

Battered spouses lead lonely existence

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leave, she begins a struggle to survive on her own.

One Farmington Hills woman moved into a less affluent suburb and put herself through school to become a court reporter. Her children went back to father because he had more money.

"It's hard," said Ms. Harris. "But a woman has to say, 'I'd rather do with out all these things and be able to look at myself in the mirror.'"

"A LORD AND TAYLOR wardrobe doesn't look good with a black eye," she said.

Richard Headlee elected loan company director

The stockholders of Household Finance Corp. have elected Richard Headlee as a new director of the corporation and re-elected 15 other members of the board.

Headlee is president and chief executive officer of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., a subsidiary of Household Finance.

Hamilton Life employs more than 300 in its Farmington Hills headquarters.

Household Finance Corp. is one of the nation's largest diversified corporations, with major businesses engaged in consumer finance and other financial and insurance services, merchandising, manufacturing and vehicle and retail leasing.

Household's Consumer Finance Division makes consumer loans through more than 2,000 branch offices in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan.

Hills resident promoted

Kenneth P. Rochlen of Farmington Hills has been named vice president in charge of investments with Loeb Rhodes, Hornblower & Co.

Rochlen was also appointed to the management advisory board, "a distinction reserved for account executives who have demonstrated outstanding ability in client service and leadership," said a company spokesman.

Rochlen, a graduate of Michigan State University, joined the firm in 1974. He is a member of the Adat Shalom synagogue and serves on the board of governors of the Men's Health Club of the Jewish Community Center.

Loeb Rhodes, Hornblower & Co. is a banking and brokerage firm serving individual investors.

Other women are trapped into staying. They don't believe they can survive without their husbands.

One afternoon, a woman walked into the Farmington Police station undecided if she should bail out her husband who had been arrested on a drunk driving charge.

She told Byrnes that she was afraid to leave him in jail because she would be beaten when he was released. But if she bailed him out he would beat her. She couldn't leave him because she was unsure of how well she could support her two children.

Another young woman was married two years after graduating from high school. After the children came, her husband began to beat her.

She was afraid to leave because she was sure she would never be able to support her children or find another man.

"How do you tell a woman who was pretty in high school and even prettier now as a woman that she can easily find another man?" Byrnes asked.

Women involved in spouse beating cases develop a bad self image. They blame themselves for the beating. They believe that if they were good mothers, good wives and good housekeepers their husbands wouldn't beat them, according to police and social workers.

SOCIETY'S EMPHASIS on macho images for men is partly to blame, according to Ms. Kruger. Attitudes toward women as sex objects and property add to the cause of spouse abuse.

Women are raised to consider everyone else before themselves, she said. They often draw a blank when they're asked to describe their own needs.

Byrnes adds to this argument saying that some of the problem is caused by young persons marrying and then discovering they're incapable of handling the problems that arise.

"They're immature people who can't cope with their problems in a mature way," he said.

Economic status has little to do with the occurrence of spouse abuse.

"It worse in the (more affluent) north than in the south end of town," said Ms. Harris. "No one hears what's going on. And when the woman calls the first thing she asks is 'you're not coming in a marked car are you?'"

"The woman has to be pretty damn near dead before she prosecutes," said Byrnes.

And before she prosecutes, family members and friends are often turned off by her inability to take action on the problem.



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