

# Pens in their hands lead to plaques on their walls

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

One writer likes to play with words; the other likes to use words to describe the dangers of play.

Writing is more than an academic chore for high school seniors Stephanie Hess of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester and Anthony Wang of Notre Dame in Elmira — it is a way of expressing their unique visions of the world.

Both have won awards for their literary endeavors, the former in poetry, the latter in essays.

Hess used winter as metaphor for helplessness in "Coffee Shop Legend," which earned her the Sokol Junior Literary Award from the Friends of the Rochester Public Library. She received a check for \$125 and a plaque to commemorate her efforts.

The award surprised Hess, whose English teacher, Jane O'Brien, entered the poem in the contest without telling her student. Equally surprising to Hess was the fact that Marvin Bell, a renowned poet who teaches at the University of Iowa, sat on the panel of judges that read 140 entries.

"He kind of critiqued it," Hess said of Bell's letter to her about "Coffee Shop Legend." "He said 'it was an adventure in language.'"

Video adventure and its peculiar dangers fascinated Wang enough for him to write, "Nintendo Power: A Double Edge Sword." Wang believes that the popular video program, with its varied palate of games, ranging from video tennis to football, can be dangerously intoxicating.

"It becomes everything you do, if you're not careful," Wang said of Nintendo. Players obsessed with Nintendo may not

die physically, he noted, but they could die emotionally. Labeling obsessed Nintendo enthusiasts as "couch potatoes," he remarked that they "might not care what happens to people" after months of staring at the games' attractive graphics.

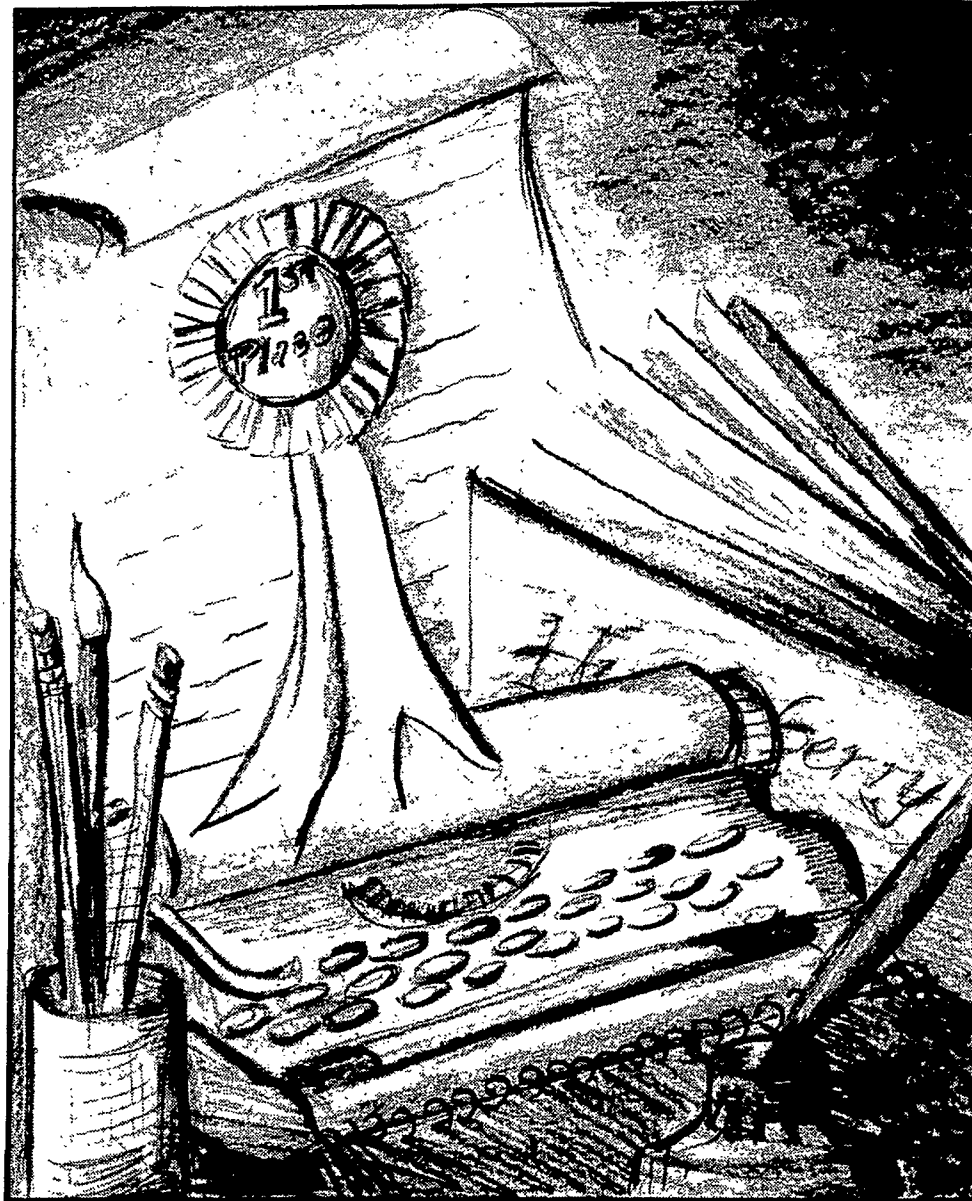
The Friends of the Steele Memorial Library found Wang's essay attractive enough to award him \$100. Wang enjoyed the additional bonus of receiving the award from syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman, a Pulitzer-Prize winner who spoke in Elmira in April at the Clemens Center. The speech was sponsored by the library group.

In her own way, Hess is a "friend" of libraries, having read since she was two years old. "If you think that's impressive, I started reading Shakespeare when I was eight," she commented. Hess' literary tastes range from e.e. cummings to T.S. Eliot. On the other hand, she reserves a special contempt for the authors of Harlequin romance novels. "The people who write them don't have any respect for writing at all," she said.

Her own respect for writing will lead her to Nazareth College in Rochester next fall, where she hopes to work on the student literary magazine. Meanwhile, some of Hess' work will be published this spring in *Mercedes*, Mercy's student journal.

Wang, who edits his school's newspaper, serves as the student contact for the *Catholic Courier's* youth page. He plans to keep writing after high school, but more casually than Hess. "I would like to write as a hobby," Wang said.

Hess may be serious about writing, but it retains for her the joy of a leisurely hobby. "I've always enjoyed playing with words," she said. "I just love it!"



## Cardinal Mooney

### How do you feel about your high school closing?

**KARA BOVENZI, junior**

It feels like a part of me is dying. We are not only a school, but a family. This school has meant everything to me. The spirit will live on forever.



**MICHAEL KELLY, junior**

I was totally shocked. I had no idea. I felt saddened for myself and my classmates. Nothing will replace Mooney in my life, next year or thereafter.



**KRISTEN KNIGHT, junior**

Mooney was my life, more than a school. It was part of myself. Friendships were made and shared here. I hope that we will help each other through this.



**FRANK DELVECCHIO, junior**

Really disappointed. I wanted to spend my senior year here with my friends. But we have to look ahead and continue to get on with the future.



## AS TEENS SEE

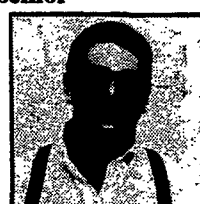
**KELLY GAFFNEY, junior**

The best year of my life has been taken. I'm afraid to leave and be without my friends. I would like to see the spirit of Mooney continue.



**JIM LAMPARELLA, senior**

Everyone will hurt. Teachers will be out of jobs. Students will have to change schools. Spirit will be lost. The underclassmen will never have what I had for four years.



## Anthony Hecht to speak at Fisher commencement

Pulitzer Prize winning poet Anthony Hecht will be the featured speaker at the 35th commencement at St. John Fisher College on Sunday, May 21.

Hecht has spent much of his life in the halls of academia. A former University of Rochester professor, he currently serves as the university professor in the graduate school of Georgetown University. Hecht has also taught at Kenyon College, Bard College, Iowa State University and New York University. In 1973, he was a visiting professor at Harvard, and four years later held the same position at Yale.

He is renowned for his poetry, including his first book of poems, *A Summoning of Stones*, which appeared in 1954. That was followed 13 years later by his next collection, *The Hard Hours*. The book earned Hecht a Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1968.

Following his talk, Hecht will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Fisher.

### HOUSE OF GUITARS

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We received 14 correct entries identifying the Commodores as the group that recorded "Three Times a Lady." The winner was Marcia Miller of Bishop Kearney.

**MUSIC**

**This week's question:**  
What British group added Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks when Bob Welch departed?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

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