### Seattle City Council

## Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting Tuesday, 2:00 PM, April 17, 2007

#### Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

#### Curated by Brian McGuigan

#### Today's poet is **Chris Dusterhoff**

Chris Dusterhoff was born and raised in the land of John Waters, Divine, row homes and big hair. He moved to the beautiful Pacific Northwest and began Spankstra Press in 1998. He has published chapbooks by Todd Moore, Harvey Goldner, Maged Zaher, Brian McGuigan, Larry Coffin, Eli Richardson, David La Terre, Ira Parnes and Arne Pihl and is working on a book by Loraine Campbell.

# A long time ago

By Chris Dusterhoff

A long time ago

when the graveyard was full

of our graves

and the can wanted to be kicked

into sarcasm

and spastic night

the whole lot of us

would go into the yard

between bedtimes

and fireflies

and the two streams we called

hello and goodbye

because of their

prophecies

usually about ten altogether

and hide & run & kick

& breath & love the sky

& those who breathed it w/ us

then the seven of us

would feed the bats

w/ pebbles

and play badminton

w/ the lightning bugs

and the neighbors didn't like us three marching down

the neighborhood

singing cajun songs in a waltz-type fashion

so they yelled

they yelled

those screendoor savages

that I shouldn't be out alone

when the streets

were waking

and the weatherman predicted Death and a slight chance of

showers

before

morning

-- end --