

# IT'S 1970 LET'S TAKE A LOOK

We're heading into the seventies. We've weathered the sixties and that alone automatically puts a restriction on any blind optimism we might feel that everything is going to be peaches and cream in the future. If things are to get

better (and we can't help feeling they will) we are all going to have to work at it. It won't be easy—the sixties proved that. So before we leap into the fray, let's look at the decade just past. Where did we go? What were the issues? The triumphs? The lessons?

## Youth

Now there's a loaded issue! Every time a youth movement rears its head it wears a new disguise that always, *always* enrages its elders. Yet if there's hope for the seventies at all it springs from the fact that the youth of the sixties spoke with such a strong social conscience—no matter where they were—in Canada or in the world. And what gladdened our battered old hearts so much was that they were so often *right*. This large, noisy, vital part of our society was working, actually working to right some of the wrongs in our world. And they did it with that marvelous sense of show biz that just naturally got attention and, better yet, results. So rant on you elders, if you must, about their looks or their habits or their attitudes. But don't get too carried away. The object of your scorn—that single, defiant young person is, without doubt, the most valuable commodity this battle-torn century has yet produced.

## Population explosion

Have you noticed that discussions about this problem always seem to end in a general kind of depression? You get the feeling that even while you're talking, the birth rate of the world churns on, making any kind of suggestion you might have seem rather silly. We know the feeling. Except we put our faith in another explosion: the technology explosion. Man has always had a marvelous capacity for dealing with problems at hand. This will be no exception. It seems to us that the same kind of dedication that sent man to the moon must now turn to the problem of feeding, clothing and housing every citizen of the world. We think the seventies will see the first big steps taken towards this goal.

## Pollution

Need we even mention it? Can there still be holdouts against cleaning up our world? We think not. Any person who thinks, breathes, sees or hears knows that the time is now—not ten years from now—but now. And who knows? Maybe in the mid seventies Canadians will once more go to their beaches to swim, instead of sitting on the littered sands watching the hazy sun dance on the waves and feeling sad because they know it's also dancing on a build-up of pollution-loving algae, dying or dead fish, and tons upon uncounted tons of senseless filth. Have we any suggestions? Yes. Keep getting angry—the angrier the better. Because time, as we all know, is running out.

## Space travel

Four men have walked on the moon. Incredible! And while we may remember the events as 1969's best television spectacles, inside each of us we carry the eery knowledge that four men *have actually walked on the moon!* We would like to salute the skill and courage of everyone in all countries who contributed to this remarkable feat. Was it just us, or did everyone get the feeling that while the moon was inhabited those of us who were down here looking up had a feeling of community—world community? And on a more ethereal level, we can't help feeling that the expansion of man's horizons is a necessary thing. In each of us there seems to be this small hungering outward—perhaps to a return.

## Responsibility

There's a new style in politics. Our leaders are beginning to present government for what it is—people. Not some invisible, fog-shrouded machine that endlessly protects, rewards, or taxes us but people grappling, wisely or not, with the issues of the day. We think this is good because the issues inevitably bounce back onto us and we must act. We become the responsible ones. This trend will grow in the seventies. It will spread to include all forms of government, large corporations, any and all projects made up of people whose actions affect other lives. If the sixties taught us anything, they taught us once and for all that we are a community. Anyone who saw the pictures of the earth taken from the Apollo space crafts now knows that for better or for worse, in sickness or in health, peacetime or war, we are all in this together.

## War

Must it always be with us? Perhaps as long as we view it and speak of it dispassionately it always will be. There must be few families in this country who don't have at least one member who has actively participated in one war or another. Yet we tend to accept it as a kind of natural state, a time measurement—"we moved here during the war" . . . "Grandpa married her just after the great war" . . . "Susie was born just before Ken was shipped overseas". War is not inevitable. Perhaps we should be more passionate about it. Perhaps we should take our cue from youth and fight it as passionately as we would any other cruel injustice. Youth has found it hard to hate another people as an enemy. In some quarters this may be called treason but we view it as a first step to what might be a marvelous new age.

## Discrimination

Certainly the sixties gave us ample opportunity to examine this age-old ill. It became the basis of revolutions, street warfare, political campaigns. And yet, of all the issues of the sixties, this was the easiest to decide which side was right. For all their carefully planned, "sensible" arguments, the discriminators eventually revealed the hysterical kind of fear that is always the base of their beliefs. But they have their role: they force us to look deep into our own consciousness and rid ourselves of any trace of this same irrational fear we may find. The seventies are going to be full enough of rational problems without having to expend energy on irrational ones. Surely by now we have learned that discrimination is morally wrong, cruel, and worst of all, a senseless waste of human potential.