

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

Big Sweeps for AQ Orators

BY JOAN M. SMITH

Father Stephen Martin will be missed not only by the Aquinas community but especially by his debating team. Father, who is an alumnus of Aquinas and has been on the faculty since 1969 is taking a new teaching assignment at Andrean High School, Merrillville, Indiana.

While at Aquinas, he has molded a strong competitive forensic team which Father John Mener, principal, was quick to point out — "His dedication has built the team up to what it is." Even Father Martin, a quiet, unassuming man, admitted that this year has been one of the most successful. His opinion is backed up by the number of Sweepstakes trophies collected since the season began last fall.

Sweepstakes, as explained by Father Martin, is the overall point results from the various speech contest categories; extemporaneous, dramatic interpretation, humorous, original oratory, impromptu and oral interpretation. And in this field, both he and the team agreed, that one of the proudest accomplishments this season was the fifth place Sweepstakes win at Harvard University where 82 schools from 22 states competed.

Boston is only one of the many destinations to which the team travels in order to compete. They've been to New York, down into Pennsylvania, Buffalo, Syracuse, Port Byron. According to Father, they've been on the road two and three weekends every month since last September. He drives, using a van or the

school bus if they happen to be picking up the BK or Nazareth teams along the way.

The young orators relish competition and are never at a loss for words. Especially when they're asked about the art of oratory and its benefits to personality development.

"It provides a unique way

of self-expression," observed Larry Constanza whose achievements include placing first in humorous at the BK competition and second in dramatic interpretation at Canisius High School, Buffalo.

Teammate Mark Foley, secretary of the club, who took a first place win in

original oratory at Canisius and a second place in impromptu in competition at the University of Pennsylvania, noted, "You learn to express your opinions."

For Ray Enright, being a member of forensics gives you more self-confidence. Among Ray's list of honors are three first places in the humorous category.

Nerves always play an important part in performance but each of the young orators deals with them in his own way. John Lukash sufficiently overcame nerves to place second in the humorous category at the regionals. He explained that before the contest he really gets into his character and then goes up and does the best he can.

Other members of the club and their honors include: sophomore Kevin Lynd who counts among his achievements a second place in the regionals; Jon Thomson, who placed first in extemporaneous at the regionals; Ben Bauer, sophomore and club president, who has four first places to his credit — one in prose and three in original oratory; Dave Podgorski, first place in extemporaneous; Bill Shaw, second place in oral interpretation at Webster-Schroeder and Ed Gala, club's vice-president, first in impromptu at the University of Pennsylvania and first in dramatic interpretation at the regionals. Besides these gifted competitors, the team has an enthusiastic contender in freshman Tom Leasure. In his first year out, he took first place in original oratory at the regionals.

There's no doubt Father is proud of his orators. They in turn credit him with their expertise which has led them to be, they unanimously declared, "the envy of New York State" — a statement emphasized by the fact they took a second place Sweepstakes win in the Catholic Forensic League competition in Syracuse, April 9.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

The Aquinas Forensic Team includes from left in bottom row: Jon Thomson, Bill Shaw, Larry Costanza, Kevin Lynd. Second row; Ed Gala, Father Martin, Mark Foley, John Lukus. Third row; Ray Enright, David Podgorski, Ben Bauer, Tom Leasure. Last weekend, Larry took the state championship in the humorous interpretation category in Albany and will go to the National finals in June. Dave made the semifinals in extemporaneous.

On the Go

- AQUINAS Thursday, April 20 — Sports-Booster Dinner. Friday, April 21 — No school. Saturday, April 22 — Garage sale, 9-4 p.m. Sunday, April 23 — Garage sale, 11-4 p.m. Monday, April 24 — No school. Tuesday, April 25 — Career night. BISHOP KEARNEY April 14-24 — Spring recess. DESALES April 17-24 — Spring recess. MCQUAID April 17-24 — Spring recess. Monday, April 24 — Assembly and ring distribution for juniors. Tuesday, April 25 — Penance service, 8:47 a.m. NAZARETH Saturday, April 22 — Junior Prom, 8-midnight. Monday, April 24 — School reopens; leadership meeting, 2:40 p.m.; Music department meeting. Tuesday, April 25 — Department meetings, 2:40 p.m.; Student Council meeting, rm. 203. 2:40 p.m.; Career night, Aquinas Institute, 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 — Assembly, 8:30 a.m.; report cards distributed. NOTRE DAME April 17-21 — Spring recess. Monday, April 24 — Board of Governors meeting, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 — Homeroom teachers' meeting, 3:15 p.m. April 24-28 — Election of class officers. ST. AGNES Monday, April 24 — Assembly featuring "Black Seed," 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 — Principals' meeting at DeSales, 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 — Department heads meeting, 2:45 p.m. OUR LADY OF MERCY Monday, April 24 — Administrative board meeting, 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 — Homeroom moderators' meeting, faculty dining room, 3:15 p.m. OUR LADY OF MERCY Wednesday, April 26 — Freshmen Mother-daughter dinner.

Scientists Take Exhibit Honors

Geneva DeSales juniors, Mary Combs and Tina Lorsche, teamed up to win third place with their chemistry exhibit in the Central New York Regional competition held at Rochester Institute of Technology and sponsored by the Science Teachers' Association of New York State.

According to the young scientists, their exhibit, "Anatomy of a Flame" demonstrated the process of identifying elements. Mineral compounds are placed in a small spoon, held over a flame and become identifiable by the color they become — calcium will turn red while copper gives off a green color.

The girls credit their Science teacher, Mrs. Ann Gobe with interesting them in entering the contest, a project which added to their long time enthusiasm for the sciences.

"I find them intriguing," said Tina who plans to pursue the social sciences with emphasis on government planning and politics. Partner Mary's future educational plans include medical technology.

Their chemistry exhibition



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Science is serious business to Mary and Tina and for the regional competition they spent three weeks preparing their exhibit.