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After Losing You

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After Losing You

I be today besotted in grief's stone grip,
blanked, erased by the weight of an absence that ticks, rings, and
shatters the cores of knowing.
You, my Francis O'Reilly, special man, best friend and lover,
knew to love and live.
Your wealthy mind bestowed words and twinkles around you.
Known as "carriage," "ghost," "Frannie," Bucker, O'Reilley,
you grew into a knowing, replete
with all the dignity of your wide brow and fine chest.

There never will be a time
when you don't live in me,
when I don't long for your exact clarity
or crave the completeness of your gentle touch.

Your love brought balance and freedom.
You are beautiful, Buck
and I offer you acres of peace and all my feeling.

Linda Chown, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Women and Gender Studies, is currently working on a book on American women writers in the early twentieth century. An article of hers appears in a collection of essays on Spanish women, which will appear this June in Seville, Spain. Another article on Tsitsi Dangarembga has just been accepted by the World Press in Africa. Having earned an M.A. in English at San Francisco State University with an emphasis in Creative Writing, she met her husband, Francis (Buck) Hosman there in September 1965. They lived in Spain from 1969-1980 and again from 1986-1988, before coming to Grand Rapids in August 1989.