

Kaanapali

“Police were investigating how a high school cheerleader invited to perform at the Hula Bowl college all-star game plunged naked to her death from a ninth-floor hotel balcony.”

“Police: Cheerleader’s death an accident.” CNN.com, January 15, 2004.

Hawaii ate a naked cheerleader
from its concrete buffet,
a teenager whose nine lives
were an unsteady
footfall on a ledge more canine
than feline.
Holiday breath left
as unclaimed luggage.

One life vanquished per
every floor she plummeted,
two years at a time
in miles per hour.

There go her
binkys
 dimples
 pigtails
 leotards,
 her braces
 tampons
 beer funnels
 threesomes,
 her cocooned butterfly kisses.

Hotel guests saw a smooth
young body drunken
in flight
as a bronze sugar and spice eruption
sacrifice against a backdrop
of luau night sky tinged with lava.
A pretty phoenix
not able to smile her way out
of this
not able to
land
on all fours.