

Getting it together

Early failures come easier

Whether you call them developmental crises or passages or growing pains, they're challenging. They are the hard knocks of that well known school of life. And, for some, they're very, very hard.

We've all seen the little child who is devastated by the challenges of going to school. We've seen kids fall apart over the coming of puberty; we've seen adults fall apart over the

coming of middle age. And we all have personal memories of our own stumbles and bumbles at the milestones of our lives.

So, because of the vast popularity of this pastime, a number of our best thinkers have come up with some theories of how we grow up. And some have even suggested some ways to make it easier.

What almost all of these theories have in common is the belief that

growing up occurs in stages. Each stage has its own particular hurdles and learnings. And the transition from one stage to the next is often accompanied by a certain amount of stress.

NOW COMES the crucial part: the amount of stress that we experience as we move from one developmental stage to the next depends on how ready we are for the change. And that depends on how well we accomplished the work of our earlier stages, how well we learned the lessons of our previous hard knocks.

It makes a lot of sense. Each growing phase of our life prepares us for future phases. Each knock and challenge builds our ability to handle life.

Which helps us to see that, if Jimmy is unable to handle the demands of socializing with his kindergarten schoolmates, he must have missed something in his pre-school development. If Susan is having a hard time leaving the nest at 22, then her childhood experiences didn't adequately prepare her for self-sufficient adulthood.

A good theory for Monday-morning-quarterbacks. Now you can blame your troubles on the failings of your past. But what do you do if you're the parent of Susan or Jimmy? Is it possible to repair the damage or bolster the incapacities caused by earlier mistakes?

YES, IN FACT that's the way it works in real life. Once you get away from the perfect world of our developmental theories, you find that nobody ever is perfectly prepared for the next growing-up phase.

But that's all right because life has a lot more flexibility than that anyway. The next crucial principle is that what-

By
BOB TRENZ,
Ph.D.



ever you didn't learn at an earlier stage will be among the chief learnings of your later stages. If you didn't learn self-discipline and general job skills on a paper route at 15, you'll get another chance on the assembly line at 21.

Of course, the knocks get harder as we get older. So it's better to make your mistakes as soon as possible. It's far less traumatic to lose your paper route while your parents are still supporting you than it is to be fired from a job that is paying your rent.

That's why it's nice to have parents. At every stage they can help to ensure that their offspring have opportunities to fail and succeed. And they can a lot to minimize the damage of mistakes by giving the right amount of emotional support and other kinds of help when it's needed.

What is the right amount of support? Enough to keep a son or daughter from being too discouraged to try again, but not so much as to rob them of that precious sting of failure, the great teacher and molder of adults.

Bob Trenz is a psychologist and marriage counselor in Rochester. Comments may be sent to Dr. Trenz at P.O. Box 64, Rochester-49063.

Calvary sets Lenten rites

Beginning at noon Thursday, people are invited to bring their bag lunch to Calvary Lutheran Church and meet with the Rev. Samuel Hays to study "The Last Will and Testament of Jesus," as a Lenten observance.

Wednesday evening, Lenten services also begin and will be built around the dialogue between people of supposed minor stature in the life of Jesus. Investigations of who they were, what their relationship was to Jesus, and what they reveal about modern man's relationship to Jesus will be a part of the service.

The Wednesday evening services will continue through March 15.

Calvary's church council and interested members will go to Dearborn Saturday, Feb. 18, for an annual church council workshop sponsored by the Executive Board of the Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Hope Lutheran Church is the host.

Members of Calvary also are making plans to celebrate the church's 20th anniversary. Committees have been formed to prepare for the August event. Chairpersons are Jane and Phil Dakin of Bingham Farms.

The church is located at 28001 Evergreen in Southfield. For more information, call the Rev. Hays at 357-3496.

Vitality conference rescheduled

"Increase Your Vitality," a one-day conference for women has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at Mercy College Conference Center.

The program, sponsored by Women of Wayne State University Alumni Association, was cancelled by last week's snowstorm.

The morning schedule includes a mini-workshop on "How to Find Time For Yourself" and optional sessions on fitness through dance, yoga, everyday use of the body, and "Getting in Touch with Your Senses."

Luncheon will be fol-

lowed by "Fashions with Lillian" presented by Lillian Rosenberg, fashion coordinator for Weight Watchers, Inc.

Dr. Paul Pearsall, chief of Sinai Hospital's Problems in Daily Living Clinic, will be speaker at the 2 p.m. closing session.

Reservations can be made at Alumni House, Wayne State University, 87-2168. Wayne State students may enroll at the member rate.

Pancake walk coming up

A pancake walk will be held in the nature area of Stony Creek Metropolitan Park near Rochester beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 19.

Naturalists Roger Bajorek and Bill Thomas said there is no better way to forget the rain, snow and cold toes of an early morning walk than to enjoy a hot breakfast

with friends. Bajorek and Thomas will head a stroll through the frozen beauty of nature. A pancake breakfast will follow.

A charge of \$1.50 per adult and 50 cents per child is required. For registration information, call the park nature center: 781-4621.

WHAT IS A SALE?

If this question is important to you, then read, what we feel are the correct answers.

- Buy now, because all your needs in home furnishings are at reduced prices.
- Buy now, because all your special & custom order furniture are at reduced prices.
- Receive now, free professional design service, which cannot be matched at any price.
- Receive now, free delivery and service at no extra charge.

STORE WIDE and NOTHING HELD BACK up to

50% SAVINGS

Colony Interiors

643-0500

SOMERSET MALL

A STEP UP TO ELEGANCE

REAL ESTATE PRE-LICENSE CLASSES • STARTING SOON •

Real Estate One is nationally famous for offering excellent and extensive training programs to help you become more successful...quicker.

Pre-License Classes begin every month. Select from morning or evening classes. Superior facilities, instructors and proven results. Save money: \$85 includes easy to learn materials.

PLUS

15 other courses to increase your professionalism, skills, earnings.

PLUS

Two courses in Sales Management if you have the desire and ability



Real Estate One.

Especially for HIM

Bracelets with gold links to celebrate any wish

John Darakjian Jeweler

23077 Grandview Ave. Detroit, MI 48224

WANT AD

LITTLE AD FOR BIG RESULTS

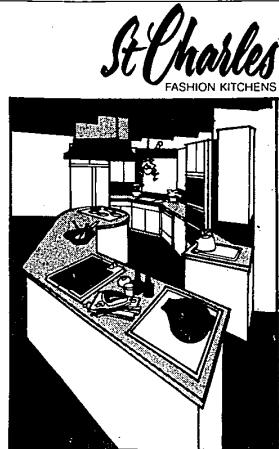
Look for local team coverage in your hometown newspaper

A Valentine's Gift from Walton-Pierce says you love her in the loveliest fashion

Choose beautiful Fine Jewelry Handbags Scarves Sport Separates

The shops of Walton-Pierce

1425 Woodward • Grand Plaza
2261 Somerset Mall • Troy



St. Charles FASHION KITCHENS

A St. Charles fashion kitchen is the ultimate expression of your personality and lifestyle. Choose from period traditional through today's contemporary stylings. In furniture woods, decorative laminates, textured steel. Latest designer colors and finishes. Use coupon to receive book of latest designs.

ST. CHARLES KITCHENS OF DETROIT
2713 N. Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013 (313) 334-4771
(Just South of Square Lake Road)
Hours: Weekdays 9-4:30, Sat. 10-3
Send me your new 44-page Kitchen Ideas Book 1 am enclosing \$3.00 (US\$4.50 incl. shipping & handling) to be enclosed in 1

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
(See our ads in House Beautiful and House & Garden)