

The

itchies



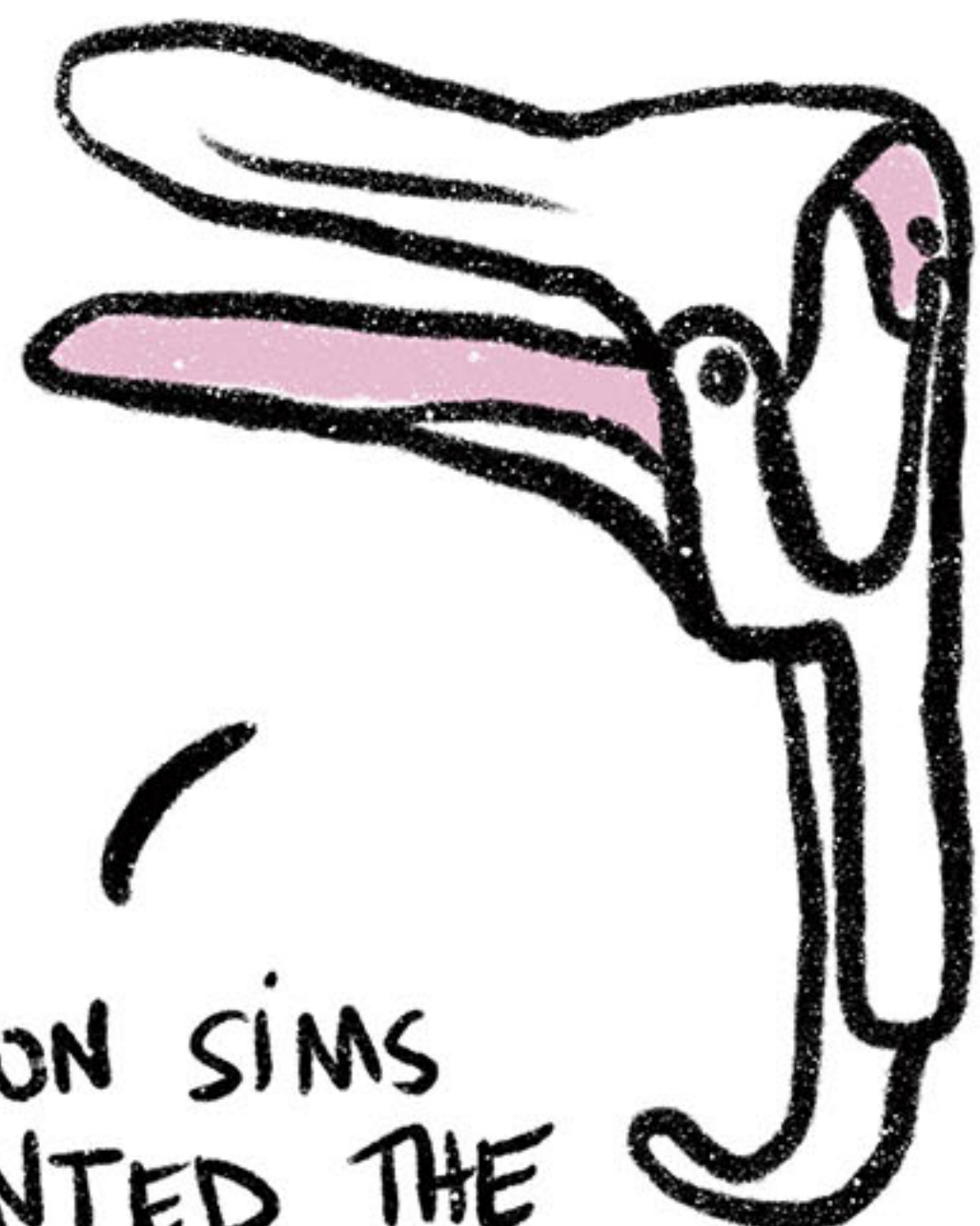
The medical apartheid in the United States started in the colonial period when enslaved Africans were not only purchased for labor or as domestic servants but as medical experimentation.



And in fact, the many medical advances we enjoy today are attributed to the cruel experimentation on enslaved Black bodies.



T.S. Hopkins gave nitric acid to enslaved people in order to test its effects treating asthma.



MARION SIMS INVENTED THE VAGINAL SPECULUM.



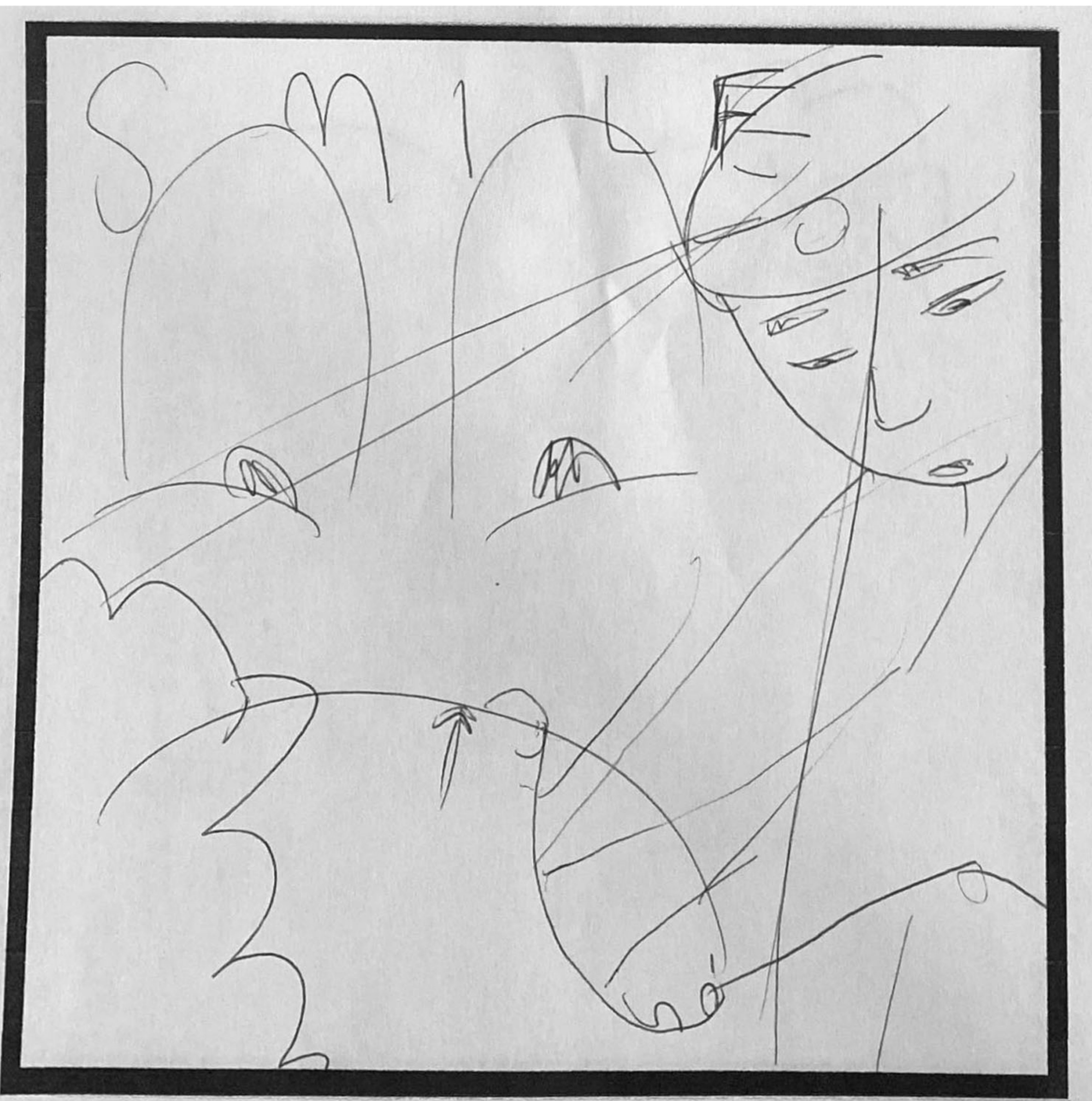
Thomas Jefferson inoculated over 200 slaves with cowpox vaccine in order to test its efficacy against smallpox.



Because of this when I go to the doctor's office I have to prep myself for potential visceral historical reactions.

(Me at the dentist's office as "eyes" on the posters watch over me.)

ANIMATION: poster eyes follow the mouse



The ideal scenerio is being able to identify racist capitalist messaging and recommendations on the spot. This dodges any surprise reactions.

(Dentist checking my mouth, I look a bit uncomfortable)

NO ANIMATION.



However, this is harder than it looks.

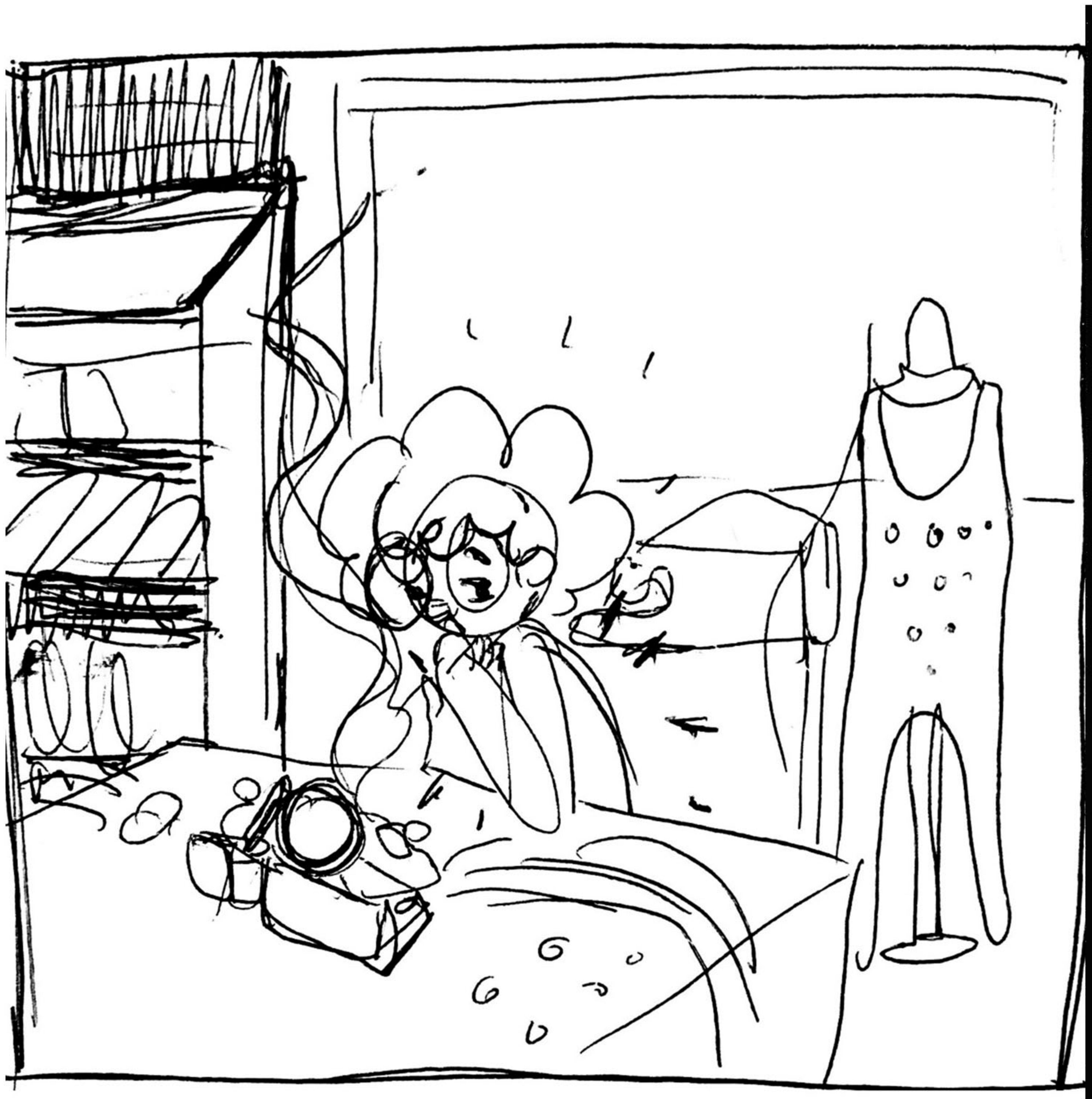
(Me laying back with mouth wide open while my dentist tells me that "my people" usually get gingivitis.)

ANIMATION: blood dripping from my mouth.

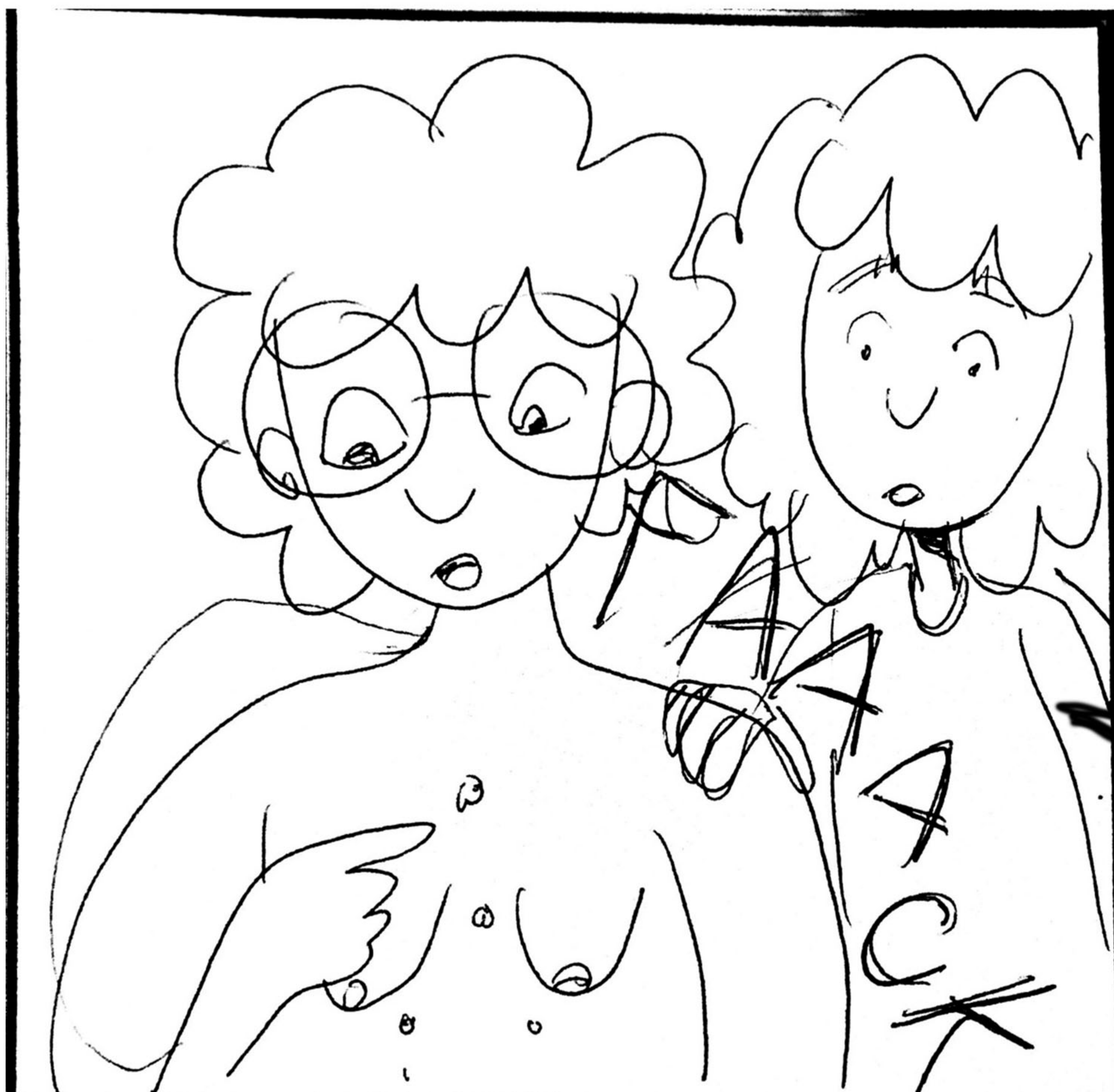


And I wish I could say that was an isolated incident but its happened enough times that I'm no longer in denial.

(My GP asking me if I'm sure that I have not been drinking since my liver enzyme levels were through the roof)



A couple of days before learning about my liver enzymes I began to feel real itchy at work.

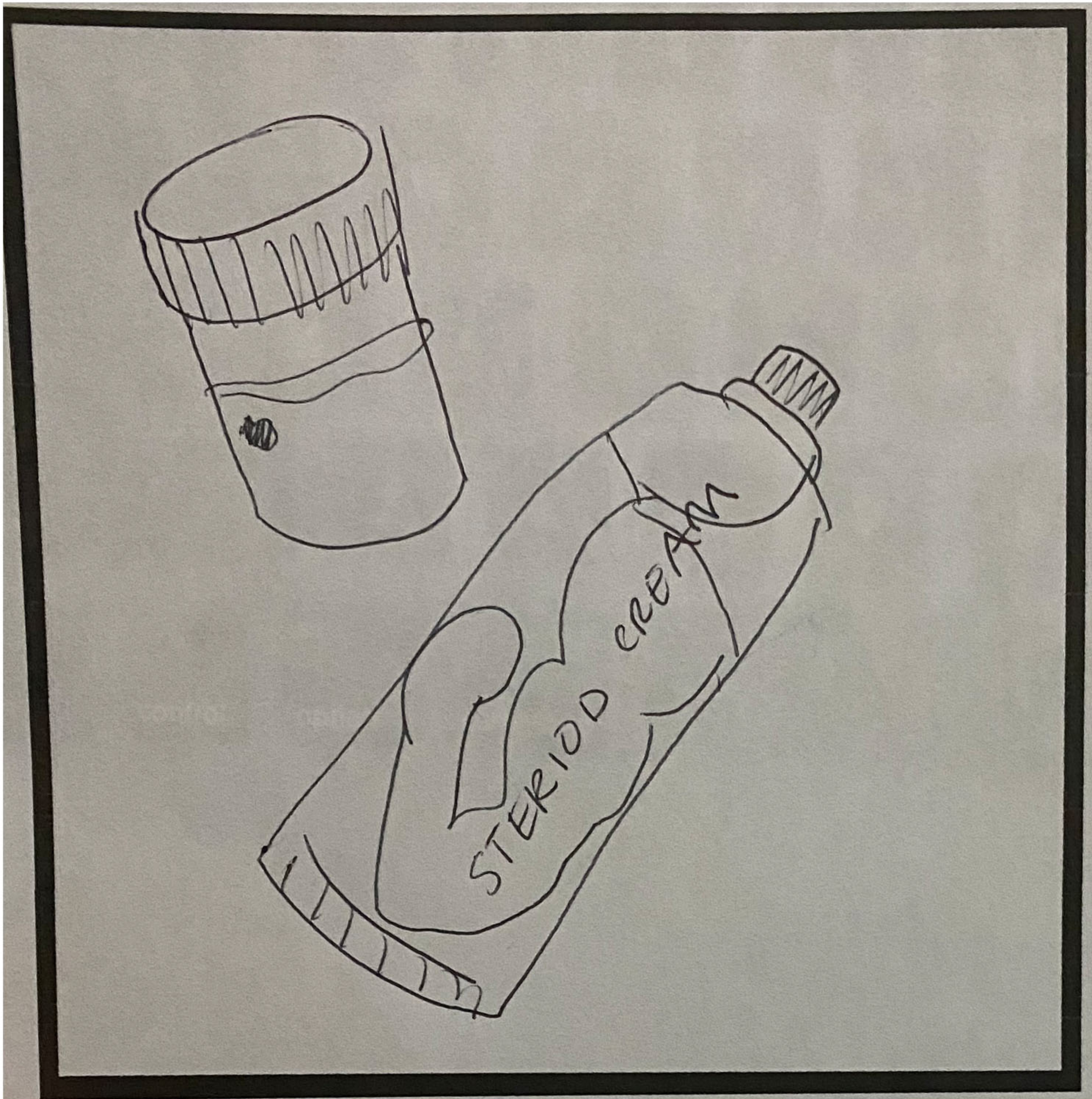


I ignored the sensation since I have sensitive skin and my skin is always triggered. However, the itchies I developed became larger and itchier. I would have to go visit a dermatologist.

Babe, I need you to get that checked out.

But I had no need to stress. I knew exactly what I was asking for. No room for racist or classists comments here, just a topical allergy test!

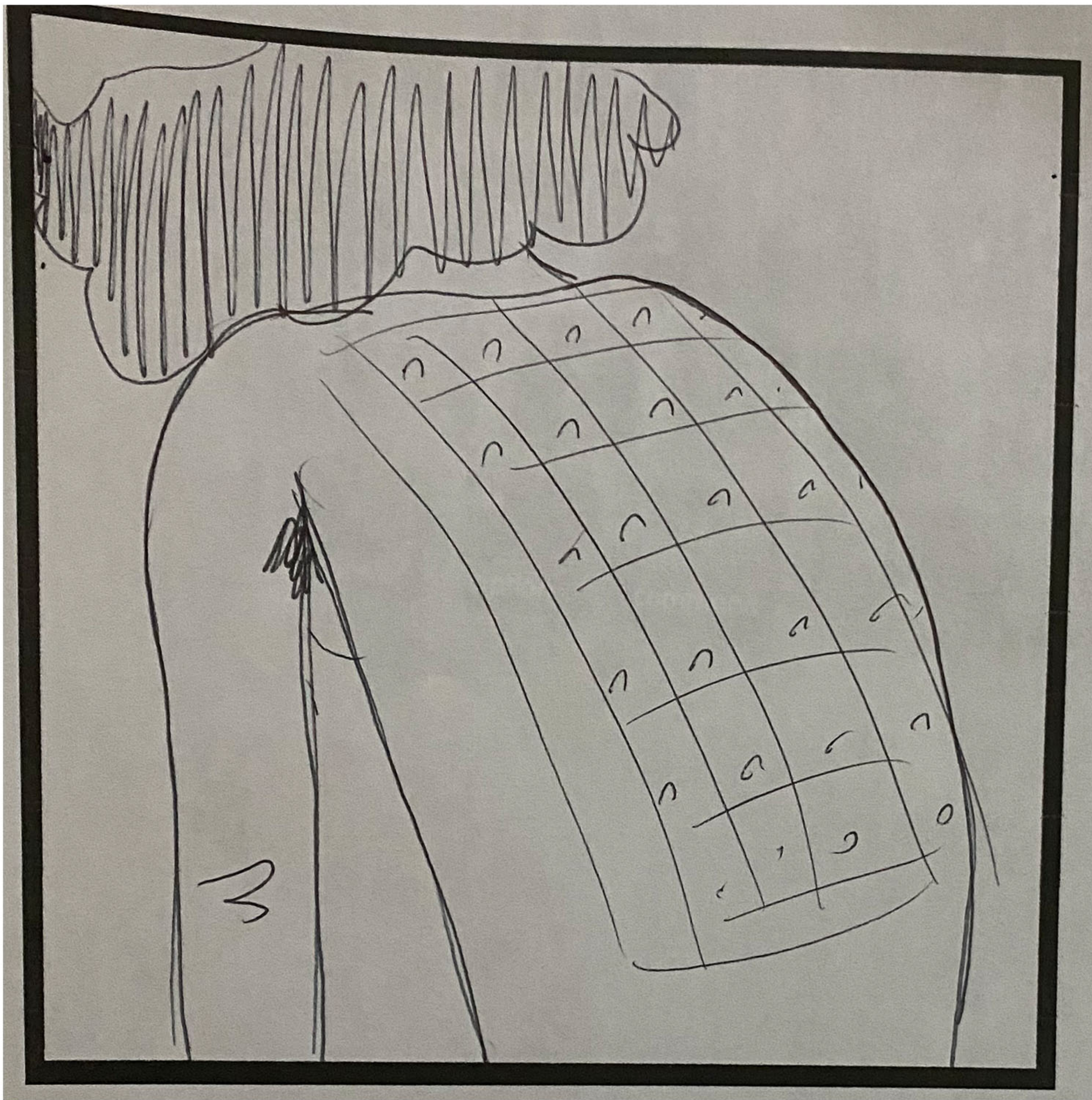




That visit Dr. Chen took a bioposy of my skin and recommended a steriod cream



which a couple of days later discolored my face so drastically I avoided public gatherings for weeks.



My next dermatology visit included negative biopsy results (hurray!) and instructions for avoiding moisture on the week long topical allergy exam.



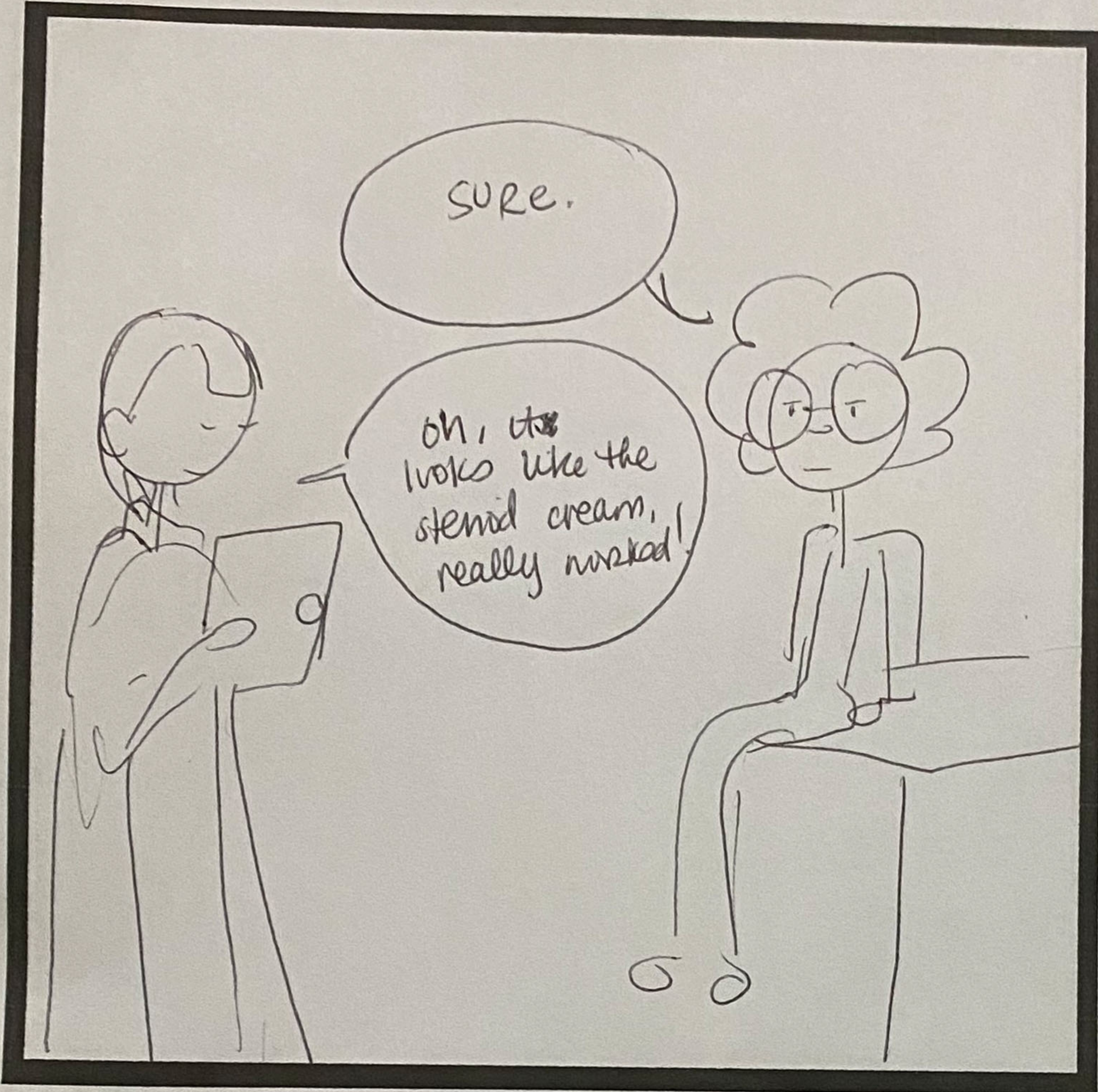
This resulted in an unexpected bond with my dog.



The topical exam revealed that I am hyper allergic to nickel. Which makes sense since I've never been able to wear fake jewelry without breaking out.

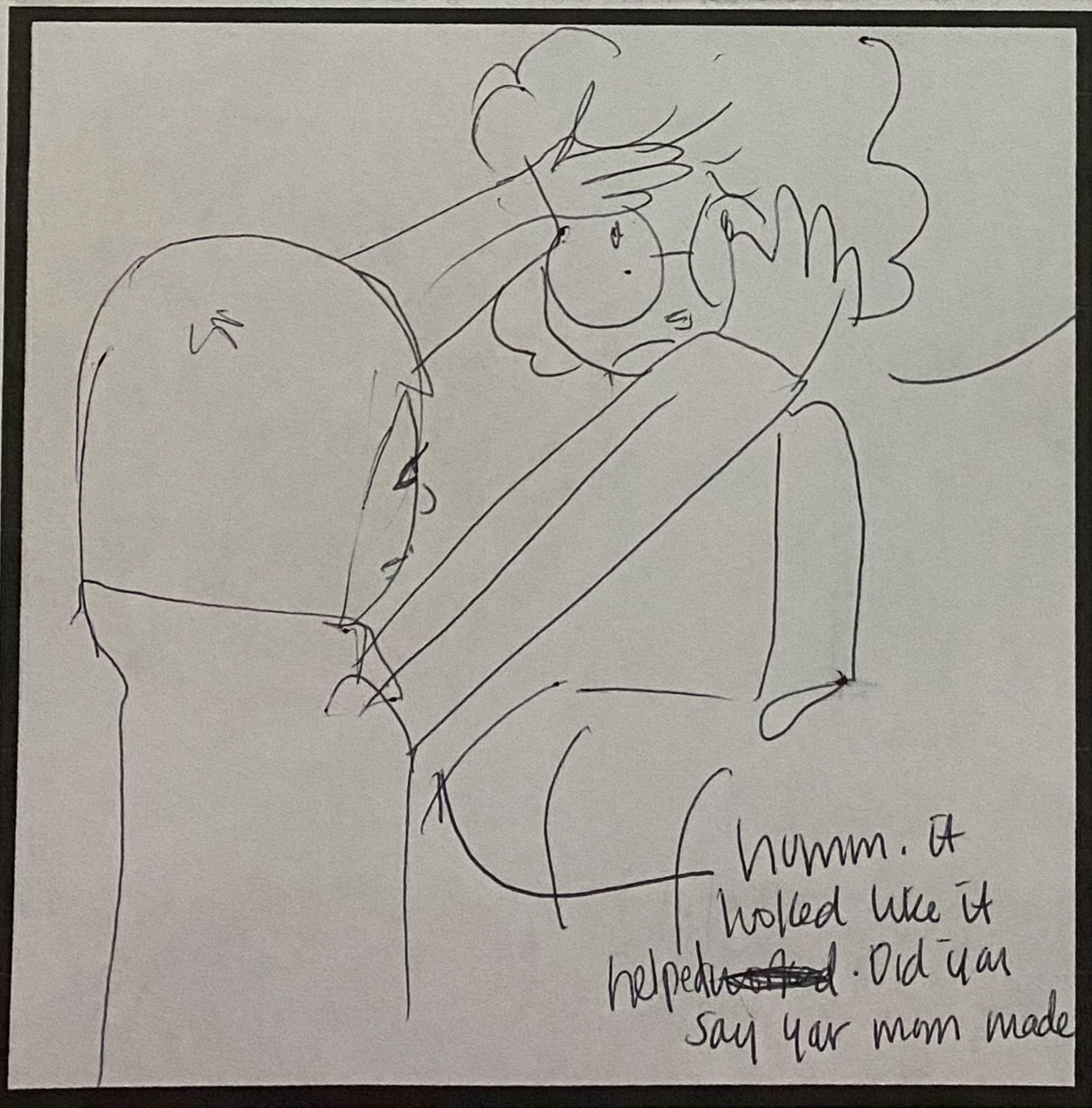


unfortunately, she's a product of institutional racism, don't take it personally.



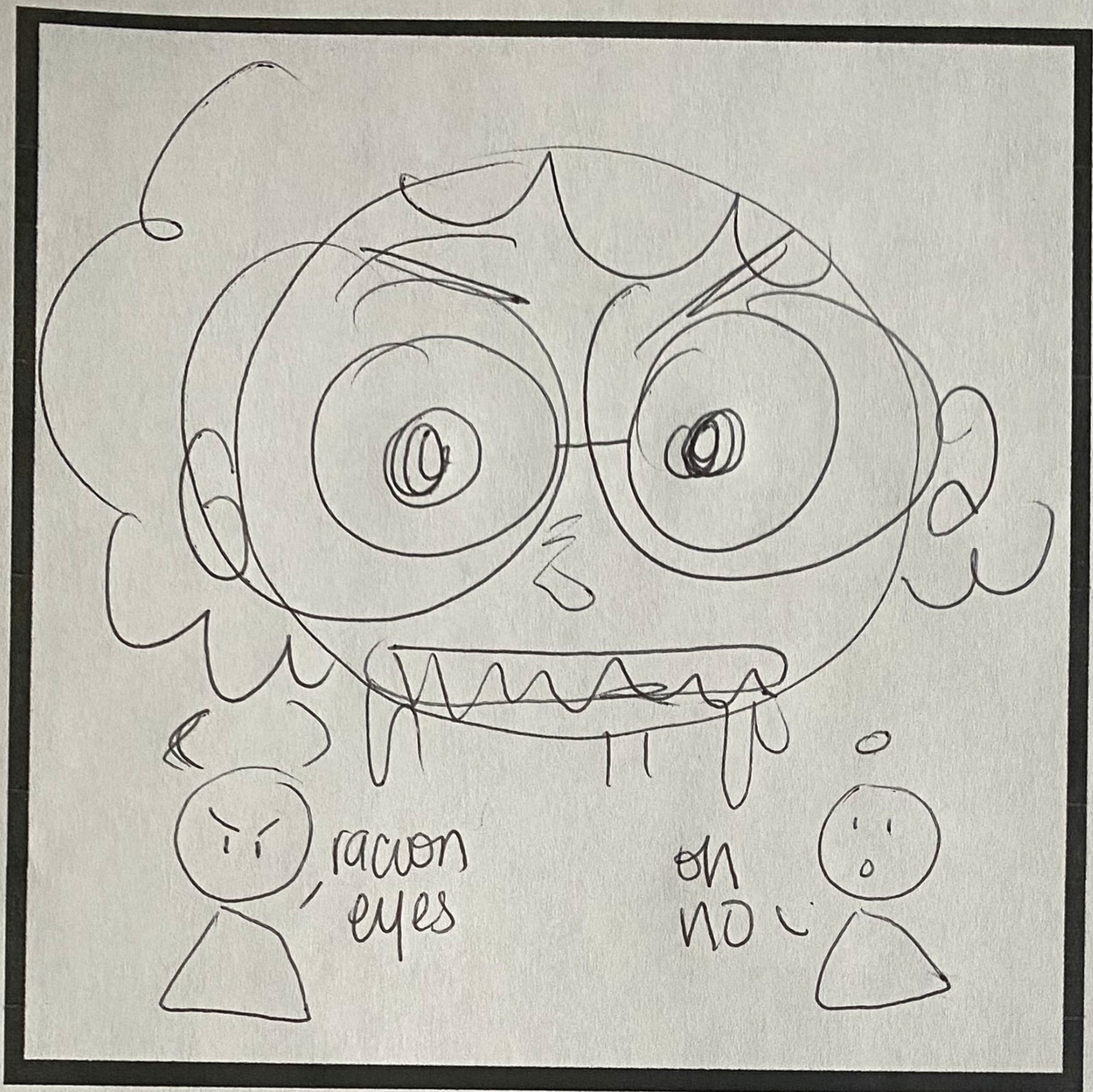
sure.

oh, it looks like the steroid cream, really worked!



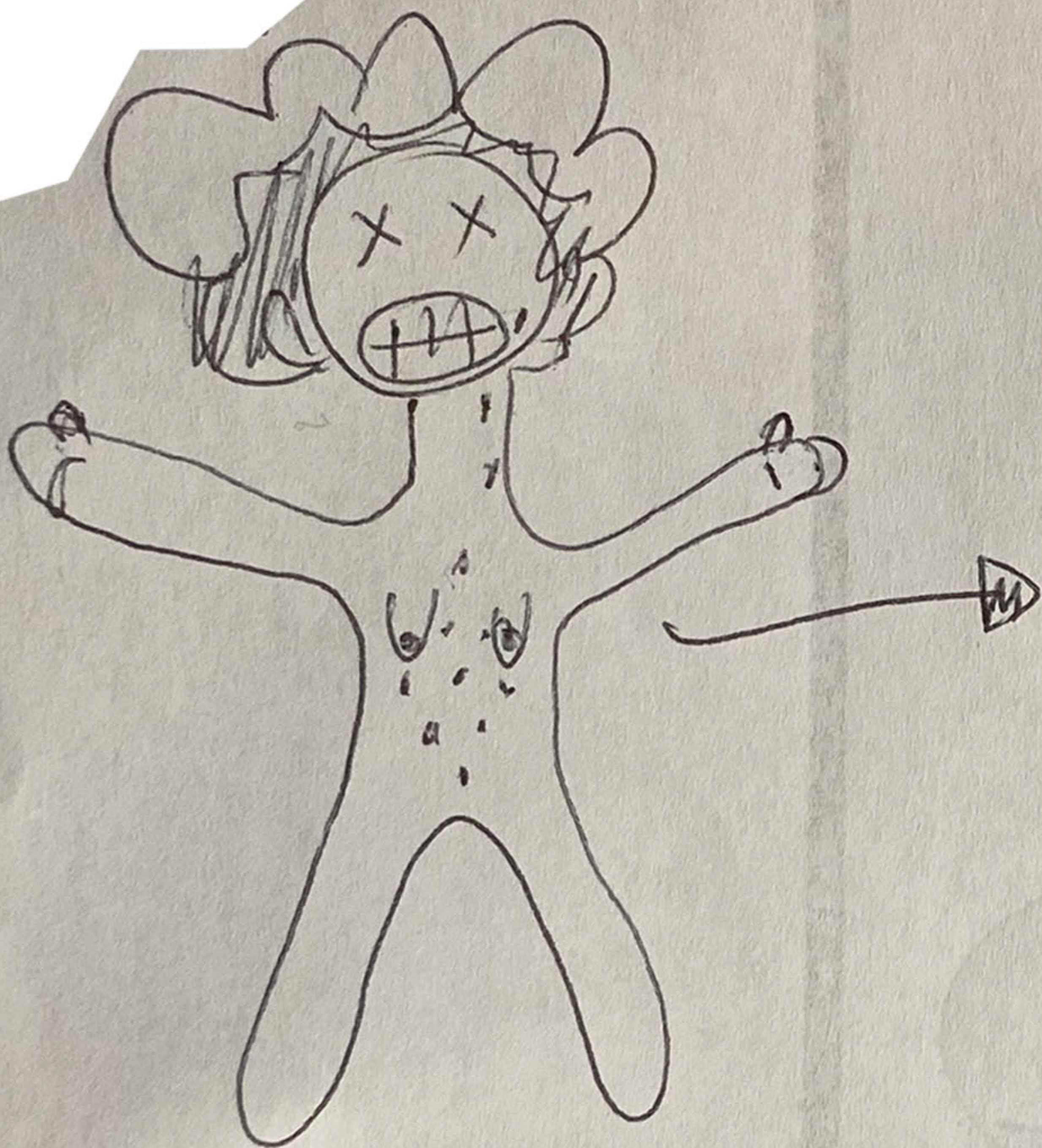
humm. it looked like it helped ~~it~~. Did you say your mom made it?

well actually the steroid really messed my skin up. Instead I used an organic facial serum.





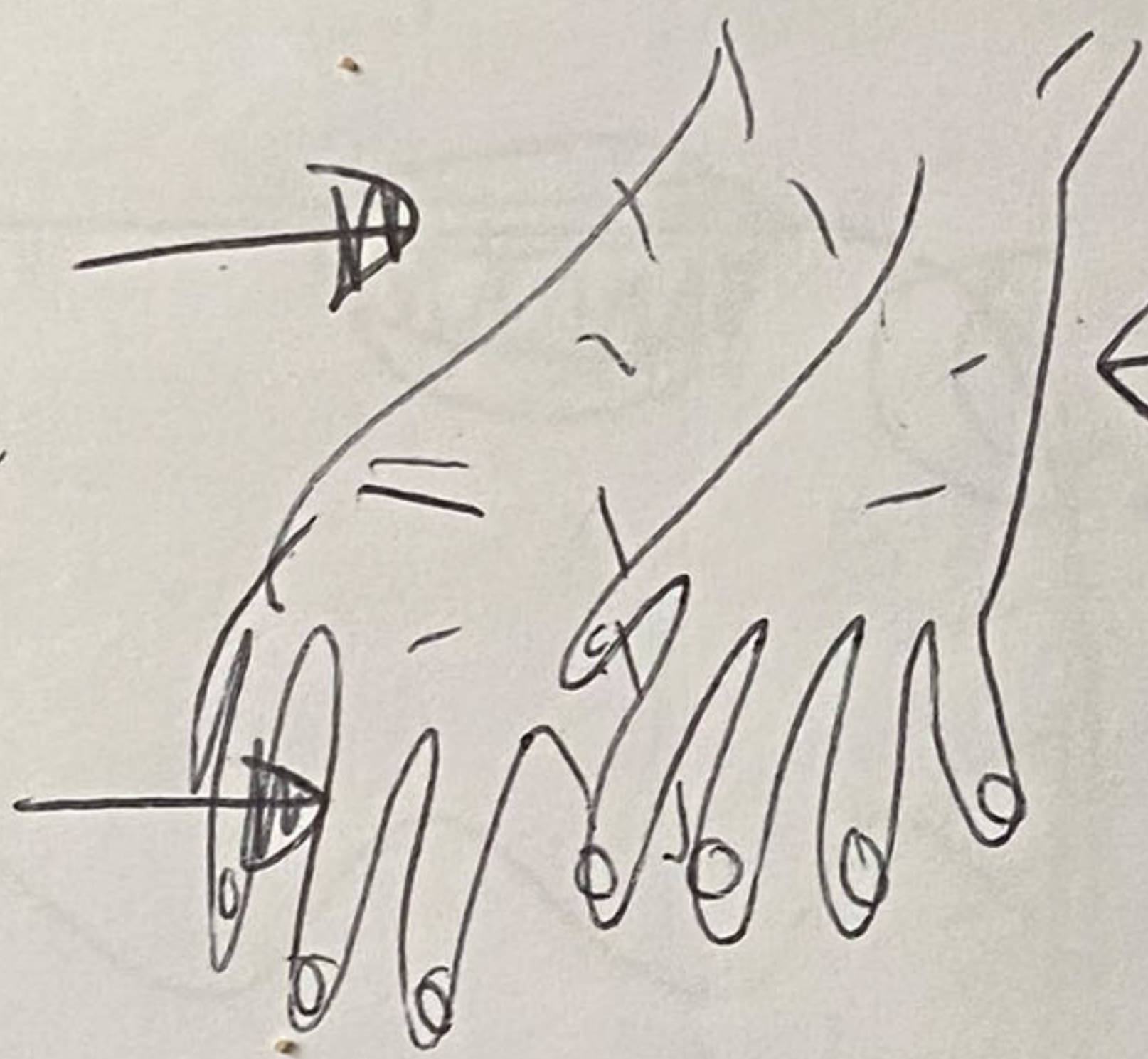
That day I left the dermatologist defeated. Although my face was improving, my body was still exploding in itches. Later that evening Vallerie noted the shape of my itches were the exact shape of a wearables project I worked on months prior. I immediately researched what the components of the leotard are made out of.



leotard
made up of silver
spun electric thread,
a micro controller,
lights and a battery →
aka I ran electricity
through the circuit
while in contact with
my skin.

By exposing my skin to the circuit, without a protective barrier, I allowed it to absorb the metals of the circuit and accidentally gave myself heavy metal poisoning. The high liver enzymes finally made sense: my liver was trying to fight off the metal in my body!

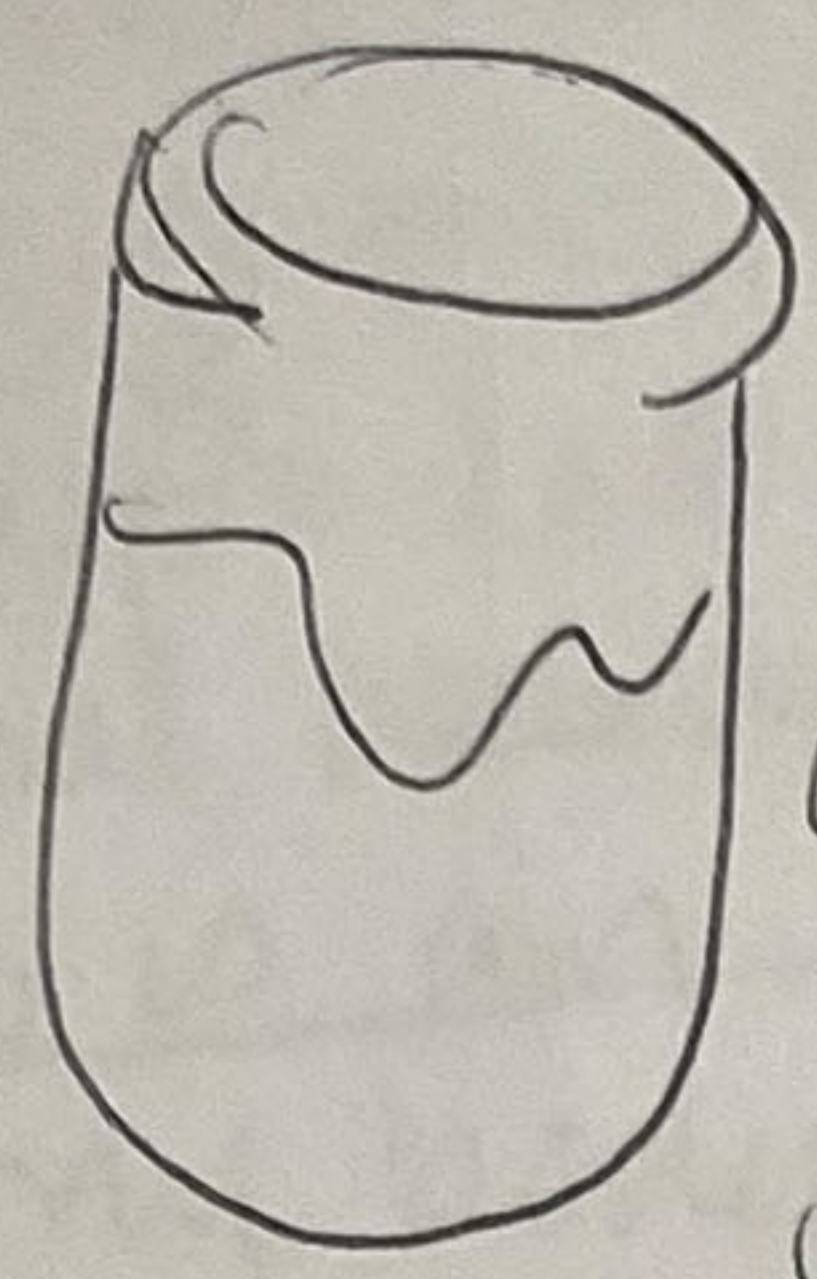
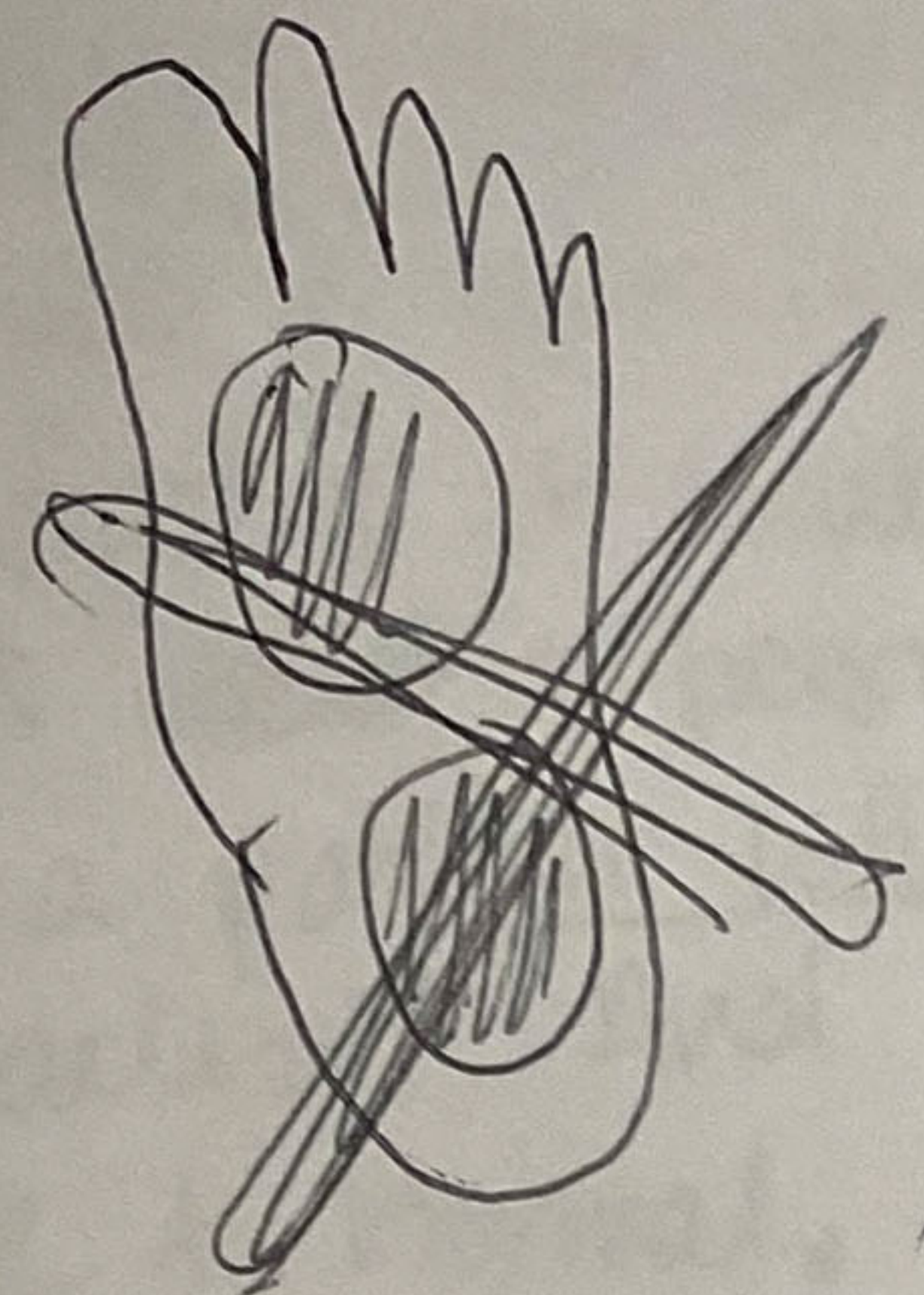
Dr. Lopez
homeopathic
doctor
explained



← Your skin
is telling
you what's
wrong inside!

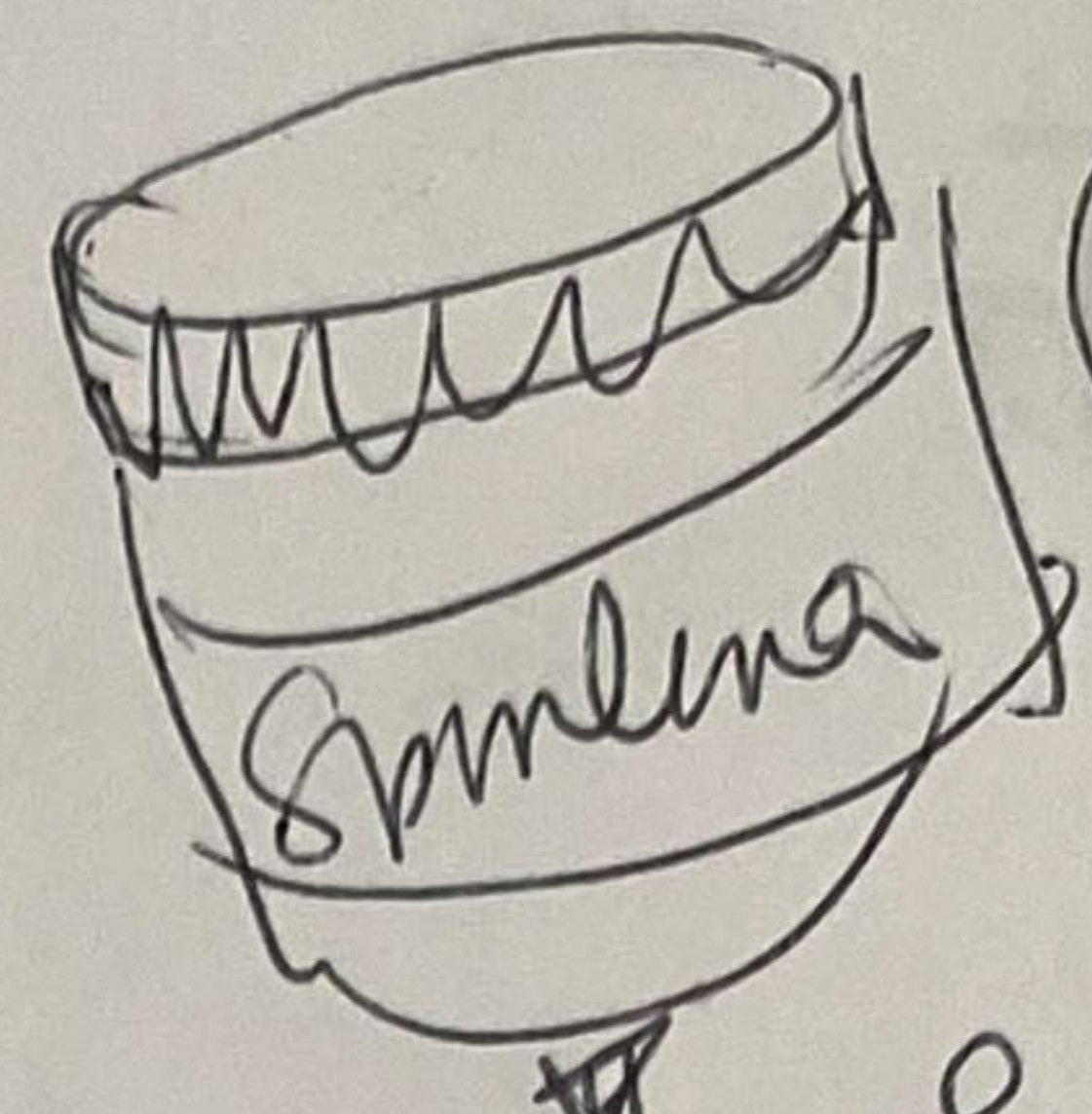
It's trying to
tell
my largest organ,
the ~~big~~ skin, was
yelling at me! ~~and I~~

what I did... for my heavy metal detox!



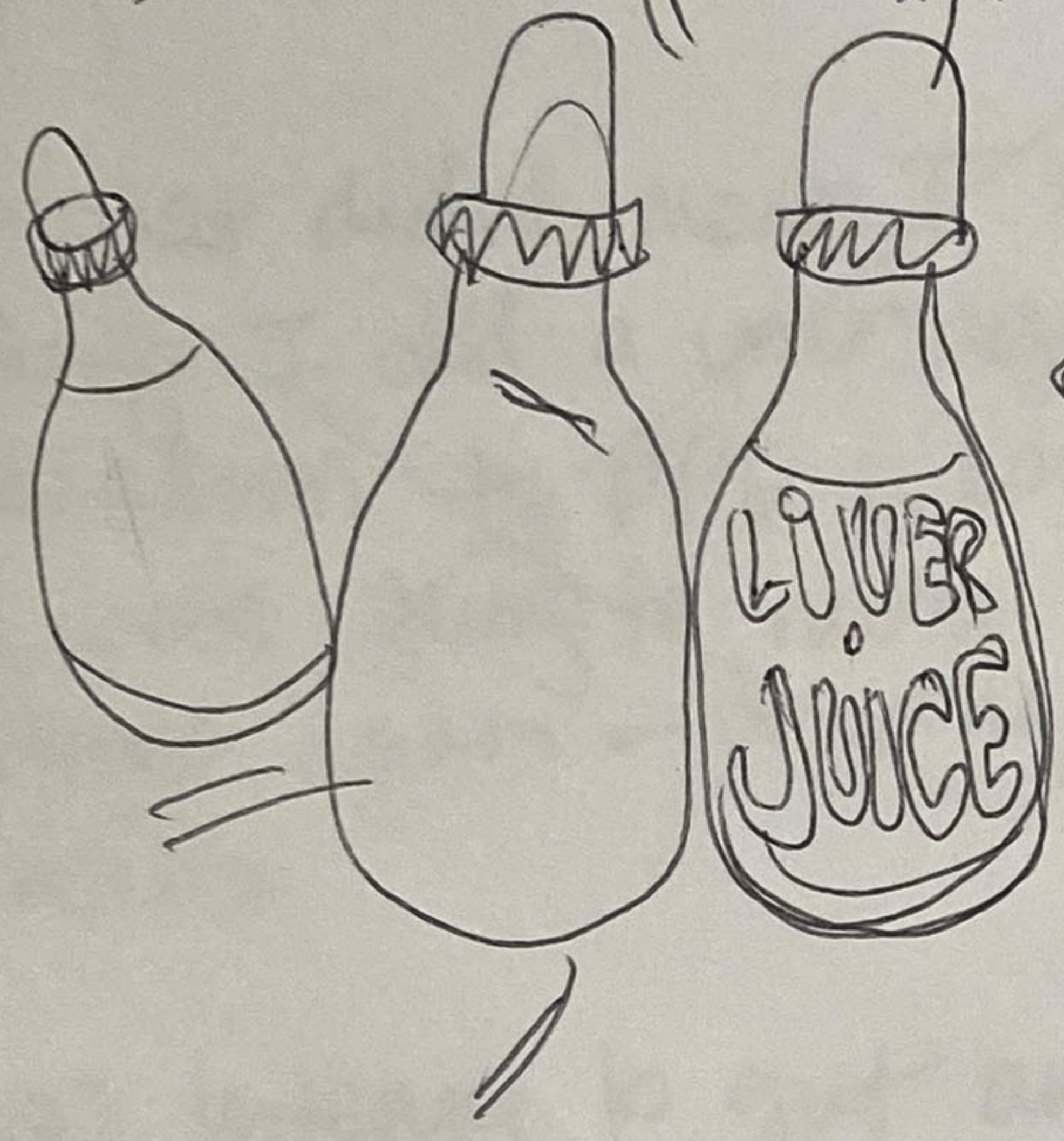
daily green juice featuring WAs & cilantro

organic heavy metal detox



organic metal binder

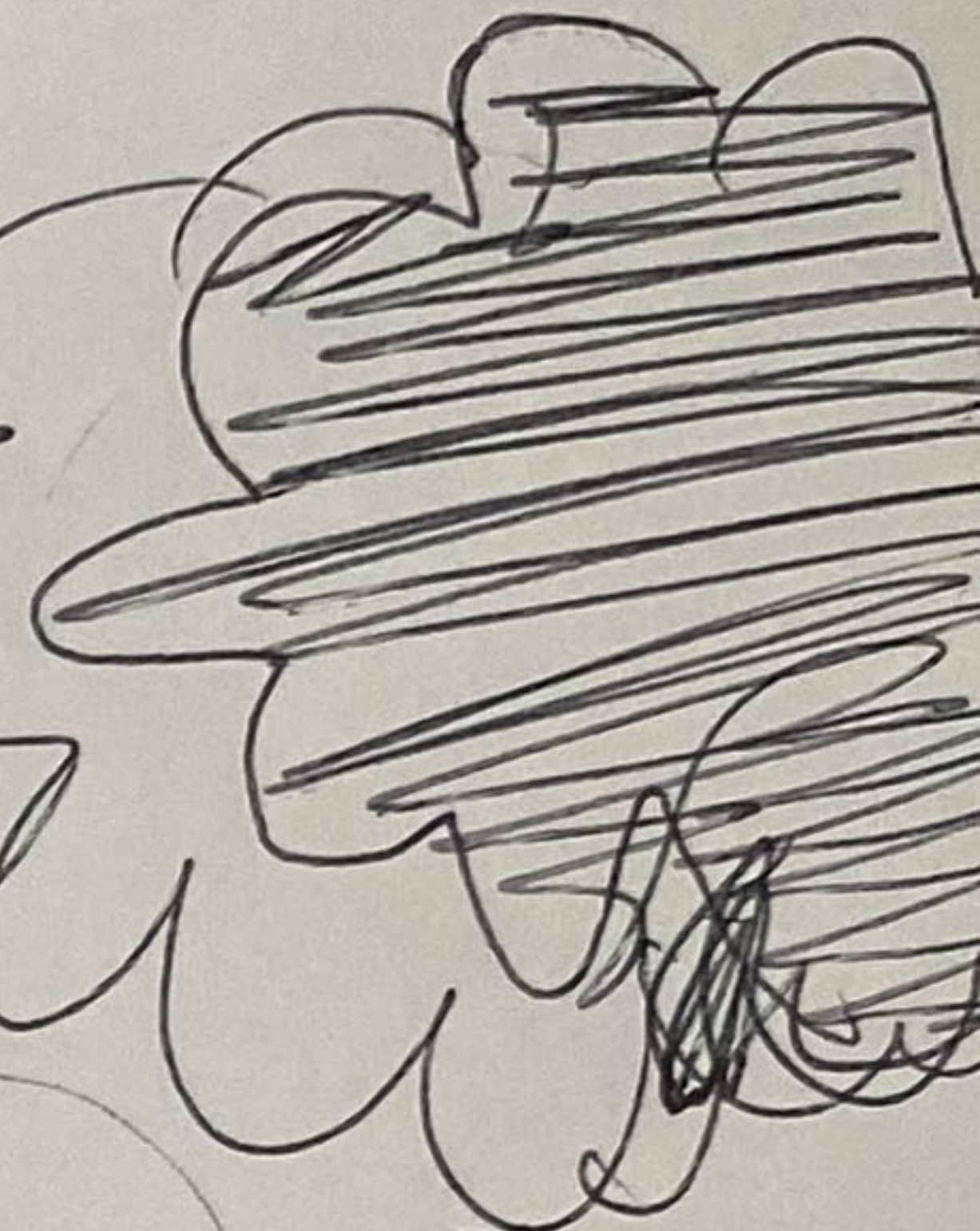
both have many detoxing and reenerg properties.



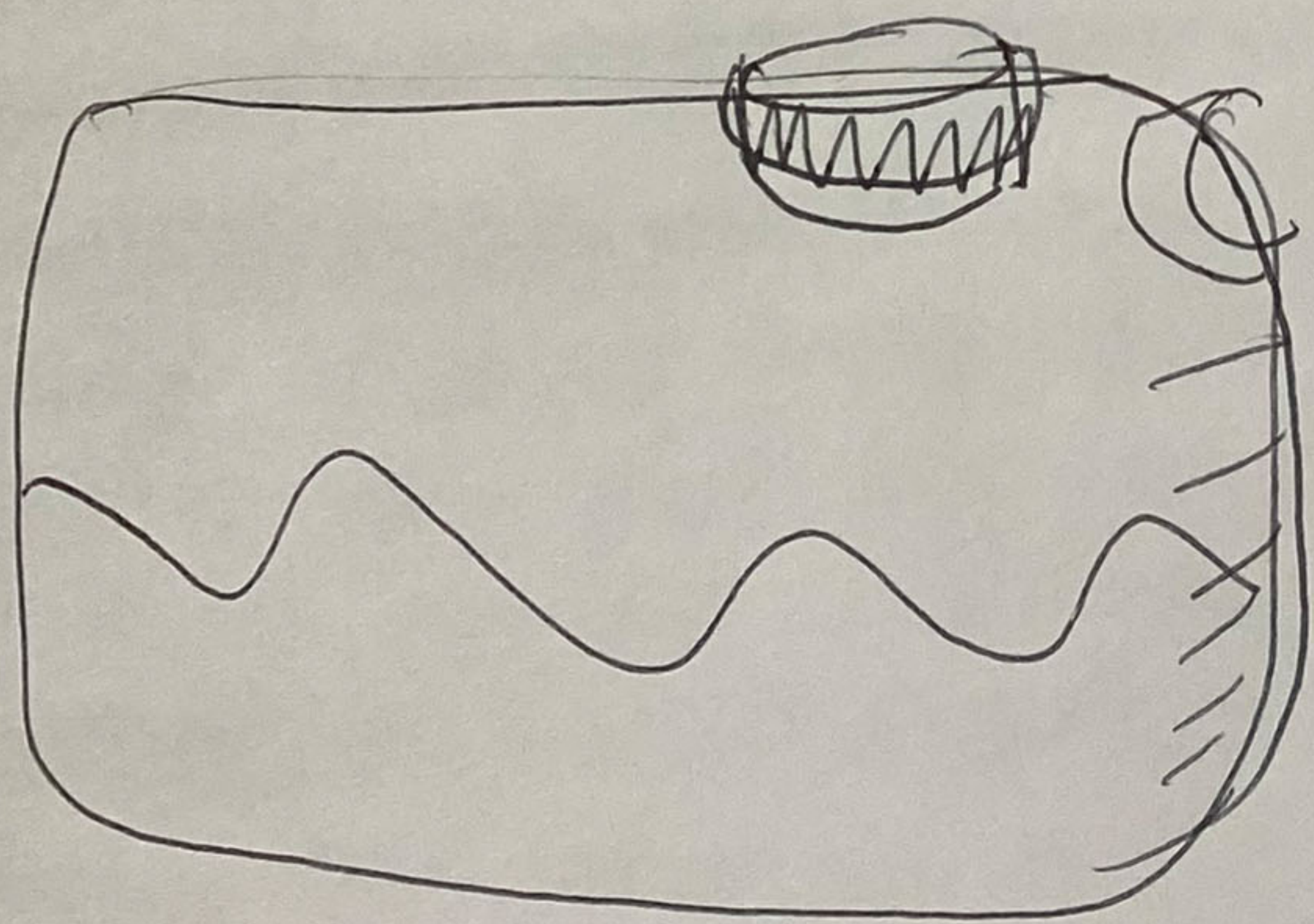
for 3 months.

and my skin stopped yelling at me

No more Achees!

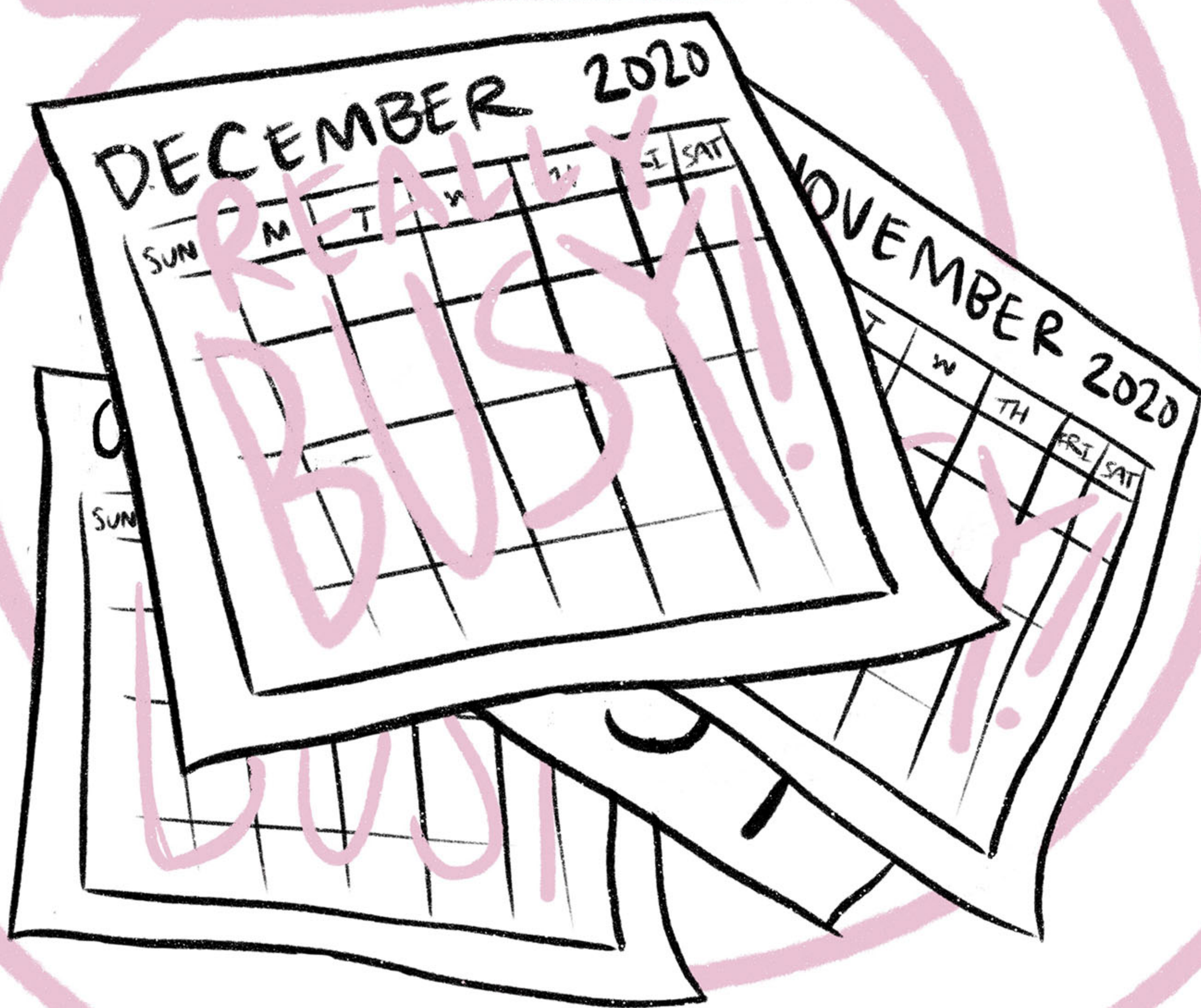


Now that I felt better, ~~here was the~~
~~the test~~ I decided to go back to my
general physician for my yearly physical
but also a heavy metal test.



24 hours
of rest

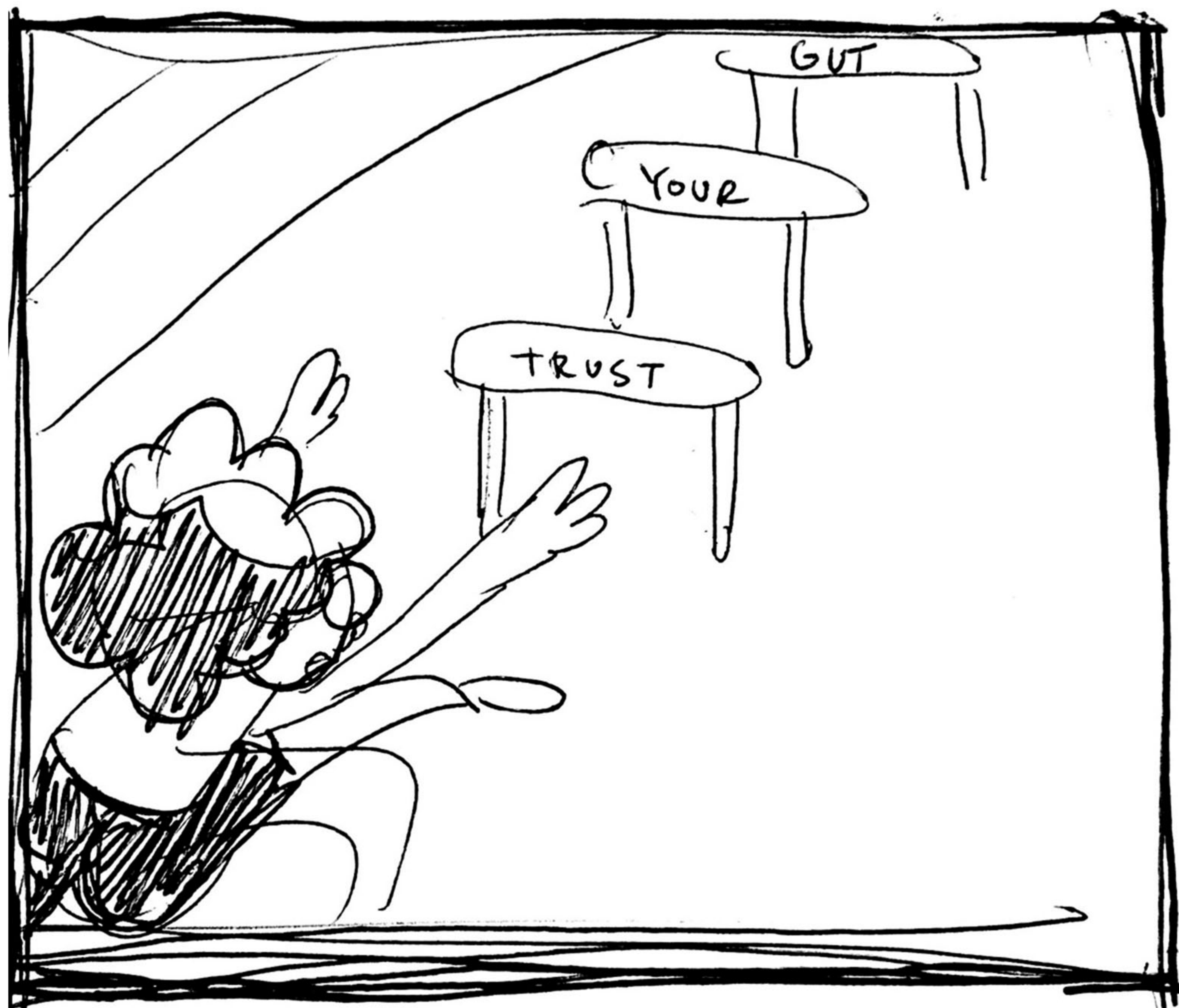
Fear that all the work I had done would not yield
the results I hoped for prolonged my next visit for
two and half months. What you don't know won't
kill you, right?





But I finally mustarded up the courage to go back to my general physician.





Reflecting on this year-long journey, reminded me of those who practiced autonomy by using food and herbs as medicine even when the doctor's didn't believe in their pain or remedies. It seems that having "tough skin" is less of an adjective and more of a practice.

UNTIL NEXT TIME...

Hi Sharon, this is a friendly courtesy call about your 6 month dental check-up next week...

