

**Moral perspectives****Parents suffer for youths' sins**

The plaintive question "What did we do wrong?" is being uttered with ever greater frequency by bewildered parents who aren't able to comprehend or explain the irresponsible or injurious behavior of their grown children.

Many parents, when confronted by the fact that their adolescent or college-age children have violated moral, legal or religious standards, torment themselves with feelings of guilt and personal responsibility for the transgressions of the younger generation. In an ironical rev-

ersal of the Biblical judgment, contemporary society often visits the sins of the children upon the fathers.

As a rabbi, I have often been witness to the shame and self-punishment that parents undergo when they discover that a son or daughter is using narcotics or has broken the law or has engaged in some willfully perverse act that has brought havoc upon his (or her) life. Since most parents try, as best they can, to provide proper training and direction for their

young, it is an over-simplification, when such tragic events occur, to place all blame upon the shoulders of the older generation.

AT SUCH TIMES, parents give vent to their frustration and sor-



By  
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row by exclaiming: "What did we do that was wrong? Where did we fail?"

There are, to be sure, many ways in which we do fail our children. We neglect to give them enough attention, to talk things over with them, to let them know firmly where we stand, to express our convictions about faith in God and in mankind. We fail in giving them the proper example of conduct and practice.

All this happens, but there are numerous cases in which parents do the right things, communicate faithfully, and still, their children disappoint them. I have seen parents striving conscientiously to provide a proper environment and fine opportunities for their children, only to discover, in the end, that their efforts have been for naught, their values despised, their bright hopes turned to dust and ashes. What about this?

The answer lies in at least two parts. First, young people are often more influenced by their peers than by their elders. There is such a force as the "spirit of the times" which can overwhelm a generation.

THE DEEPER ISSUE, however, lies in the children themselves. Parents should come to the realization that once they have done their best for their children

**How to submit wedding news**

Engagement announcements to appear in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers must be submitted at least two months prior to the wedding date. Wedding announcements must be submitted within two months after the wedding.

A five by seven black-and-white glossy photograph is preferred. Other photographs will be accepted.

Announcement forms are available to be picked up at the Observer & Eccentric offices between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mail announcements to the Suburban Life Department, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, 48012.

**Mother-daughter workshop offered**

Mercy Center is offering a second opportunity for teenage girls and their mothers to participate in a communication workshop. The program, "Does Anybody Hear Me?", is a chance for mothers and daughters to take a look at how they interact with one another.

Directing the workshop will be Ruth Evens and Anne Waltersdorf, psychologists associated with the Continuum Center of Oakland University. The program will be at Mercy Center (just east of Mercy High School, near Middlebelt), from 12:45 until 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 15.

It is necessary to register in advance with Sister Gretchen by phone or by mail at 28600 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills, 48024.

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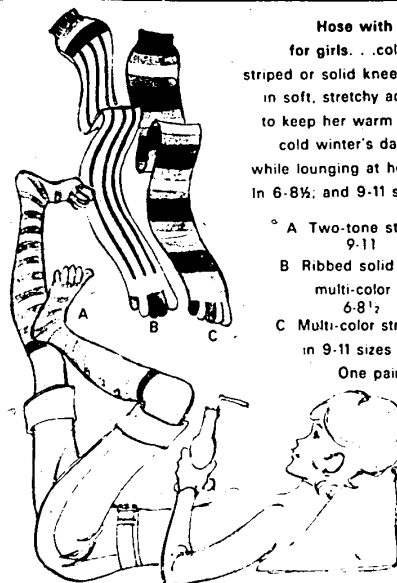
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