

Seattle City Council

Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting

Friday, 2:00 PM, July 21, 2006

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Jeannette Allée**

Today's poet is **Priya Keefe**

Priya Keefe grew up amidst the vibrant colors, sounds, and smells of the Pike Place Market. She has published and/or performed her poetry in Bumbershoot, *Pontoon: an anthology of Washington state poets*, King County Poetry on the Buses, the Bart Baxter Poetry in Performance competition, *Real Change*, and at various local bookstores and literary events.

Three Cheers For Dumb!

by Priya Keefe

1 – 2 – 3 – 4

let's drive to the corner store

5 – 6 – 7 – 8

everybody clean your plate

I wanna be dumb, numb myself with beer, cheer

for my team, work for green, accept the pure-white house-smoke-screen.

1 – 2 – 3 – 4

everybody go to war

9 – 10 – 11 – 12

send Saddam straight to hell

I wanna be dumb, thumbs up, there's no such thing as luck

I'm tired of caring, wearing my heart like a scarlet A on my chest, trying to be
the best I can be, saying please, striving to save trees outside my time zone,
measuring how we've grown, thankful for a bone, singing maiden mother crone,
hearing melody and overtone, gazing at the starry dome alone

I wanna be dumb, not glum,
shrug off war, on my way to the bar to watch TV with mouth ajar

Government endorses torture?
Don't bore your mother with the news,
It just gives me the blues.
More civilians die than Special Forces?
Here honey, have some more resources.

I'm gunna pray to the Right God, spend my wad

Gunna repent my sins, 'cuz
I wanna be thin, I wanna win

I'm so glad I'm straight, first out of the gate, pay a low interest rate,
Know who to hate

- end -