

Youth

Disabled Kearney iceman skates through the game of life

By Rob Cullivan

IRONDEQUOIT — Saturday night, Jan. 7, Bishop Kearney's hockey team was tied 3-3 in the second period of a game against Brighton High School. Then Bill Zabelny, left wing for the Kearney Kings, scored the first goal in his two years on the team. As the puck slid into the opposing goalie's net, Zabelny's team went wild, and by evening's end the Kings had scored six more goals, trouncing Brighton 10-6.

Yet as Zabelny celebrated that evening, he thought of one fan who wasn't in the stands — his older brother, Rob, who had died of muscular dystrophy exactly two years before. The next day, Bill visited his brother's grave and placed the game puck on it.

Bill Zabelny's first goal in high school hockey was the culmination of a greater goal the senior had set for himself before his brother died — to make the Kearney team. That objective might seem a typical one for any high school athlete, but Zabelny had an atypical obstacle. He wears an artificial leg from his right knee down.

Zabelny's leg was amputated following an automobile accident that occurred when he was in the eighth grade. He spent two months in the

hospital before going home in a wheelchair, to which his doctor ordered him confined for the next two months. But before he could become too accustomed to sitting down, his wheelchair-bound brother ordered him to get up and walk.

"My brother yelled at me to get out of the wheelchair," Zabelny recalled. "I was hesitant," he said, noting that first among the many instructions he had been given was his physical therapist's order that he not leave the wheelchair. "When I actually did, I was taking a risk, but it paid off."

The taking that risk paid off, leading Zabelny to dream about playing hockey. His other brother, Jim, encouraged his sibling's dream by presenting him with a pair of ice skates for his birthday in August of 1986. Jim was a star player for McQuaid High School and the Rochester Junior Amerks, but his career was cut short when he suffered a knee injury while skating for Clarkson University. Rob had enjoyed watching Jim on the ice, so Bill laced up his skates to bring back those feelings for his brother.

"If he could've played, he would've," Zabelny said of Rob. "When Jim went, I wanted to play for (Rob) to keep his thoughts happy."



Linda Dow Hayes - Courier-Journal

Bill Zabelny camps out in front of the goal during a recent Bishop Kearney hockey practice.

Zabelny spent hours and hours at any public rink he could find, gradually getting used to skating with his artificial limb. He spent the summer of '87 taking skating lessons, and by fall of that year, he was prepared to try out for

the Kings. Even so, a part of him doubted his ability.

"I always thought I'd never make it, (but) I tried as hard as I could at the tryout," he recalled. His perseverance paid off when he made the team.

Once on the team, he found that he would get no special favors from his teammates. "The way I got it from them was that you had to work as hard as anyone else or you wouldn't make it," he explained. Zabelny did work as hard or harder than anyone else — just ask his coach, Louis DiMartino.

"Even though he had that handicap, I was surprised that he did what he did," DiMartino said. "He never shied away from any of the skating drills. It was surprising. I really expected him to fall down."

Far from falling down, the senior iceman helps lift up his teammates, DiMartino noted. "His morale is a big plus — just having him on the team and seeing what he has overcome," the coach remarked, noting that Zabelny equals his teammates in passing, shooting and checking. Only his speed lags somewhat, the coach said, an assessment with which Zabelny agreed.

Coming of Age

By Linda Rome
NC News Service

While friends and family cooled off at the local pool during last July's heat wave, teenager Lynn Ameen of Mentor, Ohio, spent her summer at a day camp for inner-city children in the Bronx.

At 17, she was the youngest of 17 volunteers to work a six-week stint with the Missionaries of Charity in New York City. She lived in their women's shelter in Harlem, and her assignment was to work at a Bronx day camp.

Ameen's interest in mission work and service to the poor began two years ago when she worked with the non-denominational Youth With a

Volunteer service teaches teen about living the faith

Mission troupe in the Fiji Islands.

"After two weeks training in Hawaii, our group lived and worked with people in Fiji," she said. "We performed little skits and songs with the theme 'Christ as Our Savior' for school and church groups. We even did occasional street witnessing."

The Fiji Islands experience sparked her interest in serving the poor, and brought into focus questions she struggled with about how to live out her faith and the traditions of the Catholic Church.

When Father Marty Polito, the chaplain at Lake Catholic High School where Ameen is a senior, mentioned the Missionaries of Charity summer program, she saw her chance to work with the poor in her own country.

"I went with no expectations," she said, "but I quickly learned what a false sense of humility I had."

A typical day for her began at 5:30 a.m. in the little room on shelter's fourth floor, which she shared with another volunteer. Mass was at 7 a.m., followed by a simple breakfast.

At the day camp, the schedule was divided into hour segments. "We did carpentry, reading, arts and crafts, sports, learning to pray, and music and drama," Ameen said.

The 120 children were divided into seven groups. She worked with the 5- and 6-year-olds.

"I had very little experience with that age group," she said. "In the beginning it was hard to involve them in activities, but as time went on I learned how to get them to listen and they learned more of what was expected of them."

Life in Harlem is much different than in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ameen found. She was shocked at the garbage in the streets and that

fire hydrants were a community water source.

She also volunteered in the soup kitchen run by the Missionaries of Charity.

"The Harlem soup kitchen feeds over 200 people every day with food that would have been thrown away by grocery stores and restaurants," she said.

"From the Missionaries of Charity I learned what it really means to be poor and to live like the poor and to serve them," Ameen said. "It takes humility, hard work, commitment and a deep faith."

She said that her own faith in the church and its traditions was strengthened through the experience.

"I was able to see how a true Catholic living out the faith lives — and what it's like when the traditions of the church and its faith all come together in a beautiful unity," she says.

Our Lady of Mercy

What is the strongest form of peer pressure?

As Teens See It

KATIE MONAHAN, Junior:

I don't feel any peer pressure. If we go to a party, it's my choice to drink or not. No one makes me feel bad if I choose not to participate in things I hate.



STEPHANIE SELNER, Senior:

When you go out to parties with friends, and somebody picks up a beer and you don't, they ask, "What's wrong with you?" I ignore them and say they better get a grip!



CAROLINE GUNNING, Senior:

College! We all want to fit in and if you go to a college no one knows about, they look strangely at you. I feel we are judged by our SAT scores and class rank.



THERESE MACK, Senior:

Friends always ask about my college stuff. "Are your applications in?" "What schools are you applying to?" "What are your SAT scores?" I don't like to be compared to others that way. I want my friends to like me for my mind, not what college I go to.



Speaking Out

By Steve Schott
McQuaid Jesuit High School

On January 5, three McQuaid students' opinions on the issue of birth control were published in this page. These opinions were the students' ideas on a hot issue in society. They were in no way meant to reflect the students' past or possible future, or even their own personal standards. They expressed these views to help show some answers to a problem in our society.

Teen pregnancies are a big problem today, and there are only two solutions for pregnant teens — keeping the children or having abortions. It is easy for society to say, "Keep the baby," if it is possible for the child to have a good upbringing. The problem with this is that the mother's high school days are numbered. She has little or no future. In the best case, the child will have a father. But he, too, is on a dead-end street. The poverty line is not an easy place for rookie parents to be.

That's a best-case scenario, but what about a worst-case scenario? How about a child who has no father? Or a child who is resented by his mother and is beaten for it? Welcome to the world of teen pregnancy.

Contrary to the American dream, a teen's kid can't achieve anything he puts his mind to — or, at least, not without money. Desire and will-power don't go as far nowadays as they used to. "People can do anything they put their mind to," people say, but there's a fat chance of this kid being president. He's got no money and has a past that people will hold him accountable for even though it was not his doing.

A good solution to teen pregnancies is adoption. But most people don't want to give up their children for whatever reason, and may find another solution to their problem.

Teen abortion is that solution. It's a taboo subject, but it's a tremendous reality. No one is really pro-abortion, but some people are pro-choice. The biggest problem with abortion is that it used as birth control, which is repulsive. If two teens have sex and are running the risk of the girl getting pregnant, they should not be more relaxed because abortion is available.

So, the next question is how to stop teen pregnancies. The obvious answer that seems

quite foolproof is to stop teen sex. Nancy Reagan has the right idea: "Just say No." And just like Nancy Reagan's idea that education helps fight the drug problem, so education will help solve the teen pregnancy problem. Yeah, right.

In health class, a student learns two possible side-effects, if you will, of sex: pregnancies and disease. Unfortunately, they usually learn this senior year at most schools. That's too late for many kids. And, frankly, it doesn't work. I've talked to people who've taken the course. They say it's a joke.

Distributing birth control is a possible solution. I disagree that this will promote sex and create a problem. If the only thing keeping two teens from having sex is a lack of birth control, they should be able to obtain it. There will come a time when desire will overcome reason, and they will have sex anyway. For this couple, as well as the ones already having sex, birth control creates a more, not less responsible, attitude toward sex.

I'm sure there are people who have a hard time believing that teen pregnancies are such a big problem. But I can say confidently that I go to the only school in Rochester with no pregnant teenagers. Those people who find this hard to believe do so for two reasons: ignorance and ignorance.

There might be one other reason. Society's "upper echelon" hides teen pregnancies. The rich supposedly have reputations to uphold, which the poor don't have. And when the rich family's little girl gets pregnant, before anyone knows, she's taken a two-day break from school to see a private physician. But the poor have morals, so they have children. Then they get a bad rap and bad press for not being hypocrites. Makes sense.

Birth control is definitely not the best answer to teen pregnancy and abortion. But it's been tried, and it's worked. It's time we solved a problem before it gets too big — for a change.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In recent weeks, some readers have objected to the Courier-Journal's publication of youth commentary with which the readers disagree. We assume this "Speaking Out" column will meet with a similar reaction. Although our publication of such views should not be taken as endorsements thereof, it is our policy to present them — uncensored — for two vital reasons: to give young Catholics an outlet for expressing themselves to the Catholic community, and to let adults know what teens are thinking.

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

We received 19 correct entries identifying The Beach Boys as the group formed in 1961 by the Wilson Brothers.



The winner was Joan Adamo of Bishop Kearney

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who plays drums for the Rolling Stones?

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