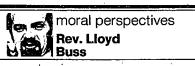
Truth can be harmful

"IF IT deen't work right, tell us. If it does, tell others." A once familiar promotional. Not well-written, perhaps, but unmistakably clear. Could anyone doubt what was meant?

Students of religion might find this dictum remarkably similar to the commandment of the Ten that reads. You shall not bear false witness." Evangelical explanations to this commandment emphasize not the restraint of phiese witness, but rather the necessity to speak well of others and put the best interpretation on all they do.

and put the best interpretation on all they do the set interpretation on all they do the set interpretation on all they do the set with a set interpretation and it was the bearing of false winness that was trying to speak well of others and putting the best interpretation on all they had done that was extremely difficult. "Not bearing false winness" or "telling ur, if it doesn't work right" are not concerned with lies. They are concerned—with telling the truth in such a manner that the esteem of all will be enriched. This is not an issue of deliberate lying, but rather intentional truth that will build community.



TRUTH CAN be used to destroy, just as truth can be used to build and to enrich. A truthful statement can destroy a person as easily as a mail-clous half-truth or lie.

And even more demonically, a truthful statement can be used not only to destroy the other person, but also to build up one's esteem in the minds of others.

minds of others.

The fabric of our society has been so distorted in recent years by deliberate deception and vested self-interest that the building of community through truth will be difficult was are more inclined to use truth as a sword to main and to kill than as an experience of shared hope that builds community.

Seeking out the best in others —putting the best interpretation on ev-

erything others do — explaining their actions in the kindest way — are gifts of trust and hope and kindess we offer to others. They are the building blocks of community that dares to move beyond self-defense. The spirit of acceptance and affirmation builds acceptance and affirmation.

WE ARE, of course, free to choose either one. And that is the ultimate issue . . . what we choose to do.
What is at stake is the quality of life we would choose. The process of seeking the best in each person can only create a life together that builds on the best each has to share and give

and give.

Choosing only not to bear false witness against those who do otherwise would not offer much life together, because there would be so very little with which to begin.

The Rev. Lloyd D. Buss is the pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Rochester.



Dance aids dystrophy

A "Super-Dance Marathon" will cast of the Pontiac Silverdome. Help raise money for the Muscular Ticket information is available Dystrophy Association the evening from the student activities office at of Fridays Feb. 13. Sponsor is the 853-4859. Donations are tax-deducti-Student Gwernance Council on the Machana Edits Campus of Oakland Rafreshments will be donated by

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