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Diane Webster

Background Noise

My beautician plays
rap music on the radio today.
Maybe only background noise
like the coal train whistling
a warning a block away
like teenage boys trying to prove
their crudeness to a woman
pretending not to hear
as she continues down the sidewalk
not slowing, not speeding,
every sense heightened

as rap music escapes
through speaker slots
while wet hair strands plop
on my plastic-draped shoulders
as the train fades away from hearing.

Diane Webster's work has appeared in *Better Than Starbucks*, *Eunoia Review*,
Philadelphia Poets, and other literary magazines.