

TEENAGE HOMESCHOOLERS: COLLEGE OR NOT?

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Teenage Homeschoolers: College or Not?

This is an edited transcript of a speech given by Patrick Farenga to the Washington Homeschool Organization on 6/2/95

Homeschoolers do get into college without special difficulty. We needn't worry that homeschooling is a drawback to college admissions; indeed a well-documented homeschooling transcript can be a solid plus for college admissions. But before talking about how homeschoolers present themselves on transcripts, I think we need to ask a fundamental question: why do you want to go to college?

Let's think about this for a minute. You don't need to go to college to be a success in life. Walt Disney, Andrew Carnegie, Thomas Edison, cartoonist Charles Schultz, author Pearl Buck, performers Whoopi Goldberg, and Liza Minnelli, to name a few, didn't go to college. There are two reference books in most public libraries, one is called *The People's Almanac Presents The Book of Lists*, edited by David Wallechinsky, (Bantam, 1981) and the other is called *Current Biography Yearbook* (H.W. Wilson and Co., annual) and both contain the names of many more people who were successes in life - by many different standards, not just income - without having college degrees. What these examples prove is what teacher and author Herbert Kohl notes in his work: success is more a function of motivation and talent than of years spent in school.

Further, there are good reasons and bad reasons for going to college. Good reasons could be that you need a college diploma to use as a ticket to enter a certain field, such as being a doctor. Other good reasons could be that you want to learn specific things only taught in a particular college; that you want to be part of a special community, such as a religious order; or that you want to study with a particular person or team who will only allow college students to join them. These are sound reasons for thinking you may need to go to college.

Some bad reasons for going to college would be: I'm 18 and most of the 18-year-olds I know are going to college; I have nothing else to do besides flipping burgers at McDonalds; or: I just want to have a diploma in case I need it later in life. To go to college just because you are "college

age” is an especially poor reason to go these days since the financial costs are now moving from burdensome to staggering — tuition costs are rising so sharply that my home state of Massachusetts, like several others, is now issuing college savings bonds that guarantee tuition at participating colleges when your children turn 18 — and the cost to the student is also in emotional, spiritual, and social capital. You can do many interesting, worthwhile educational endeavors instead of going to college and if you later find you need a college degree for something, then you can get it. The trend of older people going to college has been getting stronger over the years and shows no signs of slowing down, particularly as colleges look for new sources of income as the population of 18-year-olds shrinks.

A good way to answer the question, “Should I go to college?” is to think about your ultimate goal, your reason for attending, and then ask yourself, “Do I really want to be a _____?” You fill in the blank. Once you’ve decided that, *before* you apply to any college, I urge you to see what actual work is like in that field. Once you’ve filled in the blank of what you want to be, open up your state’s telephone *Yellow Pages* and locate businesses in the field you are interested in. Call these people, introduce yourself as a young person interested in their field, and ask if you can come down and talk with someone there, watch them work, and get a feel for the work. There is an excellent book about finding work that’s been in print for years called *What Color Is Your Parachute?* (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 1995). In it, Mr. Richard Bolles, the author, advises job-seekers to do exactly what I’m describing and he calls this process “Interviewing for information.” The only difference between what I’m saying and what Mr. Bolles is saying about job hunting is that I’m recommending that you do this sort of interviewing for information about work *before* you even attend college, and if you do go, to continue interviewing for information while you are in college to keep your network of business contacts alive.

Let me say here that I think this is one of many areas where today’s homeschoolers have an advantage over traditional school graduates and where they can be thankful for their parents’ help and wisdom in homeschooling them. Throughout homeschooling, children have the opportunity to observe their parents handling certain challenges that are unique to homeschooling: dealing with school officials, finding or creating learning opportunities, negotiating for you to take certain classes, attend certain events, networking through support groups, phone trees, publications, computers, service organizations, churches, and so on. Contrary to popular mythology, I think homeschoolers have a much clearer idea about how to work with people, negotiate, and get what they need from the world than school children do since school children often expect to get ahead in the world solely because they got good grades in school. Homeschoolers see how networking works firsthand: they use this knowledge and build on

this experience. Teenage homeschoolers who are shy about calling strangers up on the phone can ask their parents to do it for them, much as a school guidance counselor might make calls on behalf of his students.

Why is finding out about a job so important before going to college? Because you can't get a refund from college! For instance, getting a degree in elementary education only to find out that you get migraines from working with thirty second-graders each day is indeed a waste of your time and money, not to mention the second-graders' time and money. If instead, you had volunteered as a classroom assistant for a semester before going to college, you could have had a clearer idea about what teaching second grade was really like. Further, once you spend a great deal of money on a degree, that expenditure can act as an anchor to all your other choices later in life. The American Bar Association surveyed its members in 1984 and discovered that 41% of them would choose another profession if they could start over, but the costs of getting their degrees, plus mortgages and other obligations they had accumulated now prevent them from pursuing more personally fulfilling work.¹ So carefully consider why you want to go to college *before* you go.

So, how do homeschoolers get into college? The short answer is: just like everyone else, they apply. The long answer is somewhat more involved...

First, investigate which colleges appeal to you. There are many books and resources for that. Your local library is a good place to start, plus visiting local colleges to get a feel for campus life. Most importantly: don't be afraid to THINK BIG. Studies and experience have shown that, in general, private universities have more liberal entrance policies than public colleges do for homeschoolers. Indeed, larger schools are more likely to have scholarship and work-study funding for homeschool students than smaller ones, so if money is a concern really focus on going to a larger school. In my home state of Massachusetts, Boston University and Harvard University have had admissions' officers at homeschooling conferences to answer questions and recruit. However, if a smaller college is desirable, and I can think of many reasons why it would be, don't worry. You may have to make a stronger case for yourself by going through more detailed interviews and taking more standardized tests, but you can probably get in. Indeed, some fine smaller colleges have advertised in homeschooling magazines as a way to recruit homeschoolers.

Once you've decided which colleges you wish to apply to, you will need to prepare a transcript of your high school years that shows you are capable of achievement in the academic world of college. You can ask for the college's requirements for incoming freshmen and then match up their requirements, such as two years of a foreign language, with your experience, such as two years of speaking and reading in German with your

grandmother. It's good to know these things as far in advance as possible so you can fill deficiencies in areas, such as a course-year of algebra, before you create your transcript. There are many ways to present yourself on paper, and do not neglect to mention any volunteer or work experiences you have had. You should show the colleges you apply to that you have sustained involvement and leadership in on-going activities since they use this as a gauge to determine your personal qualities regarding college admissions. The famous homeschooler, Grant Colfax, interested Harvard *because* of his experiences in breeding goats, not despite those experiences.²

Find out if the schools require S.A.T.s or other standardized tests. Do not assume they all do. More and more colleges are eliminating or de-emphasizing these tests as criterion for admission and you can save yourself time and money by not taking them. If you must take them, then do practice test-taking! You will be taking a national test that will pool your results against school kids who have had practice taking these sorts of tests under school conditions for years. Get *Ten S.A.T.s*³ from the College Board and practice taking real S.A.T.s from previous years. In most major cities there are also classes, such as Kaplan, you can pay for that guarantee to raise your S.A.T. scores by 50 points or your money back! Also consider reading books, like *Cracking The New SAT & P.S.A.T.*,⁴ that show you how standardized tests are created and how to reason like their creators in order to succeed by giving them what they want.

After transcripts and test scores, you need to consider if you should do an interview with the college. Some will require it; others won't. Like testing, find out in advance if an interview is required. If it is, then practice interviewing techniques with your friends and family. This is just what kids do in expensive private schools - practice test-taking and interviewing - so don't think you're somehow cheating or being phony by following these suggestions.

Recommendations should come from people you know would speak well of you, and ideally should not come from your parents. These could be people from your church, your various work or volunteer experiences, your baseball coach, your rabbi. You will also probably be asked to write an essay about why you want to attend a particular college. Give that one some good thought as it is also a good opportunity to reinforce the value of your homeschooling experiences which you described briefly on your official homeschool transcript. In an article from the *PA Homeschoolers Newsletter*, a college admissions officer sums up the issue of how homeschoolers should apply to college this way:

[Homeschoolers] are going to need to demonstrate a real love for learning, strong academic performance,

strong writing ability, excellent character, and strong recommendations. I have never seen any prejudice against homeschoolers; I think it is looked upon well.⁵

Finally, and I make it last because it really isn't as important as everyone thinks it is, is the need for an actual diploma. Most colleges that accept students with nontraditional educations understand why there is no diploma and emphasize the four areas I've mentioned instead. However, if you need a diploma you can always take your state's high school equivalency diploma test, the G.E.D.⁶, and earn one that way. Another, perhaps less costly, way to get a high school diploma is to work out a deal with your local high school to arrange to get their diploma. This is tricky, but it is not unheard of, and it may be worth pursuing if you find that you really need an institutional sheepskin instead of a homemade one to get into college. If, for any reason, that's not good enough, I have several more suggestions for you. What I've described so far is the tried and true "do-it-yourself" homeschool to college application process. You can also square these issues away - transcripts, testing, essays, recommendations, and diplomas - in other ways.

You can enroll in correspondence or satellite school programs that offer accredited high school diplomas. In fact, the Clonlara School has pioneered a high school diploma program now done entirely over computer networks called CompuHigh.⁷ All these schools will supply the transcripts and just about everything else you need for a paper trail to apply to college.

Of course, these suggestions are for homeschoolers a few years before they apply to college. If you are in or near your senior year of high school I have some other suggestions for you; however, what follows can also be utilized by younger teenagers to create a record of one's ability to do college-level work.

If the college of your choice refuses you admission because they aren't satisfied that your transcript and background prove you can do college work, then you can enroll in a community college, or any college with open admission policies. Do your best for a semester or two, and then try to transfer to the college you really want. The college record supercedes the high school record, so if you do well in community college it makes you a better candidate for admission when you ask to transfer to another college.

You can also accumulate proof of your ability to do college level work by doing your initial college courses at home. You can take college courses:

- Through the mail. *Bear's Guide To Non-Traditional College Degrees* by Dr. John Bear and *Peterson's Guide To Independent Study* by Peterson's Guide Co. are two good starting points.⁸

—Through computer. Just as CompuHigh exists for high school diplomas, Nova University in Florida and Thomas Edison State College in NJ, to name just two, will give you a college diploma after you've completed your course work through your modem. All sorts of distance learning opportunities are making their appearance now that multimedia computers and cable TV are maturing.⁹

—You can earn some college credits by taking exams in certain subject areas, such as English or Physics. Dr. John Bear describes the situation this way: "More than two thousand colleges and universities in the United States and Canada award credit toward their Bachelor's degrees (and, in a few cases Master's and Doctorates) solely on the basis of passing examinations, but only a handful will give most or all the credit for a degree on the basis of exams."¹⁰ The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) by the College Board and the Proficiency Examination Program (PEP) by the American College Testing program are the two biggest companies in this field.¹¹

— Finally, you can try earning college credit for your life experience. Some institutions, such as Univ. of the State of NY,¹² will, for a fee, review your presentation of your work and give you a certain amount of course credit for it that you can use when applying to colleges. You won't be able to earn a degree based solely on your life experience unless you've led a remarkable life and are awarded an honorary degree, however getting some college credit for the real hard work you've done can be very helpful. Some colleges, upon request when you apply, will consider life experience as the equivalent of required courses, and so you may not even need to use institutes like Univ. of the State of NY as intermediaries for your paper trail to college. For instance, Jo-Anne Beirne, a homeschooling mom, was a high school graduate who now, at the age of 38, was feeling kind of inadequate since she didn't have a university degree. Jo-Anne wrote about this in a recent issue of the magazine I publish, *Growing Without Schooling*:

I am quite interested in marketing, because I have a little experience doing it both for homeschooling and for our company. As I prepare documents about homeschooling somewhat regularly, I thought, why not give it a go? I submitted these documents, some references, the *Australian Homeschool Journals* I had published, and the detailed program of study that I had compiled about the work the children completed in 1992-93 (about 200 spread out pages of Quark Xpress document with photos, graphics, and plenty of jargon). As a result, I was accepted for a one-year graduate diploma in

management, which, if completed successfully, would mean direct entry into an MBA program. I was surprised and delighted and would encourage anyone to consider using their homeschooling documentation as a basis for such an application.¹³

I hope you see from these examples that the lack of traditional schooling does not show a lack of education, and most places of higher learning accept this fact.

For those of you who don't have a clear idea about why you would go to college, spending your time trying to figure out what work you want to do is time well-spent. There is a book that is out of print now, but you may still be able to find it in a used bookstore or library, called *The Question Is College* by Herbert Kohl (Random House, 1989). It is a wise and useful book for both parents and teenagers to read about whether or not college is the right place to go at this time in their teenage years. It's important not just because it provides you with useful charts and exercises for deciding about college, but also for its insight into how deciding about the college question can sometimes ruin a family's relationships. Kohl tells the story of a young man whose father and mother were both high-paid professionals who wanted their son to go to college whether he wanted to or not. The son wanted to work in a radio station. Eventually their relationship soured over the college issue and they stopped speaking. The son is now married, has children, and is a successful radio entrepreneur. His parents never get to see him or their grandchildren.

College degrees are not the be all and end all for finding, keeping, and moving ahead at work. Millions of college graduates are employed in fields that have little or no direct bearing on their course-work in college. The average American will change jobs 3 - 5 times in their work careers; that statistic wreaks havoc with the notion that what you study in college during your youth is what you do to earn money as a mature adult. While college is a worthy goal, it is not necessarily a worthy goal for every teenager.

So what do you do without the degree? Just what you did as a homeschooler, to some degree or another: you follow your interests. If working with cars interests you, go directly to where they do that work. Observe, talk, volunteer. Eventually you will learn how to find work in that area, and if college is a prerequisite, then you'll have to do it. I've described many ways to achieve that end. But to work in many fields, college degrees won't be required, or at least they won't be an immediate requirement. Don't forget that some companies will pay for their employees to take college courses, so think about that too as you look for work. Instead of college degrees, what some fields, such as mechanics, plumbing,

electrical work, baking, bookbinding, and carpentry require are apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are often formal arrangements and won't leave much free time for other things that interest you, particularly if you use the Bureau of Apprenticeships, a government agency that oversees formal apprenticeships in dozens of fields. Grace Llewellyn has much important advice about apprenticing, interning, and volunteering in her invaluable book *The Teenage Liberation Handbook*:

You may not particularly like the way you are trained: my friend Rick wanted to be a carpenter, but not the sort of "construction worker" who pounds nails on future skyscrapers. He was more interested in doing small-scale work like renovating houses, so he learned by working for a small, nonunion contractor rather than through a BAT apprenticeship. If you do want information about BAT apprenticeships, contact your state department of labor.¹⁴

There is a difference between an apprenticeship and an internship. A formal apprenticeship usually leads directly to learning specific skills in a craft or trade; an internship is less formal and typically involves office or administrative work done to gain experience and knowledge. You can make or design your own internships, as you can with apprenticeships, on a one-to-one basis with any local employer who is open to the idea. Just be sure to talk about your goals and schedule with your prospective company so both of you have similar expectations. Indeed, put as much in writing as you can about the arrangements you make.

If you want to try something more formal, go to your local library and look up the book *The National Directory of Internships*;¹⁵ you'll also find several other specialized internship guides too.

If the do-it-yourself approach to internships and apprenticeships doesn't interest you then you can pay a group, such as the *Center for Interim Programs* in Cambridge MA¹⁶, to do it for you.

One thing you should create, and I think this is true for homeschoolers of any age who wish to participate in adult work, is a resumé. The sooner children see the connection between what they do as it is put down on paper and how that translates into a paid job, the better it is for them. Resumés, after all, list primarily work experience and just touch on degrees a bit, so it is very good for homeschoolers of all ages to develop resumés, collect recommendations and good work citations, and update them periodically.

There are a few new wrinkles about degrees and work that are developing and I'd like to mention them here. First, don't limit your job search to the yellow pages and traditional job placement businesses. It is possible to find out about work opportunities, particularly in the fields of computers and finance, over the Internet. There is a World Wide Web page called CareerMosaic where companies post their history and mission, as well as job openings, internships, and other corporate information. However, I understand many of these jobs are for people with several years' experience and do not apply to recent college graduates.¹⁷ That shouldn't be too much of a burden for homeschoolers, though, since homeschooling can allow you to develop several years of experience in a field before you even reach college age.

Another tip I can offer you about work and its relationship to your schooling is: don't be put off by all the propaganda about college degrees giving people better incomes than those who don't have degrees. A college degree does not automatically make you a good employee or a good entrepreneur. Certainly a degree may give you more income, just as going into debt on a credit card gives you more pre-approved credit card letters from other companies, but there is no causal relationship between employment and degrees. Dr. Ivar Berg made this clear in the early seventies in his book, *Education and Jobs: The Great Training Robbery* (Beacon Press, 1971). If you want or need a degree to earn more money, I've outlined a half-dozen or more ways for you to get one. However, what is increasingly apparent is that employers want people who can actually do things, and so, to that end, I urge you to not only know how to do things, but how to do those things well and only worry about a college degree if it becomes a real obstacle for you. For instance, though you don't have a degree in mathematics, if you have good math skills, particularly if you can apply them to basic business math - and I just mean fractions, percentages, and basic arithmetic, not geometry and advanced algebra - then, according to a recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research, you stand a good chance of earning 57 cents per hour more than those with poor math skills if you're a man. For women, the differential was 74 cents. According to this study, the math-skill bonus doesn't show up quickly. It takes several years for employers to recognize the talents of those who have mastered fractions, percents, and decimals, so don't think you'd earn more money right out of college just by having a degree in math. In fact, this study correlated high school graduates' math scores to later income, not college graduates!¹⁸

You also may discover that so-called hobbies, talents, and extracurricular activities that you enjoy are also your tickets to fulfilling work. I know a homeschooler in Utah who loved Star Trek so much as a teenager that he not only built his own model of the U.S.S. Enterprise, he also wired it with fiber-optic cable to achieve the same lighting scheme the ship has

on TV. Now in his early twenties, this young man is marketing this very same model kit which he designed years earlier, has a business partner, and is doing well.

Play is child's work, and the more you know how to play around with things, be they baseballs, computers, or art supplies, the more you will be able to use them well. A recent issue of our magazine, *Growing Without Schooling* #104, had three stories by older homeschoolers who traced the connections between what they did as young children - drawing, athletics, and playing librarian - and what they are doing today: artist, gymnast, and librarian. Don't think that all your fun and games are inconsequential to your search for a job; they may actually contain the key to your future work.

Travelling, particularly when you are young and single, is a very good way to find out about the world, learn about what work there is out there to do, and to grow. I urge parents to consider allowing responsible teenagers to travel before work or college consumes their child's most valuable commodity - time. Further, try to travel with a purpose. For instance, two homeschooled teens I know arranged a trip from St. Louis to Maine with stops along the way so one could attend a vegetarian cooking conference and the other could meet an author she admired. Certainly the purpose of some travelling is to just sight-see and relax, but you can also mix those elements in with serious stops during your travels.

You may find you need to earn a living while developing skills and abilities needed for your true life's work. But regardless of whatever job you decide to work in, try to find work that allows you to work towards your purpose, towards your dreams. Many fields, particularly in the entertainment business, require you to hold down one job, typically restaurant work, in order to pursue your real vocation. As long as you don't lose sight of your purpose - to be a writer, to be an actor, musician, or computer programmer - then this path makes sense. Indeed, with the estimated 500 cable TV channels, interactive media, and other multimedia breakthroughs we are on the verge of, the entertainment industry will be a major employer in years to come.

Regardless of whether you decide to go to college now or leap right into the world of work, you need to find out for yourself what you are good at doing and what it is you want to do most. Now these may not be the same things and I'd like to explore this issue a little more.

John Holt often made the distinction between jobs, careers, and work. A job, as defined by Holt, was "something that you do for money, something that someone else told you to do and paid you to do. Probably not something you would have done otherwise, but you needed the money, so you did it.

"A career [is] a kind of stepladder of jobs. If you did your first job for

a while, did what you were told and didn't cause any trouble, whoever gave you that job might give you a new job. This job might be slightly more interesting, or at least not so hard-dirty-dangerous. You might not have to take orders from so many people, might even be able to give orders to a few. You might be able to make a few more choices, and would probably get more money. Then, if you did that job OK for a while, your boss might then give you a still better job, until you had gone up the job ladders as far as you were going to go. This adds up to a career.

"By 'work' I mean something altogether different, what people used to call a 'vocation' or calling - something which seemed so worth doing for its own sake that they would have gladly chosen to do it even if they didn't need money and the work didn't pay. ...to find our work, in this sense, is one of the most important and difficult tasks that we have in life, that unless we are very lucky we cannot expect to find it quickly, and indeed, that we may never find it once and for all, since work that is right for us at one stage of our life may not be right for us at the next... ..the vital question 'What do I really want to do? What do I think is most worth doing?' is not one that the schools will often urge us or help us to ask of ourselves; on the whole, they feel it is their business only to prepare us for employment - jobs or careers, high or low. So we are going to have to find out for ourselves what work needs to be done out there, and which of that work we most want to take part in."¹⁹

Finding work worth doing, deciding what work you really want to do, is a task that homeschooling has well qualified you for since you are used to ferreting out learning opportunities in your communities and you understand that it is the learning process, not the grade or final report, that makes you a better, more educated person. A series of jobs can lead to a career, but, as Holt notes, is a career all you want? In the same article I quoted from just now, Holt goes on to point out that in "ancient Greece slaves could earn money, own property, even get rich (some did). What they could not do was work for anything *but themselves*; in other words, they could not fight, or vote, or hold office. They were only allowed to be what in our times most people choose to be - what economists call Economic Man, people who work only for their own personal gain."²⁰

My hope for homeschoolers is that they do not become mere Economic Men and Women. I personally do not believe that our prime purpose for being on earth is to make money. Instead, I hope parents will encourage their teens to use their talents to fight for those values and things they cherish, to vote and perhaps even hold office, to be part of a local community, to be an active citizen, not a mere consumer.

Other homeschoolers have blazed the trail for entry to college or work. Now they are holding out their hands and offering to meet and talk with others about how they got into college and found work worth doing. There

are so many grown-up homeschoolers out there that we are now able to compile a list of grown-up homeschoolers. This is just a list of folks who aren't shy about writing to our magazine, GWS, so it is hardly complete. There are probably a great many more homeschoolers doing many other kinds of jobs and work. However I think the variety of work they find, the colleges they've attended, and things they have done or are currently doing is a good way to show you what is possible for homeschoolers to achieve in their teenage years and beyond. When we compiled this list here is what these grown-up homeschoolers told us they were doing:

Alazel Acheson is attending the University of Puget Sound studying Computer Research and Development; Eleadari Acheson is teaching gymnastics; Tia Acheson is at the School of Visual Concepts, Seattle; Elye Alexander attends Harvard University; Ben Barker runs canoeing and mountaineering expeditions in MI and MT and attended Nat'l Outdoor Leadership School and Outward Bound; Britt Barker Mariner runs Suzuki piano studios in WY and CO and is a writer and private pilot; Dan Barker is a cellist with Missoula Symphony Orchestra, an outdoor leader, and attended the Interlochen Center for the Arts and Oberlin Conservatory; Maggie Barker races sled dogs in North America and Europe and runs dogsledding programs in MI and MT; Amanda Bergson-Shilcock is at the University of Pennsylvania and does library work; Stephanie Bromfield goes to community college and does retail work; Anne Brosnan is a bluegrass musician and does library work; Rebecca Cauthen attends Shorter College; Amber Clifford attends Central MO State U.; Jeff Cohen attends the US Air Force Academy; Tamara Cohen is a foreign exchange student; Erin Dodd does theater and teaching; Mike Dodd attended Boston University and the University of Tennessee; Andrew Endsley is doing film directing; Kendall Gelner attends Rice University and does computer programming; Laura Gelner attends Colorado College; Anita Giesy does cross-country travel, dance, and massage therapy; Gordon Hubbell is a factory worker and an LDS missionary; Bronwyn Jackson is at Wellesley College; Vanessa Keith does farm work and travel; Celia Kendrick attended the Rhode Island School of Design and does animation work; Kim Kopel is an intern at a living history village; Ely Lester attended Rowland Heights Animation School; Nathan Lester attended Mt. Shasta College - a recording engineer school; Christian Murphy attends Williams College; Emily Murphy attends St. John's College; Sarah Pitts attends Boston College; Emma Roberts does theater; Dawn Shuman attends St. John's College; Lindsey Smith attends NE Missouri State U and does conservation work; Seth Smith attended NE Missouri State U, Central Methodist College, and does conservation and outdoor work; Jacob Spicer attends the University of Chicago and manages a furniture store; Jessica Spicer is an intern at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.; Seth Spicer attends

At the very least, I hope all these examples put some perspective on the myths about homeschoolers being academically short-changed, social misfits, and too attached to their parents!

I will try to sum up all I've said in just one sentence: find for yourself not just a degree, a job or a career for your own personal gain, but work worth doing, forge a life worth living, and thereby make this world a better place than it was before you found your work.

ENDNOTES

¹ *The Question is College*, Herbert Kohl (New York: Random House, 1989), P. 43

² Grant's story is told in *Hard Times In Paradise*, David and Micki Colfax (New York: Warner, 1992) and *Homeschooling For Excellence*, David and Micki Colfax (New York: Warner, 1990)

³ *Ten S.A.T.'s*, The College Board Staff (Princeton, NJ: The College Board, 1994)

⁴ *Cracking The New SAT & PSAT*, Princeton Review (New York: Random House, 1995)

⁵ *PA Homeschoolers Newsletter*, May 1995, Issue #51 P.7

⁶ Call your State Dept. of Education for dates and requirements for when the G.E.D. is offered in your state. You can also write for general information at: General Educational Development, GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, DC 20036.

⁷ Contact Clonlara's Home Based Education Program, 1289 Jewett St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. 313-769-4515.

⁸ *Bear's Guide To Non-Traditional College Degrees*, Dr. John Bear (Benicia, CA: C&B Publishers, 1995, 12th edition). *Peterson's Guide To Independent Study* by Peterson's Guide Co. (Princeton, NJ: Peterson's, 1995). See also *College Degrees By Mail*, Dr. John Bear (Berkeley: 10 Speed Press, 1994)

⁹ Nova Southeastern University, 3301 College Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314. (800)-541-NOVA. Nova's programs require some short-term residency for many of their degrees. Thomas A. Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608 (609) 984-1100. Edison has no residency

requirement in order to earn a degree. See also University of the State of New York below.

¹⁰ *Bear's Guide To Non-Traditional College Degrees*, P. 39

¹¹ College Level Examination Program (CLEP): The College Board, CN 6600, Princeton, NJ 08541-6600; Proficiency Examination Program (PEP): American College Testing Program, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243.

¹² University of the State of New York, Regents College, 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-5159. (518) 464-8500. Thomas A. Edison (above) also offers college credit for life experience. See *Bear's Guide* (above) for a large list of such programs. See also *Proving You're Qualified: Strategies for Competent People Without College Degrees*, Charles Hayes, (Wasilla, AK: Autodidactic Press, 1995). This tells you how to prove to employers that you're qualified *without* degrees.

¹³ *Growing Without Schooling* Issue #104, (GWS, 2269 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140. \$6/issue, \$25 for 1 year subscription of 6 issues), P. 12

¹⁴ *The Teenage Liberation Handbook*, Grace Llewellyn (Eugene, OR: Lowry House, 1991) P. 290

¹⁵ See The National Directory of Internships, National Society For Experiential Education (Raleigh, NC: National Society For Experiential Education, 1993). The 1994-95 edition is the Ninth edition.

¹⁶ Center for Interim Studies, PO Box 2347, Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 547-0980. Other such services are listed in *The Teenage Liberation Handbook*.

¹⁷ *Christian Science Monitor*, P. 1, 5/16/95. CareerMosaic is a World Wide Web page launched by Bernard Hodes Advertising Inc., NY, NY.

¹⁸ *Christian Science Monitor*, P. 9, 5/25/95.

¹⁹ *GWS #6*, p. 6

²⁰ *GWS #6*, p. 6

²¹ *GWS #103*, p. 37. You can request this issue to obtain addresses for all the grown-up homeschoolers mentioned, plus new additions since the list was compiled. The next update will be in *GWS #109*. See *Growing Without Schooling* above.