

poet Gary Geddes

Sandra Lee Scheuer

*(murdered at Kent State University on May 4, 1970
by the Ohio National Guard)*

*You might have met her on a Saturday night
cutting precise circles, clockwise, at the Moon-Glo
Roller Rink, or walking, with quick step,*

*between the campus and a green two-story house,
where the room was always tidy, the bed made,
the books in confraternity on the shelves.*

*She did not throw stones, major in philosophy,
or set fire to buildings, though acquaintances say
she hated war, had heard of Cambodia.*

*In truth she wore a modicum of make-up, a brassiere,
and could, no doubt, more easily married a Guardsman
than cursed or put a flower in his rifle barrel.*

*While the armouries burned, she studied,
bent low over notes, speech therapy books, pages
open at the sections on impairment, physiology.*

*And while they milled and shouted on the commons
she helped a boy named Billy with his lisp, saying
Hiss, Billy, like a snake. that's it, SSSSSSSSSS,*

*tongue well up and back behind your teeth.
Now buzz, Billy, like a bee. Feel the air
vibrating in my windpipe as I breathe?*

*As she walked in sunlight through the parking-lot
at noon, thinking the world a passing lovely place,
a young Guardsman, who had his sights on her,*

*was going down on one knee as if he might propose.
His declaration, unmistakable, articulate,
flowered within her, passed through her neck,*

*severed her trachea, taking her breath away.
Now who will burn the midnight oil for Billy,
ensure the perilous freedom of his speech?*

*And who will see her skating at the Moon-Glo
Roller Rink, the eight small wooden wheels
making their countless revolutions on the floor?*

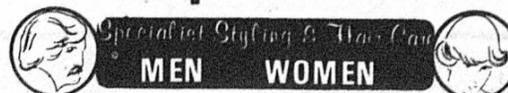
Gary Geddes

The Kent State-Student Activism feature articles of the last week and a half just keep on prompting more reader response. This poem, a tribute to one of the four students slain at Kent State on May 4, 1970, was submitted to Gateway by Gary Geddes, last year's writer-in-residence and presently a visiting instructor with the U of A English department.

Mr. Geddes, author of *War and Other Measures*, as well as several other books of poetry, wrote *Sandra Lee Scheuer* shortly after arriving here in the fall of 1976. The poem was inspired, Geddes says, by perusal of a book concerning the lives of the Kent State victims.

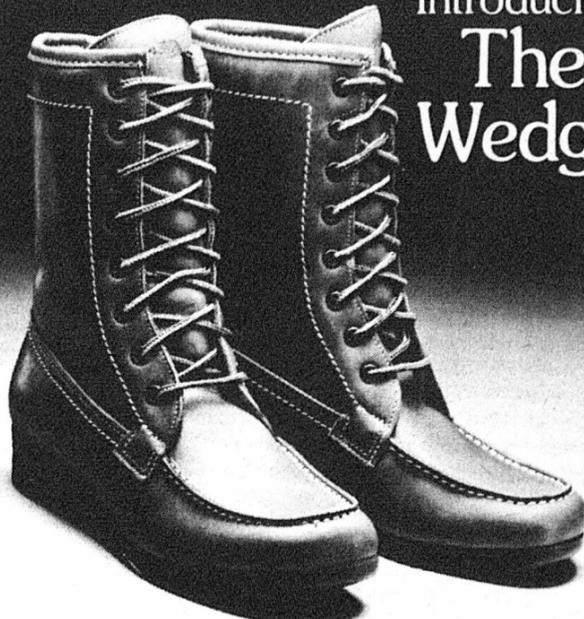
For Geddes Kent State symbolized, among other things, the turning of one generation against another: this short graphic poem eloquently explores this tragic irony.

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What does Ricard
taste like?

Easy!

Ricard tastes just like licor...
...no, I guess I can't really say

just like... but it does when it's straight (almost),
but not in a... um, say a RICORANGE,
with orange juice and grenadine (just
a touch of grenadine)... of course,
serve it with ice water... no, Stanley,
no ice — ice water... and it does taste sort of
like... no, certainly not anything like that. A

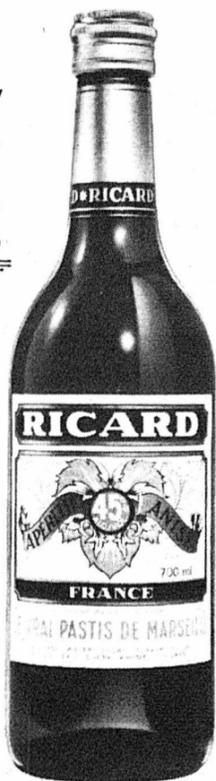
Parakeet is altogether something else. It's made
with soda water — and green Crème de Menthe

and it doesn't taste any-
thing like water (and it
has to be green Crème
de Menthe)... But no
matter what you serve it
with, Ricard still tastes
like... well, like... um...

well, Ricard tastes like what it is. A Pastis. What's
a Pastis? Well, it's made in France... and it

RICARD

tastes like...
well, like...



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