



Back at the Magis command post consulting schedule and map, to make sure all is running smoothly in the field are Tom Dorney, John Hurley and Bill Clifford.

'Thirst for More'

To Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, "magis" meant "a thirst for more, the greater good for the most courageous response to the challenge of our time." To the seniors at McQuaid Jesuit High School, Magis means their most "valuable learning experience."

Magis is a two week, beyond the walls type of educational experiment that grew out of the students thirst for more — for doing more and seeing more of what goes on every day in parts of the city where they know there are social problems but see no way these problems relate to them as students.

The purpose of the program is to allow students to take the initiative for their own education; to complement the education at McQuaid by bringing seniors into contact with organizations that deal with key social problems, and to provide a variety of experience within a topic area or within an agency.

Thomas Dorney, a history teacher new to Rochester and McQuaid this year, and 12 students worked for six months to organize and establish the program enabling 164 seniors to take their education into their own hands for two weeks. Most went out to social agencies chosen from 66 that participated, but some set up their own activities. Nine opted to produce and stage "The Odd Couple" for old people's homes and four others worked with Monroe County's Alcoholism Continued Care Unit.

Bill Clifford, one of the seniors that manned the Magis office at McQuaid, noted "the students are reacting very well to the freedom afforded them. The percentage of attendance has increased daily. We do not require attendance; since we are telling the kids to take responsibility for their own education it would be contradictory to our goals. We do take head counts, however, because attendance indicates interest in a particular agency."

Clifford felt that the program was particularly valid for McQuaid students, "since the school is isolated in Brighton with a tuition of \$600 a year."

"One guy came into the office for directions to an agency and said he had never ridden a bus", Clifford said. "That's an education itself, getting about by yourself in parts of the city you are not familiar with."

Paul Swift, who is president of Teen League, besides being one of the organizers of Magis, was "irked at first by the kids who didn't show up where they were scheduled to be, but they are not a majority." Dorney and the students agreed that this year has been an experiment with new concept for high school students and after the students' evaluations are in they'll know what alterations should be made for the future.

Mrs. Jenette Valdez Major, director of WEDGE Inc., a unique grass roots community organization in the Brown

Square are students, sitting together to one staying the originally to go to an

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Text by Barbara Moynehan
Photos by Laurence E. Keefe



Repairing steps in a low-income home, Greg Smith puts on the tread covers while Michael Jones helps.



Paul Swift, at Middle Earth, a Southeast Area Coalition Youth project, is making an instructional film to be used by future classes on Magis action.