

SPRING--- And a young man's distain turns to romantics

by Jeff Greenfield
for Canadian University Press
— Collegiate Press Service
Spring is coming, and with it come the most irritating, useless pests known to mankind: locusts, mosquitoes, and campus romantics.



There are fortunately cheap and efficient counterforces against the insect kingdom. But, as far as I have been able to determine, no one has yet managed to find a painless yet lethal means of disposing of those insufferable creatures whose only claim to significance is that they feel deeply. For those of you who retain an archaic reactionary admiration for such departed virtues as balance, reason and sanity, I offer this guide to romantics.

One: note the girl who walks sideways twisting her body in

uncontrollable turns and sweeping her arms low to pluck a flower or piece of grass or leaf or weed, smile wistfully, and place said flora in her hair. Run away from this girl. Quickly. If you do not you will be buying her coffee and listening to her stories about her Relationships.

Two: this is the second sure sign of romanticism. Relationships. Romantics don't know anybody; they have Relationships, which are Evolving Dissolving, Clarifying, or being Redefined. What this means is she wants to sleep with him but is afraid, or has slept with him and is sorry, Fulfilled Relationship means she is pregnant.

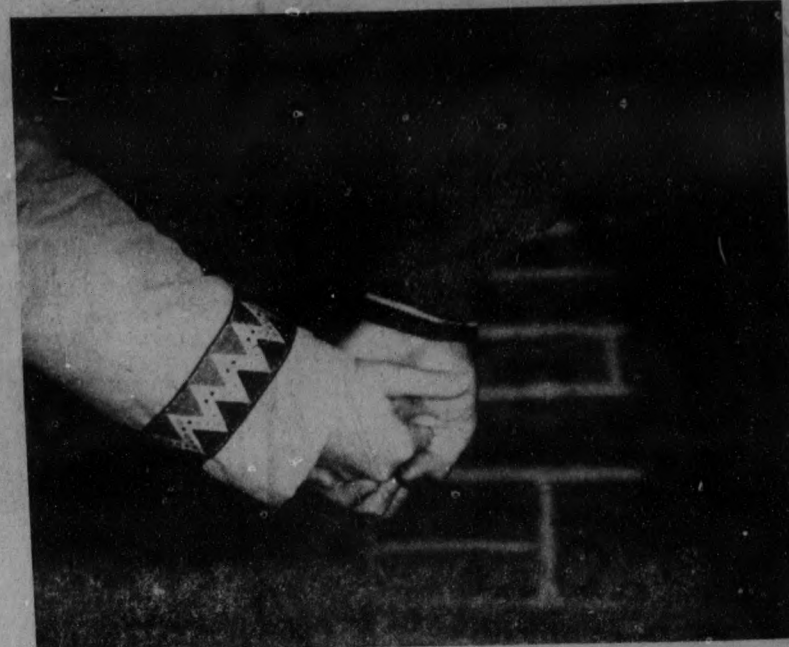
Three: romantics are drawn as lemmings to the sea (or whatever metaphor suggests compulsion to you) to the Children's Book. These books are about the size of postage stamps are about 30 pages long, have simplistic drawings of wide-eyed children holding daisies, teddy bears, dolls, and cookies, and contain on each page a sentence, such as "A friend is someone you like," or "love is very nice," or "people should be nice to each other," or "home is warm." There is a difference between these Profound Truths Which Only Children Know and the readers you had in third grade. The difference is that your third grade reader had ten times as many pages. The children's stamp books sell for a sweet, Profoundly Simple four bucks a throw and are so common among Romantics that they serve as the medium of exchange, given in fetching gift wrap. The writers earn enough money to buy real books. That is another Profoundly Simple Truth.

Four: romantics are People Watchers. This means they stare out the window at people, bringing to this the Inner Truths which they have learned during their Relationships. This also means they do not get around to learning

about such base trivia as politics, social change in the world, or their school assignments. They are watching people. In New York City people watching is called Loitering, and is punishable by a \$50 fine or ten days in jail.

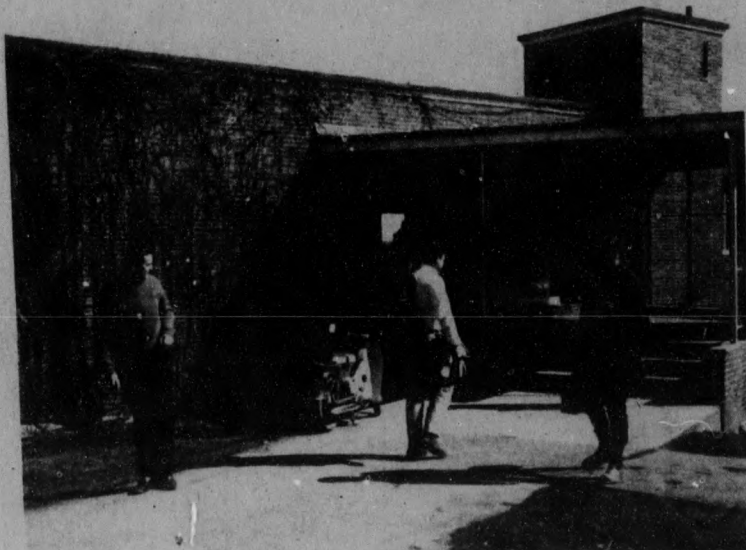
Five: romantics wade in fountains, look at the Moon, and take long walks at night. They wade in fountains because that is what Romantics do. They have read about it in books and seen the movies and by God they are going to have a Meaningful Experience if it means double pneumonia. This is the way you get to Know Yourself and didn't Socrates say "Know Thyself?... He did and that is the real reason why they gave him Hemlock.

Six: romantics do not have dates. I know one Romantic who never had a date — he had Experiences (this the first



is called a Soul-Mate. etaoi m periences. A surrealistic experience is when you make out on you first late. The date is called

logue, or expend and energy in making the world a better place to live; he is busy learning about himself. The lower animals who are so occupied are called Parasites, and man has spent a great deal of his time trying to rid himself of these useless animals. Pity he didn't start a bit higher on the tree of life.



step toward a Relationship). Every time he had a date I'd say, "How was your date, George? He would smile. "It was surrealistic," he said. He is the guy in the world who has had 73 consecutive surrealistic ex-

ed a Soul-Mate. That means she might let you go to bed with her.

Seven: a romantic is much too busy to make any social commitments, to understand or participate in the political dia-

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