

'Let us be what we appear to be'

ONE OF the most serious charges that can be leveled against our age is that we live by dual standards, individually and collectively. How do we judge others, and how do we judge ourselves?

We judge others by their deeds and by their outward actions, and our judgements are harsh. How do we judge ourselves? By our thoughts, intentions, hopes, and feelings. When we commit an error, we are kind to ourselves. We take into account all of the extenuating circumstances, all of our difficulties, problems, and burdens.

But when we weigh the faults of others, we do not refrain from using a different measure and putting our thumb on the scale.

CONSIDER THE following: "Isn't it funny . . . when the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he's slow; when I take a long time to do something, I'm thorough."

"When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy; but when I don't do it, I'm too busy."

"When the other fellow states his side of a question strongly, he is opinionated; but when I state my side of the question strongly, I'm being firm."

"When the other fellow overlooks a few of the



Rev. Lloyd Buss

rules of etiquette, he's rude; but when I skip a few of the rules, I'm original."

When the other fellow finds fault, we say that he is a "critical critic." When we do it, it is due to our good taste.

WHEN THE other fellow does anything on his own, he is aggressive and overstepping authority. When we do the same, we call it initiative.

When someone takes a stand on an important issue, he is disputatious and stubborn. When we do it, we are conscientious and courageous.

Recently, I came upon a store in northern Michigan which carried the following sign: "We buy junk — we sell attitudes."

We have another set of double standards: The values we profess and the values by which we really live.

A recent survey disclosed that 95 percent of the American people believe in God. It would seem that God never had it so good as in America today.

BUT IN that same survey, people were asked: "Would you say religious beliefs have any effect on your practice in business, in your profession, or in politics?" To this question, 83 percent answered "No," thereby making religion respectable but irrelevant.

We extol self-control and we practice self-indulgence. We proclaim brotherhood and we are guilty of prejudice. We teach young people the sanctity of human life and reverence for moral ideal, but the media portray the themes of brutality, depravity and decadence in living color.

We proclaim ourselves a non-violent people but we insist that each person be allowed to own his own gun. You and I are not guilty of all these things. But collectively we share in the responsibility not to be discharged by blaming our political leaders or the party in power.

A philosopher once made this plea: "Let us speak what we think, let us do what we pretend, let us make good what we promise and let us be what we appear to be."

Living will can prevent problems

Dear Jo:

A while back your column carried a copy of a living will. I didn't save it as it didn't mean much to me at the time. Since then, however, my life has changed — I am now looking after my 87-year-old mother who worries constantly about her future. She fears that when she becomes ill and is getting ready to meet her "Maker," she will be bombarded with tubes, needles and the like, by the medical staff at our local hospital.

Although the will is not legal in our part of the country, I'm sure her doctor and the hospital staff would respect her wishes. I would appreciate it if you would print the will once again in your column — and this time I'll not only save it but will put it to good use.

Thanks,
Mrs. L.

Dear Mrs. L:

I will be happy to reprint the living will for you and your mother. Others using this type of will

gerontology
A. Jolayne Farrell

should also be aware of their local legal and medical implications.

THE LIVING WILL reads:

If the time comes when I can no longer take part in decisions for my own future, let this statement stand as the testament of my wishes:

If there is no reasonable expectation of my recovery from physical or mental disability, I request that I be allowed to die and not be kept alive by artificial means or heroic measures.

Death is as much a reality as birth, growth,

maturity and old age — it is the one certainty. I do not fear death as much as I fear the indignity of deterioration, dependence and hopeless pain.

I ask that medication be mercifully administered to me for terminal suffering even if it hastens the moment of death.

This request is made after careful consideration. Although this document is not legally binding, you who care for me will, I hope, feel morally bound to follow its mandate.

I recognize that it places a heavy burden or responsibility and of mitigating any feelings of guilt that this statement is made.

Signed: John or Jane J. Doe

For further information on implementing your living will, you can write to Concern for Dying, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10107

Readers can write Jolayne Farrell at PO Box 60, Postal Station G, 1075 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

WSU offers 4 telecourses

Wayne State University's College of Lifelong Learning will offer four professionally produced college-level telecourses in the fall on WTVS Channel 56.

Registration for fall term runs through Aug. 29. For information and registration procedure, call WSU at 477-4659. The courses:

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PERINATAL COACH — Non-judgmental, friendly volunteers are needed by the Oakland Family Services to meet with parents, coaching them in parental duties. Time is up to volunteer. Training. Agency also needs co-leader for groups of parents discussing family concerns. Three hours a week. 642-7272.

COFFEE HOUSE AIDE — Sensitive and interested adult volunteers are needed by

Association for Retarded Citizens of Oakland County to work at coffee house in Pontiac. 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, September to July. Phone 642-7272.

HEALTH EXPO VOLUNTEER — Adults interested in arthritis are needed by the Michigan Chapter of Arthritis Foundation to talk with public at Health Expos. Should be capable of moving up to speakers bureau. Four to six hours on occasional basis. Training. Phone 642-7272.

BEAUTICIAN — Licensed volunteer, over 21, for one or two hours, afternoons or evenings, once a month to give hair cuts at Children's Village. 642-7272.

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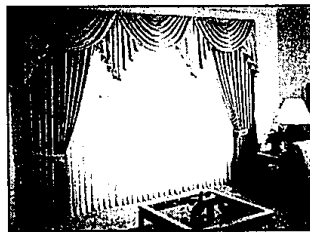
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