

Rapping

**Our Fear
And Self Hate**

Most of us live our lives as if trapped in an invisible cage, in quiet and continuing stages of fear and self-hate. Yet, most of us deny this.

There are things we wish to be, but do not know how to try. There are things we try to be, but which fail through the wrong effort. For approaches that work for others do not necessarily work for us. Tradition tells us to approach a problem one way; reality may call for a different approach.

The pressure of tradition is obvious, not so much in the success or failure of an effort, but in the form that effort takes.

Reality is less obvious, but just as decisive. It rewards our wrong efforts with failure, and our correct efforts with success.

Tradition can be best expressed by the statement: "That's the way it is done, that's the way it has always been done, and I don't see any reason to change now."

Take, for example, such a thing as asking our employer for a raise. Tradition, as we know it, may require that we not only not ask, but find good reasons for not asking, and hope that our boss, in the goodness of his heart and conscience, will see fit to provide us with an unasked-for increase in our salary so that we can afford to buy enough milk for our family.

Reality, on the other hand, has already shown that this has not happened, and that it is unlikely to happen under present circumstances.

Reality has also shown us that some of us who broke tradition and became rambunctuous enough to ask for a raise sometimes ended up unemployed.

In this respect, reality and tradition are somewhat in agreement. They both tell you that it is sometimes unrealistic to be realistic, especially if you are going to test that realism.

This brings us to the dilemma of race relations in this society. Almost all blacks know that our situation, especially in employment needs improving. Some of us even blame ourselves for this situation, and this point should not be taken too lightly, because it takes a slave for a master to exist, and a master for a slave to exist. One could not exist without the other.

Blacks generally tend to react to tradition through emotion, which means that we often identify with superlatives, and in doing so, we hamper our efforts to improve ourselves as blacks, and we end up strengthening the hands of those who oppose our self-improvement.

We think selfishly, in violation of black interests, and in doing so, further undermine our own need to be independent.

When we have taken to heart the feelings of black parents who preferred light-skinned babies, and straight hair instead of kinky hair, and who in their everyday expressions of how they feel about each other, express self-contempt, and when these views are similar to those of white racists, then we really expose ourselves as to how far we really have to go to become truly comfortable with ourselves. We become our own worst enemy.

Norman Barbee

Quote For Today

"The greatest happiness possible to a man... is to become civilized, to know the pageant of the past, to love the beautiful, to have just ideas of values and proportions, and then, retaining his animal spirits and appetites, to live in a wilderness."

J. Frank Dobie

Get Your Furnace In Shape

Probably the last thing you're thinking about these days is your furnace. It's still hot out and more than likely will be for a while. But don't wait for cold weather to get your furnace in shape for winter. A well-adjusted furnace will save you money in heating bills, and the sooner you do it, the more you can save. advises the Better Business Bureau.

It would be a good idea to have your utility company or a heating expert check your system once a

year. Higher efficiency and longer equipment life will more than offset any cost for this service. This inspection generally will include cleaning and lubrication, if necessary.

Exercise some caution, however, if the furnace inspector represents a company that sells furnaces. Some disreputable inspectors may use scare tactics to frighten you into buying a new furnace when you may not need one. If you are told your furnace is unsafe or inadequate and you should buy a new one, it would be wise to get a second opinion from another source.

Look at your furnace manual or the instructions on the furnace to see what you need to do yourself between annual inspections. Some furnaces need to be

lubricated more than once a year. If your furnace has a filter, it should be checked once a month during the heating season and cleaned or replaced when necessary.

Check for Leaks
There are other things you can check yourself. See if your heating distribution ducts have leaks, cracks, holes or



separations in the joints. Adhesive tape or more durable tape intended for sealing ductwork will repair the leaks easily and inexpensively. Be sure that the flue or chimney is unobstructed. If leaves or other materials are blocking it, dangerous carbon monoxide gas can be released into your home.

If you have an oil furnace, arrange to start the heating season with as near a full tank of fuel as possible.

Check Pilot Light
Furnaces with electric ignition do not require any special attention to turn them on. But if you have a gas furnace, be sure your pilot light is on before starting it. If it isn't, follow the instructions on your furnace to

until the burners are lit. After the burners are on, set the thermostat at the temperature you want. It will take a few minutes before the blower starts; make sure it goes on.

With the high cost of fuel these days, the Better Business Bureau suggests that it will be worth your while to make sure your furnace is functioning efficiently. And the time to check it out is now.



NOTICE

The Chronicle welcomes news, stories, and pictures from our readers. If your club or organization is having an anniversary or conducting a workshop, etc., let the rest of the community know about it. Send material prior to 5 p.m. each Tuesday to:

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