

Magis Around Magis Around

Joan M. Smith, Editor

# Facing Reality Gives McQuaid Young Adults Pause for Thought

By Joan M. Smith

You are a typical teenager, going to school, playing sports, thinking college, joining organizations. Then suddenly you are confronted with a not-so-pleasant reality.

Perhaps you've always been subconsciously aware of the disabled. You've seen them on buses or in the downtown stores. Now, however, you are facing those who are mentally retarded, or suffering from cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and are offering them your help. Your first reaction? Shock, said student members of the McQuaid Magis program, who volunteer at the Monroe Developmental Center.

It is through the Magis program, headed by Father Lawrence Wroblewski, that the upperclassmen are able to offer their services to community service facilities like the Al Sigl Center, the School of the Holy Childhood and MDC. Last week, for the Courier-Journal's Focus on the Handicapped issue, RapAround accompanied a few of the members on their rounds at MDC.

In talking with Tom Considine, Mark Cooper, Tim

Shanahan, Scott Fairchild, Steve Melroy, Chris Okley, and Mark Bradshaw about their first experiences, emotions other than shock surfaced. Chris mentioned being nervous and afraid while Scott said that at first he didn't know how to react. According to the boys, these emotions disappear within a few months as a rapport is established with the clients. The rapport was evident as we walked down the bright halls last Tuesday. Many of the clients waved to the volunteers, others smiled, and others greeted the boys by touching their arms.

Steve, Scott, and Tim work in the pool area where they help with the physical therapy sessions. Chris's duties take him to the library where he aids clients with their learning skills. Tom, Mark Bradshaw and Mark Cooper spend time in the gym with their clients, helping with motor coordination by coaxing them to walk or roll a ball. Communication is done mostly through hand signals and voice tones, and it is amazing to see the patience with which the volunteers manage to decipher client needs.

Patience is a key quality in volunteering, along with the ability to resist discouragement. The boys sometimes find it frustrating when after spending hours teaching a person a certain thing they have to repeat the process the following week.

"There are days," said Steve, "when you feel you haven't accomplished a lot, but then there's the times when you receive the smiles and the laughter — that's the satisfaction."

And according to Mark

Bradshaw the satisfaction is worth it, "especially when the kids respond to what you're teaching them."

This gratification from volunteer work and the opportunity to live as Christ taught were the reasons the students joined Magis. The added commitment increased already busy schedules. Steve and Scott hold down jobs and play intramural sports. Tom plays soccer and Mark Cooper has performed in various McQuaid stage productions. Mark Bradshaw is chairman of the intramural sports program, along with being a writer for the Lance (newspaper), and an associate editor for the Accolade (yearbook).

Their experiences with the disabled have made them aware of certain facts. "How lucky I am," said Scott, and the realization by Steve that there is prejudice against the disabled. He talked about incidents where proposed neighborhood centers for the handicapped have been blocked by residents. "People," he said, "say they want to help but when it means bringing them into their community it's a different story."

In an MDC pamphlet it is said, "Volunteers are important to help our clients live life as close as possible to the norms and patterns of society. . . . Volunteers are people who can offer experiences no one else can provide. . . . And according to Mrs. Mary Bryant, MDC Volunteer Services director, the McQuaid boys do just that. "They add a lot of life to the Center," she said. "The clients look forward to seeing them."



An important therapeutic task of those who work at MDC is to keep the clients physically active. Above, Mark Bradshaw and Mark Cooper work with clients Jim Montesano and Willie Patton.



Taking time out to relax after their duties are Tom, Steve, Scott, Mark Bradshaw, Mark Cooper and Chris, with Mrs. Bryant in the background.

SEPTEMBER IS COMING

Registration for incoming freshmen will be held 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 10 and Wednesday, March 11, at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road. At this time, schedules will be made out, language curriculum discussed, uniforms fitted, book forms filled out and fees collected.

## On The Go

**BISHOP KEARNEY**  
 Wednesday, March 4 — Ash Wednesday liturgy.  
 Thursday, March 5 — PAX Day for freshmen boys.  
 Friday, March 6 — Acceptance letters mailed to 8th graders.  
 Saturday, March 7 — Painting party.  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Parents' Club mailing; PAX Day for sophomore girls, A-103.  
**CARDINAL MOONEY**  
 Wednesday, March 4 — Women's Guild Board meeting.  
 Friday, March 6 — Acceptance letters mailed to 8th grade students.  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Freshmen boys' retreat.  
 Wednesday, March 11 — Freshmen girls' retreat; Men's Guild meeting.

**DeSALES**  
 Wednesday, March 4 — School Mass, 8:30 a.m.; distribution of ashes.  
 Monday, March 9 — Board of Trustees meeting, 7:30 p.m.; magazine drive ends.  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Interim student reports.  
 Wednesday, March 11 — School Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Class Retreat Day; International Club Dinner, 6-9 p.m.  
**McQUAID**  
 Wednesday, March 4 — Dismissal, 1:28 p.m.; faculty meeting, 1:45 p.m.  
 Thursday, March 5 — Report cards issued; "Oklahoma" at St. Agnes auditorium, 8 p.m.  
 Friday, March 6 — Acceptances mailed to 8th graders; "Oklahoma" at St.

Agnes auditorium, 8 p.m.  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Penance service, 9:35 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
**NAZARETH**  
 Thursday, March 5 — Exams due from department heads; PATON meeting, rm. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
 March 9-13 — Music in Our Schools Week.  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Math Association of America exam, 8:15-10 a.m.  
 Wednesday, March 11 — Class meetings; Alumane Board meets, rm. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
**OUR LADY OF MERCY**  
 Friday, March 6 — Acceptances mailed out and scholarships announced to 8th graders.  
 Monday, March 9 — Board of Governors meeting, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11 — Freshman registration; CAM, CSMC, SGA meetings, 3 p.m.  
 March 11-14 — Children's Theater presents "Pecora the Witch."  
**ST. AGNES**  
 Thursday, March 5 — Aerobics, 7:15 p.m.; McQuaid play, "Oklahoma," 8 p.m.  
 Friday, March 6 — Lent assembly, 1:30 p.m.; acceptance letters sent out; "Oklahoma," 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 7 — "Oklahoma," 8 p.m.  
 March 9-13 — Music in the Schools Week.  
 Tuesday, March 10 — Freshman registration; freshman orientation; Girls' Athletic Association baked food sale; aerobics, 7:15 p.m.



KATIE

### A TV Star

Our Lady of Mercy senior Katie Lartique has made her debut on local TV by appearing in commercials for Wegman's Supermarkets. She has become famous for her smile as she lifts the grocery bag over the check-out counter. The commercials have been aired over the past two months.

## Teen Workshop To Begin March 28

A workshop for adults who work with teenagers begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 28 at Holy Name Parish in Greece. The workshop, a series of "mini-training sessions" will include youth workers from Greece Youth Services, the Center for Youth Services, the Catholic Youth Organization and Sister Christine Lloyd, Youth Minister at St. Michael's, Seneca Falls, on evangelization. The workshop, sponsored by the Simple Christian Rogues, is \$5 per person. For reservations those interested may contact Frank Payne, 225-5840; Marilyn Bennett, 621-6342; Frank DiSano, 342-0130 or Barb Ziemniak, 663-3230.

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