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"Knit Your Boy a Strait-Jacket"

By THOMAS McGRATH

This is a time when men
Will mount a squads-left mind on a squads-right frame
And send the athlete's feet searching for death.

Time then to praise
The footless, the feeble, the jake-leg, the cancerous nose.
Now shall necrosis be burden for song.
We shall list for the mitral murmur as for first spring bird.

The deformed
Shall be counted happy, and the happy idiot who shall not be
harméd.

The harelip shall cut off his arm,
The college boy break trigger finger.
Family trees shall be consulted, but evidence of insanity
must be photostated.

The hard boys riding the blinds through the lean states
Will invite the freight yard accident, provoke the gut-shoot-
ing brakie,

All shall sharpen traps against the time
When man is wolf to man.

In such a time
Call the dead happy. Give a prize
For the unhealthy and the wealthy but not the wise.