

Joan M. Smith, Editor

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Students Interview Visiting Classmate

By Liz Flow and
Cindy DeWitt

St. Agnes

"I found America challenging," said 15 year old Seema Yad, an immigrant from India who now attends St. Agnes high school.

Seema is from Poona, a city near Bombay. She came to the U.S. seven months ago along with her parents and brother. She couldn't speak English when she arrived but now speaks the language fluently. She learned her English by watching TV programs like Sesame Street. Seema now is considered trilingual, speaking two Indian languages and English.

She explained, "America attracts many people from India. In her case, her parents are resident doctors working in psychiatry at the Rochester State Hospital."

She recalled being very confused and scared the first day at St. Agnes. Her feelings soon changed, however, as she quickly made friends and grew to have a better understanding of the English language.

As a junior, Seema has a rigorous schedule. She is taking Advanced Biology, Math 12, Theology, English honors, American Studies and Physics. When she's not studying she enjoys cooking,

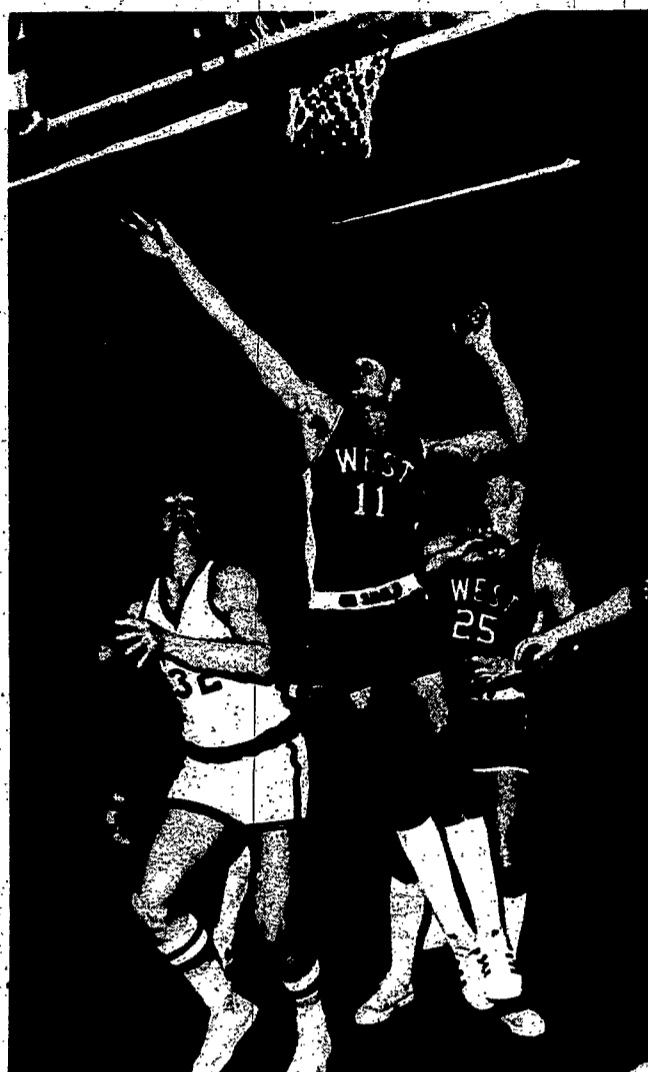
knitting, and reading in English, though she quickly pointed out that she can't read very fast.

Seema misses India, her friends and grandparents who still live there. When comparing India with the U.S. she explained that some lifestyles differ. For instance, India's educational system has more advanced courses and because of the difficult level of the courses the grading is different. Passing is 40 per cent and anything above 75 per cent is recognized with distinction.

Another difference is in the family lifestyles. In India the whole family including aunts, uncles, and grandparents share the same house. When asked about dress she said her dress was similar to what she wears here, like jeans and sweaters; however, her mother wears a sari.

Seema enjoys American food, especially hamburgers and french fries. When cooking at home she prepares Indian food.

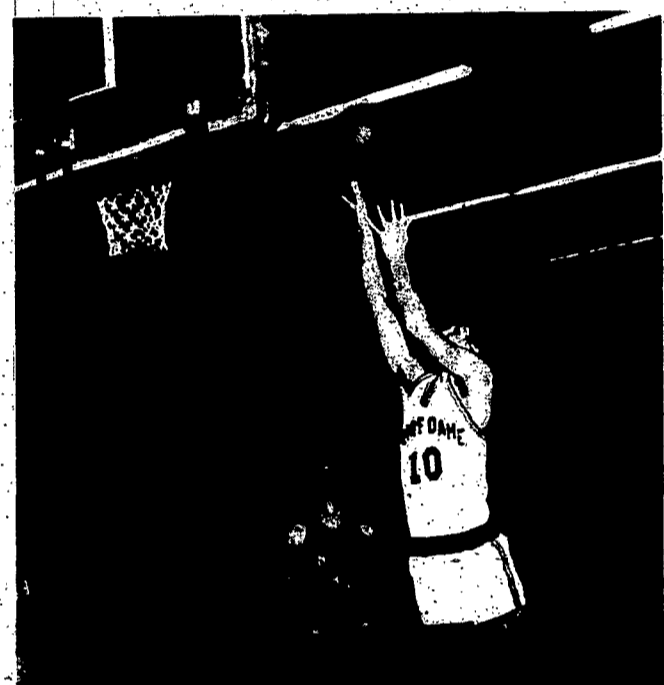
Seema is Hindu, but as a student at St. Agnes, she is required to take Theology, a course she has found challenging in that the material is different from that she was brought up to believe. After graduation from St. Agnes, she intends to return to India and study to become a doctor.



Big 100

Photo by Martin Toombs.

Notre Dame's 68-43 win over Corning West High School, Feb. 5 marked the 100th win for the team's coach, Michael Johnston. NDs record, at press/time, stood at 14-2 overall, and 8-1 in their league. In upper left photo, Jim Schiefen, (32), looks for a chance to make basket; Coach Johnston gives advise to Joe Ransley, (40), and Bill Crandle (10) leaps for a score. Top game scorers were John Farr with 16 points; Jim Schiefen, 15; and Ron Tryon, 12.



On The Go

AQUINAS
Feb. 18-22 — Winter break, no school.

BISHOP KEARNEY
Wednesday, Feb. 13 — Senior '80' Day; senior breakfast
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Mothers' Club meeting, cafeteria, 7:45 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 15 — Mid-winter vacation begins, 2:30 p.m.

CARDINAL MOONEY
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Junior carnation sale; Student Council lollipop sale.
Friday, Feb. 15 — Girls Athletic Association, baked goods sale.

DESALES
Feb. 18-22 — Winter recess.
MCQUAID
Friday, Feb. 15 — End of third marking period.

NAZARETH
Feb. 14-22 — Student trip to Spain.
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Dress-up, dress-down day; freshmen assembly, auditorium, 8:30 a.m.; senior and soph assembly, cafeteria, 8:30 a.m.; junior gym, 8:30 a.m.; English, Religious Studies, Art department meetings.
Friday, Feb. 15 — February recess begins, 2:30 p.m.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Parents Board meeting, 8 p.m.
Feb. 18-22 — Winter vacation.

ST. AGNES
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Students participate in Monroe Community Hospital's "Rock and Roll" event.
Feb. 18-20 — Winter recess.

Students Inducted In Honor Society

Nazareth Academy's National Honor Society inducted 40 new members in a ceremony. Under the direction of Ms. Linda Waterstreet, the organization's faculty advisor, a committee of students including Chris Pospula and NHS officers Linda Dobson (president), Ann Saia (vice president), Ann Van Sice (secretary), Patty Mahns (treasurer), planned the program.

New members included: Janice Nacco, Mary Ellen Neary, Denise Barone, Mary Margaret Enright, Cheryl Cutaia, Jennifer Giardina,

Linda Vulaj, Diane Hunt, Cathy Gilmore, Christine Boss, Pauline Stadtmiller, Janet Donner, Marifrances Arioli, Terese Hurst, Lori Zimmer, Lisa Gouse, Yvonne Whitfield, Esther Yun, Karen McCloskey, Marie Bellavia, Elaine Holbig, Marcy Gertin, Susan Whelan, Lynn DeGroot, Janet Ruscher, Sharon Murphy, Eileen Jackson, Rosa Solau, Karoline Luciano, Elizabeth Tuity, Kathleen Terhaar, Margaret Jones, Kelly Chamberlain, Patricia Schirmer, Joan DeFabio, Karen Bleier, Felicia Stepnowski, Kim Fedele, Kathy Browne, Mary Gilbert.

Speaking Out

By Mary Beth Hain
NOTRE DAME

In a study by Michigan State Professor Arvo Juola, it was found that college grades have risen steadily from an average 2.4 to 2.8 between 1965 and 1974.

This contrasts sharply with the decrease of SAT scores of high school students for the past decade. SAT averages have dropped a point or two each year, despite, like colleges, high grades are increasing.

The explanation can be traced back to one root "grade inflation." The tendency to give high marks,

too easily is often found in high schools and colleges. Too many students are overgraded despite mediocre work, say some college professors.

"Kids could take bad medicine more easily twenty years ago," says Claude Wintner of Pennsylvania's Haverford College. "Today the high schools evaluate with euphemisms."

While the problem has not been recognized in high schools, college administrations have begun to toughen up and warn professors against grade inflation. Since 1977, grade point averages have dropped

due to the widespread movement against high marks.

Grade inflation can be traced to the rebellious mood of the 60's that caused upheaval in the U.S. education system, especially in colleges. With the advent of teacher evaluations by students, teachers began to raise marks to cater to their students. Grade standards were lowered in order not to dishearten minorities who were beginning to stand up for their rights.

Something has to be done for those students who graduate illiterate due to grade inflation. It is a difficult and complex problem

to solve. "It takes real courage to give a student a C," says Harvard Professor Harvey Mansfield. "It's like twisting a sword in his vitals." Also many teachers in both high school and college refuse to admit giving high marks.

What is needed is a major overhaul of the grading system in U.S. schools. Teachers and administrators must take the time to examine their schools and establish, if necessary, a new, tougher system of grading. Having a student fully know his capabilities in different areas is far better than turning a student out into the world with a false confidence in himself.



Frosh Project

The St. Agnes freshman class is busy with a poster sale. Some of the posters offered are being shown by class officers, Kim DeYoung, Monique Cirelli, and Barb Szembrot.