

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO



Speaking Out

By Sean McNamara
Aquinas Institute

As I was signing yearbooks last week, I tried to summarize for each of my friends what the last four years have signified and how our friendships have grown. Most people were writing the usual "I don't want to leave here forever," or "I can't wait to get out." I don't think either of these accurately assesses what the last four years have meant.

High school has been extremely important in my progress toward becoming an adult. The best times of my life have occurred during these four years. I made my best and closest friends here, and I feel comfortable with them.

So if it's so good, some of us might reason, why can't we stay here forever? It's a scary world. War, crime, poverty, injustice and death are real problems, not just what we've read about in class. Most of us are afraid to confront the real world. At home, we don't have too many responsibilities other than cutting the grass, getting home on time or taking out the garbage. The world now expects us to go from electing a class president to electing the president of our country.

I think there are serious problems with many students' attitudes. I am glad to be considered an adult. The world is not such a scary place. We have the opportunity to change all of the problems in the world. One person can't "save the world," but we can effect some changes. It's my life, and I have to be responsible for it. The whole point of high school was to help us take control of our own lives. I think we've grown from people who simply do as we

are told into adults who can interact with each other.

Some of my friends think that all of their problems will be solved once they get away from home and school. They think they are adults now, and their time for learning is over. They blame all of their problems on vague situations, not on concrete causes. The usual rationale is that if "I just graduate, it will all work out."

I don't think we can just forget high school. We've had so many good times and bad times that I can't walk away from it so easily. I hope that my best friends will always be there for the rest of my life. We all change, but I hope we don't forget the experiences we've shared. I hope we've all learned and matured in high school. Everyone has changed since freshman year; we have grown and adapted.

We don't leave school with all of our questions answered or all of our learning completed. We will never know all of the answers. When we're finished with school, I hope we will not forget what we've learned. Most seniors don't want to leave behind what they know and love and what makes them comfortable. They are scared to enter the adult world, but know they must.

Being a senior is not as easy as it seems. We constantly hear that we have the world at our feet, but no one tells us how to handle that. Change is hard, but I think we have the tools to do this. We don't belong in high school any more. We have to take what we've learned and use it.

After graduation, when the parties are all over, we'll still have to face the world. But the class of 1987 is ready for the challenge.

Equal Time

Our Lady of Mercy High School
What are your plans for the summer?

CHARU NARANG, senior

I am planning to travel to India to visit relatives and tour the country. I also look forward to looking into India's colleges and its club scene. Since I have not seen my relatives for 10 years, it should be an exciting experience.



KRISTEN STOLL, freshman

During the summer, I enjoy swimming, bike riding and watching television. This summer I plan to spend some of my vacation in Cape Cod.



RACHEL GOUGH, sophomore

This summer, I'm looking forward to relaxing, and possibly having a summer job. I also plan to travel to Indiana over the vacation.



CARRIE TOCCI, junior

I plan to work at Camp Haccamo — a camp for handicapped children. I'm looking forward to this experience because it is related to what I want to study in college. I'm sure it will be a valuable experience.



Host families needed for summer exchange students

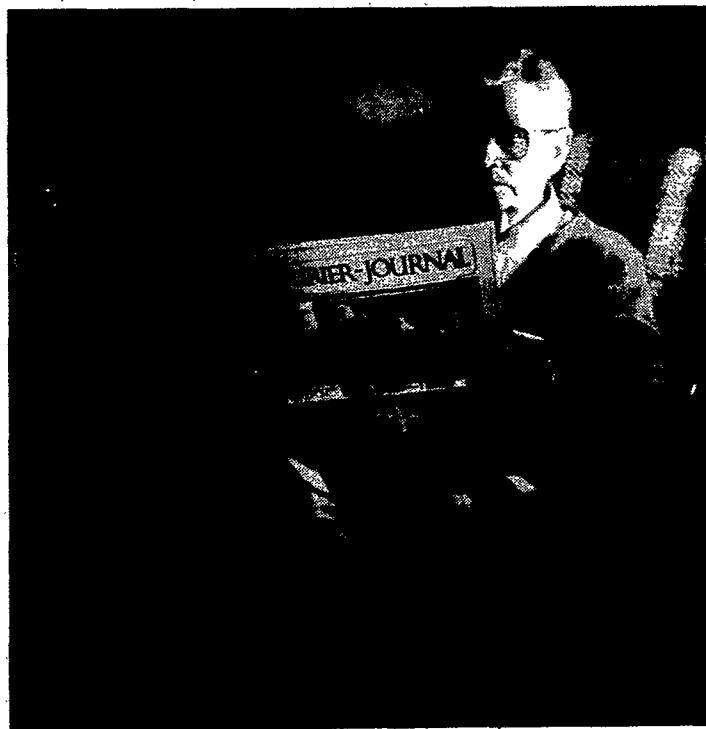
Host families are needed for Spanish students who are hoping to stay in the Rochester area from June 29 through July 31. These students are coming to Rochester through American Intercultural Student Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation. Their ages range from 14 to 17. The students have complete insurance and their own pocket money. Their purpose in coming to Rochester is to experience American life and to hone their English skills. Homes must be found for them before June 15.

Host families are also needed for 14

students who will arrive in August for the school year from Western Europe and Japan. These students, all fluent in English, have been screened by school representatives in their home countries and have spending money and insurance. Host families for these students may deduct \$50 per month for income tax purposes.

Families desiring information are asked to contact Shirley Monnier, 36 Barry St., Brockport, N.Y. 14420, or call 1-800-SIBLING.

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LAST CALL FOR Pilgrimage to Canadian shrines
Our Lady of Assumption, Fairport — Reservations are now being accepted for a pilgrimage to the shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal and Our Lady of the Cape in Three Rivers. The bus trip is scheduled to depart at 7 a.m. on July 8, returning on July 12.
Seats on the bus are limited, and early registration is encouraged. To reserve places, call Josephine DiRisio at (716) 377-8589, Mary Basile at 388-0535, or Grace DiRisio 388-0462.

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HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 4 correct entries identifying Gerry Dorsey as "Englebert Humperdinck." The winner was Mark Moody of Rochester.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
What Swedish group's name is derived from the first initial of each of its four members?

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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