

Adopt-a-pet



Charlie: Charlie is a 2-1/2-year-old male Spaniel/Lab mix. His previous owners surrendered him to the shelter because they simply didn't want him any more. Charlie is a little sad and lonely. He is very mellow and good on a leash. Charlie would make a great companion for children or seniors. Charlie (No. 80) and other pets are available at the Michigan Humane Society Westland shelter. Call (313) 721-7300.

Rose society meets Friday

The next meeting of the Metropolitan Rose Society will take place 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, 3500 Marais, east of Crooks and south of 13 Mile.

Speaker for the evening will be "The Buckeye Rosarian," George Hartley, who will talk about the new roses for 1996. The public may attend.

Book sale set

The Friends of the Huntington Woods Library will have a used book sale 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the library, 26415 Scottia, south of 11 Mile and west of Woodward.

All proceeds benefit the library. First 20 paperbacks for \$1, then six for \$1; hardcovers three for \$1.25. Call (810) 543-8720.

Littmann from page 11D

University of Michigan in her freshman year and floated in and then out of a six-month marriage. She tried her capable hand at everything, from organizing the first Channel 56 auction to becoming the first woman appointed as presidential advance man for the White House.

Yet no matter what she did — producing the Bob Hynes TV morning show on Detroit's Channel 7 or tap dancing for leisure — or where she lived — in Washington, D.C., or Paris, France — Mary Fisher longed for what no occupation or geography could provide: a sense of self, a personal identity.

The irony of Fisher's life is that just when her quest for normalcy and identity culminated in marriage, two children and a renewed dedication to her art work, she discovered that her greatest trial was yet to come: AIDS.

Fisher had already kindled her religious faith when treated for alcoholism at the Betty Ford Center. Next she learned that faith must be accompanied by purposeful action.

Anything but ordinary

Today, Mary Fisher's mission is to educate the public about AIDS. In her book and in speeches throughout the country, she portrays herself as "ordinary," just an average mom who contracted the dreaded disease through a loving marital relationship. The obvious conclusion must be that if "she" got the AIDS virus, then anyone can.

Yet three-quarters into her memoir,

we regard Mary Fisher as anything but "ordinary." Neither the privileged life of Max Fisher's daughter and friend of Gerald and Betty Ford nor her marriage to a former drug abuser can be categorized as unexceptional. Assuming the identity of "just plain mom" doesn't accurately reflect her varied background or the lives of truly ordinary people who have never shared such experiences.

Readers are likely to find the author's failure to discuss the subject of prevention equally disconcerting. Since no cure for AIDS is currently available, the only way to prevent this fatal disease is through precautionary measures in the public arena and in one's private life. Compassion for the ill, certainly! Stepped-up research for a cure, of course! But what about the safety for the unaffected, common sense advice for the preservation of health?

"My Name Is Mary" is written from the heart by a giving and forgiving individual. It will touch every reader with its frankness and courage. Its strength, however, lies not only in its emotional appeal but in its ability to provoke, thought as well.

Esther Littmann, a resident of Bloomfield Township, is a lecturer of English and German at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. As an only child, Littmann grew up regarding books as substitutes for siblings. You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1893. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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