

manuscripts



2006-2007



Manuscripts

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The moral of the story is, is we're
here on Earth to fart around....
And, what the computer people don't
realize, or they don't care, is we're
dancing animals. You know, we love
to move around. And, we're not
supposed to dance at all anymore.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

1922-2007

Letter from the Editors

It is rare for an undergraduate literary publication to be able to judge itself by what did not get into its pages. It means that the magazine has succeeded totally in its aim: to publish the very best, the very widest in variety and scope of the creative writing being done on campus.

Manuscripts is not there yet. We feature a very slim selection of work this year—only 15% of the work we received—and it is what a staff of eight people has judged to be the best of the best. But it is limited. It is limited by department—the concentration of writing interest among English majors. It is limited by publicity—the difficulty of spreading word among a student body of over 4,000. Most of all, it is limited by timidity—by the fear of rejection and the fear of sharing things that, in the past, have been so personal.

This year's magazine is personal. Though you won't find the topics named explicitly in the text, this year's poetry and prose is about communication, about relationships, about grief, about what makes our skin crawl. We managed to pick up a few non-English major perspectives and several new names along the way. But the most important trait held in common by these authors was a determination to share something personal, to explain something meaningful or confusing to them. Some overcame major obstacles in order to do so. All showed an earnest desire to share with us what was worth sharing, even if it meant revising so we could understand.

To those who refuse to let rejection disenchant them about writing, we offer this, which our 2006-2007 contributors taught us: What is personal is worth writing, and what is worth writing is worth revising. Revise again. Submit again. We—readers before we are editors—look forward, always, to hearing what it is that you have to say.

Respectfully,
Tracy Bowling
Karen Witting

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