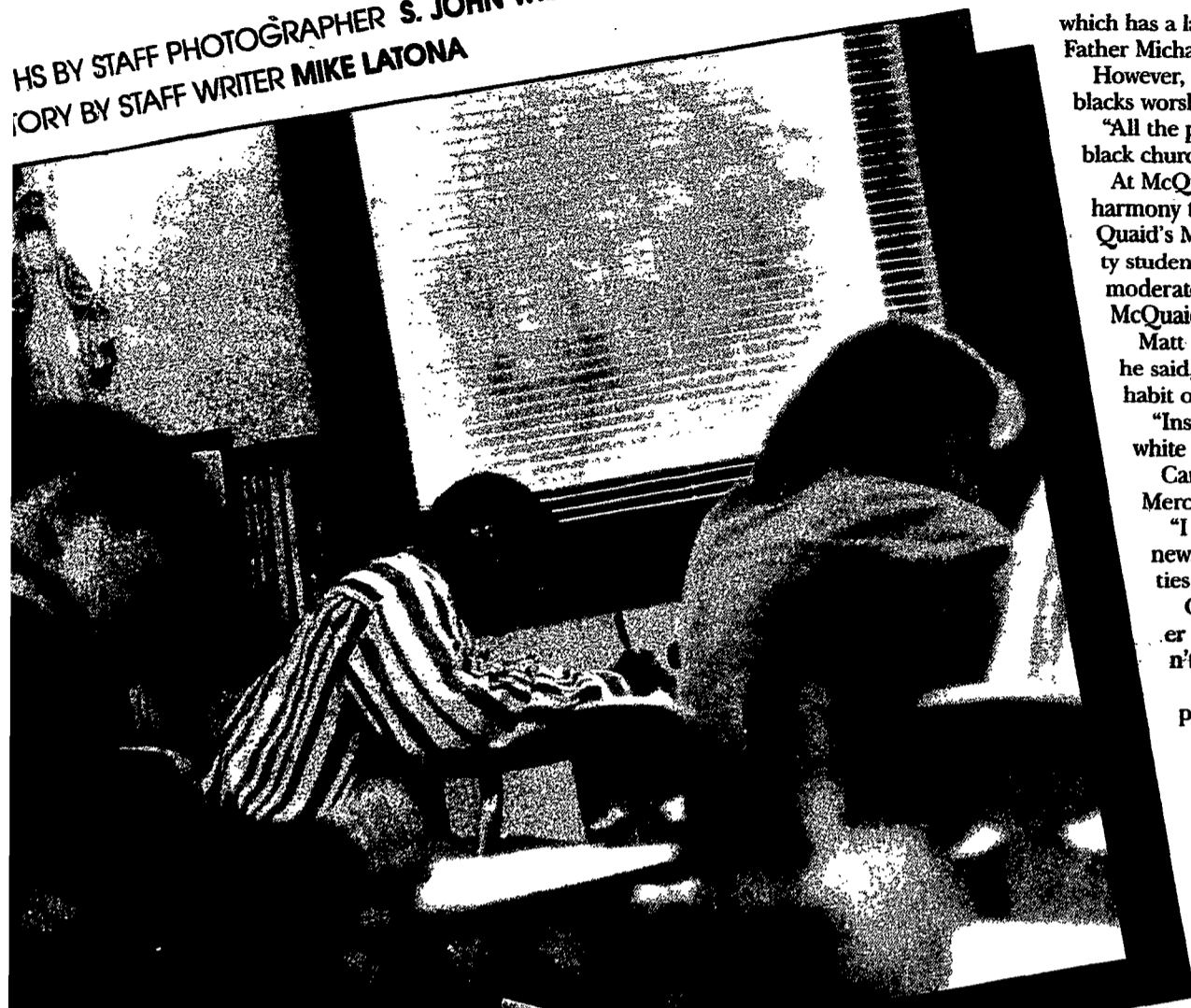


# IS: Digging beneath the surface

PHOTOGRAPHER S. JOHN WILKIN  
WRITER MIKE LATONA



Imida, one of two black students at St. John's School, focuses on an English class. Tony and Jab partner Nick Vassallo is holding a frog in biology class.



which has a large black population as well as a black parish administrator, Father Michael G. Upson.

However, Cliff pointed out, Father Upson is not the main reason that blacks worship at Immaculate Conception.

"All the priests before him were white, and it was still a predominately black church," Cliff remarked.

At McQuaid Jesuit High, Matt Porter works toward the same racial harmony that he enjoys in his parish. He serves as president of McQuaid's McNair-King Society, a 35-member support group for minority students. According to McQuaid faculty member Ed Waller, who moderates the McNair-King Society, most of the blacks enrolled at McQuaid are active members of this group.

Matt pointed out that racism can be a two-way street. In the past, he said, he's advised black freshmen at McQuaid to eliminate the habit of putting racial tags on people.

"Instead of saying 'That kid over there,' they would say, 'That white kid over there,'" Matt noted.

Camille Williams said a similar effort is made at Our Lady of Mercy to promote rapport between racial groups.

"I love Mercy. One of the big things is the encouragement of new ideas, new perspectives," Camille said. "The most positive ties I have with the Catholic community are here at Mercy."

Camille goes along with the general sentiment voiced by other black Catholic teens interviewed for this story: Race shouldn't have any bearing on your Catholic faith.

"If I walk into a church, I'm there to worship. I don't want to preoccupy myself with other things," Camille stated.

Stephanie Kelly agreed.

"People are people," Stephanie said. "No matter what color you are, you're still Catholic."



If you're Catholic, you're not supposed to pay attention to the color anyway," Tony stated. "If you do, you're a 'cafeteria Catholic.' You pick what you want and if you don't like it, you leave the rest behind."



## ACTIONS

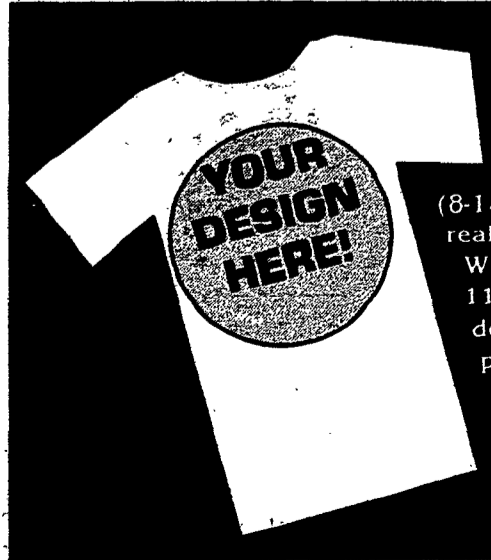
**SPRING SPORTS & RECREATION**  
Publication Date: Apr. 4th  
Adv. Deadline: Mar. 21st

New to the Courier lineup of supplements, this section will serve as a "pre-game rally" for spring sports programs. In addition to previewing teams and schedules, it will highlight the religious aspect of athletics.



Coming Next Week

Teens ponder the significance of the year 2000.



### OTM T-Shirt Design Contest

Design a T-Shirt for On The Move, Win \$100 & Have your design printed!

Your design can't be any bigger than a regular sheet of copier paper (8-1/2 x 11"), and has to be limited to two colors. Other than that, we don't really care what you include as long as it fits the theme of OTM. When you've perfected your design, send it to OTM Tees, Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624-1899. With your awesome design, be sure to include your name, address, age, and school (and your phone number if you want us to call you, should you win!). When we get enough entries or find the perfect design, we'll pick a winner. Designs become the property of the Catholic Courier and we reserve the right to alter designs to fit specs (don't rules stink!).

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