

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

AQ students pursue social justice

By Sean McNamara
Aquinas Institute

As part of the curriculum for social justice class at Aquinas, approximately 90 seniors are required to volunteer at the Monroe Developmental Center. Initially, each class goes to the center on a school day for an orientation, to learn about the different services the center provides for its clients. After this orientation, the students will be given an opportunity to meet the people who live at the center. Throughout the day, students offer friendship and assistance to the clients.

My class trip to MDC turned out to be a really positive experience. We came to understand that people with developmental handicaps are people first and handicapped second.

Most of us had never met people with mental handicaps. Initially, a lot of us were afraid on the bus ride there, because we did not know what to expect. After about an hour at the

center, we had forgotten that fear, mostly because of the efforts of the clients, who tried to make us feel comfortable. By the end of the day, most of us had become friends with individual clients.

Many of our fears resulted from the common misconceptions we held about people with mental handicaps. We learned to accept them as people who are just like us — people with the same emotions, hopes and fears shared by any non-handicapped person. One of the best experiences of the day centered on helping the clients play several games in the gym. We started out by helping them play, and by the end of the session, we were playing along with them.

Monroe Developmental Center is always in need of volunteers to help with major activities and to participate on an individual basis.

The day we spent at the center really helped to teach us the purpose of social justice: to treat each person with the dignity that he or she deserves.

Speaking Out

By Elizabeth Berliner
Notre Dame High School

Censorship is on the rise in schools across the nation. People for the American Way, a group dedicated to protecting the freedoms defined in the First Amendment, reports that censorship efforts have increased by 66 percent since 1982. A startling 40 percent of these efforts have actually resulted in the removal of the challenged materials.

Many complaints are filed by women's groups and minorities opposed to materials that contradict the essence of their movements toward equality. The majority of censorship efforts, however, concern materials that refute the religious teachings of the Bible by stating the scientific theories of evolution and sociology.

Strong religious and political conservatives, particularly members of the Moral Majority, charge that these materials promote the concept of "secular humanism," thus infringing upon the freedom of religious beliefs. In fact, the Texas Board of Education ruled against the inclusion of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in biology textbooks, because of pressure from local religious fundamentalists. It appears that several other states may follow suit, and one study recently revealed that textbooks today already cover 30 to 80 percent less material on the topic of evolution than they did 10 years ago.

English classrooms have also been an arena for eager advocates of censorship. The list of books may be surprising: *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh; *Deenie*, *Blubber* and several other books by Judy Blume; *Free to Be ... You and Me* by Marlo Thomas; *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; and the *Living Bible*.

Magazines such as Sports Illustrated, Science Digest, and even the student publication The Weekly Reader have been banned in several districts across the country because of controversial material. In Mount Diablo, California, Ms. magazine was removed from the shelves of school libraries after parental complaints concerning articles on the topics of sex and abortion.

Recently, the controversy of censorship hit the Elmira area, when Darold Champaign of Wellsburg challenged the Elmira Steele Memorial Library concerning a book entitled *Show Me*. He believes that the children's book encourages masturbation, incest and sexual involvement among young people, by its inclusion of photographs depicting people engaged in sexual acts. A federal law prohibits the distribution of pornographic materials, but in actuality, the vague law leaves room for extensive argument, depending on the circumstances.

Meanwhile, supporters of the book promote its educational purpose in the teaching of human sexuality. Library director James Sleeth remains adamant in his determination to keep the book upon the shelves and has explained that, until a formal complaint is filed, no action can be taken. Yet he has already implied that no censoring action will be approved, even with the filing of a complaint, although he will be required to have the case reviewed by the library board.

Meanwhile, Champaign appears to have backed down from his position, commenting, "What's the point of filing the complaint when they've already announced what the result would be? It's a little ridiculous."

Perhaps the book can be considered pornographic. Yet the censoring of one book, however, will undoubtedly lead to another complaint, and then who is to say when it will all end? Perhaps it is the lesser of two evils to allow a questionable book to remain on the shelves, rather than put all controversial materials on trial.

Equal Time

Bishop Kearney High School
How do you think the relationship between public and parochial schools will change with the new interscholastic activities?

RANDY MICKEY, senior

In the past, there has been a noticeable gap between public and private schools, partly because of the need for something to bring the two (types of) schools together. Now, with the new interscholastic activities, this gap can be minimized and hopefully closed altogether. With this gap minimized, the relationship can grow and improve.



LISA COYLE, junior

The relationship between public and parochial schools will undergo very little change in regard to the new interscholastic activities, due to much competitiveness between such types of schools in sports and other extracurricular activities. The friction that has always existed in these circumstances will either remain constant or increase immensely.



TIM DIETER, sophomore

I think the relationship between public and parochial schools should improve because of the interscholastic activities. Through the activities, students will be able to learn about the other schools' curricula, sports and other extracurricular activities.



KATE DILLON, freshman

I think that public and parochial schools will become more friendly. Because of the activities, we will get to know the kids better and our relationship will improve.



Gospel concert planned to benefit black scholars

More than a dozen gospel groups will be featured at a benefit concert Sunday, March 22, to raise scholarship funds for black students who wish to attend Catholic high schools.

St. Bridget's Gospel Choir, the Sons of Faith, Immaculate Conception Choir, the Mercy Sisters and Nazareth Academy choirs, and the Jordan Singers will be among the groups performing at St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive off North Clinton Avenue, beginning at 5 p.m.

The gospel concert is sponsored by the Mother Cabrini Circle, an interfaith, interracial women's group founded more than 40 years ago to help black students of all faiths receive a quality education. Last year, six young men and women received \$900 scholarships from funds provided by the Mother Cabrini Circle. In the past, the group has supported as many as 30 students.

Tickets for the concert cost \$5 and may be purchased at St. Bridget's.

St. Patrick's Day Bash
March 17th

Starring Rochester's Own
DADY BROTHERS
At the Renaissance Theatre Club
with Special Guests:
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CHAMPIONSHIP IRISH DANCERS

LUNCH SHOW 11:30-1:00
Irish Food & Drink
HAPPY HOUR SHOW 4:30-6:00
EVENING EVENT 8:00 p.m.
ADMISSION \$1.00 until 5:30, \$6.00 evening

The Renaissance Theatre Club, Inc.
50 Liberty Pole Way
Rochester, New York 14604
(716) 263-9920

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HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 16 correct entries identifying "Vincent" as Don McLean's 1972 song beginning with the lyrics, "Starry, starry night."

The winner was Dolores Decker of St. Ann's

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
Who recorded the #1 hit, "Heart of Glass?"

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.

The Courier-Journal Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624