

helicon west and the usu writing center
PRESENT


To Pablo Neruda
Stephen Bradford
after the film "Il Postino"

the worst thing a poet can do is teach
illiterate eyes to read the colors of ocean
waves.
knowledge brings no toothful smiles,
only sorrow
stored in bags under the jowls and on the
hips.

the one you taught learned to hear an
oracle's sneeze
in an unborn's heartbeat. he also felt the
drum
of militant feet in the rhythm of a
cathedral organ.

the man who reads finds nirvana in the
wind blowing
against the cliffs or through the bushes.
unless his toes
cling like tree roots to the stone beneath
his feet (and that
you cannot teach), the same rapturous
breeze will ram him
upon the point of a bayonet.

your odes adorn the banners of sages
and whores
who see heroic sunset marches but are
blind
to starless nights. you do not teach them
(as you did not teach me)
that the poet hews words into a page
with strokes
of an executioner's axe. you do not teach
the price – Plath's head in the oven,
Kerouac's
bottle, your own exile – the cost per word
is
more than money.



**[Words fill my head like
angry bees]**
Diane Bush

Words fill my head like
angry bees
threatening to swarm
wings of jagged consonants
poking holes
in the honeycomb
of sleep
buzzing so loud I'm sure
they'll wake the cat.
I picture a paw
swatting at vowels
teasing letters into nouns
chasing after verbs until
I taste the sweet honey
of phrases
sentences
paragraphs.

Helicon West invites you to share our open mic nights every 2nd and 4th Thursday
7:00 PM at Citrus and Sage, 130 North 100 East, Logan, Utah.

Broadside Co-editors: Cynthia Harmon and JP Peterson
Sponsored by the Helicon West Planning Committee and the USU Writing Center
For more information on community broadsides contact star.coulbrooke@usu.edu
For more information on the USU Writing Center, log onto writingcenter.usu.edu

