

Lexington VA Hospital

by Vickie Cimprich

The Old Man's pipe smoke
went stale in these halls.
Wages of war here are paid
in urine specimens, wheelchairs,
janitorial supplies and long waits.

Young orderlies
carry the inalienable secret
from room to room;
young social workers
carry files in their hands.

Everything good and beautiful in Kentucky
is framed behind plexiglass
on the cafeteria walls.
Outside in the park,
the valor of inchworms
also merits stars.