

# Map Around Map Around

## The Runaway Problem

By Joan M. Smith

The fact that seven of the eight students in this week's Equal Time interview have known at least one runaway, points to the growing dilemma of teenage runaways. It is estimated that there are between 500,000 and a million of them each year. Because of the discussion with the Bishop Kearney students, Raparoud decided to do research on the problem and discovered that the young adults are aware of their peers' actions and about what motivates them into such action.

The students were asked why teenagers run away; they listed as reasons — parental, school and peer problems. According to a study by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare study there are numerous schools of thought regarding the reason

behind running away. One is that the problem is with the individual child; lack of ego, poor impulse control, depression. A more recent line of thinking attributes running away to various situational factors, outside the individual. And another is that running away for many youths represents a positive and natural step in the normal growing up process.

But according to the report, regardless of these philosophies, the overriding factor is that the runaway most often has inadequate parent-child relationships and an unhappy stressful home environment.

This fact is emphasized in "Kids On the Run" by James R. Berry, a social science author who has interviewed runaways throughout the country. He writes, "The pressures that drive kids to

run away from home are so strong that abuses from strangers become tolerable when compared to returning."

Another aspect touched upon by the Equal Time students was the danger involved in running away — and their concern is echoed by Berry who during his research discovered, "Runaway kids are probably the largest group of victims preyed on in this country."

Concern for runaways is growing and there are national and state networks offering services to them and their families. Here in Rochester, agencies dealing with this problem are the Center for Youth, 258 Alexander St., 473-2464; Threshold, 115 So. Clinton Ave., 454-7530.



## Jazzing at Aquinas

Aquinas had a special treat on Friday, Nov. 9 — the Navy Jazz band put on performance for the student body and the school rocked to their dynamic sounds.

## Equal Time

Why do teenagers run away?  
BISHOP KEARNEY

CATHY CANNELLA  
Junior  
ski club



"They probably have problems at home, or at school and they don't want to face up to them. They also want attention if they are not getting it. I've known a runaway, and I would tell those thinking about running away not to do it because they'll get into trouble. Try to get the problem solved by talking to someone. Running away only creates more problems, and I think it's dangerous. My friend who ran away got picked up in an airport."

JOAN BLEIER  
Junior  
tennis



"They run away because they have trouble with parents and with friends. Also, because they don't take time to think things out, and it's the only way they know how to cope with the problems. I don't know of anyone who has run away, but my advice to those who are thinking about it, would be to try to talk it out with someone."

PATTI DRASCH  
Sophomore  
gymnastics



"They have problems with parents and friends, or their parents are always fighting and they can't stand it, so they just leave. I'd advise those thinking of running away to see a counselor, or talk to their parents and try to get things straightened out. Running away only causes more problems and it's dangerous. Yes, I've known someone who was a runaway."

MIKE SZATKOWSKI  
Junior  
drama



"They can't cope with the problems of society or the problems at home, and because there's no sense of individuality in today's school system. My advice to those who want to run away is to try and sit alone for awhile and figure out the problems out yourself and talk with friends."

RUSS CALCAGNO  
Senior



"They run away because of parental problems and differences; problems with school and with friends that they can't understand. They go away to get away from everything. I've known someone who has taken that route to think out his problems. Running away is safer for a boy than it is for a girl and my advice to those considering running away would be to try to communicate; try to find out what's wrong and work things out, and don't do anything stupid."

DEBBIE ANTONELLI  
Sophomore  
soccer



"They are probably running away because they can't handle family problems. They want to get away to think things out. My advice to those who are thinking of running away would be to go to a good friend and discuss the problem with isn't the answer to problems. I did know a neighbor who ran away."

MAUREEN DELVECCHIO  
Freshman  
cheerleading



"They can't cope with problems at home and they want to try out a new life. Running away makes them feel independent. My advice would be to try and talk it out with someone. Running away isn't the solution to their problems, and I think it's dangerous to run away because it can get them into deeper trouble."

DIANE CALCAGNO  
Freshman



"To run away from their problems because they don't want to face up to them. But there will only be more problems by running away so I'd advise figuring out the problems and facing up to them. I know someone who ran away to figure things out because of a fight."

## Speaking Out

By Regina Morano  
St. Agnes



To me, Americanism means pride in our society, our government, our way of life. It means democracy and being active in that democracy. I have spent a lot of time during the past three years learning about politics. I have learned about governments, elections, women, education. But the most impressive lesson I've learned is about myself, about my role as a woman in American government.

Politics is something I have come to enjoy, but there is one thing that bothers me; the lack of participation and the alarming apathetic attitude among people my age. There has been a considerable drop

in the number of voters who show up at the polls on election day. People are very discouraged with our government at this time. The attitude exists that one person can't make a difference. We develop attitudes like this when we are very young, especially women. Girls are taught to be followers even before school age. This training is evident in their political thinking, or lack of it, as they grow older.

I look around at my peers and realize that most of them didn't even know what the issues were in the recent elections. It is small wonder that there are so few women who have been successful in American government. I used to think that women were doing all right. I was pretty well satisfied with the position of women in government. There was Midge Costanza, Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Jane Byrne. But these people are just a drop in the bucket

compared to the impetus that women can be in American government. We can't be satisfied with a handful of women legislators and governors. The time is right for there to be hundreds of women in Congress, 1,000 mayors, and yes, even a woman president. We've come a long way, but certainly not far enough.

So where do we begin? We start with becoming aware; ask a lot of questions; get involved in our communities; look in on county legislatures; talk to town supervisors or councilmen. Remember, our government was established of, by, and for the people of this nation, not just the politicians. How often do we complain about the government, the system, the politicians? How many people realize we can affect anything for which we are willing to work. We can make ourselves heard, and I'm not just referring to women. We don't need to take over — we need to work together.



## Parade Gala

The Bishop Kearney Marching Kings were on parade again last week for the opening of Sibley's Encore Week. Above, Valerie Robinson leads twirlers and members of the color guard in a disco number. Not only is the band busy with their performances at football halftimes, and local community events, but they are in the midst of planning for a March trip to Monaco and Rome.

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## Deadline

of the holiday, the nal deadline for 3 issue will be v. 20.