

KIMMY SAYS—

Editor's note: This column is written by a Medford teen-ager who has chosen the non de plume of "Kimmy." Other teen-agers in the area—and, who knows, perhaps even parents baffled at their offspring's behavior—are invited to write to "Kimmy," in care of the Mail Tribune, for suggestions or advice on manners, dress, behavior and similar subjects.

Dear Kimmy: Some of the teenagers in my crowd think it smart to drink beer at parties. Am I a square for not wanting to join them?

Dear Minor: No, by all means! Try fish. It's a MUCH better brain food.

Dear Kimmy: I am 4 years old and I want a tricycle. How do I get one?

Dear Scotty: Write to Santa Claus, and be good to your parents.

Dear Kimmy: I'm 11 years old and my brother, who is 16, is always picking on me.

Dear Picked On: Are you giving your brother a reason to be picking on you? This is something you'll have to learn to live with, or learn to get along with each other. Try the latter. It shouldn't be too hard.

Dear Kimmy: How old do you think that a girl and boy should be to go to the drive-in movies?

Dear P. U.: As old as their parents say they have to be.

Dear Kimmy: I broke up with a boy last week and now I like him.

Dear Lover Girl: What did you break up with him for then?

Dear Kimmy: Last summer I went with a girl. Now she is in France. No girls in this place interest me. Do you think that I miss her because she is away or because I just like her?

Dear Confused: For HER sake, it had better be BOTH.

Dear Kimmy: I don't like my boy friend any more and I don't know how to get rid of him without hurting him. He is always calling me and asking me to go to the show.

Dear Tired: Go out with OTHER boys.

Dear Kimmy: I like a boy and so does my girl friend. He likes me more though. What should I do? I don't want to hurt my girl friend.

Dear Second Choice: Let HIM make the first move.

Dear Kimmy: If you like two boys and are going with one who doesn't like you hanging around with any other boys, but the other always goes horseback riding with you and is your next door neighbor, what should you do?

Dear Confused: Go with the one you feel is more fun and worth while. Choose while you can!

Dear Kimmy: If you met someone casually ONCE, and he promised to write and didn't — what should you do?

Dear Waiting: Meeting a person just ONCE isn't too much to go on. Wait until you see him again, and perhaps things will get off to a better start.



TARGET INSPECTED—Mr. and Mrs. James Winston inspect the bedroom window of their home in Birmingham, Ala., which was the target for a concussion grenade tossed from a speeding car. The grenade bounced off the window screen and exploded harmlessly on a sidewalk. (UPI)

Good Housekeeping in Space Isn't Best; Perfection Needed

by JOSEPH L. MYLER United Press International WASHINGTON (UPI) — Good housekeeping in space isn't good enough. It has to be well-nigh perfect. A droplet of spilled water, a crumb, a bit of dust conceivably could short-circuit a switch or clog a valve upon which the success of the flight, and the lives of the astronauts depended.

This is one of the lessons learned from the now concluded Mercury man-in-orbit program. It is a lesson engineers and technicians have taken in their preparations for Gemini rendez-vous and Apollo moon flights to come. In the words of Walter C. Williams, deputy director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's manned spacecraft center at Houston, "Dirt, debris, and foreign objects within a spacecraft have assumed major importance. We have found that we cannot tolerate even the smallest amount of dirt inside the spacecraft while it is in the weightless state."

Under weightlessness anything that isn't tied down one way or another tends to come out of whatever crevice or recess it may have been hiding in, and to float around the cabin on mischief bent. Not even figuratively can you sweep anything under the rug in a spacecraft and expect it to stay there. And even a drop of the purest distilled drinking water becomes dirt when it gets out of bounds.

So serious is the space hazard of dirt that Mercury cabins, before being taken to the launch pad, were turned upside down in a meticulously cleaned "white room" and tumbled a bit to dislodge any loose debris or stray objects. Electromagnetic force fields around equipment and the metal skin of the spacecraft attract any free floating material. This has caused shortages in electrical and stoppages in flow systems.

An unscreened cabin fan was put out of commission on an early unmaneuvered Mercury flight. Unwanted debris clogged channels of the small altitude-control thrusters aboard John H. Glenn Jr.'s spacecraft.

Astronaut Walter M. Schirra Jr. had trouble with the temperature control of his spacesuit during his six-orbit flight of Oct. 3, 1962. A tiny bit of dirt had clogged the valve which regulated the flow of cooling water.

Control System Fails L. Gordon Cooper's automatic control system aboard Faith 7 failed toward the end of his 22 1/2-orbit flight last May, and he had to manipulate hand-operated devices to get safely down from orbit.

In this case the villain wasn't dust or any loose metal or other scraps. It appears to have been water. Cooper was plagued by leaks in his spacesuit plumbing and in his drinking water tank.

Experts believe misplaced moisture corroded a couple of key electrical connections and threw the entire automatic control system out of kilter.

Robert A. Nanz of the spacecraft center's crew systems division explains that "unrestrained liquids," floating around the cabin of a spacecraft in globules, "could coat every surface they brushed against in the course of their wanderings."

Crumbs Make Trouble Crumbs, too, could make a trouble. On earth a crumb just falls on the tablecloth and lies there. In space it could be drawn into an astronaut's windpipe, or it might get into a piece of equipment and jam it.

Williams and others have found out what every housewife knows: "We can never reach the perfection of absolute cleanliness." But the effort must be made.

And "if we cannot eliminate the debris," Williams says, "we must eliminate the chances of it interfering with the working of spacecraft equipment."

This, he concedes, "is going to take some very careful design work on the part of the engineer."

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