

Dirt by Gillian McCain

Rumor has it that our beloved **Tony Towle** is going through the preliminary tests to be on *Jeopardy*. **Duncan Hannah** at the *Female Rock Writers* reading: "I like women, I like rock, I like writing." Conversation between **Marcella Harb** and **Ed Friedman** over Japanese food: Marcella: "I met **Fielding Dawson** when I was 17." Ed: "You were in jail?" Rumor has it our former intern **John Greb** has a book coming out on **Leslie Scalapino's** O Books. Best sweetest book of 1993: **Ron Padgett's** remembrance of **Ted Berrigan**. Our own newsletter editor **Jordan Davis** has become famous as the poet at work on a manuscript of one million poems—*The Wall Street Journal* wrote a story on him, the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* interviewed him, now all he has to do is write thirty poems a day and pray for a long life. Boston's own **Dark Room Collective** has started a literary journal called *Muleteeth*. The first issue is due in October and will include poetry, fiction, prose, visual art and essays by **Clarence Major**, **Harryette**

Mullen, **Ntozake Shange**, **Al Young** and others. **Christian X. Hunter** finished his novel, *The Absence of Angels*. Every excerpt I've heard him read has been amazing. Look out for him at the **Three Authors in Search of a Publisher** reading on November 12th. There was a celebration at Wetlands for **Merry Fortune's** new collection, *Living With a White Girl*. Performers included **Foamola**, **Homer Erotic**, **Drunken Boat**, **Mellow Freakin' Woodies**, **Maggie Estep** and **Marcella Harb**. The magazine includes interviews with **Wanda Phipps** and **Penny Arcade**. I spotted angstmeister **Henry Rollins** at the **Leonard Cohen** concert back in May. Cohen, who unlike the aforementioned, can get away with an abundance of death references, was his usual elegant zen-master self. When the audience was screaming between songs, he leaned into the mike and dead-panned, "Thank you for your modest ecstasy." So cool, so sexy, so mature, I'd marry him in a nanosecond. Speaking of incredible **Canadians**, please come see Toronto-

based poet **Lynn Crosby** read here on November 3rd. The title poem of her book, *Miss Pamela's Mercy* (Coach House Press) is dedicated to the illustrious **Pamela Des Barres**, and Pamela is obviously a big fan of Lynn's work because she wrote the blurb on the back cover. Crosby will be reading with two of my favorite poets, **David Trinidad** and **Jeffery Conway**. Jeffery recently wrote a brilliant prose piece called "**Death of a New Wave Gay**" which is yet to be published, so if you see him beg him for a xerox. Today I got an "anonymous" letter in the mail with **real dirt** typed on the back. It was a "Charlotte's Web" gossip column from *The N.Y. Daily News* dated August 9th. Allegations are being made by *New Philistine* editor **K. Wencelas** that **Tama Janowitz** was actually born **Tom A. Janowitz**. Wencelas supports his/her thesis with a variety of facts based on library research, and apparently when the *Daily News* called Janowitz, she responded through her spokesperson: "It's very personal and I don't feel that it's anybody's business." Whatever, the whole thing is weird & intriguing enough to make me fork out \$5 for a five-issue subscription to *New Philis-*

tine Magazine (c/o K. Wencelas, 5440 Cass #1006, Detroit, MI 48202). Do you think Wencelas is friends with the **Motorbooty** people? **Shannon Ketch** has started a new lit/art magazine called **Monster Trucks**. The new *World* (# 47) is out with works by **Sherman Alexie**, **Wang Ping**, **Jo Ann Wasserman** and others. **Johnny Cash** is recording songs by **Nick Cave** and **Tom Waits**. **Richard Hell** was in Australia this summer doing readings. Excellent article in the July/August issue of *Option* magazine entitled "**Desolation Angels: The Misfits of Women's Lit.**" Written by **Holly George-Warren**, it is the first article on the "spoken blurb" [sic] movement that didn't make me squirm. Warren is a good journalist who has done her research well, placing the beginning of the punk poetry woman's movement here at the **Poetry Project** in 1971 when **Patti Smith** gave her first reading. Her article features L.A. poets **Debbie Patino**, **Pleasant Gehman**, **Julie Ritter**, **Marisela Norte**, **Angela Coon** and **Exene Cervenka**. I was in **Nova Scotia** and **New Brunswick** all summer, where I didn't go to a single reading

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Writhings of a Nude Ghost:

A Report from the Buffalo Festival of New Poetry, by Tony Door

What follows is a bunch of gripping & carping by a typical New York Poetry type, on what was essentially a worthwhile & noteworthy endeavor, whose only real flaw was that though the possibilities, potentialities, & ramifications of this confluence were many, i for one have unfortunately heard nothing from nor of it but a few vague peeps.

Let me begin, for those of you who have not yet forgotten that you were not invited & therefore did not attend, by describing how the *skene* was set. In a rather large, comfortable room, filled with your typical Academic Library sofas & chairs, about 75 to 80 rather groggy looking persons {at least 50 of them men} gathered together late in the morning on April Fools Day, 1993. Cups of bad coffee in hand, they waited for the first rumble from that first poet in

this now officially contextualized conference. As i looked around me, thinking to categorize & observe, i saw:

★Five men who hadn't bothered to shave ★Four men with beards ★Three men with mustaches & goatees ★Two men with hipster 70s side-burns ★One man with Tom Waits style facial hair ★Seven women wore their long hair down ★Six women wore glasses ★Five men glued their hair in place with mousse ★Four men wore their long hair in ponytails ★Three women had very short hair ★Three men had buzz cuts ★Three women wore very red lips ★Three men wore ties ★Two men wore denim jackets ★One woman wore a dress ★One woman had dyed her hair "red" ★Five men over the age of 35 decided to attend ★Four men had baseball caps on their heads ★Three women also wore base-

ball caps ★Two men wore regular hats ★Three men dressed in "tweedy" professorial sport coat attire {leathern patches intact} ★Two men dressed for the late 60s were in attendance ★One woman dressed for the late 60s also came ★One man in a leather jacket from the early 80s with zippers all over it argued philosophically about prescience & ★One man had on a short, very fashionable, navy monkey jacket with a Lenin pin on the lapel.

And the events themselves: The untimidatable Lee Ann Brown publishing the unpublished in the library of time. Who, upon singing a song about fairies during a panel discussion on the Ethics of Small Press Publishing, was chastised for not being solemn enough, by someone who probably should have known better.

From the man who has everything, the heroic Algonquin fig-

ure of [cf2785@albanyums.bitnet] Chris {he who carries his} Funkhouser {on his back}, passing out cassette tapes, cd's & his bitnet address like candy to babies. Who challenged the whole conference with the immediacy of the egalitarianism of his poetry as music for everyone, & the unintentional elitism of his live by the modem die by the modem future of poetry as an electronic medium. An idea, which, although appropriately utopian, i for one cannot really afford to make manifest at this moment in my life.

A most maligned & neglected joke: Potato as Rhizome was presented, to all those willing to brave the arduous journey {"Who are these guys? I'm tired."}, to the Media Lab, by John Byrum, during the Alternative Modes & Media reading.

(To be continued)