Driving At Night With The Lights Off

Graham Wilcox
St. John Fisher College

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Cover Page Footnote
"Second Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Volume 13, Issue 1, 2011.

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Suburban houses,  
more husk than home,  
flicker by in drooping rows.

An alarm bleats in protest.  
Something about my lack of seatbelt,  
I assume.

Should pay it heed,  
cease that incessant whining  
but on second thought,  
it doesn't sound that concerned:  
more formality than life-saving alert.

Eighty miles-an-hour leaves me little time  
to discern one moment from another  
or even this thought from the next.

I should be screaming  
or stomping on the brake,  
I suppose.

Anything but laughing, really.