



Try to Be Anything But the Girl Next Door

by *Count Marco*

It is interesting that on the same day I came across the following remarks, almost identical, but made by two different persons. One is now dead (Cecil B. DeMille), the other very much alive (Hedda Hopper).

What both said referred primarily to screen stars, but it can be basically applied to any woman in this country.

Mr. DeMille deplored the idea of a star being like the girl next door. Said he, "If they want to see the girl next door—they can look over the fence."

Gloria Swanson said of him, "He taught us to be stars both off screen and on screen."

Hedda Hopper in her extremely frank and entertaining book, "The Whole Truth and Nothing But," wrote: "The geniuses who conduct the motion picture business killed glamor. They took the girls out of satin, chiffon, velvet and put them into gingham and blue jeans."

"They converted the heroine into the girl next door, and I've always advocated that if they want to see the girl next door, they should go next door."

Hedda points out that today's studio wardrobe departments are empty, with only skeleton crews available. The stuff that dreams are made of no longer exists, the stars are no longer sparkling, and because of that the rest of American females have become dull and devoid of lustre.

Today's male doesn't often give the girl next door a second look. She usually looks so sloppy a good peek would ruin his appetite—for dinner and dessert. Second, third and longer-lasting looks he reserves for the rarity that looks the exact opposite of his next-door neighbor.

Hollywood doesn't take all the blame, and shouldn't. I blame you American women. You were the ones who loved immediately the idea of producers showing unattractive, seedy-looking women.

It gave you a marvelous excuse to remain the lazy creatures you prefer to be. With no great examples of femininity around,

you figured he would no longer notice what an undesirable excuse for a woman is free-loading on his bed and board.

Well, thank goodness, some of the women held out. Don't kid yourself, he does know, and with my inspirational help more and more women are climbing back up the ladder of femininity. And the fashion industry is coming to its senses.

There's the proof. Floor-length hostess costumes for dining and entertaining are having a big and glorious fling.

You shouldn't have any trouble wearing the long gown. Lord knows, you've had enough experience trailing around all day long in one of those horrors called chemise bathrobes.

It costs no more to be fashionable, and in the long run it's less expensive than splitting your hard-earned savings with a divorce attorney. Don't you agree?

If some screen stars are stupid enough to want to look like that creature next door, you at least can be a star in your beast's eyes.

And how about that triumphant feeling that the poor beast next door would like to be climbing your fence instead of being chained in his own back yard?

... Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

Have just finished reading a very long book. Every page is filled with human drama, the likes of which we may never see again. "The Agony and the Ecstasy" by Irving Sone is a monumental work by an author whose sensitivity to his subject matter clearly shows his deep feeling for the Arts—as he did with another biography, "Lust for Life," the tragic story of Vincent Van Gogh.

The life story of Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564) and his work is told in "The Agony and the Ecstasy." The entire body of 495 letters that Michelangelo wrote were translated and became the authentic basis for this documented story.

ALMOST ALL of his works are still in Italy and I have seen most of them, and, of course, have marveled at the beauty and sheer creativeness carved into every piece of stone. The shock of actually seeing masterpieces such as "Pieta," "David" and "Moses"—after being introduced to them through the textbook method—is a welling up of disbelief that one man could create, within one lifetime, such beauty of expression.

Because he was born in Florence and executed most of his commissions there—this city today holds the bulk of his creations. The traveler who goes to Florence and doesn't see the Medici Chapel, David and the Laurentian Library has missed adding many pages to his book of the understanding of Man. The tourist who misses the magnificent dome of St. Peter's, the powerful Moses, the exquisite Pieta and the Sistine Chapel in Rome must certainly lack the core of a sensitive human being.

MICHELANGELO became apprenticed at the age of 13, to the studio of Ghirlandajo. The life of a fresco painter wasn't for him—so he set out to study the work of the ancient sculptors, who knew how to represent the human body in motion, with all its muscles and sinews. He made his own research into human anatomy, dissected bodies, and drew from models, till the human figure did not seem to hold any secrets for him.

At the age of 24 he was commissioned to carve a Pieta (Virgin Mary mourning over the dead body of Christ) for one of

the chapels in St. Peter's. He did not attempt to make Christ divine, since he would not have known how, but exquisitely human. The Virgin's head emerged delicate, the features Florentine, the face of a maiden with silent pale composure.

AFTER INSTALLING the Pieta in St. Peter's, he returned day after day to admire his work—but was startled to hear viewers remark that it must be the work of this or that sculptor from here or there. To insure that everyone would know who had carved the Pieta, Michelangelo sneaked into the Cathedral one night, donned his small cap with a candle on the top and proceeded to carve in swift decorative letters—"Michelangelo Buonarroti of Florence made this." This he did on the band going tightly between the breasts of the Virgin Mary.

HOW MANY WAYS can a man love a woman? The list is endless—but the quality of love is what matters—and Michelangelo did love—three times during his span of 90 years. The first, when he was in his adolescence, was Contessina de Medici—the young frail daughter of Lorenzo de Medici. He could not attain her, as she was promised to someone else, and his lips never did touch hers—yet he loved her, even after she married, and unto her death.

Clarissa loved him for love, and Michelangelo responded with all that his being possessed. More physical love than anything else, this relationship was brief but as consuming as any fire could ever be.

LATER IN LIFE, his greatest love developed. The Marchesa di Pescara, whose marriage before she was widowed, became his "immortal love." Always on the fringe of passion, with her in his thoughts, he somehow managed to control himself. His deep devotion to her, in spite of her unwillingness to exhibit her love for him, was expressed in many beautiful sonnets as:

"What joy hath you glad wreath of flowers that is around her golden hair so deftly twined, each blossom pressing forward from behind, as though to be the first her brows to kiss!"

Drop Out Survey Shows Mobility of Students

Torrance high school students are dropping out of school at the rate of about 3 per cent, Dr. Louis Kaplan, assistant superintendent of special services, reported this week.

Dr. Kaplan emphasized the survey covers only one year, and added no general rate can be drawn from it. He did, how-

ever, report that the total rate would be near 12 per cent over a four-year period if the present trend continues.

Also revealed in the survey was a tremendous amount of mobility among the district's high school students.

FIGURES RELEASED with the report indicated a total of 588 students had transferred out of Torrance high schools and 328 transferred into the district between September, 1962, and June, 1963. Dropouts for the period were 165.

During the summer months, 406 students transferred out of the district, while 978 new students registered for classes in the fall. Another 58 students dropped out of high school.

The survey covered 6,926 students registered in the four Torrance high schools.

Mooseheart Youth Choir Broadcasts

The 60-voice children's choir of Mooseheart High School will be featured in a 25-minute Christmas Day concert, according to Joseph Marley, governor of Moose Lodge 785, and James McCune, publicity chairman of the local lodge.

The concert which will emanate from the House of God, all faiths Children's Cathedral of the Mooseheart campus, will be presented over Radio Station KIEV, 870, in Glendale, through the cooperation of KHL, the local Mutual Broadcasting affiliate, which will tape the program as it is broadcast over the MBS at 12:35 EST (9:35 PST). The KIEV taped rebroadcast will be heard at 11 a.m. Christmas Day.

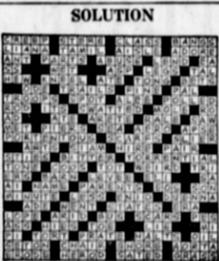
Included in this year's program are selections featured in long-playing album released by Columbia "Mooseheart Children's Choir Sings Christmas Melodies and Songs from the Heart."

Hal Young will direct the program and recording will be under the supervision of Phil Lampkin, director of music for the Mutual Broadcasting System.

207 Homesites Get Sidewalks

More than \$275,000 will be spent by the developer to provide streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and drainage structures in a new tract development in the area of Central Avenue and 190th Street.

Completion of the project will provide access to 207 homesites in the areas.



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