

CM students nervous about future

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GREECE — Kelli Toepper held her yearbook open in the Cardinal Mooney High School cafeteria.

"The things people write are like the things you write your senior year," said the junior from Charlotte. "The main thing is I don't want anyone to leave with a sad note."

Nevertheless, sad notes fill the yearbooks of Cardinal Mooney High School, which officially closes on June 30 due to declining enrollment and an operating deficit of \$700,000. By the end of the summer, the Mooney building will be sold to the Greece Central School District, pending voter approval.

News of the deal, announced last month, circulated through the cafeteria along with the jokes and banter that usually fills the air

in any high school cafeteria. But from the cafeteria window one could also see graffiti recently spray-painted on a garage in Mooney's parking lot, summing up the feelings masked by the humor of the students' conversations. "U Let Me Down, CM," the red-scrawled message reads.

"I don't like it," Charlie Cutler said of the closing. "I was hoping to be here for four years and now I can't," added Cutler, who has been vice president of his freshman class.

His friend, Bob Kluchko, class treasurer, put in his two cents. "I thought I had myself pretty well settled in," Kluchko said, noting that he'll be attending Greece-Arcadia in the fall. "Now I'll be a 'freshman' again. I'll be walking the school and looking for friends when everyone will be all in their little groups."

Nonetheless, Kluchko is optimistic about his chances for making friends. "I can socialize with big crowds of people. I was in the (spring) play... You learned just how to get along with everybody."

Toepper's friends, all juniors, were a little more nervous at the prospect of assimilating into another high school's senior class. The girls joked that they also might draw resentment from the girls at their new schools when the male students there start eyeing the new arrivals.

"It's going to be hard going to a different school," Stacey Brickler said more serious-

ly. Her friends taunted her for choosing to go to Nazareth Academy, an all-girls school. "I have a boyfriend," she retorted. "So, it's only for a year."

Brickler admitted concern about what the students at Nazareth will think of her and other Mooney transfer students. Her friend, Kari McLean, said that by joining other schools' senior classes, Mooney juniors are "ruining their senior year, too," by intruding on long-established friendships and groups.

Chris Frattare, a junior from Greece, felt that his senior year had been ruined by the closing. Frattare was a student council representative, stage crew member, baseball, basketball and football player. But the student said that, more than any activity, he'll miss his best friend, junior Todd Marino.

"He'll probably go to (Monroe Community College)," Frattare said of his friend. Marino confirmed that statement, explaining that he chose to take courses at the junior college instead of transferring to Bishop Kearney, an option he had considered briefly.

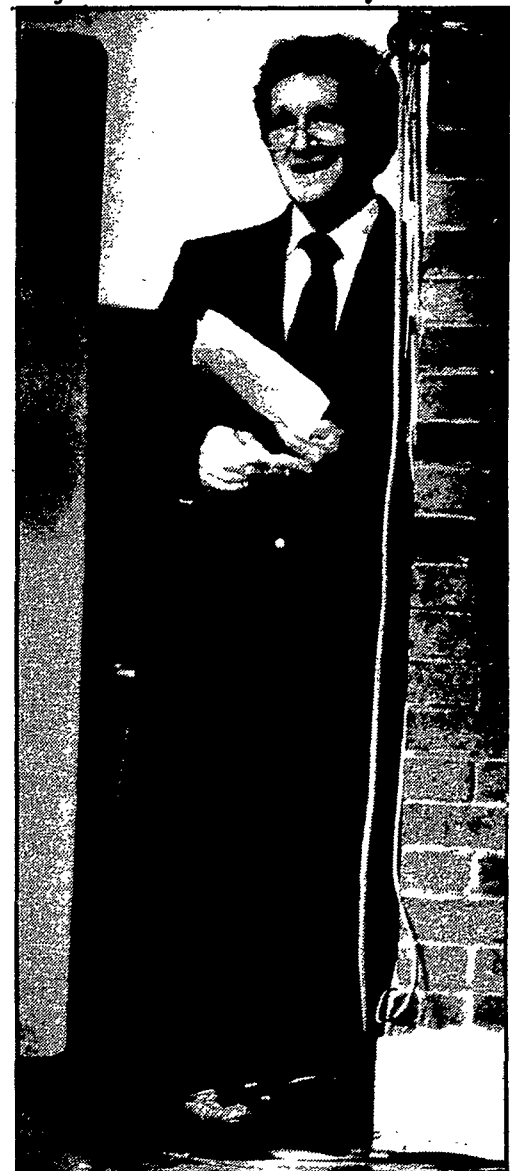
"I put so much in (Mooney). I felt I wouldn't be happy at Kearney... I practically live here," Marino said, remarking that he played football his first two years, and sits on student council.

The junior observed that the teachers at Mooney will leave him with good memories.

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Teacher Gaylord "Rib" Ribby carries a load of books to his car.



Principal Thomas G. Bahr looks on fondly as the eighth-graders sing "One Moment in Time."



Third-graders (left to right) Timothy Maher, Kelly Nolan, Kelly Cottrell and Jennifer Eichner do their best to "Accentuate the Positive" in song for a taped segment on WVOR radio.



Bahr hugs Father Lou Sirianni during the closing ceremony as the pastor presents him with a certificate of appreciation for his work and devotion.



Kerry Cottrell receives a piece of cake from Father Lou Sirianni as Theresa Davis serves up more slices during Our Lady of Good Counsel's 59th birthday party. Parents, students and parishioners turned out for the June 15 event.

Courier photos
by
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