

genuine draft and dreams  
that none of us know  
exactly how to talk about.

— Tom Caufield

Conway AR

coyotes howling  
at the moon, from the moon  
other coyotes howling back

reeling, blood-splotched, two  
boxers on the hospital's  
waiting room TV

flashing in my cornering  
headlight beams, the eyes  
of a startled cat

on the frayed carpet  
slivers of sunlight  
from the boarded-up window

needed to vacuum  
up the dirty atmosphere  
volcanos that suck

— William Woodruff

Pasadena CA

#### EVALUATION OF CABO SAN LUCAS

At Thrifty Drug today  
there was a lineup at the  
pharmacy window  
people with summer flu  
a redhead was confiding

to another woman,  
we spent last week in Cabo  
trying to unwind  
I took three times the clothes  
I needed  
down there you swim  
or fish or drink a lot  
I don't fish and I can't stay  
too long in the sun  
and one cocktail before dinner  
is all I want  
I guess the trip was worth it  
but I wouldn't go there twice

#### FLAWED EXISTENCE

Speaking from  
a crooked mouth  
I confess to being  
a chronic pessimist

It hurts me nothing  
is ever perfect  
I warn myself  
be on guard  
for pitfalls in Paradise  
should you end there

I carry mousetraps  
to places that haven't  
had a mouse  
in twenty years

I made a roast-beef dinner  
for old friends  
I hadn't seen since 1981  
how was I to know  
they had become  
wild-eyed vegetarians  
and carry sprouts  
everywhere they go

#### DEATH IN A SACRED PORSCHE

Julio had a gnawing fear  
he shouldn't lend  
his holy icon to anyone  
even his only son