

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

Freshmen Begin New Adventure

By JOAN M. SMITH

Everyone was back to work at Aquinas Institute last Wednesday when the freshmen and sophomores reported to school. The sophs, with one year's experience under their belts, were delighted at being the upperclassmen for the morning. They knew where they were going, what they were supposed to do and enjoyed handing out advice to the frosh.

"Try to get involved in activities," suggested Mike Spinelli, member of the cross country team.

"Especially sports," agreed teammate Jim Williams who explained, "they get you involved in the school."

Could these confident young men remember back to their first day as freshmen?

Apparently senility hadn't caught up with them yet because Charles Bernitt recalled being surprised that he hadn't been as nervous as he'd expected. But Mike remembered all too well the sensation of feeling lost — not knowing where he was. A sensation that no doubt was felt by all freshmen everywhere last week.

However, if the 208 Aquinas freshmen were nervous they kept it well hidden. The morning's orientation period went smoothly. Students were welcomed by Father John Menner, principal, heard an outline of the rules and regulations, received their

schedules, picked up their books, school identification cards and bus passes.

The young men weren't shy. No matter who RapAround stopped to interview, they were ready to give opinions and answer questions.

"It's a good school," commented James Seeger from Holy Cross parish who said he had always wanted to go to Aquinas. He didn't seem flustered by the new experience although he did admit it was different explaining, "I'm used to the grammar school routine."

Freshman excitement ran high about the coming year. Add to it the buoyant optimism of their principal and

1978-79 promises to be filled with activity and surprises. Father Menner has already thrown down the gauntlet in the sports arena. "We'll be number one in football," he declared. "No one will touch us!"

Whether his prediction comes true or not, both the varsity and JV football teams will be heralded along their way by the Nazareth cheerleading squads. Father also noted that the band, 83 members strong, will be much in evidence especially at the Friday night football games scheduled at Holleder Stadium in October.

Along with his confidence in the sport teams, Father was proud of the fact that the school has funded \$35,000 in

academic scholarships and financial aid programs. He's also pleased with the new yearbook arrangement. Rather than receiving them in May, the students picked them up when they registered last week. According to father this allows for a more up-dated book.

During the morning's assembly, Vince Pettrone, president of the Student Council welcomed the freshmen. He echoed the soph's advice to get involved. "If you accept the many things Aquinas has to offer," he said, "you'll have a great four years!"

And so the class of 1982 has arrived — its students quiet, a bit nervous but eager to become a part of their school and make their mark.

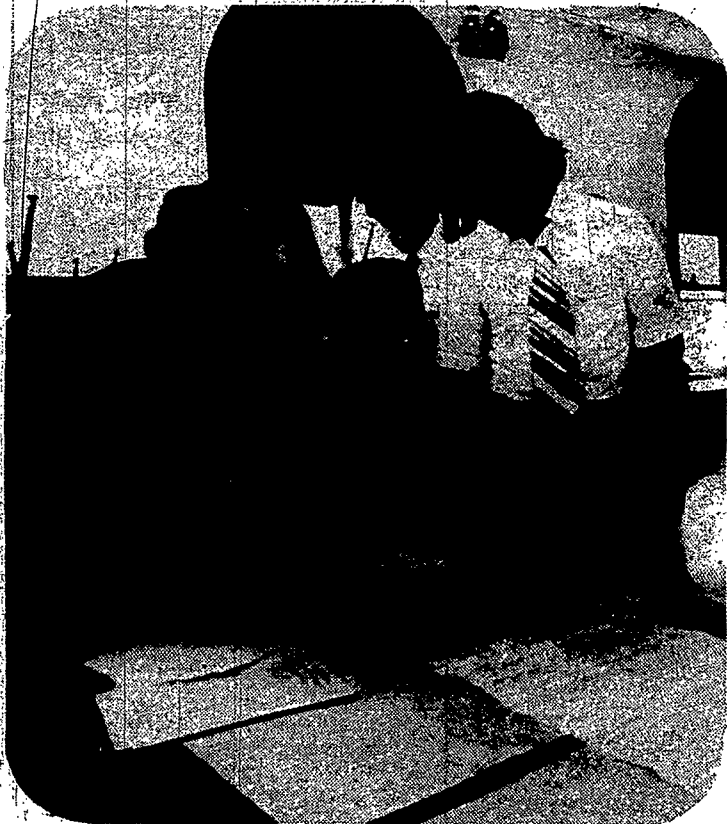


Photos by Susan McKinney

Confused? No, not these freshmen. They're just taking a few extra moments to examine their schedules and to develop a plan of action so they won't get lost. New Aquinas students include Louis Novick, Holy Rosary; Todd Warren, Church of the Ascension; Steve Wright, Mother of Sorrows; Eric Eckert, Holy Trinity.



Though the registration lines were long they were orderly. Above, freshmen receive their schedules and identification cards from faculty members.



At first, RapAround thought Father Cullen was taking advantage of the influx of new students to sign up actors for the Performing Arts Club — but no, he's handing out bus passes.



If it's any consolation to the Aquinas freshmen, they weren't the only ones faced with confusion on the first day. Father Peter Etlinger, director of Guidance, discussed locker mix-up with Father Menner.

JOAN M. SMITH, Editor