

An illustration of a woman's profile, facing left. She has dark skin, long black hair, and is wearing a white shirt with a brown vest. A yellow earring is visible. The background is a gradient of blue and green, with a large yellow starburst shape behind her head. The title 'Isa's Dreams' is written in a large, white, stylized font with a red outline, positioned over the starburst. The entire image is framed by a red border with a jagged, torn-paper edge.

Isa's Dreams

Created by Natalie Garcia



The Oregon Cartoon Project (OCP) has its roots in the Oregon Cartoon Institute (OCI), which was co-founded by Anne Elizabeth Richardson in 2007. Anne used the activities of the OCI to explore Oregon film, animation and print cartooning history. The OCI archives speak to the history of Oregon's long involvement in these popular and culturally relevant art forms. In 2025, the Oregon Cartoon Institute became the official publication arm of the OCP.

Today, the OCP aims to draw on OCI history to build a diverse community of artists and connect them with educators, youth and the general public for creative exchange and transformative community. A generous gift from Anne funds the artist-in-residency that made Isa's Dream possible. Natalie Garcia was its inaugural 2024-25 recipient.

First edition, 2025
Oregon Cartoon Institute

Isa's Dreams

Created by Natalie Garcia



CREATED UNDER
THE OREGON CARTOON PROJECT'S
2024/25 ANNE ELIZABETH
RICHARDSON HELLOWSHIP

TO MY SISTERS, MAYRA AND LAURA,
WHO ALWAYS BELIEVED IN MY DREAMS



YOU EXCITED,
MIJA?



I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA
DO GREAT THINGS AT
COLLEGE



STAY STRONG MIJA,
YOU GOT THIS



HEY... OH... YOU AWAKE?



MAYBE... UMM... YOU AWAKE NOW?

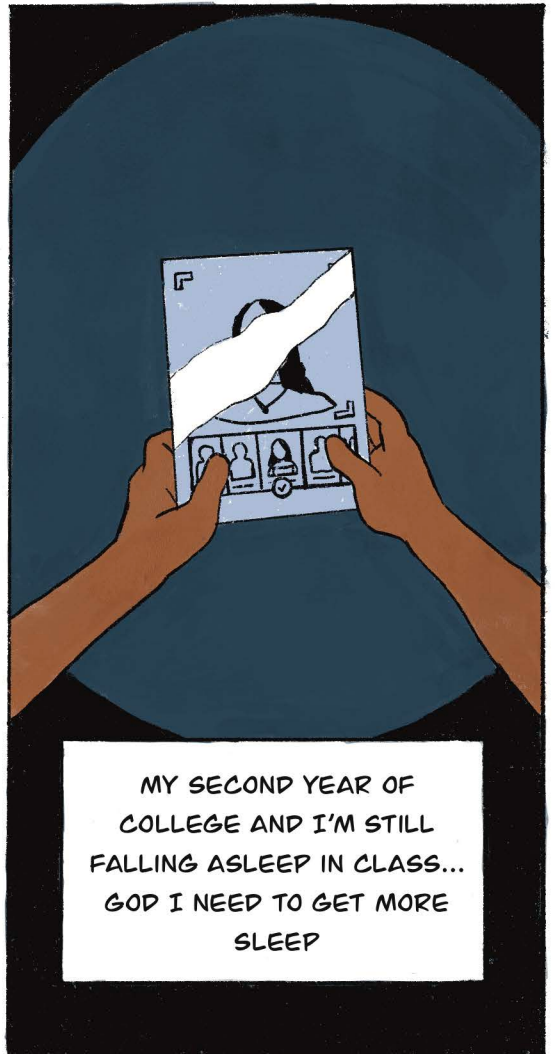


CRAP! I FELL ASLEEP IN CLASS!

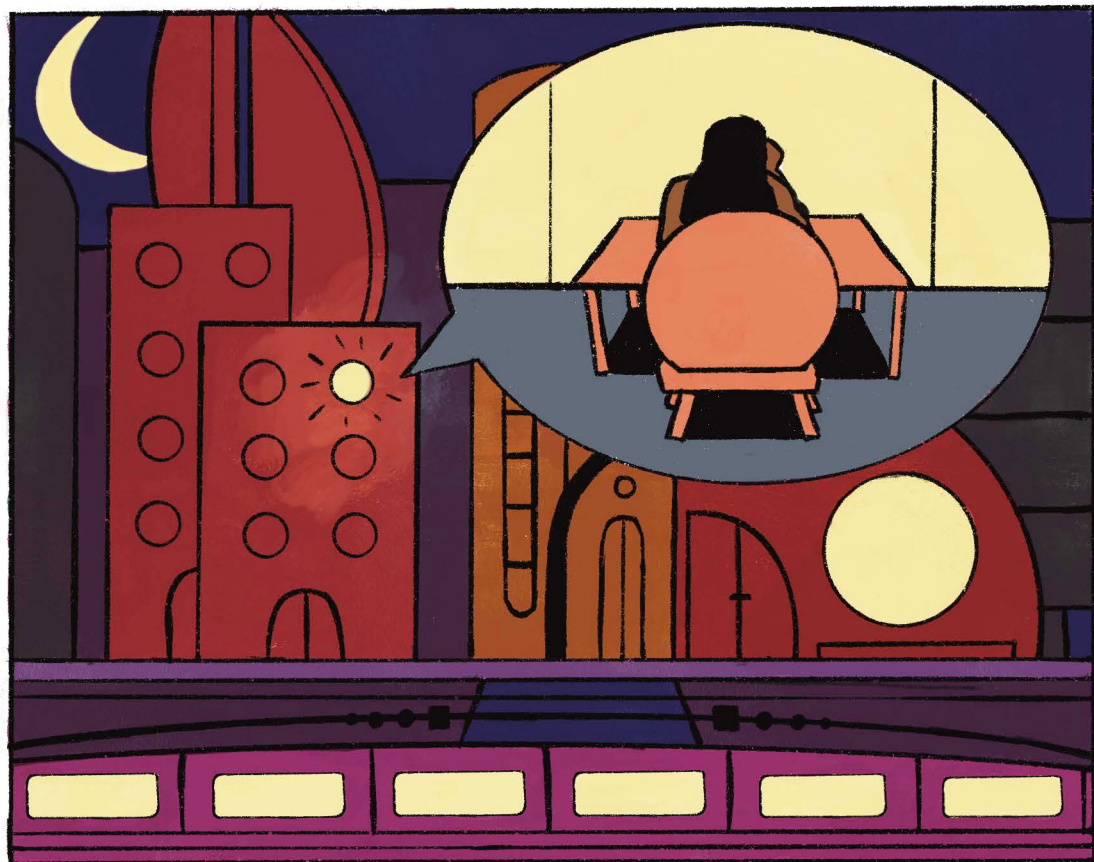
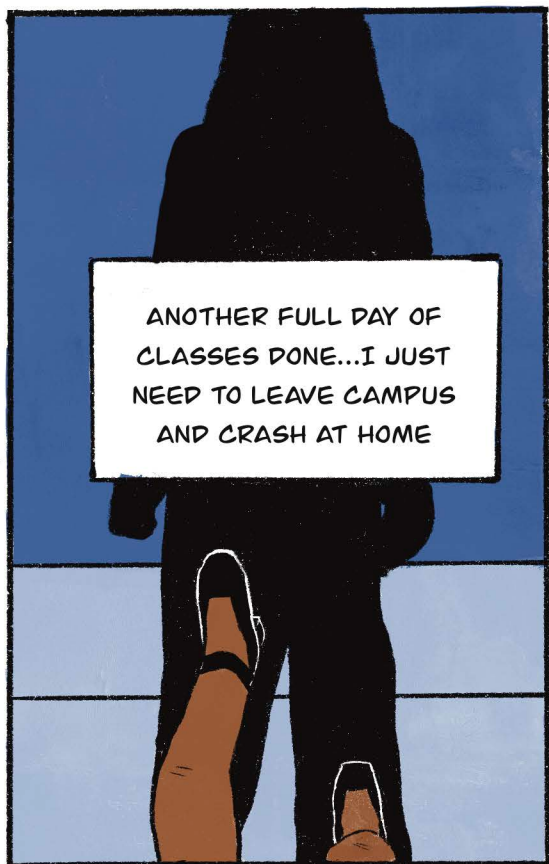


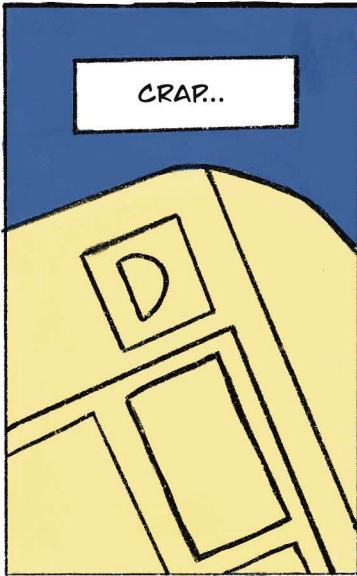
HEY, SORRY TO WAKE YOU! I FIGURED YOU DIDN'T WANT TO MISS THE ATTENDANCE PICTURE

HAHA...ERM.. THANK YOU SO MUCH!



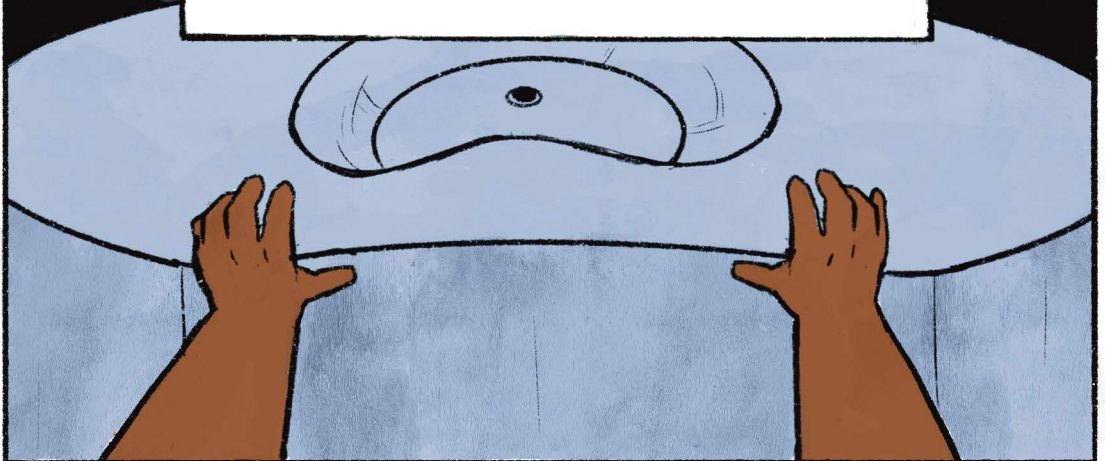
MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE AND I'M STILL FALLING ASLEEP IN CLASS...
GOD I NEED TO GET MORE SLEEP





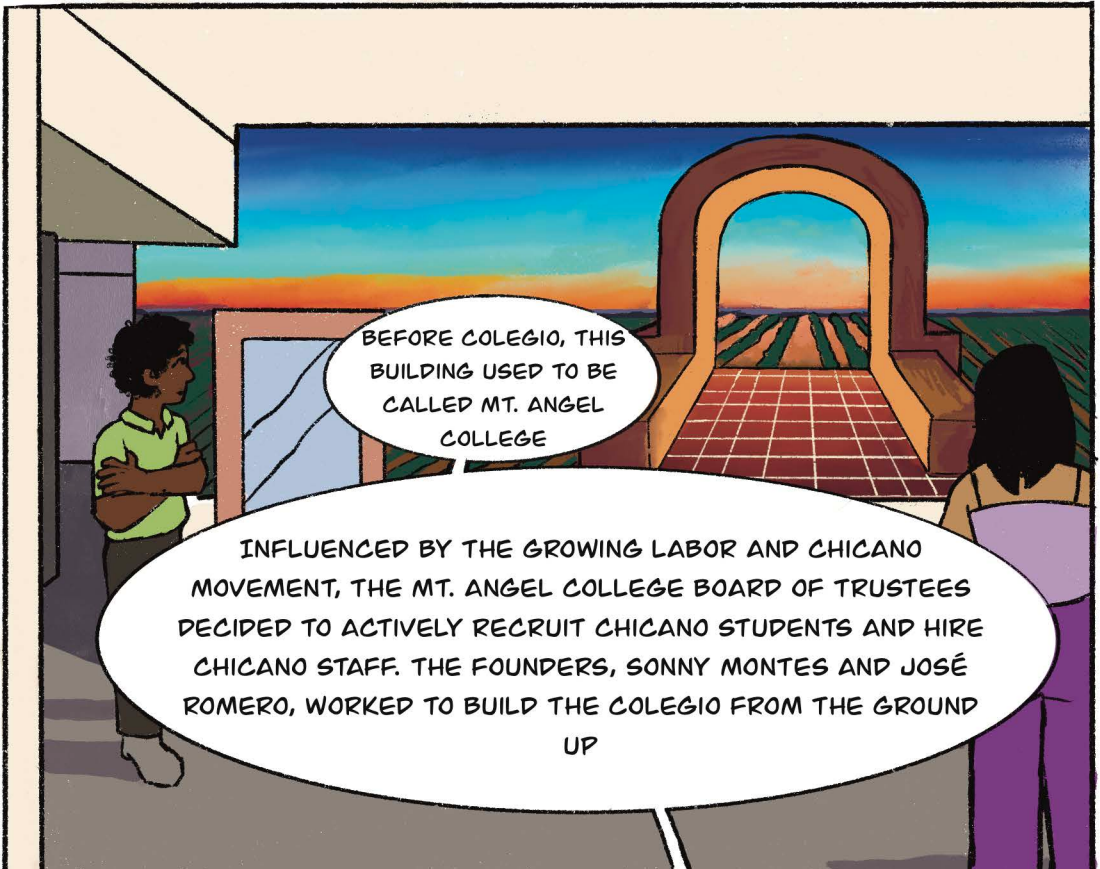


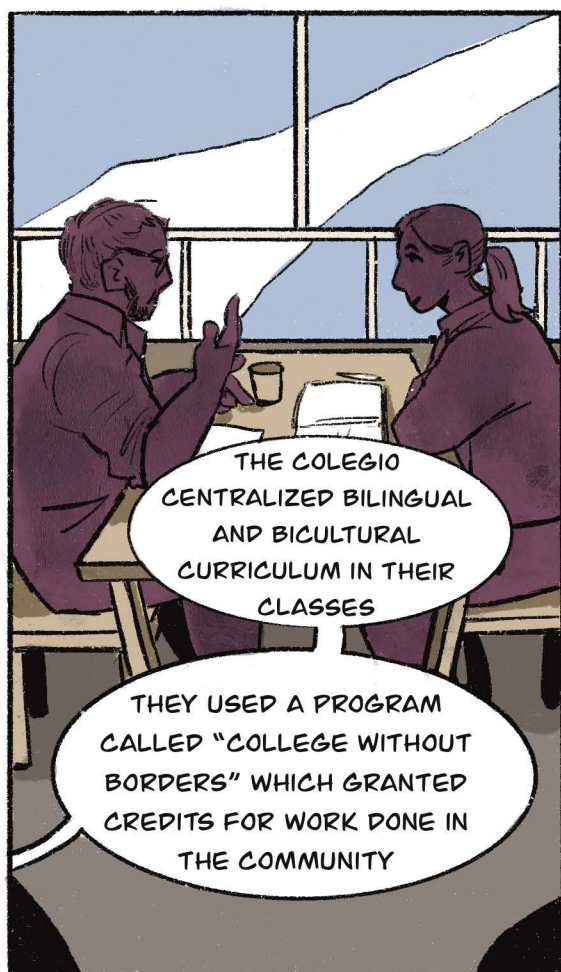
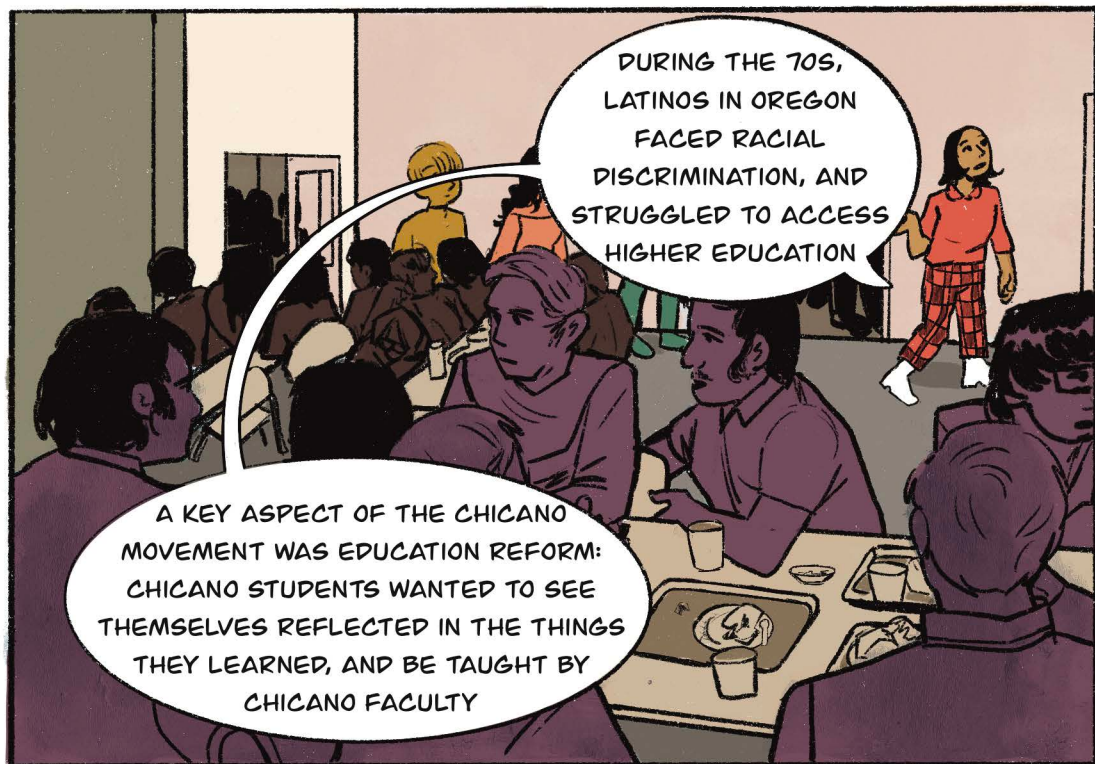
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS

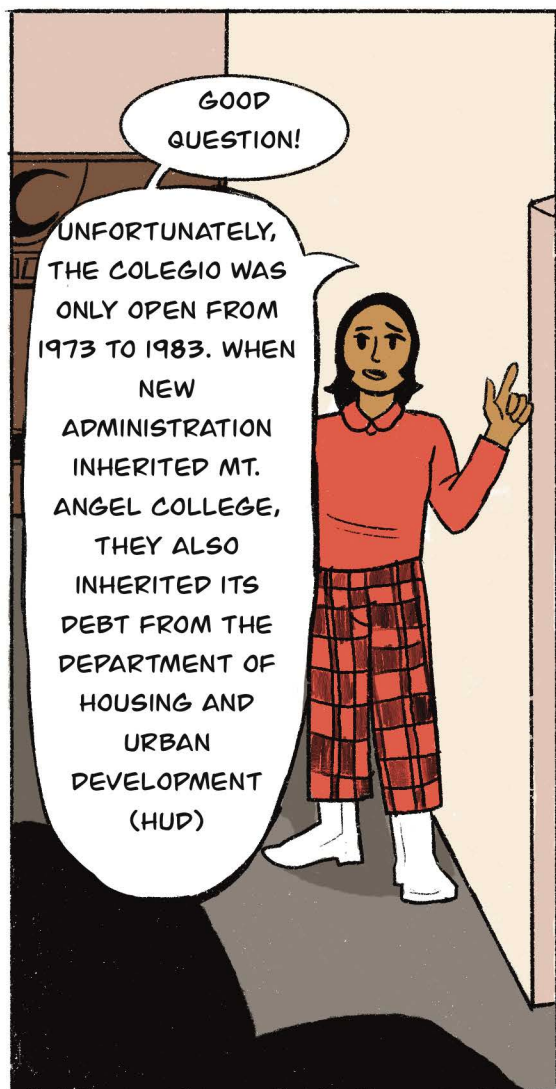






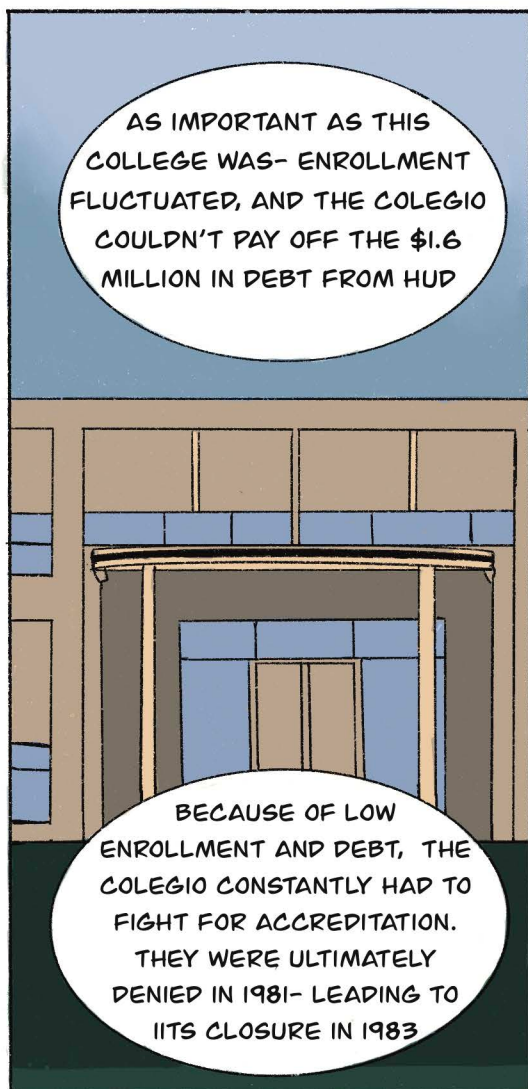






GOOD
QUESTION!

UNFORTUNATELY,
THE COLEGIO WAS
ONLY OPEN FROM
1973 TO 1983. WHEN
NEW
ADMINISTRATION
INHERITED MT.
ANGEL COLLEGE,
THEY ALSO
INHERITED ITS
DEBT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT
(HUD)

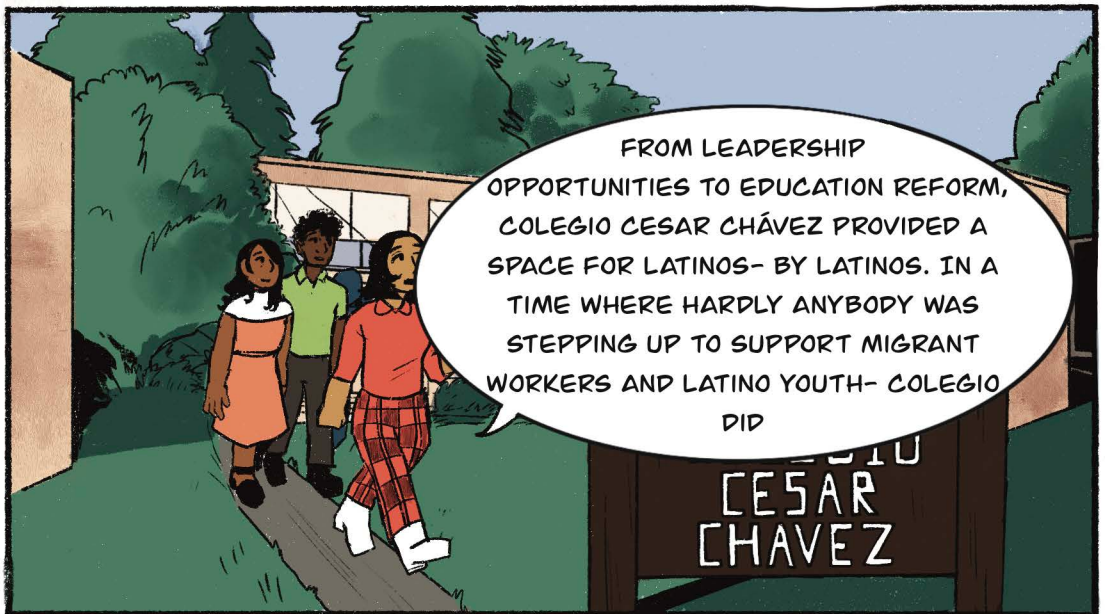
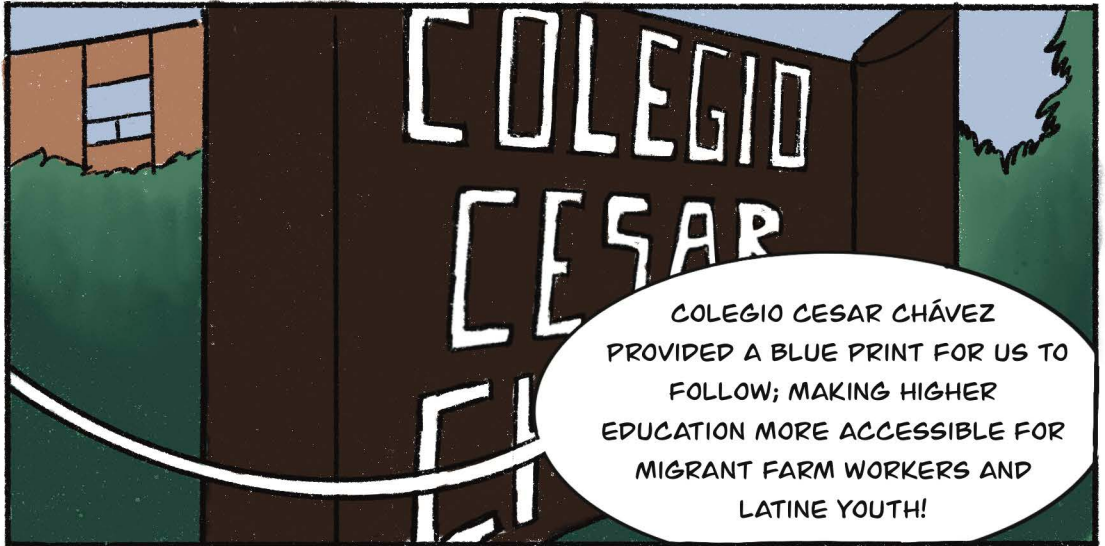


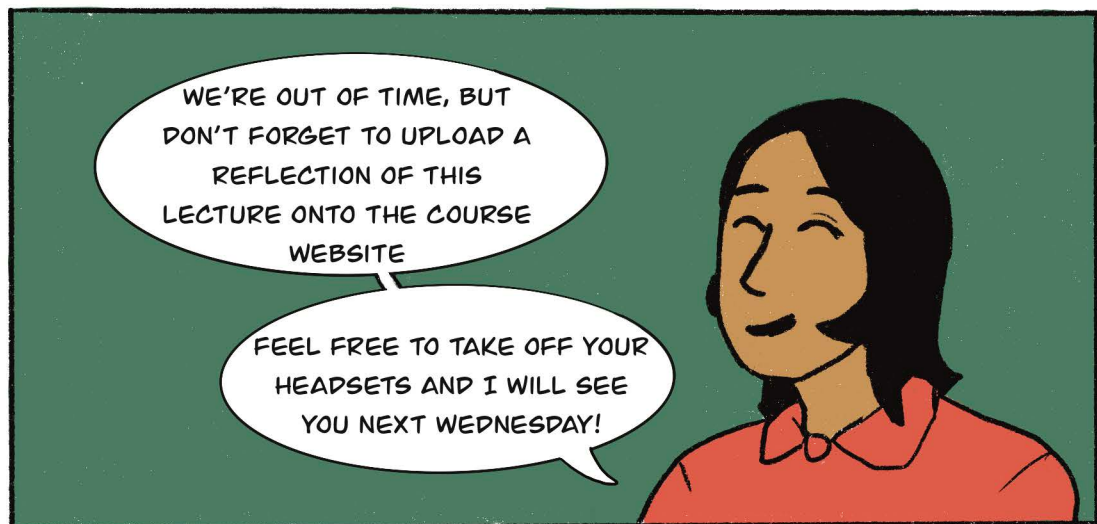
AS IMPORTANT AS THIS
COLLEGE WAS- ENROLLMENT
FLUCTUATED, AND THE COLEGIO
COULDN'T PAY OFF THE \$1.6
MILLION IN DEBT FROM HUD

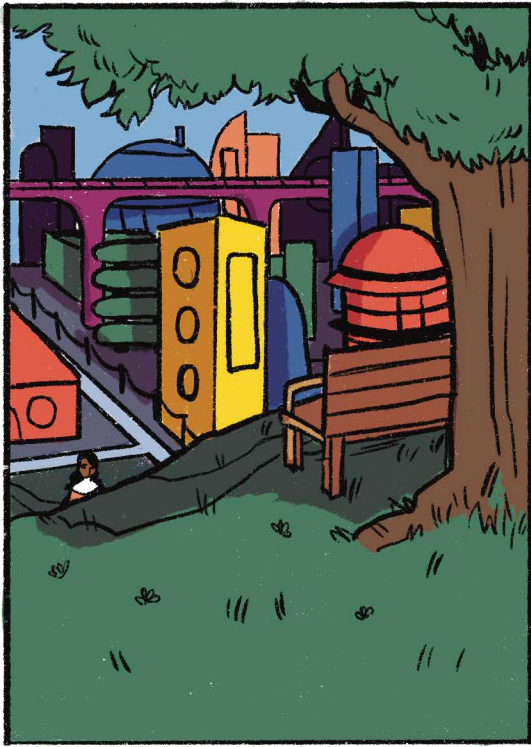
BECAUSE OF LOW
ENROLLMENT AND DEBT, THE
COLEGIO CONSTANTLY HAD TO
FIGHT FOR ACCREDITATION.
THEY WERE ULTIMATELY
DENIED IN 1981- LEADING TO
ITS CLOSURE IN 1983

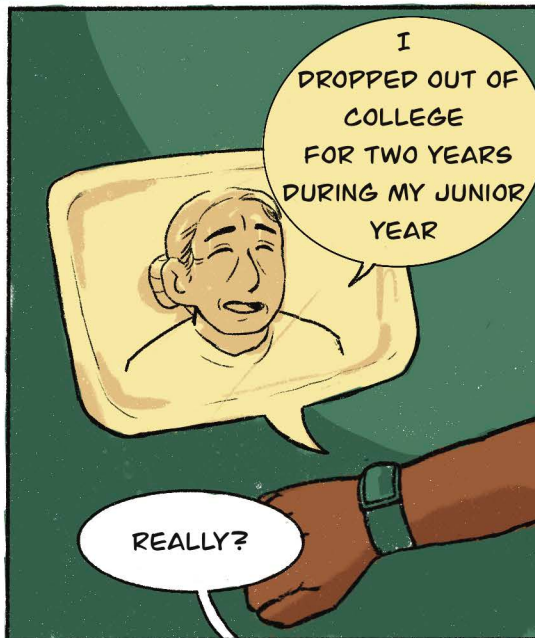
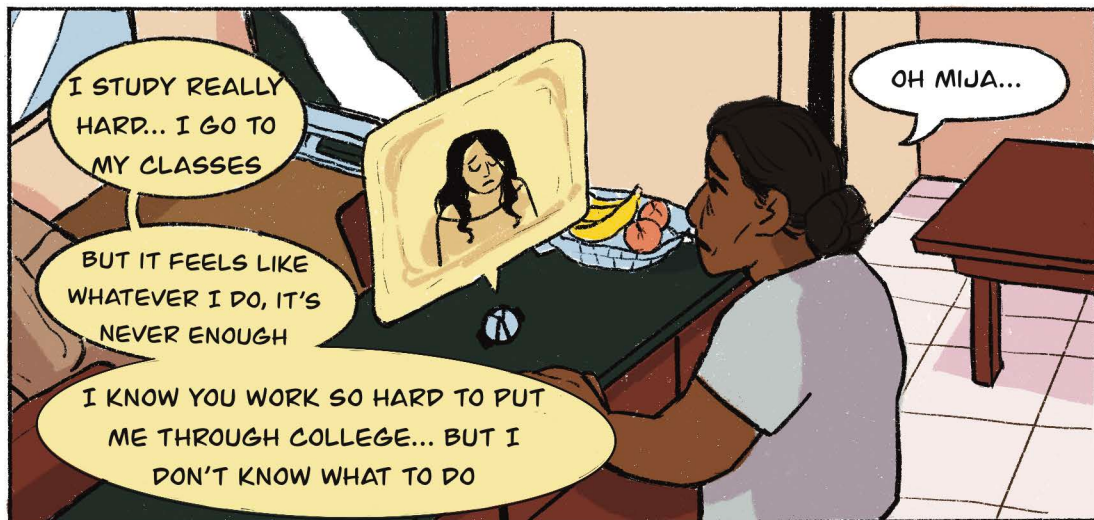


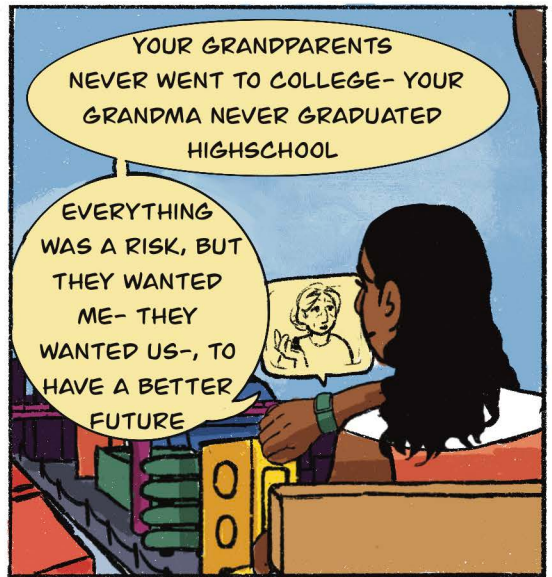
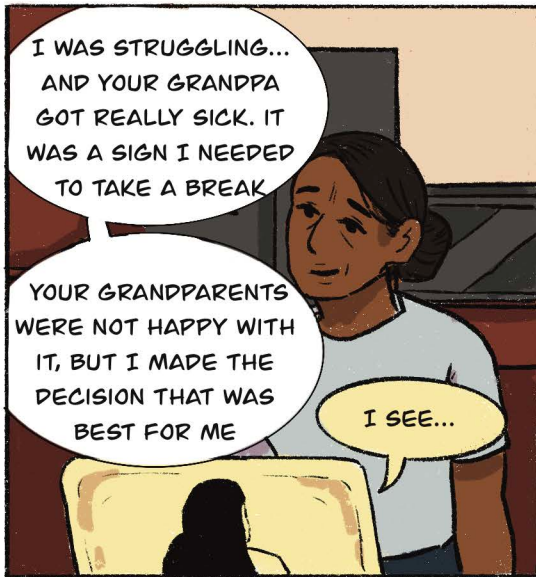
REGARDLESS,
THE IMPACT OF THOSE 10 YEARS SENT WAVES INTO THE
LATINO COMMUNITY IN OREGON.
THE COLEGIO BROUGHT FIGURES LIKE CESAR CHAVEZ
TO CAMPUS; ALLOWING STUDENTS TO LEARN DIRECTLY
FROM CHICANO LABOR LEADERS AND GRASSROOTS
ORGANIZERS











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Parodi, Andrew. "*Cesar chavez en huelga hall de colegio cesar chavez*." Mt. Angel, OR, 2015

"*SUFG: El Floricanto*." Five Oaks Museum, October 2021.

"*The Living Legacy of Colegio César Chávez' Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion*." Oregon Historical Society and Oregon Public Broadcasting, 2025.



Natalie Garcia is a cartoonist and illustrator based in Eugene, Oregon. They earned a B.A. in Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies with a minor in Comic Studies from the University of Oregon. As the 2024–25 Anne Elizabeth Richardson Artist-in-Residence, Garcia created *Isa's Dreams*. Born and raised in rural southern Oregon, they make comics that center belonging, visibility, and joy, while inviting young readers of color to feel seen and uplifted.



Isa's Dreams is about Isa Solorio, a young woman who feels like she's always running to catch up—but never fast enough. One day, she stumbles into a history class about a special college called Colegio Ceşar Chavez, the very first school in the U.S. created and run by Chicano leaders. When Isa starts learning about the powerful dreams and struggles of the students who came before her, something amazing happens: her own dreams begin to change. Soon, Isa has to decide—will she stick to what she knows, or will she venture into the unknown?

