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## CML News

A few weeks ago, fellow editor **Jay Popham** marked two years as an Associate Editor at CML. He might say it was a trial-by-fire kind of beginning—with a short tutorial by a rapidly departing editor—but over these two years Jay has managed to become nearly indispensable. His crystal clear evaluation of the material we read is nothing short of brilliant, and his enthusiastic striving for all things efficient keeps us looking to the future. CML is very lucky to have him.

## Highlights

As the #MeToo movement continues to reveal the ubiquity of sexual harassment and assault of women, CML brings you several stark accounts of gender discrimination, intimidation, and abuse. “Nobody Knows,” by **Rebecca Solnit**, explores the misogyny, bullying, and sexual violence rampant in the workplace, while “Change the Culture,” by **Krista Langlois**, reveals the intimidation, coercion, and outright violation suffered by women who choose to work in the traditionally male field of whitewater rafting. “The Silence,” by **Junot Díaz**, is a heart-wrenching confession in which the Pulitzer Prize-winning author confronts for the first time the life-long effects of being raped as a child.

The mismanagement of our natural world has long been a concern at CML. In this issue, **Jill Lepore**'s “The Shorebird” revisits the remarkable life of Rachel Carson, the shy marine biologist and writer who fomented the global environmental movement with her 1962 book, *Silent Spring*. Carson was among the first to notice the ominous rising of sea levels and temperatures, and to insist on the essential interconnectedness of ecosystems. In “Drinking Problems,” acclaimed investigative journalist **Elizabeth Royte** journeys to Pretty Prairie,

Kansas, a small agricultural town where over-fertilization of crops has tainted the town's drinking water with unsafe levels of nitrate.

As always, CML brings you some of today's finest poetry and fiction. Last issue, we introduced you to an exciting new writer, **Amanda Rea**, and her short story, "Year of the Frog." She wowed us again with a new story, "Faint of Heart," the tale of a senseless crime and its enduring after-effects. We've included powerful works by **Jorie Graham**, **Sharon Olds**, and several other acclaimed poets. **Neil Soderstrom's** "A Poet's Gifts" examines poet Emily Dickinson's fascination with botany as she cultivated an impressive variety of flowering plants in her Amherst garden.

In this issue, we have a number of stimulating pieces on science and technology, including **Alan Lightman's** "Infinity of the Small," which takes us on a journey to Planck length, the theoretical limit of how small things can get, while contemplating the reality of an ever-expanding universe.

#### **TOP PICKS:**

Think you don't like boxing? **Brad Felver's** astonishing essay, "City of Glass," might change your mind. A powerful recounting of the 1919 bout between the then-reigning world champion Jess Willard and underdog Jack Dempsey, the essay also recovers some fascinating lost history of the city of Toledo, Ohio. Aesthetic beauty and physical prowess also inform **Jennifer Homan's** lyrical essay, "Hail Balanchine," which brings choreographer George Balanchine's first American ballet, "Serenade," to life in rich, vivid description. Homan's essay is like a night at the ballet!

We are delighted to include **Adam Kirsch's** essay, "Art and Activism," which reintroduces American audiences to Alain Locke, a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance. A Harvard-trained philosopher (and the first African-American Rhodes Scholar), Locke considered the creation of art, literature, and music just as crucial as political activism in the pursuit of civil rights.

You already know (we hope!) that CML editors love to laugh. In "Bats: Teen Worker," **Maureen McCoy** remembers her first job as a telephone operator for

the defunct Bell System. It is a humorous coming-of-age story and a nostalgic look back at the 1960s. We also love **Kathryn Schulz's** "Home Invasion." While most of us would not consider an infestation of stink bugs funny at all—indeed, they pose a serious threat to crops!—Schulz nevertheless makes this invasive species sound, well, beautiful!

**And Special Thanks To ... C.J.**, from Joplin, MO, who said, "You guys are a blessing! Just keep on keepin' on."

**Happy summer from Annie, Jay, Alfredo, Mike, and Raquel!**