



moral perspectives

Rev. Robert Schaden

Belushi's death 'screams' a message, but only to those who can hear?

The death of John Belushi has evoked a number of reactions over the past couple of weeks. There have been those who have suggested that a memorial be erected along the lines of the Presley fiasco. Others have said he was the funniest man who ever graced the screen.

The message of Madison Avenue seems quite clear. "We have a pill for every problem." We listen, and we buy, and we swallow and swallow some, more. It isn't any wonder that the pain killer producers increase the potency of their product. We are so saturated with the stuff that we require 800 milligrams to do what 300 used to do.

WHETHER IT IS a cough at 6 years of age or a headache at 36, the message is the same. "Don't face it, run from it and you may forget what caused it in the first place," it tells us. "If you are high, we can bring you down, and if you are low, we can boost you up. Why face life when you can run from it?"

Perhaps there will be many runners because there are many strangers — those people whom no one really knows at all. They are lonely and we insist that we know them even when we don't because that is easier than taking the time for real things. Thus we prefer to act for one another because that gets more play and certainly more laughs.

APPARENTLY for Belushi, being a Blue Brother was more acceptable than being John, but even that grew sour after a while. How many people we meet taste such sourness every day? And we ignore them and say, "How are you?" without giving a damn.

We may even laugh at the jokes they use to cover who they are, and only discover too late that we never knew them at all — maybe even those who lived at our house. A man who happened to say some funny things has died. His death screams a message, but only to those who can hear. The rest will simply mourn the Blue Brothers and sit around waiting for another funny man to appear on Saturday Night Live.

gerontology A. Jolayne Farrell

Bad breath suggests a complete medical and dental checkup

Dear Jolayne: My problem is that my mother has such bad breath which is most disturbing. She is 80 years old and becoming senile, so she will probably have to give up her apartment and live with one of us. None of us objects to having her, as a person she is wonderful, but this problem is getting to us all. Is there any solution to our problem? Thank you.

Dear Jo: I am a retired school teacher, and I live in a large cosmopolitan city. I have been doing a lot of volunteer work with people younger than I since my retirement. They often refer to me as "cute." I find this adjective most uncomplimentary as I am a professional woman with years of experience behind me. The word "cute" just doesn't fit us elders. Perhaps you could draw this to the attention of your readers. M.Y.

Thank you for your letter. I agree with you. Dear Jo: I have been on a medication now for two weeks, and I don't feel one bit better. If I hadn't paid so much for it, I'd throw it away. Discouraged

Medical science doesn't expect any medication to be 100 percent effective. If you have faithfully followed your doctor's directions on how to take the medication and are not satisfied, I suggest you discuss it with him on our next visit. He may discover improvement in your medical condition through physical examination and tests. Let him decide what is best for you. Perhaps you will feel better soon.

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at of more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit, organization needing volunteer assistance may call the bureau.

Responsibilities include maintaining the institute garden, planning and assigning work to volunteers. The days and times needed are flexible and a six-month commitment is requested. COMMON GROUND — People with good communication skills are needed by Common Ground in Birmingham. After in-depth training program, volunteers give crisis assistance by phone or face to face. Four-hour weekly commitments are available for mornings, afternoons or evenings.

GARDEN AUXILIARY CHAIRPERSON The Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies of Southfield needs a chairperson for its garden auxiliary.

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