

JUNIOR POETRY

FIRST PRIZE WINNER: LOUISE BORTOLOTTO

AQUARIANS

They sit together on their perch,
Like lovers on a love seat,
Necks entwined together, as are their hearts,
Their eyes and gentle voices speaking of their undying love
for each other.

They fly from perch to perch,
Their white-tipped wings sharp against the coming darkness,
Their sharp three-toed feet securely catching the branches.

As the night stealthily falls, they say their goodnights
to each other
In tones that only true love knows,
As they go to sleep with their feathers gently touching.

When the sun is still rising,
You will find the aquarians feeding,
She and he both pecking their food,
With their feet resting soundly on the cold, dewy grass.

As the sun heightens in the sky they fly to and fro,
Sometimes resting in the sun,
And at other times showing their endowed colours —
She her white and yellow,
He his white and grey,
Both of them with cheeks of orange.
These flaming cheeks give them a look of cheekiness,
A look which contrasts sharply with their dark, serious, loving eyes.

As night falls once again,
They go back to rest on their perch,



And once again they fall asleep with feathers gently touching,
And dream of the day they spent together,
A day which each will hold dearly,
Till long after their youth and beauty have passed —
Is it a wonder that birds are the symbol of love and happiness?

SECOND PRIZE WINNER: TIM DONNELLY

VIOLENCE

Blood streamed from a still body lying
Lifeless under running feet.
Wild animals struggled madly in uniformed arms
Not to be caged.

Rocks fly at covered heads
Crashing to the ground splintering into pebbles,
Only to be ground underfoot.

Knights of blue with helmets and shields
Slash their way through a dense forest of bodies
With rods and sticks being jabbed into the soft
flesh of the human body.

The snap of a bone is heard over all,
and a cry for help is lost
In the confusion of noise.

White cars with flashing lights
Slowly wheel up as the crowd
gets forced back into the narrow corridor
of blood-stained bitumen.