



THE LEDGE.



poetry + prose

vol. two, no. four
three dollars

tenth issue

M a r c h 1 9 9 1

DROUGHTS OF JOY FROM NATURE

All of your infinite expressions
spread open at your feet--
You smile as you swallow me,
then moan and fold within yourself;
You are the sky and the earth and the sea.

In waves your voice sustains me--
Celestial rhapsody echoes from your
delirious throat;
Your fingers pull my skin
And strip my sensibility.

Let me hide in your mouth,
down your throat,
beneath your breasts--
Let me drink from the wellspring
of your wisdom.

Resplendent, here
inside your womb
Bright, massive spheres of light
Absorb and release life
and patient ecstasy--

Your laughter springs loud and triumphant
While long coils resound from your throat;
They hold me still as my legs cave in--
Again I am lost in your vastness.

The stillness within you
grows cold.

The coils untangle
Entangle, enrapture all around you--

I didn't look as you slipped away.

###

Brisk, near-forgotten twilight
Cast your sadness at waves
of viscous amber moonlight

And you spit

Knowing no bright cause to hold higher
purpose to,
Now that there is no longer an immediate
future.

Free from this torture
Our weight dissolves
Revealing pure white rosepetals

HOWARD KAPLAN

THE LEDGE WILL BE HOSTING A BENEFIT READING FOR THE PUBLICATION ON FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 15, AT THE LA MAMA LA GALLERIA, LOCATED AT 6 EAST 1st ST. IN MANHATTAN, AT 8 p.m. ALL WRITERS WHO HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN PAST ISSUES OF THE MAGAZINE ARE WELCOME TO COME DOWN AND READ. THE AMOUNT OF READERS PRESENT WILL DICTATE AS TO HOW LONG EACH WRITER. WILL HAVE TO READ. THE READING IS TO CONCLUDE BY 10 p.m. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE. SO, SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE LEDGE BY DROPPING BY. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TELL & BRING YOUR FRIENDS. THANKS.

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AND THE ARTISTS INVOLVED IN ITS CREATION. ALL
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BLUFF CITY #1, featuring Richard Jones, Peter Wild, Laurel Speer, and B.Z. Niditch, is now available for \$4.50 ppd. from BLUFF CITY, PO Box 7697, Elgin, IL 60123. The editors will read manuscripts for issue #2 between January and February, 1991. Send up to six poems, or fiction of 2500 words or fewer. Reporting time is four to six weeks, longer if under serious consideration.

"Johnny", a novel written by Ken DiMaggio, of which Chapter 16 has been reproduced in this issue, is available in its 43 page entirety, from Pinched Nerve Press. To order your copy, send a check or money order for \$3.50 ppd. to:

Steve Hartman, Editor  
1610 Avenue P #6B  
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SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED FOR OUR  
NEXT ISSUE, WHICH WILL BE RELEASED APRIL 1.

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Because of the margin restrictions we face in  
producing this issue, run-over lines are  
signified by an indent of 5 spaces. In effect,  
lines that begin 5 spaces to the right of  
the left margin are meant to be a continuation  
of the line preceding, and should be read  
as such.

happy tenth issue, volume 2, number 4, 3/91

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