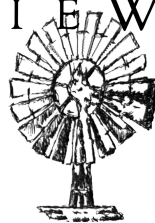


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## Worthwhile

Tom Pescatore

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# Worthwhile

by Tom Pescatore

You type  
what comes first,  
then you print  
labels, pull those out  
of printer smelling of  
heated glue and paper,  
smelling like newspapers  
and running belts and wheels,  
smelling like childhood memories  
you can't quite recapture  
with the smell gone, so  
suddenly leaving.  
Afterwards, you remove  
labels, place on folders  
and stamp Times New Roman  
red letters once  
for stamping's sake.  
Place the folder  
in its categorized,  
alphabetized place  
between other folders  
placed in their  
categorized,  
alphabetized place.

Then you leave it  
alone, knowing  
that you may  
never go back to it,  
knowing, maybe,  
it's possible that  
no one else ever will,  
knowing that this folder  
will outlast you,  
and your children,  
and your children's children,  
knowing that what is in  
that folder is less than  
worthless,  
knowing that all of  
your effort is meaningless,  
knowing that eventually  
everything but those  
folders will die.