

AUGUST

# Youth & 4

Friendships  
Are NOT  
Forever

Life on  
the Streets

A Teenager's  
Challenge

What Are  
Teens Thinking?

Runaways -  
Easy Prey

Key to Human Survival  
By Herbert W. Armstrong

# Youth & 84

August

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**COVER:** The streets of Hollywood. The bright lights lure thousands of young people to the big cities where they are easy prey for smooth-talking strangers with money and promises. There is a sickening and sometimes deadly trap. Read "Behind the Bright Lights . . ." starting on page 5. Photo by Hal Finch.

## Letters

### Missing dimension

I have really enjoyed reading the articles by Herbert W. Armstrong about "Love, Marriage and Sex." I hope he continues to write [about these subjects].

I would very much appreciate it if you would send me a copy, which I understand is free, of the book, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. Thank you.

Lorrie Tomlinson  
Fleetwood, North Carolina

### Missing quotation marks?

Generally, your magazine has been so well-edited I've had no suggestions. I've found it excellent. In fact, I've had a hundred or more students subscribe through my class!

However, in the April issue, page 18, you used the phrase "It's the Write Time" as a [headline] in "News & Reviews." I'm afraid many students wouldn't realize the pun! (Consequently, they later make foolish mistakes in writing.) Why not use quotation marks, "write," to clarify?

Judy Grebe  
Mount Vernon, Indiana

*Thanks for your interest. We try to avoid the use of too many apologetic quotes — we hope the pun was understandable to most readers.*

### Defusing the dynamite

Thank you very, very much for the article in your May issue entitled, "Sexual Lust: Defusing the Dynamite." For many years I have indulged myself in pornography and sexual sin, and I was in utter despair. After I read that article, I knew I could no longer travel down that perverted road of sexual sin. Your article had opened my eyes to God's truth. I know now I can overcome this with God's help.

Name Withheld  
Michigan

### Understanding parents

I have found all the articles in *Youth 84* very helpful and it has answered many of my doubts about dating. And the article "Do Your Parents Understand You?" [April] has helped me a great deal. My parents have been divorced for almost five years now. My father always took everything I did in the wrong way. Now that I have read your article I can deal with my father in a more understanding way.

Chrystal J. Daniel  
Garrisonville, Virginia

# The KEY to Human Survival!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

If you and I were discussing the matter of *what subject* I should write about, and you should say, seriously, "Mr. Armstrong, in view of the deadly seriousness and the *urgency* of this time, I think you should write on *the most urgent problem in all our lives* right now — the question of *whether*, and *how*, we may survive!"

I would agree. The one BIG QUESTION in all our lives, right now, is that of human SURVIVAL!

But I hasten to add, survival *alone* IS NOT ENOUGH! We must have survival in PEACE, in happiness, in joy, in prosperity and in abundant well-being for ALL!

And that's a pretty big order! If anyone has the answer, for the sake of humanity he'd better speak out! I am prepared to give the ANSWER — and it is going to be PLAIN SPEAKING, without pulling any punches! It's *time* for PLAIN SPEAKING! You are *betting your life* on someone coming up, in time, with the right answer!

To get to the crux of the problem immediately, realize first that these existing conditions and evils are merely the EFFECT! For every effect, there has to be a CAUSE. Our problem of immediate urgency is to find the CAUSE, not only of present evil conditions, but also of what is the not-being-used CAUSE of peace, happiness and abundant well-being! If we are going to learn that CAUSE, we need first to ask: What has made MAN as he is?

How did humanity come to be on this earth? Or, going back even further, how did the earth, itself, come to *be*?

That may seem like going a long way back. But this futile search for PEACE goes a long way back — as far as history goes — or further. Man's troubles, evils and wars extend back to the beginning — or prior to the beginning — of history. To find the right answer, we need to go back even to PREHISTORY! That takes us even to the question of ORIGINS — of BEGINNINGS!

Many scientists have devoted their lifetimes to researching and studying this question. Many scholarly books have been written, setting forth the results of these lifetime studies, purporting to tell the story of the origin of the earth and of mankind upon it. Yet is it not significant that their studies, theories and hypotheses *fail to tell us* WHY man is as he is, or HOW he got that way, WHY man seems always to be befuddled with unsolvable problems, WHY he is always in trouble, WHY humanity is harassed with so many evils and WHY these evils are fast increasing?

This is no light matter. Ignoring humanity's present dilemma will not cause it to go away. Human SURVIVAL hangs in the balance! We need the *right* answer — and we need it NOW!

And *we can know!*

## Science to solve problems?

With the emergence of modern science around the beginning of the 19th century, scientists

assured the world that man had progressed to the point where he then could dispense with the superstitious crutch of religion and belief in God. Now humanity could rely on the *new* messiah — modern science.

"Given sufficient knowledge," said the scientists, "we shall solve all humanity's problems and cure all the world's ills."

To replace religion and belief in God, scientists and educators had substituted the doctrine of evolution. The tools modern science used in the production of this new KNOWLEDGE were a stepped-up use of those man had employed since the dawn of history — rejection of revelation as a source of knowledge and the use of observation, experimentation and human reason.

So the production of KNOWLEDGE increased at a constantly accelerating pace. The world's total fund of knowledge virtually *doubled* in the 1960s!

But, paradoxically, as knowledge has increased, *so have* humanity's problems, troubles and evils, at almost an equal rate of acceleration!

What's wrong with the dictum that knowledge is the sole need for solutions? We are face to face with the stern FACT that increasing evils have escalated alongside increasing knowledge! That is not to say that the increased knowledge *caused* the growing evils. It does mean that the knowledge produced *did not cure* existing evils, *or prevent new evils!*

The ANSWER becomes plain.  
(Continued on page 26)

# LOOK for the Clues

By Richard Rice

*Have you ever wished you could be as sharp and alert as a detective? You can — here's how!*

**T**he detective walks purposefully into a dimly lit room.

"What's this?" he exclaims as he closely inspects small fragments of glass lodged in a crack in the floorboards. He patiently scans his surroundings for additional clues.

He lightly dusts a door handle and examines it for fingerprints. Scratching his head, he slowly paces across the room.

"Aha!" Stooping down, he lifts a tiny, pale thread lying next to a chair. "This thread is identical to the material of the torn coat discovered under the seat of the suspect's automobile!"

Then, in a series of profound observations, he cleverly solves

the mystery. His attention to detail brings surprising results.

We might not have baffling crimes to solve, but careful observation can be an easy and exciting way for all of us to learn.

What's even more exciting is that becoming a good observer also sharpens your skills as a colorful writer and expert conversationalist. Skilled observers learn to paint graphic word pictures that keep others spellbound with interest.

Why? Because they have trained their minds to go beyond the surface and see details that others miss. They have developed mental curiosity and a thirst for knowledge.

These astute observers not only look — they see, observe and think. They probe into the whys and wherefores of nature, situations and things. They ask questions and push themselves to find the answers. A vast new world opens up.

## Examine a leaf

Take, for example, an ordinary leaf. Have you ever taken one into your hand and examined it close-

ly — analyzed its intricate make-up and design?

ly — analyzed its intricate make-up and design? Did you notice that it had little ribs extending from its center, to give the leaf structural reinforcement so it won't droop or fall limp? Did you ever wonder what real purpose the leaf plays and why each variety of tree has its own unique kind of leaf?

Leaves absorb nutrients from the air and sunlight to help nourish the tree. They also provide beauty, shade and variety. But one of the most important functions of leaves is to produce oxygen for us to breathe.

Some leaves change colors in the autumn to provide an array of beauty for man to enjoy. They also die, fall to the ground and revert back to fertile soil.

As you can see, by taking a little extra time, the keen observer can amass a wealth of knowledge. Many people are too busy or preoccupied to glean the most from day-to-day experiences. They dull their mental eyesight and ability to enjoy life the way God intended.

## Test your alertness

What kind of an observer are you? Try taking this test to see how well you measure up. What was your closest friend wearing the last time you saw him or her? How many different kinds of trees grow on your block? How many items could you list in your own living room?

Do you take the time to tune in the many sounds of nature on a summer evening? Have you ever watched ants at work, a bird building its nest or the antics of people at a party?

The keen observer will do all of the above. He will become alert to the whole of his environment. He is interested in just about everything and will ask a thousand questions.

Being observant is a simple way to become a well-rounded, well-educated and colorful person. Start today to sharpen your powers of observation and experience a new world of intrigue, challenge and excitement. Look for the clues! □





# A Teenager Is Challenged- DOES GOD EXIST?

By Clyde Kilough

*I knew He existed, but I couldn't even convincingly explain why I knew.*

**N**ow that's about the strangest question a minister has ever asked me, I thought.

Here I was, a 19 year old who had grown up in the Church, and now when I approached a minister about an important, serious subject, he asked me the simplest of questions, "Do you believe God exists?"

"Of course I do!" I answered, wondering why he would ask me

something he knew I believed.

"Why do you believe that?" he persisted.

"Well . . . you know," I nervously replied, caught off guard. "You can't have life without a Lifegiver, creation means there had to be a Creator, matter hasn't always existed and all the other things that prove God exists."

"That's right," he said. "But what is it deep down inside you that makes you know — and know that you know — that you have an unshakable conviction that God exists? What is it that

gives you a real, personal relationship with Him?"

After a few minutes of silent consideration, I was forced to admit something very humiliating: "I guess I really don't know how to explain that."

This was not proceeding the way it was supposed to. I had attended church and studied doctrines and scriptures, yet I couldn't even convincingly explain why I knew God existed. I knew He did, but why did I know? How real was He to me?

How real is He to you? Can

Now it became  
crystal clear,  
because I was  
personally  
examining it, why  
the creation has  
to have a Creator.

you know God exists? Can you be close to God?

**You can know!**

Yes, you can. You don't even have to be an adult, be in college or be a certain age. But you do have to work and think.

Education today often wrongly puts emphasis on repeating information back rather than really learning. God wants you to *learn* about Him, not merely memorize things about Him.

Take the question of God's existence. *Youth 84* offers a booklet entitled *Does God Exist?* that you should get and read. The evidence that God exists is irrefutable.

But realize that you can read that booklet, accept what you read and even memorize it — but that won't automatically make you closer to God or make God real to you!

That's what my minister was trying to get across to me. He knew, and showed me, that I had only memorized the proofs God exists.

I had believed it, accepted it, had no questions about it, but it was much like believing and accepting that man has walked on the moon or that there is a country named China.

Do you believe astronauts have walked on the moon, or that China exists? Sure you do. But if you were to walk on the moon with those astronauts or spend two weeks touring China, these facts would be *real* to you. Much more real than seeing something on television or reading about it in a book.

The same is true with you and

God. Yes, there are factual proofs you can read about concerning God's existence, but those proofs need to become living reality to you.

How? By making those proofs something you see in life around you — through the experiences you have — rather than just something you read about.

You might say, "Sure, God would be real to me if I was dying and He instantly healed me when I prayed, but I've never been in that situation."

There are teens who have had prayers dramatically answered, and yours can be, too, but do you have to wait for some great event to come along before establishing a deeper understanding of God?

**A little wild flower**

No, it doesn't take a dramatic event or earthshaking experience to make God real to you. Believe it or not, a tiny, purple wild flower taught me the reality of God's existence.

A couple of weeks after talking with the minister I took a walk out into a field to think. I had prayed before I went out, asking God to help me somehow become more grounded in the knowledge of His existence.

To make a lifetime commitment without that firm foundation — unshakable and unwavering — would be disastrous. As my minister had explained, trials will arise in life sometimes so severe that they can tempt us to question God: "Do You exist? Do You care for me? Are You really out there?" Having that foundation securely laid is essential for any Christian, age 18 or 118.

Still, the answers had not fully jelled in my mind and this frustration was occupying my thoughts as I walked in that field.

Absentmindedly I picked a little wild flower, intending to chew on the stem. Instead, I began examining it very closely. The more I looked at it, the more amazed I was.

That little flower was pretty, but more than that, it was highly complicated in its construction. It

was so fragile, the tiny veins holding each little transparent petal together, yet perfectly formed, perfectly symmetrical. Only a half inch in diameter, it was intricately and flawlessly designed. The complex perfection in such a simple flower was striking.

Thoughts slowly began to form and expand. "Hey, look at all the other life right here as well." I began to mentally examine the other plants, the grass, the trees, the insects, the animals and then, above all, I began to consider the human body and the human brain, that fantastic computer that was allowing me to think in the first place!

One thought led to another and finally to a conclusion: The harmony of the life systems on this planet could not just have accidentally happened.

Now it became crystal clear, because I was personally examining it, why the creation has to have a Creator.

In the days that followed, the reality of God deepened in my mind. Romans 1:20 was suddenly so clear: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead."

It took an in-depth observation of a little wild flower to trigger a whole series of thoughts in my mind. By looking at the things that are made, I began to understand the invisible things of God in a way I had not seen them before.

Of course this does not mean everyone should go rushing out into the nearest pasture to gaze at wild flowers. That is what helped me, but only because of a certain frame of mind I was in. Different things will affect different people in different ways at different times.

**See the proofs in action**

What you can do, however, is become more deeply aware of life around you and see how the proofs of God's existence really  
(Continued on page 29)

# BEHIND The Bright Lights...

By Clayton Steep

*A web of greed and corruption waits  
for its next victim.*



**H**OLLYWOOD, California — Her real name doesn't matter. What is important is that Shelly is a real person.

Here in Hollywood, as in other big cities, there are many girls like her. Young. Pretty. Naive. Gullible. From all parts of the country they come with stars in their eyes.

Many are runaways. Others just announce to family and friends that they are leaving home, going out to California or some other destination to make it big.

Shelly was in her late teens when she packed a couple of suitcases and left behind the small, rural community of Centerville. How exciting it was to arrive in the immense city of Los Angeles, especially Hollywood itself! All those lights. All that activity. Something going on around the clock.

Centerville was nothing like this. Why, back there they used to joke about rolling up the sidewalks at sunset.

Oh, there was nothing really wrong with Center-

ville. It's just that it was dull. All the shows on television and the romance novels made it seem that way in comparison with the big cities.

## Going for the big time

Somehow the idea of living in a small town, near family and friends, pursuing a career locally or working toward getting married and having a family became increasingly less interesting. Shelly was going for the big time.

Her parents tried to reason with her, but their pleadings

fell on deaf ears. That's too bad. There's no reason to think that Shelly wouldn't be alive today if she had stayed home. What happened? No one knows for sure. She was found shot to death.

In any case, it seems clear that she was drawn to her end by ever more complicated circumstances.

Having arrived here, Shelly had to get a start somewhere. After all, she needed some money *now* to pay for food and lodging. Who wants to live in the streets?

Of course, she couldn't merely walk into a major movie studio casting office and say, "Here I am!" There were hundreds of girls, maybe even thousands, waiting breathlessly for the smallest parts, hoping they would



Hollywood — she's actually there! Alone and on her own, she sets out to explore and look for a job. But only fear and disillusionment await.

## Here in Hollywood, as in other cities, there are many girls like her. Young. Pretty. Vulnerable.

lead to stardom. And, while Shelly was a beautiful girl, so were many others.

The newspaper classified advertisements offered little of interest — except that an adver-

tisement for a modeling agency attracted her attention. Yes, they would pay her to model. Even though she had no real experience.

### Only to get started

Of course, she found out that it had to be with no clothes on. But it was a beginning, wasn't it? It would only be to get started. She would soon be able to do things her own way once she was discovered by a talent scout for some major studio or got some other break.

Her modeling quickly led to

roles in pornographic films. She was making money, but her life was no longer her own. To an increasing extent, Shelly became manipulated by others in a sleazy world. She was in bad company. She got involved in wrong relationships that included sexual abuse and drugs. There seemed to be no way to avoid all that, now that she was in it. She was caught. Trapped.

One day Shelly must have decided she had had enough of this quicksand she had gotten into. She wanted out. Whoever pulled the trigger on the gun brought it all to a swift conclusion.

### Avoid the trap

Why mention what happened to Shelly?

Because she thought such tragedies always happen to other people, certainly not to her. Because modern advertising, the movies and television had lied to her, making her believe she couldn't be happy in the town where she grew up. Because she didn't put her own feelings aside and listen to reason from her family.

Because certain selfish individuals in corrupt circles used her, pretending to be her friends. Because the promise of money and fleeting fame seemed to be so important. Because it needs to be told that the glitter and glamour this world offers is shallow indeed.

And because maybe, just maybe, some young person after reading about Shelly, may think twice before leaving home in search of greener pastures, even though the situation at home may not be perfect.

It could be worse.

There was no crowd of admirers and friends when they put the casket holding Shelly on the

*(Continued on page 27)*



The streets of Hollywood glitter with bright lights. But behind them is a seamy and sometimes deadly trap for the young people who end up on the streets.



# Hiroshima's Unforgettable Fire

News  
That Affects You

• *Hiroshima.* The very name of this Japanese city is a reminder of the awesome tragedy of nuclear war.

Every August, thousands of people assemble at Peace Park in Hiroshima. They gather in remembrance of a day almost 40 years ago, at the end of World War II, when the course of history was changed.

Shortly after 8 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, a U.S. bomber dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

The blast flattened everything within 1½ miles (2 kilometers) of the explosion's center, destroying more than two thirds of all buildings in the city.

Three days after the bombing of Hiroshima, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on nearby Nagasaki. The number of people killed by the explosions and their immediate aftermath has been difficult to determine. Estimates range as high as 200,000. The toll in disease and suffering was much higher.

Last December, many of the survivors watched *The Day After*, a fictional television movie about a nuclear attack on a U.S. city. Many of them said that their experience was worse than what the film showed.

It took about 10 years after the bombing for Hiroshima to rebuild. Now the population is approaching one million, and the auto manufacturing and shipbuilding industries are thriving.

Although Hiroshima now resembles any other major industrial city in the world, the



The atomic blast created a bizarre barren world, twisting steel building frames into strange, animal-like shapes (above). Hiroshima's Peace Park (left) stands as a testimony of the fury that was unleashed on that morning in August, 1945.

shall not repeat the evil."

Are they hoping in vain? Can mankind avoid nuclear suicide? For the exciting answer write for our free booklet, *World Peace — How It Will Come.* —  
By Tom Delamater □

memory of what happened there makes it, as one writer called it, a "city whose tragedy remains a blot on humanity's conscience."

The nuclear weapons now possessed by the world's superpowers make the bombs used in 1945 look like firecrackers. So frightening is that fact that when the people of Hiroshima gather at Peace Park each August, they hope there is truth to the words inscribed on a monument there: "Let all souls here rest in peace, for we

## Cycling Shifts Into High-Tech

• Ever since bicycles shed their huge front wheels and took on two of the same size, they have

been pretty reluctant to change themselves. Oh, people have tried to get them to change. They have added doodads here and thingamajigs there. But the bikes always came out pretty much the same.

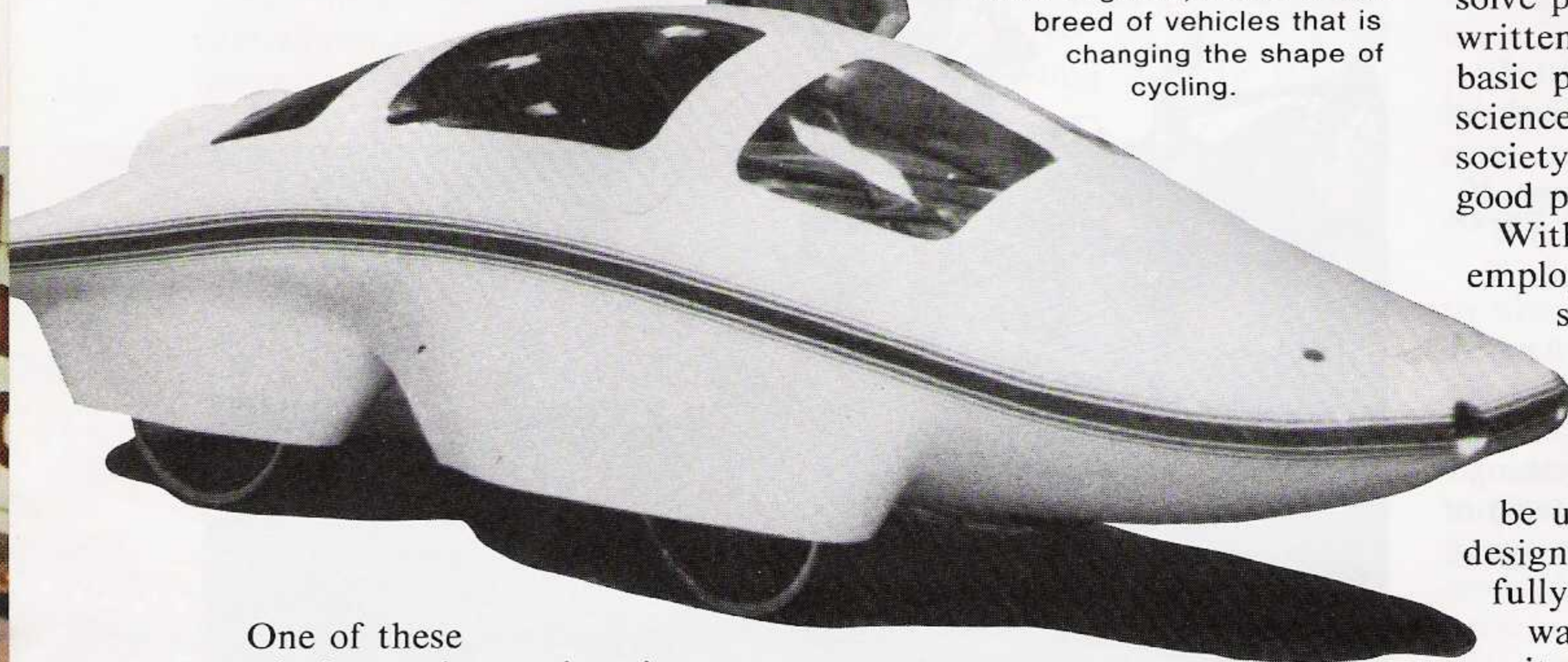
Not anymore. Some clever inventors have finally backed the bikes into a corner and forced them to start changing.

carries two riders back to back has demonstrated its superior aerodynamics by achieving short bursts of amazing speed — more than 60 miles (96 kilometers) an hour!

Another four-wheel, four-passenger recumbent cycle developed at the University of Cincinnati,



Meet Pegasus, one of a new breed of vehicles that is changing the shape of cycling.



One of these revolutionary innovations is an automatic transmission. Frenchman Michel Deal invented this remarkable device that shifts to a lower or higher gear ratio as a rider changes the amount of pressure on the pedals.

As the rider increases or decreases the pressure, the drive gear automatically adjusts to make pedaling easy and efficient. Though your bike would still look the same with an automatic transmission on it, it sure wouldn't feel the same. No more frantic searching for the right gear — halfway up a hill.

Other innovations have even revolutionized the basic bicycle design. Recumbent bicycles, for example, have the rider lie on his back instead of sitting upright. Designers of this type of cycle say it is safer and has less wind resistance. Studies indicate that as much as 80 percent of a cyclist's effort at 18 miles (29 kilometers) an hour is used to fight wind resistance.

One recumbent tricycle that

Ohio, employs a sleek fiberglass shell that surrounds its riders for protection from the weather. It also comes equipped with head and taillights, hydraulic brakes and ventilation.

Prices are rather high now. But, should they catch on, prices would probably drop.

And as long as there is an interest in human-powered transportation, you can be sure that inventors will continue to find ways to improve the bicycle. — *By Dan Taylor* □

you a job?

In a report on the subject\*, a panel of educators and business executives says that employers look for the basics more than specific technical skills.

What skills are most employers looking for? According to the report, employers want basic skills like a good command of language, both written and spoken, the ability to reason and solve problems, to understand written materials, to understand basic principles of mathematics, science, technology and how society functions and to have good personal work habits.

Without these basic skills, most employers feel, any other special skills an employee has will be wasted. For example, an architect must be able to communicate with the people who will be using the building he is designing for them. If he doesn't fully understand what they want the building to be like, it may fall far short of their needs.

The panel also feels there is too much emphasis being put on computer literacy. It stressed that sacrificing basic skills for computer skills is "a lousy trade-off." Panel chairman Richard Heckert, chief operating officer of the Du Pont Company, says workplace computers will eventually become so simple that anyone with a basic understanding of computers will be able to run one.

He compares computers to cars, saying that the automobile revolution "didn't produce a country full of sophisticated auto mechanics. It produced a country full of people who can stick a key in a slot." Likewise, he feels that the computer revolution doesn't need to turn all of us into programmers.

The panel said that the ability to learn quickly is one of the

## What Employers REALLY Want

• What are employers looking for in the people they hire these days? Are there skills you can be learning that will help guarantee

skills most sought after by employers. If workers can learn quickly, they will be able to adapt to new job situations and "master new skills as needed throughout their 40- to 50-year working lives." If they are well-grounded in the basics, they will learn quite easily how to handle new technologies as they come along.

According to panel member Rita Walters, a member of the

Los Angeles, California, school board, "The ability to learn is the hallmark of the successful employee."

The report did not criticize high school vocational or technical courses, but said that they cannot take the place of a solid background in the basics. — *By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

\*"High Schools in the Changing Workplace," National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

percent planned to join the military.

**Careers.** Computer-related careers are indisputably the most highly desired occupations — 16.7 percent want to break into that field. The business world appeals to 7.3 percent, while 6.6 percent hope to become doctors. Teaching (5.6), law (4.6), engineering (4.2), accounting (3.8) and professional sports (3.8) also have their fans.

**World problems.** For 37 percent, the threat of nuclear disaster was the world's No. 1 problem. Threat of World War III concerns 21.3 percent, poverty 15.1 percent. Overpopulation (10.5) and environmental problems (6.5), the No. 1 and No. 2 concerns 10 years ago, dropped to fourth and fifth place this year.

**Life goal.** To the question, "What is the one thing that you want out of life?" 27.6 percent mentioned career success. Happiness in general comes in second with 25.7 percent, followed by marriage and family (20.8), general success (9.8), financial success (7) and a long, enjoyable life (4.2). — *By Robert C. Taylor* □

\*Some sets of percentages will exceed 100 percent since students were allowed on certain questions to make more than one choice. Where the total of the percentages is below 100, not all responses are listed.

# What Are Teens Thinking?

• Do you think the grading system in your school is fair? Do you listen to your radio about three hours each day? And if some money suddenly appeared in your life, would you just as soon save it as spend it?

Yes, yes and yes — at least according to a new survey of 1,500 teenagers. The survey, "The Mood of American Youth," was compiled by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. It concentrates on school, but also takes a look at a wide range of subjects. Here are some of the highlights.

**School.** More than 70 percent\* of the students said one of the things they enjoy most about school is their friends. Other things they say they enjoy are sports (31.2 percent), learning (17.1), social activities (16), teachers (15.1) and classes (10.2).

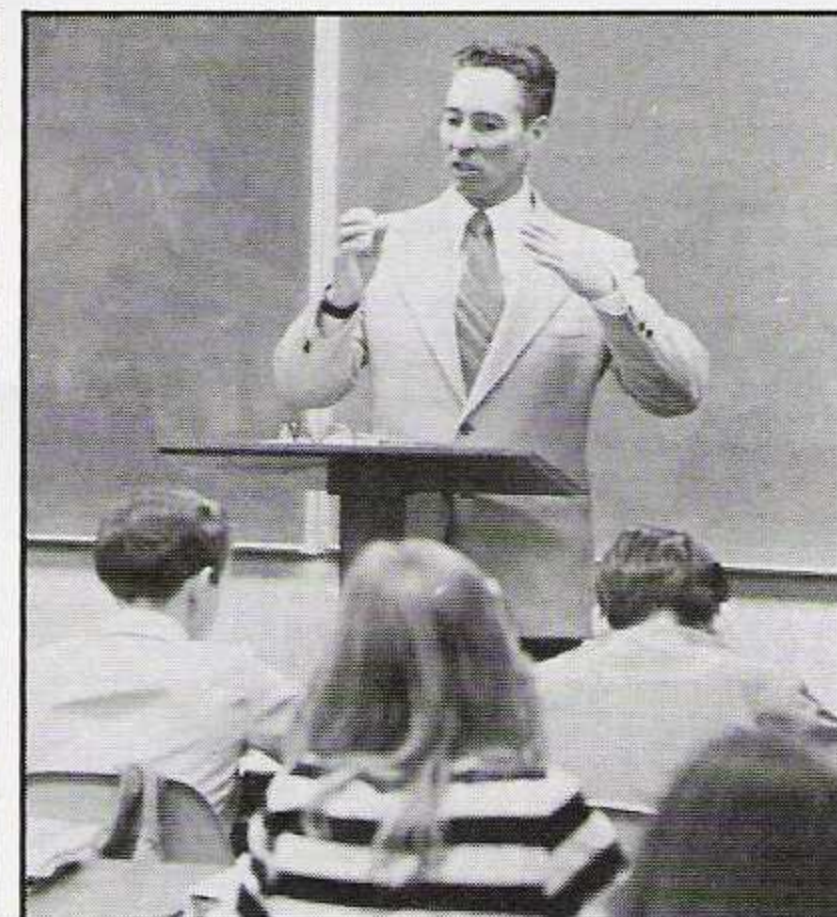
**Teachers.** Nearly one third of the students say the ability to explain things clearly is one of the most important qualities of a good teacher. Other qualities mentioned are

concern and kindness (18.2) and good attitude and friendliness (15.7).

**Hobbies.** The hobby enjoyed by most of the students (64.9

percent) is sports and fitness. Other favorite hobbies are reading (49.1), video games (47.1), music (43.8), cooking (39.9), collecting things (39.8), art (32.9), computers (27.3) and dancing (23.4).

**After graduation.** More than half plan to go on to a four-year college. About 36 percent will get full-time jobs, 14.8 percent will go to junior college and 14.8 percent will attend vocational or training school. Marriage was marked by 13.3 percent, while 11.1



Researchers asked 1,500 young people what they thought about everything from hobbies to world problems. (Photos by Nathan Faulkner, far left, and *Youth 84*)

# Getting to Know the STRANGER in Your Family

*Dealing with a parent isn't always easy. But what if you now have a stepparent?*

By Bob Regazzoli

**Y**our heart is pounding. You wait somewhat nervously as your mother walks up the driveway with someone you still consider a stranger, although you've seen him many times.

The door opens and there you stand, face to face with the one who is now going to be a regular member of your household.

Who is he? He's your stepfather.

Because of the death or divorce of a natural parent, your mother

or father has remarried, and you now face the uncertainty of getting to know a stranger in your home. What is your life going to be like now? Many young people today face this question.

This new parent isn't entirely a stranger to you. You possibly were able to get acquainted while your parent was dating your new stepparent. However, you probably didn't have a great deal of time to really get to know him or her.

How do you get along with a stepparent? In children's stories, stepparents aren't generally regarded very highly. Sometimes they are described as being really nasty and mean. Are all stepparents this way?

Certainly not. Some of our readers know they are not, and do enjoy a good relationship. Others, however, may find difficulties at times with a stepparent. Most children and teens are going to have difficulties occasionally with their natural parents! So it shouldn't be a surprise that this new relationship may provide a challenge.

In many Western nations it is becom-

ing increasingly common to have a stepparent. For instance, in the United States, there are an estimated 40 million stepparents. That's a lot of families!

The conditions before your parent's remarriage were no doubt traumatic. The family unit you once had was shattered, and as a young person, you found yourself more dependent on your single parent. You needed the warmth, security, attention and love of this parent.

But as your parent begins to date and show an interest in another person, you may feel threatened, even rejected. This other person may not be quite what you had in mind as an addition to your family.

But what can you do to enjoy a better relationship with your stepparent? Here are some tips.

**Become better acquainted.** After all, the stepparent is a stranger coming into the family, and it will take time and cooperation for everyone to get to know each other better.

What is it about this person that caused your parent to love him or her? You are going to be spending a lot of time together in the future, so get to know each other. You can really grow to love this person.

**Accept your stepparent.** This person is going to be a major influence in your life, and even though you are not a direct physical descendant, you are now a part of the same family.

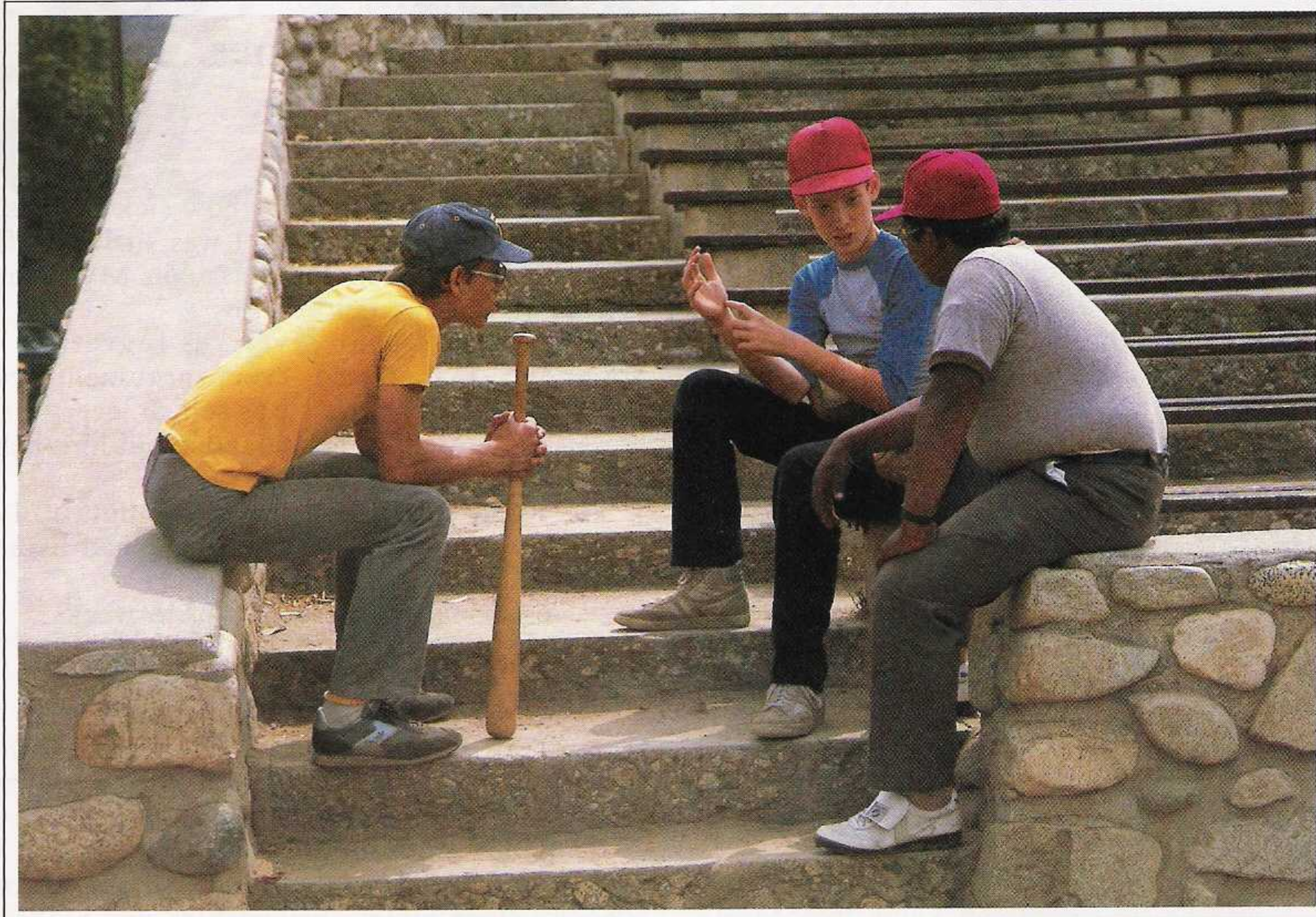
Family togetherness is vital for our happiness and security. Your stepparent can be a sympathetic, understanding parent and counselor. Becoming better acquainted is necessary for this acceptance. We often fear and reject the unknown, so coming to know a person well increases our acceptance.

Rather than making life difficult for each other through rejection or hesitancy, do what you can to develop a close and loving companionship with both of your parents.

**Avoid making comparisons.** No two people are alike, and in a  
*(Continued on page 29)*

Photo by Warren Watson





Photos by G.A. Belluche Jr.

# Friendships Are **NOT** Forever

By Bernard W. Schnippert

**I** was saddened. Stunned. Shocked. Bewildered. Dismayed.

And I had good reason to be. My parents had just told me that one of my best friends was dying of leukemia. And he was going to die soon. Very, very soon.

But my grief was especially sharp because of an incident that had happened the previous day between this friend, Marty, and me. It was when I told my parents about it that they decided to finally tell me all the bad news about Marty's illness.

You see, I had realized that Marty was sick. It was no secret in the neighborhood. Besides, you just can't have a good friend ill and not know about it.

Yes, I knew he was sick. I just didn't know that he was *that* sick.

## **Why didn't I realize?**

It seems strange now, looking back, that I didn't realize how sick Marty was. But for some reason, when you are 14, life seems like it is forever. So do friendships. It just didn't dawn on me that Marty wouldn't always be there, no matter what was wrong with him.

I was so naive that when someone asked if Marty had leukemia, I laughed it off as absurd.

Yes, I realized that Marty was sick, but since I didn't dream he was that sick, I did little to change the way I treated him.

Now, don't get me wrong. I didn't treat him poorly all the time. No. I liked him. So I treated

## The memories you will want to have of your friends are the good times, the fun and the sharing and caring.

him the way I treated all my friends, the way most people treat their friends — sometimes well, sometimes poorly, usually just OK.

But this day, the day my parents told me he was near death, I wasn't thinking of the times I treated him well, or even just OK, but the times I treated him badly. Like the day before.

### Our last argument

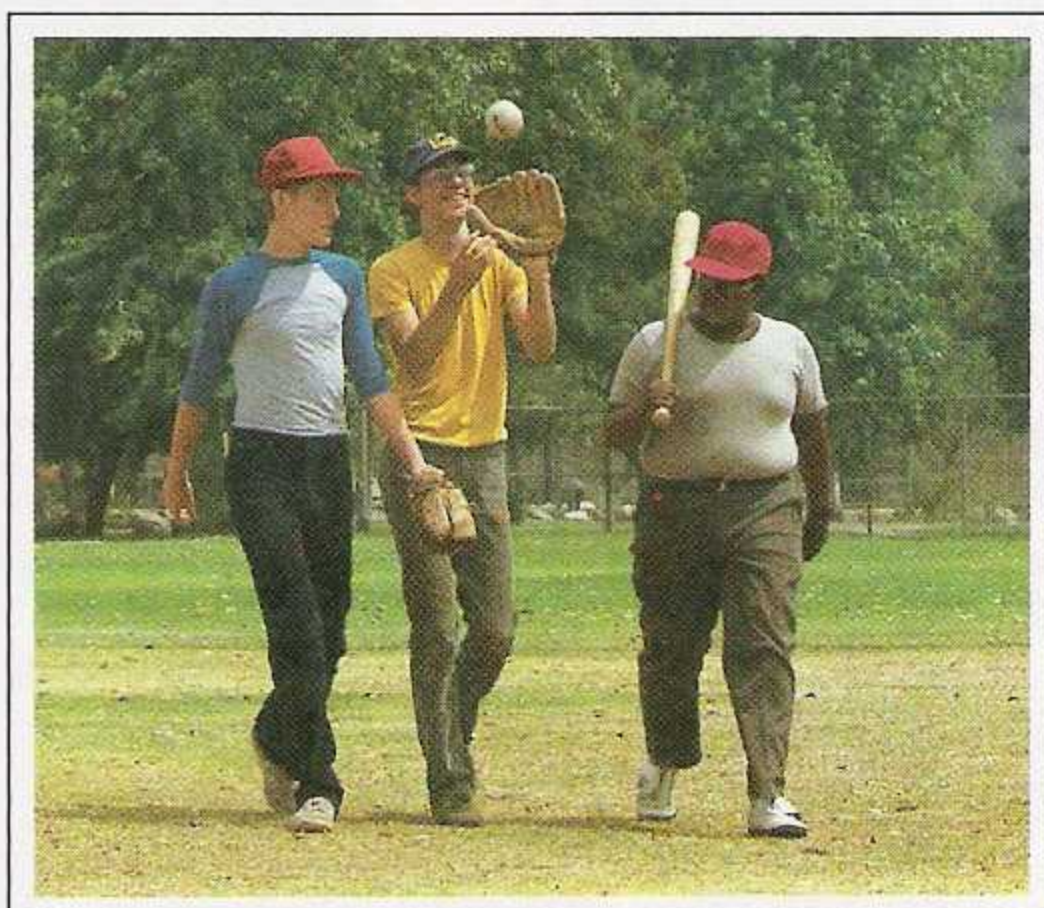
I don't remember now exactly what caused our argument that day. But I do remember where it happened. It was at a lake where we had been fishing and camping. (Marty had good spurts even up to the last when he felt better, and during these times his parents would let him be fairly active.)

I also remember that we took to shoving each other a bit, and talking tough. And I remember that it had almost become a full-blown wrestling match.

Almost, but not quite. Although I didn't realize how sick he was, I did know that Marty didn't have his normal strength, and I felt just a little guilty about getting into a shoving match with someone who wasn't well. So, somehow, I don't remember how, we managed to stop short of actual blows.

I suppose it was guilt that caused me to mention to my parents, as I sat watching television the next night, that I had almost come to blows with Marty.

My parents' response surprised me. They grew strangely quiet. Then they cautioned me in sober whispers that Marty was very sick and to be careful how I treated him. And then, after some hushed counsel between themselves, they decided



to tell me everything about how sick he was.

I was stunned. Although I was sitting in front of the television, I no longer saw it. My thoughts drifted to the day before.

Now, more than ever, I regretted the argument. I regretted every argument, every cross word, every time I was selfish, every time I teased or taunted him or talked about him behind his back.

For I had treated his friendship lightly. I had taken his friendship for granted. I had assumed that friendship was forever.

I was wrong. Marty died within weeks.

### Treasuring friendships

Now, as an adult, I look back at all the friendships that I had and realize that hardly any have been forever. No, over the years most friends have come and gone.

I am not alone in this. In spite of our best efforts, our friends wind up in other classes, other schools, other states. Friendships are broken by time, by moves, by changes in interests and by death. They are broken for a thousand different reasons, in a thousand different ways, but they are broken time and time again.

Does this decrease their value? No, it means we need to treasure our friendships even more for the time that we have them. Treat your friends, not poorly, not merely OK, but the best you can every time you are with them. Let them know that you value their friendship.

For, while friendships are not forever, memories are. And the memories you will want to have of your friends are the good times, the fun and the sharing and caring.

It's funny, but of the hundreds of hours I spent with Marty, I remember most vividly our final argument. And, although I remember with sadness the pushing and shoving, I remember with satisfaction the one thing I did not do — I didn't hit him. And he didn't hit me.

I suppose the reason was that, deep down inside both of us, even deeper than our temporary misunderstanding, was the realization that we shouldn't be mean to each other, for we were friends.

At least for a while. □

Friendships seem like they'll go on forever. But what about when they don't?

# How Much Is YOUR LIFE Worth?

*To Charlie, all your life would be worth  
is the price of a bullet.*

By Michael Morrison

**I** will never forget Charlie. Neither would you. He looked like a modern-day pirate, and he was.

A row of neatly arranged bullets sat on Charlie's desk. He was an ammunition expert, and his livelihood — his life — depended on knowing bullets.

He knew how much they weighed, what they were made of and which guns they were for. And he knew how to use them.

Charlie was a soldier-for-hire, and he would fight for whoever paid him. He fought, not for love of country, but rather for the love of fighting. The power of life and death was in his hands.

## **A paid killer**

When opportunity came, Charlie responded. In Vietnam, he operated behind enemy lines on missions so secret that he killed anyone who saw him — whether military or civilian.

Later he went to the Nigerian civil war, where he killed even more people, on both sides. Ignorance was a fatal mistake if you were near Charlie. He had no loyalty except to himself.

In Nigeria, Charlie fought on the losing side, but he didn't care. He just fought for the thrill of it. Even before the war was over, he had already gone to fight in

another war.

Charlie went where the action was. The last I knew, he was thinking about fighting against the Russians in Afghanistan.

When you talked to him, Charlie seemed to be a nice guy, but I wasn't able to forget that he was a paid killer. He seemed to value human life about 10 cents — the price of a bullet.

## **What's it really worth?**

How much is a human life really worth? Most of us value it much more than the price of a bullet. We would give all we own, and more, to save our lives. But we don't know why.

Why is life valuable? What is life for? Most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about it — they just try to add some fun and excitement to their otherwise dull lives without thinking about where they are heading. They have no goal and they see no meaning to their lives.

But there is a reason for human existence — a purpose for your life that science has not discovered, education does not teach, religion has not revealed. Your purpose is incredibly more than most people imagine. Your life is worth much more than any human could pay.

The Creator God designed that awesome purpose. In the Bible He reveals that we have the



potential of becoming literal sons and daughters of God (II Corinthians 6:18), with the incredible power and abilities that He has. God's plan is to reproduce Himself in us if we will learn to live the happy and giving way He Himself lives.

You need to know more about the purpose of your life. Perhaps you would give everything to save your life. How much would you give to find out what to do with your life after you had saved it?

Is the price of a postage stamp too much? Why not mail us a letter and ask for our free booklets, *Why Were You Born?* and *Your Awesome Future?* They give much more detail about the wonderful things God has in store for humanity and for you. Just for the price of a postage stamp.

And in the United States and Canada, it is even easier. Just telephone us toll-free and ask for these free booklets. See inside the front cover for the addresses and phone numbers. □

Photo by Warren Watson



# Building a Golden Bridge

By Robert C. Taylor

*I see a bridge before me  
It crosses every sea  
A golden bridge that guides me  
To a world that's good and free  
We can walk together in peace and harmony*

— From "You're My Brother"

**W**hat's it like to board a plane bound for a place nearly half the world away? A place where language and customs are strange, a place far away from home?

For 27 dancers and musicians from China, ages 7 to 16, this May was the time to find out. That was when the Little Ambassadors of Shanghai crossed the Pacific Ocean for a three-week musical tour, becoming the first children's group from China to tour the United States.

They were greeted in their first stop, California, by unfamiliar scenery, strange faces, funny-looking food and peculiar customs. But all this didn't keep the Shanghai young people from making many

friends among the Americans they met.

As part of their first performance, the Chinese musicians were joined by a group of students, ages 6 to 13, from Imperial Schools in Pasadena, California. While practicing the two songs they would sing together and while touring Imperial Schools, the young people from opposite ends of the earth quickly were smiling, laughing and exchanging souvenirs.

"They taught us a few Chinese words and we taught each other games," said Stephen McNeil, an Imperial student, explaining how they broke the ice to get to know each other in spite of language barriers.

"When we first met I felt uneasy. Then I met one of the older girls [Yu Hong] and became really close to her," added 13-year-old Jennifer Scott.

## Music and dance

The concerts included music performed on Chinese instruments with names like er hu, liu qin, pi pa and the zheng. Whether on these instruments or on the piano or violin, the young Chinese musicians impressed the audience with their talent and evidence of hundreds of hours of practice.

The dancers were also crowd pleasers, with graceful movements and colorful costumes adding excitement to the program.

As a finale for the Pasadena performances, the





Ma Jun-yi, age 12, displays his skill on the violin (far left). Dancers perform "Beautiful Little Peacocks" (center left). Instruments from China (upper right). The talented young people from Shanghai quickly won the hearts of American audiences and the young people who performed with them. A sad farewell after their last performance together (top center right).

(Photos: dancers, center left, photo courtesy the Chinese government; top center right, Hal Finch; all others, Warren Watson)

# of Friendship

American students joined all the Chinese musicians and dancers on stage to sing two special songs "dedicated to the golden bridge of friendship between China and America."

The songs, sung in both English and Chinese, were composed by Canadian Warren Dyck and are called "Children Were Made for Love" and "You're My Brother."

To the thunderous applause of the audience, the Chinese and American students joined hands and raised them high.

The friendship and the performance were so inspiring that *Youth 84* Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong arranged for the Imperial Schools students to join the Little Ambassadors of Shanghai in their performances in San Francisco, California, and Washington, D.C., as well. The Little Ambassadors' tour of the United States was sponsored by Mr. Armstrong through the Ambassador Foundation he heads.

## International friendship

Ma Jun-yi, a 12-year-old violinist, expressed the sentiments of the Little Ambassadors as he spoke through a translator:

"Before I came to the United States I felt a bit nervous because this was my first trip abroad, and I did not know much about this country. And also I

missed my parents." He went on to say that all of the "aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters" — the friends he met in America — made him feel comfortable and welcome.

The visit helped develop mutual friendship and understanding. Billy Schuetz, 12, had high praise for his newfound friends. "The Chinese are nice. They like to play games — they aren't serious all the time. They're just like any other kids!"

After their last performance together in Washington, D.C., came a moving good-bye. When these friends who had met only a few weeks before realized they would probably not see each other again, there were few dry eyes. Their friendships had crossed the cultural and language barriers.

True friendships among nations are rare these days. But we can all look forward to a time when there will be golden bridges of friendship between all countries. When that happens, the children of all nations will be able to sing together and become friends.

You can read more about this coming world of peace, happiness and friendship in our free book, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*.

Just write or call our office nearest you for your free copy. The addresses and phone numbers are listed on the inside front cover. □



*Come with us as we visit  
several widely different parts  
of the South American  
country of Guyana and meet  
Sunita, Denise and  
Stephanie!*

By Paul Krautmann

**I**magine living on the banks of a river in an area where there are no roads. To go shopping, attend school or visit your neighbors, you have only one means of transportation — a small wooden boat.

At 15, Sunita Persaud has many years' experience at leaving home around 8 a.m. in the family's six-seat boat. With her brother and sister, she paddles for half an hour to school in the village of Charity on the Pomeroon River, Guyana.

The children living along the Pomeroon and many other rivers in Guyana become expert swimmers and boat handlers by age 6. The river is their home.

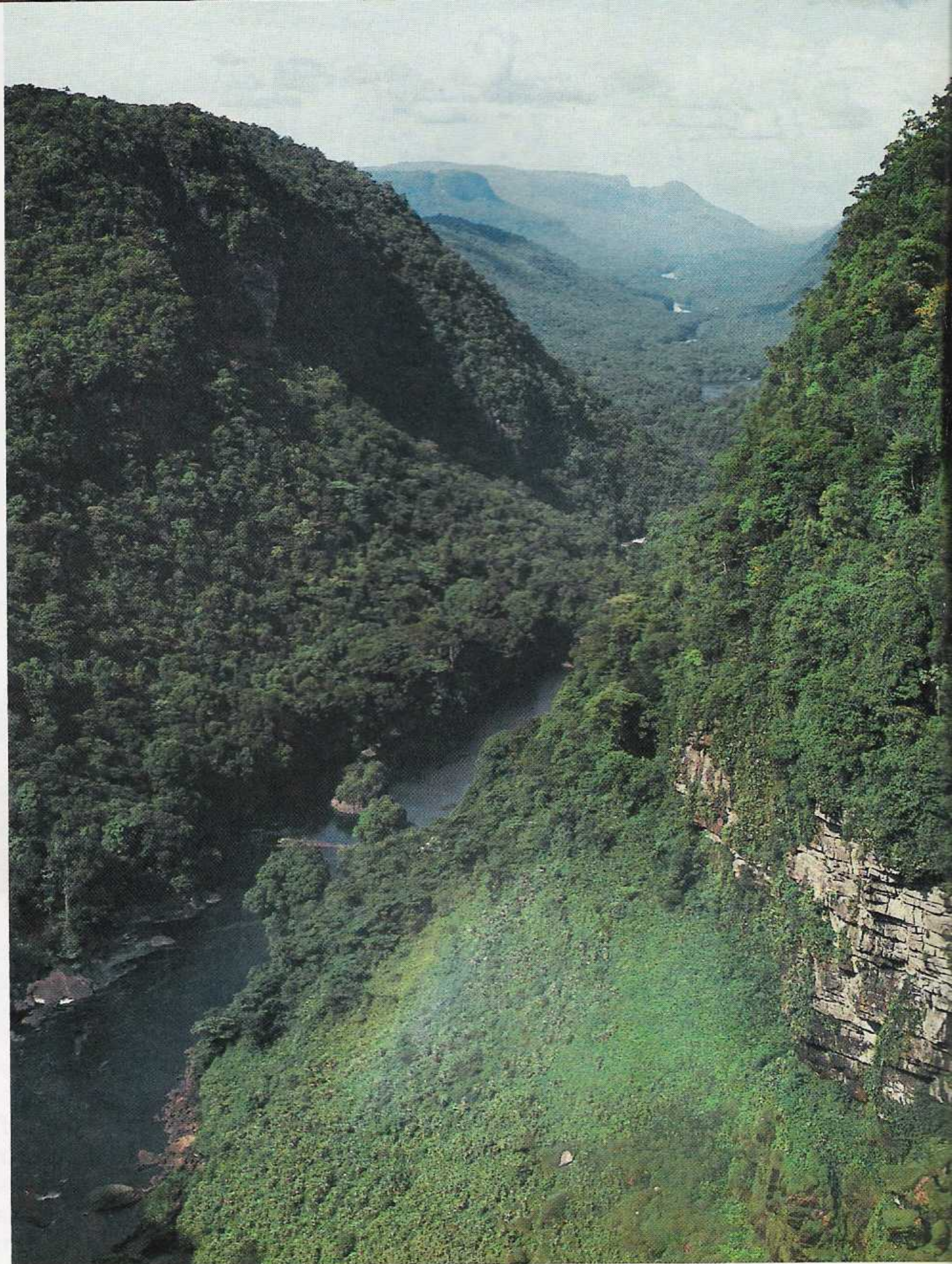
Otherwise, they are much like young people anywhere in the world. Sunita, for instance, enjoys games and sports such as rounders, long and high jump and running. Subjects at school include mathematics, English, science and social studies.

Meals consist mostly of rice, eddoe, yam, sweet potato, plantain and greens, with chicken or beef whenever available. Sunita's favorite dish is rice and curried chicken.

When at home she helps with the housework and also with the family's 10-acre farm. Naturally, when tired of weeding, she and her brother and sister are quick to pick some of the many kinds of fruit growing on the farm: mango, banana, golden apple, gooseberry and cherry to name just a few.

As they live in an isolated area, Sunita and her family, like many others living in the hinterland

Photos by Paul Krautmann and Liane Proulx Wagner



## What's It Like to Be a GUYANAN?

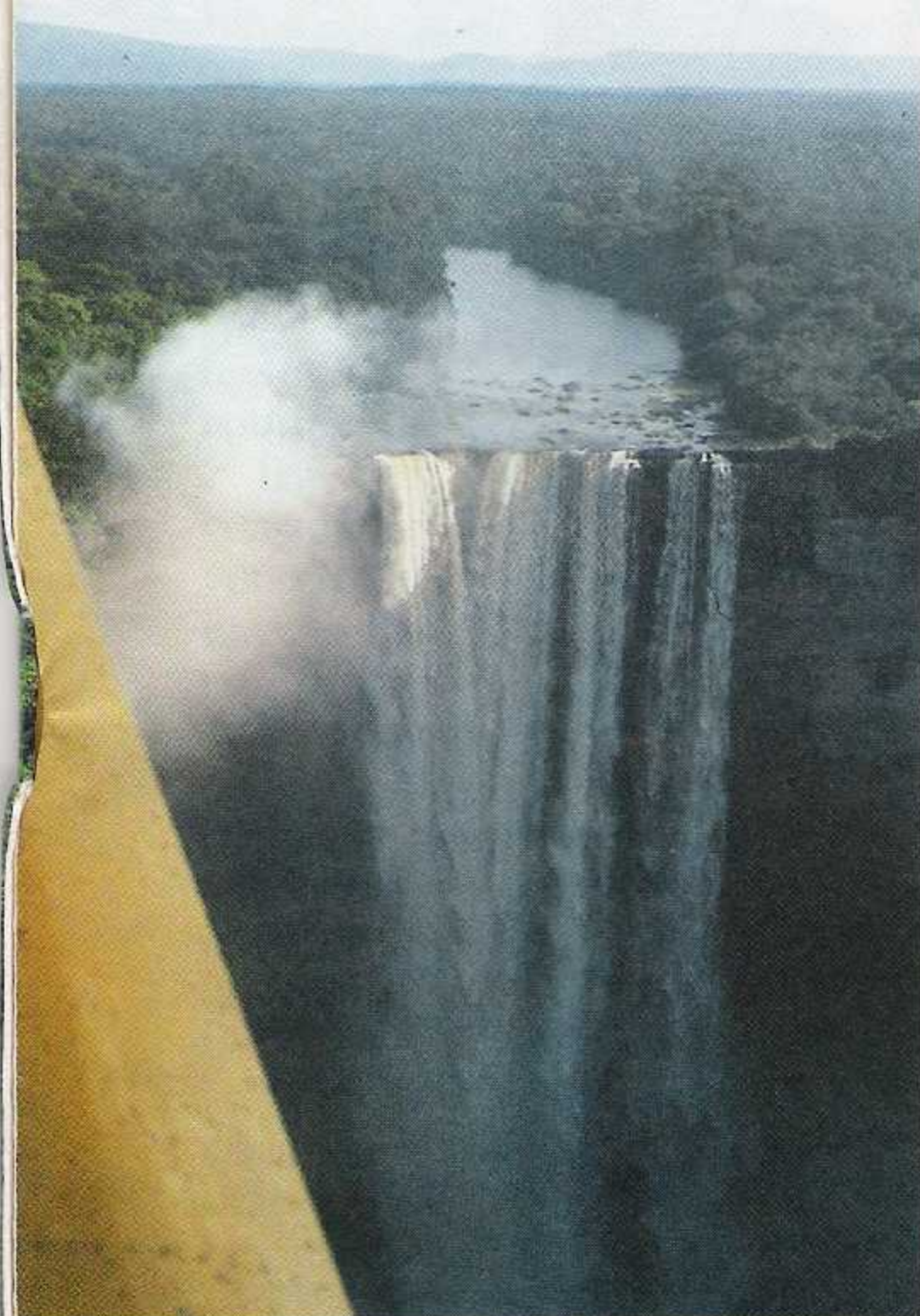
areas of Guyana, look forward to visiting Georgetown, the capital and major city of Guyana.

### City below sea level

Denise, 14, lives in Georgetown, a city of about 170,000. It is a picturesque city with many

wide streets lined with flowering trees. As it is below sea level, the city has a complex system of drainage canals that run alongside the streets. Many small children like to fish in the canals and even swim in them.

There are no television stations



# Teen in

in Guyana so Denise has plenty of time to “gaff” (talk) with her family and friends. Cinemas may be found in abundance, but Denise finds only a few films are worth watching. However, she enjoys the movies from India as they usually include much singing and dancing.

Now and then Denise gets the chance to visit other young people who live in the mining town of Linden about 65 miles (105 kilometers) inland from Georgetown. Here bauxite, one of Guyana’s chief exports, is mined

The Potaro River (far left) twists its way through Guyana’s vast interior. At one spot (above left), it takes a majestic 741-foot (226 meter) leap over Kaieteur Falls. Denise (below left) lives in the country’s busy capital, Georgetown. In the open country of the Rupununi savannah (below right), many of the area’s original inhabitants, the Amerindians, live in traditional homes.

on a large scale. Dust from the mining operations often blankets the town, so it is hard to keep anything clean.

Denise also travels to the Corentyne area near the border with Surinam. This is a major rice-growing region. It also produces much of the vegetables for the city dwellers in Georgetown. To reach the Corentyne, Denise must travel by car or bus, crossing three rivers by bridges, and one, the Berbice River, by ferry.

Guyana has many rivers and smaller creeks. The very name *Guyana* means “land of waters.” It is also a land of peoples from areas around the world — from India, Africa, China and Portugal. The natives of the area are called Amerindians (American Indians).

## The vast interior

The Amerindians live mostly in the vast interior area of the country, in the dense tropical forest or in the cattle-raising area of the Rupununi savannahs near the border with Brazil. These people belong to a number of tribes each speaking its own language, although many also speak English.

If Sunita and Denise wished to visit Stephanie, an Amerindian teenager who lives in the Rupununi area, they would have to fly by light aircraft more than 200 miles across the forest-covered mountains of the interior. Such trips are expensive but exciting. On the way, they would stop at Kaieteur Falls, five times higher than Niagara Falls, in the midst of unspoiled, forested valleys and mountains.

Stephanie, 12, lives at Paramakatoi, high up in the Pakaraima Mountains. She speaks English as well as her native Patamona language. Called the “Gentle People,” the Patamonas lead a quiet existence growing giant yams and other produce on their hillside farms and making handicrafts or searching for gold.

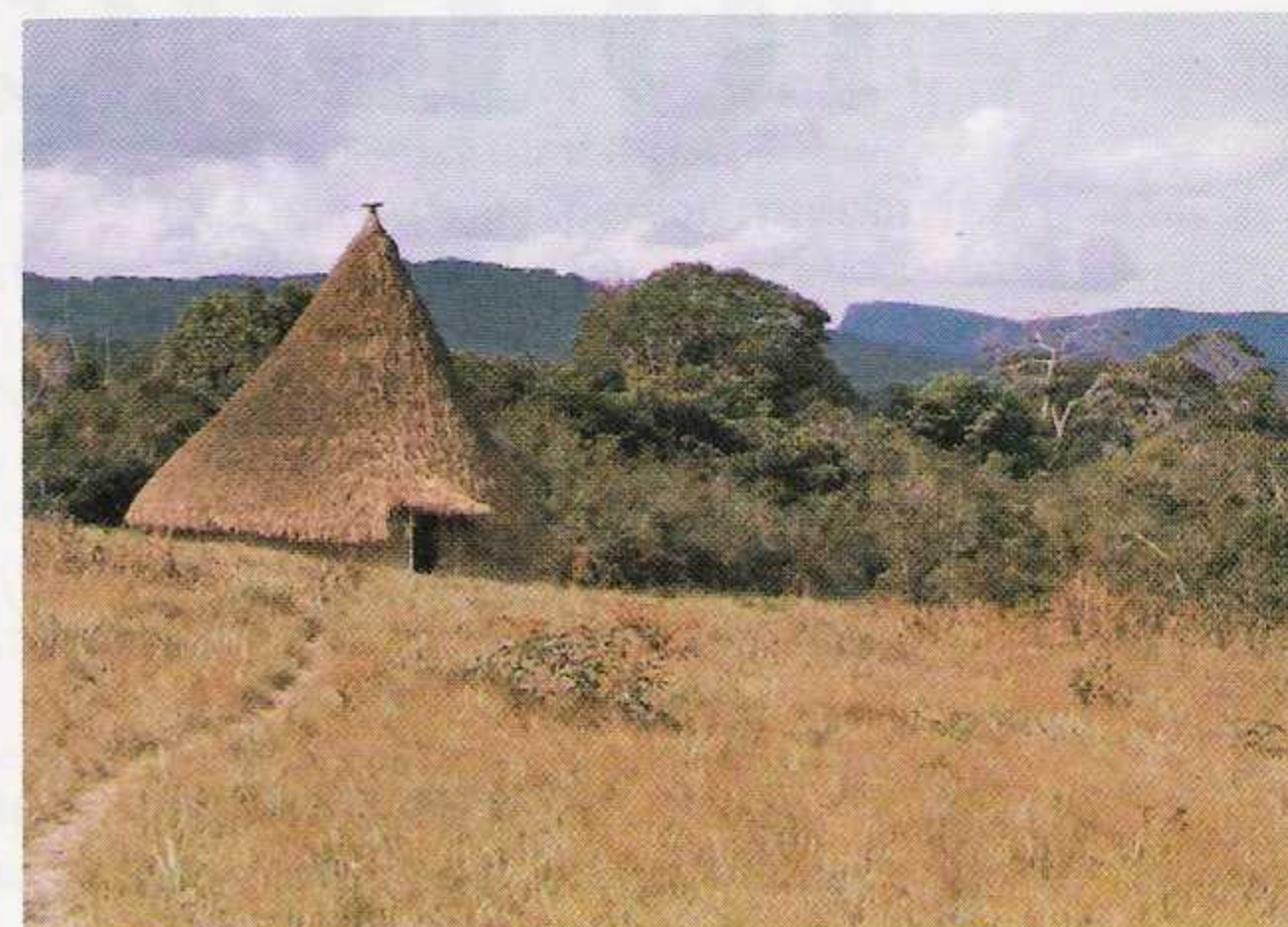
There are no cars or buses in their area. Actually, there are no roads, but winding tracks along which the people walk often for days at a time carrying their loads on their backs.

Before and after school, Stephanie helps her mother prepare meals for the family, washes clothes in a nearby creek and fetches water to the home.

Every two weeks an aircraft lands at the village bringing mail and news from the outside world. For Stephanie and the other children, it is a special day. They all gather to welcome the plane.

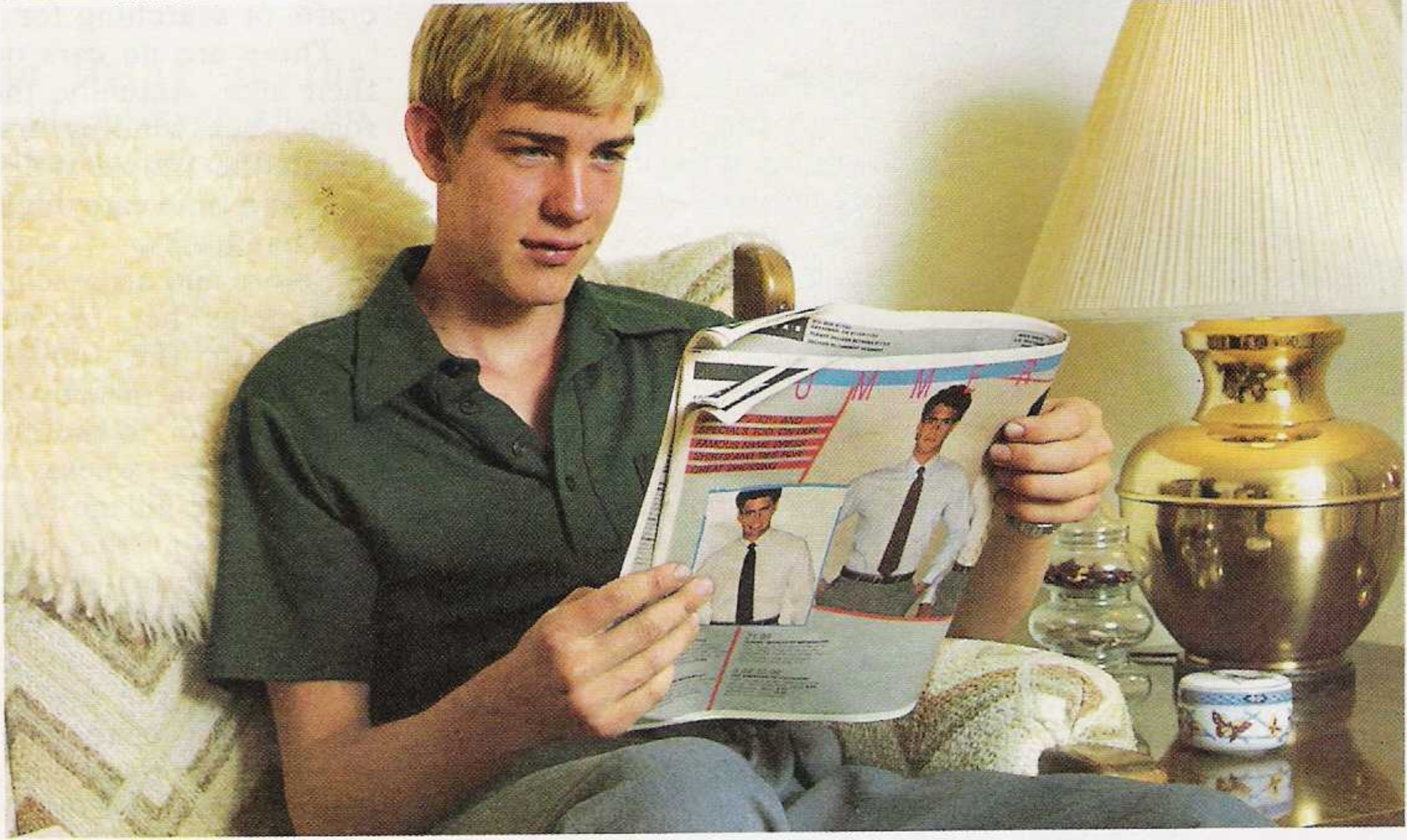
Although she has not been to Georgetown, Stephanie hopes to be able to go there and see all the things we take so much for granted — cinemas, cars, buses, trucks, shops, telephones, modern buildings and all kinds of people. She also looks forward to meeting other young people such as Sunita and Denise.

Guyana is a land of contrasts,



of many waters, and many peoples separated by geographical barriers, but for Sunita, Denise and Stephanie it truly is, as the nation’s motto states, “One people, one nation, one destiny.” □

Photos by Nathan Faulkner



# SHOPPER'S GUIDE to Back-to-School Clothes

*Here are some tips on how to look your best for less.*

**I**t's time for new clothes. School is starting up soon for many in the Northern Hemisphere, and besides, many of the things you wore last year are too small or they've worn out.

But maybe you don't have a large clothing budget. With

prices going up and money hard to come by, you need a way to improve your wardrobe without losing your shirt.

Dressing well is a skill and a challenge. And doing it on a limited budget is an added challenge. But there are tips that can help you make the most of your money.

Before you enter the war zone (the stores), you need to go through a little basic training. Otherwise someone is likely to make a killing off you.

### **Before you go shopping**

So where do you start? Your closet! No, don't hide in there. You explore your current supplies — the clothes that you can

still wear. Some of them may need to be mended or to have spots removed. But this will be less expensive than trying to start completely over.

By adding new clothes that you can mix and match with the ones you already have, you can seem to have a larger wardrobe than you really have.

You need to make a master plan. Look at your activities for the year and see what you'll be needing. For example, you may need clothes for school, exercise, church, dances, work and around the house.

Then get specific and write down the items you don't have that you really need. You may not be able to get them all at once, so you'll probably have to narrow this list down to what you really, *really* need.

One tip is to build a basic wardrobe of colors and styles that go together and that are always in style. Then you probably won't have as much problem next year because you'll be able to mix and match.

#### **What you don't know . . .**

If you don't know what colors and styles look best on you, try to find out before you go shopping. Don't let a salesperson pressure you into something you'll find you don't need, want or like.

Another tip is to know something about fabrics. Everyday clothing should be of a stronger fabric than clothing for formal occasions. Be aware of what kind of care different fabrics require: Does the label say it needs to be hand washed or dry-cleaned, and are you willing and able to provide that care?

It's also good to know how to check the quality of a garment. What good is it to buy clothes that will fall apart after a few washings? A few quality items are a better investment than a lot of cheap, shoddily made clothes that look good only the first few times they are worn.

Look at clothes you've bought that have worn out fast and try to see why. Were the seams intact, the buttonholes sewn firmly to

prevent fraying, the buttons sewn on well, the edges finished neatly? Things like linings, extra buttons, straight hems and 100 percent natural fabrics are often signs of a quality garment. If you know what to look for, you won't be fooled.

Checking catalogs and advertisements in advance can give you a general idea of what you will have to pay. But if you check around, you will probably find a wide variety of prices — all the more reason to look around for the lowest one. Be sure to be on the lookout for seasonal clearance sales.

How can you find the right places to shop? Some places to find exceptional buys are factory outlets, bargain basements of major department stores and the sale racks of those expensive shops you were always afraid to go into because you knew you couldn't afford to buy anything.

Don't write off preowned clothing, whether hand-me-downs or from secondhand stores. Often quality items are grown out of before they wear out, and with tight budgets this is a necessity for many of us.

#### **Buyer beware**

After doing all this research, you'll be ready to face the marketplace with all its hidden dangers.

You'll know what you want and won't be intimidated by pushy salespeople who want to sell you something they have (even if you don't need it). You won't be fooled by shoddy workmanship and flashy fads that will soon be out of style. You won't buy on impulse and end up with six belts and no money to buy pants (trousers).

When you go shopping, dress in clothes that are easy to change because you will want to try on everything before deciding which items to buy. Even when marked sizes are the same, the real size can vary greatly.

When trying something on, check to make sure it fastens and unfastens easily, that the waistline is at the best location for you,

## **With prices going up . . . you need a way to improve your wardrobe without losing your shirt.**

that the fabric will not strain when you sit or walk and that there is enough material hemmed up to allow you to lengthen the garment if you grow an inch or two during the year.

Even if you find what you want at the first store, don't buy it yet. Keep looking and you're almost sure to find the same thing or something even better at a better price.

Even if you don't, you'll know that you found the best deal because you will have checked.

#### **Decisions, decisions**

Before you buy something, why not ask yourself these questions?

- Where can I wear this and for how many seasons of the year?

- What do I already have or plan to buy that will coordinate with it?

- Do the color and style look good on me (not the model in the advertisement)?

- Does it fit just right?

- Does it have flaws or is it of quality workmanship?

- Is the salesperson pressuring me into this decision? (If so, why not leave and think about it before you decide?)

- Is this a fad item I will feel foolish wearing in a couple of months? (Remember, often even the wealthy can't keep up with the fashion designers.)

- Does this really fit into my budget and needs or am I just buying it to impress others?

- Does it require special care?

- Considering the other things I need to buy, can I afford this?

Happy shopping! □

*This article was compiled from reports by Kerri Miles, Linda Moll Smith, Edie Weaner and Jeff Zhorne.*

# IDEAS PLUS

## Fireworks on Wings

From a distance, the tree seems to be on fire. But as you get closer, you see that it's not burning so much as flashing. It's full of thousands of fireflies!

In some parts of Asia, male fireflies cluster on certain trees and flash together to attract females searching for a mate. The trees' glow can be seen up to half a mile away.

The firefly fascinates people wherever it lives, which is quite a few places. Where there is warmth and moisture, you'll probably find fireflies. (There are a few exceptions, like the West Coast of the United States.)

The Japanese have firefly festivals each summer. The highlight of these festivals comes when thousands of fireflies are released at the same time, filling the night sky with gemlike sparks.

For centuries, men have used fireflies to help light their homes. In the Orient, fireflies were often put in lamps and used to read by. The story is told of Ch'e Yin, a Chinese scholar who lived in the A.D. 300s, who had to rely on their light to get through school. He was too poor to buy lamp oil when he was a student, but fireflies were free!

Unlike light bulbs, the glow from fireflies (also called

lightning bugs) is produced with virtually no heat. This is because the firefly's light-producing system is nearly 100 percent efficient — nearly all the energy used is turned into light, with little wasted as heat.

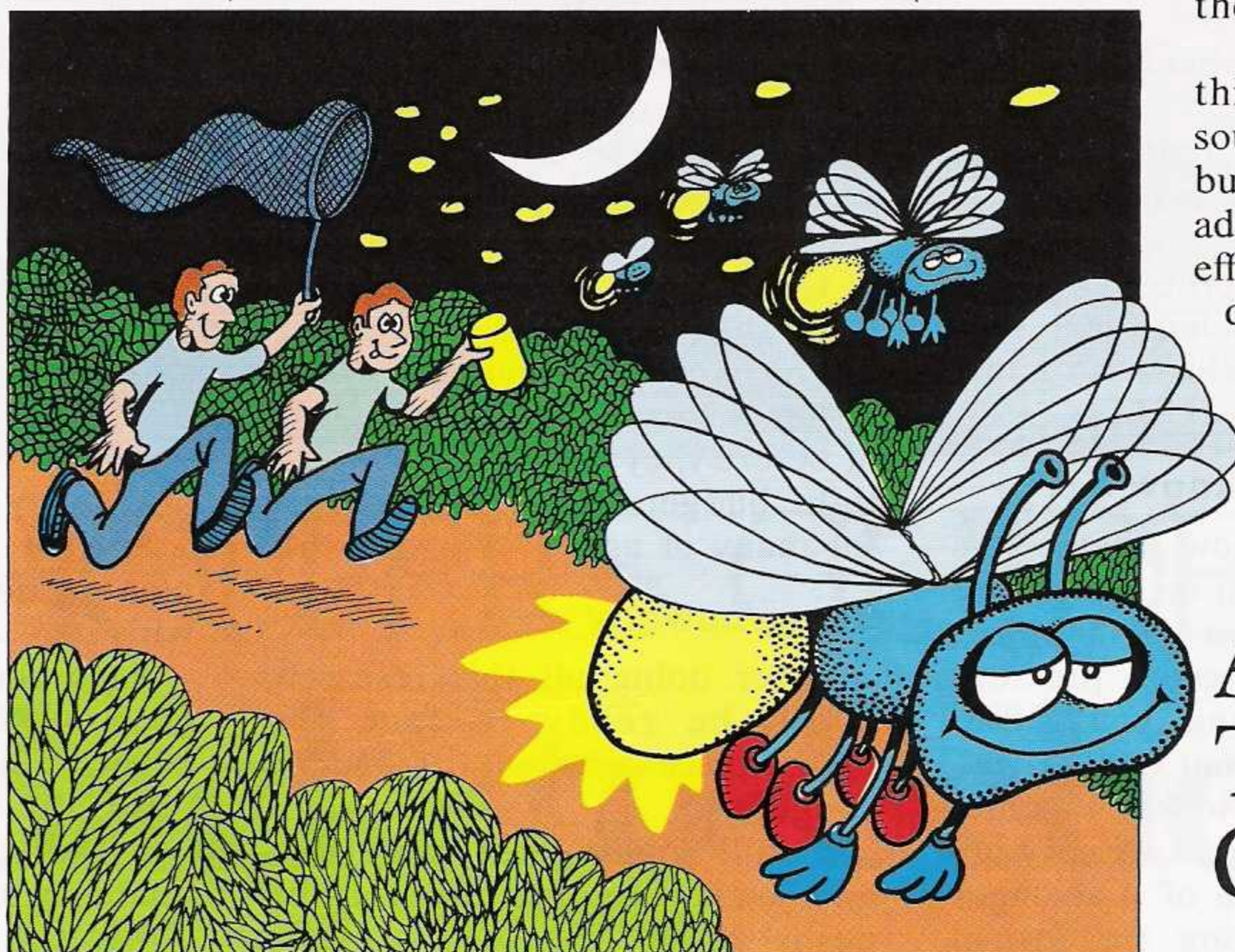
The light is sparked when the chemicals luciferin and

from a male of her species, she returns it with a special flash that the male recognizes.

He is now smitten, and flies in for a closer look. All the time, the two are sending coded flashes back and forth. By the time they meet, they know each other rather well and want to spend the rest of their lives together.

Well, maybe you think that doesn't sound too romantic, but you'll have to admit it's more efficient than

dating! — *By Peter Ditzel and Lowell Wagner Jr.* □



## A Tale of Two Ball Games

luciferase, found in the firefly's body, are mixed with an energy-supplying substance called ATP (adenosine triphosphate).

Nerves carry the light-up message to cells in the firefly's tail. When the message arrives, the cells release a tiny amount of ATP into the surrounding cells that contain luciferin and luciferase. The three chemicals react with each other, releasing a bright flash of light.

The light is used by the males to identify themselves to females of their particular firefly species. When the female sees a flash

It's got a bat and a ball, innings and runs, fielders and umpires, hits and outs. It's baseball, right? Well, maybe. It's also cricket.

The two popular summertime games are first cousins and their similarity comes from a common ancestry that goes back centuries.

Cricket probably had its origins nearly 1,000 years ago among children of southeastern England. In their game, played much as it is today, one child would throw a ball at some sticks placed upright in the ground, trying to knock them over. Another one, using a thick piece of wood, would try to hit the ball

away, keeping it from tumbling the sticks.

Adults didn't play the game much until the 1600s. Once they became interested in the game, cricket began to take on its modern form. By the end of the 1600s, cricket became so popular that crowds gathered when matches were played.

It was in the 1700s that cricket, after it had permanently established its place in England, began to move around the world. As the British Empire expanded, cricket went with it.

One of cricket's new homes was the United States. Even as late as the mid-1800s, it looked like cricket would become America's national game.

But a new game swept into the limelight, leaving cricket behind.

By the early 1900s, when baseball was firmly established people wondered just where it came from. A legend grew that in the 1830s, a young man named Abner Doubleday went out one day and invented it.

This appealed to many Americans because it supposedly showed that the game was completely American. So the legend flourished. But research showed that Abner Doubleday had about as much to do with inventing baseball as your Uncle Jake.

Baseball actually came from a blending of another ancient English children's game, called rounders, with  
(Continued on page 22)



## What's the Best Pet for You?

Pets easily become big parts of our lives. They give us much friendship and affection in return for a little good care.

But that good care doesn't just happen by accident. It takes some work before your pet comes home. If you're thinking of getting a pet, plan ahead to make sure it fits into your family

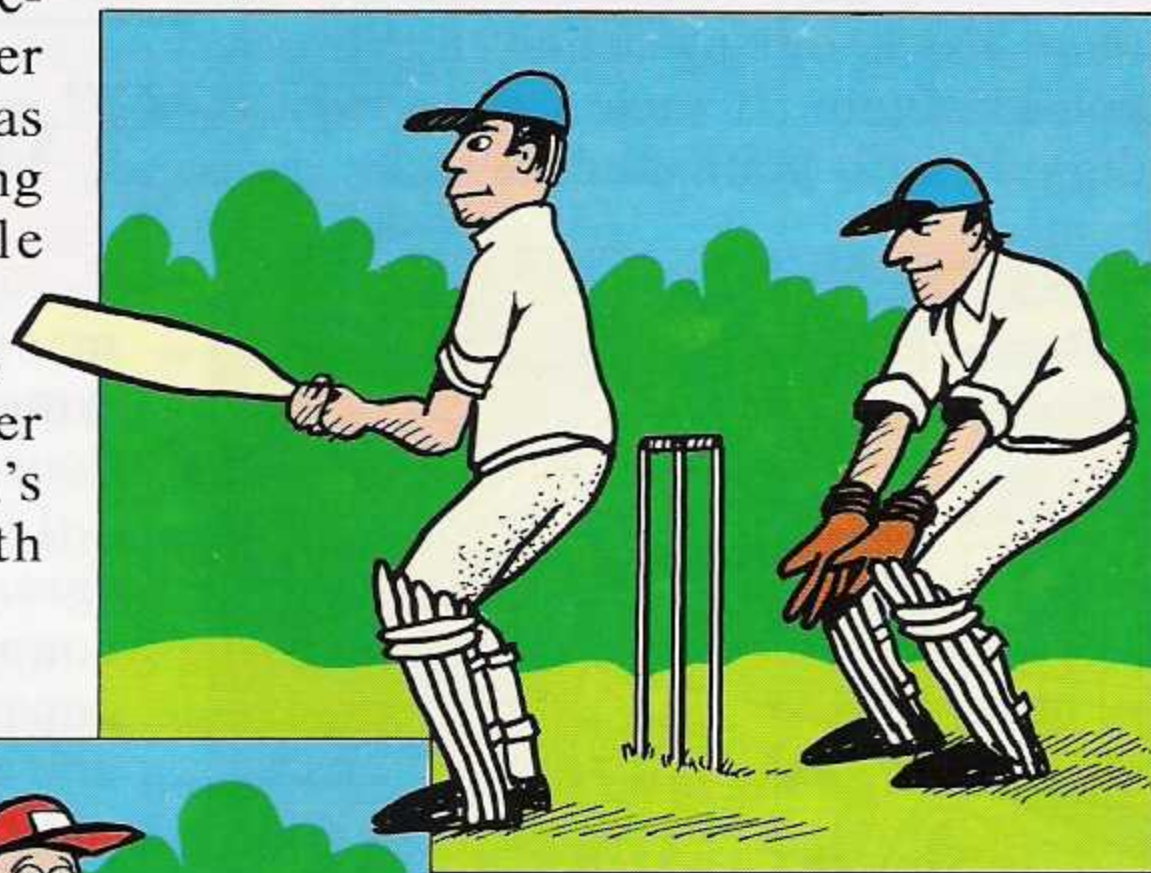
of them getting stuck with all the work if you get bored with your new friend. Assure them that you will be responsible for your pet's care. But be absolutely sure you can live up to your promises. If your mom has to clean up after your new puppy all the time, you can be sure your promises will come back to haunt you.

- Don't buy a pet on impulse. That cute, floppy-eared puppy in the pet shop window won't stay that way for long. Will you be able and willing to take care of it once it becomes a large dog?

- Find out as much as you can about different kinds of pets. If you know what's available, you will be able to get the pet you really want and are able to care for.

- Before you get your pet, arrange for housing, food, bowls, beds, grooming items and all the other things your pet will need to be happy.

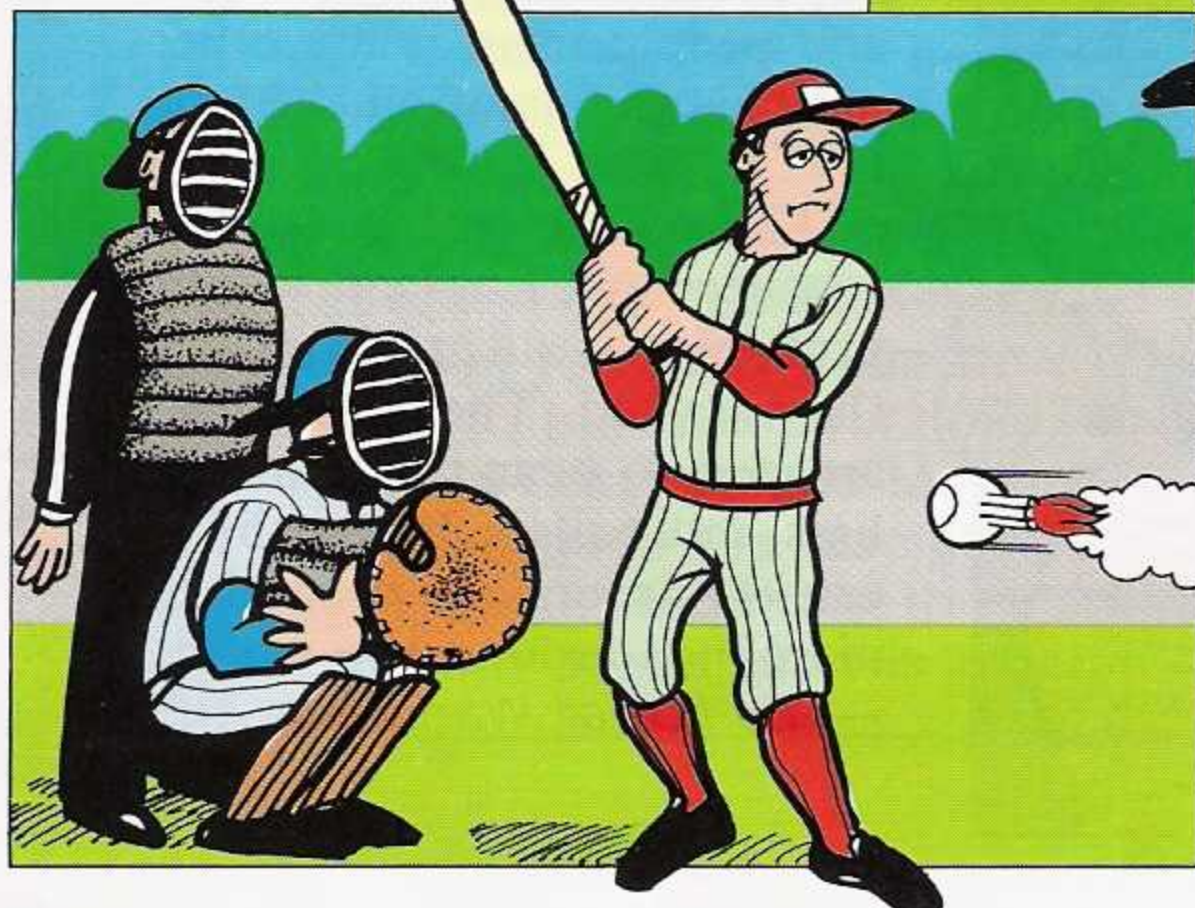
- How much time will it take to exercise, train and care for your pet? Different animals



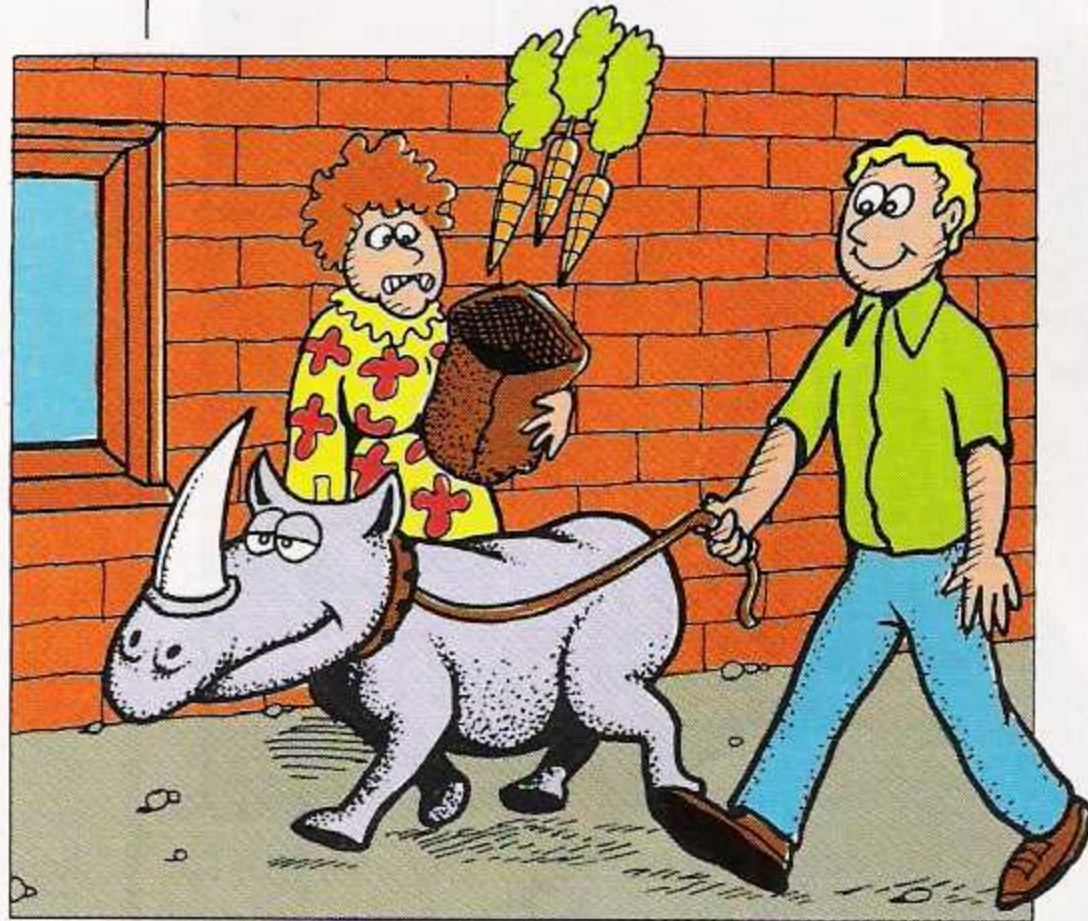
without causing problems.

There are several things to consider before getting a pet.

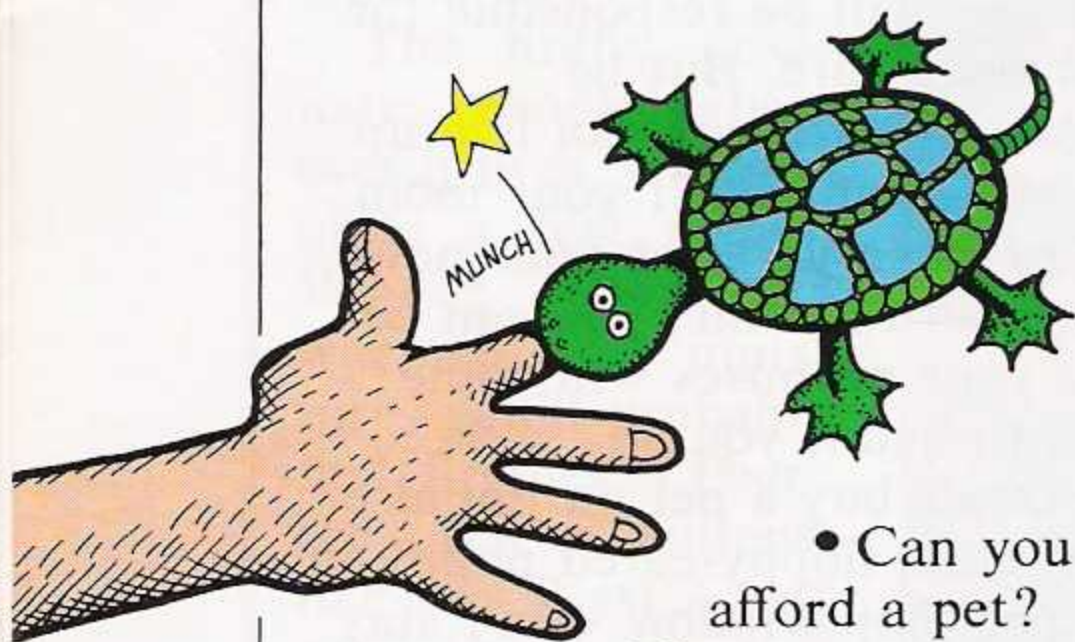
- First, consider your parents. They might like the idea of you having a pet, too, but not the idea



have wildly different needs. If you're set on owning a three-toed sloth, you won't have to worry much about exercise. But if you'd like to keep a pet cheetah, you may have to go to



a lot of trouble to provide it with fresh gazelles for breakfast every morning. Choose an animal that you will be able to care for in the best possible way.



• Can you afford a pet?

There are many expenses involved in keeping a pet: licenses, shots, equipment — not to mention food! And if it becomes ill, it may require the attention of a veterinarian and perhaps even a stay in an animal hospital. This all costs money. Unless you intend to pay for everything yourself, you must make sure your parents are willing and able to cover the costs of a pet. Discuss this with them before you buy a pet.

Some careful planning before you bring your pet home will ensure years of happiness — for both you and your pet. — *By Tom Delamater* □

## Proverbs for Today: Apply Now for Success

You're probably having a great summer (at least those of you in the Northern Hemisphere!) and not thinking much about school. But have you noticed those back-to-school advertisements are beginning to sneak back into the newspapers already? Besides a new Flintstones lunchbox, a deluxe set of 64 crayons or a new pencil box, what one thing do you think will help you have the best school year ever?

How about some good advice from a king? Solomon wrote many proverbs about the value of acquiring knowledge. In one of these, his counsel is as simple as it is timeless: Apply yourself.

"Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge" (Proverbs 23:12).

What does it mean to apply yourself to something? It means more than just showing up in class each day. It means more than just enduring school until you graduate. It means diligently digging into your studies and

extracurricular activities, giving them the kind of attention they need to be able to give you the most.

You have a chance for a fresh start this school year. It's a brand new opportunity to apply yourself toward a good education. Whether you are looking forward to attending college or beginning a career, a good foundation of knowledge will always be your ally. (See "What Employers *Really* Want," page 8, for a look at what employers feel you should know to be a good employee.)

Some of you will be beginning your secondary education and have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity heading your way. Those of you in your last year are in the homestretch. Give it all you've got.

Wherever you are in your education, our free booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*, will help you achieve your goals. It contains many tips and principles that can help you have an outstanding school year. Write or call today for your copy. Our addresses and phone numbers are on the inside of the front cover.

— *By Jim Roberts* □

## Two Games

(Continued from page 21)  
many of the rules of cricket. Americans loved it and it flourished.

Like cricket, baseball soon spread from its mother country. Today, Cubans, Japanese, Italians, Mexicans and people from many other nations are shouting, "Batter up!"

Those shepherd boys of southeastern England would probably be surprised at what they started. They would be amazed to hear the crack of bats and balls echoing through cricket grounds and baseball diamonds around the world.

— *By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □





# Teen Bible Study

## Here's How to Talk to God

By Richard A. Sedliacik

Did you know that God is eager and anxious for you to talk to Him?

God talks to us through the Holy Bible. But communication is a two-way street. God also wants us to talk to Him.

But how? Through prayer! Prayer is personal, intimate, understanding communication with the Supreme Power of the universe.

In this study, you will learn how to establish direct, personal contact with God. You'll learn step-by-step how to talk to God in a meaningful and effective manner.

But before you begin, be sure to get your Bible, a pen or pencil and some paper. Reading and writing out the Bible verses that answer the questions asked in this study will help you to remember the important principles you will be learning.

1. Does God want us to seek Him and make our requests known? Isaiah 55:6-7, Philippians 4:6.

God wants us to tell Him, as we would a close friend, how we feel and what we think. We do this through heartfelt prayer.

Prayer is simply our part of a two-way conversation with God. God speaks to us through the Bible and we speak to Him through prayer. In this way we get to know God, and He comes to know us.

2. Does God hear and delight in the prayers of those who seek to please Him and do His will? I Peter 3:12, Psalm 34:17, Proverbs 15:8, I John 3:22, 5:14-15.

3. Did Jesus Christ, who talked often to His heavenly Father, have absolute confidence that God always heard His prayers? John 11:41-44.

4. Did one of Christ's disciples, who was well aware of His closeness to the Father, ask Him to teach them how to pray? Luke 11:1. (Christ's instructions on prayer are found in Luke 11 and Matthew 6.)

Jesus gave His disciples a model prayer after which to pattern their own prayers.

5. Did Jesus tell His disciples to repeat

His example prayer over and over again, or did He tell them to pray in a similar way? Matthew 6:9. Had He just before this told them not to repeat the exact same prayer every time? Verse 7.

Christ was simply outlining the correct approach to God in prayer and the basic things we should include in our prayers. Let's study Christ's inspired guide to prayer and learn how to talk to God.

6. Did Jesus say to pray in a private place? Matthew 6:5-6. And did He set an example by spending the first part of His day in prayer — before anything else could interrupt? Mark 1:35.

It is important to pray in a private place — perhaps in a bedroom, a spare room in the attic or even a closet. One should also set aside a regular time to pray. For many people the morning is best — before the school or work day gets started.

7. Notice how Jesus began His sample prayer. To whom did He say we should pray? Matthew 6:9.

Jesus came to reveal the Father to us (John 1:18), and He always addressed the Father in His prayers.

God the Father sits on a majestic throne in heaven surrounded by dazzling beauty (see Revelation 4:1-11). When we talk to Him, we are having a personal audience with the Supreme Ruler of the universe!

8. Should we "hallow," or honor, the Father's name when we pray to Him? Matthew 6:9, last part. Did David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), address God in an attitude of praise, worship and adoration? Psalm 18:1-3.

As we begin our prayers, we should not only address and think of God as our Father, but also honor and praise His name, His office, His character and His great love for mankind. We should be sure to thank Him for our very existence, for our parents and the material things we possess.

9. How did Jesus continue His sample

prayer? Matthew 6:10, first sentence.

When we pray "Your kingdom come," we are asking for and looking forward to the time when God's literal government will be established on this earth through the return of Jesus Christ as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16). There will be peace, happiness and prosperity in the world tomorrow because all mankind will know and follow God's way (Isaiah 11:9). The Ten Commandments will then be the standard for daily life everywhere.

**10.** What did Jesus say in the second part of Matthew 6:10?

Be sure to ask God to help you understand and do His will. Ask Him to help you study and understand the Bible, which reveals what we are, why we are and how to live so we may achieve His awesome purpose for our lives.

**11.** What is the next request of Jesus' sample prayer? Matthew 6:11. Can we ask this in confidence if we are seeking to do God's will to the best of our ability? Matthew 6:33, I John 3:22.

We need to ask God to supply our daily needs. Go into detail about what they are.

of our sins? Matthew 6:12. (The word *debts* here refers to sins.)

All of us sin daily by breaking God's commandments in one way or another. We need to recognize and repent of our daily sins, and then ask our loving and merciful Father to forgive us (Psalm 86:5).

**13.** But must we also be forgiving toward others? Matthew 6:12, 14-15.

Remember that God will forgive us only if we are willing to forgive others. So we should ask God to help us be forgiving and merciful, especially to those who may have offended or hurt us in some way.

**14.** What is the last request of Jesus' example prayer? Matthew 6:13, first sentence. But doesn't the Bible state that God does not tempt anyone? James 1:13. Is it rather the devil and his demons who are out to tempt and harm us? I Peter 5:8.

Jesus' statement in Matthew 6:13 is better translated: "Bring us not into sore trial, but deliver us from the evil one [Satan the devil]."

We should pray daily and earnestly that God would not allow us to be brought into any severe trial or temptation, and that He would give us the help to master wrong desires and to do His will.

**15.** Before closing our prayers, in whose name should we acknowledge that we are praying? John 16:23, second sentence.

All our requests should be made in Jesus' name. We can rightfully ask the Father for things "in Jesus' name" when we know it is His will — that His authority stands behind our requests!

**16.** How did Jesus say we should close our prayers to the Father? Matthew 6:13, last part.

Jesus' inspired outline of prayer ends with praise and adoration of the Father just as it began. This reminds us once again to whom we are praying and of the character and office of the true God who rules His vast creation.

Finally, as Jesus shows by this example prayer, we are to conclude with the word *amen*. *Amen* simply means "be it so."

If you haven't begun to do so, start now to establish direct contact with the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of the entire universe. Talk to God every day. You'll begin to experience the truly successful life God wants you to enjoy. For God takes great delight in all those who talk to Him! □



God wants us to talk to Him — to tell Him, as we would a close friend, how we feel and what we think. (Photos by Nathan Faulkner)



Be sure to ask God to bless your parents so they may provide the family with adequate food, clothing, shelter and other necessities.

God knows of these needs even before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). However, He has not promised to automatically supply what we do not ask for (James 4:2-3).

Christ set the example of praying for others' needs as well (John 17:20). This is a vital part of God's way of give.

**12.** Should we also ask God to forgive us

# Dear Youth 84,

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

**Q. I've been dating a guy I like very much. He is popular and good-looking and I am very lucky that he likes me so much. But he has threatened to quit dating me unless I have sex with him. I am a virgin and want to stay that way, but I don't want to lose this guy and I can feel myself starting to weaken. Please help me.**

**A.** Premarital sex is against God's law for good reason (Exodus 20:14, I Corinthians 6:18). Judging by the many sad letters we receive, it's a mistake you're sure to deeply regret later in life. Look at this letter, for example:

"I always thought of myself as a nice girl because I wouldn't go 'all the way.' With every new boyfriend, necking became just the thing to do. But also with each it became less exciting . . .

"About four years after losing my virginity I met the man who would become my husband. I cannot put into words how much I love this man. However, there is a major problem. Because of my previous sexual experience, my senses are deadened. Now I wish I could go back and erase all the relationships I had with other men. What a true blessing it must be to have a wonderful sexual life with your mate!"

God places high value on the precious gift of sexuality He gave to us to be saved until marriage. He wants us to value it highly as well.

If the young man you are dating doesn't respect your values and threatens to quit dating you, how much do you think he really cares about you? Real love includes respect and concern for another. You will have to decide what you should value more — the temporary (and they will be) attentions of a popular young man or God's precious way of

life. Choose God's way and you won't regret it!

God tells us: "I will not leave you nor forsake you . . . Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law" (Joshua 1:5, 7). You can resist doing what you know is wrong and harmful with God's help.

Look back through *Youth 84* articles for specific suggestions on how to have happy, wholesome dates and to strengthen your resolve to do things God's way. It is difficult in our society, so remember to claim the promise of God's help so you can "be strong and very courageous"!

**Q. Most of the parents of the kids I go to school with have lots of money and spend what must be a fortune on clothes for their children. My family is not rich, and although I have nice clothes, I cannot afford to keep up with all the styles like the kids at school. How can I not be so embarrassed about the way I must dress?**

**A.** We have all been embarrassed at one time or another for one reason or another. It is not a comfortable feeling. But most of the time it is an unnecessary emotion that can be erased if we approach it the right way.

Many times, today, too much stress is placed on

designer clothes and not enough on what kind of person you are. If you've done what you can (for some money-saving tips, see the article on page 18), then the next step is to look at the reasons for embarrassment. Often it is caused by misconceptions.

One misconception comes from assuming there is a reason to be embarrassed when others don't even notice or really care. We often judge ourselves more harshly than others do.

But even if others do notice whatever is embarrassing to you and make cutting remarks, is that a reason to be embarrassed? Or are they just trying to boost their own egos by running somebody else down? This type of person will always find something negative to say about you, no matter what you wear.

Of course, saying you don't need to be embarrassed doesn't take the embarrassment away. Confidence does, so work on your strong points, develop your talents and abilities. Remember, mere stylish dressing does not determine a person's true worth.

For more about the subject of personal appearance, see page 28, "By the Way . . . 'I Don't Like the Way I Look.'" □

*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 Street, Pasadena, California, 91129.*



## The KEY

(Continued from page 1)

There was *something wrong* with the knowledge being produced, or else the needed MISSING DIMENSION in knowledge was not being discovered.

To the dictum of science that, given sufficient knowledge, mankind's problems would be solved and humanity's ills cured, I add this: Solutions come from the *right* knowledge that supplies the *right* answer — the true CAUSE of both the evils and the CAUSE that would produce peace and joy and every GOOD result; and, secondly, solutions come from the application of that knowledge.

Could it be *possible* for the

most highly educated minds to have been intellectually misled or deceived? Could they, viewing only *one side* of the question, be infallible, entirely above making mistakes?

### Is it not human to err?

For many years now, I have observed that errors almost always come when a person starts with a false basic premise — carelessly assumed as self-evident and taken for granted without question — and then builds on that false basic hypothesis.

Suppose we now appropriate the academic freedom to question that which educators have dismissed without examination.

Is it possible for us to find the EXPLANATION of why MAN is as

he is, WHY the world is filled with evils? Is it possible for us to discover the CAUSE of all human suffering, anguish, unhappiness and inequality? Is it possible to find the CAUSE that would produce peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity — the CAUSE that world leaders have apparently overlooked? Is it possible to find the key to human survival?

The answer to the preceding questions is YES! Yes, it is possible to answer these basic questions that have haunted man as long as he has existed. Yes, there is an answer to these questions that deal with man's very survival. If you want ANSWERS to these questions, write for our booklet *Why Were You Born?* It's free. □

## READER BY-LINE

# Adopting a Parent

By Monty DiGiacomo

"What right do you have to tell me what to do? You're not my real father anyway!" I said, as I ran into the bedroom and slammed the door behind me.

My mother's divorce was very confusing to me, but her remarriage affected me far more than I wanted to admit to myself.

As far as I was concerned, he was my mother's husband and nothing more. Never would I allow him to take the place of my natural father. No sir, he would never be my dad!

Well, it didn't take me long to figure out that I couldn't live like that. But what was I to do? There I was, a confused little boy with two fathers. One who never seemed to have time for me, and one I really didn't want — or did I?

It's not so easy to just accept anyone as your parent. Especially someone you don't even know that well.

Adapting to a new parent can

be difficult. It's no wonder so many have a hard time.

If you're having problems with a stepparent, or a natural parent, or both, here are four steps I've learned that can help.

1. **Learning to communicate** is the first step and sometimes the hardest. Many times lack of communication causes problems and misunderstandings. If you're having problems with your stepparent, communication can be the main key in solving them. Bring your problems to your stepparent and discuss them respectfully. Remember that arguing is not communicating.

2. **Put the past aside.** Holding a grudge won't get you anywhere. Everyone makes mistakes. Don't concentrate on past mistakes, but rather on how to solve ongoing problems.

3. **Pray about it.** I remember when I was having problems

with my stepfather, I needed all the help I could get. When I prayed about my situation, I got that help. Things worked out better for me.

4. **Don't give up.** Sometimes things don't change as quickly as we want them to, but, if you want to speed up the process, here's a hint. Meet your parent halfway. When he or she sees you putting forth effort, it will encourage him or her to do the same.

You have a choice: You can work to solve your problems, or you can add to them. A friend of mine added to his. He is now out of a home, out of money, but most of all, out of a mother and father.

So whether you have one, two or even three parents, if they're stepparents or natural, work for a better relationship with them. Don't settle for less. □

*Editor's note: The author, age 16, is from Yardley, Pennsylvania. For more about this subject, see the article on page 10. If you would like to submit an article for this section, send it to: "Reader By-Line," Youth 84, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91129.*

## Bright Lights...

(Continued from page 6)

plane. Those who used her were not there. Only one family member was with her when, so soon after she arrived in Hollywood with stars in her eyes, Shelly went back home to stay. □

# Life on the Streets

There are few teenagers who at one time or another have not considered packing up and moving out. Sometimes troubles at home can become so great that it looks like the only way to cope.

Millions of young people worldwide run away from home each year, up to two million in the United States alone. And the numbers are increasing.

But few are aware of what awaits them out on their own.

Here's what it's like according to runaways we talked to in Hollywood, California.

### On the streets

Many runaways end up on the streets with no place to go. Housing costs money, and few runaways have enough money to last more than a short time.

Most are broke and can't get a job. Child labor laws and lack of job experience make it difficult to land a legal job. It is hard to even look for a job with the tattered clothes most runaways have after a few days. They usually have no place to bathe, launder their clothes or even sleep.

But the worst thing is, runaways are "sitting ducks."

In many major cities there are certain people waiting at the bus terminals. A runaway is often easy to recognize. Carrying some kind of knapsack or duffel bag, he or she usually looks frightened and tired.

The waiting stranger comes up and offers his smooth lines: "You're beautiful . . . You're

What do you do when your money runs out? On the streets, the sleazy strangers with money and promises will quickly descend on a vulnerable runaway.



smart. Don't worry, I'll take care of you. You'll have a nice apartment, a nice car."

Many fall for words like these. When you're desperate, you'll listen.

Runaways, especially girls, but also boys, get led away to a strange apartment. There they are given alcohol and drugs, and when they are weak, the stranger abuses them and threatens them.

A few days later they are pushed out on the street and

forced to become a prostitute. If they don't do what they are told, they are beaten and threatened some more. Drugs are used to chain the runaway even more firmly to the "pimp."

This happens every day!

### How to cope

Running away from a problem at home is not the way to cope. But what are the solutions?

Suppose you don't get along with your parent or parents. Have you tried talking out the problem with them, calmly and with respect? Most simply assume, because of past misunderstandings, that their parents won't listen. But

these misunderstandings can be worked out.

Try sincerely, openly and honestly to talk to your parents. Don't do it when you or they are upset, but when everyone is calm and has the time. You will be surprised how much this will achieve.

But what if the situation at home is completely unbearable? Some parents, unfortunately, beat or molest their children.

Should you run away then? We have already seen the result of that action.

Instead, talk to someone who can help — perhaps a minister or school official. Explain to him or her what the situation at home is like, and he or she can help you find a way to deal with it. Then you will be provided shelter and food if it is necessary for you to leave home.

There is hope for those who are thinking about running away from home. The good news is that you don't have to. There are better ways to cope until you are old enough to live on your own.

— By Eli Chiprout □

# 'I Don't Like the Way I Look'

By Dexter H. Faulkner

**"I** have a self-centered problem, but it's a problem nevertheless.

"I have been told that I have little self-confidence and a poor self-image. I know that I should love the body that God has given me, but I don't know how."

The writer of this letter to *Youth 84* is not alone. Most people aren't completely happy with the way they look.

## Jokes that hurt

When did it start? Was it when the other kids in elementary school made jokes about your nose, how tall (or short) you were, your weight or your complexion? Maybe you laughed along with them, but deep inside it hurt. And it left a lasting impression.

We always compare ourselves to the "beautiful people," the people who are good-looking and popular. If only we looked like them, we would have it made. But we realize we can't look like them, so we might as well give up — we'll never be accepted.

Why does everyone judge looks so highly? In advertisements, the models have "the look," an unattainable standard for the majority of humanity.

Are looks really that impor-

tant? Not to God they aren't. He says He judges by what's on the inside — to Him, what you think is far more important than what you look like. Let's see an example of this in the Bible.

God's prophet, Samuel, was told

to go to a certain house and there he would find the man God wanted to be the next king. When Samuel got there and saw Eliab, he was sure he had found the one. You see, Eliab was a tall and handsome man, someone who looked

powerful enough to rule a kingdom. But God told him this wasn't the one.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'" (I Samuel 16:7).

## Real beauty

True beauty, then, isn't only skin deep. Real beauty actually comes from within!

A radiant smile and friendly, outgoing personality add beauty to a face that, with a frown, might be considered plain. A positive attitude and willingness to do what we can to improve our appearance can make a real difference.

Along with our facial expressions, some things about our appearance we can and should do something about. We can improve our posture and shape up our bodies with healthful diet and exercise.

Selecting clothing and hairstyles becoming to our bodies also helps. Being scrupulously clean and eating a well-balanced diet add to overall health, and improve the complexion.

Trying to cover up blemishes with cosmetics only adds to complexion problems.

Talk with your parents and others about other ways you can improve you.

But, some things you can't change, so it's probably best to get your mind off of them.

(Continued on page 29)

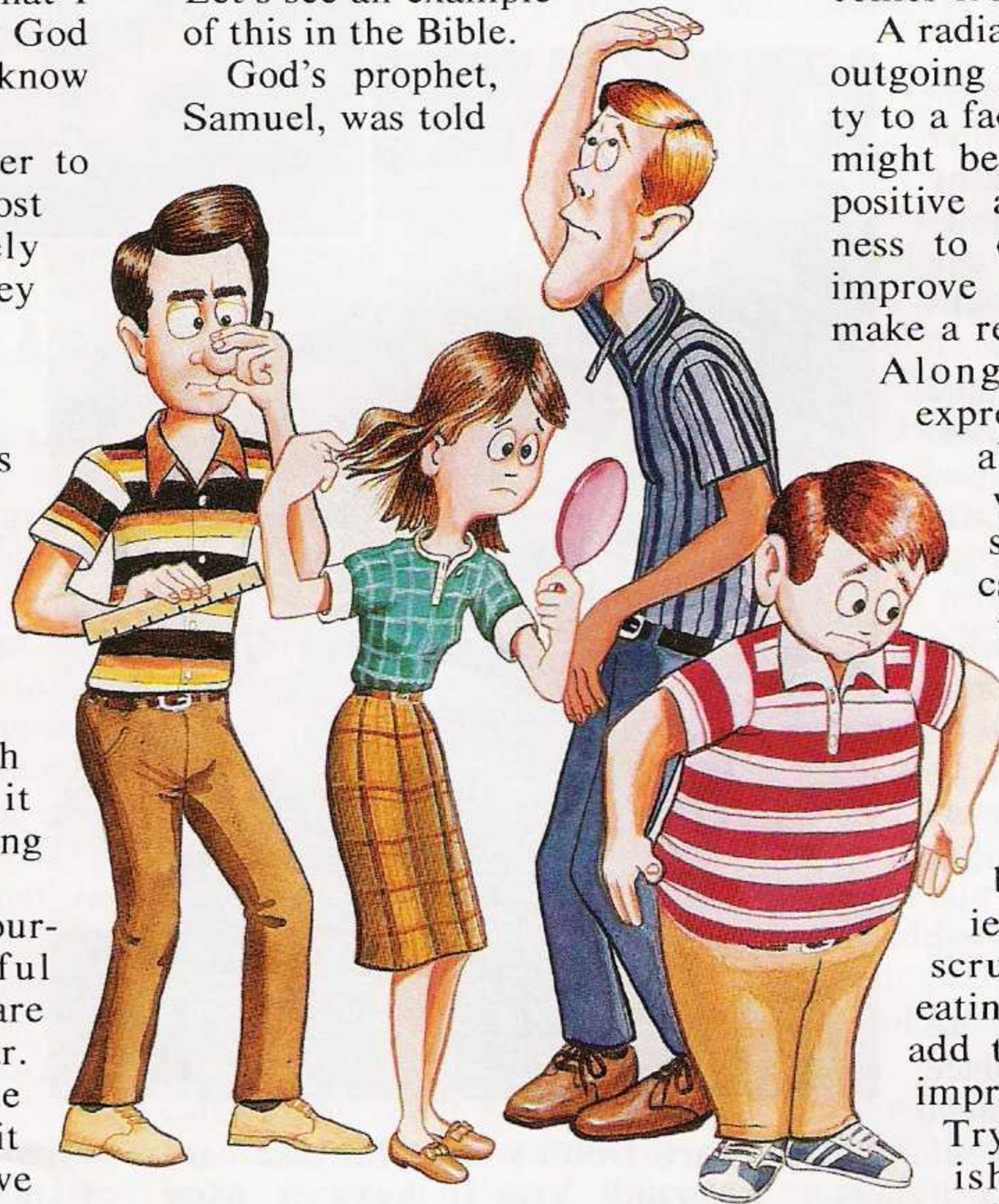


Illustration by Bruce Hedges

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## Way I Look

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(Continued from page 28)

Others don't think about what you consider your physical limitations nearly so often as you do. Besides, they are probably too busy worrying that you will notice their problems!

Don't try to be someone else. People will accept you more as you accept yourself. When you know you are improving yourself and your personality, you will feel better about you.

By the way . . . since you know what it's like to be teased about your looks, be careful not to offend others. Why not, instead, make it a practice to compliment others when they dress nicely, fix their hair in a becoming way and when a smile lights up their face?

### What you see . . .

The truth about beauty or good looks is — what you see is not always what you get. The trick is in looking for the gold in other people, and in developing some of your own. When you do this, you will learn to like people for what they are, and people will like you for what *you* are.

Here are some tips on how you can become a beautiful person all the way through.

- Be dependable. When you promise you'll do something, do it and do it right.

- Have a little self-control. Don't speak out of turn; learn not to get angry quickly.

- Share some of your time and talents with less fortunate people. Encouraging others is encouraging to you.

- Work at being understanding. Put yourself in others' shoes.

- Be friendly. "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44).

- Tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Try not to hurt feelings when you do it.

- Take time to show outward concern for other people.

Most of all, love God and seek His help in everything. □

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## DOES GOD EXIST?

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(Continued from page 4)

do relate to you personally. For example, maybe you live on a farm. The next time you see a calf born, take time to think about that. A few months before, that newborn was not even visible to the naked eye. Can that life have come from nonlife?

Maybe you have a telescope or can look through one on a field trip to a planetarium. As you look into the heavens ask yourself questions about the design of what you're viewing, the order, how it is sustained, the laws governing the astral bodies, the uniqueness of planet earth. How did it all happen?

Maybe you'll have a chance to travel in the world and view ruins of places such as Babylon, Ekron, Ashdod, Ashkelon or Sidon. Don't think, "These are interesting ruins," and let it pass from your mind. Consider the prophecies that were fulfilled at these places and realize God has the ability to foretell the future and make things come to pass. Watch how prophecies are coming to pass in today's news.

Maybe you'll be studying physics or experimenting in biology. Don't approach it merely as a class assignment. Connect those physical laws you see at work, that caterpillar you see change into a beautiful butterfly, those frogs you dissect — all the experiments you do — with a greater question. Did this just happen? Was it accidental? Did it just evolve?

Maybe your interest lies in computers. Think about how fascinating these machines are. But understand as well that the most complex computer is still greatly inferior to man's brain. Tie that in with the thought that man has never been able to create anything that is superior to himself. Then ask yourself if you believe that any power or force of less intelligence than your mind produced you!

These are just a few examples. In other words, if you take time

to really look at life, you see those proofs in action around you. They become *living* proofs. God becomes more real in your understanding.

You'll find that when God is more real to you, you'll draw closer to Him in your prayer, your Bible study, your listening to His Word in church and your observance of His way of life.

As I Thessalonians 5:21 says, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (Authorized Version). You can read about the proofs God exists, but go one step beyond that. Prove them in your life. Make them real through the things you experience.

Whether you are 13 or 18, you can prove God exists — and you can prove it so deeply to yourself that you will always hold fast to the belief and nothing will ever shake it. □

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## STRANGER

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(Continued from page 10)

family situation like this, it is easy to make comparisons with a divorced or deceased parent. Respect each parent for the way he or she is, and benefit from the unique attributes of this person.

**Become friends.** It is good that we develop a friendship with our parents, and we can do that and still maintain respect for them. But to make friends, we need to be friendly ourselves.

A real friend can be of immense benefit, and a good friend can even do more than someone who is a blood relative (Proverbs 18:24).

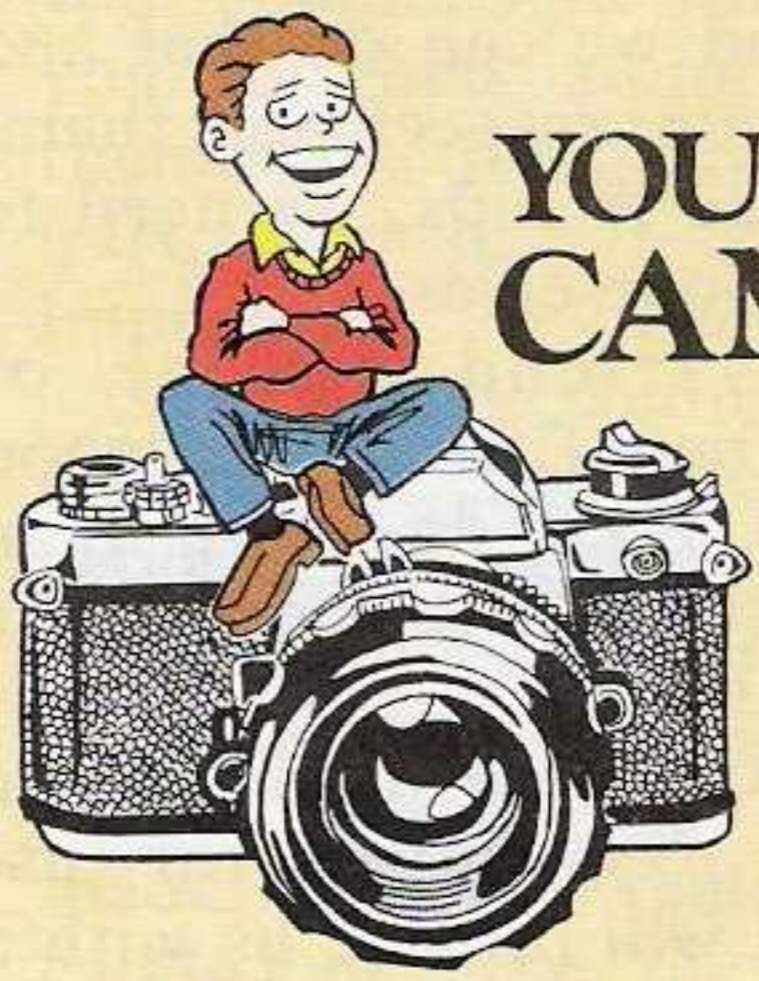
Every experience in life can be a growth experience for us. Family life will provide us with a stable foundation for the rest of our lives.

Even if our lives have been rocked by family tragedy, and a new family unit has been established, it too can be a secure and happy haven for us in an ever-changing society.

If you'd like to read more about stepfamilies, another article appears in the "Reader By-Line" section, page 26. □



Photographer — Shannon Ames  
Age 18  
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