

# Let's Hear It For the Health Care System

Jane R. Opel

Today I am mad,  
Mad at the health care system.  
My bladder cancer was under control,  
Under control for several years.

Now it has spread.  
Due to circumstances  
Beyond my control  
The cancer has grown.  
My case has become terminal.

How did this happen?  
I no longer have any control.  
I am at the mercy of the Doctors.  
You could try chemo.  
You could try radiation,  
But there is no cure.  
The cure requires removing the bladder.  
You're too old for that.  
I refuse the chemo,  
And the Dr. says hold off on radiation.  
So here I am  
Waiting for this thing to kill me.

I read some books,  
I change my thinking,  
I revise my diet,  
I try to exercise.  
Does any of it do any good?  
Yes, the test shows the tumor has not grown.  
Hurray – a positive step.  
Now I must try to shrink the tumor.  
Maybe I can do it.

Take me to China,  
Take me to India  
Where they cure such diseases.  
Must I just wait to see what happens?

Are there no holistic remedies?  
How do I find them?  
Should I search the Web?  
Can anyone help me?

Today I am mad.  
The Dr. says “mad” is good.  
Only time will tell.

■ **Jane Opel** is a retired widow who spends her winters in Florida near her son and his family. Jane worked for nineteen years at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she was the Executive Director of the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association. Jane has been keeping a journal for the last several years, and continues to write poems and short pieces on her life experiences.

## The Divorce

Joseph M. Limback

They awoke at 4AM in different beds  
With what that day was to bring in their heads.  
They both, separately, kneeled to pray,  
that God would be near and guide them through that day.

You see, in the beginning, everything went well.  
There were some bumps in the road, but nothing to tell.  
In time things became gray, between black and white,  
Where no person can tell whether things are wrong or right.

Then, from the shadows, the thoughts like an ember,  
burned into passion, though hazily remembered.  
Although unclear that anything really went wrong,  
this didn't keep them from the courts for long.

This story ends with hearts of the same passion,  
to heal and move forward, in any sort of fashion.  
However, one has to win and one has to lose,  
but that was up to the court to choose.

They pleaded their cases, that the judge may concede,  
that neither had acted out of malice or greed.  
Out of this hazy gray mess, the judge eventually resolved,  
a settlement, that for patient or surgeon, saw nothing solved.

■ **Joseph Limback** is a fourth year medical student at Florida State University.