

# Evolving roles add depth to marriage

By MARGARET MILLER

"It Takes Two to Make a Marriage" is the title picked for a panel discussion likely to be one of the most provocative in the full schedule of Schoolcraft College's Women's Festival Thursday, Sept. 29.

Shirley Emerson, a counselor at SC, suggested the tag as she and her chemistry professor husband David talked with Les and Lee Zalewski about how they'd handle an informal session on how their own marriage roles have evolved.

Everybody liked her title, and that was it.

But earlier "Let's Share" had been suggested by Lee Zalewski, who operates a bookkeeping business while her husband, a psycho-therapist, takes care of their two young children when he isn't seeing clients.

And Les Zalewski had come up with "Putting US into Marriage," and "It's OUR Marriage."

All the suggestions give clues to the direction to be taken by these two couples, both of whom have learned to shift roles enough to make life styles work for them.

They'll invite those who attend the Women's Festival, to be held in the Liberal Arts building on the Haggerty Road campus in Livonia, to join them in a give and take session that will be part of five programs on changing life styles.

The discussion will be held 13 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Theater. The complete program will span the hours of 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and also will include five sessions each on the topics of parenting, homemaking, health and legislation.

Flims, displays, a child care center located in Newman House on Haggerty near Six Mile and opportunities for rapping also will be part of the day-long program.

**SHIRLEY AND DAVE** Emerson and Les and Lee Zalewski got acquainted by telling each other a bit of how they had reached their current life patterns.

The Emersons, parents of three nearly-grown children, told how Shirley had decided to leave graduate school while Dave earned his doctorate "and by the time he was through I was pregnant and then came about ten years of being a very traditional stay-at-home mother. Brownsies, car pools, the whole bit."

But then came a drastic income reduction when David switched from the corporate world to teaching and there was a financial loss on a house they were selling. Shirley became a kindergarten teacher.

She then returned to school, earned a doctorate of her own, and moved on to her present, intensely-satisfying position at Schoolcraft. Now, with two demanding careers in the family, this husband and wife have learned to share home functions and shift more and more responsibility to their growing children, an arrangement that has proved workable and satisfactory to all.

**FOR THE ZALEWSKIS**, the move away from completely traditional roles began one afternoon when their first son was a toddler and, Les remembers, "I came home and found Lee crying."

"I decided she needed to get a job and get out of the house," he said. "That was very traditional and chauvinistic of me, to decide for her." "But I agreed," his wife put in quickly.

Lee soon accepted the offer of a part-time bookkeeping job. She overcame guilt feelings about leaving her son, deciding two days away would be all right. Her husband insisted the job was "not for financial reasons—according to my macho image I had to be the support of my family."

But in later developments Les decided to start his own business and his growth was slowed by recession. Lee was laid off her bookkeeping job and decided she could control hours only by starting her own business.

Their lives finally evolved into a situation in which Les is home with the children early in the day and sees clients later, while Lee works an irregular schedule as her bookkeeping business requires.

"We have about one and a half jobs between us, and it's really nice," they agree.

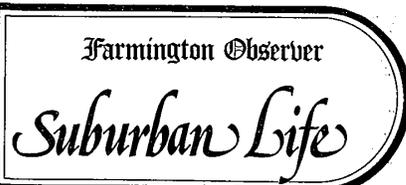
**IN SHARING** their ideas with those who come to attend their session, the Emersons and the Zalewskis want to get into a number of concerns that grow out of today's role stereotypes.

One was articulated by the two men. David Emerson said he felt "the male image women complain about is in many ways pushed off on them by women," and Les Zalewski told how satisfying had been the change that allowed him to combine more fathering with bread-winning.

"I'll speak to male liberation," he said, "because I'm convinced that the



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need to restructure roles is as important to men as to women."

Another involves society pressure when couples deviate from what is considered the traditional arrangement.

"I get some pressure—people express surprise in finding me home instead of Lee," commented Zalewski. "But there's no question that even 10 years ago what I'm doing would have been considered practically a mortal sin."

And both couples agreed they had faced raised eyebrows and innuendo when they made big changes—David's switch to teaching, employment for both women. Les' decision to take a larger share of the homemaking role.

**THEY EXPECT** also to have plenty to say about the effects of their flexible roles on their children.

"I feel I know my children far better and they know me and accept me as a nurturing parent," said Zalewski. "It's nice that when there's a minor hurt they run to whichever one of us is closer and not always to their mother."

Mrs. Emerson wants to tell why she feels her full-time career has had an "89 per cent positive" affect on her daughter and two sons. "It's my personal prejudice that children in this country now have too much done for them, that mother is a servant," she said. "The fact that they have had to

take on more responsibility for running our household has been good for them."

All four also will go into the example their lifestyles have set for their children and why they feel such models are important.

The panelists said they would stress in their discussion the fact that their roles are the result of choices, the kind of choices open to all women and men.

"We would not expect everyone to make the same choices, and we hope that the kind of things that come up in our session will help all who participate understand the best choices for their lifestyles," Mrs. Emerson added.

## Psychological studies begin series

Dr. Kenneth Pelletier, author of "Mind as Healer, Mind as Slayer," will be the featured guest speaker at the opening lecture for the Psychological Studies annual series, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 28.

The lecture is sponsored by Psychological Studies and Consultation Program, Inc., and will be held in Mercy Center, at Eleven Mile and Middlebelt. Reservations may be made by calling Psychological Studies at 648-2559.

The organization, based at 6785 Telegraph, Birmingham, arranges the lecture series primarily for clergy and those in the helping professions, though all other interested church members are welcome.

The group provides seminar in psychology and mental health related to the clergyperson's counseling and educational tasks with individuals and families, the lecture series, plus counseling and psychotherapy.

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Reformed Church in America.

Pelletier is assistant clinical professor in the department of psychiatry, Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, University of California School of Medicine.

He has conducted research on stress

and physical illness there, and is director of the Psychosomatic Medicine Clinic at Gladman Memorial Hospital in Berkeley, Calif.

A series ticket, which includes four lectures and lunch, may be purchased for \$33, or individual tickets for lectures are available.

## Jaycees stage another 'Walk for Farmington'

Farmington Area Jaycees have put out a call for residents to join them in the next "Walk for Farmington," set to begin at 9 a.m. Oct. 8.

Following the format of past years, the proceeds from their fund-raising project will be distributed to various non-profit community and youth service organizations in the area.

In the past, the sponsoring group has gathered about 1,000 children and adults to follow a route of about 15

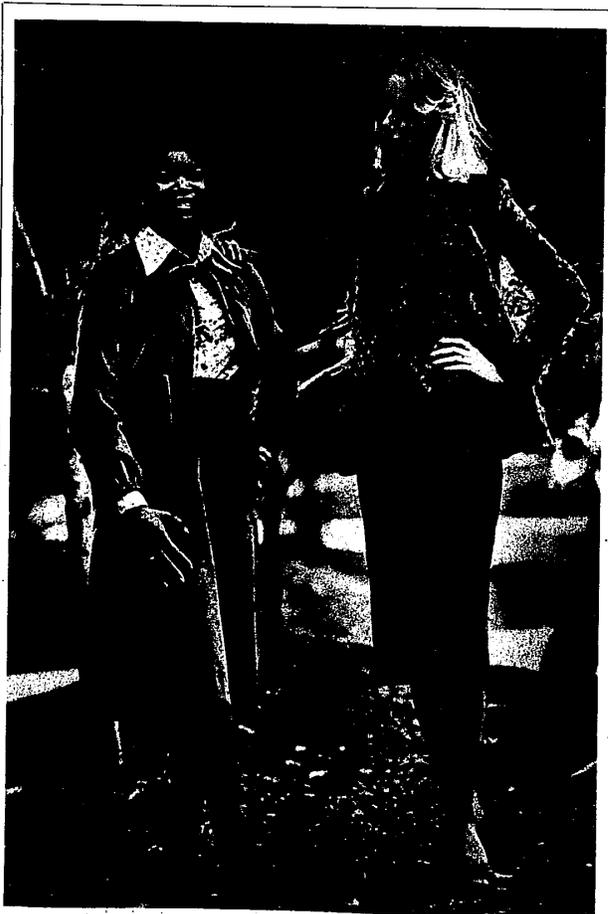
miles, after pledges were obtained for number of miles each participant walked.

The local police department is reviewing the route now. City fathers and local school officials are always invited to join the walk.

Co-chairpersons for the walk this year are Robert Lamb, of Canton and Dennis Brills of Farmington, both members of the Jaycees; and Lois Koning, of Farmington, a member of the Jaycees.



David Emerson (left), his wife, Shirley, Les Zalewski and Lee Zalewski will talk about how their life styles have evolved during one of the panel discussions of Schoolcraft College Women's Festival Sept. 29. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)



## Working for the kids who don't just grow

By SHIRLEE IDEN and LORRAINE McCLISH

A most common expectation of parents is that their children will grow up. Unfortunately, not all children do. Every inch of growth is a struggle for some children.

The Human Growth Foundation (HGF) is a national health organization of volunteers concerned with the way children grow and why some of them do not become average-sized adults.

Concerned parents, relatives and friends make up the membership. This week (Sept. 24-Oct. 1) they are observing Human Growth Foundation Week. The Detroit Chapter will sponsor an address by Dr. Richard Clopper of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Clopper will speak at 2 p.m. this Sunday in the auditorium of Children's Hospital. A reception will follow in Board Room B. The public is invited.

Locally, the Human Growth Foundation is just a year old, according to its president, Gerald Parent, a Southfield resident. Active members come from the entire metropolitan area.

**PARENT SAID** most members are now involved in planning their fund-raising event, a Sept. 27 dinner and style show at the Spaghetti Company, 2553 Woodward in Berkeley.

Andrea Grayson and Sherry Hognacki (at left) are in the Band of Angels who will volunteer their modeling expertise for the dinner and style show planned by the Detroit Chapter of the Human Growth Foundation for Tuesday, Sept. 27 at the Spaghetti Company. Fashions will be provided by Smart Set of Southfield. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

The dinner and fashions will be showcased 7-9 p.m. with tickets priced at \$7.50. Proceeds help the group in educational projects and to further research in human growth.

Many concerned people are involved in the foundation and in the fund-raiser. One is Barbara Taylor, who is acting as ticket chairman.

Doug Taylor, Barbara's son, is just 47 inches tall at eleven years of age. He's a student at the Roper School and is just about 10 inches shorter than his contemporaries.

"Doug's one of the lucky ones," his mother said. "He can be helped." She explained that he receives shots every other day and will until he reaches five feet in height.

"Many of these children can't be helped," she said. "But research has aided others in the last 10 years since Doug was born."

Mrs. Taylor said there are 100 types of dwarfism affecting about 500,000 of the country.

Doug's hormone shots have helped him, but his greatest help probably came from the self-confidence his mother was able to give him.

"THIS STEMS mostly from the philosophy of the foundation," she explained. She joined the group in Minnesota 10 years ago, then became a member at large before joining the Detroit chapter when it was formed.

"Fall is the hardest time of the year for these children," Mrs. Taylor said. "All of their friends have grown two or three inches over the summer and they remain the same height."

"On several occasions, Doug has returned to school, found his correct classroom, and teachers have ushered him out, telling him he was in the wrong place."

Mrs. Taylor said the foundation teaches the parents to help the child cope so the child can learn to work through these problems himself. "It doesn't advocate the over-protection most mothers would feel, and instinctively give," she said.



BARBARA TAYLOR

Part of the problem is that trained medical people are not aware of human growth problems. Much of the concern of foundation members is to see that they are informed and start treatment while it is still possible.

"In some cases, if the child is past puberty, there is nothing that can be done, while if the situation was diagnosed just a year earlier, an answer may have been found," she said.

Part of the activities on Sept. 27 will be the Band of Angels, a semi-professional modeling group, who will volunteer their efforts for the fund-raiser.

One of the angels has a niece with a growth problem.

**MRS. TAYLOR** said the Spaghetti Company is fairly new, painted red and gold on the outside and decorated with antiques on the inside. She said it's an attractive place for the foundation's first fund-raising.

Area mayors have proclaimed this week Human Growth Foundation Week and Gov. Milliken is aware of the chapter, the only one in Michigan.

Members have lots of goals and hopes for growth but right now their target is selling 500 dinner and style show tickets. Anyone who desires tickets or further information can call Mrs. Taylor at 642-9525.