



Australian Ron Grant, 40, a bread vendor from Queensland, was given a hero's welcome by 10,000 people when he finished a 5153 mile run in 217 days around the perimeter of Australia. He was the first person to achieve this feat.

Donald thinks that drug use by athletes is going to change the nature of sports. "The application of modern science to... doping is similar to what happened to war by the advent of modern weapons and the strategic arms race," he asserts. "One hopes that the general community of mankind will get a say in the matter and that it is not all decided and pushed covertly as has been the case so far."

Feedback on "Serious Runners"

In the January issue's short on "The Commercial Value of the Serious Runner," we commented on a recent poll by American Sports Data. The ASD poll came to a very different conclusion from the Gallup Poll which, several years earlier, had found that as many as 40 million Americans are runners. In reference to ASD's president Harvey Lauer, we wrote: "In a somewhat disparaging reference to the Gallup Poll, Lauer comments that "'Quickie' surveys seem to have exaggerated America's commitment to physical activity."

A few days after the issue came out, we got a letter from Lauer saying, "My press release concerning the Study of the American Runner never even mentioned the Gallup Poll." Lauer doesn't

say which 'quickie' poll he was referring to, and we'll admit to being guilty of having jumped to a conclusion: it was the well-publicized Gallup Poll which had first come to the conclusion that Americans have made a massive commitment to fitness—the very conclusion Lauer's survey seems to question. So, we assumed (as we think most of those who received his release probably assumed) that there was an implicit, if not explicit, reference to Gallup. If we jumped to the wrong conclusion on this, we apologize and promise to run 40 laps in penance.

In his letter, Lauer goes on to provide further details on his study which we are pleased to pass on:

- The ASD Poll puts the Serious Runner population in the U.S. (averaging 33 mpw) at 1.2 million.
- Last year, 25% of all runners (3 million) participated in road races.
- 700,000 runners have participated in at least one marathon, and 1.3 million plan to run one in the future.
- 43% of all runners plan to run more next year; only 7% plan to run less.

The Hill Was So Steep...

Fishermen tell fish stories. Runners tell hill stories. It's a storytelling

tradition that is very much a part of the sport.

For example, there's the hill described by Bob Kern in the newsletter of the Delaware County (PA) Road Runners: "This hill was so steep you could reach out and touch the road surface in front of you. We should have suspected something when we saw the mountain goats sliding down the hill past us and the buzzards circling overhead."

If race courses were all as hilly as runners tell it, every time you dropped a nickel in America it would roll 5 miles.

One Legged Runner

Running Times has received numerous inquiries about the artificial leg worn by Pat Griskus (Running Shorts, October). The leg is made by Robert Press of Barnum Avenue in Stratford, CT, from wood and fiberglass, with a silicon insert. It costs around \$1000 and is expected to last about two years.

Pat Griskus, wearing this artificial leg, set a world marathon record for one-legged runners with a 3:55:53 at New York, and then improved on that mark with a 3:53 at the Marine Corps marathon in Washington.