



National Merit winners seem pleased at the announcement of their achievement. From left, they are Commended Students Larry Taylor, Julie Engle, and Ray Bartley, and Semi-Finalist Dennis Leybold.

Editorials

The Bicycle Commission

In answer to a cry by Oregonians, the state legislature and the Ashland city planning commission have acted wisely. The legislature has set aside one percent of highway funds for bicycle paths and the planning commission has taken action in mapping out possible routes for bikeways.

Since biking has become a popular means of transportation and entertainment, it seems only natural to encourage this trend into becoming permanent. Benefits of the bicycle range from invigorating exercise to cheap, non-pollutant travel, and good available facilities will entice current bike riders and entice others to join in.

Siskiyou Boulevard is first priority for planned paths. This is also a wise move as Siskiyou is the main traffic route running through Ashland, serving as a connection between SOC and southern Ashland and the business district, Lithia Park and northern Ashland.

However paths should not end here. At the first bike commission meeting, routes running along North Main, through Lithia Park, along the Southern Pacific right of way, and possibly along the Talent irrigation ditch were discussed. These suggestions should be followed up as one main route will not meet future needs of Ashland bikers.

Proposed bike paths are one right step in establishing a healthy "free-wheeling" city. Let's support the city's bicycle endeavors.

-R.S.

"Stop And Frisk" Law

A law of dubious constitutionality has been forwarded recently by the Ashland City Council. This is the so-called "stop and frisk" ordinance.

The stop and frisk law would allow the police to stop a person believed to be committing, to have committed, or to be about to commit a crime. A person could also be searched or held in detention for two hours.

The new ordinance is designed to replace an old "loitering and prowling" law. That law declared it unlawful "for any person to loiter or prowl in a place, at a time, or in a manner not usual for law abiding persons under circumstances that warrant alarm for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity." This law was declared unconstitutional last month by City Court Judge Glenn Munsell, on grounds of vagueness.

Supporters of the stop and frisk law assert a number of arguments in its favor. They point out that, unlike the old ordinance, the new law would not allow police to arrest "suspicious" persons. Detention or questioning would be, they maintain, simply an investigative matter. Thus, no arrest record would be involved.

Second, it is brought up that the new ordinance would require police to accord detained citizens their constitutional rights, even though no arrest is made.

Finally, as City Councilman Roland McCannan put it, "I don't see how any law-abiding person can object to this. The police aren't going to go out and pick up people at random."

These arguments miss the point entirely. The danger of the stop and frisk law is that it could be used to harass citizens. The police would have the right to stop and detain any person, since any person could theoretically commit a crime at any given time. Anyone raising the ire of the police or the city government in general could be nabbed under this law.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized."

The Founding Fathers forbade just such laws as the stop and frisk ordinance when they wrote this amendment. How can someone be secure in his person or effects when he can at any time be hauled to jail, searched, and held for two hours?

There is a trend toward erosion of constitutional rights in this country. "No-knock" laws, government wiretaps, and conspiracy statutes are examples of this straying from the constitutional path. The stop and frisk ordinance is a local instance of attempted circumvention of the Constitution. If this nation is to preserve its cherished freedoms, violations must be opposed on all levels of government.

-L.T.

"New Hope" Fails To Live Up To Reputation

By Rick Stanek

"New Hope", a pop music group that performed here last Nov. 4, may have been "compared favorably with groups like 'Chicago' and 'The Association,'" but they sure didn't live up to the big name that was given them by both high school promoters and abroad.

Probably the main reason for this was that half or more of their show concentrated on various "humorous" dialogue and skits. The music performed served only as a background to the humor, while it seemed it should have been the other way around: a little humor and fun added to a musical program. After all, "New Hope" is supposed to be a musical group, isn't it?

"New Hope" started off the show with a rocking number. This caught the audiences attention, and one might have thought, "These guys are pretty good. This might be a good assembly." But that idea was struck down several songs later as New Hope broke out of the music and into the funnies, which at times even lacked good humor.

Audience participation is an excellent idea, especially in a musical assembly, but the way New Hope handled it left something to be desired. Instead of a student body sing-along, or something of this sort, a soap opera imitation was staged with two students. What happened to the music?

Altogether, about five or six songs were performed in a 50-minute show. Afterwards, a sound man for the group explained that that night at the SOC show, under about 17 would be played. He said the reason for this was that high school students enjoy the type of show they had just played, while their college show appealed to a slightly older group.

What's the deal? Did this five song performance appeal to Ashland High students, or was there something lacking?

HELP Center Run On Volunteer Time Basis

If you feel helpless, hopeless, or friendless, call the HELP Center at 779-4357. This is a public service that was set up last January in Medford for the purpose of helping individuals with problems, any problems.

The HELP-line has a multifold purpose. If the problem dealt with is serious enough, HELP will refer a person to a particular agency or organization that might be of further help or counseling. However, most calls that are received at HELP are not in need of referral, a spokesman for the HELP-line commented.

Forty People Volunteer Time

The Valley's people have responded to HELP with some 994 calls over an eight and a half month period. About 300 calls come in a month, and an average of 12-15 calls are received a day.

There are forty different people who volunteer time to answering calls, with usually two people available at the line. There are not many crank calls, the spokesman noted.

Numerous Associated Agencies
Different types of calls that come into HELP include: drug problems (202), boy-girl

(teenage) problems (279), hitchhiking (156), pregnancy (137), physical needs (102), marital (56), alcohol (53), runaways (39), legal (crime, etc. (15), suicidal (24), general problems (623).

Agencies that work along with HELP in the case of referrals are Open Door, Alcoholics Anonymous, Health Department, Welfare, Family and Child Guidance Clinic, Juvenile Detention, Blind Center, Youth Center, Planned Parenthood, Salvation Army, Police Department and some churches.



Happiness Goal Of Life

By Rick Stanek

This is the first in a series of articles dealing with well known philosophies.

The aim of life is happiness. It might seem otherwise, but Aristotle states that, "... we choose happiness for itself, and never with a view to anything further; whereas we choose honor, pleasure, intellect ... because we believe that through them we shall be made happy."

Man is different from all other beings on earth since he has the power of thought. To achieve happiness one must use this ability to reason to the fullest?

What is the golden mean? It is living between the extremes in life. Avoid "cowardice and rashness; stinkiness and extravagance; sloth and greed; humility and pride; secrecy and loquacity (excessive talk); quarrelsomeness and flattery." and one will gain self-control and will have taken a step towards happiness.



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Letters To The Editor

The *Rogue News* welcomes letters of comment to the editor, but would prefer if they were kept under 250 words. Letters must be signed. Letters intended for publication should be put in Mr. Brock's box in the office.

College Courses And Credits Available For High School Students

High school seniors can take classes at Southern Oregon College during the school year to earn college credits. Students who do this spend half a day at high school and half a day at college.

In order to attend high school and college at the same time a student must first get Mr. Smith's approval, get a recommendation to send to the college's registrar's office and talk to the professors whose classes he plans to take. He must also be able to handle the required high school courses.

All college freshman classes are available to high school students. In addition to or instead of attending college during the high school year, a student may take college courses during the summer term.

At this time, Toni Barnes is the only high school student attending college part time. Morgan Sammons is there full time.