



THE ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY IN THE LUNCH TIME ROAST

Alliance for Equality and the Lunchtime Roast

A production of the George Wolfe Youth Interns at Topeka Independent Living Resource Center:

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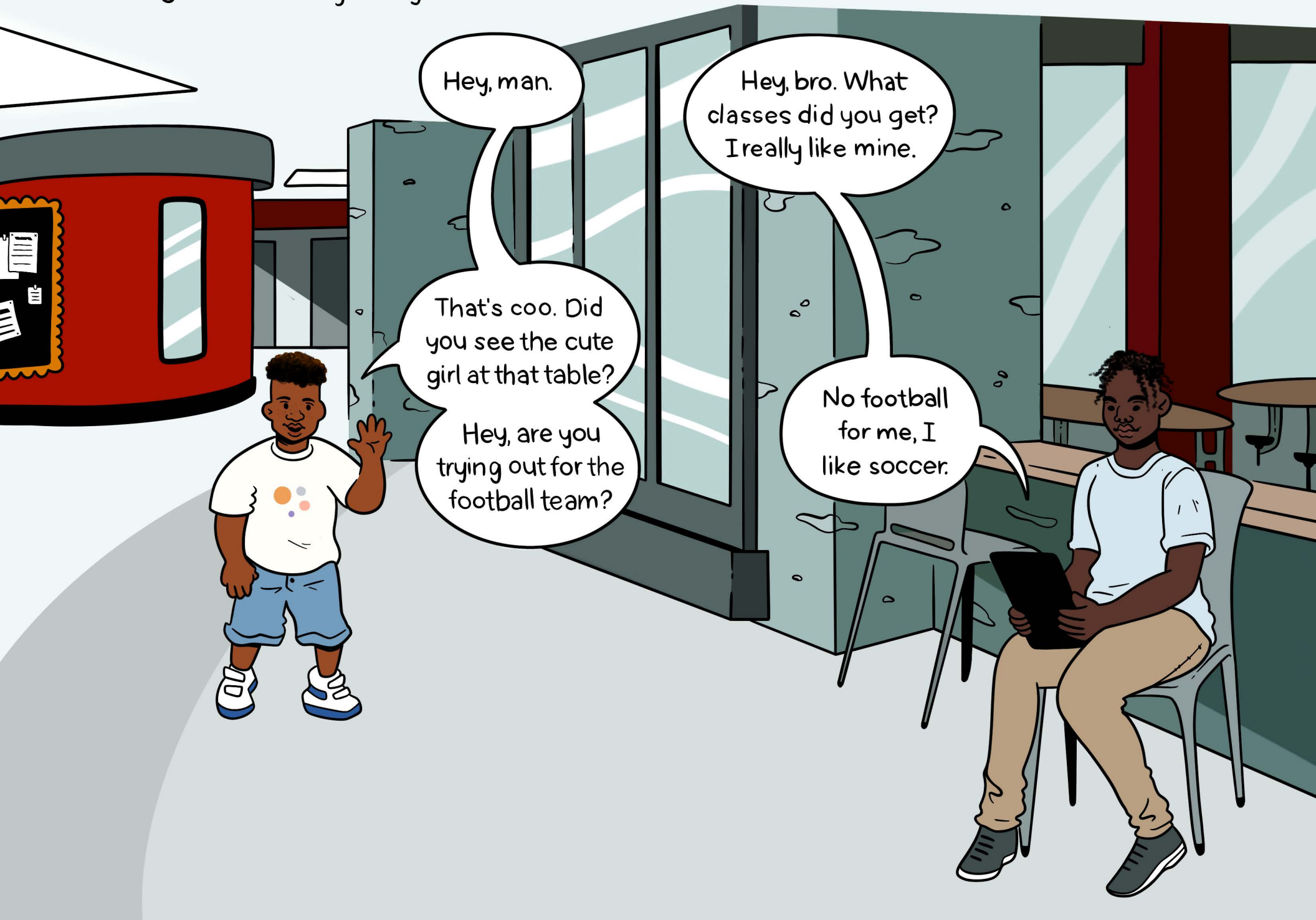
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First day of school. Best friends Tom and Jordan are freshman. They are walking towards open lunch discussing their first day of high school.



Hey, man.

Hey, bro. What classes did you get? I really like mine.

That's cool. Did you see the cute girl at that table?

Hey, are you trying out for the football team?

No football for me, I like soccer.

At open lunch several football players see Tom and Jordan.



Take a look at these two!

Let's have some fun! Let's invite them over.

Hey, you two want to join the football team for lunch?

If you sit with us, maybe we can get you a spot on the team.

Come on, we'll be ok. I really want to be on the football team.

I don't know, Tom. I don't have a good feeling about this.

During the same time, the Alliance for Equality members are eating together and discussing plans for the new year. As they are talking, they see and hear something going on in the center of the open lunch area.



The Quarterback leads Tom to the middle of open lunch. They know a "Roast" is about to happen. Everyone has their cell phones ready to put the "Roast" on Snapchat. Other football players make sure Tom is separated from his friend Jordan.



What's your name?

Tom.

Ok Tommy. Ready to become famous?

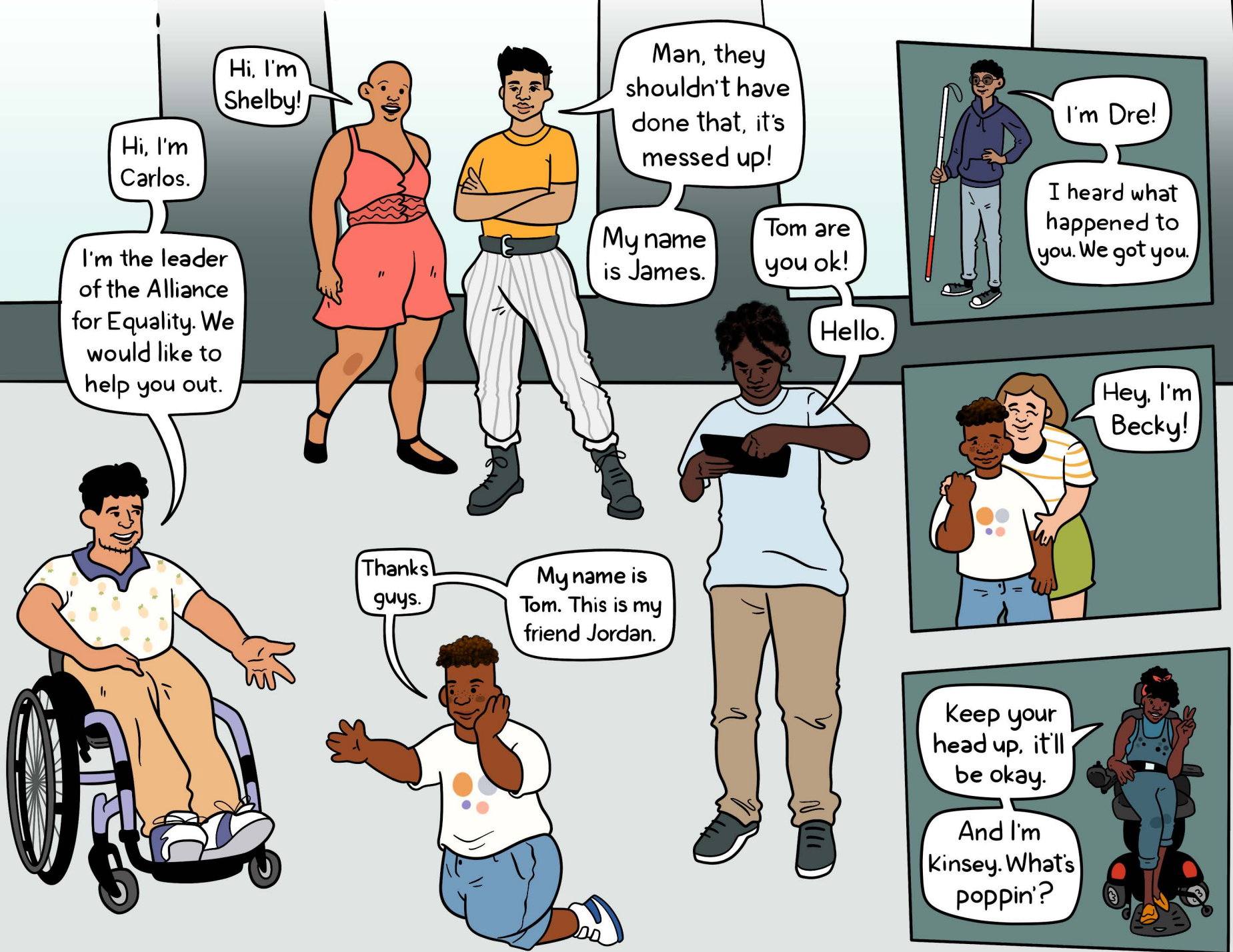
I'm the head quarterback, Tommy got nothing on me. This dude short and fat, looks like he's missing a knee. His head look like a globe and his ears sticking out. Tell me why his hair look like a little tree sprout.

HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA

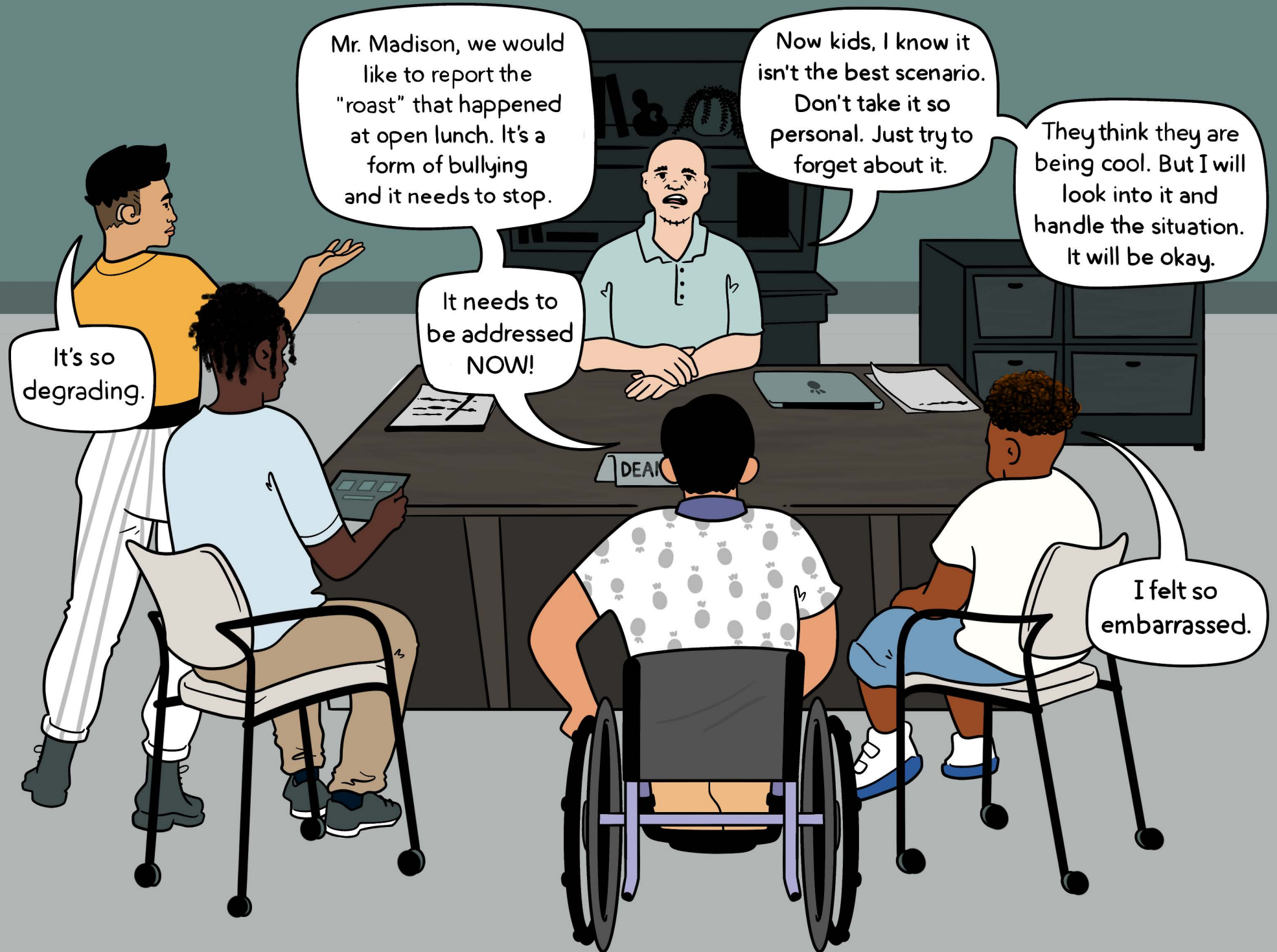
Tom is overwhelmed by the flashing phones. He is humiliated, isolated and scared. Tom shuts down.



As students disperse, Jordan goes to Tom to offer support. The Alliance for Equality comes over to offer their support and help.




The Alliance for Equality crew go with Tom and Jordan to report the bullying to the Dean of Students.



After leaving the Dean's office and feeling that their voices were not heard and feeling defeated, The Alliance for Equality calls a meeting to discuss a plan of action that will put some positive energy into the open lunch roasts. The crew also created new language and consequences to the school's anti-bullying campaign.




The following week at open lunch, the Alliance for Equality implements their plan. Beat boxing begins and the crew begin to make a semi-circle around the middle of the open lunch area. Students gather around to see what is going to happen.



I'm here to introduce my crew
We fight for equality so let us through
We're about to tell you what we do
We believe students are all the same
Roasting and bullying is a shameful game
My name is Carlos, being in a chair
doesn't stop me from my passion
I'm the leader of this crew and I rival
James in fashion
Take it away, James!

James steps into the circle as Carlos moves back by the crowd of students.



My name is James and
I'm the kindest soul you'll meet
I know everyone that I pass on the street
I use a cochlear implant to register sounds
My enthusiasm for life has no bound
I have sweet fashion, I'm the
coolest of fashionable gents
I never leave home without
a box of fresh mints

James retreats and Becky steps up.

Hello my name's Becky and I have to say
There's a lot of things that make me
special in a very good way
I know how to sing and cook
Occasionally I like to read a good book
Yeah that's something that I can do
I also like animals and I'm very kind too



Becky moves back and Kinsey moves into the spotlight.



My name is Kinsey
and I'm very hype
None of you are
really my type
I may use a power chair
but I promise I'm cool
I'm good lookin' cause I
make all the boys drool


Shelby continues the rap as Kinsey joins the others on the sidelines.

Hi I'm Shelby!

Yeah it's me, no need to sound the alarm
Just the coolest girl with only one arm
Through my fears, I always stay kind
Remembering to have a positive mind



As Shelby says her last line Dre makes his way to the front.



Yeah my name is Dre and
they say I got cool shades I got
piano skills to last decades
I gotta use a cane just
to find my own way
My navigating abilities
get me a long way

Tom nervously steps up after Dre and begins his rap.

My name is Tom
and I like football
I have determination
even though I'm small
I'm smart like Sheldon
from the Big Bang
And I hang out with the
Alliance for Equality gang




Tom completes his turn and encourages his friend Jordan into the circle.



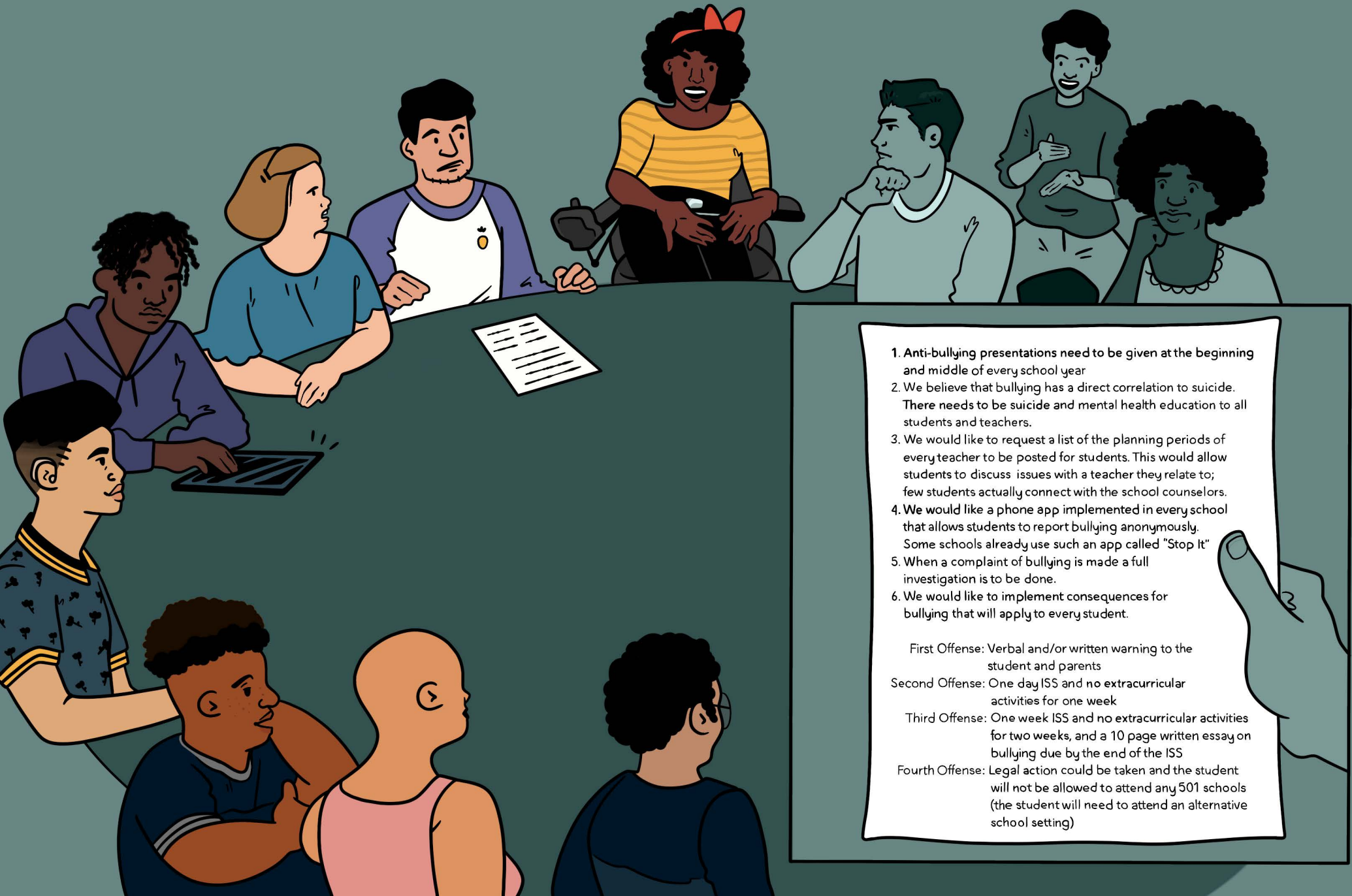
My name is Jordan and
I use a communication device
My computer skills allow me to break the ice
I may seem quiet, I do not speak
But if you get to know me I'm really neat.

Students have their phones out and start sharing on Snapchat as all the members of the Alliance for Equality crew step up to give the finishing bars of their rap.



Together we form the Alliance for Equality
Alliance for Equality is who we are
We fight for justice and spit fire bars
We'd like everyone to join the crew
Let's stop the bullying before it happens to you

The following day the Alliance for Equality has a special meeting with the school board and presents their suggestions to be implemented into the school's anti-bullying campaign.



1. Anti-bullying presentations need to be given at the beginning and middle of every school year
2. We believe that bullying has a direct correlation to suicide. There needs to be suicide and mental health education to all students and teachers.
3. We would like to request a list of the planning periods of every teacher to be posted for students. This would allow students to discuss issues with a teacher they relate to; few students actually connect with the school counselors.
4. We would like a phone app implemented in every school that allows students to report bullying anonymously. Some schools already use such an app called "Stop It"
5. When a complaint of bullying is made a full investigation is to be done.
6. We would like to implement consequences for bullying that will apply to every student.

First Offense: Verbal and/or written warning to the student and parents

Second Offense: One day ISS and no extracurricular activities for one week

Third Offense: One week ISS and no extracurricular activities for two weeks, and a 10 page written essay on bullying due by the end of the ISS

Fourth Offense: Legal action could be taken and the student will not be allowed to attend any 501 schools (the student will need to attend an alternative school setting)

After a brief executive meeting, the school board members return to the conference room where the Alliance for Equality anxiously await.

Thank you for bringing the bullying issue to our attention. It is clear to us now that more significant steps need to be taken to stop bullying in our schools. It takes a lot of courage to stand up for what is right. After discussion, all members agree to take your suggestions and implement them as soon as possible



The following week the Alliance for Equality is sitting at the booth for the Club Fair. They are a little surprised but greatly encouraged by the turn out of students signing up. Their anti-bullying campaign is showing success.





<https://coffeeandtheartist.com/>

Once upon a time...

Dean Strauss was a tired illustrator working the majority of his day away. Every day, he worked on commissions that, more often than not, he didn't care about. One day, out of fun and frustration, he sent out an ask online and started drawing fellow disabled people—with pets, smiling, crying, posing, in love, celebrating, living. He ended up doing over 100 free portraits just for the joy it brought.

From there, he got an email to do an editorial piece about remote work and disability. Because of that, he realized that he wanted to use design to address the issues he cared about in real ways. Finally, he wound up as the media coordinator of a college's diversity, equity, and inclusion office. And ever since then, he's continued searching for more ways to combine his love of art with the things he cares about.

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