



We're the Greatest!



No, We're the Greatest!

# NARCISSISM

## Both Sides in Generation Gap Seem Victims of Self-Righteousness

Cecelia Viggo of Rochester last month was graduated from St. Michaels College, University of Toronto, with high honors. The Courier-Journal prints her article because it represents an unusual and provocative look at the current preoccupation with demonstrations.

By CECELIA M. VIGGO

Honor America Day has long been over. Its backers, I gather, seem to have considered it an unmitigated success. I'm sure they'd be more than a little chagrined to know that, for me, the Fourth of July ceremonies touched off memories of the movie "Woodstock." Not that all participants in the Washington program weren't fully clothed and over 30 . . . and the only grass available had been mown the afternoon before. No, Honor America Day had nothing superficially in common with the rock festival of last August.

There was, however, one vitally important similarity between the two. Both "celebrations" exhibited a kind of "narcissism" rather appalling in its implications. By narcissism, I mean the tendency of Americans on both sides of the generation gap to praise what they have achieved, and to blindly exalt what they stand for.

Thus, on Honor America Day, the "establishment" came together to pay homage to the "establishment." In rhetoric and song, the ceremonies lauded an "America" with a bloodless and sterling past, inhabited by a blameless

people, an "America" that does not exist.

The same kind of self-praise exudes from Woodstock. Both Woodstock, the experience, and "Woodstock" as extolled on film has been hailed by the young as proof positive of their inherent peacefulness, unselfishness, tolerance and love. Sure the festival was great. But its participants were largely white, middle class, and held similar views . . . and it only lasted three days.

Thus, each side proves to be as blind as the other. Each side has created its own mythology. Our parents remember Guadalcanal and Pearl Harbor; we have Chicago and Kent State/Against Kate Smith's rendition of "God Bless America"; we have pitted Jimi Hendrix' brilliantly ironic version of the "Star Spangled Banner", replete with the psychedelic sound effects of war. The flag waves a bit brazenly from the windows of late model Chevies, while the peace sign is flaunted almost aggressively by thousands of students.

Americans, both old and young, are victims of their own peculiar narcissistic version of themselves, and their role in America. Each side has so distorted reality that what was once a difference of opinion on vital issues, has escalated into practically a "holy war," with each faction claiming "God is on our side."

Iconoclasm is certainly in order. But this doesn't entail the destruction of the idols of the other camp. What is more necessary and more difficult is self-debunking.

# How to Enjoy Pop Music

By The Mission Singers

One of the most powerful sections of the instrumental Overture from Tommy is a moving, pounding, driving, portion taken directly from the very ending of the opera. We include the words from that ending in this column.

We chose those words from the hundreds of words in the opera because they reflect the power that pop music has over its listeners. Young people get excited at the feel of music. They find glory in music, and when they really "follow" music closely, they can climb mountains.

We chose those words too because they reflect for us the good that music can do, the joy and excitement it can bring to all life, the power it has to influence, for better or for worse. And these words let us get at a real problem a lot of people have with music.

People have written to us saying we're ignoring a major problem in pop music when we don't point out the tricky innuendoes and sly references to drugs in most songs.

Perhaps some people could find such references in the lyrics above. A Catholic newspaper ran a headline recently that said, "Rock Music Seen Dangerous," and the article that followed was a blast against groups like the Beatles (for Hey, Jude and Lucy in the

### 'OVERTURE FROM TOMMY'.

See me, feel me, touch me, heal me.  
See me, feel me, touch me, heal me.

Listening to you I get the music.  
Gazing at you I get the heat.  
Following you I climb the mountain,  
I get excitement at your feet.

Right behind you I see the millions,  
On you I see the glory.  
From you I get opinions,  
From you I get the story.

Sky With Diamonds), Bob Dylan and others.

Warning parents to be aware of "purposeful electronic mumbling of sounds to obscure the song's meanings," the article concluded: "Music is one element of a complex culture that Lenin and other leading Communists vowed to one day control."

In general, we say "bunk" to all that. We say "in general" because there certainly are songs that push drugs. But to fanatically search out every word of every song to find a drug reference, as some of these critics do, is to fall into a paranoid trap.

Johnny Cash one week gave a little lecture to his audience. He told how, on his way to work, he heard a radio broadcast that advised people to always lock their cars. Otherwise, so the announcement went, these people might be leading some teen-ager into a

life of crime. The broadcaster concluded, "This has been a public service announcement."

Cash asked, "Is that really a public service announcement? Do we do a service to our young people by implying that all of them will inevitably steal an unlocked car? Let's give our young people more credit than that. A lot more credit than that!"

Paul McCartney was once confronted with the drug idea in Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds. He said: "This one is amazing. People come up and say cunningly, 'Right, I get it, LSD—Lucy . . . Sky . . . Diamonds—but we never thought about it. What happened was that John's son Julian did a drawing at school and brought it home, and he has a school-mate called Lucy, and John said, 'What's that?', and he said, 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.'"

(Catholic Press Features)

Wednesday, July 29, 1970

# Young Filmmakers Eye Kodak Awards

For hundreds of teenagers, this summer vacation is not being spent idly. Instead, it is a busy movie-making time as they outline film stories, set up camera equipment, and photograph their friends — all in preparation for the eighth annual Kodak Teenage Movie Awards.

These young filmmakers are imaginatively creating film stories that portray humor, drama, satire, and mystery in the world today. Many are at work on animated cartoons, documentaries, and three-dimensional abstract films.

This year, a grand prize of a six-week summer scholarship to the University of Southern California Department of Cinema, for college level training in all aspects of filmmaking has been added to the awards. Entry categories have also been expanded, providing additional prize targets for young filmmakers.

The grand prize winner will be selected from among the winners in all four categories and his or her full expenses for the six-week course will be paid. If unable to accept this scholarship, the winner will receive an alternative grand prize of a \$1000 scholarship to any college affiliated with the University Film Association.

In this year's Awards, four prize categories are included:

Junior, ages 12 through 15, for super 8 and 8mm films.

Senior, ages 16 through 19, for super 8 and 8mm films.

Sixteen, for all 16mm filmmakers 12 through 19.

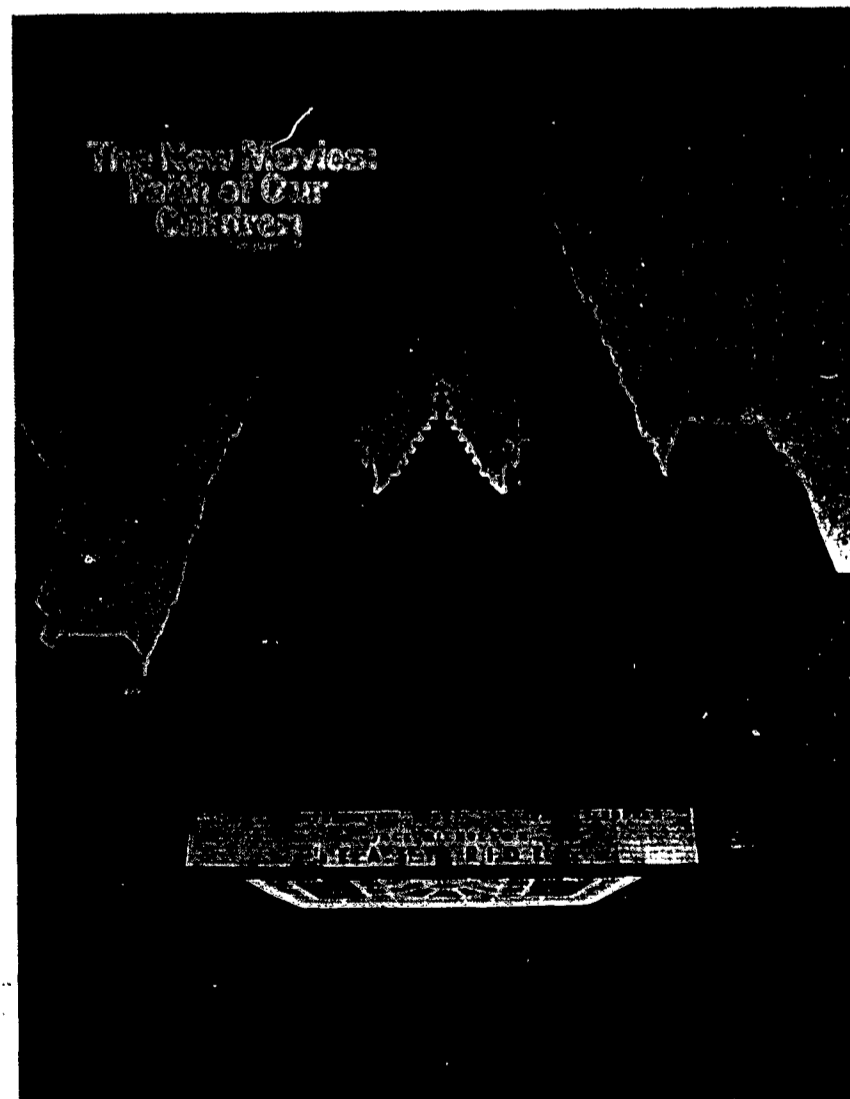
One-Reeler, for all super 8 and 8mm filmmakers 12 through 19. A one-reeler consists of a 50-foot reel of silent super 8 or 8mm film without splicing or post-camera editing.

In the Junior, Senior, and Sixteen categories, films may be black-and-white or color, silent or have sound on film or on a separate tape, and up to 30 minutes in length.

Bronze medallions, certificates, and cash prizes will be awarded in all categories. Winners in the Junior, Senior, and Sixteen categories will receive a first prize of \$150; second, \$100; third, \$50; special awards, \$25. In the One-Reeler category, each winner will receive \$50, and the entries will also be automatically entered in the Junior or Senior category, according to the filmmaker's age.

The Awards are sponsored by Eastman Kodak in cooperation with the University Film Foundation (UFF) on behalf of the University Film Association (UFA) and the Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE).

Entries must be postmarked not later than Sept. 15 to be eligible for the 1970 awards. Rules folders and entry blanks may be obtained by writing Teenage Movie Awards, Dept. 840, Eastman Kodak, Rochester, N.Y. 14650.



## Youth Appeal

No, New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral has not had its famous Fifth Avenue facade redesigned to attract more young people.

The face-lifting was done only on the cover of Esquire

magazine, to call attention to a series of articles on modern films, written by such prominent film-makers as Federico Fellini, Francois Truffaut, Michelangelo Antonioni and Ingo Preminger.(CPF Photo)