

THE KELLY  
WRITERS  
HOUSE



# Events

come to our **113** poetry reading

[richard & kaegan] tuesday 12 arts café four o'clock



Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz



## editor's pick

>>SPOKEN WORD

### "Words That Comfort"

Mon., Sept. 11, 5:30pm. Free. Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk. 215.573.9748. [www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh](http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh)

"I don't think a news break alert can flash on our televisions without people thinking it'll be somehow linked to a terrorist attack," says 28-year-old author, screenwriter and slam poet Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz, who's appeared on the HBO series *Def Poetry Jam*. Aptowicz will present her updated speech "Words That Comfort" at the Kelly Writers House on the fifth anniversary of the attacks. Originally presented at a symposium on terrorism at Hastings College in Nebraska in fall 2005, the speech explores the effects of 9/11 on a community of poets from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Right-leaning Nebraska might seem a long way from liberal New York, but Aptowicz finds many Americans, regardless of where they live or what they believe, share many of the same feelings about the attacks. "A national tragedy such as 9/11 cuts through all political and economic lines," explains Aptowicz. "Grief is grief. Fear is fear. Anger is anger." (Jean Luc Renault)

## editor's pick

>>READING

### Ashley Kahn

Thurs., Sept. 28, 6pm. Free. Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk. 215.573.9748. [www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh](http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh)  
From Sun Records to Sub Pop, certain record labels become much more than just record companies. They help catalyze and document a new type of music. New York-based Impulse! Records was one such label. It chronicled the emergence of the free jazz movement and the work of its main purveyors, most notably legendary saxophonist John Coltrane. Coltrane used the freedom the label gave him to test the limits of jazz, producing such masterpieces as *A Love Supreme* and *Meditations*. Ashley Kahn has turned his jazz historian's eye to Impulse! and its music with his new book *The House That Trane Built: The Story of Impulse Records*, doing for the label what his previous books did for Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* and Coltrane's *A Love Supreme*. Kahn provides a behind-the-scenes account of both the business and the landmark recording sessions with original interviews and archival photographs, bringing the reader right into the maelstrom that was the '60s. What emerges is a story as interesting as the music, a picture of a time of experimentation and upheaval with a fascinating cast of characters. Let's hope this book leads people to search out the music Impulse! released. (Jack Schonewolf)

>> PHILOSOPHY

### An Hour of Dandyism With Lord Whimsy

Thurs., Nov. 2, noon. Free. Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk. 215.573.9748.

[www.lordwhimsy.com](http://www.lordwhimsy.com)

Are you in hipster purgatory—trapped in hoodies, sneakers and irony, forever chasing the latest trend? Fear not. Lord Breaulove Swells Whimsy is here to rescue us all from grungy consumerism and teach us the value of living uniquely. Whimsy certainly does, residing in an old army barracks in the Pine Barrens and keeping an online journal of his thoughts on everything from philosophy to the horrors of sportswear. This week's soiree celebrates the publication of his latest book *The Affected Provincial's Companion, Volume 1*, which his Lordship describes as "a *Poor Richard's Almanack* for aesthetes, philomaths and would-be dandies." It's a beautiful and lavishly packaged work of art that *The New York Times* described as "one of the more charming treatises to come along in years." Lord Whimsy tells us to "expect a man with a handlebar mustache, a plaid suit, a pleasant aroma and plenty to say." (Jack Schonewolf)

Lord Whimsy







Maria Sciarrino



Anna Levett  
Seth Laracy  
Matt Rosenbaum  
Moirra Moody  
Patty Quinn

# Hub Thanksgiving



Seth Laracy + Moirra Moody Carve Turkey while Maria looks on





Jamie-Lee Josselyn John Carroll



Jessica Lowenthal



[CPCW Luncheon]



Sam Allingham



Al Filreis

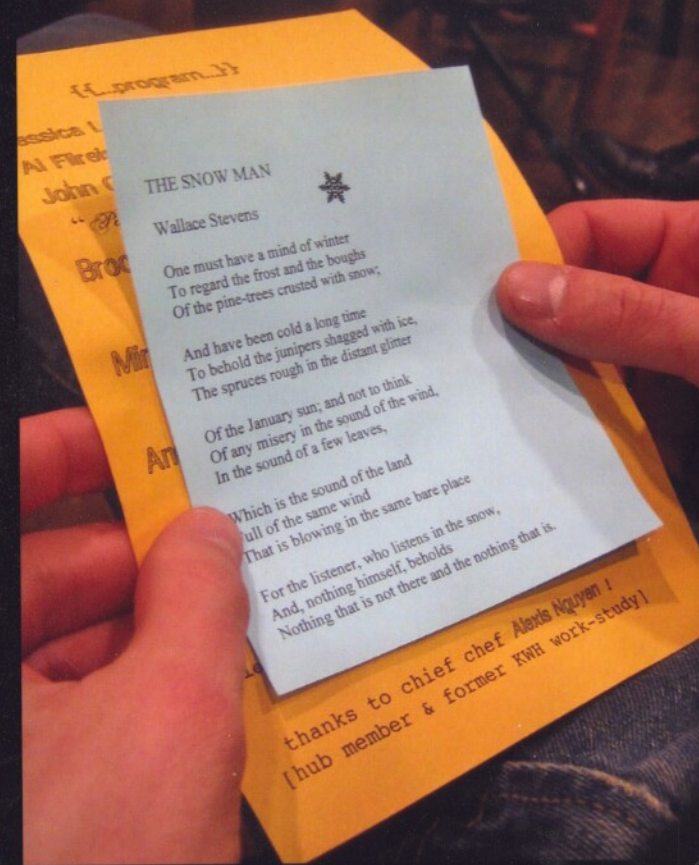




Jessica Lowenthal

# Mind of Winter

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2007



Kaegan Sparks and Sean Breslin



Anna Levett



JUST DO IT



## Stencil Travels



Mon., Feb. 5, 6 p.m., free, Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk, 215-573-WRIT, [www.writing.upenn.edu](http://www.writing.upenn.edu)

Calling all taggers, scribblers, street kids and graffiti freaks — wipe off those wet index fingers and get your spray cans front and center for “Stencil Travels,” a talk with filmmaker Caroline Koebel and poet/artist Kyle Schlesinger. Using their new book *Schablone Berlin* (SPD Books) as a jumping-off point, the pair will examine the practice and politics of stencil graffiti around the world.

Koebel and Schlesinger’s research into the populist art, made famous by enigmatic stencilers like Banksy and Borf, was also shaped by their own work in the arts. Koebel, who teaches in the Department of Media Study at SUNY-Buffalo, explores subjects like banned, censored and site-specific art. Schlesinger is the founder of Cuneiform Press, a nonprofit publisher that specializes in handcrafted books from independent writers. The talk will include readings, slides from the book and images collected in cities like London, Toronto, Brooklyn and Warsaw.

“I don’t think stencils can change a cityscape for the better any more than I think that a book of poems can improve a language environment,” says Schlesinger. “But I understand them both as permissions to break away from the complicity of consumption that mainstream literature and corporate urban planning endorse.”

—Mary Wilson

JUST DO IT



## Festival Latino Poetry Night



Tue., March 27, 7 p.m., free, University of Pennsylvania, Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk, 215-573-WRIT

Now in its 25th year, Penn’s Festival Latino has modified its typically academia-heavy agenda to give some shine to the artists.

Performances by Aztec dancers and a screening of Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s *Amores Perros* dot the itinerary, but this year’s festival features a first: a Poetry Night. Members of the Excelano

Project, a group of spoken-word artists at Penn, will represent Philly’s Latino population. Don’t expect them to shy away from uncomfortable but important topics; in the past, talking points included interracial dating and racial slurs. The group has been known to scream at, whisper to, beg or threaten the audience to get its point across.

New York-based Bobby Gonzalez is one of the nonlocal poets slated to perform. Much of the wordsmith’s material addresses how Hispanic culture was born out of the clash between Europeans and South America’s indigenous peoples. “This is not a standard history book in poetry form,” he says. “The poem ‘Columbus,’ for example. For native people, Columbus is not a hero. He opened us up to genocide.”

—Mickey Jou

## >>STENCIL ART

### Schablone Berlin

Mon., Feb. 5, 6pm. Free. Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk. 215.573.9748.

[www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh](http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh)  
For real city people the streets are different wings of a giant art museum, filled with drawings, paintings and words. Stencil art is just one of the styles filling our sidewalks and walls. Caroline Koebel and Kyle Schlesinger, two SUNY Buffalo professors, fell in love with the art form while biking around Berlin—one of stencil’s epicenters—noticing patterns and genius in previously unnoticed images. These pieces were acts of a citizenry controlling its space, rebelling against capitalist control of public space. Or as Koebel says, “Stencils became signs of life!” Their new book *Schablone Berlin* serves as both art book and academic text, featuring beautifully shot photos of the best stencil works in the German city and deep thinking about their meaning, power and context. This reading at the Kelly Writers House is a must for every Philadelphian who wishes to see the city anew. Koebel and Schlesinger are the perfect guides. (Jack Schoneewolf)





## Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*

Sal Paradise and Dean Moriarty have been ramblin' down that long, lonesome highway for half a century now, leaving who-knows-how-many starry-eyed hipsters and poetically justified burnouts in their wake.

Countless miles of road, and even more sheets of typing paper, have blurred past the red-eyed countenances of would-be adventurers with dog-eared copies of *On the Road* in their back pockets since Jack Kerouac's novel was published in 1957. Now, Kelly Writers House celebrates the anniversary with a marathon eight-hour-plus reading of the entire novel in the spirit of its frenzied three-week conception (if you choose to buy into that particular version of the story — but it's a party, so celebrate the myth).

As the lengthy taped-together scroll is unfurled by a host of "local luminaries" (what would Allen Ginsberg rhyme with that?), improvised jazz will sound and coffee and pie will be served. To truly keep to the spirit of the original (and stay awake throughout), chemical enhancement would be appropriate, if not exactly encouraged.

—Shaun Brady

Thu., Jan. 25, 4 p.m.-midnight, free, Kelly Writers House, 3805 Locust Walk, 215-573-9748, [www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh](http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~wh).

READING

### Instructions

- Read Clearly
- Keep an eye on the clock
- When the end of your time nears, place a finger at your stopping point and motion for the next reader

FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR CHILDREN

Alright cats and dolls, this is it!!  
While you're reading talk as straight into the mic as you can so we can get a good copy of this for our sound files, yeah? Miss are fairly directional and aren't really meant to be spoken into sideways, so do your best. Don't, however, sacrifice the art and performance of the MOMENT worrying about the FUTURE—that's not very Beat of you, all that consideration and worrying and making plans and being ahead of what might be.



## CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

"Here, realizing a dream of mine since infancy, I took the cover off the chocolate ice cream and stuck my hand in wrist-deep and hauled me up a skewer of ice cream and licked at it."

MARATHON  
READING







**KEROUAC**



# Reader's Map for *On The Road*

## PART 1

### 1-2

The narrator, Sal Paradise, begins his story: it's 1947 in New York City and he and his "intellectual" friends are bored. From out of Denver comes Dean Moriarty, a fast-talking, fast-living man full of life and ideas, and his pretty new wife Marylou. When Marylou and Dean get into a fight Dean goes to live temporarily with Sal; he wants Sal to teach him how to write and encourages him in his crazy stream of consciousness style. Dean and Carlo meet and find that they have a lot in common. In the spring Dean and Carlo go out west to Denver; Sal promises to follow them, and with just fifty dollars he sets off on the road, hitching. After he begins by going the wrong way he decides, impatiently, to spend most of his money on taking a bus from New York to Chicago.

### 3-5

After killing a day and night in Chicago wandering and listening to bop music Sal hitch hikes out to Davenport, Iowa and sees the Mississippi River for the first time. Sal finds his next rides with a series of truckers and gets to Des Moines by the end of the night. He keeps on hitching and meets lots of crazy characters who seem to embody the great Western adventure until he finally catches the best ride of his life--a speeding flatbed truck already full of other crazy hitchhikers. He arrives in Cheyenne drunk. He and traveling-companion Slim hit the bars and Sal spends all but two of his dollars drinking pursuing girls, but has no luck with any of them. Sal continues hitching his way to Denver and finally arrives.

### 6-10

Sal gets in touch with Chad King and discovers that he no longer speaks with Carlo or Dean; there's been a rift in the group. Sal moves in with

Roland Major, a Hemingway-esque writer who dislikes the arty types invading his town. Carlo lets Sal know that Dean is having an affair with a new girl, Camille, behind Marylou's back. While Dean is busy with his love life Carlo and Sal get to know one another better over benzedrine and auto races. Sal doesn't want a job--Roland lets him stay over in exchange for his services cleaning and cooking. After a trip to Central City with Ray Rawlins, Tim Gray, and Roland Major that ends in bar-crawling, fights, and loneliness for Sal, he decides that he's exhausted the Denver's possibilities. He and the gang are going to go to San Francisco.

### 11-12

Sal arrives at his old friend Remi Boncoeur's place in Mill City, a shack in a housing project outside of San Francisco, and moves in with Remi and his girlfriend Lee Ann. He also starts working as a night guard at a barracks for overseas construction workers. After a drunken night with the men on base he ends up hanging the flag upside down the next morning. Because money is tight for Remi and Sal they steal groceries from the barrack's cafeteria. Eventually restlessness gets the best of Sal and his flat mates and tensions rise. When Remi's stepfather visits and Sal shows up at the shack late and drunk with Roland Major, their friendship is over and Sal decides to go back east by way of Los Angeles and Texas. On the bus to L.A. he meets a Mexican girl, Terry, and they exchange stories and decide to hang out together in L.A.

### 13-14

After sleeping together Sal thinks Terry is his girl. They want to go to NYC but he only has \$20. They fail to find work in L.A. and so they hitch to Bakersfield. There's no work there either. Terry suggests going to Sabinal, her hometown, where they can live in her brother's garage. Sal meets

Terry's family, her brother Rickey and seven-year old son Johnny. As a cottonpicker Sal earns just enough to support his temporary family. He likes being a husband- and father-figure, but Sal feels his wanderlust rise again and he leaves for New York. Though Terry says she will visit next month, they both know that she won't. He hitches back to L.A. and takes the bus as far as his money will take him, to Pittsburgh. Sal hitches through Pittsburgh and enjoys the novel feel of the Eastern wilderness. His last hitch drops him off in Times Square and he panhandles for bus fare to Paterson. Dean came around looking for him, but he left two days ago for San Francisco to meet Camille. Sal is sad that he missed Dean.

## PART 2

### 1-4

Christmas, 1948: Sal is in Testament, VA with his relatives and Dean shows up with Ed Dunkel and Marylou. Dean left Camille and his baby daughter in San Francisco; Ed married a woman on the road, Galatea, in hopes that she would fund their adventures, and left her in Arizona when she would not comply. Dean is more frenetic than ever. Sal is going to school and has met Lucille, his intended wife, but he gets sucked back out onto the road with Sal and Ed. Bull Lee calls from New Orleans because Galatea is looking for Ed. Camille calls looking for Dean. Carlo Marx, back from Dakar, comes over from Long Island to meet them. He's a changed man: quieter, more disapproving of Dean. Dean has had a mystical experience and relates it to Sal. It makes no sense, but Sal feels that he understands. Lucille accompanies their group to parties in NYC, but she doesn't like Sal's friends. Marylou flirts with Sal to make her jealous and she in turn flirts with Dean. They go to party after party and spend a night at Rollo Greb's house in Long Island. Finally, Dean and Sal go to see the blind jazz guitarist George Shearing, and Dean identifies Shearing as God.

### 5-7

Carlo tries to get them to consider their lives and what they are doing to those who love them--Camille, Galatea, Lucille--but they just giggle in response. Sal, Dean, and Marylou decide to head west. Sal has hopes of an affair with Marylou and Dean asks him to make love to her while he watches. Sal decides against it at the last moment.

Reckless driving fines in DC leave them only \$15 to cross the country so they start picking up hitchhikers to extract gas money from them. Dean steals gas for them and tells them his life story: jumping freight trains with his drunk father, losing his virginity at nine years old. They go to New Orleans to see Old Bull Lee and his wife Jane. Bull asks them questions about themselves that they cannot answer and gives them drugs. They spend some time in Bull's strange world and then leave for Texas.

### 8-11

They drive; stealing food, cigarettes, and gas when they can. Their car gets stuck in the mud and they have to push it out. Dean persuades Marylou and Sal to shed their clothes and drive naked; passersby are shocked. They eventually pick up another hitchhiker, a musician whose guitar has been stolen that promises them gas money from his brother in Bakersfield. They resort to driving in neutral down hills to save on gas. Dean shares his stories of Bakersfield, but when Sal tries to reciprocate and describe his time with Terry, Dean is too excited to listen. They collect money from the musician's brother and continue on the way. In San Francisco Dean leaves Sal and Marylou to go see Camille and Sal realizes that Marylou has no interest in him without Dean. Sal wanders through San Francisco and has overwhelming experiences of past lives. Dean comes back from Camille's and brings Sal back to live with them armed with a get rich quick scheme: selling pressure cookers. This obviously fails. Dean gets back with Marylou again. Sal is sick of them and they part ways, feeling mad at each other.





Sean Breslin



Erin Gautsche



Jill Budd

### MARATHON READING OF KEROUAC'S *ON THE ROAD*

We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* with a marathon reading of the book in a "scroll" form: a continuous sheet taped together and wrapped around hand-cut wooden dowels. Reading the whole scroll took nine hours, and the participants consumed a staggering quantity of hot dogs, apple pie, chili beans, and popcorn — foods inspired by the book — as we channeled the Beat spirit deep into the night. The last band of dedicated readers finally careened out the door well after 2 AM. Our Kerouac program was held in memory of the late and brilliant Comparative Literature Professor Charles Bernheimer, who is being memorialized



through such an event each year, thanks to the generosity of **Kate Levin** (GAS'96), a member of the Writers House Advisory Board and Charlie's former student.

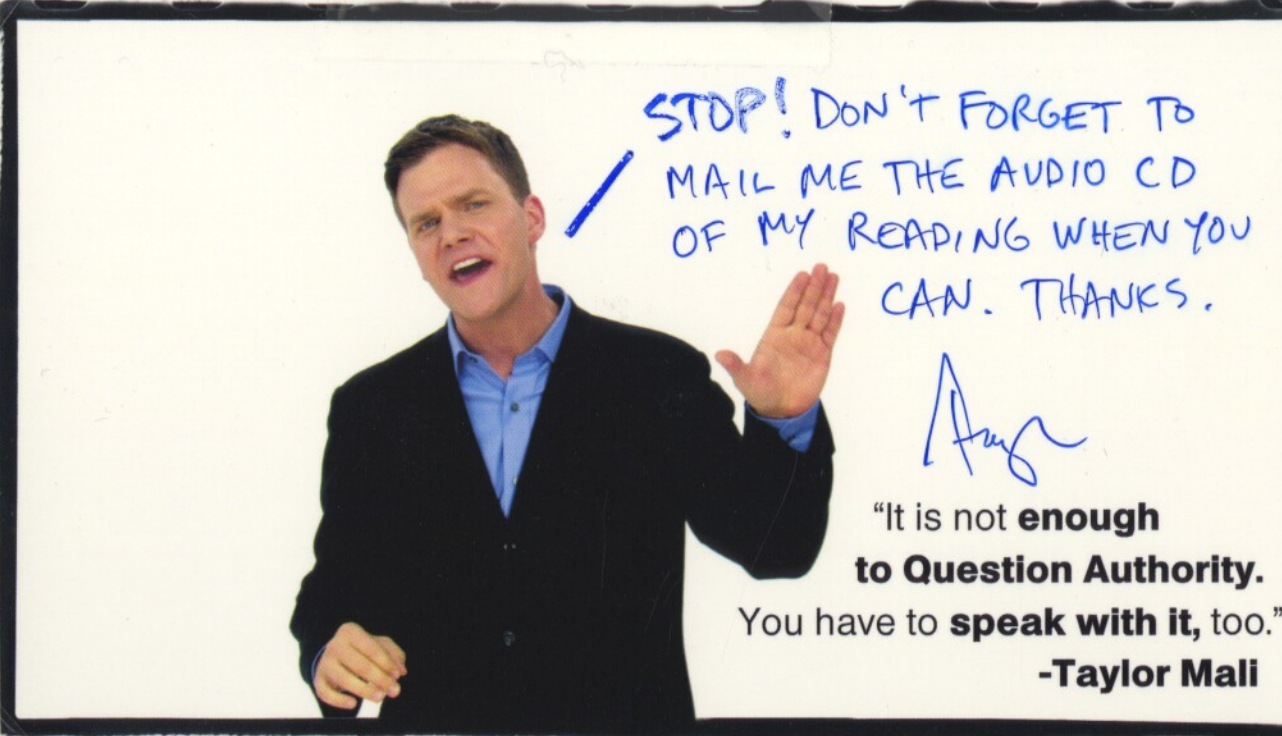




Kaegan Sparks

### CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN ORAL POETRY EVENT: TAYLOR MALI

In honor of their daughter **Caroline** (C'06), whose longstanding presence and participation in Penn's spoken-word community helped inspire a resurgence of oral poetry on campus, **Steven and Nancy Rothstein** (CW'75) established a fund to support an annual oral poetry program at the Writers House. This year's visitor, slam poet Taylor Mali, read to a packed house, mesmerized listeners stretching all the way back from the Arts Café to the kitchen. Returning to the Writers House in February for this first annual program in her honor, Caroline raved about coming home: "All these people here at the Kelly Writers House to hear oral poetry! Astonishing! Watching your home continue to grow, even when you are continuing to grow away from it, is a way of saying that you're both growing at the same rate, so when you go back home the next time, you'll still be in sync."



Taylor Mali



Sean  
Breslin



7-up on  
Bitter



Richard Lawrence





Thomson Guster and Kaegan Sparks



Richard Lawrence and Jamie-Lee Josselyn

## 2.22.07 7-Up on Bitter

7-Up on Bitter features seven people speaking about bitter things: herbs, chocolate, breakups, personalities, cold, and taste-receptors. Featuring chocolate maker Kira Baker-Doyle, poet and hub member Julia Bloch, failed-relationship expert Meredith Broussard, Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, philosopher and hub member Richard Lawrence, memoirist and hub member Jamie-Lee Josselyn, and Temple University Biology Department faculty member Dr. Greg Smutzer.



Zachary Ferris, Richard Lawrence, Jessica Lowenthal





Speak easy:

"poetry, prose, anything Goes!"

John Carroll

Richard Lawrence



Dan McIntosh



Julia Blaukopf Art Reception  
2/28/07



# Kelly Writer's House Fellows 2007



Donald Hall



John McPhee



Funded annually by **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64) for eight years, the Kelly Writers House Fellows Program enables us to realize two unusual goals: to make it possible for the youngest writers and writer-critics to have sustained contact with eminent authors in an informal atmosphere conducive to discussion, conversation, even disagreement and challenge; and to resist the distinction between working with great authors and studying literature. This year, the Fellows Program welcomed nonfiction writer **John McPhee**, novelist **Jamaica Kincaid**, and U.S. Poet Laureate **Donald Hall**. Each Fellow spent two days with us, meeting with students in the Fellows seminar, taught by Professor Al Filreis with assistance from Jamie-Lee Josselyn, giving a public reading in the Arts Café, eating dinner with an intimate group in the Writers House dining room, and participating in an interview and conversation that is webcast live worldwide.



The kell-E writerz hows presents:

SPELLDOWN!!!

[[can YOU spell ~~ardvare~~ aardvark!? ]]

MARCH 31, 2007





Jessica Lowenthal  
Amand Steren  
Jamie-Lee Josselyn



Aichlee Bushnell



I wanna eat that hoagie I wanna eat that hoagie I  
wanna eat that hoagie. It's bitch-tastic.

# FLARF FESTIVAL

## THURS FEB 8 6:00

### 7 POETS & 1 FILM

#### KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

##### MACHIN3 READING SERIES

WITH COMBO ARTS

Search "Flarf" on YouTube.

**"Poe' & 'tree'" m8ks Me @n9ry**  
**by Danny Goldstein**

It is Wednesday when I go to work. The  
list says write a Flarf poem & (← whimsical use of  
symbols to recreate internet "speak") What

is flarf? Is that a mixture between  
fluff and barf? It makes sense to me  
when I sit at the computer typing my flarf poem,

since half of poetry is fluff and the other  
half makes me want to barf (off-rhyme, inside). Where do  
they come up with this stuff:

Arbitrary line break

*Emphasis added with  
Indentation.*

A man writes a poem about a keyboard  
And puts it in an email that says  
"Post 9/11 Ruminations about an e-mail culture."  
Post 9/11? Didn't they have keyboards b4  
Then? ↑ (irony)

Oh, excuse me:  
"exploding...midget" Results  
1-10 of about 243,000

## What is Flarf?

"Flarf" has become a much-contested term in the contemporary poetic community, one for which it has proven difficult to establish one "correct" definition. Three main senses, however, encompass most of the contexts in which the word is generally used:

1) "Flarf" was first applied in reference to poems and other creative texts produced by the Flarflist Collective. The term was coined by Sullivan in late 2000, when he submitted deliberately bad poems to Poetry.com's poetry "contest" (actually a marketing scheme) as a way of testing Poetry.com's supposed standards for excellence. Sullivan at one point described the dominant tenor of flarf as "A kind of corrosive, cute, or cloying awfulness. Wrong. Un-P.C. Out of control. 'Not okay.'"

2) "Flarf" has also become a catch-all term for any poetic composition that makes use of Google or other search engines. This implies a retroactive application of the term to authors who were using such devices well before the Flarf Collective, such as Robert Fitterman, Alan Sonzheim, and others. Some of these writers, naturally, may resist such connections, as their work deserves to be considered on its own terms without the imposition of anachronistic categories. It is probably too late, however, to object to the increasingly widespread use of "flarf" to refer to a wide variety of research-software-based modes of composition.

3) Another, perhaps even more widespread general definition of "flarf": any intentionally bad, frivolous, or wacky poetry; any textual or verbal doodling or nonsense of any sort. "What's this gibberish?" "Oh, just something I flarfed during my lunch break." "What did that guy say?" "I don't know. Sounded like flarf to me."



# FLAREFTASTIC

## Splice

-zsf

Love has the nasty habit  
of disappearing overnight  
The waiting drove me mad  
I believed in what was right  
But I'm all wrong  
to seek the wisdom of the children  
and the graceful way of flowers in the wind  
You're finally here and I'm a mess

Pound my knuckles hard against the floor.  
my head against the wall  
There's a world outside ev'ry darkened door  
but I did this to myself  
In a way I'm yearning to be done  
with all this measuring of truth  
Everybody knows about everybody else  
Nobody knows anything about themselves

I don't need your redemption  
and I don't want the world to see me  
And I don't need your forgiveness  
I only want you to believe me  
When you punish a person for dreaming his dream,  
don't expect him to thank or forgive you.

## Have you ever seen a purple carrot?

Show us  
the chicken noodle soup  
dance or login if you are

already a member. 4.46 ounce  
cans of chicken broth. Or

all you could want to know  
about carrot museums: history,  
nutrition, instructions

for freezing or canning. For feeding  
250 people. 116 comments

so far into the lives of Pat 'n' Steph.  
*Have you had a look?*

They now offer a rather  
competitively priced package.  
But WATCH!

The carrot rust fly, *Psila Rosae*,  
often damages carrots.

Let the children taste them first.

- Elizabeth

## CAFFEINE AWARENESS FOR A WEDNESDAY MORNING

Arielle Brousse

You are not alone in feeling miserable on Wednesday morning.  
It is a collective cringe.  
Low death continued march, experience naming neurosis.  
They no longer carry All Clad teakettles.  
Not everyone is a coffee lover like me.

*Oh, I know, hard to believe.*

*Its beauty is in its precision.*

### Is your life not all it could be?

You become aware of weather changes and  
the noises and smells of the locality.

*In urban contexts, or climatically-exposed locations,  
you favour the courtyard form.*

### Grow yourself, manifesting abundance.

5. Make sure you will be hungry in the morning.
6. Wiggle a toe.
7. Pray.
8. Think positive.
9. If you have a partner, make love.

### Are you doing life or is life doing you?

Performance stimulated you into a temporary wakefulness,  
and you giggled.

You could drink 88.88 cups of Brewed Coffee before croaking.  
It guides you through in such a way that your  
awareness of surroundings is intensified.

### Are you ready?

To find the gifts in your pain?

To experience empowered, enlightened living?

Take a sip.

Success In Progress.

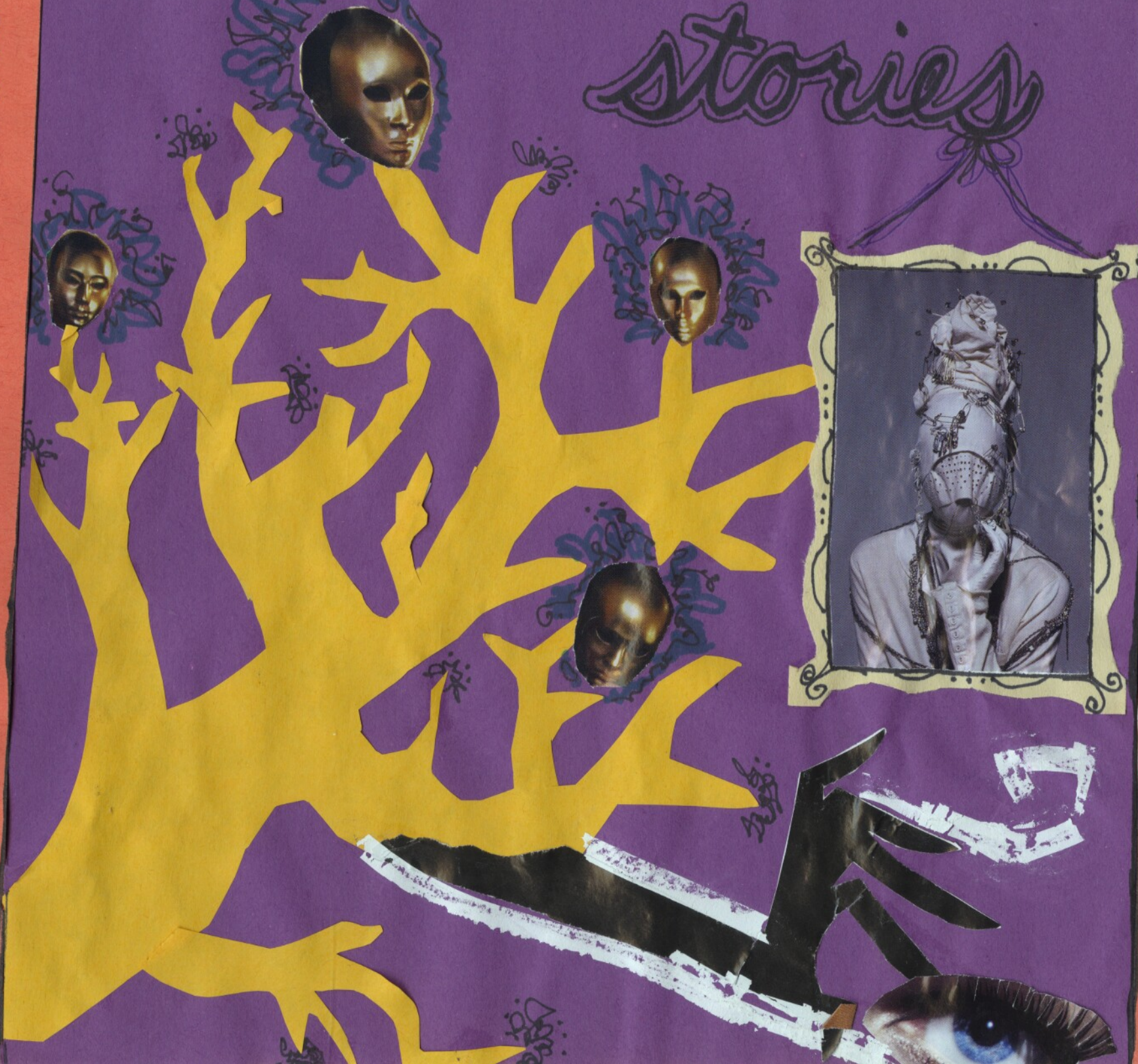
His voice hurts.

The problem of consciousness.

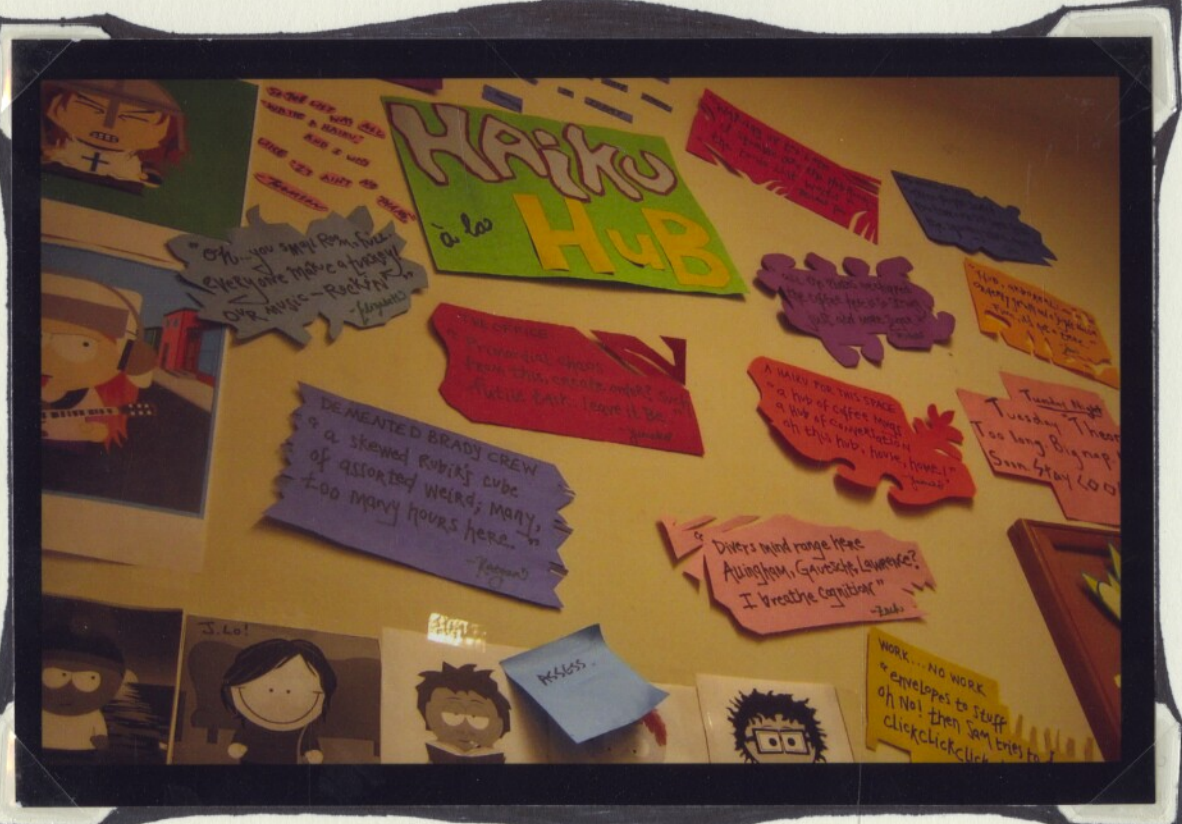


# STAFF

*stories*









### Al Filreis --- Faculty Director

Al is Kelly Professor of English and Director of the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing and is one of the founders of the Writers House, along with an intrepid group of students, faculty and staff whom he led into the cottage at 3805 Locust back in October of 1995. He has been the Faculty Director of the Writers House ever since. He has taught the Writers House Fellows seminar since 2000, and created the Writers House Book Groups among other projects; he has won the Lindback Award and the Meyer Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching and was chosen as the Pennsylvania Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation in 1999. He has published books on modern poetry and has written extensively on poetry and politics and radical literary generations.



### Jamie-Lee Josselyn --- Assistant to the Director of the CPCW

Jamie-Lee Josselyn grew up in Epping, New Hampshire, but now lives in a West Philadelphia studio apartment with her surly but amusing cat, Alfie. She graduated from Penn in 2005 with a degree in Creative Writing and French and is happy to have stayed close to the Writers House community. A nonfiction writer with interests in poetry and psychology, Jamie-Lee is currently working on a project about her mother. Jamie-Lee's favorite things include mornings at her usual coffee shop, long conversations with important friends, the journal she bought on her favorite street in Paris, and *The Late*

Show with David Letterman.

### Jessica Lowenthal --- Director

Jessica is a poet, a teacher, and a student, who has been a member of the Writers House community for five years. Before moving to Philadelphia to attend Penn's doctoral program in English, Jessica received an MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers Workshop, and a BA in English from Brown University. Jessica's reading interests are eclectic: she loves experimental poetry, trashy novels, blogs, cookbooks, and the Philly weeklies. Visit Jessica in room 109 and you'll find her eager to talk about ways you can get involved in the Writers House community. Or join her in the kitchen sometime, to talk about a visiting author.



### Maria Tessa Sciarrino --- Assistant to the Director

Maria graduated with a degree in photography from The University of the Arts a couple years back, but shamefully admits to not doing much with it besides taking photographs of bands for random publications. Instead she spends her time immersed in the world of music -- she's one of our resident music gurus. Maria books live music events, hosts a radio program for WPRB (103.3FM Princeton, NJ) and writes for a variety of places.



### John Carroll --- Assistant Director for Development

Having lived in Philadelphia his entire life, John does not understand travel concepts like "airplanes" and "interstate highways." He does, however, understand how to hold on tight, which is why he remains in the city he has called, among many other worse things, "home." It is also why he is excited to be back at the Writers House full-time. John is reluctant to call himself a writer, but not at all reluctant to write about writing. John graduated from Penn in 2005 with a degree in 20th Century English. He is also the 2006-2007 Writers House Junior Fellow.



### Erin Gautsche --- Program Coordinator

Erin Gautsche grew up in northern Indiana, and knows more about corn fields and red state politics than she would often like to. When not in Indiana, she lived briefly in Guatemala, and then Indonesia, and ran around the world as much as possible in between. After a year in Chicago, she moved to Philadelphia and is now a proud West Philly resident. In the past she has been a waitress, an artist's assistant, a reading tutor, a florist, a nursing home server, a youth care worker, a grant writer, and a graduate student, and is now very pleased to be the Program Coordinator of Kelly Writers House, where good people talk about good writing. When not at the Writers House, she is reading, or writing, or cooking, or watching movies, or taking pictures, or planning projects, or at dive bars, or in the park, or on her patio with a glass of wine and some friends, or dreaming about her next big adventure, or doing as many of those things at once as she can possibly manage.



### Elizabeth McDonnell --- Assistant Coordinator

Elizabeth McDonnell is originally from Philadelphia and has a 10 year long shark obsession. She graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in '05 with a degree in creative writing (poetry) before running away to Ireland for as long as the country would allow her to stay. Now she's back in Philly and can be found writing, reading anything from Louise Gluck to Calvin & Hobbes, in Valley Green, or holding onto the hope that she will, one day, learn to scuba dive.



**Sam Allingham --- Assistant Coordinator**

Sam Allingham was born over the ridge in a little brick house in the year of our lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four. He lives in constant fear of marauding bandits. His moral code is firm, but compassionate. In his spare time he writes fiction about his small-town hometown and his friends, all of whom moved to the West Coast two months ago. Philadelphia is his home; it keeps his secrets.

**Kaegan Sparks --- Program Assistant**

Having recently escaped a hellish and jalapeño-tinged incarceration similar to Jessica Gold's, Kaegan is more than thrilled to find herself among a consortium of such bookish sorts at KWH -- the cravings of her literary psyche thus fulfilled. A poet and self-proclaimed logomaniac, like a true nerd she never leaves home without her faithful Webster Collegiate electronic dictionary in tow. A peek into Kaegan's world (mind, dorm room, monstrous purse) is often dizzying in its excess; bohemian eclecticism reigns her tastes from gelato and Russian history to Frida, Borges, and the latest issue of *Vogue*. As per her fashion fetishes and health-food junkiedom, you'll typically find Kaegan in gargantuan earrings and impossible shoes munching on soy beans, pine nuts, dried cranberries, or the like. Fired by the muses of modern art, black holes and parallel universes, coffeehouse conversations, higher mathematics, indie films and demigods of the written word, she's a head case of intellectual wanderlust...and sometimes just a head case in general. Oh, yes. And she really really really likes peacocks. REALLY. And the word "orchidaceous."

Sean was born in Philadelphia, Tacony to be exact, and is not considering offers

for a new home. He used to get really worked up about politics, but has assumed a pleasant resignation about it all. Sean loves Philadelphia, and is particularly fond of its West side. He enjoys hearing, smelling, seeing, looking and listening. He wishes to find the blissful medium between apathy and passion, but until then will gravitate toward the former.

**Jessica Haralson --- Program & Publications Assistant**

From a young age, it was apparent that Jessica Gold Haralson's psychic powers were only eclipsed by her hatred of Snidella Thunderstrike, the tyrannical steam-powered dominatrix-ruler of the Leather Goddesses of Phobos(tm). After she escaped her captors on Mars' palatial satellite with her sheer force of mind, she willed herself to teleport back to Earth. Having re-emerged in the city of Philadelphia, our heroine Jessica found herself in want of friendship, gainful employment, and the occasional free pizza. She found all three at the Kelly Writers House, a haven for the literary-minded, and Jessica considers herself glad that she no longer must toil in Phobos' unsightly bleach mines.

**Michelle Rajunov --- The Little One**

Michelle is a resident alien in the U.S. of A. working as an undercover middle school student for a foreign government she cannot name. She claims to come from Mexico City, but she cannot fool anyone with her thick Russian accent. "In Siberia, where I am from," Michelle often begins, "we used to catch squirrels with our bare hands." Subsequently she was named director of the Squirrel Catching Committee Foundation, which was later dissolved due to the dissenting opinion of the Save the

Squirrels Foundation Committee. She remained jobless for an astounding five minutes, after which Michelle was assigned the unequivocally grandiose task of naming the kitchen cabinets. Later that day she was taken in as J Lo's personal filing slave, and has not been seen since. Other than allegedly webmastering the Kelly Writer's Universe, Michelle roams the halls of the U of P pretending to be studying everything and nothing, all at the same time. She is striving to major in psychology and digital media design, but in reality she is just looking for an excuse to simultaneously delve into the matters of artsy mathematics, mathematical artisticness, and gramatically incorrect running commentaries on What Would Freud Say. The only writing Michelle does is in lengthy philosophically comical emails and/or biographies, in which she constantly complains about the differences between the Spanish and English keyboards. When not undergoing a nervous breakdown, Michelle attempts rock climbing, facebook stalking, and inconspicuously infiltrating people's lives. In her previous lives, Michelle has been an interior designer, a carpenter, and a professional surfer, and she plans to one day be reincarnated into a Japanese Anime character with blue hair (you gotta have blue hair).

**THE VOICE OF REASON****Richard Lawrence --- Text File Specialist**

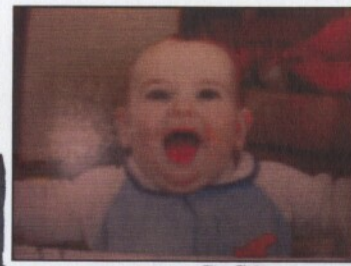
Richard Lawrence uses the De Laval Cream Separator.





**Zachary Smith Ferris --- Books and Publications Manager**

Zachary Smith Ferris is best defined by metaphor. As defined by a good friend, "Zach is a squid in a pool full of octopusses. Different tentacles, a bit longer, and only one eye, with one special tentacle that they can use - it's kinda like an antennae..." the metaphor broke down around that point, but it's up to you to decide exactly where.



**Thomson Guster --- Program Assistant**

Thomson is a man without conviction, a man who doesn't know how to sell contradiction. He comes and goes. He comes and goes [like a] karma karma karma karma chameleon. He comes and goes. He comes and goes. Loving would be easy if your colors were like his dreams; red, gold, and green.



**Michael Thomas Vassallo --- Program Assistant**

Michael Thomas Vassallo (aka Michael Tom, Tom, MTV, etc.) grew up in Roxborough in Northwest Philly, spending a lot of time shopping at the Salvation Army and eating at a diner in a graveyard. At Penn, he studies film, and is particularly interested in the French New Wave and trashy horror movies. Escaping his obligatory time as a pretentious and disgruntled video store employee, Michael Tom now works at the Writers House. At any given time, he can most likely be found spending way too much money at a coffee shop somewhere in University City.



**Warith Deen Madyun --- Program Assistant**

Warith Deen Madyun, raised in Newark, NJ, the home of "Masjid Rahmah." Spent my high school years in New England, Avon Old Farms School to be exact! Muslim since birth, "what's more important than worshiping the creator alone," nothing. Just arrived from Egypt after spending a semester studying Arabic, and Al-Islam in Cairo. As far as the Writers House goes, KWH has become a second home, it's safe to say that there's no place on campus like it, seriously! In closing, it is important for everyone to understand and implement the idea that every action and decision is either based on ignorance or knowledge; ignorance leads to failure, and knowledge leads to success. Until next time...



**Aichlee Bushnell --- Program Assistant**

A native Philadelphian, Aichlee can't knit, ski, shoot an arrow or write in binary code. To make up for all of the things that Aichlee is not good at, she writes poetry. Currently the Behrman scholar of the Writers House, Aichlee has performed her work with the legendary poets Sonia Sanchez and Amiri Baraka. Aside from writing, Aichlee's two most favorite activities are dancing and smiling. A recovering Nutella addict, Aichlee now maintains a healthy obsession with Brazilian music, owl figurines, and long long necklaces. She's a sophomore CompLit major and hopes one day to study literature from the former Portuguese colonies in Africa. She organizes her books by color and has an aloe plant named Erzulie instead of a cat. Her landlord doesn't allow cats.



**Arielle Brousse --- XConnect & Publication Liason**

Arielle Brousse freely admits that she doesn't know much about anything, but she maintains that admitting she has a problem is half the battle. A senior at the Writers House, Arielle will be having a low-level panic attack at basically any time you see her during this coming year, about where she's headed and whether or not she has to go away. She works with Quake and xconnect, and more often than not feels a twinge of guilt about the fact that she tends to edit others' writing much more than she herself writes. She spends too much money on movies, too much time on non-cerebral television shows, and too much mental energy trying to use theory to legitimate these media items into relevant vestiges of our present collective cultural identity. Every now and then, if you pay close attention, you can catch her cackling with glee that she's wound up in a place where she can study pop culture so seriously. Additionally (but no less importantly), she reads plenty of children's books, keeps a mongoose named Rikki in her room, listens to music rather loudly, wears a lot of black, drinks gallons of tea, and often smells strongly of peppermint (for which she's sorry to anyone close).





Adam Franklin --- Webmaster v2.01

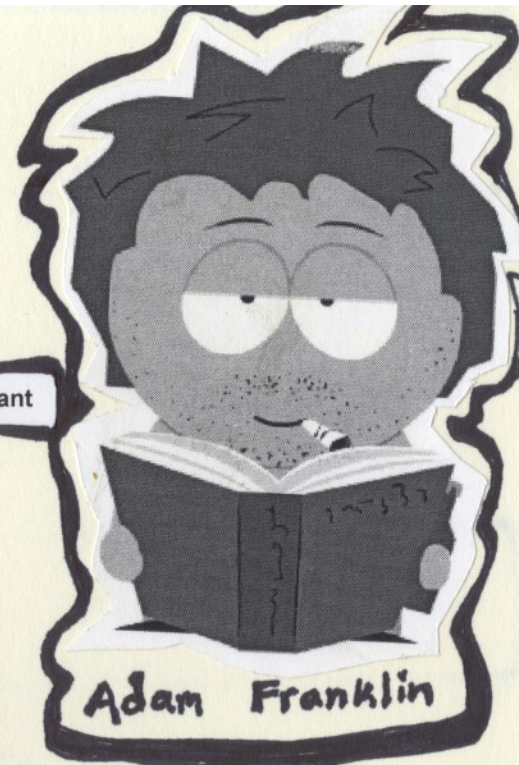
On Writing a Bio, a short essay by Adam Franklin:

So I think to myself, what does it take to write a bio. I guess I should write that I am a West Philly resident. I dig it. Oh, and since I work for the Writers House, I should point out that I write the Word from the Bird, which you may or may not enjoy (please refer to all definitions of enjoy). I play the tabla... In the market for inner peace... Oh, I was searching for a picture to put here. It turns out that I don't ever wear a shirt in pictures. Except for one very old picture of me in

Trenchie on the rooftops and one where I was shaking my head real real fast. In neither can you see my face really. So, I went with the Mohawk edition, circa August of 2005. I've never made a website for myself, although I have begun the process numerous times. I am alive. Right now, I'm living. I think it is a shame that some people have to work on weekends. I love the beach, and paan,... and my favorite movie is Hackers... and... well, I guess that's it. A short bio 'should be short I suppose. So, end of transmission. It turns out that this is how I write a bio, although you should note that I did not write a biography.



Jillian Budd --- Program Assistant  
XOXO



Yumeko Kawano --- Baker in Residence

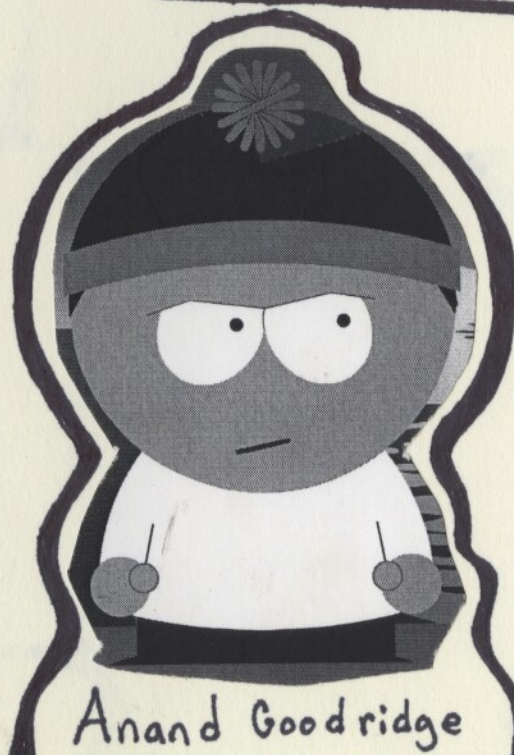
Yumeko was born on a small waterfront town in Japan. Her mother was a poor seamstress, and her father a handsome warrior. Their marriage was prohibited, so the young couple fled. They were chased out of China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Ireland, Neverneverland, and Lichtenstein, until finally settling down in Scarsdale, New York.

And no, Yumeko is not Jewish. Nowadays Yumeko can be found hibernating in the Writers House kitchen. Or in Room 202. Or, as a last resort, the Dining Hall. Yumeko claims to have an apartment, but nobody has seen it. In fact, nobody has ever seen her face, since it is always buried in a 12 inch thick Chinese Literature anthology, or 19th century American Literature.

And she puts walnuts in her banana bread. Instead of chocolate chips. I mean... what kind of a person is she?



# South Park Avatars





"Divers mind range here  
Allingham, Gautsche, Lawrence?  
I breathe cognition"  
-Zach

≈ HAIKU À LA HUB ≈

"Waking up too late  
I stumble into the Hub Room -  
the to-do list waits"  
-Michael Tom



"ALL the plates are chipped  
the coffee here is so strong  
just add MORE sugar"

-Michelle

DEMENTED BRADY CREW

"a skewed Rubik's cube  
of assorted weird; many,  
too many hours here."

-Kaegan



DOORBELL HAIKU

"Kelly Writers House -  
How can I help you?... 'Okay,  
come on in.'... DOOR OPENS."

-Aichlee

"post-its. pens. pushpins.  
and Nicole Richie's CORN dog.  
just the ESSENTIALS."

-Arielle



## THE OFFICE

"Primordial chaos  
from this, create order? Such  
futile task. leave it Be."

-Yumeko

## THE GRAY HUB PRINTER

"So much depends on  
a gray Hub Printer stuffed with  
sheets, beside turkeys"

-Jessica



OFFICE:

THANKS

HUB!

GIVING!



Kaegan Sparks

HAND TURKEYS.







Put the axe  
down, you live  
Turkey!



# TURXXPLOITATION!

\* Derived from "blaxploitation." In film terminology, "blaxploitation" is an American genre that emerged in the 1970s. The term itself is a portmanteau of the words "black" and "exploitation." Almost all such films featured exaggerated sexuality and violence, dealing with pimpin', drug dealers, and hit men. Notable examples: "Shaft", "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song", "Cleopatra Jones."



