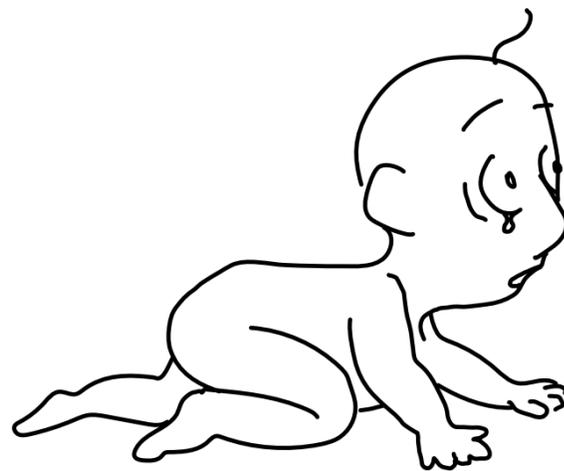


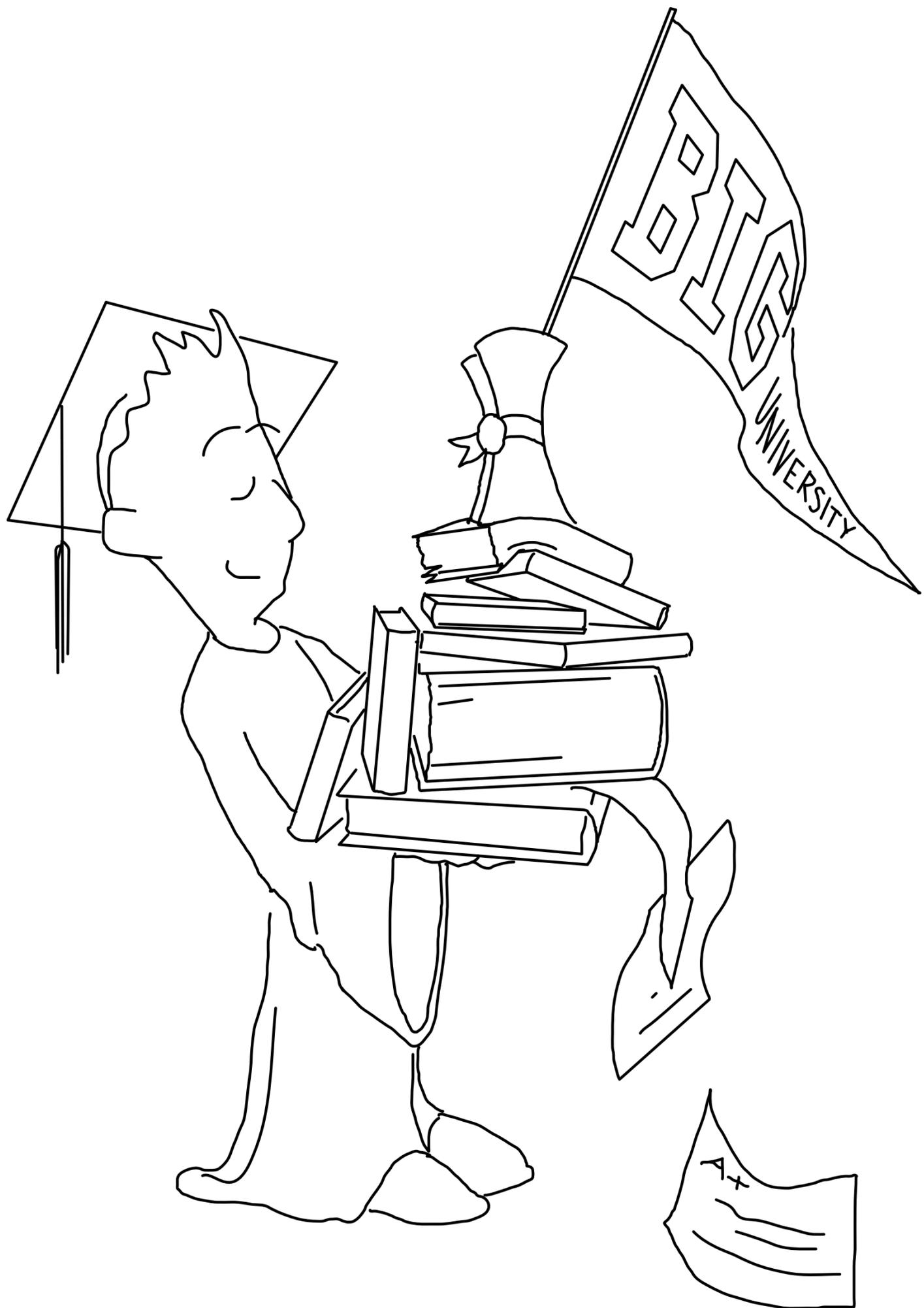
**THE SECRET
TO SUCCESS:
AVOID IT**

by Brackeen Darrell

You joined the world naked,
Unclothed and unhaired.
You started out solo,
Crying and scared.



By trial and error,
You crawled up and past two,
Then learned right through grade school,
High School and Big U!



BIG CO.

Sometimes you won,
Oft you fell down destroyed,
Broken and beaten, and,
Worse, unemployed.



Early on you climbed up
Mt. "I'mSoGreat" Peak,
You got TOO confident,
Loved to hear yourself speak!



From that elevation,
You tumbled down far,
You rolled, bounced, and crumbled,
You damaged your car.



You climbed up again though,
Now humbled, strong willed,
No, nothing could stop you,
Not even a spill.



You learned to keep learning,
As you grew older,
When you lost you showed grace,
You were humbler but bolder.



As the 'wins' piled up,
A new friend joined you, too,
At first you hardly took notice,
But SUCCESS grew and he grew.



He praised average comments,
Your most awkward charm,
He loved all your faults,
Like your worst throwing arm.



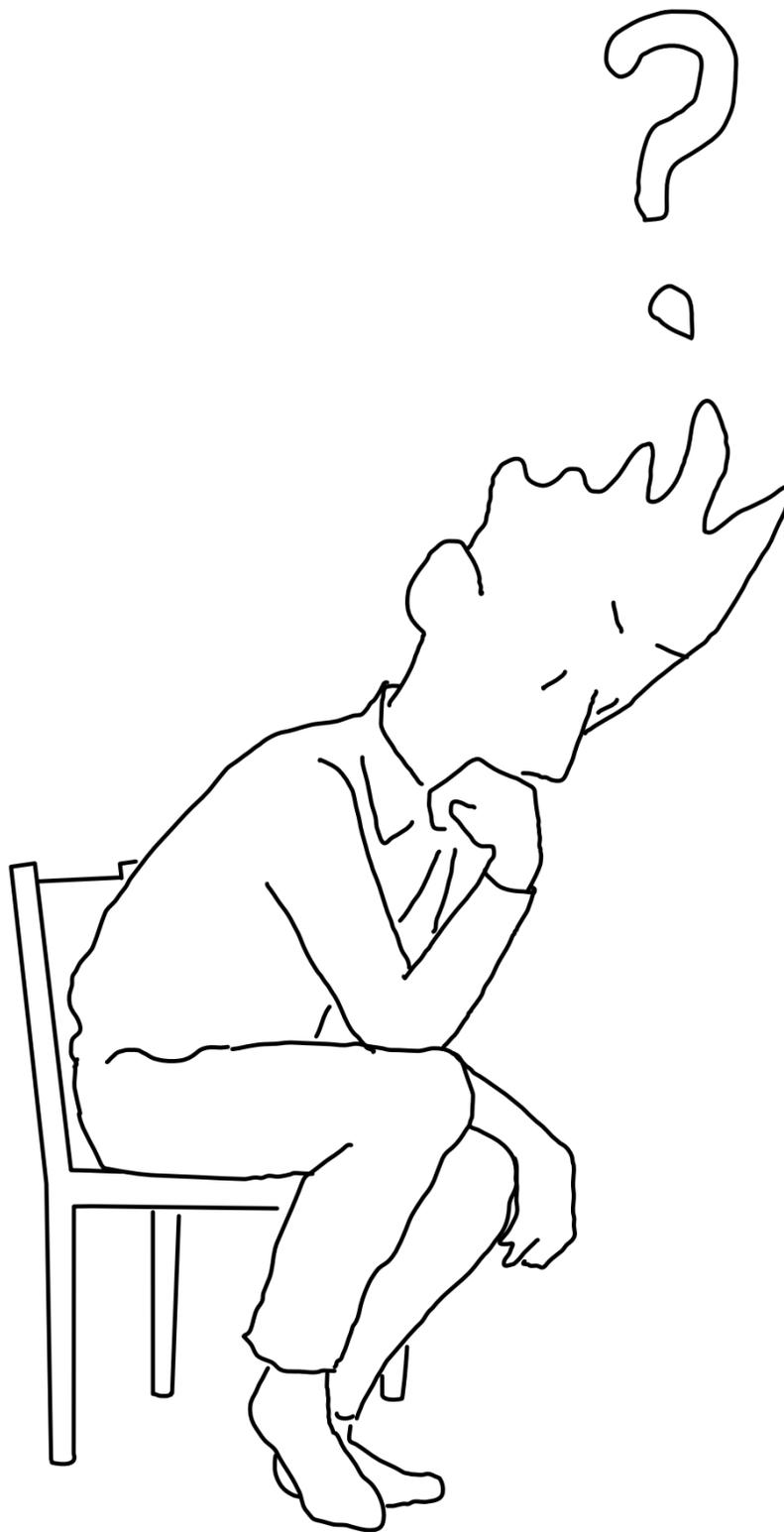
SUCCESS is a problem,
Not a friend, don't you see,
Because you like him TOO much,
But he's ALL about 'me'.



SUCCESS makes you fearful,
Of losing your place,
Of gambling with stature,
Of losing your face.



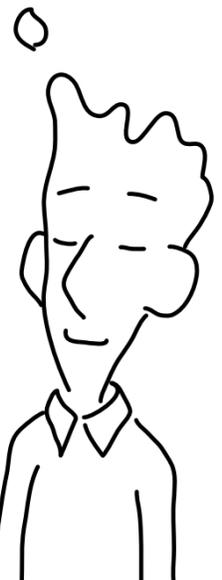
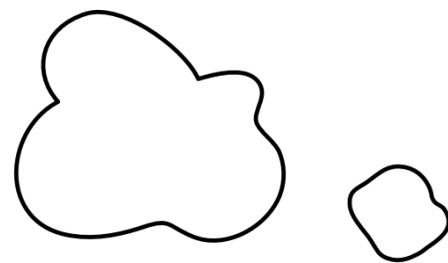
So what now my friend,
You see what SUCCESS brings,
How does one avoid him,
Yet accomplish great things?





You've got someone to nurture,
Still naked, no hair,
That someone is yours,
ONLY yours, so take
care!

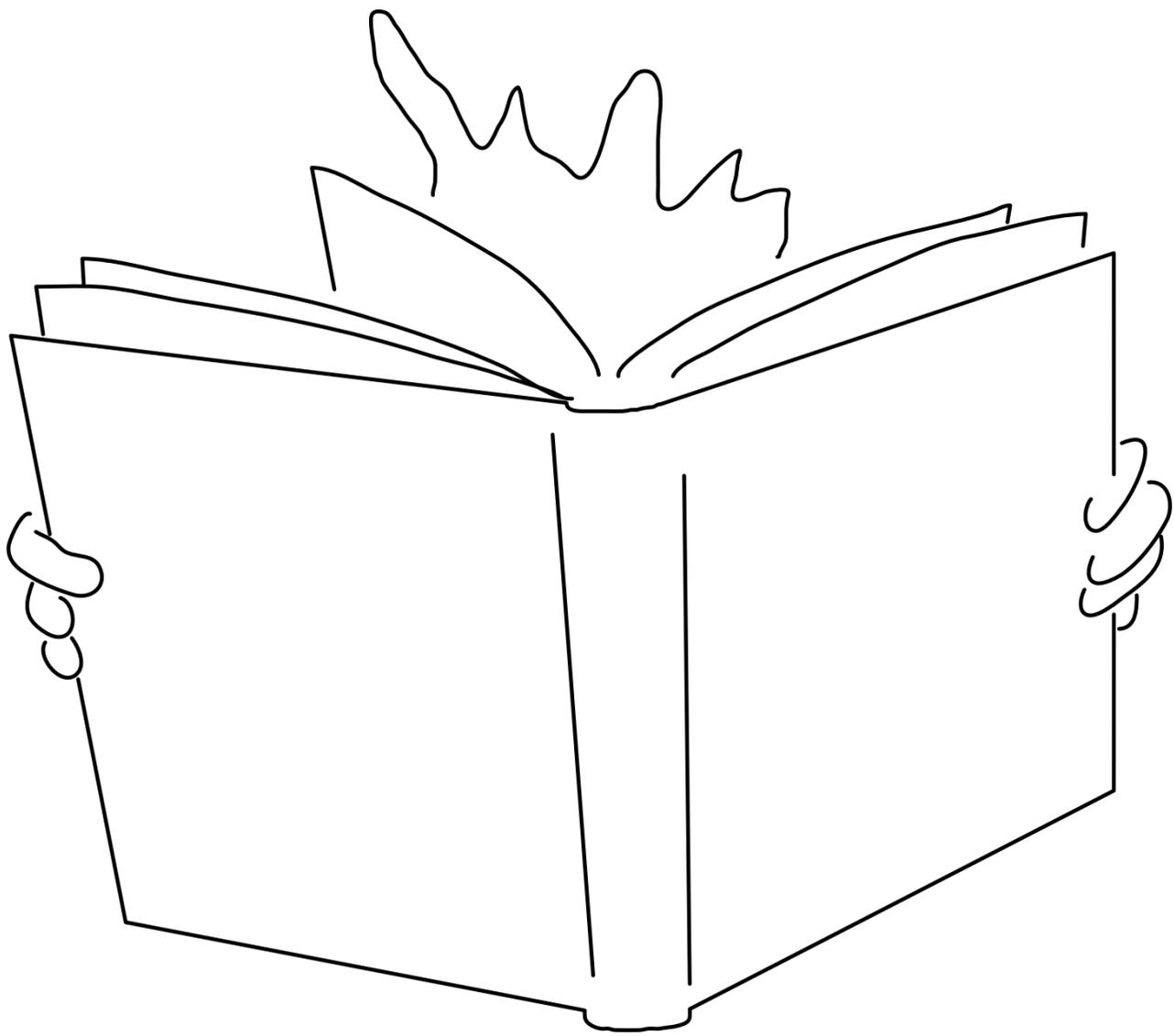
One vulnerable child,
Lives lifelong in us all,
His name is 'Potential',
He stands ten feet tall.



SUCCESS is wicked,
He's not what he seems,
He lunches on goals,
For dinner eats dreams.



And I hope if you live
To 120 plus 4,
You read this each year,
Feel it down in your core.





Remember Success
Is the wolf in your tale,
Live hungry in life,
Always learn and please fail.