

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. L. L. — We don't know what to do for Ethel.

Ethel L. — I'm a hopeless case.

Mrs. L. L. — How can I help my daughter Ethel, who has grown to almost six feet at the age of 17?

She is so unhappy and self-conscious that it breaks our hearts. I have tried to encourage her to stand straight and be proud of her height, but she says she is just ugly and nothing can change the facts. She doesn't go out to parties or on dates and things are getting so bad she doesn't even want to go to school.

I am ready to spend anything to get lovely clothes for her and I sent her to take an expensive course in make-up so she can improve her appearance and gain confidence, but nothing works with her.

Ethel L. — Everyone gives me that old line about how wonderful it is to be tall, models are tall, etc. But models are beautiful and I'm not. Even if I were short my face would look ugly. I'm just hopeless.

My mother keeps begging me to go out with the girls at least. But the girls don't want me either. It's embarrassing for them because they can't get any dates for me and they have to leave me out of their parties. There are about three boys in our whole school who are taller than I am and they go out with short girls!

I have tried everything, but boys just can't stand me as I am now.

The Council — Perhaps it would help Ethel and her mo-

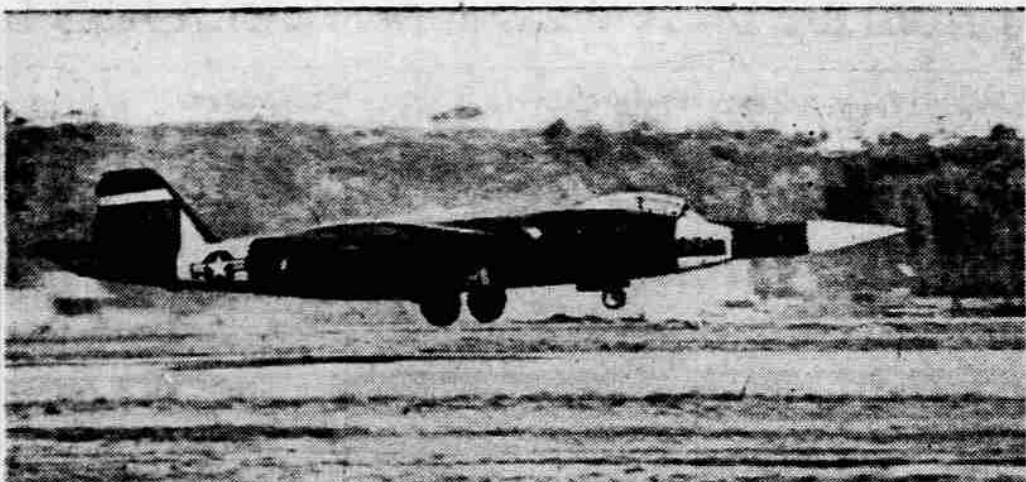
ther to realize that very few individuals get through adolescence without some more or less serious problem involving appearance. To Ethel the girl with stringy hair or a bad complexion is lucky, but she can be sure that that girl suffers just as much anguish over her difficulty as she does with her height.

The understanding and intelligent help of parents can do a lot at such times, but the adolescent must also do much for himself. We get the impression that Mrs. L. L. is overdoing the sympathy to the point where her daughter is substituting it for the other satisfactions in life she is now missing.

Mrs. L. L. hasn't taught Ethel the importance of attitude in making friends. Ethel does not realize that when she looks at herself in the mirror, decides she is ugly and then goes out among people, she wears a hurt, discontented, angry expression. Others don't realize that Ethel's anger is directed against herself. They consider themselves the target and steer clear.

Countless individuals with serious appearance problems manage to have many friends and find dates and marriage partners as well. They can do this because they have learned the art of setting their own feelings aside and trying to interest themselves in others. Nobody in this world is so ugly that he or she can't look attractive with lively eyes and a sincere warm smile.

Aside from these considerations, there is the obvious fact that appearance isn't everything. Skill with a musical instrument, dancing ability,



JET BOMBER—A missile-nosed Martin B-57 Canberra jet bomber takes off on a test hop in Seattle, Wash., prior to departure for more tests at Elgin, Fla. The hybrid aircraft gained its missile-nosed appearance when the nose and part of the guidance section of the new Boeing-built Bomarc-B missile was

grated on up forward. The converted B-27 is to serve as a simulated Bomarc air defense missile. Its job will be to check the Elgin, Fla., missile test range's capacity for handling flights of the 400-mile-range Bomarc-B.

—(UPI Telephoto)

Superintendent of West Point Answers Criticism of Academy

Editor's note: Vice Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, atomic Navy pioneer and outspoken critic of American education, recently criticized the academic standards of the nation's service academies. In the following dispatch, written for United Press International, the superintendent of West Point, tells what future officers are studying there, and rejects the charge that their education compares unfavorably with that provided by civilian colleges.

By LT. GEN. GARRISON H. DAVIDSON
Superintendent,
U.S. Military Academy
Written For UPI

West Point, N.Y. (UPI)—West Point has only one real purpose — to graduate young men who are prepared for and dedicated to a lifetime as officers in our regular military services.

In furtherance of this objective, the single task of the four-year curriculum at the Military Academy is to develop that dedication and those qualities and attributes essential to continued development of the individual throughout his lifetime career.

The test of the West Point educational effort, its total curriculum, is in the record of its graduates. While that record stands without challenge, it is reasonable to question whether West Point is adjusting to the changing re-

quirements which the future will place on America's professional officers. Is the academy adjusting wisely and well to these needs, considering the entire span from entrance standards through the complicated content of its four-year curriculum to graduation day?

First Engineering School

West Point's educational philosophy stems from the early part of the last century and its great superintendent, Sylvanus Thayer, who introduced exacting academic standards, small classes, and a requirement on every cadet for continual effort. Founded as the first engineering school in the United States, the Military Academy has gradually shifted its curriculum and educational philosophy so as to be keyed to the changing pattern of an officer's career and his post-academy educational needs.

The academic curriculum is about 60 per cent pure and applied sciences and 40 per cent social sciences and humanities. Measured by civilian standards, taking into account the relatively brief vacations and the longer school year, the curriculum is equivalent to approximately 160 semester hours at a civilian college.

West Point's academic courses are generally similar in content to those in civilian colleges using similar text material. However, the teaching methods vary in that classes are small, class periods are somewhat longer than normal, and the general climate of West Point assumes that the student has studied each lesson and is prepared to participate in classroom discussions each day.

Instructors Are Volunteers

Academy instructors are se-

lected from among officer volunteers who possess an aptitude for teaching. The entire Army officer corps is available from which to select fewer than 100 officers a year, most of whom are sent to the finest civilian graduate schools to prepare specifically for their teaching assignments and to broaden their educational vision.

For well over 100 years individual cadets have been assigned to classes in homogeneous groups and according to their demonstrated interest and capability. West Point has, since World War II, progressively developed advanced courses for the specially gifted students and for those with some prior college work—some 30 per cent of the student body.

Recently West Point officials completed a 10-year self-evaluation and survey, assisted by a committee of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the academy's continuation as a degree-griving institution.

Academy Rated Tops

The summary appraisal of the chairman of this board of civilian educators read as follows: "Even in an association devoted to the pursuit and interpretation of educational excellence, there is only so much room at the top; this space is reserved for a few, including, in the commission's judgment, the United States Military Academy."

Those at the Military Academy are well aware that a glorious history is not enough to assure an equal contribution to our country in the future. West Point's teaching

'Battle of War Books' Continues To Rage

Washington — (UPI) — There is no surrender in sight in the "battle of the books" which has been raging round President Eisenhower and other top World War II Allied military leaders almost since the actual shooting stopped 14 years ago.

This became newly apparent when smoke cleared from the latest skirmish, triggered by criticism of President Eisenhower in the diaries of Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, wartime chief of the British General Staff.

Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, who already had sniped at Eisenhower in his own memoirs, joined Alanbrooke in a new assault on Eisenhower's strategic abilities as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

Montgomery also recalled that Eisenhower had been "ungenerous" to him and Alanbrooke in his own 1948 book, "Crusade in Europe." And he added that Gen. Omar N. Bradley had said some "extremely unpleasant things about me" in his World War II memoirs, published in 1951.

Here, in brief, is how the book battle shapes up: Alanbrooke, in his "Triumph in the West," said no one was running the land war in France before the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944. He said "Eisenhower, though supposed to be doing so, is on the golf links at Reims — entirely detached and taking no part in the running of the war."

The White House denied that Eisenhower played golf at Reims, and Alanbrooke said he had not meant to leave this impression. He said he merely meant Eisenhower was at his "forward headquarters" on an unused golf course at Reims.

Eisenhower, in his own book, said he set up a forward command post just outside Reims so that he "Could easily reach any portion of the front,

even on days when flying was impossible."

He said he spent a great portion of his time in such travel, until winter weather made roads impassable. Gen. Carl Spaatz, who commanded U.S. strategic bomber fleets, recalled recently that flying was ruled out during the time of the "Bulge" because of weather.

Eisenhower and Bradley both recalled differences with Alanbrooke and Montgomery over whether to strike into Germany on a broad front or to make a single powerful thrust into the Ruhr. Alanbrooke and Montgomery, in their books, said the war could have been won in 1944 instead of 1945 if their single-thrust view had prevailed.

Alanbrooke admitted he was wrong, Eisenhower's book maintained. This was described as occurring while both of them stood watching Allied troops crossing the Rhine into Germany in January, 1945. Eisenhower wrote: "He turned me and said: 'Thank God, Ike, you stuck by your plan. You were completely right and I am sorry if my fear of dispersed effort

added to your burdens. Germany is now licked . . . thank God you stuck by your guns.'"

Eisenhower classed Alanbrooke as "A brilliant soldier" who lacked ability "to weigh calmly the conflicting factors in a problem and so reach a rocklike decision."

Alanbrooke said Eisenhower had "absolutely no strategic outlook" but made up for it "by the way he works for good cooperation between allies." Bradley said Eisenhower was a "superb tactician" and if anyone disagreed it was because of Montgomery's attitude.

How has Eisenhower acted to the Montgomery-Alanbrooke sniping?

His one noteworthy public reaction came at an Oct. 14, 1958, press conference when he noted that "We won the War in 11 months, (from the day we landed in Normandy) and I heard no single prediction before that, at any time . . . that war would be over, in less than two years."

"I think I have been criticized by everybody who can write a book and I will be in the future," he added.

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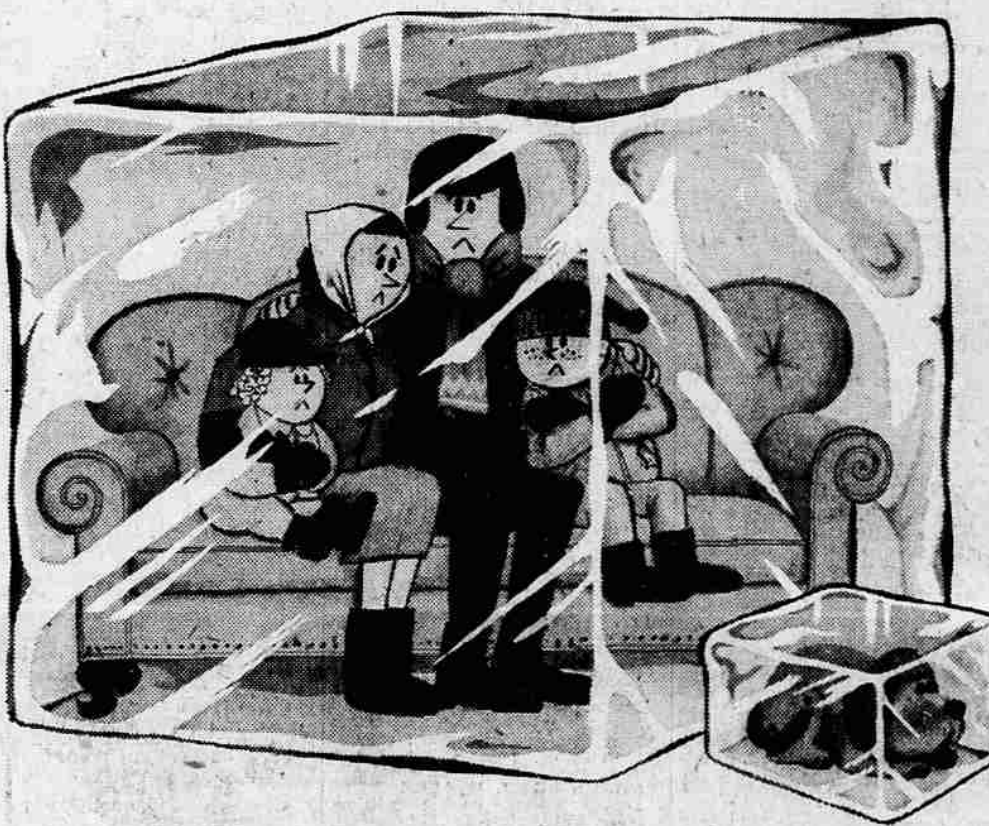
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