

CHAT ROOM



Kathie O'Donohue

Mom holds on through dicey adolescence

To my child:

I apologize if you felt embarrassed when I showed up at your school today. But I'm not sorry for taking your picture during your performance.

I understand how you could feel the way you do, but - in spite of this - and though I respect your feelings, I will still take an active interest in the things you are involved in. I will continue to watch your team play, film your concert. I will advocate for you, stand up for my ideas and values whenever I feel they are being challenged by whatever institution you're involved in. I will continue to do these things as long as you are a member of my home and I am your card-carrying mother.

Because someday, no one will be there for you. No one sitting in the bleachers when you have attained athletic greatness, no one to catch you in a lie and teach you the importance of integrity. Someday, it will feel to you as though no one cares. So in the meantime, think of these "episodes" as giant hugs to store away for all those times in your life you will feel starkly alone and unloved.

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

Mercy music man ends on high note

Larry Teevens steps down as Mercy High School's music director after a 37-year career with many highlights.

Larry Teevens came to Mercy High School to start a music program and figured he'd stay a year. "Who would stay at a private girls' school more than a year?" asked Teevens, who came to the Farmington Hills school after a stint as choral director for the city of Detroit.

Thirty-seven years later, Teevens, now 65, is retiring from Mercy this month. As director of the music program for almost four decades, he has worked with countless students and four principals.

"I enjoyed the students here so much, the family atmosphere," he said. "You become attached, involved with the young ones. It's a lovely trap."

The principal, Sister Regina Doelker, called Teevens "Mercy's music man."

She has known him for 23 years, the first 11 as a fellow teacher and the remaining 12 as principal.

"He certainly has done a marvelous piece of work with music and getting into the community to groups that need cheering," she said. "It's more than music. He's helped develop the spiritual lives of the girls."

A Detroit native, Teevens has enjoyed a lifelong dedication to his craft. As a youth he sang with the WXYZ Detroit Radio Schoolhouse program in the old Broadway Theatre, now the Detroit Opera House. He also performed with the Make Way for Youth radio program on WJR-AM.

He looks forward to joining a chorus "and not having to worry about selling tickets, setting up risers in the auditorium" and all the other details that fall under the responsibility of the music director.

The Mercyaires

One thing he won't give up is his direction of the famed Mercyaires, a group of 20 select junior and senior choral students who make up to 50 public appearances each year in nursing homes and other places "where there's no money for an entertainment budget."

"I like the quote: 'A society can be judged at any time by the treatment of the least of its members.' The kids here learn this."

The Mercyaires were "born of necessity. My choral groups were so large, the smallest was over 100 students."

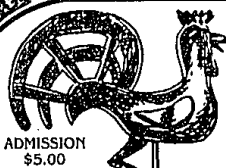
Girls who are interested in becoming Mercyaires audition sophomore year and must carry a high grade point average because many of the engagements occur during regular school hours.

"It's part of their philosophy. This is

Please See MUSIC MAN, B2



Maestro: Larry Teevens holds court in his classroom. At left, Mercy music students sing for their retiring music director during the last week of school.



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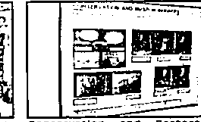
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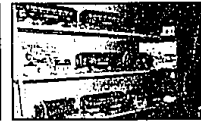
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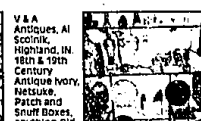
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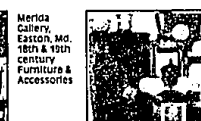
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loan exhibits



loan exhibits

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