**HAT youthful "whoopee" condemned by viewers-with-alarm is but a part of modern youth's quest for truth—an "outer manifestation of inner restlessness"—

Miss Beth Campbell, Leader reporter turned preacher for the occasion, told an audience of more than 1000 persons at the First Congregational church Sunday night.

Miss Campbell, herself just 21 and less than a year out of college, chose to talk on "Youth and Truth," from the text, "Rejoice in thy youth." She made a quaint picture as she entered the pulpit with the pastor of the church, the Reverend G. Bryant Drake, and the chairman of the occasion, York Johnson, youthful attorney, and member of the Sunday Night Forum in charge of the service.

For she is quite a little girl, and was apparently impressed with her responsibility and the seriousness of the occasion. She wore a dress of deep blue with a wide, soft frill of white collar—a cherubic figure, solemnly carrying a large black Bible. A serious smile on her fresh, earnest young face, round and rosy, was her first greeting to the crowd that packed the church to the remotest corner.

Miss Campbell began by saying that her change of role from reporter to preacher "was not such a difficult transition as you might imagine."

"In my mind," she said, "there is a close relation between a newspaper person and a minister. A reporter's business is to get the facts, all of them, accurately; and to relate them fearlessly. The editorial writer in turn interprets them."

"My conception of a real minister is just that and a little bit more. He searches out the truth, faces the facts of life and religion, and presents them fearlessly, interpreting them in the light of the world we live in and in the light of the teachings of Christ."

She spoke briefly and clearly, unembarrassed, and all heard her with ease—even those standing far back in the back of the hall.

The words of her text, "Rejoice in thy youth," she said "are heartening to those of us who have heard our generation and its behavior railed at from magazines, books and lecture platforms—and often from the pulpit."

"Why I have heard ministers who talked as if all that was good and honest and worthwhile would die with them and their cronies," she said.

"These pessimistic Prattlers go on criticizing youth far into the night. 'You dance,' they say. 'You smoke, you flirt. You scoff at churches, discard everything that is sacred and traditional.'"

"And so they go on, raving and ranting, as if merely being young was a sin."

"But her belief is, Miss Campbell said, that this flippance, this search for a thrill, is only natural. The whole world today is artificial," she explained. "At the movies we hear artificial singing, even artificial talk. We eat artificial food, come in contact with things that are bogus every day."

"As young people we are trying to adjust ourselves to these conditions. Is it surprising?" she asked, "that we are often dissatisfied? Lost? Puzzled?"

Young people today do want a good time, she said, adding, "and until they see a real stop sign, they will speed merrily along their way. Hellfire and brimstone mean just that much nothing."

"Distant punishments are too vague," she explained. "But this idea of 'living abundantly,' she said, 'of rejoicing in youth,' and living up to a sort of code, with a daily checkup with yourself, with the kind of a God who is interested—I can see that. I can grasp it. As a young person, I delight in it.'"

Throughout her sermon, Miss Campbell emphasized repeatedly modern youth's quest for truth—for reality.

"As I was preparing this sermon, I chanced upon a very timely news story that it seems to me illustrates a point," she said. "Five boys die as result of drinking radiator anti-freeze solution which they thought was wine." Seeking excitement, they even went so far as to turn housebreaker to obtain it, and to pass it around to their friends. Now they are dead.

"Those boys were seeking, searching," she said, "Their conception of truth was 'booze at a dance' and now they are 'dancing in hell'—at least so some of my more conservative minister friends would put it.

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Because of their dissatisfaction with the churches, many young persons today are "essentially religious, but don't know it," Miss Campbell suggested.

Current history and current literature—the war, the new schools of biography—have been disillusioning to youth—and have lead to a new search for truth, she said. When young people discovered that during the war governments themselves perverted the truth—when they discovered that "G. Washington and A. Lincoln weren't always the little tin gods they were cracked up to be"—their quest for fundamental truth became more intense, she said.

"Youth," she said, "wants to know the facts—all of them. By knowing the truth, even if it is derogatory, essential values can be arrived at."

Miss Campbell concluded by saying that "Life must be more than a gymnasium or a glorified laboratory. It must be full to the brim with happiness and also with meaning."

"A thrill? There is nothing more thrilling than life that is rich, free-sparking—life that is taught us by Jesus."

"His pathway is one of adventure; one that challenges youth.

"We young people are seeking, searching for truth; and in Jesus we can find it. Perhaps this religion game is worth the effort which has publicly declared that no one has the right to challenge anyone upon their interpretations. That the overwhelming majority of us are gladly conceding for it would be a poor world indeed if we did not fashion in our minds and without instances, often striking close at home, of ministers, or preachers if you will, whose hearts may flame with a devotion they believe genuine, who present us the spectacle of clowns on holy ground; preachers who, shouting salvation, interpret the word of the Man of Love by vomiting rumors of the foulest scandals about their fellow men and women.

With humble respect for Doctor Hervey we would say that we believe he has the wrong opinion which laymen or clergymen, I say, "Power to preachers," seldom unexpressed. Doctor James Hervey of the Benton Avenue Methodist church will not agree that such is our privilege for he has publicly declared that no one has the right to challenge a preacher and it is upon that point that we respectfully disagree with him.

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"The church today does not always offer this religion in a form that satisfies youth, she added.

"The church has in a measure stood still," she said. "It is natural to grow. The world has grown. The churches, many young persons today—have been disillusioned by thebrands behind the times.

"They are scaring young people away from religion rather than drawing them to it."

"Some young persons today," she said, "have become so satiated with the brands of Christianity that have been hurled at them, that they condemn it all."

"We can't remember when lip, nor the whale swallowed Jonah. And how far is anyone going to get arguing with people who swallowed what or why?" she explained.

"Unless the church takes heed, all I can see for it is an early death and a group of mourning friends.

More optimistically, she suggested that "Organized Christianity must stop, take stock, and realize that it must adjust itself to this modern world.

"Centuries of accumulated dead wood must be dropped off—to reveal that social ideal which was the inspiring motive and the central truth of the teaching of Jesus Christ."