

Let's Talk It Over

● **THE CASE OF THE LAW STUDENTS:**

The college of law students have been christened with provocative names, affixed with equally repulsive adjectives by a segment of the not-too-understanding intellectuals in this *sanctum-sanctorum*. It is alleged that they are throwing their weight around in the classroom, in the library and in the lobby with blatant impunity.

To say that law students are by nature noisy people, might be a fatal admission. But you see, the profession of law being their business. They have to argue and debate on this or that intricate provision of law with the end in view of getting the right interpretation on its intent and meaning. True, they create a public disturbance in consequence thereof. But that is incidental. Honestly, they cannot effectively practise their profession with their mouths shut because argumentation and debate is its prime requisite. But despite the fact that they are being misunderstood as regards this particular character trait, they will manage to smile.

● **SUBVERSIVE LOYALTY:**

Gnawing subtly at the core of our democratic way of life is that kind of destructive loyalty spurred by fear and not by love. Have you noticed the following cases? An employee cannot complain of the unfair labor practices of his boss without fear of unceremonious dismissal; a son cannot call the attention of his father's "adult delinquency" without fear of the leather belt; a student cannot stand up and question his professor's inconsistencies without fear of failing marks; a member of a political party cannot denounce the deleterious effects of his party's policies without fear of expulsion. This is dangerous because a situation where one's line of thinking or reasoning is limited to a simple "yes" or "no" is a fertile ground for the inroads of communism, which advocates thought control or regimentation. Unreasonable intolerance must be eliminated right now if we want to remain free.

● **LET'S HAVE A BREAK WITH GUNS AND STEEL BLADES:**

Almost every day, we are fed with newspaper accounts of shootings or killings here and there. Why can't we learn to settle our differences with ice cream or to fight them out with bare fists? Imagine the predicament being "herded" into the prison cell like cattle — loss of the dignity and honor you once possessed and the personal sufferings day in and day out inside — what with little food, hungry mosquitoes and rigid prison regulations. With ice cream, after a snack, the

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possibility is not remote that what was once a burning hate may turn into fervent love. Or if the protagonists want to make it more dramatic, a fist fight is advisable. With bare knuckles, after the boxing bout, all that is needed is chill the bumps with ice cubes and shake hands. As a matter of suggestion, you can have another round the next day. In that way, there will be no killings, no funerals and no "widows." I don't think "fisticuffing" the whole day would kill a man as long as they face each other at the start and stop when one shakes his head for a break. It's those without nerves that are so lead with guns or steel blades.

● **OUR PARENTS ARE DELINQUENT TOO:**

Every now and then, we read in our metropolitan and local papers moving accounts of scandalous and deplorable acts perpetrated by youths such as vandalism, hooliganism, gangsterism and other misdeeds happening all over the country.

How to cope with juvenile delinquency is admittedly one of the most serious problems confronting the home, the church and the state. It is common knowledge that it is far easier to prevent a mistake than to correct it.

An objective approach in analyzing the sad predicament of today's youth does not permit the home to be excluded since it is one of the most important factors to be considered when trying to understand much of the deplorable conduct of the young. Some parents do not realize, for instance, how good imitators children can be and that whatever misbehaviour they unconsciously commit at home invariably influences the minds of their brood.

An important factor in the solution of the problem is for the parents to provide the young generation with a decent background in the home with all the requirements in good precepts that it implies. At least that's one way to help minimize if not eradicate this growing social cancer, which threatens their children's immature hearts and innocent minds. In short, they must set up an example worthy of emulation.

But unfortunately, the way parents "behave" nowadays is often not very edifying to their young. (With a great waste of saliva). They preach for others to follow this or that age-old virtue and do just the opposite. Unless adult delinquency is eliminated among parents, one can never expect juvenile delinquency to vanish. For the roots are the life-blood of the tree. ‡