

HER HUSBAND

Her husband
she's so embarrassed
she has to break in
and tell him
his thinking is so
full of stereotypes.
"Not all Black people
believe in voodoo,"
she says.
Then he out of the blues
"Children shouldn't be spanked.
They should have
their fingers cut off,
and their parents
should order
Colonel Sanders fried chicken
and give them the terrible time
of trying to eat fried chicken
with no fingers!"
He turns cupped hands to her,
demonstrating
the difficulty
of fingerless
fried chicken eating.

THE LADY FROM THE RAPE SQUAD

The lady from the Rape Squad
has a groove running down her nose.
The officer is round like a bottle.
Questions come from behind her eyes
and roll down her nose, one at a time,
like ball bearings. I pick each one up
and put it into the bottle
as I watch
the next question rolling down.

-- Jim Klein

Passaic NJ