

DECEMBER 23, 1979

Awake!

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Greatest Gift**
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"Awake!" is for the enlightenment of the entire family. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. It also shows how to cope with today's problems. Most importantly, "Awake!" builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order within our generation.

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Does Xmas Promote Greed?



Jesus taught that it's better to give than to get. The Santa Claus myth teaches that getting takes first place: if you're good you'll get, if you're bad you won't

A FEW years ago the assistant managing editor of the *U.S. Catholic* magazine wrote:

"Whereas the true lesson of Christmas is a message of divine mercy and sacrifice, Santa is the front man for greedy corporations, and the tutor in greed for millions of American children. He is the saint of gimme. . . . He has become a total sellout to materialism and greed. He is in the pay of the big toy manufacturers and department stores. . . . A greedy child is never appeased. A spoiled child appreciates nothing. An overindulged child is convinced that the major figure of Christmas is not Christ, but himself."

This editor thought that Santa should have been left at the North Pole. Actually, the entire Christmas cele-

bration should have been left in pagan Rome. Christ was not born on December 25, but it was the day on which the Romans worshiped the sun-god. Their December festival, the Saturnalia, featured gift giving and wild parties. A few centuries after Christ the Catholic Church incorporated the day and the festival into apostate Christianity, and called it "mass of Christ," or Christmas.

Appropriate to its origin, the Christmas celebration is observed in many non-Christian nations today. For example, the *Daily Yomiuri* of Japan said last year at Christmastime:

"Whipped cream cakes with 'Merry Christmas' written across the top in English are a must for every family that has children. The cakes, complete with miniature 'Santa Ojisan'—that's Santa Claus—go for about \$7.70 each. Many households have a small Christmas tree topped with foam snow. This borrowed holiday has become big business in Japan.

"'We Japanese are Christmas Christians,' said Yukio Nomura, interviewed while purchasing a \$233 remote-controlled toy car for his 11-year-old son. Nomura, an employee of a large trading company, said he is not Christian but nevertheless celebrates the holiday—'because it's an excuse to eat and drink.'

"The Christmas period is

also a time when many companies hold their 'bonenkai'—year-end parties—often followed by night-long binges at a string of bars. Extra police patrol the entertainment districts to guide home merry-makers."

Weeks of shopping in preparation for Christmas is nerve-racking. Cooking for the family dinners is exhausting. The family budget has been ruined. The obese overeat, the alcoholics overdrink, and even the moderates may put on a few pounds and suffer some hangovers. The poor feel their poverty more acutely, and the lonely feel their loneliness more keenly. Many children are unhappy. Some did not get what they wanted, some did not get as much as they wanted, and still others received little or nothing.

Dr. John Donnelly, chief psychiatrist of the world-famous Institute of Living, says you have lots of company if you are depressed on Christmas day. He thinks that Christmas was a happier time 45 years ago, when people were less affluent and took joy in little things.

When people had less, they were happier with less.

Christmas giving caters to the flesh, stuffs the flesh. Could it be that the spirit is starved, and because of that suffers depression?

"We have Christmas," one five-year-old boy explained, "because parents celebrate and children have to celebrate too. It's so children can get some toys and adults can get some clothes for themselves. We don't go to church."

A six-year-old girl said: "My favorite Christmas song is: When Santa got stuck up the chimney, he began to shout: You

girls and boys won't get any toys, if you don't pull me out."

This 10-year-old boy has the financial end of it figured out: "I have an allowance. I have \$25 to spend on Christmas. I think my parents should spend \$42 on me."

Jesus said: "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving." (Acts 20:35) If the giving is done out of a heart filled with love, that is true. If it is done out of a sense of obligation, much of the happiness is lost. Concerning the giving at Christmastime, *Science Digest* magazine said: "Most of us say (and think that we believe) that 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' But when we talk about 'exchanging gifts,' we betray the fact that we *do* expect a little something to be given in return."

This is not the kind of giving that Jesus had in mind, for he also said: "When you spread a dinner or evening meal, do not call your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors. Perhaps sometime they might also invite you in return and it would become a repayment to you. But when you spread a feast, invite poor people, crippled, lame, blind; and you will be happy, because they have nothing with which to repay you."—Luke 14:12-14.

This is not to say there will not be a return, but the giving is not done with any return in mind. "Practice giving," Jesus said, "and people will give to you." If you give to the poor, you still reap a return: "He that is showing favor to the lowly one is lending to Jehovah, and his treatment He will repay to him."—Luke 6:38; Prov. 19:17.

Christmastime is characterized by material giving, the exchanging of gifts, a great outpouring of toys upon the children of many nations. There is a much greater gift that all children need, and need not once or a few times a year, but every day of their lives.

for your child...

You Are The Greatest Gift!



A SMALL boy is excited, waiting impatiently for Saturday to come. His father is taking him to the zoo! All week long he has lived the day in his mind—he's watched the seals streak through the water, he's dropped peanuts into the trunks of the huge elephants towering above him, he's thrilled to the roars of the lions as the keeper comes to feed them. He can't wait!

Time drags, but Saturday finally does come. Then his father says to him: "Something's come up. There's no time to go to the zoo." The boy sits in a roomful of expensive toys, heartbroken, tearful, feeling abandoned.

Years pass. The boy is grown, married, has a son of his own. He's going to take his boy to the zoo, but when the day comes he says to his son: "Something's come up. There's no time to go to the zoo." As he leaves the house he makes a mental note to buy his son a toy, then gives his mind over to the serious business at hand.

More years pass. Now he is old, living alone and lonely. But today his grown son is coming to visit him! His eyes glow with anticipation. Then the phone rings, and his son tells him: "Something's come up.

There's no time to visit you." Slowly the old man returns the phone to its cradle, the light gone from his eyes. He picks up a newspaper and holds it out in front of him, but his eyes are moist and see nothing. His mind travels back over the years, remembering other times long ago, and he hears the words out of the past: "Something's come up. There's no time."

Parents must make time for their children. The giving of material things is not enough. Toys can be a delight, but they get broken, or children tire of them. The more they get the more they want, and a materialistic view of life develops. The real need of the child is for love, and the best proof of your love is giving yourself.

In some countries cars have plastered on their rear bumpers the question, "Have you hugged your kid today?" A psychiatrist in Florida adds: "A child who does not get enough hugging or cuddling may grow up to be withdrawn, detached or aloof. . . . Physical body contact between parent and child is so essential in child rearing that in some cases children who were not hugged or cuddled during the first year of their lives did not survive."

In a business seminar, the report was

given of a hospital ward filled with orphaned babies. In a long row of beds babies became ill and some of them died, except in the last bed in the row. In that bed the babies always did well. The doctor in charge could not figure it out. Nurses cared for all of them equally. All were fed, bathed, kept warm—no difference in their care. Yet all babies had health problems and some died—except the one in the last bed. As months passed and new babies were brought in, the story was always the same.

Finally the doctor, after checking everything he could think of, concealed himself to watch all night. Nurses came in, the babies were fed on time, all were cared for equally. About midnight the cleaning woman came in. On hands and knees she scrubbed the floor, from one end of the ward to the other. At the end she stood up, stretched and rubbed her tired back, and walked over to the last bed. She bent over, picked up the baby, and walked around the floor talking to it, stroking it, cuddling it and rocking it in her arms. Finally she put it back in its bed and moved on in her work.

This did not seem significant to the doctor; she just happened to stop at that bed. Nevertheless, he watched the next night, and the same thing happened. And the next night. And the next. Every night the scrubwoman stretched at the same

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**"The solemn children of war
touch and grasp and cling."**

■

spot, and every night it was the baby in the last bed that got talked to, stroked, cuddled and loved. And it thrived.

War orphans brought to the United States for adoption suffered from many different diseases, but they suffered the

most from privations of the heart. The report on this said:

"The solemn children of war touch and grasp and cling. They love to be held. They are suffering the 'Orphans' Syndrome.' . . . Even some older children were carried like babies off the buses that brought them here Tuesday from Travis Air Force Base. They stared and wrapped their thin arms and legs around volunteers. 'It's a fairly profound need and can't be satisfied by being patted on the head or dandled on a knee,' Stalcup [physician in charge] said. 'It's a fact that in order to grow, children need love, not just food and water.' "

And if they don't grow emotionally they may become withdrawn, hostile, delinquent, and possibly murderers, even of their own parents. Failure to receive gifts of toys will not do this, but failure to receive love can cause it.

Dr. James Dobson wrote not only of the need for love, but also of the need for that controversial activity, discipline. He said:

"It is my firm conviction that the most healthy home environment for children involves a careful balance between two essential ingredients: love and control. When these are properly implemented, each child knows he is loved beyond measure and that his parents value him infinitely as a human being. But he also learns that their love compels them to teach him and guide him and lead him—and perhaps discipline him when he refuses to obey. . . .

"The views I've expressed in this statement are not experimental or speculative, nor can I even claim them as uniquely my own. They represent an approach to child management which has existed for 2,000 years within the Judeo-Christian heritage. They are not based on abstruse theoretical assumptions, but rather on practical consequences. As Jack London has stated, 'The best measurement of anything should be: does it work?' When properly applied, loving adult leadership works!"

Long before Jack London declared this precept, Jesus Christ announced it: "Wisdom is proved righteous by its works." (Matt. 11:19) Commenting on the modern

trend of some psychologists to advocate the abdication of parental authority and follow the course of permissiveness with children, Dr. Dobson concludes his article: "I hope Americans will not abandon

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**"Wisdom is proved righteous
by its works."**
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their rich heritage of values to follow the puffed pipers of behavioral nonsense, particularly with reference to our children."

Withhold the giving of yourself to your child, and it senses that it is unwanted. All the toys in the world are no substitute for a loving parent, one who, along with material provisions and gifts, gives himself. For the child's spiritual development the family circle is vital. This fact was well understood in ancient Israel. The child was an integral part of the family. He was schooled at home, taught a trade by working with parents, and recreation was available within the extended family.

Today in the present system in many parts of the world the tendency is to supply the child's needs *outside* the family. He is *sent away* to school, *sent away* to Sunday school, *sent away* to summer camp, *sent away* to the movies, *sent away* to work. Or when the parents go away he may be *left behind* with a baby-sitter. Thrust out of the family nucleus, circling in orbit at a distance as it were, he comes to feel, if only subconsciously, that he does not really belong. He feels neglected, unwanted, unloved, surrounded by a hostile world of grown-ups.

Such children understandably become bitter and attempt to take out their frustration either upon the individuals they feel have neglected to give them the love they deserve, or upon society in general. They lose respect for their parents and, oftentimes, adults in general. The gener-

ation gap takes root and grows. They may run away from home and end up in big cities confronted with crime, drugs, prostitution and other problems they are woefully incapable of coping with.

The key to solving the problem is love within the family, from the child's birth onward. If all adults lived by the principles set forth in the Bible, the problems with children would be greatly reduced.

Where would all the victimized children of broken homes, caused by divorces and separations, be if all married couples would follow the advice of the Bible at 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11?—"To the married people I give instructions . . . that a wife should not depart from her husband . . . and a husband should not leave his wife."

Where would all the neglected and mistreated children of drunken fathers and mothers be if parents would follow the advice of the Bible at Ephesians 5:18 and Romans 13:13?—"Do not be getting drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery." "Let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in illicit intercourse and loose conduct, not in strife and jealousy."

Where would all the mistreated, beaten and battered children be if parents would follow the advice given at Colossians 3:21 and Titus 2:4?—"You fathers, do not be

In Future Issues

- **Caught in the Money Squeeze**
 - **Should We Go Back to Coal?**
 - **Overweight—How the Situation Looks**
-

exasperating your children, so that they do not become downhearted." "Recall the young women to their senses to love their husbands, to love their children."

"Do not be exasperating your children, so that they do not become downhearted."

Where would all the children who feel that grown-ups are not interested in them be if parents would follow the advice of Deuteronomy 11:19?—"You must also teach them [divine principles] to your sons, so as to speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up."

In short, where would all the unwanted and unloved children be if adults copied Jesus' example at Mark 10:14, 16?—"Let the young children come to me; do not try to stop them' . . . And he took the children into his arms and began blessing them."

For that matter, where would all the world be if it followed the rule Christ Jesus set forth at Matthew 7:12?—"All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them."

Jehovah God proved his love for mankind: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order

that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

Jesus proved his love by giving his life: "The Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many."—Matt. 20:28.

When the resurrected Jesus Christ ascended into heaven he gave to the Christian congregation "gifts in men."—Eph. 4:8.

Jehovah God gave his only-begotten Son. Jesus gave himself. He also gave men as gifts to serve his congregation. Moreover, as busy as Jesus was, as important as his

"Be cautious about saying, 'There's no time.'"

mission was, he always gave time to children.* Parents, copy these examples of giving. Give of yourselves to your children. Give your love. Give your time. Be cautious about saying, "There's no time." If you sow these words, you may end up reaping them. It is important to make time. Not just on the one day of the year set aside by the world as gift-giving time, but every day.

Remember, you are the most important gift you can give to your child!

* See the article on pages 27, 28.

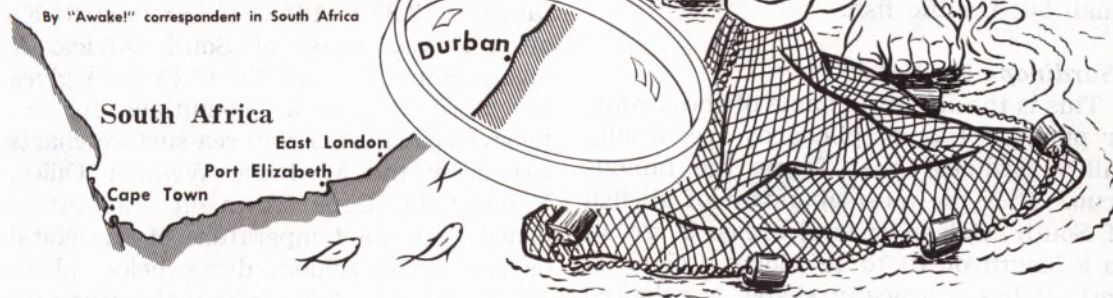
Respecting Others' Individuality

In his book **You Are Extraordinary**, Roger J. Williams, professor of biochemistry, discusses the many ways in which each human is a unique individual and states: "People are sometimes prone to accept and take for granted their own individuality, but are blind to the **individuality of others**—a blindness that cannot persist if we are to live together. We must use common sense and consideration in expressing our own individuality. If any one of us becomes too much intoxicated with his own individuality, it will be a good antidote for him to know that others possess a high degree of individuality, too."

The Case of the Missing Sardines

—An Unsolved Mystery

By "Awake!" correspondent in South Africa



"SARDINE Frenzy Hits South Coast." So read the caption of a report in *The Star* of Johannesburg, July 26, 1978. The account said: "Hundreds of people armed with buckets, crates and bags, waded into the sea at Marina Beach just south of Margate to catch sardines from the large shoal which beached there early today. The beach is crowded and everyone is in a frenzy, rushing waist-deep into the waters." The annual "sardine run" was on.

Shoals of sardines or pilchards—the two terms are to an extent interchangeable—appear regularly off the east coast of southern Africa during the southern winter each year, about July. The shoals are first spotted near the port of East London, at the southern tip of Africa. From land, the sight of thousands of seabirds wheeling and dipping into the sea at a certain spot locates a shoal. Sometimes before the main shoal appears "pilot" shoals are seen swimming ahead. The main shoals are enormous, often being

several square miles in extent—countless millions of fish!

What an opportunity for fish-loving predators! In addition to the voracious seabirds and the hungry humans, the sardines are the prey of marine predators—dolphins, sharks and other large fish. They gather at the lavish feast in their hundreds. However, their attacks are limited to the outside of the shoal. The very density of the shoal prevents these piscivorous monsters from penetrating the massed millions of sardines. For larger fish to do so would result in the clogging of their gills.

Nevertheless, at times, so say the experts, the voracity and activity of the predators goad the shoal into the shore. They may also be affected by winds or the circulation of the water. Whatever the reasons or causes, part of the phenomenon of the sardine run is, at times, a spectacular stranding of shoals on the beaches. It is claimed that it is not unusual for the

fish to pile up on the beach to a height of three feet (1 m). They are usually accompanied by marine "hunters," the larger fish, who dash about excitedly in the shallow water and are caught in great numbers by local anglers.

Heading north, the giant shoals eventually pass Durban. Then an amazing thing happens. *They just disappear!*

Before we examine the reasons for this phenomenal sardine run and its mysterious conclusion, let us learn more about these small but prolific fish.

"*Sardinops Ocellata*"

This is the scientific name of the sardine or pilchard (young pilchards are usually called sardines) that forms the famous "run." It is the most abundant of all fish of South African coastal areas. It grows to a length of 10 to 12 inches (25 to 30 cm). It has a graceful shape, is coloured light and dark blue or light and dark green, is a fast swimmer and extremely sensitive to variations in the temperature and density of water.

Huge shoals are found off the coast of Namibia (South-West Africa), particularly around Walvis Bay. It is a surface-swimming fish, living in the cold waters upwelling on the west coast. From this area, apparently, some shoals move southward, around the Cape and then head north to form the Natal sardine run.

The *Sardinops ocellata*, of South African waters, has many relatives in other parts of the world. Notable is the *Sardina pilchardus* of Europe—main source of the well-known tinned sardines. North America too has its sardine, *Sardinops caerulea*, known as the "California sardine." All of these belong to the herring or Clupeidae family of fish.

But why do these myriads of fish make the long, slow trip around Africa's extremity? Why or how do they disappear so mysteriously? Is it to spawn?

Spawning?

To a certain extent, the sardine spawns over most of the year. But the main period is believed to be from September to February. This spawning is prolific. It is estimated that a single female can lay about 95,000 eggs! These float in the upper waters, then in a few days hatch into larvae and eventually metamorphose into minute fish.

The main spawning of the South African pilchard occurs within a temperature range of 13.8° to 16° C (56.8° to 60.8° F) off the west coast of South Africa. A mean temperature of 15° C (59° F) gives the most favourable conditions for intensive spawning. From sea-surface charts issued by the Maritime Weather Office, Youngsfield, Cape Town, it was established that the temperature of the Natal or east coast seldom drops below about 19° C (66° F). This is above the range for any extensive spawning. Considering this factor and the degree of sexual maturity of sardine-run pilchards, it seems unlikely that the motivation of the run is spawning.

Migration?

Are the countless myriads of the sardine run migrating to find better feeding grounds?

Stomach samples from the shoals showed that 75 percent of the fish were empty while the other 25 percent revealed contents of 7.7 percent phytoplankton and 8.3 percent zooplankton (minute plant and animal organisms that float in the sea). The crop of plankton on the east coast is relatively low in comparison with that of the west coast.

During July 1959 and 1960, in 69 blanket hauls off the east coast it was found that there was a total absence of young pilchards. So there is no sign of the existence of a nursery ground in Natal waters. Hence, it is improbable that the

huge sardine run is a feeding migration.

Why, then, do they follow that course? One possibility could well be their reaction to currents in the seas. The view is widely held that currents play a large part in directing the movements of fish. In his book *Fish Migration*, Harden Jones shows that fish might use a current and countercurrent system for migration. However, he also explains that fish may be carried passively, or drift, over great distances by currents, and "what may be not more than a dispersal could then have all the appearance of a true migration."

Their Mysterious Disappearance

This has been investigated. But attempts to tag enough pilchards during the sardine run were unsuccessful. During 1959, only 69 pilchards were tagged with internal metal tags, but none were ever recovered. However, in 1960 a report from a local fisherman suggests a possible clue. In previous years he had observed large shoals moving south during the southern spring, about September. In 1958 he caught some of these pilchards and said they "are thin, without oil, and decompose rapidly after being caught."

Do the pilchards return to the Atlantic by means of a current flowing southwestward (the Agulhas)? This is only a possibility with, so far, no factual confirmation.

Food Value

Although the motivation and the conclusion of the "sardine run" are still shrouded in mystery, it is an indisputable fact that sardines are a tremendous source of food for both men and animals. These small fish weigh only about three ounces (85 gm) on the average, but yield 175 calories, 20 gm of protein and nine gm of fat. Those delicious sardines canned in oil or tomato sauce are very nutritious!

The variety of sea life is truly astounding. It reflects a Creator who not only is bountiful but also loves variety. Why, in southern African sea areas alone, a 1953 report shows there are 1,325 species of fish! There is still so much to learn about all this marine life. And this includes the answer to the question, "Why do the South African sardines make their famous, phenomenal run and then disappear?"

It is still a mystery!

"THE KEY"

Some years ago the New York "Sunday News" published an interview with veteran television personality Art Linkletter, in which he discussed the tragic death of his daughter, Diane, in a suicide plunge blamed on LSD. Though fads in drugs change over the years, a principle that was highlighted in the interview is still valid. And that relates to the matter of safeguarding children by supervising their association: "Where I made my biggest mistake, I think, was this: I could see that some of Diane's friends were pretty weird-looking people, but then I told myself that a lot of young people are weird-looking, especially in Hollywood." Learning from the experience, he declared: "The hardest thing to tell parents is that the key to what's going to happen to their kid is who the kids are seeing, their friends. That's the first thing I say now when people call me in a panic and say, 'I think my kid is on something.' I say, 'Well, look at her friends. What kind of people are they? Where do they go? What do they talk about? Do you know?' Because that has more force and power than anything else."

It is too bad when parents have to find out in a tragic way the importance of supervising their children's association. But the key has been available to Bible readers all along: "Bad associations spoil useful habits."—1 Cor. 15:33.



Why Not Try Tunnel Farming?

By "Awake!" correspondent in South Africa

"**W**RAP yourself up warmly," our guide suggested. "The outside temperature is six degrees Celsius below freezing [21 degrees F], but fortunately there is not much wind at this time of the year." We stepped outside, leaving behind a warm, luxuriant natural hothouse atmosphere, where tons of ripening tomatoes hung on their vines, ready for the pickers.

The dramatic change in temperature, along with the high altitude of 1,800 m (6,000 ft.), caused us to gasp and to clutch our coats more tightly about ourselves as our guide closed the large gates behind us.

We had just seen the evidence of man's ingenuity in working closely with "nature" to produce vegetables, including delicious tomatoes, in huge aboveground plastic tunnels. This was done in the depths of winter by special soilless culture methods. Incidentally, each tunnel is about 51 m (167 ft.) long by 3 m (10 ft.) high and 7.5 m (25 ft.) wide.

Back in the farm office, our guide told us:

"So popular has this method become in the Republic of South Africa that it is not unusual to ride along country highways, and even city streets, and see the bright glint of these plastic tunnels in gardens and small agricultural holdings.

"Not only is this popular as a hobby for many housewives and busy ex-

ecutives who need relaxation at the end of the day, but it is also most profitable, giving net returns, after capital depreciation, of between 60 and 70 percent."*

As we listened, our guide explained that in past decades many thousands of householders in the northern hemisphere erected and enjoyed working in glass hothouses, raising flowers, ferns, potted plants and a few vegetables. In the sunny southern hemisphere there seemed to be little need for such hothouses because there was plenty of sunshine and virgin soil. Also, with relatively little attention, the ground produced all that the people needed.

"But," our guide said, "with current rocketing land prices, high labor rates, increasing costs of electricity and fuels, plus the worldwide population explosion, the situation has undergone a drastic change."

From Hydroponics to Soilless Culture

The theory and practice of hydroponics

* This seems to be an exceptional case. One expert considers net returns of between 30 and 40 percent to be more likely.

(cultivation of plants in water) has been known for a long time. It had been developed considerably but suffered many setbacks. For instance, the need for brick-lined canals and the high costs of delivered river stone, crushed rock and sand materials used for filtration purposes made hydroponics too expensive as a hobby for the average wage earner.

At this point, we asked: "What caused the swing to this extension of the farming method?"

Our guide replied: "Probably the more important reasons are the increasing demand for good-quality fruit, linked with a worldwide swing in eating habits to higher fresh-salad intake per capita. Additionally, because the returns are so good, it is possible for the average wage earner to invest in this new concept."

The guide then showed us the thousands of healthy tomatoes already neatly packed in cartons and ready for delivery to the stores of the Witwatersrand. Certainly the size and shape were uniform. A housewife would not have to finger each tomato to select what she needed. The healthy, consistent shape and appearance meant she was assured of the best results on the table.

We asked our guide: "Can one grow *only* tomatoes in the plastic tunnels? And, how is it possible to achieve such results without using soil at all and when outdoor temperatures are below freezing?"

He remarked: "Not only tomatoes, but really any vine crop, can be successfully cultivated in the plastic tunnels. In these, we also grow cucumbers, green peppers, beans, strawberries and sweet melons, as well as white and yellow maize. Some of these crops, however, are not profitable because of the high foliage volume. Probably the most profitable crops to date have been tomatoes, followed by strawberries, green peppers and cucumbers."

"Answering the second part of your

question," he continued, "we have found that during winter daytime we can actually leave the tunnel gates open, provided that we place over the entrance a special wind net with about 40 to 50 percent shade value. This tends to control both the inward flow of cold air and the loss of trapped sun and plant heat. The midday tunnel temperatures are in the region of 25 degrees C [77 degrees F]. So, if we close the gates about 4 p.m., the 'sealed-in' warmth will carry the plants through the cold night without loss of plant growth."

"Of course," he added, "in colder climates, higher altitudes and lower sunshine value zones, internal heating would be needed. We are experimenting with solar-heated water, piped underground and running the full length of each tunnel. Although the capital investment in solar panels is high, there is no other expense, no oil to pay for; nor is there any coal smoke and air pollution."

Plants Grown Above the Ground

What we had seen in the giant tunnels certainly had been enlightening. Each tunnel contained 1,200 robust, thriving tomato plants, potted in vermiculite (exploded mica) and fed nutrient water from micro tubes set in a 50-mm (2-in.) main plastic supply pipe.

Each plant was individually housed in a plastic pocket filled three quarters full with vermiculite. One micro tube per plant allows sufficient drip-fed nutrient water to nourish the roots for 24 hours. Beneath the plastic pockets, laid out on a perfectly level sand or earth floor, a black plastic sheet in wide strip form acts as a mulch, keeping weeds under control and insulating the containers from the cooler earth temperatures beneath. In this manner, root systems are also totally protected from the disease known as eel-worm.

Outside each tunnel, a 1,893-L (500-

gal.) galvanized water tank on a brick stand acts as a 'header tank' to the main flow and micro tubes. A single tankful, with powder nutrients mixed directly in the water, provides nearly two L ($\frac{1}{2}$ gal.) of water, carrying all the essential elements, to each plant daily. In order to prevent wastage, this is fed into the main plastic pipeline through a single gate valve.

Each plastic pocket has holes punched at a one-L level. As soon as liquid begins to dribble from these holes, the gate valve is closed off. Watering is done twice a day, taking a total of only 10 minutes daily—certainly a great labor saver in itself.

Minimum Labor Required

The simplicity of the arrangement was stunning, but we had to know more. So we asked our patient guide, who also owned the farming unit: "How many people are needed to work in these tunnels?"

"To answer that," he replied, "we should consider what does not need to be done. For instance, we have no weeds to contend with because of our black plastic mulch. Another factor is that water pipes are permanently anchored in position. So we do not have to move irrigation equipment from point to point. We just turn the tap on.

"On the other hand, what we have as daily routine is, first, a quick inspection of plants for leaf curl, rust or damage, followed by a nipping out of unwanted growth to permit good fruiting and ventilation. Thereafter, we pick ripe fruits and take them to the pack house.

"The water and nutrient mix is then made in each outside tank, followed by the first watering for the day. Then the doors are opened and the nets dropped, if necessary. Oh, we may also need to ventilate the sides on really hot summer days. This is done merely by opening the

roof at the plastic lap-overs, or, in the more sophisticated tunnel models, by rolling the bottom edges upward on mechanical roller shutters. So you can see how one person can easily care for two large tunnels without being overworked."

With respect to the profitability of tunnel farming, our guide was not in doubt. He pointed out that, while the capital investment was high, the relative cost of buying suitable farming land, fencing, implements and insecticides, as well as road-building expense, was far higher than tunnel cost per ton produced. In any case, most of the soil would have to be heavily fertilized and treated before planting.

Tunnels can be erected on level ground of any type and texture. All one needs is a firm floor surface on which to place the plastic packets and the water piping.

Because of the bow-shaped design of the tunnels, their tubular structure absorbs winds of up to 120 km/hr (75 mph) without damage to the tunnel or the plants. When a tunnel is erected with gates facing north and south, the sun's rays are all absorbed into the structure from sunrise to sunset.

Profitable as a Hobby—or a Business

Since tunnel farming is possible near the big population centers, transport costs and losses from devaluation of fruit in transit are reduced.

Apart from the consistent quality and low loss factors, through tunnel farming it is possible to give attention to methods of increasing fruit yield per plant, as well as mass yield per individual fruit. For instance, under normal growth conditions and with average attention, the yield per plant may vary between five and eight kg (11 and 18 lbs.) per plant. By judicious thinning and restriction to 10 fruits per truss, plus a limitation of 10 fruit trusses per plant, the yield can be increased to as high as 12 kg (26 lbs.)! Additionally,

the fruit quality and flesh mass improve.

Tunnel farming enables housewives, doctors, business executives and children to acquire a new outlook. There is pleasure and satisfaction in being close to plant life, which flourished so abundantly in the original paradise garden that God made for mankind. (Gen. 2:8) As one doctor remarked: "After a day spent attending to sick, diseased, maimed and depressed patients, I come back to my tunnel plants and see joy and sparkling life. Why, I can actually 'see' the Creator in the plants around me!"

We had yet another question for our guide: "If we wanted to set up a tunnel and work it as a family, on what sort of expenditure should we plan?"

"To answer that," he said, "we should view matters from one specific type of crop—tomatoes, for instance. The gross earnings per kg may be expected to average 35c [40c, U.S.]. Working on the basis of two yearly crops of 1,200 plants each and six kg of fruit per plant, earn-

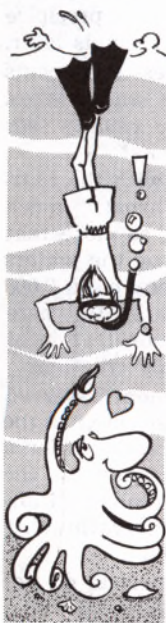
ings would amount to a substantial sum.

"On the other hand, the tunnel is an expensive unit, costing R3,000 [\$3,400, U.S.] complete, including all piping, plastic, pockets, nutrient and vermiculite. Depreciation of 15 percent a year, plus plastic replacement cost, as well as the purchase of seed, pesticides, extra nutrients and vermiculite, in addition to water, packaging and transporting costs would raise the outlay considerably.

"If you are going to work the tunnel as a family, you may or may not charge yourself for labor. But if you were to hire one part-time laborer, this could raise your costs to about R2,000 [\$2,300, U.S.] a year. After your initial outlay, that leaves you a handsome profit, especially if you want to be independent of a 'boss' or your present job."

Our guide's practical and reassuring answers to all our questions left us in no doubt that tunnel farming has come to stay. Financially, physically and, yes, mentally too, tunnel farming can be highly rewarding for anyone.

A MOST UNUSUAL FRIENDSHIP



AS REPORTED in the "Sunday Times" of Johannesburg, almost every morning Dr. Arthur Wright of Durban dons mask, snorkel and flippers and dives into the sea.

One day he set up a most unusual friendship with an octopus, whom he called Okkie. His own description follows, as quoted in the "Sunday Times":

"I came across Okkie one late summer afternoon about four years ago. He was lazing outside his rock home. My first thought was to bring him back alive for the Durban Oceanarium. . . .

"Okkie immediately began waving his tentacles, as if in greeting, then to my great surprise he reached for a newly-cleaned arabica shell and extended it in my direction with one of those incredible feelers of his. I was delighted. And of course, completely disarmed. I decided to leave Okkie where he was.

"During the days that followed I thought quite a lot about Okkie. So I called again. Sure enough, I got the same happy greeting. And the same gift of a shell. The next time I passed by, Okkie was more generous. There were two shells. Over the months I built up quite a large collection from Okkie.

"Then one day I happened along and, to my sorrow, there was no Okkie. I called back several times. But still no Okkie. I felt very sad. What could have happened to him? Maybe he had grown too large for his home. Maybe some predator had taken him. Or maybe he, too, had been fired with adventure, seeking new waterways. Who can say? I only know I was conscious of a great loss."

IGUASSU— those fabulous falls!



By "Awake!" correspondent in Brazil

THE tourist bus enters the National Park, travels several minutes through dense tropical rain forest, and screeches to a halt in a clearing. From the depths of the canyon a mighty roar booms up to us. Then we see the masses of water plunging 66 m (217 ft.) onto the rocks below—the first of a series of 300 thundering falls comprising the famous Iguassu Falls in South America.

Picture the setting and the array of colors: the blue sky, the dazzling white of tumbling waters, the dark-brown basalt rocks of the cliffs, and all of this framed by the luxuriant green of the immense rain forest stretching out toward the horizon.

A descending pathway on the Brazilian side takes us deeper and deeper into the gorge. Notice the way some of the shrubs and grass patches cling to small ridges on the cliffs right next to the turbulent waters. And look at the bright sunlight illuminating the white spray that billows up from the bottom of the gorge. Suddenly, we see rainbows all along the northern rim, on the Argentinian side.

Closer and closer we get to the main part of this intricate system of major and minor cascades—the famous *Garganta do Diabo* ("Devil's Throat"). There are several surrounding cataracts, all of which are in the latter part of the horseshoe-shaped canyon. They receive most

of the water coming down the Iguassu River, which is nearly four km (2.5 mi.) wide at this point.

Back up the pathway to the street, we walk on a few hundred meters and see for the first time the source of all these abundant waters, the "Great Water," or *Iguassu* in the language of the Guarani Indians. From here we may take a "Devil's Throat Tour," described this way in a tourist folder: "Subject to favorable weather conditions, this tour is a canoe ride to the edge of the biggest waterfall—Devil's Throat—which is 300 feet high!"

The next morning we go to the Argentinian side and start a two-and-a-half-km (1.6-mi.) hike along the edge of the precipice. While from the Brazilian side we got the panoramic, overall view, here on the Argentinian side we can admire each drop individually. For most of the way we are crossing over from

one island to the next by means of concrete walkways.

Something we had not noticed so much the day before are butterflies of all sizes and colors. One variety is hovering over shallow water in huge yellow clouds. Noisy flocks of colorful parrots pass by in sweeping flight. Brown swallows do not seem to tire of darting into clouds of spray that shoot up from the precipice like jets, only to reappear a few seconds later.

Our guide tells us that the forest still teems with jaguars, wildcats, monkeys and snakes. But do not worry. All the tourist usually sees are little gray lizards on the rocks!

By now we stand face to face with the roaring waters of the "Devil's Throat," much closer than on the previous day, so close that we can feel the vacuum created by the waters plunging all around us. An average of 2,000 cubic m (70,632 cubic ft.) of water fall here *each second!* What a mighty demonstration of dynamic energy in Jehovah God's creation!

In 1940 the Brazilian government reserved 205,000 ha (506,500 acres) of jungle next to the falls as a national park. A few years earlier a similar arrangement had been made on the Argentinian side. Today modern roads and airports connect this resort area of breathtaking beauty with the rest of the world.

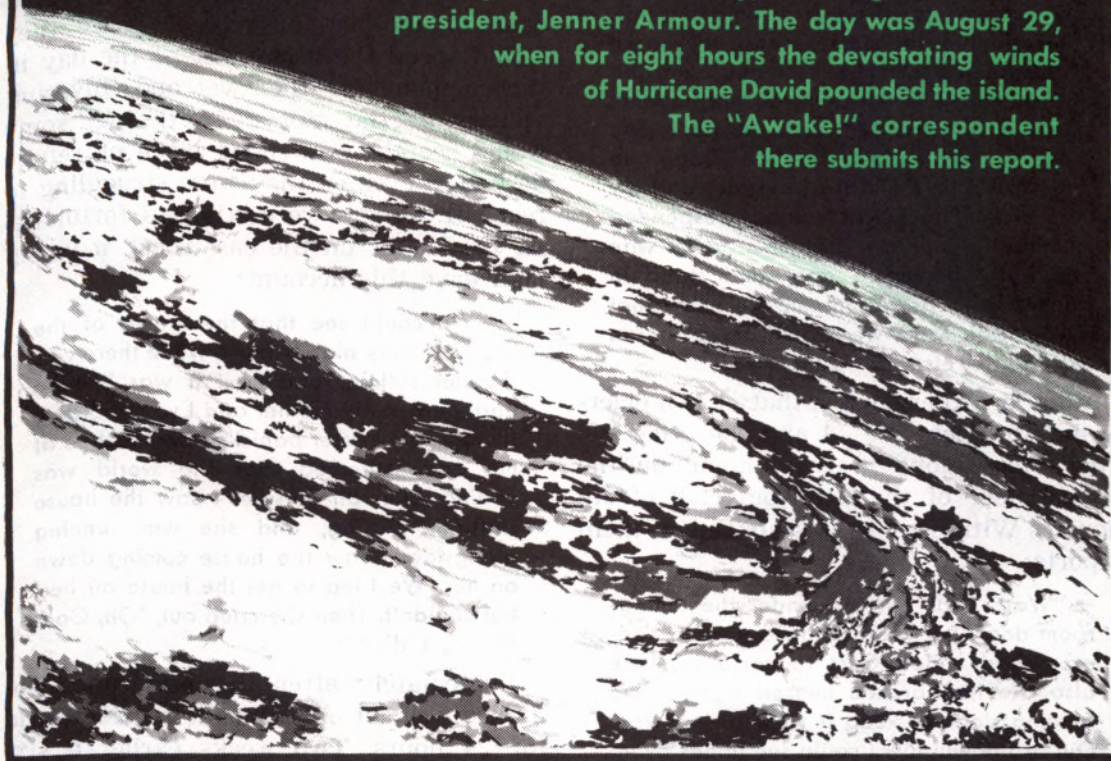
If you ever come to South America, do not fail to come to see the amazing Iguassu Falls!

Hurricane David

—An Ill Wind That Blew No Good

The darkest day in Dominica's history, according to the island's president, Jenner Armour. The day was August 29, when for eight hours the devastating winds of Hurricane David pounded the island.

The "Awake!" correspondent there submits this report.



FEW of Dominica's 70,000 inhabitants took Hurricane David seriously when it was lurking miles eastward out in the Atlantic. Even with hurricane warnings throughout the Windward Islands, few believed David would actually strike Dominica. The day began routinely, but by midmorning gusts of wind were snapping tall coconut trees like matchsticks. Dominica, as well as other Caribbean Islands, was not to escape the 150-mile (240-km) winds of this killer.

In the vicinity of Grand Bay six persons died as David ripped at buildings and damaged 90 percent of the houses. There a father of nine was getting ready for work.

"I was upstairs. I heard a loud shrieking of the wind. It was getting louder and louder. It was frightening—the sound of it. It came from all directions. The north first, then east and west. I saw my south wall in the dining room start moving and swaying. Somehow I managed to hold it

and nail it. Then the other side began shifting."

It was a day-long ordeal, but the house was saved in spite of heavy damage to the roof.

One man was in his brother-in-law's home in Roseau.

"I put on a pot and started eating. But the others wouldn't touch a thing—kept asking how I could eat at a time like this. I was laughing at them because they were afraid. Then I felt the whole house moving and shaking like it was in an earthquake. I got up and tried to hold the door. The winds got worse and the roof began to lift. At one time I looked outside, and my little pickup truck was actually suspended in midair! I put my brother-in-law's wife and baby behind a door and stood in front of it to protect them. We knew that if the roof went we would have to run somewhere else for protection."

Another experience is that of two elderly missionaries, one 74 and the other 80. They were alone in their home on the second floor of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, in Roseau. One of them reports:

"Water was gushing under the dining-room door. I retreated into a nearby bedroom and called Gust to come in there also. He had braced himself against the bulging door to keep it from giving way. Out of the window I could see things flying around in the air. I went into the closet to get protection on all sides, but there was a terrible explosion from my bedroom. The window of my room had blown out. I remained in the closet until the roof blew away, then got in the shower stall, as this would afford protection from all sides. The roof was gone from it and a broken rafter from the roof was banging about wildly. I glimpsed Gust standing in a corner atop the sink counter with a yellow plastic wash-tub over his head. He had taken up this position for protection after the door he was holding collapsed and threw him to the floor. He said that against the dark

sky outside sheets of galvanized iron from roofs were flying around in the air like giant buzzards.

"Near midday the winds let up briefly and we went downstairs into the Kingdom Hall. That night over 30 persons took refuge there."

Throughout the day the fierce winds drove people from place to place. As part of a dwelling collapsed those inside would dash to another for refuge. There they would spend the remainder of the day in the company of other wet and shivering victims of the storm. In fleeing, some would see their intended place of refuge destroyed even as they were struggling to reach it. Others were still less fortunate. At La Plaine, on the east coast, a young man gave this account:

"We could see that the waves of the sea were very high. After a while there was thunder rolling, and next it was like an earthquake. My mother and I were holding the door. My sister panicked and pushed at me and screamed that the world was ending. She ran outside. I saw the house shifting, drifting, and she was running alongside. I saw the house coming down on her. We tried to get the house off her, but couldn't. Then she cried out, 'Oh, God! Mama, I die!'"

Immediately after the hurricane, Dominica was cut off from the outside world for 24 hours. Two weeks earlier a six-month-old general strike had ended, which had curtailed importation of sorely needed foodstuffs. The streets of Roseau were piled high with rubbish. And shortly before the general strike had started, rival political factions had overthrown the administration of the first premier of the six-month-old republic. So the situation was crucial for Dominica's 70,000 people. Particularly so as now the entire agricultural system lay barren with little prospects of any substantial produce before 1980.

Several countries began airlifting a great variety of supplies into Melville Hall Airport, at the north end of the island. With the piling up of relief supplies another problem developed—a wave of looting commenced. Perhaps born of anxiety and despair, nevertheless it was as if some evil force took over many of the populace. One observer reports:

"By afternoon persons in all sorts of vehicles invaded the airport and began looting in the presence of police. I saw a minister of a local church struggling to lift a bag into his van. I called out to him and asked what he had in that bag, but he would not answer."

At J. Astophan Co., Ltd., one of Jehovah's Witnesses who works there told what it was like two days after Hurricane David:

"The road was literally blocked. People were all over the place. I never saw anything like it in my life. Persons carting and hauling away lumber, cement, freezers—anything they could get their hands on. It was amazing to me. What are you going to do with a fridge or television without electricity on the island? They carted off 100 new refrigerators. The first day they carried them on their heads and carts. A few days later in trucks and cars. I saw people sitting by the roadside with fridges waiting for a ride to the country.

"Actually the looting went on at the warehouses for over a week, all day and night. All the new cars were either stolen or stripped. They took engines out of them and removed tires.

"All of the spare parts, over a million dollars in goods left over from the hurricane, were cleaned out. Thousands of feet of lumber, steel rods and cement were taken. Tons of frozen foods also were hauled away in cars and by hand in broad daylight. Other company warehouses in the area were looted in the same way."

The chairwoman of the Marigot Village Council, who witnessed people carting off

bales of blankets and items, said she could not sleep for some time after seeing persons she knew and respected change suddenly before her eyes into thieves.

The storm really brought out the worst in some people, while, thankfully, there were those who showed courage and concern for the safety and welfare of others. But before all the population of this lovely island and others lay the difficult task of rebuilding their ravaged homes and lands.

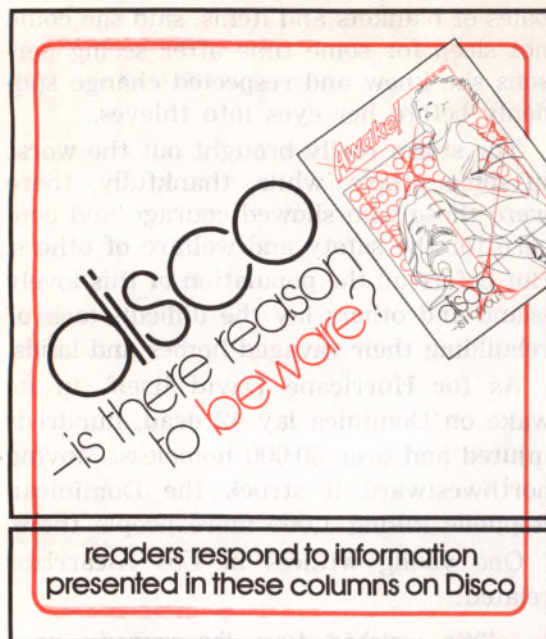
As for Hurricane David itself, in its wake on Dominica lay 42 dead, hundreds injured and over 60,000 homeless. Moving northwestward it struck the Dominican Republic killing 1,000 more people there.

One young witness in Los Alcarrazos related:

"We watched from the veranda as sheets of zinc ripped loose from houses and flew through the air. When one came a bit too close we moved inside, but there the banging of our own zincs made us even more nervous. We looked outside, saw two houses in the block across from us collapse. Then one after the other, seven more. We couldn't believe it! A moment before there had been a block of houses; now there was just a pile of rubble!

In Bani the missionary home of Jehovah's Witnesses sheltered 40 people, plus dogs, cats and a parrot. Unfortunately, not all shelters provided safety. Five persons died when the Catholic church in Guaybin collapsed. In Malpaéz, near San Cristobal, 100 persons sought shelter in a church that collapsed, killing 16 and wounding 50. In Villa de Ocoa another Catholic church collapsed and buried 400 persons in its ruins.

The word "hurricane" comes from an Indian word meaning "evil spirit." Surely the people of Dominica will agree that Hurricane David was an ill wind that blew no good.



IN ITS March 22, 1979, issue, *Awake!* warned its readers to beware of disco. The *essence*, the *soul*, of disco was shown to be free, "liberated" sexual expression.

Yet, is there *really* reason to beware of disco and its sexually free life-style? Some who read the *Awake!* articles don't think so.

"I am a born again Christian," wrote one. "I do not feel discos are as bad as you make them sound!"

Another wrote: "Disco dancing, music and going out disco hopping from one place to another can be good clean fun and nothing like the garbage that was printed in *Awake!*"

Still another said: "I just finished reading your magazine on discos, and I think the things you say are . . . *very judgmental*. You say discos mean sex, fornication, abuse—you're crazy! Discos have good atmospheres."

That is the way a number have expressed themselves. Yet do they have matters clearly in perspective? In the first place, the *Awake!* articles were not con-

demning everything called "disco." Secondly, there are important factors that none of us should overlook.

Think about it. According to the Bible, Satan the Devil is "the ruler of this world." He is "the god of this system of things." (John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4) Since true Christians recognize that Satan is manipulating this world for his own purposes, shouldn't we expect that he would also use the world's entertainment in his efforts to turn people from true worship?

Appreciative of the Warning

By far the majority of those who wrote indicated that they have this Bible understanding of matters. They expressed thanks for the *Awake!* articles. Young ones and old alike said that they appreciated being alerted to the potential dangers of frequenting discos and seeing disco movies such as "Saturday Night Fever." A sampling of these letters follows:

A 21-year-old from Illinois says:

"I am writing to you to thank you very much for the sound Scriptural counsel given in the March 22 'Awake!' dealing with discos. The information given about 'Saturday Night Fever' shocked me.

"I have to admit that, while I had no desire to attend discos, I did enjoy some of the dancing and music. I definitely agree that they promote a 'look at me' attitude. I never thought it was that important of a thing. Now, however, I realize how corruptive such an attitude can be."

Another 21-year-old, this person from Dallas, Texas, wrote:

"After reading the disco 'Awake!' I learned many things. I can see how it can be compared to that 'other' music that Moses referred to when he came down that mountain. [Ex. 32:17-19] It really does bring out animalistic tendencies. Even 'older' folks can get carried away with its hypnotic beat.

"Thank you so much for bringing out its origins and how it is involved with the 'gay' population. It really is something we young people need to stay away from. I am trying

to readjust my thinking on it and realize how much Jehovah dislikes it. . . .

"I hope our young Christian brothers and sisters will take it to heart so they can hear the best music of all in Jehovah's new system!"

From Portland, Oregon, came this short note:

"I just want to thank you for the information in the March 22 'Awake!' on disco. Before that time I was going downhill spiritually. But when I read Hebrews 11:24-26 it recharged my batteries and changed my attitude about life. None of the temporary enjoyments of sin can ever compare to what we will reap in Jehovah's kingdom. Again thank you for bringing this interesting point to my attention."

The following are excerpts from a letter from a young person in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

"At a time when I doubted my recreational activities and habits, the article came out and cleared the 'gray' area, for me at least. But it didn't stop there, as if youth had nothing to look forward to. . . .

"There is nothing 'restrictive' about wanting to serve God his way, even if it means ridicule from people that think 'we are going too far.' What it did for me was free me from doubts or hesitation about what I choose as entertainment. I am truly thankful for this enlightening material."

A straightforward letter was received from a youth in California. He wrote, in part:

"I am 17 and was raised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. I was first introduced to disco by my cousin, who was a very good dancer. I really loved disco. I went to see "Saturday Night Fever," and, in time, learned all the steps. I could do them just as good as Travolta. I began sneaking away to go to school dances, and won first place awards in disco dances. Everywhere I went I would clear the floor with my dancing, and it felt good to know people were looking in awe at my dancing. I soon had a Witness girlfriend in a different congregation who could dance like I could, but that was all we had in com-

mon. That soon ended and I was still dancing.

"Then you wrote the articles on disco and it crushed me. I mean I love Bible truth, but I hated to give up my only hobby or anything that made me happy. I slowed down, but I didn't stop. Then came the circuit assembly where disco was discussed and the talk about discos on one of our meetings. The speaker said that the reason for the magazine articles and parts on the assembly about disco was because somebody was not getting the point, and I knew it was me. So I really cut down on disco. Then I went to the movie "Hurricane," and saw a tribal rite performed. It was exactly like what I was doing. When I saw it, it made me sick. So I quit disco.

"I had heard reports of people committing fornication on the dance floor, and I came close to it myself. I am so glad that I am through with that way of life. I think we have a good group of youths who honestly love Jehovah. We all need encouragement from time to time so that is why I sent this letter. Thank you again."

A high-school student from Michigan explained how much she personally benefited from the articles, and then explained:

"The 'Awake!' also served as a very good witnessing instrument in school. It is hard to find young people who think about God or even the problems in the world

'The number of disco killings in London rose to seven in four months.'

today. They live for today and not a care for tomorrow. So, the disco magazine fit in perfectly.

"Many young people remarked on the quote from a psychologist on the movie 'Saturday Night Fever,' and they also agreed the movie was sick as far as language and morals are concerned. They were also surprised to learn all that is involved in disco, and they appreciated the reasonableness in staying away from the harmful lights and sound levels that can cause physical damage.

"So, dear brothers, I wanted you to know how very much we appreciated the information on disco. We are very thankful

Jehovah keeps feeding us at the proper time and keeping us spiritually as well as physically healthy.

"I hope, if Jehovah wills, you will publish more of these most interesting articles. For they not only help and guide us as Christians, but they are also attracting many young people to see the importance of living a clean life now, and the wonderful hope of living forever in peace."

Emphasizing the Dangers

Some readers included experiences and news reports in their letters that highlight the unchristian conduct that is so prevalent at many discos. For example, a California reader sent along a clipping from the May 6, 1979, *Parade*. It says under the heading "Dangerous Dance":

"Police say the 'Freak,' which is sweeping the nation's discos, is the most dangerous new dance in a long time. Some call it 'the dance of death' or 'the sex dance,' others 'the dance of jealousy' or 'the trouble dance.'

"When Jim Moore performed the Freak in Detroit with his girlfriend, an incensed young man named Jimmie Rogers allegedly shot him in the chest three times. Rogers has been charged with first-degree murder.

"In the same city, Oscar Ross is accused of shooting his young wife Sharon after watching her do the Freak at a neighbor's house.

"The Freak is danced by partners who bend their knees, spread their legs, advance upon each other with whirling hips until they touch. At this point, some couples retreat while others improvise."

A letter from a reader in England included a clipping from the London *Daily Mail* of May 2, 1979. Beneath the heading "Disco Deaths 'Must Be Stopped,'" the newspaper said:

"Action to halt violence at discos is being urged after the death of a student last week took the number of disco killings in London to seven in four months.

"Mr. Bryan Cassidy, vice-chairman of Greater London Council's public services and safety committee, said yesterday: 'I am appalled at the growing number of

deaths and serious injuries as a result of violence at some disco venues.' . . .

"One 17-year-old was stabbed to death after taking his fiancée to a disco to celebrate their engagement. . . .

"Mr. Cassidy said: 'There is no doubt that the disco business is a growth industry but we cannot allow violence to grow up with it.

"I am sure sex is behind much of the violence in our clubs, combined with the heavy beat of the music which is very physical.'"

Yes, the evidence is abundant that discos generally are not places to enjoy "good clean fun," at least not what true Christians consider good clean fun.

Is All Disco Bad?

Are we saying that all places or things that may have the word "disco" attached to them are bad? No, for so many things, including food, clothing and restaurants, have taken the label "disco" due to the popularity of the word. Nor is all disco music or dancing necessarily sexually suggestive or immoral. As the *Awake!* article of last March noted: "Disco is simply music and dance, and can be shaped into any form desired."

Thus the above *Awake!* magazine added: "Some 'discos' may be restaurants, the music and dancing perhaps even being rather incidental, or not even featured during normal dining hours. Such places, and perhaps even others, may feature a form of music and dancing that Christians find acceptable. But these 'discos' would not reflect the disco life-style, which conflicts with the precepts of true Christianity."

The firsthand experience of Benny Golsen, an elder in a Los Angeles, California, congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, emphasizes the fact that there really is reason to beware of disco and its immoral life-style. During the week that a traveling representative of Jehovah's Witnesses was visiting the congregation, Benny gave

a talk based on the March 22 *Awake!* about disco. He prepared in writing what he said, excerpts of which follow.

"I Didn't Agree at First"

I AM a song writer, and a musician. I have recorded and played with the jazz bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Lionel Hampton, Benny Goodman and Earl Bostic. I have written music for such well-known artists as Peggy Lee, Eartha Kitt, Connie Francis, Ella Fitzgerald, Diana Ross, and for such television shows as *Mission Impossible*, *The Partridge Family*, *M*A*S*H* and *Mannix*. So early this year, when I heard that *Awake!* was to feature material on disco, I eagerly awaited its coming.

When finally the March 22 *Awake!* arrived, I read it at once. I must say, it disturbed me. I didn't agree with it; I filled all of the empty borders of every page with personal comments. The idea that homosexuals were behind disco was absolutely absurd. I was convinced that I had to write a letter to the Watchtower Society about the matter. But I decided to do a wise thing without realizing just how wise it was at the time. I decided first to take a closer look at the industry that I was a part of. When I did, I received jolt after jolt.

Things I Discovered

A friend of mine, a Witness, had just completed an album for a major record label in Los Angeles; the concept, however, was not disco. A homosexual in the company began making "waves." He wanted to take the 24-track tapes (individual unmixed tracks) back to New York to re-mix them, perhaps bringing the bass drum, cymbals and electric bass "out front" (feature them), thus the infectious

disco beat. All of this was against my Witness friend's will. However, they did at least consent to let him go back to New York too.

When they arrived at the studio in New York, the homosexual from Los Angeles was met by two more homosexuals. My Witness friend had to leave the studio several times during the re-mix so as not to "blow up." As it turned out, the disco mix did not work well so that he was then free to go on with his original mix.

A non-Witness acquaintance of mine more recently was faced with the identical problem with another major record label. He had just completed an album (non-disco) for a popular vocal group of many years, and the company did not like the mix. They, too, wanted him to go back to New York where the homosexuals waited.

The manager of a recording artist I know said that there is a 'slight disco problem' in New York these days. This is because the homosexuals, who have now banded together, are trying to force the disc jockeys to program music of the homosexuals' choice. The jockeys resent this and are resisting to some extent. The public, of course, is crying out for disco.

I really didn't realize how bad the moral atmosphere is in discos. There is a club in the Los Angeles area that has a "Pajama Disco Nite" where everyone comes in bedroom attire. The women, in trying to outdo each other, wear flimsy, see-through, loosely fitting negligees. The club is packed on those nights.

Disco has indeed come to involve more than music and dancing. "It's a certain lifestyle," a friend recently remarked. And he's right, disco fashions—T-shirts, tight, shiny, hugging pants, low-cut, see-through blouses, flare skirts that reveal bikini-like undergarments, and all kinds of masquerade-like attire—are flooding the market. We don't want to forget the disco

lights, or the "hip" way in which a person carries himself.

Maintain Our Christian Guard

It's true that certain kinds of dancing are, in themselves, not objectionable. Yet when the dancing and music are linked with varying and questionable "back-drops," the picture changes dramatically.

The Bible says: "Flee from fornication." (1 Cor. 6:18) We would like to think that this kind of thing is not in our minds, and perhaps it isn't. Nevertheless, many who

**'I didn't think
it could happen to me.'**

profess to be Christians have fallen prey to this kind of desire. What happened? They let themselves be "primed" for it. They let themselves be led step by step to the effects of those kinds of desires—and committed fornication.

There's a strange thing about people. They usually think adverse things happen only to *other* people. When it happens to them, they can be heard to exclaim in bewilderment: "I didn't think it could happen to me." But it can; it is happening even

to persons who say they love God. Many more than we'd like to think have fallen prey to some "disco tragedy." That desire to "get down" (become an integral part of what's going on) has been the undoing of many only because it seemed so harmless, so much fun at the outset.

Jehovah does not condemn entertainment. He wants His people to be happy and enjoy life and certain pleasures, yet we must be discerning people. For example, before you dance you ought to ask yourself, "Is it music to dance by, or is it music to get aroused by? Are the music and dancing getting us ready for certain 'pleasures'—pleasures that become an adjunct to the preliminary dancing overtures, namely, sexual expressions in dark places?"

How glad I am I never wrote that letter to the Watchtower Society! After taking a closer look at the kind of things that go on in my end of the business, I see I was somewhat naïve.

The *Awake!* article on disco said, "Dance is the most transparent indication of attitudes which the culture produces, because we can't lie about the way we move."

How do you move? With Jehovah or against Him?—Contributed.

Cheating Students Following Society's Examples

The Carnegie Commission on ethical standards reported that from 1969 to 1976 cheating by college students nearly doubled. Part of the commission's findings were: "Cheaters are stealing and mutilating library books, buying ready-made term papers, earning degrees falsely—and costing colleges a lot of money. Questionable behavior extends to professors and administrators. With enrollment expected to drop 25 percent by 1992, they are said to be frantically publishing misleading catalogues and even hiring search firms to find affluent students. Meanwhile, students are courted with easy grades; the proportion with A or B averages has risen from 35 to 59 percent in a decade."

The report proposed some remedies, but the editorial on it in the New York "Times," May 2, 1979, concluded: "Yet these recommendations beg the question of why so many standards seem to be slipping. Blame should not be limited to the campus. There is plenty of it for Washington and for industry, where cheating on rules and white-collar crime abound. Why does society expect students to uphold values any nobler than those of the families that rear them, the institutions that train them and the businesses that hire them?"

A Conference for the Common WEALTH?

By "Awake!" correspondent in Zambia

WHAT event would cause Queen Elizabeth II, of Britain, to travel over 5,000 miles from her London home?

What event would cause the host country to spend \$9 million, although that country's leaders acknowledged that it was going through serious economic difficulties?

The answer to these questions is the 22nd Commonwealth Conference, held in Lusaka, Zambia, from August 1 to 7.

The Commonwealth and Its Conference

The Commonwealth is an international association of 39 independent states whose total population is estimated at 1,000 million people, about a quarter of all mankind. Its members claim that it is an institution dedicated to peace, freedom and justice. Because it grew out of the old British Empire, all members accept Queen Elizabeth II as the symbolic Head of the Commonwealth.

The most important means of consultation between Commonwealth members is the Heads of Government Meeting—the Commonwealth Conference. The last five of these have been held every two years. This conference is unique in that, unlike many other international conferences, it does not pass binding resolutions but it seeks to establish consensus. It is informal in the sense that there is no podium and

there are no formal addresses. The heads of government sit at a table, with only two advisers, having real dialogue.

On which international issues would the 22nd conference focus?

The secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Mr. Shridath Ramphal of Guyana, stated in a television interview that the two prominent issues would be the problem of apartheid in southern Africa, especially in Zimbabwe Rhodesia and Namibia, and world economic problems.

Political Issues

Tanzania's president, Julius Nyerere, opening the debate on the southern Africa situation stated that three things must be done to solve the Zimbabwe Rhodesian problem. First, Britain should establish a democratic constitution; secondly, internationally supervised elections should be held covering all parties concerned in the conflict; thirdly, a Commonwealth resettlement programme and fund should be set up for whites opting to leave the territory in the event that a black government representing a minority party were to assume power. These suggestions were accepted and augmented by a nine-point communiqué issued towards the close of the conference. Backing up the communiqué, the prime minister of Britain, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, declared that the British govern-

ment meant to move swiftly towards their immediate objectives to draw up an independence constitution.

Other political items discussed included the armed conflicts in Indochina and the real danger of the conflicts escalating over a wider area; they expressed their deep concern at the global growth of the international refugee problem; they expressed their grave concern over the situation in Cyprus; they gave their full support to the aspirations of the people of Belize for early and secure independence; they reviewed the serious situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the Palestinian people; they noted with regret that not much progress had been made in the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace but, on the contrary, great-power military presence there had actually increased.

Yes, problems were discussed, viewpoints were aired, concern was expressed and proposals were made. But were the problems really solved? Will those whose situations were considered now enjoy real peace, freedom and justice?

Economic Issues

On money matters the economic imbalance between rich and poor nations was strongly criticised. The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Michael Somare, accused the developed countries of concentrating mainly on their own interests. It was also observed that the problems of inflation, general recession, high unemployment levels and other issues had been passed on to developing countries. To illustrate this problem, the conference was told that developing countries owed the oil producers more than \$40 billion, while the deficit of the industrialised states had been reduced to \$2 billion. What action would counteract this trend?

It was proposed that representations be made to OPEC countries to recycle some of their funds into developing countries,

some of whose economies were on the brink of collapse due to the energy crisis, instead of recycling their oil dollars into the industrialised economies as they do at present. A second line of action to meet this problem was an agreement to form an international energy institute to co-ordinate research into alternative power resources. They also believed that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation would help remove the inequality between rich and poor nations, so they agreed to raise \$8 million for this fund.

They put forward five areas where larger member states could help the developing countries. These included: assisting in economic diversification by encouraging greater local processing of raw materials; assisting the countries to increase their technological skills; guaranteeing small island states free access to markets for their products; increasing financial flows and simplifying aid procedures; giving financial and technical assistance to lessen their dependence on imported oil and to develop alternative energy resources.

But will the bigger countries really apply these proposals? Does their record give one reason to believe that they will really look out for the interests of one another in an unselfish way?

What Will It Achieve?

In his closing speech the chairman remarked that it was 'gratifying that the fears expressed at the beginning have ended in a better understanding of one another's point of view' and that an atmosphere of friendship and a spirit of frankness had prevailed.

But what would all the talk, discussions, affirmations and verbal agreements achieve? It is necessary for the decisions to be transferred into a programme of action, for, as the chairman said, the meeting would be of no historic significance unless it led to historic changes.

The Bible's View



SUFFER the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14, *Authorized Version*) Many persons may remember this Bible text and use it to show how approachable by children Jesus was. This quality of Jesus, however, is even more remarkable when we are aware of the stress at the particular time when Jesus said those words.

Twice before this time Jesus had told his followers that he would go up to Jerusalem to be betrayed, tried, convicted and put to death. Now three years of his ministry had passed and he was moving toward Jerusalem. He knew his ordeal was only weeks away, for shortly after his encounter with the children he said for the third time: "Here we are, advancing up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and will deliver him to men of the nations, and they will make fun of him and will spit upon him and scourge him and kill him."—Mark 10:33, 34.

Hence, his disciples might well think Jesus was in no mood to be bothered with children: "Now people began bringing him young children for him to touch these; but

Jesus Had Time for Children

the disciples reprimanded them." But Jesus always had time for the needs of other people, even these little children. "At seeing this Jesus was indignant and said to them: 'Let the young children come to me; do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to suchlike ones.' And he took the children into his arms and began blessing them, laying his hands upon them."—Mark 10:13, 14, 16.

A child is dependent on its parents and looks to them for its needs, and is trustful and believing. It accepts its parents' statements as true and will defend its parents' words before other children. So will those of the kingdom be toward their heavenly Father.

On one occasion the disciples were arguing among themselves as to which one was the greatest. Jesus perceived their reasonings and said: "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and minister of all." Then "he took a young child, stood it in their midst and put his arms around it and said to them: 'Whoever receives one of such young children on the basis of my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives, not me only, but also him that sent me forth.'" (Mark 9:35-37) Those who are truly Jesus' followers receive children in Jesus' name, have time for them, make them feel a welcome part of the congregation.

Jesus took time to watch children in their play. He even used their games as an illustration of the contrariness of his generation. "With whom shall I compare this generation?" Jesus asked. "It is like young children sitting in the marketplaces who cry out to their playmates, saying, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance; we wailed, but you did not beat yourselves in grief.'" First they wanted to play "weddings," and then "funerals," but their playmates were uncooperative and balked at both happy and sad games. So, too, Jesus' generation found fault with

both John the Baptizer and Jesus of Nazareth.—Matt. 11:16-19.

A child was associated with Jesus in one of his most amazing miracles. A great crowd had followed Jesus into a mountainous area, and when the hour was late and the crowd grew hungry Jesus inquired about food. Andrew, the brother of Peter, said: "Here is a little boy that has five barley loaves and two small fishes. But what are these among so many?" Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes until thousands of people, including "women and young children," were fed and there was food left over. But the point is, the child trusted Jesus and willingly turned over to Him the meager supplies in his possession. Also significant: the child was in the crowd to see and hear Christ Jesus.—John 6:2-14; Matt. 14:14-21.

Some persons think that young children should not be instructed in matters of worship but should wait until they are older and can decide for themselves. Jesus did not hold to this view. Four days before he died, Jesus entered into the temple in Jerusalem and threw out the money changers and those selling sacrificial animals at enormous profits. This ruined the racket of the chief priests and scribes, and they determined to do away with Jesus. But they chose for complaint the fact that children were praising Jesus and hailing him as Messiah. Yet Jesus cited the children's cries as a fulfillment of Psalm 8:2. The account reads:

"Jesus entered into the temple and threw out all those selling and buying in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. And he said to them: 'It is written, "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it a cave of robbers.' Also, blind and lame persons came up to him in the temple, and he cured them. When the chief priests and the scribes saw the marvelous things he

did and the boys that were crying out in the temple and saying: 'Save, we pray, the Son of David!' they became indignant and said to him: 'Do you hear what these are saying?' Jesus said to them: 'Yes. Did you never read this, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you have furnished praise"?' "—Matt. 21:12-16.

It is still pleasing to God and Christ Jesus to hear young children praising God and acknowledging Christ as Jehovah's king over a new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is to dwell. Doubtless millions of children who have died in the millenniums past will hear the voice of Jesus calling and they will come forth from their graves to live upon a paradise earth. Even now many thousands of children are singing the praises of God and Christ, and have the hope of living through a great tribulation to enter into that paradise.—2 Pet. 3:13; John 5:25-29.

Foreshadowing such a time of resurrection for many children, Jesus when on earth responded to a plea for help from a grieving father. His daughter was ill. As Jesus was en route to heal her, the message came, "Your daughter died! Why bother the teacher any longer?" But Jesus continued on, arrived at the house and dispersed the noisy crowd of mourners who were weeping and wailing, and entered the house. "Taking the hand of the young child, he said to her: '*Talitha cumi*,' which, translated, means: 'Maiden, I say to you, Get up!' And immediately the maiden rose and began walking, for she was twelve years old. And at once they were beside themselves with great ecstasy."—Mark 5:22-24, 35-42.

So now we, as Jesus did when he was on earth, should have time for children, should make time for them, receive them into our midst and make them feel that they belong with us. And in a righteous new earth, young and old together will feel a great ecstasy.



Early Education

—How Significant?

◆ Contrary to some previous views, Cornell University educators coordinating the results of different studies made over many years conclude that the early preschool educating of children affects them for the good throughout their school years and the rest of their lives. As a group, these children were half a grade ahead of others on achievement tests, had fewer dropouts, and better employment records later. While these studies had to do with government programs for preschool children, Professor Irving Lazar of Cornell said: "The more direct parental participation . . . the better." Parents who have exposed their preschool children to educational material, and who have taught them to read well even before going to school, observe that this early education does indeed help their young ones throughout their lives. Their minds are better able to handle mental tasks and they are better readers (a key to learning and receiving enjoyment therefrom) than are those who do not have such early exposure.

"Combat Pay" for Teachers

◆ Some American schools have become so crime-ridden that a California Superior Court has approved of millions of dollars for what is

being called "combat pay," to encourage teachers to work in the more dangerous schools of Los Angeles. An additional \$1,500 to \$2,500 a year is being offered. Los Angeles, however, is not alone in having difficulty hiring teachers, for many cities are now experiencing the same disorder and violence in school.

Pigeons' Magnetic Tissue

◆ England's *New Scientist* reports that researchers have found a tiny mass of iron-rich magnetic tissue between the eyes and the brain of homing pigeons. Scientists are wondering if this could be one source of the pigeons' remarkable navigation ability. Cells similar in nature already had been discovered in honeybees that have a homing mechanism. More research is under way to see if this magnetic tissue is indeed a factor in the amazing navigational ability these pigeons have.

Clergy Morals Lower

◆ According to a survey of laity and clergy in the Lutheran Church of America, 34 percent of the laity, but 50 percent of the clergy, considered homosexual relationships not always wrong. Regarding premarital sex, 52 percent of the laity said that they did not consider it always wrong, while 54 percent of the clergy answered the same. Marijuana

smoking was viewed by 36 percent of the laity as not always wrong, yet 50 percent of the clergy responded similarly. Thus, in various areas of Christian morality more of these clergy have an unchristian view than do their flocks.

Senior Gleaners

◆ California produces more than a third of the fresh produce in the United States. But, ironically, many people there do not get enough food to eat. Noting this, a group of retired persons inquired of food growers and distributors whether they could glean what fruit and vegetables had been left over after normal picking and distributing procedures. As a result, hundreds of tons of food are being salvaged and distributed to the elderly poor, as well as the sick who cannot afford nutritious food and shut-ins unable to do their own shopping. Some of the food is canned to be used after the crop season. The gleaners now number about 2,000 in northern and central California. The law of Moses made such a glean provision for the "fatherless boy and for the widow."—Deut. 24:20-22.

Deadly Handguns

◆ Columnist Sydney Harris, writing in the Detroit *Free Press*, calls attention to the following statistics:

"During the peak seven years of the Vietnam War, 42,000 American soldiers were killed in action—but during those same seven years, more than 50,000 American civilians were murdered here by handguns."

"If we include handgun accidents and suicides, over 125,000 American civilians died by handguns in those seven years—three times the number of American soldiers killed in action."

"At present we have more than 50 million handguns in the homes and pockets of Americans, and two million more uncontrolled handguns

are being poured into our society each year."

"Even with out patchwork of 20,000 local and state laws, the U.S. continues to operate under the most lenient handgun control laws of almost any country in the world."

"We have by far the highest per capita handgun population, from five to 25 times that of most countries, and by far the highest handgun crime rate, almost 10 times our nearest rival."

Walking as Good as Jogging?

◆ Brisk walking can be as effective as jogging in lowering your blood pressure, states Dr. Andrew Lewin, a hypertension expert at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He suggests a medical check-up first, then walking for five to 10 minutes to begin with, and gradually building up to 45 minutes of rapid walking three to four times a week.

Illegal Use of Gas

◆ According to an attorney for the Enforcement Division of the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States, it is illegal under federal law for any gas-station operator to allow less expensive leaded gas to be put into a vehicle that was originally designed for unleaded gas. The penalty is a \$10,000 fine. Under federal law it is also illegal for a mechanic, dealer or manufacturer to convert an engine to the use of leaded gas if the engine is designed only for unleaded gas. In the majority of states, it is also illegal under state law for a private citizen to make such a conversion himself.

"Most Important" Health

Measure

◆ Oxford University medical statistician Richard Peto maintains that both the emphasis of medical research in Britain and the government's health policies are wrong because they devote far more research to publicized diseases than to

the real killers. For instance, he notes that many more scientists study acute myeloid leukemia than study strokes, yet he says that strokes kill 60 times more people and could prove easier to prevent and treat. The government, Peto observed, devotes far more attention to testing drugs, food additives and pesticides than to reducing smoking, yet smoking kills about 100 times more people each year in England and Wales. 'Preventing smoking is the single most important health measure for developed countries,' he declares, smoking taking more lives than even traffic accidents or alcoholism. Similarly, an article in *Medical World News* counsels "politicians, bureaucrats, and public-interest groups" to "go after the cigarette hammer and tongs."

More Evidence

◆ Evidence continues to mount regarding the health hazards from smoking marijuana. The *Toronto Star* observes: "Some of its hazards are only beginning to be uncovered." At the University of California medical school, experiments with monkeys revealed that those administered the drug on a regular basis were four times as likely to have their babies die in the womb, or shortly after birth, as those monkeys not given the drug.

Kuwait's Oil Money

◆ Kuwait sells \$10 billion in oil each year, and has enough reserves to continue such sales for another 70 years. According to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the average Kuwaiti's annual income is \$15,000. That is twice as much as an average American's and 150 times as much as an Ethiopian's. But Kuwaitis tend to think it is misleading to speak of their oil money as genuine wealth. Said the director general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development: "It's

only so on paper. There is a big difference between income and wealth." Officials contend that their economy is based on a single resource and that they are racing against time to build a stable economy before the oil supply is depleted.

Higher College Costs

◆ The cost of sending a child to a private college continues to skyrocket. Tuition and student fees of prestigious institutions such as Yale, Harvard, Princeton and others are now well over \$5,000 a year, some over \$6,000. Adding the cost for room, board, travel, books, clothes and other items brings the total cost to about \$10,000 a year.

Chinese Herbal Medicine

◆ A team of American pharmacologists who recently toured Chinese hospitals were impressed by evidence that some of their traditional herbal medicines seem effective even with nonsurgical treatment of appendicitis, gallstones and kidney stones. The Chinese employ some 5,000 medicinal herbs in treating various ailments. A prescription likely contains several herbs. For example, the prescription for appendicitis is a mixture of ingredients from rhubarb, magnolia, dandelion and sargentodoxa genera. The American visitors were told at one hospital that of 995 uncomplicated cases of appendicitis treated with just herbs, 93.6 percent had uneventful recoveries. Concluded the visiting pharmacologists: "Patients in China seem to do as well as those in the West at the hospitals we visited." Moreover, they noted that the Chinese now are combining the best of Western medicine along with their traditional herbal treatments, and that "the present amalgam of Chinese and Western medicine may be as good (or better than) any other system that might be devised for the Chinese population."

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