

The Phone Call and The Green Murk Crisis

by Carl Santoro

THE PHONE CALL

(Inspired by a phone call on April 7, 1975 between a mother and son at 7:45 p.m.)

Dangle the receiver
by a length of its own
wire so that it
hangs inverted and
begins a swirling motion,
progressing in velocity
to a very high speed
(spinning either clockwise
or counter-clockwise),

and then-

allow it to subside
into a , once again,
inverted dangling receiver.

This relieves
much tension
and helps to spend
time in a wise manner.

"Are you
listening to
what I'm saying?"
she asked.

THE GREEN MURK CRISIS

(Inspired by a conversation in a restaurant between a mother and son at 7:45 a.m.)

While you sit there
Mom,
behind you,
in a tank of
neon green
water
I can see
a crisis occurring
as
the twenty-three
or so
inhabitants of
a live lobster display
crush
a twenty-fourth
lobster
into a murky glass corner,
and the
restaurant noises
continue
undisturbed.

