

# You must find own solution to survive

By Mary Watts  
To introduce the first of the five lecture series on "Family Life and Survival in the 70's", Dr. Bunny Lacombe, York Central Hospital psychologist, referred to various phases of society over the last three decades, at Hillcrest Mall auditorium.

He stated we have reached a compromise between the "give away" society of the 50s and the "take away" of the 60s, as we can now have respect for one another, no matter what.

He then presented Mary Sue McCarthy, accomplished lecturer in family education at York University, a former consultant on family life and sex education in our local schools and staff member of Richmond Hill and Thornhill Family Services, sponsor of the series.

All this, combined with her earlier background as commentator and hostess on CBC radio and television, has endowed her with a remarkable personality and a readiness to communicate fully with her audience.

In the 50s, mankind put us in a double-bind of choosing between what we knew was right for us and what others might think and say. We always had to contend with being cast into molds and being subjected to much pressuring.

It was considered the father's role to earn money, play with the kids and go out on a night with the boys.

The motherhood cult reached its peak in the 60s, followed by a complete breakdown of rigidity, when young adolescents grew long hair, saying things didn't have to be the way they used to be — unisex was in and clothes styles for both sexes changed radically.

Young marrieds in the 70s seek role reversals, taking turns in working or going to school and minding the home and the new baby. Values sometimes conflict because the female is more dirt conscious than the male.

However, they are answerable only to themselves, not to parents or society and are happy just getting by the best way they can.

Up to three months of age a baby usually has a strong emotional attachment to a person — the one who feeds and fondles him. He then identifies with one person in particular, be it male or female, on which he models his life.

Upon leaving mother's lap, he likes to strike out and try to fend for himself: yet has the need for the snug harbor to which he can return.

It is now, Mary Lou

recommends to the mother who feels boxed in with no variety to her daily schedule, that she place her we one in a day care centre, trade with another family or obtain a sitter, even if only to acquire a part time or a volunteer job.

What is your work life like? What do you do when you get out there?

The film "Henry" clearly indicated a dreary job can bore a man to the point of giving him "day dreams" with the result that he becomes half a man both at work and at home.

Father neglect  
On the other hand, when career self-fulfillment causes a father to neglect his young son he may then feel completely alienated when he seeks his son's companionship in later years.

Mary Sue makes it clear the reason she pursues a career of lecturing is because she enjoys it and feels she does a better job of

talking to people than wielding a duster. She advises us to use creative talents and try to pursue in our work, to enhance our value in the family circle.

She referred to the earlier hangups she had about disregarding advice of mother and well-meaning friends in becoming a working mother of seven children. But she admits now it can work if as working mothers we seek a stimulating job, recognize our own energy levels, relinquish our power and authority in the kitchen to pull together as a family team.

Never too late  
She then talked of adjustments to be made when husbands weren't attuned to housework or baby sitting and in response to a remark from a member of the audience that in her case she had gone out to work too late, because her family of teenagers were too dependent on her.

The lecturer said it was never too late to become

involved. "Just give them the chance, and don't expect too much!"

Mary Sue McCarthy's own daughter gave the final comment from the audience when she expressed on behalf of the family the desire to see her parents "at work". Hearing all about it doesn't give children the complete picture of what their parents are actually doing. This might indicate there should be more "open houses".

Matter of priorities  
The lecturer concluded by saying we all have individual habits, the husband who can never be a good housekeeper, untidy offspring, the perfectionists who need to adapt — it's a matter of rearranging our priorities.

An extremely efficient housekeeper is usually content to remain at home to rule the roost, however, she must also learn to cope with her limitations to allow for her family's emotional demands, when they come sailing into harbor to share experiences.

The Future is Now...  
Be a Big Brother.



## Hillcrest berm to protect residents

A berm to protect neighbors across the road from lights from cars using the parking lot in front of St. Charles Garnier School, Hillcrest Village, was approved by York Region Roman

Catholic School Board at its Nov. 4 meeting. Trustee Malcolm Peake said Richmond Hill council is building a berm on their section of the parking lot and is prepared to extend it across the school parking lot at no cost to the board.

## Deaf Thornhill boy is helped

The educational problem of a seven-year-old Thornhill boy, who is deaf, has been solved, Superintendent George Matyas told trustees of the York Region Roman Catholic School Board at their meeting Nov. 4. The youngster is now being taxed to the Milton School for the Deaf daily in a cab already in service to take a ward of the Children's Aid Society from Metro to the school. Cost to the York Region board is \$17 daily, which is covered by a ministry of education grant, leaving only a small portion to be paid from the mill rate.

He said it would be only two to three feet high so that the headlights would not shine into the windows of the homes across the road.

He also noted the board is building two berms to the south of the parking lot for the same reason. Director of Education John Zupancic said the date for pupils and staff to move into the new school has not been set, but will be towards the end of November.

He also said a junior kindergarten class at St. Charles Garnier will be started in January and the necessary teacher has been hired.

Work patterns changed  
In the 1800's and early 1900's women were passive and self-centred. Like children they wished to be protected and nurtured. They secretly scorned the male, but organically turned inward toward the home which was centred around the hearth.



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