

Lately (early '82) I've noticed that most folks I try to help are constipated on self-observation, and what's getting into print seems to confirm it--e.g., Geo.R.Bach & Laura Torbet, A TIME FOR CARING (Dela-corte/82), delineating the increasing shift from ME to US.

The top cartoon visualizes this qualification on the Delphic-Socratic-HP (human-potential) GN0THI SEAUTON. The verbal humor centers in the countercultural connotation of "THING" (as in Fritz Perls' "I do my thing..."). One of the traditional specifics (i.e., medicines, cures) for this disease is theism, which defines (Luther) "incurvature," self-attention, as sin, and calls for (Jesus) "self-denial," which turns out to be self-love in between self-centering (narcissism) and self-neglect or self-hate.

The bottom cartoon's humor is in the shock of juxtaposing the closed WE of interpersonalism (in this case, sexual) and the open WE of social concern (in this case, the nuclear threat).

Poised between two threats with their attendant anxieties--isolation and absorption--we humans have a limited range of OPTIONS:

1. Escape into self: Greek ("Know thyself."), Hindu (Vedanta's self/Self), hedonism, workaholism, drugs.
2. Escape into another human being. This overloads the circuit, and relationships break down. (Streng's 5th "way of being religious.")
3. Escape into a cause. Of Jn.Reed (the flawed hero of the film "Reds"), Henry Miller (!) said some folks hurl themselves into the world's problems because--this, of Reed--"either he had no problems of his own or he refused to recognize them" (20CCT18 Feb82).

4. Escape into God, the open door of theism, which in its biblical form delivers from isolation (by communion and community) and from absorption (by Love's enhancement of the person-in-community and assignment to caring). Here lies current opportunity for apologetics and evangelism.

NOTES: Self-deification/sacrifice/forgetfulness/neglect/regard/respect/love/fulfilment/actualization/realization/analysis: how relate all these to the present picture in USA/world?....These on my diamond: Freud(body), Adler(spirit), Frankl(mind), Jung(psyche).

