

# Legacy Scholarly Journal

Volume VI, June 2007



**Editor-in-Chief**

Sherrí C. Colton

**SAB Representative/Service Project Manager**

Mary Beth Miozza

**Submissions Editor**

Michelle L. LaFaver

**Poetry Editor**

Evelyn F. Burke

**Layout and Art Editor**

María Elena Arias-Zelidón

**Photography Editor**

Reuben D. Wilson

**Artist**

Florence Hernandez

**Advisor**

Dr. Joanne E. Gabel



---

## Editor's Note

Sherri C. Colton  
Editor-in-Chief

When the Schuylkill River overflowed its banks June 27th through June 29th of 2006, many minds retained snapshots of the destructive power water can have. People from all over the area came to gaze over the Penn Street Bridge and other places to see the indelible mark the river would leave behind. Long after the waters receded, many teachers and students talk about the day the river left its bed and spilled out onto the shores of Reading Area Community College and much of our county.

Life, I have been pondering, can be like that. With a staff that represents mostly non-traditional students this year, many of us have been in such a place in our lives. Something happens and we find ourselves in a situation that can make us or break us. It is at these times that we learn who we are and the strength of which we are made. It is not easy and it often is quite messy for some time. People will watch us to see what we will make of it, how we will use it, or even if we will survive.

Many years after we have all left this school, we will have occasion to remember our time spent here. Questions to be asked will be some of the same as above... What did we make of it? How did we use it? Did we survive or did we allow it to sweep us away. These are the questions that we can ponder today that might help set us on the right track for our futures. Futures that may show a picture of overflowed banks through the years, but with that, the rainbow of hope that comes when the water recedes and life begins anew.

We selected our theme for this issue of *Legacy* to be "Rising to New Heights" because we believe in ourselves and in the insight that can only be gained from the overflowing of banks and subsequent enrichment of the loam in which our feet are planted. It is our desire that you will be uplifted as you peruse the pages of *Legacy VI* and that you will bear the tides of life and say, "I rise."

*Sherri Colton*

## Acknowledgements

The staff of *Legacy VI* would like to say thank you for your support. We extend our thanks to all faculty members who inspired and encouraged students to submit their work, who helped students ready their work for consideration, or who granted permission for the use of student donated art.

We extend our thanks to each member of RACC's administration and staff who supported the publishing of *Legacy VI* and a special thanks to our advisor, Dr. Joanne Gabel, without whom this book would barely have risen from the ground at all. Dr. Gabel was an invaluable resource for this project. There were times it did not seem possible that we were moving forward at all, but Dr. Gabel was always there with encouragement just at the right time. From all of us, we say, "thank you!"

And finally, we extend our great thanks to all students who contributed essays, art, photography, or poetry for consideration and inclusion.

---

**Cover design by  
María Elena Arias-Zelidón**

---

### **The Board of Trustees of READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

-Officers-

Dr. Leo A. DeSantis, Chairman  
Edwin L. Stock, Vice Chair  
Nancy L. Snyder, Secretary

-Trustees-

Dr. Sam A. Alley  
Connie M. Archey  
Kathleen D. Dautrich  
James A. Gilmartin  
L. Frank Kulp  
Irwin S. Rosner  
Dean E. Sheaffer  
Joseph A. Vaccaro  
John C. Woodward  
Victor R. H. Yarnell  
James H. Yocum

---

## Art

vi	Chin Up
2	Eyes are the Window
8	Walmart at Night
12	Older Times
14	Sharing of Human Nature
18	Through the Lens
22	The Proposal
26	Ferris Wheel
27	Steps
28	Welling Up
32	A Lone Design
33	Four Stages of Growth
34	Upside Down
38	Emerging
40	The Fire
44	The Glass of Wine
48	A Real Education
52	The Moon and The Stars
55	Emblem of Strife
56	Tears of Innocence
58	Like Mist
59	Transformed
62	The Face of Evil
65	Dance in the Sunlight
66	Door to the Sky

## Poetry

1	Studying the Pain
7	From the Mirror
13	Zene
14	Of Human Nature
39	Dark No More
51	Education
57	Today's Woman
67	I Never Thought You'd Leave Me
68	Tears Navigating Seas of Laughter
69	Reflections

# Legacy

Scholarly Journal . Volume VI

## Essays

3	Illegal Immigration: The Growing Danger to American Society
9	Wal-Mart: How America's Largest Retailer Is Hurting the Economy
15	Free File Sharing: A New Beginning for Music
19	Photojournalists: The Silent Storytellers
23	How to Marry (Off) a Feminist in Ten Days
29	Parental Depression: The Effects on Children
35	Sylvia Plath: The Tip of the Electra Iceberg
41	Staffing Problems with the Reading Fire Department
45	Gatsby, Capone, and Declining Morality in the Roaring Twenties
53	Tarnished Colors: The Real History behind the Confederate Battle Flag
59	Is Time Travel Possible?
63	Night Vision: An Analysis of F.W. Murnau's <i>Nosferatu</i>

## Editorial Policy

*Legacy* is published once a year by students currently enrolled in credit courses at Reading Area Community College. Submissions to *Legacy* are accepted only from students in attendance within the current academic year. *Legacy's* main purpose is to present the research of current and future scholars and writers, as well as that of poets, artists, and photo-journalists. All work must be submitted with proper submission forms. Submission forms can be found online or in the Humanities Department, Yocum. All rights, including e-rights, reserved. Copyright for individual works reverts to authors and artists upon publication. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the general staff, or the college. *Legacy* is available free to all students.

This publication is the property of Reading Area Community College. Reading Area Community College received permission for a one-time use of the student work. Contributing student authors and artists retain rights to their educational work, and are responsible for all content. Any reprint of student essays, artwork, poetry, or photography in whole or in part must receive permission from the student authors and/or artists.

Reading Area Community College, an equal opportunity college, does not discriminate against persons in employment, educational programs or activities, vocational programs or awarding of contracts based on race, gender, religion, national origin, age, color, sexual orientation, veteran status or disability. This Board of Trustees policy #840 on nondiscrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications and is published in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Affirmative Action inquiries should be directed to the



### -Philosophy-

The vision of *Legacy's* student staff is to inspire excellence and creativity in writing and original thinking by presenting student academic work that reflects the various disciplines in a publication that honors the principles of RACC - excellence, equality, diversity, creativity and community.

*The Legacy Scholarly Journal* has been published for a general college readership since 2001 by the students of Reading Area Community College, 10 South Second Street, P.O. Box 1706, Reading, PA 19603. Telephone (610) 372-4721.

Visit us on the Web at

### -Colophon-

The sixth annual edition of *Legacy* was designed using a Gateway MX7527 computer. The software used in this production was QuarkXpress 5.0 and Microsoft Digital ImageSuite 2006 Editor.

Volume VI was printed by Boyertown Publishing Company in Boyertown, PA. The cover was printed on 100# porcelain cover stock using a 4/4 color process in an 8.5x11 format. The body for the magazine was printed in black ink on 80# dull text paper. Essay titles are Times New Roman 40 point and body text for essays is Times New Roman 12 point. Titles for poetry is TW CEN MT 14 point and body text for poetry is TW CEN MT 12 point.







**Chin Up**

Sarah Jefferis

---

---

# Studying the Pain

By **María Elena Arias-Zelidón**

All that I want,  
the pain to shout.  
Losing a voice...  
Empty silences.

All that I want,  
the pain to cry.  
Tears on skin...  
Empty sorrows.

All that I want,  
the pain to feel.  
Embracing the past...  
Empty memories.

All that I want,  
the pain to write.  
Who will read...  
Empty rights.

All that I want,  
the pain to express.  
Drawing with blood...  
Empty times.

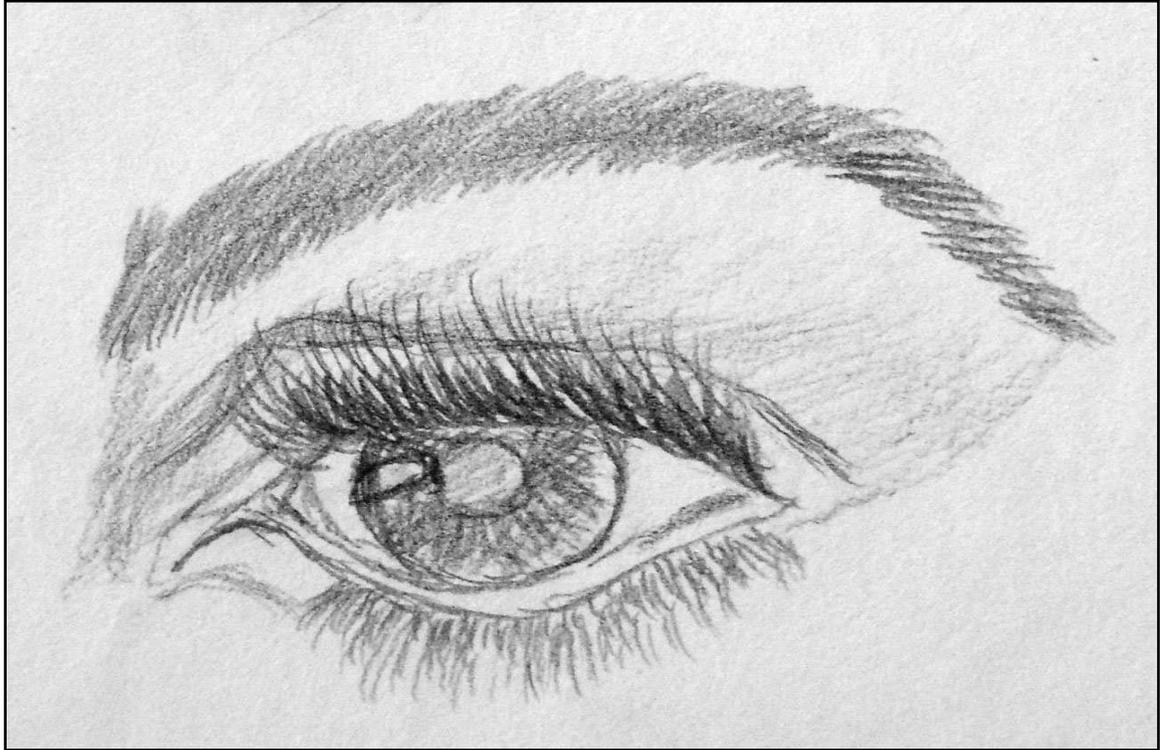
Cuanto deseo,  
el dolor gritar.  
No encuentro la voz...  
Vacíos silencios.

Cuanto deseo,  
el dolor llorar.  
Lagrimas sobre mejillas...  
Vacíos lamentos.

Cuanto deseo,  
el dolor sentir.  
Abranzando el pasado...  
Vacíos recuerdos.

Cuanto deseo,  
el dolor escribir.  
Quien leerá...  
Vacíos derechos.

Cuanto deseo,  
el dolor expresar.  
Dibujando con sangre  
Vacíos tiempos.



***Eyes Are the Window to the Soul***

# Illegal Immigration: The Growing Danger to American Society

By Sal Trinchillo

*Author's Note: "I have personal experience being a (legal) immigrant as well as having dealt with illegal immigration in the business world."*

With its continued exponential growth and associated problems, illegal immigration has become one of the most controversial and debated issues today, with proponents on both sides arguing for the benefits and the costs it places on the economy. While the United States has always opened its door to welcome immigrants, it is now necessary to reevaluate the process by which it admits people into the country and by which it regulates the naturalization process. It is only by analyzing census and other statistical data that a clear picture can emerge of the negative impact illegal immigration is having on the economy. As such, it becomes imperative for the government to implement and enforce measures to deal with this pressing and growing problem.

Illegal immigration is having a profound impact on the job market for the uneducated native worker, as reported in a recent study by George J. Borjas and Lawrence F. Katz (2005) of the National Bureau of Economic Research. The authors based their study on analysis of statistical data from the government census and reached the conclusion that while the influx of the illegal immigrant population has contributed benefits such as increased wages to the college-educated population and the lowering of the cost of goods and services, it has had a far more negative impact not only by replacing the less educated native worker in the job market, but also by depressing the wage scale at the lower end, thus further widening the gap between low and high

compensation (pp. 42-43).

Proponents of illegal immigration challenge this study and any claims based upon it by arguing that the authors have inflated the true impact illegal immigration has had on the job market for the unskilled native worker; and when considering a longer time span, the impact is more modest in percentage. On the same issue, they also present other studies which claim that illegal immigration is having no damaging impact on wages and that the industry actually needs this constant influx of low cost laborers to keep up with its growth demands.

While economic growth is important in our society, what is often omitted is the fact that corporations and special interest groups are lobbying Congress to grant amnesty to the millions of illegals currently residing in the country, sometimes going as far as writing the bill themselves, for the sole reason of exploiting the lower cost laborers and increasing their profits; these are powerful entities wielding enormous political clout on account of the vast amount of money they contribute to politicians and political parties' campaigns. Therefore, politicians are careful not to disagree with them (Dobbs, 2007). Furthermore, while exposing the issue of disconnect of falling wages created by surplus unskilled workers, Dobbs asserts that "corporate America, special interests and the out-of-touch elite of the Senate have little regard for truth, working Americans, the common good and national interest" (para. 12).

Another area that has been severely impacted by illegal immigration is the medical field which is forced to provide all kinds of services to this growing sector of the population dealing with injuries, child births, addiction, disability and other medical conditions. The main issue is that while the federal government has legislated that hospitals and clinics cannot refuse service to patients, regardless of legal status, it has not provided for any kind of reimbursement program to these facilities, forcing many to financial bankruptcy.

Proponents of illegal immigration mention the economic benefits provided by illegal immigrants reinforcing their argument by citing New York city Mayor Michael Bloomberg's testimony at the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's immigration-reform hearings in which the Mayor asserts that "75 percent of New York [C]ity's 500,000 undocumented workers paid their taxes and that the city's tax base and its economy would be *decimated* [emphasis added] without their contributions" (Geringer, 2006, para. 16).

While New York City's situation might be a positive one, if the results agree with the statement, it is also quite unique when compared to how the rest of the country has fared. Medical lawyer Madeleine Pelter Cosman (2005) discusses in great detail in her paper "Illegal Aliens and American Medicine," the impact that illegal immigration is having on the medical profession, which has led many facilities, especially in the state of California, to close because of the financial burden incurred. The main problem is the all-inclusive unfunded legislation, Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, *EMTALA*, which requires every emergency department to provide medical services to any patients within a certain distance from the facility's entrance, regardless of legal status and the possibility of payment (p. 6).

A related phenomena is the increase in births of "[a]nchor [b]abies." Through misinterpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, every child born on U.S. soil is automatically granted citizenship rights along with the child's right to claim his parents and siblings as legal citizens once he turns eighteen. The statistical data shows a staggering number of births utilized in the *anchor baby*

fashion by the illegal-immigrant population, with a percentage as high as seventy in the San Joaquin Hospital, Stockton, California (Cosman, 2005, p. 7). Another cause for concern is the widespread abuse of disability services that can cost as much as \$30,000/year per child to the taxpayer; several national organizations are directly sponsoring these abuses and have created a subculture where service-oriented middlemen like lawyers and translators are profiting as well, to the detriment of the taxpayer (Cosman, 2005, p. 7).

The nation's school system is also facing the economic burden of providing services to the millions of children born to illegal immigrants since they are supported by welfare and given school-attending privileges. Proponents claim that one of the benefits of this influx of babies into the economy will be felt ten to twenty years in the future once these children enter the workforce and become a productive part of American society, even contributing to fund the shortage in the social security funding; a coincidental benefit, they claim, is that they will have a pivotal role in reversing the aging trend that is currently plaguing the western-industrial nations, giving the American economy an advantage compared to the European one.

Even if we are to accept this notion of delayed benefits, which at this point in time is only an unproven theory, are we not doing so at the expense of the present economical and social situation? How can we base our national stability on a future prospect without a solution to the present problem? California, for instance, is currently facing the economical impact on its school system by absorbing the extra cost of providing for the extra illegal children community while not being reimbursed by the federal government, which ironically is the only entity to benefit from the potential tax revenues from this illegal community; officials at the local and state level are still arguing for a way to eliminate the burden or redirect responsibility to the federal government which is failing to protect the borders. This has prompted Michael D. Antonovich (2006), Mayor of the County of Los Angeles, in a statement to the Committee on House Judiciary, to detail the pressure his city and his state are receiving from the large share of illegal-immigrant residents and the cost attributed to providing

services and schools where nearly half of the students do not speak English; he declares that "[t]he fiscal drain on the taxpayers by those who are here illegally [is] catastrophic" (para. 10), and further expresses his fears by saying "[w]e have a meltdown in our public schools" (para. 21).

Illegal immigration is also the source of increased crime stemming from its own criminal gangs, and ID theft which is promoted by the illegals' need for IDs to secure jobs and rental accommodations. As the illegal-immigrant population has grown to an estimated nine million people, it has been followed by the growth of its own criminal gangs, with the more notorious and dangerous being the Mara Salvatrucha 13, also known as MS 13; this particular gang was composed mainly of immigrants from El Salvador, and has grown rapidly thanks to its adaptability to the various environments in which it operates. MS 13 is involved in most crimes like theft, murder, drug distribution, and it frustrates police officers who, after building a successful investigation leading to criminal charges, see their suspects flee to South American countries that have no extradition agreement with the U.S. (Domash, 2007). In addition, illegal immigrants detained for a crime add to the financial cost of prisons; the illegal-immigrant prison population composes a large percentage of total inmate population, with the INS absorbing the detainment as well as the deportation cost (GAO, *INS' Efforts to Remove Imprisoned Aliens*, 1998).

A crime-related emerging issue is identity theft: IDs, such as social security numbers, driver license, and financial account information are stolen and sold to the illegal immigrant to facilitate the filling out of the required forms for employment, apartment rental, or car purchase. An entire underground market for such IDs has burgeoned creating problems for the real owners of the IDs and the financial system, further weakening the ability of employers to check legal status. A recent report by the U.S. General Accounting Office establishes links of ID theft and fraud with illegal alien activity, as well as the prevalence of growth of this crime (GAO, *Identity Fraud*, 2002).

Proponents of illegal immigration cite the fact that the majority of illegals are hard working, law abiding people who have made a tremendous

sacrifice to enter the nation in order to provide for their families; as such they should not be held responsible for the crimes perpetrated by few. While there may be some truth to their statement, it does not alleviate the damaging impact on the economy caused by this increased criminal activity. Additionally, the very concept of an *illegal* immigrant differentiates him or her from the vast amount of *legal* immigrants who have applied for citizenship in a legal manner by going through all the required testing.

The impact felt at the state and local level has forced many communities and local governments to pass measures in order to curb the influx of illegal immigrants in their areas. In Charlotte, North Carolina, for instance, a recent study on immigration reports an impending breakdown of their economic and social structure forced to absorb the increase in service costs at all levels, ranging from the educational system to the health care system (Ordonez, 2006).

Some of the measures taken at the state and local level, which include requiring landlords to verify legal status before renting rooms and penalizing employers that employ illegals, have met resistance by various organizations such as the ACLU and other Hispanic Activist Groups, in the form of legal disputes that have prompted federal judges to block the laws on the basis of unconstitutionality. Many small towns simply do not have the financial means to fund a lawsuit and are forced to withdraw their measures and pay fines ("More towns likely," 2007).

Some citizens also have undertaken the task of reporting any illegal hiring activity by monitoring big companies, and in some cases driving to the town centers where most daily illegal laborers tend to cluster, waiting for employers to pick them up. This movement has grown substantially and has spawned a national group, The Minuteman Project, which is the target of proponents of illegal immigration and it is often labeled a vigilante association (McMillan, Crockett, Palmeri, 2006).

Illegal immigration dangerously erodes our economic and social structure and shows no signs of abatement. Government must implement and enforce a comprehensive program to deal with this pressing and growing problem. While the influx of

illegal immigrants has increased in recent years, few measures have been taken to relieve this increased pressure on the infrastructures of the nation; many institutions are facing insolvency or are eliminating programs to the detriment of the native population, and the impact on the job market has led to the widening of the wage gap further reducing the employment chances for the less educated American worker.

One of the first measures that could be implemented is to impose steeper fines upon corporations which employ illegal immigrants thereby directing our efforts to the source of the problem; improvements in our ID technology such as the implementation of a biometrics database might solve some of the additional problems related to illegal immigration. In this post 9/11 era, it is fundamentally important for us to have control of our borders and to account for the illegals currently residing within the country to detect and prevent any terrorist activity. 🌱

### Author's Biography

Sal is a full-time, first-year accounting major hoping to graduate in December 2007.

### References

Antonovich, M. D. (2006). Border security and immigration enforcement. *Committee on House Judiciary*. Retrieved on February 04, 2007, from EBSCOhost database.

Borjas, G. J., Katz L. F. (2005). The evolution of the Mexican-born workforce in the United States. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 11281, 42-43.

Cosman, M. P. (2005). Illegal aliens and American medicine. *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*. 10(1), 6-13.

Dobbs, L. (2007, March 7). Democratic hacks embrace lunacy of amnesty. Retrieved Tuesday, March 06, 2007, from <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/03/06/dobbs.march7/index.html>

Domash, S. F. (2007, January). America's most dangerous gang. *Police Magazine*. Retrieved on February 04, 2007, from

EBSCOhost data base.

Geringer, D. (2006, July 6). Bloomberg: U.S. can't stem immigration tide: NYC, Hazleton mayors disagree at hearing here. *Philadelphia Daily News, The (PA)*, Retrieved Tuesday, March 06, 2007, from EBSCOhost database.

McMillan, S., Crockett, R., & Palmeri, C. (2006). If we can take one big employer down... *Business Week*, Retrieved Tuesday, March 06, 2007, from EBSCOhost database.

More towns likely to pass illegal-immigration laws. (2007, January 21). *Baltimore Sun*. Retrieved on February 04, 2007, from EBSCOhost database.

Ordonez, F. (2006, June 30). Foreigner effect on region shows: Immigration panel reaches mid point of year-long analysis. *Charlotte Observer, The (NC)*, Retrieved Tuesday, March 06, 2007, from EBSCOhost database.

U.S. General Accounting Office. (1998). *Criminal aliens - INS' efforts to remove imprisoned aliens continue to need improvements*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

U.S. General Accounting Office. (2002). *Identity Fraud - Prevalence and Links to Alien Illegal Activities*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

---

# From the Mirror

By María Elena Arias-Zelidón

From the mirror  
You contemplate the past  
As  
You rediscover the features  
Facing the mirror  
The echo of your crying child  
Lost,  
The distant waist resonates.

Over the mirror  
The aureoles of your breasts  
Absent,  
They nursed the hours.  
Behind the mirror  
His hands trembled.  
Melancholy,  
Your lost body rest.

Peering into the mirror,  
Beneath the navel absence,  
Nothing.  
Passion becomes silence.

Against the mirror,  
Your age unreflected.  
Hushed,  
You will stare at your lover.

Desde el espejo,  
Contemplas el pasado.  
Mientras,  
Reencuentras los rastros.  
Frente al espejo,  
El eco de tu niño que llora.  
Perdida,  
La lejana cintura resuena.

Sobre el espejo,  
Las aureolas de tus pechos.  
Ausentes,  
Amamantaban las horas.  
Tras el espejo,  
Sus manos eran tremulas.  
Melancolia,  
Tu cuerpo perdido descansa.

Atisbando el espejo,  
Bajo el ombligo ausencia.  
Nada,  
La pasión se volvió silencio

Contra el espejo,  
Tu vejez no se refleja.  
Callada,  
Fijamente mirando tu amado.



*Walmart at Night*

# Wal-Mart: How America's Largest Retailer is Hurting the Economy

By Muriel Eshbach

*Author's Note: "This topic interested me because I had heard so much about the controversy surrounding Wal-Mart. As a frequent customer of Wal-Mart, I was curious if Wal-Mart was really as harmful as some people claimed."*

Almost everyone today is familiar with Wal-Mart. The discount retailer has grown from a small store in Arkansas to a huge corporation with stores now occupying almost every county in America. With the corporation growing at an almost alarming rate, some people are beginning to wonder if Wal-Mart has, in fact, become too large. Simply put, yes, they are much too large for the economy. The chain has now become so large that anything they choose to do has the potential to change America's economy. Wal-Mart, in its quest to bring "every day low prices" to consumers, is wreaking havoc on today's economy.

Many people today would argue that since Wal-Mart is saving consumers a vast amount of money, they must be helping the economy, not hurting it. While the low prices at Wal-Mart are helpful to consumers, they undercut competing businesses throughout the community. As a result, these businesses must cut back on prices and employees until they finally are forced to go out of business. In the *NC State Economist*, Mitch Renkow (2005) explains that because Wal-Mart is able to sell their goods at cheaper rates, they threaten retail businesses in the area. He states that "there is no doubt" some businesses in the

community will be forced to close while others will have to downsize in order to compete with Wal-Mart (para. 5).

*"The effect super centers have had on grocery stores alone is pretty amazing."*

While small, locally-owned retail businesses are probably affected the most, Wal-Mart's chain of destruction doesn't stop there. Wal-Mart is continually trying to come up with new products and services to attract customers. Today's super centers now combine groceries, optometrist stations, oil changes, and hair and nail salons. Reports are even starting to surface that Wal-Mart is looking into starting an in-store bank chain. With all these services now being offered, Wal-Mart super centers are decreasing business at other service-oriented businesses. The effect super centers have had on grocery stores alone is pretty amazing. In his book, *The Bully of Bentonville*, Anthony Bianco (2006) cites a Retail Forward, Inc. estimate that for every one super center opening, two competing grocery stores will close. He then figures out that Wal-Mart has closed around 2,000 businesses in supermarkets alone, not including locally-owned grocers and convenience stores (p. 200). So while Wal-Mart helps consumers save money, they have a tendency to destroy a wide variety of businesses throughout the community.

With Wal-Mart directly responsible for the loss of businesses, they are also responsible for destroying many of the communities' existing jobs, as a result raising poverty rates. When businesses are forced to close or even to cut back due to the competition from Wal-Mart, many jobs throughout the community will be destroyed. Wal-Mart usually responds to this by stating that their stores do not destroy jobs; instead they

*“In a study by two economic and sociology experts, it was found that after a decade, communities with more Wal-Mart stores had higher poverty rates than counties with fewer or even no stores at all.”*

bring numerous new jobs to communities and increase community-wide employment rates. While it may be true that Wal-Mart brings many jobs with it to a community, over all, employment rates will not increase. This is largely due to the fact that these new jobs just barely replace those destroyed in the community. Emek Basker (2005), a professor of economics, studied employment rates and found that with Wal-Mart there comes only a slight positive effect on retail jobs (p.181). If a typical Wal-Mart store employs around three hundred people, they must be destroying about the same amount of jobs in order to have only a small positive benefit. So while Wal-Mart employs many associates, almost all of their jobs simply replace those that were destroyed.

Some people may contend that if Wal-Mart, in fact, replaces all the jobs destroyed, it does not make sense that poverty rates would rise. Although Wal-Mart does replace jobs destroyed, there appears to be a link between Wal-Mart and higher poverty rates. In a study by two economic and sociology experts, it was found that after a decade, communities with more Wal-Mart stores had higher poverty rates than counties with fewer or even no stores at all (Goetz & Swamithan, 2004, p. 11). With stores already occupying many counties and more cropping up quickly, imagine the effect all these stores are having on national poverty rates. These findings beg the question of how Wal-

Mart would affect poverty rates; after all, they claim to replace all the jobs destroyed. To answer that question, while Wal-Mart does replace the jobs, these new jobs usually do not pay nearly as much as the obsolete ones did. Bianco (2006) says that the highest wage paid to a regular employee (according to Wal-Mart) is \$9.67 per hour. Most other retail stores have an average wage of \$12.28. He figures that earning Wal-Mart's highest wage, a full time employee would only make around \$17,600 a year. He then points out that this income is a good bit below the poverty line of \$19,157 for a family of four (p. 4). Bear in mind that not all employees start out earning the highest wage; many of Wal-Mart's workers might have wages even lower than \$ 9.67 an hour. With a lack of other retail jobs, more people in a community will need to work at Wal-Mart.

Some people might contend that although Wal-Mart has very low wages, they make up for it by providing groceries at a much cheaper price. Quite frankly, with incomes that automatically submerge employees into the poverty category, even Wal-Mart's incredibly low prices will not be of much assistance in reducing the worker's poverty. If the wage someone is making per year (without the cost of daily needs) is below the poverty level, shopping at cheaper rates, while helpful, will not enable these workers to rise above poverty. While low prices would allow people in poverty to save more of their money, they would still be in poverty.

Since Wal-Mart's low wages do not allow their employees to rise above poverty, these employees are much more likely to become dependent on government assistance. If more people are relying on the government, taxes throughout the country will inevitably rise. John Dicker (2005) notes, that the majority of Wal-Mart employees cannot afford the health plans offered by Wal-Mart, and many simply do without. He then points out that when these employees need medical assistance, they have to turn to the government and taxpayers for help (p. 85).

With Wal-Mart now employing countless workers, some people might be curious as to how much Wal-Mart costs the government. Arindrajit Dube and Ken Jacobs(2004) joined up and formed a study to determine how much Wal-Mart employees (through assistance programs) were costing the state of California. They determined that Wal-Mart, through

their employees, impacts the amount of public assistance to the tune of "\$86 million annually...\$32 million in health related expenses and \$54 million in other assistance" (para. 5). If Wal-Mart is costing taxpayers this much in California, imagine how much of an impact they have on taxes throughout the entire country.

In addition to being paid inadequate wages, Wal-Mart employees are not treated all that well. While Wal-Mart prides themselves on providing quality jobs and having a "pro associate" system, the truth of the matter is that more and more unhappy employees are leaving and filing law suits to reclaim the cost of damages. Bianco (2006) sheds light on the large numbers of law suits, explaining that they have ranged from people forced to work overtime without pay to women and ethnic groups routinely denied raises and promotions (pp. 6-7). So in the end, most Wal-Mart jobs are not quality jobs; they are low paying and degrading to employees. Some people might contend that these are isolated incidents, and the majority of employees are happy with their job. The reality is that many employees are not happy, and a large number of them decide to leave their jobs. John Dicker (2005) states that Wal-Mart's turnover rate reached a record low of forty-four percent in 2003. He estimates that at this percentage, around 500,000 Wal-Mart employees leave their jobs every year (2005, pp. 30-31).

In addition to destroying quality retail jobs, Wal-Mart is also indirectly responsible for outsourcing factory jobs. When Wal-Mart offers goods at low prices, it means that the company producing that product makes less profit off of those items. With an increased consumer demand for these low profit products, the companies supplying Wal-Mart are usually placed in a financial bind. When making less, the company can't afford to continue to pay wages. At the same time they can't just say no to Wal-Mart because such a large company usually makes up a large portion of their business. In an effort to save money, these manufacturers will usually decide to lay off workers or ship jobs overseas. Charles Fishman (2006) explains that Wal-Mart has enough power to force companies to give the best possible price, sometimes completely destroying all profit made on that product. He then states that Wal-Mart's influence can "routinely close factories as well as open them" (p. 89). Granted, Wal-Mart is not completely responsible for the outsourcing,

but they still do have a large impact on it.

With the loss of quality jobs and increased poverty caused by Wal-Mart, we are left with the question of what to do. The solution to this problem is not to shut down Wal-Mart; this route is not entirely necessary, much less feasible. Instead, more pressure should be placed on Wal-Mart to examine and revise their harmful business practices to better suit the economy. In addition to this, consumers should frequent a variety of stores throughout their community, loosening Wal-Mart's monopoly. If these measures were taken, the effects this large corporation has on our economy would be greatly lessened. 🌳

### *Author's Biography*

Muriel is a part-time, dual-enrollment liberal arts major hoping to enter the music industry.

### References

- Basker, E. (2005, February). Job creation or destruction? Labor market effects of Wal-mart expansion. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*. 174-183. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from <http://web.missouri.edu>
- Bianco, A. (2006). *The bully of Bentonville: How the high cost of everyday low prices is hurting America*. New York. Doubleday books.
- Dicker, J. (2005). *The United States of Wal-Mart*. New York. Penguin Books.
- Dube, A., and Jacobs, K. (2004, August 2). Hidden cost of Wal-Mart jobs: Use of safety net programs by Wal-Mart workers in California. *UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education*. 1-9. Retrieved January 27, 2007, from <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu>
- Fishman, C. (2006). *The Wal-Mart effect: How the world's most powerful company really works and how it's transforming the American economy*. New York. Penguin books.
- Goetz, S.J. and Swamithan, H. (2004, October 18). Wal-Mart and county wide poverty. *Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology*. 1-16. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from <http://cecd.aers.psu.edu>
- Renkow, M. (2005, November/December). Wal-Mart and the local economy. *NC State Economist*. 1-4. Retrieved on February 2 2007, from [www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/pdf](http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/pdf)



***Older Times***

---

# Zene

**By Naomi Mazy**

The sounds blend in my ear,  
One melody at a time,  
This is how I translate  
The rhythm defined,  
By each movement made I learn my place  
Lead by the voice  
Inside of me  
Drowned out by the symphony  
Behind me is my mind,  
Lost in the confusion of eternity,  
This single moment only known,  
Through music's intoxicating vibes

I want to tear these walls down,  
I want to cross that bridge,  
Uncover all the sounds of bliss,  
All the sounds that blind me from  
What should never be missed,  
My mind screams,  
And music ensues  
Music is my muse  
Tangled up in thoughts of laughter,  
The sound of what is all a matter

This is what my mind feeds me,  
This is all I'll ever know how to be,  
Lost little girl,  
I have found my way,  
I have risen from confusion,  
Found my way in a lucid dream,  
Inside the turmoil has come to seize,  
No longer bound by misery  
Release  
Let go,  
Just breathe,  
Hear the music flow through me,  
Feel my soul come to peace,  
Feel my energy flow free,  
I was lost but the music has found me  
Now I am whole.



***Sharing of Human Nature***

***Of Human Nature***

Chaos ... our cradle,  
Beginning of time,  
Universe always.

Father the sun, mother moon,  
Sister nature ...  
A Planet

Sharing entwined  
Our destinies,  
Being ... stars dust.

# Free File Sharing: A New Beginning for Music

By Abby McFerran

*Author's Note: "As an avid music fan and 'illegal' downloader of music, I am passionate about exposing the truth about the current state of the music industry and music sharing on the Internet."*

It is the dream of many aspiring musicians to sign a recording contract with a major record label and learn millions of dollars making music. The cold truth of the music industry, however, is that record labels make the millions, while musicians are lucky to collect a few pennies. Record companies take unfair advantage of the musicians they contract, making sure that the artists see very little of their due fortune. It is this unjust balance of power in the music industry that has created a major controversy over the availability of free music on the

Internet. Record executives are vehemently opposed to the idea of fans sharing music on peer-to-peer networks because they realize that this technological revolution will ultimately result in the demise of major record labels and their six-figure salaries. Many artists, however, realize the potential of file sharing to gain worldwide publicity and free themselves from the confines of a traditional recording contract. The Internet offers musicians a forum in which they can promote and distribute their music without having to meet the demands of a record company. The Internet has the power to put artists in charge of their music by decimating corporate record labels. Short-term, the music industry may have trouble adjusting to this new system of music distribution, but "ultimately society will benefit once everyone has free and easy access to creative

works" (Plotkin, 2000, para. 1). Once record companies are eliminated, the Internet will allow artists the creative freedom they deserve, while exposing their music to a global audience of potential fans.

Record companies argue that free file sharing most significantly hurts the artists and songwriters who make the music. This false claim is a poor effort by record executives to keep their stronghold on the singers and bands that make them rich: "The recording industry claims it is fighting online music to protect artists, but in

reality it is fighting online music sharing in order to maintain its control over artists" (Ian, 2005, para. 1). Since the origination of the music industry, major record labels have been forcing songwriters and artists who work for their company to sign over the rights to their music. Record companies take a vast majority of profits incurred from record sales, leaving only small percentages to the artists and/or writers. Now that mass copyright infringement on the Internet is a reality, it is ironic "to hear record company executives . . . get all righteous about copyright. They've been manipulating copyright laws for years, and all the manipulations were designed to steal everything they could from the actual creators of the work" (Card, 2005, para. 14). Major record companies claim that if free file sharing continues, it will be the undoing of the music industry.

The truth is that file sharing will only assist in bringing down an organization that has corrupted itself to the point of ruin.

Record companies essentially act as a middleman between the musician and the music listener. They have constructed a multi-billion dollar business by enabling artists to reach a large audience and ultimately sell the maximum number of records possible. It is exactly this commoditization of music that has led to a significant decline in quality of music over the past 50 years. Record executives are making decisions about how music should sound based on what they believe will bring in the biggest profit. Most artists have little control over the direction of their music and career. Their creative instincts are overruled by record executives, who, in an attempt to satisfy their target market—young people—produce musical acts based on marketability rather than content.

Record labels' pursuit of money takes priority over the quality and integrity of the music they record and promote. Art made for profit's sake is not art at all. The music that major record labels are marketing to the mainstream is of poor quality and is not strong enough to stand on its own. Many popular musical acts of today rely heavily on clever marketing schemes and sex appeal to sell records. The music currently being promoted by record labels is not only bad, it is expensive. Says singer-songwriter Michelle Branch, "Who expects a 12-year-old girl to buy a \$20 record with her baby-sitting money for one good song?" (as cited in Ali & Begun, 2003, para. 1). Young people are tired of paying outrageous prices for music that is stale and overplayed. The tide has turned toward revolution.

It is no wonder that the popularity of free downloading has eclipsed the sales of CDs. People can weed through the insipid monotony that record companies are currently releasing to discover new and exciting music they may have never heard otherwise. Sharing music online has also become a way for music fans to rebel against the record companies that stifle artists and hold a monopoly on their music: "Everybody who has ever watched VH1's *Behind the Music* has heard musicians bad-mouth their record labels, and no one is going to feel bad for ripping off the suits who ripped off their favorite rock star. File sharing has become cool, a way to fight the power, to stick it to the Man" (Grossman et al., 2003, para. 22). Listeners have emotional connections to the artists

they love; they distrust big corporations. Many people do not mind that free music downloading is putting record companies out of business; in fact, they revel in it.

Online file sharing is not a threat to music. It is only a threat to corporate record labels. "Free exposure through online music sharing may not benefit major recording companies, but it does benefit artists, the public, and the music industry as a whole" (Ian, 2005, para 1). Free downloading offers numerous advantages for artists. For those advantages to be fully realized, however, corporate record labels will have to get out of the artists' way. Record companies are aware of the power the Internet has to change the music industry. They are only trying to delay the inevitable. "What's keeping [record executives] up at night is the realization that musicians don't need record companies any more" (Card, 2005, para. 54). File sharing replaces record labels by enabling artists to distribute their music without having to go through a corporation for promotion and distribution. The primary benefit of being signed to major record label is exposure. The Internet more than adequately offers this advantage, with an added bonus: artists are able to create their music completely on their own terms, without the direction and limitations of record executives who think they know what the public wants. In order for musicians to achieve a position of total artistic independence and ownership of their music, "the record industry has to fail, get blown out of the water and start again" (Ali & Begun, 2003, para. 5).

When record companies are put out of business, and the only artists left standing are passionate about making music regardless of the income it generates, the quality and purity of music will flourish. File sharing will revolutionize music as we know it. But the emphasis will be on the artists, who will reap the benefits they rightly deserve. The technology that exists at this moment allows artists to record, mix, master, and package an album entirely using their personal computer. They can create a website to sell and promote that album and their live performances. They can offer free MP3 downloads on their website so that fans can share and publicize the artist's music through word-of-mouth. As the artist's popularity grows, more and more fans will attend her live shows, and she will sell more tickets to her performances. Fans may even be more likely to buy her CD, knowing that their money is

directly supporting the artist rather than fattening the wallet of a record executive. This system allows artists to keep 100 percent of the profit generated by their music. They can maintain complete artistic freedom and not have to meet the demands of record executives. They may not make millions, but the kind of artist who perseveres in this way is not concerned with getting rich from her music. The artists who survive post-corporation will create music to touch their fans emotionally and to gain an audience who believes in their work.

When record companies are put out of business and music is returned to an art form, the new system of independent artistry will work extremely well for quality singers and bands. The existence of record companies is hindering the originality and true potential of genuine artists. Continuing free music sharing now is a way to ensure that this revolution occurs. Although record executives are currently trying to stop file sharing, their efforts will prove unsuccessful. The benefits of sharing music online are too powerful. Free file sharing allows listeners to broaden their musical horizons and deepen their respect for fine artists while the artists gain a global marketplace, full ownership of their work and the freedom to create music exactly the way they wish. 🌱

Ian, J. (2005). Online music sharing may benefit artists. Retrieved March 11, 2007, from Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center data base.

Plotkin, H. (2005). Online file sharing will benefit society. Retrieved March 11, 2007, from Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center data base.

### *Author's Biography*

Abby is a first-year liberal arts major hoping to enter the music business.

### References

- Ali, L. & Begun, B. (2003, September). It's the music, stupid. *Newsweek*, 45. Retrieved March 11, 2007, from EBSCOhost Research database.
- Card, O.S. (2005). The harms of online music sharing are exaggerated. Retrieved March 11, 2007, from Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center database.
- Grossman, L., Hasnain, G., Holton, A., Morrisey, S., Roston, E., Taylor, C., et al. (2003, May). It's all free. *Time*, 60-68. Retrieved March 11, 2007, from EBSCOhost Research database.



***Through the Lens***

# Photojournalists: The Silent Storytellers

By Reuben Wilson

*Author's Note: "Since our society has images everywhere, the important work of photojournalists goes, at times, unnoticed and unappreciated. I want people to open their eyes wider and to remember these story teller."*

Stories have been passed down from generation to generation. Ever since the beginning of time, stories of tragedy, great people, disaster, joy, and monumental achievements have been recorded in history. However, before the mid-nineteenth century, how

*"The photographs that shape the world are moments that will never come again; they are images captured by a photographer in the right place at the right time with the right point of view-to seize the moment."*

those events and people looked was left to the imagination and artists' renditions. All that changed with the invention of photography. Pivotal moments in time were recorded in a fraction of a second. Stories were not only heard or read, they were seen.

It is through the lens of the photojournalist where the world is illustrated, and the doors of understanding are opened. Photojournalists use photographs to capture moments that can sum up an event. A single photograph can help tell the story. Photojournalists bring attention to important issues of which the severity is often unknown or underestimated. Their photographs allow the viewer to go anywhere in the world and to explore the whole spectrum of human emotions; the viewers may even be forced to go into the far corners of themselves and examine things about themselves they may have tossed to the side or even buried.

Photojournalism also offers an adventurous career for anyone who wants to leap into the field of photography, but with adventure there comes the great peril. What drives them is the truth being seen. It is no surprise that all of these factors do not come without a challenge.

Photojournalists have the difficult task of capturing the right moment at the right time. In the book, *The Photojournalists*: Mary Ellen Mark and Annie Leibovitz, Adrienne Marcus points out the difficulty of being a photojournalist: "A writer may rewrite, an artist repaint, but once her quarry have moved out of range, a photojournalist cannot make a picture happen again" (13). The photographs that shape the world are moments that will never come again; they are images captured by a photographer in the right place at the right time with the right point of view-to seize the moment. Perhaps one of the most powerful examples of a split-second image that changed opinion is a photograph taken by the photojournalist Eddie Adams during the Vietnam War. The picture depicts a South Vietnamese policeman firing his weapon at pointblank range at the head of a suspected Vietcong. Although the image depicts the execution of the alleged enemy, many Americans were outraged, helping to fuel the anti-war movement. It was the portrait of the human faces of war that set many people to question wars. It is these pictures that hold the influence to change minds and to

change the world.

A photojournalist knows the power of an image. Richard Lacayo explains, in *Time Magazine*, how images are transferred through our eyes into our brains (77), but then he says, "What no one has entirely explained is how these weightless images—the things we see—can affect us so deeply" (77). Lacayo goes on to point out that the viewer should never replace emotion for reason, and even though feelings are useful, the context of the photograph needs to be understood as well (77). When covering a story, the photojournalist often looks for elements of raw emotion and humanity so that the viewer is able to not only see the context of the story, but the humanity of the story. Once this is done, the viewer will be able to identify not only with the subject or subjects photographed, but with the story as a whole. Photojournalists prove that every story is in some way a human story. Without the images the story loses a tremendous amount of its power.

The photojournalist's mission is to translate what a story says into what a viewer can see. Imagine just hearing about the devastation of hurricane Katrina and never actually seeing the surreal images of devastation. Imagine just hearing about the concentration camps in Europe and never seeing the skeletal figures of the Jews kept there. Imagine only hearing of the atrocities happening in Darfur and not seeing the countless images of refugees searching for help. Chances are without pictures the stories would not seem as significant. In his article "The Power and Limits of Photojournalism," Norman Solomon acknowledges the power of photojournalism: "If we don't turn the pages too quickly, the pictures are heart-wrenching" (par. 3). Photojournalists have something inside of them that beats for the story to be told, and as long as they breathe, that beat never stops.

Photojournalists never seem to be content. Marcus takes a closer look to see what drives Mark and Leibovitz: "All artists are creatively obsessed people: A need to look, to see, to show and to know even in a moment of triumph that there is something else ahead you haven't seen and haven't captured—yet" (13). Photojournalists are dedicated to the story at hand and

the stories to come. It is through their curiosity where we are able to learn more about the world and the people who live in it. It is a hunt to capture the story, but in that hunt comes risk.

Photojournalism is a hazardous career. Photojournalists risk their lives to bring insight to the world. They go through brush fires, conflicts, hurricanes, minefields, floods, and angry mobs. The dangers of being a photojournalist is not only restricted to the physical realm, but to the mental realm as well. Bob Haring's article "The Psychological Dangers of Photojournalism" explores the psychological ramifications of being a photojournalist. Haring based his article on the studies of Elena Newman from the University of Tulsa who studied the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder in 800 photojournalists: "Witnessing death and injury takes its toll, a toll that increases with exposure; the more such assignments photojournalists undertake, the more likely they are to experience psychological consequences" (qtd. in Haring). Their dedication to the story and ultimately to what they see as the truth is unprecedented. We see the work of photojournalists every day, but their work is sometimes taken for granted. It is because they work behind the lens; they bring us to the heart of tragedy so much so that they allow us to think we are there. But that is the job of the photojournalist, to be the eyes for those who cannot be there. The photojournalist truly is the silent storyteller, and their stories whisper in our minds for years.

The moments those photojournalists record have the power to haunt us. Richard B. Stolley, the leading editor for the book *Life: Our Century in Pictures*, remarks what took place as he edited the book: "The immersion in the past had a peculiar effect on me. I found myself living those years during the day and dreaming about them at night. My dreams ranged across the century: One night I was a frightened dough-boy in France; another, a Dust Bowl Farmer hopefully heading west; a third, a laid-back dweller in a Sixties commune" (VI). Those "weightless images" that Stolley was going through as he edited the book had a profound impact on his conscious and subconscious. It is the images of great strife that come together to cre-

*"Photojournalists risk their lives to bring insight to the world."*

ate a story that encompasses human struggle. For example, the images of the Civil Rights movement during the 1960s ring true in the minds of many who were not there, but a photojournalist was; and it is through that photojournalist's eyes that we carry the memories of the past.

Photojournalists are doing their job by telling their stories, but are we really listening? Do we pay more attention to a picture of a starving child than we do to an item that has just gone on sale? Is it that we see images of pain and suffering so much that we become apathetic? "How do we reconcile the occasional tugs at heartstrings and compassion with the ongoing appeals to vanity and acquisitiveness [?]" asks Solomon (par. 12). In that same article Solomon points out how images of vanity at times overshadows stories of the poor and needy (par. 9) Photojournalists present the stories in our world, and vanity should never quiet their stories. Photojournalists dedicate their lives to showing the story. They are able to frame the very essence of humanity. These silent storytellers often give their lives in making the story known. We must never overlook their work as just another photograph; we must open our minds to the world of understanding they bring. 🌳

### *Author's Biography*

A part-time, dual-enrollment student, Reuben aspires to the field of psychology or photography.

### Works Cited

- Haring, Bob. "The Psychological Dangers of Photojournalism." *The Digital Journalist*. 2001. 27 Oct 2006 <<http://www.digitaljournalist.org/issue0110/haring.htm>>.
- Lacayo, Richard. "The Best Photos of the Year." *Time* 19 Dec. 2005: 77-133.
- Marcus, Adrienne. *The Photojournalist: Mary Ellen Mark and Annie Leibovitz*. Ed. Alskog, Inc. New York: T. Y. Crowell, 1974.
- Solomon, Norman. "The Power and Limits of Photojournalism." *Common Dreams News Center*. 23 Mar. 2000. 22 Oct. 2006 <http://www.commondreams.org/views/032300-109.htm>>.
- Stolley, Richard B., and Tony Chiu, eds. *Life: Our Century in Pictures*. Bulfinch Press, 2000.



***The Proposal***

# How to Marry (Off) a Feminist in Ten Days

By Megan Domanski

*Author's Note: "While reading Much Ado about Nothing, I fell in love with Beatrice's character. Her wit and strength are something to be admired."*

Love and marriage is one of the most prevalent themes in Shakespeare's comedy, *Much Ado about Nothing*. A deep contrast in views on this theme is exhibited in the behavior and words of two couples, Benedick and Beatrice and Claudio and Hero. Beatrice and Hero are cousins who contrast sharply in this area. Hero's views on love and marriage conform to what was expected in that time period while Beatrice's views are ahead of her time, almost radical. In the end they both submit to the expectations society has for them, but the road to marriage is a rocky one.

Before delving into Hero and Beatrice's personal views on love and marriage, it would be helpful to establish the views of the day. In Elizabethan society, women were to be submissive to the men in their lives, whether father, brother, or husband (Gerlach, Almassy, and Daniel 3). According to Jeanne Gerlach, Rudolph Almassy, and Rebecca Daniel in their article "Revisiting Shakespeare and Gender," "For most of Renaissance society, women as the feminine represented the following virtues which, importantly, have their meaning in relationship to the male: obedience, silence, sexual chastity, piety, humility, constancy, and patience." In *Much Ado*, Hero exhibits all these qualities, while Beatrice shows no hesitancy in going

against the grain.

*"In Elizabethan society, women were to be submissive to the men in their lives, whether father, brother, or husband."*

It is evident from the first scene that Beatrice has little interest in love or marriage. Benedick shares this view with her, and in the midst of a witty exchange, he reveals, "It is certain I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted; and I would I could find in my heart that I had not a hard heart; for truly I love none" (Shakespeare, 1.1.120-123). Beatrice is not at all shy in agreeing: "I thank God and my cold blood, I am of your humor for that. I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me" (1.1.125-128). It is in this opening scene that Beatrice and Benedick establish the one thing they have in common; neither wants to follow the rules Elizabethan society has set forth for them when it pertains to matters of love and marriage. By now most observant readers and viewers will probably be speculating on this bit of foreshadowing. As Richard Courtney notes in *Shakespeare's World of Love*, "Beatrice and Benedick have cast off the restraints of the courtly tradition of romantic love...for a newer freedom. They represent an emergent outlook on life that was beginning in the late 1590s." It is this challenging of societal norms that makes the play interesting to read and watch. Yet without the contrast of Claudio and Hero's relationship, one that conforms to society's expectations, the views of

Benedick and Beatrice would not seem so extreme nor, perhaps, so interesting.

That said, the next thing to examine would be Hero's views on love and marriage. As previously mentioned, she follows the norms of Elizabethan society. While Beatrice rebels with words and action, Hero complies silently and remains in the background much of the time. She accepts her father's direction when Leonato bids, "Daughter, remember what I told you. If the Prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer." (Shakespeare, 2.1.65-67). In other words, if the prince of Aragon, Don Pedro, proposes to Hero, she is to accept because her father has told her to. Not only does Hero not protest, she does not even express her opinion on this arrangement. This trend of compliance continues when it is revealed that Don Pedro wooed Hero on behalf of Claudio. As J.A. Bryant points out in *Shakespeare and the Uses of Comedy*, "Hero throughout says almost nothing except when the men are absent" (130).

Later on in the play, one sees that Hero may very well have some misgivings about marrying Claudio while she is preparing to put on her wedding gown. She says, "God give me joy to wear it, for my heart is exceedingly heavy" (Shakespeare, 3.4.24-25). Yet even in this, she is only in the presence of other women, and nowhere is it apparent that she has spoken about this with her father. When Margaret, one of the maids attending on Hero, suggests that "[t]will be heavier soon by the weight of a man" (3.4.26-27), Hero quickly chides her. It seems she does not really want to accept her own feelings, operating under the pretense that it is better to be married than not, no matter how one may feel about the person they are marrying.

Hero's view is shattered at her wedding, when Claudio accuses her of being unfaithful. Finally she speaks up and defends herself, and her innocence is apparent in her complete bewilderment:

*Hero: O, God defend me! How am I beset!*

*What kind of catechizing call you this?*

*Claudio: To make you answer truly to your name.*

*Hero: Is it not Hero? Who can blot that name  
With any just reproach?* (Shakespeare, 4.1.76-80).

As the accusations and interrogation continue,

though, Hero faints, overwhelmed with the thought that her own father and fiancée would think so badly of her. Towards the end, when Don John's plot is revealed and Claudio is about to marry Hero, she assures him that she is a maid (5.4.64), still desiring that approval from the men in her life. She is unchanging in that, to the point of forgiving Claudio and submitting to him as his wife, even after he has humiliated her so.

As adamant as Beatrice is in the beginning of the play about not wanting to marry, certain factors over the course of the plot change her mind. While the scheming of Hero and Margaret certainly has its place, possibly the largest influence in Beatrice's change of

*“. . .the notion of egalitarian  
marriage was far from universal  
in Shakespeare's day.”*

heart is herself. She wants revenge on Claudio for the wrong he has done her cousin, yet she realizes that as a woman, she cannot carry it out herself for

"[i]t is a man's office" (4.1.265). Shortly after Beatrice comes to this revelation, Benedick professes his love to her, and she to him. Upon Benedick's asking if there is anything he can do for her; Beatrice bids him to "[k]ill Claudio" (4.1.286-287). The fact that Beatrice is willing to trust Benedick with something so important to her as revenge on Claudio shows the depth of their relationship.

An important thing for the reader to remember is how unusual both Benedick and Beatrice's views on love and marriage were for the day. Though "nowadays we have largely accepted the ideal of marriage which chooses a Beatrice for a Benedick...the notion of egalitarian marriage was far from universal in Shakespeare's day" (Greer 41). Claudio and Hero demonstrate the norm much closer, but it was a time of change. As noted in Mihoko Suzuki's essay, "Gender, Class, and the Ideology of Comic Form," Queen "Elizabeth's long reign and her refusal to marry had already called into question—at least at the top—the patriarchal subordination of women" (121). The pairing of Benedick and Beatrice serves as a preview of evolving views on love and marriage. It shows that there can be a relationship built on respect for whom the other person is rather than on just their outward appearance or economic status. No doubt it was the views Beatrice and Benedick had on marriage that drew them to each other. They each understood why

the other held so strongly to their beliefs because they were the same way.

Typical of the comedy genre, *Much Ado* ends happily, with Hero and Beatrice finding husbands who should suit them nicely. Hero seems happy to be marrying Claudio at last. And though it is difficult to imagine Beatrice marrying anyone other than Benedick, it is clear that in him she has found someone who appreciates her individuality and allows her to be herself. No doubt their banter will continue, helping to relieve some of the stress married couples face on a day-to-day basis, making for a happy coexistence. 🌸

### *Author's Biography*

A second-year Special Education Transfer student, Megan aspires to teach elementary education.

### Works Cited

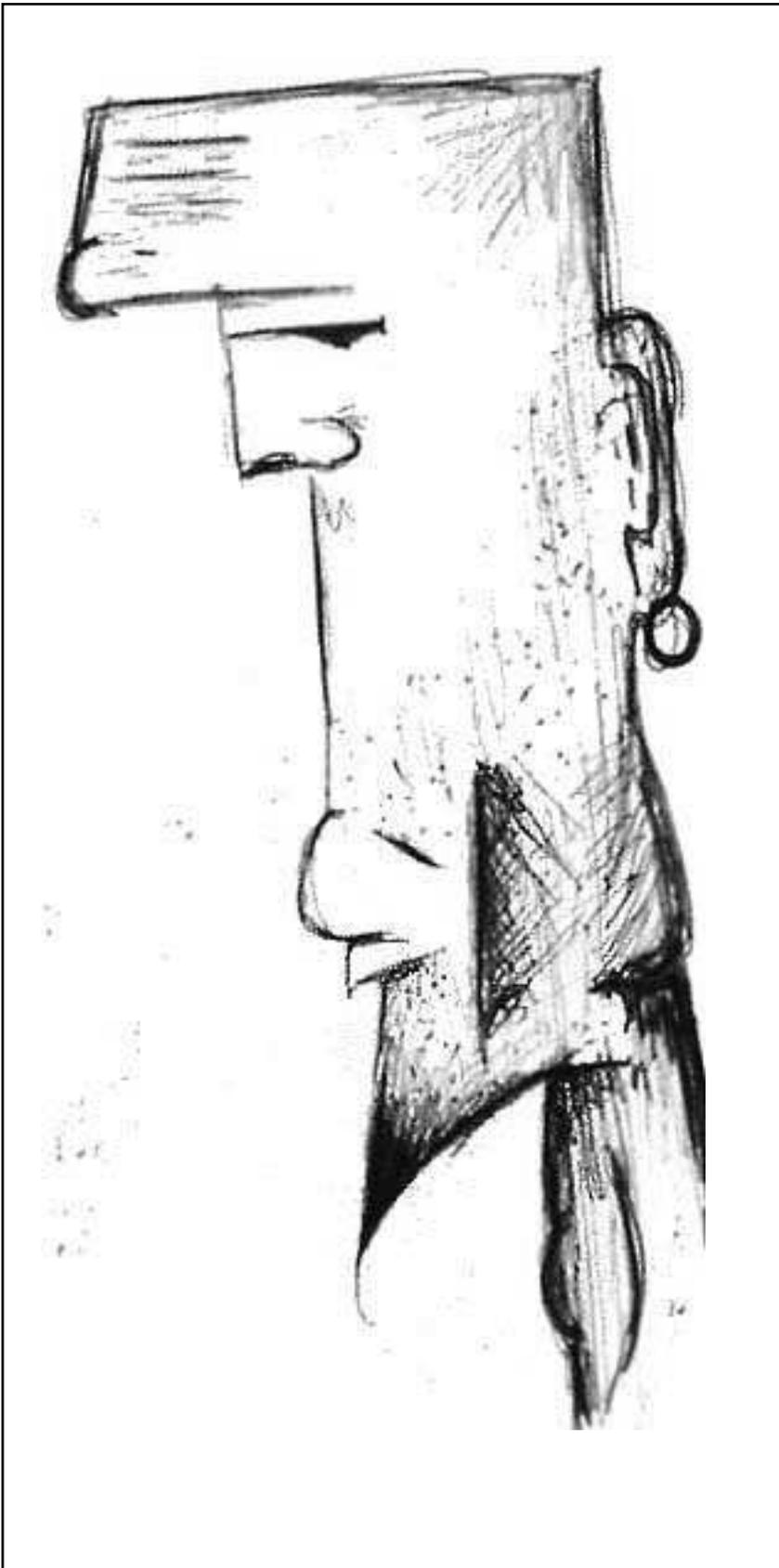
- Bryant, J.A. *Shakespeare and the Uses of Comedy*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1986.
- Courtney, Richard. *Shakespeare's World of Love*. Niagara Falls, N.Y.: Simon & Pierre Publishing Co. Ltd., 1994.
- Gerlach, Jeanne, Rudolph Almasy, and Rebecca Daniel. "Revisiting Shakespeare and Gender." *Women in Literature and Life Assembly*. (1996) March 11, 2007. <<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/old-WILLA/fall96/gerlach.html>>.
- Greer, Germaine. "Shakespeare's Comedies Show Women as Equal Partners with Men." *Readings on the Comedies*. Ed. Clarice Swisher. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 1997.
- Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*. Ed. David L. Stevenson. New York, NY: Penguin Group, 1998.
- Suzuki, Mihoko. "Gender, Class, and the Ideology of Comic Form: *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*." *A Feminist Companion to Shakespeare*. Ed. Dymrna Callaghan. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.



***Ferris Wheel***



***Steps***



**Welling Up**

# Parental Depression: The Effects on Children

By Mary Beth Miozza

*Author's Note: "I have always been sensitive to and aware of the symptoms of depression, but I never really studied its effects on children. Preparing for this paper helped bring a profound awareness and deeper sense of what these families experience."*

Parenting is one of the most important and difficult jobs that most of us will ever encounter. It is hard to imagine parenting in the presence of mental illness that either goes untreated or is disrupted by repeated hospital visits. How can parents be motivated to do an effective job parenting, be emotionally involved with their child, and keep an organized home when they lack the capacity to take care of themselves when they are in a chronic state of mental illness? And what impact does this dysfunction in the home have on the children? This paper will investigate the effects that parental depression has on children and investigate the problems that are associated with and result from depressive parenting.

When a home is disrupted by repeated parental hospital visits due to depression, where there is no emotional interaction or social support and lacks in the basic needs for development, these factors can have a negative impact on the children and can predispose them to develop depressive disorders themselves, to be vulnerable to anxiety disorders, and to leave them feeling confused and alone (Beck, 1999; "Harvard Medical health Letter," 2006; C. T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006; Mowbray,

et al. 2004; de Minzi, 2006; Thomas & Kalucy, 2003).

Depression is usually chronic or recurrent and the associated disease burden causes considerable disruption to sufferers and those around them. Research has shown that it is not the mental illness alone but rather the chronic nature of the illness that has an impact on children

(Thomas & Kalucy, 2003). Since chronic mental illnesses are episodic, with episodes lasting up to two years; children raised in this environment are likely to experience more than one episode of parents' illness over a number of developmental phases (Mowbray et al., 2004). When the depressed parent is hospitalized repeatedly, the child's daily activities and routines are disrupted. In order for children to develop a secure attachment, the children must feel sure that they can depend on their parents and that the parents will be available when they need them and are committed to their development (de Minzi, 2006).

"Outcomes for children are improved when parents identify and explain to their children about their mental illness and its effects on their behaviors. This helps to ensure that children do not blame

*"When the depressed parent is hospitalized repeatedly, the child's daily activities and routines are disrupted."*

themselves for their parents' condition" (Mowbray & Mowbray, 2006, p.171). Because parents often do not discuss their mental illness with their children, they will have little understanding of it (Thomas & Kalucy (2003). According to DePaulo (2002), because children are significantly affected by a parent's depression it is crucial that they know what is going on. DePaulo (2002) recommends telling the child only what they need to know with dialogue such as, "I'm sad because I have an illness, but I'm getting good care for it and I'll be better soon" (p. 112). Helping children to understand to the best of their cognitive ability what is going on may help to reassure them that they are not to blame for their parent's depressed mood.

Thomas & Kalucy (2003) emphasize concerns with depressive parenting and state that "[t]he negative impact on children stems largely from dif-

*“Whether children feel loneliness or aloneness due to parental depression, they are at greater risk for anxiety disorders, depression and addiction.”*

iculties with parenting and lack of emotional involvement" (p. 153). Depressive parents often lack the motivation to parent and initiative to interact with their children (Beck, 1999; Mowbray, et al. 2004; Thomas & Kalucy, 2003). A mother with bipolar disorder tells how her bipolar disorder impacted her two young daughters when she suffered from depressive episodes: "I never had enough time for them, I always wanted to lie down and rest.... I used to ignore them all the time, just leave them on their own when they were too young to be left alone" (Thomas & Kalucy, 2003, p. 154). Richaud de Minzi (2006) concludes that the mothers' presence is more relevant for children in terms of emotional support and security than the fathers'.

Lack of motivation may also be responsible for the inability for depressive parents to initiate activities, plan or organize child care and household tasks: "Lack of motivation or apathy may be either a direct symptom of mental illness, as in severe depression or caused by the use of certain antide-

pressant medication" (Thomas & Kalucy, 2003, p. 153). A mother who suffers from schizoaffective disorder tells of her difficulties after an extended hospital admission: "I was disorganized, didn't know what to do and didn't feel like doing it" (Thomas & Kalucy, 2003, p. 155). A single-mother, who suffered from depression, remembers the difficulty she had caring for her young children and explains that even the simplest responsibilities were burdensome, "...I neglected them a bit.... [S]ometimes I would forget to bath them for 4 or 5 days and things like that" (Thomas & Kalucy, 2003, p. 155).

When a parent is not feeling up to being involved in activities and socializing, children of depressed parents are sometimes isolated from other children and the outside world. One single mother spoke of the isolation imposed on her son: "Yes, he has lots of friends, but we have become isolated lately because I don't always feel like doing things" (Thomas & Kalucy, 2003, p. 154). Researchers have found that problems can develop when a child experiences emotional and social isolation:

Weiss made a distinction between loneliness caused by emotional isolation and loneliness caused by social isolation. The former occurs in the absence of close emotional attachment whereas the latter occurs in the absence of an engaging social network. Affinity for aloneness corresponds to emotional isolation, whereas aversion to aloneness corresponds to social isolation. (as cited in de Minzi, 2006, p. 205)

Whether children feel loneliness or aloneness due to parental depression, they are at greater risk for anxiety disorders, depression and addiction ("Harvard Medical Health Letter," 2006).

When parents have a serious mental illness, it significantly increases the risk of a psychiatric disorder in their children (Beck, 1999; DePaulo, 2002; "Harvard Medical Health Letter," 2006; Mowbray et al. 2004; C. T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006). Mowbray et al. (2004) emphatically state that "[r]esearch has focused on the link between parental depression and children's mental illness. Adolescent children of parents with affective disorders have higher rates of diagnosed mental illness than do children of non-mentally ill parents" (p. 207). The

Kessler et al. study found "significant likelihood of adult children having mood, anxiety, addictive, and other disorders when a mother was depressed" (as cited in Mowbray & Mowbray, 2006, p. 131). "Depressed women are also less likely to seek treatment if they have children, although they may need it more, for the child's sake as well as their own" ("Harvard Medical Health Letter," 2006, p. 7).

Research has also established that children of parents with mental illness are more likely to have emotional as well as behavioral problems (Beck, 1999; C. T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006). Beck (1999) contends that when a depressed mother has a negative impression of herself, it can make her critical to her child's misbehavior. And if a mother perceives that she has little power to control events in her life, due to her depression, she will not deal effectively with children that are obstinate (Beck, 1999). The conduct problems resulting from a combination of depressive parenting and lack of discipline will put a child at risk in other areas such as family disruptions and conflicts, trouble with the law, and serious injuries to parents and family members (Mowbray et al., 2004; C. T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006). Children may also be indirectly affected by the mother's depression through "the effect on her marital relationship, the stress on the family, and the social isolation that results all of which can influence the child's behavior" (Beck, 1999, para. 3).

Even though children of depressed parents are at greater risk, studies have revealed that when a mother is treated for depression it can "both prevent and relieve depression in her children" ("Harvard Medical News Letter", 2006, p. 7). When mothers improved, so did children. Recent statistics revealed that, "[a]mong children who had a psychiatric diagnosis, 33% recovered if their mothers did, but only 12% did when the mothers remained depressed. Among children with no psychiatric disorder, 17% developed one if the mother remained depressed" ("Harvard Medical News Letter," 2006, p. 7). Of the women who suffer from depression and do not seek treatment, it is likely that those women are of poor households and that more outreach to these women may be helpful in getting them desperately needed psychiatric treatment ("Harvard Medical News Letter," 2006).

The child's age at the onset of the parents' depressive symptoms predicted subsequent child morbidity. Peisah, Brodary, Luscome, and Anstey (2005) argue that "[t]he younger the age of parent admission predicted child psychopathology makes intuitive sense from a developmental perspective and suggests that the impact of parental psychiatric illness differs at different development stages" (p. 912). The study also suggests that the reason "older children may be less vulnerable to parental depression is because they have more than likely developed competencies to help them cope more effectively" (Peisah, Brodary, Luscome, and Anstey, 2005, p. 912).

"Several studies have suggested that social support can serve to buffer the impact of the parent's mental illness" (C. T. Mowbray & O. T. Mowbray, 2006, p. 131). Adult children of depressive homes said that they could count on an average of six people for some sort of social support in their childhood; researchers noted that if a child had at least one adult supporter, they could overcome the negative impact of depressive parenting (C. T. Mowbray & O. T. Mowbray, 2006). When the depressed parent benefits from social support, the child benefits; but when the parent does not have any social support, especially when they come home from hospital stays, the child will feel the impact significantly. Thomas & Kalucy (2003) report one mother's recollection:

...often there is no-one else around to make you realize that things must be done; some people will sit around all day because they can't think what to do and are not motivated to do anything.... I have had days shortly after hospital stays where I have spent the whole day in bed. (p. 155)

For some parents who suffer from depressive disorders, the return from the hospital may not mean that life will return to normal. Many parents may not feel well enough to perform household and parental tasks for weeks after a hospital stay; and if they do not have the emotional support they need to help them during this adjustment period, they will end up feeling overwhelmed and will increase the risk of neglect for children in the depressive household (Thomas & Kalucy, 2003).

Children who find protection through connections can be motivated to be effective in their environment. Studies reported that if children grow-

ing up in adversity have psychosocial resources available to them the outcomes are generally satisfactory (Mowbray et al., 2004; C. T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006; Thomas & Kalucy, 2003). Another clinical study of well functioning youth and young adults who were raised in a depressive parental home found that nearly all these children had meaningful and varied activities outside of school (C. T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006).

There are children who grow up in high-risk situations who are resilient to and even benefit from the pressures of depressive parenting. Researchers use the term resilience to include this "class of phenomena involving successful adaptation in the context of significant threats to development" (Mowbray et al., 2004, p.130). For some children childhood sufferings give rise to compassion, wisdom, and well being. Self-reports from adult children who were raised in depressed parental home revealed that there were "positive aspects of having a parent with mental illness, such as personal strength, discipline, self-sufficiency, tolerance, and empathy" (C .T. Mowbray & O. P. Mowbray, 2006, p. 131).

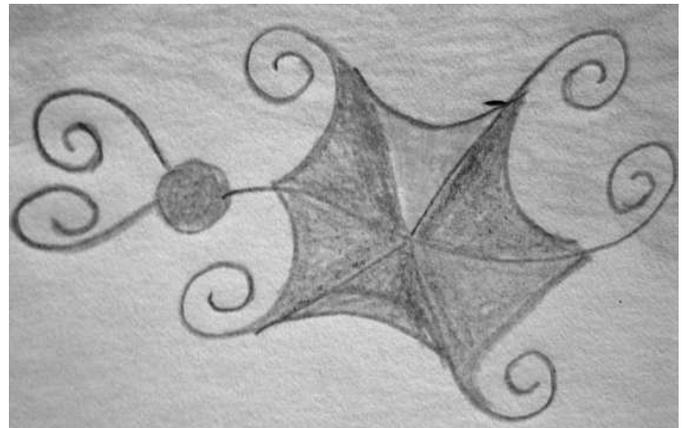
Research has confirmed that children raised by parents who are frequently depressed generally lack an environment that has a dependable support system, predisposing them to developing anxiety disorders, depression, addiction, and a host of other developmental problems. Children who are able to have access to psychosocial resources and the dependence of an adult were found to have positive outcomes. There are those children who manage to find the silver lining through all the turmoil of growing up in a depressive parent home. It is interesting to note that these adult children maintain that it was through their childhood suffering that they were able to develop, among many other strengths, tolerance and empathy-traits that some of us, coming from home lives without depressive parenting, work a lifetime to achieve. 🌸

### *Author's Biography*

Mary Beth is a full-time second-year student hoping to graduate in June 2007.

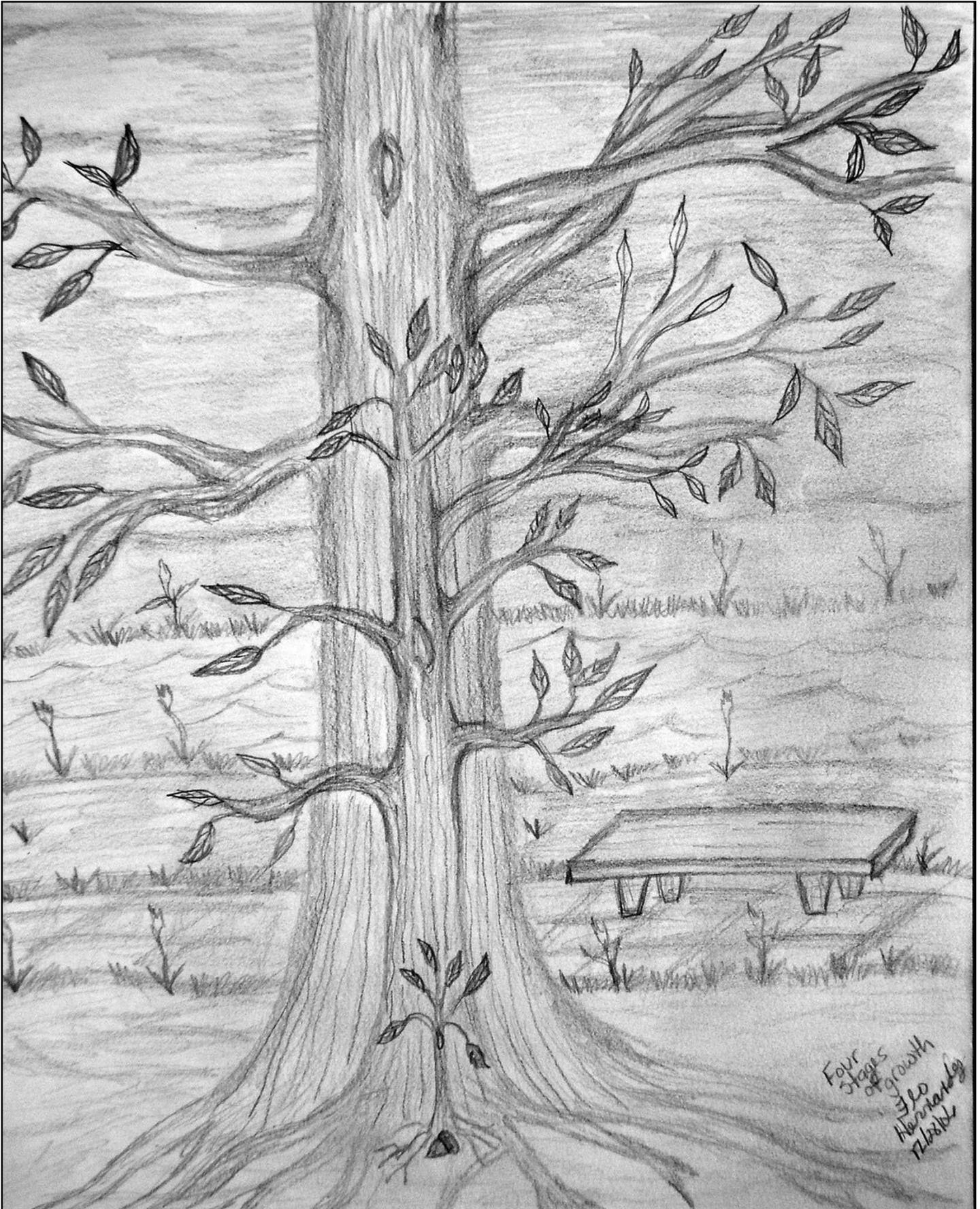
### References

- Beck, C. T. (1999). Maternal depression and child Behavior problems: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 29, 623-639.
- Depaulo Jr., R.J., Jr. (2002). *Understanding depression*. New York: John W. Wiley & Sons.
- Children of depression. *Harvard Mental Health Letter*. (2006, November).
- Mowbray, C. T. & Mowbray, O. P. (2006). Psychosocial outcomes of adult children of mothers with depression and bipolar disorder. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, 14, 130-142.
- Mowbray, C.T., Bybee, D., Oysterman, D., Allen-Meares, P., MacFarlane, P., & Hart-Johnson, T. (2004). Diversity of outcomes among adolescent children of mothers with mental illness. *Journal of emotional and behavioral disorders*, 12, 206-221.
- Peisah, C., Brodaty, H., Luscombe, G., and Anstey, K.J. (2005). Children of a cohort of depressed patients 25 years on: Identifying those at risk. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 39, 907-914.
- Richaud de Minzi, M. C. (2006). Loneliness and depression in middle and late childhood: The relationship to attachment and parental styles. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 167, 189-210.
- Thomas, L. and Kalucy, R. (2003). Parents with mental illness: lacking motivation to parent. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 12, 153-157.

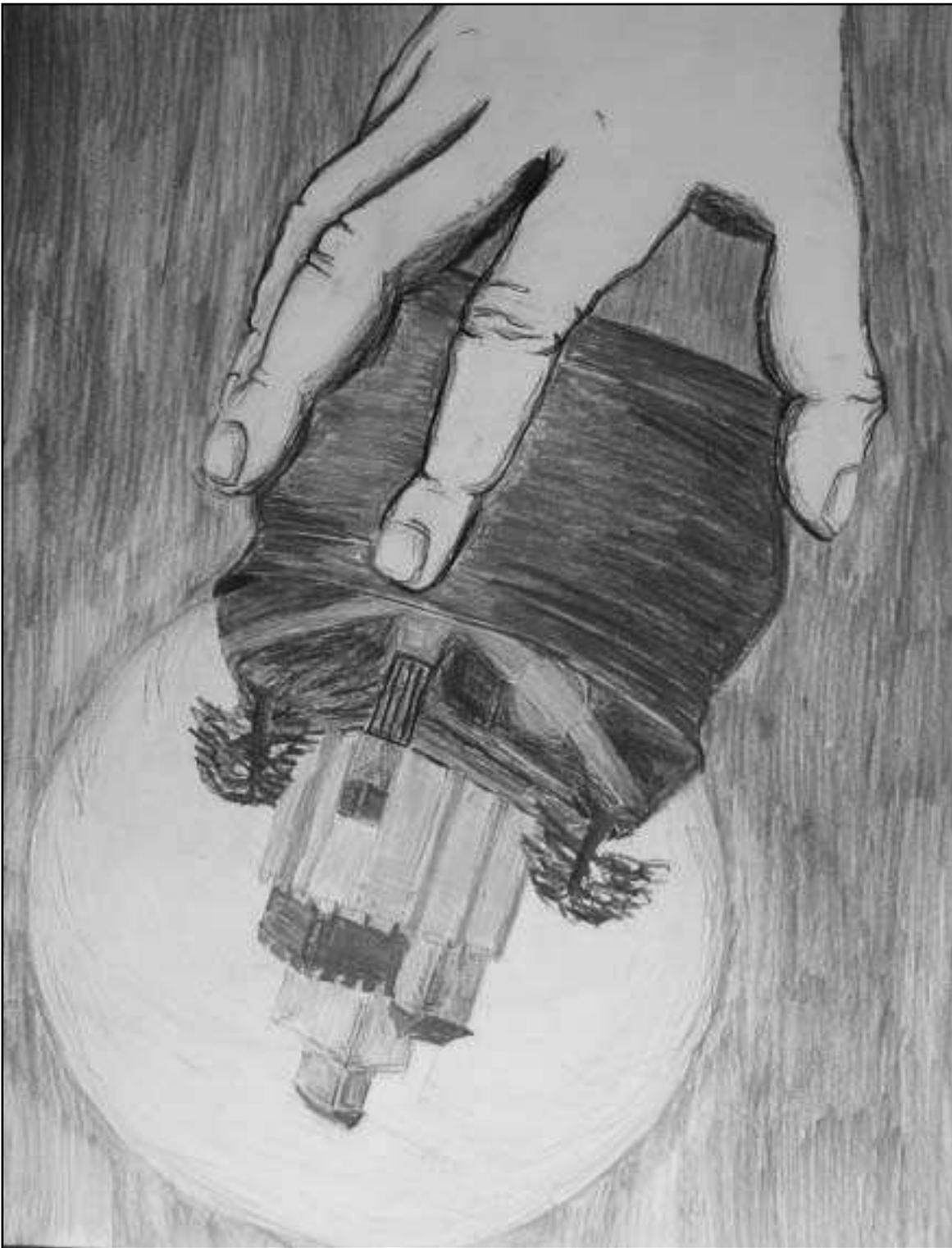


### **A Lone Design**

By Florence Hernandez



**The Four Stages of Growth**



***Upside Down***

# Sylvia Plath: The Tip of the Electra Iceberg

By Rick Weinoffer

*Author's Note: "I hope to be famous some day. As I learned about Sylvia Plath, I wondered if she started out insane or became insane and grew more insane as she became famous. I suppose that I would prefer fame without mental illness."*

Every person could be considered to be the sum of his or her parts. Genetically, we start life as the total of parts contributed by each of our parents. Their behavior is the first example we have of acceptable socialization. At some particular time, we develop our own personalities and temperaments, but threads of our parents still run through us. Author Sylvia Plath had parental connection issues that pulled her like a puppet on a string. Her personal turmoil is defined, reflected, and in some cases, the cause of her writings. Her genius could be the product of her inner conflicts as much as it could be the catalyst.

Born in Boston, this American poet was recognized as a literary talent at an early age. Her father Otto's death occurred at about this time, and her later writings indicate how much she missed him as seen in this sample from "Lady Lazarus":

I am your opus,  
I am your valuable,  
The pure gold baby (Plath, Collected  
Poems 246)

Her self-admitted Electra Complex (Kibble)-an overdeveloped affection for her father with severe anger directed at her mother-gives us a closer estimation of her feelings for her father. And her selection of the reference to the biblical Lazarus, who was brought back to life (John 11: 43, 44), is a clue into her obsession with her own death that culminated in her suicide in 1963.

A reasonable person may conclude that death is

an evitable part of living and everyone has a time to die. In the case of Otto Plath, death may have been unexpected and avoidable. He died when he refused treatment for his diabetes (Axelrod 25). Young Plath was devastated by the loss of her father; and this tragic incident was reinforced in her mind when, because of subsequent financial setbacks, her family was forced to move from their lovely seaside home to a less desirable home (Kibble).

Plath memorializes the situation in her poem "The Dispossessed":

An odd disease has hit our holy cow,  
No milk or honey fills the empty can;  
The enormous mortgage must be pair some  
how.

.....  
Our creditor advances with a bow  
To cast lock, stock and barrel under ban;  
The enormous mortgage must be paid some  
how.

(Plath, Collected Poems 318)

The reference to "an odd disease," which would mean the death of "our holy cow," could only mean her father, Otto, who was the principal wage earner in the family. If another biblical reference can be inferred, "No milk or honey" would be the very opposite of the promise from God to Moses that Moses would lead the Israelites into a "land overflowing with milk and honey." When Otto died, the life of comfort and beauty that Plath knew ended.

The subsequent line "To cast lock, stock and bar-

rel under ban" could mean eviction or being locked out of their home with their belongings locked inside in order to be sold to settle the debts, which would be much like a bank creditor, or IRS seizure of assets. The ramifications of impending poverty added to the embarrassment of eviction had to be one of the most psyche damaging experiences of Plath's life.

Starting at this double blow to her young mind, we can trace a pattern of behavioral and literary self destructive trends. This is evident in the figurative justification for her father's death that Plath wrote in

"Electra on Azalea Path" in 1959:

The day you died I went into the dirt,  
Into the lightless hibernaculum

*“Plath's most famous single poem is "Daddy," which was published in 1963, two years after her suicide.”*

Where bees, striped black and gold, sleep out  
the blizzard  
Like hieratic stones, and the ground is hard.  
It was good for twenty years, that wintering-  
As if you had never existed, as if I came  
God-fathered into the world from my  
mother's belly.

(Plath, Collected Poems 116)

In the passage above, Plath explains that when Otto died, figuratively she also ceased to exist. She remained "hibernating" which could mean unfeeling, unconscious and without life like insects that hibernate over the winter (line 3). Plath goes on to say that she ultimately survived as if Otto had not existed. The phrase "God-fathered" would invoke the concept that her birth may have been a religious miracle or that she may have had a much better biological father than Otto. In either case, she was telling Otto that she was better off without him.

Admittedly, there is a major time lag from the time that Otto died until this poem was written. Plath wrote that "it was a good twenty years." But by this time, Plath had been recognized as a talented writer in her own right. As a student, she was very carefully guided by instructions and tradition as to what to write about. Now in the late 1950s, American women were about to uncover their political identities and economic power. Sylvia Plath was well positioned intellectually and professionally to purge herself of her personal demons in a very pub-

lic manner.

Plath's most famous single poem is "Daddy," which was published in 1963, two years after her suicide. Scholars still debate the level of autobiographical information contained in the poem. The recognition of her anger toward her father, however, is almost universally accepted despite her hyperbole (Kirszner and Mandell 780). Since "Daddy" was published posthumously, readers could only guess at Plath's purposes or reasons for the comparisons of her father to Nazis:

Daddy, I have to kill you.

You died before I had time-

.....

I could never talk to you.

The tongue stuck in my jaw.

.....

I have always been scared of you,

With your Luftwaffe, your gobbledygoo

With your neat moustache,

And your Aryan eye, bright blue

Panzer-man, panzer-man, O You-

.....

And the villagers never liked you.

They are dancing and stamping on you.

(Plath, Literature Reading 780).

Plath's references to Otto's Hitler-like "neat moustache," "your Aryan eye, bright blue," "Luftwaffe" and Panzer, which was a WWII German army tank, can only bring to mind the horrors of the Nazi dominance of Europe and the atrocities of the Holocaust. In just a few words, Plath has painted a picture of her father as a very vivid example of relentless power and unbridled evil.

Writing that "the villagers never liked you. / They are dancing and stamping on you" indicates that Sylvia believes that her father's malevolence was known to everyone, and when he died everyone celebrated his demise. This certainly is a strange idea for a woman who reportedly worshipped her father.

The effects of Plath's relationship with her mother, Aurelia Plath, cannot be ignored. At the same time that Sylvia experiences this love/hate bond with the memory of her father, she also harbors strong resentment towards her mother. Sylvia's memory of receiving the news of her father's death is recorded in *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*:

She came home crying like an angel one night and woke me up and told me Daddy was gone; he was what they called dead, and we'd never see him again, but the three of us would stick together and have a jolly life anyhow, to spite his face. He didn't leave hardly enough money to bury him because he lost on the stocks, just like her own father did, and wasn't it awful. Men,

men, men. (Plath, *Journals*, 430).

Otto Plath died from complications of gangrene. Sylvia remembers in her journal how her mother could not tolerate the idea that Otto, had he survived, would have been a cripple and a further drain on the family. Having two children and "a living idiot" to care for would have been too much for her to bear (Plath, *Journals*, 430). Anyone would be understandably upset upon receiving news that a parent has died. How can a reasonable person blame the bearer of such bad news for being the reason for that death?

Sylvia was very blunt about her feelings for her mother as shown in these passages from the journals: "I hate her because he wasn't loved by her. He was an ogre. But I miss him. He was old, but she married an old man to be my father. It was her fault. Damn her eyes" (431), and "My Mother killed the only man who'd love me steady through life: came in one morning with tears of nobility in her eyes and told me he was gone for good. I hate her for that" (431). Sylvia blamed Aurelia for Otto being husband and father. Additionally, Sylvia holds Aurelia responsible for Otto's death. This scattershot assignment of the blame for her own unhappiness may have been too great a burden for Sylvia to handle.

Sylvia questions herself in her journals about how she expresses hatred for her mother. She answers her own inquiry by explaining that she, herself, is too nice to kill her mother. She can imagine strangling her mother. So in strict adherence to the golden rule, to do unto others as you would have done unto yourself, Sylvia attempts suicide on August 24, 1953, by taking an overdose of sleeping pills (Plath, *Journals* 189).

On June 16, 1956, Sylvia married Ted Hughes. Now having a career and a man in her life who loved her, one may conclude that Sylvia's life would finally come together. Sadly, that is not the case. Sylvia reflected in her journal how much her life was dependent upon Ted, and she explained that she could not imagine a life without him (Plath, *Journals*, 274).

Her public writing exposes a very delicate truth about her relationship to her husband. In "Daddy," Sylvia admits that Ted is a replacement for Otto, and he will serve as a tool in her plan for the settling of scores with her father:

... I made a model of you  
A man in black with a Meinkampf look  
And a love of the rack and screw.

And I said I do, I do.

So daddy, I'm finally through.

.....

If I've killed one man, I've killed two-

The vampire who said he was you

And drank my blood for a year,

Seven years if you want to know

Daddy, you can lie back now. (Plath, *Literature Reading* 780)

The voice of this poem is Plath, herself, who constructed for herself a powerful man who is a composite of her father, who lied to her, squandered money and then abandoned her; and of Hughes, as her husband, who expected her to be wife, mother, housekeeper and sexual provider (Wagner-Martin 119).

"Daddy" had to have been written after she and Ted separated; that could be the only way she could describe seven years of having her lifeblood drained from her body, a metaphor for her making such incredible sacrifices in the name of love and marriage. Ted Hughes is reported to have lost, misplaced or destroyed the last few of Sylvia's journals. He may have been the

*"Ted Hughes is reported to have lost, misplaced or destroyed the last few of Sylvia's journals. He may have been the only person to have read her final thoughts."*

only person to have read her final thoughts. If he did, in fact, read these journals, he may have recognized that Sylvia was crying out for help for a very long time. Or he may have recognized himself as the demonized male who would have no hope of

redemption or forgiveness as the cause of Sylvia's suicide due to his own failure to recognize her cries for help.

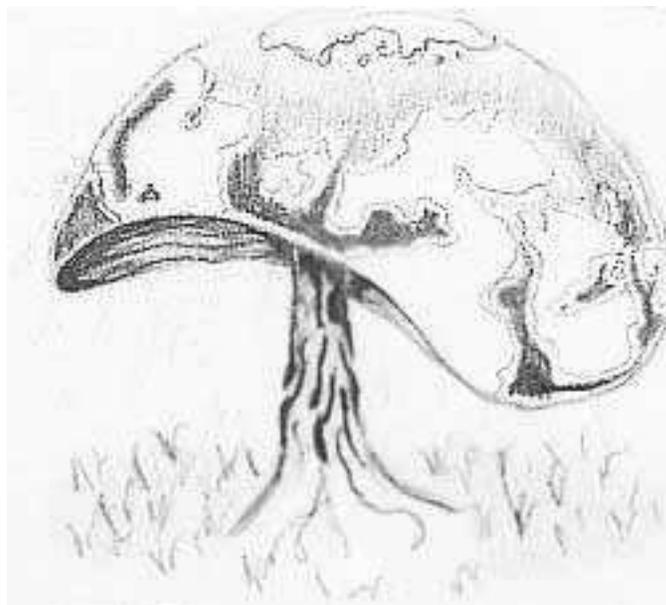
If literature is decoded and analyzed by the readers based on their own individual knowledge and experiences, one would have to believe that the source of literary works, the author or poet, is also affected by life experience. In Plath's situation, there was a very thin line between fiction and autobiographic presentation. One may theorize that since Plath was acknowledged as a literary talent before her father's death, she was destined for future greatness whether he was a part of her life or not. Conversely, her genius may have been inherited. That could mean that genetically her literary talents may have been present since birth, but Otto's death was necessary to release this gift. Therefore, her father had to die in order for Plath's genius to ferment and finally boil over in her work. The question of whether her life drove her creativity or her genius drove her life would be answered depending on what one knows about her and which of her works one might have read. 🌸

### *Author's Biography*

Rick is a second-year liberal arts major hoping to transfer to Kutztown University and then become famous.

### Works Cited

- Axelrod, Stephen G. *Sylvia Plath: The Wound and the Cure of Words*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1992. 25.
- Kibble, Matthew. "Sylvia Plath." *Literature Online Biography*. ProQuest. Adapted from data developed by the H.W. Wilson Company Inc. Reading Area Community College Library, Reading, PA. 30 Oct. 2006 <<http://lion.chadwyck.com>>.
- Kirszner, Laurie G., and Stephen R. Mandell, Eds. *Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing*. 6th ed. Boston: Thompson Wadsworth, 2007. 780-781.
- Plath, Sylvia. "Daddy." Kirszner and Mandell. 778-780. *The Collected Poems Sylvia Plath*. Ed. Ted Hughes. New York & London: Harper Perennial, 1992. 116, 244-247, 318. *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath, 1950-1962*. (Transcribed from the Original Manuscripts at Smith College.) Ed. Karen V. Kukil. New York: Anchor Books, 2000. 430-433.
- Wagner-Martin, Linda. *Sylvia Plath: A Literary Life*. London: McMillan Press, 1999. net library. 4 Nov. 2006 . <<http://www.netlibrary.com/Reader/>>.



### **Emerging**

By Alan Patke

---

**Metamorphosis:**

# **Dark No More**

**By Melissa Beth McIlroy**

Dark

Damaged  
And  
Ripped  
Kid

Hurts

Howling  
Unheard  
Raped  
Teen  
Screaming

Shadows

Sinister  
Horrible  
And  
Destructive  
Obsessed-  
Woman

ALIVE

After  
Living  
Inward  
Vital  
Evermore



## **The Fire**

# Staffing Problems with the Reading Fire Department

By Michael Kerper

*Author's Note: "The paper had to be written about a problem in our community. Because I am a fire fighter, I felt this subject needed to be addressed."*

Firefighting and emergency medical services is one of the most physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding occupations in the United States. Attempting to find a positive outcome from a chaotic emergency scene is one of the stressors that are accepted as part of the job. Also part of the job are long hours at work away from family, missed holidays, and missed birthdays. This is all expected and accepted when someone decides to work for a fire department. Employees of fire departments expect that in return for the personal sacrifices they make for the betterment of the citizens, the municipality for which they are employed will make working conditions as stress free as possible. The biggest stressor for fire department personnel in the City of Reading is sub par staffing levels. This is both unnecessary and unacceptable. City of Reading Council members need to allot additional positions in their fire department until national standards are met.

The City of Reading is a class three city located in southeastern Pennsylvania. More than 81 thousand people call Reading home ("Reading Population," 2007). There are many businesses located within the Reading city limits. These businesses range from small home businesses to large industry. There is an estimated 9.5 million people that visit the city and sur-

rounding Berks County yearly ("Greater Reading," 2007). Three colleges and universities, the Berks County Courthouse, Berks County Services Center, and all the businesses greatly contribute to the volume of visitors. Protecting all of the residents, visitors, businesses, and properties of the City of Reading is the

Bureau of Fire and Rescue Services.

The City of Reading Bureau of Fire and Rescue Services is one of the busiest fire departments among class three cities in the state.

Last year, the Bureau

responded to nearly 17 thousand emergencies ("Run Statistics," 2007). These emergencies included house fires, carbon monoxide emergencies, medical emergencies, and vehicle accidents, just to name a few. It is without a doubt that the majority of calls for service were for emergency medical services. Medical calls accounted for approximately 13,000 of the department's total calls in 2006 ("Run Statistics," 2007).

The Bureau of Fire employs a fire chief, 9 deputy chiefs, 7 lieutenants, and 118 firefighters and paramedics ("Fire and Rescue," 2007). Most of these employees rotate between 10 hour dayshifts and 14 hour night shifts, averaging out to a 42-hour work week. According to Paramedic Brett Mack, per a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Reading and the International Association of

*"The biggest stressor for fire department personnel in the City of Reading is sub par staffing levels."*

Firefighters Local 1803, Bureau personnel are eligible to retire when they are both 55 years of age and have served the City for 25 years (B. Mack, personal communication, March 12, 2007).

The Bureau of Fire staffs 7 engine companies, 3 ladder companies, 1 heavy rescue company, and 3 advanced life support ambulances. All of their apparatus are staffed below national standards. On each of the engine and ladder companies, there are only two people assigned to each piece of apparatus. The heavy rescue company is staffed with anywhere from two to five personnel at any given time. According to the

*“The last thing that taxpayers want to hear is that their taxes are going up.”*

National Fire Protection Association Code 1710, an organization that sets nationwide fire department standards, the minimum staffing levels are 4 firefighters on an engine company and 4 firefighters on a ladder company or heavy rescue company (NFPA, 2001, p 8).

Due to these substandard staffing levels, firefighters have no choice but to work extra hard to compensate for nonexistent firefighters. On a call for a house fire, the Bureau of Fire sends 14 firefighters, 2 chiefs, and 2 paramedics. Assuming the firefighters can mitigate the emergency with the crews they have on scene, this only leaves 8 firefighters and 4 paramedics to handle any other emergency that may be called in by the citizens. Again, this is assuming that the remaining personnel are not needed at the original fire scene.

Once all on-duty fire department personnel are called to a fire, off-duty fire personnel are called in from home to staff additional fire apparatus. This takes them away from their family and friends on their day off, once again showing a firefighter's dedication to his craft and the city he swore to protect. In addition to calling back off-duty firefighters, the city will often take advantage of mutual aid agreements with volunteer fire companies in neighboring municipalities. Nicholas Lesagonicz, a volunteer firefighter/EMT from neighboring West Reading Fire Company, estimates he was called into the City of Reading 20 times in 2006. Mr. Lesagonicz explains that "twenty times in

a year doesn't sound like much, but even something as small as a missed summer picnic with family is tough" (N. Lesagonicz, personal communication, March 12, 2007). The firefighters that respond from neighboring communities are all volunteer, and are now pulled away from their families with their only compensation being that they know they are helping someone in need. Not only does this drain the families of the firefighters, but also strips neighboring municipalities of their fire protection.

Low staffing levels also put firefighters at increased risk for injury or death. Although I was unable to find a reliable reference regarding the subject, common sense would tell you that more is usually better. Scot Landis, a 12-year veteran of the department, points out that "you wouldn't expect two people to lift something that takes five people to lift. Sure, you could get it done, but someone is eventually going to get hurt. It's only a matter of time." Firefighter Landis confirms that there have been several instances in Reading where firefighter injuries may have been prevented had there been more people to share the workload (S. Landis, personal communication, March 12, 2007).

As noted earlier, the paramedics for the Bureau are by far the most utilized resource, responding to over 13 thousand calls in 2006 ("Run Statistics" 2007). Paramedics respond to a variety of calls for service, ranging from chest pains and trouble breathing, to shootings and stabbings, and everything in between. The Bureau operates three advanced life support ambulances 24 hours a day. When there is an event such as a Reading Phillies game or an event at the Sovereign Center that requires an ambulance standby, there are only 2 ambulances to handle all calls in the city. Each ambulance is staffed with two paramedics. While having two paramedics on an ambulance is a perfectly acceptable staffing level, the fact that the city requires each unit to respond to an average of 4200 calls per ambulance per year is astronomical. "If we could just put one additional ambulance on the street 24/7, I think that would take a lot of the drain of the job away from us," states Reading Paramedic Brett Mack (B. Mack, personal communication, March 12, 2007). At a minimum, the Bureau should be operating at least 4 advanced life support ambulances at all times.

The problem is that the dedication from the Bureau of Fire's employees is such that the citizens rarely notice a lapse in service. They get the job done

with the staffing levels they have because it's all that they know. They have never operated in a fully-staffed fire department, so they are used to operating well below the national recommendation. If they are unable to handle the emergencies, the mutual aid fire companies and ambulance squads pitch in to handle the extra workload.

Firefighting is an unavoidably dangerous occupation. It is an occupation that some firefighters describe as "their calling." So why would anyone oppose additional staffing for Reading's bravest? Why would city leaders not want to do everything possible to ensure that Reading's heroes go home after their shift? Like any other service that Reading provides, increasing staffing means additional salaries. Additional salaries mean increased taxes. The last thing that taxpayers want to hear is that their taxes are going up. As a taxpayer and as a citizen that lost two of his family members in a fire as a result of the City of Reading's understaffed Bureau of Fire, I can say wholeheartedly that you can not put a price on someone's life. The National Fire Protection Association has established national standards to make the job of being a firefighter as safe as possible. It is the responsibility of the City Council to ensure that there are no unnecessary civilian or firefighter injuries or deaths. I would accept any tax hike necessary to ensure the safety of the citizens, firefighters, and paramedics of Reading. 🌳

## References

- Fire & rescue services. (2007). Retrieved March 10, 2003, [http://www.readingpa.gov/fire\\_rescue.asp](http://www.readingpa.gov/fire_rescue.asp)
- Greater Reading Convention and Visitors Bureau (2007). Retrieved March 8, 2007, from <http://www.readingberkspa.com>
- National Fire Protection Association. (2001). Code 1710 - Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments. Quincy, MA.
- Reading population and demographics. (2007). Retrieved March 8, 2007, <http://readingpa.areaconnect.com/statistics.htm>
- Run statistics (2007). Retrieved March 13, 2007, <http://www.readingpafire.com/runstats.htm>

### *Author's Biography*

Michael is a first-year student working towards a promotion at his job as a firefighter/paramedic.



***The Glass of Wine***

# Gatsby, Capone, and Declining Morality in the Roaring Twenties

By Tara Braam

*Author's Note: "I have always had an interest in mythical images of the mafia. Also, prohibition is an excellent example of what could result of Americans being denied their civil rights."*

The supporters of prohibition such as Wayne B. Wheeler and Carry Nation had good intentions and truly thought that with the ban of alcoholic beverages the lives of Americans would be drastically improved. Organizations such as the Anti-Saloon League and Woman's Christian Temperance Union preached to Americans across the country of the evils of liquor and the economic, social and moral consequences it brought. Propaganda from pamphlets to feature films was used to frighten Americans to the "dry" side. Cartoons akin to "The Full Father and the Empty Stocking" were posted all over the streets of America (Barry 6). This particular cartoon depicted a sobbing little girl dressed in rags in a dilapidated house as her father and other men sit merrily having drinks at the saloon (Barry 6). Some of these tactics worked as a number of dry Congressmen were elected in the 1916 elections bringing the prohibition bill on the table. Soon after, wartime prohibition went into effect and on October 28, 1919, Congress passed the National Prohibition Act to the dismay of President Woodrow Wilson. A *Reading Eagle* headline of Tuesday, October 28, 1919, read, "Senate Passes Dry Bill Over Wilson's Veto." At the conclu-

sion of the article, it was reported that some of the dry leaders were "mindful of the protest against suppression of these products." They were right, but little did they know that these protests would be the least of their problems. Prohibition brought about many changes in the viewpoints of Americans, which is represented in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. The most prolific were declining moral standards and values, leading to the elevation, status and wealth of bootleggers and criminals such as Al Capone.

January 15, 1920, the day before the 18th Amendment was to go into effect, farewell parties were held across America. A mock funeral service was held in a Park Avenue Hotel in New York City where everything in the dining room-napkins, glasses, walls, and tables was black and funeral marches were intermittently played between dance songs (Barry 2). "Men wept into their Scotch or rye and proclaimed the end of the wet and happy world they knew" (Sann 21). These men needed not to worry as "the speakeasy opened as fast as the doomed saloon closed" (Sann 24).

The opening of speakeasies spread like wildfire creating what was once a country of mostly law-

abiding citizens into a land full of criminals. The first raid was held at a speakeasy known as "The Red Lantern" in Chicago. There, federal agents found forty middle and upper class men and women partaking in the illegal consumption of alcohol. To the horror of the public they were arrested promptly (Barry 16). Prior to the 18th Amendment women would have never entered a saloon for the fear of tarnishing their reputations. Prohibition made the speakeasy a commodity and a fashionable place to socialize and be seen by men and women alike. There soon became various speakeasies

*“The Great Gatsby allows the reader to temporarily visit a time known as the Roaring Twenties.”*

ranging from dives on back streets to well-run, classy establishments that drew the likes of intellectuals such as Dorothy Parker (Barry 18). Drys themselves were breaking the law as some leaders of the Anti-Saloon League were found to be customers of bootleggers. It was at this point the viewpoints of Americans began to change. Many young women, referred to as flappers, dressed scantily, drank and smoked with reckless men into the wee hours of the night. Dr. Angell, the President of Yale University stated in his June, 1922, baccalaureate address, "The violation of law has never been so general nor so widely condoned as at present" (Franklin 4).

Much of the unsettledness of the 1920s reflected in its literature. Fitzgerald wrote of these times so eloquently because he himself was caught in the whirlwind of the Jazz Age. He and his wife Zelda lived vicariously, drinking through the night at wild parties and carelessly spending their money "to be members of the newly rich class" (Sann 116). Fitzgerald lived well beyond his means not only financially, but also physically causing him to pass of a heart attack at the age of 44.

Fitzgerald was much affected by the drastic changes that were taking place in American society which we reflected in his writings. *The Great Gatsby*, written in 1925, allows the reader to enter into a time of epic change in the lives of Americans. Advances in industrialization, targeted advertising, and the passing

of the Eighteenth Amendment, brought about many dramatic changes in America's social scene. The characters and setting of the novel represent what was taking place during this time of change. World War I had left many people with a cynical outlook on the world, and the rise of stock market prices had given many young Americans a new wealth they had never experienced before. *The Great Gatsby* allows the reader to temporarily visit a time known as the Roaring Twenties.

The narrator of the story, Nick Carraway, tells the reader of his summer spent in Long Island among a rich, immoral, self-serving society, in which the pursuit of wealth and pleasure seem to outweigh any positive principles or values. Parties lasting through the night, infidelity, drunken men with slurred speech, and intoxicated women dancing on tables are just a few of the ludicrous acts that repeatedly occur in the story. The mindset of the characters is clearly portrayed in the beginning of the novel as "Tom was God knows where" shortly after the arrival of his daughter and Daisy cheerfully states that she hopes her baby daughter grows to be a "fool" since "that's the best thing a girl can be in this world" (Fitzgerald 17). Jay Gatsby, a young, outgoing man seems to only be concerned with impressing everyone with his enormous mansion and gaudy parties; but as the reader soon learns, he does this only to impress and win the affections of Daisy. Nick appears to be the only sensible character in the story as he is appalled by some of the actions of the other characters. However, Nick himself participates in some of the actions that he considers unappealing.

Jay Gatsby's parties give the reader a glimpse into the debauchery and flamboyance of Jazz Age nightlife. These lavish, popular events cater to an array of people as the orchestra plays and an unending supply of alcohol freely flows. The fakeness and lack of character of the people in attendance is shown in the "casual innuendo and introductions forgotten on the spot, and enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other's names" (Fitzgerald 40). Nick further insults them by stating their behavior is that of those in "an amusement park" (41). He also speaks of a woman who "has drunk a quantity of champagne" serenading the crowd with not only singing but "weeping" as well as the heavy mascara runs down her face and she concludes by falling "into a deep vinous sleep" (51).

*The Great Gatsby* places precedence on the value of image throughout the story. Gatsby himself seems to be obsessed with wealth and image and obviously will take any measures necessary to attain them. He is very proud and boastful to others regarding his mansion and Rolls Royce. When in pursuit of Daisy, Gatsby seems more concerned for showing her his house than himself as Jordan, a minor character, informs Nick, "He wants her to see his house" (Fitzgerald 79).

The gathering in the apartment that Tom keeps for his mistress, Myrtle, also proves to be an excellent representation of the existing immorality. The characters in the scene prove to be disgraceful through their actions as well as their descriptions from an unimpressed Nick. Catherine, Myrtle's sister, appears to embody a flapper, as she is depicted as having a "sticky bob of red hair," "innumerable pottery bracelets" and laughs "immoderately" when asked a question by Nick (Fitzgerald 30). Nick goes on to describe Mrs. McKee as an attractive but "horrible" person who seems to be undeservingly smug (Fitzgerald 30). Myrtle also is portrayed as lacking character as Nick suggests that her attitude changes with her clothes: "Her laughter, her gestures, her assertions became more violently affected" as she attempted to impress everyone with her presence and wit (Fitzgerald 30). The hypocrisy of Tom is shown when he breaks Myrtle's nose because she speaks of Daisy. The reader then sees the staggering figures of Daisy and Catherine and Mr. McKee acting as though nothing has happened.

The sanctity of marriage seems to be skewed throughout the entire setting, as Tom and Myrtle are both married and openly having an affair. Also, derogatory comments are repeatedly made regarding each other's spouses and marriages. Catherine tells Nick that Myrtle and Tom should divorce their spouses because they "can't stand them" (Fitzgerald 33). Nick also finds out that Tom has led Myrtle to believe that Daisy is Catholic and does not believe in divorce, which shocks Nick because it is simply not true. The awe of the conversation continues as Catherine states sympathetically and admirably that "Tom's the first sweetie [Myrtle] ever had" (Fitzgerald 35).

Sympathy to bootleggers is prevalent in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Jay Gatsby himself makes his fortune through bootlegging which is not spoken of but known by most throughout the novel.

No one appears to mind that Gatsby attains his wealth through illegal means. Most of the public does not believe in prohibition and, therefore, does not see bootlegging as a crime. Also, most Americans craved alcohol and knew if there were not bootleggers they would not acquire it. There are repeated scenes within *The Great Gatsby* where alcohol is prevalent and often abused even though it is illegal. In Myrtle's apartment, "Tom brought out a bottle of whiskey from a locked bureau door" and later brought out a "second one" (Fitzgerald 29, 35). At Gatsby's parties, there is a never-ending supply of alcohol and many people more than willing to have their share.

The influence of bootleggers is also depicted when Gatsby gets pulled over by a police officer and is let off the hook as the policeman is "tipping his cap" because he "was able to do the commissioner a favor once" (68). This attitude towards bootleggers and alcohol proves difficult for the authorities to get by and makes it easy for bootleggers to make their fortune.

The violence of the underground business world is portrayed as Meyer Wolfshiem tells Nick about his cuff buttons, which are the "finest specimens of human molars" while they are out at a casual lunch (Fitzgerald 72). The public's desensitization to the violence that was occurring at that time is displayed when partygoers at Gatsby's mansion discuss how "they thought he killed a man once" but continued enjoying the party at the suspected murderer's home without a care in the world. It is the lack of integrity as well as solid, core values epitomized throughout *The Great Gatsby* that contributes to the bootlegging industry and the rise of organized crime the world had never previously seen.

Men of organized crime began to make their mark on pop culture and society in the 1920s leaving a legacy of violence as well as an heir of coolness and sophistication. Al Capone epitomized this vision. Alphonse Capone is history's most notorious gangster and is often described as the "Babe Ruth of American Gangsters" (Helmer 8). Born on January 17, 1899, in the city of Brooklyn, he began his gangland days there. As a member of the Five Points Gang, he earned the name "Scarface" after flirting with another member's sister and the man slashed him on the left side of his face with a knife (Helmer 8). Soon after this event, Capone moved to Chicago to work for Johnny Torrio as a bodyguard (Helmer 8). It was not long before

Capone was in charge of the Four Deuces Café, which housed gambling, drinking and prostitution (Sann 208).

Prohibition opened the doors of wealth for gangsters all over the country. Torrio and Capone were more than happy to have their piece of the action. The first three years of Prohibition in Chicago was fairly peaceful under the leadership of Johnny Torrio. As explained in *The Noble Experiment*, by James P. Barry, Torrio believed that competition among the bootleggers was foolish and bad for business. He thought it was more profitable to work together than against one another. Gangs were all assigned their own areas with boundaries; and if those boundaries were crossed, consequences were to be paid. Torrio claimed the South Side and placed Capone in charge while the

North Side was to be controlled by Dion O'Banion. This plan worked out well since they had a good amount of help from the public, as much of the public was sympathetic to bootleggers and preferred to have their thirst for liquor quenched. Bootleggers were viewed as somewhat of a "public servant" rather than a menace to society (Barry 31). This outlook would prove to be an obstacle for the authorities.

Most local and state authorities did not believe in prohibition and found it to be impossible to enforce and, therefore, refused to impose it. The Prohibition Bureau was "the most despised agency of the United States Government" (Barry 18). Their agents were underpaid and untrained therefore leaving them more vulnerable to corruption and mistakes. Many innocent civilians were unnecessarily killed in gun battles during raids, which left a bitter taste in the mouth of the public (Barry 19). This only fueled their sympathies for bootleggers and their resilience towards authorities.

During this time, the gangs were making millions of dollars in profits from bootlegging. With these profits Capone was able to easily bribe police and politicians. He once stated in a matter of fact way, "I own the police" (Barry 36). Shipments of booze were protected by the police, while well-paid politicians

allowed the gangs to run their business with little trouble or consequence. Everything ran smoothly until a dispute broke out between O' Banion and Torrio ending in the death of O'Banion and Capone taking leadership of the South Side (Sann 111). This would be the beginning of what came to be known as the "Gang Wars."

The war had now begun between Capone's South Side and Weiss' North Side. Dozens of gangsters were found dead all over Chicago. The Genna brothers, who were allies of Capone, soon began to lose power, and Capone took advantage of this weakness. On July 8, 1925, Capone ordered the hit of Tony

Genna. The remaining three brothers immediately left town, leaving Capone to operate their rackets (Barry 43). Now all Capone had to do was eliminate Weiss.

The two had made unsuccessful attempts to kill each other. Capone finally succeeded in his mission on October 11 leaving the entire underworld of Chicago under his control.

Capone managed to keep his celebrity status throughout the gang wars. He was a public relations master. When headlines were riddled with gangster violence, Capone addressed the situation himself by holding a press conference. Rather than doing so in his grandiose suite at the Metropole, Capone made himself appear to be the victim by holding it in the bullet-hole ridden and far less lavish Hawthorne Hotel (Bergreen 213). There he pleaded with his rivals to end the violence. He publicly, of course, decided to hold a peace meeting, known as the Sherman House Peace Conference, with fellow bootleggers (Bergreen 214). Capone even had the audacity to request the presence of one of his biggest enemies, Judge John Lyle. Appalled at this, Lyle emphatically refused stating, "We're not going to give them the town; we're going to take the town away from them" (Bergreen 214). The event was highly publicized and ended with a temporary peace among the gangs only nine days after the murder of Hymie Weiss. By doing this, Scarface successfully portrayed himself as the "city's savior" rather

*“Capone not only had control over the press but also owned many politicians. With his profits estimating to be \$105 million (\$60 million alone in bootlegging) in 1927, he was able to buy whomever he wanted.”*

than the menace (Bergreen 212).

Capone made sure he developed an amicable relationship with the press in order to keep his positive public image. Tony Berardi, a photographer for the *Chicago Evening American*, stated that the press only saw Capone as "a charitable guy...a good family man" (Bergreen 149). He often made public displays of affection, like buying children ice cream or even giving an unemployed man a job. It even got to a point where Chicagoans took pride in the gang banging culture of their city. As explained in Helmer's *Public Enemies*, the public, the press and even public officials often had a matter of fact attitude regarding the rampant gang crime in Chicago. This was often reflected in their newspapers. In an April, 1927, editorial from the Chicago Tribune, a reporter wrote, "A Chicagoan soon will be regarded as a person who is alive because of a particular individual hardihood, courage and marksmanship." Even a reformer newspaper such as the *Tribune* blamed Prohibition and its lawmakers on the rampant crime throughout the city (Helmer 57). It did not seem that Capone or his men were blamed for anything.

Capone not only had control over the press but also owned many politicians. With his profits estimating to be \$105 million (\$60 million alone in bootlegging) in 1927, he was able to buy whomever he wanted (Bergreen 236). Lawrence Bergreen goes on to explain how Capone would daily pace the sidewalks of City Hall shaking hands with various city officials. Political influence was key to running his organization smoothly and he fully recognized it. William Hale Thompson, often known as "Big Bill," was the off and on mayor of Chicago during Big Al's reign. Big Bill allowed Capone to run his business and the city without rules or consequence (Bergreen 151 and 261).

The St. Valentine's Day Massacre is known as the most gruesome, ruthless, and notorious gang slaying in American History and proved to be the beginning of the end for Alphonse Capone. On February 14, 1929, on 2122 North Clark Street in Chicago, seven men from the Bugs Moran gang were lined up against the wall and gunned down. The event was so highly publicized it made the front page of the *Reading Eagle* seven days in a row. The division of authorities can be seen through the February 15 headline of the *Reading Eagle* stating, "Gang Massacre Work of Police, Dry Agent Says." Chicago Police Captain James Gleason

defended his men later in the article stating, "Those men were gangsters, masquerading as officers." The intended target, Bugs Moran who was now the leader of the North Side gang was not at the warehouse. In the days following the slaying many theories were proposed by the authorities, but Moran knew "only the Capone gang kills like that" (Sann 205). Capone and several of his men were questioned but never indicted, although Capone's public image was severely tarnished. The public was disgusted with the violent display of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and demanded justice (Cole).

The disgust expressed by the public for Capone can be compared with the disgust Nick Carraway has with society at the end of *The Great Gatsby*. Nick's view of Tom and Daisy have changed as Daisy has allowed Gatsby to take responsibility for Myrtle's death and Tom indirectly kills Gatsby by telling Wilson where Gatsby lives and that he was the one to commit the crime knowing what Wilson's intentions were. Nick also is appalled and astonished that Gatsby had an excess of friends in attendance at his extravagant parties but none of those people came to his funeral, including Daisy. Nick returned to the West wanting to be "at a sort of moral attention forever" after what he had witnessed in Long Island (Fitzgerald 2).

On April 24, 1930, in response to public outcry, the Chicago Crime Commission developed the Public Enemy list with Capone in the number one slot (Helmer 298). Everyone was now after Capone. Capone regained some of his popularity by opening up his soup kitchen during the Depression. Locating on 935 South State Street made Capone appear to be a modern day Robin Hood. The December 5 headline of the *Chicago Tribune* read, "120,000 Meals Are Served By Capone" (Bergreen 400). As further explained by Bergreen, unemployed, poor Chicagoans praised Capone as a savior claiming he did more for them than the government. Little did they know that Capone was shaking down local bakers and meatpackers to "donate" to his cause (Bergreen 401).

Within two years Capone was found guilty of tax evasion with the long hard investigation of Eliot Ness and his men, known as the Untouchables (Ness 249). On October 24, 1931, Capone was sentenced to eleven years in prison. During his transport to an Atlanta Prison, there was a horde of photographers waiting for his arrival. Capone proudly stated, "Jeez,

you'd think Mussolini was passin' through" (Ness 251). He would spend most of his prison time in Alcatraz but would be transferred to Lewisburg Penitentiary in 1938 when he was diagnosed with syphilis (Bergreen 572). When he was released in November of 1939, Capone was a shadow of the man he once was. Disoriented and frail is the condition in which he would spend the end of his days.

Although Alphonse Capone and Jay Gatsby led lifestyles full of glitz and glamour with many friends and followers, their lives were truly empty. Gatsby's obsession with Daisy and wealth left him dead in the prime of his life. Capone's violence and promiscuous lifestyle ended his life prematurely as well. Capone, the man of incredible wit and power ironically deteriorated into having the mind of a child. 🌸

### Author's Biography

The author is a full-time, second-year student still debating between entering public relations or law.

### Works Cited

- Barry, James P. *The Noble Experiment*. New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1972.
- Bergreen, Lawrence. *Capone: The Man and the Era*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.
- Cole, Judy. *Al Capone: Scarface*. A&E Biography. Tower Productions, Inc., 1995.
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner, 2004.
- Franklin, Fabian. *What Prohibition Has Done to America*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1922. The Project Gutenberg eBook.
- "Gang Massacre Work of Police, Dry Agent Says." *The Reading Eagle*. 15 Feb. 1929: 1, 4.
- Helmer, William, and Rick Mattix. *Public Enemies: America's Criminal Past 1919-1940*. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1998.
- Ness, Eliot. *The Untouchables*. New York: Julian Messner, Inc., 1957.
- Sann, Paul. *The Lawless Decade*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1957.
- "Senate Passes Dry Bill Over Wilson's Veto." *The Reading Eagle*. 28 Oct. 1919: 1.



### A Real Education

By Sherri Colton

---

# Education

**By Kenneth Brown**

At times I despised you

You were forced on me when I was younger  
and I didn't like that

More than I was willing to admit I rebelled  
against you

I wanted to, no I needed to be a free spirit  
and there you were holding me back

Even-though you tried to show me the way, the  
hard way seemed to be what I was good at  
finding

Not knowing the more freedom I thought I was  
losing, because of you the more freedom I was  
gaining

Here you are knocking at my door again,  
even-though I know it is you I still hesitate

I need you and you know I need you

Instead I treat you like a thorn in my side;  
I need to welcome you with open arms

Time and time again I call myself rejecting you

But there you are right by my side whether I  
need you or not

And I hope the day never comes when I think  
I'm too old for you or I think I know it all



*The Moon and the Stars*

# Tarnished Colors: The Real History behind the Confederate Battle Flag

By Chad Moyer

*Author's note: "As an admitted Civil War buff, I find it frustrating that others choose to forget the ugly truths behind the war. History serves no purpose if we choose to forget the lessons of the past."*

"Heritage not hate!" is the cry of the supporters of the Confederate battle flag, such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. These heritage groups and supporters assert that the Confederate flag represents their heritage as Southerners, is a strong symbol of "states rights," and honors the nobility and bravery of those who fought for their cause under the battlefield banner. Therefore, the supporters claim the flag should remain prominently displayed at public and government institutions, such as state capitols and courthouses. Other groups, such as the NAACP and other civil rights activists, declare that the flag should be removed from all of those institutions on the basis that it represents racism and oppression to Black Americans. They maintain that the flag is the symbol representing a Confederacy that separated from the Union to maintain their institution of slavery.

Both sides clashed in recent years at Charleston, the capitol of South Carolina, at the very place the first shots of the Civil War were fired. The Confederate battle flag flew atop the capitol along with the United States flag. A compromise was met which removed it from atop the capitol to a flagpole on another part of the capitol grounds near a monument honoring Confederate soldiers. However, since it still is displayed on state grounds, the debate continues. Since the flag occupies a position on the property of a government entity that is supposed to represent the entire population it governs, is it right for the divisive Confederate flag to fly in such a

position? The answer is an emphatic no. What the flag supporters forget is their real heritage. The Confederate battle flag has always been a symbol of racism in that it cannot be separated from the institution of slavery. It is for this reason that the flag should be removed from any place of representative government, as it is a symbol of oppression to Black Americans.

The supporters of the flag have always used the "Southern heritage" argument for keeping the

*"The Confederate battle flag has always been a symbol of racism in that it cannot be separated from the institution of slavery."*

flag prevalent in public. For this group, the Confederate battle flag represents their uniqueness as a people, in their shared heritage through their link to the Confederate States of America. However, it seems they forget their so-called heritage that the flag-and the Confederacy-represented at the time of inception. One has to look no further than the adopted Confederate Constitution. It remarkably mimics that of the American Constitution, with the exception of the numerous provisions for slavery. In the article "Constitution of the Confederate States of

America" (1997), the first provision concerning slavery comes in Article I of the document stating "... no law denying or impairing the right of property in negro slaves shall be passed" (Art. I, sec. 9(4)). The authors of the Constitution wanted to make clear that their "negro property rights" could not be voted away for it would be declared unconstitutional.

However, it is the wording under Article IV that speaks the loudest of the Confederacy's slavery rights. Under this article, it makes clear that a citizen may travel within any of the states of the

*"Any historian would agree that the southern soldiers and generals were brave, tenacious fighters and representative of the true fighting spirit of the American soldier."*

Confederacy, and that their property, including Negro slaves, would not be impeded by the Confederate government ("Constitution" 1997, Art. IV, sec. 2(1)). What is important here is the distinction made between citizens and property. It is clear that the "citizens" referred to mean the white southern population. Referring to slaves solely as property, not citizens, the authors of the document effectively authorized state sponsorship of white supremacy by dehumanizing the black population. In fact, it was future Confederate President Jefferson Davis who stated that Blacks "were not put upon the footing of equality with white men—not even that of paupers and convicts" (as cited in Weinkopf, 2000, para 5).

Also under Article IV, we can find the historical evidence to prove false the flag supporters' claim that the Confederacy was created to protect "states' rights," not slavery. The document relates that in any new state territory admitted to the Confederate States of America, "the institution of negro slavery, as it now exists in the Confederate States, shall be recognized and protected by Congress and by the Territorial government" ("Constitution," 1997, Art. IV, sec. 2(3)). The claim of "state's rights" apparently leaves out the right of a new territory to become or remain a free state, thus

making the entire Confederacy a hypocritical slave nation. Indeed, Chris Weinkopf (2000) asserts that the Confederacy "cared less about 'states' rights' in general than about the 'right' to slavery in particular" (para. 3). In addition, Ellen Reiss, chairman of Aesthetic Realism, states:

The reason the Southern states seceded from the Union in 1861 was to be able to preserve slavery—South Carolina might just as well display a bullwhip and an auction block at its statehouse, because these and the Confederate flag stand for the same thing. (as cited in Bernstein, 2000, para. 5)

Heritage supporters fail to connect to the ideology that the term "states' rights" is incomplete. The correct term should be "state slavery rights."

One of the final issues that flag supporters espouse is that the display of the flag honors those that fought under it during the War. Any historian would agree that the southern soldiers and generals were brave, tenacious fighters and representative of the true fighting spirit of the American soldier. The names Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson have become synonymous with some of the greatest generals in world military history. Nevertheless, they fought under the banner of a flawed cause.

The actions of some Confederate soldiers and their officers during the war reveal just how deep racial prejudice was imbedded in the cause. Confederate Secretary of War James Seddon wrote, "[N]egroes [Black Union soldiers] captured will not be regarded as prisoners of war" (as cited in Smith, 2002, p 45). The Confederate Congress advised that White Union officers in commanding positions within black regiments "be deemed as inciting servile insurrection, and shall if captured be put to death or be otherwise punished" (as cited in Smith, 2002, p 45). On several battlefields, Confederate justice was delivered in a far worse method than the Confederate government could put into words. According to author John Smith (2002), some Confederate soldiers and officers engaged in cold-blooded murder of surrendering Black Union soldiers at places like Petersburg and Saltville, Virginia; Poison Springs, Arkansas; and the most famous massacre, Ft. Pillow, Tennessee (p 47).

It was at Ft. Pillow that Confederate soldiers, under the command of Nathan B. Forrest, would storm the fort and murder scores of surrendering Black Union soldiers. A soldier in Forrest's ranks stated, "The slaughter was awful.... The poor delud-

ed Negroes would run up to our own men, fall upon their knees and with uplifted hands scream for mercy, but they were ordered to their feet and then shot down" (as cited in Taylor, n.d. para. 8). Although most Confederate soldiers and officers did not take part in any massacres or atrocities, author John Cimprich asserts, "Southern racism at times played a more important role in war than sectional hostility" (as cited in Taylor, n.d., para, 13). The heritage camp fails to realize that had these men succeeded in their cause, the Confederate Constitution, and all the protections for slavery that were defined in it, would be ratified as a legitimate government by the United States and the rest of the world. Slavery would have a permanent home and place to thrive among industrialized nations.

However, the South did not win. Slavery was eventually eroded away due to the War, and the southern armies and populace were defeated. The flags were folded up and turned over to the U.S. government as part of the surrender and parole agreements levied on the southern armies. The Confederate battle flag should have remained an emblem of a flawed time in American history, one that has unbreakable ties to the institution of slavery. The flag was a symbol used to represent the armies of a government of Confederate States fighting for its independence from a northern government they feared would abolish their system of slavery. It was this system of slavery that was the major difference in ideologies between North and South. The supporters claim it is these differences, their unique "heritage," that they are defending when they come out in support of the flag. They do not realize that without slavery in the equation, they really have no heritage.

Maybe they should look to one of their great Southern leaders for guidance. After surrendering his army at Appomattox, Virginia, in 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee came upon some of his men retuning home and spoke with them one last time. Lee did not tell them to form fringe groups like the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize the newly freed Blacks. Lee did not tell them to flee to the mountains and fight a guerrilla war against the Union armies. According to author Charles Flood (1998), "When [Lee] said good-bye to them, he told them to think of the future and not the past, and to be as loyal citizens as they had been soldiers" (p 29). The flag supporters now have a chance to be these good citizens and

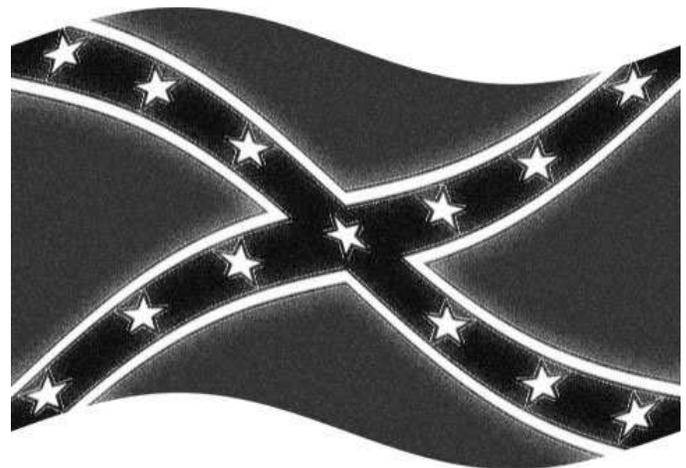
heed Lee's words by agreeing that the flags should come down. 🌸

### Author's Biography

A first-year liberal arts transfer major, Chad hopes to become either a national park historian or a high school history teacher.

### References

- Bernstein, A. (2000, April 29). Words, truth, and the Confederate flag. *Atlanta Inquirer*. Retrieved March 06, 2007, from Ethnic NewsWatch database.
- Constitution of the Confederate States of America. (1997). *CSA Constitution*. Retrieved February 25, 2007, from Academic Search Premier database.
- Flood, C. B. (1981). *Lee: The last years*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.
- Smith, J. D. (Ed.). (2002). *Black soldiers in blue: African American troops in the Civil War era*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Taylor, J. Merciless murder of defeated yanks. *Washington Times*, The, Retrieved March 06, 2007, from The Newspaper Source database.
- Weinkopf, C. (2000). Stars, bars & choice. *Human Life review*, 26(1), 123. Retrieved March 06, 2007, from Academic Search premier data base.



### Emblem of Strife

By Sherri Colton



*The Tears of Innocence*

---

# Today's Woman

By Melissa Beth McIlroy

There once was a little girl  
A doll, a cherub, a dream  
His image, his midget, the apple of his eye?

Add drink, add smoke, add nothing wholesome  
The yelling, the screaming, the marital strife  
See the little girl become his concubine.

No place to hide, no one to cry to  
Her life no longer hers  
Where is her savior?

A mother not absent, just trying to cope  
A brother to protect when he joins the pack  
Do all little girls have to be the scapegoat?

God gives her a voice, no longer quiet  
Now all doors are closed to him  
Now serving...no one

Many lessons to learn-the hard knocks life  
Other users, other abusers, other lifetimes  
One at a time, manageable are they all

A wife, a mother, a learned soul  
Lessons past-a whole life to come  
Every day is a new adventure, one moment at a time

There once was a wiser woman  
Accepting her lot with pride renewed  
Aware that all she was made all she is today.



*Like Mist*

# Is Time Travel Possible?

By Stephen W. Dietrich

*Author's note: "Since time travel is a topic involved in many science fiction stories, I wanted to know if science was discovering anything new that could lead to time travel's realization."*

Time has troubled philosophers, scientists, and other thinkers for thousands of years. Questions about what time is and why it seems to flow have generated hundreds of ideas, but none of these ideas has proven satisfactory. With new scientific theories, physicists are now investigating what time is, and they are trying to further assess time's role in science and our universe. One idea in particular that some physicists are now studying has been a favorite of science fiction writers for many years. That idea is the possibility of time travel, questionable due to both the unknown nature of time as well as the uncertainties of these advanced scientific theories, but not without some chance of success.

Whether a person can travel in time depends ultimately on what time really is. Is time a form of energy like light? Is it a particle like a neutrino? Or, is it some unknown substance, if it's a substance at all? The religious philosopher Saint Augustine pondered the question and asked, "What then is time? I know well enough what it is, provided that nobody asks me, but if I am asked what it is and try to explain, I am baffled" (qtd. in Cullhed). Even today, most people will probably be unable to give an adequate explanation of time without using hours, minutes, or seconds in their definition. Like Saint Augustine, people are aware of time and use it every day, but no one really knows what

time is.

Even so, there have been many definitions of time attempted. Time is defined by religion as "an irreversible process with a unique beginning and a unique end" (Cullhed). Many religions believe time began with the creation and will end with the last judgment. Secular thought of today has transformed the idea of time into "an endless process, without beginning and without end" (Cullhed). Scientists

*"Like Saint Augustine, people are aware of time and use it every day, but no one really knows what time is."*

believe the universe may have existed before the "Big Bang" that occurred billions of years ago, and they believe it will exist for billions of years more. In addition, Isaac Newton pointed out that time "flows equably and from its own nature" (qtd. in Lawrence 125). Newton felt that time flowed independently in equal, unchangeable measures everywhere. These definitions are fine, but they are not precise enough to help in determining the possibility of time travel. A better explanation is needed.

Philosophers have developed different views of time. Two main beliefs are called Presentism and Eternalism. "Presentism is the view that only present objects exist. More precisely, it is the view that, necessarily, it is always true that only present objects exist" (Markosian, sec.6). In this view, the past happened and no longer exists, and the future has not yet happened, so it has never existed. This idea presents problems for

time travel. If only the present exists, there would be nothing to travel to other than the present. Time travel would be impossible and unnecessary. The other thought, Eternalism, "says that objects from both the past and the future exist just as much as present objects" (Markosian, sec. 6). Another explanation of Eternalism says, "[T]here is no objective ontological difference among the past, the present, and the future just as there is no ontological difference between here and there" (Dowden, sec.9). In other words, we may live here in Pennsylvania, but Australia exists on the other side of the world, even though we have no physical indication of its existence there. In the same way, we may exist in the present without physical knowledge of the existence of the past and the future around us. Therefore with Eternalism, there are places to travel to in time that exist other than the present. This idea is what will be assumed as correct in this discussion so that time travel will have a concrete destination if it is possible.

Now that it is assumed that there is a time that can be traveled to, can someone actually travel in time? Fiction writers have speculated on this idea for many years. H.G.Wells' fictional book *The Time Machine* first envisioned using an actual machine for time travel. More recent fictional uses of machines for time travel occurred in the *Star Trek* television series (entering a time portal, exceeding the speed of light in a spaceship) and the *Back to the Future* films (using a specially equipped DeLorean car). Science is now catching up to the fiction writers with its own fantastic ideas and theories.

Albert Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity stated that time for someone traveling at or near the speed of light progresses much slower than time for an observer who is stationary. This was described in what is known as The Twin Paradox. If one twin left Earth on a spaceship traveling near the speed of light and returned several years later, he would have aged less to Earthly observers than the twin who was left behind. By aging slower, the space twin would live longer than the twin who remained on Earth. This can be interpreted as time travel, since a person could live further into the future and not age as one normally would. However, this is a one-way trip, and the traveler could never return to the past.

Time travel to the past has always been difficult for physicists to contemplate. Theorists have conjec-

tured that if someone could go faster than the speed of light, one could travel back in time. The problem is that the speed of light appears to be the speed limit in physics. To even get a spaceship traveling close to the speed of light would require energy that a universe could not provide. This idea seems unworkable. Recently, though, theorists have devised new ideas about how time travel could be possible, and Quantum Theory may have the answer. By using quantum mechanics and gravitational forces, a passage, or wormhole, might be constructed between two regions of curved space-time. This wormhole could allow travel to the past or the future, depending on the direction of travel within it.

Dr. Stephen Hawking at first did not think time travel was possible, but after studying these advances in Quantum Theory, he now believes it may happen. But he is troubled by the thought that "...if sometime in the future, we learn to travel in time, why hasn't someone come back from the future, to tell us how to do it [?]" (Hawking). He feels that this is an indication that time travel could only occur to the future. The late Dr. Carl Sagan felt that "maybe backward time travel is possible, but only up to the moment time travel is invented." There would be no way for anyone to go further back in time than the instant when the time machine was created. Hawking also feels that time travel to the past could be restricted by what he calls "the Chronology Protection Conjecture: The laws of physics conspire to prevent time travel, on a macroscopic scale." This would mean the past was fixed by natural laws, and nobody could change or travel to it.

Is time travel possible? It seems to be theoretically possible according to some physicists, but it also depends on what time actually is. If the present is fleeting, and it is the only place anything really exists, then there is no other time to travel to. If past, present, and future all exist, then, with theoretical and technological advances, we may have a chance to achieve time travel in both directions. Whether it ever becomes possible is unknown, but it will not be in the near future.

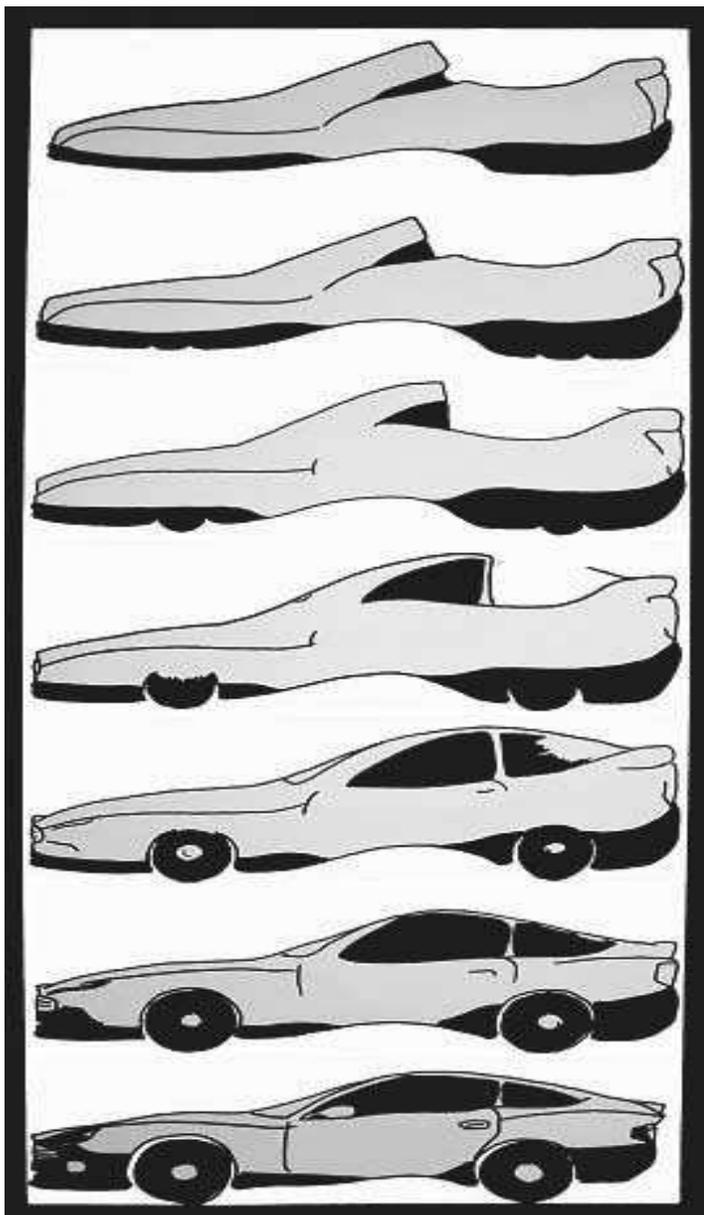
In a way, we already do travel in time. In Wells' *The Time Machine*, the Time Traveller explains, "We are always getting away from the present movement. Our mental existences, which are immaterial and have no dimensions, are passing along the Time-Dimension with a uniform velocity from the cradle to the grave" (5). Dr. Carl Sagan agreed by stating, "We are stuck in

[time]; each of us time travels into the future, one year, every year."

So everyone is already traveling in time, realizing a little of the fantastic dream of science fiction writers. Maybe we are stuck at this speed of time travel for a reason. Only time will tell. 🌱

### Author's Biography

A second-year general studies major, Stephen aspires to earn a bachelor's degree in business, possibly at Penn State/Berks.



### Transformed

By Daniel Kegereise

### Works Cited

- Cullhed, Anders. "Nobel Prize Authors on Time." 28 August 2001. *Nobelprize.org*. The Nobel Foundation. 28 September 2006 <[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/articles/cullhed/index.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/articles/cullhed/index.html)>.
- Dowden, Bradley. "Time." 2006. *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. Bradley Dowden and James Fieser. 2006. 15 October 2006. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/t/time.htm>.
- Hawking, Stephen. "Space and Time Warps." N.d. *Public Lectures*. Cambridge University. 22 October 2006. <<http://www.hawking.org.uk/lectures/lindex.html>>.
- Lawrence, Nathaniel. "Time Represented as Space." *Basic Issues in the Philosophy of Time*. Ed. Eugene Freeman and Wilfrid Sellars. LaSalle:Open Court, 1971. 123-132.
- Markosian, Ned. "Time." 25 November 2002. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. Edward N. Zalta. Winter 2002 ed. Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford University. 28 September 2006. <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time/>>.
- Sagan, Carl. "Sagan on Time Travel." *NOVA Online: Time Travel*. November 2000. WGBH and the Public Broadcasting Service. 24 October 2006. <<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/time/sagan.html>>.
- Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*. [1895]. New York: Bantam Books, 1973.



***The Face of Evil***

# Night Vision: An Analysis of F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu*

By William Runyeon

*Author's Note: "Film has always been a love of mine because it is capable of translating other forms of art in such a way that it creates its own unique identity. F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu* is an excellent example of what film is capable of as it recreates an existing work but maintains its own value and identity."*

Horror is a unique genre in that it can not be relied upon to stand alone. In order to be successful in conveying itself to the audience, it must not over emphasize any one element. A horror film that conveys only macabre visions through shock value will never find any meaning beyond the advertisements that precede the film (Freeland 241). The value of any art form must be set higher than the components that make up the finished work. A successful horror film must, therefore, be more than horrific. It must be able to convey a sense of passion and meaning to the audience. This is most directly accomplished by having multi-dimensional characters. In addition, the action must have a meaningful platform on which to operate, and so the setting must reflect the characters and the action. Early German filmmaker F.W. Murnau successfully conveyed all of these characteristics in his 1921 silent classic *Nosferatu*. In this film adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Murnau set the stage for the horror genre itself (Skal, *Monster Show* 48).

The film-making technology of the 1920s provided limitations that could only be overcome by narrative innovation. *Nosferatu* draws the audience toward

consistently darker settings. This in itself is noteworthy as all of the action in the film was shot during the day (Skal, *Hollywood Gothic* 48). In order to bring the dark foreboding settings to life, Murnau had to have the film tinted post production (48). This gives the picture a surreal hue. The darkness arches and escalates throughout the picture (54). Here we see the darkness itself becoming a character. It bends and warps according to the action. This seemingly minor feature along with the grand land-

*"In this film adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Murnau set the stage for the horror genre itself."*

scapes of the Carpathian Mountains helps give depth and meaning to the plight of those involved with Count Orlok (portrayed by Max Schreck). Today light and setting may not seem so important in providing such depth to any film; but in the silent era, the true depth of any given character or situation was more inferred by context than proclaimed by content.

Generally, the value of a film's content weighs heavily upon well-written dialogue (Sobchack and Sobchack 134). While films after 1927 had the luxury of audio enhancement, prior films had to use more inventive methods to bring about the desired result (137). Murnau had a talent for presenting a story with or without sound. For example, early on in *Nosferatu*, Hutter (Gustaw von Wangenheim) enters a well-lit room and gives his wife

Ellen (Greta Schroeder) a set of pristine roses. The context and setting all point toward her reaction being a positive one, but Murnau inserts a headline that has Ellen saying, "Why did you kill them...the lovely flowers?" This gives us insight into her character as well as sets a broader message throughout the film. Murnau uses this method not only in *Nosferatu*, but in his 1924 work *The Last Laugh* (137). Both cases set the dialogue against the action, giving the audience a way to empathize with the characters.

Dialogue may have been out of the question in terms of presenting the plight of Hutter and Ellen, but the scenery certainly was not. Murnau had to use stationary cameras through out the entire film (Vogel 297). This meant that he had to take shots that encompassed all that he wished the audience to gather from a given shot into one area. This gives the action in *Nosferatu* a distinct relationship with the surrounding area (Bordwell and Thompson 155). For instance, in Act 2 when Hutter senses something is amiss and opens the door to his

*“Murnau brings us an image of a sly evil, moving toward its own end by violating not only life but the human spirit.”*

quarters, we are presented with a long shot of Count Orlok skulking far off in the darkness. Due to the limited frame of reference, we can not view the Count's approach as this would require the camera to move. Instead, we see the count enveloped in darkness as Hutter shuts his door in fear of the unsettling sight. As Orlok approaches to seal his victim's fate, we see that the environment is stagnant yet mobile. The shadows arch and loom large, as if reaching for Hutter. The darkness and Orlok act as one, trying to swallow Hutter. In this way the shadows of the film are consistent with the Count's image; they become one and the same (355). This character/environment representation continues on to Hutter and Ellen as they are presented in bright breathtaking shots which diminish as they interact with Orlok. The limitations of the silent era brought about the need for such pronounced symbolism. Perhaps easily overlooked today, these details are crucial to understanding the deeper meanings of Murnau's work.

Despite being an adaptation of a novel, *Nosferatu* maintains its own identity through artistic variation. The otherworldly nemesis brought to life by Max Schreck is not a shape-shifting monstrosity but a

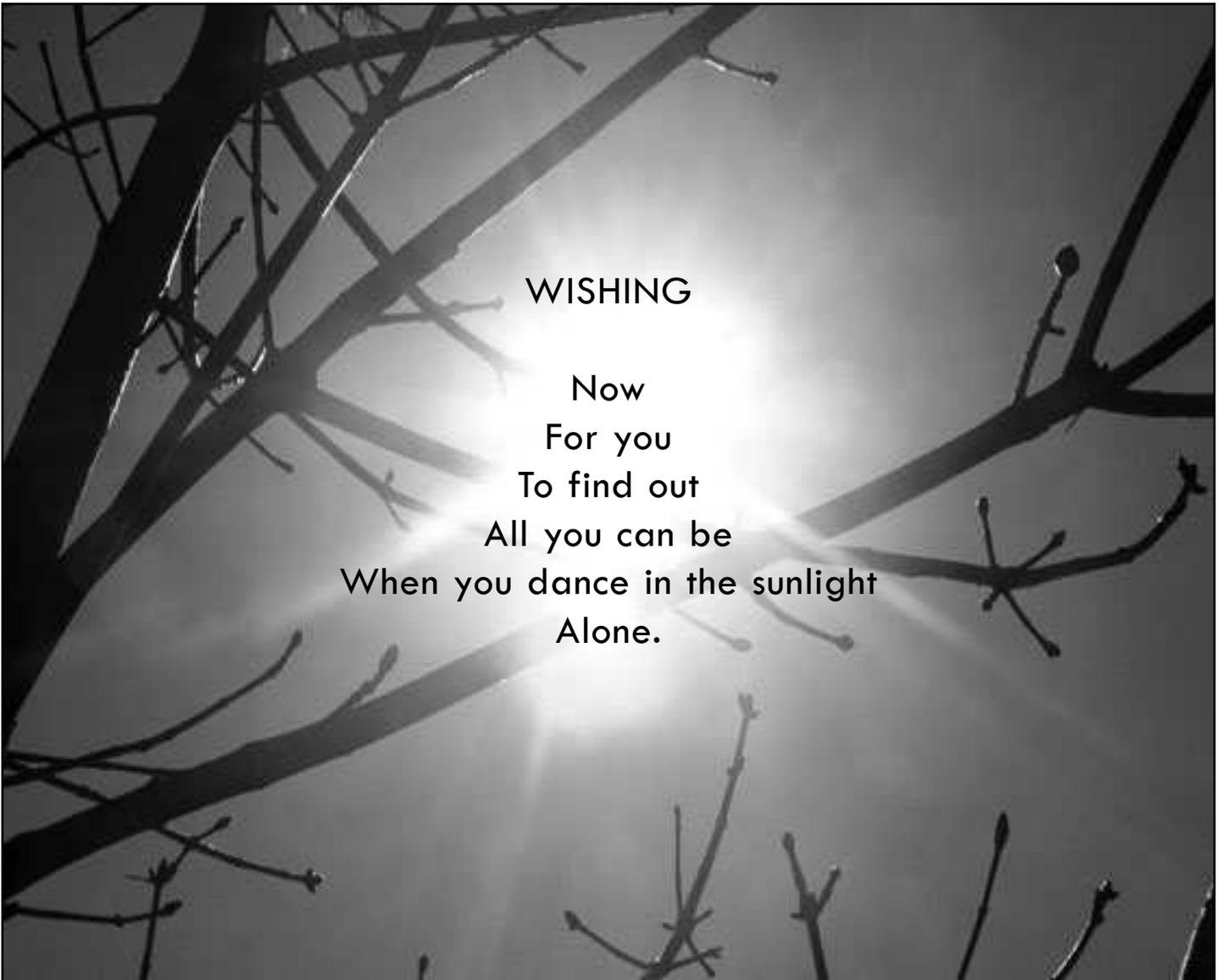
vibrant pestilence. Murnau brings us an image of a sly evil, moving toward its own end by violating not only life but the human spirit. Orlok lures his victims by educing false love and hope, only to lead them to their deaths. He violates the sanctity of the heart and, thus, can only be defeated by one pure of heart, in this case Hutter's wife Ellen. Murnau tells us that the Count brings with him a plague wherever he goes. The symbolic darkness of his surroundings follows him in the form of the suffering he causes. He is an evil that sulks and shivers. He is human but inhuman, a grotesque perversion of the human form, an ancient evil locked against man. Yet for all his power, Orlok can not exist in light. He can only truly be killed by the light of day. For all his power over humans, he can only exist, only see, through the night. His powers of darkness are useless in the world of humans, in the world of light. Though Ellen loses her life to the monster, she does so in our world and not his. She remains in the light even in death as Orlok fades to nothingness. Murnau shows us that good can exist even in the midst of evil, and that no good can fade in darkness. 🌿

### Author's Biography

William is a Humanities major who has a love of film.

### Works Cited

- Bordwell, David, and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 2nd Edition. New York: Alfred A. Knoph, Inc., 1986.
- Freeland, Cynthia A. *The Naked and the Undead*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2000.
- Skal, David J. *The Monster Show: A Cultural History of Horror*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1993, *Hollywood Gothic: The Tangled Web of Dracula from Novel to Stage to Screen*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1990.
- Sobchack, Thomas, and Vivian Sobchack. *An Introduction to Film*. Canada: Little, Brown & Company, 1980.
- Vogel, Amos. *Film as a Subversive Art*. United States: Weidenfeld & Nicolson and Random House, 1974.



WISHING

Now  
For you  
To find out  
All you can be  
When you dance in the sunlight  
Alone.

***Dance in the Sunlight***



*Door to the Sky*

---

# I Never Thought You'd Leave Me

**By Rick Weinoffer**

I thought I'd have you with me  
On my very darkest day.  
I never thought you'd leave me  
Especially in this way.  
The roads we took together  
The things we say and do  
Are constantly reminding  
Of the love I have for you.  
I always meant to tell you  
The words I want to say  
But time flew by so quickly  
And life got in the way.  
At night I often watch you  
I think you sometimes know  
So peaceful in the darkness  
So sweet in moonlight glow.  
Breathing slow and long  
Each breath you took in slumber  
Became a new love song.  
I thought I'd have you with me  
On my very darkest day.  
I never thought you'd leave me  
Especially in this way.  
One day the sunbeams found you  
Still nestled in our bed  
The birds outside were singing  
But not a word was said.  
I knew when I embraced you  
Your hands as cold as stone  
This was my darkest day  
I was suddenly alone.

You left that night in silence  
You did not call my name  
Could I have tried to save you  
So life would stay the same?  
When the angels called you followed  
Only memories remain?

I thought I'd have you with me  
On my very darkest day.  
I never thought you'd leave me  
Especially in this way.

---

# Tears Navigating Seas of Laughter

By Timothy Skiles

The stale but sovereign solstice  
Failed to tell the tale unspoken  
And derailed the frail atonement  
Such, to sail the sea unbroken,  
But the sea is set in motion  
Thus, to be the needless notion  
Is to free the seedless potion  
And release deceased commotion  
In a second of revival  
Where it's reconed that denial  
Has been beckoned by the style  
Of a lesson learned through trial.

Thus, the sea is rendered ruthless  
So, to sow the seed is useless,  
Now, neglect the needy nuisance  
For the free are freely fruitless.

Freedom's guile  
Formed this isle  
Built by tearful,  
Tilted smiles!

---

# Reflections

By Sal Trinchillo

I am the one who rises among the ashes of your creation  
trying to make sense of all that happened  
who are you?

I am the righteous mind, not your invention  
call me the ruler of this domain  
I fought through the ages for all the Right reasons  
Faith, Love and Freedom come to mind  
not a figment of my imagination  
for Utopia is not a dream  
who are you?

I am capable of great deeds, incredible creations  
I have conquered light, split the atom, and soon halt the  
hands of time  
I too have loved, hated, and cried  
I have marveled at the stars  
for I am capable of a myriad emotions  
so far proving to be a faulty disposition  
who are you?

I am your brother, your sister, your inspiration  
I am the reason you persist, I give you motivation  
I play my part, I am your Mr. Hyde  
call me Legion if you want  
call me Death, if it pleases you, Oppenheimer had his say  
but he was wrong as he came second  
for I have Always been the Destroyer  
who are you?

I am the one who has to clean the mess  
the only one to shed a tear  
I may swim against the current  
but I am not willing to give up on hope

yet here we are, in this early morning game  
we have our ritual, we come prepared  
day after day, year after year  
nothing changes  
I try forgetting your existence

yet you won't leave my mirror

no, you won't leave my mirror

