



Does This Word Fit Your Teen?

There used to be a word for young girls who were ill-mannered, brash and unladylike. They were called chippies.

The vocabulary may have changed, but as far as I am concerned, it's still a good name for all too many of you who deserve no respect because you have no self-respect.

Just the other day I got a pleading letter from a mother:

"Please straighten out my teenage daughters and their friends in your column, which they read like the Bible.

"They think my ideas are old-fashioned and outmoded because I insist they wear something over their bathing suits to cover their nakedness on the ride to the beach. Also, I set their curfew at 1 or 2 a.m., which I think is plenty late for anybody.

"They think I am 'square.' What do you say, Count Marco?"

What do I say, indeed! A bathing suit, as the word implies, is for bathing, or possibly for sunning on your private patio. Wearing it while riding in an automobile is as out of the question as prancing down Main street in your unspeakables.

There are all kinds of attractive light robes, shifts and cotton shirts you can slip on over a suit.

Some wise swimsuit manufacturers even sell these with their suits.

The fact that there's no place for changing at the beach makes not a bit of difference — these cover-ups can be slipped on and off as easily as a swimcap.

A girl who avoids wearing one, angling for boys with her body for bait, is a chippy. And if you object to that word — I could use a few other apt ones that are even harsher.

As to staying out "only" till 1 or 2 in the morning — it's you who needs straightening out, Madam, as much as your daughters.

As I wrote only recently, as long as a teen-ager is living under your roof and eating your cooking, the curfew shall ring at 10 o'clock and no later, unless a party is properly chaperoned.

What's happened to chaperones, anyway? Surely you elders don't take it seriously when your teen-agers, out of calculated selfishness, tell you that is an old-fashioned idea?

Or could it be that you are too lazy to go along to those dances or cook-outs on the beach to see that summer-night air and moonshine don't add up to temptation beyond your child's scope?

If that should be the case, then don't come crying to me if your next Mother's Day surprise arrives at the home for unwed mothers.

And to you girls I would say what my aunt the Contessa tells young ladies: "Good taste is the yardstick of self-respect," and don't expect anybody to respect you if you have no self-respect left.

Birth Defects Hit Staggering Total

Los Angeles County youngsters born with major birth defects today reached a staggering total of nearly 10,000 in a 12-month period.

The figure is a part of the first compilation of birth defects statistics released by the Los Angeles County Chapter of The National Foundation-March of Dimes.

Of the 9,800 children who are afflicted with non-fatal birth defects, one-half are doomed to serious crippling or long disability, Lawrence P. McHugh, chapter executive committee chairman, pointed out.

THESE BIRTH defects, McHugh said, range over 600 different types from such minor problems as color blindness, clubfoot and flat feet to major malformations as missing extremities, brain injuries, spina bifida or open spine and hydrocephalus or water on the brain.

With birth defects listed as the leading cause of death in one-fourth of all U.S. infants who are stillborn or die in the first month Los Angeles County totals for a year show 3,237 babies did not survive their first month of life and 1,876 were stillborn.

CONGENITAL malformations accounted for 729 infant deaths locally, McHugh revealed.

In Los Angeles County, where one in every 16 youngsters born has a significant defect, the search for answers to birth defects goes under March of Dimes support in such Southland centers as the California Institute of Technology with correction of such defects studied and effected at treatment centers backed by the local chapter at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital and Children's Hospital.

At the orthopaedic center, young victims of congenital malformations are treated, while a March of Dimes grant to Children's Hospital gives aid to youngsters with metabolic birth defects.

Kansas Picnic

The Society of Emporia, Kansas, will hold its annual picnic Sunday, Sept. 8, at Recreation Park in Long Beach. The picnic is slated to begin at 11 a.m.

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