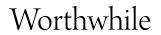


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Worthwhile

by Tom Pescatore

You type what comes first, then you print labels, pull those out of printer smelling of heated glue and paper, smelling like newspapers and running belts and wheels, smelling like childhood memories you can't quite recapture with the smell gone, so suddenly leaving. Afterwards, you remove labels, place on folders and stamp Times New Roman red letters once for stamping's sake. Place the folder in its categorized, alphabetized place between other folders placed in their categorized, alphabetized place.

Pescatore Worthwhile

Then you leave it alone, knowing that you may never go back to it, knowing, maybe, it's possible that no one else ever will, knowing that this folder will outlast you, and your children, and your children's children, knowing that what is in that folder is less than worthless, knowing that all of your effort is meaningless, knowing that eventually everything but those folders will die.