

THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 6 | 1997

Trivial Pursuit

Charles H. Webb

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

The Prose Poem: An International Journal is produced by
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)
for the Providence College Digital Commons.
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

Charles H. Webb

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

He knows it's trouble when the cards containing questions—*Sports: What boxer was called the Winnetka Widgeon? Geography: What is the per minute charge to call the International Date Line?*—leap from their maroon box and scatter like quail chicks flushed in the woods.

He knows he should pursue them—everyone else is, knocking over the host's thousand-dollar lamps and fifteen-hundred-dollar vase, cracking skulls on the five-thousand-dollar coffee table made of marble so thick it took four weightlifters to hump it in.

But he recalls a field, color of katydids, the Easter he was four. Other kids scattered like quail (big enough to knock him down), then returned, baskets heaped with red and blue and golden eggs, while he limped back with what Daddy called "deer droppings"...

Question cards by now have broken through the ring of propriety that guards the hosts' bedroom.

How many affairs have you had?

Do you thrash or lie still when you masturbate?

Candidly assess your partner's genitals?

Players groan, knocked senseless by the one-two of Embarrassment and Truth.

He watches the game board's butterfly-wings open and close, open and close, each stroke blowing him farther from the center circle where the winners stand.