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**DANBY'S**

# Same Problems, But Different Perspective

By ROSS A. WAGNER, Principal Birmingham High School

The behavior of youth always has been difficult for adults to assess, and the relationship with adults has never been easy-going and one of mutual support. The problem of adult understanding youth has been a concern of mankind ever since the beginning of time. Actually, however, if we look at the situation realistically, it is only a matter of perspective.

The problems, the concerns, the desires, and the ambitions of youth are really no different from those of adults. The difference lies in the distance of time, or the amount of experience from which they are received.

It was Thoreau who said, "The youth gets together his material to build a bridge to the moon, or perchance, a palace or temple on the earth, and at length, the middle-aged man concludes to build a woodshed with them."

TIME AND the distance of the years change the perspective of any given situation. Many happenings of last year seem less interesting when viewed in perspective.

It is difficult to see how anyone who works realistically with youth can lose faith in the younger generation. It can be considered a real privilege to be closely associated with the teen-agers of Birmingham high school.

Here is a cross-section of American youth that cannot help but give one courage as he looks to the future of our country. A review of some of the apparent qualities of teen-agers will tend to substantiate this viewpoint.

IN THE FIRST place, the enthusiasm of youth is refreshing. No job is too big or too difficult and a quality of hope is injected into the most puzzling situation. Youth

looks upon each and every situation as an opportunity to do something and to become somebody.

Teen-agers today are creative. They not only have ideas, but they are ready to put them into action to carry them out. There is a confidence and an independence of thinking which resolves itself in productive accomplishment.

One need only attend any of the many school dances, fairs, or variety show performances to see creative planning and thinking evidenced in the decorations and accomplishment in the form of inspiring decorations and meaningful performances. This imaginative planning offers great hope for future adult accomplishment.

THE YOUTH of today are basically unselfish. There is genuine concern for others and a real enthusiasm for giving help to those less fortunate. Preparation of food baskets, collection of clothing, raising money for medical and hospital expenses, and providing wholesome entertainment are projects which rate top priority. Many of the most student organizations of our school.

Projects to raise money for American Field Service exchange students captivate the genuine support of the majority of students.

The youth of today are capable of critical thinking to an extent never before evidenced by young people. They are not willing to accept facts and situations on an face value. They desire to examine them to determine what are the implications for them in terms of actual living. It is their way of gaining understanding.

THE TEEN-AGER of today is extremely mature in his ability to make contacts and find out the information he needs in order to attain his goals. This is a product of our democratic culture which has encouraged him to express himself and to meet adults on an equal basis.

The young person of today has respect for adult authority that is backed up with knowledge. Shame and bluffing are quickly identified. Students today respect persons who give evidence of depth of knowledge for the principles they represent.

Most important of all, the youth of today are concerned with a philosophy of life. They describe for themselves a set of guiding principles by which they live. Each morning at the high school the students are encouraged to be guided by a "Thought for the Day" which sets a tone for their daily activities.

THIS IDEA is entirely student-actuated. They want to present a thought which is religious, but not offensive to any religious group. There is more philosophical than religious.

All of these qualities are the same qualities to which all adults subscribe. The only difference is the perspective with which they are received.

Cleero said, "As I approve of a youth that has something of the old man in him, so I am no less pleased with an old man that has something of the youth in him. He follows this rule may be old in body, but can never be so in mind." Celebrities probably sum it up best in "Life is but thought. So think it well. That you and I are housemates still."

As Others See Us

These are the reactions to American life of the American Field Service exchange students in Birmingham area schools.

By CHRISTIAN PLATOU From Bergen, Norway, now attending Cranbrook Houseguest at Birmingham and Mrs. Marshall L. Butzel.

More time has passed, and I have seen more of your great country and its life. I have fallen in love with milk shakes of all flavors. I have watched the great yearly when the new models cars come out. I have run over the newspapers, finding nothing but advertising, until now I have learned to concentrate on the front page, the sport section and the comic.

I have happily realized that what a senator is saying is not necessarily the general opinion of the people. I am now thinking of extreme cases as that of McCarthy and even more so of one who made the headlines in Norway one day ago, saying, "If Russia removes her troops from certain East European countries the United States will see that Norway and Denmark go out of NATO."

WELL, AFTER the first storm of protests had ceased, the whole security was forgotten. I do not know why it slipped into my mind just now, anyhow the friendly rivalry between the countries are as good as they have always been. As winter comes on and basketball hockey and winter sports over the main athletic interest here in America, skiing and skating attract the teen-agers in Norway. We have indoor sports like wrestling, boxing and gymnastics which are inferior to the outdoor sports.

THE POPULAR says to ski are ski-jumping and cross country run, as well as "slalom" and downhill races. Speed races are the best.

(See AS OTHERS SEE US, Page 4-B)

# FOR AND ABOUT TODAY'S YOUTH

MARTHA V. HURD, TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR



## Queen in Bermuda

"Off with his head!" says the queen in Bermuda, as young people go through a rehearsal of "Simple Simon", produced by the Hurdy Gurdy Players. From left are Jack Bohr, 15, the executioner; George Kuehn, 11, who plays Simple Simon; Starlet Brunsell, 13, the princess, and the queen, Rickie Johnstone, 15. Hurdy Gurdy players is a newly organized children's theatre group

with child actors from Birmingham and surrounding communities. The Aurrand Hurri play will be presented at Birmingham theatre at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Gene Scrimpsner directs the hour and a half long production. Tickets are available at Grinnell's or the box office. Martha Hurd is the show's producer.

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## Birmingham's Buying These Top Ten

Compiled Each Week from Sales of Birmingham's Three Leading Record Shops Reported by Carl Reynolds B'ham High School Senior

1. Raunchy Bill Justis
2. Great Balls of Fire Jerry Lee Lewis
3. Oh Boy The Crickets
4. Rock & Roll Music Chuck Berry
5. At the Hop Juniors
6. Peggy Sue Buddy Holly
7. Kisses Sweeter Than Wine Jimmy Rodgers
8. Be Bop Baby Ricky Nelson
9. You Send Me Sam Cooke
10. April Love Pat Boone

### Up and Coming Discs:

1. Put a light in the Window Four Lads
2. All the Way Frank Sinatra

### Detroit Area's Top Ten

1. Raunchy Justis-Freeman-Vaughn
2. You Send Me Cooke-Brewer
3. Kisses Sweeter Than Wine Jimmy Rodgers
4. Rock & Roll Music Chuck Berry
5. April Love Pat Boone
6. Silhouettes The Rays
7. Oh Boy The Crickets
8. Great Balls of Fire Jerry Lee Lewis
9. I'm Available Marjorie Reynolds
10. Be Bop Baby Ricky Nelson

## Teen Panel Question: Should Teens Receive An Allowance? If So, What Should It Cover?

For just a minute, picture yourself cruising along Woodward Avenue, say about 7:30 on a Saturday evening. Your '49 Ford is shined up, your radio sounds terrific with its new rear seat speaker and your new dual tail pipes are giving forth a low rumbling roar. You're wearing your sharpest charcoal-brown neck and what's more the most beautiful girl you've ever met is sitting beside you. What could be more perfect?

The "Delicate Delinquent" is on at the drive-in, and you slowly pull up to the ticket window. With one smooth motion you flip open your wallet and start to extract a few bills from it. What! Only sixteen cents in the wallet! As a bright, red flush spreads over your face, you slowly turn the car around and head home.

YOU LUCKY person! You have just learned a lesson in the value of money! However, there are less painful ways to accomplish this purpose; and that is what the Teen Panel discussed.

It is an allowance good or not? Some of the panelists felt it is better not to have any allowance. They felt that a teen should be a self-sufficient partner in his family.

He needs money for a date or a new shirt, he discusses this with his parents.

TOGETHER they decide not only if he really needs it, but how much he needs. This is not "free spending" but rather spending which is really needed.

If the teen's needs have holes in them, a new pair is bought. This pair of shoes, obviously, is replaceable if a teen is completely honest and unselfish. He (or she) is becoming a family member who understands his family's problems and his own needs and works out his (or her) allowances accordingly.

Other panelists favored some type of allowance. This allowance could cover spending money, clothes money, or even all personal expenses including doctor bills. THIS WAS QUICKLY vetoed because it was felt a teen would probably become avaricious. He would be more than willing to spend his own money for a doctor.

It is a choice allowance was interpreted as money that would pay for all of a student's clothes. It

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(See AS OTHERS SEE US, Page 4-B)

**Tadpole Corner**

Interesting News Items Gleaned from Our Elementary School Newspapers

## Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet She sat on a tuffet, Eating of curds and whey There came a big spider And sat down beside her, And frightened Miss Muffet away.

### ... And THEN What Happened?

"Don't run away from me, Miss Muffet," called the Spider. "Please, don't be afraid of me. I'm really a very nice, gentle person if you'll just give me a chance to discuss it with you."

Miss Muffet turned around and looked at the Spider. He really looked quite gentle at that. He was soft and cuddly like her wool octopus-doll and his eyes were rather sad.

"Do come over and sit down on your tuffet," he pleaded as he waved one of his soft arms at her.

Miss Muffet walked slowly back and sat down next to him. "Now, there you are all comfy again. Thank you for not running away from me."

"I hope there's some of your curds and whey left, I really didn't mean to frighten you, you know."

MISS MUFFET smoothed her dainty, flower-sprigged pink hair down and wriggled her left foot up under her. She always liked to be cozy with her tuffet.

"WHAT BOOK?" asked the Spider, cocking his head to one side like a spider-dog. "It's a Book she wrote," said Miss Muffet, "and for the rest of my life I have to eat curds and whey!"



"I did-didn't mean to, Miss Muffet. I just wanted to be your friend and I did-didn't want you to be ordered around by me... whoever She is!"

Miss Muffet started to laugh. "I don't mean to laugh at you," she said, "but your tears are mixed in with your curds and whey, you look so..."

"I am getting very confused!" I mean confused... I mean confused," said the Spider blowing his nose. "I can't make up my mind whether you want me for a friend or not..."

MISS MUFFET put her finger to her lip and then looked over her left shoulder and then her right shoulder, very cautiously.

"Well, you see," she said leaning forward and looking into the gentle Spider's pinkish-blue eyes with the sad cast, "I have never seen her but I'd like to... She must be..."

"How can someone you have never seen order you to seat something for the rest of your life that you don't like? That doesn't make sense, even common sense," interrupted the Spider raising his voice and wagging all of his legs and arms.

Miss Muffet jumped up and down. "Oh, that's be fun. I love adventures! Come on," she said impatiently, taking the gentle Spider's arm—the one nearest to her, of course. "Just who we are going to look for?" asked the gentle Spider, very gently. "Why Mr. Goose, naturally," said Little Miss Muffet, "She's the one-in-command!"

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