



5-1-2017

## Growing Young

Dennis Ross

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### Recommended Citation

Ross, Dennis (2017) "Growing Young," *Westview*: Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol33/iss1/15>

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# Growing Young

by Dennis Ross

Young people are immortal  
do not believe a time will come  
when taking their FJR 1300 cycle  
to the max on poor rubber  
will seem imprudent,  
when joints ache and stairs  
become an assault on Everest,  
when pepperoni pizza is not  
manna from a beneficent god.

The possibility of mortality  
sneaks up slowly at first  
then with unstoppable authority  
with an aortic aneurysm or stroke,  
but a trapdoor opens, you tumble  
down a rabbit hole, and end up

floating down in a crystal blue sky.  
The frantic dance slows, sunlight  
ripples from the wings of a bee  
hovering over Queen Anne's Lace,  
a black snake slips quietly  
into the pond, small voices  
call again as they did as a child,  
the world opens out from a hard bud  
with crawling black ants into a peony.  
What matters that the blossom  
will not last forever?