

Mass murder formula: no loyalty, no guilt

The recent Tylenol murders and rash of nationwide "copycat" poisonings are strong symptoms of decaying moral standards in America, according to a Michigan State University psychologist.

"What controls most of us is a set of values that we won't roll through the stop sign or pick our neighbor's apples without permission," said Gary Stollak, MSU psychology professor.

"But today, the lack of agreed upon values, loyalty and commitment in American life is producing many millions of lonely, disgruntled people who don't know how to vent their frustrations without hurting someone whether it's their spouse, their children, or impersonal others."

STOLLAK SAID that traditionally Americans have felt commitments to religion, marriage, employers and family. But today everything is questioned and more tenuous.

"Too many of us, too often, change our churches, our spouses and our jobs as easily as we change our shirts," he explained. "Loyalties are so much more shallow from Lee Iacocca, who goes to Chrysler from Ford, to Pete

"I'd argue that loyalty and commitment produce guilt, and that guilt keeps some behavior under control. But if I have no loyalty, no commitment, I'm capable of almost anything."

— Gary Stollak
MSU professor

Rose, who goes from Cincinnati to Philadelphia.

"I'd argue that loyalty and commitment produce guilt," he added, "and that guilt keeps some behavior under control. But if I have no loyalty, no commitment, I'm capable of almost anything."

Stollak said that most of us lead quietly desperate lives, but have found socially acceptable ways to channel our resentment, anger and frustration.

"Some of us turn to self-destruction," he said. "We eat cakes and lots of sugar or drink a lot of alcohol or smoke cigarettes mainly hurting ourselves."

MSU plans polygraph study center

A polygraph (lie detector) research center will be established at the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, according to Frank Horvath, associate professor of criminal justice at MSU.

With grant support from the American Polygraph Association, the new center will fund faculty and graduate research of polygraph procedures and techniques and will serve as a vehicle for the assessment of international polygraph usage in criminal justice systems.

Horvath, a nationally known polygraph expert, will serve as director of the new center.

"The polygraph is widely used by attorneys to prepare criminal cases and by industry for pre-screening potential employees," said Horvath. "Nevertheless, there has been surprisingly little research in the field."

The available research shows, however, that when properly applied, polygraph testing is about 90 percent accurate in detecting deception, Horvath said. He points out that polygraphing is considerably more accurate than other methods, including firearms comparisons, handwriting analysis, and eyewitness identification.

WPON radio goes ethnic on Dec. 1

Radio station WPON will shift to ethnic programming under its new owners Dec. 1.

Steve Peterson, president of Michigan Cable Vision and Radio Co. Inc., and Algis Zaprackas, president of Foreign Radio Programs, Inc., announced the new WPON format for the station at 1460-A.M.

WPON — "The People of the Nations" — will begin broadcasting a new format Wednesday which will include ethnic programming as well as local programming.

Broadcasting will begin at 5 a.m. after which the Polish Varieties Program will begin the ethnic format at 9 a.m. Continuous bilingual programming will be heard until 8 p.m., when local programming with Debra Danko will resume until 1 a.m.

WPON was purchased in August by Foreign Radio Programs, Inc. from Michigan Cable Vision and Radio Co., Inc. The FCC approved the sale and issued a license Nov. 15.

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