

Inflation & heat are catalysts

Family feuds are on the upswing with spring

By JACKIE KLEIN

Part I of a series

"Potatoes are cheaper, tomatoes are cheaper, now's the time to fall in love," were words of a popular song during the depression years.

Today, the lyrics might be changed to, "Gas is high, taxes are higher, now's the time to fight a family fight."

The recession-inflation-fraction blues are a major factor in family squabbles, according to Southfield Police Officer Donald MacKercher of the youth bureau.

Police logs show about 150 domestic spots a year in Southfield and 30 this May. But that's only the tip of the iceberg, MacKercher said, because many more go unreported.

"People just paid their income tax, the cost of gas is rising, food prices are out of sight and inflation is rampant," the officer said. "Almost everyone's dissatisfied with everything. Conflicts start on the home front."

"A guy who can't afford to feed his family may take his frustrations out on his wife and kids. In Southfield, you might say family feuds are middle-income problems. Henry Ford doesn't worry if gas is 69 cents or \$1."

SPRING came early this year, MacKercher reflected, and pent-up emotions were left over from the severe winter. People's hopes began to rise in May, but economic conditions didn't improve. When members of a

family are depressed, bored, suffering from holiday let-downs and unable to cope, they often start battling, the officer said.

"Sure, family fights are on the upswing in good weather," MacKercher said. "But if you think May was bad, wait until July and August when it's re-

ally hot and people are irritable. There's more drinking in the summer; many families won't be traveling because of the energy problem and neighbor

feuds are around to report disturbances. Most family squabbles aren't severe. But I remember one husband who was so frustrated with his wife, he fired his gun at the ceiling five times and pretended his spouse was up there. You can't overlook mental disturbances in domestic fights."

Police officers can't get too involved in family quarrels, MacKercher continued, because their presence can start another fight and most squabbles really don't merit police interference. It's routine to respond to bank robberies and tanker explosions, he claimed, but you never know what to expect in a family fight.

"We used to try to split up battling couples until they calmed down," MacKercher said. "If the husband was belligerent and intoxicated, he might have been arrested for being drunk in public, but the charge was almost always dismissed."

"CONTENDERS in family fights become highly emotional. But they're usually not seeking criminal prosecu-

tion for their spouses. If they're on the verge of separation, they want documentation. But with no fault divorce, even that is minimized."

"One guy used to call the police department five times a week to complain about his wife and build up a portfolio. That's not the mission of a police force, and cops often end up with mustard on their faces."

All family fights don't involve husbands and wives, MacKercher pointed out. Mothers scrap with daughters, fathers battle with sons and often every-

one gets into the act.

Many spats are alcohol-related, he said, and both the abused and the abuser need help. Two major factors in fractured marriages are money and sex, he contended.

"Men tend to show their masculinity and superiority, but the women's role has changed in the last 15 years," he said. "More women are in the job market and the political arena and they demand their civil rights."

Community Center sets annual meeting

The Farmington Community Center's annual meeting of its members begins at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, in the center at 24705 Farmington Rd.

The once-a-year event is open to all persons who have contributed to the center during the past year.

Main purpose of the meeting is the

election of board members. There are also some by-laws to be amended which will be proposed.

The center's board of directors said that all contributing parties to the center are considered members and consequently have a vote.



NOT SURE
WHAT TO
BUY DAD?

Jewelry is the answer.
We have a fine selection
All at a 20% savings.

CUSTOM DESIGN
WATCH REPAIR
APPRASIALS
JEWELRY REPAIR

michael allan jewelers,
ORCHARD MALL
6337 ORCHARD LAKE ROAD
WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN 48033
851-9191

GIFTS FOR DAD!

Dexter
Shoemakers to America

MONTANA
Almond, Copper
138°

SHAG
Rust, Walnut
37°

CLASSY
CASUALS

Winners that
combine
comfort, style
and durability.

ONLY BY
Dexter®

Block's
new
directions
in men's
clothing

A Warmly
Received
Summer
Showing

of Europe's latest designer fashions, typical of the new outback. Frank Watt has created Block's. The traditional and conservative, but now more active and colorful, men's wear. It's a whole new world with a fresh awareness of today's elegance and we want you to be part of it.

Block's has the unique gifts for FATHER'S DAY
CLOTHES of West Bloomfield in the Orchard Mall
on Orchard Lake Road just 1/2 block north of Maple Road • 851-9030

GIFTS for the discerning executive
PIPES Imported & Domestic
TOBACCO BLENDING BAR
PIPE ACCESSORIES • **LEATHER GOODS**
LIGHTERS for pocket, table & desk

CIGARS! THE WIDEST SELECTION
MAINTAINED AT PEAK FRESHNESS IN
ONE OF THE LARGEST WALK-IN
HUMIDORS...ANYWHERE!

MAX BURNS
Humidor One

Bottle 'n' Gift

20000 W. TEN MILE
(At Evergreen & Northway)
Suburbia
355-4000 box
bus. week 87
of office 11a-12 p.m.

ORCHARD MALL
6339 Orchard Lk. Rd.
(West of Maple)
West Bloomfield
851-9700
Sun. 12-5

BEL AIRE CENTER
10 Mile at Orchard Lk.
Farmington
477-2343
ORCHARD MALL
Orchard Lk. N. of Maple
W. Bloom. 851-5566
Sun. 12-5

Greg
SHOES