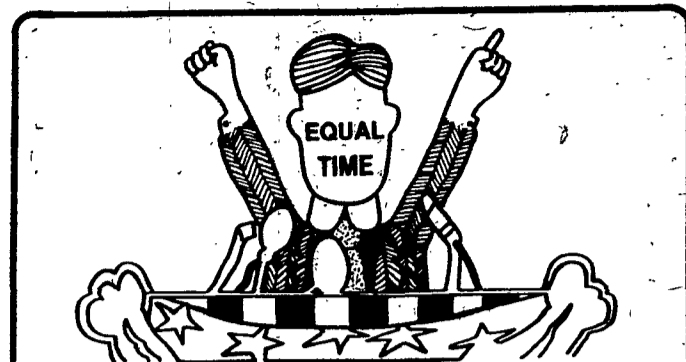


dRap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap



Winner's Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Notre Dame during lunch. The person circled above should bring the clipping to school office to be forwarded to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, March 22 to receive \$5.



Is there a devil?

BISHOP KEARNEY

Mary Jane Patti, junior, twirlers...

"I think there is because half of what people do isn't out of their free will. There is something behind them forcing them.

Take a robber, he knows it is wrong to steal but there's something behind him making him do it. But a person can always stop. The devil can't gain complete control."

Gina Lacapruccia, sophomore, cheerleader...

"No. There's something inside a person; there's bad and good in a person and in certain situations the way a person handles it is way it comes out and they are responsible. If a devil is a possibility, it is not a spirit that can take over a person and make him do what it wants. A person can reject evil."



Thom Englert, senior, golf...

"I don't think there is one, really. It's in your mind. Society determines what is evil and what isn't and if a person wants to be evil it's their personal choice. The environment you live in plays a big role in good and evil. I don't believe there's a little guy out there pointing at you saying 'you're going to do this.' It's your conscience that determines what is evil. If you know it's wrong and you do it you are responsible. There is no outside force directing you."

Ed Knauf, I senior, basketball scorekeeper...

"There has to be an evil force because people are overcome and without thinking about it, do evil. I don't think it exists as a figure with horns or tail but I feel an evil spirit does exist which works through a person's free will and sometimes takes complete control. It can control like in the picture 'The Omen' but usually it exists as a possibility of evil which a person can reject."



Steve Ceranowicz, senior, track...

"Yes. There has to be a devil. There is a good force (God) so there has to be an evil one. Not the little guy with the pitchfork but it is in your conscience which tells you it's wrong and if you do it anyway it's your responsibility and that's where the devil concept is. This concept can be a copout. Instead of a person taking the full rap he has someone else to blame it on."

Mary Miller, sophomore...

"I'd like to believe so then I could have someone to blame...that I was motivated by this force. I believe in heaven and that there is a good force so I feel there has to be an evil force. It depends on how strong a person is. Some can be swayed more easily than others. A person through his free will can reject the devil or evil force; it's up to the person."



Dave Herbst, senior, track...

"I think there's a devil. It's not the horns or pitchfork or all that stuff, but it's in your mind. It can psych you out but it's not the devil then there is one; if you don't there isn't. But if a person is evil then there is something influencing him but in that case you can shake it (the devil); real easy. You can get rid of it in your mind."

Becky Russell, senior, cheerleader...

"I don't think there is a devil. It is the person himself. If he wants to be good he'll be good; if he wants to be bad he'll be bad. A person is responsible for his actions, but people blame the devil."



Mercy Merit Winners

According to Mercians Kathy McKay and Jeanne Hossenlopp who have been named National Merit Finalists it takes more than good testing marks for recognition; you also have to have a good record of activities and both girls can point to busy years at Mercy.

chemistry. She is primarily interested in genetics and by volunteering at the U of R's Medical Center has had some background in the field.

Jeanne, also a Regents Scholarship winner, has been busy during her Mercy years playing on the basketball team and serving as a CAM rep. She is a graduate of Assumption school in Fairport where she belongs to the parish folk group and liturgy committee. She also intends to pursue chemistry and has narrowed her school choices down to three; Colgate, Rochester Institute of Technology, or the State University at Albany.

Kathy is a Christian Action Movement (CAM) representative and a member of the Mercedes literary staff. She is a member of St. Joseph's parish in Penfield and holds down a part time job at the Penfield Library. She has applied to the University of Rochester and Harvard where she would like to pursue courses in biology or



Photo by Ben Susso
National Merit Scholarship Finalists Kathy McKay and Jeanne Hossenlopp.

Band And Guard To Perform

The Aquinas Concert Band, under the direction of John Lyon will perform a Spring concert on Sunday, March 20 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$1.

On Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Aq gym a Color Guard Competition will be held. Groups participating

will be: Avante, Excalibur, Hilton, Golden Lions, Greece Cadets, Imperial Regiment, Midnighters, Shoreliners, Churchville-Chili. Tickets can be reserved by calling Father Dennis Andrews at 254-2020 between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$1.50 and \$2 at the door.

ELIZABETH JANE TITUS
Mercy

It is very sad to think that here in America we all are questioning our morals so deeply as to dare ask ourselves whether it is life or death that is more profitable. Is there any comparison?

Yet, we are asking ourselves this question whenever the topic of capital punishment arises. Death is a part of life and it will come to all of us in time. But who are we to choose that time for another human being. The cruelest part of capital punishment is that we are not just questioning the value of our own life but the value of another human being's life.

And do we have the right? In judging, we are attempting to play the role of God and we have no right to even consider playing the part of God. Not one of us is capable of imagining the majesty of Our Lord's justice and mercy. So then, why are we attempting to con ourselves into thinking that we can dare judge another man of any crime, with the punishment of death?

Yet today, we are all gradually being convinced that capital punishment is all right in some cases of violent crimes such as first degree murder and rape. These crimes (and all crimes) are wrong. These wrongs should not be tolerated by society. Therefore, severe punishment is the proper action to be taken. But killing a

criminal merely adds to the wrong; "two wrongs do not make a right."

If the crime is murder, death will not bring the victim to life again. If the crime is rape, death will not take away the pain and horror that the victim has to endure. It seems that the death penalty will be used only as a tool for revenge. We can do without revenge. Therefore, instead of attempting to play God why not turn our thoughts to constructive ideas on improving our penal system; prison reform, and improving on the laws and sentencing.

Yes, a man must pay for his crimes. Parole should not be easy to obtain and perhaps inmates should work hard in jail, so as to reduce taxes. Hard manual labor is a good alternative to the death penalty and the money saved could be used for more profitable causes, perhaps even helping the poor victims of crime.

In any case, death of one criminal or of 1000 criminals does not amend for the crime committed nor does it guarantee that people will stop committing crimes against one another. The death penalty only corrodes our morals and we will gradually lose our value for human life. So, let us not allow each state gradually to pass their own laws favoring the death penalty. Speak out for yourselves, now.