

CASE RECORDS OF A PSYCHOLOGIST

By Dr. George W. Crane

Laura is engaged in a debate which is typical during the teens. Are women as intelligent as men? To hear men drivers growl about women motorists, one might think women very inferior, but be sure to read the facts.



CASE M-192

Laura K., aged 18, is a college freshman.

"My boy friend says that men are smarter than women," she began, "but I show him that our sororities at Northwestern always make higher scholastic averages than the fraternities.

"If men are more intelligent than women, then why do girls get higher marks in school?"

"But he is just stubborn and says men don't study as hard as women. Dr. Crane, aren't women as intelligent as men?"

DIAGNOSIS

This argument over the respective merits of women versus men is characteristic of teenagers, for it usually indicates emotional immaturity.

Adult men and women have usually evolved beyond this childish stage of sexual bickering, and seldom get into such arguments. However, they are very common at the high school level.

Emotional growth passes through the egocentric stage where the baby feels himself the center of the world. Later he expands his horizons to include his father and mother. This represents the parental stage.

Next comes the gang or homosexual stage, wherein he pals around with his own sex and has no use for girls. Conversely, girls think boys are only necessary evils on the face of the earth. Neither sex will admit merit in the other.

With the onset of puberty, we normally begin to change our attitudes, and transfer our affections to the opposite sex. We begin to admire and crave the companionship of the girls whom we used to disdain.

We have reached the fourth stage in emotional development, which is termed the heterosexual level. Unfortunately, many people stop at earlier levels, and even though they are grown men and women, they never mature emotionally.

Some old bachelors and spinsters have failed to evolve beyond the parental stage, so they have become "fixated" on one of their parents, to whom they are devoted slaves. They never grow up, so they fail to attain the emotional maturity necessary for sweetheart love and marriage.

Others grow beyond the parental stage, but stop at the gang or homosexual level. In boarding schools we may find school girls "crushes" between two girls, or a girl and a woman teacher.

Perhaps 90 per cent of men and women reach the stage of heterosexual emotional development. But there is no specific month or year when we leave one stage and find ourselves in the next. We may be as old as Laura and her boy friend, who are in the heterosexual stage

of emotional maturity, yet show signs of the previous stage. Thus, we argue violently for the superiority of our own sex.

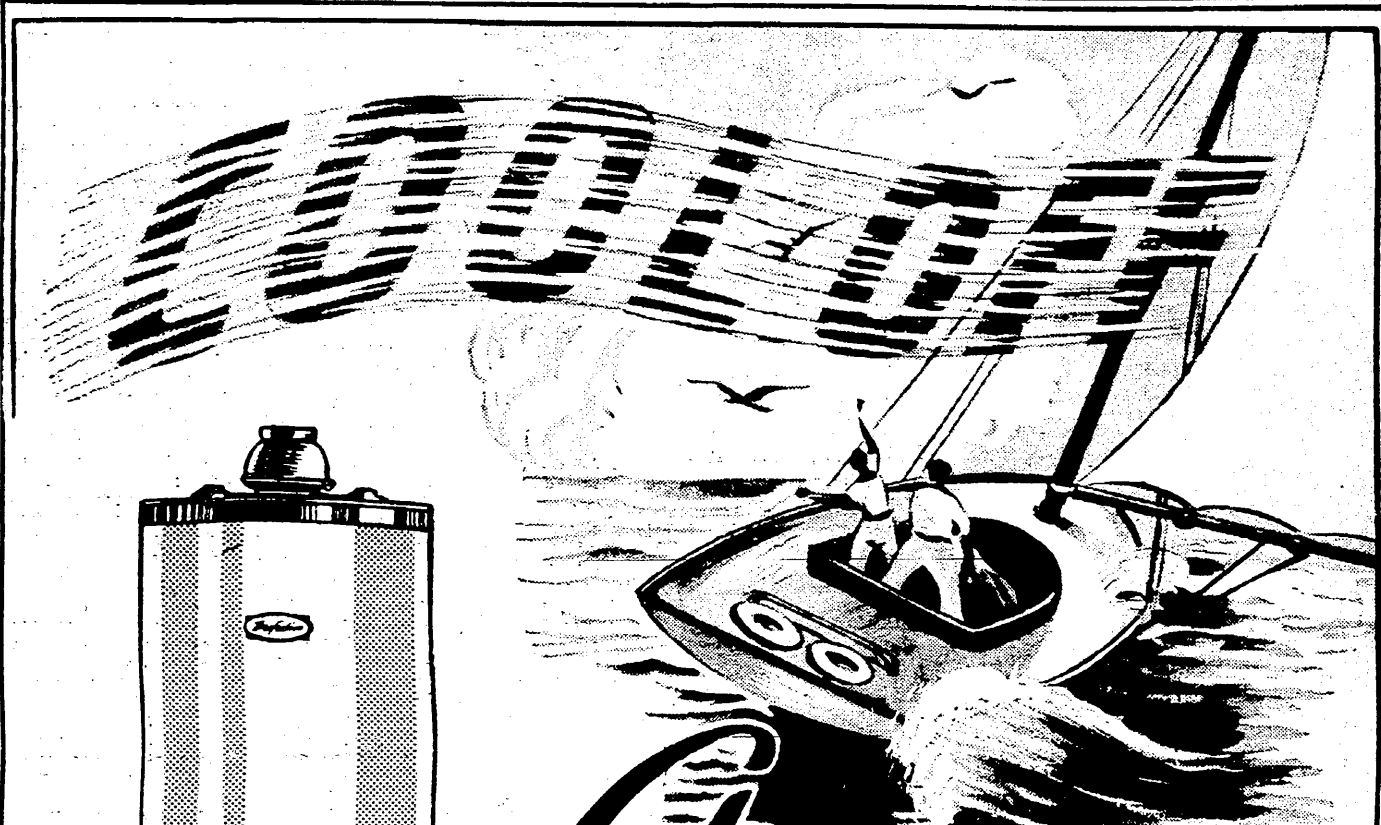
Our intelligence tests show that girls and women are just as alert mentally as boys and men. Contrary to the ignorant viewpoint of arrogant males for

generations, we know that women are just as smart as their husbands and sweethearts.

And they usually make better school marks, because women will take orders more readily. They will more conscientiously prepare their lessons. They tend to be more neat, too, and

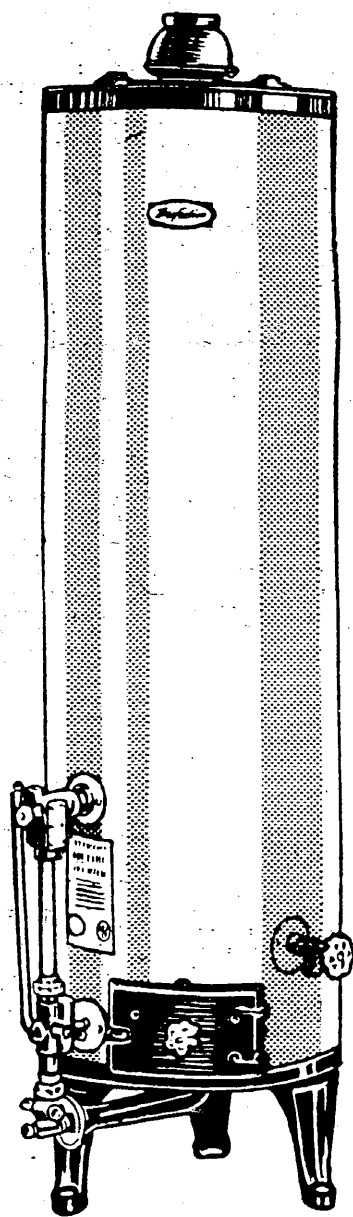
many professors give credit for neatness, apart from logic.

Boys are more rough and boisterous, so teachers often mark them lower in deportment, and occasional prudish or homosexual teachers have a complex which makes them dislike boys and prefer girls.



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