

William Baer

University Courtyard

It was no accident, he knew at once,
seeing the dead and damaged body which lay
alone, within that eerie Piedmont dark.
And all of those who came upon the scene
were stunned before the stark audacity
and terrifying hopelessness of one
who'd, of his own volition, just now leapt
out through the black eternal Carolina night.

So now this place, so flush with life and beauty,
seemed foul, infected with a vain and willful death.
Then one young girl turned her eyes away,
and held her boyfriend closely in the night,
and in her eyes, in all our eyes, we saw
that great, profoundly-human grief of death,
yet something more, much more, and unrelenting,
beyond the grief, an angry discontent.