

DOCTOR VISITS

by Estrella Vega

a semi-autobiography recounted
in "stream of consciousness" way



GOD I'M FLAT



BUT WAIT...
IF I PUSH
MY SIDE-BOOBS
TO THE
FRONT..



NOT A
BIG
DIFFERENCE



THERE'S
A LUMP



A DEFINITE LUMP



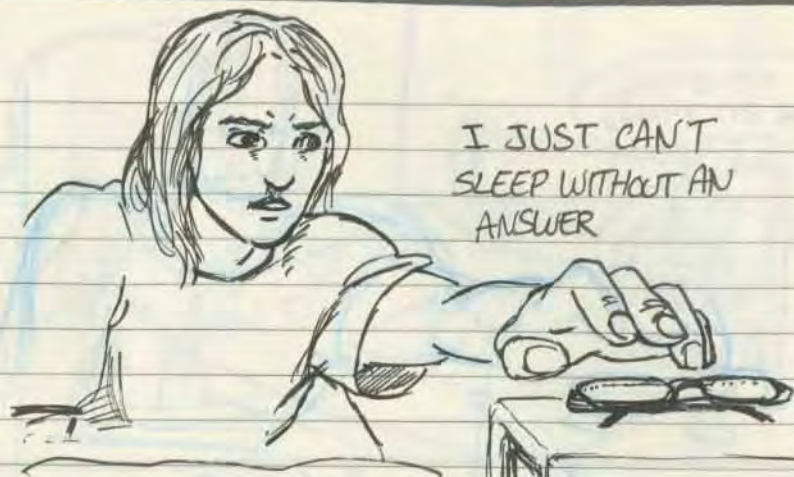
WHAT COULD
IT BE?



IF MY KNOWLEDGE OF
ANATOMY IS CORRECT,
THERE'S BREAST TISSUE,
MUSCLES, BONES, LYMPH
NODES & NERVES IN THAT
AREA...

ENLARGED LYMPH NODE?

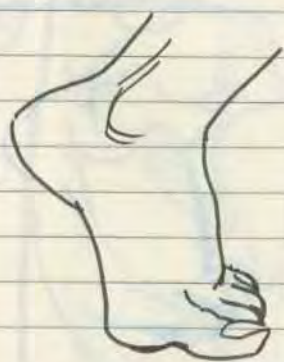




I JUST CANT
SLEEP WITHOUT AN
ANSWER



I'LL ASK
MOM



MOM?

KNOCK
KNOCK







WHY AM I ALWAYS LIKE A HYPOCHONDRIAC?
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING SERIOUS.
JUST LIKE ALL THOSE OTHER TIMES
I THOUGHT I WAS SICK, BUT WASN'T.

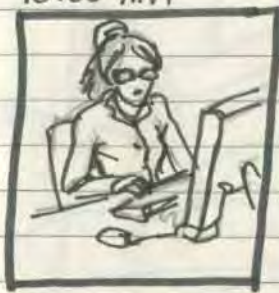
I'LL JUST GO SEE A DOCTOR WHEN
I GET BACK IN 2 WEEKS



BACK IN NEW YORK AND BACK TO WORK

10:00 A.M

6:00 P.M



10:30 A.M

8:00 P.M



10:00 A.M

7:00 P.M



10:30 AM

10 P.M



FORGOT TO MAKE DOCTOR APPOINTMENT

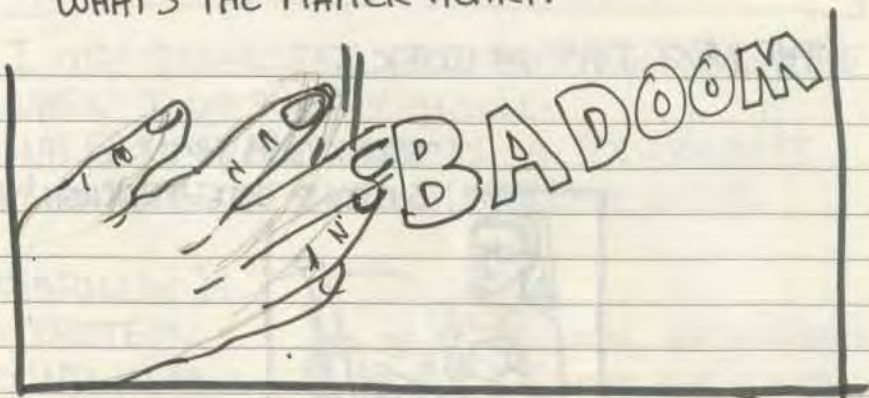


BADDOOM



THAT WAS WEIRD

WHAT'S THE MATTER HEART?



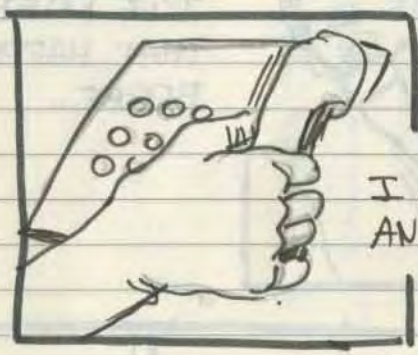
I'VE NEVER HAD
THAT HAPPEN TWICE
BEFORE...



I GUESS I'M
OVERDUE TO
SEE A CARDIOLOGIST
...I REALLY NEED
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
WITH A DOCTOR

THE NEXT DAY AT WORK...

TODAY, I'M NOT
GETTING SIDE-TRACKED!



I AM MAKING
AN APPOINTMENT!

AN EXPLANATION IS IN ORDER!

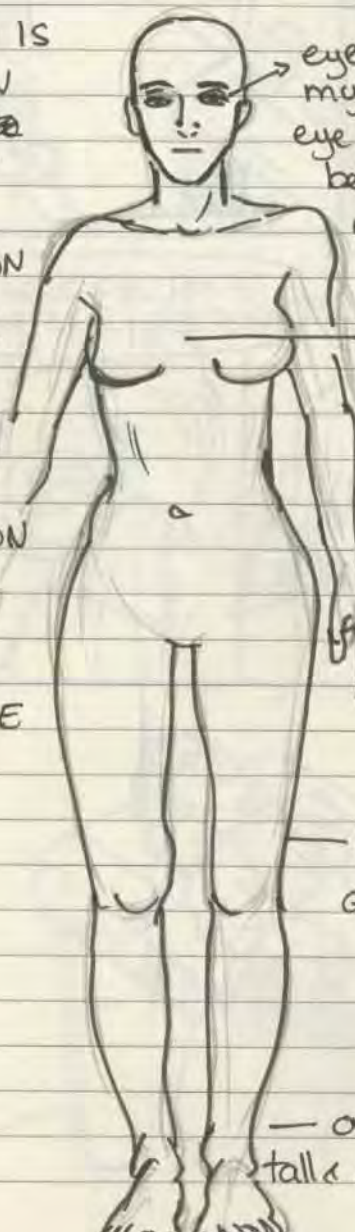
I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH MARFAN SYNDROME WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG..

MARFAN SYNDROME IS A DOMINANT MUTATION OF THE FIBRILLIN GENE.

FIBRILLIN IS A PROTEIN FOUND IN ~~the~~ CONNECTIVE TISSUE.

THE MUTATION CAUSES THE CONNECTIVE TISSUES TO BE WEAKER

~~THE~~ THE MUTATION ALSO GIVES YOU A SINGULAR APPEARANCE



eyes:
myopia, astigmatism
eye lenses not directly behind pupils, higher chance of cataracts

heart
~~a~~ heart valves aren't as strong, regurgitation occurs, aortic aneurysm is more likely to happen.

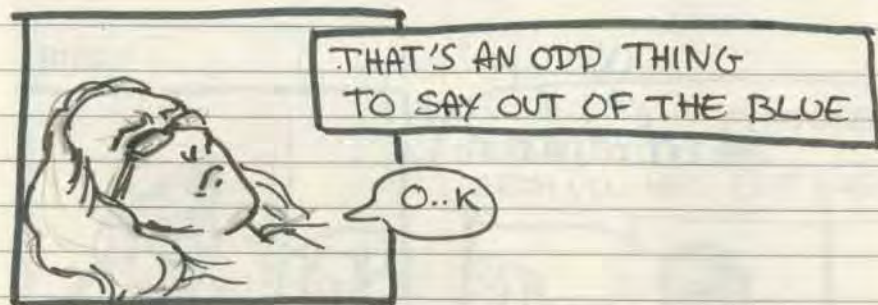
hands:
very long fingers

legs (& arms also) are elongated

— overall body is tall & skinny

WAITING FOR THE CARDIOLOGIST



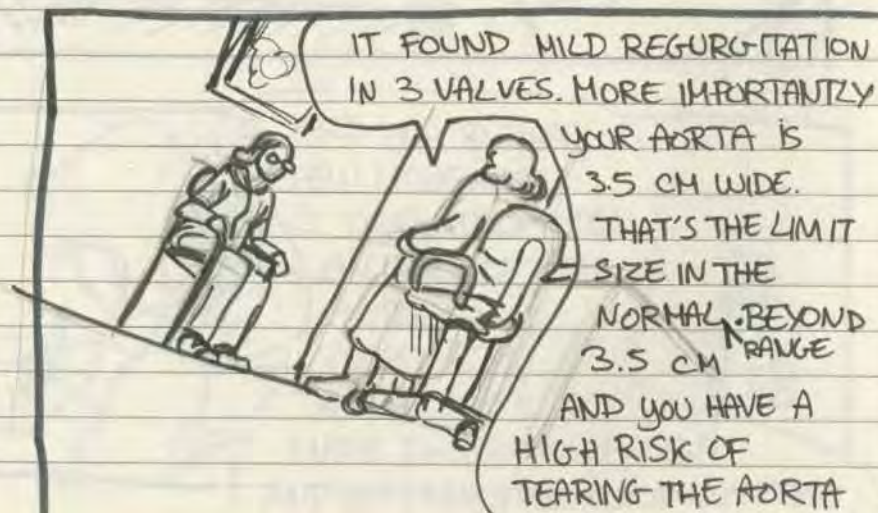


IT'S IN THE
MEDICAL LITERATURE.
YOU SHOULDN'T
GET PREGNANT!



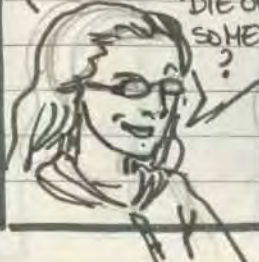


LATER...

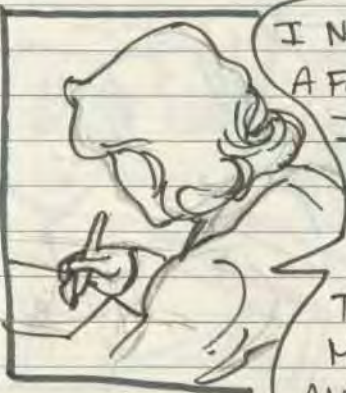
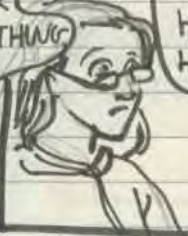




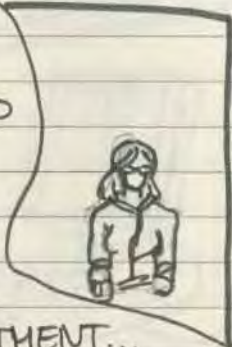
SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
AM I GOING TO DIE OR SOMETHING?



STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED



I NEED YOU TO TAKE A FEW MORE TEST...
I DEFINITELY NEED AN MRI OF THE AORTA....
PLEASE CALL THIS HOSPITAL TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT...
AND SCHEDULE A FOLLOWUP WITH ME





STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED

STRANGER THINGS
HAVE HAPPENED



STRANGER
THINGS HAVE
HAPPENED





I MAY DIE AND
I CAN'T HAVE KIDS

I HAD A DREAM THAT ONE DAY MY DESCENDANTS
WOULD RULE THE WORLD. I'M KINDA
EGO MANIACAL IN SOME WAY, AND IF MY CHILDREN
COULD TAKE OVER



THE WORLD, IT
WOULD PROVE
HOW
AWESOME
I AM

I HAVE SOME REALLY
STUPID DREAMS.
I MEAN, ~~WHY~~ I DON'T EVEN
HAVE A BOYFRIEND... HOW
THE HELL CAN I HAVE KIDS
WHEN I DON'T HAVE THAT?

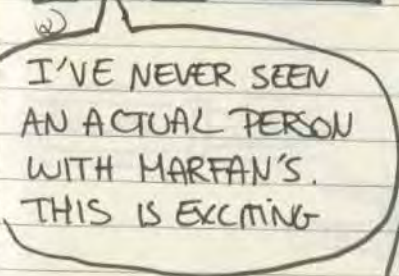
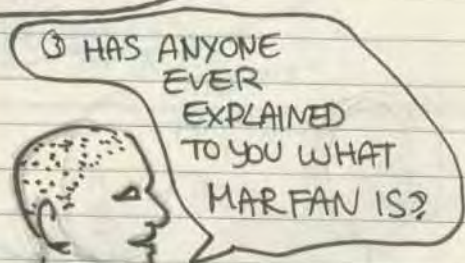


I'M STUPID

WAITING FOR THE DOCTOR

THINGS I NEED TO TALK ABOUT:

- cough
- insomnia
- lump under arm



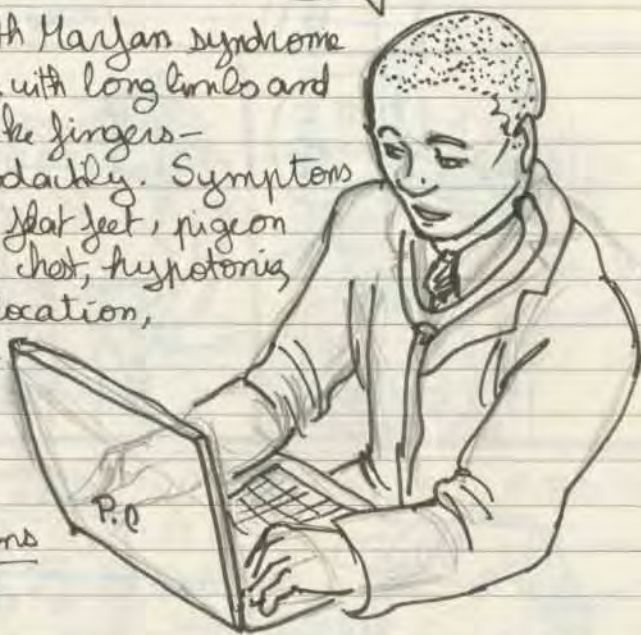


I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING...

NOT REALLY

ALRIGHT, LET ME PULL UP THE FILE ON IT

People with Marfan syndrome are long with long limbs and spider-like fingers - arachnoidally. Symptoms include flat feet, pigeon or funnel chest, hypotonia, lens dislocation, micrognathia, collapsed lung, aneurysms

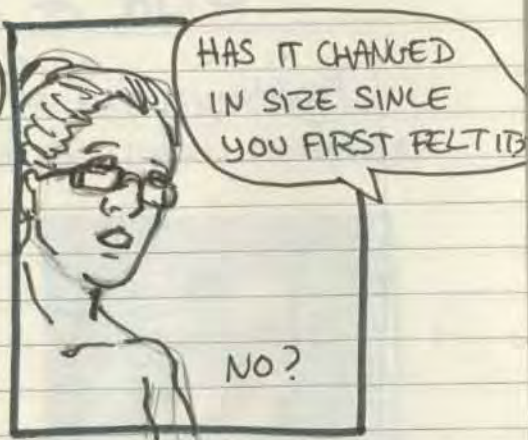


I'M A FREAK





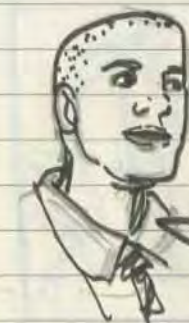




FAMILY HISTORY?

NO

I'M SURE IT'S
NOTHING SERIOUS...
MAYBE A LYMPH NODE...
BUT YOU SHOULD
SEE A BREAST
SPECIALIST



WE HAVE
ONE HERE
AT THE CLINIC
IF YOU WANT TO
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.



NO THANKS,
I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON,
I'M NEVER COMING BACK HERE
AGAIN.





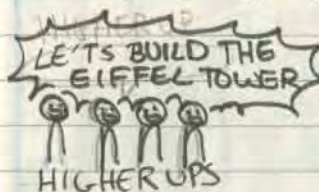
HIS HELLO HONEY. I'M JUST CALLING IN SINCE YOU SAW THE DOCTOR TODAY. SO WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT THE LUMP?

HE HE SAYS IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING... BUT THAT I SHOULD SEE A "BREAST SPECIALIST"

MOM WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE AN APPT. WITH A GYNECOLOGIST



LISTEN!
YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE GIRL ANYMORE! STOP BEING SO IMMATURE!
GO SEE A GYNECOLOGIST

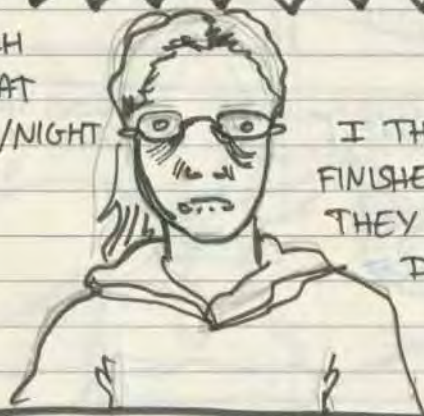


AND YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT,

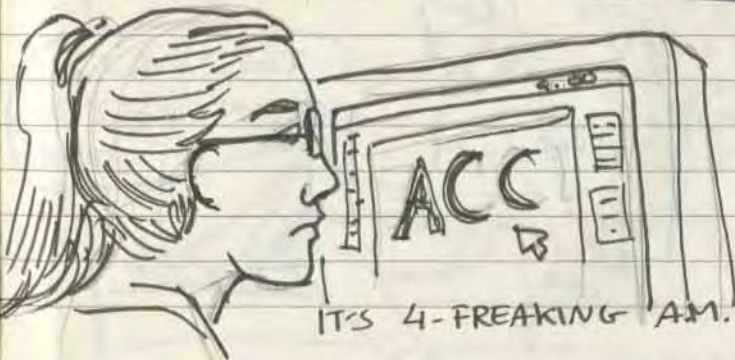


(an exaggeration of a new business pitch)

MUCH MUCH LATER THAT SAME DAY / NIGHT



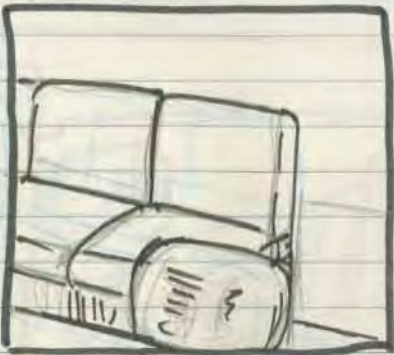
I THINK I'VE FINISHED EVERYTHING THEY WANTED ME TO DO



NO USE GOING HOME
AT THIS HOUR



I NEED
TO FIND
A SPOT
TO SLEEP



BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP

BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP



I CANT SLEEP
IF I FEEL MY HEART
BEAT.

BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP

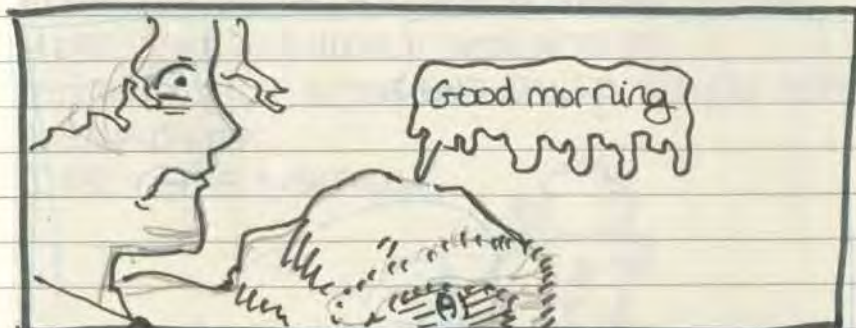


WHEN I FEEL
MY HEARTBEAT
I BECOME SCARED
THAT IT'S GOING TO
HAVE PALPITATIONS

BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP

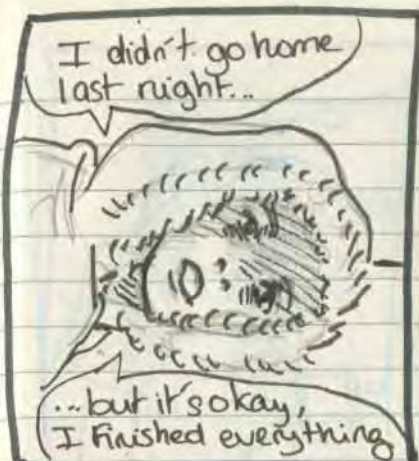
I'M SO TIRED... BUT I
CAN'T SLEEP

9:30 A.M



Wow! You scared
me! I didn't realize
you were under there!





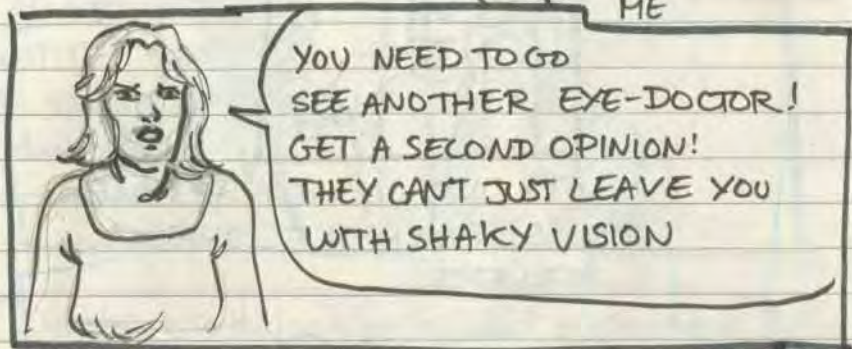
WHY WONT IT
END, THE
TORTURE ?

ALTHOUGH THIS PITCH EVENTUALLY ENDED MORE PITCHES WOULD REPLACE IT. PITCHES WHICH IN THE END FAILED TO WIN ANY NEW BUSINESS. I FELT LIKE SYSSYPHUS ...

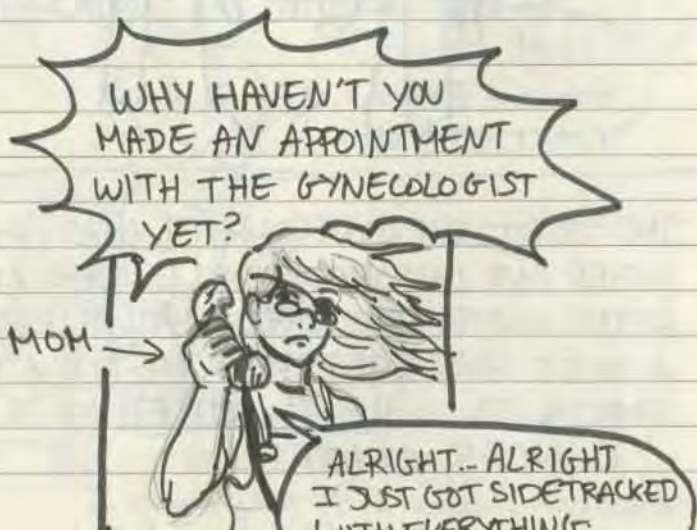


IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME THAT MY RIGHT EYE STARTED HAVING SHAKY VISION.

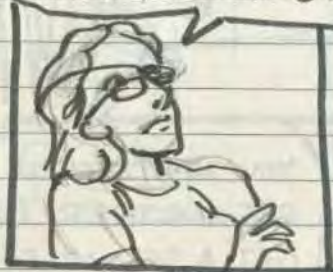




... IF ONLY MY BOSS KNEW HOW MUCH MODERN MEDICINE HAS FAILED ME LATELY...

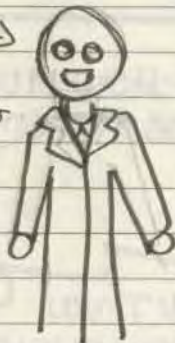


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I FEEL WORSE
ABOUT... A MALE GYNECOLOGIST
OR A FEMALE GYNECOLOGIST?



LET'S JUST GO WITH FEMALE...
LESS OF A CHANCE SHE'S A
PERVERT

THERE'S
ONLY ONE
REASON
I'M DOING
THIS...
GIGGYDY



GIVING
BIRTH
IS WONDERFUL.
IT CONNECT YOU
WITH MOTHER
EARTH!



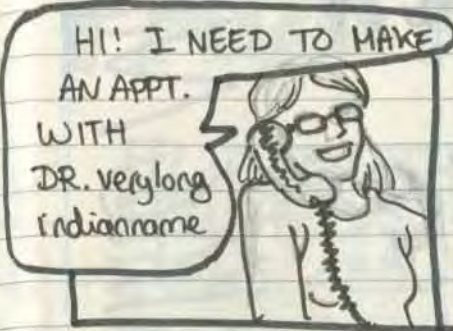
THE TRIP TO THE GYNECOLOGIST WAS, AS EXPECTED,
WEIRD AND UNCOMFORTABLE. SHE LOOKED
AT THE LUMP, MUTTERED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY
A CYST AND REFERRED ME TO A BREAST
SPECIALIST WHO PRACTICED AT A
"CANCER CENTER"

(By the way, my vision suddenly stopped

shaking
by then)



HELLO!
THIS IS THE CANCER CENTER!



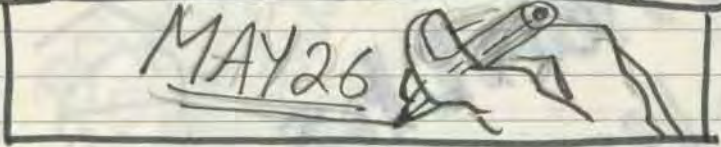
HI! I NEED TO MAKE
AN APPT.
WITH
DR. verylong
indianname



ARE YOU A NEW PATIENT?

YES

Dr. Verylong IndianName's next available date is a month from now... May 26



MAY 26

Oh ok... that works for me.



You'd think a place that deals with cancer patients would have shorter waiting periods...

I mean what if I actually had cancer?

AT AROUND THAT TIME,
IN THE NEWS.

Patrick
Swayze

only has
3 months
to live

Fatal pancreatic cancer

ROGER EBERT
TALKS ABOUT
HIS ORDEAL!

KENNEDY DIAGNOSED

DOCTORS CAN NOT CURE PAUL NEWMAN

WITH BRAIN CANCER

ELIZABETH EDWARDS TALKS ABOUT CANCER

BOB NOVAK DIAGNOSED WITH BRANUTYOP

TONY SNOW DIES OF CANCER!

I'm so glad I'm not in their shoes

Christina Applegate undergoes mastectomy!

ahem







I totally don't fit in here... I'm young!



I just need to come here to confirm I have a cyst, then I can leave this depressing place forever



please take off your top and bra... The doctor will be with you shortly





so that's what a breast
looks like



kind of gross



I wonder
what gender the
doctor is...

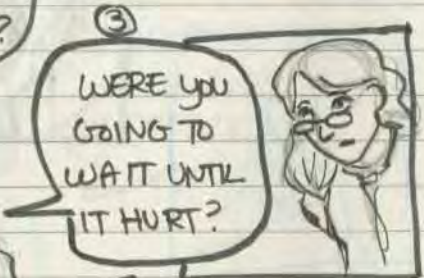
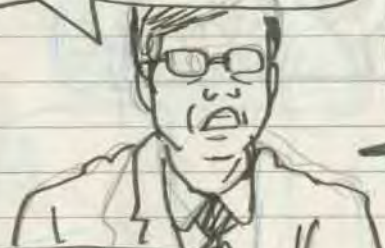
If it's a guy, he must
be a pervert... why else
would a guy decide
to study breasts?

waiting...



6 MONTHS AGO!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

①



②

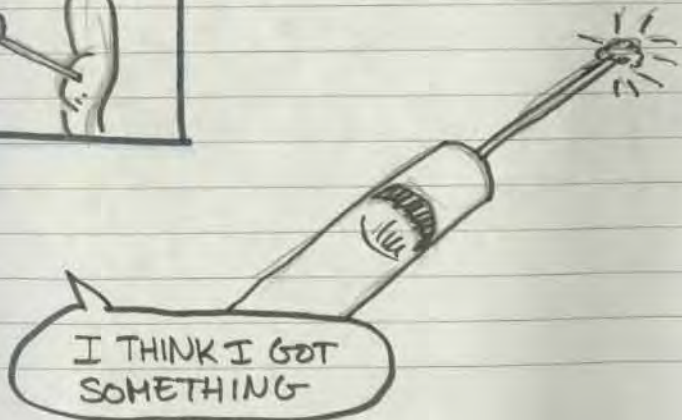
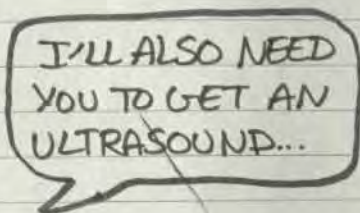
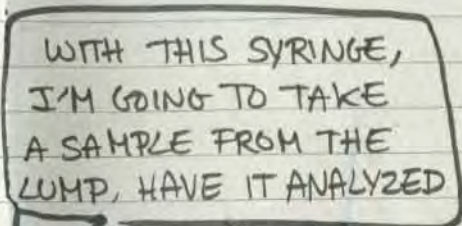
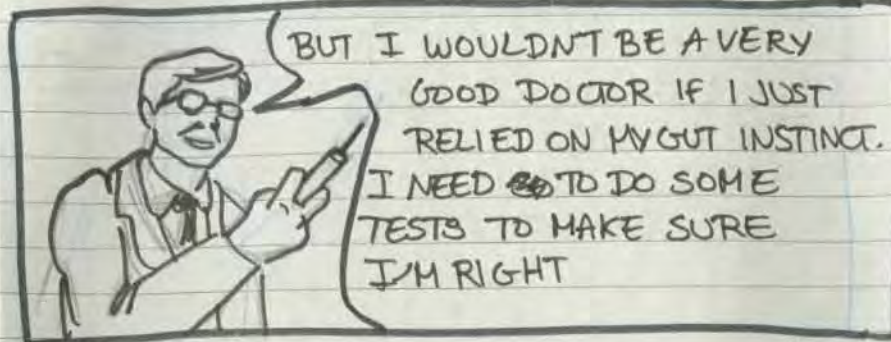
WELL, IT DOESN'T HURT AN IT HASN'T CHANGED SIZE SO I THOUGHT IT WAS NOTHING



CHC

OKAY, LET ME SEE
THIS LUMP





OUT OF ALL THE DOCTORS I'D SEEN THESE 6 MONTHS, I LIKED HIM BEST... HE WAS NICE, AND I COULD TELL HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

I THINK HIS GUT INSTINCTS WOULD HAVE BEEN RIGHT 80% OF THE TIME:

HERE HE HAD A 27 YEAR OLD, WITH NO HISTORY OF BREAST CANCER IN HER FAMILY, NO PAIN IN THE LUMP, AND A LUMP THAT HADN'T GROWN OR WASN'T ANCHORED TO A PRECISE AREA.

UNFORTUNATELY IN THIS INSTANCE, HE WAS WRONG.

Thank you if you've made it this far. Please drop me a comment if you liked or hated the story at

<http://estrella.vega.com/fiction-project>