

The Scream by Edvard Munch

Marlowe Waldorff: Intellectual Extraordinaire

A short story by F. Lawrenceton

Short sentences angered him. Especially two word sentences. He *did* acknowledge that if a writer could start a book with one word, a good word, and have it actually mean something useful or appallingly apropos, that would be true talent. But to write in nothing but short sentences, or to start every chapter that way, made him want to scratch his own skin off.

Marlowe Waldorff was like that, unfortunately. Though he was more than intelligent, scarily so, little things like this left him in a state of abnormally high perturbation. He felt this way about strange aspects of intellectualism how most people felt about the toilet paper roll: if someone left that thing empty without reloading it one more time.... He was bothered by things that most people don't even think about, and it wasn't that it *should* have affected him in any way, it just did. So, you see, he really wasn't that unusual at all—even if he was somewhat insane.

As he read Hemmingway, he gave the book a one handed toss across the room, like he was serving up an underhanded softball pitch, with enough force to make a cracking slap when it hit the wall and fell. "Simplistic drivel," he thought to himself. "He must have been the kind of guy to say something like 'hello' and stare you in the eye like it meant something. Ugggh. Tired. Very tired."

Marlowe slumped in his chair in exhaustion. He sat in a room lit by slanted, afternoon sunrays, bright but not squinting so, as about half the room still lay in relative darkness. His arms fell to the side of the chair and he closed his eyes, head dangling forward. He let out a sigh.

"If I were allowed to write this garbage, I would have been rich in the fifth grade. As it stands, I just get to talk to myself—not having even bought this book. I've got to return this to the library, to gather dust on a shelf, where it belongs." He groaned. Then he groaned again for having visualized the previous sentence in his head.

TO BE CONTINUED?

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Cover Picture: The Scream by Edvard Munch

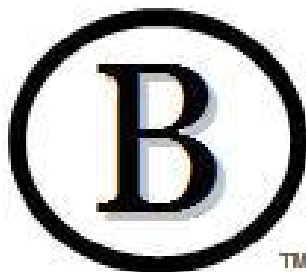
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Recipe of the Month:

Rhubarb Cake

By Elizabeth Carlson

2 cup sugar
 1¼ cup flour
 1 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp cinnamon
 ¼ tsp allspice
 ¼ tsp cloves
 ½ cup shortening
 2 eggs
 1/3 cup milk
 2 cup chopped rhubarb

Sift together the dry ingredients. Add shortening, eggs and milk. Mix well. Add chopped rhubarb and mix slightly. Pour into a greased 9" x 13" pan.

Topping

2/3 cup flour
 ½ cup brown sugar
 1 tsp cinnamon
 4 TBSP butter
 ½ cup chopped nuts

Mix flour, sugar, and cinnamon; cut in butter. Add nuts. Pat down on top of cake.

Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. ☒

Letter from the Editor

Christmas is coming; the goose is getting fat. But until then, enjoy some Thanksgiving turkey.

And write me some articles.

Please.

Dan, editor@babbleonline.com ☒

Tower of Babble-ON's

'Before-and-After' Corner

By Susan Fritz

"Peeping Tom Stoppard"

☒

Movie Quoter

A Monthly Column

By Dan Fritz

I've bored of Dead Poets Society quotes and decided instead to give you another movie which I have seen many times. It's an often-quoted movie, which I hope you will enjoy reliving. The movie: Ghostbusters. Consider this a tribute to Dr. Pete Venkman, doctor of psychology *and* parapsychology.

Peter: "I'm right in the middle of something, Ray!"
I should use this more often at work.

Peter: "You're right. No human being would stack books like this."
Also, something I should use at work, but replace "stack books" with "make spreadsheets."

Peter: "Everybody has three mortgages nowadays."
Sub-prime, anyone?

Peter: "Don't stare at me, you got them bug eyes... Janine! Sorry about the bug eyes thing. I'll be in my office."
Poor admins.

Peter: "Hold it! Hold it! Whoa-oo-oo-oo! Nice shooting, Tex!"
That unlicensed nuclear accelerator gets 'em every time.
 ☒

Newsletter Ideas

I'm looking for writers for the following topics:

1. Analyze human methane as a source of alternative energy
2. Compare/contrast the Presidential candidates
3. Provide an academic review of Harry Potter
4. Wikipedia: Good or Evil?

Send your article ideas in today!

editor@babbleonline.com ☒

International Website Hits

Over the past year, Babble-Online has been viewed by people around the world. International website hits have come from the following 30 countries:

Argentina	Japan
Australia	Mexico
Belgium	Netherlands
Brazil	Norway
Canada	Poland
China	Romania
Colombia	Seychelles
Czech Republic	South Korea
France	Spain
Germany	Sweden
India	Switzerland
Indonesia	Taiwan
Ireland	United Arab Emirates
Israel	United Kingdom
Italy	Venezuela

A special greeting goes out to our fans in Germany and Seychelles who consistently view the website. Keep the submissions (and the web hits) coming! ☒

Seasons

A poem

By Dan Fritz

The vibrant Spring got you humming –
Summer's sun kept coming and coming –
As Fall leaves settle you slide and sigh –
When Winter's here, won't even care why
☒

Another entry in the annals of Business Vernacular

By Dan Fritz, PM

Entry 1: Throw under the bus – to betray someone you have been working with / tattle on them / blame them behind their back / etc.

Joe: "How's the project coming along?"

Bob: "Not good. We weren't able to deliver a clean data set last week, and I heard that Rob threw me under the bus in his meeting with management?"

Joe: "He blamed you for the slippage?"

Bob: "Yeah, he wasn't about to fall on his own sword. The prick."

Entry 2: Nodding heads – people who always agree (nod their heads) whether or not they should be pushing back; "Yes men."

Joe: "But I thought the project was on track? Everyone was in agreement last week."

Bob: "That group is just a bunch of nodding heads. They keep agreeing to impossible tasks when they should be raising red flags all over the place."

Until next time. ☒



The Second Babble-ONline Readers' Choice Awards Issues 3.7 through 5.5

The winners of this very tight race were as follows:

BEST MONTHLY SUBMISSION / SERIES

- A. **"Adventures in Vexillology" (aka "Know Thy Flags") by Nate Herr (3.7, 3.9)**
 - Examines various national flags and their histories
- B. "Wine Country" by Steven Fritz (3.8, 3.9, 3.10)
 - Features wine reviews and background into the winemaking process
- C. "Right Before I Got Kicked Off Kids Incorporated" by Nathan Beach (3.9, 3.10, 4.1)
 - Provides humorous anecdotes of fictitious kids who get kicked off said show

BEST NON-TEXT SUBMISSION

- A. **"Waldo at Work" by Nathan Beach (4.1)**
- B. "Playing in the Mud, Circa 1947" by Nathan Beach (4.4)
- C. "The Mustard Yellow Belt is Back! U-S-A U-S-A!" by Garrett Calderwood (5.5)

BEST FICTION / POETRY

- A. "A River Runs Through It" by Shasta Cumleightly (5.3)
- B. **"Two Lost Shakespearean Sonnets Found" by Eislew von Ripple, a.k.a. Amanda Hall (3.9)**
- C. "horizon blues" by Brett (5.5)

BEST ARTICLE

- A. **"Steam Engine Nation" by Japheth Pennvbaker, a.k.a. Amanda Hall (3.7)**
 - Satirizes the fear of technology advances in a fictitious 19th century newsletter article
- B. "MTV Kills People" by James Schneider (3.9)
 - Comments on the social degradation due to MTV
- C. "Letters: Not Just Your Father's ABCs" by Arthur Miller (3.10)
 - Pontificates on the lost art of letter writing vis a vis emailing and text messaging
- D. "Cashing in on Intelligent Design" by Brett (3.10)
 - Criticizes the "charlatanry" of Intelligent Design's proposals
- E. "A Letter from Santa" by Santa (4.4)
 - Emphasizes the non-religiosity of Christmas and the purportedly unwarranted aversion by non-Christian groups

Recap of previous winners:

- **Best Monthly Submission/Series:** "Urban Vernacular" by Amanda Hall (1.6, 2.2, 2.4, 3.5, 3.6)
- **Best Non-Text Submission:** "Mattlock" (Well-Hung Jury) by Grant Calderwood and Dan Fritz (3.4)
- **Best Article:** "This Flesh is Legal Tender" by Brett (2.2)

☒

Tom Brady is a Cyborg

By James Schneider

As I sit watching the Giants embarrass the 49ers, I see what can only be described as Madden-like numbers out of New England. Seriously. 26 TDs and we're not even through the end of this game. Tom Brady is a cyborg, and I'm going to need MRI proof to believe otherwise.

He's the perfect size, is smart (Michigan), bangs and impregnates some of the world's most outrageously attractive women.

These feats are unnatural, and I can only assume he's part robot. Cyborg specifically. I think we should have known all along, though. Remember in the Terminator films what the first letter of all the cyborgs' names was? That's right, "T."

I can only assume the T-0m Brady is an advanced supercomputer sent from the future to kill NFL records. He seems to be doing a pretty good job. ☒

Traces

By Brett

Encased fire flickers, fingers trace across
 Facades of ice. Condensed sentiment slides
 Into an ineffable wordless gloss.
 A loss behind a divide desire hides.

What lies enclosed behind the work of art
 That burns but begs a human touch? Despite
 The sting from frigid conflict with my heart,
 I press with want to find some veiled insight.

Inside my message appears in reverse,
 To her, to me inscrutable needs bleed
 Beyond intent. I watch my will disperse
 Across a mirror to return, recede.

Indeed am I to read this glint of fire
 As a projection of my own desire? ☒

This
 could
 be
 your
 article!

Send a submission to
editor@babbleonline.com today!

Wine Country

By Steven Fritz

Now, where were we... A few years back, while Cindy and I were pondering Christmas gifts for family, we came to the conclusion that they already have everything they want. They might give us stuff we don't want, and we could give them stuff they don't want. Instead, we decided that bringing a nice bottle of wine or two to Christmas dinner would fit the bill just right. Something we would not normally get for ourselves. Something we would not spend that much on over burgers and fries on a Wednesday.

As luck would have it, while sitting down to Christmas dinner last year, while drinking a very nice Meritage, we received—you guessed it—a bottle of wine. Not just any bottle of wine—a St. Clement 3000 ml bottle, the mother load of wine bottles. Your normal bottle times four. The first thing that passed my mind was the taste issue. Secondly, would it store the same, age the same as a 750 ml bottle. The short answer is: wine is wine. It tastes the same and stores the same. That leaves only one thing: how many glasses can I pour? Eighteen.

The next time you're in the store, and you know you are going to pour more than four glasses, get the 1500 rather two 750s. You'll most likely save a few bucks.

Back to the wine. I visited this winery early last year. St. Clement is just north of St. Helena, which is 25 miles north of downtown Napa.



You make Wine from Rocks! There are over 50 defined soil types in the Napa Valley, most of which are rocky. St. Clement's collection of small growers is spread about this soil diversity from north to south and valley floor to mountainside. These rocks exert their influence in a significant manner. Vines do not like wet feet, and the rock enhances the soil drainage. It also adds minerals to the mix, which in turn, is absorbed by the grapes, adding subtle flavor complexities to the wines. The rock content also affects local climate. Rock warms faster than soil in the day and cools faster at night, helping the vine wake in the morning and aiding the night time cooling so vital to the preservation of acid content, the lifeblood of fine wine.

At St. Clement, the original 1878 cellar was made from local rock, and their hillside property has hundreds of linear feet of stone walls that date back to the late 1800s. Rock makes winery, rock makes wine.

I'll have to wait until eighteen of my friends come over before I can uncork our Christmas wine. Until then, I'll open a small one this evening. Enjoy whatever you're drinking. ☒



NEWSLETTER STATS

Note: Margin of Error is +/- 3%. Does not include the current issue.

Weighted Rank	Names
1	Hall, Amanda
2	Schneider, James
3	Brett
4	Fritz, Susan
5	Calderwood, Grant
6	Joisa, Srida
7	Ellinwood, Matt
8	Fishman, Alan
9	Murray, Bryan
10	Fritz, Steven

To the left is a weighted ranking of contributors based on their total words submitted, number of issues submitted to, and average words per submission. The rankings have shifted slightly after removing the editor's stats since last issue. The top three remain the same.

Top Rank by Category:
(excluding the Editor)

Most Words = Amanda Hall
Most Issues = Susan Fritz
Most Words/Issue = Srida Joisa

☒

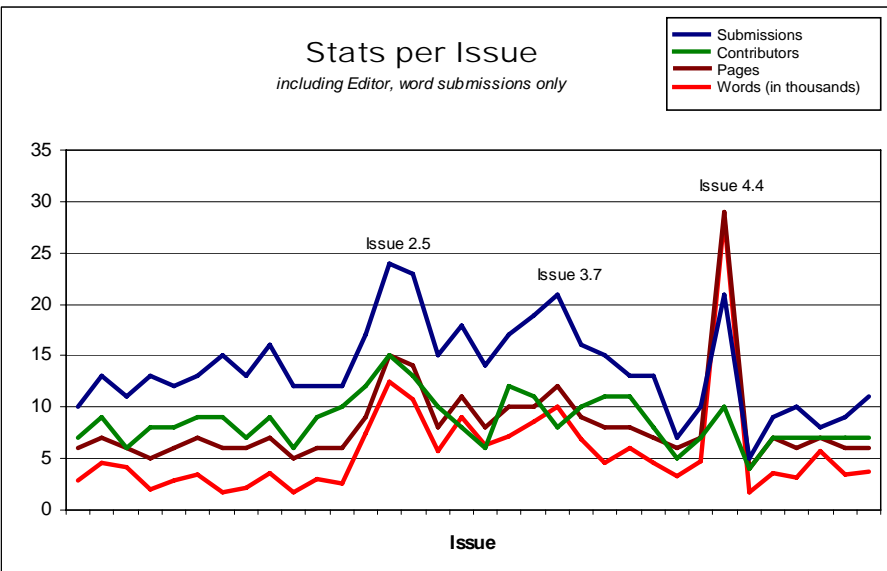
Compiled by:

Dan Fritz, Editor
in New York, NY
for the November 8, 2007,
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Contributors:

Elizabeth Carlson
Dan Fritz
Steven Fritz
Susan Fritz
Brett
James Schneider



Global Watch Map

BabbleON has attracted contributors and readers from around the globe. In addition to the U.S. writers from 16 different states (noted on the map), there have been international submissions from: Germany, Belgium, Italy, Iraq, and Australia.

Key: Yellow circles mark the residence of each contributor. ☒



Life-to-Date Stats

Word Submissions only
Includes the editor
Does not include the current issue

Total Words: **192,299**

Total Pages: **280**

Total Contributors: **39**

Total Submissions: **467**

Average Words/Page: **687** (↓)

Average Words/Contributor: **4,931** (↓)

Median Words/Contributor: **976** (↓)

Average Words/Submission: **412** (↓)

☒

Awards

These awards could be yours!

For Total Words Contributed:

1,000: **Little Scribbler**

5,000: **Babble-ONian**

10,000: **Grimmelshausen Award**

Each additional 10,000:

Proust BabbleStar

For Consistently Contributing:

Contributing to 10 issues or more: **Methuselah Award**

For Exceptional Content:

Alfred, Lord Tennyson Platinum Seal of Excellence:

To date, no one has won this.

Good luck, and keep the submissions coming! ☒