### Youth

# Aquinas sophomore tells peers about need for fire prevention

By Rob Cullivan

For Lynn Wesley, fire prevention is a relative matter. The Aquinas Institute sophomore was inspired to enter the Western New York Fireman's Association beauty pageant last July by her uncle, Roger Damon, a past chief of the .Gates-Chili Fire Department.

Wesley was crowned queen of the pageant on July 29, winning in a field of 15 girls from throughout western New York. Each contestant had to deliver a speech on a fire-related topic, perform a skit demonstrating her personality and model an evening gown.

In her speech, Wesley discussed the conditions volunteer firemen face when they respond to a call and the reasons they cite for volunteer-"Their responses (to her question) were that firefighting has been in my family for a long time, and it makes me feel proud to be able to serve my community,"Wesley told the

Firefighting is a family affair for Wesley, whose 17-year-old brother, Tim, is a member of firefighting Explorer Post 286. Tim, a senior at Aquinas, wants to follow in his uncle's footsteps and has applied to join the Ridge-Culver Volunteer Fire Association when he turns 18.

His sister remembered thinking about him

and her uncle before making her speech. "(I thought if) by some chance that I did win I would be representing him (Tim) when he became a fireman, and my uncle too. That just gave me such a thrill," she said, smiling.

Wesley gets her chance to represent her relatives and the association at as many as three speaking engagements a week at locations throughout Monroe County. But her interest in fire prevention goes beyond her royal duties. According to her mother, Susan, the whole family will drop what it's doing to respond to a neighborhood fire — watching on as Tim assists the Culver Ridge volunteers.

The family's eagerness to see him succeed can sometimes lead to sacrifices. Susan recalled a particularly bitter cold night when Tim and the others arrived at a fire only to realize that he had forgotten his gloves at home. Although she was dressed lightly, Lynn began walking back to their house to retrieve her brother's gloves. As they stood there, Susan and her husband, Clement, realized how cold it was and got in their car to pick up their daughter. By the time they caught up with her, she was frostbitten. "It ook us a few days to warm her up again," Suan said.

Fortunately, it doesn't take as long for aufriendship became a victim of a natural parting.

diences to warm up to Wesley. She recently completed a tour of area grammar schools, speaking to fourth-through sixth-graders on the topics of fire prevention and vandalism. Last October, before Halloween, she spoke to students at Iroquois Middle School in West Irondequoit about peer pressure to vandalize on a night traditionally devoted to mischief. Youngsters, who might scoff at other authority figures, tend to listen to her because she has observed the consequences of poor fire prevention,

The beauty queen has also educated senior citizens on fire safety. She was one of several speakers at a a fire safety seminar for senior citizens last October 4 at the Mapledale Party House in Rochester. "I'm really amazed at how little they know," she said, noting that her audience was aimed at teaching audience members how to escape burning buildings and use smoke

Currently, Wesley is taking a break from her busy routine, which will pick up again in February. Following the end of her reign next July, she hopes to continue her involvement in the community by organizing groups devoted to fire prevention.

an inoperable and virulent form of cancer. In two years, she was dead.

During those two years, we had many special times. My mother didn't ask, "Why me?" She asked, "Why not me?" Then she tried to live each day to the fullest. She fought to live but prayed, "Thy will be done."

I, on the other hand, flailed against the cards dealt me. Surely there was some right combination of things to do that would save her. Above all, I did not want to lose her.

Yet through her death, I grew. I learned that God can bring good out of darkness and peace out of pain. And I learned to "let go and let God" because he knows better than I about

Linda Dow Hayes \_\_ Courier-Journal Lynn, Wesley, a sophomore at Aquinas Institute, won the title of queen for the Western New York Volunteer Fireman's Association last July.

what I need and want.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me" (John 14:1). This is a Scripture verse I memorized for my church group. I repeated it like a lucky charm, as if it had a magical power to protect me from all that could go wrong.

One day the significance of the word "let" struck me. I have a choice whether or not my troubles overwhelm me. I can let them. Or I can not let them. I can put my faith in God and his Son, or I can put my faith in the world and my-

Letting go is a hard discipline. It means acceptance. It means choice. It means faith.

## Coming of Age

**By Linda Rome** 

There are many endings in life: the natural progression of the seasons, changes of age, growings up and away. Sometimes it is difficult to accept the finality of these passages because they do not jibe with our mental images of how our lives are supposed to be

When I was 14, my best friend started dating. She walked between classes with her new boyfriend instead of with me, and met with him after school to study - the way we used to together. She had less time for me and our

By Scott Rhatigan

Bishop Kearney High School

The legislation which allowed those 18 or ol-

der to vote was heralded as a way to introduce

"democracy in action" to the youth of our

nation. It gave those who could defend the coun-

try a sight to say who would govern it. It may

The segment of the population affected by

this law those between 18 and 21 — do not

vote as frequently as do others. Therefore, poli-

ticians do not address the issues affecting this

group except to mollify parents' concerns. With

such inattention and the poor example set for

We received 8 correct entries

group who performed "Love in

This week's question:

Who wrote "God Bless America?"

of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All s

date. Winning names and answers will be printed the

Rules:

of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enser 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,

flyours is the winning entry, you will be malled a coupon for a free algum or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this papers issue

a grawing will be held and one winning entry will be dra

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the Hoyse

identifying Alabama as the

the 1st Degree."

Speaking

Out

also have been a mistake.

couldn't understand why it had to happen that way. I was angry, sad and spiteful all at once, and afraid because I didn't want to be hurt When the first boy I ever told I loved dumped

me. I couldn't believe it. I walked through my days like a robot. I don't remember any of my, classes, but I must have studied because I have the transcripts.

I remember that the spaces between my crying became longer and longer until only an occasional song set me off. Accepting the pain and then letting go of it was the first step to healing.

Many circumstances are beyond our control-Accidents, illness and death are all supposed to happen to other people, not to us. And when they do, we hardly can believe it.

On the day my mother was to arrive for her first grandson's first birthday party, I got a telephone call. My mother had had emergency surgery the night before. She was diagnosed with

them by an apathetic public, it is no wonder that

adolescents often vote ignorantly, haphazardly

This is not to say that the vote should not be

given to this age group in order to prevent such

meaningless voting from affecting elections.

Rather, we must work to encourage young citi-

zens to participate intelligently in our democ-

racy. In high school, teachers should devote

part of their courses to giving students an

understanding of our government and present-

day issues. Colleges are vital to this effort be-

cause the greater part of this segment of society

is enrolled in college. Local and state politicians

should speak to classes about the benefits of vot-

ing. Teachers could present election issues to

the classes and organize group registration and

These efforts may seem wasteful because of

the poor voting history of this part of our popu-

lation. Such measures are, however, the least

we can do to preserve democracy for the future.

Voters today will be voters tomorrow.

The winner was

of St. Bonaventure

The Courier-Journal

Music Trivia

1150 Buffalo Rd.

Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Pat Dugan

HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98

CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

City\_

Zip Code.

School

## McQuaid Jesuit High School

## Should birth control be available in diocesan Catholic high schools?

## As Teens See It

#### PAUL LEFROIS, Senior

I think that birth control in the schools is a positive response to a real and present danger. Education does not seem to work in preventing pregnancies and the spread of disease. But legally you must be 18 to have sex. If you're under age, you're committing statuatory rape - even if both participants are under 18. So I don't think that funding could be raised to distribute birth control in the schools, as it would encourage the violation of a law. I think that this law should be scrutinized first.

DAVE MIENTEMP, Senior

Obviously, I go to Mc Quaid and, in abidance with Catholic doctrine, I don't believe my school could possibly distribute birth control. I also really don't think that birth control in the schools is a good idea, as it would only encourage sex. The school is a place of learning, not of sexuality.

#### MIKE BISHOP, Senior

I believe that the facts must be faced that teens do have sex. When they have sex, they run the risk of contracting diseases or getting pregnant. Anything that will prevent either one of the above is well worth it. So I say, "Give us condoms."

#### Academy seeks teen actors

High-school-age boys are invited to audition for male roles in Nazareth Academy's spring musical, "Camelot," January 9 and 10 from 3-6

For more information, call Sister Mary Clouser, SSJ, at 716/458-8583.

Country Club Plaza East Rochester (716) 385-6530



ADC 5000 Drawknob

## Does Your Church Need A New Organ or Piano?

We recommend the Allen Digital Computer Organ. No unification of stops, no periodic tuning. Consoles, specifications, and casework custom designed for your church at reasonable costs.

Outstanding pipe organ sound unaffected by today's lower heat requirements. Complete Selection of Pianos & Organs for Home, Church, and School

Fine Pianos and Organs by Allen, Steinway, Sohmer, Everett, Yamaha and others.

#### Joseph Shale Inc. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### teams The with be ment c place ti

AQU mained season took th ment, o ton 73-In the defensi forcing poor-sh the out eindor ( tively,

and tak Once a defense ing only In the Irish co vantage getting with the marked Once Little In

champi

ment's Diane gram ti tremeno

a guy w didn't h CAR that rod then has cadia a Tourna

In the conds le mark, v game fo ished th double center N Trapp

Greece took cor building defensiv keep the points a Lack — and tl rely on 1

this sea

tournan

senior g "He doe score m our defe goes fo wouldn' BISH played i into sm Midlake The Kir 48-28 t

points, a The F round g The gan çlinging pulled v but two 20, and the gam Spiva ar center G

MCQ took the Holiday tough co into a bu The 1