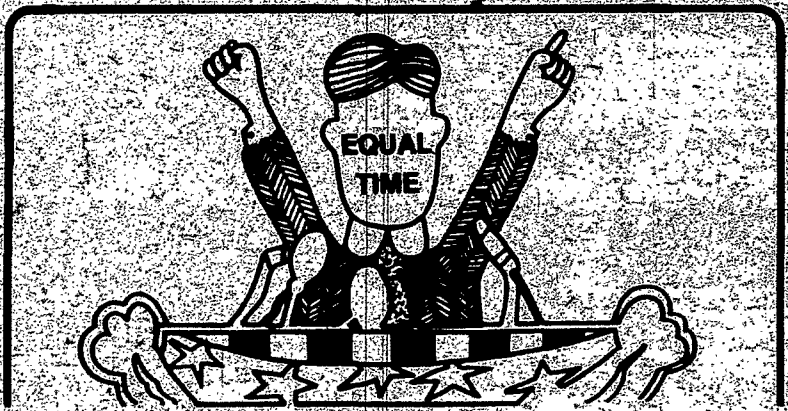


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What does the Fourth of July mean to you?

MERCY

**Alicia Farrell, junior**

"It means the community getting together and celebrating something that is special. It is not just the parades or the fireworks but it is the people who care that make the Fourth so special. Patriotism means the people who care about their country. They believe in its laws and they do their best to make America the country it is. When you feel patriotic you also have strong religious beliefs and they do tie in with the American beliefs in freedom, democracy and human rights."

**Kathy O'Hara, senior**

"It means thinking a lot about the days when our country began and being patriotic. Makes me think about George Washington and those who signed the Declaration of Independence. I think George Washington was one of the great patriotic Americans. He believed in independence from England and worked toward that goal. When I hear someone described as patriotic I think of that person who's involved in politics and who votes every year. I think of a person who is loyal and willing to fight for our country."

**Margo McDonald, senior**

"I think the Fourth of July is a day of independence. I think it shouldn't be all commercial but people should stop and think what it really represents. It makes me think of when the Declaration of Independence was signed and the historical events leading up to it. Patriotism means more than just the people who come out on the Fourth to celebrate. It means being a respected citizen all year long and not a flag waver."

**Patti Delaney, senior**

"To me the Fourth of July means the celebration of historical events which won our country's independence and our present system of democracy. A patriotic person is one who loves his country and who would die for it. I feel the greatest American who was the image of perfect patriotism was Thomas Jefferson because of his intelligence and his ability to stick up for his rights as well as those of the people."

**Meaghan McDonald, senior**

"I think the Fourth of July is special this year because I think the bicentennial is great. Every year our neighborhood block celebrates by forming bands and singing patriotic songs. This year we are going to dress up like Revolutionary times. Patriotism is shown through participation in this county's events and happenings. As a proud I think Americans are as proud of their country today as they were 200 years ago."

**Regina Bohrer, senior**

"I think it mostly means a special day for everyone because that's the day we proclaimed our independence. Patriotism isn't everyone showing off at being patriotic on just that day but everyone should take pride in his country because he is a part of it and it is a part of him. Parades are good way of celebrating along with patriotic concerts. Everyone should hang out his flag. Most people tend to hide their patriotism during the year and then they bring it out on the Fourth."

**Seana Dwyer, junior**

"When you are younger it is instilled in you that it is a holiday that is celebrated with parades and fireworks. But as you get older you realize it is not the showy things you do but what you feel inside that makes the Fourth so special. My feeling about the Fourth is that it's great that everyone is pulling together to commemorate our independence which makes a spirit of unity evident. Pride in one's country is still there but there aren't as many reasons to show it."

**Casey Connor, senior**

"The Fourth of July is a special day because it's the day we declared our independence and this year is extra special because it is our 200th birthday. I think people today have a lot of pride in their country just as much as they did 200 years ago because we've grown so much since then. Patriotism to me is love of one's country and I think George Washington personified the best as a patriotic American."



Busy musicians Mary Conte, Rita Forsythe, Roz Gugino and Elaine Volpe get together for sing-along. Girls were members of the 1976 Mercy graduating class.

## A Blend of Artistic Talents

By JOAN M. SMITH

Thomas Wolfe once wrote, "If a man has a talent and cannot use it, he has failed. If he has a talent and uses only half of it, he has partly failed. If he has a talent and learns somehow to use the whole of it, he has gloriously succeeded."

To have a musical talent and to use it to its fullest means hours of practice, performing in recitals, plays and musical competitions. And that's what our featured Mercy musicians have done and will continue to do.

Mary Conte who has studied the piano for 11 years will be attending Ithaca College for a music major while classmate Rita Forsythe will go to Oklahoma City University for her music courses.

Roslyn Gugino also will attend Ithaca for a humanities course. She does, however, have her eye on a future in singing but emphasizes the competition which exists in that professional field.

Elaine Volpe who will attend Yale University, like her fellow musicians devotes time and energy to her music. She has studied voice with the Eastman School of Music and has used her singing talents in summer theater groups such as the Brighton Summer Theater and the Northwestern University Drama programs. She has also taken part in Mercy-McQuaid plays, "Lulu" and "Wiley" and regularly performs in Eastman recitals.

Mary Conte with her extensive background in music delights in talking about her favorite composers Chopin and Debussy and says Chopin is the more difficult to play.

Besides participating in the Howard Hanson musical competitions she has accompanied

ballet recitals, offered her expertise to the Mercy children's theater and has played in school musicals.

To maintain the level of an accomplished pianist, Mary practices three to four hours a day. Though the piano is her first love, Mary indicated her interest in trying her hand at the percussions especially the drums and also finds the cello a fascinating instrument.

Practice in Rita's musical realm of singing "is not something you can do two or three hours every day." She explained that depending on the voice's condition a day's practice may only consist of warm up scales.

Rita's interest in singing mushroomed because of her interest in musicals but she said, "I've always liked to sing around the house."

Now she sings in plays, at May Days, and has competed in the Deverian Award Contest sponsored by the Rochester Philharmonic Women's Committee in which she had to perform three solos; one in

English and two in Italian.

Roz who is another singing enthusiast has performed in the school musicals "Hello Dolly," "Sound of Music," and "Wiley."

She enjoys a wide variety of music including folk tunes and during her lessons likes to try new challenges especially art songs which she explained "show your range of expressions and voice techniques."

Roz has arranged her own singing programs for various women's organizations. In preparing her repertoire she chooses a song variety, "With an idea of what the audience would enjoy."

The audience is the young musician's primary concern. "It's an ego trip to perform," acknowledged Rita, "but I really like to sing and when I see someone enjoying it it makes me work harder to make the performance more enjoyable."

Roz wholeheartedly agreed, "I enjoy singing so much that I hope it carries a message to my audience."

## Learning Government

Jeannette OuYang from St. Agnes High School, Lori Sailer of Nazareth, and Mercy student Cynthia Welch were among the 16 area high school students who traveled to Albany on June 27 to participate in political responsibilities program sponsored by the American Legion.

More than 300 girls from all over the state gathered at Skidmore College to participate in a political science seminar in which they chose political parties, elected officials in state, county and city governments. They conferred with their counterparts in actual government in the Albany area.

They also ran political campaigns completing platform slogans and rules.

The girls were chosen by the principals and guidance counselor from their individual high schools on the basis of scholarship, Americanism, qualities of leadership and general adaptability.

## Winner!

Aaron Lukacher, newly graduated from McQuaid, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of June 16.