

Seattle City Council

Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Arts Committee

Tuesday, 2 PM, May 18th, 2004

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Terrilynn Towns**

Today's Words' Worth poet is **Anne M. Doe Overstreet**

Anne M. Doe Overstreet grew up in Roswell, New Mexico, traveling from there across the Western hemisphere to Iowa, to Georgia, and to Scotland before landing here in Seattle about fifteen years ago. She hopes never to live east of the Mississippi again. She is a graduate of the UW's Writing Certificate Program and has read locally at Barnes and Noble, Third Place Books, and The Hugo House. When not writing, she divides her time up between her jobs as a free-lance editor and as a private gardener.

Shade Half Drawn

By Anne M. Doe Overstreet

How strange
the only people in the street, these two

a girl, an aunt or grandmother

strolling
statelier than lilies grow

in weather they make a small crowdedness
for warmth, fly before the rain like chaff

immune to change they come on
day after day

in a small pink coat in practical beige
linked by fingers, the walk home from the store

till the sidewalk is thick with girls and grandmothers

there is no sound
except the shuffle of sensible shoes, the tattoo of first heels

lavender along the sidewalk knots
and unknots its fragrance

the light changes around the window
stretched by the maples shooting skyward'

a hand pulls away
and it breaks your heart; you want to do something

sacrificial, and magnificent, to preserve
those figures under a turning sky that is not on fire

that does not fill with ash, under a sky that lowers
only fat snow clouds onto the roofs and ornamental cherries.

-- *END* --