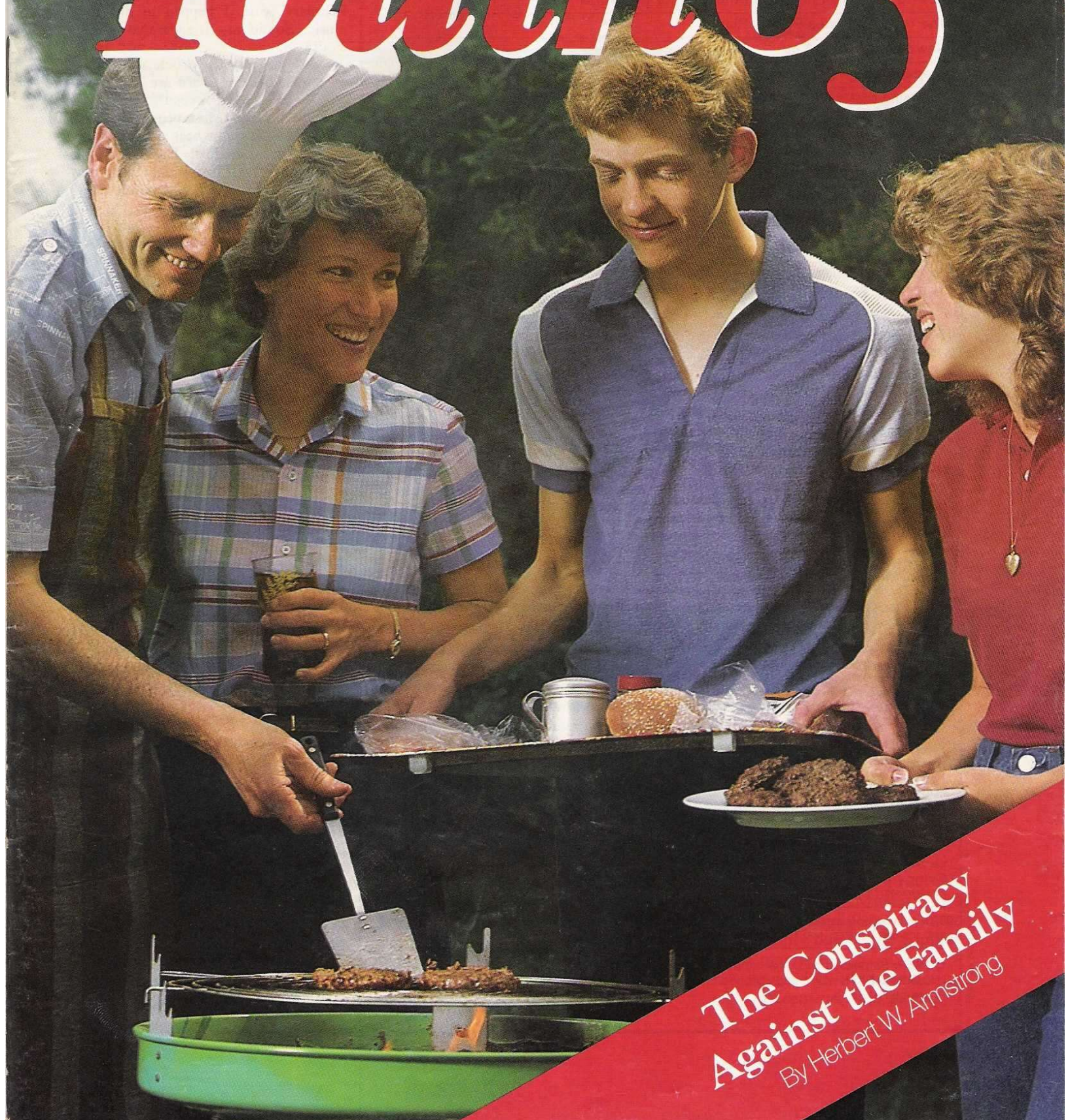


JUNE

Youth 83



**The Conspiracy
Against the Family**
By Herbert W. Armstrong

The Conspiracy Against the Family

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Few realize it! But even in the affluent United States, Britain and other Western countries, we face an enormous and growing tragedy. The institutions of marriage and family life are being formidably attacked.

A solid family structure is the very foundation of any stable and permanent society. But today in the affluent countries a conspiracy is developing that seeks to destroy marriage as an institution, as well as the FAMILY. This is another decisive bit of evidence that this world's civilization is definitely in the end time — the end of this world as we know it!

The threat is dual: 1) Unrealized by most, there is a widespread and aggressive conspiracy to destroy the institution of marriage. 2) Marital relationships and family life are breaking down, and divorces are increasing alarmingly.

I feel strongly the need to talk to our youth about this major threat to civilization. It's time the facts were made known. Today many psychologists are saying that the institution of marriage is doomed — on the way out. And there is a definite movement to bring that about.

The conspiracy consists of a two-pronged attack: 1) a well-



organized movement to subtly influence college students to prefer *alternatives* to marriage, and 2) an attempt to influence the general public by newspaper and magazine articles, television programs, the lecture platform, the women's lib movement and student or former student rebels of the "New Left." How much of all this propoganda has been planted in the minds of the psychologists, professors, writers, publishers, women's lib crusaders and others by trained propogandists can only be estimated.

There are publishers that seek out writers and authors to supply them with material offering alternatives to marriage — such as homosexuality, group marriages, sex outside of marriage, communal families — writers who will shout the gospel that "marriage is finished, outdated, obsolete, on the way out." This is a war that is being vigorously and fanatically waged. Every subtle method is being employed to capture the

minds of those of pre-marriage age.

Today virtually every college and university in the United States offers numerous courses in psychology and sociology. These courses often make required reading of certain books and articles that picture marriage as now outdated and soon to become a relic of the past. They represent that both men and women want variety in sex and other social relationships. They ridicule as a worn-out, old-fashioned idea

the belief that one should confine all intimate relations to one person.

One book, which was required reading at some 100 campuses in the United States, has a chapter on mate swapping, including the statement: "The family that swings together clings together." The book represents mate swapping as a beneficial experience.

A few years ago, the pioneers in applying methods of scientific research to the subject of sex, Masters and Johnson, held a symposium in Chicago with some six or seven couples who freely admitted to "swinging" as a regular experience at certain chosen intervals. They exchanged their philosophies on the subject, probed by questions from Dr. Masters and Dr. Johnson (actually Mrs. Masters). Masters and Johnson checked five years later and found only one of the couples was still married.

But now what about existing
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Photo by Hal Finch

The Conspiracy

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marriages, home and family life? These have given great encouragement to the conspiracy against marriage and the family.

The so-called new morality — which is actually nothing but gross *immorality* — has gained considerable public acceptance since the end of World War II. This crusade of the new morality has brought about, first, far more openness and frankness of discussion and conversation about sex and morals; and second, a much more lax behavior, especially among the oncoming younger generation. And one of its greatest dangers is the advent of a new and almost total PERMISSIVENESS.

I think it probably started in the Roaring 20s in the days of the “flappers.” Those, especially the girls who were in their late teens and early 20s in the 1920s, became much more permissive. They married and became mothers, but they relaxed authority and parental guidance over their children. Then World War II produced another generation — still more permissive.

Discipline relaxed and virtually disappeared in almost all of the public schools. And now, in the past decade or so, most of the college and university campuses have provided coed dorms where men are free to visit women in their rooms, and women are free to visit men with almost no restrictions.

Of course, the worldwide conspiracy against marriage and the attack against the FAMILY institution has not, as yet, made any sensational dent in the number of marriages taking place. But it is becoming a THREAT that I feel our readers should know about. □

Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*, contains more information on this subject. See the inside front cover for the address nearest you.

Moods Ruin Day

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problem may not send you running through the streets shouting *Eureka*, but it may start you toward a long-range solution.

• *Do something productive.* Moodiness somehow tries to convince us that sitting and feeling sorry for ourselves is the most enjoyable way to spend our time. Don't believe it.

One of the most effective ways to beat the blues is to get our minds off ourselves and onto somebody or something else. So, if you feel the storm gathering, teach your little sister how to do a cartwheel. Get absorbed in a good book. Work on your bike. Volunteer to fix dinner or do a good deed for someone in need.

The one activity to avoid, though (and this goes for the exceptionally good moods as well as bad ones), is making decisions that affect your future. If you quit the soccer team when you're low, you may regret it. When the mood has leveled out, you'll still remember how you felt, but you'll be able to make a more rational decision you will be able to live with.

• *Talk to somebody.* Having a friend around helps fight the loneliness that comes along with bad moods. And sometimes just explaining our feelings to our parents or to a close friend can go a long way toward relieving and controlling these moods.

• *Take your problem and frustration to God.* Which of your friends can help you the most if you go to Him first? Many teens have found that asking God to help them through a rainy day works wonders.

God, after all, is the One who gave us the capacity to have moods, feelings and emotions in the first place. Elijah, Moses, even David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), had their good days and their bad days. Reading through a few of the Psalms will convince you that David had as many intense highs and lows as any teen today.

When you feel you're having one of those days or sense a mood coming on, why not do what David wrote in Psalm 42? “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God (Psalm 42:5, RSV).

David discovered a key to overcoming bad moods through talking and praise to God. This biblical solution to depression or bad moods is as current as today's newspaper. Try it and you'll see.

The Bible declares that our “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). Read some of David's psalms daily. I think you will find them helpful in surviving the moods that hinder us.

David survived his moods and made the best of them, trusting in God for help.

You can survive them, too — and enjoy them as the natural part of living that they are. □

CHINA

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visit the Guangdong Botanical Garden and the city zoo. Here may be seen giant pandas from the forests of western China. In the evenings, gymnastic and acrobatic shows draw large crowds, and the delighted audience applauds each act wildly.

Our brief visit to Canton — or Guangzhou as we have by now learned to call it — is nearing an end.

We've toured the city, sampled its restaurants and cultural life and found out a little about what life is like on the suburban communes. We pause to say thank you and good-bye to our interpreter, Mr. Deng, and our courier, Mr. Yung, as we climb aboard the train. As it rattles along the track of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, through the rice paddies of southern China and over the border into Hong Kong, we reflect on all that we have learned in the past few days of life in the People's Republic of China. □