



Cross-pondence

On Straplessness

Brooklyn, New York

Dear Sir:

I want to dispute with you over your recent comment on that SDS group over in Albany who wore their uniform to the Prom. I think you said that it would have been better if they bought decent gowns. Well, as the case goes, take it from me that it is impossible to buy any gown at all which is not strapless. The only ones which aren't are either bridesmaids gowns which look like something out of the Gay Nineties, or these demure little affairs which are all lace and frills and which would look very sophisticated on some kid going to a school prom.

This leaves us two choices. First, we could make our own gowns. A lot of the girls are doing that, but even the patterns have to be revised and most of us are not talented enough to attempt it. I, for one, would be afraid I'd wreck the material. The second choice is to buy one of the straplesses and then add a stole or a jacket of the same material or straps. Since none would dare wear a strapless to our Prom, this is what most of the kids resort to. I think that those girls in Albany were pretty clever. Too bad we don't have uniforms at school. We have tried demanding that the stores stock some gowns with shoulders but the demand from the other schools sort of overruns us. When they do have shoulders they are usually lower than the strapless ones. Ah, such is life.

Sincerely,

Mary W. McCabe

Vulgarity

Monilo

Dear Sir:

About a few weeks ago I happened to read the separate criticisms of the CROSS and a weekly on the recent "Silvana Mangano of the

Philippines" contest. They had one thing in common, a condemnation of the affair. But they differed by a mile in their treatment of this subject.

Typical of that weekly's criticism of the contest was this paragraph in their issue for March 22, 1952:

"And how, dear neophyte, will the judge go about determining the winner? The contestants will get weighed in public or in private, their busts measured, their hips, their legs, their thighs, their bellies, their buttocks."

It is surprising that a paper of decent reputation should stoop to such a cheap manner of criticism. Certainly if our papers are to maintain their dignity vulgarity is out of place. "Hits" can be made with dignity.

On the other hand we admire the gentlemanly treatment on this subject by your CROSS magazine. In your editorial of the April issue entitled, "Ah, what price beauty?" your comments on "beauty" is not only instructive but also entertaining.

Best wishes to your magazine!

Sincerely,

Jaime B. Reyes

Thank you for the compliment.—Ed.

A Broader "Heart to Heart"

Cebu City, Cebu

Dear Sir:

I was wondering if your "Heart to Heart" column may also include questions which do not necessarily refer to affairs of the heart? There may be questions pertaining to etiquette in church, social functions, schools, etc. I am very sure this would be of very much help not only to the inquirer but also to a great many others.

If you approve of this, my friends and I would like to turn in some questions at the next issue.

Sincerely,

Flor de las Alas

Your suggestion is certainly most welcome. In fact in some of our past issues the Heart to Heart column has often contained quite a number of helpful tips on etiquette, though of course they usually pertained to marriage problems. We assure our readers that our Heart to Heart columnist is a person of much experience in these matters. So your questions are all welcome.—Ed.

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