

# Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

## Speeches Key to Election Win

By JOAN M. SMITH

With only a few more days left of classes, high school students were busy electing the officers who will guide them through the 1977-78 school year.

Over at St. Agnes High School, Student Senate elections took place on Tuesday, May 24 and resulted in victory for juniors Nannette Nocon and Theresa Kusak; sophomore Jacki Smith and freshman Jo Anne Johnson.

Nan as the new Senate president will preside over meetings, plan student assemblies, oversee various committee work and provide communication between faculty and the student body.

Theresa's duties as vice president will be to take meeting attendance, coordinate committees, and handle all the unforeseen tasks that usually crop up.

Jo Anne as Senate secretary and social chairperson will record the meeting minutes, plan the social activities including the event of the year — the father-daughter banquet.

Jacki's prime duty as treasurer will be to keep track of all revenues, giving detailed financial reports and plan issue assemblies which entails the selecting of an interesting topic and then contacting special guest speakers to participate in the occasion.

These new officers all agreed

that the Student Senate was one of the most important aspects of school life, its significant function being the continuing open communication between administration and students. Because of this view, they campaigned seriously for their jobs.

In campaigning, they placed posters throughout the school, handed out candidate buttons, and made political announcements over the school radio station. But they insisted that their speeches were the all important factor because it was through them they were able to make themselves known to the entire student body.

Though Nan has only been a student at St. Agnes for six months she convinced her fellow classmates that she was confident she could carry out her responsibilities to their satisfaction. Also, she is no stranger to officership. During her freshman and sophomore high school years in the Philippines she served as assistant treasurer. In explaining her desire to run for the St. Agnes Senate she said, "I wanted to do something good for the school."

In discussing her ambition to run for Senate office, Theresa declared, "I wanted to help in keeping the school active." She projected this goal in her speech by underlining how important she knew the Student Senate to be in school communication and that she wanted to help in that communication.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Nan, Theresa, Jacki and Jo Anne are happy with their new roles as Student Senate officers. The girls found that being yourself and not giving a lot of promises but showing people you really wanted to help were important campaign winning attributes.

Jo Anne was direct in her bid to the student body. "I feel I'm responsible enough to take on these duties," she commented. And her active background proved her point. She is not only a freshmen rep in the student government but also is involved in a tutoring program through Project Outward Bound.

Jacki told the students that she realized how important

Student Senate was and that she was not only qualified but had the time to devote to the responsibilities of office.

All but Nan had had experience in speaking before people and she accredited her drama experience with helping her face the audience. Jo Anne and Jacki received their skills in speech class. Theresa as both freshman and sophomore class president and also the 1976 Miss Monroe County Teenager had her share of speaking

engagements and observed, "You get used to it."

With the campaigning over, the girls hardly have time to catch their breath. While fellow students enjoy the summer's freedom, these officers will be meeting to plan next year's school calendar. Their one aspiration in guiding the Student Senate is that they do as well as the outgoing officers did and Theresa added, "We hope the kids will respond to our endeavors."

## An Era Ends at Aquinas



FR. GAELENS

By JOHN DOSER (One of two parts)

There's a lot of Aquinas Institute in Father Albert Gaelens, CSB, the Aquinas principal who is leaving the Dewey Avenue campus to return to the classroom this fall at St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas.

He was Al Gaelens back in the late 1940s when Aquinas was only known for football, and, with its PGs (post-graduate students) ran roughshod over some of the toughest high school and prep school football teams in the country.

It's all changed now, and Father Gaelens has helped bring about further change as Aquinas Institute principal for the past seven years.

He says his role as principal may have done very little in improving his own athletic abilities, but there's no question he's provided the opportunities for hundreds of Aquinas youngsters to improve theirs.

One of the most recent athletic changes took place in basketball when Aquinas announced its intention to drop from City-Catholic League Division I to Division II in order to regroup its forces so to speak.

The Irish have won only a handful of basketball games in the past half-dozen years and find many potential quality basketball players tuning away from the school's losing record to play CYO high school ball instead.

"There are kids in the school who play basketball who just aren't interested in playing for Aquinas," Father Gaelens says.

"They're good kids who've gone out for CYO; we had four kids who should have been on the team who didn't come out. They just felt they didn't want to be on a losing team."

Father Gaelens says Aquinas

isn't out particularly to win in basketball, but he is interested in reestablishing confidence on the part of the youngsters in the team that has had its share of wins and losses, although mostly losses.

Aquinas has added wrestling and winter track among other sports since Father Gaelens' arrival as principal in 1970.

Winter track has taken a toll of athletes from other sports, including basketball, but wrestling, probably because of its discipline, has not made a significant dent in other winter sports according to Father Gaelens.

Kids who run spring track are giving other winter sports some thought in the sense that many who run spring track also run winter track.

"We had a couple of good swimmers who stayed with winter track instead of swimming this year and there are some wrestlers who might have played basketball."

Father Gaelens acknowledges that a healthy sports program will attract students to Aquinas and one of the main attractions is ice hockey.

"A lot of ninth graders are anxious to come to Aquinas because they see a winning hockey team. Now we didn't

win this year and we probably won't win next year either.

"It's one of those weak years; we lost several starters to the (Rochester) Monarchs and next year, with the graduates, kids who filled these starters' shoes this year, we'll have a very young team. But I think we'll hold our own," Father Gaelens predicts.

Aquinas did well in baseball this spring, gaining the Section 5, Class AAA semifinals with Coach Rick Pilliter winning City-Catholic League Division I Coach of The Year honors.

When Father Gaelens went to Aquinas, football was all that was ever heard of. There was talk of some baseball and basketball, but football was the major sport.

Track came in the early 1950s, soccer joined the program in the late 1960s, swimming was part of the program for many years but was always low-key until Coach Jerry Gears led the Irish to a City-Catholic League swim title in 1969.

Cross-country didn't exist at Aquinas either in the late 40s; it was just a one sport-per-season school.

"We've seen the diversity of all these sports; has taken its toll in even the intramural boxing program, better known

as the Mission Bouts. That's come into question as to whether it will continue or not. There isn't the interest there was before because people have other interests," Father Gaelens explains.

When Father Gaelens became principal he hired John Uriah as athletic director; both helped increase, expand and improve Aquinas' overall physical education and interscholastic athletic programs.

An example of the "realignment" that took place was the creation of two more athletic awards banquets in addition to the traditional fall football banquet — which prompted some Aquinas grid faithful to suggest Father Gaelens was anti-sport — most certainly anti-football!

Father Gaelens' only intention was not to reduce the importance of football — but to upgrade the other sports so as to remove second class citizenship!

"We took it on the chin in that first year; we had parents who were really upset. We were breaking tradition; and while we were also trying to sell Aquinas Stadium we were obviously anti-athletic because football was the only athletic team that mattered in so far as they were concerned."

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