

It's a DAWGS* Prom Draw



Ana Awender and Drew Broge were paired for prom by a 90-year old lottery system.

Once upon a time — 91 years ago — in Freeport, there was an orphanage. Students there attended the school that is now called Aquin Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School.

In order to be sure no one was left out of prom, the students agreed to start "Prom Draw."

Every year since then, students have voted to continue the tradition. And this year, "It has been a crazy year of press for our Prom Draw," said Laura Diemer, director of communications for Aquin Catholic Schools.

Sure, the local daily shows up with fair regularity to cover the draw. But this year, coverage went national — and a bit viral.

"Overall, the reporting on our time-honored tradition was done very well and, as always, we are extremely grateful for the coverage," Diemer wrote in one of several web stories she posted for students and parents.

What do the students say?

Ana Awender and Drew Broge were among students interviewed for the NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt. Holt played the story as "Inspiring America."

Awender told the national audience, "It's definitely something you'll never forget."

And Broge, who drew her name from the raffle

drum, said, "It's hard to explain the excitement in the room. Clearly everybody's cheering."

Find links to these and other Prom Draw stories at <https://www.smores.com/abz6u>.

— Sharon Boehlefeld



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Here's how it works



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1 Girls wait in the gym, their identities hidden by decorated paper bags while ...

2 Boys gather in the library. Their names have already been drawn to determine the order they'll draw in. When someone's name is announced, such as Drew Broge who donned his overalls and farmer cap for his group's skit, he walks to a bin, waits for the spin to stop, and draws a girl's name.

3 After the girls' names have been drawn, the boys head to the gym where they perform their skits to announce each date's name. Broge's involved the tractor at his feet. The girls remove their paper masks for this part.

4 Each boy goes down on his knees in front of his date and asks her to prom. He's guaranteed to get a yes. Broge drew Ana Awender's name. On prom night, each girl has a dance card that includes at least one dance with her date and everyone who was in his group.



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What do "DAWGS" have to do with it? The school teams are the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs, informally known as "The DAWGS."

**Done Always With God's Spirit*

YOUNG OBSERVER
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(Photos provided)
 National news media covered this year's Prom Draw at Aquin in Freeport with clearly different perspectives on the story. NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt (above) considered it a good news story. Watch it at <http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/luck-of-the-draw-at-this-high-school-students-draw-for-prom-dates-946545731805>. The Today show (left) played it as limiting student choices and ran a poll about it. HLN's Morning Express (below) treated it as a quirky good news story.



YO CALENDAR

This summer at Holy Cross Parish, 2300 Main St., Batavia

UnPlugged

What: UnPlugged is a free chill night on Wednesdays during the summer.

When: 6:30-8 p.m., June 21, 28, July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9

Info: holycross-batavia.org

Holy Cross U

What: Bonfires, games, talks, small groups and more

Who: Recently graduated high school seniors and college students 18-22

When: 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday this summer

Info: Adrienne or Keaton Leach at cruxcollege.org or cruxcollege@cruxcollege.org

Q My parents are trying to keep me away from some of my friends from school. I think they're judging them without getting to know them. What can I do?

A Great question! The first thing that I want to point out to you is that while your parents involvement in this issue may be frustrating to you, I hope that you can appreciate the fact that your parents are concerned and that they want to be involved in your life and that they are taking the time and the effort to look out for you.

Your parents love you and that is why they are concerned!

All right, now on to your question: What can you do to make it so that your parents don't judge your friends without getting to know them first?

Well, there are multiple things that you can do. I'd say that the first step in any good parent-child relationship is to establish a good line of communication.

You should take time to sit down with your parents to talk about these friends in a respectful and open-

minded manner.

It is important that you get a chance to say why you enjoy spending time with these individuals and in turn for your parents to be able to express their reasons for having concerns.

Within this conversation it is 100 percent crucial that everyone stays calm and lets the other side explain their thoughts and feelings in full without being interrupted or angrily snapped-back at.

Hopefully (even if you don't agree) both you and your parents will be able to come to see and to understand where the other side is coming from.

Now, without knowing your particular situation, my guess would be that your parents are concerned because they know that today's world offers a lot of temptations that teenagers are drawn to.

They want to ensure that you don't get caught up in a group of friends that would encourage you or enable you to do anything that would put you in any danger — physical, emotional, or spiritual.

YO FATHER

Again, even though this seems frustrating, I invite you to see your parents care and concern are very, very good things!

Perhaps you can take this opportunity to explain to your parents why you feel that you are responsible and how you are firmly established in your morals and how you have demonstrated that you make good decisions in life.

I also invite you to humbly consider and to be honest with yourself, if by chance you are the kind of person who is easily influenced, and to think about if your parents are in fact right to be worried about your spending time with people who may easily sway you to say or do things that would conflict with who God is calling you to be.

Perhaps the simplest solution is one that I haven't even mentioned yet which is this:

If you think that your parents are judging your friends without

getting to know them first, the most straightforward way to solve this would be to invite your parents to get a chance to know them!

Ask your parents if they would be alright with joining you and some of these friends for coffee, or if your friends could join you for dinner at home sometime.

If you truly think that these friends are the kind of people who will spur you on to be a better person, then you shouldn't be afraid to have them meet and spend time with your parents. And you should be excited for your parents to get to know them like you do!

If on the other hand you are nervous about this idea, and you wouldn't want your parents to meet them, then I again want to suggest that perhaps your parents are completely justified in being concerned.

What I have to say next is the most important thing for me to say. Ultimately if after conversation

and even after your parents have met them, if your parents still believe that it is best for you to keep away from certain individuals, then it's always best to obey the Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother!

Your parents have known you for a lot longer than these other people and chances are you'll still be spending time with your parents long after these people.

No matter what you've experienced in life, your parents have experienced more and parents are usually smarter than their kids think! So if they've had a chance to meet your friends and to take everything into consideration, and they still say no, then it's important that you listen and humbly remain obedient to them.

I hope that helps. And my final answer as to what you can do is this. You can always pray for your friends and pray for your parents as well, because the power of prayer has no limits!

This month's YO Father is answered by Father Keith Romke. Send your questions to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org

VOCATION CORNER

How to build a ship and follow God's call

Recently I read the following quote and it really spoke to me: "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

I think that the lesson that this presents can be so helpful when we're trying to figure out what God may be asking of us in our lives or even from day to day. The fact of the matter is that if you collect wood and assign tasks and work, the ship may in fact end up getting built, but it may also be a slow and arduous process, and by the time it's done everyone will be worn out and tired.

If on the other hand the focus is placed on the goal rather than on the means to

get there, then when we fall in love with the goal and we find that our passion drives us and we actually desire to do the work and even get joy from it!

When we apply this to our relationship with God, if we focus on all that we have to sacrifice to follow God's plan, and how we have to reject certain worldly pleasures that the culture around us says we should indulge in, it can get very tiring. On the other hand, if we focus on the reason why we do what we do, if we keep in mind God's love for us and if we are motivated by a love of Him, then we will truly "set sail" in our quest to fulfill His will. So focus on God's love and let Him set your heart on fire.

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations, kromke@rockforddiocese.org