

Joan M. Smith, Editor



# Facing the Drug Scene

By Joan M. Smith

The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Seminar, presented during Our Lady of Mercy's Youth Unlimited Day a few weeks ago, drew a full house. Students gathered to hear Lt. Dan Wright from the Youth Bureau of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department explain the facts, causes, and effects of drug use.



LT. WRIGHT

Drugs are nothing new. Their use and abuse predates recorded history, and Lt. Wright noted that regardless of today's naive thinking to the contrary, there is a drug problem. Drugs, he declared, are in every town, they infiltrate schools, homes, and lead to crime involvement.

At the time RapAround sat in on the conference,

marijuana was being discussed. Although several states have minimized the penalty for possessing small amounts of the drug and there is movement to remove all legal restrictions to its use, the drug is still illicit. Lt. Wright brought this home to his

audience by stating that if two persons were caught exchanging (either giving or selling) a marijuana joint, the offense would be criminal possession in the fifth degree.

The crime element also comes in when a habit has been formed and there aren't the financial resources to keep up with it. Wright told his listeners that a marijuana joint ranged in street price from fifty cents to \$1.50, depending on its quality. If a person has developed a habit of 10 joints a day, marijuana becomes an expensive habit, especially for young adults who have limited funds. The money, then, is obtained in other ways: by the user either by selling his or her possessions, taking items from the family to sell, or purse-snatching and shoplifting.

There are many reasons for drug use and Lt. Wright touched on a few like the breakdown of home life. "We've gone from an extended family," he said, "to a

nuclear one where parents don't seem to have time for their children and children don't have time for their parents. Everyone is doing his own thing."

Another reason he pointed out was, "Everyone wants to be part of a group." This peer pressure syndrome has been emphasized by many professionals dealing with the young adult drug problem. In a recent article in "Families" magazine, Robert L. DuPont, president of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) was quoted as saying, "The single main determinant of whether a particular young person uses drugs like marijuana is whether or not his best friend uses it."

But whether drugs are used to soften family problems, acquiesce to peer pressure, fight stress and depression, or just for pleasure, they are on the scene. Realizing this is the first line of defense against the personal and social havoc they cause.

## Comedy Time

The Aquinas Drama Club will present Woody Allen's "Don't Drink the Water," Nov. 21, 22, 23, 8 p.m. The cast, under the direction of Mrs. Kathy Lynd, includes students from Nazareth Academy, St. Agnes High School, and Aquinas. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the night of the performances. Admission is \$2.



## Welcome to Open House

Ready to serve at the St. Agnes Open House, Nov. 23, 7-9 p.m., are Amy Poppoon, Patricia Gudonis, and Ann Trunfio. Exhibits and demonstrations will include the performing arts, academic, business and home economics courses; senate activities; and human development action.

## Spanish Interlude

Nazareth Academy played host to 800 area school students Oct. 29 for a professional musical program, "Espana Canta," performed on the school's stage. The troupe, the Boston Flamenco Ballet, has been touring the country for the past seven years.

The program consisted of La Tuna, songs and musical pieces that were done by university students of medieval Spain. Dressed in colorful student costumes of the 13th Century, the troupe serenaded the audience with several love songs, and songs about student life; the second half of the program featured Flamenco — the traditional Spanish dance.

According to Sister Magdalena Kellner and Mrs. Sally McMahan, who coordinated the arrangements, the songs, dances and dialogue were authentic and accurately reflected Spanish culture.



Ted Smith, Mike Garland, Mack Hobson (class of '65), and George Morgan put Shadow Day to good use.



## Journalists at Work

Recently, roles were reversed for RapAround. Used to firing questions at students, Joan M. Smith, RapAround editor, was on the other side of the fence when interviewed by Mercians from Mrs. Julia Palma's journalism class. Mrs. Palma decided on this type of program to give her students experience in conducting interviews. The young journalists not only knew their job but were prepared with a concise and to-the-point line of questioning that earmarks professional reporting.

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## McQuaid Action Days

Last month, members of the McQuaid senior class participated in a new experience — Shadow Day. While the underclassmen were taking the NEDT and PSAT tests, the seniors were shadowing McQuaid alumni in the Rochester community to see what they do during a normal day. The day was designed to help the seniors form a realistic picture of what might be career options for them.

Many of McQuaid's alumni generously volunteered to share their days with the seniors. According to school sources, this first Shadow Day was a success and the students who participated in it thought it a unique, interesting, and informative experience.

Hats, clash, class, and black and gold. What do these

things have in common? They were all part of McQuaid's recent Spirit Week sponsored by the Student Government to raise school spirit. Monday was hat day. Spirit-filled students wore every type of chapeau from McQuaid baseball caps to sombreros to fire helmets. On Tuesday, three-piece suits (and even a few tuxes) filled the halls for

"Dress-up Day." Wednesday was zany "Clash Day." Stripes, plaids, checks, polka dots, bright greens, yellows and blues are all very nice — but on one person? The object of Thursday's "School Colors Day" was for students to wear black and gold. Friday was "Dress Down Day." A pep rally rounded out the week's events.

## PATON Sale

According to a Nazareth Academy news release, the school at 1001 Lake Ave., will be bursting its seams with good buys this Saturday and Sunday at the garage sale sponsored by the Parents and Teachers of Nazareth. It will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 22 and noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 23. Items for sale are now being collected. If you have donations to contribute, call the school office (458-8583) during the day for directions on where to drop

off things. If you have items to be picked up, call Chuck Swartz, chairman (458-5266).

## Active December

The Bishop Kearney Parent's Club is sponsoring a Tureen Supper, Dec. 4, and a "Santa's Cupboard" sale on Dec. 6. Members are also coordinating plans for an International Night Dinner Dance for Dec. 31.