

## **A Work in Progress -- a writer's short story**

by Gaines Steer

Now Gilrod Seafront was a North Carolina Writer. Unpublished. In High School he wrote for his school's newspaper: the Starbright Epic. Assigned to write-up publishable minutes of the Honor Society (of which he was not a member), Gil collected the minutes from the club president and published them each quarter, unabridged. In Junior College, he was hired (part-time) by the Appalachian Sentinel to write obituaries following the historic paper's ironclad protocol. He once applied to be "Special Events Columnist" but was not hired. "Over-qualified!" the Editor appraised his bid.

After he earned the post in the parts department at Chevrolet City, Gil continued to pursue his career goal to become a published freelance writer. He enthusiastically took an exploratory six week online course titled **Creative Writing: WIN NOW!** and signed up to join a writer's support group sponsored by the NC Writer's Association, Inc. He was too nervous to attend meetings, however, and sat outside the National Guard Armory's Neighbor Courtesy Conference Room in his pickup truck for 19 weeks trying to gain sufficient nerve to join the group. He had pre-paid a \$12 membership fee to join. His confidence began to fade.

Noticing the ubiquitous opportunities online to "comment" following news accounts and all manner of digital communiques, Gil spent most evenings posting clever comments in the parentheses (\_\_\_\_\_) provided.... He took great pleasure in seeing his postings appear in print. He studiously copied his published comments and edited them into a magnificent documentary, which he planned to sell to a mainstream publishing house as soon as he secured an agent and publicist.

In order to hone his “writing chops,” Gil began to respond to other emerging “comment writer’s.” He found pleasure in creating a discourse with these colleagues-in-print. In some dialogue he made eloquent rebuttal and debate with those with whom he began to feel vastly more intelligent. His online Thesaurus served him well as his skill as a writer rose to new heights. He had become the published writer of his most fervent dreams!

Searching for new venues to conquer and showcase his obvious talent and acumen, Gilrod Seaforth, now a seasoned professional writer and critic, discovered a venue that few writers of his ilk had fully explored. Namely: the public restroom wall. With deserved disdain, this articulate writer-in-residence, ignored the more mundane scribes whose meanderings left him feeling the full breadth of his achieved superiority. Finding seven (7) public restrooms at Cole Park Plaza near his mobile home park, our subject commenced to work-the-magic that only seasoned writers have experienced. Selecting a subject that suited his acumen, Gilrod carefully penned this poetry, inviting thoughtful response: “In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue; he founded our great land; now it’s your turn to expand...” {followed by his e-mail [writerman@gmail.org](mailto:writerman@gmail.org)}. Upon receiving the anticipated responses to his poignant wall postings, our artist skillfully responded with a critique of this dynamic poetry. Each month a new intellectually contrived restroom posting appeared in a different community, netting a distinct following. The responses enabled the freelance writer to become a mentor to other writers who sought his advice and counsel. His book is forthcoming.

Encouraged by his entrepreneurial success, the Southern writer of-some-renown, selected yet another avant-garde venue in which to test his proven thespian insights and wordsmithingness. Our own Gilrod Seafront applied his brand-of-brilliance to

the endemic Chatham County Chatlist, posting several times each week to the pure delight of his ego, a work-in-progress.

*Gaines Steer is the Outreach Coordinator for Chatham County Line. He is a long-time Chatham resident.*