

Jim Davis, Jr.

Nothing Much to Say

I have nothing for you; hear

the failing language.

I will never write you, poetry.

I will write poetry
about you.

I dug my finger into the soft label
of a bottle of beer, condensing
a lifetime of conversation.

stripped it, inch by inch,
red speckling the quick of my thumb,
streaks of adhesive, stains of label, torn

until the bottle stood
frozen, naked –
an empty bottle, nothing more.

Jim Davis, Jr. In addition to his career as a teacher, poetry and painting are his greatest passions. He graduated from Knox College with a degree in Studio Art, and is currently searching for the appropriate MFA program. He is editor of the *North Chicago Review*, and will be appearing as the feature artist for an upcoming issue of *Palooka Magazine*. Poems from his forthcoming collection have been selected to appear in *After Hours*, *Poetry Quarterly*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Whitefish Review*, *Moon Milk Review*, *Chiron Review*, and *Contemporary American Voices*, among others. The title poem from a manuscript currently looking for a home, *Feel & Beat Again*, recently won the Scars Publications Editor's Choice Award. Davis has two additional poetry collections selected for 2012 publication: *Tavernous* (unbound content) and *Translations* (Mi-te Press).