

OH YEAH?

The World's Fair will be held in Montreal in 1967, and Canada has been asked to send an exhibit. There's a rumour abroad also that the FLQ has been asked to set up a demonstration booth: how to blow up bridges, armories, that sort of thing.

Speaking of the FLQ, you know of course, that the ring leader behind the whole movement was a Quebec paint manufacturer. It seems that he was having difficulty with dropping sales until a group called the Hidden Persuaders convinced him to encourage his unemployed friends to start

a "Liberate Quebec Movement"; the only stipulation was that when private donations came in they were to buy all their paint from him. I am amazed that police had to be called in from France to apprehend the culprits; a moment's reflection would certainly have established that fact. Our friend is still at large, but sales are dropping steadily.

There's been an awful lot of trouble finding space for the World's Fair on St. Helen's Island, I will now tell you the real reasons behind all the controversy-it was the fault of a

minor civil servant who overlooked the need for lavatories on the island. When the Commissioner-General got the news, he immediately rushed to Ottawa. Pearson called the cabinet together and a figure for the number of toilets was eagerly sought. The Department of Public Works handed it over to the Department of Labour; it in turn handed it over to the Department of Northern Affairs. A senior official from the Department of External Affairs finally arrived with a figure - Three Thousand! Well you can imagine the absolute,

VANITY AS A VIRTUE

Do you think yourself the most wondrous of all God's creatures? Is your mirror your favourite hangout? It IS! Well, then, you are the fortunate victim of that horrid vice vanity. Despite your good fortune, however, are you assaulted at night by dark forebodings and visions of hell? If you are then repent, and become the master of the world when inebriated with vanity as a virtue.

Doesn't that smack of heresy to you? In fact, I preach only a solemn truth - that vanity can be a virtue. For, you see, a virtue is defined as a good habit, and the habit of vanity certainly does have its good side. But before I go on to discuss what that good side is, I would first say what it isn't. It isn't Herkamer Schultz Jr., looking into the mirror and not being the least surprised at finding Phoebus Apollo looking back. And it definitely is not Mary Hukball worrying herself to all death over some microscopic and rebellious pimple that dare intrude on her luscious face. That is what the virtue of vanity isn't. What it is is a greater and more difficult thing to explain.

It is simplest to start our explanation with Herkamer's brother, Hannibal, who after a hard day out in the old muck, decides to do himself the earth-shaking favour of daring to look into the mirror, Shriek! He looks again. What does he see? He is tired, and slightly disgusted at practically everything and a few things more. Everything he looks at turns out as disgusting as he feels. He looks at himself. Now is the moment of truth. If he is a man without the habit of vanity, he will be frankly disgusted at himself, and in this he has sinned. However, if he is a man with the virtue of vanity running wildly and generously his moralistic veins, he will look in that mirror and have the humility to admire himself, and all the good things that meet in him. Look at this man. He is the store house of work, and honesty, and long-suffering. He has no right on heaven or on earth to be disgusted with himself. This sort of modesty is the inclination of an unjust man.

Now let us consider the case of Ernest Rogway, artist. Poor Erne has been spending over a week doing nothing else but looking at himself in the mirror. His friends have all become frankly disgusted with his vanity. They show themselves, I say as insensitive slob, with no knowledge of the ways of the seer. The artist as the man perceives, has visions, dreams dreams. But he is unfaithful to his work if he does not at first perceive what he is. In fact, he will not be an artist.

C.G.A.

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