



Breaking the stereotype

A couple discovers 'best of both worlds'

By LORAIN McCLISH

A Farmington couple who have worked at breaking down the male and female stereotype roles with family-shared responsibilities have declared they've found the best of two possible worlds.

Lee and Les Zalewski, 32235 Loomis, said the life style which evolved, and they are living now, did not start out as an experiment. It was

simply more expedient for Les to do the laundry, for example, while Lee was picking up a new account.

But the big impetus came as Les became more and more aware, through his marriage counseling business, that the male macho image American men fill as the head of the family was responsible for losing an eight-year difference in his life span.

Les is in private practice, working out of offices at 32425 Grand River.

Lee runs her own bookkeeping business from their home. The couple have two children, Leslie, a second grader at Ten Mile Elementary School, and Nicole, a four-year-old who is enrolled in Farmington Co-op Nursery.

LES IS ONE of the co-op nursery's "mothers" where he says he "becomes another me. Something that wasn't there eight or nine years ago, and is available to all males."

Nine years ago, Lee actually was afraid of anything business-wise. It has been a growing up, an evolution, an expansion for both of us.

The couple is the first to admit the switch was not easy.

Les tells about the guilt that had to be erased when he would pick up the phone at home at 10 a.m. and the caller would ask, "Are you sick today?" Or, ask his wife, "Is your husband out of a job?"

"I was being made to feel guilty because I wasn't filling the male image," Les says, "yet, I was spending a great deal of my time with my children in a world where the father's closeness is very important to a child's psychological development, crucial in fact."

"I wish," he continued, "that I could make every male in America realize that the word 'provider' means more than providing money."

"I wish I could make them realize that their role of workaholic is not necessary."

BOTH LEE AND Les claim they know that it is neither a man's world, or a woman's world, and "neither side is what it is cracked up to be."

They have experienced Lee coming home in the evening wanting nothing more than a newspaper and her feet on a footstool, while Les was "going up the wall wanting to get out of the house." Les called this "an unbelievable insight."

And while that, and similar experiences like it, served as a growing experience, so was the time the washing machine broke down. Les was able to fix it, then he went back to finishing the laundry.

"Our way is not God's way but it



Nicole Zalewski and her father, Les, spend an afternoon with a Raggedy Ann game, one of the preschooler's favorite pastimes.

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—Les Zalewski, ACSW
(Academy of Certified Social Workers)

whole role as a human being and I think I am more of a man because of it."

THE HARDEST thing he learned was how to become a nurturing male. As a matter of fact, it is the major complaint of most of my female clients: looking for a man who is both a nurturing husband and father," Les said.

The couple have been on AM Detroit, talking about their lifestyle. Les has held a few workshops on the subject and will answer requests to lecture on his new way of life.

As to whether he is a voice crying in the wilderness he's not sure. He

hears some rumbles about male liberation but believes there will have to be a concerted consciousness-raising effort, such as NOW had for women, "before men figure out that they are killing themselves with the roles that never allow him to be dependent, that never allow him to ask for help or directions, never allow him to make mistakes."

The whole set-up is designed to make him physically ill and kill him off."

HE ADMITS changing a life style for the man with his own business is going to be easier than for the man who punches a clock. But even in this case, he says, "It could happen. It might be a long way off. But if males were made to realize what they are doing to themselves they would put pressure on industries and society and they could change things."

He will answer requests for speaking engagements at his home, during the day, at 474-6107.



Lee Zalewski works at a desk in her living room, carrying on a new bookkeeping business she started about a year ago.



Music students Li Vlerch and Richard Bookwaker learn about the music scholarship competition from Evelyn Bookwaker (at far left) and Fern Barber. Mrs. Bookwaker and Mrs. Barber are

co-chairwomen for the Farmington Musicale's ninth annual event which aids young musicians in continuing their musical education. (Staff photo by Harry Maubach)

Scholarships offered to young musicians

The Farmington Musicale has added a new Young Artist Award to the scholarships it has given to area music students for the past eight years.

When the ninth annual competition for scholarships returns this spring, a \$250 award will be available for a high school senior who plans to continue his music education at the college level.

"The award will be made only if the judges find the performance of high caliber," said Mrs. Robert E. Stevens, speaking for the Musicale this week. The applicant may enter the competition in wind, percussion, string, piano, or voice divisions.

There will be three competitions, set for April 23, in North Farmington High School.

Students may enter the competition in the senior high division for those in grades 10-12, or the in junior high division, for those in grades seven through nine.

Applicants must: attend Farmington or Farmington Hills schools; live in these cities but attend school elsewhere; be members of the Glocksniels (the junior musicale); or be children of Farmington Musicale members.

THERE IS A \$2 entry fee for each application.

Applications are available from music directors in all Farmington and Farmington Hills public and parochial junior and senior high schools.

Deadline for applications is March 22, when completed forms must reach Mrs. John Murphy, 30224 Woodbrook, Farmington Hills 48024.

Students entering in the senior high division of the competition will vie for first, second and third prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50.

Students entering the junior high division will vie for first, second and third prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25.

There will be a panel of four judges for each division to hear the applicants who will be expected to memorize and perform a classical selection.

The Musicale's scholarship committee is headed this year by Fern Barber and Evelyn Bookwaker. Their committee members are Joyce Baglow, Mary Bolen, Barbara Dilland, Betty Walker and Mary Murphy.

The Farmington Musicale is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Dr. Martinez leads revival services

Dr. Homer Martinez, a native of San Antonio, Tex., is preacher for the revival services held every evening at 7 p.m. through Feb. 20 in Forest Park Baptist Church, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills.

He comes to the church with the Rev. Joe Atkinson, a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, who furnishes the music during the services.

Dr. Martinez has led almost 800 revival crusades. He conducts a radio broadcast ministry and a Spanish missionary ministry.

The Rev. Atkinson is producer and

director for the radio program, "The Challenge," heard on stations in the Southern U.S.

The two come at the invitation of Robert Milson, pastor of Forest Park Church.



DR. HOMER MARTINEZ

Music group sets concert

Tuesday Musicale of Detroit will present its seventh morning concert at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the Lecture Hall of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

For further information, call 832-2383.