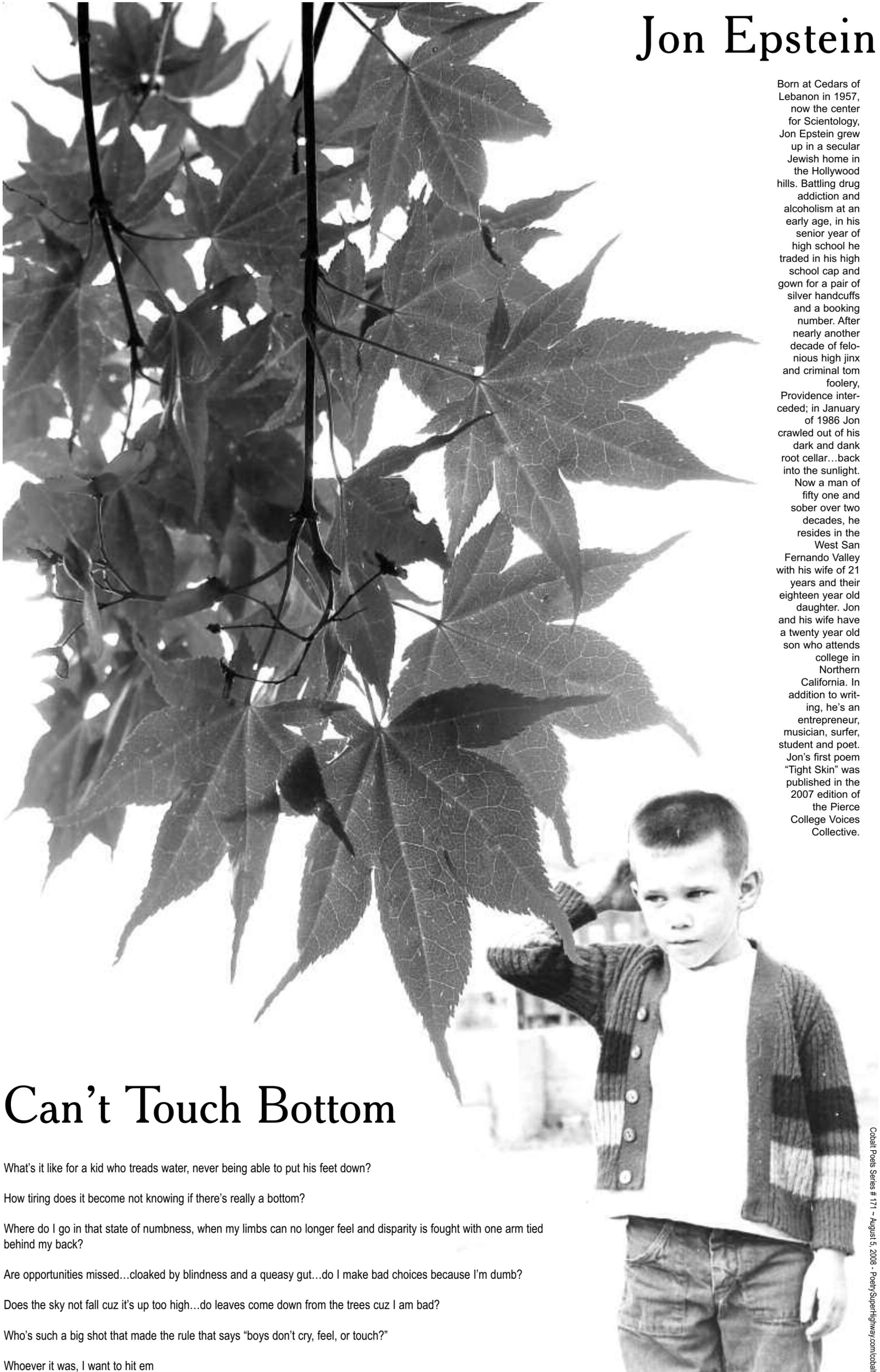


Jon Epstein

Born at Cedars of Lebanon in 1957, now the center for Scientology, Jon Epstein grew up in a secular Jewish home in the Hollywood hills. Battling drug addiction and alcoholism at an early age, in his senior year of high school he traded in his high school cap and gown for a pair of silver handcuffs and a booking number. After nearly another decade of felonious high jinx and criminal tom foolery, Providence interceded; in January of 1986 Jon crawled out of his dark and dank root cellar...back into the sunlight. Now a man of fifty one and sober over two decades, he resides in the West San Fernando Valley with his wife of 21 years and their eighteen year old daughter. Jon and his wife have a twenty year old son who attends college in Northern California. In addition to writing, he's an entrepreneur, musician, surfer, student and poet. Jon's first poem "Tight Skin" was published in the 2007 edition of the Pierce College Voices Collective.



Can't Touch Bottom

What's it like for a kid who treads water, never being able to put his feet down?

How tiring does it become not knowing if there's really a bottom?

Where do I go in that state of numbness, when my limbs can no longer feel and disparity is fought with one arm tied behind my back?

Are opportunities missed...cloaked by blindness and a queasy gut...do I make bad choices because I'm dumb?

Does the sky not fall cuz it's up too high...do leaves come down from the trees cuz I am bad?

Who's such a big shot that made the rule that says "boys don't cry, feel, or touch?"

Whoever it was, I want to hit em