

BK Club Aims For The Heights

By Joan M. Smith

Maintain a three point stance; support body weight on legs; keep arms low whenever possible. Sound like a new dance step? Not quite — the above are just some of the actions that will have to be mastered by the 18 members (boys and girls) of the Bishop Kearney High School technical rock climbing club.



Senior Fred Gibb demonstrates a reverse eight knot.

The organization is new this year to the BK extra-curricular roster and has been made possible by a grant from Xerox. Guiding the club are Xerox personnel, Brother Bryan, moderator, and student-instructors, Mike Thompson and Chris DiFrancesco.

RapAround recently sat in on a meeting of the club, and found the two young gentlemen capable of handling the novice climbers. They are conscientious, and well-trained with experience in climbing. Chris has been climbing for three years and it was through his enthusiasm that Mike decided to try it last spring, and has been at it ever since, tackling climbs equal to a 5.6.

According to the boys there are two rating systems for climbing: the Yosemite Decimal system (5.0 - 5.12); and the Sierra Club system which designates climbs by classes — one through six. In explaining to RapAround, who needless to say was, is, and probably will remain a novice, Chris outlined the classes. Class one — is fairly level hiking ground; no need of equipment other than hiking boots. Class two — incline can be as much as 30 degrees but still fairly easy;

Class three — (Adirondack area), rocks begin to slope at a more difficult angle and climbing equipment such as rope, webbing, harness, will be needed. Class four — rocks steeper yet. By the time a climber hits a Class five, the rock is straight up and it is necessary to have a belayer (person anchored on the ground, hooked to the climber by a rope who is the climber's protection in case of a fall). Class six — rock is completely verticle with overhangs. To visualize this class type, picture El Capitan, a mountain in the Sierra Madre range in California which has a precipice of 3,330 feet.

But back to the decimal system of rating and Mike's 5.6 climb. To explain its difficulty he related how he only had one-and-a-half of two inch fissure cracks for finger holds. "I came down with scraped knuckles," he noted.

Both boys have climbed at Rattle Snake in Ontario, Canada where according to Chris he had only half-inch ledges for footholds.

Though there's much to learn, and climbing is a sport

where you have to remain alert, the boys stressed that it is safe. Stupidity and carelessness, they said, were the causes of accidents. A good mental attitude, and faith in the equipment make the sport safe and fun.

One member of the club, Gary Smith, is a veteran mountain climber who has scaled Mt. Marcy (5,344 ft.) in 20 below zero conditions, and the rock slide side of Whiteface, both peaks in the Adirondacks. So, rock climbing is definitely a sport for the adventuresome motivated to keeping in shape. Physical fitness, the instructors agreed, is an important factor. Running, pull-ups, push-ups, and sit-ups should be a daily routine. As stated in the guidesheet, "A little each day makes climbing easier and less painful."

The club has had practice climbs, and will climb on Saturdays or Sundays, weather permitting. They begin on the railroad trestle in Fishers, New York.

Junior Ann McLenithan was on hand for the venture and had her first experience as a belayer. "At first you're

scared," she explained, "you don't want to drop the climber. But then it becomes easier and more routine."

Classmate Tammy Entz who climbed observed, "You need a lot of strength in your arms."

The young climbers will eventually graduate from the trestle to Rattle Snake Point Conservation Area near

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. They will also tackle Shawangunk Mountain in New Paltz, New York which will be a week-end trip in May or June.

RapAround will keep an eye on the club because in talking about future climbing goals, Colorado was mentioned. Also, when they discussed the famous Himalayan their excitement mounted — who knows, a BK banner atop Mt. Everest?



Chris instructs class on the various types of knots needed for climbing.

Committee Members Installed, Oct. 4

On Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m., the Executive Committee of Cardinal Mooney High School was installed. The event consisted of a liturgy, installation ceremonies and a reception. Guest speakers included Father Thomas Barrosse, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross; Brother Renatus Foldenauer, provincial of the eastern province of the order; Brother Aubert Harrigan, former principal and now provincial supervisor of education; and Brother Francis Ellis, present principal.

Those now serving on committee, the role of which is similar to that of a board of education in the public school system, include: Paul Tuttle, president; Brother Francis Ellis, executive secretary; Sister Edwina Butler, former vice principal; Mrs. Patricia Holahan; Mrs. Arthur Koerner; Kenneth Marino; Michael O'Neil; Ronald Proud; Kenneth Robinson; Richard Stillman; Bernard Swiatek; Thomas Thrasher; Mrs. Edward White; G. Thomas White and Father George Wood, pastor of Mother of Sorrows parish.



Cardinal Mooney student council members, Donna Benwitz, Mark Faticone and Mary Ann Brennan led the procession before the Mass.

Hat Fashions

A few weeks ago, Cardinal Mooney celebrated homecoming week and one of the events was a "crazy hat day". Wild chapeaux bobbed around the halls; bishops' berets, cowboy stetsons, beanies, military caps, tams, fedoras, and space headgear. But there were two creations that would do justice to a fashion show if one was ever held on Mars: Senior Jim Walker's entry was in the Bat Man character mode and complemented with wig and nose job; Senior Betsy Mallon dubbed her cross-eyed friend, "the green monster".



Photos by Joan M. Smith

Speaking Out

By Mary Jane Tomasso
NAZARETH ACADEMY

Looking back in history, the only recent time when youth was recognized as a knowing and concerned group of people was during the restlessness of the sixties and early seventies. The only reason they received the attention, then, was by doing strange and outlandish acts of violence and rebellion. No one really believes that those youths wanted to do

those weird things. What the youths did know was that the way to be noticed was to be different. Since then the young people have been usually ignored. Today, they aren't as outlandish, but with ever increasing youth-committed crimes and decreasing competency test averages — today's youth is not being regarded highly.

Contrary to what many adults believe the youth of our society, specifically Monroe County, are concerned about the problems that face them. Controversial issues which constantly appear in the media, dealing with youth

are on the minds of the young people of today; the possibility of bringing back the draft, the role of women in today's society, increasing integration in our public school systems, are some of the issues concerning youth.

Through the help of Urbanarium, Inc., and Forums for Youth, young people from all over Monroe County have been organized to plan a youth orientated conference. Through workshops and panel discussions, the youth from county-wide schools will have the opportunity to learn more about problems facing youth in our society.

The conference will be on Nov. 7, 8-5 p.m. Guest speaker will be Robert Kennedy, Jr. Speakers from youth and military services and the political field will highlight the activities. The theme of this conference is, "The International Year of the Child — Who speaks for youth? Who listens?" Student rights, social life and recreation, youth and the law, integration, and employment are some of the issues that will be covered in the workshops and discussions. Some of the other issues will be abortion, incest, prostitution, youth services, draft, and continuing education.



Student Commended

Brother Brian Walsh, principal of Bishop Kearney High School, has announced that Paul C. Bouté is being commended for his performance on the National Achievement Scholarship

Program Testing for Outstanding Negro Students. The selection index score places Paul in the upper 10 per cent of over 60,000 black students who took the tests in 1978.