

SPENCER GORDON  
*EDITORIAL*

Dear Reader,

Putting together the Spring issue of *The Puritan* has proven to be the true test of our collective mettle, the true trial of our entrepreneurial resolve. We've pounded the pavement, crisscrossing the city countless times, catching at the faintest threads of money or support. The deadlines were fierce and funding most scant. Nevertheless, with a tidal wave of submissions, more incredible opportunities for promotion and media attention, and a true community of well-wishers and fellow prose-enthusiasts, we pushed ourselves over the brink of sanity and monetary madness to produce what you know hold in your hand: an issue that surpasses our previous endeavour in almost every way. We hope you enjoy it.

Now's a fine time to say thank you to all the people who helped make this possible. Without your encouragement and advice, we'd have folded long ago. Thanks are due to Michèle Lamarche and the UESA, our favourite people to hound and harass. Thank you to David Rampton and Dominic Manganiello for your continued understanding during this busy semester. Thank you to our volunteers, Claudia Tavernesse and Paulina Malek. I am indebted to all those who attended our first launch party, but most especially the writers who had the confidence to support our first issue: Amanda Earl, Steve Zytveld, Patricia McCarthy, Jackie Kawaja (not Kajawa), Rachel Dugas, and of course those who couldn't make it out (I'm looking at you, Dunne). Thank you to CBC Radio and the Ottawa xPress. Thanks to River City Junction; keep on rocking. Special thanks must be made to David Staines and Helen Belvin, individuals whose faith in our project enabled us to meet some of our heroes. To Dionne Brand, John Pass, Theresa Kishkan, Cyril Dabydeen, Rudy Wiebe, Michael Ondaatje, George Bowering, and Yann Martel: thank you for your patience and willingness to humour the ambitions of young, aspiring writers. Thank you, as well, to my family in Burlington, for your ever-steady awesomeness, and in particular, to my sister Emma for her wonderful photograph. And (of course) thank you to the one-in-a-million Megan Elliott, who showed me the highest peak and the hidden cave, who gave me a taste for pomegranate wine.

Thanks, and happy reading.