COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, April 25, 1979

RapAtoudRapAtoudRapAtoud **Dancing Unlocks Future** By Joan M. Smith

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"It's really great to see what some teenagers are doing," stated Thomas Samway over the phone. He had taken time to call RapAround about a particular young adult, Mary Elizabeth McGuire, (Liz), and the work she's been doing with youngsters over at St. John The Evangelist on Humboldt Street.

It seems that Liz, a BK junior, has been devoting her Saturdays to teaching dance to youngsters age five to eight. Samway's two boys, Patrick and Brian Martin participate in the classes and their enthusiasm prompted their father's call.

When RapAround talked to Liz about her endeavors, she was amazed her activity would cause comment when she not only has fun doing it, but the project is helping her decide her future.

"I was sitting in church," she recalled, "and began thinking what I wanted to do about my dancing abilities.'

She admitted to being in a quandry about which direction to pursue - per-forming or teaching. Having performed publicly and liking the stage a appearances she was curious about the

derstand. teaching aspects. So, the idea of conducting dance classes for children was born.

Because of the response from St. John's, what started out as one class each Saturday for 10 weeks soon mushroomed into two sessions every Saturday; 10:30-11:15 a.m. and 11:30-12:15 p.m. Liz's class techniques focus mainly on body movement and creativity. "I like to see them just moving," she ex-plained, "and not afraid of showing that they un-derstand."

After an initial 15 minute warm-up, Liz puts the children through a series of creative paces; showing how a deer runs, or how a tall person walks, or being a bridge by

arching their bodies. One particular exercise enjoyed by all is forming a circle and having a dancer move to the center and pretend to be something like a blossoming flower.

"And if you could see them do this," Liz proudly said of her proteges.

Another of her methods is to have them run with colorful streamers, creating various shapes as they move.

Liz has even given her ancers homework, like making up a short dance. And they did it," she smiled adding, "and their creations were good!"

She emphasized that the

important things they learn, "are not being afraid of moving their bodies, and selfconfidence." Liz's abilities are well founded. She has taken modern dance for years, has received scholarships for summer dance programs and has had training from professionals like the Jose Limon Dance Company. Her stage experiences include BK

musicals —last year's "Godspell" and this year she will perform in "The King and I", May 3-6:

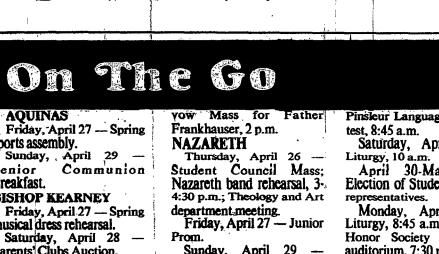
Though she practices two hours a day and spends time developing her teaching methods, Liz has found the time to serve on the Sceptre staff (BK yearbook), play tennis and read.

Her future plans include going to college and majoring in dance, but lately another career interest has developed - that of social work especially working with children. It looks as if her venture has paid off twofold - opening a many faceted future for herself and the opening of young minds to the world of dance and creativity



Cardinal Mooney





Pinsleur Language Aptitude

Election of Student Council

Honor Society Induction,

Thursday, April 26 -

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