

## *Making History*

CHARLES WEBB

Columbus didn't think, "I've discovered  
America!" He was happy just to find dry land.

The men who won the Battle of the Bulge  
were only trying not to die. Even

the man who collected rocks too round  
for spear-heads, never thought the toy he made

would roll his offspring out of caves  
into a world of Fords and Chevrolets.

When politicians bray, "Future generations  
will look back..," I hope they'll see,

not some court full of hacks dismembering  
the constitution—not corporations battling

to own the *Homo sapiens* genome—not even  
doe-eyed aliens cooing mathematically,

“We come in peace”—but me: munching  
chow mein and chuckling at *The Snopes Report*

while my wife watches *The Evening News*  
with *Peter Jennings*, and my son stomps up

in a reeking diaper which I’m on my way  
to change when, in the dark cave of my brain,

two flints strike sparks that fall onto a pile  
of straw which I scoop up, then run

for my notebook, cradling the small light  
in my hands.