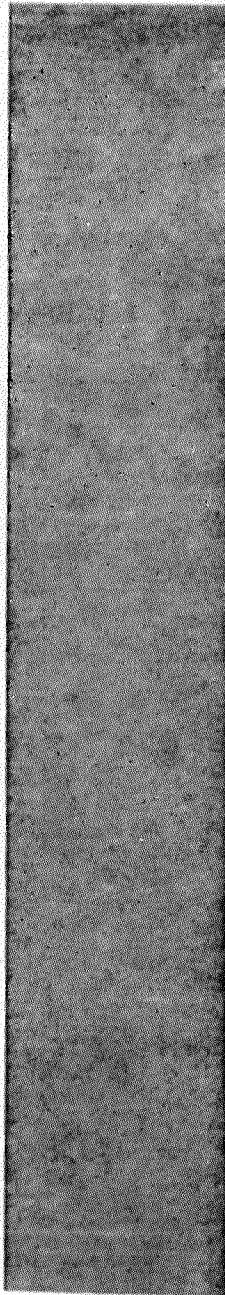


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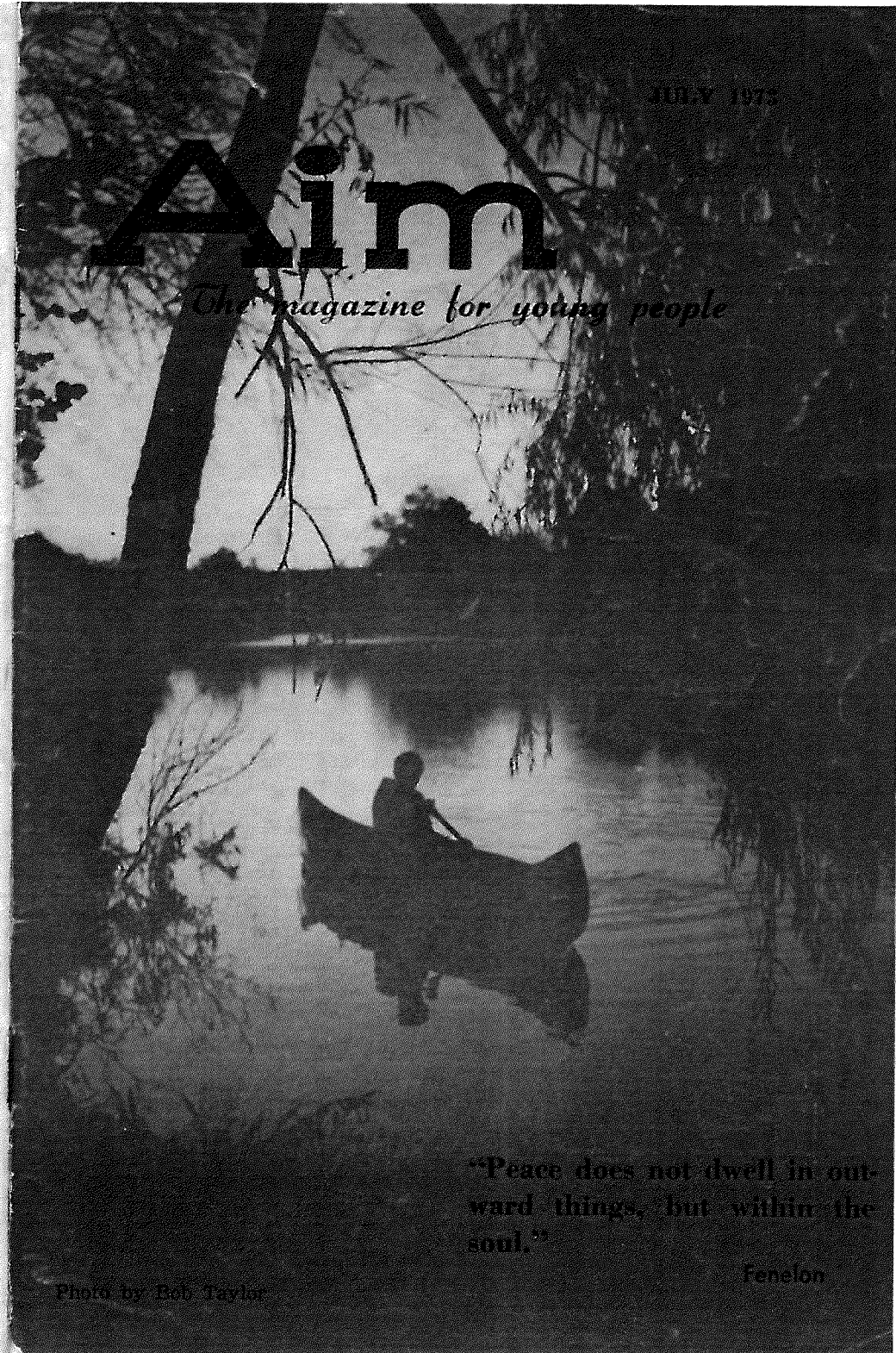
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JULY 1973

Aim

The magazine for young people



“Peace does not dwell in outward things, but within the soul.”

Fenelon

Photo by Bob Taylor

Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXVII, No. 7

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

EDITORIAL ETCHES

Ecstatic shouts and gleeful laughter of children shattering the usual quietness of night...

Warm summer air reeking of gunpowder's acrid odor...

The dark, nighttime sky glowing unnaturally, almost eerily with rainbows of color...

The stillness, the peacefulness of 10:00 p.m. interrupted by the buzzing and booming of fireworks...

These were the sights and sounds that framed another July 4th—INDEPENDENCE DAY-celebration.

July 4th, 1973 is the 197th birthday of our beloved country—AMERICA! Relaxing on the soft grass carpet of our front lawn I listened to and watched the "traditional" celebration of this famous national holiday... and as I sat there, I wondered... and I pondered...

Will America endure another 13 years of turmoil and strife to celebrate its 200th anniversary?... How much longer can our once-strong, but now weakening nation remain the land of the free?... What lies ahead in the future days, months and years for AMERICA—the greatest of all nations???

My thoughts drifted back to the Watergate hearings I had viewed on television earlier in the week... and to the evening newspaper's headlines of the 9:00 newscast... to the violence, crime, dishonesty, strife, and hatred that is daily sapping our country of its strength...

(Continued on page 9)

BRADEN ACRES
GRADE SCHOOL

America,

Where

Are

You?



by Clyde W. Buxton

Former President Kennedy stated, "I speak today in an hour of national peril, and of national opportunity... The outcome is by no means certain. The tide of events has been running out, and time has not been our friend." We are a nation wrecked with violence, lawlessness, drug abuse, and moral decadence. Francis Lawlor, a Chicago alderman, lamented the deluge of pornographic literature in our country. In the spring of this year he said, "Our society has outdone Sodom and Gomorrah, thanks to printing presses and color photography."

Drugs have become the nightmare of our society, causing President Nixon to convene his White House Conference on Drugs. At the 1971 conference he admonished the clergy that they had the answer to the drug problem; by this he meant that the solution was found in Jesus Christ.

America has had the answer to her problems all the while. We have known that God could deliver us from our dilemma, yet we have pulled headlong away from Him. This past April, Billy Graham, commenting on the Watergate scandal, stated: "What we need to do in this country is to get back to the Law of Moses and the Sermon on the Mount, to make them our moral guidelines, and pray God to forgive our sins in a period of national repentance and revival."

However, our preachers go largely unheeded as they plead like the prophet of Old Testament days: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12).

If we do not make conditions right for God to rain righteousness,

we will force Him to rain judgment. Years ago Thomas Jefferson said, "I tremble for my country when I remember that God is just." To a people who were a good deal like us today, Jesus commented, "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment" (Matthew 10:15).

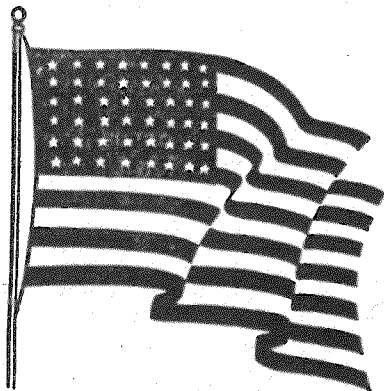
George Britt, speaking of people of this age in his book, *When Dust Shall Sing*, says, "The Scriptures also teach that they will be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4). Selfishness, greed, vile affections, love of pleasure, and vice are the hallmarks of this age. We can readily see that all the conditions of our age are according to the Scriptures." Our sick civilization graphically fulfills the Biblical predictions of last-day conditions.

Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, stated that his greatest fear was a complete social breakdown of society from within. His fear for society as a whole is certainly applicable to our nation. For decades the world looked upon the United States as a God-fearing, orderly nation; but now, as Senator Dodd put it, "Our society is going crazy."

Psychologist Carl Jung said, "The central neurosis of our times is emptiness and boredom." Having gone their self-willed way, Americans find themselves on a dead-end street. The Scriptures warn, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Though it may seem the world is tumbling forward completely out of control, God the Creator is still sovereign, and ultimately His will shall be done. Some day Satan the deceiver will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit and then the entire world will declare its "declaration of independence." Then our nation will proceed in an orderly, holy fashion—unabated by a national scandal, such as Watergate, and unhampered by other national sins.

—Lighted Pathway



It Couldn't Happen Here— COULD IT?

In 1788 Edward Gibbon wrote and defined five basic reasons for the decay of civilization during the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.

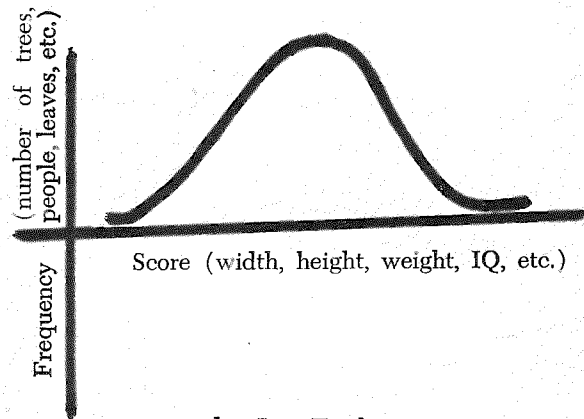
HERE ARE THE REASONS:

1. An undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes, and spending public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. A mad craze for pleasure, with pastimes becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.
4. Building great armaments although the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.
5. Decay of religion—faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and losing power to guide people.

COULD THIS BE AMERICA'S DESTINY?

Professor God

and the Normal Probability Curve



by Jim Fischer

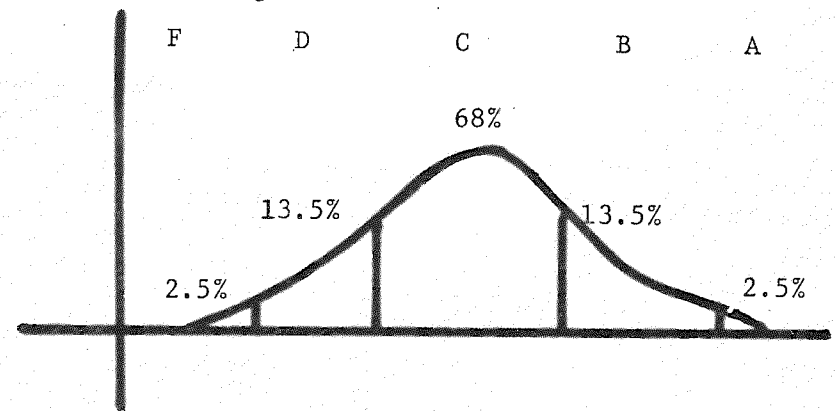
IN HIS CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE, GOD MADE VERY FEW PROVISIONS FOR EVENTS TO HAPPEN BY CHANCE ALONE. MANY EVENTS WHICH WE ATTRIBUTE TO CHANCE ARE ACTUALLY A PART OF GOD'S STRUCTURED LAWS OF PROBABILITY. Insurance companies are aware of this, so they study statistics and probability before determining the premium for each policy. If a company has made an accurate study, it can be assured that the money received in premiums will exceed that which will be given in insurance claims.

If we were to measure the width of each tree trunk in the state of Michigan, we would find some that would be relatively small and some that would be relatively large, but most of them would tend to cluster around a midpoint. Then, if we decided to construct a graph showing the number of tree trunks for each width, we would obtain a curve very similar to the curve found at the beginning of this article. This is the normal probability curve, sometimes referred to as a bell curve, normal distribution curve or the Gaussian curve. This curve is unique in that almost every time anything natural (heights of people, weights of people, IQ's of people, size of leaves on a tree, length of dogs' tails, etc.) is plotted on a graph, this curve will appear. *There are, however, two conditions which must be met: one must have an adequate sample (a large number of trees or people, or a random selec-*

tion of a large number of population); and, the measuring instrument must be accurate (a straight ruler, an accurate scale, a good IQ test, etc.).

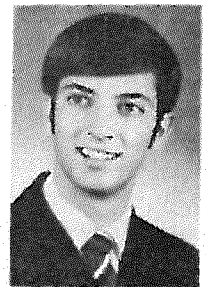
That almost anything natural can be plotted on a graph and produce the same curve is just another one of the many reasons for believing that this universe was created by a Supreme Being.

The normal probability curve is also utilized in other ways, the most familiar being a teacher's grading "on the curve." In grading "on the curve," the teacher will plot each score on a graph, and then assign letter grades according to their placement on the curve obtained, rather than their percentage score. If the normal probability curve is produced on the graph, the teacher would probably assign letter grades in the following manner:



Usually, however, the teacher will not obtain the normal probability curve when he plots the scores of his test on a graph: this happens because he has not met one or both of the conditions required to obtain such a curve. The most frequent reason for this is that an adequate sample is not used—it would be almost impossible to have a class of students which is representative of a large population. When the normal curve is not obtained, the teacher will assign grades according to the individual curve which his test has produced.

Jim Fischer is currently doing graduate study at Michigan State University, and plans to teach vocal music this fall. After receiving his Bachelor's Degree from Northern State College in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Jim taught at Spring Vale Academy during 1971-1972. Jim organized the Spring Vale Sound and has worked closely with this singing group for the past two years.



(Continued on page 18)



Magnets and Men

by Dorothy Nimchuk

What an advancement in science when gravity was first discovered! The ordinary compass contains a magnetic needle which, while swinging freely on a pivot, points to the magnetic poles of the earth. There are many forces of magnetism in the world around us; but the greatest force by far is the drawing of spiritual forces to either good or evil in the lives of men and women.

We can learn much from the common moth. "That silly moth," you say, "to be so attracted to a flame. Doesn't it realize it will get burned?" Humans aren't so different from moths—in one respect at least. The flame of sin burns brightly, attractively, beckoning men to partake of her evil, sugar-coated deeds. Like to Eve of old Satan is whispering, "Thou shalt not surely die," while the Word of God is proclaiming, "The wages of sin is death!" (Romans 6:23).

Listen to the word in Revelation 18:4 where the warning is given, "... Come out of her my people,

that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." In spite of the many exhortations to the contrary, selfish man thinks, "I can do it this once and get by." "It won't become a habit with me."

Stop and think! We are not entirely free. We must serve some one or something. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

We need to keep ourselves pure and unspotted from the world. Evil companionship with worldly friends can only lead to heartache and despair. "I can keep myself from doing those things which are harmful even though I run with the crowd." You'll never win a friend to the Lord by going to the places he goes, doing what he does, in a feverish endeavor to "keep up with the crowd," or so as not to be considered a "square"

in the eyes of said worldly companions. *The closer you are to the world and its charms, the farther you are from God; and the stronger the pull of the world becomes.* "It won't hurt, just this once!" Just one puff of that cigarette to please some erstwhile boyfriend, or one sip of that drink which is the ruin of so many today...

Even among Christians, persons should be very careful as to their conduct. Heavy necking and petting leads eventually in only one direction, and that way is SIN! "Flee fornication" (I Corinthians 6:18). "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22). We all need friendship. There are many good, healthy, worthwhile activities we can engage in with good friends without resorting to the "broad way" which leads to death.

The "watchman" of Ezekiel 33 is set to warn of approaching danger. If, after receiving the warning, the people do not repent, the watchman is free from obligation. But not this: If he warn not the wicked, the blood of that wicked one will be required of the watchman. Each of us, in a sense, is a watchman. We must live up to the trust God has given us.

As the moth is drawn to the flame, so is a nail, or other metallic object drawn to a magnet. The moth keeps returning, ever circling the flame until it gets too close and is destroyed. The "candle-light" of sin draws men on and on until at last they are hopelessly and helplessly caught and destruction is their end. However, when the "light of the world" comes into a life and one turns his eyes to

the Lord, a greater magnetism is experienced which will draw that one to the Saviour. This is by far the greatest force in the world.

However great the pull of a large, powerful magnet, if you hold a nail close to a magnet of smaller intensity and size while holding the larger one far away, the lesser magnet will have the greater influence over the nail. One held tightly by the magnetism of sin can by calling on the Lord in faith believing, be released from the bondage of sin through the power of the love of God.

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

Dorothy Nimchuk, now editor of WAND magazine, has been active in many phases of the Church work.



EDITORIAL ETCHES

(Continued from page 2)

And I prayed... "Oh God, wake us up! Help us Americans—especially us young Americans—to grasp the greatness of our heritage, the value of our personal freedoms—to protect them... help us return to the ideals of our forefathers who feared you, who revered life, and who sacrificed so very much to give birth to the United States of America—the land of the free—the land of all peoples. And most of all, dear Lord, help us, and help our leaders, to look to you as the supreme ruler who has all the answers to life's problems. God, please do bless America.

The Sounds of Today



For a number of years the topic of modern music has been a "thorn in the flesh" to some and a favorite "hobby horse" to others. Being constantly bombarded with the sounds of modern music it is necessary for each of us to evaluate our position regarding today's popular music in relation to its effect upon our Christian living. Some Christians have found the lyrics and tone of modern music to be unsuitable for their lives while others consider it very enjoyable and not detrimental to their spiritual health.

When considering the stand you will take on modern music remember to always think Biblically and rationally since God has given you the ability to do so. For many, discussions concerning modern music are nothing more than personal feeling clashes that exhibit no logical Christian reasoning. One young person who had attended rock concerts and performances of various traveling bands was so determined to make his point in favor of modern music victorious that he boldly exclaimed, "The Bible even tells of bands." Flipping through his Bible he eventually came to his supporting text and gladly read: "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band" (Acts 10:1).

Be careful when considering modern music—avoid basing your decision on your personal feelings, peer influence or on modern trends. Always, "Prove all things: hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

It is often said that women are most unpredictable and capricious. This may be true with certain women, but the trends in modern music far surpass any woman in being capricious and unpredictable! As a young person it is easy for you to testify to the great fluctuation in modern music because you are the one with a closet full of albums and pictures of such groups as "The Beatles," "The Rolling Stones," "Chad and Jeremy," "The Cream"... groups which are now passe. When you first heard these groups they were super, but now their fame is but a memory, if that. And you are the one with a record rack now full of the hottest hits of such celebrities as "The Carpenters," and "The Bread," "Raspberries" and "The Moody Blues."

It has been said that "*the style of modern music fluctuates with the gullibility of the majority of people.*" No matter what type of music—hard rock, revived oldies, soft classical—modern music is only as popular as the majority of people make it. This fact cannot be denied by anyone—*accepted modern music is made by the likes and dislikes of the majority of the people!*

Knowing that the purpose of modern music is mainly to satisfy the pleasure desires of the majority of people, we must abstain from making our decision for or against modern music because of its acceptance or rejection by the majority.

Rid your minds of what the world says and make your decision with "righteous judgment" (good discretion).

Now that you have eliminated everything connected with modern music (disk jockey propaganda, friend influence, the modern trend people of the world expect you to follow, personal feelings "pro" and "con" regarding involvement in modern music), you have nothing but the music itself to consider... And this is the basis of our discussion—*THE MUSIC OF TODAY.*"

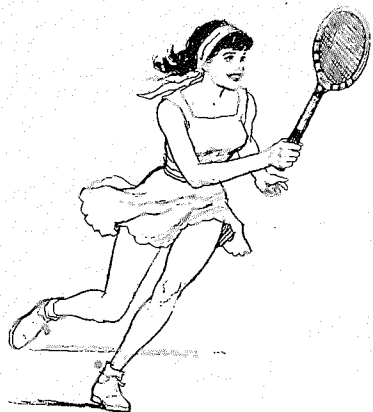
Music is phenomenal and mysterious when one considers its ability to govern human emotions. David soothed the temper of King Saul with his sweet music while the trumpets of Israel rallied the people to battle. Consider the influence music has upon you. When you are depressed it's your favorite song or record album that immediately cheers you up... tired and weary you turn to a mellow tune to relax your aching body... and when joy overwhelms you, your heart yearns to sing along with a lively song. Music does have a definite influence upon us. Caution should be used in selecting the type of music we expose ourselves to, realizing the underlying influence it carries.

Before jumping on the band



David Robinson, a 1973 graduate of Midwest Bible College, is presently serving as intern in New York City. David is a member of the National Youth Committee.

(Continued on page 26)



SUMMER INFLUENZA

Each summer churches everywhere suffer from spiritual illnesses because the summer heat stroke strikes down many church people so they can't make it out to the meetings. In the summer when a lot of interesting and beneficial activities can provide spiritual growth for our youth, *influenza* (or *summer influence*) takes its toll.

A common disease of the summer is *attendenitis*, a failure of the adrenal gland to supply the power for attending a youth meeting. As *attendenitis* progresses, it gradually develops into *cancellitis*—*cancellitis* of Bible study, *cancellitis* of youth devotional, and as a final result, it causes the death of the FYC.

Another disease is *cantcer*, like cancer but with a "t" between the "n" and "c." When you ask the FYC'er to take part in a youth devotional the usual automatic response is, "I can't sir." The symptoms are weak knees, an under-secretion of the faith hormone (below mustard seed level) and a lack of the enzyme love. Later stages of this disease cause hardening of the hearteries.

Then there is *megalcephaloma*, a disease where certain areas of the

brain enlarge as the victim's knowledge increases but areas of the brain where Bible knowledge is stored remain stunted in spite of the treatment of regular Sabbath school and church attendance. This disease causes *light-blindness*. The remedy is a well-balanced reading habit and prayer.

Heart disease is common, too. The heart is so weak that it enlarges to desire worldly amusements at the expense of church attendance. The victim loves other things and other people more than God. This disease is accompanied by anemia or lack of enthusiasm for youth activities. Caused by insufficient faith hormone, it can be treated by *nature*. Observing God's great and marvelous universe can increase your faith secretion. A weak heart often causes *socialaria*, where other groups and dates are preferred to the church group. To prevent *socialaria*, take advantage of *N vitamin* (invite 'em in). This helps counteract *attendenitis*, too.

Amnesia is a weakness causing one to forget youth activities or his responsibility in a youth program. Closely related to *amnesia* is *hey fev-*

(or Summer Influence)

by Elden Fischer



er. The victim must constantly be administered shots of "Hey, are you coming tonight?" or "Hey, do you have your special practiced for tomorrow?"

Mumps consist of lumps in the throat, predominantly infecting youth sponsors and teachers when the service is about to begin.

Sabbath morning sickness is an illness where one feels bad until after services when all energy returns and the tiredness is gone.

Nervitemia is an illness of extreme nervousness or homesickness that runs in 7-day cycles and usually strikes when the clock strikes twelve, mostly common on the seventh day of the week.

TV is a disease where one is quarantined in his home, suffering from the lack of desire to attend any church functions.

Nearsightedness is a defect of the eyes where one can see a golf ball 200 yards away, but when it comes to witnessing, the victim can't even see his neighbors' spiritual needs—much less his own.

Laryngitis and *locked jaw* are similar—the failure to witness when the opportunity presents itself.

All of the vices causing *summer influence* are extremely contagious. This summer support the programs of the right cross (or Christ's cross) and help stamp out spiritual illnesses.

If you are suffering from any of these illnesses call your pastor and he will nurse you back to spiritual health by praying with you. Your chances of recovery will be unbelievably high.

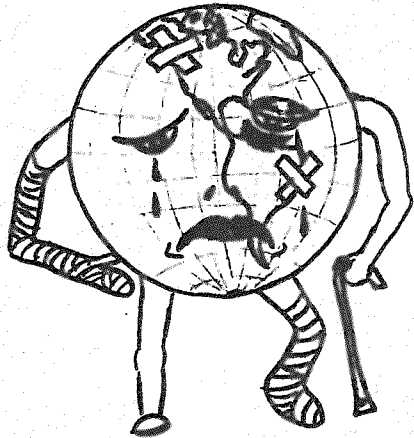
Heaven's health insurance is free if you are covered by the prayer umbrella. No other insurance can compete with it.

Before *summer influenza* strikes you, call on the great physician for your FYC. (Free yearly check-up—not checkout). Then you can cancel all of your FYC disappointments for the summer. A chapter a day keeps the devil away.

Elden Fischer, who has served on the faculty at Spring Vale Academy for six years, has contributed much in the interest of the youth in the Church of God.



Bible Prophecy



World,
You're in
SAD SHAPE!

Our world today is in many ways like the world was just before the flood. Of that time we are told, *"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth"* (Genesis 6:11, 12).

"... And God destroyed that wicked world."

We also have the example of Sodom and Gomorrah. The people of these cities were greatly taken up with immorality. Sex seemed to be their main interest in life. That which God gave for the good of man and for the procreation of mankind, they had turned into evil lust.

"... And so God destroyed these cities with fire and brimstone (as we read in Genesis 19).

Our world today is very much like it was before the flood and also like Sodom and Gomorrah. On the one hand there is a great flood of violent crime and in many places city streets are not a safe place to be—especially after dark. Robbery and murder are everywhere. And on the other hand the world seems to be insane over sex.

I am writing this in London, England. While we consider conditions to be very bad in the United States, I am impressed that they are much worse here in Europe. The people seem to delight in sex scandals. Newspaper headlines and pictures constantly play up these things. Some sample headlines: *"License to Love"*—with a picture of a man and woman in a sensual love scene; *"The Belly Dancer and the Tycoon."* And just before the running of the English horse race called the "Derby," a picture which covered most of one page in a newspaper showed a nude girl astride a play horse! And so it seems to go on and on.

This same general situation is found all over the world today—especially in the big cities. The danger to Christians is that they may

become so accustomed to such things that they lower their own standards of decency. Evil things may no longer seem to be evil, because of the constant exposure to them. This is why God has given us His Word, which does not change but holds up the true standard of righteousness for all times. We must never regard the Bible as being too "old fashioned" for us to follow its teachings.

The Fallen Nature

The evil conditions in the world are caused by the fallen nature of man. Ever since the sin of Adam and Eve, man has inherited a sinful nature. Only by being converted or "born again" can we have our nature changed. This change causes us to desire good things and to strive to please God. But there is always a temptation to turn back. We have to be constantly on our guard against the wiles of Satan.

The wicked conditions we find in the world today are well described in the prophecy of Jeremiah. *"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall: at the time I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord"* (Jeremiah 6:15).

The Good Way

Everything *old* is not necessarily *good*, but neither are all *old* ways *bad* ways. The Bible teachings are the *oldest* in the world but they are also the *best*. In the verse following the one we quoted above, we find:

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls..."

But the tendency of the modern

generation is to reject everything of the past and to always be looking for some new fad or thrill. It is even as Jeremiah said in the last part of the above verse:

"... But they said, We will not walk therein."

Fallen man is rebellious against the teachings and ways of God. Instead of going to the Bible for the answer to his problems, he goes to a psychologist. He tries to rationalize and reason out his ideas. He arrives at a way that *"seems right"* but often that way is contrary to the Bible way. As Christians we are committed to the idea that the Bible has the ultimate answers to our human problems and that it always *has had* and *will have* these answers. The moral law of God does not change and it is always the standard for us. The Bible teaches us to be neat and clean, to speak the truth, to do useful work, to love others, and to use sex only in marriage. God clothed Adam and Eve. He expects us to be properly clothed.

Elder Stanley Kauer, the feature writer of this column, has just returned from a tour of England and Europe. We look forward to his report in a future issue.



(Continued on page 26)

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions Answered by
Dale G. Lawson



QUESTION

Would you tell me why I can't smoke once in a while? I know I shouldn't smoke a lot, but at school my friends often smoke and they sometimes ask me to smoke with them. I don't think it hurts anything just once in a while.

ANSWER

I can't tell you that you "can't" smoke, but I can tell you that you shouldn't. How many people do you know who are hooked on cigarettes? Some will not admit it even when they are "slave to the weed." With your knowing that you shouldn't smoke a lot, I can't really believe you want to take a chance on be-

coming "a slave" by smoking that "once in a while."

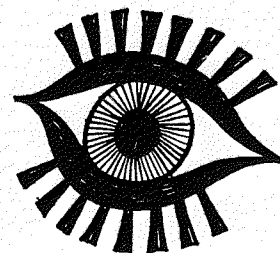
Evidence is conclusive that cigarette smoking is harmful to your health; besides, it is hard to imagine one having desire to take smoke into lungs that God created to use good clean air.

Your main concern seems to be what your friends think. What God thinks about the situation should be your greatest concern. Having a healthy body should also be a major concern; and it will be as you grow older.

Incidentally, your friends will respect you when you stand for what is right; and if they do not, "with friends like that, who needs enemies."

This summer at General Conference there will be District Competition for all young people's recreational activities. **COME TO CONFERENCE—SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT!**

St. Marys, Ohio—August 10-18



Are You Awake—

or Just Pretending



by Carolyn Marrs

ISN'T SUMMER GRAND? SUMMER IS A FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR FOR MANY OF MY FRIENDS; and I must admit that I am pretty partial to it myself, although I like all the seasons. One reason that I like summer is that it brings new experiences and a different schedule; it is a change and challenge. I never grow tired of seeing summer come back after a long, routine winter! So far, I haven't run out of appreciation for it.

Unfortunately, I am reminded that my friends and I too often run out of appreciation for other things that can be classified as being "grand." For instance, take this magazine itself. How often do we forget that the articles within are often written by one of our own friends or relatives who has a burden for young people, a particular friend, you, or me? Is it possible that we skim the "Aim" and let most of the thoughts there-

in filter out as we read? Do we get so accustomed to hearing, reading, and using "Christian phraseologies" that they no longer sink in? What if the last article you read was meant especially for you, and you failed to get the message because you were thinking of what happened last night, or just let familiar words glance off your brain surface? The "Aim" is published for a purpose; the people behind it are trying to present a change in life and a challenge to young people, to you, and to me. Are you getting the message?

GENERAL CONFERENCE AND CAMP MEETING ALWAYS BRINGS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION TO US YOUNG PEOPLE. What do we get out of that week besides the personal pleasure from meeting old and new friends and having fun? It is high time we stop acting like children going to a circus and start realizing

the other side, the most important side of camp meeting. When I think of all my dear friends who haven't found God or who haven't become close to Him—and that this camp meeting may very possibly be the last, it makes me cry. Sure, I like to have fun, and it means a lot to me to be with my friends, but that isn't what matters the most. If God would allow you to remember, how would you feel if you made it to the Kingdom and in the middle of your joy realized that your friends didn't make it, because you were too busy having a good time then to think about eternity? Yes, camp meeting is "grand," but do you appreciate its real purpose? Do you get the message of change and challenge?

AGAIN, I RECALL WE HAVE NO CLAIM ON TIME; WE AREN'T SURE HOW MUCH WE HAVE LEFT. We need to use every day that dawns until Jesus comes as if it were the last for one morning it will be. Have we been drifting along in our Christian experience? Are we awake as the scriptures warn or have we just been pretending?



Carolyn (Clements) Marrs, who attended SVA and MBC, has contributed much to the Church work through her writing and artistic abilities.

PROFESSOR GOD AND THE NORMAL PROBABILITY CURVE

(Continued from page 7)

The largest test ever to be administered will be given by God. If God were to assume the role of a teacher or professor and plot our lives—in terms of Christianity—on a graph, it's highly possible that a normal probability curve would result. His test will certainly meet the two required conditions: the sample will be adequate (everyone who ever lived will be judged); and, the measuring instrument will be accurate (God is perfect, therefore His judgment will be perfect). If the normal curve would be obtained, it would indicate that there was a small number of people who were exceptionally fine Christians, a small number of people who rejected God and Christ completely, and a majority of people somewhere between those two extremes.

God's evaluation will result in one of two grades—pass (eternal life), or fail (death). The high school teacher or college professor would give a passing grade to the average student, but the Bible clearly states that those who are lukewarm (average) will not receive eternal life. Therefore, we must strive to move toward the right side of the normal probability curve, and when God makes His final judgment, the pass-fail line will be drawn behind us, and we can live with our Saviour throughout eternity.

Follow Me . . .

I'm On My Way To
General Conference

St. Marys, Ohio

August 10-18



You Missed It!

by Jewell Linville

If you were one of those unfortunate young people who were unable to attend youth camp at Lake Texoma June 24-July 1, you MISSED . . .

- seeing Barbara Burrell squeeze 153 campers and 27 staffers into space for 160! (Her husband wound up sleeping OUTSIDE on a cot! Wonder how that happened??)
- the thrill of renewing old friendships and establishing new ones.
- hearing Elder Zurita tell us why *you* weren't there—because WE didn't pray for you!
- hearing Elder Zurita tell us why YOU ARE going to be there next year—Because WE ARE going to pray for you!
- hearing Brother Kinzler prophesy (with scriptural basis) that the young people there would lead the church into the promised land—just as Moses and Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land. Won't you join in the march?
- eating fried chicken, watermelon, hot dogs, chocolate cake, steak and potatoes, sloppy joes, and other goodies prepared by our hard-working cooks, Brother and Sister Wagner and Sisters Karnei and Quick.
- seeing a group of junior girls stop their ball game and sit down in the middle of the softball field with their leader, Sister Yvonne Helms, to discuss what the Bible says about witchcraft.
- listening to a taped testimony of a former drug pusher turned on to



These are the 152 young people who did not miss the District No. 4 Youth Camp.

- Jesus and turned off to LSD, glue sniffing, sexual immorality, and other Satanic pleasures.
- experiencing Christ's call to salvation, to Spring Vale Academy, to Midwest Bible College—to TOTAL COMMITMENT!
- horseback riding, swimming, ball playing, and lots of good fellowship and waterfights!
- seeing Brother Mike Vlad present the REALNESS of Jesus as he walked among the young people demonstrating the "Jesus touch" to eyes, ears, limbs, and hearts.
- "celebrating" discovery of self as Elder Ken Knoll directed his class into daily discussion groups where they were made to think about and analyze self.
- a Friday trip to Durant by Brother Jerry Camero's discussion group to canvass the town with literature and personal witnessing in order to put into practice what they had learned throughout the week. (Many good reports of blessings returned to camp!)
- an inspiring play of one young lady's attempt to reach her "junkie" friends for Christ (music and lines original by Debbie Meador and Ann Carlin).



- sharing with the angels in heaven their happiness as the souls of Irma, Cynthia, and Doris were buried in the water and received the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to "go on going on" with Christ!
- the Lord's leading as a panel made up of Brothers Calvin, Ken, and Mike answered the questions presented to them by the campers.
- the smiles of Kyle Hall and Connie Woodruff as they accepted the awards for Mr. and Miss Camper of 1973.
- the presentation of well-earned awards to Kevin Robbins and Mark Burrell as outstanding Bible students in junior camp.
- the final admonition by Brother Mike to remain true through the use of the 3 all-important keys of PRAYER—FASTING—BIBLE STUDY. (Concentrate on consecrating!)
- "How Great Thou Art" sung in 3 languages—Spanish, Korean, and English—which brings to mind the oneness we now have in the Spirit and the TOTAL oneness we shall have when Jesus returns, "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with ONE consent" (Zephaniah 3:9)! PRAISE THE LORD!

Your Best and No Less!



By Max M. Morrow

It is one thing to give your heart to the Lord, but it is another to give your *life* to Him. It is one thing to surrender your vile personality and another to do all you can to refine that personality.

For the most part the average Christian is content to give his heart and his vile person to the Lord, not stopping to think that his gift would be so much more fitting if he went the "second mile" and really surrendered his LIFE and went ahead to refine his vile person.

Upon first coming to the Lord there is no one but that is vile and corrupted by sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," and "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing"; so says the Bible in Romans 3:23 and 7:18. The best that any of us can offer the Lord is "no good" in itself.

But the young person who is really interested in giving his Lord an "appropriate gift," like we sometimes are concerned about choosing an appropriate gift for a good friend, will look beyond the day of his first commitment to the Lord. He knows that he was vile and "no good" then; but he also knows that his very best is none too good for the Lord. So, he goes ahead to refine himself in every way possible so that the gift he has given will be even more "appropriate."

There is many a young person who progresses through the years of his high school studies, not really knowing what the Lord wants to make of him—the *him* that is the gift he gave to the Lord—not really knowing just where he is to fit into the mighty army of Christian soldiers. He could sit down and say, "Well, Lord, here I am, worthless and no good. If you can do anything with me this way, good luck." Or he could say, "Well, Lord, I'm no good in myself, and I'm worthless to you as I am; but I'm going to do the best I can to fit myself for some appropriate place in your army."

The Lord does not always make it readily known just what He wants in the way of service from a young man. Perhaps it will be one of the professions, maybe a minister of the Gospel, maybe a zealous promoter on a layman's level; or maybe even an humble soul with only a tender smile and a prayer of faith that reaches heaven. (Did I say ONLY?)

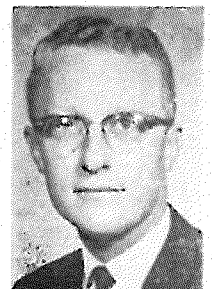
Sometimes the young lady wonders what the Lord wants her to be, besides being a Christian through and through—maybe a nurse, maybe a teacher, maybe a stenographer, maybe a missionary to far-off Africa; or maybe just a loving little mother to rear her son to be an Elijah, her daughter to be a Tabitha. (Did I say JUST?)

In either case, the young man, the young lady, dare not waste the precious years of youth in do-nothing-ness. Those years ought to be used in careful preparation for effective service wherever the Lord leads.

A young man once said, "I don't know what the Lord wants me to do, but I am going to get the best education I can so that when the Lord does show me, I will be able to do a better job of it." This philosophy is what will drive a young person on to make the best use of his youth to prepare for his adulthood—that period of life that is so fruitful for the Lord if careful preparation is made in youth.

It may be that as you read these lines you are wondering what the Lord wants you to make of your life. You may have thought about various fields of employment where you could give your LIFE in service: the ministry, the mission field, nursing, farming, church administration, school teaching, business, engineering—any number of professions.

Max Morrow, who has served the Church in many capacities, is presently the Director of Midwest Bible College. Elder Morrow, minister and teacher, is a graduate of M.B.C.



WHERE SHOULD YOU BEGIN IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE LORD WANTS?

Well, there have been a number of young folks who enter college without knowing and spend a year, or two, or more in one line of study only to find that they were "misfits" there and had to change fields. As a consequence, that precious time was poorly invested and did not serve as a good ground work on which to build for the future.

To safeguard against this, young people are urged to enroll at Midwest Bible College, where they can spend precious years of youth in studies that will be excellent background for whatever work the Lord may later reveal, whether it be the ministry, the mission field, nursing, dentistry, farming, church administration, school teaching, business, engineering—the very profession you may have been considering.

While young people are studying the Bible and related subjects and spending time together in prayer and Christian fellowship, they are opening their hearts for the Lord's revelation of His plan for them. And beyond just waiting on the Lord for a directive, they are refining their "no good" personality into something better so they can give Him their very best.

If you have been content to think you can give the Lord less than your best, do reconsider. Nothing short of your best is worthy to be given as a gift to the Lord.

2T4G—TAKE TIME FOR GOD

Except By Fasting . . .

by Marilyn Current

HOW TO FAST

Aug. 1—Joel 2 (vs. 12-16)
Aug. 2—Isa. 58 (vs. 4 & 5)
Aug. 3—Matt. 6 (vs. 16-18)
Aug. 4—II Cor. 6 (v. 5)

HOW NOT TO FAST

Aug. 5—Luke 18 (v. 12)
Aug. 6—I Kings 21 (v. 9)

WHEN TO FAST

Aug. 7—Matt. 17 (v. 21)
Aug. 8—Mark 9 (v. 29)
Aug. 9—Matt. 9 (vs. 14 & 15)
Aug. 10—Mark 2 (vs. 18-20)
Aug. 11—Luke 5 (vs. 33-35)

EXAMPLES OF FASTING

Aug. 12—Ps. 109 (v. 24)

Aug. 13—Acts 13 (vs. 2 & 3)
Aug. 14—Acts 14 (v. 23)
Aug. 15—Acts 10 (v. 30)
Aug. 16—Acts 27 (vs. 9 & 33)
Aug. 17—II Cor. 11 (v. 27)
Aug. 18—Ps. 35 (v. 13)
Aug. 19—Ezra 8 (v. 21)
Aug. 20—Joel 1 (v. 14)
Aug. 21—Jonah 3 (v. 5)
Aug. 22—II Sam. 12 (vs. 20-23)
Aug. 23—Matt. 4 (v. 2)
Aug. 24—Matt. 15 (v. 32)
Aug. 25—Mark 8 (vs. 2 & 3)
Aug. 26—Neh. 1 (v. 4)
Aug. 27—II Chron. 20 (v. 3)
Aug. 28—I Kings 19 (v. 8)
Aug. 29—Ex. 34 (v. 28)
Aug. 30—Deut. 9 (vs. 9 & 18)
Aug. 31—Luke 2 (v. 37)

MINUTEMAN

If You Love Me . . .

by Marcia Woods

As Christians we are no longer bound to that old Ten Commandment law. When Christ died, He nailed them to the cross—at least that is what modern day denominations would have us to believe.

But if Christ's purpose in coming to this earth was to abolish God's eternal law, why did He say "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfill*" (Matt. 5:17). And if He abolished the law at His death, why in life had He enlarged it? For example, murder was prohibited under the Ten Commandment law, yet Christ went a step further and said that if any man so much as hated his brother without a cause, he was in danger of the judgment (Matt. 5:21, 22). And when the rich young ruler came to Christ seeking salvation, why did Christ tell him to keep the commandments? *Christ did not abolish the Ten Commandments either in death or in life! They are still very much in effect for us today!!*

Many argue "*But as Christians we're freed from the bondage of the law.*" How much they miss the point. As Christians who obey the Ten Commandments, we're the only ones who are free because those who fail to keep the Ten Commandments are under the death penalty. James saw this law as being anything but binding and constraining. He termed it the perfect law of liberty and called it a royal law (James 2:8-12). WHICH LAW is it that enslaves you? Refraining from murder? Stealing? Adultery? Serving other gods? the sabbath?—now there is the rub! Most are "*morally bound*" to keeping nine of them—excluding, of course, the sabbath. That way of thinking is often compared to cutting off ten fingers and sewing back nine of them—just to get rid of the thumb.

"If you love me, keep my commandments."

If the law is no longer in effect, consider John's definition of sin in I John 3:4 "*For sin is the transgression of the law.*" If there is no law, there is nothing to transgress. (Note: Romans 3:20 and 4:15 also point this definition out). If there is no transgression, no sin, then why did Christ die?

It is still our duty to keep God's eternal law—the Ten Commandments.

I John 5:3	I John 3:4	I Cor. 7:19	I John 2:4
Matt. 5:17	Romans 4:15	Matt. 19:17	James 1:25

THE SOUNDS OF TODAY

(Continued from page 11)

wagon for any type of music, consider these points, which we will call "GUIDELINES IN MUSIC SELECTION FOR CHRISTIANS":

1. Determine your motive for selecting this particular type of music. (Why do you want it—did someone suggest it or does it make you popular with a certain individual? Just why do you want it?)

2. Consider the amount of inspiration you will receive from continued listening. (Do you gain anything beneficial from the music?)

3. The time you spend listening to this music—will you be able to classify it as "time wisely used" or "time wasted"?

4. As a Christian we confess that the things of the world mean nothing to us for "only the things we do for Christ will last." Does your selection of music aid, hinder, or not affect your spiritual living and closeness to God? (If it does not aid your spiritual life in some way then it isn't worth devoting time to since we are to "set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

5. Are you perfectly honest with yourself when considering music in relation to your Christian convictions and standards? ("I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Galatians 2:20).

If you're going to make a decision regarding the type of music suitable for your attention and patronage give these guidelines considerable thought. Remember the music and its effect upon you is what you want to scrutinize and not the modern trend and personal influence that is attached to modern music.

Just as God has made each person an individual with the power of personal choice, your choice of the type of music you listen to is completely up to YOU. Give yourself much time in meditation so that your decision will be made by your heart and not by your ears!!

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all" (1 Timothy 4:12, 15).

WORLD, YOU'RE IN SAD SHAPE

(Continued from page 15)

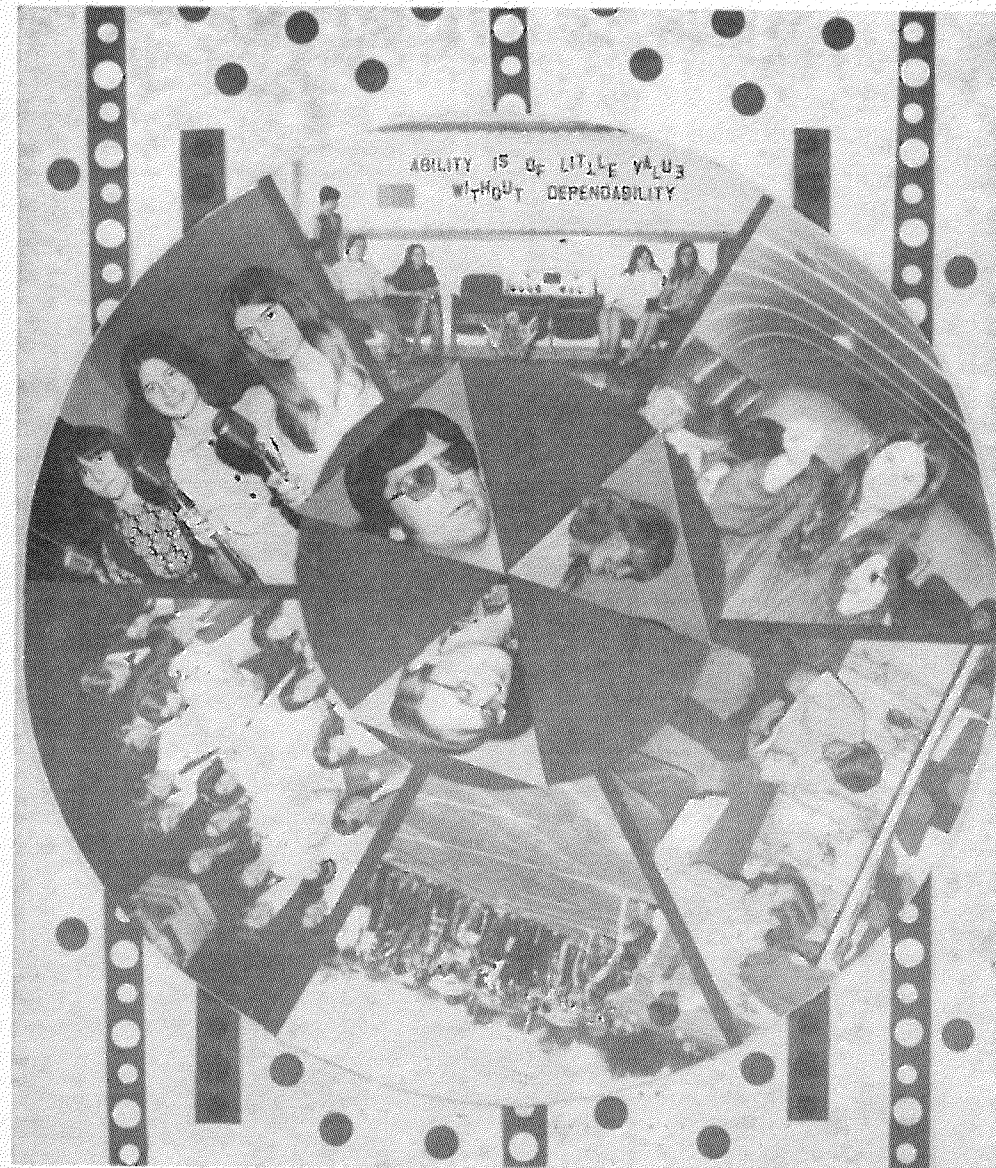
In doing this we cannot follow every foolish fad of fashion.

A Holy People

Living in this wicked world we are not to be of it. We are to obey God's Word, even though this causes others to consider us as "peculiar." We are to let our lives shine as light in this dark, wicked world. This is God's challenge to Church of God young people today. Will you accept the challenge?

SPRING VALE ACADEMY . . .

For A Well-Rounded Education



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