

Y programs emphasize communications within family

By MARGARET MILLER

Family communications skills, neatly packaged in a series of courses and set up in a variety of nearby locations, is a new offering of the YMCA. The courses themselves—including "Talk to Me," "Family Focus," "Parent Effectiveness Training," "Marriage Enjoyment," "Divorced Mothers," "Marriage Enjoyment" and "Parents and Children Talking"—have been put forward at various times in recent years.

What's new is putting them together in a coordinated Detroit area YMCA resource center and offering them on a cluster arrangement in Y centers in Livonia, Westland, Farmington, Dearborn and northwest Detroit.

THE WHOLE PACKAGE will be on view Wednesday, Jan. 8, during an open house that will be part of the Livonia Family Y 10th anniversary celebration.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Y building at 1455 Stark, there will be an overview of the family communications and skills courses, with information on which will be offered in which locations and the dates, times and fees involved.

Workings of the coordinated resource center, headed by Barbara Fischer of the Northwestern YMCA, will be outlined at that time too.

MRS. FISCHER AND Linda Grandstaff, Livonia Family Y program director who worked out the cluster plan, talked about the coordinated project.

"It's been a dream for several years on the part of Y staff people in this area to put together the various offerings in this area into a single department," Mrs. Fischer said.

"The various branches have associated resources, and it seemed we could offer our members more help in the area of preventing family conflicts that way."

"A three-year study was completed in July of this year, and the resource center was launched, funded by the YMCA through a United Community Services grant."

MISS GRANDSTAFF pointed out that through this program the YMCA is filling a need of society in general.

"The family is the focal point for all sorts of relationships," she said. "It's the launching pad for the people who make things run, and it's the communication skills learned in the family that later are used in many other relationships."

But up to now, little or no training has been offered in the matter of family communication skill, Miss Grandstaff added. "There are the 12th grade family life courses in schools and some basic psychology in adult education, and that's about it," she said.

"By offering this set of courses and coordinating them, we feel we are filling a real need."

THE LIVONIA director recommended the cluster system—having different courses offered in different locations in the same general area.

"Because these are new programs, they are not well understood and thus the number of people interested is small at first," she explained.

"By having each one draw from the cluster area, we can have several going and have enough people in each program to make a good group."

Those interested in any of the courses will be able to sign up in their home Y, she added, and those who want to participate in future classes also will be able to leave their names so they may be informed.

OF THE CURRENT offerings, three are part of the national YMCA program. These are "Family Focus," "Positive Parenting," and "Parent Effectiveness Training."

Four others have been developed through the YMCA in the metropolitan Detroit area. Included in this category are "Talk to Me," "Divorced Mothers," "Marriage Enjoyment" and "Parents and Children Talking."

The local programs, Mrs. Fischer said, have been developed either by Y personnel or by others in the field of human relations who are offering their courses to the Y center.

"PARENT EFFECTIVENESS Training" will be offered at a bargain rate of \$30 per person in an eight-week course beginning Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the Northwestern YMCA, 2175 W. Seven Mile, Detroit.

Fred Gilrow, Northwestern Y program director, will teach the sessions, which will include learning to identify roadblocks to family communication and acquiring skills of listening, confronting and family problem-solving. Each session will run from 7 to 10 p.m.

Also scheduled in the Northwestern Y will be "Marriage Enjoyment," a four-week course to be taught Wednesday beginning Jan. 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. by Gordon and Linda Kruse of Troy.

The course was developed by Mrs. Fischer and the instructors, an American Lutheran Church pastor and his wife. Designed as an affirmation for married couples, it includes identification of marriage strengths, appreciation of individual marriages and learning how to better communicate needs and understand those of one's spouse.

A second four-week segment will be designed by the group and the leaders and will include skill practice and working on specific needs of couples involved. The cost is \$22 per couple for each four weeks.

TWO COURSES have been scheduled for the Livonia Family Y.

"Talk To Me" will meet for four Tuesdays starting Jan. 29 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

It will be taught by Dorothy Murphy, program director for the Wayne-Westland YMCA, and the class outline will include listening skills, identification of the components of helping relationships, self-awareness and family dynamics.

The cost is \$10 per person or \$18 per couple for Family Y members and \$18 per person or \$30 per couple for non-members.

Dave Anderson of staff of Methodist Children's Village will teach the "Divorced Mothers" course, scheduled for eight weeks from Jan. 29 to March 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays in the Livonia location.

Developed out of his experiences in individual counseling, it covers concerns such as dealing with an ex-husband, adjusting visiting rights, balancing time demands and helping children make adjustments. The fee is \$24.

THE FAMILY YMCA, 26100 Farmington Road, will be the location for "Parents and Children Talking," a course designed to involve children over 12 years of age along with their parents.

The 15-hour course will be offered during the month of February and will be taught by Lawrence Gage and Ned Austin, Oakland Community College faculty members and partners in Metro Counseling Associates Incorporated. The fee is \$28 per person.



Then



Now

'Ugliest kid in the world' is now a top fashion model

By JOAN WEAVER

It seems like only yesterday that Pam Dewber was a chubby, bespectacled and buck-toothed seventh grader. Today she is a top fashion model in New York, running from one looking to another and going in location to Spain for Spiegel, or Martique Island in the West Indies for Butterick.

Pam, 24, returned to Farmington Hills where she grew up to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dewber, and her sister, Leslie, an art student at Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids.

Wearing uncomplicated jeans and a white shirt, Pam grimaces slightly then laughs as she remembers, "I was the ugliest kid in the world. I was fat and dumb, had buck teeth, braces, glasses and that awful permanent."

"THEN IN EIGHTH grade I grew four inches. After the braces came off in high school and Tom Winberry asked me out," she says. "He started looking up."

People started telling her that she should be a model, and she sang and danced her way through North Farmington High School's productions of The King and I, Carousel and Kismet before graduating in 1968.

"I didn't start out to be a model," says Pam. "I was majoring in art at OCC. The woman next door was a model doing auto shows and Pontiac was looking for a girl for the Firebird spot in the auto show."

The Firebird spot signaled the end of her art studies, and the beginning of a modeling career that took her to New York, first on vacation with a friend, then permanently.

"I WENT DIRECTLY to the Wilhelmina Agency," Pam says, "wearing my auto show look with my big wing eyelashes. They said, 'If you can come back looking like you're 16 years old, maybe we can do something for you.'"

She did, "and they put me in the 57" J&A-American blue-eyed girl slot. It's a shame, people say, 'I could never do that,' but anybody can. It's not a pretty girl thing. It's a certain look that's going to sell."

The Wilhelmina Modeling Agency is one of the two largest agencies in New York and employs 120 girls. Ms. Dewber says new girls start at \$9 an hour, the top fee is \$100 an hour and she is presently at the \$75 an hour rate.

In the three years since the move to New York, she has done work for Kentucky Fried Chicken, Head and Shoulders, Procter, Minute Maid Orange Juice and Tupperware. Or you may have seen her while looking through the pages of the Sears or Spiegel catalogues, the Butterick Pattern Book or hair styling magazines.

"THE MONEY is not as good in magazines like Seventeen," she says, "they figure that the exposure is good publicity for the model and therefore they don't pay as well as

catalogues. Except for the high fashion magazines, like Vogue, the emphasis is on a natural and realistic look."

Ms. Dewber says that by the time you're 25, it's the beginning of the end for a modeling career. "but it's a great vehicle for travel," she says, explaining that in mid-winter they are shooting for next fall, so you have to go where the season is right and the outdoor background is appropriate.

"We went to Martique for Butterick, to Spain for Spiegel, for spring we went to New Mexico and when we wanted snow, we went to Europe."

"Modeling is also a good springboard for other things. I really want to sing. I auditioned for Grease, but I blew it. I got through the singing part O.K., but the reading — well — there were two chairs on this big, dark stage, I thought the man reading the other part would be helping me," she says. But the man simply read the words flat, and Pam wasn't prepared to act against the flatness. Next time, she'll be prepared.

HER DAY STARTS at 7 a.m. in her mid-town apartment and is often a round of rushing via cab, bus or foot from fittings to TV auditions, back to the apartment to change clothes and "look 16 again," then off to another studio for a shooting session.

The apartment is six blocks from the Empire State Building. "I can look out the window and it's right there. I look at it and think of King Kong, clinging to the side of the building. I used to look through magazines," she says, picking one up from the coffee table and leafing through it. "and think, gee, to be in New York and be a model. Now I am and I love it."

The hectic days still leave time for other interests like singing, acting and dancing lessons at the New York School of Jazz, seeing the shows, meeting people and auditioning for Broadway productions.

"Anyone with the right qualifications can audition for the musicals," she says. "You sign up with a theatrical agency when you get to New York. To be on a Broadway stage — auditioning and singing — there's nothing like it."

"And to be home, it's like I never left, but they're two completely different lives — separate. I get home about every four months, and see old friends. They want to know if I've changed, if I'm on an ego trip."

IT'S NOT LIKELY. When she hears models complain about the "hot lights" and "how tiring it all is," she can only think, "they're spoiled and have lost their footing with reality."

And when she runs into the occasional phenomenon sometimes associated with the glamor world, she just says, "Oh, man, I don't believe it," finishes her sparkling job and heads back to her apartment six blocks from the Empire State Building.