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From the Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

The theme for our 2007 issue is apt: controversy. We still face a prolonged public dispute over our involvement in the Middle East, and we have printed an impassioned piece on the subject. Other essay contributions focus on topics such as Lebanon, the military, heroism, education and conservative perspectives. Our interviews range from such controversial ideas as peace activism, gender issues, conservative and liberal attitudes, and religious concepts and biases. We are also very happy to include some very powerful images to provide an insightful view into sex, beauty, relationships, and cultural identity. As usual, we have fine fiction and poetry, as well as a book review of a new novel by Cormac McCarthy that shows us one haunting vision of the apocalypse.

Controversy surrounds modern life. Much has been written about the lack of civility in American life and politics. We are told to avoid three topics of conversation: politics, sex, and religion. Why is it that we can't talk about these huge parts of our lives? Have we forgotten the art of persuasion, the challenge of logical argument, or have we never learned?

We have forgotten how to listen. Do we really believe that everyone is entitled to his/her opinion—no matter how illogical or bizarre? Can it be true that the intellectual world is dualistic? Isn't it the case that knowledge is constructed rather than discovered? We have lost our ability to imagine another point of view and we have lost our sense of curiosity. In addition, we make judgments readily about others unlike us.

I have an example. I was raised Catholic but am a fallen angel. A good friend *returned* to Catholicism as an adult, and our conversations about religion fascinate me; I have learned from her and respect her notions of faith. Another former friend, raised a Lutheran, *found* Catholicism as an adult, but we were unable to talk about her hard embrace of the Church. She made it clear that I was not helping her on her spiritual path and therefore could not be her friend. How is it that religion can also be the source of judgment and ill will—and lost friendships?

Craig Nelson, a biologist from the University of Indiana, tells us that we must become comfortable in ambiguity to be a full adult. So, let's not shy away from controversy because truth is impossible. All of us on the Moebius Board hope you read our issue with a fine, open heart. ☺

Mary Kay Harrington, Managing Editor
Moebius