

FAMILY COUNCIL

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Mr. T.Y. - Every kid does not have to go to college.
Mrs. T.Y. - I'll be heartbroken if he backs down now.

Md. T.Y. - Our son Frank should have a better reason for going to college than the fact that his mother has her heart set on it. If college means so much to her, let her register there herself, now that she's saved up the money for his first year.

Just because the boy loves to use my telescope and study the stars, my wife insists that he's on the way to become a great scientist. But his real interest is in building. He looked at the stars and then made himself a model planetarium. To be a scientist he'd have to get decent marks in math and other subjects, and Frank has just about squeaked through.

We're all headed for trouble unless his mother accepts the fact that Frank just isn't the Joe College type.

Mrs. T.Y. - My husband and I never went to college. Naturally we dreamed of our son's going further than we. I've kept a special savings account going for Frank's college education, ever since he was in kindergarten. Now that he's 16 and the time to apply draws near, my husband is encouraging him to back down.

He's a bright boy. He may not show his real ability on tests, but the toy planetarium he made shows that he knows math and science, even if he had to teach himself instead of getting it from books. With a little tutoring this year, I'm sure he'll do well enough on the college entrance tests to get into a good university and study for a degree. He'll be sorry if he passes up his chance, and I'll be so disappointed.

The Council - Socrates said, "Know thyself." If the hemlock hadn't done him in so fast, he'd have probably added, "And know thy son." For obviously, one of these parents doesn't really know Frank. The Council suggests that Mrs. Y. respect the results of tests, plus the opinions of Frank's teachers and school guidance counselors. If these objective indicators, added to Frank's and Mr. Y's preferences, all add up to No College, Mrs. Y. should accept the verdict.

To soften the blow for her we offer the view of a leading American educator who feels that 50 per cent of the kids who go to college should not, for their own and the nation's good. Seven out of ten high school students, he says, have parents who want them to go. Two out of three will do well and graduate. That means the other five will fail and drop out, with nothing added but frustration. And even those two graduates may have been taking the wrong courses, for out in jobs 40 per cent of college graduates feel themselves misfits, doing work they're miserable at. So, heed Frank's aptitudes and capacity now. Don't force him to struggle through unenjoyable years, a square peg in a round hole, wasting time.

Other educators echo the view that college has been oversold. What's the use, they ask, of having so many students who understand the design of a space rocket, if there aren't trained technicians who can build it?

There are more than 23,000 kinds of jobs to choose from, and only a few require a college education. Yet, all are essential to our economy. It's better that Frank pick an opening in a field he feels at home in, after high school graduation, than sweat out four years of college (or more, if he flunks) merely to satisfy his mother's vanity. Her vanity will be soothed by his smooth progress and success.

Of course, college offers more than vocational preparation. Both Mr. and Mrs. Y. can encourage Frank to pursue the "enrichment subjects" on his own and all through his life. Call his degree a Ph.D. for Productive Happy Citizen.

Cockroaches Subject Of Research Study

Ithaca, N. Y. - (AP) - Most people go to all lengths to rid their homes of cockroaches, and housewives sometimes go into a panic if they spot one in their cupboards.

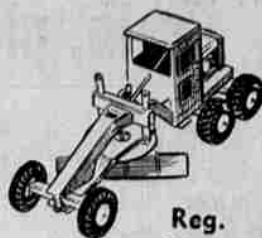
But not Dr. Frances Ann McKittrick of Cornell university. She has 10,000 of them, and sits up nights looking at them. Dr. McKittrick, a research associate in the entomology department, New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell, is making a study of the behavior and mating patterns of the 40 different species of roaches she has collected.

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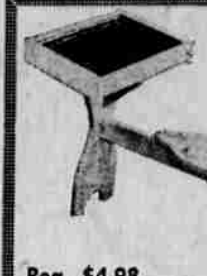
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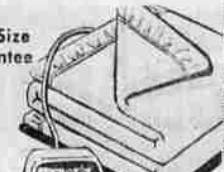
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