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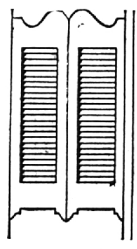
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Teen Panel Question:

'At what age should teenagers be allowed to apply for a driving license?

Should stricter requirements be imposed on youth in order to obtain the right to drive automobiles in Michigan?

The panel said the driving age of 16 was satisfactory, but possibly one year too early. In answer to the second part of the question the unanimous "Yes" was given.

Driver training courses are considered a farce at many schools. Few carry out the original intention to educate teenagers for driving.

Undoubtedly the laws for having an effective driver-training program are on the books or easily amendable. But there seems to be a complete lack of genuine interest for this problem.

Most foreign countries and many other states in the nation have effective regulations for the safety of the pedestrian and motorist, but in Michigan (The World's Motor Capital) there seems to be a great deviation from both common sense and practical application of driver education programs.

In training classes, the student driver should be taught how to handle his vehicle under all conditions. A proving ground type facility is suggested where the student could learn how to cope with all conditions where clear thinking and a definite knowledge of driving skill are needed.

Being a Teen Is Being Between — It's Awkward
By ELAINE EIKENBERRY
Bham High School Sophomore

This age is a difficult one. Teenagers are just in-between — too old to be called kids and too young to be considered adults.

Lots of thoughts run through their minds. They think they're not wanted at home, because their parents misjudge and sometimes abuse them. The question of sex and popularity looms as a problem.

It's true that they feel they must have cars and motorcycles. They do start nameless clubs. But let one member in the club "go wrong" and people misjudge and think the whole club is no good.

Many people think teenagers are to blame for every bad thing that happens. If one has made a mistake, all are made to suffer. Also, the teen who has made the mistake forever after gets blamed and accused, and is never given a chance to prove that he or she can change. It's no wonder some of them figure that as long as they are suspected anyway, why

Depends on Your Sense of Values

By MARTHA V. HURD
Youth Page Editor

One in the ancient city of Rome, hundreds of years ago, there lived a nobleman named Cornelia.

No rings or jewels glittered on her hands or sparkled around her neck. It was the custom of the day that her only crown was a long braid of soft brown hair. Yet her children still spoke of Cornelia as "our Queen."

One day a friend came to dine with her in their gardens and brought her basket of dazzling jewels to show Cornelia and her sons.

AFTER THEY had all admired the ropes of pearls, the flashing diamonds and heaps of shining blue sapphires and red rubies, the guest turned to Cornelia and said, pityingly, "Is it true, Cornelia, that you really have no jewels? Are you really as poor as they whisper?"

"Oh, no. I am not poor," answered Cornelia, and as she spoke she drew her two sons to her side. "These are my jewels, my beloved children. She smiled and looked up at them with great pride in her eyes. "They are worth more than all the jewels in the world."

"These are my jewels, my children who have made me proud," and she in turn had made her children proud of her!

THIS IS A simple story of parental pride and love. It shows the delicate, fine human relationship between children and parents that can be so precious.

This parent-child relationship can be developed if parents are treated as friends, too. Ever since you started kindergarten, you've been in the company of boys and girls of your own age.

First, you started belonging to gangs, then groups, always doing what your friends thought was important. You conformed to their pattern of conduct even though it wasn't always the pattern the folks approved.

ONE DAY you suddenly found yourself disagreeing with your par-

ents, who up to now always had the answers, no matter what. Sometimes you didn't agree, but they were too busy or indifferent to find out for yourself.

Then comes the day when you discover that Mr. Mather and Dad are definite personalities in their own rights and have distinct likes and dislikes, "up days and down" days; and they enjoy parties and good times and hate being nagged, too, just like you do!

Up to now you've taken the folks for granted—a couple of fixtures around the house you haven't bothered with, like lanky faucets or a wobbly old chair. You've not realized that parents are people.

YOU'VE BEGUN to realize that criticism is not the order of the day. You've begun to awaken to your responsibilities as a teenager. The jewels in your basket have begun to sparkle.

Now you see Mom as your assistant—washing, shopping for a hungry family, taking the younger ones to the doctor, vacuuming in preparation for a "risky" party for your party. You've begun to appreciate the fact that she wanted you to have a clean, attractive home. Dad's tinkering with the temperamental TV before the gang arrives shows his interest in you.

SUDDENLY, this activity helps you to realize that instead of complaining about your nagging family ("Don't use the phone too long! Don't stay in the tub forever! Turn down the radio, for Pete's sake!") you know you've got a family, a wonderful jewel in them. It is the time, then, to polish the jewels in your basket.

Now that you recognize your part as a member of your family, you will realize that all parents have some of Cornelia's pride in them. It only takes a little responsible love on your part to see their pride in you shining in their eyes.

Situated in a New Orleans railroad freight yard is the Live Oak Baptist church, built of lumber from old freight cars; a locomotive bell rings out from its steeple; its pastor is a railroad section hand.



Teen Panelists at Work

Deliberating one of the questions a teenage reader has sent them are The Eccentric's Teen Panel (from left) Kathy Quinlan, Youth page editor Mrs. Martha Hurd, Dana

Douglas, Todd Grant, Pete Brink, Chuck Mezey, Gay Firth, Cheryl Kelly, Lynn Levy and Tom Wood.

'When a teenager is working, what part, if any, of his earnings should be given his parents?'

DID YOU KNOW THAT MANY HIGH SCHOOL TOPPER-CLASSMEN WHO WORK PAY ROOM AND BOARD TO THEIR PARENTS?'

'How much should a boy or girl know of family finance?'

A great number of boys and girls pay a part of camp, vacation and other expenses including clothing and education. To stimulate an exact amount would be folly.

But when teenagers contribute to family resources it teaches them to be responsible and often, then, an opportunity to learn how to handle money.

Also it emphasizes consideration for others by giving the teenager a deeper insight into the problem of the family budget and finance.

When a teenager is working, it is encouraging to many teenagers that people are making an effort to understand them.

Some delinquents are kids who started out just trying to scare or shock someone, and under pressure, end up stealing or killing for revenge.

It is encouraging to many teenagers that people are making an effort to understand them.

MUCH OF A teenager's trouble begins in the family. If punished too severely, or overprotected or neglected, he may

not get the part and have fun?

THERE ARE special schools and homes to take care of the delinquents, which are run by the government, for the purpose of insuring a better American citizen.

The teen who has been put in one of these places has not necessarily committed a crime. He may be an orphan who needs care as a precaution against delinquency.

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nothing; others have only a rough idea.

If there is a definite problem, young members of the club should have a knowledge of the difficulty, especially if it requires restricted spending.

While some students might be retarded by the complexities of just budget when more knowledge of money problems is acquired at an early age, it is more likely that better decisions will be made later in life when the wise guiding hand of parenthood is often absent.

Do you have a question your Teen Panel can work on?

Write it down, sign your name and address, the school you attend, and send to: TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR, c/o The Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Mich.

The Teen Panel will deliberate the question, and the answer will appear shortly thereafter in these columns.

go into the world to prove to his parents that he can get along without them.

What a mistake! Parents are needed now more than ever to help and guide him in making decisions. Without their love and backing, he loses that urge to amount to something.

He doesn't realize the importance of building for himself the right kind of life. He hasn't figured out the truth of the saying that "The youth of today will make tomorrow whatever it is to be."

ABOUT ONE out of ten teenagers who have committed crimes continues on his downward path. Realizing their mistakes, the others strive to become solid citizens.

Making adjustments so as to be accepted again is sometimes pretty rugged. People don't forget overnight, and often feel "once bad always bad." This lack of encouragement could cause the unfortunate one to continue in his bad practices.

Teenagers need all sorts of attention at this period of life. We may seem big-headed and stubborn, but we resent having adults climb all over us.

Mom, if you remember, you were once a teen yourself. Do you recall that you, too, thought you were always right?

TODAY'S YOUNG people act different because times have changed. The parents, who use the rules and discipline by which they were brought up, cause hard feelings and misunderstanding.

Religion and church attendance present other problems, although most people realize that every person needs God's guidance. Teens don't want to break the commandments, but many of them think an active interest in church work might make them less popular.

Sometimes the teenager's parents prefer to lie abed on Sunday morning.

One of them expressed it this way: "You'll never catch me getting up such odd hours to get to church. I can pray to God just as well lying in bed."

MANY YOUNG persons say they get a sense of confidence at church, because they feel encouraged to pray and ask for church as essentials to worthwhile and happy lives.

The phrase, "Teenagers of today hold the future of the world in their hands," merits repeating.

Today's students will run tomorrow's government, business, farms, churches. The future is truly theirs. May they know what to do with it!

They mean well, and given a proper chance, will do well.

As Others See Us

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

By "YUKEY" NOMURA
From Osaka, Japan, now attending Birmingham high school, "Yukey" is the house guest of the W. W. Birchard family, Birmingham.

What a wonderful and great thing to be an American Field Service International Scholarship student! One year ago, that is, December 1956, I took the examinations to be one of the AFSSers from Japan to U.S. And happily I have been one of them.

How wonderful to know a foreign country when we are young! We do not have any prejudice against anything. So it is easy for us to take in what we have experienced in this country. I have experienced Christmas in America way through which I can guess how religious people are.

I HAVE VISITED Ford Rouge plant through which I can guess how great the mechanical power is in this country. I have experienced New Year with a lot of snow which we can hardly have in my city in Japan, through which I can guess how the customs are different from my country.

I am studying in an American high school with American kids, and living with an American family. Through American school life and everyday life I can guess how Mr. and Mrs. America live and raise their children. I should say I have been here only about five months. And I have experienced what I mentioned above during this interval.

HOW GREAT the members of the AFS office in New York are!

Hi Life
By TOM MANHARD

Millions of snowflakes laying in How much snowflakes really match. Children come out of the houses to play in the snowflakes, oh, what fun!

By DEBBY DAWSON
3rd grade, Pembroke School

WE sing songs around the fire, When we sing we never tire, Like "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night."

By SUSAN DIETDERICH
3rd grade, Pembroke School

SEASONS
Summer, summer, summer is gone, And fall is here to stay, But wait—here comes winter

As we are young, we always have troubles such as homework and sickness and other trouble in school. The office solves these troubles for us.

The office chooses the AFSSers from foreign countries to here as well as the AFSSers from here to other foreign countries. It takes about one year to choose both of them. This year we have more than 1000 AFSSers from about 20 different countries. I can easily imagine how busy the office is to take care of us.

American Field Service has been becoming bigger every year. For example, the first time that Japanese AFSSers came here, they were only 8, and this time which is 4th, we have 49 AFSSers.

How great AFSS is! I believe I also believe that AFSS is more steady than United Nations.

I also believe that we can say American Field Service the United Nations for young people.

I say again that how wonderful and great to be an AFSSer.

Adpole Come

Interesting News Items Gleaned from Our Elementary School Newspapers

SNOWFLAKES
Millions of snowflakes laying in How much snowflakes really match. Children come out of the houses to play in the snowflakes, oh, what fun!

And Jack Frost with his merry play. Given spring will soon be here. And school will be at its end. And you can start to play it back here comes summer again.

By LORI LYSSETT
4th grade, Quanton school

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following seed poems were done with Mrs. Linstruth as a classroom project in science. They were so charming we decided to print all of them.

THE MILKWEED SEED
The milkweed seeds grow, Packed in a jewelry case, Each dainty seed I have Has its own special place. All wrapped up in eiderdown They float like fairies all around.

POPPY SEEDS
Poppy seed, little tiny poppy seed, You're so small, I have to look twice To see you at all. How can such a tiny mite Make my garden a beautiful sight? By MRS. HOPE LINSTRUTH and 5th grade class, Quanton School.

TUMBLE SEEDS
Tumble, tumble, jumble, snap!