

Regular Days with Strange Occurrences

An oil rig burns in flames that boil
from its hot liquid. The rig does this off—
and on for hours. From far away on a picture
in Facebook it looks like an exploded
car abandoned in the desert but it's in a field
off 2nd street in Long Beach. Andrew Bynum
signs his autograph and people—
that don't even know how to pronounce his name
are excited and charge at him in packs.
Packs like old buffalo and baby rats.
A little girl is choking from fumes of orange spray.
Her asthma reacts as the paramedics
are called to the 50's diner. I have asthma
and it's the same spray I've used for the last
seven years while waitressing food. My boss,
who tells me every week he had cancer,
does not even mention the episode to me
the next time I work. I take a whiff when
I wipe the tables—but nothing happens.