

never you mind Gram

she was always small
a wheezing shriveled 60
I wasn't old enough to see
her youth myself
her tongue was quick and sharp but soothed
every hurt

never you mind lovey
never you mind

I grew up and found we were foreign
she and I
speaking the same language differently

I was transparent to her
she had the advantage remembering youth
I could never remember age

never you mind lovey
never you mind

her lungs grew big
but couldn't accomodate the air
and never will
her husband was a big man
until his stomach ate him
all he left to bury was the morphine

I grew old she grew older
and remains small so small
with swollen lungs and razor tongue
I moved 2000 miles
now wish she could hear
her voice in my head

never you mind lovey
never you mind

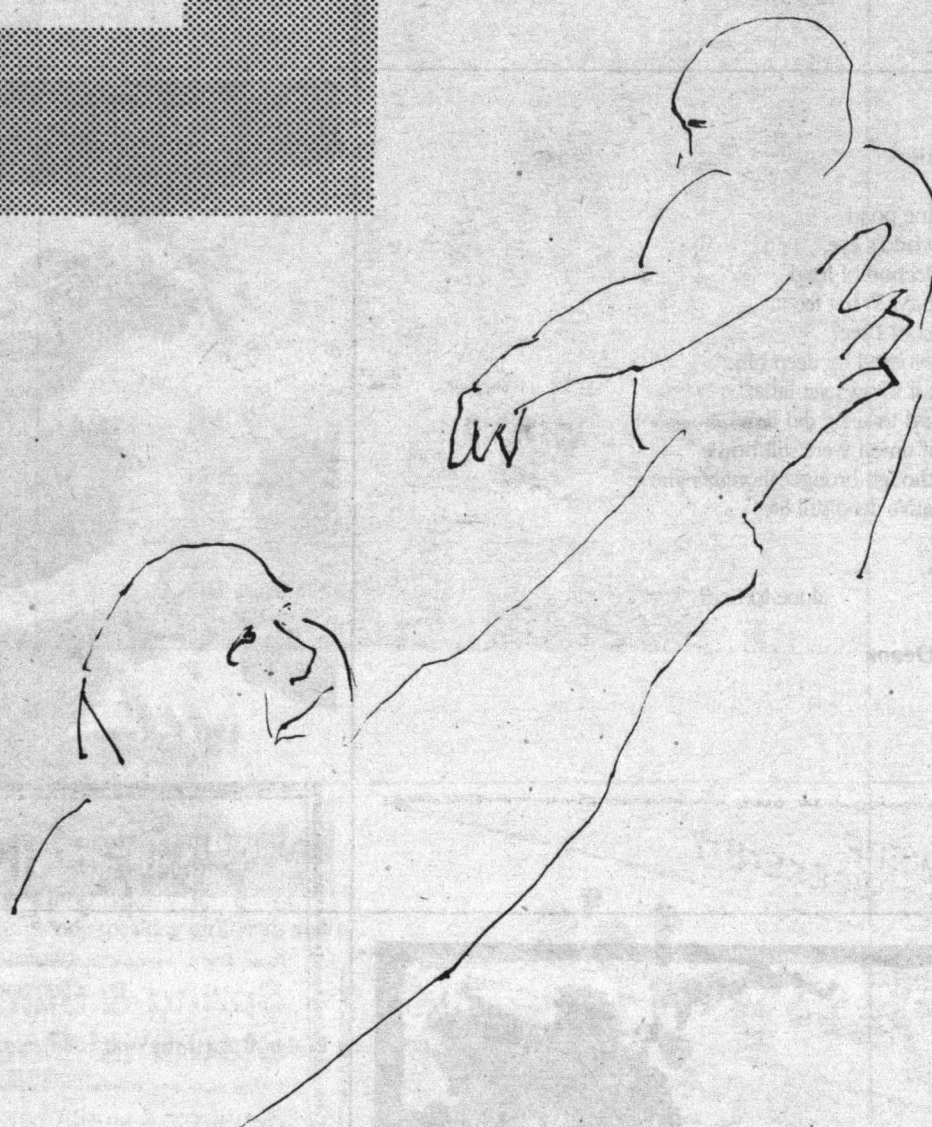
Peter Bracking

Exposure

The assignment is due
But the wind is cold.
The washer rattles to the end of its cycle.
My mind leaps for the excuse
to lift pen from paper.
You're shut in the other room
watching A.J. and Rick miraculously
solve the latest crime, unscathed,
well shod with fancy wheels — and pretty, sexy
girls — not dames.
And I would rather be beside you
cuddling next to your strong body
We fit so well together.
I'd be warm, protected,
comforted from the cold wind
But my companion continues to be Homer.
I've traded your protection
for pages older than Christ.
I've exposed myself to
the cold wind of competition from
younger students.

I'll blow you a kiss
after I throw the clothes in the dryer.
Perhaps the warm air exhaust
will soften the icy blasts outside.

Donna Kayne



Graphic by Ben Darrah

YUKON JACK ATTACK #5. The Walrus Bite.



Temper 1/2 ounce Tequila
with orange juice over ice.
Fire in 1 ounce Yukon Jack
to give the Walrus its bite.
And you thought
Walruses didn't have teeth.
(tusk, tusk, tusk). Inspired
in the wild, midst the damn-
ably cold, this, the black
sheep of Canadian liquors, is
Yukon Jack.

Yukon Jack



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