MARA BRETON, when not perusing the halls of U.C. Irvine’s Comparative Literature Department, sips cheap tea in seclusion with her “academic” partner and three cats: Kafka, Krieger, and Von Buelow.

SHARON CUMBERLAND is a graduate of Coe College and Drake University, and was an arts administrator at Lincoln Center and The Metropolitan Opera. She currently teaches English at Brooklyn Technical High School.

HANNA DAMASIO, whose sculptures have provided our cover art for this volume, is a Professor of Neurology at The University of Iowa. She is a researcher in cognitive neuroscience and makes regular contributions to that field.

J. L. DUNCAN, a former contributor to this magazine, is Professor of English at Eastern Michigan University. He is a scholar of Thoreau, Emerson, and Whitman, an actor and a playwright.

GERALD EARLY is Assistant Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

SCOTT FERGUSON is a poet currently enrolled in the Columbia MFA Writing Program. He was born in Minneapolis in 1959.

LEONARD HARRISON is a 1986 graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and now lives in Iowa City. The form of his novel Wayfarer represents a multiple narrative, combining an omniscient voice with four vernacular narrators positioned within its folds.

PETER JOHNSON has new poems forthcoming in The Florida Review and Panoply, and a short story forthcoming in the Five Fingers Review. His manuscript of poetry, Minor Characters in an Obscure Legend, is looking for a publisher.

CORI JONES has had stories published in The North American Review, Playgirl, Fiction Network, Fiction, and elsewhere. Currently a resident of New Jersey, she is at work on a collection of short fiction.

DON KURTZ’s fiction has appeared in O. Henry Festival Stories 1987 and Puerto del Sol. He has just completed a novel, Landmarks. He also teaches Spanish at New Mexico State University.

PATRICK O’LEARY is an advertising copywriter. His poems appear in The Little Magazine, Taproot, and The Quadra Project Calendar.
GEORGE and MARY OPPEN worked independently and collaboratively through a long married life. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for Of Being Numerous. New Directions published his Collected Poems in 1975 and Black Sparrow brought out his last volume of poems, Primitive, in 1978. In the same year, Black Sparrow published Mary Oppen’s Meaning a Life, her autobiography of their life together. Herr poems are gathered in Mother and Daughter and the Sea (privately printed) and a special supplement of Montemora (1980).

SHERMAN PAUL recently retired as Carver Professor of English at The University of Iowa. His contributions to American literary studies have been many, and he has appeared several times before in his journal.

JOHN D. ROBINSON is currently a third-year writing student at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he is editor of Equinox, UALR’s literary journal. This is his first major publication.

MARY RUEFLE’s latest book is Life Without Speaking, published by University of Alabama Press.

JAMES SOLHEIM has work in Poetry, The Kenyon Review, and Northwest Review. He is trying to publish a book of poems, and has just received word that he will be the recipient of an Ingram Merill Foundation grant.

JUDITH SKILLMAN’s collection The Worship of the Visible Spectrum received the 1987 King Canty Arts Commission Publication Prize and is being published by Breitenbush. Her work has appeared in Poetry, The Seneca Review, Prairie Schooner, and others.

SARGE STERLING’s poetry has appeared in Harper’s Bazaar, Yank, Stars and Stripes, Christian Science Monitor, and elsewhere.

MELANIE RAE THON is originally from Montana. Her fiction has appeared in Ploughshares, Cutbank, and Hudson Review. She is writing her first novel.

DENNIS YOUNG recently completed his dissertation, The Possibilities of Being: The Poetry of George Oppen, at The University of Iowa. He is now teaching at Norwich University in Vermont.

GUENTER ZOELLER is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at The University of Iowa. His book Theoretische Gegenstandsbeziehung [Objective Reference] bei Kant was published by de Gruyter (Berlin & New York), 1984.
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(LIBRARY JOURNAL, 2/15, 1987)

Among selections in our next few issues: Interviews with Kenneth Burke, Mary Oppen, and Frederick Busch; a feature on Marianne Moore including an essay on her painting; a memoir of Nelson Algren as teacher, poker player, and role model; a long poem by Donald Hall; essays on Frost and Williams, Joyce's Sirens, John Cage, Moscow and Grace, graffiti in caves, Italo Calvino and the Talking Heads; Phyllis Rose, David Ray, Laura Jensen, Stuart Friebert, Elizabeth Spires, Leonard Harrison, Marilym Krysl, Marianne Boruch, Robert Boswell, Sven Birkerts, Michael Burkard, Ray Grant, Richard Kostelanetz, R. M. Berry, Robin Behn, Bea Opengart, Ehud Havazelet, Thomas Lux, Zona Teti, Chard deNiord, Jennifer Atkinson, Robert Wexelblatt, James Solheim, Gerald Early. . . .

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David Ray has taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and, in 1987, an exchange professor at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He is founding editor of New Letters, as well as the creator of New Letters, a National Public Radio program devoted to poetry. His awards include an NEA fellowship, several P.E.N. Syndicated Fiction Awards, and the William Carlos Williams Prize for The Tramp’s Cup. Ray has published eleven other books of poetry and one of short stories, and has edited several anthologies. His home is in Kansas City.

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