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How's Teaching Going?

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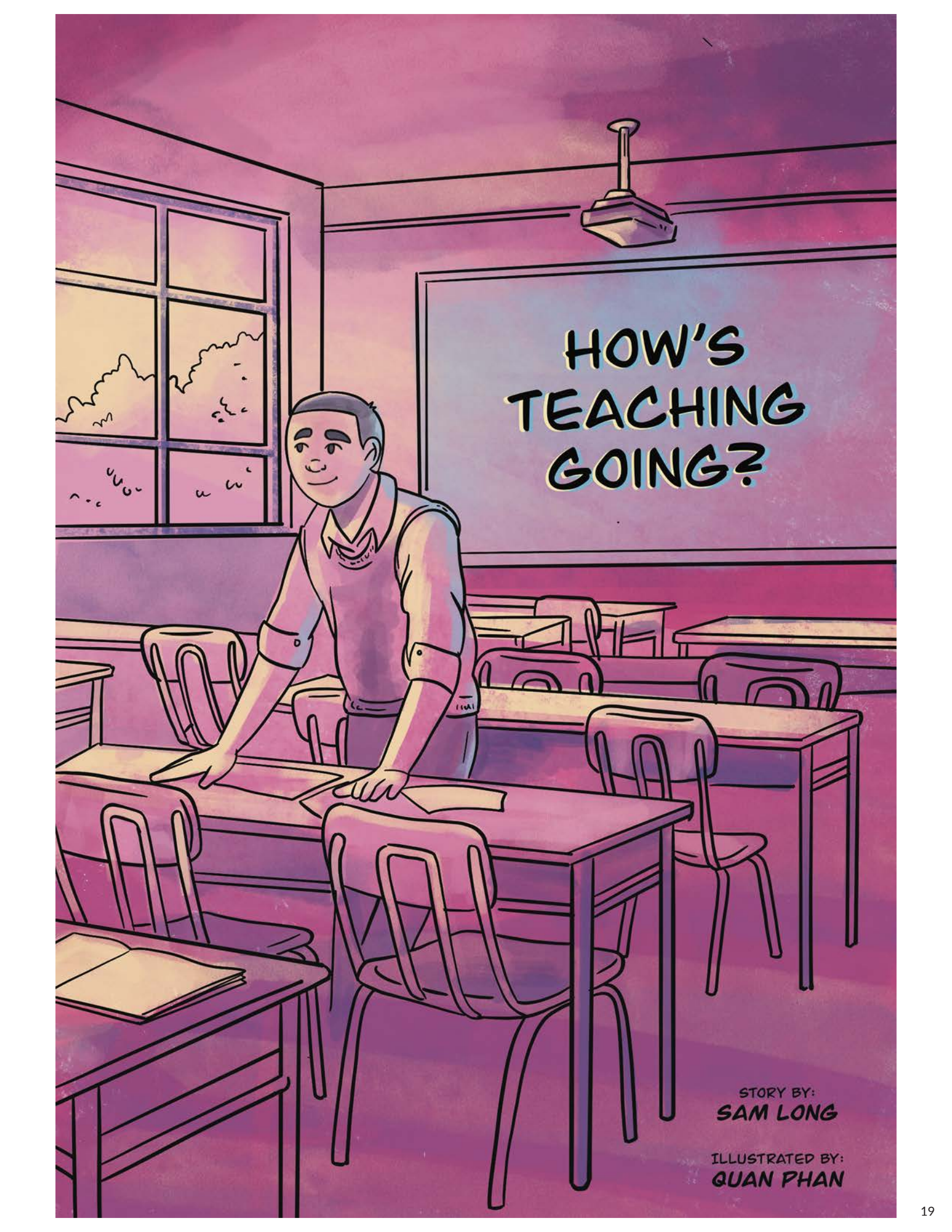
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How's Teaching Going?

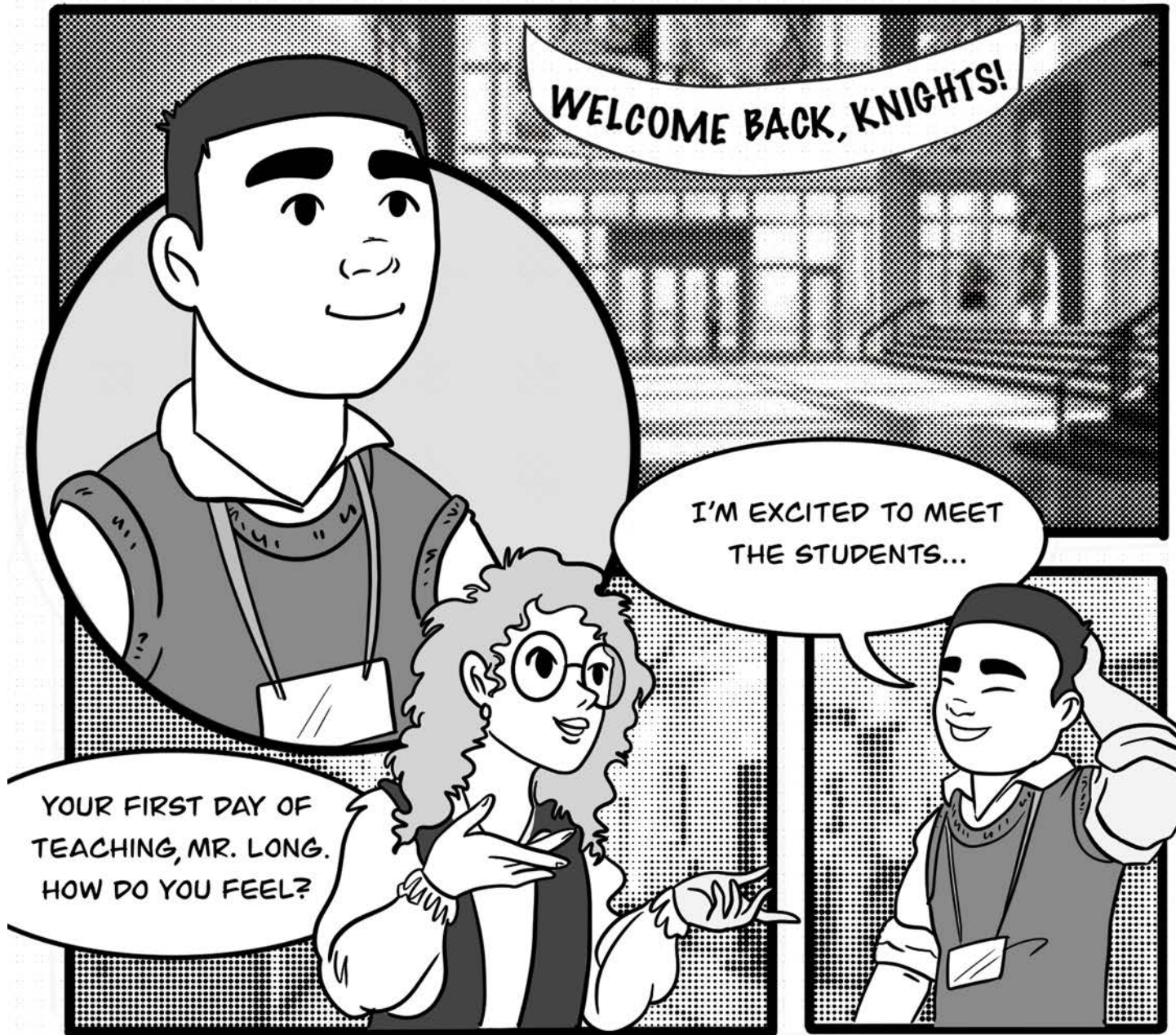
Sam Long and Quan Phan



HOW'S TEACHING GOING?

STORY BY:
SAM LONG

ILLUSTRATED BY:
QUAN PHAN



I THOUGHT HE WAS A STUDENT!



SO HERE ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT ME.

ABOUT ME

- Bachelor of Science degree from University of Toronto, Canada
- Majored in Physiology, Minored in Math
- Chinese-American, grew up in Canada
- Hobbies: Board games, Geocaching, Sci Fi movies

DID YOU SEE ANY MOOSE IN CANADA?



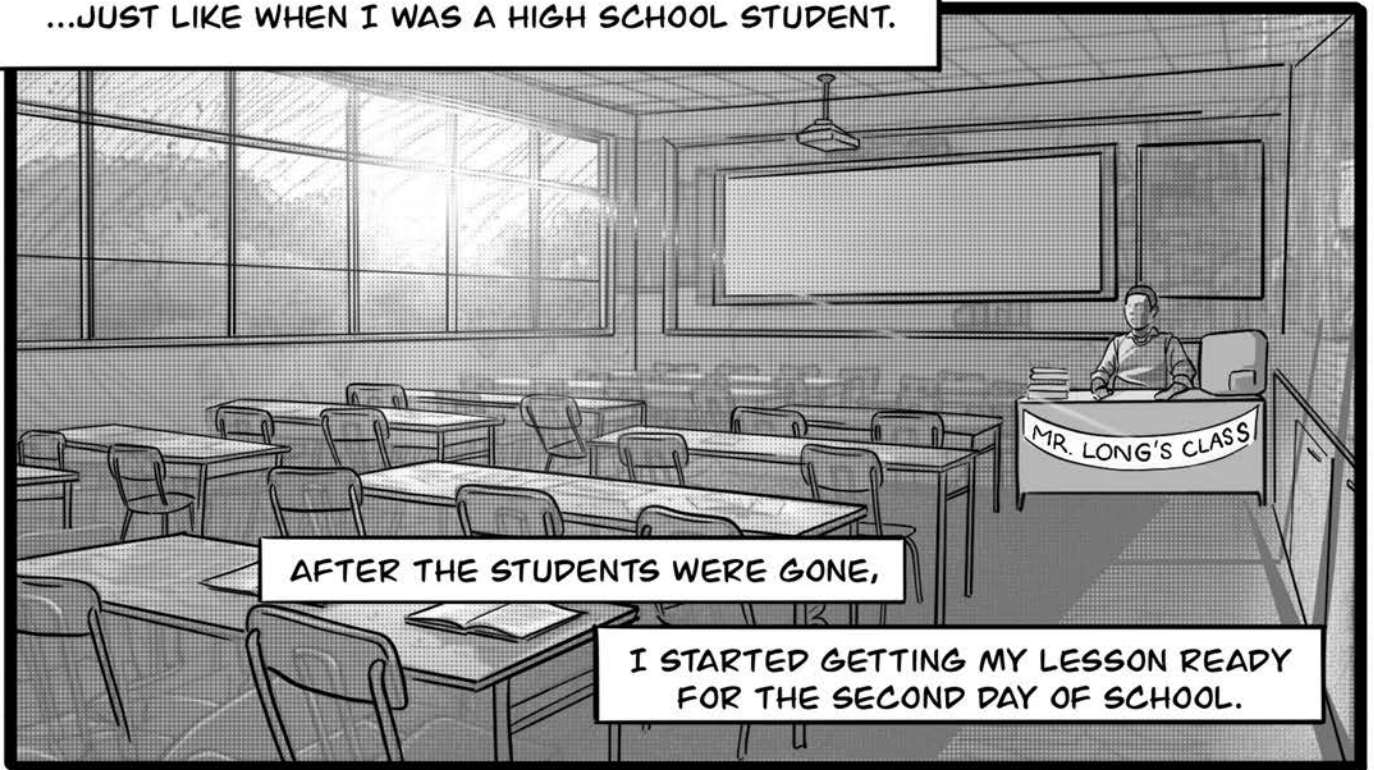
BUT I LEFT OUT ONE OF MY MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES FOR NOW - MY GENDER TRANSITION.

NO, TORONTO IS A CITY OF ALMOST 3 MILLION PEOPLE.. IT'S A LOT BIGGER THAN DENVER.



IT WAS EXHAUSTING TO BE ON ALL DAY. I FELT NERVOUS...

...JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.



AFTER THE STUDENTS WERE GONE,

I STARTED GETTING MY LESSON READY FOR THE SECOND DAY OF SCHOOL.

3 MONTHS LATER



AND WHAT DO WE DO NEXT TO ISOLATE OUR X?

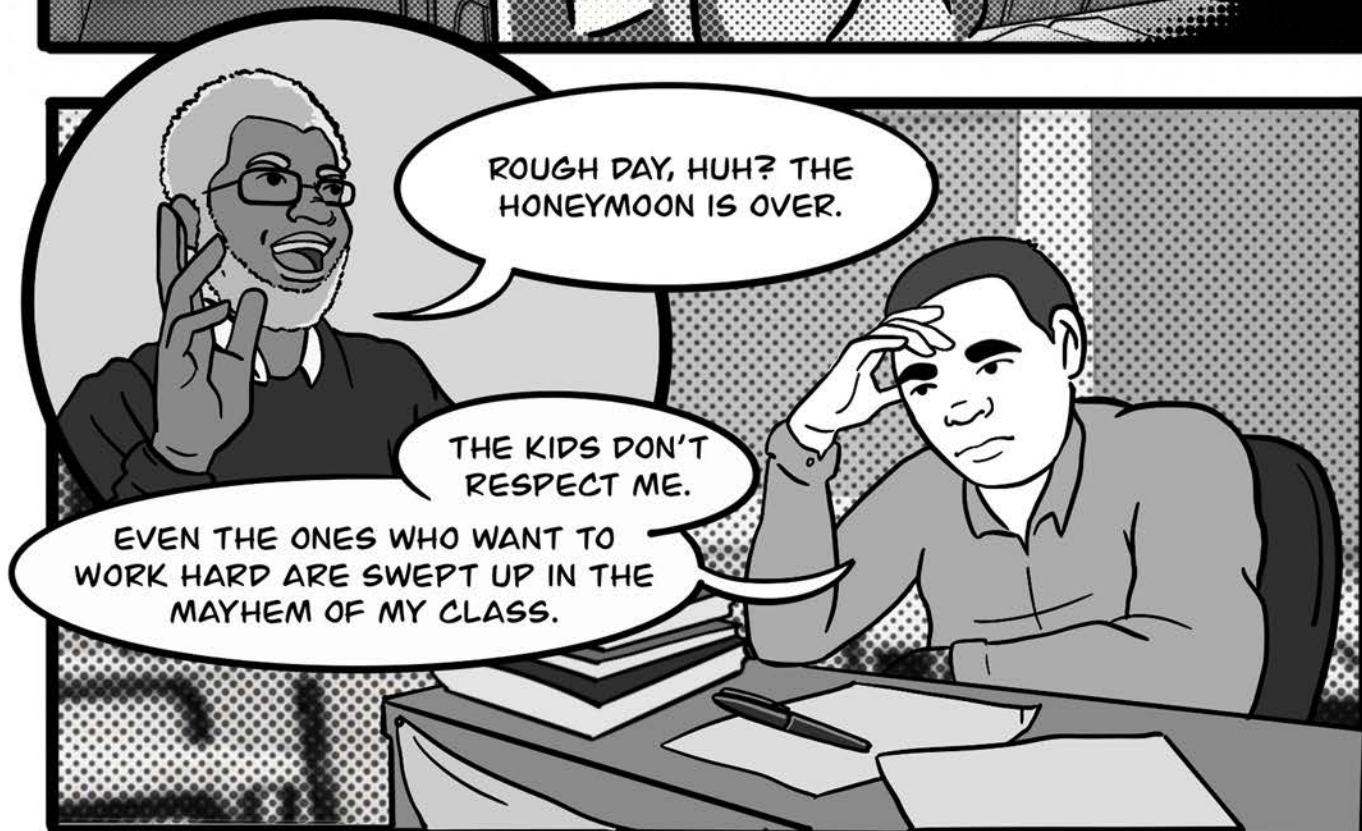
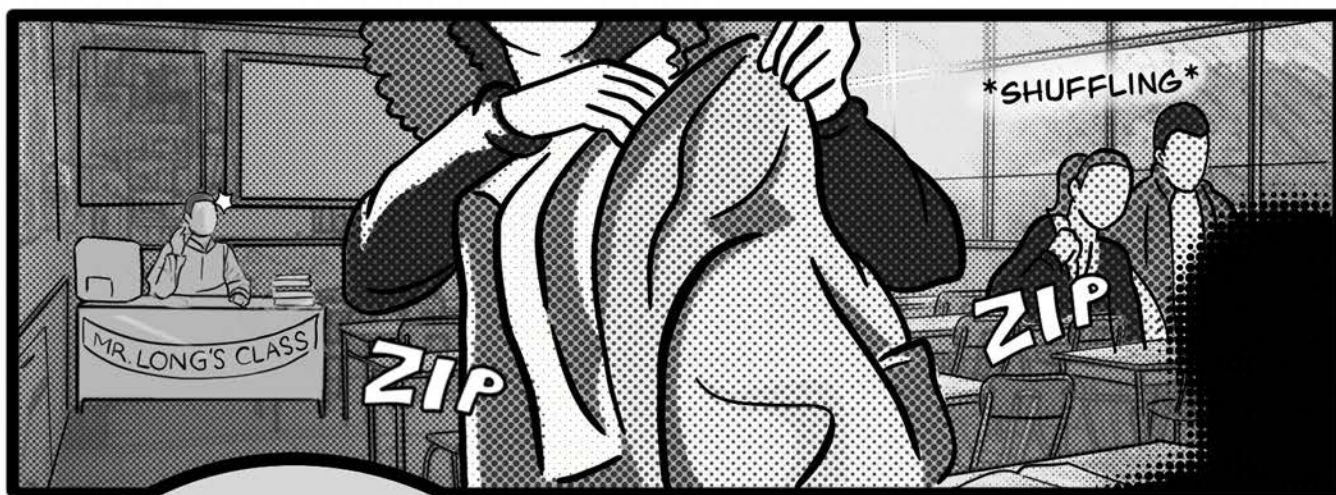
ZION, WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I DUNNO, WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME?!



REMEMBER, WE'RE TRYING-



THE OTHER TEACHERS ALL TRIED TO HELP ME. BUT I HAD TO NAVIGATE MY OWN PATH.

JANUARY

WHEN I WAS 16, I TOLD MY MOM I WAS TRANS AND SHE SAID, "I CAN'T STAND TO LOSE YOU."

I SAID,

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'LOSE ME?' I'M RIGHT HERE."

I KNOW A LOT OF YOU HAVE BEEN IN A SIMILAR SITUATION,

WHERE YOUR FAMILY COULDN'T SEE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.

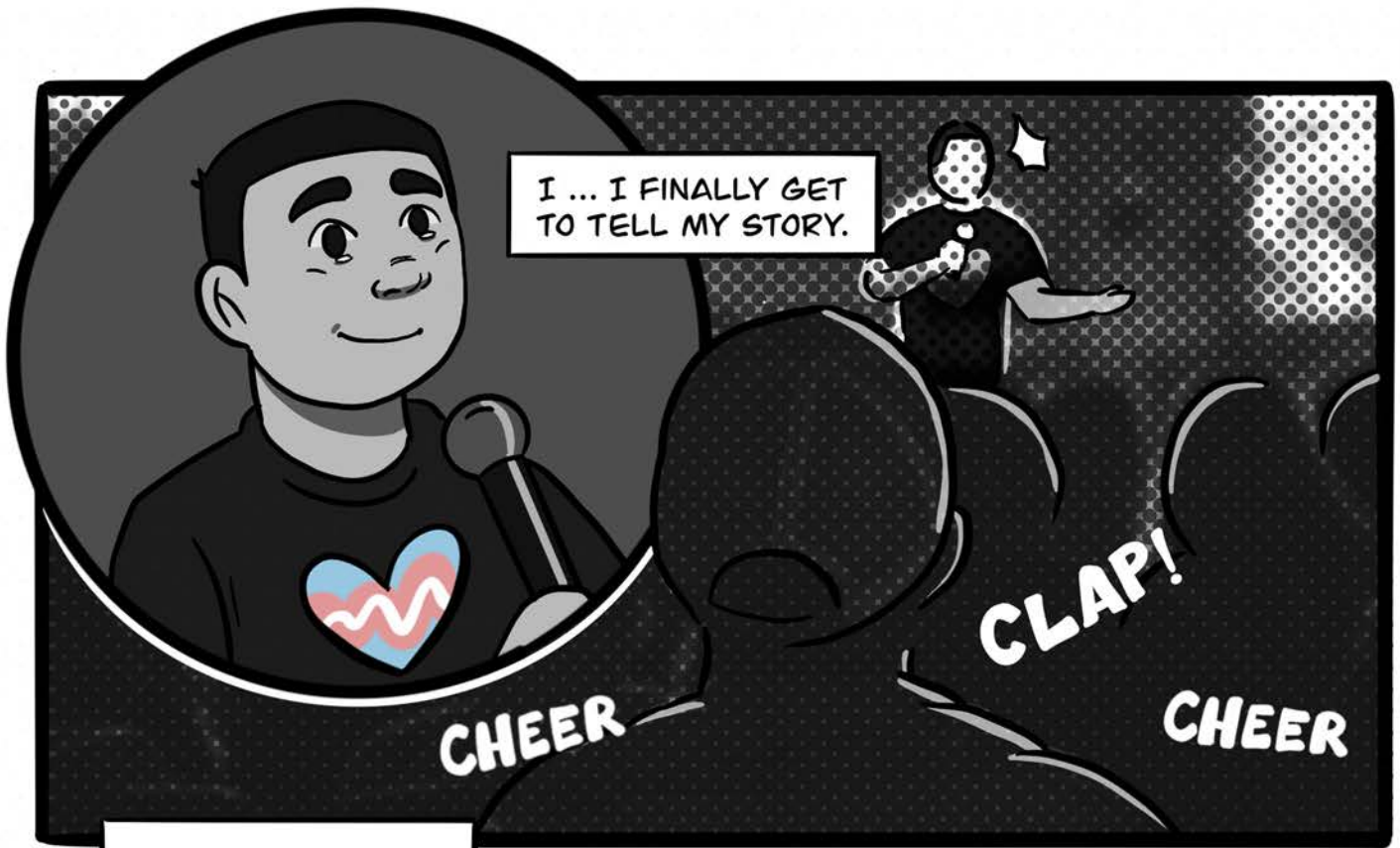
FOR SOME OF YOU,

I MIGHT BE THE FIRST TRANS PERSON YOU'VE MET IN YOUR LIFE.

BUT I WON'T BE THE LAST,

AND IN SCHOOL WE'RE PREPARING YOU FOR A FUTURE

WHERE YOU'LL LIVE AND INTERACT IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY.



I ... I FINALLY GET TO TELL MY STORY.

CLAP!

CHEER

CHEER

LATER IN THE HALL

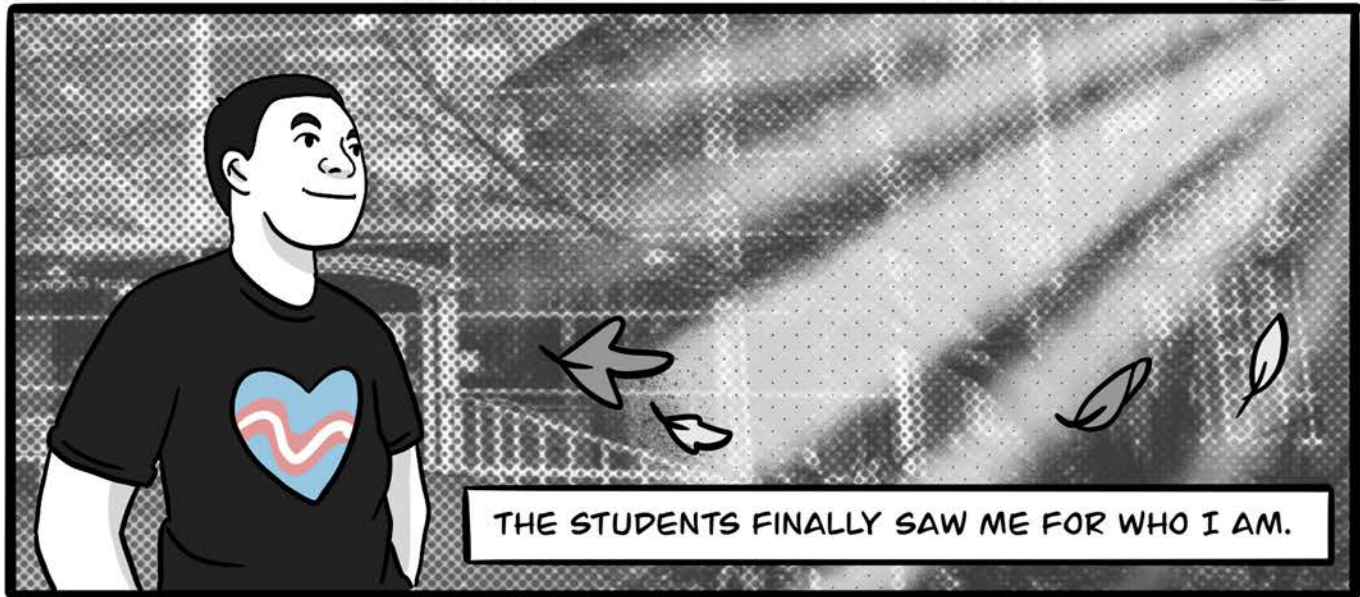


THAT TAKES GUTS, MISTER.



BUMP!

RESPECT.



THE STUDENTS FINALLY SAW ME FOR WHO I AM.

APRIL

I HATE THIS CLASS.
WE NEVER DO ANYTHING.



VICTOR, CAN YOU READ NUMBER THREE?

NOPE.

THE STUDENTS KNOW ME BETTER NOW,
BUT THEY STILL WON'T DO WHAT I ASK.

AM I TOO NICE?

AM I TOO SERIOUS?

AM I IN THE WRONG SCHOOL?

YEARS LATER

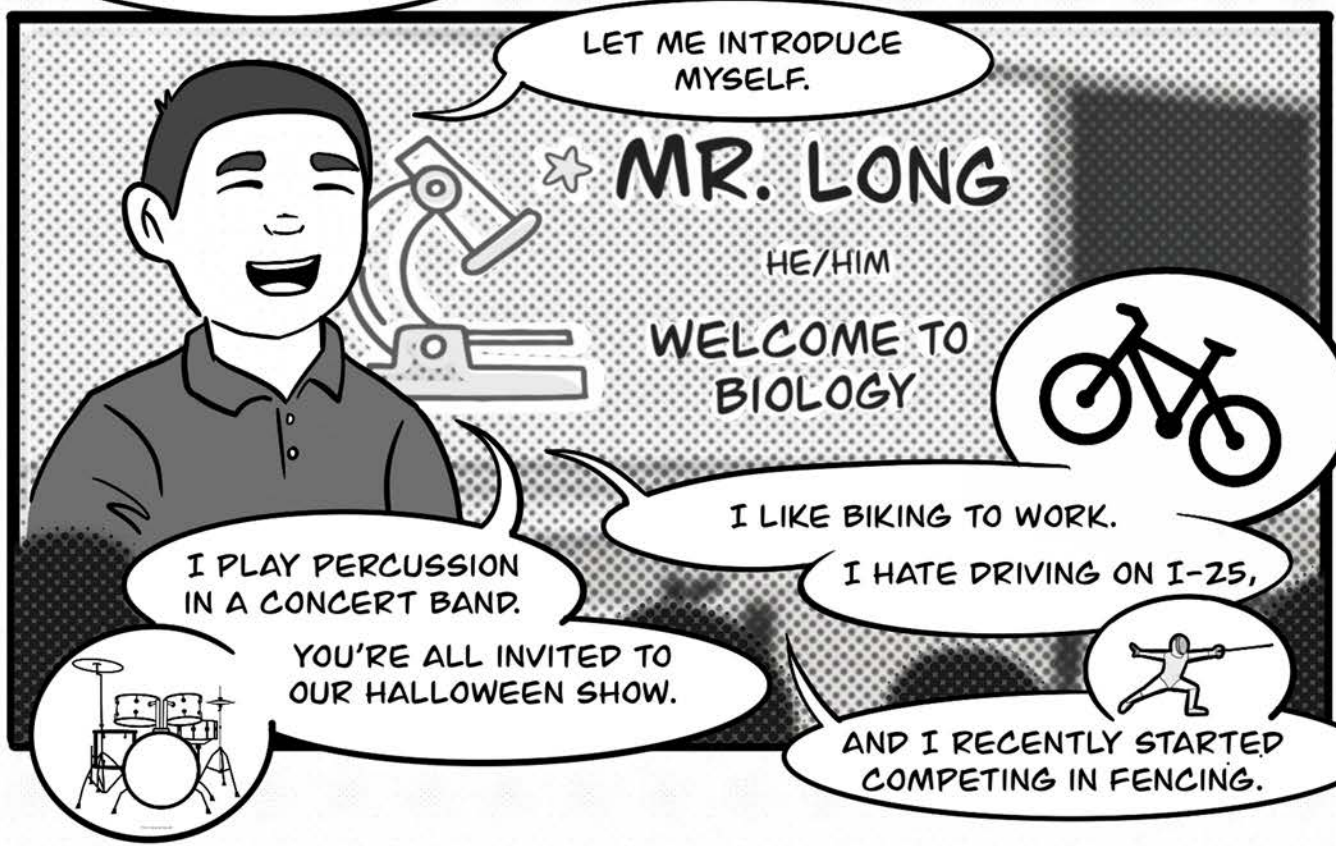


MY NINTH YEAR OF TEACHING. A BRAND NEW GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD MY JOKES.



OH MY GOD, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A STUDENT.

THAT'S OKAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TEACHER.



LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF.

* MR. LONG

HE/HIM

WELCOME TO BIOLOGY



I LIKE BIKING TO WORK. I HATE DRIVING ON I-25,

I PLAY PERCUSSION IN A CONCERT BAND.



YOU'RE ALL INVITED TO OUR HALLOWEEN SHOW.



AND I RECENTLY STARTED COMPETING IN FENCING.

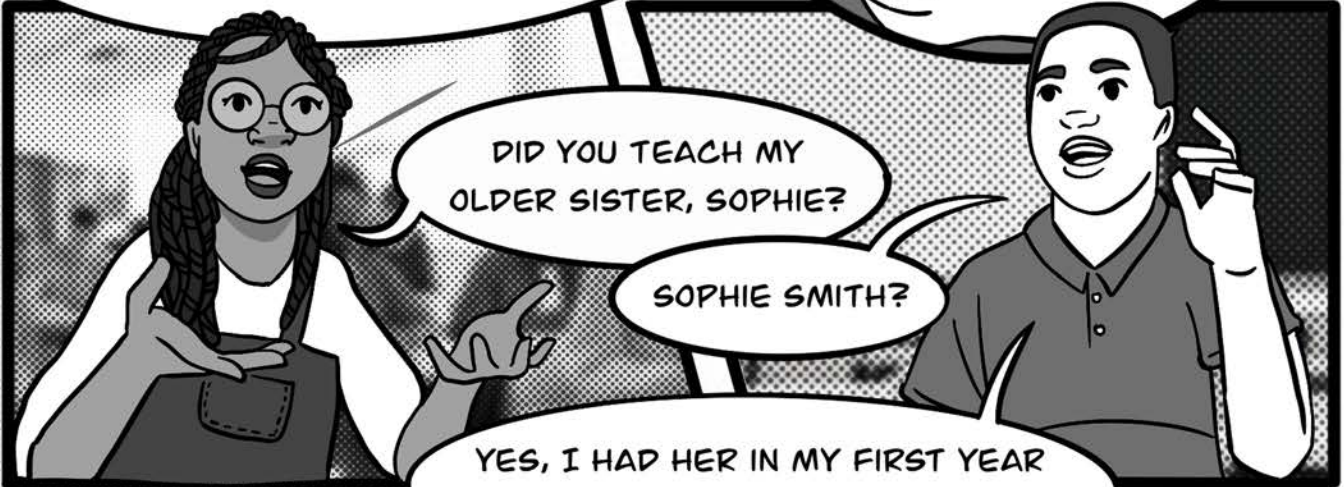


NOT A PHASE



I'M A TRANSGENDER MAN,
IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF
MY IDENTITY.

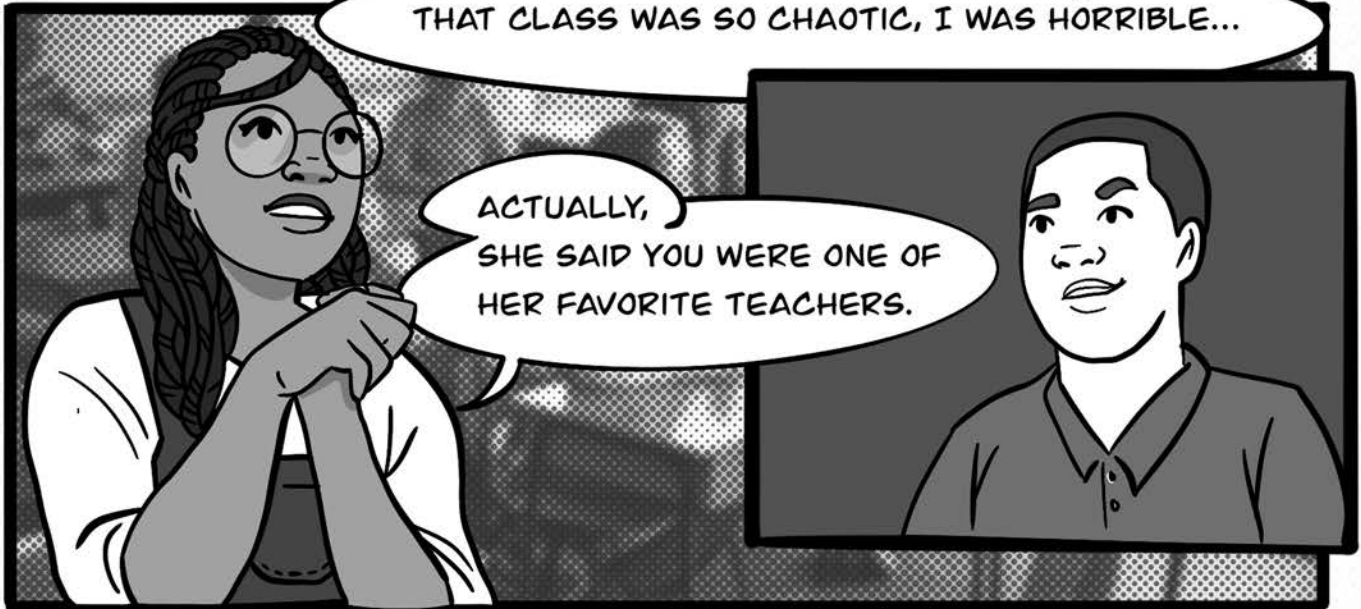
PEOPLE USUALLY DON'T KNOW THAT
BY LOOKING AT ME, SO I SHARE MY
STORY WITH ALL OF MY CLASSES.



DID YOU TEACH MY
OLDER SISTER, SOPHIE?

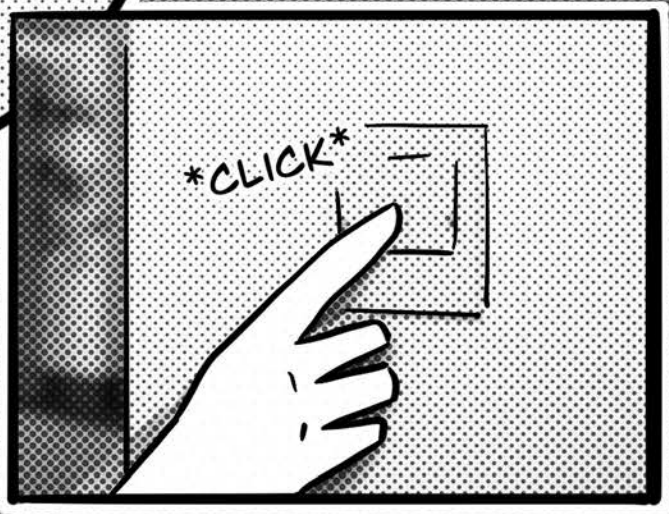
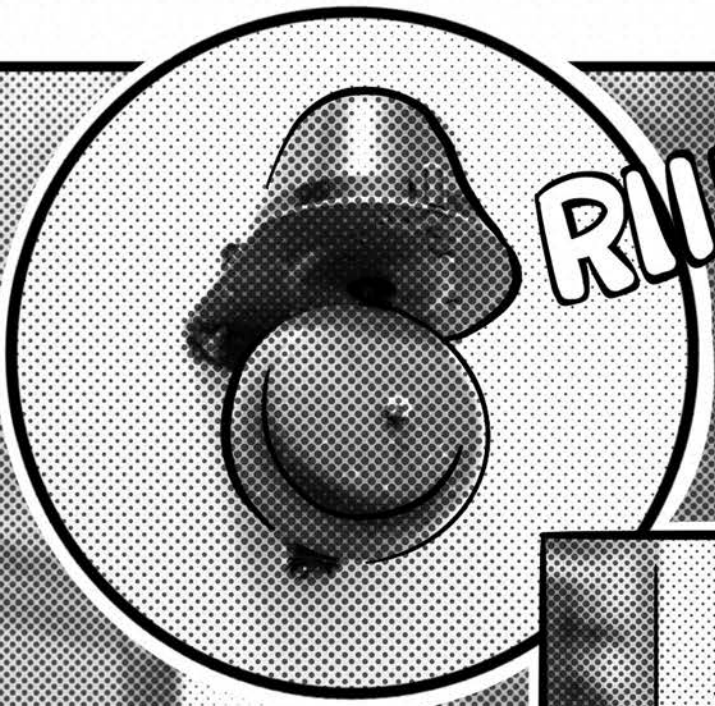
SOPHIE SMITH?

YES, I HAD HER IN MY FIRST YEAR
WHEN I WAS STILL TEACHING MATH.
THAT CLASS WAS SO CHAOTIC, I WAS HORRIBLE...



ACTUALLY,
SHE SAID YOU WERE ONE OF
HER FAVORITE TEACHERS.

RRIINGG!



TEACHING HAS MADE THE BEST OF ME VISIBLE.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Sam Long (he/him) is a Chinese-American-Canadian transgender man and high school science teacher in Denver, Colorado.



Dr. Quan Phan (he/him) earned his PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Oklahoma. His research explores 2SLGBTQIA+ students' visions of queer utopia through participatory action research and visual methods. He examines how individuals in higher education can challenge dominant narratives and resist oppressive structures. Through his work as a creative and student affairs professional, Quan integrates curricular design, strategic assessment, and creative expression into his DEI work, creating transformative experiences that center marginalized communities and build long-lasting legacies of equity and student success.