

# Crossroads



VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 6

ARCHBISHOP WOOD BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH, 1983

## SPLINTERS

## Course Selection- Preparing for '83/84 Year

by Bob King

On March 24, the Art Contest entry forms will be distributed in all of the English classes. As in past years, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities in photography, in sketching, in ceramics, etc. Miss Joan Ausura and Mr. William Masteron are the people to see if you need more information. All entry forms are due on March 30, the last day before Easter holidays.

The third quarter will end on Friday, the 25th. All quarter grades are due into the Studies Office on the 28th. Third quarter report cards will be distributed on April 14.

### CALENDAR NOTES

- March  
18: TEACHER IN SERVICE DAY  
— No Classes for Students  
30: EASTER VACATION BEGINS  
WITH NOON DISMISSAL
- April  
6: CLASSES RESUME  
7: PARENTS ASSOC. FASHION  
SHOW  
9: JUNIOR PROM  
20: FRESHMEN RETREAT - ALL  
OTHER STUDENTS HAVE  
OFF

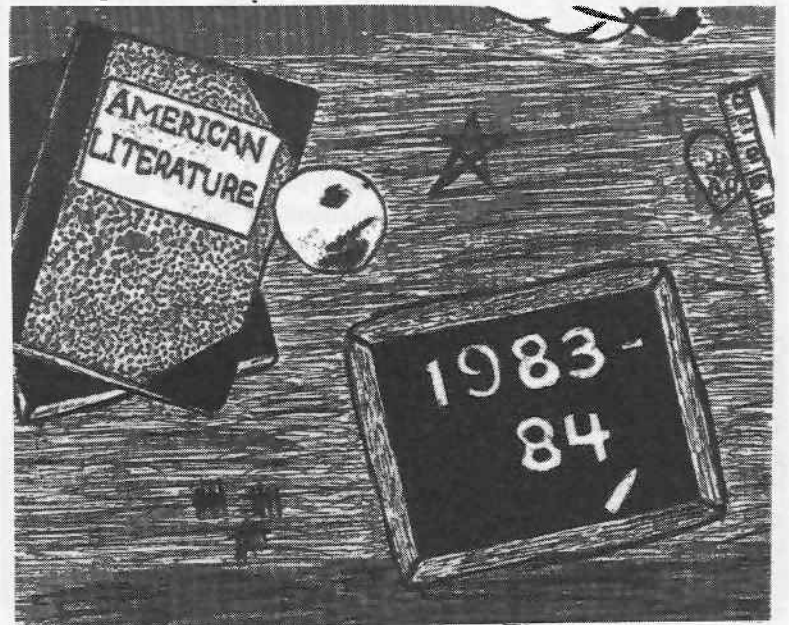
Course Selection Week began on Friday, March 4, with the distribution of the underclassmen of course selection guides and forms. During last week, students worked at making their course choices for the 1983-84 school year. Required was approval from the student's teachers on his selections. Finally on Friday, March 11, the forms were collected and forwarded to the Studies Office, where Director of Studies Stephen Gary will assimilate them into a master roster for next year. The purpose of this process is to give the students as much freedom, within limits, as possible in planning for their future and in choosing courses which will help them to fulfill these plans.

The four days between distribution and collection of the forms were spent pretty much the same way. Using the Course Selection Guide, which lists and describes the courses that are available for student next year, each student decided what courses he wants to take aside from those which are required (like religion and English). From that point on, the student sought the approval of his present teacher in that particular subject area. If the student is not currently enrolled in a class in a subject area and he wants to take a class in that area next year, he had to attain the signed ap-

proval of the department chairperson. While there was no planned or organized activity for each day, each department had set up its own pre-registration procedures, similar to those programs which the business department has conducted in the past. So as to avoid confusion, the business teachers keep a complete record of who and how many students sign up. By doing this, they avoid overcrowding their classes.

Although the course selection process is basically unchanged from past year, there are some notable alterations in the course offerings available to the students. These consist mainly of an updating of course content and some reshuffling of present courses. For example, the General Business course, which is now available to sophomores will be moved up to the senior and junior levels. The most significant change is the addition of two new Advanced Placement courses: AP Physics (available to seniors) and AP American History (available to juniors). These two courses join the AP Math program (Calculus) and the AP English class. There are plans for a third and final AP science course, in chemistry.

Once the forms were collected, Mr. Gary was able to begin the complex procedure of creating a master roster. This is a very time consuming process. The first step



is to make tallies of the number of students how want each course. Taking in to consideration such factors as the number of hours in a day and the number of seats available per course, Mr. Gary uses this information to build a master roster which arranges courses across the day so as to create a minimum of conflicts. Problems are bound to arise, however, and sometimes students will be assigned to an alternate course, in lieu of one of their first choices. Once the master roster is complete, Mr. Gary would like things to remain the way they are; but priorities and interests change, so students are permitted until June to alter their choices free of

charge. Beginning in September, anyone requesting to drop or change a course will have to pay a fee of five dollars. The only exception to this rule is a change requested by a teacher, usually a higher or lower track, which is considered to be in the student's best interests.

Finally, Mr. Gary has some advice for underclassmen planning for next year. "Get as much information as you can, and realize that what you want right now and what you need, as we see it, might not always match. Just remember that if you don't get what you want, you will always get what you need."

## Department Chairperson Profile:

## Richard Gazak

by Joe Chirik

"I would like my students to see the value and usefulness of language in today's society", commented Mr. Richard Gazak on his motivations for teaching. Mr. Gazak is the chairman of the foreign language department at Wood, and has held that position for the past seven years. As most students know, Mr. Gazak teaches Spanish to Freshmen and Sophomores of all tracks. Mr. Gazak has been teaching for

twelve years. His first three were spent at McDevitt, and the rest have been spent here at Wood.

Throughout the years he has enjoyed teaching because each day is different. Mr. Gazak speaks highly of the improvements in the general atmosphere at Wood. He added that "the building has improved immensely in cleanliness and overall appearance" over the last three years. When speaking of the students, Mr. Gazak notes that their general behavior and ap-

pearance have improved as well, in comparison with past years.

During Mr. Gazak's career here at Wood, he revitalized the fourth-year Spanish course, while also effectively revamping the entire Spanish program. Besides his work with the Spanish program, he has been involved with other activities, such as the now-defunct Communications and Record Exchange Clubs. During the first year of the T.V. Studio, he and Mr. Gary did the daily announcements. However, the accomplishment that Mr. Gazak is most noted for is the Speed Reading Program that he initiated at Wood after successfully teaching it elsewhere in the area.

Mr. Gazak would like to see a revision in the dress code. He believes that it ought to be "neat, but not regimented." With regard to the issue of co-education at the school, Mr. Gazak believes that, besides the logical financial reasons, there would be more of a sense of "alertness" among the Wood boys while promoting an atmosphere of "socially proper actions." He adds that the separation of the two schools creates a "practically unreal world" for the students.

## Fr. Bernard Survil Talks With Students

On Monday, February 28, Fr. Bernard Survil - a man of two worlds - paid a visit to our school. Father Survil's two worlds are as different as any two can be. One is a materialistic society best characterized by its never ending concern to produce the best, regardless of the human cost. Unfortunately this drive often benefits few. This world is America, one of the wealthiest nations in the world. In America, going to college is a standard, owning your own car by the age of 20 is hardly a rarity, and living the good life is an attainable goal for most. Fr. Survil is from this world but much prefers his adopted home, a place where freedom is just an abstract concept, where American norms are myths, where the good life means merely to survive. Such is the nature of most places in Central - South America. Such is the nature of most places in Central - South America. It is in Nicaragua and in El Salvador that Fr. Survil has been a part of this life-style. He prefers this place mostly out of his calling to be as Christ; he sees serving these people as his mission in

life. He spent the day at Wood and has spent similar such days across this part of the nation requesting that students assume a role in the world-wide fight against social injustice which is characteristic of El Salvador.

Two years ago, Father Survil was deported from this area on claims that he violated his agreement regarding what type of behavior merits retention of temporary citizenship. Father testified to the severity of the government's treatment of those who are "rebels" (ie, local peasants) and those who associate with the rebels (like Survil). Father Survil, stationed in El Salvatore, was asked to organize a Bible Prayer Group system for the many people in cities like San Salvador. The need for these stems from the people's shame in going to Sunday Mass, dressed in what American's would see as a bum's outfit. Fr. Survil complied with the wishes of Archbishop Oscar Romaro - who was assassinated by a government military person while he was saying Mass. In any event, Survil found himself to be the leader of



Mr. Richard Gazak

