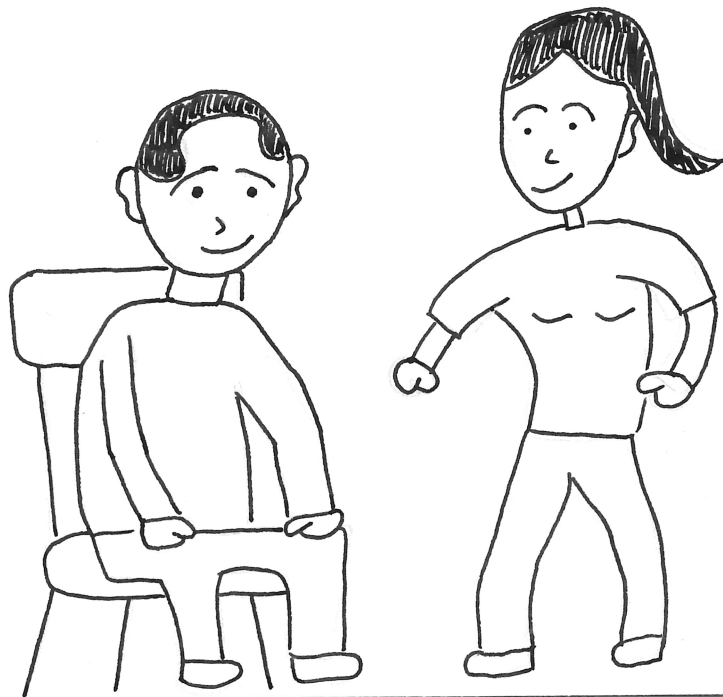
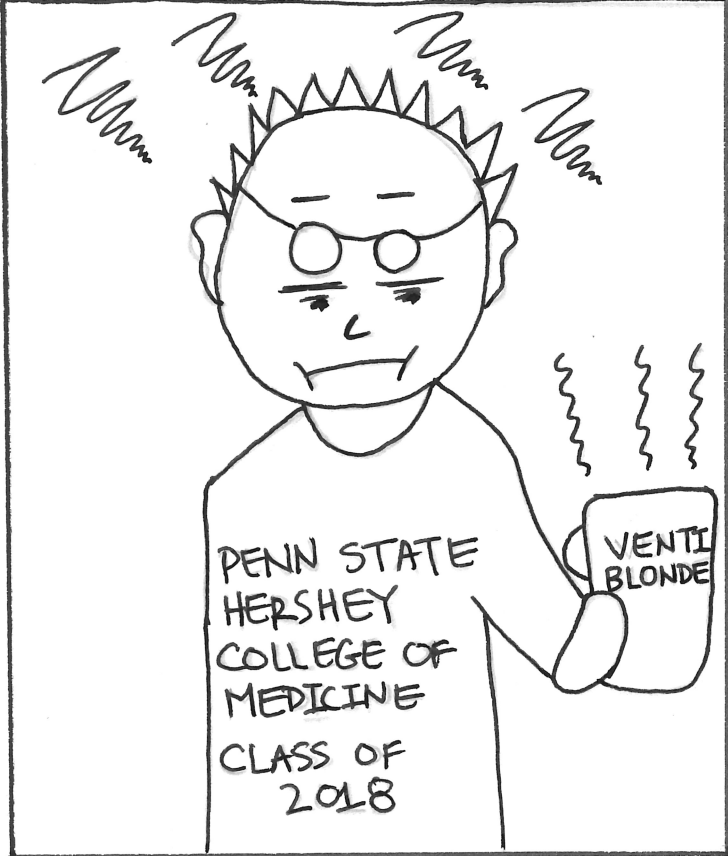


HOW ARE YOU DOING?

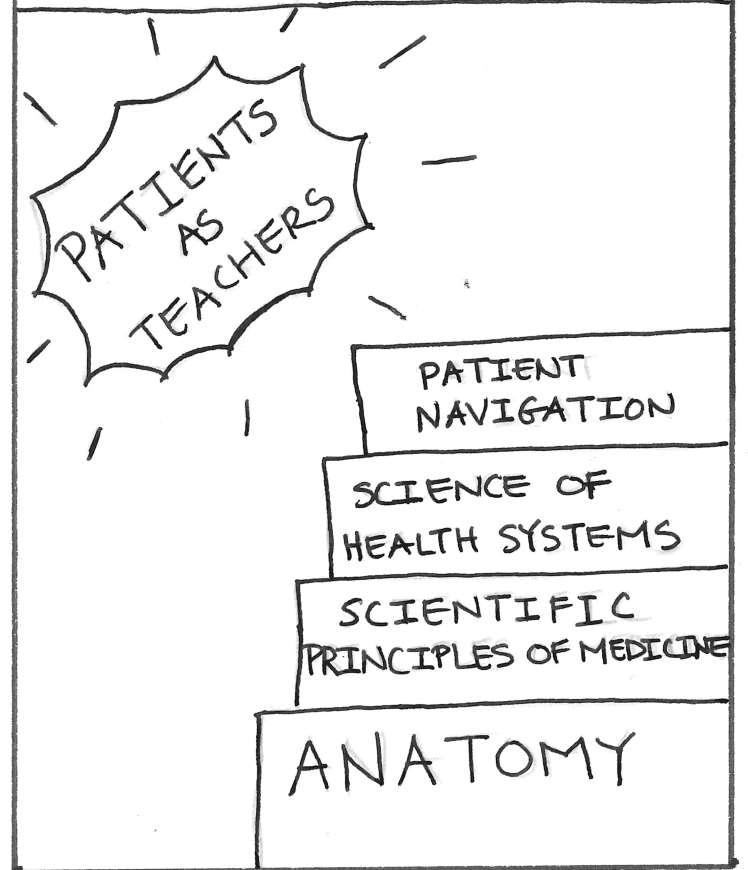


WILSON CHAN

3 MONTHS INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL  
AND ALREADY I FEEL LIKE I'M  
READY TO RETIRE...



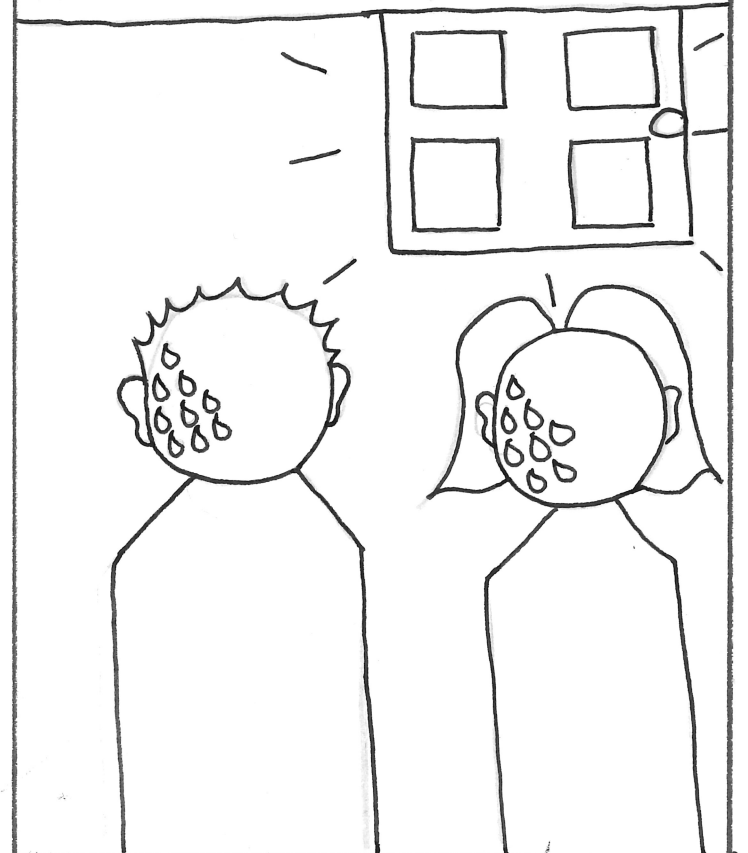
ON TOP OF CLASSES, ANOTHER ONE  
WAS ADDED TO THE ENDLESS  
STACK...



WE WERE ASSIGNED A RANDOM  
PARTNER FOR THE PROJECT...



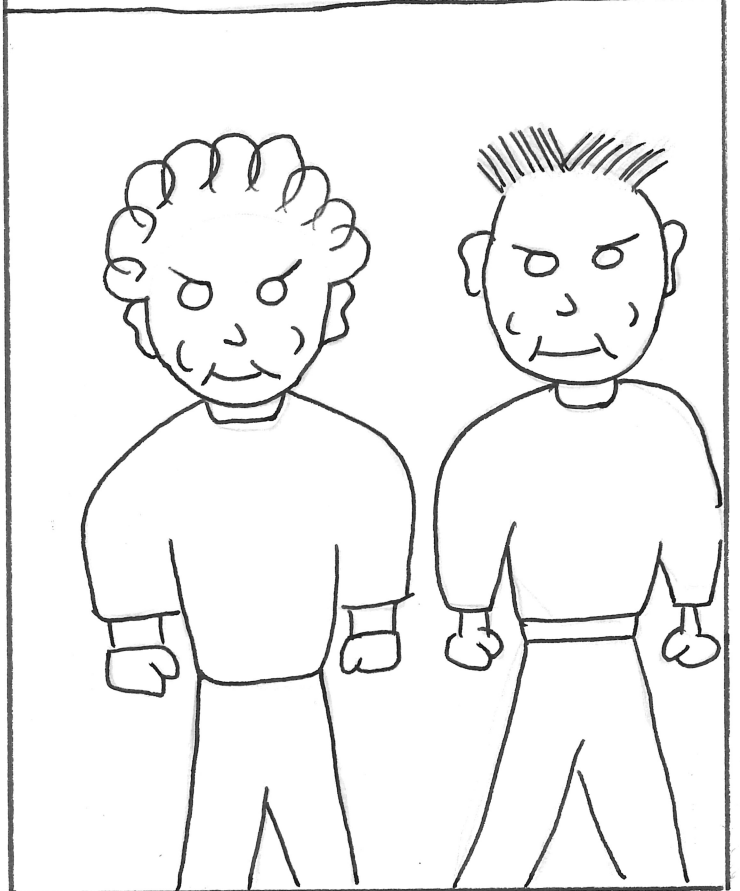
WE ARRIVED AT THE PATIENT'S  
HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND  
DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT...



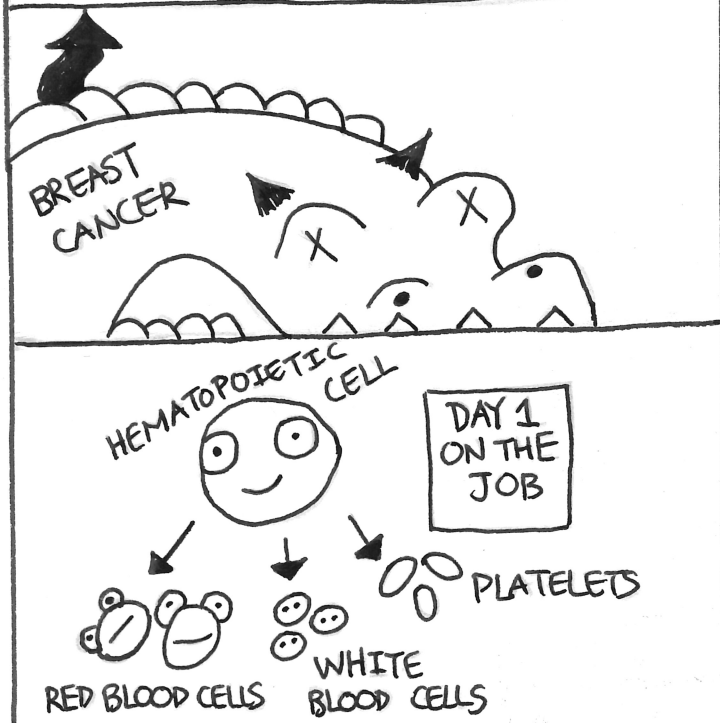
FOR SOME REASON, I ENVISIONED THE PATIENT AS A GIANT, WHOSE FOOTSTEPS WOULD CAUSE EARTHQUAKES



IN REALITY, THE PATIENT AND HER HUSBAND WERE NICE FOLKS.



THE PATIENT WAS A FIGHTER, HAVING BEEN IN REMISSION FOR BOTH BREAST CANCER (EARLY 2000S) AND ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (AFTER 2010). SHE'S EVEN A STEM CELL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT.



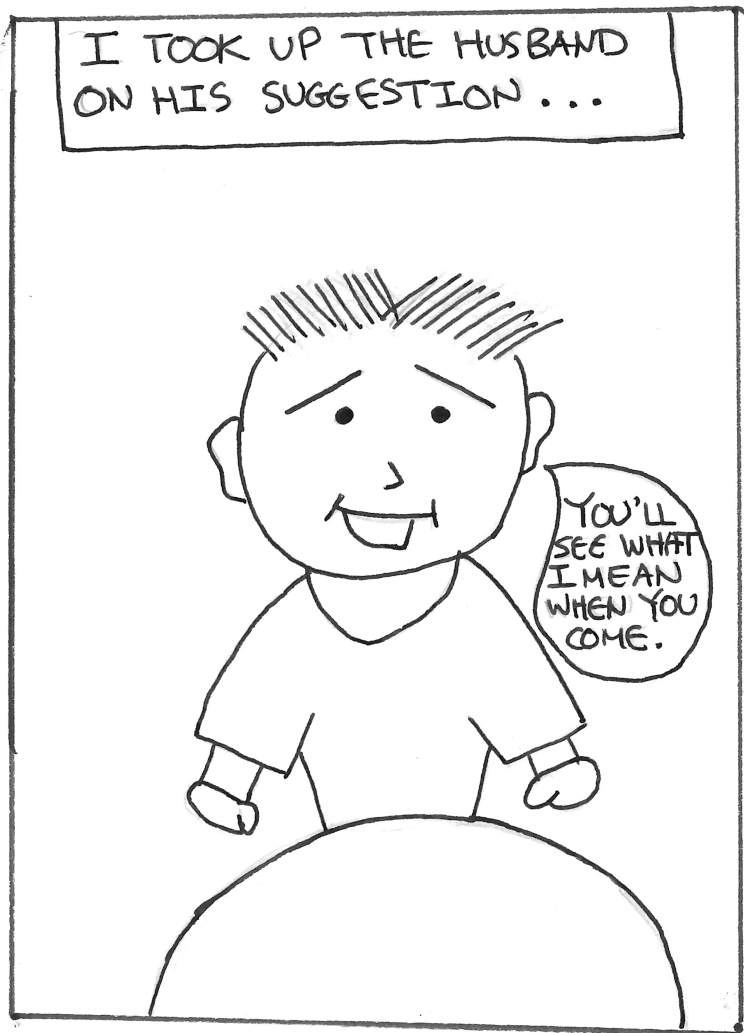
WHILE MY PARTNER-IN-CRIME WAS TALKING WITH THE PATIENT, I ENGAGED THE HUSBAND, WHO WAS THE CAREGIVER. HE TOLD ME TO TAKE ONE LESSON AWAY.



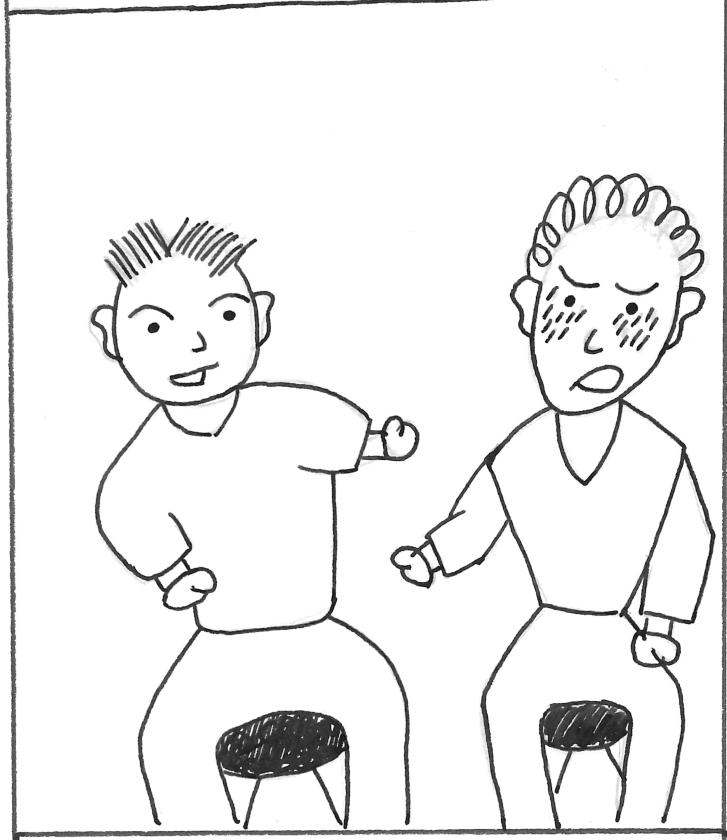
THE HUSBAND KNEW I WAS CONFUSED AND SUGGESTED I COME TO A SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR CAREGIVERS.



I TOOK UP THE HUSBAND ON HIS SUGGESTION...



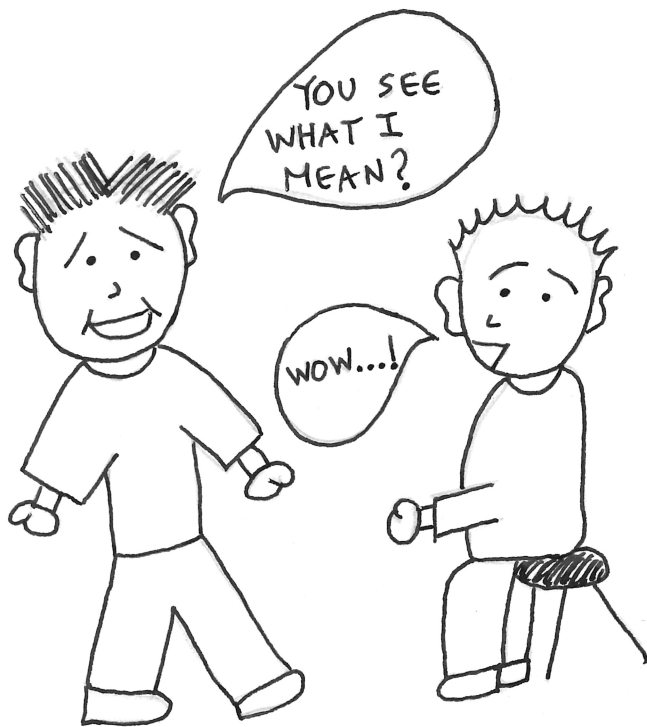
THE HUSBAND ASKED A NEWCOMER HOW HE WAS DOING AND I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE HIS REACTION.



THE ROOM BECAME INCREDIBLY QUIET.



AT THIS POINT, I UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE HUSBAND MEANT BY HOW PROFOUND THAT ONE QUESTION WAS.



I EVENTUALLY FINISHED THE PATIENTS AS TEACHERS PROJECT AND WENT BACK TO RESUMING CLASSES, STUDYING THROUGH THE NIGHT AND DRINKING COFFEE.



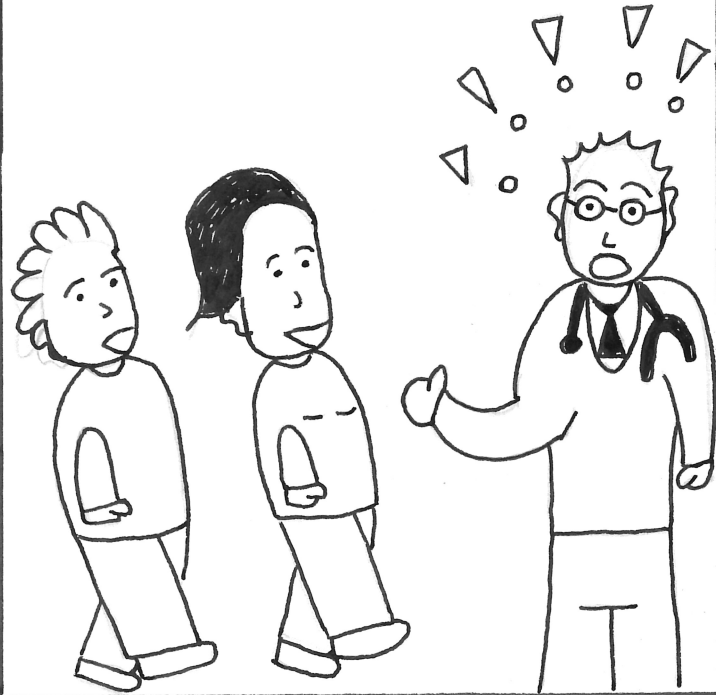
EVENTUALLY, I STARTED MY CLINICAL YEARS, PLOWING THROUGH ROTATIONS...



DURING ONE OF MY ROTATIONS, I WAS TO SPEND A COUPLE OF DAYS IN THE OUTPATIENT CLINIC AT THE CANCER INSTITUTE.



WHEN I SAW A RETURN PATIENT,  
THE CAREGIVER WAS THERE AS  
WELL. WHEN I WALKED IN THE  
ROOM, THE PATIENTS AS TEACHERS  
EXPERIENCE DAWNED UPON ME.



BEFORE DELVING INTO THE PATIENT'S  
SYMPTOMS, I PROCEEDED TO ASK THE  
CAREGIVER HOW SHE WAS DOING.



I FINISH MEDICAL SCHOOL AND  
DURING GRADUATION, I CONTEMPLATE  
ALL THE VALUABLE LESSONS I  
LEARNED IN THE PAST 4 YEARS.



THE PATIENTS AS TEACHERS  
PROJECT RANKS AS ONE OF THE  
HIGHEST. IT'S AN EXPERIENCE  
I'LL CARRY THROUGH RESIDENCY  
AND MY CAREER.