

FM REVIEW 2009-2012 28

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: John, I am recommending an immediate major revision on this one, prior to sending it out for review. The essay is very well written, and the topic is a crucial one, to the journal, to the specialty of family medicine, and really to the country. However, I feel the focus is too much on the specific incident of finding gas, and not enough about the actual clinical experiences this student had. I'd like to see an essay that explores how the author's stereotypes were challenged by his **CLINICAL** experiences.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Dear, this is a well-written, self-deprecatingly humorous piece with a fabulous title that at the same time tackles a serious and crucial issue - i.e., the assumptions and stereotypes many city-dwellers hold of rural America. As such, we are eager to consider it for publication in this journal. However, because this is a journal of family medicine, and because your purpose in going to Othello was to complete a rural family medicine rotation, we'd like to see an essay that perhaps uses your search for gas as a jumping off point, but goes on to discuss some aspect of your clinical experiences as well, and how these informed and nuanced the original beliefs and expectations you might have held. We understand that the "looking for gas" is symbolic, and indeed it is an amusing story resonant with meaning. Nevertheless, we'd like to see you shorten it up into an attention-catching introduction, then share something about the clinical aspect of your experience as well and how that has affected your attitudes toward rural medicine as a future physician.