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ARTHUR VESEY, York, P. E. Island

## Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan  
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In an informal gossip about literature, the late John Buchanan once said that he thought as hard of two or three generations ago had a cleaner palate and a more robust philosophy than their critics of today. They were interested in humanity in the human soul itself, rather than in its perversities and vagaries. They were not clever people. "The trouble about cleverness," he said, "is that it is so rarely greatness." Considerable shrewd observation has gone into this remark. Our generation is for the most part a generation of clever people, not of great ones.

The clever man falls in one or the other of two classes. Either he is a totally selfish person who pursues largely his own ends, or he is an inhumanly selfless person sacrificing his own soul, his very humanity to one or another of the physical or humane sciences. Both of these stand in glaring contrast with the truly great man who is only selfish in the sense that he will suffer nothing to destroy his own personality and only selfless in the sense that his first objective is to love God and his second to love his neighbor as himself.

The first sort of clever man is more interested in himself than in anything else. Wherever he looks, wherever he directs his interest, he sees but a reflection of himself. Political posts, executive offices, positions of trust are meaningless

for him in terms of social order or social justice. They are only so many occasions of personal aggrandizement. The highest accomplishment of such a man is an adroitness of speech and manner enabling him to shift from one position to another at a moment's notice. He is for God or against God, a red or an anti-red, a fascist or a democrat according as the wind blows. But he is also a man who knows the power of ridicule. He can laugh out of countenance what appears for the moment to be interfering with his plans. He can do this without fear of reprisal because standing for nothing himself, he is insensitive to attacks by others. He is only really comfortable, however, when the forces and institutions which challenge his complacency are under heavy fire.

### Church Is Target

This man is a very particular foe of the Church. Its very stability is a threat to his own shifting sort of security. When he finds, for example, that the Holy Father is not represented at a certain conference, he jeers at him and calls him the do-nothing occupant of an ivory tower. But, when, on the contrary, the Holy Father is represented at some conference or has issued directives which make it easier for Christians to work for unity, the clever man finds immediately that the Pope is quiting religion with politics, or that he has designs upon someone's liberty. Again, when the bishops of Quebec appear to take sides in an industrial dispute, or to have definite views as to where real justice lies in a debatable issue, the clever man conjures up words and innuendoes designed either to defeat any chance of justice being done or to prevent credit from falling where it is clearly due. In such cases his cleverness proves mainly to be skill in the assigning of ulterior motives.

As often as not, journalists are the readiest victims of such devices. A certain group of periodicals, claiming to be a kind of avant garde, seem almost to be the official spokesmen of such clever deceivers. The others simply string along and present under the guise of news what are only the sly conjectures of unprincipled wits jockeying for position.

### Talent Betrayed

The unfortunate part in all this is that such cleverness is usually a betrayal of youthful promise and talent. One is reminded here of the angry words of a father to his twenty-six year old son in a modern play by Henry de Montherlant: "My son, at thirteen years of age you had a grace, a nobility, a polish, an intelligence which you have never displayed since. It was like the last resplendent ray of the setting sun. But in the case of the sun, we know that in a few short hours it will shine once more. But childhood genius, once extinguished, is gone forever. We often say that the butterfly comes from a mere worm. In man's case, the butterfly actually becomes a worm."

The other type of clever man, the selfless one, is dangerous in a quite different way. He blindly exercises his talent, whatever its nature, without regard for moral consequences. He makes A-bombs or birth-preventives, writes bad books or devises godless teaching methods in a skillful, self-sacrificing way. He is a more lovable type of clever man, but equally dangerous.

Today we need fewer clever men, in either of the above senses, and more genuinely great men. The great man has all the natural talent of the clever man, but develops it differently. In the great man, self never comes first, God does. The great man is always vulnerable, is always risking something, if for no other reason than that he has principles and stands for something. The great man's life is lived on many levels—physical, rational, political—but with perfect interior harmony because all its sights are kept in just focus by the lens of spiritual vision. He is a good man and a hopeful man. But his hope is based, not upon his adroitness in adjusting the world, come what may, to his own advantage or to the advantage of the science he serves. It rests rather on his adroitness in adjusting himself and the science he serves to the advantage of God.

## Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a new nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

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EASTER CARDS AND GIFTS.—Choose the Cards you like to send from our complete selection. Candy filled Easter Baskets for the children. 25 cents, 35 cents, 50 cents. At the Abegweit Gift Court.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.—Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred J. MacDonald of Covehead, announce the engagement of their daughter Helen Kathleen to Dr. Anthony Dominic Veroni of Guelph, Ontario. Marriage to take place in May.

ELECTED TO CONGRESS — Mrs. Alex Ford, Douglas Street, has received word her brother, Herman L. Larter, who visited here last summer, has been re-elected congressman in Woodville, Mass. Mr. Larter was formerly from North River and has two brothers residing in this city, Edward and George.

CITY POLICE COURT — At the Specially Magistrate's Court yesterday, two men charged with being drunk and disorderly were each fined \$10 and costs or 20 days in jail, while a third was sentenced to 20 days in jail. Three drunk and incapable, two men and one woman appeared. Two were each fined \$10 and costs or 20 days, the other being remanded for one week. Two men charged with operating motor vehicles while intoxicated also appeared, one being remanded until Thursday and the other remanded until Saturday. A man charged with assault was dismissed.

## JACOBY ON Canasta

For Beginners - 13

We have been watching the play of a hand, and we are now up to the second play by North. The card at the top of the discard pile is a seven, and North holds: A-A K Q-Q J-9-8 7-7 2

North is able to take the discard pile because he can legally meld the top discard (a seven). He is not obliged to take the pile, but he is more than willing to do so.

He does not begin by grabbing the seven. Before he can touch a single discard he must prove that he has a right to the pile. He must put a legal meld on the table, and the discarded seven must fit that meld.

North's first step, therefore, is to put down his pair of sevens. To take the discard pile for the first meld you must have a pair of natural cards that match the top discard.

In addition, North must put down enough of a meld to meet the minimum count requirement of 50 points. Since the three sevens count 15 points (North is entitled to count the top card of the discard pile as part of the meld), North must produce at least 35 points more.

North has a choice at this point. He may put down ace-ace-deuce or queen-queen-deuce. The former counts 60 points; the latter, 40 points. Either would be more than sufficient.

North has no real problem in making his mind up. He puts down the queens and the deuce for reasons that will be discussed in the section for experienced players.

Having put down queen-queen-deuce and seven-seven, North waits

a second to let the other players see that he has made a legal meld. Then he takes the seven from the discard pile to add it to the meld, and puts the rest of the discard pile into his hand. If he chooses, he may now meld some of the cards he has just picked up.

Save these simple installments. If you're a beginner, you'll soon be able to profit from the tips given in the second part of each article. If you're an experienced player, save the first half to teach the game to others.

For Experienced Players - 12

In the first part of the article we note that North takes the discard pile to make his initial meld. He must meld six cards to make the minimum count of 50 points, but this does not bother him because he acquires a discard pile of six cards to replenish his hand.

One other point about the meld is worthy of note. North must choose between melding ace-ace-deuce and queen-queen-deuce. He chooses to meld the queens even though they count 20 points less. The reason is that North remembers what has been discarded. He can see only the top discard, a seven, but he knows that the pile includes two other sevens, a black three, and -- most important of all -- two queens.

In other words, if North puts down queen-queen-deuce he can count on adding two queens whenever he wants to do so. If he puts down ace-ace-deuce he may never get another ace.

Good canasta players avoid wasting wild cards. They try to use them in melds that have a good chance to become canastas, and they avoid using them in minor melds that may not turn out well.

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CHECK YOUNG EARS

STOCKHOLM — (CP) Stockholm's 53,000 children will have their hearing checked according to a new, quick method, which only takes two minutes and yet gives an accurate report. Doctors said that about two-thirds of Sweden's 100,000 deaf persons could have been cured if they had been treated when young.

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