

By Herb Breithaupt



Do you become middle-aged when you hit 27, 32, 38? How about the old adage that middle-age and life begin at 40? That particular bit of wisdom is borrowed from the title of a book which is itself, by anyone's definition, well into middle age — about half way through the fifth decade.

Some younger people believe that turning 25 is reaching the outer limit of human obsolescence. But a woman in her mid-seventies recently told me that the most significant, if not

traumatic, birthday of her life was her fortieth. And a forty year old said, "I can't wait to see what I'll be when I grow up."

What is middle age? The standard answer: when all the policemen look young, when the steps get steeper and the print gets smaller. Some time ago I got my first pair of glasses and wondered why this was necessary. The doctor assured me that I was right on schedule.

For many years I believed that anyone ten years older

that I was entering middle age. But I've finally given in, and at the rate the years pass, it will soon be anyone ten years younger.

So for our purposes here, let's agree that middle age is between 40 and 60.

Middle agers seem to attract little attention compared to the young and the old. By the way, you know about Opportunities for Youth, but did you know there is a new and fast growing organization called The Gray Panthers?

The members like the name better than Senior Citizens.

Anyway, middle agers, unite and take heart in the knowledge that you have been dubbed by one sociologist as the invisible indispensable. If you are part of that one fifth of the population between 40 and

60, you belong to the group that occupies most of the seats of power, foots the bills and makes the decisions profoundly affecting how the other four fifths will live. You are part of the command generation with its own agonies and its own pleasures.

Which brings to mind the cartoon with the very unhappy man sitting at the bar talking about his troubles. The caption has the bartender saying, "Okay, so you're 40, you've lived half your life. Look at the bright side. If you were a horse, you'd already be dead 15 years ago."

It hasn't been that long since the life expectancy of a human was about 25 years. Middle age is sort of a modern phenomenon. Prehistoric man lived about 18 years. The Greeks and Romans averaged 33. As recently as 1900 the life expectancy on this continent was less than 50. And, sad to report, for about two-thirds of the world's population middle age is still a luxury of western culture.

While re-reading the above I discovered one of my typing errors at the line about middle agers making decisions profoundly affecting how the other four-fifths live. I had typed "love" instead of "live". And my main point about middle age was to have been that life can no longer be deferred to some future date, and therefore the ultimate wisdom of middle years is to learn to live now. Allow me to repeat the error. The ultimate wisdom of middle years is to learn to love now.



Amen

Karl Shuesler

I hope I'm not embarrassing you, Pepper. But nowadays it seems quite proper to talk about the most intimate of things. Things you wouldn't dare speak about in the open years ago. Unless of course they were relegated to back rooms and quiet corners. Or discussed in whispers and in unmixing company.

But no longer. Everyone is talking about vasectomies and hysterectomies and abortions. Straight out. Eye to eye. Person to person. Parson to parson.

So I hope you won't mind, Pepper. When I talk about your very personal problem. About those-way-too-many kittens you're having.

You've got to start limiting your family. But a lady wrote me and told me in no uncertain terms that this is my problem.

She didn't see things my way at all. She thought I was too hard on you. She sympathized with you. Not me. She even wondered if I loved you.

Me? Not love you? I never really thought about that before. I suppose I could say that my daughters love you. But me?

Now I know. Love is the be-all and end-all of everything that is Christian.

But love? For you, Pe-

per? A cat? Me? A man love a cat?

She did wonder if I wrote about you with tongue in cheek. So I checked. Yes. There is a lump on my cheek.

But Pepper. Let me assure you. It's not all tongue in cheek. I'm serious.

And so was she. Very serious. She said I could put a towel on my favourite chair. And take up your cat hairs that way.

And about your clawing my rugs and chairs. She took your part. She says you have to claw. The trick is for me to divert your nails. And let you sharpen and clean them on a clawing board — a special post made of carpet strips. It's my responsibility to introduce you to one.

And for your wrecking my screen door. Well. That was too bad. But you really must have wanted in. Desperately. To do a thing like that. Maybe I should take a second look at your sleeping quarters. And your eating. It's pure wife's tale to think that a hungry cat is a better mousing cat. Mice and milk are inadequate diets.

Now that hurt. Doubt cast on my bedding and boarding you! But what really hurt was my dereliction in not getting you spayed. Fixed. With a hysterectomy. So you can no longer have any more kittens.

She said this was the

cruelest injury of all to pets. To let them keep on bearing litter after litter. When they are unwanted.

She laid it right there. On my conscience. It's my job, Pepper, to see that you reduce the cat population. You can't help yourself. You're doing what comes naturally.

And she sobered me with some appalling figures. Every year people abandon 25 million dogs and cats in North America.

One unspayed female dog or cat — if all of their offspring survived and reproduced over a ten year period — could result in 2,300,000 dogs or cats.

And at the Peel Humane Society in Mississauga in one year — not last year, but the year before — 8,071 animals were killed. Most of them were unwanted puppies and kittens. In unwanted homes.

Now, Pepper, that's hard to believe, isn't it? But it's true. Why this kind lady even offered to help pay for an operation for you.

But Pepper. Do I have \$40 to spend on you? Well. I do have \$40. But on you? Pepper? There's so many other places that want my \$40.

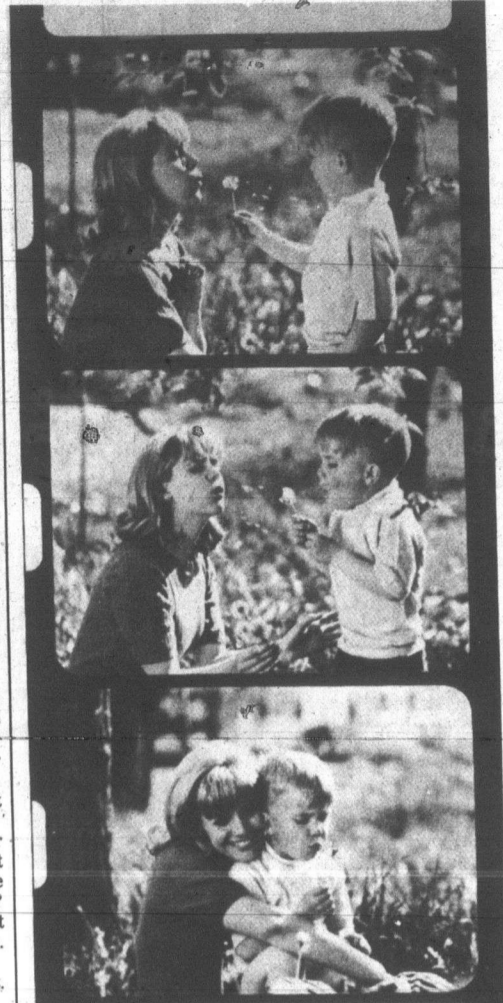
And you won't be like that cat I heard about, will you? After my friend paid \$28 for his cat's operation — that was several years ago — the cat ran away from home?

Pepper. I keep looking at you and my bank balance. Should I or shouldn't I?

This is serious business. A serious matter. I just felt my cheek again. Lump's gone.

I must decide. I must choose to a decision. Soon. Right now.

But listen here Pepper. I don't care what she says. You're not sitting on my favorite chair!



Frame all scenes for movie making

Photography

BY BERT HOFERICHTER
Well, I never thought of doing an article about movie rather than still photography until someone asked me to. If you really think about it, the art of film-making either in still form or moving form is as creative as the other. The two are very closely related. Many a good still photographer became a top moviemaker or the other way around.

This summer, why not make war on ho-hum movies? Promise yourself some lively vacation movie making. By the time you read this article, I will be off to some place in Europe and you know what my main effort will be? To make a movie like the professionals do. And you know it can be done.

I will be using one of the new Bauer Super-8 cameras and the amount of versatility these new cameras have is just out of this world. You can do lap dissolves, fade-in

fade-out, automatic and manual exposure control, time-lapse-photography with and without electronic flash, night exposures with built-in extra low light readers, sound synchronization — there is just no end. I am sure after you have spent hours trying to read the German-English translation of the instruction book, you will be more confused than ever, so whatever you do, buy your camera in a good camera store where they understand the equipment which is sold.

Here are some very important tips for better movies: Remember to vary your shooting distances. A long shot is 25 feet or more from your subject. A medium shot is from six to 25 feet, and a close-up is five to 10 feet. Make sure that you focus your movie camera, too often we seem to forget that. When you pan from left to right to show area passing by, make it a rule to pan half as fast as you think you should. More movies are spoiled by too fast a pan. Try to make every sequence that you start to film last at least 10 seconds of filming time. Or better yet, count very slowly to 10.

The misuse of the zoom lens is another common mistake. A zoom lens was never built for you to use it during filming in an in and out motion as so many of us do. The zoom lens is just a handy way to preset the next scene which you are going to shoot, whether a long shot with the telephoto range of your zoom lens or perhaps a wideangle shot in your livingroom. But for better movies don't over use the zoom lens by zooming in and out during filming. All you do is make your viewers' eyes blurry.

Next time you use your movie camera think of it as a still camera.

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Church of St. Luke, 1513 Dixie Rd. (just south of Q.E.) — 278-4005 Morning Worship 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m.	Park Royal Bible Church, 1513 Seaport Dr. Corner of Truscott & Clarkson Missionary Conference Fri. May 11:7:45 Speaker Rev. Elwyn Davies B.C.U. Sat. May 12 Meeting continuous from 4:00 7:45 Speaker Rev. George Weppler A.I.M. Sun. 11:00 and 7:00 Rev. Douglas C. Percy O.B.C. Displays presented in lower Auditorium 8:00	Lyndwood United, Lyndwood at Lynd, Leda and Garnet Aves. — 278-7376 Rev. Gordon Apps. B. Th. 11:00 a.m. Church Service Nursery provided	Christ Our King Lutheran Church, 2150 Dundas St. W., Erindale, Ont. William A. Gatz, Pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Phone — Church 822-8931 Parsonage 822-9949 We Are A Part Of Key 73
St. John the Baptist Church, 719 Dundas St. E. Dixie Mississauga 277-0462 Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m.	Mississauga Gospel Temple, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Pastor: Fred Fulford, B. Sc. Phone 828-9242 Sheridan Park Public School Perran Drive at Thornlodge 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:00 p.m. Evangelistic Rally	Port Credit First United, 151 Lakeshore Road West — 278-3714 Ministers Rev. F.H. Joblin, B.A., B.D., D.D. Rev. R. Catherine McKeen, B.A., B.D. Morning Worship — 10:30 a.m. Church School up to 11 years of age — 10:30 a.m., 12 years and over 11:45 a.m.	Church of St. Mark Lutheran, 120 Mineola Rd. E. Mississauga Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Weekday Nursery School Rev. Neville Mirschin, Pastor 278-2122
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