

WORD POWER

By BILL SHERK

How's your biological rhythm?

Our bodies are accustomed to a daily rhythm of approximately 24 hours in length — and there's a word for this rhythm: circadian. It literally means "about one day" (from Latin: circa — around, approximately; dies — day).

All of us are influenced by this rhythm. If you fly non-stop half-way around the world your circadian rhythm (or biorhythm) becomes upset. Some large corporations prohibit their executives from making any major decisions within 24 hours after flying through several time zones. The upset to their circadian rhythm can impair their judgement for several hours.

If any of your friends are marine animals living on a continental shelf, chances are their circadian rhythm is 25 hours long, not 24. This extra hour is added because of the influence of the tides.

And now for today's neologism: antspantsitis. This dread malady occurs most often in spring and can only be cured by travelling. I leave it to you to figure out the precise definition.

In today's test, circle or underline the choice that comes closest in meaning to the key word. Answers below.

- 1) poignant — a) tasty; b) painfully sharp; c) repugnant; d) mournful; e) lonely
- 2) altruistic — a) selfish; b) amorphous; c) vacillating; d) oscillating; e) unselfish
- 3) ascetic — a) artistic; b) religious; c) self-denying; d) ethical; e) moral
- 4) idyllic — a) rustic; b) indolent; c) utopian; d) indigent; e) chimerical
- 5) stentorian — a) musical; b) loud; c) belligerent; d) obnoxious; e) rapacious
- 6) portentous — a) stout; b) futuristic; c) mysterious; d) ominous; e) unpredictable
- 7) auspicious — a) favourable; b) agreeable; c) compliant; d) resilient; e) suspicious
- 8) bucolic — a) vegetarian; b) diseased; c) pastoral; d) dyspeptic; e) coarse
- 9) salacious — a) wise; b) lascivious; c) succulent; d) sumptuous; e) sybaritic
- 10) antediluvian — a) old-fashioned; b) inundated; c) immersed; d) anthropoidal; e) undulating

ANSWERS: 1b), 2e), 3c), 4a), 5b), 6d), 7a), 8c), 9b), 10a)

After The Harder They Come

Hero parades survival tricks in style

By IRA MICAY

Smile Orange is the new picture by Trevor Rhone, the director of the successful West Indian film, *The Harder They Come*.

The title refers to the orange colour of the uniform worn by the waiters at the Mocha Beach Hotel, a tacky Jamaican resort for middle class Americans vacationing on Packaged tours.

Ringo Smith, the film's hero (played by Carl Bradshaw, also from T.H.T.C.) is one of these waiters. Ringo represents both in his profession and character a kind of black populist hero, not unlike the type Paul Newman played as a lovable white con man in *The Sting*.

On a typical island morning, Ringo is up early to steal his brother-in-law's car for the trip to the hotel. He has his first zipless fuck of the day 10 minutes later with a girl he picks up on the way.

At the hotel he wastes no time coming on to the attractive switchboard operator, who promises to help him avoid his wife when she comes looking for him and the car.

As he explains to the busboy in his apprentice at the hotel dining room, Ringo is a "cock man". He gives to women what they want most; in return they grant him favours.

Ringo's methods are those of an enterprising, hustling, black trying to stay ahead in the white world. During the film he tutors his new busboy fresh from the sugar cane fields: "If you're a black man and you can't play a part, you're gonna starve to death."

The Americans vacationing in Jamaica are portrayed as vulgar idiots, mostly fat, always complaining about something, all fair game for Ringo's hustles.

A subtle point is made about the varying sexualities of the visiting white tourists and the native

blacks serving them. The Americans are often portrayed as out of touch with their sexual appetites, and either pigging it on the free food of their package deal vacations, or complaining about everything from the service to the inevitable cockroaches in their rooms. The black natives are oblivious to all the small complaints; they're too busy looking for a good time to notice these small details.

There are poignant moments in it as well. A pretty black girl is disappointed when the young tourist she's been cultivating returns to America without her.

Although the film is a monster hit to audiences in the West Indies, *Smile Orange* isn't likely to knock Barry Lyndon off the cash gross page of *Variety*. It opened last Friday at the Danforth Theatre with a modest publicity campaign. It is an entertaining perspective on a culture vastly different from our own.

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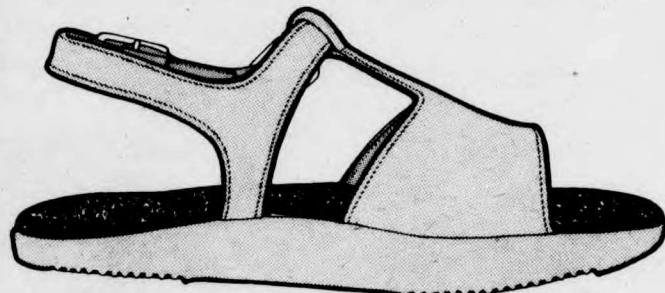
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