

PARKLAND COLLEGE

To: Parkland College Board of Trustees

From: James McGowan

Date: November 22, 2000

Subject: Sabbatical Leave Report

First off, I wish to again thank the Board of Trustees for the support shown for me in granting a sabbatical for the Academic School Year, 1998-1999. The time I was granted proved immeasurably important in allowing me to achieve my goals, among which were:

A. Poetry publications:

1. "Re-Elect Snodgrass Sheriff of Ford County"--*Alligator Juniper*, Winter, 1998
2. "Listening To The Dead"--*The Spoon River Poetry Review*, Spring, 1999
3. "Deer Supper: November, 1968"--*The Ledge*, Summer, 1999 (First Place, *The Ledge* Poetry Competition, 1999)
4. "Bridle"-- *The Ledge*, Summer, 1999
5. "Front Porch, Newly Built"--*The Ledge*, Summer, 1999
6. "The Moment Just Before"--*The Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, Fall, 1999

B. Fiction:

1. *Love As A Function Of Quantum Mechanics*--Chapbook, published by White Eagle Coffee Store Press, 2000
2. "A Small Strong Thing"-- TAMAQUA, VII/, 2000
3. "Legs Shimmering Under Moonlight"-- The North American Review, scheduled for publication, Spring, 2001

Additionally, I made substantial progress on a novel, *A Festival Of Imbeciles*, scheduled for completion in Fall, 2001.

The second major goal of my sabbatical was to establish the foundation for offering creative writing courses in Fiction and Poetry online. While I have completed the course designs, I have

not offered the courses online as of yet.

A third part of my sabbatical had to do with exploring the possibility of providing a website that could be used by local high schools in conjunction with their creative writing courses. Of the three high schools I contacted—Urbana, Centennial, Central—none of three appeared particularly interested in forming a working relationship. As was said by two of the individuals I talked with: “We barely have enough computer resources to cover our current needs.” My impression was they had no objections to such a website but would not be active participants themselves.