Diles credits father for success

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Nineteen years ago you couldn't have gotten Dave Diles to do anything for the community.

On Tuesday the ABC sportscaster stopped off at the annual Farmington Area Jaycee Prayer Breakfast and admitted just that to a gathering of civic and business leaders.

But two decades of personal ups and downs has taught him there's more to life than self-indulgence.

Back from a week of Super Bowl-commitments in New Orleans, Diles shared some thoughts about his change of lifestyle.

"Dan Pastorini is the personification of the word wasteful," said Diles, referring to the Oakland Raider quarterback who lost his starting job earlier this year through injury.

"There is no evidence that he cares for anyone but Dan Pastorini. He has elected to live for himself.

"I did that."

But divorce proceedings, helping a child who at one time was crippled and his father's death forced Diles to take another look at life.

"I CAN'T BE an extension of his life. But when you had L.B. Diles as a father, it is an almost impossible quest. It's not in me to be as good as my father," he explained.

Diles discounts wealth as the only measure of success, noting that his father never made more than $7,000 a year, raised five children, three of whom went to college.

"When I was 19, I knew it all," said Diles, who had graduated from college by that time. But his father helped to bring him down to size after one incident which Diles' mother called "licentious."

His father wrote him a letter, which read in part:

"If you were as low physically as you appear morally, a snake's hind end would look like heaven."

But his father's death was a turning point.

"I was privileged to see him die," said Diles.

While Diles was making big plans for his father, who had just suffered a heart attack, the elder Diles stopped him in his tracks.

"Boy, I don't think you understand me at all. I would really like to go to heaven and be with your mother."

A professed Christian, Diles admits life can be difficult.

"I don't have it all worked out. I have to work on it," he told the group gathered at Mercy Center.

Referring again to Pastorini, Diles says he personifies what is wrong today, not only in sports, but in American society in general.

"I see Dan Pastorini as the modern athlete who only cares about himself," said Diles, who believes many professional athletes are interested only in making more and more money.

"What has happened to sports?" asked Diles. The Super Bowl, he added, typifies what's wrong.

"You have 75,000 fans in various states of sobriety, and 1,300 media people. It has become like a war. You can't possibly cover it," he said.

"There is nothing artistic or creative. The game has become secondary to the presentation."

Some people's lifes have taken on the same meaning, he said. "They let things take priority over that which is important."

DAVE DILES

Solar advocates plan workshop

The Wayne State University and Detroit Safe Energy Coalitions jointly will sponsor a workshop on "Photovoltaic Cells/Solar Electricity." The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, at the Student Center Building, room 289, Wayne State University in Detroit.

Contact person is Jennifer Puntenney of Southfield who can be reached at 356-4402. For information call the Safe Energy Coalition at 531-8943 or 577-3480.

Dr. Richard Komp will be featured. He has taught physics and astronomy at Western Kentucky University, has built a passive solar heated house (1970) and has eight patents registered. Komp has researched solar energy and photovoltaic cells for many years.

Purpose of the workshop is for Komp to explain photovoltaic cells and how to make them. Participants will build photovoltaic cell arrays used to supply electric power.

Komp believes that any reasonably competent hobbyist can build cheap solar cells systems.

Fee for the workshop is $35 to cover the cost of materials. A free potluck lunch and drinks will be provided on Saturday and coffee, tea and refreshments on Sunday.

The workshop is limited to the first 30 registrants.

Widow becomes lawyer

(Continued from Page 1A)

IF SHE NEEDS any advice, there are quite a few names in her Rolodex to call. She can call her ? daughter, Patricia, long-distance to get legal assistance or talk to her son-in-law, Douglas, who is also an attorney.

Or, she can call her brother-in-law, Thomas E. Brennan, former chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and currently the president and founder of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

Still, without being maudlin, Mrs. Brennan wishes her husband were around to share her experiences.

"There are times when you don't have anybody to bounce off of," she said.

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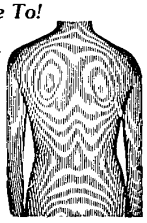

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