

Youth

## McQuaid brainstormers win

By Rob Cullivan

The audience hushed as the producer of the WXXI-TV21 game show *Brain Stormers* counted down the seconds to air time.

Five, four, three, two and ...

"Welcome to Brain Stormers," host Steve Hausmann said, his voice sounding vaguely familiar, as if it had a life of its own somewhere out on the waves of the radio and TV ocean. As his words bounced around the studio, the McQuaid Jesuit High School team sat like enlightened sages, waiting to demolish the forces of Hilton High School.

Hausmann announced the rules, which made no sense to listeners, but one point was clear: ignorance equaled death in the coming contest of teenage cerebrums.

Neither team successfully answered many of the initial questions. The audience members — made up of parents, teachers and press — squirmed in their seats, fearful that silence would greet every question in the next half

hour.

Then, McQuaid's Michael Diodato correctly answered Hausmann's question about a substand the surgeon general recently identified as being as addictive as heroin.

"Nicotine," Diodato replied, and like a match that had been struck, the McQuaid team came alive, fielding questions deftly.

At first, the Hilton team matched McQuaid's performance. Hilton's team captain, an attractive girl named Christine, successfully reinforced centuries of male chauvinism by correctly answering a question about baking bread.

Soon, though, the McQuaid team began blowing their publicly funded counterparts away. Scott Davis, a red-headed junior, correctly named the Nazi minister of propaganda in Hitler's Germany. Senior Mike Hotra reminded listeners that the New York Mets won the 1986



McQuaid team members — (from left) Scott Davis, Mike Hotra, Michael Diodato and Andy Weisskopf — consider their answer to a 'Brainstormers' question.

World Series.

The Hilton team blew a major opportunity to take a commanding lead when they were offered several bonus points for correctly naming the presidents from 1801 up into the 1840s. After naming only Thomas Jefferson, the Hilton team faltered, and the questioning went to McQuaid. Diodato, the backbone of McQuaid's effort, successfully named four of the seven presidents.

McQuaid began licking its chops, anticipating the delicious delights of victory that awaited them after pummeling their opponents on the presidency. Hausmann paused to introduce each contestant to the viewers. Pointing to Hotra, the host quipped, "I can see you obviously didn't get the blue jacket memo." The stunned senior look in embarrassment at the tan jacket he alone was wearing, chuckled, and then lost himself in thought, brushing off the

jibe with the composure of a champion.

Following Hausmann's introductions, the teams set to finishing their duel. McQuaid's Andrew Weisskopf, a slumbering giant till now, awoke with a thunderclap of certainty when he answered "Think tank" to the host's question about the Brookings Institution. Hotra defined the difference between a meteor and meteorite for the interested audience, and then Diodato wrapped it up by beheading Charles I — figuratively, that is.

Through it all, only Hilton's captain seemed armed to battle the tough McQuaid team, which quickly exited with their parents and teachers, thus missing out on any chance to be interviewed and, hence, gain greater fame.

But then, perhaps, maybe such intellectual avatars would find fame a fleeting pleasure compared to the eternal enjoyment of knowledge which is the privilege of the enlightened.

## Coming of Age

By Christopher Carstens  
NC News Service

Have you ever had this conversation with your mom or dad?

You ask, "Can we sit down and talk?"

Then your parent gets that scary look and blurts out, "What's wrong?"

It isn't surprising that adults sometimes worry when their children want to talk. Both parents and teens often complain about their lack of communication, but nobody seems to communicate unless there is a problem.

Communication should not be just a "hard times" event. But if you and your folks have gotten out of the habit of taking time to talk with each other, you can be the one to take the lead in changing things.

Communicating isn't that difficult. Most parents would like to talk with their youngsters, but they usually don't know much about rock music or teen fashions. So they end up asking about your homework and whether or not you've picked up your room, because they can't think of anything else to say.

This is "talking," but it rarely leads to real

communication.

You can open the way to communication by offering your parents something to talk about. Communicating with a parent is a lot like communicating with anybody else. It works best when you express an interest in the other person.

First, try looking at your parents as if they were real people. It is easy to forget that there is a whole person in there, not just a rule enforcer.

When you live with somebody day after day, you sometimes stop seeing them clearly. Begin your quest for communication by looking for the person that other people see.

What is your mom, or your dad, really like?

Once you can answer that kind of question, you've started to look past the parental role and are beginning to see the real person.

The next step is to take an interest in your parents' interests. If you know your mom is dreaming about a summer trip to the ocean, ask how the plans are going. If your dad's main love in life is restoring his 1956 Corvette, check on whether he's located that rebuilt transmission he was hoping to buy.

The goal is not to make yourself a teenage photocopy of your mom or dad. Rather, it's to give them — and yourself — something to talk about together. By showing an interest in their interests, you open the conversation. Soon the discussions will move on to other subjects, including things that are of interest to you.

## Our Lady of Mercy High School Who would you vote for in the presidential election?

AMY WHEELER, Senior

Neither one is a good candidate, but Bush would probably be more productive.

LAURIE CARLETTA, Senior

I agree with Dukakis on everything but his views on the death penalty.

DEIRDRE KENNEDY, Freshman

Bush has been with foreign affairs for years. Foreign leaders can relate better to him than Dukakis.

SARAH WALSH, Freshman

Dukakis. Because Bush has made more mistakes.

## As Teens See It

ADRIA GREGOR, Junior

For the last eight years the United States has represented peace and prosperity. George Bush is the best candidate for president.

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## HOUSE OF GUITARS

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We received 29 correct entries identifying Cher as the female who had the 1971 hit single "Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves."

The winner was Danielle Smyth of Cardinal Mooney

### MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:  
In the movies, who sang the song "The Way We Were?"

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.

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