

Boys Approve of Mid-Week Dates; But Majority of Girls Against Them

By EUGENE GILBERT
Pres. of Gilbert Youth Research Co.

Looks as if parents are going to have to man the barricades of their authority or run the risk of being overrun by teen-agers bent on breaking down another traditional restraint.

The issue this time is mid-week dating. Time was when few youngsters, let alone parents, thought it permissible or wise for them to go out on dates during the school week.

Now 70 per cent of the boys to whom we put the question asserted that they should be allowed to have mid-week dates. While the same went for only 44 per cent of the girls, the over-all average was definitely affirmative.

Nearly all those saying yes did so with the reservation that dating shouldn't interfere with studies.

"If the homework is finished, I think it is all right to date," said a 17-year-old Missouri miss. "Dating is fine, but shouldn't interfere on school work," added 16-year-old Mitchell Vogel of Chicago.

Carol Neutzman, 14, of Flushing, N. Y., put it this way: "This is the only time we have to be young, and if studying and dating can be combined successfully, they ought to be."

A Study Help!

Some claimed that week night dating helped them study. Ted Doolittle of Sacramento, Calif., said: "Dating during the week gives me something to look forward to, a reason for studying harder."

Joe Greenberg, 17, of Philadelphia, commented: "When I know I am going out during the week, I study even harder the rest of the nights."

From those who disapprove of middle of the week dating came these views:

"Weekday dating takes up too much time"—Jerry Campbell, 15, of Seattle.

"Dates and books don't mix"—Martha Corbett of Omaha, Neb.

"I'd prefer to keep my dating restricted to weekends"—Linda Ringle, 17, of Jersey City.

Divided on Harm Done

We also asked the teen-agers how much they thought mid-week dating infringed on studying. Thirty-nine per cent replied "not at all," 37 per cent "just a little," and 24 per cent "a lot."

Once again boys and girls differed widely in their answers. Fifty-two per cent of the boys said dating doesn't impose at all on studying, but this was an opinion held by only 26 per cent

of the girls. Thirty-one per cent of the boys said dating infringed "just a little" and 17 per cent answered "a lot." The respective figures for the girls were 44 per cent and 30 per cent.

Study Hampered?

Asked if thoughts about their boy or girl friend deterred them from studying, 11 per cent re-

plied "yes," 27 per cent "no," and 62 per cent that they had no romantic interest in dating them. Boys rated slightly better in the concentration department—only 9 per cent saying their minds wandered from history or math to their current flame, compared with 13 per cent of the girls.

"No matter what I do, I can't push thoughts of Jerry out of my mind," giggled a 16-year-old New York lass.

Our survey also probed other study habits of the nation's teen-agers, with some interesting results.

Like to Work Late

We learned, for instance, that most youngsters—73 per cent of them—like to do their homework late in the evening, as most parents can testify. About 7 per cent prefer getting it out of the way as soon as they get home, and 9 per cent about one or two hours after reaching home. Less than 1 per cent crawl out of bed early to do the work before school. Ten per cent reported they had enough study time to finish all their homework in school. Boys and girls were pretty much in agreement on this question.

The young people didn't hesitate to blame themselves for poor study habits or for procrastination in doing their work.

A 15-year-old Indiana youth summoned up the feelings of 97 per cent of those polled when he said: "Sometimes I just can't make myself get started with homework. I blame this completely on myself."

Friends Blamed

About 3 per cent blamed their friends and less than one per cent pointed an accusing finger at their parents.

Our pollsters almost had to run for cover to escape the loud chorus of resounding "no's" that greeted them when they asked: "Do you feel the need for more homework?"

Only 2 per cent felt their teachers assigned insufficient homework.

"Less time should be expected for home study," said 15-year-old Dorothea Olson of Whitestone, N. Y.

A Detroit youth fairly exploded: "I don't have time to get all my present homework done. I don't know what I'd do with more."

Reflecting the views of the small minority, a 16-year-old Normandy, Mo., girl stated: "I think more homework should be assigned in certain important classes."

Sungari Control Sought

HONG KONG, Jan. 29 (AP)—Red China hopes in 10 years to eliminate the flood menace in the Sungari River basin, where 20 million persons live. Radio Peiping announced today a committee has been formed to draw up an overall plan to harness that big stream in north China in the next decade and develop its resources for agriculture and industry.

Three minority stockholders of the multi-million-dollar Hyster Co. here today filed suit in circuit court to bar merger of the firm with a smaller Illinois corporation, Martin Machine.

Among defendants in the case is Ernest G. Swigert, president of Hyster and 1957 president of the National Assn. of Manufacturers.

The three stockholders, Winfred H. Buermann, Albin E. Gunderson and George F. Paulson—contend that Swigert and other officers of Hyster are attempting by the merger to make the firm a Nevada corporation and this would eliminate "the right of the present shareholders... to examine books and records" and would freeze "some of the existing surplus" (reported to be \$11,715,583; so the amount frozen would not be available for dividends.)

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Have Dog, Will Travel



DANVILLE, Ill., Jan. 29—The expression on the face of 18-month-old Billy Grady leaves little doubt that his parents' great dane, "Sheila Tigress Von Estridge," is his favorite mount. Billy is the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Grady. (AP)

Man, 75, Victim of Ranch Home Fire

THE DALLES, Ore., Jan. 29 (AP)—James Garfield Hudson, about 75, died last night in a fire that destroyed his ranch home at Dufur, 18 miles south of here.

The blaze apparently was caused by explosion of kerosene which Hudson was using to light a stove fire, said Wasco County Sheriff E. D. Mosier.

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Young Pianist No Fan of Rock 'n' Roll

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (AP)—Judging from the headlines, today's youth seem largely devoted to raising ducktails, or in rockin' 'n' rollin', or in gang beatings, or in assorted hoodluming.

Yet here is Susan Starr, a gifted pianist at 15, playing the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat minor in two evening concerts, plus a matinee, with the National Symphony Orchestra.

"How much do you have to practice?" Susan was asked.

"Why, I don't have to practice at all," she said. "But I try to get in five or six hours a day."

Naturally this leaves no time for hoodluming, as Miss S. is the first to admit. And, although it doesn't take up much newspaper, she's sure hundreds of other youngsters keep just as busy at serious music.

Won Contract

She's sure because last year she won the Merriweather Post contract, sponsored by the National Symphony and open to all high school pupils who are skilled pianists, violinists or cellists. Some 232 qualified, and those who know

Record Contributions Reported by Church

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (AP)—The United Lutheran Church reported today that contributions from its 32 synods to the church's national and overseas programs reached an all-time high in 1957 of \$10,187,160.

Dr. Edmund F. Wagner, church treasurer, said the new figure compares with \$10,011,720 in 1956, and \$8,642,134 in 1955.

about such things say the talent displayed by the finalists was astounding.

This spring's contest, with its \$2,000 first prize, is expected to attract an even larger group of topflight young musicians.

But to get back to Susan: The interview opened with a surprising question.

"How's Roy Campanella?" she asked.

She was assured that the catcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, whose neck was broken in an auto crash, was at least holding his own, and why did she show such concern?

"A Dodger Fan"

"I've always been a Dodger fan," she said. "I don't know why. Maybe it's because I watched Campanella in the world series when I was little."

Susan has grown until she now is an attractive 5 feet 1.

Moving from the ball field to music, these points were developed:

That although her father is a violinist with the Philadelphia Symphony, it has been her mother, with no musical education, who has done the coaching.

That when it comes to popular stuff, she's no friend of rock 'n' roll, but loves to jitterbug and do the rumba and cha-cha-cha.

That although she was running a temperature of 100 degrees, she was determined to go through with the concert anyway.

Response Mixed

The critical responses to her opening performance last night was, as they say, mixed.

Paul Hume of the Washington Post and Times-Herald thought it was unfair to put Susan on an evening show. He said the orchestra should have used a world celebrated artist like Clara Haskil, who was to have played last night but who had to cancel her tour because of illness.

Day Thorpe of the Evening Star thought she shouldn't have played the same piece she used to win the contest her last year. "She should allow her remarkable talent greater scope," he said. "But the old warhorse (Tchaikovsky) sounded pretty good, both in the piano and in the orchestra."

Being a perfectionist, Miss Starr probably is disappointed. But after all she battled 500. Better, even, than Campanella.

Tall Scaffold Collapses at Refinery, 4 Die

PORT ARTHUR, Tex., Jan. 29 (AP)—An 85-foot high scaffold collapsed at the Texas Co. refinery here today, killing four construction workers.

Estimates of the number injured range from 4 to 15.

First reports said five men were killed, but a check at St. Mary's Hospital and the refinery showed only four dead. They were John Maudlin, about 20, of Port Neches, Tex.; Lester G. Edwards of Gilmore, La.; Douglas Jeffcoat, home town unavailable, and a man identified only as Gengrus.

All were employees of the W. G. Kellogg Construction Co., which was building a catalytic cracking unit at the refinery.

J. E. Welch, carpenter foreman, said the scaffold crashed with a roar that sounded like an avalanche and fell on a tin shed, demolishing it.

Ten men were reported working on the scaffold when it collapsed. An undetermined number were in the shed.

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