



A Man Leaving

A Man Leaving
Leaves behind a memory
of a mustache,
The scratches it reddens lips with
And the musk scent
That sticks on the rim
of a milk glass.
Because of supply and demand
The remaining parts of him
Grow in value
Until skin flakes
Locked inside a vacuum cleaner bag
Become too hard to part with.
Those last pieces of him
Have been pulled
From couches,
Carpets and
Around a bed frame
Only to wait
In a pouch
With spare change
And dust of the time
He spent there.
Parts of him may never be gone
But eventually there will be more dust
than skin in the vacuum
Even that depreciates
Until hair particles become
An '84 Chevy that needs a new transmission
And there is always a point
where sniffed enough
A pillow will forget to remind anyone of his shampoo.
Hard tissue will grow over
The scar he left until
The memories of him are just as important
As new age rings in a tree
Love a method of telling time.

goodbye man

Michelle Daugherty

Michelle Daugherty's poetry appears in several anthologies including, *Bright Light In a Dark World*, *Flying through the Fly Swatter*, *How many times do I have to say I'm sorry?*, and the *Poets of Midnight Anthology*. In addition to her two chapbooks, *Dead Coffee* and *Prism from Coal*, another will be available soon. DRIVING AWAY won a Pen West Poetry Award in 2001 and was printed in the Pen in the Classroom 2002 Calendar as well as the Pen West Annual Program. Michelle has been involved in open mics for several years, and featured many times throughout Los Angeles. Beginning in August 2004 she will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in Creative and Professional Writing.

