

## ***In Retrospect***

*by Ivan Page*

When they put you in my arms, I thought  
How beautiful.  
All I had endured became a bundle of joy.  
*So young, so active, so innocent.*

It was a challenge to say no.  
I wanted to give you everything.  
As you ran around in those "Nikes," I thought  
How special you were.  
My friends noticed how I admired you.  
*So young, so active, so innocent.*

It was hard when the time came to say good bye  
And watch you from the class room window.  
You learned to play kickball, basketball and then football.  
I spent every free moment with you  
at practice and Saturday morning games,  
Even though work hours took their toll.  
*So young, so active, so innocent.*

Delighted with your every move, I never went out.  
Not sharing my love with another ensured our bond.  
*So young, so active, so innocent.*

Together we laughed about your first kiss,  
not knowing it would lead to Candice's baby.  
You promised to finish high school; I trusted.  
*So young, so active.*

Summoned by the phone, I rushed to proclaim your innocence.  
You promised never to sell again; still I trusted.  
*So young, so active.*

Again the phone rang with news of trouble.  
I rushed only to see you taken away.  
Fifteen to twenty-five is the pain we bear.  
*So young.*

Our visits are painful.  
Disappointment ends with a long blank stare.  
Wanting to find peace---I feel no trust or hope.  
*So young.*