

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

www.glassclub.org

Founded 1933

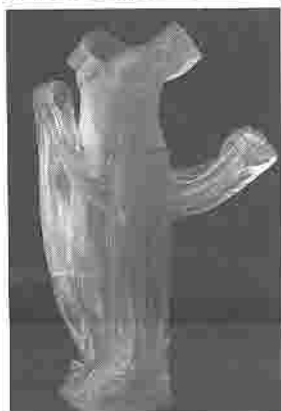
A Non-Profit Organization

Winter 2005-2006

Art and Innovation at the Museum of Glass: Tacoma, WA

Karen LaMonte: *Absence Adorned*

Through September 4th, 2006, *Absence Adorned*, a new exhibit, displays objects created by Karen



Dress (Impression), 2004.

Cast glass

Courtesy of the artist.

Photo by Martin Polak

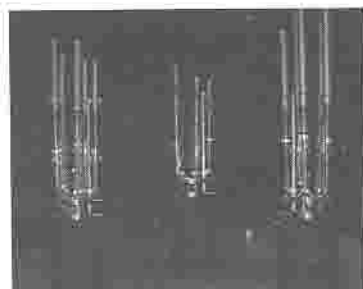
LaMonte. The artist began using the dress as a sculptural form and metaphorical symbol in 1999. That same year she received a Fulbright Fellowship to travel to the Czech Republic to study glass casting at the famous Pelechov studio founded by Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová in the 1950s.

LaMonte has developed a meticulous casting technique to better represent the fabric and how it drapes over the body. Her painstaking process requires making two molds—one from an actual body that shapes the interior of the sculpture, the second from the garment, which shapes the exterior and casting them together in one shell. The hollow casting technique creates an inner cavity allowing the light to flow through and be held within, resulting in a unique final effect where the dress is also an imprint of the body that once wore the garment and is now invisible, leaving only traces of its figure behind. The ghostly translucent forms evoke the ephemeral quality of our corporeal selves and the fragility of the human condition.

The Trimpin Project: *A Two-Year Presentation of Sound*

Through April 16, 2006 *Fire Organ*. Trimpin is a German-born composer and sculptor who has lived and worked in Seattle since 1979. He is an independent researcher and experimenter in musical, acoustical and sound sculpture design, combining music composition and kinetics with computer technology. In 1997, he received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, commonly known as a "genius" grant for his extraordinary mind and talent. Trimpin has presented artist residencies, performances, site-specific sound installations, and collaborations throughout the world, but seldom has been shown in Seattle, the city in which he chose to live.

In July 2005 and continuing into 2007, a consortium of ten art institutions and organizations will stage sequential exhibitions of newly commissioned work as well as major work from the past. The collaborative project will honor Trimpin's life and



Fire Organ, 1996
Courtesy of the Artist

the work he has created in this city for the last 25 years through an institutional cross-sharing of educational opportunities, diverse audiences and a culminating publication.

Debora Moore: *Natural Reflections*

Through January 15, 2006, *Natural Reflections* showcases Debora Moore's most recent works which are exotic studies of orchids, bamboo, moss, leaves, and tree forms. She works hot glass in a very organic and fluid fashion, giving the botanical sculptures a sense of naturalness while retaining an expressive, interpretive quality. Her art is inspired by the nature excursions she has taken to



Purple Epidendrum Branch (detail), 2005

Photo by Russell Johnson

places such as Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. Moore's new works are marked by a dramatic change in size and include a large bamboo grove and an orchid tree that climbs the gallery

walls. Her new works also shift attention to the beauty of natural textures like moss-covered branches, unfurling leaves and the fecundity of old growth forests.

She blows and hot sculpts glass in a very organic and fluid fashion, giving the botanical sculptures a sense of naturalness while retaining an expressive, interpretive quality.

Museum of Glass: International Center for Contemporary Art,
1801 East Dock Street, Tacoma, WA
98402-3217 (253) 284-4719
www.museumofglass.org

President's letter

Dear Friends,

As I begin this missive, the rain clouds have the upper hand. Earlier the sun prevailed while I planted spring bulbs and wrestled with endless decisions, mixing colors and forming clusters. The bulbs were a birthday remembrance from the gang in Kansas City, our daughter Elizabeth, hubby, and three sparkling grandkids.

Before starting this letter I visited our web site www.nage.org and ended my visit with a mental note to mention herein the fine opportunity the site affords for promotion of chapter events. For example, I learned that the January 2006 gathering at Founders Chapter will include a morning program, "Pre-1900 Electrifying Lamps" and after lunch the subject will switch to "Paperweights, a Collector's Passion." To post a calendar of events for your chapter on NAGC website, e-mail Francis N. Allen, Webmaster, webmaster@glassclub.org. The price is right.

After recently discussing the Club's Memorial Fund with a member, I decided to review our files to gain a more complete picture of its beginnings and purpose. According to a 1989 letter to the Membership, which set a three-year fundraising goal of \$10,000, the Fund was established to fund a Memorial Lecture at our annual seminars from the interest earnings generated by the Fund. In the intervening years both memorial gifts and special contributions to the Fund have also continued to increase the Fund. Our 2006 seminar in Chicago will include a Memorial Lecture. The names of honorees and donors are published annually in *Glass Shards*.

Another member ponders the reason *The Glass Club Bulletin* was titled a "bulletin" rather than a "journal." A review of early issues suggest the GCB was launched to communicate to the general membership the news and events of the Club and its members. As the membership expanded, both numerically and geographically, the developing Regional Units and the Chapters which would follow were encouraged to publicize their news and activities through a column in the Bulletin. With the introduction of a newsletter, which is the focus of the publication you are reading, content of *The Glass Club Bulletin* shifted predominantly to matters of glass research and history.

I am writing the concluding paragraph of this letter after returning from Sandwich, MA and the opportunity to re-visit Josh Simpson's exhibition, *Visions of Our Galaxy*, at the Sandwich Glass Museum. In commentary prepared to accompany his exhibition, Simpson confesses, "most of my work reflects a compromise between me and the glass; the finished piece is the moment in time when we agree." I resolved at once to share his insight with you.

'til next year,
Larry Steiner

Mt. Washington Glass Society Annual Convention

Mt. Washington Glass Society held its annual convention in New Bedford, MA.; historic whaling city and former home of the Mt. Washington and Pairpoint Glass Companies. Under the careful guidance of Edie Lawson and her committee this event was most successful.

It began Thursday night with a wonderful cocktail party hosted by Louis St. Aubin. Participants were treated not only to wonderful food and cocktails but a chance to view his outstanding and extensive glass collection.

Friday featured lectures by Louis St. Aubin "120 Years of Burmese Glass"; and George Fogg and Frank Maloney's comical, entertaining and informative display and lecture "Overview of Glass Contemporaries of the Era".

Other events included lunch and visiting the Whaling Museum and its wonderful glass collection. We were also privileged to preview the emerging, New Bedford Museum of Glass. Kirk Nelson, Director of the new museum, gave a guided tour of things to come and showed some wonderful pieces of glass from the museum's collection.

The day was capped off by a visit to Louis' shop featuring an extensive display of Mt. Washington Glass as well as Tiffany and Steuben.

On Saturday, we headed to the historic Wamuisutta Club for lectures by Nancy Phillips, granddaughter of Frank Guba designer and head of the Mt. Washington Glass Company's decorating department. She gave a

Paperweight Society

Members of the Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc. were saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of their President, William Gaskill.

Bill, as he was affectionately known, was an able and well-respected leader who could usually be found with a smile on his face. He was a very intelligent and congenial gentleman who did not hesitate to implement policies that he felt would benefit the PCA. His vision, good judgement and advice will be missed by all those who worked with him as well as many of the paperweight collectors with whom he forged strong bonds of friendship.

Kindly submitted by Founders
Chapter member Doris Robinson

well documented lecture on Frank Guba's life and achievements highlighting many areas not previously researched. Jane Spillman of the Corning Museum of Glass, followed with her lecture "All That Glitters" featuring the cut glass of Mt. Washington and Pairpoint.

After a break for lunch Dr. Joe Heyman gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the Pairpoint Glass Company.

A short business meeting was followed by a walking tour observing the architecture of the local neighborhood ending with a tour of Fredrick Shirley's home. Mr. Shirley was the former Director/manager and guiding light of the Mt. Washington Glass Company. This was probably the first public showing of this home.

That evening at the Whaling Museum, the annual banquet was held in honor of the late Kenneth Wilson and catered by a local restaurant.

A real plus was the camaraderie and interaction between the participants during the seminar and at the motel. A lot of knowledgeable people just talking glass.

Next year's event is to be held in November in Fort Worth, TX, and will offer the chance to view an extensive collection of Mt. Washington Glass, an vast collection of Wave Crest Glass, more excellent lectures by glass scholars, and a visit to Texas A&M's renown glass collection curated by Tim Novak.

Kindly submitted by Richard
Matckie, Founders Chapter Member

Glass Calendar

(Confirmation of dates and schedules advised.
More information is available on our web page at www.glassclub.org)

Through December 31, 2005

SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM
129 Main St., Sandwich, MA (508)
888-0251 "*Visions of our Galaxy*
Through the Glass of Josh Simpson," an exhibit of the work of this
world famous glass artist. Along
with terrestrial and aquatic domains,
the artist also depicts the cosmos in
his award winning glass art.
www.sandwichglassmuseum.org

Through April 2, 2006

CORNING MUSEUM, One Mu-
seum Way, Corning, NY. "*Decades*
in Glass: The '60s'" focuses on art
and design in glass made in the
United States and Europe. The
exhibition presents the revolution-
ary developments in glass in the
United States. During the 1960s,
American art glass was dramati-
cally transformed. The movement of
glassmaking from the factory to the
artist studio, and new perspectives
on the use of glass for art, resulted
in a widespread burst of artistic
activity that is known as the Studio
Glass movement.

January 5 - 10, 2006

The 5th **JAPAN URANIUM GLASS**
EXHIBITION will be held at the
DENRYOKU-KAN, at 1-12-10,
Jin-nan, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. (5
min. from Shibuya JR station. Call
03-3477-1191, admission free. 300
Vaseline glass pieces will be dis-
played by the Japan Uranium Glass
Collectors Club and the total visitors
will be more than 1,000. [http://uran-](http://uran-glass.gooside.com/english.htm)
[glass.gooside.com/english.htm](http://uran-glass.gooside.com/english.htm)

January 15, 2006

LITTLE RHODY BOTTLE SHOW
& **SALE** Annual Antique Bottle
Show. K of C Hall, 304 Highland
Ave., So. Attleboro, MA. Con-
tact Julie Camara for information
narcovich@aol.com

February 4 & 5 2006

MILLVILLE, NJ - Wheaton Village
opens its 2006 season with the an-
nual Mid-Winter Antiques and Col-
lectibles Show. This year's show
features over 50 dealers with an as-
sortment of nostalgic pieces ranging
from furniture, linens and household
collectibles, to fine jewelry, artworks
and pottery.

March 18 & 19, 2006

NATIONAL HEISEY GLASS MU-
SEUM, 169 W. Church St., Newark,
OH 43055 (740) 345-2932. 34th
Annual All-Heisey Show, Gaithers-
burg, MD Sponsored by the National
Capital Heisey Study Club

May 20, 2006

The **MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT**
GLASS, Inc. will hold its 2nd annual
Antique Bottle & Glass Show and
Sale on Saturday, May 20, 2006. The
outdoor show will be held on the Mu-
seum's historic 19th century Coventry
Glass Co. grounds at the juncture of
Rt. 44 and North River Road in Cov-
entry CT from 8am to 1pm. Contact
Jan Ratushny, show chair, at P.O. Box
242, Eastford, CT 06242 or for info:
janratushny@aol.com.

Opening Nov. 16, 2006

CORNING MUSEUM, One Museum
Way, Corning, NY. "*World Within*"
www.cmog.org
"*Worlds Within*" tells the story of how
the glass paperweight has evolved
from the classic period of paper-
weight-making in mid-19th-century
Europe and the United States to the
present day. In the 1840s, the paper-
weight was a functional decorative
object. However, the idea of the
paperweight has gradually broadened
to encompass an entire category of
glassmaking, including vessels and
sculptural objects. Using objects from
the Museum's permanent collection,
the show includes an 18th century
Venetian glass ball, as well as techni-
cally remarkable paperweights made
in the 19th century. 20th century
objects range from the creations of
Louis Comfort Tiffany to the excep-
tional works of Paul Stankard. Of
special note is the commission and
acquisition of the world's first 100-
lb. paperweight (and the Museum's
1,000th paperweight) for this show, by
contemporary artist Josh Simpson.

Rakow Research Library

A new online database offers web
users the ability to search for past,
present and upcoming temporary
glass exhibitions around the world.
Compiled and maintained by The
Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow
Research Library of The Corning
Museum of Glass, the world's library
of record on glass and glassmaking,
the *Worldwide Glass Exhibition Da-*
tabase can be found at www.cmog.org/exhibitionsdatabase.

This unique database currently
provides information about more than
29,000 exhibitions in venues world-
wide, based on information the Ra-
kow Library has received from other
organizations since March 1982.

"The Rakow's mission is to collect,
maintain and provide public access
to all glass related resources" says
Diane Dolbashian, head librarian at
the Library. "And now we are very
pleased to offer worldwide exhibi-
tion information through an easy-
to-access, searchable and interactive
database."

Users may conduct a general search
of exhibitions using keywords or
an advanced function that narrows
choices by such qualifiers as institu-
tion name or show dates. Results are
shown in an easy-to-read list, and
each entry offers the details provided
by the institutions hosting the ex-
hibits. Users can easily use a special
feature to add an exhibition to their
Outlook calendar or create an online
list of exhibitions that interest them.

The Rakow Library encourages or-
ganizations that wish to include their
exhibitions to contribute informa-
tion by going to the site and clicking
"*Contribute an Exhibition*."

The Juliette K. and Leonard S.
Rakow Research Library of The
Corning Museum of Glass is the
world's foremost library on the art
and history of glass and glassmaking.
Its mission is to acquire everything
published on the subject of glass, in
every format and in every language.
It currently holds more than 300,000
items relating to the art, history, craft
and technology of glass and early
glassmaking.

This unique museum library is open
to the public; visitors may also access
the Rakow Library's online public ac-
cess catalog (OPAC) at <http://rakow.cmog.org>

Annual Glass Seminar in Chicago May 11-13, 2006

One of the most rewarding experiences of attending the Seminar is the opportunity to hear and see experts share their unique knowledge of glass subjects. This year will be no different with five outstanding speakers scheduled to cover a variety of glass topics with informative presentations for our Seminar. The speakers and lectures are:

Alan Shovers, "*Frederick Carder's Steuben Glass*"

Mark Buffa, "*Fry Glass and other American Companies making Art Glass*"

George Kuller, "*The Rubiloff Collection of Paperweights at the Chicago Institute of Art*"

Rolf Achilles, "*Stained Glass Windows and the Driehaus Collection*"

Charles Lotton, "*Charles Lotton Glass and the Lotton Studios*"

In addition to this wonderful roster of speakers, the Seminar offers the opportunity to see some of Chicago's most famous sights such as: the world's largest Tiffany dome at Marshall Field & Co., the very impressive Tiffany designed ceilings, walls, and staircase at the Chicago Cultural Center, and the grand collection at The Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows on the Navy Pier.

If you arrive before the official start of the Seminar take advantage of the optional trips that are being planned: a visit to famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style Home & Studio and his stunning Unity Temple in Oak Park, and a visit to see the nationally acclaimed contemporary glass artist, Charles Lotton, at work in his studio and view his beautiful glass creations. Speaker presentations and the Saturday Evening Banquet will be held at our Seminar accommodations, the Radisson Hotel, conveniently located just off Michigan Avenue.

All of this takes place in the great city of Chicago with its numerous museums, architectural sights, fabulous restaurants, art galleries and shopping. Please save the dates and plans for extra time to fully participate in and enjoy this year's exciting Glass Seminar in Chicago.

More information about the schedule, registration, and hotel room reservations for the Seminar will be mailed to all members in early 2006 by the Seminar Committee: Loreen Ryan, 914-337-5554, loreen_ryan@msn.com; Micki Doros, 973-379-3134, jayandmicki@verizon.net; Karen Petraglia, 603-472-5998, kp0828@aol.com.

Records Broken at Green Valley Auctions in September

At Green Valley Auctions, 2259 Green Valley Ln., Mt. Crawford, VA over 10,000 pieces came up for auction in late September. The first big surprise of the sale was a rare milk glass Sphinx on a platform that had a pre-auction estimate of \$100-\$150 drew fierce bidding, finally selling for \$8,525. Jeff Evans explained, "It was a last minute consignment from a Virginia estate. I knew that if it was



Milk Glass Sphinx

by the consignor in a thrift store had received much pre-sale publicity and was estimated to bring between \$8,000 and \$12,000. It opened at \$9,500 and quickly became a battle between five phone bidders. After approximately 45 seconds it sold for a record \$22,000 and the crowd instantaneously broke into a round of applause. Department head Karen Reed who immediately phoned the consignor to give her the good news relayed, "Needless to say the consignor was stunned at the selling price. She had been delirious when I initially called here with the pre-sale estimate; I think the final figure just knocked her out."

Another recent discovery was a colorless pressed and cut tumbler or spill holder featuring an engraved view of the Bank of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia which was purchased in a table lot at a Mid-Atlantic auction gallery. The elated consignor was seated in the gallery when the tumbler sold to a New York City dealer for a record \$9,625, tripling its high estimate.



Lattice and Ovals/Flat Diamond and Panel goblet

Several days after the sale Mr. Evans offered the following observations: "The market for upper level early American glass continues to expand.



Engraved & Cut Tumbler Bank of PA

We picked up several new, younger collectors who are looking for quality glass from the early and mid 19th century to compliment

their furniture and Americana collections. The middle and lower levels continue to be somewhat soft, I think primarily because of the overabundance of material on Internet auction sites. Wait until you see next spring's early glass sale. We have four major collections lined up, all of which contain exceptional rarities covering every category imaginable. It's going to be an all-time record breaker."

Visit www.greenvalleyauctions.com to order past sale catalogs (540) 434-4260.

Fairfield Art Glass Auction

A wonderful single-owner Art Glass collection was sold this fall at Fairfield Auction, in Newtown, CT. The Michael P. Martucci Collection included Steuben Acid Cut Back,



Tiffany Favrile Vase

the giant outdoor antique show in Brimfield, MA and continued all his life. Mr. Martucci pursued his glass with a passion. From coast to coast he sought out fine examples through auctions, dealers and other collectors, assembling one of the most impressive collections in the country.

The catalog includes full descriptions of each piece with full color photographs. They are available through the auction house for \$8.

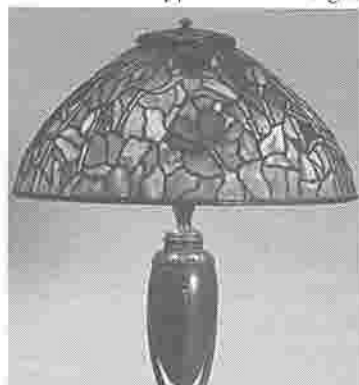
Fairfield Auction, 53 Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470. (203) 364-1555 www.fairfieldauction.com

Tiffany Favrile, Imperial Art Glass, Durand, Nash and Quezel Art Glass.

This collection was assembled over a thirty year period beginning with purchases made at

Skinner Auctions Tiffany and 20th c. Art Glass

Skinner, one of the nation's leading auction houses, hosted an auction of 20th Century Furniture & Decorative Arts on December 10, 2005 in its Boston gallery at 63 Park Plaza. For collectors who favor a modern approach to design, this



Tiffany Peony Lamp

auction was not to be missed!

The sale offered a number of lamps by Tiffany Studios and Handel, as well as a broad selection of decorative glass. Leading the Tiffany Studios selection was the Peony lamp, with other examples including a turtle-back swivel lamp.

Decorative glass also featured a Massachusetts collection of Steuben, a broad selection of colored and iridescent glass hand-blown by glassers in Corning, NY in the first half of the 20th century. For more information and a catalog with price realized please contact them at www.skinnerinc.com (978) 779-6241

Cambridge "Sample" Room



The National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. proudly opened a premier glass museum which replaced the original National Museum of Cambridge Glass that had been built years earlier by the efforts of NCC members. The first Museum was badly damaged by floods in 1998. The decision was made to replace the original Museum, and find a location on higher ground, out of the floodplain. This turned out to be a very wise decision, as 2004 saw another flood at the old Museum site.

The National Museum of Cambridge Glass display area is made up of 1,250 lineal feet of 16" shelving, where visitors are able to experience a wide variety of examples of this admired glass. It is an awesome beauty of well-lit, sparkling glass and warm oak display cases.

The Sample Room played a very important part in the sales of The Cambridge Glass Company. The 100 square foot room has been created to represent a Sample Room. This room uses original sample room furniture and shelving. The door itself is the original Sample Room door from The Cambridge Glass Company facility.

The displays in the Museum can be viewed on the website and are called "Slide Shows" www.cambridgeglass.org



Cambridge Glass Samovars

Cut Glass in Color

Opening April 11, 2006 at the Corning Museum of Glass, is the new exhibit "Splitting the Rainbow". Cut glass objects, such as vases or drinking glasses, that include color are rare finds, because of the difficult process involved in their creation. Many of the pieces in "Splitting the Rainbow" are made of cased glass: that is, made in two or more layers



of different colors. This is a difficult technique, but one which shows off the intricacies of an elaborate cut glass pattern.

This exhibition will showcase some of the most beautiful and unusual examples of 19th and 20th century colored cut glass pieces from Europe as well as the United States contained in The Corning Museum of Glass collection.

CMoG, One Museum Way, Corning, NY, (607) 937-5371 www.emog.org

Letters to the Editor

I thought that some of the club members would like to send cards to long time member Bette Wicker of Millbrook, NY.

Her health has been declining since the death of her husband earlier this year and she has been in and out of the hospital. She and her husband (Chub) were avid collectors and dealers (Wicker's Antiques) for over 40 years and I'm sure that many club members purchased from them through the ads she would run in various trade papers. We have sold her various collections over the last couple years and will be selling the shop inventory next fall.

Her son Jon is currently looking after her and he said she would love to receive cards from old friends. She has difficulties with short term memory but is still sharp when it comes to the glass world. Cards can be sent to: Bette Wicker c/o Jon Wicker, PO Box 288 Millbrook, NY 12545

Thanks, Jeff Evans,
Green Valley Auctions

Research & Publication News

Dwight Lanmon, former Director of Corning, and a long time member of NAGC has authored or co-authored a series of books and articles. While not on glass, many readers will surely find the subject interesting.

First a book on New Mexico Pueblo pottery, (co-author Francis H. Harlow, "dean" of historic Pueblo pottery studies and reknown physicist/mathematician Los Alamos National Laboratory) entitled *The Pottery of Zia Pueblo*, from 1700 to the present illustrating over 700 examples, 2003.

The second book, *The Pottery of Santa Ana Pueblo*, 2005, from 1450 to the present, co-authored with Harlow and Duane Anderson, former director of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM.

Mr. Lanmon is working on the next in the "series," on pottery from Zuni Pueblo. It will cover pottery made there

from 1300 to the present and will be published in about two or three years and illustrating some 1,000 examples

Articles include one co-authored with his wife, Lorri, "*Waterproofing Pueblo Pottery: The Work of Josephine Foard at Laguna Pueblo*," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 27, no. 4 (Autumn 2002), 46-55.

Co-authored with Harlow, "*Reyes Galvan: A Master Zia Potter*," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 28, no. 4 (Autumn 2003), 48-59.

Co-authored with Harlow and Anderson, "*Santa Ana Pueblo Pottery*," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 31, no. 1 (Winter 2005), 42-53.

Authored "*Pueblo Man-Woman Potters and the Pottery Made by the Laguna Man-Woman, Arroho-a-och*," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 31, no. 1 (Winter 2005), 72-85.

First Class

DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE'S
MARCH 1, 2006

visit NAGC web page:
<http://www.glassclub.org>



or reach us through email at: aswalsh@comcast.net

Foxborough, MA 02035

Alice Walsh, Editor, Glass Shards, 11 Bentwood Street,

March 1, 2006. Submit by mail to:

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