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## **CML News**

We certainly can't complain about our workload. We spend our days immersed in the words of today's best magazine and journal writers, seeking choice articles, stories, essays, and poems to bring all the wonder and wildness of the wider world into your home. But every once in a while we take a break and gather for Game Day.

There are five of us here at our office, each as different as night and day. But give us some pizza, tiny plastic pieces, and a timer, dice or spinner, and we can leave the big bad world in a heartbeat. Playing games brings us together. Laughter and perspective is our reward.

## **Highlights**

We hope you had a happy spring and summer. Hard to believe it's already fall again! In this issue, **Jill Lepore's** essay, "It's Still Alive," considers the enduring legacy of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, first published in 1818, a novel that foresaw the ethical dilemmas that we face today regarding artificial intelligence, cloning, and even sex reassignment surgery. In this same spirit, **Ian McEwan's** short story, "Düssel," posits a near-future world in which the emotional and interpersonal boundaries between humans and robots have all but vanished.

Our latest issue includes poetry by Pulitzer Prize winner **Yusef Komunyakaa**, as well as powerful fiction by **Jess Walter**, **Souvankham Thammavongsa**, **Lauren Groff**, and others. **Adam Leith Gollner's** travel piece, "Place of Spirits," explores the awe-inspiring landscape of Torngat Mountain National Park, a reserve in northeastern run by the Inuit community. **W. Hodding Carter's** entertaining "Up the Creek" re-enacts Benedict Arnold's brutal 290-mile trek up Maine's Kennebec River to take Quebec City from the British—before he became America's best-known traitor!

One of the newest bestselling authors in nature writing is German forester Peter Wohlleben. In “The Whispering of the Trees,” **Richard Grant** examines some of Wohlleben’s intriguing—and at times controversial—ideas about how trees communicate and even experience memories and emotions.

### **TOP PICKS:**

Last January we were saddened by the passing of **Ursula K. Le Guin**, one of America’s most admired science fiction and fantasy authors. In this issue, we feature two short stories by Le Guin; the first, “Pity and Shame,” is a beautifully written tale of human kindness, tenderness, and care, set in the historical American West, while “Firelight” returns to Le Guin’s more characteristic themes of fantasy, world-creation, and female cosmic knowledge.

The My Lai Massacre on March 16, 1968, is one of the most brutal episodes of the Vietnam War. In “Looking for Calley,” reporter **Seymour M. Hersh** recounts how he broke the full story to a shocked American public, forcing an official investigation and a national reckoning.

In the face of so much dissonance in the world, it is not surprising that some people prefer to withdraw to a more meditative existence. In “The Monk’s Tale,” author **Bill Donahue** remembers a beloved uncle who said “goodbye to all that” to lead a frugal, quiet, semi-monastic life in a tiny French village, reminding us that alternatives *do* exist.

### **And Special Thanks To...**

**Alvin S.**, from San Francisco, CA, who called to tell us, "What you're doing is vital! Thank you so much."

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