Coke Machine at the Civil Rights Museum

The guide points out the chain link fence

used to try to segregate the ocean.

Then she turns to her favorite item:

She shows us the Cavalier 102 coke machine,

able to sell from both sides,

marked Colored on one and White on the other.

Notice the different prices, she says,

whites got a cold coke for 5 cents, blacks a warm one for 10.

Coca Cola denies this use – says it was handy

in garages, train stations, could sell twice as much.

She smiles a historian’s smile,

glad for proof of the horrifying,

shooing phantoms of denial and doubt

firmly out of at least this Greensboro building.