

TOM'S VIEW

Ten miles upriver
Folsom Lake is shrunken
& emaciated by drought.
The American River
is drying up. Salt
water threatens the Delta.
Most of us sense
we're in the grip
of something evil.
But Tom Witt sees
it as a weeding
out ... a revolving plan
by Mother Nature to
harmonize her parts ...
us included.

BAMBOO STALK

Bamboo stalk bending
too far down appears
void of dignity.
"Maybe you should
cut it off --
it looks awful."
Bending to cut it
I see it has
been chopped halfway
thru by mower.
An old wound.
I stake & bind
it gently.

KALTENBACH'S ART

Cut into empty field
& piled up carefully
by tractor & student hands
it's a raw dirt pyramid
inhabited by ground squirrels.
Will it be here in Spring
greened by native grains
& weeds or leveled by
demand for parking?

ROCK & ROLL

Elton John made around
8 million bucks in 1976.
I made under 13 thousand.
Gary Snyder
won the Pulitzer for
poetry in '75 & probably
cleared less than me.
This is very odd ...
hard to digest mentally
& emotionally & tends
to make one crazy
unless equalized
in some way.

MING AT ELEVEN

Ming has patience of a statue.
A skill he used
to employ to catch
mice & birds.
Now he sits
like gray marble
eyes closed totally
absorbed in deeper pleasures.

BELL

Michael is rare one
puts in 12-15 hr days
for Oakland Museum
& California art
& doesn't turn
in overtime.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands CA