

Inaugural events excite Notre Dame student

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ELMIRA — If Vice President Dan Quayle ever needs a break from journalists questioning his abilities, he need only pick up his phone and call Notre Dame High School senior Maura Rurak.

"I think he's gotten a really bad rap," Rurak remarked. "If he didn't think he could do the job, I don't think he'd be there."

Rurak speaks from first-hand knowledge of Quayle, and his boss, President George Bush. She heard both men speak at one of several functions she attended during the three-day Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C., Jan. 18-20.

The conference was sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, a private, Washington-based educational organization that brings outstanding youths to the nation's capital and gives them "hands-on" civic experience. During her stay, Rurak met journalists, members of Congress and various sports and entertainment celebrities.

She was a prime candidate for the conference. In her spare time, she chairs the Chemung County Youth Council, a panel of 20 representatives from five area high schools who organize an annual one-day conference on youth issues. Rurak is treasurer of Notre Dame's student council, serves as the youngest member of the Chemung County Red Cross Board of Directors, and works to find youth programs worthy of county funding as a member of the Chemung County Youth Bureau Board.

Notre Dame's principal, Sister Mary Walter Hickey, recommended Rurak to the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, which informed the excited student she would be headed to Washington to hear her favored candidate, George Bush, speak at his inauguration. "I was happy that Bush won," she said. "I believe in what he stands for."

Bush's anti-abortion and pro-defense stances coincide with Rurak's conservatism, a trait she attributes to family influence. "My parents are strict Republicans," she noted. "They've always voted Republican."

She'll miss one Republican — former President Ronald Reagan — and the foreign policy he ordained. "I like how he bombed (Libyan leader Muammar) Gaddafi ... I think that he had to be taught a lesson," she said.

Rurak learned more benign lessons during the conference in Washington. During a visit to a meeting of the National Press Club, one of her fellow conferees asked if ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson had a personal grudge against Reagan. The panel of speakers responded that when Donaldson shouted questions to Reagan over the noise of the presidential helicopter, he was simply doing his journalistic duty. But Rurak didn't agree.

"It doesn't matter who is president of the United States. I wouldn't yell at him," she said. Yet, she might yell one figure from the Reagan era — Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, whom she saw testify before Congress while visiting Washington with her family during the 1987 Iran-Contra hearings.

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Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

Notre Dame senior Maura Rurak displays some of the memorabilia she acquired at President Bush's inauguration in Washington, D.C.

SPEAKING OUT

By Kathleen M. Ryan
Nazareth Academy

A college education is an experience that can prove invaluable to the majority of people. A college degree can be the ticket to a wealth of jobs and opportunities. Catholic high schools need to make more of an effort to provide a solid college preparatory curriculum. This effort should include more stringent course requirements, increased quality of guidance facilities and closer interaction between students and administrators.

The current Regents curriculum does not provide the average student with enough skills. Under this program, a student is able to graduate if he or she attains a grade of 65 percent or higher, completes three years of math and science and four years of English and history. A student could easily maintain a 67-percent average in these courses and gain a Regents diploma and a false sense of security.

Should our Catholic schools be satisfied with complacency? Will the student with a 67 average be able to benefit from, or even

Continued on page 12

DeSales High School Should New York state legalize the death penalty for murder?

SHANNON HARVEY, sophomore:

I think New York shouldn't legalize the death penalty. It isn't right to kill someone. They may have killed someone, but being in prison most of your life is punishment enough. There is enough killing in this state.

ADRIANNA POLON, senior:

I am not in favor of having the death penalty reinstated in New York state. I do not believe that two wrongs make a right. How can a death penalty be justified if the punishment is the same as the crime committed? How can man have the power to choose life or death for his fellow man, when only God has the right to make the choice?

All those guilty who were executed in the past do not make up for even one person unjustly accused and executed. Once he is dead, a man cannot be brought back to life, nor can he be useful to mankind. A man who is alive can do much good for others. Those men in prison can be put to work that will benefit society and, at the same time, their lives will be spared.

AS TEENS SEE

TONY URWIN, freshman:

Yes, the death penalty should be enforced. New York state is running out of jail space for our convicted inmates. Furthermore, most of the inmates were put in jail for either homicide or murder. It's these criminals that should receive the sentence of death. For taking another life, that person doesn't deserve to live.

DAVID BARNARD, junior:

I feel the answer should come from an economic and political point of view because it costs money to man the prisons that contain life prisoners. Killers don't worry about going to prison for life — it is an easy way out. If you put the fear of the death penalty in their minds, they won't be as willing to do what they did. It is obvious that you must review the cases because some should be dealt with before others.

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We received 16 correct entries identifying Jim Croce as the singer that recorded "Time in a Bottle."

The winner was
Patrick Coffey
of Manchester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who made the 1972 song, "Vincent", a Top 40 hit?

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
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

By Richard Staff writer

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