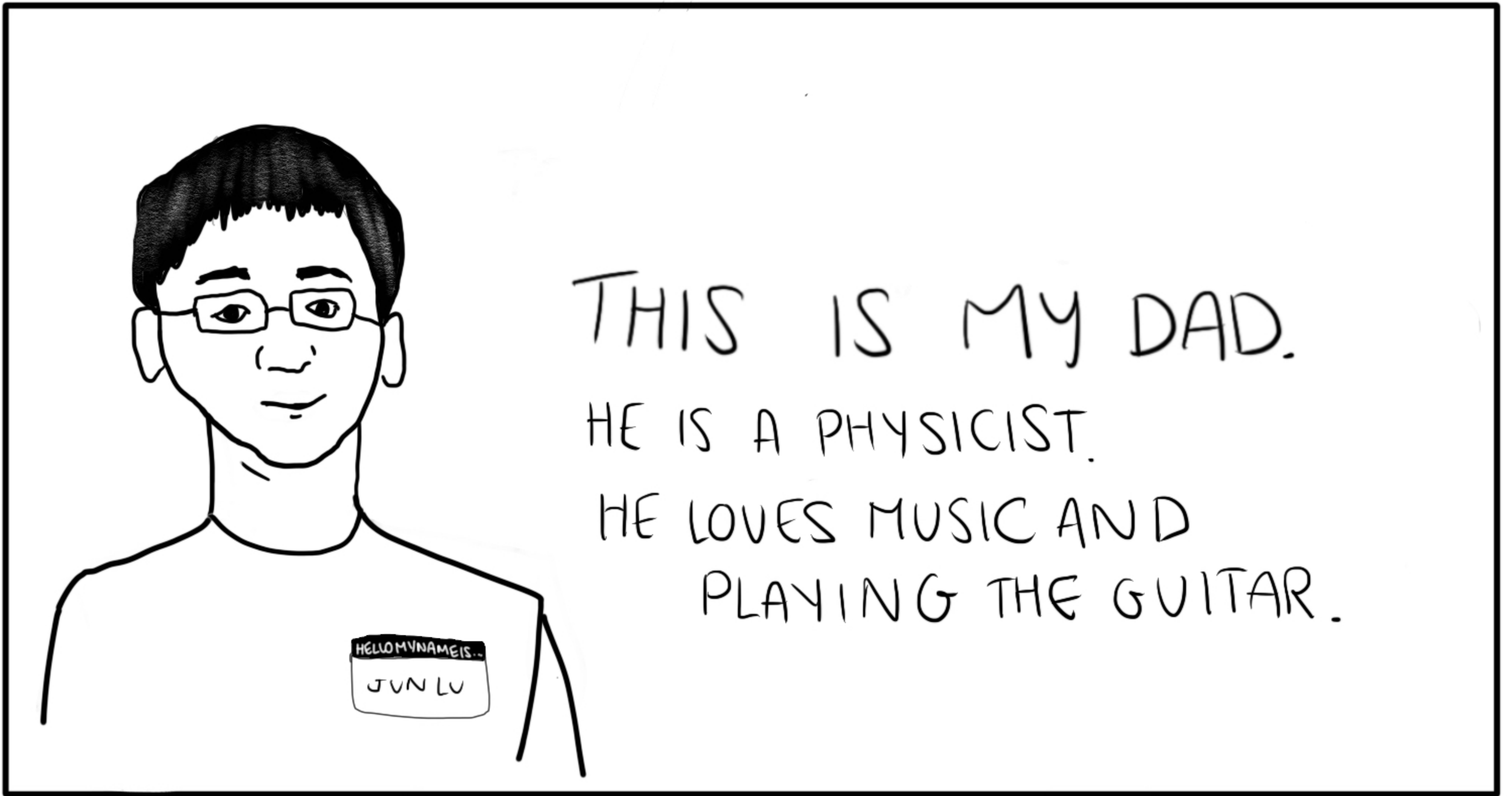


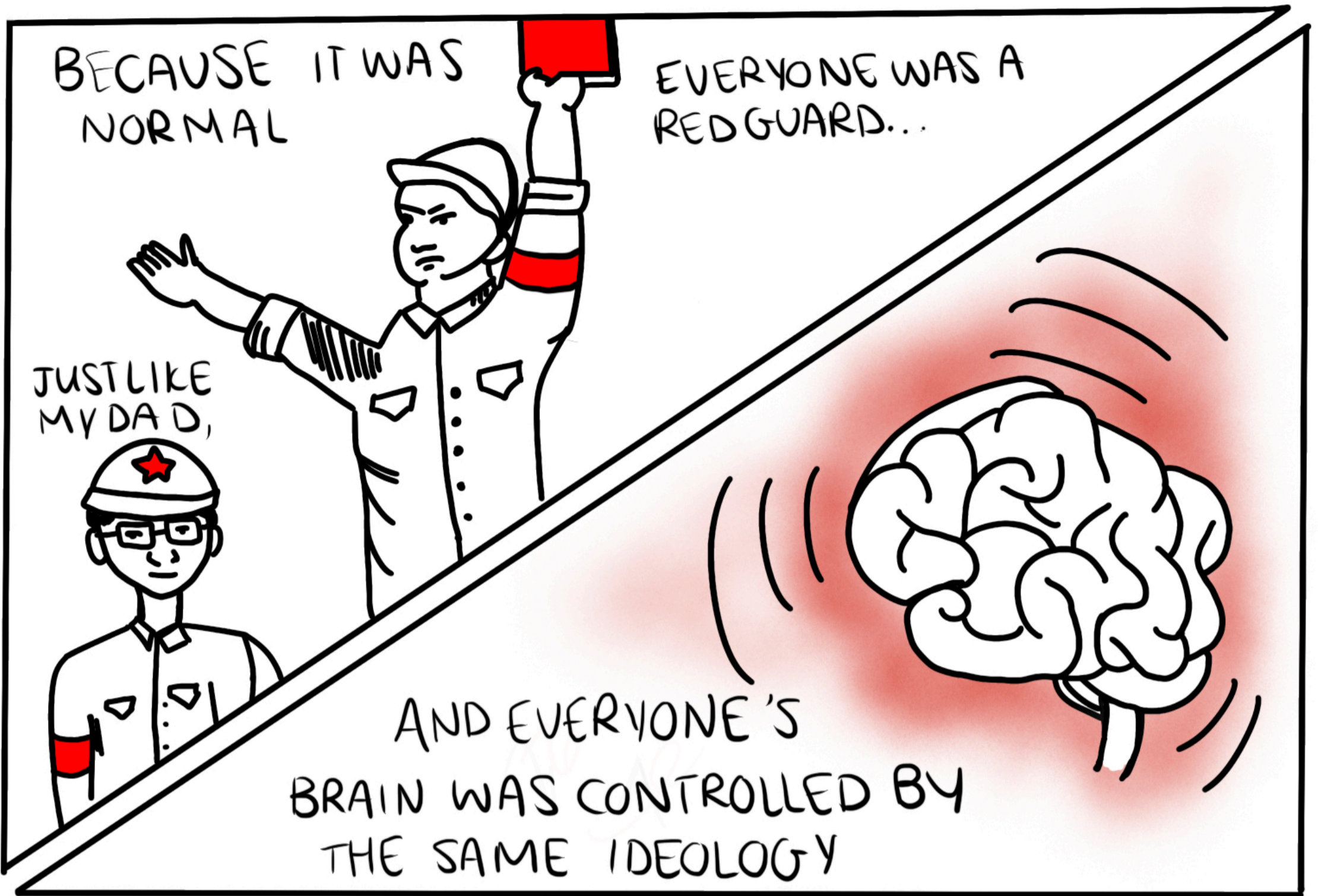


TOWARDS FREE THOUGHT

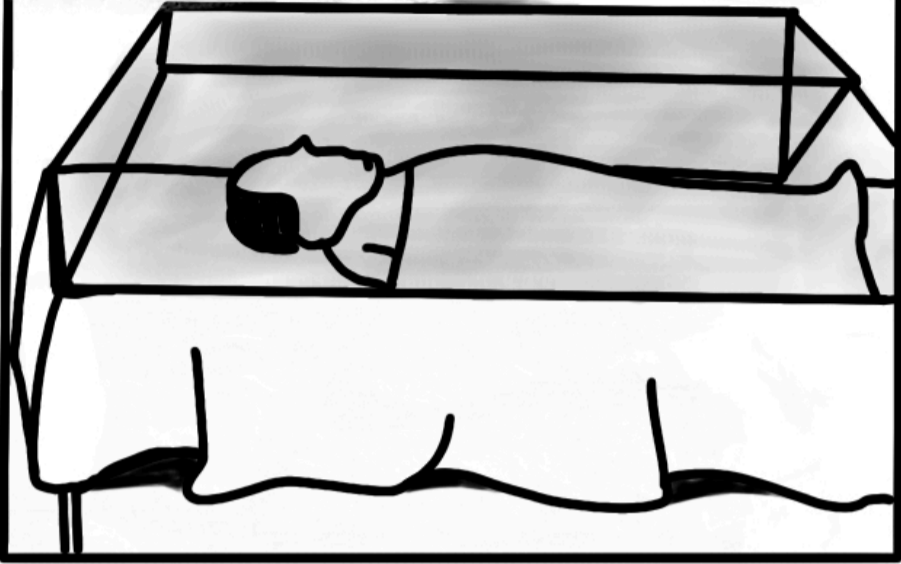
MY FATHER'S JOURNEY

written and illustrated by annette lu

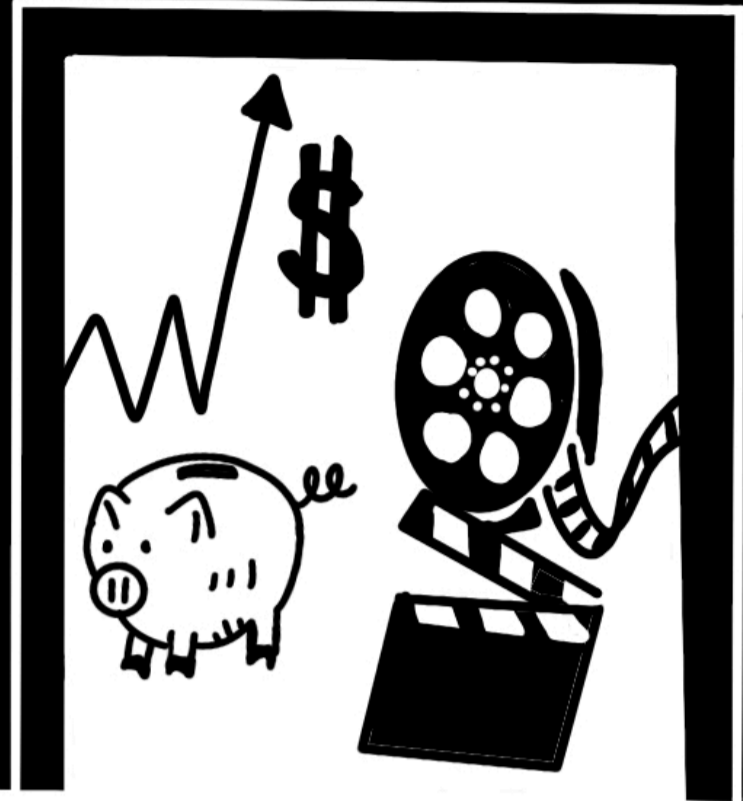




THEN MAO DIED
AND THE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION ENDED



THE NEW LEADER, DENG XIAOPING,
OPENED THE DOOR TO THE WEST



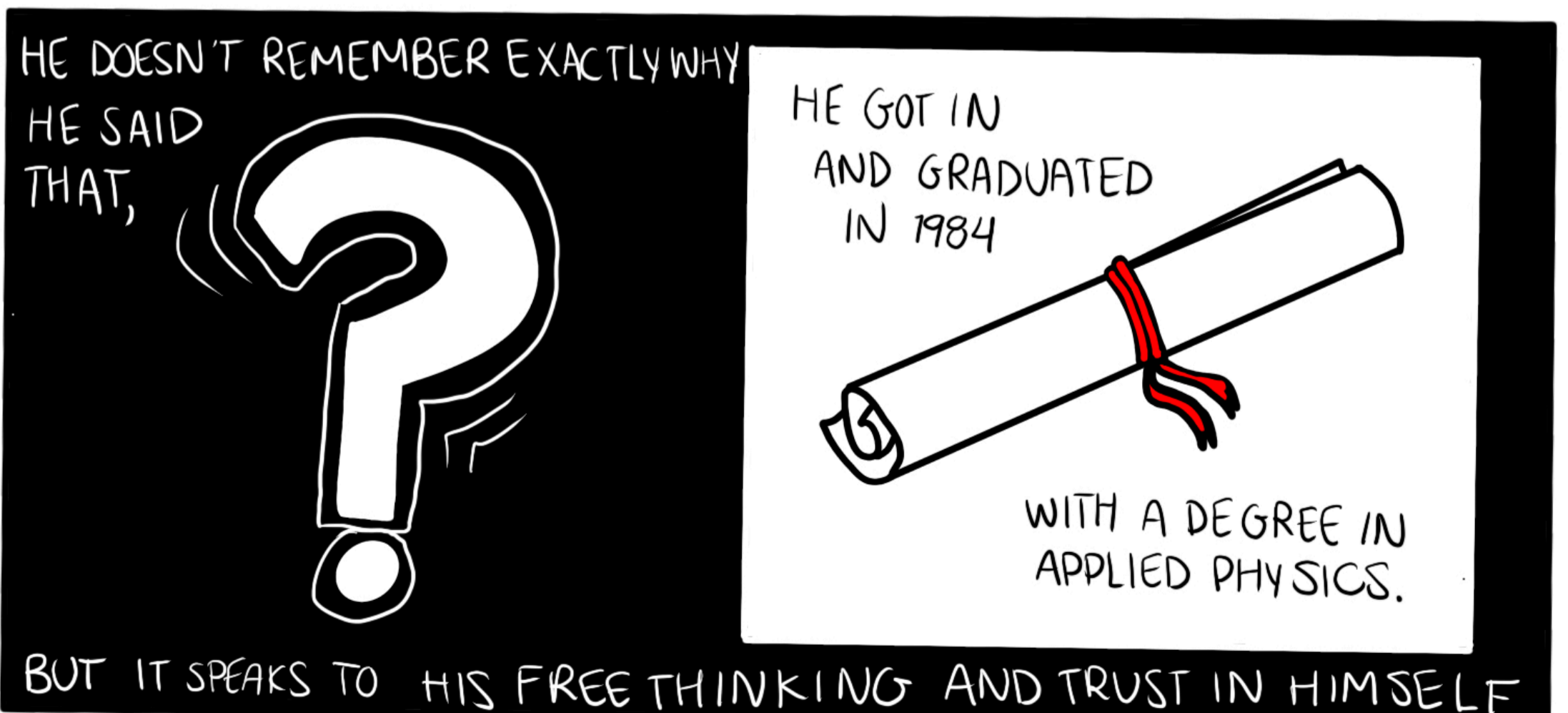
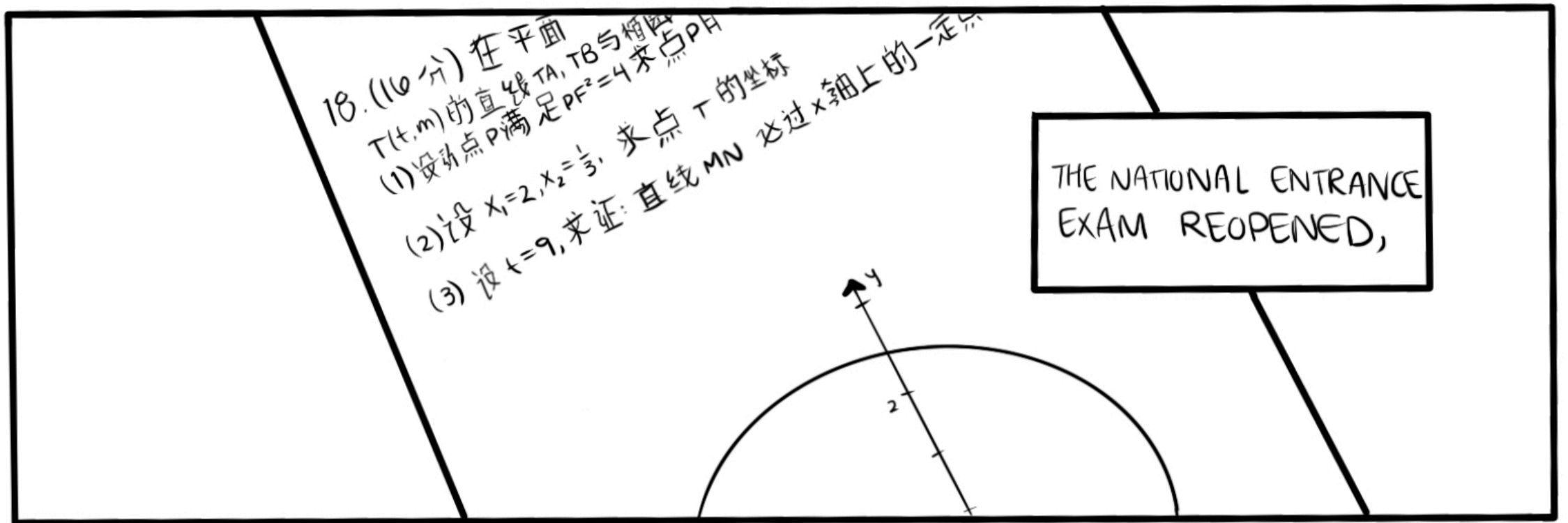
CHINA WAS
REBUILDING
AND MODERNIZING
AFTER THE
CHAOS OF THE LAST
10 YEARS.

THE HORRORS OF THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION
WERE
REVEALED...

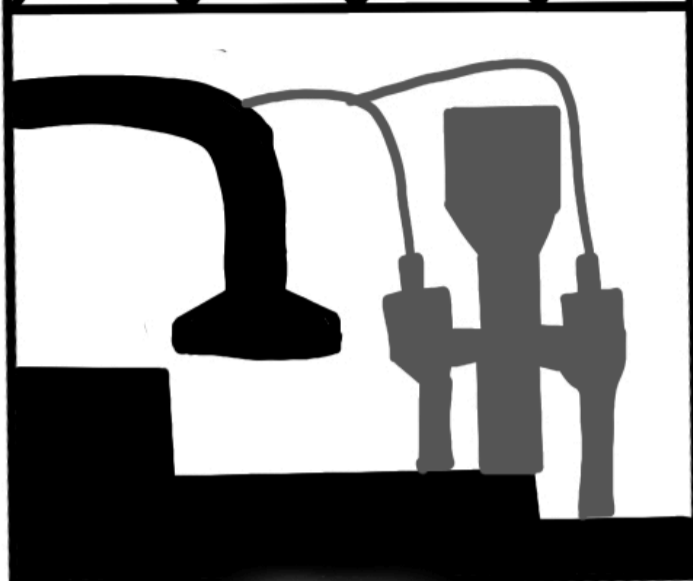


THOUGHT

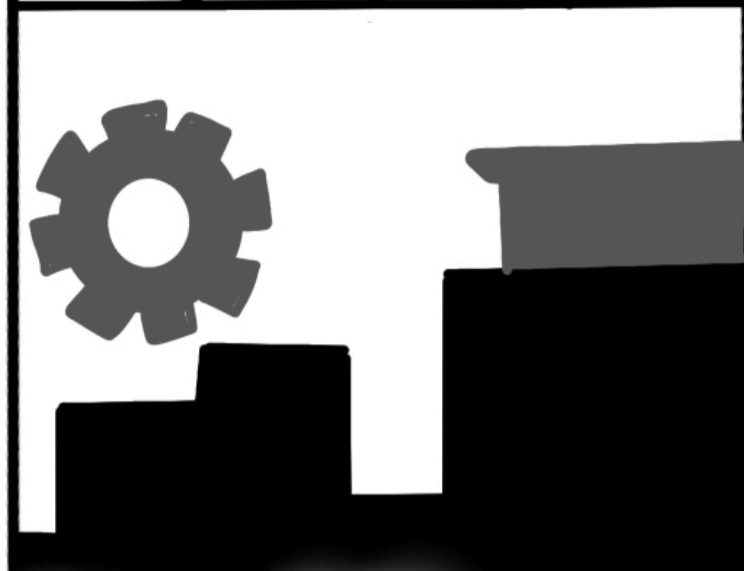
AND THIS
RESULTED IN
THE LIBERATION OF THE
PEOPLE'S THOUGHT.



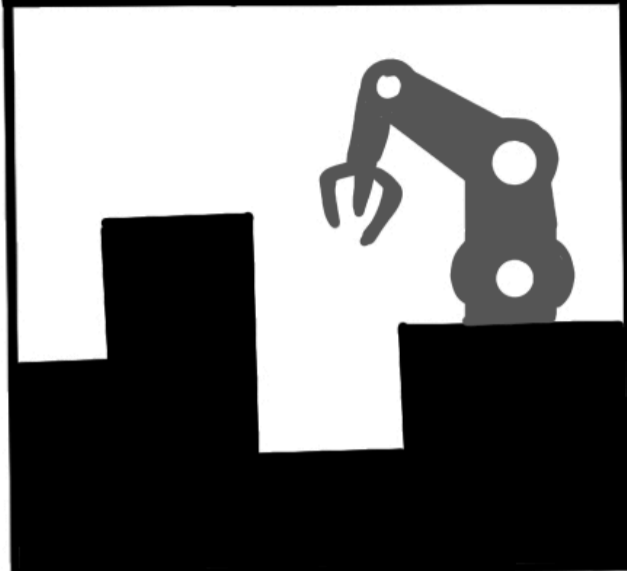
RIGHT OUT OF COLLEGE,



HE WAS ASSIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENT

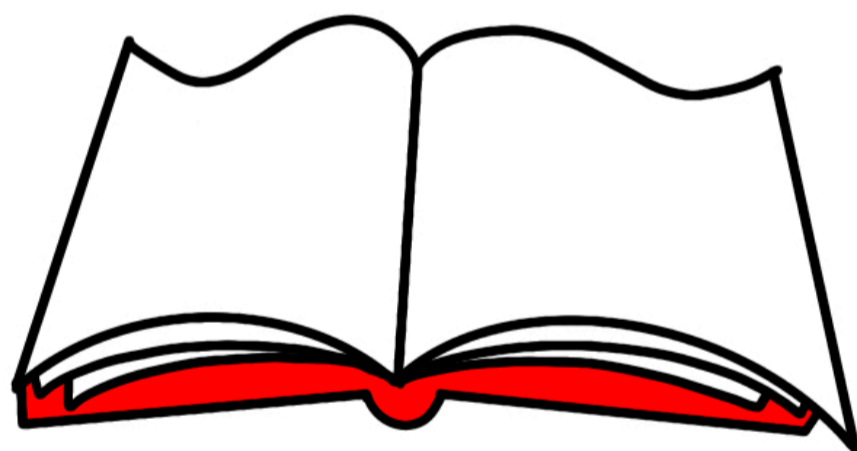


TO WORK IN A SEMICONDUCTOR FACTORY.



HE SAW NO FUTURE AT THE FACTORY AND HIS ONLY WAY OUT WAS GRADUATE SCHOOL.

HE STUDIED WHILE WORKING, STAYING UP TILL 2 AM EVERY NIGHT FOR THREE MONTHS.



IT PAID OFF, AND HE ATTENDED GRAD SCHOOL IN 1988.

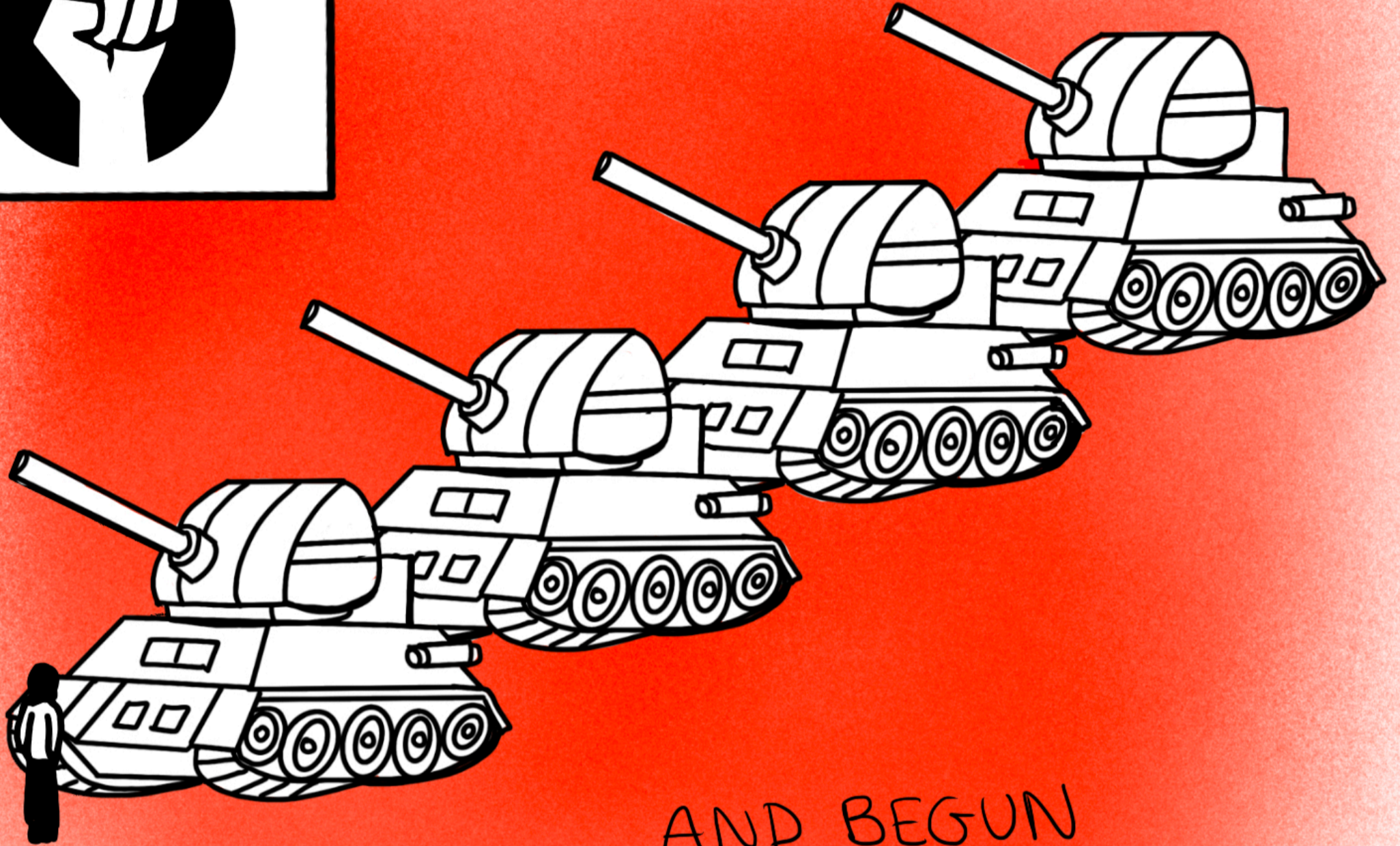


THERE, DURING HIS FIRST YEAR, HE MET MY MOM. SHE WAS EVEN MORE AMBITIOUS THAN HE WAS. HE WOULD LATER FOLLOW HER TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AFTER GRAD SCHOOL.

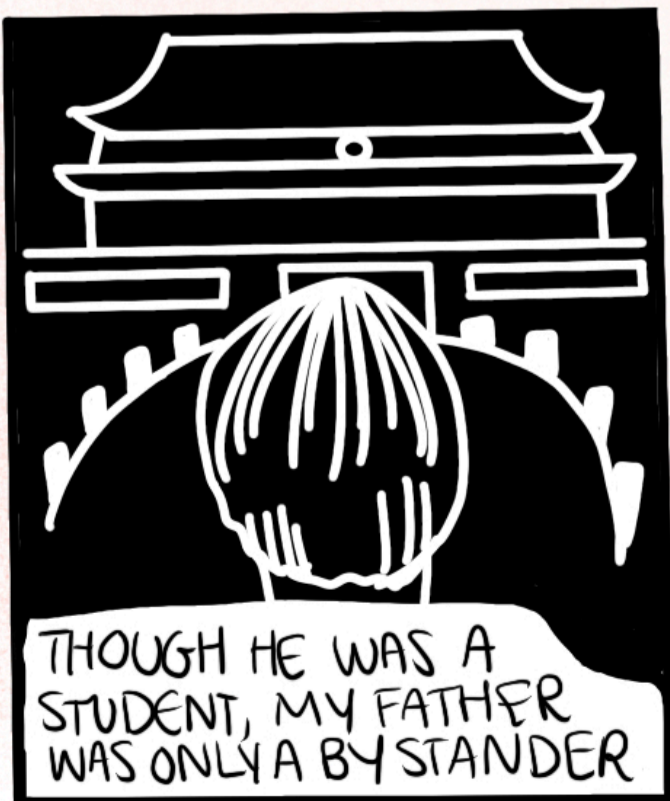
A YEAR LATER, INSPIRED BY
DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND
IGNITED BY THE DEATH
OF DISGRACED LEADER
HU YAOBANG,



STUDENTS WERE
FRUSTRATED



AND BEGUN
THE TIANANMEN
SQUARE PROTESTS
FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM.



THOUGH HE WAS A
STUDENT, MY FATHER
WAS ONLY A BYSTANDER

HE THOUGHT THE
PROTESTORS WERE TOO
UNREASONABLE.



HE SAID, "WE DON'T WANT
CIVIL WAR," AND HE WAS
ALMOST ATTACKED BY
OTHER STUDENTS.

HE WATCHED HIS
FRIENDS BE CONSUMED
BY THE CHAOS.



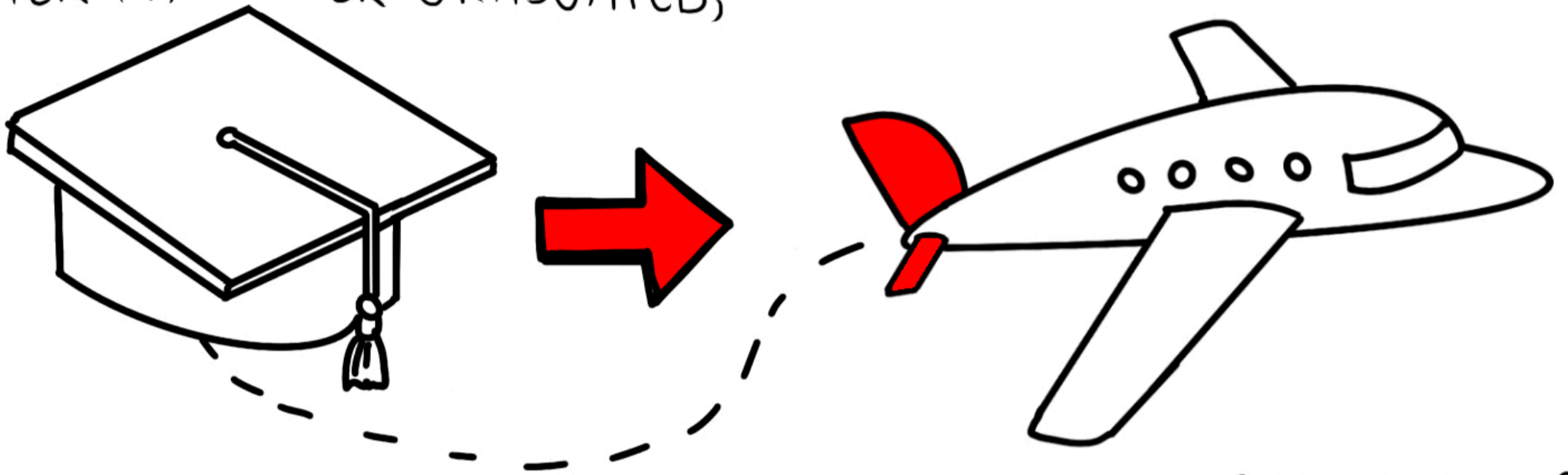
ONE OF HIS OLD COWORKERS
WAS KILLED FROM 4 SHOTS
TO THE STOMACH.

AFTER THE END OF THE PROTESTS AND BLOODSHED, MANY STUDENTS SOUGHT FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY ABROAD.

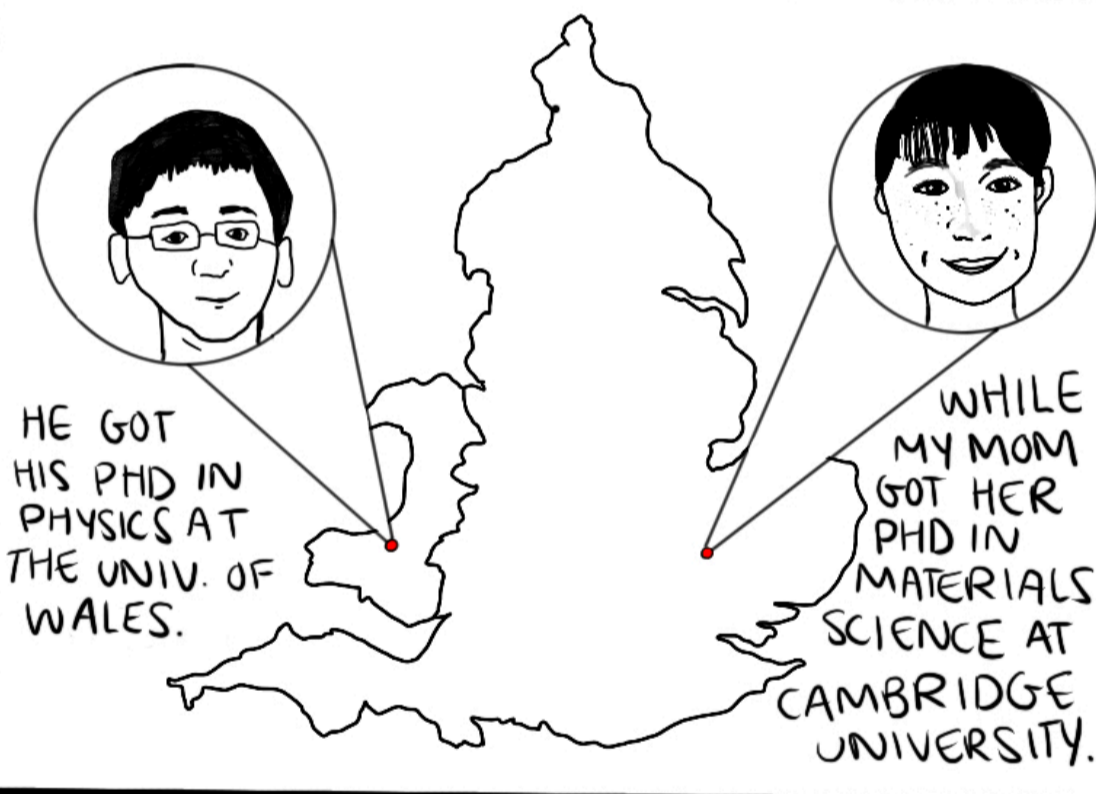


THE US OR UK COULD PROVIDE A FUTURE CHINA COULD NOT.

AFTER MY FATHER GRADUATED,



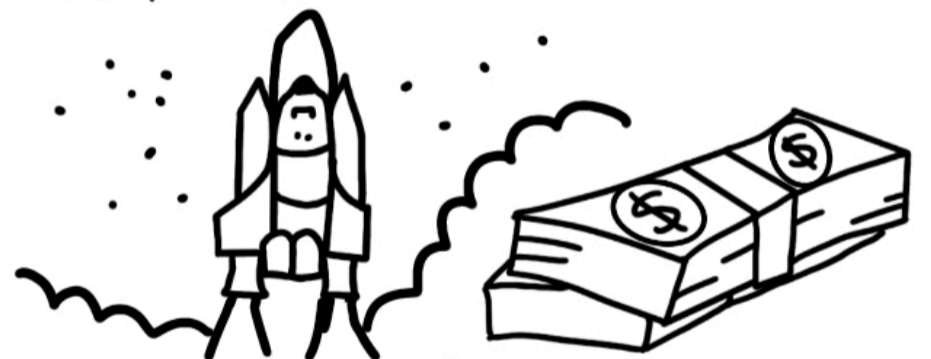
HE LEFT CHINA.



HE GOT HIS PHD IN PHYSICS AT THE UNIV. OF WALES.

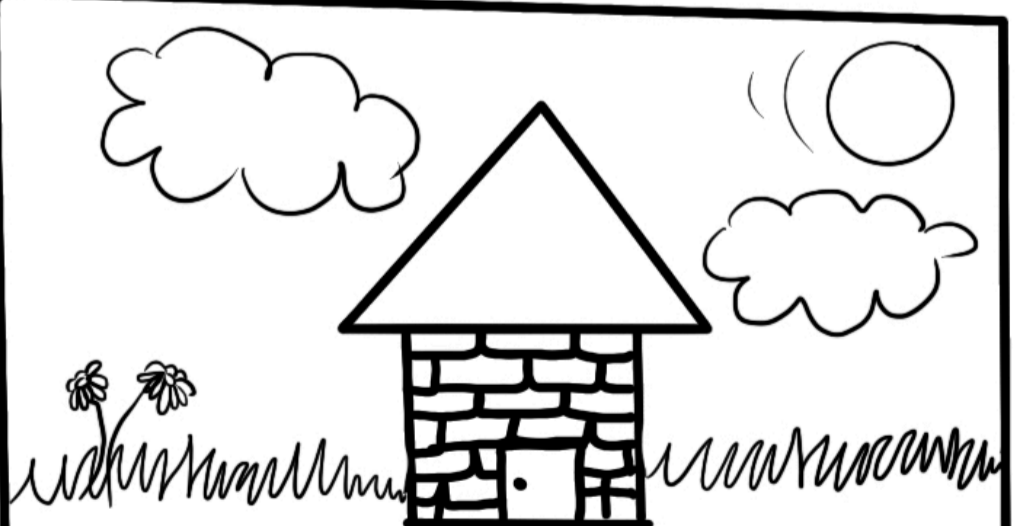
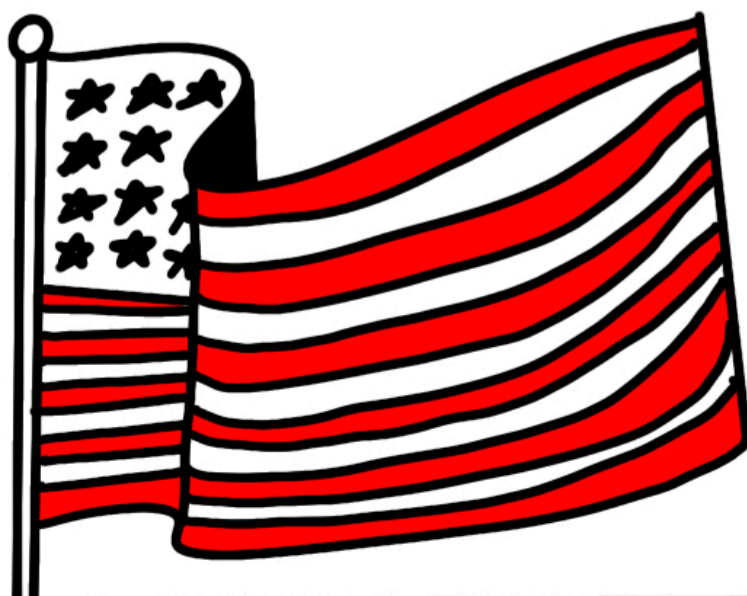
WHILE MY MOM GOT HER PHD IN MATERIALS SCIENCE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

THE TECHNOLOGY WAS MUCH GREATER AND THE SALARIES WERE



MUCH HIGHER IN THE UK AND US. SO THEY STAYED.

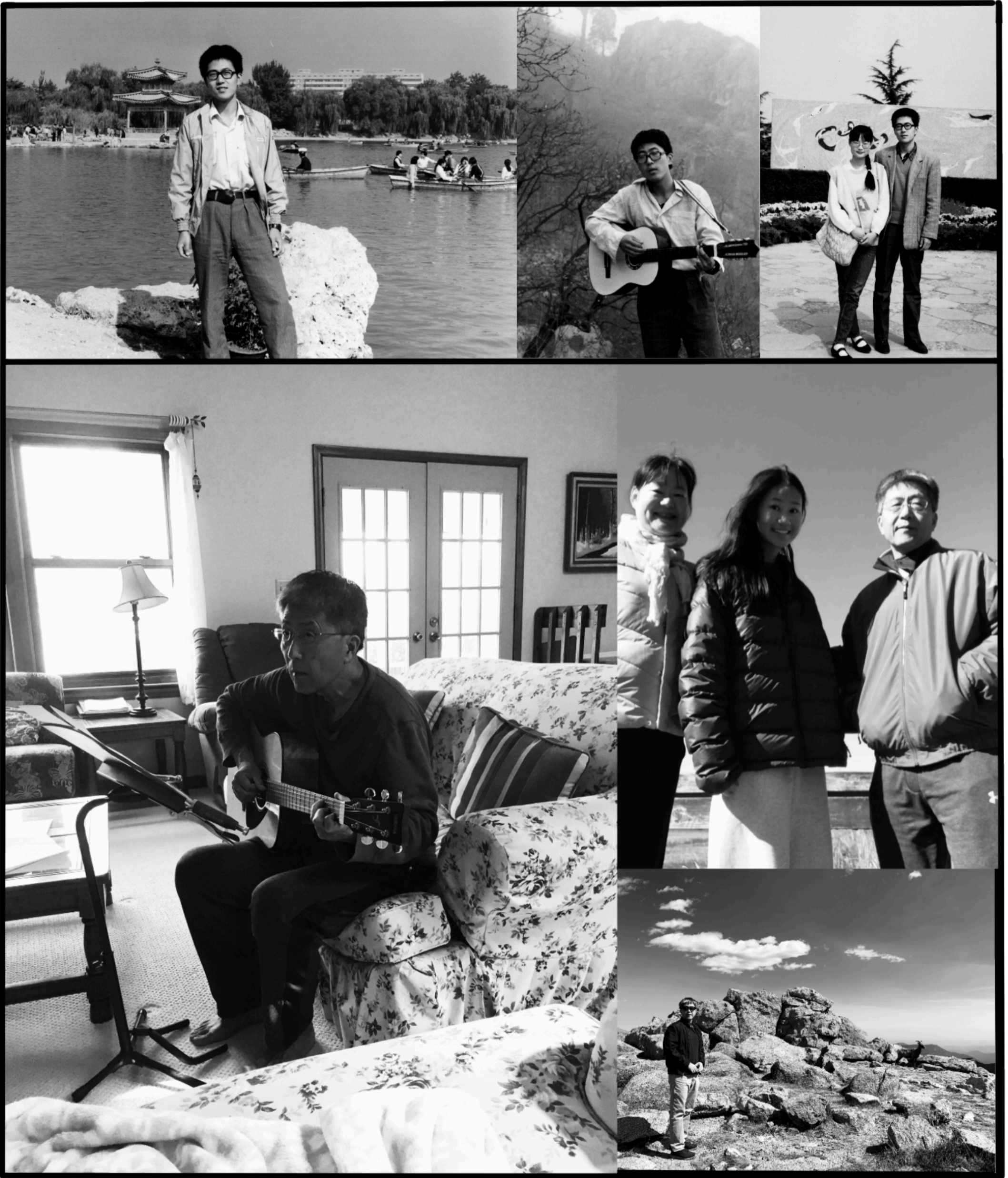
THEY FOUND JOBS IN THE US AND BECAME NATURALIZED CITIZENS IN 2005.



THE US BECAME THEIR NEW HOME BECAUSE IT IS WHERE I WAS BORN AND WHERE THEIR FUTURE IS.



THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, MY DAD WAS SURROUNDED BY INFLUENCE:
BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND BY HIS FERVENT PEERS.



DESPITE THIS, HE MAINTAINED HIS FREE WILL
AND HIS INDEPENDENT THOUGHT TO BECOME
THE MAN I KNOW AND LOVE TODAY. ❤️

Amelia 8