

Monday Night – Print Magazine

Issue 6; 2007

Editors: Sharon, McGill, Rob Pierce, Jessica Wickens

Web Address: www.mondaynightlit.com

What They Publish: Fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry.

Submission Guidelines: No more than five poems or three pieces of prose, up to 5,000 words. Unpublished work only. Simultaneous submissions are allowed. Reading period is September to December 15. All submissions must be attached to an e-mail to mondaynightlit@yahoo.com. Name and contact information should be included in submission. E-mail message should include name, contact info, titles of submissions and whether they are fiction, poetry, or non-fiction.

Description of Publication: Stapled. 8.5” x 5.5”. Black and white. Very unique and stunning cover art.

Accompanying website is professional and easy to navigate. Contributors have varied credentials. Published annually.

Prose Per Issue: Roughly 60% prose. Most recent issue contained five poems, nine pieces of prose, including one or two that blurred the line between poetry and prose.

Prose Reviews:

Smoking With Mom by Sean Craven is plainspoken, realistic fiction in a domestic setting told in first person. The story begins with the child narrator watching his mother create smoke rings with a pack of cigarettes and an envelope. The child asks his mother why she smokes, and she responds by letting him try a cigarette. The child tries it and tells his mother that she is an idiot for smoking and she agrees. Then the child plays with bubbles and wonders what a bubble would look like blown with smoke. The result is amusing for both mother and child, but after a while the mother gets sick from smoking too many cigarettes. Finally, the child tries to convince the mother to stop smoking by naming each of her cigarettes. The mother obliges and describes each cigarette as a person with undesirable qualities, and ultimately the child agrees that she should “kill” each “person” by smoking the cigarettes.

The child’s point of view is strong, as the author reveals his simple, naïve, and otherwise childlike thoughts (he thinks his mother looks like a “flesh-colored crayon” when she gets sick; he thinks his idea to name the cigarettes is “brilliant”). The dialogue between mother and child is authentic and believable. The visual imagery describing the bubbles blown with smoke is vivid and memorable.

The Peaches Are Cheap by Mike Young is a plainspoken, realistic story in a domestic setting. The first-person narrator picks his brother up from work, and the two drive to the supermarket to buy canned peaches. They talk, and the dialogue is interjected with notes about what they see as they are driving. The brothers eat the peaches in the parking lot and the narrator reminisces about their childhood together and then notes that they are both now grown ups with jobs. At the end, the narrator drops his brother off at his house, but before he leaves, the narrator thinks about asking him to play pool or get pizza. Instead, the narrator says that he will see him tomorrow “same time, same channel.” As the narrator drives away, he closes his eyes and hopes that he will hit “something, anything.”

Stephanie Velasco

October 2007

The images the brothers see as they drive through town are varied (hobos in swimming trunks and shoes tied to power lines), but each is specific and detailed. The dialogue between the brothers is believable, and their banter gives insights into their relationship without sounding contrived. The language is tight – not a word is wasted, and each word adds to the scene.

Rating: 7: The magazine consistently publishes more prose than poetry, and more fiction than any other type of prose. The editors are looking for new and emerging writers with unique, but literary submissions. The contributors have varied credentials, including a couple previously unpublished writers. The publication is well-edited and features strong, well-written, and typically introspective fiction.