

One's Life
by Brian Bell

His wife maintained her
perfect marriage with sex each week,
a new outfit to celebrate the occasion.

His personal trainer preserved his health
with the manic application of weights, treadmills, climbers
five times each week.

His dietician monitored his fat.
his urologist collected specimens,
each year, each quarter respectively.

Country asked that he vote,
as did his county and his town.

Mother begged him to call, his
grandma, his brothers, his sister,
her on mother's day

His mechanic recommended
an oil change every 3,000 miles.

His culture expected his delivery of sympathy, food
To the sick, newly born or recently bereaved.

The roofer asked that he clean his gutters
both fall and spring.

His preacher accounted for his soul each Sunday
along with a generous gift.

A dentist recommended he floss in the shower
to maintain a daily routine.

The handyman, that he replace the batteries
in his smoke alarms, the filters in his furnace
each solstice.

He didn't smoke, he didn't drink
he ate fiber and vitamins.

When this man finally left the commitments of this world,
his impeccable teeth tucked beneath glued lips,
his life pleased almost everyone,
everyone except his proctologist,
shaking his head, the doctor lamented the shame,
If only he could have done more.