

FOR AND ABOUT TODAY'S YOUTH

MARTHA V. HURD, TODAY'S YOUTH EDITOR

Parents Don't Want Johnny To Read, Really, Says Prof

Too many parents are afraid Junior may turn out to be a bookworm, August Heckscher, director of The Twentieth Century Fund, said recently at the University of Michigan.

"We want our children to be themselves, yet not to be very different from our neighbor's child; to be fulfilled, yet not to be led into byways or thickets; in short, to be readers but not to be bookish," Heckscher maintains.

He quotes a parent of his acquaintance as saying to her son's principal, "It's all very well for your schoolteachers to be saying that reading books is important—but what would you do if your child swallowed it—hook, line and sinker?"

According to Heckscher, too many children fail to make the leap to good books.

"The factual materials of their early grades give way to the do-it-yourself manuals of their later life," he says.

HECKSCHER believes there's a lot to be said for "prodding" the child into the development of reading habits.

"The healthy young American animal is not likely to be turned into a bookish recluse. As he is being turned into a reader, all our experience suggests that the boy

or girl who reads easily and widely moves with confidence through the realm of life.

Heckscher feels that today's emphasis on reading techniques is one of the hopeful elements in secondary education. The child is made to master not only words but ideas. From the earliest grades there is stress upon what the author is really saying.

HE ALSO believes much can be done to give children a feel for books as entities, as having both form and content.

"The child is a natural collector, and with a little encouragement books can seem as natural an object of his passion as soldiers or sea shells."

In conclusion, Heckscher said, "If things go well in youth, the moment carries when at forgotten in the thrill of reading for its own sake. A fire has been lit, and it consumes everything in its path. The young person has graduated with honors from the school of reading. From then on he is a citizen of the free city of books."

How many social activities does the Teen Panel think a student should enter into if he wants to be popular?

First of all, many panel members felt numerous activities do not mean popularity. The panel felt that a student should budget his time and intelligently divide his attention between his studies and his activities. Perhaps, it would be wiser to concentrate on one activity and excel in that one. Popularity is more than just social activities.

My parents argue in front of me and my sister.

WHAT CAN WE DO? SHOULD WE TAKE SIDES, REMAIN NEUTRAL OR INTERFERE? WE ARE BOTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ARE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OUR PARENTS HAVE IN RAISING A FAMILY.

When there are real arguments not concerning you, remain out of them entirely, even if you have to leave the house. The panel feels, however, that if it is a discussion and concerns you or if you have something real to add to the discussion, you certainly should feel free to enter into it.

Obviously, if the argument concerns you, your friends, your age group, or something of importance to you, on which you have a definite opinion and you feel it would do some good to speak up, then present your opinions—based on good judgment by you!

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.

Young Adolescents Have Their Money Problems, Too

This is the first of a series of articles on the problems of the "between-age" young people between childhood and adolescence, between elementary and high school. The author is an associate professor in the department of Vocational Education at Michigan State University.

BY DR. MARY LEE HURT

Money matters offer problems for most Americans, especially to those of between-age youngsters, the 11 to 14-year olds.

In a recent survey of this age group in three Michigan communities, youngsters were asked, "Are you earning some of your own money?" and "Do you have an allowance?" and "Do you have to ask your parents for your spending money?"

ANSWERS TO these and other questions showed that the "between-agers" need help in finding ways to earn money and in making their money stretch to cover newly acquired wants.

Asking parents for money becomes more difficult for these young people who are just on the verge of adolescent independence.

SOME GOALS which parents and teachers could work toward in helping these "between-agers" might be:

- 1) Help them appreciate how much they cost their families and how they can contribute their part to family living in ways other than money.
- 2) Appreciate that different families have different ways of providing the money needed by their children.
- 3) Help them appreciate what is most important when deciding how to spend money.
- 4) Help them get their money's worth when spending money and later judging how well the plan works.
- 5) Help them secure and keep jobs, like baby-sitting.
- 6) Learn to talk over money problems with the family.

KEEPING RECORDS of spending for one or two weeks would help them become aware of how much they are spending and problems they are having in saving or spending.

Encouraging these young people to help save the family income by caring for their own clothing, turning out lights, planning for inexpensive snacks at home rather than eating out, making minor repairs at home and by not wasting food. All of these will help to stretch the family pocketbook.

Next week: Problems of the baby-sitter.



Lathrup Kids Line Up for Project

Lining up their equipment are these young creators of circus characters in Mrs. Lois Servenak's afternoon kindergarten class at Annie Lathrup school. Each youngster chose the colors and shapes that appealed to him or her, then pasted them up

As Others See Us

BY ECKART KELLER

From Dortmund, Germany, Eckart is attending Avondale high school. He is spending a year with the E. C. Wilson family on Squared road, Birmingham.

Germany is a country to which the eyes of the world are ever drawn anew. Her history has been determined by grave circumstances, such as her position as a nation without national nor natural frontiers in the middle of Europe.

This made Germany a corridor of violent migrations of people throughout the centuries. Further mass religious beliefs divided the German people and polarized it for some generations. West and other circumstances have, in the east as well as in the west, molded throughout the centuries Germany's outward form and her political aspirations.

IN THE IMMEDIATE past, Germany has lost two world wars and in them nine million men within the space of one century. Twelve in 25 years her people have seen their money and securities completely devaluated.

In 1945, after the second world war, the state apparatus was destroyed, together with all the machinery of government, and all German territory was occupied by foreign troops.

More than 16 million Germans and German speaking men and women were driven from their homes and deprived of all their possessions. Those who could escape with their lives over-floated into the remainder of Hitler's Reich, which had fallen victim to bombardment from the air and was in great part destroyed.

THE GERMAN people existed on a starvation diet that amounted to only 40 per cent of the minimum recommended by the nutritional scientists. Fuel and clothing could hardly be found, and what was produced in 1944-47 would have provided, over the long term, one suit for each inhabitant every 40 years and one shirt every 10 years.

Millions of men capable of working hard were still in captivity at the end of the war, and still today there are many thousands of former German soldiers working under foreign surveillance.

The war destroyed completely ground five million dwellings. Transportation facilities and factories lay in ruins. Communications were cut, bridges blown up, and the whole merchant fleet was lost.

THE ECONOMIC anatomy of the country had fallen into four military zones of occupation.

Today, 12 years later, we see that the military zones of the three western allies—USA, Britain and France—are united to one state called the Federal Republic of Germany, endowed with full sovereignty, democracy and a government very similar to that of the American Democratic Republic.

The Russian military zone builds up a state by itself called the German Democratic Republic.

To live years after our terrible defeat we still suffer, because our Germany is still divided into two different Germanys, one free and one in the hands of Russia who only obtains control over it by 300,000 soldiers and 5,000 tanks in a territory which isn't as big as Michigan.

TODAY, THE snare taken by the Federal Republic, where I live, in world trade has obtained that of 1928. The living standard today has surpassed that of pre-war times. The German economy has over \$38 billion invested in capital equipment.

During the seven years from 1948 to 1955 the number of employed has increased from 13 million to 17 million, exports from \$1 billion to \$10 billion, savings from \$400 million to \$5.1 billion. The German mark is one of the hard currencies in the world and the Bundesdeutscher Lander controls over \$32 billion in gold and foreign currency.

Some distress has been removed through the cooperation of foreign aid (especially by the Marshall plan) and coming from the USA.

THIS AID made a new start possible and by the determination, the industriousness, the patience and the initiative of German people, they made the Federal Republic a territory like the state of Oregon, but with a population of 20 million people, that which West-Germany is today.

Unemployment has been wiped out, the worst housing problem is solved, a modern merchant (See As Others See Us, Page 7C)

Next Tuesday will be April Fool's Day, the fun-day of all. There are all sorts of stories as to why we call this day of practical joking, April Fool. Wouldn't you like to know about it?

According to some, it was supposed to originate in France where the person who was fooled by "traps" was known as a poisson d'avril which means "an April fish," or a young and foolish fish.

The custom of playing tricks on your friends is still a lot of fun, no matter how it began. Try making a piece of paper on some unsuspecting person's back with a sign reading, "kiss me."

PUT A BIG stone under a hat and wait for someone to pick it up. Tell your teacher she has a "run" in her stocking; look at Daddy's face carefully, then ask him what that green streak on his forehead is. Watch him ask, "where?"

Take some cotton balls and dip them in chocolate and "pass the candy" around.

Why don't you have an April Fool's party and do everything "foolishly" Have Christmas tree decorations on the wall and start with the dessert first. Then sandwiches with the meat on top of the bread. Then the soup served in glasses.

No foolin'—have a happy April Fool's Day!

Just a Bunny Hop 'til Easter

APRIL

Time for New Spring Shoes

child Life ARCH FEATURE SHOES

With Easter just a skip away, now's the time to choose the new spring shoes you want your youngsters to have—specially made and carefully lined to give their growing feet extra support and comfort.

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Just arrived... and just beautiful!

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Largest selling brand of fine fashions in the world. Styles from 10.95 to 13.95

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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 Bham High School Senior

1. Lollipop Chordettes
2. Too Soon to Know Pat Boone
3. Don't You Just Know It Huey "Piano" Smith
4. Whole World in His Hands Laurie London
5. Breathless Jerry Lee Lewis
6. Good Golly Miss Molly Little Richard
7. Believe What You Say Ricky Nelson
8. 26 Miles Four Preps
9. Tequila The Champs
10. Dinner with Drac John Zachere

Up and Coming Discs:

1. There's Only One of You Four Lads
2. A Very Precious Love Ames Brothers

Detroit Area's Top Ten

1. Lollipop Chordettes
2. Whole World in His Hands Champs
3. Who's Sorry Now Laurie London
4. 26 Miles Connie Francis
5. Too Soon to Know Four Preps
6. Don't You Just Know It Pat Boone
7. Billy Huey "Piano" Smith
8. Believe Kathy Linden
9. Breathless Jerry Lee Lewis
10. Sweet Little Sixteen Chuck Berry

Calendar For Today's Youth

Compiled by LYNN LOPATA

Friday March 28

Spring concert at Bloomfield, Bloomfield Springs vacation begins.

Sophomore dance at Southfield.

Girl bid, 8:00 p.m.

Birmingham Aquanettes present "The Wizard of Oz" water ballet, in school pool, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday March 29

Three one-act plays at Southfield.

"Dope, Incorporated," "Dial M for Monster," and "Why Teachers Go Nuts," which is presented by the Farley Club, 8:00 p.m.

Second night of the water ballet, "Wizard of Oz," at Birmingham.

April 1-4 Easter vacation for Birmingham schools

March 31-April 4 Bloomfield Hills school vacation

April 3-9 Southfield school vacation

Madpole Corner

Interesting News Items Gleaned from Our Elementary School Newspapers

Try Some Foolin' Fun

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