

photo by Terry Malanchuk

POETRY

We take the drug of ourselves together,
smiling, sometimes hesitantly,
we pop each other into our mouths.

It was when you taught me how to sleep,
laid me down on your big bed
and touched me

I wanted to scream my peace,
violent and incredible
in the night air
what understanding was.

And it was I that wanted you
to replace your vanity for poems
replace the not knowing with knowing.
substitute self love for love

No one had ever wanted you that way before.

But the body, the body, you said.
We are women.
The universe will not understand us.
The universe cannot understand our love

But I say
This is not poetry
There are different pills
in our mouths.
There is only one understanding.
—Gail Robertson

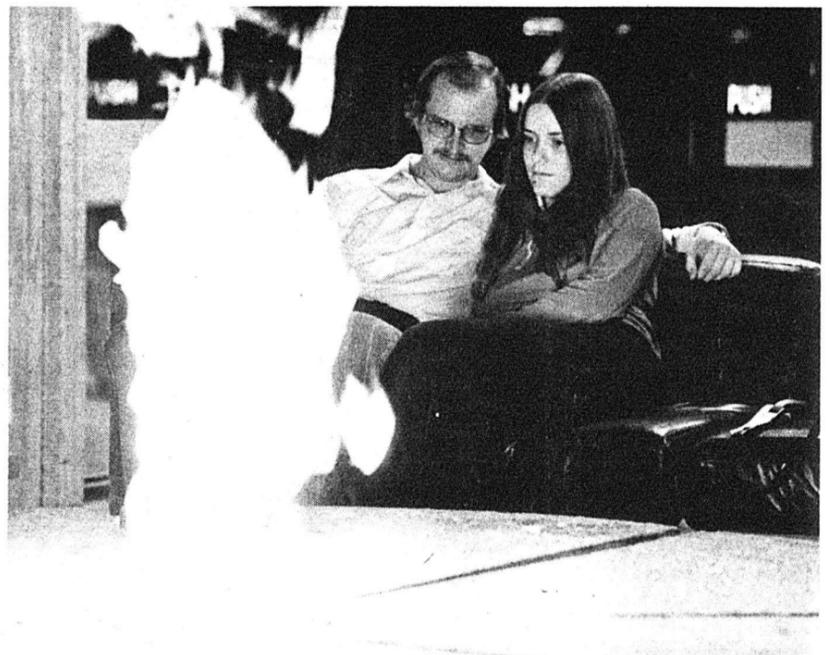
I found a bold, untended flower

I found a bold, untended flower
by a sea
and sound
like heavy breathing
washed the sand
around its unmarked home

sang
celebrating
blues and seeds

and above the festival
chained to summer-speckled black
the moon
sang
harmony
in waves
like heavy seaweed
weed swung in and out
in tide

September 2, 1971.
—David Schleich



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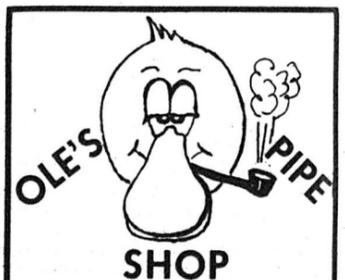
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