

Male lib movement starts to surface

By HOLLY D. REMY

"Women," she said, "are traditionally seen as weak, dependent, passive, not worldly, not ambitious, illogical, but also tactful, gentle, understanding, neat, and able to express tender feelings easily."

Ms. O'Leary and a student, James Donoghue, took these attitudes into account when they designed their tests.

THE FIRST TEST was given to 70 male and 70 female psychology students, Ms. O'Leary said. Half the students were from Oakland University, and half were from Macomb County Community College.

The students were told they were participating in a study to assess the accuracy of first impressions from resumes and other data.

Each student was given a biographical sketch with false trait ratings of one of two men, each representing a traditional type, Ms. O'Leary said.

The first man saw himself as having stereotypically masculine traits—

dominant, competitive—and was interested in a business career. The other man endorsed stereotypically feminine traits—warmth, understanding—and said he would like to be a kindergarten teacher.

Ms. O'Leary and Donoghue found that students thought the traditional male was more masculine.

Students rated the nontraditional male, however, as being more socially attractive in a leadership role and as being a preferable work partner.

Female students perceived themselves as similar to the nontraditional male, but male students did not favor either man.

"THE OUTCOME of the study surprised me," Ms. O'Leary said.

"I thought masculine traits would be more valued. I expected higher devaluation of nontraditional men."

The same results were obtained from a similar study done in an urban, lower-class high school.

"This means that the favorable attitude toward nontraditional males does not depend on socio-economic class," Ms. O'Leary said.

To further explore the popularity of nonstereotyped males, Ms. O'Leary and Donoghue conducted another test. They divided male and female college students, along with a male leader, into three-person groups.

The groups were told the story of an eight-year-old boy who was hit and called a sissy by a classmate on the way home from school, Ms. O'Leary said. They were asked to decide what to do about the situation.

THE GROUP leaders had been told earlier to advocate either traditional fighting back or nontraditional having the boy picked up after school.

The groups discussed the problem for 10 minutes. The participants then rated each other in several areas.

According to Ms. O'Leary, female participants rated male group lead-

ers, whether traditional or not, as more likable, more sympathetic and less likely to be excluded from the group than male participants.

Neither traditional nor non-traditional group leaders were favored by participants.

"These results mean that attitudes toward masculinity may be changing," Ms. O'Leary said.

"But we cannot assume they are going to be different in the future."

"This is because there were very few studies done on attitudes toward masculinity and femininity in the '50s and '60s to compare our work to."

Ms. O'Leary said, though, that research done in the past six years tends to support the idea of change.

"A recent study showed that men are no longer devalued for crying. Men are finding that they can deviate from the traditional stereotype without other men saying anything

about it."

Ms. O'Leary said her results might be attributed to the age of the people studied.

"Young people, especially college students, tend to be more aware of social changes than older people," she said.

"THE ATTITUDES might be limited to college students. I'm not sure people of my father's generation would respond in the same way."

Although the changing attitudes may be limited to the younger generation, Ms. O'Leary believes men will have an easier time freeing themselves from sexual stereotypes than women have had.

"Men still have the power in our society," she said, "so they have more latitude to change roles."

"Women aren't in power, so they have to tow the line."



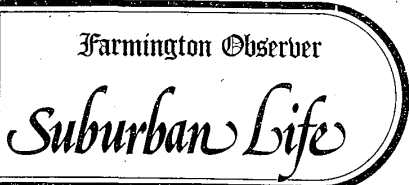
Frank Bartl, a semi-retired artist and a member of the Farmington Art Foundation, is a steady supporter of the seniors' art classes, sharing his expertise in the once-a-week sessions. Here, he helps Agnes Ganssley with a lesson in oils.



Alice Nichols (at left) is art teacher, supporter, and enthusiast of the program which brings a creative interest into the lives of many seniors. Her student is Ann Bukowski.



Monday, January 24, 1977



(F11B)

Seniors art, craft classes go 'by guess and by gosh'

By LORAIN McCLISH
A check for \$600 arrived from the Michigan Council for the Arts this week to keep the painting and crafts classes for area seniors "from falling completely off the track."

That's the word from Alice Nichols, executor of the grant given to seniors who meet in The Gathering Place, and administrator of the program in behalf of the Farmington Art Foundation.

All of the activities now in The Gathering Place housed in the American Legion Hall, at 3175 Grand River, combine to make the first break-away for seniors out of the bingo and card playing syndrome.

Since its inception the program has been run "by guess and by gosh," Mrs. Nichols said. It has never received any monies from any city department, though some administrative help has come from the Farmington Area Recreation Commission. Mrs. Nichols gives her time for painting classes, and Yvonne Singer has volunteered her services for three years to head up the craft classes.

For a long while, money for supplies came out of the coffee fund. Meanwhile, Mrs. Nicholas and Ms. Singer spent time chasing down discounts or close-out sales.

ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY with the grant money, the classes got two heavy assists. Gordon Conley, owner of Joe's Hobby Shop, offered a discount on materials, and the Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary said they would pick up some of those bills.

All the classes will go back into full swing now," Mrs. Nicholas said, "but it is difficult running on this day-to-day basis, wondering where the next hand-out is coming from."

Seniors who attend the classes are asked to pay \$1 a week. What they get in return is all the supplies they need plus professional instruction.

Very often, other professionals come to The Gathering Place at the invitation of Mrs. Nichols. To give a critique, or a demonstration. Sometimes film strips are arranged to be shown for instruction.

"Our aim is to do everything we can to expand the program and give these seniors more art-related experiences to stretch their idle hours," Mrs. Nichols said.

PAINTING CLASSES are held on Wednesdays, from 1 to 3 p.m. Craft sessions are held on Thursdays, at the same time, though the involvement carries over from the classes into their homes.

"All the classes will go back into full swing now, but it is difficult running on this day-to-day basis, wondering where the next hand-out is coming from."

—Alice Nichols, Farmington Art Foundation

"I don't think any of them paint just one day a week. I think we have involved some seniors in a renewal of earlier life activities, and for others kindled new sparks of interest in otherwise empty lives," she said.

Anywhere from 80 to 100 people drop in to spend some time in the Gathering Place every day and although they are not all painting or learning new crafts, "they all have years and years of active involvement left in their lives," Mrs. Nichols said.

"With just a little more help we can expand both the depth of the program as well as the number of people involved."

The Gathering Place is open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every weekday where it is "open house all the time." Hot lunches are served every weekday at noon. Cards and games are always available for leisure time recreation. But Loretta Conway, senior adult

coordinator for the seniors, keeps a full agenda of activities going throughout the weekdays and very often schedules some kind of an outing for weekends.

Social workers, health nurses and librarians are visitors who come on a scheduled basis. Exercise classes, ethnic dance classes and bingo games are standard weekly events.

For the next few months the agenda will include income tax assistance from members of Farmington Hills' chapter of American Association of Retired Persons.

Mrs. Conway has made sure all of the seniors who come to the Gathering Place are well acquainted with the senior discount program now in operation within the county.

The next special event is a roast beef Sunday dinner, set for Jan. 30. Ms. Singer said she is planning "antique look" sessions for the next month of craft activities.



Jean Rothenberg completes a landscape painting in oils in a session which provides professional instruction in what is a new activity for some, and a rekindling activity for others in the Gathering Place. (Staff photos by Harry Maethe)