2007

The News Is Bad

Matthew Rohrer

Follow this and additional works at: http://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6281

This contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in the Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
MATTHEW ROHRER

The News Is Bad

the news is bad
coming out of the radio
in the kitchen
it's so small
just turn it off
the wind now
in the clotheslines
between the apartments
there's nothing to do
about it, it's too big
it just comes through little
radios so you can
throw them out
the window and feel
enormous in the dusk
and you can vote
but only on the characters
not the story
my pigeon peas
and caramelized onions
stick to the pan
what can I do
to stop Alberto Gonzales
I can't even kill him
they won't let us walk
up the stone path
to his neoclassical home
even if we don't want to
kill him, even if
we are just trying
to maintain kindness
in our hearts and
if we build a little gazebo
in our backyards,
in our backyards, 
a little kindness 
to maintain 
in the apartment 
in a blanket of books 
around the bed 
and there's a war 
going on, or let's be 
honest, here, in words: 
wars. Lots of wars. 
And the secret wars— 
the frogmen scaling the piers 
the terrible trapper 
who parks his trucks 
on the street 
let's none of us 
pay attention 
to them anymore 
and live like kindness 
is borne on the breeze 
and live all over 
the whole city 
and in the pine barrens 
and the scrub oak 
like kindness is maintained 
under 3 blankets in January