

WORDFEST PRESENTS

# JOSEPH TABBI

Mary, the first technician I get on the phone,  
browses the Web as I, clearing papers from my desk,  
wait for the drivers to re-install.

One dot... Two dot...

Such a person is addressing you—a collector of  
daily emails, graphic image archives, and text file  
attachments more numerous than books. And if a book  
collection becomes, as it became for Walter  
Benjamin, an image of the collector—what image of  
myself, what part of my writing life, is given in  
those files?

from *Overwriting*

**Joseph Tabbi**, professor of English at the University of Illinois, Chicago is the author of *Cognitive Fictions* (Minnesota 2002), and *Postmodern Sublime* (Cornell 1995), books that examine the effects of new technologies on contemporary American fiction. His essay on Mark Amerika appeared at the Walker Art Center's phon:e:me site, a 2000 Webby Award nominee. Also online (at the Iowa Review Web), is an essay-narrative, titled "Overwriting," an interview, and a review of his recent work.

Tues, March 30, 7 pm \* Union Brown & Gold Room  
Free and Open to the Public  
Refreshments to Follow CORE 5th Hour Approved

Sponsored by the Department of English.