

Features

# Student spend spare time creating literary journal



## MERCEDES

By Rob Cullivan

ROCHESTER — Dale Glogowski has succeeded in getting students at Our Lady of Mercy High School to submit to her will.

So far, 200 students have knuckled under to the senior's request for poetry and prose submissions to the 61st edition of *Mercedes*, the student literary and art journal.

Glogowski, a member of *Mercedes*' staff since her sophomore year, is editing the journal. She began talking to students in homeroom and making announcements on the school's public-address system last September, hoping to solicit submissions. A 10-member staff will assist her this weekend to decide what to publish in May.

The staff will be looking for contemporary literary themes, Glogowski said. "(We want) things the students can relate to." Stories about resolving conflicts or personal suffering are the

most common, she remarked. Between 20 and 30 submissions are eventually chosen to be published.

Poetry and prose are printed in about an equal number of pages each year, but Glogowski confessed that this year may see *Mercedes* leaning towards the poetic side because about 75 percent of this year's submissions are poems.

Early in the year, Glogowski encourages variety in the submissions, but the final selections will be tied together by a theme. This year's *Mercedes* will focus on mankind's evolution from the primitive state to its current and future status, she said. After the staff makes its final selections, the editors decide on the journal's layout and design, subsequently commissioning illustrations for some of the pieces. Liza Savage, *Mercedes*' art editor, said getting students to write is usually no problem, but getting them to draw is another story.

"We got very few illustrations last year," she said. "I did most of the art work." She is more optimistic about this year's edition. "Oddly enough, we've been getting a lot more people wanting to give submissions," she said.

Occasionally, a piece of art will inspire a written piece, Savage said. Stephanie Hess, a staff member this year, wrote the poem "A Fairytale for Tom" to accompany a drawing Savage did for last year's edition.

Following completion of the art work and design, the journal is sent to a printer who produces about 600 copies of *Mercedes* to be distributed at no charge to Mercy's students and staff. Some of those copies will go to the staffs of other high school literary journals, according to Jane O'Brien, an English teacher who serves as the staff's faculty adviser.

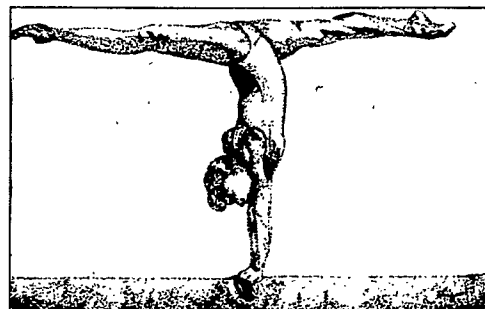
Schools that receive a copy could learn a lot from *Mercedes*, which has won national and state awards in the past, including last year's award for best magazine from the Empire State School Press Association. The association also named "Snow", a poem by Meghan Bielat, as best poem.

O'Brien credits the magazine's emphasis on overall design and theme as the key to its suc-

cess in literary competitions. "Some of the schools design their magazine one page at a time," she noted, remarking that *Mercedes* is a success because of the students behind it. "It a lot of hard work from a dedicated staff," she said.

The staff's dedication is rewarded with nothing more than satisfaction in a job well done, O'Brien commented, noting that no course credit is given to students who work on the journal.

Glogowski doesn't need course credit to mo-



Illustrations by Liza Savage.

tivate her writing. "I've always liked writing," she said. "When I was young, I liked writing short stories." One of Glogowski's more recent works, *The Price*, was published in last year's

*Mercedes*. She drew on her own experience to relate the tale of a high school gymnast's pre-competition anxiety and post-victory exultation.

Her interests in literature dovetail with the magazine's youthful orientation. She lists Jack London's adventure stories and Mark Twain's novels as being among her favorites. "I enjoy (Twain's) style and the way he focuses on younger people," she said.

This year, Glogowski is changing her focus to a more adult vision. She's submitting a story about a young woman who must live with a faithless husband. Last year's *Mercedes* was filled with writing of a similarly serious vein. The students largely have free rein when it comes to story content, O'Brien said. "I don't have to actually censor," she said. "That hasn't come up yet." If the subject of censorship did arise, it would be over a piece O'Brien would consider personally hurtful or demeaning to a potential reader, she remarked.

Such certainly wasn't the case with any of Savage's drawings in last year's *Mercedes*: a thoughtful boy's face, a girl feeding hay to her horse and the triumphant gymnast in Glogowski's story. Savage said she expressed herself better through writing than drawing and lists personalized greeting cards as part of her regular output.

### Catholic Schools: Communities with Memories

By Brother Brian Walsh  
Superintendent of Schools

This year's theme for our annual celebration of the church's ministry of Catholic school education is one that calls us to remember the sacrifices that have always been necessary to provide our children with education in the faith.

"Catholic Schools: Communities with Memories" this year's theme reminds us that it is the formation of a faith community that works together, reflects and studies Scripture, and provides service to people that is the aim of each of our Catholic schools.

As a community, each of our schools celebrates the rich heritage contained in its

Roman Catholic tradition. Each of our schools tells the story of what it means to be a Roman Catholic in the world. Each of our schools tells the story of the heroes and heroines — the saints — of the past and present who show us how to be a Roman Catholic in the world. Each of our schools pays honor to the parish communities that have sacrificed now and in the past to provide God-centered education.

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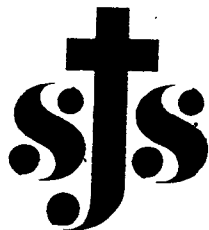
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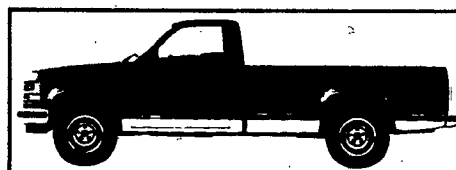
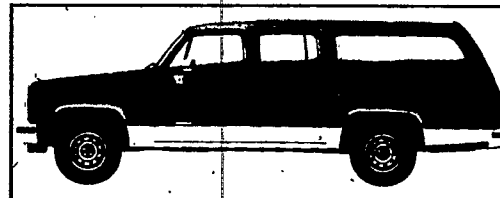
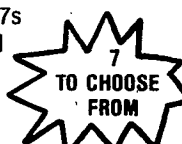


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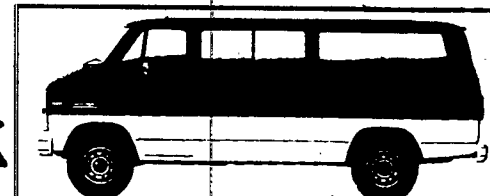
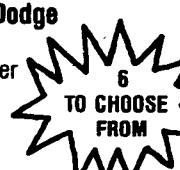
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