

## Oyez Review

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Editor: Joe Burton (Editor-in-Chief as of Winter of '03/'04)

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Web Address: <http://www.roosevelt.edu/oyezreview/default.htm>

What they publish: Fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and art.

Submission Guidelines: Reading period from August 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. Accepts submissions ONLY through snail mail. No maximum page length, unlikely to publish a manuscript longer than 15 to 20 pages (4500-5500 words). Simultaneous submissions and previously published work will not be considered.

Description of Publication: Most of the contributors are established writers in the field -- Contributing editor to *Other Voices*, published in *Tri-Quarterly*, MFA candidates, or creative writing instructors. The journal is a professional, sleek looking publication with well-chosen art on the cover. Their accompanying website is easy to navigate and simple to view.

Amount of Prose Published Annually: Publishes annually (every Winter) with about 6 prose pieces per issue.

### Prose Reviews:

...*Mas Frijoles* by Will Michelet. Plain spoken realistic story in domestic setting. While the story is first person, the mother-in-law is really the one telling the story of how hobos used to come to her parents' house and ask for tortillas and beans. One day, a white man comes and asks for beans, and each time he comes back with the plate he keeps asking for "mas frijoles." The mother in the story gets mad eventually as the man keeps asking for more beans. The next morning, they talk to the white man and find out he'd thought he'd been saying thank you and couldn't understand why the wife kept giving him more beans.

Michelet utilizes the story-within-a-story format to his advantage, giving most of the story's narrative to the mother-in-law. The voice of the mother-in-law is strong and authentic, and the dialogue, while lengthy, is authentic and sincere. The larger scope of the piece was a bit cloudy, however, and while the story-within-the story was great, the story suffered a stumble when Michelet pulled his scope further back and tried to have his narrator make an observation on the mother-in-law's past life, saying "When I was around her for any time at all, I would come quickly to that warm frijoles feeling in my torso as we recalled together how much simpler things seemed when she was a girl."

*Antartica* by Stacy Bierlein. Plain spoken realistic story in domestic setting. Told in the subjective first person point of view, the narrator and her husband visit their friend's home for a final dinner with close friends before their move to California. In the story, the narrator compares the lives of both couples there with her own relationship with her husband, and brings in the subtle hint of a dream where she is having an affair with one of the husband's.

A very subtle, complex story told with great care and precision. The main character is a pensive, and Bierlein's use of the internal point of view for the character is expertly utilized. Much of the story and each of the character's relationships are shown through action and character interaction, which makes a great contrast to what the main character actually thinks of her friends and the situation. Titled *Antartica*, the

main character throws in interesting tidbits about icebergs, which subtly bring in the theme of the story, about the things that lie beneath the surface in relationships.

Rating: 7 out of 10. The journal was a standard university press literary review. The prose pieces were mixed together in the journal alongside poetry and artwork. Most of the writing in the journal is strong, with definite voices that leaned towards an multicultural flair. And despite the latter part of the description, the stories were by no means simply about being of a certain race. Instead, the stories that even had any sense of multiculturalism to them were deftly woven into the story without being obvious, sometimes only hinting at the world at large in the text. A very respectable review that I would be proud to have my stories placed in. Because of the experience of the contributors as well the limited amount of prose that is published, however, the rating was lowered.