

# Equal Time

Is peer pressure the great influence on teenagers that it is said to be?

**BISHOP KEARNEY**

**KEVIN DELEHANTY**  
Junior  
soccer

"I think it depends on the individual. If teenagers are secure they won't have a tendency to be influenced by their peers. They will make up their own minds. Peer pressure dictates that if you want to belong to a group you have to do what they want, but if they are real friends you can be who you want. I think teenagers are also influenced by parents and their environment."



**JENNIFER PAVIA**  
Freshman

"In a way it is. Peer pressure affects teenagers on how they think because they want to be with the crowd and accepted. Peer pressure can get out of hand by making a person do what he doesn't want to do. It depends on how badly a teenager wants to do his own thing whether or not it is difficult not to go along with the crowd."



**KEVIN CONSUL**  
Freshman  
wrestling

"I think it is an important influence but not to the degree everyone says it is. The way it is depicted it shows it is an everyday occurrence. The peer pressure isn't really that great. I think family life and the way they see their parents, the things they see on TV and the American lifestyles also influence teenagers."



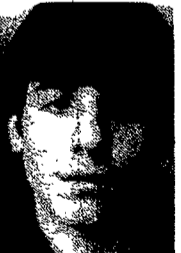
**GAIL LINK**  
Sophomore  
play cast

"If you let peer pressure influence you it will. If you let your life be influenced by other people peer pressure than becomes an important factor. In some ways peer pressure influences your way of thinking and you tend to follow the crowd, but TV and society also influence teenagers' lives. There is some point when people begin to think for themselves. Of course there are those who never do and always will follow others and their ideas."



**JOE GROVANZ**  
Sophomore  
math league

"Teenagers are influenced by their friends, family and relatives. They are influenced more by their peers than they should be, however, especially in school because they want to do more with their friends so they aren't left out. If the peer group is right and not doing anything unlawful peer pressure is all right but sometimes it can get out of hand."



**PATTY LANCER**  
Junior  
color guard

"Peer pressure is a great influence on a teenager's life. Peer pressure can either make or break you. There's good and bad peer pressure and you have to know how to interpret it and have strong values. If a teenager is unstable he will be willing to follow those who influence him in the wrong way. A teenager thinks he can get advice from his peers because he knows they may understand the situation."



# Rap Around

Joan M. Smith, Editor



## 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 Aquinas Institute. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Feb. 21, to receive \$5.

## 306 Has Slogan

According to Jeannine DelVecchio, Aquinas RapAround coordinator, the slogan "I do believe the good Lord loves basketball" appeared on the board of homeroom 306 at the beginning of the basketball season. Homeroom 306 is the domain of Michael Ruff, coach of the boys varsity basketball team. The team includes seniors Tony Lott and Nick Antinarrella; juniors Jeff Budd, Al Pecora and Paul Tuttle, and sophomores Robert Young, Eric Loewenguth, Paul Mancarella, and Dan Palka.

## Winning Streak

Therese Franklin scored 6 points and had 9 rebounds in Our Lady of Mercy's basketball team's most recent 45-14 win over Aquinas. This was the team's third win in as many games. The Monarchs defeated Franklin, 50-33, Feb. 6, and Nazareth Academy 50-19, Feb. 2.

## Speaking Out

**Julie Brooks**  
**OUR LADY OF MERCY**

Recently, there has been much controversy over the New York State Board of Regents call for more difficult standards within our school systems. According to national tests, New York State students fall far below the national average. The State Board of Regents' solution is to form a new teaching curriculum with revised guidelines and harder standards of excellence for students. Many parents and educators are upset with the state's proposals and I believe they have every reason to be. I would not argue the fact that education is an



important part of everyone's life. Without a doubt, too many students are graduating illiterate. The National Commission on Excellence in Education tells in its report, "A Nation at Risk," that in 1982, less than two percent of high school graduates met the full requirements recommended by the commission. Perhaps, but is that really the issue here?

The movement of "back to basics" is a genuine one but shouldn't there be an emphasis on preparing students for survival in the "real world." Shouldn't emphasis be placed on vocational education and programs for the learning disabled? And where does drug and sex education fit into all this?

In a more stringent academic system, when are students going to be

taught to survive in the everyday world? When are they going to be taught to balance a checkbook and read a road map? Too often students, myself included, have been told that we do not truly understand what it is like to be in the "real world" yet. Well, when are we going to learn? Yes, some of the responsibility should be placed on the parents but I would say that while students are growing up they spend more time in their academic settings than they do with their parents.

Balancing a checkbook, reading a road map and other survival tactics should be started when children are beginning to read and learn mathematics.

There are other needs in education that are more important which can not be satisfied by taking more math courses or

learning a foreign language. Of course, it is assumed that anyone who is not "college bound" will go into a vocational training program but as Lester Thruow, economist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently commented, "as the vocational education is currently set up, it is set up for a world that does not exist."

Does it matter that New York State students are not taking enough math and science if they have no way of making a life for themselves? How is making graduation requirements tougher going to curb the school drop-out rate? Where do the learning disabled and those not wishing to pursue a higher education go for help? These are the issues that should be given immediate attention when revising the present school system.

## Strong and Spiwak Are Award Winners

Nazareth Academy seniors Mary Strong and Colleen Spiwak are recipients of tuition scholarships to the University of Dallas, Texas. Colleen received a tuition award of \$1,000 and Mary, \$1,600. The awards were made, according to a school news release, on the basis of a competitive examination which students could take only if they had been invited to do so.

The examination covered student knowledge of English, social studies, mathematics, science and culture. It also included an essay which accounted for

one-half of the test. Both Mary and Colleen have had the college preparatory courses at Nazareth and have participated in several extracurricular activities during their four years. Both girls work at jobs after school and consider themselves, "pretty busy, especially during the school year."

Mary, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Strong of West Brighton, plans to major in biochemistry in college and is interested in major medical research.

Colleen, the daughter of Mrs. Mary Spiwak of Rochester, intends to major in English and pre-law for eventual attendance at law school.



## "I Speak for Democracy"

Mary Jo Gladey, a junior, has been named the Cardinal Mooney winner of the Monroe County Council/Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy -- Broadcast Scriptwriting Scholarship Contest. She was presented a \$50 award check at a dinner for school winners Sunday, Feb. 5. Brother John Davies, CSC, a member of Cardinal Mooney's Social Studies Department served as faculty advisor for event.

## Join the Fun

The Bishop Kearney Marching Kings are having a "German Nite" at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling the school at 342-4000, or at the door the night of the event.

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