

One Boy Out of Four Smokes Before Finishing High School

Washington - UPI - While millions of adult smokers are guiltily wondering whether (or how) to give up the cigarette habit, millions of teenage boys and girls are deliberately forming it.

You don't need statistical surveys to confirm this fact. Just take a look at any group of American young people - in a soda shop near a high school, in a bowling alley on Friday night, or at any teenage social function.

But if you really want figures, they can be had. A study in Portland, Ore., shows that one boy out of four begins smoking before he leaves high school. One girl out of eight smokes before she's 17. Some boys - and girls - are lighting up before they're out of junior high.

Disturbing
This may be good news for the tobacco industry, which can look forward to another generation of cigarette addicts. But it is profoundly disturbing to organizations and individuals who are concerned about the future health of America's youngsters.

The current issue of the P.T.A. Magazine, published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, carries an article entitled "Don't Let Tobacco Trap Your Teenager."

It was written by Dr. W. W. Bauer, director of health education for the American Medical association.

Dr. Bauer urges parents and schools to acquaint young people, before they begin smoking, with "the best information available about tobacco and its known effects upon the human physiology."

Never mind the old saw about "stunting your growth," he says. Give the kids the straight dope - for example, the figures from the Hammond-Horn study showing that death rates from all causes are 70 per cent higher among pack-a-day cigarette smokers than among non-smokers; the official warning of the U. S. Public Health Service that the "weight of the evidence" clearly indicates a cause-and-effect relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer; the half-dozen studies which show that

the incidence of coronary artery disease tends to rise with the number of cigarettes smoked.

Give Facts
Just give them the facts, Dr. Bauer says, with no attempt to propagandize or brainwash or above all to bribe them into not smoking.

Offering a young person a bribe not to smoke until he's 21, or threatening him with various punishments if he does smoke, is a futile approach, according to Dr. Bauer. The only no-smoking rule that is likely to stand up under social pressure, he believes, is one that a young person has laid down for himself, with complete freedom of choice.

The big hitch, in Dr. Bauer's view, is that adults set such a lousy example.

He quotes the teenage boy who asked: "Why should I pay attention to my Dad's lectures on the dangers of smoking when he shaves every morning with a cigarette dangling from his mouth?"

It's a good question, and Dr.

Castro Executes Two More Cubans

Havana - UPI - Premier Fidel Castro's firing squads took the lives of two more Cubans early today increasing their toll for this year to at least 17.

The men executed were Carlos M. Delgado Duardo, found guilty of killing one of economic czar Ernesta Che Guevara's bodyguards, and Balamacio Palmet Soret, convicted of terrorist activity.

Delgado was one of 12 defendants in a military trial Wednesday from which Castro's authorities barred UPI Correspondent Henry Raymond, the only newsman present.

Bauer suggests that parents had better have a straight answer.

If you can't or won't give up cigarettes, he says, at least be honest enough to admit to your child that you "no longer possess the energy, the will power or the serenity of mind to break your own inveterate smoking habits." In other words, confess that you're hooked, and too weak to do anything about it.

"The advice, 'do what I say, not what I do,' is admittedly far less convincing than is uncompromising example," the doctor concludes. "But it may be better than no guidance at all."



YOUTHS ESCAPE DEATH—This old model car filled with 13 laughing youths was struck by a train in Springfield, Ill., and was dragged for more than a city block before the train was able to come to a halt. Ten of the passengers were in the back seat. Only one of the youths, 19-year-old Kenneth Landis who lost both his legs, was seriously injured. The others were also hospitalized. (UPI Telephoto)

FINDS BIG BILLS
New York - UPI - A stage-struck youth was promised a \$50 reward Wednesday for finding and turning in to police two \$10,000 bills. The owner of the treasury notes, John Berech, 66, claimed the bills and said he would give the reward to Ronald Burkard, 20, a shoe salesman who is studying acting.

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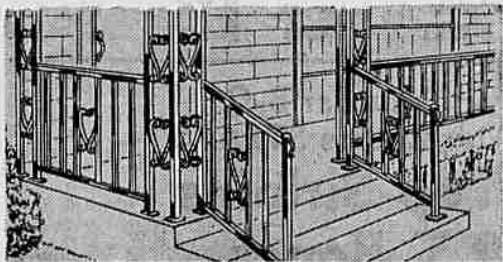
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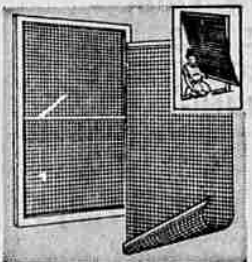
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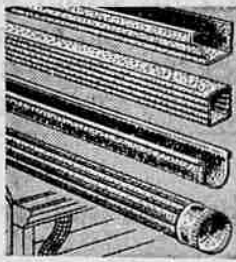
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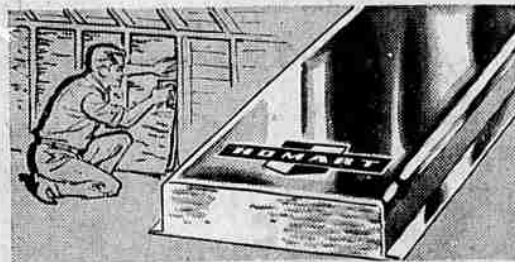
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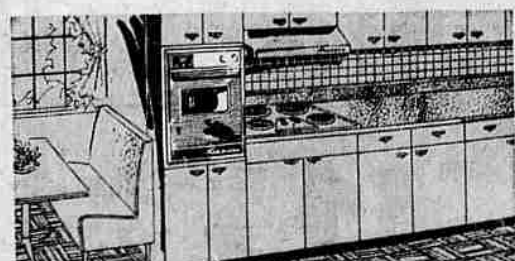
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