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Founding the 51st State

BY JOAN M. SMITH

"Talk slow" were the guiding words that Bishop Kearney senior Kathy Cavuto wrote above the speech she delivered while campaigning for State Commissioner of Social Services. Kathy along with Patricia Yahn from Cardinal Mooney and Vincenette Smith of St. Agnes were among the 300 young women who attended the Empire Girls State program at Albany State University during the week of June 26.

Empire Girls State is an educational program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and it endeavors to instruct young women about the privileges of the vote, the formation of political parties, and the process of choosing and electing leaders to fill governmental offices.

What took the 50 states over 200 years to accomplish, the girls did in one week; formulate the governmental foundation for the 51st mythical state. They zealously participated in rallies, seminars, campaigns, speeches and legislative workshops. Although at first, they said there wasn't too much enthusiasm for the program's format because of the regimentation, confusion and the fact they had to get up at 6 a.m. to be ready for business at 7 and then working until 11 p.m. But after the first day everyone's opinion changed and Kathy best summed up the experience. "Nothing in my life will again be that beneficial."

The first order of business was the formation of two political parties, the Nationalists and Federalists, which in turn were split into wards and officers elected. From this group the nominees were selected to run for the top state posts, Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General and Secretary of State.

Patty ran for State Comptroller, lost the vote and became an assembly person

Vincenette was ward secretary and was kept busy recording meeting minutes as well as supplying the in-house newspaper, Echos of Empire State, with party information.

Kathy was unsuccessful in her bid for Commissioner of Welfare but enjoyed being a senator who participated in legislative debates regarding the proposed bills.

The girls emphasized that their party platforms and legislation underscored the social areas which this generation is concerned about and will have to deal with; marijuana, welfare reform, child abuse, living wills, civil rights, conservation and rape prevention.

According to Kathy, in legislatively enacting the marijuana bill the only debatable item was the amount of substance that would be considered a misdemeanor. In their welfare reform they sought stricter fund control in order to stop widespread fraud. Legislation for the living will gave the right to citizens over 18 to obtain a living will on the basis of a medical certificate declaring competency. The rape prevention bill was enacted so that the citizens would be advised on safety precautions and the actions to take when confronted with rape. The bill included two sections; a mandatory health curriculum in secondary schools to inform students of their individual rights in case of rape and a requirement that every secondary school offer an optional course on rape prevention.

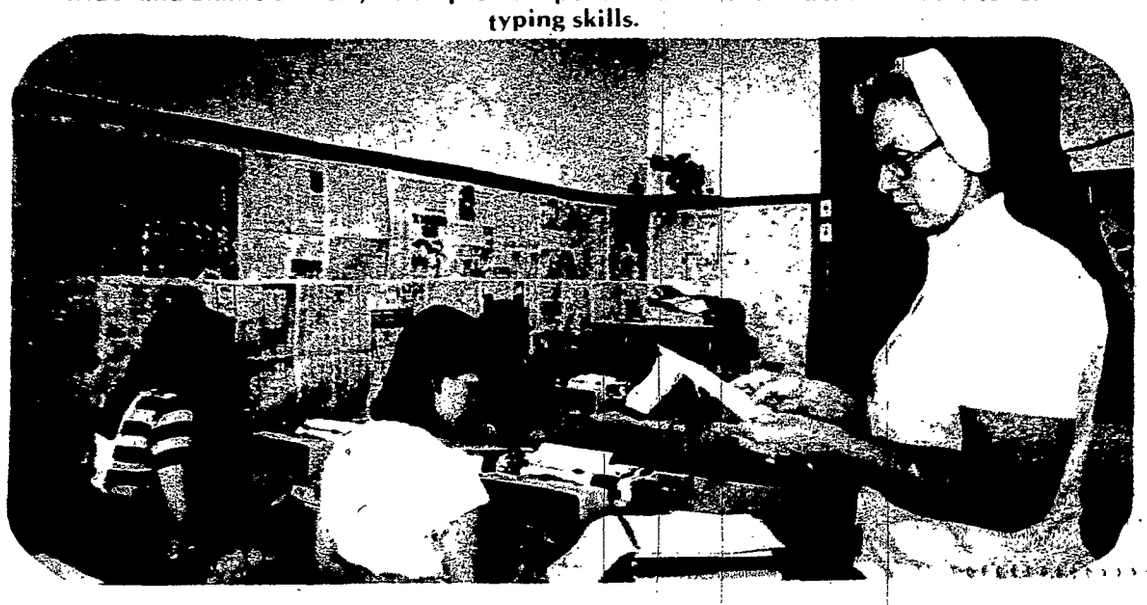
The week long session culminated in an inaugural ball honoring the 1977 Empire Girls State officers. The girls left their newly created state with political awareness and a scrapbook of memories. They are now looking forward to a busy senior year at their respective schools. Patty will return to her cheerleading duties with the Mooney team and will also be a member of the ski club. Kathy will be serving on the BK student-faculty board as well as performing the duties of copy editor for the yearbook. Vincenette will be putting her summer political training too good use as senior class secretary and as a member of the school's Student Senate.

Photo by Susan McKinney

Patty, Vincenette and Kathy enjoy browsing through scrapbook and reminiscing about their political adventure. Letters are already flying back and forth between them and the new friends they met at Empire Girls State.

Photos by Susan McKinney

Though the temperatures zoomed into the high 80's last week, it was business as usual at Nazareth Academy where summer school courses were in full swing. Above, Sister Anne Marie Fehrenbach's coed class diligently attend to Math review problems. Below, Sister Delores Anne gives exercise to students, including Sharon Kridel and Elaine Siwicki, who opted to spend a few of their vacation hours to learn typing skills.



DeSales Awards Sporting Honors

Geneva DeSales sports people were honored for their outstanding contributions to the school's athletic teams at a special awards dinner in June.

Two hundred and fifty people gathered to see Bob Grabman, Bill Tapscott and Doug Graham, members of the 1977 graduating class, receive the top awards. Bob received the Scholar Athletic Award, Bill Tapscott was given the Outstanding School Athlete Award and Doug Graham received the Father Nolan Christian Athlete Award.

The outstanding football and basketball cheerleaders were announced as Jamie Welcher and Diane Carnovale.

Jody Lavin was named the most valuable offensive player on the girls' basketball team while Andi Venuti was named the most valuable defensive player. Donna Amatulli was recognized as the most improved player

In soccer, Jody was noted as the most versatile and Tina Lorsong the most enthusiastic.

The most remarkable server in volleyball was Karen Uhl while Laurie Schibley won the most diligent player award.

Andi was given the Leadership Award for softball with Maureen Golden receiving the most improved award.

In boys' volleyball, Joe Kenny and Gerard Cooke were the most valuable and most improved players, respectively.

Mike D'Amico had the high average in bowling and the Finger Lakes Association trophy went to Steve Carter Mike Myers was the most improved player.

D'Amico also took the most improved award in golf while the most valuable player award went to Joe Emmi.

Doug Smaldone had the highest batting average while Kenny was announced as the most improved player.

Bill Tapscott was the most valuable offensive player on the boys' basketball team while Chris Lavin was the most valuable defensive player. John Quethera was the most improved player and Mike Murphy was given an award for his free throw accuracy.

The Hanley-Tandle Memorial Award in football was won by Dave Eddy.

Parade Honors

DeSales High School held its annual Pageant of Drums on Saturday, July 9 at Hobart College's Boswell Field in Geneva.

First place honors went to the Cadets of Greece while the 76'ers of Syracuse took second place and the Classics of East Haven, Conn., came in third.

The Cadets of Greece also took the Color Guard Award as well as the Best Drum Major Award.