

'Why Me?' - Tragedy of a Teenager

By ERICA TATRO

There may be a new film maker/screen writer trying to make his way into the industry.

Tony Knoss, a junior at St. Francis High School, has decided to try his hand at writing, directing, and filming a short movie titled, "Why Me?"

Why is he doing this?

"I care about people. Hopefully this (the story) will make people see things in a realistic light. That is my goal," said Tony.

Originally, Tony thought he would write a play. He started it when he was a freshman and it took him about two years to complete. He had the idea that it could be presented by members of the high school drama department.

"That didn't work out. I tried to submit it for last fall, but they had decided on a play by then."

Where did the movie idea come from?

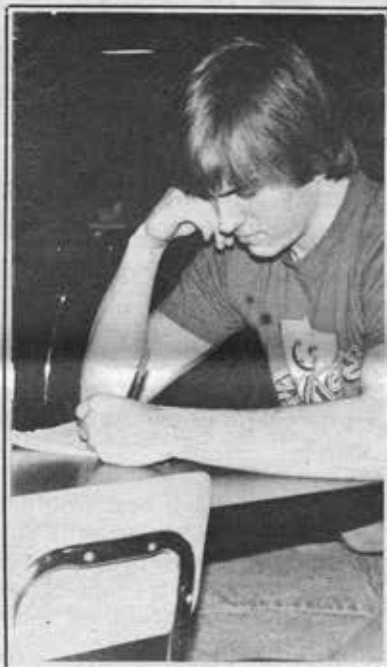
"I saw an advertisement on the highway billboard and there was also an ad in the Scotsman about this offer from Group W cable television," he said.

Continued Tony, "It seems that they have a special department called Community Access Programming. That department allows members of the community to use video equipment and a television studio after they have taken about three classes teaching them how to use the equipment."

"The studio is supervised by a member of the Community Access Program," said Tony, "and I can check out equipment and use the studio for one hour, once a week."

"I thought it would be a great idea, if I could put together a movie," he said.

The movie, "Why Me?" is a shortened version of his original play. The story itself deals with a teenager that becomes involved with drinking, has a car accident and becomes paralyzed. It also is



Tony Knoss

about his life after the accident and how it is changed.

Tony is receiving \$200 from Group W to use on props and to film on location. Jim Whittier, a junior at St. Francis, is helping, along with other members of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD).

The movie is in the pre-production stage at this time and Tony expects it to be completed for viewing on Group W sometime later this year.

One of the off-shoots of this movie is that Tony has started his own production company called, Smalltown Productions.

Who knows? Maybe St. Francis will become a mini-Hollywood.

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