

**WILLIAM HEYEN**

CHECKS & BALANCES

One of our former presidents,  
Alzheimer's victim,  
reached into an aquarium,

removed a replica  
of the White House  
in & out of which

he'd watched goldfish swim—  
it had some connection ...  
he knew ... with him....

Day & night, fish passed through  
where the ornament had been;  
our president kept looking in,

then down to his touchstone:  
homeless bubbles  
bubbled to the tank's surface,

& expired....  
One silvery black swimmer  
pressed its goggle eyes

against the glass when-  
ever the man sat down....  
Each returned the other's stare....

Until the end of time,  
they paid divine  
attention to one another.

RATTLESNAKE CHAOS THEORY

A four horse team  
drawing a Gatling gun

got spooked.  
For a few minutes

the gun effected  
a series of rapid

& cosmic configurations  
over the Dakota plains

as could never be imagined  
in military operations.

ECOSYSTEMIC

Sometimes  
dead ravens dotted  
the prairie for miles—  
they'd scavenged  
buffalo carcasses  
poisoned by wolvers.

Strychnine  
seeped into sod.

In horse-drawn sleighs,  
wolves'  
pelts warmed  
New Englanders'  
knees.