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Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

A Grand Cultural Celebration

Recently, the St. Agnes Student Senate under the leadership of Jacki Smith, sponsored a lively cultural week. Classrooms were decorated in motifs representing various countries and the hall display case featured art works from around the world. Above, during the ethnic asembly, Chuttaya June performed a Thai dance; Mrs. Edward Ferland, who served as master of ceremonies, modeled her handmade Ukrainian dress which is over 100 years old; Heide Foerg entertained with German songs while Pam Scherer danced an excerpt from the Nutcracker Suite Ballet.

Speaking Out

By Bill Gibbons

It has only taken me five years to learn to recite the "Hail Mary" and I still mess up procedure at Mass. A bad Catholic? No, a bad Presbyterian. Yes, I am one of a good many non-Catholics that attend a Catholic high school. I have been at McQuaid for five years now , and if anything my religious convictions are stronger than ever. I have found that the religion of the student doesn't matter, the only requirement of a Catholic school is that the student be willing to learn. My decision to attend a Catholic school five years ago was probably the most beneficial move I have ever made.

Six years ago I was mired in the public school system I was just a number to them, just one of the masses, I began at McQuaid in eighth grade, positive I would hate it. I just couldn't cope with the idea of spending eight hours a day with complete strangers, and not seeing very much of my friends. Well I struggled through that year and when I finished I almost liked it. After that came freshman year and I never looked back.

The thing that has impressed me most about the Catholic education is the teachers' will to teach. The thing that they are interested in is making the student a person. The priests have dedicated their lives to teaching. The idea of bettering the pupil is their goal. The laymen are not there just to pick up a paycheck. The teachers in the Catholic system challenge you to be an individual. The teachers don't look at your religion in the Catholic system, just your will to learn.

The fact that I am not Catholic has never hindered me at school. I have never been singled out or alienated because I was different. It was fun. It gave me a lot of new ideas to think about. I take part in the school Masses and enjoy them immensely. Since I am not an active Presbyterian my situation has allowed me to found my own personal beliefs concerning religion.

The cost of a Catholic education is expensive but well worth it. One actually learns in the Catholic system. The student is not passed on to someone else if he is a problem. No one is spoon-fed, learning is treated on an individual basis. One learns only as much as he wants. There are only a couple of public schools in the area that can compare with the Catholic education. When one graduates from the Catholic system, he has earned his diploma.

McQuaid and the Catholic system of education has put me one step ahead of a lot of other kids in public schools. I have also developed a great sense of pride and respect for my school. Until the public schools can develop as much interest in their students as they have in their budgets we will keep seeing graduates that read on a seventh grade level.

As for me, I leave McQuaid in June, proud of what I left behind and ready for what ever is in the future. How does it go?, "Hail Mary, full of grace . . ."

On The Go

AQUINAS
Friday, March 30 — Blood bank, 9-3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 4 — Lenten devotions.

CARDINAL MOONEY
Friday, March 30 — Senior 100 days; third quarter ends.
Tuesday, April 3 — Candy drive ends.
Wednesday, April 4 — National Honor Society Induction.

DESALES
Monday, April 2 — Faculty meeting.

MCQUAID
Friday, March 30 — No school.
Saturday, March 31 — BASH.

NAZARETH
Thursday, March 29 — "Peter Pan" matinee for grammar schools, 1 p.m.
March 30-31 — "Peter Pan" performances, 8 p.m.
Monday, April 3 — Talent Show tryouts.

NOTRE DAME
Friday, March 30 — Liturgy, 10:15 a.m.; Senior class dance, 8-11 p.m., featuring "Forearm".
Saturday, March 31 — Placement test for incoming freshmen, 8:30-noon.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
Saturday, March [illegible] — SAT test; Antique Show and Sale.
Sunday, April [illegible] — Antique Show and Sale.
Wednesday, April [illegible] — Children's Theater.

Photo by Susan McKinney

Mercy Hosts Aladdin

Mercy thespians Renee Wierszewski, Janine DiPolito, Kathy Hudson, Anne Zink, Linda Wojciechowski and Debby Jo Pavone rehearse for the Children's Theater "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp" to be presented, April 4-7. School group presentations are scheduled for April 4-6, 9:30 a.m. and public performances on April 7, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 461-3149 for reservations.

JOAN M. SMITH, Editor