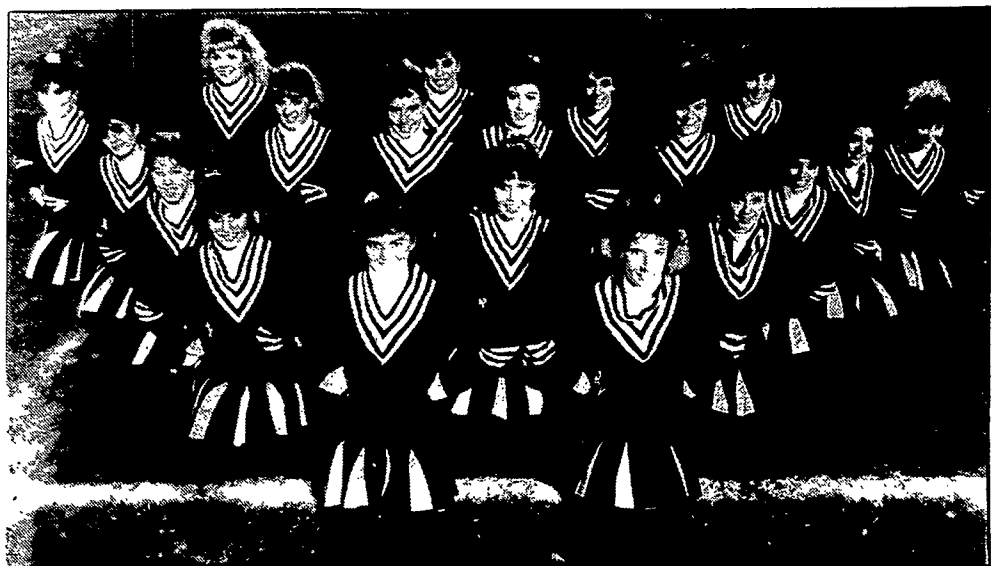


## Youth



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Members of the Bishop Kearney cheerleading squad, under the direction of Mary Anne Walker, traveled to Niagara Falls this weekend for the Festival of Lights Cheerleading Championship. The girls placed second overall among the five teams competing in their division.

## Coming of Age

By Christopher Carstens  
NC News Service

The negotiation starts sometime around age 12 and continues until you move out on your own. Almost every teen wants more freedom and independence than his or her parents feel ready to give.

The specific issue may be going to a dance or spending the night at a certain friend's house. The argument kids use pretty much boils down to: "Trust me, I'm responsible and can take care of myself."

Parents are likely to answer: "Wait a minute. I'm not so sure."

The truth is that parents are scared about their teenagers growing up and going out. Parental fears usually revolve around the big three: sex, drugs — including alcohol — and car accidents. No matter how sure you are that you won't get into trouble, parents are still going to worry. It's their job.

You can help your parents comfortably give

you more freedom by helping them worry less. There isn't any magic formula, but by calming their fears you gradually can get some more space. It won't happen all at once, but if you are patient things eventually will change.

First, start small. Asking your parents to change a major rule is certain to make them nervous. If you announce, "I've been coming in at 10 on weekends, and I think it should be 12 instead," you're forcing your parents to consider whether to let you stay out later every weekend from now on. Requests like that bring out the fear in parents. Instead, start by asking about a particular event — one that is safe and will be well-supervised.

As part of your program of reducing parental anxiety, whenever you go out, be sure to let your parents know where you're going. Doing that every time may seem like a pain, but nothing scares parents more than having a teen "out there somewhere in the night."

Finally, make it your own private rule to come in five to 10 minutes earlier than you're expected. If your parents tell you to be in by midnight, walk through the door at 11:54. This is absolutely no harder than coming home at 12:05, but it has an amazing effect on parents, who think anything before curfew is quite early. The effort won't cost you much, but the investment of a few minutes will pay off in the form of more freedom in the months ahead.

## Kearney cheerleaders make splash at Niagara Falls fest

By Rob Cullivan

Sheila Kennedy, a senior at Bishop Kearney High School, went to Niagara Falls last weekend for one purpose and one purpose alone — to win The Festival of Lights Cheerleading Championship at Niagara University.

To that end, Sheila and her teammates on the school's varsity cheerleading squad stuck to their nightly curfews and shunned the one thing that could have altered their chances: boys.

"This was a cheerleading weekend, not a 'looking for guys' weekend," said Kennedy, the team co-captain. The girls' discipline paid off when the Kearney squad won second place overall on Sunday, Nov. 27, losing by only one point to Bishop O'Hare High School from Buffalo.

Five teams from Michigan and New York made up the U.S.A. Division, and each competed in two categories — dance and cheerleading team. Kearney won the team category on Saturday, Nov. 26, by eight points, and took second place in the dance category on Sunday, Nov. 27.

Mary Anne Walker, who coaches the squad, attributed her girls' success in the team category to their complex routines. The other teams used more arm motions in their cheers, but Kearney emphasized coordinated jumping, which is considered more difficult by the judges, Walker explained.

In their dance routine, the Kearney squad used a trio of Russian-style kicks, simultaneously bringing their feet up to their hands.

Walker noted that the cheerleaders displayed great spirit and enthusiasm which the crowd found appealing.

Nine seniors, nine juniors and two sophomores make up the varsity squad, which marched Saturday, Nov. 26, in Niagara Falls' Festival of Lights Parade, held annually to usher in the holiday season. The Kearney cheerleaders also led spectators in the traditional countdown to the parade's finale: a spectacular lighting of the falls from both the U.S. and Canadian sides.

"Everybody kind of joined in," Kennedy said. "People started counting with you, and they got excited." The crowd enjoyed the cheerleaders' routines, she said, noting that "people were basically friendly. They asked us where we were from."

Walker said her squad learned a lot by watching the Canadian teams that competed in a separate division. "We'll have new ideas for the upcoming basketball season," she remarked. "We saw different dances and moves." The coach observed that the Canadians precisely executed their routines, but that the U.S. teams generally performed more difficult movements, using more jumps than arm motions.

On January 28, Walker will be taking the team to the State University of New York at Brockport for the Greater Rochester Tournament in which Kearney will compete against teams from Monroe County and the state's Southern Tier.

### Aquinas Institute

## Will the policies of President-elect George Bush affect you as a student?

### As Teens See It

#### STACEY HOPKINS, sophomore:

As a student, I would have to say that Bush's future policies have a limited effect on my life. Eventually, though, as I become involved in government, his policies would concern me further. His fair or poor judgement on national affairs including the death penalty, abortion and aid to the contras would influence what I do later in life.

#### STACI PRINCE, freshman:

I feel the policies of President-elect Bush will have a considerable effect on me. I will be able to vote by the time Bush's term ends, and I will have considered his actions. Currently, I question his honesty in some of his policies. I haven't been impressed by the Republicans' poor ability to achieve what they have promised in the past. I hope this term will alter my negative views, and I'm looking forward to seeing what it will bring.

#### AILEEN MONTES, junior:

The education policies will especially affect me. Bush proposes to have more student tests and more competency tests for teachers. The requirements to get ahead in the world will be more difficult, but teachers should be better educated. Bush also would allow money to earn interest tax-free if it is for college. This gives more people a chance to get a good education.

#### FRANK LLAMO, sophomore:

Bush is not going to help those students who are unable to afford going to college. The financial help that most schools offer is not enough for some people. I feel Bush will need to staff a program that will help those students who want to go but don't have the means because pretty soon the ones who really want to make the effort to learn won't get the chance.

#### DAN MAY, senior:

As a senior, I am looking forward to college, but I am concerned with how to pay for it. If Bush continues the cutting of federal aid to students, it will influence my decisions about enrolling. This policy may force me to delay my education to allow me time to finance it.

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Who was John Lennon's second wife?

A:

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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.

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