

The Highland Rambler

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Highland High School, Salt Lake City, Utah

Friday, February 10, 1989

The Dropout Rate: Why Kids Quit School

by Hilari Kleine
Rambler Editor in Chief

In today's society, success is nearly impossible without a solid educational background. Technological advances and strong business competition demand knowledgeable, high-performance employees. Most jobs paying over minimum wage are accessible only to high school graduates. Surprisingly, however, increasing numbers of young people are choosing to drop out of high school, ultimately depriving themselves of a future.

By Utah law, persons between the ages of six and eighteen must attend school unless officially excused for the following reasons: 1) he/she must work to help support family members; 2) his/her physical or mental

condition makes school attendance impractical; 3) he/she has reached his/her learning capacity; 4) he/she has a negative attitude toward school discipline and regulations. A legal exemption requires written documentation of a student's withdrawal and is difficult to obtain, and as a result, many students decide simply to quit attending school rather than endure a long and complicated legal process.

According to Cheryl Benson, Highland High's social worker, many students leave high school because they cannot meet the demands which are placed on them in the classroom. With no academic successes, they begin to lose interest in attending school. "Kids get overwhelmed with academic requirements," she explains. "It's

easier not to come at all when pressure builds up." After missing school once or twice to avoid stressful situations, truancy may become habitual, and a student may decide to quit attending school altogether.

Not all students possess the skills to cope within a normal high school environment. Special alternative programs such as the Marmalade School and the Salt Lake Community High School are available to educate these students, many of whom have learning disabilities or behavior problems. Smaller classes and more one-on-one teacher/student interaction provide the extra attention these students require. Benson says these alternatives are "very effective" and are in great demand, often having long waiting lists.

Benson believes Highland is doing well in its efforts to keep students in school. In addition to simply encouraging students to find something school-oriented that interests them, she says, teachers and counselors refer "problem" students to the Student Services Council. This council meets with a student to discuss his/her academic or attendance problems and hopefully resolve them. According to Vice Principal Don Barlow, however, more could be done to effectively reduce the number of dropouts. Barlow cites overcrowded classrooms and insufficient funding among problems which hinder progress in keeping "high risk kids" in school.

Statistics show that three percent of Highland's senior class, about forty stu-

dents, dropped out of school before graduating last year. Eleven students have officially quit so far this year, while seventy-two others have left to enter alternative programs. Barlow estimates the total number of formal dropouts for the 1988-89 school year will be between sixty and eighty-five, approximately four percent of the student population.

Barlow believes the city-wide percentage of high school dropouts is around fifteen percent; other estimates place it as high as twenty-five percent. A substantial population of emancipated youths (minors independent of their parents) who do not attend school is not accounted for by these estimates, and thus the actual number may be higher.

Senior Week Spans Centuries, Sparks Spirit

by David Lin
Rambler Staff Writer

The tradition of Senior Week took place with the classic enthusiasm that is present every year. The activities were fun and challenging and united the students of Highland High.

On Monday, January ninth, Senior Week began. During lunch, the Sour Patch Kid candy eating contest took place. "The object was to see how many Sour Patch Kids you can eat in 30 seconds," said Senior officer Lisa Fukishima.

The second day of Senior Week turned out to be challenging: the "Match That Face" contest was held during lunch. Another activity held that day was the Senior

Leisure King nominations.

On Wednesday, the Slave Auction was held. "There were a number of officers recruited, mainly boys. They were to stand and give themselves as slaves for money," explained Senior officer Lee Freeze. "The slaves will do what the owners tell them to do within reason," said Fukishima.

On Wednesday, an activity involving fish was held during lunch. There was a tank of guppies in the foyer and participants guessed how many were in the tank. The final voting for Senior Leisure King was also held.

On Friday, Seniors were asked to wear their Senior T-shirts. The Senior Assembly was also held, which was full of unusual and

unique activities. "It starts out in 1776 with the pledge, Betsy Ross, and ends with a class reunion. The 'most likely to—' are also announced at the assembly," said Fukishima. During the assembly, Judd Bateman was announced as the Senior Leisure King.

Much time and effort was put into Senior Week and the Senior Leisure dance by the Senior officers. "We had numerous meetings. We did our best, and I hope everyone will like it," said Freeze, prior to the week's activities.

An incredible amount of enthusiasm went into the traditional Senior Week this year. It gave everybody, not just Seniors, a chance to participate and have fun.

Sterling Scholars Announced

Highland's twelve Deseret News-KSL Sterling Scholars were announced on January 27. They are Mike Todd (General), Adam Wilcox (Math), Lee Freeze (Science), Emily Bedard (English), Chris Williams (Social Science), Paul Christenson (Business),

Jason Slatter (Debate), Sam Haddadin (Foreign Language), Christina Runnacles (Music), Nathan Durrant (Visual Arts), Joe Musser (Industrial Education), and Moani Rolfson (Home Economics). Meet these outstanding students in the next edition of the Rambler.

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Salt Lake Archery Co.

Targets Young Olympians

by Erik Jorgensen
Rambler Staff Writer

Many of the best young archers in America are being trained for the Olympics right in Sugarhouse at the Salt Lake Archery Co. The young archers are training as part of the JOAD program, Junior Olympic Archery Development.

The JOAD program is for archers under the age of 18. It is designed to train archers for Olympic competition. Denise Parker was the first member of the JOAD program and she competed in the 1988 Olympics. She is considered to be the best female archer in America.

Denise started the program when she was ten and then competed in the Olympics when she was fourteen. When Denise started, it was obvious to the trainers that she had a special talent. Now she trains privately with her father, though she is still part of the JOAD team and still frequently shoots at the Salt Lake Archery Company. Denise Parker was chosen for the Olympics after win-

ning competitions all over the country. She has won both the Women's and the Junior divisions in the United States for the last couple of years. At only 14 years old, Parker is the youngest archer ever to be invited to the Olympics.

Anybody can join the JOAD program. The program costs \$3.50 per week with an initiator fee of \$50 to get into the program which pays for an arm guard, a finger tab and custom sized arrows. A \$10 per year fee is also required to be a member of the National Archery Association.

The Salt Lake Archery Co. also rents equipment for people who want to practice archery. They have a range with various animal targets and a separate range for target shooting. They charge \$2.00 per hour to use their range for target practice. It's a great, inexpensive way to spend an afternoon, while building a useful skill and exercising your arms. The Salt Lake Archery Company is located at 1130 E. Wilmington Ave.

Off-Road Club Loves Feel of Four Wheels

by Erik Jorgensen

For the past several years, proposals for a Highland High four wheel drive and off-road club have been turned down. Ted Andersen decided that this year was the time for a 4WD club and he made sure it passed.

Andersen's first attempt to have the club initiated was turned down by the school senate. They felt that it would be too much like the outdoorsman's club and they didn't want to be responsible for accidents. Andersen was determined to convince the senate that an off-road club would be a good thing for Highland. He took his case to each member of the senate personally and also made a speech in front of them. Andersen managed to convince the senate that the club would bring together students that do not fit into other clubs.

Andersen recruited several

interested friends to be officers of the club and now it is led by Ted Andersen as President, Brian Brockbank as Vice President, Steve Dunham as Secretary, and Jacque Hanson as Treasurer.

Andersen said that 95% of the families in Utah own a 4WD vehicle of some sort. He hopes these students that have access to these vehicles will now be able to use them to their full potential. The club officers expect to have the club involved in a jeep safari over Easter vacation.

Anybody can join the club regardless of whether or not they have a 4WD vehicle. Those who wish to join the club should talk to one of the officers. Joining the club is free.

The club officers plan to make T-shirts, bumper stickers, posters, videos for HTVS, and have a newsletter. The club already has 70 members.

FEATURES

PRISONERS Of All Ages

by Jason Russell
Rambler Feature Editor

Have you ever heard that Sugarhouse Park is the former site of the first Utah State Prison? Well, it's true! The prison site took up 180 acres of land, 30 of which Highland sits on today.

The site was selected by Gov. Brigham Young on December 13, 1853 and was completed in 1854 at the cost of \$34,000. The prison had a twenty foot high, four foot thick wall made of sandstone and adobe. You might think this would make it a secure prison, but this was not true. Many prisoners literally walked out. Some well-known inmates that served in the prison were Brigham Young, who was arrested for being in contempt of court, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, who were arrested for train robberies. Fire, windstorm, and abuse by inmates brought the prison to the state where it had to be abandoned, and eventually destroyed.

The new prison was located at Point of the Moun-

tain. It was in 1948 when the 451 prisoners were moved, leaving the prison deserted and ready for salvage crews to come in before the prison was torn down. At the same time, architects started working on the plans for a new school, which was informally called the Southeast High School, and was later officially named Highland High.

It's been a long time since the prison was here, but there are still stories about it, stories that are not too believable yet are rather interesting. One such tale maintains that Highland's first principal formerly worked at the prison and learned his techniques of discipline there. It is a fact that there were sweat boxes on the prison site, but the principal's methods of punishment were most likely limited to verbal lashings.

Today, the Sugarhouse prison is only a memory, and Highland High, the building which took its place, remains a prison only to those who choose to regard it as such.



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Highland Learns CPR

by William Findlay
Rambler News Editor

Would you know what to do if you found a friend who had fallen to the ground and was not breathing? Highland's health classes recently participated in a two-day emergency first-aid course given by the Utah Emergency Medical Training Council. These paramedics trained the students in the use of the Heimlich maneuver and CPR, preparing them for a situation where someone would die within 15 minutes if not helped. According to the paramedics, encountering a person who isn't breathing or whose heart isn't beating is a situation that will happen to everyone at least once. If CPR is given to a victim early on, chances for survival can be up to 96%.

The Heimlich maneuver is done to free an object from a choking victim's throat. When a choking person is encountered, the person who finds the victim should clasp his/her hands, put them around the person, and thrust in an upward direction. If done several times, this will probably dislodge what has stopping the breathing.

Students learned the ABC system of dealing with an unconscious person. When a victim is approached an attempt to Arouse him or her should be made. Next Breathing and Circulation are checked. Finally CPR, or Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation is given if the person is not breathing and has no pulse. This is a system where the circulation and breathing of a person is restarted by someone else who breathes and pumps the heart for them.

Mike Montgomery, a member of the Utah Emergency Medical Training Council, stated that if CPR is administered within one minute of an accident there is a 96% chance of recovery, but if a person lies ten minutes without help, the success rate of CPR is reduced to 1%.

HE TALKS-HE TELLS JOKES-HE TEACHES ART! The Incredible Mr. Ed

by Charity Corless
Rambler Arts Editor

Mr. Eddington - who is he? Well, he is a fairly new art teacher here at Highland, who adds an interesting twist to Highland's art program. His originality shows through in the way he teaches and the creative assignments that he assigns.

Pat Eddington was born and raised in Philadelphia. He moved to Utah to attend Utah State University. Once he obtained his MFA, Master of Fine Arts, he tried being a free-lance artist for a few years but eventually ended up teaching at a middle school on the west side. He taught there for four years and last year he moved to Highland. While he was attending the University he met his wife, who works in a studio at home making violins. They have no children, but they

have a fat cat, which is named Pepe.

Pat Eddington adds life to every student's day with his stale jokes and original assignments. His class helps take the boring routine out of the average school day. A few examples of the creative assignments are having the class produce a replica

through out the day, Commercial Art, Studio Art and A.P. Art.

When Mr Eddington is not teaching he spends his time in his studio above Guthrie Bicycle working on various art projects. In the summer he travels across the country visiting different art exhibits and working on projects that eventually get put in an art exhibit at the end of the summer. About every two years Pat Eddington and ten other artists that have their studios in the same building also put on an exhibit with various pieces of each artist's art work.



Pat Eddington makes art unusual for his students

of a stamp and send it through the mail (Pat has not yet received permission from the Postal Service to do this, but he is trying), and having his classes build a snow sculpture of a sphinx in the courtyard. Pat teaches a variety of art classes

All around in every aspect of his life he is a very unique individual that adds life to every person's day by showing the funnier and more unusual side of life. He likes to live by his motto: "Hey- if it's not fun, why do it?"

Artifex Club: Highland Artists and Others

by Erik Jorgensen
Rambler Staff Writer

Artifex is a relatively new club at Highland that started at the beginning of last year. The name of the club, Artifex, is a Latin term meaning "artist." The club was created for the people who liked to hang out at the art room after school. They were a group of friends that had art as a common interest. The club status was created to encourage other students with that common interest to join the group.

Mr. Eddington is the coordinator of the club.

He hopes to have the club involved in at least one activity per month. Students are encouraged to suggest activities for the club. The activities need not have anything to do with art, if

enough people want to get together to do them. Some students expressed interest in out of doors activities, so the club is scheduling a cross-country skiing trip later this month. On January

viewing other movies for the Artifex club. The club is also holding an art exhibit in conjunction with the photo club at the Blue Mouse Gallery in May. The club has also arranged meetings with many famous professional artists who autograph books or prints of their work.

The club has no official members or club officers and is open to anyone in the school who wants to join. Each member has an equal say in what the club does, and their activities are also open to anybody in the school who wants to take part

in them. Everybody interested in art or the Artifex club activities is encouraged to get involved. If you are interested, talk to Mr. Eddington in the art room.



The Artifex logo: abstract art? 17, the club viewed a special screening of a film on artist Vincent Van Gogh by director Paul Cox, called "Vincent," at Cinema In Your Face, who has also expressed interest in pre-

ARTS

Highland Teachers Go Prime Time

by William Findlay

Can Highland's teachers be hip? Can they get down? Apparently from a talent show entitled "The Tonight Show" hosted by Brad Rasmussen, the answers are yes. Highland's faculty was featured in an entertaining program on January 25, which revealed hidden talent. Teacher inhibitions were released. Seeing the teachers let loose in dance, drama, voice, and video proved that they are actually real people.

In the tradition of Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show," the show included a variety of personality and performance. Brad's guests for the evening were Father Sarducci (Ivan Cendese) and the illustrious Church Lady (Chris Williams). Musical selections ranged from Herr Hardy's Powder Ridge Bluegrass Band to the heavy metal guitar of Dr. Bob. Dancing ranged from a professional Salt Lake City Jazz Dancer to Highland's own Polyester Troupe. The diversity of the program kept the entertainment alive and interesting.

I'm Not Rappaport

by Katie Olson
Rambler Staff Writer

I'm Not Rappaport is a play by Herb Gardner about the problems and the joys of old age. Nat and Midge, the central characters of the play, have developed an unusual friendship because they are forced to share a park bench in Central Park.

Jack Axelrod played Nat brilliantly. Nat is the mischievous one of the two. Among other things he has been a spy, a lawyer, and a mobster. Axelrod was able to portray to the audience a frightened man who would rather make up a past for himself than face his future.

Midge was played by Herb Lovelle. Midge is a man who would rather stay behind the scenes, or in the

Video-man Ralph Smart produced two videos for the show. A lip-sinc done by teachers including Doug Tate, Roy Corsi, and Christine Ivory and a story of a love triangle involving Jill Sorenson, Dean Collett, and Loyda Kyremes brought laughter from the audience.

Other acts such as drama and singing were highlighted on the program. There was a reenactment of the inauguration with frighteningly similar representations of Bush by Darol Denison and Quayle by Dave Labrum. A special performance by the Salt Lake City Symphonic Choir and a piano solo by George Henry were also heard.

Playing the part of the "Tonight Show Band" was Highland's jazz band, led by Robert Curry.

"The Tonight Show" was an enjoyable way to spend an evening usually filled with homework. The idea that teachers can have fun isn't as far off as once thought by those who attended the performance.

basement, and live the rest of his life quietly and peacefully.

Through their friendship, Nat and Midge are able to discover that they matter, and can give something special to each other's lives. They come to realize (as does the audience) that even though society may label older people as nuisances, they do have a zest for life that can only be attained through the experiences of the years.

The other characters have small but necessary parts in the play. The technical aspects of the production were incredible, especially the sets. The lighting was also exceptional. *I'm Not Rappaport* is an excellent play that will stay with the people who are fortunate enough to see it.

Varsity Basketball: The Ups and Downs

by Ian Scharine
Rambler Sports Writer

and something Highland can definitely improve on. With should be a major defensive team. Top scorers like T.J. Buxton and Kris Hicks help too.

The Highland Ram varsity basketball team is on it's way back down the long road to victory.

After a shaky 2-4 season start, the boys' varsity team is determined to make a strong finish in what has been a questionable season. After winning their last game with Davis, the Rams were in high spirits. The win came less than a week after a discouraging loss to East High in the Freak East game on January 24. Although they were doubtlessly disappointed by the loss, they managed to beat the Darts and boost their confidence.

The key to victory for the Rams is taking every game one at a time. After-school-practices concentrate on defense now more than before, because defense is one thing a team can always use



East's star Jason Holaburton can't bear to watch as Rob Howe goes over in the Freak East game



Highland students freaked like never before, but it wasn't enough to scare East

players like Nick Powell, Carey Hicks and Derek Ramsay at center, Highland before, and you can bet they won't go down this year without a fight.

Gone are the days when Highland can sit back and enjoy a big lead. Every point is crucial since the teams in the 4A division are some of the best in the state. Highland has weaknesses, and obviously they have cost them. The Rams need to develop a consistent source of offense in order to decisively win games and enter the playoff picture.

Who knows where a strong comeback may take the varsity team? Highland has been at the top before, and you can bet they won't go down this year without a fight.

Fresh Talent, Frosh Style

by Ian Scharine
Rambler Sports Writer

The Freshmen basketball team is a success! Their outlook is very positive thanks to Coach Godfrey and Dave Young. This year's team is composed of players who have plenty of undiscovered talent and potential. Some are already playing on the Sophomore team.

The players are Dave Barrett, Brett Butler, Tom Caine, George Cannon, Shawn Crenshaw, Tom Grant, James Hacking, Greg Moreno, Andrew Nelson, Mike Pezely, Justin Scott, Jared Schroepfer, David Smith, Trent Snarr, Brett Steele, Adam Wayment, and Brigham Whitney.

The Freshmen team has taken region before, and this year they look to take it again. A strong start and players that handle their roles well may very well be forming a positive future in basketball for Highland. Players from 1988's Freshmen team will no doubt be in 1991's varsity team.

The Freshmen opened their first scrimmage against the Sophomores with a shaky start. Playing unasily, the Freshmen managed to dig themselves a hole as the Sophomores lead in score by 10 at the end of the first half. Down by 10 at the end of the third quarter, the Freshmen came alive in the fourth quarter, with a comeback that could have won the game. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time and the Sophomores won the scrimmage by one point. The Freshmen's next game was a home game against the American Fork Cavemen. Again, the opposition was up by ten at the end of the first half because the Freshmen Rams buried themselves in the first quarter. But this time the Rams

came back to establish a lead of ten at the beginning of the third quarter where they stayed for the rest of the game. Less than two weeks later, the Freshmen would lose to the same Cavemen on the first of three road games. Their record was 1-1 for the pre-season. But perhaps the biggest test for the Freshmen came on December 19th. After a long, tiring ride to Timpview, the Freshman team started out slowly in the game, scoring only 15 points against the T-Birds' 28 in the first quarter. By halftime, Timpview was up by a strong 10 points and driving hard to the basket. In the third quarter, the Freshmen kept within 10 points of the T-Birds with occasional runs of points. In the fourth quarter the Freshmen decided it was time to go to work as they made three runs in the last 6 minutes putting the Rams within 9 points of the T-Birds. In the last minute and 45 seconds, the Freshmen pulled up to within 6 points of tying the score. Unfortunately, it was too little, too late as Timpview was fouled with 13 seconds remaining sending them to the line. They made both free-throws and followed it with another basket on their next possession down the court. The final score was Timpview 62, Highland 51, a let-down ending to a close and had fought game. Who knows what the future will bring to Highland's Freshman basketball team... success? another region championship? Whatever happens, you can be sure there will never be a dull moment or a "bad game." Come out to the games and support the Freshmen, after all, they might be Highland's basketball future in 1991!

A VAMPIRE IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER — AND A GOOD, STIFF DRINK.



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Highland Water Polo '89?

by Adam Leining
Rambler Sports Editor
Water polo at Highland may be in jeopardy this year. Since the closure of South High, the Salt Lake City School District has been renting the South High pool from Salt Lake Community

College for swimming and diving season. Water polo, however, is not included in this year's budget.

Unless money can be provided, those who expected to play water polo at East and Highland this year will be left high and dry.

Lady Rams Have A Ball

by Ian Scharine
Rambler Sports Writer

If you haven't seen a Lady Ram basketball game yet, you don't know what you're missing! All of their games are hard-fought, and you can be sure that you won't walk away disappointed. Besides, who would miss

an opportunity to see Michelle Herring, Liz Liddle, Colleen Kotter, Monique Monfroy, Bethany Drew, Eneli Andersen, Karen Watson, Amy Mackey, Komeria Nuivalvau, Melissa Gygi, Emily Lowe, and Ngan Nguyen in action?

No team is without it's leaders, and here are some that have helped the Rams to victory:

Bethany Drew - assist leader of the year (30);
Monique Moonfroy - top

stealer of the year (32); Emily Lowe - top rebounder per game (4 avg.); Michelle Herring - top scorer (91) and rebounder (34) of the year; Eneli Andersen - top scorer per game (13 avg.).

Like any basketball team, the Lady Rams practice long and hard after school is out. Coach Tilly Van

advance, though. They take each game in stride with serious devotion.

The Lady Rams came through the preseason with a 2-3 record and expect to improve as the season moves on. If they can maintain a good lead, who knows where it will lead them? Region? State?

They've done it before and plan to do it again. It won't be easy with competitors like Viewmont and Davis, however. The Lady Rams depend on fans, whose support can make or break a team.



Eneli Andersen breaks through with two for the Lady Rams

So don't be left in the parking lot - join in the action of Highland's best: the Lady Rams. So go watch a girls' basketball game, have fun, and cheer your school on to victory. You'll be glad you did!

So don't be left in the parking lot - join in the action of Highland's best: the Lady Rams.

So go watch a girls' basketball game, have fun, and cheer your school on to victory. You'll be glad you did!

The Big, The Bold, The Beautiful

by David Lin
Rambler Sports Writer

The Highland wrestling team is doing extraordinarily well this year. After much hard work and preparation, the wrestling team is now ranked second in the region, after the competitive tournament held at Highland on February second.

The team has competed successfully in many tournaments. They came in second place at the Elko Invitational tournament, eighth place at Viewmont, first place at Bear River, and first

place at Jordan. Highland ranked second place in dual meets after beating Davis high school 32-30.

A number of factors con-

quickness are also main factors which contributed to the Rams' success this year.

Highland High has a number of top wrestlers. Calvin Johnson, Josh Hall, Adam Davidson, Brigham Black, Dave Parkin, and Dominic Davis have contributed much time and effort, with much hard work to make the wrestling of 1988-89 some of the best.

Though the end of the season is near, Highland High will continue to be proud of what the wrestling program has accomplished this year.



Highland hosted the region wrestling tournament and

placed second behind Viewmont tribute to the wrestling team. Brigham Black states, "We have really good coaches this year, who are Paul Tate and John Valentine." Good conditioning, balance, and

SPORTS

Sports and School Spirit

by Adam Leining
Rambler Sports Editor

In the fall of 1986, Highland attained the ultimate goal of student spirit, school unity, and pride in fantastic achievement. The varsity football team won the state championship over Bonnevile in Rice Stadium.

That season, Highland looked forward to each game, as the team affirmed their strength. The Rams went from week to week, winning all but one game, and went farther than anyone had believed they could.

Involved in the championship was the committed support of the younger football teams, the cheerleaders, the pep club, the pep band, the wild Highland student body, fans from other schools, the faculty, the administration, the parents and family of players and students, and even the

janitors. Everyone knew, "You Gotta Believe!" Everyone worked hard as the team played from strength to strength. "Rams Take State!" swept through the entire school and the community. The championship was something everyone could take pride in.

Truly, the success of the football team in '86 is also illustrated by the other athletic departments at Highland, every one of them. Highland has earned its reputation of excellence in athletics over the years.

The strength of Highland athletics commands respect and deserves full support and participation today. Because when the strength of Highland's athletics meets the whole support of the student body and the Highland community, the results mean far more than a state championship.

Swimmers Advance to State Meet

by Adam Leining

Highland swimmers are going to the state meet. Dan Morris, Joe Mecham, Dusty Aune, Missy Welch, and Mary Jenkins qualified in their individual swimming events. The Highland boys' team placed fourth in region while the girls raced to a second place finish.

Also qualifying for state was the girls' 200-meter medley relay. Alan Atkin-

son and Jenny Cannon qualified in the diving competition. Dan Morris qualified for the 50-meter free style race. Joe Mecham met the qualifying time in the 100-meter back stroke before region competition. He too will go to State. Dusty Aune and Missy Welch claimed the top two spots in the girls' 50-meter free style. The aquatic rivalry will continue at state.



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OPINION

Give Me Fiber, or Give Me Death

by H. Kleine
Rambler Editor in Chief

Ralph Nader has got me a little upset. According to him, my lifestyle is leading me to a certain and quick demise. At seventeen, I'm already on death's front walk; I'm sure to reach it's doorstep in another year or two if I don't make a drastic change.

It's amazing how one's life can be dramatically affected by watching one afternoon's worth of "Donahue." I turned on the television (hoping for a good segment on cross-dressers) to find Ralph and good old Phil seated behind a table piled with various cleaning agents and grocery items.

Ralph was able to fill an entire hour with his prophesy of doom. He discussed the hazardous effects of cholesterol and lard and lead-laced paint on the human body. I was so shocked I nearly choked on my pork rinds. He also addressed the perils of household cleansers: Mr. Clean has a lot of unpleasant surprises beneath that big, loveable exterior (but like I always say, never trust a guy with an earring). I admit it was grim; this was

the most impact a talk show had had on me since Oprah wheeled out those sixty-five some-odd pounds of fat.

Fortunately, Ralph's message wasn't entirely bad. He extolled the virtues of foliage, how those trees and bushes consume carbon dioxide and provide us with that precious oxygen - it was enough to make me want to buy an orchard. He also presented the mythical, magical aloe vera plant - one of those babies can cure just about everything. Now I know I'm justified in my pumping for shrubbery.

I am gravely concerned about my health and our ecology. I swore never again to use aerosol products last year after Doug Tate's "hair-spray rapes the environment" lecture; I firmly believe that every day should be Arbor Day; I say "no" to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, sugar, saccharine, animal by-products, sodium, saturated fats, and radon gas; I exercise at least three times daily; and I'm still a bit leery of red M&M's.

Ralph Nader *knows* what he's talking about. After all, if you ain't got your fiber, you ain't got nothin'.

by Erik Jorgensen
Rambler Staff Writer

Euthanasia, often called "mercy killing," is the deliberate taking of a person's life to curtail pain and suffering. The practice of euthanasia is, in most cases, illegal, but it has become an extremely controversial issue in recent years due to today's technology.

It is illegal to let a person die if their life can be sustained. People who have serious incurable diseases or who have serious brain damage can be kept alive with little or no hope of ever being relieved of the pain, or regaining consciousness, or leaving the bed. In some cases, the patient is completely brain dead, though their heart and lungs are still pumping. Killing a body that is still functioning is illegal. Only if a person has left a legal document called a "living will" before hand,

specifying that they not be kept alive by machine if there is no chance of recovery, can they be taken off life support.

In the United States, euthanasia has considerable support in many cultural and professional groups, including physicians, jurists, social workers, and attorneys. Opposition is equally vigorous and finds support in the same ranks. Religious leaders are particularly opposed to euthanasia.

Much of the controversy is over passive and active euthanasia. Passive euthanasia is letting the patient die naturally by denying them the artificial means of life support. Active euthanasia is actually killing the patient by artificial means such as lethal injection. Although passive euthanasia has been allowed in some cases, active euthanasia is unconditionally illegal.

Passive euthanasia is just

as lethal as active euthanasia, but sometimes entails a slow death that involves anxiety and suffering. If there is anything to fear about death, it's the process of dying, not being dead. A strong sedative followed by an injection of potassium cyanide is a much more humane method of death than allowing a patient to rot in a hospital bed waiting for natural death. In one case where an infant was born allergic to food, it was allowed to starve to death. Passive euthanasia should be illegal, in cases where the patient is conscious, and active euthanasia should be legalized, when authorized by authorities and done by a physician.

It's time for the Supreme Court to take a new look at euthanasia and make laws that concur with present medical technology, but that are general enough to advance with technology.

Not With A Bang But A Whimper

by H. Kleine
Rambler Editor in Chief

There are times when the human animal ceases to prove itself worthy of distinction above any other. The execution day of Ted Bundy was one such time. An occasion which should have been observed by the grim administration of justice and remembrance of those victimized was instead marked by barbaric celebration and a literal revelry in one man's death.

Ted Bundy was an undeniably sick and dangerous individual; his crimes were among the most vile of our time. Even so, do these facts rationalize the tasteless behavior of the crowds who gathered outside the Florida State Prison, clad in costume, waving sparklers and signs, cheering as the hearse containing Bundy's body drove by? These were undoubtedly the same people who reacted in shock and horror to the news of the

murdered girls ten years ago.

It was flagrantly hypocritical of those who decried the atrocity of Bundy's crimes to congregate in a gaudy display as the man was violently executed, for they were, in effect, gratifying themselves with the same savagery with which he, Ted Bundy himself, first attacked and disposed of his victims. The scene was a virtual freak show, as hundreds gathered, waiting expectantly to catch a glimpse of the proceedings.

I do not condone Bundy's actions nor do I question the nature of his sentence. What concerns me is our society's reaction to cases of this nature. We delight in the sensationalism of carnage and corruption - we thrive on it. We say we strive for virtue and justice; I saw neither of these in the would-be vigilantes who surrounded the prison that morning. I saw only hatred and a passionate desire for retribution. Perhaps people need a cause to

fight for, perhaps revenge was theirs. Perhaps mercy is mine.

Bundy's execution was not a time for celebration, but for sadness; sadness for his victims, sadness for him, sadness for all of us, really. Because it is through this that we realize that man has lost his reverence for life. Ted Bundy was not so different from the rest of us; he had his weaknesses, he lost control, he made his mistakes and he paid for them. Above all, beneath his heinous acts and monstrous demeanor, he was a living being. Life is invaluable; society has no right to cheapen any man's mortality, no matter who he is or what he has done. We must take time to reflect upon our fragility and place our existence in its proper perspective. And someday we shall all die, and for none of us will it be easy or grand. For now, we must simply mourn the dead and work to uplift the living.

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