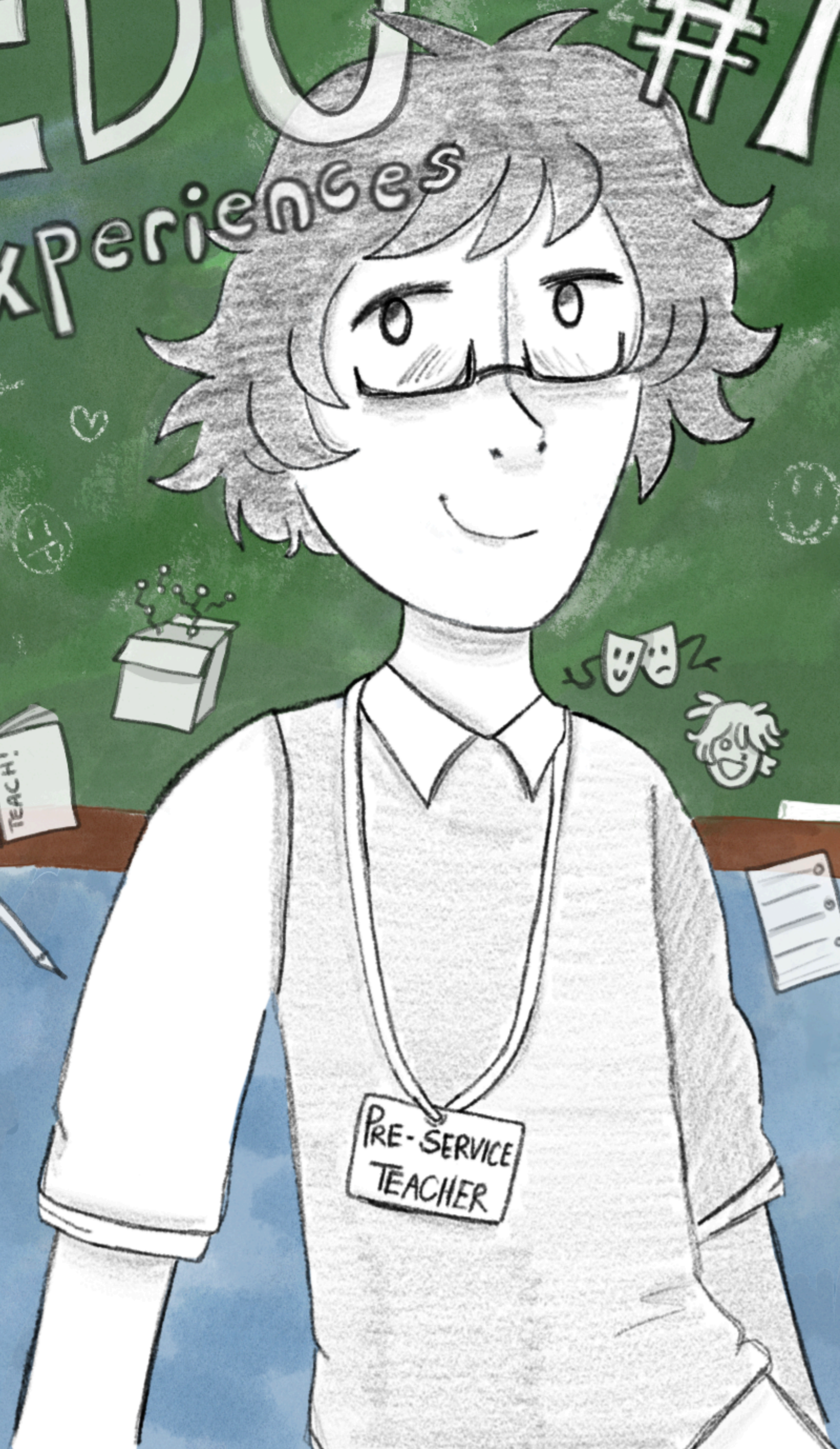



EDU #1

Experiences



by Sofyya Birtali



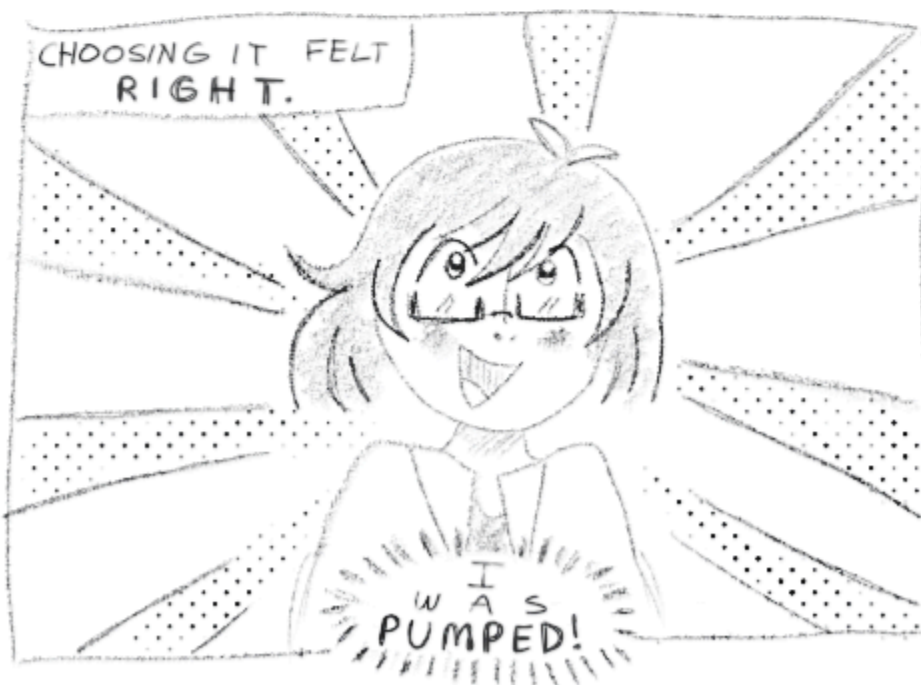
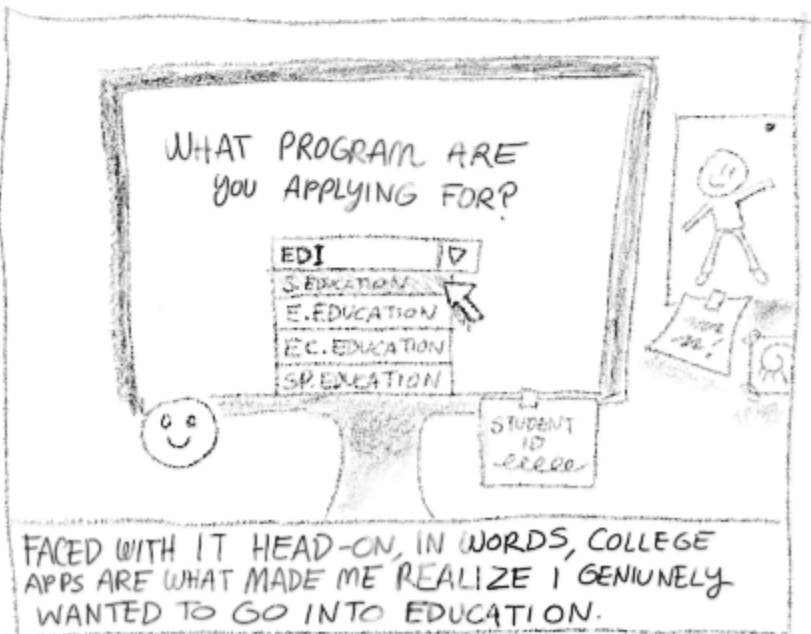
DU
EXPERIENCES:
ON BEING A
STUDENT OF
EDUCATION

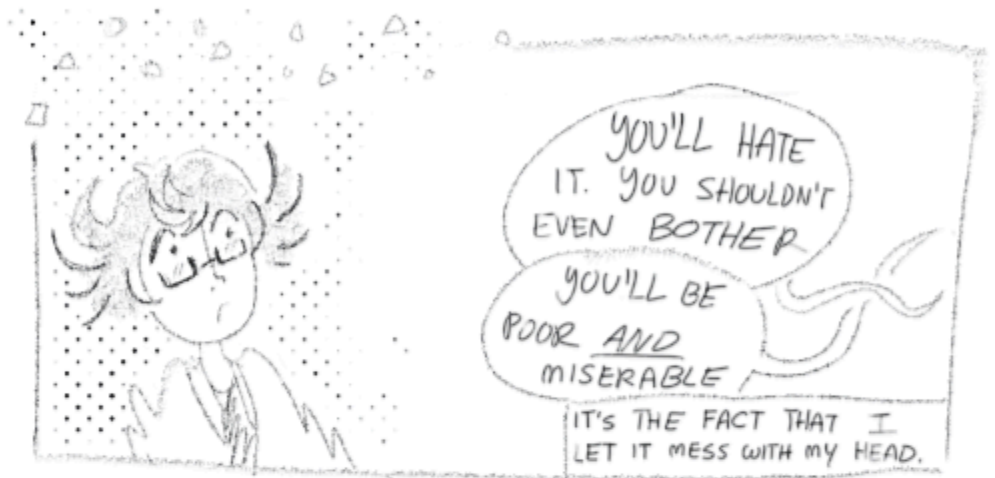
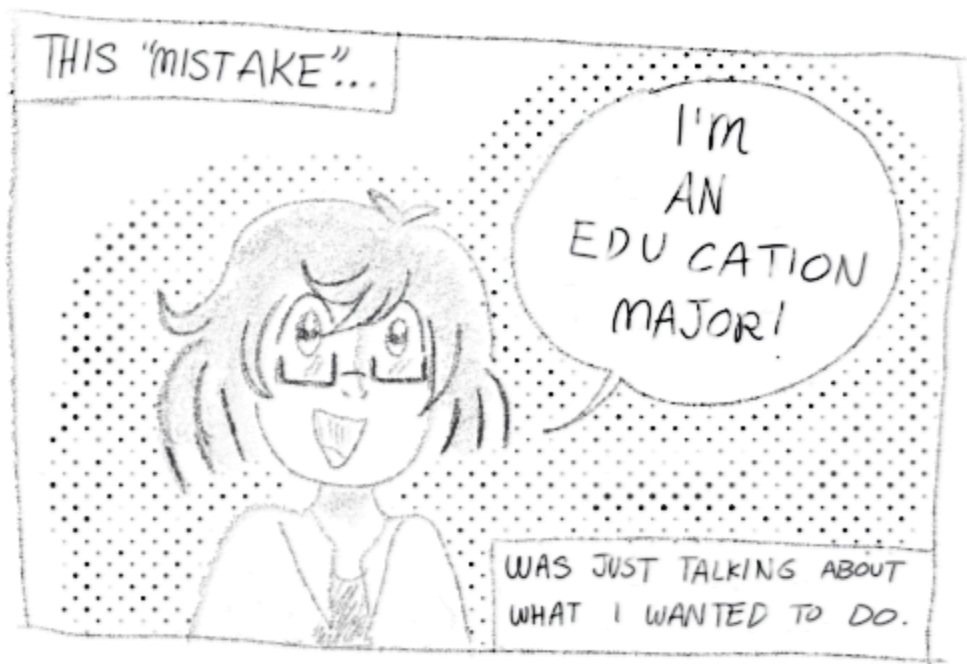
Artwork and writing by Safiyya Bintali

Why did you go into Education?



*PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS





HER FRIEND WAS THE TEACHER I ASPIRED TO BE MYSELF—



AN INSPIRED, PASSIONATE, FUN PERSON THAT ALL STUDENTS LOVED.



I THOUGHT



"WOW, I FINALLY HAVE A MENTOR!"

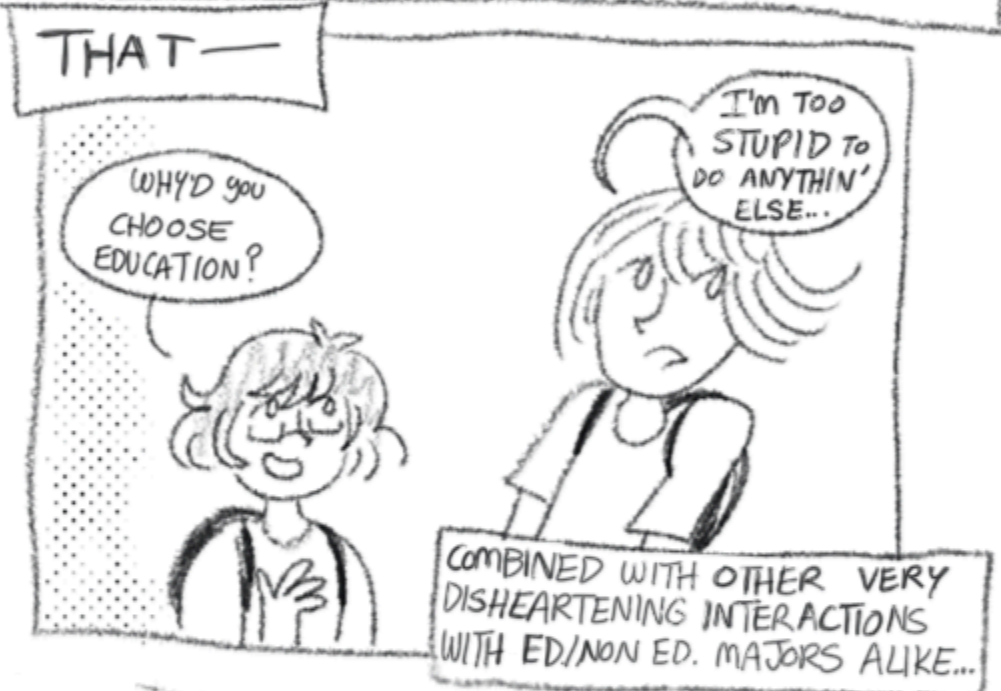


THIS'LL BE THE BIGGEST REGRET OF YOUR LIFE

DON'T EVEN START.



TRUST ME.



THAT—

WHY'D YOU CHOOSE EDUCATION?

I'M TOO STUPID TO DO ANYTHIN' ELSE...

COMBINED WITH OTHER VERY DISHEARTENING INTERACTIONS WITH ED/NON ED. MAJORS ALIKE...



IT WAS GETTING A LOT TOUGHER TO STAY AS DEDICATED.

IS THIS EVEN IMPORTANT?



WHICH IN RETROSPECT POINTS TO A CORE ISSUE—



OUR EPIDEMIC OF EDUCATOR DISRESPECT.

IT MANIFESTS IN WAYS THAT END UP DEMORALIZING TEACHERS, AND STUDENT TEACHERS, THROUGH A LACK OF MULTIFACETED SUPPORT.



THIS CYCLE OF GENERALIZED DISRESPECT THEN TRICKLES DOWN INTO SOCIETY

IT SHAPES A VERY NEGATIVE IMAGE OF THE PROFESSION THAT'S SO PROPOGATED ITS INTERNALIZED



EVEN IN PEOPLE WHO GENUINELY CARE

AND FOR A KID WHO REALLY CARED...



INTROS

WELCOME TO THE SEMESTER!

YOU'LL BE INTRODUCING YOURSELVES TO THE CLASS



IT BECOMES LETHAL TO THE SPIRIT...

WHICH, BY THEN, WAS MY CASE.



I'M MAX GOIN' INTO MY 2ND YEAR

I'M IN...

I STARTED "GOING BY" MY TEACHING FIELD (SUBJECT I WOULD TEACH) AS MY MAJOR. IT WAS EASIER TO TALK ABOUT, FOR ONE, AND REACTIONS WERE... BETTER.



MY MAJOR'S ~~SCIENCE~~

THAT'S COOL!!

IT WAS NICE TO CONNECT MORE WITH OTHERS, BUT IT WAS HARD STILL TO TALK ABOUT WHAT I REALLY WANTED, SINCE "TEACHING" WAS

ARE YOU PRE-LAW AS WELL?



WELL... SUMMERS OFF, RIGHT?

TEACHING, ACTUALLY



USUALLY CODE FOR "BACKUP PLAN."

ONE DAY, THOUGH, I SAW A CHANCE TO MEET SOMEONE —

EDUCATION COLLEGE MENTOR PROGRAM

APPLY



A PERSON WHO'D GET THE WHOLE EDUCATION THING, SOMEONE I COULD TALK TO MORE HONESTLY.

SO FAR, I HADN'T MET OTHER EDU. MAJORS I COULD CONNECT WITH.



SO, IT'D BE COOL TO MAYBE MAKE A FRIEND I COULD BE MYSELF WITH.

THIS TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE BEST CHOICES I'D MAKE, 'CAUSE IT LED ME TO ONE OF THE FRIENDS WHO HELPED ME REALLY EMBRACE THIS PART OF MYSELF



THIS RAD ONE



OF THESE TWO



I MET LU KA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY 2ND YEAR.

AT FIRST, I WAS PRETTY NERVOUS TALKING TO LUKA—I'LL BE HONEST.



A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP I HAD JUST ENDED. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT STARTING A NEW ONE THAT MAY FIZZLE OUT. AFTER ALL, I BARELY KNEW LUKA. HOW'D THEY SEE ME?



THEN I THOUGHT—"WELL, LUKA IS MY MENTOR, SO THEY HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ME."



BUT LUKA DIDN'T "PUT UP" WITH ME. IN FACT...



WE CONNECTED QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT.

IN OUR TALKS, WE COULD SPEAK HONESTLY ABOUT WHAT WE WANTED FROM OUR FUTURES—WITHOUT UNNECESSARY SHADOWS OF SHAME BEING CAST.



SIDE NOTE—THEY WERE CRAZY COOL

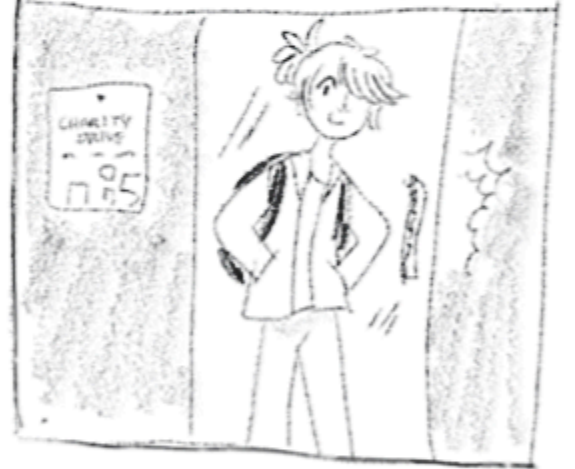
HAVING A FRIEND LIKE LUKA, I FELT MORE INTO MY EDUCATION CLASSES, LIKE MY FIRST FIELD (CLASSROOM) OBSERVATION.



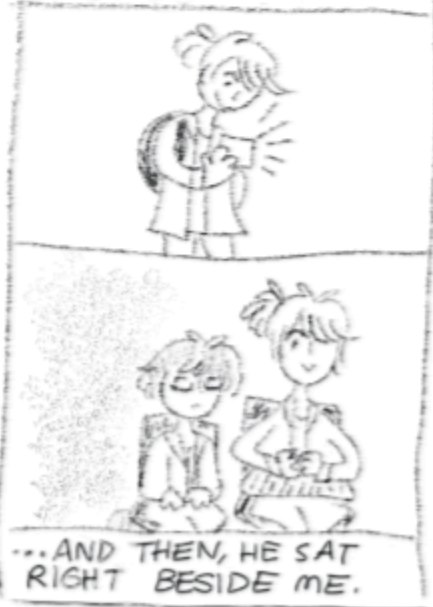
BUT AS I SAT WAITING IN THE LOBBY OF THE SCHOOL I WAS DOING MY FIELD AT, I FELT THE NERVES—OLD DOUBTS AND NEW FEARS, LIKE, "WHAT IF I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS?"



IT WASN'T LONG, THOUGH, UNTIL THIS OTHER COLLEGE KID SHOWED UP.

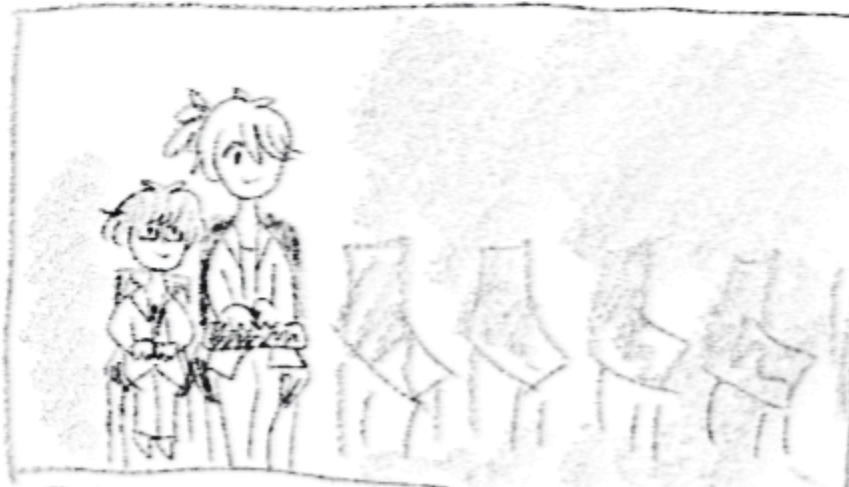


HE CHECKED IN...



...AND THEN, HE SAT RIGHT BESIDE ME.

I THINK WHAT I REMEMBER BEST IS THAT



THERE WAS A LINE OF EMPTY CHAIRS, BUT HE CAME DOWN TO SIT NEXT TO ME ANYWAY.

IT WASN'T SILENT LONG.



ARE YOU HERE FOR FIELD?

YEP.

SINCE WE WERE BOTH SUPER EARLY, WE PASSED THE TIME TALKING. HIS NAME WAS TOBY, AND WE WERE BOTH 2ND YEARS.



TOBY WAS GOING TO TEACH ELEMENTARY, BUT HE WAS AT MY OBSERVATION TO SEE OTHER TYPES OF CLASSROOMS. AS WE TALKED, I COULD SEE HOW TOTALLY, UNAPOLOGETICALLY PASSIONATE HE WAS ABOUT OUR FIELD. IT WAS SUCH A FULFILLING CONVERSATION.



GUESS IT'S TIME
YEP THE "MAKE OR BREAK"

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR COORDINATOR FOR A QUICK BRIEFING SESSION

SO ABSORBING, IN FACT, THAT IT WASN'T UNTIL WE GOT CALLED IN THAT I ACTUALLY REMEMBERED WHY WE WERE HERE.

THIS OBSERVATION WAS THE "MAKE OR BREAK" OF YOUR DECISION SINCE YOU'D SIT IN ON A CLASS AND REALLY GET TO ASK YOURSELF: DO I REALLY WANT TO DO THIS?



SO, AFTER 2 HOURS IN MY OBSERVATION CLASS, I THOUGHT...

Y'KNOW, PEOPLE CAN SUCK AT TIMES.

THEY'LL SAY THINGS, BUT...



AND I WANTED TO EVEN MORE...



INTO MY NEXT OBSERVATION

AND THE NEXT, AND ALL THE OTHERS THERE AFTER...



WHERE MY OBSERVATION TEACHER INDIRECTLY SHOWED, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, HOW MUCH HE LOVED HIS JOB...



WHERE BOTH LUKE AND TOBY, MY NEW FRIENDS, MADE ME REALIZE THAT IT'S OK TO BE CRAZY PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS FIELD, NO MATTER WHAT...

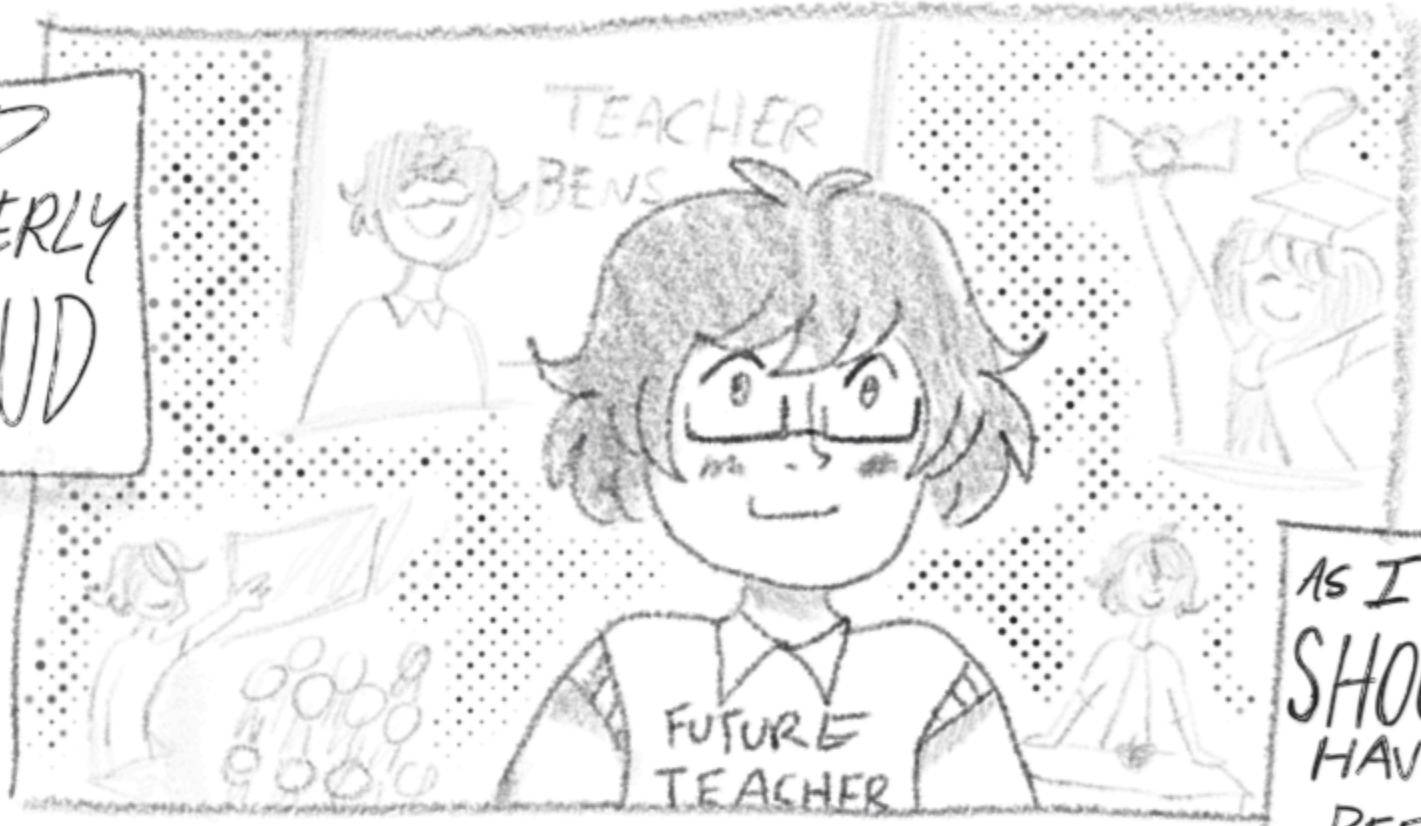
WHERE I QUIT THINKING ABOUT WHAT MADE ME SHY OF SHARING MY MAJOR...

THERE'S MORE TO YOUR SUBJECT THAN JUST TEACHING

OH... AN EDUCATION MAJOR?
YOU CAN DO BETTER



AND PROPERLY PROUD



AS I ALWAYS SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

HEY, WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?



OH! IT'S...



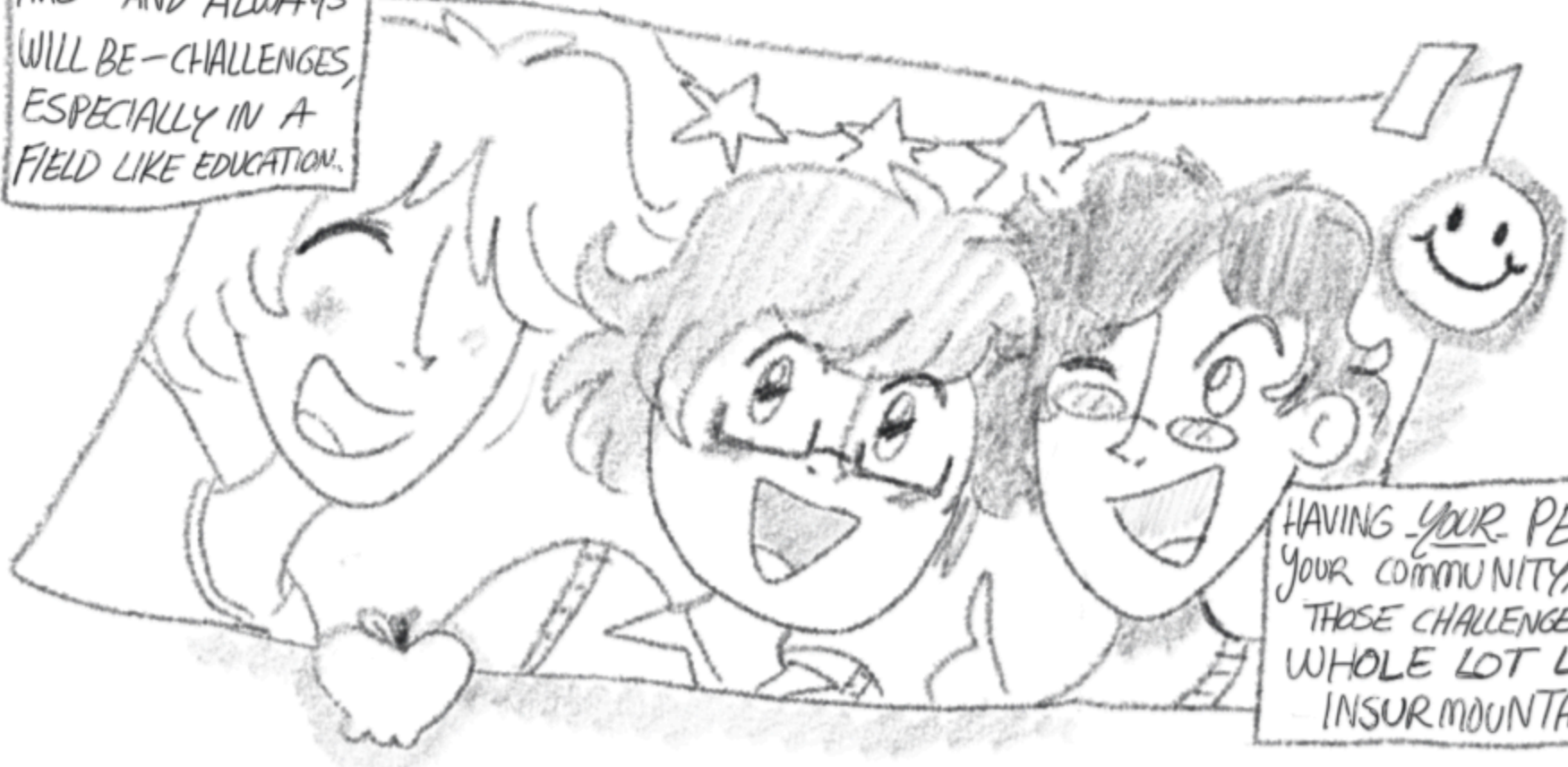
EDUCATION!

THE PAY IS... CAN'T YOU DO MORE WITH... C'MON, CONSIDER... WHAT IF YOU REGRET.

AUDITORY BLOCKING... >> ONCE <<



AND WHILE THERE ARE - AND ALWAYS WILL BE - CHALLENGES, ESPECIALLY IN A FIELD LIKE EDUCATION.



HAVING YOUR PEOPLE, YOUR COMMUNITY, MAKES THOSE CHALLENGES A WHOLE LOT LESS INSURMOUNTABLE.



EDU EXPERIENCES

HELLO, STRANGER

EDUCATION MAJORS ARE REQUIRED TO DO CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS FOR CLASS.



FOR MINE, I WAS PAIRED WITH ANOTHER PERSON IN MY MAJOR AND WE WERE PLACED IN AN ELA CLASS.



THEY ARE STRANGERS, THOUGH



WHEN CLASS WAS OVER, STUDENTS FLOODED OUT.



BUT ONE STAYED BEHIND TO SAY...



I THINK THE NEXT ONES WILL BE FUN, TOO.



Life Experiences

The Program



OUR FIRST ACTIVITY WITH THE STUDENTS WAS "SPEED INTROS."



EDU EXPERIENCES

EM THE MONSTER 

A FUN FACT ABOUT WORKING WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IS THAT, FOR EVERY TEACHER, THEY HAVE A HEADCANON*



LIKE WITH MY CO-TEACHER, EM, IN OUR CLASS...

* FANDOM SLANG, WHERE FANS HAVE IDEAS ABOUT A SERIES THAT IS NOT "CANON" (I.E., REALITY IN THE SERIES)

ONE DAY, EM WAS OPENING HER LESSON'S PROJECT, THEN WENT TO PASS OUT MATERIALS



TODAY: "PROP" MAKING w/ CANDY

AS SHE WENT BY A TABLE...



BUT OUR SUPERVISOR JOINED IN ON THE FUN INSTEAD.

ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO BE A KIND MONSTER



HOWDY, MISS MONSTER

WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?!

AS DID WE.

HA!

EDU EXPERIENCES

GOOD INFLUENCES



BUT ONE FATEFUL LUNCH DAY...



EDU EXPERIENCES:

☞ MAX WAKES THE "DEAD"

I WAS IN THE BACK ROOM GETTING PROJECT MATERIALS FOR MY SIXTH GRADERS...



HEY, TEAM! TIME FOR A PROJECT!



SO, MORAL OF THIS STORY...
TEACHERS WORK MIRACLES.



EDU EXPERIENCES

TOBY LOSES IT 🌀

IN HIS CLASS ONE DAY, TOBY WAS TRYING TO SET UP A LAPTOP AND HAD AN ISSUE ... AS USUAL

CHROME BOOK



I LOVE HIM AND ALL, BUT ONCE HE THOUGHT THAT HIS DISK DRIVE WAS A CUPHOLDER.



BUT THIS WAS A SPECIAL CASE.

I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THIS @!% COMPUTER!!



SINCE THEN, TOBY PAVLOVED HIMSELF INTO SAYING "FUDGE" AND "SHOOT."



IT'S OK, MR. TOBY! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT WORD!



DO YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT OTHER WORDS I KNOW?



AS LONG AS THEY'RE FROM "AMELIA BEDELIA"

OH NO, KIDS, I DIDN'T MEAN-



ABOUT THE ARTIST / WRITER



Safiyya "Saff" Bintali is a writer, artist, and technologist. Her short fiction and comics have been featured in *It Gets Better*, *I Don't Do Comics*, *Drip Lit Mag*, and *Bridge Eight Press*, among others. She is also the illustrator of *Fabulous Fables and Fairytales: With a Twist* (Grosvenor House Publishing, 2022).

An educator, Safiyya has experience guest-lecturing, teaching high school English, and has also completed a creative residency with *Tiny Spoon* literary magazine in 2022. In her free time, she enjoys reading and video games.

Website: safiyyabintali.com

Max Bennett's passion for education is what caused her to select "Secondary Education" as a major in college applications. But, as most Education majors know, there are challenges that come with studying a highly charged topic in the 21st century.

It's those challenges, though, and how to start to work through them, that Max discovers what makes those experiences in the field so darn special...and pretty worth the trouble, to boot.



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