

THE SEARCHING MIND

by Wayne Anderson

I am a searching student. At least three quarters of my time is spent in search of one thing or another. First thing in the morning I'm looking for a pair of socks with matching holes. Then it's under the chesterfield pillows for money to keep my car happy and climbing hills, or else I'm looking for a service station that sells gas on credit to honest, haggard faces.

I'm looking for a dream girl. She's the one whose perfume fumes would run my car. Sort of "Cherchez la Fume". If she's in the Maggie Jean, I'll start a bus service. I have tried, and although my car runs pleasanter with perfume, it still doesn't run farther. So which is more important, my time and gas, or a Maggie Jeaner's time, exercise, and cold curves? Should I be a gentleman, or drive right home and be a

scholar? Where's the answer. Where's a coin I can flip?

Always searching — for timetables, for classrooms, for a seat in the library. And once I find one (usually the only seat left in the men's room), the more important quest: how best to learn. Names, theories, facts, dates. Is there a sure method, a faster way to read, a means to improved comprehension? It's wisdom and truth I'm after. at the information desk: which book will tell me what I'm here for? Is sex necessary, or just the invention of some fiendish test tube? Tell me, prof, am I supposed to understand this course, or pass it.

Professors, too, search. For non-existent essays; for the Alfred E. Neuman who signed for the course, but never showed; for the heaviest, thickest texts available. Students then search

for essay inspiration, for condensed college outlines. We do know where Alfred is. Maybe we should join him.

The predominant feature of the student mind is lostness. At university they take apart the ideas it took twelve years to mould. The glibly memorized answers fail and tumble under the shattering hammer of reasoned criticism. There are no more easy answers for the hard questions. What do I want? Where am I going? Is there a good life? How can we unbutton the coat of nuclear arms and cure international ulcers? Through smoke and coffee, into the night we grope for the answers. Aha! Enlightenment! The solution! Individuality... Abolish convention... scientific approach... reform in education... disarm! Now to tell the world. Let's march. Let's

sit down in the gutter, if necessary, to demonstrate the superiority of our answers. A crusade—let's save mankind!

By the way, grad of '61, what were your answers? Good Lord! you mean to say that you too had the world problem solved, and you've forgotten the answers. Oh... you put them in the attic with your degree...

Yes, student, I'm using the old ideas again. More serviceable. Who am I to contradict tradition? I mean, why risk the 9 to 5 suburban security? You can't afford to be unrealistic and unpractical once you graduate. You have to take your place in the community.

But the community's all wrong. I found the answers. We, the class of '63 are going to change it

Hush, boy. Someone might hear you.

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