

Leave Home, If Your Father Is Unreasonable About Dates

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What is a girl of nineteen to do when her Dad forbids her to have dates? He insists she be "engaged" before going out with anyone. I wasn't allowed to attend any social functions during high school, and though I was an honor student and wanted to go to college, he forbade that. He even objects if I go swimming or to the movies with other girls. Sometimes I wish I were married so that I could get away from his clutches. Please help me.

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parents? This is a serious obligation and not to be put aside thoughtlessly or without adequate reasons. How does it apply to your situation?

Well, in the first place, Alice, one of your parents, your mother, agrees that you are not receiving proper treatment. Though she would probably not be happy to see you have to leave home, it seems to me that she would have to admit that this is the best course of action under the circumstances.

What about your father? Clearly his attitude and action are irrational and unjustified. He did not allow you to attend any social functions during high school; he would not permit you to go to college in order to become a teacher; although you are now old enough to have a full time job, he refuses to allow you to have dates; he objects when you go swimming or to the movies with other girls — what does he want?

At the very minimum, this pattern indicates he has the wrong conception of parental authority. Parents have only a temporary, delegated authority over their immature children.

It is granted them for the good of their children and is consequently limited by this purpose. Parental authority ceases when children become mature, though they obviously owe their parents love and reverence throughout life.

Hence in leaving home you will not be acting contrary to the legitimate authority of your father. The situation is regrettable and unfortunate, but it would be foolish to remain in it until it was too late for you to make the change, or sheer desperation drives you to attempt to escape through a hasty, ill-considered marriage. Of course it will take considerable courage and perseverance to make the move, Alice.

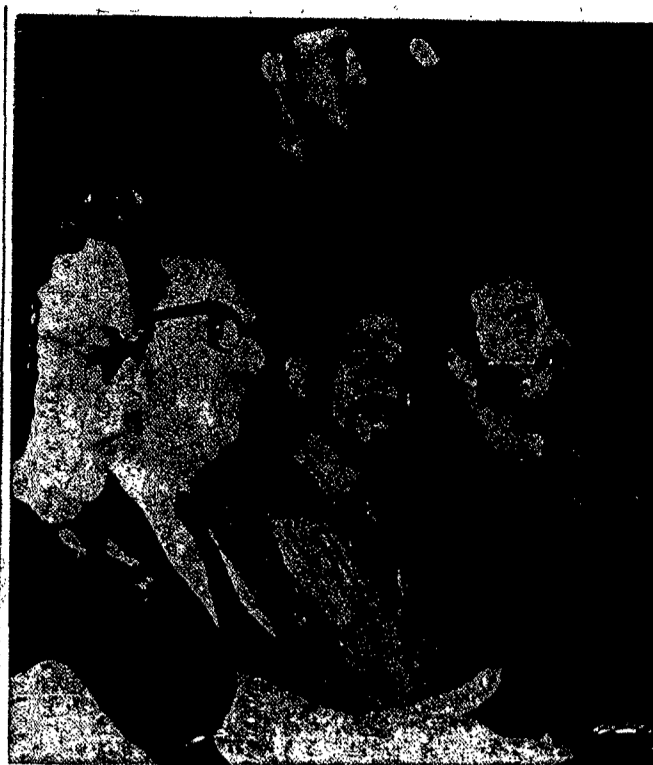
Up to now you have been surprisingly docile and obedient, so it may take some effort to become wholly independent. Nevertheless, you have to take the step sometime if you hope to lead a normal life.

One final word of advice. Try to carry out your plans as calmly and quietly as possible. Nothing is to be gained by dragging the affair out through numerous scenes of quarreling and recrimination.

Whatever happens, don't carry any malice in your heart. Remember, it is the essential mark of the Christian to forgive and forget. Do what you have to do because you feel that you must, but leave the judging of others up to God.

Readers Protest Anti-Birth Aid

London — (RNS) — The National Council of the Union of Catholic Mothers has protested here against the inclusion of contraceptive advertisements in the London edition of the Reader's Digest.



Cuban Premier Fidel Castro (right) attends Church rite in Havana. With him are President and Mrs. Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado and Army Chief Major Juan Almeida.

Pardon, Pope's Plea

Cubans' Roar Rejects Reds

Havana — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in a recorded message at one of the greatest demonstrations of religious faith in Cuban history, exhorted Cubans to develop an atmosphere of "peace and harmony."

The Pontiff, who spoke in Spanish, told more than a million Catholics attending an outdoor Communion service at Cuba's first National Catholic Congress that only brotherly love can close the wounds of this strife-torn island. He appealed for unconditional pardon and stressed that unity is deeply needed to "save Cuba's Catholic face."

Among those listening to the Pope's words, which were carried throughout Cuba on a national radio hookup, was Premier Fidel Castro, who has denied persistent charges of Communist infiltration into his government and Church leaders, including President Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado and Manuel Cardinal Ateaga y Belamcourt.

Movie Library New At Vatican

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John XXIII has established a Vatican film library as the most modern addition to the Holy See's age-old record of civilization. Newsreels, documentaries, art films and television kinescopes will take their place as historical documents along with the vast collection of books and ancient manuscripts of the famed Vatican Library.

The Vatican film library will be under the direction of the Pontifical Commission for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television, of which the president is Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the North American College in Rome.

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Courts Said Confusing Smut Fight

Columbus — (RNS) — High Court rulings are being used to "brainwash" the public into thinking that nothing can be done about obscenity," the founder of the Citizens for Decent Literature charged here.

Charles H. Keating, Jr., a Cincinnati attorney, said, however, that despite this "deliberate confusion" some convictions have been obtained through enforcement of city ordinances and some of these have been reversed when appealed to higher courts. One of the convictions, he said, was against Cincinnati's largest magazine distributor.

Mr. Keating addressed some 100 delegates from 11 Ohio cities at the second state meeting of the C.D.L. He said those who sell obscenity can still be prosecuted and convicted under valid city ordinances. He added that special city ordinances aimed at obscene publications with second class mail permits will mitigate the effect of the Ohio law which eliminates such publications from prosecution.

Mr. Keating noted that Cincinnati's general obscenity ordinance makes mere possession of obscene matter with intent to sell a crime. He cautioned that a similar Los Angeles law is now being tested before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Smith vs. California case.

This case involves a man convicted of selling a book on sex deviation. But his attorneys have argued that he did not know the contents of the book and cannot be held responsible.

People Want To See Mass

Nijmegen — (NC) — Most Dutch and Flemish Catholics want their priests to offer Mass facing the faithful, a public opinion poll released here indicates.

The poll also shows that the majority of the people would like to have the Epistle and Gospel read only in the vernacular.

Initial results of the poll were revealed during the celebration here of the golden jubilee of the liturgical societies of the Netherlands and Flanders. Full results are to be published in the January issue of the "Journal for Liturgy."

Sign on the marquee of a Times Square theater specializing in horror films: "Scare conditioned."

Italy's Premier Segni Visits Famed Stigmatic

San Giovanni — (NC) — Italian Premier Antonio Segni made a special trip to the Capuchin monastery here to visit with Italy's famed stigmatic priest, Padre Pio.

The Italian Premier had been in nearby Foggia, in southeastern Italy, to take part in a commemoration of the war dead.

"I HAD WANTED to meet Padre Pio for a long time and I too, advantage of the day's occasion to realize the old desire," the Premier explained. Mr. Segni first visited the Church of Our Lady of Graces adjoining the monastery and passed before the crucifix in the ancient church before Padre Pio received the stigmata in 1918.

On meeting the Premier, Padre Pio embraced him affectionately. "Pray for the welfare of our country," Premier Segni told the bearded Capuchin. "I do so every day," Padre Pio replied.

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