

# Threshold

*by* Gary Hardaway

For a brief time—an ice age,  
a set or two of plague years—  
the earth was almost rid of us.

But we proliferated back  
and swelled like a deadly virus  
in the blood and organs of the world

until, by sheer mass, we poisoned  
what we need and soon-- none too soon--  
the earth will finally be rid of us.

