

WHAT WE CAN DO AND WHAT WE CAN'T

because of an article in the campus paper
extended education called me about designing
a course as part of their communications package.
the first one i came up with was,
"exercising the poetic imagination."

in spite of excellent publicity,
only one student registered
and it was cancelled.

the next semester
the exact same thing occurred.

so this fall i offered a course called
"getting your poems into print."

twenty-four people paid their tuition.

i guess we poets are all in agreement

that the writing is the easy part.

NOT QUITE

the free copy allotted to each of us
who had made nominations for the awards anthology
arrived with a cover letter requesting
that we check the text for typos
that could be corrected in time for the paperback edition
although the editor hoped this one was at least "error
free."

i turned first,
egotist that i am,
to gaze upon my name among the contributing editors.

my name was misspelled.

I THINK MY GREAT WORK ON THE PROGRESS OF WESTERN
THOUGHT WILL BE ENTITLED:

from plato to play-doh.

— Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA