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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

## SUN CUPS

The pumpkin at their feet,  
an inversion of the sun.  
Too occupied with cups held  
in cheer to notice: Squash.

TABITHA DIAL

# WALPURGIS

We waltzed the skeleton waltz.  
The righteous left at dawn  
to do their worthy daily work.

MARY CRESSWELL

# QUAKER MEETING

twenty grey birds  
balancing on telephone wires  
humming humming humming

MARY CRESSWELL

## OFF THE SHALLOW END

her legs dangled off the edge  
like a barbed fish hook  
inside of my cheek  
only a cat amongst carp

BRANDON T. ROACH

## CIRCLES

Limbs exist as a floating wish—  
a circle of want hovers,  
like the hoop dancer's  
perfect outline of light.

CRISTINA M. R. NORCROSS

## DREAMING THE S.S. BARBIERI

Last night, your leg thrown over  
my nightmare-tossed body  
kept me safe  
from the ferry crash until dawn.

MARGUERITE MARIA RIVAS

## "IT'S AN ILL WIND"

Goats gaze intently  
From their succulent pasture  
At tall blue thistles.

JOHN EDGE

# KEEP MARCHING

We lost a weary trombonist  
during an eight-measure rest.  
There were rumors of silent resistance.

TRAVIS PEAULAH

# DIogenES

Truth wanders the world, looking for a home.  
Down the street, the final shutter closes;  
the last door snaps shut.

JEAN McLEOD

## CONSUMING FIRE

Crackling, snapping, and whistling ...  
Wind whipping, fires rage, violently hissing.  
Pines consumed, a fresh  
Start rising from the blaze.

COLLEEN M. FARRELLY



Strung out on chimneys  
and rooftops, yellowy brown  
clouds rest, kippering.

JAMES RODERICK BURNS

# BLACKSBURG, VA. 2007

Across the campus  
Cell phones in lifeless trousers,  
Ringing, still ringing.

ROBERT DEMAREE

## TWO RED WINGS

All that's left to betray the cardinal  
my neighbor's cat stalked

down a dimly lit corridor lined  
with faceless mannequins

HOWIE GOOD

# SUNSET

a liquid ruby  
in the glass bottle  
of Malt Vinegar  
on the kitchen table

JUDITH STEELE

## QUESTION

Shy autumnal bird,  
did you brush against the moon  
to get that pale down?

JOAN McNERNEY

## ASHLYN'S LIZARD

Her small waiting hands  
Grasp him gently  
He almost seems content  
As they sit quietly

LINDA MARABLE McDADE

# DEMENTIA

your small white flag  
held up in an unbalanced grip

all our past and future hopes  
succumb to dust

PHIBBY VENABLE



wild wind scatters cypress seeds across the roof  
disencumbers the moon

MEREDITH STRICKER

## FIRST SNOW

Rippling across skin,  
drafts waken restless sleepers  
looped between the dark  
and the dawn.

MARGUERITE MARIA RIVAS



quiet curve of road  
around bold mountain pines—  
moonlight fills the car

JARED PRICE

# A KISS

Night falls gently. Carries  
the scent of sea salt.

I taste it on my lips  
and think of your mouth.

MIKI BYRNE

## OUTDATED FLIERS

Outdated fliers on a bulletin board,  
crinkling from rain exposure, ignored,  
forgotten like yesterday's fashions.

SUSAN E. WIGGET

# JUMPER

This is my navy blue frilly frolickey lacey oversized and hated, but  
*you look good in it!*  
jumper.

JOEL MAK

## FIRST SNOW

The breeze riffled snow-laden branches, releasing a barrage of fluttering flakes into open mouths of two eager children.

NANCY SCOTT

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This month's cover art was created at [wordle.net](http://wordle.net). It's a pictorial representation of all the poems in this issue.

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**Colleen M. Farrelly**, a graduate student at University of Miami, is a freelance writer whose work has been featured in *The Marquette Journal*, *The Marquette Tribune*, and *Great Lakes Anthology*.

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**Jean McLeod's** work has appeared this year in *Vox Poetica*, *Forces Poetry*, *Red River Review*, *Leaf Garden*, and other journals. She is the author of *Tiny Poems for Women Who Think They Hate Poetry*.

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**Brandon T. Roach** was born and raised in Sterling, Kansas. He never served in an army, but he knows how to light a cigarette and tie a full windsor. Most don't, but they could. | [riflemyheadoff.blogspot.com](http://riflemyheadoff.blogspot.com)

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