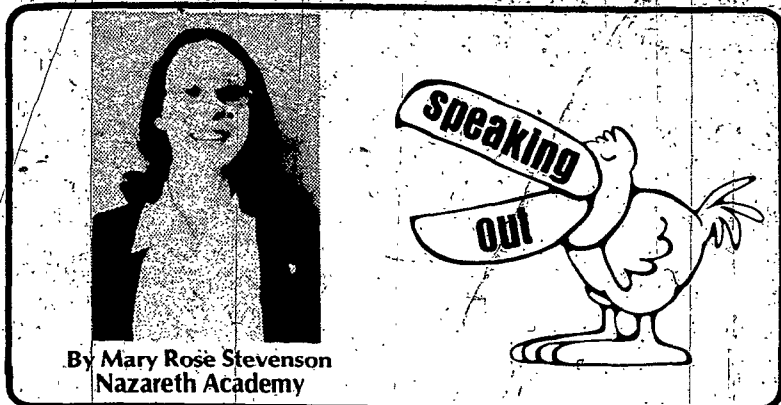


nd Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap



By Mary Rose Stevenson
Nazareth Academy

"An act of mercy to bind the nation's wounds and to heal the scars of divisiveness," said President Ford in the speech that established "earned re-entry" for draft evaders and deserters.

The President obviously had high hopes for his new program. Yet out of 28,500 evaders and deserters eligible for the plan only about 2000 have applied. Most of the eligible men are living apart from their families in Canada, Sweden and underground in the United States. Others have been convicted, 4,000 have been indicted and are listed as fugitives, and 2,000 are still being investigated.

Mainly, the plan which was supposed to end Jan. 31 but extended because of the poor response, does not give draft dodgers and deserters any more options than they had before. They can chose the service, jail, or "alternate service."

The President's program says evaders and deserters may return to the United States if they surrender to U.S. attorneys. A prosecutor will then assign them up to two years of "alternate service." Once the offender has returned he cannot go back if he does not like the program. If he

does he faces up to five years in jail.

"Alternate service" is low paying jobs in hospitals and nursing homes as orderlies or attendants. Any work connected with national health, safety or interest.

President Ford appropriately did not call his program "amnesty" because the word literally means forgiveness and the program does everything but forgive.

The public is divided on the question of amnesty. Most veterans are understandably totally against any form of it even President Ford's. They feel cheated by it and they are especially protective of the men who did not come home from the war.

In a way these veterans are right, but the evaders feel that the war was morally and legally wrong and in part they are right also.

Yet the President's program, which he hoped would end this conflict, does not satisfy anyone. To draft dodgers and deserters it is an admission of guilt and the veterans feel it is too lenient. So



Sweet Project

Our Lady of Mercy students Mary Joe Porreca, Elizabeth Mercado, Anne Wahl, and Christine Coleman are getting ready for Candy Sale. This fund raising project will run from February 27 to March 17, with proceeds to be used in maintaining Mercy High School. The candy which sells for \$1.25 a box is of two kinds—mint and toffee, and may be obtained from any Mercy student, or by calling 288-7100.

St. Agnes Lists Regents Winners

St. Agnes High School has announced State Regents Scholarship winners. They are: Karen Anderson, Bernie Amesbury, Lisa Dimitropoulos, Jane Aleksandrowicz, Chris Zapf, Evelyn O'Connell.

Alternates—Maureen Rinehart, Jeanne Hickey, Linda Retote, Jackie-Scheidt, Beth Zimmerman, Joanne Johnson, Katie Burke, Karen Correnti.

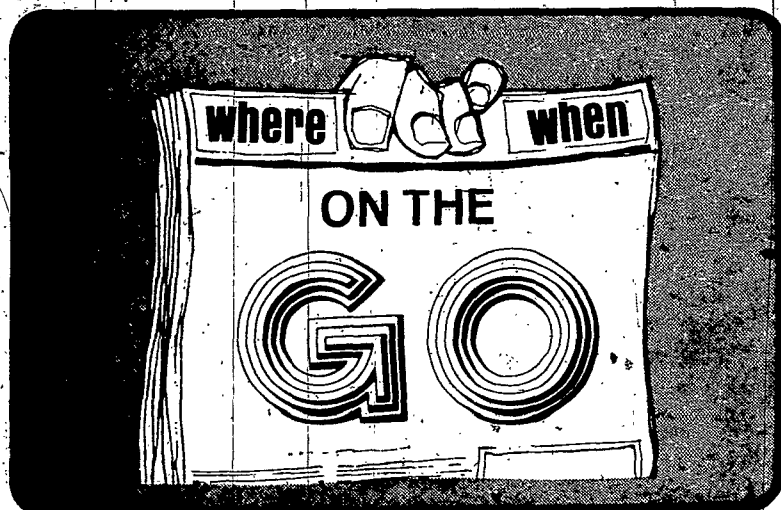
Alternates for Nursing Scholarship—Judith Montgomery, Ann Scheg.

President Ford now has two dissatisfied groups instead of one.

Since these men have made it clear they will not come home unless they are given full amnesty, we have to ask ourselves why it should not be given. Because they broke a law that told them to fight in a war that was never declared legal by Congress and a war that was not even our own? Also, although it is not an excuse, Mr. Nixon was

pardoned and evidence points to the fact that he may have broken laws.

Would it hurt anyone if amnesty is given? The answer is probably no one, although some would be very upset about it. Would it be good for the country? In the long run I think it would. None of us like to remember Viet Nam although we should because it taught us a lesson and giving amnesty would end one more aspect of it.



- AQUINAS**
Wednesday, Feb. 26—Senior Penance Service, open to entire student body, 8:30 a.m., auditorium.
Saturday, March 1—APACE Parents' Annual Card Party, cafeteria — 8 p.m. — tickets \$1.25.
Monday, March 3—Department Chairmen Meeting, early dismissal.
Wednesday, March 5—Student Lenten Mass, 8:30 a.m., auditorium.
- BISHOP KEARNEY**
Thursday, Feb. 27—Registration deadline for April 5 S.A.T. test.
Friday, Feb. 28—Century Club Dinner Dance — Party House.
Sunday, March 2—Parents' Club Family Retreat, Mass and breakfast.
Tuesday, March 4—Fathers' Club general meeting.
- CARDINAL MOONEY**
Thursday, Feb. 27—Girls Athletic Association, Sports Night — 6 p.m.
- DeSALES**
Saturday, March 1 — Dance sponsored by "Blaze Off," 8-11 p.m., Mother Freedom playing.
- McQUAID**
Friday, Feb. 28—Student Assembly, String Band.
- NAZARETH**
Wednesday, Feb. 26—PTA meeting — 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 28—Folk Night at the "Last Resort," 7-10 p.m., admission \$.50.
Wednesday, March 5—Future Secretary Club Recognition Day.
- OUR LADY OF MERCY**
Wednesday, Feb. 26—Assembly — Candy Sale begins.
Friday, Feb. 28—Dance.
Tuesday, March 4—Faculty Professional Day.
- ST. AGNES**
Friday, Feb. 28—Girls Athletic Association Dance gym, 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 1—Storyteller's Playhouse.
Monday, March 3—Lay Advisory Board meeting.
Wednesday, March 5—1st Annual Faculty Fashion Show, 8 p.m.

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