

ANDREW JAMES PATERSON

FLAT TIRE A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

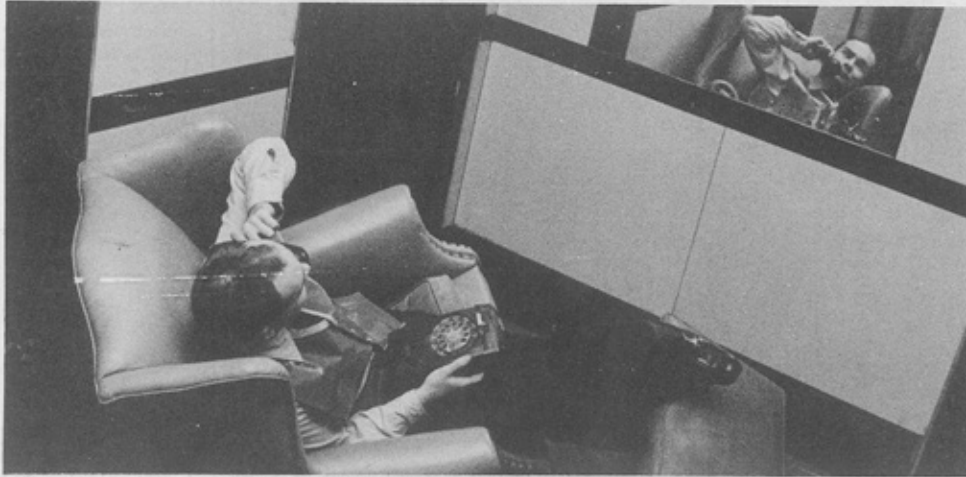


Photo: Permanent Press

PHOTOGRAPH of the AUTHOR in front of a MIRROR talking on the TELEPHONE in a POSED but not over posed MANNER.

SOMEBODY GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE SO WE
AIN'T GOING NOWHERE TONIGHT

Not tonight darling I'm too tired - Well, it's not really physical at all - It's not just physical there's a lot going on mentally - Too much going on mentally - Everything; politics, economics, aesthetics, geography - You know as well as I do that there's no such thing as a relationship that doesn't have to take those things into consideration - There's just too many things to have to think about.

SOMEBODY GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE SO WE
AIN'T GONNA GO DRIVING TONIGHT

It's probably a cause and effect process - Physical exhaustion leads to excess mental activity

leads to mental exhaustion. - no dammit there's a difference between confusion and exhaustion. - One can be both mentally satisfied and mentally exhausted at the same time I think that makes perfect sense don't you? - It's possible that's all I'm saying - Don't confuse me - Listen, we're good friends I just feel like taking it easy tonight.

NOTHING AGAINST YOU PERSONALLY
AND NOTHING AGAINST YOU PROFESSIONALLY

It's probably the randomness of our physical activities lately that's been responsible for all this recent inertia - the unpredictability of it all - Yeah, sometimes we meet

each other in the strangest places - I know we make those kind of arrangements that's the part of it that's so weird - the unpredictability of it all - I feel a change is called for.

SOMEBODY GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE SO WE
AIN'T GONNA FOOL AROUND ON THE
FREEWAY

And the thing that bugs me after a while is that people who like to act randomly together never quite manage to do it at the same time - So one's going to be up and once in a while the other one's going to be down - sure, or vice versa - But that's just the basic laws of gravity - Two people, I'm afraid, cannot live at random simultaneously -

Yeah, and sometimes I have to pretend I'm up there with you I know you have to fake it for me sometimes too - I'd love to have a break from faking it - I need it!

SOMEBODY GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE SO
DON'T MAKE ME HAVE TO HONK MY
HORN

Look, it's not your fault that I'm just kind of exhausted both physically and mentally - It's at least as much my fault - It's the same with everybody I'm sure - People have different blood pressures because they have different blood - Perhaps the same tastes but different blood - I don't want to be forced into a situation

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where I have to be blunt I'd rather be sensible - Good, I'm glad you're not taking this too personally.

IT AIN'T YOU IN PARTICULAR IT'S JUST YOU KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Yeah, I'm just too tired that's all. Too much activity in general I need to relax for a while. You could probably use a bit of a rest yourself - Get some sleep, for Christ's sake.

FLAT TIRE FLAT TIRE FLAT TIRE

I'm stuck - I absolutely have to stay home tonight - I don't even feel like making any phone calls after you hang up.

SOMEBODY GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE SO WE AIN'T GONNA HIT THE TOWN TONIGHT

I don't wanna go dancing tonight - I don't want to go to a movie - Movies aren't relaxing at all - They're too demanding they all try so hard to be significant - No I'm not in the mood for a lightweight comedy they're too hard on my jaw - OH ALRIGHT! - Come on over it you absolutely have to but please don't be demanding - Perhaps there's a book here that you might want to read - No, I'm more in the mood for television with the volume turned down low. SOMEBODY GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE SO WE'RE GONNA STAY HOME AND WATCH TELEVISION

Yeah, I find that relaxing because you tend to see it one way no doubt and I see it another way so there isn't really much of a point trying to talk you know communicate about it - Yes, it's not exactly mentally taxing with the volume down low anyways - whatever it is at the given moment it could be anything at any moment it's so vague - it does lead to meandering anything that soft tends to do that - Ah yes, I guess we're back at randomness again - I agree people don't think at random simultaneously but every once in a while they can have a collision - But I'm not in the mood for a collision tonight alright!

MAYBE WE'LL DO IT ANOTHER NIGHT BUT WE AIN'T GONNA DO IT TONIGHT

There'll be drinks in the refrigerator lots of ice if you want anything mixed or especially cold - perhaps you might want to bring something over that you're working on at the moment - I tend to work in spurts myself - But really I'd rather relax for a while and then go to sleep early - That's just the way I've been feeling lately nothing personal you understand? Good! See you later.

TONIGHT'S A FLAT TIRE FLAT TIRE FLAT TIRE FLAT TIRE