

poem no. 20

kids don't play outside anymore
like they used to

well, who can watch them at the park?
we're all too busy working for too low wages

and the union vote is tomorrow
and don't forget the budget is under review

and if they give the cops any more money
then there goes the neighborhood

and everybody else is in cages waiting
for the lawmen to say when

because we can't afford the drive out to the prison
with gas five dollars a gallon

and everybody else is in bed
tending to the phlegm in their chest

because we still sick
and nobody knows how long it will take to recover

and everybody else is in crisis
waiting for the pills to remedy wounds

because kids don't play outside anymore
like they used to.