

Distractions

it's something else

The Reading

"Continue ending future pasts
By using hearts taped with ice;
Share an arm to keep me up,
Or grow a willow on my grave."

The odd person who was still awake
clapped politely. I frowned at a yawn,
and accidentally breathed a curse into
the microphone when snoring at the
back reached me.

"Get off the stage then!" a face in
the dark shouted back.

"Keats reborn are we? You think
you can do better, dumb-ass? Give it
a try." I scoffed, stomping off the
makeshift stage.

"Bite me!" was the response.
"Then don't be a God-damned
critic," I muttered, making my way
outside. I needed to get some air. My
face was burning and my shirt was
stuck wet to my back. The smoke was
stinging my eyes.

The autumn air was cold outside
the brick coffee-house, but refreshing
for a moment. People were following
me out--a sign that nobody had taken
the stage after me. Poetry night was
over.

As I sat on a concrete block, a
familiar hand dropped to my shoulder.
I looked up and saw a friend's
encouraging smile before he walked
away with his girlfriend. I had never
never even looked at her. Her hands
hands through my hair. I saw the
the dim moon.

Sensuous Mystery

In the dark she stands before me
more comely than before
A vision of divine beauty
From distant gothic lore
I long to hold and caress her
For my eyes to reflect her soul
Yet to share my emotions and desire
Would exact too great a toll

Shrouded in sensuous mystery
She sets my heart aflame
I reach out to touch her
Only to reel back in pain

As dawn raps at my window
She shrinks back in sympathy and fear
My eyes neglect the new morning
Blinded by a single tear.

Andreas Rothe

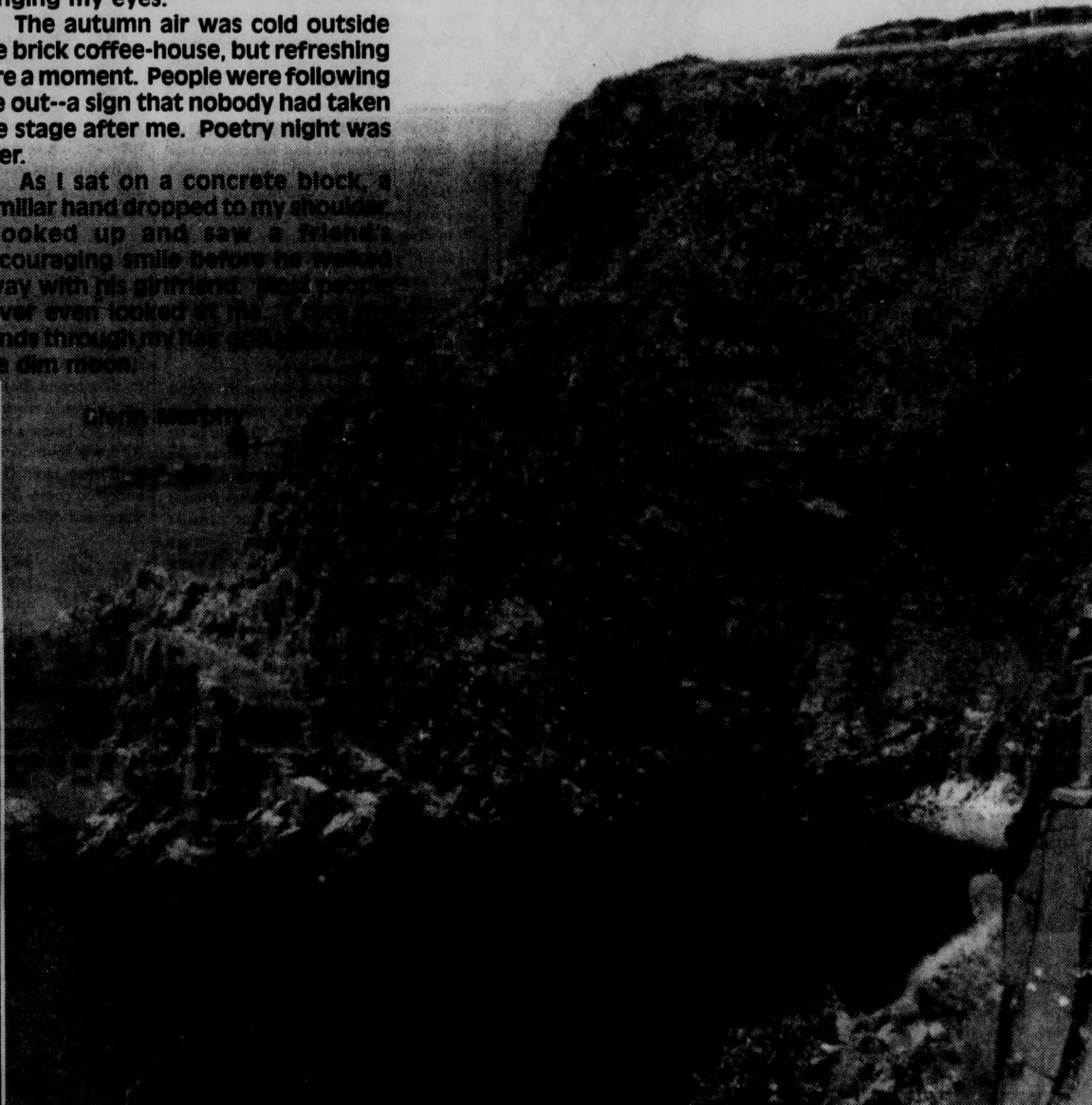
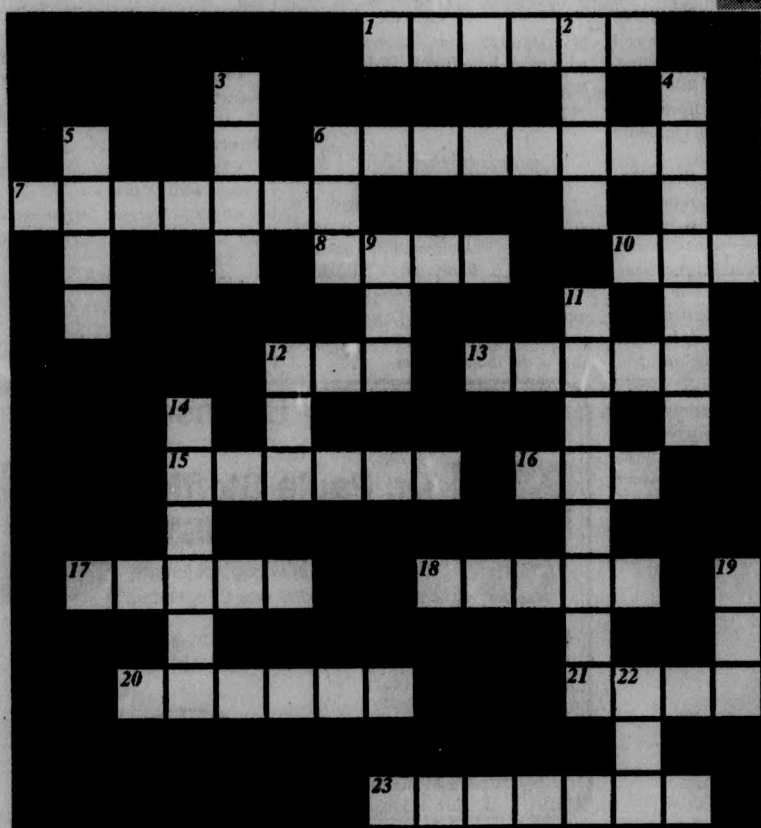
ACROSS

- 1 "The truth is out there" man
- 6 Empty/deserted
- 7 Instrument, like a flute
- 8 Opposite of take
- 10 River in Spanish
- 12 Frogs home
- 13 What you must be in the library
- 15 Say again
- 16 Supporting garment
- 17 Largest mammal
- 18 The King
- 20 Taunt, annoy, tease
- 21 Passes on hereditary material
- 23 Good luck stone in Ireland

DOWN

- 2 Abbreviation for 'and others'
- 3 Scheme, strategy
- 4 _____ from the norm
- 5 Hershey's treat
- 6 Man's best friend
- 9 Singular (abbreviation)
- 11 Now do on belly buttons, eyebrows, etc.
- 12 Drink or kind of music
- 14 To make something
- 19 Compete for
- 22 The first woman

See Classified page for answers



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