

## Silence speaking



LAMA YESHE, from Katmandhu, and Tibet before the Chinese invaded, is worth noting on this page simply because he receives as much attention from young people as, say, the average cleric who has the benefit of stalking into schools to teach "religious instruction". He spent last week speaking at university campuses, a few days in retreat at Dromana, this week he goes up to Queensland to run a month's course in meditation at a Buddhist commune, an offshoot of the East-West school in which he teaches in Nepal. Both places attract young people who might have been in and out of the drug scene, one religion or another and certainly, to judge from the lean and hungry looks of the flock at the feet of the lama at Assembly Hall the other night, right into vegetarian diets.

For we really did look up at him. With great composure he mounted the platform, climbed upon the table and, like the Buddha himself, sat on a plush satin cushion before discoursing on the issue of Mind. I must say I did not understand anything he said, despite an interest in the metaphysical. The lama's spoken English was simply not up to it. I recall a series of falsetto hieroglyphics that seemed to set many people nodding. However, what was commanding was his use of silence, which is as Buddhist as words, that merely point. The lama is the master of the long blink, the facial flicker that expels the world and the silence that is potentially civilising.

Quite a few of the youth cults are interesting, you see.

—Bottomley

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*A journalist, who signed off as Bottomley, wrote this brief report for an Australian publication after attending the teaching by Lama Yeshe at the Assembly Hall in Melbourne, Australia, in April 1975. The article is transcribed below for ease of reading.*

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