

Lost in the Forest

by [Mary M. Brown](#) in the [March 20, 2007](#) issue

“The Department of Defense announced Friday that the battery operated ‘digital’ bugle has come of age and is a necessity with only about 500 U.S. military buglers to perform at the 1,800 daily funerals for veterans.”

—Washington Times, 10/09/02

And now even this is pantomime—
or *worse*—a kind of full-bodied lip sync
at the gravest occasion. Someone
in uniform lifts horn to lips to blow
(*one thinks*), simulates the deep draw
that hallows breath into note and moves
us to that spacious human room
where mourning sounds.

And now even this
is just charade, a button pushed (at least
the *fingers* move), and though the tones
are clear as night and sure as sleep,
one wonders whether God is really nigh
and what besides the soldier-child might die.