

Quantum Football

Flavian Mark Lupinetti

I like to watch with the sound turned off.
— my neighbor Dave

Coach Tomlin

I challenge the interpretation
that the ball failed to break the plane
ascending from the goal line to infinity,
your error clearly arising from failure
to adhere to the principle of Heisenberg
which proves that momentum and
location can never be ascertained
and that measurement of one obviates
knowledge of the other generating
the paradox that *measurement itself*
determines the properties
of the object measured.
Because reality is inseparable
from the act of observation,
the only logical outcome
is that your call is overturned.

Referee Vinovich

Your reasoning neglects to account
for the existence of the singularity
as first demonstrated by the calculations
of Schwarzschild who, despite his horror
at the implications, proved the existence
of black holes beyond any reasonable
alternatives, thus accounting for
a reduced dimension of your invisible plane
from 53-1/3 yards on earth to a distance

equal to that of a photon traveling
from one atom to another within
said black hole environment,
where space toddles along like time
and time envelops like space.
Go sit your ass down or
I'm giving you 15 for Unsportsmanlike.

Me

If the Steelers don't cover the spread
I'm down three large
and my chances of making
this month's rent collapses
to Schrödinger's wave function.

Flavian Mark Lupinetti, a poet, fiction writer, and cardiac surgeon, received his MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. His work has appeared in *About Place*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Cutthroat*, *december*, *Redivider*, *ZYZZYVA*, and elsewhere. His collection "The Pronunciation Part" was awarded the Grand Prize in the 2024 Chapbook Contest sponsored by The Poetry Box. A native of West Virginia, he now lives in New Mexico.