The Archetype

On Saturday night the pimply young men go up to the record stores and look through the albums.

They are waiting for a beautiful girl without morals or panties to pick them up in the Soul Section, but no one ever does.

Occasionally some other unattractive youngsters come in with their iron underwear and curfews but even if they meet and go out the evening is a disappointment:

All the girls will kiss, some will be stroked, a few will succumb completely but none of them will act as depraved as the myths suggest.

The problem is that many teenage boys are still brought up on locker-room hyperbole -- Tiajuana donkey acts, electric gizmos and French ticklers.

And it always makes me sad when I drive by and see them in there looking for a new album by Pizza Bob &

The Carbuncles

while I am ten times as happy alone in my car with the donkey braying, the gizmo buzzing and the antlers of my Gallic toy waving in the breeze.

They Laughed When I Went Out Disguised As A Cupcake

The reverential treatment of support stockings (hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously)

was the first thing I noticed. Then yesterday in the market I stood behind some of the snack-mad

ladies from the Christian college: they have the oddest bodies I have ever seen. And the worse diets.

Still it doesn't take Sigmund Freud to figure out why they stuff themselves. There they are, after all,

trapped in Consecrated Tech with a drawerful of girdles and a curfew that begins at dawn. But why are they

all so heavy-legged? Can God himself be helping them to resist the desires of the flesh: "What lovely

thighs." "Those are my ankles." "Oh, well, goodnight."

They are in trouble up there, that much is for sure. Their dormitories are a symphony of despair:

dreams from those chocolate pies, painful visions of stork and gazelle. I hear their unhappiness

as I crouch beneath their window in my disguise, the creme-filled answer to a fat girl's dreams.

The Robe

Everyone is afraid of a cheap, terrycloth robe. They are scared to death of the nursing-home material.

In their dreams the gorgeous nurse somehow detects their better qualities. But waking bad-breathed and clumsy, they fear that nubby cover.

Blue or white, beach-striped or brown

it looks like hell and only hangs from arm and shank,

moving with the paunch curtained at the groin clinging at the straining calf.

-- Ronald Koertge

Pasadena, CA