

### 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.  
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Mr. T. H. — He should go to the all-boys school.

Mrs. T. H. — He should go to the co-educational school.

Mr. T. H. — It would be different if we had no choice in the matter. But our son Hank has received a scholarship, through my union, for a private secondary school. It has a high scholastic record, and boys who graduate get into the best colleges easily.

My wife wants him to turn down the grant and go to the local high school. She says it's not good for a kid to be in an all-boy environment. The other school is co-ed.

Hank was all set to attend the nearby school, but now he's eager to try this academy. I think he'll get a better education there, but my wife is trying to talk him out of it.

Mrs. T. H. — Hank is an only child and I think it's important for him to go to a school where the environment is more like that of the outside world, like a big family.

I know I was handicapped by going to an all-girl high school. It took me years to feel at ease among boys. I used to giggle and blush in the presence of such "strange" creatures. Besides, there are other factors. The private school is an hour's train ride away and Hank will lose all that time commuting. His old friends in the neighborhood will drop him.

There's more to school than just studies. Hank will get more out of his high school years if he stays here in town in his natural circles.

The Council: The question of what school for Hank can only be answered via another question: What does Hank need most right now? A boy is entitled to attend the school he can be most benefited by. Those who know Hank best—his teachers, his parents, and himself—must talk with those who know the two schools best—the guidance counselors or principals, to do a skillful matching job.

But the Council can help, perhaps, by discussing the general pros and cons of the separated school. Unexpectedly we find recent studies which stress the pro. The only "con" which holds up, for some teen-agers, is the one raised by Mrs. H., namely the reduced opportunity for fostering healthy boy-girl relationships. It follows, then, that if the home, church, and community can provide facilities for helping the adolescent to acquire social smoothness in his non-school hours, his high school need not concern itself strongly with that phase of his growth.

Hypothesizing about Hank, Mrs. H., what if he's brilliant? One survey, directed by Dr. A. J. Tannenbaum for Teachers college, Columbia university, finds that he's likely to be miserable in a co-ed school where "cheerful mediocrity" is lionized. Girls, according to this study, attach less value to a boy's academic achievement than to his ability to dance, play football, "shoot the breeze." As a result, bright boys often play down their talents to avoid social penalties among their peers.

In another investigation, this one by Dr. Walter B. Waetjen of the University of Maryland, it was found that putting boys and girls in separated classes speeds up learning and improves behavior. He suggests that this is due to important differences in rates of maturity (girls are faster) and in acceptance of authority (boys are slower). Another disadvantage of keeping teen-agers in the same classroom is the preoccupation with "impressing" the opposite sex.

All in all, if it's solid learning that Hank is after, he'll more likely get it from the all-boys ranks. The co-ed type is likely to be "fragmented."

### Baptist Minister To Attend Mission

The Rev. Clifford J. Young pastor of Eastwood Baptist church, will attend the Oregon Baptist Mission to Ministers, held at the First Baptist church, McMinnville, February 14 and 15.

Leaders of the mission will be Dr. Paul Stagg of the American Baptist department of evangelism and Miguel Alcantara Jr., prominent Christian laymen and broker in San Salvador. Theme of the Mission is: "Witness in a World of International Crisis."

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