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## Harry Golden's "Only In America"

THE GREEKS HAD  
BONKISS, TOO

In "Zorba the Greek," a truly great motion picture, the girl friend is sick with fever and Anthony Quinn applies the bonkiss. This was a remedy widely applied on the Lower East Side of New York 50 years ago, and later. The application of the bonkiss during the influenza epidemic of World War I reached its height.

The bonkiss looked exactly like those glass connections you see on power stations and on telegraph poles. With alcohol and flame applied in the vacuum, the little glass cups were applied to the patient's back and immediately adhered to the flesh. "Cupping" is what it was called.

The idea being to draw the blood and stimulate circulation. They were applied for fever and all sorts of respiratory illnesses. The bonkiss were pulled off and left a red circle on the patient's back for weeks afterward. When you went to Coney Island and saw the folks in their bathing suits, half of them had those tell-tale red circles where they had been "cupped."

The barbers applied the bonkiss. Many barbershops had signs: "cupping," and in those days the barber on a bonkiss call looked like a doctor, white coat, black derby, and little black satchel.

I hadn't seen "bonkiss" for years until this expert of handling the cups by Anthony Quinn in Zorba. The "remedy" may be gone but the famous proverb persists.

You hear it every day. If you want to point out the hopelessness of an idea or a decision you say, "heiffen veia toyten bonkiss" (as effective as "cupping" a corpse).

### THE TEACH - IN

We have been caught up, all of us, in the ferment of the 1960's. We face a constant crisis in the racial upheaval. The American college and university faces an emerging crisis with the students demonstrating and challenging the stale concepts of the administration. The Ecumenical Council in Rome proves the Catholics, whom so many non-Catholics used to consider the most monolithic of institutions, have an internal conflict as to what will happen to the directions of the Church.

And, of course, all over America there is political

ferment. The President has decided to extend the bombing into North Viet Nam, and dispatched troops to Santo Domingo and not everyone is in agreement with this. In fact, many of the folks are hot under the collar and they are making their doubts and their anger manifest.

There isn't a social or a political gathering to which you can go without several petitions sliding across your lap and a stern injunction from another guest to sign.

And this is all to the good. McGeorge Bundy sent a message to a marathon teach-in at Washington. He said, "The American people know the real day of danger will come when we are afraid of any unpopular minority or unwilling to reply to its voices. The minorities understand what the communists cannot understand at all: that open discussion between or citizens and their government is the central nervous system of our free society."

Let us pay no attention then to the Birchers and other Far Right intransigents among us who label anyone in disagreement, a Red or a Communist or a Comsymp. Too many Americans, too many patriots are outraged

to believe that our generation has witnessed a campaign to make dissent treasonable.

There is ample evidence of the tremendous value of the recent teach-in. Where the opposition has been silenced it has been fairly easy for the John Birchers to call a lone dissenter -- a Red or a Comsymp. This has happened all through the South during the past 10 years. But in the few isolated places where there have been many dissenters, the Birchers themselves ran for cover.

The remarkable result of the teach-in is that no one dismissed the professors and students as "subversive" or even "naive."

We spent eight years of torpor, because some of us feared to make our opinions known. McCarthyism was dead but not yet buried. Let us remember that the Johnson administration may hopefully mark the era in which McCarthy and the men who felt and thought like him no longer make us frightened.

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