

Duo render advice on divorce options

By Judith Berne
staff writer

To the strains of "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," attorney Seymour Markowitz begins a weekly radio show, "The Divorce Counselor."

"My mother will probably call in and ask why I didn't become a doctor like my brother," joked Markowitz, who works the program in shirt sleeves and two parts of his three-piece suit. The conservative attorney uniform is a definite contrast to his curly, far-flung hair.

Markowitz, a West Bloomfield resident with a Southfield-based law practice, pays \$7,000 annually for the 1-2 p.m. Thursday slot on WCAF, a sort of specialty press of the radio. The station is licensed in Livonia with studios in Garden City.

"Hopefully, we'll get some business," said Audrey Markowitz, who acknowledged it's a form of advertising, but one which her husband thoroughly enjoys. "It gives him that freedom of expression."

Mrs. Markowitz produces the show, which started in October. "In the one who keeps the controls," she added.

EACH PROGRAM generally features one guest, who along with Markowitz is available to answer questions on divorce, telephoned in by the radio audience. Guests include judges, social workers, psychologists, attorneys and Friend of the Court personnel.

However, when the guest bows out (Birmingham attorney Michael Finn came down with the flu shortly before show time last week) or the telephone fails to ring, Markowitz works hard to fill the time.

A spokesman for an adoption protection agency recently took the opportunity to appeal for money.

"Where are my callers? Where's my mother?" Markowitz appealed on an other show.

He gets a lot of mileage out of the calls that come through. A man wants to know if he is married and is later divorced, is he responsible for stepchildren? Markowitz said the law may have



JOHN STAND/Staff photographer

Attorney Seymour Markowitz and his wife, Audrey, host a weekly one-hour radio program, "The Divorce Counselor," on WCAF.

changed, he will have to check.

A senior citizen has a question about separate maintenance agreements in lieu of divorce. Markowitz is supportive, saying unless there is another marriage in the picture, there is no necessity to go through the divorce process.

A MAN wants to know how assets brought into a marriage will be divided and whether to go into a new business or separation.

"As a practical matter," Markowitz advised, "you don't want to be partners in the new business if she's not going to be partners in the old marriage."

"When I initially started the program, I was accused of being pro divorce," Markowitz said. "Divorce is not for everyone. In most cases I see, the marriages were not destined to work in the first place."

"You were young," he tells listeners. "You wanted to get out of the house. You wanted to show how mature you were — just like smoking."

Although he advocates counseling, "in most cases they (clients) say 'Finish the job.' I advise them to cut their losses. It could be after months, it could be after years."

Markowitz tells listeners a simple divorce can be obtained for \$55. "I charge the same for a doctor as for someone on ATC," he said.

"Many lawyers don't like to handle divorces," he added. "I'm sympathetic, but I'm practical. We close out about 25 a week."

Man nabbed at 'adult' theater

A 10-year-old Livonia man allegedly broke into the adult "Cuban Cheesecake" theater in Dearborn early Saturday morning.

Deputy O'Brien was assigned Mon-

day to interview 40th District

Court Judge Norman Feder on a bus

glow charge. Feder set bond at \$2,000

pending a preliminary examination in

the local court.

Police at 2:55 a.m. Saturday respond

ed to an alarm at the Eight Mile Ranch

theater, according to Dearborn police

spokesman Steve Zulowski. Officers

found the front window smashed out

and checked inside.

Officers discovered a man on the floor behind the stage, Zulowski said. The man at first refused to reveal his identity, the officer said.

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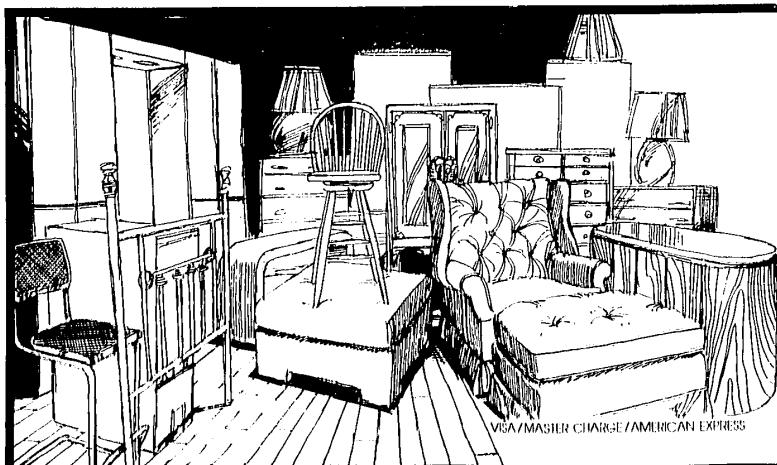
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