

Sketch

Volume 42, Number 2

1977

Article 14

1/1/77

Lee R. Roper*

*Iowa State University

Copyright ©1977 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

1/1/77

by
Lee R. Roper
English 4

Drifting balloons of conversation
sail over champagne glasses
both slowly emptying
the old year away,
measuring the hours spent
waiting for the celebration.
“It’s time!” yells the herald
of the corner bar, banging his glass
in rhythm to the flipping television
as if to announce the birth
of his newborn son, first kid since
Abel to renounce the toys of war
and reject a loaded gun
aimed at the temple
of the happy parents.
The old crowd gathers ‘round now
pressing on with roars of laughter
through the swinging double doors
past the ever-watchful Janus
who indeed must truly tire
of men’s broken promises
and phony cease-fires.