

Seattle City Council

Culture, Civil Rights, Health, and Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 2:00 PM, May 28th, 2008

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **John Burgess**

Today's poet is **Eric McHenry**

Eric McHenry is the author of "Potscribber Lullabies," which won the 2007 Kate Tufts Discovery Award and was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. He is an editor of "Columns" magazine at the University of Washington and reviews poetry for the New York Times "Book Review" and other publications.

Potscribber Lullabies

by Eric McHenry

The Potscribber completes a cycle
so vigorous the knives were rattling,
and pauses, waking Evan Michael,
who finds all silences unsettling.

There's no resemblance. It's too early.
Everything is still so round.
But we've occurred to him as surely
as silence has occurred to sound,

and when he's finished sharpening
into himself, and when we've blurred,
we're going to go on happening
in silence like he's never heard.

II

I wore him like a broken arm
all summer, slung
from my right shoulder in a paisley hammock
so deep the sides closed over him.
When I walked he swung, and slept,
lulled by the time his body kept
against my stomach.
When I stopped I had to sing.

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