

Youths guide elders during panel discussion

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Every so often, it doesn't hurt for youths and adults to experience a little role reversal.

This idea was illustrated last Friday, Dec. 3, when it was the adults asking youths for guidance.

An eight-member panel of teenagers shared their feelings about critical issues during a lengthy question-and-answer session. This event was part of a daylong conference titled, "Falling Through the Cracks: How to Keep 13-15 Year Olds on the Success Track." The conference was held at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St.

Sponsored by the Catholic Youth Organization of the Catholic Family Center, the conference drew approxi-



Karen Kidston, a counseling intern at Rochester's East High School, listens to comments from the eight-member youth panel.

mately 150 adults who are involved in various youth services.

The panel discussion's moderator was Pat Fox, who serves as youth director at St. John the Evangelist Church, 150 Floverton St. During the panel discussion the eight teens — all Monroe County resident ranging in age from 14-19 — were frequently blunt with their observations.

Asked what adults can do to better serve the teens, Kadija Brown, 14, replied, "I think adults should watch what they do and watch what they say, because they're role models for us."

Lamar Johnson, 14, suggested creating more jobs, because "going on a corner and selling drugs is an easy buck."

Regarding teen pregnancy, Elizabeth Cathcart, 14, was both humorous and realistic when she mentioned media influence.

"We see (sex) on TV and say, 'Ooh, I wonder how that feels,'" Cathcart acknowledged.

"Parents should really teach their children (about sex) at a young age," said Vernon Reed, 19.

"Schools and parents should both get involved," added Candee Giannoccaro, 16.

Family was a frequent subject of discussion. In responding to a question about one's greatest fear, Andre Lamont Otis, 17, said, "To have nobody there for me; no love, no family."

"When I leave for school in the morning and kiss my parents goodbye — that I'll never see them again," was Brown's answer.

Others on the panel noted that their lives have been greatly affected by the fact that they've spent time in foster families.

"It's really scary. If you got separated from your brothers and sisters, wouldn't you be scared?," said Cathcart.

The subject of spirituality also surfaced.

"I keep God first. No matter what problem you have, you should always have someone to talk to, and that's God," Giannoccaro commented.

"I've been through so many problems that sometimes I say, 'where's God?' But through all that pain and suffering I still have God keeping me here and keeping me strong," Reed remarked.

In summing up, the teens emphasized that being regarded as equals is what they seek most from their elders.

"Treat everyone the way you'd want to be treated," said Giannoccaro.

"Give everyone respect," Brown, told the adults.

Fox, in his closing remarks, lauded the panelists by saying that "it is humbling to be in the presence of experts." The eight teens then received a standing ovation from their audience.

Also included in the day's activities were workshops and discussions for such people as youth-group leaders and teachers. Bob Mahar, CYO department director, acknowledged that the first-ever conference filled a critical void for adults.

"There tend to be youth days, but not anything for youth workers," Mahar observed.



Vernon Reed (right) answers questions from adults as moderator Pat Fox looks on. Reed was serving as a teen panelist during a Catholic Youth Organization conference held Dec. 3 at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

ing & ring
ainter, interi-
ges/trim/bas
aired, gutter
ill jobs and
welcome, 18
3-2876, 392-
ER & SON
per
d Gutters
d Windows
381-0812
are
RIVERMI-
zed safe &
inst hook,
rms in dogs
e O-T-C. At
ARDWARE
(NYSCAN
ing
NG & HEATING
rk
2-2000
chuth
288-6967
vices
BLE
NTAL
ain
ty...
vered
Choirs
ng
oved
H
s, 75
inch
.m. -
low-
):
urrier

TOWER
COIN & STAMP EXCHANGE
Specialists in U.S. & Foreign Coins
COMPLETE LINE OF COIN & STAMP SUPPLIES
✓ Investments ✓ Counseling ✓ Appraisals
✓ Leading Buyer ✓ Coins ✓ Stamps ✓ Gold
✓ Silver ✓ Platinum & Silver Bars
✓ American Eagles for IRA's
NGC, PCGS, ANACS - Certified Coins & Submissions
Member Facts Nationwide Teletype System
Subsidiary of Bauer Coins,
Serving Rochester Since 1980
ANA Member
JOHN BAUER
House Calls By Appointment
546-3810
Mon.-Fri. 10-5, Thurs. 'til 7pm, Sat. 10-2, and By Appointment
New Location:
3400 Monroe Avenue,
Pittsford Colony Plaza

NEW YEAR'S EVE
ONEIDA BINGO PARTY
BINGO!
Price: \$115.00 includes
Transportation, bingo package,
prime rib dinner, and party favors.
Over \$40,000 in cash prizes
20 regular games starting at
\$500 up to \$2000.
BIG BONANZA pays as
high as \$75,000.
\$40 deposit must be made with reservations by
December 18th. Balance is due on bus.
Convenient pick-up locations in Rochester,
Canandaigua, Geneva, Waterloo, and Lyons.
For More information or to make reservations, Call or write today.
MILDRED MATHIS
P.O. Box 243, Geneva, New York 14456
Phone (315) 789-5612 or
Bonnie Flagg (716) 424-3470 or
Beverly Hadee (after 7pm)
(716) 288-2877

WIN A FREE ALBUM OR TAPE
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
What singer has made a "BIG" comeback with the hit single, "I'd Do Anything For Love?"
ANSWER: _____ Zip: _____
State: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
School: _____
HOUSE OF GUITARS
Most New Album and Tape Releases Just \$6.98
CD's From \$3.98 to \$11.98 ea.
645 Titus Avenue
544-9928 or 544-3500
Rules: One correct entry will be selected at random to receive a gift certificate for a free album or tape of the recipient's choice from the House of Guitars.
WINNER: Teresa Príncipe correctly identified "Without You" as the Harry Nilsson song that was re-recorded by Mariah Carey.
Mail Entries to:
Catholic Courier
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY
14624

Leewards
Your Holiday Headquarters for Crafts
This holiday season,
let Leewards help you stitch a stocking,
trim a tree, or create a colorful centerpiece ...
AND SAVE CERTIFIED WITH THE VALUABLE COUPON BELOW!
33% OFF ANY ONE ITEM IN THE STORE
Today Thru Sat., Dec. 18
Leewards
Offer applies to regular priced merchandise only. Not effective with any sale items or any other discounts. This ad must be presented at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per customer. Does not include custom framing, custom floral, and gift certificates.
Mon.-Fri. 9:30-9; Sat. 9:30-6, Sun. 11-5 • Frame Shop Closed Sunday
STONERIDGE PLAZA 1/4 mile from 390 • 621-2770
HENRIETTA PLAZA 1110 Jefferson Rd. • 272-9310
Now with 2 convenient locations to serve you
HENRIETTA: 1100 Jefferson Rd. (Rochester Henrietta Plaza) 272-9310
GREECE: 1250 Ridge Rd. West (In the Stone Ridge Plaza) 621-2770