

Youth 82

February

VOL. II, NO. 2

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ISSN 0279-6651

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Published by the Worldwide Church of God
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PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION: **Roger Lippross**

Youth 82 is published monthly (except combined June-July and October-November issues) by the Worldwide Church of God, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Copyright © 1982 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. Second-class postage paid at Pasadena, Calif.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE YOUTH 82 OFFICE NEAREST YOU.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

United States: 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123
Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
Mexico: Institucion Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, México 5, D.F.
Colombia: Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E.
United Kingdom, rest of Europe and the Middle East: P.O. Box 111, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 1LU
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Scandinavia: Box 2513 Solli, Oslo 2, Norway

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COVER: "So You Want to Keep a Pet. . .", starting page 9, explains what potential pet owners should know about the joys and responsibilities of caring for a pet. Photo by Roland Rees.

Letters

Easier to say 'no'

I would like to thank you for your article, "Aw, Come On, Everybody's Doing It," in the *Youth 81* October-November edition. I have, past and present, had opportunities to smoke, vandalize something or add to the graffiti on walls or fences, but have always managed to say "no," but sometimes the temptation was nearly unbearable.

Since reading the article, I have found it much easier to say "no" and refuse temptations, even little things like mucking around in classes at school. I feel that the article has encouraged me to say "no" to temptations.

Shane S. Tomkins
Victoria, Australia

'Heard any good excuses lately?'

I was reading your article on "Heard any good excuses lately?" [August, 1981]. I thought it was very interesting because I know a girl at school who didn't "have time" to do her homework. . . .

The teacher asked her why she didn't get it done, and she replied: "Well, I did it at home last night, but when I got to school, the words on my paper were gone! I think my sister poured invisible ink over my whole paper."

Faster than the teacher said, "You're in trouble," she said, "Can't you take a joke?" The teacher was an easygoing person, and laughed at that excuse, but still, inside, you could tell she wasn't pleased with her not getting her homework done.

I thought that was one of the funniest excuses I have heard.

Andrea Nerat
Waupaca, Wis.

Encouraging, uplifting, inspiring

I wanted to write and thank you [Dexter Faulkner] and the staff working on the *Youth 81* magazine for doing such a fine job. I have been a teen in YOU [Youth Opportunities United] since it began. Now I'm 21 years old with two of my sisters as teens in God's Church. All of the articles seem to be so encouraging, uplifting, inspiring. They are just what young people need. I find I can learn so much from them.

I especially enjoyed "How to Build Strong Friendships" and "You Have Potential" in the October-November issue. Because of having the opportunity of being a YOU exchange student in 1977, I also especially enjoy articles about other young people around the world.

Gail Ann Biegalski
Hamburg, N.Y.

How Strong Is Your Lifeline?

It's a Life-or-Death Question

Adventurers' lives often depend on lifelines. On the greatest quest man can have, you too need a secure link!

By Dennis R. Robertson

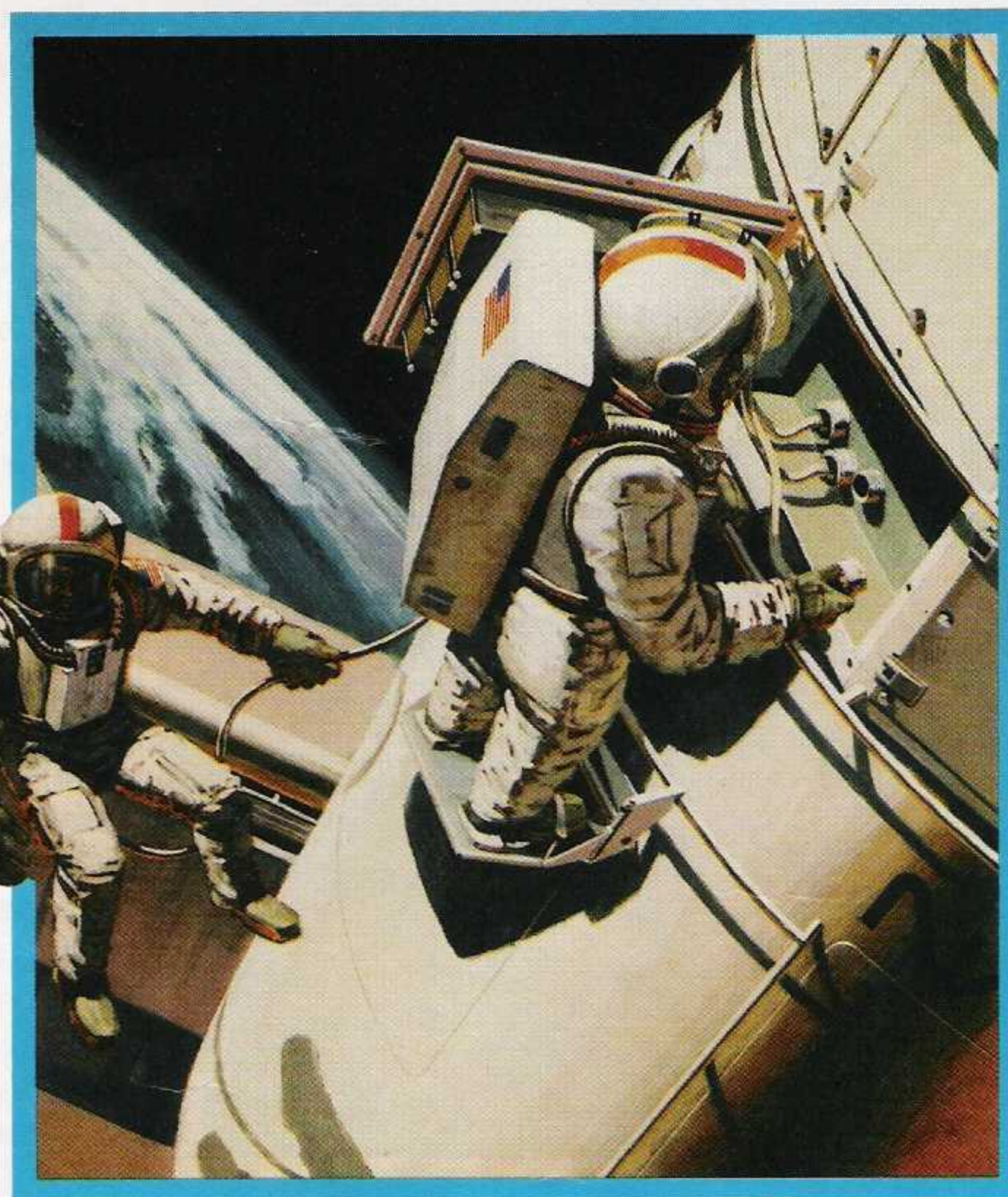
Deep into space, beyond the outer boundaries of earth's atmosphere, man has ventured where there is no air to support life.

Astronauts (a word that comes from two Greek words meaning "sailors among the stars") have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles in space. While on a voyage, these men remain alive only by breathing the oxygen brought with them from earth.

Inside the spaceship, the astronauts' quarters are pressurized, which means the temperature, the amount of oxygen present and the thickness of the air are all kept constant by computers and other sophisticated equipment. Without the aid of the space capsule's special environment, the astronauts would perish.

But it is necessary occasionally to venture outside the spacecraft in order to make repairs, to take photographs or to carry out specific assignments.

Outside the spaceship, the astronaut is helpless in an environment alien



to his needs. He depends completely on a lifeline as his anchor to the ship. This cable is flexible enough for easy maneuverability, but strong enough to hold him securely. If the cable broke, the astronaut would float off into space with no way of return. Up to now that has not happened. The lifelines have remained secure.

Space isn't the only frontier where a lifeline can mean the difference between life and death. Back on earth, mountain climbers use ropes to scale icy slopes or vertical rock faces. The

rope serves as insurance, binding the climber to the mountain, or to other climbers, in case of a fall.

In the oceans, too, man depends on a lifeline as he explores the unknown far beneath the sea. During the early days of diving, divers were dependent upon long hoses that linked them to an air compressor on board the ship or boat. This means of diving was quite dangerous, and the diver's apparatus made movement difficult.

A new technique was invented in the 1940s by Jacques Yves Cousteau. He designed and tested the first self-contained diving gear, a metal tank of compressed air that allows a diver to carry his "lifeline" on his back. The tanks give the

diver more maneuverability, enabling him to explore regions beyond the scope of early aquanauts.

There's another lifeline that you should know about that is ultimately far more important than the ropes and hoses that keep modern adventurers alive.

It is a lifeline that can be "strung" between you and God, transcending by billions of miles the planetary space that our "sailors among the stars" have explored. You may have used this lifeline without realizing

Graphics Courtesy NASA



Photo Courtesy NASA

exactly what it is. Let me explain.

You may have heard from your parents or minister, or directly from Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong, that we presently do not have real life. Right now all we have is a chemical, physical existence, which means, basically, that our life is just like an animal's. We're alive, now, but someday we will die. And without God's intervention, that would be it. We would no longer exist.

But God does not want you to die as the animals do, with no hope of a future life. He has a plan that will

make it possible for you to gain real life, the kind of life spoken of in the Bible as eternal life.

The Bible says that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). This means that, physically, all of us will die. But we will be resurrected and, if we qualify according to God's judgment, we will be given eternal spiritual life. You need to learn more about this vital subject by writing for our free booklet, *Never Before Understood: Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*.

You have a chance to live, in spiritual form (not physical), for ever and ever. Whether you do or not will depend on whether you become filled with God's Spirit — the Spirit of life. And that depends on whether you have a spiritual lifeline to God. What is this spiritual lifeline? It is *prayer*.

Prayer establishes a spiritual link between you and God that cannot be broken, not even by the most violent turn of events.

In life, all of us face problems, and we find obstacles in our paths that must be bypassed. You can risk the hazards of life without using your spiritual lifeline, but the effects would be the same as an astronaut stepping off into endless space without a link to the ship.

Prayer not only provides a secure link to your heavenly Father, it can act as a conduit through which spiritual "oxygen" — God's Holy Spirit — can flow.

You should not underestimate the importance of prayer. All of the great heroes of the Bible prayed often, realizing the importance of maintaining contact with God. David and Daniel, for example, had a habit of praying at least three times every day (Psalm 55:17, Daniel 6:10).

The New Testament shows that Jesus, who had never sinned, prayed continuously, at times praying all night long (Luke 6:12). If it was important for Christ — who was perfect — to pray, think of how important prayer must be to you.

Prayer can be difficult. If you find that you're having a hard time praying, don't give up and quit. It's not easy. Nor is it easy to become an astronaut or an aquanaut or to master the skills of a mountain climber.

If you're going to be involved in the greatest quest man can have — that of seeking the Kingdom of God and life in His Family — then know that you will have to work as hard as any astronaut or aquanaut or mountain climber to make it. But know, too, that the rewards are definitely worth it.

In a future issue of *Youth 82*, we'll give you a formula for effective prayer. But don't wait until then; begin now to stretch out your own lifeline to God and reap the benefits of close contact with Him. □

The Story of Princess Diana

The Little Girl Next Door

By John Halford

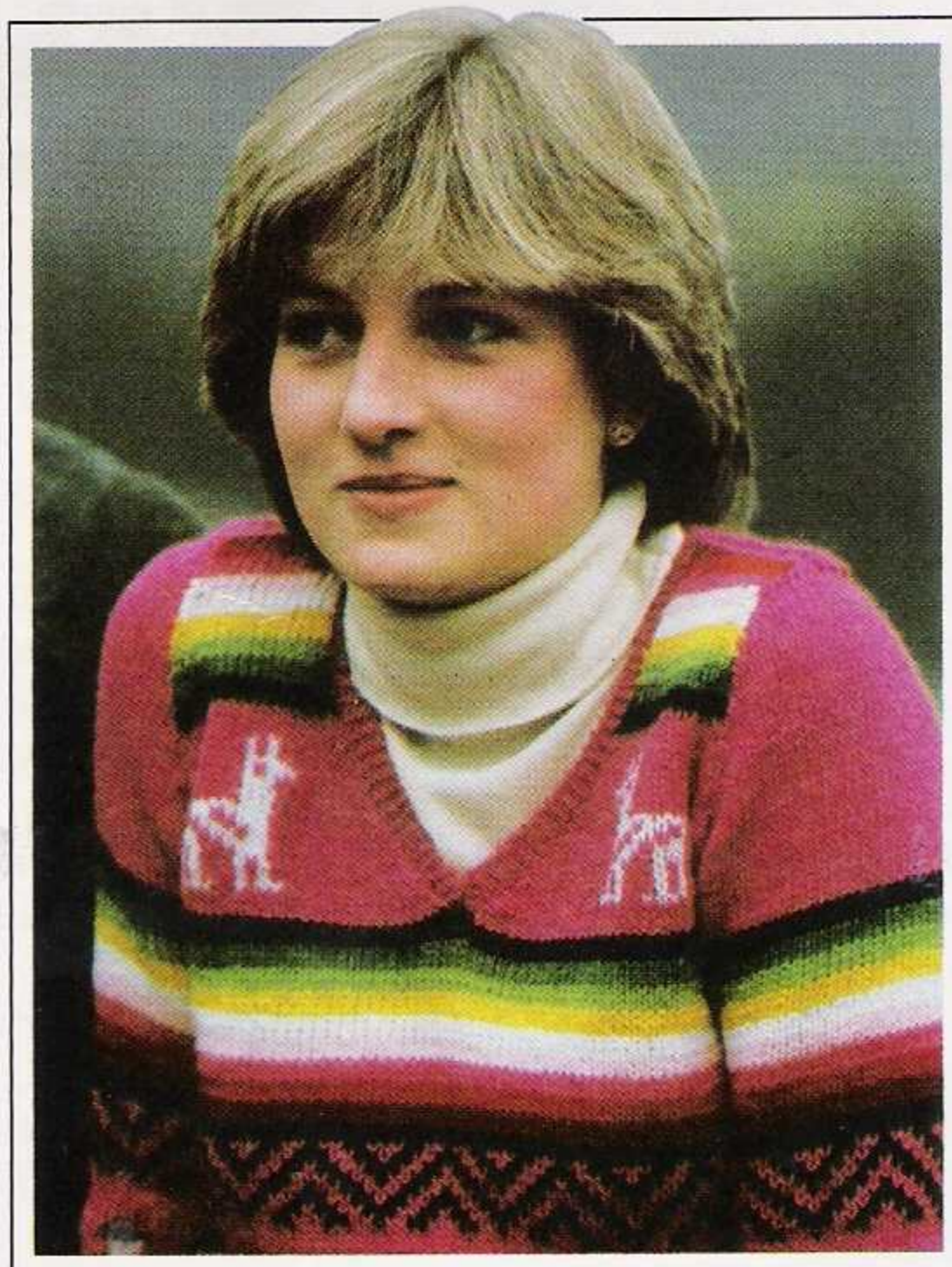
The story of the marriage of Lady Diana Spencer to Prince Charles reminds you of one of those “once-upon-a-time” stories that you used to read when you were little.

This time last year Diana Spencer was a kindergarten teacher. Then she came to love the handsome prince, and after a magnificent ceremony with thousands of guests, she rode back to the palace in a beautiful golden coach. It's like a little girl's dream. But for Diana Spencer, the dream came true.

But there is more to the story of Diana and her prince than first meets the eye. Diana Spencer was born on July 1, 1961, in England. She was the third daughter of the Earl and Lady Spencer. The Spencers were quite wealthy, and were distant relatives of Britain's royal family. The Queen, in fact, owned the estate next to a home where the Spencers spent part of the year.

Believe it or not, the Queen's house did not have a swimming pool, while the Spencers' did. So the royal children used to come over occasionally for a dip. So Lady Diana, as she was called (the daughters of English earls are known as “lady” even when they are little children), grew up knowing all the children of Queen Elizabeth.

She would have met Prince Charles, but he was several years older than she was. To the prince, Lady Diana was just the “little girl next door.” Neither Diana nor her parents could have planned that she would one day become a princess and wife of the heir to the throne of England. But



the Spencers did want their little daughter to be successful. They made sure she had a good education. Although she was not the most brilliant student, she would always try hard. She grew up loving poetry, music, art — and especially children.

But when she was just 8 years old, something awful happened. Her parents were divorced! All four of the children stayed with their father when their mother remarried.

At the age of 13 Diana went to a boarding school, where she stayed for three years. Once again, she did not excel, but she was remembered for her pleasant, serving attitude and her cheerful, friendly personality.

When she was 16, Diana went to school in Switzerland for a year. There she studied French and she also learned to ski, a sport that her husband loves.

After the year in Switzerland Diana came home to England, but she found it hard to settle down in the big old family house. So, with her father's permission, Diana found three roommates and moved to an apartment in London.

She also found a job as a teacher in a nursery school. She loved children, and the two years she spent teaching were happy times.

Diana did something else during this time. Very few people know about it. For two afternoons a week, in her spare time, she helped a little handicapped boy. She would take him for walks or just sit and talk to him. When the little boy's parents had to return to America, Diana continued to offer her help, without pay, in order to help other young children. The Princess of Wales, one of the most important women in the world, is a humble, serving, giving person.

Even though Diana was away from home, and away

Photos by Tim Graham — Sigma

from her parents' supervision, she led a clean and decent life. She didn't go steady with anyone, and stayed away from bad company and the wrong kind of environment. Of course, she still had no idea of what life held in store for her. But whatever it was, she wanted to face it with a clean record and a good reputation. Even though she was enjoying life, she was taking it seriously.

Her patience, common sense and loyalty paid off. One weekend she had driven home to spend a few days with her father. While she was there she had a phone call. It was Prince Charles — asking her for a date!

Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, eldest son of Queen Elizabeth and heir to the British throne, was several years older than Diana Spencer. He had led a full and varied life. He had traveled the world and was an accomplished pilot, skier, horseman — you name it. As he grew older, his mother, the Queen, delegated many responsibilities to him — training him for the time when he will be King. But there was something missing — and as the prince grew older, it began to worry some people. He still wasn't married.

But it isn't easy for the heir to the British throne to find a wife. She has to be a rather special person, because the wife of the Prince of Wales must be prepared, one day, to be the Queen of England. Prince Charles knew many girls, but some of them weren't suitable for the demanding role that a Princess of Wales would have to play. Then there were the girls who might have been suitable, but Prince Charles did not love them.

The world waited expectantly, and every time the young prince was even so much as seen with a girl, rumors would fly. But Prince Charles refused to be hurried. Marriage was too important, and he could not afford to make a mistake. And yet, as future King, he knew he should be married.

One day, perhaps while thinking over the girls he knew, he remembered a young woman he had known all his life, but whom he had never really noticed until he had been reintroduced to her three years before.



The prince had been out on a shooting expedition at the time. Diana Spencer had only been 16 then, but he remembered how much he had enjoyed her company. She would be 19 now. He had seen her once or twice since, and had even dated one of her older sisters.

But Diana was the one who had impressed him. Could it be — could she be the one? There was only one way to find out. So the prince called Diana and asked her for a date.

Soon they began to see each other more frequently. They had to be careful to avoid publicity and the ever-waiting newspaper reporters. Then, in the summer of 1980, the royal family invited Lady Diana to their castle in Balmoral. The young couple had plenty of time to spend with each other. This time Prince Charles knew he had found the right girl. He asked Lady Diana to marry him. And, of course, she accepted.

Her father gave his approval, very happy and proud of his daughter. He said: "She is a giver, not a taker, and that is very rare these days. I think Charles is very lucky to have her."

But there was still one more important step. Under British law, Queen Elizabeth had to approve of the girl her son chose to marry. But approve she did, enthusiastically and wholeheartedly. And so one day last summer, Lady Diana Spencer married her prince.

She has made a wonderful princess. The people of Britain love her, and not only because she is young and beautiful and married to the heir to the throne. They love Princess Diana for herself, because she is herself. Becoming famous hasn't changed her too much. She is still warm, friendly, humble and genuine. So it isn't surprising that the British people have taken to their new princess so well. And she likes them and wants to serve them.

Whether or not Princess Diana ever becomes Queen, her life is already an example to young women everywhere. But perhaps it is an especially important example to the young ladies who read *Youth 82*.

If you take God at His word, you know that you have an especially wonderful and exciting future. Like Diana Spencer, you do not know exactly what it will be. But you know it will be special.

Princess Diana has shown that you don't have to be the smartest, most athletic person to be a success. Even an upset home life is not an excuse to let down your standards. You see, even though young Diana did not know that she would grow up to be a princess, she didn't do anything that disqualified her from being one! Many of Prince Charles' other girl friends were unsuitable, and Queen Elizabeth would never have approved. But she could approve of Diana.

You don't know exactly what opportunities God has in store for you. Will you do something that will make you unsuitable or disqualify you? Are you trying your hardest to develop the talents you do have? Are you trying to become the kind of person others can love and respect?

When the time came, Lady Diana was ready to be a princess. Will you be? □

Do You Know Where You're Going?

Planning your future can be a tough assignment. Answering the question "Where are you going?" is not easy.

By Michael Snyder

The question of your direction in life confronts you in many different areas: your future career, your closest friendships, even what you do with your free time.

Deciding your answers is not always easy. Yet such decisions are foundational to success.

The first of the seven laws of success discovered by Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong is having the right goal.

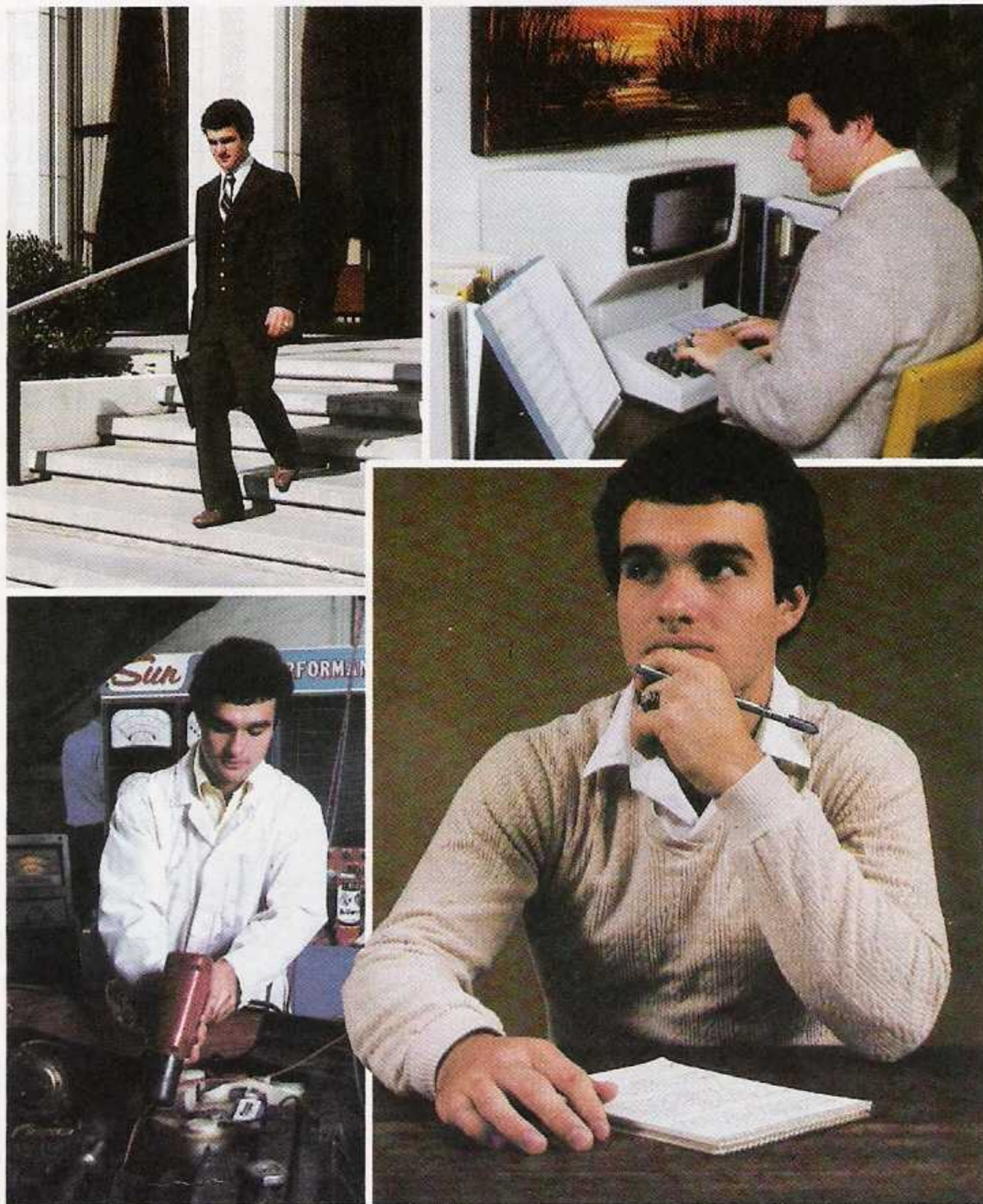
Maybe you have goals like making better grades in English or losing some weight or making the starting five

of your basketball team. These are fine short-term goals, but you also need long-term goals — those that really show you where you're going.

An often neglected key to success is BIG-mindedness. One of the biggest problems most of us have to overcome is seeing past the end of our noses.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

Yes, the ability to look beyond this moment, to visualize what you'll be doing one, five, even 10 years from now is far more than mere daydreaming. When Mr.



Armstrong was keeping the biblically commanded Feast of Tabernacles in the 1930s with a little more than a dozen people, he used to talk about the day when multiple thousands would gather together for the fall event, as they do today. That's real foresight.

And, when the work that he was doing was still very limited in scope, he used to go around to different radio stations buying air time, always talking about when God's Work and Church would be spread around the world. The magazine you hold in your hands is part of the realization of that vision.

You can apply this same technique that Mr. Armstrong used. Remember, success just doesn't happen — somebody or something causes it.

Before you can be successful, you have to know where you're going. If you don't, regardless of how old you are, you have an empty spot in your life. Without major goals, you can't direct your energy.

When you were younger, your goals probably didn't extend past lunchtime. But from now on the decisions (or non-decisions) you make will affect your life for many years to come. For example, let's take your soon-to-be-started career.

Career? Maybe you think, It's too early for

me to think about a career.

The idea of being a civil engineer or an artist or a housewife may seem distant and unrelated to your life now. But the earlier you set a career goal, the greater advantage you have.

Here's where having vision comes in. Say you read a book about surveying. You think, This sounds pretty interesting. So, in one fell swoop, you set your mind on becoming a surveyor.

During one summer vacation, you land a job as a rodman — that is, the person who holds the leveling rod on

(Continued on page 20)

Where did St. Valentine's Day come from?

You might suppose school teachers and educators would know. But do they?

How many of you were ever taught the real origin of Valentine's Day — were ever told in school *why* you should observe the custom of exchanging valentines?

The silence of educators

Teachers are all too often silent about the origin of the customs they are forced to teach in today's schools. If they were to speak out, many would lose their jobs!

Today, candymakers unload tons of heart-shaped red boxes for Feb. 14, while millions exchange valentines. Florists consider Feb. 14 — St. Valentine's Day — as one of their best business days. And young lovers pair off — at least for a dance or two — at St. Valentine's balls.

Why? Where did these customs originate? How did we come to inherit these customs? Isn't it time we examined why we celebrate St. Valentine's Day?

A Christian custom?

Many have assumed that traditional Valentine's Day celebrations are all connected with an early Catholic martyr by the name of Valentine.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

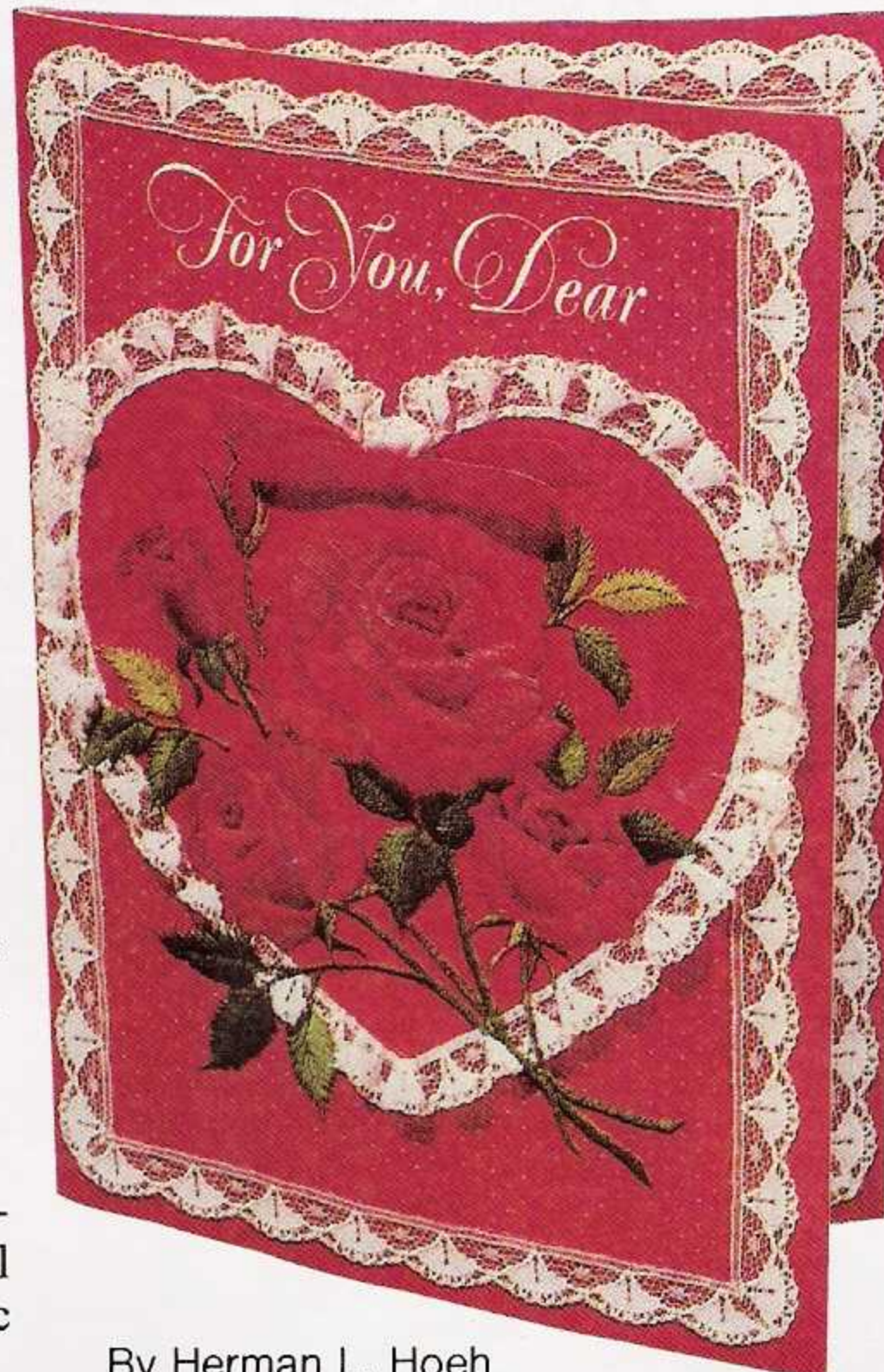
Notice what one authoritative encyclopedia says about this idea: "St. Valentine's Day as a lovers' festival, the choice of a valentine, and the modern development of sending valentine cards has no relation to the saint or to any incident in his life" (article, "Valentine, Saint," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1970 edition).

Did you know that centuries before the birth of Jesus, the pagan Romans celebrated Feb. 15 and the evening of Feb. 14 as an idolatrous and sensuous

festival in honor of Lupercus, the "hunter of wolves"?

The Romans called the festival the Lupercalia. The custom of exchanging valentines and all the other traditions in honor of Lupercus — the deified hero-hunter of Rome — were also linked anciently with the pagan practice of teenagers going steady. It usually led to sexual escapades.

Today, the custom of going steady



By Herman L. Hoeh

Valentine's Day

Where Did It Come From?

is thought very modern. It isn't. It is merely a rebirth of an old custom "handed down from the Roman festival of the Lupercalia, celebrated in the month of February, when names of young women were put into a box and drawn out by men as chance directed." That's the admis-

sion of the *Encyclopedia Americana*, article, "St. Valentine's Day."

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* also points out that the custom of exchanging valentines arose from this name drawing during the Lupercalia. The "custom was introduced to England by the Romans and continued through the Christian era. In order to adapt the practice to Christianity the church transferred it to the feast of St. Valentine" (article "Greeting Card").

When Constantine in A.D. 313 made Christianity an official religion of the Roman Empire, there was some talk in church circles of discarding this pagan free-for-all. But the Roman citizens wouldn't hear of it! So it was agreed that the holiday would continue as it was, except for the more grossly sensual observances.

It was not until the reign of Pope Gelasius that the holiday became a "Christian" custom.

"As far back as 496, Pope Gelasius changed Lupercalia on February 15 to St. Valentine's Day on February 14" (Lavinia Dobler, *Customs and Holidays Around the World*, p. 172).

But how did this pagan festival acquire the name of "St. Valentine's Day"?

And why is the little naked Cupid of the pagan Romans so often associated with Feb. 14? And why do

little children and young people still

cut out hearts and

send them to "sweethearts"

on a day in

honor of Lupercus the hunter of wolves? Why have we supposed these pagan customs, in honor of a false god, are Christian?

Who was the original "St. Valentine"?

Valentine was a common Roman name. Roman parents often gave the name to their children in honor of the famous man who was first called Valentine in antiquity. That famous man was Lupercus, the *hunter*. But who was Lupercus — and why should

he have also borne the name Valentine among the heathen Romans?

The Romans identified Lupercus with the Greek god Pan (*Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology*, Vol. II, article "Lupercus"). Pan was an Arcadian god of light. As such he was equivalent to the Phoenician sun-god Baal.

Baal — mentioned so often in the Hebrew Bible — was a title of Nimrod, "the mighty hunter" (Genesis 10:9). The Persian author Rashid al-Din, in his *History of the Franks*, mentions that Nimrod extended his hunting expeditions even to Italy.

The Apennine Mountains of Italy also bore the name the Mountains of Nembrod or Nimrod. The hunter Nimrod pursued wolves in the Apennine Mountains of Italy and acquired the title Lupercus — or wolf hunter. Valentine's Day was originally a day set aside by the pagan Romans in his honor!

But why should Nimrod have been called "Valentine" by the Romans? And why should the celebration of this day have been anciently limited to the city of Rome before Pope Gelasius' time? What part did the site of ancient Rome play in the life of Nimrod?

Valentine comes from the Latin word *Valentinus*, a proper name derived from the word *valens*, meaning "to be strong, powerful, mighty." Any connection with Nimrod? We read in the Bible that Nimrod was the "mighty hunter" (Genesis 10:9). It was a common proverb of ancient time that Nimrod was "the mighty hunter before the Lord." Nimrod was their hero — their strong man — their *valentine*!

But why do we associate HEARTS with a day in honor of Nimrod — the *Baal* of the Phoenicians?

The surprising answer is that the pagan Romans acquired the symbol of the heart from the Babylonians. Nimrod founded Babel. He was the first lord of the Babylonians. In the Chaldean tongue, spoken in Babylonia, the word for "heart" was *bal*. The heart — *bal* — became, because of similarity in sound, a symbol of Nimrod — the *Baal* or Lord of the Babylonians!

Later, professing Christians in Constantine's day associated one of their martyrs named Valentine with festivities honoring Nimrod — the Valentine of the heathen. In this way pagan Romans were influenced to "embrace" the church while still continuing their pagan customs.

Why Feb. 14?

But why should the early Romans have chosen Feb. 15 and the evening

Today, candymakers unload tons of heart-shaped red boxes for Feb. 14, while millions exchange valentines. Florists consider Feb. 14 — St. Valentine's Day — as one of their best business days. . . . Why? Where did these customs originate? How did we come to inherit these customs?



of Feb. 14 to honor Lupercus — the Nimrod of the Bible? (Remember that days in ancient times began at sunset the evening before.)

Nimrod — the Baal or sun-god of the ancient pagans — was said to have been born at the winter solstice. In the time of the tower of Babel the winter solstice occurred on Jan. 6. Eastern Orthodox churches still commemorate this day, but now call it "Christmas."

It was the custom of antiquity for the mother of a male child to present herself for purification on the 40th day after the day of birth. The 40th day after Jan. 6 — Nimrod's original birthdate — takes us to Feb. 15, the celebration of which began on the evening of Feb. 14 — the Lupercalia or St. Valentine's Day.

On this day in February the mother of Nimrod was said to have been *purified* and to have appeared for the first time in public with her son as "mother and child."

The Roman month February, in fact, derives its name from the *februa* that the Roman priests used in the rites celebrated on the Lupercalia. The *februa* were thongs from the skins of sacrificial animals used in rites of purification on the evening of Feb. 14.

Cupid makes his appearance

Another name for the famous child who became a hunter was Cupid — meaning "desire" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, article "Cupid"). It is said that when Nimrod's mother saw him as a young boy she *desired* him — lusted after him. Nimrod became her cupid — her desired one — and later her Valentine! So evil was Nimrod's mother that *it is said she married her own son!*

As Nimrod grew up, he became the child-hero of *many* women who *desired* him. He was their cupid! In the book of Daniel he is called the "desire of women" (Daniel 11:37).

Moffatt translates the word as Tammuz — a Semitic name of Nimrod.

He provoked so many women to *jealousy* that an idol of him was often called the "image of jealousy" (Ezekiel 8:5). No wonder the pagans commemorated their hero-hunter Nimrod, or Baal, by sending heart-shaped love tokens to one another on the evening of Feb. 14 as a symbol of him!

This, then, is the origin of Valentine's Day.

Why should we continue teaching little children these pagan customs, derived from ancient and outdated pagan sex- and hero-worship? Why not teach them, instead, what history and the Bible really say? □

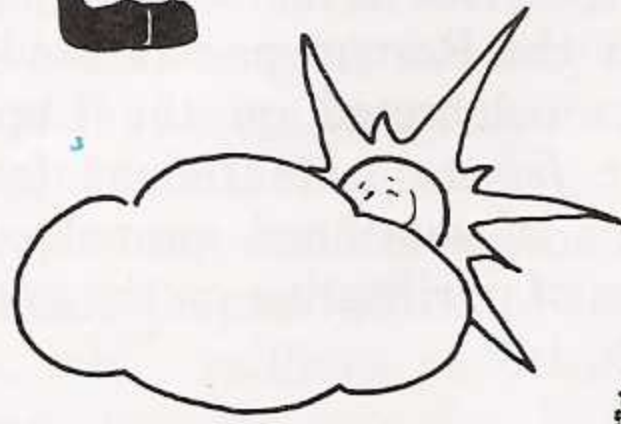
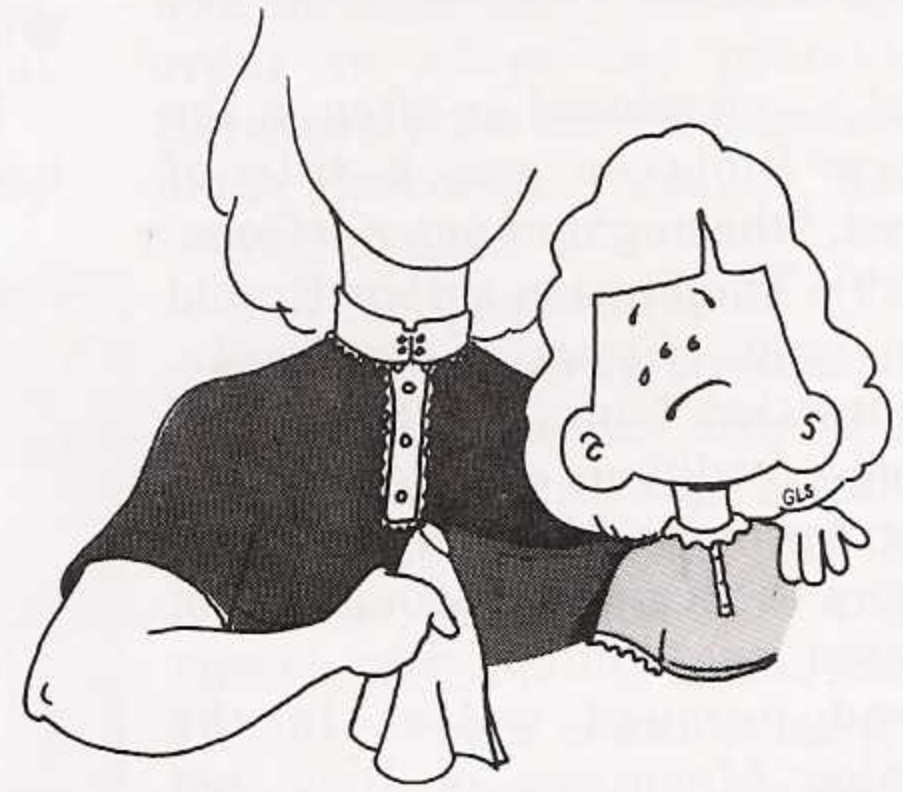


"Here, Mom, I love you!"



"Come on, son. I'll show you how to bank that money and make it grow."

"Almost exactly the same thing happened when I was your age. I know it's hard . . ."



"What a beautiful piece of land! Dad wants me to learn to take care of it so he can turn it over to me some-day."

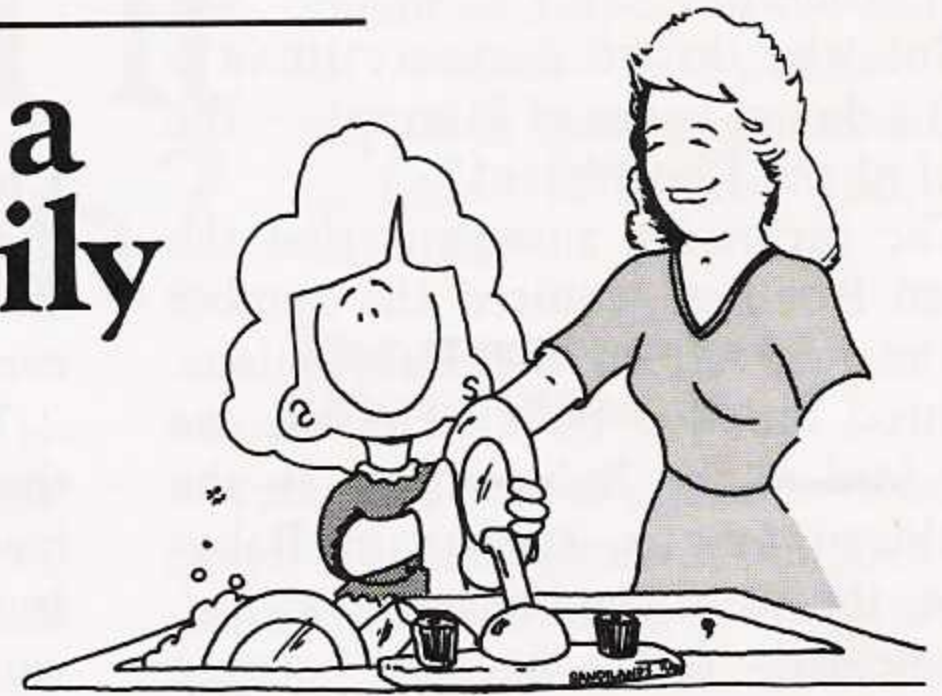
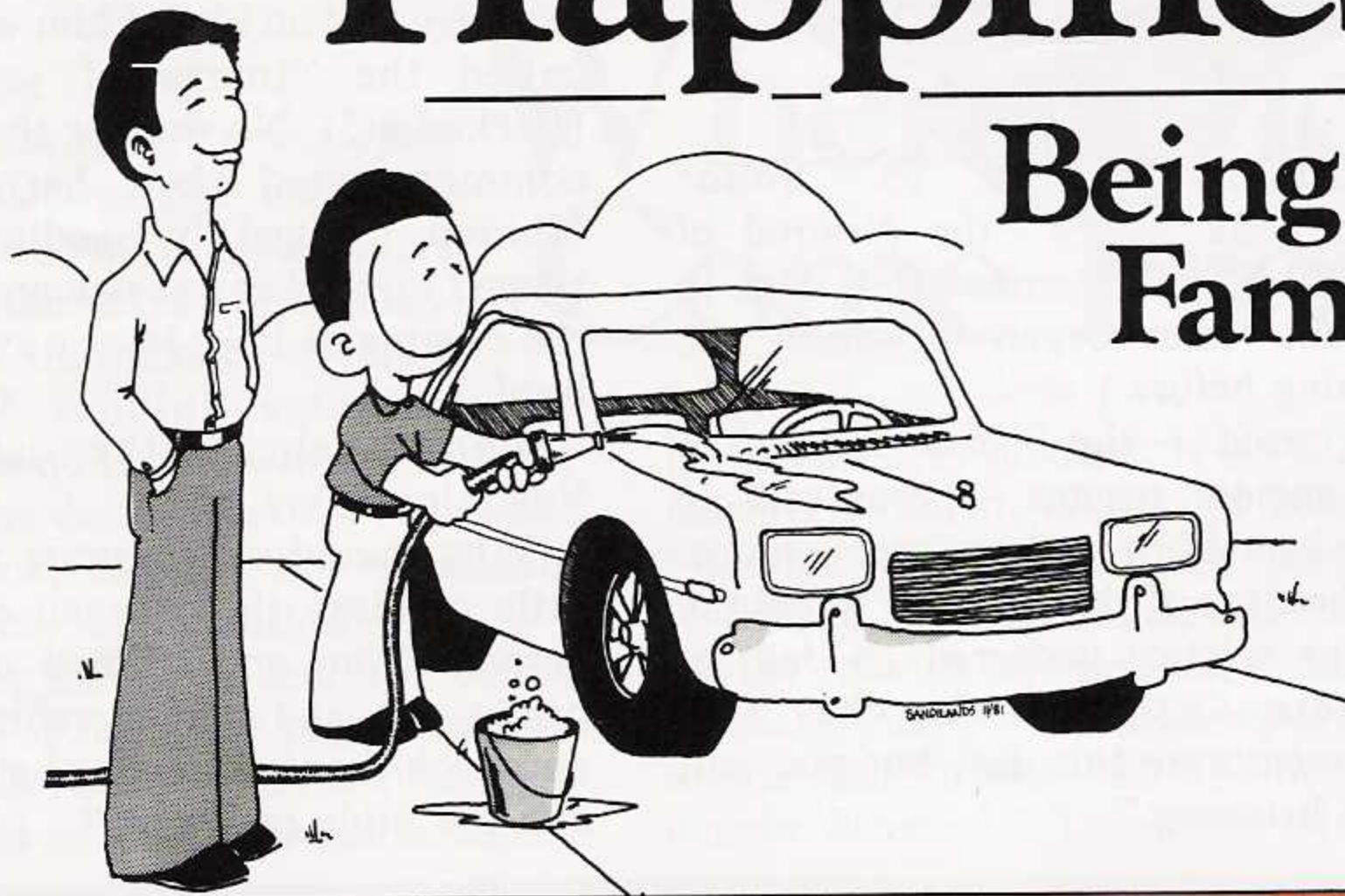


"You're doing a fine job, son. Since you treat the car with respect, I know I can trust you with it."

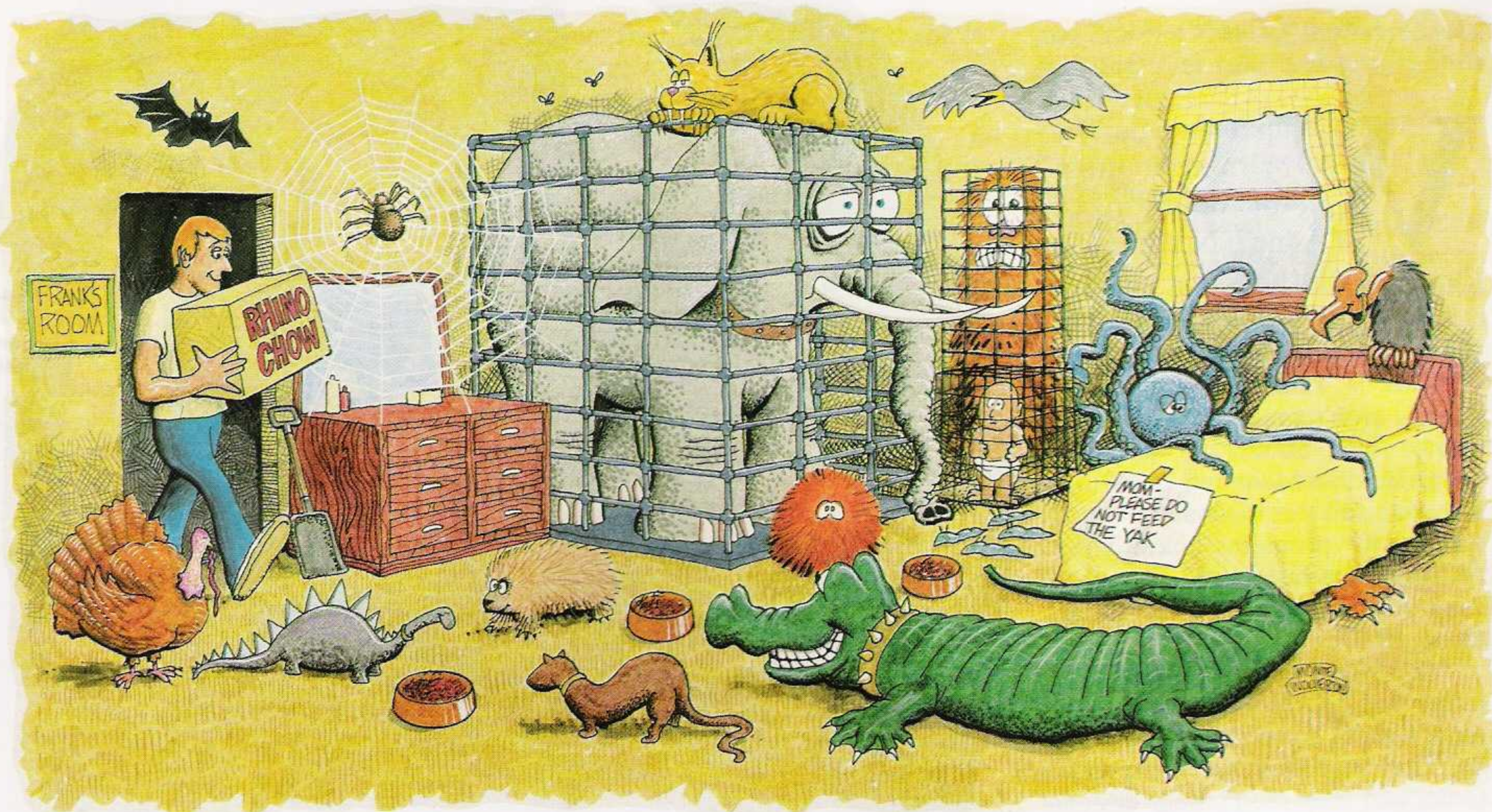
"You know, if it weren't for our parents, we wouldn't even be here enjoying this beautiful day!"

Happiness Is...

Being a Family



"Well, thank you, dear. This sure takes a load off me."



So You Want to Keep a Pet...

What every potential pet owner should know about the joys and responsibilities of caring for a pet.

By Sylvia F. Wilkins

Crocodiles and alligators are becoming quite a serious hazard in New York City.

You might laugh and say: "That's silly. Crocodiles only live in Florida and other warm areas!"

Well, that used to be true, but so many people have impulsively purchased the baby reptiles as pets, and then simply flushed them down the toilet when they grew bored with them, that now the New York sewage system has become a home-away-from-home for no-longer-cute crocodiles and alligators.

Have you ever wished you could

have a pet of your own? Pet ownership can provide lots of fun and companionship. But, to make sure your experience as a pet owner doesn't end up like those New Yorkers and their reptiles, here are some points to consider.

Taking on a pet is a little like adopting a baby. Once you have committed yourself, you really have to see it through — so before you start, it is a good idea to "count the cost" in more ways than one.

Naturally, step one is to obtain permission from your parents — making sure that they know you intend to take full responsibility for the care of your pet. Discuss who will buy food for the pet and where it will live.

Of course, some of you may not have the opportunity to own your own animal — but this doesn't have to stop you from having fun with other people's pets and even getting paid for the pleasure!

Many people prefer to leave their pet in the care of a pet-sitter while they are away on vacation, rather than put him in a kennel, for example. And other pet owners through age, illness or lack of time need someone to exercise or feed their pets.

If it is possible for you to have a pet, you need to discuss with your family what kind of pet to have. You probably already know what kind of animal or bird or whatever you wish

(Continued on page 19)

Illustration by Monte Wolverton

By Jeff Zhorne

What do you worry about most? Not being liked? Acne? Not wearing the right clothes?

Can you talk about these fears with your parents?

"This is 1982," you say. "My parents aren't tuned in. My friends know more about my personal problems than Mom and Dad." But are your folks really out of touch with your problems? Are they really so "old-fashioned" that they can't relate to what you're going through?

When they were your age, your father and mother may have spent more time at home than some of you do. They may have had more chores to do, and they didn't wear designer jeans, play electronic games or have some of the opportunities you do. Sex on television or in the movies wasn't displayed as openly. In some ways, therefore, teenagers faced different pressures then.

Families living more than 100 years ago were *really* different. You possibly remember from history classes how a boy would see his father work at a trade every day. The shop was in the home, next door or on the farm. A son and his father hunted and fished together.

Conversation often centered around a man's daily tasks and a boy's responsibilities. As the boy watched and assisted his father at work, he learned from him — and they talked!

A mother and daughter likewise communicated more in the days when the family served many functions beyond providing food and shelter. A daughter knew virtually every domestic chore — from sewing to gardening — by age 13. Is it possible for you and your parents to really relate and feel the togetherness that families used to enjoy?

A group of teenagers was asked by survey if there was a time when they decided it was better not to tell their parents personal things.

"I never talked to my parents," was one fairly common answer. Many thought they began losing communi-



Are Your Parents Really 'Old-Fashioned'?

This is 1982 — can your parents really understand the problems you face today?

cation with their parents around age 6. It seems that at 6 children begin to live in a separate world with different interests. There seems to be less to talk about.

Many come home after school, quickly change clothes, then run off or ask to be driven to various activities. Some are seldom present

for the evening meal, an intimate opportunity for families to talk about the day's events.

I'm thankful my parents urged — and sometimes required — us kids to eat dinner with them, barring some occasional circumstances of course. The evening meal was an excellent time for us to ask advice, discuss

important problems and tell our thoughts about possible careers, likes and dislikes.

It's important to be able to talk openly with your parents. When you seek advice only from friends, they tend to take only your side. Your parents know you and can remain more objective to your real needs.

"C'mon, let's take Nelson's geology class 'cause he's so easy," your friends might urge. But your parents, knowing you're interested in how the body works, for example, wisely recommend a biology class.

Explaining bad news

How about those times when you get into trouble for disobeying your parents? Maybe you did something wrong accidentally — you dented Dad's car or stained Mom's blouse. How do you talk to your parents about it?

Many teens, fearing their parents' reactions, fail to talk about things they feel guilty or sorry about. When we feel guilty about something, we sometimes blame our parents for making us feel that way. Actually that's just an excuse.

Telling the whole story clearly, as soon as possible, generally helps prevent misunderstandings. That sounds good, you say, but it's hard to do. Yes, but take heart: Parents are often less harsh than teens expect them to be.

When you over-explain or try to blame others, your parents may become defensive. Trust your parents with the truth. "I'm in trouble and feel lousy about it" is a straightforward approach that will open channels of communication.

Though they may blow up when you first break bad news to them, they'll cool off later. Give them a second chance. No matter how painful the news, most parents deeply care and want you to know you can confide in them.

Do you think your parents are overly strict and uncompromising, unreasonable, unreachable, unthoughtful? Look

at it from their viewpoint for a minute.

Wear their shoes

First, they are not intentionally trying to make life unbearable for you. Most parents really do desire the best for their children.

Second, they want to prevent at all costs their sons and daughters from making the same mistakes and suffering the same resulting penalties that they've lived through. Your parents want you to have a better life than they had, to steer the shortest and straightest course to success and happiness.

Realize what your folks respect

and expect. Opposing their standards, resisting their rules and testing their limits only leads to trouble.

"You're old-fashioned, Dad" or "Mom, you're just not with it!" won't make them cooperative.

Instead of talking *at, to* or *past* your parents, try talking *with* them. Take time to tune in to their feelings and interests. Some of the best things to ask your parents about are their childhood experiences.

Nearly every year, our family drove several hundred miles to visit relatives in the town my father grew up in. As we rode past a certain park near the edge of town, Dad would

(Continued on page 20)

Tips for Talking

Have you ever tried to share your feelings or some information, or just tried to get an answer to a simple question, and felt like you had run into a brick wall? You could have been speaking a foreign language for all the response you were getting. Frustrating, isn't it?

In order to solve a communication problem like this, why not consider some of these helpful tips for talking? Sometimes just one of these can go a long way toward improving communication.

1. *Choose the right time and place.* Ever notice that if you tell your dad you broke a window when he, for example, is looking at the latest stack of bills, his face turns red and he generally doesn't want to hear your side of the story? It's all a matter of timing and location.

When you have a serious matter that you need to talk about with your parents, or anyone for that matter, give it a great deal of thought. Plan it out and organize it in your mind. Then approach them about when the best time would be to discuss the topic you have in mind. Try to

arrange to have it take place in a quiet, private place.

If it is something of a less serious nature, try bringing up the subject at the dinner table. Somehow the enjoyment of eating makes conversation much easier. But avoid traumatic or controversial subjects at mealtime.

2. *Are you on the same wavelength?* It is necessary for the other party to understand the terms you are using for you to get the point across, so make sure your words mean the same to your listener as they mean to you.

Also, if someone is talking to you and you are unsure of his meaning, don't hesitate to ask for a clarification. A good tactic is to repeat the questionable phrase, asking, "Now, do you mean . . . ?"

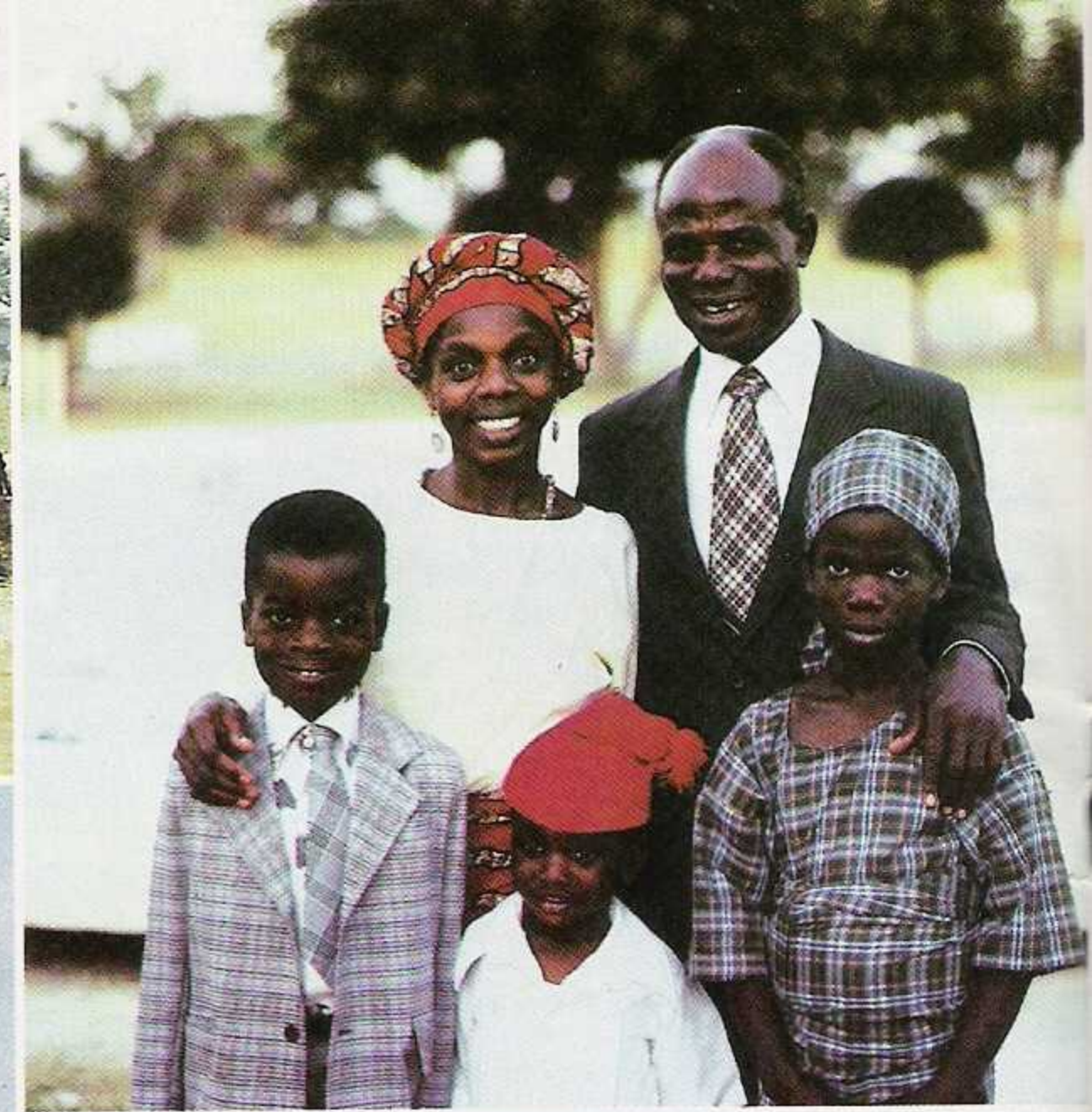
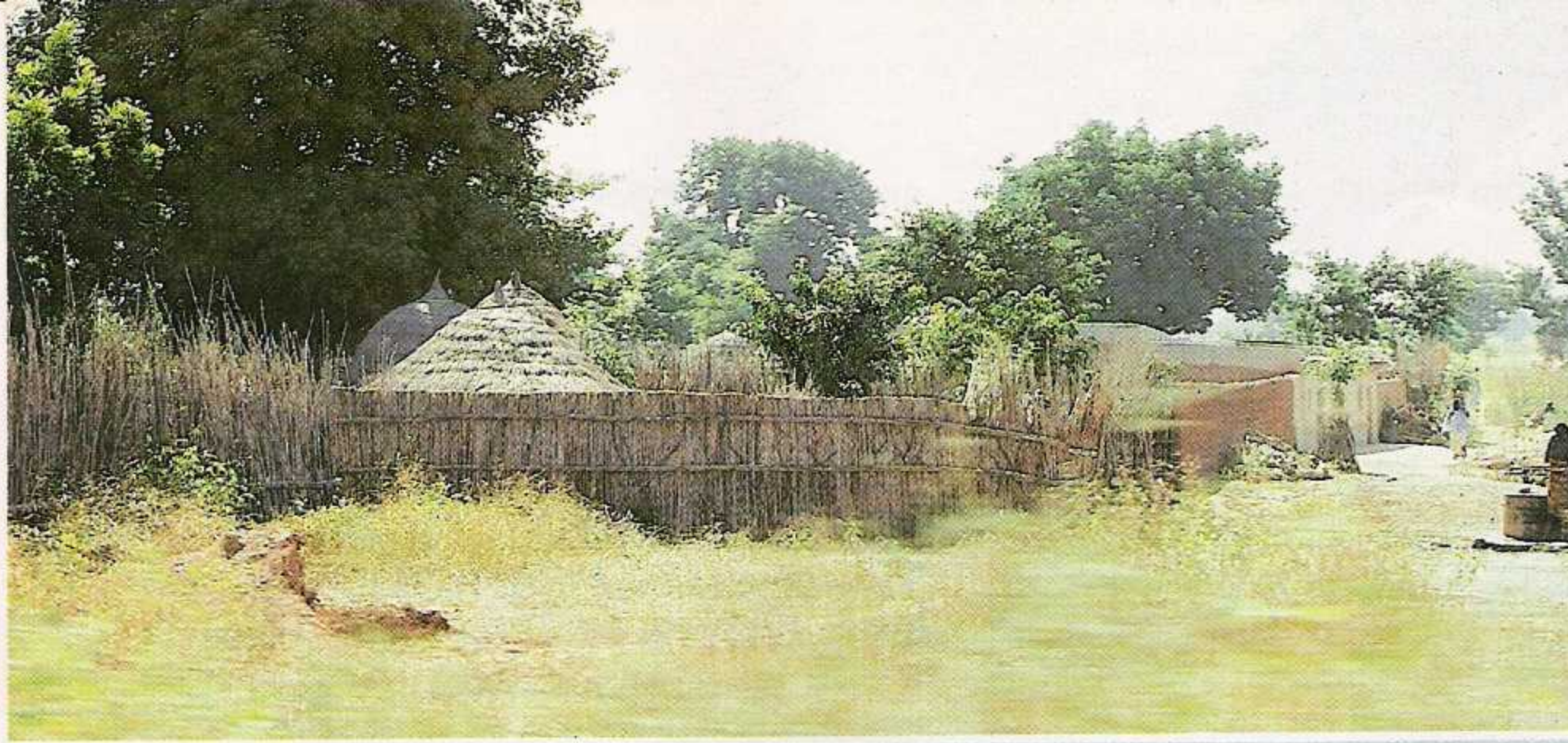
3. *It's a two-way street.* A vital part of communicating is being a good listener, too. One common communication problem is that of interrupting.

Ever talk to a friend who you knew was just biding his time so he could say something, or worse yet, one who just plows in without waiting until you're finished? That puts a real damper on the conversation and can end up a battle for the last word.

We all want to feel that we have something worthwhile to offer. Being a good listener can help fill this need.

— By Karen Meeker □





Nigeria is the largest country in West Africa. Most of the 100 million Nigerians belong to one of three main tribal groups — the Yorubas, the Hausas and the Ibos. English is the main language, but more than 250 other languages and dialects are also spoken.

Nigeria is a major oil exporting nation, and it has many other natural resources. The country was once a part of the British Empire, but has been independent for more than 20 years. Today the governmental system is similar to the United States of America — the 19 individual states are joined in a federation, and a president is elected every four years.

There are modern cities with high-rise buildings and freeways. Yet millions of Nigerians still live in small villages of mud huts.

What is life like in Nigeria today? Youth 82 asked Anthea Edalere, daughter of Lateef Edalere, pastor of the Lagos, Nigeria, congregation of the Worldwide Church of God, to tell us.

What's It Like to Be a Teen in Nigeria?

By Anthea Edalere

What is it like to be a teen in Nigeria?

Well, for one thing, it is interesting! Ours is such a large and varied country.

Imagine yourself in a humid village made of mud huts with forests surrounding you. A few miles from your home (or mud hut!) is a farm

where you grow yams, cocoyam and cassava — the main crops of the Ibos. That is the general way of life in eastern Nigeria.

In northern Nigeria, where the Hausa people live, there are also mud huts, but in a different style than the Ibos'. They also have a different way of life — they look after cattle. Many of them are nomads. Donkeys, camels



Nigeria is a land of variety and contrast. The huts of a rural Nigerian village (upper left) provide a sharp contrast to the modern skyline of Nigeria's capital city, Lagos. Traditional dress and the mother's traditional method of carrying children on her back are seen side-by-side with Western dress and advertising. Upper right: YOU (Youth Opportunities United) members participate in a Bible Bowl game. (Photos by John Halford)



and cows are raised because of the suitable vegetation in that region.

Western Nigeria is more cosmopolitan. It is difficult to notice any distinct culture here, as modern advances are fast enveloping the traditional way of life. For instance, in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, you might see modern supermarkets, theaters and highways. But behind these luxuries are signs of poverty, such as roadside settlers and slums. Prosperity hasn't caught up with everyone yet.

Such contrasts definitely give us a lot of variety, and when traveling across the country to the Church's annual Feast of Tabernacles, we certainly can gain more insight into our diverse country.

Getting an education in Nigeria is difficult. In order to accommodate the large number of students, school days are broken into two half-day sessions, each session for a different group of students. Lack of facilities and a shortage of good teachers make it necessary to try to achieve two schools for the price of

one. This makes it difficult for the students, but the problem is often overcome by dedication on the part of the students themselves, who see the need for education.

There are quite a few teenagers in the Worldwide Church of God in Nigeria. The highlight of their social life is the Feast of Tabernacles, when most of them are able to come together from around the country. Then they enjoy choir performances, films, sports activities, dances and other types of entertainment.

Now that YOU (Youth Opportunities United, the Church's youth group) has started in Nigeria, there will be many more activities for the teens. As yet, there have not been many activities channeled for the

teens alone, but plans are being made for fishing trips, barbecues and socials as well as a local SEP (Summer Educational Program).

Nigeria is a developing country. Many things that people in Western countries take for granted are luxuries here. Life is full of surprises.

During the 1981 Feast of Tabernacles, just after a sermonette the electricity supply was cut. We were in total darkness. The minister

asked the members to sing some hymns until he could decide what to do. We were singing the third hymn when power was restored. By this time candles had been brought for the service to continue. Such incidents show just how adaptable we have become.

Problems like these often arise in developing countries. But do we let it get us down? No way! Difficulties like this prepare us for the hard times ahead. Perhaps young people in Western countries

will find these coming times more difficult to cope with. We look forward to building our country, now and in the world tomorrow.

Nigeria is a land of opportunities and it is our hope that many more teens will come into the Church. And when our local SEP starts we hope that other teens from other parts of the world will come and visit with us. Until then, "odaboo!" (good-bye!). □



News & Reviews

Test Your 'Folklore'

You've lived with them all your life. But how much do you really know about your folks?

Try answering these questions and then check your answers with your parents to see how you did. Of course, not all questions will apply in every case.

1. How did your father spend an average summer day when he was 12?
2. What sports did your father play in high school?
3. What's your mother's favorite dessert?
4. What after-school activities did your mother participate in when in school?
5. What summer jobs did your father have as a teenager?
6. How did your parents meet each other?
7. Do you know the names of all your mother's aunts?
8. If your mother could go anywhere in the world for a vacation, where would she go?
9. Where did your parents go on their honeymoon?
10. What did your mom like to



read when she was your age?

11. How did your father get back and forth to school?
12. What time was your mother's curfew when she was your age?
13. Name any of your mom's



schoolteachers.

14. What is your father's earliest memory?
 15. Has your mother ever ridden on a motorcycle?
 16. Who is your mother's favorite woman of the Bible?
 17. What's your father's favorite cartoon strip?
 18. Did your mom or your dad suggest your first name?
 19. What is the favorite pet your father ever had?
 20. How does your mother like her steak cooked?
- If you got more than 15 right, congratulations! You're a real "folklore" expert. If not, aren't you surprised at what you've learned just by asking your folks a few questions! □

Combating Test Anxiety

You are sitting at your desk waiting for the teacher. Your palms are clammy, your hands are cold and your stomach feels like it's trying out for the gymnastics team. You tap your pencil against your desk while you frantically flip through your textbook.

If you are or have ever been a student, you will recognize these symptoms as sure signs of an imminent test.

Most people experience some

nervousness, called test anxiety, when faced with an examination. Test anxiety can be good or bad depending on how nervous you are. A little tension helps you perform at your best. Like an athlete who is "up" for a game, you are "up" for your test.

But some people get so nervous right before a test that they are really uncomfortable, while others forget a lot of material even though they are well prepared. Here are some things you can do to get the best of exam day jitters:

1. Keep up with your studies. You should review all your notes and/or the textbook for each class regularly — about once a week. Then plan a major review session a couple of days before the test. Get together with a friend or two from class or have your parents quiz you over the material.
2. Get your usual amount of sleep the night before the exam. Either too much or too little sleep will make for a muddled mind.
3. Arm yourself with pens, pencils and paper so you won't have to borrow from someone else in the middle of the test.
4. Sit at your usual place in the classroom. Familiar surroundings reduce tension.
5. Just before the test, relax and soothe your anxiety by sitting quietly for a few minutes with your eyes closed and taking several long, very deep breaths.
6. Try giving yourself a little lecture, something like this: I am prepared for this test so I am going to do my best and not worry about it. I have had tests before and I will have them again, so I may as well stop making such a big deal out of this one. I am going to calm down, stop thinking about all those "what ifs" and start concentrating on this test.
7. Check your library or bookstore for a good handbook for students that will give you other helpful study tips. — By Charlene Bentley □



Sweets, sugars and refined carbohydrates feed the bacteria that attack the teeth and gums.

Do Your Teeth and Gums a Favor

Would you like to sidestep the whining whir of a dentist's drill and the accompanying bill? Proper care for your teeth and gums can prevent a lot of problems.

By the time young people in the United States reach their teenage years, 80 percent of them have gingivitis or inflamed gums, according to recent statistics.

If this is not reversed, most teens will get to their 20s and start losing bone. "And in most cases there are no symptoms or pain," says Howard B. Marshall, D.D.S.

Sugars, saliva, enzymes and food particles on the teeth provide a perfect place for bacteria to collect, forming a sticky substance called plaque. Unless removed, bacterial plaque weakens and destroys gum tissue, causing gingivitis.

If gingivitis remains unchecked, it erodes deeper into the bone that surrounds and supports the teeth. The disease is then called periodontitis. Though treatable, this condition is not reversible and causes no pain until late stages.

Teens grow rapidly, have large appetites and eat lots of snacks. Instead of grabbing junk foods that start rotting teeth within 20 minutes of eating them, Dr. Marshall strongly urges teens to:

1. Reduce or eliminate the number of foods containing sugar or refined carbohydrates.
2. Substitute fruits, vegetables, salad or hamburgers for candy and ice cream.
3. Eat sweets at home with a toothbrush and dental floss nearby so that the sugar won't harm the teeth as much. Quickly ridding the mouth of sugar won't feed bacteria, and thus the teeth won't dissolve. — *By Jeff Zhorne* □

Proverbs: Messages for Today

"We are too soon old," stated the hand-carved plaque on my grandfather's wall, "and too late smart."

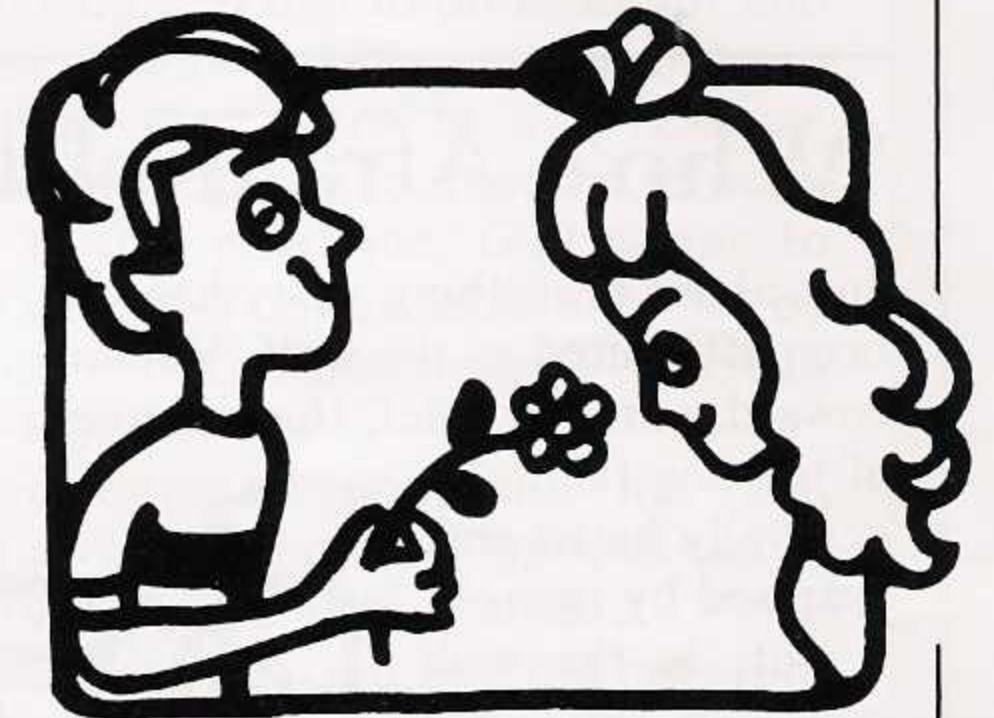
I remember looking at that plaque in my grandparents' home and listening to Grandpa chuckle as he read it to me. I used to wonder what it meant. But no more.

As we grow older, we come to clearly understand what it means. It means that by the time we have learned enough of life's important lessons we may be too old to use them to our advantage. But we do not have to be too old by the time we learn. There is a better way.

About 3,000 years ago King Solomon began his treasure chest of wisdom (the book of Proverbs) by explaining that better way with these words: "A wise man will hear, (Continued on page 16)

How to Give a Compliment

Do you get embarrassed when someone gives you a compliment or get tongue-tied when you try to tell another person that you appreciate something he or she has done? Many people find it difficult to give or receive sincere words of praise, but, done correctly, such



encouragement can have lasting benefits for both parties involved.

Think about it. If you never received any sign of approval or recognition in some project you're involved in, you might wonder if you were getting anywhere. Other people feel the same way, so why not take the time to express your sincere praise and encouragement to someone who is working hard to develop one of his or her talents?

Never give a compliment unless you mean it (that's not a compliment — that's flattery), but be on the lookout for opportunities to point out a job well done.

General praise is okay ("You did a good job"), but it's more personal and comes across as more sincere if you compliment the person on something specific. Be observant and notice new things and special efforts.

When you receive a compliment, how should you answer? You don't need to get embarrassed and say, "Aw, it was nothing." The best answer is usually just a simple "thank you." □

News & Reviews

Proverbs

(Continued from page 15)

and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels" (Proverbs 1:5). In other words, a person who actively seeks to learn about life and its many facets (rather than merely allowing life to overtake him) is a wise man on his road to success while yet young.

In this one compact verse, Solomon gave the cornerstone of the foundation for a successful life. His

advice was to always study, grow, gain knowledge and develop yourself through learning. The habit of continuing to learn throughout one's life is essential to success.

"The wisest man who ever lived" (I Kings 3:12) said it first when he pointed out: "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning." Those words formed the basis of success — of being "smart" while young enough to enjoy it — nearly 3,000 years ago when they were written.

They still do today. — *By Bernie Schnippert* □

satisfy a wolf's appetite, because wolves can weigh as much as 175 pounds.

When the land was cleared and men brought in their livestock, the wolf, deprived of its natural food source, took the domesticated animals as a bountiful feast of new, easy-to-catch prey. Wolves did not see much difference between these animals and their former prey, but man did.

And so wolves became known as ruthless killers. Man had done away with the job wolves once performed so well. There was no room in man's world for this large meat-eater.

So, as the bounty hunters grew more determined, the voice that once broke the stillness of the woodland night vanished.

Hunters used everything they knew about wolves against them. The best way to trap a particularly elusive wolf was to trap his mate and use her as bait. Family ties are so strong in wolves that even the wiliest would risk all to be reunited with his mate, only to be shot or trapped himself.

But the wolf was not entirely wiped out. Today wolves live in the vast wilderness areas of Alaska and Canada, where there are still moose and elk herds left.

For now, man's world and God's creation are separated and it's probably best that way. Perhaps it is better to wait until the soon-coming world tomorrow to get to know the wolf, when it won't even make a little lamb fearful (Isaiah 11:6). — *By Kris Hendrick* □

'Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?'

Just about everything nasty has been attributed to the wolf. Villain, coward, curse or thief, this member of the dog family is generally hated and despised by man.

But, is the wolf really so evil? Are these accusations true, or are the accusers just "crying wolf"?

The wolf has been hated and hunted for centuries. In the United States, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the bounty hunter was rewarded and regarded highly by cattle and sheepherders who had lost or feared losing some of their animals to the predators.

But the wolves were not easy to eradicate. They learned to avoid, even play with, man's traps and poisoned bait, mocking the bounty hunters. Some wolves even took sport in mutilating cattle by "bobtailing" them — biting their tails off.

So far it looks as though all the accusations against the wolf are justified. But the story doesn't begin with the ranchers. It begins long before European settlers came to America.

At that time, wolves kept the giant herds of buffalo, moose and

elk healthy by weeding out the old and sick. Thinning out the herds also prevented them from multiplying too much and

overgrazing, which would have destroyed the grasslands that provided their food.

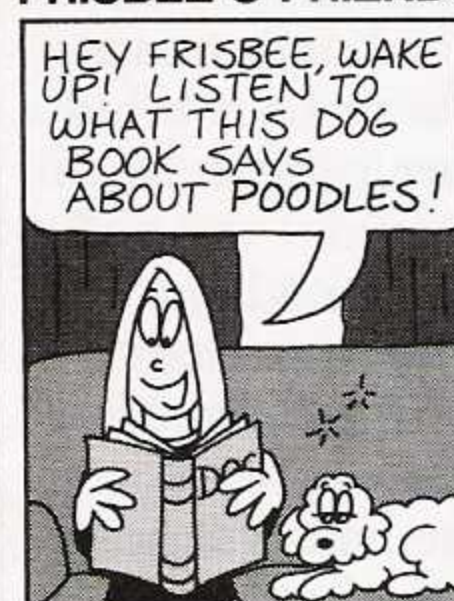
When pioneers began settling on the plains and in the great forests that once covered the United States, some men

consider it a great sport to shoot the plentiful game and just leave the carcasses to rot on the plains.

The wolves feasted during this time, but soon few animals were left that were large enough to



FRISBEE'S FRIENDS



BY CAROL SPRINGER



Teen Bible Study

How We Got the Bible

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik and Staff

Youth 82, in conjunction with the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course Department, presents short monthly Bible studies designed especially for teens.

When God created man, He planned to teach him what he needed to know. God taught Adam the basis of how to live a successful, happy and abundant life. And He revealed the wonderful future He had in store for him and his children.

Over hundreds of years God inspired certain men to write these teachings down and preserve them for our time. We have these lessons today in a special book — the Holy Bible.

The story of the Bible's origin is a fascinating one. So find your Bible, some paper and a pen or pencil and let's learn how God prepared and preserved His Instruction Book for us today. Be sure to look up each scripture given in answer to the questions.

1. On the sixth day of recreating the earth's surface, God created Adam and Eve. The next day, the Sabbath, God taught them many things. What was one very important thing He taught them? Genesis 2:16-17.

God spoke with Adam and Eve and taught them His way of life. One of His instructions was a warning not to take of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But they disobeyed God by taking and eating that forbidden fruit. By doing so they rejected instruction from God and brought the penalty of eternal death upon themselves and all their descendants — all mankind.

From that time on, God taught only a few other people His laws — those whom He called for special reasons and to perform specific jobs for Him. The rest of humanity has followed the ways that seem right to men (Proverbs 14:12).

2. Did God talk to Moses as a friend? Exodus 33:11, first part.

Did God later also talk to the children of Israel? Deuteronomy 5:1-4, especially verse 4.

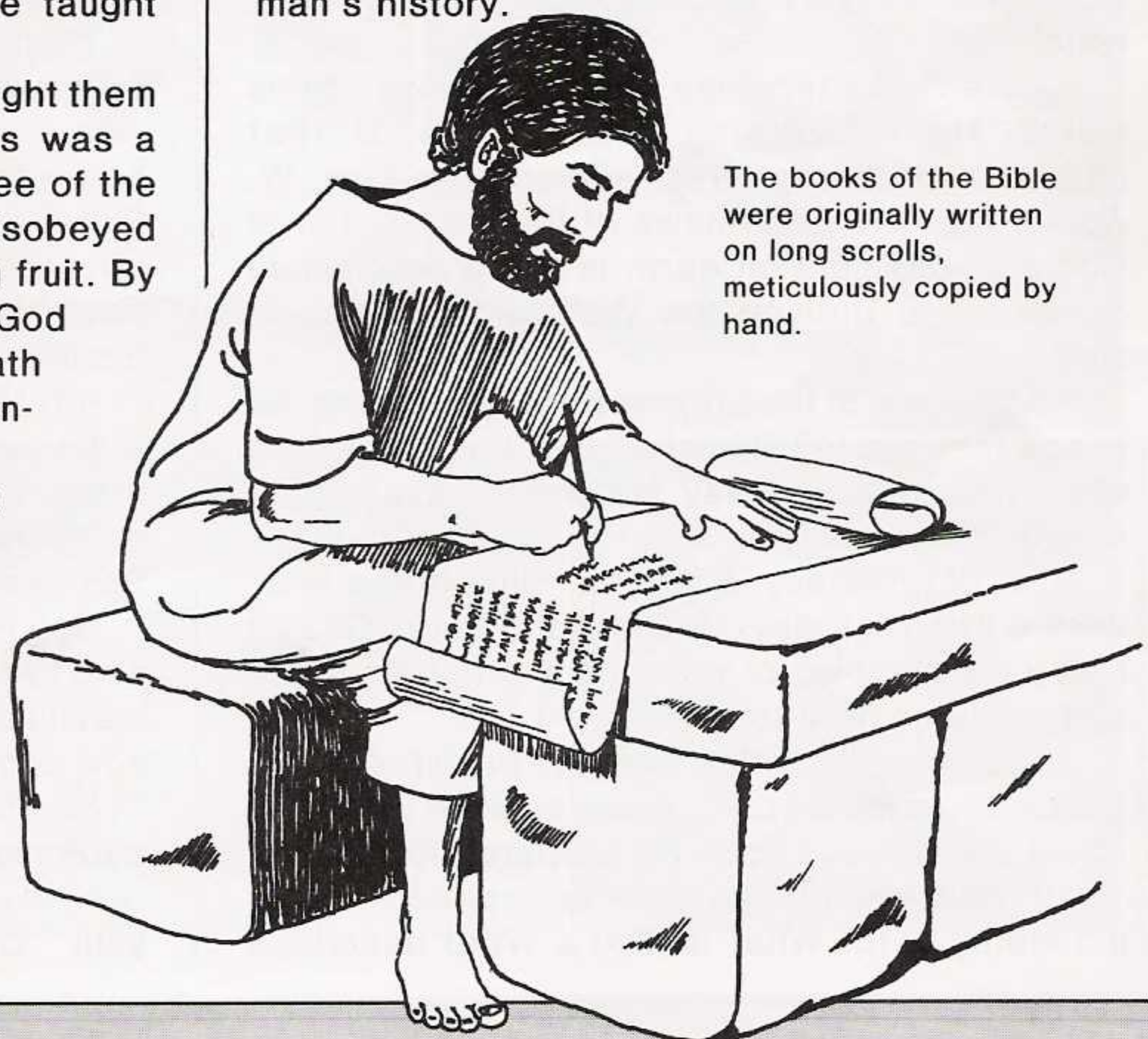
Moses was tending sheep in the desert near Mt. Horeb when God told him to go to Egypt and lead the children of Israel out of captivity and into a new land where they were to live (Exodus 3:1-10). As Israel left Egypt and traveled through the wilderness to this new land, God began to teach them His way to a happy, abundant life by giving them the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:16-19, 20:1-17).

3. After God finished speaking the Ten Commandments, what did the people say? Exodus 20:18-19, Deuteronomy 5:23-31.

Israel became fearful of God and did not want Him to talk to them anymore. And so God gave the rest of His law to Moses, and then Moses taught it to the people (Deuteronomy 6:1).

4. Did Moses write God's laws down? Deuteronomy 31:9, 24. What else did Moses write? Numbers 33:1-2.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible that together were called "the law" or the Torah. These books cover more than 2,000 years of man's history.



The books of the Bible were originally written on long scrolls, meticulously copied by hand.

Illustration by Greg Sandlands

Teen Bible Study

5. How did Moses know exactly what to write? Exodus 34:27, 17:14.

Moses was not an eyewitness to everything he reported in his writings. The creation and Flood were obviously before his time. He wasn't around when Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived. It was God who told Moses what to write. And after Moses died, God inspired other men to write down the things He wanted preserved for the instruction of future generations.

6. Why did God inspire history to be included in the Bible? I Corinthians 10:11-12. For whom are these lessons of history recorded? Romans 15:4.

God wants us all to learn from the mistakes and sins of ancient Israel. He wants us rather to obey Him and be blessed, just as He would have blessed Israel if they had obeyed.

7. Approximately one third of the Bible is prophecy — the foretelling of future events. Is biblical prophecy also inspired by God? II Peter 1:20-21. Why did God make prophecy a part of the Bible? Amos 3:7, Revelation 1:1.

God reveals to us world events that will happen in just a few short years. This is so we can be spurred on to obey Him and escape the terrible time of trouble that is coming upon the world. The prophecies also picture the coming wonderful world tomorrow so we can look forward to it.

8. Just before Christ returns to earth, is God sending someone to prepare the way for His Second Coming? Malachi 3:1-2. What is the job of this messenger? Malachi 4:5-6, Ezekiel 33:7, Isaiah 58:1.

Before God intervenes in the evil ways of this world, He is warning the nations of that intervention through His servant, Herbert W. Armstrong. The good news of the restoration of God's government on earth is being proclaimed to the world through the Worldwide Church of God.

9. Did some of the prophets not understand the things they wrote? Daniel 12:8-9, Luke 10:24. At what time did God say He would reveal their meaning? Daniel 12:4, 9.

Most of prophecy is for this "time of the end" we are living in today. God has shown His Church today the meaning of what many prophets wrote and really desired to understand.

So you see, the entire Bible we have today has been written for us. Let's examine what God says about this special Book He prepared for us.

10. How much of the Bible is inspired by God? II Timothy 3:16. What is God's Word described

as? John 17:17. What will never happen to God's Word — the Holy Scriptures? John 10:35. Can we absolutely depend upon God's Word? Titus 1:2.

Since the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God, we know it is true. And we can rely upon His Word because God cannot lie.

Maybe you are now wondering how God preserved His inspired Word until today. This is also an interesting story.

The books of the Bible were originally written on long scrolls. There were very few copies since each scroll had to be copied by hand, letter by letter. Imagine how long it would take to write out the entire Bible by hand!

The men whose job it was to copy the books of the Bible from scroll to scroll were called scribes. They were very careful in their work. For thousands of years, through persecution and war, until this very day the Jews have preserved the Hebrew Scriptures (what we know as the Old Testament) as God intended (Romans 3:1-2).

Jesus said, "My words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35) — and they have not passed away. The words of Christ — the New Testament writings—were recorded in Greek. And the Greeks faithfully copied, generation after generation, the New Testament in the very language in which God inspired it to be written.

But God was planning to call people from all nations to form His Church just before Jesus returns. These people would need their own copies of God's Word in their own language to study daily. Therefore, God stirred up men to translate the Bible into other languages.

Then, about 500 years ago, the printing press was invented. One of the first books ever printed was — you guessed it — the Holy Bible. Now it began to be easier to have one's own copy of the Bible. Since then the technology of printing has advanced to where hundreds of millions of Bibles have been produced, more than any other book in history.

11. Understanding that the Holy Bible we have today was inspired by God and caused to be preserved for us, what does God expect us to do? II Timothy 2:15. And what are we to do with this knowledge? James 1:22.

God not only expects us to study the Bible, but also to act on what we learn from His Word so we may understand His wonderful plan for our lives now and for all eternity.

So study the Bible regularly (Acts 17:11) and put its lessons into practice — knowing that it is the inspired Word of God preserved for you! □

Keep a Pet...

(Continued from page 9)

to have. Quite frankly, some animals are simply not suitable as pets and they can impose a certain amount of strain on other family members. Depending on your family, such creatures as snakes, fleas, tarantulas, and leopards may be ruled out!

Other animals that would not make very good pets are those that have special needs you are not able to meet. Some creatures need an expanse of water to play in; others need a forest of trees to swing in. Also, tropical pets in a cold climate can be tricky to care for, and an animal with a thick fur coat would not enjoy living in the tropics. It is a good idea to avoid the problems that can arise when an animal is out of its natural climate.

There is also the question of food. It is good to be aware of the appetite of your future pet. Some animals eat a great deal and others are just plain finicky. Imagine having to provide several hundred flies a day or several thousand ants!

Remember, an animal that lives in the house — like a cat or dog — will have to be housebroken, and if your pet will live in a cage or in a tank, his living quarters will have to be cleaned regularly.

Another thing to consider is that a large dog will need considerable exercising and a shaggy dog or cat may require frequent grooming — all quite time consuming. Make sure you look up or ask about the specific care needs of your pet so he can always look and feel his best.

It may sound like keeping a pet is just endless chores, but all of these responsibilities can be well worth the effort. The companionship and understanding that can develop between an animal and a human being is marvelously rewarding.

In many ways you become like God to your pet. If you have a dog, he will be constantly aware of your attitude and sympathetic to you when you come home from school. He will greet you and show you in a million ways how great you are.

This puts great responsibility on your shoulders. You must be consistent with your pet and you must be

totally dependable. For his own sake, you must train him to be obedient. It may one day save his life.

You must put his needs before your own. Remember that he looks forward to his meals at regular hours, not whenever you happen to get around to it. He will be quite disappointed if you ignore him.

Dogs do not have the same powers of reason that a human has, but they definitely do have feelings. The personality of a pet will reflect his master's attitude toward life. I'm sure you have seen dogs that look like their masters!

Remember, owning a pet can help

develop the unselfish, giving side of your nature even though you receive a lot in return. "Loving is as loving does" is an important maxim to keep in mind.

It is a good idea to go into pet ownership with your eyes wide open. It does take a certain maturity to assume the responsibilities of an animal's well-being, because your pet cannot tell you in words how he is feeling, but still depends on you for almost everything.

But, on the other hand, it is amazing how much an animal can communicate — especially his love for you! □

Man's Best Friend

Dogs have long been some man's most popular pets — whether they are just cuddly mutts from an animal shelter (center right photo) or a family of purebred weimaraners.



Photos by Sieglimcle Smith and Nathan Faulkner

Do You Know...

(Continued from page 5)

a survey crew. Two months later, sunburned and mosquito-bitten, you decide surveying is not for you! Some people enjoy it, but you'd like something different.

Far from being behind, you're way ahead. Rather than getting locked into something you have to take as a last resort, you're now free to try something else — without having paid thousands of dollars in college tuition, traveling costs or other similar things.

But if you don't have a career goal, like most people, you end up doing what happens along. Millions of people are snared in traps of their own making. They're frustrated and they don't know why.

In his teens Mr. Armstrong looked over his strengths and weaknesses and came to the conclusion that the communication field was both something he would enjoy doing and something that he had the skills to be good at.

With this goal firmly in his mind, he determined his best course. But before he started, he employed an important (and often neglected) step: getting good advice.

"Make plans by seeking advice" (Proverbs 20:18, New International Version) is something few do enough. And it's important to note that Mr. Armstrong didn't seek unqualified counsel — he went to his uncle, Frank Armstrong, who was a prominent advertising professional.

Using his uncle's sound counsel, he scheduled a year working in newspaper want ads, but "now came a big mistake in judgment."

Mr. Armstrong writes: "As the scheduled year of training in daily newspaper want ads drew to a close, a flattering offer came. And this time I failed to seek out the advice of my Uncle Frank who had wisely steered my business career thus far."

What happened is that Mr. Armstrong, then in his late teens, accepted a job as timekeeper and paymaster of a large lumber mill in Mississippi, hundreds of miles from his newspaper job in Des Moines, Iowa. Not only did this divert him from his original goal of advertising,

Mr. Armstrong contracted a serious case of typhoid fever after being exhausted from overwork.

After his recovery, he returned to Des Moines to advertising. Unlike many people, Mr. Armstrong learned a valuable lesson from his experience. "One of the great success lessons you need to learn," he said, quoting his Uncle Frank, "is persistence — to stay *with* a thing."

Mr. Armstrong went on to become a professional advertiser in his own right, gaining knowledge that has continued to be useful after God's calling.

Remember, to start on the road to success, you must:

1. Set long-term, as well as short-term, goals.
2. Don't be afraid to reevaluate your long-term plans, but . . .
3. Stay on course (don't change until you've examined *all* the facts).
4. Keep moving — direct your life toward action.
5. Always test your ideas and goals with wise counsel.

The most important rule of success and life is to be aligned with God's goal for you. God wants you to prosper (III John 2), to taste the good things in life, but you have to approach Him from His point of view.

As Mr. Armstrong writes in our free booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*, "The ALL-IMPORTANT *seventh Law* of Success . . . is having *contact with, and the guidance and continuous help of GOD!*"

By studying God's purpose as revealed in the Bible, you can avoid the terrible mistakes that have crippled man for nearly 6,000 years. And, once you make God's purpose number one in your life, He gets involved to take care of your physical needs (Matthew 6:33).

If you're planning to set some long-term goals (or as you reevaluate your present ones), why not read or review the booklets, *The Seven Laws of Success* and *Why Were You Born?* They are absolutely free.

So then, as the apostle Paul says: "Live life . . . with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as *those who do*. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days" (Ephesians 5:15-16, Phillips version). □

'Old Fashioned'

(Continued from page 11)

usually point out: "There's the tree that an Indian pony threw me up in once." Many years ago, a horse had bucked my father off and thrown him into a tree.

Each time we heard that story, it was fascinating. The episode would lead to others, all relating to his years as a young man in that area.

Ask your parents to tell you about their past. No doubt they have interesting stories to tell.

Being concerned

Ever think about the many things your mother does? She's likely to be a marvelous cook and a good housekeeper. She is always there when anyone wants her, whether to mend a rip, wipe a tear or find a shirt.

Imagine yourself doing the things she does and show appreciation for her. "I'll do the dishes for you tonight, Mom," would no doubt surprise her, but it would also make her feel special — letting her know that you weren't taking her for granted. So many of us just expect moms to do everything for us without even a thank you.

Or how about your father? Some may find it difficult to show affection for him. Try a sincere "Thanks for the advice, Dad. I don't know what I would have done without it."

Effective communication takes work. But so does anything worthwhile. You can try your own techniques in relating to your parents. Keep in mind that they have individual likes and dislikes and varying interests. That lets them know you are concerned about them.

You probably don't see your father work at a trade every day or watch your mother sew curtains for windows of a log cabin, but your parents probably worried about being accepted and about acne when they were teens.

Give them a chance to understand your problems because they usually do. Teenagers living when your parents were teens coped with fears similar to those you face today. Ask your folks how they handled different situations. They'll probably be glad to tell you. □

BY THE WAY...

'Oh, Well, Nobody's Perfect'

By Dexter Faulkner

I HAD A TEENAGE friend who used to chew on his fingernails. He'd bite them off without even giving them a chance to grow back. For more than 17 years he carried around 10 ugly reminders of the habit he hated.

If he ever dropped a small object, he might as well forget it. He couldn't pick it up again. He was embarrassed to have anyone see his hands so he often kept them in his pockets.

He tried to stop, using everything from gloves to a chemical that burned his mouth when he'd try biting his nails. He really hated that habit. But in spite of all the bad consequences, he was completely in its grip.

Not a person who reads this "By the Way..." is completely free from bad habits. Some are fighting common habits like overeating or procrastinating or being ungrateful. Other habits are not as commonly accepted, but the problem is the same: They have control over us.

Let's be honest — you may be fighting with a dependence on alcohol or drugs, nicotine or caffeine. Or you could have one of a myriad of other habits that plague mankind. Perhaps you feel very guilty about your habit; or maybe, like most people, you have found a way of excusing yourself with clever justifications.

Instead of trying to make excuses, let's look at some tips that could help us control our lives by overcoming slavery to our habits.

First and foremost, ask God to help. Good advice is given in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (New International Version). We need to pray daily, "Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path" (Psalms 27:11). If your habit is a big one, more than you can handle alone, seek help from others, especially your parents.

Don't make excuses. Refuse to think, I can't change, I'm just that way. Nobody's perfect. Thoughts like that will only strengthen the chains that the habit has over you.

Get to the point. Pick out one habit and work on it. You might ask a friend if you have an annoying habit you're not aware of. Perhaps he or she might help you with it. This approach puts you on equal footing and offers him or her the opportunity to ask you for help, too.

Recognize when you do it. Keep track of what seems to trigger a repeat and how often the habit crops up. Keep a habit chart, a written log that shows at a glance the time, frequency and circumstances of temptation. The chart can't replace your working on the habit or disciplining yourself when it comes to breaking the habit. But knowing when and how the habit is practiced gives you a chance to break the



pattern by purposely doing something else.

Have you ever heard *Youth 82* Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong's analogy of the best way to get air out of a glass or a jar? You have to put something else (such as water) in that will force the air out. It's the same with bad habits. You must replace them with good ones.

Don't get discouraged. It may not happen fast. It certainly won't be easy. But isn't working on it much better than just settling for slavery to your habit?

Be positive and enthusiastic. You're heading for success and, if you're enthusiastic, you'll want to stick with it.

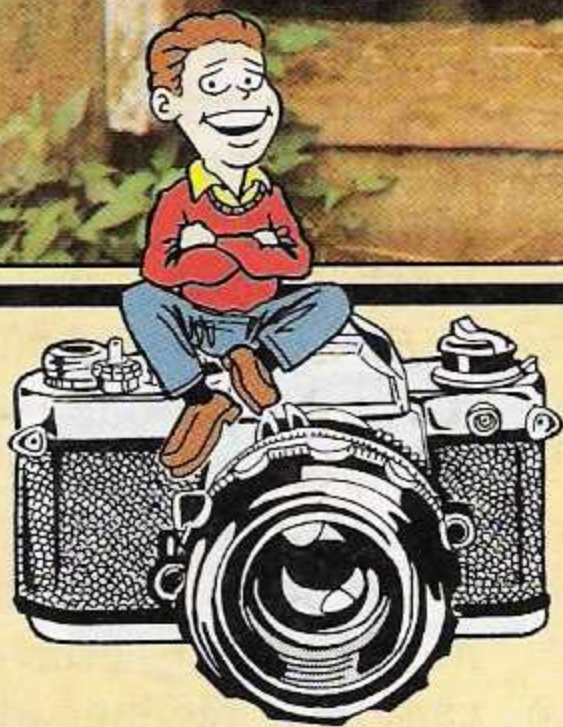
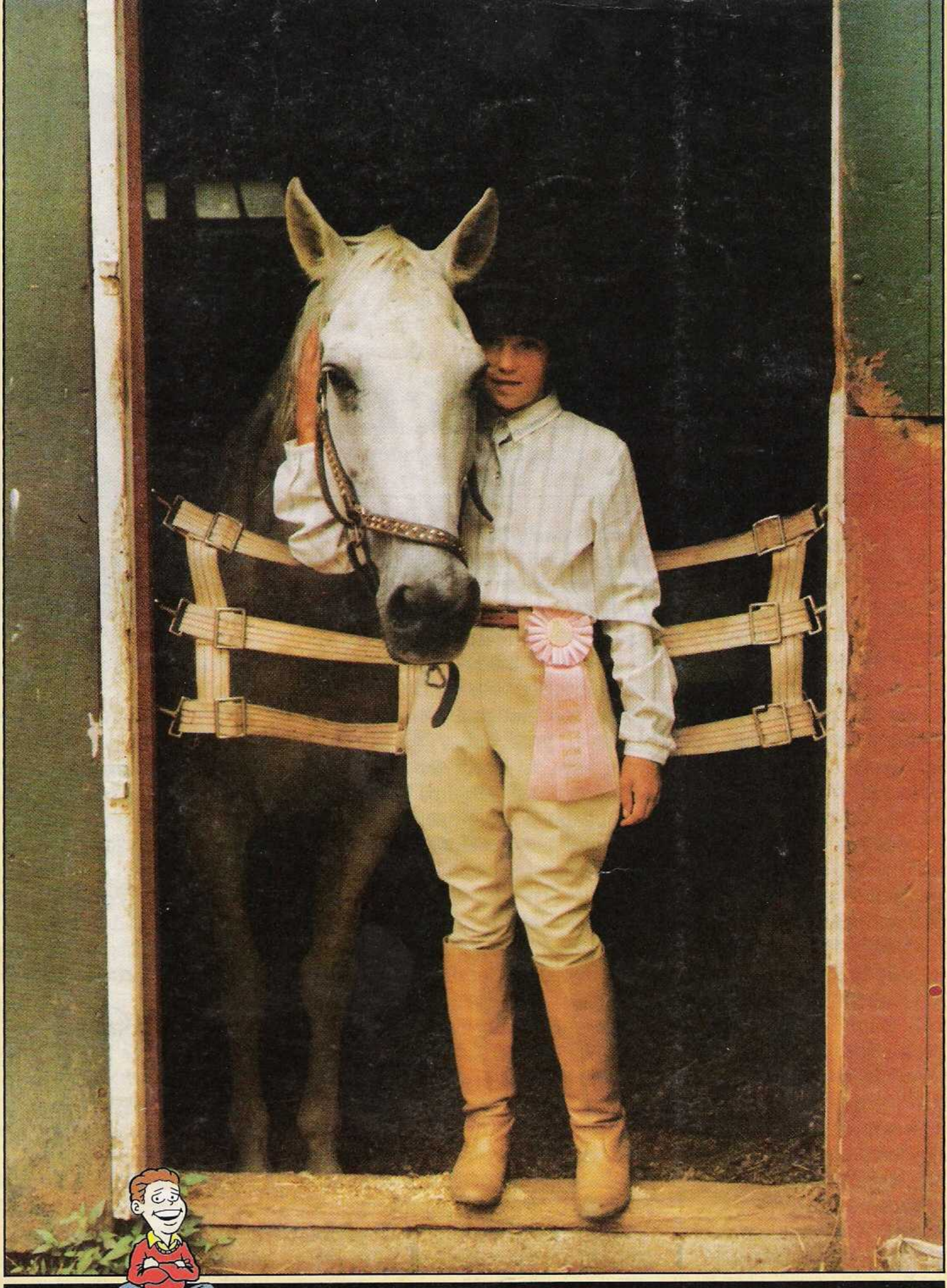
Start now. Right now is the best time to begin. To put it off is like putting up the white flag of surrender. It will only make your battle harder.

Break one habit now. Even if it's a small one you will have achieved a lot. Little habits can turn into big habits.

Go on! Break a habit, starting now. Breaking even one bad habit can give feelings of satisfaction and encouragement that nothing else can.

Remember, Christ exhorted Christians both young and old to overcome (Revelation 2:26). The reward will be worth it. □

Illustration by Bruce Hedges



YOUTH ON CAMERA

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