

Getting it together

Marriage always deserves a fair trial

In the midst of a rising rate of divorce, a law has been said in defense of the constructive nature of splitting up. For many, divorce has been the beginning of a happier, healthier life. And the relaxation of legal obstacles

to divorce has prevented a lot of unnecessary hassles and pain. But there is another side to this coin. Because of the ease and apparent acceptability of divorce, too many couples now look to this solution as a

first or second choice rather than as a last resort. When their marriage seems to be foundering, an increasing number of couples head quickly for the life boat of legal dissolution rather than staying with the ship. And, in so

doing, they are often giving up without a really fair trial of the strength of their marriage.

Divorce courts are crowded with individuals who think they have sufficient reason for quitting. But many haven't really tested this.

Sitting in the courts is the wife of a young marriage. She once dreamed that marriage is always harmonious. But when her relationship showed signs of discord and differences, she concluded that she and her husband must be mismatched. So she has run to divorce with disappointed tears, hoping to find the right partner next time.

Next to her, sitting in stiff resignation, is the husband who has chosen divorce instead of compromise. He married with a clearly explicit contract: he would provide for the material needs; she would nurture him, raise his children, and be his willing sexual partner. This was their agreement, and no provision was made, or intended, for a wife's career or a "liberated" marriage. So, rather than going through the pain of accommodating to this new contract, he chooses to end the relationship.

WITH THEM, in the divorce court crowd, is the jilted wife who feels that divorce is the only revenge for infidelity. She runs from the agony of trying to put her marriage back together after such a painful catastrophe.

With them is the middle-aged man who feels crushed by the routine of his life. Marriage and family only mean obligations to him, along with the traps of his lifestyle. So, instead of learning how he has actually conspired to trap himself, he runs to a

dream of a fresh start, unburdened by the mistakes and ruts of his past.

And with them, too, is the wife of the lonely, empty relationship who threatened divorce to get the attention of her "Missouri-mule" husband. But when they finally began to confront the pile of unresolved conflicts, she and her husband were both dis-

couraged by its size. And now she is carrying out her threat. Sitting sadly in the courtroom, they all have so much in common. They had such high hopes for their marriages, and now they have none. They are apprehensive about their future, but they are more frightened of the prospect of staying with the marriage. They either don't know what they could do to salvage their marriages, or they are afraid to try. And, in almost every case, these divorcing individuals have not really tested their hopeless conclusions.

THE MAJORITY of divorces are not preceded by professional counseling. And even more divorces are not preceded by a strongly-motivated attempt to save the relationship. The fear and discouragement that accompanies the conclusion of divorce are so painful that they fill the minds of the couple. And all they want is to get behind them so they can stop hurting.

Hanging in there, in spite of such miserable apprehension, is an act of courage.

But that is exactly what's needed. Divorce is such a profound treatment for curing our problems that it must be reserved for the last resort. The cost of divorce is so high to the couple, their family, and even to society, that it must not be used unnecessarily.

In the same way that our society

By

BOB TRENZ.

Ph.D.



provides due process before punishing its citizens, married couples must exhaust the possibility that their relationship is "not guilty" before sentencing it to an end.

Divorce should only be carried out when partners have the conviction, "beyond a reasonable doubt," that they cannot or will not do what is necessary to make a successful relationship.

Such a conviction should be based on really trying and testing your abilities, not just on hypothetical discussions. It should be reached only after using outside, professional help aimed at analyzing and correcting the problems. And this means really using that help, not just a token participation.

No divorce should occur unless both individuals clearly comprehend the reason for the failure and the ways that it could be salvaged. A decision to divorce should only be made when partners know what is needed but are convinced that they won't or can't do it.

Bob Trenz is a psychologist and marriage counselor in Rochester. Questions for Dr. Trenz may be sent to P.O. Box 64, Rochester 48063.

Moral perspectives

The American system should work for all

We who read this are special people because the free enterprise system works for suburbanites. We have income, pay bills, and feel satisfaction. My case is not uncommon. My father began life in a ghetto of immigrants and went to work at 12 to help provide food for his family. By early adulthood he owned a business and changed to a second career. By middle life his three sons had completed college and graduate school.

But unemployment, hunger, crime, and dispiriting apathy plague millions who have no story of success. Something has gone wrong and it is common to call the suffering person a failure. Occasionally there is reason to blame the one in trouble but more often it is the economic system which has failed.

THE MOST URGENT business for us who appreciate how the system has trusted us is to make American economics work for all. Humans have

a right to earn a living. We are all involved in the production and exchange process. It is immoral to work for government or mysterious tycoons to act. We can insist that our place of work participate in solving problems.

Any dollar saved in production or distribution can become part of payroll money for someone in need. Waste is the enemy. The crucial issue in America is jobs.

We live with throw-away items and built-in obsolescence. It is easy to feel quality doesn't matter. Then the dream of improving fades as results of labor are treated like junk.

WE NEED to feel incentives. Some are intangible, like simply expressing appreciation. Others deserve economic notice for merit. Our moral duty is to increase the feeling that what people around us are doing matters.

We need two-way vision so we look ahead for advancement and back to



By
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be sure we improved the trail for those coming. Interdependence of all in the production and exchange process is a fact and we need to stop thinking competition means impeding progress for others. Children's stories are profoundly true as they describe the trek from seed to food.

Morality is to see that the system includes all of us and we must make the system work for all. Each of us can help by improving productivity and quality. The better the system works in my spot, the more it can work for those currently being shut out. It is in our self interest to make jobs and incentives available to all.

Rabbis elect officers

Detroit's Rabbinical Commission has elected as its new president, Rabbi Milton Rosenbaum of Temple Emanu-El in Oak Park.

Other officers are: vice president, Rabbi Israel Halpern of Congregation Beth Abraham-Hillel, West Bloomfield; secretary-treasurer, Rabbi Ernst Conrad of Temple Kol Ami, West Bloomfield; and honorable president, Rabbi Leon Fram of Temple Israel, Detroit.

The long standing Rabbinical Commission has a double purpose. According to Rabbi Halpern, "it is the only facility in the community where rabbis of the various shades of Jewish religious thinking can meet together to discuss mutual concerns vis-a-vis the Jewish community."

"In matters of interest to the general community, not necessarily Jewish issues, it is a body through which we can express a united religious opinion."

OLS instructor earns doctorate

Carl L. Middleton Jr., Orchard Lake theology instructor, now has a doctorate in medical-moral values.

Middleton is chairman of the theology department at St. Mary College and an instructor in systematic and pastoral theology at St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. Both schools are located in Orchard Lake, northwest of Detroit.

He received the degree from the Consortium of Higher Education in Re-

ligion Studies through United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife, Rosemary, live in Union Lake with their son, Anthony, 3.

In addition to his teaching duties, Middleton is director of continuing education, director of field education and associate director of the Orchard Lake Center for Pastoral Studies.

He is a noted lecturer and has had several articles published in the areas of morality, medical ethics, and religious education.

OL course views Polish heritage

Hartmanck will be the site of an adult education course entitled "The Pleasures of Being Polish" this fall.

Sponsored by the University of Michigan Extension Service and Wayne State University's College of Lifelong Learning, the 10-week course will be held every Thursday from Sept. 29 through Dec. 8.

Classes will be held in the site of an adult education course entitled "The Pleasures of Being Polish" this fall.

Polish history, literature, art, film, and language will be covered. For registration information, call the Wayne State University Center for Adult Education at 577-4665.

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Farmington Hills Baptist On Middlebelt Road between 12 & 13 Mile Rds. Worship 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m. Family Night—Wed. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Fred G. Ferris—Pastor 851-0310 Rev. Gerald Welby, Assistant Pastor A CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST CHURCH	EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 92443 Lathrup Rd. (Just N. of 9 Mile) Phone: 537-1848 9:30 AM The Rev. L. Allen Edmondson	FIRST APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH 2603 Webster St. Farmington Rev. Raymond T. Tisdale Phone: 474-5554 Summer Schedule Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Allan Welton	ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 185 S. Square Lake Road Bloomfield Hills (2 1/2 miles S. of 16 Mile) Minister: Dr. Roger Ineson SUMMER SCHEDULE Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 14 Mile and Lathrup Roads SUNDAY Morning Worship 9:30 and 11 a.m. Church School & Nursery 426-6920 Ministers: Robert L.S. Brown James F. Thomas	The Orchard United Methodist Church 3040 Farmington Road (Between 13 and 14 Mile) Morning Worship 9:30 and 11 a.m. Church School & Nursery 426-6920 Ministers: Robert L.S. Brown James F. Thomas	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MIDDLEBELT & 62ND MILE Worship every day 8-8 (except noon) Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m. Worship 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Pastor Robert Koehn	Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis
Prinze of Peace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 12 Mile & Farmington Roads Behind Crowley's Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Church Phone: 553-3380	ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH 355 W. Maple Worship Service 10:30 a.m. SUMMER SCHEDULE Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Allan Welton	First Baptist Church Bates and Willis, Birmingham, Mich. Robert B. Middleton, Minister David W. Smith Glen H. Asquith, Jr. Homer J. Armstrong, Clerical 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship Service	BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH A.L.C. 5631 North Adams Road SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service Communion 1st Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School MONDAY 8:00 p.m. Winesap Wine Worship Communion 1st Sunday Fred W. MacLellan, Pastor Diane F. Schuler, Pastor MI 6-5124	Bloomfield Hills Christian Church The Community House 363 South Bates, Birmingham Sunday: 10:10 a.m. Bible School 11:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Praise Service Wednesday: 7:15 p.m. Bible Study Joseph P. Lukowski; Pastor 851-8516	FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH United Methodist on Franklin's Village Green SUMMER SCHEDULE Service of Worship 10 a.m. Nursery Care Senior Minister, Frank B. Cowick Associate Minister, J. Chester Stubbs	Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis	
CLARENDONVILLE UNITED METHODIST 26300 Middlebelt, Livonia Pastor Gerald Fisher 474-3444 9 a.m. First Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Church School 11:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship Hurry! Preceded at All Services	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350	First United Methodist Church 1599 West Maple at Pleasant Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beaven Church Services 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Church School 10 a.m. Nursery Care Provided	First Baptist Church of Detroit Founded 1827 21200 Southfield Road at 8 Mile Southfield, Michigan 569-2972 Paul Aiello, Jr. — Minister Church School 11:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	HOLY CROSS Greek Orthodox Church 25225 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills 477-1677 Rev. S.J. Anthony, Th.D., Priest 21575 W. 10 Mile, Southfield 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy English Sermon Pastor: George Wilson	First United Methodist Church 1599 West Maple at Pleasant Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beaven Church Services 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Church School 10 a.m. Nursery Care Provided	Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis	