

Spring 2007



Reflections from  
**Dan Keusal**

*“Attention is the natural prayer of the soul”  
~Nicholas Malebranche*

At least once a week, I walk the three blocks from my office to Northgate Mall for lunch. That walk currently takes me right through the construction zone of the mall’s new parking garage—chain link fences, plywood walkways, torn-up ground, chunks of concrete and asphalt. One recent rainy day I noticed, at the base of a STOP sign just across from the garage, three or four patches of purple flowers pushing their way up through the debris. The fantasy in my head went like this: the planting was too small, too haphazard, too vulnerable to have been carried out by the developer...perhaps some other passerby knelt down in the midst of construction’s chaos and did a little landscaping—a random act of beauty, if you will. My imagination took it from there: “What am I planting each day? How am I changing the landscape around me? How does this fantasy (as well as other less charitable ones) affect the way I attend to the world? In the midst of debris and chaos, what is being constructed in my life right now?” Counseling and astrology are ways of paying attention, and of nurturing the possibilities that flow from that attention. May we all know the beauty of such “natural prayer.”

~Dan

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