

Seattle City Council

Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 2:00 PM, June 20, 2006

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Jeannette Allée**

Today's poet is **Michael G. Hickey**

Michael G. Hickey received a B.A. from the University of Arizona and an MFA from the University of Washington. He is a tenured instructor of creative writing at South Seattle Community College, and has taught poetry writing to children at bereavement camps, to at-risk youths in White Center, and to prisoners at the Monroe Correctional Complex. His first book of poetry is entitled *In Defense of Eve*, and his first novel is *Counterclockwise*. His poems have appeared in *Crosscurrents*, *The Atlanta Review*, *Pontoon: an anthology of Washington state poets*, and numerous other literary magazines.

I Should Tell You Right Now

(for Nathan)

by Michael G. Hickey

it looks more like an alien archive shot from Area 51
or a satellite photo from a Level Three hurricane
but it is you, my son
alive in your mother's womb
heart beating like the frantic wings of a hummingbird
both real & surreal
I love you already
even though you're just the size of an
avocado

you carry the weight of the moon in your hands
haikus in your eyes
& your impressive little penis
but I should tell you right now
I don't golf, play poker
or go to the race track
& the last time I went fishing

I accidentally poked the eye
out of a rainbow trout
as I tried to set him free

-- *end* --