

# ECHO ECHO ECHO

## Kearney and Mooney experiment with 'foreign' exchange program

By Marilou Halsted  
Bishop Kearney

As they traveled, the members of the "foreign" exchange program felt the creeping nervousness of entering a strange and unfamiliar environment. They were plagued by such questions as: Do we speak the same language? Are their customs and traditions similar to ours? What do they wear every day? But most importantly — how is the cafeteria food?

These visitors were not from a foreign country, but rather from a "foreign" school. They were Bishop Kearney High School students who dared, to venture into Cardinal Mooney High School. The entourage included members of the Bishop Kearney National Honor Society (NHS) who

were participating in an exchange program between the schools.

Don Boice, president of the Bishop Kearney extension of the NHS, proposed the exchange between the schools. He contacted the president of the Mooney extension, and with the approval and guidance of both administrations, they formulated the exchange.

It was decided that 12 members, mostly seniors, of the NHS from each school would sacrifice a day at their home school in order to visit the other. Mooney students paired up with Kearney students, and together they took turns hosting and observing. Mooney students went to Kearney on Feb. 28 while Kearney's representatives were hosted at Mooney on March 4. They went to each

other's classes, met each other's friends and saw what life was like on "the other side."

The exchange has been deemed a success. Many students described the experience as "eye-opening" and "enriching." A few are even looking forward to the possibility of exchanges with other area high schools. One Kearney student said, "Not only was it educational, but it was also fun to meet new people and experience new surroundings."

While visiting, students noted several differences between the schools. Kearney has a fixed schedule system, while Mooney's rotates. The dress codes, too, differed, one being more liberal than the other. The school days themselves begin at different times, as well.

Outside of the obvious similarities in the

school's physical structures — both schools were built at about the same time — it was found that Kearney and Mooney have a great deal in common. For one, a Christian atmosphere is the basic tenet for both. Both schools are coeducational, though some classes at Kearney remain segregated by sex. And of course, the food was similar, although each school cafeteria did have its specialties.

The purpose of the exchange was not to have people switching schools, but rather to make all involved aware of the many similarities between the schools. They are not as different as they may seem. Still, we all must respect those subtle differences that they do have. That's what makes each school, and the people in it, unique.

## Speaking Out

By J. Peter Huggins  
McQuaid Jesuit High School

Well, it has been rather a long time since that fateful day when President Reagan sat down to discuss our future with Mr. Gorbachev. It was a very important day, because it marked the first time Richard Nixon that an American president has met with a Russian leader. Since that day, many people have really wondered, among other things, why Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev actually got together for the summit meeting itself.

Granted, we know that they were there to discuss the growing amount of hostility between the two countries. We also know that they were there to discuss arms limitations. I would like to know, however, why they really decided on meeting? What spurred on the two heads of state to actually get together in the first place? More importantly, to me, is why did Mr. Gorbachev agree?

I have wondered about this matter a great deal since I heard about what was said at the summit. For it seems that there are two basic arguments concerning Mr. Gorbachev.

The first argument is a very simple one. It states that Mr. Gorbachev was, in a sense, scared into the summit meeting by the United States — that, in effect, it was Reagan's great defense spending and build-up of arms that led to Mr. Gorbachev becoming rather frightened of the United States. This argument could have some validity in that the great arms build-up has certainly made the two superpowers think about what their world is turning into.

I do not think there are several problems with the theory of American strength scaring the Soviets into the summit.

First, the Soviet Union and America are basically equal. While Reagan was stockpiling arms, the Soviet Union was also stockpiling. Even if some ground was gained by America, the Soviet Union is still large enough to be our equal. In effect, we are in a stalemate situation. The arms build-up has reached a point at which neither side is stronger in arms, and therefore neither can win.

Secondly, I do not believe that the Soviet Union will be intimidated quite so easily by the American build-up of arms. The Soviet government is, and has been, very strong in the past, and I do not feel that a few years would break up an entire philosophy and system of politics and ruling.

Because these two reasons are doubtful, I believe there is some other greater doubt for the two heads of state coming together.

I feel that the real reason for the summit is that Mr. Gorbachev is a member of the new ruling age in Russia. He is part of the new regime of younger Russians in government. I feel that it is this new command, not the American arms build-up, which led to the summit meeting. The new regime, which is beginning to take power as the older members are dying out, has a different set of ideals and philosophies, which are reflected in Mr. Gorbachev's wishes for a meeting of the two leaders.

The new regime is not based upon the old system of government; they are second generation Soviet leaders. Instead of growing up during the turbulent revolution, their formative years were spent during a time of steady Russian rule. They are much more modern in their thinking and subsequently are much more open to peace negotiations. It is this new Soviet regime that has caused the thaw in the Cold War. With this new Soviet regime in power, there would be, I would suspect, an even greater warming-up of attitudes toward the United States and vice-versa.

All of this warming-up seems to stem from the knowledge that to exist we need to learn how to live with one another. The Soviets are quite aware of the capabilities of both countries, and they are also quite aware of the potential for nuclear war if there is not a warming trend between the two countries.

It remains to be seen whether or not President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev will meet again in the near future. But at least the first move has been made toward bringing the two countries closer together.

## Equal Time

Our Lady of Mercy High School  
Are student exchange programs really a worthwhile experience?

Karen Crosly  
Junior

It is definitely a worthwhile experience. I have a Japanese student living with me and I went (to Japan) last summer also. At first I was really overwhelmed, but I was able to learn so much and learn to appreciate our differences. In Japan everything is clean and the people are so respectful. It was so incredible to learn about the different cultures and overcome the stereotypes. For example, most of the Japanese think that we're all rich and drive fast cars, but then they get to live with us and learn the truth. In fact, it has been so great that I'd love to go abroad for the year and stay in Japan.

Jeanne Scheffer  
Senior

It has been a lot of fun so far having a Japanese student exchange. The most difficult thing though is having to talk through a dictionary. I've never been to Japan, but I think it would be hard on the students coming over here, with culture shock. I mean, my (exchange) student even called me a "bad girl" because of curling my hair and wearing makeup. Though in looking in their magazines, our clothes are pretty much the same as theirs. I'm so glad to have this experience.

Cathy Cigna  
Senior

I went on a school-sponsored trip to Europe last summer, and it was really nice. It was good going to school, because it makes you go school, you ordinarily wouldn't go on your own. It gets you to do a little bit of everything. For example, I'd rather go shopping in Paris than look at the Eiffel Tower, but when the school gets you there, it's worth it. The only thing that was hard in Europe was that the people, especially in Rome and Paris, don't like Americans. American is equivalent to a swear word with them, but I learned how to deal with it.

Saralynn Juisto  
Junior

It was definitely a learning experience. It was a really neat challenge to be able to communicate with them and learn about the culture. I mean, for example, our schools are so different, with their going (to school) on Saturday. They seemed to admire us a lot when we were over there, because we have very few opportunities to meet Americans. And when you're over there it's really hard not to become attached. A very close bond develops between you and your host family. In fact, you think of them as your family.

## Two Aquinas seniors named Merit Scholarship winners

Aquinas Institute seniors Tracy Swetz and Carl Scarpulla have been named finalists in the 1986 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Both represent the top one-half of one percent of American high school seniors, as a result of their scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test is taken by those students wishing to enter college.

They are now being considered for one of 1,800 scholarships worth \$1,000 each where winners are chosen in an open competition on a state representation basis.

Tracy is the daughter of Mrs. Thomas Swetz, 30 Haverknoll Dr., Rochester while Carl is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Scarpulla, 918 Washington St., Spencerport.

Tracy has received a scholarship to Texas A&M and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

Carl will be attending RIT in the fall and will be enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program. He hopes to become a Monroe County Sheriff.

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## HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 11 correct entries identifying Brian Setzer as the lead singer of the Stray Cats



The winner was Peter Grant of Hobart College

## MUSIC TRIVIA

### This week's question:

What "unusual" singer ate his way up the chart with his crazy parody of Michael Jackson's "Beat It" called "Eat It?"

A:

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### Rules:

Each week, the Courier Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal  
Music Trivia  
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