

# Skunk's image improves after week at flower fest

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Michelle Karch just completed the biggest, stinking job she's ever had.

Karch, a Nazareth Academy sophomore, was one of two students picked by Jean-Marie Mumford to don the purple and white costume of Lila the Skunk, mascot for last week's Festival of the Lilac in Highland Park. She was spelled in her duties by sophomore Roseanne DiMaria, and the two students alternated one-hour stints in the costume at the festival each day.

The festival committee's choice of a skunk for an event dedicated to sweet-smelling blossoms drew some flack from citizens, but nonetheless, Karch refused to turn her nose up at the offer to play Lila.

"It's really exciting," Karch said. "I've met a lot of new people." She noted that most people were impressed by the skunk after seeing her in action at the festival. "I think it's a lovely idea... and the kids think it's cute," she said.

Large groups of children would run up to the controversial skunk throughout the festival, said Mumford, the festival committee's publicity chairwoman and spokeswoman for Nazareth Academy. "When people see her, it's different," Mumford said, noting that at one point, Lila was swarmed by senior citizens. "They must've taken 90 photos," Mumford remarked.

Lila's popularity with children also extended to those not fortunate enough to attend the festival. Along with Rochester Mayor Thomas Ryan, Lila visited several

children on Wednesday, May 18, at the recently completed children's critical care unit at Strong Memorial Hospital on Elmwood Avenue.

Judging by the children's reactions, one would never think that Lila was unpopular with anybody. As Lila, played by DiMaria, went from room to room, each child's eyes widened in astonishment at the unusual visit.

One patient, five-year-old Codi Cheatlie, smiled as Lila entered his room. At first, he simply stared at the skunk, but suddenly, he stood up and kissed her.

Cheatlie was not to be satisfied by just one kiss, however. As Lila and the mayor made their way throughout the unit, the boy left his room and braved a crowd of television reporters and cameramen to come up behind Lila, who turned and gave him a second hug.

Playing the role of Lila also had its down side, Karch acknowledged, noting that wearing the costume in last week's heat was "drenching hot."

Karch and DiMaria weren't the only Nazareth students to participate in the lilac festival. The school's 19-student show choir marched in the festival's kick-off parade on Saturday, May 14, and 12 students took turns manning one of the festival's two information booths every day from 3-6 p.m. and on Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

As for Lila, her improved public image may just encourage more people to check out next year's lilac festival — or at least sniff it out.



Judy Sanchez

Lila the skunk (played by Nazareth student Roseanne DiMaria) greets Rachael and Ryan Ottley as their mother, Sandra, looks on. Lila spent Wednesday afternoon, May 18, visiting with children at Strong Memorial Hospital.

## Bishop Kearney High School Are jobs available this summer?

ASHLEY HARDING, senior:

As college approaches, a good job that pays above minimum wage is a necessity. Yet for many seniors, (a job is) hard to obtain because of lack of transportation, experience, etc. I think there are many opportunities open to teenagers who have the ambition, but it is a matter of finding employment that suits your needs in every aspect: location, salary, etc.



SARAH LOCKAMYER, freshman:

Because I am only 15, the number of jobs I could have are limited, and with summer sports and other activities, many people my age find it hard to have a summer job. Although I could use the extra money, I think I'll just enjoy this summer and worry about a job next year when I'm 16.



### AS TEENS SEE

DAVID MOSS, junior:

I already have a good job, but for other people, many businesses readily open their doors to high schoolers who want to earn extra money for college or whatever. This is a good service that none of the businesses take credit for.



NOEL FRANUS, senior:

I think there are plenty of opportunities out there, but for the college-bound seniors who have to save every cent, the help-wanted ads are where you'll find the best jobs.



Doctor Robert Hoekelman, director of the Strong Children's Critical Care Unit, shares a moment with Nazareth's Michelle Karch and Lila the Skunk from the Festival of the Lilac.

## HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album and Tape Releases Just \$5.98  
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We received 7 correct entries identifying Smokey Robinson and the Miracles as the group that sang "I Second that Emotion" in 1968.

The winner was Lisa Morency of Rochester.

MUSIC

TRIVIA

This week's question:

What game did Jim play in the song "You Don't Mess Around With Jim?"

A:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.  
Rochester, NY 14624

## 'Rock-a-thon for Life' set to aid pregnancy centers

Project Life of Rochester has scheduled its second annual "Rock-a-thon for Life," which will benefit Rochester-area Problem Pregnancy Centers, from 7 p.m. Friday, June 2, to 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 3.

The event will take place at the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, 820 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester. Those planning to attend should bring their own rocking chairs.

Adult chaperons will be on duty all

night. Christian music videos and movies will be shown throughout the night. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Individuals will be asked obtain sponsors to pledge money for every hour they rock. Prizes will go to the male and female rockers who bring in the most money from sponsors.

Sponsor sheets can be obtained by calling Kelly Stigliano at 716/352-5468.