

LAST ISSUE OF EXCALIBUR IS MARCH 25

Advertising deadline for March 25th issue is Monday, March 22, 5 p.m. for display advertising. Classified advertising and want ads close Tuesday at 3 p.m. Excalibur Advertising, Room 111, Central Square, Telephone 635-3800.

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NAKED CAME POLONSKY:

Lonley days, lonley nights

The art of conversation has seen better days. Despite the fact that for the most part our generation is the best educated in history, we have emerged as the most inarticulate bunch in the history of Western Civilization. We have become so inarticulate in fact that we have come to rely on television talk shows for most of our interesting and entertaining conversation. Why should we bother saying it when Dick Cavett can say it so much better? But even the super-talkers seem to be having their communicative problems. Carson is crumbling. Griffen's crumbled. And Frost never really made it so that he some day could crumble. And if you speech-oriented people really want to feel pain, just watch the CBC's venture on Thursday nights into the talk show business. God Bless Jack Duffy.

So why is it that the phrase "shut-up" has probably become the most useless and anachronistic expression of our times? Well, one explanation could be that people just do not have anything to say. It seems that the people who to-day are doing the most talking, are those who have the least to say. The axiom for the modern mouth has become "the brighter they are, the harder it is to get them to say anything".

Another explanation for this new sense of quiet is perhaps the simple fact that it never really occurs to anyone to say anything. What with, standing in a line-up at a bank, zipping downtown on a bus, scurrying from shop to shop in the Yorkdale strip, or even hustling a little chicky-poo in front of the Colonnade, one just never feels

possessed to move one's mouth for purposes other than breathing. Words have gone by the wayside. It is simply no longer natural to employ them in one's daily comings and goings.

But there is a more telling example of this quiet trend, and that is the non-talk means of communicating in the hip movement. Here, there exists a conscious effort not to be articulate. Articulation seems to be seen as a sham, representing all the hypocrisies of the mother culture, where the Nixons and the Agnews of the world discuss the slaughter of Vietnamese in eloquent vernacular, evoking images more suited to a Renoir than to a Vietnam. Not talking is also one of the few legitimate ways in which the counter culture can really be counter. Nothing upsets occidental man more, than someone who just does not talk to him. Besides which, the hip set being so very much more informed and so much more sensitive than anyone else, sees the futility of mere talk, especially when placed in the context of one's daily cosmic search. The pass word is hush.

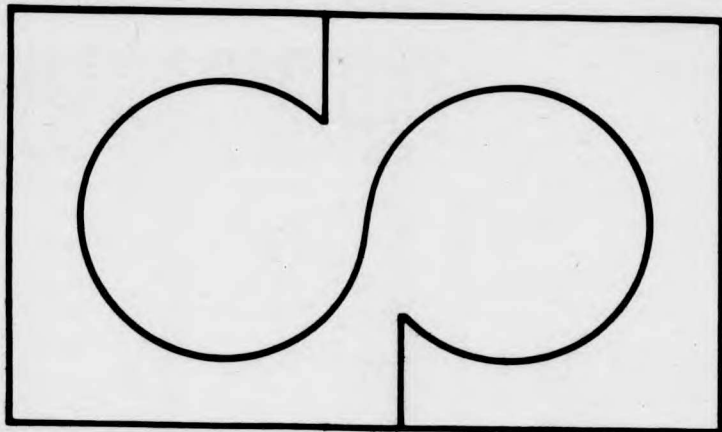
Unfortunately, this lack of conversation, whether contrived or not, whether consciously ascribed to or not, has helped to contribute to a meteoric rise in that commonest of sentiments — loneliness. Everyone just seems to be incredibly lonely. If by some twist of fate, you happen to find yourself in a personal conversation, it will probably take you no longer than fifteen minutes to sense in your companion, that eerie feeling of being all alone in the global village. All of mankind may be my brother.

But have you ever tried going to the malt shop with all of mankind?

Now, we could indeed rationalize our loneliness because of the inevitable alienation of living in a cosmopolitan, technological age, or if we were so inclined, we could blame it on the curse of Oedipus and the like. But it gets pretty frustrating when you can't even find someone with whom you can share your insights on the cause of your particular brand of alienation. At least Marx and Freud had someone who would sit down and listen to them.

So it is probably this severe case of the blues stemming from one lonely hunter of a heart, that is at the basis of that still very solid cultural happening — mating. Now, presumably, everybody sooner or later wishes to be mated. But while a few years ago the trend seemed to be "Wait until you're a little older, live life first," it now seems to be, despite the marked increase in our supposed permissiveness, get hitched as early as you can. While people may not entirely be getting married in the legal sense, there is still little credibility anymore for that old adage of seeing the world before getting permanently saddled. People are desperate to get saddled.

I appreciate that what I have just done, in fact, is to have created somewhat of a tenuous connection between the lost art of conversation and why people are getting married. And anyone who could sit around spending an entire morning concocting connections between marriage and talking is probably one of the loneliest of them all.



Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Commission is arranging the next set of Public Hearings in selected centres throughout Ontario, to provide full opportunity for all interested individuals and organizations to express opinions and offer discussion related to the development of post-secondary education in the province.

Hearings are scheduled to take place in Toronto on the following days:

March 24th — at the St. Lawrence Hall, King and Jarvis Streets, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

May 13th — time and location to be announced.

Details of the Commission's terms of reference and the procedure for the submission of briefs may be obtained from:

Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario,
505 University Avenue, Suite 203,
Toronto 101, Ontario.

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