

DEAR THE BELIEVER

826 VALENCIA STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

letters@believermag.com

Dear Believer Readers,

I am holding a contest for you. The winner of this contest will receive a package containing as much artwork as I can make for him or her in one week. The amount of pieces will exceed one thousand. To enter this contest I am asking that you send me a piece of artwork that you make. I am asking that you spend no more than one minute on this piece of artwork. I am very interested in seeing what you make in this time. In turn, one of you will receive what I can make in 10,080 minutes. Please also include both your email address and an address where I can send the package if you win. I hope that you do.

The winner of the contest will be chosen by my mom on April 1, 2005. If you would like to be included please send your entry so I receive it in time.

*Jason Polan
PO Box 15
Prince Street Station
New York, New York, 10012*

Dear Believer,

In the November 2004 issue, Jeff Steinbrink stated that the Flexi All Belt 3 allowed his neighbor's seventy-five-pound collie mix Mikey to gain momentum to the point where, when the sixteen-foot limit is met, he pulls Steinbrink with a painful amount of force.

This problem is, in fact, easily

remedied, and is no fault of the leash. When Mikey begins winding up for a squirrel chase, Steinbrink should hold the leash behind himself, so that when Mikey reaches the limit, he now has two arm-lengths which he can use to gradually slow Mikey's accumulated speed.

I would also like to mention that I have visited Germany, specifically the Hamburg area, and the dogs there are indeed agreeable, cooperative, and philosophical. In fact, the dogs I saw looked positively doped-up, showing little or no interest in their surroundings, walking with a singular focus usually associated with the undead, or in the German, *Nicht-Tot*.

*Chris Molnar
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Dear Believer,

After some urging by a colleague, I finally picked up a copy of the *Believer* to read. I started at the beginning and read right through. The wit of your writers dazzled me. Here were the intelligent observers that I knew must be out there, I thought. But I finished the issue feeling left out. The thrill that began with Paul Collins's piece on Virginius Dabney's novel ["The Lost Symphony," November 2004] had been obliterated by the time I reached Milana Runjic's "Seksopolis" column. I flipped through the issue quickly, in disbelief. All of the

feature pieces were written by men. All of them were about men as well, except one, which profiled a female baker. Of course, I did notice that the sex column and some short reviews were written by women. To be certain that I had not picked up an anomalous issue, I checked the previews for the next issue. Two articles were listed, both by men, about men. I do not believe that the folks at the *Believer* believe that women only belong in the kitchen or in bed. But I just can't fill out that subscription card or recommend this magazine to others until I'm convinced that you are as progressive in addressing the reality of sexism as you are in confronting racism (e.g. Collins's critique of *Don Miff*, the Buddy Bolden piece, the interview with August Wilson). As a woman reading your journal, I do not feel like you've invited me to join the club.

*Katie Rose Guest
Greensboro, North Carolina*

The editors respond:

Given that two of our three editors are women, we obviously share your concerns regarding diversity and do our best each month to assemble a balance of articles written by or about women. While over the course of the year we are able to achieve such a balance, it's not always possible to do so within the confines of a single issue.

THE BELIEVER



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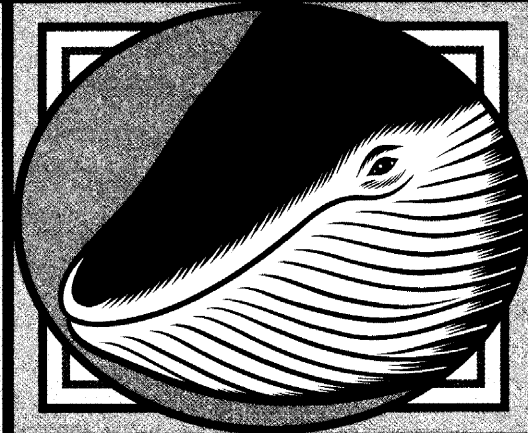


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PROBABLY USELESS STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY:

Things you
won't ever
need to see
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Message Changed by Thumbs-Up (#4)



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Roberts Waddell Statue with Socks

LA ZONA FANTASMA:

A new monthly
column from
Javier Marías
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