

Parents shirk responsibilities

Reports now that several youths have attempted to snatch the purse from elderly women. I know that this situation does not exist in Albina alone, however, wherever it does it is wrong.

An onlooker, hearing a concerned citizen talk about the matter, commented to a neighbor, "What are these youngsters going to do next?" It was an appropriate question, but it was addressed to the wrong person. It should have been directed to the parents of the errant youths.

The present trend of this day and age indicates that many of the parents fear their children and their reactions to the point that they allow the children to run wild. This is wrong and, in the end, the parent usually winds up on the short end of the proverbial stick. This too, is not as it should be.

A parent, several generations ago, explained to his child that if he (the child) had been so smart, then the powers that be would not have provided him with parents to give him guidance as he grew. There would not even have been any need for a growing up process. Each child would have come into this world as a grownup and there would have been no time for development and learning. But, as it was, each child had to have a period in which to learn and grow and receive the benefit of the experience of the parents.

To many children are turned

in the commission of some loose and allowed to grow as they will. Too few children get the kind of parental supervision that turns out useful citizens. Police juvenile officers are concerned over the fact that many parents seem to just let their children wander at will with no attempt at effective supervision.

Parents seem to be oblivious to the basic needs of their children past eating and sleeping, until the child becomes involved crime and then they ask themselves what happened. For the most part, they don't want to hear criticism and they seem to ignore that the blame for the failure of the child rests squarely on the shoulders of the parents.

Granted, there are those cases that are exceptions to the rule, but they come few and far between. In the main children are the sum total of those things they have been taught (or not taught) and there is practically no way to avoid shouldering the responsibility.

Parents no longer seek to set examples for their children and they laugh at those people who do. A few days ago, a family was going to church and several of the children belonging to a neighboring family gathered at the front doors and laughed quietly among themselves at the group. This is a sad state of affairs when parents attempt to rear their children in what would seem to be the right way, and others poke fun at them.

The parents of today's offspring need to take a good, long look at themselves and ask themselves if they are really doing all they can to help their own children to grow in such a manner as to be decent and worthwhile citizens in this topsy-turvy world.

The time has long since passed when parents could say, "I've done the best I can," because this is not true. Perhaps they have done as much as they chose to, but to say they have

done as much as they could would be a lie.

Every parent in the world can teach his child to tell the truth and to have honor in his dealing with other people and to respect the rights of others. To do any less is an injustice to the child and very nearly guarantees that the child will become incarcerated. Is this the way you would have your child end up?



Family day and night center

The Metropolitan Area 4-C Council's Family Day and Night Care Program for the Model Cities area is accepting applications from persons who want to be day or night care parents and parents who need child care. The office is located at the Highland Community Center, 4635 NE 9th Avenue, telephone - 288-5091.

Day and Night Care Parents are evaluated, certified and trained by the social service staff. Children to be served are: those from 0 to 3 years; older children who for physical or emotional reasons cannot adjust to group care in a child care center; children through elementary school age who need care while parents work at night. Fees are based on the families income and financial obligations.

Seventeen Day and Night Care Mothers attended a three day orientation and training session and are now ready to receive children. Training sessions included: the program and goals of the Metropolitan Area 4-C Council; the role and responsibilities of the parent, day care parent and social worker; child development and activities for young children; health; and nutrition. Speakers included: Mr. Ed Smith, Secretary of the Metropolitan Area 4-C Board of Directors; Mrs. Bert Jermamy, Social Worker for the Family Day and Night Care program; Miss Jackie Kling, Child Development instructor and supervisor at Jefferson High School; Mrs. Sally Toman and Mrs. ?? nurses from Kaiser Foundation Research Institute; and Mrs. Barbara Harris, Nutritionist from the Multnomah County Extension Service.

Mrs. Charles (Charlotte) Brandon was elected to the Policy Board for the Family Day and Night Care Program.

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