

Audience Buzz

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"A 21st century publishing corporation, owned by its writers"



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Issue 10, August 2008

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1.1 Quote of the Month

‘But the great man is he who, in the midst of the crowd, keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.’

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Visit <http://www.online-literature.com/emerson/> to learn about Ralph Waldo Emerson’s life and works.

1.2 From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the 10th issue of *Audience Buzz*!

As the power crisis in my part of the world (Peshawar, Pakistan) continues to meddle with everyone’s life activities, writers who need to connect to the world through the internet find it awfully frustrating to face prolonged blackouts. Yes, you are right! I am speaking of electric power, not the power of standing in the face of crooked officials, which too is starving as ever and cannot be restored by using gasoline-operated power generators. But there is yet another threat to our power as writers and editors, one that is more powerful than power itself: our Personal Computers!

While I am already getting used to reinstalling a copy of Windows (always trying to get a better one and always getting a worse one) a dozen times each month, spyware and viruses are becoming virtually unstoppable. No matter what kind of safety software is installed on my computer by our network administrator, the bugs will make their way in to the computer raise nightmarish inroads. I would have turned paranoid had it not been reported by my fellow writers/friends that they have been plagued by the same virtual monsters for quite a long time in history. Besides me, every editor/publisher that I am in

contact with has suffered recently from a partial or complete breakdown of his/her computer. Such a big problem! And where is the solution? Well, for one thing, we (writers) can make a difference by minimizing our dependence on computer-mediated communication.

Admitting myself to be one of them, pen holders have lately become excessively dependent on computers; not remaining much of 'pen-holders' in the literal sense but more like 'key-punchers'. Those having personal laptops may enjoy the freedom of creating work in digital format anywhere and 'any-when'. However, many of us have to sit in front of our desktops and see little of the open outside while at work in a home-based or a regular office. In any case, the threat of getting bugged by virtual infections (which are very much 'real') is always there. It will, I believe, reduce significantly if we minimize our use of the Internet and check our boundless curiosity to have a virtual 'world tour'. I know it is very hard to stop browsing once you get to your area of interest online but it is safer. After all, it is the Internet that delivers these bugs to our computer systems. At the same time, using less Internet also gives us more time to create our work and cuts that we spend on entertaining ourselves with free music and video sites. In short, I am calling for getting back to work. So let me get back to mine (writing) and you to yours (reading).

Happy Reading!

Ernest Dempsey

Visit <http://www.lulu.com/content/2464047> to take a look at Ernest Dempsey's new poetry book *Two Candles*.

1.3 World Audience News

- ✓ Skating celebrity Tonya Harding appeared for an interview on *20/20* in primetime on ABC, on Tuesday, August 26th, 2008. Tonya will speak about her biographical publication *The Tonya Tapes* (World Audience Publishers, May 2008); by best-selling author Lynda D. Prouse.



- ✓ Dianna Skowera is working on a book/memoir about her experiences in Iraq as a soldier in the US Army. The book is due out this spring. Visit Dianna Skowera's website www.dskowera.com to learn more about her writing work.



- ✓ The 8th issue of *The Audience Review* is now published and available for ordering online. The issue features some of the most exciting and insightful interviews with scientists who have made groundbreaking research in various disciplines. A copy of the issue is going to be placed at a few major libraries in the US, including the Auraria Library in Denver (Colorado). To read the issue online, visit http://www.worldaudience.org/pubs_aud_rev_issues.html.



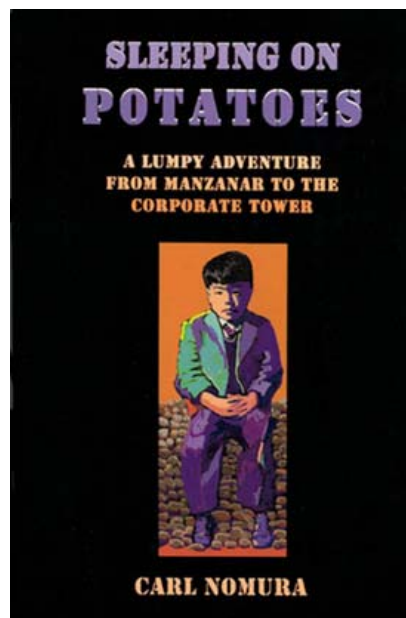
- ✓ Following the International Fadjr Festival held in Tehran (2007), Iranian playwright Arash Hamedian of the *Iranians Playwrights Society* <http://nmiran.com/> in Tehran has started working in collaboration with *New Writing South* (<http://www.newwritingsouth.com>) of the South East Region in the United Kingdom. Arash was the resource person for the 11th International Theater Festival of Universities in Iran, held in April. As part of the international collaboration between the two theaters, Arash now represents *New Writing South* in Iran and the two theaters are exchanging plays for translation and subsequent staging in both countries.

- ✓ Ernest Dempsey is inviting opinion for publication in the next issue of *The Audience Review*. The topic is **Men or Women: Who's More Intelligent?** To submit your opinion, visit <http://cspsapc.blogspot.com/>.

1.4 Book Corner

This issue includes the review of Carl Nomura's exciting autobiographical book *Sleeping on Potatoes*. The review was first published on *Book Pleasures* <http://www.bookpleasures.com/>.

Sleeping on Potatoes: A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower



'Sleeping on Potatoes is the metaphor for the bumpy and lumpy ride I had in my formative years,' Dr. Carl Nomura explains in the preface to his debut publication *Sleeping on Potatoes: A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower* (Erasmus Books, Washington, 2003). Nomura then extends this metaphor into a vivified mosaic of his life's experiences by bringing them to view through the eyes of a child and all the way up to a person with aspirations.

Starting informally with his mother Mizuko's story, a Japanese woman who married Nomura's father because 'she heard that in America everyone was tall', Dr. Nomura creates a series of true, non-fictional, real life stories that border on the line between short story and personal essay. Reliving in linguistic light the hardship of poverty, a heartless father, the humiliation of being forced to move into relocation centers during the Second World War, and the travails of disease and bereavement, Nomura throws his readers into a joyous shock with the amazing optimism of his attitude and his lively humor that arises spontaneously from the interaction of situation and language. One instance is from his

school days: ‘we thought her name (*Sister Perpetual*) fitted her because she beat us perpetually’. Certainly not to overlook the fun of fishing and poker, and giving smoking up for good when an angry woman comes inches from your face and calls you a ‘polluting pig.’

Though a doctor of philosophy in Solid State Physics, and an important figure in the corporate world of technology, it is Nomura’s flair of seeing things as matter of course that lures one to appreciate his magnanimity. Not going a braggart, he opens a window to the philosophy of life-contentment, be it a doctorate in physics and excellence in management of small businesses, or using a bathroom 200 feet away from his bed in a trailer. Life is joy if you have your guts tuned to its frequency of vicissitudes.

Marking *Sleeping on Potatoes* as a book to amuse would be a reader’s pitfall. It is a book enormous in its scope, though not in its volume (250 pages). By no means is this the adventurous story of a single person, reflecting on his past. It is the story of many characters that endured and fought against social injustice and untoward circumstances- from women like Mizuko and Louise, to the sufferers in relocation centers, and the motherless litter of cats who were lucky enough to make it to Nomura’s house. His heart touching memories of Mox, the neighbor’s dog, harbor all the richness and beauty of life. Nomura traces the causes of discontent in marital life, discusses issues associated with terminal illness, and informs on linguistic and the cultural relativism of English and Japanese native speakers.

Now in his eighties, retired and coping with prostate cancer, Nomura’s lumpy ride has not come to a pause. It is bumping all along with new interest in learning and doing things and new ways of adding to the richness of his life. With his new wife, children and grandchildren, pets, garden, books, and the untamed freshness of mind, Dr. Carl Nomura lives as if he is immortal.

ISBN: 0970194730

Availability

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0970194730/sr=8-1/qid=1149137311/ref=pd_bbs_1/002-9767278-4152866?%5Fencoding=UTF8

<http://www.yuricareport.com/Erasmus%20Books/SleepingOnPotatoes.html>

Book Overview: <http://www.sleepingonpotatoes.com/>

1.5 Author Interview

An anxious American youth John Sterling is living on the edge when he falls in love with a woman who is the first person he can trust. But when he loses her to a tragic mishap, he reverts to the two main crutches of his life: drugs and music. In a grasping tale of anxiety,

passion, loss, and return to life, Don Eminizer's book *Midnight in America* (Litmocracy Publications, California, 2007) creates a quasi-fictional hero whose half-lived dreams inspires some of the most touching music of the musical band called 99 Burning. John Sterling story is such that few readers will be left untouched by its energy. Thanks to Don, he took time to speak about with me about his book and the character that continues to live in his band's music.

An Interview with Don Eminizer, author of *Midnight in America*



Ernest: Don, I'd like to know a little about you, John Sterling, and briefly about John's death?

Don: John is a quasi-fictional character based on my early years. I was a very troubled youth. Much of the band activity, relationships and partying is factual, or my recollection of it, with tweaked names. The Chris character is fiction. I was in a band and we signed a deal with 'Serpentine Records' and I was so troubled I threw all that away. When I got half way through writing the book, I decided to fictionalize what would have happened if we had made it. I killed John at 25 because that was when I threw away my shot with my band, 'The Mirror Image'. We have reformed because of this book and are called '99 Burning'. We recorded a soundtrack for *Midnight in America* so you can get a book and the CD full of songs in the book. *She's My Addiction*, *Wasted*, *Lonely Skies*, etc. are all real songs.

Ernest: What sparked your interest in writing about John's life?

Don: I reached a point where I wanted to get some things off of my chest and writing that led to this story. I loved and hated things about that lifestyle. John was easy enough to

relate to, I just made him a little larger than life but I used to do stupid crazy things. Surf cars drunk at 70 MPH, fall off buildings. I loved to climb.

Ernest: And you chose to tell the story in John's voice?

Don: John's voice and mine are remarkably similar at that age. The rest I had to imagine or relate.

Ernest: The beginning of John's story, as scribed in *Midnight in America*, presents him as a young man without home or family but with an ocean to anxious energy that is pushing against his mind to burst, right?

Don: Absolutely. John is what I call an American orphan like most from my generation. A generation called the *me generation* should not spawn, but it did, in droves, and so there were many abandonments and divorces. Me, John, most people my age have a detachment when it comes to relating or feeling. That fueled John; chased him; tormented him. Here's this beautiful place with all these beautiful people and I'll never know any of them wholly or intimately because I can't trust they won't abandon me. My parents did. That kind of thing!

Ernest: Before meeting Chris, what was John's big dream? A career in music?

Don: John's only dream before and after Chris was escape. Everything else was a diversion, hence his detachment and rebellion from success.

Ernest: After falling for Chris, John got more in control over drugs but still wasn't done with them entirely. Did he revert to drugs after losing Chris to that accident?

Don: With a passion and two fists. Chris became his religion and drugs his communion, music his confessional.

Ernest: *Midnight in America* tells about the survival of John's passion after the trauma of losing Chris. Did his musical spirit or performance change in any significant way after that mishap?

Don: He was finally able to feel. The one person he grew to trust fully, the one person he related to of his own volition was taken from him. He poured that passion into his music. Ironically he finally became the soulful musician that he always wanted to be.

Ernest: Your book also mentions some rumors of John's suicide. What were they and how were they answered?

Don: Well, that's speculation. John climbed a big wall during a large concert. He was intoxicated, slipped and fell. The facts and circumstances are there, the reader must

decide what happened for themselves. It's kind of like 'Did Courtney kill Kurt.' We'll never concretely know!

Ernest: And what became of the band 'The Shattered Mirror' after John's death?

Don: Jared and Drew retired somewhat. Kevin continued playing and has done well.

Ernest: John's creative spirit and passion for art lives past him, inspiring *Midnight in America* and some good rock music. How do you compare art and the artist in the context of immortality? Does art makes an artist immortal or is it the other way around?

Don: John felt that a blazing star or comet would burn a scar into the canvass of life, like a tattoo on eternity. Nietzsche believes the art and the thought can make man immortal. The King is dead, long live the King. I believe man is mortal but many things he does can have lasting effects, his children, his art, his teachings, his charity, his ability to stand up for something that is wrong or unjust, his ability to point out wrongs. Many things.

Ernest: Thank you very much Don for sharing your thoughts!

Visit <http://www.99burning.com/> to learn more about *Midnight in America* and order a copy of the book.

1.6 Feature Poem

The feature poem for this issue is *Behold the Mother with Her Newborn Child* by Nicholas Gordon, an American poet and teacher born in New York. He earned a doctorate in Literature from Stanford University and wrote a large number of poems, holding the view that '*the only way to see something whole is from several points of view.*'

Behold the Mother with Her Newborn Child

Behold the mother with her newborn child!
An icon of a hope that never dies.
Death may label all we cherish lies,
Yet this love lies too deep to be defiled.
We clear an inner field where fate has smiled,
Letting play the pleasures of surmise,
Holding back all contrary replies,
As though our thoughts might turn the winters mild.
Despite the well-known travesties of time,
Each time a child is born we dream anew,
For only thus our losses are regained.
Though we must share the destiny of slime,

No passion in our palette is more true
Than that which cradles innocence unstained.

To learn more about Nicholas Gordon and read his poems, visit his website
<http://www.poemsforfree.com/>.

1.7 Opinion

Nothing this month....

Submit Your Comments

Your comments on any literary work that has either inspired you or happened to you as exceptionally meaningful/well-written are welcome for our opinion section. Please limit your comment to 100 words or less and tell us why you liked the work. A two sentence bio including a link (if any) will be included with the comment posted in the Opinion section of *Audience Buzz*. Send your comment pasted in the body of the email (no attachments) to dempsey87@gmail.com.

1.8 World Audience Videos on Youtube

Youtube is enjoyed by millions of visitors from around the world. World Audience has its fun-to-watch videos on Youtube and links to some cool WA Videos are listed below:

o Blair Oliver's video relating his short fiction book *Last Call*:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMPQwNLWxIY>

o Ernest Dempsey reads his poem 'A Promise' from his poetry book *Islands of Illusion*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7UdbvDeufY>

o Mike Stefan Strozier reads his poem 'Charlie Rose' that is part of his poetry book *Schizophrenia Poetry*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTZIMITGTPc>

o A glimpse of Burton H. Wolf's challenging book *The Case Against Jesus*:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN-CpB-KDY&eurl=http://www.worldaudience.org/pubs_bks/pubs_bks_Wolfe_Jesus.html

1.9 World Audience Submission Guidelines

World Audience welcomes submissions of poetry, short fiction, and nonfiction from writers around the world. All submissions are required to be in English.

Audience Magazine

audience is a literary journal, published quarterly, of short stories, poetry, plays, interviews, essays, and more, from the best writers around the world. M. Stefan Strozier is the editor-in-chief of *audience*. Here are the ways to submit:

- Interact with writers on our [wiki database community](#) page;
- Post and review work [on our blog](#);
- Submit your work:
submissions@worldaudience.org.

Audience Review

The audience Review, a quarterly publication, features reviews of plays on Broadway, Off-Broadway, off-Off Broadway, and Regional Theater, reviews of literature and poetry, essays, interviews, and other informative critiques. The editor-in-chief is Ernest Dempsey. Note to theater producers: If you would like *The audience Review* to review your play or musical, please write us: theatre@worldaudience.org. To inquire about becoming a reviewer for *The audience Review*, please send your resume and a writing sample to: theatre@worldaudience.org. To purchase back orders, you may pay for the current issue with Paypal, and request specific copies by sending an email to: subscriptions@worldaudience.org.

Books

World Audience publishes books! If you are a writer, please send us a proposal. We publish collections of short stories, poetry, and plays, as well as novels, non-fiction, satire, wit, and books related to the theater, such as *The Audience Book of Theatre Quotations*, by Louis Phillips.

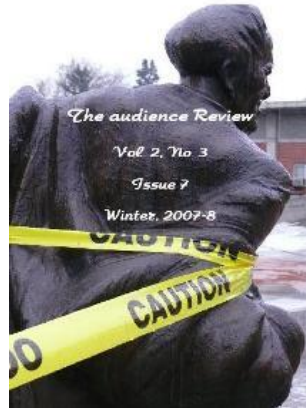
World Audience is seeking to publish a work of fiction or non-fiction (or a combination of the two) by a soldier who served in the Iraq War! Please contact: strozier@worldaudience.org for further information.

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World Audience Publishers is a rapidly-growing press. Our standards are very high and we seek to publish excellent books. In the current publishing environment, it is easy to get published, and many publishers even boast their lack of barriers. World Audience does not lower its standards and will only publish excellent books. Furthermore, we adamantly search for a certain kind of book, with a certain style and voice. We extensively edit our writers' books, and our writers are consistently grateful for the high-

quality editing we provide. As for royalties, most publishers offer 10% or less to their authors; but rarely more than about 12%. World Audience, Inc. far, far exceeds that amount. If a writer's book is the correct fit for us, the writer enters into a partnership with us. He or she stands to gain financially and joins the World Audience. We hope you consider us with your book proposal, or submit to our journal or review.

1.10 The Audience Review



TAR publishes reviews of exceptionally well-written and/or important books in various categories, with an emphasis on literature, philosophy, and social issues but also including those dealing with sciences and the humanities. Besides books reviews, TAR publishes author interviews and essays/articles on literature/writing/art in each issue. The 8th issue has come out in print and can be ordered online by writing to dempsey87@gmail.com or info@worldaudience.org. The 9th issue of TAR is near completion and is scheduled for release in early July. More information is available at WA's homepage <http://www.worldaudience.org/>.

Read a free issue of TAR online at http://www.worldaudience.org/pdfs_samplers/TAR7-final.pdf.

1.11 Literary Links

The Adirondack Review

On-line quarterly of literature and the arts published by Black Lawrence Press:
<http://www.theadirondackreview.com>

Skive Magazine

An Australian Quarterly magazine of select short stories, in different genres, from writers across the globe: <http://www.skivemagazine.com/>

The New York Quarterly

Quarterly magazine of literary excellence in poetry, published for over 35 years from

New York: <http://www.nyquarterly.org/>

Riehl Life

Janet Grace Riehl's website featuring articles, reviews, and interview:

<http://www.riehlife.com/>

Philosophy Now

A widely-read, bimonthly periodical covering all aspects of philosophy through essays, articles, reviews, interviews, and more: <http://www.philosophynow.org/>

The Dvorkins

Informative website of authors David and Leonore Dvorkin, containing articles and essays on different topics: <http://www.dvorkin.com/>

Litmocracy

An online trove of writings in various genres contributed by registered members and Open to all readers and writer from across the globe: <http://www.litmocracy.com>

The Crazy Child Scribbler

A quarterly publication of poetry, fiction, and essays, published by Clive Matson:

<http://www.matsonpoet.com/scribler.html>

Loving Healing Press

Publisher of books that make a different in one's life: <http://www.lovinghealing.com/>

Fresh Yarn

The online literary salon pioneering in personal essays: <http://www.freshyarn.com/>

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