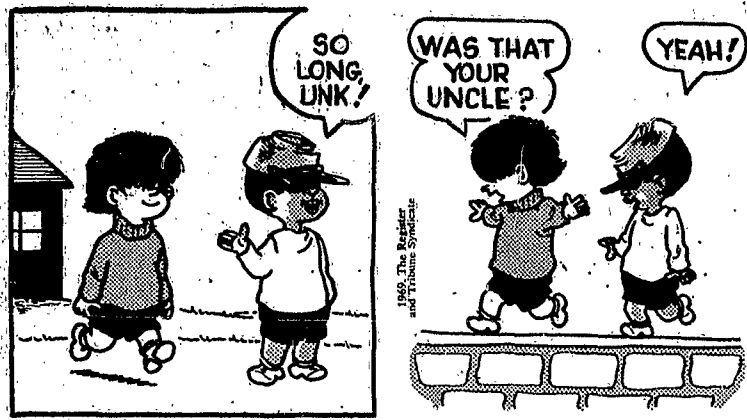


WEE PALS



by Morrie Turner



Southeast Area Organizes FISH

Untrained, ordinary people trying to be good neighbors—so they describe themselves in a FISH announcement that is being circulated in the southeast area of the city.

FISH (Friends in Service Here) has been set up under the sponsorship of the Southeast Ecumenical Ministry to serve all of postal zone 20 and the parts of zones 7 and 10 that are southwest of University Avenue. There are 21,000 homes in the area, half of which have received the initial publicity flyer.

More than 150 volunteers have signed up to provide short-term emergency services, such as child care, housework and transportation. They have a 24-hour answering service at 544-8220. In addition to strictly emergency help, the volunteers offer to read to the blind, visit the sick and elderly and do their shopping. They also provide a referral service in cases where professional help is needed.

Recollection Day Set in Elmira

Elmira—An afternoon of recollection for married couples is slated from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall.

Principal speaker will be Father Berlin Roll, OFM, Cap., of Pittsburgh, national director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers. He will be presented by Father Roy Kiggins, assistant pastor of the parish and director of the diocesan Marriage and Family Apostolate for the Southern Tier.

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Two Auxiliaries Plan Benefit Show

The children's convalescent home on Scottsville Road and the medical library at St. Mary's Hospital will reap the profits of a fashion show scheduled for 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 18 at the Holiday Inn, 1525 Ridgely.

Members of St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary and the Women's Podiatry Auxiliary will be models. Mrs. G. Keefe Jackson, Mrs. Edward Barra and Mrs. Sebastian Bentivegna are chairmen.

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TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

By FATHER MARTIN
Dear Father,

One of my best friends has suddenly changed. We used to get along beautifully. But lately she seems to contradict everything I say, or makes fun of me in front of people. It's getting so bad, I hate to be seen in public with her as she has embarrassed me more than once.

I have brought these matters up to her, and she says she didn't mean to hurt me, that she was only kidding. But the next time we were together, the same thing happened, she made some cute remark that made me look silly. I don't want to lose her as a friend, but I don't enjoy being with her any more. How can I make her see she is ruining our friendship?
Cherly

Dear Cherly,

I don't know what more you could do if you already brought the matter to her attention. You could ask her what's bugging her. Maybe she has some problem you could help her with. Or you might tell her if this continues, you won't accompany her to places where you are with friends, so that she won't have a chance to embarrass you.

Sometimes a person will resort to cute remarks because the person is insecure or jealous of the attention given to another person. Or the person might want to be the center of attention. But in the long run, no person profits by cutting down another person, especially in public.

Try to bring the matter out

in the open once more, but gently and charitably, and see if that won't help. The girl probably needs some kind of security. Perhaps you can help her.

Dear Father,

I used to clown around a lot in class and get a lot of laughs. Sometimes the teachers would get very much upset with me and for good reason. This year I'm a junior and I'm trying to get a more serious attitude toward my studies and toward life.

The trouble now is I've been kind of branded as a clown and a lot of the guys still want to fool around in class and I don't. They still throw things in my direction or try to get me to laugh when I have to recite, or mark my shirt with ink or some other crazy thing. What can I do now to stop all this nonsense?
Lennie

Dear Lennie,

Unfortunately, a reputation is sometimes hard to live down. The best thing you can do is continue to show a serious attitude and ignore the people who are trying to get you to laugh or to fool around in class. Maybe after a while they will get the message and leave you alone. Your own serious attitude may even be an inducement for them to get more serious about their subjects.

Dear Father,

Girls write you to ask you what to do with boys who kiss and pet, but how about girls who throw themselves on a boy?

I brought a girl home from

a dance and she demanded to be kissed. I was so completely caught off guard, I didn't know what to do. Then she practically threw herself around me. I'm still flustered by what happened.

Tom

Dear Tom,

Very few boys would care to go with a girl who would be this aggressive. The obvious thing is to drop this girl. I dare say most girls would not be like this.

In a way you have to pity the girl. Maybe she is starved for affection, or perhaps she thought this was the best way to keep you as a boyfriend. A girl like this is probably insecure and probably needs help. You can still be friendly and kind to her and try to help her, but it doesn't mean you have to go out with her. In fact, I think it would be better for you not to take her out any more.

As I've pointed out before, girls can help a boy or lead him on. Some girls are much more subtle than this girl was and their coyness and flirtations are much more dangerous than this situation. I still maintain a boy has more respect and liking for a girl who has high moral standards and who acts like a young lady.

Dear Father,

Is there a cure for homosexuality? I'm 17 and almost positive that I'm a homosexual.

When I see other guys that are normal, it gets me very depressed. I wonder how God could create someone like that. I'd rather die

than grow up as a homosexual.

DAVE

Dear Dave,

Some people are born blind, some people are born with other physical deformities; some people have psychological deformities. It's hard to understand why God allows such things. But we know, as St. Paul said, that God works all things unto good.

The big thing is to have confidence in God that all things will work out well if we cooperate with His grace, which, as He promised, is sufficient for every man.

I would suggest you do two things. Talk to a doctor and talk to your confessor or to another priest about your feelings and problems. Expert counseling in these matters is helpful. First of all, you may find out that you are not a homosexual at all. Sometimes there is a lot of funny thinking on this matter by the young.

Even if you do have homosexual tendencies, you can lead a very normal life. There is some debate in medical and psychological circles if a true homosexual can be cured, but there doesn't seem to be much doubt that a homosexual can adjust to his condition, see himself as he is, and lead a normal life.

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