

Silence

"Einstein was a genius," my brother said.

"The theory of relativity," my father said.

"He had a great hair-do and looks good on a stamp,"  
I said.

— Paul Agostino

Holbrook NY

### THE FAMOUS

it's always struck me as  
funny who Americans select  
as their heroes.

think of all the people  
that are famous because a  
magazine put them on a cover  
and said they're famous.

think of all the people  
that are famous by simply  
being famous or having famous  
names or famous relatives.

think of all the famous  
that get rich and famous by  
doing a TV series and then  
proclaim they would rather be  
singers or doing little theatre  
in the midwest.

think of all the famous  
that can't stay famous because  
they're not doing TV or they're  
too old.

think of all the famous  
that died in obscurity because  
their death came in a year  
when somebody more famous  
died.

think of all the famous  
that do commercials, talk shows,  
game shows, and celebrity sports  
to keep their hand in.

think of all the famous  
in England, Germany, Italy and  
France that aren't famous  
here but are trying to get  
famous here.

think about the famous  
that died young or from diseases  
you've never heard of.

think about the famous  
that did only one thing  
to become famous and haven't  
done anything since.

some people think they look like  
somebody famous and start  
to act and dress like the famous  
they think they look like.

if you can't think of somebody  
famous, ask your kids  
who's famous.

they'll tell you.

TO D.W. GRIFFITH

you gave us the close-up.

you gave us the cross-cut.

you gave us the crowd scene.

you gave us the cut from the  
crowd scene to the close-up.

you gave us the silent screen  
before radio talked.

you gave us movie language  
before movies talked.

you gave us movie houses  
decorated like temples for  
the gods that they now  
tear down or use for porn.

you gave us "Birth of a Nation"  
in 1915.

you gave us "Intolerance"  
in 1916.