

Youth 81

**Building Strong
Friendships**

**What
Does God
Look Like?**

**Looking
Into God's
Front Yard**

**What's
Your
Hobby?**

**Consider
Yourself
Hugged**

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

You Have Potential!
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COVER: How important are your friends to you? The building blocks of a successful friendship are described in the article, "How to Build Strong Friendships," beginning page 7. Photo by Nathan Faulkner.

Letters

SEP — a great opportunity

I had the opportunity to go to SEP camp this summer, first session, and I would like to thank the Church for keeping the camp operating. I would also like to thank all the staff and faculty plus the counselors for having 200 teenagers actually happy for three weeks. It was some job, but done well.

SEP was a great opportunity to try and excel and put to use the seven laws of success, especially perseverance in things you have never done! But now camp has ended and I have changed for the better, I think!

But I now have made lots of friends all around the country and shared once-in-a-lifetime experiences with them. We all became just one big happy family and could actually share our problems with people who we probably didn't know three weeks before. . . .

Another thing is that all the staff and faculty and campers actually cared if you had a problem or [if you were] slow at achieving something. Actually, everybody in the camp was rooting for everybody, even in the basketball games, which I think was wonderful.

Scott Talbott
Plano, Tex.

"The Hardest Word"

I thank you for the article called "The Hardest Word" [June-July]. It made me think about myself.

Here is an [experience] I once had. I was over at my friend's house. She took a cigarette and started smoking.

She told me to take a puff. And I said *no* because I knew it was wrong. And I'm very glad you put that article in *Youth 81*. It will encourage and help me to say *no*.

Tammy Sue Bell
Dover, Del.

Lessons for parents

I am writing this letter because I feel compelled to tell you that *Youth 81* is not only a God-inspired magazine for the youth in God's Church, but that it conveys powerful lessons for parents as well.

As I read the article, "Animals, Trees and Bugs: Teens Look at Nature," I was filled with tears of joy. I want to say to the youths who wrote this particular article, thank you for my instruction, reproof, correction, admonishment and inspiration. God has truly spoken to me through your article.

Mrs. Roth H. Coleman
Greenbelt, Md.

You Have Potential!

Fantastic opportunities are in your future. But what do you do when you bang into obstacles?

By Selmer L. Hegvold

"But you young people in God's Church are a very special, CHOSEN GENERATION! You can be privileged to know things other kids don't! You have SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES for the years just ahead other young people your age don't.

"God Almighty the Creator is working out a great PURPOSE here on earth among human people, and you happen to live in the very generation when the greatest CHANGE of all time is going to take place."

Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong explained your great potential — what *you* can achieve — in the January issue of *Youth 81*. But so many people around you are achieving nothing. Why?

It's been said most teenagers graduating from high school are nonachievers, that about 95 percent of them have never experienced success. When it seems to be such a rare commodity, how can a young person come into contact with success? Consider the following stories and see!

The walleye's dinner

A dozen minnows a week was the diet of the large walleye in the small aquarium. Week after week he dined in style.

Then one day a glass plate was

slipped in to separate him from the minnows in the other half. This time when the voracious fish darted forward expecting an instant meal — BANG — he crashed into the glass partition. He swam around in circles for a few moments, then darted again for the minnows. Bang! He recoiled, then swam around in circles, only more slowly this time.

After a few minutes, during which his hunger greatly increased, he again lunged for the tasty minnows. Bang! Again the glass stopped him abruptly. He swam in circles, much slower this time. Then, again, he made a last desperate attempt to gain his meal. Bang! He was stopped hard by the glass.

He swam in slow circles for hours giving no more heed to the minnows swimming docilely on the other side of the glass partition. The experimenters removed the glass partition. The minnows swam all about and even, at times, touched the walleye.

Eventually the large fish died of starvation with ample food swimming in circles about him!

A young woodsman

Standing a bare 5 feet 2 inches and weighing 120 pounds, the 18-year-old high school graduate felt fortunate to be hired on with a forestry crew tucked up in the mountain woods he dearly loved. The camp where they lived, set up in a lush mountain meadow, was the fulfillment of his sweetest dreams.

He, with the other greenhorns, was

called into a group early the first workday of the week. The two foresters in charge began alternately choosing their crews for the work of thinning out the dense second-growth timber up the mountain slopes.

One by one the huskier, brawnier youths were selected until only the undersized boy remained standing. Bang! He hit the "glass"!

The short, stocky forester called to the other foreman about the youth standing alone, neglected. "Can't use him!" came the reply. Bang! The young hopeful hit the "glass" again! The rugged forester shrugged and directed the youngster into his truck and they were off for the first day's work in the woods.

Each man was given a new double-bitted ax and told to begin thinning a certain stretch of timber. The husky young men on either side were soon drawing ahead on their way to the top of the mountain. Meanwhile, the slight youth found the ax a heavy instrument to handle.

The foreman watched him swinging frantically to fell trees in a desperate effort to prove himself and catch up to the rest of the team now far up the slope.

And so the first hard day's work ended in discouragement — would he ever be good at anything? He felt like giving up, just like the walleye did.

A wise forester

Early the next morning, as all the young axmen resumed their labor,

(Continued on page 17)

The World's Holidays— Treat or Trick?



You're really bucking the crowd when you don't keep the same holidays everyone else does. How can you handle the awkward situations that arise?

By Mike Bennett

If a masked bandit came to the door and demanded, "Give me something or else!", it would be considered a crime on any night except the last night of October, the holiday they call Halloween in the United States.

Then, when costumed young people come to the door demanding, "Trick or treat!", people just think of it as harmless fun.

Most people don't really care whether the customs of Halloween are Christian or pagan. All they care about is that Halloween is fun — think of all the parties and treats! — and, besides, everybody else goes along with it. They can't understand anybody who would make a big deal out of it and who would refuse to keep Halloween just because it was started by pagans.

And if it's hard for them to understand people who buck society and don't keep Halloween, it's even harder for them to understand someone who won't keep Christmas, the biggest holiday in the "Christian"

world and the one time of the year some people try to act nice to each other.

It can be difficult to handle invitations to parties, school projects that involve the world's holidays and questions like, "What did you get for Christmas?" Not only would it be easier to just go along, it seems like it would be a lot more fun.

So how can you deal with the sometimes awkward situations you face because you don't keep the holidays everyone else does?

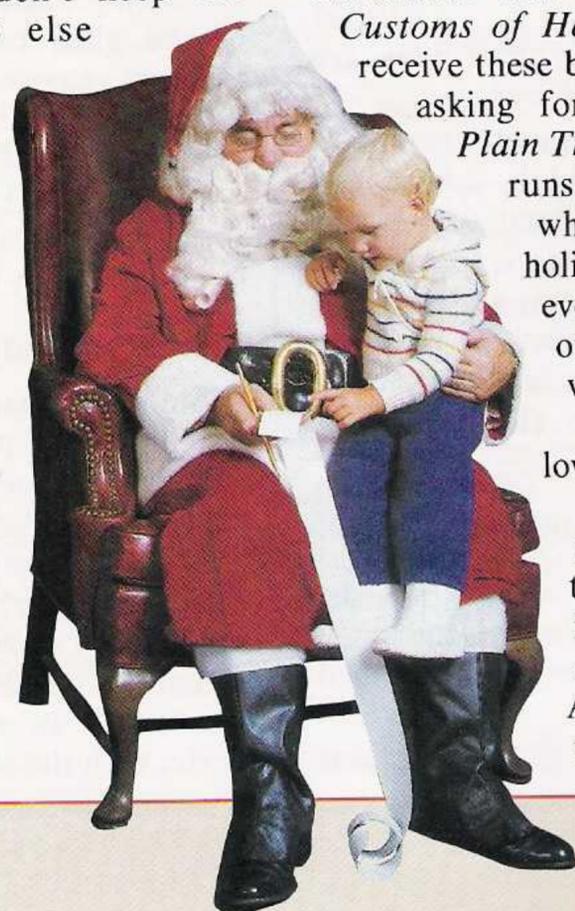
Most importantly, you need to know why you don't keep these holidays yourself. In other words, know what God says about which Holy Days He wants you to keep, and which He commands you not to.

God lists *His* Holy Days in places like Leviticus 23: "Concerning the feasts of the

Lord . . . even these are my feasts" (verse 2). The chapter goes on to explain God's Holy Days and when and how they are to be kept. You won't find Halloween or Christmas even mentioned! Also check Deuteronomy 16.

God's commands about Holy Days are explained in clear, understandable terms in the booklets *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?*, *The Plain Truth About Christmas* and *Why the Strange Customs of Halloween?* You can receive these booklets free just by asking for them. And *The Plain Truth* magazine often runs articles explaining what is wrong with the holidays that it seems everyone keeps without really knowing why.

For instance, Halloween can be traced back hundreds of years before Christ, to mystic rites performed by the ancient pagan Druids. Although this information is freely



Photos by Warren Watson

available in encyclopedias and history books, how many people do you know who've bothered to look it up? Have you?

Look in an encyclopedia. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* (15th edition) under the heading "Halloween" says: "The occasion shows clear connections with the religion of the Druids in pre-Christian Ireland and Scotland. The Celtic year ended on Oct. 31, the eve of Samhain. . . . For the Druids, Samhain was both the 'end of summer' and a festival of the dead.

"There is little doubt that the Christian church sought to eliminate or supplant the Druid festival of the dead by introducing the alternative observance of All Saints day on Nov. 1."

The encyclopedia goes on to describe how the witches' sabbaths of the Middle Ages were devoted to the worship of Satan, as well as the beginning of the trick-or-treat custom in Ireland where "contributions were often demanded in the name of Muck Olla, an early Druid deity." The whole story makes interesting reading, but it doesn't really explain why a modern, sophisticated society like ours condones such pagan worship.

After looking up the historical development of Halloween, look at some of its effects now.

Is it good to try to dress like worshipers of Satan, even if you think it's a joke? Or to stuff yourself with refined, chemical-laden "treats," some of which may be booby-trapped with razor blades or poison by someone with a sick mind? Or to scare people out of their wits with pranks or to vandalize their property?

These are some of the typical fruits of Halloween — are any of them good?

You can do the same type of

research into other holidays such as Christmas.

The encyclopedia explains that in the early centuries A.D. dozens of ideas of when Christ was born were discussed, but that the date of the pagan winter festival, "which was firmly fixed in the minds of the people and which was their most important festival," was chosen (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15th edition, article entitled "Christmas"). Research the customs of the Christmas season and you'll see that most of



them come from pagan sources.

And you can look at the fruits of this season as well. There's very little "peace on earth" or "goodwill among men" during this period of the year. Murders, suicides, family fights, depression and drunkenness reach a peak. Celebrating Christmas requires breaking God's commandments: Christ's name is used in vain, because He certainly never put His name on it; lying is often involved by telling kids about Santa Claus; and coveting material things seems to be the true "spirit" of the holiday.

The whole accent of the season is on *get*. "What did you *get* for Christmas?" "Well, I *got* . . ." Each person tries to top the other, and some probably even make up things to try to outdo the others.

Have you ever heard someone ask, "What did you *give* for Christmas?" No, everyone really wants to get more than they give, and often they only give to get, because it's expected of them.

You can analyze each of the pagan holidays this way, examining its history and its effects. Then you will know why God commands:

"Take heed . . . that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods" (Deut. 12:30-31).

God commands us to keep His Holy Days, not to dress up some pagan holidays and say we're celebrating them to worship Him. God hates these pagan customs and tells us, "Learn not the way of the heathen . . ." (Jer. 10:2).

But how can you avoid creating unnecessary problems for yourself, problems that can come because you don't celebrate the religious

holidays of the world? After doing research and really knowing in your own mind why you don't keep these days, should you try to explain all your reasons to everyone?

No. Generally it will do little good to explain your reasons to others in detail because they often don't want to hear them. You just won't convince them. The purpose of your research is to prove to yourself the truth about these holidays, which will give you stronger motivation to avoid these customs. In dealing with other
(Continued on page 17)

A Teenager Asks: What Does God Look Like?

By Robert Hoffman

The author, Robert Hoffmann, is a 13 year old living in Brisbane, Australia.

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself the question, "What does God look like?"

Down through the ages men have tried to imagine how this world and all the stars and planets came to be here. Men think in human terms and usually deny their own Creator or misunderstand who and what He is. In Genesis 1, the Creator God begins to explain who He is, and gives us the first clue to His appearance in verse 26.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26).

So we can already see that we are in the image of God, that we have the same basic shape as God.

From head . . .

The Bible tells a lot more about what God looks like, from head to toe. For starters, does God have hair? In Revelation 1:14, God provides us with an answer.

John was on the island of Patmos when he saw all the things he recorded in the book of Revelation. In a vision he observed Christ and wrote, "His head and his hairs were white like wool." White hair or robes many times are representative of righteousness in the Bible (Rev. 3:4-5, 6:11).

Now, the question of eyes. God shows us He has eyes and that He doesn't fail to see the many sins His people, young or old, commit. Revelation 19:12 and 1:14 show God's eyes are as a flame of fire — seeing all things on the earth.

More evidence of God actually seeing things — through His eyes — is found in Exodus 3:4-7 and Ezra 5:5. From these scriptures we can glean that God has fiery sharp eyesight to both "behold the children of men" and to see the afflictions of His people and from this to act.

Does God have a mouth? What do you and I use to talk with? Our mouths!

Read this sentence out loud — what instruments have you used? Your eyes — and brain — to convey the message to your mouth to speak — all in a split second! And God created this in you because He Himself has a mouth to talk with, to communicate with.

"And God spake all these words, saying . . ." (Ex. 20:1) — so God opened His mouth and spoke the Ten Commandments. He used His mouth!

What about arms? God definitely has two arms. He created us with them.

Psalms 77:15 brings this out clearly: "Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people." This verse does not specifically mention two arms, but if I were to say to you, "Look at my right arm," and you didn't see a left arm, you would think there had to be one on the left side somewhere, right?

Revelation 1:16-17 mentions a right hand, so there must be a left hand. If there wasn't, why didn't God

say in these verses *the* hand or *my* hand?

Next: Does God have fingers? The Bible shows that God wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets with His finger.

"And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God" (Ex. 31:18). Here is direct proof that God has a finger. He also has nine others, else why would He have created 10 for us?

God must also have a body, as we have. To illustrate this point we can go to Exodus 33:23.

Moses had just requested that God show Himself, so God put Moses on a rock, closed Moses' eyes and passed before him.

"And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen" (Ex. 33:23). So God clearly shows He has a back. He also has a chest (Rev. 1:13).

. . . to toe

God gives information about His feet also (Rev. 2:18). For example, the elders of Israel saw God. Under His feet was a paved work of sapphire stone (Ex. 24:10).

So from all these scriptures, we can see God has hair, eyes, a mouth, a chest, a back, a right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, 10 fingers and 10 toes — all in all a perfect duplicate of us, or rather, we of Him!

And so we see God formed us in His exact likeness or image. God also gave us a brain, one that can think, plan, read, write and build. We all know that God is many billions of billions of years older than we are, and He never stops learning. He is far above us in mentality.

And He created us with this fantastic potential also — to be above or rule over "all the earth" including the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the mammals and all creeping things.

Let's then, even though we are still teens, strive to work at school, honor our fathers and mothers and receive the rewards set for us in the near future in the Kingdom of the One we were created after — our living God! □

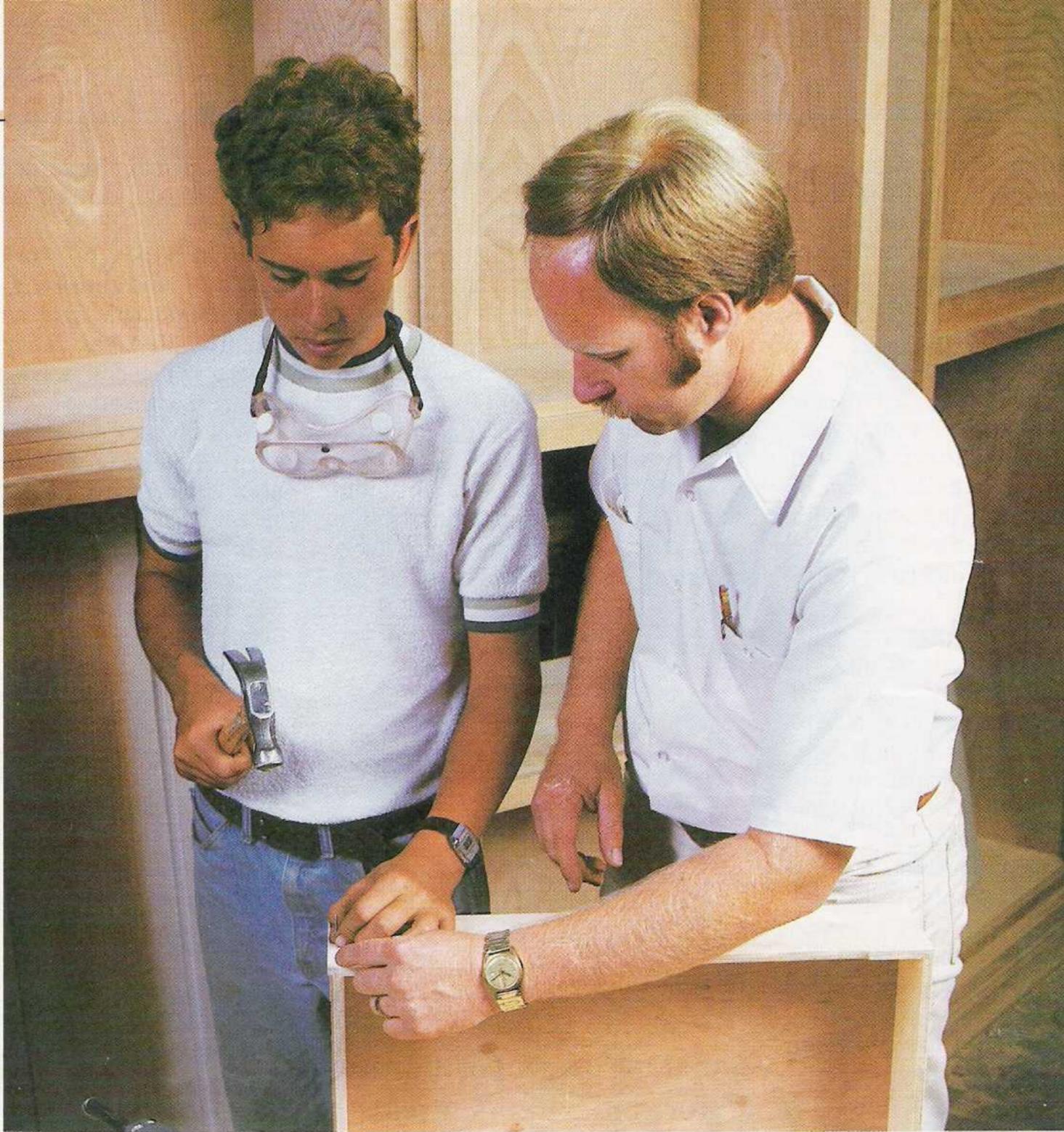


Photo by Warren Watson

A Living Now- A Life for the FUTURE

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

You can probably remember being asked that question when you were younger. How did you answer? Fireman, actress, race-car driver, nurse, teacher, mother, astronaut, baseball player, secretary, farmer?

Your career goals may have changed since then. But now those goals are much more important, because you *are* grown-up.

If you're a high school student, perhaps ready to graduate, a lot of choices about your future are facing you.

Even if you're just beginning high school, it's not too soon to explore all the possibilities available to you in

the world of careers and work. Those momentous decisions will be before you all too soon.

Will you enter a job by choice — one you have thoroughly researched and thought about, and for which you have strong aptitudes and interest? Or will you enter a job by chance — just taking whatever comes along, always wishing you could do something else and ending up frustrated?

Maybe you're saying right now: "What good would it do me to think about jobs? This world's coming to an end very shortly. What difference does a career make to me? I'll never have to worry about it."

But you will!

Yes, this world is ending, but it's going to be replaced by a fantastic society that will stagger your imagination — the wonderful world tomorrow, ruled by the Kingdom of God and bursting at the seams with outstanding opportunities for fine careers, great achievements and positions of leadership!

You can have a part in that wonderful world. Of course, qualifying for the world tomorrow at all requires that you determine to always obey God, and that you show God you want to be in His Kingdom. But what part you play in God's Kingdom after you qualify will depend a lot on how you develop yourself now by acquiring special talents, skills and abilities.

Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong explains in his autobiography that you need to educate yourself, to fit yourself for the achievement of your goals. Skill development, whether it be in the secretarial, architectural, engineering, accounting or other fields, is a way of fitting yourself to achieve career goals now, as well as preparing yourself for the world tomorrow.

And you continue to gain skills from the career and work experiences you have. That's why it's important to properly appreciate your work opportunities now, and to make a wise choice of the profession you enter.

God created work

God Himself is a worker. So is His Son, Jesus Christ (John 5:17). And God says work is good. After He created the world, making it splendid and beautiful again, God stood back and saw that His work was *very good* (Gen. 1:31).

God created the first man, Adam, and put him in the Garden of Eden. But did Adam just lie around all day with nothing to do? No! God put him to work. God made Adam a gardener and gave him the responsibility of

taking care of the garden (Gen. 2:15).

So in approaching the subject of work to begin with, remember that work is good. Work may not seem good when you have to take out the garbage or baby-sit for your little brothers and sisters or clean your room or prepare dinner for the whole family, but remember that it is — God says so.

Honest work and right attitudes toward work will always hold you in good stead. So will respecting whoever is in authority over you on the job.

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Now is the time to analyze the various vocations you could enter, and start determining just where you are going in life.

Career education

You should begin the process by analyzing yourself. Mr. Armstrong did this as a young man before determining to enter the advertising profession.

Talk to your parents. They know you better than anyone else. They have years of life experiences from which you can benefit and are sincerely concerned about your future.

Also talk to your minister. He can offer invaluable insight into various vocations and career possibilities through his contact with people in many different lines of work. He can

help you make wise decisions. You need to ask yourself several questions:

What types of work have you already found satisfying — working with facts and figures, organizing people, physical labor, speaking before audiences, solving problems, selling merchandise?

What school subjects do you enjoy most — science, mathematics, business, language, technical courses, art, speech?

In what areas are your aptitudes highest (in other words, what do you do best?) — visualizing minute details, using your hands, checking numbers or words for accuracy, reading, listening, using numbers, talking to people, writing?

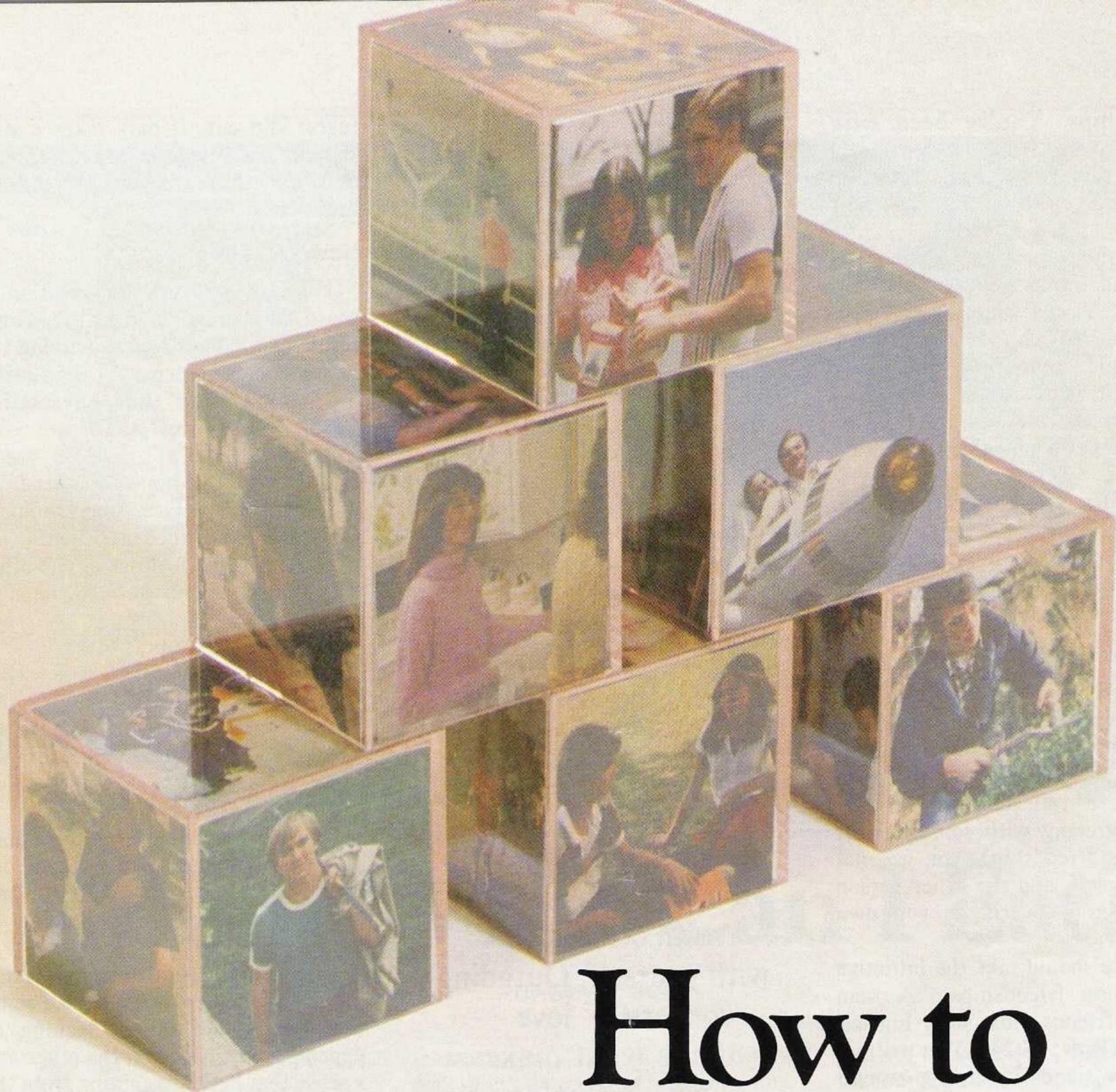
Your school guidance counselor probably has many different aptitude tests and interest inventories you could take to find out more about yourself.

Then explore all the different fields of work. The U.S. Department of Labor's *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* lists thousands of specific job titles and brief descriptions of each. Many private companies publish career information kits. Visiting the library to read about different jobs can be helpful. Your school counselor and people actually working in various professions can offer additional information.

Your decisions concerning careers are some of the most important you will ever make. Don't make them lightly or without sufficient information. What you do with your time now will determine the part you will play in God's soon-coming Kingdom.

Ask God to help you with your career decisions. He created work and says work is good, and He knows what is best for you. With God on your side, you can choose a career that will not only supply you with a living now, but one that will prepare you for the future. □

This article was compiled from reports submitted by Hassel A. White, a vocational instructor and member of the Houston, Tex., church, and John Williams, a guidance counselor and deacon in the Denison, Tex., church.



How to Build Strong Friendships

By Jeff Zhorne

“With friends like that, who needs enemies?”

How many times have you heard a phrase like that describing a relationship in which colliding egos and clashing wills are destroying a friendship?

Still people seek out relationships because God created in us a need for friends and companionship. Loneliness and isolation gnaw at those without friends.

Good friendships are integral parts of our lives. They have been called a mirror that reflects our moods and characteristics, strengths and weaknesses. The foundation of a strong friendship is to be more concerned

with others than with yourself. Outgoing concern — love — that’s what makes friends and helps you to keep them.

What hurts relationships

In order to see how to build strong friendships, let’s look at the forces that work to destroy relationships and then examine the constructive building blocks.

First, we must be wary of jealousy.

It erodes outgoing concern more than anything else. It’s suffocating to a friendship because it goes hand in hand with lust. Instead of caring and sharing, lust *gets* and *takes* advantage of others, finally killing a relationship.

Another destructive factor is distrust. Distrust thwarts that closeness, openness and sharing so essential to friendship. Gossip and talebearing also quickly consume

relationships. You've been with teenagers who seem to constantly backbite and run others down — sometimes even those they call their friends.

It irks me to hear that someone is saying bad things about me behind my back. Yes, I know, when that happens you should ignore it. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," goes the old saying. But it's hard to dispel what others have said about you.

The Bible says that death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21). Gossip, name-calling and slander erode relationships as quickly as fire consumes wood.

Don't overdo it

Perhaps you do avoid these destructive flaws but still have trouble making or keeping friends. It could be that you're trying too hard. If you are too accommodating (always agreeing with someone just to win his friendship), you are not being yourself, and the other person may feel you're covering up your own feelings.

True, we should take the initiative in beginning friendships. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24). You will not make new friends by sitting around waiting for someone to coax you out of your apathy or shyness.

But it's important not to demand, grovel or pout in order to be liked. You can't rush into relationships, trying to make an impression. Avoid trying to prove yourself and impress others. You'll find maintaining a few good, solid friendships is better than trying to impress an endless string of

people. Steer clear of the too-few-friends, too-many-acquaintances syndrome.

Flattery won't help a relationship, either. Flattery is defined as "excessive praise given for ulterior motives." A compliment, on the other hand, is "an expression of appreciation offered with sincerity, with no thought of personal gain."

You can make a person feel good all day by saying a fitting word of honest praise or recognition, but flattery hurts because it is empty of true meaning.

Jesus said, in effect, that when you give love and concern, it will be given back to you in good measure. Good things will pour into your life until

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there is not enough room to receive them (Luke 6:38).

It does take extra effort to come "outside ourselves" — to turn our attention to someone else. It happens so rarely that if you can prompt yourself to show others care and concern, you will make a deep impression.

Another vital ingredient for successful relationships is appreciative listening. This isn't just polite silence. It's an effective technique called "active listening," which is responding to others' comments in a way that lets them know you think their ideas, feelings and experiences are important. If you pay attention during a conversation, you will constantly be given clues about what to say.

Tact is important. So many times inappropriate words that you later

regret slip out. It only takes a split second to revise a statement or question through your 15 billion brain cells.

How you say it

How can you use conversation to build a strong friendship? Good results can come from practicing the following seven steps:

1. Don't grab the conversation with "Yes, now take me, for instance. . . ."

2. Don't let your gaze wander from the other person's face, except momentarily. Give undivided attention.

3. Affirm the feelings of the other with praise, encouragement, hope or just a nod.

4. Don't interrupt.

5. Don't try to top the other person's story or joke.

6. Try to feel what the other person feels by putting yourself in his place.

7. Don't argue!

The "love chapter," I Corinthians 13, tells us to be positive about our friends by believing the best, not thinking evil and not rejoicing in iniquity.

Friendships need constant nurturing. Both partners must have a sense that one friend is not leaning or depending too much on the other and a sense that both are gaining from the relationship.

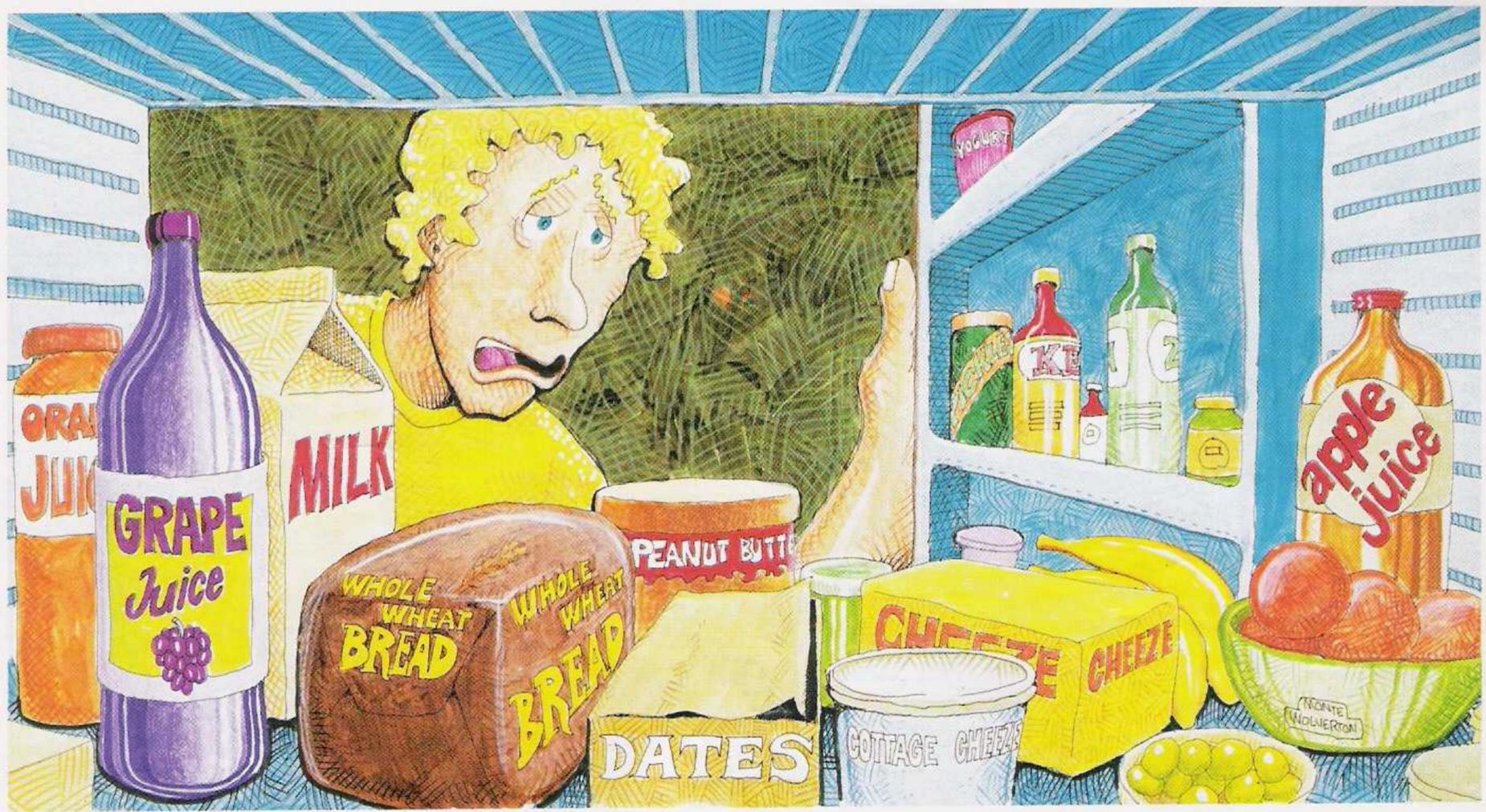
Disagreement is fine. If friends never have conflicting views (that doesn't mean quarreling), it could be a sign of apathy.

People with convictions will disagree. If two people share a deep bond of like-mindedness or affection, it will survive constructive argument. By not expecting serenity every day, a friend avoids the dangers of boredom.

A budding friendship takes time and commitment from both parties if it's to become a fulfilling relationship. The hallmark of friendship is being more concerned with others than with yourself; remember, that's what makes friends.

Fame and fortune are relatively minor evidences of success. You'll be a truly successful person if you become a loving, giving individual, one who is constantly building friendships and trying to bring happiness to others. □





'Mom, What Can I Eat?'

By Clayton Steep

After a hard day at school you're hungry. You open the refrigerator to see if there's anything you can eat without going to too much trouble.

What do you pick? Do you turn down fruits, vegetables and other foods that'll contribute to your health to go out and get tasty, prepackaged convenience foods?

Consider the choice being made by many sports stars as well as personalities of stage and screen. People whose careers depend upon staying healthy and feeling alive and full of energy are discovering that they must "junk" junk food. And a lot of them wish they had done it long ago.

Sure, junk food tastes good. It is made to taste good. And it is convenient. And often cheap. But it is a thief, stealing something more valuable than money.

It's like this: Each person when he

is born is given a little bank containing a certain number of coins. On each coin the word *health* is written. Some people receive more coins than others at birth, but we all receive some. The average person shakes a few coins out of his bank each day. Nevertheless he continues to feel pretty well, until . . .

Until that last coin falls out. Then his health is gone!

That is why many people — even in their 20s or 30s — suddenly become old before their time. Energy disappears, wrinkles appear, hair gets thin, dental problems increase. What is more, they are sitting ducks for arthritis, diabetes, heart problems, cancer and a whole long list of terrible afflictions.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Whenever a person eats junk food or practices any other unhealthful habit, he shakes another coin out of his bank. "Oh," he may say, "I have a lot of coins left. I eat candy bars like they are going out of style, drink

gallons of soda pop, devour greasy takeout food and still I feel great. So why should I worry?"

Why should he worry? Because some day — when he least expects it — that last coin will come tumbling out of his bank. His bank will be empty; his health will be gone. He will feel "great" no more.

You don't have to dump the coins out of your bank. You can even add coins to it, as many personalities in public view are beginning to do. Instead of candy and chewing gum, they munch on fruit or nuts. They have found out that dried fruit (like dates, figs and raisins) actually tastes better than junk sweets.

These celebrities avoid greasy fast-food hamburgers, fries, tacos and the like. They prefer fruit juice or dairy products and whole-grain breads and cereals. And they eat plenty of fresh vegetables. They are adding coins to their banks and feeling great about it.

How is your bank doing? □



Endless space. You look up at the stars and find it impossible to comprehend the incredible distances that their light has traveled.

But from God's perspective, what we can see is only the front yard of the creation. And just that much boggles the mind.

You don't need a highly sophisticated telescope to be amazed by the heavens — there is more than enough to dazzle even the unaided eye. Nor do you need to have an in-depth knowledge of advanced mathematics and physics to understand and observe how the solar system works.

Job came to see and deeply appreciate, without modern equipment, the wonders of the heavens God has created (Job 22:12, 38:31-33).

King David of Israel also pondered the meaning behind the awesome display he saw above his head. With just his own two eyes, he looked upward

Looking Into God's Front Yard

By Mike Bedford

and recognized God's hand in all that existed (Ps. 8:1, 3).

These men and others, in years gone by, didn't have the complex equipment we have today, nor were they even aware of the existence of things that we today take for granted.

If you have a telescope or a pair of binoculars, fine. But if not, the heavens are still wide open for your inspection.

Using just your unaided eyes, you can see so far into space that you are actually looking into the past! The reason for this is simple: The stars you see are so far away that the light they give off has taken perhaps thou-

sands of years to reach us here on earth. For all we know, any given star may no longer exist, but the light from it is still reaching us.

Without a pair of binoculars, you can easily search out various patterns of stars, called constellations, which in ancient times were imagined to be pictures of various mythical figures.

The ancient Greeks and Romans gave names and stories to each of the patterns they had "drawn" in the night sky (using a sort of connect-the-dot method, using the stars as dots).

For example, one group of stars was imagined to represent a great and mighty hunter (named Orion), in the

process of slaying a bull (Taurus) with his sword and shield.

The parade of constellations changes with the passing seasons. Any book on the subject will tell you which ones are visible at a given time of year.

Another beautiful object, easily visible in the sky, is a group of stars called the Pleiades, found in the constellation Taurus. The Pleiades is a star cluster surrounded by luminous gas. This bright group of stars is even more breathtaking when viewed through a pair of binoculars or a low-powered telescope.

Several times during the year, the earth's orbit carries it through a swarm of debris, possibly the remains of a comet. As the earth passes through these clouds of particles, its gravitational pull brings some bits of the rock and dust falling toward the earth.

As these meteors, ranging in size from smaller than a pea to the size of a boulder, fall through the atmosphere, they are burned up by the friction. As they burn, beautiful blue streaks are formed. This is what many people call a falling, or shooting, star, though, of course, they are not stars at all.

On certain nights of the year, during what is called a meteor shower, as many as 60 meteors can fall in the course of an hour. See "News & Reviews" for a list of some of the major meteor showers that will occur in the next few months.

After midnight, chances of spotting a "falling" star are much better. Your family may want to stay up to get a glimpse of a meteor shower — it's a rare treat.

The moon's changing phases, the day-to-day movements of the brighter planets, eclipses of the sun or moon and even a planet passing behind the moon (called an occultation) are all visible without optical aids of any kind. Books and magazines on astronomy offer maps of the sky and details on what to look for and when.

So, even if you can't afford a telescope or binoculars, there is still nothing to prevent you from experiencing the thrill of being an amateur astronomer! □

Mike Bedford is a 19 year old from Butler, N.J. He recently won a first place in the YOU photo contest for the most unusual black-and-white photo.

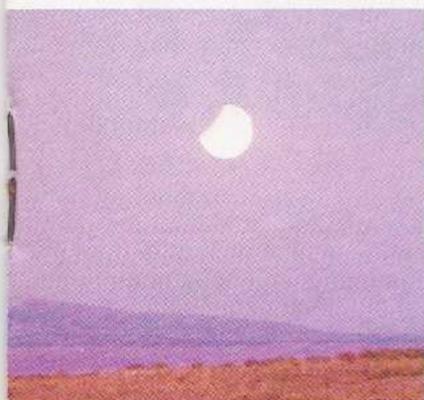
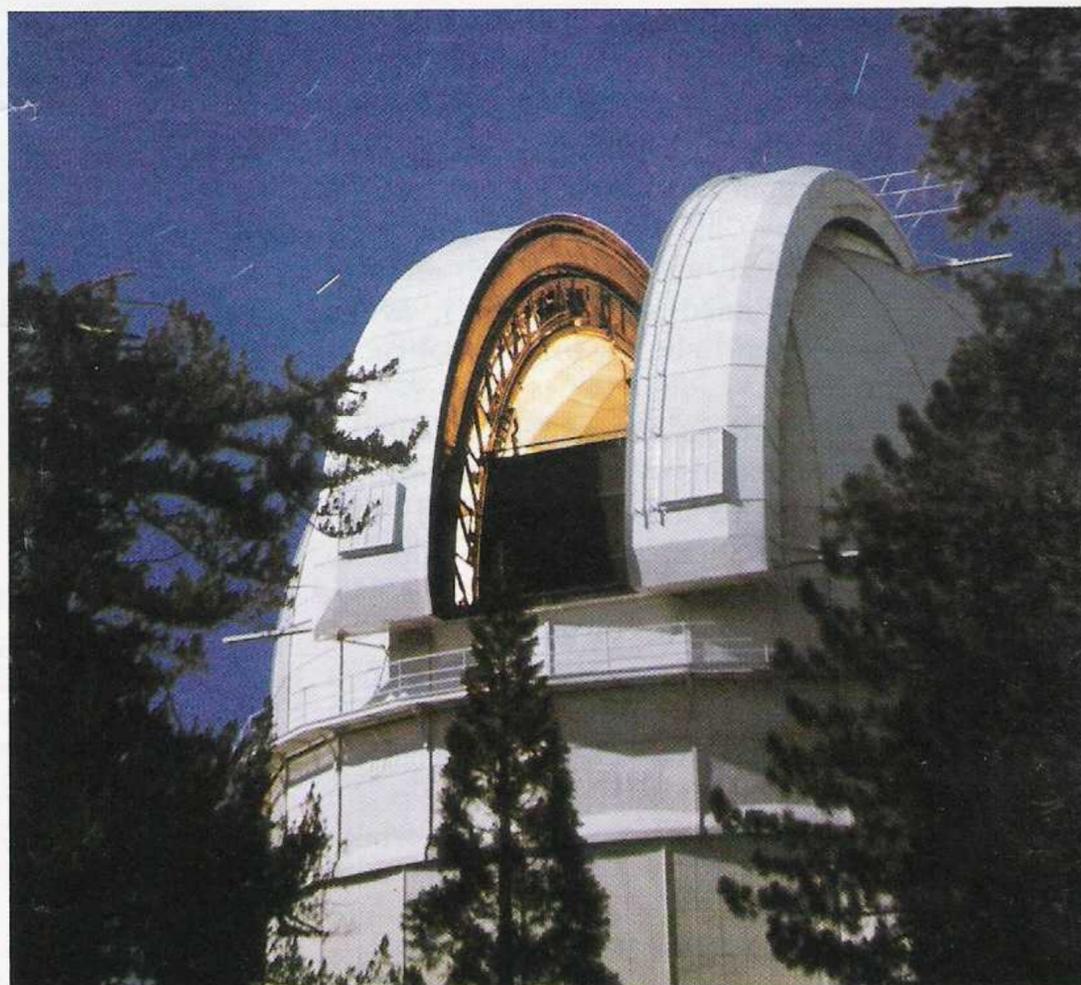
The Pleiades star cluster (page 10) can be seen with the naked eye. This photo was taken through a telescope and shows an even more breathtaking view. Right: Man's technology has come a long way since Galileo first pointed a spyglass skyward. Pictured is the dome of the Mt. Wilson Observatory near Pasadena. (Youth 81 photos)

The History of Astronomy

For thousands of years men have looked in awe at the glowing objects in the heavens. The ancient Babylonians, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans studied the skies and charted the courses of planets and stars.

As the centuries passed, the instruments used to explore the skies became more advanced; along with these advances, knowledge about the material universe increased.

In the early 17th century, an Italian astronomer, Galileo Galilei,



Above: An eclipse of the sun (take the proper precautions before observing a solar eclipse).
Right: A time exposure showing star paths.



used the recently invented spyglass, or telescope, to study the moon, planets and Milky Way.

Galileo shocked the scientific and religious world when he revealed what he had observed — such things as craters on the moon and sunspots. Although he firmly believed that the earth revolved around the sun, which it does, he was forced to say that it didn't.

Because of Galileo's startling discoveries, earlier beliefs about the universe were challenged.

Since this first use of the telescope
(Continued on page 17)

Oi Olkoben is from Papua New Guinea, a country just north of Australia.

Today, he is a member of the Church and is studying business administration in Townsville, in northern Australia. But when he was born, a little more than 20 years ago, his tribe had just been discovered. We think you will find his story interesting.

I saw the first white man I had ever seen in 1964. "If you say anything against that *tomo hundpi*, you had better be careful, because he has something with many eyes and ears that picks up everything we say and reports it to him," I was told.

This was what the village people I grew up with thought about this white man and his radio set. As time went by, however, I became well acquainted with this *tomo hundpi* ("red-skinned spirit being"), as he turned out to be my first schoolteacher.

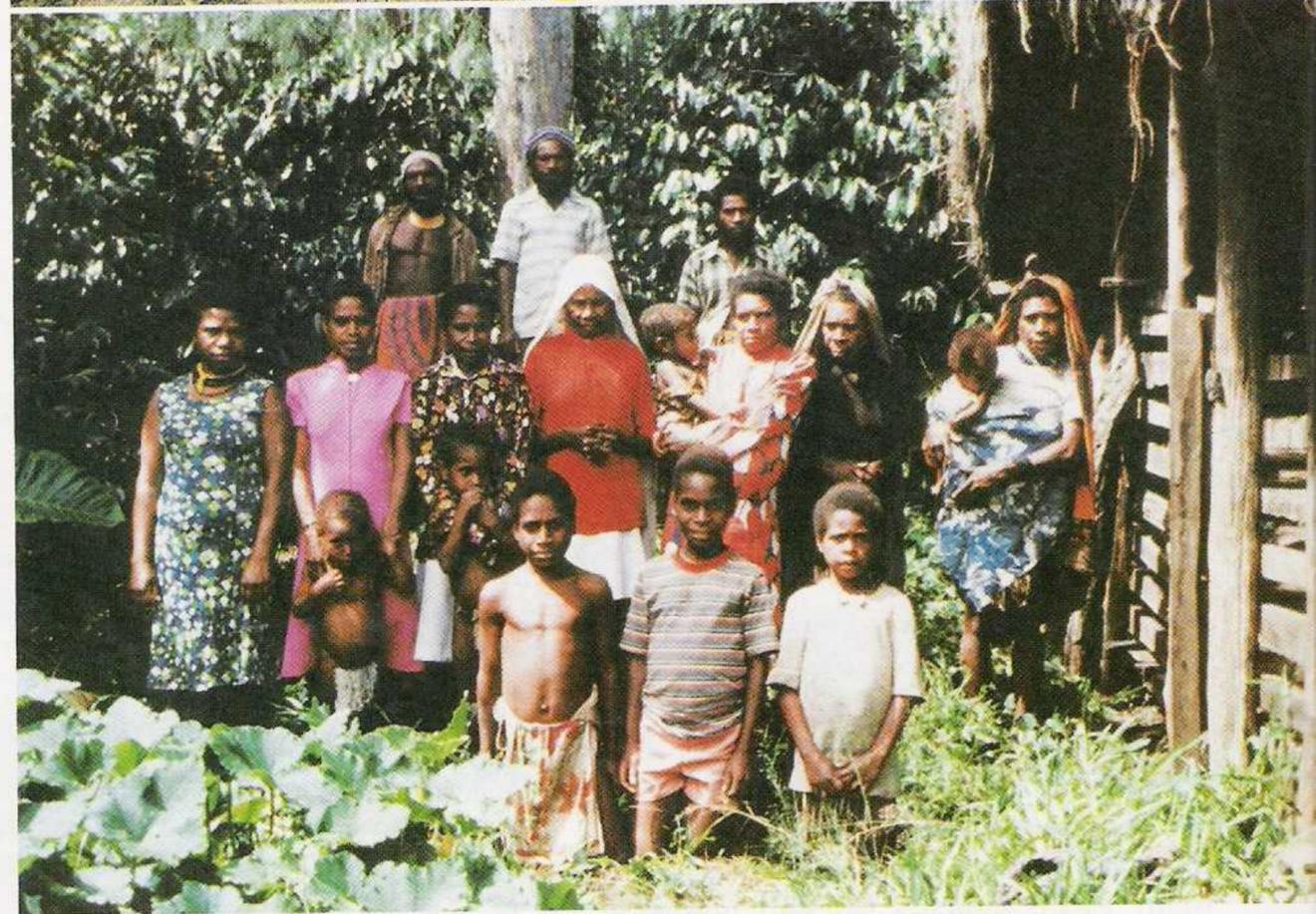
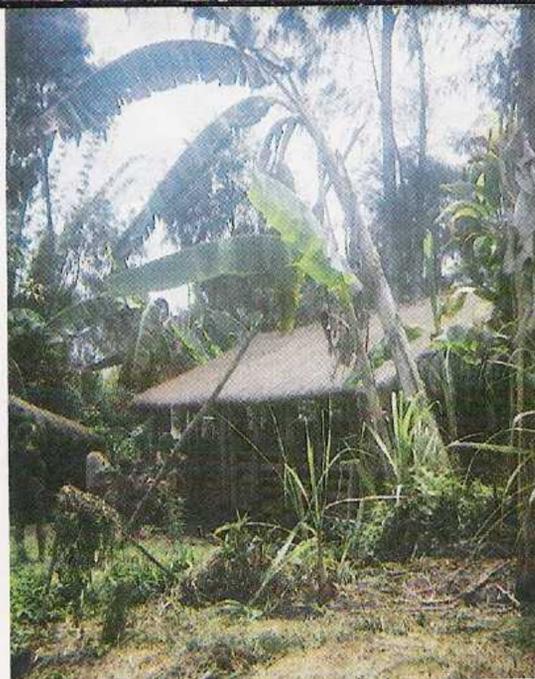
Our village was 12,000 feet up in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, in a remote area. It was called Nipa and had a population of 35,000 to 40,000 people.

Some of the bloodiest wars of World War II were fought in Papua New Guinea, yet, because our area was so isolated, my people had no knowledge of what was going on in the country, let alone the whole world.

The first white explorers came into the Nipa area sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Some records claim 1957 as the year.

The village people had many misconceptions of who or what the white man was and where he had come from. Many thought that he came out of the water since his skin was white.

So why did the natives, used to fierce tribal fighting, put down their weapons and surrender and obey every word of the white man? The main reason was that the white man was thought to be a spirit being with superior powers and weapons such as the "smoking stick" (gun). This thought terrified the villagers so much that they took the white man's



What's It Like in Papua New Guinea?

By Oi Olkoben

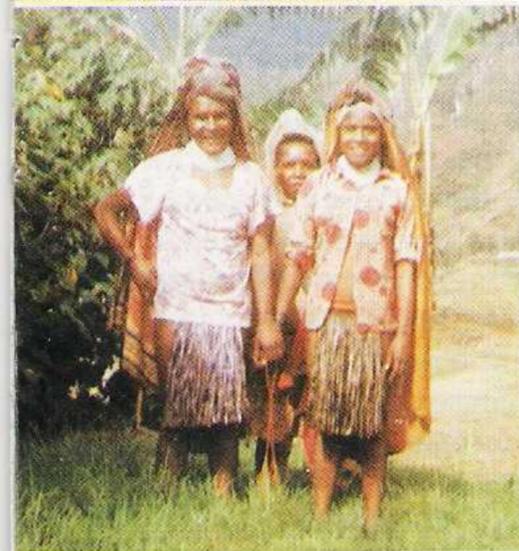
word without question, and obeyed and accepted everything.

Before the white man came, the thing that really mattered to a young boy was to learn to shoot. I remember that my first toy was a bow and arrow. We practiced constantly so that by the time we were teenagers, we were as dangerous as the adult men. The women were never taught

to shoot, but some daring girls would still join in a tribal fight.

Now, however, the practice of teaching the art of shooting is dying out — what chance has an archer got against a modern-day machine gun anyway?

In Western societies, children live with their parents until they are old enough to get jobs and look after



Scenes of life in Papua New Guinea today, a country entering the 20th century from the Stone Age. While Ol Olkoben is the only Church member from Papua New Guinea, his extended family, bottom left, also keeps the Sabbath and many of the health laws. Below: The author, Ol Olkoben. (Photos by Ol Olkoben and John Halford)

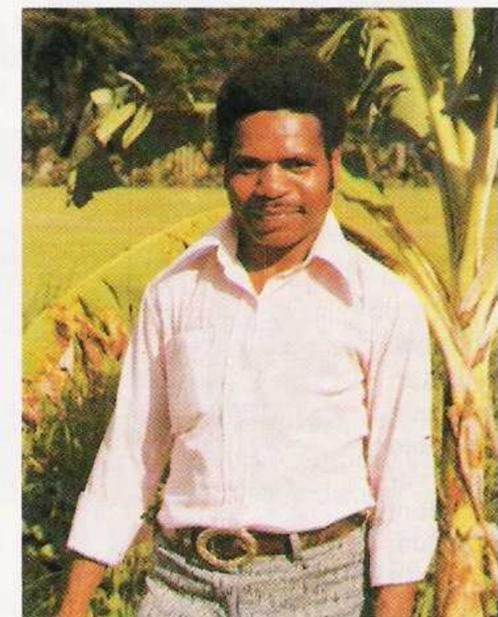
being kept. Also, now they know basically what going to school is all about and why they are going there. They can see and more or less understand that going to school means learning the white man's language, and after many years maybe getting a job and achieving a higher standard of living.

But even when I had qualified to go on to secondary school (grades seven through 10), I still did not understand the purpose of going to school. But like a sheep I just went along and did as I was told. Of course, I now appreciate that they forced it on me, although then the teachers had to use gifts to lure us to school.

One of the things the teachers did to keep us at school and to persuade others to come was to hand out pieces of soap. (The first time they saw it, some students tried to eat it!)

Other awards were small tins of fish and illustrated books. If nothing like this had been done, many of us would not have stayed in school or, if we did stay, we would not have been too interested in what we were being taught. We preferred running through the jungles, hunting and singing — the spirit of being free and coming home when night fell.

We could not stand sitting on a hard wooden chair from 8 a.m. until 4
(Continued on page 20)



themselves. But in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, a male child leaves his mother when he is 4 or 5 years old and lives with the men. The men live in houses separate from their wives and the other women of the village.

Each husband is responsible for the construction of his wife's (or wives') home with the help of other village men. The size of the house he builds depends on the number of wives he has and the number of pigs each wife has.

Polygamy is considered to be the best means of increasing the population of the village. Thus the majority of men have more than one wife. A relative of mine has 10 wives, while my father has three. Women, on the other hand, are not allowed to have more than one husband.

Death used to be the penalty for committing adultery or fornication, but now sexual permissiveness has taken over.

A school was established in our area in 1963, and I went to school in 1964, the year regular classes were started. Young children who were thought to have reached school age were brought to this first school.

We did not have the faintest idea of what it was all about or why we were going to school. We did not even know how old we were, since it was not our custom or tradition to keep birth and death records.

I remember how they used to tell whether or not we were old enough. We were told to put our left hand over our head and touch our right ear. If a child could not touch his right ear in this manner, he was considered to be too young. If his left hand went past his right ear he was considered too old.

You had to touch your right ear to be admitted to school! Of course, this was nearly 20 years ago. Now children don't have to go through this process because birth records are

Church Teen Meets President of Germany

By Elaine Patapoff

In May I had the most interesting opportunity of my life, and it came almost two years after I prayed for it to happen.

About two years ago, while I was a freshman at Ambassador College, I had the chance to go to West Germany for the Feast of Tabernacles and to spend a whole month there.

I had studied German in high school for three years and, finally, my big opportunity to actually practice speaking the language was here.

A German friend who had gone to school with me in the United States

told me I could stay with her if I ever came over to Germany, so, before the Feast, I went to visit her in Meckenheim-Merl, a beautiful little city southwest of Bonn, the West German capital.

One day, Christiana, my school friend, was driving me around and pointing out areas of interest in her city. My curiosity was aroused when she pointed out the house of Karl Carstens, the president of West Germany. I liked the idea of meeting a dignitary, but I couldn't foresee it happening to me. As we were driving by, a thought struck me and I exclaimed, "Christiana, do you think I could meet President Carstens?"

Christiana laughed. "That's almost impossible. Besides, he's leaving on a trip this Friday."

That didn't discourage me too much, and I tried to find a way to meet him. Later, I just asked God about it.

My parents always told me that God wants us to have exciting opportunities and if we obey and pray for them according to His will, He will grant them. I knew this was true because I had such opportunities in the past. And all these opportunities came to me through being in the Church and YOU.

Well, Friday came around and I didn't meet the president, so I figured that God felt my request was not that important. But I was to learn a lesson.

God has His way of answering prayer and it often doesn't happen when or how we expect. And when God does answer a request, He gives us so much more than we could ever imagine.

A little less than two years passed and I was nearing the end

of my sophomore year at Ambassador College. You can imagine my excitement when I found out I could go to West Germany to work in our Bonn Office for the entire summer! Here was another opportunity I had prayed about.

I arrived in West Germany along with two other Ambassador College students, Norbert Schneider and Silvia Weber, May 15 this year. I began work the following Monday, thrilled to be there. Wednesday, less than one week after I arrived, Helene Hennig called the Bonn Office and asked if the three Ambassador students would be interested in going to an open house at the Bundestag (the West German parliament) the following day.

Mrs. Hennig is the wife of Alfred Hennig, the official photographer for the West German government. Mr. Hennig has supplied pictures for *The Plain Truth* for many years. Silvia and Norbert are native Germans and had gone home to visit their families, so I went alone.

The occasion was a *Verfassung's Tag*, commemorating the beginning of the German constitution. There was an open house in the parliament for the youths of Germany, something that hadn't taken place in more than 30 years.

Thursday arrived and early that morning Mrs. Hennig picked me up at the office. I had my camera in hand, not knowing what to expect. The event began at 10:30 a.m. After receiving permission to enter the parliament building, we hurried in.

We were allowed to go up front to photograph the parliament's president, Richard Stücklen, and the other members of parliament for 15 minutes. More than 800 young people were sitting in the parliament building and I spoke with a few of them. Then we listened to the members of parliament answer questions for more than an hour.

After the visit in the parliament building, the youths were invited to a garden party by the president of West Germany, Karl Carstens. President Carstens, with his wife nearby, spoke from a platform.

After he finished speaking, I asked Mrs. Hennig if it would be possible to get his autograph. We followed him

(Continued on page 20)



Photos by Helene Hennig

West German President Karl Carstens with 19-year-old Ambassador College student Elaine Patapoff. Right: Elaine with Mrs. Carstens.



News & Reviews

An Encouraging Word

I'll never forget the time I trudged in a depressed, half-trancelike state across the Ambassador College campus, wearily pondering my seemingly insolvable woes.

Not long into my walk, a wise and experienced instructor crossed my path. He, seeing me down in the mouth, called in a cheery

voice, "Well, how are things going with you?"

"Not so good," I replied.

He passed without further comment, then turned on his heel and while literally walking backwards so as not to lose his pace, sang out in an enthusiastic and optimistic voice, "Things WILL get better, though!"

And he was right. They

did get better.

But not because my troubles went away instantly. They didn't. Rather, the reason I felt better was because his "good word" of encouragement was infectious. It changed my point of view while giving me faith and hope.

A cheery word of encouragement to a friend who is "down at the mouth" almost always helps lift his

emotions. That's why Solomon said, "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad" (Prov. 12:25).

Why not pass the "good word" yourself to someone who needs it?

You may find it lightens your own load as it gladdens your friend's heart. It did mine. — *By Bernie Schnippert* □

Recipe: Cheese Straws

Jenny Dioth, 16, from Jondaryan, Australia, sent us this recipe for a tasty snack.

- 120 grams grated cheese (about 1 cup)
 - 1 cup plain flour
 - 1 20-ml. spoon soft bread crumbs (4 tsps.)
 - Pinch cayenne pepper
 - Pinch salt
 - 3 20-ml. spoons butter (4 tbsps.)
 - 1 egg, beaten
1. Preheat oven to moderate temperature (350° F., 175° C.).



2. Place cheese and dry ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly.
3. Rub butter in lightly or cut in with pastry blender.
4. Add beaten egg and mix well.
5. Turn onto a lightly floured board and knead five times or until smooth.
6. Roll out thinly and cut part of dough into straws (narrow strips) approximately 7 cm. (2¾ in.) long and 6 mm. (¼ in.) wide.
7. Use two cookie cutters, one a little larger than the other, to cut rings about 5

FRISBEE'S FRIENDS

BY CAROL SPRINGER



cm. (2 in.) in diameter. Allow one ring to seven straws. If you do not have cookie cutters, you may make rings this way: For every seven straws, cut one straw that is about 15 cm. (6 in.) long. Pinch together the ends of this long straw to form ring.

8. Place rings and straws on a flat, ungreased baking tray. A wide spatula or egg turner will make this easier. Separate the straws so they do not touch.

9. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden yellow.

10. To serve, place seven straws inside each ring.

Variation: Cheese Biscuits (crackers) — Roll dough out thinly and cut with a small round or fluted cutter. Prick with a fork. □

Catch a Falling Star

No, the sky isn't falling, and if a star really were to approach the earth, we would all be burned up.

But the objects that are popularly known as "falling stars" are entering the earth's atmosphere and burning up all the time.

Meteors, bits of interplanetary rock and dust streaking through the earth's atmosphere are usually rather rare sights at night (about

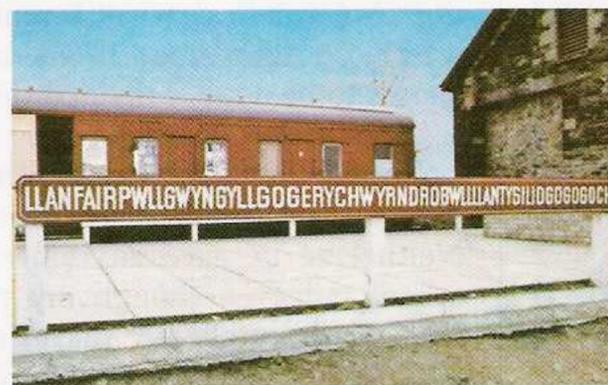
five to 10 an hour are usually visible). During what is known as a meteor shower, however, sometimes thousands of "shooting stars" can be seen.

As the earth travels around the sun, its path crosses the orbit of swarms of particles, causing a meteor shower.

During a shower, the meteors seem to move outward from a specific point in the sky. The meteor shower around Oct. 21 every year seems to radiate from a point in the constellation Orion, so it is called the Orionid. This year it is expected to show a maximum of about 30 meteors an hour.

Three showers predicted to be smaller than the Orionid will occur in November, with the Taurids on Nov. 8, Andromedids on Nov. 10 and the Leonids on Nov. 17.

The Geminids, due to reach a maximum on Dec. 14, are expected to reach a rate of about 60 an hour. □



Try saying this Welsh town name fast! Nancy Green sent this postcard from Wales.

Consider Yourself HUGGED

By Agnes Youngblood

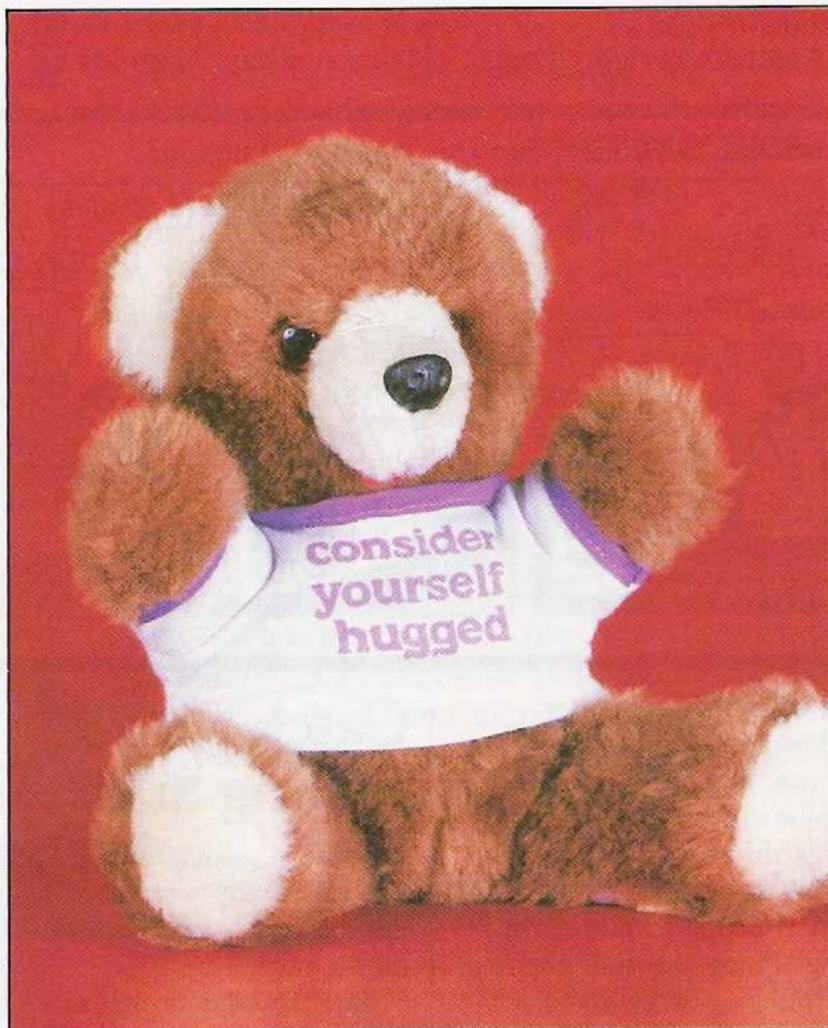
When I received the small, brown package in the mail, I wasn't overly excited about it because I knew by the return address that it was from my younger sister.

I figured that it would probably be broken chocolate chip cookies (something that I really didn't need!).

A few hours later, when I finally got back to my dorm, I peeled the brown tape off the outside of the box. I stuck my hand inside the package, but what I grabbed wasn't a cookie. It was soft and furry. As I looked at it, memories of long ago filled my mind.

I was 3 years old when my little sister was born. Even though I was small, I still remember the jealousy I felt because suddenly my mother and father were spending all of their time with her. It seemed as if the attention I'd always received had come to a halt. I was now an "older sister."

As we grew older, the arguments and disagreements began. I decided that if I was going to be treated like the oldest child, I was going to be authoritative and act like an older person. That meant that I was my little sister's boss. I didn't go in her room, and she didn't dare go in mine. Or if we did cross paths, we made a fuss that sounded like World War



III. I don't know how my poor mom stood it!

After we were a bit older, I really took over, especially if my parents ever left us at home alone. In that case, I ran that house like a military camp — she could only stay in the bathroom a certain number of minutes; we watched what I wanted to watch on television; if there were chores to be done, I divided the work — and the list goes on.

It wasn't long before everything we did was just to spite one another. Neither of us gave anything to the other, and even though my parents tried desperately to make us get along, it was to no avail. They could force us to stop arguing out loud, but the hostile attitudes remained.

These attitudes continued even while we were in high school. She was a freshman when I was a senior, and if we passed each other in the hall, we never had a kind word. We rarely said anything at school because we knew what the outcome would be — another argument.

Before I graduated from high school, I came to realize what a bad situation we had created. We had built so much animosity that I knew it was going to be hard to ever build a good relationship.

In my selfishness, I'd never really gotten to know my own sister. I knew that after I graduated I would be leaving home to get a summer job, and then I'd go to college; it would be a long time before I saw her

again. Even though I hated leaving the rest of my family, I especially didn't want to leave my sister because I hadn't taken the time then to show her that I loved her. I just hoped that I'd have a second chance.

I pulled the soft, furry ball out of the brown box. Salty tears stung my eyes as I looked at the outstretched arms of the cuddly, brown teddy bear. He was wearing a little shirt that read, "Consider yourself hugged." The tag on his neck said, "For someone special, To Agnes, From Barbara."

I felt like the ice was finally broken. I had been given a second chance.

I can't wait to get home to return that hug! □

Potential!

(Continued from page 1)

the foreman strode up to the weary loner, took the ax from his blistered hands and proceeded to give him some advice.

Stature, weight and brawn he lacked, so, to compensate, he must use his head, the wise foreman told him.

Learning the tricks of the trade would make him the equal of all the others. If, along with learning these helpful tips, he also developed his muscular skills, he could lead the pack!

The forester continued to reveal clever insights into the correct and simple application of the woodsman's skills. All morning long he coached and corrected and finally perfected the lad's methods.

The lessons produced fruit immediately. Within a week the stripling had caught up to the gang. All through the next week the men on either side noted with unbelief how effortlessly he maintained his place alongside them.

Before long he had edged out into the lead. They struggled and sweated, determined to not let the slight young teammate leave them behind. By week's end their pride caved in. They came to him to learn what he had learned from the wise old forester.

Though he had hit the "glass plate" previously, no more did it threaten him! Success and appreciation came his way, thanks to one man's concern. He had learned the incredible potential of the human mind for accomplishment in spite of the odds.

If this young man had not inclined his ear to wisdom (Prov. 2:2) and learned to listen, he might have given up like the walleye did. But he achieved success by listening to someone with years of experience and many accomplishments already behind him. You can, too. Talk to some of the older people around you. If you practice the expertise they reveal to you, you can avoid that terribly demoralizing bang.

How do I know? I know the young man well. I am that young woodsman, 47 years later. □

World's Holidays

(Continued from page 3)

people, it's helpful to use tact. Being tactful includes thinking through, in advance, what you'll say in various circumstances. For example, if you're invited to a Halloween or Christmas party, it would often be best to just thank the one who invited you and explain that you really can't make it.

Or, when someone asks you, "What did you get for Christmas?" you could answer, "My family gives gifts all year long, but we don't trade gifts at Christmas." (Your friends may only receive gifts when their parents *have* to give them.)

Of course, if someone really wants to know why you don't keep these days, you'll be able to explain that you've looked into them and found that they are based in error. You'll know what God says about pagan holidays, and you'll understand the far better alternatives. You can say you simply don't believe in keeping days just because everyone else does, and you found a lot of good reasons not to.

You're probably not going to convince the person, but maybe he or she will realize that you're entitled to your belief.

Talk it over with your parents. They and your minister can help you figure out how to avoid hassles and handle problems like: What should you do if you receive a Christmas gift anyway? What should you do about a Christmas concert your band or choir is having?

God makes clear the importance of which days you keep. Although the parties, gifts and treats look very good for the moment, they have bad consequences not only because they do not worship the true God, but because they are in honor of false ones.

The pagan holidays make no sense and they bear bad fruit, but most people still just blindly keep them. God's Holy Days make much more sense — you know why you're keeping them and can see the immediate as well as long-range benefits.

Don't be tricked — God's Holy Days are the real treat! □

Astronomy

(Continued from page 11)

for scientific purposes, better and more complex telescopes have been designed and put into use. In 1948 the Hale telescope in California was completed. Using a nearly 17-foot-wide mirror instead of a lens, the Hale telescope has shown us galaxies that no one has ever seen before! Other large telescopes are probing the far reaches of the universe.

Since the late 1950s, man has explored space through the use of rockets and man-made satellites. In the past few years, astronauts have used orbiting space laboratories to study the sun, stars and comets.

In 1976 the first pictures from the surface of Mars were received on earth. Using radio signals, engineers dug a furrow in the Martian soil — from millions of miles away!

Men have walked and driven a vehicle on the moon and returned safely. Satellites orbiting the earth constantly send back weather pictures as well as infrared photographs showing suitable farmland and promising oil reserves.

Unmanned space probes whizzed by Jupiter and on to Saturn, sending back to earth spectacular color images of features of these giant planets that human eyes had never before seen.

Marvelous achievements such as these are fast becoming common occurrences as man continues to improve the technology he uses to look out into space — God's front yard. — *By Mike Bedford* □

Below: The Hale Observatory on Mt. Palomar, Calif. (Youth 81 photo)





Flower Arranging

Have you ever wanted to do something special for someone, but couldn't think of anything appropriate?

Why not give them a dried flower arrangement that you yourself have made? They're fun to do, and simple to make. You don't need extra-special artistic talent — in fact, you may surprise yourself at the things you can create.

The term *dried flower* can mean a living flower that has been preserved, or a "silk" (made-from-fabric) flower. If you really want to go all out, you can make your own flowers using patterns available in craft stores. These flowers will never wilt, which means you can keep them looking great for years!

Silk flowers come in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes, and containers for them can be anything you have around (baskets, cups, pieces of driftwood). You can make the arrangement fit the occasion — whether you're giving a gift to someone or decorating your bedroom.

The place to start is your library. Plenty of books are available there to give you ideas on color, design and mechanics.

You can also inquire at florists and craft shops to see if classes in dried flower arranging are offered. They are usually inexpensive. Here you'll receive valuable advice and "hands-on" experience.

Remember that practice makes perfect. Don't be

discouraged if your first arrangement doesn't quite look right. Analyze what went wrong, take it apart and put it back together again. As you gain more experience and experiment with various materials and designs, you'll be able to make ever more elaborate and beautiful arrangements. And if you

group of amateur radio operators who are members and co-workers with the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College. Alpha Charlie is ham lingo for the letters AC, which stands for Ambassador College, of course.

WB6ZOT is the call sign designated by the Federal

countries if one shows a little interest. Hams enjoy talking about such things.

Name a subject. It won't take long to find someone who is greatly interested and quite willing to get into a discussion about it.

No, these aren't millionaires with a lot of money to spend. These are average people, just like you and your friends. Oh, there are some well-known names among amateur radio operators, like King Hussein of Jordan and U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater. Thousands are in technical and scientific professions.

But most are neither celebrities nor engineers. Hams are taxi drivers, students, factory workers, bank presidents — people from almost all walks of life.

One can easily spend a lot on exotic equipment, but it isn't necessary. Used equipment is available. If you're so inclined, take time to do a little construction on your own and who knows, some ham may be willing to donate parts from his "junk box" (his supply of parts). You might be on the air for virtually nothing.

Age is no barrier to ham radio, either. One lady in Wisconsin was nearly 80 when she got her license. There is a young fellow in Indiana who was only 5 when he won his license.

Handicapped? No roadblock here, either. Many who are unable to walk are able to converse with their friends through amateur radio. Blind people are included. Dan Wantuck of Detroit, Mich., now 23 years old, has been blind since birth. He was first licensed at age 17 and now holds a general class amateur license.

If you're interested in television, facsimile,

You can talk to people around the world through amateur radio. (Photos by Scott Smith and Warren Watson)

WHAT'S YOUR HOBBY?

decide to give your flowers as gifts, you'll have the added satisfaction of knowing that you made them yourself!

— By Pamela Shoaf □

Amateur Radio

"VK2AMC, VK2AMC, this is WB6ZOT."

"WB6ZOT, here is VK2AMC. How do you read me?"

"Good copy, Bill. How are things going down there in Australia?"

Conditions are good and a long chat follows between two hams (amateur radio operators), one from Pasadena, Calif., and the other from Ryde in New South Wales, Australia. They have grown to be friends over the years by means of amateur radio.

Over the next hour or so, six or eight others join in — a couple more in Australia, one in New Zealand, several others in the United States.

In operation is a portion of the international schedule of the Alpha Charlie Net — a

Communications Commission (FCC) for use by a station operated by the Ambassador Amateur Radio Association, a club composed of employees and students at Ambassador College in Pasadena. VK2AMC is Bill McDonnell in Ryde, Australia.

What do these people talk about? Well, what would any group of friends talk over when they get together? Equipment and antennas are discussed, of course, because all are interested in what the others are using. And the weather — doesn't everybody talk about it?

Anything of mutual interest may be brought up — jobs, school, sports, families. A lot can be learned about other peoples and



radioteletype or satellite communication, if you enjoy contests, if you're interested in talking with people around the world, join the ranks of amateur radio operators.

Besides being enjoyable as a hobby, amateur radio can also bring considerable satisfaction. Time after time, amateur radio has been instrumental in saving lives, helping in searches, passing along messages for people who have no other means of communication.

For instance, several stations in Antarctica are on the air for hours almost every day so people stationed there can talk with their families at home.

How can you become involved in amateur radio? In the United States, the FCC administers an exam before issuing a license. The test



covers radio circuitry, operating procedures and other subjects pertaining to amateur radio. Most other countries do the same.

Books and other literature that will help you pass the test are available in radio and electronics stores.

Members of the Ambassador Amateur Radio Association and the Alpha Charlie Net would like to help you get a start. Why not drop them a line? The address is:

Ambassador Amateur Radio Association,
Attn: Garland Snuffer,
300 West Green St.,
Pasadena, Calif., 91123,
U.S.A.

Add a new facet to your life. Try amateur radio. —

By Garland Snuffer □

Crocheting

Are you looking for an inexpensive and productive hobby? Have you ever thought about learning to crochet?

Crocheting is fairly easy and not too expensive. You can usually purchase a skein of regular yarn for under \$1, and many projects can be made from just one skein. You can teach yourself to crochet using a book, or ask a friend or relative to help you learn.

If you're just beginning, you might like to make some pot holders for Mom. (Moms are always good for trying out new crafts on!)

Some other fun projects you might want to try: a snow hat for that friend who enjoys skiing, some coasters for your room, some slippers for those cold winter days or a purse for you or your sister.

By doing small items or projects, you can see the progress you are making in mastering the craft and you won't have a tendency to get discouraged.

If you're a more advanced stitcher, you might go on to some long-term projects that take more than a few hours or a couple of days to complete.

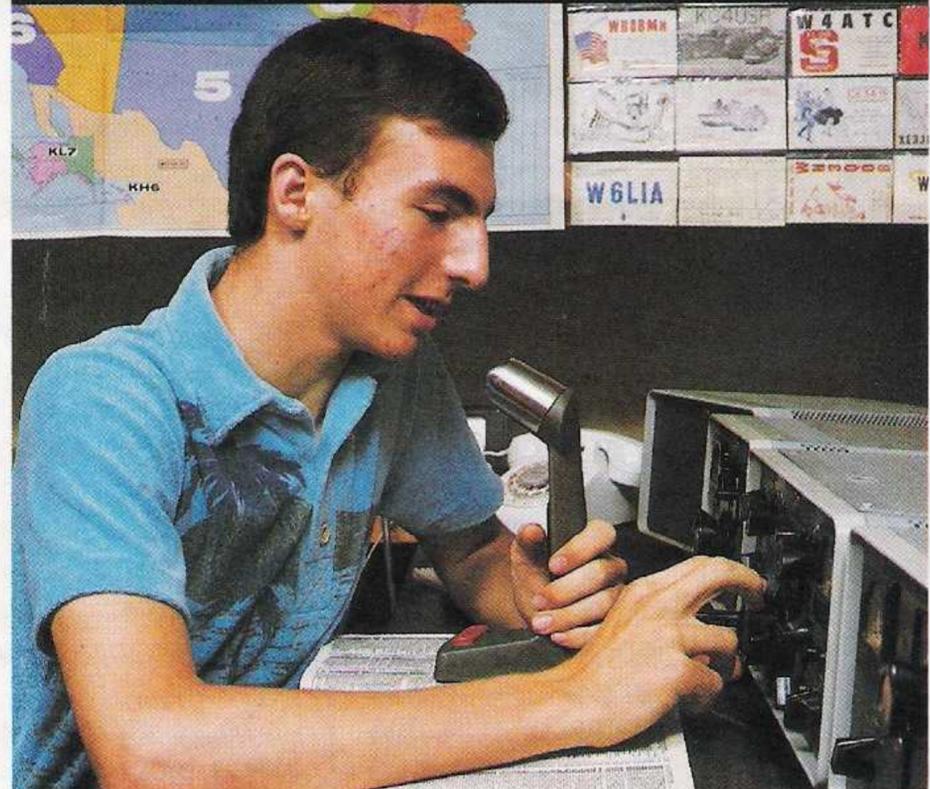
For example, you might want to crochet a multicolored afghan in a new stitch or maybe some place mats for every member of your family.

More ambitious and proficient stitchers might want to try making a tablecloth or bedspread.

Once you are familiar with the basics, you might even want to be adventurous and design a project of your own.

Whatever you try, crocheting can be relaxing and fun, and just think of all the projects you can make for your friends and yourself. Try it, you just might like it!

— By Janice Roemer □



Church Teen

(Continued from page 14)

along as he viewed all of the different activities in which the youths were participating. Young people were dancing and playing soccer, table tennis and various other games. Occasionally President Carstens would take out his pen for a few autographs, but I could never get through the myriad of people.

Later on, Mrs. Hennig noticed President Carstens giving out more autographs. We rushed over to where he was, but he had put his pen back in his pocket and was going on.

Mrs. Hennig then went up to him and said, "Oh, Mr. Carstens, please, I have a young American girl here who would love to have your autograph."

President Carstens immediately reached into his pocket, took out his pen and signed my German/English dictionary. He then asked where I came from in America. When I told him I was from California he said, "Oh, please greet California for me!"

Right afterward Mrs. Hennig said she wished she had taken a picture of me shaking his hand. So later, when we saw President Carstens again, she encouraged me to stand near the president so she could take a picture.

President Carstens noticed her intentions and told the people around him: "One moment, everyone. Please stand back. This young lady would like a photograph."

Everyone moved out of the way, President Carstens took my arm and Mrs. Hennig took the picture. I could hardly believe it.

And then later, by another miraculous chance, I had the opportunity to speak with the president's wife. It hit me then, as I was talking with her, that I had prayed for the opportunity to meet President Carstens.

I told Mrs. Carstens I had seen her house in Meckenheim-Merl two years before and that at that time I had hoped to some day meet them.

As I reflected on the day, I could only marvel at the way God had chosen to answer my prayer, and at all the tremendous opportunities that have come my way since being a part of God's Church. □

New Guinea

(Continued from page 13)

p.m. with an hour break for lunch, nor could we stand having to repeat after a *tomo hundpi* the strange words and phrases that he was trying to teach us. Worst of all, we dreaded the cane the teacher used on those who misbehaved.

Only seven in my class went on to secondary school in 1971. This school had just opened and we were its first students. Since it was about 100 miles away, we boarded there. When we did go home for a visit, it took us at least a day and a half to walk the distance. When night fell, our "hotel" in the jungle was a run-down and vacant hunter's shack.

Since there were no bulldozers or other heavy equipment in our area in those days, we became the bulldozers and the graders used in building our high school. We cleared the jungle and built our own classrooms, dormitories, paths, roads and food gardens.

Children who are selected for high school do not have to walk the 100 miles anymore, because in 1978 a new high school was opened in the area.

It is amazing to see how much change has taken place in the area. When I first went to school we were shown pictures of motorcars, planes, permanent homes and ships, and taught how to draw pictures of them. We had never seen any before this.

The first motor vehicle, a tractor, was brought into the area in the mid 1960s. You see, at the time the United States was preparing to send her first manned spaceship to the moon, we were still in the process of coming out of the Stone Age.

Many people in the area still have not seen television sets, small family cars, jumbo jets, high-rise buildings or huge multilane highways. Unlike an Australian, British or American child who grows up amid toy planes, cars, ships, teddy bears and so on, a child in Nipa owns nothing of the sort. As he grows older he makes his own toy cars, planes or ships from whatever bush materials he has available.

These children may never get to ride a bicycle, a motorbike or a car, but they are happy and not particu-

larly worried about what they don't own. They make every possible use of what is available.

The unit of exchange here is not money, though money can be used. Where money is used, it is converted into the standard unit of exchange, the mother-of-pearl shell. Its value depends on its size, age and brightness — the redder it is, the more valuable it becomes.

It is a far more complicated system than it sounds and would take a book to explain. Many questions, like how to calculate interest or the value of a pearl shell, are complicated. I myself don't fully understand how the system works.

The *wantok* system is another unusual feature of life in Papua New Guinea. A *wantok* means a friend or someone from the same tribe or area. If a villager wants to build a new home or a garden, all his *wantoks* give him a hand. The labor is free, but sooner or later he will pay it back by helping those who have helped him.

Then, when the garden is completed and the harvest season arrives, it is expected that the food will be distributed among his *wantoks*.

Recently, the system seems to have been reversed — from a way of giving to a way of getting. This has come along with the modern monetary system that calls for the excess food to be sold for money, and for all work done to be paid for with money.

As a result, when a villager wants a house or garden built, he has to look for the money to pay for the labor. Now, if the villager cannot find enough money to have his house or garden built, he remains in poverty.

The value of the *wantok* system is disappearing as more and more families consider the town supermarket to be a replacement for their gardens. They don't need the services of their *wantoks* to build their homes, either, since building contractors are better at the job.

In many respects our traditional way was better. But while civilization has had some bad effects, it has also had a lot of beneficial effects on life in Papua New Guinea. Had it not been for civilization, the hundreds of tribes would still be fighting one another.

A few years ago, my country was

clothed in magic and superstition, with its people living in isolated communities in the hills and valleys, not knowing the way to bring themselves together to be part of a united country.

It is different now. The Highlands

Highway, which is the biggest road system in the country, has been extended to Nipa and beyond. More people are coming out of the area to see the bigger towns like Mount Hagen, Goroka, Lae and Port Moresby.

And now, more people are buying radio sets — the thing with many eyes and ears that we had dreaded so much when we first saw it. In 20 short years, we have emerged from a primitive society into the 20th-century push-button world. □

BY THE WAY...

By Dexter Faulkner

'Aw, Come On, Everybody's Doing It'

ARE YOU afraid to say *no* when someone in the crowd says, "Aw, come on, have a little drink" or "Come on, just one cigarette" or "How about [well, you can fill in the blank]"? We have all been faced with this type of temptation at one time or another. I know I have.

Some YOU members from Eugene, Ore., recently wrote me and asked a good question: "How can we overcome temptation?"

It's human nature to blame somebody else when we give in to temptation. Some people say: "It's my parents' fault. They're too strict, so I have to sneak off to have any freedom, and then I get into trouble. I wouldn't get into trouble if they'd let up on me a little."

On the other hand, others say: "It's my parents' fault. They give me too much freedom — that's why I get into trouble." Still others blame their teachers, friends or even the government for the temptation they face. Some even blame God.

The process isn't a new one, either. Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the serpent. Ever since that event, people have been blaming everything under the sun for their mistakes or sins. But who's really to blame?

James handled the question in the New Testament. First of all,

he said that temptation doesn't come from God: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one" (Jas. 1:13, Revised Standard Version).

So where does temptation come from? Let's read verses 14 and 15: "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust [desire], and enticed. Then when lust [desire in the mind] hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (King James Version). In other words, you're responsible for your own sin.

The temptation is in the mind. When we think about the thing that tempts us — let our mind dwell on it, turn it over in our mind — that thinking about it finally conceives, leads to action and breeds sin.

If we keep thinking about it, after a while we will be unable to resist it. That's why we sometimes lose those struggles against temptation — because we kept thinking about it, desiring it, wanting it.

Unfair? Not really, because God has given us a way to overcome temptation: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation

will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (I Cor. 10:13, RSV).

The day has been going great, and you feel on top of things. All of a sudden, there it is — temptation. What should you do?

- Pray over it. The verse quoted above says that in the face of temptation, God will provide a way of escape. As soon as you realize you're being tempted, pray. Ask God to help you overcome the thoughts and to fill your mind with His thoughts — right thoughts, positive thoughts.

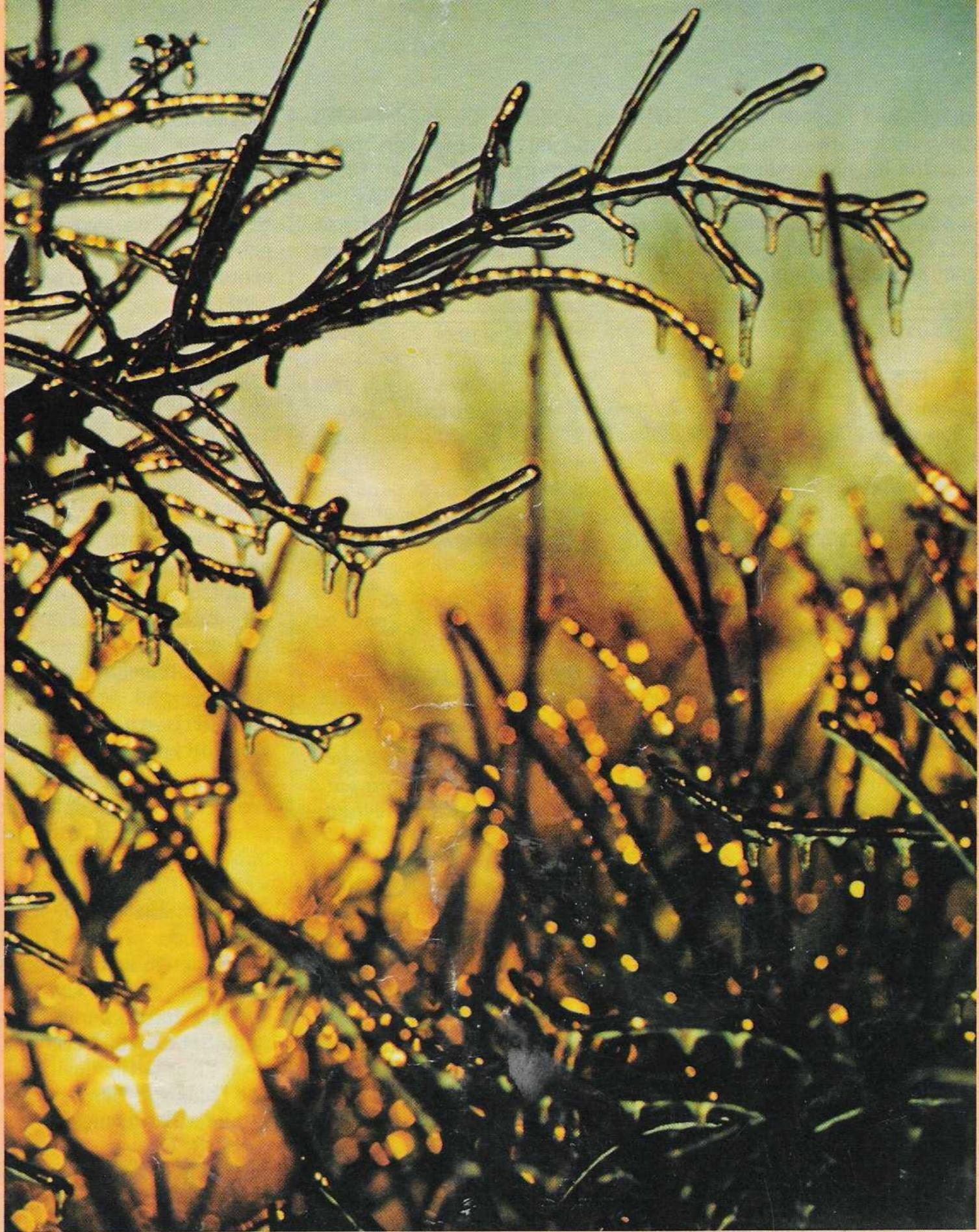
- Resist the devil. Satan puts the tempting thoughts into our minds. We're not responsible for him putting them there. But what we do with those thoughts determines whether or not we sin.

God has promised that if we take positive action against Satan at these times, using God's strength to overcome the temptation, Satan will back off. James says: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (Jas. 4:7-8, RSV).

- Avoid tempting situations. Don't set yourself up for failure. If, for example, you have trouble with your thoughts about sex, that's even more reason not to keep questionable magazines around. Remember I Corinthians 6:18: "Shun immorality" (RSV).

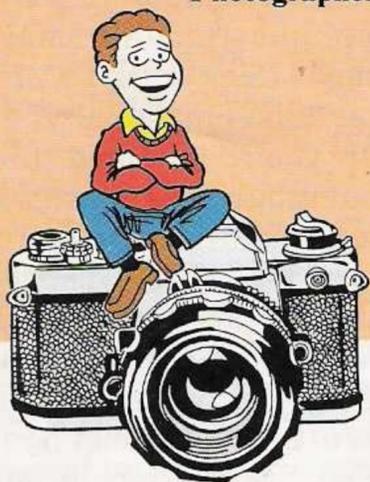
If you're tempted to gossip about someone, don't stick around when your friends are criticizing others. Figure out what situations you're in when you're tempted the most, then avoid those situations.

Next time you are tempted, ask God to help you. Don't be afraid to say *no*. See how rapidly you begin to defeat temptation and sin, and how quickly you'll experience true character growth. □



Photographer — Dominick M. Furlano
Age 18
Parsippany, N.J.

Best overall color photograph, 1981
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