

## TO HOPE AND HOPE NOT

yeah, i know it's stupid to play the lottery — to a great extent i even agree with voltaire, who said, "a lottery is a tax on imbeciles."

but i'll tell you why i and so many million others continue to toss away our five bucks or so a week, rather than using two-hundred-fifty a year to purchase, say, a savings bond that will be worth, at six percent, its face value of five hundred dollars in fourteen years:

it's because, as the song from damn yankees goes, "you've gotta have hope," and our only hope of ever getting a little ahead financially, let alone of knowing in our lifetimes any big-time luxuries or splurges, of ever knowing what it is to go first-cabin, like robert de niro in scent of a woman, is to win a million bucks. and frankly, at fifty grand a year before taxes over twenty years, we'll even have to keep the old urge-to-splurge under control if we plan to quit our day-jobs (which in my case is a night-job).

and the guys we hate the most are the multi-millionaires who buy a hundred thousand dollars worth of tickets as soon as the jackpot goes over fifty million, not because they need a dollar more but just to make sure we don't forget that in this life, no matter what the game, it's only them that has that gets.

## MY HEART LEAPT UP

when i saw the new movie advertised in the entertainment section as

"the sexist thriller of the year."

but on closer perusal i realized it only said "sexiest."

— Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA