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## What if?

Shawn Carter  
*St. John Fisher College*

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**Cover Page Footnote**

"3rd Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Spring 1999.

*3rd Prize Winner*

### **What if?**

I often find myself wondering, what if?  
What if I played in the NBA?  
Could I then do a commercial for Sprite,  
and honestly believe that image is nothing?  
What if I were a dog?  
Would I consider man a dog's best friend,  
or would I rather talk to the fire hydrant out front?  
What if I were God?  
Would I have created the a perfect world,  
or would I have taken all seven days off?  
What if I were this piece of paper?  
Would I be mad when you mark my white suit,  
or would I gladly wear these words?  
What if I were never born?  
Would my dad have more hair and my mom less wrinkles,  
or would they long for the son they never had?  
And what if none of us are really here?  
What if none of this really matters?  
What if the person who has dreamed up this world finally wakes up?  
Will we all come back when he falls back asleep?  
Will we remember what we once knew,  
or will we forget everything we have seen?  
What if nobody cares?

--Shawn Carter