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## From the Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

We chose “privacy” as the theme for our spring issue because of its inherent importance to all people. In the early part of the 21st Century, the issue of privacy has taken on many forms. For example, how do we distinguish between what is “private” and what is “public”? Many of us appear to make no distinction whatsoever. We talk on cell phones while walking in a crowd. We make financial transactions on sidewalks. We “tell all” about virtually anything on television and radio.

Among the subjects we discuss in this issue are the ways in which privacy issues affect many of our most important institutions: the media, our libraries, and the federal government. How is our country responding to the new challenges to privacy that have arisen since the attacks of September 11, 2001? How has the media responded to the changes in laws affecting privacy? What new regulations apply to library usage? What are our students’ perceptions of privacy as they experience dorm life?

At the same, we are publishing this issue during a time of war. We received several essays for “The Gamut” that address this critical subject. Indeed, there was considerable sentiment on our Board to make “Liberal Arts and War,” the theme of our Fall Issue. Certainly the liberal arts community has much to say about international conflicts. Poets, for example, provide the voices for what many of us feel. The most eloquent commentary on World War I, for example, came largely from the hearts of English poets such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, and Rupert Brooke. Today, the poets (as they are wont to do!) are still writing. Andrew Motion, Britain’s Poet Laureate, read one of his poems on BBC Radio in early April:

*Regime Change*

Advancing down the road from Nineveh  
Death paused a while and said, Now listen here  
You see the names of places round about  
They are mine now and I have turned them inside out.  
Take Eden further South  
At dawn today I ordered my troops to tear away  
its walls and gates so everyone can see that gorgeous  
fruit which dangles from its tree.

You want it don't you? Go and eat it then and lick your  
lips and pick the same again.

Take Tigris and Euphrates

Once they ran through childhood-colored slabs of sand and  
sun. Not any more they don't. I have filled them up with  
countless different kinds of human crap.

Take Babylon

The palace sprouting flowers which sweetened empire in  
their peaceful hours.

I have found a different way to scent the air. Already it's  
a by-word for despair.

Which leaves Baghdad, the star-tipped minarets, the marble  
courts and halls, the mirage heat.

These places and the ancient things you know you won't know  
soon. I am working on it now.

*Andrew Motion\**

By the time this issue is published, the conflict in Iraq may be over. And so, we'll move on to other subjects. At Moebius, we have decided on the theme of "The Corporate University" for our Fall Issue. We hope that you will find this as timely as we do. Thank you for reading Moebius. We believe that the Liberal Arts has a uniquely important role to play in university life. Thousands of years ago, a Greek philosopher asked: "How should I live?" We're still looking for the answer. 

*Philip Fetzer, Managing Editor*  
*Moebius*

\*By permission of the author, Andrew Motion.