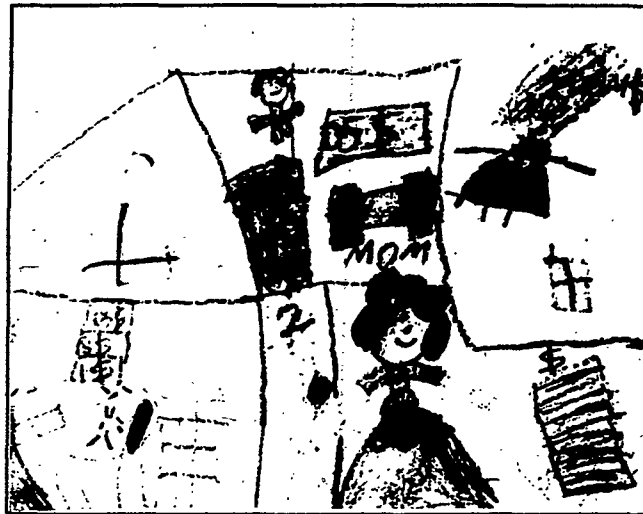
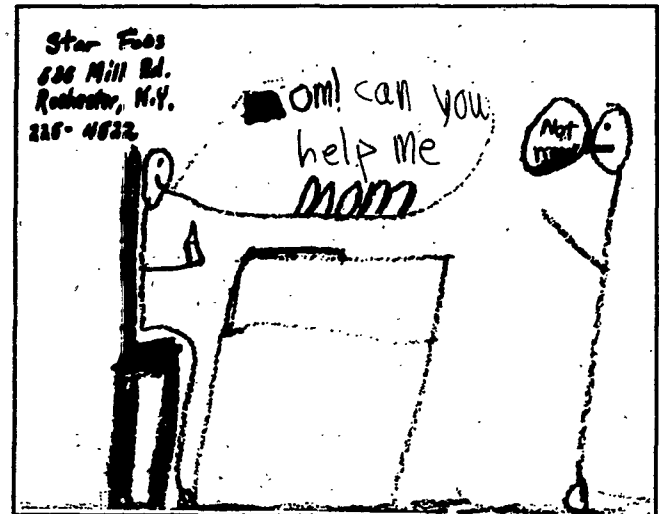


Carrie Anne Scippo, 5, Auburn



Margaret O'Hara, 6, Auburn



Star Foss, Rochester

Courier-Journal Mother of the Year Maureen Florczyk

Horseheads — By coincidence, today is Michele Florczyk's birthday, and yesterday was the birthday of the woman Michele designated as Mother of the Year, her own mother, Mrs. Richard Florczyk.

Michele's entry was chosen from among hundreds as a runner-up in the Courier-Journal Mother of the Year Contest. The family consists of Dick, the father; Maureen, the mother; Richard, Michele and Mindy.

Michele's Entry

"An award like this is very difficult to win. I'm sure that many young people are participating in this contest. I normally don't enter contests of this kind because I never know what to write. The only reason for entering this contest is because I truly believe my mother should receive this award. I

may win and I may not win; but I have a great amount of pride in my feelings. My mother is different from any other mother. She is an extra-special woman.

"It is not every day that that a young woman, at the age of 22, marries into a family already formed. By this I mean that when my mother married my father, she not only accepted him, but also accepted a son 14 years younger than her, and myself, a daughter ten years younger than her. (My brother and I come from my father's first marriage.)

"This might not seem special to you; but I am sure some women would find it hard to have a 12-year-old daughter at the age of 22.

"My mother has had to make many changes in her life, all of them with

pride and pleasure. When asked how she feels to have such an old daughter, she says that she is happy because not only am I her daughter, but also her friend.

"I feel very lucky to have a friend and mother such as she.

"My mother and brother also have a good relationship. At first my brother detested the idea of having a mother, after not having one for most of his life. Now, with all his heart, he is sorry he ever had such an idea. Of course, when he gets yelled at, he wishes she wasn't around, just like every other kid, but afterwards he accepts her.

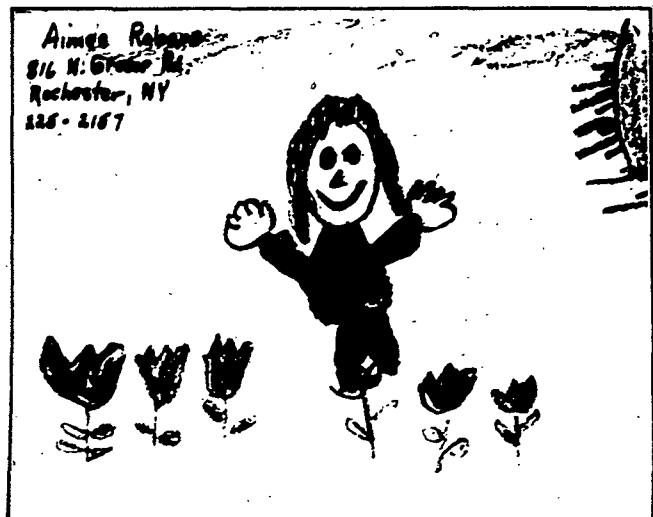
"We all love her very much. If I am not lucky enough to win this award, my mother is still 'The Mother of the Year' to my family and me."



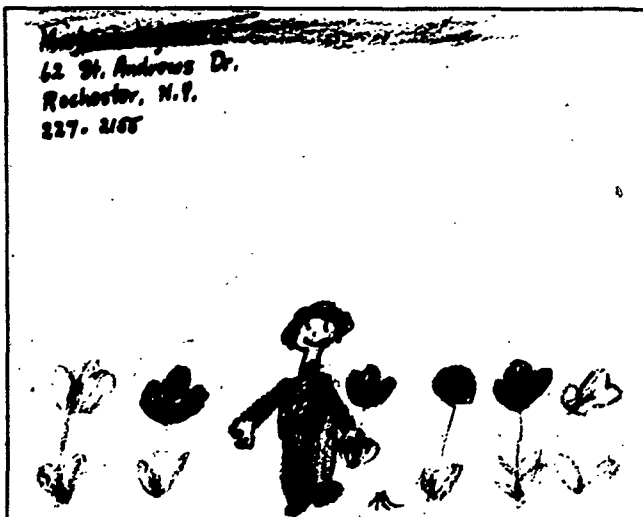
MRS. RICHARD FLORCZYK



Dick, Richard, Michele, Maureen and Mindy Florczyk.



Aimee Robare, Rochester



Michael Vigilante, Rochester



Joseph Scippo, 7, Auburn