

By Joan M. Smith

One School, Four Sisters

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Young adults are full of surprises especially when being interviewed. Take Mercian Nancy Caswell for instance. We talked about general topics like school, hobbies, careers and then near the end of the conversation, out of the blue, she softly said, "I'm going to see the Pope!"

It seems a friend, Mercy junior Carrie Kenning, has a sister attending Trinity College in Washington D.C. The Pope, during his U.S. visit, is scheduled for an appearance at the facility and Carrie has invited Nancy along for the event. Nancy's Washington experience, however, is another story — she has promised to report about this historical occasion to *RapAround* when she returns. The reason for this particular article is the fact that Nancy and her three sisters have a unique situation — they are all students at Mercy — one in each year: Susan, a freshman; Kay, a sophomore; Nancy, a junior, and Beth the senior.

Was it because their mother was an alumna of Mercy that they all decided to go there? No, they said, their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Caswell, had attended high school in her hometown, Syracuse. It was Beth who started the chain reaction and she explained, "Ever since I was little I wanted to go to Mercy and my parents liked the idea of all four of us in the same school." Also the fact that they can walk to school — they live



The Caswell sisters; Susan, Kay, Beth and Nancy. During the school day the girls said they bump into one another but noted, "We don't go looking for each other."

half mile away — was a consideration. Her sisters agreed it was Beth who influenced them. They told how she would come home everyday and tell them all about the school and what was happening.

The girls are more than sisters. In listening to their bantering and good-natured teasing of one another you

sense their friendship. And though they live in the same house and attend the same school the girls travel in different orbits. Other than the fact that three of them play soccer (Susan, Nancy, Beth) they are busy with their individual endeavors. Kay for the second year, is on the tennis team, is a member of the Student Government Association, and this year is

looking into joining the Junior Achievement Program. Nancy has participated in the Mercy plays and will be trying out for a part in this Fall's presentation of "Irene". Beth is on the ski team, a CMA rep and a member of the Quill staff. She is interested in taking journalism at St. Michael's College in Vermont. When asked if her love for skiing had anything to do with her choice of locales, she just smiled.

With two years left at Mercy, Nancy hasn't quite decided on a college, but is sure of her study field — politics.

Kay enjoys Math and is planning to secure a place in the business world, and though Sue has four years ahead of her, she is interested in the teaching fields.

As their activities and career goals differ so do their hobbies. Nancy likes to read especially the classics by such authors as Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Beth prefers music — all kinds. Sue enjoys all types of sports and Kay carries her interest in tennis and Math into her off hours.

Each sister also considers a different school event as her favorite experience. For Beth it's May Day, "because the girls who participate, are sincere and proud," she said. Nancy said she enjoyed Field Day because everyone is so spirited and friendly. Kay is impressed with the Golden Mass, and though Susan hasn't been at Mercy long enough to sample all the events, she's ready and willing to enjoy them all.

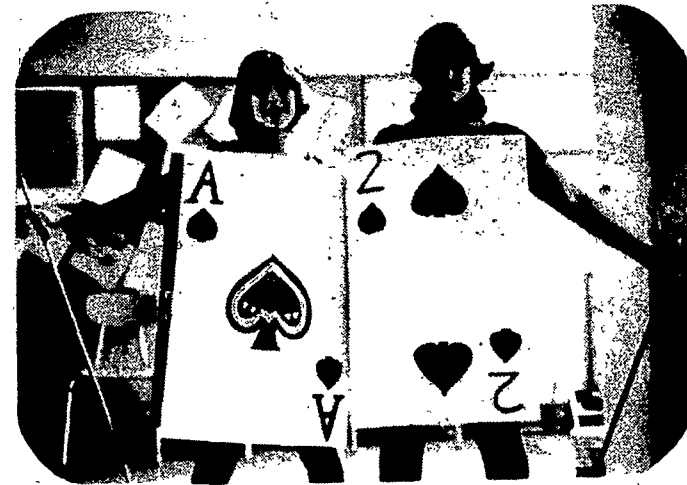


Photo by Joan M. Smith

Gina Amorese and Catherine Lipani prepare for their stage appearance in "Alice in Chocolate Land", the senior skit that kicked off candy sales.

In The Land Of Chocolate

Chocolate is the topic over at Nazareth Academy. The school kicked-off its annual chocolate drive last Friday and it will be in full swing all this week. The purpose of the drive is to raise money to keep tuition costs down.

An assembly started the students toward their \$40,000 goal. The class skits and pep songs for the occasion were coordinated by the Student

Council. The drive along with prizes was handled by Sister Elaine Englert, vice principal.

In the prize category top saleswoman will win \$100, and top sellers in each class will be awarded \$50. Homerooms that bring in their quota the first day will receive \$10, and the homeroom with the highest percentage of sales will be treated to a special party.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

A Sharing Day

Class meetings, liturgies, discussions and a time to become acquainted were all part of the recent Cardinal Mooney Prayer, Care and Share Day. Above, Larry Blum, junior class president, and Martha Miller, secretary, review their class speeches.

Decline in SAT Scores Continues

According to a New York Times report (Sept. 9) the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores of America's high school seniors fell slightly this year, continuing a downward trend that began a decade ago. The average SAT verbal score dropped two points to 427, and the mathematics score dropped one point to 467.

The multiple-choice test

taken by a million collegebound seniors is scored on a scale of 200 to 800. Ten years ago the average verbal score was 463 and math scores, 493. Originally 500 was supposed to be average.

Although the test was designed to rate students, not schools, the national decline in scores has been viewed in many quarters as evidence

that something is amiss in American education.

Contributing factors for the decline as found through a 1977 College Board study included: television, changes in the family, relaxed standards and the turbulence surrounding the Vietnam War and Watergate.

The test has been involved

in a controversy recently over whether coaching increases students' scores. The College Board maintains that drills and cramming are not likely to raise students scores very much because the test measures skills developed over a long time. But a recent Federal Trade Commission study indicated that coaching schools might help some students.



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Cardinal Mooney during an assembly. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon Oct. 2, to receive \$5.

Speaking Out

By Donna Dedee Bishop Kearney



Recently we have been confronted with many changes in women's sports programs as well as other scholastically related activities. Students have found the doors to many opportunities opened to them in order for each individual to improve herself as a person. More and more, for example, we see balanced coverage for both men's and women's sports — an attempt to entertain the entire audience.

A successful effort has made it possible for improved facilities to be built at colleges, and at the local level, which means a definite improvement in athletic programs. Many changes have been made because it is an increasingly recognizable fact that women need chances to broaden their opportunities to express themselves and become the persons they are meant to be.

Already we see women excelling in areas of athletics which were never sought after by young women. Individualism seems to be the word that best reflects what is in the hearts and minds of the young women

of today. All of these opportunities in sports and education make it easier for any girl to choose what is right for her. Whatever she chooses, to bring out her best capabilities, will determine the mold that will develop her own maturity as well as serve as a model for others to follow.

All in all, a positive step has been taken in the advancement of women's sports and the importance of using the many opportunities available can not be stressed enough. The idea of a World Series featuring women, or women's Monday Night Football may only be notional now, but after all, nothing is impossible.