

**Oyez Review** (Winter 2005/2006 issue)

Reviewer: Katelyn Stanek

Editor: Krys Buckendahl

November 2006

Web Address: [www.roosevelt.edu/oyezreview](http://www.roosevelt.edu/oyezreview)

What They Publish: Fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction

Submission Guidelines: *Oyez Review* accepts submissions for publication between August 1 and October 1 (check their Web site for changes to the reading period). There are no restrictions on theme, content or length, although the editors suggest that stories be under 5,500 words. This publication accepts only stories that have not appeared in print previously, and does not accept simultaneous submissions. Send submissions and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: *Oyez Review*, Department of Literature and Languages, Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605. *Oyez Review* does not accept electronic submissions.

Description of Magazine: A small, simple literary magazine from a university publisher that features several fiction and creative non-fiction pieces in addition to numerous poems. Published annually.

Prose Per Issue: Approximately 25% of the magazine is dedicated to prose.

Prose Reviews:

*Life in the Funny Papers* by Ron Savage is a poetic, third-person story told in a domestic setting. The story is told from the point of view of Hannah, a woman who sees angels appear around her everywhere she goes, and is subsequently institutionalized because of this. She has a deep friendship with Marcus, who the reader later learns is an employee at what appears to be a sanitarium (the details of the place are left to the reader's imagination). As the story progresses, the reader discovers that Hannah is growing weary of her stay in this place due to unruly patients and doctors. Although she is not mentally stable, Hannah sneaks out of the care of her doctors, finding Marcus and running off with him in the end.

The story is spare and experimental, forcing the reader to infer much of what is happening to the characters. At times, this dependence on "filling in the blanks" makes the piece read more like a poem than a story, and its effectiveness as a piece of prose is limited by this.

*In the Land of the Free* by Geoffrey Forsyth is a plainspoken first-person story told in a domestic setting. It centers on a narrator who finds himself the subject of much scorn and suspicion because he does not have a job. His joblessness, however, garners him the time to track down and lure an escaped rhinoceros to his home using kind words and a plate of lasagna. Although made a hero by the press, in the end, the narrator is bothered by their insistence on knowing why he was home in the middle of the day, a question that implies to him that the reporters find his unemployment bothersome.

The story is extremely short (about two pages long) and moves at a rapid pace out of necessity. Despite its absurd plot, the author uses language that is not at all experimental, adding to the piece's feeling of oddity. Its humor is effective and original, making *In the Land of the Free* a rather enjoyable read.

Rating: 2 out of 10. *Oyez Review* is a small publication that focuses most of its attention on poetry, dedicating very few of its pages to prose. Although free of typographical errors, the design of the magazine is unimpressive. *Oyez Review* has a history of publishing authors who go on to become successful (Charles Bukowski and Barry Silesky

among them), but the level of writing in the most recent issue is not remarkable, and certainly not on par with what one expects from a university publisher.