

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Peer-Ministry retreat sparks enthusiasm among seniors

For 40 Cardinal Mooney seniors the outcome of a recent peer-ministry retreat was a pervasive sense of unity and camaraderie. The seniors spent three days — August 13-15 — in an intensive leadership-training program at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

Brother Ray Powers, CSC, the newly appointed campus minister, directed the workshops, which were designed to help students discover and appreciate their leadership potentials. The goal of the program was "to proclaim Jesus Christ, to build community and to serve the needs of others," according to Brother Ray.

The seniors who participated in the retreat/workshop will assist incoming Mooney freshmen with several phases of their adjustment to high school. For example, they served as guides for the freshmen on book and orientation days. They will also conduct a portion of the freshman religion classes throughout this semester.

Each senior will act as a peer minister, working with a small group of about eight freshmen. The exercises and discussions they are using with their groups were designed to help freshmen make friends, adjust to increased academic demands of high school, get involved in school activities, deal with the issues of personal growth, and become comfortable with older Mooney students.

In addition, the new peer ministers will help with retreats for freshmen, sophomores and juniors; assist with parish confirmation

retreats; facilitate prayer evenings; visit the sick; and help with school liturgies and services.

One unusual aspect of the retreat is the return of 14 Mooney graduates who had participated in the peer-ministry retreat during their own senior years. These graduates of the classes of 1985 and '86 returned from college or took time off from their summer jobs to help current Mooney students develop skills in public speaking, prayer leadership, group process and community building.

"I continue to be impressed by the number of seniors and graduates who willingly give up a portion of their summer to attend the peer-ministry retreat/workshop," Brother Ray commented. "This program has grown and has become a tradition. I believe wholeheartedly that the seniors set an enthusiastic and influential tone for the school year. The retreat/workshop provides the opportunity for a senior to develop skills, and it creates the community-minded atmosphere that makes Mooney special."

Several students who recently reflected on their retreat experience showed a definite appreciation of the returning graduates' efforts and those of the nine faculty members who worked on the retreat. Given their responses, it's no wonder that the seniors began this semester with enthusiasm. In general, they found the retreat to have been a uniting process, one that made them more aware of their abilities and of the needs of

others.

"The part of the retreat that impressed me most was the unity that was developed over the three days," said Tina Zaffrann. "The peer ministers came on the retreat as individuals with many questions and left as a group striving for the goal of providing leadership at Mooney."

Steve Brien concurred. "Everyone opened up and let down their masks," he said. "It showed that people wanted to reach out and learn things from each other."

Part of that openness may have stemmed from an exercise Linda Gilmore cited as a highlight of the retreat — the "hot seat." "This was when everyone said what they wanted to say and how they felt," Gilmore explained. "It was the most emotional time of the retreat. I learned a lot from the hot seat."

Learning about themselves and others was another common denominator students expressed in reflecting on the retreat. Cindy Neil, who is involved in the school's campus ministry program, said she learned that she can become a better person through God and through other people. "I learned that I need to open up and be more trusting of others," she said.

"I found out that I've grown up a lot with these people over the last four years," Brien said. "They've become a major part of my family."

For Gilmore, the retreat was a chance to explore her own strengths. "I discovered that

even though I have a lot of problems in my life, they can be worked out. I learned a lot about what I believe as a Catholic (and) . . . where God stands in my life."

And the learning didn't stop when the retreat closed. Lee Allen plans to use the experience gained at the retreat while serving as president of Mooney's Campus Ministry Outreach program.

Gilmore plans to use her newly found leadership skills while working with the freshman religious groups. "I also plan to staff retreats throughout the school year. I feel that through the retreats and my freshman group, I will achieve better leadership qualities that will help me and others in our daily lives," she said.

Neil also has a goal for implementing her leadership skills. "Through my leadership, I hope to bring Mooney closer together as a community, especially in our 25th year!"

Faculty staff members for this year's retreat were: Brothers Lawrence Atkinson, CSC, chairman of the theology department; Pam Biracree, theology teacher and member of the campus ministry team; Brother Francis Ellis, CSC, former principal of Cardinal Mooney High School; Michael Haugh, former campus minister and theology teacher; Sister Kathryn Wahl, RSM, assistant principal and director of student activities; Kevin Ward, math teacher and member of the campus ministry team; and Brother Edward Zdrowski, CSC, theology teacher and student council moderator.



Speaking Out

By Elizabeth Berliner
Notre Dame High School

A little more than a year ago, the battle to fight hunger in Ethiopia began with USA for Africa, a movement that successfully raised over 50 million dollars to aid the African people.

Then came the idea of Farm Aid, a concert held to raise funds for the struggling farmers in the midwest. Unfortunately, this movement wasn't quite the success it had hoped to be.

Recently, Hands Across America, another national fundraiser, failed miserably because of what appears to be burnout in American society as a result of the multiple goodwill programs attempting to rally support.

This burnout has not only been seen on the national level, but also on the local scene. The Southern Tier Food Bank, located in Elmira, was opened in 1981 through a government grant in order to fight local hunger. In the past year, it has been forced to close several times because of a lack of funds and donations. The Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, however, is taking a stand to reverse this situation.

On October 14, the ministry office

will be sponsoring a Hunger Awareness tour on which elected politicians and successful business people, along with various others involved in human services, will be given a tour of the Elmira area. The tour will conclude at the local soup kitchen, where members of the group will join the impoverished of the community for lunch. The group will then attend a press conference discussing hunger and what they, as individuals, can do to fight it.

Between October 16 and 18, a display will be set up at the Arnot Mall, informing the public of the need to support the food bank in its charitable quest. In addition to several other fundraising efforts, a truck will be parked inside the mall so that people may donate goods directly to the food bank. Many other agencies will present various displays highlighting the problem of local hunger.

It is time for Americans to face the reality that hunger does exist, even right among us in our own communities.

Awareness of the problem is a vital beginning, but now the public must act on this awareness. Individually, we can fight the battle, but together, we can win the war.

Equal Time

BISHOP KEARNEY
Do you agree with the president's plan to increase governmental involvement to fight drug abuse?

CHRIS VANDERWOUDE — Junior
Varsity Cheerleader



Yes, I do agree with governmental involvement against drug use because a serious step has been needed to help stop drug use. Drug use has become increasingly popular, but with governmental involvement, it makes more people aware of the real problems of drugs.

JILL KRESS — Senior
Volleyball, Coronet editor, yearbook staff



The problem of drug abuse has become so great that governmental involvement, which seems to be a "last resort," is in fact essential. The ease with which drugs can be acquired is increasing, along with the number of drug users. Government involvement could, of course, backfire, but the national effort is a good step toward solving the problem.

PATRICK DILLON — Sophomore
Student Council Chairman



Governmental involvement to fight against drug misuse and abuse is necessary. The government has the enforcement needed to put into effect the legal aspects of drug misuse. The government's job includes involvement against drugs. In the personal aspect, I think President Reagan is right in using his position to widely spread (awareness of) the bad effects of drugs. The Reagans are doing a good job in their campaign against drug use.

ANDREA TETTE — Freshman
Cheerleader



Yes, I do agree with governmental involvement. I feel if the government gets involved, it will be beneficial to all the organizations that try to help the kids of today who are addicted to drugs. It will provide enough funds to make an improvement to help the kids in need.

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HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 17 correct entries identifying Peter, Paul & Mary as the recording artists of the 1969, #1 song "Leaving on a Jet Plane."

The winner was **Jason Evans** of Geneva Middle School.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This weeks question:
Name the 1957, Everly Brothers song that contains the following lyrics: "The movie's over, it's 4:00 and were in trouble deep."

A: _____

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 papers issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal Music Trivia
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