

# 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.

Eileen J. - My parents should stop interfering.  
Mrs. R.J. - Her behavior isn't normal.

Eileen J. - I started dating very early - when I was about 12. Now I am 17 and I feel I ought to know enough about boys and dating without interference from my parents.

I was really in love with the first boy I dated, but he didn't treat me very nicely. He did everything he could to make me jealous. Finally I couldn't stand it any more and we broke up.

After that I decided I wasn't going to let any boy give me a hard time. And I guess I have been going to the other extreme. I take up with them for a few weeks and then drop them. But after all, I'm young and have a right to do this. My mother doesn't think it's right and keeps bothering me about it.

Mrs. R.J. - My husband and I are really worried about Eileen's peculiar behavior and sometimes I think it's not normal.

She will take up with a boy for several weeks, see him a couple of nights a week, exchange phone calls every day, give and receive little gifts. Suddenly, she will tell him in a very harsh way that she is fed up and doesn't want to see him any more.

Is it possible that she was so badly hurt by her first boy friend that she has decided to hurt others in retaliation? We are really worried about her and have tried to get her to talk to a friend of ours. He is a clergyman who has wide experience with teenagers. She refuses to see this man or be influenced by anything we say.

The Council: Most teenagers go through a stage of quick-changing relationships. This is partly because they have unrealistic notions about the opposite sex. A girl may watch a boy in class or on the athletic field and decide he's a dreamboat. This illusion persists for a few dates until she finally gets it through her head that he's just a boy - maybe silly, awkward or annoying at times. Dreamboat falls flat on his face in her mind and she can't stand the sight of him any more.

If Eileen's change - abouts were of this order all would be quite normal. But the fact that some connection exists in her mind between these relationships and her first preteen venture into dating indicates that something may be amiss. Besides, Eileen is getting a bit too old for sudden and violent crushes and revulsions. At this period she should be forming pleasant friendships with boys - friendships which may continue until she is ready for marriage.

Another negative element is the R.J.'s inability to "get through" to Eileen. When children have a good relationship with their parents, they don't think of their parents' guidance as interference. They may at times dislike being told what to do or not to do, but they will try to argue the situation out rather than attempt to push the parents out of the picture.

It is a fine idea for Eileen to talk over this situation with an outsider trained in teenage problems. But she shouldn't be forced to talk to a family friend. Confidences can't be forced. It would be far better for the R.J.'s to ask their clergyman friend to recommend a guidance counselor - preferably a woman.

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## Parks, Recreation Committee to Meet

The Medford Parks and Recreation commission will hold its monthly meeting tonight, 7:30 o'clock in the council chambers in the city hall.

Included on the agenda will be a discussion of the wading pool at the Jackson st. park which will be started Tuesday morning with groundbreaking ceremonies planned, swimming pool fees, and slides shown on the Medford corporation locomotive at the Jackson st. park.

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# 12

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