

Mike Ladd

Scenes from swimming pools



Eccentric dipsters tipple blue water.
Standing waist-deep and still,
I'm the temporary axis
of swallows.

Over the turquoise,
Indian twins
in saffron bathers
splash left,
laugh right;
I can't tell
starboard
from port-girl.

The surface of the pool is unrippled
except minutely
by the bass notes
from the band in tropical shirts.
Isn't it sad how a revolutionary song
like *Guantanamera*
becomes the soundtrack
for a bored office party.
Will anyone fall in/fall out?

Mike Ladd is a poet and broadcaster who lives in Adelaide. He produces and presents *PoeticA* on ABC Radio National and his most recent book is *Rooms and sequences* published by Salt. Recently he won the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship in the 2006 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature.
