

Echo

Practice paying off for members of Nazareth show choir

By Sue Ikel
Nazareth Academy

Show choirs began to gain popularity in the West and, as time progressed, spread slowly eastward. In the spring of 1985, show-choir fever struck Nazareth Academy.

The idea of putting a show choir together was initiated by Sister Donna Marie Cucci and Mary Ellen Campbell. To join, students must first be members of the Perisian Choir. Then they must audition on the basis of their vocal and dance abilities. After auditions are completed, 21 students — six altos, six second-sopranos, six sopranos and three understudies — are selected.

Show choir members practice three hours each week, and the results are fabulous.

Performing at various functions and get-togethers, the show choir has entertained thousands of people. Annual events include a dinner in May, which is sponsored by the show choir, as well as numerous Christmas performances. Even Santa joined in on the fun last year.

Members have also danced and sung at church banquets; for the Catholic School Parents' Association; and at such parishes as St. Margaret Mary's, St. Andrew's and Mother of Sorrows. The group will also be performing for the Mary Cariola Center for handicapped children on November 19.

According to Sister Cucci, the show choir will conduct more music festivals and will break into national competition later this year.

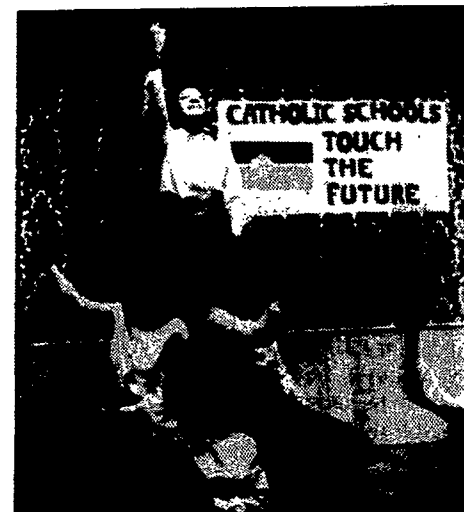
The most recent show-choir project was a workshop for seventh and eighth graders on October 23. Students in Catholic grammar schools were selected by their principals and music teachers to come to Nazareth and experience for one day what show choir is like.

Each visiting student was assigned a Nazareth sponsor who showed her the ropes. The girls learned vocal and dance warm-ups, and some of the behind-the-scenes work involving make-up, lights and microphones. Their day was topped off by learning and

performing three numbers: "New York, New York," "Bless the Beasts" and "I'm Gonna Sing." The day was a great success, and plans for another workshop are already in the making.

When the show choir began performing four years ago — as some of the seniors will remember — their wardrobe consisted of black pants and white shirts with red suspenders and bow ties. The essence of their look hasn't changed that much, but a classy appearance has been added by red cummerbunds and ruffles.

Even the props tie into the color sequence with red pom-poms used in "At the Hop" and black top hats and canes for "Puttin' on the Ritz." Some of the choir's other numbers are "New York, New York," "All That Jazz," and "Side by Side." The performers have even taken the time to learn some sign language and have incorporated sign into their "Bless the Beasts" and "I Believe" numbers.



Nazareth Academy show choir

Diversified cast prepares to raise curtain on 11th annual follies at Mooney

By Robert Ellis and Ginny Probst
Cardinal Mooney High School

The curtain will soon rise on the 11th edition of the annual Cardinal Mooney Follies. The follies are a variety show staffed by alumni, parents and friends of Cardinal Mooney.

The first show — funded by the Cardinal

Mooney Women's Guild — was not performed because the energy crisis closed schools for a week and the show came into direct conflict with rehearsal for the spring musical. In its second year, Follies encountered some problems with snowstorms but did eventually make it to the stage.

By 1978, there were two shows — one in the

spring and one in November. The November dates took hold that year, and in 1979 the Follies became a fall event at Cardinal Mooney.

This year the follies will be performed in two acts. The first act will consist of "The Gay '90s Review" and "They're Playing My Song." Traditional songs from the late 1800s and an early part of the 20th century will be featured.

Musical numbers include "Paddlin' Madeline Home" and "On the Good Ship Lollypop," plus a barbershop quartet. The second part of Act I will be a rendition of "They're Playing My Song" and will consist of cast members' favorite songs.

Act II is entitled "Back to Broadway," and is a collection of numbers from such plays as "Annie, Get Your Gun," "Singin' in the Rain," "The Big River" and "Starlight Express."

The follies, which since 1976 have been an annual event, were started to pay some of the school's expenses. This year's director is Bernie Derleth, who is in her second year as director and her eighth year as choreographer.

The cast and crew of the follies range in

age from their 20s to 60s. And their reasons for working on the follies are as diverse as their ages.

"I do it for the school," said Gina LaGalpa, a member of the graduating class of '84.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," said Lisa Oster-Watkins, a '71 graduate who is performing in this year's show.

Rita Studley is the costume coordinator. She and her husband, Bob, have been involved with the follies for 10 years. Rita Studley became interested through a friend and also because four of her five children attended Mooney.

"I do it because I find it rewarding, and I love to see the result of the show coming together," she said.

Whatever their reasons, the cast and crew have two things in common — their love for the school and almost boundless enthusiasm.

The '87 Mooney Follies will run on November 19, 20, 21, 27 and 28. A matinee show will take place on November 22, and a dinner show is set for November 21. All evening shows begin at 8 p.m. The performance on November 19 will benefit the Veterans Outreach Center.

By Pete Klebes

Bishop Kearney High School

Why is Catholic education not supported by our government? This is an issue that — if not addressed in the very near future — will become disastrous to our whole system of United States democracy.

Every citizen in the United States pays local, state and federal taxes. And where does a huge chunk of this money go? It provides support for the funding of public — and only public — schools.

A large number of parents in this country care enough about their children's welfare and upbringing to give them the best education and religious training possible, and the most advantageous way to do this is through a Catholic school system.

This group of caring families that send their children to Catholic schools is being tremendously wronged by the government. These parents pay taxes to fund the public school system — from which they get no benefits — and added to this regulation they become financially burdened by paying for their own children's Catholic education. The Catholic schools are powerless to help subsidize some of the rising costs. It is totally unfair for the Catholic households to take up the burden for paying for other families' education.

The government must act immediately. One alternative is for U.S. government to subsidize all Catholic education in whole or in part. Another alternative, yet not so reliable, is to allow Catholic families to receive a tax break while sending their children to Catholic schools.

If Catholic education is not helped out soon, the increasing cost of education will force many families to opt for public education instead of Catholic schooling. Without proper Christian education, what

Speaking Out

will become of society?

The aim of Catholic schools has always been to teach young people not only solid Christian principles, but also to love, honor and defend their country as worthy citizens. Why will a democratic government not promote good citizenship by aiding students of Catholic schools?

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We received 13 correct entries
identifying Police's hit song: "Ev-
ery Breath You Take."



The winner was
Julie Evans
of Webster

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who recorded the #1 song in 1965; "I'm
Henry VIII. I Am?"

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.

The Courier-Journal
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We received 9 correct entries identify-
ing the Toronto Blue Jays or the Seat-
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baseball's American League in 1977.



The winner was
Brian Hauer
of Bishop Kearney

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What sport sees striped-shirted men
working on the chain gang?

A:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
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