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BUTLER UNIVERSITY

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CONTEST MATERIAL

Each spring the department conducts a contest in creative writing among the students in the university. Following are the contributions which received first place in the short story and poetry divisions.

FREE WILL

Louis J. Foerderer

Alone in my closet by a full-length mirror
 I slowly stripped all the trappings away
 I willed myself an Olympian god
 Lifted my chin, tightened an arm, breathed in,
 For a moment Apollo posed for me.
 The animal portion next I willed to see
 And furry goat legs formed—
 A leaf from Eden trembled down.
 Flippantly then I willed my soul;
 I waited, "My Soul" I cried aloud.
 No change appeared in limb or leaf.
 Feverishly I traced over in the glass
 Each muscle, hair, pulsing artery.
 Peered deeply into shallow eyes
 Reflecting a shadowed face by mine
 That quickly stirred then darted away.
 I dressed anew but could not escape
 That distant face or those shallow eyes,
 I search yet, wonderingly, in my glass;
 I cannot lock my closet door.