

# ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO



## Speaking Out

By J. Peter Huggins  
McQuaid Jesuit High School

I recently participated in an event known as "Ham Jam," an air-guitar contest held at McQuaid Jesuit High School. The contest consisted of a group of students doing gestures and lip sync as if they were actually the band whose music was being played over the public-announcement system. The name "Ham Jam" stems from the fact that theatrics were a big part of the performance, requiring participants to "ham it up" a wee bit.

The music used in this festival of imagination was selected for its originality, style and tasteful lyrics. In previous years, some air-band acts had used songs containing bawdy or suggestive lyrics. The people in charge of this year's ham jam did not want participants to include music that might be considered even somewhat obscene, because organizers did not want to offend anyone.

In choosing a song to perform, students had to work around this restriction. As one of the performers, I felt that the restriction was a well-meaning but empty gesture on the part of the organizers. I feel confident in saying that, for the most part, teenagers do not pay attention to the lyrics of songs, and are generally more concerned with the music's beat or rhythm. I think few students actually sit down and actually think about what songs are trying to say.

For example, one night I asked a friend of mine for the name of the song we were

dancing to. The answer I received was, "I don't know, but it has a beat." I suppose that someone could argue that my friend wasn't familiar with the song, and couldn't be expected to know its name. I do not believe, however, that not knowing the title limited our ability to enjoy the song. Both of us were simply enjoying music that had a decent beat. This disregard for lyrical content totally undermines the argument that obscene music has a negative effect on people.

I recognize that many people are quite aware of the lyrics of songs and do not choose music simply for its beat. But an even greater number of people are ignorant of any given song's content and thus could not be "corrupted" by obscene words and implications.

I suggest, therefore, that those who are very concerned about today's music should find out what music fans are in fact listening to. If no one is paying any attention to the lyricist's words, then censoring the song is unnecessary.

If society expects teenagers to understand the world they live in, we must be allowed to live and think for ourselves. Censorship of music will merely lead to a false understanding of what is good music and what is merely glitzy trash. Each teenager must make such decisions of his or her own free will.

Censorship actually hurts the people it is designed to help. We have to grow through experience, and when we are prevented from gaining experience, a part of life is taken away from us.

### Columbiettes, K of C Council schedule group communion

St. John Neumann Columbiettes and the Knights of Columbus Council #8271 will pool their resources this year to offer a group communion. The two groups will meet for Mass and communion at St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gebhart Rd., Penfield, for a 9:30 a.m. service on April 5.

Immediately after the Mass, the Colum-

biettes, the Knights and their spouses will meet for brunch at Rund's Periwinkle Pub Restaurant in Perinton Plaza, Fairport.

Guest speaker at the event will be Maurice Tierney, associate director for Catholic Charities, diocesan Division of Social Ministry.

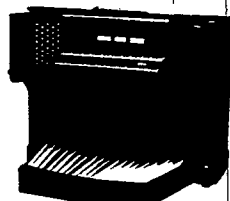
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## Kearney 'reaches out' to others

By Rebecca Fewkes  
Bishop Kearney High School

As Rochester tentatively begins to thaw, spring unfolds, bringing rebirth and new life. With new life, the pace quickens, and an interest in improvement and assistance grows. To give is one of the most basic actions that we can associate with helping. And, in the spirit of spring, the gift of life manifests itself in many forms at Bishop Kearney.

Students Reaching Out, a group of approximately 30 Kearney students, is gearing up for spring projects. Already, Kearney participation in a bowl-a-thon for Corpus Christi and two group visits by Kearney students to the Monroe Developmental Center have enriched the lives of others. Further work at MDC and Bethany House are on the agenda.

The regular missions donations are taking on a new meaning as Easter approaches. Kearney students give funds, food, shelter and other life-giving aid to missions throughout Asia and Africa.

A Daffodils for Cancer fund raiser has

also been resumed at Kearney: Each year, students sell the spring flowers to raise money for the American Cancer Society, in order to provide better care for those with cancer and to further scientific research on discovering a cure.

Kearney's blood drive, the second this school year, was conducted on March 27. Students 17 years old or older were eligible to donate blood to the Red Cross. Past records show that the donations of Kearney juniors and seniors — more than 86 pints of blood — may have saved three lives per pint donated. Blood recipients who undergo surgery or who suffer from AIDS, leukemia, kidney disease and similar ailments are directly receiving life itself.

These are just a few examples of the many forms of service that Kearney students and faculty have been contributing. With so many around us in need, any effort or help is beneficial. Giving of any kind — material goods, a hand, a prayer or a simple word — is something our world needs more of. Kearney is simply striving like the rest of us, to "do all things well," by giving.

## Equal Time

Notre Dame High School  
Of all the extra-curricular activities in which you have participated, which one meant the most to you and why?

### ROBERT JOSEPH, junior

I've been involved in many extracurricular activities in my three years here at Notre Dame, but I haven't enjoyed any as much as working on stage crew. Stage crew involves a lot of work, but also is a lot of fun. I never understood how much preparation goes into a play until I worked backstage, but once the work is done, you can have a good time messing around with the props.



### KEVIN HARNEY, junior

Football is my favorite sport. I love the game, the good times and especially the people. The trust, friendship and companionship that are made last forever. Notre Dame makes it all the better.



### MAURA RURAK, sophomore

I especially enjoy working as the co-editor of our school's newspaper, the Maryleaf. I feel it's a great way to get involved with all of the aspects of Notre Dame's activities.



## Nazareth College Chamber Choir dedicates spring concert to outgoing vice president, provost Sister Marion Hctor

The Nazareth College Chamber Choir will dedicate its spring concert to an administrator who has served the college for 14 years as its chief academic officer.

Sister Marion Hctor, vice president and provost, will be honored at a performance scheduled for Sunday, April 5, at 1 p.m. in the Gerald G. Wilmot Hall of Music. Sister Hctor will relinquish her administrative duties on June 30, in order to return to the faculty full-time.

The concert will feature English and French madrigals and selections from the works of composers ranging from Monteverdi and Brahms to "P.D.Q. Bach."

A special highlight of the concert will be the performance of "Third Psalm: The September Vision," a piece commissioned by the chamber choir and written for choir and tape by graduating senior David McIntyre.

The program is free and open to the public.

## HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 20 correct entries identifying the 1976, Neil Sedaka song, "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do."

The winner was  
Carolyn Conrow



## MUSIC TRIVIA

### This week's question:

What 1976 Pratt & McClain top 10 hit was the theme song to a long running TV series of the same name?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_

### 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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