

Gravy Mission and Ethic

Gravy is a quarterly publication of the Southern Foodways Alliance, an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. Mountain Valley Spring Water underwrites the project.

Through sharp writing, useful tips, and elemental but compelling graphics, *Gravy* celebrates the past, present, and future of Southern foodways. Like the SFA as a whole, *Gravy* takes its material seriously without taking *itself* too seriously. *Gravy* is hip. But it's not hipper-than-thou.

We publish incisive, thought-provoking, and unusual or little-told features stories. They are smart, but they don't read like homework. We publish articles with attitude. With verve. With smart perspectives. With skewed perspectives. Our best work has a tight focus. Surveys don't work well. Neither do articles in the style of syrupy recollection.

In the front of our proverbial book, you'll find recipes, techniques, and nuggets of culinary history, too. We're not going to sell you a sous-vide cooker—or anything else, for that matter. But we might clue you in to the chemistry of churning butter, or the physics of a lemon meringue pie.

Oral history and film work forms the backbone of the SFA. In each issue, we bring you the words of one or two of the men or women whose stories we've collected and preserved. Behind every tomatillo picked, every croaker caught, every pork chop smothered, there is a person with a story to tell. *Gravy* honors these individuals and their life's work.

In keeping with the SFA's overall mission, each issue of *Gravy* sets a communal, multiracial Southern table within its pages. To get a look at previously published articles, navigate to the publications section of www.southernfoodways.org and please be aware that, with *Gravy* 33, the format and content have been updated.

Submissions should be in the range of 500-800 words and must be accompanied by a photograph or other graphic suitable for print. All will be published in black and white so please submit images that will reproduce strongly.

The right to use the illustration must accompany submissions. Please submit illustrations at least two weeks ahead of the deadline so that alternatives may be arranged if necessary.

Email *Gravy* editor Sara Camp Arnold: gravy.sfa@gmail.com

Writers will be paid a modest \$100 for each article accepted. (Remember, the SFA is a non-profit, the sort of non-profit committed to paying writers, no matter how meager financial circumstances dictate pay to be.)

Payment comes on publication of the article. An invoice and completed W-9 should be emailed to Julie Pickett, SFA staffer, at sfadesk@olemiss.edu.

Style Guidelines:

We follow newspaper style in that we avoid gushing or fawning language when referring to people and events.

Our style is always to use a comma before the conjunction in a list of three or more items.

The names of states should be spelled out in full. Never use postal abbreviations.

Generally, regions of the country and their inhabitants are capitalized (the South, Southerners); directions are written in lower case (Jackson is south of Oxford).

We strive to hone a democratic style, when writing about people and places. We do not utilize titles like executive chef, unless distinguishing between people in the same kitchen. We do not capitalize chef.