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Untitled

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Amy Lewis

Once,
when these vinyl padded
recovery stalls were occupied
by research nags
or barren bovine,
it was easy to be pro-choice.

But now,
with your musky,
sweaty smell invading
despite the chlorine clean.
I cannot be politically correct.
Your sinking eyes
make me selfish for summer days
alone with you in the outdoor arena.
though your body grows too stale
to escape this pre-spring deathbed
and return to the sun whole.

Air, disinfected or fresh,
cannot reach you here
in a body with lungs that
jump at a challenge--
welcome the carcinogens.
 the infections,
 the tumors--
welcome the dare to see
just how long you'll keep breathing
despite inoperable carriers.

Lungs want a new body
a half-ton lighter,
content only to graze
when there is galloping to do.
One like *my* lazy frame.

We make decisions best
when they aren't our own.
I'll pay a doctor to decide
and tell me when to say good-bye.