

**Good writing demands
precise diction.**

Word Up!

Hospital feels like war zone

Blood ran out slowly onto white sheets as Dr. Ron O’Gorman put his gloved finger into the hole in the man’s chest to determine if a lung had been punctured. “Please stop...no more!” the man cried loudly, his face contorted with pain. “Oh my God, it hurts.”

The doctor, deadpan, didn’t stop and continued to move his finger around inside the wound on the right side of the chest. Although the man kept yelling and trying to kick his legs, the patient’s out-of-control trembling had stopped.

It was shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday when the ambulance containing the badly wounded patient arrived at Ben Taub General Hospital, but doctors had already been told he was coming.

Paramedics reported they had to physically remove the man off a spiked fence at a downtown hotel after he had stuck himself trying to climb over the barrier.

“He was just hanging there,” according to a medical technician.

Blood ran out slowly onto white sheets

- oozed
- seeped
- trickled
- exuded

Ron O’Gorman put his gloved finger

- poked
- shoved
- jabbed
- inserted

the man cried loudly, his

- **bawled**
- **boo-hooed**
- **screeched**
- **wailed**

continued to move his finger

- wiggle
- snake
- worm
- actuate

patient's out-of-control trembling

- **uncontrollable**
- **endless**
- **spasmodic**
- **nutzoid**

doctors had already been told he was coming

- **contacted**
- **informed**
- **alerted**
- **forewarned**

had to physically remove the man off

- pry
- pluck
- wrench
- extricate

after he had stuck himself

- **impaled**
- **harpooned**
- **shish-kabobbed**
- **perforated**

according to a medical technician.

- **said**
- **exclaimed**
- **snickered**
- **remarked**

Choose the *right* word

- When you have a choice among words, choose the one with the narrowest meaning.
- Use words you understand. Express. Don't try to impress.
- Be consistent with tone.
- Write with your ear. Listen to the sound of each sentence, paragraph.

Blood exuded onto white sheets as Dr. Ron O’Gorman jabbed his gloved finger into the hole in the man’s chest to determine if a lung had been punctured. “Please stop...no more!” the man boo-hooed, his face contorted with pain. “Oh my God, it hurts.”

The doctor, deadpan, didn’t stop and continued to actuate his finger around inside the wound on the right side of the chest. Although the man kept yelling and trying to kick his legs, the patient’s nutzoid trembling had stopped.

It was shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday when the ambulance containing the badly wounded patient arrived at Ben Taub General Hospital, but doctors had already been forewarned. Paramedics reported they had to extricate the man off a spiked fence at a downtown hotel after he had perforated himself trying to climb over the barrier.

“He was just hanging there,” a medical technician snickered.

Blood oozed onto white sheets as Dr. Ron O’Gorman poked his gloved finger into the hole in the man’s chest to determine if a lung had been punctured. “Please stop...no more!” the man screeched, his face contorted with pain. “Oh my God, it hurts.”

The doctor, deadpan, didn’t stop and continued to worm his finger around inside the wound on the right side of the chest. Although the man kept yelling and trying to kick his legs, the patient’s spasmodic trembling had stopped.

It was shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday when the ambulance containing the badly wounded patient arrived at Ben Taub General Hospital, but doctors had already been alerted. Paramedics reported they had to pluck the man off a spiked fence at a downtown hotel after he had impaled himself trying to climb over the barrier.

“He was just hanging there,” a medical technician said.

For more great examples...

THE *Radical Write*

By BOBBY HAWTHORNE

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