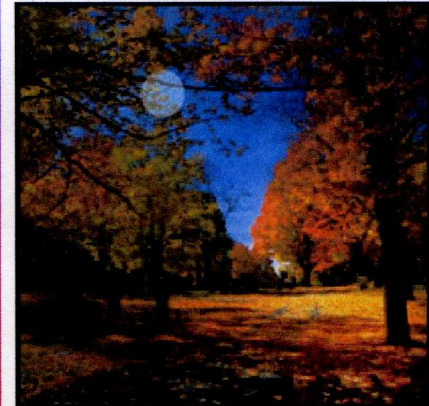


flashquake
Fall 2005
EDITOR'S PICKS

Vanitha Sankaran's Pick
Temperate Moon
by Sandy Bernstein

The summer is fading fast
into another glorious season of wisdom,
where I can gaze up at the moon
and feel the sultry breeze on my bare shoulders.
Time to let the snakes shed their skin
and slither away,
out of my sight.
Like the dog days of summer,
sweltering under a cruel sun,
I have lain in waste at your feet,
panting... holding onto a memory
that begs no more,
for it is now lost in oblivion.
Cooler, mellower breezes await me
as I round the next bend,
looking forward to autumn
and the brilliant colors it will usher in;
ah, to play hide and seek with the wind again,
missing you,
but not risking contact,
for I have left my baggage at the door
to follow a temperate moon.



The vivacity of
emotion and
landscape, and
how they dovetail
to tell this
character's story,
are what
compelled me
about this piece.
The lush imagery
just stayed with
me.
— V. S.

About the Author:

Sandy Bernstein is a freelance writer of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction. She edited and published the now defunct Sour Grapes newsletter for writers from 1995 to 2004. Sandy has many works published in print and online publications. Some of her credits include: *Poetic Voices*, *Mind Fire Magazine*, *Inkspot Magazine*, *Footnotes*, *Writer Online*, and *The Writer Magazine*. Sandy has been an active member of her writers group, The Stoneham Writers Group since 1991. *Temperate Moon* is a group favorite. She is also a freelance web designer.