

Nov. 18, 1980

Get him to keep shirt on, too

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I am a woman, past 50, employed at a bank. The young man whose desk is in front of mine has always been pleasant and considerate.

Yesterday he removed his coat and I could see the unmistakable outline of a bra and a slip under his shirt. I decided to tell him it would be a good idea if he kept his coat on because others might not be as understanding as I. (My son was a homosexual and I was less compassionate in those days. He took his life and I will never get over it.)

The following morning, there was a beautiful note on my desk thanking me for my kindness. I should make it clear that most cross-dressers are not necessarily homosexuals. They derive satisfaction from wearing women's garments and are not interested in anything more. Please print my letter and urge your readers to temper their judgment of people who are "different." I wish I had known 20 years ago what I know today.

— **Wiser in Dubuque.**

Dear Wiser: You sound like a person I would like for a friend. Thanks for writing.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: My wife and I are both retirees. God has been good to us. We have to watch what we spend, but we enjoy good health and are doing all right.

We do have home-care problems, however. Things need to be done to keep our place neat and attractive. I am able to do some things myself, but it seems when I get one project finished three more jobs need to be done. I'd be thrilled if one of my many children or grandchildren

ANN LANDERS



would come and ask, "What can I do for you today?"

This is my suggestion: Instead of buying a gift for Mother's Day or Father's Day or Christmas or an anniversary, it would be wonderful if every child said to his parents, "My gift to you is one of service. I will be here at eight o'clock in the morning and paint or repair whatever needs to be done."

I hope you think this idea is worth passing along.

— **Grandpa**

Dear Grandpa: I do, especially for those who are a little hard-pressed for money — and who isn't these days? Moreover, a gift of one's self is infinitely more meaningful than anything that can be purchased in a store. Thanks for the splendid sug-

gestion.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Please come to the aid of church organists all over the country. I just finished playing for a lovely wedding — they went all-out. But after it was over no mention was made of pay. I've been stuck like this three times in eight months.

Why do people think that organists should donate their services just because they attend the same church? Many of the florists, cooks and waitresses are also church members, but they are paid for their goods and services. Musicians put thousands of dollars into training, instruments and time. Yet many people expect us to donate our talent. Please print this, and perhaps certain folks will recognize themselves and loosen up.

— **Redding, Calif.**

Dear Red: People who expect to be paid for their talent or services should establish the price in advance.

After you've performed is no time to talk about what they "owe" you.

I've dealt with this problem so often I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, broken record, broken record.