

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap



Marie Baumbarger works on a Spanish class pinata.

Artistic Pinatas

An earthenware jar covered with bits of colored paper? What could that possibly be used for? Spanish students at Nazareth Academy recently found out much to their delight.

Their study of Mexican culture included the tradition of Las Posadas, a nine day celebration. Pinatas are part of the celebration. Pinatas are the gaily decorated earthen jars; they are filled with fruit and candy and nuts. These jars are made to be broken, releasing their contents to all who would claim them.

The students made their own pinatas, using paper mache, crepe paper and balloons. Then, in the best

Mexican tradition, they broke them open and feasted on their contents. They also prepared some Spanish and Latin American foods to share with each other and learned to play card games and Scrabble in Spanish.

A party with a purpose is a party nonetheless. The girls not only learned a little about Spanish, Mexican and Latin cultures, they also had a good time.

Winner

Margaret Turney, a Nazareth sophomore, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Jan. 17.

Challenge of Downhill Skiing

By JOAN M. SMITH

Skiing as defined in the dictionary is to travel on skis by gliding over the snow. A fairly simple explanation of a word and activity which has mushroomed into one of the most popular of Winter sports. Within the last decade, millions of people have taken to the slopes and their interest in skiing starts early. Some take it up while in grammar school, but according to the Cardinal Mooney ski club officers, it's in high school when the ski bug really bites.

All the schools have their ski clubs, with membership increasing every year. Take Mooney's. A few years back, three buses would pick up the skiers and transport them to the slopes — now five buses are needed to transport the 180 members along with the moderators to Swain every Thursday for six weeks.

What draws people to the sport?

"It's exhilarating!" exclaimed Sister Virginia Taylor, art teacher and one of the club's moderators. She's in her third year of skiing and said once she became interested it was just a matter of getting up the courage to try it.

Senior Barbara Cottorone, club secretary with three years skiing experience, enjoys whipping down the slopes. "You forget all your problems," she stated.

As for Ann Wagner, club president, it's the challenge

"of just getting down," she laughed.

The other two officers, Dave Begy, vice president and Bill Halloran, treasurer, are just as enthusiastic about the sport.

"It's great," declared Bill who dreams of someday skiing in Colorado.

Though they've skied the local resorts, all the skiers have dreams of tackling the awesome slopes like Whiteface in the Adirondacks, Killington, Vermont plus those in Utah. In the meantime, however, they have a great time skiing locally.

The club is open to the entire student body and the six week skiing package at Swain includes lessons. It's about an hour and a half ride to the lodge, leaving the skiers four hours of skiing time — and they take advantage of every minute — not only for regular skiing but a bit of competition. According to Dave, they like to challenge each other to jump the moguls (snow humps). It was one of these which recently caused Dave some trouble. One tripped him up, the ski patrol arrived, and Dave completed the journey down the slope via stretcher. Nothing serious and he laughingly said he'd like to forget the whole incident.

Most ski resorts have a variety of slopes which accommodate the accomplished



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Preparing for the slopes are junior Dave Begy and Barb Cottorone (kneeling); and standing from left: junior Bill Halloran, Ann Wegman, Debbie Renna (moderator), and Sr. Virginia.

as well as the beginner. And for those just venturing out into downhill skiing the most difficult maneuver say the Mooney alpiners, "Is just standing up!"

Schools Provide Marriage Curriculum

Marriage is the most important commitment people make during their lives. Society has recognized that this commitment shouldn't be entered upon without a knowledge of what is involved, expected and needed to make a lifetime partnership successful and happy. With this growing awareness of the need to educate, area Catholic high schools offer a wide variety of marriage courses to their students. Though the programs vary, the aim is the same; to acquaint young adults with the importance of the marriage commitment and what it means to them religiously, individually and as a way of life.

Following is the first in a series concerning the schools' courses.

The one semester marriage course over at Cardinal Mooney is a required curriculum for seniors. It is taught by Norman Lerner and the objectives of the course are to clarify marriage expectations and to help students appreciate married life as part of the Church. This is accomplished by the students being randomly paired off, forming couples who work together in the classroom during the semester. They are required to make up a budget and marriage ceremony and to discuss how various marriage problems can be handled.

Class lectures include marriage as a sacrament, as a covenant and as a contract; the commitment of persons to

one another; love in marriage including the sex role expectations; and areas of potential conflict. Speakers from the Catholic Family Center, the Diocesan Tribunal and various other agencies throughout the diocese and county are invited to speak to the classes.

Through this course, the students gain an overall picture of the permanence of marriage and the importance of a total commitment.

Bishop Kearney High School has an in-depth marriage course which examines three concepts beginning with the question: Is the divorce rate a symptom that something is wrong with marriage, or is it a symptom of what people expect from marriage? To make better marriages, focus on what makes better people. Explored in this phase is the fact that marriage is a growth experience; we grow as persons with sexuality; growth comes from interaction with people.

Concept two encompasses the basic problem that love is one of current attitudes, practices and values that not only operate in our culture but also in our lives. In this segment the students take a look at cultural views of love, relationships that lead to love and the definition and description of love.

Concept three involves the history and future of marriage, with a study of the traditional marriage, marital problems and parenting.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Mooney, St. Agnes Clash

The girls' basketball season opened for two diocesan teams last week when St. Agnes High School hosted Cardinal Mooney High School in an interleague game. The Cardinals used the full court press to their advantage in downing St. Agnes, 65-20. Left, Mooney's Mary Ellen Heindl (11) pumps in two of her game-high 19 points over Beth Hamilton (35) of St. Agnes. Right, there are bodies everywhere as St. Agnes' Chris Celentani (31) and Beth Hamilton sandwich Cardinals' Nancy Neary during scramble for loose ball.