

## Doug Holder

### A CAP

Sometimes  
I need it to  
contain myself.  
With a diverting  
brand name  
to hide the secret  
perhaps  
the shame.

A cap--  
a snug  
fit  
for my  
skull.

My scalp presses  
against the seams,  
oh...  
so many  
schemes.

Bozo tufts  
of gray hair  
explode above  
my ears,  
a vein  
on the side  
of my head  
pulsates with blood--  
an angry artery  
ravenous  
glutted with  
wanderlust  
hungry  
for escape.

There is something  
beneath this cap

percolating  
a pregnant bubble  
beneath the skin,  
something crying  
for an out--  
and then  
an in.

**Doug Holder** is the founder of the Ibbetson Street Press. He teaches writing at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston and Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. His recent work has appeared in the *Fox Chase Review*, *Boston Literary Magazine* and *Constellations*.