



on second thought

—Peter Outhit

HOW TO BEHAVE AT DANCES

Boys and girls, I've planned this advanced sociology class to combat the sordid, out-of-place incidents I witnessed while chaperoning last Friday's dance. Specifically, I distinctly noticed several couples **laughing**, another pair talking loudly, and three or four others visibly **having fun**. If this sort of thing continues, people are going to get the wrong idea about this university.

Winston Churchill once said, "Give me liberty or give me death." Or it may have been John Alden, shortly before his marriage to Pocahontas; anyhow, regardless of who said it, the words apply to courtship today as well as marriage. And courtship is liable to emerge out of Mixed Encounters Upon the Dance Floor.

First of all, boys, when you arrive at a Dal dance get there at least an hour **late** and leave your flask outside. You may be frisked by the police upon admission, but this is just routine and nothing personal. Don't talk to any girls before entering the gymnasium; but if you know a girl fairly well, if for instance you broke up with her a week before, "hi, there" is permissible.

So you enter what is in reality a sweaty old basketball arena disguised as a sweaty old dance hall. Now comes the moment of truth.

Girls, it is essential that you **look bored**. Come on, now, I want you to look as bored as if you were really at a dance. No, you haven't got it yet; try folding your arms. Better . . . c'mon, let's see a real **Munro Day Awards** boredom . . . ah, that's it—you on the right, you don't need to cry.

Now you've assumed the proper expression. Don't spoil it by talking. Just sit or stand in tight little bunches and stare straight ahead—that's right: just as if you were awaiting liberation . . . now, suppost a boy comes up to you for a dance.

He'll probably stand there and look over and around you for a while, to see if you're affected by his presence. Give him no quarter. If you show no emotion whatsoever you've won the first point, and he will make his request. "Dance?" usually does the trick.

It's extremely important what you do—I should say **don't do**—in the next few seconds. Never, I repeat, **never** reply to his request. It is permissible to nod, and you're always safe if you just walk past him onto the floor. If you're going steady with the fellow, you may smile.

Now, boys, comes your part. When you get the girl out on the floor, (1) don't speak for the first 18 bars; (2) dance her well away from the sidelines, since she'll look at everybody but you; (3) don't try to be witty: wittiness went out with the twenties, with goldfish swallowing and rah-rah pep rallies. What do we want in its place?

REALISM. A good conversational gambit would be, "Pretty hot in here isn't it?" or "Pretty good crowd tonight, eh?" or "The orchestra isn't bad, is it?"

The answers most of these questions require will be favourable to your side, and before long you'll be discussing everything from just how hot it actually is, to the number of dances you've attended, together or separately, since September.

Unless you intend to go steady or at least take her home, boys, don't bother to ask her name. Often you can pretend to know her name too well to mention it; in that case the conversation will go something like this:

"That Physics 31A isn't too easy, is it . . . oh, that's right, you take **chemistry**, don't you—I've seen you coming out of that room, anyway . . . you're in **Arts**? Seriously? . . . I never would have guessed — I mean, that's funny, because I always imagined you in **Science** for some reason . . . anyway I've seen your around . . ." (and so on, struggling ever onwards.)

As for the dancing, I'll leave that up to you. Stay away from the exotics—waltzes, fox trots, cha-chas—and try to work in the Slow Shuffle as often as possible. You'll find when the orchestra starts a cha-cha she'll exclaim "oh! A cha-cha!" informatively, but chances are she won't be able to do it, and neither can anybody else.

Between dances, boys and girls, forbear to speak to the others; you see them enough in class as it is, and they'll be embarrassed if they have to answer. Permitted topics for inter-couple repartee are, (i) how smooth/not smooth the dance floor is; (ii) why there are so few at the dance you know; (iii) your marks (if of the failing kind, they may introduce your Philosophy of Life); (v) how much studying you both aren't doing.

With a start like this you'll both be married inside three months. Maybe not to each other, but who's complaining? You'll at least be secure in the knowledge that you have **lived**.

The Case for Disarmament

by Jim Hurley

Victory and defeat are each of the same price.

—Thomas Jefferson.

The world today bears the aspect of a monstrous chess board, upon which are ranged two great Powers, surrounded by lesser nobility (their key allies) and pawns (their satellites). Within their respective domains, these two Powers constantly agitate, seeking to hold their opponent in checkmate. However, this is not merely a passing game, for the values at stake are imponderable, and each day, bringing new developments, makes the gravity of the situation grow more intollerable.

It is around the nuclear arms race that the current tensions of the world revolve. The fact that makes this race so ghastly is that there is no known ceiling to it. Are we doomed to keep running until we fall exhausted? Some facts about arms races might provide food for thought.

Race Without Rewards

A former President of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences has computed that since 650 BC, there have been 1,656 arms races, only 16 of which have not ended in war. The remainder have ended in economic collapse of the countries concerned. He concludes, then, that arms races tend to be futile and ruinous.

To think that parity could result from an arms race is a myth, for both sides seek not a state of equilibrium, but rather a balance of power, with a comfortable margin of strength on their own side for the sake of security. Consequently, such a race hurtles on to horrendous heights, not aiming at a fixed objective, but at a state of advantage which cannot be possessed by two sides at once.

Lessons from History

There are many who feel that nuclear disarmament is not only necessary, but that it is indeed capable of realization. One such is Philip Noel-Baker, author of **The Arms Race** and a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

In his book, Noel-Baker cites the cases of the Canadian-United States and of the Swedish-Norwegian undefended frontiers as examples of amicable and total disarmament between nations that had fought and

had decided that co-existence was the answer to their problems. He does not consider it impossible that the atomic powers might realize the monstrous and inhuman destruction that could result from nuclear war, that they might recognize the futility and inherent dangers of producing such weapons, and finally that they might, as a result, see the sensibility of banning such weapons and "deterrents."

Noel-Baker's Proposal

Noel-Baker proposes four obligations for total nuclear disarmament:

- (i) **Not to use** nuclear weapons in any war;
- (ii) **Not to test** new weapons in experimental research;
- (iii) **Not to make** new fissile or fusible material for warlike purposes;
- (iv) **Not to stock** nuclear weapons and to convert existing stocks to peaceful uses under supervision.

At first glance, the hard-core realist might say that it is a wonderful plan, but that it is just idealistic optimism and is incapable of adoption in actual practice. However, it is worthy of note that two of his points have been partially realized.

The Positive Approach

By a gentleman's agreement, Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union have suspended nuclear tests. This agreement has been a major concession towards nuclear disarmament by the great Powers.

Also, since the second World War, there have been several major con-

licts, such as the Korean and Indo-Chinese wars and the Suez crisis, but in none of them have nuclear armaments been used. That war may be waged with "conventional" weapons in the nuclear age is a significant fact.

An editorial in a 1958 copy of **Isis**, an Oxford University publication, supports the conclusions of Philip Noel-Baker. It maintains that it would take only a little less intransigence on both sides to have the current moratorium on nuclear tests expanded into something more reassuring for the destiny of mankind. There can be no true victory in a nuclear war.

Man's Only Hope

Noel-Baker's answer to the dilemma of modern society is nuclear disarmament. This does not mean that the earth will then be delivered from war, but rather that war will be limited to small conflicts with "conventional" weapons and that catastrophic nuclear war will be averted.

Noel-Baker suggests that disarmament should take place gradually, working through a recognized agency like the United Nations. Perhaps negotiations will never achieve a satisfactory disarmament solution, but the more time spent at the negotiation tables, the longer open war is deferred and the greater the possibilities of entering a new era of agreement and good will as the Soviet standard of living approaches that of the West.

As long as nuclear conflicts may be prevented by pursuing formulas for disarmament, it may justifiably be said that we have had peace in our time.



Swat carefully—the life you save may be your own.

December 3, 1961

A PUBLIC PROTEST

Attention has been called by one of us to reports of the disposal of radioactive wastes in the ocean 150 miles south of Yarmouth, N.S. We, the three Halifax members of the Canadian Committee for the Control of Radiation Hazards, are alarmed at the confirmation of these reports.

In view of the many uncertainties involved in assessing the hazard to man of radioactive wastes stored under the sea, it is in our opinion unwise to permit such wastes to be dumped in areas adjacent to international fishing and shell-fish grounds. We urge the Government to see to it that no further radioactive wastes are dumped near our coasts or near areas producing food for human consumption.

We urge the Government to propose a convention to this effect to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations. In the meantime, our Government must see that the United States Atomic Energy Commission takes heed of our deep concern about this matter.

It is our firm conviction that past dumping of radio-active wastes near our fishing grounds must not con-

stitute a precedent for further action of this sort.

(Signed)

Most Rev. J. G. Berry, D.D. Archbishop of Halifax.
Dr. J. Gordin Kaplan, Dept. of Physiology, Dalhousie University.
Dr. David Hope-Simpson, Dept. of Geology, Saint Mary's University.



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