

New England Journal of Public Policy

Volume 8
Issue 1 *Special Issue on Homelessness: New
England and Beyond*

Article 61

3-23-1992

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Recommended Citation

Johnson, Steve (1992) "A Single Man and Christmas," *New England Journal of Public Policy*. Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 61.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umb.edu/nejpp/vol8/iss1/61>

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A Single Man and Christmas

Steve Johnson

He has no one to be
near, so there is fear
he is not really alive
at all.

He feels the downfall
of his single life
like the fall of snow
that his lonely steps
tread.

He knows there is
only time, and that
Christmas is no different.
The hour still has its
minute minutes in its
being, a person with
time to decide his
determined necessities
and limits — of existence
from his consciousness of person.

So he follows his
style and desire in
his reason of reflected
imagination.

He allows his hands
room in his pockets
and walks the town
in winter air, dressed
in his hand picked
selection to the way
he wished to look.

His steps are
uncertain, but their
repetition passes the
time.

So he walks long
distances, through day
and night, to exist
with the natural forms
and forces of winter
nature.

Hoping to find
peace in the day's
air that he listens
to, like another
person listens to
another person, air which
is the person of
himself. He walks and
walks, thinking of human
affection and adventure.

Knowing his bed
will at least be there
to fall into, because
his many lonely steps
have tired his single
form.

12/28/89

Steve Johnson is a resident of Fifty Washington Square, Newport, Rhode Island. His work has appeared in In the Heart of the City, a literary magazine produced by the residents of Fifty Washington Square.