

Roethke's words prove time

To the Editor:

Re: J. Kenneth Lawless

Gary Groat
eat Poetry

neaveding

what's he

...there have deve... in recent years, whole schools of verbalizers, nerveless, slick and often macabre; squeezers of the obvious, vulgar jostlers with words; cerebral gibberers and wild-eyed affirmers; roaring asses, hysterics, sweet-myself beatniks, earless wonders happy with effects a child of two could improve on; verbal delinquents; sniggering, mildly obscene souserwowwers, this one writing as if only he had a penis, that one bleeding, but always in waltz-time; helter-skelter impressionists and frantic improvisers; pip-squeak euphuists who expand a tiny emotion far beyond its proper size, who make grandiloquent pronouncements on large issues long before they have mastered the smallest of private worlds. We have listened to the gently cadenced murmurings of the sad ironists as well as to the curious yapping language, the blaring explicitness of the professionally 'male poets.' We have seen gifted writers who remain satisfied with random intensities, mildly startling juxtapositions, or a few nippy local effects.

"The trouble probably lies in the age itself, in the unwillingness of poets to face their ultimate inner responsibilities, in their willingness to seek refuge in words rather than transcending them. The language dictates; they are the used. The cohabitation of their images is, as it were, a mere fornication of residues."

Theodore Roethke
Poetry January 1946

May the ghost of Roethke rise up and swish them away with one swipe of his bear-like paw. And I give them another curse. May they be condemned forever to a perpetual reading of their own works.

Geoffrey Gall
Graduate English

Dissent

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to Seth Warner McEvoy for his article, "All Who Dissent Aren't Right." His fantastically objective, informed and logical analysis of what some consider a complex situation did much to straighten my

muddled mind. At last someone of perception and insight has set forth a rational concrete guideline for those idealists, intellectuals, activists, and just plain Americans who are not content with society as it is: "In fighting against society's ... one must be on the side of the ... like you among us how can

Don Carolus
East Lansing, Junior

Generated interest

To the Editor:

I have always thought the ability to generate interest and stimulate intellectual curiosity are important criteria for effective education. I do not know what criteria was used to arrive at the recent decision concerning John Kenneth Lawless.

I am confident that I speak for many of his past and present students in expressing an acute disappointment in the recent news concerning his release as a member of the faculty. Mr. Lawless is an imaginative and exciting lecturer. He is literally bursting with ideas and constantly trying to improve upon his effectiveness. His directness, concern and immediacy usually win him the avid attention of even the most disinterested member of the class.

Although I do not totally agree with his artistic values, I respect them. Mr. Lawless made an important contribution to my intellectual development and broadened my horizons. If this is not the function and goal of every educator, what is?

James Joseph Roby
West Bloomfield, Sophomore

Arabs wrong

To the Editor:

In a letter to the editor, Mr. Meshref said that nine Arab states gave their support to Syria against "the aggressors." What aggressors? I thought that Syria was only at war with Israel. Surely Israel

is not the aggressor! Those are not her soldiers who have crossed the border into neighboring countries to plant bombs and land mines over sixty times in the past two years alone. They are Syria's.

You say that Zionist and imperial powers are backing Israel. Let us see how manage to believe this. Still, powers can easily be balanced against the Communist powers backing the Arab countries. Israel has not had combat troops trained in a foreign land since the end of World War II, while today Syria's Al-Assifa are training in Communist China.

During the Sinai campaign of 1956, Israel was informed of the military intents of Britain and France, and thereupon mobilized her army in only four days, and overran Sinai in four more, without aid from the two larger nations. In fact, it would have been more to Israel's advantage if there had been no other countries involved in the operation.

To my way of thinking, the editors were being quite realistic and honest in what they wrote.

Ann Broomhead
Barrington, R.I.
Sophomore

Defend Red Cross

To the

Asst. Professor of Psychology Mark Rilling says we shouldn't support organizations like the Red Cross with Community Chest donations because war is destructive, the Red Cross "indirectly supports the war in Viet Nam," and Rilling evidently doesn't like the war. (Tuesday's State News.)

Well now, Rilling, the purpose of the Red Cross is to help out people who are unfortunate enough to be involved in a disaster. That might be a tornado in Iowa, a flood in Louisiana (the Red Cross doesn't indirectly support floods or tornadoes) or a war in Viet Nam. I dare say there are

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