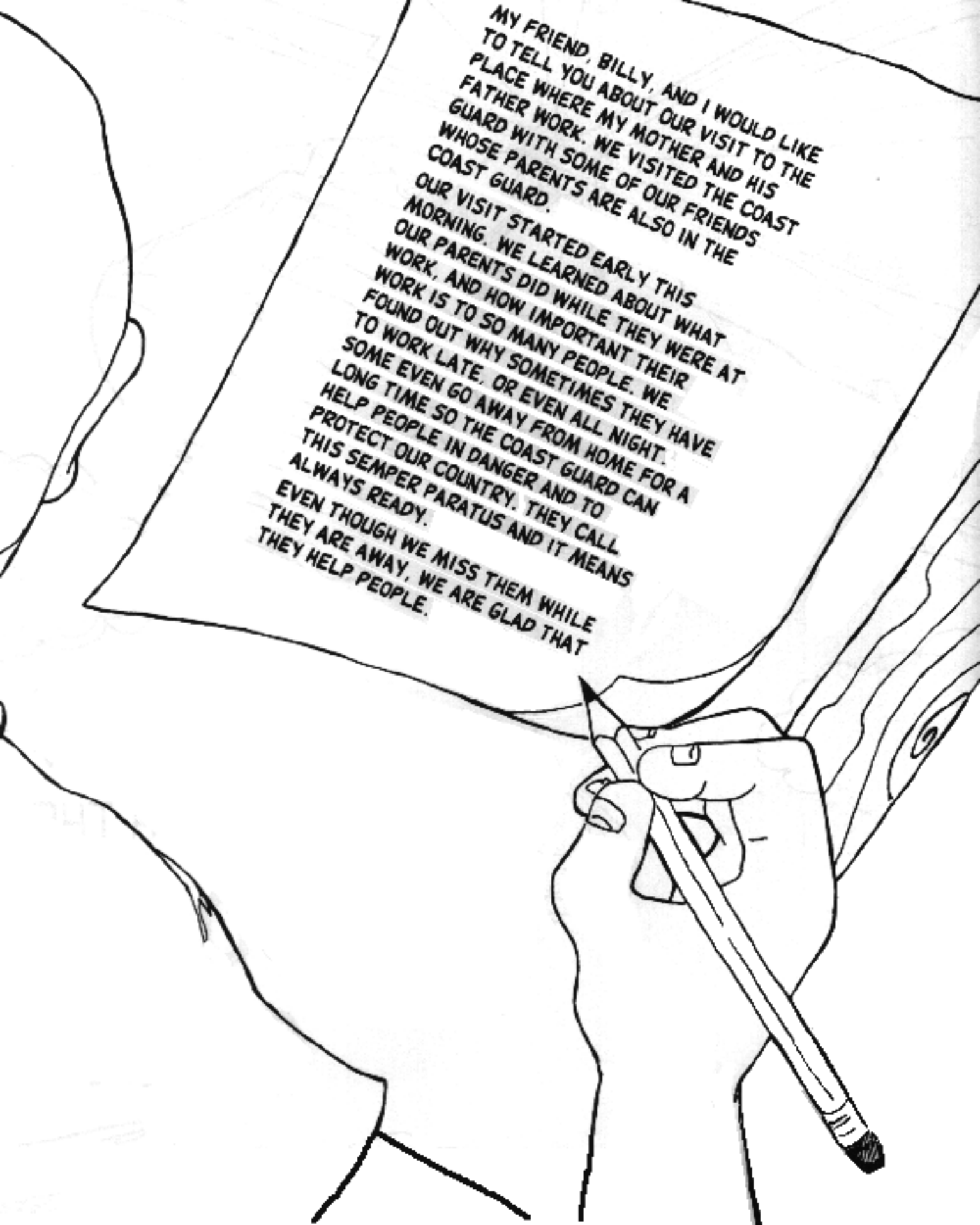
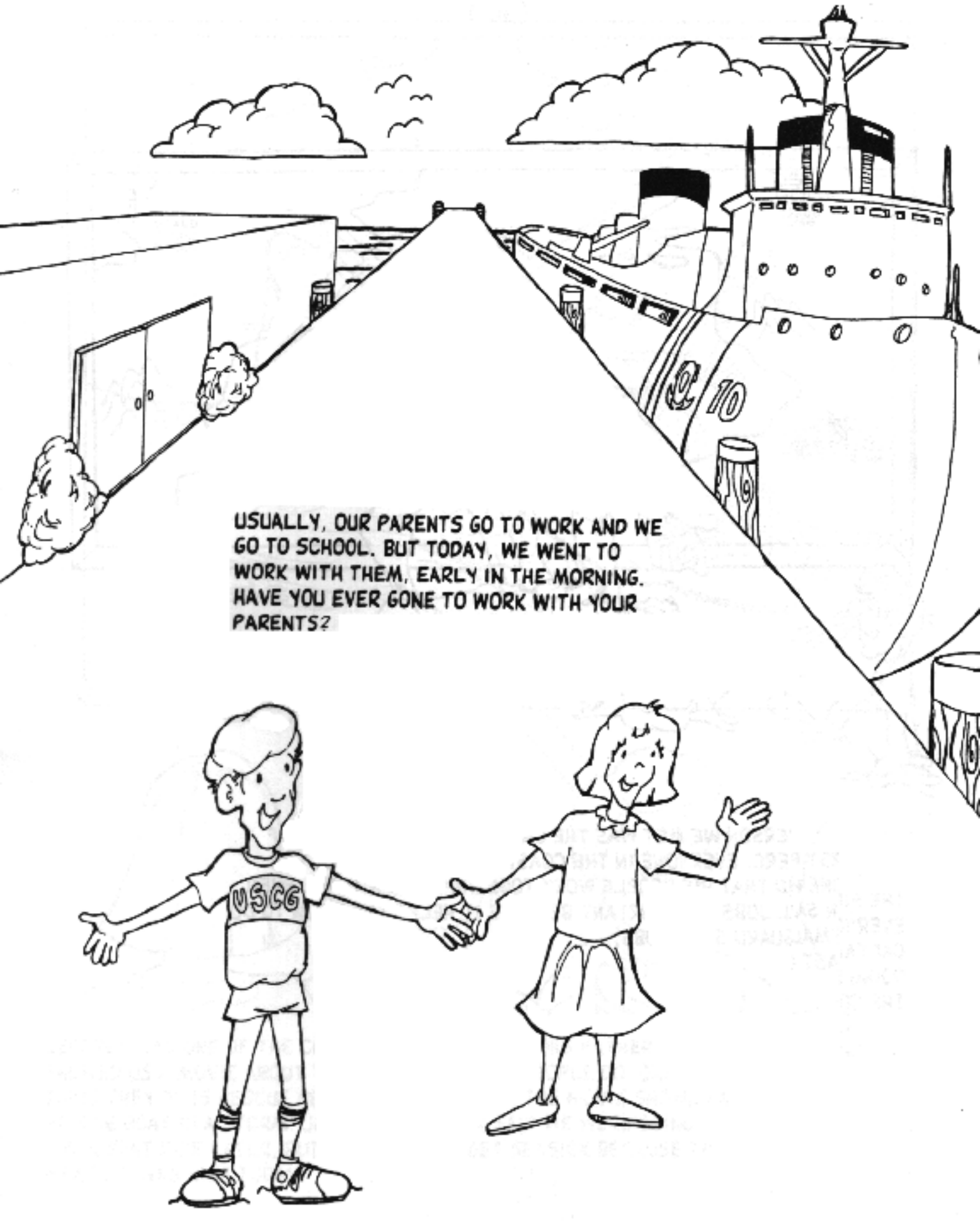
OUR DAY WITH THE COAST GUARD



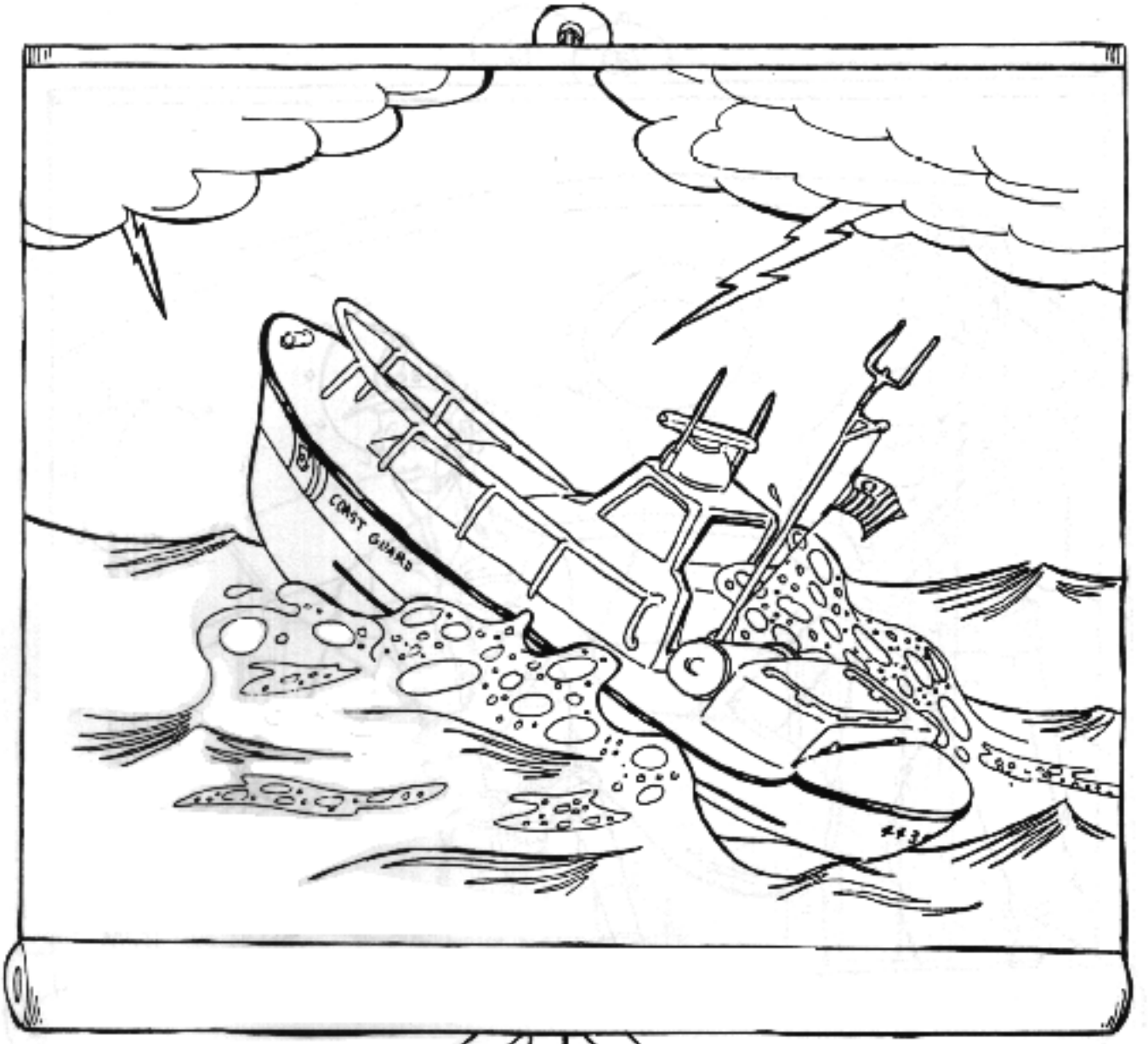
MY FRIEND, BILLY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR VISIT TO THE PLACE WHERE MY MOTHER AND HIS FATHER WORK. WE VISITED THE COAST GUARD WITH SOME OF OUR FRIENDS WHOSE PARENTS ARE ALSO IN THE COAST GUARD.

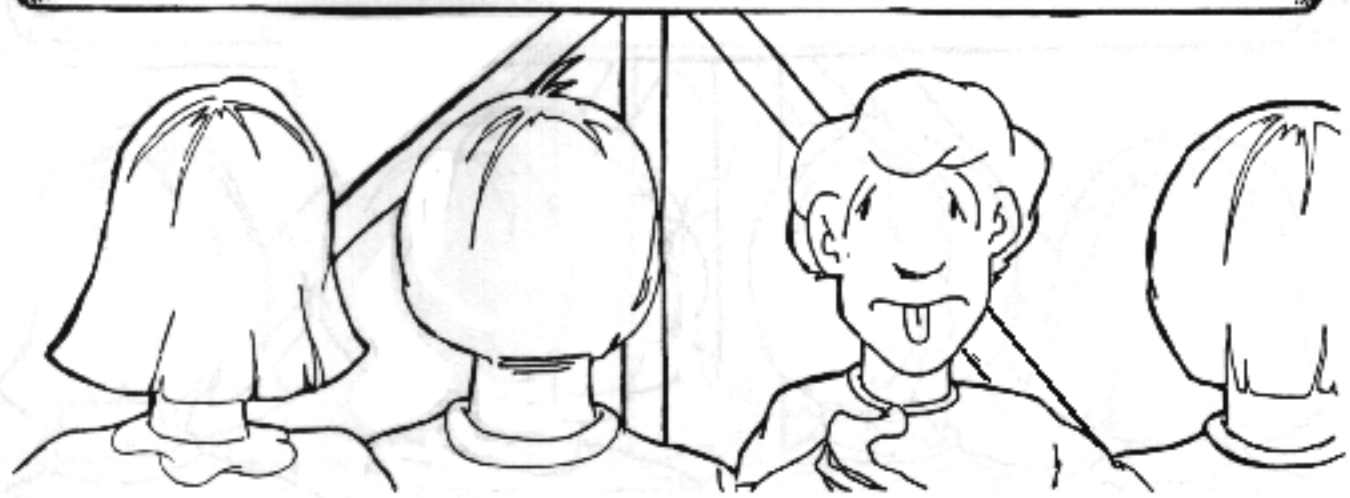
OUR VISIT STARTED EARLY THIS MORNING. WE LEARNED ABOUT WHAT OUR PARENTS DID WHILE THEY WERE AT WORK, AND HOW IMPORTANT THEIR WORK IS TO SO MANY PEOPLE. WE FOUND OUT WHY SOMETIMES THEY HAVE TO WORK LATE, OR EVEN ALL NIGHT. SOME EVEN GO AWAY FROM HOME FOR A LONG TIME SO THE COAST GUARD CAN HELP PEOPLE IN DANGER AND TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY. THEY CALL THIS SEMPER PARATUS AND IT MEANS ALWAYS READY.

EVEN THOUGH WE MISS THEM WHILE THEY ARE AWAY, WE ARE GLAD THAT THEY HELP PEOPLE.

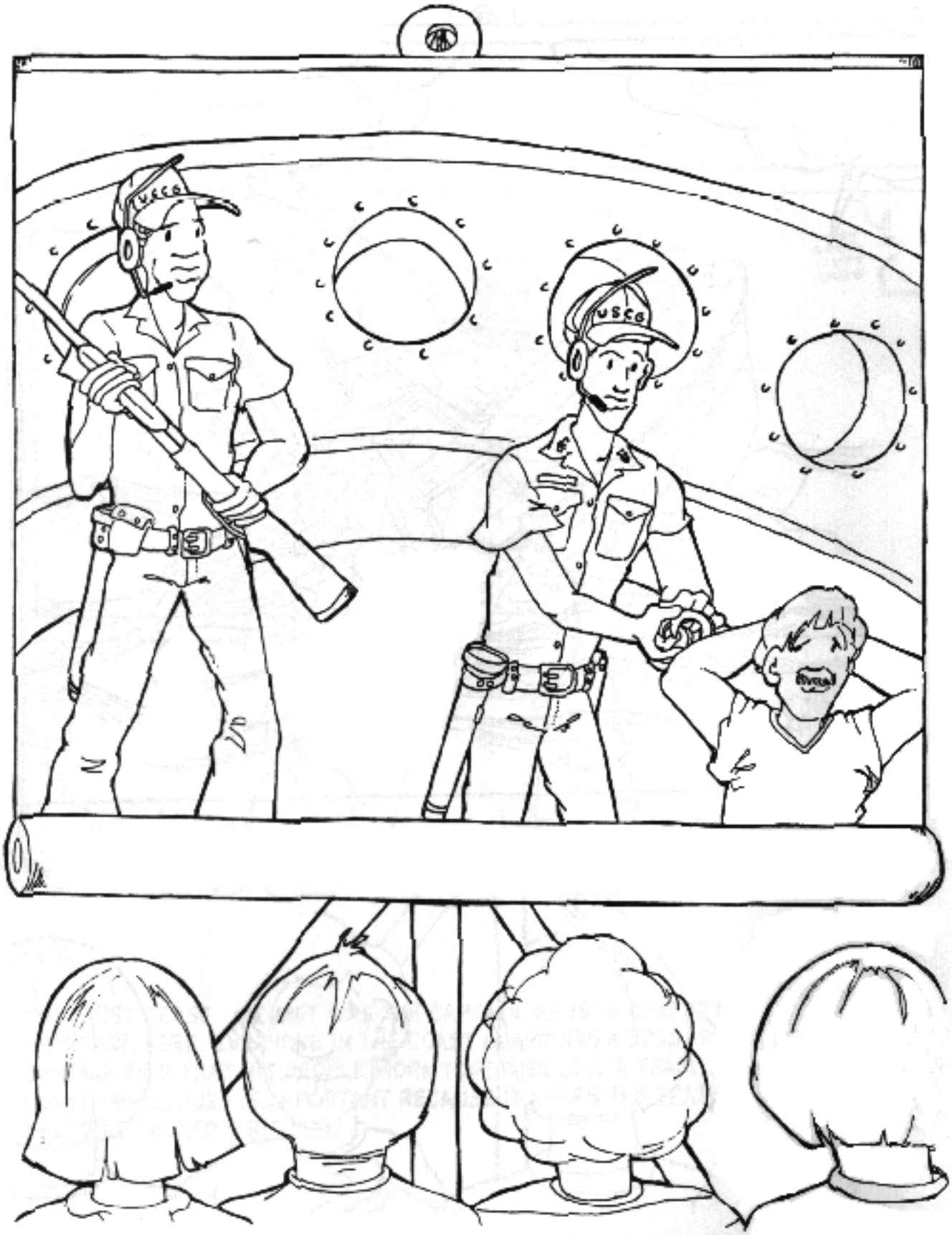

USUALLY, OUR PARENTS GO TO WORK AND WE GO TO SCHOOL. BUT TODAY, WE WENT TO WORK WITH THEM, EARLY IN THE MORNING. HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO WORK WITH YOUR PARENTS?
USCG

THE FIRST PERSON WE MET WAS THE CAPTAIN. HE IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYONE HERE. EVERYONE IN THE COAST GUARD HAS A BOSS. THE CAPTAIN SAID THAT HIS PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER LIKE A TEAM. EVEN DOING SMALL JOBS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT HELPS THE TEAM TO DO THE COAST GUARD'S BIG JOBS.

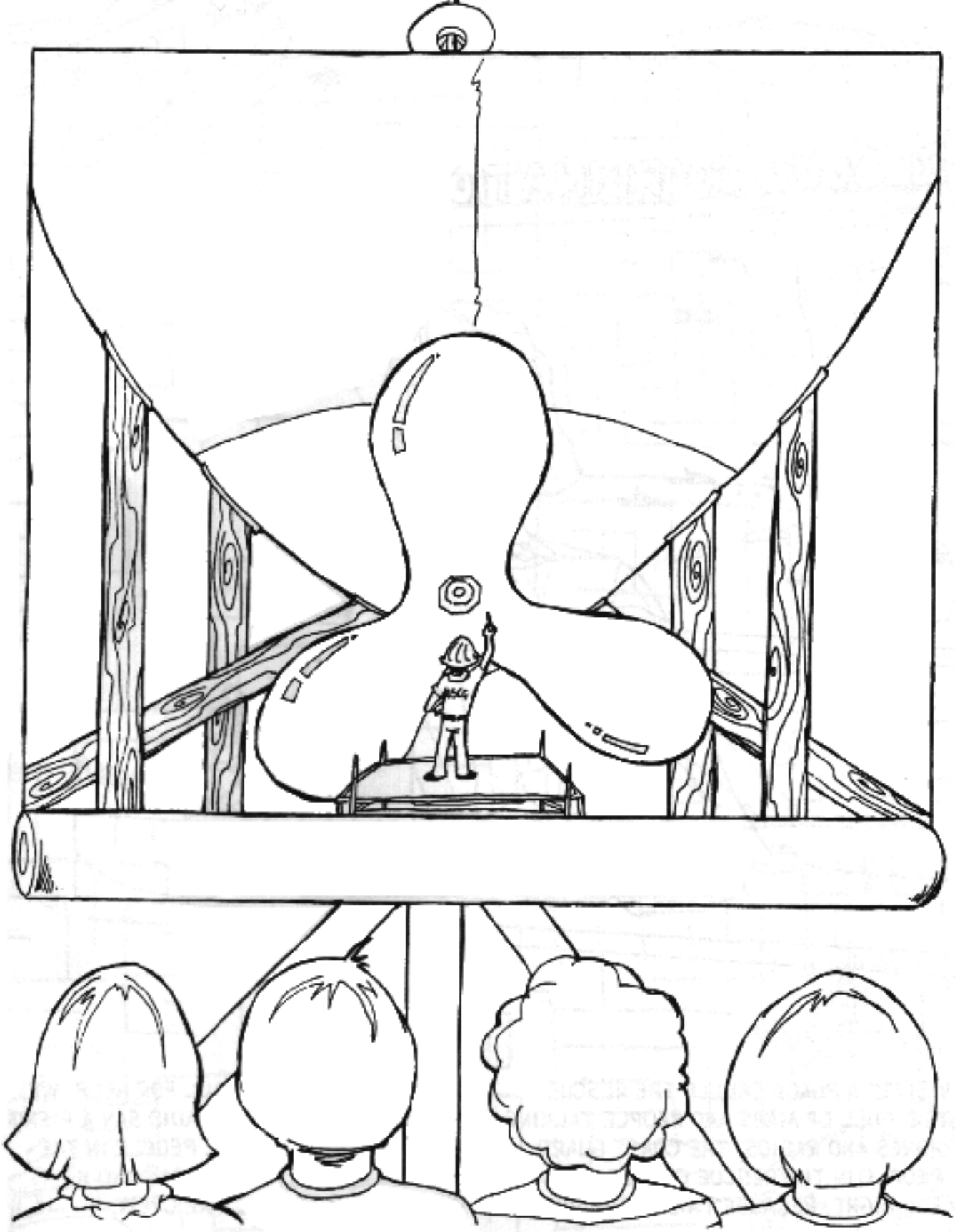




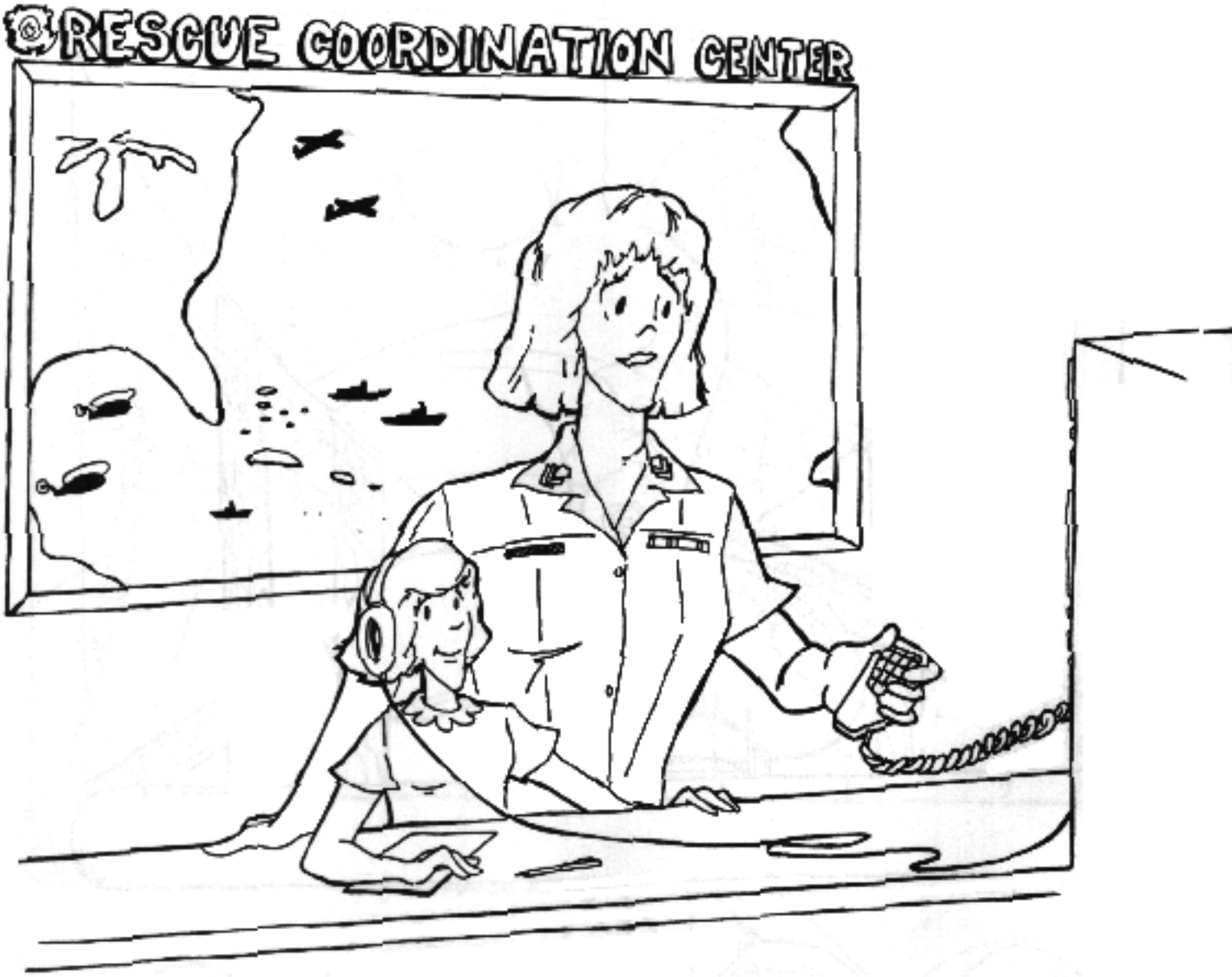
JEFFREY WAS ONE OF THE CHILDREN IN THE GROUP. HIS FATHER SHOWED US A MOVIE ABOUT THINGS COAST GUARD PEOPLE DO. ONE THING THEY DO IS RESCUE PEOPLE FROM DANGER. THE MOVIE SHOWED A RESCUE BOAT IN A STORM. JEFFREY'S FATHER SAID WE WERE GOING FOR A BOAT RIDE LATER, BUT WE WOULDN'T GET SEASICK BECAUSE THE WEATHER WAS NICE TODAY.



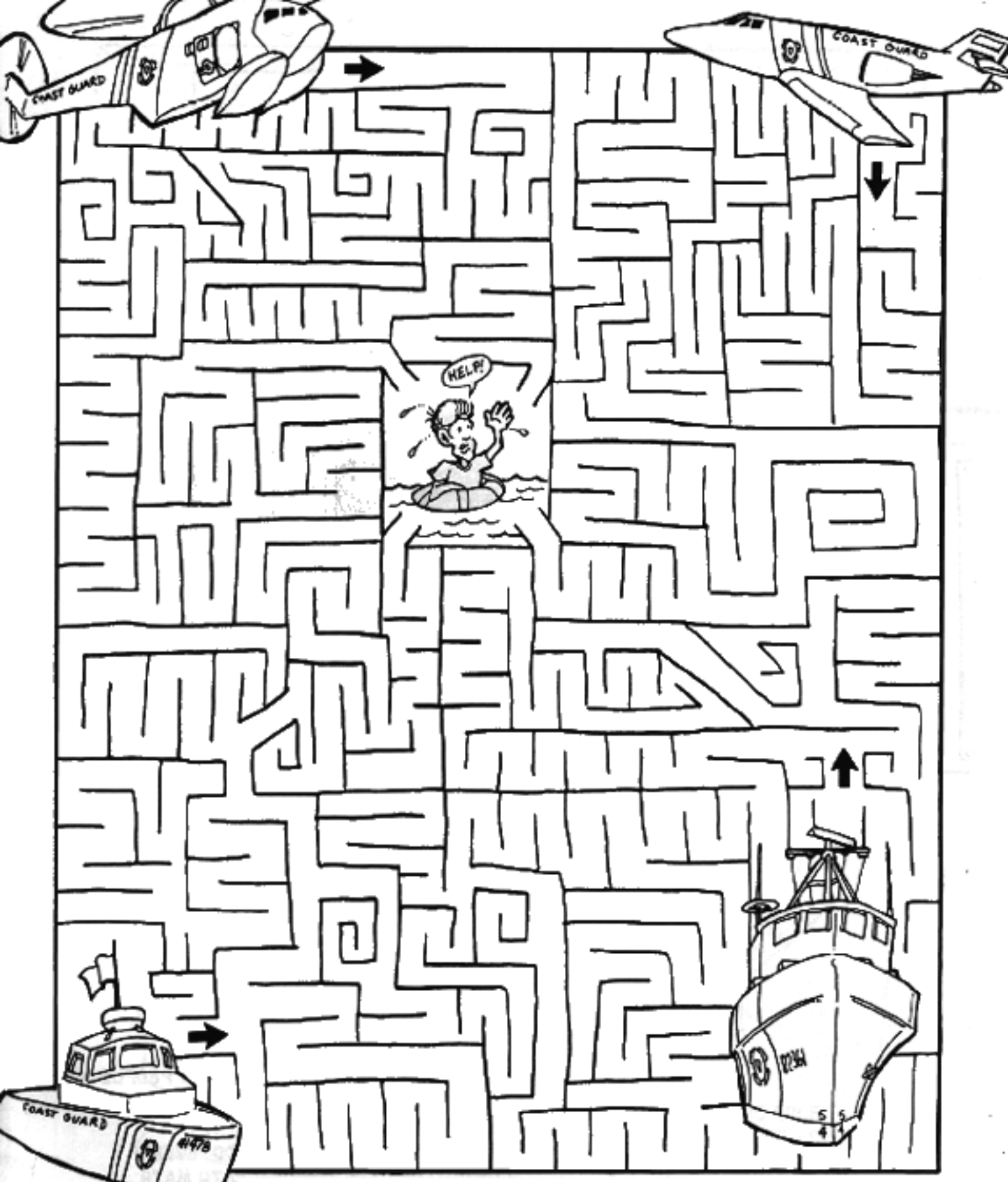
THE MOVIE ALSO SHOWED COAST GUARDSMEN ARRESTING SOME BAD GUYS FOR BRINGING BOATS FULL OF DRUGS TO AMERICA. THE COAST GUARD MAKES SURE PEOPLE ON THE WATER OBEY THE LAWS AND DON'T HURT OTHER PEOPLE.



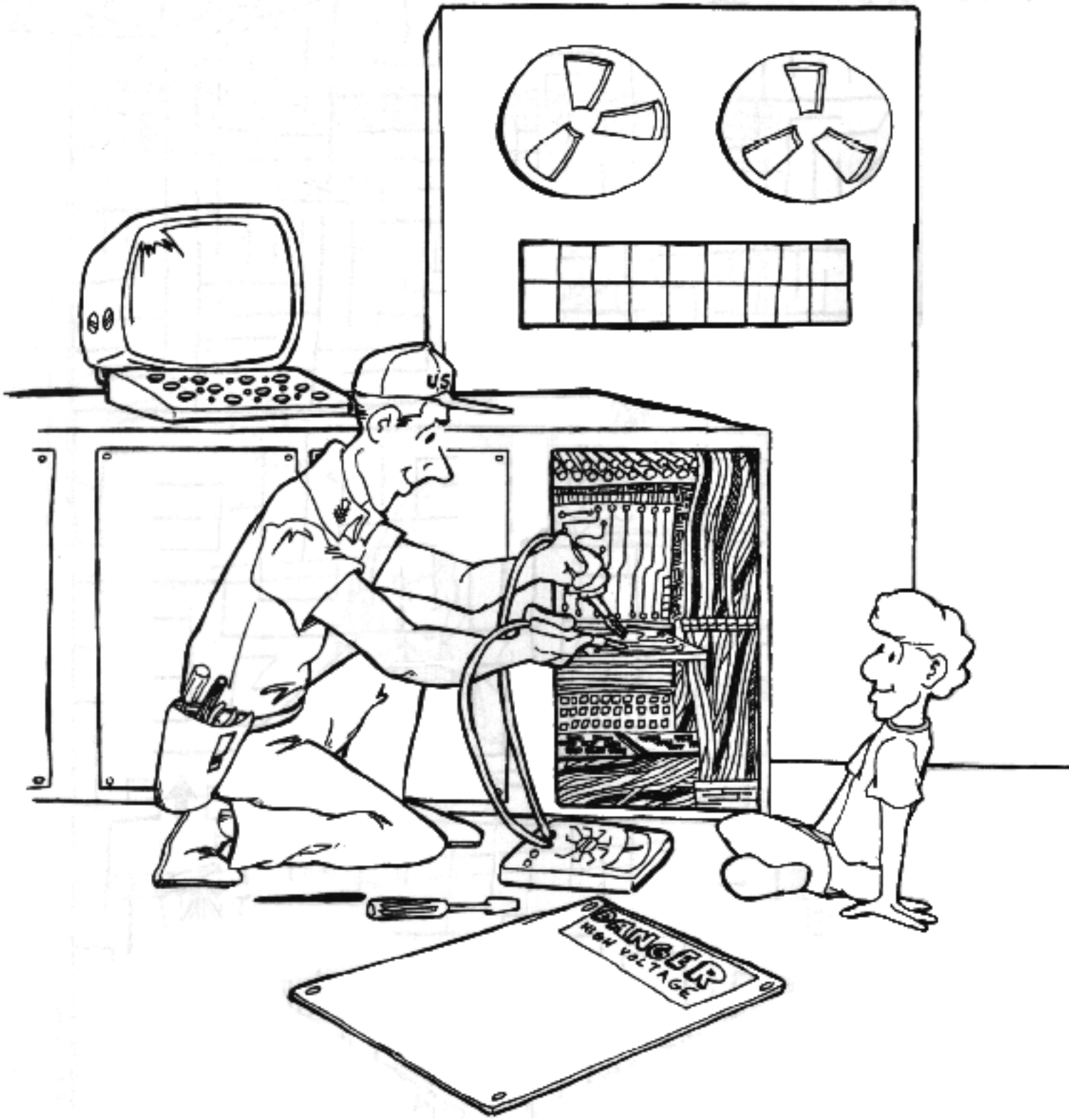
COAST GUARDSMEN ALSO INSPECT SHIPS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE SAFE. IN THE MOVIE, WE SAW A MAN STANDING UNDER A SHIP'S PROPELLER THAT WAS BIGGER THAN HE WAS. WHEN SHIPS ARE SAFE,



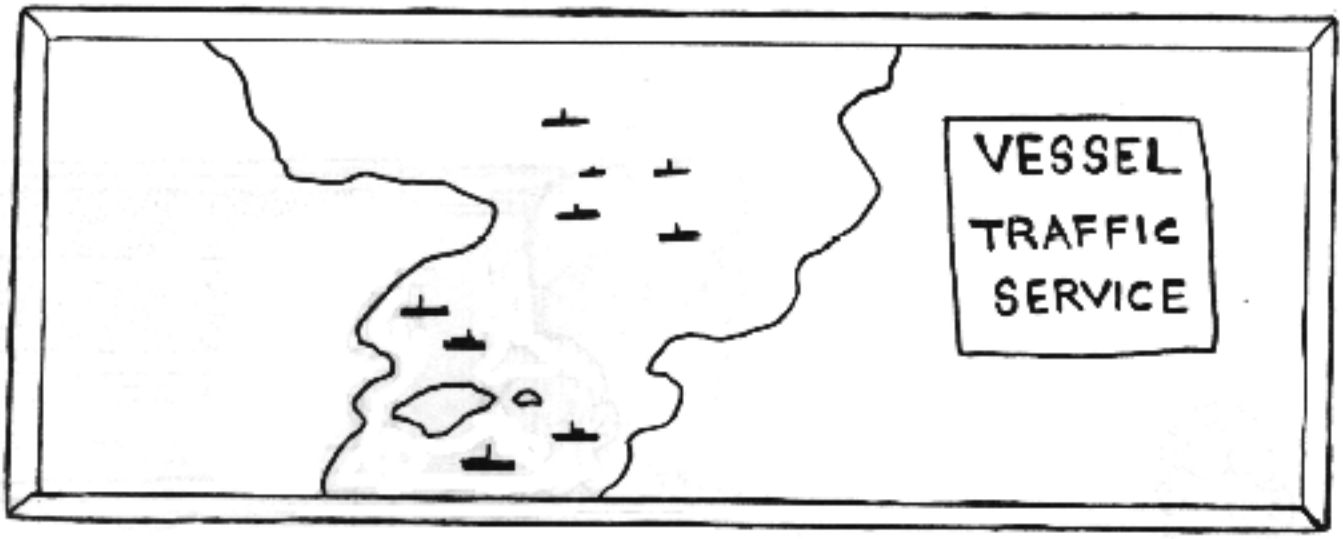
WE VISITED A PLACE CALLED THE RESCUE CENTER, FULL OF MAPS AND PEOPLE TALKING ON PHONES AND RADIOS. THE COAST GUARD HAS PEOPLE IN THE RESCUE CENTER ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT, BECAUSE THIS IS THE PLACE PEOPLE IN TROUBLE CALL FOR HELP. WE HEARD A VOICE ON THE RADIO SAY A FISHING BOAT WAS SINKING. THE PEOPLE IN THE RESCUE CENTER SENT A BOAT AND A HELICOPTER TO SAVE THE CREW.

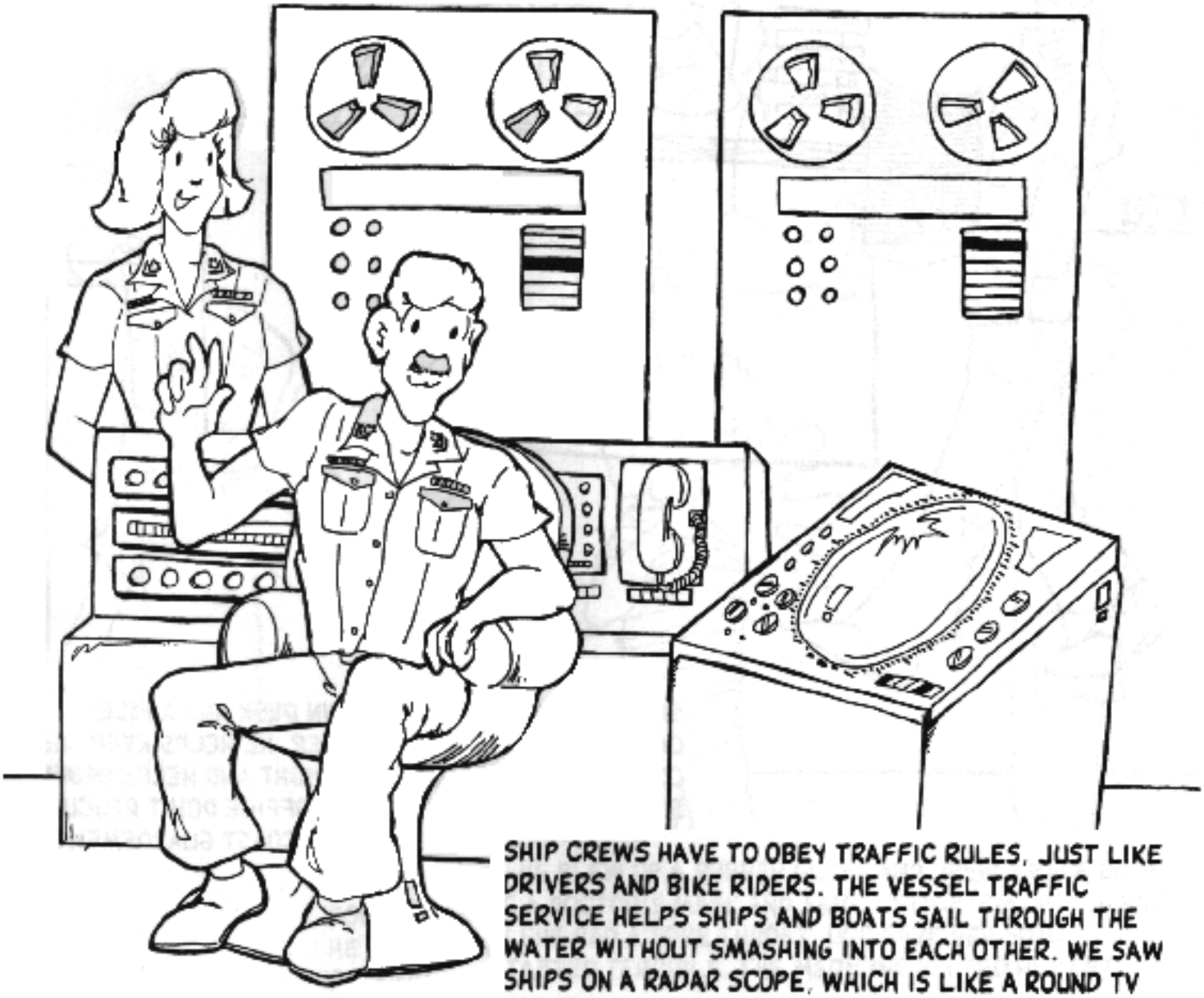


HELP THE COAST GUARD SEARCH FOR THE BOATER IN TROUBLE. WHO WILL RESCUE THE MAN FIRST? THE COAST GUARDSMEN ON THE HELICOPTER, THE AIRPLANE, THE BOAT OR THE CUTTER? THEY ALL WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES.



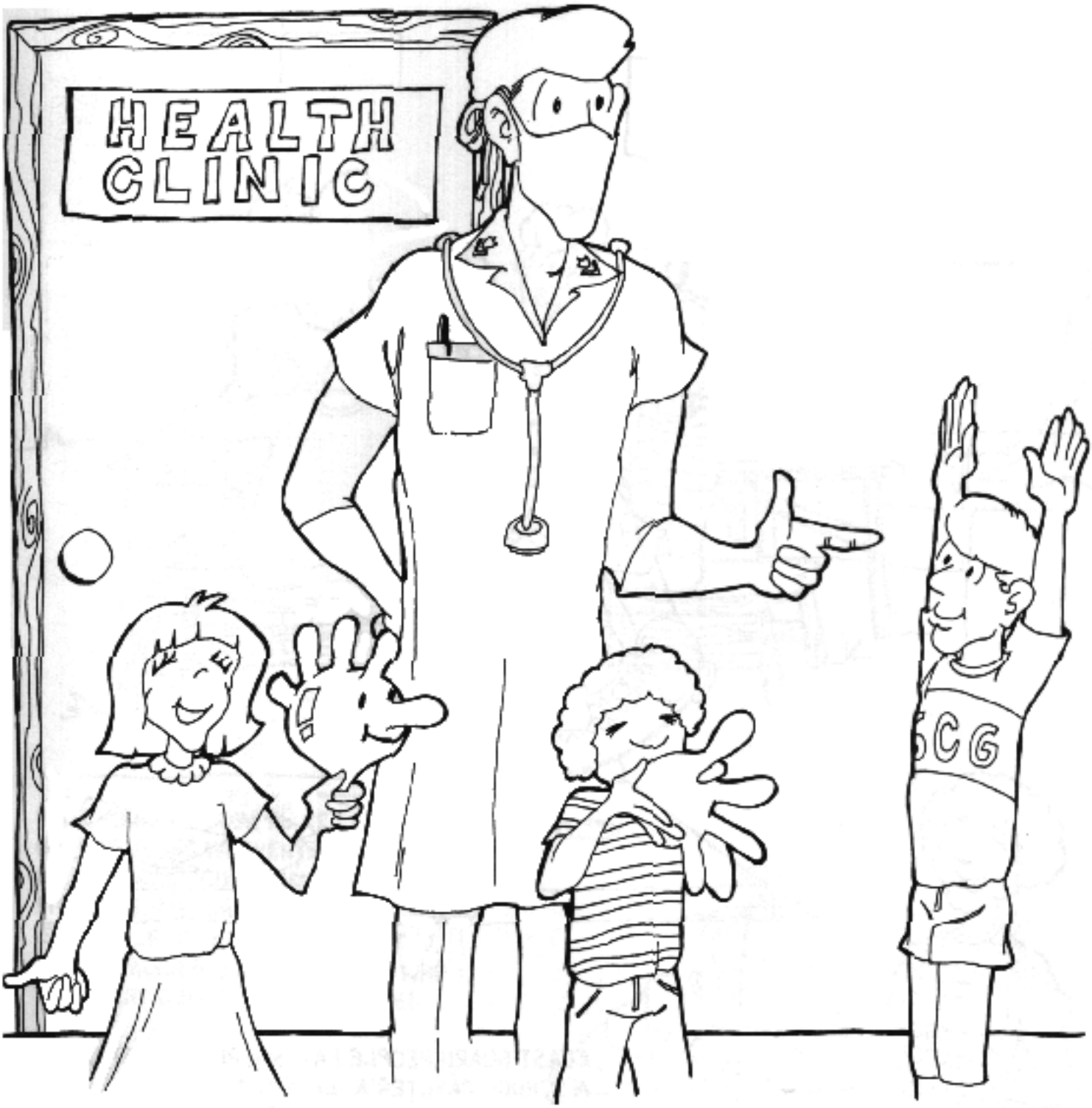
WHEN THINGS BREAK, COAST GUARD PEOPLE FIX THEM. JERREMY'S DAD USED A TOOL WITH A BIG NAME TO FIND OUT WHY A COMPUTER FORGOT HOW TO ADD. EVEN COMPUTERS HAVE TROUBLE WITH MATH SOMETIMES.





SHIP CREWS HAVE TO OBEY TRAFFIC RULES, JUST LIKE DRIVERS AND BIKE RIDERS. THE VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE HELPS SHIPS AND BOATS SAIL THROUGH THE WATER WITHOUT SMASHING INTO EACH OTHER. WE SAW SHIPS ON A RADAR SCOPE, WHICH IS LIKE A ROUND TV SCREEN.

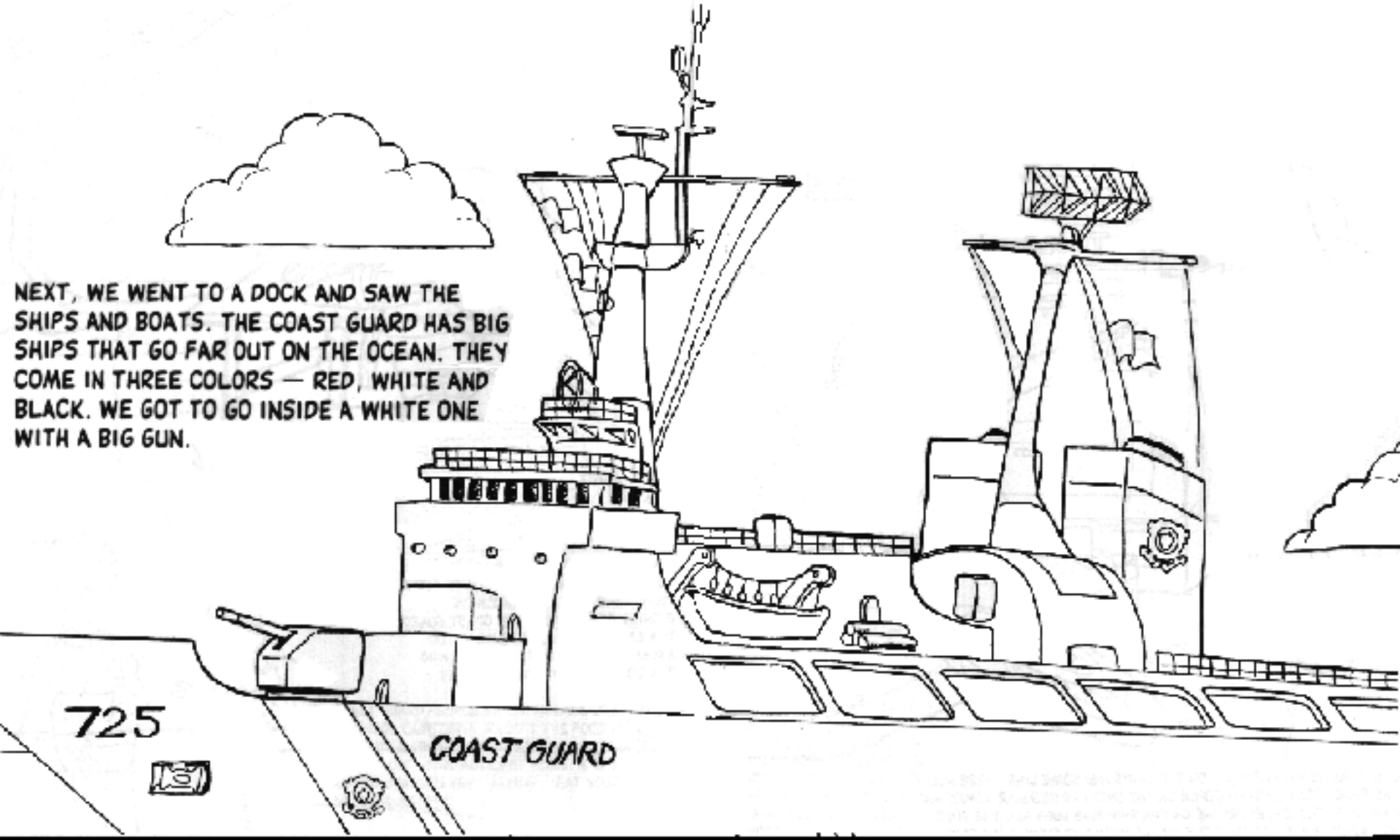
SHERRY'S FATHER HAD HIS OWN DESK AND A FILE CABINET WITH STACKS OF PAPER. HE HELPS KEEP THE COAST GUARD'S RECORDS STRAIGHT AND HELPS ORDER SUPPLIES. THE PEOPLE IN THE OFFICE DON'T RESCUE PEOPLE, BUT THEY HELP OTHER COAST GUARDSMEN DO THEIR JOBS.



DOC WAS FUNNY. HE BLEW UP A RUBBER GLOVE AND DREW A FACE ON IT. HE WAS WEARING A DOCTOR'S MASK AND SAID, "STICK 'EM UP!" JANICE SAID THAT WHEN SHE HAD A SORE THROAT, DOC GAVE HER SOME MEDICINE THAT TASTED TERRIBLE. THE MEDICINE HELPED HER GET WELL, THOUGH.

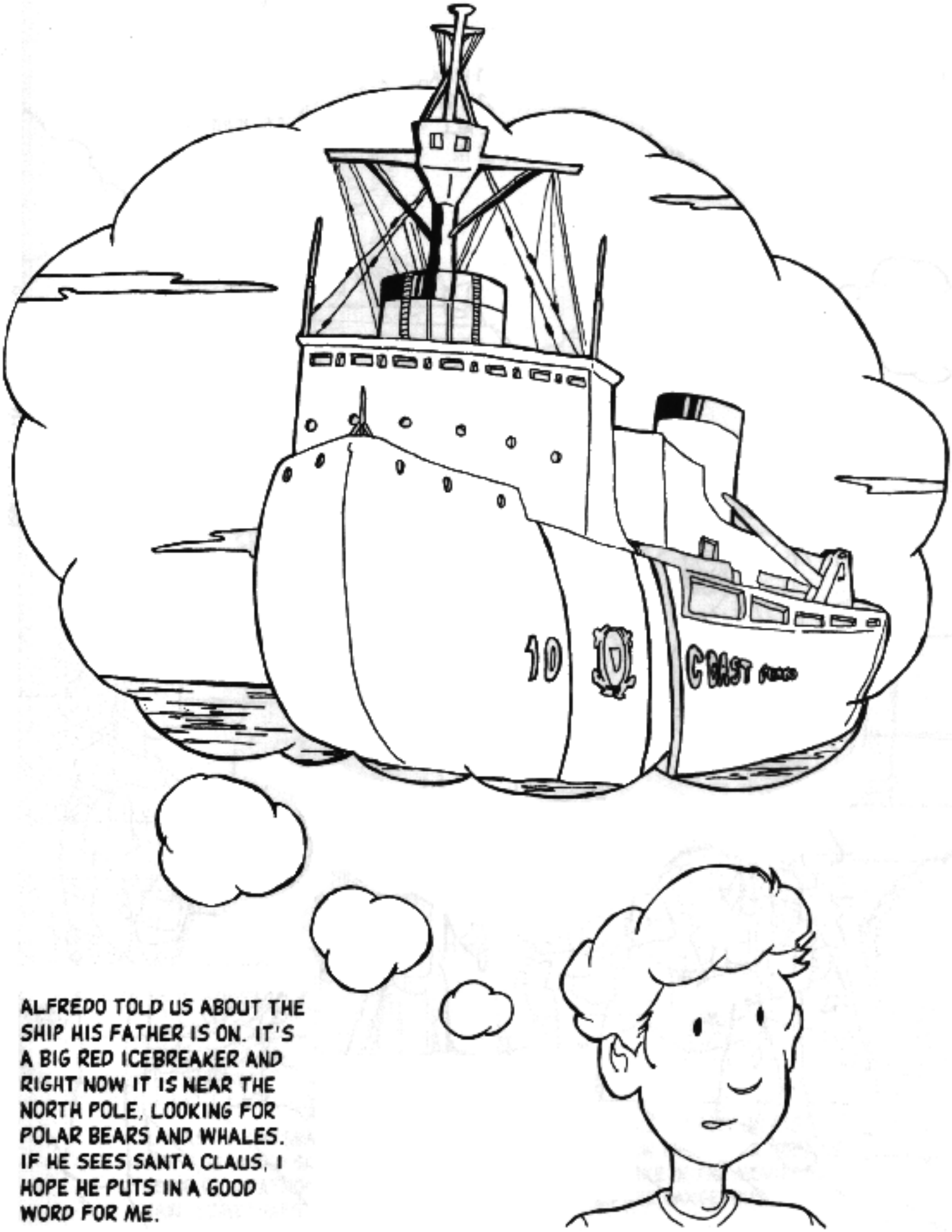
COAST GUARD PEOPLE EAT IN A PLACE JUST LIKE A SCHOOL CAFETERIA, EXCEPT THE FOOD IS MADE BY A COAST GUARD COOK. HE ASKED US IF WE EAT OUR VEGETABLES AT HOME. A BOY NAMED CHARLES KEPT SAYING, "EAT YOUR SPINACH, POPEYE."

WATCHING THE COOK MAKE LUNCH MADE US HUNGRY, SO WE WENT OUTSIDE FOR A PICNIC. DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE PICNICS SOMETIMES? THE COAST GUARD IS A LITTLE BIT LIKE A FAMILY, TOO, EXCEPT MUCH BIGGER. I WONDER WHO THE COAST GUARD'S PARENTS ARE!



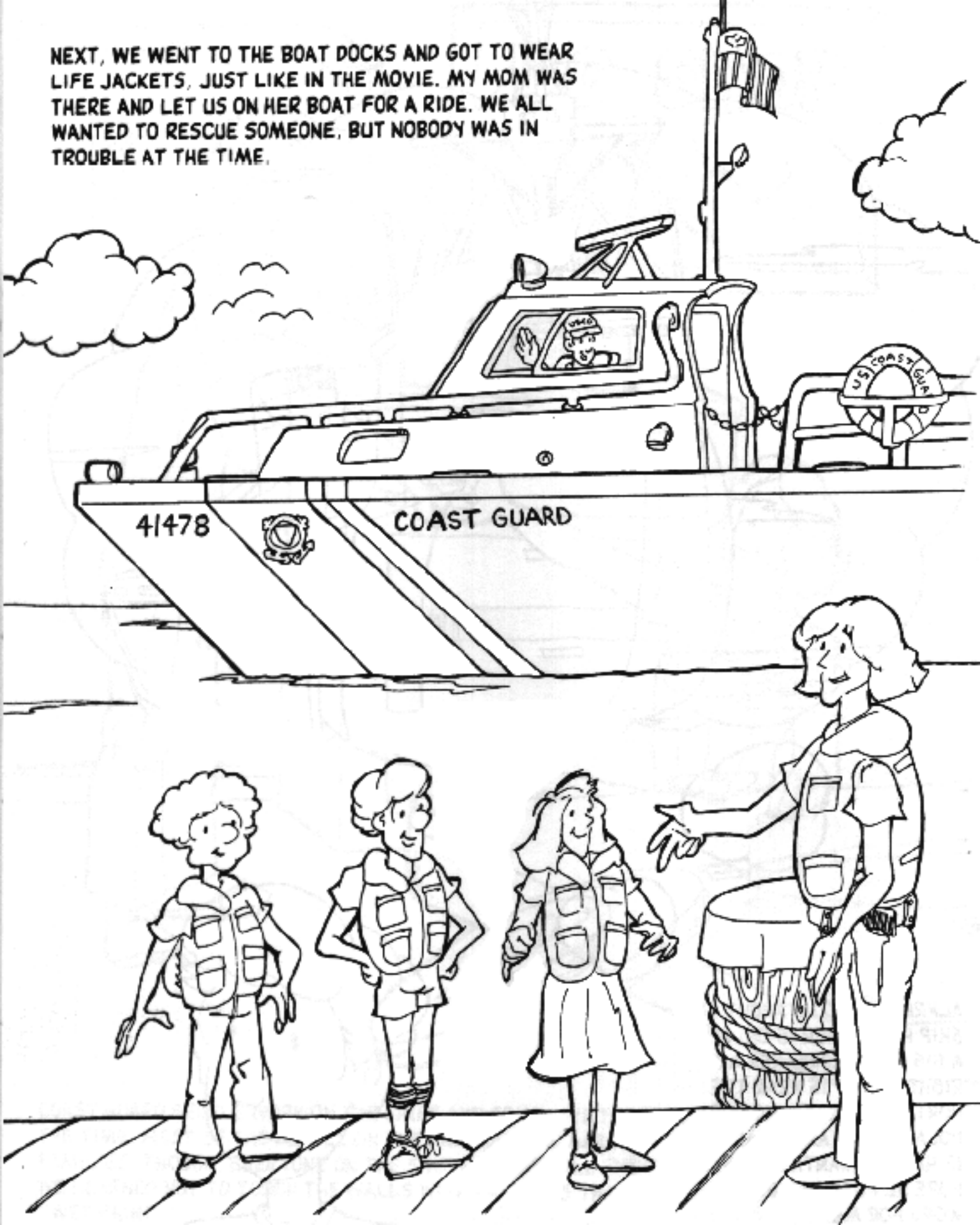
NEXT, WE WENT TO A DOCK AND SAW THE SHIPS AND BOATS. THE COAST GUARD HAS BIG SHIPS THAT GO FAR OUT ON THE OCEAN. THEY COME IN THREE COLORS — RED, WHITE AND BLACK. WE GOT TO GO INSIDE A WHITE ONE WITH A BIG GUN.

COAST GUARD PEOPLE WORK ON THE SHIPS AND SOME LIVE THERE ALL THE TIME. MOST OF THE PEOPLE ON THE SHIP HAD REGULAR HOMES AND FAMILIES, THOUGH. EVERYONE ON THE SHIP WAS BUSY ALL THE TIME. WE LEARNED NOT TO TOUCH THE WALLS WITH THE SIGNS THAT SAID "WET PAINT."



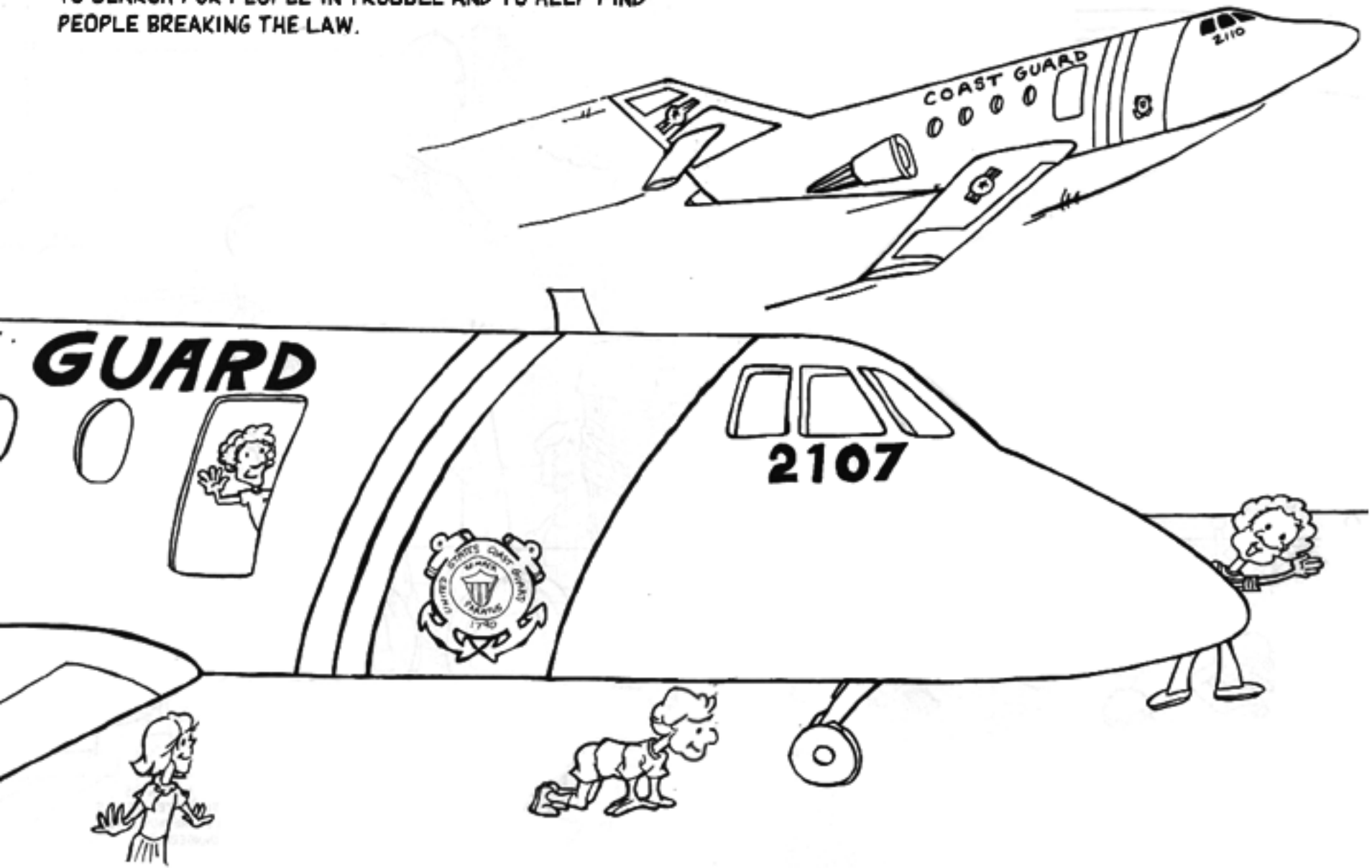
ALFREDO TOLD US ABOUT THE SHIP HIS FATHER IS ON. IT'S A BIG RED ICEBREAKER AND RIGHT NOW IT IS NEAR THE NORTH POLE, LOOKING FOR POLAR BEARS AND WHALES. IF HE SEES SANTA CLAUS, I HOPE HE PUTS IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME.

NEXT, WE WENT TO THE BOAT DOCKS AND GOT TO WEAR LIFE JACKETS, JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIE. MY MOM WAS THERE AND LET US ON HER BOAT FOR A RIDE. WE ALL WANTED TO RESCUE SOMEONE, BUT NOBODY WAS IN TROUBLE AT THE TIME.

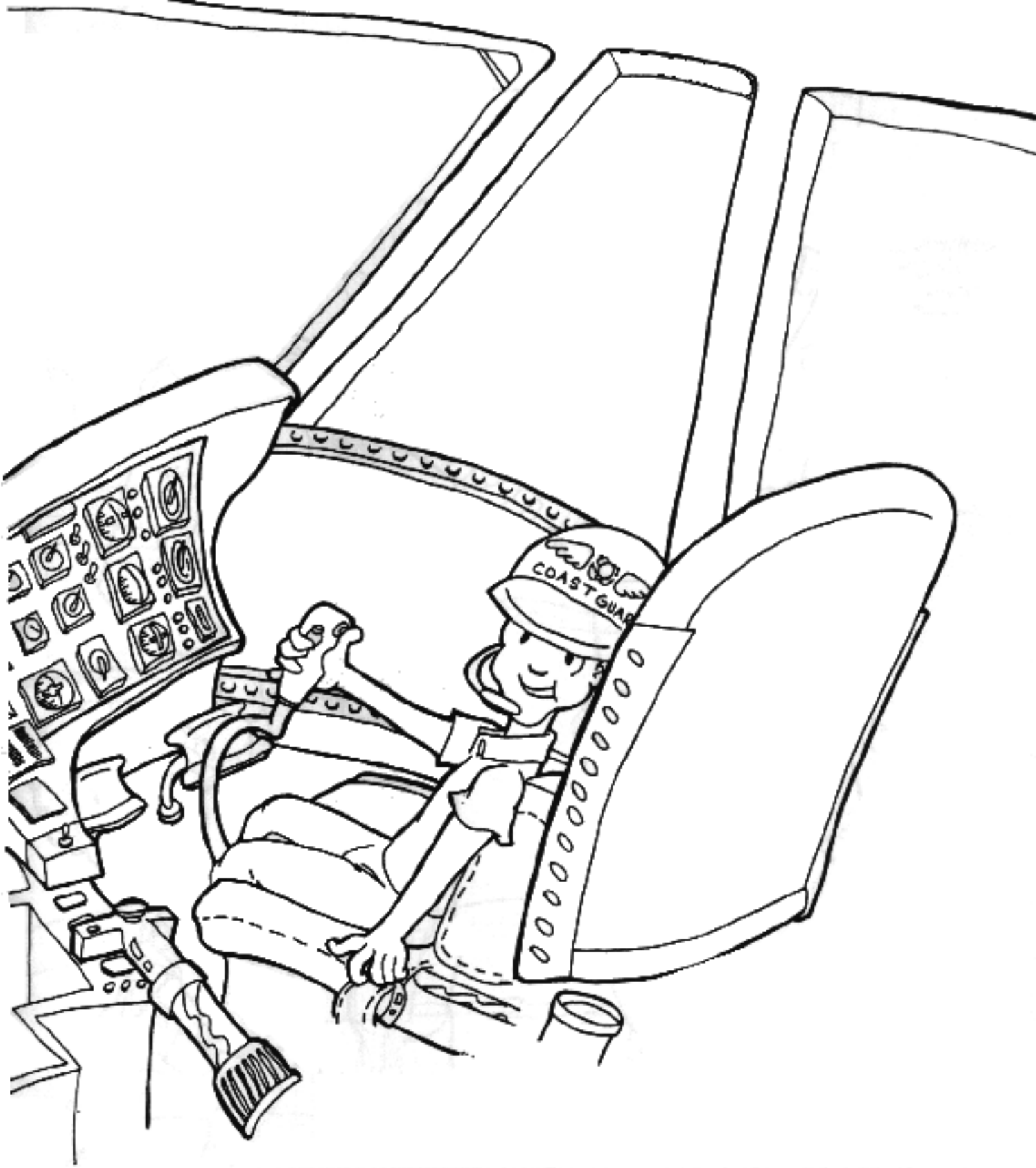


A COAST GUARDSMAN ON ONE BOAT HAD A GUN. HE PUT HIS HELMET ON HIS SON'S HEAD AND SAID HIS JOB WAS LIKE A POLICEMAN ON THE WATER. HE WAS GOING ON A PATROL TO STOP DRUG SMUGGLERS, JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIE WE

AFTER OUR BOAT RIDE, WE WENT INSIDE A REAL JET AIRPLANE. WE IMAGINED HOW IT WOULD BE ZOOMING THROUGH THE CLOUDS. THE COAST GUARD USES JET PLANES TO SEARCH FOR PEOPLE IN TROUBLE AND TO HELP FIND PEOPLE BREAKING THE LAW.

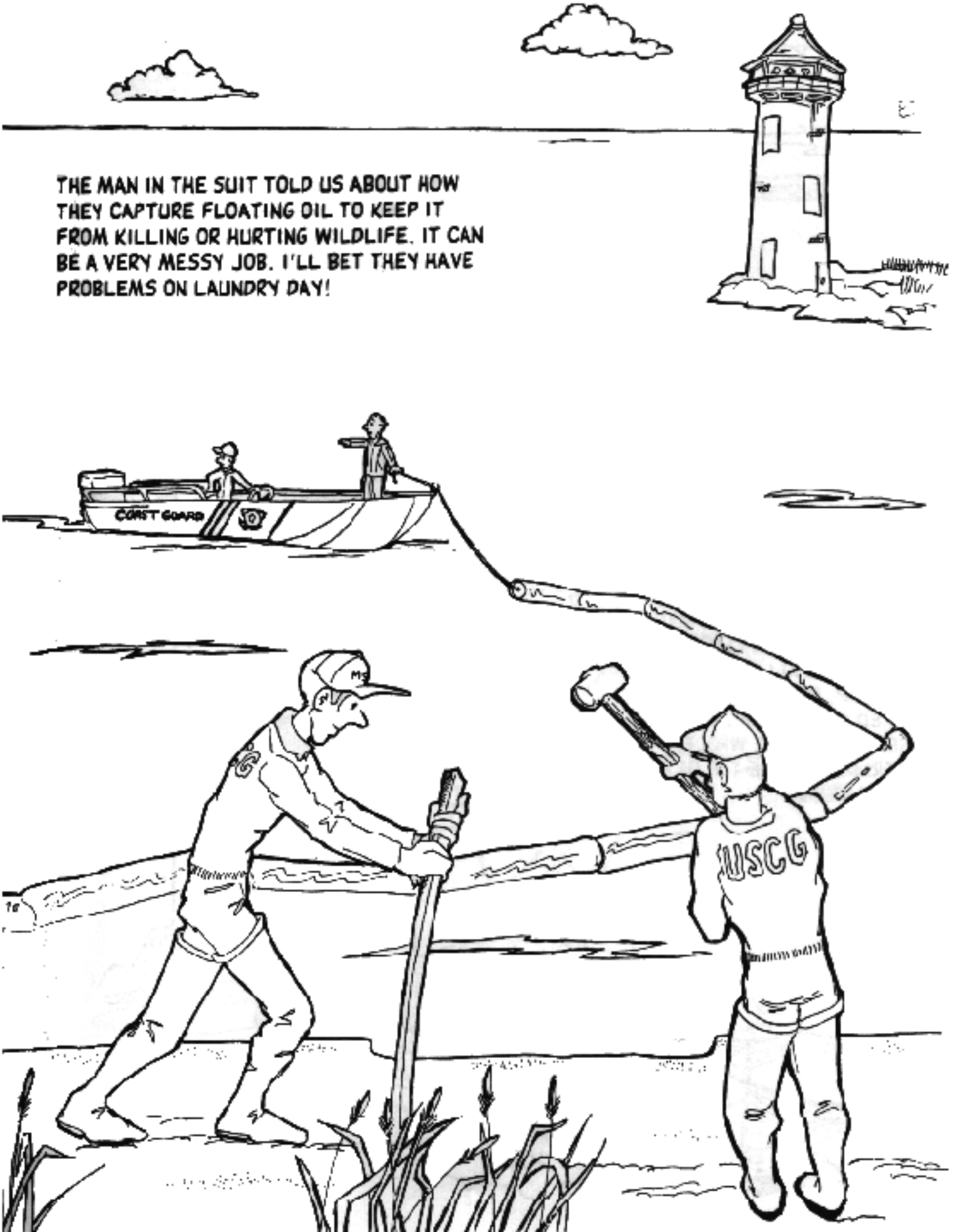


NEXT, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SEE A HELICOPTER, BUT SOME PEOPLE RAN OUT TO IT AND FLEW AWAY. OUR GUIDE TOLD US THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE IN REAL TROUBLE AND NEEDED THE COAST GUARD TO HELP THEM. THE COAST GUARD'S BIGGEST JOB IS RESCUING PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.



THE RESCUE HELICOPTER BROUGHT BACK TWO VERY WET PEOPLE WHO GOT INTO AN AMBULANCE. WE WENT INSIDE THE HELICOPTER AND PRETENDED TO BE PILOTS. THERE WERE LOTS OF DIALS AND GAUGES INSIDE, BUT NO STEERING WHEEL, BECAUSE YOU STEER A HELICOPTER WITH A STICK!

WE SAW A MAN IN A SPACE SUIT WHO LOOKED LIKE HE WAS READY FOR HALLOWEEN. HE WAS DRESSED LIKE THAT TO PROTECT HIS BODY FROM DANGEROUS CHEMICALS. THE COAST GUARD HELPS CLEAN UP OIL AND CHEMICALS WHEN THEY ARE SPILLED ON LAND OR IN THE WATER.


THE MAN IN THE SUIT TOLD US ABOUT HOW THEY CAPTURE FLOATING OIL TO KEEP IT FROM KILLING OR HURTING WILDLIFE. IT CAN BE A VERY MESSY JOB. I'LL BET THEY HAVE PROBLEMS ON LAUNDRY DAY!
COAST GUARD
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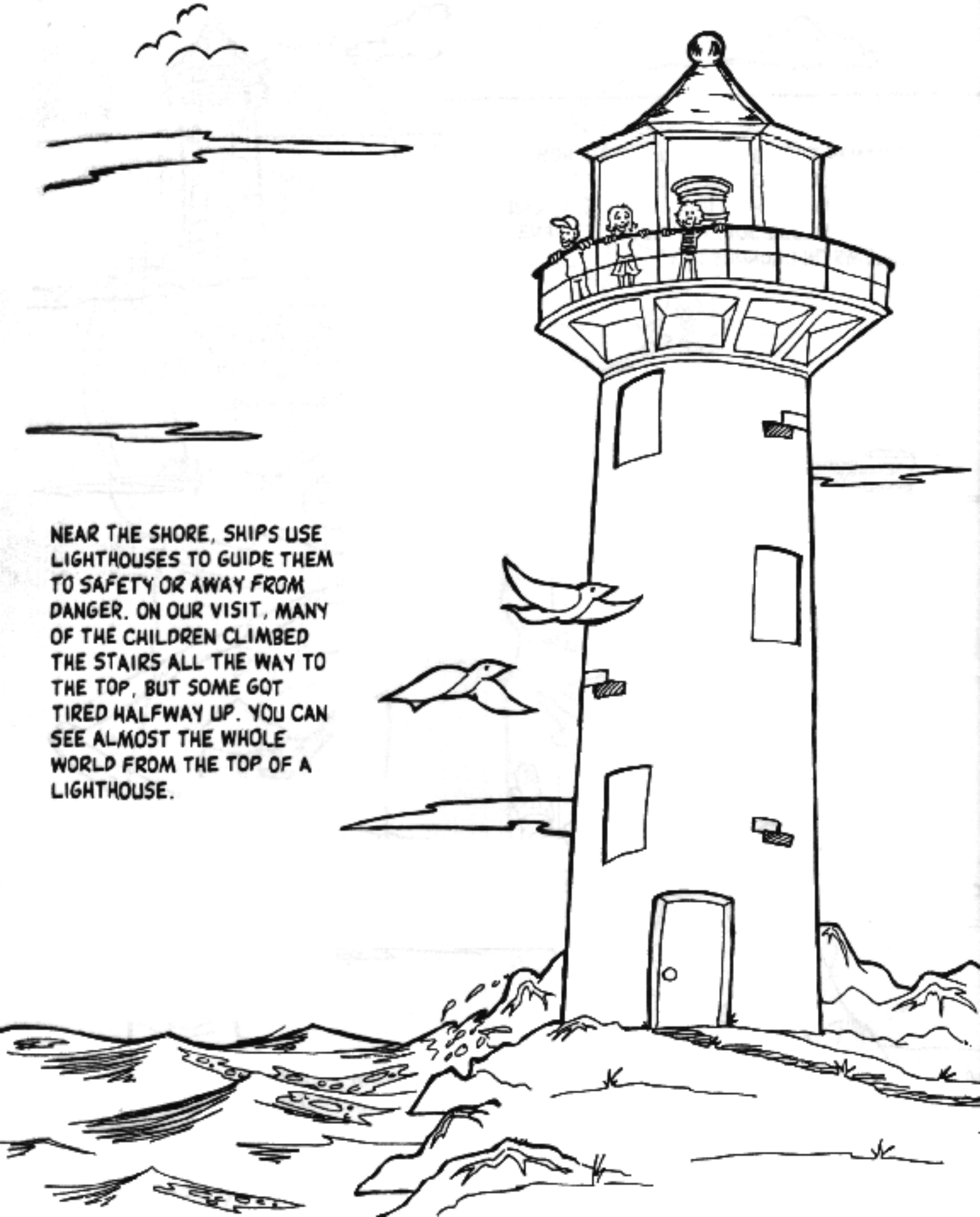
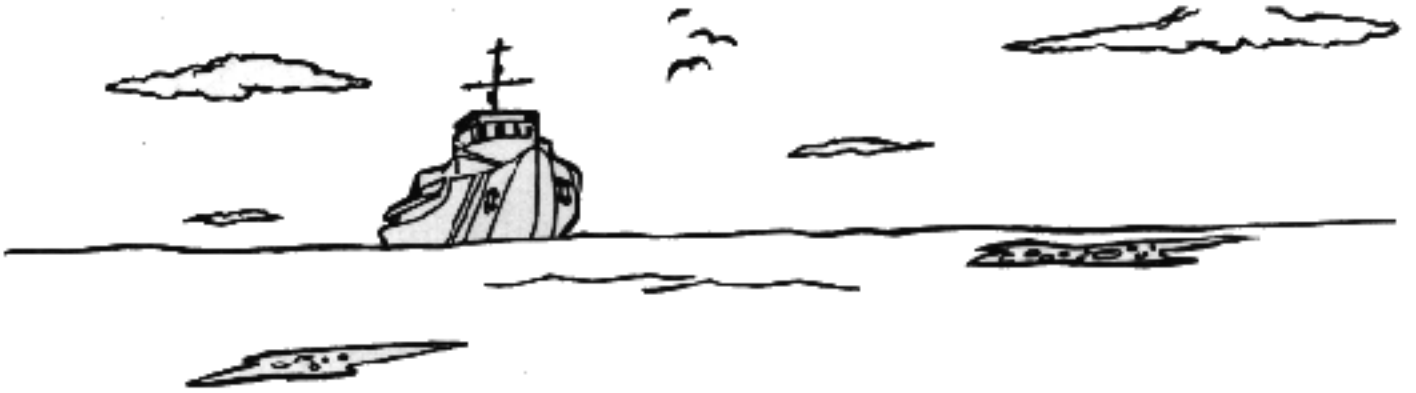
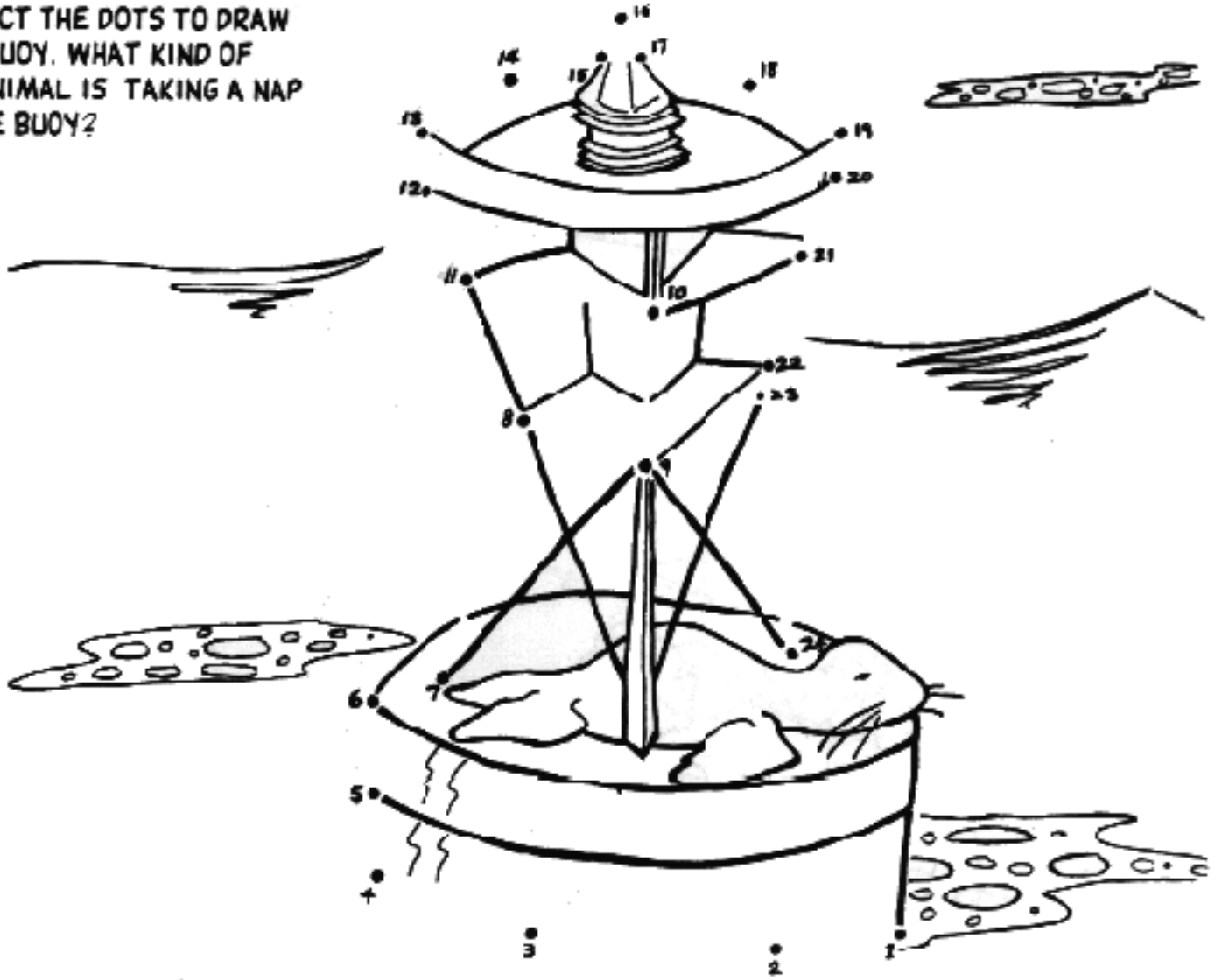


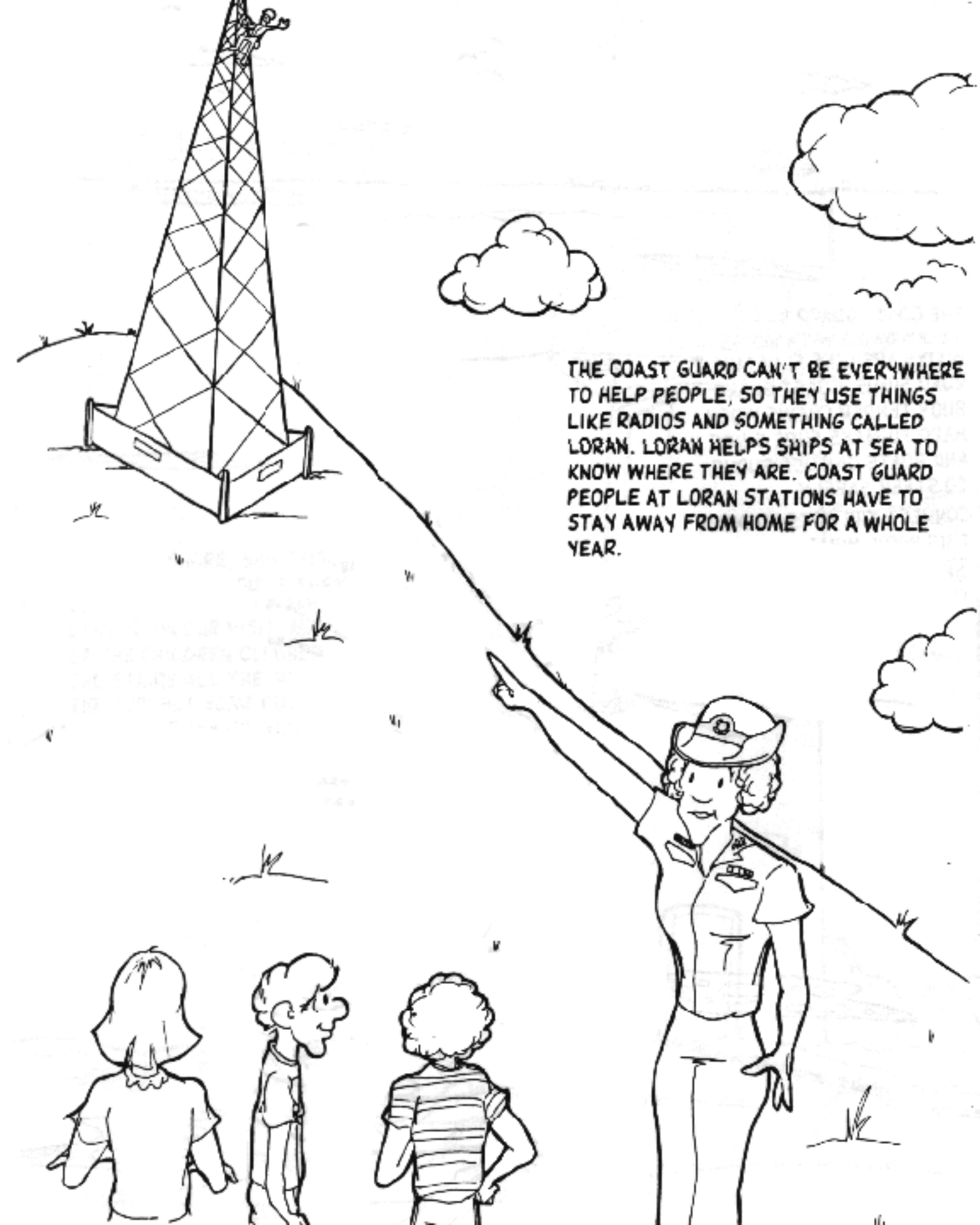
NEAR THE SHORE, SHIPS USE LIGHTHOUSES TO GUIDE THEM TO SAFETY OR AWAY FROM DANGER. ON OUR VISIT, MANY OF THE CHILDREN CLIMBED THE STAIRS ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP, BUT SOME GOT TIRED HALFWAY UP. YOU CAN SEE ALMOST THE WHOLE WORLD FROM THE TOP OF A LIGHTHOUSE.

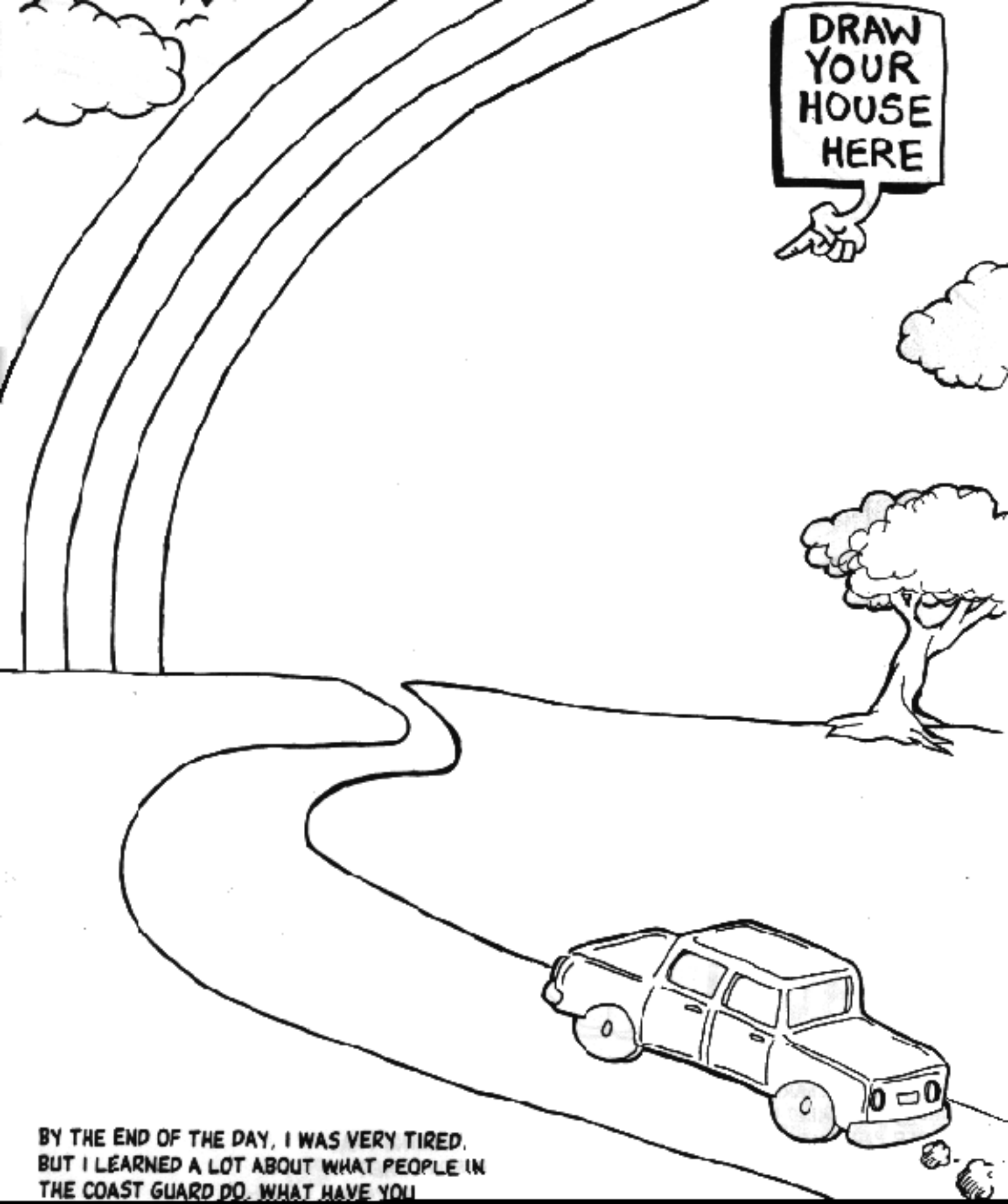


THE COAST GUARD ALSO HELPS SHIPS WITH BUOYS. BUOYS ARE LIKE FLOATING ROAD SIGNS. COAST GUARD BUOY TENDER CREWS WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE SHIPS AND BOATS CAN USE BUOYS TO STEER SAFELY.

CONNECT THE DOTS TO DRAW THIS BUOY. WHAT KIND OF SEA ANIMAL IS TAKING A NAP ON THE BUOY?




THE COAST GUARD CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE TO HELP PEOPLE, SO THEY USE THINGS LIKE RADIOS AND SOMETHING CALLED LORAN. LORAN HELPS SHIPS AT SEA TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. COAST GUARD PEOPLE AT LORAN STATIONS HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM HOME FOR A WHOLE YEAR.



BY THE END OF THE DAY, I WAS VERY TIRED, BUT I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE IN THE COAST GUARD DO. WHAT HAVE YOU

ONE THING WE LEARNED ABOUT WAS THE COAST GUARD STRIPE, AND SOMETHING BEHIND IT CALLED SEMPER PARATUS. WE NEVER SAW SEMPER PARATUS BECAUSE IT'S NOT A THING. IT'S A FEELING THAT HELPS PEOPLE IN THE COAST GUARD DO GOOD THINGS FOR OTHER PEOPLE. DO YOU HELP PEOPLE? MAYBE YOU FEEL SEMPER PARATUS, TOO!