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up signs. Three years ago, he performed similar duties when his father Donald — who, like Campbell, is a Republican — successfully ran for a Geneva City Council seat. Brian said that his father's political experience has helped increase his own interest.

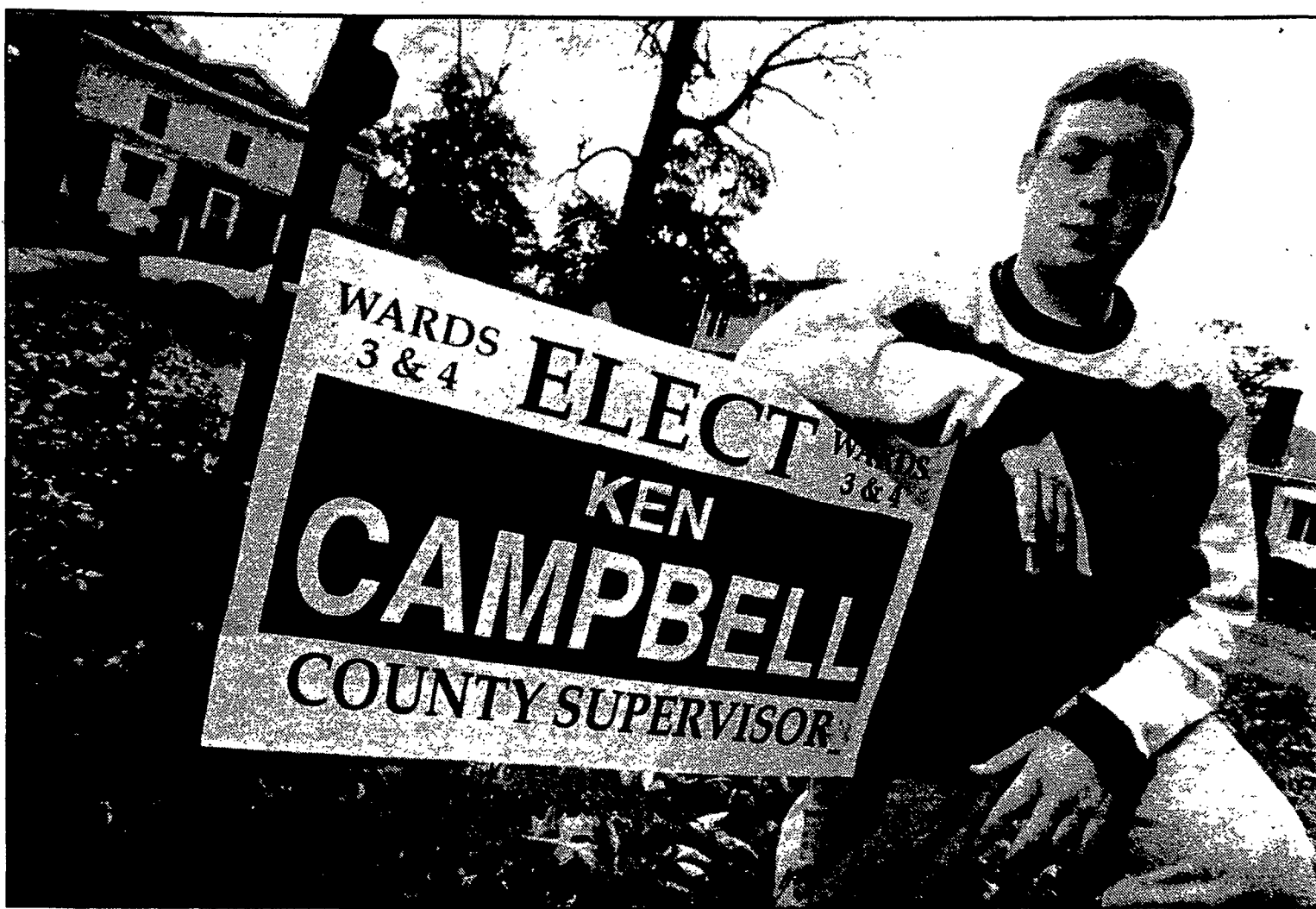
"Before, whenever my family would talk about politics, I'd leave the room," he admitted.

Much of his political knowledge, he said, has been the result of long discussions with his father.

"He put things into terms I could understand," Brian said.

Brian also attended a national youth leadership conference in Washington, D.C., last February. He added that he would like to eventually study law.

Meanwhile, Jessica said



Brian Cass is helping his DeSales Regional High School history teacher, Ken Campbell, by putting campaign signs in area yards.

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she enjoys attending county legislature meetings with her father.

"I find it very interesting to hear each point of view," she commented.

In addition, Jessica's involvement in her father's campaigns — Evangelista is seeking his third term — has motivated her to become involved in student council at DeSales.

"The experience has helped build up my confidence in talking to people," Jessica said.

Although Colin from McQuaid doesn't have any family members or teachers seeking election, he might eventually be a candidate himself. Not only is he hoping to attend law school, but the idea of running for office appeals strongly to him.

"The elected positions, they're the people who really get the job done," Colin said.

And how high up the ladder might he choose to go?

"My dad has said he'd like me to give him a little side room in the White House," Colin said with a laugh.

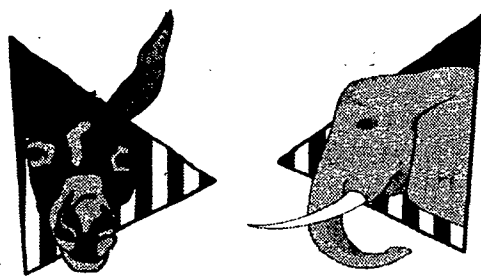
Colin and some friends from McQuaid have begun organizing a coalition of "TARs" — Teen Age Republicans. They plan to become aligned with the Republican Committee in Rochester — not only to support the party, but also to "get a feel," Colin said, for the life of a politician.

Colin suggested that teens who enjoy politics can also connect with each other via the Internet. "It has a whole bunch of information about young politicians' organizations," he said.

Steve Rodgers, a McQuaid senior, is currently gathering information about local elections as he prepares to vote for the first time next Tuesday. The Brighton resident added that he's also researching candidates by reading daily and weekly newspapers, and "talking to people who have different opinions."

Steve, who registered to vote on his 18th birthday last month, said he is eager to finally get the chance to step into a voting booth.

"It's something I should do. I know



things in local government definitely affect me, and I want to have an opinion on those things," said Steve, a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester.

"It gives you some sort of power, in a way. It says, 'I'm an adult and I can make a decision,'" he added.

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by Mike Latona • Photos by Greg Francis

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