

Maintain humanism/Burnout

1. Students: Do you sometimes feel that others expect you to be a saint or a priest as well as a doctor? Have you already begun to feel burn out? Do you have coping mechanism? How has your understanding of medical school/being a physician changed in these 3 years?
2. Students/Seniors: What is the place for altruism in medicine? Does altruism always have to involve a “grand gesture”?
2. Is there a significance to not giving any of the library goers real names? “Neckerchief, Mrs. Fringes,” etc. (I was thinking that this comes from paying attention to the person, and not getting bogged down in lab values/studies (ie chasing a diagnosis))
3. What is the “practice of medicine” to you? Does it involve acts such as this (ie toenail clipping)? What does the toenail clipping symbolize for you?
4. Seniors: Do you have advice for young physicians-to-be on how to avoid feeling burned out especially with an aging population?

Patient/Physician Relationship

1. Do you think the library goers ever knew Richard was a doctor? If no, why would he not choose to tell them?
2. How does the white coat change people’s perception of a person? Would the reactions of the people witnessing the scene in the bathroom have changed if Richard had his white coat on?

Aging

1. Seniors: What do you think about the portrayal of the seniors? The territoriality of the “regulars” at the library? The “rusty hinges”, the social security checks, the toenails? Being alone in the world?
2. What is it like to need help with personal care of the body?