

KAREN (MIRANDA) AUGUSTINE

revelations

they say that change is gonna come  
multi-channeled  
satellite  
hooked up  
tranced out on 24-7  
direct shit tv

late night:  
illegal boxes channel dicks  
fucking plastic titties  
on scrambled porn stations

late night:  
evangelists reactivate fear  
misquote  
holy slick-tures from the book  
according to fox  
& citypulse @ 6

& *x-files* have viewers feeding off negative  
hype

catch *deep space nine* exclusives  
on cnn  
witness devils  
still hunting the heavens  
reporting how  
the surface of mars  
looks  
just like an arizona desert

beasts high-tech patrol  
use micro-chip surveillance  
track cells  
track cordless  
track pagers  
glare through television monitors

*gerald* replaces after-school specials  
highlighting  
how the sex industry  
is a viable way for

women  
to make a really good living

pre-millennium.  
& it's all about the paper  
tommy hate-a-nigger  
the latest *jerry springer* episode  
& brothers still trying to get a beat

& still:  
some fathers sex daughters  
shove 35-year-old cocks into newborn cunts  
force infant lips to give head  
&  
your man  
can't understand  
why you ain't down  
with that  
shaved  
pussy  
ish?

new world order.  
& sisters get relegated to  
ghetto bitch  
slut  
skett  
freak-of-the-week  
dropping babies  
like self-esteem  
for baby daddies  
on *jenny jones*

tell me:  
is the *love connection*  
about sinking into her deep  
brown  
honey hole  
or just a metaphor

for coating his wood creamy  
& then moving on  
to the next man?

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but all i see  
are real cop shows  
with real extras  
teens catching cases of  
h  
i  
v  
more sex  
more violence  
& nuff psychic fiends

when shuttles  
leave entries for *el niño (la niña)*  
i & i  
i'm talking  
god  
& we see ourselves  
i-three —  
if we aren't able  
to detach ourselves  
from distractions  
documented  
in archaeology  
& mismatched  
history  
understanding  
that these situations  
really aren't that new...  
then it won't stop

*karen (miranda) augustine is a Toronto-based writer and mixed-media artist whose work has been published in a number of anthologies, feminist and art publications. Her poem, "revelations," was recorded for the Urbanicity Spoken-Word Compilation (Chicago: Urbanicity, 1999). Currently, she is a graduate student at York University.*

## ANNE-MARIE BRUMM

### DIONYSUS IN THE DIASPORA

lovers on the  
lunar-crated roof,  
rows of tenements,  
lulled to sleep by the  
opiate of sameness.

an Iacchic cry –  
but where the festival  
for night's fertile mystery,  
the airshaft thick with talk,  
a child's wail, a lonely  
cough, a rapper gone berserk.

at 3 a.m. a siren of bells –  
the block drunk  
wild with key punch glee  
at the wrong house again,  
a continuous hive of humanity.

inside the cells? who cares?  
knocking windows, swollen  
and stiff in the dank air,  
sweating walls, gnawing mice,  
a triple latch door, bare burned-out  
bulbs dissolve like people  
into the scene.

overheads whispering stars  
promise a different world,  
the lovers reach  
for Dionysus' boat,  
their orphic eyes  
eager to set sail,

but white shrouds float by,  
soiled and blood-spotted.  
midnight is over  
and they are left  
with an imitation Greek vase.

*Anne-Marie Brumm has published over 100 poems in a wide variety of literary journals and two volumes of poetry, Dance of Life and Last Exit to Peace.*