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The First

Kevin Griffith
Grand Valley State University

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The First

by Kevin Griffith

It happened on a night like this,
when winter is only happenstance
and snow a nuisance,
like eraser crumbs on a page.

We were just young; just drunk
on red pop from plastic champagne
glasses, and songs of the forties
when we gathered in line
behind a black-hooded troop of pines
all wanting the same.

She was there. . . lips poised,
thirteen, a child of the evening.
And I waited,
only to feel our mouths touch
like dry sores;
to kiss before I grew too old



Untitled photo, by David Darling