

Joan M. Smith, Editor



McQuaid Stages Wilder

Henry (Mike Knight), Sabina (Janet Fanale), Mr. Antrobus (Mark Regan), and Gladys (Sue Anderson) share a moment of family warmth, as students from McQuaid, St. Agnes, and Our Lady of Mercy rehearse for McQuaid's Fall show, "The Skin of Our Teeth." The play will be presented in the St. Agnes auditorium, East River Blvd., Oct. 23, 24, 25. The presentation, which also stars Kathleen O'Heaney, is directed by Father William O'Malley.



Photo by Joan M. Smith

Beanie Day

Modeling their prize possessions, the senior beanies, are St. Agnes seniors Susan Raisoton, class co-president who is holding Chubbie, a gift from the sophomores; Peg Marchand, co-president who is adjusting her hat in the mirror that was a gift from the juniors; Ann Feller; Theresa Foley (behind Chubbie); Meg McBride, Kathy Lynd, and Chris Cellintani.

Speaking Out

By Jim McGuire
McQUAID

At the end of September, the Catholic Film Office closed once and for all. And it marked the end of an era for both Catholic and non-Catholic film goers. More important than the closing are the questions raised about censorship by it. Should things head the way they have for the past five or 10 years, with continuing loosening of the moral standards for movies and TV? Should there be a complete turn-around to total censorship or book burning? And, finally, is the system we now use working?



First of all, I will be dealing with movies because this is an area where censorship can be easily seen, and it is based on a system we are all familiar with. The Catholic Film Office (although it was originally called the Catholic Legion of Decency) had been publishing a bi-weekly review of films since 1935. Up until the late 50s, the Office's ratings of films had been extremely important. A film was tabbed either A-1 (suitable for general audiences), A-2 (morally unobjectionable for adults), B (objectionable in part for all), or the then dreaded C (condemned). At one time, a rating of C meant certain financial disaster for a movie. Until 1953, no major motion picture had made a profit with a C-rating. Also, until 1968, there existed the Production Code Ad-

ministration which was a self-censoring agency in Hollywood, also capable of condemning a film. In 1968, the PCA was replaced by the G, PG, R, and X system still in use today. But this system has nowhere near the impact of the Catholic Office, with today's major money making films generally being rated PG or R.

This leads to the question of what should be censored. In its early days, the Legion of Decency was the most powerful form of censorship. It didn't actually tell a filmmaker what he could or couldn't put in a movie. But the filmmaker always had the condemned rating hanging over his head, and with that rating his film was doomed to failure. So filmmakers practiced their own self-censorship in order to avoid the C rating. With

today's new system there is, practically speaking, no censorship. Since X-rated movies are now capable of drawing crowds and making money, many moviemakers strive for its rating.

An X rating generally means pornography but what about a film like "Midnight Cowboy" that received an X rating but still managed to win an Oscar in 1971? Certainly the goal of this film was artistic, but it was arbitrarily decided that its content was not suitable for someone under 21 years of age. More recently, films like "Cruising" and "Dressed to Kill" have received R ratings (the latter was originally rated X but was re-edited) despite the outcries of much of the public. Theoretically, with an R rating, no one under 17 is admitted without a parent or

guardian. But in actuality, if you are 12 or 13 and willing to shell out the four bucks, they'll generally let you into see these movies. This means that a 12-year-old can easily go see a movie that might deserve an X rating.

How can these problems be solved? One solution would be an all-out war on sex and violence in films. But then it becomes a question of what is and isn't art. "The Deer Hunter," which is the most violent film I've seen, shouldn't (in my opinion) be banned from being shown. This is because the purpose of this movie was not violence for the sake of violence, but instead it was trying to show the effects of the Vietnam War on a group of people. The film had an obvious purpose. But many other movies walk

the-tightrope between art and exploitation, and there are always going to be various opinions on them.

Instead of more censorship, I have another idea. I think the rating system should be kept but should become more specific and enforced more strictly. For instance, a movie could receive an R rating with another letter code (such as "V" for violence, "S" for sex, and "P" for profanity), citing the specific objections to it. This system would, of course, be subject to opinion, but that is unavoidable. At least it would give movie-goers, and parents of movie-goers, a better idea of what to expect in a movie. And it would avoid a high degree of censorship which I don't think we can afford.



NHS Members

St. Agnes students were inducted into the school's National Honor Society Oct. 7. Receiving their pins from Kathleen Lilly, president (on left), and Shari Stappenbeck, secretary (right), are Margaret Crowley and Lori Livecchi. Other new members included: Pamela Agliata, Elizabeth Arthur, Suzanne Blake, Theresa Campaniello, Barbara Felton, Heidi Foerg, Elizabeth Frederick, Janette Huck, Kathleen Przybycien, and Angelique Schneider. Ann Trunfio is the NHS vice president, and Mrs. Margaret Kayser along with Mrs. Marguerite Manning serve as moderators.

Visitors To Tour Aquinas

On Monday night, Oct. 27, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Aquinas Institute will open its doors to prospective freshmen students and their parents. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria during the course of the evening.

To assist the visitors, Aquinas student guides will be on hand. The visitors will also hear the Aquinas Band, view educational displays, and inspect the athletic facilities. The school administration, guidance personnel, and faculty will be available to answer questions.

Father Joseph Moffatt, CSB, principal, has said that "the open house is of great significance. We want the 8th grader and his parents to experience and examine Aquinas — to gain a feeling for our 50 years plus tradition of overall excellence."



Great Success!

Our Lady of Mercy High School reached its super goal magazine drive goal of \$40,000. Helping in the effort were top salesgirls: sophomore Barbara Wilmot (\$612.32); and juniors Debbie Shaughnessy (380.46), Ellen Winterkorn (\$341.95). Sophomore Lynette Allis won honorable mention with her sales of \$340.15. Top homeroom in sales was freshmen homeroom 304. They win a Coke and pizza party.