

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.

Alfred B. - I never get any new clothes.

Mrs. P. B. - Our budget requires the hand-me-down system.

Alfred B. - I'm 9 years old and I have a brother, Joe, who's 10. I have a kid brother, too, but now I want to tell you about me and Joe.

He gets everything new and I have to wear his old stuff. Even his Cub Scout uniform gets passed down to me. Next week Mom's taking him into town for a yellow raincoat. That means I'll get his old black one.

I hope I grow taller than he is. Then, even if he's older he'll have to take my old clothes. But I'd like one new thing now.

Mrs. P. B. - Our boys are "stepladder" kids, 7, 9 and 10, and all growing fast. We can't afford to outfit each one each season from head to toe. So we had to decide whether to get each a few cheap things frequently or to buy expensive top-quality garments for Joe and then pass them along.

It's not as bad as Alfie says, although I admit he hasn't ever had a new flannel suit. But he gets his own shoes, of course. And once in a while he selects his own necktie and hat.

I wish clothes weren't so important to him.

The Council: It may not be "clothes" of his own that Alfred is steamed up about so much as an identity. He finds it hard to play Alfie in Joe's costumes.

On the other hand, we can understand Mrs. B.'s problem and submit a few suggestions for solving it in ways less painful to Alfie's ego.

How about father-and-son match-mates? When hand-me-down time rolls 'round for Alfie, Dad's loud Hawaiian sport shirt can match his (ex-Joe's though it is). Dad, we assume, has stopped growing vertically anyway. So Alfie has the prestige of a me-n-Dad outfit.

From another mother we learn the trick of labelling clothes by milestones reached, rather than by the name of their first wearer. Thus she painted the words: "Kindergarten Raincoat" across the back of a slicker, and as each kid reached kindergarten age, he was proud to don it.

Mrs. B. might refer to the "Five-foot Bathrobe" instead of "Joe's old bathrobe," and hold it in reserve for whoever reaches 5 feet next.

Then there are garments of a "fits all sizes" nature, such as scarves, knit caps and socks. Here Mrs. B. might make a point of buying the new ones for Alfie and having him hand-me-up a few for Joe, to vary things.

Finally, by showing Alfie that the savings made possible by the share-the-wear campaign in the B. family can pay for a few new things for him in the non-apparel line-books, games, goldfish, etc. - Mrs. B. can assure him of his first-run status in the family despite his second-run appearance.

Clothes don't make the man, or boy. But they can make him unhappy when they make him invisible.

Oregon Fish on Standard Time

Portland - (UPI) - Lots of people in Oregon are confused about the time these days but not the fish.

The fish are on standard time.

The Oregon Fish Commission says so.

The commission said commercial fishermen and law enforcement officers have had some differences of opinion on the matter recently.

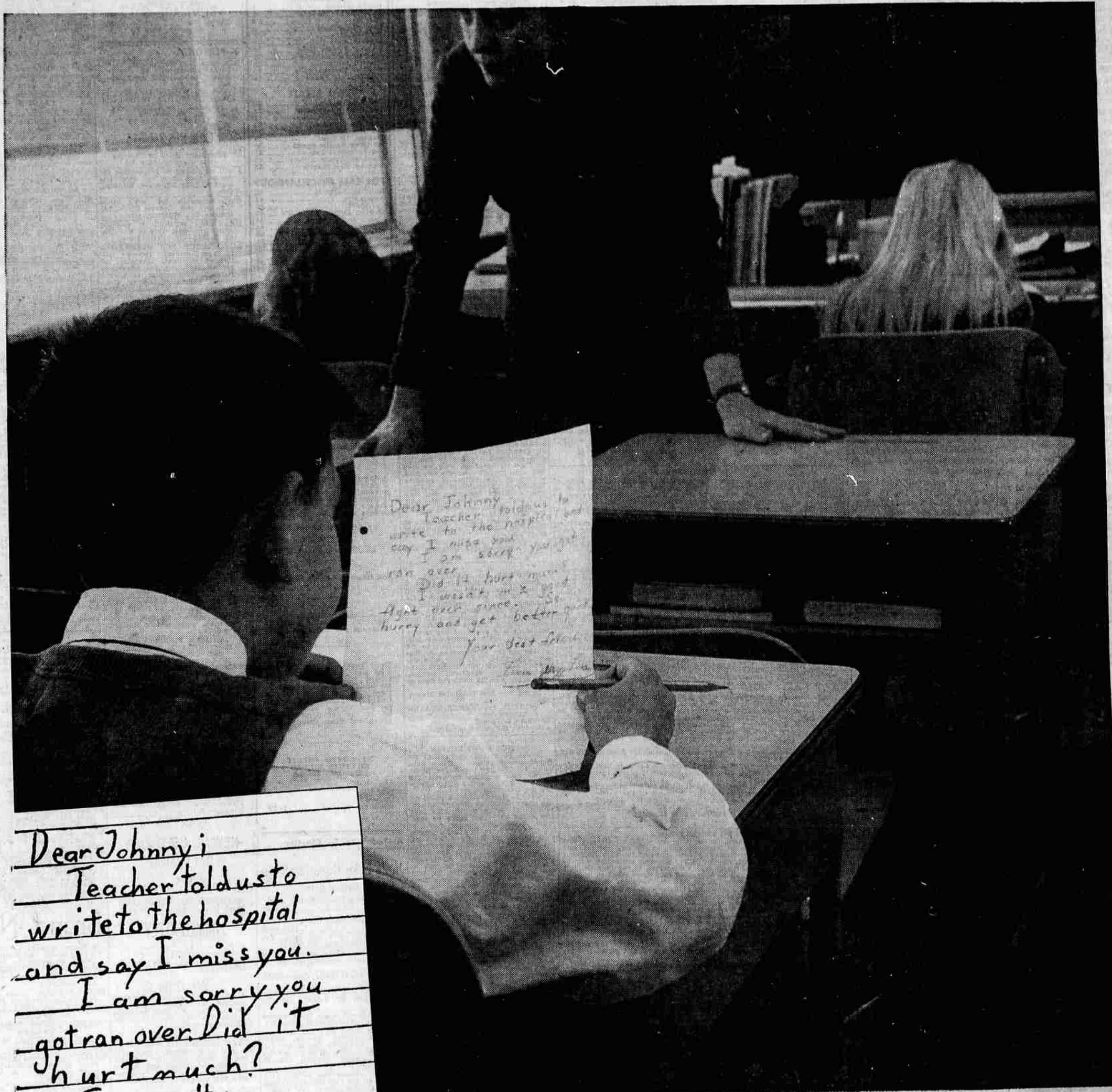
Harry Smith, commission auditor, said all times referred to in commercial fishing regulations issued by the commission are Pacific standard time.

Typhoon Sweeps Through Hong Kong

Hong Kong - (UPI) - Typhoon Alice roared through Hong Kong with 100-mile an hour winds today and slammed into famine-plagued Communist China.

First reports said three persons died in Hong Kong and two ships collided in the harbor. Property damage ran to tens of thousands of dollars.

All public transportation was suspended and schools were closed.



Dear Johnny:
Teacher told us to
write to the hospital
and say I miss you.
I am sorry you
got ran over. Did it
hurt much?
I wasn't in a
a good fight ever since.
So hurry up and
get better quick.
Your best friend,
Fred Williams Jr.
P.S. I'll fight with
one hand, too.

Drivers kill and cripple more children than any disease!

Pneumonia, cancer, polio - we're doing something to fight these child killers. Now let's start fighting the worst child killer of all - traffic accidents. Yes, drivers kill and cripple more children aged 1 to 14 than any disease. What can you do to curb careless drivers? You can stand up and be counted. You can write your local enforcement officials and say:

"I Support Strict Law Enforcement!"

Let your police and courts know you're behind their efforts to protect your children. For where traffic laws are strictly enforced and obeyed, deaths go down! Hundreds of communities have proved it. Every community can do better than it is doing!

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