

FM REVIEW 2019 12

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: I want to disclose my bias, which is very favorable to graphic medicine, and my eagerness to see the journal incorporate this genre into the narrative essay section. I personally found the comic amusing and in an unnuanced way pretty true to life. I also thought the way the author tied it to milestones was quite humorous.

I have two main concerns, which are somewhat related. The first, and most significant, is whether it is an opinion piece or a first-person narrative. In other words, is the author saying, this is my experience; or is she saying, residency is awful? She does not offer any prescription or advice for improvement (other than medication), which removes the a little from opinion, but this is still a question in my mind. If she is "telling a story" about her personal experience and what she observed in classmates, then possibly this could be clarified in a published note.

My second concern is whether it portrays residents in an unfairly negative light. Again, if she is speaking personally, rather than generalizing about all FM residents, this would help. In effect, the strip then becomes her story. In that regard, I am a little concerned about the last panel. It is definitely funny, but it also implies that the only way to survive is on meds. I know the author does not literally mean this, but I worry that it sends a rather dispiriting message that the journal might not wish to endorse. We need to keep in mind that the journal intends to serve an educational function as well as (occasionally) a literary one, so perhaps clarification of this point could be included in a few brief comments as well.

Coming full circle, I liked it and would like to see this sort of medical humanities in the journal. However, if my above two concerns resonate with you, and you do not see pragmatic remedies, then it might not be appropriate.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: I personally found this graphic panel amusing and pretty true to the experience of many residents. I also thought the way you tied it to milestones was quite humorous.

I have two main concerns, which are somewhat related. The first, and most significant, is whether it is an opinion piece or a first-person narrative. In other words, are you saying, this is my experience; or are you saying, in my opinion, residency is awful? My understanding is that the policy of the journal not to publish author opinions. If, on the other hand, you are "telling a story" about your personal experience and what you've observed in fellow residents, then you could address this in a couple sentence introduction.

My second concern is whether it portrays residents in an unfairly negative light. Again, if you are speaking personally, rather than generalizing about all FM residents, this would help. In effect, the strip then becomes your story. In that regard, I am a little concerned about the last panel. It is definitely funny, but it also implies that the only way to survive is on meds. I know that you not

literally mean this, but I worry that it sends a rather dispiriting message. Perhaps this too could be clarified in an introductory comment.