

# RAP AROUND

Joan M. Smith, Editor

## An Exchange of Cultures Possible through Education

By Joan M. Smith

Dependence on the automobile was the one obstacle that linked two people from opposite sides of the world. Both Simone Oestreich from Bimbach, West Germany, and Isabel Mariana Arostegui from the Dominican Republic, who are attending classes at Our Lady of Mercy High School, said they found not having a car made it difficult for them to get around. Not so in their respective homelands. Simone comes from a small town, population 25,000, where everything is within walking distance. Isabel, from a much larger city, Santo Domingo, said there are at least three to four movie theaters within walking distance of her home and that most places are easily accessible by public transportation.

Other than this difficulty, however, Simone and Isabel have quickly settled into American school life even though they have only been here since early Fall. A reason for their quick assimilation is their command of English, a language that is a required subject in both their countries, and as in Isabel's case, is French. Both girls were quick to note the advantage of American students being able to choose elective subjects to complement their curriculum. In both West Germany and the Dominican Republic the school chooses all subjects.

Simone, who will be a high school junior when she returns to Bimbach, is taking sociology and journalism and has put her journalism learning to work in an article about the West German educational system for Mercy's newspaper "The Quill."

Isabel, who is taking math and English courses, will enroll in a Dominican Republic university for computer engineering. "It's the future," she answered when asked why she became interested in computers, and



Simone and Isabel.

besides, she added "I like math and logic."

The girls agreed that the teenagers in their countries watch as much TV as American teenagers but Simone said she found her peers in West Germany more politically aware of what is going on in the world than the youth in the U.S. What else had she discovered about

American teenagers? "They are nice, very free, and uncomplicated to be with" she replied.

While attending Mercy, Simone is staying with her sister who lives in Rochester, and Isabel is residing with Dr. and Mrs. William Dermody whose daughter Beth also attends Mercy.

## AQ Gives Musical Notes

A musical gift for the public's listening pleasure has been prepared by the Aquinas Institute band. At 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, the band will present its Christmas concert in the school auditorium, 1127 Dewey Ave. Admission is free.

The musical treat will open with "Pop Go the Classics" a medley of familiar melodies including Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, Mozart's Symphony No. 4, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, and Rossini's William Tell Overture.

First trumpeters James Tierney, Paul Mahoney and Christian Goetting will entertain with "Sarabanda and Gavotta" by Arcangelo Corelli, and the alto saxes of soloists David Rebolz and John Statt will be featured in "Harlem Nocturne."

Denice Deverell, Jennifer

White, John Liotti and Alberto Mayorga of the clarinet section will introduce the Christmas portion of the concert with "The Christmas Song." "Let's All Sing for Christmas," by Jim Polyhar will include such favorites as "Jingle Bells," "Jolly Old St. Nick," "O Christmas Tree," and "Up on a Housetop." The Aquinas Jazz Ensemble featuring Mike Saia, bass, and pianist Melvin Bryan will play "Charlie McFarley."

## Red Cross At BK

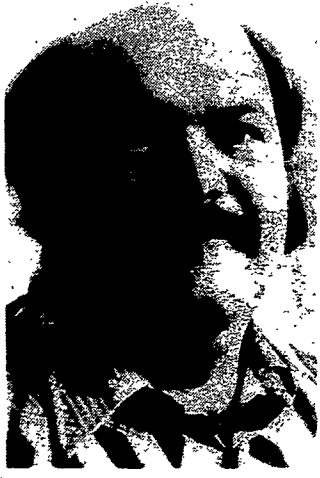
This Friday, Dec. 17, the Red Cross will be at Bishop Kearney for its annual blood drive, under the direction of Mrs. Pat Wyble, the school nurse. Assisting her this year in reaching for the school's goal of 150 pints of blood are senior student coordinators Jackie DeRosa and John Gramlich,

## Reitman Directs BK Music

When Art Reitman isn't on the Bishop Kearney field putting the Marching Kings through their paces he can be found, on occasion, helping in the kitchen of his mother's restaurant in Holley.

Reitman, who is director of the BK music department, is a native of Holley. He attended Holley Central High School, went to Brockport for his undergraduate degree, and obtained his teaching certification from Nazareth College. He is a drum and bugle corps enthusiast having marched with the Holley Hawks Drum and Bugle Corp., and is currently with the Albion Nightwatch Senior Corps. He is no stranger to Bishop Kearney High School where he did his student teaching in 1976 and assisted with the band last year.

His first year as band



ART REITMAN

director, however, has posed some unexpected challenges especially in the travel field. It seems that Murphy's Law ran wild with the BK scheduled Irish trip in March, and Reitman himself said the difficulty was "not really having that much experience in setting up a competition trip." But in true marching fashion,

an about-face was accomplished and if all plans go well, the Marching Kings will be off for a "first" — competition in Hawaii.

The event, sponsored by the World Music Festival Competitions and scheduled for the week of March 25 to April 6, will feature bands from throughout the U.S. The Marching Kings, jazz and concert bands, color guard and twirlers will all be in competition. Reitman said that deadline for those wishing to sign up for the seven-day tour is Jan. 6.

In between coordinating trip plans, keeping the band in competition form, and preparing them for the upcoming Christmas Concert this Friday, Reitman has zeroed in on some goals. One is more participation by the band in New York State Music Association competitions.

## EQUAL TIME

What makes a hero?

### AQUINAS

**MARY NOTHNAGLE**  
Senior  
volleyball manager

"A person who is true to himself and tries to be the best person he can possibly be. Mother Theresa and others who work for others are heroes. The difference between a hero and idol is that an idol is a fake especially in the movies because people see them as the character not as the movie star."



**BILL ROSICA**  
Junior  
forensics

"A hero is someone the kids look up to and he sets the standards for what they want to be. You can attribute a lot of kids' dreams to who they look up to, and the greater the hero the greater the dreams. I would say athletes, within the peer group, are heroes, and internationally I would say Anwar Sadat was a hero."



**JOHN MARRON**  
Junior

"Heroes are those who fulfill the fantasies of the kids — living a life the kids want to live. He's someone who is successful in the eyes of the youth. A lot of people think heroes are those who overcome some obstacle but I don't. There are sport heroes like the members of the American Hockey Team in the Olympics. They made a fantasy come true for the sports fans."



**MONIQUE CERILLI**  
Senior  
Student Council rep

"I think heroes aren't as glorified as they used to be. They are on a more personal level. They are people who have their values and carry them out as well as they can. A hero doesn't have to be famous. A hero can be a mother or a policeman. There's a definite difference between a hero and an idol. An idol lives more of a fantasy while a hero faces the problems."



**MICHAEL CLIFFORD**  
Junior  
forensics

"I think heroes are people who stand up for what they believe in. They won't give up their beliefs. The real heroes are those who do something for what they believe in, like Martin Luther King and John Lennon. Today, heroes are more real rather than the characters like Superman."



**ELLEN LYNCH**  
Senior  
honor roll

"Someone with leadership qualities and a strong personality. I agree there is a difference between a hero and idol but then again people have idols and make heroes out of them. The idols have replaced the hero. There doesn't seem to be the strong characteristics that are required of a hero."



**RICK GERBINO**  
Junior  
Student Council

"Personally, I don't believe in mystical heroes. To me a hero is someone who does something out of the ordinary for others. The president is one, I think, because of his duty to control the country. Idols are more your sports figures and rock stars."



**ALAYNA HILL**  
Senior  
cheerleader

"Strength, courage and intelligence. I don't think so much in the sense of heroes but more of an adult you can look up to — an authority person but one you can relate to. Idols would be more your movie and rock stars."



### 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 Our Lady of Mercy during study hall. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Dec. 21, to receive \$5.