

We can learn from our failures

EVERY NOW and again events happen that give us the opportunity to learn or to put our heads in the sand. Recent weeks have offered two such opportunities.

The nuclear accident at Chernobyl was an obvious disaster for those whose health was immediately affected. Its impact on others will only be revealed in time. But what of those who did not die or who were not wounded? Is there anything to be learned?

The Russians screamed that the West exaggerated the effects of the accident. And indeed it does appear that some of the reports were exaggerated.

However, that exaggeration can perhaps be laid at the feet of the reluctant Russians, reluctant to be more open about what did happen. Their hush-hush response to the event certainly spawned the many exaggerations that followed the melt-down.

UNFORTUNATELY the refusal to admit to human failing is not limited to those whose seat of power is



Rev. Robert Schaden

In the Kremlin. Nor does it make any difference in the long run whether such close-mindedness is practiced by allies, enemies or ourselves. The effects are, more often than not, the same.

Only those who can see the error of their ways will be motivated to change. That is as true in families as it is among nations. It is just as true with terrorists as it is with those who would use terrorism to combat the very thing they abhor. Such refusal to admit shortcoming becomes a self-issued license to continue on the same path.

Whether it is the Russians insisting that they have been candid, or the Americans justifying the slaughter

of civilians in Khadafi's Libya, the result is the same — nothing changes.

ANOTHER TRUTH from both of these events continues to show itself. Our world is far too sophisticated for anyone to pretend to living in a vacuum. The mistakes we make, be they accidental or calculated, leave us accountable to a wider world. We are citizens of the world first and only incidentally of one or the other nation. The radioactive cloud blowing out of the skies in Chernobyl affects farmers' cows in Sweden and even the skies above our own beloved land. The anger over the air strikes on Libya has left more fear for tourists the world over than it has for terrorists.

We may be content to condemn the Russians for not sharing essential knowledge with the rest of the world. Or we may cite religious anger as a justification for our own actions in Libya. In neither case have we solved a thing. In both instances we thus pass up the opportunity to

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see beyond the headlines to the lessons available for those with eyes to see.

MAKE NO mistake about it, the Russians were wrong in their everlasting secretiveness. The terrorists are evil in their violence. But what can the Russian secrecy say to us who tend to be self-servingly selective in our own candidness?

Can there be anything learned from the fall-out over our air strikes on Libya? Or are we content to read the headlines and line up behind Rambo without learning anything about how we might diminish the things we fear the most?

The choice to put our heads in the sand may prove to be more disastrous than the Chernobyl dust cloud or the fall-out over Libya.

volunteers

The following agencies are in need of volunteer help:

Providence Hospital — 18000 W. Nine Mile, Southfield, needs volunteers 21 and older from 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to work in:

- critical care: information desk, providing information to visitors;
- radiology, transporting patients and taking messages to other departments;
- gift shop, helping sell and stock merchandise.

• Nursing unit, aides to deliver samples to laboratory.

Call Jean Federspill, 424-3300, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Cancer Foundation — Michigan Cancer Foundation, 110 W. Warren, Detroit, needs: office clerk/mailing, assistants, weekdays. Volunteers will type mailing labels, fold letters and stuff envelopes. Hours flexible. Call Cathy Cameron, 833-0710, ex. 245, weekdays.

Mailing, typing — Metro-

Detroit Branch of National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 21700 Greenfield, Oak Park, needs mature volunteers with deft hands and some typing ability. Time commitment varies. Bulk mailings require help of 8-10 volunteers for up to 9 hours. Call Norma Boden, 987-2022, 9 to 5 weekdays.

Sinai Hospital — 6767 W. Outer Drive, Detroit needs volunteers at all times in variety of roles, including:

- child immunization volunteers, to help educate new moms;
- patient transportation volunteers, to transport patients;
- clerical, to help in office.

Volunteers must be 21 and able to make a regular commitment. Call Amy Brown, 493-5300 weekdays.

For information on other opportunities or to list a need for volunteers, call the Volunteer Action Center, United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, 833-0622.

Redbud trees brighten May

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

April and May are the months when colorful flowers begin to brighten our landscape, after the grays of winter.

Along with wildflowers like bloodroot and hepatica, trees also produce colorful blossoms. Willows produce lime green flowers on long stalks and red maples produce either reddish or greenish flowers.

Early spring is also the time when our fruit trees flower in preparation for fruitful harvest in the fall. Orna-

nature

mental flowering crab trees are beautiful with their pink flowers and striking.

ANOTHER flowering tree that is very impressive in spring is the redbud. It is often planted by people in yards because of its rose-magenta flowers that bloom before the leaves

unfold. Though the flowers may not be as dense as those on flowering crab trees, their clustering along the branches produces a colorful outline against the dark bark.

Flowers from redbuds will produce pea pod-like fruits, or seeds, that often persist into winter. In Mexico the flowers are fried and eaten as a delicacy. Early settlers in the east were known to make salads from their blossoms. I'll be satisfied to enjoy their splash of color.

MICHIGAN is at the northern limit of the redbuds range. In fact, the southern third of the state is the only area where they can be found.

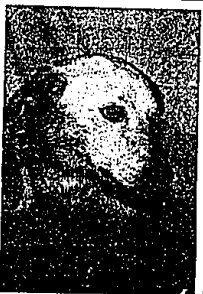
Not many native trees are found in the wild, but some of southeast Michigan's most impressive remaining stands of redbud are found along the southern portion of the Huron River. Oakwood Metro Park and Lower Huron Metro Park harbor some large trees.

REDBUDS are not normally large trees. They reach a height of 20 feet and have a trunk diameter of about 15 inches. Michigan's largest redbud tree, however, is about 60 feet high and has a trunk diameter of about 30 inches.

Hiking through the woods in spring is one of the most pleasant activities I can think of, especially when you discover a flowering redbud tree.

Pet awaits

Clancy, a 3-year-old golden lab, is awaiting a home. Now living in the Oakland Humane Society Shelter, 19601 Mt. Elliott in Detroit, Clancy is described as being very friendly and excellent with children. He can be adopted by calling the shelter at 892-7822.



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Pad Back Arm Chairs, ea.	359.75	299.75
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Breakfront Buffet	1,349.75	1,129.75
Breakfront Buffet/China (2 pcs)	3,099.50	2,549.50
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