

# Accept your flaws and let the truth set you free

Where will it all end? Our religious and corporate institutions are tumbling down in disgrace, as we rip organizations, political structures

away the facade from these once-venerable establishments. At first glance, it looks as if our society is deteriorating at warp speed. In actuality, these institutions have always been peppered with corruption and dysfunction. The only difference is that, today, we are finally uncovering the truth behind the image, and the reality beneath the illusion.

When President Clinton's sexual exploits exploded into the headlines a few years ago, many of us acted like this was the first time any president had strayed from traditional morality. Since our country's inception, so-called great men have indulged their passion for physical pleasures. Until recently, these exploits were well-hidden, often leaving the squeaky-clean image to pass for the real thing. Whether

## Reflections

By Marianne Parady



what these political icons did was right or wrong, I'll leave to a higher authority. I do, however, feel that anything we do to uncover and enhance the authenticity and integrity of a person, institution, or situation, is a move in the right direction. Fortunately, no one can hide his dastardly deeds behind an image anymore. No doubt about it, the hounds are at the door, and they're ready to tear off the veil and expose anyone's misdeeds and mistakes.

Unfortunately, contrary to popular thought and Superman, truth and justice often have nothing to do with

the American way. Instead, we've constructed elaborate structures within our individual and collective lives in order to present ourselves, not as we are, but as what we, or someone else, would like us to be. For instance, in our personal lives, we are encouraged to appear happy when we're sad, good when we're bad, healthy when we're ill, and so on and so forth until in some cases the masquerade passes for the genuine article. At times, we may even believe our own delusions, and sink ever deeper into the proverbial river of denial.

Even within the sanctity of marriage and family, we sometimes present an image to the world that may or may not match what goes on behind closed doors.

**Continued on page 8**