

Out of the Limelight

DAVID JAMES

Maybe it's my dislike for coconut,
my aversion to horror movies.

It could be because I teach
at a community college, not
some high powered ivy league school.

Could it be that I've never used "synergy"
in a poem before?

In a weak moment, I wonder why
most of the world ignores me
and my work, but then I realize it's pure conceit

asking that question. Instead, I explore
the aisles of every day living.

I turn a cold shoulder to endowed chairs;
I have no interest in the seashore
bungalow on Cape Cod, or being asked to testify

before Congress on how to bring
the classics to rural second-graders.

Let me have my quiet life, dinner with the grandkids,
golf with my wife, nothing to do in the evening
except write a poem or two in my underwear.