

# Cutting

BY **BILL GLOSE**

I sit still on a straight-backed chair  
in the center of the kitchen,  
a flowered sheet draped over my shoulders,  
fastened at my neck with a clothespin.

You nudge my neck forward,  
fingers skimming my scalp,  
tugging tufts of hair to equal lengths  
while snipping scissors still  
the echoes of last night's argument.

It is always like this—you,  
bridging a sullen divide without words;  
me, quietly accepting the grace of your touch,  
thankful you can take that step.

I wish I could, too,  
but I was never good  
with scissors.

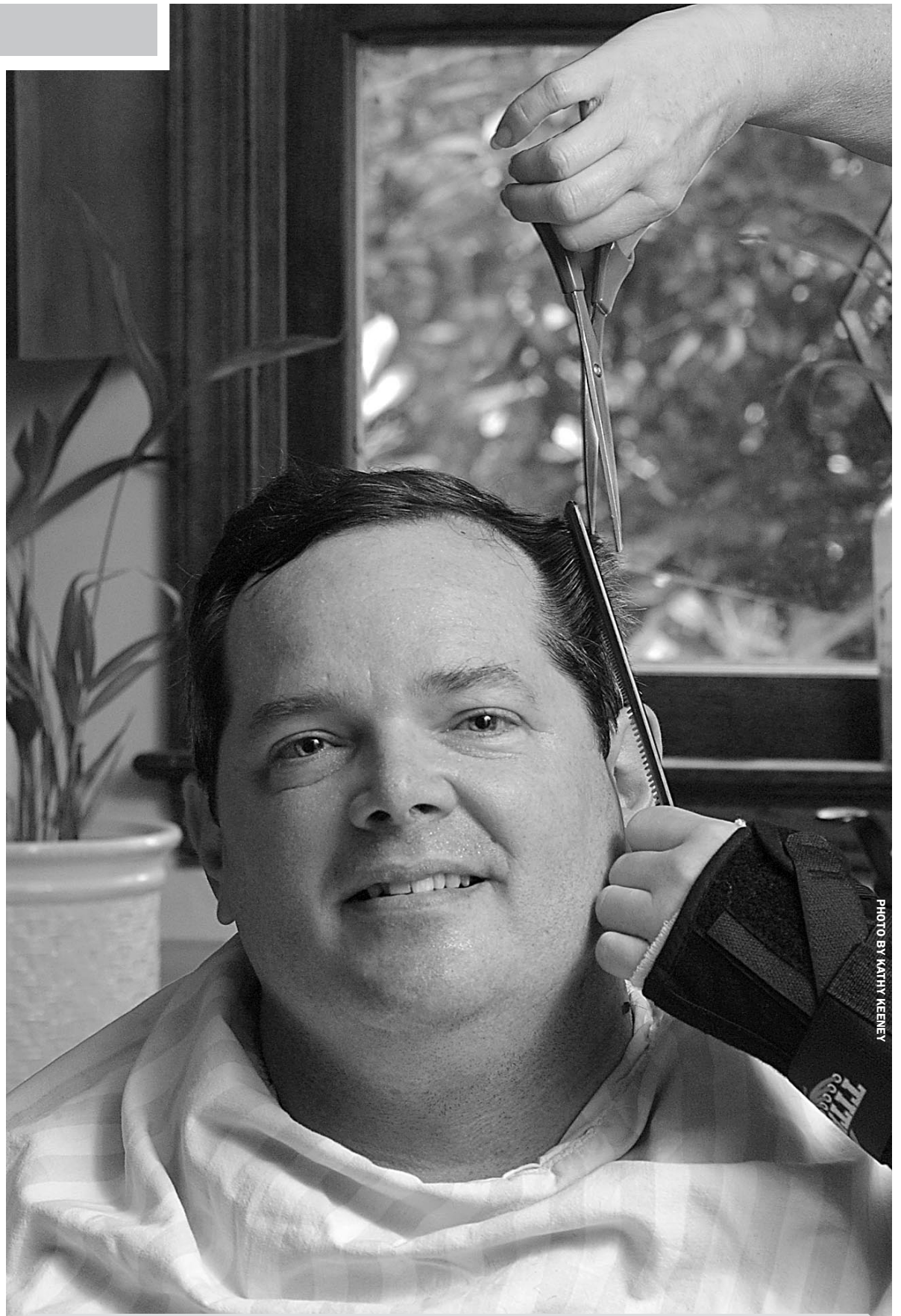


PHOTO BY KATHY KEENEY

This month's featured poet, Bill Glose, has been honored with numerous awards—including the F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Award and first place recognition from the Virginia Press Association for sports writing. But on September 1, Glose's literary career will reach another landmark with the publication of *The Human Touch*, his first collection of poems.

Glose is a columnist for *Virginia Living* magazine and

has also edited the publication *Virginia Adversaria*. As a Virginia Tech student, Glose studied Civil Engineering, although he decided in the late '90s to focus exclusively on writing.

Photography is another skill Glose has picked up in recent years; originally taking pictures to accompany his stories, Glose now sees it as a pleasure activity. The Hokie fan also enjoys taking in the game or catching a movie in his spare time.

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