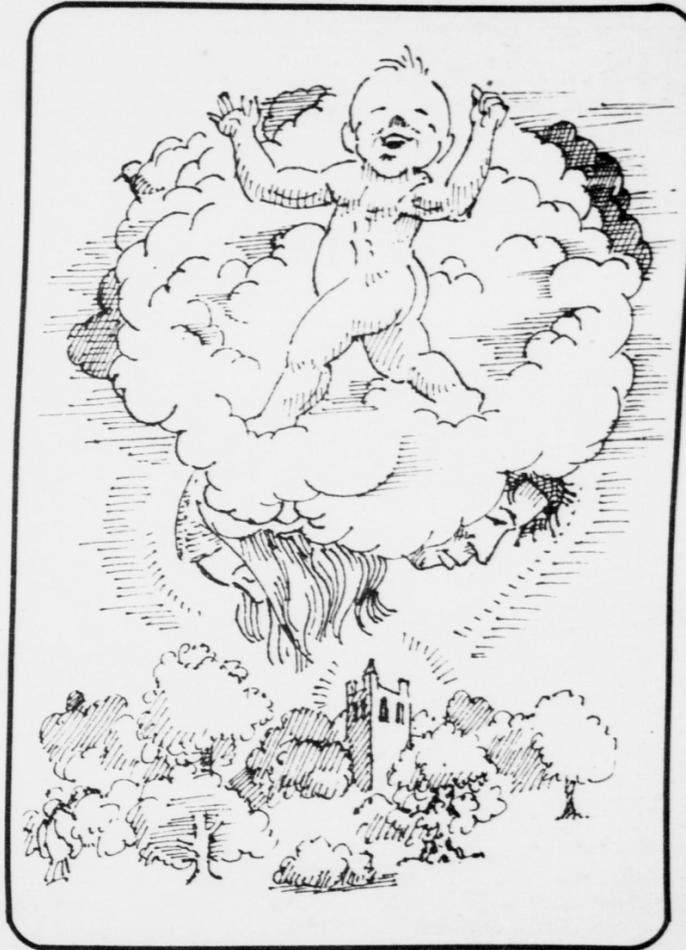


## Family isolation, crowded living conditions lead to child abuse in married housing

by  
Carol  
Thomas



A child is dead — “he fell down the stairs,” his parents, both students, weep. But trained emergency doctors offer jail instead of sympathy. They discovered the toddler was beaten to death with a coffee-table leg.

Gruesome murders, beatings and burnings are associated with “child abuse.” Grim-faced policemen unmercifully haul the child-killers off to prison.

But not all child abuse involves blood or death, authorities say.

MSU’s married student housing community is occasionally rocked with a dramatic child-murder, but very little of the child abuse among student families is physical, according to Michigan

Social Services workers.

“Students are much too civilized for that physical stuff,” explained one investigator. “But what some of those brilliant sadists have done to their children’s minds ought to be punished by 20 years in prison.”

MSU police say they investigate very few reports of actual physical abuse, but are besieged by telephone calls from neighbors that another family “just left” their small children alone.

“Perhaps it’s better that the parents leave their babies home alone instead of staying there and beating them?” questioned pediatrician Dr. Ray Helfer.

“If the pressure builds up to a point where the parents can’t take it any longer,” Helfer said,

“and they can’t afford a babysitter, some of them say it’s all they can do.”

Married housing’s peculiar living situation brings pressures on student marriages and is also the cause of a lot of child abuse, according to Helfer.

“You find the same situations — and the same abuse — in Army bases and ghettos, anywhere where people are forced to live in close quarters with a lot of pressure,” said Helfer, who is a professor of Community Medicine in the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Helfer has done extensive work in the field of child abuse.

“It’s not a kind comparison, is it?” Helfer laughed.

Aside from obviously crowded living conditions, Helfer says the isolation of individual families in their apartments often leads to child abuse.

Putting a community center into married housing areas might help alleviate a lot of the tension, Helfer suggested.

“In the summer they can go outside, but in the winter the only place to go is the laundromat,” he added.

But with these pressures is the “spare the rod, spoil the child” philosophy that has been the prevalent theory of child-rearing for many generations in America, Helfer said.

“When a parent is upset, one slap can lead to another, until the child is seriously injured,” he explained. “If the parents did not habitually use physical punishment, the line between physical and nonphysical actions would be greater and it would be easier to stop.”

“It takes a very stable couple with a lot going for them to make a go of it in married housing, especially with children,” Helfer

concluded. “And if there’s a foul-up somewhere in the personal and family relationships, it’s the kids that suffer.”

But the children still have to be protected from their parents sometimes and the Michigan Dept. of Social Services’ Youth Protection Division steps into the gap, using its investigative and counseling personnel to try to help the parent-child crisis.

“Our department tries to de-emphasize the criminal side of child abuse,” Henry Hofstra from the Youth Protection Division said.

Instead of prosecuting abusive parents except in the most serious situations, Hofstra says his staff tries to help the parents to accept the responsibilities of children.

Many deaths can be prevented, Hofstra said, if neighbors, friends and relatives will report suspected child abusers to the Dept. of Social Services.

“When a child is killed, we usually find that many people near to the abusing parents knew about the problem before,” he said.

“And somehow, if they knew and didn’t help or report the incident, they’re almost as guilty as the parents in that child’s death,” he added.

Michigan’s child abuse law states directly that “any person acting in good faith who makes a report...including taking the child to an appropriate medical facility...shall be immune from civil or criminal liability which

might otherwise be incurred thereby.”

People who report suspected child abuse are kept anonymous, if they wish, said Hofstra, but occasionally the person is asked to testify in court about the abuse.

“We try, whenever possible, to build a case out of our own investigations,” he explained, but sometimes the reporter’s testimony is necessary.

“We urge anyone who suspects someone of abusing their child to call us,” he added.

After the suspected abuse is reported, he said, investigators from the Social Services division will visit to try to help alleviate any problems. If possible, the parents will be directed to counseling or psychiatric help to try to solve the problem before it gets worse.

As a final resort before criminal prosecution, the child might be temporarily removed from the home by the probate court until the home situation is safe for the child.

In major cases of child abuse, however, the prosecuting attorney may insist that the parents face criminal charges for their brutality, Hofstra said.

“We find in our work that the student couples who are having trouble handling the responsibilities of their children are receptive to counseling,” Hofstra concluded. “It’s a matter of getting them over some rough times in their lives and their marriages.”



Child abuse: could it happen to her?

# University life eases single parents' cares

By Jeff Gutsell

"Danielle told me last night that I am both her mommy and daddy," Sherrie Duncan said. "I had to tell her no, that I am only her mommy. She has no daddy around her."

The problem Danielle posed for her mother is one of many facing single parents daily.

Though life can be tough for any parent without a spouse, many of the nearly 60 living in MSU Married Housing have found that living there can sometimes ease its burdens.

In the liberal environment of university housing a single parent rarely, if ever, has to face the sort of blatant prejudice that might be encountered off campus.

Yet even here a vague sense of alienation from married neighbors can sometimes be detected. It's a sense that the status of being a single parent is something of a curiosity.

"People who don't know me well sometimes ask me what my husband is majoring in," Duncan said. "Then when I tell them I'm not living with him they say, 'Oh you're the student who...'"

She avoids playing her stereo loudly, particularly at night, she said, to avoid fostering stereotyped opinions that she, like all single parents, spends her nights partying.

Single parents must also cope with the widespread attitude that they do not know how to raise their children.

"Neighbors always want to drop hints telling you how you can raise your child better," Spartan Village resident Tori Martin said.

Many residents of married housing and even the Married Housing manager John Roetman feel that the children of single parents are wilder and rougher than those of married couples.

Yet supervisors at the Spartan Village Day Care Center dispute such an idea.

"I had a woman from the day care center tell me that Danielle was one of the best

behaved of the children there," Duncan said proudly.

The campus chapter of the nationwide organization Parents Without Partners, concerned about the inaccuracy of the prevailing notion, has worked to spread information about single parent's children, Dale Hull, a MSU counselor and herself a single parent said. She pointed to several recent studies indicating children of divorced parents are apt to be just as stable as children with both parents.

As could happen elsewhere, a sense of aloneness pervades single parents' daily life among the more than 2,000 couples in Spartan Village and Cherry Lane apartments.

Duncan, a senior sociology major, recalled that when she moved into Cherry Lane apartments several years ago there was no one to help her. But she was lucky. The MSU Volunteers came to move her furniture for her.

Still, the volunteers weren't around to talk and simply developing companionship outside the family often becomes a major problem for single parents.

In the hectic race to care for a child yearning for attention and meet the demands of school and household work, friendships are difficult to develop. Even leaving the apartment for entertainment requires an effort.

"My first year in married housing I spent most of my time talking baby talk to my son Erick," Martin said. "He was still crawling then and I didn't have a day care center to leave him in."

The problem of getting to know people and finding entertainment away from home is also one of habit — a habit especially difficult to break for those newly separated from their spouses.

Many women are unwilling to go alone to parties or movies. And rather than go out with other women they may



Sherrie Duncan disputes the idea held by many married housing residents that children of single parents tend to be wilder than others. She said her daughter Danielle is one of the best behaved children at the Spartan Village Day Care Center.

wait at home until accompanied by a man.

As a result, Hull explained, they are slow in meeting others of either sex.

With this problem in mind Parents Without Partners has sponsored social events which encourage women to enjoy the companionship of other women.

"Many of them had never thought they could enjoy going out with other single parents," Hull said. "But they loved it."

It is this sort of companionship, unfettered with goals of finding future spouses, that several organizations around campus seek to encourage.

Dan Melcer, professor of Family and Child Sciences, recalled a young woman saying a year ago that her involvement with an informal organization sponsored by the People's Church of East Lansing literally saved her life. In her companionship with the group's members she found relief from the strain of her family and school responsibilities which had lead her to contemplate suicide.

Yet, many single parents, particularly the more independent, are dissatisfied with the approach these organizations take toward solving their goals.

"At Parents Without Partners meetings no one seems

Ruth Hill, left, and Tori Martin have found that living in married housing has helped to alleviate some of the problems they face as single parents.

interested in dealing with day-to-day problems," Ruth Hill, a Spartan Village resident, said. "The girls seem to spend their time complaining about how hard it is to remarry."

Many single parents are finding that the environment of married housing can offer answers to these daily needs.

Many have found that the first friends they make are

other single parents who share their needs and are willing, often eager, to share responsibilities.

She had lived in Spartan Village nearly a year without knowing any of her neighbors well, Martin said, when another single woman moved next door. After they became friends they found themselves making acquaintances with the couples around them.



Photo by Dave Mendrea



Photo by Dave Mendrea

# Health costs plague student families

by Carol Thomas

MSU's married students don't have problems with health care — they can't afford to.

"The attitude here is to ignore it and see if it'll go away," one Spartan Village resident said. "Thankfully it does go away most of the time."

For MSU's population of student dependents — usually the wives and children of full-time students — a major illness can mean financial disaster for a family on a tiny budget.

"When our little girl got sick last winter, my husband had to drop out of school and get a job to pay the medical bills," another married housing resident explained.

"If it had been me, it wouldn't have cost us a cent," her husband added.

Dependents are excluded from care at the University Health Center because of overcrowded conditions at the center, leaving many families

to search for health care while one member enjoys almost free care at the Health Center.

"It's pathetic," said an unidentified Health Center doctor. "I see fathers coming in here faking their kid's symptoms so they can get prescriptions."

"But I can't diagnose from what people tell me, so I have to say no," he added.

As an alternative, student dependents can turn to private doctors, emergency rooms or county-supplied medical services.

"The first two are too expensive and the last one isn't available all the time," a student said.

Private doctors in Ingham County are a little hard to find, but still available for married students, according to the Ingham County Medical Society.

Many young doctors beginning their practices are happy to have more patients, a

society spokesman said, and appointments are easy to get. He added that names of doctors taking patients can be obtained by calling the medical society.

"I'm willing to sacrifice things to get good medical care for my kids," a student wife said, "but some of my friends are so broke they can't afford the price of the office call if they're not deathly ill."

Those who "can't afford the price of an office call" unless they're deathly ill are spending a lot more on health care than they would if they visited private doctors when they were ill, says Dr. John Wiegenstein, emergency room physician at St. Lawrence Hospital.

The sign on St. Lawrence's emergency room wall states that doctors fees will be added to regular hospital costs, so the bill for a stitched-up forehead — or a cold — can run over \$25 for a visit.

"And people are just getting stop-gap, temporary health care," Wiegenstein explained. "We're not getting at the cause of the illness most of the time."

Many student families, he said, use the emergency rooms at St. Lawrence and Sparrow hospitals as their exclusive source of health care.

"You could just about get five visits to a private doctor for the price of two emergency room visits," he added.

The Ingham County Health Dept. steps into many gaps left in health care by the university and private sources, but concentrates most of its programs in the child health

area. Vaccinations, dental care and well-baby programs are offered extensively by the health department, and visiting nurses often pay calls in married housing to help mothers who are having trouble taking care of a sick child at home.

Although MSU student dependents are excluded from care at the University Health Center, they are eligible for low-cost student insurance sponsored by the ASMSU.

A single student pays \$46 for a year's medical coverage, while a married couple pays \$78. Adding an additional child brings the cost up to \$151.

The insurance policy is popular among students, according to an insurance company employe. It covers almost all medical expenses except routine health care.

But many students find even the low-cost insurance too expensive, saying that they would rather take the risk of a major illness rather than pay the more than \$100 for security.

The insurance doesn't pay for day-to-day colds, sore throats and illnesses — only major hospitalization or accidents.

"It's the day-to-day stuff I can't afford for my wife and kids," said a Cherry Lane resident, "so insurance that doesn't pay for that is out of the question."

"My wife and I have an agreement," joked one student. "I'm the only one who can get sick around here."

## Married students: significant minority

By Mike Fox

While most students attend MSU to get a degree, a number of students get something else out of college: marriage.

Though hardly a new phenomenon, married students at MSU constitute a neglected special interest group numbering 8,363 students.

Statistics recently compiled by the registrar's office at special request indicate that 21.3 per cent of the senior class is married. Though this percentage might not be surprising today, it is probably greater than 20 years ago.

Of course, college has always been a good meeting ground for recruiting mates. The university has assisted married students by providing 2,284 apartments in married housing complexes, but need for day care facilities and extended health care for families of married students pose new problems for MSU.

Before tackling such needs of married students, however, it helps to lift them out of obscurity by getting a better picture of the numbers of married students at MSU.

Of this fall's 41,378 total student enrollment, 20.2 per cent is married. In comparison with the general population of Michigan, data from the 1970 census indicates that 28.7 per cent of the age group 20 to 24 is

married. Though the comparisons unfortunately do not encompass precisely corresponding age groups, one can infer that the MSU student marriage pattern parallels the general population.

In a class standing breakdown, one finds that 3.1 per cent of the freshman are married; 5.5 per cent of the sophomores; 13.4 per cent of the juniors; and 21.3 per cent of the seniors.

Of the total 33,414 undergraduates this fall, 11.5 per cent are married. Of course, the percentage of marriage among graduate students is higher, indicated at 56.6 per cent.

Some observers at the university think the percentage of married students has climbed in the past two decades. Unfortunately, detailed data on the percentages of married students is available only back to 1967.

In this six year span, the total number of undergraduate married students has risen from 9.4 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Though only a slight increase, insurance agents and others who analyze college populations feel there has been a boom in marriages by students still in college since World War II.

Though statistics are not available to document the theory of a boom in college marriages, the trend over the past six years has been a slight increase which will probably stabilize at about the current levels.

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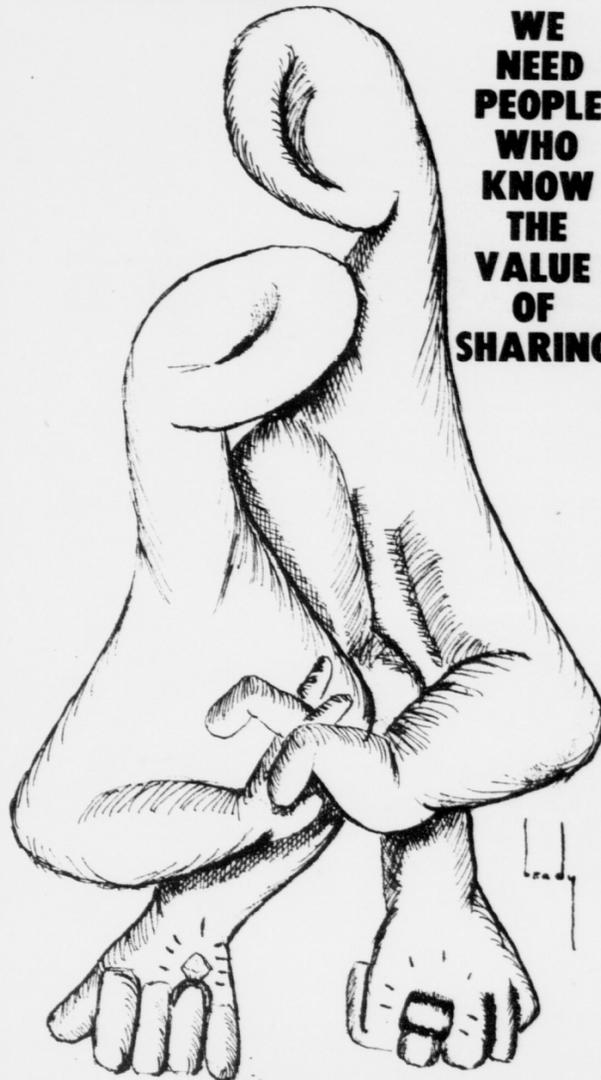
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# Day care center lacks space; 100 kids turned down weekly

by  
Maureen  
McDonald

A group of children sit in a circle laughing and chanting the familiar rhyme, "Jack be nimble, Jack be quick . . ." in MSU's unique day care center.

The center services between 150 and 165 children a day, on a married students first priority basis.

While fortunate children play in the new and efficient modular structure, over 100 applicants are turned down each week due to lack of space. The center is only licensed for 110 children in the building at one time.

The fees for full - day service are \$30 a week, and adjusted for part time child care service.

Elizabeth Santos, a member of the Faculty Student Board at the center, said the fees tend to accommodate only two kinds of people: those on welfare and middle income students. The in - between couples, Santos said, are excluded due to lack of financial aid.

"We've seen the board of trustees on getting a



Fingerpaints transforms Elysa Flanders into the terror of the day care center. Photos by John Dickson

scholarship fund for the day care center," Santos said. "The trustees act like 'to hell with married students after they leave classes.'"

The trustees did allocate a loan of \$10,000 to finance construction of the modular structure, which was to meet the immediate need for a day care facility.

"The structure was chosen as the quickest and least expensive way to deal with an emergency situation," Santos said. "The trustees feel the situation is alleviated now, and there is no need for further expansion of facilities."

However, expansion is the thrust of day care advocates.

Donald Melcer, associate professor of the Institute for Family and Child Care and member of the steering committee for the day care center, would like to see a community service center as an expansion of the present facility.

"We cannot simply double the capacity of the center without taking a critical look at child care needs, community needs and integration of departments who train

students at the center," Melcer said. "We need a careful integration of teaching services and research, with a full learning experience for the children."

The present facility incorporates the departments of family and child sciences, psychology and social work within the day care program.

Expansion plans, which are still in the nebulous stage, include provisions for nutritional planning, family medicine, marriage counseling and various community services.

Ann Thomforde, president of the Married Students Union,

(continued on page 6)



The day care center can accommodate only 110 children at a time. The major criticism of the facility is a lack of space.



Lee McDuffie and the other children at the day care center will play outside until temperatures are too cold, but according to critics, more space is needed for running and jumping space.

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IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG

# Lack of shelter, recreation, study areas mar life in married housing

by  
Angelia  
Carroll

"Life in university housing can be as pleasant as the individual student makes it." Many residents may agree with this quote from the University's latest booklet on married housing. However, some say the facilities of married housing are inadequate to meet their needs.

Complaints include no quiet study areas outside the apartments, lack of recreational facilities for adults, and lack of shelter areas.

The university "has tried to provide the best utilization of space at the lowest cost," according to John Roetman, manager of married housing. Student apartments in married housing rent for \$115 per month for a one-bedroom apartment and \$121 per month for a two-bedroom. This includes telephone service and all utilities.

The lack of study facilities within married housing is a problem to undergraduates especially. While graduate assistants have offices in which they can study, undergraduates must use the library.

The furnishing of each apartment include a study desk. How the students utilize them is, of course, a matter of individual choice. Roetman said. Thin walls and small children add to the study

problem of students.

Transportation is a problem to many undergraduates who wish to use the library or other on-campus facilities. University regulations prohibit undergraduates from driving on campus during the day, and the buses are frequently delayed by trains.

There are virtually no recreational facilities for adults within the married housing units, according to Ann

Thomforde, acting president of the Married Students Union of MSU.

Some parents in married housing would like to see a wading or swimming pool built for the use of small children. In order to use the I.M. pools a child must be 53 inches tall and 13 years of age.

This is a luxury, but it does get very hot in married housing in the summer, Thomforde said. Air conditioners in the

apartments are prohibited.

No storm shelter facilities within the married housing groups is a recurring complaint of residents. Roetman said there is a relative question of safety involved. Married housing residents have the option of seeking shelter during tornado alerts, he said.

Married housing residents are instructed to go to the stadium during alerts if they wish to go to a shelter. Many times attempts to reach the shelter are stopped by trains blocking the tracks in the south part of campus.

"When these apartments were built no one was concerned about tornadoes," Roetman stated.

The union would like to see study facilities, branch libraries, community room facilities and expansion of day care to serve more residents of married housing. "I don't think it's unreasonable to ask for the same facilities as in the dorms," Thomforde said.

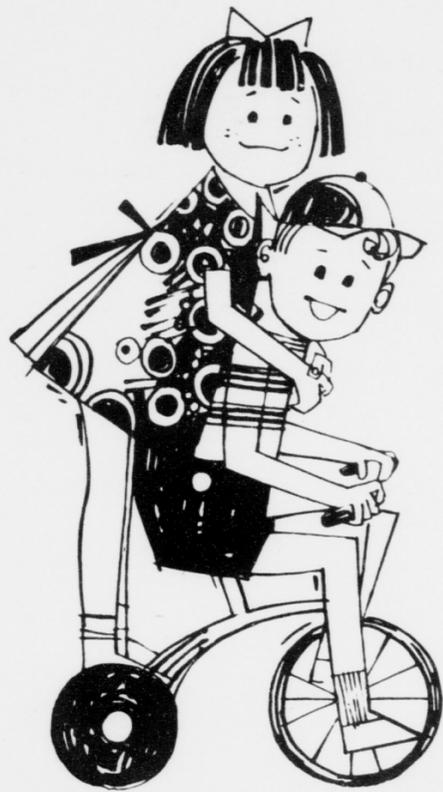
The low cost factor seems to be the University's explanation for the lack of facilities about which residents complain. Roetman said the addition of these facilities would have to result in an increased cost of operation. This increased cost would be passed on to the students in the form of higher rents.



Married housing apartments, are usually crowded with a family's daily needs, forcing some residents to use porch space for storage.

# Babysitters and Parents

the State News wants you to get acquainted



Throughout the period between Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 28, a special section of the Classified pages in the State News will be devoted exclusively to babysitters and parents who need their services. In this section babysitters will be able to advertise their services and parents can advertise their need for babysitters. The Cost? For this section only, you can run a 15 word liner for \$1.00 per day (pre-paid); And your ads will be set aside from all the classified liners so that everyone concerned will know right where to look everyday during that the period will run. The Deadline is 1:00 P.M. one day prior publication.



# Foreign students find adjustment problems

By Susan Ager

A Spartan Village washing machine ate a load of Carmen Cardenas-Marin's laundry.

The culprit was super-powered American detergent, which she used as liberally as the Spanish varieties.

Learning the idiosyncracies of American products is only one of the facts of American life which foreign students must confront in university married housing.

Spartan Village, University Village, and Cherry Lane house approximately 400 foreign couples, for whom making conversation, making friends and making even short trips are the major obstacles to "fitting in."

"When you are a foreigner, sometimes you are afraid you can't express yourself," said Alfredo Cardenas-Marin, a Spanish student in natural resource economics, of his reluctance to complain to management about his smelly sofa.

He is enrolled in university English classes required for

foreign students who do not pass a proficiency test. He finds, along with several other students, that what he learns in these courses is not worth what he pays.

The Community Committee for International Programs (CCIP), a city-wide organization to aid foreign students in adjusting to American life, offers English classes for two hours a week for home-tied wives at Spartan Village School. But some, including Carmen Cadenas-Marin, find the instruction too little to help.

She supplements the village classes by riding three different buses for over an hour each day to free classes offered by the Lansing school district. She hitchhikes home.

English skills often stagnate in married housing, despite the close living conditions.

"Some people may live in married housing for six years and never even say good morning to their neighbor," said Alex Edwards, active in Married Students Union of MSU. The problem is tripled for the foreign student who



"We say hello to everyone easily but the relationships are not often very deep."

- Mary Fabre

may be afraid to speak in faulty English.

"Americans are always in a hurry" is a common complaint of the foreign student. "We say hello to everyone easily," said Mary Fabre, from Aixpence, France, "but the relationships are not often very deep."

She and her husband Michael, working toward a master's degree in agriculture and natural resources, found Americans unwilling to spend time on temporary friendships.

"Foreigners are expected to stay a short time," Fabre said,

"and Americans think, 'It will take six months to get well-acquainted, then for six months we'll have fun and then I'll never see them again for a lifetime."

"Many Americans figure it's not worth it."

Last fall, the married students' organization began a welcome committee to help foreign students ease into American society by satisfying their immediate needs. The committee has greeted close to 200 foreign families since, advising, explaining and pointing to available services, including the Lending Center.

Stocked with kitchen and baby equipment, clothing, linen and lamps (not provided by married housing management), the Lending Center charges foreign students a very small rental fee for use of the donated goods. These become theirs until they leave married housing, when the fee goes to repair, clean or purchase new goods.

Transportation is another immediate and frightening problem. Few couples claim the luxury of a car when they arrive, and most stores are too far to walk to.

Even if a couple does own a car, the foreign wife, often not a student, is still confined to

the home. Driver's training is either too expensive or too difficult due to the language barrier.

Some foreign students in married housing form car pools, share taxis with other car-less friends or bum rides from neighbors—used only as a last resort by most.

"We operate like farmers," a Mexican student said, "doing our shopping in one whack whenever we can get a ride."

Other services for foreign students in married housing include CCIP's Host Family program and Homemaking American Style classes.

The Host Family program pairs foreign and American families, encouraging them to dine, site-see or go out for an occasional evening—but to do it together. The goal is an exchange of both cultures and good times.

Three hundred American families have volunteered to host a foreign family, according to co-chairman Annabelle Larzelere.

Najda El Zaro, a five-year resident of Spartan Village who participated in the Host Family program and will return soon to Jordan, said, "when I go home, I will be so proud to know how to fix American recipes I learned from my friends."

## Counterpoint

Counterpoint is a biweekly supplement to the Michigan State News published by students of Michigan State University. Editorial offices are in 341 Student Services Bldg. Editors are Andrea Austin and Sylvia Smith.

Columns on women, minorities and press criticism are features of each Counterpoint. Persons wishing to contribute to future issues should contact the State News.

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## UNION BOWLING LANES

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## Day care needs expansions

(continued from page 4)

would like to see recreational facilities, study areas and a meeting room included in plans for a new center.

A recent faculty-student board meeting for the center reinforced complaints about the lack of space.

"There is not enough space for toddlers and youngsters kept indoors in cold months to run, jump, climb and make noise—the children need more outlets," Santos said.

The group discussed the

option of letting political groups hold meetings at the center, but realized the facility could not accommodate more than 50 people at one time.

There is no place in Spartan Village for married students to congregate, as the residence halls provide, the student-faculty board members said at the meeting.

The center barely accommodates the children of Spartan Village residents. Thomford said only 10 per cent of married students' children are served by the

center. She reiterated the common complaint of high prices excluding most married students' children.

But the cost of quality day care has to be high. Infants require the fulltime care of a registered nurse, and toddlers need close supervision. For this reason, the center can only handle a limited number of children in these age groups, according to Melcer.

The full day sessions provide an educational program, a lunch, two snacks, a nap and free play. The center has received federal certification for its excellent teaching program.

"The center provides a quality environment for children, not merely a custodial supplement to the home," Jackie Wood, coordinator of the center, said.

Melcer added that a good day care environment is better than poor home environment, but said in most cases the home is still the best and most economical place to rear children.

"Families seem reluctant to spend a good part of their salaries on a day care center, but they don't realize that quality care is quite costly," Melcer said.

Melcer speculated that one reason for the low cost attitude is that women have done child rearing at no apparent cost for many years. "What is a woman's labor worth? We have never resolved this question," he said.



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# Married housing: 'It's like living in a fishbowl'

by  
Linda  
Sandel



A spirit of helpfulness and concern makes life in married housing relatively peaceful and economical. Student residents willingly make the best of their situation, but keep a constant eye on a more spacious, quieter and permanent future home.

"It's like living in a fishbowl," said one resident of Cherry Lane. "Because you're so close to neighbors, you have to use consideration and cooperation in dealing with situations that just can't be avoided."

Among the difficulties confronting neighbors in married student housing are those caused by the physical closeness of apartment units. Students list noise levels as a major negative result of this cramping. Distractions caused by children playing in the enclosed bay areas as well as inter-unit commotion are frequent complaints. Most residents find studying at home virtually impossible for these reasons.

Lack of privacy is another problem. Lisa Wendelken, University Village resident, explained the situation by stating that, "the cramped condition cause you to withdraw from social relationships with neighbors. Psychologically you feel that you must guard what little privacy you have."

Difficulties involving over-abundances of garbage, competition for inadequate numbers of parking spaces, and cluttered front walkways reinforce the need for consideration. Tempers flare easily under such conditions but neighbors continually strive for compromise to avoid direct confrontation.

One major cause of argument concerns the placement of couples without children in bays occupied by growing families. "Newly-married couples and others without children don't try to understand the impossibility of keeping children quiet," stated one Spartan

Village wife. Several couples without families suggested the possibility of separating the two groups into distinct bay areas, but added that they do their best to adjust to the present situation.

This conflict tends to make rearing children in married housing difficult. Parents, however try to stress the advantages of the situation. Shannaz Coyer of Cherry Lane for instance emphasizes the feasibility of keeping tabs on children by sharing the responsibility of watching them. "I'm beginning to like community living for this reason," she stated.

"This is great for the children as far as race relations go," added Carol Soriano, Spartan Village resident. "They have less contact with prejudice than they might have in a suburb so they grow up more openly."

Other residents were not quite as positive on the issue of race relations. A married couple in Spartan Village hinted at a subtle but very present prejudice existing among a limited number of residents. "You get the feeling that some people are worried about the white purity of their bay area neighborhood," they said. "That's too bad because it spoils an otherwise friendly atmosphere."

A lack of informal friendships in these apartment complexes bothers a number of residents. They attribute this isolation to the nature of student's activities. According to Howard Jones of Cherry Lane, "The motivation level is high as far as education goes. The number one goal of getting a degree takes precedence over everything, including neighbor relationships."

Jones added that while the atmosphere of married housing is friendly and cooperative, people are more concerned with reaching for something better than with forming bonds to tie them in.

## U-M, MSU fill housing gaps

At both University of Michigan and MSU married housing residents find they must adapt to often hostile environments to survive academically. In areas not patterned for married or family autonomy, married housing is a necessary alternative to expensive and limited off-campus living.

Due to a much tighter housing situation in Ann Arbor, married housing at U-M offers a wider choice of family apartments along with greater restrictions on residents.

Over 500 more available apartments are the greatest difference between family housing units of MSU and U-M. This enables MSU to house over 6,200 residents in Spartan

and University Villages and Cherry Lane. Even with a recent addition of 700 apartments, U-M can only accommodate about 4,500 faculty, staff and students in family housing.

U-M applicants for married housing are screened and chosen on an income basis, with those needing the cheapest housing in order to stay in school getting the first priority.

Cost vary considerably more at U-M housing than at MSU. Monthly charges range from \$108 for a simple efficiency, to \$140 for one bedroom near campus, to \$150 for a larger apartment much farther from the university.

A one bedroom unit at MSU

rents for \$115 per month; two bedrooms boost the charge to \$121. This includes all utilities and phone; at U-M utilities and maintenance are included and phone service is optional.

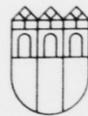
Transportation causes many complaints from married housing residents in Ann Arbor as it does in East Lansing. Though free bus service is available for residents in the farthest units, some residents call it erratic.

The most common problem at both universities' married housing units is noise from neighbors' children transmitted through paper-thin walls. The interference seriously inhibits studying and relaxation available in other housing situations.

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# Secrecy hides Greeks' relevance

## MINORITY

The original purposes of black Greek life seem to have been to provide housing for black students (especially for those on campuses north of the Mason-Dixon line), to establish a social life for the black students and to create a sense of community involvement among the black students via assorted community projects.

It seems to many independent black women, however, that the contributions the black sororities are making today are primarily social. But black sororities may be receiving this criticism because so few blacks fully understand the sororities'

contributions to black society. On the other hand, how can black women learn of the sorority's doings if they are not somehow made available to the public?

It's understandable that some secrecy (especially of certain rituals) should exist, but the almost extreme secrecy that's practiced by the MSU chapters causes a lot of young women to feel alienated before they even being to ask questions about any particular sorority.

Other negative feelings pertain to the indefinite pledging period, the high participation costs (meaning the miscellaneous expenditures outside pledging fees and dues) and the possible irrelevance of

the pledge's assignments. An explanation of why certain things must be done could easily clear up the communication channel.

A transfer student from Howard University told me that the sororities at Howard are involved with community activities and programs, but like here they are more involved in social activities. She further stated that at Howard, a potential pledge must have a certain economic and social background before she is accepted by the sorority.

There are four black sororities at MSU: Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta and Sigma Gamma Rho, and they are all involved in some sort of

community projects.

On a nationwide basis, projects range from bringing social change via job training for drop-out girls, rehabilitation of women prisoners and teaching young adults to encouraging higher education by awarding scholarships and fellowships to deserving and needing students. Each chapter donates its time and energies — voluntarily — to these programs.

It seems, then, that the basic problems the sorority faces today are one of communication and one of ridding itself of the social institution image. If these problems are cleared, the black sororities will truly have achieved black relevancy.



Irene Evans is a Flint sophomore majoring in journalism.

## Dating: the losing game

## WOMEN

A few Michigan State University students seem to have all the dates they want, whenever they want them. But many members of both sexes have questions about how to find suitable dating partners or even if they want to participate in the dating game at all.

People who date waste a portion of their lives in a time-filler that leads to nothing but pain. In dating, not only does each fool "put her best foot forward," but often each sees everything, including the dating partner, through rose-tinted spectacles.

Usually, because of this, promises are made that cannot be kept and expectations are built up that cannot be fulfilled. Marriage, then, would seem like a letdown. The reason is not that marriage is less interesting or

exciting than dating, but that in marriage there is inevitable impact with reality.

In dating reality is mangled by imagination. Much is said about how people change for the worse after they marry. I contend that the change initially comes in dating. Before marriage the persons put on a false front and each sees the other from a favorably biased point of view. Then, after the wedding and after the screw, each returns to the real self as it is, not as it was thought to be.

Playing the dating game increases the effect of the double standard, especially and emphatically on the woman. Women who frequently date pay a higher price emotionally and psychologically than do men. No matter what anyone might say, there

still is a double standard which still applies to ideas of right and wrong in 1972 just as it has for generations.

Nearly every guy I talk to will SAY that a girl has as much right to sexual freedom as a boy. But try to pin him down as to whether he would marry the promiscuous girl, or even one who was fingered a few times. He suddenly becomes edgy, wary and inarticulate. It is something the chauvinist does not want to discuss, something he does not want to face.

What about the woman? She is expected to keep her sexual desires under control until after marriage. Show me female who is able to do this, and I will show you a dishonest individual. Women need to be stroked as much as men.

Dating is traditionally

thought to be an educational process by which the opposite sexes get to know one another. Dating, however, turns out to be miseducational. Who makes the decisions on a date? Who pays for the evening? Who starts the making out? Who is the master? Who is his servant?

These basic problems illustrate the plight in which the typical female finds herself if she chooses this route of social behavior. It is interesting to note that the role-taking that starts in the dating period sets the stage for later marriage and home management patterns.

Dating emphasizes such things as clothes, physical shape, smile, hair style and smell. Actually these criterion are inevitable because of the very nature of the dating game. The

relationship, by definition, is casual and the participants are not in a position to make choices on any deeper set of values. In other words, dating does not prepare young people for marriage, it only prepares them for more futile dating!



Sharon Szafransky is a Westland freshman.

# Foreign news: the way it really is?

## PRESS

The most important ways of mass communication in this and other countries — television, newspapers, and radio — don't provide an adequate picture of what is happening in the rest of the world.

In television, the monopoly of three channels provides a half hour daily program of so-called "international" news in which they cover events that usually center around Vietnam, Paris (the peace talks) or any other place where 50 or more people got killed due to an accident or a natural disaster; other news doesn't qualify as interesting enough to be covered.

The same happens with radio and newspaper; the New York Times gives you a two pound mass of advertisements in which one has to dig to find

out about other countries. The State News fulfills a campus need and so it covers campus events and publishes a lot of pictures of ducks and bikes, as well as the famous Doctor's Bag.

In radio, the same problem — one rarely hears about international events.

After almost four years of daily observation of this particular problem and as a foreign student who happens to be interested in things that happen not only in the USA, I have come to the conclusion that this could be so because:

- This country is so big that people get lost easily within its boundaries;

- This country is so powerful and industrialized and computer-oriented that the people don't have the time or the interest or both to get informed;

- If most Americans don't even care what goes on in their

own city, county, state or country, obviously they are not interested in what happens abroad.

The first two items I call "auto-drowning," inward-looking or self-centered perspective. The third I regard as part of the traditional apathy of many American people. As a saying goes: as long as I have my mobile home, my color TV and my brand-new car and I can trade them in every other year; as long as I have my monthly paycheck, why should I worry about anything else?

Unfortunately, the way I see it, events in other areas have a lot to do with this country. Sometimes I wonder what the impact in the people's minds would be if they were informed of what really goes on in the world. No wonder, too, that people confuse Columbia with Colombia.

In our so-called underdeveloped nations (which I define simply as those nations that have not been allowed to have their own chance to develop) of our so-called Third World, our coverage of international news is very different — any paper publishes a large section concerning all sorts of international news. Perhaps this is so because we are not so inward-looking (due to our often attributed "inferiority?").

As a professor of mine once put it: Not everything is like a newsman says in his closing broadcast: "That's the way it is." That's the way it is for him, or for whoever chooses the news to be broadcast. Perhaps this news commentator should end his program by saying: "That's the way I was told it is, but there is no time on my part, nor interest on yours to tell it how it really is."



Luis Berruecos is a Mexico City graduate student in anthropology.