

So, the previous two editorials I had written turned out to be a bit of a joke. This isn't surprising. I've always been the class clown, failing to take anything too seriously. The first two editorials, may they rest in peace, mentioned my hope that this magazine would result in attracting literature groupies. Hysterical, I know. I then proceeded to poke fun at Ottawa's love of poetry and rejection of prose. My apologies to poets everywhere.

Then I realized something.

I realized that, shockingly enough, as the magazine steam-rolled forward, my lack of seriousness slowly matured into focused commitment.

No really, I'm serious.

It isn't to say that I never lost my self-proclaimed sense of humour. What I mean is that for once in my life, I learned that there was a time for everything, balancing the needs of my own odd personality with those of The Puritan.

But what is the purpose of The Puritan?

Creating this magazine was no easy task. There were conflicts: financial issues, publicity problems, and the constant pressure of editing. We were losing sleep, money and time, tapping keys and walking the streets of Ottawa in order to get this magazine on its feet.

Yet, more importantly, we were working to find a purpose for this torturous project. Thankfully, perseverance prevailed. We worked and worked until finally a finished product was at hand. All those words, promises, and hyped up announcements had come true. We did it! We found our purpose. We gave life to the magazine.

We proved the doubters wrong.

We silenced the unbelievers.

We put together the first issue of The Puritan. At the bottom of our pint glasses, we found the sweetness of our success and a sense of accomplishment, rather than disparity and discouragement.

So here I am writing my editorial, which is the last piece of the puzzle.

It never got lost or bent.

It has come full circle, completing a project begun so long ago it seems, on that cold October day.

But, alas, much like the magazine, this editorial is proving to be difficult to complete. Once again, the concept of Purpose haunts me.

What is my purpose within the magazine? After all, we each had different views and beliefs, adding up to our one unified goal and vision.

Spencer and Tyler's editorials take on different angles.

Now it's my turn. Why am I part of The Puritan?

The purpose of the magazine is to promote the accessibility of literature in Ottawa.

Ottawa really doesn't have much of a prose community. When I was still a fresh-faced university student, I came to this city expecting limitless opportunities and valuable resources to expand my literary potentiality. At the University of Ottawa, you either sent in your poetry to Yawp (now defunct) or wrote for the Fulcrum.

This is why Spencer, Tyler and I got together and created The Puritan. We wanted to give a solid option for prose writers in Ottawa to have their works published.

This is a chance, an opportunity, for writers to give purpose to their pieces.

That word, again.

And what is this version of purpose I speak of? Well, it's easy: To have one's work read. Of course, you can simply pass off your story to your mom so she blushes and is blindly proud of it, but what I really mean is to have a complete and utter stranger read your work with no prior knowledge of who you are and actually admit to enjoying it. If that happens, our endeavour has been a success.

That is giving purpose to your work. In fact, let me take one little step backward. To be honest, your work of art doesn't have to be enjoyed. What it needs to do is to make the reader think outside the box, if only for a moment. This is the true meaning of literature. I have always found that the best part of the whole process of writing is to have it appreciated by another set of eyes. This is the opportunity we want to provide you.

The Romantics said "express the indefinite". Writing is absolutely individual, and no one but you can decide what is definite and what is indefinite. If you write, you are alone for the initial and most difficult stage of the process. No one else can do it for you.

We're here to help you with the next stage. We're here to provide you with a medium wherein your work can be read, enjoyed, and critiqued by the public eye. We're here to give it life, purpose, and meaning.

At first, it may seem difficult to have your writing edited by others. To have your work edited meticulously isn't in any way pleasurable. But it's necessary. To have your work disliked by another reader is awful. But it gives you purpose as a writer: to make your writing the best it can be.

This is why we're here. This is who we are. We are part of the literary community, just as you are. And what if you're not a writer? Well, you're just as important. You're the part of the equation. Without the reader, there is nothing. No purpose. No meaning. Your eyes breathe life into the work.

Well there you go! Here is the first issue of The Puritan. Enjoy it! And once you're done reading it, hand it over to someone new.

Let the magazine make you want to read. Let it make you pick up that pen. Let these stories both inspire and entertain your mind.

Lastly, if you're a writer, send in your work! You have nothing to lose.

As the late Notorious B.I.G. once said: "Either you're slangin' crack-rock, or you've got a wicked jump-shot".

And if you have neither? Write about it.

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