

Echo

By Amy Carr

Our Lady of Mercy High School

What is the true definition of the word parent? The objective scientist will define a parent as one who brings forth offspring. The newborn and toddler will affectionately view a parent as a source of safety, love and the basic necessities of life. Yet to the typical teenager, a parent is simply a "pain in the neck."

It begins on one's 13th birthday. The new 13 year old, ecstatic over his leap from adolescence to the title of teenager, looks forward to six full years of parties, crazy antics and fun-filled weekends. To his amazement, however, the teenager's parents share a conflicting opinion of his forthcoming high school years.

In the teenager's eyes, his formerly "understanding" parents have mutated into administrators of rules and regulations that will govern his next six years. Naturally, a rebellious teenager will not accept his parents as stern "supervisors;" thus, the ancient conflict between parents and their teenage children begins.

As high school progresses, a teenager will ultimately begin to believe that his parents are becoming senile and have forgotten their own teen years. When the teenager explains that a 10 p.m. curfew cannot possibly allow for a fun-filled evening, he often receives a blank look from his parents — who, to the teen, do not understand the excitement of late-night outings.

When asking for the use of the family car, teenagers are often faced with "irrelevant" interrogations — including the questions: Who? What? When? Why? Where? and How? — and are given strict rules concerning the service of the car. If the rigid rules are not followed perfectly, a parent's trust is broken, and the verb "grounded" becomes overly familiar to the teenager who then asks, "But Mom and Dad, don't you remember when you were teenagers?"

Teenagers often believe that parents refuse to recognize them as growing young adults rather than young children. A typical 15-year-old girl becomes frustrated when her mother does not allow her to buy a strapless dress because she views it as "too old" for her

Speaking Out

daughter.

If parents do not allow their teenager to accept a job offer at age 16 — or obtain a learner's permit to drive — the teen will view this action as a type of "overprotection" or confinement." As teenagers feel the need to mature rapidly, they feel almost imprisoned when parents set rules "limiting" their growth. A teenager, creating his own opinions and having his own experiences, thus often views parents as a hindrance rather than a help.

Yet are parents really that bad? After all, aren't parents the ones who provide education, a decent home and security? Aren't parents the ones that provide free counseling for school and relationship problems? Whom do most teenagers go to when in need of money, transportation or advice?

Yes, for both teenagers and parents, the teenage years can be frustrating. However, as teenagers, we should understand that our parents try their best to teach us the difference between right and wrong and prepare us for the outside world.

Because they were teenagers themselves — although that is hard to believe — most parents understand the difficulty of growing up, but know the importance of keeping a teenager from maturing too soon. Most parents wish to give their children opportunities they never had and try their best to prepare their teen for the hardships and obstacles ahead.

It is human nature for parents and their growing teenagers to experience arguments, misunderstandings and disagreements. Yet, if both sides work together at understanding each other's motives and feelings, the teenage years would be looked upon as easier and more exciting for generations to come.

Aquinas Institute

Do you think 18 year olds understand the importance of the right to vote?

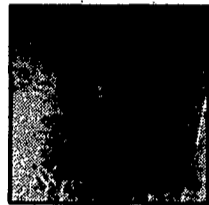
JENNIFER FLANNERY, freshman

Yes, she is old enough to accept responsibility for herself, and one of these responsibilities is the right to vote. If she can leave home and decide what she can do with her life, she is old enough to realize the importance of voting.



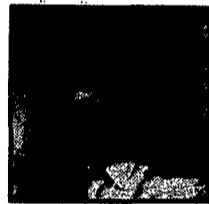
JOE SMIZZI, junior

Yes, I believe an 18 year old realizes the importance of the privilege to vote. Most 18-year-old voters are responsible enough to find out about issues and candidates before voting, and base their vote not on popularity but on their beliefs.



CAROLINE ELLIOTT, freshman

It depends on the person, really. Some people realize that by having the right to vote, they can help make the country the way that they want it to be and the best they feel it can be. Others just take it for granted, and what's worse is that some people just don't exercise their right to vote because they don't think that their vote will count.



As Teens See It

JEFFREY MUCHA, senior

When 18 year olds were granted the right to vote in 1971, it was a popular privilege. I feel that this popular trend has decreased, and should be recognized and made known. I will be 18 in July and have plans on voting in the next presidential election.



LAURA SHAW, freshman

In general, 18 year olds don't understand the importance of the privilege to vote. This is due to the lack of knowledge of voting. Most teens believe that they have to be politically informed and closely follow the political campaigns in order to vote for the best candidate. However, a decision can be made if they ask trusted friends for their opinion or consult the editorial pages of the newspaper or news magazines for an overview of the candidates.



Annual benefit auction set for Kidney Foundation

Tickets to the Phantom of the Opera in New York, two round-trip tickets on USAir to Miami, and a Ramon Santiago are among some of the items auctioneers will bid on at the seventh-annual Kidney Foundation Benefit Auction on Sunday, March 27, at the Rochester Hilton, 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester.

The "Phantom" tickets are part of a New York weekend package that includes airfare and accommodations at the Drake Hotel.

An auction preview will begin at 2 p.m. The Showvintettes, an a cappella group, will provide entertainment. Bidding will begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each, and include two free cocktails.

Funds raised will be used by the Kidney Foundation to provide patient services and public education and to fund research in the areas of kidney and urologic diseases. Call (716)244-8893 for information.

Jesuit priest to speak

Father Howard Gray, SJ, a widely known writer and lecturer, will be the featured speaker during a day-long conference at St. John Fisher College's Basil Hall, March 26, 1988. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.



For information, call Sister Muriel Curran, SSND, at (716)328-3210.

Mooney students staging revival

By Patti Enright and Sandy Drexel

Cardinal Mooney High School's spring musical this year is a revival of the 1920s spoof hit "The Boyfriend."

The musical comedy, which takes place during the Charleston era, originated in Great Britain as a take off on a large number of stage productions — particularly one entitled "The Girlfriend."

The lively music as well as the light, comical plot make "The Boyfriend" an instant hit in its own right. The show has become a classic standard on American stages, with "Won't You Charleston With Me" and "It's Never Too Late To Fall in Love," among its repeatedly popular, up-beat tunes.

A special feature of this spring's performance will be "Nostalgia Night" scheduled for opening night, Thursday, April 21. The cast of a 1968 version of this same show has been invited to return to share the audience — and the stage — with the current production's cast. After the performance, both groups will celebrate the revival in the school cafeteria.

In the 1988 version, leading roles will be performed by senior Shannon Wilson and junior Tom Anschutz. Wilson will play the dewy-eyed Polly — one of several "perfect young ladies" at an exclusive boarding school in the South of France — and Anschutz will play Tony, a brash young American boy.

The plot of their romance cross with the lives of other students in the school and their "gentlemen friends," proving that while it may have been possible to be a lady in the vigor of the 1920s, being "perfect" was the obligation of the upper classes.

Major roles will be performed by Debi Bolam, John Dudley, Lucy Gallucci, Lisa Dudek, Vicki Corrigan, Tanya Parmalee, Karin Hollander, Kevin Aman, Mickey Haugh, Don Kieffer, Greg Czarniak, Jason Brien and Elaine Wraight.

Brother Edward Zdrowski is directing this year's play. The choreographer is Mrs. Bernie Derleth, and the producers are Sue Higginbotham and Bob Smyth.

Performances on April 21, 22 and 23 will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling (716)865-1000.

Retreat for laity scheduled

A vocation of the laity retreat is scheduled for the Cenacle Center, 693 East Ave., Rochester, from Friday to Sunday, April 8-10. The retreat — which will be conducted by David Lortscher, Father Dan O'Shea and Sister Helen Harber — will begin 7:30 p.m. Friday and end at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

To make reservations, call the Cenacle Ministry Office at (716)271-8755.

Zambito's Team Outfitters advertisement featuring sports trivia questions and rules. Includes a photo of a person and text about a trivia winner.

HOUSE OF GUITARS advertisement featuring music trivia questions and rules. Includes a photo of a guitar and text about a trivia winner.