

## On an Ice Floe

That is where the Inuit  
would leave a loved one grown  
too old and feeble to care for  
anymore—without endangering  
the welfare of all. If an anthropologist  
asked why, the reply would be:  
"This is a natural and loving way  
to say goodbye, our culture  
simply lacks the resources  
to extend life further."

Sometimes I wonder  
what I will say  
when the next anthropologist  
asks why our culture  
also leaves its old  
and infirm on ice floes,  
to drift away.

Steve Bloom  
March 2005