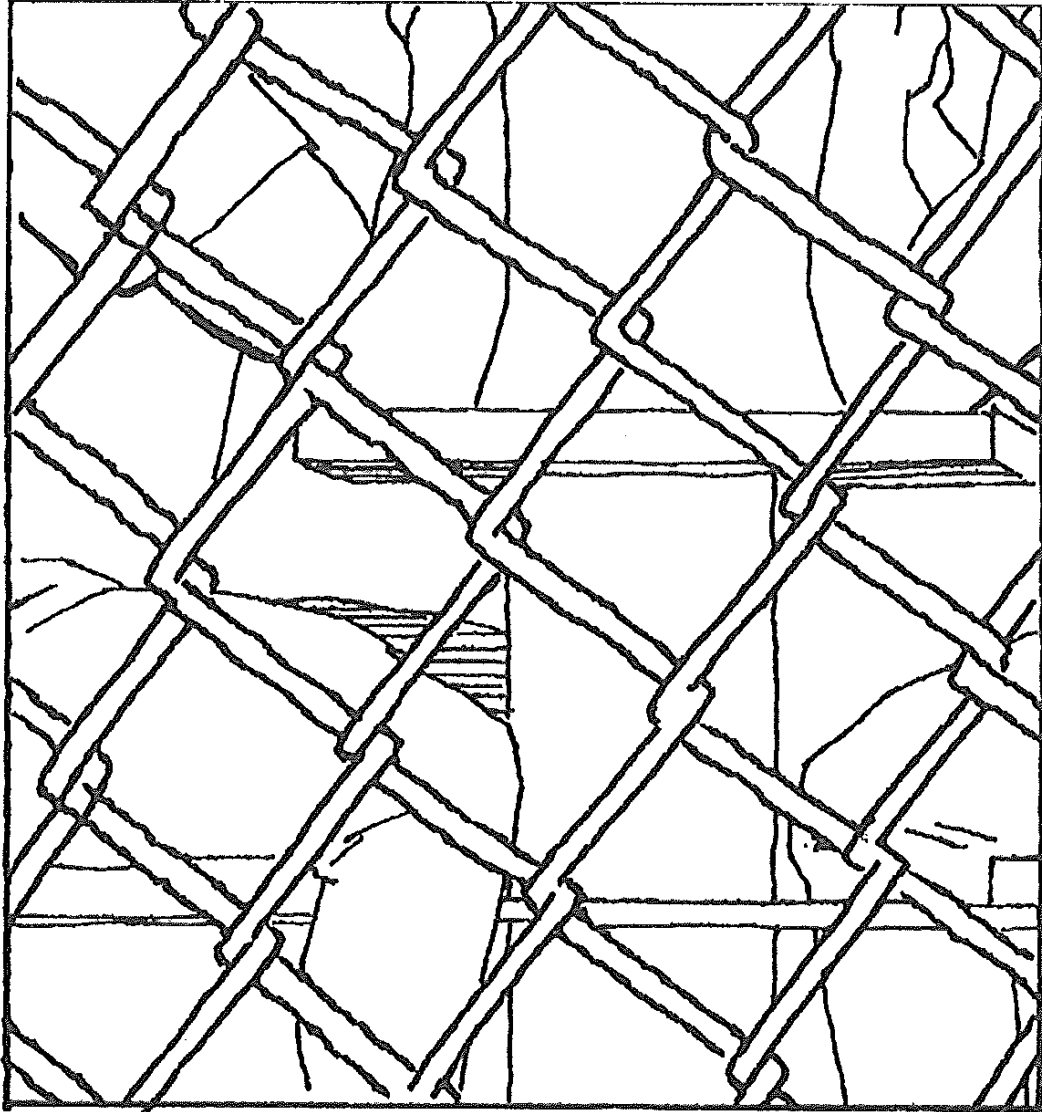


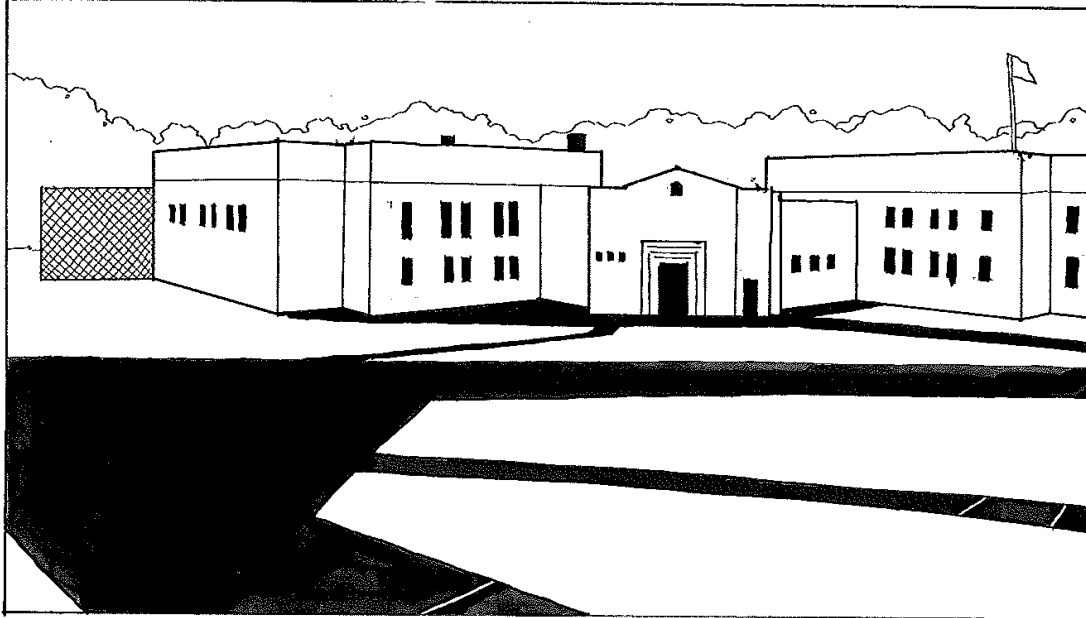
IRONHAWK



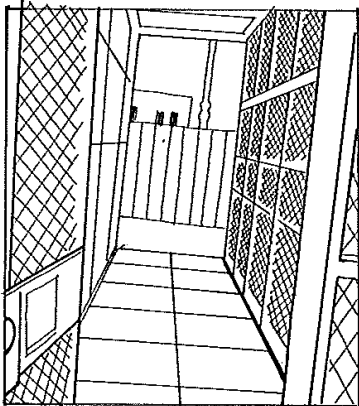
ON DEATH ROW

A play by Mariana Ferreira, Illustrated by Stephen Wills
2012

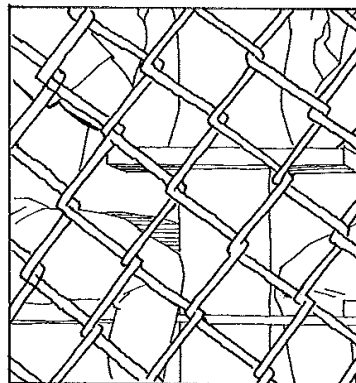
PLACE: A CONTEMPORARY MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION IN TENNESSEE.



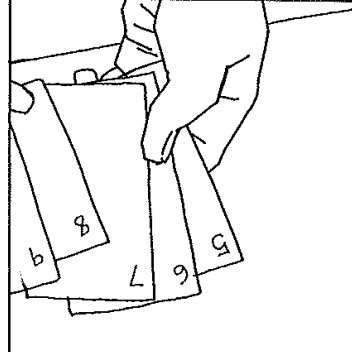
"YOUR TURN"



"Fuck, I'M OUT OF LUCK.
SUCKER, YOU TOOK ALL MY MONEY!"



"I'M GOING BLIND AND YOU CURSE
THE DEVIL? YOU GOTTA WATCH
YOURSELF HERE IN UNIT 6. BROS
DON'T PLAY CARDS WITH SISSIES
LIKE YOU. STRAIGHT FLUSH!"



"LUCKY
MOTHER FUCKER!
YOU CHEATIN' ME,
CHIEF? SOME-OL'
INJUN TRICK?
I HEAR YOU'RE
FULL OF MAGIC -
HYPNOTIZE GUARDS,
DISAPPEAR FROM
YOUR CELL -
HOW COME YOUR
MAGIC AIN'T GOT
YOU OFF DEATH
ROW?"



"I'M NO CHIEF.
I'M AN APACHE
WARRIOR.

"I'M IRON HAWK,
AND I AM
INNOCENT.
I'M A POLITICAL
PRISONER OF THE
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT,
A P.O.W."

"P-O WHAT?"

"P.O.W. MEANS PRISONER OF WAR."

"YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'. THE WAR IN IRAQ?"

"INDIAN WARS, COLONIAL WARS. THEY'VE BEEN WAGING WAR AGAINST MY PEOPLE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. NEVER HEARD OF WOUNDED KNEE?"

"YEAH, I SEEN COWBOY MOVIES ON TV, LIKE DANCE WITH WOLVES. BUT THAT WAS WAY BACK THEN. WE'RE IN THE 21ST CENTURY!"

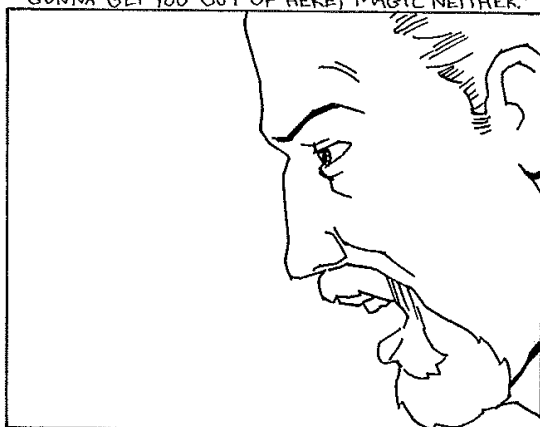


"GERONIMO, CRAZY HORSE... MY HEROES ALL KILLED COWBOYS. EVER WONDER WHY?"

"'CAUSE YOU'RE SAVAGES!"

"GENOCIDE!"

"GENOCIDE? FUCK, TOO MUCH READIN' THOSE DAMN BOOKS. THINK THE LAW GIVES A FUCK ABOUT US? LISTEN, CHIEF. YOU PLANNIN' SOME BIG ESCAPE? 'CAUSE BOOKS AIN'T GONNA GET YOU OUT OF HERE; MAGIC NEITHER."



"YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS ON DEATH ROW. MORE THAN 100 INMATES WERE RELEASED ON DNA."

"RIGHTS FOR POOR FOLKS LIKE US? WHO GIVES A FUCK? DNA IS FOR O.J. SIMPSON DUDES."

"INDIAN PEOPLE CARE. THE GENEVA CONVENTION SAYS YOU CAN'T KILL PRISONERS OF WAR."

"GENEVA WHAT?"



"I CAN SHOW YOU LAW BOOKS
IN MY CELL. INTERNATIONAL
LAWS PROTECT VICTIMS
OF GENOCIDE AND P.O.W.S"

"YOUR LAWYER
TEACH YA
THIS SHIT?"

"I GOT NO COUNSEL. I REPRESENT MYSELF.
GOT ALL THE PAPERWORK READY FOR MY LAST
APPEAL IN THE FEDERAL SUPREME COURT."



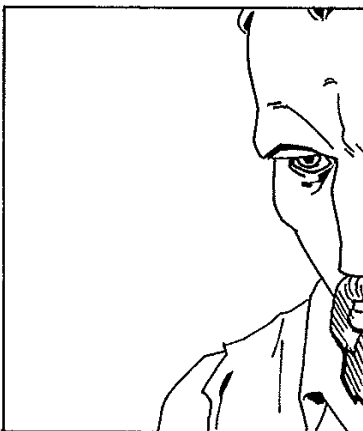
"YOU TAKIN' THE NEEDLE
OR THE CHAIR?"

"MY BODY IS SACRED.
I'M AN APACHE WARRIOR
AND I FIGHT WITH
MY OWN WEAPONS."

"A
WEAPON?"

"A
PEACE
PIPE."

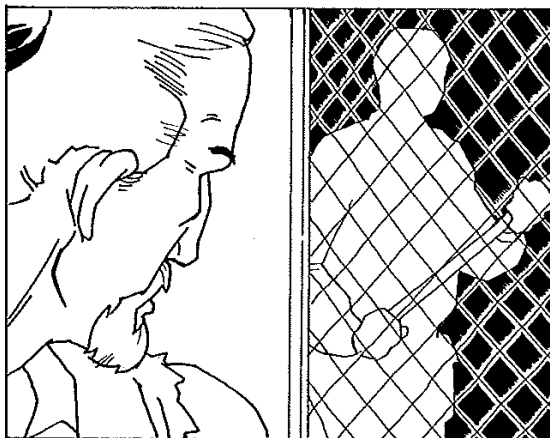
"A PIPE?
TO CRACK
SOMEONE'S
HEAD?"



"I PRAY FOR
PEACE IN
THE WORLD,"

"PRAY AS MUCH AS YOU
LIKE, CHIEF. THIS POW-WOW
STUFF IS BULLSHIT
TO ME."

"HERE COME THE GUARDS.
BEHAVE OR THEY'LL STICK
THEM TASER GUN IN YOUR
BALLS AGAIN."





"HEY HUTCH!"

"HEY, MS. MANSLAUGHTER."



"SPEAK UP, WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT? IS CHIEF PLAYING ANOTHER INDIAN TRICK ANYTIME SOON?"

"MA'AM, THE INJUNS GOT SOME SMARTS. I SAW BOOKS IN HIS CELL, LOT'S OF 'EM. THAT'S WHAT THE OL' INJUN DOES; STUDY THEM LAW BOOKS."



"HOW CAN AN IGNORANT INDIAN LEARN FROM A BOOK? I'LL KILL HIM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THE LAST FIGHT IS MINE. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIS BRAINS GOING UP IN SMOKE. I SHOULD GET A PROMOTION FOR THIS!"

"HE'S NOT TAKING THE CHAIR, MA'AM. NOT THE NEEDLE NEITHER. CALLS HIMSELF A P.O.W. I SEEN IT IN THE BOOKS, TOO, SOME GENEVA THING PROTECTS HIM. THE INJUNS SMART, MA'AM, HE REALLY IS. SOMETHING TO DO WITH GENOCIDE."

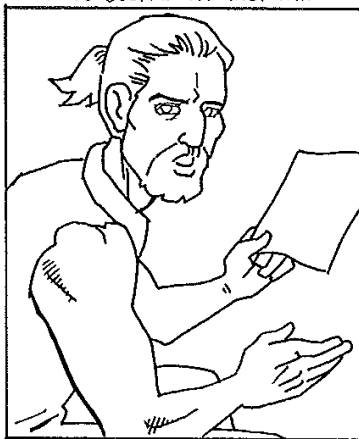


"BULLSHIT, THERE'S NEVER BEEN NO GENOCIDE IN THIS COUNTRY."

"IT'S TRUE, MA'AM, I SAW IT IN THE BOOKS. HE WROTE IT DOWN FOR ME. IT'S CALLED GENEVA CONVENTION. THAT INJUN KNOWS HIS STUFF, HE'S READ EVERY FUCKING BOOK IN THE LIBRARY."

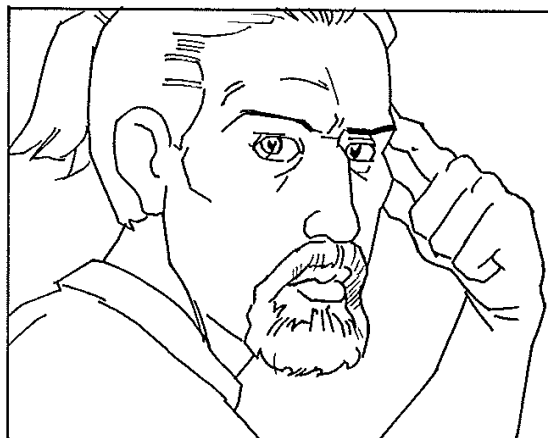
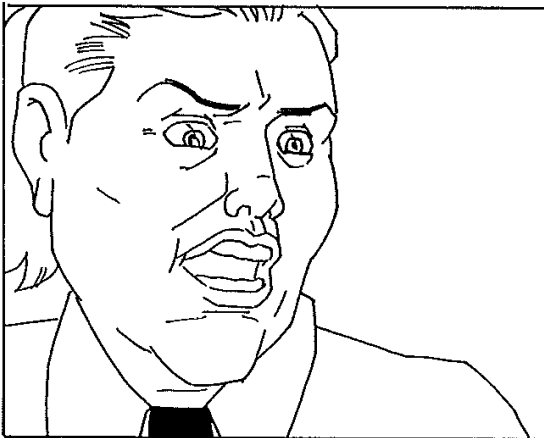
"WHAT ELSE?"

"HE'S GOT A WEAPON IN HIS CELL, SOME KIND OF PIPE."



"THE PEACE PIPE? I'VE MADE SURE HE WON'T BURN SAGE IN THAT THING EVER AGAIN!"

"HE SAYS THE PIPE'S SACRED, SOME PEACE MISSION HE'S ONTO. STILL CALLS IT A WEAPON, HE DOES, MA'AM, I THINK THE PIPE GIVES HIM SPECIAL POWERS!"



"THE PIPE'S HIS WEAK SPOT. IF HE DOESN'T TAKE OUR DEAL WE'LL CONFISCATE IT RIGHT AWAY, I'M SAVING THAT FOR LAST."

"MA'AM, IF HE FINDS OUT I'M A SNITCH HE'LL KILL ME!"

"YOU GO BACK TO UNIT 2 AS SOON AS WE'RE DONE. NOW FIND OUT EXACTLY WHEN HE'S FILING THE FEDERAL APPEAL 'CAUSE THAT'S WHEN HE'LL GET THE LETTER."



"CHIEF! GET YOUR ASS UP HERE!
I HAVE A LETTER FOR YOU."

"SIGN HERE,
ON THE X."

"A LETTER?"



"TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS? I'M WAITING
I'M WAITING FOR
THE SUPREME COURT!"

"WE GOT A GREAT DEAL FOR YOU, LUCKY
SON OF A BITCH! FREE COMMISSARIES,
INTIMATE VISITS, AND YOU KEEP THE PIPE!
GIVE UP YOUR APPEALS AND TAKE
THE CHAIR, EASY!"

"MY PIPE IS NOT A PRIVILEGE,
IT'S MY RIGHT, MY RELIGION!"



"RELIGION HERE
ONLY JEWISH,
CHRISTIAN,
OR MUSLIM."

"YOU WANT ME TO... BLOW
MY HEAD UP IN SMOKE?
I'M A P.O.W, YOU GUYS
CAN'T KILL ME!"

"IN CALIFORNIA, THEY'LL GAS YOU. IN WASHINGTON,
YOU'LL HANG. HERE IN INDIAN COUNTRY, IF YOU
TAKE THE NEEDLE LIKE A DOG, I'LL MAKE SURE
YOU'RE AWAKE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY."



"I'M PROTECTED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION! ARTICLE 130 SAYS YOU CAN'T KILL ME, THE GENOCIDE OF AMERICAN INDIANS ISN'T OVER, YET!"

"CONVENTION MEANS SHIT IN GUANTANAMO OR IRAQ. YOU'RE GONNA DIE ANYWAY, SO TAKE THE DEAL AND KEEP THE PIPE!"

"YOU CAN'T TAKE MY PIPE, I'VE HAD IT FOR 30 YEARS! THE 3RD GENEVA CONVENTION SAYS: ARTICLES HAVING A PERSONAL OR SENTIMENTAL VALUE MAY NOT BE TAKEN FROM P.O.W.S. TAKE THE LETTER, I'M NOT SIGNING."



"THINK YOU KNOW INTERNATIONAL LAW? NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'RE INNOCENT, MURDER! YOU'RE GIVING UP TONS OF PLEASURE AND YOUR PIPE! YOU'D RATHER GO BACK TO THE HOLE AND STRAIGHT TO THE CHAIR?"

"YOU CAN'T KILL A P.O.W. I'VE GOT MY RIGHTS."

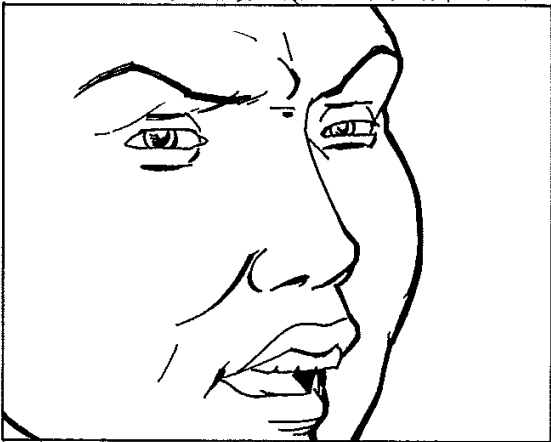
"PRISONERS OF WAR MUST AT ALL TIMES BE HUMANELY TREATED. THE WILLFUL KILLING OF PROTECTED PERSONS - INCLUDING SICK AND WOUNDED, AND CAPTURED OR SURRENDERING SOLDIERS - IS A GRAVE BREACH OF THE 3RD GENEVA CONVENTION."



"SIGN THE LETTER, BASTARD!"

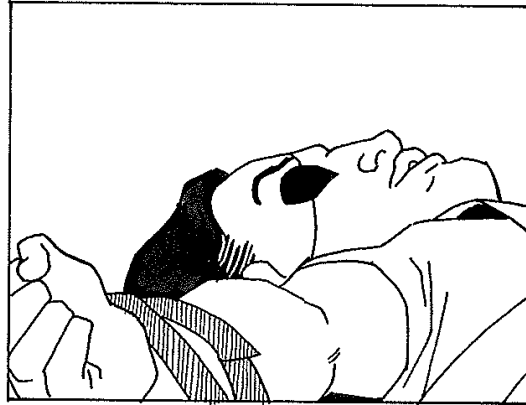
"I'VE GOT NOTHING FOR YOU, MANSLAUGHTER, JUST A PRAYER TO MAKE YOU SEE THE LIGHT."

"YOU'VE GOT 24 HOURS. WE'LL EVEN GET YOU SPARE RIBS AND SOME SCOTCH! I'M TIRED OF YOU, CHIEF. IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP THE APPEALS AND TAKE THE CHAIR, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE PAIN UNTIL YOUR HEART STOPS. THIS LAST FIGHT IS MINE. I WANNA WATCH YOU DIE."



"JUST TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE DEAL, APACHE MAGIC ISN'T THAT POWERFUL, IS IT CHIEF? YOUR PIPE'S GONE. NOW IT'S MY TURN, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY MAGIC! GOT A GOOD POTION BREWING, YOU'LL DIE LIKE AN ANIMAL!"

"GRANDFATHER, I LIGHT A FIRE TO YOUR SPIRIT. HEAR MY VOICE, I PREPARE A FEAST FOR YOU!"



"HIS VEINS ARE GOOD FOR NOTHING, I'LL TRY THE CALF."

"POKE HARDER! AREN'T YOU THE BEST JABBER?"

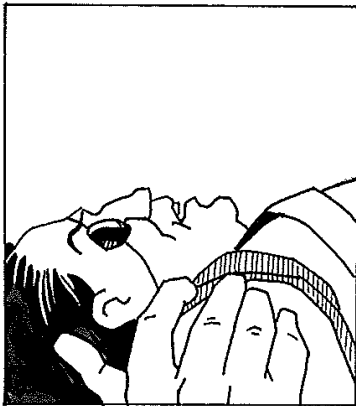


"GRANDFATHER! I SHALL WALK THE BEAUTIFUL TRAIL!"

"FOUND A TRICKLE OF BLOOD. MA'AM, IS THE COCKTAIL READY?"

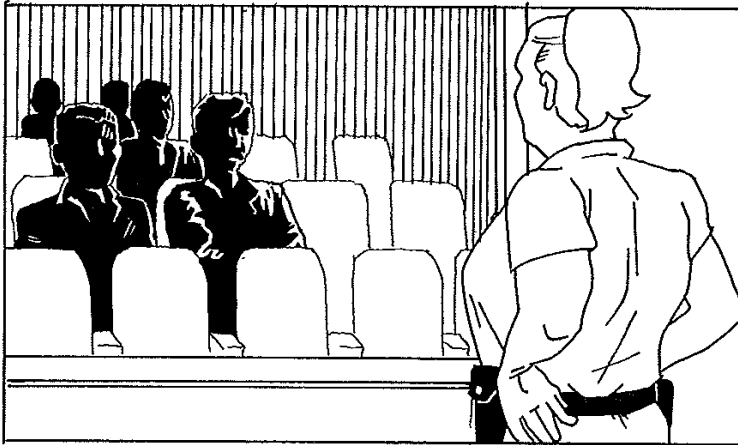
"ALL THREE DRUGS READY TO FLOW INTO ... YOUR SACRED... TEMPLE, CHIEF? WE'LL SEE HOW SACRED YOU ARE TODAY."

"MY FATHER, SON. MY MOTHER, DAWN. I SEND FORTH MY PRAYERS."



"THE GOVERNOR... AND THE MAYOR! YOU FOLKS DON'T EVER MISS AN EXECUTION. FIVE MORE MINUTES... GOODBYE, CHIEF. SAY 'HI' TO YOUR GRANDPA. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR PIPE."

"YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY MY DIGNITY."



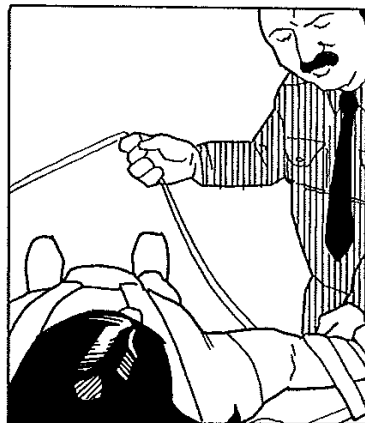
"DIGNITY? YOU'LL BE AT THE BODY FARM TOMORROW. WE DONATED YOUR BODY TO SCIENCE."

"MAKE SURE MY BRAIDS DON'T TOUCH THE FLOOR."

"ANYTHING ELSE?"

"I AM INNOCENT!"

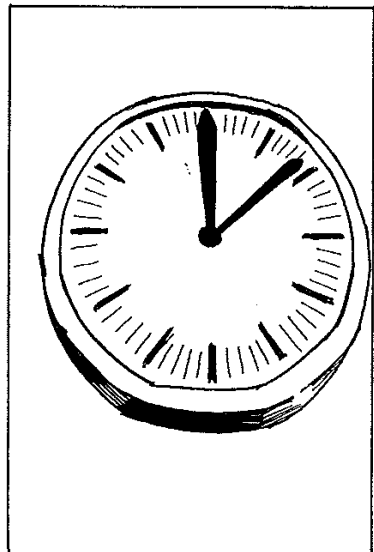
"LET THE EXECUTION BEGIN!"



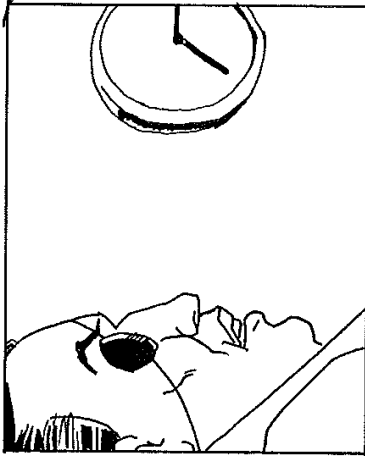
"I'VE MADE A FOOTPRINT. I CALL FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY WORLDWIDE."

"MA'AM, WE MISSED THE VEIN. IT'S GOING STRAIGHT IN THE FLESH. HIS ARMS ARE SWELLIN' AND HE'S STILL AWAKE."

"SHOT NUMBER TWO WILL KNOCK HIM OUT!"



"WHAT'S GOING ON?"



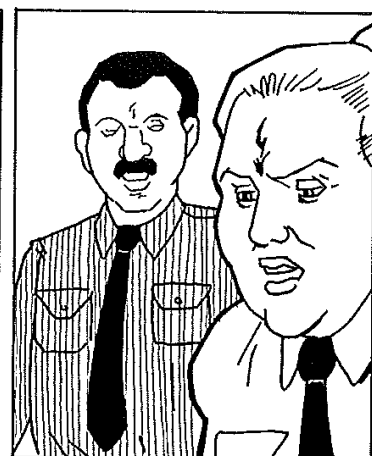
"DEAD MAN TALKING!"



"GIVE HIM A DOUBLE SHOT,"

"MA'AM, HIS LIPS ARE MOVING."

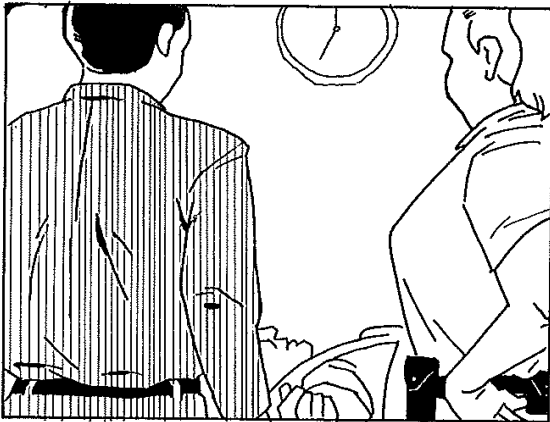
"GO AHEAD WITH NUMBER 3."



"HE'S AWAKE, TRYING TO BREATHE!"

"STILL TRYING TO BE TOUGH! WON'T TAKE MUCH LONGER. ENJOY!"

"THE PREYING BIRD OF DEATH IS CALLING. GASP! GASP! CREATOR, BLESS THE FALLEN WARRIORS!"



"GOD BLESS YA, CHIEF."

"THE INMATE IS FINALLY DEAD AT 12:45 A.M. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WILLIE SOFTSKIN'S ELECTROCUTION ON DECEMBER 1ST. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU. AMEN."

