MSS

BUTLER UNIVERSITY
MSS is published by the English Department of Butler University once each semester. The material included is written by the students in the Freshman English classes and in the Creative Writing and Advanced Composition classes.

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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.