Some 'homesickness' normal for teen-agers

as your tear-ager nervous about going away to college? Some anxiety and homesickness are normal re-actions for teen-agers who will be living away from home for the first time, says a Michigan State Uni-versity authority in family and child relationships. "Good parents have actually been preparing their children for that separation throughout the developmental process," said Lawrence Schiam-berg, associate professor in MUS's Department of Family and Child Ecology. "The success of the departure depends on the emotional health of the entire family."

SCHAIMBERG, THE author of "Human Development" published this year, says there are actually two types of separation from the family — physical and emotional.

"A child may be physically independent by hidnow a values fostered there. Or a child may live at home but still ching to the childhood values fostered there. Or a child may live at home but still be psychologically, emtionally independent," he said.

ent," he said.

Emotional separation from the family is essential if a child is to acquire an adult identity.

Schaimberg said second. The read of the child second in the child second in

19. "At the time, a child is primarily concerned about his or her place in the peer group whereas, in the post-high school years, the child begins to think about his or her stance toward the world and preparing for the future."

PARENTS CAN sometimes be caught off guard when it comes time to pack their child off to col-lege or that first job away from home because "There are no social guidelines for this rite of pas-

sage.
"Some parents may feel they are clinging to their children while others may feel they're pushing the

Scotchgard

child out of the nest too soon."
Some adolescents and young adults are actually opting to remain in the nest into their early 20s and beyond. This is a recent phenomenon prompted, in part, by the nation's current financial pinch, schi-amberg said. "Young people are also waiting to marry later, which may delay their break from home and family."

IN FAMILIES that have not prepared a child for leaving home, that child may exhibit all sorts of problems, he said.

"Children who fail to make an independent successful break from home may skip classes or drop out of college entirely, stage a bizarre, delinquent eat, join a cult or take a menial job. These all indicate a lack of a healthy maturing process."

But for most children, leaving home for the first time is accomplished with a minimum of trauma. "With some normal, common-ense planning and organization, this need not be a tumultuous time."

Workers comp rates to fall

Gov. William G. Milliken said employers are beginning to experience the benefits of the workers' compensation reforms originated in his economic recovery package last fall and passed by the Legislature in December. "These reforms were designed to lower the cost of doing business in Michigan and to improve our job climate by encouraging competition in workers' compensation insurance. It is very satisfying that early results indicate precisely the downward trend in business costs we had expected," Milliken said.

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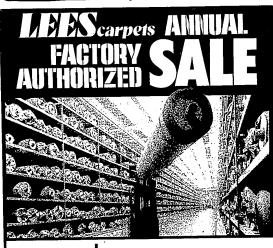
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