

Seattle City Council

Finance and Culture Committee Meeting

2 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2015

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Sierra Nelson**

Today's poet is **Sarah Galvin**

Sarah Galvin is the author of a book of poetry called *The Three Einsteins* (Poor Claudia Press). She is a regular contributor to *The Stranger* newspaper and author of *The Stranger's* Midnight Haiku poetry series, which are neither haiku nor at midnight. She recently collaborated with filmmaker David Nixon to create a series of music videos about magic and mental illness for City Arts Magazine's "Genre Bender." Her blog, *The Pedestretarian*, is devoted to reviews of food found on the street. She has an MFA in poetry from University of Washington. Her poems and essays can be found in *io*, *New Ohio Review*, *Dark Sky*, *Pinwheel*, *Alive at the Center Anthology*, and *Vice Magazine*, and the upcoming issue of *Pleiades*.

Your Hand In Space

By Sarah Galvin

Your accidentally photocopied hand in the dark margin of an article made me like the photocopy, and then the whole room, and then everything else. When I lived by a train yard, I sometimes wanted to jump on a random train and ride it as far as it would go. This was stupid, because if the train didn't cut my legs off, it would probably end up in Pittsburgh. If my hands looked like yours did in the photocopy, I think I would at least know where I wanted the train to go. Your hand floated in space with the white specks in the toner, your fingers actually touching the words on the page.

Black Umbrella

By Sarah Galvin

I don't know anything about life, except that I'm terrified of my massive financial debt, and the only thing that calms me down is a naked girl with two beers. The beers have to be either both for her, or both for me. I rarely have the opportunity to explain this. Most of the girls walk out of my apartment before they're even completely undressed, saying things like, "Summer makes me feel like a black umbrella is opening in my chest." Maybe they're in more debt than I am.

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