

'Everybody's Talking': A Paradox?

By THE MISSION
(Creators of 'Disco-Teach')

"Everybody's Talking," recorded by Nilsson on the RCA label and on the soundtrack of the movie, "Midnight Cowboy," reflects the paradox of the young generation.

It can explain, to the careful listener, why the young person of 1969 can be so lovable and aloof at one and the same time—why the group upon which tomorrow depends can be simultaneously irresistible and irritating.

There is something freaky about people who, in the same year, put Max Yasari's farm and President Foose's Harvard campus on the same news map. "Everybody's Talking" helps to show how youth can live and thrive with such apparent contradictions— with love-ins and with expressions of dissent and dissatisfaction.

"Everybody's talking at me," the song begins bluntly enough, "I don't hear a word they're saying, only the echoes of my mind." There, in a single verse, is the reason why so many adults claim to be unable to stomach "young rebels."

And the reason is as elementary as the fact that young people would rather switch than fight; they would rather ignore advice than bother with it or be bothered by it.

They heed the wisdom of Thales, a Greek philosopher who lived long before Christ. When Thales was asked what was difficult, he replied, "To know oneself." When asked what was easy, he replied, "To advise others."

In trying to know himself, the young person ignores

gratuitous advice and listens instead to the "echoes of my mind." Does he irritate by doing this? Probably so, for it's not easy to accept being ignored.

But "Everybody's Talking" speaks of another side of youth's life which those on the wrong side of 30 invariably respect. Idealism. "Everybody's Talking" pictures this irrepressible aspect of a young man's motivations. "I'm going where the sun keeps shining through the pouring rain, going where the weather suits my clothes."

For the person who is young, life is painting a picture and adding up a column of figures. Young people thrive on dreaming, like a baby thrives on milk.

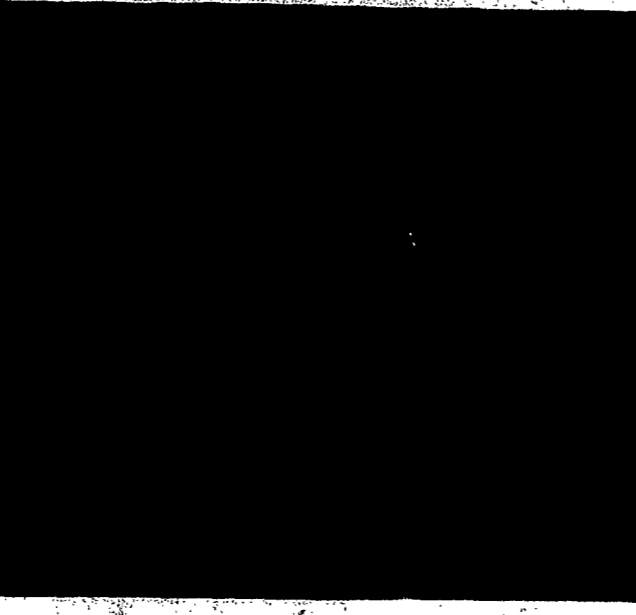
This dream of "sailing a summer breeze" is special because it becomes real as soon as a person has the will to dream it. The young person today knows that dreaming is itself the first practical step onto the road leading to the ideals.

By taking that first step, the young person has taken possession of the dream. So, to say that young people live in another world is truer than might be immediately imagined. Or as Shakespeare put it: "Thou speakest wiser than thou art ware of."

"Everybody's talking at me," but "I won't let you leave my love behind." In a society as opulent as the one they live in, young people could have almost anything they want, but they want only one thing: the security of love.

People who talk at them only strengthen their resolve to take their love and go. (Catholic Press Features)

the music bag



Everybody's talking at me. I can't hear a word they're saying. Only the echoes of my mind.

People stopping, staring, I can't see their faces, Only the shadow of their eyes.

I'm going where the sun keeps shining Through the pouring rain, Going where the weather suits my clothes, Banking off of the northeast wind, Sailing on a summer breeze And skipping over the ocean like a stone.

Everybody's talking at me, I can't hear a word they're saying, Only the echoes of my mind. I won't let you leave my love behind, I won't let you leave my love behind. (Published by Coconut Grove/Story, BMI)

2 McQuaid Students Cited Nationally

Michael J. Fleche and Thomas R. O'Neill of McQuaid Jesuit High School have been cited as two of the outstanding high school students of English in the country.

The National Council of Teachers of English has named them the 1969 national winner and runner-up, respectively, in its annual achievement awards competition.

Last spring a committee of English teachers from the high school nominated Fleche and O'Neill to represent McQuaid in the competition. The school was allotted one entry from the junior class for every 500 students in the total school enrollment; according to Gerald Jaromin, the English department chairman.

After nomination each student submitted samples of his best writing, including an autobiographical sketch, completed two standardized examinations on general English knowledge and skills and on literary awareness, and wrote a one-hour impromptu essay. These materials were evaluated and scored by state judging teams.

The nation's schools participating nominated almost 8,000 juniors for the NCTE citation. Only 872 finalists were chosen. They represent over 600 schools from 50 states, the District of Columbia, and American preparatory schools abroad.

The NCTE recommends these students, now seniors, for college scholarships in 1970, should they need such assistance. Their names are sent to every college and university admissions officer and English department chairman in the country.

In previous years 99 percent of the awards winners entered the college of their choice. Approximately 80 percent of those applying for scholarships received them.

The NCTE sends to all win-

Advent, Year-End Programs Planned At Cenacle

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will conduct two Advent renewal programs at the Cenacle for women of religious orders, tomorrow, Dec. 13, and next Saturday, Dec. 20.

Advent renewal days for laywomen will be this Sunday, and Monday, Dec. 14 and 15, with Father Louis Hohman of Becket Hall as director. Hours for both groups are 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Also planned at the Cenacle, at 693 East Avenue, is a year-end night of recollection, beginning with supper at 6:30 Wednesday, Dec. 31, and ending with breakfast New Year's Day. The program comprises conferences, midnight Mass and night-long adoration, with Father Albert Bartlett, S.J., leading.

BAND CONCERT

The Aquinas Concert Band, directed by Alfred M. Fabrizio, Jr., will give its Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.

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TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

By FATHER MARTIN

Dear Father,
How can a person hold respect for his mother when she does not hold respect for him? Her temper has unnecessarily reached the point where she is constantly yelling at me in front of my relatives and friends.

Also at my age, I have problems that could and should be talked over and helped by my mother, but because of fear for her own reputation, she is unwilling to do so. I have to try to work things out for myself.

Because of this I don't feel as close to her as I should be.

Dear Angie,
It's a mistake for anyone to belittle another person before other people, and sometimes it can be downright uncharitable. How to make your mother realize that is quite a problem.

Have you talked to your father about the situation?
The other suggestion I have is to talk to your mother about it. Perhaps she doesn't fully realize what she is doing. May-

be a nice calm talk telling her how you feel may open her eyes. Tell her if you deserve correction, you are willing to take it after the company disappears. You have to try to keep the line of communication open with your mother, else there is hardly any hope of resolving this difficult problem.

If you really can't talk to your mother about some of your other problems, you should try to confide in a mature adult, someone you know and trust. Working out some of your problems can be a great assist to you in acquiring maturity and self-reliance. But often our judgment can be clouded on certain issues and talking to the persons over with another person can help us to make better decisions.

You need not feel guilty about how you "feel" toward your mother. It's natural to feel hurt and maybe somewhat aloof from your mother because of her own attitude and conduct. But you must still try to respect your mother, to honor and love her, to obey her. These are more than matters of feeling. They are attitudes and acts of the will.

Dear Father,
What do you think of boys who in order to have a good time always have to go out and get drunk?

Dear Steve,
I pity these boys. In many cases they are trying to act mature, but are just showing their immaturity. Many times teenagers do this just to be sure they are "in" with their group.

Some youngsters drink because they are confused, because being high makes them forget some of their problems. They try to be real cool. But actually they are escaping into an unreal world, and this is only harming them more, psychologically and spiritually.

Advertising, movies, TV, and society in general are partly to blame. Ads often make the idea of drinking very glamorous and romantic. The sophisticated man drinks so and so. A drunk can appear hilarious on TV. Some of our Westerns seem to indicate that a real hero can belt down his whiskey without blinking an eye. Then, of course, some teenagers watch their parents polish off drink after drink and figure if his parents can do it, so can he.

Moderate drinking for an adult is usually harmless. It can help him to relax, for one thing. But moderate drinking is not justified for a teenager. He just doesn't have the experience and the maturity necessary to handle alcohol.

Drinking can also be a serious sin, especially if it causes a person to lose control of his reason, or if it leads him to commit immoral acts, and this is what heavy drinking often leads to for youngsters.

Nothing is more basic than the human and spiritual dignity that God gave to each one of us. To trample on that dignity betrays this great gift of God; it can lower us to the stage of the brute animal.

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Yes, folks, this is a last-minute reminder. We're rapidly approaching the end of the first Money Labels period. No doubt the Chairman of your particular church or club has already announced the place and dates for turn-ins. Make sure that your label-saving won't be in vain—that your collection reaches her at the specified time. She too has a deadline for getting everything to us. Remember, absolutely no proofs of purchase will be accepted after the closing date. They'll be of no value to you, to the Courier or to the M/L manufacturers.

You may think it won't matter if you don't turn them in now, that you can save them for the next period. We can only say, "Don't count on it." Indications are that the products will be changed, that a completely new list will be presented for the second Money Labels period. In that case, whatever labels you've saved to date would have no value next time. So, friends, turn in whatever you've collected now. Whether it's a large or small amount, it still spells profit. And at this season especially, we can all use even a few extra dollars.

We know your Chairman is willing and anxious to help you in every way possible. Do contact her if you have any questions. In turn you can cooperate by making your turn-in at the place and times she has arranged. Please observe these—it will make her job much easier. After all, she too has holiday preparations to make and will want to complete this work beforehand.

If you don't know the name of your Money Labels Chairman or belong to a registered group which has none, call Mrs. Ennis at the Courier office—454 7050 or 546 6140. She'll be glad to answer your inquiries, to assist you with any problems.

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