

## Speaking out

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survive, a rigorous college curriculum? I feel that four years of math, science, history and English should be mandatory for all Regents students. A 75 average, or higher, should be required for credit.

Students such as myself who participate in the Honors and Advanced Placement program at Nazareth Academy, are being prepared to face any college curriculum. Yet, there are only 10-13 students in this program. A curriculum similar to that of the AP program should be stressed for all students. College credit is given for AP courses because they simulate actual college courses. Most students in the Regents program are bound for college, and should likewise be as prepared as the AP students.

The guidance facilities at most Catholic high schools are understaffed. At Nazareth Academy there is only one guidance counselor for the entire senior class! It is not

humanly impossible, nor realistic, for one person to meet the needs of each individual student. College applications are becoming more difficult each year, and admission requirements stricter. No student, no matter how high their grade-point average, can be assured of an acceptance at a top university. This results in each student applying to five or more schools. If you multiply that by a minimum of twenty-five students, the paper work becomes enormous.

Closer interaction between students and administrators is extremely important for college preparation. More attention to curriculum is needed in freshman and sophomore years. Reading and writing skills must be stressed in every subject at every level. Preparing for college early will go a long way toward relieving the panic of the first few months of senior year. Students can only benefit from this kind of support throughout high school.

A college education should be the goal of every student in the Catholic school system. If college is not possible, a solid,

liberal arts curriculum in high school, can go a long way in preparing a student for a job. As a student of Nazareth Academy, I can see that Nazareth is the ideal place for this change to occur. The teachers are dynamic, motivated and well-educated, and

the administrators are receptive to innovation. I think the eyes of Nazareth Academy, and all Rochester-area Catholic schools, should be on a future that includes college-bound students with exceptional skills.

## Inaugural

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"Basically I thought he was a crook," Rurak commented, noting that her sister, Megan, had met North the year before when she was being briefed at the U.S. state department before going to Europe as part of the People to People International High School Ambassador Homestay Program. Rurak also participated in the privately-funded Missouri-based program, which sends students to Europe on summer tours to learn about the political, economic and cultural structures of five Western European nations and one Eastern European nation.

Rurak visited Great Britain, France, The Netherlands, Belgium and East and West Germany last summer. She was impressed by the knowledge Europeans had of the United States and confessed that they often knew more about her native land than she did.

Rurak hopes to expand her own knowledge by attending college next fall. So far, she's applied to several schools, including

Notre Dame, Villanova and Boston College. Wherever she goes, she said she's sure to attempt to enter student government. Will the country ever see a Republican named Rurak running for public office?

"It's not a direct goal right now," Rurak said. But she admitted that listening to different politicians in Washington "made me want to get really involved in politics."

## Union

Continued from page 4

the coalition, said the group will continue to monitor the situation. Regarding the union's certification, Father Reid said, "I feel very good. It's a big step forward."

Wayne Pettengill, a Kleen Brite employee, echoed with the priest's sentiments. "Hopefully, it's for the best," he said. Referring to union demands, Pettengill remarked, "even if we get half the stuff, it'd be worth it."

Some of the "stuff" the union wants was decided at a meeting, Sunday, Feb. 12, in the ACTWU hall at 750 East Ave. Kleen Brite employees voted on a package of proposals that its union negotiating committee will bring to the table when, and if, it ever meets with the company.

According to Kurt Edelman, a union organizer, Kleen Brite sent a letter to the union stating that it would not meet with the new chapter, a stance Edelman called "illegal."

Kleen Brite spokeswoman Susan Exford declined to comment on the issue when contacted on Monday, Feb. 11, but noted that the company would release a statement on the matter by the end of this week.

If the two parties do ever meet, Edelman said that the union would demand a health and safety committee, increased pay, rewards for long-term employees and paid leave for serving jury duty.

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## THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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**When should we get back to a regular routine after a loved one dies?**

No two people react in exactly the same way to the death of a loved one. Some people do well by plunging into old routines or setting up new ones. Others need time to adjust to life without the deceased. They need time to express feelings, to learn new ways of doing things and to put affairs in order. The critical matter is that the grieving person be aware of and willing to deal with the changes death has created. Activity solely for the purpose of escaping feelings and running from the pain will not work. On the other hand inactivity can further depression. The newly bereaved should take time to deal with feelings and then begin the tasks necessary to make life meaningful.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future.

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