Ambi-Valiants

Clarence A. Amann
St. John Fisher College

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Hey!
Just when we
thought we had
this hero business
all straightened out,
along comes this
startling
confusion of images . . .
What are you
newsguys
trying to do to us,
de-mythologize again
"the American hero"?
You just got through
taking him
out of war
and,
keeping him
in flag-festooned
khaki surrogates,
sent him into space!
And now this
gap-bridging handclasp!
Wow!
Next you’ll tell us
that hair,
even shoulder-length,
can hide a brain
as true
to some saner sense
of red-white-and-blue
loyalty
as drives astranautical crania,
short hair cased,
to obsessive dreams
of US footsteps
very first
upon the moon . . .
and then maybe
that breasts unarmored
by medals and ribbons
and pretty regimental patches
(and maybe even bare
except for lathern peace insignia
and/or beads of love
only yesterday patently
subversive)
might housel

nobler sacrifice
of life
than bleeding it out
in foxholes or
muddy rice paddies;
that such a breast
might even harbor
hopes
for "law and order"
get another way
than wrenched by riot guns
and mace
in violent victory
validated by
weaponry
and rocketry;
that peace
might even
combust
spontaneously
(in spite of everything)
in hippied halls
of M.I.T.
or Harvard
or Center City
Junior College,
Center City,
U. S. A.

Clarence Amann

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