

over in front of the blinking car in the other lane, I managed it. (I am still waiting, incidently, for the federal statistics on accidents that occur while a driver is trying to buckle his safety belt.)



Soon the car with the blinking right-turn signal took an exit to the left, and I sneaked off on the right three exits before my regular one. Then I drove home in peace behind a moving van--and I stayed behind it, feeling shielded, even when it stopped a couple of times to ask directions.

The experience with traffic safety on the parkway had been one of the most harrowing that I had undergone for several days.

The most harrowing had occurred on a street near the Senate Office Building when a preoccupied pedestrian stepped out from between parked cars, and I almost ran over him. It was Ralph Nader.

Imagine it. It's enough to make a man take a the bus.

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Negation is a way of saying Yes,
Of bracing sanity to admit a must;
Your desire is obvious in the fear you stress.

When we refuse to dare excess
To drain a dram of liquid lust,
Negation is a way of saying Yes.

As I attempt a warm caress
To tame your trauma of wounded trust,
Your desire is obvious in the fear you stress.

When trees of suspended confetti are less
Their palette tones by a shearing gust,
Negation is a way of saying Yes.

And if I frown at a tousled tress
Because it fell not by passions' thrust,
Your desire is obvious in the fear you stress.

Suppose we wear love's brightest dress
And deny we were separate segments of dust,
Then our negation is a way of saying Yes
To desire oblivious of the fear you stress.

--George Ellis



The Corner Aphorist

By Sam A. Darcy

☞ Before the era of Iron Chancellors and fierce-eyed Fuehrers, Germany produced men of charm and wit. Wilhelm Busch, 19th century poet, was one. He noted the then current criticism of German youth by the elders (much like ours today) and commented:

Youth should heed the older witted
When they say, "Don't go too far!"--
Now their sins are all committed
Lord, how virtuous they are!

☞ The Prussians were then introducing the crew haircut, the ramrod back, pressures for conformity, heroic postures, suspicion of everything not appropriately mediocre. They needed all that to serve their new passion--messianic militarism. Now that this disease is spreading in our country we make the same demands on our youth. And they are resisting in odd and unusual ways. Good to them!

☞ Someone once asked Disraeli, "What is the difference between disaster and catastrophe?" "See now," he answered, "if Gladstone were to fall into the Thames it would be a disaster, but if anyone were to rescue him, that would be a catastrophe." We have gone from isolationism, a disaster, to becoming the world's worst busybody, clearly a catastrophe.

☞ In a world of revived national pride and national self-improvement, the Pentagon is spending our lives and wealth pursuing a peculiar kind of internationalism, that of world censor, policeman, and bully.

☞ From the New York Times, Jan. 31, 1967 (reporting on the Japanese elections): "The Democratic Socialists, a moderate Leftist party, won 30 seats for a gain of 70." That new math is driving us nuts!

☞ Cousin Barnegat called to say that listening to LBJ on Vietnam, it is difficult to grasp whether he is talking about a peaceful solution or a ceaseless pollution.

☞ The weatherman predicted snow flurries and he was right--there were 12 inches of it. Cousin Barnegat, stuck on his chickenless chicken farm wanted to be of service, so he and the Mrs. made notes for us of the week's outstanding news reports of experts on China.

Monday: (Dateline Tokyo). Mao's own story on where he stands. He said in an exclusive interview with a far-hearing correspondent: "I was standing on a street corner, minding my own business, putting up my wall posters, when suddenly I disappeared."