

## **FAULT LINES**

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Seismic pressures, tectonic plates  
Shifting, grinding, tearing  
Deep in the earth  
Too deep to hear, too deep to see except for  
Fault lines  
Perhaps a sad tear rolling down  
So silently  
A fear gripping you awake  
On a moonless starless night  
An urge to go beyond sensation  
Or a plea for help you can neither  
Utter nor stifle  
So it can only come out in the undertones  
Of everything you say  
And do  
Fault lines, eruptions of needs and desperate hopes  
Can lie dormant, hidden for years  
Appearing most unplanned and unasked  
When the pressures of life  
Run too strong and deep  
Tearing away the landscaping, revealing forgotten  
Forces that cannot forever be denied:  
Hope, love, belly laughter,  
A child's defenseless innocence,  
Faith that life is safe and good.

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\* **ROBERT T. McLAUGHLIN, Ph.D.**, chaired Rivier College's education division in 2008. He oversees professional educator preparation program approval for the NH Dept. of Education. His three children, he enjoys telling them, are usually cute and adorable; with his wife he provides a home for four border collies, who all are cute and adorable. He founded and chaired the International Society for Technology in Education's interest groups on innovative learning technologies and digital equity, serves on the national commission on technology and the future of teacher education, and is senior fellow for the Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education.