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Editor's Comments

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This is the first issue of *Calliope* to be published since Western became a university.

Another feature of this issue that has caused some comment, and indeed a certain amount of controversy, is that of publishing poems by John Ciardi and John Woods. According to some, this act is totally unprecedented and is not in keeping with a "student literary magazine." What, then, is the reason for publishing material written, not by students, but by "outsiders?" Questions such as this do rate an answer, and I will attempt to enumerate the reasons that prompted our action.

Calliope is, first of all, the campus literary magazine, and is not subtitled, as many think, the campus *student* literary magazine. One might assume, then, that contributions need not be limited to students alone. Furthermore, our purposes are to publish as good a magazine as is possible and to encourage students on our campus to write. One can hardly doubt that publishing poems written by nationally known poets will do anything but raise the quality and standards of the magazine. It also gives aspiring college writers the opportunity to use the poems written by competent poets as models, and we hope it will encourage students to write and submit their work for publication.

It should also be pointed out that on a national basis this policy of publishing the works of noted writers is not without precedence. In the May 1958 issue of *Mademoiselle* there is an article which states that the Yale *Lit* and various other college literary magazines are publishing the works of well-known writers for the same reasons that we are publishing them. Hence, when the editors of *Calliope* decided to publish works by Ciardi and Woods, it was not without reason, and we felt completely justified in our actions.

We must not forget the students who submitted their work to *Calliope* for consideration. Unfortunately some of the efforts are not included in this issue. The most difficult task the editor has is deciding what material will be printed and what material must be rejected. We have been compelled, by necessity, to omit some of the material that was submitted to us. It is our hope that the omission of material from this issue will not discourage the writers whose work did not *quite* measure up to the quality of the material that we printed, and that they will continue their writing efforts even though they were not published in this issue.

Phil Adams