

PENSIVE

Judson took a photo of me yesterday  
and afterwards said, "You looked rather somber  
in that one"  
and i said, "Pensive, that's us poets, we're nothing  
if not pensive, that's one of the main requirements"

actually,  
like most times when somebody is taking my picture  
i don't know what to do  
so i just stare at the floor.

— Mark Weber

Albuquerque NM

INTERVIEW (1983)

what would you do if you had 5 minutes to  
live? he asked.

nothing.

really?

yes, nothing.

all right, suppose you had 2  
weeks?

nothing.

come on, don't give me that, be  
serious!

I think I  
am.

all right, suppose you had 2  
months?

either hold up a bank or take  
up  
water-skiing.

you're not being realistic  
about this whole  
thing.

oh yes, you're giving me  
longer and longer to  
live ...  
what would you do  
if you had 2 months to  
live?

well, he answered, I'd  
drink and fuck,  
plenty.

o.k., put me down for  
the same.

now you're talking!  
he said.

for a man with 2 months to  
live  
he looked pretty  
satisfied.

#### SNAPSHOT (1985)

flailing away at infinity  
the tiny winged night bug  
on its back  
under the desk lamp  
kicks and struggles with  
thread legs  
under the heat of the  
light  
as in the corner of the  
room  
my fat yellow cat  
lifts his left leg  
high  
and licks his precious  
parts  
as in the harbor now  
a boat suddenly loosens  
a horn sound

the cat stiffens, stops  
licking

the bug becomes  
motionless

then,  
both at once,