

Carroll is doing something different

By JACKIE KLEIN

If you believe half the people in the world have no idea where they are or where they're going, you'll agree with John Carroll.

Carroll, 27, who has earned degrees in speech and counseling, will conduct a mini-course in values clarification 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12 in Southfield High School through Do Something Different Inc. He also directs human potential workshops and teachers courses in "how to live rationally in an irrational world."

As assistant registrar of Schoolcraft College and during his education in Detroit

and Eastern Michigan University, Carroll has seen, he said, the often desperate need for people to learn rational behavior.

"I believe 50 percent of the world's population acts impulsively, undecisively and tends to live up to the expectations of others instead of their own," he said. "That's irrational behavior."

CARROLL SAID that because he realizes people need more self-direction to attain fulfillment and make their lives more meaningful, he developed a "how to" program to help them.

"Most men and women don't know where to begin to enrich their lives, to ful-



JOHN CARROLL

fill their own needs and desires and reach goals to attain success," he contended.

"These are struggles. The trouble is very few persons have clear cut goals or values."

"Caught in social or occupational trenches their peers or circumstances seem to force them into, they're unaware of their own potential as individuals. They're frustrated by their inability to pull out by themselves."

Through mini-courses he conducts for Do Something Different Inc. in conjunction with Oakland University Division of Continuing Education, Carroll maintains he gives tools to aid enrollees climb out of deep trenches of "other-directed ways of life into the fresh air of self-direction and motivation."

"INDIVIDUALS FIRST should make honest appraisals of personal values and realistic goals instead of fantasies," Carroll said. "These values and goals must fit the person's ability to accomplish according to his motivation."

"This isn't easy. The hardest task is for people to break away from the pushing and pulling of peer groups, the involvement in activities, work situations and social obligations that aren't really gratifying or potentially fulfilling."

Many individuals insist that what is popular or acceptable to most is necessarily desirable for everyone, Carroll said. He advises people to be themselves, to assess where and who they are and what they truly want out of life.

Establishing priorities and setting goals, he believes, is vital to a meaningful existence. He claims everyone has choices and making them puts individuals in control of their lives instead of playing puppets for others.

IN HIS courses, Carroll demonstrates how to overcome inertia, to clarify values, establish goals and plan effectively to achieve them.

He'll be in Oak Park High School 7:30 p.m. Oct. 13 and Lahar High School, Bloomfield Hills 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1 to conduct mini-courses in values clarification.

"The tools I offer have developed through my study and training, personal experience and through working with groups," he explained. "Some of the ideas are based on Life-Work Planning Program by Art and Marie Kohn. But no single method is used exclusively and the courses are adapted to the group."

"I advise my students to risk something, even if it's just to say the first 'hello.' I believe the worst kind of failure is failure to try. It's desirable to align yourself with persons who are highly motivated and self-directed. If you associate with strugglers, chances are you're going to struggle too. Depressed people are depressing."

CARROLL SAID he involves his groups in self-disclosure by raising a number of questions to help individuals understand who they are. Each member of the group is asked to illustrate key areas of their lives and Carroll relies on graphic interpretations and free association.

"A person can't get anywhere unless he knows his values," Carroll maintained.

"In the course, I emphasize that values are established on which to base decisions. From then on, we think in terms of the future and construct a life-work calendar. We talk about setting and achieving goals. The whole program, you see, starts

50th anniversary

John and Antonette Revello celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at an open house reception at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Marian and Ed Herlicher in Southfield. A Mass was celebrated in their honor at St. Agatha Church in Redford Township.

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