

## *The Dependence Day Celebration*

DWAYNE THORPE

This day comes to us in a box  
with bright new clothes and masks.  
We should go down to the river  
try them on and admire ourselves.  
Later we can row to the island  
(a gift which accompanies the box)  
for a private dinner on the grass  
followed by fireworks and a band  
in the gazebo on the far shore.  
Then, of course, as the night sky deepens,  
we will thank our donors for  
their tasteful arrangement of stars  
before we wrap up in each other's flesh,  
that stunning gift from us to ourselves.