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Bad blood, bad journalism

I am less concerned about "bad" blood as I am about bad journalism. Why did the Star Tribune put the story "Bloody performance draws criticism" on its March 24 front page? The Walker Art Center event took place more than two weeks earlier and precipitated a single complaint.

If the concern was health, writer Mary Abbe quotes (as well as buries) a health official's statement that there was virtually no danger to anyone. If Abbe's objections were artistic, she should have introduced the issue to the paper in an arts section piece labeled "critical opinion." This kind of irresponsible reporting serves no purpose but to fan the already raging flames of fear around all issues pertaining to AIDS.

Mary Pleshette Willis, St. Paul.

There are ritual practices of all kinds carried out in many parts of the world. Clitoridectomy comes to mind. Perhaps the Walker director could search these out and present them for their artistic value.

Ross D. Schmidt, Chisago City, Minn.