

Seattle City Council

Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 2:00 PM, December 4, 2007

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Brian McGuigan**

Today's poet is **Brendan M. Regan**

Brendan M. Regan was born in Iowa and grew up in Northwest Ohio. On his way to Seattle, he lived in Toledo and Denver. His work has appeared in Chronogram, Thunder Sandwich, when it rains from the ground up, Newtopia Magazine, and more.

How We Embezzle Moments

By Brendan M. Regan

*How pay rent & stay in our bodies
if we don't sell our minds to Samsara?*

--Allen Ginsberg

i.

We shove and struggle:
to be healthy against the world,
to know our place and work,
to see growth and direction,
get silent long enough to
think about what we want of God,
get convinced by wind
to forgive ourselves or anyone,
pay the biosphere back
for supporting our functions,
decide if cats are kids enough,
listen to that thrum of life,
replace our topsoil or habits.

ii.

We sit in meetings with Samsara, Incorporated
to eat and feed the young,
but steal moments like this:

We duck
into janitor closets, under desks,
in empty cubicles, in the parking lot,
out on the loading dock.

We plunder

the many corporations' assets of time
and define the next history.

iii.

The geese migrate
to watch us snatch advantage.
Weeds break concrete.

-- *end* --