

8/29/08

My dear Wm—

I'm not sure I've ever shown the enclosed to you: examples of some of the most constrained literature I've ever had to write: Cash Register Poetry.

While working at the University Bookstore in Maine, I was asked to come up with marketing phrases that would appear on every cash register slip.

Constraints:

3 lines

16 characters per line

Had to advertise the bookstore and its products somehow.

A new one every month (or so); seasonal appropriateness expected.

The puns and rhymes that I tried to incorporate were just added bonuses.

These became highly anticipated and the demands drove me to ever more sophisticated responses.

One customer told me she had begun collecting them.

So, for your constrained enjoyment::::::::::::

Hope all is well. I'm still trying to get out of this hole of seeing how much needs to be done and therefore finding it difficult to do anything. On the plus side, I, a dedicated, unrepentant cat person, have begun writing a dog book for money (well, I hope it turns into money someday).

My best to Cristy and the Loopy Squawler.

later,

—Dirk

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dirk', written in a cursive, stylized script.

UMO BOOKSTORE

GIVE THANKS IN
NOV. GIVE
BOOKS IN DEC.

11/21/85 7:36PM
002E#0139 0013
/DIRK

CLOTHS \$23.23
ST \$23.23

**TTL \$23.23
CASH \$23.23
CHNG \$0.00

UMO BOOKSTORE

@ UNIV BKSTORE
CHRISTMAS GIFT
DIVERSITY & MORE

12/16/85 7:59PM
001A#4618 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

NEW YEAR (TIME
FLIES!)+TIME NOW
FOR NEW SUPPLIES

01/16/86 8:14AM
001A#8431 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

CELEBRATE PRESI-
DENTS DAY--SPEND
1&5 \$ BILLS HERE

01/30/86 2:58PM
002E#2481 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

CARDS DESIGNED
TO FIND & BIND
VALENTINE HEARTS

02/10/86 6:55PM
001A#1776 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

APR., THE FOOLEST
MONTH--SPRING RET
URNS&TAX RETURNS

04/09/86 2:24PM
002E#4157 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

ORIENTATION /MAT
RICULATION/COGIT
ATION/GRADUATION

05/02/86 8:54AM
002A#9335 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

MAY BE SPRING
MAY BE SUMMER
PRO'BLY JUST MAY

05/13/86 9:46AM
002A#9576 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE

UMO BOOKSTORE

SUMMER (WHEN SOFT
WAS TH'SUN) PATIO
SALES HAVE BEGUN

06/10/86 4:06PM
002A#0097 0013
/DIRK

NDSALE