A Note From the Editor

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Abstract

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Two of the most often repeated criticisms of SKETCH are, "It's just the same authors over and over again," and, "All the stuff is the same."

Since these criticisms stem from the same cause, we believe that the answer is also the same for both.

Any magazine which accepts creative writing only from students has a limited source on a technical campus such as ours. This is only natural, for people who want to make creative writing their vocation or who are interested in literary fields would never pick Iowa State for their training. The writers who come to Ames for their college work, therefore, are interested in writing merely as a hobby, an extracurricular activity.

Their number, naturally, is small, and we cannot expect it to be much larger. But there is this side to the story, too; that many students who have been writing privately for many years are not offering us their manuscripts. Many people, perhaps, have ideas which they would like to write about, but are afraid to do so because they feel there is no place for such things on a campus of this sort.

We feel that the opposite is true. Extracurricular activities are the chief means of such self-expression at a technical school, and therefore twice as important and significant as similar writing at liberal arts schools.

The editorial staff of SKETCH regrets using the same authors over and over, but we can print only what is contributed.

The same trouble is encountered when trying to find variety in material. The reader must remember that all the manuscripts are from students, and considered sociologically, the life of one student is not so very different from that of another.

However, many times it is the little things which make interesting reading. Here again, it is the students who must make the decision. We can only print what is offered, and too many times students consider their experiences too trivial to write about for others. They must remember that what is important to one student is often important to many others—that their problems and scrapes are just as troublesome or humorous to others.

We are not looking for professional writing. We are looking for honest, sincere presentation by a student who has something to say.—M.W.