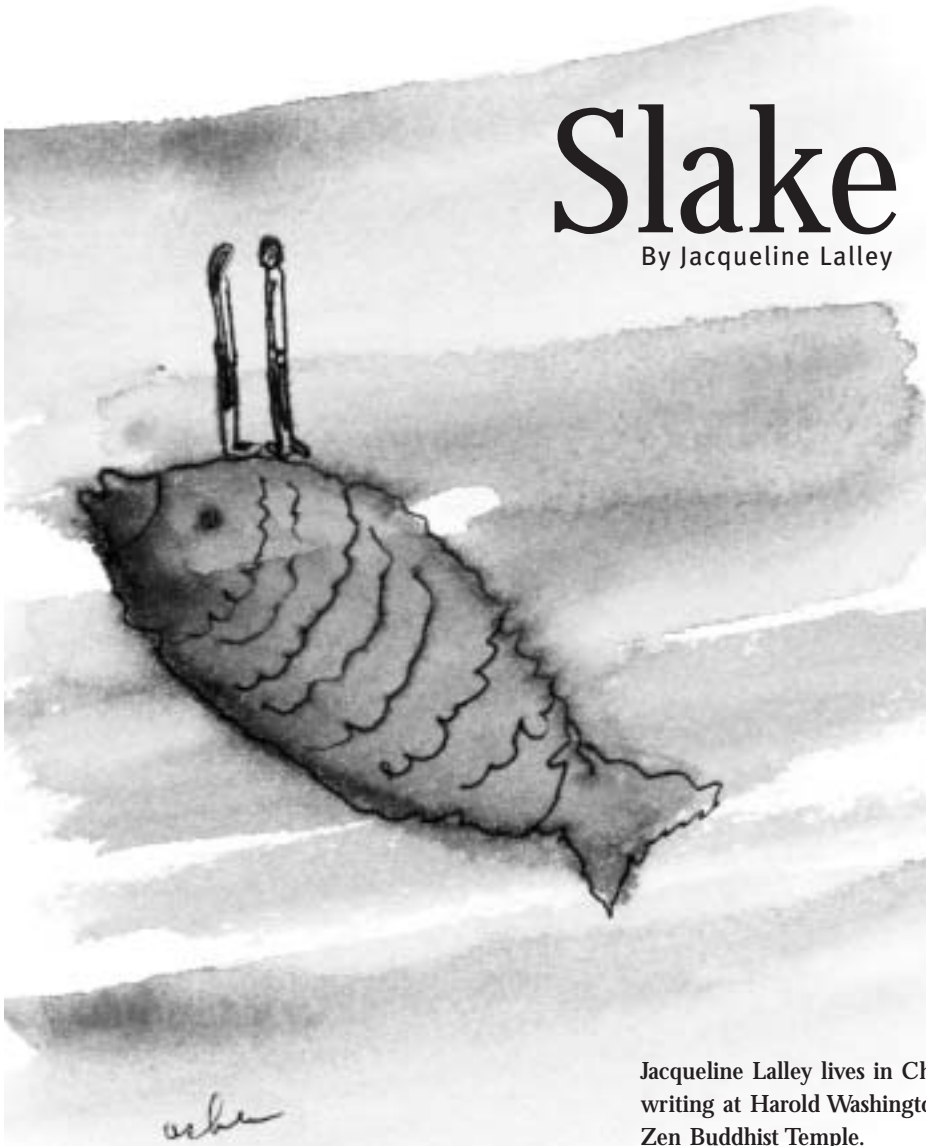


Slake

By Jacqueline Lalley



I want
to eat
the fish

not
because
it is wet

I want to eat
the fish

because
it is water.

I want you
to eat me

not
because
I am water

I want you
to eat me

because I am thirsty.

Jacqueline Lalley lives in Chicago, where she teaches creative writing at Harold Washington College and is a member of the Zen Buddhist Temple.