

# Mercy High School wins national recognition

Continued from Page 1

throughout the metro Detroit area, as well as Ann Arbor. Although run by the Sisters of Mercy, students of all faiths are admitted. Of the 1,033 students,

10 percent are minorities, Thompson said. One of the programs which seemed to impress evaluators is the adviser-advisor program.

Under this program, each of the students is provided with an adult friend for the four years (10th to 12th grades), in addition to a counselor, Thompson said.

Another item that drew interest was the school's student evaluation process. Besides receiving grades, students are also required to discuss their progress with teachers in the first and third quarter of each academic year.

"A student is forced to look at themselves and their progress," Gervais said. The evaluators also asked Mercy officials what aspects of the high school they considered unique.

Without hesitation, Thompson points to the collaboration between students and staff in making decisions, as well as the quality of teaching staff.

Of the 67 teachers, 58 have master's degrees and two have Ph.D.s, Thompson said.

"Turnover is very low," Thompson said. "We rarely have a teacher who leaves to go to another school in the area."

Placing emphasis on students having the responsibility for their own learning and behavior is another characteristic which Gervais and Thompson believe contributes to Mercy's excellence and uniqueness.

"Students are allowed quite a bit of freedom of where they can be when they're not scheduled in class," Gervais said.

On the other side of the coin, teachers are expected to be available to students other than during class, he said.

"We help those students who are having difficulties," Gervais added.

But the religious nature of the school, as well as the all-girl population, contributed to the school's uniqueness, Thompson said.

"We have a holistic approach to education," she said. As a school for young women, the emphasis is on the role of women today, Thompson said. That's done in part by the curriculum, the philosophy the school follows and by providing role models for the girls.

# Jaycees split

Continued from Page 1

women can either dissolve and merge with us or remain as a separate organization under a different name."

At their last meeting, the Farmington Jaycees elected a person to be in charge of recruiting women to their organization, Matysiewicz says.

Heinrich maintains that her organization has made significant contributions to Farmington in their 28-year history, and feels they do not compete with the Jaycees but complement them.

"If the national chapter voted not to dissolve, we feel we still have a chance," says Heinrich, adding that her chapter has contacted the national president for help in their fight to maintain the Farmington Area Jaycee Women.

THE LOCAL CHAPTER feels the state executive administrators took into consideration their own personal ambitions when voting on the dissolution issue in August.

"We feel the executive board did not take enough time in making such a

monumental decision to ask the women in the Michigan chapters how we felt about it," she says.

Past-president of the Michigan Jaycees Women Cheryl Barton insists all the chapters had the proper 30-day notification of issues to be discussed and voted on at the meeting, and that all chapter presidents are expected to attend, "if they can."

"If they are not there to vote, they lose their votes," Barton explains.

"We did have an open, thorough discussion before the dissolution issue was voted on and out of the 177 delegates present, only six voted against it."

As of the vote on Aug. 18, Barton is executive vice president of the Michigan Jaycees and says that the organization can better serve its purpose by merging the men's and women's chapters.

Heinrich says her organization has contacted the national president and that they are looking into the validity of the vote in Marquette and ways in which the local chapter may be continued beyond the May 1985 deadline.

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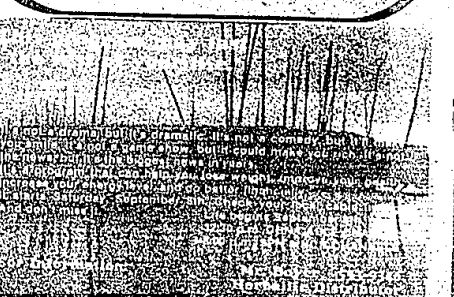
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