

Merrill-Palmer head speaking on Monday

Dr. Francis H. Palmer, President of the Merrill-Palmer Institute of Detroit will be the guest speaker at the 33rd annual dinner meeting of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit on Monday, June 25 at 5:30 p.m. at 111 E. Kirby in Detroit.

The meeting, which will be held in the Hall of Nations of the Institute, will also feature a presentation by Folk Theatre Vales Stajewski of Romania, a participating group of the Olympiad '79, an international theater festival which will be part of this year's Detroit-Windsor International Freedom Festival. The International Institute is co-sponsoring this year's Freedom Festival.

The theme of the annual meeting will be "The Child — The Heart of the Matter" in conjunction with the International Year of the Child. Dr. Palmer

will address his remarks to this theme. Dr. Palmer came to Merrill-Palmer Institute last year from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He most recently served on the President's Commission on Mental Health and has published extensively in the field of child development.

Chairwoman of this year's annual meeting is Mrs. Renee Van Dewater of Detroit. Committee members are Jutta Letts of Birmingham, Barbara Bilge of St. Clair Shores, Helen Suchara of Livonia, and John Eulich of Grosse Pointe. Frank Angelo of Birmingham, associate executive editor of the Detroit Free Press, will be honored as incoming president.

Dinner reservations are \$9.50 per person. Call the institute at 871-8800 to make reservations.

St. Mary's names academic dean

John A. Gutowski will become academic dean of St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake on July 1.

A resident of Detroit, Gutowski holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University and a doctorate from Indiana University.

He has taught English, folklore, and ethnicity at Northern Michigan, Indiana University at Fort Wayne and

Columbus, and at Wayne State University. He has published in several scholarly journals.

A lecturer on folklore and culture, he has chaired sections of several conferences on folklore and was president of the Michigan Folklore Society.

The appointment was announced by the Rev. Leonard Chrobot, college president.

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

CLINIC AIDE — Volunteers with a love for children are needed at the Well Child Conference in Wixom. Aides greet and register children, weigh, measure, and take temperatures, and

supervise the play area. The clinic is held on the first Thursday afternoon and the third Thursday morning each month. It is sponsored by the Oakland County Health Department.

PUBLIC RELATIONS — A retired person with experience in public relations is needed by the Mongoloid Achievements Foundation in Troy. The purpose of this job is to promote and explain the organization to area residents. Hours are flexible.

BEAUTY OPERATOR — An urgent need has arisen for a licensed beautician who could spend some time at the Oakland County Medical Care Facility in

Moral perspectives

Use care in choices of words

Words seem cheap as we throw them around like a millionaire tossing pennies. But what we say is not as flippant as "Easy come, easy go."

Some words are like coins tossed in a fountain, disturbing the water. Some are like coins gleaming on the bottom and catching a passing eye. Some are precious like sparkling jewels. Some are sorely needed like hard-earned wages. Some cause yearning like buying a lottery ticket.

No, words are not cheap. They convey the treasured inner person of the speaker. They strike a listener and cause reaction.

Most days, it seems, we Americans treat each other with dignity, and I have not wanted to write about degrading slurs and labels in conversation. But friends press me with their pain and plead for a voice extolling simple righteousness.

People who claim not to be prejudiced continue to describe a person as having "an all-American" look. They unwittingly identify their own appearance as normal and proper.

"Some of my best friends are..." is a red flag usually followed by comments no decent person would make if those "friends" were present. There are ways for us to cultivate more sensitivity to the feelings of others.

REV. CHARLES ERICKSON



THINK OF the group label for yourself which defines a minority: it might be ethnic, work, place of residence, income, gender, body size, or even a hobby. There is a label usable for a slurring remark to fit any of us.

Sensitivity increases if we think of an enjoyable privilege and consider being excluded from it by a change in circumstances.

Another way would be to see a characteristic worthy of envy in someone else and gain sensitivity to the values often overlooked in a group.

Most importantly, we need to see people in all their fantastic variety and beauty. Labels dim our view. Categories help in analytical study, but they limit us in the mysteries of interaction. Words which lump people together almost always hurt some listener.

Now, turn attention to what words do to the speaker. It is in my self-interest

to know what I say has a powerful influence on me, regardless of who hears.

WORDS ARE symbols: They motivate and guide and aid in decision-making. Self-image is created by our attitude toward coins, cars, laws, clothing, and many objects of devotion. Words are part of the long list of symbols we handle in expressing who we really are.

A passing fancy becomes important as I express admiration. A fleeting fear becomes revulsion when I name what scares me. Words reinforce feelings and give them symbolic reality. Verbalizing a feeling strengthens what had been a mere passing thought.

The charade of sounding superior costs me something. I treat the person I have labeled differently, and it changed me. I become shy, embarrassed, or withdrawn. I am no longer free to be spontaneous.

When I cheapen another, I limit the number of people I can relate to. I am robbed by my own tongue and imprison myself. I fear what is not fearful and shrink my strength to face life boldly.

Then my spoken superiority has to be defended. Being "on top" is a burden with a constant fight to stay there. Every new experience or face is a threat to my security. I stop doing natural things to avoid seeming like the group I have degraded.

Language is the currency of human communication. We both expose inner feelings and create feelings in others by what we say. Morality is seeking nobility and dignity in both words and deed.

Let us see the humor in having so many words of logic about a problem which is really emotional. Logic does no good unless we relate it to feelings. We need to become sensitive to what our "put-downs" do to us and to others.

FISH needs help

FISH, a private group which provides emergency help to persons, needs more volunteers.

A group spokesman, Marie Kopka, said that

specific persons needed are those who are high school age or older and can provide services like od, from midnight to transportation, baby-sitting or meal preparation.

On a day-to-day basis, FISH has a volunteer assigned for a 24-hour period, from midnight to midnight, who serves mainly as a dispatcher.

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New Director of Wiggs Studio of Interior Design



Phyllis Brunke

photo by Lisa Reed

We're very pleased to announce the appointment of Phyllis Brunke to Director of the Design Studio at Wiggs. Mrs. Brunke has an extensive background in commercial and residential interior design...over 30 years in the Detroit and suburban area. She has headed Careers Day Seminars in Birmingham area schools, lectured on Interior Design through the World's Speakers Bureau, and was formerly with the Interior Design and Contract Dept. of the J. L. Hudson Co.

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