

# Imaginations

## Benchwarmers

It's cold out  
The wind is so bitter you get a headache  
Glad I'm not outside  
I'm stuck here working

See the old man come in  
Looking half scared of the unpredictable automatic doors  
Probably lives across the street  
His wife is either dead or boring  
So he comes here to chat with his friends

Pours himself a cup of our lousy complimentary coffee  
I wish we gave away good coffee  
Takes him about an hour to mix the sugar and cream in  
But what else would he be doing right now?

Sits down on the bench inside  
Makes me think how nice it would be to sit out in the sun on  
a real bench  
He looks around and of course he knows someone  
Lights some crazy home-rolled killer tobacco  
Never seen a man like him smoke anything mild

He flirts and winks at all the staff  
Turns to his buddies  
Probably discusses the weather and how the world is going to  
Hell  
I bet if he and I discussed the world going to Hell, or even  
the weather...  
I'd probably feel like it was my fault  
Although I'd enjoy the conversation

I get to go home now  
Punch out, grab my jacket, light some pansy cigarette  
and exchange sympathetic glances with my replacement  
Walk past the old character, smile and nod  
He gives me a big greeting which I can't make out but I  
really appreciate  
"How's you there old fellah ah a cold out there God almighty yes see you later okay"  
That's the best

He'll be there for an hour or so  
I'll see him again next time I work  
Chances are he'll be the same  
I might be in a bad mood or be sick or be happy or something  
big will be on my mind  
But when I walk past him  
It will be the same  
Count on that

-Dan MacCormac

## First political speech

first, in the first place, to begin with, secondly,  
in the first place, lastly

again, also, in the next place, once more, moreover,  
furthermore, likewise, besides, similarly, for example,  
for instance, another

then, nevertheless, still, however, at the same time,  
yet, in spite of that, on the other hand, on the contrary

certainly, surely, doubtless, indeed, perhaps, possibly,  
probably, anyway, in all probability, in all likelihood,  
at all events, in any case

therefore, consequently, accordingly, thus, as a result,  
in consequence of this, as might be expected

the foregoing, the preceding, as previously mentioned

as already stated

-Eli Mandel

## Recollection

A woman's hair being thrown freely about in  
the wind conjures up images of a mythical  
Aphrodite. Rather, this was no goddess, but a  
face that bespoke of inner kindness and a sweet-  
ness that any man would gladly desire to see.

Suddenly, the trance was broken. Had I  
envisioned a beautiful human being or was this  
sensation like the lingering smell of perfume;  
its poignancy forever escaping your grasp. How  
will I ever know?

-G. Anderson

## Justice

Conniving, deceptive, sly  
Young, innocent, gullible,  
or so the story goes.

A trick,  
a mean trick;  
according to one side.  
A mere suggestion,  
no harm intended;  
contradicts the other.  
And so the trial continues.

One witness,  
a single pawn in a vicious fight  
and not much help to either side.  
Both parties face each other,  
with bitter looks and angered faces.  
The judge calls order to the court,  
the parties cower in shame.  
"The court," bellows the judge,  
"finds both parties guilty."  
Sullenly the parties drop their heads.  
Adam, Eve and the devil,  
leave the courtroom...  
And Eden prospers silently.

-Yvonne MacKean