

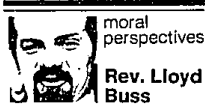
Old-fashioned wave welcome

THEY were standing on the overpass, and as we approached it, they waved their arms in greeting. It caught us by surprise. We barely had time to return the greeting by blowing the horn before we had passed under them and out of their lives.

Two young men on an overpass. A warm afternoon in early spring. Speeding cars on the highway. Greetings waving. Greetings returned. A sign of hope for community and life.

Waving greetings to passers-by was part of the culture in which I grew to adulthood. In rural Illinois, it was part of the social customs we learned and practiced.

Here was the time when one would not wave a greeting or receive one in return. It was not expected that you would know each other. It was sharing of humanity in a passing moment of existence.



moral perspectives
Rev. Lloyd Buss

THE CUSTOMS of life in this metropolitan area do not include the exchange of greetings or entertain any exchange of social intercourse with strangers.

In times past, it was considered a form of good manners. In times recent, it has been considered as a form of sheer survival. Initiating social intercourse with strangers is an invitation to danger and harm.

I have returned to the practice of my childhood and youth, waving a greeting to those who passed our

home, or waving one to those whose home I passed. Greeting other couples on evening walks. In recent weeks, has not created that general experience of community I remember from my past. Greetings offered need to be greetings acknowledged and returned before there can be sharing.

I MOURN the passing of those days where greetings were shared with friend and stranger.

Friendships were enjoyed, and friendships were being created. It was a thread in the fabric of community that bound us together in the adventure of life.

It is ironic that our desperate search for community today includes a rejection of a form of social intercourse that might help us experience community.

We insist on choosing our friends. We insist on reserving the right to

greet only those whom we choose to acknowledge. We search for ever more safe havens to risk meeting others.

OUR PRACTICE to community is discriminate. It is also rooted in fear and prejudice. Being afraid for our lives, we will not risk losing what we have.

The two young men on the overpass risked being ignored or rejected. They had no way of predicting our response.

Perhaps they were expecting nothing. We will never know. Yet, I shall look for them the next time we travel that highway. We shared a moment of existence that is worthy of being shared again.

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

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DNR's Hales, Guyer due

New challenges for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be the focus of outgoing DNR Director Gordon Guyer's keynote talk at the 18th annual meeting of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) Tuesday, May 10 in Bloomfield Hills.

After Guyer's talk, David Hales, the new DNR director, will field informal questions from the audience.

Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine, will host the meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Guyer will speak at 8:30 p.m.

CMU teaches 'playscape'

Central Michigan University is offering a recreation and parks course for credit in Birmingham this spring. Playscape Design and Construction (RPA 500) will be taught for two credit hours 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, May 19-22 from at Detroit Country Day School.

Students should be enrolled by May 6. Enrollment is limited. Paid registrations will determine priority.

For registration information, contact Continuing Education and Community Services, CMU, Mt. Pleasant, 48859.

Diabetics have exercise class

The Oakland University Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute offers an exercise-education program for adults with insulin- and non-insulin-dependent diabetes. Interested persons will learn

about exercise, nutrition and self-care measures, and may participate in three medically supervised exercise sessions per week.

For registration, call Terri Darenkamp at 370-3198.

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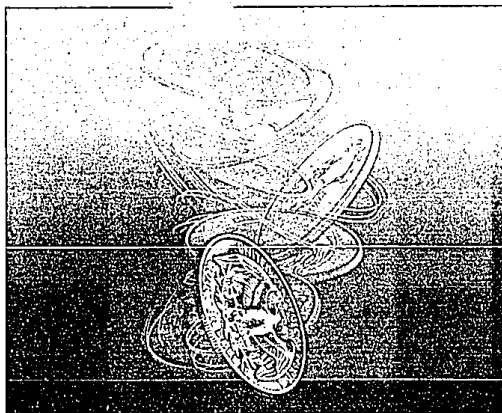


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