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Follies' to perform five shows at Aquinas

ROCHESTER - "Follies 1994" will host a musical extravaganza over the next two weekends at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave.

This will mark the 17th annual show, and fifth at Aquinas, for the Follies, a Rochester-based adult performing group.

Dates and times for the upcoming performances are: March 11-12, 8 p.m.; March 13, 2 p.m.; and March 18-19, 8 p.m.

For advance tickets, call 716/663-4366. Tickets will also be sold at the door for any remaining seats available.

Sweepstakes offers \$25,000 grand prize

ROCHESTER – A grand prize of \$25,000 is being offered in the Nazareth Schools' 1994 Blue and Gold Sweepstakes.

In addition to the grand prize, the schools will award three prizes of \$2,500 each on March 18.

Tickets, at \$50 each, can be purchased by calling 716/458-8583.

Contest will benefit hunger organization

ROCHESTER – Students, ages 12-24, are invited to participate in the first-ever Art for Hunger con-

The competition is sponsored by Rochester Area Youth Ending Hunger, a group of high-school students working to end hunger both locally and worldwide.....

Entries will be judged on the basis of artistic merit and relevance to hunger issues.

Participants must fill out registration forms by March 15. For details, call Heather Rubenstein at 716/385-2974.

Students raise \$35,000 with dance marathon

PITTSFORD - St. John Fisher College students raised more than \$35,000 during the 12th annual "Dance for Love."

The 24-hour dance marathon was held at the college Feb. 4-5. Proceeds will go to the Teddi Project at Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc.

THE WEEKS QUESTION. THE WEEK'S QUESTION.

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Teen gets close-up view of African culture

Staff writer

ROCHESTER - Jessica Taylor didn't want to simply read about it. She just had to go see it for herself.

No, it wasn't a popular movie she was itching to get a look at. Her sights were set just a little farther than the local movie house.

Like more than 5,000 miles farther. Taylor, 15, recently completed a oneweek trip to Senegal, West Africa. She traveled with seven other students from Rochester – most of whom attend Wilson Magnet High School - during Feb-

A sophomore at Wilson, Taylor became eligible for the excursion by submitting a winning essay in a competition held in late 1992 which was sponsored by a non-profit volunteer group known as the Students in Africa Committee. Entrants were required to explain why they wanted to make the trip and what they would gain from it.

In her essay, Taylor said, she noted that "TV really only shows the hungry parts of Africa, and books are just someone else's impressions. I wanted to experience it myself."

And experience it she did. Taylor, her peers and three adult chaperons traveled to Senegal's capital city of Dakar, finally reaping the rewards from several long months of planning and money-raising.

"We fundraised a lot ... candy selling and raffles and garage sales," acknowledged Taylor, a parishioner at St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinchey Road. She is also the daughter of Judy Taylor, who serves as communications manager for the diocesan Office of Social Ministry.

Upon arriving in Senegal, located on the Atlantic Ocean's eastern shores, the Rochester contingent was greeted by warm temperatures which reached into the 80s. Taylor's group then spent two enlightening days with a number of Senegalese high-school students.

The country's languages included French and the local dialect of "Wolof." Yet Taylor noted that communication was conducted most easily in Spanish since that's the only language taught extensively in both Senegal and the United States.

The group also used sign language although not always successfully.

"One of my teachers who was videotaping was trying to tell people to wave - but when she waved, they all sat down," Taylor recalled with a laugh.

Shopping for goods from street merchants also proved to be a memorable experience. "You have to barter and low-

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Provided photo

Jessica Taylor (center) poses with some of her traveling companions from Wilson Magnet High School and new friends from Senegal, West Africa.

er the price," Taylor remarked. "They usually start at a price that's five times what something's worth."

For the most part, Taylor said, Dakar teenagers enjoy the same things as American youths.

"They like Whitney Houston and rap, and some of them like Genesis," said Taylor. "Most of them wear jeans and Tshirts."

She added that the Rochester group went out for pizza and watched Star Wars in French at their hotel room.

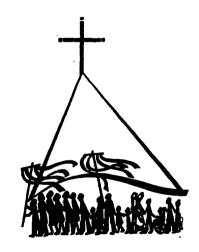
Yet other parts of the excursion provided a sharp departure from the group's home life. Taylor ventured out of Dakar to visit some small villages, where residents lived in straw huts with nothing more than beds and some photographs on the walls.

Also etched clearly in Taylor's memory is a visit to Goreé Island. There, she toured a slave house which once provided squalid lodging conditions for Senegalese natives earmarked for slave exportation to the New World from the 16th to 19th centuries. The slaves were bound in chains, and death by starvation was a frequent occurrence. "It's a sad history," Taylor commented.

Taylor noted that she'd like to continue her globetrotting activities in the years to come. On her short-term agenda, she hopes to spend a year in Japan as an exchange student.

"I want to do a lot of traveling. I'm just interested in how other people live, not just Americans," she said.

THANK YOU, ANALYSIS TEAMS!



Through painstaking, diligent and joyous work, the Synod analysis teams have drafted proposed implementation strategies for:

- Lifelong Religious **Education**
- Consistent Life Ethic
- Catholic Moral Education
- Role of Women in the Church
- Small Christian Communities

After review by the Synod Implementation Commission, the drafts will be sent to parishes for comment.

Please join me in thanking the analysis teams for sharing their gifts in this process.

Through our work together, may God's people be served.

> Deacon Tom Cass Director, Synod Implementation



Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18