

Echo

Speaking Out

By Pat Shaw

McQuaid Jesuit High School

The other day I turned 18, and my parents threw me a party. Turning 18 seemed very important to everyone but me. I was not scoffing at it, but I just couldn't figure out the significance of being 18. Not until I was presented with the form to register for the selected service was I shocked into realizing that being 18 was more than another birthday. I then began to reminisce about birthdays past.

Probably my first milestone birthday was when I was five years old. My brother and I were racing each other to be five, and although I was destined to win because I was older, the

birthday was a big deal. It was also at age five that I entered kindergarten.

The years rolled by, and my next important birthday didn't come until I was 13. Finally I was a teenager — not exactly a milestone but something I was excited about. I thought I was almost an adult. At age 16, I got a driver's license and thought I was taking on some significant responsibilities. I lounged through my 17th year until I was awakened on my 18th birthday.

The possibility that I was eligible to fight in a war stripped me of the sense of protection that came with being young. The form that I was filling out in my kitchen was powerful enough to send me to war. It seemed ironic to me that such a seemingly insignificant thing meant so much when my birthday itself had seemed of so little importance. So I sat and thought about the military and came to some conclusions that put it in a little better perspective.

I found myself most of all needing a good reason for registering. Thoughts of exaggerated patriotism flickered in my mind, but I resolved

to think of it as a new-found responsibility — not necessarily one I wanted, but one inherent to growing up.

The term "growing up" immediately took on a new meaning for me. It was not turning five or going to your first day of school; it was filling out the draft form, a harsh invitation to the adult world. This thought made me want to crawl back into my childhood cocoon. So I searched for a better perspective.

Instead, I began to resent having to register, because it represented something I strongly opposed: war. Being asked or required to do something with which I disagreed seemed unfair.

Eighteen suddenly seemed the age when every integral part of me would fall off and I would become an entirely different person. I recalled how worry-free my earlier years had been.

Then I was inspired by another thought about my new stage in life: I could vote. In past years this seemed a trivial privilege because I

had been disassociated from world affairs. But now in light of my moral dilemma, I saw its significance. While registering for the draft made me feel helpless when I most wanted to be in control of my life, being able to vote renewed my spirit of ambition.

My perspective swung around full scale, and I began to think about growing up in more positive terms as a chance to take control of my life. While my age required more responsibility to society, it also granted me the chance to take part in decision making. I felt good looking positively into a future that had previously greeted me so fiercely.

I am glad I stopped to realize the significance of turning 18. It shocked me into an awareness of how my life could change. More importantly, it introduced the idea of responsibility and freedom with which life is presenting me. I cannot look upon someday fighting a war as positive in itself, but I can appreciate the fact that that possibility will break me away from childhood naivete and help me mature.

Our Lady of Mercy High School What's the best part of Christmas?

CORY CURTIN, senior

I enjoy preparing for the Christmas season, such as baking cookies and wrapping gifts. I also enjoy our family tradition of searching for the perfect Christmas tree.



LAURA SCHILLER, senior

I like the excitement that fills the air during the holiday season, and the anticipation of what is to come on Christmas Day. I especially look forward to the sharing of gifts.



DIANA VAN ROON, senior

I love sharing the holiday season with my relatives from Holland through gifts and telephone calls. I also enjoy spending the time with my family, decorating the house and going to midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.



As Teens See It

I especially like sharing my family's gift-giving tradition of St. Nicholas.

JOETTE DAMICO, junior

I like visiting my grandparents with my family on Christmas Eve. My favorite part of this time is Christmas dinner at my grandparents' house.



KATE MASON, senior

I enjoy having all of my family together and reliving memories of past holiday seasons. I especially like getting up early on Christmas morning and seeing the lights on the Christmas tree.

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Exchange program seeks families to host students

The International Education Forum (IEF), a non-profit student exchange organization based in California, is now seeking families interested in hosting foreign high school students for the 1988-89 school year.

The IEF program allows host families to choose from students of 15 different countries — principally South American or Asian. Annually, IEF brings to the United States approximately 500 students from around the world.

Call Lawrence Reinhardt, IEF's local representative, at (716)663-0251 or 274-6491 for information.

ATHLETES OUTLET

Professional Team & Tee-Shirt Headquarters NFL, NBA, NHL

We received 2 correct entries identifying Joe Frazier as the man who won the Fight of the Century on March 8, 1971.



The winner was Kristine Contrino of Blessed Sacrament.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What 2 players constituted Syracuse University basketball's "Louie & Bouie show?"

A:

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ School: _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the Athletes Outlet will feature a Sports 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 certificate redeemable for \$5.00 OFF towards any purchase at either of the two Athletes Outlet locations: Long Ridge Mall, next to Sears, or Perinton Square Mall.

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 Sports Trivia 1150 Buffalo Rd. Rochester, NY 14624

HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98 CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

We received 18 correct entries identifying "Little Deuce Coupe" as the 1963 Beach Boys hit.



The winner was Jeff Luchetti of McQuaid

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

What was the name of the girl who took Harry Chapin's taxi?

A:

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 1150 Buffalo Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14624

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