Sketch Presents

Abstract

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A cross-section of student writing as varied in tone and form and perspective as life and living are, designed for cover-to-cover reading. Sketch is proud of its contributors; we see honesty, penetrating analysis, and a healthy, if candid, appreciation of "the force of circumstances" in their efforts; we find a growing preoccupation with the individual's meaning in society; we see developing craftsmanship, experimentation in form and perspective, and the ability to balance movement with repose, thought with emotion. Power and unity grow internally, and are not synthetic.

We start with a fable, which deftly does what a fable ought to do—exposes human frailty. There is something almost tangible about the little poem that follows it. Then comes satire, and an unusual perspective for a student in Bernice Fox's aptly titled "Socrates' Assistant." Time next for two vivid reactions to environment, a poem and a prose sketch. Then a frank appraisal of America, underlining our inability even to think about the rest of the world, by a Syrian friend and fellow-student.

"Next Spring," by Helen McElhinney, is far more than a story of unrequired love. There is a realism, a modern quality, about her exposition, and a fine sense of when to stop talking. And, if you want it that way, she may not be talking about love at all. Next, two questioning, searching attempts to define life's meaning, in the poem, "Body and Soul" and the essay, "I Am Afraid." They'll either infuriate you or stimulate new thought. Both are sincere efforts to probe man's metaphysic ignorance; both would weed away wrong answers first.

Dick Ellis, in a neatly-woven story with an appropriate ending, returns us to more mundane matters. Students will recognize an irking problem in "The Outlaw": how to make "authority" realize that we are human beings! And just to prove how very human, read the poem by JJS, Jr.; it says something, says it well, and doesn't say too much. Margret Wallace gives us a child's reaction to the seemingly inescapable "weight of authority" in her "Twelve Years and a Doctor," a picture in juvenile colors, with an irresistible humor and optimism. After that, Sketch offers as deftly written a phantasy as we have seen, Rosemary Moody's "Who Hear a Windsong."

In "Redeployment," by Edwin Sidey, we find authentic atmosphere in a scene which veterans will remember all too well. Is there anything comparable about the aspirations of college students? The approach used in "The Hitchhiker" is just right for us, and makes the title all the more fitting. There is a significant commentary running through this story that speaks for itself. So, too, with JJS, Jr.'s poem, "My House."

The editor wishes to say of Dick Ellis' "Stravinsky" that here is real, lasting poetry! We close with a sophisticated satire on the weaknesses of a people with a "manifest destiny." It accents the underlying theme of this issue.

The Editor