April

Youth 84

VOL. IV, NO. 4

Circulation: 120,000

Contents:

Dating — and Teenage Morality	1
Are You Ahead of Your Time?	3
Start Now — to Guarantee Yourself a Summer Job	5
Your Royal Invitation	7
News That Affects You	8
Do Your Parents Understand You?	11
A Language All Their Own	13
China's Ancient Warriors	16
News & Reviews	18
Teen Bible Study: How God Can Become Real to You	21
Dear *Youth 84*	23
Reader By-Line: "Why Me?"	28
By the Way . . . I Dare You!	29

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: **Herbert W. Armstrong**
MANAGING EDITOR: **Dexter H. Faulkner**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: **Mike Bennett**
GRAPHICS: **Michael Hale**
EDITORIAL AND GRAPHICS STAFF: **Tom Delamater, Eileen Dennis, Matthew Faulkner, Nathan Faulkner, Lowell Wagner Jr.**
CONTRIBUTORS: **You the reader**

Published by the Worldwide Church of God
PUBLISHER: **Herbert W. Armstrong**
TREASURER: **L. Leroy Neff**
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: **Roger G. Lippross**
CIRCULATION MANAGER: **Boyd L. Leeson**

Youth 84 **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 © 1984 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved.** **Printed in U.S.A. Entered as second-class mail at the Manila Central Post Office on Feb. 10, 1984.** **The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts.**

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE *YOUTH 84* ADDRESS NEAREST YOU.

United States: 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123. For literature requests you may call toll-free 1-800-423-4444; in Alaska and Hawaii call 818-304-6111 collect.
Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2. For literature requests you may call toll-free 1-800-663-1242.
Mexico: Institución Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, 06500, México 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 England
Zimbabwe: P.O. Box U.A.30 Union Ave., Harare
South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 2000
Ghana: P.O. Box 9617, Kotoka Int. Airport, Accra
Kenya and the rest of East and Central Africa: P.O. Box 47135, Nairobi, Kenya
Mauritius and other Indian Ocean Isles: P.O. Box 888, Port Louis, Mauritius
Nigeria: P.M.B. 21006 1006, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria
Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia: G.P.O. Box 345, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia
New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand
The Philippines: P.O. Box 1111, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines
Caribbean: P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936
Switzerland: Case Postale 10, 91 rue de la Servette, CH-1211, Geneva 7
Scandinavia: Box 2513 Solli, Oslo 2, Norway

Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Please include your *old* mailing label and your new address. U.S. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Youth 84*, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

COVER: Riding a bicycle built for two and sharing an interesting conversation can make for an exciting and uplifting date. Read Herbert W. Armstrong's article, "Dating — and Teenage Morality," starting on page 1. Photo by Barry Stahl.

Letters

An example of giving

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to us by the staff of a summer camp who wanted to point out the example of giving it shows. The letter is from a 14 year old who had been to camp the year before, but wasn't able to go this year because of space limitations at the camp.

I am enclosing a money order for $50 to help pay for someone at camp. I had such a fantastic time last year and was so grateful to those who helped me go.

I have raised this money for the camp fees and will be able to raise the money again next year if I'm fortunate enough to go again. Thanks again for a great camp that teaches us all how to live and have fun God's way.

David W. Edson
Toronto, Australia

Choosing a career

Mr. Wayne Becker's article on choosing a career (December issue) was excellent, and I would like to add two points:

1. Once you know yourself, your most ideal job may end up being a "dream profession." You want very much to do it for a living, but it is not in demand, or circumstances make it impossible for you to be that, at least just now. You must then find a related job, where you can use your skills and talents, and which has job openings. Many resources exist to help you make choices, like *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* and *The Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance* (a biannual), that should be at all libraries. That everyone cannot do *exactly* what he wants is unfair, but that is how our society is made.

2. Demand for skills keeps changing all the time; authorities say that all will change professions several times during life. You should always be learning something new, so you can always be employable, so you can change jobs if and when you want, and when it is forced on you by circumstances.

Thomas H. Woodworth
Bloomington, Ind.

Treasured possession

A kind friend gave me a copy of your fine *Youth 83*. I read it from beginning to end and now it is among my very treasured possessions.

My father and my mother [are] dead because of leprosy. [I'm 16] and the eldest among five children of our family.

Mary Ann Gomez
Palawan, Philippines

Love, Marriage and Sex
DATING— and Teenage Morality

The last article of a series by Youth 84's *Editor-in-Chief.*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Dating procedures have undergone radical changes in the past 75 years. But has it been beneficial progress — or has dating become a lost art?

What about going steady? What about "necking," "petting," premarital sexual experience?

It's time to come truly up-to-date — *with the facts and with the* TRUTH!

Let's have reasons, for or against, that are rational and that *make sense!*

First, look at today's teenage world. Realize how it has *changed!*

NOT ONLY is a moral revolution in cyclonic progress around the world. There also is a teenage revolution. It is, of course, a large part of "the New Morality" as a whole.

Are today's teens really worse?

There are those who, in their self-confident uninformed optimism, assure us that today's adolescents are no different — and certainly no worse — than those of past generations. But the *facts* prove otherwise.

Human nature is the same. But we simply live in a *different world* today. The emergence of the phonograph, the automobile, the motion picture, radio and television and other productions of the machine age have brought new influences and changing customs. Human nature, adapting to changing times, expresses itself very differently today.

Dating can be an art — fun and uplifting, filled with interesting conversation. (Photo by Nathan Faulkner)

Some would hush up the naked FACTS. But the welfare of today's youth is at stake. Adolescents, drifting with the immorality tide, are speeding past their elders in the downward plunge. There is a trend. It is an immoral trend. It is speeding up at accelerated pace. It is only natural for young people to follow the trend. They want to belong. It's time to face the facts squarely.

People are like sheep. They all follow the leader to the slaughter. But they don't *know* they are being led to the slaughter. They are just a little stupid. Yes, quite a little! But they still want to belong! It's natural to just go with the group.

From chaperons to "loving up"

Look how times have changed — and moral standards with them!

When my mother was of dating age, in the middle 1880s, chaperons were in vogue. She wore long sleeves, high necks and skirts that dragged in the dust. When a young man began dating a young lady it was called "courting."

A generation later, when I arrived at adolescence, the chaperons had disappeared. But in the earlier years of dating — after age 16 — caressing, today called "necking," was not yet the general practice. Or if it was, I must have been highly ignorant.

I distinctly remember one incident — after I had passed 20.

A date should be an event that adds to the mental, social, moral and spiritual character development of both boy and girl.

A girl I frequently dated and I were being driven to her home by a young man with his girl friend. In those days all cars were *completely* air-conditioned — they were open cars. It began to rain. We buttoned on the side-curtains.

To hold the curtain down, on my girl friend's side, I was obliged to stretch my arm over the seat behind her. I shall never forget the difficulty I experienced in keeping my arm far enough to the rear to avoid any contact with the back of her neck. I was terribly afraid she would think I was "fresh" if any part of my arm touched her!

Today's bold young people will get a real laugh at this. Yes, indeed — TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

Later I knew of an experience involving a young man about 21 whom I knew very well. He and a 21-year-old chum were double-dating two girl chums. The other couple had begun "loving up" as the younger generation then termed it. So this friend of mine began to fear he would be considered "slow," or behind the times. "Loving up" was then beginning to be considered the thing to do, after the first two or three dates. So this fellow began cautiously putting his arm around this girl's shoulder. She didn't shove it back. A date or two later, he worked up enough courage to kiss her. She made no objection. He remained very proper, otherwise.

The girl's father was dead, and her stepfather was a dealer in Buick automobiles. He and his wife often took the young couple out on Sunday afternoon rides. Very few families owned automobiles in those days. The young people sat in the backseat, and his arm usually was around the girl's shoulders. There was no objection from her mother or stepfather. It seemed to be accepted as normal.

One night, sitting in a front-porch swinging seat, the girl began to tell this young man how much money her father had left her. It was not a fortune, but a few thousand dollars. She began suggesting what they might do with it.

"Wait a minute!" he suddenly exclaimed. "Just what are you getting at?"

"Why," she replied, "I thought we ought to begin to plan what we will do after we are married."

"Married!" he exclaimed, in sudden alarm. "Who said anything about getting married?"

"Why," she came back, equally surprised, "what have you been loving me up for, if we're not going to be married?"

The flabbergasted young man then explained that he had never indulged in "loving up" before, but had begun to feel out-of-date, supposing it was expected. The girl burst into tears, jumped up and ran into the house, slamming the door behind her. Next day the boy tried to contact her by telephone. Her mother answered the telephone.

"Lucille told me all about it," said the indignant mother, icily. "She never wants to see you again." And she never did!

But in those "loving-up" days, prior to World War I, girls were kept "decent." Actual sexual intercourse was "unthinkable." The girl who did submit to it "lost her honor."

Have times changed?

The question sounds ridiculous today. Full premarital coitus is the rule — except the word *premarital* is a little out of date. Even marriage is on the way out.

The teen influence

Few people stop to realize to what extent teenagers have taken over. They pretty well dominate the world picture.

Isaiah foretold this day. Here is a portion of the prophecy: Speaking of our people — TODAY — in these very last days — God says: "And I will make *boys* their princes [Moffatt translates it, "I will make mere lads their leaders"], and babes shall rule over them . . . the youth will be insolent to the elder, and the base fellow to the honorable . . . My people — children are their oppressors . . . the daughters of Zion are haughty . . . " (Isaiah 3:4-5, 12, 16, Revised Standard Version) — continue with Moffatt: ". . . holding their heads high as they walk, and ogling with their eyes, walking with their mincing steps . . ." (verse 16). And this latter expression, about ogling eyes, when properly translated, actually refers to painted eyes — makeup on the face, and sensuous manner of walking to arouse boys.

Now look at the facts!

WHO determines what is popular music today? The teens. Adolescents determine dancing trends, motion-picture themes, radio formats and even advertisements and most fields of entertainment!

What many do not realize is that this teenage influence on the whole society *is predominantly sexual influence*. There is much more intense preoccupation with sex during these years than in later maturity.

Therefore SEX became the basic formula for motion pictures — along with violence and crime, including murder.

Teenage morality and respect for decency have plunged to an all-time low. Many youths express the attitude that there is nothing wrong with illicit or promiscuous sex.

And WHY?

Take one typical example. A 19-year-old boy had been in a certain town only six months. He named to police 11 girls with whom he had engaged in illicit sex. Many from "the best" families. "You can 'make' almost

(Continued on page 24)

Are You AHEAD of Your Time?

By Bernard W. Schnippert

You can be ahead of the game!

As unbelievable as it sounds, William Thompson started college when he was 10½ years old!

Jay Luo was only 12 when he received his bachelor of science degree in mathematics, and Dr. Merrill Wolf attained a bachelor of arts degree in music from Yale University at 14.

These men, whose accomplishments are listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records,* began or even finished college long before most people graduate from high school.

When it came to academics, at least, these men were far ahead of their time.

Being ahead of one's time is equally rare in other facets of life. Consider, for a moment, the career, family, emotional and spiritual aspects of life. Most people are not really in control of these parts of their lives. They just float with the current and remain average.

To really be in control of your life in these areas, you've got to be ahead of your time — to plan and do the things others just let happen to them.

Photo by Barry Stahl

Don't let life just happen

This world is full of billions of people who let life happen. Of course, there are notable exceptions, but far too many people daydream away their youth, blunder through their ho-hum middle age and worry away their old age with boredom and questions about God and the meaning of life.

But, happily, this tragedy doesn't have to happen to you. The good news is that, while it may take a superior intellectual power to enter college at the age of 10, it does not take a genius to be far ahead of your time in the most important things in life.

It does take planning and effort, however. You have to approach life with right goals, values and priorities.

The Bible gives an encouraging example of one young person who did have the right values, and did lead a planned life, at least in the most important areas, even when he was young. His name was David.

Now, David did not start college when he was 10 years old, but he was a thinking young man who put great effort into the important things in life. While he was young, he built a firm foundation for his life and was ready to face problems far beyond his years.

Facing giant problems

What would you do if you faced ferocious wild animals or a giant who blasphemed God and wanted to kill you? David faced these situations and showed how much ahead of his time he was by overcoming the obstacles in each case.

How did he do it? The statement he made before facing the Philistine giant, Goliath, shows his answer: " 'The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine' " (I Samuel 17:37).

You see, David did not wait until he was old before wondering why he was born, and proving whether God exists. He set important spiritual priorities as a teen that many people leave for

What would you do if you faced ferocious wild animals or a giant who blasphemed God and wanted to kill you?

later in life, or don't get around to at all.

The story of David is an exciting one. One article is too short to tell of all the exploits David did, but you can read them yourself beginning in I Samuel 16.

Read how David killed Goliath and became a champion of his people. Read how he honored his king even though the king was trying to kill him. And, yes, even read of some of the personal tragedies that he brought on himself (not even David was ahead of his time in everything). Yet, overall, he handled his life so well that God Himself called him "a man after My own heart" (Acts 13:22).

Why did David succeed with God and man, and become a king when others around him remained average? Simply because David took life seriously, even at an early age.

Not too seriously, of course. David had fun and developed his musical and athletic skills. He had close friends. He enjoyed life. But, as a teen, he realized that to succeed in life he had to begin to plan, work and seek God then, not later when he was 18, 25 or 75.

Beyond our wildest dreams

At times life can be discouraging. You or I might look to the few supertalented people who finish college at 14. And we might begin to feel life is hopeless for those of us with only average ability.

But the truth is that, if we make up our minds to be ahead of our time, God has given us ability enough to succeed in life beyond our wildest dreams.

But it requires that we, even while we are young, approach the important things of life head-on in a serious, well-planned manner.

The most important area we need to think about and work on is our spiritual life. A teenager is not too young to begin to make important spiritual changes in his or her life.

You can take the principles you've learned from this magazine, from your parents and from reading the Bible, and begin to apply them in your life now.

Spending time in personal prayer every day is not something that should be put off until a person is an adult, either. David did those things in his youth, and so can we.

Other goals

If you have been negligent about planning for college or a career or learning a skill, you can now begin to take this problem seriously and do something about your future.

And, if you have been ignoring personality or character development, you can now begin to take these areas of life more seriously (while not neglecting time to have good, plain fun!).

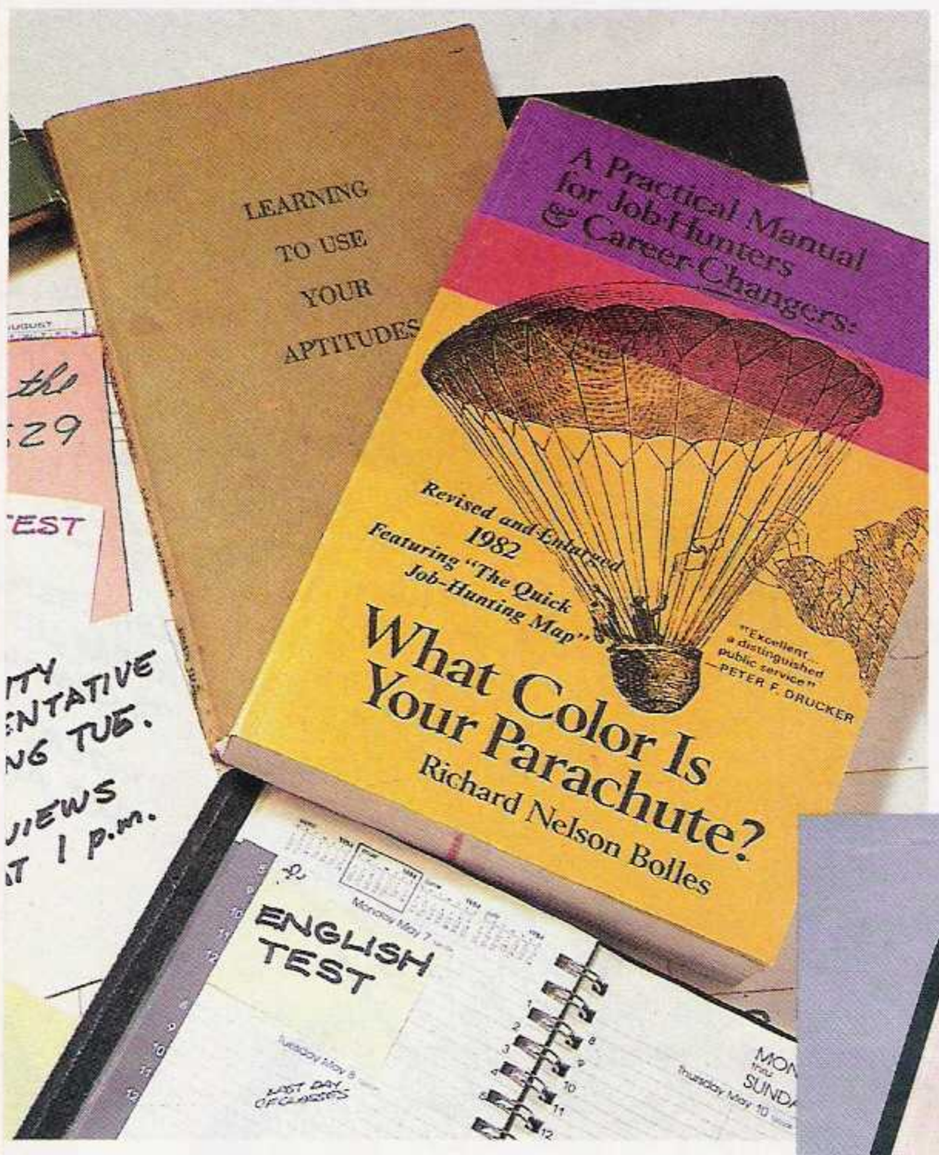
If you do these things, you will be one of the few young people around who have followed the advice of wise King Solomon, who said:

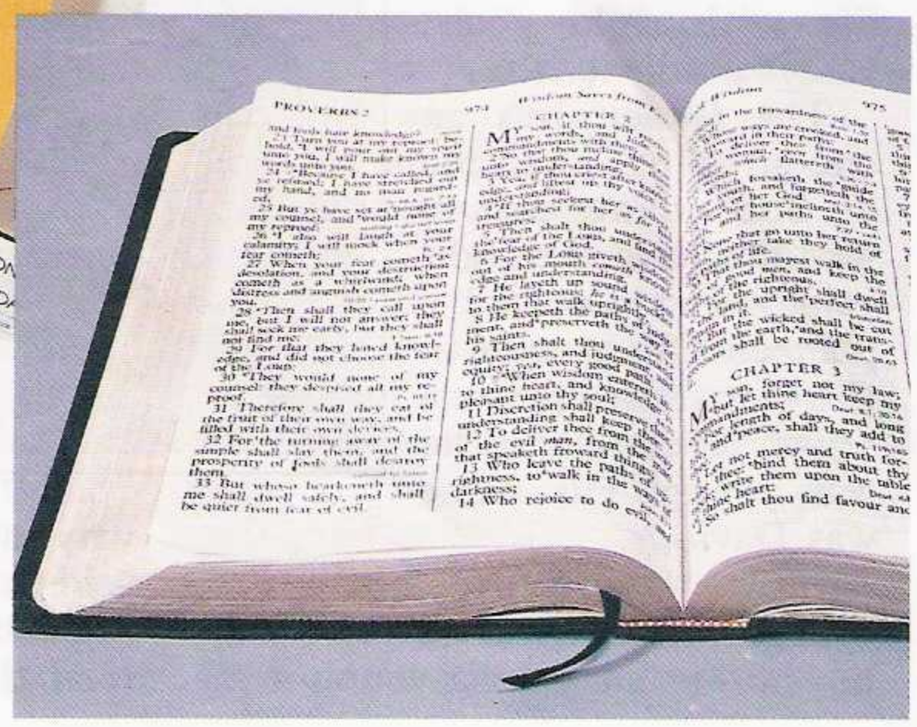
"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh, for childhood and youth are vanity [fleeting].

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say [perhaps because of ill health, depression or loneliness], 'I have no pleasure in them' " (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10, 12:1).

Someone who takes life seriously, and God seriously, while young may never get his name in the book of records for beginning or ending college while still 13 years old. But such a person may well become a "David" of the 20th century!

And he or she will most certainly lead a fulfilling and challenging life, because he has chosen — in the things that *really* count — to be ahead of his time. □





With planning and effort, you can be ahead of your time in the most important areas of life — including the vital spiritual aspect. (Photo above by Barry Stahl; right, *Youth 84* photo)

Illustration by Monte Wolverton

Start Now– To Guarantee Yourself a Summer Job

By Joel King

It's only April! But now is the time to start so you can beat the rush.

There's just one week until summer! I'd better start making some plans, Bill thought.

I want to get our group together and do some hiking and waterskiing. That means I'll need a new backpack and money to rent the boat.

Bill thought for a moment about his low bank account and how much his summer plans were going to cost. And he had really planned to add to his college fund this summer. It looked like he'd better find a job right away.

But three weeks of knocking on doors turned up only this: "I'm sorry, we have already hired our summer help this year. Why don't you try a little earlier next spring?" Bill had waited too long to apply for work.

He hadn't been watching the economic situation. He didn't know that some of 1983's unemployed adult work force moved into new jobs, jobs traditionally

You can be prepared. You can land a good job while they're still available. The sooner you get started, the better.

given to high school students during the summer. If Bill had noticed last year that many of the summer jobs were filled by the middle of May, he could have been prepared.

You can be prepared. You can land a good job while they're still available. The sooner you get started, the better. April is a good time to begin (in the Northern Hemisphere, that is!).

Last year, 18-year-old Kelly West of San Francisco, Calif., used her spring vacation to begin her job search. "I applied at five places, and two people have already called," she said when interviewed soon after. "I think that's terrific — last summer I didn't find a job until August, and it was a part-timer."

How about you? If you are planning to work this summer, here are some tips that will improve your chances of finding a part- or full-time job.

• Begin your search early. Employers usually take the first good prospects that apply. Beat the rush!

• Ask others to alert you to job openings, especially in the areas you are most interested in. The more people helping you, the better. Friends, parents, employment offices, high school teachers and counselors can help.

• Schedule several interviews by telephone before you go out to be interviewed. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. If the first interview doesn't get results, you will still have several more interviews awaiting you. Professional employment counselors know this method works. If you remain positive and keep arranging interviews, the law of averages will help you get results.

• Learn about the company before you go to the interview. What is the product line? What are the company's goals, quality standards and work schedules? You can get this information by talking to employees who work for the company. The employer will be impressed that you have gone above and beyond the average job seeker.

That is the key. You have only one chance to make yourself stand out as a desirable applicant, so do your homework in advance.

• Dress neatly and appropriately for the job. Several years ago I learned that lesson the hard way. I applied for work at a restaurant dressed in blue jeans, a T-shirt and tennis shoes. Somehow I got the job, but not before the manager sternly sent me home to change into black slacks, white shirt and tie. It was embarrassing, but I have not forgotten the lesson.

• Be five or 10 minutes early for an interview. It is better for you to wait on the employer than for him to wait on you. This tells the employer that you are punctual — a rare but coveted quality.

• Show your confidence in your ability to do the job you are applying for. Now is not the time to be overly modest. If you think you are qualified, go ahead and say so. (On the other hand, don't put on a show of overconfidence either.)

• Follow-up after the interview is extremely important. Employers want to be convinced that you earnestly desire that job. If they send you home with a "Why don't you check back later," or "I'm not sure I can use you right now," it may be a test. Be persistent.

Write a thank-you note for the interview stressing again how much you want that job. Mail it the same day. After the letter has had time to get to the company, call the employer and restate your desire to have that job. You will have exhibited two of the seven laws of success: drive and perseverance — what every employer is looking for.

• Once you get a job, keep your promises. Do all those things you said you would do during the interview. If you work hard this summer, you could guarantee yourself a job with the same company next summer. If the employer is pleased with your efforts, you will also win an excellent recommendation for a better job in the future.

A study of American workers showed that 60 percent do not put out any more effort than is needed to hold their jobs. You can use that percentage in your favor by working with all your might each day.

If, after considering your summer plans and talking to your parents, you decide to look for summer work, these proven methods will help you find a job to make your summer profitable and enjoyable. There is great satisfaction in earning your own money, and putting in a good day's work.

May you be successful in your job hunt this summer! □

If you're having a problem deciding where to look for employment this summer, here are some ideas for you to check into:

Summer camps, resort communities, ranches, farms, construction jobs, amusement parks, theaters, supermarkets, fast-food restaurants, ice-cream parlors.

Offices, factories, animal shelters, zoos, museums, community centers, department stores.

Catering, private tutoring, gardening, house painting, cleaning, car washing and polishing, newspaper distributing.

But don't limit yourself to these — a little creativity and imagination may help you come up with the perfect summer job for you. □

By Joel Rissinger

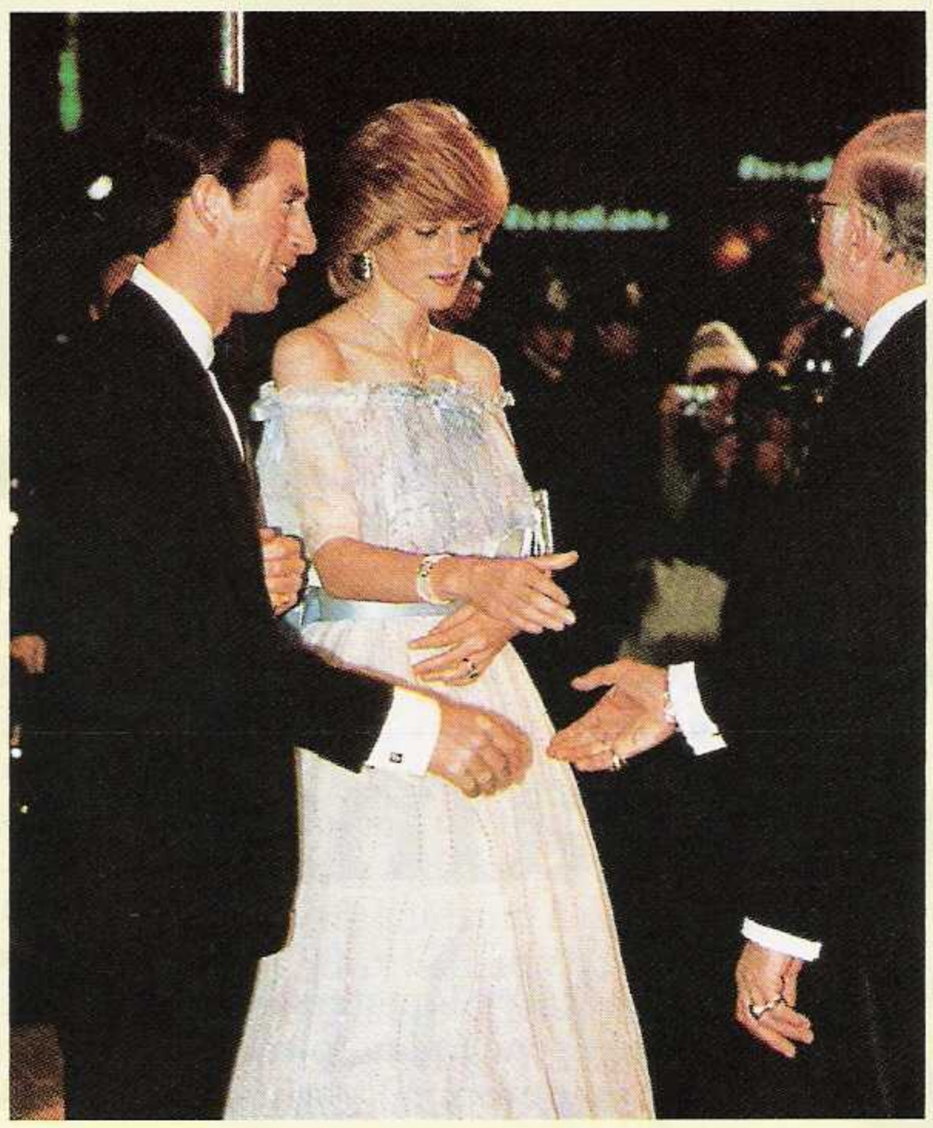
Your Royal Invitation

Imagine yourself seated before the heir apparent to the British throne, Prince Charles, with an invitation to talk about anything on your mind.

What would you say? What questions would you ask? What would you tell him?

Prince Charles is a man of integrity and influence throughout the world. His personality and sense of humor have given him favor in the eyes of his people. And he will one day become King of England. It would be a great honor to be able to talk to him.

It is impossible for such a man to have time to talk to everyone who would like to talk to him. Many times, it's dangerous for a king or ruler to be seen in public. For these reasons, it's highly unlikely that you will ever be able to talk to Prince Charles or his wife, Princess Diana. But, though you probably have not realized it, you have a much greater opportunity!



An open invitation

Believe it or not, you have an invitation to visit and talk with the most powerful Ruler in the world — the most understanding Leader in history — the most important King in the universe! And you don't even have to travel long distances or wait in long lines (or queues) — you can talk to Him at your convenience!

That Ruler is your Creator God. He is powerful. He has all authority. And He always has an interest in you. Not only is He free to listen to you at any time, He wants to listen. What a fantastic honor!

But what should you say? An important thing to keep in mind is what a privilege it is to talk to the Creator who made you and gave you all the good things that you have. You'll want to thank Him for all He has done for you — from your health to the food you eat, from your parents to the beauty of the creation around you.

It's comforting to know that no matter what's on your mind, God is interested. He promises that if you tell Him about it and obey Him, He will listen and give you peace of mind.

If you are afraid of war or violence, tell God about it and ask for protection. He says He will guard and watch over those who obey Him.

Does your family face hardships? Talk to God about it. Don't be afraid to ask for the simplest things. God knows your needs before you ask, but He wants you to trust Him and ask.

All of us have troubles. Ask God to help your mother and father. Your friends need your prayers too. Pray specifically.

As a teen, you are constantly faced with decisions. Should you go to college? Should you get a summer job? God wants to be a part of those decisions, but you've got to choose to talk to Him about them.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him [let Him in on it!], and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). God wants us to look to Him when making decisions so He can help us.

Unlike a world leader, God is never too busy to hear what you have to say. You can take your time and say what's on your mind.

A great honor

When you think about it, there's more than enough to pray about. If you truly open up and discuss your feelings, you'll find that your prayers will become longer and more effective as time goes on.

There are other principles that can help you make the best use of your royal invitation. In the October-November "Dear *Youth 83*" section, a number of helpful tips were discussed. We also have a reprint article, "The Answer to Unanswered Prayer," we would be happy to send you, free. The addresses and toll-free phone numbers are on the inside front cover.

If Prince Charles or some other leader did invite you to visit, you would probably look forward to it and anxiously await the day.

This is the attitude you should have toward prayer. Look forward to it each day and enjoy it. After all, it's quite an honor to talk to a King! □

Photo by Tim Graham — Sygma

News That Affects You

Here Come the Supertrains!

• In France, they're called TGVs. The Japanese call them *shinkansen*. In Britain, they're called APTs. But wherever you are, you'll call them *fast*.

They are high-speed trains, designed to carry passengers quickly from city to city. They could be zipping into your area before long.

The *shinkansen*, Japanese for "bullet trains," have been running in Japan since 1964. In their 20 years of operation, the 120-mile-an-hour (193 kilometer) trains have carried more than two billion* passengers. The Japanese instantly fell in love with the *shinkansen*.

But other countries weren't so quickly smitten. It took a while, but bullet trains are now being built in other countries.

In 1981, France began operating its *Train a Grande Vitesse* (High-speed Train). This train can hustle people along at 162 miles (260 kilometers) an hour. The French plan to build a network that eventually will serve most of the country.

The United Kingdom, too, has been building a train system, the Advanced Passenger Train, or APT, that will speed people from London to Glasgow at about 125 miles (200 kilometers) an hour.

Other countries are getting on the high-speed train track as well. West Germany and Canada are working on high-speed train systems for their countries. In the United States, plans have begun on a high-speed train in California.

Even bigger plans than these are in the works. The Japanese have pioneered an entirely new kind of train that zips along at more than 300 miles (480 kilometers) an hour — never touching its tracks. The trains — scientists call them magnetic levitation vehicles — work on the same principle that makes magnets either cling to or repel each other.

In the new system, the track bottoms are lined with magnets that have the same polarity as magnets inside the trains. The two sets of magnets repel each other, lifting the train above the track. Another set of magnets is used to pull the train forward along the track.

In theory, this type of train would be able to go 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) an hour.

Underground magnetic trains are on the drawing board that could travel 14,000 miles (22,500 kilometers) an hour, 19 times the speed of sound. New York to Los Angeles in 11 minutes? — *By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

*Thousand million, British usage.

Photos: Bernard Charlon — Liaison; Kaku Kurita — Liaison; Gaywood — Liaison

The Longest Olympic Relay

• On July 28, a lone runner will enter the Los Angeles, Calif., Coliseum to the cheers of nearly 100,000 spectators gathered for the 1984 Summer Olympics.

Raised in the runner's arm will be the Olympic torch that will

light the Olympic flame to officially start the Summer Games.

The arrival of the torch in Los Angeles will be the end of an incredible journey spanning three months and covering thousands of miles.

This journey begins in Olympia, Greece, site of the original Olympics in the 700s B.C. From Olympia, it will be carried to Athens by Greek athletes. From there, it will be flown to New York City, arriving in early May.

From New York, runners will carry the torch on a zigzag path through most of the 50 states in the United States.

Each runner will carry the torch for one kilometer (six-tenths mile) and light the torch of the next person in line. Participants get to keep their torch and also receive a uniform identical to the one worn by the last runner in this giant relay.

Carrying it together for the first kilometer will be the grandson of Jim Thorpe and the granddaughter of Jesse Owens. Mr. Thorpe was the 1912 decathlon champion. Mr. Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics.

In addition to the main team of runners, a special support team will be used to keep the torch moving 24 hours a day on its journey through the United States. The support team will relay the torch through sparsely populated areas like Death Valley and the Rocky Mountains, where volunteers for the main team will be harder to find.

The reason for this mammoth relay? Its organizers hope to raise millions of dollars by charging runners or their sponsors $3,000 each to take part.

The money will be given to several youth organizations to finance youth sports programs teaching young people more about Olympic events. — *By Ed Stonick* □

Yugoslavian figure skater Sandra Dubravcic lights the Olympic flame at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

Photo by G. Rancinan — Sygma

The Afghanistan Behind the Headlines

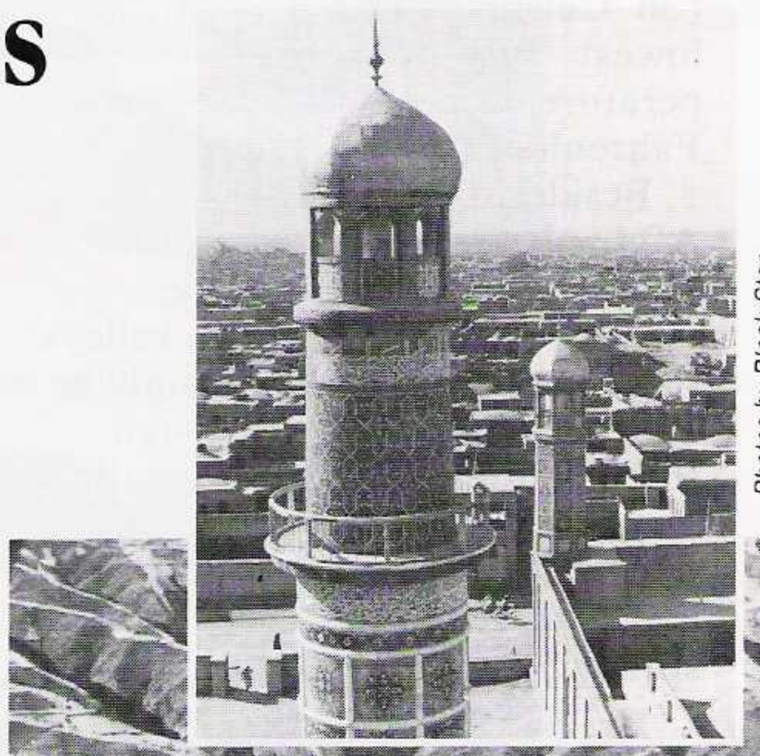
• You've probably heard about Afghanistan in the news the last couple of years, and most of what you've heard has probably been about war.

Continued violence among opposing groups within the country, along with military action there by the Soviet Union, has left Afghanistan a war-torn country. But behind the headlines, there is a nation whose peoples take pride in their homeland and their heritage.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country in southwest Asia. It is first mentioned in history in the sixth century B.C., when it was first conquered by the Persians. Then, 200 years later, the region was dominated by Alexander the Great.

Arabs conquered the region in the middle of the A.D. 600s, introducing Islam as the country's dominant religion. Over the centuries, many tribal rulers and foreign leaders tried to take control of Afghanistan. By the 1700s, the native Afghans formed a unified kingdom.

In the 1800s, Britain and Russia tried to exert their influence over Afghanistan. In 1919, Afghanistan was recognized as an independent nation. Since a 1979 military intervention, though, the Soviet Union has dominated the country's



Photos by Black Star

From minarets like this one in Herat (top), the call to prayer goes out to people across Afghanistan, from crowded cities to remote mountain villages (bottom).

government.

Afghanistan is a mountainous country, with some peaks in its Hindu Kush range soaring as high as 25,000 feet (7,620 meters). The high altitudes have a major effect on the climate. Temperatures often fluctuate wildly from dawn to afternoon. In Kabul, the capital, the highest July temperature on record was 97 degrees Fahrenheit (36 Celsius). The lowest July temperature ever was 24 below zero Fahrenheit (-31 Celsius).

Besides mountains, Afghanistan has areas covered with vast deserts and fertile farming valleys. It is these valleys that make Afghanistan mainly an agricultural country, although there is some mining and textile manufacturing.

The country's rugged terrain makes travel a problem. Violent spring floods often wash out the roads, mainly unpaved. There are no railroads, and its rivers are too narrow and fast-flowing for ships.

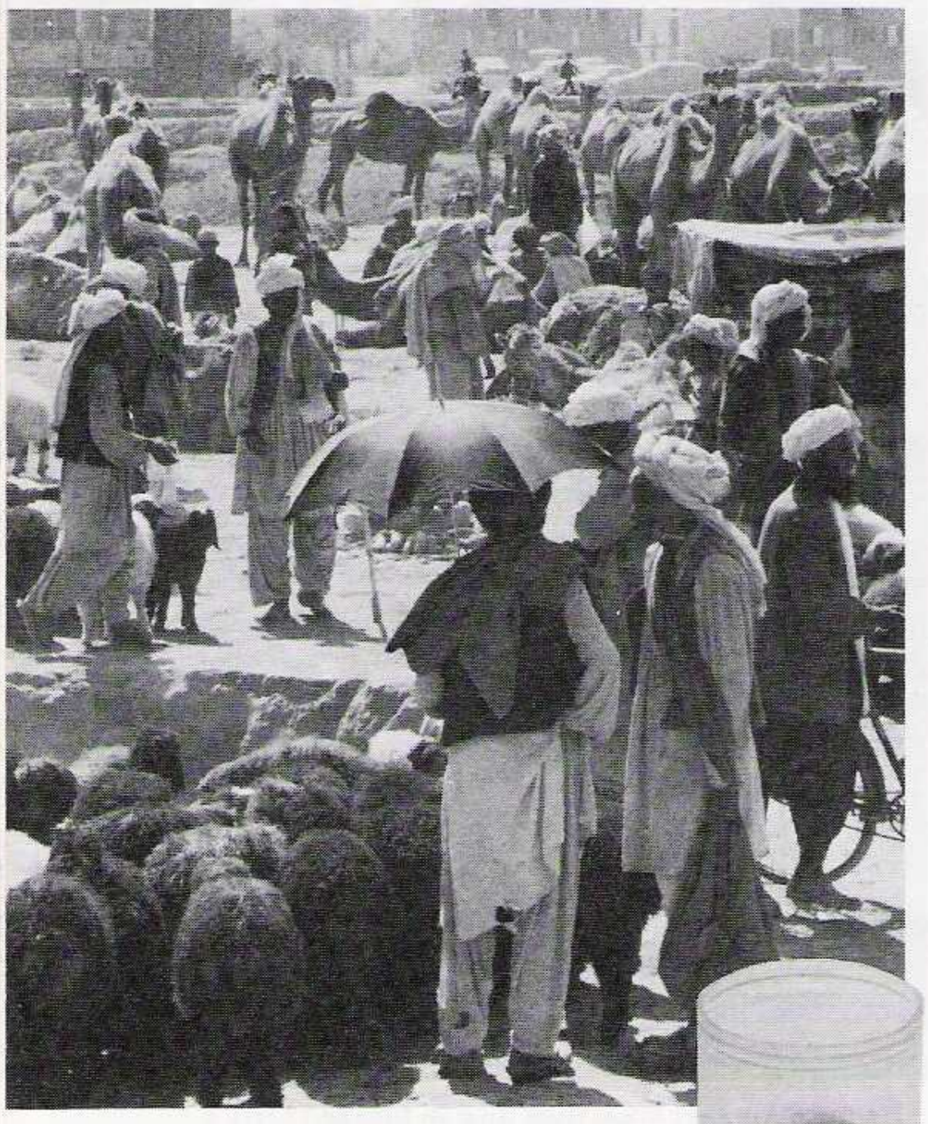
The population is about 18 million, living mostly in rural areas of the country's 28 provinces. Only about 10 percent of the people live in towns of 3,000 or more.

Afghanistan has been a crossroads of Asia, which accounts for the ethnic variety found among the people. Most of the people make their living as farmers in the river valleys or as nomads traveling the country in search of grazing land for their animals.

Just as Afghanistan is a land of many peoples, it is also a land of many languages. Pashto and Dari are the two official languages. Pashto is spoken by about half of the population, Dari by about a third. Many other languages are spoken in parts of the country.

Afghan cultural life is characterized by traditional arts and pastimes, one of which — telling stories — has been preserved over the centuries, passing on the culture and history of this ancient land from generation to generation. — *By Tom Delamater* □

Photo by Hubert Le Campion — Sygma



Afghans gather in a market in the capital, Kabul. Right: Diet pills stir up controversy.

Diet Pills: Do They Do the Trick?

• At least one third of all U.S. high school and college age women take nonprescription diet pills in an effort to lose weight, according to two university studies.

A study at the University of Michigan found that four out of 10 high school senior girls have used diet pills. In a second survey, Michigan State found that, in a group of 944 students, 30 percent of the women and 4 percent of the men had used them.

Dr. Lloyd Johnston, director of a study carried out by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, said: "Frankly, we were a little shocked by what we found. I certainly hope these drugs are safe . . . because a substantial proportion of America's young women are using them in their formative years."

Ironically, 68 percent of the Michigan State students felt the pills had only a limited weight-loss effect in the long run.

There is some doubt that the drugs are entirely safe. One of the chemicals used in many diet pills, called PPA, has drawn the sharpest criticism. Dr. Arthur Vener, who worked on a study conducted by Michigan State University, says that studies on the chemical reveal "an enormous amount of side effects. One of the most life-threatening is hypertension [high blood pressure]. PPA may raise the blood pressure to the point where it can become a serious problem."

This disease, which usually doesn't affect young people, can have a drastic impact on a person's health.

Dr. Laurence Krupka, who worked on the Michigan State study, sounds a different kind of warning. "Too many people rely too heavily on pills to [help them lose weight]. They need to understand that they either have to reduce their calorie intake or utilize more energy to lose weight and not rely on diet pills."

For suggestions on losing weight safely, see "Losing Weight Without Gimmicks," page 18. — *By Kerri Miles* □

Two photo credits were omitted from page 7 of the March issue. They should have read, "Photos by Karin Hill — Liaison; and Wide World."

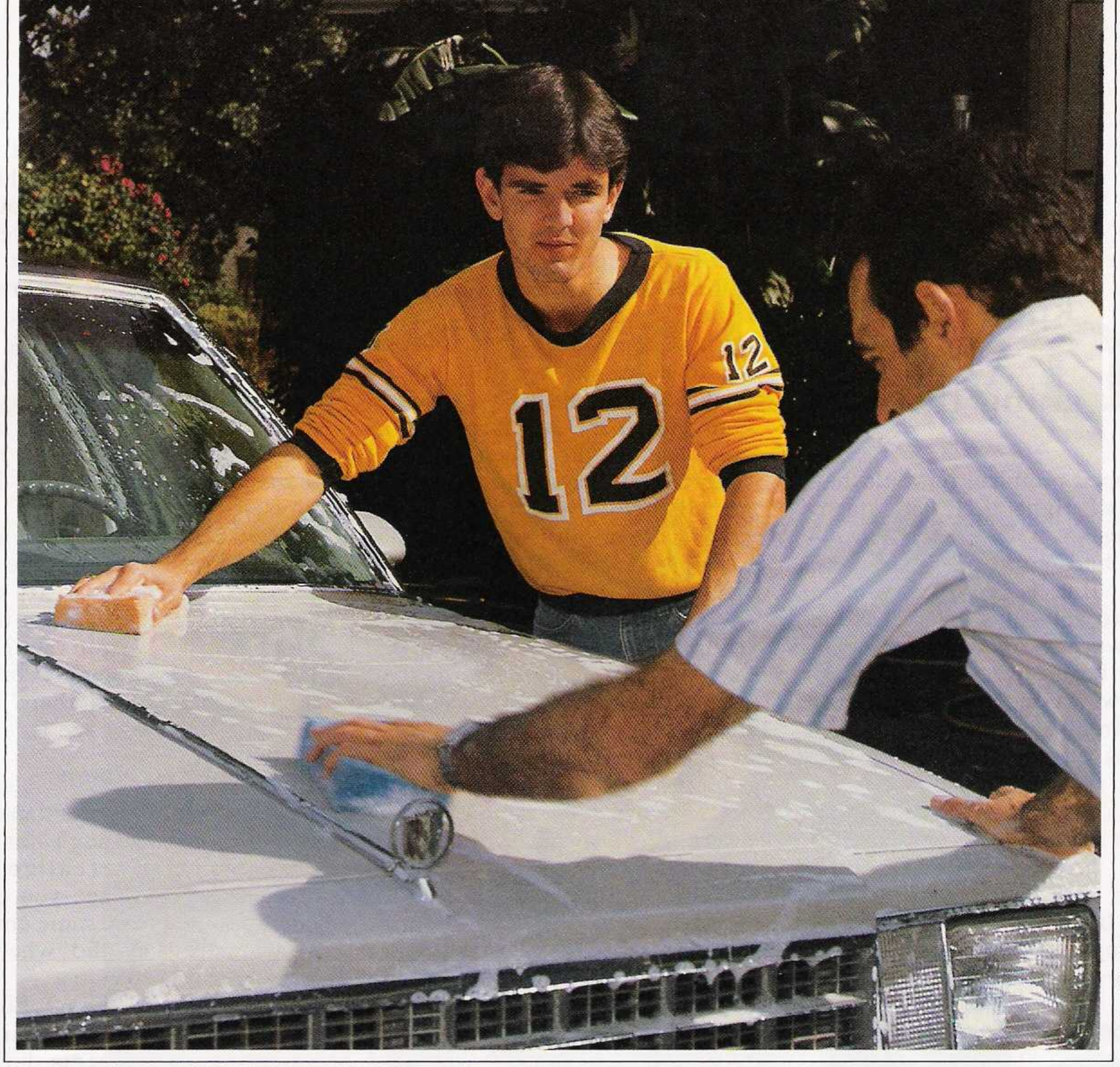


Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

Do Your Parents Understand You?

By Gavin N. Cullen

My teen years were full of trauma. And, to make it worse, my dad couldn't understand what I was going through. Or so I thought.

Some things you wish you could forget.

I can well remember my teen years. All too well! There never was a time when I wasn't going through a traumatic experience.

It might have been easier if my dad had understood all the difficulties and agonies I was going through. But how could he have? He didn't seem to feel things the way I did — things that bothered me didn't seem to matter to him much.

Not that I thought a lot about what he thought. I had enough other things to worry about.

The smallest in the class

The time when I was 13 seems only yesterday — I was the smallest in our class at school. Oh, the agonies, when even all the girls towered above me! Especially at the school dance when there were few girls who would dance with me. (Who wants to dance with a guy shorter than you anyway!)

At the age of 14 I hadn't grown much more, but to top it all off I

My father had been through a lot. Now . . . I realize that he knew much of what I was going through.

developed pimples. It would have been all right if I had started shaving — at least then I would have had something to brag about. But I had another four years to go!

However, around the age of 15 things began to improve. I began to grow! At one time I remember growing 1½ inches in two months.

But the excitement didn't last long. I grew upward, but didn't put on any weight. I was so thin I could have probably hidden behind my own shadow. I was like a bean pole.

Things seemed to go from bad to worse. At the same time I started to grow, I'm afraid my mouth did as well. I would always say the wrong thing at the wrong time. You think of all the cliches and they applied to me! I put my foot in my mouth so many times I suffered from an extreme case of athlete's mouth.

In my insecure world I would try to cover up my mistakes by trying to do one of two things. One was to try and talk my way out of it — at which I didn't succeed. All I ever did was to dig myself further into a deeper hole and confirm all the suspicions everyone had of me.

Or else I would try to be funny in some idiotic sort of way and try to make them forget what I had done. Once again, instead of taking their minds off what I had done, it just made me look like an even greater fool.

Somehow I survived those years. During that time I was not aware of how many difficulties my four sisters and my brother were going through — I was too worried about my own.

And, of course, my father never understood me. He couldn't understand the agonies I was going through. Or so I thought!

Working and talking together with your parents can be a key to understanding each other. (Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.)

Understanding Dad

Dad's mother died when he was 18 months old. As a boy he had to do the cooking for his father and two older brothers while they worked on the farm. He was 18 when world war broke out and was soon off to Europe to fight in France.

Dad didn't talk much about the time he spent in the trenches. I do know his feet nearly rotted off because of all the mud and slush they were in — day after day, month after month.

I know his poor hearing resulted from the constant pounding of the guns. He didn't tell us much about that part of his life, but I have read enough about it to hope and pray I don't have to go through anything like that.

My father had been through a lot. Now, when I stop and think about it, I realize that he knew much of what I was going through. Part of the reason he didn't show his feelings is that they'd been hurt so often he had learned to keep them inside himself.

He may not have been able to express himself the way he would have liked — but it was a two-way street. I was too tied up in my own little world to recognize his attempts to help. Understanding was there before me, but I couldn't see it.

Give them a chance

Your parents understand what you're going through far more than you may realize. The chances are they see you experiencing some of the same emotional traumas they did when they were teens.

Why not ask them? Find out what were some of their most embarrassing moments, how they felt at their first dance, what troubled them the most in high school. What were their greatest joys, pains, fears?

Give your parents a chance to help. Sometimes just sitting down and talking over the problem makes it much easier. It will bring you all closer together, and the chances are, once you have shared your feelings, the problem won't seem so great.

Opening up to your parents can be a big step for you. If you have any difficulty in communicating, follow a lesson I learned some time ago. If you don't know how to say something, "just say it." Once you get started, it's not that bad — and your mom and dad are probably far more understanding than you ever figured. And they may have difficulty expressing themselves, too, so try to be understanding in return.

Try it — it can bring remarkable results! □

A Language All Their Own

By Penelope A. Goudie

Photo by Hal Finch

The other day the telephone rang.

"Did you send me a bouquet of flowers?" a friend asked excitedly. "I received it this morning, but it wasn't signed. I wish I knew whom to thank!"

We had not sent the flowers. It seems the sender wished to remain anonymous. Yet the flowers conveyed a message, even without a signature. Just by being sent, the flowers said, "Someone cares," for flowers have a language all their own. It is universal. It breaks language barriers. It crosses continents.

Do you know their language?

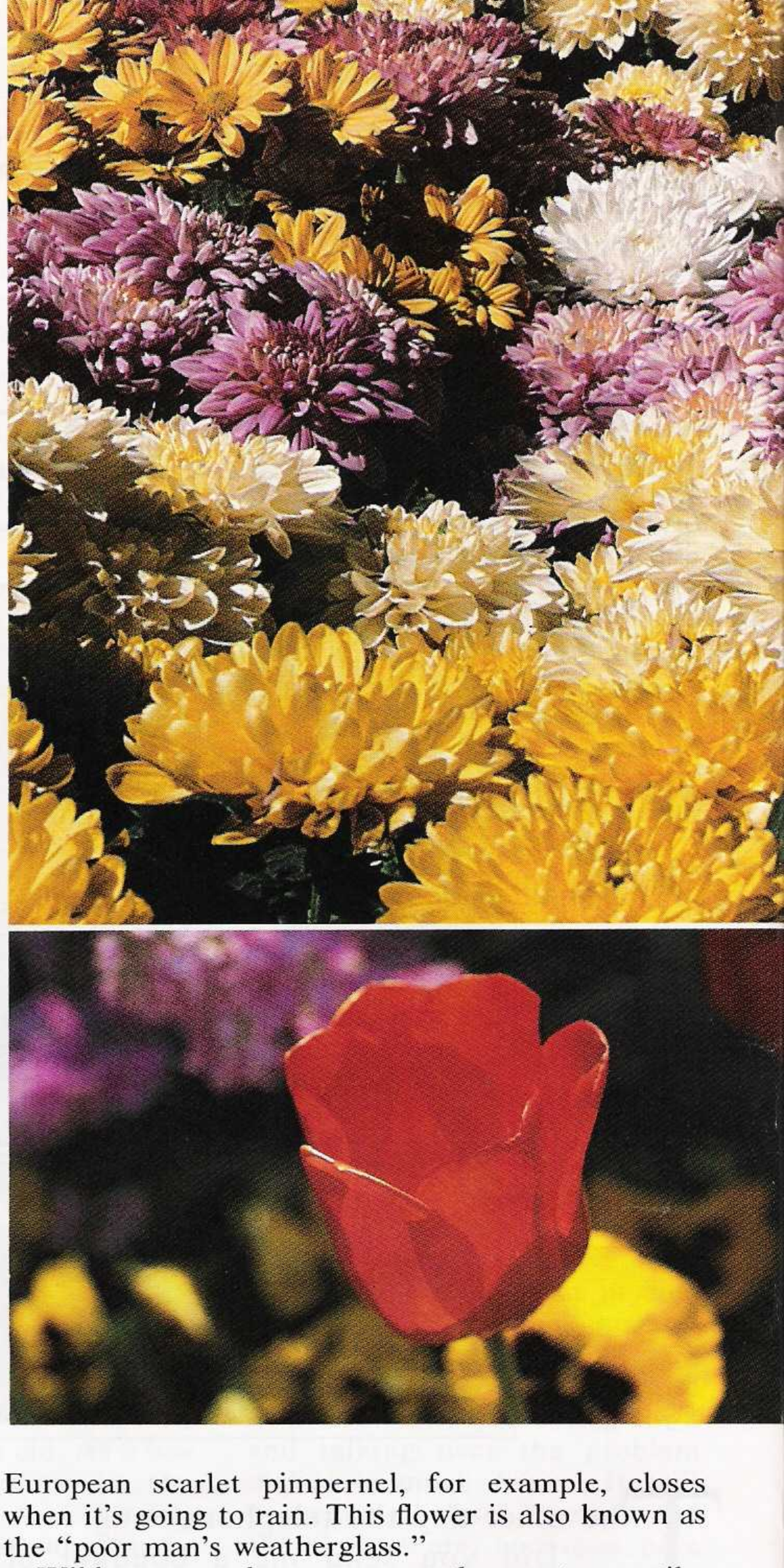
A silent celebration

Flowers play a significant part in our daily lives. Look around your home. You may be surprised how many floral patterns you can see.

We decorate our walls with floral paper or paintings of flowers. Girls wear dresses with floral prints and put flowers in their hair. Flowers made of icing are part of the decoration on wedding cakes. The bouquet the bride carries is almost always of flowers. A vase of flowers is often the centerpiece of our tables at dinner parties. We send cheery bouquets to friends who are ill.

They brighten our homes and our lives. They comfort us when we need it. Flowers can inspire us — poets have written of them often since earliest history. They are simply beautiful — a celebration of scent and sight, the jewelry of nature.

Watching flowers grow can add to that sense of wonder. We plant them as tiny seeds, so small, it seems impossible they could grow — they're too tiny! Yet somehow they do. And not only do they grow, but they blossom with the colors of the rainbow, in



Flowers — a celebration of scent and sight, the jewelry of nature. Pictured here, clockwise from top left, are chrysanthemums, ice plant flowers, a bird of paradise, English primroses and a tulip. (Photos by Nathan Faulkner and Warren Watson)

myriad shapes and sizes. Flowers grow wild around us, too, in every part of the world. They form an essential part of the complex web of nature. They even signal the seasons.

Some wild flowers, like the tiny white snowdrops in Europe, grow as winter ends. Snowdrops are also known as February fair maid. Flowers like snowdrops reassure us that the cold weather will end, and some winters we need reminding!

Other flowers celebrate spring and summer. They spice our countryside with color. One week they're not there, or are just peeping out of the ground as a hint of small leaves. Then, suddenly, the fields, the meadows, the stream banks and the hedgerows are brilliant in different hues and fragrant with various scents.

With a little rain, flowers such as evening primroses can bloom even in an arid desert. Their seeds lie dormant in hard ground during dry weather. However, should a little water fall to the ground, the arid desert truly blossoms as a rose.

It's as though flowers the world over are saying thank-you to their Creator for their existence — for being a small part of the cycle of life.

Flowers through the ages

Throughout history, flowers and plants have been linked with man. Perhaps the most well-known flower of all ages is the queen of flowers — the rose.

This celebrated flower is found today in most parts of the world. Some of the many cultivated varieties of roses originated in places such as Persia (Iran), Greece, North America and China.

The link between roses and man covers thousands of years. In ancient Rome, for example, roses were extremely popular. Roses adorned the victorious chariots of armies and were put on graves.

They were also used at feasts. Emperor Nero was said to have had large numbers of roses rain down on his state dining room, overpowering his guests with their scent!

Roses symbolize perfection, beauty, mystery and peace. One of the many cultivated varieties is even named peace, although a war — the War of the Roses in late 15th century Tudor England — was also named after the flowers.

Today a rose is a national emblem of England. In the United States, too, it is the adopted flower of several states, including Iowa, which claims the wild rose as its flower.

Different uses

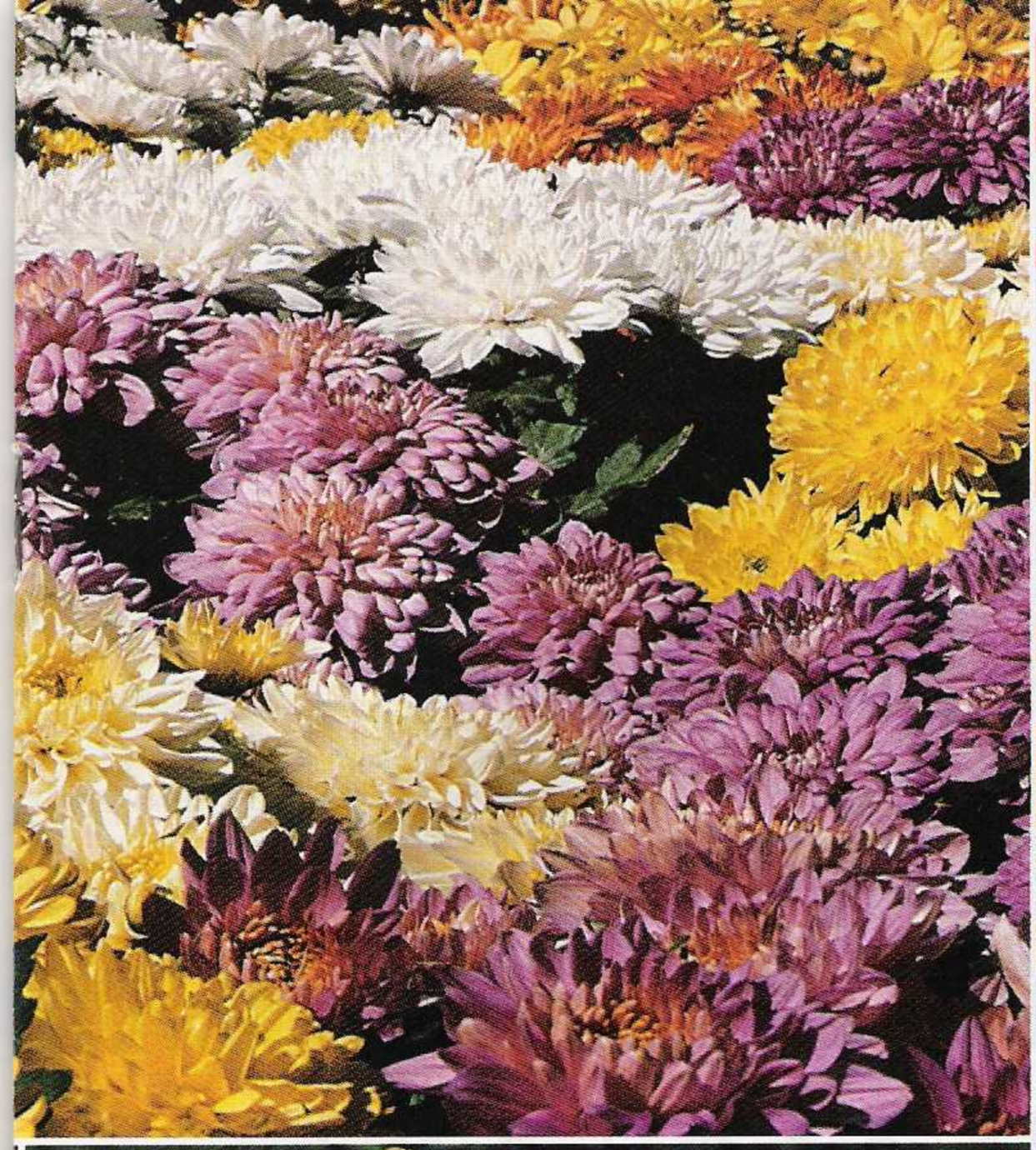
Besides their purely aesthetic beauty, flowers have been valued for many other uses. Some flowers in different countries even tell the weather. The European scarlet pimpernel, for example, closes when it's going to rain. This flower is also known as the "poor man's weatherglass."

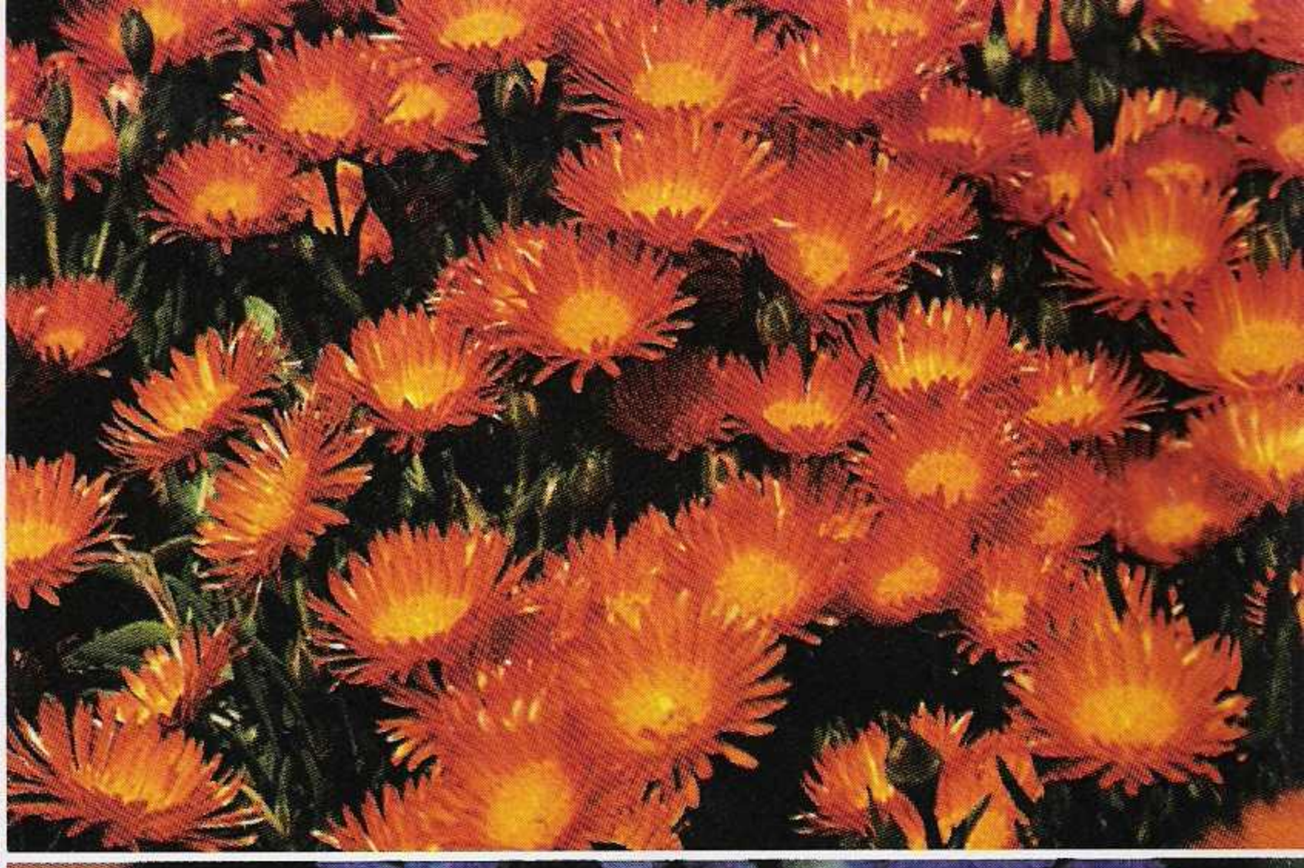
Wild rose petals are among the most versatile. They can be used in wine, tea and vinegar. Rose petals can be used in foods, too, such as jam, Turkish delight sweets and jelly. Their fragrance improves many dishes, in addition to their use as a perfume. There are even rose petal sandwiches served as a delicacy at teatime.

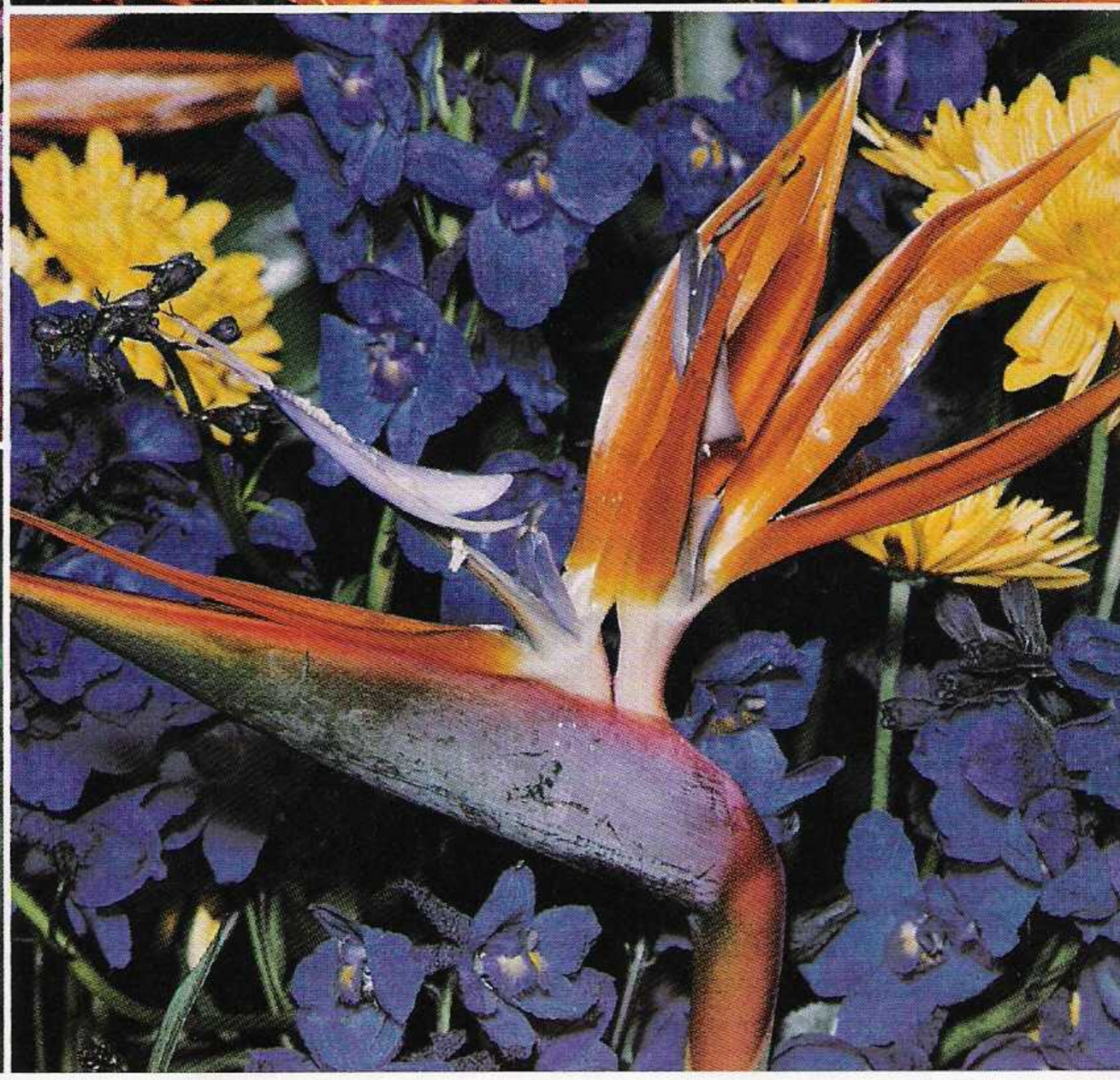
Besides these exotic foods, of course, flowers also give us the major food crops, such as rice and wheat. And the meat we eat comes from animals that feed on the plants.

Some plants are also essential for our basic needs like clothing. Flax, for instance, is used to make linen, while the fiber from the cotton plant is used to make cotton cloth.

Paper is another vital substance made from the wood stem of plants. Wood itself is needed to make







houses and furniture, while coal, the fossilized remains of plants, is an important fuel today.

As we have seen, plants have been vital to man from earliest history. Without plants man could not exist! They generate oxygen for the air that we breathe.

These are just some of the uses of flowers and plants. Flowers are incredibly useful and beautiful creations!

They still have an aura of mystery for man today, just as they have since ancient times. They play a vital role in the cycle of nature, both in their life and in their death. They're temporary and they remind us we are too.

Sending floral messages

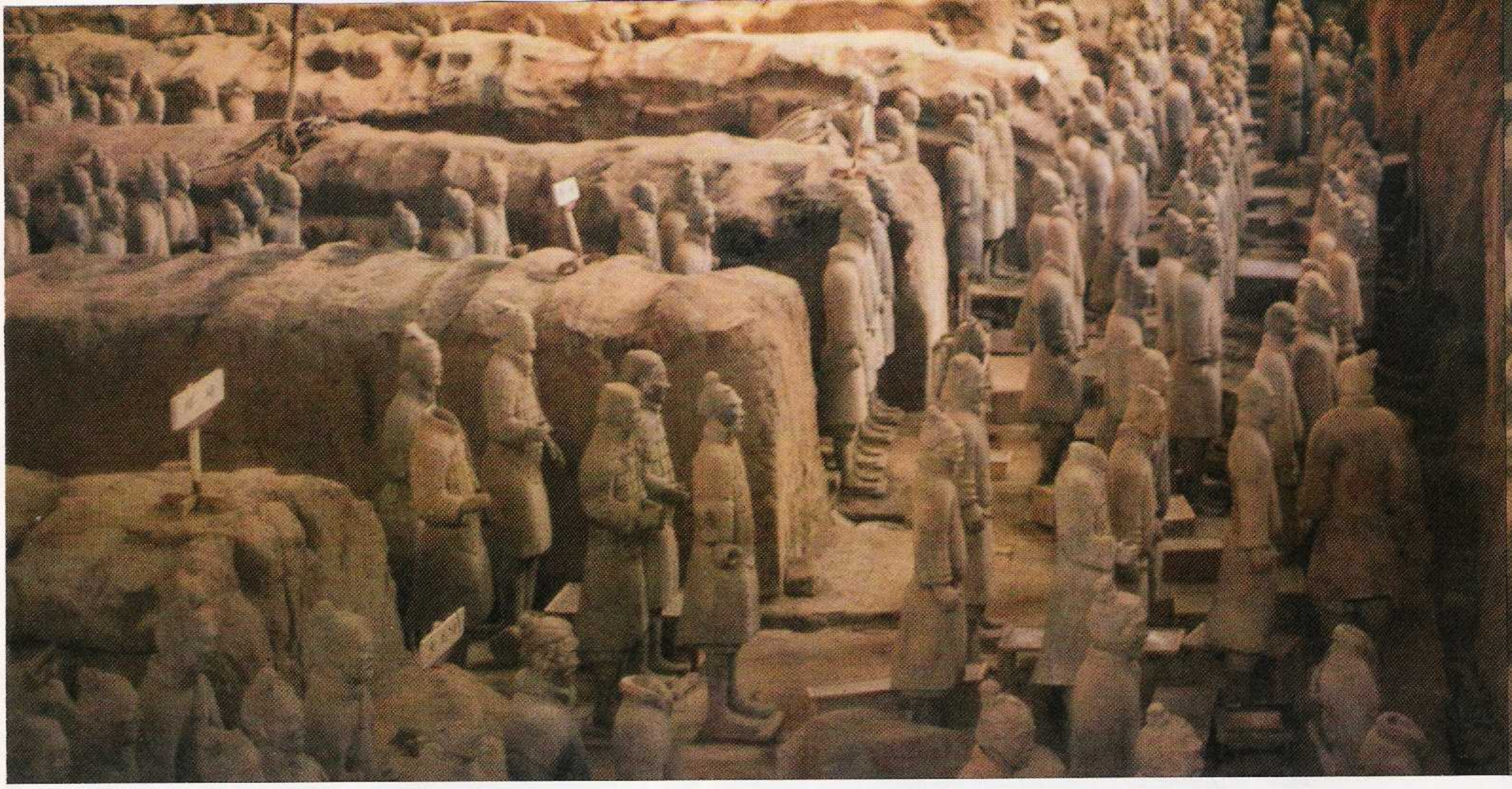
Earlier I mentioned about our friend ringing. That was embarrassing. The next time the phone rings and a friend asks, "Did you send me a bouquet of flowers?" I hope we can say yes!

Perhaps someone would appreciate some flowers from you, too? They don't have to be expensive. Check around. There may be some wild flowers no one would mind you picking, or an inexpensive shop where you could buy flowers and perhaps arrange them yourself.

Or, better yet, you can grow some flowering plants, either indoors or out, and nurture them yourself. You'll want to learn more about flower gardening and arranging from gardeners or flower shops in your area, and by checking the library for information on the subject.

Wouldn't your parents appreciate some flowers on a special day? What about your grandmother or someone who is feeling down or someone you want to congratulate?

Sometimes it takes more than words to communicate your feelings. For although flowers don't speak a single word, they have a very special language all their own that says, "I care!" □



CHINA'S ANCIENT WARRIORS

By Colleen Gus

Imagine a chess set with life-size pieces.

Imagine the pieces made out of clay, and painted to look like real life. Imagine them 2,000 years old, with Chinese faces, no two of them identical. And, instead of imagining 32 pieces, imagine about 7,500.

Got it? Good. You've just imagined something like what has been discovered in the central part of China — not exactly a chess set, but 7,500 statues of warriors and horses — a life-size army formed about 210 B.C.

Chinese farmers near the Wei River first discovered this ceramic army in 1974 when they were digging a well. Although some of the statues were found whole, the majority were in pieces.

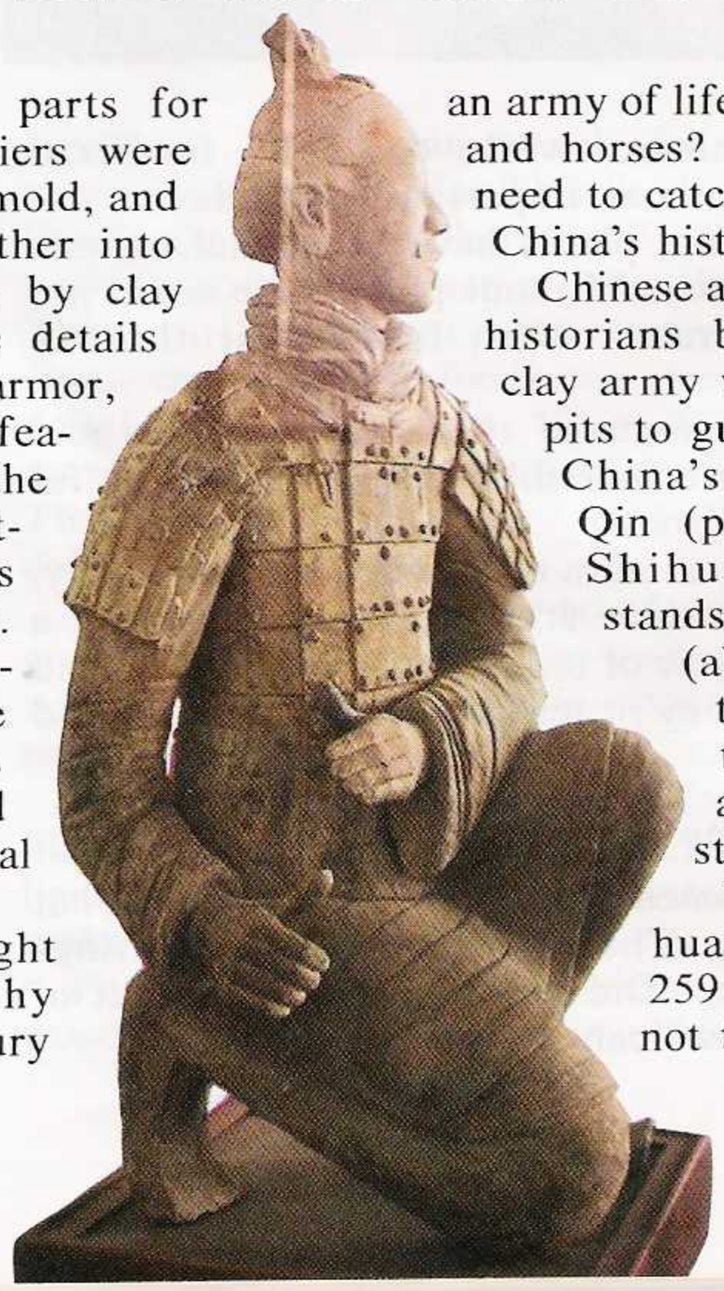
Most of the statues were found in one large pit, which contained foot soldiers, horses and charioteers arranged in orderly rows. A nearby, smaller pit contained crossbowmen and charioteers, while a third pit seemed to contain most of the officers — a sort of command center.

Archaeologists — scientists who dig up and study objects from the past — believe that the individual body parts for the pottery soldiers were first shaped in a mold, and then joined together into complete figures by clay coils. Many fine details of the soldiers' armor, buttons, facial features and even the tread on the bottom of their shoes were then added. After being heated to harden the clay, the figures were painted and equipped with real weapons.

But, you might be thinking, why would anyone bury an army of life-size toy soldiers and horses? To find out, we need to catch a glimpse into China's history.

Chinese archaeologists and historians believe that the clay army was placed in its pits to guard the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin (pronounced chin) Shihuang*, which stands less than a mile (about 1¼ kilometers) away. The tomb lies beneath a large mound, still unexcavated.

When Qin Shihuang was born in 259 B.C., China was not the great, unified



Photos by Pierre Coutu — Shostal Associates; close-up by Kurt Scholz — Shostal Associates

This army of clay soldiers, formed to guard the tomb of China's first emperor, have been restored and replaced in their original excavation pits — now a covered museum.

nation she was to become. Instead, China was divided into several smaller states, with much the same language and culture, but constantly warring against each other.

Feudalism — in which the people owe loyalty to a landlord, rather than a national government — was the social and economic system. Little progress or prosperity could exist, for most of the governments were primarily concerned with enlarging their borders and defending them against enemies. The time was right for a strong leader to emerge.

And that is exactly what happened. In 246 B.C. Qin Shihuang, just 13 years old, became ruler of Qin, a western state that was relatively strong because it had managed to avoid much of the destructive fighting. By the time he was 25, Qin Shihuang had conquered most of China and proclaimed himself First Emperor.

In China's long history, Qin Shihuang stands as a giant figure. He standardized the system of weights and measures throughout the empire. He built the world's longest fortification, the Great Wall of China, by connecting and improving the smaller walls the warring states had built to keep out barbarian tribes. He also instituted a great program of road building throughout the empire. He even standardized the lengths of axles on wagons and chariots, so that all these vehicles could travel in the same ruts.

Along with these achievements, however, Qin Shihuang is remembered for his ruthlessness. He forced hundreds of thousands of men to build the Great Wall and elaborate palaces for himself. He drained the wealth of the country, adding to his personal glory and riches. And he had most of the books in China burned, and many scholars buried alive! The reason for this was that much of the learning in China at that time centered around Confucianism, a system of thought that emphasized traditional ways. The Confucian scholars and writings opposed the sweeping reforms Qin Shihuang was instituting.

Emperor Qin was a powerful man and he knew it. But there was one thing that Emperor Qin knew he did not control — death.

All his life, according to the historians, Emperor Qin was obsessed with the idea of eternal life. He had all his magicians and astrologers working on the problem. He went to great lengths to thwart the evil spirits who he believed were preventing him from finding the answer. One way he tried to do this was by building 270 palaces and connecting them all with passageways so that only a few people (or spirits) would ever know where he was at any time.

As was the custom of his time, Qin Shihuang began building his tomb as soon as he became emperor. Historians who wrote a hundred years later say the tomb was fabulously rich and extravagant, the inner sanctum of a great spirit city Emperor Qin had prepared for his afterlife.

The tomb was also said to be booby trapped with loaded crossbows to shoot anyone who dared enter. And, presumably, Emperor Qin placed the clay army along the road to his tomb to protect him from spirit invaders.

In spite of all his efforts and expense, Emperor Qin obviously didn't find immortality. He died in 210 B.C. and was buried in the tomb he had spent his life building. His great empire died with him, for his advisers conspired to put a weak son into power who could not hold the empire together.

Yet the clay warriors remain. Most of the paint has peeled off and the wooden chariots have long since rotted, but the individual faces of the warriors bear a mute testimony to the man who accomplished so much.

Examples of the clay soldiers have been exhibited in various countries. If you see them, you may almost want to reach out and pat the neck of one of the sturdy, yet friendly-looking, chariot horses, or have a word with one of the officers whose unseeing eyes have stared for 22 centuries. It is a fascinating encounter with a bit of China's past. □

* The spellings in this article are based on the Pinyin method of transliteration. Other methods can give quite different spellings. For example, Qin Shihuang's name is also spelled Ch'in Shih Huang Ti.

News & Reviews

Losing Weight Without Gimmicks

Dieting.

The word brings to mind images of strange foods, miracle pills or magic gimmicks that claim to melt fat away with almost no effort. It may also conjure up hunger pangs for the millions of people who have tried diets by the dozen in an unending battle of the bulge.

Is there a way to lose weight safely and permanently? A new theory, the setpoint theory, suggests that a part of the brain chooses the amount of fat the body needs and then does everything it can to retain that fat.

What this means, according to setpoint theory, is that when you diet, your body adjusts itself to protect its fat level. You may find that you are continually hungry when you're dieting. This is your body's way of encouraging you to build its fat supplies back up.

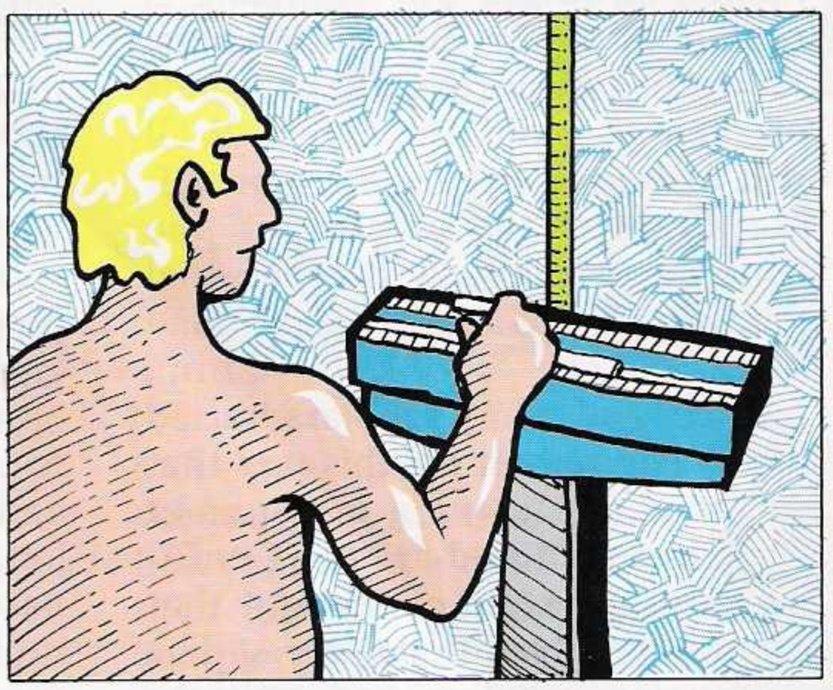
It is possible to lose weight by ignoring hunger, but you may find yourself engaged in a continual battle to keep your weight down. Is there an alternative to a life of dieting?

This new theory suggests that, in order to lose weight, you must lower your body's setpoint. And it is impossible to do this solely through dieting.

First, you must increase the amount of exercise you get. A good program of aerobic exercise (like running, swimming or brisk walking) will decrease the amount of fat your body thinks it needs. Make sure you get at least 30 minutes of exercise three times a week.

Second, alter what you eat. This may mean changing the type of foods as well as the amount you eat. Cut down on foods high in fat and sugar and refined or highly processed foods. Along with meat, poultry, fish and dried beans, include milk or other dairy products. Add fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Strive for well-balanced, nutritionally sound meals.

Third, don't measure success only on the scale. When you increase your exercise level, your body will begin trading some of its fat for muscle. Since muscle weighs more than fat, your weight may actually go up as you slim down. Instead of relying only on the scale, use a tape measure or your gradually shrinking clothes size to measure your success.



Have patience as you work toward your goal. This isn't a three-day miracle diet; it's a change in the way you live. It may be weeks or months before you reach your goal.

But first, make sure you really need to lose weight. Are you really as fat as you think you are? Or are you just responding to peer pressure to reach an unrealistic goal?

The thin Hollywood ideal of beauty isn't necessarily the right one. Remember that people don't all come in the same shape and size, and were not meant to. No amount of dieting can change the basic structure of your body. Even more important, striving to meet that "ideal" could harm your health.

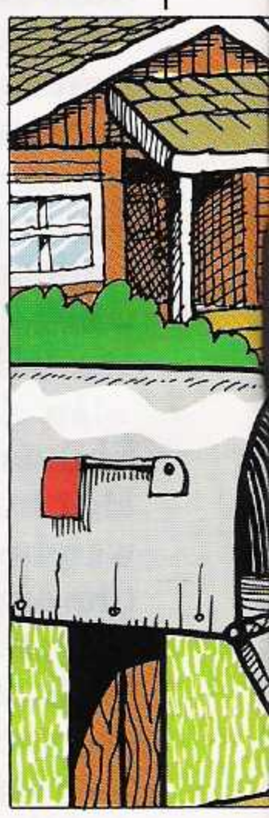
Don't treat your health lightly. Make your entire health program a sensible one. — *By Kerri Miles and Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

Proverbs for Today—It's the Write Time

Have you ever been really thirsty? Not just a little dry, but *really* thirsty? Maybe it was after a track meet, a hike or just plain hard work. Remember how good that cold drink was?

King Solomon used the refreshing quality of a cold drink to illustrate a practical truth. He wrote, "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25, Authorized Version).

Look again at that second part, "so is good news from a far country." Now think back to the times you've received cherished letters from dear friends and relatives. Weren't they just as satisfying as that cold drink? A card or letter can completely absorb



our interest and lift our spirits.

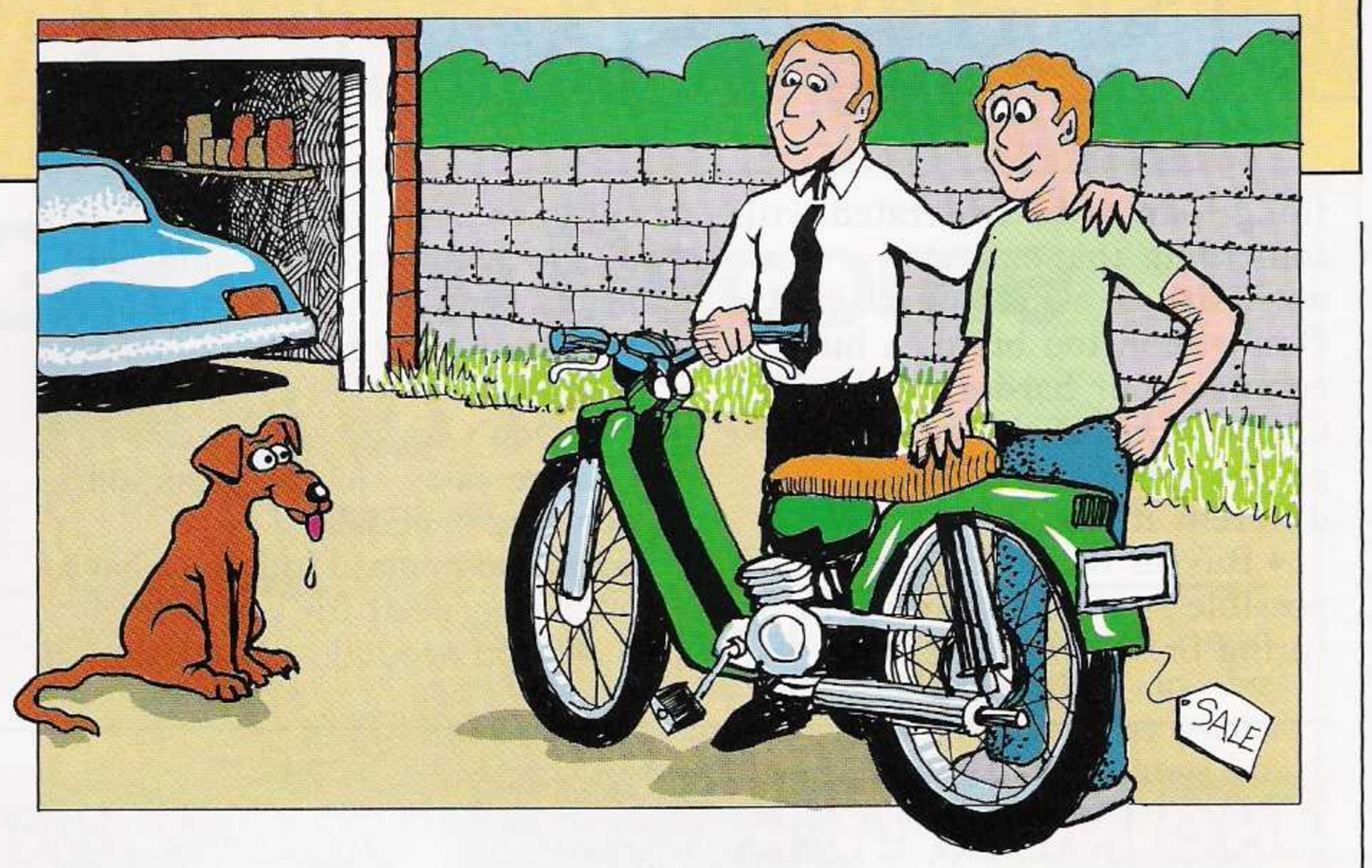
When was the last time you gave someone else this special gift?

Usually the biggest barrier to letter writing with today's hurried life-style is a lack of time. Nobody, it seems, has the time anymore to write letters to friends and relatives. But is that a good excuse?

Could anyone be busier than the leader of a country? Probably very few people. But that didn't stop U.S. President Harry S. Truman. He had a lifelong rule of writing to his wife, Bess, every single day they were apart from each other. The president of one of the world's leading nations made sure he took time out from running a country to write 1,300 letters to his wife!

Think what this meant to Mrs. Truman. How much would your friendships improve by taking out a little time to write a few lines?

Letter writing is a simple act of giving. Surely many of the reasons we have for not writing are only excuses. Why not try a little harder? Right now may be the "write" time!— *By Jim Roberts* □



Hello, Good Buy

Jack Hooper smiled at his dad. "Thanks for the moped" he said.

Mr. Hooper looked puzzled. "What do you mean? I didn't buy it — you did."

"Yes, but without those secrets of yours, I wouldn't have had enough money for the moped for a long time yet."

Secrets? Well, it's like this. Even after Jack put himself on a tight budget, he knew he wouldn't have the money he'd need for his moped. His dad came to the rescue with some money-stretching secrets that helped Jack find the moped he wanted at a much lower price.

Mr. Hooper's secrets helped Jack make a good buy. But his secrets aren't really all that secret and they can work for anyone. Let's look at some of Mr. Hooper's tips:

• Decide whether or not owning this item is worth what you will have to give up to buy it. If you decide you really want it, check your budget and see if you can afford it.

• Make a checklist of all the features you really want the item to have. Don't buy it if it doesn't measure up. It's better to wait until you find just the right

(Continued on page 20)

Money, Money Everywhere

Whenever something is bought or sold, money is exchanged — usually a coin or piece of paper. The dollar and the franc may be the most common names for money, but there are dozens of other names used all over the world.

Do you know what they're called? Try the quiz to the right to see if you can match the countries with the names of the money they use there. — *By Ronda Kelly*

Country	Monetary unit
1. Australia	A. Rupee
2. Denmark	B. Shekel
3. India	C. Yen
4. Israel	D. Krone
5. Italy	E. Mark
6. Japan	F. Dollar
7. Mexico	G. Rand
8. W. Germany	H. Ruble
9. Russia	I. Lira
10. France	J. Peso
11. S. Africa	K. Franc

Answers: 1-F, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B, 5-I, 6-C, 7-J, 8-E, 9-H, 10-K, 11-G

Illustrations by Monte Wolverton

News & Reviews

thing than to be frustrated with something that's almost — but not quite — what you wanted. Don't be in too big of a hurry to commit your hard-earned cash. Check some of the consumer guides for comparisons of different items.

• Buy in the off-season when possible — winter clothes in spring or ski equipment in summer. Jack didn't buy as soon as the season came around and prices soon dropped. If you can wait, you may be able to save a lot.

• Don't forget used items. Garage sales, flea markets and newspaper classified advertisements might just have what you need for much less.

• Shop around. The higher the price, the more important it is to check several sources. You could save quite a lot of money.

If you have something you really want, but don't think you can afford, don't be frustrated. Start saving now and use the same secrets Jack used. What you think may be out of reach today could soon be yours. — *By Will Flaman* □

Illustrations by Monte Wolverton

Teen Bible Study

How God Can Become Real to You

By Richard H. Sedliacik

Are you like many people who say, "I believe in God, but He seems so distant — so unreal to me"?

Have you wondered: "Where is God? Has He gone off somewhere? Why doesn't He show Himself in some way? How can an invisible God be real to me?"

But think about it for a moment. Almost everyone already believes in some things that can't be seen. Air, wind and gravity are invisible. Yet these are quite real.

God is composed of spirit and therefore cannot be seen by human eyes. But He does have definite form and shape, and lives in a specific place. This study will show how God can become *very real* to you, and how you can even come to know Him personally!

Before you begin, be sure to get your Bible, a pen or pencil and some paper. Look up, read and then write down the Bible verses in this study. This will help you remember what you will be studying.

1. In the second chapter of Genesis we learn that God warned Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was in the Garden of Eden. In spite of the warning, they disobeyed — sinned — by taking the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-6, 17). What did they do when they heard God walking in the garden? Genesis 3:8.

They hid from God! God had been teaching the first man and woman. He wanted them to get to know Him and His way of life. But when they disobeyed, they felt guilty and wanted to *hide* from Him.

2. In the days of Moses, what did the Israelites do after God spoke to them from Mt. Sinai? Exodus 20:18-19.

When the people heard the thunder and saw the lightning and other evidence of the almighty God, "they trembled and stood afar off." Here were human beings wanting to cut off contact with God. They were telling God, who was very real to them then, to leave them alone.

This is typical of how mankind has been reacting to God since the incident in the Garden of Eden. Ever since Adam, the world in general has been playing the game of hide-and-seek with God.

3. What is God compared to? I John 1:5. Is this why people have tried to hide from God and even claim He does not exist? John 3:19-20. Have they cut themselves off from God because of their sins? Isaiah 59:2.

Everyone since Adam and Eve has sinned by breaking God's law (Romans 3:23, I John 3:4). Humanity is accustomed to living a way of life the Bible refers to as "darkness." But God never sins. His way of life is like a bright light that shows the way out of darkness, or sin. But because people like the darkness, they hide from the light of God.

4. What is one of the things Jesus Christ did while on earth? John 1:18.

Jesus, one of the two eternal members of the God Family, came to earth to reveal God the Father to us, as well as to die for the sins of all mankind.

5. Besides the many revelations from God that are written in the Bible, is there another way we can understand the invisible things of God and the absolute reality of His existence? Romans 1:19-20.

Think about the physical universe and all that it contains. From the forces that bind atomic nuclei and fuel gigantic stars, to the laws that sustain incredibly huge galaxies; from our marvelous, life-sustaining earth, to the vastness of space; from the beauty and intricacy of the observable creation, to our incredibly complex minds that can try to comprehend it — all are awe-inspiring evidence of the existence and power of an almighty, universe-ruling Creator!

6. Since the evidence of God is clearly seen everywhere in His creation, why isn't God real to most people today? Have they become *willingly ignorant* of the reality of God? Romans 1:21-25. How does God describe one who refuses such obvious

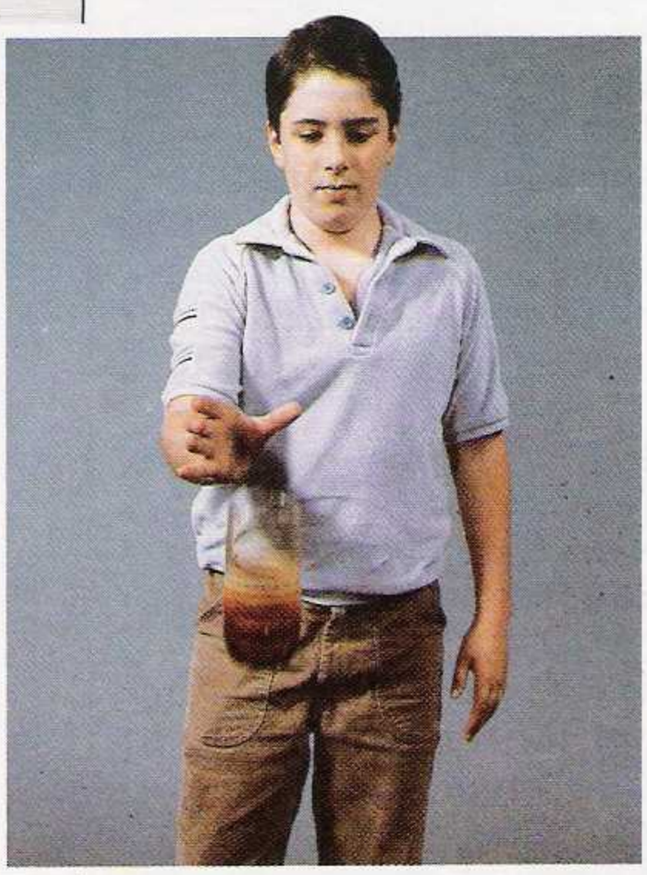
proof of His existence? Verse 22, Psalm 14:1.

The ancient philosophers knew that a Creator God exists. They examined the world around them and discovered order, harmony, system and design. God was in this sense revealed to them, because the existence of order, harmony, system and design absolutely demand a supreme Architect and Designer — a supreme Creator!

But these same men flatly rejected the evidence rather than answer to a higher authority. For if they had admitted God exists, they would have had to *obey* Him! So they "suppressed," or held back, the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). They convinced themselves, against the facts and their own better judgment, that God doesn't exist. Those who reject such obvious evidence indeed look foolish to God.

7. How did God reveal His incredible greatness, power and wisdom to Job? Job 38:1-6. (God's speech to Job continues through the end of chapter 41.)

Many today are like Job in this way. He thought he knew a lot about God. He was pretty well convinced about God's existence. But then God personally spoke to Job from a whirlwind and pointed out a few things he hadn't considered before.



Gravity — we all believe in it even though we can't see it. Although we can't see God, He can be real to us, too. (Photos by Hal Finch)

God focused Job's mind on His physical creation by asking him a series of questions about the creation he could not answer. Before these questions, Job had talked about God at great length. But God had not been absolutely real to him.

8. Was Job really shaken up after he finally came to see God in a completely new light? Job 42:1-6.

Job had now, for the first time, come to a true picture of the awesome Creator, the almighty God. Job was now humbled and deeply convinced of the *absolute reality* of the great, all-powerful Creator God!

9. Can those who seek to become personally acquainted with this same God really find Him? Isaiah 55:6-7. But must one put forth diligent effort to seek Him in a personal way? Hebrews 11:6, last part. Is God not far from anyone who will earnestly seek Him? Acts 17:27.

Yes, you can get to know God. God is interested in and available to His human creation. He is not too busy to hear the prayers of people who really want to know Him. But one must put forth effort to seek God.

10. Will God bless those who truly seek Him wholeheartedly, and desire to actually do His will? Psalm 119:2, I John 3:22.

God is as near as the next fervent, sincere prayer. Those who seek God earnestly will be blessed, both in this life and on into eternity.

Once you come face to face with the reality of God's existence and have a glimpse of His goodness and power, you can begin to *trust* Him to bless you (Hebrews 11:6).

11. But do you realize that our conversation with God is not one-sided? How does God speak to us today? Hebrews 1:1-2.

God has revealed His will and plan for humanity through Jesus Christ. He then inspired various men to record the words of Jesus for us today (II Timothy 3:16-17). And so we are able to learn about God and His purpose for humanity through His *written Word*.

In a very personal way, God reveals Himself and speaks to us through the Bible. We become acquainted with God by talking to Him in prayer and by reading what He says to us in the Bible.

By reading the Bible, we can come to know the mind of God. We can understand His character and how He thinks. Through His inspired written Word, God shows us how we can have happy, productive lives — He tells us what He has promised to do for us if we seek to do His will.

So get acquainted with the great Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of the entire universe. Begin to understand the great love and wisdom of the living God who takes great *delight* in those who seek to know Him, talk to Him, love and obey Him! □

Dear Youth 84,

Practical Bible-based answers to the problems of growing up.

Q. Is kissing wrong for teenagers?

A. We'll go way out on a limb on this one. Our mailboxes may be jammed to overflowing, since many of you are going to disagree. But *Youth 84* will not dodge issues. Here is the plain truth on this subject.

Kissing was designed by God to be a manner in which a husband and wife express their feelings, emotion and love for one another. It is part of the sexual stimulus and response mechanism that belongs in the wholesomeness of sex within marriage.

By no means does kissing have to always lead to sexual activity, but it is a manner of expressing love and feeling. If it weren't that way, it wouldn't be fun. Kissing one you love is fun and exciting. It's designed by God that way.

But romantic kissing is not for teens.

Of course family members show affection for one another by kissing. But there is an obvious difference between a boy kissing his mom good-bye before leaving for the evening and the way he may romantically want to kiss his girl friend.

A sister may give a congratulatory kiss for something her brother accomplished. That's perfectly normal. Children kiss their parents and grandparents. All well and good.

But kissing passionately and romantically on teenage dates? It simply shouldn't be done. If that sounds like we at *Youth 84* live in another century, well, that's just the way it will have to sound. Save romantic kissing for the proper time and the right person in your life. You'll always be glad you did!

(For a fuller explanation of the role of kissing, and of the whole subject of love, marriage and sex, be sure to read the series of articles we have been running by *Youth 84's* Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong. In this issue the article, "Dating — and Teenage Morality," begins on page 1. You can also receive Mr. Armstrong's full book on this subject, *The Missing Dimension in Sex,* by writing or calling the office nearest you. See the inside front cover for addresses and telephone numbers. The book is free.)

Q. My parents have bad feelings about one of my friends. They don't want me to hang around with her. I think they are prejudiced and wrong. What do you think?

A. This is not an uncommon family problem. And the answer is not as simple as it may at first seem.

First of all, the Bible gives us this instruction: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth' " (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Your parents often see a character flaw or weakness in someone that you may not see. They worry you will develop bad habits or make a serious mistake if you spend time with a person they have doubts about.

You really should listen to your parents. Try to discuss why they feel as they do. Doing this may help your family communications greatly.

Maybe you can help correct an error if they have misjudged your friend. But you must be willing to hear them out and listen carefully to their advice.

Remember the old adage, "One rotten apple spoils the whole bunch."

Solomon said, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20). That's what your parents are afraid of.

Many a young person has been influenced to do terribly wrong things by a seeming friend.

If your friends spend some time at your home getting acquainted with your family, your parents will be in a much better position to judge their character and advise you about spending time with them. If they get to know your friends, your parents won't have to judge on circumstantial evidence or out of fear of the unknown. □

We welcome your questions and will excerpt as many as possible. Sorry we can't answer them all. Answers are prepared by Bernard W. Schnippert, a minister of the Worldwide Church of God. Address your questions to "Dear Youth 84," *300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91129.*

DATING- and Morality

(Continued from page 2)

any girl in town, on your first date," he said. In this particular scandal, which got into the newspapers, revealed facts were significant. Of all involved, not one had received any formal sex education — boys or girls. Every boy had engaged in premarital sex before age 15. Not one was close to either father or mother. The police chief exclaimed that it was too bad he was unable to take a horsewhip to the neglectful parents!

One of the mothers whitewashed herself of blame, saying: "You can't blame *me* for Janie's predicament! Why, you can rest assured she never learned a thing about sex in my house. The word was never even so much as mentioned!"

Teen sex and violence worldwide

The fast-growing surge of teenage immorality, drugs and violence is WORLDWIDE! Accompanying sexual promiscuity, news dispatches pile up an avalanche of reports of wreckage, destruction of property — especially schools — pillaging, arson, violence and often MURDER!

There are facts and statistics on teenage immorality and juvenile delinquency to fill an entire book many times over.

But WHY? What is the cause?

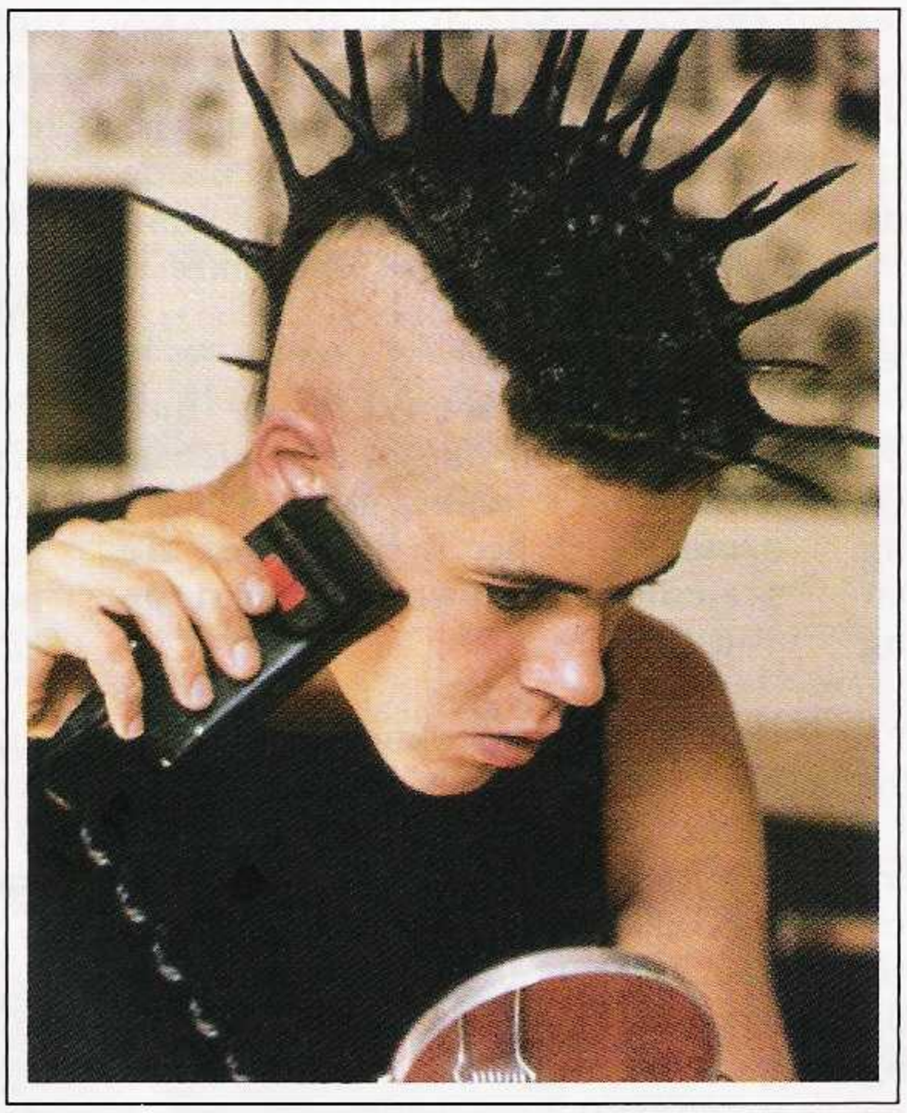
The world doesn't want to hear the true answer!

The world refuses to *face* the tragic TRUTH!

The TRUE answer is this: Something has been *taken away* from this earth that sorely needs to be restored! That "something" is knowledge of, respect for and obedience to THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LAW OF GOD!

But will *any like* that answer? Most want to go on rebelling against their Maker, trying to find some *other* solution to their problems. *There is no other!*

Once there *was* peace, happiness, orderliness, joy, on this earth. You don't have to believe it, but it's TRUE. Angels inhabited the earth. The almighty GOD had placed a top-ranking archangel, Lucifer, to administer the government of God on the earth. Lucifer was a brilliant cherub. He sealed the sum total of wisdom and beauty. It went to his head. He became vain. Vanity gripped him. His mind swelled with resentment because he ruled only this earth — a mere speck in the universe — while GOD ruled all the universe.



The natural tendency to want to belong is seen in the strange styles adopted by some groups.

Photo by M. Philippot — Sygma

A third of the angels followed him in warlike aggression to knock God off His throne, and take over the UNIVERSE rule. But they were driven back to the earth. Physical chaos struck the earth as a result of this stupendous mutiny. In six days God restored the earth, and created MANKIND upon it (Psalm 104:30).

God made man mortal, of material substance. But He gave man MIND power. When man chose to disobey God — to do evil — his mind became hostile toward God. He imbibed Satan's attitude of SELF and rebellion. This became HUMAN NATURE. Human nature includes the *attitude* that had become Satan's (Lucifer's name now changed to Satan).

Human nature is a PULL, like the power of gravity, in the direction of vanity, greed, self-love and spirit of competition, hostility, indifference, resentment or hatred, toward others. That is man's natural attitude and tendency. It is a constant PULL on man in that direction. It is the WAY THAT COMES NATURALLY. Because a subtile Satan, still on earth's throne, begins injecting that *attitude* during the first year of infant life.

Human nature — minus purpose!

Let's *understand* the real *basic* reason for these present problems. Basically, it is simply human nature.

Yet God endowed man with MIND power, capable of recognizing the error of this WAY, *if willing*. Adam could have obeyed God, resisted Satan and qualified to replace Satan as earth RULER, administering the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. But Adam disobeyed God, succumbed to Satan. His children have done so ever since.

Jesus Christ obeyed God, kept God's commandments, resisted Satan, never allowed what we call "human nature" to enter Him. He conquered the devil, and qualified to administer the world-ruling GOVERNMENT OF GOD. Then He ascended to heaven to officially receive this world RULE. The heavens have received Him *UNTIL* — notice it, Acts 3:19-21 — only "*UNTIL* the times of RESTITUTION of all things" — that is, the RESTORING of what had been taken away — THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

That time is almost upon us NOW! This very outburst of universal VIOLENCE is one of the signs! "As it was in the days of

Noah," said Jesus, "so shall it be" just before the days of Christ's return to RESTORE THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and bring us PEACE! Just before the Flood, there was illicit sex and VIOLENCE! It was not thus 70 years ago. IT *IS* A TIME OF ILLICIT SEX AND VIOLENCE TODAY!

Can't we see the handwriting on the wall?

WHY all this violence — this immorality?

HERE IS THE CAUSE! HUMAN NATURE — WHICH IS VANITY — without any PURPOSE, and absence of parental training and discipline!

There is no sense of PURPOSE today. We are told we must adjust to living in a world of problems *with no solutions!* Nuclear war — the erasure of human life from the earth — appears to be just around the corner — liable to strike us any second.

Young people today are given NOTHING TO LIVE FOR! NO HOPE! NO FUTURE! They are more prosperous than ever before. THEY ARE *BORED!* They are *rebellious*. The spirit of REVOLT is in the air! They resent all AUTHORITY!

Yet VANITY within them seeks to exalt itself!

WHY do aimless, purposeless, bored, yet prosperous teenagers resort to violence? Said an article in *Reader's Digest*: "Boys explode into violence to prove they are grown up. Some, unable to succeed in school . . . seek status through hooliganism."

There it is — "TO SEEK STATUS" — plain VANITY, but minus any constructive or healthy PURPOSE!

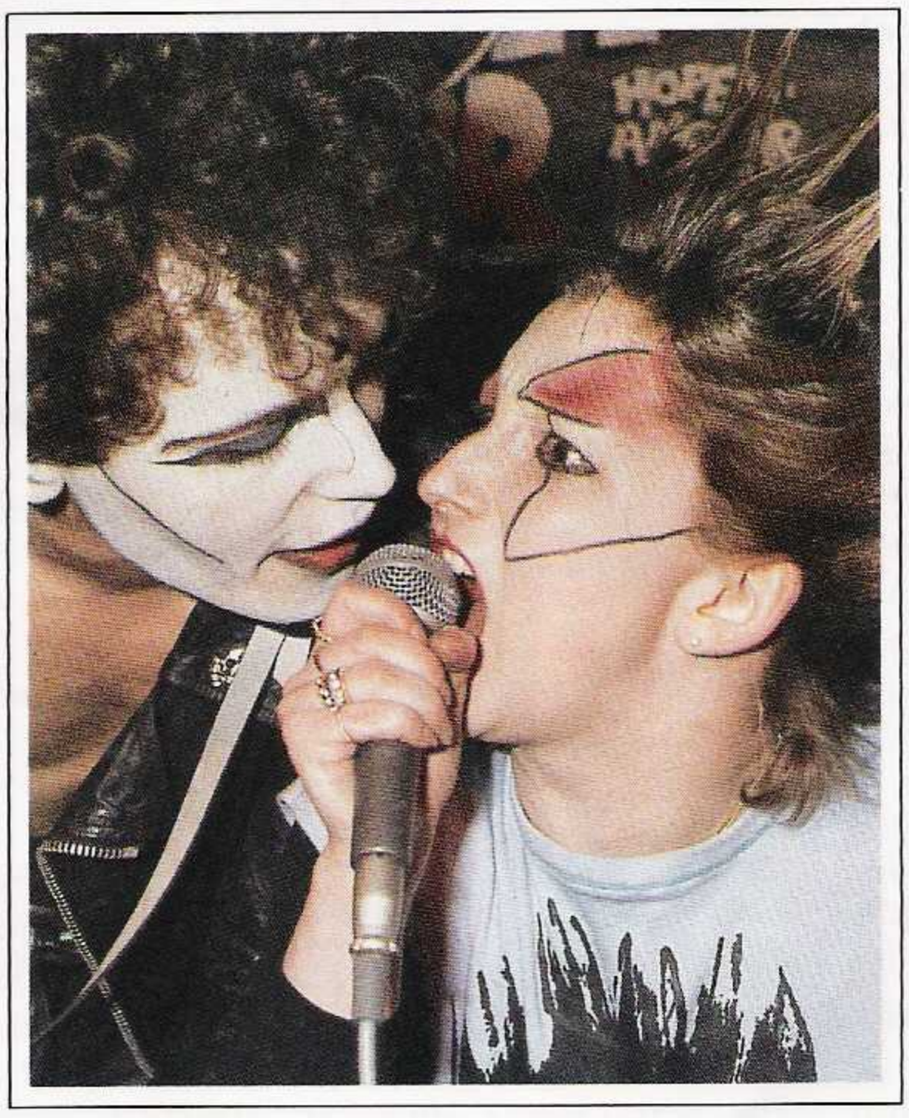
Their parents have FAILED!

One father said of his boy in police trouble: "It isn't *my* fault! Why, I've always given him everything he wanted. I can't understand WHY he did this terrible thing!"

Yes, this father gave him MONEY. But he failed to give him right teaching, training, a PURPOSE in life, proper discipline, instilling in this boy a sense of responsibility and respect for authority! And he probably denied him love and true father-son companionship! Also he failed to teach him the TRUTH about SEX!

Teenagers need factual instruction

It is not exactly a paradox that millions of teenagers have had considerable sex *experience*, and yet possess little sexual *knowledge*. It is largely *because* of ignorance — or lack of right instruction in the right manner at the right time — that adolescents seek to satisfy curiosity by *experience*. And, of course, they are "sheep," and when it becomes a trend — when "it's being done" — human nature wants "to belong." So they go with the crowd — and parents know nothing of it.



Human nature expresses itself in the desire to go along with the group. (Photo by Peter Marlow — Sygma)

Even when growing children and adolescents do receive some formal sex education, it is always presented from the physical, the material and, therefore, the sensual approach.

If teenagers had been *properly* taught what they *needed* to know about sex, from the very first and second years of their lives, by informed and loving parents, the frightful tragedies of teenage and premarital sex would have been reduced to the barest minimum.

Today, if you tell the average teenager that "necking" is WRONG — that it ought *never* to be indulged in — that it is a definite SIN — that it robs his or her future marriage of much of its possible joys, delights and blissful happiness — the young man or woman will probably look at you rather pityingly, wondering how you could be so naive!

He would probably *reverse* the truth and exclaim: "Why, *where have you been*, that you don't know the *facts of life* yet? WHY DON'T YOU GROW UP? This is the 20th century!"

Actually, it is the adolescent who is naive, ignorant and untaught in the TRUTH about the *facts of life!*

Going steady

The *basic* cause of today's immorality, of course, is HUMAN NATURE. Human nature is the basic cause of all violence, war, crime — all our troubles in this present evil world!

But, as stated in the beginning of this article, human nature expresses itself in different ways, and adapts itself to changing times.

Human nature is, simply, the subconscious *pull* of a *definite attitude* of mind. It is the attitude that became Satan's. It is the *natural* attitude implanted from infancy by the invisible Satan. It is the attitude of vanity — of *self*-concern — of lust and greed. It is the attitude of hostility to others, and resentment of authority over it.

Of course, the *self*, as explained before, *expands* into the "*empire*ical self" — which includes those with whom individual self is associated, or connected. This may include one's

family, his club, his gang, his church, his country. Patriotism is an example of the "empireical self" expanded to include one's country. But patriotism is expressed in the form of loyalty to country, *as opposed to* OTHER countries. It includes an automatic hostility toward *other* countries — either passive or active. The Bible (Moffatt translation) classifies this as "party-spirit" (Galatians 5:20) and one of the "deeds of the flesh" — as opposed to the "fruit of the Spirit."

The natural tendency to want to *belong* is merely the expression of this phase of human nature. This leads to the desire to want to *go along* — with those one accepts as his peer group, team, gang or whatever. This nature expresses itself in young people by the natural *pull* to want to *go along* with the *teens*, as opposed to their elders. If the teens have a new custom, frowned on by their elders, then *self* associates with the teens, and feels automatic and *natural* (from human nature) hostility and resentment toward the opposing elders.

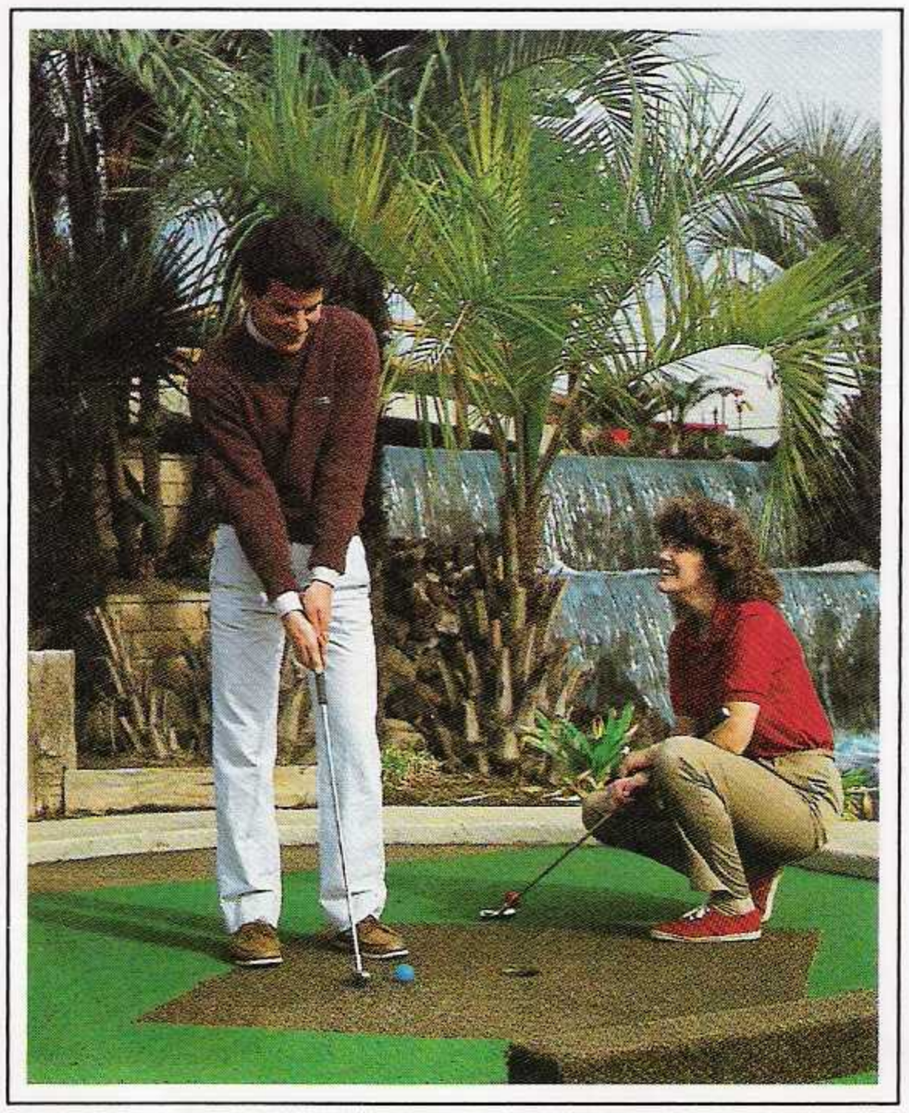
Now what about going steady? This started several years ago as an American custom. The custom spread. It is a new *way* started by those in the middle and late teens. But when 18- and 19-year-olds began going steady, 16- and 17-year-olds desired to emulate (Galatians 5:20) and to *go along*. Then 14- and 15-year-olds responded to the *pull* to *go along*, and today even the 12- and 13-year-olds are beginning to go steady.

This subject has been discussed before in this series. Going steady brings familiarity, and familiarity breeds a certain contempt — in this instance, contempt for chastity, virtue and honor.

This going steady is simply the natural response to the *pull* of human nature. Human nature is essentially lazy. When a boy or girl goes steady he feels assured of dates. The boy is spared the embarrassment of asking new girls for dates, and the possible humiliation of being turned down. The girl feels a sense of security, knowing she will have dates.

The very familiarity of steady dating makes it easier for the boy to make bolder advances in "necking," and then going on further into sexual intercourse. It makes it more difficult for the girl to say NO. It tends to lower bars of resistance, and increases the temptation to carry intimacies to the limit.

The FRUITS of going steady are definitely *not good!*



A well-planned, stimulating date is so much more rewarding! (Photo by Craig Clark)

It is one of the most difficult things in the world to convince someone of the wisdom of doing what he *ought* to do, instead of what he *wants* to do. But yielding to what one *wants* to do is surrendering to human nature. It is traveling the road to sin. And sin is man's greatest enemy, inflicting on him every pain, heartache, suffering and anguish he ever experiences. It inflicts *unwanted* penalties. But, again, it is hard for people to understand *why* they can't put their hands on a red-hot stove and not get burned!

Going steady is not good — *for those who do it!*

Now what about "necking"?

Is "NECKING" wrong?

To even ask the question, "Is 'necking' wrong?" would sound rather silly to the average adolescent today.

WHY?

Because of *ignorance!* Because of wrong teaching, and a lack of *right teaching!* Because there are some of the *facts of life* they have not yet learned!

Is the Bible an out-of-date book? If it is, how does it happen that it so accurately foretells *today's* WORLD NEWS — so understandingly pinpoints human nature?

It says, "The carnal mind is *hostile* toward God." And that is certainly true. Where God says, "Remember," everyone immediately *forgets!* When Jesus said, *"Think not* I am come to destroy the law," everyone proceeded to think He DID destroy it! If God, in the Bible, said, "OBSERVE CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S AND EASTER," *then nobody would!*

GOD CREATED HUMANKIND *male and female.* GOD blessed humans with the wonderful God-plane marriage and family relationship. GOD designed sex, to bring indescribable delights and joys with His blessing, IN MARRIAGE! In His great wisdom, GOD created men so that sex arousal and desire often takes place more rapidly than in their wives — and He designed women so that they are not physically or mentally *prepared* for actual coitus *until* arousal is brought about *by the love embrace — by caressing — by the love-talk and endearing words of the husband!* In other words, by "necking" and "petting."

There was vital PURPOSE in this!

Had God made women to be aroused by the same means and

the same quickness as their husbands, sexual intercourse in marriage *would seldom* — if ever — *be that supreme expression of* LOVE that God intended — in order to BIND and HOLD TOGETHER the marriage and the home and family! Marriage would be robbed of its blessings — of its supreme joys!

But when boys and girls engage in premarital lovemaking, called "necking," "petting" and even "heavy petting," it is NOT the love that binds more firmly that which GOD has bound for life.

It is mere sensual gratification. It is LUST, no matter what you wish to call it! IT CHEAPENS, TARNISHES, CORRODES the entire, wonderful experience God intended as a repeated lifelong experience IN MARRIAGE! And it detracts from, and robs the participants of the *full* happiness they might have had in a future marriage!

This lovemaking — this "necking" or "petting" — this caressing — is all a PART OF, *and actually the most important part of,* SEXUAL INTERCOURSE IN MARRIAGE!

A capital sin!

Therefore, when indulged in *prior* to marriage — or outside of marriage — *IT IS A CAPITAL SIN!*

Teenage CUSTOM does not determine what is SIN!

College-campus practices do not define right and wrong!

Acceptance by society does not decide what is SIN!

GOD ALMIGHTY HAS ALREADY DETERMINED WHAT IS SIN!

God does not allow humans to decide WHAT is sin — but He forces us to decide *WHETHER* to sin! He has called me to lift up my voice and show people WHAT is sin. That is what I am doing here. I did not devise that LAW, or set it in dynamic, *living*, if invisible MOTION — *GOD DID!*

How can you *prevent* the tragedy of a premarital pregnancy? How can you *prevent* the disgrace and terrible predicament of venereal disease? By knowing when to stop? NO! By simply not starting the "necking" in the first place!

If it were GOOD FOR young people, God would have instructed them to engage in it. But SIN is not good for people — SIN *HARMS* PEOPLE!

In an earlier article we described how people are drawn into sin. It is explained in James 1:14-15: "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth SIN: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth DEATH."

The temptation is not a SIN. Sin is when the MIND harbors the temptation — retains it — keeps *thinking* of it — keeps desiring it, UNTIL the desire conceives into the ACTION of SIN. How does one avoid sin? By NOT RETAINING THE DESIRE! By pushing it out of mind *immediately!*

But to *start* in the action of sin, and think you can "draw the line" — that you know "when to stop" is to COMMIT SIN!

The time to PREVENT SIN is before it starts!

This world's society and its customs are based on human nature — which is to say, on SATAN'S ways — and are diametrically CONTRARY to God's ways!

Go along with the crowd, and you are stumbling along with the other dumb sheep TO THE SLAUGHTER! Why be one of the CROWD? Why not stand out from the crowd of ignoramuses and weaklings, as one who has knowledge, wisdom and CHARACTER! Any old dead fish can float downstream but it takes a *live* one to swim *against* the current!

This is not prudish talk. It is not old-fashioned talk. It is intelligent, rational UNDERSTANDING, based on the instruction of the Creator!

What a shame that the adolescents of today were not taught properly by their parents from babyhood!

It is THE GOD-REQUIRED *DUTY* of every parent — a responsibility for which parents will be held accountable IN THE JUDGMENT — to *properly* teach and inform their children of the FACTS of sex.

This teaching ought to begin while children are still small.

Dating, a lost art?

Has dating become a lost art? It would certainly seem so. Certainly there is no art to the manner of dating today.

It seems young people no longer know what to do with themselves on dates. Perhaps most dates today are spent either in a car, parked by the roadside in a dark and secluded spot, where the time is spent in "necking," or in sexual intercourse, or else in a darkened motion-picture theater letting their minds drift with a ready-made daydream.

Dating is no longer stimulating mentally, upbuilding socially and intellectually beneficial. It tends not to build but to destroy character. Some dating, of course, is spent at various kinds of dances. Some of these may be invigorating physically and at least somewhat mentally. Some are downgrading and morally and mentally harmful — depending on environment and character and quality of participants.

In my dating days, I had a "system." I was unconverted, and the motive undoubtedly, in part at least, was vanity. But I did try to date only top-level girls. Of course we sometimes went to the theater, occasionally to the motion pictures (it was during the "silent" days), occasionally to a dance — but never to a public dance. Public dances, then, were not in good repute.

But usually our date involved a walk, a scintillating and enlightening conversation, and possibly a soda or sundae at an ice cream parlor. I devoted considerable time in public libraries, in the philosophical or travel or biography departments, acquiring knowledge for interesting conversation.

On a first date I analyzed and sized up the girl. I didn't know how a fellow "fell in love," but I supposed it might happen unexpectedly in some mysterious way.

(Continued on page 28)

I Dare You!

(Continued from page 29)

more time with your parents, maybe writing them a thank-you note for nice things they have done for you.

What about school? How about that special report you've been putting off? Make it your goal to finish it. Life goals? How about seeing your career counselor this week?

Of course, goals are of no use unless you act on them. So act! Don't be too rough on yourself. You can't suddenly make brown eyes blue or become a genius overnight! But you can develop a more positive attitude toward your goals. Keep trying. Review your progress regularly. Remember: God will help you, so don't forget to ask Him.

The first two letters of the word *goal* spell *go*. Go right now and write down some things you want to accomplish, and when you have achieved a goal or two, write and tell us about it. We will be interested, because it will mean growth in some area in your life. You'll be building character.

I dare you! Don't spend the rest of your life going around in circles. □

READER BY-LINE

'Why Me?'

By Shari Styer

Why me, God? I thought to myself as the doctor explained what I would not be able to do.

I had torn a muscle in my leg and it would take a month or more to heal up completely. In the meantime I knew I couldn't participate in my favorite activities — cheerleading, skating, tennis and track. I would have to get treatments for my leg.

Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

Why didn't God prevent this from happening to me? I sulked.

The second week I had been taking the physical therapy treatments, I met a cute boy in the waiting room who was about my own age. He had been in a car accident and had suffered the loss of both his legs.

He spoke to me about his accident in a friendly, positive tone. He told me of all the adjustments he had made, including leaving his old school to go to a special school for the handicapped. He had to make new friends and accept how to deal with his handicap at the school.

He spoke to me with a serious note in his voice as he said, "I just thank God every day I'm still alive to enjoy the rest of my life."

After he left, I looked at my leg. It had been getting better the past few days.

I suddenly felt ashamed of myself. I now realized what I should have learned from my leg injury — an important lesson about being thankful for what I have. I learned that lesson without a doubt. □

Editor's note: Shari Styer is from Burns, Tenn., and is 16 years old. If you would like to submit an article for the "Reader By-Line" section, send it to: "Reader By-Line," Youth 84, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91129.

DATING

(Continued from page 27)

And I didn't want it to happen to me in the case of an unqualified girl. If my first-date appraisal of the girl indicated definitely that, should I "fall" for her, she would be unsuitable as a wife and the mother of my children, there was never a second date.

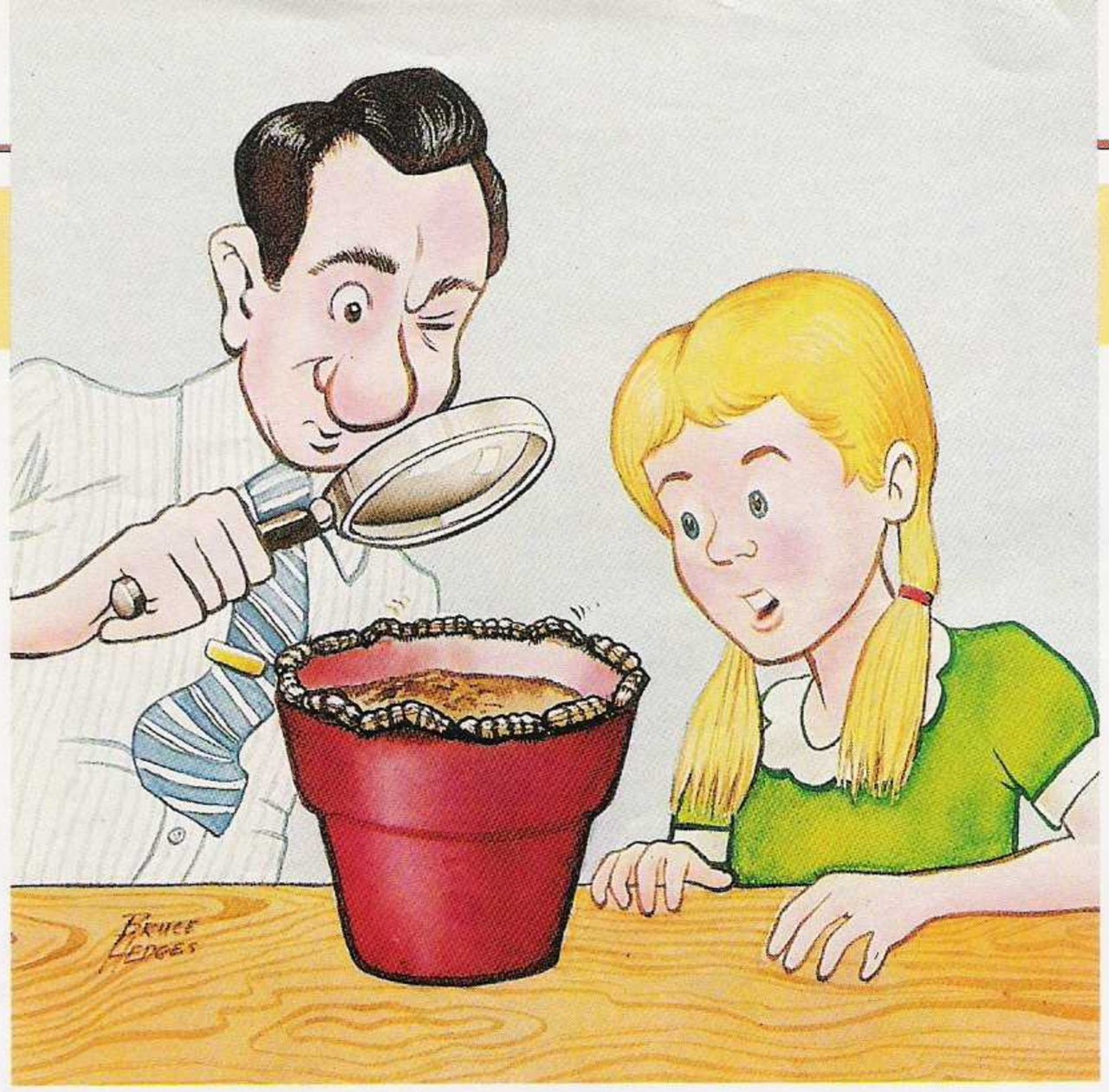
I was taking no chances on "falling" overboard with the wrong girl to the point I might be so blinded by love I would be unable to see it!

I remember one girl, pretty, attractive, good conversationalist. She got a second date. But then I discovered she was lazy, would not help her mother with dishes, making beds and housework. I never dated her again.

I dated two or three girls, frequently but not regularly or like going steady in any sense, who had absolutely *no* "sex appeal" for me whatsoever. There would have been no temptation to "neck" as teens call it today. Of one I said I would as soon have my arms around a cold iron lamp post. Yet I dated her on occasion because she was an unusually fine girl whom I respected highly and an interesting conversationalist.

Dating can and *ought to be* made a real art. Some thinking and planning ought to go into the preparation for a date. A date should be an event that adds to the mental, social, moral and spiritual character development of both boy and girl. Such a date is *so* much more rewarding, and leaves a far more palatable feeling afterward. In today's warped and perverted thinking I suppose that suggestion seems very old-fashioned and naive. But for those who have a little sense and understanding, it would be wise to heed it. □

The material printed in this series, and much more, is available in Herbert W. Armstrong's book, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. Call or write for your free copy.



I Dare You!

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Have you ever heard of processionary caterpillars? These little creatures move through the trees in long, trainlike processions. One leads and the others follow, each with its sad eyes half closed and its head snugly fitted against the rear extremity of the caterpillar in front of it.

They're quite a sight to see!

French naturalist Jean Henri Fabre, after hours of patiently experimenting with a line of processionary caterpillars, finally enticed them onto the rim of a large flowerpot. He got the first caterpillar in the line to follow the last one, thus forming a complete circle.

Mr. Fabre expected them to soon catch on to the trick, get tired of their useless marching and veer off in some new direction.

Not so! Through sheer force of habit, the living, crawling circle kept moving around the edge of the pot. Around and around, those caterpillars kept the same merciless pace for a full week, day and night.

They would no doubt have continued longer, had it not been for sheer exhaustion and final starvation. There was ample food close at hand and plainly visible, but outside the range of the circle, and the caterpillars refused to abandon the well-beaten path.

These little fellows were doing their thing, loyally but blindly following instinct and habit, right to the end.

The caterpillars' mistake? They mistook *activity* for *accomplishment*. They surely meant well, but got no place.

By the way: Do you have a goal? What kinds of goals do you have?

We all need goals. Ask yourself: Why is it that some people seem to get more done than others? Don't we all have the same amount of time?

The difference often is that successful people have set long- and short-term goals.

A person without goals can only look back on a lifetime of mundane activities: 20 years sleeping, five years dressing and grooming, three years waiting on others, one year on the telephone, four months tying his or her shoes and six years watching television.

Get the picture? Without goals, the routines of life become the ruts of life! As Proverbs 16:9 says, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps" (New International Version).

Ready for a dare? I dare you to make a list of goals. Then plan, between you and God, how to accomplish them.

First, decide what you are going to do. Second, decide what you're not going to do. Sound simple?

What do you really want most to do? Let's be practical: Next week is a definable chunk of your life, so think about what to do next week to move yourself toward your overall life goals.

Your top priorities should probably lie in three areas: God and family, school and your future. So make a list of goals — at least five things you want to achieve — in each of these areas. Be specific and realistic. Seek advice from your parents, teachers and, most important, God. Be flexible, framing your goals to avoid unnecessary conflict with the goals of family and friends.

You might decide to spend

(Continued on page 28)

Illustration by Bruce Hedges

BY THE WAY...

YOUTH ON CAMERA

Photographer — Betsy Docken
Age 18
Pasadena, Calif.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pasadena, Calif.
Permit No. 703

790402-1362-2 42 Y044

MIKE ROTH
RT. 1 BOX 259
NEOSHO WI 53059

3DG