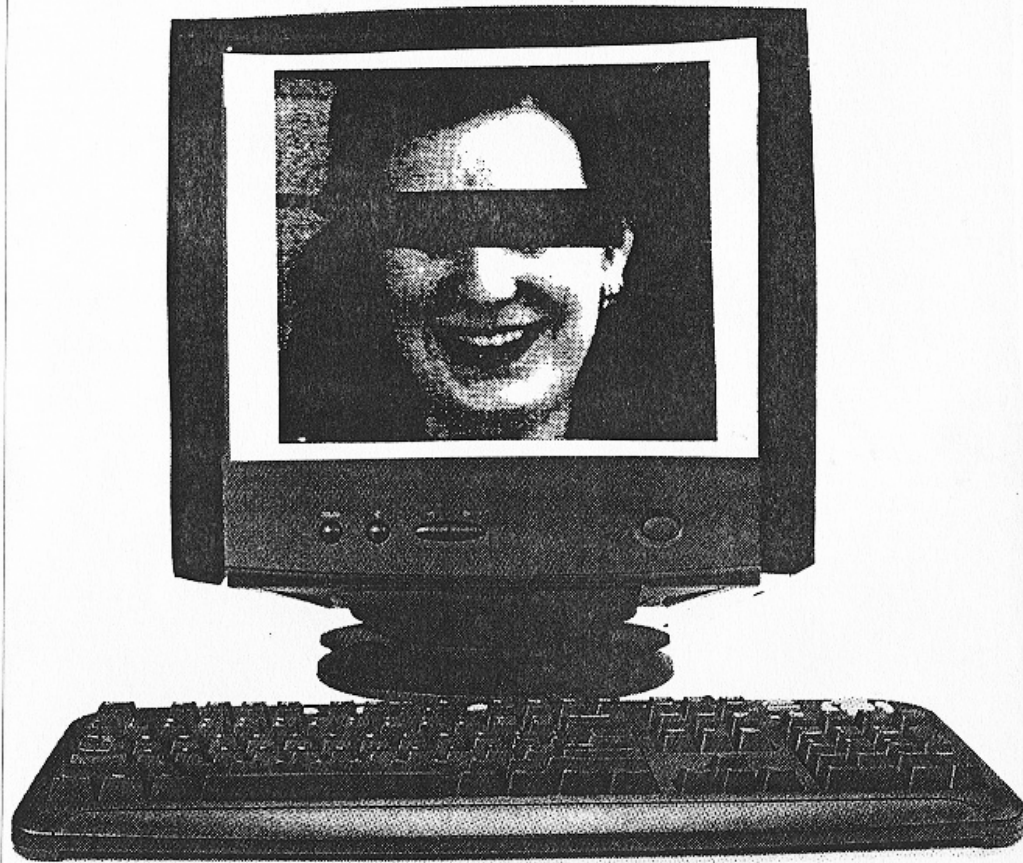


# *Poetry winner II*



## Introduction

At the end of poetry winner, the first zine ever published by the Jessica Westhead Vanity Press of Self-Gratification<sup>TM</sup>, I vowed, among other things, to try to get my poem "Ode to Sparky" published for free in the "venerated annals" of the thinly veiled vanity press known as The National Library of Poetry.

### *Poetry winner*



#### *Poetry winner*

A POEM by Whitby's [redacted] 20, was recently published by the National Library of Poetry in a volume called 'Sparkles in the Sand.' [redacted]'s poem, *Death*, won an editor's choice award for outstanding achievement. [redacted] is enrolled in the honours psychology program at [redacted] University and hopes to participate in an international university student exchange program in her third year.

When more than a year passed and I had not yet lifted a finger to accomplish this goal, I surmised that I had lost my anti-NLP zeal.

Then one day it occurred to me to re-visit [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com), the INTERNATIONAL Library of Poetry's web site, and there I made a discovery that thoroughly restored my earlier fervor...

### **POETRY CONTEST!**

**\$48,000** Possible  
in prizes **Publication**  
awarded annually

Send only one original  
poem 20 lines or less to:

#### **The National Library of Poetry**

Suite 10437  
1 Poetry Plaza  
Owings Mills, MD 21117  
or enter online at:  
[www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com)

## POETRY CONTEST \$48,000 IN PRIZES

### ■ ENTER THE CONTEST NOW

Enter your poetry. Thousands in prizes given away every year. It's free!

### ■ POETRY HALL OF FAME

Look here to see many poets who have put their poetry on the web for all of the world to see.

### ■ GET PUBLISHED!

Your poetry may be published in one of our anthologies. Or you can print your own books. Imagine, a 60 or 80 page book filled with your own poetry.

### ■ ULTIMATE

**POETRY LINKS**  
Come look at our links to great poetry all over the web. Please let us know what you think. You can add if you like.

### ■ WHAT'S NEW

See what's new in the International Library of Poetry. Don't forget our convention in August.

[Previous Winners](#)

[Chat With Other Poets](#)

[Int'l Library of Poetry](#)

[Int'l Society of Poets](#)

THE INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY OF

# POETRY



## Poetry Contest \$48,000 in Prizes

The International Library of Poetry to Award 250 Total Prizes to Amateur Poets in Coming Months

Owings Mills, MD -The International Library of Poetry has just announced that \$48,000.00 in prizes will be awarded over the next 12 months in the Open Amateur Poetry Contest. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.



"We're especially looking for poems from new or unpublished poets," indicated Howard Ely, spokesperson for The International Library of Poetry. "We have a ten year history of awarding large prizes to talented poets who have never before won any type of writing competition"

## The World's Largest Poetry Organization

Having awarded over \$150,000 in prizes to poets worldwide in recent years, The International Library of Poetry, founded in 1982 to promote the artistic accomplishments of contemporary poets, is the largest organization of its kind in the world. Anthologies published by the organization have featured poems by more than 100,000 poets.

"We're always looking for new poetic talent," said spokesperson Howard Ely, "I hope you urge your associates to enter the contest. There is absolutely no obligation whatsoever, and they, or you, could be our next big winner."

[Enter the Contest Now](#) | [Poetry Hall of Fame](#) | [Get Published!](#) | [Ultimate Poetry Links](#)

[What's New](#) | [Previous Winners](#) | [Chat With Other Poets](#) | [International Library of Poetry](#) | [International Society of Poets](#)

If you have any questions, please send a brief message to [The International Library of Poetry](#). Please be sure to include your name and full postal address, or you will not receive a response. Thank you.

<http://www.poetry.com>

**FREE POETRY CONTEST \$58,000 IN PRIZES**

LAST MONTH'S WINNER:

Annie White

ENTER POETRY CONTEST NOW

POETRY IN MOTION CONTEST

HAIKU CONTEST

Next \$1,000 Winner 8/15/2000

\$100 Winner Every Day

AND WINNERS

For an enhanced viewing experience [Login](#)



Welcome to poetry.com.

This site features over 1.7 million poets!

Search for a poet

Last  First  Search

### POEM OF THE DAY

#### Sacrosanct

"Upon a day I saw strange eyes and hands like butterflies;  
for me at morning larks flew from the thyme and children  
came to bathe in little streams." --John Steinbeck

we were children then & grasshoppers in  
timothy & bare feet in mud & the  
cane vestibules of restricted worlds  
& acolytes approach at risk as we  
makers, seers, romp long in wythy trees

we were children yes & dragonflies in  
bamboo duels poling shallows polling deeps  
for mirth & lesser swag & criscraft skiffs  
& oars or sails haul timid ones but we  
spinning, reeling, gambol primordial seas

we were children oh! & the round & the  
wagging dance & double-tree mutt & you &  
me with gabilan mountains snorting  
stamping in the rowan & the willows waving  
& clouds pierced through with slants of perfect light

**Gil Gilman**

Minneapolis, MN

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The first thing that I noticed was that  
the site had been fancied up some since  
I'd last perused it.

My eyes roved across the screen and took in  
the many possibilities, finally alighting on the  
promising "search for a poet" feature.

NEED HELP RHYMING?

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Feeling nostalgic, I looked up  
a few old friends...

Poetry.com Poet Search

<http://www.poetry.com/>

Searching over 1.7 million records... Please be Patient.

Name: *Howard Ely*

**New Search**

Ely, Howard  
- Here I Am  
- The Prophecy of  
Today  
Ely, Howard  
- Surreal  
Ely, Howard  
- Who Goes There?

Last Name

First Name

Search

Poetry.com Poet Search

<http://www.poetry.com/>

Searching over 1.7 million records... Please be Patient.

Name: *Cynthia Stephens*

**New Search**

Stephens, Cynthia  
- Broken Dreams

Last Name

First Name

Search

Poetry.com Poet Search

<http://www.poetry.com/Publications/....asp?Retry=1&L>

Searching over 1.7 million records... Please be Patient.

Your search for "**Howie**  
**Lewis**" was  
unsuccessful.

Next 100 >>

**New Search**

Last Name

First Name

Search

... and then, fully expecting nothing to  
come of it, but figuring (as is my wont),  
"What the hey," I typed in my own name...

## FREE POETRY CONTEST \$58,000 IN PRIZES

ENTER POETRY CONTEST NOW  
Next \$1,000 Winner 8/15/2000

LAST MONTH'S WINNER: Annie White

POETRY IN MOTION CONTEST  
\$100 Winner Every Day

HAIKU CONTEST  
AND WINNERS

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Search for a poet

Last  First

### POEM OF THE DAY

#### Sacrosanct

"Upon a day I saw strange eyes and hands like butterflies;  
for me at morning larks flew from the thyme and children  
came to bathe in little streams." --John Steinbeck

we were children then & grasshoppers in  
timothy & bare feet in mud & the  
cane vestibules of restricted worlds  
& acolytes approach at risk as we  
makers, seers, romp long in wythy trees

we were children yes & dragonflies in  
bamboo duels poling shallows polling deeps  
for mirth & lesser swag & criscraft skiffs  
& oars or sails haul timid ones but we  
spinning, reeling, gambol primordial seas

we were children oh! & the round & the  
wagging dance & double-tree mutt & you &  
me with gabilan mountains snorting  
stamping in the rowan & the willows waving  
& clouds pierced through with slants of perfect light

**Gil Gilman**  
Minneapolis, MN

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... and to my utter amazement and great glee, the search was successful! There was my name, dredged up from the depths of an ILP database, and — JOY OF JOYS! — there was "Ode to Sparky" listed beneath it!

Poetry.com Poet Search

<http://www.poetry.com>

Searching over 1.7 million records... Please be Patient.

Name: *Jessica Westhead* **New Search**

Last Name

First Name

Westhead, Jessica

- Ode To Sparky

Search

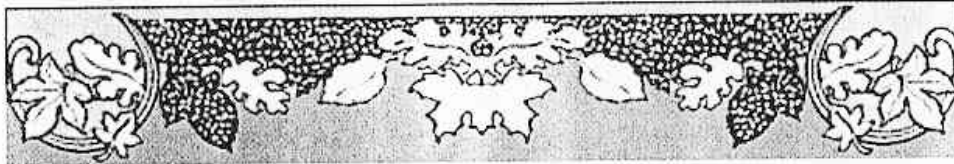
"Could it be?" I thought, still hardly daring to believe what was happening, and I pointed my mouse at "Ode to Sparky" and...



... clicked.

Ode To Sparky

<http://www.poetry.com>



### Ode To Sparky

My Sparky was alive and well,  
But now he's just a furry shell.

I loved that canine long and hard.  
I buried him in my backyard.

He ran across the street one day,  
And never looked the other way.

He didn't see the danger there,  
He didn't see, or didn't care.

But either way I'll never know;  
He's helping make the daisies grow.

I should have tied old Sparky down  
With all the monster trucks in town.

I never knew a dog or cat  
Could make a mess as big as that.

The truck was big, and must have hurt,  
But now my dog's as dead as dirt.

*Jessica Westhead*

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LOGIN TO EDIT  
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SUBMIT A NEW  
POEM



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ON ANYTHING

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT  
THIS PAGE!



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DO THIS POEM AS

Poetry in Motion

poetry.COM

In that moment, I realized a new purpose: I would write a poem about my experiences with the NLP and its front man, Howard Ely, and attempt to get it displayed at [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com).

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Next \$1,000 Winner 8/15/2000		\$100 Winner Every Day			

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## POETRY CONTEST

ONLINE ENTRY FORM

[The Official Rules](#) | [Last Month's Winner](#) | [Previous Winners](#)


**NEXT \$1000 WINNER** 8/15/2000  
FREE entry form! Bookmark this page!


Poetry.com will award 1175 prizes totaling \$58,000.00 to amateur poets in the coming months. Type your name, street address, and poem below and then click submit!

Anyone can enter the competition simply by submitting an original poem, 20 lines or fewer, on any subject, in any style. All poets who enter will receive a response concerning their artistry within seven weeks.

First:  Jessica Middle:  Last:  Westhead

Email Address:  jswesthead@yahoo.com

STREET ADDRESS   
(Please complete, winners notified by U.S. mail.)  
Address:  650 Dupont Street  
 Bard Bin #505  
City:  Toronto State or Province:  Ontario Zip or Postal Code:  M6G 4B1  
Country:  Canada

YOUR POEM   
(Your poem must fit entirely in the box below to be eligible for the contest.)  
Title of Your Poem:  My Muse, I'll S'Appelle Howard

I wrote a poem  
About a cow  
That came out wrong at birth.  
Howard Ely  
Wrote and told me  
Just what it was worth.

Next I sent in  
Some verse about  
A puppy that was dead.  
The NLP  
Was thrilled with it--  
They'd "fit me in," they said.

Now once again  
I've put my thoughts  
On parchment, thinking, "Hell--  
Maybe this time  
Howard E.  
Will buy instead of sell!"

☒ I would like to receive your email newsletter--it's free!

☒ I hereby certify that the above poem is my original work and has never been copyrighted or, if copyrighted, that I am the sole copyright owner. I am entering this poem as an honest and true effort of my personal creativity and unique artistic vision, and I understand that it will be published on the Internet as my original work and under my own copyright.

[Submit Your Poem](#)

[Erase and Start Again](#)

Please submit only one poem per month.

If you are having a problem submitting using this form, please e-mail your entry by clicking [here](#). Don't forget to include your name and full postal address.

If you have any customer service questions, please send a brief message to [Customer Service](#). Please be sure to include your name and address. Thank you.

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So I did just that, submitting  
"My Muse, I l S'Appelle Howard" to the  
Poetry Contest online. My efforts  
won me instant gratification...

... I searched for my name straightaway  
after entering the contest...

The International Library of Poetry

<http://www.poetry.com>

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Next \$1,000 Winner 8/15/2000 \$100 Winner Every Day AND WINNERS

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## POETRY CONTEST

Thank you for submitting your poem to the International Library of Poetry. You will receive an acknowledgment by regular mail within seven weeks.

You are welcome to submit as many original poems as you like for posting on this site. Simply enter them on the [contest entry form](#) as you did this poem. Please be aware, however, that only the first poem you submit in each thirty-day period will be entered into the contest.

If you wish to enter another poem into the contest, please wait thirty days to enter the next contest cycle.

Right now, you can take advantage of everything this site has to offer including:

- Proofread and edit your poem online (we suggest you do this now to make sure your poem appears exactly as you wish).
- Record your poem (or any other comments you may have) for broadcast on this site.
- Send free greeting cards using your poem.
- Order products using your poem.
- Tell friends about your poem on this site.

It's easy -- just search for your name.

First Name

Last Name

Jessica

Westhead

Search

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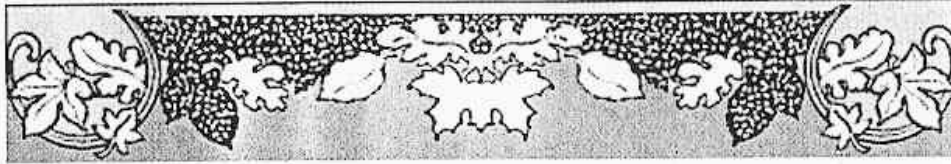
Name: *Jessica Westhead* **New Search**

Last Name	First Name
Westhead, Jessica	
- <u>My Muse, II</u>	
<u>S'Appelle Howard</u>	
Westhead, Jessica	
- <u>Ode To Sparky</u>	

Search

8/9/00 1:36 PM

... and lo and behold,  
there was "My Muse, II S'Appelle  
Howard" listed ABOVE "Ode to  
Sparky"!



## My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard

I wrote a poem  
About a cow  
That came out wrong at birth.  
Howard Ely  
Wrote and told me  
Just what it was worth.

Next I sent in  
Some verse about  
A puppy that was dead.  
The NLP  
Was thrilled with it--  
They'd "fit me in," they said.

Now once again  
I've put my thoughts  
On parchment, thinking, "Hell--  
Maybe this time  
Howard E.  
Will buy instead of sell!"

*Jessica Westhead*

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TELL A FRIEND ABOUT  
THIS PAGE!



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SEND A FREE GREETING CARD

DO THIS POEM AS

Poetry in Motion

  
poetry.COM

"Howard" shimmered onscreen in all his e-glory,  
while I sat back and basked in his warm,  
reflected glow.

And it only got better ... the option to  
order "My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard" on  
"almost anything" made me seriously doubt  
that life could get any sweeter...

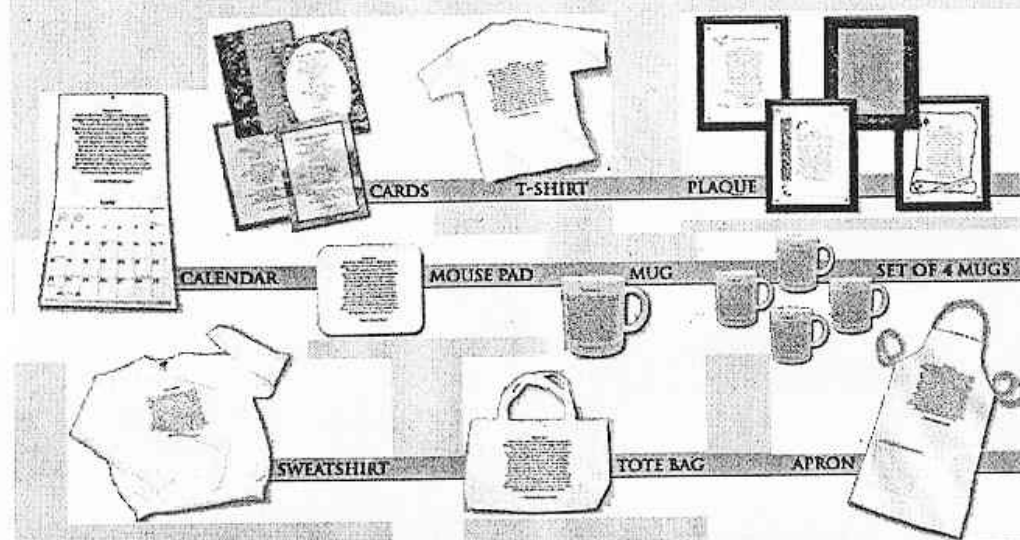
Poetry.com: Your Words on Almost Anything

[http://www.poetry.com/poetrybuy/pro...y\\*Muse,\\*Il\\*S'Appelle\\*Howard](http://www.poetry.com/poetrybuy/pro...y*Muse,*Il*S'Appelle*Howard)

poetry.com

## YOUR WORDS ON ALMOST ANYTHING EXPRESS YOUR CREATIVITY ON QUALITY PERSONALIZED PRODUCTS

"My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard" can be used on any of the products below OR [Create a New Poem](#)



If you experience difficulty in ordering, please call our customer service department at (410) 356-2000.

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... until I received this e-mail  
from "lisa@poetry.com", a charmingly  
upbeat ILP emissary. Lisa's  
arrival in my Inbox raised my  
eyebrows...

Next | Inbox

From: <lisa@poetry.com> [Block address]  
To: <jswesthead@yahoo.com>  
Subject: A RHYME IN NO TIME & IT DOESNT COST A DIME  
Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 07:30:11 -0400

NEW FEATURES AT POETRY.COM

Did you know that there are over 199 words that rhyme with "Yea?"  
Well,  
now you can find rhymes for any word in the English language with our  
newest feature--an online rhyming dictionary and thesaurus. Just visit  
us  
at <http://www.poetry.com> and click on "Need Help Rhyming?" to find the  
word you need to perfect your work.

# # #

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You can read a new poem every 20 seconds with one of our latest  
features a  
poetry.com. Just visit <http://www.poetry.com> and click on "View Real  
Time  
Poem Entries." You can watch as the poems are being submitted to our  
monthly contest.

# # #

HOW TO WRITE HAIKUS

Zen Buddhists began using haiku in the 17th century after adapting it  
from  
a popular form of verse known as renga. Some of the most famous haiku  
writers include Basho, Yosa Buson, and Masuoka Shiki.

The haiku is a Japanese verse form consisting of three unrhymed lines  
of  
five, seven, and five syllables. It presents a pair of contrasting  
images--one suggestive of time and place, and the other an observation.  
Here is an example:

The stars in the sky  
And the lush, green rolling fields  
Cry alone tonight

Be sure to eliminate all unnecessary words from your haiku; it should  
be  
short and sweet. You should also avoid metaphors and similes in order  
to  
keep the poem simplistic. For more information on how to write a  
haiku,  
go to <http://www.toyomasu.com/haiku>.



Now that you are a haiku master, log onto  
<http://www.poetry.com/Baiku/HaikuContest.asp> and win cool prizes in our  
daily Haiku Contest!

###

#### PERSONALIZE PRODUCTS WITH YOUR CREATIVITY

Now you can personalize an array of merchandise, including greeting  
cards,  
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create  
your personalized products.

###

#### ENTER OUR MONTHLY CONTEST

We are accepting all amateur poets' work for our monthly contest. To  
be  
eligible, write an original poem of 20 lines or fewer and submit it to  
<http://www.poetry.com/contest/contest.asp>. You could win up to  
\$1,000.00!  
Your poem can be in any style and on any subject. Please send only one  
entry per month.

###

Well, that's all folks! Until next month.  
Peace and poetry!  
Lisa

-----  
If I'm cluttering up your mailbox, click the link below to get rid of  
me:  
[http://www.poetry.com/nl/bve\\_lisa.asp](http://www.poetry.com/nl/bve_lisa.asp).

Delete	Next   Inbox	- Choose Folder -	Move
Reply	Reply All	Forward	as attachment
			Download Attachments

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...and her promise of continued  
correspondence lifted my spirits.

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**From:** <lisa@poetry.com> | [Block address](#)  
**To:** <jswesthead@yahoo.com> [Add Addresses](#)  
**Subject:** Poetry Bash Card-Toon!  
**Date:** Sun, 24 Sep 2000 17:58:09 -0400

Thought you might enjoy this humorous card-toon from poetry.com.

Click on the link below to check it out!

Lisa

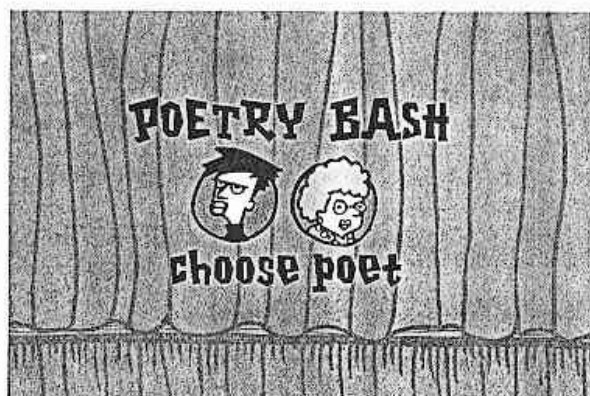
<http://www.poetry.com/cardtoon/bashtoonframe.html>

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True to her word, Lisa got in touch again a month later, this time sending a "humorous card-toon" that invited me to "choose poet", ostensibly to meet with some sort of violent fate. I felt like I was a part of something... but then things went terribly awry.

After bragging to a cohort about my electronic poesy prowess, I looked up my name on the ILP web site again and saw, to my horror, that "Howard" was no longer listed! I decided to investigate...

Wednesday, September 27, 2000, 1 PM

I dial the customer service number, (410) 356-2000, provided in the "About poetry.com" section of the International Library of Poetry's web site. (This is, incidentally, the same number I have called before to reach the offices of the *National* Library of Poetry.) A recorded voice that surely belongs to a handsome and powerful man intones, "Thank-you for calling the International Library of Poetry, home of the world's largest poetry web site . . . your call may be monitored and recorded for training purposes." I press "2" to speak with a customer service representative, and am treated to the dignified Baroque hold music that seems to have become an ILP trademark. Five minutes go by. Approximately every minute or so, I hear a hissing noise on the line, which I find vaguely disturbing.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REP:** Customer Service.\*

**ME:** Hello. I'm calling for Lisa, of "lisa@poetry.com".

**CSR:** Is this in reference to a letter?

**ME:** No . . . she sent me couple of e-mails in response to a poem I entered online. She just seemed like the person to contact.

**CSR:** Well, usually if it's something Customer Service can help you with, we deal with it here.

**ME:** Alright then.

**CSR:** Can I have your VIP number?

**ME** (completely unprepared): Oh . . . I don't have it handy. Can I just give you my name?

**CSR:** Go ahead.

**ME:** It's Jessica Westhead. W-e-s-t-h-e-a-d.

**CSR:** One word? I mean, it's all together?

**ME:** Yes.

**CSR:** Okay.

**ME:** Well, I've been exploring [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com), to see what's been happening at the International Library of Poetry these days. I was excited to see that Montel Williams was the presenter at the ILP's Convention 2000.

**CSR:** Right.

**ME:** He's no Ernest Borgnine, but he's pretty good.

(The CSR chortles appreciatively at this.)

**ME:** Is Montel a poet himself?

**CSR:** No. He ran a contest for poets, for the disease he has—is it multiple sclerosis?

**ME** (realizing I had forgotten this part, and feeling suddenly bad): Uhh . . .

**CSR:** He just ran the contest to help out and get a message across about the disease and stuff. He was just a special presenter.

## Convention 2000

### Montel Williams to Host Awards Presentation



Montel Williams, host of the Emmy Award-winning "The Montel Williams Show," will present awards at this year's poetry convention and symposium. He is an actor, author and public service activist. This special joint venture with ISP will not only work towards displaying the talent of numerous entrants, but will also raise research funds for a cause very close to his heart, multiple sclerosis.

### Over \$22,000.00 in Prizes to be Awarded During this Single Event!

- \$5,000.00 Grand Prize plus a Book Publishing Contract
- \$1,000.00 Young Poet's Scholarship
- At least 100 Semifinalist Prizes



All poets will get a "Poet of Merit" Award Medallion, an Award Plaque, and lots of other gifts.

**ME:** Oh. So this convention was a one-time-only event?

**CSR:** Yes. On August 18.

**ME:** I really wish I could have gone, especially after reading what my fellow poets had to say—James H. from Magee, Mississippi was even rendered speechless!

## Convention 2000

### See What Your Fellow Poets Have to Say



"This was a well planned and organized conference. Overall, I was excited to be one of the participants, and left the conference inspired."

**Dorayne S. (Austin, Texas)**

"I am at a loss for adequate words to express my joy and appreciation for all the planning and care you put into the Symposium. I feel I belong to a very special group."

**James H. (Magee, Mississippi)**

"The induction ceremony was just fantastic. It was such an honor and quite a different slant. Much different than anything else we have experienced. You did a magnificent job."

**Nancy O. (Hugoton, Kansas)**

"Having met poets from India, Alaska, Canada, Crimea, Japan, Africa, and even New Zealand, not counting people from all over the United States, seems like a dream."

**Dumas F. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)**



**CSR:** Really?

**ME:** Mmm hmm—I think that says *a lot!* I was particularly intrigued at the mention of something called an “induction ceremony”. Do you know what went on in this ceremony, or is it a secret?

**CSR:** Well, you know that we’re the International Library of Poetry now. We used to have a Hall of Fame, but they changed the name on us. So now it’s an induction. [The poets] were inducted into the International Library of Poetry.

**ME** (somewhat disappointed at this less-than-sinister explanation): I see. I’m also curious about the process by which the International Library of Poetry publishes poems on its web site. Are entrants charged a fee to have their artistry electronically published, or is this a complimentary service?

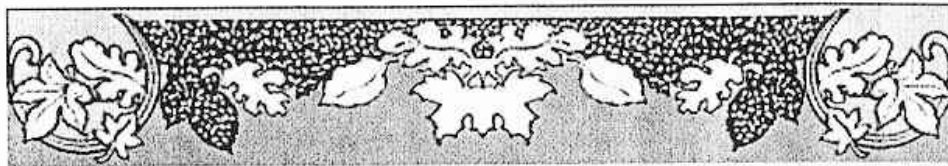
**CSR:** I don’t think there’s a fee for that. They just keep track of [the poetry]. Then if they like it they’ll get in touch with you.

**ME:** Ah. That’s good, because I *was* under the impression that the service was free—I’ll explain why. Just for a lark, I used the site’s poet search feature, plugging in the sort of made-up names that rhyme-happy hooligans might hide behind in order to launch their renegade verse into cyberspace—

(The CSR titters at the mention of the word “hooligans”.)

**ME** (on a roll now): —and lo and behold, I found poems listed under the unsettlingly generic monikers of “Jane Doe” and “Joe Blow”. Does this strike you as suspicious at all?

**CSR:** Some people don’t know what to do with themselves. They’re just being smart. Some things we go through and take off, if we feel someone is misusing the service. Periodically we’ll go through and monitor the poems, and block a poem if it’s inappropriate. We’ll remove it if it’s something that should not be there.



### the poem

This poem.

*Jane Doe*


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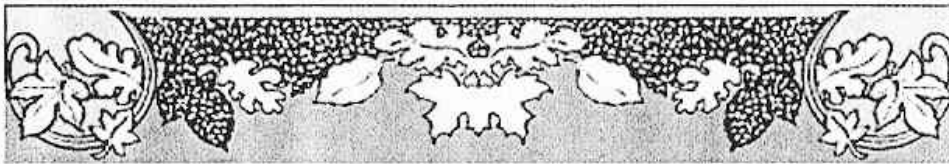
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## poetry

Roses are red,  
The sky is blue.  
I hate poetry,  
How 'bout you?

*Joe Blow*

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ME: I see. Well, when I searched for my *own* name on the I.P web site—and let me give my compliments to the webmaster here, because since June of 1999, when I first perused it, [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com) has become a *site to behold*, if you'll pardon the pun—

(The CSR doesn't seem to mind the pun at all; I hear a guffaw.)

ME: —I was quite pleasantly surprised to find that my poem, "Ode to Sparky", had been published on the site. However, I was also somewhat perplexed, because although I have had dealings with Howard Ely and Cynthia Stephens in the past, a financial transaction has never taken place, nor have I signed an "Author's Release Form". I was wondering, then, how my poem found its way onto your site. Do you have any ideas?

**The National Library of Poetry**  
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## *Author's Release Form*

---

**Note: You must sign this form before  
we can publish your poem.**

---

I hereby certify that my poem, which has been selected for publication by The National Library of Poetry, is my own original work and that it has never been published; or, if previously published, that I am the sole copyright owner. I hereby authorize its publication by The National Library of Poetry.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (in case of questions) \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Poem \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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**CSR:** What it is is, the poems that we receive in the mail, we put them on the site. And people can put their poems on the site themselves. We just don't publish anything in our *books* without your permission. Unless it's inappropriate, we'll put it on the site.

**ME:** I see. Well, when I discovered Sparky's presence on the Net, I was so grateful that I composed a *new* poem, "My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard"—

(To my delight, the CSR emits a giggle over the poem's title.)

**ME:** —and I submitted it online to the ILP's free poetry contest. Then, upon searching for my name immediately afterwards, I was elated to see "My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard" listed alongside "Ode to Sparky"! However, when I searched for my name *again* several weeks later, only "Sparky" was listed—"Howard" had vanished.

Poetry.com Poet Search

<http://www.poetry.com/Publications/search.asp>

Searching over 1.7 million records... Please be Patient.

Name: *jessica westhead* **New Search**  
Last Name

First Name

Westhead, Jessica  
- Ode To Sparky

Search

9/25/00 3:43 PM

**CSR:** Well, we did have one problem. Some people have called and complained that their poem is missing off the site. It's the computer—the computer has gone through and knocked poems off the site. We're not doing it. Because when we go to look up [the poem], we're like, "What happened?" We have no earthly clue—it just disappeared. We don't have an explanation—we're looking into it.

**ME:** Okay, so "My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard" might have disappeared due to a computer error—not necessarily because it was inappropriate.

**CSR:** Right.

**ME:** So if I submitted "My Muse, Il S'Appelle Howard" again . . .

**CSR:** It would probably be there.

**ME:** Great! Thanks so much—you've been a bigger help than you know. Peace and poetry.

**CSR:** You're welcome. Bye-bye.

\*Name has been withheld to protect the innocent: the CSR who answered my questions seemed like a very nice person, with an impeccable sense of humour.

## Epilogue

So that's it, then — my newest mission  
this : I will enter "My Muse, I/  
S'Appelle Howard" online at  
[www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com) again to see if it  
has indeed been deemed "inappropriate"  
by the ILP Powers That Be, or if it  
has simply been "knocked off"  
the site by the ILP's  
rampaging computer. I'm leaning  
toward the former, since more than  
seven weeks have passed and I  
still have not received one of  
Howard Ely's "acceptance" letters.  
Perhaps he didn't "like" this  
poem...

... one can only hope.

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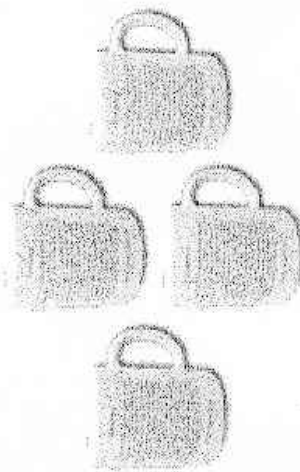
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Extruded September 2000

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