Words not said

"You'd not swap him for the world", she purred,

Lame, knocked for comfort.
Comfort? My God. Head and limbs cockeyed:
Not swap?

*Well then: boys your age don't read Noddy.
Don't do cut out dolls
Nor wag a length of string for pleasure.
So what?*

Chaps your age think they're great,
Somebody;
Cut a dash with the girls,
Shave, talk racy, cockily measure
For size

*You struggle for learning, stubborn, yet
forgetting difference,
Speak with assurance of fabulous
Promise*

Lads in step with manhood Know a
Thing,
Sit exams, stand tall,
Loll in seared grasses with Lovely Ones
And Kiss

*You butt your body's weight, let fly at
Sheepish muscles and,
Pond'rous, frail, manhandle feckless legs
Like freight ...*

... while the go-all blades beef balls
about
And shout. They heave their
Shoulders in the scrum, all here-we-
come
For fight

*Sure, I'd scotch the tumbled chromosomes,
Scupper the Bad Guy
Who baulks your days. I'd crank the engine's
Turbo.*

Diana Davenport

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Announcement

Third International Congress on Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome

26-29 June 2005, Robinson College, Cambridge, UK

Papers are invited on the following topics:

Oral and poster presentations, discussion, roundtables

1. What have we learned about SDS? Clinical features; genetic diagnosis
2. Where are we now? Epidemiology; molecular biology; management of clinical problem: gastrointestinal; nutritional; blood & bone marrow; growth & skeletal; oral & dental; developmental & psychological
3. Where are we going? International collaboration; registries & databases; prospects for new treatments: genetic; immunogenetic; pharmacological

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