

Experts Report

Adults' Double Standard Troubles Teenagers

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
Of the United Press International

NEW YORK—The next time you run a "stop" sign, defend a wrong, or fib, you'll probably damage the teenagers about you.

You hamper their search for significance when you wink at a wrong. You're showing the boys and girls searching for a sense of values how the double-standard works.

Youth, looking for models to emulate, sees that no virtue pays better than virtue, and mediocrity usually is a better course than excellence.

This dilemma of youth was reported at the recent 38th annual conference of the Child Study Association.

Dr. Dana L. Farnsworth, director of health services at Harvard University, was among sociologists, psychologists and educators discussing the question:

"How can parents and those who work with families help young people find significance and fulfillment in an unsettled world?"

Dr. Farnsworth's analysis showed that what's wrong with the younger generation apparently is the double-standard practiced by the older generation.

His examples of behavior from which young people are presumably supposed to formulate their ideals included the following:

- Traffic and parking regulations being ignored and evaded by ordinary drivers as well as police and other government officials.

- Musicians of mediocre quality gaining much more money in a few months making recordings of off-color songs than serious and well-trained musicians earn in several years or even a lifetime.

- Parents attending schools for not having created an atmosphere wholesome enough to prevent cheating when their children are caught cheating.

- Growing evidence supporting the general acceptance of the idea that stealing from a large organization is of a different order of importance or seriousness than is stealing from an individual.

- Intolerance of religious groups of one another.

- Commercialization of college athletics.

- "If I persisted in giving examples from everyday living that suggest a vast lack of knowledge on the part of our adults as to what is needed in the development of young people with

strong characters, resilient personalities and high ideals," he said, "you could only conclude that I was becoming a common scold."

"But I am angry," Farnsworth does not believe a lack of knowledge is the main stumbling block preventing adults from effectively transmitting appropriate values to youth in its developing years.

"It is a far stronger obstacle," he said. "It is the composite of all the vested interests in mediocrity shared by all of us in varying degrees."

"Striving for excellence is hard work, embarrassing, and may even cost money. It is far easier (for adults) to ignore the whole problem and engage in some escape device, either private ones . . . or public ones."

The list of private escape hatches included sedatives, peace of mind pills, alcoholism and keeping so busy there is no time to think.

The public escape hatches Dr. Farnsworth cited included attacks on the United Nations, deploring foreign aid or balancing the federal budget.

"The main point seems to be," he said, "don't come to grips with the real problem of learning how to understand and control ourselves and how to live in peace with our neighbors."

Dr. Farnsworth said the majority of young people he sees has a tremendous amount of good will, warmth toward people generally and a desire for idealism.

But he detects in these young people a fear of being tagged as someone who cares deeply about the simple human virtues that make life rich and meaningful. The label marks its wearer as one old fashioned and out of step.

All adults apparently have a duty to transmit standards if the time-honored ones are to survive.

For Dr. Farnsworth cited reports showing:

- It is necessary for large numbers of people in a given community to display integrity in their private and public lives if the majority of young people is to achieve this quality.

- It is necessary for the great majority of the people in a society to uphold its goals and its restraints if the web of morality which binds it together is to be effective.

Newcomers Tell Program

Newcomers Club No. 1 will inaugurate a new program, a golf group which will meet Thursday mornings, except on the first Thursday of each month which is reserved for a luncheon meeting.

The coming Thursday, and during June, the group will meet for nine-hole play at Laurelwood Golf Club; the

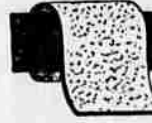
month afterward, play will be at Oakway greens. It is planned to alternate between the two. Play will begin at 8:30 a.m. standard, 9:30 a.m. daylight.

All newcomers to the area are invited to join the group, and for information may call Mrs. William Sparks, DI 3-6060, or Mrs. Clinton Harrison, DI 4-1578.

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The junior department of Eugene School of Ballet will present a program entitled "Ballet Is . . ." a presentation of development and technical structure Saturday evening. The program will consist of class demonstrations with each class showing a specific part of the development of the art of ballet.

Pianists are Janet Calhoun, Cathi Henke, Evelyn Johnson and Bruno Madrid who also will offer a piano solo. Narration will be given by Mary Kaye Williamson. Dances will be staged by Doreen Gilday, teacher - director - choreographer.

The program will take place at 6 p.m. standard, 7 p.m. daylight, at Central Lane YM-YWCA Bldg. A limited number of tickets are available through the students and the school.

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Garden Club Lists Officers

Mrs. O. H. Murray was installed as president of the Ward Garden Club at a recent meeting in the home of Mrs. Nelson Whitaker.

Mrs. James Green installed the officers who also include Mrs. Harold Woodruff, vice president; Mrs. Whitaker, secretary; Mrs. Paul Krambeal, treasurer.

Committees are: Year book, Mrs. John Hurd, Mrs. Harold

Woodruff, Mrs. Walter Chase, Mrs. Robert Brockway; Fair, Mrs. Harold Hurd; historian and conservation display chairman, Mrs. Clyde Barrows; corsages, Mrs. Lester Cunningham and Mrs. J. O. Crawford; courtesy, Mrs. James Green; guest book, Mrs. James Boyland.

A picnic meeting will be held during the summer at the home of Mrs. Murray, the date to be announced later.


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