



POETRY CORNER

Awkward

By Mira Mataric

When a girl is born
awkward
everybody sighs, poor soul,
she will die a spinster.

She drops glasses and dishes
crashes things in the kitchen
cannot catch a ball and ruins
the game
at the dance tramples her
partner's feet.

Soon she is avoided and
alone.

If a boy is awkward it is
cute
every female
from his mummy to his girl-
friend and wife
rushes to his rescue to do
things for him.

He will believe he is cute
the label will stick for life
turning into attractive,
wanted,
smart, a genius.

His mother says so
and all aunts agree.
If dad disagrees he will be
hushed
as jealous.

The boy feels his power
girls smile at him
even before they know him.

The boy smiles too
but an awkward girl
withdraws
like a snail into her dark and
lonely shell
preventing further embar-
rassment.

Those awkward, shy girls
turn into selfless dedicated
mothers
nurturers of the world
while many cute boys ruin
others' lives
not because they are
awkward
but because they believe
they are cute.