

## Geneva youth doesn't waste the time of his life



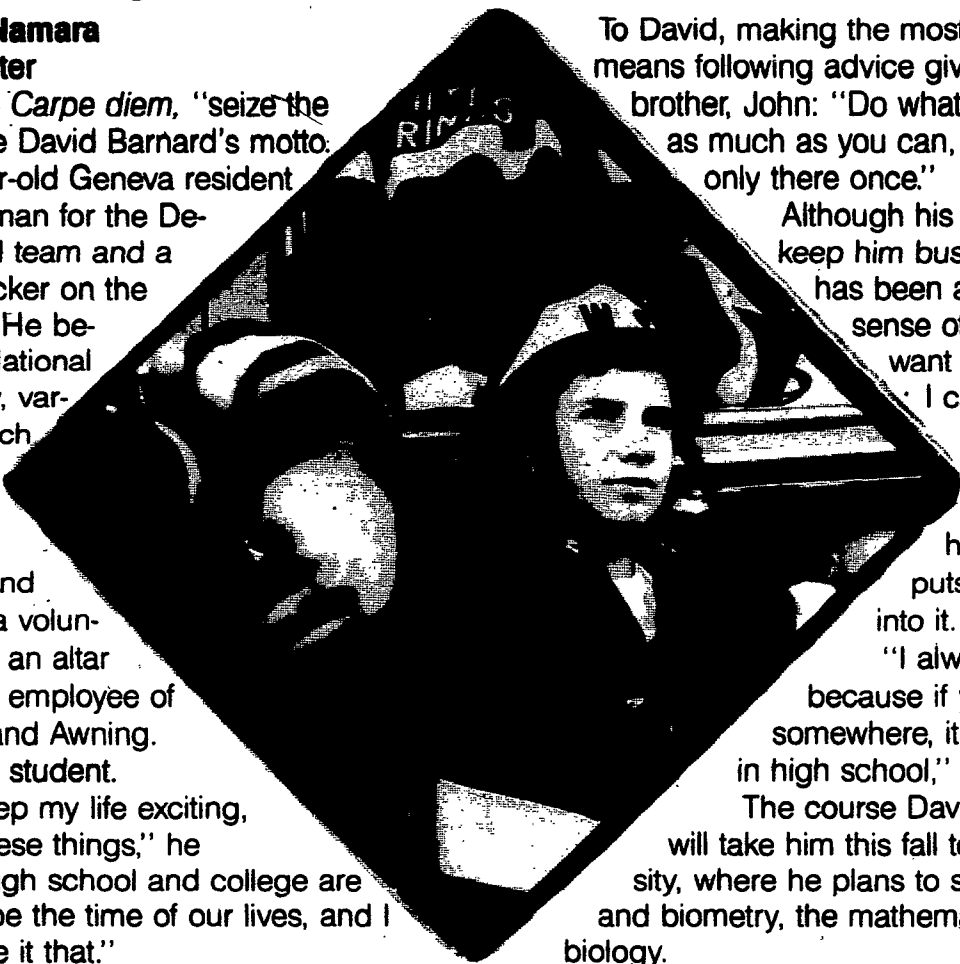
By Sean McNamara  
Freelance writer

GENEVA — *Carpe diem*, "seize the day," could be David Barnard's motto.

The 17-year-old Geneva resident is a first baseman for the De-Sales baseball team and a middle linebacker on the football team. He belongs to the National Honor Society, varsity club, French club and weightlifting club. He is an Eagle Scout and scout leader, a volunteer firefighter, an altar server and an employee of Geneva Tent and Awning.

He's also a student.

"I try to keep my life exciting, doing all of these things," he remarked. "High school and college are supposed to be the time of our lives, and I intend to make it that."



To David, making the most of these years means following advice given by his older brother, John: "Do whatever you can; do as much as you can, because you're only there once."

Although his many activities keep him busy, David said he has been able to maintain a sense of balance. "If I want to do something, I can always find the time," he said.

Whatever he's doing, David puts his whole effort into it.

"I always work hard, because if you want to go somewhere, it starts right here in high school," he said.

The course David has charted will take him this fall to Cornell University, where he plans to study statistics and biometry, the mathematical side of biology.

He said the combination of pursuits is only natural, given his interests in mathematics and his love of working outdoors. "The one thing I don't think I could ever do is sit behind a desk," the energetic teen remarked, noting that he plans to pursue a career in ecology after college.

David's environmental interests likewise relate to his involvement with the White Springs Fire Association in Geneva, in which he has served since he was 16. He recently completed his fire-matics course, making him a qualified firefighter.

His desire to assist the church community has led David to continue on as an altar server. "I do it to serve the church," said David, who began serving at age 11. "When I start something, I finish it. I look at this as finishing a job." He also trains young members of Geneva's St. Stephen's Parish to become servers.

"I loved working with the kids, teaching them what someone else taught me," he remarked of the training program and of his work in past summers as a counselor at Boy Scout Camp Babcock in Ovid.

David attributes much of his success to the support of his parents. "They've always pushed me," he said.

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