

Literary Magazine of Winston Churchill High School, 1984

Poetry

3 imagine Early Morning Over the City 4 Town at Night 4 Daydream 5 Reve 6 One Light 10 In the Darkness 10 Alone 11 A Salute to the Great Salami Swami 13 Modern Love 14 Delusion 14 Face Value 14 The Truth 16 Things We Like To Reason 17 Thales in Disneyland 20 Simply, simply 20 Drivel to live by 21 The Wish 22 Fairytales 22 Obsession 22 No Twilight 24 Ballerina 25 Derailed 28 Endings and Beginnings (Part 9) 28 The Meek 29 Betty Friedan 33 A Feminine Ideal 33 Tina Cowles April 34 Cara Smith Slugs 34 Steve Cosson It's Raining Again 37 Juliette Hansen Jasmine Veil 37 Jen. Karp Candidate Laura Porter 37

Collaboration

39

D. Lewis C. McLeod Mike Terry Michelle Green* Cara Smith Nancy Greene C. McLeod Mike Terry Deborah Copaken* Jenny Sauer Cecile Coudol Nancy Greene William Judy-McKendry Tina Cowles D. Lewis Cecile Coudol Dan Winter* Jenny Sauer Robin April Carolyn Hong Jenny Sauer Michelle Green William Judy-McKendry D. Lewis Steve Cosson Susan Gorman

Walsh and Winter

Prose

- An Unjust Peace 8 Strawberries 15 Inward Bound 18 A Day Like Any Other 23 Like Forefather, Like Son **Just Desserts Civilian Defense**
 - Jenny Sauer* 26
 - William Judy-McKendry 32 Karen Ando
 - 36 Erica Schulman

Lisa Stewart*

Dan Winter

William Judy-McKendry*

Drama

Two Sides of the Same Coin

30 Michelle Green

Photography

Wheels	Cover	Greg Ferguson
Ducks	Cover	Rebecca Money
Boats at a Pier	Cover	Greg Ferguson
Watering Can	Cover	Greg Ferguson
A Wet Shadow	9	Greg Ferguson
Bridge with Lights	11	Sarah Gordon
Bandaged Banana	12	Katie Forden
John	17	Greg Ferguson
Endangered Swan	29	Rena Geckos
Fireworks	38	Rebecca Young

Artwork

1
01
ein

Erehwon Staff

Robin April Sari Ratner Juliette Hansen Susan Riggs Cecile Coudol Nancy Greene Patti West Laura Porter Julie Samuelson William Judy-McKendry Dan Winter Jenny Sauer Deborah Satinsky Carolyn Hong Mike Terry

> Faculty Advisor Peggy Zirzow

1984 PTSA Writing Awards

Poetry

First: Second: Third: Honorable Mention: Michelle Green Deborah Copaken Dan Winter D. Lewis Nancy Greene Susan Gorman

Douglas Messerli, who judged the poetry entries, is a professor of contemporary literature at Temple University in Philadelphia and is publisher of Sun & Moon Press. He is the author of three books of poetry, **Dinner on the Lawn, Some Distance**, and **River to Rivet: A Manifesto.** He has published numerous essays on contemporary poetry and fiction, and he is currently at work on a novel, **Letters from Hanusse**, and a new book of poetry, **Maxims from My Mother's Milk**.

Prose

First: William Judy-McKendry Second: Lisa Stewart Third: Jenny Sauer

Joyce Reiser Kornblatt judged the fiction selections. She teaches writing and literature at the University of Maryland. A collection of her short stories called Nothing to Do With Love is available on Viking Press. She has recently completed her first novel, Down to Earth, an excerpt of which will appear in Atlantic Monthly in late summer.

(imagine)

the Universe; a clutterdusted laboratory, walls

of Our nothing-vastness (nearly only imagineless to an our minded world) Earth; a

somehow science project, experimentor our some

wide wild eyed schoolboy still long aglow, open mouthed

mindedness we'll (imagine) never know

D. Lewis

Early Morning Over the City (Lost Night)

It's a quiet hush no roaches no priests A sad Sunday if in a plush domain

Religious truckers pray on the road rolling to a dark Monday

With the soft cause the gentle white blankets the city When the blinds flow turn off the world turn over the phantoms

The wall thickens Two figures trudge through in bliss The borders encase Two lives alone in the island of Dawn A pig is shot on Main A bus burns in the tunnel A plane will hit the bridge

Peace soup will clot in the eyes of the majority Blind magicians with slight of mind Disengage

The city awakens to cry sorrowfully for the lost night

C. McLeod

Town at Night

The town lay dormant, swallowed by the night (Haven of minds possessed but by darkness), Not touched by moonglow or hint of daylight, But shrouded wholly in ebon's harshness. Souls sleep blissful in houses still as wombs, Wearied after hours of working by day, Streets stand empty and as still as tombs, With naught but rats toiling in the byways. None save the birds feel the night's wafting breeze, Which rustles about in the treetops high, And none except the nocturnal can see The dim stars which speckle the cloudy skies. The night stands without heed to the warning Latent in the far reaches of morning.

Mike Terry

Daydream

Digression begins

Somewhere between position vectors and coplanar points With the wafting scent of burnt chestnuts and chocolate From a Fifth Avenue street vendor's cart

Or a glimpse of the color of cherry blossoms

Blooming in a park by a stream

In northern Virginia

Or the sound of parakeets

Chirping to strains of taped classical music

In the heady botanical gardens of Fort Lauderdale Then the mind must drift out of the real-number field

Into that other reality

Which cannot be depicted in neat lines

On a well-organized two-dimensional three-space graph Bounded by asymptotes and zeros.

The sand curves gently in the sunset, Following the erosive contours of the tide; I wipe the salt spray from my eyes,

Run damp fingers through my hair and inhale the wind, Rub my toes on the soft, sleek grass to remove the grit, Seeking the root of the equation.

Michelle Green

Reve

When is the moment, sword-like and shining, of the birth of a dream?

One crystal instant of illusion, a crumb of joy snatched from time, becomes a refuge, a realm of delight, a life line to my starved and slender source of solutions——imagination.

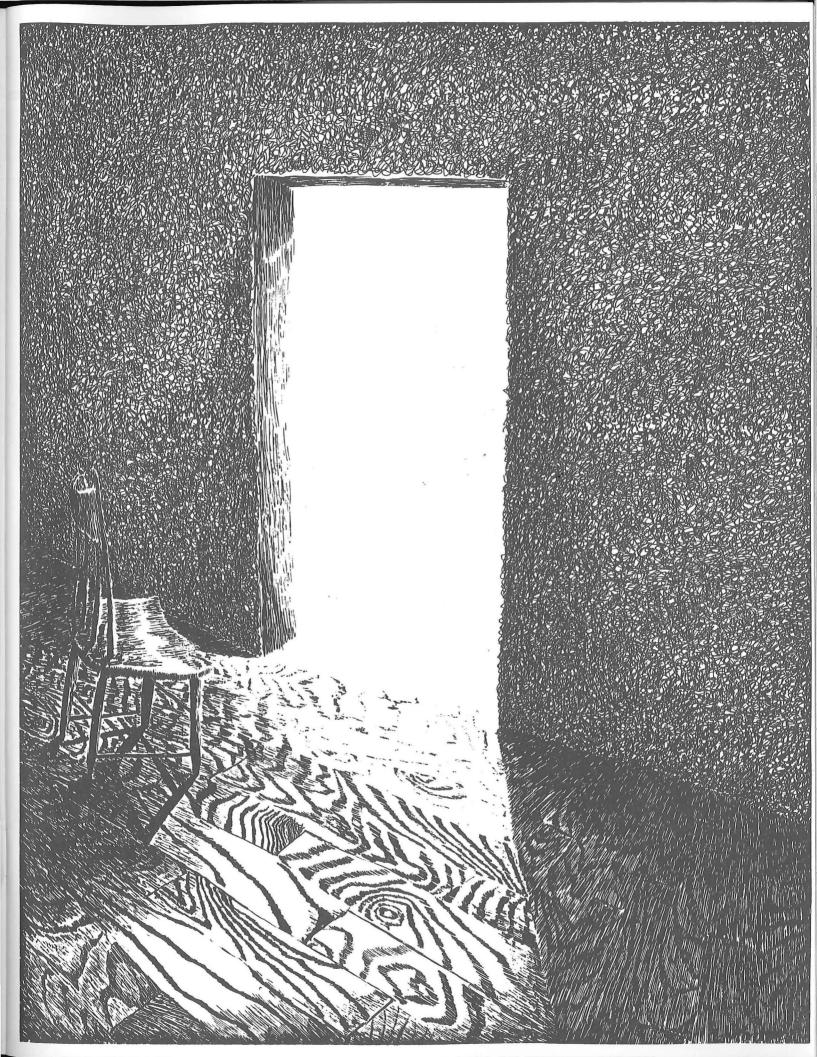
I keep it sacred— high above this mundane world of dry reality of achingly cold impossibility. My secret land of fire and fun, where life and death and breeze and breath are measured not in puny gusts of mass sterility, but roar in sweet and stormy puffs of power.

My world was a cloak and a sword and a galloping charger and a falcon that soared! Romance and danger, a gloriously stern adventure.

It shimmered— a wild and golden mirage to get me through each day. Oh, when is the moment, sword-like and shining, of the death of a dream?

A shock of reality reared and cried, and all my dreams turned black and died.

Cara Smith



An Unjust Peace

I prefer the most unjust peace to the most righteous war. -Cicero

I met the old man during #5, the big war between the old Union and The New Order. Actually, "during" isn't such an accurate way of putting it. Makes it sound like somebody's won. Oh, the Order said it was over when they captured Washington, but the Freedom Fighters in the Dakotas are never going to give in, and the Order knows it.

I met him somewhere the hell in Maryland, right before D.C. fell. The Order had taken every other state on the coast, so we had a choice between death and swimming the Atlantic. And whoever was in charge still thought it meant something to protect the Capitol. Damn, I thought, fat lot of good its going to do losing the last of the army for an empty city. So I deserted, and went off to see if the citizen's militia was still taking volunteers.

I found the Militia, about three-hundred strong. They looked about as orderly as an army can, hanging from electrical towers as far as the eye could see. The Order must have spent days on that little display. It looked like Christmas in Hell, and Satan had really gone all out this year.

That pretty much snapped it for me. I had no real reason to live, so I lit out for the woods to look for somebody to pay for what I'd just seen. About three days later, I thought I'd found just the fellow.

I saw him by a creek, wearing a big black wool coat just covered with braid-A Captain, and black meant he was with the Order. I had his back square in my sights, too, when he spun around and blasted my rifle to bits.

My God, to look at him, you'd swear he was one hundred years old and hadn't stopped growing. And He'd just shot the rifle out of my hands without a moment's notice.

"Hello." he says, like you always say to an enemy of your country who's just tried to kill you in cold blood.

"Hello." I said, like you always say to some one who's probably going to kill you if you blink.

"You're lost. The Order surrounded Washington 24 hours ago and bombed it flat. There can't be much left alive other than roaches. Come and drink."

I didn't know what the hell else to do, and anyway I was thirsty.

"You're a deserter?" he asked

I nodded.

"Me too. About three months ago, my company captured a group of militiamen and my commander decided to make an example of them. Crucified them on telephone poles from Arlington to here. Well, that's not what I'm fighting for. So I killed him in his sleep, and left. So, what are you called?"

"John Mars, Rifleman, 3rd class. Who are you?

He didn't say a word for one hell of a long time. Just stared. Finally, he said, "I don't remember. I just don't."

I gave him a look over, and checked his uniform. No names, no tags, nothing. Three months isn't that long a time, but I didn't know what this fellow had been through.

"Anything you'd like to be called?" I asked.

He kind of smiled, and said, "Peace."

"Well, why the hell not. It's got a ring to it. Damn clever name for a soldier, If you ask me."

But he didn't, and he seemed pleased, so I left it at that. For the time being, anyway. After a while though, my mind started working, and I went and got curious.

"Do you, in fact, have any particular reason for wanting to be called that?" I asked. At first, he just got that look in his eyes again, like a rabbit waiting for your car to hit it. Then it hit him.

"What else is there?" he said.

"War." I said.

"That's you."

Well, I'll be damned.

"How do you figure that?"

"Your last name, that's all. Mars."

With a name like Mars, you don't get off easy. I did ask my Dad how the hell we wound up with it, once. Mars, he said, was the greek god of war. He wasn't very brave or strong, or smart, but he was a champ at causing trouble for stupid reasons.

I usually stick with John.

"The only way to achieve peace is to end the war," he went on. "Wars end when someone loses. The sooner that happens, the sooner this will be over."

"Well, what are you going to do about that way the hell out here?"

That's when I noticed the gun he had pointed at me.

"This, for a start."

Don't let anyone tell you what fear tastes like. Fear tastes like a mouthful of dirty pennies that you don't dare swallow.

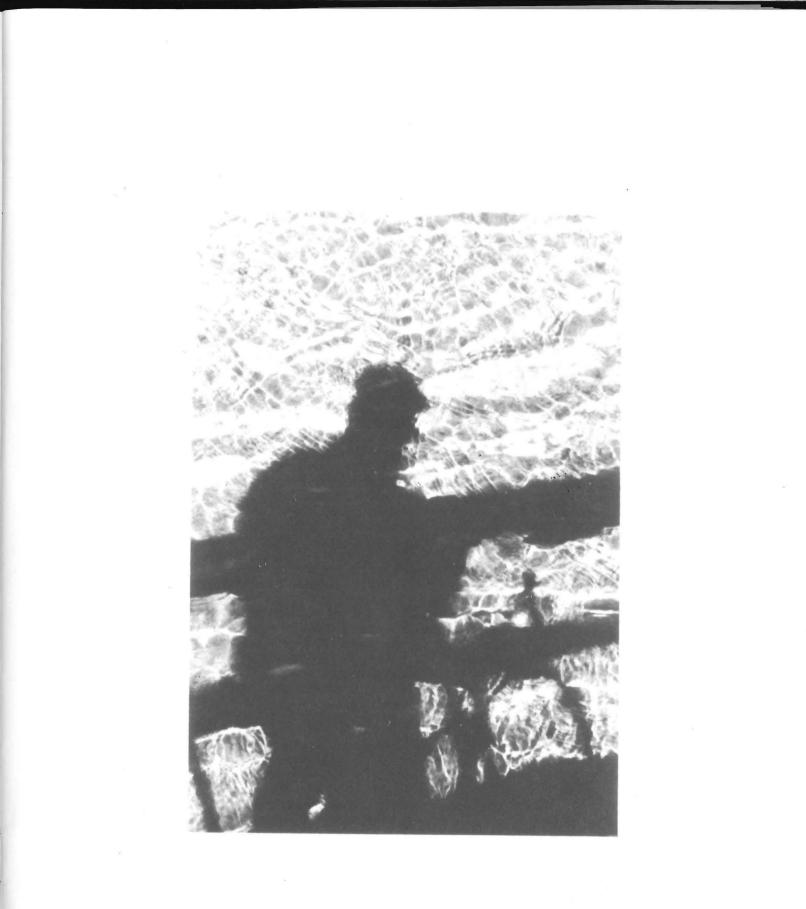
Fear doesn't paralyze you, either.

I've never run like that again. The sonovabitch still managed to hit me in the same leg twice. I'm damn lucky it's still attached. Only reason I'm not dead is that he left me for dead and didn't make sure.

I made it out of the wilderness three or so days later, then I ditched my uniform and posed as a refugee. The Order had set up hospitals, so I got the leg fixed, and worked as an orderly once I could walk.

That was ten years ago, I guess. I haven't picked up a weapon since.

Let me put it this way: War's got nothing on peace, even if he's not perfect.



One Light

one light one light shines one light shines till dawn and then and then it flickers out to be met again by the night's tide and we claw claw to stay alive through the fright one light shines one light shines till dawn and then it flickers out.

Nancy Greene

In the Darkness

It's out there It's living outside your room Out past your window Out past your wall There's something out there

It's moving towards you with a passionate pace Moving with precision Closer-it's here

It's past your arms It moves to your neck Crawling slowly upwards towards your eyes

You're able to see the Horror The Horror of the New Day

It's out there, laughing It's past you, moving quickly It's to your window Past your wall Outside your room It's lying out there

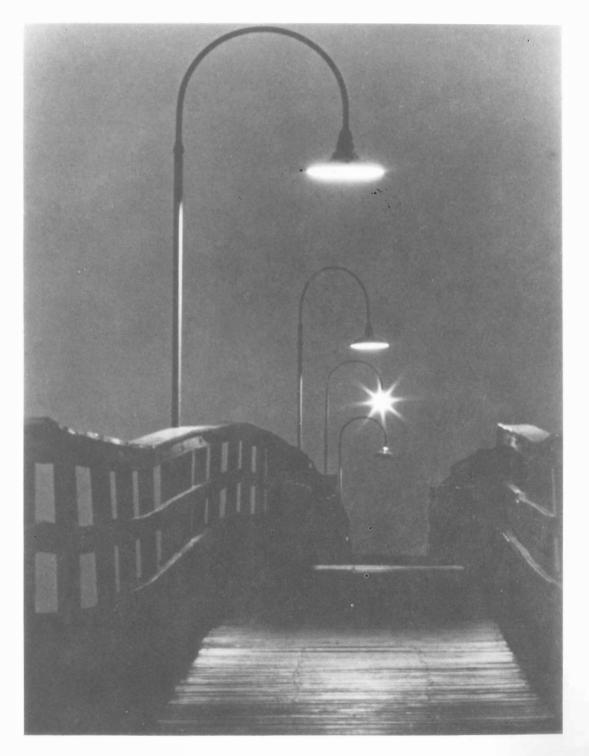
в

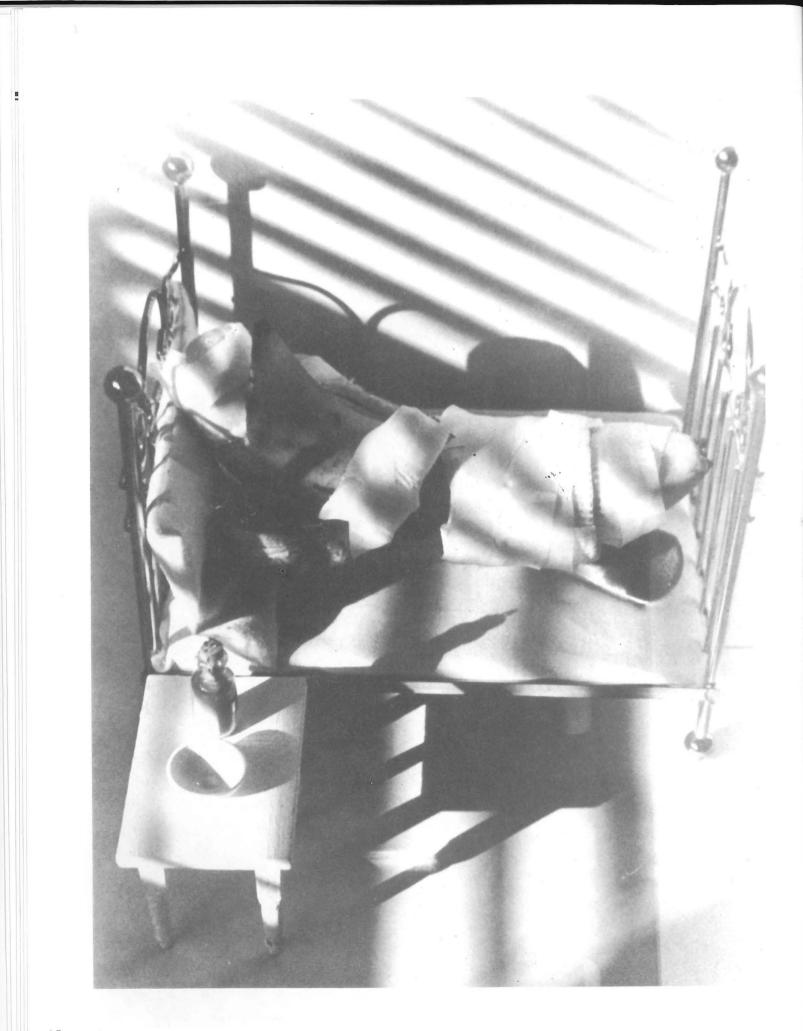
Alone

You know the city is your lady tonight, As her cold coaxing sigh whispers past your ear. She is enchanting, dressed in veils of white, Yet you feel the filth of her flesh lying near.

The snug chambers of her heart rest too high to reach, And they lie encased in a breast of stone; Only when you are under her feet may you beseech The bittersweet chalice of her love - you drink alone.

Mike Terry





A Salute to the Great Salami Swami

Where would we be without awareness. . . (actually, where would we be · · · without the r in awareness because that would just make its pronunciation change to a-way-ness and of course every fool knows that that [redundance, redundance, redundance] would epitomize the apotheosis of the crux of true awareness and, my aren't we erudite today, but, so, maybe, thus, henceforth shall we remember [contrite, contrite, contrîte] to love our brothers not our bothers and let's hear it for r's.)

Roar.

Deborah E. Copaken

Modern Love

She looked, blue blue blue into his oh so talented eyes. She said, Marry me you fit into my plan She, no more adolescent worrying had it together tan suit and all Time to get married marry an artist because Mom didn't He loved those blue blue blue eyes slow stirrings frozen currents behind that Vogue exterior. He said, yes yes yes you fit into my plan

Jenny Sauer

Delusion

I should have waited before assuming that soft flowers bending in a golden breeze could smell good or that

smiling children could be happy.

I was a fool to think that you had eyes to see my innermost thoughts or that I was a human to be satisfied.

My eyes burst from graveyards of empty shells hurled on a soundless beach

my human shell is full of water

Simmerless.

I'm only deceiving myself.

Cecile Coudol

Face Value

I took his head in my hands and popped it off. I looked inside his head and below it. Then I placed it back. To say he was, slightly annoyed would be an understatement. And to say I was disappointed would also be. But I put my hands on his face and kissed him lightly on the lips.

Nancy Greene

ж

Strawberries

My feet pounded on the sidewalk. One, two, three--jump. Up and over the fence. Around, around the corner. I was fast. Yes, the fastest! I could hear Sam and Jean behind me, but I was in front. The laces of my new red sneakers were flying. Whew. Fly, fly! Around again, again. Don't slip Lisa, no. Good. You're ahead. Keep going. Beat 'em. Back over the fence. Watch it, now. Jump! Okay, now fly to the finish. You're the fastest. Yes. Here you go. Yeah! You won again.

I bent over, gasping for breath and staring at the ground. Here come Sam and Jean. They fell behind me in the grass and tumbled over each other, giggling. "You always win." "I know."

I know.

When I looked up, there was Ronnie. He laughed at me; his white, white teeth flashed as a breeze blew his dark bangs up and back, revealing the twenty seven freckles Sam had counted just yesterday. Hands on his hips, he squinted at me and the twins in the grass, panting.

"Hey," I breathed.

Ronnie's hair fell back over his face as he left. The three of us stared after him as he raced down the block.

"Come on." I yelled, starting to run. Grudgingly, Sam and Jean followed.

We caught up several yards down the block and turned the corner with Ronnie. Sam and Jean poked at each other and tried to step on my heels. Ronnie wasn't talking, and, imitating him, I put on a serious face and walked like a wooden soldier.

"Hup, two, three, four." Sam and Jeannie fell into step and we marched down the block, following Ronnie. Then he stopped in front of old Mr. Kitchner's house.

Mr. Kitchner had a beautiful garden, the most beautiful in the whole neighborhood. The grass was a plush, green carpet which we were continually reminded not to walk on. He had a creeping ivy climbing the brick house almost past the windows. Mr. Kitchner looked to be about one hundred years old, but everyday he worked in his little Eden. He knelt among the delicate purple and pink flowers growing in bunches along the sidewalk. Mr. Kitchner's garden changed with the seasons. In the spring his bushes sprouted little red berries. In the fall his giant yellow and orange marigolds appeared in brilliant bouquets. But summertime was for the strawberries. Neat rows of green lay quietly and inconspicuously to the left of the house, and as the weeks of spring evolved into summer, tiny white flowers turned green and then red, ripe strawberries. I had never tasted them though. Mr. Kitchner would pick them just as soon as they were ready and then sit on his back porch eating, sharing them only with the birds.

But today Mr. Kitchner was not outside in his garden. His windows were closed, his curtains drawn. The tiny pink flowers were still, quietly waiting in the grass, their leaves studded with drops of morning dew that sparkled and glittered in the light. The sun was high and hot and the strawberries were out, big red berries shaded under cool leaves. They looked good and full of sweetness, so plump and juicy you wanted to pinch them between your fingers.

"Yaaaaaa!" Ronnie screamed and ran. He jumped through the flowers and fell on his knees in the soft grass. Savagely, we plucked up each strawberry, tearing at the leaves and stuffing our pockets with the fruit. Then down, down the sidewalk I ran with my shirt folded up over my berries and fell into the grassy lot around the corner. We laughed all afternoon, stuffing ourselves with strawberries. Each bite was a burst of flavor, sweet and sour together on my tongue. I lay back in the tall grass, my eyes closed, and breathed the sweetness into the air. Shirts and faces stained with red, the twins continued to giggle as we rolled in the grass, giddy with laughter and the deliciously sweet strawberry taste.

The next day, I was headed out to play when my mother stopped me. "Don't be too loud outside today. Mr. Kitchner died last night and his family is very sad."

Looking at her, I felt the sickeningly sweet taste of strawberries in my mouth. I ran to the bathroom and gargled. "What's wrong with me?" I thought. "Mr. Kitchner was old, a hundred years old. I never hurt him. Ronnie was the one who started it. I hate Ronnie. Mr. Kitchner should have shared with us before, anyway." I gargled again. The strawberries were still there, mingling with the minty taste. I started to brush my teeth furiously. Then through the open window, I heard the twins laughing. Looking out, I saw them tumbling in the grass, the sun shining down on them. Ronnie was there, too. The wind lifted his hair as he shouted at the twins in play. It blew back the curtains into my face.

"Hey!" I yelled out the window. Quickly, I wiped my mouth on a towel and ran out to join them as they played in the grass.

Lisa Stewart

The Truth

8

And the word did spread across the land, As kings played chess on fine grained sand The Lord has raised His Mighty Hand And smote the sky with his demand

Hail Mother Mary, Eve, and Ruth With two parts Gin and one Vermouth And every Woman Man and Youth Shall decide upon and speak The Truth

And the world did make A joyful noise Celebrate! Scream! Rejoice! So what's the Truth? We asked the voice, That, it replied, Is your own damn choice

And so the merry factions grew, each standing fast by what they knew And oh, this glorious day They'd rue Should they dispute the other's view And soon the world was near bereft of seekers of truth though I was left thinking of nothing of any real heft When The Lord stooped down and kissed my cleft

He wiped his lips, and burbled, You! are chosen of these Final Few You shall tell this Motley Crew of what is False, And what is True

so I leave my poem here for you, a fool's words, but oh, so true

William Judy-McKendry

Dying for a dream Miraculous occurrences of all kinds. Concepts of romantic love. Sociologically bankrupt theories that personify the cinematic life. The inevitability and the security and the promise of another year, while each moment we wring white stacks of possibilities on thin rope. A few, a lot like us, believe that the red white & blue will never run Reasonably, they speak of weapons and injuries, the cultivated way, perhaps less like us than more like another's injured dream. Others, who claim no marketable miracles for the future, continue to cherish good endings, the weekly wash, youth, but mostly the endless tributes of our saviors.

Tina Cowles



Inward Bound

Del wheezed as he struck the ground. He coughed nervously as the truck disappeared around the bend. Crouching low, he scooted into the thick foliage of the unknown forest. For the next three days, he thought, I have only my sometimes superior intellect to rely on.

Amid his occasional grunts and coughs, Del had no indication that anything at all was sharing the forest with him. He knew, though, that if he were wounded or dead, he would have more than enough company. He staggered to a halt near a large tree. A lapping sound trickled into his ears. Tired and thirsty, he crawled over to the nearby brook. Soaking his face revived him enough to address the situation concerning his food. He'd been running off and on for an hour and he was now rather hungry. He slurped some more water, crossed the stream, and glanced back to mark his place. Maybe I could learn to mark like the animals, he thought. Laughing, he trooped into the forest again, cheerfully pausing to gather roots and berries.

Stumbling over a successful beaver trap, he dropped most of his bundle. The beaver had been dead for guite some time, and the smell did not waft on the wind, but rather it streaked viciously into his nostrils, ringing an alarm bell deep inside Del.

He extracted the pungent victim from the implacable trap. He swallowed his rising bile, and he had to pause in his chore more than once to control himself.

On his return to the stream, the forest pulsed with life as it prepared for night. Del clambered up a tree at nightfall. He decided that the other candidates were undoubtedly experiencing boundless terror in the pitch. He delighted in the sporadic noises created by the innocent woods creatures.

Del grinned, all alone, but in the best company. He didn't fret about lions and tigers and bears. He reveled in the whuff of the investigating wolf. His eyes adjusted by dead night, and he watched as well as listened.

The animals slunk back to their lairs before the sun rose. Del shimmied down his tree, muscles creaking. He shucked his clothing and plunged into the brook. The water wasn't deep, but it was cold, and it rejuvenated Del.

After considering whether putting on clothes was a good idea, Del scrambled off, partly dressed, in search of food. Inadvertantly, he returned to the trap. The carcass was gone, as he suspected, but the thing was eaten, the bones sucked dry of marrow. The trap lay broken.

Del shuddered. Nature's beauty held great strength. Del hoped he would never have to face a true forest predator. Using the burbling brook as a base, he ranged far in search of new and interesting sights, sounds, and tastes. Scrabbling up a small rocky hill, Del heard a cough behind him.

A human cough has a deliberate air to it. This cough sounded spontaneous and unintentional. His whole body clenched, Del turned woodenly.

It stood four feet tall at the shoulder. Young and healthy, the wolf wore a wiser, more intelligent look than the ones at the zoo. Its presence seemed familiar, and Del knew it had been his nighttime "friend".

Calmly, it padded off into the heavy foliage. Del shook, and the tremors mirrored his heartbeat. Jangled, he wended his careful way back to the stream. With every step, he searched the ground. He didn't know exactly why.

The encounter of the day dampened Del's exultant spirit when reintroduced to night. The huge wolf sat below his tree, panting patiently.

At dawn, Del slithered down from his tree, grumpy. He cared little if the horrid beast were watching or not. It watched, and he knew it. Del bathed insolently anyway, refusing to be daunted by something he didn't understand.

A sentinel could not have been more diligent than the wolf was. When Del jogged for the logging road, to meet the Outward Bound II truck, the wolf padded along, taking little interest, it seemed, in Del's activities.

They both paused at the trap site. The wolf marked the chewed bones and the broken trap. Del trotted off, and the wolf shadowed him, as was its wont.

With a snap, Del fell, screaming. The wolf pricked up its ears. Del thought about his naivete of the day earlier. This wolf is no different from any other wolf. It, too, preved on the helpless, and Del qualified. The wolf slinked over to the fallen youth. Its huge jaws went to work. Del fainted.

At the U.S. Park Service station, Jon Davies placed a cool towel on Del's hot brow. He murmured to Del and tried to comfort the fevered boy.

"He sure was lucky," he whispered to the boy's Bound guide. "Damndest thing I ever saw. This wolf stood over him, keeping other wolves at bay. And the trap. . .was broken somehow."

Del liked to think of the maternal wolf as Mother Nature.

Dan Winter



Thales in Disneyland

Heart wallowing, head wading soul searching for the ticket booth (the iron sea is far too boundless)

You've followed the cold, rustless, rails but their tracks end at the start Sink deep but not content in your new ordered confusion (like me at the Great Mount's base) make it flawless, perfected phenomena Like the ferris wheel or Olympus who are we to turn it off

D. Lewis

Simply, simply

a man of drought-filled ageless arrow days had lived and come to hear the melody he lit a pipe and smoked, thought pensively of all the battles that had been lost that day

the time-held man, my brother says, is Sioux an ancient tribe, once and again had fought against the hate the pale skinned man had brought and tried to say that what was wrong was true

Now, what may be the point of rambling on about a dying race, no man would care the time of drums has changed to one of trains and border marks cannot be crossed, as lawns of cities, braying horns of cars in grand despair for life goes on, and we can change the lanes

Cecile Coudol

E

Drivel to live by

Lustful breathing of smoldering stick Leads to persistent pain. It hurts; cuts lives Like that! Don't forget the family, Oust that flaming fag with a flick.

Sociably sousing and excessive carousing Lead to inexorable inertia. Imbibing and driving don't mix. Don't forget your family, Avoid the pain of mourning-arousing.

Over-religious rearing Makes for mental midgets. Heads locked tight. Don't forget the family, But avoid over-steering.

Dan Winter

The Wish

After many years at last I have found the perfect flower And yet it grows away from the light It lives its twisted life quite happily But as it exists, so do I wither and shrivel in the face of the bitter sun.

Jenny Sauer

Fairytales

Hand in hand Side by side They walked silently They lovingly embraced and sat on a hillside They stared in each others eyes intently. A gaze of true love, some said Could it be chemistry that brought them together? Whatever it was, it was strikingly strong For they now kissed as his beard rubbed against the other man's mustache.

Robin April

Obsession

Perhaps it was love that brought them together; A kind of childish obsession. But this love was met with anger-A fiery Capulet dissension. Plans rose up protective arms Dreams whipped out to sever each limb. She taunted them with less than charm And conspirators who were secretly hidden. The blood flowed wine Poisoned by time, As a sharpness stabbed at the heart. Perhaps it was a love Of two different kinds, That incised the obsession apart.

Carolyn Hong

A Day Like Any Other

With a single, gliding stroke of the air pen, Phoebus Xenon illumined his left eye with fluorescent violet. He continued the phosphorescing streak past his left ear and down into the nape of his neck, thus completing his scintillating image. At the same time, of course, programming next year's megabucks in the fashion industry. He stepped back to admire his glittering countenance: something not guite resembling hair swept back from his forehead in rows of shimmering icicles, covering only the crown of his head; the sides were smooth and hairless as a woman's cheek. He surveyed the sharp features, their fineness emphasized by the lines of violet on his white skin. His eyes flashed silver, reflecting the colors of whatever his sight illuminated. Which at the moment was his outfit, geometric in style, of some unnameable color. It could be called white, yet it glistened with myriad hues not quite seen, but only perceived to be there. He noticed a speck of dust upon his grey boots, the boots it was rumored he never took off, and casually flicked it aside. 'Take a joy-ride, luv, and become one with the dustspeck horde.' He blew it a kiss.

His appraisal completed, he signaled for his trenchcoat and stepped out into the crisp November air, surrounded by bodyguards.

A sigh, then a hushed roar rippled through the beast of a thousand voices as it caught sight of Phoebus Xenon, 36, cult figure, trend setter, plasmatic hero of a cosmic youth. He held them immobile, drew their very souls to his being, enticed them to become one with him. And, as always, he wondered at this malleable lump of clay that was his to shape at whim. It was a game of follow-the-leader, with himself at the head. Subtle changes, in dress, hairstyle, would be echoed through the masses as though some intricate mechanism were at work. Snip a lock of hair, and watch as a hundred locks fell to the ground. Pierce an ear, a nostril, a lip, wear top hats and white lilies, and just watch, just look and wonder as the pattern repeated, again, again, and again. . .He was a pitcher and a pebble, and they the ripples in a lake.

And as he held them in hypnotic fascination, a generator cartridge was snapped into the barrel of a laser gun, a slip was drawn back and released. Xenon's telepathic bodyguard sensed the danger and slammed him to safety on the floor of the platform. At that precise moment, a laser bullet phpped overhead and thwacked into the crowd. Several more followed, and various bits of human flew into the air. Something hit the platform a few inches from Xenon's head. He opened his eyes and saw that it was a lump of plastic and metal, a few wires protruding peculiarly, and several smallish gears scattered about, like drops of blood. And he wondered. . .

Jenny Sauer

No Twilight

I am the darkness; you are the light Straight from the autumn sun you flew on angel's wings. Earth was my mother I ride the night.

I am of the water and earth Lurking in the mystic forest searching moonlight. You are wind and fire, The drifting spirit of scorching birth.

Did you think I was so rash As to throw away my rushing streams of chill water And ascend with you to the stars, Endure heaven's brutal lash?

Release me from your burning sight. The owl flies; the stag is calling. Night beckons. Fly away, winged one, For I am the darkness; you are the light.

Jenny Sauer

8

Ballerina

While striving for the perfect arabesque Or turning pirouettes across the floor With head and neck held straight and statuesque, Do you never wonder how many more Dances can be danced, efforts can be made, Before your clock too quickly strikes the hour When, as those roses tossed to your feet fade, Years of triumph will wither like a flower?

The time in which success is yours is brief. Old movements mean new agonies for limbs. And acts which once gained glory now give grief. Fame dulls to legend; too soon the spotlight dims, But now you feel it shining like the dawn And will dance onward, 'til the chance is gone.

Michelle Green

Like Forefather, Like Son

It was just another gray and indistinguishable Thursday morning, with just enough rain to make the world a thoroughly disheartening sight, but not quite enough to justify an umbrella. The young man in the greatcoat was carrying one anyway, unopened. Standing stock still in the middle of his driveway, he was waiting for a moment when everyone within range was looking elsewhere, and hopefully down. And when the moment came, no one saw as he raised the umbrella at arm's length, opened it with a flick of his wrist, mumbled softly, and rose into the dreary sky, as smoothly and serenely as a soap bubble. Oliver Blackburn, the last son of Merlin, was late for school.

Flight, Oliver had learned from the journals of his ancestors, was simply a matter of convincing the force of gravity to bugger off for a while and busy itself with something else. The umbrella had nothing to do with the process, but since Oliver didn't quite have invisibility down yet, he had to stick with flying in the rain. Nobody in their right mind wants to look up at the sky when it's raining, only manic depressives and other lunatics. And who's going to take them seriously when they say they saw a boy with an umbrella floating through the air? Oliver reasoned. People will just think that they have Mary Poppins fixations, or, they were staring at a Magritte print for too long.

As he was thinking this, much to Oliver's chagrin, it stopped raining. This made necessary a hasty landing in a small but dense wooded area between two housing developments. After studying his surroundings for a bit, he noticed a path, and decided to see where it led him. After a few steps he found a small pond, bloated by rainwater. Lovely, he thought, ought to be a photograph with a tacky poem in the corner. Then he noticed something stirring up the water.

"Oh, God, please not this again," he groaned, watching as the Lady of the Lake emerged from the pond wielding an old bloodstained broadsword. Excalibur, thought Oliver, his head beginning to ache.

"Don't you ever give up?" he shouted. "Why do you even bother? The last of Arthur's line died in the London blitz nearly fifty years ago. The rest of the round table's descendants died in the trenches with lungs full mustard gas, before they were old enough to h reproduced. So there are no more of us left! Only me. *I* I want nothing of you."

The Lady of the Lake watched Oliver with bloodcurdling patience of a kindergarten teacher deal with a problem child. She dropped the sword at his fe

"No. I don't want it. It doesn't matter to me who ancestors were, and it doesn't matter what I am. I did ask for this, and I won't just blindly accept it as fate whe woman with a sword lying in a pond tells me I am destin to lead the world out of the dark ages again, then follow me wherever I go.

I've already made my decision to lead a normal li What would you have me do? Be a messiah? Perhaps master criminal, or a cult leader. You don't seem understand how meaningless it is to be a wizard who technology has surpassed you. Here I stand, last son Merlin, Oliver the obsolete! And as for this..."

Oliver picked up the sword, swung it back over his hear in an arcing slash, and threw it at a nearby rock. It slid i easy as a swithblade into an apple.

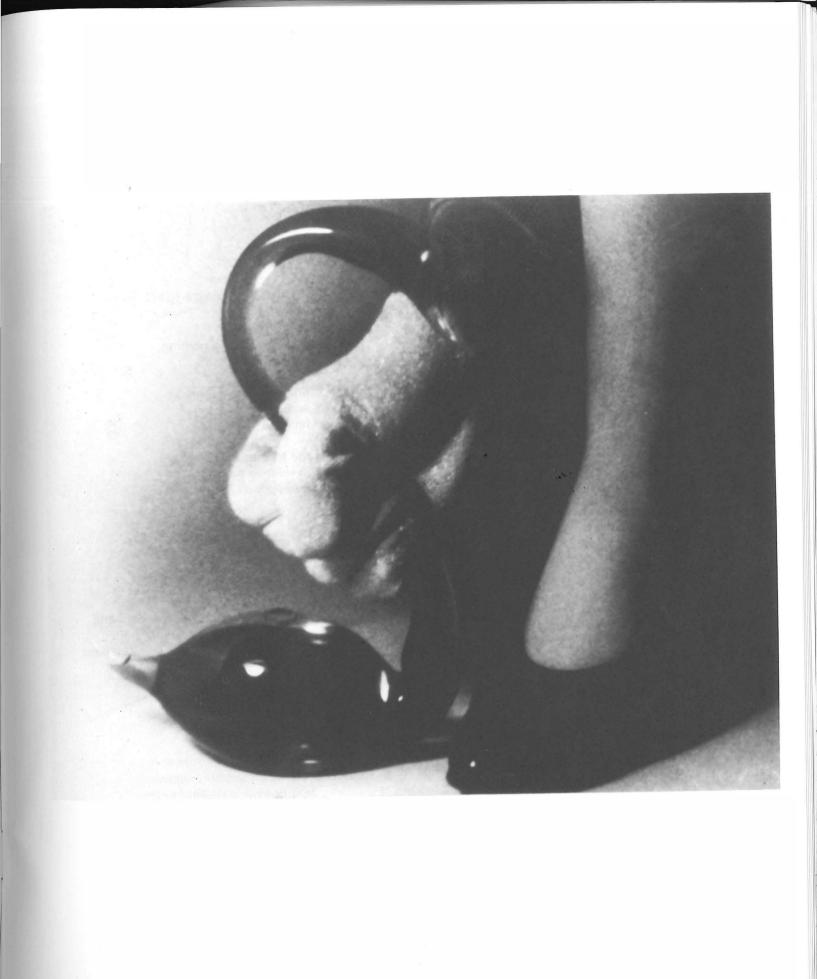
"And there it stays. Now head back to Camelot."

The rain started up again, blessedly, and Oliver resume his flight, leaving the Lady of the Lake to deal with he dilemma however she could. Who knows, he though perhaps some new savior will happen to...but no. That the stuff of fairy tales.

* * * * *

The boy with the bright blue eyes was exploring th woods near his house when he happened upon th beautiful old sword. He couldn't figure for the life of hir how it got stuck in the rock, but it was stuck fast. Still, h wanted it, and he was going to have it. So, Victor Hager the last male descendant of Adolf Hitler, went home t find a sledgehammer.

William Judy-McKend



Derailed

When I was twelve, I slept on a train which made it possible to travel from my world to Disney's in the space of a single day

8

I fell to sleep watching dead cities Marvelling at the scores I had passed Lying perfectly still at 100 mph

I awoke to a nightmare, with the window I had watched smashed to a spiderweb and the contents of the razorblade dispenser scattered about the floor like the dead strewn out on a battlefield

The car I had slept in lay dead across the tracks Flanked by two of its fellows protecting a wounded member of the herd

One of its wheels had failed, and it lost its essential grip while slowing to meet the city of Savannah, Ga.

Were it not for the city of Savannah, the minion of Amtrak would have derailed at 100 mph and crushed me as callously as a child stepping on an autumn leaf

A wise man once told us that all that happens will bring on an equal and opposite reaction so, whatever we do to make life more efficient will make death equally so

and Savannah will not always be there

William Judy-McKendry

Endings and Beginnings (part 9)

. . .and then the big bang sending all into nothing where and again

> only timeless-longness enduring watching forward

the Inevitable Miracle in relative seconds it happened

that and again this time it was quicker than before

growth was simple

. . .and then the big bang

D. Lewis

The Meek

A doe

watches the sky explode sees the sky rain fire her eyes buldge and blaze

A mouse

peeks from under its leaf sniffs around the ashes its foot catches on shrapnel.

A bird

picks at the bread on a grocer's shelf builds its nest in a glove compartment her young are strong and healthy.

Brad Er

A man

staggers through a silent field stumbles on a twisted root his eyes stare endlessly.

And the trees were laughing.

Steven Cosson

Two Sides of the Same Coin

Characters: *Twelve to fifteen, exchanging parts as it becomes necessary. Since the scenes shift so often, a minimum of costuming allows characters onstage to change into each others' characters or to take on new roles.*

Setting: An empty, curtainless stage with a large globe, the left half painted black and the right white, at the center of the stage.

(House lights should dim several seconds before the players enter, giving the audience time to wonder the nature of the globe. He enters stage left; she enters stage right.)

He: Look at that!

She: Oh! My goodness! It's white!

He: No, it's black!

She: But it's white! The first thing I noticed about it was that it was white!

He:Well, maybe you should get your eyes checked. You noticed wrong. It is clearly, conclusively black.

She: And you are repetitively redundant. Maybe you need your eyes checked, or psychiatric help. It is white!

He: I know black when I see it!

She: It is white, white, white! He: Black!

She: White!

(She slaps him across the face. He punches her in the jaw. They fight behind the globe, separate, circle each other. Then they fight in front of the globe until she is at stage left, looking at the black side of the globe, and he is at right, looking at the white side.)

He: It's white! Don't you have eyes?

She: You are deranged. It's black! It has always been! It will always be!

(She exits. Enter a psychiatrist. He lies down on the floor, looking up at the globe; the psychiatrist faces the audience.)

He: It's white. I know it's white. Why did she lie to me?Dr: How long have you had this fear of deception?He: It's white, of course. Just like my mother always told me.White, pure.

Dr: Things in life aren't always black and white, you know. **He**: Are you accusing me of having a two-valued orientation? You're not supposed to judge! You wanna fight, huh?

(Enter two armies, commanded by a general dressed in white (WG) and a general dressed in black (BG).)

WG: This object is white. It is therefore claimed by the crown.

BG: How dare you make such a presumption, or tell such a fib! This object is black, and is ours by right.

WG: What right? You are unworthy to command, you proletarian swine! This object is white!

(The troops engage each other. Enter a King on the side of the White Army. Enter Communist Dissenters (CD) on the side of the Black Army.)

K: I hereby decree that this white object belongs to us. CD: You are a foolish tyrant! This object is black.

K: I have decreed that it is white! Let no man speak to the contrary, or he shall be put to death!

CD: Comrades! This man is an enemy of the people! He must be stopped! (*Black Army executes King.*) At last we are free! Let the people rule! We hereby decree that this object is black!

WG: But it is white! Look at it!

CD: This man is an enemy of the people! He must be stopped!

(Amid cries of "Death to the enemy, long live the majority, the people rule," the Black Army begins to torture the White Army.)

BA: What color is this?
WA: It is white! AAAAGH!
BA: What color?
WA: White! White! AAAAAGH. . .Black! Black!
BA: But you just said it was white!
WA: I was wrong! I lied! It's black! Let me go!
AAAAAAAAgh!

(Exit Black Army, leaving bodies scattered on the stage. Enter a Doctor (D), who joins the Communist Dissenter.)

D: I hereby decree that these men are officially dead.
CD: And the globe? Can you prove that black is its true nature?
D: No. But I can prove that white is its true nature.
CD: You have evidence of this?
D: I do.
CD: It must be destroyed.
D: It cannot be destroyed!
CD: Then you must be destroyed! (Stabs doctor.)

(Dead bodies on stage rise and become Hippies (H), as Black Army reenters as National Guard.)

H: Ban the establishment! White is right! Ban government cover-ups! Ban the government!

NG: This object is black. It is government property. Keep your distance!

H: Ban the government! White is right! Ban Black! Ban war!NG: Escort these men off! Defend the Constitution!H: Hey, freedom of speech, man!

(Hippies are escorted off. Enter scientists working for the government.)

S1: How are your results?

S2: Inconclusive.

S1: The feds'll fire us if we can't prove that this object is black.

S2: As far as I can tell, this object has a dual nature.

S1: A scientific anomaly! *(Pause.)* What'll we tell the press? **S2**: We'll tell them nothing. Let's get out of here.

(Enter a Marine, in white, and a Naval Officer, in black.)

NO: Who are you?

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{M}}\xspace:$ Marines, sir. Since this object is white, I have come to claim it for us.

NO: But this object is black! That makes it Navy property. Besides, look at yourself - you are black.

M: No, I'm not! You must be color blind. I am a Marine; I am white.

NO: Have you ever seen the moon?

M: Of course! It is white.

NO: And when it is eclipsed?

M: It is black.

NO: You see? We all have a dual nature.

M: I won't accept that!

NO: Are you racially prejudiced? Do you believe in a superior race?

M: Well. . . yes!

NO: Then you must be converted to a new and more enlightened way of thinking!

(Enter two priests from the same side of the stage, one in white, one in black (WP and BP)

BP: It is white! Save us! We are doomed!WP: It is white! We are saved!BP: Are you mad? We shall die and burn!WP: Are you mad? It is a sign! The Lord will save us!

(Two more priests, one in white and one in black, enter from the opposite side of the stage. W2 and B2)

W2: It is black! Save us! We are doomed!
B2: It is black! We are saved!
W2: Are you mad? We shall die and burn!
B2: Are you mad? It is a sign! The Lord will save us!
BP: Devil worshipers! It is white! We are doomed!
WP: Satan's spawn! It is white! We are saved!
B2: We are saved! But it is black!
W2: It is black! And we are doomed!

(Verbal argument breaks out. Enter the Communist Dissenter, with White Army.)

CD: I represent the Moral Majority. This object is white! All: How dare you presume to tell us what to believe! CD: The majority must rule. We must take this to the World Council!

(Enter the World Council, composed in a semicircle around the globe. Members are addressed as UN1, UN2, etc.)

UN1: I think it is clear to all present that this is an issue of hyperverbal discontenuation, and not improbabilical dichotomizing. We can all see the true nature of this anomaly; we must agree on some nonnomenclatural title which isn't a problem to and subdivisional independents of the human experience.

UN2: Stop the verbiage. What he's trying to say is that this globe is white, and all we have to do is get everyone to agree on this obviously correct fact.

UN3: And we will never agree! You lie! This globe is black! UN4: As usual, those who have the least to lose are stalling! Why deny the facts? This globe is white! UN5: This globe is black!

UN4: You're on the brink of commencing a war, mister! UN5: So be it!

(The council dissolves in chaos. Screaming people run across the stage, crying, ''War!'')

CD: Look at the sky! It's black! **K**: No, it's white!

(People begin to drop. Screams are heard offstage. At last, all is still for a few moments. Then He and She, the last two people on earth, enter.)

He: Look at that!
She: Oh! My goodness! It's white!
He: No, it's black!
She: But it's white! The first thing I noticed about it was that it was white!
He: I know black when I see it!
She: It is white, white, white!
He: Black!
She: White!

(They scuffle, until they are on opposite sides of the globe, as at the beginning of the play.)

He: It's white! You are deranged. She: Don't you have eyes? It's black! It always has been! It always will be!

(They stalk offstage, furiously. The bodies rise, cry out "Black" or "White", and stalk off. Stage remains bare for several moments.)

Michelle Green

Just Desserts

"'...She gripped the mildewing edges of the rotting casket and lifted her decaying body into an erect position. Caked with blood and molding flesh, the corpse turned her head and smiled at me.' Fantastic! "he thought. "This is a great book."

Sidney had been an avid reader of horror novels for over three years. He found gruesome gore and deranged deaths more intriguing than homework and the other kids. His school locker was stacked with bent and dog-eared paperbacks, worn from being clapped into notebooks when the teacher walked by.

And at school everybody knew him. He had been voted by his peers as "Most-Likely-to-Succeed-in-Pathology" and was generally recognized as "That-Four-eyed-Lonerin-my-English-Ćlass" or "That-Weird-Kid-Wearing-Floods-with-the-Fly-Down".

Having few friends, Sidney had grown quite detached, finding refuge and fascination in the world of horror. He was contented; his vivid imagination guaranteed that, because in Sidney's mind, the classroom was a witches' coven, the students grisly monsters, and the teacher a vicious demon.

"Sidney!"

class."

Sidney was jarred back to the reality of the classroom. "Sidney," the Spanish teacher bellowed, "what are you reading? Obviously you find it more interesting than my

"Oh no." Sidney thought, "The she-monster from the depths is addressing me. If I close my eyes, she will sink back to the deep."

Sidney opened his eyes and found that the teacher was still there, approaching his desk. She extended a hairy claw and ripped the book out of his hands. In a sarcastic tone, she began to recite to the class the page that he had just finished reading. The other hellcats heckled in unision and made retching sounds. Sidney slid down into his seat, hurt without the protection of his chimerical world, and thought, "Someday, someday they will be sorry that they laughed at me."

On his way home, Sidney stopped off at the local coffee shop. He sat down at the counter and waited for the girl to

take his order. She was occupied gossiping with her girlfriends. When she saw Sidney sitting forlornly at the other end of the counter, absorbed in another novel of horror, she stopped gossiping and began an animated recount of his embarrassing experience in Spanish class.

"I'll have a pistachio shake, please." requested Sidney trying to be polite.

The girl, whom he recognized as one of the hags from his Spanish class, reluctantly pulled herself away from her gorgon friends and proceeded to make the shake.

"Will that be with or without rotting flesh?" she asked mockingly. One of the gorgons, doubled over in laughter, accidentally pushed her glass of Tab off the counter, forming a large puddle on the other side.

The girl finished adding the ingredients and, still laughing, unknowingly stepped into the puddle of Tab and put the metallic cup of ice cream underneath the machine.

"She's gonna get it." Sidney cursed, trying to escape into his newest novel.

The girl flicked on the shake machine and then a resounding ZAP followed by the acrid smell of ozone filled the shop. The Gorgons began to screech and Sidney leaned over the counter to see the girl, flat on the floor in a mush of ice cream and Tab, her mouth agape and her eyeballs rolled up to the back of her head.

Sidney stepped out of the shop, oblivious to the horrified crowd that was forming, and walked home in a daze. He wasn't sure if he had imagined this horror or if it had really happened until the next day when he read the terrifying account of the fatal electrocution in the newspaper.

" 'Agent 008, unaware of the KGB assasin on his tail, returned to his hotel room and began to review the stolen microfilm. Suddenly, his concentration was broken by the explosion of a pipebomb outside his room door.' Wow!," thought Sidney, "Now *this* is a great book!

Sidney had become an avid reader of spy novels.

Karen Ando

Betty Friedan and the Quantum Theory of Lip Gloss

They wear spiked heels and short skirts and laugh in loud shrills while twisting their fingers in flirtatious flustered fidgets through their curly permed hair. And while working on their doctoral thesis on the Quantum theory of lip gloss, they raise their hands while calling Wait-I-don't-understand-oh-Bob-you-big strong-right-hemisphere-dominant-football-player (flutter, flutter) can-you explain? And Big Bob who is so swell-headed that his cerebrum has been damaged by turgor pressure, he laughs, and shaking his head, feels superior. Betty Friedan, where are you when America needs you?

Susan Gorman

A Feminine Ideal

Again she dreamed she loved him. This time, she had felt lightning bite at his touch and the smash of glass needles rise with the hair on her arms. As she clutched at his very breath, he promised to set fire to all the lakes and rivers.

Later, would she flinch if he flushed, then plunged her back clot by clot? Perhaps not

Perhaps. For now, to be drunk on perfumed poetry, fleshed with the wind through her throat, running panic, she ignored all choice but to be slipped forever into the wild wreckage.

April

Through mist and wet I go entranced, sodden-shod, tramping through soggily green fields.

A stream trickles over a spider's web, glistens, stretches, and tears, while tiny yellow dandelions bravely blaze among the green.

Cara Smith

Slugs

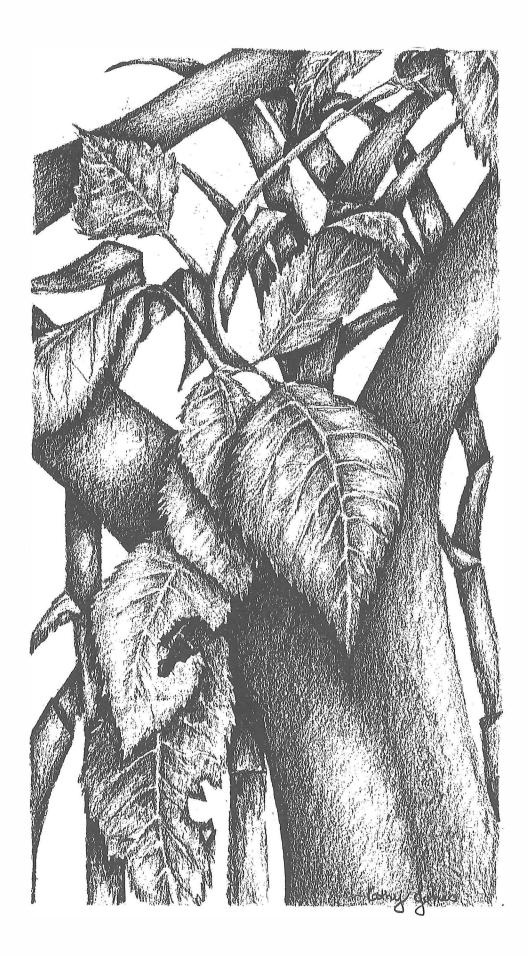
Slugs are passive and mellow and sometimes the loveliest shade of yellow.

Though they look like cud and jello, a slug will use a smile as his umbrella.

A slug will let you step on it with no complaints, nor quips, nor quibbles.

So don't storm off into a fit if upon your Rose it nibbles.

Steven Cosson



Civilian Defense

Thompson looked up as he heard a sharp knock on his office door. He pushed aside some papers, ran a hand through his spare hair, and called, "Come in."

The visitor entered with slight hesitation. Thompson was annoyed, but he waved Grant impatiently into one of the undersized chairs near the desk. He then picked up one of the papers near him and started to write.

Grant watched for a few moments, then burst out, ''ls it true?''

Thompson paused, then smoothly resumed writing. "Is what true?"

"The shield--come on--the whole section's been talking! You can't keep that secret very long, no matter what regulations say. Can we block the nuclear missiles?" Grant leaned forward, eyes bright with anticipation.

Thompson put down his pen and stood up sternly. "The section is not responsible for this project. I am. I think we shall succeed, but it is untested."

Grant fingered the edge of the desk as if considering whether he should continue. "Well, if that's all you're going to tell me..." he trailed off hopefully. As Thompson stared ahead truculently, he sighed, "I suppose so. Thanks for the information." He slipped out.

At home, Thompson felt irritated about his encounter with Grant. Damn fool, no notion of security. It was unimportant; everyone would know soon. He mechanically hung up his tie and looked through the dim light at his reflection in the old and dusty mirror. His brown hair had become dull and thin, his eyes shadowed with fatigue. The hours of work on formulas and theories had molded him, sapped his energy. It was a cold and hollow face that looked back at him. He turned away.

But America is still first, he thought. Just like World War II...we were first. First to invent nuclear weapons, first to use them, just like Hiroshima with the charred bodies.. Thompson gasped with sudden pain as he shook violently. When the spasm passed, he lay back on his bed. His frailty had not stopped his work; nothing had interfered. Now America would be truly safe. But at whose expense, he wondered. . .

The morning came and Thompson felt a great weariness. He lay quietly, not wanting to disturb the fragile peace. I can't face them today, he thought. No energy. Ridiculous. And I'm the one who is supposed to save us.

Thompson rolled out of bed and felt a painful stab in his back. He walked awkwardly to the window and looked out at the park. The trees were green and fresh with spring. He started brewing a cup of coffee, viewing the landscape through the thick glass.

The weariness would not leave despite Thompson's determined efforts so he compromised and sat down. He felt a sudden aversion towards leaving or working on the same formulas that meant so much, day in and day out...

He looked up as he realized the small apartment was filled with the smell of burnt coffee. He shook his head. Ridiculous.

At lunch Grant seemed more subdued. "Sorry if I was nosey the other day, Harry. I didn't mean to be rude, but this is monumental, isn't it? Why, you'll change the world situation." He gave Thompson a keen look. "Seems like I owe you some information, and I'm one up on you now." He whispered in a conspiratorial tone, "I heard that if this thing checks out, we're going to start operations in Afghanistan and a couple of other places. We can really stretch out now. Marvelous, isn't it?" He grinned and took a large bite of his sandwich.

Thompson's throat felt dry. "Marvelous," he replied, avoiding Grant's gaze.

Thompson walked into the laboratory with a firmer step than the past tortured months. There were no more questions now. He unlocked the steel safe recessed deep in the concrete. They guarded it well, he thought grimly as he twisted the tumblers. But no one would suspect him. He reached in and shifted through the stack of papers inside. He drew one out and scanned it carefully, reading it over and over again. Then he dipped the edge of the paper in his lighter flame as a sad smile spread across his face.

Erica Schulman

It's Raining Again

A flood of misinformation streams into your mind let loose in such a flurry that it irrigates your brain compounds, compiles, condenses, and rains from your mouth to fertilize the nonsense fields which swallow the rain, swell, and sprout.

Juliette Hanson

Jasmine Veil

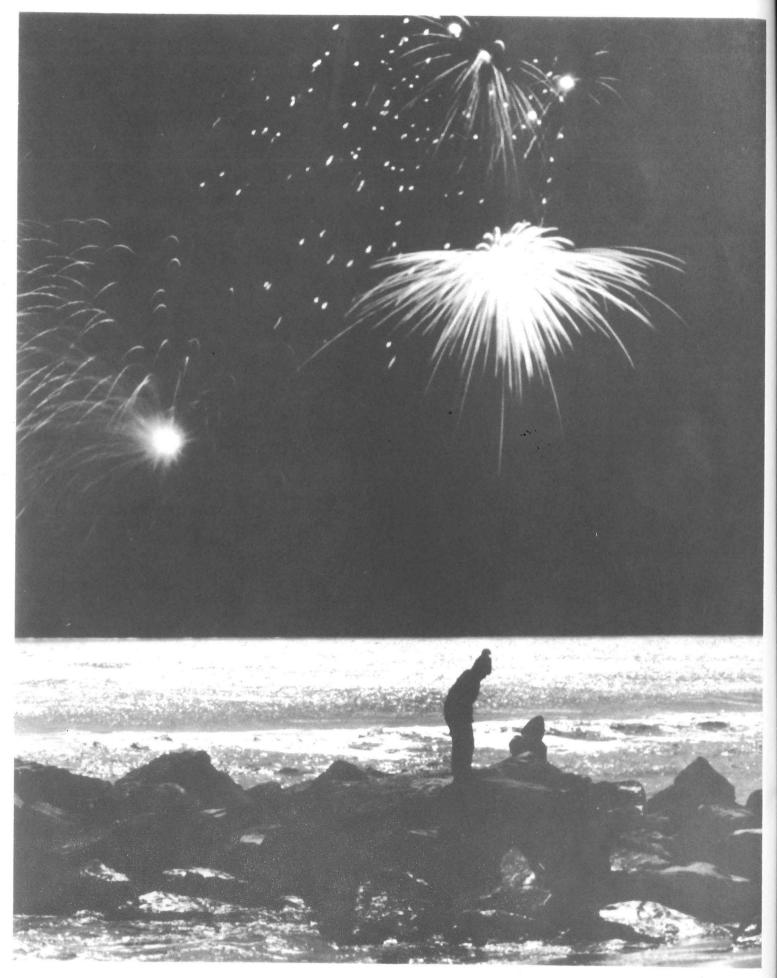
Honey-lit colors arise from the sun Smoke circles in the arriving night, Will it ever smile or cease its thick, sweet hue Or sprinkle to earth like acid rain Burning all in its path, even though it looks O.K. from far away. As the light dims and slowly fades, it is outshone by the stars In the dark sky, and the honey slides away, So let's not take it all let's save some for the kids.

Jen. Karp

Candidate

Each day I wait to see, and see while I wait, a possibility of acceptance. This is no easy task, mind you. Neither for me, nor my fellow running mates. A decision to reflect the direction of my life, only in the hands of the popular vote. Do they really understand the subject of debate? One single vote could help or hinder the fire that kindles in the hopes of success. I am young, capable of comprehending the now misunderstood. But where shall I go if not elected? How shall I spend my next four years?

Laura Porter



Patrons

George and Wilma Sauer Dr. and Mrs. Philip E. Winter Elizabeth B. Riggs Bruce R. Riggs Margaret R. Riggs Dr. T.S. Scott Ruth McKendry Sebastin Rocket Mr. and Mrs. Paul West Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Porter David and Roberta Greene Carla Satinsky David Satinsky Francoise Coudol Anna Faulkner Pfeiffer Rick Zirzow Gumby

Collaboration

Haiku. God bless you, Young grasshopper, you small bug, You sneezed on my shirt.

Walsh and Winter

Typeset at Falls Church Typographics Sue Lukas Martha Curran Russ Chase