

Castro Shuts His People's Mouths!

You Americans know that very often your newspapers carry editorials and features intended to inform you of the great importance of "freedom of the press". This means, of course, your own right to know, to be kept informed of what's going on, in areas of society both inside and outside of the various governmental units your taxes support.

When you lose your "freedom to know", you have lost your first defense of liberty. Want proof of this right now? Then just recall what Cuba's Fidel Castro, 1959 dictator, is doing to the citizens of our southern neighbor.

He has shackled all but a couple of newspapers on that island, plus ALL radio

and TV stations; they cannot risk opposing Castro's government.

He has seized, confiscated hundreds of millions of dollars worth of properties; his secret police have arrested thousands of real and fancied Castro enemies; hundreds already have been "tried" and shot by military authorities.

His latest demand is that neighbor inform against neighbor, that brother spy against his own family and friends—and most of this is being carried on because individual freedom to speak has been outlawed. Such action always is the first activity of a tyrant, or even of a so-called "benevolent bureaucracy", of which we have some in embryo right here in the U.S.A.!

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Now cometh Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist leader, and former president of the National Council of Churches, with the question: "Is the church truly preparing to carry the word to other planets?" He boldly suggests that, most certainly, in the divine scheme of things, life akin to mankind must inhabit other planets, too, and that perhaps they need some uplifting, some reforming, some preaching to. We hardly dare lightly erase the Bishop's question from the agenda of Mother Earth's inhabitant's thoughts... but we do suggest to the Bishop that he confine his worries to our own confused and bewildered human society—at least for a goodly while to come.

A special study commission has reported to Gov. Williams that Michigan needs a State Board to combat juvenile delinquency. There is no question about the rise of youthful wrong-doing; also there is no question as to the basic reasons. Too many parents have failed in their duties and responsibilities toward youth; too much of our adult society sets a mighty poor example for youth to follow... including adult toleration of certain literary (?), TV and related media that is loaded with themes negative to the development of righteous human character. The only good and enduring manner in which to overcome juvenile delinquency is preventive, rather than curative. Unless wrongdoing is prevented during the formative years of youth, it may again crop out when youth gets its chance to let it crop out. "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

President Eisenhower's recent Asian-Europe trip has proved so successful in a "goodwill" sense, that he now proposes one to several South American countries. To be sure, his charming personality easily makes friends... but when it comes to making international "friends", it is not true, that your Uncle Sam is required to shell out many millions of our tax dollars? And, so the record shows, how many real friends have we been able to "purchase" in this manner, anyway? (For further explanation, please read a recent book named "The Ugly American.")

Remember, but just a few days ago, how prominently Nelson A. Rockefeller figured in each day's political news? Then

he renounced all current endeavors to vie with Richard Nixon for the Republican Presidential nomination, and little is heard from him since. How fleeting, indeed, are the works of men! Especially in politics does silence place upon him the shroud of almost forgotten memory... like a colorful billboard poster suddenly removed for another, and thus quickly forgotten by a casual public.

Now that Republican Nixon appears to be the only candidate to vie for his party's nomination later this year, the Democrats are readying their opponents. First came Hubert Humphrey, then John Kennedy, both U.S. Senators. No doubt Senators Symington and Johnson won't be far behind... and then maybe Adlai Stevenson will succumb to being "drafted"... and then... well, who can tell what may happen? All of which allows the art of self-government to offer more of the unexpected than a three-ring circus.

Now, whadda you think! That nasty old Soviet gang has announced, via Moscow radio, that Santa Claus is a capitalist myth; and that Christmas was invented to keep working people in chains. The broadcast scoffed at the Christian teaching that "one should love his enemies..." Thus does a mere handful of greedy, blood-drenched, evil Russian leaders rail against human destiny. And they, too, "shall pass".

Once again Michigan's Legislature is in session and its House is dominated by Democrats, its Senate by Republicans... and both by the problem of State finance. (It's sad that both Houses, plus the Chief Executive, are not dominated by a more responsible, informed and alert electorate.)

A British authority solemnly declares that "noise that pounds against the eardrums and sensibilities of mankind may turn human into a race of shouting maniacs." He points out that the modern world-environment is getting more raucous in every facet, including "music". Well, we won't argue with the gentleman... he certainly sounds sound.

How true... that old saying that "money can't buy everything"! Even if you have the bank balance of a Rockefeller.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

All this "equality and equal-right" stuff leads me to this conclusion:

Each residential block in America should contain each of the following:

A laborer, a white dollar employee, a self-employed person. There also should be a Republican and a Democrat, a Caucasian, a Negro, a Chinese, a Malayan;

There should be a Communist, a union man, a management man; a Protestant, a Catholic, a Jew, a Mohammedan, a Buddhist; an atheist, an agnostic and a fanatic.

THIS "MODEL AMERICAN" neighborhood" would have an idiot, an "average" person, and a genius; a childless couple, a family with three children, and a couple

with at least a dozen youngsters.

There would be a dog lover and an animal hater; a government employee, an elected politician and a taxpayer.

There should be a spender and a saver, a destitute family and a millionaire's household.

THEIR HOMES SHOULD BE rotated on a regular basis so everyone gets to live in ranch houses, colonials, tri-levels; to live in cramped quarters or spaciousness.

This would comprise an average block with about 30 homes.

This mixture would result in our getting along like angels!

"For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"



NATURE NOW By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Animals, Man Share Experiences of Life

Most of us have a real curiosity about and an interest in our fellow creatures the animals. How many are there? Where do they live and find their food? What is the pattern of their lives? How long do they live and how do they die?

Earth and water are animals filled. Man is one species of four or five thousand mammals. There are more than 2,000 species of snakes and at least 15,000 species of birds. Of the ocean creatures there are more kinds than live on the land. Here we can count at least 15,000 species of tiny one-celled protozoa; only one group of microscopic creatures. A list of the mollusks would reach at least 10,000 entries. Lobsters and crabs will add another 20,000 to our list.

OF INSECTS there are more kinds than all other life forms combined. There are about 30,000 species of arachnids, to which group belong the spiders and their relatives. A conservative estimate of all insects would reach some 3,000,000 species.

An interesting question about the animals is "How long do they live?" One of the most ephemeral creatures is the mayfly. It leaves its pupal case, makes its nuptial flight and drops its fertilized eggs all within a few short hours of twilight.

THERE SEEMS to be an interesting relationship in mammals between the length of the prenatal period and the life span. A mouse lives from three to five years while its gestation period is 40-45 days. A dog's prenatal period is 63 days, its life span about 22 years. An elephant lives an estimated average of 66 years, its gestation period is 20 months. But a reptile, the giant turtle holds the record. He may live to the ripe old age

of 150 years. A bird, the parrot is a close second with a possible life span of 100 years.

Of necessity most of these figures are compiled from captive and domesticated animals. In the dangerous world of the wild few animals die a natural death. At one moment a rabbit may be nibbling grass in a moonlit glade. In a flash his spine may be severed by a hungry fox. In the twinkling of an eye a singing sparrow may be impaled on a thorn by a pursuing shrike.

THE NATURAL life in the wild is filled with hazards of wind and wave of fire and frost and starvation. Predators lurk everywhere. Life must depend on life. Without this law one species would soon run rampant while another would become extinct.

Although the majority of animals die by violence many also succumb to disease. Micro-organisms and larger parasites invade them by the legion. They are subject to a multitude of bacteria and virus diseases. A disease may die of malaria and the higher mammals are subject to a host of diseases similar to those which plague man.

HOWEVER in spite of all, a wintry morning in field or wood or long an unbound life has its own compensating joys. Animal life is full of adventure and lift. Each creature has its own particular satisfactions. Every animal has its life rhythms to fulfill and in this richness there are compensating experiences which in many ways are similar to our own.

In the end the myriad creatures that populate our fantastic world are part of a great adventure; sharing together that precious gift called life.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
January 28, 1910

"That newly organized Bloomfield Hills country club is rapidly having its course put into playing condition, and the coming summer will see the links in play. The fortunate members of the Bloomfield Hills country club may well be proud of their course, for we do not know of a club whose grounds possess greater natural hazards than the one on the Bloomfield Hills. Its club house will be reared on the crest of a hill, commanding an entire view of the course and a glimpse of the beautiful homes on the surrounding hillsides owned by W. T. Barbour, W. J. Chittenden, Charles Stinchfield, George Booth and many others who enjoy the charm of this beautiful location. Until the completion of the club house members will find ample accommodations in the substantial old farmhouse on the grounds."

Local owners of trotters had a racing meet yesterday on Brown street. Big crowd, big time and a generous distribution of prizes to the winners.

30 YEARS AGO
January 30, 1930

A 7-year-old Birmingham girl saved a girl companion, also 7, when the latter fell through ice on the River Rouge east of Woodward.

A \$441,190 budget was approved for Birmingham next year. This year's budget was \$403,295.38.

First twins to graduate from Baldwin high school are Margaret and Gertrude Corryell. They'll receive diplomas at the mid-year graduation tomorrow night.

15 YEARS AGO
January 25, 1945

Birmingham board of education this week asked school district res-

idents to express their opinions, desires and wants for their school district's future. Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland said "our secondary building facilities and equipment are so woefully inadequate... for our needs today."

Michigan Bell's postwar expansion program includes a new telephone building and dial service. Company Vice President W. C. Patterson said in a talk to the Birmingham real estate board.

STRICTLY FRESH

You're getting on, brother, when legs, to be interesting, appear on a fried chicken.

An old-timer is a fellow who can list as his youthful ambition the desire to be an engineer of a steam locomotive.



The fellow who is always at the end of his wit has been making short journeys.

You'll know winter is over by the clatter of shingles blowing from storm-slashed roofs.

The first thaw is a good time to look for that rake you forgot to put away last fall.

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