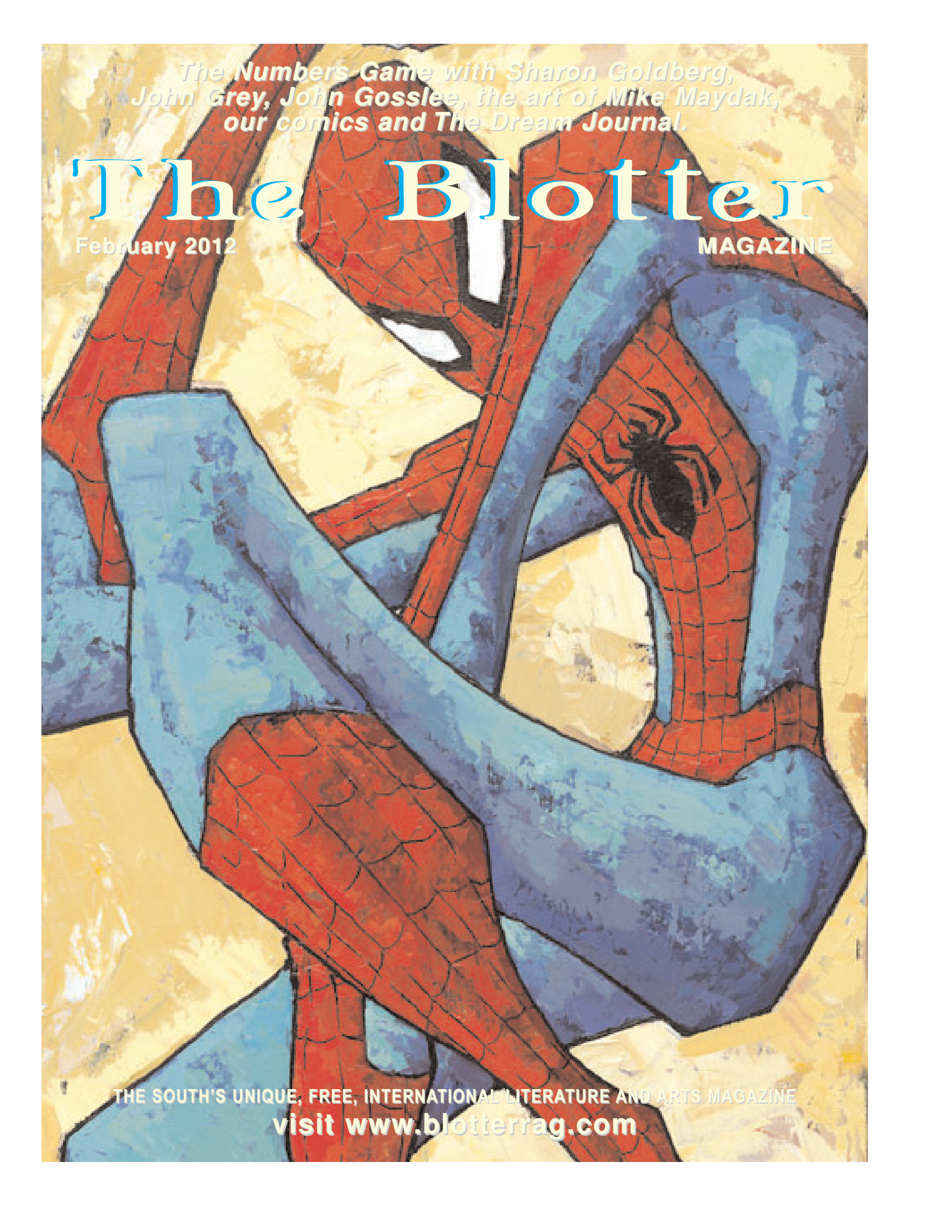


A stylized, painterly illustration of Spider-Man in his red and blue suit. He is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with his arms crossed. The background is a textured, yellowish-gold color. The overall style is reminiscent of a comic book cover or a piece of art.

*The Numbers Game with Sharon Goldberg,
John Grey, John Gosslee, the art of Mike Maydak,
our comics and The Dream Journal.*

The Blotter

February 2012

MAGAZINE

THE SOUTH'S UNIQUE, FREE, INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE AND ARTS MAGAZINE
visit www.blottermag.com

G. M. Somers.....Editor-in-Chief
 Martin K. Smith.....Publisher-at-Large, Treasurer
 Marilyn Fontenot.....Director of Development
 Laine Cunningham.....Publishing Consultant
 Brace Boone III.....Marketing Advisor
 Richard Hess.....Programs Director
 T.J. Garrett.....Staff Photographer

Advertisers and Subscriptions Contact:

Martin K. Smith
 M_K_Smith@yahoo.com
 919.286.7760

Submissions and Editorial Business to:

Jenny Haniver
 mermaid@blotterrag.com

Garrison Somers, Editor-in-Chief
 chief@blotterrag.com

919.933.4720 (business hours only!
 you may call for information about
 snail-mail submissions)

Marketing & Public Relations Contact:

Marilyn Fontenot
 Marilyn_fontenot@yahoo.com
 919.240.4845

FRONT COVER: With great power
 comes great responsibility. See center-
 fold for more.

Unless otherwise noted, all content
 copyright 2012 by the artist, not the
 magazine.

The Blotter is a production of
 The Blotter Magazine, Inc.,
 Durham, NC.
 A 501 (c)3 non-profit
 ISSN 1549-0351
 www.blotterrag.com

[clmp]

Council of Literary Magazines & Presses
 W W W . c l m p . o r g

"Four Things"

Occasionally I get those e-mails asking me to fill in answers and forward them to other unsuspecting (Really? Unsuspecting?) folks to respond. For the most part I ignore such things, but one came recently that I liked. Probably you've all seen it before, but, as I've said, I'm a tad behind the electronic curve. I won't forward it — I don't want anyone to feel obligated to do any work. Not assigned by me, anyhow. But I'll share my answers with you. It was called "Four Things About Me You Might Not Have Known." I liked how self-constrained it was. Just four things. Not an out-of-control number at all.

Describe four jobs you have had in your life:

Welsh Farms — You know, milk delivery into a little box on the front porch. \$1.50 an hour and breakfast. Work began at 3:30 a.m., Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. I drank a quart of milk and a quart of orange juice every shift and made it to school by 9:00 a.m. And I was asleep promptly at 10:15 a.m. during English class.

Messenger in New York City — Great job. I wanted to be a bike messenger, all cool and fast-looking, however I was the foot variety. Think Charlie Brown, "All I got was a rock." Galloping all over Manhattan. OBTW? People in New York love messengers. They only occasionally try to run them over.

Security Guard at college in the main women's dorm. Every third afternoon or so during the early fall and late spring I had to go up on the roof and ask the sunbathing women to put their tops on. I don't even remember what this job paid.

Exotic Nursery — Apparently I totally didn't understand what the real purpose of this company was when I applied for the job. Spent the entire spring popping buds off of geraniums - thousands of geraniums. Really. Thousands of them. I quit as soon as I could.

Name four movies you would watch over and over:

Papillon — To date I've seen this film thirty-seven times. Yes, that is the classic definition of OCD.

The Best Years of Our Lives — My favorite actress: Mrs. Lou Gehrig.
Field of Dreams — I absolutely get this film. All I want to do is stalk my favorite writers and play catch with Dad.

Ben-Hur — My entire life is divided into battle speed, attack speed and ramming speed. Oh, and raise-oars.

List four places you have lived:

Princeton — This is your brain.

New York City — This is your brain in a frying pan.

Marietta, GA — This is your brain in a frying pan with a side of sliced peaches.

Brick, NJ — Conveniently placed next to Wall, NJ.

List four TV shows you love to watch:

Grey's Anatomy — Why I don't go to the doctor. No one washes their hands enough.

Everyday Italian – It's about cooking. Of course it is.

Trains and Locomotives – This little treat is on the RFD channel - one full hour of steam locomotives going by. I like trains.

The Walking Dead – Research for the End of Days.

List four places you have been on vacation:

Edisto Beach, SC – family vacations, transported back about forty years.

Boothbay Harbor, ME – When I was a kid we traded pollock I caught on the dock with lobstermen. They got bait, we got lobster dinners.

Bermuda – No kidding, IBM once paid me to be in a recognition event for two weeks. Not bad work if you can get it.

Chicago – Every weekend one summer. Played in a league. You know, with those oversized, lumpy softballs? They might well be why the Cubs can't win the World Series.

List four of your favorite foods:

Peanut Butter – Not sure, but suspect its addictive properties are similar to chocolate and cocaine.

Hot and Sour Soup – Once ate a quart and a half of the stuff in one sitting. Felt hot. And sour.

Pop-Ice (that plastic wrapped frozen stuff) – One bite and it's summertime and being twelve all over again.

Marshmallow Peeps – They're even better if you leave them on the counter overnight.

Describe four places you would rather be right now:

Fishing in the pond – If I have to explain fishing, we need a translator.

On the beach in SC – Some people can't sleep to the sound of crashing surf. I, however, can.

In a hammock in the back yard, waiting for the sun to go down – Sometimes the deer come almost up to me. The strings in the hammock are mildewed and may break at any moment. That's about as adventurous as I choose to be.

Sitting in the coffee shop, writing – The whole place smells like roasting coffee. My leather jacket smells like roasting coffee. The urine stink in the restroom smells like espresso. Who doesn't love that?

Garry - chief@blotterrag.com



Fueled by

We often use Bobco fonts, copyrighted shareware from the Church of the Subgenius. Prabob. We also use Mary Jane Antique and other free-ware fonts from Apostrophic Labs and other fonts from other sources.



in the Great State of Georgia!



The Blotter Magazine, Inc. (again, a 501(c)3 non-profit) is an education concern. Our primary interest is the furthering of creative writing and fine arts, with the magazine being a means to that end. We publish in the first half of each month and enjoy a free circulation throughout the Southeast and some other places, too. Submissions are always welcome, as are ad inquiries.

Subscriptions are offered as a premium for a donation of \$25 or more. Send check or money order, name and address to The Blotter Magazine, 1010 Hale Street, Durham, NC 27705. Back issues are also available, 5 for \$5. Inquire re. same by e-mail: chief@blotterrag.com.



CAUTION

One, two, three, four. Can I have a little more? Five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. I love you.

"Questions for the Homeless Man Who Panhandles at the Corner of Gilman Blvd. and I-900"

by Sharon Goldberg

1. What is your name? I think of you as "Thomas," but I've never asked.

2. Did you grow up in the Seattle area? Right here in Issaquah? Or are you just passing through?

3. How old are you? You appear to be in your mid-forties—your hair is still black—but it's hard to tell with your full beard.

4. How long have you been homeless? Were you once employed and financially solvent? Were you a factory worker? A car salesman? Perhaps a teacher or lawyer or businessman? Did you graduate from high school? College?

5. Did you get your blue sweatpants, gray raincoat, and safari hat from a dumpster?

6. Are you an alcoholic? A drug

addict? Have you ever been in rehab?

7. I've never heard your voice. Never engaged you in conversation. Never even acknowledged that you're there. If I parked my car at the QFC and walked over to your corner, would you chat, or would you be hostile?

8. The brown cardboard sign you hold up for us to see—we, who are busy, busy, busy, on our way to work or lunch or yoga or soccer practice or Starbucks or Trader Joe's—reads *Need a hug but \$ will do*. Has anyone actually stepped out of his car to hug you? Would you be surprised, touched, joyous if someone did?

9. Where do you spend the night? At a homeless shelter? In an abandoned building? Under the Tibbetts Creek Bridge? Have you ever tried to hide in a library

or school or church? Do you sneak into public places to use the toilet?

10. If I were to invite you home with me for a shower or meal, would you come? It's a moot point, because I would never extend such an invitation. I'd worry you would steal money or jewelry or medication, or knock on my door some other time looking for a handout. Has any Good Samaritan ever taken you to dinner?

11. You try to make eye contact with those of us who wait for the traffic light to change, who hope it will change quickly, who try not to make eye contact with

Download music. Downsize cancer.



www.cytunes.org

Word by Word editorial services

SHARON KEBSCHULL BARRETT
AUTHOR, *DESSERTS FROM AN HERB GARDEN*
AND *MORNING GLORIES* (ST. MARTIN'S PRESS)
SKBEDIT@SHARONKBARRETT.COM
[HTTP://SHARONKBARRETT.COM](http://SHARONKBARRETT.COM)

*Thorough copy editing,
reasonable rates
for authors, helping you get it just
right before you contact
agents or publishers*

SUB ROSA Investigations

An investigative reporting, writing
and manuscript editing company

www.subrosaeditorsproof.com

919.240.4845

Follow us on: 

you. Your eyes plead, as if to suggest you're needy but nice. Not dangerous. Is this true? Have you ever hurt anyone while living on the streets? Has anyone ever hurt you? You're about six feet tall, so perhaps people fear you. Do you carry a weapon for protection? A knife? A club? A piece of pipe? A gun?

12. Have you tried other signage? Does it make a difference what's written on the sign? I saw another homeless man, in Seattle, at 45th Street just off Interstate 5. His sign read *Need Whiskey. Cold at Night*. In your opinion, did he mean to be funny? Ironical? Serious?

13. Is that corner at Gilman Blvd. your corner? Would a conflict take place if a person unfamiliar to you "commandeered" the space? Is it "first come, first served?" Do you solicit money at other corners? Is one location better than another?

14. A woman often sits near you against the "Walk/Don't Walk" sign or stands next to you and holds your hand. Once I saw her

eating fried chicken from a KFC bucket. She is skinny and haggard and frail. She wears a navy jacket and her hair is covered by a green stocking hat or yellow rain hat. Is she ill? Is she your wife? Your lover? If so, where do you go to have sex?

15. How many hours do you typically stand at the corner? How much money do you make on an average day? Sometimes an Asian man with tattoos joins you and the woman. Is he a friend? Where did you meet? Do you divide the money you receive with him? With her? Once I saw you with two other men, your wallet open, pulling out bills. Were you showing off your take? Sharing resources? Lending them a few dollars?

16. When someone hands you coins or bills, do you say, "God Bless You?" Do you believe in God? Do you believe God has forsaken you? Do you believe God helps those who help themselves?

17. Do you wonder why I don't give you anything? Do you think

I'm cold, callous, callow? I like to think I'm generous, but I prefer to contribute to the homeless and hungry through non-profits like Northwest Harvest and Washington Women in Need. If you approached me as I walked down the street, I'd be more likely to respond. And if it were Christmastime, I probably would. Do you think I'm self-righteous?

17. One night, in San Francisco, when I was filling my car with gas at a Shell station, a gaunt, sickly-looking man approached me. I was scared. He said that he and his woman were an HIV couple with no money. Could I help? I gave him a dollar or two or maybe five. But I wonder if he lied about the HIV. Does it really matter? Do you lie to get money?

18. Do you spend your donations on cigarettes (I've seen the woman smoking) or booze or heroin or meth?

19. How did you end up at this

Looking for an Artist?
find a great artist @...

Are you an Artist?
expose yourself @ ...

...The Raleigh Artist.com
www.theraleighartist.com




WR Writer's Resource
From Creation to Contract

Laine Cunningham
Toll-free 866-212-9805

Ghostwriting ★ Rewriting ★ Agents
Proposals ★ Queries ★ Editing

Fiction & Nonfiction

Quoted on CNN and international media
Ghostwritten/rewritten over 200 projects
Twenty years of experience

Many More Memories
Let our Chosen words say it for you
www.manymorememories.net

Writing for every occasion. Vows,
Speeches, Sermons and Letters.

Fella L. Morgan-Bey

919.294.9522
919.358.9726
773.454.0498



The Blotter

corner? Are you a victim of the recession? Did you lose your job? Have a mental breakdown? Go through a divorce? Were you in prison? Would you say you've had bad luck? Do you believe in luck?

20. Do you look for work or have you given up?

21. Are you, perhaps, a veteran? A casualty of the first Gulf War? Did you watch another soldier step on a mine and get blown up? Do you suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Syndrome? Do you feel abandoned by your country?

22. Do you have a family? Do

your parents, brothers, sisters, children offer you money? Shelter? Did they give up on you long ago? Do you miss them? Did one of them buy the new-looking ski jacket you often wear?

23. Do you wonder what goes through my mind when I see you? Do you know I feel sad, sorry, sympathetic, embarrassed, guilty, aggravated, and grateful? Do you care?

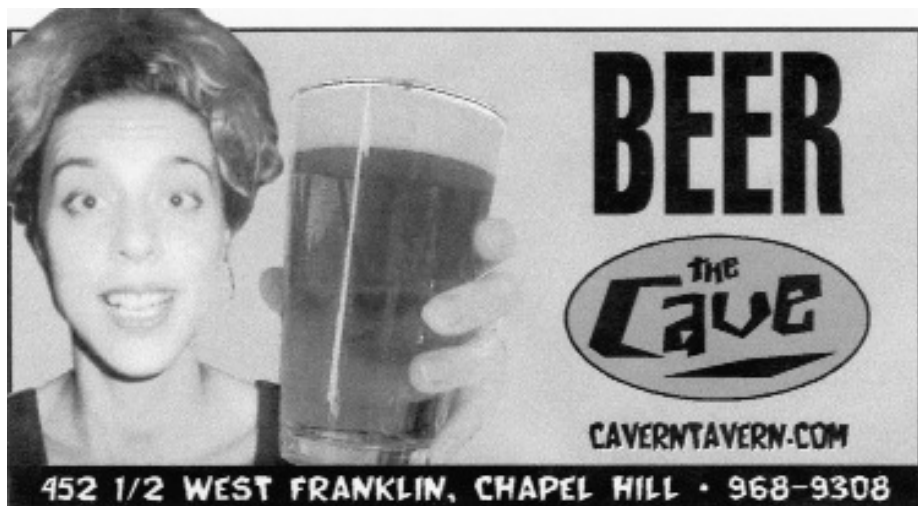
24. Once, in Pioneer Square, a man stopped me, apologetic, sincere. He was clean and well dressed. He needed money for the bus, he said. His wallet had been lost, or was it stolen? He

just needed to get home. I believed him and provided the change. The next time I was in Pioneer Square, I saw him again and he asked for bus money again. I felt conned. But again, does it matter?

25. When did you last get a haircut? Bathe? Eat? See a doctor?

26. Do you feel shame standing at that corner, sometimes in the cold or rain? Or are you beyond that? Was there once a time when you said to yourself, "I will never resort to begging"?

27. Do you believe that, one day, your life will improve? Do you think about tomorrow, next month, next year, or just today?



BEER

The Cave

CAVERN TAVERN.COM

452 1/2 WEST FRANKLIN, CHAPEL HILL • 968-9308



CARR BURRITOS

Burritos, Tacos, Nachos and Margaritas!

Mon thru Sat 11am-10pm • Closed Sunday • 933.8226

711 W Rosemary St. Carrboro www.carrburritos.com

www.blotterrag.com



OLDE NORTH STATE

BBQ

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

★ **CATERING** ★

CONTACT US TODAY!

919-412-8603

OldeNorthStateBBQ@gmail.com

FIND & FOLLOW US AT

WWW.ONSBBQ.COM

28. Do you think, but for the grace of God, *I* could be standing on that very corner, I could be searching *your* eyes, trying to connect? And you could be sitting behind the wheel of a new, red Toyota RAV4; you could be staring straight ahead, avoiding my eyes, waiting for the light to change? I think that sometimes. I do.



The Dream Journal

real dreams, real weird

Please send excerpts from your own dream journals. If nothing else, we'd love to read them. We won't publish your whole name.

mermaid@blotterraag.com

Occasionally I have nightmares with no visuals - like the video-player in my tired brain is on the fritz and only the audio - high quality sensur-round if ever there was such a thing - plays on anyway. I fight to wake myself up, but I'm not really certain why. What is so scary about noises? What can't I sleep through? It's not the 1940's creak of a stair-board or the crash-tinkle of glass. No whispering outside my door can disturb me. Still, something apparently quite forgettable creeps into the ever receptive subconscious and loads itself onto the hard-drive for playback in the but-not-least hours of the dark morning. A soundtrack of fear without the lights and motion, Monsters without form. And, as ever a creature of habit, I whip my head back and forth on my pillow, snarling through gritted teeth, hoping that someone will shake my shoulder and bring me back to sweaty, embarrassed awakeness.

Grace M. - cyberspace

Local Media: Learn,

TPC/DCM18 OFFERS COURSES IN MEDIA PRODUCTION. FROM HOW TO USE A VIDEO CAMERA, TO EDITING WITH FINAL CUT PRO, WE TEACH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS.

Create,

ONCE TRAINED, YOU CAN USE TPC/DCM18'S GEAR TO CREATE YOUR OWN TV SHOWS, WEB VIDEOS, & PODCASTS. AS LONG AS YOU'RE MAKING A SHOW WE CAN AIR, USE OF THE EQUIPMENT IS FREE!

Watch!

SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT FOR BROADCAST! WITH OVER 105,000 VIEWERS IN CHAPEL HILL, CARRBORO, & DURHAM... SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & OPINIONS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.



HOME-GROWN, HOME-MADE TELEVISION

the peoples channel • 919/ 960 - 0088

DURHAM COMMUNITY MEDIA • 919/ 688 - 0018

WWW.THEPEOPLESCHANNEL.ORG

CREATIVE METALSMITHS

Kim Maitland

117 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill

919-967-2037

www.creativemetalsmiths.com

Weekdays 11 - 6 • Saturdays 10 - 5 • Sundays 12 - 5

Alternative Wine Shop

www.WineAuthorities.com

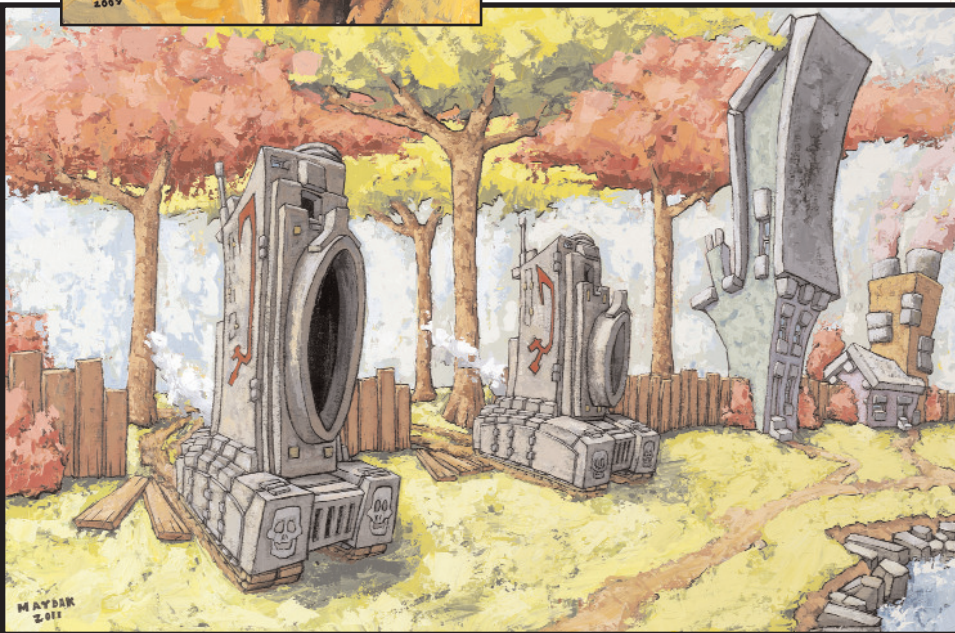
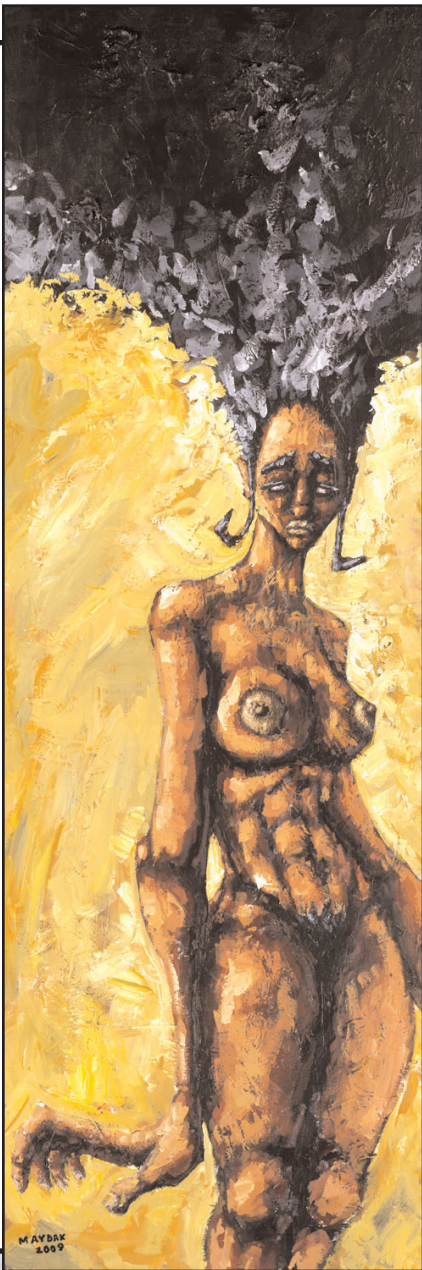
No Corporate
Wines.

No wines
over \$50

919.489.2884
Durham, NC







Mike Maydak -
Cincinnati, OH
www.mikemaydak.com

"Question And Answer Session"

There's a dead man in our midst.
So what happens now? Do we call a nurse?
That doctor, too young surely to understand
what killed him? Who contacts the funeral
parlor? Should we just burst into tears and
let particulars go hang?

And is this the time when memory gets going,
working from that last glimpse of his face,
back through the years, gathering information
now while it's still fresh in our heads,
filing it in the front of our brain for easier access?

And then there's the house. Do we sell it?
Who gets the proceeds? Is there a will?
Does he have bank accounts? Is his china
worth anything? Sure, we've all been in his
house quite recently but who thought enough
ahead to take an inventory?

We don't know how much or how
little he has left to us. And what if, in our ransacking,
we uncover this man we did not know,
a photograph at a beach resort, arm in arm
with a strange woman, letters hidden
underneath the underwear, a trophy,
a secret stash of liquor, a book of Masonic rituals.
Who gets his secrets? Do we trash them all,
pretend there's just the man we knew
and not this other?

And why should we be his only mourners?
Are there people out there not gathered
at this bedside who were more in his life than we were?
We're just family. Look at our own lives. If all we had
was family, how we'd envy him his death.

We could all just leave, go back to our own lives.
Or we could pretend his heart's still beating, go on chatting,
laughing at his bedside. One could touch his hand.
One could kiss his cheek. Or nibble his chocolates.
Or thumb through his magazine. There's a dead man
in our midst. And our midst is not responding.

Three by
John Grey

"On The Fortieth Anniversary Of His Death Crossing The Tracks"

The porters are still shuffling back and forth along the platform,
 carts overloaded with the baggage of long ago.
 The patient sit on benches~
 The restless pace the dirt-streaked waiting room.
 A few anticipate the horror, others the shame.
 The train is pulling out.
 No pity on my account.
 If you were there, then you're part of the collusion.
 What do I care if it was going south
 and you're on your way north.
 My grief is directionless.
 Your guilt should be also.
 In the café, weak coffee and stale scones are being served.
 Someone asks for hot tea and is laughed at for his troubles.
 A boy kicks a dog.
 The dog bites back.
 An old man is hunched up in a corner, his brain
 an unwilling magnet for every pinching, stabbing, aching pain
 in the far parts of his body.
 A young woman reads a thriller, as if there could be
 another corpse, another killer,
 than the ones who crush, who are flayed under the wheels,
 on this, our cruel and sordid anniversary.
 The departing locomotive spews heaps of gray
 through face and concrete, town and railway station.
 But it's black and white that's come down through the years.

"Street Entertainer On A January Morning"

Sure it's cold and the wind is
 whipping up the street
 but my guitar doesn't know that
 and my repertoire
 is indifferent to the weather.

And then there's my optimism,
 figuring that the cap won't blow away
 because the good denizens of this city
 will love my music,
 weigh that topper down with heavy coins.

They're on their way to work.
 I'm their only source of entertainment.
 Misery, pain, boredom await
 but I've a catchy tune of hope fulfilled,
 a joyous rondeau of all the good in man.

Sure, I've ditties of the broken-hearted loser,
 the condemned killer, the woman
 beaten brutally by a lover,
 but here's your grateful clincher:
 all of them are on my tongue,
 not in your world.

Isn't it worth a quarter or two
 to know your life is not
 as bad as the striking miners',
 the jealous husbands.
 Others will tarry long in burning hell
 compared to the modest flames
 of your ordinary existence.

If not for fortune,
 you could even be a poor soul
 hunched up in the bitter cold,
 strumming a guitar and singing
 for his meager living.
 Really world, a little generosity, please.
 Pennies. Anything. I don't ask for much.
 It's cheap not being me.

"Tricks"

a heart
that is a

the chuckle
of a plague

an unpronounceable
name

a sunny day
rain

Three by John Gosslee

"Numb"

a vacuum
of threads

dull
into a shine

a turtle
in the snow

a blaze
without a glow

"Miceworks"

a leaf sized
cabinet

needled whisker
pellet

whip tail
squeaks

palm and nibble
velvet

20% off
Your first haircut
at the new salon
with selected stylists

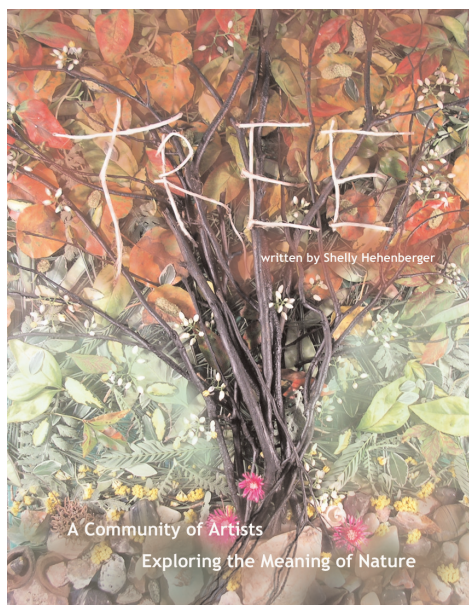
ALTERED
image
Hair Designers

Appointments: 919-286-3732
600 Foster Street, Durham, NC 27701
www.alteredimageDurham.com

NEW LOCATION!!




copyright Ben Byrom



The Blotter Magazine's
book publishing imprint,
PencilPoint Mountain,
and www.paintbrushforest.com

present **Tree**,

a collaborative, all ages, fine arts book illustrated by members of Paintbrush Forest, a group of artists from the Orange County, NC, area. Proceeds from **Tree** support the Haw River Assembly, a NC environmental organization. Check out www.paintbrushforest.com to bid on the original book art, to make a donation, and to order your own copy of **Tree**.

Thank you.

Best In Show



by Phil Juliano

"Ten Actual 'Special Delivery Instructions' for the Drivers on Orders Called Into the Gumby's Pizza on Franklin Street, plus two because you've been very good"



(Ed. Note: Thank you to the guys at Gumby's. [919-968-3278]

We present these precisely as they were written, and, as usual, apologize in advance.)

1. can you draw a penis with the words "scotty doesn't know" below it please

2. could you possibly cook them so they're not doughy? and feel free to put as much parm. cheese on it as you want. draw a dinosaur on the box. attacking japan. with the help of gumby.

3. DRAW A DRAGON

4. call when you arrive. can you draw a unicorn on the box? we have a birthday. you rock socks. we love gumby's.

5. The password is "vacuum"

6. Dress up in a Hamster outfit and dance to "Party Rock Anthem" (do the shuffle)

7. fuck the police

8. Easy on the cheese, please

9. write on the box a heartfelt haiku on global warming in relation to penis growth.

10. draw a wizard on the box casting a spell on the pizza to make it extra delicious!

And your bonus:

1. Close your eyes, make a wish, and sing "Mary had a little lamb"

to us when you deliver.

2. you guys are awesome! We love pokey stix!!!



Final

Tidbits: Three days without seeing Lady GaGa in any way, shape or form! It takes eighteen hours to drive from here to East Texas, but it's a dry heat. I'm absolutely working to get a Rudy's barbecue franchise here, because it's the best brisket ever and because occasionally I want to be rich. It's not too late to donate to the good fight at www.blotterrag.com and still get a deduction on your 2011 taxes. Wait, yes it is, but do it anyhow, it makes you smarter and more handsome. And children will like you better. Follow us on Twitter @blotterrag - that's where we tell you about art and music and other stuff goin' on near you. Or not near you, but near where you wish you were. There are still a few days to get your contest entry to us. Type faster!

Buy a copy of *Tree*, published by PencilPoint Mountain (www.pencilpointmountain.com), an imprint of The Blotter Magazine, Inc. What is an imprint? Like witness protection for publishers. Make a donation to The Blotter (www.blotterrag.com). Did I say that already? Sorry. Buy a Blotter t-shirt while you're there. Visit your local independent bookstore, tirelessly bringing you words in sentences on fancy paper in protective covers with neat art! Stop spinning in circles, asking, "I dunno, what do you want to do?" Open a book, turn on some tunes and argue about something with a friend. Got it? Good!



Call for Entries!

"The 2012 Laine Cunningham Novel Award" The Blotter's Third Annual Long Form Fiction Contest for Novella and Novel length works

1. The purpose of our contest is to provide a venue for writers to have their work read and commented on by our editors and judges. Additionally, the winner of this contest will have his/her work published here on these pages. And last but not least, the winner will receive a monetary prize! (Award monies are provided by the prize sponsor and the entry fee for the contest helps offset The Blotter's costs.)

2. Our pre-reader judges are intelligent and highly proud of their educations. Our final judge is smart, well-read and dangerous if she doesn't have her morning coffee. But we told her that she could be the final judge and what can you do?

3. In a world chock-full of scandal, transparency is very important to us, and we make every effort to eliminate any conflict of interest situation from going down in our contest. Blotter volunteers and their family members and/or employees are prohibited from entering our contest.

To enter the contest, please submit your work with a \$25 entry fee by check or money order to: The Blotter Magazine, 1010 Hale Street, Durham, NC 27705. Entries must be received between October 1, 2011 and January 31, 2012 (you see, we're already giving you an extension, so don't put it off!)

Your entry must contain the following: no less than 10 pages, no more than 20 pages of the opening of your novel or novella, (or subject/character-connected short story chapbook) typed & double-spaced, without your name. On a separate cover page type your name, snail-mail and e-mail address, telephone number, the title of your novel or novella and a one page synopsis of your novel or novella. Remember, you have to have the entire book written, so that if and when you win, you can show us the rest!

BONUS: Enter the writing contest AND get a year's subscription to The Blotter for only \$30! (Regular annual subscription donations are \$25 total and you don't even get to enter a writing contest with that price!)

Well, now. \$1650 in cash and prizes, plus anything else we can wrangle together that we think has value. All placements, including honorable mentions, will receive an award certificate, proof positive of your success as an author, suitable for mocking your sophomore English teacher, who always wondered how it was that you graduated at all.

Our contest will be run in line with the rules of ethics and mechanics recommended by the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, as outlined in their 2006 monograph on the subject. You can't view for free, but you may purchase the monograph entitled "Publishing Contests: Ethics and Mechanics" through the CLMP at <http://www.clmp.org/about/monographs.html>. This is the document we have used in coming up with the rules and conditions of this contest.

So that's it, then - now get to work!

CONTRIBUTORS

Sharon Goldberg of Sammamish, WA writes, "My work has appeared in *Under the Sun*, *The Chaffey Review*, *Signs of Life*, and online at *From the Asylum* and *TheRightEyedDeer*. My short story *Ghost* was a finalist in the Pacific Northwest Writers Association 2011 Literary Contest." *** We asked **Mike Maydak** where his vision comes from. He responds, "The motivation behind the comic heroes is really not that glamorous. Some of them are of characters I enjoyed while growing while others are done because they are popular or so obscure they seem interesting in their oddity (MODOK for example). I always wanted to work in comics but never really was able to make it financially. Painting these characters is kinda a way for me to come back to it, but at a slightly different approach. The biggest motivation comes down to a combination of pride, insecurity, and a little cockiness. I set up at a lot of comic book conventions to sell my work. Many of the artists there work with these characters. So it's kinda of a way for me to show what I can do with these characters to my 'rivals,' and hopefully how much better I am than they are. I know it's petty. I know about 'you're only in competition with yourself' and the whole 'find your tribe' idea, but it's always been a core motivation for me. It may seem like an insecurity, but it can also be a way to challenge yourself as well. The style comes from my love for the European cartoon style found in some of their comics. Alphonso Azpiri, Cassegrain, Meglia, etc...they have a very unique cartoon feel. Very stylized, with an infusion of street art."

*** **John Grey** of Johnston, RI writes, "I've been published recently in the *Talking River*, *Santa Fe Poetry Review* and *Caveat Lector* with work upcoming in *Clark Street Review*, *Poem* and *The Evansville Review*."

*** **John Gosslee** was poet-in-residence for Attitude: The Dancers' Magazine from 2008-2011. His first book of poetry *12* was published in French, Spanish and English. He is the Editor of *Fjords Review*. He lives in Nashville, TN. *** We met **James Benjamin T. Byrom** at The Blotter's 100th issue party at The Pinhook in Durham, talked a while, looked at cool stuff he's saved on his i-phone, and listened to him roar on the guitar with his band **The Gonzo Symphonic Presents** (about to release their first CD!) A couple days later, he sent some excellent 'toons to use. It gets better than this, but not particularly often. *** **Phil Juliano** must be freezing his fanny off in Minnesota, don't you think?

Our Liv believes that if she swings high enough, she'll fly. Hey, you never know. Perhaps all of that effort and hope and energy builds up until you just take off. She also scouts for pennies on the ground. Occasionally, on the sidewalk outside the coffee shop or near the front desk at the bookstore, one will appear, dropped inadvertently or cast irreverently.

"Good luck!" she shouts, displaying the tiny bit of pressed copper.

"Very nice," I always tell her. Sure, pennies have almost no value. But they add up, right? We at The Blotter believe that. So does GoodSearch. Each time you search the Internet using the GoodSearch search engine with Blotter Magazine as your designated charity, we earn

about a penny. Not much. But maybe all off you doing it, well, means continued stories and poetry and essays and art. And just maybe, it's good luck!

Please put GoodSearch on your home page, and Blotter Magazine in Durham as your designated charity.

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™



WOMEN'S FLAT TRACK ROLLER DERBY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

DORTON ARENA, NC FAIRGROUNDS, RALEIGH

DOORS 2:30 PM

OPENER BOUT 3 PM

HEADLINER BOUT AT 5 PM

**CAROLINA
ROLLERGIRLS™**

(OPENING BOUT)

DEBUTANTE BRAWLERS vs. TRAUMA QUEENS

(BATTLE OF THE CAROLINAS)

CAROLINA ALL-STARS vs. COLUMBIA QUAD SQUAD

ADVANCE TICKETS, GROUP DISCOUNTS, AND MORE INFO AVAILABLE AT:

CAROLINAROLLERGIRLS.COM

Up To

\$4 OFF

ROLLER DERBY TICKETS

2 Ways to Save!

1. Redeem Online by entering **2012BL0T** in the promo code box at CarolinaRollergirls.com. \$1 OFF each adult or child ticket, up to four (4) tickets.
2. Bring this Coupon to the Box Office for \$4 OFF one (1) adult, or \$2 OFF one (1) child ticket on game day.

No substitutions or rain checks. Cannot be combined with other promotional offers. Limit one coupon per person. No cash value. No copies accepted. Expires 11/17/12.