

Echo

Mother, daughter graduate on same day 39 years apart

Although Nazareth Academy's graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 27, will adhere to a century of tradition, they will also feature an air of novelty, as the Perricelli family relives a scene from 39 years ago — exactly. On that date in 1949, Margaret Mitrano Perricelli, mother of current Nazareth senior Ann Michelle Perricelli, walked across the stage of the Eastman Theatre to receive her own diploma.

The coincidence of graduation dates was discovered when Margaret Perricelli rummaged through a drawer of family memorabilia and found the gold watch her boyfriend Frank, now her husband, had given her for graduation. Since Ann Michelle's graduation was approaching, the wristwatch brought back memories. As Perricelli read the engraving on the back — "To Marge from Frank, June 27, 1949" — she suddenly realized that her daughter's graduation would occur on the same day and date.

"All I could think was, 'Oh my goodness, it's 39 years later to the day!'" Perricelli said. "Just talking about it now gives me chills!"

According to the perpetual calendar of the World Almanac and Book of Facts, Monday, June 27, has occurred only 16 times since Nazareth's foundation in 1871. The next

projected year for the coincidence is 1994. "Finding that watch made me nostalgic," Perricelli said. "I remembered how sad it was to graduate; I cried all night."

"I know it will be sad for Ann Michelle, too, because she is so involved in school. But I'm positive that she'll feel happy about the future as well," the alumna said. Daughter Ann Michelle plan to enter the University of Rochester in the fall, concentrating on engineering but with an interest in medicine.

As she approached the date June 27, 1949, then-Margaret Mitrano was afraid to leave high school. "Graduation meant that it was time to enter the 'real world' of 9-to-5 work days, of marriage and family, and I enjoyed Nazareth so much that I didn't want to leave," she recalled.

The daughter loves the school as much as her mother did. Heavily involved in such extracurricular activities as Perosian Choir, Show Choir, Latin Club, Math Club and Ski Club, she is also a member of the National Honor Society.

"I work better when I have lots to do," Ann Michelle explained.

Many of Nazareth's traditions have been maintained through the years, but when asked about changes from 1949 to 1988, Margaret

Perricelli first mentioned the differences in school uniforms. "I wore one with a starched, white collar every day," she recalled. "Also, the faculty were all sisters — and they were strict when I went to school. They all wore habits and had eagle eyes."

"The sisters were so strict," she continued, "that you couldn't sit next to your boyfriend in the car when he dropped you off at school or picked you up. Well, sister saw us getting into the car one day, and boy, did I catch it!"

Ann Michelle laughed when she heard that story about her mother and father. "Today, the faculty are interested in our boyfriends, and many other aspects of our lives!" she said. "Our teachers discuss all sorts of current, popular topics, even those health issues that

my mom said in 1949 you couldn't use the words for."

The relationship between faculty and students is one reason Ann Michelle regrets leaving Nazareth. "It's like a family here; everyone is a sister to everyone else," she said. "You can talk to fellow classmates and to teachers about personal problems, and feel that they really care about helping you solve it."

Nevertheless, both mother and daughter are looking forward to the formal graduation ceremony. "That's one thing I'm pleased to say hasn't changed since my day," Margaret Perricelli remarked. "All the girls wear white gowns and carry red roses tied with a royal blue ribbon. I can't believe it still happens, but I'm so glad that it's an enduring tradition."

By Christine Krzanowicz

As summer begins, many activities are opened to the younger public, such as beaches, miniature golf courses and amusement parks.

Yet it is also the time of year for students to pay hundreds of dollars to "crack" the SAT. The importance of this test is often questioned. How can one test compare to four years of studying and homework? Well, the answer is that it can't. Many will try to study, but the range of questions is so vast that it is nearly impossible to second-guess the testing panel. For those of us who freeze while taking tests, I'm sure that knowing these scores will have so much weight in determining our college acceptances will make it even harder for us to sit back and relax. Is the absurdity of this situation setting in?

Putting myself in the position of the college administrators, I do see the need for some kind of a college board examination. The impor-

Speaking Out

tance of this score is what is being questioned. I, myself, would rather admit a student who got 1000 on the SAT but who earned good grades for four years by working hard and becoming involved than a genius scoring 1400 who is too lazy to work to his full potential. Which of them will have enough self-discipline to maintain the college's good reputation? I ask you to think about it.

For those of you with the SAT looming in the near future, my advice is get a good night's sleep, relax and pray!

'Beer Slayer' details nightmare of dependency in 'Drunk Class'

By Mick Conway
NC News Service

As a substance-abuse counselor and the mother of five grown children (who call me the Beer Slayer), I can speak with some authority on the problems associated with accompanying young people through their teenage years.

Somewhere between the ages of 12 and 19, most adolescents feel the need to prove their maturity by experimenting with alcohol or drugs. Peer pressure can be intense, and many teenagers find it impossible to take a stand against drinking or using drugs.

The availability of alcohol and other drugs is a serious temptation for adolescents. Impatience to be part of the adult world can lead to chemical use, often with disastrous results.

My husband, a physician, can recite a litany of horror stories about teenagers drinking and driving. Those middle-of-the-night phone calls from the emergency room usually mean trouble. When car accidents are involved, you can be fairly sure alcohol is in the picture.

When our own teenagers were not home at the designated hour, my husband would become so nervous about their safety that he would drive around the countryside looking for them, certain that he would find their car upside down, with its occupants unable to escape. He now knows almost every ditch in the county!

I teach an education/prevention class for high school students who have been charged with under-age possession of alcohol or drugs. Many schools have implemented such classes.

In spite of some initial reluctance, participants soon begin to take an active part in our weekly sessions. In a light moment, they even decided upon a name for our group: The Drunk Class.

As part of the curriculum, I arranged for informal talks by several resource people in the community — the county attorney, police chief and sheriff, to name a few.

The most popular speaker was a young recovering alcoholic. Now a college senior, she told the group of her experiences with alcohol and drugs. Her candor won instant approval from the class.

She spoke of her adolescent experimentation

Coming of Age

with chemicals, stealing alcohol from her home and buying street drugs. As she continued drinking and using drugs, she began losing interest in school and friends, and soon dropped out of activities she had previously enjoyed.

Her high school years became a nightmare of drinking and using drugs, lying and stealing money to support her chemical habit. Her first year in college was a disaster because of her escalating use of alcohol and drugs. Minimal class attendance resulted in failing grades, and the need for more money to buy chemicals led her into prostitution.

Her family, after finally realizing the extent of her illness, committed her to a treatment center for chemical dependency.

She had managed to fool even those closest to her, her family and friends, until the disease of chemical dependency had reached an advanced stage.

Now that she is in recovery, her life has taken on new meaning. She has found a closeness in God that she had never experienced before. She thanks and praises her family for intervening on her behalf. She is an enthusiastic member of Alcoholics Anonymous and credits the group for her continued sobriety.

The message she brought to our group was that alcohol and other drugs are dangerous substances. If chemical dependency develops, the very course of one's life is altered.

Mick Conway is a freelance writer and substance-abuse counselor in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send your comments on Coming of Age — including your views of the various individual writers and the topics covered — to: Editor, Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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Team Outfitters

Golf - Baseball - Softball - Hockey - Football - Basketball

We received 4 correct entries identifying the Cincinnati Royals as the last NBA team Bob Cousy played for.

The winner was Glenn MacBlane of Rochester

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who, on October 29, 1973, became the first NFLer to gain more than 1,000 yards rushing in only seven games?

A:

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

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with Zambito's Sport Shop 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 \$10.00 OFF towards any purchase at Zambito's Sport Shop, 1350 Culver Rd.

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.
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HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98
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We received 14 correct entries identifying John Sebastian as the person who composed and sang the theme for the hit show "Welcome Back, Kotter."



The winner was David Fallone of Aquinas

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who's the "King of Swing"?

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