

Letter from the Editor

Last Monday I spent half an hour reading the names of the Holocaust dead, a group of us taking turns on the quad, in a grey April rain. The easiest way to read such a list is to read the names as pure names, to concentrate on pronouncing the German and Polish consonants. Do not see the columns that list the places these people lived and the places they were killed. Do not see the column that gives ages, or you will surely find people the age of your children, your parents, or you. When it was more than rain on my face and I could no longer read, I'm glad that my sociology colleague Barbara was there to hug me before she began.

Analogies to the Holocaust are inevitably cheapening and cheap. But I thought how the dozens of TAs and thousands of students in our writing program are often but pure names to me. Probably it is the case that we could not long endure being conscious of the full lives of so many people. Far easier—even necessary—to imagine them in categories: new TAs, doctoral candidates, plagiarists, first generation students, dyslexics. And yet. Near the end of *Darkness at Noon*, Rubashov hopes that one day “perhaps they will teach that the tenet is wrong which says that a man is the quotient of one million divided by one million, and will introduce a new kind of arithmetic based on multiplication.”

The best WPAs manage regularly to see people in their programs as more than pure names, more than categories. Doing so is sometimes wrenching. Graduates do not get jobs. Students get ill or have their hearts broken. Reading the many columns of peoples' lives burns us out, I'm sure. We should seek and value, all of us, the friends and acquaintances within WPA who are there when our voices falter.



I bid farewell to Ann Greenseth, editorial assistant beyond compare. Not only is Ann a pagemaking wizard, she's clairvoyant. How else to explain her abilities to decipher my editor's markings? Eric Martin will continue as Managing Editor but from afar, as he becomes Director of WAC at The University of Findlay next fall. Eric has been Assistant WPA at Illinois State this year, and I'll sorely miss his good daily counsel and friendship. Ann and Eric: Godspeed!



This issue of *WPA* has two clusters. Kate Latterell provides a much-needed review of TA training programs across the country; Wendy Swyt critiques a common teacher-training strategy, and six scholars from The University of Dayton furnish an annotated bibliography of TA training. In a second cluster, Kathleen Yancey reflects on reflection, a print version of the keynote address she gave in Bellingham last summer, and Gay Lynn Crossley and Wendy Bishop demonstrate the values of reflection as they re-narrate and interpret a pivotal and revelatory period in a WPA's life. Duane Roen reviews another important contribution to the WPA professional literature, and Eric Martin presents the annual annotations of new textbooks.



I hope to meet and re-meet many of you in Oxford in August.

Doug Hesse