

WANTED: *A Catholic Party*

Speech delivered at a Convocation in Holy Name College, Tagbilaran, Bohol, last September.

By: ARISTIDES GONZALEZ

May we not be justified in accusing our present government of deliberately hastening the conversion of this country to Communism?

WHEN I was invited last week by Father Lesage to become your guest-speaker for this occasion, I immediately started ransacking my memory files for recollections about Bohol. The almost legendary figure of Bohol's first hero and martyr, Dagohoy, at once projected itself in my mind's eye. There must be something in the climate and soil of this rugged little island that has the magic of quickening the pulses of exoticism and of blazing paths that lead to immortality. By a twist of fantasy, however, the picture of Dagohoy is not that of a farmer with bolo upraised, defending his home and his native fields, but a picture of that symbolic status which graces the campus of the University of the Philippines, Oblation — youth, spurning the arms of battle, youth proud of his dignity in a free country, youth, in the immortal destiny which must be his, embracing in the generous sweep of arms outstretched an entire universe of fellow human beings, like him wayfarers towards an eternal rendezvous.

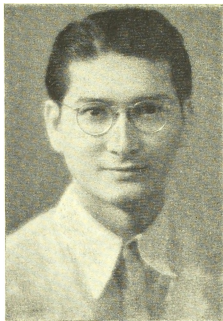
An eternal rendezvous! Yes, friends, "In the house of my Father are many mansions". We are indeed travelers in this bourne of time and place, but flitting shadows — how many sages and poets have not proclaimed it? And after we have crossed the bar, the rest is not silence. The rest is Absolute Truth, Goodness Infinite — Everlasting Happiness. That eminent general

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of Christianity, Ignatius of Loyola, laid down this paramount truth in a terse axiom of human conduct -- God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever. That was four hundred years ago.

Since then, much has happened. We call these things Progress. From the accumulated facts of centuries, we glance from our eminence and sneer at the ideas of serious men who believed that the world was flat, whose knowledge of the stars was reduced to charlatan astrology, who believed in ghosts and burned witches at the stake. Can anything good come out of Nazareth? We ask contemptuously. And forthwith we stoned these prophets of the Middle Ages, and pillory the ideals which they have accepted as immutable truth. We welcomed each philosopher with a new set of fantastic doctrines, provided they spat upon the old truths that came from religion. We prostrated ourselves at the feet of the goddess of Reason, an actress of the French opera, and chanted the liturgy of Secularism led by Jean Jacques Rousseau as he proclaimed the brotherhood of man without the Fatherhood of God. Without the Fatherhood of God, men ceased to be brothers. Under the fanatical creeds of Hitlerism, Fascism and Shintoism, only their respective race were human beings, the rest were degenerates unfit to live in a world which must be Nordic. We the democracies, the believers of Secularism, we destroyed the enemy. Our progress in the sciences, the Industrial Revolution, had made us survive.

The ink from the pen of General Douglas MacArthur was scarcely dried after the treaty of Japanese surrender, the dramatic words of the General: "We consider these proceedings closed" were still reverberating through our thrilled hearts, when the 36th parallel jumped from our books of geography into the inmost recesses of our fears and hopes, chilling the human heart with forebodings of global disaster. And well indeed should they cause universal panic, for here was an enemy more formidable than the tanks and



THE AUTHOR

the tables of Valhalla. In the brief span of thirty years Russian Communism had fanatically embraced the worship of Material Progress, outstripping its American exemplars in its devotion to production and more production. Take up the Life Magazine for a comparative view of the potential and actual strength of Russia and the United Nations led by the United States, and read through it the handwriting on the wall. Read dispassionately the news items regarding the present peace negotiations in Korea. You see there no submissive opponent squirming in abashed confusion, like an unruly child before the stern eye of the disciplinarian, but the cool strategist of a chess-game calculating and unrelenting in the pursuit of his objective. The pupil has learned his lessons well from the master. Russia has learned from America science without conscience.

With this difference, though. There is a difference, my friends, which is precisely the strength of Communism and the weakness of American democracy, also of our Philippine democracy which is but a reflection of the American way of life. To the worship of Material Progress Russian Communism has not only added, it has infused a

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belief. I use the precise word infuse, as it connotes not merely an external appendage, but a purely spiritual concept, the idea of a substantial being with its determining form. Can I be more clear if I compared it to the spirit of Faith which is infused into the Christian soul at baptism? The substance of Communism, is its Power, the form its religion of State Worship, so successfully theorized on by Engels in his Philosophy of Dialectic Materialism, and efficiently carried out in Russian schools of indoctrination. We hear of such centers of indoctrination in our own country, notwithstanding the precarious existence which our communist foes are forced to lead because of our government's vigilance.

What is this belief, this religion of irreligion? With your kind permission I would like to inject a bit of ontology here, as this is how Engels proceeds. In our philosophy we base our system on the primary concept of 'being'. All things have one concept in common — being, that is, everything that exists, has 'being'. On this our reasoning is built. The Primary Being is God; man is a contingent being, participating analogously in the Being of God. The foundations of the Communist ideology are different. According to Engels, the concept of being is non-existent as all things really are 'becoming'. They are in a constant flux towards no particular perfection. How they happened to exist is not any concern of his, as that is a foolish question — all things are simply 'becoming'. Lenin supplied the answer to the question of becoming what by stating that men will become so perfect that there will be no need for government. The government withers away as man becomes perfect and a brave new world of saints gradually replaces the old. For the time being, Stalin adds, the Communist Party must lead the proletariat to that much-desired end, through bloody revolution and the establishment of one common denominator, the proletariat. The State must therefore be absolute in its control over the individual as the individual has value only in so far as it promotes the welfare of the state towards ultimate perfection. The individual's significance under this philosophy is thus reduced to that of a cog in a giant machinery. The moment it refuses to perform what is expected of him in the blueprint of Communist government, he must be liquidated as a liability. This is where the word

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liquidated has taken such a cold-blooded meaning.

If you would stretch your patience a bit, I would like to mention a practical application of this philosophy or belief. It was good twenty years ago to relax the marriage laws and allow card divorce, a divorce granted by merely taking out the marriage card from the shelves of the bureau and crossing out the name of the erstwhile marital partner. This worked both ways for all parties. Today divorce is discouraged and family life made much of, in the interests of the present militant aims of Communism. Since the State is supreme, its mandates are never determined by absolute principles of right and wrong but by expediency.

But enough of this abstract disquisition. It is sufficient to note that the belief of Communism is firmly grounded on a Philosophy of Relativism which is assiduously learned in Russian schools. Faith in State absolutism is the credo of every Russian subject; the ideal of service to the welfare of humanity is held out as the *raison d'être* of every individual. In the words of the British historian, Arnold Toynbee, "Communism is a doctrine more seductive than the tenets of Islamism. It offers an ideal of service to mankind."

What beliefs, in contrast to this, what immortal principles, does American and Philippine democracy, offer to their citizens? It is not sufficient to say that democracy guarantees the rights of individuals because the Constitution says so. It is still as insufficient to enthuse with Rousseau about the excellence of man and universal brotherhood. The stronger and the more powerful can afford to despise these sentimental slogans and ride roughshod over the weak and the destitute. Nor can we gather enough strength, nor would we desire to gather such strength to offer our homes and our lives to a belief in defense of an abstract term which modern humanists have canonized as 'human dignity'. Man's person, so modern secularism holds, is intrinsically deserving of respect. It is so because he can reason, he can create art, he can invent things, which no animal can do. Therefore, because

of this he should have human rights. He should enjoy the four freedoms. No one should trample on these rights. But if a brutal majority should seize the power of government, can it not sneer in open contempt of such a childish illusion. Possessing the power can he not tear up the Magna Charta of the people's right and throw it into an ashcan as so much mollicoddling of a mere weakling animal, who after all, according to chemists, is materially worth 97 cents? If such a person believes with Darwin that man is but a supersensitive baboon, why should not the stronger baboon prevail?

Two years ago I was present at a Town Hall meeting in Manila, where we had as guests several Town Hall members from the United States. Also present was Mr. Guillermo Capadocia, Communist. He complained that the Communists were being denied their four freedoms in a supposedly democratic country. One of our visitors from the United States declared that even at the expense of exposing the state to the dangers of sedition, the freedom of speech should not be curtailed. He was a lawyer. To him democracy meant freedom without restraint. He would defend a communist to the best of his abilities although the accused was plotting publicly to overthrow his government. He would defend his right to speak. He believed implicitly in that Voltairian maxim: I will disagree with you, but I will defend with my life your right to speak. My friends, the part cannot be greater than the whole. It took America exactly another year before they started rounding up the Communists in the United States. We beat them to the punch by a couple of months. The freedom of speech is only one of your freedoms, the freedom to live in peace, to be secured in the democratic way of life we now enjoy is certainly greater than this.

What delusions, what aberrations have resulted from this fanatical worship of freedom. You are free to conspire against your country, provided you are not caught. You are free to steal from the people, provided you know how to pad your accounts. You are free to raid the coffers of the government, provided you are in power. You are free to commit adultery provided the police does not catch up with you. The communists have a right to sneer at this way of life. At least they delude themselves with the

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VOTE FOR

Catholic Education

IN OUR BULWARK of Christianity in the Far East, in our Catholic Philippines, we Catholics are the emaciated victims of our own stupid complacency against the pernicious onslaughts of Protestants, Masons, and unscrupulous politicians in our educational system.

We pay tax to support public education, even if we do not use such Godless education for our children. We pay to establish and maintain our own Catholic schools. To top the sad situation, we have to pay more, because the Government taxes our Catholic schools!

Should a public or another private school be operating already in locality, with its inadequate, Godless education, we are prohibited from having our own Catholic school. We have been forced to pay for public education; we are now forced to take the Godless education, or to have no education at all. We cannot have our own Catholic school!

Indeed, it is very strange that, although our Government is fighting Communism, our Government is doing precisely what the Communist are doing in Red China and elsewhere inside the Iron Curtain: discouraging, persecuting the Catholic schools!

We, the people must correct this anomaly. The Administration of President Quirino must be subject to censure in the coming elections unless it reforms its anti-democratic and anti-Catholic policy against Catholic schools.

In the first place, the Administration must lift up the taxation of Catholic schools. Such taxation is against the Constitution, against the democratic way of life, and smacks of an avid desire to get money and more money by whatever means, for the Government to spend and perhaps mis-spend.

In the second place, the Administration must permit the opening of Catholic schools even in places where there are already public or other private schools. Freedom of education, the right and duty to educate one's children, is a God-given, inalienable human right, recognized in our Constitution. It in-

Reprinted from the *Jaro Archdiocese*
Catholic newspaper "Veritas" of
September 9, 1951

cludes the freedom to establish and maintain schools.

Any public or private school that cannot stand the test of honest competition deserves no artificial protection from the State. Moreover, it must be noted that there is something in Catholic education that is absent from our "public" or "secular" education, — the education of the soul, along with the education of the mind and body.

We Catholics must awake from our stupid complacency, and stop being like the placid carabao, led by the nose by the enemies of our Church. We must be militant Catholics in our private and public life. We must make good use of the ballot. We must ask our candidates to state their stand on Catholic education, and accordingly give them or refuse them our vote.

OFF THE RECORD

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patriotic than the Ed who's all afire with enthusiasm setting up a chapter of the National Movement for Free Elections. We can contribute this observation though the political would have lost an asset in the person of Father Moderator. Have you seen Father S. coming down the corridors to his office? Such a lot of "Hello, Inday" and "It's this, my boy, ne?" and stopping to chat and the cheery Catholic wave of the hand and geniality. Winning any election would be a cinch.

Unfortunately, Father S. is happy where he is, so there is lost one who answers the need of the moment — "A Catholic Politician."

In the course of our chat with friend Herbie in the office the other day, we touched on the interesting

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ideal that they are subservient, nay, slaves of the State, because they have to live like social beings and must look to the common good. On the altars of this ideal, they are willing to follow their leader to death. Can any one sincerely say: I shall sacrifice my life for the freedom not to get caught by the policeman?

Frantically America today is trying to gain adherents to its bankrupt cause. It strews billions of dollars around the world seeking to lull the intense unrest of backward nations by a temporary prosperity. The Marshall Plan, the Point IV, the war damage, surplus, war equipments, all the letters of the alphabet dressed up gaudily with the glitter of American gold are mustered up to prevent the final cataclysm. The Yankee dollar rolls in vain. Why? Where did the PCAU and the ECA supplies go? Ask the party in power. Where did the surplus and the War Damage money go? Ask the party in power. Where did the billions for Chinese defense go? Ask the Nationalists. Where will all other American aid, intended for the enlightenment and the social upliftment of the masses, finally go? If for once such aid were applied properly, how successful would it be in setting at ease the fevered spasms of suffering humanity, and for how long? How long without a faith that makes the individual responsible to His Lord and Creator, to Whom he must render a final accounting. How long without a faith that recognizes the Ten Commandments. How long without a faith that makes all men brothers and worthy of respect because they are all children of God. How long without a faith that teaches that the salvation of man's soul is the chief concern of man here on earth, and that each right proceeds from God, each duty is owed to God?

The skeptic might at this point raise an eyebrow and say: Why religion of all things in this modern age? To go into a detailed answer could not be difficult, but there is a more powerful answer that comes from the pronounced enemies of democracy. Why do the communist hate religion so much? Scan the newspapers for the atrocities, the inhuman killing of priests, nuns, and other Apostles of Christianity. You remember Cardinal Mindszenty. You remember the Protestant Mis-

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CAROLINIANA

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written under it, you might as well read to crown up your reading menu of every issue of this mag. Our associate ed is that valuable to the staff, this mag will become drab and desolate without this pen-itchings.

● The alumni are just beginning to stir from the inertia of inaction. With two letters received in answer to their proxy's open letter of last issue, we think there ought to be some coming. But as we said, probably they have just stirred, and we expected them to write more letters giving in suggestions for the good of the alumni and their relations with the University which should be strengthened always. The Alma Mater is calling them, and it is up to them to heed the call by chiming inside their hearts whatever reaction they may have to their proxy's request for some suggestions on important matters which should concern them very much.

● Two wide-awake alumni suggest a bust, a statue, or a portrait of St. Charles Borromeo. The alumni proxy seems to be in a quandary about these suggestions at present, because he is still waiting for the ideas of the other alumni. The Association's funds are waiting to be spent, too. But unless the other alumni voice out their opinions and their suggestions acted upon in a meeting convened for the purpose, nothing will come out of it. If we are to be requested to give a suggestion, this we will say: The alumni have got to wake up.

● The pictorial section consists of varied features. If your eyes are sore, turn to the first page of the pictorials and you will be relieved of your malady, at least, figuratively speaking. Cute and prime sponsors whose lovely, lovely [omigod!] features define beauty can be ointment to sore eyes.

And we are playing up big the Home Economics. Liza Garcia was assigned on the job, and she is a go-getter who really gets (I don't mean 'em). The HE set-up is swell, she was genuinely impressed. The practical training future house-wives go through in the course will qualify them magnificently for roping 'em elusive princes-charming. But there is one thing: no visitors allowed in their exclusive sanctum. It is presumed that HE girls can have all the training in hospitality and entertaining of visitors in their respective homes.

● We shall wind up this section before we forget that space is limited. There have been a lot of good-writing we had to discard and defer for next issue just because an issue should only contain so much and not more. So, here's where we get off hoping to see you again next issue if we are still here to bamboozle you into reading us. So long.

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sionaries who were massacred. Count the temples of God that have been desecrated, the images of saints that have been torn down in the orgies that accompany each Communist victory. Are these Russians insane? They cannot be, for they have amazed an entire world with their stupendous achievements in the brief span of thirty years. Their orgies of killing representatives of religion are planned from the politburo, cool, calculating murders to remove the greatest enemy of Communism on earth . . . religion, the belief in God, in man's immortal soul, in man's immortal destiny, in man's ultimate responsibility to God, not to the State.

In the face of this intense hatred of Communism towards religion may we not be justified in accusing our present government of playing right into the hands of the enemy, of deliberately hastening the conversion of this country to Communism, by denying to our youth the knowledge of things that belong to religion? Where shall the people of the Philippines learn the principles of justice, of virtue, of mutual respect and co-operative endeavor, if the portals of education lead into the labyrinths of skepticism or into the abyss of Opportunistic Materialism? Last year I witnessed a terrible defeat suffered by 85% of the 20 millions of Filipino citizens, the Catholic population. I saw the struggles kept up by one representative of Masonry to prevent the inclusion of religion in school curricula, and I saw him triumph. Look into your Revised Administrative Code and you will find out what antagonism exists against religion in any form being taught in our schools. The Liberal Party refused to listen to the pleas of 16 million Catholics. Neither will the Nacionalista party listen to the pressing need of spiritual rejuvenation, for which the country cries. These are deaf ears. They cannot have the moral standards of this country elevated, because their hands are not clean.

There is a third party which started out with the shining ideals of Sir Galahad. Their hands are clean, but their knees are wobbly. I am referring to the Citizen's Party under Senator Tañada. The shining shield of Galahad is tarnished with moral cowardice. Its members are tongue-tied in the face of the secularism of the present age which believes that any talk about reli-

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LEONIE LOOKS AT . . .

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. . . . CAROL MODINA. You can't help but notice her . . . unless you're blind. A newcomer, she spent her high school at St. Theresa's; is presently a Commerce freshman. For Carol a MAN-ogment maybe is a cinch.

. . . . TERRY BLANCH who is probably one of the reasons why there always is a bunch of interested spectators hanging in front of the open doors of the typing room.

. . . . That advocate no mirth-control, CASIANO CORPIN. C. C. has double reason for incessant gaiety. He just had a close shave with the Army. (Almost got sent up to a training camp for a ten-month stretch, Y'know) The other — do tell, Mr. Corpin.

. . . . That's tall, slim CELESTE RUBI, the sponsor of the Corp in which ever way "corps" is taken. Either simply "corp" or "corps-commander." Both, by simple deduction, amounts to the same person.

. . . . Ever heard of guys who have a remarkable penchant for plaid shirts? Right under the same roof with you are JESS VILLEGAS and EPREN VALMONTÉ. You can recall the days when these two aren't sporting a striped get-up.

. . . . The Liberal Arts beauty-cutie BONINA SHINN, the focus of ROTC Co. "C." A shoky handshake to the "charlie" soldier-boys. After-oll, such espy is sporadic!

. . . . RAUL BORROMEIO is one guy who can still afford to whistle along the lobby in the midst of the hubbub of the exams whilst all others go about with moving lips. . . . murmuring the conjugation of Haber, perhaps.

. . . . Among the "Pharmers" there's a little group of inseparables made up of CIONY MUJANA and her pals CHATTA SOLANO, BELITA PILAPIL . . . would-be pharmacist all.

. . . . What's your favorite recreation? Bowling and movies are MONCHING BLANCO's. More often, he shoots pool. Another frequenter of a local poolroom, "ALFOT" ALFON insist he just goes there to wait for his class times.

. . . . What our Varsity squad needs is probably EEEEE KING KYAMKO, the gangling curly-haired guy. His six-foot frame is undoubtedly handy for dead-ringers.

. . . . One lady who's set on becoming a Portia, DOLORES MARIN has the woman's determination to qualify for the Bar exams in the future. Ain't women's just about all for today, folks. If I don't stop looking now, I'll be needing glasses pretty soon.

gious principles would expose them to ridicule. They could not even attach to themselves the real name of their party, thinking it premature to proclaim the existence of a Catholic party with Catholic principles and Catholic objectives. Would to God that they possessed the same zeal that sent twelve meek fishermen into the world of the powerful, the greedy and the selfish, there to preach Christ and Him crucified.

My friends, I have made mention of domestic politics only when they come to touch on the vital facts which the wisdom of worldliness cannot possibly understand. Education is a thing primarily of the spirit. If the politicians of this day fail to grasp the indispensability of rejuvenating the minds of youth in the ageless truths of Christianity, it is because fifty years of education patterned after the objectives of Masonry have indoctrinated them in irreligion. Yes, our system of education, while it has manifestly sought to guarantee freedom of worship, has methodically produced a generation of skeptics and unbelievers. Can we expect a wholesome government from men of this type?

Walter Lippman, addressing the American Association for the Advancement of Science on December 29, 1940, states: "The prevailing education is destined, if it continues, to destroy Western civilization, and, in fact, is destroying it. The plain fact is that the graduates of the modern school are actors in the catastrophe which has befallen our civilization . . . Modern education is based on a denial that it is necessary or useful, or desirable for the schools and colleges to continue to transmit from generation to generation, the religion and classical culture of the Western world. By separating education from the classical religious tradition the school cannot train the pupil to look upon himself as an inviolable person because he is made in the image of God. These words, though they may now sound archaic, are noblest words in our language."

No less a person than President Roosevelt has this to say: "We are concerned about the children who are outside the reach of religious influences and are denied help in attaining faith in an ordered universe and in the Fatherhood of God. Practical steps should be taken to make more available to children and

the pages of the Catechism pamphlet he had also picked up, with the other. He entered the church thru the left altar door. As he genuflected before the tabernacle on the main altar, he felt queerly light hearted. He was surprised because he had shunned seeing altars, fearing that the pain would be too much to bear . . . He walked down the middle aisle towards the boys who filled the four last pews.

"Are you going to tell us stories, Bert? Father Dolan said you would," a shiny nosed lad piped up in a clear child's treble.

"Oh he did, did he? Let's call

youth through education the resources of religions as an important factor in the democratic way of life and in the development of personal and social integrity."

How true, my friends, indeed how sadly prophetic have these words, spoken ten years ago by the lips of such great men of democratic America, become today. The education of the past fifty years cannot meet the fanatical machinery of Anti-Christ's Communism. Your two political parties can only come out with a choking gasp that they are against communism. But why? But how? These questions they cannot reasonably answer because they have themselves practiced surreptitiously what Communism has inculcated as expedient, as necessary, as reasonable — practice like promises unfulfilled, vicious skepticism, disregard of human life and liberty in the lust for power, public spoliation under the name of laws.

You are truly fortunate that you are imbibing your ideals from the crystalline founts of everlasting Truth — your Catholic schools. If this generation is unfit to save our country from the savage attacks of the forces of irreligion, your knowledge and your practice of religion will form an unyielding fortress which shall confuse the enemy. I have not come here today to proclaim a new order, but to sound the assembly under the guidon of the King of kings. May His banner, floating triumphantly over our country, unite our people as one against communism, as each and every one of us lives and prays and fights for God, who made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this life, and to be happy with Him forever.

the roll"

The day had faded into early evening when Father Dolan turned the jeep home. He was tired and weary. That Mrs. Moret with her periodic "I-am-going-to-die-today" spells always left as its effect the uncheering realization that he could maybe never hope to be a saint. His patience somehow managed to unsanitarily wear thin before the querulous old woman decided she was going to live and allow him to go his way.

He wished she had not chosen to have her spell today. He hadn't quite finished his talk with Bert. He was worried about the lad. Bert was made of good stuff, but with too-intense outlook on the fundamental things, his too sharp, too meticulous conscience, he worried one at times.

He went into his office, switched on the light and wearily sat down. He had been stung at it for a couple of seconds before he picked up the note. It read:

"Father, leave this corner of the vineyard to me. You're a lousy baseball coach. And I know enough religion to make a first rate Sunday school teacher — for this vacation any way. I have a date at the St. Tomas College of Journalism after that.

You don't mind losing your Sunday afternoon job for a while do you? You really can do with some help you know — the vineyard is wide, Father, — very wide.

Thanks,

Bert."

Folding the note slowly, a smile lit up the priest's face erasing all the tired weary lines. Now he knew why Mrs. Moret should be blessed with so many spells.

OFF THE RECORD

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topics, false teeth and people. We agreed that we people are quite like basketballs — we take in a lot of air (hot, tepid, cold and what-have-you air). "But," says Herbie, "basketball are better than some of us. At least when the air is pumped into those balls, they bounce. In this certain kind of people it doesn't work that way. The air just goes stale — very stale."

We concurred.