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COMMERCIAL CREDIT
PERSONAL LOANS

As Ms. Orians sees it...

Divorce begins, not ends

By JACKIE KLEIN

One out of two marriages in the country are ending in divorce, according to the November 1975 issue of U.S. News and World Report. It's predicted by 1980, 48 of 100 marriages will fail.

Claire Orians, an individual and group counselor at Walden Mental Health Services in Southfield's Travelers Tower, admits she can't pinpoint why divorce appears to be reaching epidemic proportions. She believes there are too many variables to answer the inevitable question, "Why?"

Ms. Orians will be dealing with many other aspects of the problem in "Creative Divorce," five seminars she will conduct for Southfield's Department of Human Resources. The seminars will be 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 8, 15, 22 and 29 and Dec. 7 in Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen.

The sessions are limited to persons who are separated, in the process of a divorce or divorced. Ms. Orian emphasizes. Reservations for the $40 series may be obtained by calling Human Resources, 354-4864.

MS. ORIANS, who holds a masters degree in guidance and counseling for adults is the only licensed "Creative Divorce" seminar leader in this part of the country. She studied with Mel Krantzler, author of the book, "Creative Divorce," and has appeared on television and radio to discuss its concepts.

She has been an instructor at Oakland Community College, a program coordinator and teaching member of the Continuum Center, Oakland University, and has counseled adults for 10 years at Wayne State University.

Beyond her impressive academic qualifications Ms. Orians knows her subject well from personal experience. After 20 years and three daughters, she ended her own marriage and lived through the gamut of emotions common to divorce.

"In seminars I conduct throughout the State of Michigan, I talk about learning to make divorce an opportunity for personal growth, not an end but a beginning," she explained. "But this doesn't happen overnight."

"THE DIVORCED person must first survive stages of grief and mourning which are usually accompanied by guilt, hostility, shock, frustration and a wide spectrum of human emotion."

CLAIRE ORIANS

Ms. Orians, in her seminars, deals with adjustments such as new ways of relating to people, changing mores, communicating with children, family members and friends, self-renewal, learning to trust again, values clarifications, how to be a single adult and legal ramifications of divorce.

Studies indicate one-third of couples who split are past their 15th anniversary. Ms. Orians noted. She believes it helps them realize they aren't unique or alone but a part of an enormous group of "people who are hurting."

"The decision to end a marriage doesn't come easy and it's advisable to see a good counselor before you make the move," Ms. Orians suggests. "But years ago, couples remained together even though they were miserable, out of fear and from society's pressures.

"PEOPLE WHO have participated in seminars on divorce have been as young as 19 and as old as 72. They find they have the same hurts, lack of self-confidence and they need help to pick up the pieces of their lives and look forward to a new beginning."

Many divorced women, Mrs. Orians contended, think their ex-husbands are out with beautiful women in expensive, candle-lit restaurants while they sit home with kids and stopped up sinks.

In the meanwhile, she said, most divorced men are missing their kids, thinking of the homes they worked so hard for and coming home to an empty room or apartment where the silence is unbearable.

"Both ex-partners suffer, but one thinks the other has it better," she observed. "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence because it's been watered by someone else's tears.

"There's a big difference between aloneness and loneliness. Divorce can be devastating or a magnificent sunrise ready to shine on anyone brave enough to dare to be all he or she can be. You can think of your hours alone as a time to be used as opportunity for growth.

"CHILDREN OF divorced parents often feel guilty and responsible for the broken marriage, Ms. Orians noted. It's important for youngsters to realize the problems were between their mothers and fathers who still love them.

"Divorce can be the beginning of a creative process, an introduction to new circumstances and a forcing out of daily routines," she said. "It's been called instant maturity, because divorce requires one to learn new skills and new roles in unfamiliar territory.

"Divorce is the death of a relationship and it hurts worse or as bad as the death of a person. But society doesn't think in these terms and pours salt in the wounds. Marriage can be a toxic, lethal relationship and divorce may be healthy survival."

PRE-SEASON
SKI SALE
ENDS
NEXT THURSDAY
OCTOBER 28
Bavarian Village
SKI SHOPS

Students at Birney see village

When Birney Middle School opened this year, it was a whole new world for the sixth graders. Out of elementary school a year earlier than they expected, the sixth graders found themselves in a middle school (population 1,000) with seventh and eighth graders.

Elementary sixth graders normally take part in some time of major field trip each year and Birney principal John Chekaway wanted to continue the tradition.

Last week all 334 sixth graders were taken on overnight trips to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum.

"Everybody enjoyed it and thought it had a positive effect," Chekaway said.

Another parent who helped chaperon the group agreed. "I never saw kids so motivated," she said.

The sixth graders were taken to Greenfield Village in three groups on separate days.

During the first day they toured the Village, rode through the complex on a hay wagon and jumped into a swim party. They spent the night at Lovett Hall, a dormitory located across the street from the museum. The following day they toured the museum and then returned home.

Most were prepared for the trip. Students in some classes wrote reports on some of the things they would see at the museum or in the village. One class, as an example, did a report on Thomas Edison's work.

Another class drew a map of the village in metrics. When they got to there, they knew where the major landmarks were located and how to measure distance in metrics.

Students in the seventh and eighth grade can expect to take field trips of a similar nature this year, Chekaway said.

Birney Middle School is at Eleven Mile and Evergreen roads. The building formerly housed Birney Elementary and Birney Junior High schools.

Fashion show set for B & P Women

The Southfield Business and Professional Women's Club will hold their annual fashion show and luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Michigan Inn in Southfield.

Donation for the event is $7.75 per person. Proceeds will go toward the group's scholarship and educational fund.

Furs and fashions courtesy of Chudaks of Birmingham will be modeled during the afternoon and many prizes, including a fur by Chudaks, will be awarded.

The group provides learning and earning scholarships each year for high school graduates and young women in the Southfield area. For tickets and reservations, call Jo Fitzsimmons at 532-6812 or Katie Moore at 533-6121.

Livonia Mall's
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Celebration
Today through Sunday

Jean LeRoy's
Indian America

Featuring the American Indian and his heritage, with 26 tribes shown in authentic costumes and natural surroundings, even to the flowing water fall. The animated display is all in scale and took 3 years in carving and costume making and many years of research to complete.

In the Center Mall through Sunday

For the first 1500 people there will be free cider and donuts located in the Sears Court, Thursday and Friday.

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