

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO



Once-popular club gets new lease on life



McQuaid Jesuit High School has recently re-established a club whose focus reflects the interests and skills of public figures from Demosthenes to Ronald Reagan. The newly revamped Speech and Debate Club promises to be both fun and enlightening.

The art of oratory first came to prominence in ancient Greece. Among more recent devotees of oratory have been Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglas, Patrick Henry and Daniel Webster, to name but a few. Its techniques are also crucial to the political life of this century.

Oratory is based upon the techniques of public speaking and debate, which are also known as forensics. Forensics was a very popular activity in high schools during the 1950s, but lost favor among students in the '60s, when its strict regimen was found to be alienating. Luckily, it is now experiencing a comeback of sorts, as evidenced by the new McQuaid club.

Speech and debate have been a Jesuit tradition for many years, and the National

Catholic Forensic League, which held onto a strong base during the rough years of the 1960s, is now becoming larger and larger.

When people discuss speech and debate, two high schools are almost always mentioned — Regis High School of New York and Marquette High School. Luckily for McQuaid students, the new coach/moderator of our club is Mr. Philip Judge, SJ, a Regis alumnus and former coach of the school's forensic club.

In speech and debate, often referred to as forensics, debate teams address a series of propositions each of which entails positive and negative viewpoints. These propositions include statements of fact and policy proposals.

But challenging opponents on specific issues is not all there is to speech and debate club. It involves learning public speaking, which is both an art and a skill. It takes a great deal of imagination to find ways to get your point across effectively.

In speech and debate, it's not enough for a

person to be bright and well-versed. Even if you have very strong and well-supported ideas but are unable to express them, you're rather out of luck. Mr. Judge helps speakers develop their abilities and techniques so that they will be able to express their ideas in a much more sophisticated manner while still maintaining clarity.

There are several reasons for participating in the speech and debate club. One of these is that the club helps develop leadership ability. To be able to lead people is a trait that has always had great influence on the people of the world. Indeed, what would have happened if Alexander the Great had not been able to lead his troops? Or if Caesar was unable to lead his forces to victory? On a modern scale, what happens when you run for student council and your opponent has great leadership skills and good ideas, whereas you have only good ideas?

Another reason for becoming a member of your speech and debate club is that it simply expands one's scope of general knowledge.

By participating in debates and discussions, one is made aware of various ideas and learns to analyze them with logic that stems from debate. It should also help participants prepare to present themselves well at college or job interviews.

The last and quite possibly the most important reason for participating is that speech and debate are a lot of fun. While presenting arguments may sound dry and tedious, it's really fun to exercise your imagination to find convincing ways to make your point. Anyone can participate in a shouting match, but not everyone can argue with style and skill.

Another reason the club is so much fun is that membership involves a great deal of travel, both around the county and also around the eastern part of the nation. Debate trips may take you to Buffalo, Harvard University, New York City and other interesting places.

J. Peter Huggins
McQuaid

Equal Time

Our Lady of Mercy High School
When you receive a grade on your report card that you don't like, what do you do about it?

NICOLE CALCAGNI, Sophomore

I'm not pressured by my parents to do better, but rather I push myself to find a solution. I usually pinpoint the problem, and then I try to direct more of my studying toward it without letting my other studies suffer. This way, I get self-satisfaction, as well as pleasing my parents.



AMY CARR, Junior

I will usually go to the teacher and ask for help; explain to my parents why I received the bad grade; and discuss what I will do to raise the grade the next semester. If the grade is unfair, I would go to the teacher and ask for an explanation.



JOANNE MELEO, Freshman

First I go to the teacher and ask if I can raise it (the bad grade) by extra credit. When I get home, I'll tell my parents about my bad grade beforehand, to prepare them for my report card. I just have to make sure it's better next quarter.



DONNA MAZUROWSKI, Senior

I would talk to the teacher about my mistakes and ask for some tips on how to improve my grade and, if necessary, ask for some extra help. Afterwards, I'd go home and enjoy a gallon of chocolate marshmallow ice cream and some Oreos.



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Speaking Out

By Kathleen Morgan
DeSales High School

There is no question that television plays a major role in the lives of children today. In fact, children spend so much time in front of the TV that it has gained a truly unparalleled power over American life. The question is, then, exactly what effect does television have on our society?

Years ago, the main objective of television stations was to educate children, and many educational and entertaining programs were produced for children. Among these shows were "Sesame Street," "Captain Kangaroo" and "Mister Rogers." Prime time was filled with pleasant family shows in which children were respectful and parents were in control.

Television, however, is much different today. The programs now involve much more mature themes, and children increasingly are subjected to sex and violence in their daily viewing. From rock videos to cartoons, kids see violence as occurring normally in society, while soap operas give kids a completely distorted view of reality. Even commercials are filled with sexual innuendos.

Howdy Doody, the freckle-faced puppet who told kids to brush their teeth and obey their parents, has been replaced by Mr. T, who uses violence "to preserve the good." Even Walt Disney Productions is no longer the epitome of wholesome family programs.

There is no doubt that the violence on TV is harmful to kids in many ways.

Statistics show that by the time a child reaches adulthood, he or she will have seen thousands of murders on television. In fact, murder and crime appear on TV almost 10 times as often as they occur in real life. What effect can this have on children but to make them emotionally numb to death and violence?

More than one-third of the characters portrayed on the TV screen today either commit crimes or fight them, and the firing of handguns has become commonplace. Murder and other crimes are brought so frequently into our homes that the effect of television on children has become a source of concern and outrage among parents.

The first warnings about the impact of violent programs were issued as long as 30 years ago, when social scientists became concerned about the potential for TV violence to cause a rise in real-life juvenile delinquency. Recently, the U.S. surgeon general found a definite link between violence on television and aggression among children.

Other problems are caused by the fact that when kids are watching TV, they're not reading or studying. On the average, children have watched 15,000 hours of TV by the time they are 15, but have attended school for only about 11,000 hours. As a result, reading and writing skills have deteriorated, as is seen in the steady decline of college-board scores over the past 20 years. Moreover, the constant action and excitement provided by television has shattered the attention span of students in classrooms.

But these school-related problems pale beside the real danger — that children will emulate the violence so glorified by television.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 21 correct entries identifying "I AM A ROCK" as the 1966 Simon & Garfunkel Hit

The winner was **Nick Pieramico** of Monroe Community College

MUSIC TRIVIA

This weeks question:

From what 1965 Roger Miller song are the following lyrics from. "Every handout in every town and every lock that ain't locked when no one's around"

A:

Rules:

Each week the Courier Journal in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable) cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal Music Trivia

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