

# Religion

## Moral perspectives

# Tradition: It's alive and well

An excellent production of "Fiddler on the Roof" at Seaham High School in Birmingham gives insights about education. The musical presents conflict between religiously based community tradition and young people adjusting to revolution with new behavior. Both old and new ways are made to seem sensible and desirable.

Seaham dramatists provide a living example of the conflict between tradition and modernity. High school performances is found here and there across the country but it is not common. It is expected that students and students have made it so. Each generation of students passes on the know-how and a demand for high quality.

The community knows of the tradition of good dramatics so plays are a sell-out and spring musicals are offered two weekends. Education classes cannot provide is available for the benefit of students and humanity.

As a low and cost teaching vehicle students the tradition deserves. Skills some teachers do not know are learned as student's struggle to achieve a quality performance.

Schools give awards to set expectations and to motivate students toward proficiency and excellence. Our culture's admiration for competition is "established" in school awards based on winning. Staff and students in our schools are encouraged to highlight a few exceptional achievers.

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteers. Further information about the agencies and type of volunteer services needed may be obtained from the bureau. 642-7272.

**OAKLAND CRISIS CENTER** for Rape and Sexual Assault, a program of the YWCA in Pontiac, is looking for volunteers for a 24 hour crisis line, committee work and a speakers' bureau. Both men and women are needed. There will be a training class

beginning May 18. If interested, call the bureau.

**THE 44TH DISTRICT COURT** in Royal Oak would like to recruit 20 volunteers to serve as court monitors, one to one basis with probationers. Duties include meeting with the probationer on a weekly, then monthly basis and writing monthly reports on the interviews. Orientation and at least two Saturday morning or Thursday evening workshops are required.

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## Getting it together

# Be an active love-receiver

What's the greatest single cause for women initiating divorce? The conviction that their husband can't or won't take care of their emotional needs.

This may come as a surprise to those who have held the common misconception that divorce are the result of drinking, beating or running around. The amazing fact is that women are leaving husbands who don't drink, are responsible fathers, successful financial providers and

All of which reinforces the idea that the primary reason that men and women get married and stay married is to be loved and to love. The rest of it, financial security, responsible sharing of child-rearing duties, and good looks are important, but not nearly as much.

The complaint of these divorcing

women frequently takes the form of: "My husband thinks that all he owes me is material security and his physical presence. He cares more about his job, his hobbies, and his friends than he does about me. He only shows his dependence on me when his drawers are empty or his car breaks down."

Often, these love-starved women conclude that they have chosen men who are incapable of being loving, caring people. In fact, they begin to wonder whether men can have the capacity to look beyond their own needs.

Inhibited by an image-consciousness that works to forbid spontaneity, in males, men do frequently carry handicaps to their marriages. But rarely is this a sufficient explanation for why love relationships break down.

In fact, I think that all of us men and women together, being imperfec-

By  
BOB TRENZ,  
Ph.D.



right person is a lot less important than whether you're both actively working to keep those loving feelings alive.

The key word here is actively.

By far, the most common mistake we make in loving partnerships is to take for granted that our partner loves us. She will do this when we need support; she will need our minds because she will be so sensitive to our moods. And so we don't bother to state our needs. Or we are lazy about spelling out just what we want from our partner.

The best approach is the basket approach to asking for love. We are often too dumping our basket of needs, with no organization, no attempt to assist our partner in his attempt to be caring. So chances of your partner helping to sort out your basket accurately are actually quite slim.

**ADD TO THIS** obstacle the tendency of love-receivers to passively accept whatever love attempts they are given. This is the "scriptplay" posture, and it is almost as insurmountable as the basket.

Two other "triumphs" in this is the loving relationship set to working when they must not love each other any more. That's almost always wrong.

The person who loves me or she is not getting loved should look at whether he is an active or a passive love-receiver.

Bob Trenz is a psychologist and marriage counselor in Rochester. Questions to Dr. Trenz should be sent to P.O. Box 61, Rochester 14602.

tions and obstacles to the task of creating an emotionally supportive relationship.

It's not that we don't care about such things. But both sexes want very much to have a successful loving partnership in their lives.

But most people don't realize just how hard it is to find the key to finding the right partner. Or we're blindly hoping that the power of romantic love would make our relationship work. So when the relationship fails you hear things like, "If you really loved me..."

It requires that both partners have a working understanding of what motivates each other, what turns them off. It requires that both learn to know each other well enough to feel safe and trusting with each other. It means that conflicts and resentments are currently worked out.

**WHETHER YOU'VE** found the

## Compassionate Friends to host their founder

The Rev. Simon Stephens, founder of the Compassionate Friends, will speak at St. John's Episcopal Church, 155 S. Washington, Royal Oak, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12.

The British clergyman started the organization to help bereaved parents in Coventry, England, in 1969.

He is author of a book, "Death Comes Home," in which he considers problems that present themselves when a child dies.

The meeting will be sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the organization, which held its first meeting in November. It meets monthly at gatherings in Southfield.

Compassionate Friends now has 19 chapters in the United States and two in Canada. More information on the local group is available from Shirley Spaenburg, 421-7641.



REV. SIMON STEPHENS



By  
REV. CHARLES ERICKSON  
Congregational Church of Birmingham

Our youth have created their own traditions which exceed the values of our culture by expecting the best from all participants regardless of gender.

The only really meaningful reward is the sense of meaning and satisfaction within an event and its aftermath.

Complaints about skills lacking among graduates of recent years are plentiful. One answer to the problem is extracurricular activities which cultivate interest and growth.

The real heart of America is that we are a "can do" culture. Our best extracurricular activities call for inventiveness and adaptation. Crucial learning takes place without direct adult instruction.

Students rebel against tradition codified in textbooks and programmed in approved styles of thought. By rebelling our youth have built more vital traditions with more sound values. To see people excel in something they have created with their own skill and dedication is to feel optimism about the moral quality of our future.

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**AVONDALE YOUTH Assistance** in Auburn Heights needs volunteers to

work on their camp committee for underprivileged children. Volunteers attend one meeting in early May to receive their assignments. After that they work independently. Duties include screening applicants, contacting the children and family in person, seeing that the necessary forms are properly filled out and physical exams are completed, and arranging for transportation. Each volunteer will be assigned five or six children to follow through the placement process. Arrangements must be finalized before the end of June.

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