
Pro Rege

Volume 38
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue* 2009

Article 29

December 2009

January Thaw

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Recommended Citation

Schelhaas, David (2009) "January Thaw," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 38: No. 2, 39.
Available at: http://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol38/iss2/29

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A quarterly faculty publication of
Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

January Thaw

Dave Schelbaas

Finally today, temperatures above freezing,
blue sky and a bright sun teasing me into
thoughts of spring. The edges of eaves
drip a steady chatter of happy gossip and the snow,
so white and sparkly, almost blinds me. I could dance
were it not for the dark blue shadows of the ash trees that slash
across the frozen lawns to remind me that nothing is ever one thing.
The blue sky darkens, snow turns black, hoar frost grows on the gray walks,
but then the dark windows of houses suddenly flower, bright as marigolds.
This is what it is to live in a world which is straining to become
the Kingdom of God—a blue-white, January-thawed, happy-sad, hy-phenated,
half-baked kingdom. A world of “already-not yet.”