

Children, Churches and Daddies is a magazine dedicated to showcasing the work of writers and artists. If you are interested in submitting poetry, prose or artwork, send it to the following address:

Children, Churches and Daddies
J. Kuypers, Editor
5310 North Magnolia
lower level
Chicago, Illinois 60660

No racist or sexist material will be printed. Please include a SASE and a bio, and do not send originals of artwork.



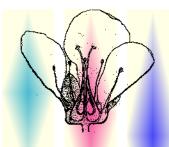
this issue's contributors:

Larry Blazek
Ora Wilbert Eads
Jack Harrison
Janet Kuypers
Lyn Lifshin
Edward MyCue
Lisa Newkirk
Effie Schoenfeld
Cheryl Townsend
flower drawings by Eugene Peppers





volume three: pink & orange flowers



quantum mechanics

assures that the turning of my head is intimately connected to the lighting of your cigarette. Nothing happens alone or isolated and the wildness in the wave of my hair is the same as the lake when the vault around my perception cracks enough to make the connection.

The knowledge of each thing contained in everything else so when I look at this daffodil it might well be a face in China same as the twisted branch reaching like an old woman to the moon. A wild old woman dancing crazy circles on the beach, waves of her hair pounding on her back.

Ellie Schoenfeld



bi-ó-gra-phiès

Larry Blazek, who has yet to be saved from the depths if Indiana, is boasting the publication of a new chapbooks (as if

cc&d wasn't enough). "Composite Dreams" is available for 6 stamps, and he's looking for submissions for "Opossum Holler Tarot", available for 4 stamps. Contact cc&d for more information.

And I quote from a letter from Ora Wilbert Eads: "I am a man 79 years old. I'm legally blind in one eye and totally blind in the other. I didn't submit any material to a lterary periodical until 1990 was well under way. I've been quite fortunate. Various literary periodials in Canada and throughout the United States have published 1610 of my poems."

Jack Harrison's past is fuzzy, so we'll tell basics: he's a prose writer from

Virginia. He will also be appearing in volume four of cc&d.

Janet Kuypers has had over 55 written pieces and over 55 visuals published in her 13 year career, and is currently the production manager for a publishing company in Chicago. She has published the book "Hope Chest in the Attic", and is currently working with Cheryl Townsend on a chapbook on art and writing about acquaintance rape called "gasoline and reason."

Lyn Litshin resides in Washington D.C. and has appeared in very issude of cc&d Lifshin & Schornfeld also have been published in the book "Mondo Barbie" (I started reading it). Very impressive work indeed

(I started reading it). Very impressive work indeed. This is the second time work by $Edward\ MyCue$ has appeared in cc&d. Hopefully we will continue to see his work here.

Lisa Newkirk is a Journalism graduate from the U of I, and lives outside of Chicago. This is the first time cc&d has seen her work. She's also looking for a good reporting job, so if anyone has any leads, write us.

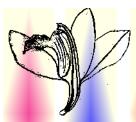
Eugene Peppers designed the scientific drawings of the flowers that appeared throughout this issue. A recent graduate from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana, his studies focused on plant biology and ornamental horticul-

Ellie Schoenfeld, who has had work appear in the book "Mondo Barbie" (with Lifshin), is from Minnesota. Underground rumors also tell me she's a spy originally from Lithuania, but I can't confirm these reports.

Cheryl Townsend, seductress extraordinaire, is the editor of Impetus and has had scads of chapbooks printed. Ohio never produced a better writer, entrepreneur or sexual feminist (if you can believe it).

bi-ó-gra-phiès



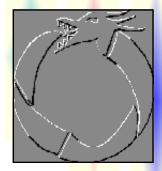


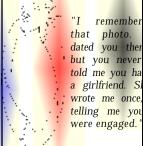
Memory's Vicarious Squint

Dew-drop, the itch once again (where the hair had been, where the amputated little finger was) since like the distant grief taste reduced to one small picture frame hailed and farewelled to enjambment like encrusted gorst/frosttesqueries and a cry rose in a scrimmage for the price of a kiss of blood claret because false promises have talons. I have gone within for my oats, for promises and a spear - a dream. I had a dream of glass of glass and of pins and I took one like I'd take a tenner to pay for dinner: OO my God ... in heaven's name!" TURN THE LIGHTS OFF, TURN THE LIGHTS OFF. My gamut's run, my snarl gone limpid, my obsessions and compulsions squinny back at me i nthe broken mirror "behavior". My memory of me is a madness of earwigs running 25 errands in all directions. Talk soon gets together under a mask that has become as real as a built face. So why would I look at my face for a clue. My past is a dead mouth choked in hope.

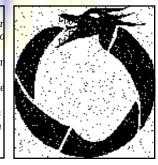
Edward MyCue







"I keep looking back at your picture. I'll flip it over to stop from staring at it while I read a page from my book, but a minute won't pass before I'll have to turn the photo over again to see your face. It's as if I can't get away from it."



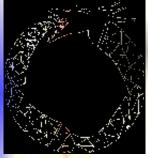




<mark>"a serpe</mark>nt <mark>swallowin</mark>g it's tail"

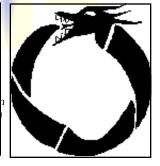








"Did you ever give her a engagement ring? Was it ar emerald too? Did you hurt her too?"





"Now I have to rid mysel of you, and my escape is flowing between the ice cubes in the glass nestled in my palm. But I have to drink more. The burning doesn't last as long as you do."

"a serpent swallowing it's tail"





The Serpents and the King of Cats

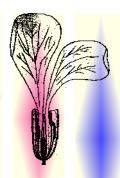
I walk down the sun-bright hill into the field, but not all is as it was. There are poisonous serpents there and I am wearing only shorts and sandals, no defense against their fangs.

On this day there is not shy water moccasin or copperhead, as willing to avoid me as I am them, but countless, writhing multitudes of multi-hued serpents, fangs dripping venom.

I attempt to fight my way back home with a stick; cats come to my rescue, not just the two I keep, but waves of hissing, spitting, ferocious felines, destroying serpents, some with human faces, many perishing in the process. At last I return. I feed the cats some milk.

Larry Blaczek





we have to write mother's obit tonight

my sister says, it will be easier on a night like this when pain killers let her eat. In the chaos when it happens we'll be crazed, in shock, tho we're prepared. But tonight after the first meal she's had seconds of salmon, potatoes, asparagus we can do it calmly as if we won't need it for a long time

lyn lifshin



3

and I remember the coquinas

the little shells
you could find them alive
on the beaches north of the pier in
Naples

going to the beach
I would look for a spot
to find them

they were all my own

they burrowed their way into the sand to avoid the light worming their way away from me

I unearthed a group of cocquinas once, fascinated with their color of their shells, the way they moved

before they could hide

I collected them in a jar, took them home with me

what did you teach me
what have you taught me to do
is this it
is this what it has become
is this what has become of me
of you of us

and I took them home

I added salt water and sand but I couldn't feed them I realized soon that they would die

so I let them



"coquinas'

Janet Kuypers



1

I can't imagine the number of times I've been there

visiting Florida,
Christmas with my parents
a plastic tree
decorated
with sand dollars
and red

ribbons

eating Christmas dinner listening to Johnny Mathis

and after the Irish coffee, father with his brandy snifter in hand mother and the other girls putting away the dishes

the carolers would come, walking in front of our home

singing "We wish you a merry Christmas" over and over again

we would walk outside and the cool breeze almost felt like Christmas after the hot

humid days

and we would stand on our driveway smile and nod

you could see down the road all the candles in paper bags lining the street

and for a few lights the bag

burned

.

and we would take boat rides off the coast my parents and their friends to a tiny island

dad drinking beer
sometimes steering the boat
control
the women sitting together in the shade
worrying about their hair

i would sit at the front sunglasses, swimsuit and sunburn feeling the wind slapping me

in the face

and turning my head away from the boat into the wind away from them

to face it again

docking at a shoreline everyone jumping out little bags in their hands

the women go looking for shells the men go barbecue

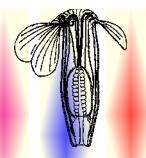
after an hour or two
the sandwiches, potato chips eaten
the soda and beer almost
gone

we turn around and head back

we have conquered

continued



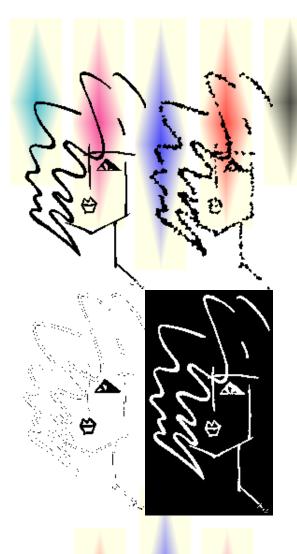


boneward

It's been six years since i was in Tuscany with Livia and Domitilla and all the wild boars we could trap and radio collar. In that March eighth the neighbor brought armfuls of bright yellow flowers for International Women's Day. Livia and Domi went out while i stayed behind, divided my day between chopping wood and the basement full of wild boar skulls soaking in chemicals which soften the remaining flesh so it can be scraped away. It was slow work and I am still doing it, scraping down to the bones, assessing what's left, trying to keep warm.

Ellie Schoenfeld





"ra<mark>c</mark>hel (#1-4)"



H

And I'm sitting in my apartment, and when I reach out my arm shadows of my hand

stretch across the wall.
There is no music, but I begin to move my hands, like

a ceremony, as if to a drummed out rhythm, like the pant of a mistress as she

walks down the hotel steps into her car after seeing her savior, like waves at the sea slowly crashing

at the shoreline. The phases of the moon are changing, and the waves are crashing

with more and more intensity, with more and more power, faster and

faster. And at this very moment you walk down a street somewhere, it is daylight,

and you see the white moon peering toward you from the sky. The moon was looking

for you. It wanted to watch you. You divert your eyes, step off the curb,

and for no reason walk in the middle of the street. There is no traffic. You are safe. And

the moon watches the stride of your step, and the moon watches my hand, and the moon hears

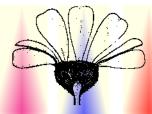
the rhythmic pant of intensity, and the moon rises the water. We feel the drumming beat.

The phases of the moon are changing. There is no reason why you should question this.

You can feel me. I will keep you safe. I will keep you alive. I'm your messiah.







I

I can see you now hunched over, pouring yourself into your work, scattered papers,

dim lights flooding white over the glaring screen, in your otherwise

darkened corner of the world. And I know you can feel me now, feel me rushing in

through the window that you leave only slightly open at night,

rushing in with a faint whistle, circling around your neck, curling up around your

jaw, opening your mouth so slightly. You can feel my rush chilling your teeth.

You tilt your head back, closing your tired eyes from your problems,

from your future in front of you, on those pages, on that screen, under that white

light. You let me open your mouth more and more, you feel me swirling around your tongue,

"the muse, the messiah"

Janet Kuypers

down your throat, into your lungs, like smoke from a clove cigarette when you hold

your breath to feel the high, feel the ecstacy just a little longer, or like steam rushing

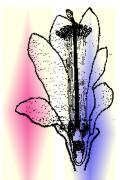
down your throat when you take a deep breath the summer morning after a heavy fog.

You open your eyes. You lick your lips. I make you do that, I make you

forget your world. You can feel me there, you can't escape me. I'm there. I'm your muse.

continued





sweet dry touch of creamy pink sundown

Routine radiating prosperity bank red-lettered like the family Bible spilling out with photos, pressed flowers and the four-leaf and the one six-leaf clover Richard Steger found in Cotati. Those Steger kids had no eating disorders, and were keen, keen for bouillabaisse, creme broule, devilled eggs, shit-on-a-shingle, anything "-capers" and those little potato dumplings called "gnoche" served with pesto sauce and a nice crablegmeat-Louie. Their mother - Irene's mom, Louise, was a meyter/Tron born in a summer mas in the last century (19th) on the ragged Swiss-French-Italian border, also Piedmontese. She married a Perrou, an Italian, also Piedmontese. A Waldensian, Louise was sent to Protestant Marseilles to a finishing school. Then she came to the United States. Irene was her only who lived to raise. John Perrou married again and again. Irene favors pink hues.

Edward MyCue



egg nogs

when she was 5 my sister needed them, skinny and blond to keep up her weight, lured with chocolate and coffee. strawberry flavors. Glass straws with clowns, a mug of Howdy Doody, Just one more sip my mother wooed while I slunk into the back ground, my fat thighs under a too long for a girl of 9's dress, ate m and m's in the cove of the brown chair, lost in a book or a dream where I'd be popular, blonde and skinny, any unbeaten egg string was slime, horrid as the centipedes

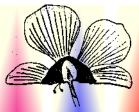
offensive as seeing "Kike" on a black board or hearing "fattie" whispered and my mother would take new eggs out, start again. At my sister's now, my mother who has gone from 120 to 114 to 90 pounds has Carnation shakes with Hagendaaz ice cream mixed in tho my sister's husband says its so expensive. I shake in another state the same weight as my mother tho 5 inches taller, my dark mahogany hair bleached to sun in a house with no corckpots, mostly oranges, coffee beans. I think I picked one without a real kitchen. I've never made chicken soup,



the idea of cooking is like a dog paddling across the Pacific for the east coast but becoming a woman who looks good in mini skirts the second time around and this week gets love letters from Hono lulu Maui, Laguna Beach and San Diego making me know I'm some thing of a wizard a witch as I make a list: celery. carrots, chicken even gingeroot for a charm, wanting to do vet knowing it will never be enough

lyn lifshin





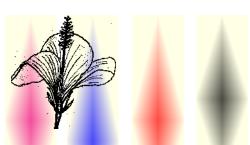
i can't show my mother my new b<mark>ook</mark>

my nine year in the making new baby when I did Ariadne's Thread my mother read the manuscript with me in the only cool green and fern covered room downstairs where I lay for hours with apricot sours for pain, my back throbbing. When it came out she was as happy as if it was a child, except for the four letter words she'd have crossed out, sure sometimes I'd meet a man I wanted and he'd be shocked at what I did as glazed trees were wild and as glistening these confidences of others must have been spread on the bed in "her" room in

my house but I did not count on her approval as much am not even sure what she read. I can't show her the book with the first piece about the mother dying preparations for the grave with my mother, now, rarely getting dressed or moving a few yards from her bed. Only a few years ago she'd ferret out poems stuck in or under boxes until she could snarl at me. was that what I really felt?" Now she doesn't come upstairs, sleeps between pain pills, eats so little. Even if this book was a baby she might ask its name. never want to hold it

lyn lifshin





Kaleidoscope

If people are hungry
Anywhere in America,
It is clearly their fault
According to right wing radicals;
No rational person
In the fifty states
Accepts such hogwash;
For it is morally obnoxious;
Conscious demands refutation
Of bias so blatant:
Most beneficiaries of food stamps
Are dependent children.

Ora Wilbert Eads





front page

cold and damp
is the night
a drunken man
kills himself
maiming others
an idiotic game
of chicken
with a parked car
I smell blood
whiskey and vomit

Larry Blaz<mark>ek</mark>





"how you looked then"

I take snapshots of these things in my mind. I rifle through them.

I never told you that I loved to watch you in the bathroom, getting ready to go out. It would usually be after you shaved, or even after you dressed, when you were almost ready to go but had to fix your hair. And oyu'd look in the mirror, and you'd be brushing the sides of your head with your curved fingertips, and you'd be scrutinizing yourself, eyes just slightly squinted. I always thought you looked most handsome when you did that with your eyes, squinted like that, like you were looking for something, searching.

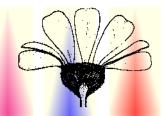
When I'd see you in the bathroom mirrir like that, I'd usually wrap myself around your arm, lean my head on your shoulder, and just stare. I don't think you ever noticed how I'd look at you at those time. Like you were my mentor. My savior.

Or when we were at that restaurant and you were sitting across from me, wearing the denim button-down shirt I bought you, and you were eating, and you were slouched over your plate, elbows on the table, and you were just eating, not paying attention to much else around you. And you hadn't shaved in a few days, and the copper-colored stubble was every once in a while catching the light. And in between bites you kept combing your hair back with your fingers, because it kept falling while you ate.

While you were eating, I just had to stop, lean back, and stare at you for a while. I don't know why, but I'll never forget how you looked then.

Janet Kuypers



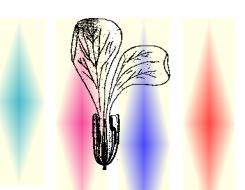


avitar of despair

Have you ever stood at the edge of a roof and wonder how it must feel to fall did you ever stand upon a gallows and never finish feeling it all I am Despair I bring you heartache I feed you bitter wine I feel sorrow when I feel desire your life is better without mine I walk in darkness I dare the lightning I am terrible to behold my eyes are empty and my heart is cold you'll never melt my heart with teardrops those that die young will never grow old

Larry Blaczek





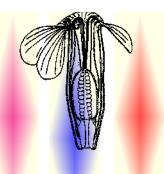
Tribute to JH

A flaming meteor struck the earth everyone saw, everyone saw it made a great sound they were in awe, they were in awe

Larry Blazek







My First Marriage

punched me with his fist forgave me with his cock & life went on that way

Cheryl A. Townsend



Mosquito

It was the strangest place for a mosquito bite. The skin around the lower-half of her middle finger was swelling rapidly - a white, weirdly shaped bubble was forming and fingers of its own were sliding up hers, on blood vessels leading to the heart. A mosquito had deposited its poison there. She hadn't even felt it. Hadn't even heard it. Hadn't even seen it. It was an absolutely invisible soldier, it was a task well done. The urge to itch was unbearable. She knew the best thing to do was leave the affected area alone and just ignore it. But how could she? Every minute, a searing feeling in her finger taunted her, shooting up her arm and into the surrounding fingers, making those unbearable too. She wanted to madly scratch the whole hand. She wanted to just scratch and scratch and scratch until it didn't hurt anymore, the itch spoke to her ... if she would only scratch it a little, it promised to stop bothering her. But she knew from experience the itch lied - it would never go away. Scratching would only make the itch stronger, and the finger would swell up to "New, Enormous" size. So instead she held the entire arm up, trying to staunch the blood flow to her middle finger. The finger hung there upright in the air, singled out from the rest in a salute to the mosquito. She tried to imagine how the mosquito had bitten her there. The finger had lain hand down on the arm rest of the kitchen chair, held together against all the other fingers. The space was too compact to be maneuverable for a mosquito. How unfair! There wasn't even that much blood in a finger. What could the mosquito have been thinking anyway? This was so unfair. She wasn't even outside when this happened. She was sitting inside at the kitchen table, waiting for the mahi mahi to be grilled and dinner to be served while she watched some stupid nature special about Australia's native animals and their mating rituals on public television. In all likelihood the mosquito had slipped in while someone opened the porch door in the kitchen to take the fish out to the grill. And now, as she tried to hunt down the unwanted insect, there was absolutely no sign of it. It wasn't in the usual dark areas, like under the tables or in the dark corners of the ceiling. There was no noise, no wavering flight of black that would give it away. Irritation, anxiety, she wanted to find it so it couldn't bite her again. It had committed the perfect crime. Not even a chance for a few fair swats. If it weren't for being bitten, she wouldn't have known that a mosquito had been there at all. And so she sat, her arm tiring from holding itself upright, the finger still swelling and the itch still begging.

Lisa Newkirk





The Orange

Smack; Smack; Smack; went the orange (left over from unfinished lunch) her left hand became the baseball glove and her incredibly adept right hand grabbed the orange and threw it back again and again and smack, smack, smack, it went into the left hand. this continued while she was supposed to be working, writing on the office's typewriter (a typewriter! could you believe? what happened to a chicken in every pot, and a computer in every office?) smack, smack, smack. Then she played a new game:

tossing the orange high up into the air but not so high as to knock loos the styrofoam ceiling panels above

(the orange was dizzy to be so high)

it's ascent curved from an arc to a boomerang loop straight down to outstretched hands;

the secretary across the way was, if she looked up,

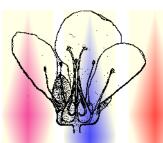
in full view of this scene,

since the door was always open (company policy) but the secretary never saw the happy orange

flying, flying, flying

(continued)





Once it hit the desk and rolled off onto the floor (the right hand was not always so adept) then she had to retrieve it; after a few minutes of embarassed silence and a silent lecture on what she was there to really do, the orange sat, as best as an orange could sit on the flat surface of a desk. Then she wrote. She picked up the orange to get a paper beneath it, because she needed it for typing. She moved the orange, because it was in the way of the big, pink eraser. Then she started rolling the orange around on the desk, slowly at first, sbsentmindedly... then really, really fast, as fast as she could between both hands. hen she juggled it between a box of paper clips and a bottle of white-out the orange was generally having a good time.

And then she decided to eat it.

Lisa Newkirk



Heartbeats, by Jack Harrison

Four children scamper around in the twilight, shouting and squealing, grabbing at fireflies in the air. The few that are caught are deposited in a quart glass jar with a screw-on metal lid. The halfdozen small holes in the lid were produced by an ice pick wielded by an obliging mother.

A Golden Retriever, tired from scurrying to and fro, sprawls on the grass. A grey cat peeks from under a bush at the corner of the house. The dog is looking the other way, so the at darts across the corner of the yard and through a small gap in a hedge that maks the boundary of the neighboring yard.

The remnants of a Kool-Aid stand - a card table, two folding chairs, some paper cups, and a plastic pitcher - rest abandoned on the sidewalk near the street. Tossed aside on the grass near the hedge are a plastic bat and ball and two small ballgloves of imitation leather.

An elderly man and woman strolling by stop and speak to the children, who greet them quickly, then dash off. Locusts buzz in the oak trees. Occasionally a car rumbles slowly down the brick street. Lights blink on in two nearby houses. Three teenagers on bicycles whiz by.

Moths flutter silently around the porch light. Buzzing June bugs careen through the air and bump noiseily against the screen door. A man walks out of the house, takes several envelopes out of the mailbox on the porch, sits down in a lawn chair and puts his feet up on the porch railing.

One of the children shouts to the man and runs up onto the porch to display the jar of tiny, blinking lights. As the child returns to the yard, the man smiles and leans back in his chair. He shuffles through the mail in his hand, tears open one envelope and reads the letter inside, with some difficulty because of the dim light.

"I thought you'd like to know," his sister has written, "that Jim Blaylock passed away yesterday. He had a heart attack while he was mowing the yard. He was just forty-two. A year older than you, I guess."

The man drops the letter in his lap and stares out across the yard, across the street to another yard in another time. He remembers Jimmy, the skinny, always grinning, red-headed neighbor kid, often eager to catch lightning bugs and look for locust shells and play ball in the front yard on warm June evenings. The man shivers, as if a chill has passed through his body.

"Come on, you kids," he calls out. "It's gettin' dark. Time to go in and start taking your baths." After some protesting, two of the chidren trudge up onto the porch and the other two head down the street. The man helps one child untie a knot in a shoelace, then suddenly hugs the child tightly.

The man can feel the quick, steady beat of the small heart in the child's body, and senses that it is somehow in sync with the slower beat of his own. He fights off a feeling of panic and vows silently that he will not lie awake at night wondering how strong or how fragile both those hearts might be.

