

HUMAN RELATIONS



Girl-Hater

DR. ROSE N. FRANZBLAU

QUESTION: I am concerned about my nephew's occasional puzzling behavior. He is an only child, 9 years of age. He does well at school and has many boy friends to play with.

What disturbs me is that when a girl is mentioned, he always says he hates girls and won't ever get married. He appears to act affectionately with his friends and he is well liked.

As an only child he seems to get a lot of attention from both his mother and father. He acts affectionately with both of them. I understand he has suggested that he would like to go to sleep-away camp this summer. His parents are considering sending him. Do you think this is a good idea?

ANSWER: Friendships mean different things at different stages in people's lives. In the pre-school years, children may have favorite playmates, but they certainly cannot be termed friendships in the adult sense. However, getting along well with a playmate one's own age, playing the same games and enjoying the same activities is a preparation for the friendship relationship that comes later on.

From about the age of 6 until beginning adolescence, engaging in sports and athletic activities allows the youngster to gain mastery of his body. It is natural that a youngster will engage in such activities at this time with others of his own sex. This begins the process of building common interests and attitudes towards life which, in time, must be present in a mature friendship.

Girls, during this stage, become interested in clothes and their appearance, even though for a while they may even continue to play with their dolls. But as these girls approach beginning

adolescence, they may convert this continuing doll interest into the more grown-up one of becoming collectors. Girls, too, engage in athletic activities such as skating or bicycle riding, but it rarely is on the same level or with the same intensity as boys.

At this age children will sometimes engage in teasing behavior, but here again it is different from the flirtatious teasing that takes place later on. The early teasing is basically a bit more hostile. The boy really wants girls out of his way while he is working out his feelings of mastery.

For a boy of 9 really to like girls would be premature.

Sometimes, when there is an over-concern about a child on the part of a parent, a relative or a friend, it may be more out of hostility than out of love. Because the person feels guilty for being so envious, and as a result hyper-critical, a reaction takes place. By being overly anxious and agitating, the envious one takes care of the guilt for his hostility.

It often takes longer for an only son to give up his mother and give her back to his father. The longer it takes, and the older he gets, the easier it is for him to cover up his hostility to the parent of the opposite sex and act very lovingly to both.

It is a good sign that your nephew has indicated that he wants to go away to camp for the summer. It says, in effect, that he is growing up and has become less dependent upon his parents, and is now ready for the separation from them. He wants to spend time with his peers, with whom he feels he can now compete without any help from his parents.



The Lyons Den

LEONARD LYONS

Because of the U. S. Supreme Court decision on legality of confessions, a special part will be set up in the N. Y. Supreme Court to review 200 cases of men sentenced for the past 20 years . . . Republican leaders in N. Y. detect a change of mind by Rep. John Lindsay about running for Mayor . . . John Steinbeck sent a check to the NAACP to buy construction workers' helmets he'd call "Reeb's," for women and children to wear in Selma, Ala.

Louis Wolfson, the industrialist, offered \$1,000,000 for "Jacinto," ten days before the horse ran in the Santa Anita Derby. "Jacinto" then came in second . . . The San Francisco bank that foundered when its president skipped to Nevada may be taken over by Victor Muscat's syndicate . . . The James Joneses will keep up with the Irwin Shaws next month: both novelists and their wives will cruise on Shaw's yacht through the Mediterranean.

Sen. Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii) made a speech to the American Immigrant Citizens conference. He spoke of the mingling of fine blood-strains through immigration. "In fact, I have English blood in me," said Sen. Fong. "My great-great-grandfather ate Captain Cook."

Les Crane may reopen the Eden Roc as a discotheque, taking turns with David Susskind at the interview-mike in the entrance-

room . . . Paddy Chayefsky will direct his next play way off-Broadway, in a theater he's found in Philadelphia . . . Sam Spiegel can't get his "Lawrence of Arabia" star, Peter O'Toole, to work in his next film. Spiegel has an option on him for \$75,000 a picture, and doubts that O'Toole should get more than the President of the U. S.

Andy Warhol, whose Pop Art sculptures of Campbell Soup cartons were deemed dutiable merchandise, and not art—by Canada's custom officials—took the cartons back. He shipped, in their stead, to the Canadian Pop Art exhibit other sculptures of his—electric chairs . . . Warhol, incidentally, is bidding for the movie rights to Andre Pieyre de Mandiargue's novel, "The Bicycle." He'll adapt it into the first Pop Art movie.

Mrs. T. Markoe Robertson is the only woman in history whose brother and son were both named Ambassadors to Spain: She's the sister of the late Tony Biddle, and mother of Angier Biddle Duke . . . Hans Conreid will make a summer-theater tour in "Absence of a Cello" . . . Memorial plaques, placed on the city's trees by those who paid for the planting, were all stolen in 48 hours. It was sheer vandalism, for the tiny plaques are useless.

William Goetz, the film producer and art collector, turned down what would have been a record price for a Picasso: Joe Levine offered him 10 per cent of "The Carpetbaggers" for the painting . . . Levine said of Billy Wilder's criticism of him: "Wilder is mad because my so-called sexy pictures make more than his so-called sexy pictures" . . . When he heard Wilder had said: "Levine is in his Blue Period," Levine wired him, "Not Blue. Green."

Miami displays a municipal sign: "Keep Florida Green, Bring Money!" . . . Mrs. John Secundari finished her ABC-TV script on Gen. Custer on Tuesday night, then checked into the hospital's maternity ward immediately. The film will be shown Apr. 9; the baby, long before then . . . Former Gov. Meyner operates his job of supervising all cigaret ads with a staff of only six. He explains it: "I've been trained to hate bureaucracy."

At the Pop Art benefit exhibit in the Four Seasons yesterday, the viewers stopped to examine the Campbell Soup carton-sculptures—then also admired the real TV camera and the real empty champagne cases . . . Kuriloff's pillowcases were exhibited, but his sculptures of five-gallon paint cans were diverted by the Four Seasons' receiving department—which sent them to the paint shop in the basement.

Ringo Starr is donating some of his photos to Sybil Burton, for use as blow-ups in the decor of "Arthur," the new discotheque on E. 54th St. . . . Larry Adler is looking for a lyric-writer. He's composing the music for Bernard Kops' TV play, "Enter Solly Gold" and "Hamlet of Stepney Green" . . . Ben Grauer, who's narrating NBC-TV's "Inter-American Highway," once wrote a book about exploring that road. The book is now a collector's item.

Morris L. Ernst said, after a trip through Europe observing political elections: "A democracy is a place where a man can get a recount" . . . Newsweek's new movie critic will be Joe Morgenstern, who married Piper Laurie . . . The script of the Sean O'Casey film biography, "Young Cassidy," has the young playwright lamenting: "All the world's a stage, but some of us are deplorably under-rehearsed."

Marc Chagall was visited by Sir Isaac Wolfson, who wanted to commission the artist to design windows for a synagogue he'll build in Jerusalem for \$4,000,000. "It will bear my name," said Wolfson, "and be my memorial" . . . Chagall replied: "A house of worship belongs only in God's name" . . . Wolfson agreed, and it will bear neither his name nor Chagall's.



JOE LEVINE

GLOSEUP:

Volunteer in Selma

BARBARA YUNCKER



MRS. WELLS

Yesterday, chic and proud, Virginia Scott Wells, RN, marched Harlem's streets to honor the struggle in Selma.

Exactly a week earlier, she'd been riding an ambulance in Selma itself—the

ambulance which finally did get across the bridge to the injured marchers, but only after police whips and clubs and horses' hooves had had their bloody way.

Last Tuesday in Selma she was marching close behind Martin Luther King with first aid gear in her oversized handbag and an oxygen mask over her shoulder, hidden under her coat. At her side walked Dr. Alfred Moldovan, also of New York. They were there to try to save Dr. King from injury or death if violence should flare.

At dawn today her husband, Dr. Aaron Otis Wells, flew South as national chairman of the Medical Committee for Human Rights to see what is needed now to maintain the "medical presence" which the committee is determined to provide in the Deep South's perilous civil rights drive.

Both Otis and Ginny Wells have walked Dixie's streets of fear before. Both are committed to go back as often as needed. They are an intriguing couple, for they represent an unusual kind of costly personal commitment.

To put it bluntly, the Wells family "has it made." Aaron Wells has fought his way up from Carolina dirt-poor to a position as a respected heart specialist on the faculty and staff of the distinguished Cornell Medical College and New York Hospital (where, say white colleagues, "he more than pulls his weight").

They are handsome. They are prosperous. They live in a racially mixed block on the West Side in a brick-faced brownstone which they have redone in modern comfort and great style. Ginny Wells, a sleek size 10, relishes the high-style wardrobe she buys at sales and wears with flair. Their circle is bright and entertaining—and wholly integrated. Their adopted Monique, age 4, whom they

found in Switzerland, is an extroverted charmer.

Yet Ginny Wells' conscience makes her, in her husband's phrase, "the most valuable moral force in my life. I'm in this movement because of her."

To the friend who "sits" with Monique when Mrs. Wells goes South, "Ginny is a dedicated person, a very strong girl, very alert. She has a marvelous sense of when the time is ripe to pursue a cause through to a goal."

Virginia Scott was born in 1928 in Pittsburgh, second of four children in what she "guesses" was a middle-class family. Her childhood was partly integrated, partly not. "We didn't think much about that. We were conditioned to the fact that there were certain things we didn't do."

She chose nursing (she is the only professional in her family) "because basically I've always had the need to be able to help other people."

After public school in Pittsburgh she trained here at Harlem Hospital, Columbia Teachers College and NYU. She met Wells at Harlem Hospital in 1948; they were married a year later while he was a resident at the Bronx Veterans Hospital.

No longer a working nurse, she goes weekly for painting instruction at NYU, doing abstracts in oil. Dinner with friends and occasional evenings at the theater are about the only planned entertainment.

She works regularly at the office of the Medical Committee at 211 W. 56th St. ("Contributions are tax deductible and volunteers are terribly needed. You don't have to go to Alabama to help.") The professionals who go South go without pay and pay their own bills when they can.

Last week as she walked behind Nobel Prize Winner King, Virginia Wells found herself wondering, as she watched the jeering whites on the curb, "What in the world am I doing here?" But that was fleeting.

Burned more deeply is the sight of a white posseman "digging his spurs into his horse so it would rear up and paw the air as he rode down on the marchers."

And of a "lovely passive little girl of 10, who came to our first aid station in the church basement, asking very quietly for us to fix the knee where the policeman's horse kicked me. I'll never forget her."