

## Make A Wish

by Ron Sanford

As I've gotten older, I look in the mirror less.  
Call it spiritual growth.  
Call it a knee-jerk reaction.  
I can't see myself as I used to.  
When I was young, I picked up this sliver of sophomoric truth and ran with it,  
Not knowing how others see me,  
Obsessed with an exterior I had to live up to.  
I indulged myself in narcissistic sublimation,  
Was it confidence, arrogance or a defense mechanism?  
Now, I am a battled-scarred 47-year-old,  
Attempting to label what I see when I look in the mirror.  
I can't say I haven't been blessed, just to be here...  
Although life has passed me unceremoniously.  
A plain Jane is fine with me!  
No jewelry or hair dye.  
We are co-servants,  
One is our leader,  
We are followers.  
A perfect person I will never find in a mate.  
So I feel great to be able to understand simple truths,  
To pass the time not surrounded by myself,  
But to accept those things which I cannot change.  
The past is gone and can't be changed.  
I have no need to look in the mirror anymore,  
I'm off to the next challenge.  
Sometimes what you feel is more reliable than what you see...  
Close your eyes and make a wish to be happy with who you are...

## Reflection

by Steven R Miller

I stand in the doorway of an abandoned brownstone,  
Staring long into a dirty window pane,  
Questions of sanity,  
Smear my vanity.

My reflection tells me nothing concrete,  
Just repeats what others see.  
Pants a little worn at the knees  
Five o'clock shadow at 6 a.m.  
Grime embedded under the nails.  
Clearly last night was hell,  
As well as the day before.  
Threadbare shirt,  
What others think hurts,  
Only a little.

Unreflected,  
Certainly unexpected,  
Is a heart of gold  
A soul that truly cares,  
But is scared.

Years of use, abuse, being obtuse,  
Still can't really hide all I've hidden inside.  
If you look deep into the windows of my soul...  
You can see  
All I want to be  
Hope to do  
I'm really not that different from you.

## PUZZLES

By Grace Badik

Answers on page 6

### Crossword

- Across
- "A pox on you!"
  - Engine part
  - Like farmland
  - Wanting company
  - Less than stellar Joes
  - Something an intern can never be
  - Gets ready to swing
  - Doctors for old-timers
  - Glut
  - Put into words
  - Old
  - Catch some rays
  - Medicinal amt.
  - Scissors cut
  - I still call it centrifugal
  - A Beattle bride
  - Blvd.
  - Kind of testing
  - "Rocks"
  - Bug
  - Medic
  - Not needed
  - Squeaks (out)
  - Canine cry
  - Farm pen
  - Nope, Chuck \_\_\_\_\_
  - .001 inch
  - Attack, with "into"
  - I'll Be There For You, among Friends
  - Civic Scotsman
  - Something comparable across the pond
  - Best suited
  - Dragonboat heroes
  - Assignations
  - Store posting: Abbr.
  - Bard's "before"

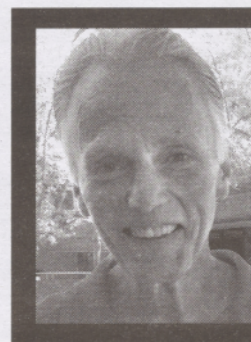
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- Down
- An anatomical depression
  - Sluggish
  - Supremely spooky
  - Jacket
  - Arabic boys name, in the plural
  - Umpire
  - Italian wine town
  - Flightless birds
  - Catkins
  - Brazilian Music
  - Romanian cash
  - Uncommon sense
  - Records
  - Health resort
  - Of a pouch of tissue
  - Purse item
  - Bond
  - Pakistani language
  - Fool
  - Treasure map distances
  - West Pointer
  - Call up
  - Gotta have it
  - Canal site
  - For fear that
  - Rest In Peace
  - Part of a heartbeat
  - Dylan O'Brien in "Teen Wolf"
  - To ranch for hire
  - Like some cycles
  - What is this, a drill for wood?
  - Get used (to)
  - Noted Virginia family
  - New Jersey five
  - X-ray units
  - Antiquity, once
  - Hit maker?
  - Spring mo.

### Sudoku

4								
			2		4			
	9	6	1				8	
		5			6	7		
						3		
		1	3		4	8		9
6			2	9			7	
	8	9						
1		3						5

The objective of Sudoku is to fill in all the blank squares with the correct numbers from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



*This man works.  
So does Street Roots.*