

wires. Instead, it put me exactly where I didn't want to be—on the eleven o'clock news. People thought I was looking toward statewide office, which wasn't true at all."

A friend of another Republican actor-turned-politician—former President Reagan—Eastwood has been saddled with a conservative label. Yet once again he proves to be far more complex than his surface image. He has voiced his objections to what he sees as the bloated Pentagon budget and has protested the effect of offshore oil drilling on the environment. A noted conservationist, he says he's happiest when surrounded by nature.

"I like to go up to the mountains, where you can almost hear the silence," he says. "It's a soothing, nonthreatening silence. I love sitting and watching the birds, especially the waterfowl. I can watch for hours."

So there you have it: Mr. Macho likes to watch waterfowl. And if you have any suspicions left that he's really no more than the sum of his film parts, consider his thoughts on health and fitness. "I try to eat as much fish as possible," he says, "and more vegetables and pasta than anything else. Occasionally I'll cheat and have a bowl of ice cream. But I really think diet is essential to how you grow old. I also work out an hour or so every day, mostly on the weight machines, and do quite a number of push-ups. I'll stay in the best physical shape I can."

Eastwood also says that, except for an occasional beer at the Hog's Breath Inn, the Carmel restaurant he co-owns, he rarely drinks and never uses drugs. "I'm one of the few guys I know who hasn't tried cocaine," he says, almost in amazement. "I have never been interested. I never had the urge or the curiosity about drugs that some people seem to have. To be totally honest, I have never understood what it is about drugs that makes them so appealing—yet there seem to be more people using them today than ever before."

"Drugs are just one of the factors that have combined to turn us into an extremely tolerant society," he adds, warming to his subject. "There no longer seems to be a sense of outrage about anything."

Aha—outrage at last. Maybe there is a little bit of his celluloid alter ego coming through. Eastwood readily admits he's fascinated by Dirty Harry, having played him now in five movies. "For me, it's a lot like visiting an old friend," he says. "I want to see how he feels, if he's just as cantankerous and if so, if he still channels that anger in those same directions. The acting challenge in those films is not as great, but that's okay. We've been making a Harry every five to seven years... and part of the fun is keeping Harry alive for different groups of audiences. Whether or not I'll do him again, I can't say."

While he makes up his mind, his next film will be *White Hunter, Black Heart*, a fictionalized account of director John Huston's making of the famous Bogart-Hepburn film, *The African Queen*. Once again he'll do double duty, both directing and starring in the Huston role. "It's much easier just doing the one job, acting or directing," he admits. "If you're in the film you have to be concerned about the wardrobe, people pulling at you all the time. Whereas if you're just directing and you forget to shave, that's not a problem."

Asked about his future film directions, Eastwood becomes a bit reflective. "I thought by this time I would be directing more and acting much less," he says. "That still is in the back of my mind. But it always comes down to a script that you want to do, a part that seems made for you."

One thing's for certain: "I will never retire," he says. "I've had my ups and downs, but these last few years I really have been enjoying myself. I can work in this business until I'm an old man." He laughs. "*Tough Derelict. Dirty Derelict. Ram-page in a Geriatric Ward.* Movies like that.

"Seriously, though, the key is never to get stale. That is one thing I will never do."



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