

Doctor Visit

We sit
 at a small round table
 in this quietly bustling room —
 wire mesh guards every window
 to keep bodies in,
 demons
 out

Around us,
 babbling voices
 of fractured minds
 murmur
 to their memories

Dr. Sara
 pulls up
 tall leather boots,
 prepared to wade
 through the sewer of my mind,
 a fetid swamp
 that teems
 with alligators
 & other
 toothy beasts

She pokes & probes
 with her sharp stick,
 listening
 for piercing shrieks
 of wounded creatures

I talk to her
 in poems
 written
 seconds after waking
 from nightmares
 of endless twisting tumbles

She offers
 pills
 dropped in the roiling waters
 like Alka-Seltzers —
 they dissolve
 & blend
 with poisons in my blood —
 my eyes go blank
 guarding
 secrets, lurking
 like stunted sharks
 beneath my surface;
 she glimpses
 their bladelike
 dorsal fins
 yet plunges onward

I wish to talk to her
 through
 an obscuring cloud
 of vaporized
 cocaine —
 Dr. Freud would approve;
 Dr. Sara
 does not

Yet she offers
 other concoctions
 mixed by unseen shamans —
 she tosses them
 into the
 murky mist
 within my mind
 hoping
 for best results
 but she has no way
 to lift my fog.

—David Harris



I found these at Dupont Circle. I just liked the colors and the shades of red, like in the flag. It's almost got multiple shades of red.

Cliff's Pics: America the Beautiful

*Street Sense vendor Cliff "The
 finds beauty in unusual places
 overlooked to the grand. The
 captures the nation's capital
 anniversary of the Sept. 11 a*



This is the National Association of Realtors building between Union Station and the shelter where I stay. I've taken lots of shots of the sky like that. This picture shows spacious skies, like the line from "America the Beautiful."



magenta.

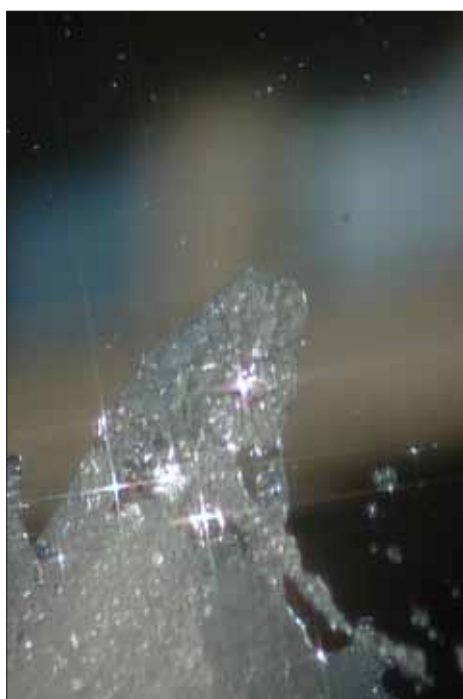
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s of this building. I was waiting for a



A statue of Columbus at Union Station. He looked like he was looking into the morning sun as it rose when he saw the New World.



A girl's best friend, diamonds. That's got to be at least a five-carat diamond, from sea to shining sea.



It looks like that the flag is leaning and falling down. After 9/11, hopefully that does not represent the country.

Dog Eat Dog World

It's a Dog Eat Dog World, who knows better than D.M.X. and Michael Vick,

Six miners are left underground and
Don Imus may be \$30 million richer
as Labor Day rollerblades by R. Kelly prepares for trial,

Hurricane Dean was as mean as MS-13,
as ambitious as Petey Green and bolder
than O.J. Simpson's new book,

Look up in the sky it's a bird it's a plane,
no it's a burning balloon that said
It's a "Dog Eat Dog World,"

America loves Scooby Doo and Snoopy,
Lassie even has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame,

Rin Tin Tin is praised and the homeless are
treated like underdogs, like Cujo,

Hip hop superstars Little Bow Wow and Snoop Dogg
should record a song called "Stop the Violence,"
let's have a moment of silence for slain
soldiers and this Dog Eat Dog World.

Somebody call McGruff, the Crime Dog,
for Mayor Fenty and Chief Lanier can't stop
the constant flow of body bags in the District,

I'm just a poodle for barking out loud,
reminds me of Elvis Presley's "You Ain't Nothing
But A Hound Dog."

I'll be doggone, the administration is
still in the doghouse over Iraq, it's raining
cats and dogs as bridges collapse.

Astro Jetson and Dino Flintstone
both had homes, who will house the homeless
in this Dog Eat Dog World?

The Bible says, "Ye are all God's children
of the most High God."

What is D.O.G. spelled backwards?

It's a Dog Eat Dog World.

—DeWayne Harrison