

The most remarkable people in this world don't appear on movie screens or in sports arenas or on television tubes. They drive cabs and work in offices and operate machinery. They're just ordinary people like us who happened to have experienced something extraordinary. And survived.

CLIMBING IN THE WRONG PLACE It's important to use your talents. But if that's the end of it, there is a disillusionment that sets in between the ages of 35 and 50. This is commonly called the mid-life crisis. I believe that it is more a phenomenon of a wrong value system than it is the age group in which it occurs. All of a sudden you realize the ladder you've been climbing is leaning against the wrong wall.

The New Greed

Consumerism is a symptom of greed. Greed is a drive for the attainment not only of basic human needs, but for status, power and material goods in excess of what we actually need. When we succumb to the enticement of greed, we lose our perspective as citizens of the world with the responsibilities that this entails.

Consumerism, someone has said, is a "bloated late 20th-century version of the American dream" that divides the rich from the poor. In this scenario, prosperity is maintained and advanced at the expense of the marginalized. Bonds of solidarity are destroyed, and indifference and even a sense of moral and political powerlessness afflict consumers.

-- Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, CSB, Las Cruces, N.M.

Sirs:

I drink. I smoke. I take drugs. I guess you could say I live life to the fullest.

A Schmuck
New York, N.Y.

Aw, hell, the system's gone soft. Fear of the Lord means nothing anymore. Guilt, vengeful punishment, purgatory, eternal fiery damnation... all the wholesome values have disappeared.

12. Silliness. The madcap. The most important trend. The trend of trends. Purpose? To deliver us from the mundane. To deliver us from evil. To deliver us from people who seriously dress for lunch and seriously try to think of something to say. To deliver us from people who wear two tank tops at a time. To deliver us from people who wear ball gowns and believe in them. To deliver us from Yuppie women who wear running shoes to work. To deliver us from people who think California is a wasteland. To deliver us from people who believe all that they read. World without end. Amen.

“Actually, I just want to be famous, like Eddie Murphy”

- Does it drive you crazy when your routine is the same for too long?
- Are you sometimes accused, in a manner that feels insulting or judgmental, of being "dramatic" or "high-strung"?
- Are you prone to sudden, sometimes unexplainable eruptions of anger or fearfulness?
- Just when things are going smoothly, do you find yourself in a fight with someone close to you or faced with a new crisis?
- Do you wonder if you'll ever be satisfied by anyone or anything?
- Would you go to any lengths to help out a friend, even to your own detriment?
- Do you become strongly attracted to men who are already involved with other women or who don't appear interested in you?
- Do people accuse you of "making a big deal out of nothing"?
- Do the people closest to you seem to be in frequent upheaval or turmoil?
- Do you long for career success, but find that it continues to elude you?
- Have you tried, more than once, to "conquer" or "change" an emotionally distant, troublesome, or cruel partner?
- Have you ever been a binge eater or used alcohol or drugs to excess, especially when bored or frightened?
- Do you complain to friends of being mistreated by others, or by "life"?
- Do you take secret pleasure in breaking social rules or minor laws and getting away with it?
- Does your life seem more like a jumble of unrelated chapters than a whole book?
- Is passion usually mingled with conflict and turbulence in your relationships?

If You Could Be Anyone Else for a Day, Who Would You Be?

It was hard not having my rifle. It's like not having your handbag. You're accustomed to the weight of it, and when you don't have it, you feel you are missing something.

*the Right Clothes Can
Keep Life from
Bothering You*

*Look for your wealth in
good friends and health*

●Napoleon summarized his own fading fame in a single sentence: "I am doing now what will fill thousands of volumes in this generation; in the next, one volume will contain it all; in the third, a paragraph; in the fourth, a single line."

Most of us do not worry if we will have food and clothing, but we sure worry that we will have the right kind of food and clothing.

DIFFERENTIATION If you cannot tell the difference between the fragrance of a rose and the scent of a cigar, your sense of smell is dead. If you see little difference between a wrong and a right, your conscience is dead. If you are more interested in making money than in growing your soul, you are dying spiritually.

Anonymous.

**I wonder
sometimes,
what choices
are we going
to make, and
will we be able
to stand up to
the seduction
of our culture?**

"I've reached that time of life when I want a car that just works."

**What would you do if today
was your last day on Earth?**

If TV Says 'Do It,'
Who Will Say Don't

The concert is over,
the club is empty,
all the people have left.
What's next?

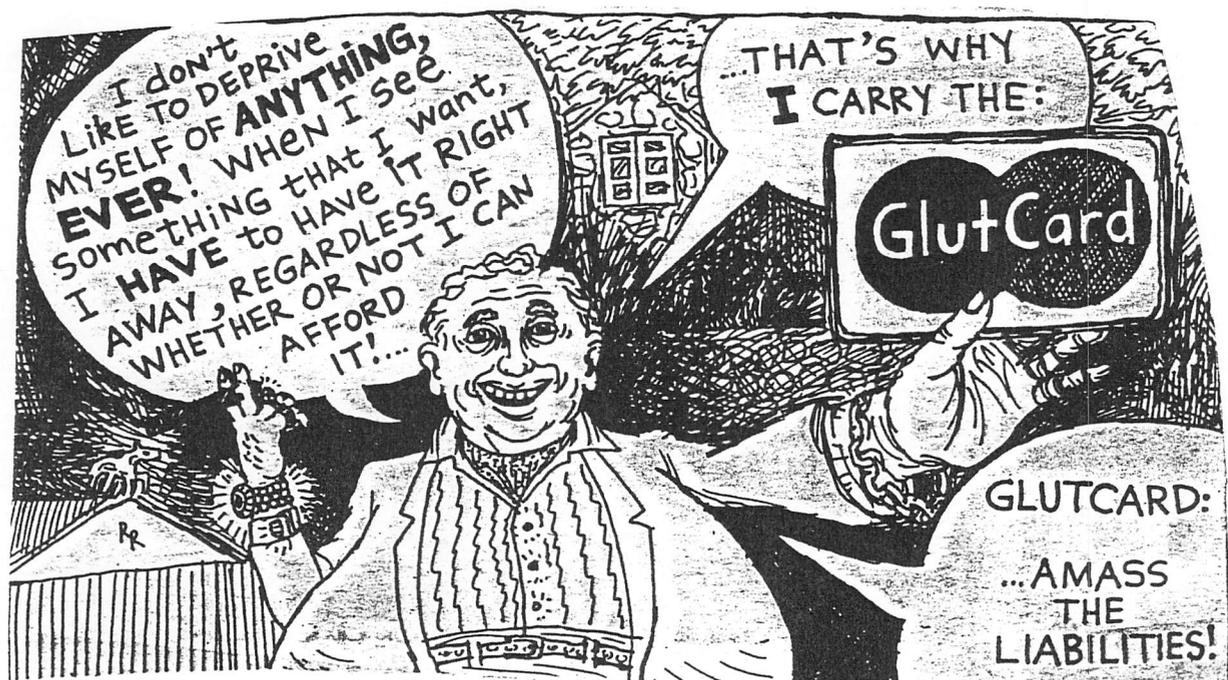
FOCUS Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and the unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind.
Bertrand Russell

Did they get you to trade
Your heroes for ghosts
Hot ashes for trees
Cold Comfort for chains
Did you exchange
A walk on part in the War
For a lead role in a cage
How I wish
How I wish you were here
Running over the same old ground
Have we found
The same old fear
Wish you were here.

Wish you were here
Phil Floyd

**If We Use People,
Then We Lose God**

One Must Not Keep Up With the Times



It's a very selfish decade. It's all me. People who experienced profound disappointment trying to change the system are jogging and growing vegetables and concentrating on brightening their corner of the world.

-Tom Hayden

IT BOILS DOWN TO PEOPLE I guess I'd rather be famous than infamous, but actually money and fame and the rest of it don't impress me much. About all that really impresses me is human kindness and warm relationships with good friends.

THE NEW GODS

(Genesis 3:5)

"... And you shall be as gods..." How true! How true!

(As true as lying tongue would ever speak)

For now man on his own must ever seek

To keep the whole Creation in his view

And judge such things as Adam never knew:

What's good and strong and leads us to the peak

Of human excellence; what's bad and weak

And should not live—in other words, a Jew,

Unwanted children, doting men, or you.

The new gods grant us life and liberty

Until their highest justices review

What life is—and is not. Divinity

Has duties: Omniscience must decide

What nice new name to call new homicide.

THE 1988th PSALM

Recreation is my shepherd, I shall not stay home; it maketh me to lie down in a sleeping bag; it leadeth me down the interstate each weekend. It restoreth my suntan; it leadeth me to state parks for comfort's sake. Even though I stray on the Lord's Day, I will fear no reprimand, for I am relaxed; my rod and my reel they comfort me. I annointest my skin with oil, my gas tank runneth dry; surely my trailer shall follow me all the weekends of the summer, and I shall return to the House of the Lord this fall. But by then it will be hunting season, and that's another psalm.

A NATIONWIDE "Older Americans" survey conducted by the Colonial Penn Group among 200 customers over the age of 100 revealed that material possessions were low on the list of what they considered the most valuable contributors to the quality of life.

Most of them believed children, friends, and relatives to be life's most precious possessions. When asked what they miss most about the good old days, personal relationships top the list, with good health and mobility following close behind. Material possessions were rarely mentioned.

'We have come to view self-indulgence as a component of the quality of life. We must give up such thinking.'

Stop being taken by every Tom, Dick, and Harry. Instantly turn the tables and get the upper-hand — not the usual finger!

Today's the day you stop being shafted!

What is Most Important to Me?

It's time to re-examine the beliefs which shape our lives.

Hippie Creed

1. Sex above money.
2. Brotherhood above individualism.
3. Sisterhood — if it helps you get No. 1.
4. Save the whales.
5. Trees are terrific.
6. The fate of blacks in America is also the fate of America.
7. Black-tie parties are dumb; what we wear are jeans to show our solidarity with the people.
8. The drug of choice is grass because it makes you mellow, man.
9. Save the planet.
10. You are your brother's keeper.
11. Losers are to be pitied and helped.
12. Winners are only losers who got lucky (or had grandparents who did).
13. Greed is reprehensible.
14. Life is art, if lived properly.
15. Altruism is what made America great.

Yuppie Creed

1. Money above sex.
2. Rugged individualism. And brotherhood be damned.
3. Sisterhood is *passé* — what did it ever do for Lee Iacocca?
4. Let the whales save themselves. (If they're so smart, why are they nearly extinct?)
5. Trees are overrated. (If they're so great, why aren't they rich?)
6. The fate of America depends on only one black: Eddie Murphy (because he makes so much money).
7. The people are nasty, brutish and short; we show solidarity with the Reagans and wear black ties.
8. The drug of choice is coke because it makes you hyper, wired and greedy, man.
9. If the planet's so smart, why can't it save itself?
10. If your brother needs a keeper, he's a real loser.
11. Losers should be shot.
12. We don't *know* anybody but winners. (and their grandparents).
13. Greed is great.
14. Life is profitable, if lived properly — and art be damned.
15. Selfishness is what made America great — and you better not forget it, or we'll starve you out.

The AMERICAN Business\$\$man's Credo

Is it untested?

Can I cut corners in its design?

Can it be shoddily built?

Can I use cheap materials?

Will it create hazards for my workers?

Can I evade the safety laws?

Will it harm the environment?

Can children die from it?

Can it be falsely advertised?

Can I overprice it?

Can I make an unreasonable profit?

Will it force a smaller competitor
out of business?

Good! Let's get busy on it.

TRAVELLING LIGHT In the last century, a tourist from America paid a visit to a renowned Polish rabbi, Hofetz Chaim. He was astonished to see that the rabbi's home was only a simple room filled with books, plus a table and a cot.

The tourist asked, "Rabbi, where is your furniture?" Hofetz Chaim replied, "Where is yours?"

The puzzled American asked, "Mine? But I'm only a visitor here. I'm only passing through." To which the wise rabbi replied, "So am I."