

Suburban Life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450



Thursday, December 24, 1987 O&F

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Our wish is for you to bring us good news throughout the new year

Greetings from Roy Meadows (standing at left), classified sales representative; Randall Budden, area circulation manager; Bob Sklar, editor; Rose Butler, receptionist; Casey Hana, reporter; Loraine McClish, Suburban Life editor; Joanne Maliszewski, reporter. Seated are Randy Borst, photographer, and Jan Offenborn, retail sales representative. Sportswriter Dan O'Meara is not pictured.

Workplace 2000

Year-long study helps club ready for future

By Rebecca Haynes
staff writer

In just over 12 years, the year 2000 will no longer be science fiction — it'll be fact.

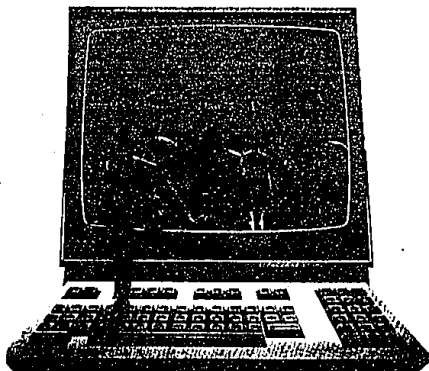
What can we expect and how can we prepare for the expected are questions the Detroit Business Women's Club wants answers to. They hope to find some of these answers through a study they recently began, "The Future of the Workplace."

"We want to try to find out how the different changes that will evolve between now and then will affect our personal and professional lives," said Carol Payne. She's chairman of "The Future of the Workplace" program sponsored by the Michigan Federation of Business and Professional Women, of which the Detroit Club is a chapter.

This local chapter has taken the theme to heart, and after inviting nationally known futurist Edward D. Barlow Jr. to speak at a recent meeting, they plan to launch their own year-long study, making recommendations on how to best prepare for the future.

"I THINK most of our members, and society in general, are not aware of how rapidly the workplace is changing and the types of jobs that will be available 10 or 20 years from now," Payne said. "It's our attitude that we're all in this together. One of our roles as women can be to educate all of the people, not just our members, on what will happen and how we can prepare ourselves."

Birmingham's Christine Ramsbaw is president of the Detroit Business Women's Club. She said the group



The Detroit Business Women's Club has launched a yearlong study of what the workplace in the year 2000 will be like. Many of the jobs that today's teens will hold have yet to be created, says futurist Edward D. Barlow Jr.

plans to hold panel discussions and conduct research before making recommendations to help people prepare for life in the workplace in the year 2000.

"In the past, we've focused on issues like equal pay, abortion and insurance," she said. "We thought this study would bring continuity to our organization and be something we can leave our children."

In his seminar before the group, Barlow spoke of a workplace altered by changing societal values and needs.

"WE NEED to prepare for a world that will be very different than the one we were led to believe would occur," he said. "Each of us has choices relative to the future. We can either avoid it and pretend it doesn't exist, or resist it and let someone else design the world we'll live in, or we can participate, take a look early enough so we can prepare to meet the challenges ahead."

Picking up the signals of change is an important trait people who want to participate in the future should learn, he said. Many of these changes are already under way, such as the move from industrial jobs to those in the service areas and computerization of home and the workplace. Skills in these areas will help people compete in the future job market.

Understanding the change in personal values will help people work better with their colleagues.

"Today people who are 45 and over are society's traditionalists," Barlow said. "They believe everyone should conform to certain standards and ethics and everyone reports to someone above them."

"They're money-oriented because they didn't have any when they were growing up and they try to protect their traditional beliefs."

CHALLENGERS ARE those in the 25-35 age category. These baby boomers have the attitude that if it feels good, do it, he said.

"They challenge tradition and are always asking why when given an order," he said. "They want input into their lives and they're into personal issues and causes."

People between the ages of 35 and 45 are torn between these two values. One minute they may respect

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'We need to prepare for a world that will be very different than the one we were led to believe would occur.'

—Edward D. Barlow Jr.

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