

# Older Now

*by* Jerry Ratch

You have forgotten how to walk,  
Haven't you? How to achieve  
That sexual balance that  
You had by nature, once.

A lot of young people have told me  
What it feels like to be bold,  
To be sure on your feet  
Like that.

I saw this older bum on the street  
Yesterday. It looked like snow has fallen  
Over his eyebrows and beard.  
I don't remember seeing that before.

And you said: Talk ain't so cheap anymore,  
Is it? What did you mean by that?  
I thought I knew, but  
Now I'm not so sure.

You will never know how much it hurts  
When someone else touches your face.  
But I also know how much you count on others  
To pull the slivers out of your heart.

