

DeSales duo devotes time to volunteer duty

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GENEVA — If there was a college offering "jack-of-all-trades" as a program of study, you could be sure that John LeRoy and Matt Hezel would have headed there this fall.

The two Clifton Springs residents have been involved in a huge array of activities together throughout their eight-year friendship, which began when Hezel moved to Clifton Springs from Watertown.

Over the last several months, much of their free time has gone toward the enrichment of DeSales High School, from where they will soon graduate.

The work of LeRoy and Hezel greatly enhanced the quality of the school musical, *The Apple Tree*, which was performed the weekend of May 16-17. Together with the help of Hezel and some DeSales students' fathers, LeRoy constructed a permanent 16-foot back wall for the school stage.

In addition to renovating the overhead stage lights and footlights, LeRoy and Hezel made improvements to the sound system.

"We had a lot of very favorable comments. Their work was definitely noticed," said Ted Mullen, a DeSales physics instructor who oversaw the three-week renovation project.

LeRoy said he was motivated for the project because he was tired of seeing the auditorium become run-down.

"For four years I was looking for an excuse to get my two cents in," he said. "I try not to open my mouth too much. I just went and did it."

The sound system was bolstered by the use of equipment from the disc jockey service, Sundown Sounds, that is operated by LeRoy, 18, and Hezel, 17. The duo has provided music for other DeSales events during the past year, including the school's fourth annual Talent Show last March.

Volunteer work by LeRoy and Hezel goes beyond the entertainment field.



DeSales seniors Matt Hezel (left) and John LeRoy have been working together for the past eight years. The two, otherwise known as Sundown Sounds, serve as disc jockeys for dances and school functions, and also work on the stage crew.

Babetta G. Augustin/Photo editor

Last summer they painted several hallways and rooms at the school, often working so late into the evening that "we were afraid the cops were going to come," said LeRoy, who attends the United Methodist Church of Clifton Springs.

Both seniors are involved in other school activities as well. They were co-captains of the 1991 football team — Hezel played at tackle and LeRoy was a running back; they belonged to Ski Club; and both served as photographers for the school yearbook.

Prior to their arrival at DeSales, they were members of the Midlakes Junior High School Band. LeRoy played saxophone, Hezel was a trombonist.

This summer, they'll also work together at Clifton Springs Country Club.

"We're like best buddies. Everything we do is exactly the same," said Hezel, a parishioner of St. Felix Church in Clifton Springs.

That day-to-day closeness will change in the fall of 1992 as the two

students finally head their separate ways, with LeRoy going off to the University of Buffalo and Hezel heading up to the University of New Hampshire. "We'll definitely keep in touch," said LeRoy.

Their wide range of interests are further reflected in the majors they've chosen: LeRoy plans to study engineering physics, and Hezel is concentrating on forestry.

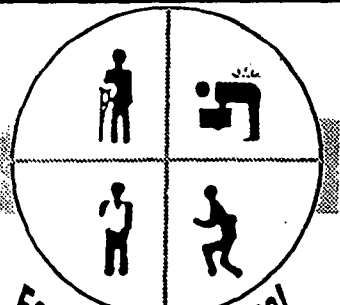
Asked where they found the time to be so involved with their school, Hezel replied, "I have no idea."

Correction

Due to a typographical error, the article "New video focuses on Becket Hall discerners" (*Catholic Courier*, May 14) incorrectly identified the status of Becket Hall residents. These residents are correctly called "pre-theologians."

We regret the error.

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