

# From AIDS to Adolescent Fitness

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**T**HE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION frequently carries articles on health, for Seventh-day Adventists have emphasized health since the founding of our denomination. This issue presents a range of topics, from adolescent fitness (Mason, Haddock, and Perrin) to the teacher's personal health (Neish, Perrin, Haddock, and Knowlton). Gail Rice provides a quick checkup for evaluating your school health program. Elaine Fleming presents an easy-to-follow avenue to nutrition education. Gary Hopkins updates teachers on the latest information about HIV/AIDS, so they will know more than their students ("Street information" is not always accurate!).

Four research articles present previously unpublished studies done in Adventist schools. Accurate information about what is going on is always preferable to what people say—or think—may be going on. Mutch and McBride address that problem head-on in their article on "Myths and Make-Believe." Hopkins and Oliver explore knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Adventist secondary-level health teachers. Two studies present attitudes, behaviors, behavioral intentions, and contextual factors that may place students in Adventist schools at risk for HIV infection. Hopkins, Hopp, Hopp, Neish, and Rhoads studied these factors in North American secondary schools, while Modeste, Hopp, and Green did a similar study in Trinidad and Tobago.

Faculty at Loma Linda University and Andrews University continue to be resources for the Adventist school system, fulfilling one of the traditional missions of higher education, being of service to their supporting constituency.—Joyce W. Hopp.

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## INTRODUCTION

**A** commitment to healthful living goes back to Seventh-day Adventism's earliest days. This emphasis has been so important that in some places the church is known primarily for its unique dietary habits and its medical institutions. Among medical professionals, the term "Adventist Advantage" has come to mean a life-style that offers longer life and better health.

In 1997, designated by the church as the Year of Health and Healing, THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION is devoting an issue to this topic. Our teachers face formidable new challenges in many areas relating to health: AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, nutrition, exercise, etc. Several articles offer suggestions for determining the needs of our students and community and applying the results. We hope that this issue will serve as a catalyst for schools to integrate a wide range of health topics into the curriculum so that students will not only learn factual material, but also be inspired to choose a life-style that treats their bodies as the "temple of God."—Gayle Rhoads, former Principal of Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, California.

*The JOURNAL staff wishes to express deep appreciation to Dr. Gary Hopkins, coordinator for this issue. During its early stages of production, he moved from Loma Linda University to Andrews University, but his enthusiasm and commitment never wavered.*

*The articles' comprehensiveness and up-to-date statistics and references are a tribute to his attention to detail. Without all of his hard work, the issue would never have gotten out of the planning stage.*