

There has been much criticism of the electronic media, Radio and Television, for their lack of response to the needs of the public. Part of the assault is justified. Occasionally, however, there appears on the scene a radio program of such outstanding quality, all which has gone before pales by comparison.

So it was with WNEW's Sunday News Closeup entitled, "A Child, Again," a half-hour long documentary which was tantamount to eavesdropping on a soul.

The concept was really quite simple. WNEW reporter Steve Young, who had read the Newsweek article keyed to the hippie movement early in the Fall of 1967, spent dozens of hours scouring New York's "East Village" for any trace of a girl named "Marcy", who played a major part in the published study.

He found her and several friends shortly after they'd been evicted from their "Crash Pad," hippie jargon for a place to live.

Young took the youthful dropouts to his home and there recorded a shattering interview with 19 year old Marcy, a document which amounted to an indictment of middle class society and a subliminal attack on the hippie movement itself.

Perhaps the most telling feature of the program was Marcy's end of a conversation with her mother and father at their home in Michigan. The air was charged with electricity as the young runaway tried to explain her feelings toward her family, her activities among the underground generation, her reasons for living as she does. It was not necessary to hear the other end of the conversation. Marcy's stream of consciousness utterances were enough; bitter, tormented, devastating in their confused, drug-fogged sincerity.

"A Child, Again" has now been made available free of charge, to all educational institutions in the country because of our belief that it may well be the most incisive document ever recorded on the misdirection of some segments of our society.

Alan R. Walden, Director, WNEW Radio News