

Information crush greets potential collegians

Recruiters flock to high schools

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — Colorful posters cover the walls at Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S. The signs are not the result of any class project, not do they make any reference to the Catholic high school.

Yet they will remain in clear view — and continue to grow in numbers — over the next few months.

College recruitment is in full swing at Catholic high schools in the Rochester diocese. Recruiters can frequently be seen stationed in hallways and cafeterias at this time of year, leaving behind posters, brochures and information-request forms for students to peruse.

In addition, "college nights" are held in larger settings around town, during which several high schools and colleges participate.

Sister Bernice Staub, SSND, who serves as Kearney's director of guidance, noted that approximately 130 college representatives attended a college night she coordinated on Oct. 4 at Irondequoit Mall. Students from Kearney, Our Lady of Mercy, Irondequoit, Eastring and Webster high schools participated.

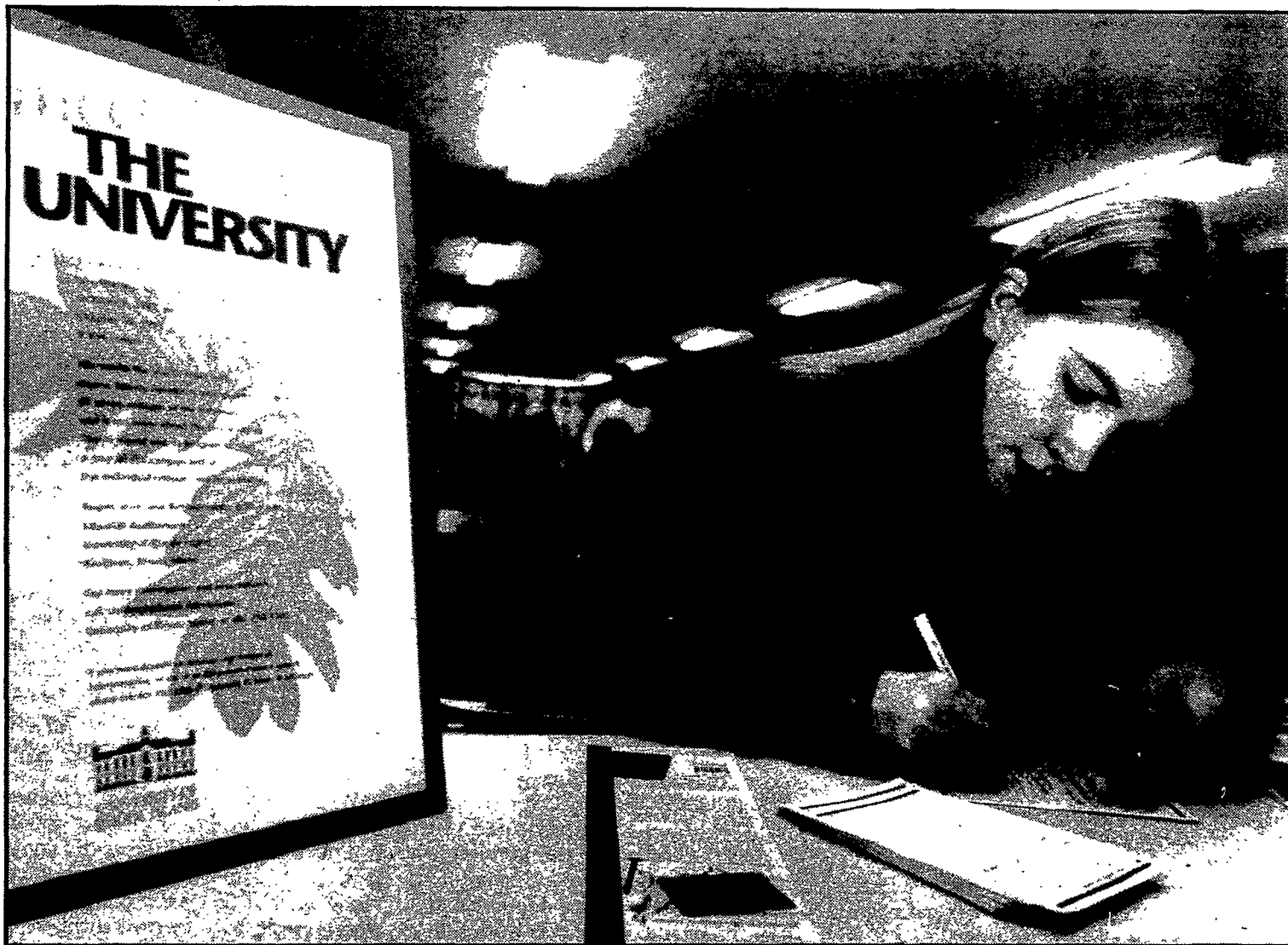
"There were even banks there to give financial-aid information," Sister Staub noted.

The guidance director estimated that 150 colleges will make recruitment visits to Kearney during the 1993-94 school year. Institutions outside of Rochester tend to make only one visit, whereas local colleges may make several, she added.

"This will go right through the winter. They're not only here for the seniors, but also for the juniors and sophomores," Sister Staub said.

The flood of information — combined with a student's inexperience at "shopping" for colleges — can significantly disrupt the decision-making process, remarked Lori Del Toro.

"Financial aid, grants, scholarship information, how to apply, when to apply, if you'd qualify — it's really confusing," the 17-year-old BK senior commented.



Bishop Kearney junior Theresa Ladrigan fills out a card requesting information from the University of Rhode Island. A university representative visited Kearney Oct. 6.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

However, Del Toro added that proper preparation can help avoid potential headaches.

"I didn't want to get to my senior year and have no clue as to what I want to be," remarked Del Toro, who has been looking into colleges since her sophomore year. Although she plans to major in business administration, Del Toro has not yet made a final college choice.

"Some of my friends are being really lax about it," she added. "They think that somebody's going to do it for them, or by some miracle they're going to end up in the school they want to be in, they'll get the classes they want and it's all going to be paid for."

The issue of finances has become more prevalent since Sister Staub began working in the Kearney guidance office nearly 20 years ago. She noted that institutes with comparatively low

tuition, such as state colleges and universities, have risen in popularity.

Yet she pointed out that today's economy doesn't necessarily have to deter a student from a college of his/her choice.

"Planning is very important," said Sister Staub, who cited establishment of a family "college fund" and applying for various financial-aid and schol-

arship packages.

When all the complications of recruiting and filling out applications have come and gone, Sister Staub acknowledged that certain simple factors still help formulate many high-school seniors' plans.

"Kids mainly make their decision based on where their friends went, or where their family went," she said.

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