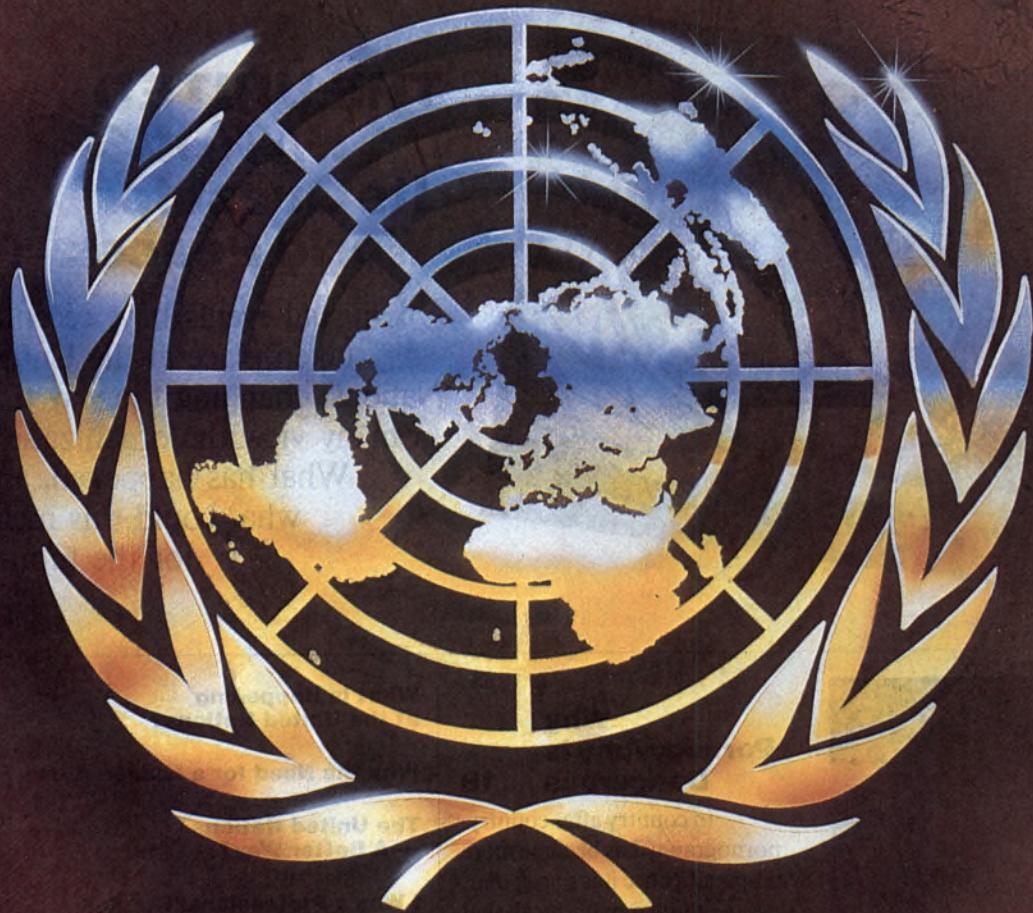


Awake!

September 8, 1991



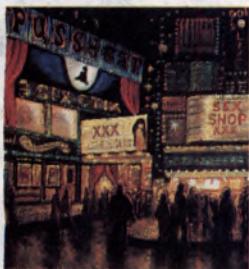
**THE UNITED
NATIONS**
Its Quest for World Peace



THE UNITED NATIONS Its Quest for World Peace 3-10

Unusual events have recently taken place at the United Nations, changing the way that many view the organization.

What has happened, and what could this mean for the future?



Why Pornography Is Dangerous 18

In country after country, pornography has become more widespread. Since it is so popular, could it really be all that dangerous?



"Why Can't I Finish What I Start?" 23

Many young people have trouble finishing what they start, such as household chores, homework, and other activities. How can this problem be corrected?

What Is Happening at the United Nations?	3
Why the Need for a League Arose	5
The United Nations —A Better Way?	8
I Was a Professional Burglar	11
'They Don't Make Them Like They Used to'—Or Do They?	15
'If Only I Could Play Like That!'	20
One of Madagascar's Special Arts	26
Watching the World	28
From Our Readers	30
A Sea Dying of Thirst	31

What Is Happening at the United Nations?



SOMETHING is happening at the United Nations. Startling developments are taking place that are going to affect your future. World leaders are very optimistic about them. Consider their words:

"Forty five years after its birth, after being long paralyzed, the [United Nations] is unfolding itself before our eyes, and is now emerging as a true judge, setting forth the law and endeavouring to enforce it."—President François Mitterrand of France to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, September 24, 1990.

At this same meeting, former Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze observed that "one cannot help being satisfied at the unprecedented unity of the [UN] Security Council . . . The positions taken by members of [the United Nations] Organization give the Security Council the mandate to go as far as the interests of world peace will require."

A few days later, President George Bush of the United States addressed the UN General Assembly. The changes he saw inspired him to say: "Not since 1945 have we seen the real possibility of using the United Nations as it was designed—as a center for international collective security." He said this because "the United Nations reacted with such historic unity and resolve" to the Persian Gulf crisis. "For the first time, the U.N. Security Council

is beginning to work as it was designed to work." He also said: "The United Nations can help bring about a new day" if its members "leave terrible weapons behind." By doing this, they can complete the "historic movement towards a new world order and a long era of peace."

Mr. Guido de Marco, president of the General Assembly of the United Nations, shared this optimism. He proclaimed glowingly: "The dawn of a new system based on friendship and cooperation between the major powers is on the horizon. . . . These developments have revitalized the United Nations Organisation." He said that "the role of the General Assembly as the focal point of international discussion and deliberation, has been reaffirmed in an impressive manner." Because of this, he further stated: "The world no longer lives in the shadow of a possible Armageddon sparked by ideological competition."

What were "these developments" that catapulted the United Nations into this long-hoped-for position of prestige and influence? What sparked such optimism that prompted world leaders to speak hopefully of "a new world order and a long era of peace" free from the risk of a nuclear Armageddon?

What Brought the Change?

"The ending of the cold war [in Europe]," answered UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in his 1990 report on the work of

the United Nations. For decades that tense situation "bred chronic suspicion and fear and polarized the world." He noted that the "concept of security [that] has begun to emerge is precisely the one the United Nations has been expounding all through the years."

Yes, it seemed that the nations were finally learning, the secretary-general said, that "an obsession with military security results in a self-perpetuating arms race, . . . constrains political dialogue, . . . and aggravates the sense of insecurity in all nations." And what did this new attitude produce?

A spirit of warm cooperation and mutual trust began pervading the summit meetings of the superpowers. As this spirit developed, they no longer felt the need for the same level of heavily armed military forces to serve as deterrents in strategic locations in Europe. The Berlin Wall came down. Germany was united. A number of Eastern European countries set up new governments, giving their citizens freedoms they had never enjoyed before. Closed borders were opened to tourism, cultural exchanges, commerce, and trade. And to top it all off, the Soviet Union and the United States began praising the United Nations and trumpeting the need to use it as a viable force in the world's quest for peace and security.

Keeping a Realistic View

Were you surprised by these sudden changes? Did you begin to think that, at last, peace

and security are on the horizon and that the United Nations is going to play a key role in achieving such aims? In view of what has happened, the optimism is understandable. However, wisdom and history dictate that we keep a realistic view of this possibility.

Note what Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said in his report: "Twice in this century, after two devastating wars, the possibilities of building a peaceful global order were not fully realized." President Bush used almost the same words in his address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress on March 6, 1991. "Twice before in this century, an entire world was convulsed by war. Twice this century, out of the horrors of war hope emerged for enduring peace. Twice before, those hopes proved to be a distant dream, beyond the grasp of man."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was more specific when he was addressing the UN Security Council. In calling for a UN resolution on using force in the Persian Gulf, he reminded his colleagues that the 1936 Ethiopian "appeal to the League of Nations fell ultimately upon deaf ears. The League's efforts to redress aggression failed and international disorder and war ensued." Mr. Baker then pleaded: "We must not let the United Nations go the way of the League of Nations."

What was the League of Nations? Why was it organized? Why did it fail? The answers to these questions will enable us to appreciate the changes happening at the United Nations.

Awake!®

Why Awake! Is Published Awake! is for the enlightenment of the entire family. It shows how to cope with today's problems. 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 always stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 pass away.

Would you welcome more information? Write Watch Tower at the appropriate address on page 5. This is part of a worldwide Bible educational work that is supported by voluntary donations.

Unless otherwise indicated, New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References is used.

Awake! (ISSN 0005-237X) is published semimonthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Awake!, c/o Watchtower, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589. Printed in U.S.A.

Why the Need for a League Arose



WORLD WAR I was a four-year holocaust of death and devastation, the likes of which had never before been seen. Split into two opposing alliances, all the great powers of the world, and others, marched off to battle, each side confident of victory, encouraged by the hurrahs of deluded populations that thought war a glorious adventure.

But within a few months, the world learned only too bitterly the terrible price of war. And when it ended, the carnage, the wanton waste of lives and materials, left the world reeling under a gigantic war debt. Something had to be done to prevent such a conflict from breaking out again. Why not an arrangement through which the nations could resolve their disputes peacefully rather than militarily? A new idea? Not really.

Why Previous Efforts Failed

Before World War I, a court had been set up to try to resolve disputes peacefully. It was the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague in the Netherlands. In the early 1900's,

many people were hoping that it might become a center where mediation would replace war. But what happened at the Hague Peace Conferences in 1899 and 1907 that led to the establishment of this court, popularly called the Hague Court?

At both meetings the nations represented would not agree to submit to compulsory arbitration, nor would they limit or reduce their stockpiles of armaments. In fact, they rejected any proposal for disarmament and blocked any plan that would obligate them to settle their differences by mediation.

Thus, when the Hague Court finally began functioning, the nations had seen to it that it did not limit their complete independence. How? By a simple expedient: They made optional the bringing of a case before the judges. And countries that did take their quarrels to this court were not obligated to abide by any of the decisions it handed down.

However, this wary shielding of national sovereignty was jeopardizing the peace and security of the world. So the arms race ran on unchecked until it finally flung mankind

Semimonthly Languages Available by Mail:

Afrikaans, Arabic, Cebuano, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English (also cassettes*), Finnish, French, German, Greek, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Yoruba, Zulu

Monthly Languages Available by Mail:

Chicheŵa, Chinese, Cibemba, Croatian, Hiligaynon, Hungarian, Igbo, Kannada, Malayalam, Myanmar, New Guinea Pidgin, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Sinhalese, Slovenian, Swahili, Tahitian, Tamil, Thai, Tswana, Xhosa

* Outside the United States and Canada, write U.S. office concerning certification for the blind and visually impaired.

Average Printing: 12,980,000 Published in 64 Languages

Subscription requests should be sent to Watch Tower at the appropriate address below.

America, United States of, Walkill, N.Y. 12589	New Zealand, P.O. Box 142, Manurewa
Australia, Box 280, Ingleburn, N.S.W. 2565	Nigeria, P.M.B. 1090, Benin City, Bendel State
Canada L7G 4Y4, Box 4100, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario	South Africa, Private Bag 2067, Krugersdorp, 1740
England NW7 1RN, The Ridgeway, London Ghana, Box 760, Accra	Zambia, Rep. of, Box 21598, Kitwe

Changes of address should reach us 30 days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label).

© 1991 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. All rights reserved.

headlong into the salvos that shattered the world's peace in the summer of 1914.

It is ironic that as the last minutes of peace were ticking away, Serbia, in her reply to an Austrian ultimatum, expressed her willingness "to accept a peaceful agreement, by referring this question . . . to the decision of the International Tribunal of the Hague." But since the use of the Hague Court was optional, Austria did not feel compelled to accept this potential "peaceful agreement." So war was declared to keep the peace—and over 20 million civilian and military corpses paid for it!

Clergy Call for League

In May 1919, Episcopal bishop Chauncey M. Brewster declared at a diocesan convention in the United States that "the world's hope of a righteous and abiding peace lies in the reconstitution of the law of nations in a new authority. . . . International law must be invested with an authority more binding than the conclusions of the Hague Conference [which set up the Hague Court]. The co-operation of the nations, therefore, must be in some association together having the characteristics of a covenant or league."

Roman Catholic cardinal Mercier of Belgium was of the same opinion. "It seems to me," he said in an interview in March 1919, "that the chief duty of Governments toward the future generation is to render impossible a renewal of the crimes from which the world still bleeds." He called the negotiators of the Versailles peace treaty "reconstructors of the new world" and encouraged the formation of a league of nations to achieve this goal. He hoped that this league would become a perfect preserver of peace.

The front page of *The New York Times* of January 2, 1919, ran the following headline: "Pope Hopes for Foundation of League of Nations." Its first paragraph announced: "In a New Year's message to America, . . .

Pope Benedict expressed the hope that the Peace Conference might result in a new world order, with a League of Nations." The pope did not use the actual phrase "new world order" in his message. However, the hopes he expressed for the League were so grandiose that either the Associated Press or the Vatican Press Office apparently thought the phrase an appropriate one.

Consider these hopes in the context of their times. Beleaguered mankind was crying out for an end to war. Too many wars in too many centuries had taken their terrible toll. And now the greatest of them all had finally ended. To a world yearning desperately for hope, the pope's words rang out: "May there be born that League of Nations which, by abolishing conscription, will reduce armaments; which, by establishing international tribunals, will eliminate or settle disputes, which, placing peace upon a foundation of solid rock, will guarantee to everyone independence and equality of rights." If the League of Nations could accomplish all of that, it would indeed create a "new world order."

Why It Failed

On paper the aims and methods of the League sounded so beautiful, so practical, so workable. The Covenant of the League of Nations stated that its purpose was to "promote international cooperation and to achieve international peace and security." Achieving peace and security depended on the nations' cooperating with one another and on their "acceptance of obligations not to resort to war."

Thus, if a critical dispute arose, the member nations involved, having pledged themselves to keep the peace, were to submit their case "to arbitration or judicial settlement or to inquiry by the Council" of the League. In addition, the League of Nations had incorpo-



U.S. Army

The League of Nations failed to prevent World War II

Cassino, Italy, under bombardment, March 15, 1944

rated the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in The Hague, into its peacekeeping system. Surely, it was thought, all of this would eliminate the risk of another great war. But it did not.

According to some historians, one reason why the League did not succeed as a peacekeeper was the failure of many of its "members to recognize the price that had to be paid for peace." Limiting armaments was an important part of this price. But the nations would pay no such price. So history repeated itself—with a vengeance. The nations once again began an arms race. The League could not convince the nations to cooperate in stopping it. All appeals and arguments fell on deaf ears. The nations forgot a great lesson of 1914: Huge arsenals tend to create a smug sense of military superiority.

Having to recognize the value of "collective security" was another vital part of the price of peace. An attack on one nation was to be viewed as an attack on all. But what actually happened when one of them resorted to aggression rather than negotiation? Instead of working unitedly to stop the conflict, the nations divided themselves into various alliances, seeking mutual protection. That was

the same delusion that had sucked them into the 1914 whirlpool!

The League was also weakened by the refusal of the United States to join. Many think that it was "the one great power that had the means to make it effective" and that America's presence in the League might have given it the degree of universality so vital to its success.

But there were other reasons why the League failed. Consider this negative clause at the beginning of its Covenant: "Any Member of the League may, after two years' notice of its intention so to do, withdraw from the League." (Article 1(3)) This option, however well meant, gave the League no sense of stability, and this, in turn, eroded the nations' resolve to stick loyally to it.

This open door of withdrawal put the League's life at the mercy of its members, who could quit whenever they wished. The parts became more important than the whole. And so, by the time May 1941 rolled around, 17 nations were no longer in the League. The big guns of World War II were shattering the hope for a "new world order" and causing the League to collapse.

There had to be a better way!

to cause
believe and
invent
the world

The United Nations A BETTER WAY?



THE preamble to the United Nations Charter expresses these noble aims: "We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, . . . and [desiring] to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, . . . have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims."

Did the UN "accomplish these aims"? Did it get the nations to unite their strength and maintain peace and security? No, not so far, although the UN has sincerely tried to be a significantly better way than the League of Nations. However, the generation that saw its establishment in 1945 has since been scourged by wars, revolutions, invasions, coups, and aggression in many parts of the earth. And this violence involved many of the nations that had resolved to "maintain international peace and security."

Not the Better Way Yet

Critics who decry the failure of the United Nations to prevent these woes, though, may be forgetting an important fact—the strength of an organization depends on the power its charter gives it and on the commitment of its constituents to carry out their obligations under said charter. First of all, the United Nations Charter does not set up the UN as a world government with supreme power over all its member nations.

Article 2(7) decrees: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state." UNCIO (United Nations Conference on International Organization), which met in San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945, to finalize the charter, deemed it necessary "to make sure that the United Nations under prevalent world conditions should not go beyond acceptable limits or exceed due limitations."

Did you notice that qualifying phrase, "under prevalent world conditions"? If these were to change, UNCIO claimed that this ruling could be developed "as the state of the world, the public opinion of the world, and the factual interdependence of the world makes it necessary and appropriate."

The chartered purpose of the United Nations to maintain "international peace and security" expresses a desirable goal for mankind. The world would indeed be far more secure if the nations obeyed Article 2(4) of the UN Charter: "All Members shall refrain . . . from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." But self-interest of member nations has repeatedly hamstrung the efforts of the UN toward achieving its purpose. Rather than living up to their UN commitment to "settle their international disputes by peaceful means," nations or whole blocs of nations have often resorted to war, claiming that the

'matter was essentially within their domestic jurisdiction.'—Article 2(3,7).

Not only have nations ignored UN peace procedures but they have flouted and openly defied its rulings for settling conflicts. And their statesmen have frequently mounted the UN rostrum and delivered long speeches trying to justify their acts of aggression. This skirting of rules that were enacted to maintain peace has all too often paralyzed the UN at critical times and has severely damaged its credibility. UN officials who sit through such sessions are often frustrated. In the end, such talk usually proves to be mere sophistry that attempts to minimize or justify the violence and bloodshed taking place. No wonder UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said that the UN "was regarded in some circles as a tower of Babel and at best a venue for often fruitless diplomatic parleys."

There is another reason why the UN has had difficulty proving itself to be that better way. When it began functioning on October 24, 1945, "no coherent strategy of peace was put in place," observed Pérez de Cuéllar. Without this, how could the United Nations

become the viable force for securing world peace that it was intended to be?

What Kind of Peace Could It Achieve?

Pérez de Cuéllar answers: "Peace will not bring the cessation of all conflict. It will only make conflicts manageable through means other than force or intimidation. . . . The United Nations seeks to train our vision towards that end." So the only peace that the UN can achieve is control of violence.

Is this really peace with security? True, "membership in the United Nations is open to all . . . peace-loving states." (Article 4(1)) But will a nation that is peace-loving when it joins the UN stay that way? Governments change, and new rulers bring in new policies. What if a member turns radical, with extreme nationalistic aims and covetous territorial ambitions? And what if it begins arming itself with nuclear and chemical weapons? The United Nations would now have a ticking time bomb on its hands. Yet, as recent events in the Middle East show, such a turn of events may be the very thing to move the nations to empower the UN to remove this threat to their security.



UN photo 176104/Milton Grant

Guido de Marco,
president of the UN
General Assembly
(right), and
Secretary-General
Pérez de Cuéllar at
the 45th session of
the Assembly

Can the Nations Make It a Better Way?

As never before, the nations are becoming increasingly aware of what UNCIO called "the factual interdependence of the world." No state can live unto itself anymore. The nations are all members of one international community. All are contending with a series of common problems: the devastating effects of ecological pollution, poverty, debilitating diseases, illicit drug trade on every continent, terrorism, sophisticated nuclear weapons in the arsenals of a growing list of nations. These factors are forcing the nations either to seek peace and security through the auspices of the United Nations or to commit global suicide.

Former Soviet foreign minister Shevardnadze observed: "The United Nations can function effectively if it has a mandate from its members, if states agree on a voluntary and temporary basis to delegate to it a portion of their sovereign rights and to entrust it with performing certain tasks in the interests of the majority." He added: "Only in this way can we make the period of peace lasting and irreversible."

If this could be done, then the UN's voice of jurisdiction could authoritatively denounce any nation threatening the peace of the world. With real power at its disposal, it could suppress such aggressors forcefully and swiftly. But will UN member nations ever give it this mandate, 'making available their armed forces, assistance and facilities' to secure peace? (Article 43(1)) They might—if a crisis threatened to undermine the very foundation upon which their respective national sovereignties rest. If the nations see that 'uniting their strength to maintain international peace and security' under UN auspices could remove such threats, this might increase their respect for it.

Perhaps you are wondering, 'Was the UN's role in the Persian Gulf crisis a start in this direction?' It could be. Many nations were confronted with the possible calamitous collapse of their economies. And if their interwoven economies crashed, so would the entire world's. So the nations rallied together under the United Nations. The Security Council passed a series of UN resolutions to end the crisis peacefully, and when this failed, it backed a UN resolution on the use of force in the Gulf.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in calling for this resolution, said: "History has now given us another chance. With the cold war behind us, we now have the chance to build a world which was envisioned by the founders of . . . the United Nations. We have the chance to make this Security Council and this United Nations true instruments for peace and for justice across the globe. . . . We must fulfill our common vision of a peaceful and just post-cold-war world." And he observed concerning their debate about the use of force in the Gulf: "[It] will, I think, rank as one of the most important in the history of the United Nations. It will surely do much to determine the future of this body."

Jehovah's Witnesses firmly believe that the United Nations is going to play a major role in world events in the very near future. No doubt these developments will be very exciting. And the results will have a far-reaching impact on your life. We urge you to ask Jehovah's Witnesses in your neighborhood for more details on this matter. The Bible clearly paints a picture showing that the United Nations will very shortly be given power and authority. The UN will then do some very astonishing things that may well amaze you. And you will be thrilled to learn that there is yet a better way near at hand that will surely bring eternal peace and security!

I Was a Professional Burglar

BANG! The judge's gavel echoed through the courtroom. His next words, though spoken softly, seemed to roar at me. "I hereby sentence you to 15 years in prison." I'll never forget those words nor the events that followed. The police officer quickly escorted me from the courtroom back to the holding cell that had been my home for the past three months.

Early the next morning, I was led from my cell, down a corridor and into a small room, where I was fitted with a leather belt that was about five inches wide and that buckled in the back. On the front were two large metal rings onto which my hands were cuffed. On completing this procedure, the two officers took me down another hallway, where I joined a group of men who were handcuffed in the same way. The men were standing in two rows, side by side. I was led to my position in line, and a chain that ran between the two lines was lifted and locked onto a third ring, on the side of the leather belt.

Afterward, the six officers now on hand led us to the elevator that would take us to a specially built bus. Here I was, sitting next to a murderer and in front of drug dealers, rap-

ists, and robbers. All of us were going to the same place—prison!

What, you may wonder, led up to these circumstances? Let me tell you about my background and the events that landed me in prison.

I Wasn't Born a Criminal

My parents were married just after World War II, and in 1947 my older brother was born. Two years later I came along, followed by another brother 18 months later. So with three babies, my parents made the long journey west from Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A., to the state of Oregon on the Pacific Coast. Then we trekked north to Washington State and settled in the city of Bellevue. Back then, life seemed normal to me. Although we weren't a very close-knit family, we had regular outings together and attended the local Lutheran church. Respect for God, Jesus, and the Bible was customary in a family from Virginia. In January 1960 my baby sister came along. How excited my mother was to have finally the little girl she had always wanted!

However, something happened about six months later that changed our way of life. We moved again, this time to the heavily wooded town of Maple Valley. We stopped going to church, there were no more family outings, and my father started drinking heavily. It still saddens me to recall that move. We were depressed for a long time afterward. I believe that this contributed to my wayward life as a teenager.

Why I Chose a Life of Crime

Maple Valley, as you can imagine just from hearing the name, wasn't an exciting place for a rambunctious teenager in the 1960's. So I would make my own excitement. This was easy for me because of the bad crowd I associated with in school. After-school events would turn into drunken parties, followed by

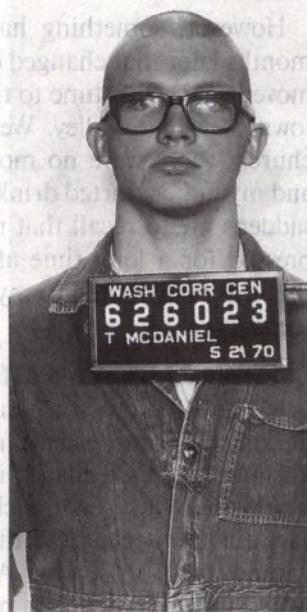
fistfights and drugs. On a number of these occasions, I would stumble home at three or four in the morning—drunk. Or I would not come home for several days, staying with my friends. Strangely enough, I knew I was doing wrong, yet my parents never seemed to notice.

Sometimes, we would steal just to see if we could get away with it. Once, I stole a car and went joyriding. But I was caught and spent over a year in the local juvenile institution, Green Hill.

By the time I was released from Green Hill, I was in high school. Here I thought I could put to use the things I had “learned” from my juvenile ‘crime school.’ Little did I realize that the Biblical saying, “Bad associations spoil useful habits,” was having its effect.—1 Corinthians 15:33.

I was about 16 years old when I met someone different, a young man named Jim Carley. He and his family had recently moved from Idaho to my town. Very few knew him as Jim; he was better known as Spud, nick-

**When I was
prisoner
626023 in a
Washington
State
correctional
center**



named after the famous Idaho potato. He was one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Jim and I attended the same school. By observing him, I could tell that he was different from my other friends. He got along with everyone but did not engage in their wrongdoing. This impressed me. I remember clearly his telling me why this wicked system would soon end and be replaced by a new world of peace under the rule of God’s heavenly Kingdom.

I wanted to hear more, so I attended his “church,” called the Kingdom Hall, a couple of times. This was in 1967. What I heard there was interesting, but I felt that this new world was something that was far into the future. Besides, I was having fun now. I was in the business of filling “orders” for anything someone wanted—tools, car parts, stereos, television sets. Of course, these “orders” were filled by thievery and cunning. Why should I go to a church that condemned my exhilarating “business”?

At the age of 19, I quit school and married my high school sweetheart. One year later I was the father of a baby girl, Rhonda Jean. With this added responsibility, I felt the need to provide for them but only through dishonest means.

I Have Found the Truth!

I was still in the “business” of using and selling drugs, stealing cars, and burglarizing homes, but the “business” finally caught up with me. I was arrested and soon found myself in the handcuffed position described earlier and on my way to prison. Here I was, 20 years old, with a wife and a six-month-old daughter. And now I was going to prison for the next 15 years! I realized I had to do something to get control of my life. I began to think back to what Spud had said about the Bible.

While in prison, I began to read the Bible along with secular self-help books. ‘Reading

**The McDaniel family
—Mary, Tom, daughter
Rhonda, and son Trey**

these books will help me grow up,' I thought. They did not help. Nothing helped until another inmate in the Corrections Center in Shelton, Washington, asked if I would like to sit in on a Bible discussion with some of Jehovah's Witnesses from the local congregation. I was told they came into the prison weekly. I agreed. From the first time I met the two Witnesses, I knew that what I was learning from the Bible and the study book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* was right. I had found the truth!

Witnessing in Prison

At times as many as 15 inmates would join me in my weekly Bible studies with the Witnesses. During this time my wife decided I had gone crazy in jail, and she began divorce proceedings. This greatly tested my newfound faith.

I decided to strengthen my faith by taking in more spiritual food. I began by reading the entire Bible along with Bible publications, including back issues of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. I was developing a strong faith. Also, I began preaching to anyone who would listen. Soon I was avoided by many of the inmates. Looking back, I see it was a real protection for me.

I did, however, have many interesting conversations with others in prison. One was with the Catholic priest, who said that I was being



taught twisted things and that people could make the Bible say whatever they wanted. To prove his assertion, he said he would show me that the Bible states that there is no God. I accepted his offer. He opened his Bible to the book of Psalms and positioned his hand so that his index finger would cover part of the verse. I said: "Please move your finger so that I can read the entire verse." He answered: "Just read below my finger." I did so, and to my amazement it said: "There is no God." "There," he said, "that proves it. There is no God!" Again I asked to see the entire verse. This time he moved his hand. And there it said: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." —Psalm 14:1, King James Version.

Paroled and Determined

Because of my changed attitude and conduct, I was granted parole after only two

years of confinement. That was late in 1971. Maybe some thought I had 'got religion' just to fool the parole board. But now I was out and more determined than ever not to fall back into bad associations. I deliberately chose to live in an area where I knew that my former associates would not be. I knew it would not be wise to contact any of my old buddies. They also avoided me because they had heard that I had become some kind of "priest" and was preaching to everyone.

I continued my Bible studies and began regularly attending the meetings of the Covington Congregation in Kent, Washington. The preaching work played an ever-increasing role in my life, and in June 1972, I was baptized. I was trying to maintain balance in secular matters while at the same time serving God and teaching my daughter the Bible. She was now almost three years old and was living with her mother, my former wife. It proved to be a real challenge that lasted 16 long and frustrating years. I will admit, there were times I would feel that things were not going fast enough to suit me. Then I would recall the Scriptural admonition: "As far as it depends upon you, be peaceable with all men. . . . 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay,' says Jehovah."—Romans 12:18, 19.

Many nights were spent weeping and praying. My world at that point was very much like the typical weather of the Puget Sound area, gray and dreary with some occasional sunshine. My "sunshine" came in the form of theocratic activities, such as meetings and assemblies where one can form new friendships and renew old ones. At one such assembly, I met someone who would make a lasting impression on me, and after two years of getting to know each other, Mary Hughes and I were married in August 1974.

In July of the following year, we had a son

whom we named Trey (from Tom III). I knew that in this marriage, God would always be first, especially since I had just recently been appointed as a ministerial servant in the Christian congregation. Because of this privilege, I realized that a new door of opportunity was open to me in the service of Jehovah. I was determined to take full advantage of it and continue to serve him. I applied myself, always relying on God to teach me how to grow spiritually. Whenever I was asked to handle an assignment, I would accept, trusting in him to give me the needed wisdom. Then, in 1987, I was appointed as an elder.

I have learned over the years that doing things Jehovah's way is always the wisest course. Do not become impatient. This was further impressed on me when, in the spring of 1990, my daughter Rhonda, then 20 years old, came home to live with us and became a baptized Witness. I was once again reminded how powerful the truth is. For legal custody reasons, I had had no contact with her for the previous eight years. Jehovah blessed my efforts of years ago when I planted seeds of Bible truth with my daughter during the short visitations granted by the courts.

Rhonda seemed to remember almost everything Mary and I had taught her about the Bible. And what an impression our family life had made on her! Since that spring day, Rhonda has progressed rapidly in Bible knowledge.

When I look back at what my life was and then look at what it is now, I have to say that keeping busy in serving God is truly the best safeguard from Satan's snares. Instead of that restraining leather belt that I so despised, I now experience a great liberating, a liberation from imprisonment to the freedom of being a peace-promoting minister of God.—*As told by Tom McDaniel.*

'They Don't Make Them Like They Used To'

OR DO THEY?

"There is a malfunction in the computer," groans the owner of a sleek, new automobile as he returns from the dealer service department. "They sure don't make them like they used to!" His wife nods in agreement, adding: "I can hardly tell our car from all the others. They are all so much alike."



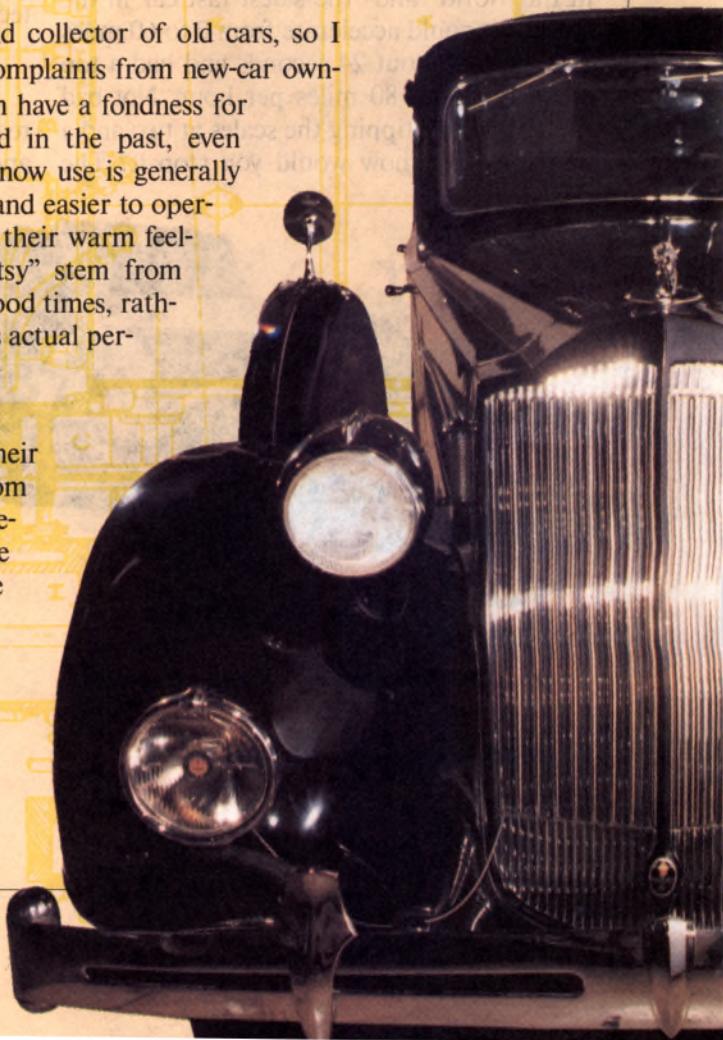
I AM a restorer and collector of old cars, so I often hear such complaints from new-car owners. Many of them have a fondness for a model they owned in the past, even though the car they now use is generally more reliable, safer, and easier to operate. Could it be that their warm feelings about "Old Betsy" stem from sweet memories of good times, rather than from the car's actual performance?

Collecting Old Cars

In my case, appreciation for old cars—their restoration and preservation—comes from seeing them as objects of art and as statements of taste and technology from the times and countries in which they were produced.

If many collectors find the same model desirable and it happens to be in short supply, then the automobile's worth skyrockets. For example, on November 19, 1987, at an auction in London, England, a rare 1931 Bugatti Royale sports coupe fetched \$9,900,000, U.S.!

Rolls Royce Heritage Trust



In most instances, however, friends and neighbors usually stare in bewilderment as the latest objet d'art is dragged home by the collector. They wonder if the rusting, insect-infested hulk might have been better left wherever it was found. The collector, though, already sees the automobile restored to its former radiant beauty. So he smiles and says to himself: 'They sure don't make them like they used to.'

Is It True?

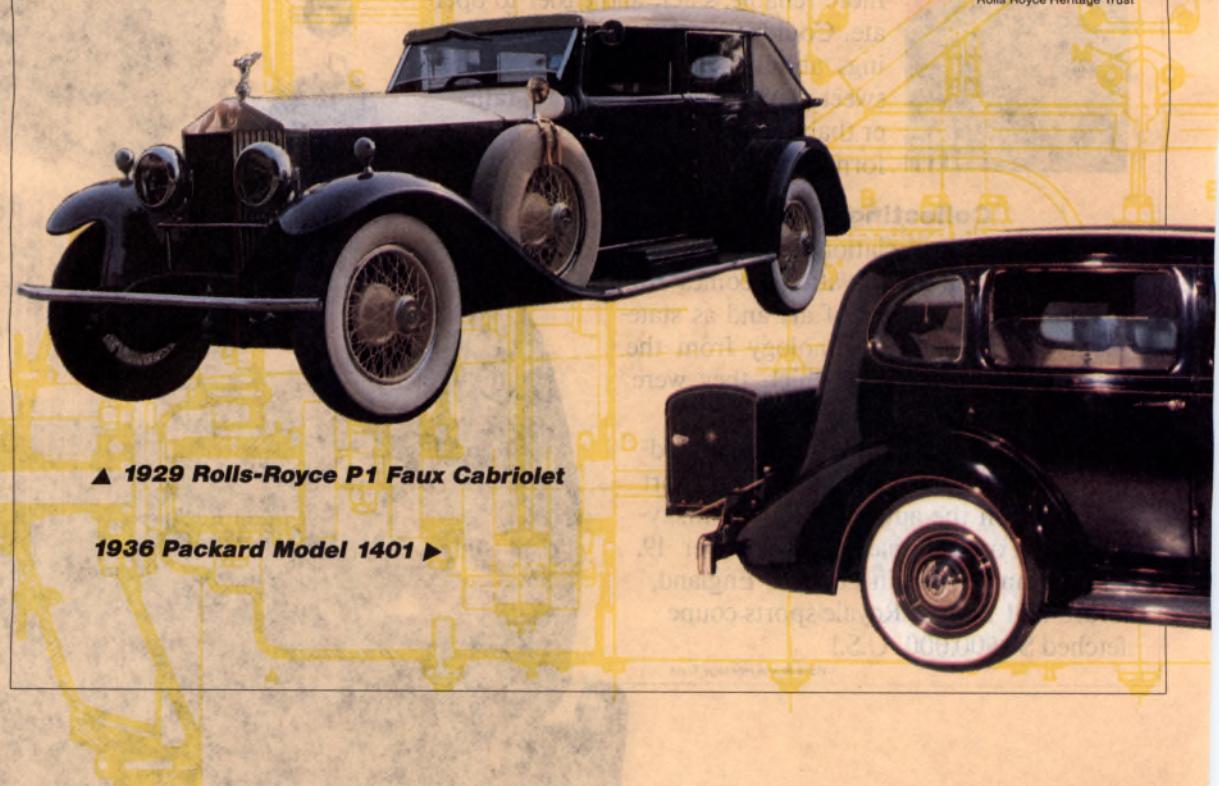
Yes, it is true. 'They do not make cars like they used to.' In some ways we can be glad for that and in other ways sad. Let us take a look at some models. For instance, one old Rolls-Royce had been advertised as the "Best Car in the World" and "the safest fast car in the world." It could accelerate from 0 to 60 miles per hour in about 24 seconds and had a top speed of about 80 miles per hour. Not bad for a motorcar tipping the scales at two and a half tons! But how would you stop it? The

maker accurately boasted that by means of a specially designed servomechanism attached to the gearbox, the car had "enormously increased stopping power." But while a restored example of that Rolls is still capable of original specification performance, it would not be suitable for today's driving conditions.

Although a credit to its designer, that Rolls-Royce did not have the benefit of another 60 years of accumulated automotive knowledge and experience. Thus, it lacked hydraulic and antilock power brakes, and it did not have seat belts, stoplights, turn signals, sealed-beam headlights, internal crash pads, headrests, and many other innovations that improve performance and safety—things we take for granted today or view as the latest technology.

The Latest Technology?

Are all the devices we see on today's cars really new developments? No. Many options and accessories on your automobile were de-



▲ 1929 Rolls-Royce P1 Faux Cabriolet

1936 Packard Model 1401 ▶

Rolls Royce Heritage Trust

veloped years ago. You could have bought this 1936 Packard with the following features: chassis lubricator, which oiled the chassis continuously; ride control, which allowed the driver to adjust the shock absorbers to match road conditions; motor-oil cooler, which circulated the crankcase oil in a special housing through which engine coolant flowed, thereby stabilizing oil temperature.

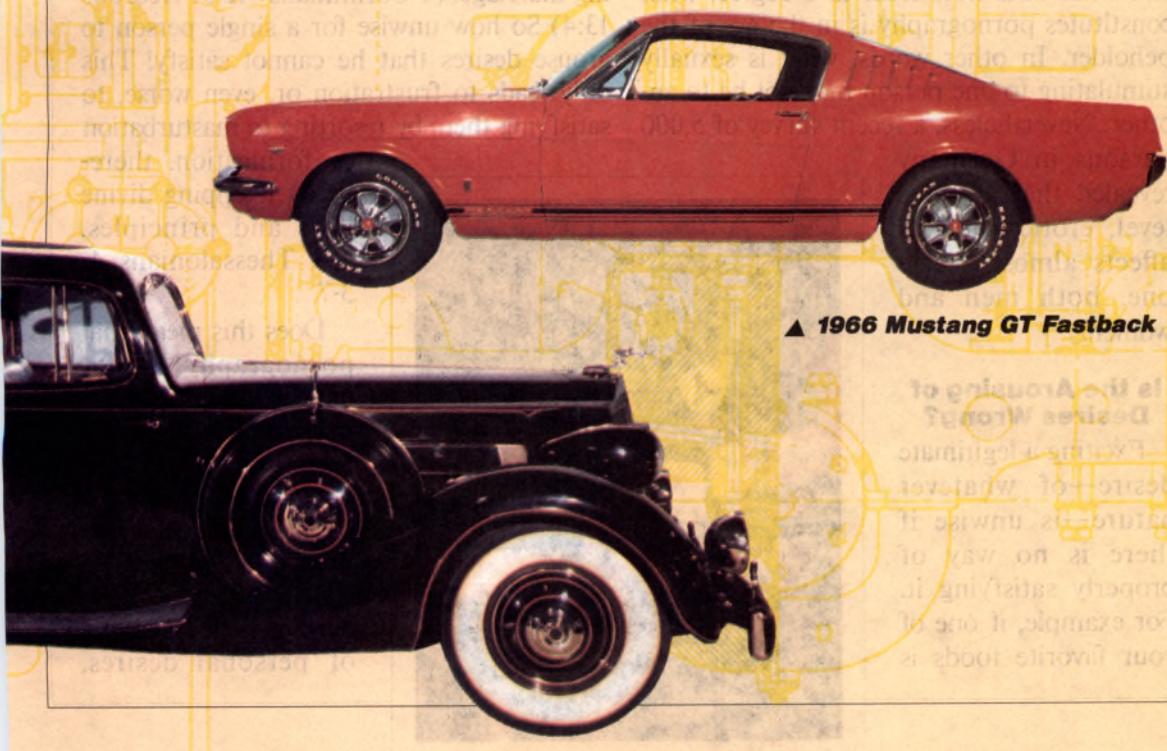
The models of the '60's, like the 1966 Ford Mustang, saw a variety and quantity of optional equipment made available as never before. Moderately priced high-production cars could be ordered with a number of different engine sizes, in many different colors, and with a seemingly endless list of performance and creature-comfort accessories. In many cases, the same car could be had as a sedan, a convertible, or a fastback. Even though hundreds of thousands of a particular model were manufactured, if you chose, you could order one equipped just the way you wanted.

They All Look Alike!

Today's cars do look alike for a variety of reasons. Current designs seem to be influenced more than ever by technology and economy. The resulting body design is a product significantly influenced by wind-tunnel tests whereby engineers measure wind drag coefficient. A lower drag coefficient results in improved gas mileage and contributes to greater road stability.

Final body design, therefore, is greatly influenced by physical laws related to road and air resistance, inertia, and weight-to-volume ratio. Add to these certain safety requirements and various passenger needs, and the result is many cars with similar silhouettes. But, of course, the public's perceptions of what is stylish can change, and manufacturers would have to change accordingly.

So, with mixed emotions, we can say, 'They don't make them like they used to.'—Contributed.



▲ 1966 Mustang GT Fastback

Why Pornography Is Dangerous

PORNOGRAPHY is no longer confined to smut shops and sex shows. It has gone public. In country after country, it is pushed before the eyes of the average citizen in magazines, newspapers, books, TV programs, movies, and videos. Can anything so widespread really be all that dangerous?

What, though, is pornography? Pornography is defined as "the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement." That definition is clear. But arguments arise when it comes to determining what arouses sexual excitement and what does not. True, to a degree, what constitutes pornography is in the eye of the beholder. In other words, what is sexually stimulating to one person may not be to another. Nevertheless, a recent survey of 5,000 persons in Germany revealed that at some level, erotic material affects almost everyone, both men and women.

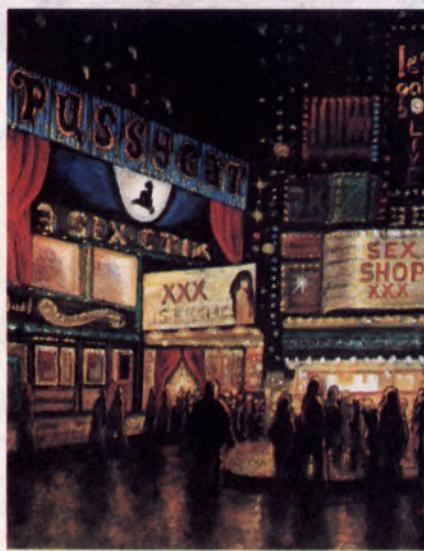
Is the Arousing of Desires Wrong?

Exciting a legitimate desire—of whatever nature—is unwise if there is no way of properly satisfying it. For example, if one of your favorite foods is

unavailable, you will probably not feel content if you constantly stare at pictures of it in magazines or books. On the other hand, if you—perhaps for health reasons—are not allowed to eat it, constantly preoccupying yourself with it will most likely lead to dangerous transgressions. Likewise, a smoker trying to kick the habit will not increase his chances of doing so by spending time longingly watching other people smoke.

As regards sexual desires, from the Bible's viewpoint, happiness results from properly satisfying them within the bounds of a loving marriage. (1 Corinthians 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) So how unwise for a single person to arouse desires that he cannot satisfy! This only leads to frustration or, even worse, to satisfying them by resorting to masturbation or fornication, thereby overstepping divine laws and principles.
—1 Thessalonians 4: 3-7.

Does this mean that pornography is not dangerous if you are married? No, those Scriptural rules of conduct apply to married people too. Also, pornography appeals to selfish passions, pandering to the satisfying of personal desires,



whereas love centers on satisfying the needs of one's mate. Pornography leads to inconsiderate and self-centered sex, which, even within the relationship of marriage, becomes demeaning and unloving.—1 Corinthians 13:5.

Rather than strengthening marital love, pornography kills it by degrading it, distorting it. Sexual relations as portrayed in pornography is fantasy of the worst kind because it communicates incorrect and harmful messages about marital intimacies. Besides, real-life relationships are much more than sexual; they are built on tenderness, humor, communication, and caring. In contrast, pornography may even become a wedge between a married couple.

Rather than strengthening marital love, pornography kills it by degrading it, distorting it

Pornography reduces humans to the level of animals acting solely on instinct. It does not encourage self-control, a fruit of God's spirit. (Galatians 5:22, 23) It may pave the way for sexual perversions. These are but a few of the reasons why Christians shun pornography.

The Bible's wise counsel, therefore, is: "Rejoice with the wife of your youth . . . Why should you, my son, be in an ecstasy with a strange woman or embrace [literally or vicariously by way of pornography] the bosom of a foreign woman?"—Proverbs 5:15-20.

How, though, can a person avoid or break free from the grip of pornography?

How to Break Its Grip

To counteract pornography's pull, the Bible counsels: "Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite." (Colossians 3:5) Here, the word "deaden" vividly conveys the idea of striking dead—not simply suppressing—any body member that would be used in those vices.

However, this must be understood in a metaphoric, not a physical, sense. Christians are not to mutilate their bodies. If we decisively "kill" improper sexual thoughts, we will not yield to the lure of pornography, thus using our body members, such as the eyes, in a wrong way. (Compare Matthew 5:29, 30.) Thus, counsels the Bible, replace improper desires with "whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste," and then "continue considering these things."—Philippians 4:8.

What else can help? Keeping in mind—perhaps even memorizing—Bible texts, such as the following:

"Make my eyes pass on from seeing what is worthless."—Psalm 119:37.

"Everything in the world—the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes . . . does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world."—1 John 2:16.

"Each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin; in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death."—James 1:14, 15.

Anything that can start a chain reaction ending in death can rightfully be termed dangerous, and pornography fits that description! Remember: "He who is sowing with a view to his flesh will reap corruption from his flesh, but he who is sowing with a view to the spirit will reap everlasting life from the spirit." Do not let pornography rob you of everlasting life!—Galatians 6:8.

'If Only I Could Play Like That!'



SEATED comfortably at the piano, Jon seems to make the music come to life. As the treble chords played by his right hand give increased richness to the melody, the well-controlled bass chords supply harmony and depth. Clever fill-ins and delicate runs, skillfully done, add sparkle to the music. Adrian, Brian, and Brett liven it up with their electric guitars, while Steve provides the finishing touch with his cool saxophone tones.

Such vibrant music stirs the audience to sing with gusto and feeling. This tastefully arranged and pleasing music encourages their best vocal efforts. No wonder someone wishfully exclaims: 'Ah, if only I could play like that!'

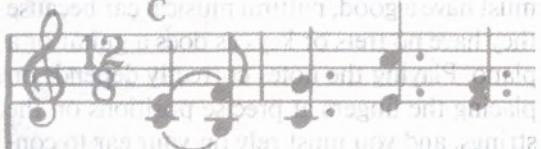
Have you also felt that way when you listened to someone who played music well? Perhaps you have even lamented: 'I know I could never play like that.' But how do you know? Have you ever tried to learn to play a musical instrument?

Who Can Learn?

Some people have a greater natural aptitude than do others when it comes to music. But, really, anyone capable of learning to read and write can also learn to play an instrument. First, though, you must have a real desire to play the instrument and make beautiful music. It cannot be a mere passing fancy. You must be prepared to work at it.

Of course, just as not all persons become

equally proficient at reading and writing, so not all who learn music will reach the same level of skill or ability to play with feeling and expressiveness. Nonetheless, if you enjoy listening to music, then learning to play an instrument can open up totally new dimensions to you. The difference between *playing* music and *listening to* it is the difference between actually playing a game and merely being a spectator.



'If people continue to use their talents, they will keep growing intellectually regardless of age'

Nowadays, there are two approaches to learning to play an instrument. In one the emphasis is placed on learning to read music and practicing scales as a foundation. However, many beginners get discouraged using this method. An alternative method is to help the student to play simple tunes by ear and thus become familiar with the instrument. This may encourage the learner enough to want to learn theory and to read music.

Is It Too Late to Start?

"Yes, I would love to play an instrument," says 46-year-old Roslyn, "but it is no use trying to learn at my age!" Do you feel that way too? And is that really true? Can music be mastered only by the young? Not really. In music, as in all other fields of endeavor, the adage holds true: "You are never too old to learn."

True, young people do have nimble fingers and eager minds that are usually quick to learn. For example, Frédéric Chopin, a child prodigy, gave his first piano recital at the age of seven! Violinist Yehudi Menuhin gave his first public performance in San Francisco at the ripe old age of eight! Naturally, they are the exceptions.

Our pianist, Jon, started to learn the piano at eight, but he says: "I must admit that the novelty wore off after just a few months, and it was only the persistence of my mother that made me continue. Now, however, I am very glad that she insisted." Of course, Jon is not alone in his aversion to endless practice. This is one of the chief hurdles young learners have to clear, especially in the first few months when it seems they are getting nowhere with their lessons.

Older persons, on the other hand, often have more determination and motivation. This stands them in good stead when it comes to that indispensable ingredient to success—regular, daily practice. As far as being too old to learn is concerned, be encouraged by the comment of a university professor: "If life is rewarding and people continue to use their talents, they will keep growing intellectually regardless of age." Arturo Toscanini, who conducted all his concerts from memory, reportedly learned and memorized the entire score of an opera—every word, note, and marking for all the singers and instruments—at the age of 85.

Picking the Right Instrument

Guitarist Brett volunteered this tip: "Don't bother learning an instrument you don't love. You will never put your heart into learning and necessary practice unless you are really attracted to the particular instrument you choose." That is sound advice. So, of all the instruments you have listened to, which one will it be for you?

Like Brett, many young people are drawn to the guitar, surely one of the most popular instruments today. A guitar can provide the accompaniment for singing; it can supply the rhythm and harmony for other instruments; and it can furnish solo music. Another advantage of the guitar is that it can easily be carried anywhere, outdoors and indoors. Learning the basic chords and fingering is relatively easy, and a simple guitar is not expensive.

Keyboard instruments, such as the piano and the electronic organ, are also very popular. They can be studied with the help of either a teacher or one of the many simplified courses available. Although the piano is not portable, it is not uncommon to find one in places where friends gather. To provide accompaniment for friends singing as a group is but one of the pleasures even a relatively new student of the instrument can enjoy. There are also electronic organs with built-in devices that provide rhythms and special musical effects. Then there is the accordion, which has buttons for the left hand to produce bass chords. Simple tunes can usually be played on these instruments after only a few lessons.

However, there is a wide variety of musical instruments beyond the few familiar ones. Generally, they are divided into four categories: woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. Best known in the woodwinds are: flute, piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and sax-

ophone. In the brass section are: trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba. Percussions include: drums, cymbals, xylophone, tambourine, and timpani. And, finally, the strings contain: harp, mandolin, guitar, and the violin family—violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

Many people are deeply moved by the beautiful music produced by the strings, particularly the violin. But remember, to learn the violin, or any instrument of that string family, you must have a good, natural musical ear because they have no frets or keys as does a guitar or a piano. Playing the notes correctly depends on placing the fingers at precise positions on the strings, and you must rely on your ear to confirm accuracy and purity of sound.

Brass and woodwind instruments require strong, healthy lungs to supply a steady flow of air, or wind. Tones on all brass instruments are produced by the player's lips vibrating on the mouthpiece. To play the woodwinds, you must learn to manipulate a set of keys while maintaining a steady flow of air through the instrument.

Most people think of cymbals, snare drums, kettle drums, bass drums, and so on simply as instruments to provide the rhythmic background or to keep time. But there is more to it. Besides a keen sense of rhythm, there is much a player has to learn about technique to handle the variety of instruments well, and a skillful, sensitive drummer is a boon to any orchestra.

In Our Next Issue

Estrogen Replacement Therapy —Is It for You?

Families—Draw Close Before It's Too Late

What's the Harm in Using Sarcasm?

How High to Aim?

So are you thinking of taking up some musical instrument? Remember, do not aim too high or spend too many hours trying to attain near perfection. You could easily become unbalanced in your use of valuable time.

Yes, you can learn to play—maybe not like a virtuoso or even quite 'like that' but well enough to bring a lot of pleasure to yourself and to those who listen to your music.

**Young
People
Ask...**



"Why Can't I Finish What I Start?"

"If the task is dull and boring, I just lose my patience."

"Distractions. That's my problem. Television, friends."

"Sometimes I'm just overwhelmed with too many things to do!"

"I always seem to leave things for the last minute. Then, it is too late."

"I do finish what I start. But it never seems to be good enough for my parents!"

THESE teenagers explain a problem common during youth: not finishing what they start. Not that all youths are lazy or have a bad attitude toward responsibilities. Indeed, when one group of young people were asked: "Which chores do you think teenagers should do around the house?" the majority listed such chores as keeping their rooms neat, making their beds, and taking out the trash.

Good intentions notwithstanding, important tasks are often left unfinished, resulting in frequent complaints from parents, teachers, and others. So ask yourself: 'What prevents me from finishing what I start?' A good look at the causes will enable you to correct the problem.

A Good Look at the Causes

The book *I Hate School—How to Hang In and When to Drop Out* gives us a good idea of what distracts many youths from finishing their school homework. "When we sit down to write, we often find that we keep getting up to get something to eat or to sharpen pencils. Then we have to make a phone call or maybe watch a TV show we've been waiting for. Pretty soon it's time to feed the cat and we haven't gotten anything done."

Researchers Claudine G. Wirths and Mary Bowman-Kruhm stated that "long hours of watching TV make it almost impossible for some people to actively read and study afterwards. There is a kind of hypnosis in TV that leaves you groggy and sleepy. You know yourself you sometimes end up being plugged into the screen for a couple of hours when you only meant to watch one show." Wirths and Bowman-Kruhm also found that some students adopt poor study habits during their early school years, though for a while they are still able to get good grades. However, "when they get to junior high and high school, they don't really know how to make

themselves sit down, get to work, and learn hard or boring stuff."

Whatever your reason for not finishing what you start, the problem will not go away by itself. If you really want to finish what you start, then take charge of your life in a responsible way and make the necessary adjustments.

Plan Ahead!

If you are a Christian youth, no doubt you are busy. (1 Corinthians 15:58) Sometimes you may feel overwhelmed with Christian responsibilities, homework, household chores, and personal projects. Of course, no one has more to do than our Creator. Yet, he always brings projects to completion. This is not simply because he is far superior to us in power and wisdom but also because he is "a God, not of disorder, but of peace." You too can bring your projects to completion by letting "all things take place decently and by arrangement."—1 Corinthians 14:33, 40.

Jesus once said: "Who of you that wants to build a tower does not first sit down and calculate the expense, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, he might lay its foundation but not be able to finish it, and all the onlookers might start to ridicule him, saying, 'This man started to build but was not able to finish.'"—Luke 14:28-30.

The lesson here is to plan ahead. Dr. Janet G. Woititz wrote: "People who carry projects through to completion don't do it casually. They have what we call a 'game

plan.'" So try taking a realistic look at your tasks to understand exactly what it will take to complete them. Do you need to lay out a step-by-step plan? Would it be helpful to break up the project into smaller parts? How long will it take to complete it?

Some people like keeping a "things to do" list, with tasks written down in order of importance. Then the projects are crossed off as they are finished. To fight a tendency to procrastinate, learn to manage your time. If you are working with deadlines, be sure to place those projects at the top of your list in deadline order.

Sensible time-management is crucial. On the one hand, you want to set time limits for less important activities, such as TV watching. On the other hand, you must be careful not to curtail the essentials, such as getting proper sleep. The book *I Hate School* notes that people "vary in the amount of sleep they need, but most people can't get by on four or



**To start a project is one thing,
to finish it is another**

five hours a night. . . . It is very hard to concentrate on difficult ideas if you are sleepy and tired." Learning to use your time wisely will prove beneficial for years to come.

Keep Seeking the Advantage of Others

Some youths will claim, however, that good time-management and personal organization seem of little value when the tasks at hand are dull and boring. Applying the Bible counsel of 1 Corinthians 10:24 will help you develop the needed motivation. It says: "Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person." Perhaps very few household chores are in themselves challenging or satisfying. But when you do them to help or please a loved one, then there is accomplishment and a desire to do them well. So next time you find yourself ready to drop a project, think of those who are benefiting from what you do, and take pride in performing quality work.

Often *you* also benefit from seemingly unpleasant tasks. For example, think of a task you often leave unfinished. Is it doing the dishes? Or cleaning your room? Now ask yourself, 'Whose dishes are they anyway?' Aren't they *your* dishes also? Isn't it *your* room and *your* home? Your willingness to accept these responsibilities and to discharge them fully will also benefit you in the future. Addressing parents, the book *Simply Organized!* says: "If we do not teach our children to be home managers, they will operate with a tremendous handicap when they leave home."

Communicate!

What, though, if you work very hard to finish a task, but your parents still complain that you really haven't completed it? Often the problem is one of communication. For example, let's say you are assigned to take out the trash. That sounds simple enough. Still, it is

wise to get specific instructions. Make sure you know how, when, and where. Does the job include separating the trash? Does it include rinsing the garbage containers?

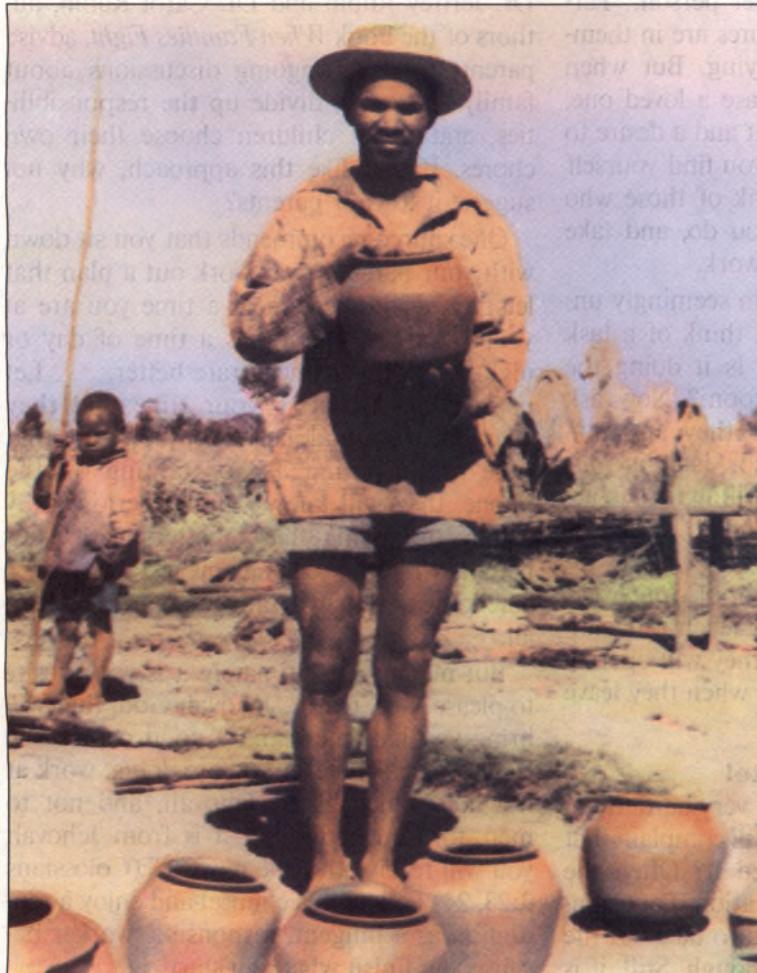
Good communication will also help your parents understand how you feel. Do you think that the distribution of chores is unfair? Do you find yourself overwhelmed by your parents' expectations? Then find a good time, and tell your parents how you feel.

Some parents invite their children to share in the decision-making process when household work assignments are distributed. Dr. Jeffrey Rubin and Dr. Carol Rubin, authors of the book *When Families Fight*, advise parents to have ongoing discussions about family chores, to divide up the responsibilities, and to let children choose their own chores. If you like this approach, why not suggest it to your parents?

One source recommends that you sit down with your parents and "work out a plan that lets you do homework at a time you are at your best. Everybody has a time of day or night when they concentrate better. . . . Let people know that is your time and they should leave you alone. If you don't use that time for watching TV or talking on the phone, they will know you are serious." By calmly discussing these matters with your parents without accusing anyone, you may be able to work out an arrangement agreeable to all.

But remember, ultimately it is your desire to please the Creator, Jehovah God, that will bring you happiness and a good name. The Bible says: "Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, and not to men, for you know that it is from Jehovah you will receive the due reward." (Colossians 3:23, 24) Follow this counsel and enjoy a reputation as a diligent, responsible worker because you finish what you start!

One of Madagascar's Special Arts



THE lovely display of clay vases, pots, and pans beckoned us as we strolled through the market of Antsirabe on our island home of Madagascar. Though all the pots were brown, they had large black blobs that seemed to be burned in. Curiosity impelled us to ask the young country boy selling them if our guess was right.

"Yes," he said, "they have to be kiln dried to come out like this. But we don't have modern, sophisticated ovens as in the cities. We use the traditional ways our fathers taught us."

Though the boy graciously answered our further questions, his words merely aroused our desire actually to see such clay pottery being made. So off we drove to the remote

place in the country where the villagers are clay-pottery experts. All were kind and hospitable. Pleased that city folk would be interested in their activities, they were more than willing to show us their secrets.

First of all, we learned that the clay they use is not ordinary clay at all. Ordinary clay, they say, easily breaks when heated. So they use a clay called *tanimanga*, (literally, "earth-blue"), found only in the country and on the banks of rivers or streams. One boy led us to the bank of a stream and dug in the ground. About a foot below the surface, there appeared some moist, gray earth—the *tanimanga!* Contrary to its name, however, in some places *tanimanga* is black or even yellowish. Nevertheless, it always contrasts with the usual red-orange soil of this central part of the island.

One man then told us that in order to make several vases or pots, he mixes one bag of *tanimanga* with one third of a bag of soft sand, also found on riverbanks. Then he adds some water to soften the mixture. How much is "some"? Precise measurements are not followed. Guided by experience, the potter stops adding water when he feels that the mixture has the right consistency—neither too solid nor too soft.

Next, this mixture of clay, sand, and water is placed on a mat of well-cleansed soil free of stones and straw. Then the potter treads it for a long time. This ensures that the clay is well mixed with the sand, which is the key to durable vases or pots. Several words in the Malagasy language describe this essential stage of pottery making: *hitsahina*, *disahina*, *tehafina*, *volavolaina*, *totoina*. Yet all refer to the same process—treading the clay mixture. When potters are sure the mixture is correct, they are ready to start actually making the clay pottery.

First they divide the mixture into balls the size of your fist. For the bottom of the pot,

they take one ball and press it against the bottom of a mold—usually an old and worn-out clay pot—to make its shape. After taking the mold off, they use another ball to form the lip, or mouth, of the pot. During this process, the potters are careful not to let the mixture become too dry, for it could easily break.

The pots are now left to dry in the sun for a whole day. Only then are they ready for the final step: kiln drying. But even this is done in stages. All the pots and vases are stuffed with straw and dried leaves and are placed on their side on the ground. This kindling material is set on fire and is allowed to burn for about 10 or 15 minutes. This hardens and strengthens the clay.

After that first burning, the pots are placed on another space covered with straw and dried leaves. This time, however, the pots are arranged opening against opening. The potters then put straw and dried leaves on top of and around the pots until they are buried. They then surround this area with lumps of earth in order to contain the fire within this area and to prevent the pots from rolling away. The kindling material is again set on fire and left to burn for at least 30 minutes or until the fire dies of itself. After the pots cool, they are taken out of the ashes and are ready for use.

Examining the pots closely, we could now understand those black blobs on the pots. They were the parts that were in direct contact with the fire. The rest of the pot was the usual color of burned clay—orange-brown.

This art of making pots has been passed on from generation to generation. We met a fellow who worked at a big textile factory in town but made some extra money by also making and selling pottery. He had learned the art from his father, who, in turn, had learned it from his father. And we are sure that the young man won't miss the opportunity to teach it to his children.

Watching the World

Less Public Support for Spanish Church

In Spain the government continues to give financial support to the Catholic Church. According to the Madrid daily *El País*, last year the church received 15,000,000,000 pesetas (\$140,000,000, U.S.). Part of the funds came from taxpayers, who marked a box on their tax forms designating a portion of their taxes as a contribution to the Catholic Church. However, *El País* noted that the number of taxpayers willing to make such a contribution is decreasing. In 1989 only 38 percent of the taxpaying public indicated that they wanted such funds passed on to the church. This is in a country that is supposedly nearly 100 percent Catholic.

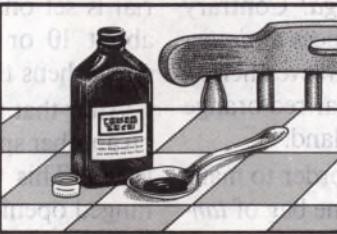
Abused Children

In some parts of South Africa, physical abuse of children is on the increase. An alarming number of abused children are very young and unable to seek help. According to the *Cape Times*, a Cape Town newspaper, a recent survey of 350 children hospitalized for abuse revealed that "60 percent were sexually and 40 percent physically abused." The *Cape Times* noted that "some 90% of victims of sexual abuse were girls averaging six years old, while 60% of physically abused patients were boys averaging five-and-a-half years old." In the Red Cross Children's Hospital, "a quarter of all physically (non-sexually) abused children (of all races) treated over the past two years were under a year old."

More Harmful Than Cocaine

In 1990, said the Brazilian newspaper *Jornal da Tarde*, 58 youths in the state of Minas Gerais died from a cough-syrup overdose. As a result, "the Brazilian government prohibited the sale and importation of four cough syrups," *Veja* magazine said. *Veja* added that according to one expert, "cough syrup with

tant." Although many took exception to his observations, *The Times* of London reported former headmaster John Rae as agreeing: "Academic qualifications only mean that the person is qualified in that particular subject, nothing more. Some academics, particularly in the universities, are out of touch with the real world. . . . I see that people without qualifications are often much more capable."



zipeprol can be a more merciless drug than marijuana or even cocaine because it can cause irreversible damage in a much shorter time." The continued use of *zipeprol* can upset the gastrointestinal system, cause respiratory depression, paralyze the bladder, and cause heart failure.

"University of Life"

John Major served as Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer before becoming prime minister in November 1990. He left school at 16, and by his own admission, his education came from "the university of life." "I know an awful lot of people who have an armful of academic qualifications," he said, "and . . . they are wholly useless, most of them. They have no common sense. It really has to be a combination of intelligence and common sense if people actually want to achieve things and often the common sense is more impor-

No Fear of AIDS

Federal officials at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., have expressed surprise and dismay at the increase in sexual activity among teenage girls in the United States in spite of the AIDS threat. *The Medical Post*, a Canadian newspaper, reports that "15-year-olds, for example, are more than five times as likely to be sexually active today than their counterparts were a generation ago." The number of young women from 15 to 19 years of age who admit to having engaged in premarital sex has almost doubled. This is especially the case among 15-year-old girls. According to *The Medical Post*, "health experts blamed the rising figures on popular culture's emphasis on sexuality and the failure of sex-education campaigns in the 1980s."

A Plastic "Stradivarius"?

According to Mrs. Judy Grahame, the marketing director of the London Philharmonic, "there comes a point in a professional violinist's career where they would have to pay around £60,000 [\$110,000, U.S.] for an instru-

ment." But now, after 20 years of research, an 81-year-old Englishman has produced what he calls "a plastic violin . . . as good as a Stradivarius." Made of graphite fiber and epoxy resin, it is mat black. The inventor says that with mass production techniques and injection molding, it would take no more than five hours to produce an instrument that could retail for as little as £150 (\$270, U.S.). "If the new violin is as good as claimed," added Mrs. Grahame, "it would revolutionise the musical world." Backed by numerous patents, plans are in hand to extend the range to include the viola, the cello, and the double bass, reports *The Daily Telegraph* of London.

War and the Toy Industry

Stimulated by television news coverage of the Persian Gulf war, the sale of war toys has tripled and even quadrupled in Japan. *The Daily Yomiuri* states that "the saturation media coverage of the Gulf war has sent children and young-at-heart adults to toy stores for plastic models of planes and tanks used by the allied forces against Iraq." The most popular war toys are models of the radar-evading Stealth bomber, the F-15 Eagle fighter, the M-1 Abrams tank, and the Apache helicopter. Some in the toy business are afraid that the increased sales will give the industry "a negative image of war-mongering."

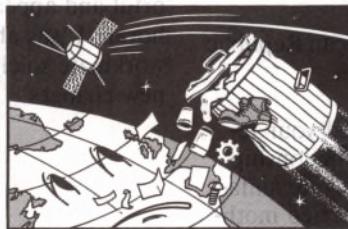
Animals in Danger

The Environment Committee of the State Council in China recently revealed that "because of reckless hunting, the number of wild animals is becoming smaller in China, and many rare animals

are facing extinction." After examining a number of restaurants, markets, ports, and private businesses in the province of Kwangtung, a group of inspectors recently found that rare animals continue to be killed and sold there. According to the magazine *China Today*, the "provincial forestry bureau reported that 1,286 rare animals, including the giant lizard, pangolin, giant salamander, monkey and civet, had been killed, sold or smuggled in 11 of the province's cities." *China Environmental News* notes that 'some people, including some officials, do not fully understand the importance of protecting wild animals. In their view, everybody can hunt wild animals because they don't belong to anyone.'

Trash in Space

Scientists are concerned about the increasing amount of man-made debris orbiting the earth. A collision between a spacecraft and such debris could result in



death for the astronauts or could otherwise jeopardize space missions. Researchers estimate that some 7,000 objects larger than a tennis ball and about 3.5 million smaller items are floating in space. "Even chips of paint can cause damage as they hurtle through space at up to 60,000kph [40,000 mph]," notes *The German Tribune* in a translation of an article that appeared in the Munich newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

A growing number of pieces of man-made debris orbiting the earth and colliding with one another could result in "a ring of cosmic dust surrounding the Earth like the rings of Saturn."

Dating in India

Dating is becoming increasingly popular in India, and some now seem to accept it as a fact of life. The magazine *India Today* notes that a decade ago, seeing couples walking together holding hands was "like spotting a rare bird. These days, they are as common as sparrows." Dating couples may be seen on public beaches, in parks, in movie theaters, and at fast-food places. Public displays of intimacy are more common. Some attribute this change in Indian society to peer pressure in schools and colleges and the proliferation of sexually explicit films and television programs.

Catholic Witches

Witchcraft is becoming part of the daily life of many Mexicans. *Siete Días*, a weekly magazine, reports that people seek the help of witches in resolving a variety of problems, such as headaches, colds, and work-related and romantic difficulties. The southern and central states of Veracruz, Oaxaca, Morelos, and Michoacán are well-known for their witches. *Siete Días* notes that "witchcraft in Mexico dates back to the time of the Aztecs. With the arrival of the Spaniards, witches and healers incorporated into their practice European traditions, such as Catholicism." One famous witch in La Petaca receives her clients in a room "filled with statues of the Virgin of Guadalupe and Jesus, photographs of John Paul II, and lighted candles."

From Our Readers

School Harassment The article "Young People Ask . . . How Can I Make Him Leave Me Alone?" (May 22, 1991) was wonderfully worded. When I was in school, classmates were always pressuring me about dating. When they saw that I would not compromise, they quit pestering me. Right now I'm out of school and working. About a month ago, an older man (37 years old) on the job approached me and told me that I was beautiful and that he wanted to get to know me. I'm 18. I was speechless for a while. But then I explained that I was studying to become one of Jehovah's Witnesses and placed some literature with him. He also accepted my rejection of his advances.

M. L., United States

Washing Clothes I am writing to express my appreciation for the article "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes . . ." (January 22, 1991). Being a special pioneer [a full-time evangelizer] serving in a rural area, I find myself having to wash my clothes by hand. Having read your article, I see no reason to envy those having automatic washing machines.

M. M., Dominican Republic

World Cup Soccer Having read your report on the World Cup soccer championship (May 8, 1991), I cannot agree with your unfavorable portrayal of this sport. Worried mothers might try to stop their sons from playing soccer because of reading about the violence in the sports stadiums.

S. B., Germany

We did not paint an unfavorable picture of the sport itself, nor did we discourage youngsters from enjoying sports in a balanced way. We merely reported the 'unfavorable picture' the media have painted of the hooligan element among some of the fans of this sport. Christians are wise to be cautious about attending an event where there is a strong likelihood of violence.—ED.

Suicide Mission The experience of Yoshimi Aono (January 22, 1991) seemed to have been written just for my father. Like Yoshimi Aono, my father was on board a submarine during the war. He saw the deaths of several members of the *Kaiten* Special Attack Corps. His war experience made him believe that neither God nor Buddha exists. Since becoming one of Jehovah's Witnesses, I have hoped for an opportunity to tell my father about God's love. The article has answered my prayer. I shall send it to him immediately.

A. S., Japan

"Awake!" Format I would like to express my appreciation for the beautiful new format for *Awake!* that started with the January 8, 1991, issue. Since I work in a technical publications department, I immediately noticed the change in layout, fonts, and colors. I have watched for 20 years how this magazine has changed with the times to become a more colorful and appealing tool to draw people to Jehovah. I was able to place an issue with a workmate solely on the basis of these beautiful new changes!

D. A., United States

Animal Articles Heartfelt thanks for the articles on animals and nature. At first I didn't really pay much attention to those articles, though I always noticed that the pictures were beautiful and colorful. One day someone mentioned an article he had read about an antelope called the kudu. (February 22, 1991) This aroused my interest in reading the article. I also began reading other articles, such as the one on the mongoose. (March 8, 1991) These articles have helped me to "see" Jehovah through his creation.

B. T., United States

A Sea Dying of Thirst

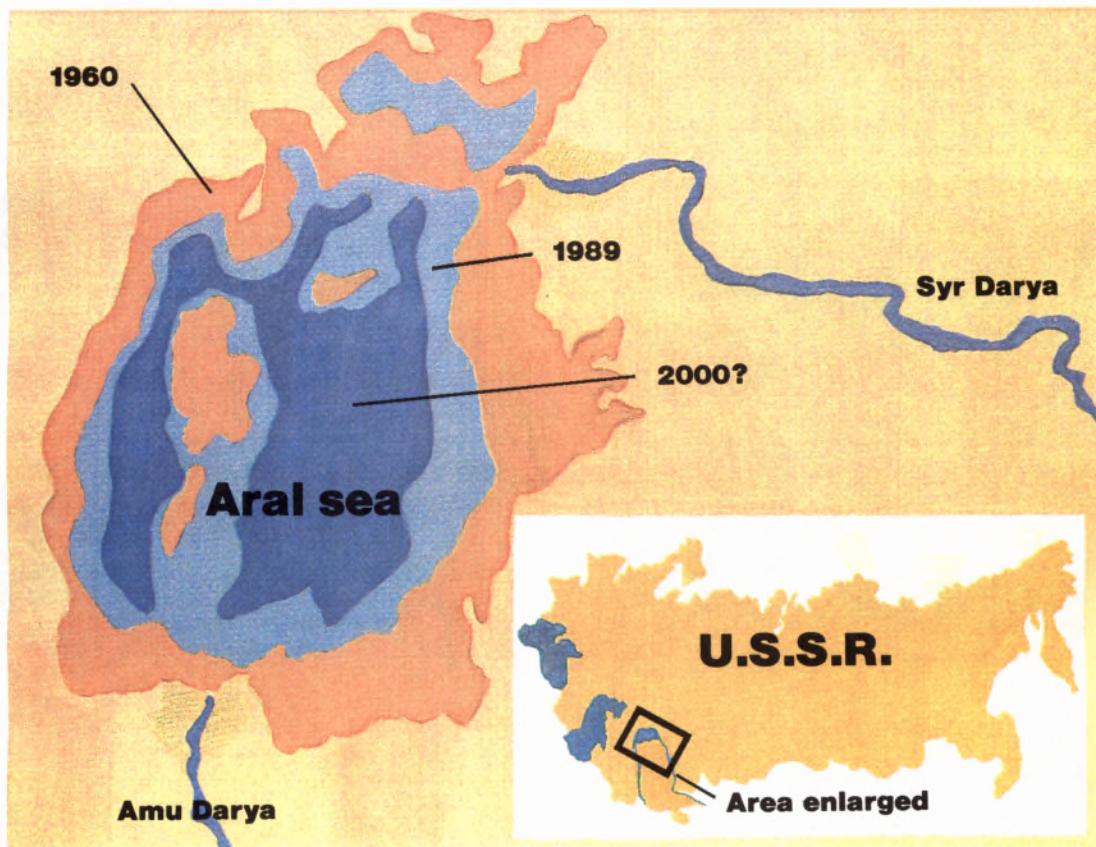
THE Aral sea in the Soviet Union is the world's fourth-largest inland body of water. But it is shrinking so rapidly that at its present rate, it will dry up completely by early next century.

According to *South* magazine, nearly half of the area covered by the original lake has been reduced to a saline desert. "The water left in the depleted Aral has become so saline that 20 of the 24 species of fish which used to live there have disappeared," notes the magazine.

In the past the huge Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers poured more than 12 cubic miles of water into the Aral sea each year. But now this abundant water supply has been reduced to a mere

trickle. Why? According to *South* magazine, these rivers are being used to irrigate the ever-expanding cotton and rice fields in the region.

The Soviet government has now launched a program to save the Aral sea from the clutches of the desert. By modernizing irrigation systems and reducing the areas devoted to growing cotton and rice, the program aims to save two cubic miles of water a year, and it is hoped that this can be increased to seven cubic miles early next century. Although this would not restore the lake to its original size, hopefully it would prevent further shrinkage. *South* magazine notes that many fear that this program is another case of "too little, too late."



A Sea of Data to Tame

Today's Web is a veritable ocean of sensory information, from video feeds to sensor data to user-generated content. The challenge is how to tame all that data so it can be used effectively. One way is to use machine learning to identify patterns and extract useful information. Another is to use natural language processing to understand the context of the data. A third approach is to use deep learning to automatically generate insights from the data. All three approaches have their own strengths and weaknesses, and it's up to us to figure out which one is best for our specific needs.

The challenge of managing big data is not just technical; it's also social. As more and more data is collected, there is a risk that it will be used for nefarious purposes. That's why it's important to have clear guidelines for how data is used and who has access to it. It's also important to respect people's privacy and to be transparent about how data is being used. By doing this, we can help ensure that data is used for the betterment of society, rather than for harm.

