Creative Family Living



By Dorothy L. Law

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PERSONALITY DEVELOPED BY FOUR MAIN DRIVES

In the next few weeks I want to discuss the ways in which the child's personality develops. Every school of psychology has its own theories as to how this comes about, and so I too can only present my viewpoints on the subject as I give them in my Depth Psychology class. Personality patterns are the result of growth. A well-integrated personality doesn't just spring up "full blown!" A pleasing personality can be cultivated.

Integrated personality doesn't just spring up "full blown." A pleasing personality? My psychiatric dictionary says: "Personality is the outermost aspect of the self." The word persona is a Greek word meaning mask, used to describe masks used in early dramas to enable a single actor to play many roles in a play. The actors, who were mostly young boys, simply slipped on a mask of the fair maider, the old witch, or the wise king, etc. In that way a very, limited east could present a play with many characters. Our personality can be thought of in a similar fashion. In our lives we have many roles to play, and we are the actors of them all.

Through the years as we grew and developed, certain ways of behavior proved themselves more satisfying, brought us more approval and acceptance from those about us. These ways of thinking, feeling, and acting grouped themselves into what we call a "pattern." Most of us have several or more of these patterns which we use more or less consciously, and often one is used unconsciously or even denied completely (this is the one we think is least like us; it usually is responsible for most of the blunders we make going through life).

PATTERNS LEARNED

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The child is not born with a personality pattern as such. Naturally he has predispositions toward certain types of expression. He also has the potentials for good or bad, the worst or the best; his natural or native abilities or talents, and certain basic needs which should be adequately met through his environment, his racial or cultural heritage, his spiritual heritage, as well as the physical characteristics and tendencies passed on from his parents. He has no pictures about his life, the world about him, or himself. These are added by the environment. Naturally the ways in which hose about him deal with him and feel toward him are going to be important factors in determining the use he nakes of the potentials within.

It is, of course, with this area that the field of child ayschology concerns itself. We cannot change that which has gone before (however the environment can modify some in herited predispositions to a great degree) but we can see that the child learns healthy, wholesome pictures about his little world. For it is from these pictures ne will begin to formulate personality patterns he will use as he grows a little older.

Often behind this maze of personality patterns is hidden the little self! we wastern.

Often behind this maze of personality patterns is hidden the "real self," constricted and hampered by this most super-ficial outermost mask the person has come to believe is himself. It is the uncovering of this real self which is the task of the depth psychologist, to help the individual come to know and understand the deeper layers of the self, to accept himself more completely, and use his patterns as tools for the expression of the self. In that way we have flexibility and adaptability with a minimum of frustration.

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FOUR MAIN PATTERNS

We will consider four personality patterns in the next four weeks representative of four main drives within the human organism. The names are refreshing after most psychological terms floating around—the turtle, the star, the clinging vine, and the tyrant. According to this theory we have all four of these types of pattern established within us as adults and every child spends the first years of his life learning from his parents' patterns.

These patterns can be expressed in a well-balanced and integrated personality or a warped and egocentric one. Next time, we will talk about the little "star" child who has such a great need for recognition and approval and the child who fears this side of himself. Naturally I can only touch on this subject. I hope you will be stimulated to further reading and study along these lines.

*Based on the book "My Dear Ego" by Fritz Kunkle, M.D. Letters may be addressed to Mrs. Law at the Torrance Herald or the Methodist Church, Redondo Beach, Callif.

ON JAN. 15

Counseling Service Gives ARTS CLUB Free Lecture

Local residents will have an opportunity to learn the way of the Arts and Crafts Club, the Redondo Beach extension of the Arts and Crafts Club, the Redondo Beach extension of Ruth Hardin.

Inc., sponsors a free lecture next Tuesday night, Jan. 5, at 8 o'clock af the First Methodst Church of Redondo Beach. Edith R. Stauffer, director at Beach and the Stauffer, director of the Compton Counseling, Service, will be the speaker.

Other free lectures, private counseling, group counseling, and classes in family life education also are offered by the Redondo Beach extension of the spinlanthropic project the Sendanger Service, Further information may be obtained by calling Frontier South and Classes was at the arbor South and the Service Further information may be obtained by calling Frontier South and Classes was at the arbor South Arbor South and Classes was at the Arbor South and Clas

WILL ELECT

Fireladies' Plan for '54

World



MISS SUZANNE BENARD

Benard-Olvera Betrothal Told

an engagement ring during the holidays. The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor D. Benard, 1448 Engrada Ave. Since her graduation from Torrance High School last June, she has been attending El Camino College, where she is arfiliated with Gamma. Phi Delta. High school activities included Girls Court judge, Tartar Ladies, and Tri-Hi-X.

'Stork Story' FROM TORRANCE MEMORIAL

THS Grads, Now College Gals, WSCS Starts '54 Slate Reminisce at Buffet Luncheon This Week

Reminiscences of high school fun and tales of college life colored conversation Thursday afternoon when Miss JoAnn Benard hostessed a buffet luncheon at her 1448 Engracia Ave. home, for guests were college co-eds who graduated from Torrance High School in 1951 and 1952.

Lighted white tapers banked by purple cnrysanthemums and ivy centered the buffet table, and several games were sandwiched in between the lively "catching up on the news" chatter to add further spice to the afternoon.

Miss Marian McDonald, who is now attending El Camino College; Ann Stephens, Alicia Loranger, and Jane Fischer, Whittier College co-eds; Erma Carstens, student at Oecidental College; Barbara Jackson and Miss Benard, both of whom are studying at Willamette University in Salem, Ore, shared in the fun.

