

Junior Miss competitor emphasizes excellence

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

WEBSTER — Every now and then, Eileen Adamo, a classical piano student, has to tell Mozart to move over on her keyboard and make way for rock musician Jon Bon Jovi's epic composition "Born to be my baby."

Adamo, a senior at Bishop Kearney High School, doesn't plan to give up playing the works of her favorite classical composer, but she was excited because she picked up the Bon Jovi song just by listening to it.

Playing by ear is the latest in a series of accomplishments for the talented student, who represented Monroe County in the New York State Junior Miss competition at Buffalo State College, Feb. 3-4. Although she didn't win, Adamo need not be depressed, considering her array of accomplishments in the last four years at Bishop Kearney.

Adamo is a four-year academic scholarship winner, and is ranked first in her senior class. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, layout editor for the school yearbook, features editor for the school newspaper, and a member of the school's library, ushers' and sign language clubs.

But Adamo is not just a serious student. She has been on the school volleyball team for the last two years, and she has also been a cheerleader and member of the track team.

Adamo sees her active life as simply the way to become the best person she can possibly be. When competing for the title of Monroe County Junior Miss, she was asked what she thought was her generation's worst attribute. "There's a lack of motivation in a lot of kids. They don't mind being

mediocre," she remarked, although she emphasized that excellence lies not in being a super-achiever, but in doing all one can with the talents one is given.

Indeed, Adamo seems more interested in enjoying her activities than in the recognition they garner her. For example, she competed for the Junior Miss title solely because she thought a beauty contest would be fun. She chose the Junior Miss competition because it emphasized brains as well as beauty, and noted that the competition had no swimsuit category. "I don't think dad would've let me do it (otherwise)," she said.

For the statewide competition's talent category, she played "Minuet in G, Opus 14, No. 1" by Polish composer I. J. Paderewski. To get into the spirit of the work, she wore a traditional Polish dress that she made herself.

One thing she won't be wearing in the future is another beauty pageant crown. The 5-foot-3-inch Adamo said she is too short to vie for the Miss America crown, and besides, her future is in the classrooms of Cornell University, where she'll be studying biochemistry next fall.

Adamo is particularly interested in the future of genetic engineering, and sees herself becoming a researcher in that field. Another possibility is teaching. Either way, she'll continue her classical piano studies purely for enjoyment. "There's no more mother saying 'You haven't played your full time,'" she said.

Time is always full for Adamo, who, despite her packed schedule, said she rarely feels like she's overdoing it. "Sometimes, I feel really busy, but I stay out of trouble," she commented. "I like getting into stuff. I love all the stuff I do."



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier
Kearney senior Eileen Adamo added competing in the New York State Junior Miss Pageant to her many scholastic and extracurricular accomplishments.

Teenage moviegoers need to develop their own film standards

COMING OF AGE

By Michael Warren
NC News Service

Are there any sensible guidelines to help people of any age choose movies or videos or media in general? Would these guidelines be helpful to young people in setting standards for themselves of what they should watch and what they should deliberately ignore? I think so. But young people themselves will have to determine whether the guidelines I suggest are worthwhile.

Guideline 1: Recognize the need to take a standpoint. To evaluate or judge any-

thing, you have to first have a position from which to look at and evaluate it.

Some people don't seem to have any standards about movies or videos. They would walk away from bad food, but they wouldn't think of walking out of a movie or turning off a video because it was junk.

Guideline 2: Name your standards. I think it is important to try to be clear with ourselves about our standards and to keep revising them in the light of our growing awareness.

What standards do you have for films or videos? Do you have any? Should you have some? Are some movies so stupid they aren't worth watching? Are there any things that happen in movies that make you want to demand your money back?

When I ask these questions, people

sometimes say they watch movies for fun. That is a good point, but then we have to ask ourselves: Do we have any standards for fun? Have you ever seen people do things for fun that didn't seem so funny? Have you ever found some versions of fun objectionable?

Guideline 3: Expand your standards. Movie reviewers make a profession of applying standards to movies and videos. I

never go to a movie without reading at least one review of the film and usually several. By now I have found out which reviewers I can trust and which ones have directed me to junk.

Guideline 4: Apply your standards and learn to complain. I think we all need to know how to let performers know when their work is lousy.

SPEAKING OUT

By Daniel Van Slyke
Aquinas Institute

In this day and age, "the world is too much with us." The pace of our lives in the 20th century leaves little time for enjoyment of the simple pleasures in life. From the time we are born until the time we die, our responsibilities in this modern world keep us so busy that we don't have time to stop and appreciate the beauties of creation.

There was a day when childhood was a time of relaxation and enjoyment; a time free of responsibility, to grow and prepare for the rigors of an adult life. Today, however, the rigors of childhood are equal to those of adulthood. Even in the cradle, where babies once cried and tossed stuffed animals, life is difficult. The babies of today have to figure out how to make mechanical mobiles spin or how to make Teddy Ruxpin talk when mere crying doesn't wake Mommy and Daddy, who usually help to turn him on. By the time a child reaches age five, the little nipper must teach himself how to use the microwave to fix meals because Mom and Dad are usually working until 10 p.m. After the microwave comes school. Homework and textbooks soon become so tedious that the child can't wait to be free of them.

Freedom in adult life is not how the children imagined it would be. After five days of school each week come five, sometimes six, days of work each week. The work often begins even before the schooling ends. As modern teenagers, the onetime children of today feel that they must possess all of the mechanical toys which their friends have, so they need part-time jobs, which add to the stresses of adolescent life.

These stresses often lead to breakdowns. People become so frustrated with their lives; so obsessed with gaining more than they have, that they drive themselves crazy. All too often, drugs and alcohol provide escape for people who can't handle the stresses with which they are faced. In the past, people were also able to relax with nature and sports, or other recreational activities. In order to enjoy nature today, one must drive along crowded highways for hundreds of miles to find an area with any more greenery than one's lawn — and that may be littered with medical waste. Even sports have been pushed to such a professional, almost job-like level that nobody bothers with them unless they plan to practice eight hours a day.

The world is simply too much with us. Although we may believe that these are the best of times, the only good thing about them seems to be that we can still see the sun through all the air pollution. Modern technology doesn't alleviate stress; it simply gives stress different forms.

HOUSE OF GUITARS
Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98
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We received 12 correct entries identifying The Doobie Brothers as the group that recorded "What a Fool Believes."

The winner was Michelle Bendavine of St. Pius Tenth.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
What kind of girls were hip, according to The Beach Boys?

A: _____

Rules:
Each week, the Catholic Courier, 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 Catholic Courier. 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 Catholic Courier
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
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