

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Concern over school rivalry unites area student councils

By J. Peter Huggins

On December 5 of last year, the student councils of the six Rochester-area high school came together for a luncheon at McQuaid to establish an association of student councils. This association is charged with organizing and unifying the Catholic high schools in Rochester — Mercy, Aquinas, Bishop Kearney, Cardinal Mooney, Nazareth and McQuaid.

In the past, these schools have been divided by rivalry over sporting events, academic standing and simple school spirit. Such rivalries have sometimes led to unfortunate situations, which stemmed from ignorance and bias.

Yet it is just this sort of rivalry that has brought the student councils together at the December meeting. Very simply stated, the student councils want to eliminate those aspects of school competition that tend to produce destructive behavior. It is one thing to get geared up to beat a team, but it is another thing to get into fights or destroy property.

As the student council members discussed these problems, one common theme emerged. They plan to use community service as a means of unifying the distinct student bodies. Community service has long been an important aspect of life at all Catholic high schools, whether such service takes the form of volunteer work or fundraising efforts. Thus, by taking on a common service project, the student councils hope to create a sense of overall community among



Students from the six Rochester-area Catholic schools gather at McQuaid Jesuit High School to discuss unity and future activities.

the high schools.

But the student council representatives would never have had a chance to develop these plans if they had not gotten together and talked about their common experiences. Extending that idea to the larger student bodies, student exchanges between the schools were proposed as a way of softening the differences between the various schools. By talking together, students from different schools will be able to form new perspectives on their so-called rivals.

School 'A' will send a delegation of students to spend a day at School 'B.' Shortly thereafter, School 'B' will send a

delegation for a one-day visit to School 'A,' so as to keep the experiences fresh in the minds of both delegations.

As it stands now, Mercy will exchange with Nazareth, Cardinal Mooney with Bishop Kearney, and McQuaid with Aquinas.

The association of student councils hopes these exchanges will further an exchange of ideas between the schools, erase the ugly rivalries between schools and help all six schools and the entire association to function better.

Another way proposed to bring the schools closer together is an interschool battle of the bands, to be held at McQuaid some time this

spring. Each school would enter a band and would receive 150 tickets to sell to its students, in order to ensure a fair representation from all the schools.

The top three bands — as rated by an impartial judge — would receive a \$100 first prize, a \$75 second prize or a \$50 third prize.

Any profits from the ticket sales would then be donated to a charity selected by the councils' association. The association is leaning toward Habitat for Humanity, an organization that provides low-income housing for the needy. By donating to Habitat for Humanity, or to any charity, for that matter, the association of councils can begin to show its own community awareness as a single entity, not as a collection of individual schools.

In all, 23 student council officers participated in the December 5 luncheon meeting. Representing McQuaid were Eric Stock, Kevin Considine, Kevin Spoor and Tom Wiltberger; Aquinas — Marc Simonelli, David DeCarlo, Phil Swetz and Dee Woods; Mercy — Marlana Mendola, Marci Mendola and Stephanie Lester; Cardinal Mooney — A.J. Cosgrove, Tom Moll, Sam Chung and Heather Wighton; Nazareth — Margaret Sawyko, Sally DeCarolis, Stacey Moorehead and Molly Riswick; and Bishop Kearney — Angie Madama, Molly Dillon, Julie Pappalardo and Michelle Citino.

They will gather again on February 5 to continue work on the projects mentioned above and to initiate new endeavors.

Equal Time

Aquinas Institute
How would you make a younger adopted sibling feel like part of your family?

STAN EWING, Sophomore

First, I would gain their trust. I would let them know that they could talk to me whenever they had problems. Secondly, I would help create a hobby or pastime for them, perhaps a sport. So that they wouldn't feel any different from the rest of the family, they would share the regular chores that are done around the house. Of course, they would be included in any of the activities outside as well, like going out to eat, movies, etc. I'm sure that it would take some work, as all things do, but after a month or so, they shouldn't feel different from anyone else in the family. Love would be shown to them, above all.



RACHEL McDONNELL, Sophomore

The first thing I would do to help a younger sibling feel a part of my family would be to assure her that she could always confide in me in any situation, and secondly, that I'd be her "big sister" and that she could always entrust her personal feelings to me.



CHRISTINE COLES, Sophomore

I think I would treat him as an equal to the family. I would spend much time with him and get to know him by participating in activities with him. Most importantly, I would make him feel loved, because that is what he had been missing and looking for.



CHRISTIE QUERNEY, Senior

I would do several different things to make an adopted sibling who is younger than (I am) feel a part of my family. I would start by just treating her as a friend, so that she would begin to trust me. I would spend time with her and include her in some of my activities. Eventually, we would grow closer together in relation, and she would begin to feel like a part of my family, and not like a special guest staying over for awhile.



JIM MURRER, Senior

It would be important to go on with my everyday life while also including this new person. The biggest thing would be to let him know that he is being fully accepted. This would make him feel comfortable. In a short time, it would seem to him as if he had been part of the family his entire life.



Speaking Out

By Kathleen Morgan
DeSales High School

Since childhood, most of us have admired people for the things they have and the things they do. As children, we looked up to people who were bigger than we were — parents, relatives, brothers and sisters. We admired them because they could do a lots of things that we could not do.

As we grow older, we still admire others, and in a bigger way. We admire sports stars, actors and singers because they have talents most of us do not have. We hold admiration for people with brains, bright outlooks on life and vibrant personalities. We respect people who are at peace with themselves and who can live life unruffled by its pressures. This is, of course, a natural human tendency.

The problem comes in when we hold respect for people for the wrong reasons. Often we admire people for the power they hold, for their large bank accounts, their beautiful homes and their well-paying jobs. If we constantly compare other people's

"success" to our own lives, the admiration we hold for them can easily be changed into disenchantment with ourselves.

I feel that we should give thought to what is truly important and attempt to recognize those things that merely give the illusion of value. If we valued material objects over strength of character, or preferred money to a kindly personality, we would be denouncing everything that we were meant to be.

Furthermore, if we could each look into ourselves and realize our own strengths and potential, we could be happy with who we are and what we can do. Looking at ourselves realistically will help us to develop better outlooks on life and find peace within ourselves.

We will always admire others for their abilities, but if we look at our own abilities in the same positive way, we will develop a new respect for the person inside. This would ensure the main ingredient for a truly and completely happy life — a sense of self-worth.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 25 correct entries identifying the word church as the missing lyric to complete the sentence: gets me to the church on time.



The winner was Pamela Celona of Rochester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

From what 1962 Elvis Presley hit do the following lyrics come from, "I gave a letter to the postman, he put it in his sack?"

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

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
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624



Rochester's Largest Ford Dealer
81 Lake Avenue • Rochester, N.Y. 14608
546-2200

Over 300 New Cars & Trucks in Stock
Lake Avenue's Largest Used Car Selection