

**Lawrence Kessenich**

Urban Daydream

I want to retire to a cheerful condo  
in the city with striped wallpaper  
and a padded window seat in the lobby  
where the smell of fresh coffee  
from the diner next door wakes me  
in the morning, where I can walk  
to the library and fall asleep  
in an easy chair reading *Vanity Fair*.

I want to sit on the window seat and watch  
the commuters pile out of their buses  
scurry off to jobs they'd rather not do.  
I don't want to go anywhere I don't  
want to go, do anything I don't want to do  
be anyone I don't want to be.

I want to play Scrabble online against  
a robot, not caring if I win or lose. I want  
no grass to mow, no fence to repair  
no Jehovah's Witnesses lurking  
on my stoop. I want to look out on the  
cityscape from my balcony, sipping  
my third cup of coffee, blessing  
the beehive activity from afar.

**Lawrence Kessenich** won the 4,000-euro first prize at the 2010 Strokestown International Poetry Festival for his poem "Angelus." He has published poetry in *Cream City Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Chronogram*, *Conclave*, *Ekleksographia*, *Ibbetson Street* and *Wilderness House*. His chapbook *Strange News* was published by Pudding House Publications in 2008.