

7-1985

## Poetry: Norfolk to Boston

Faye George Hennebury

Follow this and additional works at: [https://vc.bridgew.edu/br\\_rev](https://vc.bridgew.edu/br_rev)



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Hennebury, Faye George (1985). Poetry: Norfolk to Boston. *Bridgewater Review*, 3(2), 3.  
Available at: [https://vc.bridgew.edu/br\\_rev/vol3/iss2/5](https://vc.bridgew.edu/br_rev/vol3/iss2/5)

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

who were professionally trained for the Commonwealth. Beginning in 1960, the state colleges, in response to perceived needs, began the transition to multi-purpose, liberal arts institutions which today emphasize a twin commitment to the arts and sciences and career preparation in more than one hundred different fields.

Approximately 33,000 full-time students, and nearly 2,000 full-time faculty, are now at work in our state colleges. There are more than 100,000 living alumni of these colleges, and 75% live and work in Massachusetts, contributing their talent and energy to their careers and their communities.

Each of us associated with the state colleges -- as alumni, faculty, students, staff, or friends -- should take great pride in the manner in which these nine colleges have expanded their curricula while preserving the traditions of academic excellence. If we agree with the "idea of the college" advocated by Cardinal John Henry Newman (detailed and expanded upon by Professor Edward James in an earlier issue of this magazine) that education is ultimately more useful and relevant than any specific product, then we should applaud the state colleges for their ongoing commitment to Liberal Arts studies as a foundation for all baccalaureate programs. Preparing men and women to understand and deal effectively with ethical, moral, and social issues is at least as important as any occupational preparation that higher education may provide. But more to the point, as Joel P. Smith, former president of Stanford University says, "a liberal education is practical for the long term; it works and it lasts."

Those of us in the fields of government or education with ties to the state colleges particularly are constrained to understand, both philosophically and pragmatically, the special and unique functions of this segment of public higher education, and to promote at every opportunity the important mission of these institutions. With next year's in-state tuition set at \$936.00, and with these colleges delivering a well-rounded quality education thanks to a corps of dedicated teacher-scholars, there is much to cheer about.

"If you do not think about the future," said author John Galsworthy, "you cannot have one." The state colleges are a key part of the Commonwealth's investment in its future. They have stood the tests of time, transition, and public service, and they have done so remarkably well.

*Dr. Gerard Indelicato is Governor Dukakis' Special Assistant for Educational Affairs.*

## Norfolk To Boston

*She is too warm in her clothes  
with menses, excitement,  
and the Norfolk sunshine.*

*Two gray heron ply  
between the runway  
and the creek  
that curls away  
like pared rind.*

*She eyes the blue lights  
beading the runway  
and catches at the sapphire  
on her throat, turning  
with thumb and finger  
the shape of a memory  
to points of new fire.*

*"The temperature in Boston  
is thirty-two degrees."  
The captain's voice is sanguine,  
pleasantly southern.*

*She secures her seatbelt  
and lets go of the leaving --  
leaves the city blocked out below,  
its spaces apportioned,  
finished as a dead thing.*

*The bay is quiet as an iced  
northern pond, colored mauve  
in the aurora of morning.*

*The blue jet flare of an engine  
flickers like St. Elmo's fire,  
reflected off the water's skin.*

*Contours of coast roll out  
like moist pie crust --  
thin, thinner, wafering off  
into the sea.*

*This climbing is never routine for her --  
the adieu to what is down there  
for an hour or forever.*

*The god that cabins the body  
in steel uncages something.  
She is free on an island  
in this waste, aware of energy  
and the peace of displacement.*

*Faye George Hennebury*