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March–April 2004 Issue

A PEEK INSIDE

"The very act of writing, especially for people who do not occupy positions of status and privilege in the general society, is a bold and courageous enterprise."

This observation, by professor and author Jackie Royster, well captures the spirit of the Students at the Center initiative in New Orleans. This issue features three essays by SAC teachers and students, which collectively demonstrate the power of writing as a springboard to community awareness and social action. Jim Randels and Kalamu ya Salaam give an overview of SAC's evolution, and the essays by Erica DeCuir and Adrinda Kelly are among the most eloquent and thought-provoking explorations of race, class, family, and history that we have published.

The theme of writing and its politics continues with an excerpt from George Orwell's "Why I Write." Amanda Leigh Lichtenstein's compelling essay about emancipatory writing offers an excursion into the poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye and Octavio Paz. Rather fittingly, the issue concludes with Michelle Naka Pierce and Thalia Field in a lively dialogue on how to deconstruct and reconstruct the teacher-student relationship.

—Christopher Edgar & Christina Davis

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