



ELEVEN CONVERSATIONS

Like most everybody else I don't like to be broke. That means I like money. Reaching in my pocket and feeling paper gives me meaning. But if I were to gamble in London with two best friends, I'd bring along credit cards. I'd feel uncomfortable if I was to bank out of neighborhood, and be told, then told insistently, that my personal check was of no value. But on the same hand, I'd feel short if I was to treat aesthetic realism friends to dinner, only to find I had small change.

Like most everybody else I like to be entertained. That means I usually watch television. Prime-time variety shuts me down. But when I festival with 'new school' friends, I get in deep with Bergman's black and white. I'd feel funny backgrounding Friday-night poker with message and medium, but on the other hand, I'd feel silly if I visited minimal friends and brought along my baseball cards for trade.

Like most everybody else I like to feel healthy. That means I try to stay young. Plenty of C keeps me fit. But when I body-build at the gym, where everyone is veed and 'chinned up,' I pump iron. (Studio black background voices repeat 'chinned up'). I'd feel funny all day at the beach under an umbrella checking the co-op list, but on the other hand, I'd feel self-conscious if I came for a morning meal at the farm mirrored and oiled.

Like most everybody else I like to fall in love. That means I usually try to gain the friendship and respect of someone who can fulfill my needs. But when I'm horny and need a fuck, or a blow job, or both, I'll meet someone, get complete control, and tell them lies. It would get complicated if I had two lovers and I had to reject the one I wanted immediately for the one I wanted in the future, but on the same hand, I wouldn't feel good if I saved my love for someone I really, really liked and found out later they had given theirs away.

Like most everybody else I like to travel. That means a two-hour freeway to plug the trailer in in time for a cookout. But when I vacation, where everybody is a tourist, I package seven cities into six days. I'd feel funny ferrying the

Air-stream around while island hopping, but on the other hand, I'd feel left out if I stayed home Saturday and Sunday, and found out on Monday the stores were closed, and everybody was on a three-day-weekend holiday.

Like most everybody else I don't like to be lonely. That means I haven't seen anyone I've known, or talked to anyone I've known, all day, sometimes for three days. Instead I talk constantly to myself, usually while I'm thinking a camera is following, shooting me. Realizing suddenly that underneath it all the woman I married is a monster, I drive down slow to where I can get love and don't have to give it back. I wouldn't feel good if the only conversation I had all day was teller talk to a man behind a small black curtain in a small brown box in a large freezing church, but on the same hand, I wouldn't feel better if I bought a small, hairless dog with a back-and-forth tongue and trained it to keep me company.

Like most everybody else I like to get high. That means I usually drink, snort a line, or listen to a good tenor. A couple of imported beers get me into the mood. But when I commune where everybody is Eastern, I breathe through the stomach and meditate on 'the way.' I'd feel funny if I was to lotus on the bar stool, but on the other hand, I'd feel paranoid if I was to cold turkey during yoga class.

Like most everybody else I like to get a good night's sleep. That means a nap and to bed at nine-thirty makes me feel rested. But when the weekend comes, and everyone shines, shaves, and shampoos, I like to get wasted. I'd feel like I was in a 'human press' the next day if I'd been videoing auto-destructive art with narrative friends on a Wednesday weeknight, but on the other hand, I'd feel embarrassed if I doubled to the drive-in on Saturday and fell asleep snoring during intermission countdown.

Like most everybody else I like to feel satisfied. That means I usually enjoy sex. Having an orgasm makes me feel good. But when I party, where everyone is Levi'd and flared, I try to take both hands out of my back pockets. I'd feel funny if I was to park with my girl and asked her to snap the rubber bands around my legs, but on the other hand, I'd feel foolish if I was to orgy with Wesson-oil friends, masturbate, and then fall asleep.

Like most everybody else I like to feel comfortable. That means I usually wear sports clothes. A long-sleeved sport shirt and a pair of slacks makes me feel relaxed. But when I go someplace where everyone is dressed up, I wear a suit and tie. I'd feel funny if I lounged around all dressed up, but on the other hand, I wouldn't be comfortable if I went someplace dressy and wore my sports clothes.

Like most everybody else I don't like to go hungry. That means I usually eat anything quick and handy. A sandwich and chips make me feel full. But when I commune where everything is natural, I enjoy home-cooked eggplant and orange squash all alone, but on the other hand, I'd feel full of embarrassment if I was to eat with healthful friends and started pan-handling for snacks.