

## Lake Geneva

### The Handsome Family

You are crouched before the fire in a state park by the highway  
and through the heavy pine trees ten-ton trucks go groaning by  
Like the screams of your Aunt Barbara  
who went crazy in the '70's,  
wrote poems to Jimmy Carter but forgot to feed her kids

But, it's the first time you're together since he got out of the hospital  
Raccoons in the darkness drag off your hot dogs buns  
But, you're happy just to lie there in a plastic tent  
from Wal-Mart like sticks and fallen dead leaves to feed the fire of the world

Because which is more important, to comfort  
an old woman or see visions of the heavens in the stumps of fallen trees?  
Albert Einstein trembled when he saw that time was water,  
seeping through the rafters to put out this burning world

Next morning you're at Waffle House  
Toast and eggs and hash browns  
Truckers chain-smoke Camels over plastic cups of juice  
And you remember how he cried

when they strapped him to the stretcher,  
convinced his arms were burning with electricity from heaven  
You remember how he told you that black holes were like Jesus  
And the crucifix was a battery that filled the air with fire.