

## Weathering the Storm

by Leo Rhodes

Waiting, waiting  
Wanting, wanting  
Anticipating  
Words exchanged  
Feelings crossed  
With understanding  
Closeness building  
Building, building  
Higher, higher  
Spiraling, entangling  
Two becoming as one  
In the clouds  
Through the storm  
Holding on never letting go  
The forces strongw  
Trying to push them a part  
One is weak  
The other trying to hang on  
Only to watch the other fall

## Poem for Summer

by Kareem Ali

Summer arrives in complete detail  
It has creative heat  
Of silence and sweets  
Don't get agitated over  
The flock of cold  
Don't get in a panic  
Over how the light folds its warmth  
Don't stress over how  
The pigeons walk themselves  
Because down in the darkened valley  
The summer pies will arrive  
In a sarcophagus of wind

## Change

by Abraham Vinzant

Change is good and bad some say.  
But I say ones, fives, or tens or even a twenty gives us who sell the paper hope  
that we can get out of the hole we have fallen into.  
Thanks to all who give.  
We live only if you give.

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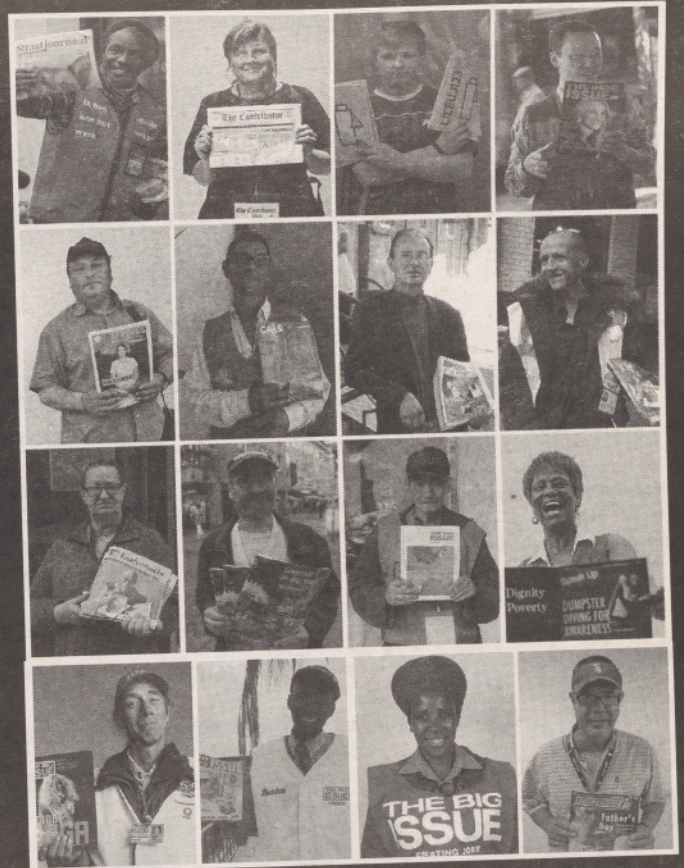
## Fifty Thousand

by Dee Allen

Human flesh  
And live electricity.  
A deadly combination,  
If any exists—  
From a small,  
Hand-held device the size and shape  
Of a supermarket pricetag dispenser,  
Fifty thousand volts.  
From a pair of tiny steel prongs.  
Micro-conductors,  
Fifty-thousand volts.  
From five shots coming  
From five different directions going for  
One frightened, cornered body,  
Two hundred and fifty thousand volts.  
Organs fail. Love muscle stops. Body slumps over.  
Did "excited delirium" cause this fatality?  
Inquiring minds want to know.  
Without a jury trial, without judges' orders,  
Cops have presided over  
Ceremonies of capital punishment.  
With fifty-thousand volts per shot on their side,  
Executions are done much quicker.  
The electric chair is long gone. Finished. Obsolete.  
Meet its  
Portable replacement.



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