

montage

Montage is your creative arts column. Each week one student's work — poetry, short stories, graphic arts or photography — will be featured. Contributions should be addressed to Kandy Biggs, Excalibur.

This week's Montage presents Mike Snook, a third year Founders student. You may have read some of Mike's poetry in our college publications. He offered me a bulging folder-full to choose from — enough to publish a book. But he says, "I'm not sure about publishing in the same way I'm not sure about professional anything," adding, "but I want people to read my poetry."

His views on poetry — "To me poetry is just what I see

around me — beautiful or ugly — it can be anything as long as it touches me somehow."

Mike wouldn't be definite about his plans for the future — "I really don't know — probably bum around and write poetry."

Unfortunately our space is limited, but here are a few of his poems I particularly liked.

*To what dark corners do you return when you leave me?
You touch me and I glow — in my sleep I turn to you
And breathe against your cheek, soft, the warmth of life.*

*Long golden red strands that make me sneeze
Lie in a tumble about your pillowed head,
And beneath it my arm is asleep, and I leave it there till morning.
To what dark corners do you return when you leave me?*

*And what do you believe in my love?
Do you love me? Or do think of love
Or only the nearness, the touch of closeness.*

*To what dark corners do you return?
Or are they too glowing, light with a memory
a candle bonded to a bottle.*

To what corners do you return when you leave me?



Poet Mike Snook

Photo by Dave Cooper

*I walked out with a naked mind,
And met another man on the street,
And he looked at my thoughts and laughed.*

*I met a woman on the church steps
And she looked at my thoughts
and said,
"I shall pray for you my son."*

*I met a poet in a bar and he
looked at my thoughts,*

And smiled the smile of all knowledge.

*I met a business man in front of the bank,
And he looked at my thoughts and offered me a job.*

*And I met a mirror in a department store
And I looked at my thoughts and walked back into the street.
I walked out, and my mind was clothed.*

*I like the gift she gave me
though she brought it at a moment
when i was expecting nothing
but the sound of my next breathing*

*she brought it unobtrusively
in a package without gummed labels
like the brown paper bags
they hide liquor in*

*she brought it without teasing me
and didn't need a ceremony
to give it to my readiness
waiting without expectancy.*

*Some i suppose would throw a party
a gross affair, swelling a hall
with friends and close associates
to witness the affair.*

*she gave it to me gently, like a breath
almost passively, draws the air
from everywhere, and gives its gift
to everyone.*

*It wasn't the kind of gift you find,
in a catalogue, well tabulated, registered, defined
from every angle for the man
who must be forced to buy.*

*An educated diplomat,
or the woman at the laundromat
could give it just as easily
or so could you, if you knew me.*

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