Dr. Pearl Hogrefe

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The first issue of *Sketch* appeared in Spring quarter of 1934. This issue, forty-three years later, is also a first—the first issue which will not be read and appreciated by the woman who brought this magazine into being, Dr. Pearl Hogrefe.

When she came to Iowa State College in 1931, there was no major in English, no College of Sciences and Humanities. Most of her students were engineers, scientists, and majors in agriculture and home economics. But Pearl Hogrefe realized that creative ability is not limited to students of the humanities. She established *Sketch* magazine—in fact, the whole Creative Writing program—on the premise that every person has the potential to become an artist, to transform mundane experiences into powerful and moving insights into the mystery of being human.

We have adhered to her philosophy in the seventeen years since her retirement, and we will continue to practice it. It is the basic strength of Iowa State's Creative Writing program, a program for *all* students, regardless of major or academic level.

Some people say that Pearl Hogrefe died on March 21, 1977. But they are people who do not know her. Those of us who know her, those of us on Writers' Round Table, those of us on the staff of *Sketch*, those of us who take or teach Creative Writing courses at Iowa State, those of us whom she has touched with her wit, her wisdom, her dedication to excellence—we know better. She's looking over our shoulders, deleting an adjective here, suggesting a more vivid verb there, and insisting that we write with honesty and power, that we teach with understanding and integrity.

Earlier issues of *Sketch* included a statement which sums up Pearl Hogrefe's attitude toward the art and craft to which she devoted her life, toward which she continues to direct the lives of so many of us: *We must examine candidly, think honestly, strive to write with power and purpose. We must experiment, improve our craftsmanship, and work to polish and perfect techniques.* That statement appears on the Contents page of this issue, and I hope that it continues to be the standard of excellence for *Sketch* magazine and for the entire Creative Writing program which she founded.

Robert Boston,
a student of
Dr. Pearl Hogrefe