#### COURIER- KOURNAL





# Dad's Night

Junior Colleen Jones and her sister Kathy, a freshman, enjoy St. Agnes' recent father-daughter dinner dance with their father Wynn Jones. The event was sponsored by the Student Senate.

#### Wittman Attends Seminar

Susan Wittman, a student at Cardinal Mooney, par-ticipated in the New York State Leadership Seminar in conjunction with the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation, held at Grand Island. Sixtythree students attended to explore and understand America's Incentive System.

Each years since 1958, the Foundation has sponsored a series of International Youth Leadership Seminars, selecting two high school sophomores, a boy and girl, from each state, who show leadership abilities. They learn to utilize their capabilites for leadership by sharing with their community their knowledge, enthusiasm and



youthful energy. Seminars are being held in 39 states this vear.

### **Mercy Award Winners**

Our Lady of Mercy High School announced scholarship awards to the incoming freshman class. Maria Gerace of Bay Trail Middle School and Holy Spirit parish is the recipient of the William J. Stolze Scholarship. Maria will receive \$400 a year for each of her years at Mercy.

Other winners are: Katherine Cobb, St. Joseph, Assumption parish; Karen Paul, St. Jerome; Stephanie Foote, Bay Trail, St. Joseph parish; Patricia Cahill, Our Lady of Lourdes; Peggy Fuller, St. Anne, Lutheran

Church of Good Shepherd; Karen Gramza, Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Mary Jo Kennelly, St. Rita; Karen Paradies, St. Louis; Jennifer Roberts, Johanna, Perrin School, Assumption parish.

The Harry C. Walsh Memorial Scholarship Award went to Ellen Shields, Bloomfield Central, St. Mary's parish, Canandaigua. Alumnae scholarships went to Kimberly Manigan, St. Ambrose, and Eileen Mc-Mahon, Our Lady of Good. Council.

# **SAT Testing Under Fire** By Joan M. Smith

In an Atlantic Monthly article, (Feb., 1980), "How Fair are College Boards," author James Fallows mentioned a friend who revealed how crushed he had been when back in high school he only scored in the mid-300s on his Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Despite the setback, however, he managed to attend college on his swimming skills and is now a noted analyst and writer.

This feeling of failure engendered by the emphasis put on the barrage of selective tests has been increasing over the years. Fallows went on to-• write that he hasn't met a high school student who doesn't take the tests as a measure of "smart" he is, and that how the SAT test has become a peer measuring device. This' along with the fact that the college boards are a powerhouse in determining a student's future educational opportunities has surrounded with controversy the PSAT, SAT; Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and dozens of smaller examinations, and the organization that writes, scores and controls most of them - the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey (ETS).

Educators, social organizations, and students are questioning the fairness of such exams; do they identify the "best and brightest," or merely the expensively educated? are they a true measure of individual student canabilities?

At the National Conference. on Testing held in. Washington, D.C., last November, the ETS came up against heavy criticism. James Loewen, sociologist. from. Catholic University Center of National Policy Review commented, "Standardized tests are the greatest single barrier to equal opportunity.'

Gerda Steele of the NAACP explained that the SATs were being used from the cradle to the grave, "to select, reject, stratify, classify and sort people.

Terry Herndon, executive director of the National Education Association, zeroed in on the fact that ninety

million lives have been affected by the data collected by ETS and that the organization is unaccountable to the political, educational, and legal communities.

ETS, of course, is not standing still for such criticism. It has been in existence for over 30 years and its members take pride in their contributions to the American educational system. William Angoff, ETS vice president, who was raised in Boston' tenements, and who through family support at-tended Boston Latin School and Harvard, and then made a career in psychometrics, considers the tests a friend of American society at all levels.

"It (SAT) certainly has been boon to people like me. It picks out people because of their individual likelihood to succeed.

It is the oldest of these tests, (the SAT), that ETS takes special pride in. It was first administered in 1926. Before then, all college boards had been essay tests, but after that first SAT the essay exam and multiple-choice SAT coexisted until World War II when the essay test was dropped.

The testing battle is a complex one and promises to be a long one. New arguments have arisen involving testcoaching feasibility, and the fact that ETS has made ac-

Equal Time

NANCY CASWELL

Junior

drama club

"I suppose the tests are necessary but there

has to be a better alter-

native to them because

they don't reflect your

individual achievements.

they tend to symbolize

income status. I think a

something to go on."

SUSAN D'AGOSTINO

Junior

cheerleader

"I don't think they are a fair way to decide

if a student is to be ac-

cepted in a college. The test

is really hard and it's not

good to have the pressure.

It is not a good way to

decide if you are a good

nationwide regents test

the different levels of

would be fairer because of

student or not. A

educational opportunities of people.'

"I think they're fair for the colleges

**ANNE GEHAN** 

Sophomore

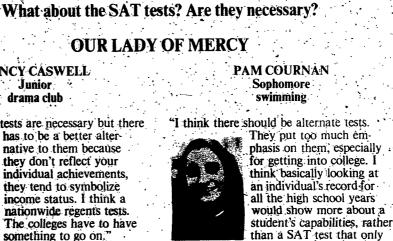
soccer

nationwide regents tests.

The colleges have to have

cusations of student cheating in cases where a retaken test has produced a greater score increase. Also, New York State's "truth in testing" legislation, allowing students to receive corrected answer sheets and complete text booklets a few months after taking the test is none too popular with the pro-testers. And while this controversy goes on, students and their educational futures hang in the balance. They are, however, aware of an important factor: the pressures of the tests, along with the knowledge that the score result greatly controls their educational aspirations, can make even the "best and brightest" choke on the exam.

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#### LYNN GAUTHIER Sophomore varsity basketball

takes three hours.

"I think they are unfair. I don't think one

test should reflect a student's capabilities. It should be based on individual tests. A lot of kids\* get scared and perhaps won't do well on the SAT. A lot of kids are good students but cuoke undertest pressure. A national regents test, geared to every class of people wouldn't be so biased."

> COLLEEN McCALLUM Sophomore . horsebackriding

"I think that they're good - colleges need the results. If you can't do



### Art Watchers

Freshmen Donna Catone and Kathy Buckley take a breather from classes to survey the artwork submitted by BK students for the school's annual Spring Art Show,

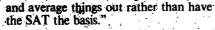
them because they want the academ c achievers, especially the competitive campuses, but hey are unfair to the student who has to take them. They may have done well in the four years of high school

because it is difficult for

and then because of the pressure they could blow it, and that would mean-not getting into the chool they want. But I don't see an alternative because there has to be a nationwide testing program of some kind.'

> **MAUREEN BYRNE** Sophomore swimming

"I think they are good but they put too much pressure on the student. I think colleges put too much emphasis on the SAT and it's not fair to people who don't do well on the tests because of the pressure. I'm scared to take them. I think colleges should look more at the overall high school years



well on the SAT how would you do in college especially if you want to be a professional like a doctor, or lawyer? I think the students taking the Standardized Tests should remember that it's not the only thing the colleges look

at, and they should try to do well all through high school for good marks so that they have an overall good record."

#### MARY BETH MADIGAN 🗧 Junior

against low income people because they don't have the opportunities for being exposed to what is on the tests. Also there is no way you can study for the test. Colleges should look at individual records, or maybe there should be something like a national regents exam."

'They are unfair and they're discriminatory.