

Human Trait of Self-address Found a Fascinating Thing

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—People who live all alone on an island usually end up by talking to themselves.

This is particularly true of Manhattan Island, one of the most crowded and lonely islands in the world. More people talk to themselves here than anywhere.

The human trait of self-address is a fascinating thing. It has always interested me. Everytime I see people talking to themselves, I mutter under my breath, "Why is he talking to himself?" and then my brain asks me, "Why are you? You're doing the same thing your self right now, you dope."

It is often appealing to watch the very young and the very old talking out loud only for their own ears. They do it for different reasons, however. The old folks do it because they have passed be-

yond the focus of the present; yet entered that focus.

What do they say to themselves? My observation has been that most oldtimers are quarreling with themselves in their monologues. I used to know a nice old lady back in Missoula who would march about her small cottage saying crossly, "Now you know better than that. Why did you have to go and do a silly thing like that?" I never could find out what she thought she was doing wrong. But she sure did give herself hell all day long.

With children the wonder thing is a game—a feat of the imagination—to create an ideal world more understandable than the dismal growing world that surrounds them. But when they talk to a doorknob and call it by a nick-

name, the doorknob is a very real person to them. Did you ever watch a small girl walk along and pick a row of flowers individually? They no longer are just flowers to her. They are pretty playmates. And she isn't just talking to herself. She hears what the flower-picker say back to her.

What startles me about New York, however, is the number of middle-age people who talk to themselves. You see their lips moving on the subways, on buses, in the streets. What are they saying? Sometimes they are belatedly rehearsing withering remarks they should have made to the taxi driver or who almost ran them down on the way to work. Or they are talking back to their wives—safely. Or else they are talking out their worries to themselves, usually money worries.

The most boring type, however, is found at cocktail parties. These people talk out loud to themselves because of a secret conviction that is the only way to be sure of an intelligent audience. If you reply they don't even hear you. Your role is to bounce back the echoes from their vocal chords into their own smug ears.

MENTALLY DISTURBED
The most frightening self-conversation is that of those who are mentally disturbed—a drunkard's senile refugees from reality; younger people whose minds have erupted in chaos.

You see them walking alone in the crowds here gibbering and gesturing to themselves. And no one bothers them here in the big city where nobody wants to get too involved in anybody else. Even the police pay no attention to them unless they become violent. What does happen to them?

I remember once seeing a trouble-haunted man mumbling to himself as he pushed through a throng near Rockefeller Center. Suddenly he wheeled, lifted his arms as if to sweep everyone in sight into the gutter and shouted:

"Get ready sheep get ready. You won't be here long."

Everyone who heard him turned eyes to the ground and walked on faster feeling perhaps that the man who talked to himself had said something true of them all.

Imported Tuna To Be Picketed in San Pedro

SAN PEDRO (AP)—Fishermen's wives will picket the cargo ship Spicewood when it docks here next week with a load of frozen tuna from Peru.

A spokesman said yesterday that more than 200 boats are idle at docks here because of heavy imports of tuna from foreign countries.



(Steve Crouch photo)

Kenn Smith (left) and Mark Malone are shown in a scene from the musical comedy "This Is It" by Don Adams, Michael Monahan, Ric Masten and Owen Greenan which is to be presented in a repeat performance at 8:30 p.m. Friday in Sunset Auditorium. Carmel for the benefit of Forrest Barnes, well known Peninsula play director now under treatment in the Salinas County Hospital following an attack of poliomyelitis.

Disabled Veterans Lung Cancer Said Measure Vetged More Frequent to Those Who Smoke

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman has vetoed a bill which would have the government pay over \$1,600 on the price of an automobile for any veteran of World War II or the Korean war who has lost a leg or lost an arm, or a non-smoker.

In a message to the Senate, Mr. Truman said he would gladly have approved legislation limiting the aid to those veterans who have lost, or lost use of one or both legs at or above the ankle.

Mr. Truman noted there had been previous legislation to help provide automobiles for World War II veterans who have lost a leg. He said the theory was that this was compensation for loss of mobility.

What he objected to mainly was the new bill was binging age will be raised to 18 per cent in veterans who have lost an arm by 1970. Dr. Ochsner said or are blind.

Saying special benefits for any meeting of the Mississippi division "selected group" could lead to inequities, Mr. Truman said there were 70,000 World War II veterans, rated 100 per cent disabled, should have a chest X-ray ever who could not qualify for an automobile under the bill, and 9,200 seem to affect women to a great degree—the bill is different in hand or arm, who could

JACKSON Miss (UP)—A noted cancer authority said that the more one smokes a pack of cigarettes per day has 50 times as much chance of developing lung cancer of the lung than does a non-smoker.

Dr. Alton Ochsner, head of the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans and a past president of the American Cancer Society, said the cause of the lungs is increasing more than any other form of cancer and cigarettes are mainly responsible for this increase.

Dr. Ochsner said that 1 per cent of all cancer cases in 192 were lung cancers. He said this figure rose to 2.2 per cent in 193 and to 8.3 per cent in 1948.

I predict that because of our heavy smoking this percent about the new bill was binging age will be raised to 18 per cent in veterans who have lost an arm by 1970. Dr. Ochsner said or are blind.

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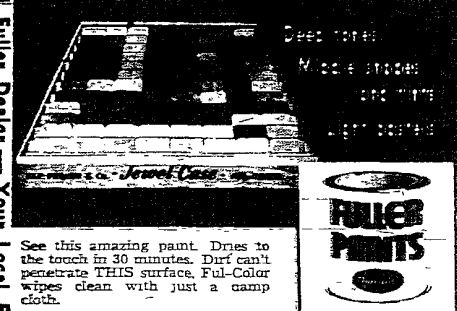
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