Junk Mail

Zachary Herrnstadt*

*Iowa State University

Copyright ©2002 by the authors. Sketch is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress). http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch
he takes up his pen holding
it above his head like a rusty

scalpel glistening
in the sun.

deep in thought, he eases
it down towards a blank sheet

of paper, stretched out on the table
like an anesthetized patient.

he hovers over the sheet for a moment
going over the first phrases in his head,

and plunges in,
the words making a short, sharp incision

an inch above her bellybutton.
his sweat stands

out on his forehead and sizzles
into the incision. He grits his teeth and cuts

deeper. This time a jagged line
from her ribs to her collarbone.

blood floods out of the slash, tattooing
his fingers with crimson ink.

he lifts the pen out of the messy sheet
for a moment, stabs

out his name at the bottom,
and waits for the blood to clot.