

RAP AROUND

Joan M. Smith, Editor

After the 'I Do's,' What Then?

By Joan M. Smith

It used to mean just a walk down the aisle into that mythical "live happily ever after" marriage. But during the last two decades, such happy beginnings began ending in divorce more often than not, until now, according to national statistics, three out of every five marriages end in divorce.

This sad reality has produced a surge in pre-marriage preparations. And where once marriage was never a common item in the school curriculum, today's Catholic high school student is being informed about it and what to expect after the wedding day glow has dissolved.

Norman Lerner, Cardinal Mooney Theology instructor who teaches the school's marriage course, likes to describe marriage to his students as "more like beer and dandelions than champagne and roses."

It is this easy sense of humor and "because he conducts the class informally," said a student, "that makes it comfortable."

"We're going in the right direction," Lerner said about the marriage courses offered in the high schools. In his 19 years of teaching, the last nine

at Mooney, he has seen a swing back to marriage as a desirable lifestyle and the family as being considered the important thing. He tells his students that within 10 years 80 percent of them will be married and 50 percent will have families. Lerner hopes that in 10 years they will realize how important the marriage course was to them.

The course, which is a senior elective, deals with the emotional and psychological aspects of marriage and the problems and conflicts which can arise regarding religion, finances, in-laws, children, and communication which Lerner says is a big problem. Also, guest speakers are invited to class and on this year's agenda are an adoption agency representative, a gynecologist, and a priest. Recently, Sandy and Norman Pawlak from Natural Family Planning (NFP) were on hand for a two-day session during which they discussed the Church-approved birth control method as well as their marriage experiences. Their down-to-earth presentation allowed the students to comfortably ask questions.

"Do you think people are afraid to use the NFP method?" asked one student.

"I definitely was," answered

Pawlak. "I had no faith in it," but then went on to explain that after correct instruction and using it over a period of time, "a gradual trust built up."

"How effective is the method?" asked another.

"Ninety-nine point four percent, with proper instruction and motivation," the Pawlaks answered.

"What about the abstinence?"

"Depends on the attitude," replied Pawlak who said abstinence could be described as a "courting stage into a honeymoon stage."

Both Pawlaks agreed that marriage isn't something that happens just one day — it has to be worked at and the romance rekindled. "Marriage should be a friendship," they said, and, like Lerner, emphasized the need for communication.

"If you can talk about things," said Pawlak, "you can handle anything."

The Pawlaks' program was presented really well, said senior Janet Smith who, speaking for her fellow classmates, said that through the marriage course they have learned "that marriage is a bigger responsibility than most of us thought it was."



Sandy and Norm Pawlak answering questions about marriage.



Officers Elected

After a week of nominations, campaigns and speeches, the Nazareth Academy freshman class elected their leaders. Accepting their official duties are: Mena Paternoster, secretary; Heather Anderson, vice president; Marilyn Lombardi, president; Corrine Glavin, treasurer. Sisters Donna Marie Cucci and Rita Jongen are class moderators.

Stagemanship Promotes Sales

Time: 1:30 p.m., Oct. 23, 1981.

Setting: Emergency entrance to St. Agnes General Hospital.

Situation: Maggie Magazine is dying. The cause is that her magazine subscriptions and renewals have run out. Rose Telly of Telly's Diner is by Maggie's side and asks what she can do to aid her. The answer: renew or sell \$25,000 worth of magazines. Rose cannot possibly do this alone, so senior doctors, junior patients, sophomore

townspeople and the freshmen nurses are called in to help.

No, not a scene from the popular soap opera General Hospital, but the opening scene of the St. Agnes annual magazine drive rally. Since that day, through stiff competition in sales, the drive brought in \$26,753.53 with 90 percent of the students having participated.

High sellers were: Ana Alomar, senior, with \$894.29; Mary Crowley, junior, \$884.37; Theresa Mayer, \$435.63; Mrs. Mylius, \$302.98, and Betsy McTurk, \$291.99.

Junior 205 was top home-room bringing in 160 percent of its quota. The junior and senior class shared the first place spot in sales.

Submitted by Monique Cirelli

Nationally Recognized

Father Joseph Moffatt, principal of Aquinas, has announced the five seniors being commended by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Letters of commendation will be presented to Karl Gebhardt, Michael Kolozvary, Timothy O'Connor, Kevin O'Kane, and Michael Saba. They placed among the top 51,000 participants in the current competition.

A spokesman for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) stated, "To be designated a commended student is an outstanding attainment, deserving of public recognition. The nation will benefit from the continued education of these students."

Sharing Through Sacrifice

This Friday, members of the Religious Studies classes at Nazareth Academy are doing something about world hunger. They are giving up food for the day. They will be joining many others around the country in Oxfam America's Fast for a World Harvest. The food money saved will be donated to help support Oxfam America's community development projects around the world.

"We're organizing the fast at Nazareth for two reasons," said Sister Kathleen Weider.

"First, we want to give the students here a chance to make a personal commitment to the hungry of the world. Second, contributing food money is a simple and direct way of sharing some of our resources with people in Latin America, Asia, and Africa."

The Fast for a World Harvest began in 1974 and is held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. Last year more than 2,000 groups participated in the fast and donated \$400,000. Among the people to be helped through this year's fast are health

workers in Nicaragua, refugees in the Horn of Africa and in El Salvador, village women in India, rice farmers in Cambodia and vegetable growers in Mozambique.

For more information about participating in the fast, call Sister Kathleen Weider at 254-1325, or at 458-3443.

Winner

Julie Castelluzzo, a student at DeSales, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Nov. 4.



Winner's Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Bishop Kearney during Big/Little Sisters Day. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Nov. 24, to receive \$5.



Sue Kesselring as Elaine Harper and Dave as Mortimer Brewster rehearse their lines in "Arsenic and Old Lace."

On Stage at BK

"Arsenic and Old Lace" will be performed this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20-21, at Bishop Kearney High School. Playing the leads are sophomore Sue Palmer as Abby Brewster; senior Roma Koba as Martha Brewster; and seniors David Zumchak as Mortimer Brewster and

Joseph Lanzafame who will portray Jonathan Brewster.

The production, under the direction of Sister Evelyn Marie Carlin, is being stage managed by Brother Cavanaugh with Brother Kabot handling ticket sales.

Strong in Leadership

Lisa Buda, a senior at Cardinal Mooney High School, has been named the top Century III leader among the school's seniors. She is now eligible to compete with other local winners around the state for one of two \$1,500 scholarships and all-expense-paid trip to the national Century III Leaders Conference, March 5-8, in Williamsburg, Virginia. State winners will compete for

additional scholarships. Runner-up in the competition was Lynn Bell, senior.

Lisa is an honors student, a member of the National Honor Society, and has received several achievement awards. She was judged on the basis of leadership skills, school and community involvement, and a current events examination. She also wrote a short essay on a particular issue which

challenges America in its third century.

The Century III Leaders program is designed to bring together and recognize student leaders who show both strong leadership abilities and an interest in the future of America. The organization is sponsored and administered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and funded by the Shell Oil Company.

"Yes, I do



are worth they wou

"No, bec



becomin retaliatic nothing

"Yes, I



young:

"Yes, b



And

The A coachin 10-2 re Walthu and M Warre Whela Brian Chris Smith.