

LOVING OHIO UNIVERSITY'S OUTSTANDING  
SENIOR INDEPENDENT WOMAN OF 1966-67

-- for Judy Brown

she combines  
remarkable intelligence  
with sensitive gentleness.  
the former, worn as  
a badge of honor,  
intimidates some  
people but such are  
their insecurities.  
the latter, a private  
passion, seems  
reserved for nature,  
stuffed animals and  
me. loving a woman  
with the perspicacity  
to know your foibles  
and the compassion to  
forgive them is  
life's rare joy.

I'M STANDING ALONE

i'm standing alone sipping  
a double shot of jim beam

sporting a name tag with my  
high school senior picture

when some joker i haven't  
seen in 20 years walks up  
and spouts off

"jesus christ, morgan,  
you've sure changed!"

i've been through college,  
a divorce, a traumatic affair,  
three near nervous breakdowns,  
therapy, my father's death and  
two bouts of unemployment

worked as a journalist,  
canoe shelter attendant,  
dishwasher, house painter,  
apartment maintenance worker,  
public opinion surveyor,

salesman, social worker  
and writer of poetry

i've longer hair, a goatee,  
mustache, large gut, suffer  
from hypertension, rampant  
cynicism and grinning  
half-drunk idiots

"good god, i certainly hope  
so," i quip, brushing past

escaping into the emptiness  
of the crowded room

#### WEARING JEANS AT THE GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

some patrons  
of this fancy hotel  
overlooking grand traverse bay  
wear clothes worth more  
than my car.

there's money galore  
in this neck of michigan,  
especially in summer  
when the beautiful people  
float in on long, sleek yachts  
designer sails billowing.

hell, a small glass of beer  
costs a buck-fifty and

i'm strolling about in faded,  
old jeans, pullover shirt  
and paint-spotted, blue suede  
tennis shoes with bright orange  
laces. maybe it's the laces,

people are staring, as i smile,  
nod and keep on walking.

so far, only the maids  
have smiled back.

#### TELL ME YOU LOVE ME, JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

the loudmouthed  
obnoxious jerk at the end  
of the bar is black