



All That Glitters...

Lee E. Mortenson

To cite this article: Lee E. Mortenson (1996) All That Glitters..., *Oncology Issues*, 11:5, 4-4, DOI: [10.1080/10463356.1996.11904627](https://doi.org/10.1080/10463356.1996.11904627)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10463356.1996.11904627>



Published online: 18 Oct 2017.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 1



View related articles [↗](#)

Oncology Issues

The Journal of the
Association of Community Cancer Centers

Senior Editor

Lee E. Mortenson, D.P.A.
ACCC Executive Director

Managing Editor

Donald Jewler

Assistant Editor

Cara Egan

Advertising Representative

William J. Asmann

Art Director

Tom Suzuki

Designers

Constance D. Dillman

Hea-Ran Cho

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman, Carl G. Kardinal, M.D.

Leonita Cutright, M.S.N.

Kent Giles, M.P.P.M.

Gordon R. Klatt, M.D.

Michael E. Mohsen, M.H.A.

Nancy A. Nowak, M.A.

Cary A. Presant, M.D., F.A.C.C.P.

Teresa D. Smith, R.N., M.S.N.

James L. Wade III, M.D.

R. Lawrence White, M.D.

Robert T. Woodburn, M.D., Ph.D.

James Zabora, M.S.W.

ACCC OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President

John E. Feldmann, M.D. (Mobile, Ala.)

President-Elect

James L. Wade III, M.D. (Decatur, Ill.)

Secretary

Gordon R. Klatt, M.D. (Tacoma, Wash.)

Treasurer

David H. Regan, M.D. (Portland, Oreg.)

Immediate Past-President

Diane Van Osternberg, B.S., R.N.

(Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Trustees

Edward L. Braud, M.D. (Springfield, Ill.)

Robert J. Brooks, M.D. (Tucson, Ariz.)

Susan J. Brown, R.N., M.S.N., C.R.N.P., A.O.C.N.

(Upland, Pa.)

Dale E. Fuller, M.D. (Dallas, Tex.)

Gordon R. Klatt, M.D. (Tacoma, Wash.)

Charles H. Nash III, M.D. (Tulsa, Okla.)

Nancy A. Nowak, M.A. (Memphis, Tenn.)

Diane M. Otte, R.N., M.S. (Omaha, Nebr.)

Teresa Smith, R.N., M.S.N. (Springfield, Ill.)

Joyce G. Stair, M.S., R.N. (Ann Arbor, Mich.)

R. Lawrence White, M.D. (Washington, D.C.)

Member of Business
Publications Audit, Inc.



Oncology Issues is published bi-monthly at the Association of Community Cancer Centers, Executive Office, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852. Copyright ©1996. Association of Community Cancer Centers. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission in writing. Editorial correspondence, changes of address, manuscripts, and letters to the editor should be addressed to: Lee E. Mortenson, Senior Editor, *Oncology Issues*, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852.

Articles, editorials, letters to the editor, and other contributed materials represent the opinions of the authors and do not represent the opinions of the Association of Community Cancer Centers or the institution with which the author is affiliated unless the contrary is specified.

Subscription Rates

Basic rate: \$20 per year for health care providers; \$40 per year for others. ACCC membership dues pay for general, delegate, and chapter member subscriptions. Back issues available for \$5 per copy, prepaid. Bulk rates available upon request.

Advertising

Send correspondence, display advertising, insertion orders, printing materials to Managing Editor, *Oncology Issues*, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852. Questions for general information may be directed to 301/984-9496.

Postage Privileges

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Association of Community Cancer Centers, 11600 Nebel St., Suite 201, Rockville, MD 20852.

FROM THE EDITOR



All That Glitters...

by Lee E. Mortenson, D.P.A.

Maturity or its lack is a theme that kept popping up at the Olympic games. The young women competing night after night in gymnastics appeared shy, but had picked a spectator sport where their every mistake or heroic action was the subject of commentary and instant replays. They were seen—big time. Some handled the pressure with maturity, while many exhibited intense emotion at failure. We all watched. Would they be a hero or a failure? Such an instant test of life's value seems to go along with our concept of fifteen minutes of fame.

The need to be seen, to be recognized as a hero, can be perverse. Whether or not he is proven guilty, the guard who discovered the bomb at Olympic Centennial Park turned from invisibility to instant hero to instant bad guy—an example of the dark side of the same need to be seen.

Robert Bly, in his new book, *The Sibling Society*, talks about our immaturity as a culture. This powerful book brings home the lessons of Oklahoma City, the Unabomber, and now the Centennial Olympic Park bombing. Some of us are desperate to be seen and increasingly need attention. We regress and act out like children. "You don't see me! I'm important! I'll show you. You (the other) will pay. I'll be a

hero, then you'll see me!"

Sounds familiar doesn't it? Every two- or three-year-old child on the planet seems to have gone through this phase. Because this feeling disappears from view as most children grow up, we tend to think it is history. Silly us. Our shadow self is always with us, just out of sight.

People used to line up along the roadside when the king came out or the conquering hero returned from battle. But we often get the message of this event backward. They were not out there to see the king; they were there to be seen by the king!

The need to be seen isn't all bad. It is, simply, quite human. Often our need for recognition fuels positive action, such as a medal-winning performance, or in our case, our efforts in providing quality cancer care. But the need to be recognized must be tempered with recognizing value in others.

So, all of us have a job to do. We have to "see" the people around us...not just some, but everyone. Not just patients, but staff and especially our peers. Look at them. Acknowledge them with your eyes, and recognize their individuality and importance to the fabric of things. Working on our maturity as a society is a gigantic task that requires small initial changes from as many of us as are willing to see what we can do to promote humanity. ■