

DECEMBER

Youth & 4

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Winners**

**Are God's Commandments
NEGATIVE?**
By Herbert W. Armstrong

Youth & 84

December

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COVER: A trip to the zoo can be quite exciting, especially if you get close to the animals! Other ways to add excitement to your life are discussed in the article "You Think You're Bored . . . Read This!" starting on page 11. Our thanks to Arusha the cheetah and the San Diego, California, Zoo. Photo by Hal Finch.

Letters

"Hope for the Future"

Thank you for the article "Hope for the Future" in the June-July issue. I really did enjoy it.

I just wish that everybody could read it. I thank Mr. [Herbert W.] Armstrong for writing the article.

Margaret A. Cowden
Birmingham, Alabama

Hiroshima and Pearl Harbor

The article on Hiroshima in the August issue was good, but there has been a spate of articles on this subject recently.

It is time to say something about Pearl Harbor, which was the start of it all. Had there been no Pearl Harbor, there would have been no Hiroshima.

So the United States feels it should become so strong that no nation will dare to attack. It does not want another Pearl Harbor.

Percy Maddux
Vancouver, British Columbia

Enjoys shopping

Thank you very much for the article entitled "Shopper's Guide to Back-to-School Clothes" in the August edition. It has really helped my mother and me to shop for school clothes.

My mother and I enjoy shopping, but we don't enjoy the bills and the clothes that don't last.

Thanks again.

Kasey Salter
Cocoa, Florida

Takes issue with title

Thank you for the article on friendship in *Youth 84* [August].

I must, however, take issue with the article's title, "Friendships Are Not Forever."

Even though I haven't seen some of my friends for years, those who are truly my friends will always be just that. Our relationship will change and take many forms, but that's part of any healthy friendship.

I take exception to your "here today, memories tomorrow" attitude.

True friendship will last an eternity. These things we call friendships now are just sparks compared to the flame they will begin in the very near future.

I'm sorry I can't fully agree with your article, but I would like to thank you for your timely advice to treat our friends with love and respect now.

Nola Whitely
Lawrence, Kansas

Thou Shalt NOT!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Are the Ten Commandments negative, and therefore a wrong form of law?

Often we hear the basic law of God impugned as negative, and therefore not good. God is often conceived as a stern, wrathful God, who angrily says to us: "Thou shalt not!"

God's truth is sometimes looked upon as a religion of fear, and therefore not desirable for modern, advanced, enlightened man. It ought to be positive, they say, not negative.

Thus God, the truth of God, the purpose and plan of God, the method of God and the law of God are relegated to the primitive, the imperfect — something enlightened man has now outgrown.

Modern man thereupon looks upon himself as elevated to a plane of rational thinking and knowledge higher than God or Christianity or God's law. Of course, when we understand, God's truth is the most *positive* religion or philosophy there is — it *eradicates* fear! It is the way of faith!

But *is* the negative form, "Thou shalt not," then, wrong? Is it outmoded? Should a perfect law contain only "dos" and no "don'ts"?

Just what is true character? Just what is the perfect life?

I have defined character — that is, true, righteous, holy character — as 1) coming to the knowledge of the true, as opposed to the false values — the right, instead of the wrong way; 2) making, of one's own free will and volition, the choice to *do* the right instead of the wrong; 3) the exercise of the will in actually *doing* the right instead of the wrong.

Character, then, once the true knowledge is acquired and the right decision made, involves self-discipline. The truly educated person is a self-disciplined person.

What, then, does this self-discipline involve?

Two things: 1) *self-restraint* to resist the lower impulses and pulls in human nature — to restrain the self from desires, impulses, habits or customs that are contrary to the right way; and 2) *self-propulsion* or determined initiative to drive the self to *do* those things that ought to be done. In other words, in true character in action there is the positive and the negative.

Suppose one rejects the negative as faulty and something to be discarded altogether. Suppose one applies the positive only. He impels the self to do those positive things to be done, but he exercises no restraint to resist those things that, by habit, impulse, desire or custom of others, ought not to be done.

Because human nature is what it is, the very nature in such a man will pull him constantly in the wrong direction. Thus character is destroyed. He is out of balance.

We find present in nature the positive and the negative, alkaline and acid, male and female. There are sins both of omission and commission.

Frequently we read the pitiful, feeble efforts of a man who fancies in his ignorant egotism he is wiser than God, setting forth his idea of ten positive commandments. Ten "dos," and no "don'ts."

And what do we find? How much character would such a list of commandments produce? Just about as much character as an electric light bulb would produce light with merely the one *positive* wire leading into it. Just about as much character as the male alone, without the female, could reproduce his kind. He might do a few good things, but all his good things would be nullified and canceled out by the unrestrained evil he would commit.

No basic law of life, forming the basis of perfect character, could be a perfect law unless it contains, in perfect balance, both positive and negative.

Examine now again God's basic code, upon which all His laws, social, economic, civil and religious, hang:

1. "Thou shalt have no other

Here is a perfect law. It outlines, in broad detail, man's right relationship with the true God [and also with] human neighbors.

gods before me." This is actually stated in the *positive* form, implying we shall worship and obey the true God. In a sense, this commandment contains both the positive and negative, directing us positively, "Thou shalt," to the true God, and restraining us from false gods.

2. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or . . . bow down thyself to them, nor serve them." This is negative, restraining from either making or worshiping any thing as a god; also from either worship, or obedience to, such false god. To the true God we owe both worship and obedience. Notice the principle of government in this, as in all the commands.

The whole issue is one of government. Adam and Eve rejected God's *government*, refused His rule over their lives, disobeyed four of the

"Honour thy father and thy mother"
— here is a positive command with
a definite promise of blessing!
(Photos: Hal Finch; *Youth 84*)



laws of His government. Christ came preaching the Kingdom of God, which is the *government* of God — commanding men to repent of their rejection of that government and the transgression of its laws (sin is the transgres-

sion of the law — 1 John 3:4) — providing the way to atonement for that transgression, and reconciliation to the worship and government of God.

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." This is a restraint — negative — to prevent cutting man off from the power and benefits of the right use of God's name.

If we repent of sin, and come to God by Jesus Christ, He puts within us the impregnating gift of His Holy Spirit, and thus we become His actual begotten children — begotten into His Family — bearing His name (the true name of His church is Church of



God) — and having access to all the benefits, blessings and power of that name. This command is a negative, making possible the positive and vitally needed blessings through that name!

4. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy . . . the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God." Here is another positive command — the only one God specifically commanded us to "remember," and the very one mankind insists above all upon forgetting.

Is it not an indicting commen-

tary on the unrestrained human nature, and irrational thinking of the self-professed rationals who imagine themselves superior to God, and who insist His commandments ought to be all positive and not negative, that this most positive of all the commandments they flout and disobey with greatest impunity?

Again, notice the perfection — here again is a command including both positive and negative, for while it is primarily positive, yet it includes negative restraints to make possible that positive — "in it thou shalt not do any work."

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother." Do you see any negative statement in this command? Here is a positive command, with a definite promise of blessing. This heads the six commands regulating man's relationship with neighbor. However, the negative opposite is implied, though not stated.

6 through 10. "Thou shalt not kill . . . commit adultery . . . steal . . . bear false witness against . . . covet." Here are the famous negatives, yet each implies the opposite positive: as, thou shalt love and have charitable, tolerant patience toward your neighbor; be true

to your wife and respect your neighbor's wife; be honest; tell the truth; and respect your neighbor's property.

Here is a perfect law (Psalm 19:7). It outlines, in broad detail, man's right relationship with the true God that he may have all the needed guidance, help and blessings from God; and also man's right relationship toward human neighbors — including parents, children, husband and wife and all neighbors.

This law provides for both worship of God, religiously, and obedience to God and blessings from God — every need of man

(Continued on page 24)

A Glimpse of the QUEEN

By Penelope A. Goudie

Many who travel to England go to Buckingham Palace, hoping to catch just a glimpse of the Queen. Here is a brief look at the story of this most fascinating and dedicated monarch.

She was asleep in a giant fig tree, in a land far from home.

Below, wild animals prowled in the Kenyan night, while back in England events were occurring that would thrust the young princess into the world's spotlight.

That night in February, 1952, Princess Elizabeth, who may not have wanted the career, became Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth and Defender of the Faith. From then on, her life could never be the same.

That fateful night

She was on tour in Kenya, in East Africa, at the time, and was visiting the original Treetops Lodge in the Aberdare Forest. The lodge was then a small wooden hut high in a tree.

Treetops is a fascinating place designed so visitors can watch animals, such as elephants, warthogs, rhinos and baboons, come to drink at the water hole. (I have seen the exciting interplay of nature there myself!)

That fateful night, a world away in Norfolk, England, Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died peacefully in his sleep. He died in a family home in Sandringham, surrounded by

woodlands, open fields and wide, gray skies. He was deservedly much loved by his people, by his warm vivacious wife (now the Queen Mother) and by his daughters.

His eldest daughter, Elizabeth ("Lilibet" to her family), became queen on his death, though she was not crowned until 16 months later. From a young child, it had been thought likely that she might become queen, but that couldn't have lessened the shock and the pain.

Her life from then on would have been very different if her mother had had a son. "Lilibet," when young, is said to have prayed for a baby brother!

A sense of duty

George VI himself was not the firstborn son of George V and Queen Mary, but became king when his brother Edward gave up the throne. It wasn't a job George VI wanted, but he fulfilled the office to the best of his ability.

Perhaps the greatest gift George VI gave his much loved daughter Elizabeth, who was similarly somewhat reserved and serious in public, was that strong sense of duty.

When she stepped on English soil on Feb. 7, 1952, as Queen Elizabeth II, she was greeted by her 84-year-old grandmother, herself a queen, who wanted to be the first subject to kiss her



granddaughter's hand. The new young queen must have realized how dramatically her life had altered as she now changed from her summer lightweight clothes to those of mourning.

Her first duty the next day was

to give her accession speech. In it she showed her sadness and courage:

"... I shall always work, as my father did... to uphold the constitutional government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples... I pray that God will help me to discharge worthily this heavy task which has been laid upon me so early in life."

Elizabeth was 25 years old and happily married. She was the mother of two children then. But now she was to have new responsibilities.

Perhaps it was only at the more than three-hour-long coronation ceremony in June, 1953, that she fully realized for the first time how alone she was, as the glittering, historic and heavy crown weighed on her head. For, one unusual aspect of her job is that experience is her teacher — even though her parents and grandparents had prepared her for the future and her husband has well supported and complemented her. On the death of one monarch, the new monarch is Head of State and is expected to fulfill the duties immediately.

What's it like to be queen?

Can any of us understand what it's like to be queen? It's as varied as a kaleidoscope.



Liaison photo

There's the glamorous side. She has crowns, jewels, wealth. She owns palaces and has one home with more than 600 rooms to manage — Buckingham Palace. She has fabulous meals and a vast wardrobe of clothes, so many

they have to be numbered in a book!

Her social life is exciting. She meets kings, presidents and heads of state in private audiences, and is said to have impressed even the great Sir Winston Churchill with her grasp of world affairs.

She opens factories, offices, hospitals and gives luncheon and garden parties when not touring overseas. Almost every day of her life as queen she has worked at the red "boxes" — containing state papers — all of which she insists on reading. Even on holiday her "boxes" follow her around.

The Queen truly meets some of the most famous people in the world today. But there is a flip side.

Everywhere she goes she is under guard. Photographers watch and capture every expression in newspapers and on television. When she's tired or sick, or has everyday problems, she's still got her duties to perform: her office duties, her speeches, her tours, her audiences with other leaders.

She's the symbol of stability; the subject of envy, adoration and hatred. She's the figurehead for millions, yet the target of criticism. She's hardworking and courageous. She's a family loving woman who even with her busy schedule is said to find time to telephone her mother daily.

Vulnerability

She's everywhere protected, yet totally alone in her calling and her vulnerability. Perhaps we tend not to think of her vulnerability, such as in July, 1982, when she awoke to find a man in her bedroom. Thankfully she had the presence of mind to distract his attention until servants came to her aid.

The pressure and dangers of her job are still there. This year the Queen has taken a trip to Jordan in the Middle East. There were real fears for her safety on this trip, as a radical group

threatened violence. There would have been no shame in not making the trip, but Her Majesty was determined to go ahead. Such is her courage.

Today

She is no longer a young girl with a happy home life; a teenager growing up in the war years; a young wife; a happy new mother. She is a grandmother and has reigned for more than 32 years since that fateful night in 1952. She is probably the most traveled woman on the face of the earth today. What would she be doing if she were not queen?

It is said she would lead a quiet life in a country house surrounded by family, children, horses and dogs.

If she were not queen? Perhaps sometimes she reflects on what her life would have been like if her Uncle Edward had not decided to give up the throne. In the evening she is said to enjoy walking alone for about an hour when possible, with her corgi dogs, round the gardens of one of her palaces. These walks provide tranquility and time to meditate in her busy life.

For to her, her job, the career she was born to do, is almost a divine duty, a sacred trust handed down by her father. She believes strongly in her vows to God. She has carried out her duties to the utmost of her abilities. Could any woman do more for her people?

This article is only a brief glimpse of the character of a remarkable woman; for she is above all a woman, a human being like you and me. Her sense of duty is unchanging in a changing world and we can only hope a small measure of her dedication to her calling will inspire all of us to rededicate ourselves to our goals.

It seems fitting to end with Her Majesty's own words, the message to her people on her 21st birthday. They are so simple, so heartfelt:

"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether long or short, shall be devoted to your service." □

Clearing Up the Facts About ACNE

By Dan C. Taylor

It's so frustrating to look in a mirror and see a face dotted with embarrassing acne!

What exactly is acne anyway? What causes it? And, more important, is there anything you may be overlooking in trying to rid yourself of this distressing problem?

Here are some answers.

What is acne?

The word *acne* means an eruption on the face. In essence, acne is a disease that strikes the oil-secreting system in the skin.

This system, known as the pilosebaceous system, is made up of individual units consisting of three basic parts: a hair follicle (*pilo* comes from the Latin word for hair), an oil-producing gland (called the sebaceous gland) and a duct that connects the sebaceous gland to the surface of the skin.

Though scattered all over the body, these units are concentrated on the face and upper third of the body — on your forehead alone there are more than 2,000 glands in each square inch. This is why the majority of acne sufferers are afflicted in these areas.

The sebaceous gland produces a waxy oil (called sebum) that moves up to the skin surface where it moisturizes the skin and

hair. Dead cells shed from the duct lining are also transported to the surface in the sebum.

Problems arise when the shed cells begin to stick together, forming the beginning of a plug (called a comedo) in the duct.



When the sebaceous gland produces more and more sebum that dries and builds up behind the plug, the result is acne.

There are two types of plugs, or comedones, that can develop. The first type, called an open comedo, forms near the surface of the skin. It's also called a blackhead — so-called because of its dark color. This is because of the concentration of melanin, the substance that gives your skin its color.

The second type is called a closed comedo, and forms further below the skin's surface. These so-called whiteheads can cause a

great deal of trouble because they become filled with dead cells, bacteria and other poisons. These can cause the pilosebaceous duct to rupture into the surrounding tissue. The result is a red bump on the skin commonly called a pimple.

Because of the presence of poisons, the body's white blood cells rush to defend the body and attack the inflammation. The by-product of this battle is a buildup of pus that, in turn, forms a yellow cap or pustule.

Sometimes the inflammation will form a cyst. These cysts, or large, hard bumps beneath the skin, tend to disfigure the face and cause scarring.

It is estimated that more than 10 percent of teens are afflicted by severe cases of acne. Severe acne would include one or more cysts or more than 30 blemishes. In all, about 80 percent of teens have some problem with acne.

What causes acne?

Studies have not given conclusive proof yet about what actually causes acne. What is known is that it is almost always associated with puberty — about age 11 for girls and 13 for boys. During this time, hormones begin to stimulate the sebaceous glands. Since boys produce more of these hormones than girls, they also tend to suffer worse cases of acne.

Many researchers believe that acne runs in families. If your parents had acne, you are likely to

have it as well. As one dermatologist, Dr. John Reeves, put it, "If you are born with large, active sebaceous glands, you're destined to have problems with acne."

Causes you may have overlooked

Yet another cause of acne is stress. And, unlike genetic and biological causes, stress is a cause you can do something about.

Have you ever noticed how acne seems to multiply before your very eyes just before some long-anticipated event? Stress contributes to acne by causing the body to secrete adrenaline that, in turn, increases the secretion of the hormones that seem to play a key role in starting acne in the first place.

Much of the stress teens face is related to social conduct. How should you act in a certain situation? What should you say? How can you handle the way others think about you? These are part of the pains of learning to live in an adult world.

In many cases, these worries can be lessened by learning to talk about them. Try talking with your parents, grandparents or an older brother or sister. Your mom and dad both had a first date — they know firsthand the awkwardness and frustrations of teenage. Your parents probably even experienced the emotional and physical pain of acne as well. Chances are, they can help relieve some of the stress you are under — if you let them.

Another good source of advice is the book of Proverbs in the Bible. It has advice on how you should act in many different situations. It is advice worth looking into. And it's advice that may relieve a nagging doubt that could be causing stress.

Keeping things in perspective is another way to relieve stress. It isn't the end of the world if you don't make the team or if you don't get a perfect score on your mathematics test. You know from past experience that what hurts so badly one day seems to fade from memory as time goes by.

Also, try learning to relax.

Take a few deep breaths when you feel yourself being weighted down with tension and problems.

Take time to think about what you want to do with your life. Get your mind off today's problems by picturing in your mind the future solutions. OK, so you don't know how to dance right now. Plan to learn later on.

Diet is another possible factor teens need to be aware of in battling acne.

While the latest studies released by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) do not link one's diet to the cause of acne, skin specialists point out that people can react to certain foods by breaking out. One way to see for yourself is to experi-

Have you ever noticed how acne seems to multiply . . . before some long-anticipated event?

ment by eliminating certain suspect foods from your diet. You may see improvement.

The main thing to remember is that a balanced diet along with adequate amounts of sleep and exercise are important for your overall health.

Another, often overlooked, cause of acne blemishes is makeup. Many girls use makeup to cover up their acne blemishes. It seems the more makeup is used, however, the worse the problem becomes.

This could be the case, because makeup can irritate the skin and, if oil-based, can actually contribute to the acne problem. Dermatologists often recommend that those suffering from acne stop using makeup entirely.

One of the sad things about

acne is that it can leave behind scars that last a lifetime. And many teens actually contribute to the scarring by squeezing their blemishes.

Dermatologists warn that you shouldn't squeeze blemishes. The reason is simple: When you squeeze, you literally explode the pore on the surface of your skin and increase the risk of scarring. And while much of the material inside the blemish is ejected, almost as much is exploded into the surrounding tissue beneath the skin. This causes the inflammation and your acne to spread even more.

If you feel you need to remove a blemish, dermatologists recommend that you purchase a comedo extractor. These surgical instruments can be found in pharmacies and drugstores.

Acne can drive people to extremes. Face scrubbing is one area where many teens may be doing themselves more harm than good.

Many people suffering from acne become compulsive face scrubbers in an effort to wash away their acne. However, according to a USFDA report entitled "Stubborn and Vexing, That's Acne," furiously scrubbing your face many times during the day with a harsh soap only irritates your face and acne.

The problem, remember, is below the skin. A mild, greaseless soap and warm water are usually all that is required to remove surface oil from your face.

Selling acne medications is big business today. However, research indicates that some medications are of questionable value, while others may have serious side effects.

Acne is a complex problem. It won't go away in a day or two. But there are ways you can combat acne: easing stress, a good diet and eliminating makeup. Remember to avoid squeezing your blemishes and scrubbing your face hard with harsh soap. Though they will not totally eliminate your acne problem, these measures are certainly a step in the right direction. □

'I'm So Embarrassed!'

By Alan Dean

Acute Embarrassment — *Symptoms: crimson face, burning ears and people around you laughing mercilessly.*

When people ask about our most embarrassing moments, we usually tell about something that happened a long time ago.

The embarrassing things that happened last week aren't really funny yet — at least not to us.

How to get embarrassed

Many teens are sensitive and easily embarrassed. Kid brothers can really put big sister on the spot, just by mentioning a certain boy's name. And some teachers seem to have an uncanny knack for embarrassing students, especially in front of the entire class.

Life can be so stressful when you are growing up. Here is a list of things many teens find embarrassing:

1. Mom and Dad saying something dumb to your friends.
2. Your saying something dumb to your friends.
3. Going to a dance for the first time.
4. Having to meet new people.
5. Being uncoordinated in sports.
6. If you're a guy — when your voice cracks.
7. Someone mentioning the name of the person you secretly like.
8. Having out-of-fashion clothes or hairstyle.
9. Having your friends find out you go to church.
10. Being ridiculed for your moral values.

And these are just a few!

What do these embarrassing things have in common? Most embarrassment is caused by fear of what others will think. And that is a clue to figuring out how to handle it.

You see, many times other people aren't thinking the things that we fear they think. They have their own worries about being accepted, and don't have a lot of time to worry about what impression you are making. Actually, they'd

rather you looked a little dumb, because that makes them feel better.

So with many types of embarrassment, it's best to see if others really noticed or thought anything of it before making a big deal out of it yourself.

And if they did notice, often the best approach is just to find a way to laugh it off. This way, if other people are laughing, they can be laughing *with* you, not *at* you.

But there are times when others try to make us feel embarrassed when there is nothing to be embarrassed about.

Real ridicule

What about when others are ridiculing us for the way we are or for what we believe? This is much different from just snickering when we make a mistake. These people are trying to intimidate us into being like them.

Most of us are worried about not being accepted, and this is normal and healthy. However, when we let people so bully us that we are scared to be ourselves, or to do what we know is right, then it is getting out of hand.

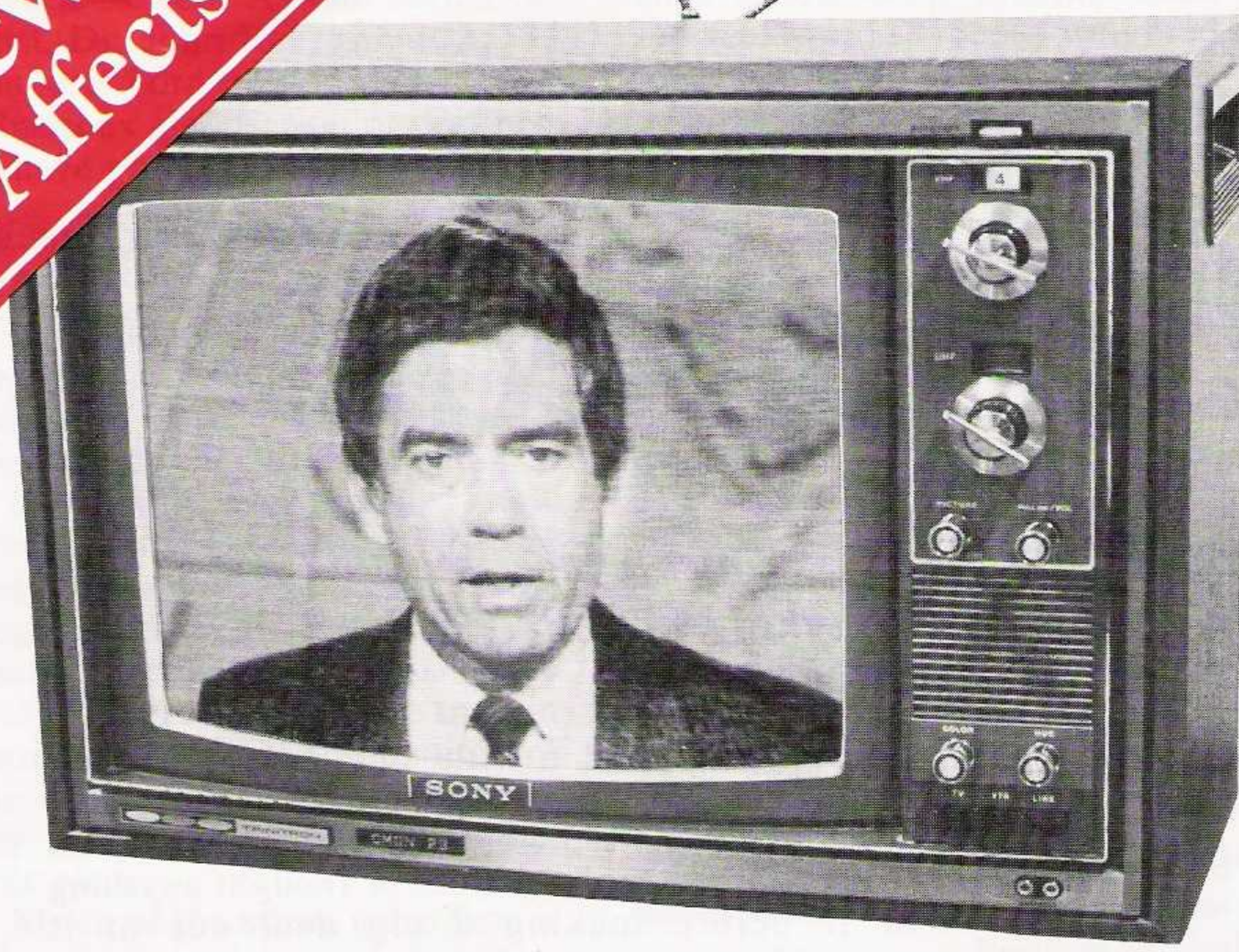
To be yourself is to be confident in doing what you know to be right, no matter what others think. When you're standing up for what is right, God will back you up. And His opinion is the one that really counts!

In history, great men have had to stand against the tide of public opinion. Christians have been killed for their beliefs throughout the centuries. Even today, to be a true Christian takes courage.

We all face embarrassing moments. Some of them we will get a good laugh about later, but others will never be funny because other people were trying to force their opinions on us by using ridicule.

Remember: You don't need to be embarrassed to stand up for what you believe. It's God's opinion that really counts. □

News
That Affects You



Dan Rather, anchorman of the *CBS Evening News*, says TV news in the United States can't keep the viewer fully informed. (Photo by Nathan Faulkner)

What Newsmen Say About TV News

• “Frankly I worry that anyone would watch the *CBS Evening News* and believe that they could be fully informed or that they would have all the information.

“It is not possible in the [time] we have in the evening to give you, the citizen, enough information for you to be fully informed.”

Who would make such a statement? A competitor from one of the other television networks in the United States? A newspaper reporter? No. None other than Dan Rather, anchorman of the *CBS Evening News*, the most-watched evening news telecast in the United States.

Yet 64 percent of the population of the United States gets all or most of its news from television.

In some ways, Mr. Rather feels, television news can't be beat.

Magazines and newspapers can't match the immediacy of television. The quick coverage given to the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and the attempts on the lives of Pope John Paul II and U.S. President Ronald Reagan are examples of this.

However, “that same immediacy makes television news dangerously vulnerable to the commission of mistakes on the air,” said Av Westin, an executive producer at ABC, another American television network.

“Print journalists,” he said, have “time for fact checking, calling back to verify one's notes, mulling over some potentially misleading phrase.”

American viewers got a firsthand look at this when the three major networks announced the death of James Brady, the White House press secretary, who

was shot at the same time President Reagan was.

All three of the networks later had to announce to the viewing audience that Mr. Brady was still alive.

“Television news never claimed to represent what an informed citizen needs to know,” Mr. Westin said.

Regularly scheduled television news is less in-depth than magazines and newspapers. Mr. Westin refers to television news as an “illustrated headline service.”

How does Mr. Rather suggest we stay informed?

“Clearly one needs to watch a television news broadcast, one needs to read a daily newspaper, needs to read at least one weekly newsmagazine and, yes, more than occasionally must read a book.” — *By Thomas C. Hanson* □

Old Faithful Turns Fickle

• OK, maybe it didn't erupt every 69 minutes on the dot, but it was close enough to earn this geyser the name “Old Faithful.” It became so famous that 2.5 million visitors a year headed to the wilds of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming to watch Old Faithful regularly let off some steam.

But now the geyser is earning itself a new reputation. Some people are even calling it “Old Fickle.”

Photos courtesy U.S. National Park Service

Geologists had noticed Old Faithful getting less punctual in recent years, but it really showed up a little more than a year ago after an earthquake centered near Challis, Idaho, rearranged some of the geyser's plumbing — as well as some of Challis.

But the earthquake can't take all the blame for Old Faithful's problems. Tourists have been throwing things into the geyser before the eruption — things like cans, bottles and even park furniture — in the hopes of seeing them pop back out during the eruption. The problem is, some of them did, some of them didn't.

Because of these two factors, along with general aging, Old Faithful today may wait as long

as 100 minutes between eruptions. Eruptions are also smaller now since there is not as much room in the geyser for water, what with all the pop bottles and furniture.

Although it is not as faithful as it once was, Old Faithful is still a lot more predictable and frequent than most geysers are.

And, oddly enough, all the abuse may be extending Old Faithful's life. Park geologists say that the less frequent, smaller eruptions will put less strain on the geyser, keeping the geyser's opening from crumbling as soon as it would have.

So even though it may be a bit fickle, Old Faithful may still be around for quite a while longer.

— *By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

Nonsmokers Fight Back

• “If I burned tires in my backyard so that the smoke blew into your house, I doubt if you'd be impressed with my argument that tire burners have rights, too.”

So remarked Lee Glass, a doctor and lawyer, to an airline passenger who insisted she had a right to smoke while seated next to him.

Dr. Glass, who reported the incident in an editorial in *Newsweek* magazine, is part of a growing group of people fighting smoking in public places.

“More and more nonsmokers who have been bothered for years are finally willing to speak up,” said Charles Mawson, legislative director of Californians for Nonsmokers' Rights (CNR).

Nonsmokers are making their presence known in restaurants, banks, elevators and other public places.

Spectators at sports events and stage shows often applaud no-smoking announcements.

Many regard smoking as a public nuisance, and smokers are beginning to feel the pressure. “It

used to be a smoker would smoke whenever he felt like it,” says Alan Schnur, a CNR vice president. “Now they often will ask if others mind. That's a radical change.”

Laws to discourage

Old Faithful, the world's most frequent geyser, has become less faithful partly because of an earthquake.



smoking in public places are being passed around the world. Hong Kong has dramatically increased the extent of nonsmoking areas and has threatened fines for smokers who disregard the rules.

In Minnesota, smoking in airports, restaurants, stores and other public places is only permitted in designated areas. Penalties range from reprimands to \$100 fines.

A study conducted by William Weis, a professor at Seattle University, found that U.S. workers who smoke cost their businesses a yearly average of \$4,611 more than other employees. The study showed that smokers waste an average of 35 minutes a day puffing on cigarettes.

An estimated \$25 billion* in wages and 80 million workdays are lost each year because of smoking-related illnesses.

For these and other reasons, about 20 percent of U.S. companies have restricted smoking. About half of these punish violators with anything from warnings to loss of their jobs. A few companies refuse to hire smokers. Several major U.S. cities have laws against office smoking.

As public sentiments continue

to turn against the tobacco habit, smokers will face more resistance to smoking.

For more information about the smoking habit and how it can be overcome, write for our free reprint article, "Smoking . . . It's More Than Just a Habit." — *By Robert C. Taylor* □

*Thousand million, British usage.

The Smart Card

• Your wallet may soon be getting smarter. Why? Smart cards are here — credit-card-sized pieces of plastic, complete with minicomputers, that could one day take the place of cash.

In an experiment in three French cities, businesses have

begun testing smart cards. Many residents of the cities use the cards just like they would cash, checks or credit cards. When they want to buy something, the merchant places the smart card into a special reader and enters the amount of the purchase.

The owner of the smart card enters a secret code number to complete the transaction.

One of the biggest advantages of a

smart card is its safety. If a thief would attempt to use your smart card, he would have only three chances to enter the code number. If he got it wrong on the third try, the

minicomputer's circuits would fuse, making the card useless.

The computer brain replaces the strip of magnetic tape found on the back of ordinary credit cards and automatic teller cards. The computer makes it possible to do things with the card that are virtually impossible with ordinary magnetic tape cards.

For instance, the computer in each card has a section that can be entered by anyone. Why would you want a section that anyone can get into? That section could hold vital information like necessary medications, emergency phone numbers and blood type in case of emergency.

Special terminals are required to read the cards and, initially, it would be expensive for merchants to install them. The cards are also more expensive than the ordinary magnetic strip cards that are now in use.

Despite the cost, the cards are on their way. France, the world's leader in smart-card technology, is already using the cards in day-to-day situations. The U.S. Army is also testing the smart cards. At one army base, the cards are issued as security passes.

Smart cards are not yet available for general use, but you just might have one in your wallet sooner than you think. — *By Kerri Miles* □



A 1984 Gallup poll in the United States showed that 87 percent of nonsmokers and an unexpected 75 percent of smokers wanted designated smoking areas or a ban on smoking at work.



Photo by Hal Finch

If You Think You're Bored... **Read This!**

By Mike Bennett

A mixture of completely serious and downright off-the-wall activities to meet your excitement quota.

Thrills and spills! Challenge and adventure!

It's extremely important to meet your recommended daily allowance of these vital elements. But unless you're a 007 spy, it's not always easy to get enough excitement in your life.

Did you know that dozens of electrifying experiences are waiting for you right now? You'll want to design your own adven-

ture, but here are some crazy and not-so-crazy ideas to get you started.

Volunteer for a dangerous mission (like helping take a group of youngsters to the zoo). Wait, you may be thinking. I may be somewhat bored, but I'm not crazy! Little kids can be terrors when they go somewhere in a group.

You're right — this isn't a challenge to be taken lightly. It requires the stamina, knowledge

of military strategy and bravery under fire of any of the great generals of history, but also the cheerfulness, kindness and selflessness of a Florence Nightingale.

If you survive this mission, you're sure to overload your excitement circuits! Remember to bring as many children back as you took with you.

Throw a surprise party for your mom, brother, your pet goldfish or perhaps a friend. Make sure

you invite the mayor of the nearest city, but if he or she doesn't show up, there'll be more ice cream for everybody else. And if the mayor does show up... that would really add to the surprise, wouldn't it?

Get into show business! Entertain youngsters with a puppet theater you design and build yourself. And write your own plays, do your own lighting, directing, advertising, choreography...

If you don't like show business, why not try some other kind of business: building birdhouses, shoveling snow, walking dogs, baby-sitting, taste testing at a chocolate factory?

Make a musical instrument and learn to play it. Some pipe organs are larger than a house and would take years to construct, but a

kazoo isn't quite as difficult to make. There will be an article about the kazoo in the "Ideas Plus" section next month.

Although building your own instrument adds to the challenge, it can be challenging enough just learning to play one that somebody else has made. Starting your own group or playing with others at school can really add to the excitement.

Start some kind of tournament. Maybe your friends enjoy Ping-Pong, badminton, tennis, chess, hearts, lacrosse, sepak takraw, Mah-Jongg or all of the above. Why not find others who enjoy these things, too, and challenge everyone to a tournament?

Take up a hobby. Collecting poisonous snakes and knocking apples off your own head with a boomerang might be considered

exciting hobbies. *Youth 85* will be looking at a number of interesting (and less dangerous) hobbies from around the world in future issues.

Do something spectacular with food. This doesn't have to be a 24-foot ice cream sculpture of your school principal. You could plan, prepare and serve a formal dinner, perhaps with exotic ethnic food and drink and decorations to match.

Or have a potluck with some of your friends. That way each guest can bring along a taste discovery and the cost won't be too great for any one person.

Build a full-size (or slightly smaller) model of the Eiffel Tower as an extra-credit project at school when you're studying about France or engineering. When you pick your own extra credit project, it can make the class more exciting, and you can learn a lot more!

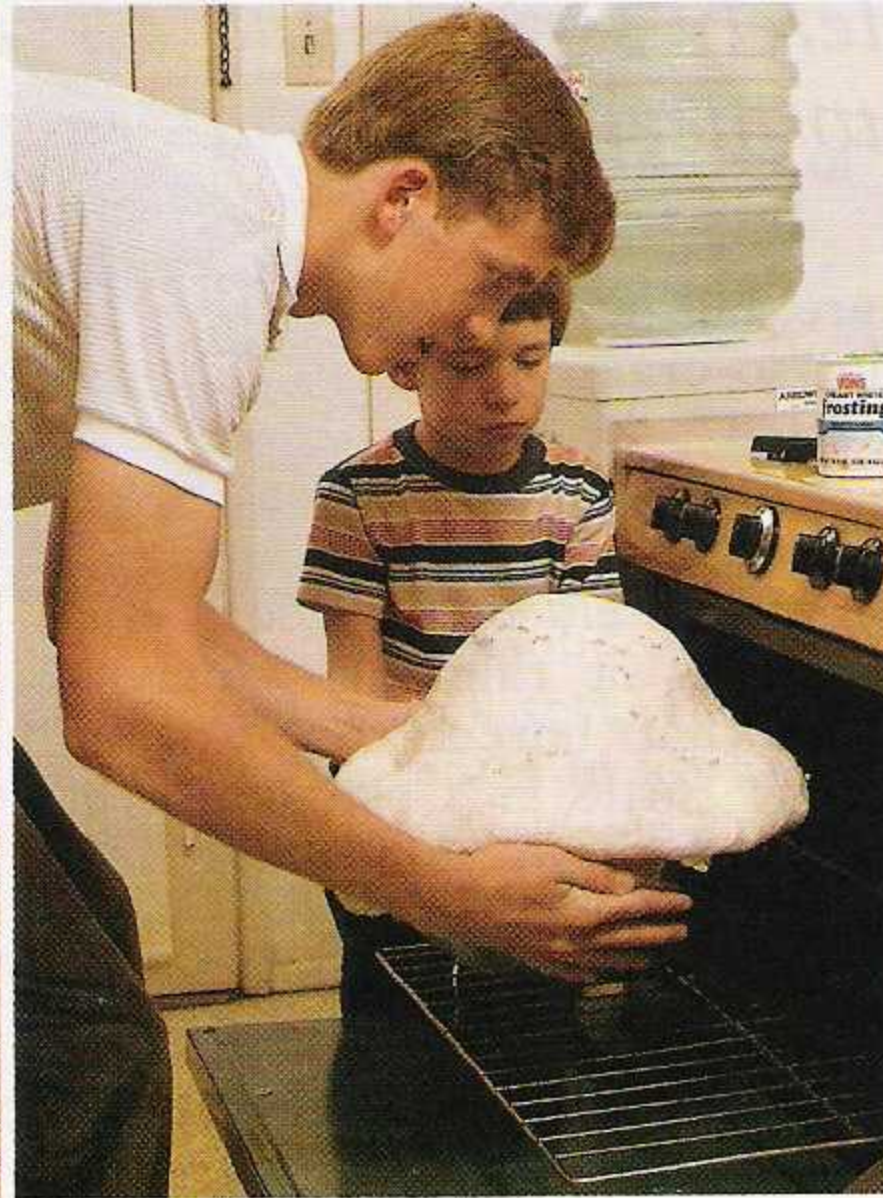
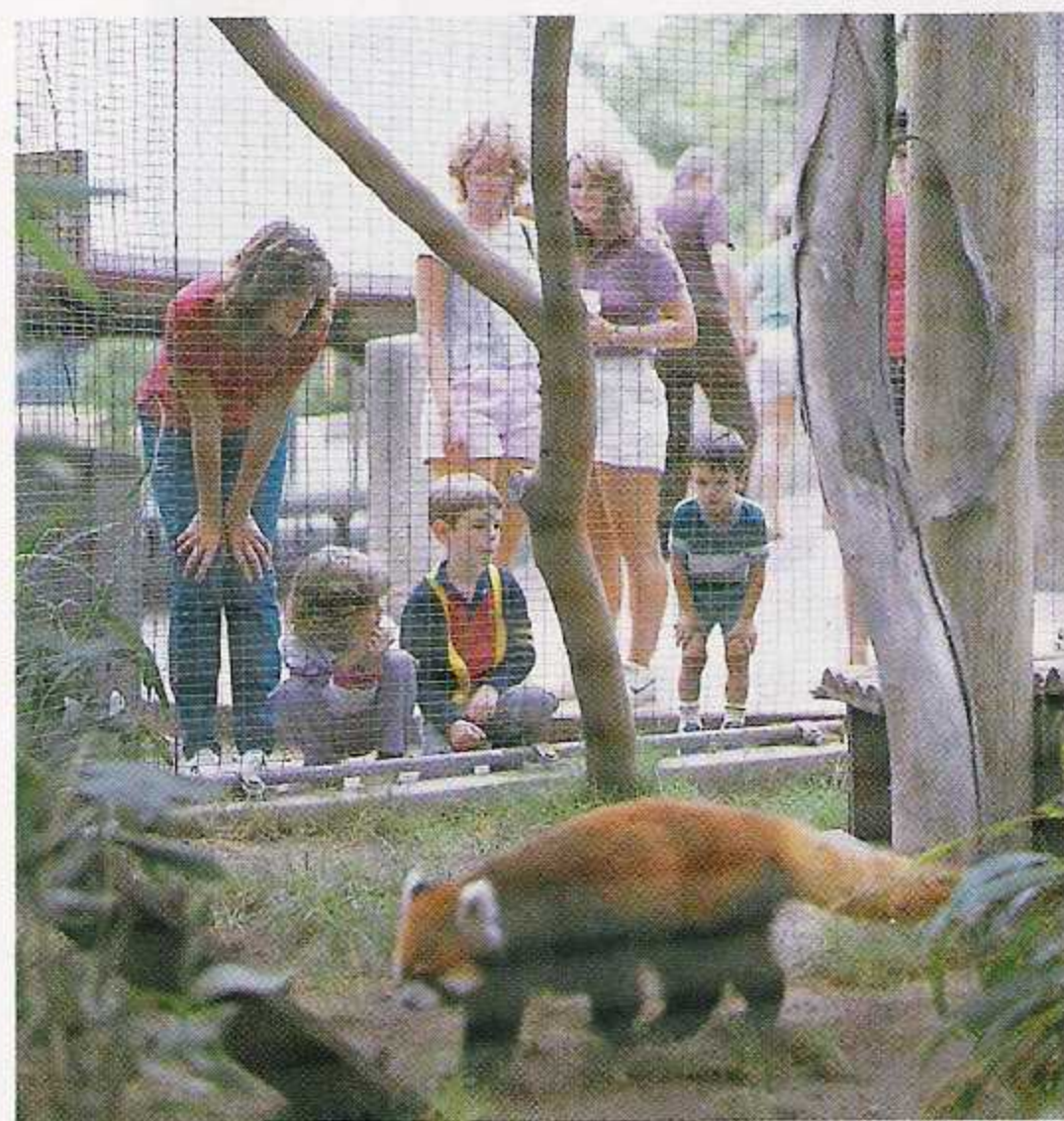
Plan a round-the-world trip, studying about the countries you will be visiting and how the people live in each of them. Now is also a good time to start working hard and saving money for your trip.

But you don't have to think that big to get enjoyment out of planning a trip. Why not sit down with your parents and a map and discuss next year's travel plans?

Draw up plans for a city you'd like to build someday. (If the mayor comes to your surprise party, you can get him or her to take a look at your plans.)

In the meantime you may want to visit various city offices, factories, farms and businesses to see how these things are run today, so you can find ways to improve on them.

Write a "Reader By-Line" article for *Youth 85* about a way you've added excitement to your life. □



Looking for ways to add excitement to your life? Why not take some youngsters to the zoo and enjoy their excitement? Or do something spectacular with food? (Photos by Hal Finch and Nathan Faulkner)



Photo by Greg S. Smith

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

By Malika Kebaili

Non, non and again non! France is just not stuffed snails and broiled frogs' legs.

If you've had this idea, try to put it out of your mind and read what follows to discover this country where such dishes make up just a small part of the French cuisine.

It would be impossible to tell you about France without talking about its rich and exciting history. In the past it was called Gaul and was made up of only a few regions. Other territories were added over the course of

centuries, but not without some fierce battles.

From this tumultuous past come some beautiful monuments such as l'Arc de Triomphe, Invalides (site of the tomb of Napoleon) and the 800-year-old cathedral of Notre Dame. Many magnificent chateaux (castles or palaces) also remain, the most renowned being Versailles, which was constructed by royal command of King Louis XIV.

The France of today has retained its relics of history, but at the same time has made important technological progress. France boasts one of the world's

most advanced rail-transport systems. You may have heard about the TGV (*Train Grande Vitesse*, the high-speed train) that is capable of traveling at speeds of up to 300 kilometers an hour (186 miles an hour). The Metro (subway) is the mode of locomotion *par excellence* in Paris.

Let's now take a tour. France is in the west of Europe and is surrounded by several seas (the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, the English Channel and the North Sea). The climate favors growing corn, wheat and, of course, grapes.

The highest peaks of the

Pyrenees Mountains (on the border with Spain) and the French Alps (on the borders with Switzerland and Italy) have snow on them all year round.

Among the Alps towers Mont Blanc (in French this means white mountain), which is the highest peak in Europe, reaching an altitude of 4,807 meters (15,771 feet).

If you don't want to climb this magnificent mountain, you can drive through its 11-kilometer (7-mile) tunnel, emerging in Italy on the other side.

Whether mountain, coastline or countryside, no region of France is uninhabitable, even though 10 percent of the 54 million population live in Paris or its suburbs. But no matter where one lives in France, life for young people is full of interest and challenge.

For French pupils the school day is long. They may leave home before 7:30 in the morning, arriving home again at around 5 o'clock. At midday, a great number of students return home to eat lunch with the rest of the family. During the meal, the discussion revolves around the morning's courses.

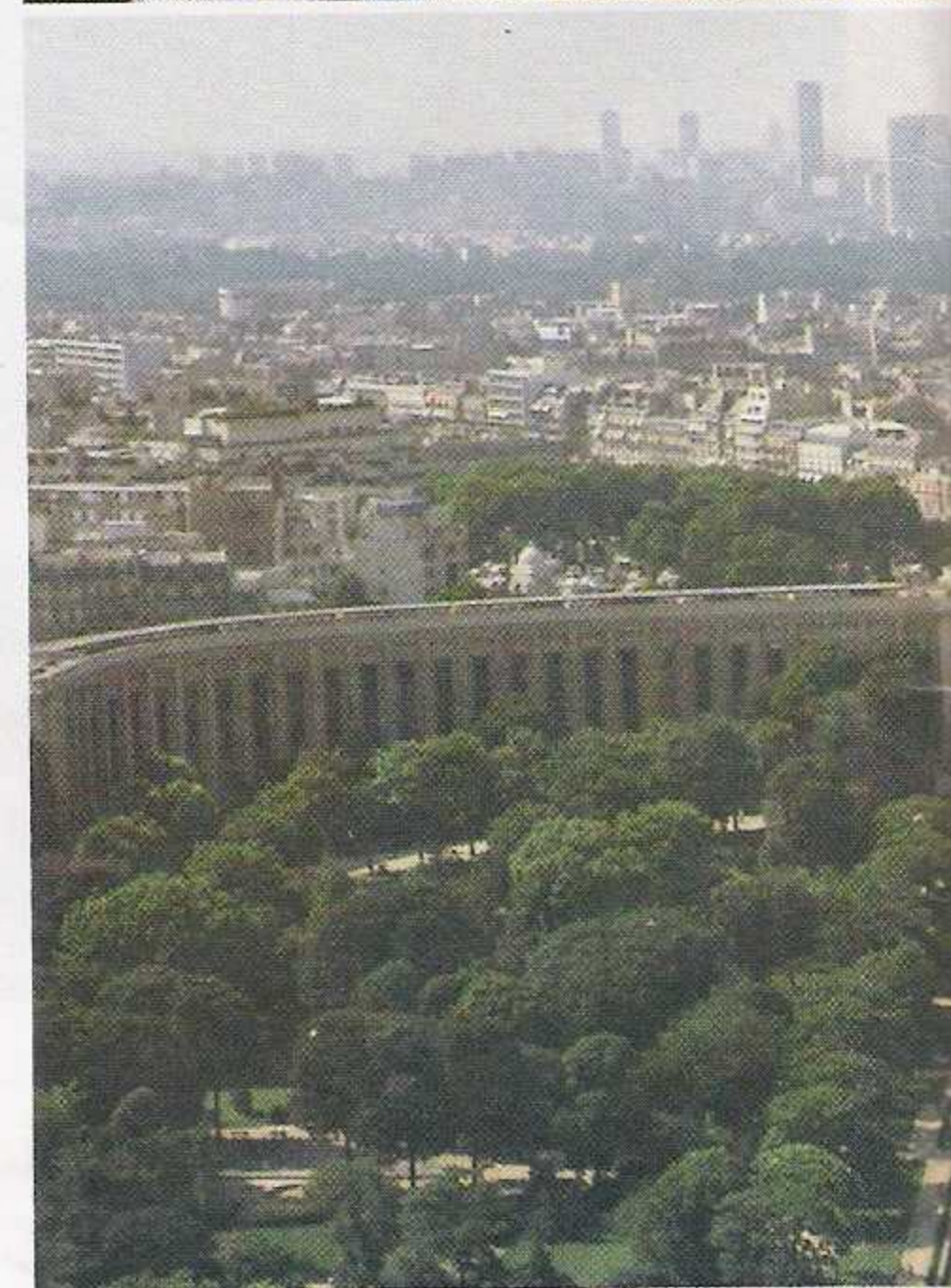
Parents take a special interest in their children's progress at school. Great emphasis is put on grades. If the student is struggling with a particular class, then the parents will do whatever is possible to help their son or daughter to improve.

The school system in France consists of three levels: primary (ages 6 to 11), secondary (ages 12 to 15) and tertiary (ages 16 to 18). At the secondary level the pupils have a different teacher for each class. At the end of the tertiary level, the students take university entrance examinations.

After the day's courses, the young people often find recreation in playing tennis, swimming or just taking a bike ride.

Many play musical instruments, attending the *conservatoire* during the evening. These academies of music accept children from the age of 6, and train them to read musical notes before ever touching an instrument. By their teenage years, these students have become proficient in playing their chosen instruments.

But the language of music is not the only fun language for



Eiffel Tower Gets a Facelift

When it was being built, more than 95 years ago, the artists' community in Paris called it "a dizzy, ridiculous tower dominating Paris like a gigantic factory chimney."

Yet today, you can hardly see a travel poster of France without a picture of this lofty landmark

— the Eiffel Tower. To many, it is the symbol of Paris.

The tower rises 984 feet (300 meters) above the banks of the Seine River — more if you include the television antenna.

When it was finished in 1889, it was the world's tallest man-made structure. Since then, more than 100 million visitors have witnessed spectacular views of the French capital from its three platforms.

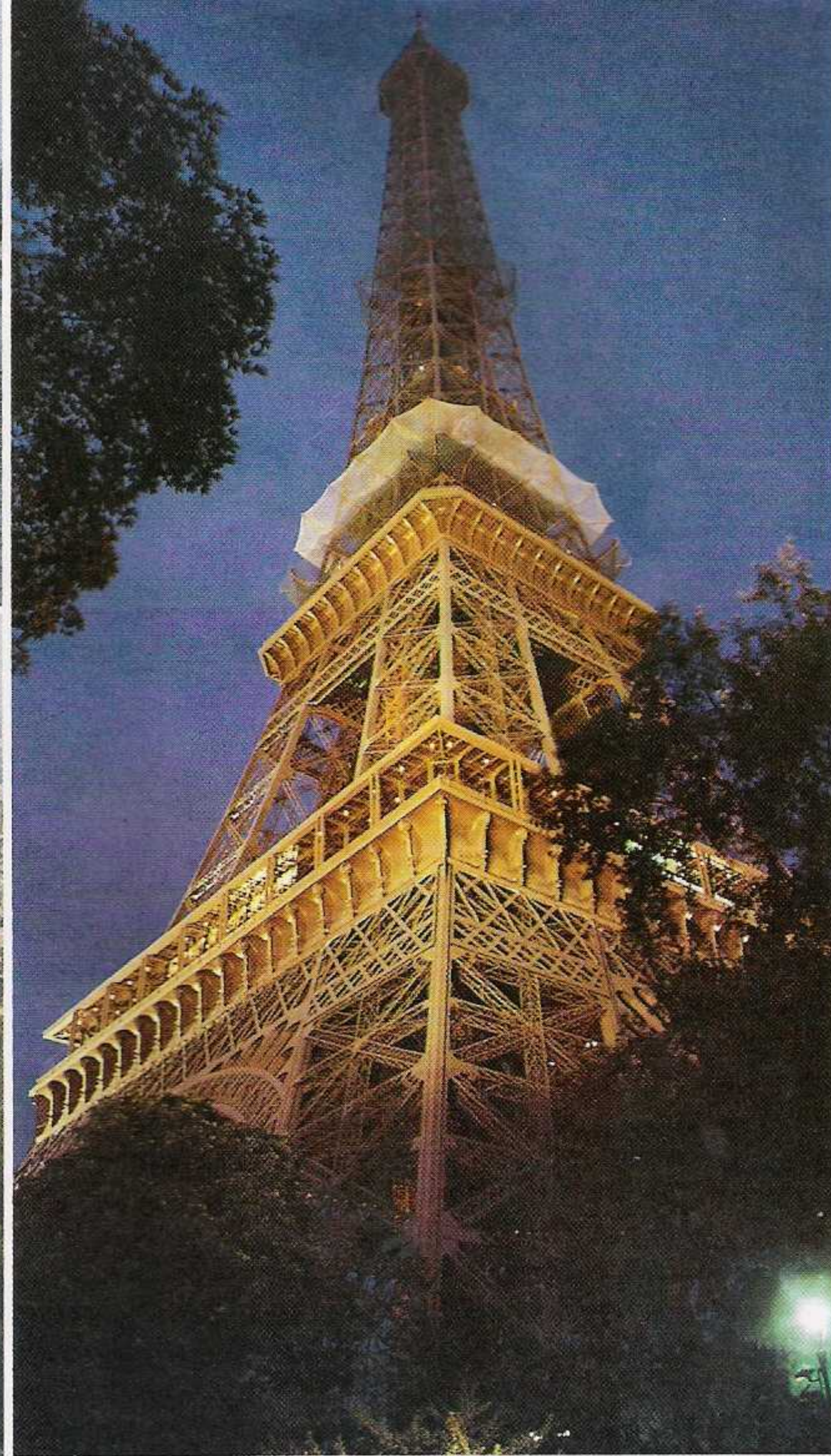
Now, to prepare for its 100th anniversary, the Eiffel Tower has undergone a two-year, \$27 million renovation project. Engineers were concerned that the four legs that support the 11,000-ton structure were in danger of crumbling.

When first built, this architectural marvel weighed 7,500 tons. But, over the years, one

addition after another made of concrete and bricks added more than 3,500 tons. During remodeling, 1,000 tons were trimmed when steel plates replaced concrete floors.

In the renovation the tower also acquired a movie theater, post office and reception hall. Its three new restaurants are under the direction of Maxim's.

Although the tower has not always been a favorite of everyone (French writer Guy de Maupassant said, "I fled Paris and even France, because the Eiffel Tower ended up bothering me so much"), with the renovation, thousands of admiring tourists will still be able to visit Alexandre Gustave Eiffel's engineering masterpiece. — *By Victor Kubik* □



French teens. Youths in France have woven into their vocabulary many words that finely express certain feelings or sentiments. Some of these words include *sympa* (pronounced SAMPA, meaning likable or agreeable), *chic* (fantastic, stylish dress, a kind person) and *chouette* (pronounced SHWETT meaning lovely or fantastic).

Young people in France tend to be in vogue with the latest styles. This is hardly surprising as Paris is considered to be the fashion capital of the world.

The French are reputed to be a romantic people. To be sure, they are emotional and this characteristic sometimes complicates the young person's life as he or she relates with parents and friends. Yet the bonds of family and friendship remain strong and differences of opinion are forgotten as quickly as they come.

The French have succeeded better than most Western countries in keeping the family united. The teens play an active role during the dinner time discussion, and when there are six courses to the meal, the discussion may go on for several hours.

Activities are also a family matter, with friends invited along to share the occasion. A popular family activity is the Sunday afternoon promenade where everybody takes a leisurely walk after a hearty lunch.

Favorite places for the promenade include national, historic or wartime monuments, or maybe a stroll in the countryside.

If the family doesn't feel like walking, they might instead take the car and go to visit their grandparents.

France is a country full of beauty and variety. Each of its

The 95-year-old Eiffel Tower, shown above during a renovation project (see article, previous page), has become a symbol of France. Lower left: A view of Paris from the Tower. Upper center: Seine River. Page 13: Praz-sur-Arly resort area near Switzerland. (Photos: Michael Snyder, Sandi Borax, Greg S. Smith, Cynthia Snyder)

regions holds a characteristic making it unique from the rest. This is especially true when we consider the wide diversity of wines and cheeses available. People sometimes joke that there is a different type of cheese for each day in the year.

You know, it would be *chouette* to have you visit our country sometime! There is something for everyone here and please, fear not, there is more than just frogs and snails on the menu...

So, *A bientôt* (see you soon)! □

Picturesque PETS Contest Winners

By Robert C. Taylor

It's not every day you see a raccoon giving a dog a hug, a cat wearing glasses or a poodle playing piano. But these were just a few of the antics seen among the entries in *Youth 84's* first Picturesque Pets Photography Contest.

Although most photos featured dogs or cats, they were not alone. Donkeys, turkeys, rabbits, parrots, deer, swans, mice and even crocodiles were among the pets seeking international recognition.

"It was good to see the contestants put so much thought into it — the ideas were exceptional," noted Mike Hale, *Youth 84* graphics editor and a contest judge. "I had the most fun I've ever had judging a contest."

The response was overwhelming. The senior division brought in 140 photos and 350 were submitted for the junior category. The huge selection of pet pictures kept the judges busy for hours!

Dennis Barcuch was using a 35-mm. camera for the first time when he produced his prizewinning shot. "I borrowed it from a friend as soon as I found out about the contest, read up on how to use it, and it turned out that there were quite a few good pictures," he said.

Winners in the 16 to 19 age group were Nicola Smith of

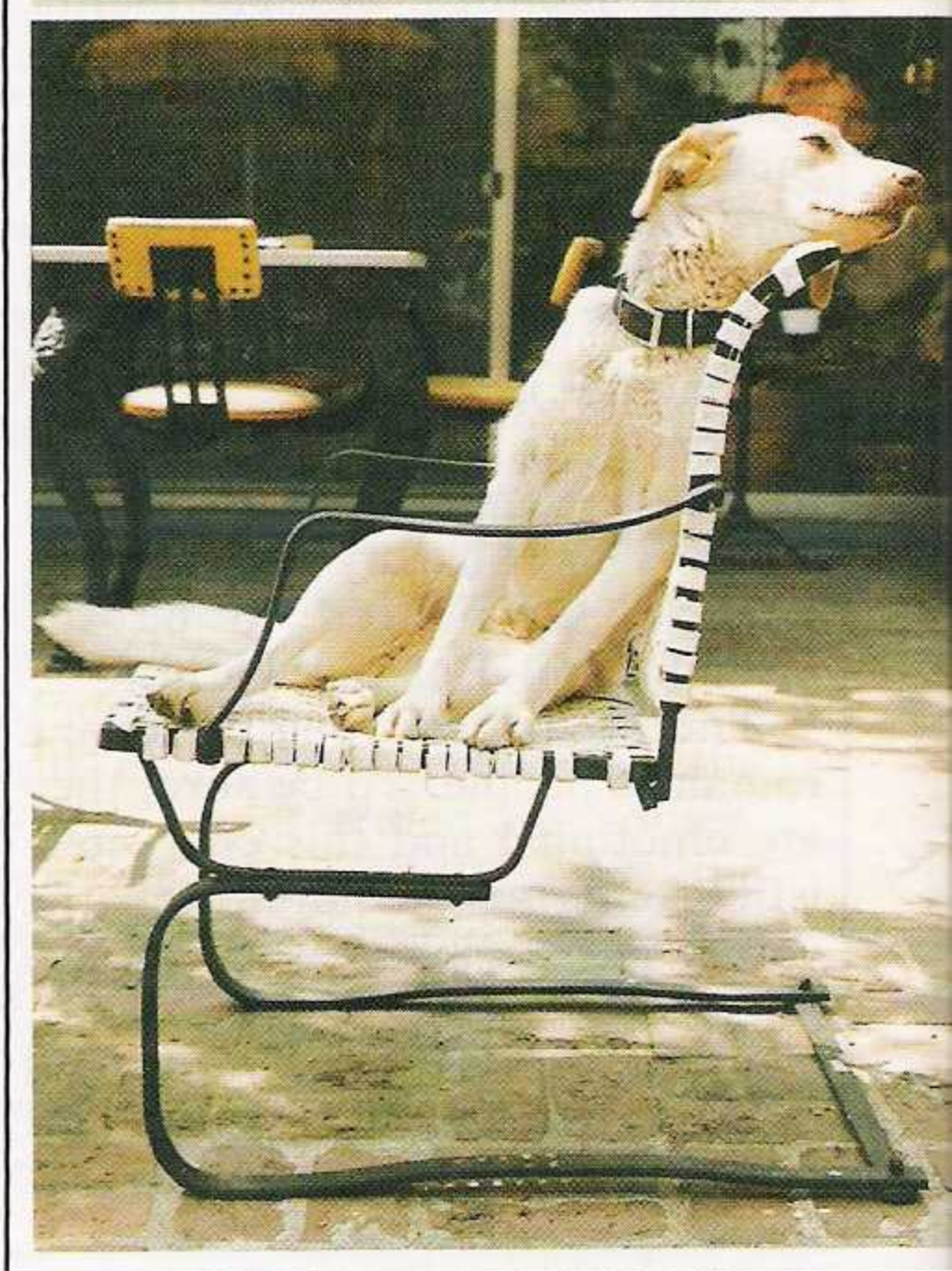
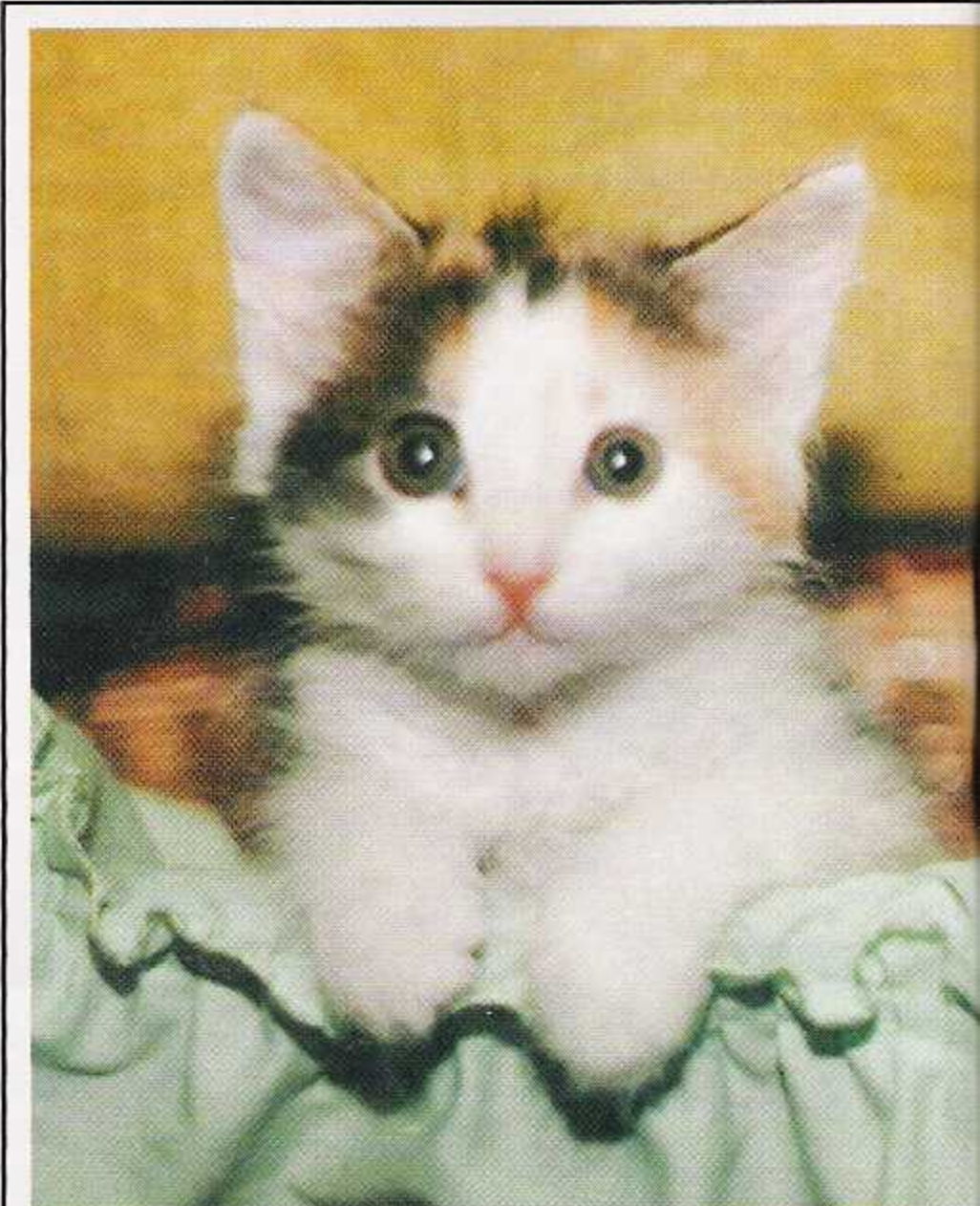
Skipton, England, first; Brian Sutton of Calgary, Alberta, second; and, tied for third, Dennis Barcuch of Fort Worth, Texas, and Susan Thomas of Waco, Texas.

For contestants 15 and under, first place went to Nancy Schaeffer of San Antonio, Texas. Jeannie Wagoner of Austell, Georgia, took second, and Gina Wilburn of Midlothian, Texas, was awarded third.

Honorable mentions go to Gavin Best, Cecil Park, Australia; Damon Danner, Edwardsville, Kansas; Janna Kisse, Big Sandy, Texas; Chad Oakes, Calgary, Alberta; Peter Otholt, Belton, Texas; Tom Peterman, Pewaukee, Wisconsin; and Pam Wilson, Kelly, Wyoming.

Many thanks to all those who entered. There were so many entertaining pictures that we plan to publish more of the best ones in future issues. □

Modeling mammals, clockwise from top left: Carrie, a cuddly calico, helped Dennis Barcuch (senior) tie for third. Brian Sutton (senior) took second for his photo of Janet and Christy. Lucky gave a junior second to Jeannie Wagoner. Pepper's winning pose gave Nancy Schaeffer a junior first. Pam Wilson received honorable mention for her cat. This bearded collie, Kristy, belongs to first place winner Nicola Smith (senior). Posing with poise, this pup earned a third place tie for Susan Thomas (senior). Pattington, a guinea pig, won third place for Gina Wilburn (junior).





IDEAS PLUS

Cheer Up a Sick Friend

It isn't any fun to be sick or confined to bed because of an injury. One day of lying in bed and watching television is about all most people can take and then it's time to get going again.

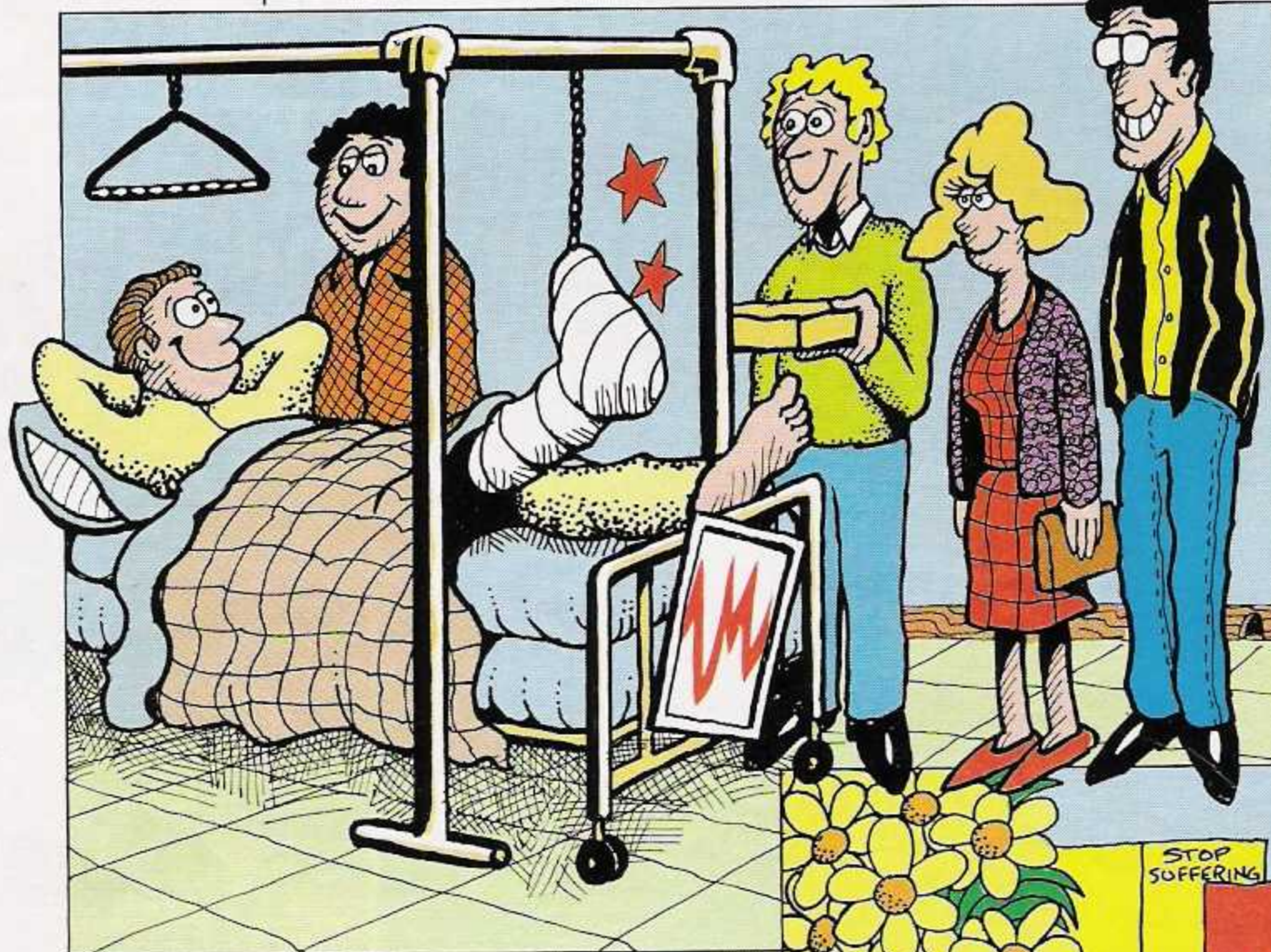
Having to stay in bed for days, weeks or even months can cause depression and loneliness. If you have any friends in a situation like this, why not try to ease their pain a little just by being a true friend?

A young man who was involved in an accident at work received third-degree burns on his leg and ankle and had to miss three months of his last year of high school. During that time the only person to visit him was the tutor helping him to keep up with his schoolwork.

Don't let this happen to your friends. Visiting them when they are sick (if they are well enough to have visitors) is one of the best things you can do for them. This will let your friends know that you really care about what is happening to them and that you are there to give them support under any circumstances.

Your presence can help take your friends' minds off their discomfort. There are many things you might be able to do to help them, like read to them, bring them things they need, play cards or board games with them or write letters for them.

You may also be able to help your friends by running errands for them, getting them class assignments or signing them up for school activities or projects they might otherwise miss out



on. Try to think of what kind of things you would appreciate if you were in their position.

Don't go overboard with gifts or flowers and try not to pamper your friends too much. This can make your friends feel that things are worse than they thought.

When you visit, be relaxed and comfortable. Acting jittery can make your friend feel uncomfortable.

Treat your friends the way you normally would. Let them know what is happening at school (without making them feel like they are missing out on everything) and be cheerful and positive. You will be more comfortable and so will they.

Also, don't joke about the way they look or feel. Jokes like "I was going to tell you a joke, but I see you're already in stitches" aren't that funny after you've heard them 50 times.

Think about how you would feel if you were in their position before blurting anything out.

Visiting sick friends may not always be pleasant, but remember — you are visiting to help your friends. Don't let them down. If you can't visit, keep in touch by telephone, letters or cards. The important thing is for your friends not to feel alone. They need to know they aren't alone, that people still care.

Your friendship, along with prayers that God will heal your friends quickly, will help your friends to feel better in no time. — By Kerri Miles □



Winterproof Your Pet

Winter can be a stressful time for pets. But if you start now, you can make sure your pet has all that it needs for a healthy, happy winter.

Although dogs and cats don't get colds like people do, they are much more vulnerable to

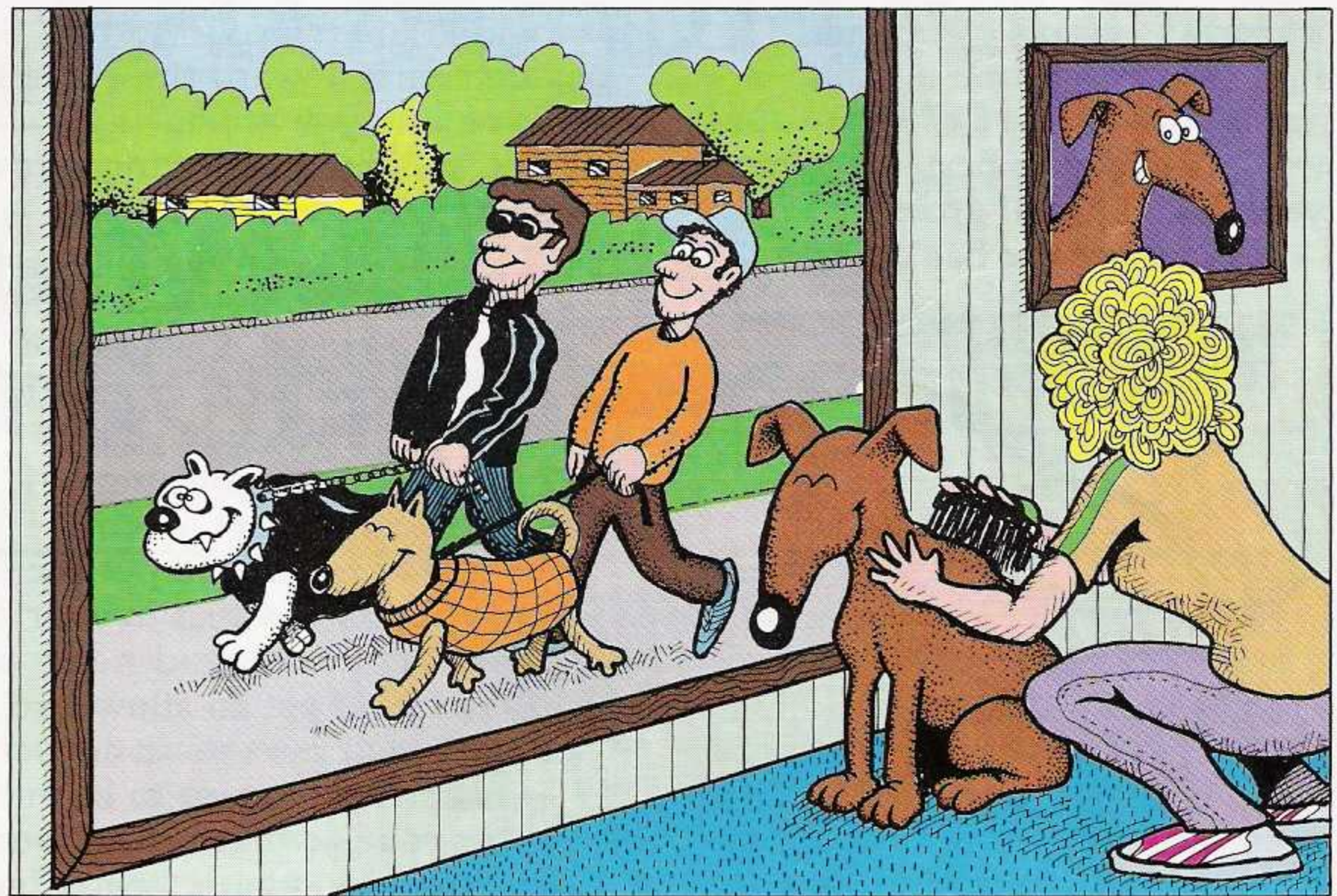
infections that will seem like colds. Animals that go from warm places to cold ones are particularly at risk.

If your pet starts showing signs of sickness, like coughing or discharges from its nose or eyes, you may need to get it to a veterinarian. He or she can help best if you catch these ailments early — before your animal friend is really suffering.

Large house pets, like dogs and cats, can move freely through the house, finding the warmest, most comfortable spots. But small house pets, like gerbils, birds and reptiles — any pet that is in a cage — can't do this. That's why it is important for you to make sure they are in a warm, draft-free place.

If an animal lives outdoors, its coat gets thicker as the weather gets colder so that your pet is insulated against the cold. But this change is gradual. If you move from a warm climate to a cold one during the winter, don't make your pet face the cold without its winter coat on! With time, its coat will thicken somewhat, but you may have to wait until next winter to leave it out all the time.

Dogs' coats can become matted as they thicken. A matted fur coat is almost worse than no coat at all, since it doesn't insulate as well as a well-cared-for coat. Moisture from snow or rain can collect in a matted coat, making



your pet feel colder than ever. Help your dog keep its coat clean by brushing it often. A clean coat is important during winter.

Your pet's diet should change with the seasons as well. Animals living outside need a little more food during cold weather, since they are burning extra calories to keep warm. And don't forget to feed your birds fresh green vegetables in the winter too. They need fresh food all year.

Veterinarians notice an increase in accidents during the shorter winter days. It is harder for drivers to see animals, so more of them get hit by cars. Make sure you call your pet home before dark so that this won't happen to it.

If your outdoor pet has a good, thick coat and a place to hide from the wind, it should brave the winter well. But don't ignore its needs. Remember, your pet is trusting you as its owner to keep it safe and healthy! — By

Maria Root □

Find the Right Place to Save

Banks are competing to attract young savers today. Many are offering gifts — like Britain's Midland Bank, which is luring savers with goodies like sports bags, geometry sets and dictionaries.

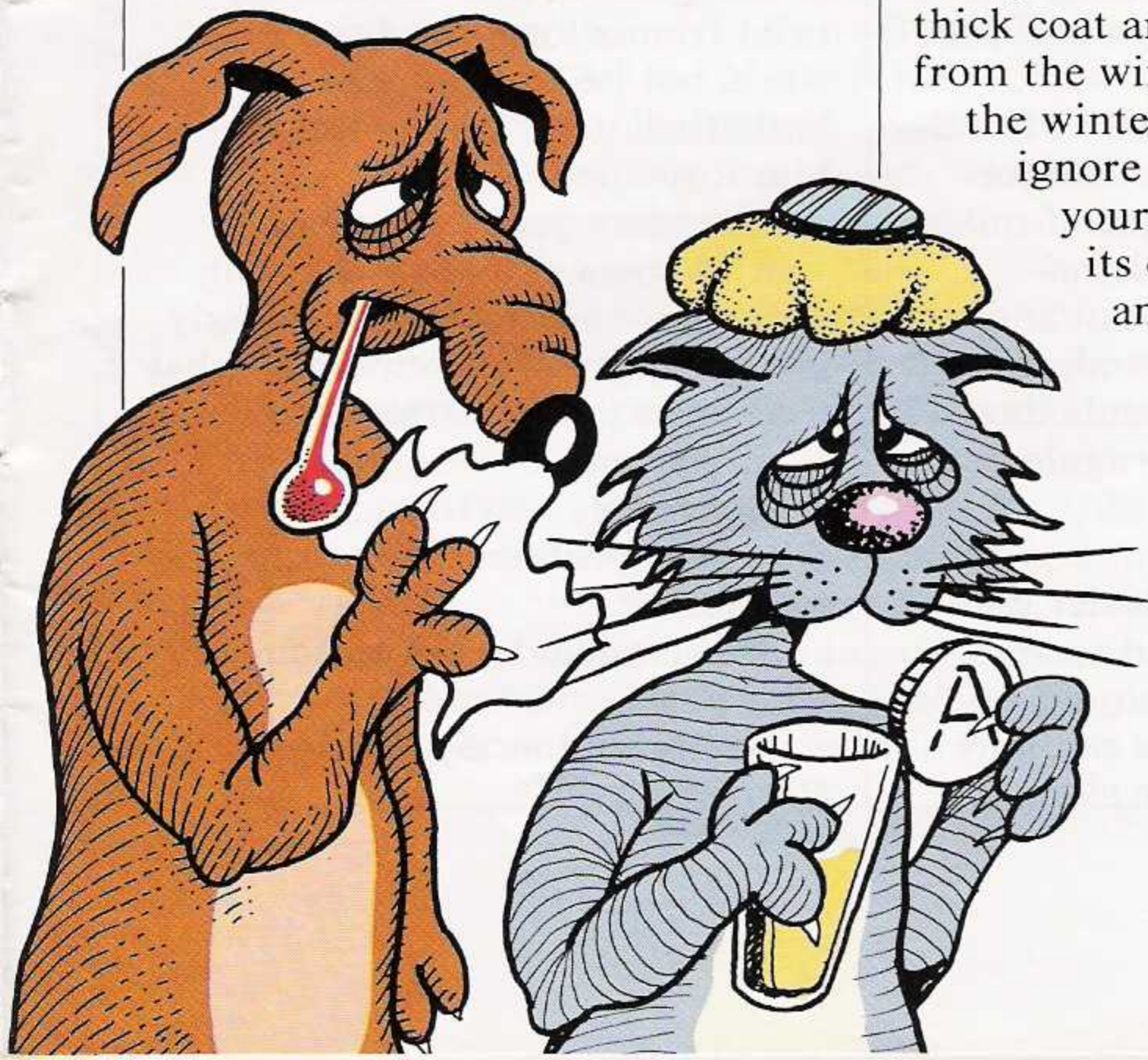
In the United States, banks like New York's Citibank are even going to elementary schools and setting up mock branches, complete with play money and real automatic teller machines.

Beyond the balloons and banners, how do you decide where to save your money? There are so many different kinds of accounts and so many different rules applying to them that you'll have to do some looking for the right bank.

When you're searching out the right bank, there are some specific things to look for. Make sure you check on these things before you open your account:

- What is their interest rate? The higher, the better for your account, of course. Just as

Winter can be a tough time of year for pets. But a few simple preparations can keep your animal healthy and happy. And isn't that what you want for your furry friends?



important is how often the interest is deposited in your account. The more often it is put in — daily is the best — the more your account will grow.

- What are the bank's hours? If



it's not open when you can get there, it won't do you much good. More and more banks, though, are installing 24-hour banking machines that may be able to do anything a human teller can do for you.

- Ask about hidden costs. Some banks may charge you if you don't keep a certain amount in your account. Others may charge for withdrawals from your account. Ask first — unless you're fond of unpleasant surprises.

- Is there a minimum deposit? Some banks require a minimum amount of money — often quite a pile of it — before you can open an account. You may find, when searching for the ideal bank, one bank that has everything you want — but it also has a higher minimum than you can handle right now.

If this happens to you, try to save up enough to meet their minimum. In the meantime, ask your parents if you could store your cash in their account.

Much of this research can be done over the phone — just ask to speak to someone who handles new savings accounts.

Once you've opened your account, the trick is to help it grow. There are many ways to do this, but the main thing is to be diligent. Set some goals of how much you want to save each week

or month, and try your best to stay on course toward these goals.

If you find you are having trouble making your savings grow, there are a few tricks you may want to use. Try putting all loose change you get in one spot and taking it down to the bank each week or month.

Or, if you buy your lunches, ask your mom if you could start making them instead and put the difference in cost in your savings account.

If you get an allowance, ask your parents to deduct a certain amount to be put in your savings account. And if you have a part-time job, ask your boss if he or

she can automatically deposit a part of your check in your savings.

Before you know it, your savings will be growing. *Next month: checking accounts.* — By Lowell Wagner Jr. □

Proverbs for Today: Unexpected Encouragement

“Keep it up!”

I'd missed jogging for two days and I was late this morning so I would only be able to go half the distance.

“Why do I always fail?” I said to no one in particular. It's not that hard to run a couple of miles every morning — but I was having trouble getting out and doing it consistently. And, to make it even tougher, nobody else knew about my struggle or cared!

Or did they?

Out of the blue, an older man along my route shouted some encouragement.

“It's good to see you out here jogging so early. I'll be along

shortly!” he joked.

“Keep it up!”

I took off as if a heavy weight had been taken off my feet. My whole mood changed and I enjoyed the rest of the run as I thought about this bit of unexpected encouragement.

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”

That's the way Solomon put it in Proverbs 16:24. My bones felt especially healthy that morning!

That man's encouraging comments were totally unexpected, but much appreciated.

When and how will someone encourage you? It's hard to

know. But you can be on the giving end of sincere

encouragement just about any time. Be on the lookout for

opportunities.

Did your mom fix a special meal?

Let her know you appreciated all the hard work.

Did your brother or sister

work hard on a homework assignment? Compliment him or her on the effort.

Did your father come home tired from a long, hard day's work, but he still came to your basketball game? Why not thank him for supporting and encouraging you?

And when you are struggling with a problem and think nobody is even aware of it, remember that God knows. And cares. And helps — if you ask.

God wants you to succeed, so take your problems and struggles to Him.

So, go on and work to achieve your goals.

Keep it up! — By Mike Bennett □



Teen Bible Study

Why Keep the Eighth Commandment?

By Richard A. Sedliacik

Has your wallet, purse or bicycle ever been stolen? Has your home been burglarized?

If so, you are not alone. For example, during 1983 in the United States alone, a theft occurred every five seconds!

If people everywhere could be trusted not to steal, there would no longer be a need for keys, locks, hidden television cameras, burglar alarms, guards or guard dogs. We would feel free to leave our belongings right in the open. And lost items would be returned to their rightful owners if at all possible.

Is such a world possible? Yes! Your Bible shows that a time of universal honesty is indeed coming in the near future.

In this study, we'll learn about some of the ways people steal without realizing it. We'll also learn some basic principles about the Eighth Commandment and discover the benefits that come from keeping it.

Before you begin this study, be sure to get your Bible, a pen or pencil and some paper. Look up, read and then write down the verses that answer each question. This will help you to remember the important principles you'll be learning.

1. What is the Eighth Commandment? Exodus 20:15. Did Jesus Christ teach obedience to the Ten Commandments? Matthew 19:17-19. Did He follow them Himself? John 15:10. And did Jesus' apostles continue to teach obedience to God's commandments after His crucifixion? I John 5:2-3, 2:4.

The Eighth Commandment — "You shall not steal" — is a law of God intended to protect all private property and possessions.

Obvious forms of breaking this law include shoplifting, pickpocketing, robbery, rigged scales, evading taxes, padding insurance claims and passing bad checks.

Other forms of stealing include plagiarism (using someone else's written work as one's

own), the destruction of another's property (through vandalism or arson), cheating on exams, photocopying music and duplicating copyrighted tapes without permission.

Less obvious forms of stealing include wasting an employer's money by daydreaming on the job or through shoddy workmanship, borrowing items without asking (or forgetting to return them) and not attempting to return a lost item to its owner.

2. In addition to the Ten Commandments, God gave instructions about how to make restoration when a commandment was broken. What did God instruct should be done when theft occurs? Read and summarize Exodus 22:1-15.

The principles outlined in these verses, if applied today, would dramatically reduce all kinds of theft!

3. Do the Ten Commandments tell us how to show love to God and other people? Matthew 22:37-40. Is refraining from stealing a way of expressing love to others? Romans 13:9.

"God is love" (I John 4:16) and the fulfilling of God's law is love (Romans 13:8, 10). The Ten Commandments express the character of God.

Since God wants us to develop His character (Matthew 5:48), it is His desire that we learn not to steal. Taking anything that belongs to someone else is the opposite of the nature and character of God. A thief simply does not have the true love and concern for others that God wants each of us to be developing. God wants us to give and share (Acts 20:35), rather than take from others.

4. Will a person striving to keep the Eighth Commandment, as well as the other nine, be successful in life? Read and summarize Psalm 1:1-6 and Joshua 1:7-8. What specific benefit will he or she enjoy? Psalm 119:165. But what kind of life can a thief expect? Proverbs 29:24, 22:22-23.

The person who keeps God's command-

ments lives without a guilty conscience. He or she has peace of mind and contentment. But those who cheat or steal certainly don't have peace of mind. They are in constant fear of being caught.

Thieves can end up losing everything in one fell swoop when their stealing finally catches up with them. They can severely damage their chances for success in life and destroy the good name they once may have had!

5. What does God say of those who are faithful (trustworthy) in the smallest of matters? Luke 16:10, Matthew 25:21.

In God's sight, those who are trustworthy in the smallest things can be trusted with greater responsibilities. Even small, seemingly unimportant deeds such as telling a store clerk about an undercharged item or returning excess change, are noticed by God. And bosses, parents, teachers and friends can't help but notice someone who is consistently honest — who resists the temptation to steal even the smallest of items. Promotions, higher pay and other opportunities flow to such people.

A man known for his integrity and honesty

ment stationery or stamps for strictly private matters.

6. Will those who work diligently to obtain their needs, rather than steal to get them, suffer from poverty or hunger? Proverbs 12:11. Just how much effort should we put into everything that we do? Ecclesiastes 9:10.

To become successful requires determination, diligence, sacrifice and hard work. But many are unwilling to put forth this kind of effort to obtain what they want. Instead, many resort to playing the angles, cheating and outright stealing.

Those who practice the principle in Ecclesiastes 9:10 not only experience material blessings, they don't have to live with the fears and worries of those who obtain things illegally.

7. What should a person caught in the grip of cheating or stealing do? Ephesians 4:28. Should he also seek advice and counsel? Proverbs 11:14, 12:15.

If you are finding it difficult to be honest, the first thing to do is face up to it by admitting it to yourself. Then seek wise counsel from your parents, minister or another respected person. Finding someone to confide in and asking for help can be of great benefit.

Above all, ask God for help. He is more than willing to give us the strength necessary to overcome any harmful habit, including stealing, if we ask Him (Matthew 7:7-8).

8. Will there be any thieves in the coming Kingdom of God? I Corinthians 6:9-10. What will become of those who refuse to obey God's commandments? Revelation 21:8. But will those who sincerely strive to keep the commandments receive eternal life as sons of God? Matthew 19:16-17, Revelation 21:7.

God has promised membership in His Family to those who strive to obey Him in everything they do. As members of His universe-ruling Family, they will live and rule with God and Christ forever.

Your Bible shows that an awe-inspiring, incredibly wonderful future awaits those who learn to follow God's way of life!

(To learn more about the Eighth Commandment and how to apply it in your life, be sure to call or write for our free booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. Check the inside front cover for the telephone number or address nearest you.) □



If people everywhere could be trusted never to steal, there would no longer be a need for locks!

was Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States. As a young store clerk, Mr. Lincoln is said to have walked more than two miles one night just to return 6¼ cents to a woman he had accidentally overcharged.

Harry S. Truman, another former president of the United States, was careful to avoid taking even the smallest items that were not his. He reportedly refused to use govern-

Dear Youth 84,

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

Q. I'm a teenage girl who is very good in athletics, especially basketball. The other girls pick on me because they think I'm showing off. But I'm not. I'm just trying to do the best I can. This doesn't seem fair to me.

A. Things sometimes do happen in a teen's life that may not seem fair. This is not necessarily bad, for it teaches us to deal with life maturely as it really is. But it is disheartening when others misinterpret our efforts to do our best. Sometimes people are jealous of those who excel.

It might be wise, however, to examine anything that might cause the girls to think you are showing off. Could it be that you have unknowingly said things that make them feel you are putting them down? Maybe something you've said innocently has made them think this. When others feel inferior, they can be overly sensitive to an otherwise harmless remark.

Perhaps you need to exercise caution in what you say and the way you say it. Maybe with a little more effort, you can avoid giving the other girls the wrong impression.

If not, remember that most people who excel in something are at times misunderstood or misjudged. This is just part of life sometimes. Don't let it stop you from doing your best.

Q. I am very curious about astrology. I know that some people think it has no basis and is foolish, but it seems to me that everyone carries the characteristics of his sign. Please explain.

A. The subject of astrology is an emotional one for some people, and is almost a religion for a few. All people by no means agree that astrology is accurate, however.

One article told of a psychologist who compared the divorce rates of two groups — those compatible astrologically, and those supposedly incompatible. He concluded there was no difference in the divorce rates.

One French statistician reportedly advertised that he would give free horoscopes. He then sent the same reading to 150 people, 94 percent of whom reported back that they recognized themselves in the readings. He had sent them the horoscope of a heinous multiple murderer!

But whether or not astrology even works for some people is not the real issue anyway. Numerous scriptures from the Bible — which God gave us to be our primary guide in life — show that God is not the source of this pseudoscience, but that rather it is from paganism (Micah 5:12, Isaiah 47:11-15 and Jeremiah 10:2). Therefore we should not be using it in our lives to make decisions or to judge personalities.

Q. My parents have a few rules I must keep, and most of them I don't mind. But, they make me come home by 11:30 p.m. even on weekends when there is no school the next day. I don't think that is fair. After all, I'm old enough not to be afraid of the dark.

A. Maybe you

should be a bit fearful, not of the dark itself, but of what may happen during the later darkness hours. For it is a fact of life that more crime and other evils occur at night than any other time.

Darkness gives secrecy to those who would hurt you or tempt you. Also, the later it gets, the fewer good places of entertainment are open and hence the fewer opportunities to do good things. When people don't have good things to do, they often turn to bad things for amusement instead. Sometimes this means doing harmful things to innocent people like you. And, at night there are usually fewer people around to protect you.

Finally, even usually clear-thinking people sometimes give way to nighttime temptations and do things they wouldn't do in the light of day.

Your parents are not the only ones who recognize the value of a curfew. Many police departments, and even whole countries during periods of unrest, impose curfews because they know of the potential problems nighttime can bring. We suggest that you be thankful for your parents' concern and wisdom, and adhere to what sounds to us like a generous deadline. □

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.



READER BY-LINE

No More Midnight Specials

By Liana Graham

My room was dimly lit. The clock struck midnight.

Off in the distance a dog was barking. As I sat at my desk, wishing to crawl into bed, I thought about how awful it would be if tomorrow, when the teacher asked for our assignments, I didn't have one to turn in.

So I stayed up past midnight finishing the paper and I turned it in on time. Whew! What a relief.

But there must be a better way. Why do I always seem to wait until the last minute? If I would have started sooner, I could have turned in a better quality paper.

Many students procrastinate when it comes to schoolwork. I've learned the hard way that this problem must be overcome.

Here are a few helpful hints I've learned:

- Write down the assignment so that you're sure of what it is and when it is due.

- Begin the assignment as soon as possible. I would find excuses for putting things off; don't let the same thing happen to you. Use your time wisely and complete your assignment, before the due date.

- Once the assignment is finished, look it over carefully. Does it fulfill the requirements given by the teacher? Is all the needed information included? Is it neat and legible?

- Now that you've looked over your work, let someone else look it over. It's always good to have

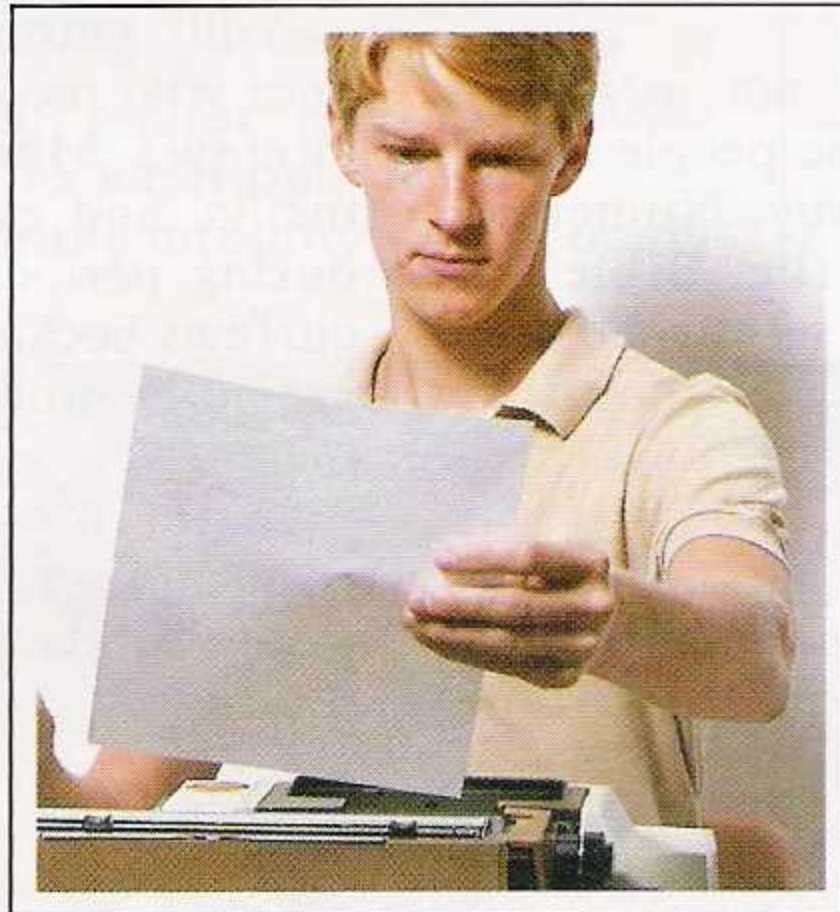
a second opinion. Mom and Dad may see something you missed. If so, you can thank them and correct the mistakes.

- Since your assignment is completed, proofread and corrected, it's ready to turn in.

If I would have begun my assignment sooner, it would have been a better quality paper and I would have received a better grade.

Use your time wisely and don't put things off. Instead of staying up late and hurrying through an assignment, begin right away, and putting off schoolwork won't be a problem for you. □

Editor's note: The author, age 18, is from South Pasadena, California. 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.



Shalt NOT!

(Continued from page 2)

for his own good in a living, active, continuous relationship with the all-wise, all-powerful, all-loving God.

This perfect law forms the basis of all human relationships, as well as man's God-relationship. It provides the wide, basic general rules affecting *every phase* of his life —

a) Religious, in his relationship to God;

b) Family, in his relationship to parents, children, wife and husband, and is designed to preserve the blessed sanctity and dignity of the home;

c) Next-door and personal neighbors and friends;

d) Civil relationships — here are found the very basic civil laws respecting murder, larceny (theft), adultery, perjury;

e) Economic life — honesty, not coveting others' money, goods or property or possessions, which coveting is the very root source of today's economic principle of competition;

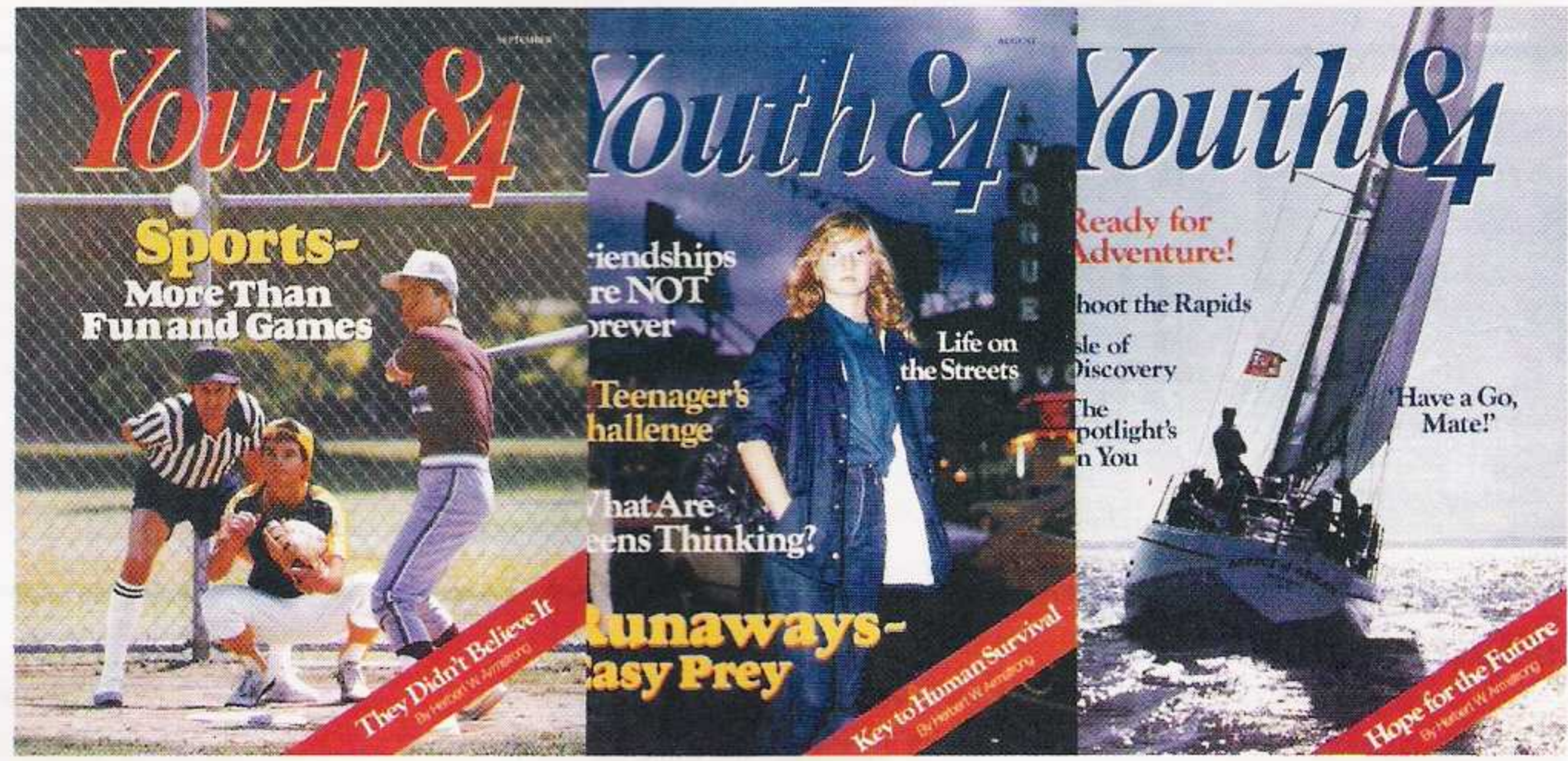
f) Social life — such commands as those respecting adultery, false witness against, coveting, stealing, form the foundation principle of a right social attitude and relationship with neighbors.

This law, in its basic *principles*, defines the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13). It is the basis, in principle, for all the Bible. The entire Bible is, so far as its teaching is concerned, a magnification in specific detail of these basic principles.

This law is complete. It contains, in brief summation-principle, all the positive and negative obligations of the perfect, rightly balanced life. It expresses and reflects the very character of God. The whole law is summed in one word, *love*. It is like God, for God is love, just as His law is love. It was given in love for us, and love is the fulfilling of the law — love in action.

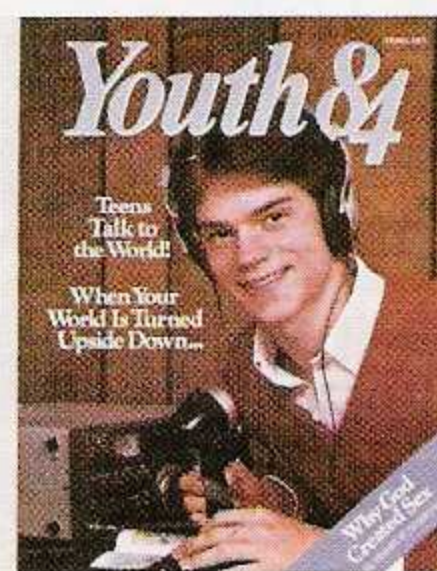
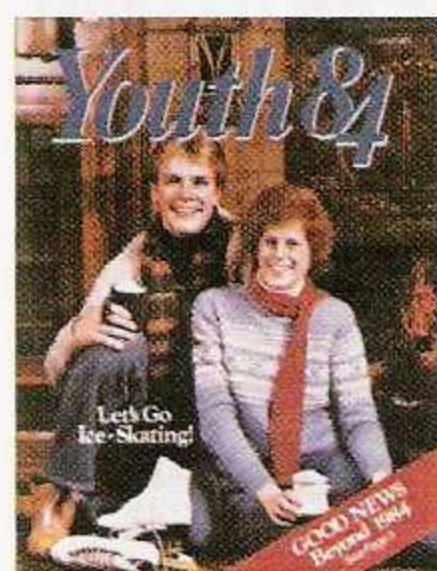
It is love to God, and love to neighbor. It is perfect. It is complete. □

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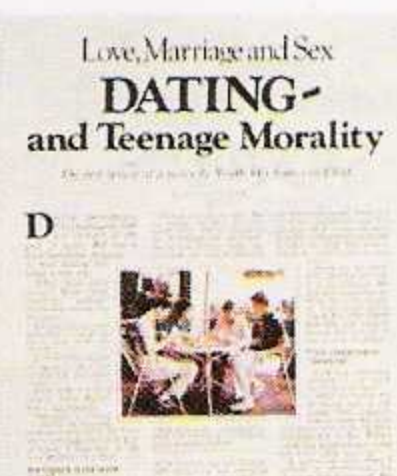
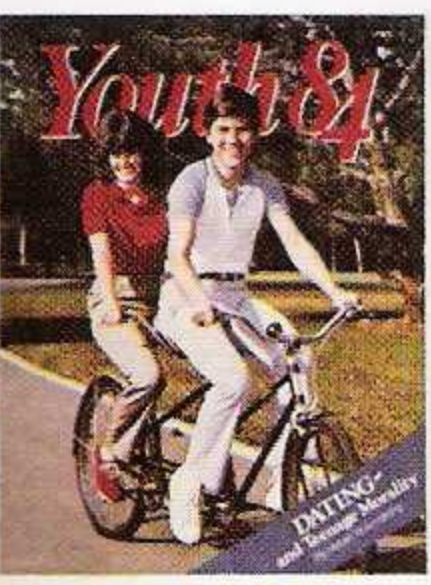


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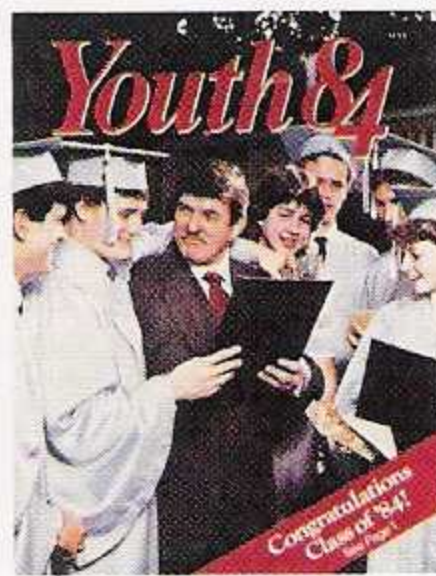
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Congratulations, Graduate!
**Make
 Your Name
 A GOOD ONE**



M

Good
 Advice From a
**MOVIE
 STAR**

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**'I Like Her,
 But She Thinks I'm
 a Nerd!'**

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**'Have a Go,
 Mate!'**

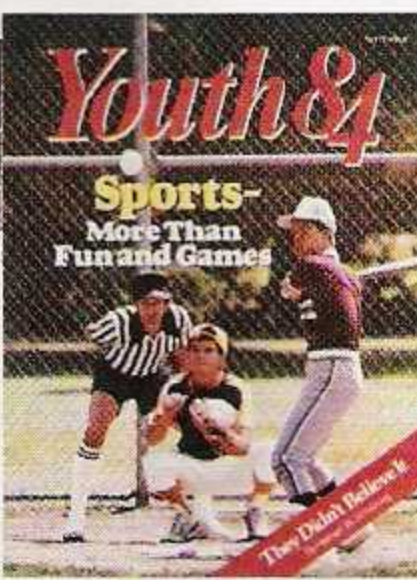
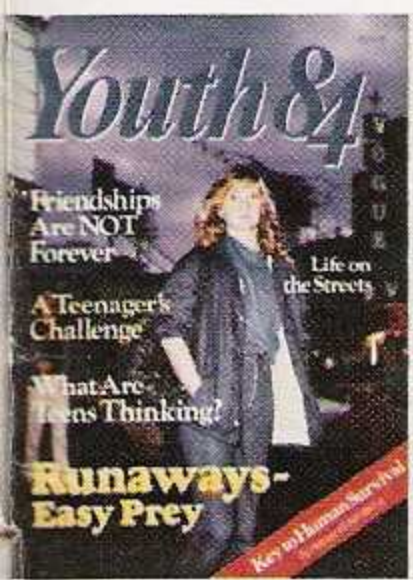
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 Isle of Discovery**

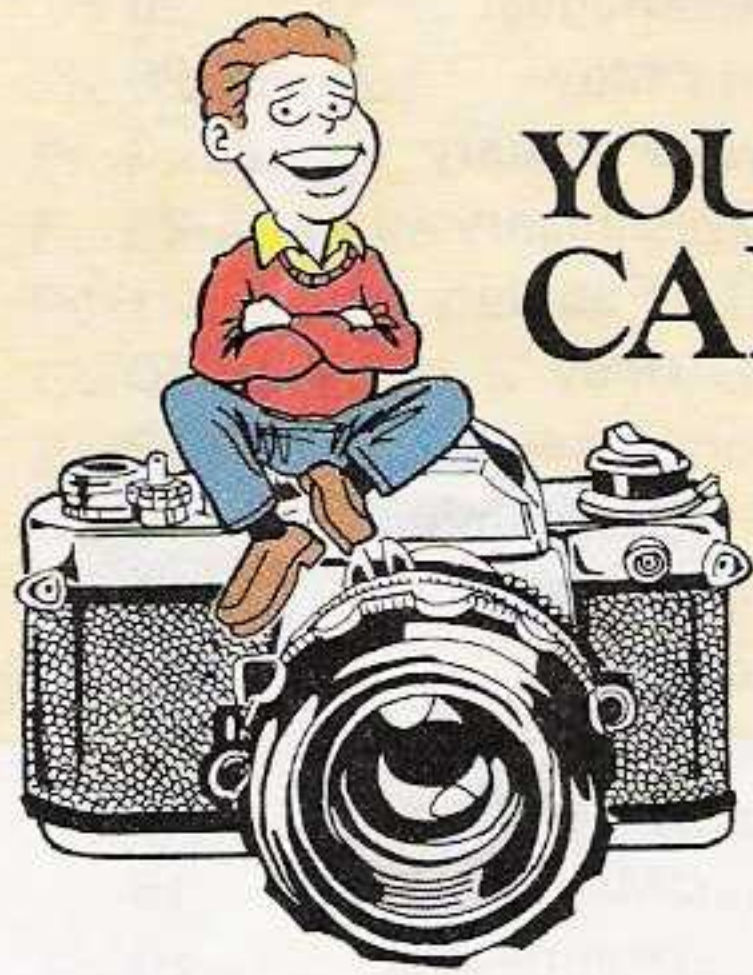
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	What I Never Knew About Dad	Darris L. McNeely	June-July	5
Perseverance	Teen Bible Study: Never Give Up!	Richard A. Sedliacik	January	23
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	Dear <i>Youth 84</i>	Bernard W. Schnippert	August	25
	Reader By-Line: "Hey, Look Me Over"	Jennifer Swihart	September	27
	Taking It off the Chin	Joel Rissinger	May	20
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Photography	Picturesque Pets Contest	Nathan Faulkner	June-July	20
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	Your Royal Invitation	Joel Rissinger	April	7
Prison	By the Way . . . Don't Be a Teenager in Jail	Dexter H. Faulkner	January	29
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	Fantastic Plastic!	Dan C. Taylor	May	9
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