

but legs are attached
unfortunately
to a person
& this person has all sorts of
intellectual pretensions
& all sorts of
ontological obsessions.

still, for a while it seemed
we might hit it off
she even liked my poetry
but soon enough she found
the person behind the poems
& she found him to be crude &
disgusting & not nearly
as good as the poems.

when she waters the plants now
I try not to look
at those legs.

KISSING TIME

she has her boy friend's initials
carved into her arm, tells you
she did it in reform school
all the girls did it.

it is 1958 & you are selling
popcorn at the speedway
it is demolition derby time
& the girl is wearing what
the guys call a see-more
blouse.

you can't stop staring
at her big tits &
she catches your eye &
asks you if you like
what you see.

all those reform school movies
flash through your head &
you know she must do it
figure she's at least
done it with TK
the guy on her arm.

at intermission Bobbie Rydell sings
Kissing Time on the loud speaker
& you turn in your vending gear
telling the man you don't feel good.

you have six hard earned dollars
in your pocket
& you walk out of there
with the reform school girl
holding on to your arm.

in back of the speedway she
makes you come with her hand
& promises to go all the way
next time.

you're fifteen years old
& you'll never feel any better
in your life.

THE FIGHT

the kids had traffic blocked &
no adults could get thru
to break it up
& from my upstairs window I
had a hundred dollar ringside
seat
but the fight itself wasn't much
one of the boys didn't really
want to be there
in that circle
in that ritual
but the crowd was worth the view
there must have been fifty kids
running up the street to see it
all sizes & ages & they
could've been running to a
carnival or circus or fire
& some of the kids had dogs
running along with them
& the guys would be shadowboxing
& bobbing & weaving as they ran
& there were plenty of girls
making even more noise than the boys
& I hadn't heard so much laughter
in a long time
& one of the boys in the circle was
dancing & jabbing like Muhammad Ali
while the other backed up
fear all over his face
& then something happened
the scared kid got lucky &
landed a roundhouse right
flush on Muhammad's nose