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Guthrie

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Guthrie

You were born in a pool of our fear,
your small frame
like a splayed pinned reddened frog
on the frozen chrome table.

My first-born, eight weeks early you came to
besiege my poetry and claim my soul.
You forged a deep alley in my psyche,
created hymn -like song from kiss,
laid out a fable of promise and love
from an ancestral memory of Irish martyrs.

In your morph to manhood
you led the examined life, merging with your damaged chassy
of hemiplegia
onto fast lanes with no intention of having
a foot on the brake.

Your ego became rounded, full and mulched
by an army of sister advocates and knowledge of
democracy.

You are honor I carry
as my first born,
the amateur parent mark
stamped on your spirit

as a trial run which happened to work.

As I sought resilience in the
labyrinth of special education,
for you,
for those with secrets like yours,
I stood tentatively on my prayer rug,
woven tight with your bright success
as the youngest in your position,
in the country,
as the one who sought your strength
and buried your weakness.

Martha Gallagher Michael, March, 2012