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COVER: MICHAEL MAUNEY 4—cartoon by LURIE 8, 9—HANS-PETER KLEMENZ 10—courtesy NATIONAL GALLERY, WASHINGTON 12—BERNARD NEWMAN for FORTUNE 16—COLUMBIA PICTURES 24, 25, 26, 27—RALPH CRANE 28, 29—LOS ANGELES TIMES 30, 31, 32—LEE BALTMAN 34, 35—H. CO RENTMEESTER—MARC PLAMONDON—ROBERT NADON—LA PRESSE, MONTREAL; rt. CO RENTMEESTER 36 through 41—MICHAEL MAUNEY 44, 45—ITALIA 57, 58, 59, 60—LEONARD McCOMBE 68, 69, 70, 71—ANN PARKER 73—HARRY BENSON 74, 75—HARRY BENSON, WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY (2), CENTRAL PRESS from PICTORIAL, WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY, PICTORIAL PARADE, WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY (2)—HARRY BENSON (2) 76—HARRY BENSON

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An unexpected meeting with a former 'slave'

Freelancer Brad Darrach, whose article on TV star Dick Cavett begins on page 36, is a first-rate writer and observer of the cultural scene. As Darrach explains below, however, he had additional qualifications for covering Cavett that neither we nor he knew about:

"Hi, Brad," said Dick Cavett as we shook hands. "Nice to see you again." Having never met him before, I was baffled. "Don't you remember?" he went on. "I used to be your slave."

Exactly 10 years ago, Cavett explained, he had been a copy boy at TIME, where I was then reviewing movies. I was stunned. Not because the famous Dick Cavett had been a humble copy boy—copy boys at TIME are always turning into celebrated actors, playwrights, novelists and such—but because I suddenly remembered just which copy boy he had been. What I couldn't get through my head was the fact that in only 10 years the pale little pipsqueak I remembered had become this mature and urbane performer.

Nowadays Cavett has the sort of stripped and forceful features you see stamped on coins; 10 years ago he looked a little like a marshmallow lightly haired over. I figured him at the time for a nice sweet kid from the corn country, schoolbright but touchingly unworldly, and when I heard he was trying to break into show business my fellow writers and I made clucking noises about "that poor little guy" who would wind up 10 years later holding Kleenex for Milton Berle.

Well, here it was 10 years later. "You mean," I gulped, "You were the one who . . . who . . ."

"Who sent the empty beer can through the pneumatic tube late one Friday night? I confess."

I laughed nervously and figured I'd better let well enough alone. I never did get around to admitting my 1960 opinion of Cavett, but at the end of the interview he suggested wryly that since option time was coming round again, maybe he'd be needing that copy-boy job back. So as I was leaving I offered to look up his personnel file and add a good word to the record in case he needed it, ha ha.

He needs it. Back at the office, I pulled the file on Dick and this is what I found.

CAVETT, Richard.

Initiative and Resourcefulness—*Adequate*.

Cooperation with others—*Rational*.

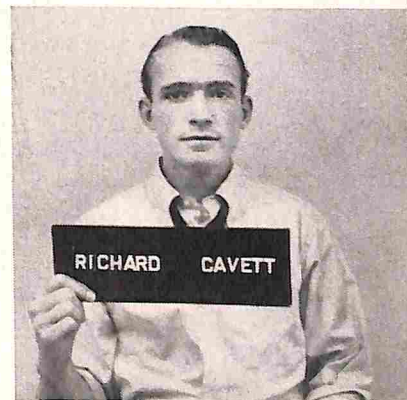
Dependability—*Tedious but worth bearing*.

Overall job summary—*3 on a scale of 5*.

Would you hire this person to work for you again?—*No*.

I called Dick and read him the bad news. "Well," he sighed, "a man can't be good at everything."

Last week ABC renewed Dick's contract for the next 12 months.



AS A COPY BOY, 1960

Ralph Graves
RALPH GRAVES
Managing Editor

LIFE

THE BIG CONSERVATIVE PITCH

- Reagan soars with it in California
- Ohio's 'Perfect Voter' has her doubts

DICK CAVETT

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