Perfection isn't for parents

One of the hardest things about being a parent in the 1870's is the flood of information and advice on the subject. Old reliable Dr. Spock has been almost crowded off the book shelf by dozens of new experts. Controversies like "Does sparing the rod reality spoil the child?" have been re-increased by the child?" have been re-placed by techniques for tollet trausing your child in pine day. Mothers have to worry about funde clothing and salt contents in baby food, not to mention the effects of an early sex life on a teen-aged daughter's potential for cancer.

cancer.

Being a parent of young children
means having lots of reasons for
heing scared. The more we tearn
about psychology, the more we see
how important the early versa are in
developing our personality. Psychologists have shown how one neurosis
after another got started in the individ-

after another got started in the individ-ual's infancy.

What's more, we are told that it's often the little things, details we may not even notice, which have the beg-gest impact on a child's emotional de-velopment.

velopment. So it's hard not be scared when you think that you may be making a small mistake at any moment that will have long-range effects on your child. And you may not even know you're doing

it.

EVERYBODY KNOWS that it's best to be a relaxed parent. But that's not easy when your 14-month-old doesn't walk yet and your 2-year-old is not totlet-trained.



Our standard-conscious society tells us how much we should weigh, how much salt we should consume and how fast our children should develop. So we obediently watch our diet and break our necks to make our children

So we obediently watch our diet and break our necks to make our children develop at an average or better rate. We are so afraid that we will fail as parents that we refuse to trust our instincts. We try to be smart rather than natural. We see our children as fragille, passive victims of our mistakes and like. We see our children as fragille, passive victims of our mistakes and like bumps. And so we try to protect them by following expert advice rather than trusting heir ability to cope with lessethan-perfect parents. If you want to be a relaxed parent, then flast's exactly what you have to get over—frying to be perfect, trying to raise perfect children. First of all, you've got to realize that it can't be done in fact, you probably worl even come close. No matter what you do, you will make miscales, you will contribute to your child becoming somewhat neurone.

Even trying to be a perfect parent is a mistake in itself. Some of the most troubled adults that Live seen have come from home environments that were so happy and perfect that they were ill-prepared to handle the perversities of their less-than-perfect adult world.

THAT SHOULD REALLY drive you cray if you're a perfect parent. It means that being perfect as a parent requires a certain measure of imperfection and adversity, too.

But the good news is that as a parent-you really have a big margin for error. Most of the mistakes we make have little permanent negative effect on the lives of our children. Adults whose parents were too hushy and achievement-incined can learn to turn their learned drive for achievement into useful productivity and creativity. Those who were included too much as children can learn to get selfish pleasure from making ther people happy, as well as themselves.

The point is that the ultimate meas-

other people happy, as well as them-selves.

The point is that the ultimate meas-ture of whether parental mixakes are negative or positive is how the child deals with their effects as an adult.

For the parent who is making mis-takes, there is no way of telling wheth-er you have given a handicap or a gift. So the best thing you can do is just relax and try to do the demand-ing job of parenting in the most natu-ral way you can.

Readers can contact Bob Trenz at P.O. Box 61. Rochester.



Sweetheart Ball coming

Working on the fifth annual Sweetheart Ball, scheduled Feb. 12 in Raleigh House of Southfield, are (from left) Mrs. Ruth Frue-hauf of West Bloomfield, Mrs. Robert Pastor and Mrs. M.W.B. Cobl of Bloomfield Hills and Mrs. Antonio Scalia of Birmingham. The ball, benefiting the Metropolitan Detroit

March of Dimes, is costs \$45 per person, in-cluding cocktails, dinner, entertainment and dancing to the music of Eddie Santini's orchestra. Tickets may be purchased at the March of Dimes office, 20100 Greenfield, Detroit, 864-

Christian counseling topic

"Christians in Counseling: Is There a Difference?" is the topic to be considered at the next meeting of the local chapter of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 15. in Monteith Memorial Pres-byterian Church. Debyterian Carl Gundersen of family counseling service of the Wayne County Or-cuit Court will be moderator. The Rev Raymond Lumley and Alice Rennice, conter representation, and the County of the Country of the Country

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Moral perspectives

Let's put Vietnam really behind us

We have said a grateful goodbye to a president who healed our nation and a hopeful hello to a president who pro-claims a new spirit. He went on to say jonly a people can provide it."

a hopeid helfo to a president who pra-chains a new spirit. He went on to say "only a people can provide at." It has been widely arreed that the troubles Ford had to heal were in one way or another routed in the Vietnam war. It is up to us, the people, to con-tinue the healing to provide the new spirit Carter wants to sense among us.

To put Vietnam behind us, we need new actitudes toward those who resisted the war. We begin with an uncomfortable fact. Many of us had a crucial gap in our information.

Men of drattable age during the crisis learned about war crimes trials in history books in our schools. They were taudet as fact that our country regards every man, even under mili-

for his own actions.

Too many of us learned about war crimes trials only from newspapers, and we let the results of those trials slip from memory as we do with much we read in the press.

Thousands of young men acted on what they had been taught. Many were into the emotions of military orders before they remembered or before they gathered the will to act. They put knowledge and emotion together to avoid what they saw as immoral.

IF WE PUT facts and feelings to-gether we can say that brave com-batants and brave resisters are equal-ly commendable. These are not cate-gories of good guys and bad guys. These were not debaters trying to win an argument. These were our sons, in

both-groups, trying to make the best of a bad situation. It was the poplications who, had the luxury of debating The young had to decide and act. A new spirit won't come by behaving as if we are rehashing a game or trying to make points for our favorite politician.

cian.

A clemency program aided some resisters and helped us all face our part
inter realistically. A parion program
is underway which will help those
who can accept it. A parion assumes
mult and some will not respond to it.
An ammesty program appears to be
politically impossible at present. But
ammesty is the spirit we need whether
it can become a program or not. Ammesty means forgetting and we are
good at that.

who acted with morality many couldn't comprehend at the time. Let's forget behaving as if some of our sons were opposing others of our sons when each stood for the right as he saw it.

Let's remember war crimes trials and Watergate healing as evidences that we intend to be a moral people. The new spirit our president seeks and senses in us begins with reconci-lation.

Squandering emotional and mult and some will not respond to the control of th

Madonna College in Li-vonin has received an 800 grant from the Sears-Rochuck Founda-tion It is one of almost 1.000 private accredited colleges across the coun-try sharing \$1,250,000 in Sears Foundation funds for the 1876-77 academic year.

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Noticey set at both Strucks
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Noticey set at both Strucks
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Jamin's Holl 5 a m
7, 8 9m Goades
Adult Education at 10:15 a m
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Associate Minister, J. Churter
Shabs

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9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Minister:
Rev. Charles O. Erickson
Minister of Education:
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Salem United Church of Christ Guard & Gel Rest, Fernand Sunday School at 9:00 a.m., Worship Service at 10:15 A.M. Personage GR 6-0487 Church Office GR 4-6850 Carl H. Schultz, Minister

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 SUNDAY SCHOOL
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