



# Writer's Connection

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

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## Quinte Writer's Guild Newsletter

Editor: M. E. Wood

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Hello Guild Members!

Here is your November/December newsletter, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did putting it together. Please find enclosed our brochure for the Writing Workshop in January. We hope to have a great turn out. Please spread the word. The workshop is open to non-members. Let's make our first workshop a success.

Until next time.

**Maureen**

## From Our President!

Merry Christmas to all...and here's a kick-start to the New Year.....

After our Christmas party I lugged home boxes and bags of "archives" from bygone years of QWG. I discovered lots of interesting things which I will share as I get them sorted but here are the top two:

1) NEVER spend hours with musty, old, damp paper without consulting a physician. Mildew is not your friend!

2) In 1982 a few people started getting together in various homes and halls and called themselves "The Belleville Writers' Club". Sometime in 1984 they began to refer to themselves as "The Quinte Writers' Guild".

I am no mathematician, but that sounds like a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary to me!!

It's been a few years since we have involved ourselves in a "project" and here is the perfect opportunity to come together as a group and make a splash in the community. As you sip your eggnog over the holidays let your imagination roam to what we might do in 2004 to let Quinte know that we are still standin' after all these years and bigger and better than ever! We can grandstand and turn cartwheels, pat ourselves on our collective backs and be proud. Ideas for this will be on the top of the agenda for January. I, for one, would like to see us host a "reunion" for former members and guests, to coincide with Spring Focus on the Arts. (Typical me, Christmas parties have hardly started and I can't wait to get going again in May!) We could do a writing project, we could win a Pulitzer, we could be awarded the Order of Canada....we are 20 and life is just beginning!!!!

**Pam**

### REMINDERS

- *Mark Your Calendar with these Upcoming Meeting Dates 2004:*
  - **January 6**
  - **February 3**
  - **March 2**
- *Monthly Dues are \$3.*
- *Membership is \$15*

**WHERE WE WRITERS MEET: WHARF STREET DEBATING CLUB 34 S. FRONT ST.**

### Board & Executive

**President:**

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pstork@hotmail.com

**Vice President:**

Ruth Howard

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Maureen asked me back in the spring if I would contribute something about my radio interview for my slim volume "Henigan Rush" and I said yes, but asked if I could postpone it until a time when I had less on my mind. I do not seem to have less on my mind even now, but the anniversary of that interview comes up in December and the occasion will have turned into a mouldering pumpkin by then, as many enchanted occasions do.

I don't know about you but I write as I paint or play (very badly) my guitar (and yep I try to sing along with it too. . .): to communicate something to somebody. To reach out – to somebody, to I suppose anybody. To everybody. To show. To tell -- a discovery, an insight, a joke, or, in the case of 'Henigan', to tell about a remarkable human being and his effect on me.

Henigan Rush was going to be a local book if it was nothing else, and many conscientious local people who had known Henigan or who knew me, were to buy it and read it under a sort of "community duress". Dozens of others, new to the Tweed area, were to buy it as a way of getting a better feel for the place. I had been confident of these audiences from the time I first put pen to paper.

What I had truly not expected though, were the (mostly) glowing reports back – from among them, yes, and -- from the wider world beyond, too.

CKCU fm is the Carleton University radio station, a "with-it", multi-lingual, station avec really eclectic programming, a lot of archival-type music I noticed, and a surprisingly wide following in the Ottawa region.

The interviewer was this fast-talking, classical studies whiz-kid and campus radical, sharper than sharp, who was making me feel duller and more nervous by the minute -- until we got our cue. His intro was kindness itself. He had read a borrowed copy of the book. Loved it. Gone straight out and bought a copy for himself and another for his Dad for Xmas. It had, he added, the most scintillating dedication you will ever come across. And it was a great story. And the artwork was fabulous, too. It was just an overall great book!

After that, reading my excerpt into the microphone was as much fun as eating a big fat chocolate fudge ice-cream cone, forget the calories. . .

Then came the interview itself. Questions scratched down over the last few days in a pocket notebook. This 22-year-old guy seemed like the real thing. He arched an eyebrow. "Is this a young man's book?" he asked.

Back in Tweed, the book had become if anything an elderly widow's book. At least the most enthusiastic feedback seemed to be coming from our bereaved elderly, and young people had begun buying it "for their grandmother's", and many of my own middle generation who I knew had acquired the book seemed strangely reluctant to so much as mention it to me. So I had begun to think of the book as speaking primarily to that beloved old bunch that had been so unstinting in their praises of it.

Cont'd next page...

## Member News

- In the last newsletter I inaccurately named the paper **Paul Corman** is writing for . It is called The Quinte Sports Review. You can check it out online at: <http://www.qsr.ca>
- **Maureen Wood's** article, The Glamour of Glanmore along with seven pictures she photographed, appeared in the fall issue of What's Happening Magazine. She received an honourable mention at Sol Magazine for Simply Adelaide Crapsey and Jaded Life was published in Book Lovers Haven.
- **Beverley Richmond**, author of View from the Bedpan, has two short stories in the Canadian Authors Association Wordscape 8 Anthology published this summer. They are: The Swallows, and The Line-up. This is the third Wordscape in which Beverley's stories have appeared.

## Baden Vance, cont'd

Yes, I was feeling a little disappointed, that I had maybe failed to reach and touch people in any way but the sentimental, but I had become determined to feel "pleased enough".

This question, then "a young man's book?" When had I ever been asked such a totally crazy, presumptuous, probing, and actually, really personal question? When had I ever been so put on the spot? And so suddenly. It was unfair. It was a sucker punch, was what it was. Right, right, in the stomach...

But oh, I did hear myself choking out an answer, and one that seemed to make sense in itself as it came out it sounded pretty reasonable, even quite interesting I thought, in its conclusions.

And so, the other short sharp questions followed. These questions took me deep into my consciousness of the story, deeper than I had gone even in my writing of it.

I think I had been a little afraid of it -- afraid of my own story. Afraid, maybe, the part of it that was about me was really very foolish, that it had compromised to the point of spoiling the story of this well-loved man, Henigan.

Certainly I had always been anxious that it be well received. While my closest friends and relatives had been wonderful throughout and generous in their praises, even they had stopped at questions like "how long did it take you to write it?" or "How are sales going?"

The radio interview situation, lends itself to a kind of questioning that exchanges at the dinner table, or on a street corner, or even at writers' guild meetings, do not and perhaps cannot.

I came away from that black-lit studio and past the extreme posters in the corridors--out, happy that I had not been entirely foolish after all. So conspicuously, putting the angry young man into the story of the revered old one, happy that by doing so the story had really reached at least this courageous young voyager and for a while at least was helping him on his way. Happy finally that my understanding of my own book was far more complete. Complete enough I could forget once and for all about "how sales are going", and let go forever my anxiety over "how well-received", and go and track down that double chocolate fudge ice-cream cone that was beginning to trouble my mind.

Baden Vance

## Market of the Month

### Nimrod International Journal of Prose

#### General Specifications and Writer's Guidelines

From their website ([www.utulsa.edu/nimrod](http://www.utulsa.edu/nimrod))

#### Subjects:

High-quality, literary poetry, prose and short essays. Two issues annually. Spring issue: thematic, theme announced preceding fall. Previous themes have included Writers of Age, Range of

#### Light:

The Americas, Australia, From Time to Time, Y2k.connecting, and Islands. Nimrod has also devoted numerous issues to emerging writers from several countries.

#### Format:

Each issue is approx. 190 pages, perfect bound, four-color cover.

#### Alternate Formats:

Audio cassettes available and portions on Nimrod's Web site:

<http://www.utulsa.edu/nimrod>

#### Subscriptions:

\$17.50 one year (outside USA \$19) \$30 two years (outside USA \$36) Institution rates: \$30 one year (outside USA \$36). Subscription form on Web site; download, print, and mail.

#### Sample Issues:

\$10 each. Please send check or money order.

#### Payment:

Always pays with two contributors' copies. Winners of Nimrod/Hardman Awards receive \$2,000 first prize, \$1,000 second prize and publication.

#### Over-the-Transom Submissions & Nimrod/Hardman

**Awards:** Accepted all year. Send SASE for notification and/or return of manuscript. Turn-around time for over-the-transom submissions is one to three months. Send SASE for guidelines, upcoming themes and contest guidelines. Annual contest begins January 1 and ends approximately April 30 of each year.

#### Manuscript Format:

Fiction: double spaced, 1" margins on all sides, word processed, one side of plain white paper only.

Poetry: word processed.

#### Submit To:

Nimrod International Journal  
University of Tulsa  
600 South College  
Tulsa, OK 74104

Nimrod does not accept e-mail transmissions unless the writer lives overseas and has unreliable mail service.

#### What Nimrod Seeks:

Vigorous, fresh writing; characters should be well-developed and believable. Dialogue should be realistic without being banal. No genre fiction, please. Poetry open to all styles and subjects. We seek poems that go beyond the word and image, honor the impulse to reveal a truth about, or persuasive version of, the inner and outer worlds. Reading a sample issue before submitting a manuscript is recommended.

**ENSORSHIP IS ALWAYS  
A POWER TRIP. WHAT IS  
AT THE BOTTOM IS  
ABOUT WHO'S ON TOP.**

**—STEPHEN KING,  
NOVELIST**

## Writing Websites

- Novel Advice ([www.noveladvice.com](http://www.noveladvice.com))
- Apryl Duncan on Fiction Writing ([www.bellaonline.com/site/fictionwriting](http://www.bellaonline.com/site/fictionwriting))
- Charlotte Dillon's Resources for Romance Writers ([www.geocities.com/charlottedillon2000](http://www.geocities.com/charlottedillon2000))
- Other Worlds Writers' Workshop ([www.otherworlds.net](http://www.otherworlds.net))
- Research: Temperament ([keirse.com](http://keirse.com))
- Research: How Stuff Works ([www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com))