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CATHOLIC COURIER

GRADUATION

S U P P L E M E N T



Teenage activists display concern for global issues

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A mere half-century ago, newspapers and radio provided the only means of tracking world events within a relatively short period of time.

Now in a society filled with fax machines, satellite dishes, CNN and computers, information comes flying into homes and businesses as events are happening. People with videocassette recorders can replay those incidents many times.

Today's high school student has an ever-increasing consciousness of what's happening in his or her hometown — and also what's happening in every corner of the world.

Looking back at high school students featured in the *Catholic Courier* over the last several months, the effects of this heightened awareness are obvious.

One student speaks out on environmental issues.

A group of nearly 100 teens gathered in Rochester last March as part of an effort to stop worldwide hunger. A Fairport senior was so moved by her experiences visiting the Covenant House, a New York City home for runaway teens, that she someday hopes to work there.

The massive changes sweeping through Eastern Europe were brought to light: a group of East Bloomfield residents visited Moscow last fall and also hosted a group of Russians in March. Bishop Kearney High School students learned about life in Eastern bloc countries when they hosted students from Romania and Poland.

In the pages that follow, the *Courier* profiles high school seniors who are well aware that the world's problems are complex and aren't going to be solved as easily as those on today's popular TV shows.

These students are very much in touch with the real world, where a young man named Sathy Mey lost his parents and sister in war-torn Cambodia in

the early 1970s. Mey, himself, almost died of starvation. (His art is featured on this page.)

In addition, a standout athlete finds the time to reach out to friends — including a recent rape victim. A young woman from a farming community reads the front page regularly and has witnessed the desperation of Chicago's homeless.

Another young woman leads her school's Amnesty International group, hoping to help gain visibility for those who are imprisoned for their political and religious beliefs in distant lands.

So the next time you're watching a movie depicting teenagers as mindless, party animals, you may want to keep such teenagers in mind.

These graduating seniors, along with other youths profiled on the Youth Page during the school year, are proof positive that teenagers do care about the world.

The *Catholic Courier* salutes all members of the Class of 1992.