

JUNE/JULY

Youth 82

Make Some
Waves!



**Why God Is Not Real
to Most People**
By Herbert W. Armstrong

Youth 82

June-July

VOL. II, NO. 6

Contents:

Why God Is Not Real to Most People	1
Alcohol — Here's What You Should Know	3
A Touch of Class	5
"Can Grandpa Come Out and Play?"	6
Where Did God Come From?	7
The Longest Mile	8
Hang in There!	9
Make Some Waves	10
What's It Like to Be a Teen in Chiang Khong, Thailand?	12
News & Reviews	14
Teen Bible Study: How to Guarantee Job Success	17
I Was a Teenage Numismatist	19
By the Way . . . "Wise Up!"	21
Youth on Camera	Back Cover

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COVER: "Make Some Waves," an article about waterskiing, is part of our section on summertime challenges and adventures starting on page 8. Photo by Roland Rees.

Letters

"The Story of Princess Diana"

The story done on Princess Diana in the February issue was especially meaningful to me. Diana's happy, successful story has made me realize all the wonderful blessings and rewards that come from having true values, morals and goals. Whether she knew it or not, Diana lived most of her life according to God's principles, and they . . . work!

Anne Barenbruegge
Palm Bay, Fla.

"Best Age for Marriage?"

I really liked March's issue [especially] "What Is the Best Age for Marriage?" It made a lot of sense.

I'm 18 years old and this is my last year in high school. For the last three years I've seen a lot of teens get married because they thought they were in love or . . . the girl was pregnant. I have also seen a few of those marriages break down within a few months.

Some day I hope to get married and have children. But I would make sure I was old enough to take responsibilities and was totally ready.

Lucinda Hurlburt
Hugo, Okla.

"Oh, Well, Nobody's Perfect"

Thanks so much for the article, "Oh, Well, Nobody's Perfect," in the *Youth 82* February edition. Thanks to the article I have stopped biting my nails, hopefully for good. Now I can refer back to this article every time I get the notion to bite my nails.

Lana Deforge
Fort Payne, Ala.

Didn't like "Valentine's" article

I didn't like the article, "Valentine's Day: Where Did It Come From?" in the *Youth 82* February edition.

Valentine's Day makes people happy. Happy because of "outdated pagan sex-and hero-worship?" No! Happy because someone thought enough of them (and tradition) to take Feb. 14 as a day of special kindness and love. Isn't that what the world needs anyway, more LOVE?

Dawn Wright
Miami, Fla.

The world certainly does need more love, Dawn. But, it's sad indeed when humans have to invent "a day of special kindness and love." Man has turned to the ancient Romans for a flimsy substitute to God's joyous holy times revealed in the Bible.

Why God Is Not Real to Most People

Millions of adults say they believe in God — but WHY does He seem so FAR OFF to them? They have heard ABOUT God, but do not KNOW God. This article tells you HOW you CAN!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Are you like the college graduate who said to me, “Oh, I believe in God all right, but it seems like He is *so far off* — SO UNREAL”?

WHY did he feel that way? WHY should God seem UNREAL — like an almost invisible filmy wisp — or a phantom — or something shapeless and ethereal?

Born without knowledge

The instant you were born you knew nothing about God. You knew *nothing* — *period!* You were born with a mind capable of receiving, but as yet unfilled with knowledge.

Whatever you may know — or *think* you know — about God, has come into your mind since birth.

How did knowledge *begin* coming into your mind? There are only five channels through which knowledge may come, naturally, into the human mind — the channels of sight, sound, taste, smell, feel.

But also there are three dimensions of knowledge or consciousness: the *around*, the *within* and the ABOVE. Yet the natural mind

of a mortal human comprehends only the first two. Babies grow into childhood with awareness of only the *around* and the *within*.

But as a child, through the sense of hearing, you probably were *told* something about God. But understandable knowledge of God comes from the third dimension — the ABOVE. And the ABOVE is spiritual. God is a Spirit. Spiritual things cannot be *seen*, nor heard, nor felt, nor tasted, nor smelt. Understanding of spiritual things simply cannot enter the human mind through the five sensual channels.

Therefore, it is probable that the adults trying to tell you about God did not have true perception and understanding. And it is natural that whatever knowledge about God entered your mind — through the ear, or the eye — was vague, misty, UNREAL.

You couldn't *hear* God. You had no actual conscious *contact* with Him. You probably formed some *imaginary* picture in your mind of what you *supposed* He must be like — based on what might have been told you, or what you may have read. But you didn't SEE or HEAR *Him* — you read or heard only something ABOUT Him! And the picture was unclear, clouded, out of focus,

ethereal. Is it any wonder He did not seem REAL — that He seemed so far off?

So what is usually told to a growing child *about* God usually is a very distorted picture, indeed!

Still, hearing *about* a person is not really *knowing* the *person!*

Getting to *KNOW* God is quite different from HEARING about Him.

So, what does the average adult know about God? They all started out, from youngest childhood, knowing whatever they had *heard* or been told, by parents or others.

Perhaps some children were told NOTHING about God at all as they were growing from babyhood toward adolescence and into early adulthood. But most probably they have been *told* more or less *about* God before they actually *read* anything about Him IN THE BIBLE. Also they very probably had read what others had written about Him before reading anything in the Bible for themselves.

So what did they know? They knew only what had been told or communicated to them by those AROUND them. They knew only what they, in turn, had gathered from still *other* misinformed and

deceived *people*. Not from the ABOVE — but from the AROUND! Not from God Himself, but from the AROUND. And your Bible says the *other people* constitute a deceived world!

And when such a person, approaching or reaching early adulthood, does read the Bible, his concept of God has been so firmly implanted in his mind by *other people*, he continues picturing God in the same way.

He probably is just as I was for many, many years: I did read the Bible at times — but I then said: “I just can’t understand the Bible.”

Well, *NO WONDER*, then, that many who profess to “believe in God” say God seems unreal to them!

They are like Job. Job’s source of knowledge, before his personal confrontation with God, had been from the *around* — he had heard *about* God by the hearing of the ear, *from other people*. God did not seem real to him until he gained *PERSONAL CONTACT* — until he got to really *KNOW GOD!*

There is a way in which YOU can establish *actual direct personal contact* with God — if you have not done so already. Then He will become *REAL!*

The person of God revealed

I can tell you that *I* know God — and that I also know the living Jesus Christ — for I represent Him as His servant. I read about Him — not as other people *MIS-describe* Him — but as He describes Himself in His *BIBLE!*

But, I said a while ago that more than 55 years ago I “just couldn’t understand the Bible.” *NO ONE CAN, really*, until they have gained contact with God (the Father) through Jesus Christ, and have received His Holy Spirit, begetting them as His begotten children.

That requires the same kind of *REPENTANCE* Job was put through — a genuine abhorring of the self, an unconditional *SURRENDER* to *OBEY* Him and His

Law, and a real faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior. When I was brought to that kind of repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus Christ, in early 1927, and was baptized, He gave me the most precious *GIFT* in all the universe — His Holy Spirit.

His Spirit *opened my mind to SPIRITUAL COMPREHENSION*. I could *UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE* — a bit at a time, of course. In it, the living Christ began talking to me. I began to talk to Him — often, daily, in a sense constantly, in spirit. When I studied the Bible,

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it was like listening to the most wonderful Friend I had ever known! It was *WONDERFUL!* It was *INTERESTING* — *INSPIRING* — *REVEALING!* So I studied the Bible often *on my knees*.

You see, as I *read* the Bible, God was talking to *me*. But as I prayed, I was talking to *HIM!* And by studying His Word *on my knees*, I was able to carry on a two-way conversation with Him — mixing prayer with listening to Him through reading His words. It was invigorating, rejuvenating beyond words to describe. He was *TEACHING ME*. I was gaining new *KNOWLEDGE* — spiritual knowledge — knowledge to *LIVE BY* — knowledge to put into action — instruction to be *acted on* — commands to *OBEY* by *doing!*

As He told me about Himself

— as He talked to me, instructed me — as I talked to Him — *I got to know Him!* He *BECAME REAL!*

He was no longer *WAY OFF!* He was very *NEAR* — in Spirit, in the very same room. I have never seen God or Jesus Christ *PHYSICALLY* — with my physical eye — but I “see” in my “mind’s eye” eyes flashing out like a flame of fire — His face shining as brightly as the sun in full strength — His head and hair white as the cleanest, whitest snow. And all around where He is sitting is gleaming, glistening beautiful *SPLENDOR* and brightness, with lightning flashing forth. Perhaps I don’t “see” this as distinctly as I expect to after I enter His Kingdom as an inheritor, *BORN* of His Spirit in *SPIRIT COMPOSITION* — no longer a mortal human composed of flesh and blood.

It is, of course, as the apostle Paul was inspired to say: We see at best now, as through a darkened glass, but then, in the resurrection, in His Kingdom, face to face (I Corinthians 13:12).

WHY is God “so far off — so unreal”? It is because people are so *far off* from *HIM* — so *close to* the physical, material things and interests of this evil world! Because their minds are on physical pursuits all the time. Because *they have no time for God!*

You get to *KNOW* those you are *close to* — in *constant contact with* — in conversation with!

But, with most, *their sins* have *CUT THEM OFF* from contact with God. Is it, then, impossible for them to *GAIN CONTACT?*

Not at all! But *IT IS NOT EASY!*

WHY? Because you have to *REPENT* — and that is *NOT EASY*. To just say the words “I abhor myself,” does not mean you really *do*. To really *CONFESS* that you have been *WRONG* — that you are *NOT GOOD* — that there is nothing good *IN YOU* — that you not only have *DONE* wrong and

(Continued on page 20)

By Michael Snyder

Is alcohol good or bad? You've probably heard a lot of conflicting things about alcohol. Messages about the substance, some pro, some con, are continually pumped at us through the media, from friends and from our parents.

Perhaps you've heard it condemned, but you've also seen advertisements that sing its praises as one of the greatest pleasures in life.

On the movie screen you've seen the strong, silent hero down glass after glass of whiskey to drown his sorrow. You've probably also seen drunks portrayed as happy-go-lucky, comical characters.

Then there are the elegant toasts, the skid row winos, the intimate drinks with arms intertwined, the horrendous car wrecks caused by drunk drivers.

How does all this conflicting information affect you? You need to understand how alcohol relates to your life. Consider these examples.

It's now the end of the school term. You're borderline for a better grade-point average, and your parents are pressuring you to make the grade. You're so tense, you can't sleep, much less study.

Perhaps you sneak a fifth of vodka out of your dad's bar and mix it with orange juice. When your parents comment on how much orange juice you're drinking, you assure them that you need the "energy" to study.

When you wake up Sunday afternoon you have a terrible headache. You can't remember what happened, or how you got the headache. The family atmosphere is subdued, your parents evading your presence. Whatever you did, it obviously wasn't something to brag about.

Ever experience any of the above? Or, do you often find yourself thinking about drinking, whether socially or alone? Are you feeling a little annoyed by this article?

If so, the warning flags are out

ALCOHOL

Here's What You Should Know

that you may be developing a serious drinking problem. Or, if you don't have the problem, statistics reveal that the chances are good that you know someone close to you who is experiencing problems with alcoholic beverages.

How, then, can you cope?

Emotions, alcohol and you

First, bear in mind a few things about your life. Haven't you marveled at how frustrating things can get occasionally? Sometimes you probably feel

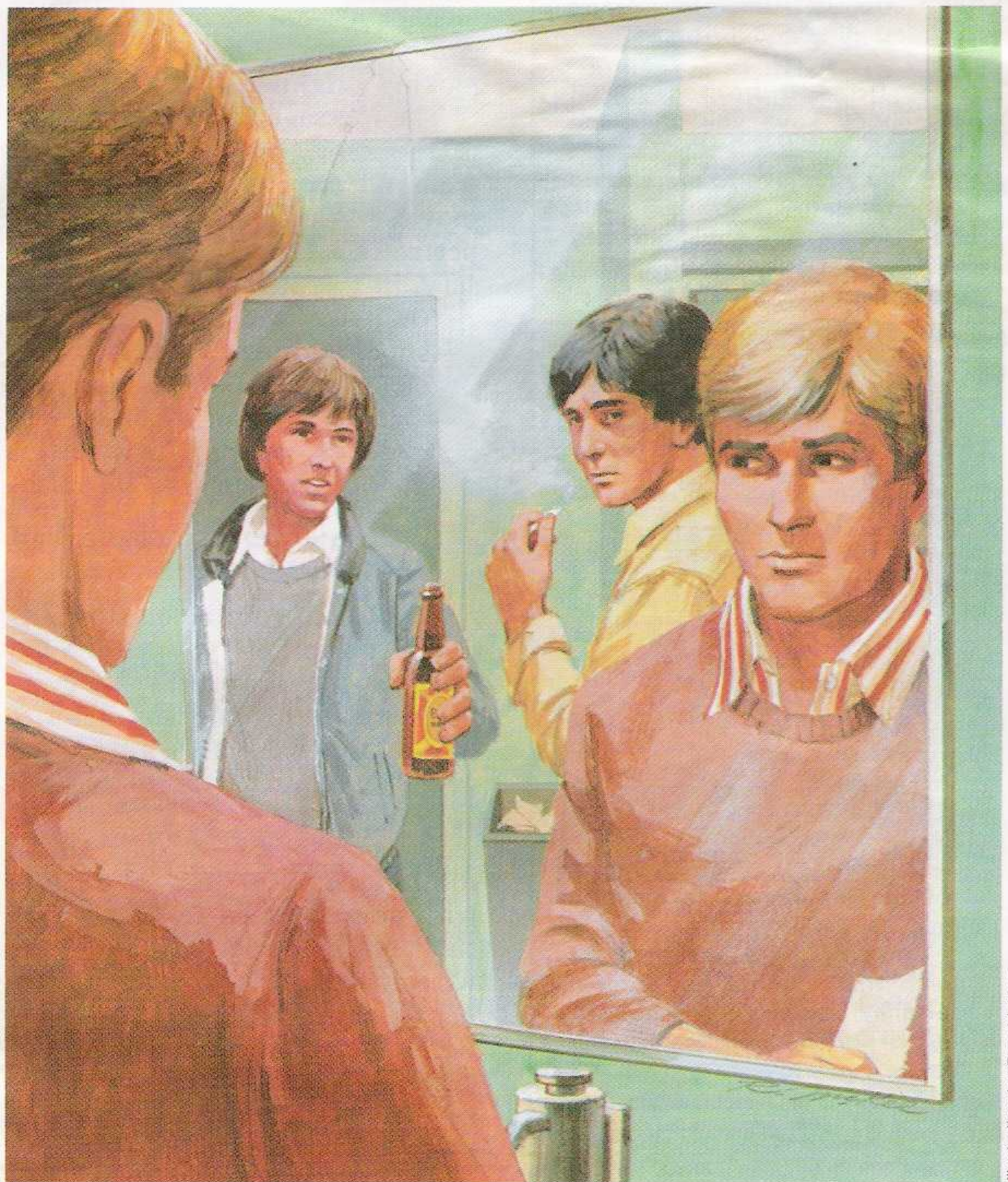


Illustration by Ron McKee

deeply hurt; sometimes ecstatically happy; sometimes painfully uncertain.

Everyone feels these ways at different times, including your parents, your friends, your teachers. No one is immune.

How you deal with these negative (and positive) emotions is what's important. Right now you're in transition. Physically, mentally and emotionally, you're changing.

And sometimes, it hurts.

Answer the following questions either yes or no:

1. Do you miss days or class periods at school because of drinking?
2. Do you drink to overcome shyness and/or build up self-confidence?
3. Is drinking affecting your reputation at school or elsewhere?
4. Do you drink to escape from studies and/or home worries?
5. Does it bother you if somebody says you drink too much?
6. Do you have to drink to go out on a date?
7. Do you ever get into money problems because of buying alcoholic beverages?
8. Have you lost any friends since you started drinking?
9. Are you associating with a crowd of heavy drinkers?
10. Do your old friends drink less than you do?
11. Do you drink until the bottle is empty?
12. Have you ever had a loss of memory from drinking?
13. Have you ever been stopped by the police, arrested, or put into a hospital or jail for drunk driving?
14. Do you get annoyed with classes, lectures or articles on drinking?
15. Do you think you have a problem with drinking?

One yes answer is a warning.

Three or more yes answers mean that alcohol has almost certainly become (or is becoming) a serious problem in your life.

Source: Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md.) test adapted by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., New York, N.Y.

What happens when you get rejected for a date? As you know, rejection brings heavy emotion. Feelings of worthlessness and rejection are among the most painful psychological wounds you will ever suffer.

But how do you react? Automatically, you yearn for psychological anesthesia.

Maybe you decide to take a walk to mull things over. You see a few of your friends and go over for a chat.

Your friends are passing around a cheap, "soda-pop" wine loosely wrapped in a brown paper bag. They pass it to you.

Not willing to suffer any more harassment, you take a couple of hard pulls on the bottle, downing about a cup and a half of the red, sweet-tasting liquid.

Within a minute or so, you find yourself feeling better. Your empty stomach is passing the alcohol to your bloodstream, and consequently, things seem to be looking brighter all the time.

The message from your friends is the same one you often get from advertising, television and movies: Alcoholic anesthesia is perfectly acceptable, if not necessary, in this life.

And, thus can begin a pattern that does nothing to alleviate your problems, but only hides them for awhile. This pattern can lead to dependence, not only psychologically, but physically, on alcohol.

Get help

If you find your alcohol experiences (whether your personal involvement or others affecting you) are intolerable and painful, get help now. Don't wait for the police or government to force it on you.

A good place to start in an intolerable situation is to talk with your parents, work out with them a way to cope with problems without resorting to alcohol. Perhaps you aren't sure your parents will understand. Sound them out carefully — you'll probably be surprised that they care much more than you thought they did. With your parents as your close

allies, you'll find it much easier to overcome this crisis.

But if circumstances prevent this, seek counsel from other qualified people such as your school's academic counselor.

Remember that to completely resolve a problem, you must treat the cause, and not just the effect. Alcoholism and alcohol abuse are the effects — the end results — of unresolved anxiety and/or depression, negative home factors (poor parental example, divorce, physical abuse), personality defects, physical sensitivity to alcohol and other causes.

There are constructive ways to handle the stresses and problems that lead many people to turn to drink. An article in the May issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine, "Coping With Stress — Without Alcohol or Drugs," suggests the following methods of handling life's pressures:

- Relax through exercise (like jogging), a change of pace (such as your favorite hobby), get your mind off whatever is causing the stress for a while.
- Be realistic about the problems, don't exaggerate them by forgetting everything else.
- Look long-range at the rewards of achieving your goals.
- Do first things first so you don't have to worry about them.
- Develop a constant, positive attitude.

When you're trying to change, you have to select the company that will not lead you back into possible problems: "Do not join those who drink too much wine" (Proverbs 23:20, New International Version).

If you (or people in your immediate family) are having problems, exercise wisdom by avoiding alcohol. Resolve the problems at their roots. Often this requires outside help.

Alcohol itself is neither good nor bad — it's the use or abuse that makes the difference.

Abused and used constantly as medication, alcohol can cripple and maim — often permanently. The choice is yours — where do you stand? □

Tommy had an anxious feeling as he looked at some of the other entries in the woodworking category.

He'd set the goal of winning a blue ribbon at the state fair nearly a year ago and now it all came down to a few minutes of judging.

Tommy was impressed by the evident skill and hard work put into some of the other projects, but he knew deep inside that he had worked harder and more meticulously on his desk than any of them had on their projects.

He had known he would be competing with the best, so he had taken the time — more than 200 hours — and the effort to produce a prize-winning desk. He wanted his project to have something extra — a touch of class.

From the beginning Tommy knew everything had to be the best. So he began by drawing up exact plans for his prize-winning desk. This took originality, much time and a lot of advice from his woodworking instructor. The next step was to select the best materials he could find and to go through the delicate process of cutting the lumber to precise dimensions.

Then he had to plane the pieces to perfection and glue them together — making sure all parts fitted perfectly. Next came hours of sanding and lacquering. He used 15 coats of lacquer, finely sanding each application, to bring out the rich, deep texture of the wood. A final coat of polish and at last — a gleaming masterpiece! Surely the judges would notice the special care he had taken.

Tommy need not have worried. On close inspection both the judges and the general public had no trouble noticing that obvious touch of class. The judges were so impressed that they awarded him top honors — first place and a blue ribbon! He had achieved his goal!

Why is it that in most contests

A Touch of Class

one or two entries always stand out above the others?

What is the extraordinary quality — the plus factor — that sets them apart from all the rest? It's a touch of class.

What this means is that the individual has gone to great lengths to perfect his work of art. He (or she) has given careful attention to every tiny detail, and has taken painstaking efforts to insure that his workmanship has met the highest standards of excellence.

While other participants may have produced a commendable or above average job, this is not good enough for the true artist or craftsman. Only the very best will do and he will not rest until he has pushed his skills and abilities to the limit.

In order to be a true winner in life, you must set high goals, drive yourself and persevere to the bitter end. You must desire to reach your goal with such intensity that in your mind it becomes a vivid reality. You must allow nothing — boredom, laziness, diminishing interest, discouragement or momentary failure — to stand in the way or thwart your purpose.

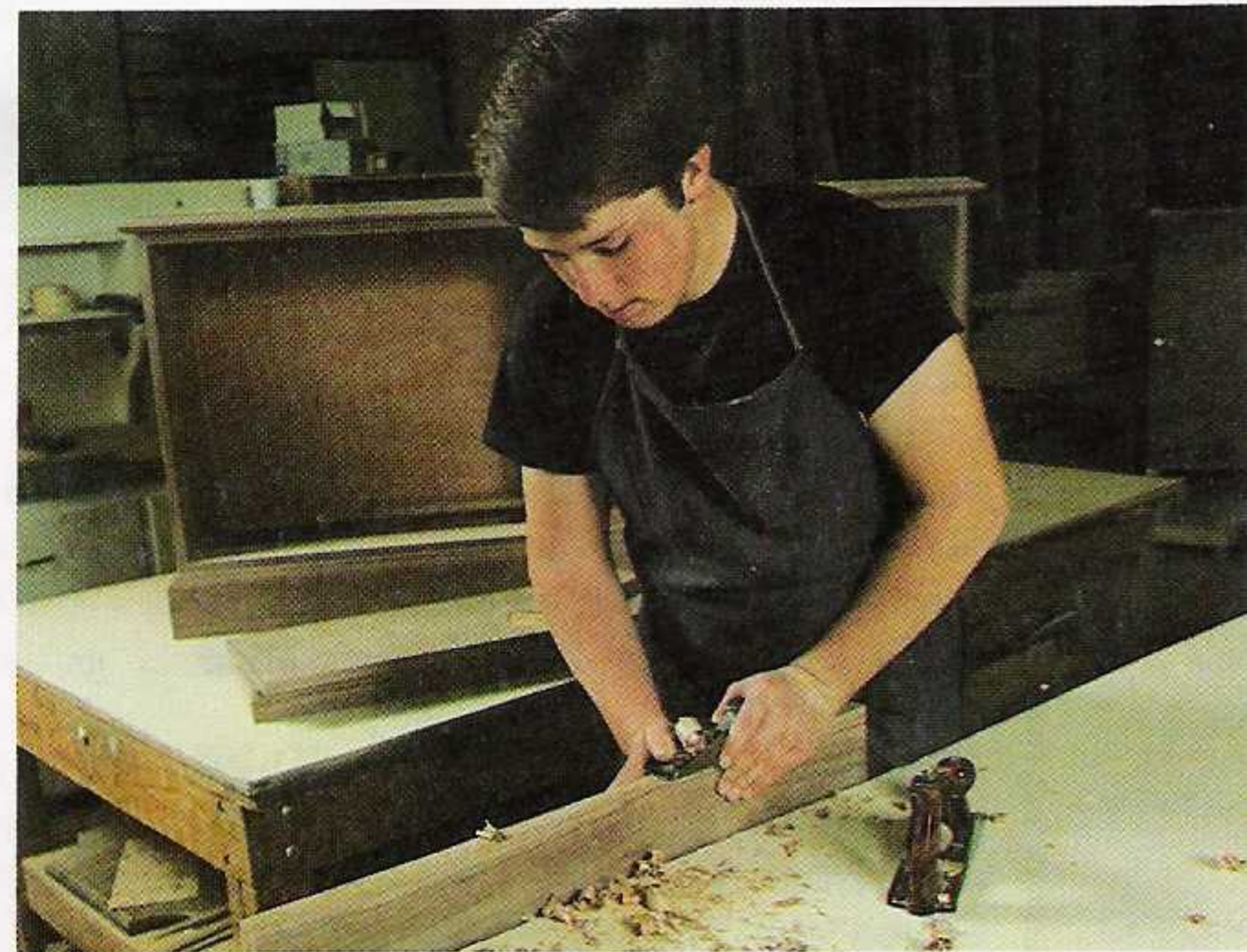
Did you know that the eternal God added a touch of class to everything He created? Notice Genesis 1:31: "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." This means that every single thing that God created was

physically perfect — was a true masterpiece in every sense of the word.

And this is a lesson He wants you to apply to all of your efforts as a basic principle of life.

Of course, you must use balance, moderation and common sense. Some of your ambitions may be premature, financially unfeasible or beyond your ability to achieve. Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong has stated time after time that the first law of success is to set the right goals.

So choose your goals wisely, talk them over with your parents



— even dare to aim high and think big. And once you've made your decision, forge ahead with a fierce and positive determination to succeed.

Be enthusiastic, work hard. Above all, don't forget to add that touch of class! □

'Can Grandpa Come Out and Play?'

By the teenage years, "playing with Grandpa" and other contact with older people is often left behind. Are you missing out?

By Jackie Meeker

What do you think of when you hear the word *elderly*? The dictionary states "somewhat old, past middle age, approaching old age."

Is that the connotation the word brought to your mind? Probably not. If you are anything like I was, that word brought to mind someone you may not be too crazy about being around.

But recently I changed my mind. When we moved to a church area that has quite a few old people in its congregation, I thought: Great! That's all I need — older people and very few teens. What a bummer!

Our church has a "60+" Club consisting of members more than 60 years of age. In its membership of about 50 people, 14 are more than 80 and three are more than 90!

So I sat around for a while feeling sorry for myself and doing nothing. Finally my mother talked me into going to a 60+ meeting (they are great cooks!) and to my surprise, those "old" people were sort of — well — interesting! And they were really vibrant and full of life, and liked many of the same things I did. This really shocked me!

One spry gentleman I met has



a mischievous twinkle in his eye and many tales to tell. He always walks to the store and makes beautiful violins and trinkets — all at the young age of 93!

You may be wondering how to go about meeting older people — just how to act and what to say. Well here are some tips that might be helpful:

1. Jump the communication gap. A lot of people are lonely and would love to have someone to talk with.

2. Don't worry about their age. Believe it or not, old age is not a disease. It's going to happen to everyone.

3. Talk to them about their past. They have interesting things

to say and they are our link with history. I have heard stories about coming across the United States in covered wagons by people who actually rode in them.

4. Don't judge a book by its cover. Just because the body is a little worn out doesn't mean the mind is too. You'll find yourself in some stimulating exchanges with these seniors and find it challenging too.

5. Be patient. Sometimes with age some of the body functions slow down and sight and hearing aren't what they used to be.

6. If you are a crafts nut, quite a few older people can be gold mines of experience, ideas and hobbies. In our

church alone we have artists, gardeners, wine-makers, chefs, toy-makers, musicians — you name it, we've got it. Chances are, your area does too.

7. They are a living inspiration to us all. They may be able to help you with your problems, because they might have gone through the same things you have.

I've met a lot of these delightful people and learned a lot from them, too. Going to their meetings, even though I have 45 years to go before becoming a member, is something I look forward to. I hope I make it to 60 — plus — and come through it as gracefully and eventfully as my neat new friends have! □

By Clayton Steep

You are living in a limited world.

Everything around us has limits — beginnings and endings. We are aware of babies being born. We are aware of other people dying. We observe animals, plants and insects beginning life. We see their lives come to an end.

We are used to seeing things get older. Clothing wears out. Bicycles and skateboards get banged up. New things stop looking new. Our bodies change and get older.

Everything we see has a beginning, a period of usefulness and an end. We count this by using clocks and calendars. To us, only what is measurable by hours, days and years seems to have real meaning.

So when we hear that God is eternal, that He always has been and always will be, we find it hard to understand. The words seem meaningless because we have nothing familiar to relate them to.

And that is just the problem: We are trying to relate what cannot be related in physical terms. We are trying to apply the limitations of the *physical* existence we know to the unlimited *spiritual* plane on which God lives. They can't be compared.

Our minds can count an hour, a century, a millennium, but they cannot grasp eternity. They are not big enough to fully understand spiritual existence. We can't even fully understand the physical universe!

As an illustration, let's consider for a moment what God has created. Some astronomers estimate that 100,000,000,000 galaxies each with 100,000,000,000 stars dot the universe. And who knows how many planets and moons? God says He counts and names them all (Psalm 147:4).

Now if we allow God one full second by our reckoning of time to count and name each star in the heavens, do you know how long it would take Him to name

Where Did God Come From?



them all? Working nonstop, by our clocks and calendars, it would take 300,000,000,000,000 years just to count and name them. How long must it have taken Him to design and create all those stars?

To us these figures are inconceivable. But not to God. God is eternal. One of His names in Hebrew is *Yahweh* — the “Ever-living One.” The Creator is not bound by the laws of space and time as we are. While men are able to theorize about time warps and the relation of energy to the speed of light, God masters it all. To Him, according to His wishes, “one day is . . . as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (II Peter 3:8).

God “inhabits eternity” (Isaiah 57:15). That is to say He comfortably dwells in what we might think of as beginningless and endless time. Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 show that at whatever point in the past we wish to consider as the beginning — no matter how far back we try to stretch our limited minds — God already existed. “In the beginning

God . . .,” as the Bible states it.

Where did God come from? He didn't “come from” anywhere. He was always there!

Far more important than the past, though, is eternity into the future and how *you* can have a part in it.

The eternal God wants to change you some day from the temporary, limited, physical being that you are to an immortal, immensely powerful, spiritual being — a member of His very Family, no more bound by the physical limits of time and space. God gives to those in His Church the possibility of living forever.

Can you imagine being able to fly through space faster than the speed of light? Not only that, those who are in God's Kingdom will be able to appear and disappear. And walk right through solid walls.

You can read about what you will be like when you are a spirit being in our free article, “What Will You Be Like in the Resurrection?”

It is better than science fiction, because it is *true!* □

Illustration by Terry Smith

Challenge and Adventure

The Longest Mile

By Robert Taylor



even worse than we had expected.

Having the canoe over our heads didn't help either — I lost count of the number of trees we rammed into. There were so many trees in the path that we often had to back up in order to turn.

The canoe seemed to gain

We were getting tired — after all, we'd just paddled 12 miles, and, even worse, we'd had to portage our canoes already five times that day.

None of us looked forward to lifting the canoes from the water and carrying them on our backs through the woods again. But that was the only way we could continue on our wilderness canoe trip.

Beaching our canoes on the shore of Slim Lake in northern Minnesota, the eight of us got ready to carry our canoes and equipment across land to Fat Lake — the next body of water on our map.

We checked the map to see how long the portage trail would be. "A whole mile!" We gasped in disbelief. After the five smaller portages that day, none of us felt strong enough to carry that much luggage that far.

Could we go the whole distance? None of us knew, but we had to try. We couldn't go back the way we came and we were miles from civilization.

After several attempts to raise our large voyageur canoe to our shoulders, my partner and I headed down the narrow trail. The others carried the second canoe, backpacks, tent bags, paddles and storage packs.

We quickly found ourselves encountering obstacle after obstacle. Boulders, fallen trees, low branches, hills, sharp sticks and mosquitoes. It was



weight with every step we took. We had traveled only a hundred yards and already we were experiencing pain in our backs, legs and necks. The bouncing canoe braces were beginning to bruise our shoulder blades.

After 20 minutes we were still plodding along. Our muscles begged us to stop — still, there was no sign of Fat Lake, just fat mosquitoes!

Half an hour passed. Our shoulders and backs throbbed with pain. Our legs were shaky. Our shirts

were drenched with sweat. The urge to scratch the itching mosquito bites was overwhelming. We couldn't. If we were to let go of the canoe, it would be thrown off balance and possibly fall on us.

We desperately wanted to give up. We had no idea it could be so difficult and take so long to hike one mile.

Then, suddenly, I could see water just a few feet ahead of me. At last we brought the canoe to the ground. Before us was a breathtaking sight: a glass-like, aqua-green lake surrounded by forests of pines and maples. The water was so deep we couldn't see the bottom, even at the shoreline.

We stood speechless for a moment and then jumped in! The water was icy, but it felt great. Suddenly the grueling portage didn't seem so bad. We were still alive, Fat Lake was gorgeous and, most important, we went the whole



Portaging the heavy canoes (far left) is difficult enough on open ground. (Photos by Nathan Faulkner and Roland Rees) Right: Rock climbers at the Australian Summer Educational Program. (Photo by Peter Mills)

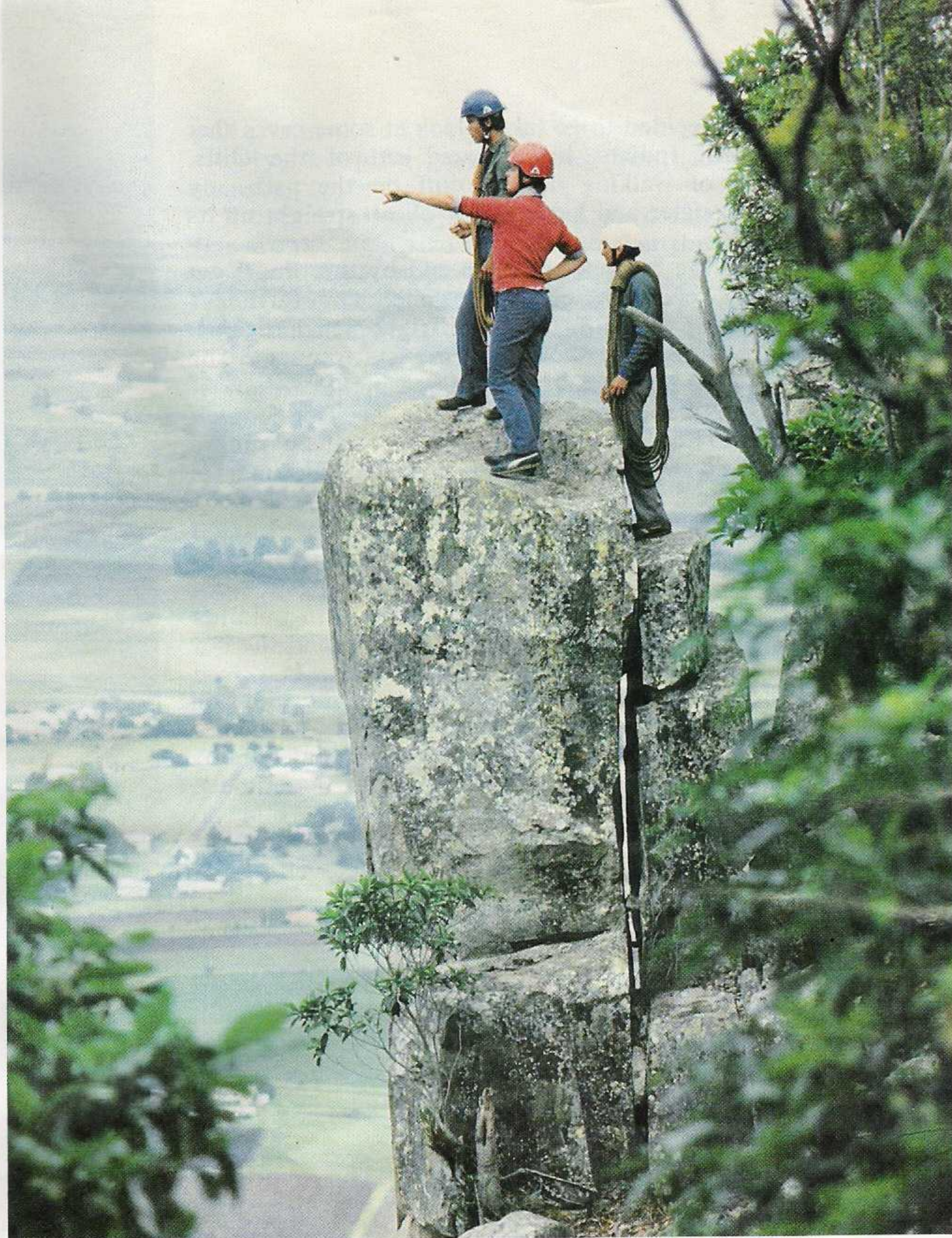
distance without stopping. There was a feeling of accomplishment. It seemed silly that we had actually considered giving up.

The funny thing about challenges is that once they are met, they are no longer challenges. The pain, worry and

frustrations are all over. Only the benefits remain.

And every time a difficult challenge is fulfilled, your ability to handle harder challenges grows. We gained confidence and determination from meeting our challenge — it's a rule that successes lead to more successes.

And that's one success that I'll remember for a long time. I don't think I'll ever forget that breathtaking sight of Fat Lake at the end of what seemed like the longest mile! □



Hang in There!

By Vickie Thomas

As I stood before that towering mountain at summer camp, one instructor's challenging words came back to me again: "Drive, drive, drive!"

For days all the girls in my dorm had been looking forward to going rock climbing. My views were a little different though. I was afraid of heights.

Just thinking about those cliffs sent a shiver up my spine! My fears were deep-seated. Standing there I remembered my first encounter with a cliff such as this.

I had been spending the day with my family at a park in the eastern part of Nebraska. After a long

hike we decided to go take a look at some caves that American Indians had formed out of the cliffs. Instead of walking up the cliff on the path, my brother, sister and I decided to climb straight up its face.

I was the last one to go up and by the time I got halfway, everyone else had gone. The farther I climbed up the cliff, the more frightened I became. Footholds and handholds became less frequent. The distance to the ground kept increasing.

Just as I was about to reach the top, I felt myself slipping. Loose rocks prevented me from getting a good hold. I grabbed the only thing I could, a limp, dying weed, and hung there praying for God's help. Just as that weed started to come uprooted and I started to slip, there was my father extending his walking stick to me and pulling me to safety!

So now here I was at summer camp facing another cliff. I knew I had to overcome my fear and the key was to force and drive myself to do it.

First, I decided I would have to set my mind on my goal, in this case that towering cliff. Then, I couldn't let any distractions take my mind off my goal. If I did, I might slip. Last of all, I reminded myself that there was nothing to be afraid of. Hanging on to that weed, there had been nothing between me and the ground, but here at camp I had safety ropes to protect me. Even if I did slip, there was someone on the other end of the rope to prevent my fall.

The same basic principles apply to other situations I have encountered. Setting your eyes on the goal, whether it be winning a race, achieving good grades at school or climbing Mt. Everest, is the first step toward achieving it. I also have found that I can't let my eyes stray from that goal. I can't get discouraged and give up if things don't always go right — if I stick to it I know they eventually will. And most important, I've discovered that I must remember God is always there to catch me if I should happen to slip.

After I started climbing that cliff, the fear slowly ebbed away. As I concentrated on the climb, slowly but surely I was overcoming that old dread and surmounting all the obstacles in the way. The exhilaration of nearing the top was surpassed only by the moment of success — reaching the top! □



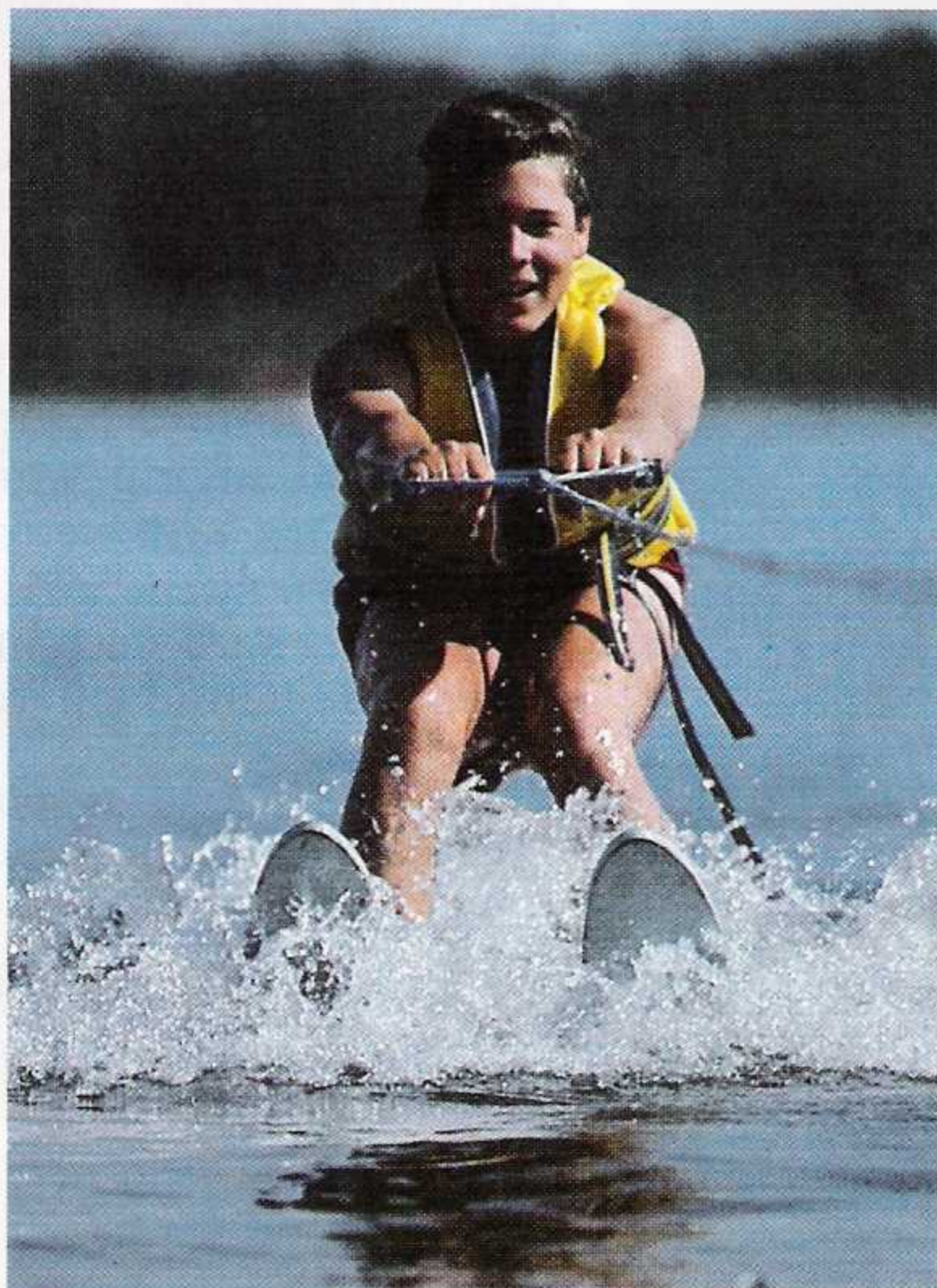
Make Some Waves

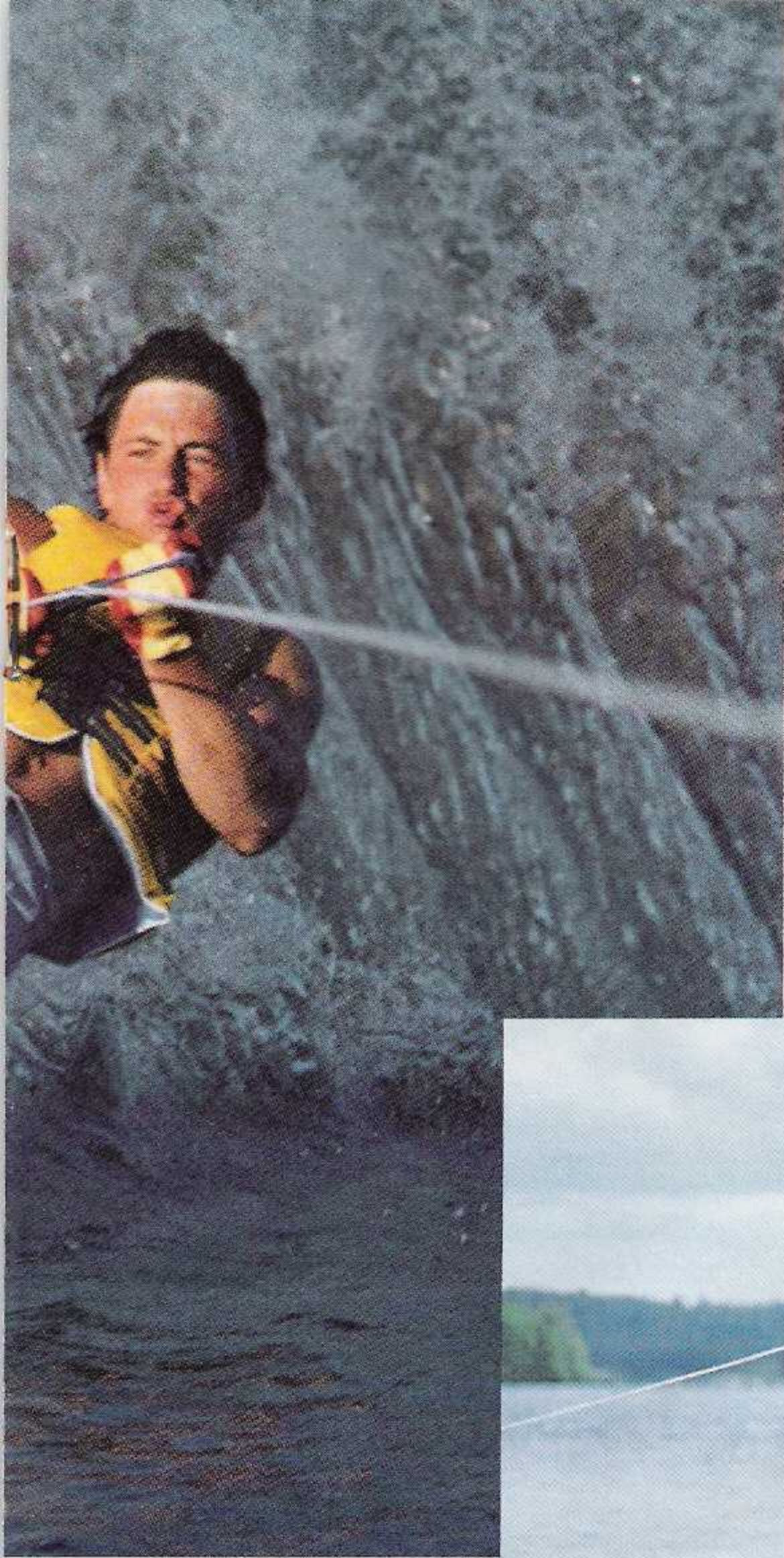
By Nathan Faulkner

Slicing across the liquid surface, you feel the hydroplane effect of skimming on the water along with the exhilaration of the air rushing past your face.

There's nothing quite like waterskiing. Waterskiing combines the fun of water sports with the power of a boat and the thrill and freedom of skimming over the top of the water.

Skiing is relatively easy to learn and you don't have to own a boat or skis to learn how. Many camps, including some of the





During a power cut a skier may travel at 35 to 40 miles an hour and throw a 20-foot rooster tail. Shown here is a skier slaloming — skiing on one ski. (Photos by Nathan Faulkner and Roland Rees)



From the thrill of getting up on skis for the first time (left), to the expertise required to perform in a ski show (right), waterskiing provides fun, excitement and challenge!

pull you up — do not pull in with your arms. Stand slowly, keeping your knees bent and arms straight.

Proper equipment is a must, so make sure the skis are the right size for you and that they have no cracks. Also, make sure the binders fit your feet.

You'll also need to learn the signals, especially the one to let the boat driver know you're not hurt if you've fallen. This signal is to clasp both hands above your head.

Chances are you will fall a lot when trying your first time. Don't get discouraged. Most people fall about five times before they finally get it, and some take longer. Give it your best and keep trying!

A real thrill comes when you put the effort in to do something you have not done before and you finally accomplish it. This is especially true with waterskiing. Once you are skimming on the water behind a boat, you have done something to be proud of.

After you have mastered skiing with two skis, you might want to move on to something more challenging. Skiing on one ski, or slaloming, is the next skill you may want to learn.

In learning how to slalom ski, you can start with two skis and then practice dropping one to learn what it feels like. After that you can learn a deep-water start on one ski. Make sure you take lessons from an expert so you don't pick up any bad habits the first time.

Beyond slaloming are exciting variations to continue to challenge the skier. Advanced waterskiing techniques are exhib-

Summer Educational Programs (SEPs) around the world, have waterskiing programs. These programs supply the needed flotation devices, skis, boats and instruction.

Learning how to ski is easy and can be taught on land. In fact, it is a good idea to try the steps out even before you get in the water.

First, put the skis on while standing on land. Have a knowledgeable skier help you get in the right position. The knees should be bent up to the chest and you should be sitting on the ground. Keep your arms straight and knees bent.

Then have your friend pull on the rope just like the boat would pull you in the water. Let the rope

ited in shows the world over.

Ski jumpers use a ramp about 14 feet wide, 25 feet long and about 6 feet high. They see how far they can jump in competitions — many go farther than 160 feet!

Trick skiing utilizes shorter, wider skis without fins. This enables a person to turn the skis and slide sideways and even ski backwards.

Barefoot skiing is even more unusual since no skis are used. Skiers ski on one foot, even one foot backwards — but this is after years of practice.

It's a lot of fun, excitement and challenge, so why not try waterskiing! □

What's It Like to Be a Teen in Chiang Khong, Thailand?

By Eli Chiprout

The author, Eli Chiprout, is a college student from Canada who is teaching in Thailand as part of the Ambassador College Educational Program in Thailand (ACEPT). Let's join him on a trip from Bangkok, the capital, to Chiang Khong, a small town in the far north.

People seem to be scurrying everywhere. Small cars, trucks and motorcycles dart and weave in a seemingly endless stream.

Bangkok, the capital and the biggest city in Thailand, is also the noisiest and most traffic congested. It has become westernized and is not representative of the way most of Thailand's 45 million people live.

Join me now as I take a trip through the more typical countryside of Thailand, all the way up to the beautiful northern province of Chiang Rai. The trip will take about 12 hours by bus and we will travel all night. But it's well worth it.

By daybreak we are far away from our starting point in the south. We are now nearing our final destination, Chiang Khong, a little town on the Mekong River. (The Mekong serves as a natural border between Thailand and Laos.)

Out the windows of our bus,



we see bamboo or wooden houses. Most are raised on stilts above the ground and many have chickens or pigs in the yard. Some have hundreds of cobs of orange corn tied on them to dry.

Beyond these houses, we see rice fields extending to a ridge of mountains in the distance. In the middle of the fields, we spot small bamboo and straw huts used by the workers as shelters from the hot midday sun.

Occasionally our bus passes a wooden two-wheeled cart pulled by a couple of water buffaloes — a common sight here.

We finally arrive in Chiang Khong. The first sight to greet us as we step off the bus is an open market for meat and vegetables.

What is life like here? What is it like to be a student going to school here? Let's find out!

Through an extension program of Ambassador College, I have

the privilege of teaching English here in northern Thailand.

Getsuda Sittikew and Chaidiew Chittakul are what you might call typical students at Chiang Khong High School. Both of them are 16 years old and both are in one of the classes I teach. How different is their life from yours?

fast just before leaving for school.

Much respect must be shown to the teachers at the school. As the students approach the gate of the school, they must *wai* a waiting teacher. This means the boy brings both palms together and raises them toward his face. The head is bowed slightly to

Getsuda goes shopping at the market and then goes out for a round of volleyball. This is followed by a shower and dinner. After feeding the cat again, she sits down to do her homework for the day. Before sleeping, Getsuda likes to relax by listening to the radio.

Chaidiew likes to practice gymnastics when he gets home. He then helps his mother clean up the day's dishes. This is followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and then feeding the dogs. After a shower, Chaidiew sits down to do some studying. He likes to read a book or watch television (one station is accessible here) before going to sleep.

In her free time Getsuda likes to play sports with her friends, ride her bicycle or help her sister sew dresses. Chaidiew likes to talk to his parents, go to a movie or ride the motorcycle his parents bought for him.

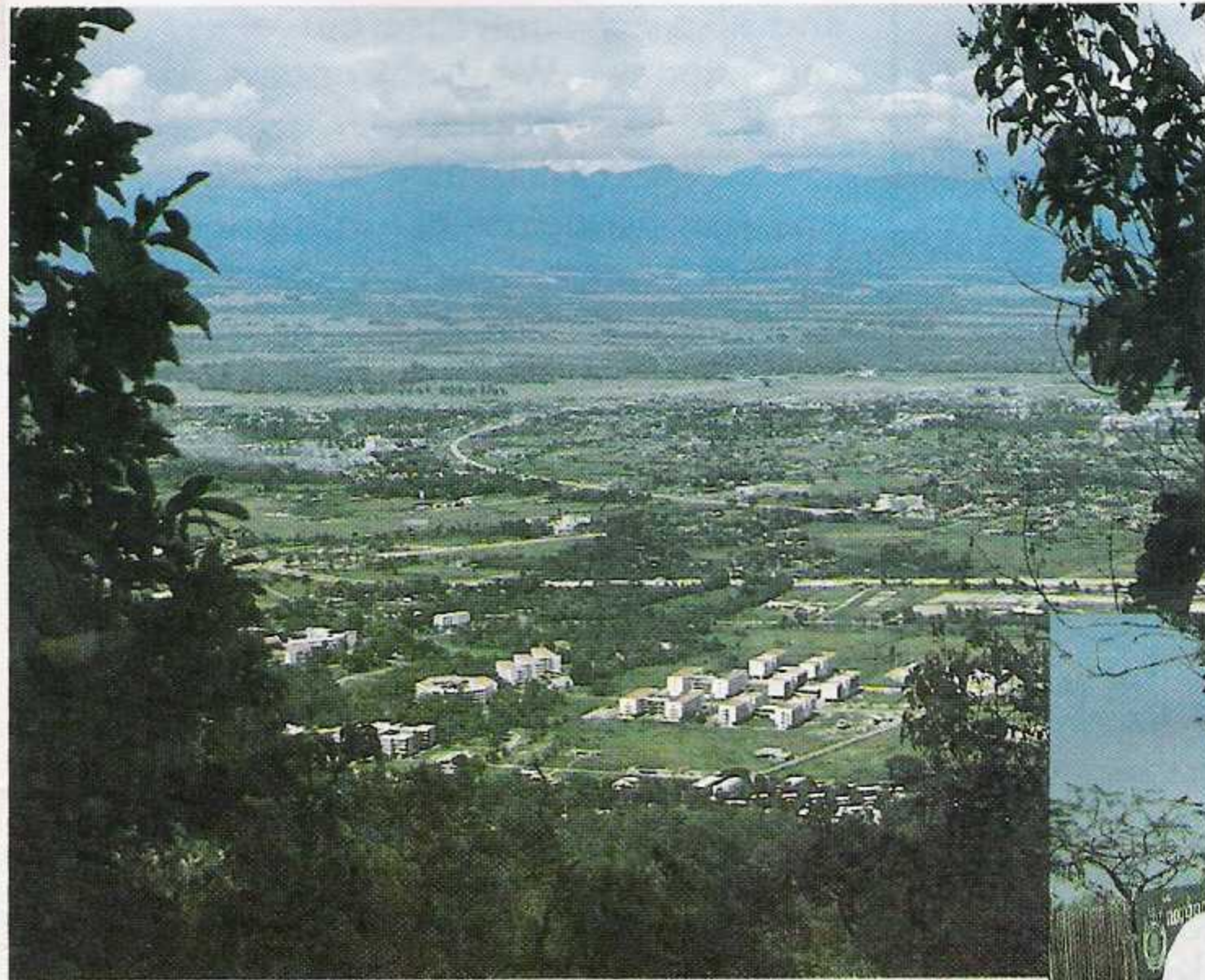
Overall, Getsuda, Chaidiew and all of the people that live in Chiang Khong have a lower standard of living than most people in Western countries. Not everyone has electricity or running water and hot running water is almost

unheard of. Shops have only a few of the goods so commonly available in supermarkets all over North America.

Yet the people here are friendly, hospitable and sharing. They live much more the "give" way of life than many Westerners who have much more wealth.

Both Getsuda and Chaidiew have hopes for the future. If they could ever afford it, both would love to visit the United States. They have lived in Chiang Khong all of their lives, and they have not seen many people from other parts of the world here.

In the meantime, though, they are happy to be part of their small community in Chiang Khong and to be citizens of their interesting nation here in Southeast Asia. □



Students *wai* a teacher to show respect (below). Left: Chiang Mai, a beautiful city in northern Thailand (Youth 82 photo). Getsuda Sittikew and Chaidiew Chittakul (on bikes below) told us what it's like in their hometown. (Photos by Greg Walburn)



Getsuda has one brother and two sisters. Her father is a teacher and he is now studying the skills necessary to become the headmaster of a school. One of her sisters is a nurse in the city of Chiang Mai, about seven hours away by bus because of the mountain ranges in between. Every day, Getsuda wakes up at 6 a.m. and helps her mother cook breakfast. She doesn't forget to feed her pet cat. Then she sits down to eat. Meals almost always include rice. After eating, she bicycles about a mile and a half to school.

Chaidiew has one sister. His father is a carpenter and his mother is a hairdresser and beautician. He typically gets up at 4 a.m. to shop at the early-morning market where he finds the needed provisions for his family. After that he feeds the chickens and his three pet dogs. Finally, he also sits down to break-

meet the raised hands. The girl does the same but with bent knees. Uniforms are required of every student.

Besides the usual courses of Thai, English, science and history, most students also take agriculture (for girls, home economics). There are more than 900 students in Chiang Khong High School.

When she arrives home after school



News & Reviews

Funny You Should Say That . . .

Have you ever looked at humor, mirth, witticism, banter, buffoonery, jocularly and other such comical waggishness in a serious light? The right kind of humor is vitally important to your life.

Humor has been described as the oil between human relationships — a key to getting along with others. It has also been called “the best medicine.” Certain medical studies bear out the healthful aspects of laughter and of the ability to take a light-hearted look at life.

Since not everyone has a natural flair for it, most of us have to work to develop our sense of humor — learning to appreciate and share the funny side of life.

Here are some pointers that can help you develop your sense of humor:

1. *Life is funny.* There can be a funny side even to an unpleasant situation. Many times the drama of today turns into tomorrow’s comedy routine.

When I proposed to my wife, all my carefully laid plans for a romantic proposal went astray and I ended up, believe it or not, proposing in the cold storage in the college kitchen! That story gave me material for my stint at joke telling at a recent banquet,

but at the time I thought it was a disaster.

2. *Humans are funny.* We all have little habits and idiosyncrasies that at times can tickle the funny bone.

Have you ever stumbled while walking? The first thing most of us do is skip to cover our trip and at the same time look around to see if anyone saw us. Be observant of the

funny, common reactions. Learn to describe them in vivid, perhaps slightly larger-than-life terms.

3. *Be around humorous people.* It can be quite stimulating to be around quick-witted people. Iron sharpens iron. They can help sharpen your wit and give you a keener outlook on life.

4. *Don't take yourself too seriously.* Learn to be able to laugh at yourself. Comedians often use their own life feelings and examples, seen through the exaggeration of memory, to entertain audiences.

But you don't have to be a comedian to develop your sense of humor. Just follow these points and you'll notice (and enjoy!) more of the comical side of life. — *By Alan Dean* □

Do You Have an Interest in Saving?

There it sits, in a coffee can behind that old pair of shoes in

your closet.

It's \$102, and it's all you've got. What would you do if it were stolen or lost?

What can you do to protect and also get some use out of that money? Why not open a savings account?

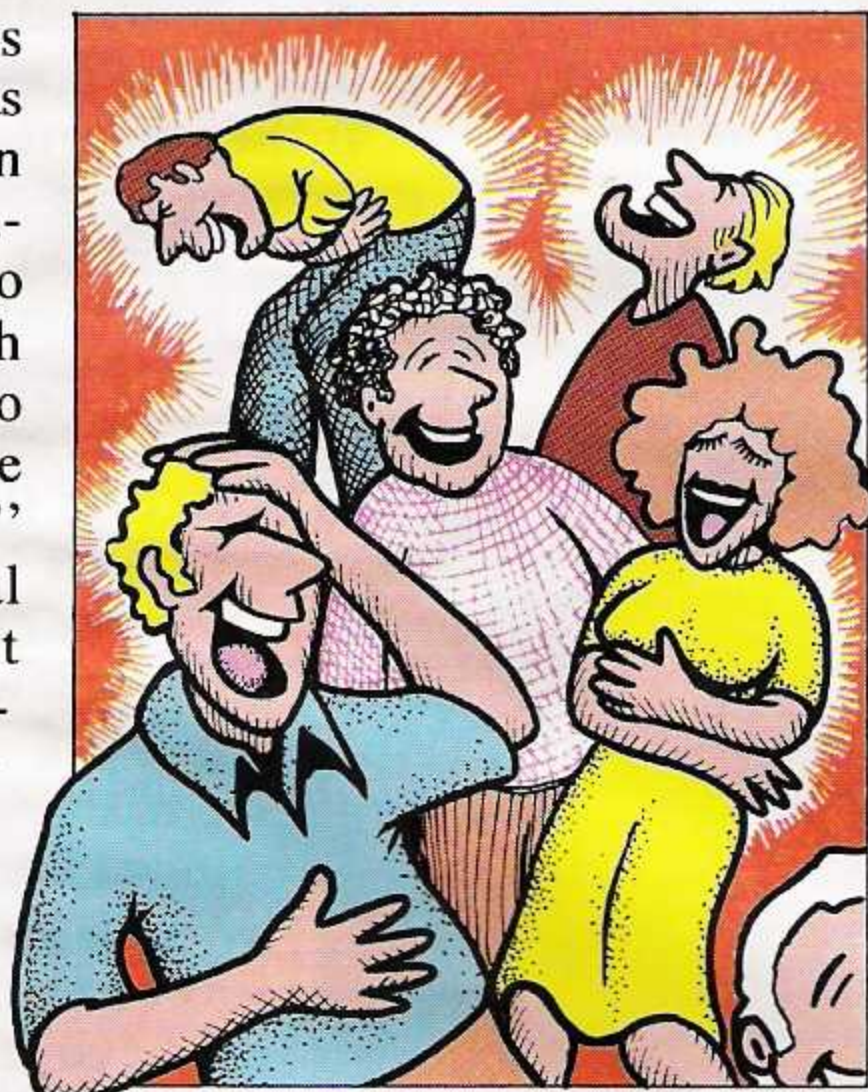
Commercial banks, savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks — where do you start?

If you are concerned about savings in particular, you need to consider three major factors in choosing a bank: safety, interest (what you get for allowing the bank to have the use of your money) and the types of savings accounts available.

Safety is a factor you should consider if you are going to deal with an uninsured bank, since banks have been known to fail.

What about interest? One thing you must keep in mind is that the bank is not doing you a favor by keeping your money for you. Rather, you are doing the bank a favor — even if you don't have a large amount of savings.

Savings banks and thrift banks typically pay from one-quarter to one-half percent more than commercial banks on savings accounts, although



the commercial banks generally offer a wider variety of services.

Let's take a look at the three basic types of savings accounts available: passbook savings, statement accounts and time deposit or certificate of deposit accounts.

With a passbook account, you receive a record book in which the bank records your deposits and withdrawals.

One drawback is that because passbook accounts are more expensive to process, you may earn one-quarter percent less in interest than in the statement account.

With a statement account you record your own deposits and withdrawals while the bank sends you a monthly or quarterly statement of your account's status.

The statement account as well as the passbook account are highly liquid — easy to make withdrawals from.

But if liquidity is not

that important to you (you know you won't need the money for a while) and you happen to have from \$500 to \$1,000, then a wise choice would be a time deposit. You can generally earn quite a bit more interest than on the other two types of accounts we looked at earlier.

Check with your bank for terms and restrictions and make sure that you understand what the interest rates, maturity dates, minimum deposits and

penalties involved in a time deposit are before you commit yourself to one.

And last, but not least, have your banker explain the method by which his institution figures interest. Does it compound, credit or compute?

There are more than 50 ways to figure interest so look for the best that a bank can offer, such as compounding daily or continuously, monthly crediting or date of deposit to date of withdrawal computing.

While banking may seem a bit confusing, you'll find that it's well worth your while to investigate it.

Your parents' experience in this area may well be your most valuable source of information.

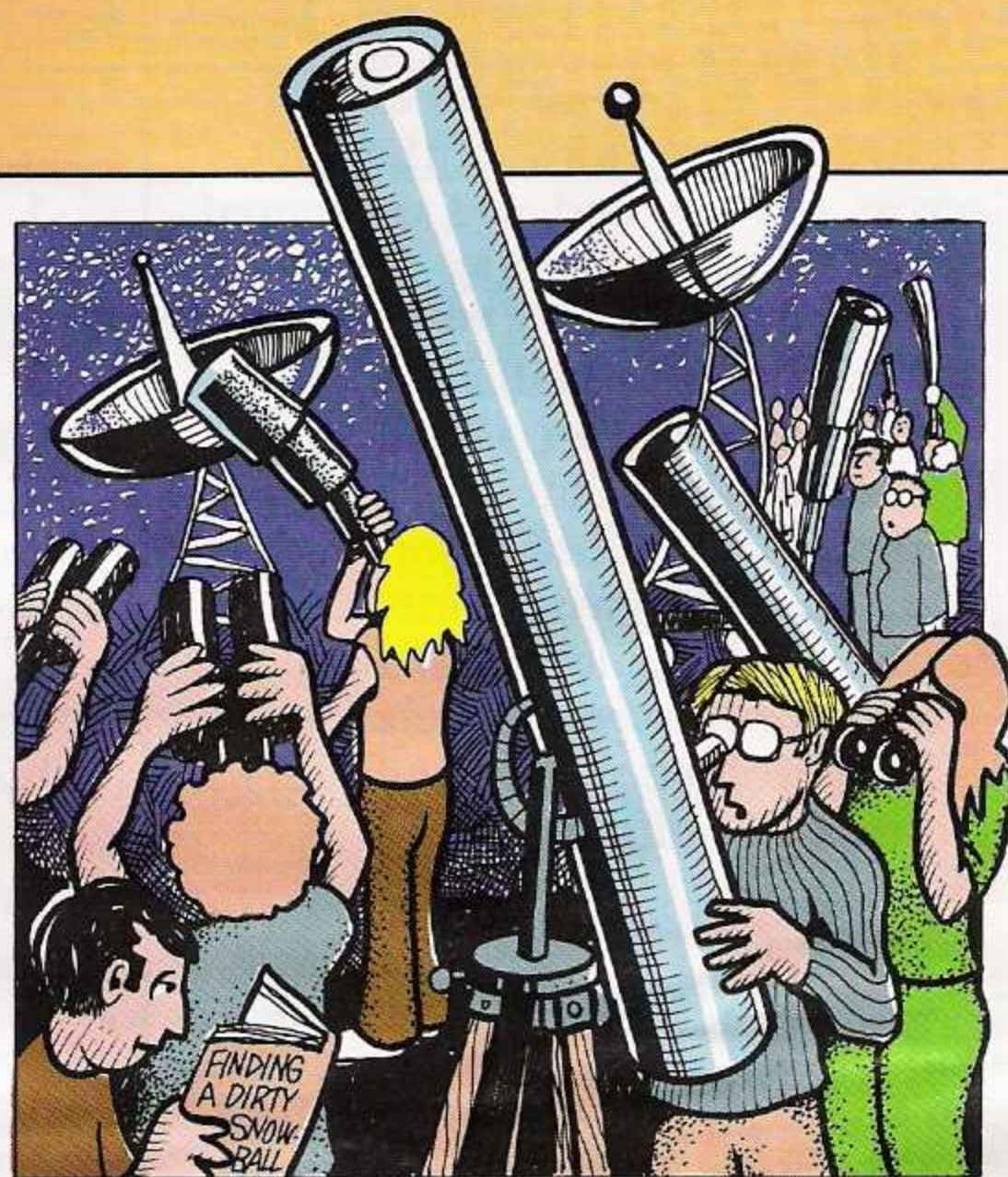
And anyway, the geranium that your aunt gave you would probably look more attractive in that coffee can than a crumpled wad of bills and coins! — *By Dan Taylor* □

Comets: 'Dirty Snowballs' in Space

Have you ever seen a comet? Chances are you haven't. Yet scientists tell us that on a given night usually three or four are somewhere in the sky, generally only visible through a telescope.

Occasionally, however, a big comet will come close enough to the earth and sun to be seen with the unaided eye. When this happens, the sight can be spectacular.

You may want to begin looking up because astronomers tell us that Comet Swift-Tuttle will be passing close to the earth

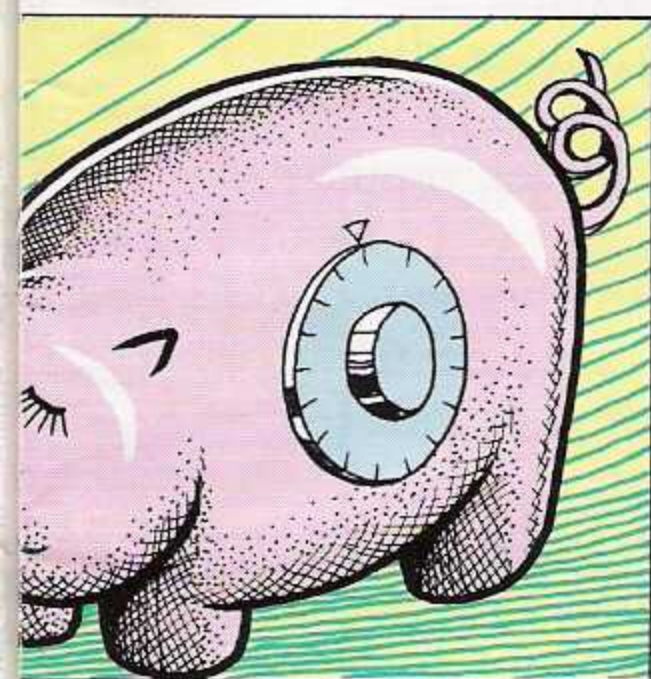


and sun this summer. We don't know yet if there will be a dazzling display in the night sky, but there could be. (In 1973 some scientists were saying that Comet Kohoutek would be one of the most spectacular sights in centuries. It turned out to be barely visible — so you never know.)

What a comet is made of is anything but spectacular. According to astronomer Fred Whipple, now retired, of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, comets are just "dirty snowballs." Dr. Whipple believes that comets are made of frozen water, ammonia and methane mixed with particles of dust, silicates and metals.

As a comet approaches the sun, the frozen gases begin evaporating. These gases, along with the dust, are then swept away from the comet by particles emanating from the sun called the solar wind. The gas and dust make up the comet's tail. The more gas and dust and the closer a comet comes to the sun (which is the source of the light reflected by a comet) the longer and brighter the tail will be.

The comet with the longest tail ever recorded was the great comet of 1843. Its tail appeared



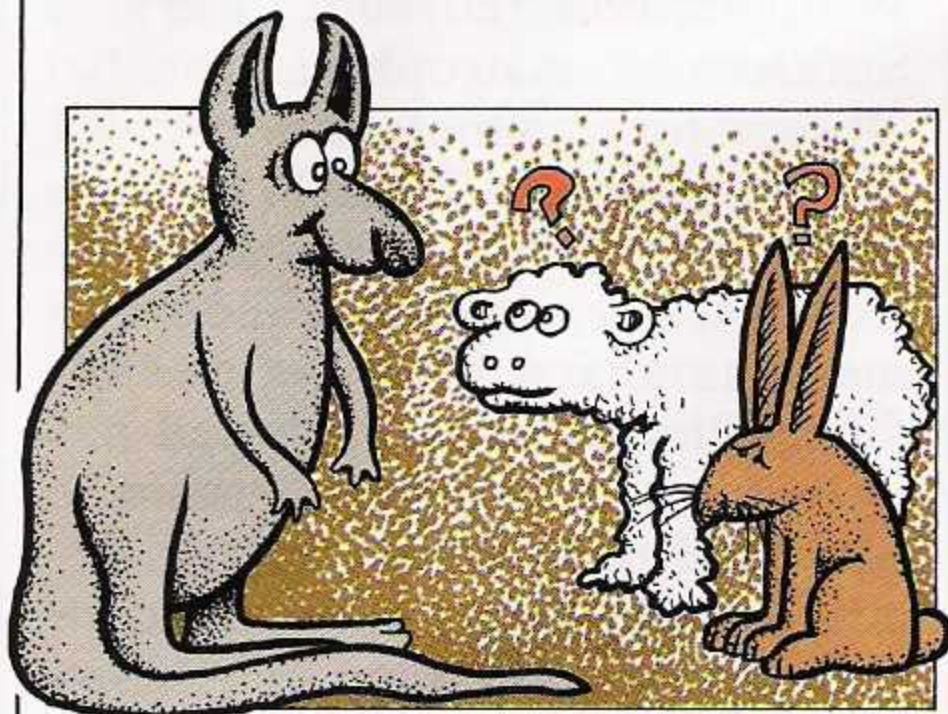
News & Reviews

to stretch one third of the way across the sky and was estimated to be 200 million miles long.

We don't know how long a tail Swift-Tuttle will have, but Bryan Marston, an astronomer at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, says that the comet will come close to the earth. (Close in astronomical terms is relative. Comet Kohoutek was considered close at 75 million miles.)

Swift-Tuttle will come so close, in fact, that there is about one chance in two million that it will hit the earth. Dr. Marston isn't worried, however. Swift-Tuttle will have a chance of hitting the earth only if it comes near the sun precisely on August 12. And even then, it will still probably miss us by a million miles. — *By Peter Ditzel* □

What Do You Call a Baby Kangaroo?



Have you ever stopped to think about what young animals are called? A newly hatched owl, for example, is an owlet. That's logical. But why is a young kangaroo called a joey?

The young of many animals, birds and fish are called by special names. How familiar are you with these baby-animal names? Let's test your

“baby-animal IQ”!

1. Whose babies are referred to as “fry”?
2. What are “squeakers”?
3. A baby ___ is called a “cygnet.”
4. Are you tired of being called a “kid”? Don't people know that a “kid” is a ___?
5. A baby frog is a ___.
6. Bet you can't guess what baby eels are named!
7. What would you call a baby rhino or hippo?
8. A “cockerel” is a baby ___.
9. What is a name for a baby pig?
10. A baby goose is a ___.

— *By Eileen Dennis* □

ANSWERS: 1. fish 2. pigeon 3. swan 4. goat 5. pollwog or tadpole 6. elver 7. calf 8. rooster 9. piglet 10. gosling

Before You 'Take the Plunge' . . .

Did you know that 40 percent of the people who drown each year were swimming or playing in the water for recreation?

Drownings can occur to anyone anyplace there is water, so here are some safety hints you need to know before going swimming:

1. Learn to swim well. People who are poor swimmers or who can't swim at all account for most drownings. Get instruction from a qualified instructor.
2. Don't swim alone — swim only with someone who would



be able to help you if necessary.

3. Obey the rules and regulations of the pool or beach where you are swimming.

4. Don't rely on inflated tubes, rafts or other floating objects. These cannot take the place of good swimming ability.

5. Avoid swimming immediately after eating. Don't go into the water when you are overheated, or you'll risk getting cramps. If you do get a cramp, don't panic. Try stretching the area of your body that is cramped and call for help.

6. Don't dive into unknown water — especially head first. Make sure the water is deep enough for safe diving.

7. Don't swim under diving boards or platforms. You can't depend upon the diver seeing you first.

8. Don't stay in the water too long. When you become tired or chilled, get out of the water, warm up and rest.

9. Don't overestimate your ability. Know what you can and cannot do. If you want to learn something new, learn it from an instructor.

We hope that by following these rules, you will have a fun-filled and safe summer. —

By Peter Ditzel □

FRISBEE'S FRIENDS



BY CAROL SPRINGER

Teen Bible Study

How to Guarantee Job Success

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

Like many other teens in the Northern Hemisphere, perhaps you are seeking or have found a summer job. Did you know the Bible reveals principles that will guarantee success and happiness on your job? Why not study these important keys to success so you will be prepared for a rewarding and fulfilling summer?

Before you begin, be sure to get your Bible, a pen and some paper.

1. When God put Adam in the Garden of Eden, did He put him to work? Genesis 2:15.

In the first two chapters of Genesis, God reveals Himself to us as a worker. Within six days His creative work unfolded. And when He created the first human beings in His own image, He made them workers, too. He put the man into the Garden of Eden to cultivate and beautify it.

2. Does the commandment to rest on the Sabbath have another side? Exodus 20:9.

"Rest" from what? Work, of course. Though many have not realized it, the Fourth Commandment also instructs mankind to labor during the other days of the week.

The Sabbath commandment actually dates back to creation week. It was given to keep man in a close spiritual relationship with his Creator who is a worker — who created and now sustains His creation. And God intends for us to become like Him!

3. Was Jesus Christ sent to this earth to work? John 9:4. Did He reveal that the Father is still busily engaged in His job? John 5:17.

4. Does God intend for us to enjoy and profit from the work we do? Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:22.

5. How zealously should we do all of our work? Ecclesiastes 9:10.

God works with zeal. We are to become more like God by working diligently at whatever we set our hands to do — whether we are working for an employer, our parents,

for ourselves and even in doing our school work!

Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong once knew a philosopher and writer named Elbert Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard realized the importance of working diligently. He said: "If I worked for a man, I would work for him. I would not work for him part of the time, and against him the rest of the time. I would either work for him all the time, or I would not work for him at all."

6. Will diligent effort always prove its worth? Proverbs 10:4-5, 13:4. Will the hard worker have the necessities of life? Proverbs 20:13, 28:19.

7. Are those who refuse to work forever wishing for the things that the diligent possess, but always ending up empty-handed? Proverbs 13:4, 21:25.

8. Does the slothful person look for all kinds of dangers to justify his lack of effort? Proverbs 22:13, 26:13-15. Does he always have clever excuses or hard-luck stories about why he shouldn't work? Proverbs 26:16. Is his love of sleep and lack of effort the cause of his poverty? Proverbs 6:10-11.



Ants can teach us a key to job success (Proverbs 6:6-9). Youth 82 photo

9. Does laziness tend to become habit-forming? Proverbs 19:15.

Some use the slightest little excuse to flop down on the couch and watch television when they ought to be working or doing something constructive.

10. Does it take effort, and sometimes

Teen Bible Study

even physical discomfort, to avoid being lazy? Proverbs 20:4.

11. How does the condition of the yard, the house or the farm of the lazy person usually reveal what kind of individual he really is? Ecclesiastes 10:18, Proverbs 24:30-34.

Take a look around your room. Do your bed and desk and chest of drawers give you away? If so, take instruction from God's words of wisdom.

God wants us to take care of what we have and be neat: "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds [or whatever possessions you may have]. For riches are not for ever..." (Proverbs 27:23-24).

12. Is there profit in all labor? And nothing but poverty in a lot of talk? Proverbs 14:23.

If you want to find summer work you can start profiting from this principle right now. How?

By making a "job" out of getting a job. Seek advice on what types of employment are presently in demand. Then ask yourself what kind of work you would like to do. And of course ask God to help you find a job.

13. What did Paul teach regarding service to one's employer — one's boss, foreman or supervisor? Colossians 3:22-24, Titus 2:9-10.

Though Paul's instruction was specifically to Christians who were bond slaves at that time, the principles certainly apply today. Whatever you do, work as if your immediate boss were Jesus Christ Himself — "do it heartily, as to the Lord." Be cooperative and zealous on the job. Be alert to please your boss by doing the job his way. And show your willingness to go beyond what is required.

14. Can one expect to be paid a good salary if he is not worth it? See the principle in Mark 4:24.

The way to receive a greater reward is to be worth more! Be a valuable employee. Don't just plod along in your summer job with a ho-hum, humdrum, every-day-the-same-routine attitude. Be energetic! Produce! Study in order to improve your skills.

15. What is a sluggard like to those who hire him? Proverbs 10:26.

He simply doesn't get the job done. Therefore he isn't paid much, if he can hold a job at all.

16. To whom is the sluggard instructed to go to study and learn about the initiative he lacks? Proverbs 6:6-9.

Many have not really understood the main point of this passage. Notice verse 7. The ant not only works, but does so with "no leader, no foreman or chief" (Moffatt version).

Ants have a built-in, programmed ability to work diligently without prodding. Mankind, with the God-given ability to think and reason, should not only be able to do as well, but far better than these lower forms of life. An employee should work diligently whether or not the boss is looking!

17. Notice Proverbs 12:24. Who will become the leaders directing the rest of the workers? And what will be the lot of the slothful? Same verse.

"The slothful will be put to forced labor" (Revised Standard Version). Do your job without being told. Or do it immediately when told how. Get it right the first time.

Be the kind of person who increases his superior's production and the production of all his fellow workers. When the time comes for raises and promotions, this is the man or woman who will be remembered. Also, you can just about be guaranteed a job with the same employer next summer if you set this kind of example!

18. Will the person who is a self-starter and really applies himself on the job eventually find himself in the company of important people? Proverbs 22:29.

19. Was Joseph an industrious young man who was given greater responsibilities? Genesis 39:2-6, 22-23, 41:40-44.

Are you willing to put forth the effort to be like Joseph? He was diligent. And though he was severely tried and tested for a time, he still obeyed God and God blessed him. He eventually became prime minister of the entire land of Egypt, and will undoubtedly be given a high position in the soon-coming Kingdom of God (see Hebrews 11).

If you will really believe God and set yourself to follow the principles we've just studied, and to please God in other facets of your life, He promises to bless you.

The apostle Paul sums it up in Hebrews 11:6: "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder [both spiritually and physically] of them that diligently seek him." □

I Was a Teenage Numismatist

By Tom Hanson

One night after track practice I asked a friend for change to make a telephone call. I gave him a quarter and he gave me two dimes and a nickel.

But it wasn't just an ordinary nickel, it was a 1950-D nickel, which at that time was worth about \$8. For a coin collector like me, this was quite a find.

Coin collecting or numismatics is "the study or collection of coins, tokens and paper money," according to Webster's dictionary. It's a hobby that I have enjoyed since I was 5 years old.

In a sense we are all coin collectors — who can get by in this world without money? You probably have coins in your pocket right now, maybe even some paper money. (Maybe not as much as you want, but . . .)

Why do I collect coins? Basically, because it's a lot of fun. Add to that my love of history and things old and rare, and in recent years the opportunity I've had to travel to 19 countries, and you've got the makings of an avid numismatist.

Some collect for fun, some as an investment, some as a combination of the two. As the price of silver increased more than the face value of coins, silver coins were hoarded by investors.

Even if you collect just for fun, it's exciting to find a rare coin. A coin's value is determined by its condition and how easily it is obtained. Anytime the appearance of a coin is changed, collectors gobble up the old-style coins.

Dates on coins remind me of events in history. My oldest coin, an 1814 large cent was minted just a year before Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. My 1885 Indian head penny reminds me of two Germans, Daimler and Benz, who were experimenting with the automobile at the time. A 1903 penny reminds me of the first airplane flight made by the Wright brothers.

Money has been around for quite a long time. It serves as an easier means of exchange, rather than bartering or trading.

The first coins were used in the 600s B.C. in Lydia, the area now occupied by the nation of Turkey.

By the middle of the next century coins were used in Greece and its colonies. The Romans began minting coins in the 300s B.C., bringing coins into the areas they conquered.

Did you know that playing cards were used as paper money in Canada beginning in 1685? Each card was marked with a value and signed by the colonial governor. They were only intended to be used until currency arrived from France, but their use continued for more than 70 years.

Paper money probably originated in China. The explorer, Marco Polo, probably saw it in use there in the 1200s A.D.

My favorite souvenirs from other countries are usually coins from those nations. (Or else Coca Cola bottles

written in different languages.)

When I was in Europe in the summer of 1976 I stocked up on European coins, but spent most of the American money I had.

It was a bit nerve wracking when I returned to New York City with a sock full of money, only \$1.38 of which was from the United States.

A few notes on the care of rare coins. Don't handle coins needlessly, but when you do, handle them by the edges only, not the face. Moisture from the skin can stain a coin.

Collecting coins is fun no matter what country you're from. Each country has its rare coins and coins with fascinating stories about them.

If you'd like to start collecting United States coins, *A Guide Book to United States Coins*, known as the red book to collectors, is a must. □



'Wise Up!'

(Continued from page 21)

tongue (Proverbs 6:16-17).

Because of its common sense approach to everyday situations, Proverbs is probably the most practical book in the Bible. It speaks to all the contemporary issues facing us today: religion, sex, drugs, money, the work ethic, hatred, fear and anger. It mirrors our shortcomings to us and instructs us, in detail, how to live wisely.

If we are going to acquire wisdom, which is the foundation for easier and better living, we need to incorporate into our daily lives the godly behavior patterns presented in Proverbs. At first they may seem odd, old-fashioned and somewhat restrictive. But they really work!

There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs. A chapter for each day of the month! I believe that the wisdom of the book is such that it can equip a teen to meet any problem that could possibly come his or her way.

The meaning of the Hebrew word that is translated as *wisdom* is "strong" or "firm." To make wise is to make strong and sound in character, and this is the purpose of the book of Proverbs.

Dynamite for living

The Proverbs are God's dynamite for living — they pack a lot of punch in a small parcel. I find each proverb condenses the meaning and power of a thousand words into one short and simple sentence.

Start by reading a chapter a day, thinking about what you read and applying the principles you learn. If there is something you don't understand, ask your parents for help or have a family discussion. Talk about these principles with your friends. Remember, iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17).

The beginning of wisdom is to make the effort to acquire wisdom (Proverbs 4:7). So start now to "wise up!" □

God Not Real?

(Continued from page 2)

sinned, but that you ARE wrong and sinful — that is not easy.

The SELF has to DIE — and your human nature will fight that *to the death*. To make an UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER to God and HIS LAW — His authority over you — His commandments — His teaching — HIS WAY of living that is so UTTERLY CONTRARY to the way your friends and associates are living — that is NOT EASY.

SELF within you will shout out: "But what would my friends — those I have been close to — what would THEY think?" You'll have to be willing to GIVE THEM UP — for they probably will throw you over — IF you surrender to God, let Him turn your life right-side-up, live a totally *changed* life according to His teaching!

Are you too big a coward to do it? You have to be WILLING to GIVE UP — everything! — for HIM. Do you want HIM that much? Do you want the happiness of a REAL Christian LIFE that much? Do you want ETERNAL LIFE in His Kingdom that much? Few do!

That's why God is not REAL to most.

Of course they are not really HAPPY. But they are unwilling to live THE WAY that *causes* happiness. They would rather keep on TRYING to gain it some other way. They NEVER WILL, however. All humanity has been trying that for 6,000 years! NONE ever yet succeeded. Do you think YOU can? You CAN'T!

God CAN be real to you — but are you willing?

There are the THREE DIMENSIONS. Most people have consciousness of only the first TWO! They seek pleasures, happiness, in the AROUND — things, people — this world! There are some temporary thrills, delights, pleasures. Sure! But they NEVER LAST! And you pay too big a price for them. They're a bad bargain.

You may look to the within — but it's like looking down into a

well that's gone DRY. There's nothing there to quench that inner thirst.

You CAN contact the ABOVE! If you're willing to pay the PRICE — that is. It isn't easy. But it's the ONLY dimension that SATISFIES — that fills that inner void — that feeds that gnawing soul HUNGER — that expands your horizons — that opens your MIND to the glories of SPIRITUAL COMPREHENSION — of understanding SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE — of really UNDERSTANDING the Bible, in a way that produces happiness brimful and running over!

It's WORTH the price YOU pay a million times over. Jesus Christ paid the REAL price — the BIG price. The price you pay, in GIVING UP in surrender to Him, is as nothing by comparison.

It's the GREATEST BARGAIN in the world — but the world does not offer it, or ANY bargain. GOD DOES!

There are TWO directions you can go in life. Most people go the direction of SELF — vanity! It's the way of self-centeredness. Everything is coming INWARD. Toward SELF. Getting! Taking! Acquiring! And you keep shrinking smaller and smaller.

The other direction is the way of God's LOVE. Love fulfills His law. LOVE is *outgoing concern*! It is, first of all, GOD-centeredness. It is LOVE to God, in worship, adoration, faith, obedience.

It is, second, LOVE to fellow-man — loving others AS yourself. That's a lot of love. That is the WAY of the ABOVE. That way constantly EXPANDS your horizons. That way you GROW — and GROW — and GROW! You DEVELOP! You develop GOD'S CHARACTER! You GROW in love — in happiness — in abundant well-being! LIFE becomes abundant and JOYFUL!

Willing to pay the price? It's not giving up so much MONEY — it's giving up things you've had your heart set on that are BAD for you. It's coming to a new sense of VALUES — values that MAKE SENSE!

Everyone CAN have it — if they want it deeply enough. □

BY THE WAY...

'Wise Up!'

By Dexter H. Faulkner

WOW! THAT was a big fish that just jumped over there. I'd better cast quickly or he'll get away!"

In my hurry I forgot the way my dad had taught me to cast my fishing line from the side, and I also forgot that he was sitting right behind me in the boat. But he didn't let me forget for long.

"Wise up, son. The fish are in the lake and I'm not interested in your bait. Try casting from the side like I told you."

Luckily, the hook just got caught in his coat. It could have been much worse.

Have you ever done something really stupid, then almost as soon as you did it, wondered how you could have acted so foolishly?

Have you ever had a disagreement with someone, then gotten into a full-blown argument because you lost control of your temper and said things that you didn't really mean and wished later you hadn't said?

Or have you made problems worse between yourself and your friends or parents by goading or nagging them and making snide remarks? Maybe you've told a lie to get out of trouble, but then you found that it only got you in deeper trouble.

I'm afraid all of us, no matter what our age, create difficulties for ourselves because we act emotionally, or without thinking. We do not

behave wisely. We act on impulse rather than sensibly. If we want things to go more smoothly in our lives we need to "wise up."

Contrary to popular belief, wisdom is not some special quality you get when you are old and gray. According to the dictionary, wisdom is the power of judging rightly; following the soundest course of action, based on our experience, knowledge and understanding. It is also using common sense. How would you like to have access to a small book that can give you the secrets of wisdom? Read on!

Book of Wisdom

The book of Proverbs in your Bible rightfully has been called, "The Book of Wisdom."

Proverbs is crammed with witty, humorous, profound truths that can help us develop that precious commodity we all need to live less stressful, more satisfying lives.

For example, Proverbs observes that you will avoid unnecessary quarrels and friction if you stay calm and collected without raising your voice or doing verbal battle since "a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1, Revised Standard Version throughout).



Try it! Put it to the test next time you are faced with someone who is angry with you. Say to that person, "I'm sorry, please forgive me." I think you will be happily surprised how that person's attitude or wrath will change.

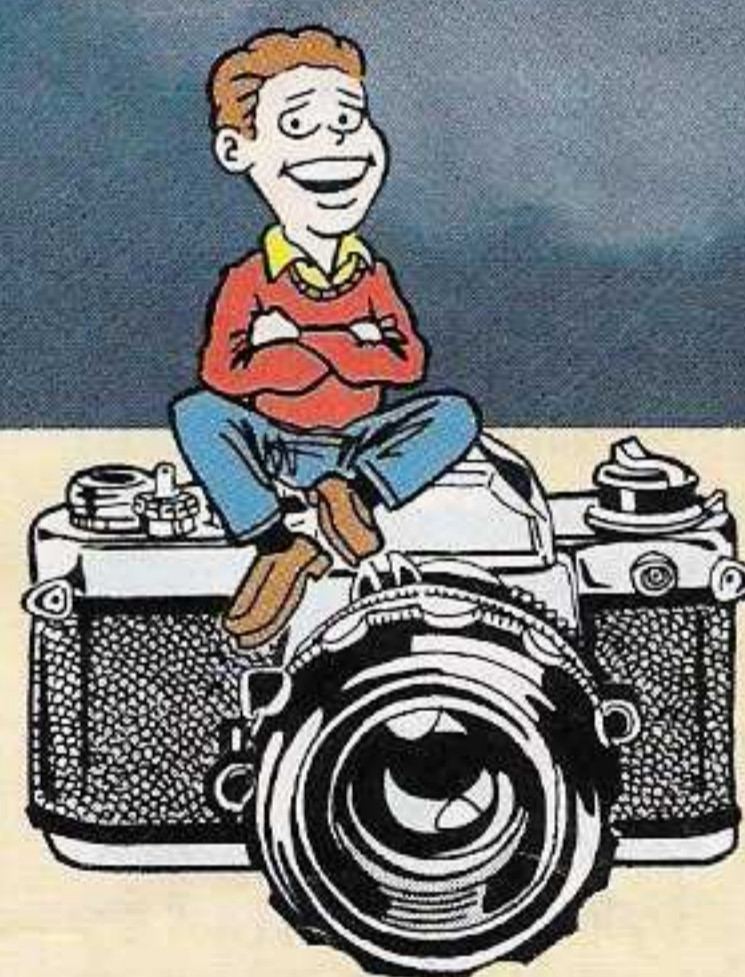
The word *soft* here is not to be equated with weakness or effeminacy, but rather with speech that is marked by modesty and politeness. The person whose words are charged with hate or anger may well be overcome by the unexpectedness of a gracious and modest reply. He or she does not anticipate that his or her cutting remarks could be answered in such a soothing, healing manner. Tempers will cool and you will be able to discuss the problem without emotion and frustrations. It works.

Proverbs emphasizes the danger of lying, warning that "a false witness will not go unpunished, and he who utters lies will perish" (Proverbs 19:9). The truth of the matter is that God hates a lying
(Continued on page 20)

Illustration by Bruce Hedges



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