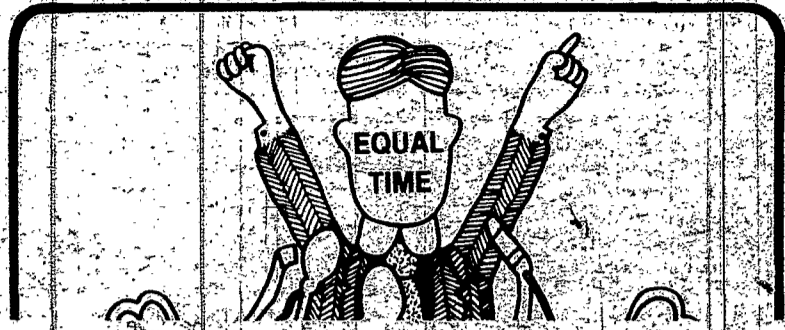


# Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

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In your opinion what are the benefits of a Catholic education?

McQUAID

**Chris Gaccio, senior, basketball**

The benefit is the small class size. Because of this we're able to know most of the people in the school very well including the faculty. But because of this smallness we all tend to come from the same background so there isn't much diversity of ideas. Everyone tends to think the same. But through a Catholic education we're given a more humanistic view. You tend to think of people as individuals rather than statistics which I think is the whole point of a Catholic education.



**Pete Stone, senior, football**

Having a Catholic education is advantageous in going to college or obtaining a job. Catholic schools having small classes give you a better chance for contact with everyone. The facilities and courses offer a lot to the student and it is a more personalized education. For the age group we are in now, we've had a lot of background in Catholic living and when you leave school this gives you a more disciplined way of living.



**Greg Kamp, sophomore, hockey club**

Being more individualistic and being allowed to express yourself in your own way without any feeling of embarrassment. To have more concentration on your work because of the teacher's care in what you're doing. There's more spirit involved in school activities. You take away from Catholic education a feeling of accomplishment. You feel you've really done more things with your life.



**Jim Napier, junior, basketball**

Definitely the religious environment is important. You are not forced to but you can go to Mass every day. Confession is optional but is there for your use. The disciplinary atmosphere is present so there are no distractions from school work. The discipline is good because it prepares you for what society will demand of you when you get out into the world.



**George Gross, sophomore, swim team manager**

You can concentrate more because there are less problems and the disciplinary atmosphere is the reason for this. I think I've been able to learn more because the school has mapped out a format of study geared to my progress so that I'm better equipped to go to college.



**Ron LeBeaumont, sophomore, homeroom treasurer**

The high standards in academics and discipline gives you a better preparation for college because studies are geared to your personal progress. Because of less people in the classes you get to know people better and learn to relate to them. It motivates you to accomplish more.



**Peter Dohr, sophomore**

I'd say the way everyone treats everyone else. It's the whole atmosphere of getting along with each other and the teachers. There's more emphasis on a one to one basis between student and teachers.



**Dave Lawrence, sophomore, basketball**

The closeness you get to know a larger percentage of the other students, and you all have a common goal like learning to live with all people. Catholic education is more than academics, it teaches you to understand people, their feelings as well as your own.



## Legally Quit School at 14?

During the last few months there have been numerous articles and reports regarding the law requiring young adults to stay in school until age 16.

A recent New York Times article (Jan. 18) indicated the movement to drop the required age for quitting school from 16 to 14 was gaining momentum as growing numbers of educators were rethinking their ideas about standardized education.

The Times article especially called attention to states which are considering or have reduced school requirements.

In California a new law permits students 16-17 who are ordinarily required by law to stay in school to leave with their parents' permission provided they successfully complete examinations which prove their proficiency in basic skills such as English and Math.

In Virginia where students are legally expected to remain in school until 17, the legislature is considering an experiment in 13 school districts permitting students as young as 15 to quit school permanently.

The Times quoted a report from the National Education Com-

mission on the Reform of Secondary Education which has recommended formal school leaving age to be dropped to 14. The report stated: "If the high school is not to be a custodial institution the state must not force adolescents to attend. Earlier maturity, physical, sexual and intellectual, requires an option of earlier departure from the restraints of formal schools."

Educators who are serious about lowering the compulsory age do not advocate simply freeing children to roam the streets. They want the high schools to serve as a broker, matching early leavers with fulltime jobs, internships, apprenticeships, opportunities for community services and college-level studies.

Those who object to the reform point to the fact that young people with minimal education will be shoved into a labor market that already has high unemployment especially among the young and unskilled. It was noted unemployment among out-of-school teen-agers is 19 per cent.

They also insist it would be unrealistic to expect high schools to establish the elaborate system that would be needed to serve as job brokers.

There are many critics of the reform not least of whom are the students themselves. Because of the growing controversy, RapAround decided to survey those directly involved, the young adults:

Did they think the legal age for quitting school should be lowered to 14?

The answer was a unanimous no from those contacted. Some thought kids should be made to stay in school until at least 16 or even 18. Others indicated young adults were not mature enough at 14. As one Cardinal Mooney senior put it, "I didn't know a thing at 14," and in regards to teenagers leaving school at 14 she added, "You'll have nothing but a lot of illiterate people without jobs."

The late John A. Stanavage, who served on the National Commission on the Reform of Secondary Education and who disagreed with the groups' proposal to lower the compulsory age, underlined this point of view when he stated, "Unless concern is taken to provide those early school-leavers with alternative forms of education and appropriate counselling once having left school, all we shall be doing is dooming them to economic and educational inferiority."

## Nazareth Film Makers

After nine weeks of scripting, shooting and splicing, the students in Nazareth Academy's film classes are now ready to show their celluloid creations in Grand Premieres of student films.

In the films course, a junior-senior English elective, students learn to look critically at modern films, and to understand the development of the art from the silents until now. Finally, they express themselves in a new way by making their own films.

Topics in this semester's crop of films include an Andy Warhol-like nightmare, documentaries on the Rochester School for the Deaf and automotive refinishing in a collision shop, impressionistic films on childhood, young love and old age, and even a Monty Python "mass debate" on "Is There Life After Death?"

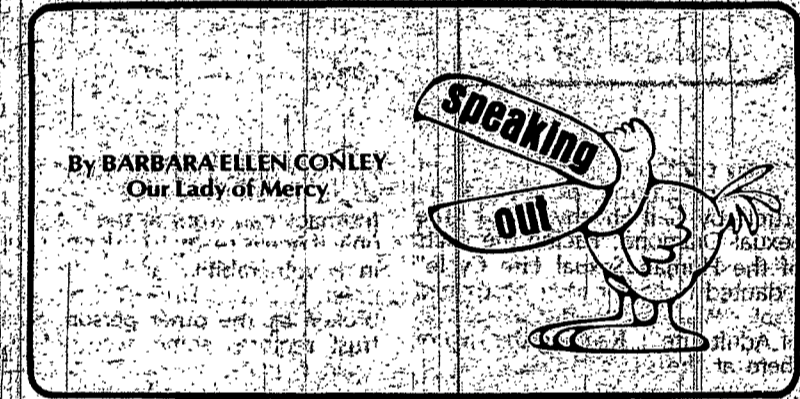
Though these films have only been shown in classes, the Films students are investigating a wider audience for their creations.

## The Sweet Taste Of Victory

McQuaid swimmers Sean Kelly, Tom Byrne and Tom Stone, right to left, find victory and gelatin sweet. McQuaid won their sixth straight City-Catholic League swimming title by defeating Marshall high school 56-27 Feb. 5.



Photo by the Mackinac



By BARBARA ELLEN CONLEY  
Our Lady of Mercy

During these few cold, dreary months that make up the school year, it's easy for students to get depressed and lose sight of goals.

Complaining is at its peak, and it doesn't seem to matter what the cause is, only that it continues.

As we get caught up in term papers, bogged down in midterms, and choked up with interim reports, we shouldn't let ourselves fall into a rut.

We shouldn't be so quick to minimize the things we appreciate most in life simply because we have them every day. Take time to remember that in a world of constant change where practically everything is disposable, we can't be sure of anything from one day to the next. Our schools, jobs, families and even ourselves, are subject to change, and we still have the age old problem of never truly appreciating what we have until it's gone.

We have to recognize that one of the reasons we begin feeling desolate is because of the snowball effect we begin ourselves. We make one complaint, someone else agrees and makes another and then everyone gets on the bandwagon. Think twice before you start tearing your world down. Consider it a challenge to live through the winter and like it (now if that isn't a challenge, what is?).

As graduation draws closer more and more seniors are realizing what little time is left before they have to leave the security of a routine. The very routine, which they complained about only weeks earlier.

Don't let yourself be pulled under by what others say. You know what you don't like so try to change it. You also know what you do like, so go out and find more of it. Winter doesn't have to be gray and dull. Strive to be happy, and spring will come soon enough. It always has before.

## RapAround Coordinators

- |                   |                    |
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