



Psychologist Warns

Don't Negotiate Kids' 'Civil Rights'

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Children have certain inalienable "civil rights," says the man who is showing thousands of parents how to deal with their offspring. These rights include long hair, loud music and the pursuit of friends of their own choosing, according to Dr. Thomas Gordon, California clinical psychologist and originator of a new program called "Parent Effectiveness Training."

And, Dr. Gordon told about 300 parents gathered in the Livonia Family Y Wednesday night, there's no point in trying to use the methods he teaches "when the child does something you don't like but you can't prove to him that it directly and concretely affects you."

DR. GORDON, in the area to help introduce new series of parent effectiveness training courses in several YMCA branches in suburban Detroit.



JANICE TEMPLE of Livonia is one of the seven Albion College coeds who chose this year to make up a homecoming court instead of competing for the title of queen of the Oct. 22 to 24 homecoming weekend. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Temple, 16183 Southhampton, Livonia.

m. m. memos

As a parent who sometimes feels she rates the medal for Least Effective, I continue to be fascinated with this new program of Parent Effectiveness Training.

So of course I listened with full attention when its inventor, Dr. Thomas Gordon, spoke in Livonia last week.

And, also of course, I came home determined again to put to use some of his suggestions (see story elsewhere on this page).

Glancing around the cluttered living room, I started sending all over the place my best "I messages." (Dr. Gordon says you should tell what you are affected by unpleasant behavior.)

"I get very uptight about so many Coke bottles and Tab cans and dishes being left out," I announced, and added that "it" would be mighty pleased to see some of the lights turned out and that "it" couldn't for the life of me help feeling that coats and purses might be hung up.

What gives? the girls wondered, and since Dr. Gordon had said there was no reason why intelligent offspring shouldn't have a working knowledge of the system, I explained it a bit.

Well, Dr. Gordon, I want to report that for that evening things got picked up pretty well. But then our junior high came downstairs with a gleam in her I (oops, make that eye).

"Does it work on parents, too?" she wanted to know. I allowed it probably did. "Then," she announced, "I would be very pleased to have my allowance raised."

Quick, Dr. Gordon, another lesson. Next time I won't have the president's wage freeze to fall back on.

-Margaret Miller

said he was giving the parents gathered here his "mini-course" in PET.

The Livonia Y will begin two new courses this month, one taught by Armand Vigna and beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, and one taught by Mrs. Rosemary Pulick and beginning at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20.

An evening course will be offered by the Farmington area YMCA beginning late in October, and information is available by writing Box 354, Farmington.

Other courses begin Nov. 18 in the Northwestern YMCA, 21755 W. Seven Mile, Detroit, and Oct. 19 and 27 in the South Oakland YMCA, 1016 W. 11 Mile, Royal Oak.



GALA FASHIONS will be modeled by members of the Redford Suburban League at their "Creative Designs" meeting Oct. 13. The models, all of whom sewed their own outfits are (from left) Carol Willis, Lois Kuhnner and Val Speros. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Creativity Is Theme For Suburban League

Creativity will be the theme for the day when the Redford Suburban League launches its new season Wednesday, Oct. 13, with a luncheon in Farmington.

Members will model outfits they have made for themselves and display some of their favorite boutique items following the luncheon and business meeting.

The RSL, which donates large sums of money each year to aid retarded children in this area, is preparing for this year's fund-raiser, a "millionaires party" Friday, Nov. 5, in the UAW Hall at Van Born and Middle Belt.

THE LUNCHEON next week is planned as a fun-type meeting, said Mrs. Shirley Muir, RSL member of long standing and program chairman for this year.

Mrs. Muir said she had long wanted to try a meeting that

values," he said. "Thopgrinds of parents have done this and long hair, for instance, is more acceptable to adults than it used to be."

"You can act as a consultant with your child, stating completely and ONCE ONLY your objections to his behavior."

"You can model in your own behavior the values you believe in."

"And you can pray. The only prayer I know that applies here is the one that goes 'God, give me the strength to change what can be changed, the serenity to accept what cannot be changed and the wisdom to know the difference.'"

DR. GORDON said he began developing his program a decade ago because parents were bringing to him children whose behavior needed "fixing up" and he felt he should instead be dealing with parents.

The idea of "I-messages" was developed, he said, because many parents dealt with unacceptable behavior in silence, in explosion or in a series of "You-messages that impugn a child's character, like 'you are selfish, you are



inconsiderate, you're a brat, you're just like your father."

"These don't work; they just give the child the idea he's bad," he added. "It's better to tell him that 'I am upset by your behavior' and then stop talking and let him initiate improved behavior."

The "no-lose" method of resolving conflict is his answer to resolutions that see the parent win and the child resent or the child win and the parent resent.

"We try to give the parents the skills necessary to pull off an arrangement that satisfies everyone," Dr. Gordon said.

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Town Hall Sellout As 11th Season Opens On Oct. 14

With all its season tickets sold, Northville Town Hall opens its 11th season Thursday, Oct. 14, playing host to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

His talk is scheduled at 11 a.m. in the auditorium of Northville High School, Eight Mile and Sholden, with a celebrity luncheon to follow in the new Holiday Inn, 10 Mile and Grand River, Farmington.

All season tickets for the four-lecture series have been sold, as well as all luncheon tickets for the Bishop Sheen appearance.



BISHOP SHEEN

No single tickets will be available this year, according to Mrs. Jack Doherty, Town Hall president.

SHE SAID the luncheons, moved to the Holiday Inn after fire destroyed Lady's in Plymouth, would be the same price, \$3.50.

The inn offers ample parking, she said, and added that some women who attend the lectures at the high school may want to use the parking facilities offered by the Northville Swim Club, located down a gravel road behind the high school.

BISHOP SHEEN has described his lecture as a talk for all faiths and titled it "Life Is Worth Living."

That title also was used for the television series he conducted from 1961 to 1967. He has been bishop of Rochester, N.Y.

Future Northville Town Hall speakers will be writer Irene Kampen on Nov. 11, Dr. J. Clayton Lafferty, clinical psychologist, on March 9, and singer Patrice Munsel on April 20.

frozen.

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