

In more innocent years past, the natural desire of young people to undergo new experiences—and to horrify their elders—led to such activities as goldfish swallowing and telephone booth stuffing.

Today that same desire—apparently coupled with greater sophistication, a social climate of conflict and a disciplinary philosophy of permissiveness—is leading increasing numbers of young people into drug abuse.

Parents, physicians, educators, lawmakers and others share growing concern about the problem and ways to combat it.

As one step toward meeting the challenge, AMA has launched a nationwide educational program on drug abuse.

The production and distribution of a comprehensive educational packet of materials aimed at both physicians and laymen has laid the groundwork for a program that can be carried out at the community level. In the packet, among other things, are the AMA's basic booklet on the subject, *The Crutch That Cripples* (which ran in the September and October issues of *Today's Health*), and a series of JAMA articles reviewing the latest scientific

findings on marihuana, other hallucinogens, stimulants, sedatives and narcotics.

The strategic position of physicians as leaders of the health team and their understanding of drug abuse and its possible consequences make state and county medical societies and their members best suited to implement such a program, which already has been well accepted by educators, civic leaders, the military and allied medical and health organizations.

Materials developed for the educational program are tailored to community needs.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS—DRUG ABUSE

