RapAroundRapAroundRapAround

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JOAN M. SMITH, Editor

Proud Anniversary for Nazareth Group

By JOAN M. SMITH

February marks a special anniversary over at Nazareth Academy. It was in 1969, when a student approached Sister Maria Elena Mariana, present co-moderator of the organization, with the idea of forming a Black Student Union. Sister thought it a great idea and so did Sister Annunciata McCabe, then the school's principal.

The years have passed with the Union becoming a byword at Nazareth. Sister Maria has served the organization for eight of the ten years and this year is helped in the co-moderating slot by Mrs. Adelita Menges.

The Union is a busy group and its success is reflected in the enthusiasm of its 1979 officers: Junior Deborah Alligood, president; sophomore Michelle Thompson, vice president; sophomore Michelle Johnson, secretary; junior Mychelle Dupree, treasurer.

Even while talking with RapAround, the girls were conducting necessary business — checking to make sure a thank you note went to a recent guest speaker. Obtaining guest speakers for their activities is just one of the services the Union performs. The core group which numbers 18 members, generate participation in the school's annual ethnic week, coordinates a Bleck History Week, sponsors honors at the end of the year for students of high achievement, plans fun events like slumber parties and formulates the annual plans for Martin Luther King Day.

Due to the efforts of the Union, Dr. Jesse Brown, professor at Nazareth College and a personal friend of Dr. King, spoke at the celebration assembly.

The Union's next project, Black History Week, will be highlighted by displays in the halls and announcements over the intercom, regarding personalities and events encompassing Black History.

The organization's aim Debbie explained, "Is to bring Black students together and share our talents with the whole student body."

It is agreed by officers, members and students that the association fulfills this aim and then some. It is a way for the Black community to do things; it's a vehicle for educating the student body about black culture; it produces warmth and personal relationships among students, especially the incoming freshmen who through the Union become involved in the school.

What moved these young ladies to become involved in the group? "As a freshman," declared Debbie, "I wanted to get to know more of the Black students and the organization offered me the initiative for becoming involved in the school."

It was the same for Michelle Thompson. "I wanted to get to know the Black community in the school, get to do things and to let the school know we have something to offer."

The girls' sense of commitment doesn't end with their Union activities. Debbie is a member of the Perosian Choir while Mychelle DuPree serves on the executive council for the junior class. Another Perosian is Michelle Johnson who also is on the Student Council.

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Black Student Union officers are sharing a proud experience with serving during the organization's 10th anniversary. Discussing upcoming events are from left: Michelle Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Adelita Menges, co-moderator and Theology teacher; Deborah Alligood, president; Sister Maria Elena, co-moderator; Mychelle DuPree, treasurer; and Michelle Thompson, vice president. To keep the group functioning smoothly, the girls along with the moderators hold weekly meetings. Sister Maria Elena defines the group as one of responsibility and creative leadership.

On The Go

AQUINAS
Feb. 9-10 — Speech tournament at Bishop Kearney.

BISHOP KEARNEY
Feb. 9 — Kokua drive begins; Fathers Club meeting.
Tuesday, Feb. 13 — Frosh-soph Parents Night Century
Feb. 9-10 — Forensic tournament at school.
Saturday, Feb. 10 — Valentine's Day Dance.
Tuesday, Feb. 13 — Frosh-soph Parents Night Century Club meeting, library, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14 — Marching Kings to march in "I Love Downtown" parade.

CARDINAL MOONEY
Wednesday, Feb. 7 — Women's Guild Board meeting.
Thursday, Feb. 8 — Men's Guild General meeting.
Friday, Feb. 9 — Report cards distributed.
Monday, Feb. 12 — Men's Guild Board meeting.

DESALES
Monday, Feb. 12 — Board of Trustees meeting.

MCQUAID
Tuesday, Feb. 13 — Assembly, 9:23 a.m.

NAZARETH
Wednesday, Feb. 7 — Faculty meeting, 2 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8 — Senior class meeting in auditorium; junior class meeting, cafeteria; sophomore class meeting, gym.
Saturday, Feb. 10 — Sophomore semi-formal dance, 8-11 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 11 — PATON play tryouts, 3 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12 — Finance Committee meeting, 4-5:30 p.m.; Music department meeting, 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13 — Student Council meeting, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph meeting, 4-5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14 — College Bowl, auditorium, 1:35 p.m.; PATON tryouts, 8 p.m.

NOTRE DAME
Wednesday, Feb. 7 — Human Development assembly.
Friday, Feb. 9 — Faculty prayer, 8:10 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14 — Magazine drive ends; faculty meeting, 8 a.m.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
Thursday, Feb. 8 — Parents Board meeting.
Friday, Feb. 9 — Teacher conference day.
Saturday, Feb. 10 — ACT tests; Parents Dinner Dance.

ST. AGNES
Wednesday, Feb. 7 — Faculty meeting, 3 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12 — College Bowl, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14 — Department heads meeting.

BK Council Activity

Kokua is an Hawaiian expression meaning a group of people working together for a common cause. Such is the fund raising project, sponsored by the Student Council, Feb. 8-March 9. Proceeds from the drive will be used to replace cafeteria tables, purchase a computer and improve gym facilities.

Other plans being formulated include various charity drives such as the "Daffodils for Cancer" and "Shamrocks for Dystrophy". Also on the planning board are an ice skating party and cross country ski trip.

This Friday, Feb. 10 from 8-11, the council is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Dance featuring the band, "Dreamer".

Winner

Bob Hancock a senior at Aquinas, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle $5 for the week of Jan. 24.

Rotary Awards

Applications for education awards are now available at any local Rotary Club. The Rotary Foundation awards are for graduate and undergraduate students, technical trainees, teachers of the handicapped and journalists.

Those selected receive one academic year of study abroad, including round trip transportation, language instruction, lodging, food, and travel, in addition to books, tuition and laboratory fees.

Speaking Out

By TERESA KUSAK
St. Agnes

This is a special year for the Polish community. Karol Wojtyla Archbishop of Krakow, was chosen bishop of Rome and leader of the Roman Catholic Church. This highly educated and respected pontiff exemplifies what the Polish people truly represent. Since his installation, the warmth and kindness of Pope John Paul II have helped transform the past Polish jokes into a new respect for the Polish people.

Pope John Paul II is not only young and energetic, he is also the first non-Italian pope in over 450 years. This new pontiff has already displayed his versatile personality by pleasing a wide variety of people throughout the world. His ability to communicate in several different languages has also influenced his popularity among the people. His wisdom and sensitivity concerning the needs of the poor enable us to see great advances in the area of human development, an issue that should be important to all.

Pope John Paul II has accomplished a great deal since his childhood in Poland. Working long and tiring hours, the Polish Pope managed to acquire a good education and become one of the worlds most respected people. These accomplishments provide an inspiration for us all to become the best people possible. He proves that our greatest aspirations are within our grasp if only we reach for them.

I have always been proud of my Polish heritage but this year has been especially meaningful to me and to the Polish community. The election of this Polish Pope has given a new hope to many needy and underprivileged countries. He has also provided people with the opportunity to advance in areas that have been traditionally restricted to a minority. I am sure Pope John Paul II will work to fulfill the wants of these nations by appealing to us for help. I am also sure that we will respond generously to his appeals.