

A Pile of Rubble

The Pattern of Simplicity

BY HALLIE AUSTIN

I loathe books reviews; I do. In September, our English class read in *Atlantic* and *Harpers'*. It was a hint that our own had better turn out the same way. I took the hint, but not the habit. Thus, when I was asked to write a review for *Highlife*, I refused . . . till I remembered a very intriguing book.

A Pile of Rubble by Clayton Lee West (there, I mentioned title and author right at the first) appealed to me because it was so gloriously simple. Not because I have a simple mind, understand, but because I was glad to find such a simple book.

A Pile of Rubble is the story of a little girl who grows up to be a woman, naturally. All her life, she throws different objects in a rubble pile. As a child, Mary Smith (the common name indicates a normal child) makes a ritual of her habit. In impressive ceremonies, she throws different possessions upon the growing heap.

No pattern to what she gives up or when, several months often pass before she consecrates another article, and the articles themselves range from dolls to tooth brushes to socks. Her parents woke up on various nights to find Mary not in bed, and rushing outside, saw her putting personal property on the mass of goods, and chanting the words, "Stay here, stay here, I shall return."

The victory of West and his book appears when Mr. and Mrs. Smith asks a psychiatrist to analyze Mary. Neither Mary nor her actions can be analyzed. One feels like shouting "Ha, ha," to all the modern worlds amateur psychiatrists. There seems to be a fad of asserting that everyone can be analyzed by some of their more brilliant fellow human beings and placed into some nicely indexed files, only to be called forth when the same intellectuals are propounding one of their own astounding truths.

Mr. West provokes thought as he expounds on amateur psychia-

try by criticizing the Smith parents for calling a psychiatrist. Mary, a B student, harmed no one in her simple rites. It was something from which she derived satisfaction, not an indication of a mental disorder. Illustrating by the shock of the Smiths when they learned Mary could not be analyzed, West warns us not

to set aside as aberrant those people who digress from conform-ity.

A Pile of Rubble is refreshing, unrestrained, and unaffected. It demands particular attention in a world where those works which deal with some mental stigma constantly received notice.

The Exchange Desk

By Judy Lavine

Our exchange files have accumulated quite a bit of interesting information over the past few months. Take, for example, the following facts from *The Evanstonian*, Evanston Township High school, Evanston, Illinois.

A survey shows that the composite bedroom of a teenager has 7.57% pictures of the Beatles (thus disapproving conclusively the Beatle Backlash), 3.34% stop signs swiped from street corners, .001% textbooks, 1.23% telephones, a collection of 23.12% cafeteria utensils, and 4.39% old examinations. While the final results are in, only one fact is definitely known—100% of the bedrooms have beds.

Valentine's Day may be over, but the following formula is still something to try! It came from *The Pointer*, High Point Central High School, High Point, N. C.

Mathematics has the reputation of a coldly logical, heartless branch of learning. But with the aid of a compass, straight edge and paper, you can prove the assumption invalid. Proceed as follows:

1. Draw a line segment AB one and a half inches long in the center of your paper.
2. Construct a perpendicular bisector of AB intersecting at O. Call it XY.
3. Measure OY two and a half inches long.
4. With A and B as centers and a radius of seven eighth of an inch, construct arcs intersecting XO at C and AB extended at points M and N, respectively.
5. Construct a perpendicular bisector of MY and let it intersect arc CN at D.
6. Using DY as radius and D as center, construct an arc from M to Y.
7. In like manner construct an arc from N to Y using a point on arc MC as center.
8. Write an appropriate saying in the construction. (Example: I love Math!)

Something I've got to see:

(oooh . . . such grammar) The students at Baltimore City College, an all boys high school in Baltimore, Maryland, have announced plans for their junior prom in *The Collegian*. The prom will be held aboard a train. The train will depart from a local station, travel around trip of 100 miles with music being piped into eight specially-wired cars which the train company is decorating especially for the occasion.

1965 May Court

In the final balloting on March 8, Vickie Gunter was chosen to serve as Grimsley's Queen of May. Vickie will reign over a court of seventeen girls who were elected by their respective classes as the loveliest representative.

Bry Richardson was elected to be Senior Maid of Honor with Dee Dee Zane and Pam Frazier holding that position in their respective classes.

The remaining court members are Kathy Courtney, Lynda Jones, Claudia McGill, Sarah Pearce, Miriam Smith, Barbara Straughn, Lynn Wentworth, Carol Zane, Becky Ball, Corrie Hutton, Huttie Kent, Janice Sprinkle, Lynn Marshall, and Jane Murray.

Although the theme cannot be disclosed, Ellen Taylor, Co-chairman of the May Day Committee reports that the court will wear formal dresses which help carry out this year's central theme.

Tribute To Hemingway SF Story By Bradbury

BY JOHN TAYLOR

In the January 22 issue of *LIFE* magazine, an article appears entitled, "The Kilimanjaro Machine." The author is Ray Bradbury, a well-known figure to science fiction buffs. The first thought to cross one's mind on seeing this story is, "Oh, no, another one of those way-out stories." But this is not so. A master of well crafted science fiction, Bradbury states the thought of the story very simply. "The Kilimanjaro Machine" is my effort—my long need put down in words—to make do with a terrible fact that came into the lives of all of us who knew and admired one man, a special writer. In dying he left us with a mystery and a sense of unease. I tried but could find no way to throw off the pall that settled upon me after his death.

"Then, not long ago, I happened on a newspaper article. A reporter had gone to Ketchum, Idaho, to look around and interview the locals. There he found a hunter who remembered well. He remembered seeing the writer often—head bent in thought, health obviously failing—walking down the road. 'That poor old man on the road,' the hunter said.

"The phrase hit me hard. I simply had to get that old man off the road. I could not leave

him there." The quote is referring to Ernest Hemingway and this story is Bradbury's tribute to "the old man on the road."

The plot of the story, though old, is approached from a new angle. Perhaps this is part of the reason for the quality of the story. The main idea of the story is the old "Time Machine" theme that no good science fiction writer can stay away from and hope to remain good. However, this approach is a fresh one and is well presented so the old idea does not wear badly.

The theme of the story consists of "getting the old man off the road." This, through the use of the time machine, is accomplished smoothly. The underlying theory of this work is that there are graves along the road for everyone and if it were possible we would pick the one which suits us best. Or in other words, there are times to die and times not to die and Bradbury thinks that Ernest Hemingway would have liked to pick the time which suited him best.

This story cannot actually be classified as sincere fiction. The fact that there is a time machine is only placed in the story for the author to use as a tool to get his theory across. In this particular story he succeeded. The story serves as a way out for those who pondered the "why" of the death which came at the wrong time to "the old man on the road."

The Gypsy Travelers To Drama Festival

Members of the one act play, *The Gypsy*, will travel to Louisville College to compete in the District Drama Festival on March 27.

The Gypsy, which is a tragedy in one act, will star Patti McCall as Nora, a maid; Bobby Ferrell, a stage hand; Vivian Ferguson as Zita, a prima donna; and Bob Bowden as Paolo Polini, an opera singer.

All four are members of the Dramatics class. Bob Bowden, who is the president of the Playmasters, is also playing a part in the three-act play, *One Foot in Heaven*, which is to be presented on the high school stage April 1.

Patti, who is also a member of the first debate team, and Bobby are both playing leading parts in the three-act play.

Vivian Ferguson is fairly new comer to the stage but is already showing much feeling in her voice and action. She is acting as chairman of the ticket committee for *One Foot in Heaven*.

G.H.S. Debate Teams

Prepare For Tournament

Members of the GHS debate teams were recently announced by Miss Causey and are now preparing for an all day tournament to be held at Southeast High School tomorrow.

First team affirmative debaters are Janice Younts and Jay Pringle, while negative members are Patti McCall and David Rogers. Ronnie Galimore and Art Bulla are second team affirmative speakers, and Mike Cole and Neal Rabin are debating negative.

This year's national debate topic is: Resolve, that Nuclear Weapons should be controlled by an International Organization.

On March 12 and 13, the teams debated in a meet held at Wake Forest College. Results of that contest, however, were not available by press time.

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