

Introduction

IT'S INTERESTING where a magazine can go. With Stephen O'Connor and Paul Marion, you can visit Lowell and the mysteries of its literary past. You can celebrate Thaipusam with Kerrie Mitchell. Where else can Lesley Lee Francis, granddaughter of *MR* contributor Robert Frost, meet up with Gerard Malanga? Or Jerome Richard's Leslie Feidler hang with Robert Erwin's Christopher Lasch?

There's trouble up ahead. Erika Mikkalo has brought some villain along. And here comes Annie Boutelle's Rilke, still in love with the darkness, poor old grouse. Kristin Bock admonishes us: "A great pain strafed through the city." Like Erika Williams' Gary, you might be "Done in by a Bad Leg." Or, with Hadara Bar-Nadav on "Valentine's Day," you will have to shave and pluck everything. "When you speak I salt your words," Fred Yannantuono confesses. In a tale of art and falsity, Malena Watrous warns: "This Might Be Real."

We welcome Deborah Gorlin to the poetry float, as this road show rolls along.

David Lenson, for the editors

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