

Churchman Attacks Values As Typified by 'Cleopatra'

By the Rev. Kenneth H. Cass, DD
St. James Episcopal Church

For some months now, we have been bombarded with all kinds of news releases concerning the coming motion picture "Cleopatra." We have been exposed to the actions of the principals involved in the picture and press coverage which tells us the picture will be one of the most extravagant of all times.

The industry has even delighted in the indiscretions of the leading characters because they feel such publicity helps to promote interest in the movie.

A recent press release tells us that a total cost of this picture has been placed between 24 and 40 millions of dollars. Miss Taylor's salary was one million against 10 per cent of the film's gross. She collected \$250,000 in overtime at \$50,000 a week and she received a living allowance of

\$3,500 per week for eleven months. Her coiffures took \$25,000 plus \$800 a week for a hairdresser. During the production, the daily cost was estimated at \$75,000.

THIS AND ALL other schemes like it has caused me to wonder where our sense of values has gone. It ought to be of great concern to thinking citizens of our country when such a great amount of money is spent on such trivialities.

It is hard for me to understand how an actress is given a living allowance of \$25,000 a week for a period of eleven months. I don't doubt many people in the world likewise wonder about the same thing.

How can one explain to young people that decency, honesty and hard work are the values that count in life when they see and read about an actress who flaunts her lack of morals to the world on the one hand and on the other she

hailed and glorified?

WE OFTEN WONDER and sometimes cannot understand why other peoples of the American way of life, where spangles and baubles and tinkling symbols are prated as our standard.

We cannot understand how anyone would be interested in Communism, but all Communism has to do is point its finger at the things we think are important and for which we spend vast sums of money and then allow people to make the contrast.

Communism is wrong and it is an insidious evil, but one thing they do have is a goal, albeit wrong, and they put forth the best they have to win that goal. They are willing to sacrifice for what they believe.

There was a time in this country when we too had high, glorious goals and when most men and women were willing to sacrifice and to work hard for their country and their sense of destiny. But we

have become so fat and so soft that we no longer really care what happens as long as we get our share of the booty and as long as no one bothers us. It seems to me that many of us in this country are afraid to fight for a principle. "So what" is a phrase that is too often used.

IF IT WERE NOT for the honest newspaper reporter and editor who seem to be the only outstanding group, much of what is rotten and dishonest in life, would go unchecked. But the newspaper can only go so far.

They can call the nation's attention to that which is wrong, but it takes the ordinary citizen to see that the wrong is corrected if this ordinary citizen has the courage and willingness to stand up for what is right.

It concerns me that we are taxed to vast limits and much of the tax money is wasted by inept men in government and the vast system of committees and departments. We will allow the Post Office Department to do less because they claim the lack of money, but how many of us will demand that the Post Office be run efficiently.

This is not my own conception, but that of government reports.

HAVE WE COME to the conclusion that all the men in Washington or in local government are beyond criticism and that they do no wrong? Is it about time whole groups of people speak out and demand that government officials work for us, instead of our continually working for them? Oh Lord, how long? How long must we be treated as stupid children? Just as long as we let ourselves be thus treated.

In some years Michigan's bean crop has filled seven million hundred-weight bags, far out in front as the Navy bean leader.



Hooray for the Arts

Spon Birmingham residents will see young ladies dressed like the one on the left, Marily Overpeck. They will be promoting the Birmingham Arts Festival. Doris Simmons, right, who was a co-seamstress with Evelyn Henry on the costume, is holding one of the posters that will advertise the festival. The Arts Festival symbol is the cover design for the special festival section in this week's Birmingham Eccentric. The work on the poster and costume was supervised by James N. Hastings, 1022 Raynald, and James Bernardin, 6207 Eastmoor, co-chairmen of the graphics committee.

8-B THE BIRMINGHAM (MICHAEL) ECCENTRIC June 13, 1963

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What's Wrong with Men? Apparently, Not Much

By RUTH VOGT
Special Writer

A very well-known author and columnist (Jim Bishop, to be exact) devoted one-fourth of a newspaper page to "habits I don't like about women."

After discovering myself falling into far too many of his dislikes, I was immediately resolved to counteract this column of his with "What I Find Distasteful in Menfolk."

HOWEVER, A horrible situation has erupted since making this publication. As hard as thought—deep thought—has been given this juicy subject, nothing much spills forth. This shouldn't be. Men have been part of my life since infancy. They've been all around for a good long time. Don't you think I'd have little trouble in detecting immediately "things that irritate me about men?"

I actually believed at first that I could. But I can't.

THEREFORE, instead of firing an issue whose basis of argument could be detected immediately as being not sincere, just for fun I'm gonna list, quite quickly,

some of the good points I found myself dwelling on as this topic swept about in the mind.

The way most men are fair. Day in and day out, in rainy weather, bright sunshine or under clouds, men react the same to you. Their sense of "fair-play" is there in their dealings with you—he they they your spouse, your milkman, the drug store clerk or the bank teller.

THIS IS connected with their calmness, I think. Notice, if you please, how calm most males be? They seldom believe many things that women are going excited about. Somehow this gives them a dignity and intelligence we females, as we rant 'n rave about piddly items, envy.

AND WHAT about their sweetness in viewing a disordered house when the phone rings announcing that distant friends be in town and will descend upon you within an hour?

Do they panic, or do they retort: "Let 'em come and take us and our upset house as we are; if they like us, it won't matter."

Never do they race about shoeing stuff into closets and under couches. Their understanding of human nature is superior to the female. Or is it without shame, huh?

WITH THESE traits, no wonder their sense of humor is always in good working order. No wonder they can chuckle or laugh at the drop of a joke or quip.

Their minds aren't cluttered up with a lot of incidentals like back doors, unexpected guests and whether our sky might tumble in any moment.

Finally, the best virtue I like about the male is their utter acceptance that humans, if they do live, do grow old and no amount of cosmetics, rubber supports or hair dyes can much hide the mark of Time rubbing against all of us. With this philosophy comes a most refreshing, honest appraisal of life! Yes, I guess it's these many little things I love about males. They're so very nice to be around. All the time . . .

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