

Seattle City Council

**Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, 2:00 PM, July 3, 2007

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Brian McGuigan**

Today's poet is **JT Stewart**

JT Stewart - poet, writer, playwright, and editor - whose work as a public artist includes poetry broadsides in "Raven Brings Light to This House of Stories," a commissioned collaborative permanent art exhibit in the Paul Allen Library at the University of Washington, Her other collaborative work includes Co-Editing "Gathering Ground: New Writing & Art by Northwest Women of Color" (Seal Press) and "Seattle Poets and Photographers: A Millennium Reflection," (University of Washington Press).

JT is the 2006 Curator of the Jack Straw Writers Program, and as a performance artist has appeared in a number of venues including National Public Radio, Bumbershoot, Seattle's downtown public library, Elliott Bay Books - and these series: "After Long Silence" (North Seattle Community College); "Cheap Wine & Poetry."

**One of These Days**

by JT Stewart

Wash his shorts  
clip his toenails  
fumigate his socks

throw out his beer bottles  
lie about your black eye  
thank him for the flowers

remind him to shave  
get him a new elegant watch  
tell him you still love him

lie about your swollen face  
thank him for the flowers  
wait on him in coffee shops

learn to watch bowl games on hdtv  
iron his shorts and his tee shirts  
threaten to move out

lie to your few remaining friends  
break all the good dishes  
hide most of his credit cards

look for something to burn  
lie to your therapist  
find a new cosmetic surgeon

buy more candles and incense  
lie about your broken thumb  
thank him for the flowers

take gourmet cooking classes  
memorize exotic wine lists  
find new homes for your cats

thank him for the flowers

buy a discreet handgun  
lie to your therapist  
sleep with your gun under your pillow

dream of your next confrontation  
pull out your gun  
stand with your back to the wall

hesitate  
aim for his head  
hesitate

aim for his heart  
hesitate  
ask him once more  
to explain himself

hear him say  
You know I don't mean it  
you know I love you

tell him next time you'll shoot  
I will shoot you next time

lower the gun  
wait for him to smile  
put the gun away

wait for his flowers  
lie to your therapist

-- end --