

ARTHUR HOPPE

Flaming Elders Are a Scandal

The regular monthly meeting of "The Never Trust Anybody Over Thirty Club" was held yesterday at the Campus Ice Cream A Go-go Parlor. The topic under discussion was "Are Middle-aged Sociologists Sexually Mature?"

"Absolutely not!" Miss Betty Koed, an attractive blonde, said indignantly. "Why, I can't go out of the dorm without one of them sneaking up on me with pencil and pad wanting to know if I believe in making out. How often? How far? With whom? Really, their attitude simply reeks of voyeurism. At best."

"In all fairness," said Tim Swift, who is considered something of an apologist for his elders. "They merely products of their generation. Look how older people are currently preoccupied with four-letter words. They hardly talk about anything else. Now we may think this is unhealthy..."

"I think it's disgusting!" said Betty. "... but shouldn't we stop condemning them and try harder to understand them?"

"I think," said Jock Armstrong, the thinker of the group, "the problem's basically simple: They simply have too much freedom and not enough responsibility."

"Jock's absolutely right!" cried Betty. "Just look at the papers. The number of adults involved in robberies, murders, divorces, and drunk driving arrests is shocking. They have the freedom to carry guns, choose their spouses, and drink, but they don't have the responsibility to behave maturely."

"Now just a minute," said Tim. "That's not fair. You know the papers play up the wild things adults do. But they rarely mention the many, many good, decent, well-behaved adults. This is what gives society a false picture of what adults are really like today."

"Oh, Tim," said Betty, "just look at the way they're slaves to the latest fad. The men wear ties and jackets on the hottest days. The women are worse. Think of the odd things they eat on their strange diets. And their music! Have you ever listened to them playing their Guy Lombardo records? It'll drive you smack out of your mind. No, precious few adults are responsible enough individuals to dare break the bonds of group conformity."

"I think," said Jock, thoughtfully, "their political behavior is even more appalling. For example, most support the war in Vietnam, which is their right. But how many of them get out there and demonstrate their support through marching, picketing or lie-ins? None. For that matter, how many even bother to vote. Talk about apathy and irresponsibility! As would-be citizens, they're a national disgrace."

The meeting broke up after the members voted overwhelmingly to seek a foundation grant for a study of the sexual habits of middle-aged sociologists—a "step" as Betty put it, "toward understanding the older generation."

But the mood was pessimistic. As Jock said, "even if we ever do understand what makes them wild, pleasure-seeking, irresponsible faddists, what can we do about it?"

"Well," Tim said weakly, "I guess we just have to have faith that with time, they'll somehow grow more mature."

Van Camp Celebrates

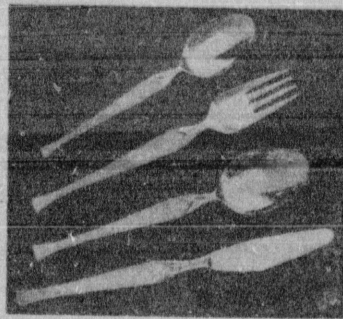
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