

# THE VIRGINIA QUARTERLY REVIEW

*A National Journal of Literature & Discussion*

ONE WEST RANGE • CHARLOTTESVILLE • VIRGINIA 22903

TELEPHONE (804) 924-3124 FAX (804) 924-1397

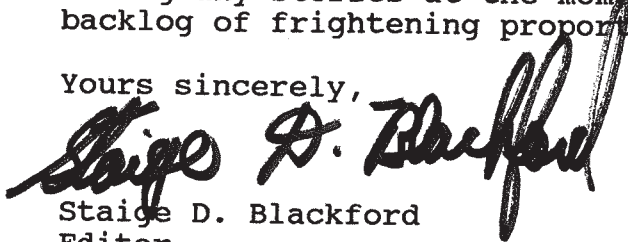
October 2, 1997

Mr. Jaime Clarke

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Since an outside reader in whose judgment I have complete confidence commented at length on your story "Sacrifice," I am enclosing those comments so you can see what the reader felt its strengths and weaknesses were. I might just say that I am not taking any stories at the moment because I am coping with a backlog of frightening proportions.

Yours sincerely,



Staige D. Blackford  
Editor

Jaime Clark-- "Sacrifice"

Clark does a nice job of developing characters. Each is distinctive, which is impressive given the somewhat unreliable narrator. The writing is tight and the pace nice. I liked "Sacrifice" though I wasn't deeply moved or fascinated. It is interesting and well-executed. The title still puzzles me, but everything else is pretty clear. The story probably ought to be read again, but it's not essential. Perhaps, if I were to point to an area where it is weak, I would say that it does not use as much sensory detail as it might. Without altering any key element of the story, this would improve matters.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**

*The Greensboro Review*  
MFA Writing Program  
Department of English

Jamie,

Thank you for sending "Shane of Lubbock" to *The Greensboro Review*, but we've decided not to publish it.

I really liked this story, but I had some concerns. First, the stuff I liked: this is dark. Very, very dark. It reminded me of a Denis Johnson or Mary Gaitskill story, a downward spiral that exceeds your expectations of how low it can sink; after you hit rock-bottom, you descend even further. I like that. Aaron and Megan's relationship fascinated, the failed LSD three-way was appropriately weird, and the final scene was horribly chilling.


Finally, though, I didn't feel like everything came together. My first problem was Aaron. I had a hard time getting a read on this character, especially in regards to his relationship with Megan. Maybe I'm just dumb, but it took me a long time to be sure that he was Megan's boyfriend. In fact, the more I read, the less sure I became of gender, even thinking that I misread his name, looking back to make sure it wasn't "Erin." The first scene, with him comforting Megan, is confusing. I hate to generalize, but to me it felt like Aaron behaved more like a close girlfriend than a boyfriend. I understand that he was becoming inured to Megan's antics, but I was still thrown off. An easy fix: name the guy something more masculine, a name leaving little room for confusion, but also think about clueing us in on his relationship with Megan right off. Have him say something about his dead-end girlfriend right away. Address jealousy and explain, hopefully in scene, how he lost the jealousy and stopped caring altogether. For this story to have the full punch it should, I need to know this stuff.

If this is a story about a relationship that is over, way over, beyond over, beyond even the nasty destructive stage into a sort of bland destructiveness, I'm hooked. But I need to know more about the relationship itself.

I'm not fully convinced by the final scene. Having Lita be responsible seemed like a trick ending, and I didn't buy it. If you go that route, you'll have to foreshadow the hell out of that, so the final move feels inevitable instead of feeling like the author is playing tricks on the reader.

Anyway, these are just the opinions of one editor, so do with them what you will. I took the time to write you a detailed letter because I really, really liked this story and wanted it to work. I was pulling for it the whole way, and I think it's only a couple of revisions away from really working.

Please try us again with another story (I'd even like to look at a revision of this one if you decide to rework it), and good luck with your writing,



Jeffrey Vance

THE  
NEW YORKER

20 WEST 43RD STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036-7441



We're sorry to say that this manuscript is not right for us, in spite of its evident merit. Unfortunately, we are receiving so many submissions that it is impossible for us to reply more specifically. We thank you for the chance to consider your work.

The Editors

*Thanks.*



# Concordia College

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

9 June 1997

Dear Jaime Clarke,

Let me begin with an apology. It's taken us far too long to respond to your work. Moorhead, Minnesota (where we are), is the same town as Fargo, North Dakota. These past few months we've been having some adventures with blizzards, ice storms, floods, etc. I'm sure you've heard about some of it on your evening news. While the magazine hasn't suffered directly because of the weather, just about everyone's schedule has fallen behind. Normally, we are *much* faster.

I enjoyed reading your work, but I'm afraid it didn't finally win me over.

If you've not had a chance to see *Ascent* since we moved to Minnesota, you may want to check out a recent issue. A sample copy is only \$4. A subscription, three issues, is only \$9.

Thank you for sending your work, and again my apologies for the delay.

All best,

W. Scott Olsen  
editor, *Ascent*

STANIS  
OF  
LIMBOCK

Department of English

Concordia College, 901 8th St S, Moorhead MN 56562

(218) 299-3812

an equal opportunity employer

# BOMB

Thank you for your submission. Unfortunately, the volume of unsolicited manuscripts that we receive precludes an individual response. At this time your work does not meet our editorial needs. However, we wish you success in placing it elsewhere.

Sincerely,

The Editors

New Art Publications, Inc.  
594 Broadway #905  
New York, NY 10012  
Tel: (212)431-3943 Fax: (212)431-5880  
Email: [bombmag@bombsite.com](mailto:bombmag@bombsite.com)  
URL: <http://www.bombsite.com>

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**

*The Greensboro Review*  
MFA Writing Program  
Department of English

11/5/97

Dear Jamie Clarke:

Thank you for sending your story to the *Greensboro Review*, but we've decided not to publish it.

There's still a lot I like about this story. It retains a great amount of darkness, and I think that Kevin's and Megan's relationship is clearer in this draft. I sent this story on to a few other editors, and the major concern centered around the ending. A few people felt like the bottle scene was too much.

Good luck placing this elsewhere, and think trying us again with another story,



Jeffrey Vance

L E F T F I E L D  P R E S S

11/18/97

**Another Chicago Magazine**

3709 N. Kenmore • Chicago, IL 60613

We're sorry to have to resort to this impersonal form, but the increasing volume of submissions has made it impossible for us to comment personally on each. Although we haven't found your work suitable for ACM, we sincerely appreciate your interest and support.

*Sincerely,*

*The Editors*

Sorry —  
SS

1997 CHICAGO LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST GUIDELINES

**\$500 + Publication in ACM to the winning story**  
**\$500 + Publication in ACM to the winning poem**  
**\$300 + Publication in ACM to the winning essay**

Judges: Fiction--ALAN CHEUSE  
Poetry--WANDA COLEMAN  
Essay/Creative Nonfiction--BOB SHACOCHIS

Deadline: Postmark by December 15, 1997

Entry fee: \$10 for each story  
\$5 for each poem or essay  
Make checks payable to Left Field Press

Maximum length: 6500 words per story or essay, 125 lines per poem

Manuscript requirements: No names on manuscript; include cover page with name, address, title(s), and wordcount.

No previously published work eligible; if work is under consideration elsewhere, ACM must be notified and work withdrawn upon other acceptance. All entries will be considered for publication.

Notification by April 1, 1998. No manuscripts will be returned; include SAS postcard for acknowledgement of entry; SASE for notification of winners.

Send entries to: ACM/ Chicago Literary Awards  
3709 N. Kenmore  
Chicago, IL 60613





# Confrontation

*The Literary Journal of Long Island University*  
English Department, C.W. Post of L.I.U.  
Brookville, New York 11548

Martin Tucker, *Editor-in-Chief*

516-299-2391 (English Department; leave messages)  
516-299-2720; 2706 (magazine office)  
FAX: 516-299-2735

Date:

Dear Submitter:

We are sorry to be returning the enclosed manuscript(s). We try to report on all submissions within eight weeks. We have a small but extraordinarily dedicated staff, but on occasion, because of the great number of manuscripts submitted for consideration, we are delayed in our response.

Thank you for your interest in our journal.

On the backside of this letter is a subscription form to the magazine, should you be interested in subscribing.

Sincerely,

The Editors



# The Sewanee Review

Give a subscription to the nation's oldest literary quarterly. The lucky recipient will receive four issues a year, each joining essays, reviews, stories, and poems on a common theme—plus a handsome card announcing your gift.

For your valued support we'll send you a complimentary copy of Fall 1971, a collectible issue featuring Andrew Lytle's fine essay "The State of Letters in a Time of Disorder"—and one of our handsome new *Sewanee Review* bookmarks.

Please indicate the number of years you want to subscribe and enclose your check. Thanks!

One year \$18 \_\_\_\_; two years \$32 \_\_\_\_; three years \$45 \_\_\_\_  
(Outside U.S.A. add \$5.00 per year for postage.)

Start with the \_\_\_\_\_ 1997 issue (winter, spring, summer, or fall—published January, April, July, and October).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

735 UNIVERSITY AVENUE • SEWANEE TN 37383-1000 • 615/598-1245

# Esquire

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Thanks for sending "SACRIFICE".

The editors of Esquire  
appreciated the opportunity to  
consider your work. We're sorry  
to tell you that it does not fit our  
needs, but thank you for  
sending it to us.

Some great moments —  
found the inserted  
second person disruptive to  
the story — you might consider  
~~being~~ reexamining that.  
Not for us.  
Thanks  
A. Davis

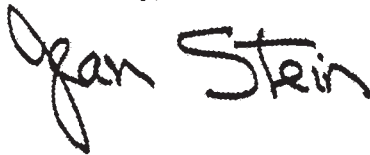
# GRAND STREET

Dear *Grand Street* Reader,

Thank you for sending your manuscript. I am sorry to say that we have decided that we can no longer read unsolicited fiction or essays. (Please note that we will continue to read unsolicited poetry.) We take this step with great reluctance and regret, but the size of our staff and the volume of work we receive makes this decision an unavoidable one.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and wish you the best of luck with your writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean Stein  
Editor

131 VARICK STREET ROOM 906 NEW YORK, NY 10013  
TELEPHONE 212 807 6548 FAX 212 807 6544

# DoubleTake

Thank you for sending your manuscript to DoubleTake. Although it doesn't fit into our current plans for the magazine, we appreciate having had the chance to consider it and wish you the best in placing it elsewhere.

The Editors

Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University 1317 West Pettigrew Street Durham, North Carolina 27705  
Telephone: 919.660.3669 Fax: 919.660.3688 E-mail: dtmag@acpub.duke.edu  
Visit our Web site: <http://www.duke.edu/doubletake/>



# The Kenyon Review

Kenyon College  
Phone: 614 427-5208

E-mail: [kenyonreview@kenyon.edu](mailto:kenyonreview@kenyon.edu)

Gambier, OH 43022  
Fax: 614 427-5417

*Quinn Clarke*  
Dear Author:

We regret that we are unable to use your manuscript.

It has received careful consideration, but unfortunately the large number of submissions prevents us from commenting on many of them.

We appreciate your interest in the Review.

The Editors

*Thanks for the chance to read "Sacrifice". While it doesn't meet our current needs, it does show considerable promise and I'd be happy to see more of your work, perhaps in the spring. Best, DL*

Editor  
*David H. Lynn*  
614 427-5271  
[lynnd@kenyon.edu](mailto:lynnd@kenyon.edu)

Managing Editor  
*Cy Waincott*  
614 427-5202  
[waincottc@kenyon.edu](mailto:waincottc@kenyon.edu)

Operations Coordinator  
*Doris Jean Dilts*  
614 427-5208  
[diltsd@kenyon.edu](mailto:diltsd@kenyon.edu)

# FICTION

Dear Jamie Clark

We regret that we are unable to use the enclosed manuscript but thank you for the chance to read it.

Please accept our apologies for the long delay; we hope it has not caused you inconvenience.

Best Wishes,

The Editors

# Cimarron Review

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205 Morrill Hall • Oklahoma State University • Stillwater, Oklahoma • 74078-0135 • 405-744-9476

We have read the material you submitted for possible publication in *Cimarron Review*, but we feel that it is not suitable for us at this time. We wish you good luck in placing it elsewhere.

We receive hundreds of quality manuscripts a year, and although we cannot publish them all, we sincerely encourage writers both published and unpublished to continue to send us their work. The staff of *Cimarron Review* is proud of its record as one of the oldest and most respected American journals of good poetry, fiction, and essays, and we appreciate your interest and support.

*Cimarron Review is published four times a year (January, April, July, and October).  
Sample issue price \$3.00, one year subscription \$12.00, three years \$30.00.*



# STORY

We appreciate the  
opportunity  
to consider your work.

We regret having to  
return it, but thank you  
for sending it to us.

1507 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45207

# COLUMBIA

A JOURNAL OF LITERATURE AND ART

We regret that the enclosed material does not fit our current editorial needs. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to consider it at COLUMBIA, and we wish you the best in finding a good home for it soon.

The Editors

*The  
Missouri  
Review*

Dear Author:

Thank you for submitting your work to *The Missouri Review*. Though it doesn't meet our current needs, we appreciate the opportunity to consider it for publication. We wish you the best of luck in placing it elsewhere. We are doing everything we can to reply to manuscripts in a timely way, and hope that we haven't been too slow in considering this one.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

*The Editors*

# THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW

*Please note that The North American Review reads fiction ONLY between January 1st and April 1st. We read poetry and non-fiction year-round. Fiction received between April 1st and January 1st is returned unread.*

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA CEDAR FALLS IA 50614-0516 PHONE/FAX (319) 273-6455

6/20/97

**Another Chicago Magazine**  
3709 N. Kenmore • Chicago, IL 60613

We're sorry to have to resort to this impersonal form, but the increasing volume of submissions has made it impossible for us to comment personally on each. Although we haven't found your work suitable for ACM, we sincerely appreciate your interest and support.

*Sincerely,*

*The Editors*

Sorry, but thanks —  
Please try us again —  
SS

SHANE  
OF  
LUBBOCK

# The Sewanee Review

SEWANEE, TENNESSEE 37375

The editor thanks you for letting him read the enclosed manuscript and is sorry to report that it does not suit the present needs of the magazine. He regrets that it is not possible for him to comment on your submission.



*We thank you  
for your interest in  
THE SOUTHERN REVIEW  
and for  
allowing us to read  
the enclosed manuscript.*

*After careful consideration  
we have decided  
that it does not meet  
our current needs.*

*THE EDITORS*

*I believe we've seen this  
story before. Though we  
read it with real pleasure,  
I'm afraid it's not quite  
right for TSR. Thanks for the look.*

## MICHIGAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

The University of Michigan  
3032 Rackham Building  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070

The editors regret that the enclosed material does not suit the current needs of *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

Some writers are unaware of this journal's format, and send us the wrong kind of material. We recommend that writers consult a recent issue of this journal before submitting work for consideration. A sample back issue of MQR is \$2.50.

Saine:

"Sacrifice" is  
stylish & contemporary  
but a little thin,  
the effect of the  
reticent prose  
"the shallow  
characters."

Perhaps  
something else?

Lawrence

Stolten

ANTIOCH  
*the* REVIEW

Thank you for sending us your manuscript. The return of your work does not necessarily imply criticism of its merit, but may simply mean that it does not meet our present editorial needs. We regret that circumstances do not allow individual comment.

**The Editors**

**THE PARIS REVIEW**

541 EAST 72 STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

Thank you for showing your manuscript to The Paris Review. We regret we are not able to make use of it at this time.

Sincerely,

**THE EDITORS**

THE CAROLINA QUARTERLY

We have read your manuscript with interest and regret that it is not suited to our present needs. We hope that you will have success with it elsewhere.

*Jennifer Heller*



# NWR

We're sorry we're not able to publish the fiction you sent, but we're grateful for having had the chance to consider it, and appreciate your interest in *Northwest Review*.

The Editors

NORTHWEST REVIEW 369 PLC UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE OR 97403 541-346-3957  
The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## AMERICAN SHORT FICTION

Thank you for sending your work to American Short Fiction.

We are sorry to report that we cannot offer you publication. We receive so many submissions that it is impossible for us to comment on the work, although we know it might be helpful. We wish you continued good luck with your work.

The Editorial Staff

# Ploughshares



We regret that the manuscript you submitted does not fit our current editorial needs. Thank you very much for sending us your work.

The Editors

Reading period: Aug. 1 - March 31 postmark dates  
Emerson College • 100 Beacon St. • Boston, MA 02116

P.O. Box 9131  
Berkeley, California  
94709

THE  
THREEPENNY  
REVIEW

Thank you for sending us your work, <sup>Sacrifice,</sup> <sup>^</sup>  
but I'm afraid we can't use it in  
The Threepenny Review at present.

Wendy Lesser, editor

# EPOCH

Cornell University  
251 Goldwin Smith  
Ithaca, NY 14853

Thank you for letting us see your manuscript.  
We've read it with care and regret we can't use it.

*Epoch* is published three times per year. Unsolicited work is welcome between September 15 and April 15. Manuscripts received at other times will be returned unread.

## SOUTHWEST REVIEW

307 Fondren Library West • PO Box 750374  
Southern Methodist University  
Dallas TX 75275-0374

The editors of the *SOUTHWEST REVIEW* wish to express their regret that the enclosed manuscript is unsuited to the present needs of the magazine.

*The Georgia Review*

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The University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602-9009

*Editor:*  
Stanley W. Lindberg  
*Managing Editor:*  
Annette Hatton

*Associate Editor:*  
Stephen Corey  
*Assistant Editor:*  
Janet Wondra

We are sorry to report that the work you submitted has not been selected for publication. We thank you for letting us consider your writing, however, and we wish you the best in placing it elsewhere.

**Prairie Schooner**

P. O. Box 880334, University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0334

We thank you for submitting the enclosed manuscript for our consideration. We regret that we are unable to accept it for publication.

Hilda Raz, Editor



*The*  
**Iowa Review**

308 EPB The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Thank you very much for giving us this chance to read your story. Our issues depend on the submissions of many writers, few of whom we can include, and in returning your work we admit that for the present we favor other offerings. Still we value your thinking of us, and we regret that the number of submissions encourages this impersonal reply.

*Thank you*

71984/9-96

*The*  
**North American**  
*Review*

*SACNFFICE*

The editors regret that the enclosed contribution is not adapted to the particular needs of the NAR at the present time. We are therefore returning it, with thanks for your courtesy in giving us an opportunity to examine it.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA, CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50614



The material enclosed has been given careful consideration and is not suitable for use in our publication at this time. Due to the volume of submissions received, we regret that we cannot offer individual criticisms.

All submissions should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, if their return is desired.

Your interest in PLAYBOY is most warmly appreciated.

The Editors

**PLAYBOY** / 680 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

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## WITNESSES

Oakland Community College  
Orchard Ridge Campus  
27055 Orchard Lake Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

313/471-7740

Thank you for sending us your work for possible inclusion in *Witness*. We are sorry to say that it doesn't meet our current editorial needs. The many excellent submissions we receive, coupled with our policy of assembling material for issues on special themes, make it difficult for us to find room for many worthwhile manuscripts. We apologize for this reply and wish you success in placing your work.

Sincerely,

Peter Stine, Editor

## *The Crescent Review*

J. T. Holland, Editor  
POB 15069, Chevy Chase, MD 20825

Thank you for giving us a chance to read your story. We appreciate the fact you chose to send your work to *The Crescent Review*. However, we regret it is not right for us. We wish you success in your writing and publishing for the remainder of this year and hope you try us again in the future.



*I believe we are obliged to leave  
behind a trace of who we are  
and where we've come from and  
what we know—which of  
course changes constantly ...  
What can do that more truly  
than fiction writing? Nothing,  
in my opinion.*

—Alfred Church

We've finished reading through the several hundred manuscripts that were sent to us to be considered for our Short-Story Award for New Writers, and have finally made our selections and called the prizewinners. This batch of stories was particularly solid, an extra treat for us. Thank you.

In about two months, you'll receive a copy of the issue in which winners will be listed and the first-prize story published. Thank you very much for participating in our short-story competition.

*Susan & Linda*

# CutBank

Dept. of English • University of Montana •  
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Contributor:

Thank you for letting us see your work. We regret that it does not currently meet our needs.

Good luck in placing your manuscript elsewhere, and please consider us in the future.

Best regards,

The Editors

## Quarterly West

Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction & Reviews

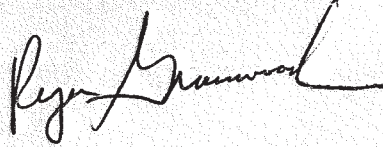
Thank you for letting us consider your work. We have read it carefully and have decided we can't use it at the present time. Good luck in placing it elsewhere, and please keep us in mind for future submissions.



# CHICAGO REVIEW

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • 5801 S. KENWOOD AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60637

Thank you for submitting your work to CHICAGO REVIEW. It does not meet our current editorial needs, but we appreciate your interest in the magazine.



THE EDITORS

# MID-AMERICAN R E V I E W

We appreciate that you think enough of *Mid-American Review* to want your work to appear in it. We have read your submission with interest and, though we are returning it, we invite you to submit again.

The Editors

Department of English  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403