

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Nazareth Academy students help the needy in rural Alabama

By Cynthia Yantz
Nazareth Academy

We have all been told about the prejudice and degrading conditions that still exist in the rural South today, yet most of us have never actually seen these conditions or talked with people who have experienced them. During this past Easter vacation, however, eight high school students accompanied by Sister Marilyn Pray and Donna DeSanto traveled to the rural South.

From April 12 to April 23, Nazareth Academy seniors Lora Wise, Kerry Lum, Christine Foley, Maria Padula and Kathy Lambert, along with juniors Sally DeCarolis and Amy Sauter and Mercy junior Marlene Mendola, spent time in both Selma and Pine Apple, Alabama, assisting the needy.

The girls were divided into two groups. One group worked in Selma while the others



Nazareth senior Kathy Lambert (front) assists in applying tarpaper to a house.

worked in Pine Apple, and after several days they switched locations. In Pine Apple, the girls repaired a house by putting tarpaper on the sides. At the local school, Moore Academy, some of the girls explained the basics of computer use to fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders. Because it was Eastertime, they also organized an Easter egg hunt, which the smaller children enjoyed immensely.

In Selma, some of the girls helped out in day care and nursery school at the community center. They sorted clothing, mailed letters to congressional representatives and helped out at the local soup kitchen. They even helped clean a house for two elderly, incapacitated women who were basically confined to one room.

The things the girls saw left a large impression upon them. "Selma is a place that you know is there, but you never understand

or realize just what it is all about," Lora Wise remarked.

The houses the girls had repaired and cleaned were really shacks made out of scraps, with only cardboard for insulation. The girls could see the ground through cracks in the floor, and in many of the places there was no running water.

Kerry Lum wasn't expecting the prominence of the social differences between blacks and whites. "I was surprised at the underlying discrimination," she said. "After talking to the people there, you could easily identify it."

For each of the girls, the Alabama experience offered hard work and a bit of culture shock, yet all of them enjoyed the opportunity to help people who so clearly needed assistance. The warmth and friendliness of the people there helped to make the girls' stay enjoyable.

Speaking Out

By Rebecca Fewkes
Bishop Kearney High School

To me, the expanding controversy which has come to be called "Iran scam" is an utterly confusing situation. Countless incoherent news articles present innumerable views on the controversy.

There are two problems here. First, the more we learn about the Iran-Iraq situation, the more complicated and convoluted it gets. Every day, we hear more second-hand reports of new twists in the case. The second problem lies in the fact that modern communication allows special-interest factions to make political use of situations such as these. No one knows who's telling the straight story. Our leaders are failing to consider the situation in light of our national principles, which would help them to find a solution.

The simplest critique of the events is this. Iran and Iraq are small countries and traditional enemies. It is relatively well-known that the USSR has assumed the tutelage of Iraq; the Mideastern country is under a terrorist communistic regime. Now the United States has begun to swap arms — presumably for hostages — with Iran. So far it seems simple. But at the same time, our government is supporting other small Mideastern countries in attacks on Iran. This weakens the country and indirectly helps the causes of the Iraqis and the Soviets.

This certainly appears to be a power play without regard for human life, but there are also economic factors. The Persian Gulf, dually controlled on one side by Iran and Iraq, is a rich field of crude oil. This explains why the United States is willing to work with either side.

Iran used to supply this nation with oil; Iraq also provided a good amount. Today, the crude oil of the Persian Gulf is sold not only to the United States, but to Japan and many European nations as well. The crude oil from other parts of the world is also distributed largely to the United States.

If Iran and Iraq stopped supplying Europe and Japan, these oil-thirsty nations would have to seek other markets; consequently, we would lose our nearly exclusive access to oil from other parts of the world. This would mean high costs, because the United States would then have to bargain for its oil. There's nothing like growing demand to raise the price of any commodity, and no one likes to spend a dollar if a quarter will do.

It appears that the United States is playing a chess game, and playing on both sides. The people affected by our foreign policy are treated simply as pawns. And that's where Iran scam stops being just a game. Lives are at stake, and if the United States continues with this policy, we will checkmate ourselves for good. Somebody has to come up with a solution.

I say it's time to get back to the basics. The United States has to straighten out its twisted foreign policy — to slow down and reset its priorities. I'm not calling for isolationism, but for a re-examination of the goals and values that brought this nation together in the first place. Our leaders should go to the root of the confusion and find out what really happened. Complicated maneuvers might win a war — they have in the past — but they don't bring real peace. A straightforward, ethical approach is necessary.

I realize that this solution offers complications of its own, because it requires abandoning all original pretense. It won't be easy, but it is a solution simpler than the problem.

Equal Time

Cardinal Mooney High School
Is there a greater need for integrity in politics and TV evangelism?

SUE PODGORSKI, junior

I feel that if people believe in God, then they should show you in the simplest way how they feel and try to make you believe just that. Why should we have to give so much money for what we believe in? And I think TV should show all the evangelism they do but fund the reality behind it. But don't make spectacles of the people who are only trying to help us believe a little better.



LORI MCKINLEY, junior

Yes, I think there is a greater need for integrity in politics and TV evangelism, because if people are not upfront with the truth, they will lose people's trust. If these people are supposed to be our leaders, they should be honest from the beginning or they will fall in the end.



VALERIE KING, junior

Both politicians and evangelists should lead honest and moral lives. Both use the media to portray a message which influences the daily lives of the public. A politician should be responsible enough to do the job he is elected to do. The evangelist should practice what he preaches, or his message will have no meaning.



LAURIE DASCH, junior

Yes, there is a greater need for integrity in politics and TV evangelism, because I think society should have an atmosphere of trustworthiness. Our leaders should be people to look up to, and we should be proud that they represent us.



LORA BATTISTI, junior

Yes, I think there is a greater need for integrity in politics and TV evangelism. The people who run our country and even those religious should set good examples. They should be looked upon as respectable citizens who "practice what they preach."



DONNA SALAMONE, junior

Yes, there is a greater need for integrity in politics and TV evangelism. We need some systems for feeding the poor and sheltering the homeless. We need someone who is willing to sacrifice and give the people of America what they want. Why be a politician if you can't hold to your promise? Who wants to vote for someone who can't help the economy and only hinder it?



HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 13 correct entries identifying The Doobie Brothers as the recording artists of their #1 song, "Black Water."

The winner was **Jeff Ferruzza** of Rochester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
Who recorded the following #1 song: "Rock Me Gently?"

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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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