

# TEEN Topics



## IN NEW BERN TODAY

One of the nation's more successful youth counselors has his own approach to establishing self-discipline among high school students, especially when it comes to a student's homework.

"I would make doing it as pleasurable a chore as possible," he says. "For example, many parents say, 'Go to your room and do your homework.' I think that's an extremely adult capability to go off by yourself and do something you don't particularly want to do, and do it well."

What's his suggestion? With the youngsters who don't like to do it, I would have them do it close to the family, on the dining-room table. They're not isolated when they do this."

The counselor admits there are distractions when this method of study is used, but he classifies them as usually positive distractions. "For

example, let's say the student is learning some French verbs and he says he can't get them. You say, 'work on them ten minutes, and then I'll listen.' This is a positive way to do work together."

A parent has the wrong attitude when he or she makes homework sound like punishment. "Youngsters are going to move less and less toward these chores, if the attitude toward them is punitive." Don't make it sound like a dose of medicine, Mom and Dad.

And says the counselor, "You have to be careful not to impose your experience. Most adults say, 'When I was young...' and for a very good reason, because this is one of the very few sources they have for a standard. Whenever you hear yourself saying it or thinking it, let the red lights flash, and say to yourself, 'There's a better standard than that for my youngsters.' They're going to be engaged in professions that we know nothing of today."

Not that parents should be afraid to speak their minds. "I say: Hold your standards. Let your standards be known, but not in a bombastic fashion. Let the teenager spiral round this but be very well acquainted with the standard of the parents."

"The best parent is a person who's secure enough in his own values that he doesn't have to be oppressive, bombastic, fearful." Maybe it's worth trying.

## Perfect Timing



NURSE-MIDWIFE Genevieve Feyen gives childbirth education classes at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson. The Nurse-midwife program, which the March of Dimes helps support, contributes to family health by emphasizing the importance of early and regular prenatal care.

## Looking Glass

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croakers.

Yesterday was when you could walk any street in town, any time of night, and not be afraid something bad was going to happen to you. The only place you whistled nervously was passing Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Yesterday was when you knew that in grammar school all you could count on was being in an operetta, and maybe just as a flower or something equally awful. When you got in High school, there were class plays. What ever did happen to them?

Yesterday was when, in boyhood, a lot of fathers who have long-haired sons today had close cropped craniums, and wore skull caps in a vain effort to make the shortened locks stay flat.

Yesterday was when the fair sex turned downright scandalous, and publicly wore dresses that were actually above their knees. Unfortunately, the human knee is no prettier than the human elbow, or the navels displayed today.

Yesterday was when young females of the Ticker Tape Twenties were called flappers. Everybody knows that, but how many of you remember that youthful males who did their thing in the same generation were called cake eaters?

Yesterday was when, before this editor came along, making love was called sparking. Later it was referred to as spooning, and by the time we had our first date it was being referred to as pitching woo.

Even if teenagers had heard about dope, they wouldn't have had money to invest in it. But believe us, son, life didn't short change us.

## Top Ten Tunes In New Bern This Week

1. You're So Vain—Carly Simon.
2. Superstition—Stevie Wonder.
3. Me & Mrs. Jones—Billy Paul.
4. Clair—Gilbert O'Sullivan.
5. Rockin' Pneumonia—Johnny Rivers.
6. Super Fly—Curtis Mayfield.
7. Your Mama Don't Dance—Loggins & Messina.
8. Why Can't We Live Together—Timmy Thomas.
9. Crocodile Rock—Elton John.
10. Keeper of the Castle—4 Tops.

(This week's Mirror pick for a future spot in the Top Ten is James Taylor's Don't Let Me Be Lonely.)

## Craven County's Country and Western Favorites

1. She's Got to Be A Saint—Ray Price.
2. Soul Song—Joe Stampley.
3. A Picture of Me Without You—George Jones.
4. Lovin' On Back Streets—Mel Street.
5. Old Dogs, Children, and Watermelon Wine—Tom T. Hall.
6. Fool Me—Lynn Anderson.
7. Love's The Answer—Tanya Tucker.
8. Catfish John—Johnny Russell.
9. Pass Me By—Johnny Rodriguez.
10. She Needs Someone To Hold Her—Conway Twitty.

(This week's Mirror pick for a future spot in the Top Ten is Merle Haggard's I Wonder If They Ever Think Of Me.)

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