

*Better days ahead with Wendy Kowalski and Nikki Wisniewski;
Jonathan Pattishall and Kristina England;
Phil Juliano's Best In Show; Five Minutes With The Rollergirls!,
Who's Gotcher Blotter, and The Dream Journal.*

The Blotter

July 2009

MAGAZINE

THE SOUTH'S UNIQUE, FREE, INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE AND ARTS MAGAZINE

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I coulda had a press release, Charlie. I coulda been a contendah!

Front cover: "Mother Earth" by Nikki
Wisniowski. Other Front cover:
detail of "Ballerina" by Wendy
Kowalski". See centerfold for more
from both - Wendy to port and Nikki
to starboard.

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"Notes on Outsider Literature"

Purposefully, if perhaps misguidedly, we at *The Blotter* claim to orient our tastes, our choice of literary styles, towards what we label as "Outsider". Outsider Literature. Outsider Art. Yes, yes, yes. It's such a fun word, Outsider, with a pleasant aftertaste. It's both naughty, and brave, like a boy in a turtleneck, carrying an Uzi. Outside is where we like to go, at least here in the English-speaking world. We all want to get out of school or the office and go outside! Or go to the school office and stick out our tongue at the Principal. Outside is where play begins, where adventure starts. White-water rafting. Jumping out of an airplane, with some guy named Biff strapped to your back and a parachute strapped, we hope, to Biff. Woohoo! No Underpants! We're outside, Ma, top of the world!

But what's *outsider* really mean?

Once upon a time, we all used to be outsiders. Mom couldn't stand having us inside for more than an hour after waking up. Either we ate breakfast and went to school, or we ate breakfast and went outside. Stayed there until lunch, too. Otherwise we'd drive her bonkers: talking, fighting, singing rock-n-roll tunes and asking probing questions about sex.

It has a nice counter-culture feel to it, too, doesn't it? Does it make you dream of a nostalgic return to the non-moneyed, non-mainstream, non-industry, non-you-name-it of yesteryear? A world where we are squinting in the sun, dancing dirty-boogie, young and uncorrupted by fat-cats and political action committees. And once again with frankness and feeling, when we're outside, we tend to lean more in the direction of inaction-committees, anyway.

I'm surprised that it's not a college nickname. The University of North Carolina in Asheville's "Outsiders". Or the 82nd Airborne Division: "The Fallen Outsiders". I don't know.

When he crafted our mission statement, my editorial predecessor may have been motivated by the likes of Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan, (People do not feel so all upright; Everybody go Outside!) Personally, I tittle to the Kerouacian, snap another roll of paper in the Smith-Corona. Six of one, blah-blah. Outsiders are apparently asking the question "Can you dig where we're at?" And we can, but not exactly, because we still abhor the grammatical obsenity of the word "at" tacked on at the end of a sentence. Can I get an *amen*?

So, anyway, we purport to be Outsider. Off-kilter. Whacky, wandering in the wilderness, the literary darkness. Occasionally shouting, "The horror, the horror!" or "Where's food?" Reading something funny, but not ha-ha funny, tenderly crafted by someone young, or old, who never wrote anything before, but now Hey, what do you think? Looking at something beautiful, but we can't explain why, not in so many words. Hence the failure of the label.

Is that what outsider means? Well, what it doesn't mean is that the work being sent to us, read by us, read by you, is un-placeable, un-publishable, anywhere else. Of that we are certain. And if I am to understand correctly, no offense is intended by the referent Outsider. I am told that in France, Outsider Art and Literature implies works written and created by people mentally ill or mentally challenged. This is not what we mean at all, which doesn't get us off the hook for using the terminology. What I meant to say was...

Suddenly then the ghosts of libraries past push a book off the shelf and onto my head. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* or *House of Leaves* or *The Raw Shark Texts*. The real (strange) deal. Authors running the rules of rhetoric through the battery-operated shredder next to the editor's desk. No Oprah's Book Club influencing the publishing monkey business here. And I sort of get it, which is good, I think, because we aren't always meant to "get" everything. But I must, because I find that I'm jealous of the young writing turks, the *wunderkind* and their capacity for complex twists of plotline, or seemingly frank and blatant lack of plotline altogether.

Yeah! say I. That's what I'm talking about.

On the other hand, it's totally possible that, with the financial crunch on publishers forced to make profit for their stakeholders, fiction will go if not the way of the dodo bird, at least the way of the albatross. And that's way, way outside, my friends. If you want something other than a political explanation or a celebrity tell-all, you'll find it only if you look for it, and you happen to know where to look. King and Grisham and other bestsellers will go on until they part ways with their keyboards, and something else will backfill those shelves. Perhaps only that which floats up to the surface of the web will make professional print. Which was my point, or at least one of my points. We write so that we can tell a story, even if it's a strange or terrible or view-askew story. And that's not all bad because those stories drawn on the walls in Altamira in charcoal and crushed umber still get our attention, right?

So at least for now, outside is fun, isn't it? Ah, to be outside when all the lazy fools are inside, nibbling on canapés and swilling expensive Chardonnay from crystal stemware. Sure it might rain or snow, and I never seem to wear the appropriate clothes. And maybe the path my writing has taken isn't really working. Maybe it's a mystery wrapped in a conundrum, packaged in that bubble-wrap we like to pop. But they always tell us that chicks dig revolutionary scars, so as for me, I'm outside, warming my hands over a flaming oil-drum, or a maybe even a wounded, steaming-in-the-frosty-cold body, like Omar Sharif only without the medical pedigree, simultaneously loving both Julie Christie and Chaplin's daughter, and they adore me for my poetry. Absolutely adore me! And - giggle - they don't understand a single word of it!

Garry - chief@blotterrag.com

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CAUTION

*Dial back on the weird,
Mr. Sulu, there's the good
man. Steady as she goes.*

Five Minutes With: The Rollergirls

Ed. Note: I asked our esteemed publisher, Marty, if he'd get a few words with one of our faithful advertisers and he agreed to do so. I guess I was thinking that they've been advertising with us for, well, years now and we don't even know who they are. I'm not sure what I was really thinking, and Marty signed up for the detail anyhow and went out and talked to The Rollergirls and this is that interview. So what are we doing here? What does this have to do with literature? I'm not sure. Perhaps you could say that we're appealing to a baser instinct. Perhaps you consider intellect and acumen baser instincts. I was also thinking I could work up the courage to go see a match or bout or something. Mostly I was thinking that they are women and they're smarter than I and pretty tough, so I'd better be polite. Anyhow, here are the Carolina Rollergirls "MC Fyte" / Tammie Tucker and "Pink Slip" / Laura Slipsky, from a conversation with Marty on 3/23/09.

Blotter: What's the history of women's flat track roller derby?

Tammie: I don't know when it originally started back in the day, but the version that we're currently playing, we're part of the Womens' Flat Track Derby Association; and it started about 5 years ago, in Texas, and actually started out as a bank-track team. And I guess there was some contention in the League, among the members; and so some of the girls left and started a flat-track team. And that was the first team; and so there were several founding members, which we were one of. But it's been about 5 years now that this version of the sport has been out. And it's growing like crazy; I don't see it going anywhere anytime soon.

Blotter: But hasn't it been around for several decades in some form or other?

Tammie: It has; I think it was around as early as the 60s.

Pink: That was bank-track.

Tammie: So it's different versions. The flat-track, it's been around for about 5 years. But yeah, there were many versions of roller derby. And you see versions where it's more theatrical; and there might be some fighting, this and that. We don't do that kind of thing any more.

There's no fighting. There's legal ways of hitting and blocking, and legal zones; and we have penalties, we serve time in a penalty box. We still have the fun names, and maybe uniforms. But everything else, it's real, it's athletic.

Pink: The Womens' Flat Track Derby Association is the sanction-



ing body for flat track roller derby, and that's what keeps all the rules across the leagues. I think right now all the leagues that are part of it are in America.

Tammie: There are a couple in Canada.

Blotter: How did you two come to join up with roller derby? What appealed

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to you, and drew you into it?

Tammie: I started out as a fan. A friend at work told me “Hey, there’s roller derby around here, you want to go check it out?” When I was younger I watched the version that was around then that was on TV. It was more theatrical, but I was always played sports. I like contact sports. That drew me in; as soon as I saw it, I was like, “I think I can do this. I want to do this.” I hesitated for a while, because it’s still intimidating. So I probably went to about 6 games; so it was about 6 months before I started going to practice and checking it out. It takes over, if it’s your thing, and it’s definitely something that’s taken over my life.

Pink: I think I first heard about it when some of the Rollergirls were on the radio talking about roller derby, and I think they were recruiting at that point. And it just was a good time in my life for something like that, because I’d graduated from college and got my first job, and was getting kind of antsy working at a full time job and sitting in an office all day, and needed something besides just work. I heard about it, and I thought about it for a few months, and decided “I’m going to go see a bout before I actually try out. I want to see what I’m getting into.” So I saw a bout, and was like,

“Yeah, that’s definitely something I want to take on.”

Blotter: Do they have try-outs?

Pink: We have try-outs twice a year; and I started going to the open speed-skate practices; and I was horrible. I was falling down the first few times. My try-outs were in April, a few months later; and I



Pink Slip

made it. That’s where they test you on your basic skating skills: being able to do turns and stops, and skate forward, and power glides, one-foot glides.

Tammie: You learn safe falls. You can’t always fall the right way, but you want it to become habit, so that when you’re able to, you fall in a safe

manner. You go through that kind of training; then there’s another skill assessment before you ever even get to scrimmage and actually play a roller derby. You learn these skills, and then you can actually start playing derby. You play for a while; and there’s still another skill assessment, that you can work well with all of the other skaters, before you actually get to play a game.

Pink: When you first start, you go from the challenge of just learning how to fall right or do your basic skills. For me, that was something I’d never learned. Then you go into scrimmage and it’s very chaotic and confusing and fast; and there’s so many things to pay attention to; and people are gunning for you. So it’s definitely being put into a blender.

Blotter: Can you describe how a bout works?

Tammie: There are two teams, with 5 people on each team at any time on the floor. There’s four blockers; one is called the “pivot”, and they have a stripe on their helmet. And they kind of control the speed; they’re kind of the leader of the pack. The fifth person is a “jammer”, and they have a star on their helmet; and they’re the point scorer for your team. So basically the blockers are trying to help their

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jammer get through the whole pack of blockers, and they're trying to stop the other team's jammer. So the blockers have those two responsibilities on both sides. So it's just kind of a fight for the jammer to get through; and the jammers get through the pack of blockers the first time, when they come back around, they score a point for every opposing blocker they get by, legally. In bounds, no penalties.

Blotter: Is there some point on the track, some start and stop point, whenever they pass that point without being squashed, they get a point?

Tammie: Actually, that's one of the things that makes derby so challenging: everything is relative to something else. The pack is moving; and the jammer's moving too; so the jammer has to be moving faster than the pack. And obviously the pack has most of its energy going towards you as the jammers, they're trying to hurt you. They're trying to block you, not necessarily hurt you. It's all relative to the position within the pack.

Blotter: One of the things I love about the Rollergirls is the fun names, like "Syvia Wrath" and "Edna St. Vincent Melee". Where did that come from?

Tammie: That's tradition, one of the few we've kept. The sport's

changed a lot. So we kept the names, because it's fun; and also a lot of the girls that play derby, we have this whole other life – I guess people call it "real life" – we have careers, we have families; and it kind of gives us this other persona.

Pink: I think for a lot of people, having that other name: at least at first, for me, it gave me a chance to say, "I'm doing these things I've never done before". I never played sports growing up. So it gave me a chance to do those things, not as Laura Slipsky, but as this other person. But eventually, for me at least, it becomes one and the same.

Blotter: You get to create this other character, this other side of yourself.

Tammie: Right. It's empowering; and when you're stepping outside of something you don't normally do, it gives you a little more freedom to do that; it makes you feel stronger.

Blotter: Another neat thing: at the bouts I've been to, the crowd looks like the same sort that comes to rock shows, at the Cradle or the Pinhook

Tammie: I think the crowd has changed over the years, because the sport has evolved so much. We average about 1500 people at our bouts. We have the alternative-minded, young adult – most of us are around our 30s; we're family-ori-

ented, family-friendly. We get families that are in there, we get kids in there. And when we do the autograph table after the bouts, there are a lot of kids down there. It gives little girls – it's really cool to see little girls look up to us; and it gives them something, lets them know they can do – this is one of their options. We get all different types of fans, but we do have a core base – we get lots of students.

Blotter: Wasn't there some movie back in the day about roller derby, with Raquel Welch? "Rollerball"?

Tammie: I think there's been several out there. I saw a couple when I was younger. They were kind of kitschy. There's a derby movie coming out this summer; Drew Barrymore's directing it, Ellen Page is in it. I think it's about bank-track, so I don't know what to expect.

Pink: It'll definitely give us attention.

Tammie: Because people will begin looking us up. We promote ourselves a good bit, but there's still people that don't even know that it's out there. There's a video game coming out this summer. There's exposure.

Blotter: What kinds of things do you get penalties for?

Tammie: There are certain places you can block. You can't hit below the upper thigh; so if you hit someone on their knee or below, that's a penalty. Elbows: you can't do elbows, you have to hit with your whole body.

Pink: You can't hit someone in their back. Or the head.

Tammie: You can't trip. Most of the time it's not on purpose, it's inadvertently, but you can still get a penalty for that. Falling safely: if someone falls and just splatters over

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the whole thing and people trip over them, that'll be a penalty on that person.

Blotter: Even if they fall by accident?

Tammie: Yes, because falls are always going to be an accident; but that's why we practice "small falls", so you don't take everybody out.

Blotter: Do the refs skate around too, to keep an eye on things?

Tammie: Yes. There are a lot of refs. We have refs inside the track, and outside.

Pink: They're not on the track itself. There's a lane outside the track, for refs.

Tammie: They have occasionally gotten taken out, when a skater gets taken out and they run into them.

Pink: They are right around the track.

Blotter: So there are maybe secret ways to do things, away from the refs' attention? Whenever there's rules, there's always a gray area.

Tammie: We certainly try to follow the rules. We really are trying to legitimize the sport and let the public know that it's a real sport and we take it seriously. It's evolving, so the rules are still always being tweaked here and there. The people who take the sport seriously are really trying to follow the rules, and make the game safe.

Pink: As it can be; it is a full-contact sport. You wouldn't want to get the reputation of being a dirty-playing league.

Tammie: No one would want to play you.

Pink: The refs, they make the calls as they see them, and as a skater, you just have to go by that.

Blotter: What's the most fun part of it?

Tammie: I just love playing. There are so many things involved in being part of the league. The camaraderie that you have, even with

other leagues when they come, after a game, we're out together, we're drinking, and just having a good time and laughing. But to me there's just nothing else like playing. I would play as much as possible; I'd play any game I could; just strap on the skates and get out there. I just love everything about it.

Pink: It's definitely been a rewarding experience to be part of roller derby, as far as meeting new people; and it's a great community. Definitely just being able to go out there and scrimmage, and play games, that's the fun part. You're there to play the game. It's constantly challenging, so even after a year or more of playing it, I'm still challenged by it, picking up new things that I need to improve on.

Blotter: I thought it was really cool to see the Rollergirls in the Pride parade this past fall, in the full uniforms and skates and everything.

Tammie: That's one of the parades that's on our calendar for every year. We also do the St. Patrick's Day parade, and usually a holiday parade. We also do Earth Day events, and various public things.

Blotter: I was stoked to see that "the Rollergirls are on our side".

Tammie: The Rollergirls are made up of every kind of woman in the

world that you can think of. We're very open and accepting of everybody. We love everyone. People are people, and that's one of the great things.

Pink: We have all different kinds of women; and it's just really added so much to my life, being around all these women.

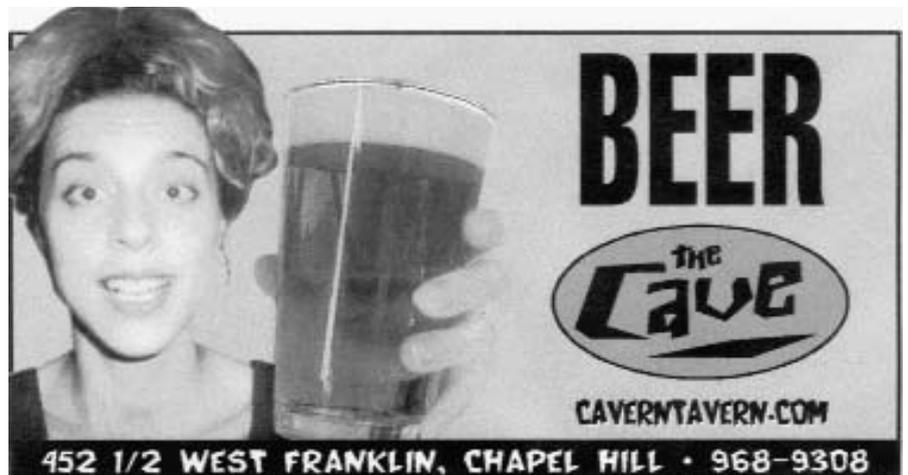
Blotter: My totally uneducated impression, when I first heard about roller derby, was that it was a kind of blue-collar thing, like wrestling. Then I found that it was people with PhDs and master's degrees, doctors and lawyers; poet-referencing types who come up with names like Sylvia Wrath. I thought that was cool too.

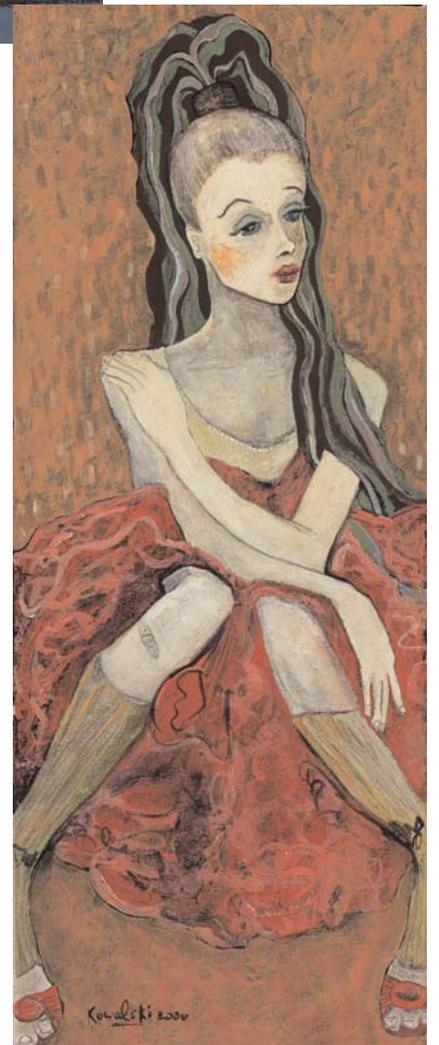
Tammie: I love that aspect, being around it. We're so resourceful. It's like any time you have something you need help with, the rest of your life there's someone there that helps you or that has information.

Pink: We have someone getting a PhD in mathematics. We have people getting PhDs in English. We do have people with blue-collar backgrounds. It's diverse; and that's great.

Tammie: But we all get along. At the end of the day we all love each other, like a big family.

Blotter: Are there any novels or stories you'd encourage Rollergirls fans to







Wendy Kowalski and Nikki Wisniowski
Wilmington, NC



The Blotter

read?

Tammie: There are lots of things out there. I think roller derby itself is known as a kind of DIY kind of organization. There are two magazines out there now; people write books. Everyone has a story to tell. Everyone wants to share information with each other. Even when it's your opponent. Throughout the country, it's like roller derby is a big family.

Blotter: What was the funniest thing that ever happened to you during a game?

Tammie: I guess it was funny to some people. I'm not the easiest person to knock down; but you still have these butterflies first time at Dorton Arena. And I remember my first time jamming, I take off the line, and the opposing jammer just knocked me right down right away. It was kind of embarrassing; but you just get up and keep going. You get knocked down all the time. It was my first experience. All eyes on me; and down I go.

Pink: I really can't think of any. We're always laughing; everything's fun. You're getting knocked down, thrown into the crowd. And you could be embarrassed by that, but it happens so often, we kind of learn not to be embarrassed. There's cer-

tainly embarrassing things that happen at practice, just because that first time you try something, you're probably going to fall down. I don't know how many times I've just been standing still and fell down.

Tammie: I do that pretty often.

Pink: But you're surrounded by people on the league, and it's a safe place, so it's not that embarrassing.

Tammie: You laugh at yourself, they laugh at you.

Blotter: What else would you like to tell people?

Tammie: Anyone who hasn't been exposed to it, I would just like for them to give it a chance; because there are occasionally people, they hear "roller derby" and they immediately have that thought of the derby they used to see on TV. We want people to know that it's real, and really important to us. We don't get paid for this, and we spend a tremendous amount of time keeping this thing alive, and the sport itself. It's a real sport; just come check it out, and see what we're talking about.

Pink: We're all doing it just because we love it so much. We come from all different kinds of backgrounds, and we're not there to put on some kind of circus wrestling act. It's a sport that we're trying to legitimize.

Blotter: No chair-throwing, or smoke bombs or light shows. Though you could have that before or after the game.

Tammie: We have half-time shows. We've lately gotten our fans more interacting for our intermissions. We'll have games.

Pink: We encourage any kind of local performing groups. We can't do fire inside Dorton Arena, unfortunately, because there's some really talented local fire Hula-hoopers. We've had Hula-hoopers: the Durham Divas, which is a cheer-leading group made up of senior women; we have little races, eating contests; and the fans really like that. That was a lot of fun.

Blotter: Where can people get in touch with you; and when are the practices?

Pink: We post tryouts on our website. We put a lot of information on there: carolinarollergirls.com. There's information about what you would need to bring to tryouts. You'd probably want to go to speed practice before you come try out, unless you're already an excellent skater.

Tammie: There are people on the website you can contact if you're interested in coming. Don't be hesitant, don't be scared. It's intimidating for anybody; but once you get in there, you forget that you ever felt intimidated.



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The Blotter Long Form Fiction Prize For novella and novel length works.

Yes our contest name is the OED definition of “boring”, but let’s move on. We at The Blotter have had on our minds for a fairly long time this idea to support a fiction contest, but one thing or another has conspired against us. Run on sentences. The economy. The weather. The frayed shoestring upon which we run our budget. But it was as inevitable as global warming. Of course there are those scientists who believe that global warming may very well bring on the next ice age, so that simile is a tad confusing.

Last summer when we talked about a contest, everything was going along swimmingly. The house was paid for, we were happy American consumers, we had our somewhat high BMI health, the Hummer was under warranty. Illusory pleasures, to be sure, but at least they were ours. Now we sneak a peek behind every face on the telly for even a hint of FDR’s DNA. No, really, we whisper. I am afraid of something other than just fear itself. Hunger, hurricanes, hinfuenza, all leap to mind (yes, that last one was admittedly an alliterative stretch). But I’m told that I can’t let my personal anxieties get in the way of progress.

What the hell. Let’s launch the damned contest.

So, here’s the deal: send us the opening of your novel (or novella). You know, the first chapter - no less than 10 pages, no more than 20, typed & double-spaced. Add a one-page synopsis of the book (this can be single-spaced); and an entry fee (check or MO of \$25.00 US.) You have to have the entire novel written! (because if you win, we’ll want to see the whole enchilada).

First prize is \$500, plus a “library” of books selected by The Blotter (many signed by the authors). Second prize is \$125, again with a “library” of recent releases. Third prize will be just the “library.” All placements, including honorable mentions, will receive an award certificate, proof positive of your success as an author, suitable for showing your mom.

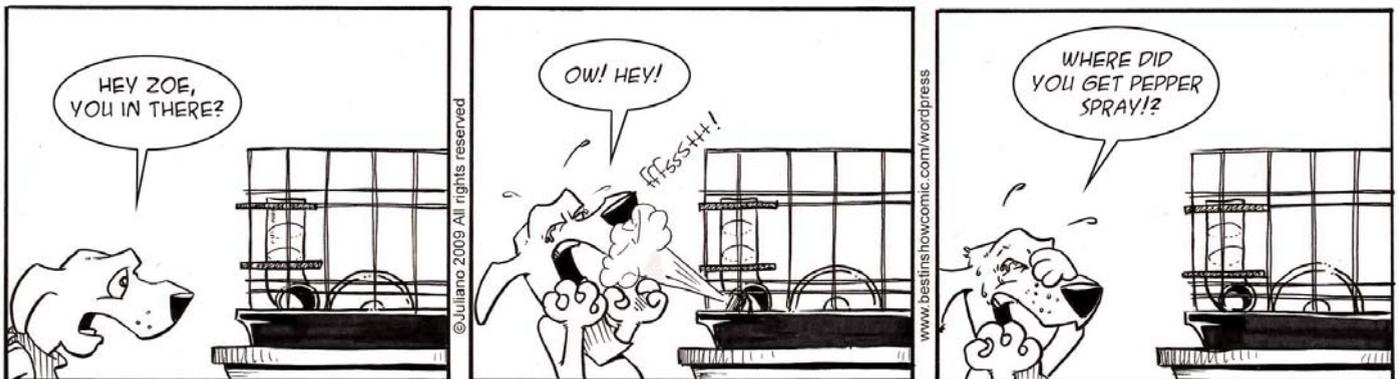
We’ll start accepting entries October 1 of 2009, and cut off on January 31, 2010, announcing the winners in May of that year.

Send entries to: **Blotter Fiction Contest, PO Box 2153, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515.**

That’s it. There are probably more things that we have to tell some of you if you ask, like who’s not allowed to enter and why and legal crapdoodle that doesn’t scan well on a magazine page, and others will probably think that this is a Blotter “humor piece” and want to confirm, or want an apology for or definition of the word “crapdoodle,” so for complete rules, drop us a line at the above address and we’ll send you a postcard.

Gentlefolk, start your typewriters.

“Best In Show” by Phil Juliano



Who's Gotcher Blotter?

Ed.: Our next helping hand is also an author working hard just trying to get ahead and it just keeps getting tougher every day. Keep on rockin', baby.

Darrell Kinsey was born in 1981 and grew up beside a small lake in Commerce, Georgia. He once started a bonfire and, tending it everyday after school, kept it burning for a month. He moved to Athens to study literature at the University of Georgia. He wrote a weekly comedy column for the *Red&Black* student newspaper and graduated magna cum laude in 2003. His human interest articles have appeared in *Flagpole* and *Lake Oconee Living*. Once a month, he passes out *The Blotter*. In 2008, he published a book of poems, *Torsino*, and a novella, *Honeywood*. He currently lives in downtown Athens with his wife Anna.



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July 3rd, 4th and 5th

10 am - 6pm Friday & Saturday,
Noon- 6pm Sunday

West Point on the Eno ~ Durham City Park
Parking at Durham County Stadium

**Featuring: live entertainment on 4 stages,
paddling on the Eno River, backyard chickens,
Hands On Clay, food from around town and around
the world, a juried craft show, Sustainable Home
and Garden Expo, 95% Trash Free Festival, critters,
games, environmental education, biodiesel, solar and
renewable energy workshops.**

Early Bird Tickets on sale May 15.
Visit www.enoriver.org for more info.

The Festival for the Eno is presented by the Eno River Association.
All earnings benefit water protection in the Eno River Basin.



Illustration
by Leslie Nivison

"Bison bison bison" by Jonathan Pattishall

- Trinomial nomenclature

Bison is a strong word, not reserved for the red man
who calls it 'tatanka,' a good word too,
but one not fit for triple repetition.
Bison's better. Better, too, than 'buffalo,'
a distant cousin, but distinctly different genus altogether.
Buffalo are harmless, graze on pastoral nickels;
a bison will gore your intestines out.
Bison is a manly word that women can't say right,
Best trailed by the strong Germanic 'burger.'
As in 'Bison-burger-bergen-belsen,'
The final solution to hunger.
It is a filling word without which the animal would not
exist, a very becoming word.

Three by Kristina England

"School Day"

Mom buys magic markers
for her scrapbook. You
steal the purple stick, sniff
ink at recess, complain of a
headache, get sent home sick.

Mom naps.

You lay down next to her;
head throbbing, you can
almost feel her tumor.

"Rental Car"

You hop in, spot a gumdrop
in the cup holder, give
a good apple polishing,

pop that candy in your
mouth, suck on sugar,
swallow gelation whole,

sit back and turn to
my stare. *What?*
Ten second rule, baby.

"Waking to a Quiet House"

I make coffee, open the fridge,
read a post-it stuck to my
creamer. I lean against the
door, sip black coffee, re-read
the note: *Tried to wake you.*
At the hospital. Grandpa died.

The Dream Journal

real dreams, real weird

Please send excerpts from your own dream journals.. If nothing else, we'd love to read them.

We won't publish your whole name.
mermaid@blotterrag.com

I once dreamt I was a bird. I was high over the mesa. The sky was over me, under me, holding my wings. The sky was big, but small as I was, I was bigger, bigger than when I was tied to the earth. I was a hawk in the daytime. I was an owl at night. My brothers were scared of me, hooting in the tree outside their bedroom window. My grandmother talked to me in an old language that no one else understood. But I did. I could hear her thoughts. She knew I was a bird sometimes. I thought maybe she was too.

GF - Raleigh, NC

Noah's Ark Kennel and Cattery Boarding & Grooming

1217 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
Telephone: (919) 932-7322

Hours:

Mon & Fri: 8 am - 5 pm

Tues - Thurs: 8 am - 4 pm

Sat: 8 am - 3 pm, Sun: pick-up by appt.

Owner/Manager

Lynn Patterson

CONTRIBUTORS

Wendy Kowalski and Nikki Wisniowski: Wendy's an old Blotter hand from the coast, who recently moved to new digs and Nikki was born in Montana where she grew up under a big sky, met her artist husband, Michal, in college and moved to North Carolina in 2004. During July, Nikki and Wendy will be displaying their work at Caffe Phoenix in Wilmington, NC, and Wendy also has a show opening July 17th at LabourLove Gallery, in Golden Belt in Durham.

"Five Minutes With", like many of our semi-regular features, is open to any of you guys that wants to give it a shot. If you are one of those shot-givers, send Jenny Haniver a "query letter" at mermaid@blotterrag.com. Tell us who you'd like to interview and if we like the idea and you want we'll give you some hints on how to go about it.

Jonathan Pattishall writes, "I am an undergrad at UNC-CH, where I write for *The Daily Tar Heel*. My poems have been published in this fine magazine, and also *The Lyricist*. I was looking back over my webmail browser, which is clearly sub-par, and it looks like it might have rendered one line from 'Bison bison bison' wrong. It appears to be (but might not be the case) that the line 'Bison is a manly word that women can't say right' was jumbled onto the preceding line. It's supposed to be its own line. Hope that wasn't a problem, but if it was, there's the solution." Well, JP, we made the correction, but you're still in trouble with the feminine buffalo types.

Kristina England resides in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her poetry is published or forthcoming in *Ballard Street Poetry Journal*, *The Dirty Napkin*, *Read This Magazine*, *Weave Magazine*, and *Breadcrumb Scabs*. Ms. England runs a workshop for local poets and recently joined the staff at *Ballard Street Poetry Journal* as an assistant editor.

Phil Juliano of Asheville may actually be too professional for these pages. You be the judge. Personally, we think that Spencer is the dog we've been looking for all of our lives. Part Lab and part upper-East-side bartender.

"Best In Show" by Phil Juliano



visit www.blotterag.com

THE SOUTH'S UNIQUE, FREE, INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE AND ARTS MAGAZINE

July 2009

MAGAZINE

The Blotter

Better days ahead with Nikki Wisniewski and Wendy Kowalski;
Jonathan Pattishall and Kristina England;
Phil Juliano's Best in Show; Five Minutes With The Rollergirls;
Who's Gotcher Blotter, and The Dream Journal.

