

**Do As Little  
Damage As You Can**

By Arthur Hoppe



It was a nice day and I was out in the backyard spraying aphids and thinking about an old-fashioned brass plaque I'd seen once on an elderly real estate man's desk. It said: "As I go through life I only pray I can make our world a little better place to live in." A very nice motto, I'm sure. Except, I decided, it isn't mine.

I decided this because I was spraying aphids. I used to spray aphids with a relatively clear conscience. True, I would feel a twinge now and then for the aphids I was slaughtering. (They're beautiful jewel-like creatures, if you examine them closely.) But you have to kill the beautiful aphids in order to make a beautiful garden.

But now, as I sprayed, I thought of Rachel Carson's book, "The Silent Spring," and all the fuss it's caused about pesticides. I don't really understand the ecology involved. But as I pumped the sprayer and killed the aphids in my God-like way, I had the uneasy feeling that I was poisoning generations of robins and bluebirds and butterflies yet unborn. And I felt guilty.

Earlier, in the kitchen, I had washed my hands in detergent and watched the glistening bubbles slither down the drain. It used to be a most satisfying sight. Yet now I thought of the documentary I had seen on television — dirty, virtually insoluble bubbles everywhere, polluting our streams, killing our fish and fouling our drinking water. And I felt guilty.

And from the back porch I had looked across the valley to where the bulldozers had

gouged into the greenery-forested hill, laying bare the raw red earth for a new, faster road — a road I am looking forward to using. And I had noticed the faint smear of smog hanging in the morning air. And particles of it, I thought, had come from the exhaust of my own car. And I felt guilty.

And I thought, as I sprayed, of all the times I had read of how man is plundering his planet — eroding its soil, polluting its waters, killing its living things, despoiling its very atmosphere. Selfish, egotistical man. And yet I had never before stopped to total up the damage I alone have done in trying to reshape my own world closer to my desires. I alone with my modern sprays and my modern detergents and my modern car.

And yet should I suffer gnats and mosquitoes and flies with an aerosol bomb at my fingertip? Should I struggle with grease while the detergent bottle stands there on the sink? Should I walk through life when I can ride in upholstered comfort? And I knew though perhaps I should, I won't.

And then I thought the saddest of thoughts: Inevitably, the physical world we all love so well will suffer for my being on it. Inevitably, I will leave it worse than I found it. Like a careless camper in the wilderness.

And if I had to cast a brass plaque in these times, the best it could say is: "As I go through life I only pray I can do as little damage to our world as possible."

**Try and Stop Me**

By BENNETT CERF

A WATER COLOR specialist found an old Indian squaw in New Mexico who struck him as a perfect model for a painting. Promised sufficient wampum, she agreed to pose, but after remaining absolutely still for a half hour, she began to squirm. "Be patient," urged the artist. "I'll soon be finished." Ten minutes later she started wriggling again. "I thought Indians were patient and stoical," grumbled the artist. "What makes you so nervous?" "Well, for one thing," explained the Indian squaw, "I'm sitting on a swarm of bees."



The discovery of coffee as a drink, according to one big mocha and java importer, goes back to about 850 A.D., when an Arabian herdsman named Kaldi noted that his goats became very frisky and wide-awake after eating berries from a nearby shrub. He and the abbot of a nearby monastery experimented by boiling the berries in water. Results: (1) Kaldi sold his goats and opened the first coffee house and (2) The abbot experienced no further trouble in keeping his monks on their toes for late evening prayers.

Caslie Stinnett tells of a new comedian who has scored a fantastic hit in Argentina. His name is Gaucho Marx. © 1963, by Bennett Cerf. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

**Quotes From the News**

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
New York—Dave Grote, National League public relations director, cheered by the New York Mets' 6-2 win over the Yankees in a benefit game:

"The victory was a big thing for the National League. It could mean as much as 50,000 additional admissions for the Mets this year."

Pittsburgh—David J. McDonald, president of the United Steelworkers union, praising the method by which a 21-month contract was reached with the steel industry:

"The understanding proves the worth of a new idea in collective bargaining, the human relations committee approach where management and labor can sit down without restraint or rancor and reach agreement."

Miami—Dr. Antonio Maceo, president of the Cuban Revolution Council, addressing exiles in the wake of announcements that commando landings had been made on their homeland:

"This is a time for all Cubans to unite for the liberation of our country, which will come if everything develops according to plans."

**JFK's Civil Rights Message at Glance**

Washington — (UPI) — President Kennedy's civil rights message to Congress at a glance:

**The Problem**  
The result of continued federal legislative inaction will be continued if not increased racial strife — causing the leadership on both sides to pass from the hands of reasonable and responsible men to the purveyors of hate and violence. This would endanger domestic tranquility, retard the nation's economic and social progress and weaken the respect with which the rest of the world regards this country.

Congress should stay in session this year until it has enacted — preferably as a single omnibus bill — the "most responsible, reasonable and urgently needed solutions to this problem, solutions which should be acceptable to all fair minded men." In addition to earlier recommendations, new legislation should be enacted dealing with public accommodations, employment, federally assisted programs, a community relations service and education. Budget amendments also were requested to improve the training, skills

and economic opportunities of the economically distressed and discontented, white and Negro alike. Congress also should enact previously requested legislation to protect Negro voting rights and give the Civil Rights Commission a new four-year lease on life.  
**Schools**  
Authority was requested for the attorney general to initiate in the federal district courts legal proceedings against local public school boards or public institutions of higher learning to enforce desegregation under certain conditions. Federal money

help should be given areas having trouble complying with school desegregation orders.  
**Employment**  
Additional funds were requested to broaden the manpower development and training program and to finance the pending youth employment bill. Additional funds also should be provided for vocational education to provide a work study program for youth of high school age and to raise the ceiling on adult basic education provisions in the pending education program.

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