COMMUNITY LIFE

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DLARK DOUGHTY

Via Internet, role of library changes at breakneck speed

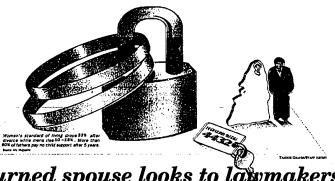
he Farmington Community Library continues to serve our community's information
and resource needs, and does so in an environment that is not only continuously changing,
but doing so at breakneck speed.

In the last three years, the world of information resources available at the Farmington Community Library has grown exponentially through
internet access. In addition to several available
'gopher' and World Wide Web resources, the
library subscribes to magazine indexes (with full
text articles), a health resource collection and an
ever increasing number of reference tools. These
services are not only available for the public to
use in the library branches, but are also accessible from home computers equipped with modems
through the Metro Net service offered.

The library's mission includes' providing timelly, accurate information'. In today's age of technology, we find that in order to satisfy our community's needs we have to turn to alternative
resources, such as the internet. The very character of information is changing from print to digital formats. Many resources, including many
governmental publications, are only available on
line. We know that the community demands
such resources, as evidenced by the many classes
we offer each week through the library.

Since May 1994, our library staff has trained

See LIRRARY.R2



Spurned spouse looks to lawmakers

■ State lawmakers are considering a divorce reform package that would make splitting up more difficult.



By MARY RODRIQUE STAFF WRITER

After twenty seven years of marriage, Judy thought her life was quite comfortable. She had a dealth, two children growing into adulthood, and a husband earning a good living. good living.

good living.

But the good life ended earlier this year when Judy's husband left her.

"Since my husband decided to just up and leave, I have no say in the matter because of no fault divorce," said Judy (not her real name).

"There are many of us spouses who have and will get our lives and futures trashed because of the ease

of divorce in Michigan."

Judy is monitoring the progress of a divorce reform package introduced by atote Rep. Jessie Dalman, R.Holland, in Lansing.

House Bill 5635 proposes couples complete a premarital education program before being issued a marriage license. Couples choosing not to participate in a program will have to wait 60 days for a license. The bill passed the House last Thursday and moved to the Senate.

House Bill 432 is more complicated and controversial. It proposes a three tier divorce systemi consent, no consent and legal separate maintenance.

no consent and legal separate maintenance.

In situations where both parties consent to a divorce, a no fault standard would remain. In situations where minor children are involved, both parties would be required to participate in a pre divorce education program. In situations where there are no minor children and total assets of less than \$25,000, both parties can obtain a divorce by filling out a standard court form

alleging the no fault grounds.

In cases where one party does not consent to the divorce, an individual may file for legal separate maintenance. After the expiration of a four year time period, the individual may file for a no fault divorce.

House resolution 351 encourages the state bar to require family law practitioners to receive certification in family law. These two measures remain in the House Judiciary Committee.

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"Some of the bills are good, especially where minor children are involved," said state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills.

"The interests of children are most important. That's what I think is one of our biggest problems. There are a lot of kids out there with a lot of angar."

According to Ms. magazine, women's standard of living drops 33 percent after divorce while mean rise 10 to 15 percent. Also, more than 60 percent of fathers pay no child support after five years.

While Dolan favors the idea of

pre-marital counseling, she has reservations about going back to fault finding. She also notes that forcing an unwilling spouse to stay in an unhappy marriage could lead to abuse.

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There should be more equitable settlement terms. Usually the husband is living well and the wife is on welfare. I have friends who have been through it.

"It's too easy to get married," Dolan continued, "Maybe something should be done on that end."
Judy's husband left leat March. Two days later, she was served with divorce papers.

divorce papers.

"I was in shock," she said. "I write him letters, try to encourage him to come back. He has his own apartment."

ment."
Judy has training as a nurse, but she has been out of the work force for several years.
"I took a refresher course last year, but still couldn't find a job," she said.

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