

Creative Family Living

By Dorothy L. Law



COUNSELOR,
LECTURER,
INSTRUCTOR IN
FAMILY
LIFE EDUCATION

This week we continue our discussion of temperament, remembering it is a composite picture made up of many factors. It fluctuates as our frustration level raises or lowers in response to external or internal pressures in stress situations, as we call them.

With this in mind, let us examine feelings of discouragement.

DIFFERENT FOR CHILD

These feelings take a different form in the adult personality than in that of the child. As we know, some more so than others have a pattern of becoming too easily discouraged. The adult who is easily depressed is reacting to these feelings of discouragement within himself. Naturally, this is only a sign of a deeper conflict within. This reaction to discouragement which appears to others as depression can become a problem in itself.

Children rarely react in a depressive way in similar situations, mainly because they have not learned to suppress their real feelings in a situation, and adults have. The child (the younger he is) is much more apt to say what he thinks, to face his real feelings in a situation. Psychological depression almost always is a result of repression.

PHYSICAL CAUSES

There are other forms of depression resulting from physical causes. This is why this particular reaction to stress should be checked first by your family physician. To simply assume it is an emotional problem is taking a limited approach to relieving the situation. Any child who reacts to stress situations with depressive tendencies should have a complete physical examination.

The depressive type of individual is often too sad relative to the circumstances much of the time. He lacks a light and gay-hearted approach to life situations, is often far too serious. Discouragement often keeps him from trying a new thing or results when things do not work out the way he had planned. Some depressive types are what we refer to as a "wet blanket."

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Psychological depression in an adult can result from unconscious guilt feelings (this is a most common reason), or a fear of failure. Doubt in one's ability to perform, feelings of inadequacy such as described last week can cause the depression. Other causes can be fear of ridicule, unconscious hostility, deep resentment, or desire to punish the self, which we call masochistic tendencies.

How can we help the child to avoid this type of reaction to life situations? Of course, letting him do and say exactly as he pleases isn't the answer. However, helping him to understand his unacceptable feelings and impulses toward others and guiding him to a constructive use of the energy involved is part of the solution.

The other part lies in the example of those who guide and direct him. Emotionally healthy parents will produce the same kind of children. Parents who recognize and face their unacceptable feelings integrate them as they go through life and find less of a reaction of depression within themselves.

FACE OWN FEELINGS

You notice I said recognize and face, but not express. There is a big difference between the two concepts, I do not advocate the theory of letting off steam in all directions and hurting others in the process in order to avoid repression.

We must live in a world which has a social order to it. There is a certain degree of conformity required of us as social beings; every child sooner or later is exposed to this world of conformity. If he can function in it a creative fashion and yet co-operate with it, if he can please others and yet be himself, we have done a good job as a parent or an educator. I'll talk more about temperament next week.

Classes In Group Processing Slated

Group processing classes will be conducted weekly at the Compton Counseling Service at 505 E. Compton Blvd. in Compton by Mrs. Julia Lewis. Classes began Tuesday, and last from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Lewis recently returned from Phoenix where she completed a clinical course in Scientology, and she will employ the latest techniques to assist individual members of the group. For further information, call Newmark 2-8812.

E. MILLER GUESTS LEAVE FOR HAWAII

Houseguests of the Earl Millers of 1304 Arlington Ave., Joe R. Floyd of El Paso, Tex., left by plane Wednesday for approximately a two-week stay in Honolulu. Making the trip were Mrs. Miller's sister, Mrs. Floyd, her husband, a Texas doctor, and their children, Dwight and Donald. After the stay in aloha land, they will return to Torrance, picking up the Millers for a vacation at Yosemite, before making the trip.

Wives to Play Cards Tonight

Y-Wives will gather for canasta and bunto games at the YWCA, 2320 W. Carson St., at 7:30 o'clock tonight, according to Mrs. Rufus Sandstrom, press chairman. Any woman in the community is invited to attend, and a 50-cent donation will be asked. Refreshments will round out the evening.



POLKA DOT STORY . . . Mrs. Thomas (Trudy) Clinkenbeard shows off a smartly tailored charcoal frock with fetching red and white polka dot collar and cuffs while Mrs. Christine Manners displays a dramatic black and white with princess lines, modified flare, and interesting polka dot trim.



Summer flowers deepening in tone from white to pale pink to speckling rose spelled out line . . . and a white frock with ink splatter print in black matching the pleated, fishtail back.

Junior Board Plans Joint Session with Five Clubs

Torrance Junior Woman's Club will meet with other Harbor and South Bay groups in the near future in an effort to exchange ideas and information for the mutual benefit of all those represented.

Board members of the Torrance group will talk to three representatives from each of five harbor clubs, San Pedro Juniors and Bachelorettes, Redondo Dianas, Manhattan Beach dolphins and Gardena Juniors. A potluck dinner will be held before the meeting at the home of Mrs. E. L. Snodgrass at a date to be announced later. Mrs. John Kemp is in charge of the event.

Reports on plans for next year were given by board members of the Juniors at a meeting Monday night at the home of Mrs. R. E. Beecher, 1024 Pelbay. Program plans were presented by Mrs. J. Helphand, first vice president of the group. Mrs. R. E. Beecher outlined her membership campaign, which is part of her job as second vice president, and ways and means were discussed by Chairman Mrs. Robert Mowry. Mrs. C. Albert Smith, newly-installed president, presided over the meeting.



HOT OFF THE GRIDDLE . . . Marlan Modeland, manager of Jim Dandy Market, feeds Boy Scout Larry Robertson piping-hot pancakes at the Boy Scout breakfast, held at Jim Dandy's Saturday morning. About 2300 attended the event, sponsored by Boy Scout Troops 219 and 315, Cub Scout Pack 241-C. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to all three troops.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE INSTALL 1954-55 CHIEFS

Pastel summer flowers entwined in archways over each officer's station set the decorative motif during the installation of Women of the Moose, Torrance Chapter No. 44, at the Alan Richard Hall last Saturday. About 180 gathered to witness the ceremonies. Dancing followed the installation, with everyone joining in such favorites as "La Raspa." Refreshments were served at lace-appointed tables centered with bouquets of spring flowers. Among the honored guests at the occasion was Lee Erickson, former deputy grand regent of San Pedro. Mrs. George Clay took office as senior regent, while seated to assist her were Mmes. Leonard Swanson, junior graduating regent; Eleanor May Fritz, junior regent; Pat Eshom, chaplain; Dolores Olson, recorder; James Baudin, treasurer; Virginia Jenkins, guide; Edna Harbinson, assistant guide; Cordie White, sentinel; Nellie Smith, argus; and Ethel St. Germain, pianist.

AT YOUR SERVICE . . . is Mrs. Carroll (Anna) Reed, 1329 Engracia Ave., who handles requests from users of Fairfax telephones at Pacific Telephone's Torrance business office. Mrs. Reed answers questions concerning just about everything to do with your telephone, from installation information to queries about telephone bills.

REGENT INSTALLED . . . Mrs. George Clay, seated, was installed as senior regent of the Women of the Moose during ceremonies held at the Alan Richard Hall Saturday. On her left is Mrs. Leonard Swanson, outgoing regent, and at the right is Mrs. Vickie Stiles, installing officer.

LEWER MARRIED . . . Mrs. McNeil's sister, Mary Hinan, a graduate of Torrance High School. He took time from convention business to visit with the McNeils and his niece and nephew, Jean and Jack, during his stay. The Lesers live in Honolulu.

RECEIVES GAVEL . . . Getting ready to take gavel from Mrs. Grover C. Van Deventer, immediate past president of the Torrance Woman's Club who conducted last Thursday's installation, is Mrs. Roy M. Nash, new leader of Las Vecinas Woman's Club. At the right is her predecessor, Mrs. David J. Hurford.

WEBELOS MEET . . . Webelos, those boys between Cub and Boy Scouts, met to learn more about tenderfoot requirements at the Melville Millar home, 205 Paseo de las Delicias in Hollywood Riviera Tuesday night. Before entering the Webelos group the Scouts must have received their wolf, bear and lion badges.

AT PLAY . . . For play there were the Italian boy pedal pushers with wear-out blouses matching trouser cuffs that turned up saucily . . . smooth-fitting navy slacks teamed with Irish-knit cotton sweaters. . . . And for sleeping, a new bloomer "shortie" nightgown in blue and white print, with feminine laciness at the neckline and armholes took style headlines.

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