

FROM THE EDITOR

THE OVERARCHING THEMES OF THE POETRY found within this *Raleigh Review* issue include the human conditions of messy relationships, parenting, masculinity, and mental health in settings that are both rural and distinctly urban. Just as the characters in this issue's stories confront the unavoidable milestone of coming of age, so does our organization. The pressures for us to mature our business model frighten and excite us. There's just something legit in growing from the endeavor stage to the "business" stage. It doesn't happen very often that a literary magazine can become self-sufficient and still accomplish all the tasks we do: paying contributors, filing sales & use taxes, paying our printer, and paying our more practical expenses, including software price increases.

These are unsure times. There is no easy money out there, at least not the kind that can be obtained ethically. If a company is taking in easy money then they are likely taking advantage of the rest of us. In the last year, we have seen increases in the prices of both our accounting software (a 30 percent increase) and our submission management system for a 600 percent increase this year alone. The need to cut back our expenses is there, though we will not trim the quality of our magazine. Instead of pandering to the wealthy or even catering to those entities who counter our mission as artists, we are expanding our circulation numbers thanks to an uptick of support from readers around the globe.

Raleigh Review was one of ten finalists in the Community of Literary Magazines & Presses (CLMP) Firecracker Awards out of New York for general magazine excellence this year. Yes, we are honored to be nominated for this award, though still we worry for *our* community of magazines.

With the cost to produce each copy of the magazine being about the amount we take in per sale, we won't make up the cost difference any-

time soon. At the same time, as long as we continue to operate without any debt whatsoever while producing our issues, and therefore putting the art first, we shall continue to exceed our goals and expectations.

Raleigh Review believes art must challenge as well as entertain. We also believe great literature inspires empathy in neighbors everywhere in the world. *Raleigh Review* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that does not ask for donations. We'd rather our supporters subscribe to our magazine, or request copies of our issues from independent bookshops, and we hope you will.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Greene', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rob Greene, editor & publisher