

RAP AROUND

Joan M. Smith, Editor

'Our Calling,' Says Volunteer



By Joan M. Smith

In the RapAround section of the Jan. 19 issue of the Courier-Journal there appeared a story about the Cardinal Mooney community service program which is incorporated into the students' theology program. This active volunteerism is evident in many of the diocesan high schools where the students, either through school programs, or clubs, or through their own initiative, are committing their services to human needs. Occasionally, RapAround will highlight these volunteers to give a picture of the dedication, the difficulties, the satisfaction and the rewards these young volunteers share while helping those more unfortunate than themselves.

Colleen Shannon is a mature young lady who has a positive attitude about helping others.

Colleen, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, said her attitude has been supported at the school. The desire to help, however, especially through a career in special education, has been with Colleen since she was in grammar school. At eight years old she was visiting a friend's brother who was confined to a convalescent home and she decided she wanted to help children in such circumstances.

Most recently Colleen

works on Saturdays at a Mary Cariola resident home for the mentally and physically handicapped child. She said she had been thinking about the idea of offering her services for a few months, and then finally took the initiative and called the Al Sigl Center. They were "estatic" over her offer to volunteer, she said, and referred her to the residence in Penfield.

Colleen didn't find making that first call difficult, and her advice to those thinking about volunteering is, "Take the step, if that's what you really want to do," she said, and added, "It's rewarding."

She cautioned, however, that the person be sure of what one really wants to do and not do something one thinks one should be doing. Also she said, persons volunteering should enter into an area of service they are comfortable in and she used herself as an example.

She admitted her talents might be hampered in a hospital setting because of a squeamishness at seeing the biological realities of illness, whereas she is perfectly content helping the physically and mentally handicapped child. In both cases, she said, if the volunteer is working at something she or he isn't comfortable with, or serving in an area where one's capabilities are hindered, the work can be detrimental to

those whom one is helping. Colleen emphasized that it's the enthusiasm a person has for what he or she is doing that is critical in volunteering.

"If the individual is enthusiastic working with the children," she said, "the child will be enthusiastic."

What has Colleen gained from her involvement? Further experience toward her career in special education. She will attend Monroe Community College for liberal arts and then onto further education to obtain her MA in the special education field. Her experiences also have provided her with material for in-depth position papers for her sociology and creative writing classes at Mercy.

She was a bit more reticent about what she has given through her services, but her enthusiasm when talking about her work proved she accomplishes "bringing out their (the children's) potential," she said.

Besides her Saturdays at the home, Colleen, who is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, has worked at the Blossom Road Nursing Home for two years. When she isn't fulfilling her commitments you might find her on the ski slopes, playing softball, or watching the Rochester Amerks or McQuaid basketball games.



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 a study period. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Feb. 1, to receive \$5.

Kindergarten Is Changing

According to a New York Times educational article, when a 5-year-old goes off to kindergarten in the 1980s it will be for all day. The article reported that the shift toward longer sessions is reflected in a study compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics that concluded that full-day attendance at kindergarten programs has grown from 14 to 30 percent since 1970.

The report went on to say that all-day sessions evolved for many reasons. First, they are seen as a result of the rise in families in which both parents work and in the number of kindergarten pupils who have had preschool experience. Academically, the article said, they offer an opportunity for early identification of problems, a time for individual attention and a broader kindergarten experience.

Interviews confirmed that where parents work, the all-

day session is a solution for them. One woman stated for the report that as a single parent, "When I'm working, I know my daughter's in a safe place."

Another parent said that her son needed the structure, "loves it, and there was more

time for interpersonal relationships to develop."

The article reported that in New York State 60 percent of all districts offer half-day programs, 37 percent offer full-day programs and three percent offer both.

Hockey Notables To Instruct Ice Enthusiasts

The Kodak Youth Clinic and Hockey Puck Giveaway will be at 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Community War Memorial.

The free clinic will feature on-the-ice instruction from Rochester Americans head coach, Mike Keenan, and Amerks team members. The clinic will be moderated by Amerks broadcaster, Rick

Peckham, and all participants will receive a free hockey puck and one free ticket to a future Amerks home game with each seat purchased.

Admission is free to youngsters 16 years and under. Advance registration is required and limited to the first 500 entrants. Registration forms are available at the War Memorial and in the Amerks office at 100 Exchange Street.



Lydia Voleshen and Laurie Gonyo at a recent freshman Appreciation Day breakfast.

What to Do? Plenty

The freshman class at Nazareth Academy has planned a series of events that should keep the class of '86 busy for a while. Thursday, Jan. 13 found them going around in circles, at Skatetown, where they held their first roller skating party.

According to class vice president Lynne Staropoli, the class is in the process of planning a Valentine skit to be presented to their big sisters in the junior class. "It's the best

kind of Valentine greeting we could think of, to give something of ourselves," she explained.

Also in the planning stages is "Nazareth Night at the Movies," an opportunity to see one's all-time favorite film at cut-rate prices. These and other activities are planned to help the class to get to know one another better and to host programs to bring the Nazareth community together.

Clowning For Safety

According to Sue Kipphut, customer service representative for McDonald's Restaurant, parents' warning to children about safety rules can sometimes go unheeded. Hearing it from someone like Ronald McDonald, however, can make them take notice.

This week the famous clown, in conjunction with the Rochester Police Department, launched his "Ronald McDonald Safety Program" for elementary school pupils. Six schools were on the agenda this week, with two shows scheduled at Sacred Heart School, today, Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The program includes rules on home safety, what to do in case of a fire, how to cross the street, what to do when lost, and warnings against drinking unidentified substances.

Winner

Kristin Koerner, a junior at Cardinal Mooney, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Jan. 5.

SPEAKING OUT

By Gretchen Luchsinger Bishop Kearney

The Vietnam era could be called the Age of American Youth. It was a time when the younger members of our society discovered the power of their vocal cords and demanded that they be allowed the privileges of adults. One of these was the freedom to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages at will. The result was a nationwide lowering of the legal drinking age to a 17-18-year-old mark.

Now, 15 years later, when we see an overwhelmingly large number of teenagers seeking to escape a hostile, indifferent world by drowning in alcohol, harming themselves and others, we are entering into a period

of social reversal. The low drinking age is quickly becoming a thing of the past. In many states legislation has been passed raising it to 21. We have come to understand that a mixture of youth and alcohol is a detriment to our society in the form of several urgent problems that will only be solved with stiffer age limits.

First of all, although most teenagers are responsible enough to determine what is good and bad for their bodies, they often do not realize that when they ingest alcoholic beverages they are assuming the responsibility for others too. This is especially relevant to the adolescent who drinks and then climbs behind the wheel of a car. For example, when the state of New Jersey lowered its drinking age to 18, the number of people killed each year by drivers in the 18-20-year-old category rose 176 percent.

Secondly, there is the increasing amount of alcoholism among teenagers brought on by the accessibility of alcohol to a greater portion of this age group. An estimated 15 percent of all American adolescents are alcoholics. Another 72 percent experiment with alcohol on a regular basis. Statistics such as these are frightening; they demand attention.

In the light of this evidence, it is easy to see that young people and alcohol combine too often in situations which can be avoided. To curb the growing number of adolescents who are killed or injured by drunken driving and in order to eliminate the ravages of teenage alcoholism, higher drinking age limits must be established. This is an immediate necessity because a nation that has no youth, has no future.