

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap A

Laurels for Mooney Poets

Honors have sprouted from a class assignment given by Father John Dias to last year's Cardinal Mooney junior English class. Three of his former students have been notified of awards won in national and local poetry contests.

Both Michelle Fleig and Kathy Neary, now seniors, took top honors in the National Poetry Press Competition and will have the pleasure of seeing their works published in an anthology.

Michelle was surprised when she received word her two poems had been selected but "thought it was just great!"

Though she hasn't written much poetry since grammar school she intends to maintain her interest in it. Michelle who is co-editor of the school's year book, Apogee, will attend St. John Fisher for Biology courses.

Kathy enjoys writing poetry. "It's a way of expressing your feelings," she commented and noted she'll continue to write but more for personal satisfaction rather than for publishing purposes. After graduation, she plans to attend Rochester Institute of Technology for a Math degree.

Senior Bridget McCortney's entry in the Flanigan Furniture Store's "Visions of American Poetry" contest, won first prize. The honor carried with it a \$100 savings bond for herself as well as a \$50 bond for Mooney.

Bridget who will major in Medical Chemistry at the State University of Buffalo, finds writing poetry "hard but enjoyable."

Following are their award winning works:

MY RETREAT

When I go in my little room and shut
The door, no one else enters my pink-walled,
White-ceilinged room. No rug hides the varnished
Wood floor whose color resembles walnut.
The walls are lined with pictures neatly cut
From a magazine. A board is cluttered
With small bulletins of events announced
Long ago. My room is like a village hut
Except it is for me, alone. My cat
Curls up near me; his purr is the only
Music that fills the room. Tall shelves line
One wall and hold books, candles and a hat.
In my retreat I am never lonely,
For the birds sing and the sun always shines.

Michelle M. Fleig

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ETERNITY

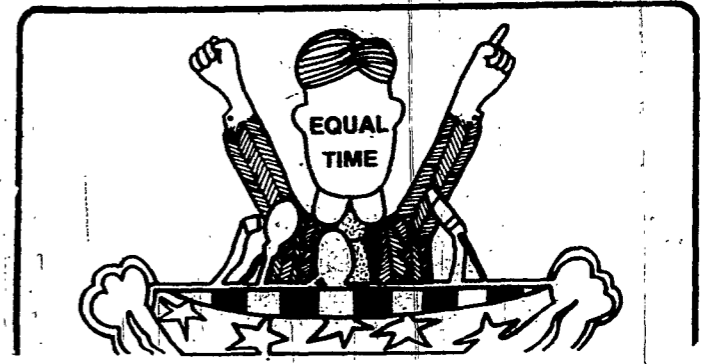
Precious moments passed and never
retrieved,
Yesterdays slipping forever farther,
Gifts that were given and hap'ly
received,
Only memories can take you back
there.
The sun has risen in the eastern sky.
The day begins. Another dawn has
passed.
Morning yields to afternoon with a
sigh.
Evening's come. The time of day
doesn't last.
Time must continue on her endless
flight.
Her wings never tire, her pace ne'er
lessens.
The second hand swiftly sweeps
through the night.
The silent seconds fly, time must
hasten.
Days are of past and of eternity.
Time, all days that were and ever
will be.

Kathy Neary

PIONEER FORT

The silent fort sits lonely on the ground,
Enclosed by a stockade of decayed logs.
It is as barren as the land around.
The swirling dust surrounds it like a fog.
The tumbleweeds scurry over the plain,
Hastily rushing toward some unknown goal.
Remembering battles fought and men slain,
And the flag that waved upon the tall pole.
The weeks are enemies scaling the wall,
Quietly creeping their way to the top.
The blockhouse stands faded, empty, yet tall,
Battled by blustery winds that don't stop.
All is now forgotten. It stands alone,
Desolate, deserted, silent as stone.

Bridget McCortney



Why is divorce increasing?
CARDINAL MOONEY



Mary Ann
Roach
Senior



Michael
Quataert
junior

"Because people don't share things. Also self-interest. They have too many activities and they get in the way of the relationship. People should take more time to be together. People are not properly prepared for what marriage is all about."

"Couples aren't used to being settled down and people aren't prepared well enough for what marriage is all about. I think the divorce rate will keep growing but I feel there's just as many happy marriages as before — we just hear more about those that split."



Jim O'Reilly
junior
soccer



John E. Till
junior
Spanish Club

"Couples rush into marriage too quick and don't get to know one another as much as they should. Also, Catholics don't take the Church's divorce laws seriously. The longer a marriage goes on there is the chance of boredom with each other. But I feel that if individuals really want to work the problem out, they can. I think the divorce rate has hit a plateau and may even decline."

"I think a lot of people, especially women, are dissatisfied with the roles which they are expected to take in marriage. Also, people are more selfish and more worried about their own needs rather than the needs of their families. I think the problems can be worked out. If more people wanted to work out their problems together there would be less divorces. I hope the divorce rate will level off but people keep getting more independent."



Donna
Marianetti
junior



Peter Nau
senior

"Because there is so much publicity about marital problems and open marriages it makes people wonder. Also, society is becoming more aware of the marital problems and it's easier to obtain a divorce. People aren't as worried about what others think of them. And on the religious side — the idea of divorce is becoming more acceptable. If a person is getting hurt by a marital problem then divorce can be considered a solution."

"Before, people used to stay together for the children and for religious reasons but now they realize that if they're not really happy together there is no sense in staying together. Society's attitude is changing about divorce. In the old days there was more of a social stigma connected with divorce and now it's easier to get one. I think there are probably the same number of happy marriages as ever."



Mary Jo
Paonessa
senior



Lori
Bartell
senior,
ski club

"Because people aren't taking marriage serious enough. I think kids think it's (marriage) the thing to do. Boredom with each other has a lot to do with the increase. Also, infidelity because so many people are cheating on one another."

"I think people rush into marriage too much and don't have time to think. As the marriage goes on they become too independent of each other and decide to go their own ways. I think, however, people can work things out if they really try."



Winners 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 Mercy. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, March 14 to receive \$5.