

## gerontology

A. Jolayne  
FarrellFor head injury,  
obey instincts

Dear Joe:

A few months ago, I had a fall and bumped my head. At first I thought I was all right, but after a while I got an upset stomach and a headache, so I went to see my doctor. Apparently, I had had a slight concussion.

I would appreciate it if you would discuss injuries to the head. It would be helpful (for us older folks) to know what to look for after even a slight bump to the head.

Mrs. G. A., Northern Reader

speech pattern; neck or back pain, blurred vision or difference in pupil size; lethargy or sleepiness at unusual times; and lastly, feelings of uneasiness and restlessness.

After any head injury, trust your own instincts. If you just don't feel right, even though you can't pinpoint the exact symptoms, it is better to alert a doctor rather than ignore the problem.

Dear Joe:

Is there a quick test to measure if a workout is strenuous enough to improve fitness but not so hard to be unsafe. I am over 50 and plan to stay fit.

Mr. H., Victoria Reader.

According to Bernard Gutin, Columbia University Teachers College, a quick and easy test that measures if a workout is strenuous enough to improve your fitness, but not so hard that it is unsafe: "You should not have enough extra breath while exercising to sing but should have the wind to speak."

## Institution has life of own

IT'S A simple story. I think of it often, and use it almost as frequently.

The story comes from the pen of Dennis De Rougemont and is about the devil and his confederate following a philanthropist on the streets of New York.

A poor man asked for a cigarette, and the philanthropist gave him money. The confederate asked the devil if he were not afraid of the philanthropist, who was intelligent, good and generous.

"I'll take care of him," the devil said, as the philanthropist gave a sum of money to a second beggar. "I'll organize his charity."

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY introduced the same theme with his famous Grand Inquisitor legend in his novel "The Brothers Karamazov." Humanity cannot tolerate freedom. Humanity needs the realism and order of the life that only the church can provide.

The Grand Inquisitor asserts that few people could follow the way of Christ. He concludes that Christ hinders the work of the church, and therefore must die.

He warns us that institutions have a way of replacing the purpose they were meant to serve with their own reasons for existence.

THE RECENT STORIES in print and picture of TV evangelists engaged in a multifarious variety of death-defying actions exhibit a fatal flaw in our lives.

One evangelist calls on God to strike him down if he fails to raise \$8 million.

Another dares to violate a sacred command protecting the sanctity of marriage. A third engages in acrimonious critique.

To be human is to be rooted in self-deception. Fundamental to truth and integrity is the will of God. Our lives must be formed by what God



## moral perspectives

Rev. Lloyd  
Buss

will and not what we will do with them.

Our moral task is always a constant vigilance to seek out those places in our lives where God's will is not heeded.

BUT ISN'T that exactly what TV evangelists say they do? They claim a most serious effort in following the will of God.

Believing God will strike down those who fail to raise a certain amount of money certainly sounds serious and intentional. Resigning from a public ministry for a compromised act of obedience is equally zealous. And who would question the earnestness of one who feels the shame brought upon their collective ministries?

In a very precise way, the TV evangelists in recent print and picture have identified specific problems and/or transgressions in their lives and have acted forthrightly on them.

Offering one's life as a sacrifice, resigning from a successful post, calling for integrity and morality — all are actions that will be claimed as positive in days to come.

OUR MISTAKE is in watching the deeds of misconduct and ignoring the system in which they were committed.

It's not the rules that were broken that should be our primary concern. We need to review the system in which the rules were placed.

TV evangelists have constructed a system that works well for them. They will resolve their problems and

The rest of us have an obligation to ask their intentions of purpose. Organizing a system and operating it successfully are one set of things. Being faithful to God's will in the care and love of life is quite another.

Dennis De Rougemont and Fyodor Dostoevsky can help us discern and appreciate the difference.

The Rev. Lloyd Buss is the pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Rochester.

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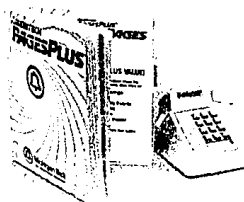
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