# A farewell to CaRMS

#### **Aaron Cass**

CaRMS and the man, of thee I scream Of unmatched hopes, and shattered dreams. Come hear the tale of all I've done To earn the rank PGY-1. I've been preparing for so long Since birth at least — perhaps beyond. I've chained myself to chair and desk To study like a man possessed. Forsaking body, mind and soul To always make the honour roll. I've got a CV amply filled With high achievement overkill: Cum laude after each degree Nobels for peace and chemistry. Plus publications, I've a few In Science, Cell and Nature too. And might I add, with modest hue I'm often asked to peer review? I've references one can't impugn: DeBakey, Osler and Bethune. So why am I so filled with fear That this just ain't my Banner\* year? I've crossed the country, there and back From Inuvik to Shediac. And interviewed 'til I've turned blue What more's a poor Med 4 to do? To give myself some peace of mind I've ranked each program I can find In peds, and path, and family And neuro, uro, ENT Ophthalmo, ortho, obs and gyn — A single berth would do me fine. Do I dare hope internal springs? For godsakes, I'll do anything! Admit me to emergency! Cut me a place in surgery! A chance is all I ask of them I'll even try out biochem! A doctor's all I want to be What is it that they want from me? Perhaps my heart? My spleen? My lungs? My firstborn child? My name in blood? I'll work for free! Call one in three! From here until eternity!



### Experience

## Expérience

Aaron Cass, a 4th-year medical student at the University of Ottawa, is nervously awaiting his fate in the 1998 residency match run by the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). Match Day is Mar. 11. This poem will also appear in the winter edition of *Mediscan*, published by the Canadian Federation of Medical Students.

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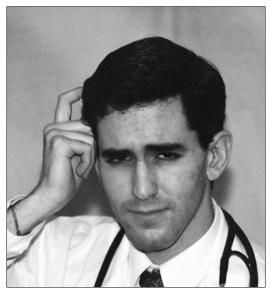
\$ See related articles pages 635 and 696





How strange to think if I've no luck I'll be burned 'cause a match ain't struck! I've got to somehow try and see The world a bit less lit'rally With metaphors and similes And perhaps USMLEs.† But would I shake just like a Speare If all the "damned spots" disappeared? Maybe there's still some hope for me In law, or homeopathy. This process has lost all its charms. It causes dread and frank alarm. If I get through it, yet unharmed I'll bid a fond farewell to CaRMS.

\*Sandy Banner is executive director of the Canadian Resident Matching Service. †United States Medical Licensing Examinations



Aaron Cass "Perhaps some day it will be pleasant to remember even this." — Aeneid, Bk.1

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