Spring 2008

Note to the Reader

Delta Editorial Board
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/delta

Recommended Citation
Editorial Board, Delta (2008) "Note to the Reader," The Delta: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 3. Available at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/delta/vol3/iss1/3

This Prefatory Notes is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu. ©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
Dear Reader,

Welcome to the third edition of *The Delta*, the English Department Journal. As our journal adds another year to its publication history, we have aptly lived up to our name; a delta is a symbol for change, and this year, along with the usual high quality analytical work, we opted to include pieces written by students while studying abroad as well as a more creatively critical piece. It is our hope to open *The Delta* to as diverse and creative a body of work as possible.

We again received a large number of submissions and as a result were greatly challenged in the selection process. We followed a blind selection procedure in which the editorial board judged the papers based solely on criteria outlined in the journal’s original call for submissions:

We seek original and analytical papers unified around a specific thesis. The paper must be cohesive, well-supported, and, where applicable, properly cited using MLA format. While we will only publish excellent papers, we seek a diverse representation of work so that the publication covers many time periods, genres, subjects, and methodologies.

The editorial board would like to thank everyone who submitted a paper for consideration. We are also grateful to Susan Sombeck and Carrie Hymer at Printing Services for their help in the publication process and formatting *The Delta*, as well as to Student Senate for providing funding for our publication. Additional thanks to Cathi Martin for making our blind selection process possible.

---

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>reader</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction of Masculinity in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epoch of Misreading</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Novel: Defining and Redefining Realism</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tales and Their Tellers</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Of Bones</em>: How to Make Sense of National Tragedy</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Jug</em> as an Experiment with ibbes’ Political Theory</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Published by Digital Commons @ IWU, 2008
Thanks to the Alpha Eti Pi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, who continue to draw and support incredible students and their works. Last but not least, thank you to Dr. Theune for his endless wisdom, guidance, and support throughout this process.

We hope you enjoy the third edition of The Delta.

The Delta Editorial Board

The Contradiction of Masculinity in the Middle Ages

Leann Stuber

In the Middle Ages, masculinity was defined in contradictory ways, depending on the man's role in society. These contradictions are evident in the literature of the time, particularly within Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. The reader's expectations for certain male characters often conflict with the conflicting messages sent to men at the time. This contradiction comes from the fact that Chaucer's male pilgrims often depicted themselves with more than one definition of masculinity, whether it was the definition expected based on the pilgrim's occupation. Among the pilgrims that deviate from the expected "male" gender role, the Friar and Pardoner both exhibit characteristics that illustrate the contradictory definitions of masculinity. While there are pilgrims, such as the Man of Law, that maintain a consistent gender definition based on occupation, there are also characters, such as the Man of Law, who present an unexpected gender definition. In addition, the character of the Man of Law's tale illustrate the contradictions that are present in society.

Historical Context

A woman should learn in quietness and full submissiveness, not to permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man. Permit a woman to be silent. -1 Timothy 2:11-12

In the Middle Ages, ideas surrounding masculinity were inherited from classical literature and the Bible. These ideas supported male claims to superiority over women. As the social system developed and changed, several social and societal groups needed definitions, especially...