

on the MOVE

It's your

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Some of you may already have your entire future mapped out: Get a college degree; land a good job; marry the man or woman of your dreams; raise a family; retire comfortably.

Yet an Aug. 2 workshop at the Diocesan Youth Convention in Geneseo revealed that long-term planning, while admirable, doesn't



come with any guarantees.

The workshop — designed for recent high-school graduates or students entering their senior year — had five college-aged facilitators. Based on personal experiences, their message to participants was clear: Keep planning away, but also be prepared for the unexpected.

- One of the young adults, holding her baby, related how she dropped out of college after learning she had become pregnant.
- Another endured the recent divorce of her parents.
- Another quit college and joined the military.
- Another, while spending a year abroad, met her boyfriend and isn't sure how the relationship will continue now that she's back home.

"I was so shocked to hear all those different stories. I think I had been expecting similar things to happen to each person," said Karen Wahl, 18, a parishioner at St. Pius X Church in Chili.

Karen, who is preparing for her freshman year at Drexel University in Philadelphia, admitted to being slightly nervous about her looming lifestyle transition.

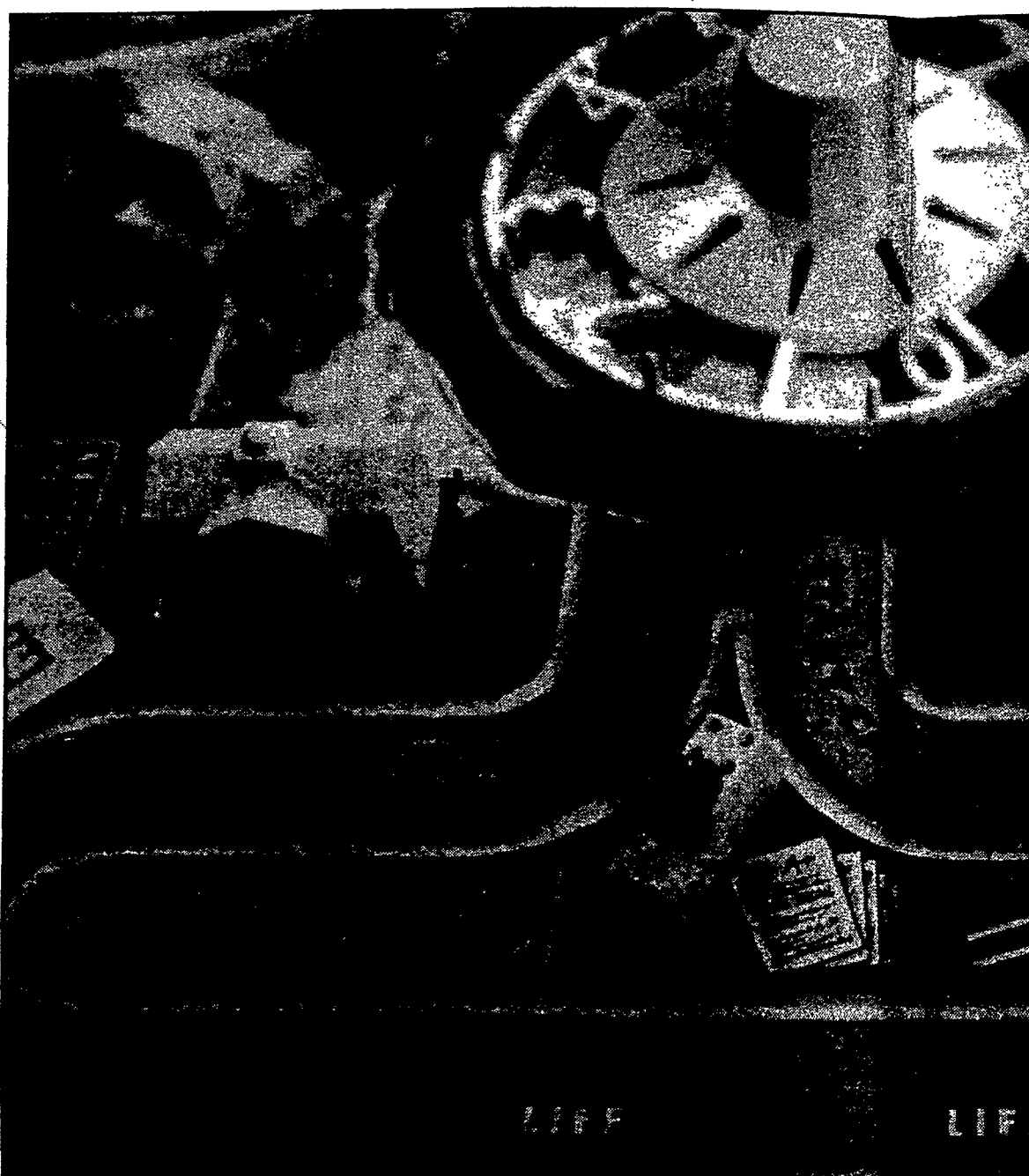
"In one way, change is something everybody needs. On the other hand, it's a little scary," Karen said. "I'm kind of worried about what's going to happen, of losing everything I've had — friends, family."

Another workshop participant, Katie Decker, also voiced mixed feelings about moving on.

"A part of me wants to go out and live by myself, see what's out there and see if I can make it. But another part wants to live at home forever," admitted Katie, 17, from St. Michael's Church in Penn Yan. She begins her senior year at Penn Yan Academy next week.

On the other hand, Brian Vallimont said he is quite eager to venture into the future.

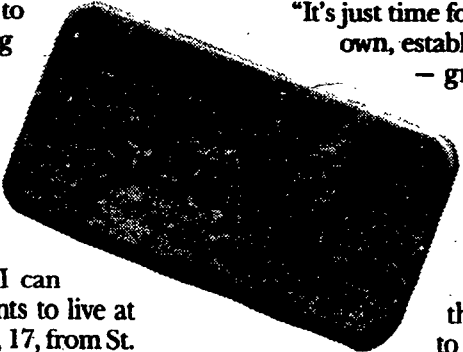
"I think I'm prepared for it. I feel it's my chance to take life by the reins and see how I do. Most people are worried about leaving their friends, but I'm looking forward to finding new friends," said Brian, 18, from St. Mary's Church in Honeoye. He's a freshman at Binghamton University this



fall.

Beth Moyer, also, is anxious to step into a new environment as she begins her freshman year at Nazareth College.

"It's just time for me to get on my own, establish who I am, and — grow up!" laughed Beth, 18, from St.



Columba/St. Patrick churches in Caledonia and Mumford.

Beth remarked that she's also glad to be "getting out of high school, where

you're not labeled anymore. Labels follow you around and stick with you."

Although he's excited about moving forward, Brian also said he doesn't want to

tally shed his past. In that respect, he's glad to be attending an in-state college.

"I'd like to be close enough to go home for the weekend and visit, if I need to talk to my parents. But I also want to be far enough away so I have my own little world," Brian said.

Meanwhile, Karen said she wants to maintain close ties with her high-school friends, even though they're heading in different directions.

"It's really, really scary. But all of us know we're going to see each other again. We've already got Christmas parties planned," Karen said. "It's not so much a

tearful goodbye without

During the adjusting to social env

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