



moral perspectives

Rev. Robert Schaden

Nuclear defense talk is political quackery

Any physician who attempts to peddle a useless cure would be quickly branded as a quack. Even more than change of names, we would demand that his license to practice medicine be revoked.

Our reaction would be more than understandable to that, regardless of religious persuasion, most of us consider it morally reprehensible for one to mislead people in a way that causes them serious harm.

Those who are led to believe in useless cures are doomed to serious harm because they are led to ignore those which will, in fact, be to their benefit.

In this regard, Dr. Jack Geiger of Physicians for Social Responsibility has suggested that any physician who becomes involved in programs for civil defense in the event of a nuclear war is acting unethically.

The doctor contends, as do many other physicians, that from a medical standpoint there is no such thing as effective defense of human society in the face of nuclear war. To take part in programs for civil defense, and other such ridiculous responses to the result of our nuclear madness is to mislead people in a way that will lead to their ultimate harm and destruction.

TO TALK OF or to plan for a defensive response to a nuclear attack is to lead people into thinking that we can win a nuclear war. Such thinking, in turn, blinks people to the fact that the only effective defense is to rid ourselves of the machinery that makes nuclear war likely.

The director of Michigan's Crisis Response Plan has admitted that the plan is "futile." And yet the plan continues to the tune of billions of dollars (Reagan has asked for \$4.2 billion), and wages yet, to the tune of lulling people into thinking that it is viable.

Some HAVE SUGGESTED that those in favor of a nuclear war are acting out of fear and ignoring a rational approach to the question of nuclear war. The fact is that any belief in the effectiveness in civil defense programs against the horrors of nuclear confrontation can be influenced by nothing but fear. And to prepare for of-

fensive capability is to act out of a sick sense of power.

Federal authorities have indicated that the evacuation program they propose could cut the death toll to a mere 25 million. This is called survival. These authorities, who run the Federal Emergency Survival Agency, plan on moving those of us who live in metropolitan Detroit to outstate counties.

A fact that seems to be ignored is that one nuclear war would make an area as large as the state of New York uninhabitable for a period of 33 days. The likelihood of only one warhead in the event of a nuclear attack is ludicrous. It would seem that the people who are vaporized at the first instant would have it all over those who are moved to the north woods to die of starvation or radiation sickness a few weeks later.

This same agency prides itself on believing that one can create their evacuation plans in only eight days. Somehow this time frame is not too impressive considering that we could hope for little more than five to 15 minutes warning of an impending attack.

IN THE FACE of these realities it would seem that it is misleading, to say the least, to continue an arms race which will allow us to obliterate the people of the Soviet Union 20 or 30 times over when we have the fire power to destroy them many times already. Let us instead focus our time on the game of evacuation planning.

It is too bad that we do not demand the same ethical standards of those in government as we do of those in the medical profession. The former group, perhaps more than the latter, holds our lives and those of our children in its hand. It may be time to insist upon accountability or to revoke the license they were issued at the voting booth.

Postscript: A program for mediating between nuclear confrontation and the economic considerations of nuclear buildup will be held at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Liberal Arts Theater at Schoolcraft College, on Haggerty Road north of Six Mile in Livonia.

The northwest suburban Nuclear Freeze Committee and the college Newman House will be sponsors.

GERONTOLOGY

A. Jolayne Farrell

Facial hair can be bleached or removed

Dear Jo:
In one of your columns, you described the changes that hair goes through with age. The part that interested me in particular was the removal of facial hair in women. Would you please elaborate on this?

M.P., Ann Arbor

Many women have an increase in facial hair after menopause. The hair can be bleached, removed temporarily or removed permanently.

If the hair is to be bleached, be sure to put yourself in the hands of a professional, as some bleaches are too strong for the sensitive skin of the face.

Hair can be temporarily removed by the application of hot wax to the upper lip or chin area. Then the wax is "ripped" off, taking the hair with it. The discomfort felt is comparable to the quick removal of adhesive tape. Facial hair can also be removed by plucking each individual hair or by shaving parts of the face. With the temporary method women can be free of facial hair from two or six weeks.

Hair can permanently be removed

by electrolysis which is the removal of facial hair with an electric needle. This procedure is done in a salon and involves a series of sessions as not all hair can be removed at one time.

Dear Jo:
My father who is in his late 70s has the bad habit of telling the same story over and over again. Every time I visit him at the retirement home I listen and try to be polite but I lose patience. What would you suggest I do?

Fred L.

This is a common problem. Many older people are unaware that they are doing this, so I would suggest that you remind your father during the conversation that you have heard the story before. If he continues, I guess you just have to let him finish. Some older people have some interesting stories, but they lose a lot of their impact when heard 20 or more times.

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