

Separated or divorced Catholics may feel they are left to live out a lonely existence outside of the Church but that situation is changing as the Church reaches out to those on the fringe of society, according to Sr. Donna Hart. (Photo by Tracy Baker)

Reaching out to the troubled

Divorced Catholics find friends in the Church

Separated and divorced Catholics are emerging from centuries of misunderstanding and estrangement with help from their church and friends.

Some seek companionship with others who have undergone the same experience by joining groups sponsored by local parishes, such as Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington Hills.

Some people need specific counseling situations or friends to talk them through a situation, she said. "They're not looking for big answers, they're looking for someone to understand."

Part of the educational process has been in reassuring divorced and separated Catholics that they are still part of their Church.

There has been an effort to pull these people back into the Church's influence, recently.

Church is still wary of granting its wholehearted approval but is conceding that there are instances in which a marriage can't survive.

The gifted co-ed

Where does she go? How does she fare?

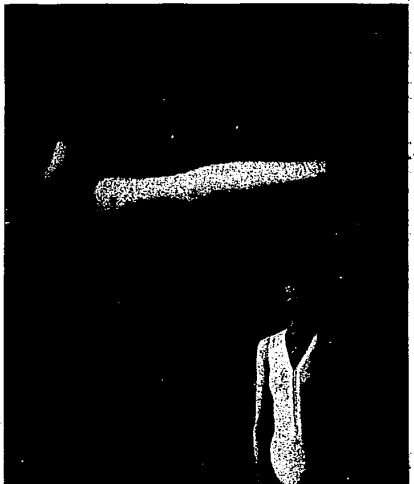
By BARBARA ARNOLDUSSEN

When she opened the discussion at a recent Front Porch Committee meeting, Mimi Connelly told the audience at the Academy of the Sacred Heart that she was "not a NOW or a HOW, but a WOW!"

"The activities and expectations presented to her by parents and teachers are different. Now she's allowed to be gifted," said Ms. Roeper.

"I HESITATE to teach hard-nosed achievement because teenage girls are trying to be feminine and refuse to compete with the boys in the class."

most intense pressure to succeed did not come from parents or teachers, but from the gifted young woman herself.



When bright women arrive at the secondary level they expect to continue growing. Once there, many fear to show their intelligence and will undermine popularity.



Even when the gifted female student has the right credentials at graduation she still must face a sexist society. To succeed she will have to demand her rights in addition to learning how to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve success.

"Bright women arrive at the secondary level expecting to continue growing. But, they fear if they are blatantly bright, they may not meet a nice guy," said Ms. Cost.

"WOMEN HAVE TO ask themselves whether they want to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve success; Men already assume this. They see their work as a game or a battlefield. They are prepared to fight, take risks, and face failure."

with mid-life career changes and the effect they might have on the home. These can prove a challenge to a marriage, Isabel Smith said.

crises by talking the difficulties over with their families. Their thinking is a slow and hard process.