

CHAT ROOM

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"Positive Peter Ragueous" there are seemingly ten "Negative Nellies". Therein lies part of the problem: a dearth of good examples to emulate.

Now it's a natural fact that no matter how strong your character is, you will take on many of the traits of the people you surround yourself with. It's inevitable, like the sun rising in the east and setting in the west. And it's not only the people you surround yourself with, but also the books you read, the TV and movies you watch and the thoughts you choose to think.

I used to surround myself constantly with people who had a limited outlook and the scarcity mentality. Thus, in order to bond with them, I took on many of the same traits and characteristics of people with that outlook and mentality. In a way, I guess I didn't know better.

Once I knew better though, I did better. At the time, I believed that there was never enough and would secretly resent anyone I knew who was doing better than I was. I would silently hope for the failure of my peers so they wouldn't be "better" than me and I wouldn't have to raise my own standards.

I would have what Zig Ziglar calls the "Loser's Limp". I found myself making comments like "I can't do that because I don't have the smarts," or telling myself, "I'm too shy to ask

people to do that for me, I don't want to inconvenience them". Fear, not excitement, would rule my decision-making process.

Now, I'm not blaming my friends for holding me back. Like I said, until you know better, you can't do better. And we were all caught up in the same ugly cycle because no one showed us any differently! Once I started meeting people who challenged my beliefs of myself, the world and what was possible, I could start making some headway in my eventual transformation from a Negative Nellie to a Positive Peter Ragueous.

So what am I getting at? It's this: We have to be a good example to those around us, because we do know better. And if we don't, we should learn.

It really doesn't pay to be a Negative Nellie in this world. And Lord knows there aren't enough Positive Peter Ragueous going around. While it may seem easier to just "fit in" and not create any waves, I contend that the only way to a truly fulfilled life is by helping others reach their goals, and they in turn help you achieve yours.

And the attitude of Positive Peter Ragueous is one that supports that. Try it. What if what I say is true (trust me, it is)? All you've got to lose is that "Loser's Limp", and that's not such a loss, is it?

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HELOISE

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ments, Bean tends to stay away from those, because they add to the cost. "I'm a big dollar store shopper, and I'm a big collector, so if somebody calls me to do something, I have it."

Bean turned what she had done only for family and friends into a full-fledged business last year. But she still considers her table setting business her hobby.

"This is my fun," she said.

BEGINNINGS

Even guest speaker Heloise commented on the use of personal items in table settings, in addition to the advice on cleaning, repairing and storing china and crystal she provided on Thursday morning's radio broadcast.

"I was going to bring some of my things," she said, "but I have a flight to Hawaii in the morning."

On the road often as an in-demand guest speaker, she was preparing to give a speech to 500 military wives there. The territory was familiar; her mother started the Hints from Heloise column while the family was stationed in Hawaii.

"My father was in the Air Force," Heloise explained. "My mother was a military wife... We moved every three or four years. Maybe that's why I'm so organized."

As she spoke to the Hiddar Mizvah audience, Heloise wore her father's pilot wings. At age 81, he's now living in a retirement community in San Antonio, where Heloise has lived since 1999. She and her husband, David Evans, a plumbing contractor, have a home there and one on the south Texas coast. Despite extensive travel,



BILL BRELLER/OBSERVER

Tables created for the Sisterhood of Adat Shalom's event were centered around such diverse celebrations as Purim and the Fourth of July. Docents led visitors around the room to explain the components of each display.

Heloise said she does take time for herself, enough to grow antique roses and spend time watching birds, a hobby she finds very relaxing. In the keynote introduction, event chair Charlotte Edelheit described her as "unpretentious, warm and a conversationalist."

"She is as lovely on the inside as the outside," Edelheit added.

HELPFUL HINTS

Like her mother, Heloise is not a "typical housewife." She passed up a career in teaching to take over the newspaper column after her mother died of lung cancer in 1977. The column started in 1959, when her mother convinced an editor in Hawaii to run it on a weekly basis, after an Air Force officer bet her that she couldn't get her helpful hints

published.

"Mom worked at home, so I grew up thinking that was normal," Heloise said. "I helped open letters and with reading mail. I tested hints."

The latter created a few strange situations. When a friend of the teen-ager came over to visit, he opened the freezer door to get some ice and found quite a shocking site: a girdle, an angora sweater, candles and a can of ground coffee.

As anyone who has read Heloise's hints knows, an angora sweater is said to "shed" less if it's kept in the freezer, candles are supposed to drip less if they're kept in the freezer (that's not true, according to a recent Heloise update) and a can of ground coffee will stay fresher in the colder clime. And the girdle?

"There was a woman in Hawaii... they had no air conditioning at that time, and she would not go to church without her girdle. So she kept it in the freezer so she would be cool in those five minutes or so it took her to walk to church," Heloise explained.

Today, a staff of five full-time assistants and two part-time researchers answer mail and test hints. Heloise also updates hints from years past. The candles, for instance, will do better if they're chilled for just a few hours before burning them, rather than stored in the freezer full-time.

That group effort has resulted in several books, the most recent of which are "In the Kitchen with Heloise" and "Heloise from A to Z". The kitchen guide includes recipes and the second volume is written in dictionary format.

Advertisement for EBEL jewelry featuring a watch and a bracelet. The text includes the brand name 'EBEL' and the word 'BELUGA'.

Advertisement for Golden Gifts, a jewelry store. It lists the address: 33286 West Six Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152, and provides phone and fax numbers.

Large advertisement for EMAGINE movie theatre. It features the text 'THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH NOVI'S NEWEST MOVIE THEATRE OPENS' and lists amenities like '18 AUDITORIUMS COCKTAILS', 'ALL STADIUM SEATING', and 'ROCKING CHAIR SEATS WITH CUPHOLDERS'. It also includes a 'BUY A LARGE POPCORN for the price of a small popcorn SAVE \$2.00' offer.

'Dracula' rises Nov. 6-9 at college's Orchard Ridge campus

The Orchard Ridge Campus at Oakland Community College presents *Dracula*, scripted by Steven Dietz. Nov. 6-9 at 8 p.m. in the Wallace F. Smith Theatre on OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Tickets are

\$7 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the Orchard Ridge Bookstore.

A silent auction will be held in conjunction with the Nov. 8 and 9 performances. More than 40 items are up for bid,

ranging from bottles of wine to original paintings, plus a wide array of services including resume consultants, piano lessons and personal training sessions.

All auction proceeds go to the college's forensic scholar-

ship fund and the theater program.

For more information, call (248) 529-3422.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of the I-696 freeway.



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