from Dr. Pearl Hogrefe

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Abstract

Eighteen years ago, Sketch was born on the Iowa State College campus. Such a magazine had been under discussion for several years; but remembering our quick decision to act and the occasional anxiety of our untried staff, I wonder whether it was born, or came into the world by a Caesarian operation...
Rebirth

This is the first issue of Sketch since its rebirth last spring. It will not please all its readers. We hope it will please most of them. Although the format of the magazine remains the same for this issue, changes are being considered.

To give the magazine broader scope, some non-fiction has been included. We hope this addition meets with approval.

Any suggestions for the improvement of Sketch will be carefully considered and are welcome. Any student or faculty member is invited to contribute to the magazine.

Dr. Pearl Hogrefe, former advisor to the Sketch editorial staff was invited to contribute to this issue. She is now on leave from Iowa State. Her message follows.

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Eighteen years ago, Sketch was born on the Iowa State College campus. Such a magazine had been under discussion for several years; but remembering our quick decision to act and the occasional anxiety of our untried staff, I wonder whether it was born, or came into the world by a Caesarian operation.

After the second issue of the magazine, I asked leave of absence for six months in England. Again in 1952–53, just as Sketch tries its wings for the first time since the all-college election gave it a share of the activity fee, I am on leave. Here at the Folger Shakespeare Library I am using
a grant from the American Association of University Women for research and writing. But as I enjoy the autumn sunshine, watch the platform already being built for the inauguration of a new president, and haunt the library until closing time, I do not forget Sketch.

Perhaps I could not forget if I tried. Most of the time since 1934, Sketch has been my bane or my blessing. My bane? Eccentric hours for meetings of the Publication Board or the editorial staff, hasty conferences to find how high print costs can go or whether the editor will be back in college come September! My blessing? Genuine, enduring friendships of students now scattered from Ames to Boston, Washington, California, and points between.

Perhaps I could not forget because Sketch has given development to many students over a period of years, to its staff members, its readers, and its writers. Among its activities a college needs many mansions: technical ones, social clubs, centers for music, drama, journalism, creative writing. It needs a magazine of creative writing as an outlet for the many-sided individualists who do not live by bread alone—though they know that bread is essential. Some of these individualists become better-adjusted home-keepers, journalists, engineers, scientists because they have looked at life from another dimension outside their own practical field.

Some students who work on the Sketch staff discover initiative, cooperation, friendship. Some who write for the magazine find self-knowledge, awareness of other people, and new personal values. For some students Sketch is a valuable proving ground for professional writing. Here they try their strength and their weakness or find an incentive to continue writing. Stories, poems, and novels of these students are already in print. Other novels are growing quietly for future publication.

It is with pleasure, then, that I send my greetings to members of the Sketch staff, to my former students and to strangers, to the faculty advisors, to any reader who finds pleasure in even one story or poem, and to the newest and humblest freshmen, if any, who help with the magazine. Good luck and a good issue!