

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 his weekly one-hour radio program — "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 WCAR, a sort of vanity 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. "I'm 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 friends of the Court personnel.

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

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

"Where are my calls? Where's my money?" 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 marries and he later divorced, is he responsible for stepchild. Markowitz said the law may have



JOHAN STANISLAWSKI/photography

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

changed, he will have to check.

A senior citizen has a question about separate maintenance agreements to file 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 during a separation.

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

"When I initially started the program, I was accused of being pro-divorce," Markowitz said. "I have to tell 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 'I wish 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 \$50. "I charge the same for a doctor as for someone on AD," he said.

"Many lawyers don't like to handle divorces," he added. "I'm sympathetic, but I'm practical. We close out about 20 a week."

Man nabbed at 'adult' theater

A 19-year-old Livonia man allegedly broke into the adult Cabaret Theatre in Southfield early last night morning.

Detectives from an assigned Monday before Southfield 4th District Court Judge Norman Podes on a long grey charge. Podes set bond at \$2,000 pending a preliminary examination in the local court.

Police at 2:55 a.m. Saturday reported

ad to an alarm at the Eight 8th South theatre, according to Southfield police spokesman Steve Zoltowski. Officers found the front window smashed out and checked inside.

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



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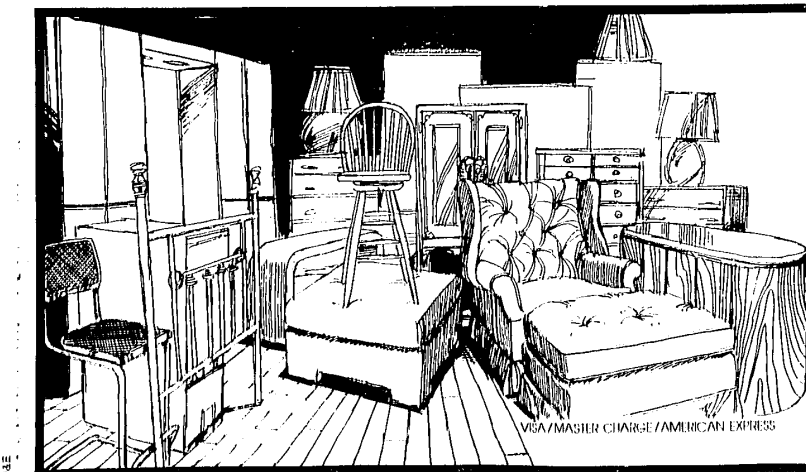
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