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### **West Coast poet emerges from the literary shadows to center stage**

PITTSBURGH—With nine full-length books and a spate of major prizes, Charles Harper Webb—once a well-kept secret in the poetry underground—has risen to the center stage of American poetry. Webb’s new collection, *What Things Are Made Of*, shows clearly why Webb has been called one of the most inventive, entertaining, and incisive poets writing in America today.

“It’s a warm, funny, passionate, complex, yet accessible, book of poems that everyone can enjoy,” Webb said. He makes liberal use of humor for serious purposes, and the poems are psychologically insightful—not surprising, since Webb is a licensed psychotherapist.

“*What Things Are Made Of* is a delicious antidote to the solemnities, banalities and absurdities of our culture, treated by Webb with hilarity and amiability,” stated Alicia Suskin Ostriker. “But lest you be tomfooled into thinking Webb is one of those poets who is all language and no heart, be warned—he also writes some of the best poems of love, sex, childhood and mortality that we’ve got. I hope Webb enjoyed writing this book as much as I enjoyed reading it,” she said.

A Southern Californian, Webb is the author of numerous poetry collections, including *Reading the Water; Liver; Tulip Farms and Leper Colonies; Hot Popsicles; Amplified Dog; and Shadow Ball: New and Selected Poems*. His poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Best American Poetry*, the *Pushcart Prize*, and *Poets of the New Century*.

Webb has received the Morse Prize, Kate Tufts Discovery Award, Pollak Prize, and Saltman Prize, as well as a Whiting Writer’s Award and a Guggenheim fellowship. He is professor of English at California State University, Long Beach, and directs the MFA in Creative Writing program there.

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