

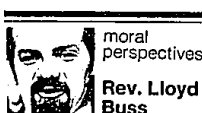
Money drives the engines of social care

IT CAUGHT me by surprise. The elderly couple in the car ahead of me stopped very quickly and drove only partially off the road. I could not pass because of oncoming traffic. She stepped out of the car and picked up a crushed beverage can.

They continued on for a short distance when the action was again repeated.

I should not have been surprised. The basic premise of the bottle deposit laws cleaning up our roadway and thoroughfares is the power of money to drive the engines of care and regard for our landscape.

Make it costly to throw bottles



moral perspectives
Rev. Lloyd Buss

away and profitable to return them, and you have the secret for humans cleaning up their habitat. It's a formula that should be more extensively applied.

I HAD NOT expected this either.

It concerned another senior citizen couple.

Some years ago, when the husband retired from his work, he and his wife said they had written their will so that the church would receive their home after their death.

They had no children. They wanted their possession to make a contribution to the well-being of life. It would be an unrestricted gift. It was never disclosed to the congregation.

He died shortly afterwards, and the widow continued active in the church. Then her health began to fail. Members of the church cleared her drive of snow, raked the leaves and helped with other chores.

She was deathly afraid of being incapacitated. She was deathly afraid of being taken to a public institution. She asked the husband of her one niece to be a co-signer on her bank account. If she were ever unable to sign her own name, he would be able to sign for her. She wanted always to be in control of her life.

The niece's husband began to do chores around the house. She would tell me how he was charging an hourly fee . . . that he would be paid out of the estate. It was not a happy relationship, but there were few alternatives. She complained of how

he would charge her even when visiting with her in the home.

SHE HAS BEEN dead a number of years. Almost 10.

Several months ago I stopped by the county office to check out a hunch. I was right. The property was registered in the name of the niece's husband. It had never been through probate.

The joint signature passed all the assets from one to the other without court action. The couple's will had meant nothing. I should not have been surprised.

A basic premise of capitalism is the power of money to drive the engines of care and regard for life. Make it costly to neglect one another and profitable to offer assistance, and you have the secret for a rudimentary order of society.

Dare we hope for anything better? Perhaps not. As long as we rely on money to organize our lives, there should be few surprises over its control of our whole world.

The writer is pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Home school rules to be explained

A meeting for parents to explain the new home school compliance rules is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, in the Oakland Schools Kiva auditorium, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road at Telegraph, Pontiac.

Compliance procedures approved by the Michigan State Board of Education in October require all parents whose children are being taught at

home to file a form annually with the Oakland Intermediate School District office. For 1986, the deadline is Dec. 1.

Terry Thomas, director for pupil personnel services, said parents unable to attend the information meeting may receive copies of the compliance procedures and the form by calling his office at Oakland Schools, 856-2096.



Boston Terrier Club show set for Nov. 30

The Boston Terrier Club of Detroit will hold an American Kennel Club-sanctioned match for Boston puppies and adults Sunday, Nov. 30, in the Ferndale VFW Hall, 177 Vester. It's a block north of Nine Mile and a block east of Woodward.

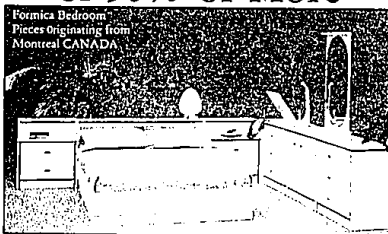
Entries will be taken starting at noon. Fee is \$2 for the first two entries and \$1.50 for additional entries.

For entry details, call Mira Jilbert in Troy at 643-7282.

Spectator admissions are \$1.50 general and 50 cents for senior citizens and children under 12.

There will be classes for puppies and adults and a junior showmanship competition (no fee) for ages 7-17. Judge will be Barbara Russell of Farmington Hills.

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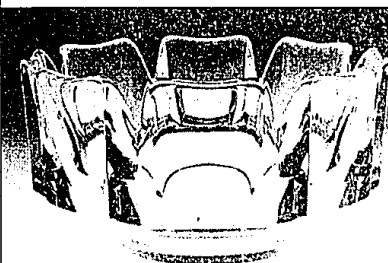
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Illustrated styles represent the featured group and may not be available in all stores.

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