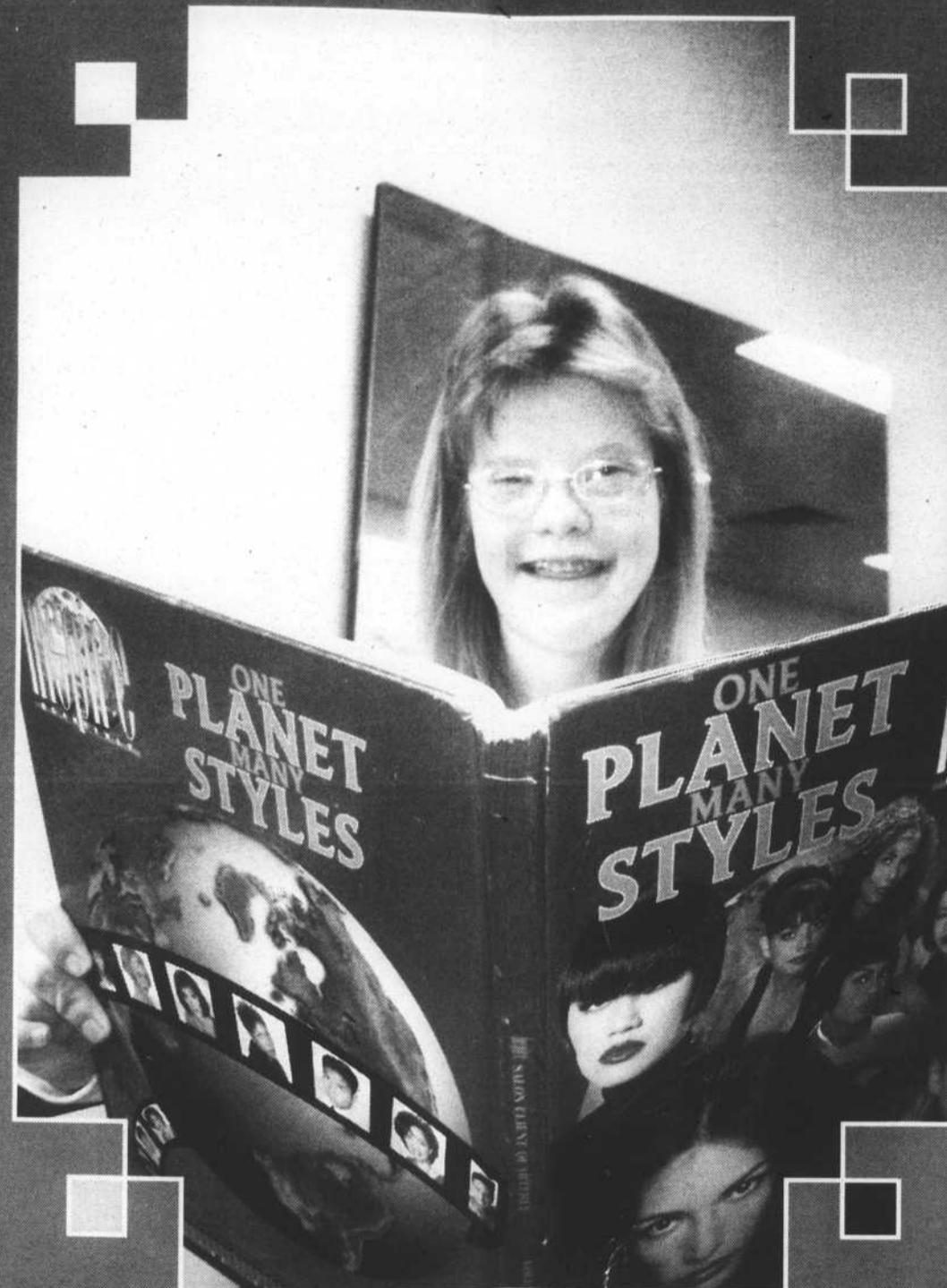


Locks For Love Redux



File Photo Maggie Shoobridge

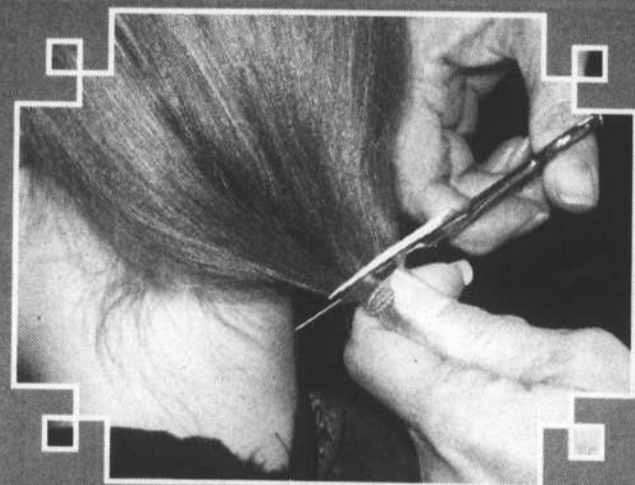
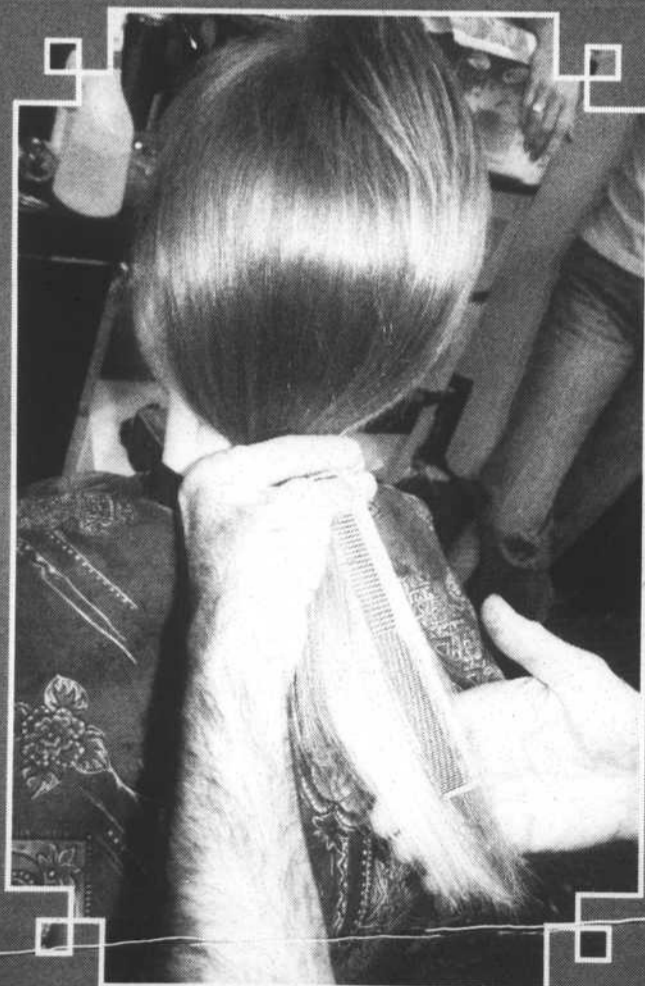
Above left, Sarah Stikeleather, age 12, with her lifelong locks of golden hair. Above right, Sarah, age 17, waiting with a hair book.



SARAH STIKELEATHER IS ALL SMILES looking through a hair style book before donating 10 inches to Locks of Love.



SARAH'S MOM TAMMY CROMIE-WILKINS cuts her daughter's hair for Locks of Love.



Lee Ann Sherrill/CITIZEN

ABOVE GOING CLOCKWISE, COMB MEASUREMENT. The first cut. Sarah with her hair reward.

Lee Ann Sherrill
IREDELL CITIZEN

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD SARAH STIKELEATHER of Statesville reached another monumental goal when she donated 10 more inches of hair to the Locks of Love (LOL) organization.

At age four Sarah was diagnosed with leukemia and, over a two-and-a-half year period at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, she lost her hair three times during chemotherapy.

"It was more tragic for mom than her," said Sarah's mom, Tammy Cromie-Wilkins.

Although Sarah was happy to wear an assortment of hats during that time, she

watched the joy of several friends at Baptist when they received donations from Locks of Love.

The first time Sarah donated her hair was five years ago as a way to mark her 12th birthday and her five-year anniversary of being cancer free. It was then that her mom said, "We'll do this again in five years to mark your ten year anniversary."

Sure enough, the day after her 17th birthday the pair showed up at Absolutely Salon on Davie Avenue so hair stylist Roger Rumple could do the honors.

With a big smile and photographs in hand of the new do she wanted, Sarah hopped in the styling chair and took off

her glasses.

Roger pulled back her hair into a ponytail, took out a comb and measured the length. Soon Tammy had the shears in her hands once again and, for the second time, cut off her daughter's golden locks.

In a short time Sarah's hair was styled and she was ready to show the world.

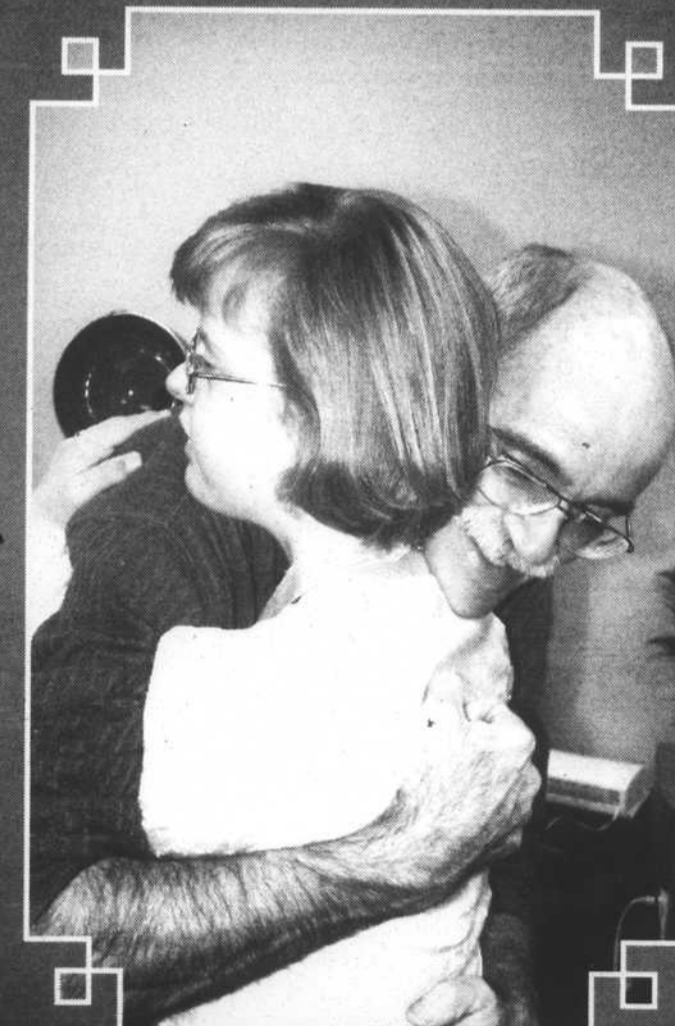
"You've got a grown-up hair style," Roger said.

After putting her glasses back on Sarah saw the new do and announced "I love it!"

For now, Sarah will enjoy the short style during dance at Dancers Unlimited



HAIR STYLIST ROGER RUMPLE shows Sarah her ponytail.



A HUG OF THANKS. Sarah thanks hair stylist Roger Rumple for her new "do."

STEPS class and while swimming for Special Olympics. But her main goal is to set a record for donating the most times to Locks of Love.

Sarah was the first LOL donation from the salon this year. But she hopes her action will inspire more folks with long hair to donate.

To make a donation to LOL it takes at least 10 inches of hair. Two inches are lost in the manufacturing process and each hairpiece takes six to 10 donated ponytails. A vast majority of the kids who get hairpieces are girls, but boys do, too.

For information on how to make a donation visit the LOL website at