



Pat Bordman

Shifting burden of guilt to a 3rd party fall guy

"Mikey did it!" Though the name may change, the sentiment remains the same. Your little darling insists that someone else has committed the misdeed. He is innocent.

Whether the kid down the street, a school chum, or an imaginary companion, someone else is blamed for all unacceptable behavior.

The young child soon discovers that a parent will be displeased with certain behavior. He wants to be good to gain his parent's love and approval.

But being good all the time is impossible. So, what to do with those unlovely parts of yourself? What do you do with imperfections, mean impulses, bad thoughts, and transgressions?

THE YOUNG child will shift the blame from himself to a place outside himself so that he remains pure and lovable. This is done unconsciously by the child to protect his sense of self.

Though casting out bad parts is often accomplished with an imaginary playmate, the transference can also occur through the use of puppets. By using puppets to work through the ugly feelings that are kept inside, some of the tension that accompanies the shifting of blame can be eased.

ANY PUPPET will do, but these milk carton puppets are easy to construct and will do a fine job. Use either a pint or quart size milk carton since small hands fit these very well. Find the middle of the carton and make a slit around three sides at the mid-point.

Fold back the carton at the middle of the fourth side. Slip the thumb into the bottom of the carton and the fingers into the top and a puppet head had been formed. By moving the thumb and fingers apart the mouth seems to be opening and closing.

Decorate the head with yarn, string, construction paper, or fabric.

Show the child how to make the carton animated by various hand movements. The mouth of the carton should open and close as the child speaks for the puppet. Expression can be shown by turning the hand, tilting the head slightly, casting the puppet's eyes down.

Pretty soon even the puppet will say "the devil made me do it!"

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has a master's degree in early childhood education. She has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures. Write her c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

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Effective way to avoid drafts

I have two odd-shaped windows in my foyer that let in a lot of cold air. I have caulked them but they still ice up. I do not want to use sheets of plastic because they look awful. They seem to be OK during the day because they get some sun. It is at night that it is a problem. Do you know how I can insulate them that won't cost me a lot of money.

Joe R., Detroit

Rigid Styrofoam insulation that can be purchased inexpensively at discount stores will work well for this particular situation.

Simply make a paper pattern of your window and use it to cut out a night-time storm window. The foam can be covered with fabric or wall paper to match your color scheme. Then just slip them into the windows at night and remove them in the morning when the sun comes out. They are light-weight and can be easily moved and stored.

Thank you for the program you did for our group. It was so good that we

consumer mailbag

have recommended it to several teachers. Do you do programs for schools? Is there a charge?

Evelyn K., Livonia

All of Concern's programs are available free of charge to schools. Our speakers' bureau has programs for children that can be used with existing curriculum or to establish new areas of study.

Visual aids, slides, movies and displays cover a range of topics including food, nutrition, energy, hazardous substances, water and much more. To arrange for a program for your school or class call Concern at 879-1333 during regular business hours.

ECO-TIP!

Our Great Lakes represent the largest system of fresh water on earth. The U.S. and Canada have spent million of dollars in recent years in an effort to keep these lakes clean and healthy. Celebrate their beauty at a photographic exhibition from Jan. 31 to March 31 at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Belle Isle.

Consumer Mailbag answers your questions on environmental issues. Address letters to Concern Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

Cranbrook to give 'Celestial Preview'

A preview of astronomical attractions for the coming year will be shown in planetarium demonstrations Jan. 7-28 at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road.

"Celestial Preview for 1981" which forecasts predictable patterns that change with the seasons, also will include when and where to look for planets and what star groups to expect each season.

Planetarium demonstrations — free with museum admission of \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students and senior citizens — are given at 4 p.m. Wednesdays, 2, 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2, 3, 4 p.m. Sundays.

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If you have a bedwetter in your home, I strongly urge you to take steps at once to end it. The correction of bedwetting is an important mental health aid. It is very harmful to the child, distressing to the parents and can lead to very serious complications later on in life. Don't be blind to this problem no matter what you have been told by anyone else. Do something about it and do it now.

Joseph G. Molner, M.D.,
Master Public Health

BEDWETTING IS CORRECTABLE

Many procedures such as restricting liquids, taking a child to the bathroom on a schedule, scolding, etc. do not end bedwetting. It can be stopped as early as 3 years of age. It should definitely be stopped before school age.

For the same reasons you would not think of waiting for your child to outgrow diapers, you also should not wait for your child to outgrow bedwetting. Millions of adults never outgrow it.

Dennis L. Hunter, Ph.D.

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