

Former pilot

Chiropractor is a converted skeptic

By SUSAN AVERILL
When discussion turned to chiropractic, Dr. Gerald Polino was always strongly skeptical. Now he is a Farmington Hills chiropractor who hasn't had as much as an aspirin in six years.

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Polino recently moved to Farmington Hills from his hometown, Royal Oak, with his wife, Gail, and their two-and-a-half year old daughter.
He had to see it to believe it, and the chance came when his wife suffered serious back injuries from a rear end collision several years ago. She decided to go to a chiropractor, although Polino was dubious.
The results convinced Polino to resign his position as a U.S. Air Force pilot and become a chiropractor.
"I WAS SKEPTICAL initially when we began her care. I was looking at it distastefully. But when I saw what it did for her, I thought I'd give it a whirl."
The results amazed him.
"I noticed a vitality, energy and resistance to colds, all of which I'd never had before. When I was a child, I had chronic bronchitis. I haven't really had a full-blown case of it since."
His young daughter has also had chiropractic treatments and has never had any childhood diseases, he said.
"I can't attest all that to chiropractics, but I can attest it to the body," he said. But the purpose of chiropractics is to keep the body functioning optimally.
"It's more of a preventative thing than anything else."
"Pain is usually the latest thing to show up when something goes wrong. Just like a toothache. If the cavity could have been gotten to in the beginning, the tooth could have been saved," he explained.
Polino insists that chiropractics is in line with movements toward natural food and life styles.

Farmington Hills doctor finds career satisfying

New Farmington Hills resident Dr. Gerald Polino tried several careers before settling on his current chiropractic vocation.
After gaining his undergraduate degree, he worked at Chevrolet Gear and Axle for two years as an engineer. But he worked without satisfaction, and finally decided to try military service.
He joined the Air Force, became a pilot and was sent to Vietnam. He was a pilot for the United States for five years, and met his wife, Gail, while visiting Australia.
A New Zealander, she was in that country on the first leg of a working trip around the world. The trip was curtailed and they were married nearly six years ago.
POLINO STAYED in the Air Force for awhile, but began to seriously consider finding something else.
"I didn't like being an engineer. I liked being a pilot, but I didn't like the regimentation."
The catalyst for his interest in chiropractics was a car accident which left his wife with serious neck and back injuries. Despite her husband's cynicism regarding "bone crackers," Mrs. Polino decided to go to a chiropractor for relief.
After her treatments, she began working for him. "We became close friends," Polino said.
The effects of the treatments upon his wife were so dramatic and evident, that he became interested in the process.
He attended Palmer College in Iowa, an institution devoted to chiropractic. Although normally a chiropractor must study for six years, Polino said he completed the degree in four, explaining that his engineering degree satisfied the other requirements.
Speaking of his job, Polino said, "It's beautiful. It's one of the most rewarding things a person can do. You relieve a lot of pain and suffering. There's really not any way you can put a price tag on it."
Chiropractic, he said, is a homeostatic theory based on the idea that disease is caused by malfunction of the neural system and can be cured by proper alignment of the spine and other bones.
POLINO SAID he likes living in the Farmington area.
"We really love Farmington," The couple didn't intend to stay in the area after Polino finished his training.
"I thought we might go to New Zealand or California. Then I became acquainted with Dr. Petachenko." Philip Petachenko convinced him to enter the air his already-established Farmington practice.
Polino has worked with Petachenko for two weeks, "learning office procedure and getting to know the patients."

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