

splitting up without having had a fight is as ridiculous and as far from the truth as most T.V. stories are on the lives of policemen and their families.

Maybe a short course — while still in training — on the importance of family life and quality of choice would help to bring the divorce rate back to the national level. At one time the Force insisted on seven years service before marriage. The pendulum has swung maybe a bit too far in the other direction.

Karen J. Miller
Digby, N.S.

Dear Mrs. Miller,

Thank you for your most interesting and thought-provoking letter. You may well be right that one of the major reasons for the high divorce rate of policemen is a natural, inborn, aggressiveness of the individual attracted to police work. Another must surely be the "climate" of the job itself.

Within the limits of a few Quarterly pages no author could hope to cover all the ground on this subject. This type of article has to be broad and so may not portray the

experiences of every police family. Read with an open mind, however, I believe most police families can recognize the similarities between those mentioned by Dr. Breen and what is or could be their own life styles.

I liked your suggestion of implementing family-life orientated courses at Depot, and have passed it on the Training and Development Branch here in Ottawa for their consideration. But such a course would not eliminate police family breakdowns, nor do I believe you think so either. Assistance and education should not begin or end there, but should include, as Dr. Breen suggested in his article, the screening of recruits through psychological tests, and the availability of psychological and marriage counselling to police officers and their families.

I do not agree with you, however, that the reference made to the popular T.V. series "Police Story" is ridiculous. Dr. Breen's point is one of communication, and this example dramatically illustrates that a lack of communication can be manifest through silence, or an apparent amiability, as well as argumentation. Ed.

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