



Kol

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2003

Edited by:

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"Enough shovels of earth -- a mountain"



Letter from the Editors



Dear Readers,

Nathaniel Hawthorne, in the years preceding the Civil War, wrote: "Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in the dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them." Two years ago, our lives and our freedom were attacked, and millions of people from all corners of the globe witnessed our towers collapse into themselves, our Pentagon ablaze, and the heroism of the passengers of flight 93 as they sacrificed their lives to save countless others. The healing process will be a long one, one that may never end for those who lost a loved one. One response, a response that many feel is appropriate, is to channel the grief and despair, the frustration and anger, into a lasting expression of thought. We feel that transferring our thoughts and feelings to paper may help us achieve inner peace. In his award-winning short story, Richard McCann writes that "the gift of life is saturated with death," but that it is still "dear ordinary life! Life as you hungered for it, with its pleasures and requirements." Perhaps, through eloquence and elocution, through the ancient power of the pen as being mightier than the sword, we can, as Americans and as citizens of the world, take solace in the strength, comfort, and gentle graces of literature and writing. Perhaps, while we can do very little to assuage the pain or replenish the losses, we can provide, even for only one fleeting instant, the pleasures of "dear ordinary life."

A Chinese proverb states the the "palest ink is better than the clearest memory." This adage has assumed a significant appropriateness in the past year, when many of us have questioned the power and limitations of language, and the modern significance of prose and poetry. Writing remains one of the most adaptive and creative ways for man to express himself and YU has been excellent in recognizing that need. The first annual reincarnation of Kol comes on the heels of the YC writing contests, including the Jerome Robbins Memorial Award. Many other submissions have come from the various writing classes and workshops that YU has recently offered. We dedicate this issue to the staff and faculty at YU for its open and potent welcoming of writers.

Sincerely,
Eli Feldblum & Mark Srulowitz, Editors

"Enough pails of water -- a river"
- Chinese Proverb



Table of Contents



Too Hot
 Kayla Klatzin.....6

Linger
 Meryl Kaufman.....10

All the World's a Stage*
 Matt Schneider.....17

The End of the Trail
 Stephanie Epstein.....18

189th
 Jessica Russak.....23

My Anthem
 Mark Srulowitz.....33

His Walk of Life
 Rami Berner.....54

9/11/01
 Avraham R.C. Pittleman..58

Room
 Hesh Lewis.....61

For the Peace of your Captivities*
 Ami Steinberger.....63

The Suicide King**
 Eli Feldblum.....65

* Winner of Best Poem in the YC Writing Contest

** Winner of the Jerome Robbins Memorial Award for Best Original Short Story

