

## FIRE IN THE HILLS

I woke up crazed  
picked a fight with my wife  
at the breakfast table  
combed my hair straight back  
in the steamy mirror  
cartoons were on in the other room.

Outside I could smell smoke  
it was so heavy it burned my eyes  
and the morning was hot  
I thought one of the neighbors'  
houses must be on fire  
I hosed the bird crap and leaves  
off the hood of my old Toyota  
and headed for the freeway.

The high school kids standing  
on the corner waiting  
for the green light were  
very young and very blonde.

The news man gave me the reason  
brush fires in the canyons  
homes burning in the hills  
the city was on fire  
gusty winds up to 40 miles per hour  
I looked in the rearview mirror and saw  
my photogray glasses had darkened.