

H A R L A N R I C H A R D S

October 2, 2012

The following poem won first place in the Restorative Justice category of the SCI Poetry Contest in the spring of 2012.

Remorse

When I was a young man,
My ego outstripped my self.
Demanded always, me first,
But ended always, me last.
Couldn't tell me nothing,
'Cause I knew it all, my
Strength without wisdom
Begot only sorrow.

Now that wisdom
Has come to call,
My rear-view mirror shows me
The fool that I was, when
I thought I knew it all.

Strength grows in surrender,
Greatness accrues to the selfless
And I would gladly give
All that I am
To undo the harm done by
All that I was.

Harlan Richards

Perhaps by reading this poem others will be able to
come to wisdom . . . before they come to prison.