
Pro Rege

Volume 33
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue* 2004

Article 1

December 2004

Rollover

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Recommended Citation

Vanden Bosch, Mike (2004) "Rollover," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 33: No. 2, 2.
Available at: http://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol33/iss2/1

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A quarterly faculty publication of
Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

Rollover

Mike Vanden Bosch

Belgian stallion, you pull the corn planter over
tilled soil, plodding beside a wire as straight
as Sinai's law, stolid as the moon waiting for
the sun to set. Then evening dawns, and,

harness off, you roll over on a green heaven,
arched back touching tall grass. Down on two
massive rumps, four legs kicking at the sky,
you claw with hard hooves at worlds even birds

can't touch. Your brown-black hide, darkened
still with sweat from dawn-to-dark straining,
writhes on the grass like a Boa's belly as if
it would scratch the world's first itch to its

conclusion and cut the sky's blue curtain to see
the undiscovered country—the reeking hole
in which doomed devils shriek ceaselessly *or*
the New Earth in whose bosom saints revel.

"Rollover" won first place in the adult general division of the
2004 Iowa Poetry Association contest and was previously pub-
lished in their 2004 *Lyrical Iowa* publication.