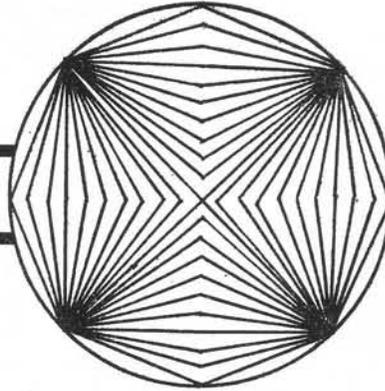


## Points of View



### I Agree!

Dear Editor:

Your editorial in the Summer, 1971, issue of the *Journal* interested me a great deal. I agree with you—Extension's now spending much time defending itself. I also agree that it's not easy to explain the need for this defense.

It's my observation, however, that Extension may have been its own worst enemy in creating the situation in which it finds itself. For the last 10 or 15 years, many Extension papers, speeches, conferences, seminars, and studies have been directed toward such favorite topics as "What Is Extension's Future Role?" "Has Extension Outlived Its Usefulness?" etc. To verify this, you have only to review the conference programs of many states for the last several years, or even look at the list of articles appearing in the *Journal of Cooperative Extension* as shown in the Cumulative Index, Volumes I-VI, 1963-1968.

To me it seems quite understandable that the public would raise questions about Extension and its future if it observed Extension itself constantly raising unresolved questions about its own role.

The above isn't to say that we should abandon self-study and self-examination in our efforts to best serve the public and accomplish our mission. But, it is to say that we may have injected doubt into the minds of our own staff and particularly others by the excessive use of the theme "What Is Extension's Future Role?"

In short, my point is that we in Extension should be offering answers to this question rather than constantly raising it for public questioning. If we can't or don't answer it, it's only natural that someone else will try to answer it for us.

HOYT M. WARREN  
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### Valid Criticisms

With all due respect to Mr. Loren F. Goyen, I must take issue with his article entitled "Youth Agent's Job: Critical Components," which appeared in the Summer, 1971, issue of the *Journal*.

Initially, I must call into question the validity of the questionnaires relied on so heavily by Mr. Goyen. Little information was provided about the content or approach used in the questionnaires. Did they, for example, take

into account the age, educational background, or working environment of those responding—variables I would suggest are essential in any sort of analysis of youth agents? Since Mr. Goyen's comments were based almost exclusively on these questionnaires, the lack of information about them seemed to me to lessen the credibility of the article.

Another area of concern I had was Mr. Goyen's analysis of incidents. I questioned what criteria reporting agents used in evaluating an effective or ineffective incident. Assuming there was no uniform criteria, I must question the classification system arrived at by Mr. Goyen—a system for which he provided no rationale.

I must also take issue with the number of unsubstantiated generaliza-

tions that appeared throughout the article. One example was Mr. Goyen's statement that "membership often indicates the quality of the county 4-H program." No evidence whatever was offered to support this rather sweeping statement.

Although I would agree, at least in part, with the conclusions reached by Mr. Goyen, I failed to see how his article provided any adequate substantiation for them.

Finally, I must question the article for its lack of historical or humanistic scope and depth. I find Mr. Goyen's attempt at a statistical approach to be ineffective in an area where intangibles as human interaction and interpersonal relations play such a vital role.

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