

## A Hair-Eating Doll

During the Christmas season of 1996, a bizarre story was carried by the news media about a hair-eating doll. The main feature of the doll in question, according to the *Associated Press*, was a mechanical mouth that chewed on plastic carrots and French fries.

Unfortunately, the doll couldn't tell the difference between plastic vegetables and children's hair. In the first five months the doll was on the market, the Consumer Product Safety Commission received 35 complaints from parents whose children had their hair caught in the mouth of the doll. One woman in Campbell, Ohio, had to cut off a shank of her daughter's hair after it became snarled in gears in the doll's throat.

Like that doll, some things that appear quite harmless can entangle and hurt us. Most of us know what it's like to get involved innocently in a relationship or pastime only to eventually find that we were caught up in something hurtful from which we could not break away.

Temptation – whether it is an addiction, distraction, entertainment, habit, money, pastime, pleasure, priorities, snares or time management – can come in an attractive package. But it carries a high price tag.

--Beecher Hunter