



MEDICARE HEARING POLICY

A PATH FORWARD

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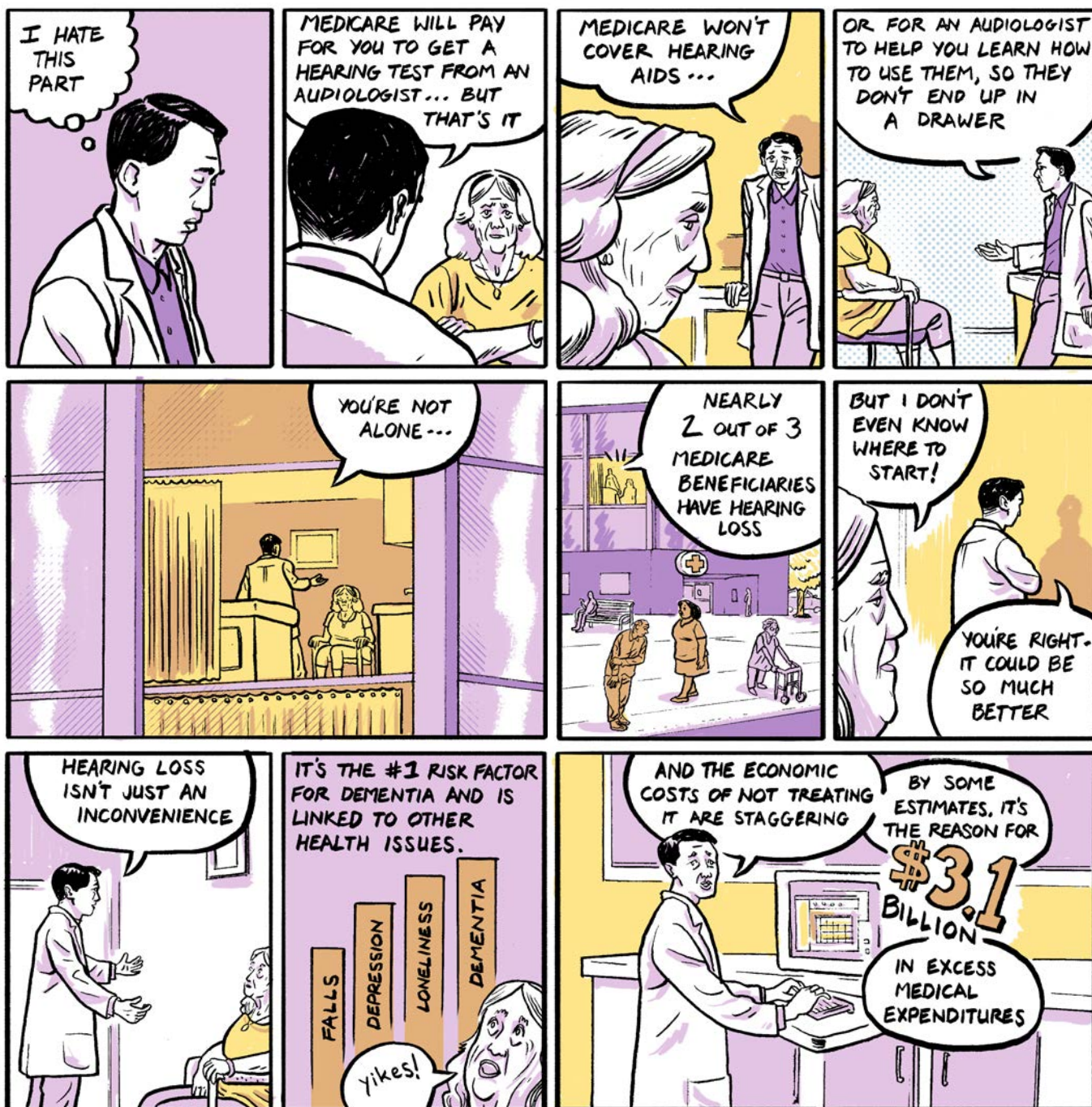
ARTWORK
BY IAN
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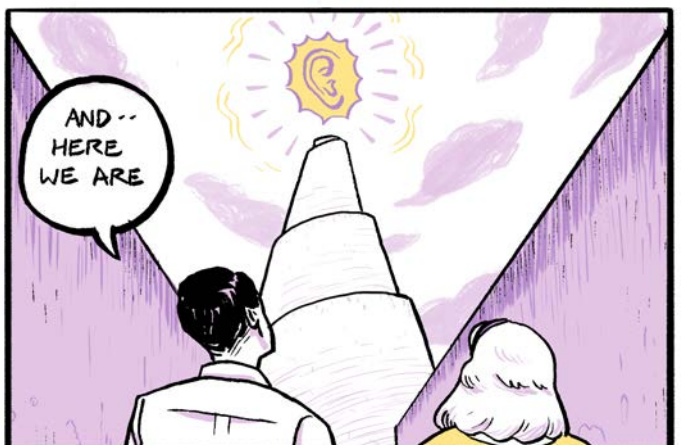
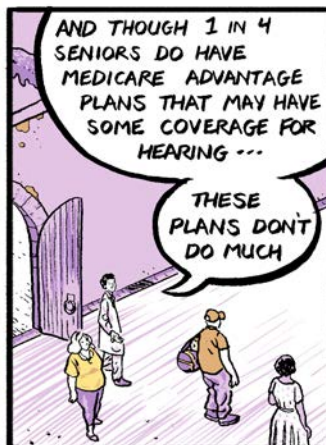
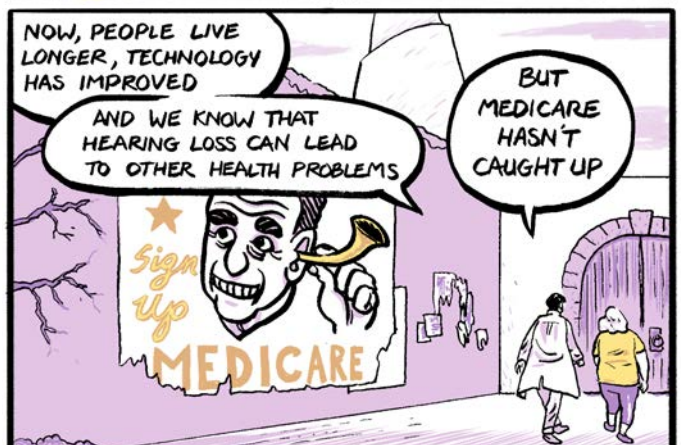
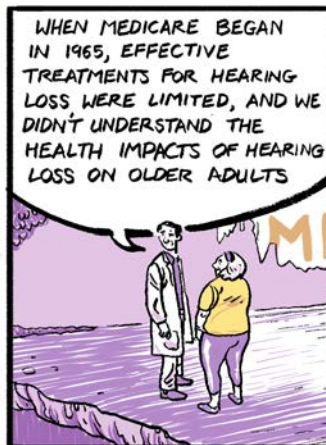
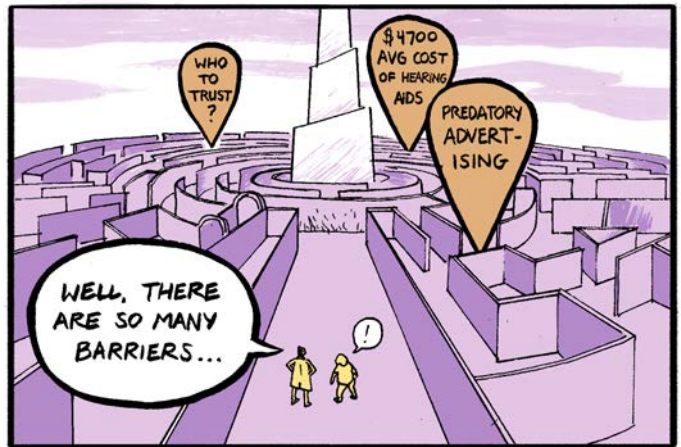


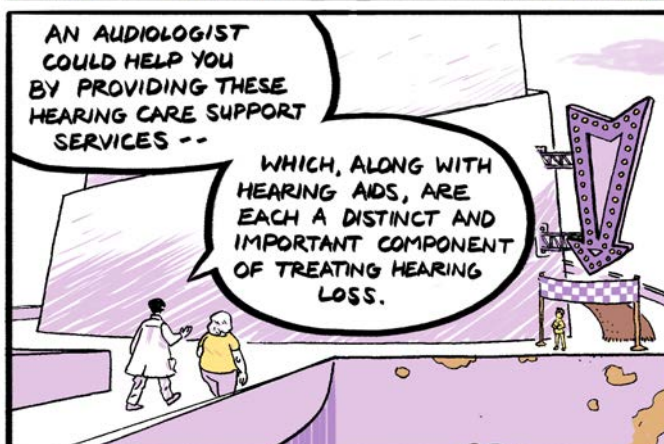
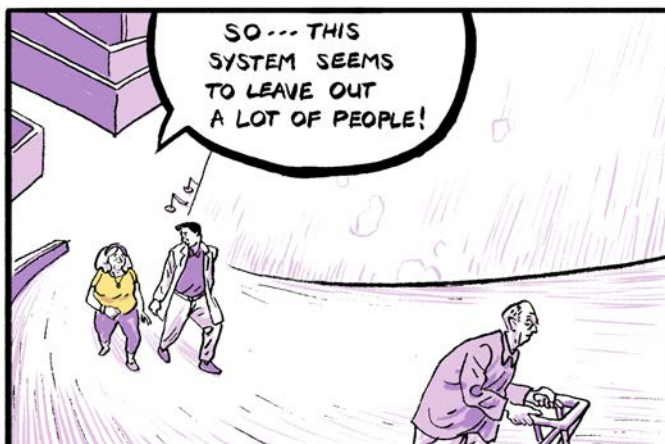
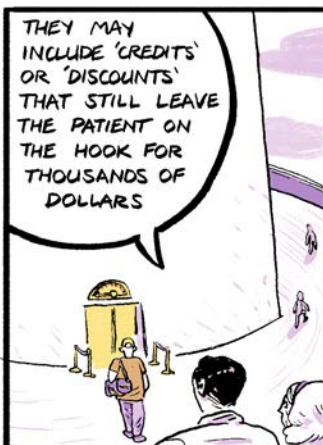
WHAT DO
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MEDICARE
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HEARING
AIDS?

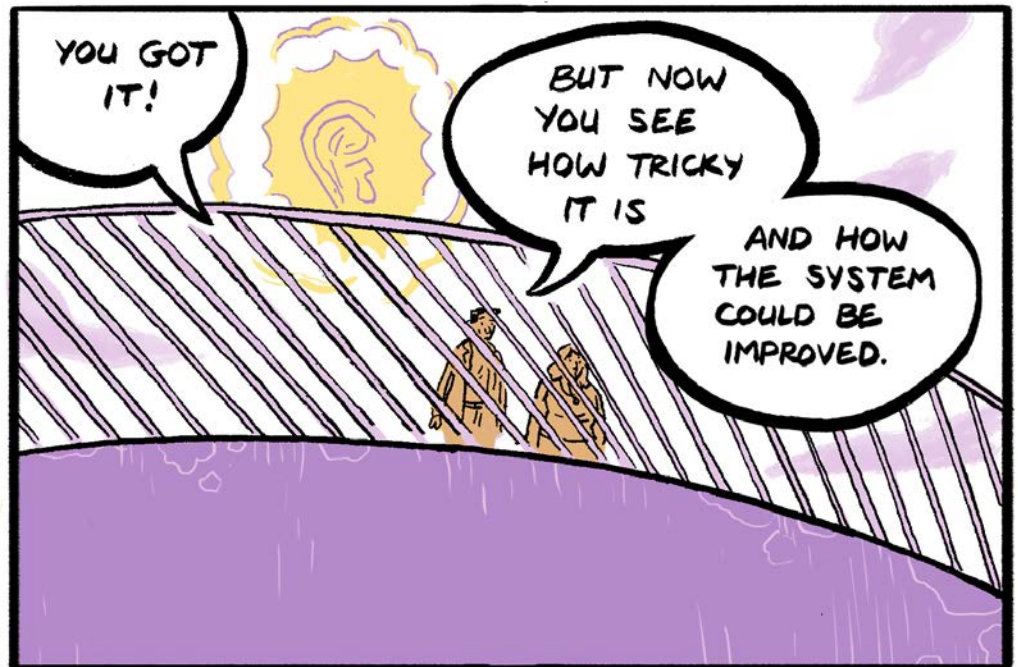
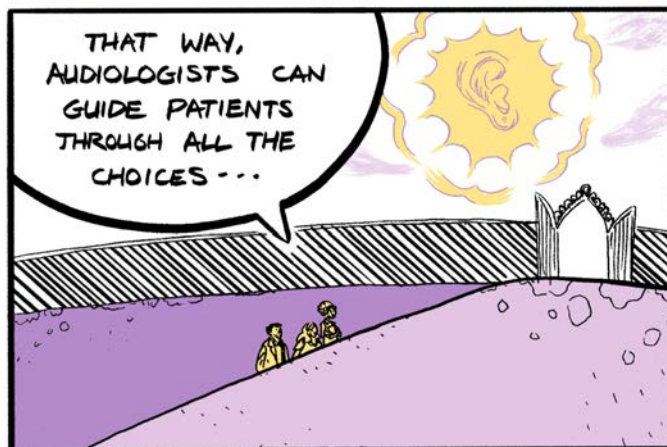
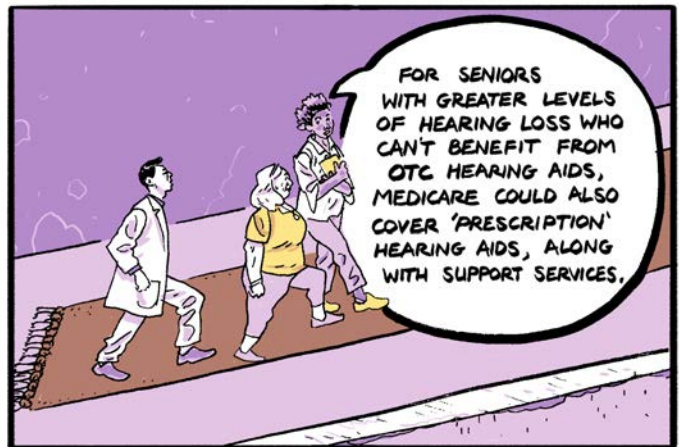
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TEAM FROM THE COCHLEAR CENTER FOR HEARING & PUBLIC HEALTH AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE OVER AGE 65 AND THOSE WITH DISABILITIES WHO RELY ON MEDICARE FINANCING, CAN HAVE SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS ACCESSING APPROPRIATE HEARING AIDS AND GUIDANCE IN USING THEM, AND SUGGEST POLICIES TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS IN THE FOLLOWING GRAPHIC PRESENTATION:









JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Cochlear Center for
Hearing and Public Health

In order for a Medicare hearing benefit to meet the needs of all American seniors, be fiscally sustainable, and leverage the paradigm shift in the hearing aid marketplace that will come about with over-the-counter hearing aids, the following pillars must be considered in hearing benefit policy:

- 1. The imminent availability of over-the-counter hearing aids will soon allow hearing aids to become an affordable out-of-pocket expense for many seniors. These OTC hearing aids will be able to help many, but not all, seniors depending on the severity of the individual's hearing loss.*
- 2. Coverage for conventional 'prescription' hearing aids will still be needed by those with greater degrees of hearing loss or those who do not benefit from OTC hearing aids.*
- 3. Coverage of hearing care support services will allow seniors with hearing loss to receive the essential guidance and support services of an audiologist or hearing instrument specialist to learn how to best address their hearing loss and use hearing aids.*

