

Photo Bomb

Darrell Petska

I found myself up close
to everyone's hero
the great footballer

As the cameras ticked
I leaned my
head to the left
of the great man's head—

it might appear as if he and I shared
the same body and he never knew

I worked there long before he
started playing and he never knew
until now—

On the sports page
beside his trophy and
winning smile

a smudgy
emptiness the size of my head
or the dressing room tunnel

If you squint really hard
you can almost see me
there, clearing trash

Darrell Petska's writing tends to focus on the margins of society. His work appears in *LummoX*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Blast Furnace*, *The Missing Slate*, *About Place Journal* and other electronic and print journals. Day jobs have included psychiatric casework, nursing home evaluation, and university communications.