

# *Sketch*

---

*Volume 46, Number 3*

1981

*Article 18*

---

## A Bleak Time

Jim Kastner\*

\*Iowa State University

Copyright ©1981 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).  
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

## FOR CARL

by

*Jim Kastner*  
*English Grad.*

He opened doors  
on drunken nights,  
most nights,  
with his woolly head,  
like a ram.

Now he's dead—  
his skull smashed flat  
against a tree—  
bucked off a snowmobile.  
One more wooden door  
opened to eternity.

## A BLEAK TIME

by

*Jim Kastner*  
*English Grad.*

I am  
a landscape artist  
with my palette  
of indigo,  
emerald, plum,  
gold and magenta—  
painting at the pole  
in six-month darkness—  
staring at white canvas.