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Mercy Names Scholarship Semifinalists

Sister Mary Bryan, principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School has announced the senior students who have been named semifinalists in the 1976 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Kathy Kaminski, Elaine Valby, and Anne Wolff.

These students are among 15,000 who will continue in the competition for 3,800 Merit Scholarships to be awarded next spring.

More than 1 million students from more than 17,000 high schools entered the 1976 Merit Program by taking the 1974 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The semifinalists are the highest-scoring students in each state; the number named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school senior class. The semifinalists, most of whom will complete high school and enter college in 1976, represent the half of one percent of the nation's most academically talented young people.

To continue in the competition, semifinalists must advance to finalist standing by meeting a number of requirements that include being fully endorsed and recommended for scholarship consideration by their secondary school principals, presenting school records that substantiate high academic standing, and confirming their high PSAT/NMSQT scores with equivalent scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). More than 90 percent of the

semifinalists are expected to qualify as finalists and to receive Certificates of Merit next February. All winners of Merit Scholarships are chosen from the highly able group of Finalists.

NMSC will release the names of Merit Scholarship winners through the news media in three public announcements in 1976; April 8, April 22, and April 29.

Parents Club Plans Events

The Parents Club of St. Agnes High School through its many plans for the coming year is "working toward greater parent identification through individual and group involvement," according to Kenneth Scarciotta, president. The Club is concentrating on social and religious activities in support of the school.

On Sept. 25, the parents will hold a Club Dinner Meeting, highlighting a welcome to freshman parents. A "favorite dish" menu is planned, with each set of parents requested to bring their favorite dish to pass. A traditional cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Parents Club officers for '75-76 include: Ken and Mary Scarciotta, co-presidents; Lionel and Rosemarie Herbeck, co-vice-presidents; Jim and Grace Parrishall, co-secretaries; Roger and Kay Ceedy, co-treasurers; Sr. Anne Guerin, principal; Sr. Clare Roland, vice-principal; and Rev. Walter Cushing, chaplain.

College Test Scores Drop

According to a recent report by the College Entrance Examination Board the verbal and mathematical aptitude scores of college-bound high school graduates dropped again this year, and by the biggest margin in at least two decades.

Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) were given to one million 1975 graduates and the average verbal score declined by 10 points to 434, while the average score on the mathematical section fell eight points to 472.

The tests which are standardized measures of reasoning ability are scored on a scale of 200 to 800, and are used by most colleges as one means of evaluating the academic ability of applicants.

College Board records show that SAT scores peaked in 1963, and the decline in scores for 1974-75 represents an intensification of a 12 year downward trend whose causes are puzzling.

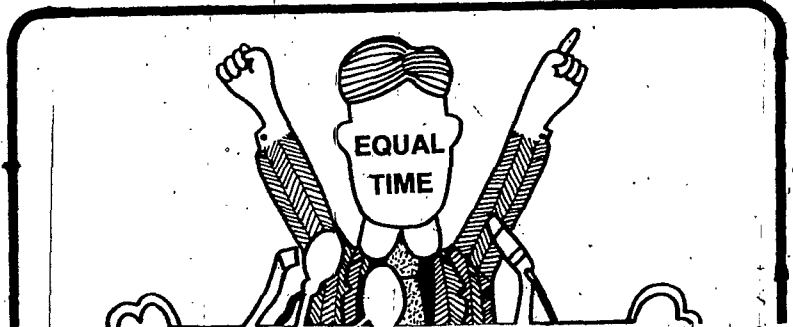
Explanations about this decline which have been suggested by educators and parents include too much television watching, and a lack of concern among educators for the three R's.

Though the College Board has been conducting research into the possible causes they have not arrived at a generally accepted explanation.

Also noted in the report: boys scored higher than girls, and students taking the tests for the second time are no longer improving their scores.

Teachers Honor St. Thomas Woman

Jeanne Teddy, a fifth grade teacher at Abraham Lincoln School, has been chosen by her colleagues as "East Irondequoit's Educator of the Year." Miss Teddy has been at Lincoln School for 19 years and has headed many working committees for the East Irondequoit Teachers Association and the school district. She is active also in the Nazareth College Alumnae Association, in parish affairs at St. Thomas More and in the local chapter of the International Reading Association.



Should professional athletes be held responsible under civil law for any physical violence committed during games?

AQUINAS

Pat Doyle, junior, track "I think it (responsibility) should stay in the sports organizations themselves because if they bring it to criminal court it becomes more serious than it is. A lot of the physical contact is for show, and if they pressed civil charges the games would get boring if there were less body contact."



George Sidou, sophomore, soccer "I don't think they should be taken to criminal court unless they do permanent damage to the other player. If they were criminally liable it might make them think twice before they indulged in violence, but most of the time the physical contact is not as rough as it looks to the crowd."



Mike Daley, freshman "I think it should be kept within the sport organizations. It shouldn't be brought into the courts. You shouldn't be playing if you don't want to get hurt. Heavy fines probably are the best deterrent for athletes involved in physical violence during a game."



Clayton Taylor, sophomore "I think it depends on the circumstances. If players do it just to fight it should be taken to court. If it is in the course of a game and he's angry I think it's all right, and I don't think in that case a criminal suit should be brought against the player. I think heavy fines would be a deterrent to those who insist on physical violence while playing. In some sports, however, you don't have the intentional violence you have in say, hockey."



Mark Russell, senior, golf "I feel that a player shouldn't be criminally liable because fights start gradually so the referee can see that things are leading to a fight, and before this happens he should tell both players to 'cool it.' It should be up to the league if there are any altercations to take care of them because it is professional sports and the athletes are under contract to abide by the rules of the league. Physical violence is about the same as in the past. The problem with taking game violence cases to the courts is that if the case is heard in one team's home state the verdict could be prejudice."



Rudy Kearse, senior, football "If it's a serious offense and it can be proven that it was intentional the player should be criminally liable. Sports in general though is the training to have an overwhelming sense of self-control. If an athlete does something wrong in the game the coach should be the one to judge him because he knows the player. It shouldn't mean a jail term or a civil suit because everyone is human and during the games athletes tend to boil over from time to time."



Mike Donnelly, freshman, soccer "If you play the game you know you are going to get hurt, so you shouldn't sue the player. Some type of penalty is necessary like taking them out of games for a while. All physical contact is the game, and it wouldn't be fun without it. No criminal suits should be brought against the athlete."



Paul Elliott, junior "No, because that's what I like about the game — the physical contact. Physical violence is the same as it's always been. The sport organizations fine the athletes pretty big which doesn't stop them, but makes them think twice about starting anything. But when they get mad, they get mad."



HOTLINE

It is the aim of RapAround to touch all of the bases. If we are missing any, please let Mrs. Joan M. Smith know your ideas. Drop her a line.

We need suggestions and invite criticism. From all indications, RapAround has gotten off to a successful start. We are pleased but need your help to keep it improving.



Winner's Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Nazareth Academy during an assembly. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday Sept. 23 to receive \$5.

I want to take the bus round trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 10-12, 1975, to the EASTERN GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Number in Group _____

Total fare — \$25.00 Deadline 9/26/75.
For further information phone Wilma Higgs, 442-2162.

Make checks payable to: Sister Carole Proia
24 Monroe Avenue
Brockport, New York 14420

Bus leaves from Blessed Sacrament Church parking lot, Monroe Avenue and Oxford Street, Rochester, at 7:30 A.M., October 10, returning to Rochester approximately midnight October 12.