

NICK WORT

Anchorage

I don't want anyone to be happy
when I am unhappy

And at 12:28 in the morning,
smoking an anxiety cigarette
I can hear my neighbors fight

It doesn't feel like a victory

Last week I signed a
tobacco free pledge,
electronically, to save \$25
on a high deductible
healthcare plan

The cigarette is stolen -
it does not count
I am not a liar

stolen cigarettes do not turn
your lungs black, they don't maim
your arteries or give you cancer

When I give change to those
people with the bells outside
the stores I feel
a little dead inside

but I do it anyway

maybe it's the color red
maybe it's the back and forth swing

- I want to be a better person
sometimes I just forget
what that sounds like

Is it my neighbors fighting
or is it a little red bell?