

perspectives

Rev. Robert Schaden

Our rule:
Do it to
others first

IF IT were not part of a long, sad tale, the latest chapter in the international fun game would be nothing short of humorous. The name of the game is simple: "Do unto them before they do unto you."

It isn't any secret that we have both been doing unto each other for quite some time. It has been so long that some would suggest that God picked the sides.

Part of our doing unto one another has been in the field of espionage, and now we stand aghast. How dare they bug our embassy! To listen to our own government talk, one would think that we have been spectators through it all.

The fact that we have in the past bugged the car phone of the Russian ambassador doesn't come up in our public complaint sessions. That we set him up for the same sex-for-secrets game played by our Marines in Moscow is also left out of the conversation.

WE MAKE IT sound as though the whole thing is nothing more than one big game of chess. We don't like it when they jump our men when we aren't watching.

If for one minute anyone believes that we don't do the same thing every chance we get, I would like to meet the person — I have a bridge in Zilwaukee that he or she might be interested in buying.

The issue here is really not Marine or Russian women. It is not about bugs and surveillance. And it is much larger than who broke what rules in a game in which most of the world's people are no more than the pawns.

Finger pointing is a game that boys and girls learn at a very early age. Doing unto others before they do unto you is a line of reasoning practiced even in preschool gatherings.

We slap their fingers when they play such games, but then we show them in the dog-eat-dog world of adulthood that they have it right after all.

It has been said that in many areas of life, the public sector will never provide adequate education for our children. It would seem that education concerning relationships between nations falls into that arena.

IT BECOMES more and more obvious that government leaders in most countries — and our own is a blatant non-exception — have made their line well known.

It is simple: They are wrong; we are right; and that is why we must do unto them before they do unto us.

If our children are ever to learn a different approach to life, it will have to be from us.

Not many years from now, today's children will be sitting in halls of Congress. They will be the ambassadors and the embassy personnel around the globe. One from among their number will occupy the White House, and others will advise the one who does.

Will they know a game any different than that being played today?

MAYBE WE need to talk openly with our children about more than their personal lives. Perhaps part of that something more needs to be in the arena of foreign policy values.

And it might be that they have a right to hear at least as much about love and understanding in this arena as they do about the "Kill a Commie for Christ" routine.

We might even want to ask them what they think about our games. Regardless of their response, it might give us a clue as to what we need to teach them.

The Rev. Robert Schaden is with the Neuman House at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

MADD will
hear Gage

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) will honor Oakland Circuit Judge Hilda Gage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Road (M-59), Waterford.

It's part of the group's observance of April 28 to May 2 as Victims' Rights Week, president Penny Bien said.

Gage will be honored for her work in the area of victims' rights and will speak.

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