

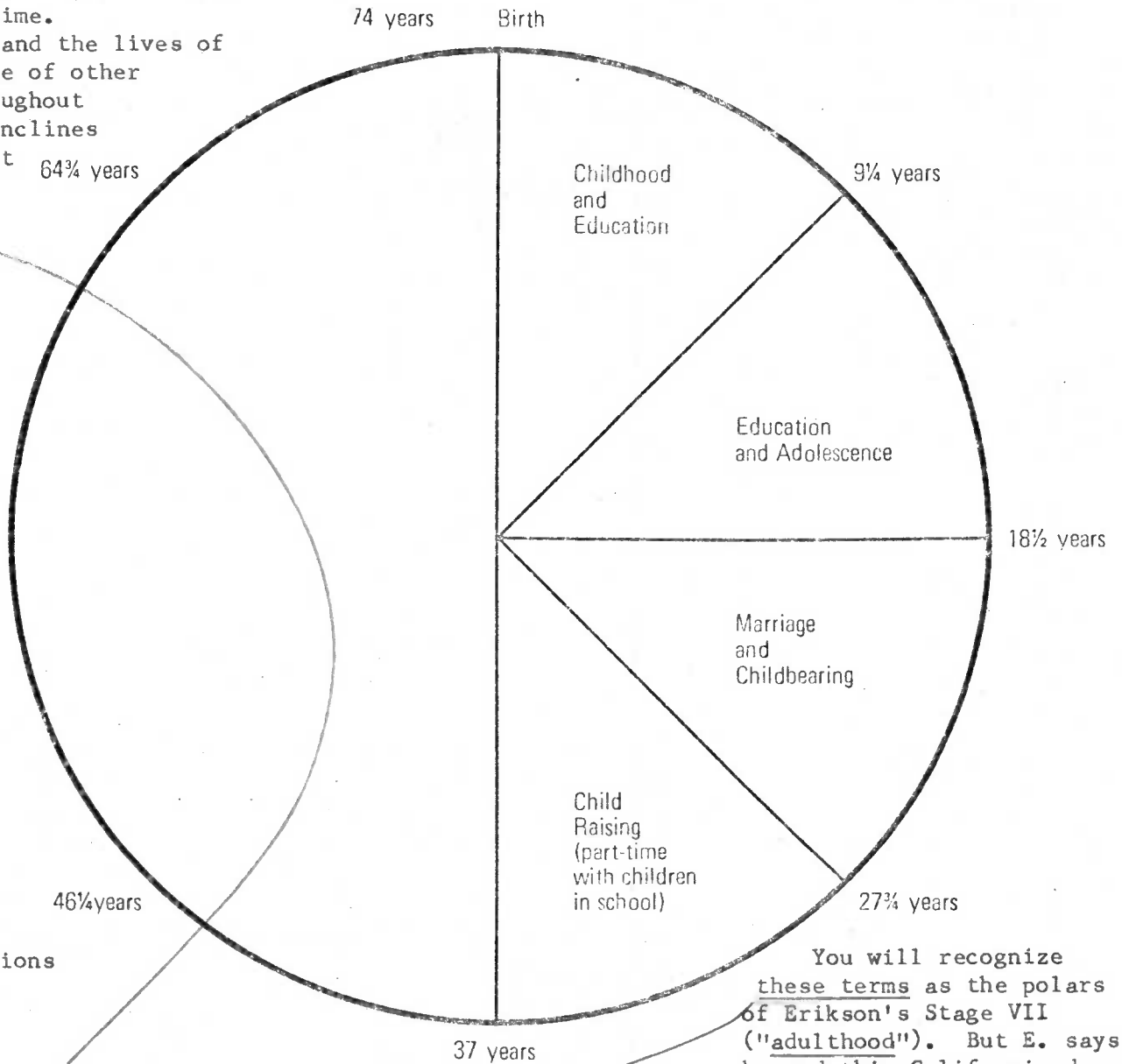
As I write this commentary (25 Mar 74),
 I've just put down the phone from **A WOMAN'S LIFE**
 hearing that my

mother, a decade older than this
 piagraph allows for, has been taken
 to the hospital, probably for
 the last time.

Her life, and the lives of
 a multitude of other
 women throughout
 my life, inclines
 me to shout
 "YES!"

to
 64 3/4 years
 55 1/2 years

but
 to raise
 some questions
 about



The blank half could be filled in with "vegetation," employment, political activity, community work, church or club work, etc., but should it not be filled with productivity and the utilization of talents, abilities, and interests? Do people stagnate if they don't continue to grow? What happens to a woman who hasn't worked in 20 years if she is suddenly widowed or divorced at age 43? Shouldn't the fulltime homemaker's child-raising years be devoted part-time to continued education and preparation for the last half of her life?

You will recognize these terms as the polars of Erikson's Stage VII ("adulthood"). But E. says --beyond this California documentation?--that being adult is not enough; one must go on to "maturity" (Stage VIII). But religion, especially biblical religion (Judaism and Christianity) says being mature is not enough; we must add, as a Stage XI, "sanctity," participation in BERITH (God's covenant for the nature-history fulfilment of his purpose) through SHALOM (the intention and realizing of well-being) to KAVOD (God's glory).

California
 Advisory Commission
 on the
 Status of Women