

Personality changes may destroy trust in marriage

By MARC COHEN
Collegian Staff Writer

The husband who gains weight or becomes intellectual is deviant and viewed as illegal in our social system, Orville G. Brim Jr. said yesterday.

The trust in a marriage might be destroyed if one partner expresses the intention to change his personality, he said. "Personality change after early socialization is a threat to society because it challenges the existing system."

Brim, president of the Foundation for Child Development, outlined how the great legends of metamorphosis characterized personality change. "They are all concerned with man's attempts to be something more than nature and his fellow man intended him to be," Brim said. He said legends tell us man tries to change and is destroyed. "The legends say, you can't do that; you can't get there; you can't get out," he said.

The conflict between growing and staying within

society's limits is most intense for middle-aged males, he said. "He is the figure society can least afford to let rock the boat or challenge the systems or show inconstancy in character."

There is a dominant view that nothing takes place in middle age, Brim said. For the middle-aged male there is a constriction of family and outside relationships, in friendships and in community organizations, he added. "One becomes burdened with multiple social systems."

"Also expectations for achievement in work begin to diminish," Brim said. "They adapt to the growing and realistic information about their career prospects."

Brim said an expected shorter life span worries the middle-aged male.

"But the mid-life male is the key figure in society, he is the lynchpin of all those systems," Brim said. "He is the workhorse and the father figure."

Brim said surveys show that most people would like to change themselves but at the same time be themselves. This means that a change in the body, mind or habits may be sought while one strives to maintain a sense of identity, he said.

Boundaries for change were set by the creation of mythology, Brim said. The stories of Pinocchio, Frankenstein and the original myth of Pygmalion and Galleata set these boundaries, Brim said.

"Frankenstein was an inanimate robot brought to life by lightning while Pinocchio was a carved wooden toy brought magically to life by a fairy," Brim said. He added that Galleata, a statue, was brought to life by gods at Pygmalion's request.

"Furthermore, another crucial boundary had been set up," Brim said. "We have come to think of it as the change of state versus change

of personality.

"Some of the greatest tales in the Western culture might be thought of as human metamorphosis but in fact, fall into a different genre," he said. The change of state describes a sudden good fortune or a fall from grace, Brim said.

There is a question as to whether the change of state has yielded a personality change, Brim said. "For instance, Cinderella, which may be the archetypal legend or a pure change of state, touches not at all on personality transformation," he said.

"A few great stories involve transformations of the three components of personality — body, mind, and character — but most do not," Brim said. "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is an example of a total transformation," he said, "but most stories have the same form with a metamorphosis of character."

Brim said in the 20th

century there are a few new sources of personality change. Psychoanalysis, behavior modification, identity stripping, biofeedback devices and transsexual changes are examples, he said.

"An interesting aspect is the way in which they shift into and out of focus of concern as evil forces in society," Brim said. "Not too long ago one could be arrested for practicing witchcraft, although the use of

biomedical agents — drugs — was not considered in the same view. Now we have vast drug control efforts in society, but virtually no concern with witchcraft and sorcery," he said. The reasons for these shifts are not yet clear, he said.

Recently, legend has thrown the responsibility of change onto the individual, Brim said. "Psychotherapy has spilled over into self-help books through which one might change oneself," he

said.

"We know that the natural state of the person is to be in the process of becoming something different while remaining in many respects the same," Brim said. "But only recently we have begun to understand that behind these attempts are personal theories about how much one can alter himself, how theories of self are greatly influenced by one's culture, and in turn change the culture one lives in, he said.

Boston nearly calm

BOSTON (UPI) — Scores of black and white Hyde Park High School students, forced into the street by a telephoned bomb threat, fought briefly with rocks, bottles and fists yesterday, marring an otherwise peaceful day in the city's schools.

No one was arrested and no

serious injuries were reported from the series of roving fights that began about 9:30 a.m. However, officials ordered the school closed for the day.

Police were attempting to confirm reports of minor injuries to occupants of cars

according to Hubert C. Smith, assistant professor of aerospace engineering and coordinator of the fly-in, is a plane that is at least 25 years old.

There is no admission charge to the fly-in and any owner of an antique aircraft is invited to exhibit his plane. Parking will be available at the airport.

Antique aircraft show slated

An antique aircraft fly-in will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow at the University Park Airport.

Challenger Bi-Plane and a World War II T-6 Trainer; and Gilbert Sanders, who will display a 1946 Luscombe.

It is sponsored by the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

There will also be an original Piper Cub aircraft at the event, and Charles J. O'Reilly, an aeronaut from Dauphin, will demonstrate a hot air balloon.

Two State College residents will participate in the event. They are: William E. Clark, who will exhibit a 1928

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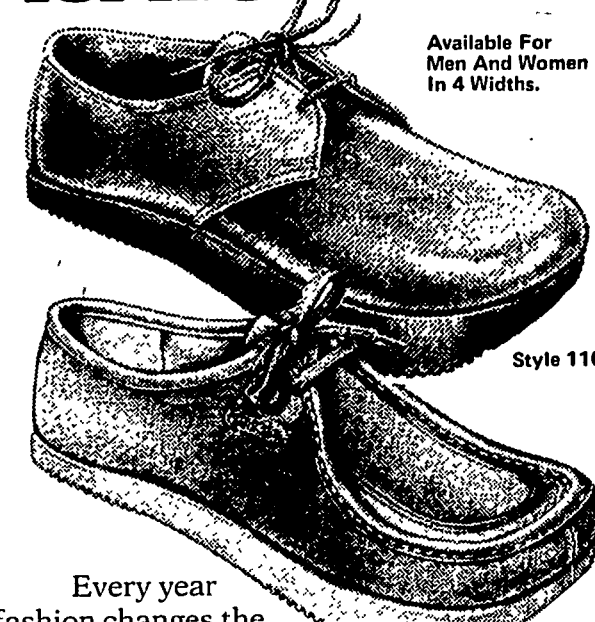
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