

Maplewood Maplewood

Joan M. Smith, Editor

Precisionaires Skate Their Way to Ice Dreams

By Joan M. Smith

Seventeen dedicated ice-skaters make up the Genesee Figure Skating Club's Precisionaires under the direction of Norma Leone. Dedicated because aside from their school and work commitments, these young women spend hours on the ice every day, 12 months a year. Some dream of Olympic competition, others of professional status, and still others are interested in the judging aspect of the sport.

Five of the Precisionaires are from area Catholic high schools: Tammy Fess, Nazareth Academy; Shari Heywood and Michele Manion, Cardinal Mooney; Teresa Jones, St. Agnes; and Maryjayne Lambert, Our Lady of Mercy. Two others attend Catholic elementary schools—Joann Glaser, St. Stanislaus, and Bernadette Gerber, St. Joseph's Penfield. RapAround was able to talk with three of the high school skaters about their daily routines on the ice as well as their aspirations in the sport.

Michele, a junior over at Mooney, is the team captain, a position that is voted on by team members. "To keep that line from bending," is how she described the most difficult of her duties and fellow skater, sophomore Tammy Fess agreed. Both these young skaters became interested in the sport because in the winter they could walk out their front doors and skate — Tammy lives on a lake, and Michele has a creek running by her home where she spent many winters skating with friends.

For Shari, it was a brother who played hockey that generated her interest. "I spent so much time at the



Shown above are 15 members of the 17-member Precisionaire Team. From left: Bernadette Gerber, Chris Hos, Tammy Fess, Eileen Etter, Jennifer Jones, Maryjayne Lambert, Margaret Dow, Michele Manion, Shari Heywood, Kitty Sadoff, Joann Glaser, Nora Kerwick, Gail Platets, Teresa Jones, Mary Abraham. Missing are Pat Corcoran and Kim Winter.

rink watching him," she said, "that I thought I might as well put the time to use." At age 12 she began ice-skating lessons and along with her other two teammates has belonged to the Genesee Figure Skating Club for three years.

She's at the pre-gold level of the ice-dancing category of which there are six levels: preliminary, bronze, pre-silver, silver, pre-gold, and gold. To skate into the gold level, Shari will have to execute four dances.

"There's no time to think of other things," she exclaimed about being involved in other interests. Her day, like all the young skaters, is dominated by practice — everyday after school, week-ends, and all day everyday during the summer months.

Tammy also acknowledges she doesn't have much time to indulge her other interests like playing softball and going to the beach, but she loves performing on the ice. She prefers single freestyle and is at the intermediate level of that category and will have to execute double toe loops and double salchows plus required spins to move up to the next level. In her opinion the double loop is the toughest move to execute and her favorite skater is Dorothy Hamill.

Michele has managed to squeeze out time to serve on Mooney's Student Council and to work part-time. She said, "The prettiest" in executions are the dance pairs, but since finding a dance partner is difficult, she's presently sticking with

single freestyle and is in the silver level of that category.

The girls are united in their dedication and love for figure skating, but their ideas on how they'll pursue the sport in the future differ. Michelle is investigating the judging and teaching aspects while Shari would like to audition for a professional ice show precision team. For the present, Tammy likes the flavor of competition but also has sights on the professional ice shows.

Aside from practice practice these girls have had ample experience, both singly and as Precisionaires, performing in exhibitions and the Genesee Figure Skating Club's annual ice show that features world renowned skaters.

On The Go

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| BISHOP KEARNEY
Thursday, May 1 — Sophomore PAX Day, B-221, third period.
Saturday, May 3 — Dance Marathon, benefit for Cancer research.
Monday, May 5 — Father-daughter dinner dance, The Party House, 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 6 — Freshman PAX Day, A-103, fourth period. | NAZARETH
Wednesday, April 30 — College Bowl assembly, 1:35 p.m.
Monday, May 5 — Alumnae Banquet.
OUR LADY OF MERCY
Thursday, May 1 — Parent-teacher conferences, 7-9 p.m.
May 1-2 — Arts Fest.
Friday, May 2 — Father-daughter dinner dance. |
| CARDINAL MOONEY
May 2-3 — Spring musical, "Fiorello," 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 3 — Women's Guild Garage Sale.
Tuesday, May 6 — Men's Guild general meeting.
Wednesday, May 7 — Women's Guild Board meeting. | ST. AGNES
Wednesday, April 30 — "Li'l Abner" preview, 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 1 — Administrative Council meeting.
Monday, May 5 — Candy drive holiday.
Tuesday, May 6 — Time management workshop, administrative participation.
Wednesday, May 7 — Faculty meeting; freshman class jewelry sale, parents invited. |
| DeSALES
Monday, May 5 — Faculty meeting. | |

Art On Review

The Maplewood Public Library on Dewey Ave., is currently showing an exhibit of art pieces done by Nazareth Academy students. On exhibit in the main entrance showcase are paintings by Dawn Shatzlein, Lori Napieralski, Lori Bykowski, Jeannine Nau. Ceramics on display are done by students Jill Glucowicz, Pat Greeley, Ellen Veness, Helen Lupiani.

Luly Perez, Amy Schmid, Judy Zimmer, Cheryl Malolepszy. Also being shown is basketry art created by Maria Barbarito, Lisa Palmigiano, Judy Gallucci, Ineza Venturis, Chris Wagner, Pat McDonald, Corrine Connelly, Mary Ellen Olmstead.

The exhibit can be viewed by the public until early May.



Cheryl Rosolowski is dwarfed by the flourishing plant that decorates the resource center.

Nazareth Boasts Botanical Wonder

A tree grows in Nazareth Academy's English Resource room. Back in 1960, an eight-inch schefflera plant, with several other plants, moved into room 212. Some grew, others died — but the schefflera kept growing and growing. It outgrew the planter, survived an insect attack and today it stands seven feet, measures five-foot across, and has a leaf span of 30 inches.

The tree is a conversation piece and serves as a natural divider between two sections of the study area. Students who have been asking Sister

Victoria what she would do when it reached the ceiling (cut a hole?), had their answer recently when it did reach that height. Sister found a very low stool which gave it another foot of space to expand.

The schefflera plant, commonly called an umbrella tree, was named for the 18th Century botanist, J.C. Scheffler. It is a tropical plant and a native of Australia. Nazareth's schefflera is looking around for a new owner — someone who will take time to spray and wipe its leaves and someone who has a high-ceilinged home to offer it.

Speaking Out

By Thomas Rickey DeSales

There is something going on right under our noses that nobody wants to deal with. Everyone in this country seems to be preoccupied with issues like Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, but they don't realize what our own country is coming to. The issues I refer to are abortion and euthanasia. Before you say, just another letter on abortion perhaps you had better read it.

I have seen on a CBS evening news the plight of a certain elderly man discussed. It seems he was not in the best physical and mental health but his nurses

signed a document saying he does know who he is, what he wants, and what he has done in his past life. Despite this, his relatives want to take him off his kidney machine and "let him die with dignity." The fact is, the man never expressed any wish to have his life shortened so he could "die with dignity." In fact, when the nurses asked him if he wanted to die, he gave them a definite "no." But his relatives don't like to see him as just a shadow of his former self.

Do you believe it? Well you had better because it is happening right now in this country. A living human being with physical and mental capabilities is in danger because there are those who don't like what they see. Has the time come when one person can kill another just because the

person is an inconvenience?

I am convinced that the ancient tribes were much more civilized than our "progressive" nation when it comes to respecting human life. Maybe all those in nursing homes can be killed; then come the retarded, the cripples, the paralyzed, those under six feet, and those with IQs under 150. The concept is the same: "They're not up to our standards, so let's get rid of them."

These facts also hold true for abortion. The fact has been established, I emphasize established, that a fetus is not a fetus but a human being. The pro-abortionists asked for brainwaves at a certain number of weeks; they received brainwaves at a certain number of weeks. They asked for a heart beat

at a certain number of weeks. They received a heart beat at a certain number of weeks. But these selfish people just refuse to accept the fact that it is a live human being that they are killing. It has been established in every possible way, but some people look at the person as "just an inconvenience" of which they want to rid themselves.

Polls show that the majority of Americans are against abortion and euthanasia. It is a minority that has the politicians at their mercy. I urge every single person who is against what I have mentioned to let your views be known. Write your congressman, the courts, write the newspapers, write the President. It's time the silent majority became a vociferous majority and straightened this craziness out.