GONE

Jessica (Jaimee) Bellissimo*
M. A. Writing and Literature Program, Rivier College

I take in effigy
That which (you whom)
I cannot constantly possess.

Your shirts (in bed,
alone, with your cats)
Your socks (but only on weekends - heaven
forbid anyone at work see them on)
Your tea (strong and scented like smoked cloves -
I hate it)
But I make myself a cup,
in your clothes,
your cats around my ankles.

(These are things that mean nothing at all
But) I must make do while
You are gone.

* JESSICA (JAIMEE) BELLISSIMO grew up in Tyngsboro and is currently a resident of Dracut, Mass. She is a graduate in English from UMass Amherst and is currently studying Writing and Literature from Rivier College. She works as a transportation manager for the MVRTA in Haverhill, Mass., and worked for UMass Transit in Amherst, Mass., before that. She has been published in Penny Dreadful and The Hampshire Gazette and is currently working on a collection of short stories.