

Television Time

February concludes the peak season for watching television.

During February, 243 million people in the United States — which amounts to 98 percent of the total population — watch 7.6 billion hours of television a week. For the average person, this amounts to 31 hours of viewing a week.

In the summertime, the average national viewing time drops to 6.6 billion hours a week.

Circumcision

As more parents become educated about circumcision, the procedure, which many physicians agree is unnecessary, has steadily declined.

Government figures indicate

60 percent of American boys born during the year 1985 were circumcised. Circumcision varies with region, U.S. statistics show, with the west having the lowest circumcision rate (49 percent), followed by the south (56 percent), the east (65 percent) and the midwest (70 percent).

In the rest of the world, 85 percent of the males are uncircumcised.

Many who undergo the operation do so for religious reasons rather than health reasons.

Men's Physique

Oregon men are of a higher type than those at Columbia University, says physical instructor H. A. Scott in the Oct. 5, 1921, issue of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

One of the main reasons for the higher type of man here,

Scott says, is the fact that "many of them are working their way through college and are at hard outdoor labor during the summer months instead of lolling around the beaches or summer resorts.

"The students in eastern schools are often well-to-do, and many of them never do a stroke of work until after they have gone through college," the article says.

Inheritance is another cause. "The fathers and mothers or grandfathers and grandmothers of many of the students crossed the plains in the early days and hewed a home out of the wilderness — the wilderness in which only the strongest survived." The resulting endurance of these "men of the forest" passed to their offspring, hence some traces of these qualities remain,

in the college men of the West, he says.

Nicotine Crutch

Nicotine has the ability to provide an effective coping response to the demands of daily living, which psychologists believe might account for the difficulty smokers face when trying to give up smoking.

Psychologist Orvide Pomerleau, who teaches at the University of Michigan and

directs its behavioral medicine program, has studied the effects of nicotine on the human mind for 13 years. He concludes the motives for smoking may be improvement in response, alertness, memory and overall performance.

In this month's issue of OMNI magazine, Pomerleau says some smokers can actually adjust their nicotine intake to enhance the particular effects, which also adds to the desirability of smoking, though it might not be conscious.

Dancing

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in Japan, the song may be in Japanese, but the calls will be in English, Paul McAnelly says.

Why the popularity of square dancing?

"A good question," Roberson

"Well, after a dance you can find a lot of us at a bar or a night club," Paul McAnelly says.

Square dancing consists of eight to 10 squares, with four couples composing a single square.

dance with a woman, the females were switched around from one partner to another, Roberson said.

This has remained in square dancing, so now the men have a "home base" and the women always change. However, the ratio of men to women square dancers has changed. The average is now one man for every three women.

Many people attribute square dancing with country and western music; however, square dancers can dance to any type of music, Roberson says.

"I do use a lot of country/western music, but I also like to incorporate some rock, disco, traditional and even waltz music into an evening," Roberson says.

Paul McAnelly sums up square dancing by saying "Anyone can square dance, as long as you can identify your left foot from your right foot, and if you can walk you can square dance."

— SARAH KITCHEN

'It's a social act. People come to these dances to visit friends or make friends; the whole purpose of a dance is to get people together to enjoy each other's company.'

— Paul McAnelly

says, laughing. "I think basically because it is good, clean family fun. It is pretty much an international rule that no alcohol be allowed in at a square dance meeting, and people follow this rule; it's a courtesy."

No alcohol?

The one thing most noticeable about square dancing is a couple never dances together throughout the whole dance. When square dancing originated in the West, in many cases there were 10 men for every woman. Because all the men wanted to

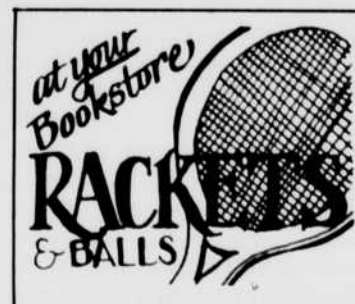


Photo by Bobbie Lo

Prairie Hall is one of the many local sites in the Emerald Empire Area where dancing enthusiasts can gather to square and round dance as well as socialize.

Spectrum, the ODE's weekly magazine

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