

More seem willing to stand against madness

The parade is what I remember most. Everyone in Detroit who had an automobile headed into downtown to celebrate the end of the war. Even the euphoria of a baseball championship could not hold a candle to this. The real world championship. And it was ours. We proved it at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As history would have it, all we really proved was that man is collectively capable of insanity. Admiral William Leahy, chief of staff under Roosevelt and then Truman, suggested that with the atomic decision of 1945 we adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the dark ages. General Dwight D. Eisenhower believed and stated, "It was not necessary to hit them with that awful thing." But hit them we did, and then we had a parade.

When the Nazis started that horrible war, they were willing to do anything at all to win.

In the end, the "good guys" apparently adapted the same philosophy. And yet, according to some military assessment, the tragedy of the atomic bomb was not necessary for the victory we craved so desperately.

WE HAD all but won the war before that fateful morning 40 years ago. It was as though we dropped it because we had it and because we were so sick of being kicked around in a very long war.

The human suffering of the victims in those two fated Japanese cities was more tragic than words can describe. But perhaps the real tragedy of 1945 lies in the fact that even in 1985 we still think in the same fateful terms as we did then. There does not seem to be any more compunction today over building machines that make those two atom bombs look



perspectives

Rev. Robert Schaden

like firecrackers that were then, when what we did was right because it was our side that did it.

To the world outside of our hallowed shores, we are the only nation in history to use nuclear weapons against defenseless civilians. More and more they are showing their distaste for the kind of thinking that leads in that direction. But we appear no less willing to flex our nuclear muscles now than we were when the Enola

Gay flew off to spit death at the Japanese.

Secretary of State Schultz is already on record in favor of pre-emptive strikes in the face of terrorism. We seem as willing to believe what we are told about the necessity of nuclear build-up today as the parade goers who were told about the necessity of an atomic drop 40 years ago.

THE INGREDIENTS of 1945 appear to have ended up in the same pot again. We are sick and tired of being kicked around — no matter that often our own actions bring on the kicking — and we are in possession of horrendous fire power. In 1945 those ingredients were enough to justify the use of that power. In 1985 political belligerence couples with false patriotism to sing the same song of justification. Perhaps the ray of hope lies in the fact that more and more people in the churches — both

in the pulpit and in the pew — stand willing to challenge the madness that was the case in the waning years of World War II. Even the threat of jail is as powerless to stop them as it was with prophets of old.

There is, of course, that brand of religion which brought us the Crusades still alive and well. It is the brand most touted on television and there is little doubt that it speaks a loud voice, a voice blessed by those who would have their weapons sanctified. But it is not the only brand there is.

There are those who remember that Jesus refused to bless the sword of Peter and who are willing to be a voice that cries even in desert country. As we pray forgiveness for nuclear sins of the past — if we can bring ourselves to do that — we might think about joining our voices to theirs.

Woman worries about errant 'kid' sister, 71

Dear Jo:

I'm desperate. I hope you can help me.

My problem is Gertrude, my overindulgent "kid" sister who at the age of 71 is acting like a naughty child. She has always lived a rather flamboyant life and loves to be the center of attention.

Two years ago she suffered a stroke and was unable to care for herself, so my husband and I, (her only relative) after months of time and effort, found

her a very nice nursing home. We thought she would be happy there. Last month she took her savings and flew out to the West Coast to visit an old friend of hers. We encouraged her to go. I arranged for taxis, wheelchairs etc. I even let her borrow my luggage and some clothes.

Our only concern about the trip was the amount of alcohol that Gertrude and her friend would be consuming (an old pattern) but, since the visit was to be a short one, we felt there was nothing to worry about.



graphology

Lorene Green

Since we expected her home after about two weeks, we phoned to see how she was doing and when she'd be back. Her reply was, "I'm having the time of my life, and I'll never be back." At first we thought she was kidding, then she said, "Sign me out of the nursing home, and sell my things — I'm off to the beach." Then she hung up. We are puzzled and at a loss as to

what to do about this, her latest escape. We figure she's drinking too much and could easily suffer another stroke. If this happens we can't look after her, and without a place in a nursing home she will really be in a bind. I really don't fancy the idea of signing her out of the nursing home and selling her belongings.

I would like to wash my hands of her — but I can't, she's my sister. If we could afford it we would fly out and see her to try to talk some sense into her, but knowing Gertrude this would be futile.

Jo, I would appreciate it if you would ponder my troublesome situation and give me some advice.

Dorothy M.

Dear Dorothy:

I think your sister, Gertrude, is living out a fantasy that many people confined to a nursing home would like to be part of. What she is doing is most uncommon among nursing home residents. She may have been in better health than you thought and perhaps could have remained on her own at home.

Her present behavior is irresponsible. It is probably even more exaggerated by her increased use of alcohol. So, I suggest you phone her and tell her to make her own arrangements regarding her nursing home discharge and the disposal of her personal belongings.

TELL HER she's on her own (hope-

fully her friend will look after her), and her lack of consideration for you and your husband is not appreciated.

You may want to consult your lawyer regarding your legal and financial responsibilities toward your sister since you are her next-of-kin.

Your loyalty to your sister is impressive, but I think you'd agree with me, that enough is enough. It's time to withdraw — or at least be less available to her when she calls in desperation next time. I wish you luck, to be firm with a family member can be very difficult.

Readers can write to Joylane Farrell at P.O. Box 66, Postal Station G, 1075 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau (OCVB) has a current file of volunteer opportunities for more than 200 agencies. Non-profit organizations needing assistance may list with the bureau. For more information about these and other volunteer openings, call the bureau at 642-7272.

EXTENSION ASST. — People who enjoy people, are discreet and at least 18 are needed for "Dollars & Decisions" of Michigan State University's Family Living Education service. Will assist with worksheets, run computer, provide info and phone follow-ups, etc. Needed between 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. September through December. Car necessary. Training. Phone 642-7272.

CRISIS AIDE — Common Ground in Birmingham needs volunteers at least 18 years old with good communication skills to provide information and refer service and crisis intervention by

phone or face-to-face. One 4-5 hour shift a week. Training. Phone 642-7272.

CHILDREN'S WORKER — Haven Inc., Pontiac, needs several volunteers, 16 years and up, to work with children under stress. Experience helpful, but not required. Needed 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., four hours a week. September training. Phone 642-7272.

FRONT DESK HELP — The APS Clinic of Pontiac General Hospital needs volunteer to help answer phone, direct patients and baby sit. 1-3 p.m. Phone 642-7272.

PROBLEM SOLVER — College grad volunteers with good communication skills are needed by TV-2 Troubleshooters. Community affairs experience desirable. Phone 642-7272.

MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER — YWCA of Pontiac/Genoa/Oakland needs people for floor and yard work couple hours weekdays. Phone 642-7272.



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medical briefs/helpline

AIM MEETINGS — Agoraphobic in Motion (AIM) meets Thursday evenings in Livonia. For more information, call 546-9400. AIM is a self-help/support group for persons suffering from fears and anxiety.

BREATHERS CLUB — Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients can learn more about the use of home care equipment by attending Breathers Club, sponsored by the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan (ALASEM), at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, in Classroom 3 of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Don Criles will be the speaker.

TEEN ASTHMA CLUB — The Teen Asthma Club is an active group of youths who believe that their respiratory condition should not exclude them from sports and social activities. The club's sponsor, the Asthma and Emphysema Association of Michigan, can be reached at 353-LUNG for membership or program information. The free program is open to asthmatic youths 12-17 years old.

MENTAL HEALTH AID — Suburban West Community Center, a non-profit community mental health agency, has announced that its Problems in Living Clinic has limited funds available to pay counseling costs for clients based on their ability to pay.

The Problems in Living Clinic provides outpatient counseling to adults and families for a wide variety of problems including anxiety and depression, marriage conflicts, fertility and adoption, parenting concerns, headaches and pain reduction, sexual functioning, communication, stress management, spouse and child abuse.

The clinic also provides service to adults who have been previously hospitalized or who are currently in crisis, based on their ability to pay.

Suburban West has two locations. The main office is in Redford Township at 11877 Beesh Daily (937-9600) and a satellite building in Plymouth at 875 E. Main (981-2665). For more information, contact either office.

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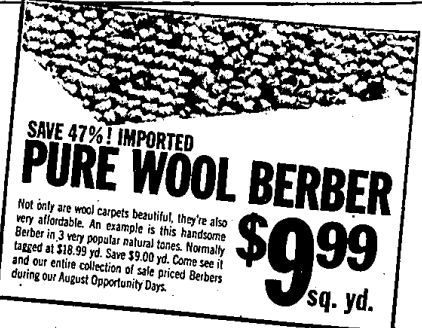
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