

Reflections

Sandra L. Bertman, Ph.D.
Section Editor

Editor's Note: One might title this column

"By indirections find directions out"¹

Tacos, Spinach, Straight Talk, and Metaphors

Sometimes approaching "truth at a slant" as the poet, Emily Dickenson, advocates sets the stage for empathy and honest communication. But not always. Metaphors do not solve problems as much as uncover them, all the while inviting reflective practice. We invite you to savor and comment on these two morsels.

¹Hamlet 2.1.66.

Sandra L. Bertman, Ph.D.

National Center for Death Education
<http://www.sandrbertman.com>
Email: sbertman@gmail.com

Poems

Robert Dominguez

The Eyes of Texas Are Upon...Me

Automatic doors slide open
I enter, first time wearing my medical school shirt
A coat of arms? Not quite, but I wear it as one, proudly
Attention is drawn, one head, two heads, three heads turn
Eyes gaze, then stare, then fix
Now, uncomfortable
Maybe brown and maroon don't mix?
So this is what the song means
Somehow, I doubt it

The Interview

Interview day arrives, my sweat is heavy, bullets falling
So many possible questions to be asked, so many answers
to be said
How am I different? Strengths? Weaknesses?
Why do I want to be a physician? That is it, that is
THE question
So many possible responses, so many, I have it, THE response,
my response
I am calm now, no more bullets
My response will be poetry, I am ready

I walk in, formalities exchanged, here it comes
"So, tell me about the violence in Mexico and the drug cartels"
I wondered, did anyone else get this question?
Here come the bullets

The Score

Within these walls, judgment is a ghost
Assumptions are phantoms
Disrespect is invisible, comparisons are formless
So I thought
Casual conversation leads to MCAT score discussion
No hesitation to reveal mine, I am proud, I gave it my all
My colleague begins to form a thought, a response
Surely, it will be in keeping with this casual and harmless
good natured banter
"Well, it's a good thing you're Mexican, I'm sure that helped
your application"
A chuckle follows, if it were a text, JK would follow
A good joke makes everyone laugh
Judgment is well alive, Assumptions are of matter,
Disrespect is visible
Comparisons take form