

EXHIBIT "B"

COMMODORE PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS

July 9th 1989, July 10th 1989

GETTING ABOUT IN SPACE ACE:

The general structure of Space Ace will be divided into a number of scenes. Scenes will fall into one of the two categories of either "Destination" points or "Connection" points. Scenes are arranged like a star with Destination scenes being the points and connection scenes being the lines. To travel from any destination scene to any other the player must travel the intervening connecting scene.

The player may be required to goto a specific destination scene a number of times. This depends upon the objectives and artifacts located in any particular destination scene. The difficulty of the game can easily be controlled by how certain critical items (needed to achieve the end goal) are spread throughout the scenes.

The Player will be able to select any given direction by using a "star chart" or some such diagram of the available destinations.

Its interesting to note that video games whose original premises are based upon movie themes often use this multiple mini-game approach. Tron is an example.

SPACE ACE INTRODUCTION AND INTERLUDES:

The following are the basic expected display pages that the game will cycle through in attract mode (portions of the game used to generate interest rather than develop gameplay):

- 1) Title Screen Display Trick - An animated "Cover".
- 2) The in-game instructions page (p = pause etc.)
- 3) Credits Page (Producer: Fulvio Ciano etc.)
- 4) Theme development pages ("A'la Ninja Gaiden")
- 5) High Score Table Page (some special tricks here).

The plight of Kinny and her evil captor must be covered here.

Skill level must be selectable.

SPACE ACE: SOME ABILITIES:

POWER UP!:

At certain points during gameplay the player has the option or ability to power up. A wonderful game with this quality is "Hostage" from France (Interplay Soft); When the player moves his character in "Hostage" action music suddenly starts playing, as if the character is about to do something super! (Which of course he often is).

This effect is particularly stimulating because it seems to preguess the players decision.

Incidentally the comic and cartoon world is famous for the "power-up" effect. Shazam! or SuperMan, or BatMan or Transformers... The theme strokes the human ego; "when pushed you become superhuman."

SPACE ACE: THREE SCENES:

Marbles:

General:

In Space Ace the Marbles scene is a headlong plunge through an asteroid field of black highly reflective spheres of varying angles of approach.

This scene will be a connecting scene (versus being a destination scene).

Sensory:

Space Ace C64 will have the same forward view; with marbles rushing past; growing in size to encompass a considerable field of view on their approach. This will be done by just having byte mapped marbles of various sizes and rendering them as needed.

It may be possible to make the view swing left and right with a slewed perspective effect when the player turns left or right.

Up or down movement will shift the horizon up or down as well as slewing the balls in that direction.

Audio will be synchronized as to how close the player passes

to a ball.

Animated Effects:

These are some possible graphic sequences:

- Player Collides with black ball and explodes.
- Player gets blasted by an enemy.
- Player narrowly escapes disaster.

These will be pure anims and will occupy a small section of screen only; they will be byte mapped.

Thematic:

I feel the theme should be deeper. It might be interesting that if by successfully passing through this field the player would gain an increase in their power-up energy reserve. The ability to gain power would perhaps convince players to take this path rather than another.

There will most certainly have to be some form of enemy; and some form of reward. Rewards are easy, the player simply collides with each reward as it appears.

* I think the object of this area aside from being a connecting area will be to find and destroy a particular nasty.

* Review tape and find an appropriate foe!

Other:

Private Notes on Coding Approach:

9 distances of ball at size * 3 being bytes eaten for 45*3 or 135 bytes total of 256 bytes avail used by balls. So I can have 1 enemy (type) or other object banked in at a time from elsewhere if less than that, or doesn't get as big.

Biggest ball is 9 by 9 or 1/4 of scn (may actually be 12 by 6).

Chess Tunnel:

General + Sensory:

The chess tunnel is a connecting scene also!

The Chess Tunnel may be an effect which has never been done before! There is a certain bonus in coding an original interface. Reviewers and consumers give novel interfaces a plus;

if they are done correctly.

The player plummets down a checkerboarded tube with the walls racing by on either side. The player can move closer to certain walls to avoid or blast particularly fiendish chess enemies.

Occasionally portals scroll into view in the walls and you can choose to dart through and escape the area.

The walls are finished in a chased pink florescing electrical halo which scours up the tubular edge every so often. It will get faster and faster as time progresses, eventually the walls will collapse (speed up visually) and kill the player should he dally.

Special Audio effects whenever pink halo pulses by.
Warning audio on enemy chessmen ect.

Scenery features:

Some special deaths ect, the special death should the player wait too long. These will be pure animations.

Thematic:

How about having to collect supplies or parts of the infanto ray so dear mr. bad guy can't distort them to his evil purposes?

Other:

This will be done by showing a series of graphic screens in rapid succession with each having a more advanced picture of chess tunnel.

All enemies will probably be sprites on this level.

The wall exits which player sees may be character maps or sprites

I'm not certain if I have adequate screen memory to show the pink halo. If I do show it, it will be part of the screen backdrop anims.

The tunnel can be shifted around slightly by using hardware tricks on the c64. I don't know if nintendo supports that ability, however its non-critical to gameplay.

Hexter:

General:

Hexter is a destination scene.

In the real version you encounter Hexter in all kinds of different places, and you basically try to escape from him. Hexter is a demented laughing self-mutilating monster. These are all elements that it would be nice to retain for Space Ace C64.

One element of the Arcade Hexter which I personally disliked was the fact that the player seemed to be continually running away from his dark side, never confronting it. It seems to deprive the scene of some of its meaning; it would be a good issue to address.

Thematic:

Hexter should destroy himself in many wonderful ways. I particularly like how vicious that theme is in context to the way real people also act sometimes.

The idea of a whole bunch of hexters popping up and creating a blasting range seems to be appealing.

The huge laughing head is appealing in a visual manner, perhaps the player must dive between his teeth...into another scene...

A surreal quality where judgement of what is real is somewhat difficult, perhaps the player must blast the real hexter from among illusionary (more illusionary) hexters.

Something in conquering Aces' dark side must be good for the player, perhaps it allows him to get somewhere; like the final level.

Kinney should also be involved in this scene.

Sensory:

The player scrolls up over hexters body.

I suspect that this idea could be successfully communicated with a vertical scrolling screen; which I would like to use since no other scenes use it yet. Hexters should pop out en masse from behind various obstacles, growing as they exist, you must shoot them quickly or else they grow bigger and deadlier. You (the player) are trying to kill a special hexter which will defeat the illusion. You finally win by diving through the open laughing hexter head. You try to get hexters to shoot each other; or they shoot each other as a matter of cause in their positioning.

(Note: Here's where the arcade Space Ace really blows away home computers, the 3dimensionality of the Arcade is really exceptional)

This scene reminds me of sequences in "Allegro Ma Non Troppo". I have an idea for the kind of music that should be here, similar to Ravels Bolero; in its descending trumpets; and the same kind of chaotic clashes at the ends. Its a kind of insane crazy-do-anything theme. I suspect Nintendo won't be able to have music here.

Animated Sequences:

The laughing head is a definate must, it encapsulates the theme, it must be rolling around ahead of you (the player) while you desperately try to reach it, gnashing its mouth opened closed with insane eyes... The graphic artists will love this one.

Big holes should be blasted in his body where you pass.

Other:

Programming notes:

A vertical scroll with vertical beam interrupted sprites makeup yourself and enemies, only special graphics will be for hexters head which will be around towards the end, once you've travelled over his entire body.

Private Notes:

-I don't know if its a good idea to have lots of different little themes for each level, it would be nice if the themes were more unified, but of course that gets boring, the actions are still exactly the same anyway however...so as far as the text affects gameplay its purely psychological.

Text on paper will be important to Space Ace.

Of course there must be interludes at end of x levels of play; showing kinney + foe.

July 12 1989

Here is a self-contained dissertation of the Space Ace gameplay. It covers some concepts that were discussed verbally and some further extrapolations of various ideas presented earlier.

GENERAL:

The User perceives Space Ace as a collection of 9 small games unified by one theme. The Programmer perceives Space Ace as 3 pieces of code, a scrolling routine, and two custom 3d perspective routines.

GAMEPLAY:

As the User, or Game Player, you have 3 required game objectives:

- 1) Retrieve all artifacts, weapons ect.
- 2) Destroy all nasties, or at least major nasties.
- 3) Rescue Kinney

You also have a final objective, which is to kill the Evil-Blue-Dude and prevent the Infanto-Ray from being used on Earth. Note that Space Ace has sub-themes, ie: you may rescue Kinney considerably before you win the game.

You have the ability to power-up at various points in the game and your mode of play turns from defensive (ie run) to offensive (ie attack).

GAMEPLAY AREA ARRANGEMENTS:

In Space Ace you (the player) have some control over which game-play area you are going to next. As the gameplayer you are presented with a Triangle of options: Each point is a "Destination" game-play area and each flat is a "Connecting" game-play area. You select your destination area, and to get there you play the Connecting area first.

In the Middle is a final level where you confront your enemy; this level is always last and you can't select it until you've met all the other game objectives.

THEME:

Space Ace develops the gameplay atmosphere by having short animated interludes with descriptive text at certain opportune points during the "Attract" and play mode. These interludes describe Kinneys plight and Aces' nefarious enemy.

Animated interludes could describe the theme by way of forecasting misfortunes that have not yet occurred.

Whenever the player dies or escapes from a room there should be some horrible animated calamity (system power may limit this, but idea of destruction can be easily conveyed by some means).

OTHER ISSUES:

Comments to other Developers from Space Ace C64 Development Group:

To try maintain portability for Nintendo we are looking at a 512 K product, which because of the C64's particular similarity to Nintendo, we will push the C64 to its functional limits. You may find some of our approaches unsuitable for other machines and other technologies, since we are taking advantage of special hardware tricks peculiar to the C64, Nintendo systems.

Space Ace 64 will have skill levels, an attract mode, load-save high scores, all the expected features.

LIST OF SCENES:

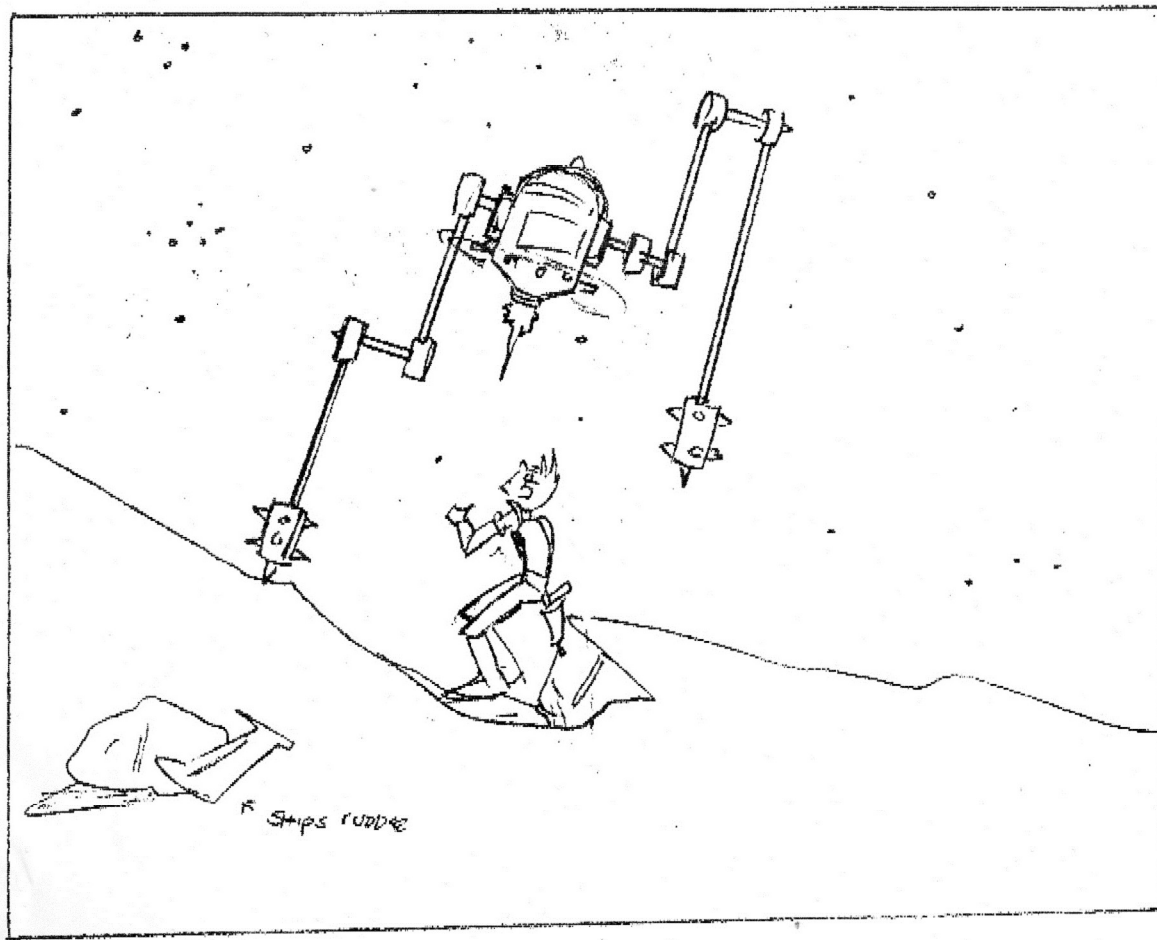
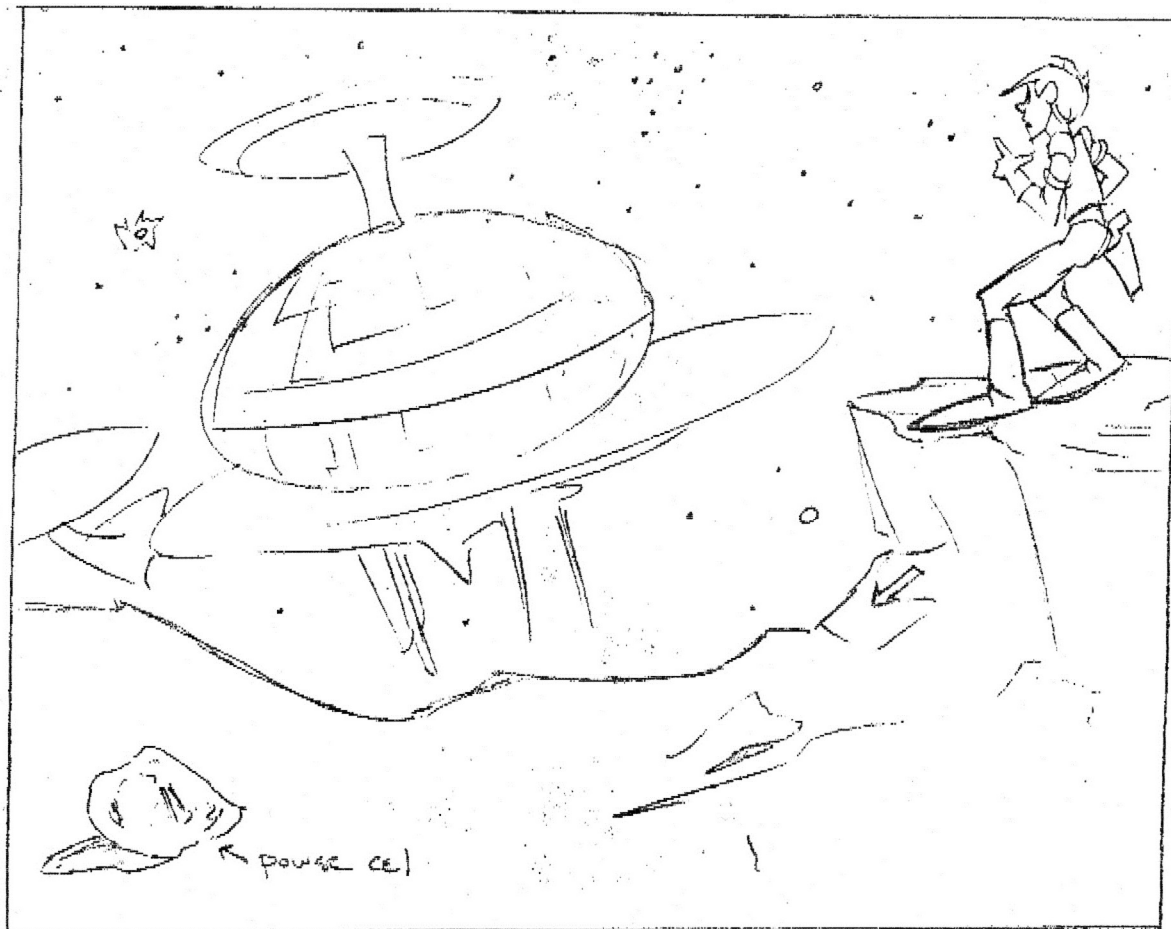
A list of all the scenes our group has decided to use and how they work:

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1) | * | Spinning Droids | - Horizontal Left | (Code #1) |
| 2) | | Marbles | - Forward | (Code #2) |
| 3) | | Tube Tunnel | - Horizontal Right | (Code #1) |
| 4) | | Chess Tunnel | - 3d Perspective | (Code #3) |
| 5) | | Platform Thing | - 2001 fx | (Code #3) |
| 6) | * | Hexter | - Vertical Scroll | (Code #1) |
| 7) | | Motor Cycles | - ? | |
| 8) | * | Maze | - Semi-Top view | (Code #1) |
| 9) | | Final Battle | - Switched Persp. | (Code #1?) |

Two Scenes may need to be cut: The triangle idea supports 6 scenes and one additional final scene.

* These are Destination Scenes; there will be 3 destination scenes.

- Code #1: Horizontal/Vertical/Top View Scrolling.
 Code #2: Used for Marbles only, 3d with slew.
 Code #3: Animated buffered background, fake 3d.

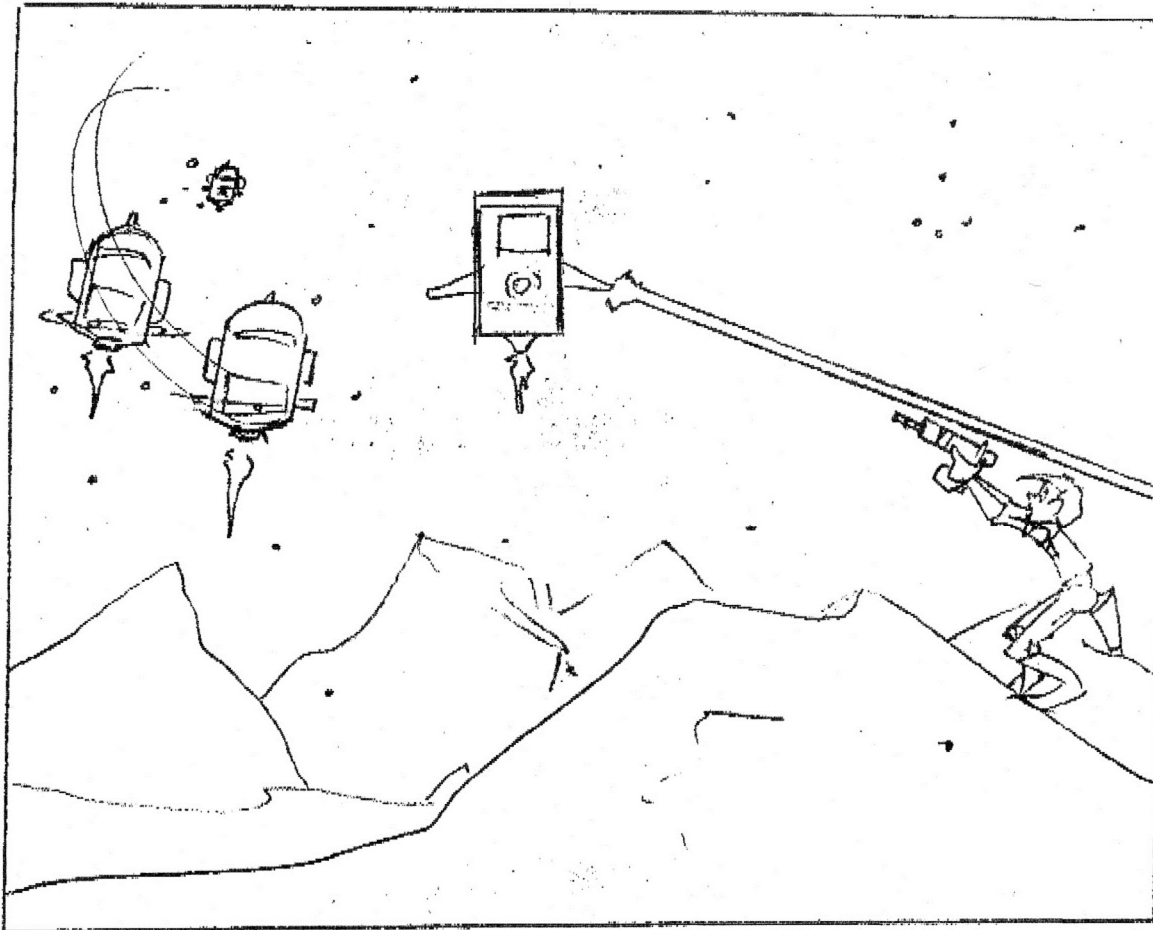


Dex moves
under spikes
& gets part
of ship.

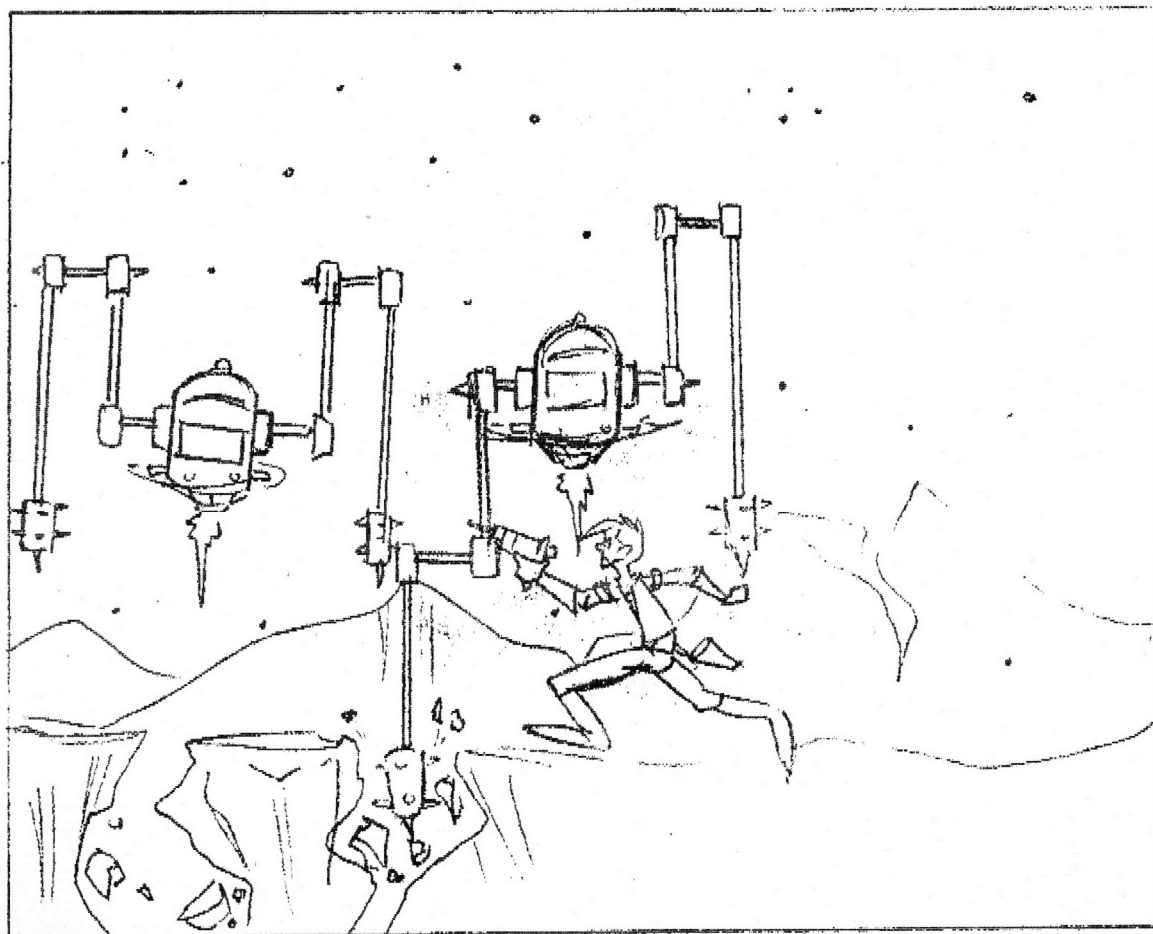
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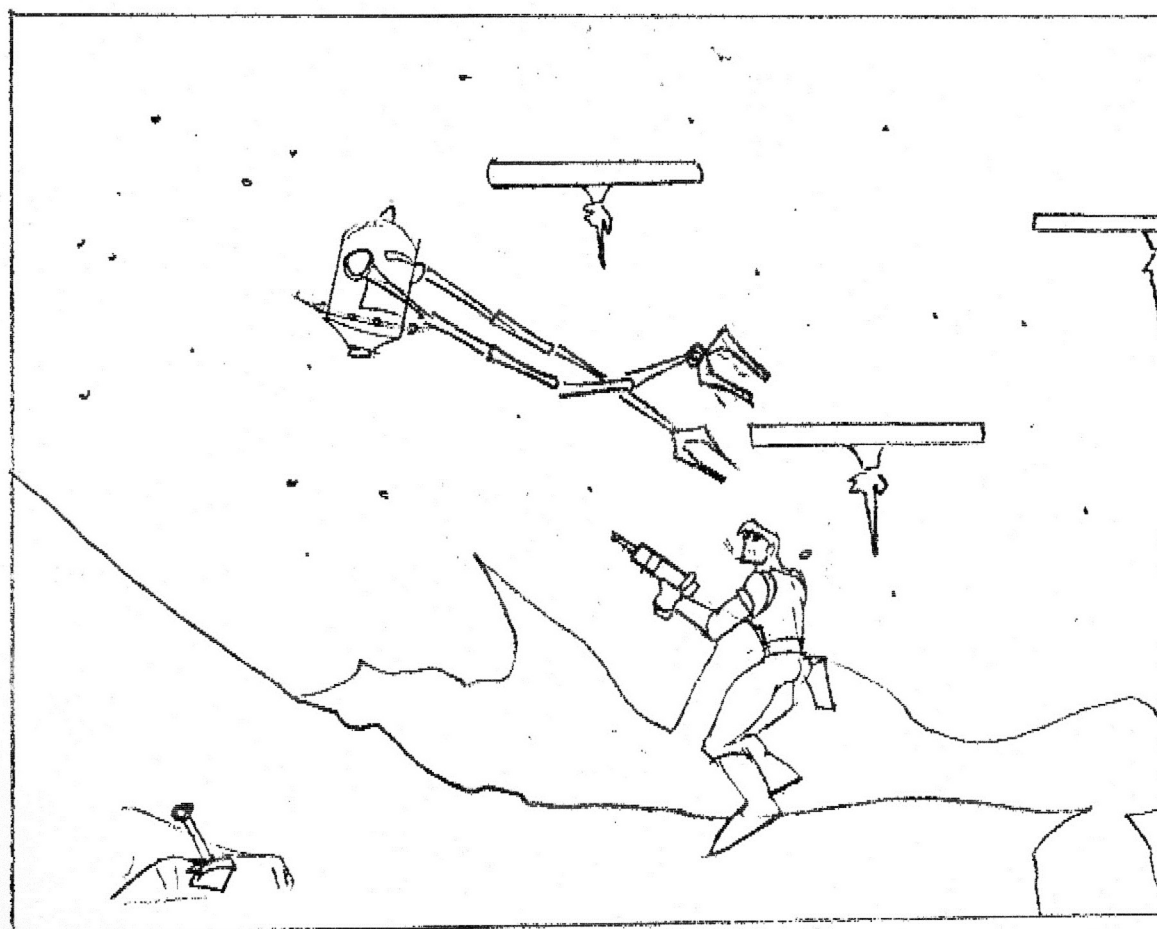
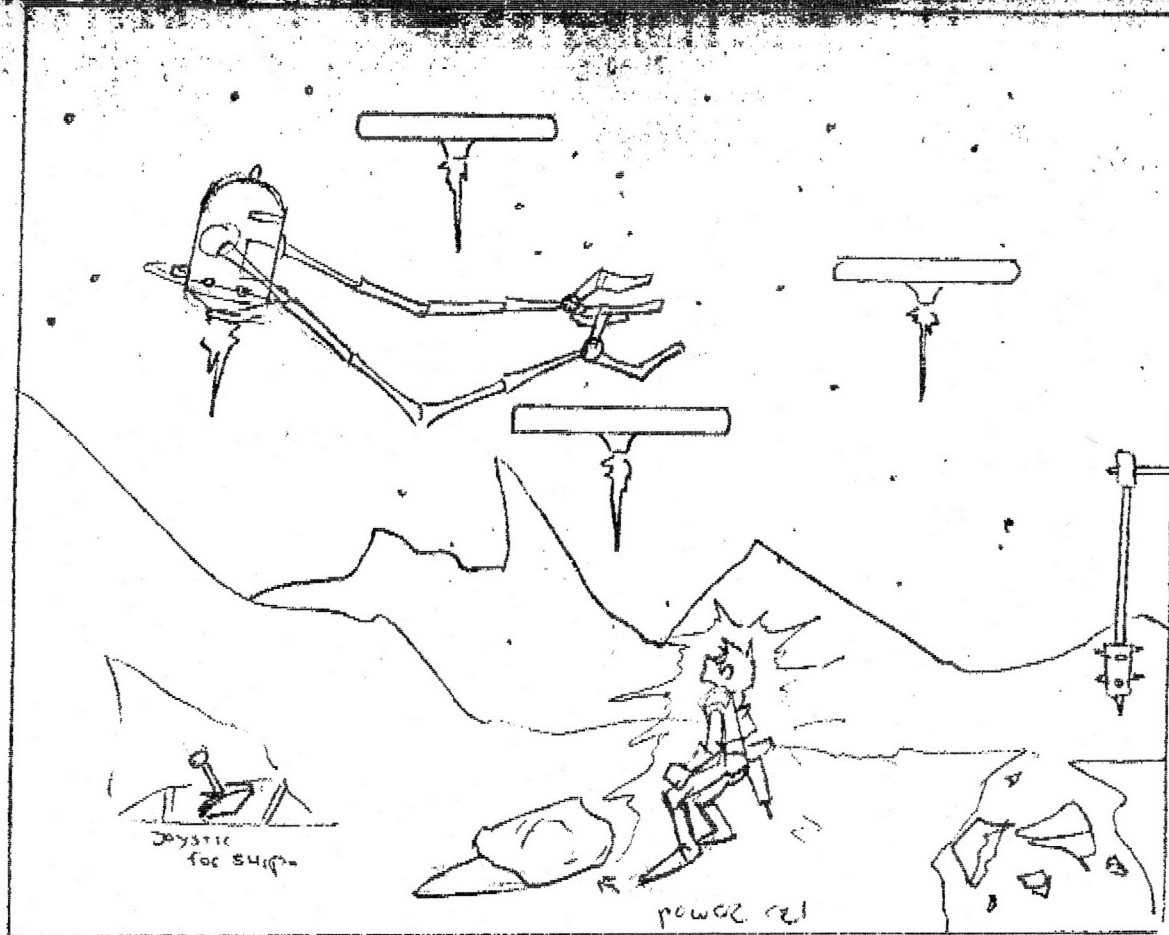
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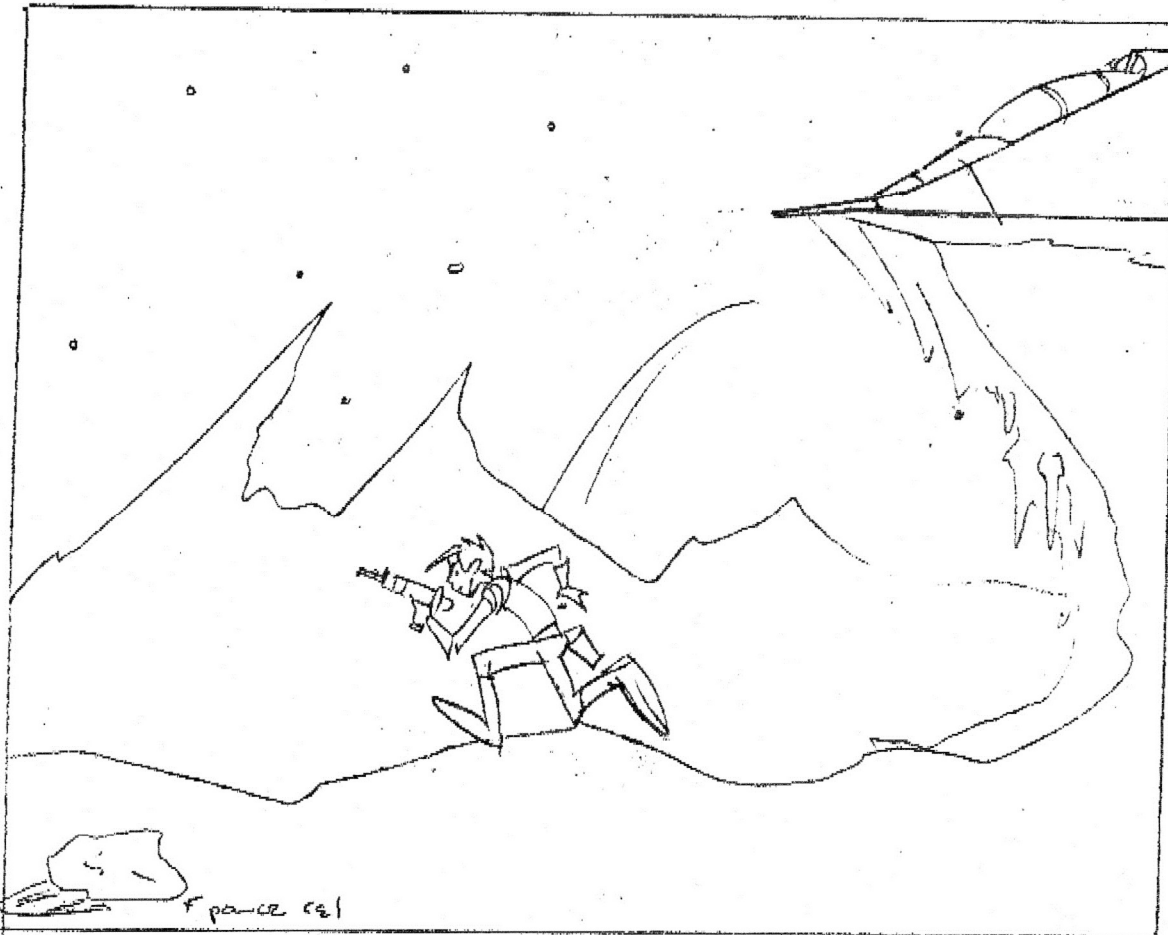


THAT HE WAS
DOWN LAST
...

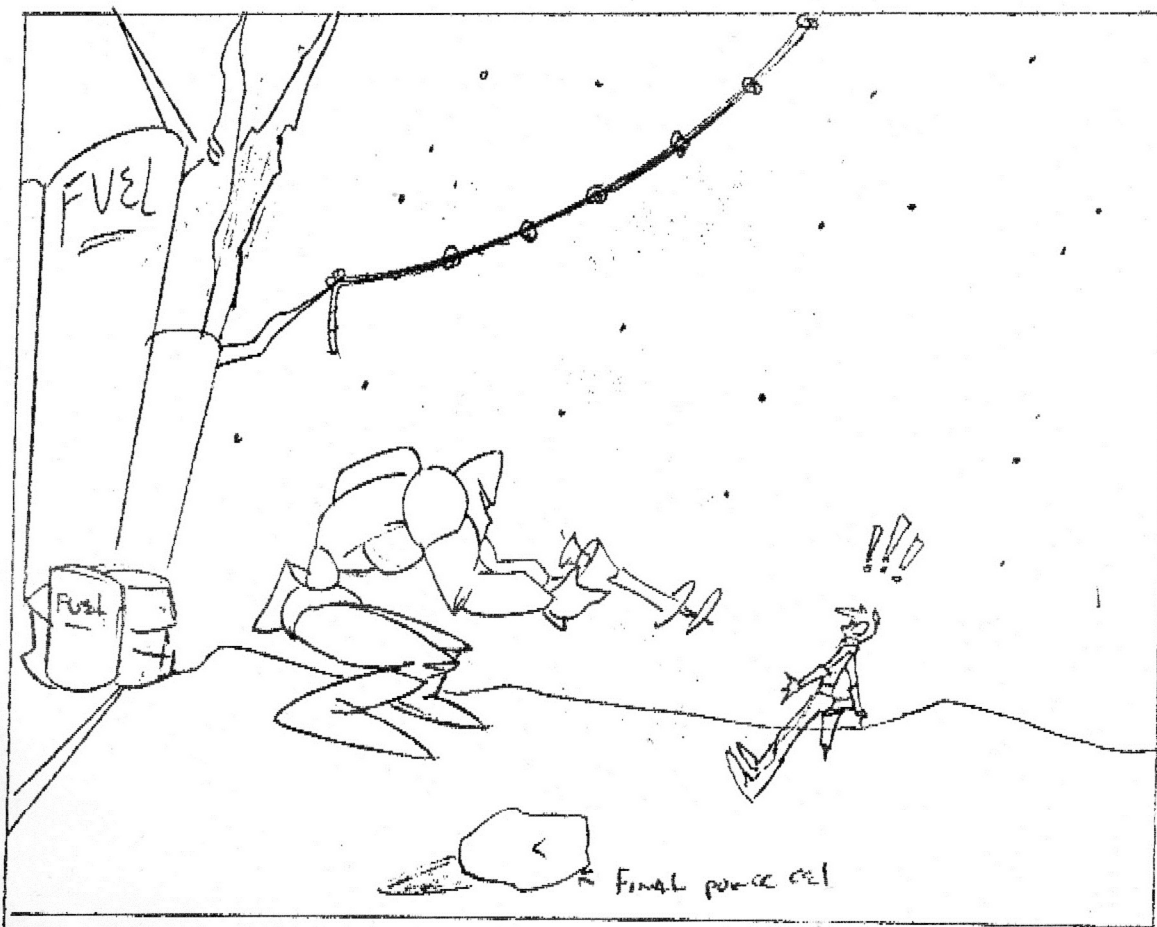


... ONLY TO BE
BLOCKED BY
SPINNING DR
WHICH HE DO



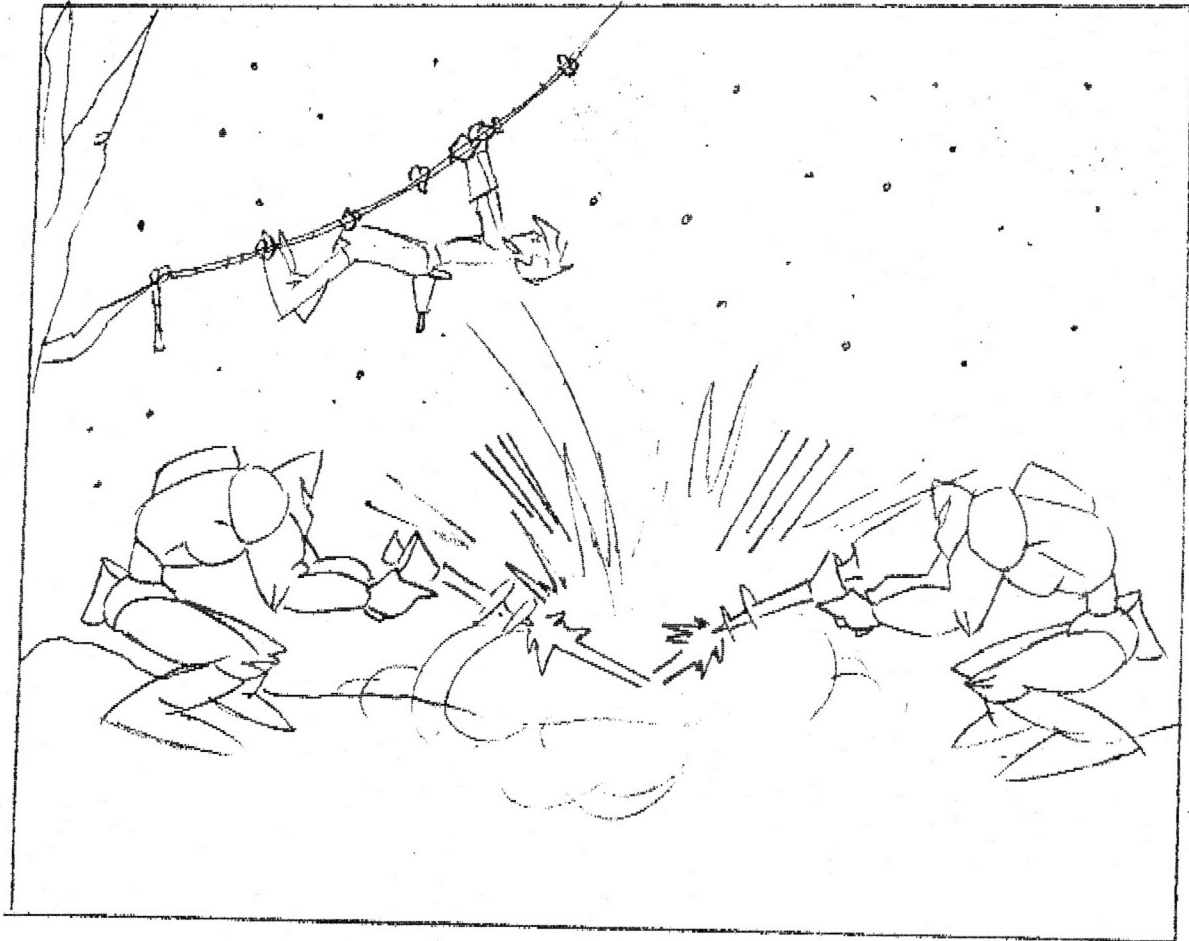


ARE REPORTS
TO DEXTER &
MUST RETRIEVE
POWER CELLS.



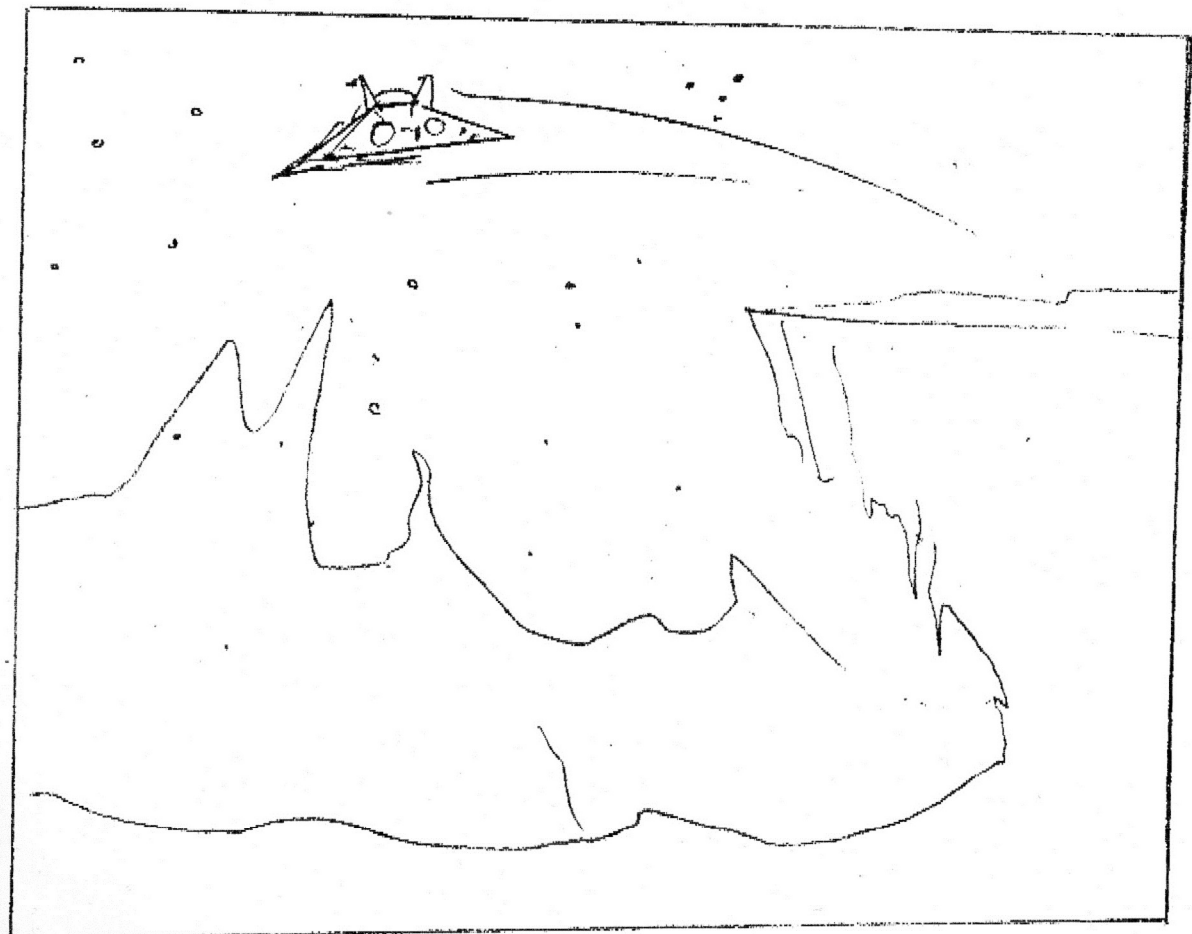
TO GET FUEL,
DEX MUST RETRIEVE
LAST POWER CELL
& DEFEAT ROBOT

⑤



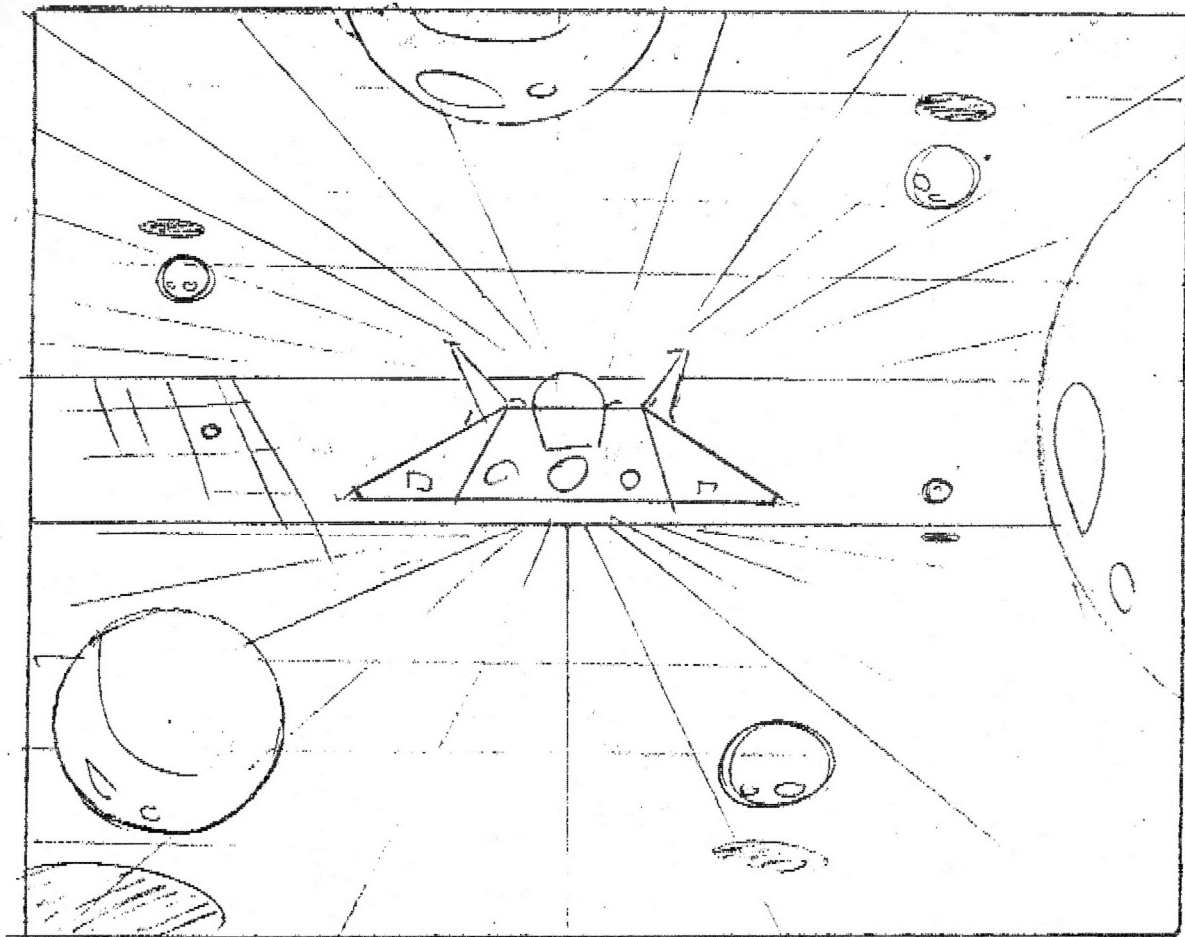
DEXTER JUMP
UP AS ROB
BIE DESTROY
EACH OTHER.

DEXTER CAN
RETURN TO
SHIP, BUT
MUST GO THROUGH
ALL PREVIOUS
THREATS &
OBSTACLES.

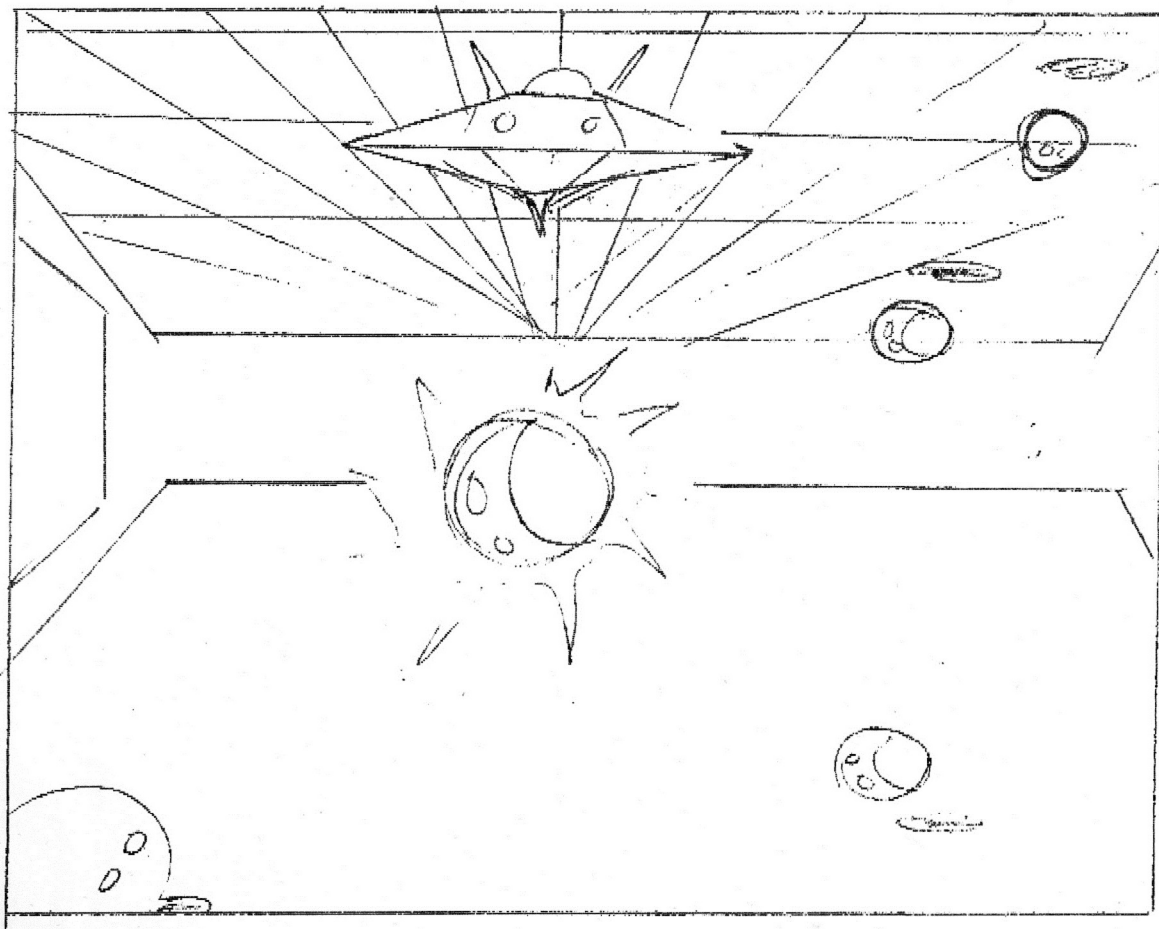


END SCENE

⑦

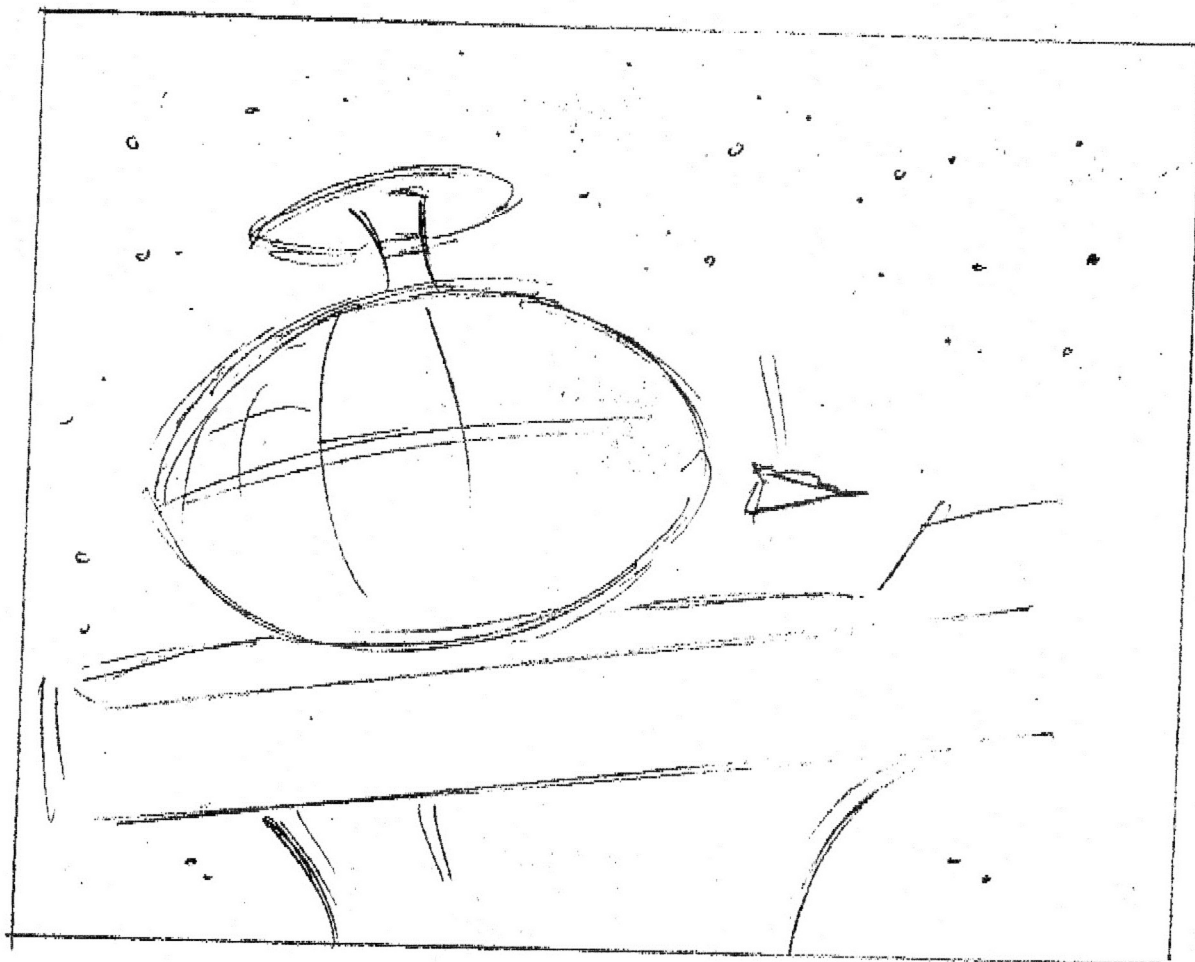
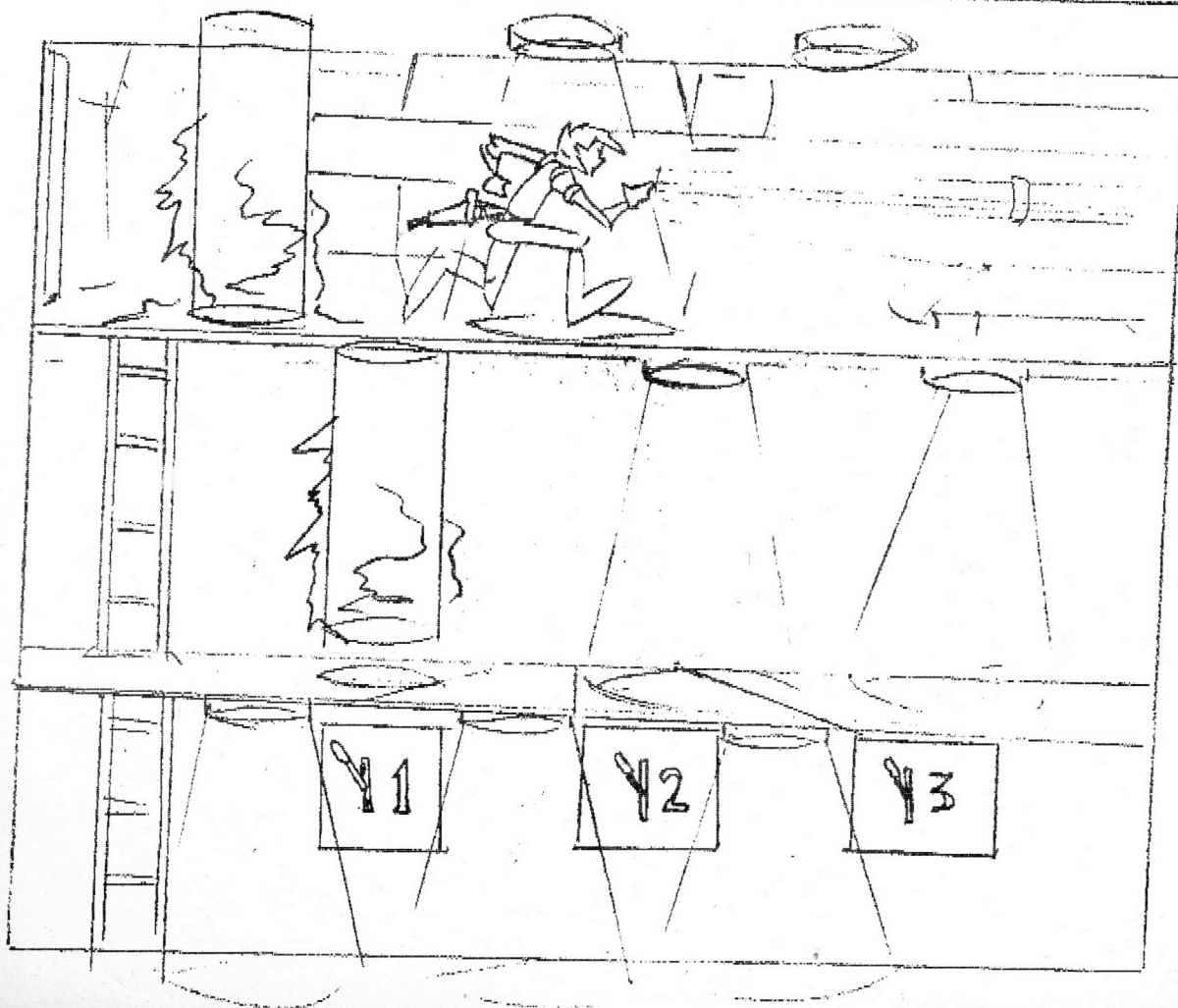


DEXTERS
SHIP ENTERS
WAVE FIELD
SEEN CAN BE
REPEATED TO
ALLOW EXTENSIVE
SCROLLING



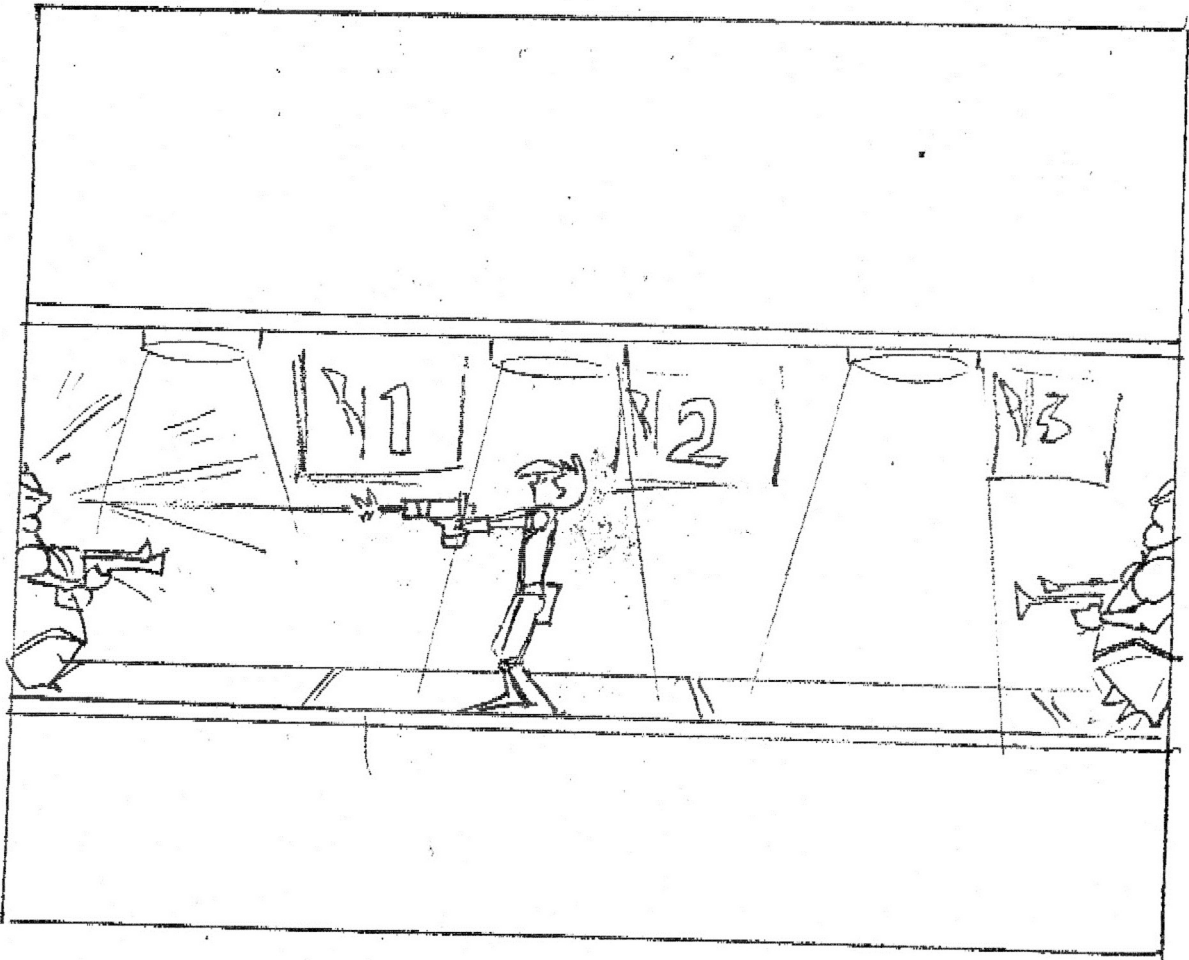
SHIP DESTROYS
VARIOUS FLASH
WAVES.

9

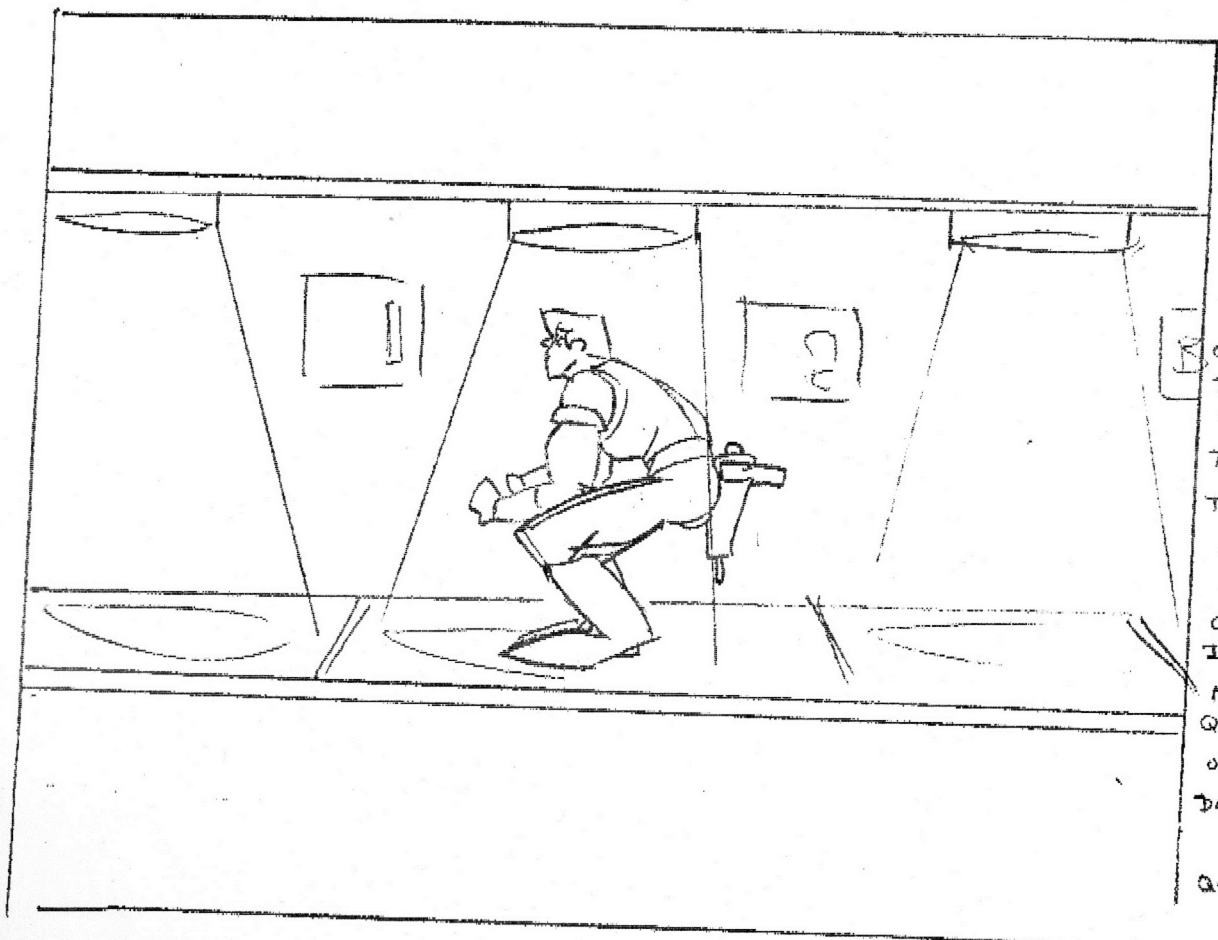
SHIP
IN SPACE
STATION

3 LEVELS
OF TUBES.
LAST OF WHICH
WILL CONSIST
OF LEVERES
WHICH MUST
BE SET IN PROPER
COMBINATION
TO OPEN DOOR
NEXT LEVEL.

8

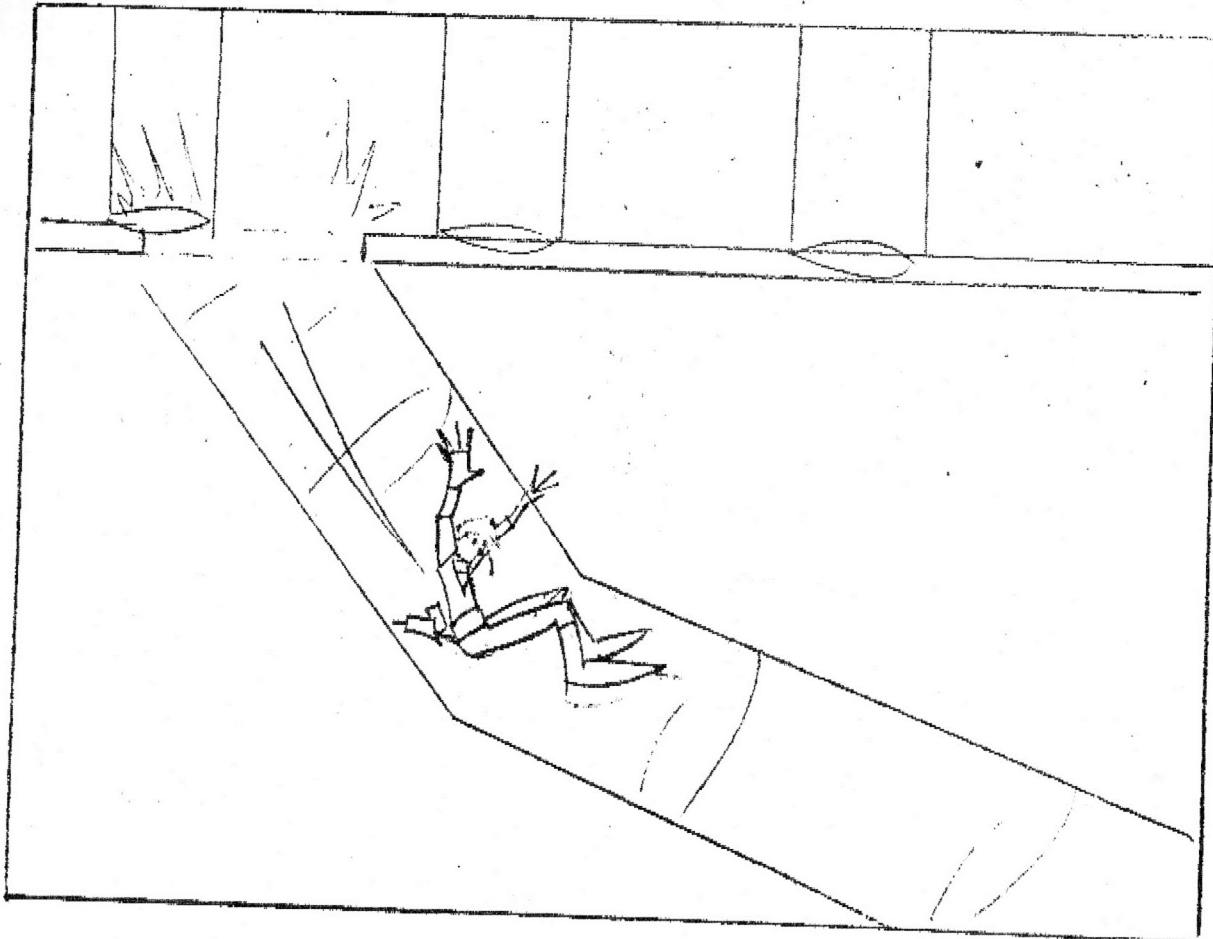


Dexter
SHOOT'S
GAUDES &
TRY'S COMB
TO OPEN DO

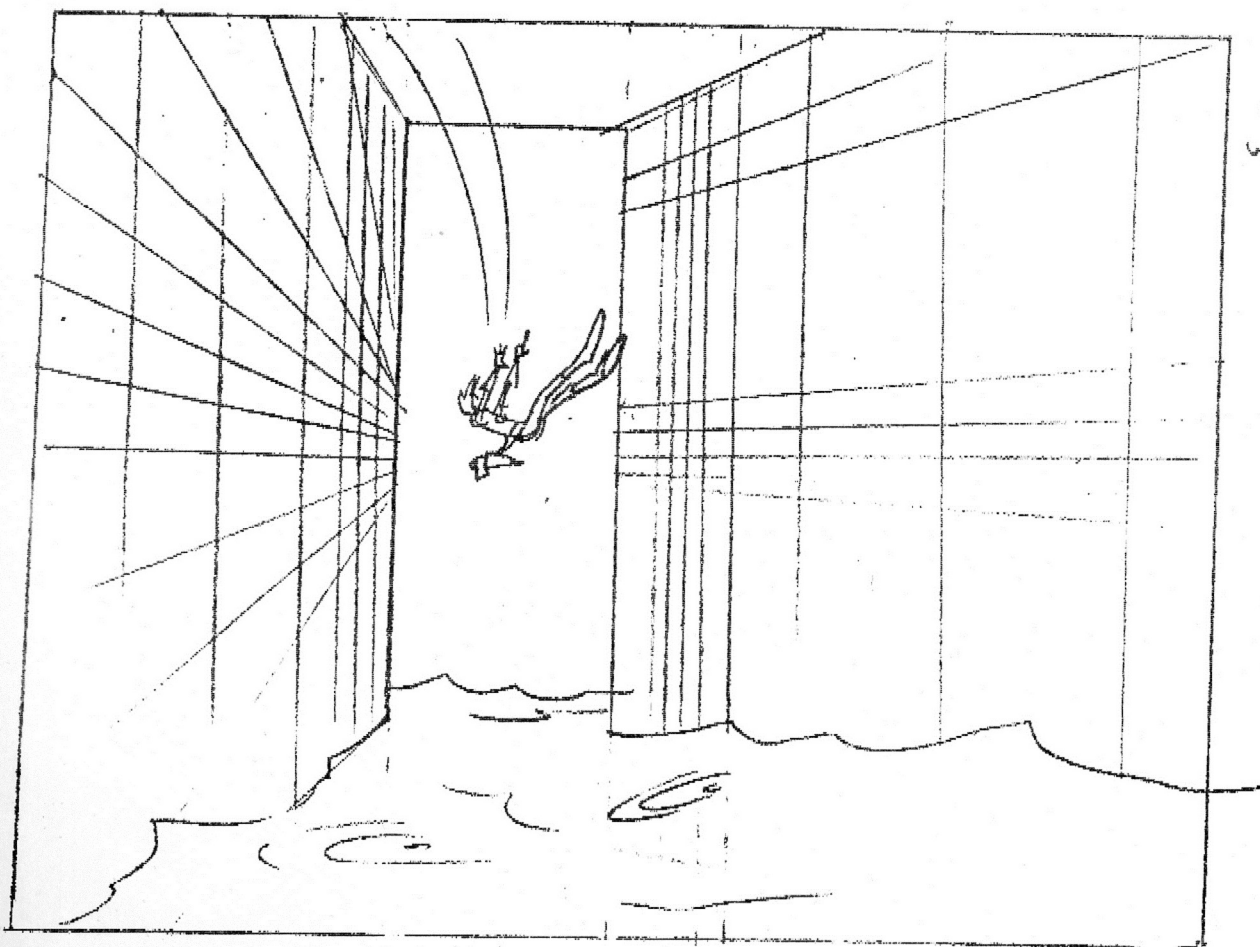


Dexter was
energized for
a small amount
of time &
can be immune
to the tube's
effect.
This allowing
to work on
combination
GauDES will
if they are
not destroyed
quickly enough
or the play
doesn't finish
out completely
quickly enough

10

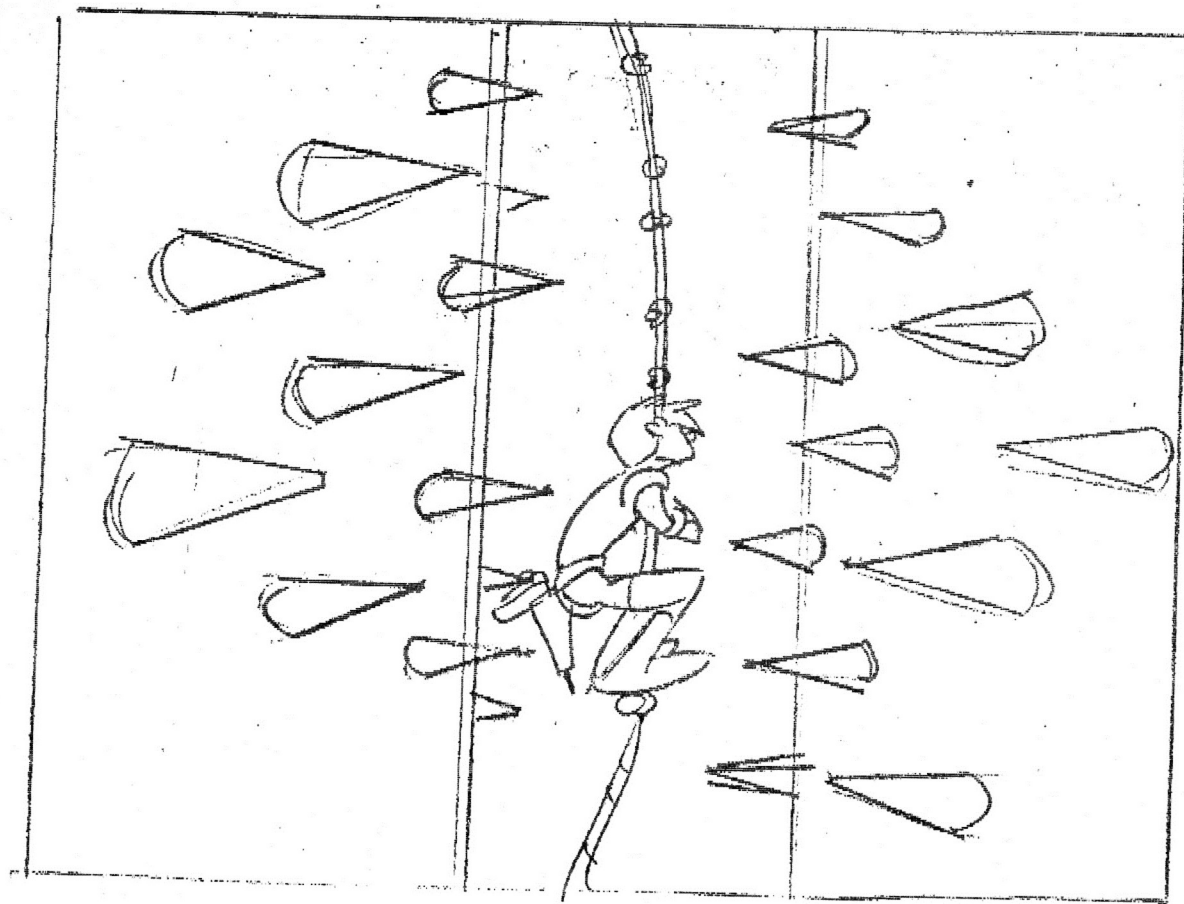


CORRECT CO-
-ATION LEAD
TO LOWER

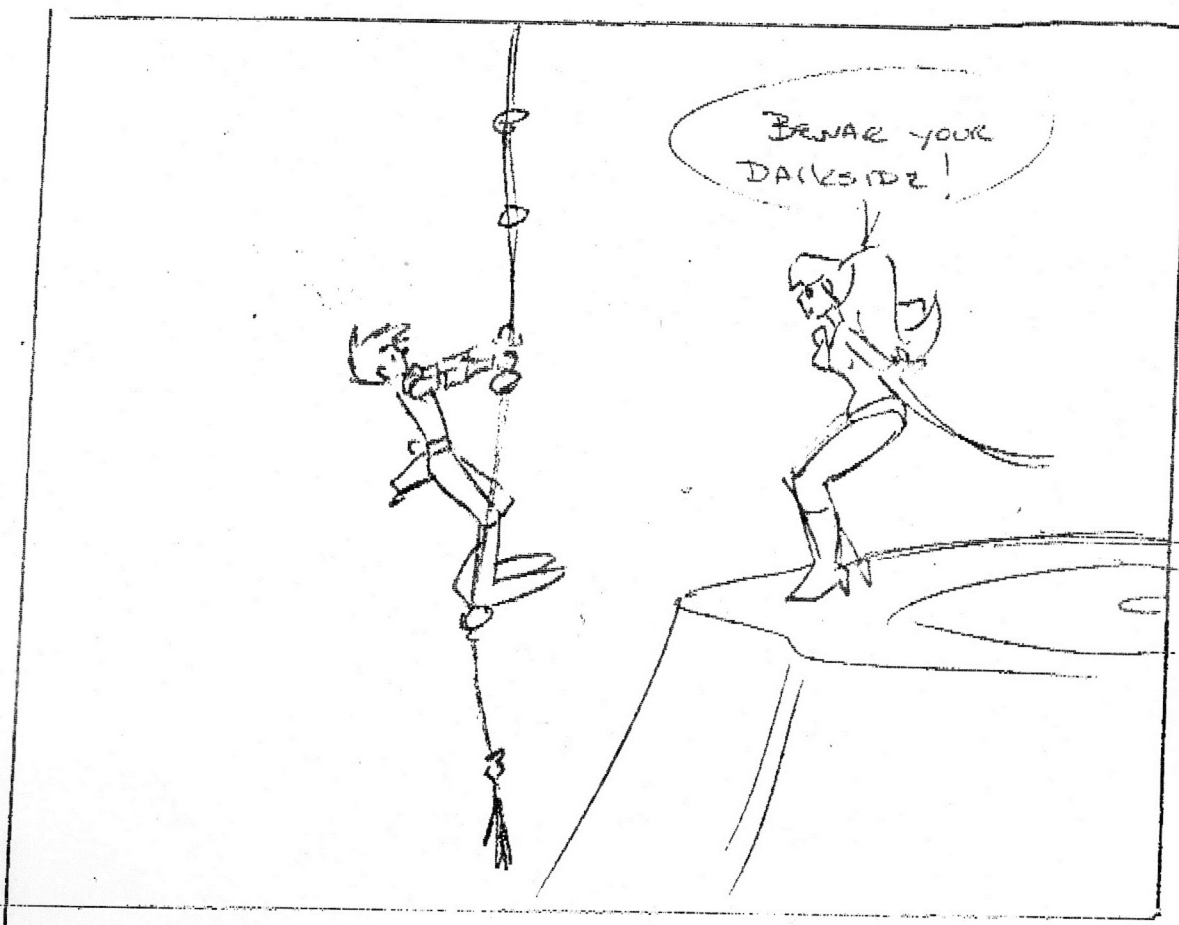


DEAR
SPLASHES INTO
WATER.

11

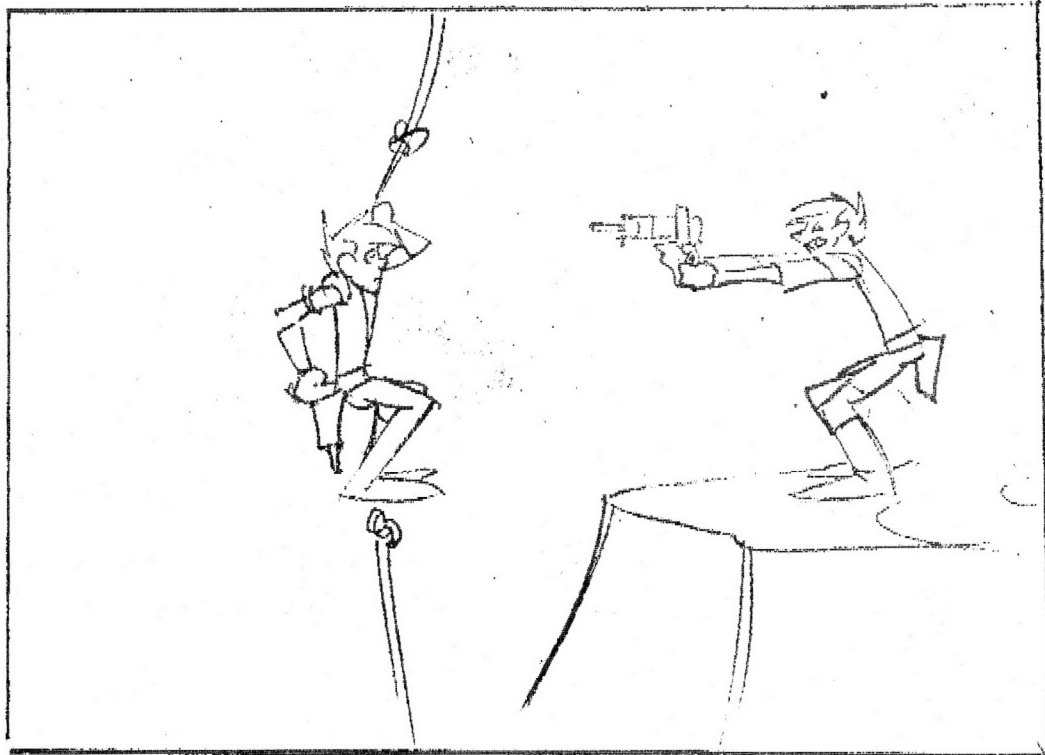


Dexter m
climb rope
before spil
walls close

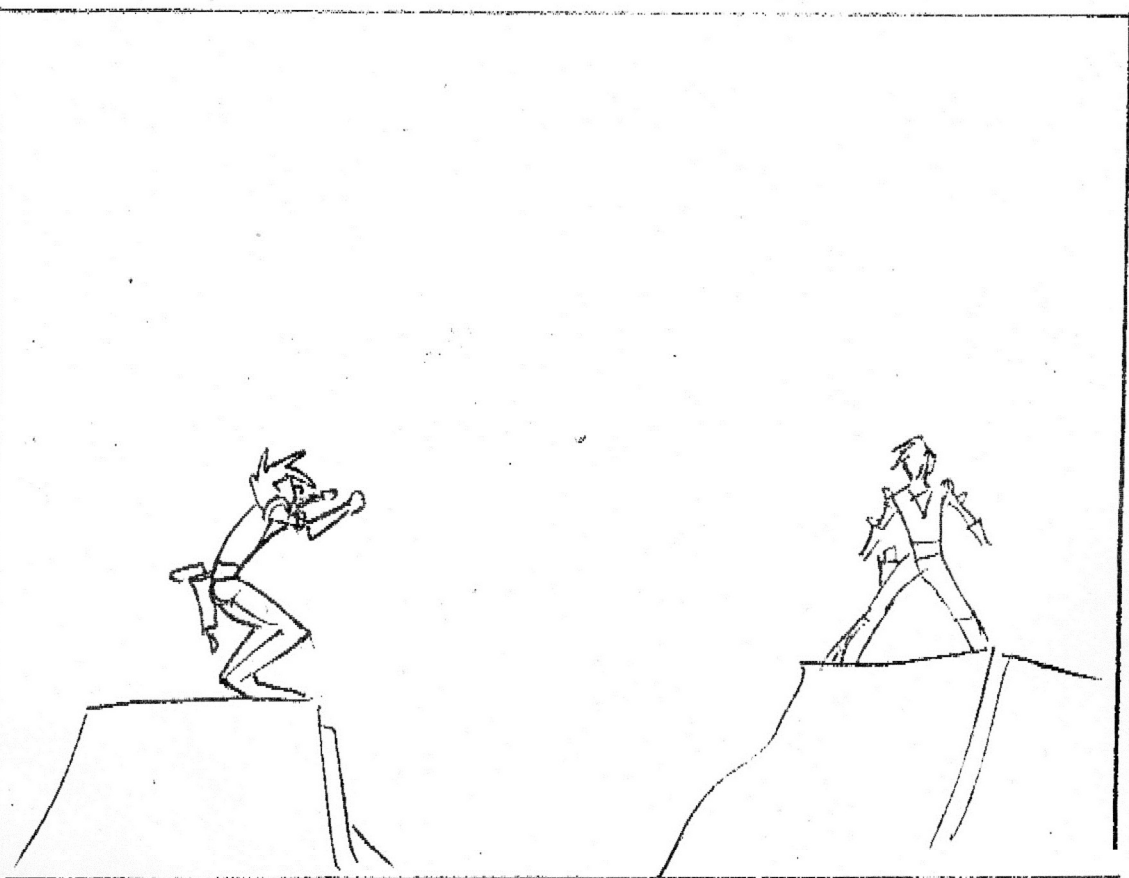


Dexter com
FACE TO F
w/ Jimmy

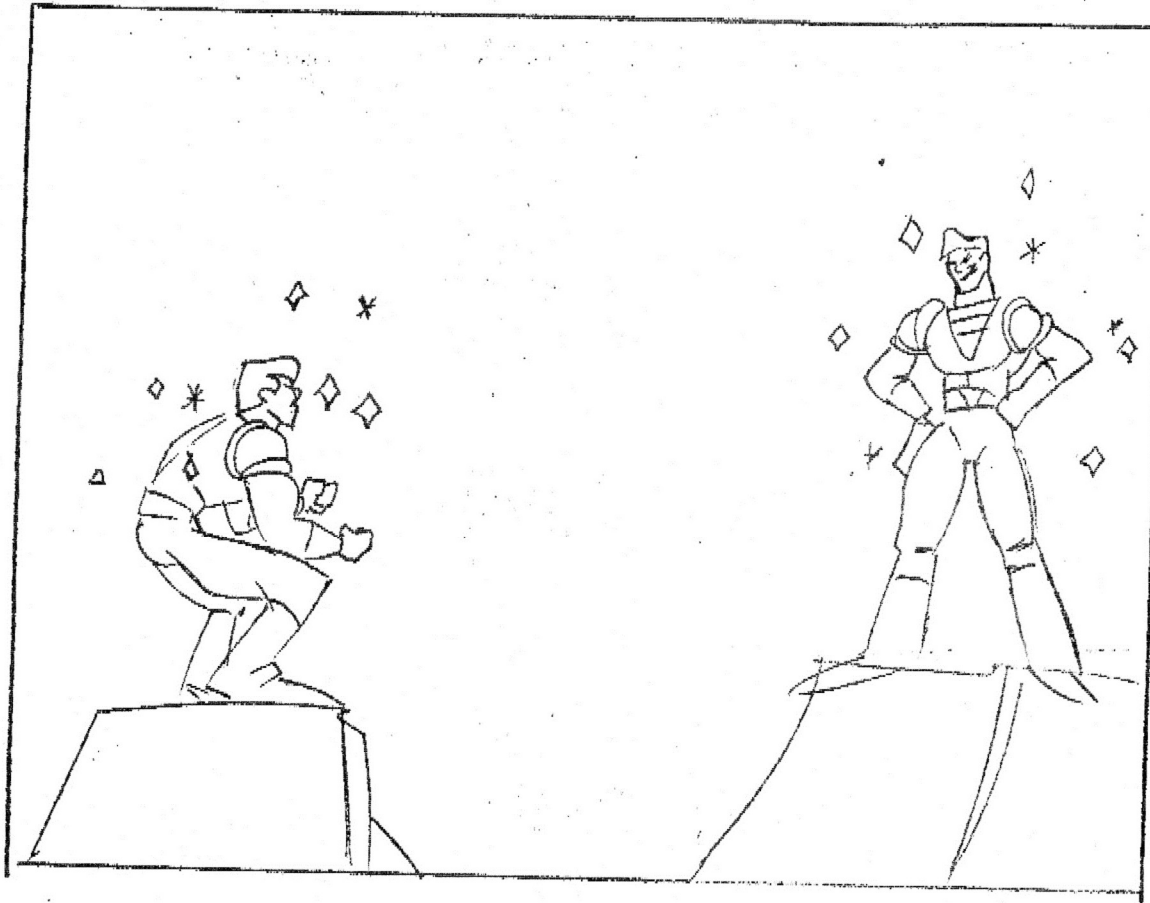
(12)



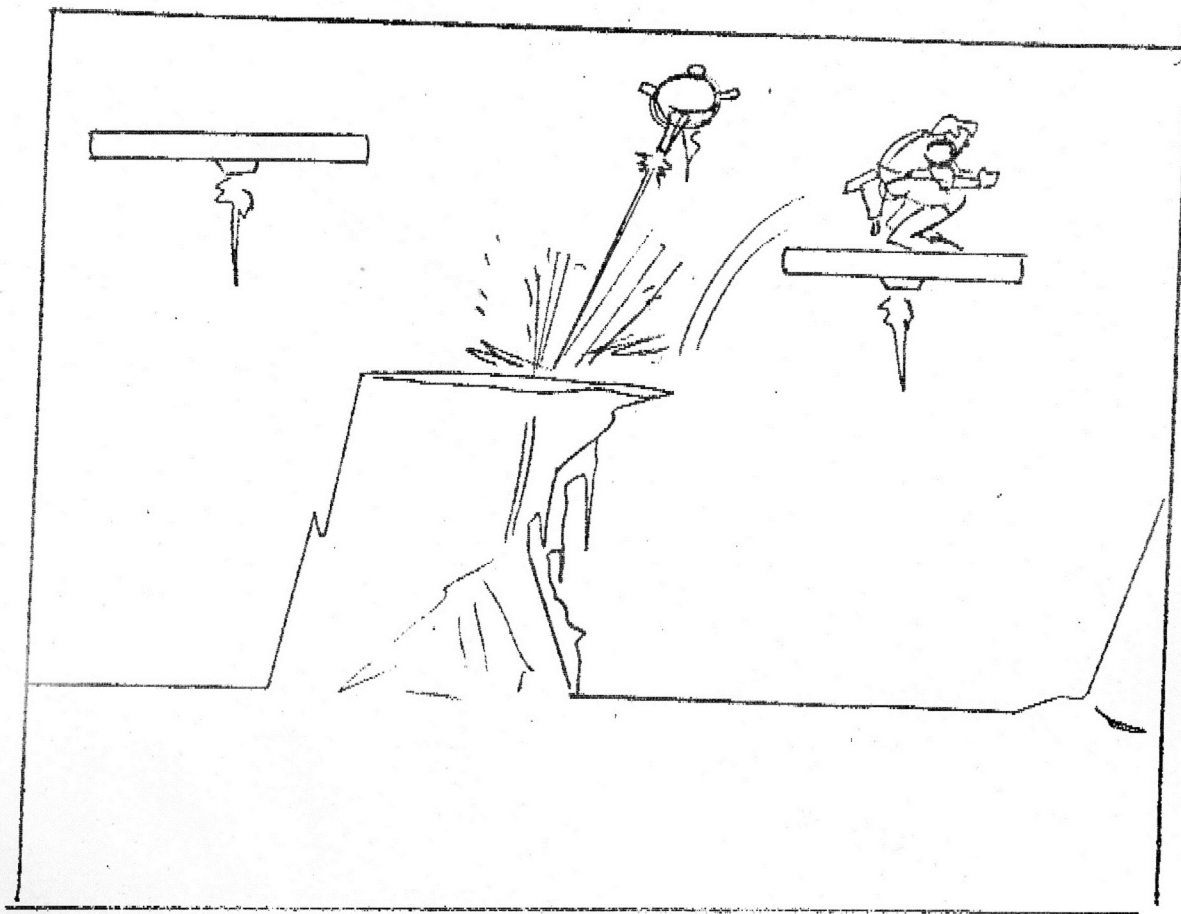
..OF SO H
THOUGHT.
DEXTER
AVOID LA
FIRE PRO
HEXTER



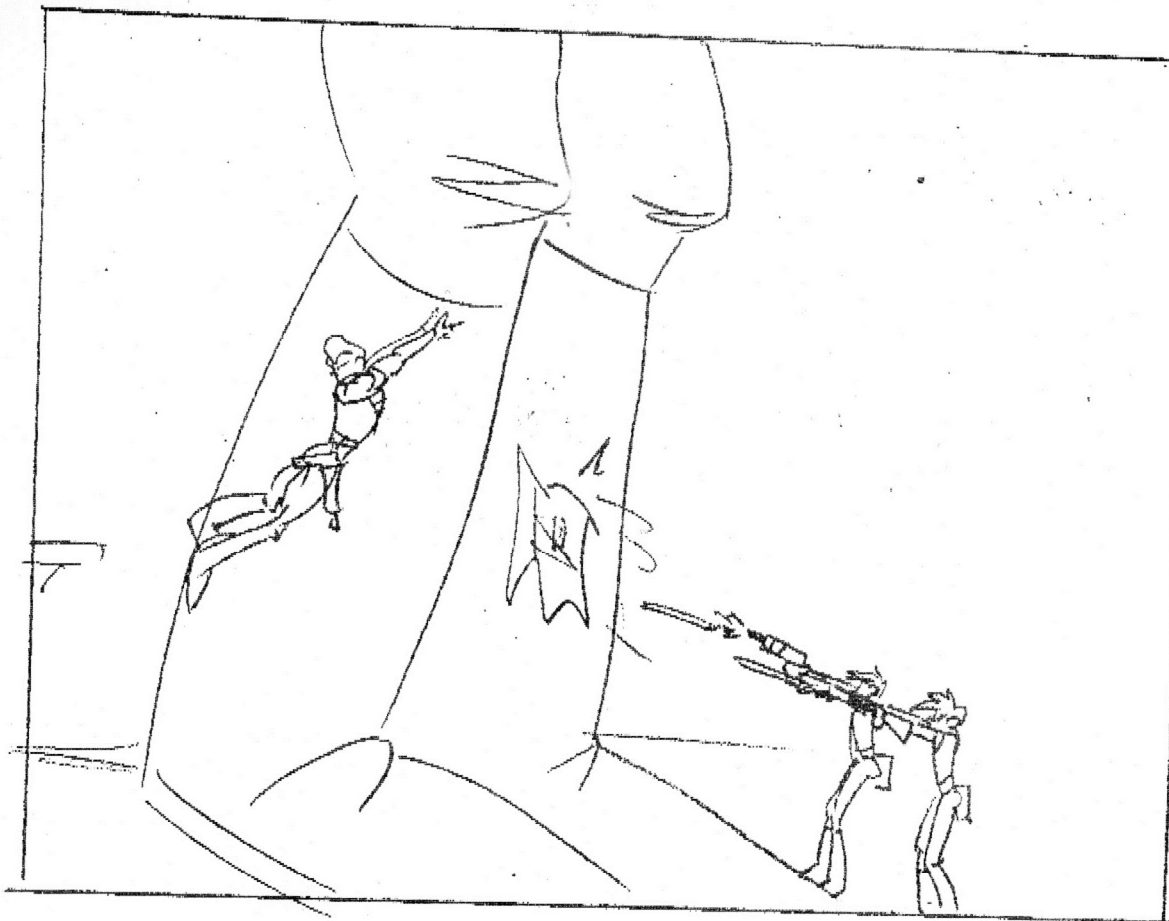
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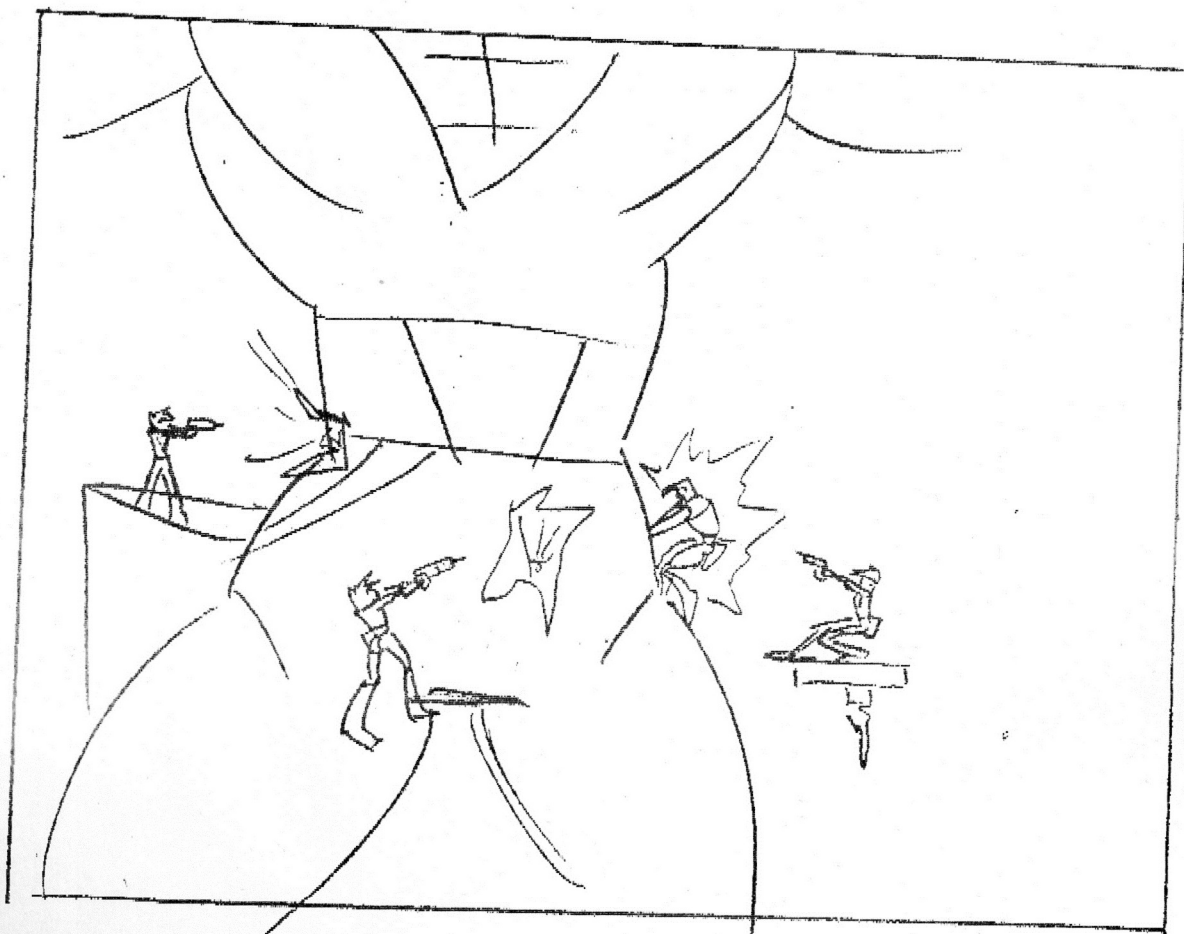
Dexter
powers
so
Hexters
Lare



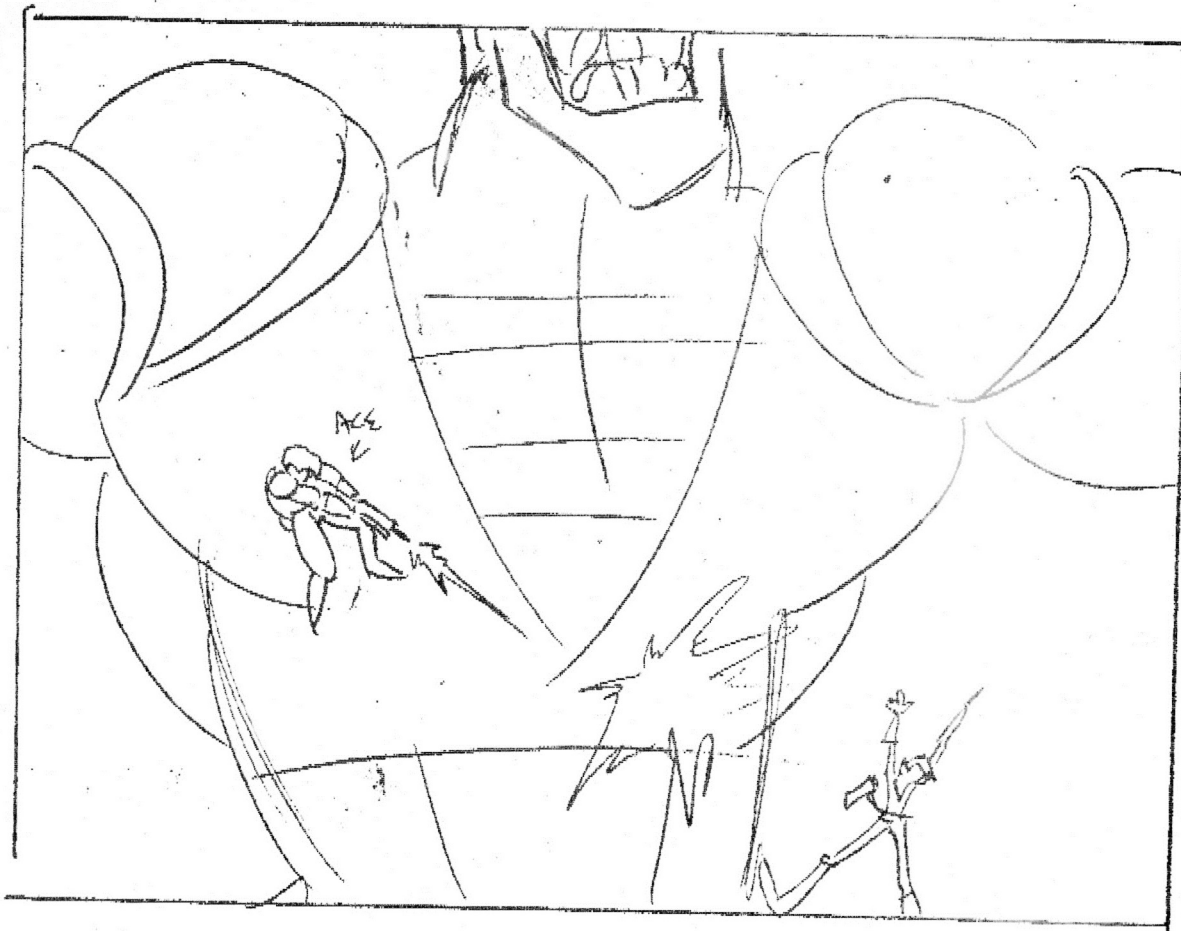
numerous
platforms
appear
Laser beam
as well!
Dexter's
objective is
to steal
Hexters key
while avoiding
the danger
in his way



ACE
JUMP
HEXT
BODY
AUGID
HEXT



ACE'S OBJECT
IS TO REACH
HEXTERS
& GET HEXT
SMALL HEXT
SHOOT HEXT
IN BIG ONE
EVENTUAL
CAUSING HEXT
TO FALL



AC
CAN
Hole
Hex
SHO
HEX



THE
APPEARS
HEXTER'S
MOUTH, T
IS A CA
PLAY, A
ITC JUM
INTO
WILL RESU
IN AC ST
HE MUST
JUMP TO
THE FINAL
PLATFORM
TO DEFEAT
HEXTER
OBTAIN