



*Journal/Wayne Baranowski*

Here's part of the crowd that saw motivational speaker Les Altogether, an estimated 1,800 people attended the Les Brown Thursday at Olivet Nazarene University's Chalfant Hall. "Can Do" event.

## Growth creates some rough edges here

By Eric Styck, Bishop McNamara

Kankakee is a community that is growing in many ways, both positive and negative. A recent influx of businesses has produced many jobs which are greatly needed at this time. The park district works diligently at keeping the community parks in good shape. Unfortunately, when a community grows so much at such a rapid pace, a few rough edges are going to remain. Violent crimes seem to be at an all-time high. Drug trafficking is in a frightening abundance. Something must be done, and I feel it's up to the community as a whole to defy these repercussions.

I think that we need to raise the community's interest in the combatting of crime. People are just simply afraid to speak up. Being a passive on-looker solves nothing. If we just stand around and pretend its not happening, the only thing that's not going to happen is a decline in crime.

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### ESSAYS:

■ Kankakee County teens were recently asked to write essays about what they saw as the future of the area. The winning essayists were invited to the Les Brown "Can Do" event Thursday. Here are some of the best essays, on this page and the next, from around the county. Managing Editor Phil Angelo, Jack Charlton of "Can Do" and Peggy Sue Munday were the judges.

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Somehow we need to insure the citizens of their safety to get them to cooperate with our law enforcement.

The police in Kankakee can be nothing but frustrated at this time and day. The police are the people who are continually tagged for not doing their jobs. We must remember, however, that the prosecution system has a few intricate

steps that must be followed and usually an eyewitness helps. If people don't have enough courage to speak up and say who's committing all this crime, the police cannot be held to blame.

Of course, focusing on the negative aspects of life can be disheartening. When we dwell on the negative for too long, it seems to let itself have an influence on our lives. Many new businesses have moved into the area. They have created jobs in a severe time of need and provided the community a good source of income. Of course with the coming of new business, comes the immigration of people and housing developments increasing the morale of the community.

Kankakee, with the proper work done, can become a well-groomed family community. But until we, as a community, face the problems we have and continue to grow positively, Kankakee is going to go down the drain.