

Life to the fullest

By GRACE STAMPER
Special to the Horizon

In my very short life of 19 years, I have seen people be born and known people who have died.

I have attended funerals that plaster pictures of the person's life everywhere, and yet they all show the same exact stuff. For guys there are fishing, camping, motorcycle and car photos. For the ladies there are parties, friends, and holiday get-together photos.

All the photos and displays want to show what the person did with their life and come out saying that they led a normal, everyday life.

That's why I firmly believe that each day should be lived to the fullest. Whether I go skydiving one day or just sit quietly and enjoy the nature around me, I plan to always leave time for the spontaneous activities.

One of the reasons I believe this is my grandfather.

My grandfather lives his life as full as he can possibly imagine. He has good reason. When he was 16, doctors told him he had a heart defect and would not live to

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be 30. He is now over 60.

Today he travels to beaches across the country in the spring and fall. He also rides his bike across European countries, mainly France, Germany and Hungary.

He is a shining example of how I want to live. To the max and never leave a day full of wishes and hopes of stuff that could have been done.

I plan live each day by spending time getting lost on the back roads and discovering where they lead. This summer I plan on parasailing and snorkeling. There shall be no rock left unturned by the time I travel the country and the world.

Even on campus I have seen ways to fulfill each and every day.

Recently eight people, me included, participated in the

Human Knot in the middle of McCullough Plaza.

This Human Knot involved arbitrarily recruiting students walking through the Plaza, circling up to mix and join hands with the person across from you, then everyone tries to find their way to become a complete circle.

There are well over 70 groups to join on campus and each are involved in some way with an outside organization that have no problem helping you fill your days. I am involved in two groups on campus, the Salsa and Spanish Clubs and I have received and invitation to join one of the Greek Sororities, Phi Eta Sigma.

Life is too short to waste and I plan to really live each and every day that I draw breath, to the absolute fullest.

Don't believe it's too late

By C. ERIC BANISTER
Special to the Horizon

I believe it is never too late.

My mom graduated high school in 1967 and went to work for her uncle in the office of his local car lot. At that time, most people didn't just go to college after high school; it was too expensive.

A couple of years later she was married and a couple after that gave birth to her first son, me. A couple of years later, she had my brother. That's the way things worked then.

As I was entering high school, my father left. My mom hadn't worked outside the home for about 10 years, but now, at age 35, she would have to; she had two children to raise.

Not only did she find a job, she decided it was time to go to college. Working full-time, raising two boys who didn't always make life easy and making her way through college, she graduated with two degrees from Oakland City University, one in management and another

in accounting.

I graduated high school in 1989 and at that time it was expected for someone to go from high school to college, so I did. But I really didn't know why I was going. I had a vague idea of what I wanted to do with my life but at 17, I was just going because it was expected.

I didn't last long. I bounced through three semesters at three different schools and ended up leaving and going to work in a restaurant. I moved through several jobs over the years, but every time I considered going back to school I decided it was too late.

I had been out of school too long; it was too hard to go back. Why bother?

But I knew that for the future of my children, and my own future, I had to go back. It wasn't too late; it was something I had to do.

Not only was it not too late, I think my time away has added tremendously to my college career in that I have brought to my classes 10 years of work and real life experience that allows me

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to filter through what I am learning.

I realize now the importance of many classes that I struggled with previously because I didn't see how they could possibly benefit me in "the real world."

It's never too late for education. It's never too late to make amends. It's never too late to call that friend you haven't spoken to for years. It's never too late to find that one true love.

I believe it is never too late.