

Teaching By Example

by Pamela Phillips

Everyone has heard the adage, "people learn by example," and it is hard to disagree with the idea that human beings gain knowledge, insight, and even morality by watching others and following the examples that others set.

I am reminded of an event from my early childhood that has had a major impact on my general outlook on life. I was in our car with my parents and my family was about to leave for a vacation, but my parents needed to stop at the bank first. We drove up to the drive-thru window and my father withdrew money. When we left, my mother counted the money to make sure it was all there. What she found was quite remarkable. The teller had given them several hundred dollars too much.

Some people would have been delighted, but my parents did the "right thing" and immediately went back to the bank. I'm sure the New Martinsville Bank had never experienced such an event. Someone was actually giving money back to them. Right now, many of you are probably thinking, "Gosh, this girl must have really stupid parents!" Well, my reply to that is, no, I have really terrific parents. They taught me that when someone makes an honest error, whether to your favor or theirs, you correct it. Believe me, if the teller had ripped them off, they would have turned around just as quickly.

But what does all this have to do with you? I can't preach morals to you or claim to be a saint, but I can share my feelings with you on this type of issue. We can all sit around and complain about the rising crime rate and how bad things are in the world today, but the simple fact is this: WE ARE THE WORLD TODAY. everything that we do influences others. If we all worked a little harder at changing our own lives, instead of expecting everyone else to do all the work, maybe, just maybe it would make a difference.

Forgive me for sounding like Bill Murray in his closing statements in *Scrooged*, but there is a lot that we can do to change the world around us. It may not make a bit of difference to someone in Iowa that Methodist College students are good people, but for those of us here, it means everything. College isn't an easy time for a lot of people, but it doesn't have to be a nightmare either.

I applaud my parents for the way they raised me, for teaching me right from wrong. Now it is my turn to set an example. It is your turn, too.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Senior--Welcome to the real world! We were very disturbed by your letter printed in our last school newspaper. You did not use accurate examples against the teacher you wrote about--we know because we are in this class also. We strongly disagreed with your remarks and believe they were unsubstantiated! It was regrettable that your letter turned public opinion against an experienced and knowledgeable teacher.

We struggle in some of our classes but we have one goal, a college education--don't you? The work can be time consuming, however, as a senior, haven't you had similar out-of-class work assignments before?

Where is teacher-student respect? We believe there was none in this case.

Margaret Weaver
Bobby Hardin
Nicole DeKoning

SMALL TALK

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So Who Said I Was Being Ironic?

by Ann Morris

The faculty at Methodist College is insensitive to the needs of the upperclassmen. We have told you that we are unhappy with the new grading system, and you listen, but you don't understand what we are saying. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what we are REALLY saying. We are in favor of the new grading system. We understand that it will motivate the students to work harder, and we're in favor of working harder. But we want a grandfather clause in the grading system so that those of us who have been here for three years, getting an "A" for "A-" work, can continue to do so. Why can't we continue to slide by on a 90? It's worked for us so far. We're all for student motivation, but we want someone else to do it. Motivate the freshmen, not us.

After all, letting someone else do it is an American institution, so we need to start practicing now when we're still young. That way, we'll be ready to stand up at city council meetings and say, "Sure, I'm in favor of drug rehabilitation centers, but Not In My Back Yard. Sure, I'm in favor of equal opportunity programs, but not if they take my job." In fact, this attitude is so prevalent in our society that we actually have a name for it--the NIMBY syndrome.

Unless you capitulate to our demands, we will continue to boycott classes. In fact, we will continue to resist any attempts you make to educate us until you agree to let us go back to the old system of just getting by. And if that doesn't work, we will all hold our breath until we turn blue.