above/ground press chapbook series - chapbook subscriptions - $25 for chapbooks $16-20 + any asides & broadsheets in between, including books by Gil McElroy, Anne Le Dressay, Ken Norris, Clare Latremouille, Natalee Caple, Michael Holmes, George Elliott Clarke & others (while supplies last). Make cheques payable to rob mclennan, c/o above/ground press, rr#1 maxville, on canada k0c 1l0. For more info, or to be on an email mailing list: az421@freenet.carleton.ca

coming soon - www.nonlinear.ca/aboveground

Open 24 Hours (1997, Broken Jaw Press), five canadian poets - Anne Burke (Calgary), D.C. Reid (Victoria), Brenda Niskala (Regina), rob mclennan (Ottawa) & Joe Blades (Fredericton), $13.95, isbn# 0-921411-64-2 - for ordering or info, email jblades@nbnet.nb.ca or box 596 stn a fredericton, nb e3b 5a6 canada

poem

above/
ground press

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IV.08/13/97 ("her fear of the silence after she spoke")
by derek beaulieu
produced in
may __, 1998
above/ground press broadside #70
scared and ashamed for
not telling me the truth?
(she sd that leaving out the details and not telling me sooner
shamed her.)
what was i to say?

what was she to say?
(bkends on a single line)

what she did before we met - days or years.
on one hand doesnt affect me - i told her
that ("are you healthy? thats all that matters."
)
but i was wrong -
i told her that her past was none of my concern unless she made it my concern
(this has nothing to do with qo."baring her soul" and telling all
but choosing to reveal and peel back herself
&
exist in a way
so that it doesnt matter who she was.
and who i was)
but i was wrong -
would we have met - would we have been ready for eachother if not for
what we have done?
my(her) mistakes & her(my) pasts are her(my) own
& yet w/o them
would
we have
our
future together?
(could i condemn what made her?)
would that not condemn and damn who she is?)
((what could i say?
"i reject yr past & what you have done. i reject yr trials and charges. i reject what
formed you."?))
i cannot reject
the mud & the soil
from which
she
i
we
are made.