

ECHO ECHO

Program to aid needy turns students into real-life Santas

By Elizabeth Berliner
Notre Dame High School

Along with the beginning of the Christmas season, Notre Dame High School in Elmira recently kicked off its annual Christmas Basket Drive. The activity, which is led by Sister Marie Catherine, involves the "adoption" by each homeroom of a local needy family suggested by the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry. The students bring in food donations, buy gifts and collect money for perishables in order to make Christmas a more enjoyable time for their families. Last year students set a record high by supplying Christmas baskets for more than 40 needy families, even though Notre Dame itself had only 20 homerooms.

This is a special crusade for the students, and brightly colored posters in the halls and homerooms remind students to "share the Christmas spirit!" and "don't forget our family!" Each day, items are designated for collection, in order to produce a well-rounded assortment of foods. Students spend their mornings adorning boxes, with multi-colored wrapping topped with large bows.

On December 22, the final day of collections, approximately 40 students on the organizational committee will stay after school to set up for the climax of the Notre

Handel's 'Messiah' scheduled by oratorio society, orchestra

Rochester Oratorio Society and Orchestra, under the direction of Roger Wilhelm, will perform Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday, December 20, at 8 p.m. A Rochester tradition for more than 40 years, the annual holiday concert will be held this year at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave., Rochester.

Georg Friedrich Handel completed the oratorio in just 24 days. The text is a

Dame Christmas season — the Golden Mass. Boxes, baskets and gifts will be carried to the auditorium stage and arranged amid glistening stars and sparkling trees surrounding the altar. Various arrangements will be tested and different lighting procedures will be tried until the perfect effect is achieved. It has been said that when the Golden Mass takes place the next morning, it is perhaps the most beautiful and emotional tribute to the spirit of giving witnessed each year.

Early Christmas Eve morning, students gather in a caravan of trucks, station wagons or anything else on four wheels to deliver the baskets. This is when the hard work of the past month truly pays off in the realization that the needy families are real individuals, not just the names by which they had been previously known. The joy apparent in the children's faces when they see the boxes of gifts is enough to make one feel like Santa himself.

Thus, the Notre Dame Christmas season ends on a high note of giving and ultimately a greater feeling of esteem and unity among the student body. Hopefully, this optimism will extend into January and conquer the unavoidable "after-Christmas blues" that tend to strike.

collection of Old and New Testament passages compiled by his friend, C. Jennens. The work premiered in Dublin in April of 1742 and was met with instant enthusiasm.

Tickets for "The Messiah" are \$12 and are available at Music Lovers Shoppe, 2949 Monroe Ave., Rochester; House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave., Rochester; Recorded Classics, 248 East Ave., Rochester; or by calling the Rochester Oratorio Society at (716)544-4873 or 621-3380.

Equal Time

Aquinas Institute
Do you think teenage drinking has been curtailed during the past year by the new minimum drinking age?

BRIAN SULLIVAN, Junior

I don't think the new drinking age has curtailed teenage drinking to the extent that it was hoped to. It has forced under-aged drinkers to be more clever in their means of obtaining alcohol. Yet the same pressures influencing teenagers to drink still exist.



GARY BARSELL, Senior

No, I do not think that the legal drinking age of 21 has curtailed teenage drinking, only because it is not difficult for teenagers to get alcohol. Most teenagers feel if you are old enough to take responsibility behind a wheel at 16, you can take responsibility with alcohol at that age as well.



JACKIE MEJIA, Senior

I don't believe that the legal drinking age of 21 has curtailed teenage drinking. There are still small businesses which will sell liquor to minors just to make an extra buck. If teenagers want liquor bad enough, they always find a way to get it.



CHRIS McDONALD, Sophomore

In one way I feel that it has because it has prevented anyone under the age of 21 (from) drinking or being sold liquor legally. But I also know that if someone really wants to drink, he or she will be able to find some way to get liquor even if it is illegal. It is my opinion that if someone really wants to drink they will, and laws of any kind will not stop them. It may help them to decide not to drink, but the only thing that will prevent someone from drinking is if they do not want to drink.



MICHAEL TUTTLE, Sophomore

I don't think that teenage drinking has slowed down or stopped. The reason why is because the teenagers still have access to alcohol. They find someone who is old enough to buy for them, or they buy it themselves with a false ID. Even though the drinking age is 21, it doesn't matter because the teenagers still drink!



Speaking Out

By Cynthia Yantz
Nazareth Academy

In today's society, people's lives can get quite hectic, whether those people are students, parents or other professionals. We often neglect the person inside each one of us. We get involved in such a flurry of activity that there is no time to stop and get in touch with our thoughts and feelings.

Recently at Nazareth, I attended a workshop on managing personal stress. The guest speaker, showed the group various exercises to relax the body. The one thing she taught us that really stuck with me was one way in which you can learn to love yourself more. Each morning when you rise, she advised us,

face yourself in the mirror, put your palms flat against each other in a praying position and say to yourself, "The universe is a better place because I am in it."

Different personalities will offer various reactions to this suggestion. Some will call the statement corny and stupid, while others will say it is interesting and very positive. It seems a little ridiculous to stand in front of the mirror each morning reciting that phrase. What good can it do? I believe it can help all of us in building our feelings of self-worth and love for the people we are. Why not take pride in who you are and the abilities God has granted you.

So when you stumble to the bathroom at 6 a.m. in the morning — the alarm still ringing in your ears — to confront a ghastly, sleep-ravaged face, just remember to greet that person and appreciate all the abilities he or she possesses.

Group taking reservations for March for Life trip

The annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., protesting the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion, will take place on January 22, 1987. Buses will leave from St. Theodore's Church, 168 Spencerport Road, Rochester at 10 p.m. on January 21, and will return to Rochester on January 22 at approximately midnight. Bus fare is \$25 per

person until December 25, and will be increased to \$30 after that.

For reservations, make your check payable to Dee Dries and mail it to 88 Beldon Drive, Rochester, 14623.

Details of the trip may be obtained by calling (716)334-7562, 254-6877 or 424-2372.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 7 correct entries identifying **Stevland Maurice Hardway** as none other than **Stevie Wonder**.



The winner was **Mary Lennox** From St. Rita's in Webster

MUSIC TRIVIA

This weeks question:

From what movie is the Simon and Garfunkel hit "Mrs. Robinson" from?

A:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
School _____

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.

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