## MARY BETH DELINE

## Mutilation of the Body (for Anna Mae Aquash)

There is a sky when you get there. Big sky. Big sky open with all the light and breath that you needed. You can breathe there, and not worry someone might be taping your mouth shut on the telephone. You can spin around with all the force of a cyclone stirring up dust unveiling the earth

hiding the Black Hills. You can spill your heart out watch it roll down the hill run after it

whooping.

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This is the body Not able to turn into the earth pull the covers over its chin--hiding in a dessimation a desecration of language - information they say there were others like the woman who froze with tears on her cheeks splayed arms and bruises inside her vagina. She was brown too. That's what the cold does; it freezes you that colour permanent.

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Anna Mae, all i can do is write this out now. They chopped and splintered. They hacked and chopped and splintered. They cut off your hands that thought. Men with axes around you all your life.

This poem is about Anna Mae Aquash, an American Indian Movement policy settler found dead in 1976 with a bullet in the back of her head. The FBI chopped off her hands. She was finally buried in traditional Lakota fashion on March 12, 1976.

Mary Beth Deline is 18 years old. She is currently finishing high school in Kingston, Ontario. She has been published in the Kingston Whig Standard's "Bedtime Story" column, and she has been featured on the Kingston Writers' Radio Project.