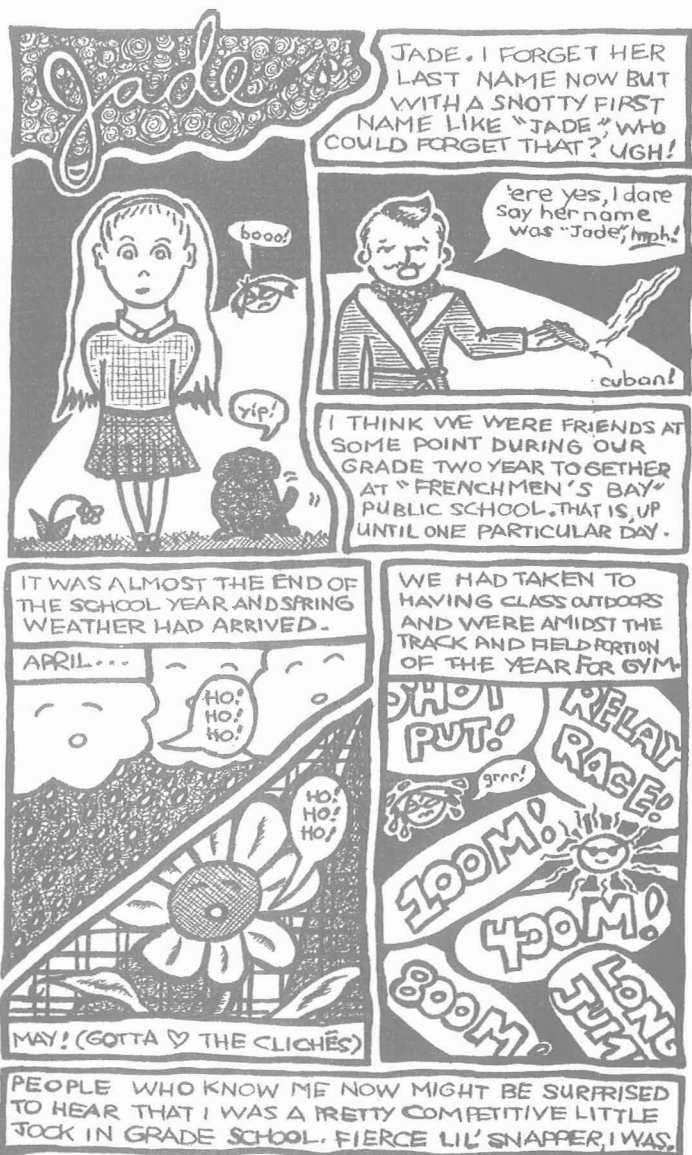


Patty Kim



THIS WOULD SOON DIE OUT WITH MY WHOPPING 53% ^{not} IN MANDATORY GR.9 PHYS.ED. THE PAIN.

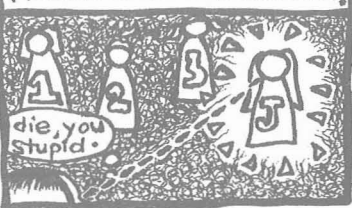


AT ANY RATE, THE BIG DAY HAD FINALLY ARRIVED FOR THE 100M SPRINT AND I WAS SO STOKED TO WIN IT. GRR!



I KNEW THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE OF MY BEATING OUT THE OTHER GIRLS IF I PUT MY ALL INTO IT. JADE WAS ONE OF THE FOUR OTHERS WHO HAD MADE IT TO THE FINAL ROUND.

SIDENOTE: I WAS PENCILLING THIS AT SCHOOL AND SOMEHOW, SOME REMNANTS OF A FELLOW STUDENT'S OIL PAINTING FOUND ITS WAY ONTO MY SKETCHBOOK. HENCE THE BIG SATURATED GLOOB I CAN DO NOTHING WITH. TRUE LIFE STORY. I SWEAR!



THE TENSION WAS HIGH AND I'M SURE MY STOMACH WENT TO MUSH FOR A SECOND OR TWO. FOR 3.7



"AAAND GO!" WE WERE OFF.



I REMEMBER JUST TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON MY TEACHER AND FELLOW CLASSMATES WHO WERE WAITING AT THE SOCCER POST CUM FINISH LINE. IN MY EYES THEY WERE A BLOB OF COLOUR BOBBING UP AND DOWN, CHEERING US ON. THEN THE WORST OF THE WORST HAPPENED...



SHE TRIPPED ME.

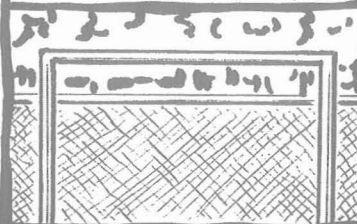


THAT LITTLE LONG BLONDE HAIRD, BLUE-EYED, DADDY'S PRECIOUS PRINCESS OF A TOOTHPICK TRIPPED ME.

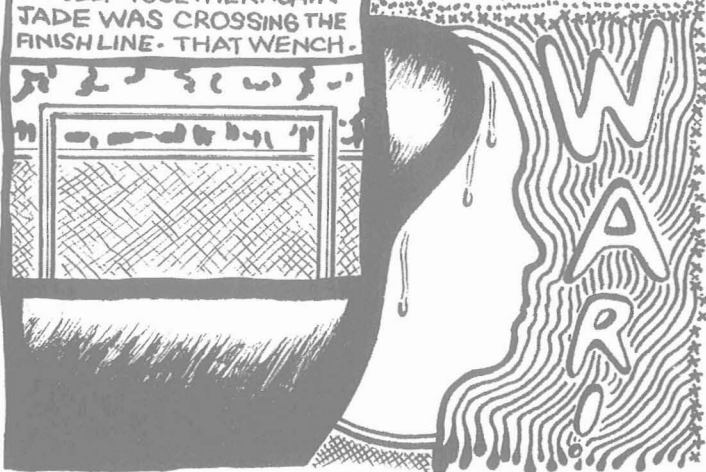
I'D STUMBLERD WILDLY AND MANAGED TO SAVE MYSELF FROM FALLING TO THE GROUND.



BY THE TIME I HAD GOTTEN MYSELF TOGETHER AGAIN JADE WAS CROSSING THE FINISH LINE. THAT WENCH.



I WASN'T JUST GOING TO SIT BACK AND BITE IT.



EVENTUALLY I CAUGHT UP WITH THE CONGRATULATORY HOOPLA SURROUNDING JADE AND I WAS SO-O MAD THAT I POPPED HER ONE.



GRADE TWO IN A CRAPPY PICKERING SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD AND I—MISS PATTI KIM—PICKED MY FIRST FISTFIGHT, YUP, FRANTIC SWATTING AND HAIR-FULLING ENSUED UNTIL OUR TEACHER MANAGED TO PRY US APART...



I GUESS I WAS PRETTY ANGRY AT THE TIME BUT IT DOES SEEM KINDA FUNNY IN RETROSPECT. I DIDN'T WRITE THIS STORY TO BRAG ABOUT MY FIGHTIN' BUTCHY SIDE THOUGH. MY "OLDER AND WISER" SELF FEELS THAT VIOLENCE IS A DARN SHODDY WAY OF VENTING THAT FRUSTRATION WE ALL EXPERIENCE TO A CERTAIN DEGREE. IN THE LONG RUN IT DOESN'T REALLY ACCOMPLISH MUCH.

BUT ALL'S I GOTTA SAY IS "JADE—IF I EVER RUN INTO YOU AGAIN, YOU'RE SMOKED MEAT FOR THE BUTCHER'S BOY, NYAH?" NOW SEE HOW EASY IT WAS TO RESOLVE THAT GRUDGE OF YESTER-YEAR? MANGO-BERRY FOR EVERYBODY KIDS, THE DRINKS ARE ON ME! SEE YA AROUND!!

