

Equal Time

Should voluntary prayer be allowed in public schools?

NAZARETH ACADEMY
LING HAO
Junior
yearbook staff

"Yes because the Constitution says we have freedom of religion and we should be allowed to pray. For me prayer at the beginning of class gets me interested in my work and helps me to concentrate. I think it is important to pray. Prayer brings people closer to God and to others. I don't see anything wrong with voluntary prayer."



JENNIFER McCABE
Freshman
Student Senate

"No because I feel it would put too much pressure on children who are of different faiths, and on those who don't profess a faith, and also on those who don't believe in praying in public. I don't think the legislative bill for voluntary praying in public schools will be passed because of the idea that religion should be kept separate from the state. I think people who want to pray have the time at home, in church, or with their families to do so."



JEANNE HINKELMAN
Sophomore
band

"I think you should be allowed to pray if you want, but you should not be forced to pray. It should be the individual's choice. Some people are against praying in the public schools because they think religion is being forced on their children. I think, however, the majority of people don't mind voluntary prayer in the schools. Prayer brings you closer to God. I prefer my own way to talking to God through prayer rather than reciting certain prayers."



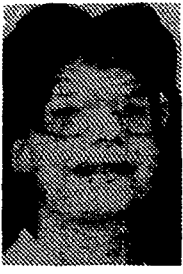
COLLEEN SPIWAK
Senior
Spectrum staff

"Yes because it allows people to exercise their freedom of religion, and I don't see what harm it does as long as it is silent and voluntary. In fact, I think taking time out in the morning to relax and think is important and helpful, and prayer is one way of getting that time. I think a lot of people who don't want prayer in the public schools feel it will inhibit people — that kids will feel pressure to pray. They probably feel one faith denomination will be stressed or favored over the rest."



DEBBY CARMEN
Sophomore
Math League

"Yes because I think it is helpful to start out the day just sitting there and thinking which is a kind of praying — getting your thoughts in order. If you are angry, prayer helps you get rid of that anger and it relaxes you. People against prayer in the public schools are thinking of separation of Church and state and some people don't feel it is fair to the kids because they are of different religions. They think kids are more impressionable than they really are."



KATHY DWYER
Senior
lead in "Pippin"

"I have mixed feelings about it. The Catholic side of me says everyone should be allowed to pray either privately or publicly. I know that it helps me to pray and in the Catholic schools we have that freedom. But on the other hand, having kids pray in the public schools might conflict with what they have learned at home. They may feel peer pressure to pray and maybe they don't believe that way and that doesn't help. The voluntary prayer bill could be a good compromise."



Rap Around

Joan M. Smith, Editor



Never A Dull Moment

Mercian Ellen Tobin makes a point for her side in a class debate on raising the state legal drinking age to 21 which is one of the program topics in a special humanities course combining American history and government with American literature. Each month a team of students debates a current social issue. At right Becky DeVries observes Erica Vance and Erin McCormack in the Child Development and Parenting class which is designed to help students get a better understanding of the growth, development and behavior of children.

Cards Scheduled

Aquinas Institute will hold its annual card party and buffet at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 31 at the school. Tickets are \$5 for school play

which includes table snacks, beer and wine, \$2.50 for home play. For further information call Mary Reifsteck, 247-7098.

Speaking Out

NANCY DeWITT
Our Lady of Mercy

As I reflect over the past three years of high school, I realize that much has happened to me, so many changes and so many different experiences. But this is not a feeling that has happened only to me, but to many other seniors.

There are many things that have happened that probably many seniors

have experienced in one way or another. There are things that maybe we didn't want to go through because they were too tough to handle or we just didn't have the time to deal with them. But basically, we all have somehow managed.

One thing most of us have gone through is the decision to drink. Many of my friends have had a drink in front of them before. We never gave drinking with the gang much thought before except for the lectures from parents and teachers. It's something that most high school kids go

through; drinking and trying not to get caught. But as we near graduation, keep in mind that drinking and driving don't mix. It would be a tragedy if something happened to prevent one of us, an innocent bystander or the guilty party, from graduating. It's so easy to get caught up in all the partying, we forget the responsibilities that come with having a driver's license; knowing when to stop drinking and not to drink and drive.

There is so much for us to go through. We have so much to experience, so much to offer the world.

Some of us will be continuing our education and others will contribute to society in their own special ways.

But as we continue in our lives, let us hope we never forget all the special memories from high school. They are an important part of us, and can never be erased from our lives. Our experiences in high school have made us who we are.

I hope that each of us will have the best possible life, that we turn out to be all that we have hoped to be, and every dream we dream will come true.

Scholastic Recognition

Brother Brian Walsh, Bishop Kearney principal has announced that seniors Gretchen Luchsinger and Michael Mendolia have qualified for finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Catherine Sztanko, St. Josephat.

Nazareth's Allen Named Scholar

Adrienne Allen, Nazareth Academy senior, has been named a University Scholar by Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. She has been awarded scholarships totaling \$8,000 to be applied toward her tuition to the university where she plans to take biochemistry in preparation for enrollment in medical school.

Adrienne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Allen, Webster, has taken the college preparatory program and is presently taking two courses at Nazareth which carry college credit. She is active in her church and has traveled outside the U.S. as a church worker during summers and other vacation times.



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 Nazareth Academy. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, March 27, to receive \$5.

Riester Honored

Sara Riester, a Bishop Kearney graduate, has earned a spot on the Mary Washington College Athletic Honor Roll according to school sources. The tennis playing freshman compiled a 3.0 or higher grade point average during the Fall semester.

Mark March 25

Aquinas Institute will hold registration for incoming freshmen from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 25. In addition to paying the first installment of fees and tuition, students will be choosing courses and immunization records will be verified. Parents will have the opportunity to sign up for Aquinas Parents Association activities for next year. Coaches will also be on hand to discuss various sports.

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