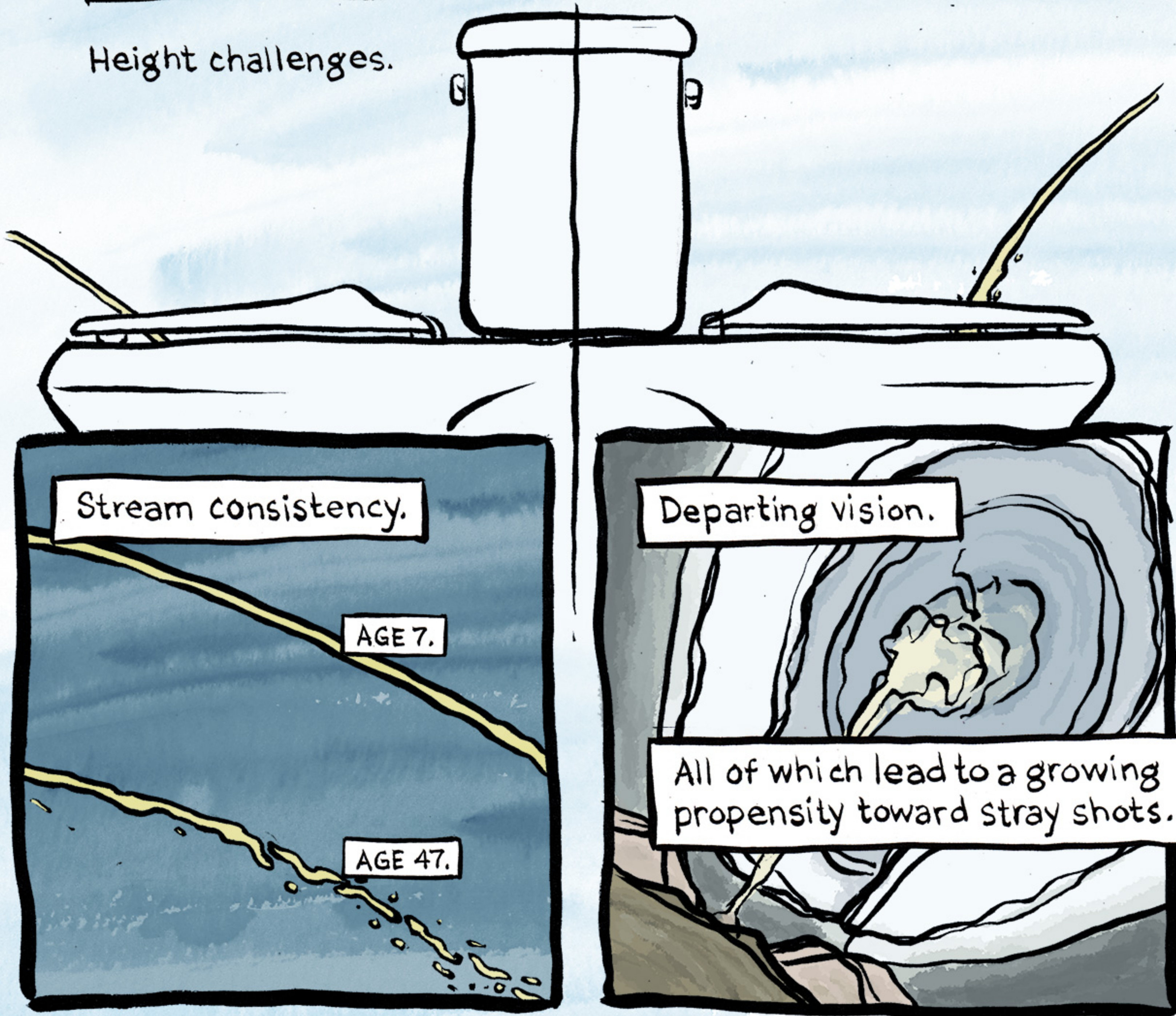


DISASTER!

Propensity to hit seat vs. age (an infographic)



Height challenges.





And so the troubling point
is that when all alone...

...when no one is watching...

...a tremendous percentage
of men will just flat out
pee with the seat down.

Hypothesize a
post-apocalyptic future.

There are only five guys left.

Because TRAGEDY!

Our intrepid
tribe discovers...

...an intact bunker!





It's pristine with a
virgin bathroom.

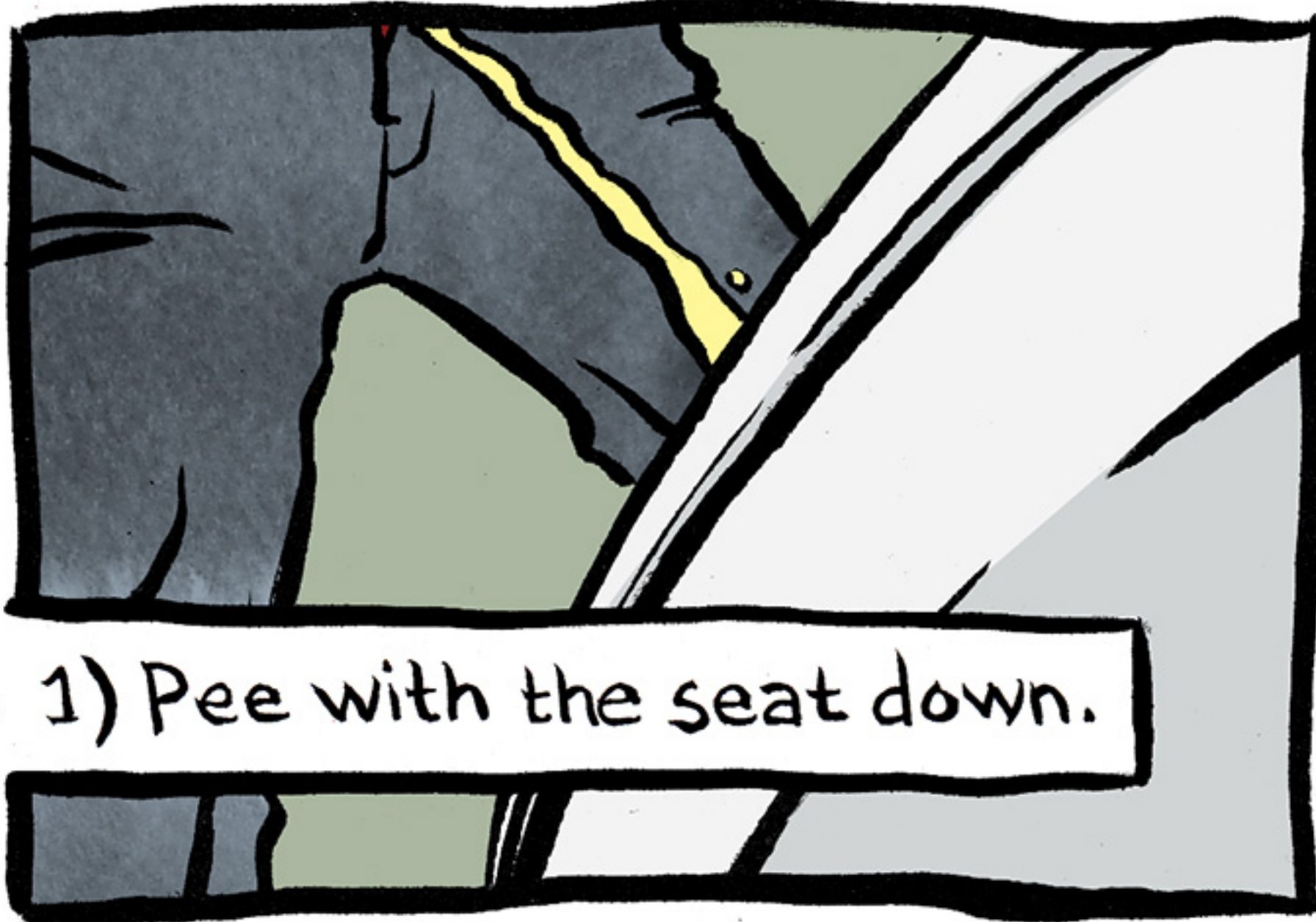


And now it's lottery odds that the
last guy to use the bathroom won't
enter to find pee on the seat.

With no pressure and no one
to tell them what to do



the better-than-average man will...



But what about those occasional good guys?

Don't these outliers invalidate the idea that people are naturally bad?

At risk of sounding
Not Dogmatic Enough...

...probably not?

Why?

Because we are
trained to be good.
And sometimes
that training sticks.

Many of us are
trained in the
Golden Rule.

REGARD YOUR NEIGHBOR'S
GAIN AS YOUR OWN GAIN
AND YOUR NEIGHBOR'S
LOSS AS YOUR OWN LOSS.



Laozi

NEVER IMPOSE ON OTHERS
WHAT YOU WOULD NOT
CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF.



Confucius

ONE SHOULD DO FOR
OTHERS AS ONE WOULD
DO FOR ONESELF.



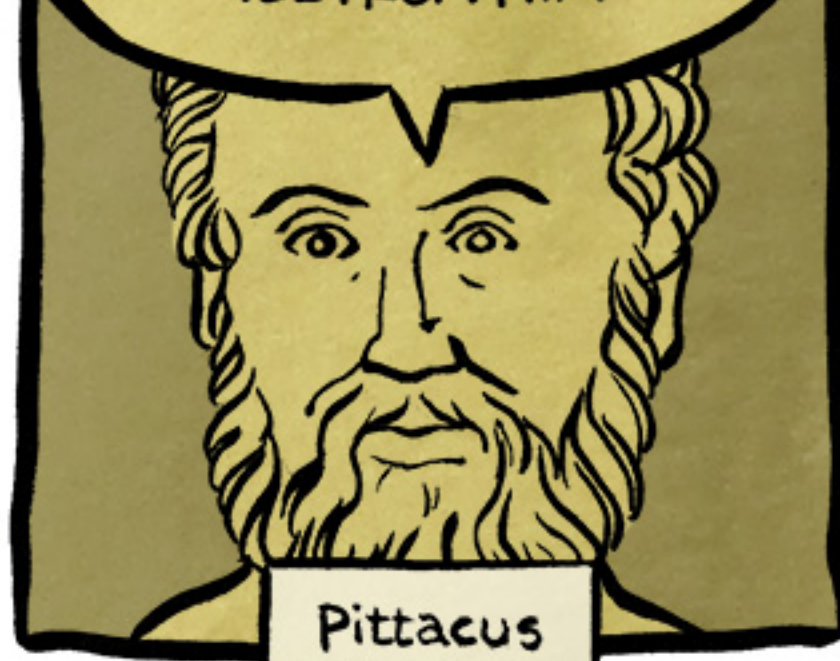
Mozi

DO TO THE DOER TO
CAUSE THAT HE DO
THUS TO YOU.



The Eloquent Peasant

DO NOT DO TO YOUR
NEIGHBOR WHAT
YOU WOULD TAKE
ILL FROM HIM.



Pittacus

AVOID DOING WHAT
YOU WOULD BLAME
OTHERS FOR DOING.



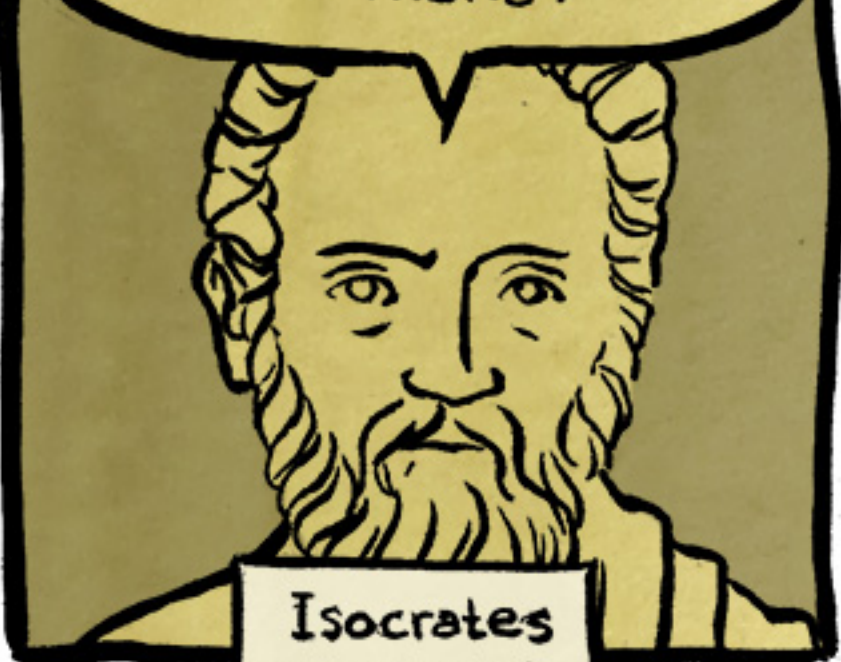
Thales

WHAT THOU AVOIDEST SUFF-
ERING THYSELF SEEK NOT
TO IMPOSE ON OTHERS.



Epictetus

DO NOT DO TO OTHERS
WHAT WOULD ANGER YOU
IF DONE TO YOU BY
OTHERS.



Isocrates

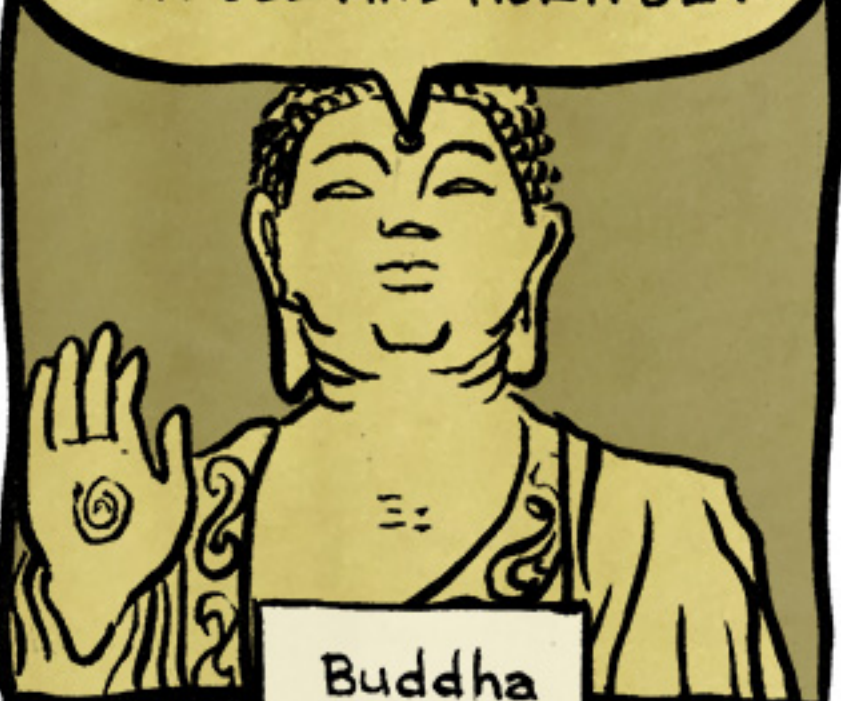
THE GOLDEN RULE

EXPECT FROM OTHERS
WHAT YOU DID TO THEM.



Seneca

HURT NOT OTHERS IN WAYS
THAT YOU YOURSELF
WOULD FIND HURTFUL.



Buddha

DO TO NO ONE WHAT YOU
YOURSELF DISLIKE.



Tobit

THAT WHICH IS HATEFUL TO
YOU DO NOT DO TO YOUR
FELLOW.



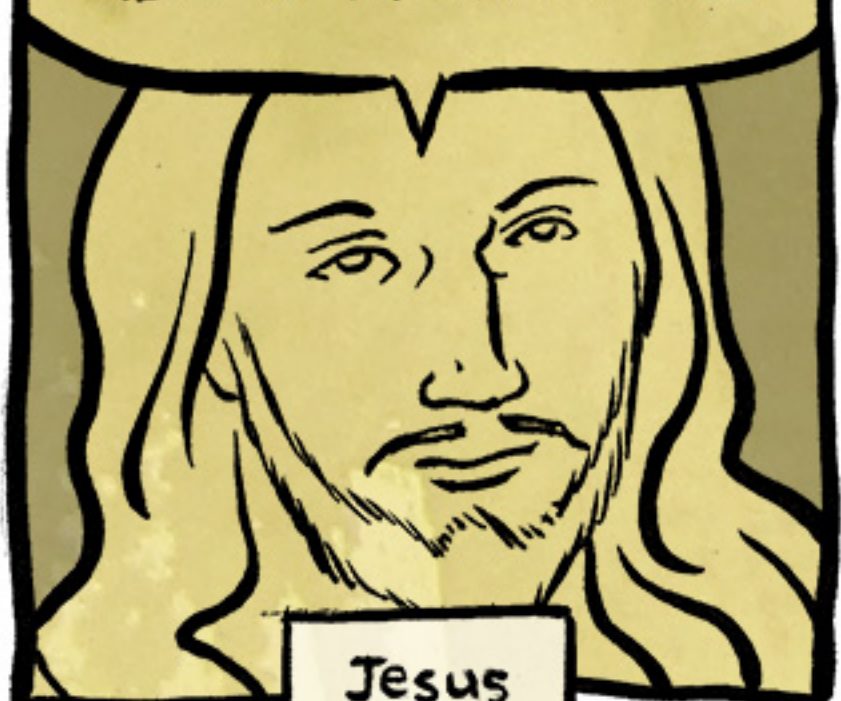
Hillel

NEVER DO THAT TO
ANOTHER WHICH ONE
REGARDS AS INJURIOUS
TO ONE'S OWN SELF.



Brihaspati

AS YE WOULD THAT MEN
SHOULD DO TO YOU DO YE
ALSO TO THEM LIKEWISE.



Jesus

DO UNTO OTHERS AS WE
WOULD BE DONE TO
OURSELVES.



Laurence Vaux

NOTHING CAN BE BETTER
FOR US UNLESS IT IS
BETTER FOR ALL.



Sartre

And through
no small effort,
we sublimate
our natural
inclinations.

And that's why doing good is so praiseworthy.



BECAUSE IT'S AN EFFORT.

And not peeing on the seat?



Apparently a
HERCULEAN effort.

A cartoon illustration of a mountain landscape. In the background, there are jagged, dark grey mountains with patches of white snow under a clear blue sky. In the middle ground, there are green hills with some evergreen trees. In the foreground, a white toilet is sitting on a patch of green grass. Three white text boxes with black borders are overlaid on the image, containing text that reads: 'Knowing all this. Living with all this.', 'Let's not continue to presume the essential goodness of the human spirit and further hold onto a hope fostered purely on the nurture of a bald romanticism...', and '...when really all we need to do to see the natural darkness in the human soul...'. At the bottom, another white text box with a black border contains the text: '...is visit a men's toilet regularly.'.

Knowing all this.
Living with all this.

Let's not continue to presume the
essential goodness of the human
spirit and further hold onto a hope
fostered purely on the nurture of
a bald romanticism...

...when really all we need
to do to see the natural
darkness in the human soul...

...is visit a men's
toilet regularly.

BONUS
MATERIAL

AFTERWORD



Seth T. Hahne
(an artist's depiction)

I am not a comics creator.

Golden Rules came about pretty much as a direct result of Small Press Expo 2013. I review comics, graphic novels, and manga for my website Good Ok Bad (goodokbad.com). I attended SPX with the idea that I might find some cool books to cover. And I did. I found that and more.

Being in such close proximity to so much evidence of the creative human spirit, I was overwhelmed. And galvanized. I had read comics for decades. I'd been writing about comics for two-and-a-half years. But I never really entertained the idea seriously that I might actually try to make a comic. Sure, I'd imagined it. I even went so far as to script a 300-page graphic novel at one point. But I never really put pencil to paper. Yet faced with so many people making so many cool things, I found myself needing to step out and make something myself.

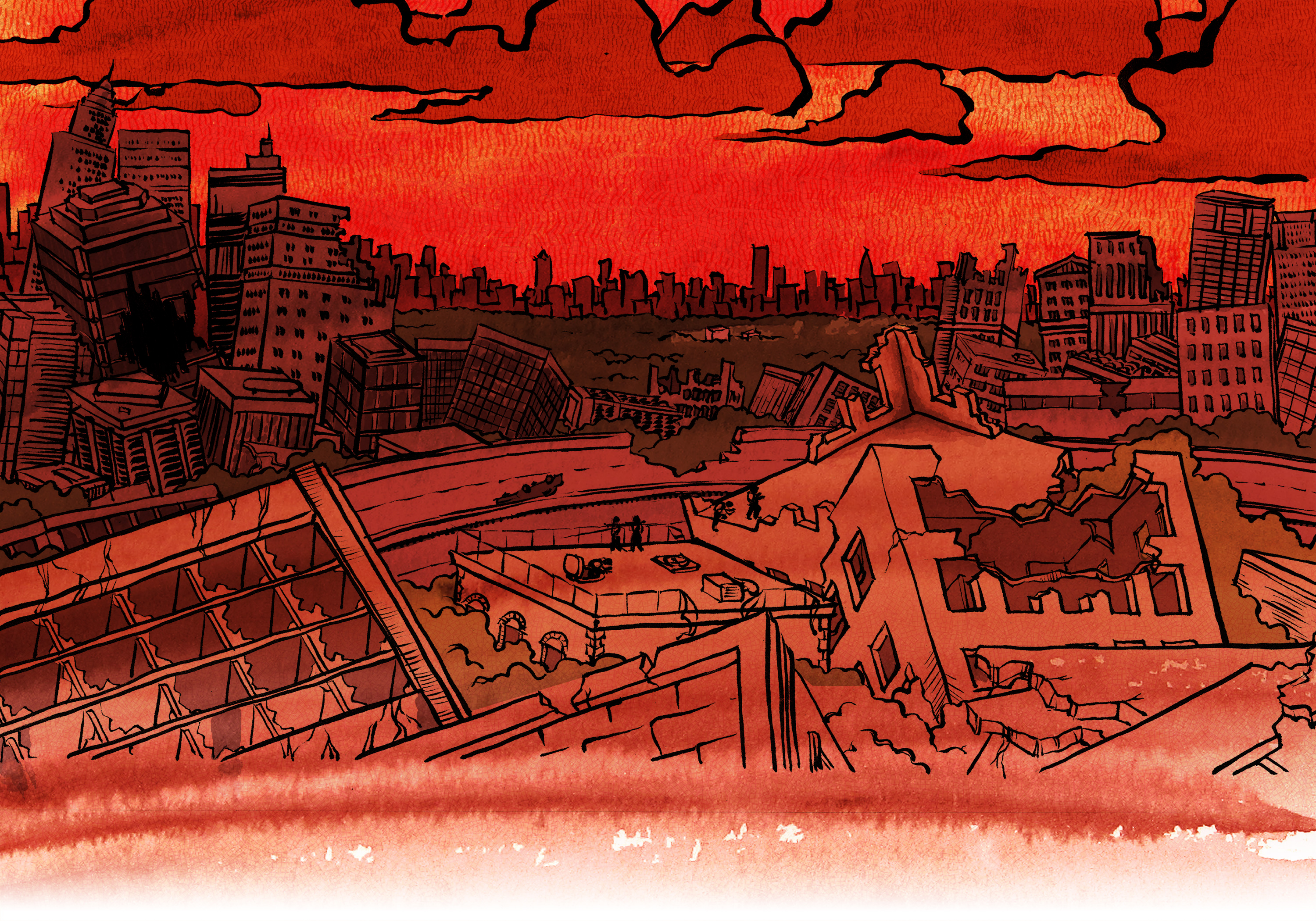
I came home wanting to make a comic, but I am not a comics creator. I had no confidence that I even could write and draw a book to completion. So I wanted to do something small, something to reflect the piles of mini-comics I picked up at SPX. Something short, something that'd be a bit of a lark that I could poo-poo if it turned out lame. I needed a safety, something light and innocuous.

But what?

A couple days after I returned home, I was in Starbucks writing up a report on the Expo for the site. I got up to use the restroom and an idea catalyzed. Because nothing gets my ire up like pee on the seat. Within a day, I had my script (originally 14 pages). A day after that, I had thumb-nailed everything. I ran it by my wife and she thought it need a few pages in the middle half. Re-scripted and started drawing. Drawing, inking, lettering, and colours took forever. Or at least almost five months. For eighteen pages and a cover. Man. But at least I'm finished now.

I am not a comics creator. This is my comic.

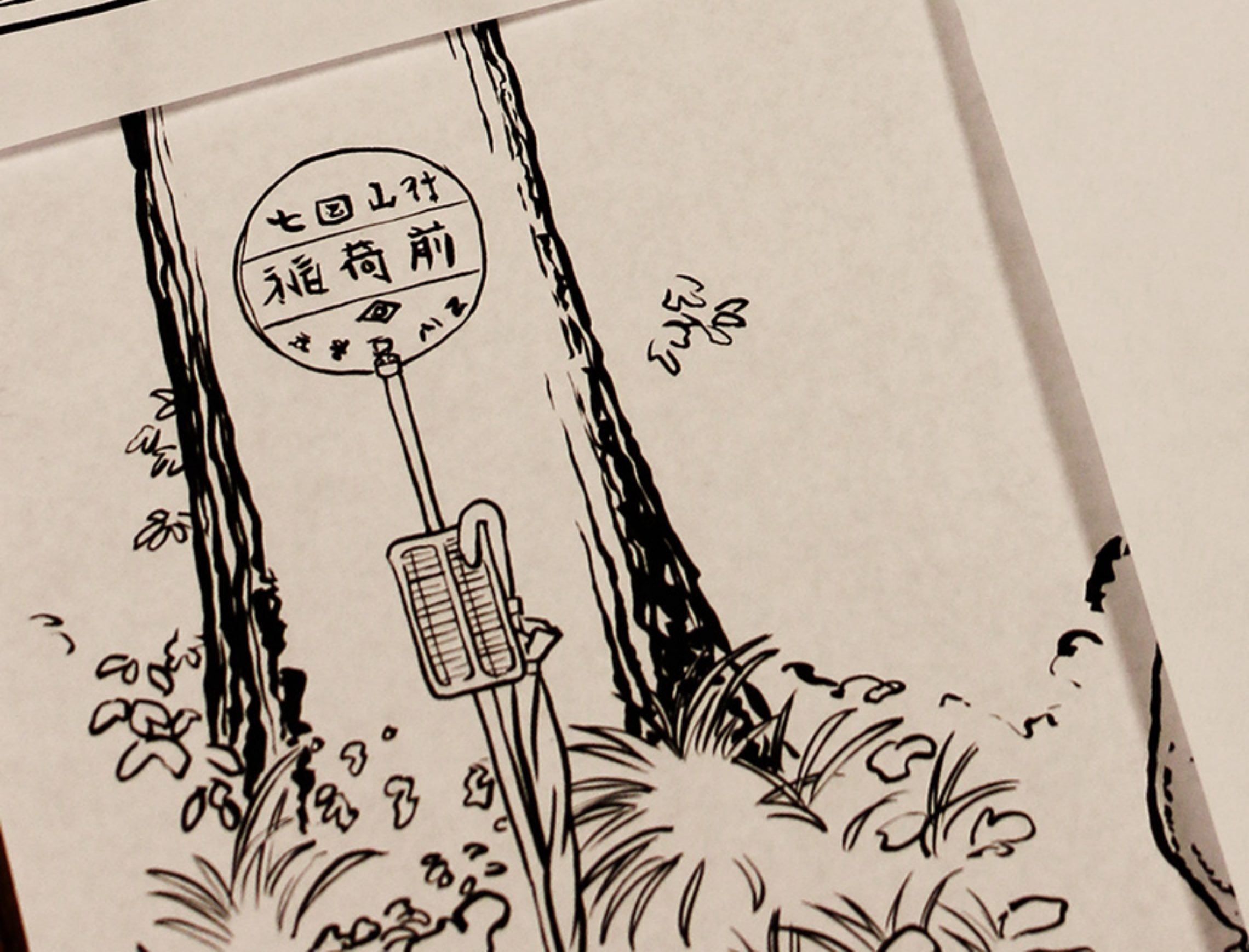




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