

RAP AROUND

Joan M. Smith, Editor



By Joan Smith

Being a judge is a heady experience. Whether you judge from behind a courtroom desk or at a vantage point in a school gym, the results are the same. Your powers of evaluation and decision will have traumatic effects on those whom you are judging. This realization gives ulcers and the job doesn't become easier with practice.

I've judged many contests — county Junior Miss, local Miss Teenager, and area cheerleading competitions — and have not overcome the guilt that springs from knowing I'll be responsible for crushing someone's hopes.

Recently, I was invited to judge the cheerleading tryouts at Our Lady of Mercy High School. The fact that I would judge participants desperately wanting to make the class squads for the school's Field Day was bad enough. Worse was the fact I was given the seniors to judge. For the 13 girls trying out it would be their last Field Day and only eight would be chosen. The ulcer rumbled!

But, like the courtroom judge who has his legal guidelines which determine his decisions, I had a score sheet which dictated categories in which to evaluate and how much to score for each one. The impersonality of the score sheet puts judging in perspective. The emotions are replaced by standards.

I've discovered, that to determine this expertise, especially in cheerleading, it helps to have a head that

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions:

The Judge Gets Ulcers

swivels and a brain that registers and remembers if each contestant smiles enough, jumps high and gracefully enough, projects her voice — will she be heard above the noise generated by 800 Field Day enthusiasts? — and if her cheer is innovative and carried out with enough enthusiasm and precision. The more contestants, the more hectic the scoring, and there are always those looks of determined hope with which to contend. But the score sheet keeps things in perspective and you mark according to merit.

When the Mercy tryouts ended and the scores were tallied I wanted to leave quietly — leave, and wonder why. Was it because I couldn't face the looks of disappointment, or was I afraid I'd take it on the chin for all the judges in all the contests and get locked in a locker!

But instead of disappearing I decided to find out how the competitors felt. Michelle Cilurzo, who has been competing for cheerleading squads since eighth grade, told me she still gets nervous. Mary Beth Fix said that it was the sitting and waiting to perform that was difficult.

Did judges intimidate them, I asked. No, they said, and Mary Beth explained, "You put yourself in their place and try to figure out what they're looking for."

I'm glad to say that both girls eased my conscience when they declared they wouldn't want to be judges. "Too hard," they agreed.



There's a lot to smile about at Kearney. The school is number one in the nation for magazine sales per capita through the Perfect School Plan. And to help keep this status this year will be salespeople, from top left, Mary Arpaia, George Brumfield, Kristy Gau, John Milliman, Lori Bianco, Patty Owen, and Chris Deck.

Students Push For Drive Sales

The goal of the Bishop Kearney High School magazine drive, which began last Friday, Sept. 24, is \$80,000. The revenue will go toward a TR80 computer for computerization of financial, student and Development Office records, and for an electronic scoreboard for the Brother Clark field.

Incentive awards for the student salespeople will include a dress-down week for those people who turn in five sales on the first turn-in day of the drive, stereos, radios, PacMan games, concert tickets, and surprise gifts to be awarded each day of the drive.

It's Time To Save Newspapers

The Action for People Association (AFPA) of Cardinal Mooney High School is having its annual paper drive on Saturday, Oct. 9. This year's theme is "Beyond the Stars" and prizes will be given to classes with the most tonnage and best decoration reflecting the theme. Proceeds from the drive will go to The School of the Holy Childhood, and Melita House — Ministry for Single Pregnant Women — sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

The drive, which, along with the Parental Support Program, is a major fund-raising event at BK, will end Oct. 8 and is being directed by Sister Joyce Wittman and W. Jon Cincebox of the Perfect School Plans.

Reduced Lunches

The Sisters of Mercy of Rochester have announced a free and reduced price meal policy for Our Lady of Mercy High School students whose families meet income guidelines established by the state.

Applications, which are available in the school office, may be submitted any time during the school year to the principal's office.

Drivers are needed for pick-up on Oct. 9 and those interested can call 865-1000



A Boost for Sports

Our Lady of Mercy's track and soccer field will be sporting bleachers this season thanks to McQuaid. The school put in new ones and offered the old bleachers to whoever wished to disassemble them. Through the efforts of John Shane, president of the Mercy Parents' Athletic Committee, they were moved to the Blossom Road school and Leon Dixon and his son Martin, above, were happy to help install them.



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 Cardinal Mooney during class. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Oct. 5, to receive \$5.

Notre Dame Winners

Elmira — Each year Notre Dame High School awards 10 academic scholarships to incoming freshmen. In order to apply for the scholarship the student must carry a B plus average, score high on the high school placement test, and write an essay. Recommendations from school principals and teachers also are necessary.

Those students awarded scholarships for the scholarships this year are: Elena Cambio, Kimberlee Carlson, Rebecca Lynn Cunningham, Mary Elizabeth Schwenkler, and Mary Theresa Smith from St. Patrick's Junior High School; Stephen Connell from Harlan Rowe Middle School; Tim O'Bryan from Thomas A. Edison School; Tamara Wright from Ernie Davis Junior High School; and Christine Kenefick and Karen McCarthy from St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads.