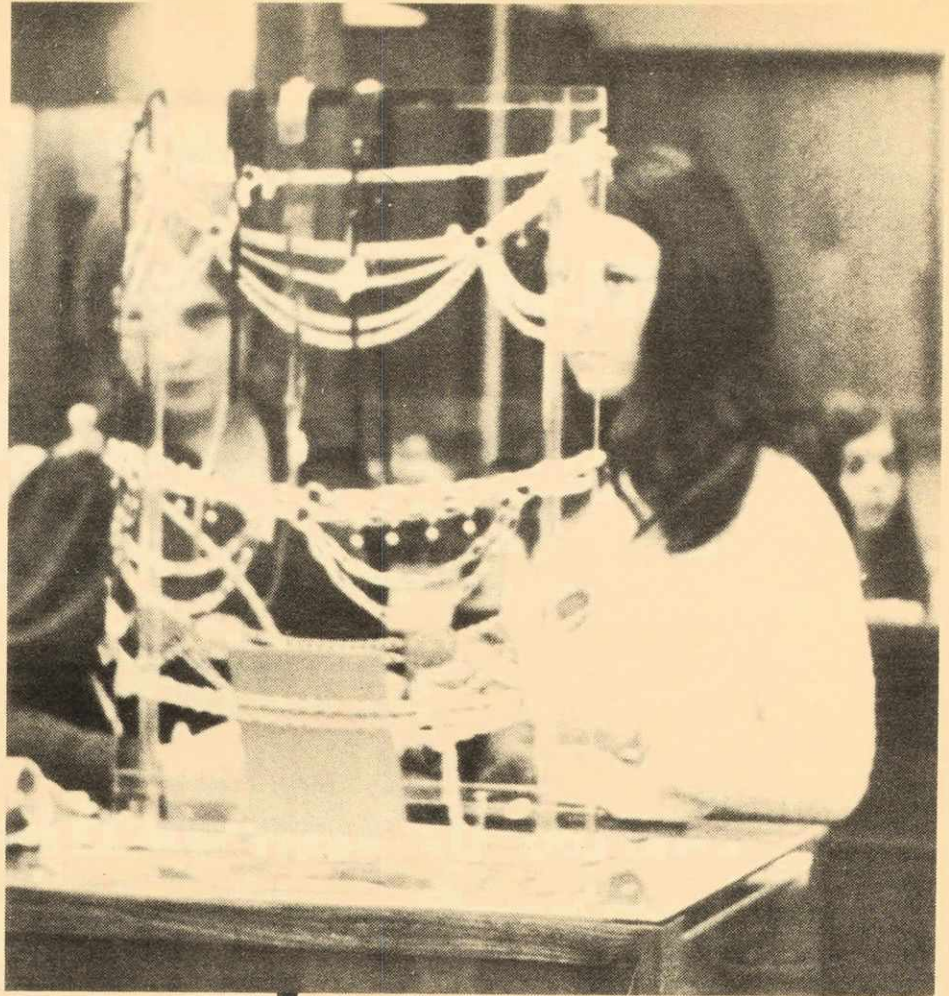


I shall not allure you  
 with dangling adornments  
 Nor entice you  
 with painted face  
 Nor dazzle you  
 with natty garments  
 I shall not please you  
 with a veneer belying my thoughts.  
 No, I shall not come to you cloaked in false beauty  
 only to disillusion you later  
 I shall come bald.

Janet Russo



today  
 i lost my temper.

temper, when one talks of metal  
 means make strong,  
 perfect.

temper, for humans,  
 means angry  
 irrational  
 bad.

today i found my temper.  
 i said,  
 you step on my head  
 for 27 years you step on my head  
 and though I have been trained  
 to excuse you for your inevitable  
 clumsiness  
 today i think  
 i prefer my head to your clumsiness.

today i began  
 to find  
 myself.

tomorrow  
 perhaps  
 i will begin  
 to find  
 you.

Susan Sutheim



They gawk at me  
 as I walk down the sidewalk

But, I shudder when they stare,  
 and want to hide  
 my womanhood  
 from them.

Janet Russo