

my new shoes are made
of deerskin
and i call them "bambi."

ATHLETICISM IN AMERICA

in the food line of the tailgate party
a mutual friend introduces me
to the coach of a woman's volleyball team.
her first words to me are,
"come to a game sometime!"

i tell her that i'd like to,
that i have a daughter playing volleyball
back east and that i watched a lot
of the olympic volleyball on t.v. and
that i jockeyed my kids to one of the
olympic volleyball sessions at the long
beach arena.

"come to a game sometime!" she says.

"i'll try to," i say, as if i have
nothing better to do than attend the games
of every professional, amateur and interscholastic
athletic team in southern california.
i fill up my plate with beans
and turning from the buffet
tell her i am pleased to have met her.

she says again, "come to a game sometime!"

afterwards i'm really kicking myself
that i didn't think to invite her
to bring herself and her entire team
to one of my poetry readings.

AREN'T WE FUN?

i read that coleridge described
william hazlitt as "brow-hanging, shoe-
contemplative, strange ... kindly-
natured ... but jealous, gloomy and
of an irritable pride,"

and i find myself jotting in the
margin: "typical literary personality."