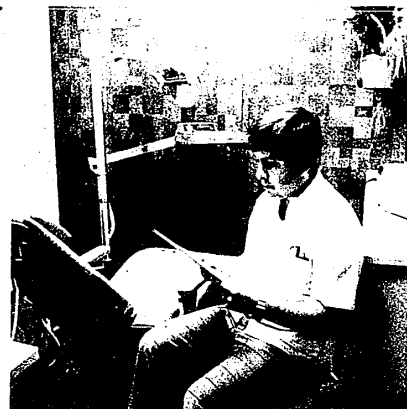




DR ARTHUR HEROLD



DR STEPHEN VOSKO

Staying at ease, waiting for the doctor

DR PHILLIP PETACHENKO

Doctors make patients feel at home

Trips to the doctor once were fear-inspiring experiences which made up the ghastly moments of some childhood memories. Although doctors have ceased making Marcus Welby-like home visits, they seem to be intent on making their offices look like the next best thing.

Fear is a bad word in a doctor's office, nowadays, as medical practitioners worry about relating to their patient's comfort and intelligence.

"I don't mention the word 'painful' to my patients," said Dr. Stephen Vosko, a dentist who shares a clinic on Drake Road, Farmington, with four other medical professionals.

Dr. Vosko's office is geared towards making the young and adult patients forget about the drills and needles which are a part of dentistry.

His young patients learn that the drill is a rainmaker, because it sounds like falling rain.

AIR used by the dentist is referred to as wind in front of a young patient. And the extractor, the mechanism that dries out the mouth after a session is completed, is converted into a magic vacuum cleaner for Vosko's patients.

"They're not frightened anymore," he said.

"There's no reason for the bad reputation for a dentist. About 99 per cent of the time, we can eliminate pain," he said.

His approach to keeping youngsters from howling in fear is to keep their attention off of their fears and onto other things. Adults are more easily pacified with a homey atmosphere. There are plants hanging in each of the brightly colored treatment rooms.

"These chairs are new. They're more comfortable. You can go to sleep in them," he said of the beige nautahyde dental chair set in the middle of the treatment room.

In another corner of the building, Vosko's colleague Arthur Herold, an osteopathic physician, voices a similar attitude toward his practice.

"I think a doctor's office should have an informal atmosphere. There should be formality in an informal atmosphere," said Herold.

"IT'S MORE comforting for the patient. It's easier to communicate," he said.

Communication has become more important with patients as they become more aware of medical trends.

"Patients are more educated today. They're more aware, more intelligent than they used to be.

"I don't know if it's always good. It isn't always easy to explain in a situation a patient about a condition. Medicine isn't black and white. Really to arrive at a diagnosis, you have to look at the person in addition to the machines," he said.

"The skill of being a doctor is blending the fancy machinery with the patient and coming up with a diagnosis and a treatment," he said.

Another advocate of a less formal approach to communicating with patients is Dr. Phillip Petachenko, a chiropractor in the Drake clinic.

He avoids wearing a doctor's starched white jacket; opting for stylish leisure clothes.

"It's a more informal approach. This office radiates life and health. That's why we have the things in the office that we do," he said referring to the collection of plants, fish and birds that decorate the area.

EACH EXAMINING room has its own tankful of fish, so the patient can watch the pets enjoy their swim.

"It's better than having them in here biting their nails," said Petachenko.

One room even features a tank of pyrrhanna fish.

The atmosphere helps Petachenko establish a positive relationship with his patients.

"The relation you have with a patient goes beyond what you do physically. It's a one-to-one thing. It's not being on a pedestal looking down on them. You can't be a cold doctor and get the best results," he said.

"Patients are more knowledgeable today. They're not blindly following whatever you say. They think on their own," he said.

Another trend in medicine is the collaboration between doctors, according to the physicians. They refer patients to each other and to colleagues outside of the building.

"You do what's best for the patient," said Petachenko.

Any disputes between the professions are left to the hierarchy and are overlooked in everyday practice, according to Herold.

"There's more of a blending of the professions. Where at one time there was a warring between fields, now there is peaceful co-existence and détente. We respect each other's ways of doing things," he said.



Fathers are joining in on families' life

Running to keep up with inflation, the cost of camp for the kids and bucking for the next promotion has provided many American families with absentee fathers and husbands.

Some families have become absentee households as peer pressure aimed at getting and keeping a job reaches to the mother and the children.

For Marilyn Van Wingerden, of Family Life Today Inc. (formerly Mothers on the Move) that trend is helping families disintegrate and leaving children to search for their own directions.



MARILYN VAN WINGERDEN

Part of her reaction to this trend is to open up her Farmington-based Mothers on the Move group to fathers.

"We've been telling women what to do for so long, to make it better for themselves. Now, we have the opportunity to talk to men and help them understand things we've taught the women," explained Mrs. Van Wingerden, the group's president and founder.

"IF YOU DON'T learn together, you don't grow together," she added.

Part of the impetus for opening the group to husbands stems from a seminar earlier this year at Mercy Center. Called Men's Night, it drew 650 husbands who wanted to hear what their wives were learning through Mothers on the Move.

What they heard was the MOM's philosophy that a man's life is centered around the work area while a woman's focal point is her family and her home. Both spouses have responsi-

bility for raising their children, giving them a sense of security and direction. Home comes first in Family Life Today, Inc. Work is kept in perspective.

"Man has lost his honor. Most of the emphasis for him is on the outside of the home. This needs to be restored. Woman has lost her sense of dignity in being a woman," said Mrs. Van Wingerden.

As men applied more emphasis to activities outside of the home, women and children began to lose interest in family life, too, according to Mrs. Van Wingerden. Thinking that life on the outside is more fulfilling than being a homemaker, women find careers outside of the family.

Once a working mother herself, Mrs. Van Wingerden sees an absent mother as a detriment to her children's development.

"I DON'T believe that most mothers do it (work outside of the home) because they have to. The family's expectation is too high," she said.

"My husband lives to the dollar. I don't make a dime from MOM's," she said.

"You can't take the sun out of the sky without something cataclysmic happening," she says of the consequences of a mother entering the job market.

Part of her opposition to absent mothers comes from her own painful experiences with her children.

"I'm reaping today the consequences," she said. "It's been a hard task to restore my children to wholesome adults."

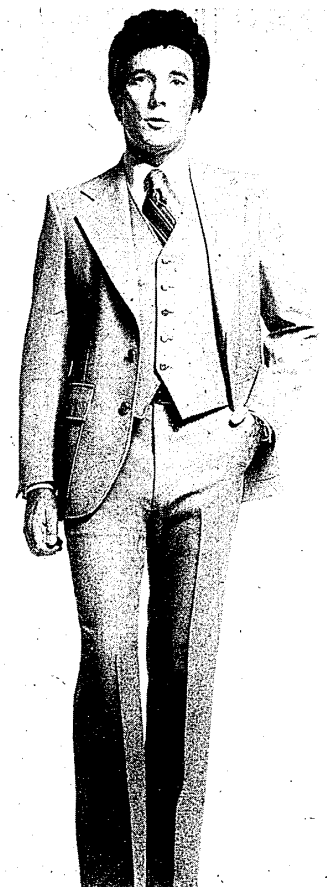
Of her eight children, a son is in the Michigan Training Unit, serving part of a prison term. She describes some of her offspring as troubled because a divorce from her first husband forced her to work.

"I had no choice. I had to work. The kids not only lost a dad but they also felt they lost a mother's love. I believe in meeting them at the door with cookies and milk. My mother worked but she worked around my hours and she met me," she said.

HER OWN CHILDREN sometimes felt that the job took priority over them.

Fathers' presence in the home is just as important as the mothers'. Together, parents establish family traditions, customs and a sense of stability. Fathers have an edge when it

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