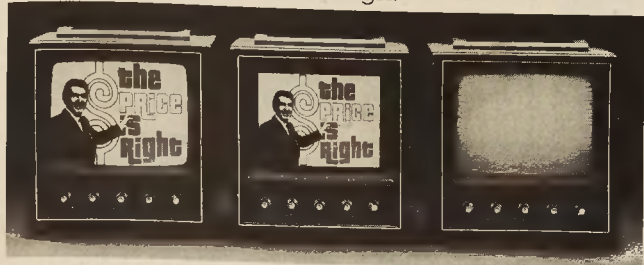


ON JANUARY 17, 1977, THE ENERGY SHORTAGE COULD HAVE INTERRUPTED YOUR REGULAR TV PROGRAMS.

You may not remember the date, but you probably remember the weather. All over the East Coast, temperatures reached an all-time low. While demands for energy reached an all-time high.



A neighboring utility had equipment failures and had to "borrow" power from CP&L. Then, CP&L and another neighbor also had problems. This, coupled with record demands, could have created a serious energy crisis, and caused some drastic measures.

You may have seen the results on your TV screen. The first screen shows normal power. When we had to cut back power, your picture may have looked a little smaller than usual. If things had gotten worse, we may have had to shut off power altogether for a period of time, and you'd have had no TV.

Even more importantly, you'd have had no electricity for heating or cooking. Or hot water. Or anything.

Fortunately, we didn't have to do that. Because, on January 17, CP&L's power system had 26% reserves.

But, in the 1980's, we'll have less than half of that reserve. Which may not be enough, if we have more situations like the one on January 17. What's more, if the demand keeps going up, the way it has been, we'll have to build more and more plants. Which, of course, eventually means higher rates. That's why it's important that all of us keep doing everything we can to keep the demand as low as possible.

CP&L
For more information on how you can help keep the demand down and at the same time, save on your electric bill, call or stop in at any CP&L office.

Up From Dust And Darkness

By Lew Simon - 3rd Century Artist

"YOUNGUNS"

Young people!

They're something else!

I've always been so close to them, I've never encountered the so-called 'generation gap' psychologists are always talking about. And as a rule, they treat me exactly as they do one of themselves, not as a hopeless square.

I love them, appreciate them and they sense this quite easily without my even bothering to tell them so. Their instincts tell them I'm "an all-right guy," and they respond in kind.

They like me, never fail to let me know it and to me, this is a huge compliment to my inherent humanity.

During the three years I taught English, Biology, Health, Civics and even Physical Education in grades 7 through 12, I always knew what they were thinking, feeling and doing, not out of morbid curiosity but simply because they wanted me to know just as I wanted to know. I approached them on human terms and they were appreciative. And even though I was blind, so much so that I could never distinguish between any two of them by sight, they never took advantage. And when they suspected that somebody else did, their instant wrath was kindled toward that individual.

They trusted me, I never betrayed their trust and consequently, they told me anything and everything, often things they wouldn't have dared to tell even their counselors, much less their parents. Very often they said to me, "How I wish I could talk to my parents the same way I do to you!"

Sometimes I talked to their parents for them but never without their full knowledge and consent. They respected me as a person and the least I could do was return that respect.

One year because the royalty on high school plays was so high as to be prohibitive, we put our heads together and decided to write and produce our own annual high school

play. What an idea and experience that was!

We set down the main thread of the story and ad libbed the rest, recording the results. We openly debated points that were weak and changed them. We worked at that darn high school play like slaves but loved every minute of it.

And guess what happened when we finally staged the play! We had the biggest turnout in the school's history. Naturally, because every single pupil was involved. Which means that they involved their parents, friends and neighbors through their sheer enthusiasm. You'd better believe we packed 'em in that night! And then we calmly proceeded to amaze the pants off 'em with our incredible performance and creativity. That play was the talk of the community for weeks. And sometimes even now when I see one of those students, he or she will say, "Remember our high school play? Boy, that was fun!"

It was fun because they, themselves, did it. Oh, sure,

some New York playwright could have written a better script. According to the literary critics, that is, but not where those students were concerned!

The story was simple but appealing and the idea originated with them, not me. It was about a "kiss thief" who became so enamored upon meeting the female lead that he drew her into his arms and kissed her soundly. The rest of the story was about all the trouble that one kiss caused. Happily, the whole thing was ultimately resolved at the altar--and the couple lived happily ever after. I honestly don't think Hollywood could have done better.

Now, that isn't the kind of idea we old fogies would have come up with. But to idealistic young people, a simple kiss is a thing of great magnitude. It isn't surprising that out of their romantic, young minds came a whole story woven around a simple kiss.

Yet, young people have their own particular faults and failures. For example, some of them are enormously prejudiced against older people, just as older people are enormously prejudiced against them. To them, romantic love is the exclusive prerogative and possession of the young.

They can't imagine an older couple being in love or even needing love. "The old fools" make them "sick." That is because they have not yet learned that love is the nearest thing to heaven we have on earth, the need of which goes with every individual from the cradle to the grave.

Young people!

They are always "going to the dogs" where too many older people are concerned. Old people who have such good forgetters. Why can't we old fogies remember how things were for us and with us when we were young? Today's young people are no better and no worse than we were. Oh, more cars and telephones are available to them. And they do make the most of these, like the other special privileges they have which we didn't have. But can you blame them?

Young people are necessarily show-offish. They are in that stage of life when making the right social contacts is of the utmost importance to them. And they are out to attract attention to themselves, just as they have to be in order to succeed. So don't be offended when they are loud, boisterous, or even boastful. Overlook it if they have a tendency

to wear their skirts short and their pants tight. And look the other way with a secret smile if you happen to see scribbled on the restroom wall some such slogan as STAMP OUT VIRGINITY!

Remembering that many of us did the same kind of thing when we were young, I still remember the old wreck of a car in my day which had scribbled on the sides of it the bold lettering, HEY, GIRLS, DO YOU DRINK OR SMOKE? IF SO, THROW YOUR BUTTS IN HERE!

And the words written on a bathroom wall, JESUS LOVES SINNERS. Under which some naughty guy of my day had scribbled, SO DO I--ESPECIALLY GIRL SINNERS!

No, that didn't make us bad, just show-offish. We were just out to prove our worldliness which we equated with sophistication, and above all, manliness. Oh, sure, we often went about this business of proving our adulthood in the wrong way. But WE made it, didn't we?

They will, too, if we're just patient long enough and don't lose faith in them. Also if we don't expect them to be free of errors and mistakes than we were.

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