Aquinas Students Stranded In The South

1993 Spring Break coincides with storm of the century

By Erin Irwin

Ahhh, the joys of spring break: beaches, partying, sun tans, and blizzards? The end of this year’s spring break coincided with a powerful storm that brought destructive thunderstorms to all of Florida and blizzard conditions to the eastern third of the United States. The system moved into place late Friday, March 12th, and to the eastern third of the United States. The system moved into place late Friday, March 12th, and in the early hours of Saturday. As it tracked north, the storm crippled the South with heavy snowfalls and large snowdrifts. The adverse conditions brought Interstate-75 to a halt at many parts. The freeway was snarled in Atlanta and closed in Tennessee. The lengthy delays were brought by the power of the storm and by a lack of snow plowing equipment needed to clear the interstates.

Aquinas students were not spared in the misery that this storm caused. More than 100 students were missing from Monday classes. The Saints baseball, softball, men’s and women’s tennis and parts of the track teams found themselves an extended break as they had to wait for the roads to clear. Terry Bocian, Aquinas Athletic Director and men’s baseball coach, experienced the storm firsthand, as he and the men’s team were in Florida for spring training. The team narrowly escaped the wrath of the storm, as the hotel they stayed for the past three years was hit by a twister. Luckily, this year Bocian decided to stay at a more convenient hotel a few miles north of the tornado site. “There was lots of devastation real close to where we were staying,” noted Bocian. “Six tomatoes touched down within a seventy mile radius of us.” Bocian added that the Aquinas teams were very fortunate that no one was injured.

As for the other Aquinas teams, the women’s softball team found itself stranded on an interstate in Alabama. With the passage of time they were able to find refuge at a local hotel. The women’s tennis team made it to Atlanta before becoming stuck in the wintry mess. Senior Holly Beers had relatives in Atlanta that allowed the team of eight to stay there for two nights. The men’s tennis team made it as far north as Chattanooga before having to stay in a hotel.

The spring breakers began to trickle back to Aquinas that Tuesday, more than five days after many of them left their vacation spots. Aquinas junior Matt Eugster was stranded along with sophomores Brian Kraus and Kerrie Dushane in their car in O olewah, GA for two days before being pulled out by the Tennessee National Guard. “When you’re in Michigan you expect something like this. But when your in Georgia and the weather changes from 70 degrees to 30 you’re not very prepared,” commented Eugster.

Stranded in Dalton, Georgia along with five other Aquinas students, sophomore Chris Tennes recalls his wintry experience. “Food and shelter were scarce, but we managed to survive the storm of the century.”

Aquinas’ administration took a deep interest in the safety of the students as this dilemma was taking place. Timi Hough, Director of Student Activities, knew that students were going to be stranded as early as Friday. That day, Hough, who was the leader of Aquinas’ Appalachian Service Trip, decided to end the trip one day early in hopes of beating out the storm. “As we got home and saw on TV how bad it was I realized that there would probably be students stranded down South. Sunday my phone started ringing with students calling in to let someone at Aquinas know where they were.” Hough quickly became a central figure for many stranded students trying to get in touch with missing friends.

Stranded in Valdosta, Georgia for two days and Atlanta for another two, Aquinas junior Adam Baxter was asked if he would do it all over again if he had the chance. “Considering the partying, scenery and great running conditions, I would gladly take seven days in Key West for four days of Siberian-type conditions,” commented Baxter.

Senate Executive Election Results

By Lorne Neff

More than three hundred students voted Monday, March 1st, to elect the future Executive Officers of the Community Senate. The final count is:

Chairperson
Matt Eugster 172
Faustenia Morrow 100
Lorne Mulder 60

Vice-Chair
Carolyn Broscaovich 246
Todd Evans 19

Secretary
Erin Irwin 190
Kelley Laskey 145

To be eligible, candidates had to be returning, full-time, traditional-age students with GPA’s above 2.5. Candidates for Chair had to be previously a part of the Senate. The new officers will replace this year’s Executive team of Andy Holtgreve (Chair), Faustenia Morrow (V-Chair),

Office terms will begin on April 1st. Voters cast ballots in the foyer of the Academic building. The election, open to all traditional-age students.

Continued on page 8
From the Assistant Editor

Well, here it is almost spring and usually I am the last to welcome it, but this year is a little different for me. I am sick and tired of being cold! Is anyone else? I want warm sunny days and blooming flowers and green grass. I don’t think it is beach weather I am looking for just weather where I am not calculating exactly how long it will take to walk to my car, or to get where I’m going, and won’t that heater ever kick in? I cannot wait to feel the overwhelming urge to choose not to go to class in order to take a long walk and smell the spring air and enjoy being a young, mature individual, and contemplate where my life is going and where the world is going.

Most of all, I want to take my sunroof off my car and cruise around until I cannot afford any more gas (which probably will be to Fulton Heights on my college budget).

I want to take this opportunity to encourage the Aquinas community to, in the words of Robin Williams, “seize the day!” Spring is a time for beginnings and LOVE. You don’t get anything unless you try, so get out there and go after it, don’t miss the boat. I have found that the best thing for you and the best opportunities can be right in front of your eyes and you don’t see it (Is there a John there?).

So let’s motivate people, enjoy life! Education is more than class and books and papers—it’s about experience, it’s about living, loving and learning through your own actions and the actions of others. Good luck, and enjoy spring!

Letters to Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing concerning an unfortunate situation that I perceive at Aquinas; that being a separation between people on the grounds of race.

It is a fact that African Americans have been oppressed in the United States throughout history; reasonable people do not debate this. For years, many of Western European descent have been responsible for acts of racism and of segregation.

However, I sense a reversal of this separation amongst some African Americans at Aquinas. The recent publication of the Black History Month Newsletter on February 15 provides for some disturbing attitudes. I understand that the newsletter is meant to educate and inform, but I submit that its standard involved when discussing race relations. For example, imagine that this newsletter was entitled "White History Month Newsletter." Now picture the first quote and stating: "Being White too, is being able to conquer the brown-eyed devil." Finally, think for a moment what campus media reaction would have been like if the second quote read the "Whiteness of my soul gives me the untold depth to think thoughts on a subconscious level that the limitations of a said ‘white, pure’ soul could not fathom.” This type of rhetoric quite possibly could be found in a Neo-Nazi hate letter. I am not suggesting that the people who wrote the newsletter meant to advocate a Black equivalent of a White supremacist group. I am simply saying that equal standards must be in place for all.

Today we are faced with an enormous amount of “political correctness.” Many people of every political persuasion are afraid to bring forth reasonable, honest opinions for fear of being labeled racist, chauvinist, reactionary, or neanderthal in thinking. However, it seems that any group that can claim being oppressed has a free reign on what can be said. We, so-called op....

Opinion

Editor
Renee Wisniewski

Assistant Editor
Holly Kent

Sports Editor
Troy Ganser

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pressors, are constantly treading on thin ice when it comes to the first amendment.

Take, for example, the recent letter that was circulated around campus prompting an emergency assembly of faculty, administration, and students. Defending the letter is not my intention but rather the hypersensitive reaction by students and administration alike. The point is that whoever wrote the letter deserves the same free speech rights as the Black History Month Newsletter. Political cleansing stifles free speech and the exchange of thoughts and ideas. Again, I turn to the question of a double standard. Imagine if Caucasianians were to walk around campus with t-shirts promoting such slogans as “You wouldn’t understand, it’s a white thing” or perhaps “White Pride,” or “White Power.” Judging from recent events, I would think this would be cause for another emergency assembly. However, I have seen numerous African Americans wearing such shirts only with the word black substituted for white.

The way to solve problems is not to smother free thought or to be bitter and vindictive. Racism of any kind is an ugly thing. The difference is simply that of not only our ethnic group, but the way we look at each other as fellow human beings. Some members of this human race fail to fully realize what Shakespeare pointed out long ago in The Merchant of Venice. That is to say, we cannot forget or ignore that each of us has senses, emotions, and aspirations. We cannot forget that we are all warmed and cooled by the same summer and winter. If we are prickled do we not bleed?

As fellow human beings, we must also be aware of and respect the ethnic differences among us. We need to understand that members of different races share certain experiences and perspectives that will always remain foreign to us because of race. Because of these ethnic bonds, communication within a particular ethnic group is often easier than communicating with a person of a different ethnicity.

Having an open and eager mind is essential to discovering one another as unique members of the human race. Having a closed mind, filled with illusions of knowledge, often results in generalizations and false beliefs, such as the ones expressed in the letter entitled “Attention All Americans.” The unidentified author(s) of the letter wrongly believed that he/she/they already knew how all Caucasian-Americans feel, how all African-Americans feel, how the world is, and how it should be (and while doing so discredited their own argument regarding incorrect usage of English by blacks through making many grammatical errors themselves). “Attention All Americans” is a good example of what happens if we do not learn that “the biggest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance, but the illusion of knowledge” (Daniel J. Boorstin).

I know that this is not a black and white world, but in light of recent events, as a Caucasian-American, I’d like to express my own personal ignorance of how an African-American might feel. It is difficult to imagine looking to authority figures and seeing no one of my color. What kind of role models are we giving African-American children when nearly all African-American people on TV or in the newspaper are portrayed as criminals, athletes, comedians, or welfare recipients? Can we really imagine the difficulty of living in a system in which, regardless of the work I might do, my achievements would be attributed to the ignorant belief that there is a natural talent given by God to all blacks, or the benefits society has given to people of my skin color. Also, I could not be more right to know that people that share my heritage have been great leaders, religious figures, mathematical geniuses, great architects, etc., yet going through school never learning about them, but learning all about people who don’t look like me and often wrongly persecuted my forefathers. Not being black, it is very easy to overlook all of these things because I do not personally experience them. It is easy for those who are not discriminated against in this way to be blind to each other’s differences, melting together as the fictitious “Melt Pot Theory” suggests. Though racism today does not consist of such visible acts as slavery and segregation of bathrooms and drinking fountains, to deny its existence would be faulty indeed. We are not a melting pot in which we lose our identity to become part of a whole. We all belong to unique ethnic groups, whether we realize it or not, and we are all unique individuals inside these ethnic groups.

Let’s challenge ourselves to deprogram our minds from believing that we can categorize or generalize anyone because of his/her race. We must realize that every person is a unique individual with unique beliefs and qualities. We must also seek to understand, with an open mind, each other’s similarities and differences within the common bond of not only our ethnic group, but with each other as members of the human race.

Abigail Elliot

Dear Editor,

This is a letter to address your letter about the Black History Month Newsletter. Yes, as the editor I do ask that all people be open-minded when you read the pages of the Newsletter. I cannot speak on the behalf of “anonymous” not will I try to interpret what was stated, as I am only able to give you a clear and precise interpretation of the things that I write.

As I stated in the third Edition of the BHM Newsletter, those who tend to take the most offense at some of the statements made are often those who are faced with looking themselves in the mirror and seeing some of the racism discussed in that reflection. Not to say, Ms. Wisniewski, that you are a racist, however, the biggest attitude that I’ve indirectly confronted in my three years of doing the Newsletter tend to come from those who are, more often than not, surprised, scared and very unaware of their own racist tendencies. I can only approach this population indirectly because these people seldom attend the Black History Month Productions, Great Issues, and all-campus forums on the subject. However, one such “brave” soul made an attempt to address the Newsletter with their “Attention All Americans” letter that was sent to certain faculty members and hang in bathrooms around campus. Please note, this letter was addressed to the “African Brothers and Sisters” and somehow none of us received a copy in the mail or under our

To the Editor: Continued from page 2

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To the Editor:

Respectfully,
Daniel Vander Meulen

To the editor:

“We see men as Jews or Gentiles, Catholics or Protestants, Chinese or Americans, Chinese or Americans, Negroes or Whites. We fail to think of them as fellow human beings, made from the same basic stuff as we, molded in the same divine image.”—Martin Luther King Jr.

As the Caucasian-American majority decreases, there is an increasing need for us to respect each other as fellow human beings. Some members of this human race fail to fully realize what Shakespeare pointed out long ago in The Merchant of Venice. That is to say, we cannot forget or ignore that each of us has senses, emotions, and aspirations. We cannot forget that we are all warmed and cooled by the same summer and winter. If we are prickled do we not bleed?

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To the Editor con't:

Crystal

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doors.

If the Times is concerned about our future I hope to God that all of The Times staff was at the all-campus forum to address the letter before Spring Break. If they weren't, they'll be given a second chance to show their concern at the end of March with the second all-campus forum. Again, I invite anyone, including you, Ms. Wisniewski, to come to me personally and ask any questions you like about my article. As for the other articles, you must address their authors as well, as I am nor have ever claimed to be a spokesperson for the entire African-American population at Aquinas College. I speak from my viewpoint and mine alone.

I am glad that the BHM Newsletter was addressed in The Times, whether it be positive or negative. If it is being addressed that means it got people thinking, that was the purpose.

Crystal C. Smith
Editor, BHM Newsletter

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank the state of Michigan...if, for nothing else, for keeping my mailbox full over the years.

I received in the mail last week a letter explaining that my Michigan Competitive Scholarship would, once again, be seeing a decrease. The news came as no surprise to me, it's the same letter I've received over the last five years. "...due to a miscalculation in the number of students entering college this year, the state finds it can't be what He intended. In my view, we are like the snowflakes—so similar and different from each other. In order to stop or at least lessen the tension between people of different backgrounds and cultures, we must educate and better ourselves in writing and speaking academically, socially, and politically correctly and accurately.

I am an Asian-American and I am very proud of my heritage. Culture and ancestral background are very important to me. I get offended when terms such as those mentioned are used to describe my and other cultural backgrounds. We must open our minds and learn to use proper vocabularies. My wish is to be able to see and hear in the course of time that our language correlates with our dreams and beliefs.

As God created all humans equally and in His own image—let us make His wonderful creation to be what He intended. In my view, we are like the snowflakes—so unique and different from each other. In order to stop or at least lessen the tension between people of different backgrounds and cultures, we must educate and better ourselves in writing and speaking academically, socially, and politically correctly and accurately.

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Let's Look At Going Greek

By Erin Irwin

As another year winds down, I have to wonder if the social scene at Aquinas needs a major boost, in particular a Greek system. I've bounced the idea off a few Aquinas students in the past, and to my dismay the idea was not well accepted. The argument that I have heard is that an Aquinas fraternity and sorority would become elitist organizations; ones in which you'd have to pay to have your friends. That strikes me odd because I know of other frats and sororities that are open to the student bodies - ones which do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion or sexuality. Yes, one would have to pay to be in a frat or sorority, but these organizations have bills of their own to be paid, including national dues.

There are fears of what harm and damage a Greek organization could do to Aquinas. But what if it could do a lot of good. If not a Greek system, how do we address the alarmingly high number of upperclassmen who are choosing to live off campus? Cost is one factor, but so is the social atmosphere. Sadly enough, when many students move off campus they do not participate in the programs and activities that are presented to the Aquinas community.

A Greek system would greatly help promote school spirit, along with providing the students with another social outlet. Furthermore, Aquinas' administration could help lay the foundation (formulate the charter) so that they (the administration) could constantly provide guidance and direction to these Greek organizations/guidance which would avoid any type of discrimination and problems found at Greek systems at other schools.

Furthermore, a Greek system would help retain students in the residence halls, along with keeping them interested in programs and activities on the campus.

In the interest of building the social atmosphere at Aquinas, let's look at the possibility of a Greek system. In a very conservative fashion, a frat and sorority could be established on a trial basis. After such a period was up, a decision could be made to keep or disband the system. The idea is worth a try.

Forum Triggers Mixed Feelings

By Lome Mulder

Prior to Spring Break, Paul Nelson called an open forum to discuss the content of a supposed "hate speech" letter distributed on campus.

Members at the assembly broke into separate think-tanks comprised of 8 to 10 participants to "openly" express racial tensions created by the unattributed letter.

After 20 minutes of discussion, a representative from each think-tank was chosen to outline their feelings to the forum.

After listening to several speakers, it was difficult not to wonder if this was a forum intended to express the need for racial equality and possible solutions to discrimination or a sermon by the Black Muslim Movement regarding the evils of the white man. Arent' the participants in this forum concerned about racial equality? Is it not senseless to lecture those already fighting for your side? Instead of blowing hot air, and angering your fellow comrades, why not discuss ways to reach out to those still blinded by ignorance. Furthermore, such overdramatization gives more legitimacy than this letter deserves.

An issue not expressed by the forum was the First Amendment Right to free expression. Will the rampant P.C. "Thought Police" on college campuses dissuade our rights to express personal opinions? To silence oppositional ideas assumes that your movement has some divine cornerstone on knowledge, and ignores the possibility of human fallibility.

Some participants made the assertion that all Caucasians are racist: this statement stems from the same blind ignorance that assumes all African-Americans are stupid and/or all women should be barefoot and pregnant. If the African-American community is truly striving for social justice, then it must be prepared for the same criticism currently expressed towards the white population.

If we keep censoring people's ideas, then what will be the next step? Will we tell Americans who to vote for; will we tell Americans what God to worship; will we tell Americans the world is flat? Does anyone have the right to define another's agenda; to articulate what is right or wrong for others, unless that individual's expression directs physical harm towards another person? What possible social ills can be created when First Amendment Rights are hindered from fulfilling their original intent: to express ideas even if they are unpopular.

Freedom is intended for everyone; the United States would no longer be a democracy if social justice had to be reached through the tained means of censorship.
New Senate Executives
By Lorne Neff

Revolutionaries on campus? Maybe not in the traditional sense, but that's what Matt Eugster, Carolyn Brocavich, and Erin Irwin claimed they would be if elected as the new Senate Executives.

The trio ran together as a "ticket" in the Senate elections, promising to pursue a host of aggressive initiatives.

The new Chairperson is Matt Eugster, a Junior majoring in International Business and Economics. Currently Eugster is the chairperson of the Senate's Student and Academic Affairs Committee, a member of varsity football, and a member of the cross-country team.

Eugster, who formally takes office April 1st, says his top priorities because it will "foster communication on campus.

Eugster says he will set up the radio station under the direction of the Senate. He says he hopes that after the station is established, it will become a permanent independent organization.

As for the student union, Eugster says he will push the administration to action. The administration has been asking for donations to refurbish the Carriage House as a possible site.

Eugster says he hopes to help the administration seek funding. Also, Eugster says he will seek ways to enhance activities for students with or without the union.

Brad Winkler, Dean of Student Affairs, said the administration is continuing to seek a donor. "We need something to fall back on in the event a donor doesn't turn up," Winkler said, and added that "something will have to happen quickly.

That leaves Eugster's third priority, the athletic facility. Eugster says he will work to improve the weight equipment and seek more space.

When is comes to the operation of the Senate, Eugster says that he wants a very professional organization.

The first thing that his administration will do is seek out new committee chairpersons. Applications were made available in the Senate office the day after the election.

Helping Eugster will be Vice-Chairperson Carolyn Brocavich, a Sophomore majoring in Business Communication and Economics. Currently, Brocavich is head of the Political Affairs Committee and the President of the Programming Board. Part of Brocavich's duties will be as an official Senate Representative on the Programming Board where she hopes to remain presiding.

While helping Eugster achieve his goals, Brocavich says she wants to attract and inform students. She hopes to do this by focusing on the Senate Rush dinner for freshman at the beginning of the year and by heavily advertising Senate meetings.

Brocavich adds that she is "seeking chairpersons with new and different ideas.

Rounding out the Team is Erin Irwin, a Junior, majoring in Business Administration and Economics. Currently, Irwin is the chairperson of Senate's Rules and Review Committee and an R.A.

Irwin says he can't wait to try out the new initiatives outlined by Eugster and adds that, "we are going to try to focus on one thing at a time.

As Secretary, Irwin will be responsible for a lot of office work and agrees with Eugster when it comes to the Senate saying: "We need to be professional. As the biggest student organization on campus we need to be taken seriously and have pride in ourselves.

Working with the Executives as their advisor will be Tim Hough, Director of Student Activities. Hough believes the new Executives will work diligently for students needs. Hough added that: "These three have lots of ideas, they are mavericks and shakers. We won't have to fight a match under them, that's for sure.

By Marisa Fernando

Have you heard about red lining? Or about what has happened in the Eastown area due to absentee land lords? Have you ever wondered why the Eastown area looks so bad? During Spring Break eight Aquinas students learned about these facts and plenty more as they painted the home of Mr. Long. Mr. Long is 88 years old and very ill. He spends most of his day sitting in his armchair surrounded by very dirty walls and dust. But after this past weekend he will be sitting in a newly painted clean room. I want to thank all the students who chose to spend part of their Spring Break painting and cleaning. A thank you also to all the Eastown establishments that supported us by donating meals to very hungry students. It was great to see how a community can work together to help each other out. Next time you take a walk around Eastown take a good look at the neighborhood and the people. Appreciate the diversity that it offers us but also look at what we can do to make this a better neighborhood.

Well, there are eight more weeks to go and it will be summer. The biggest project coming up will be Project PRIDE. We will be cleaning up the streets along South Division on April 24th. So get your teams together and look out for more information. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather. Until then keep up your efforts to help those around you and do take the time to tell thank you to those who do so much for you. And remember "Together we can make a difference."

Investment Challenge
By Jay Agarwal

How would you like to make a lot of money at no risk at all? Be a player in the ultimate Wall Street game.

This is a call to all future investors on the Aquinas campus to play the AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge. For the third straight year Aquinas participated in the competition. The investment challenge is a nationwide stock market competition where students manage a fictional brokerage account of $500,000 and play the stock market. This year there were 14 participants, nine of which made money.

Senior Joe Trybiski, an accounting major, finished in first place at Aquinas. He ended with a portfolio of $657,217, and a gain of approximately 31%. In second place was senior Jay Agarwal, also an accounting major, who finished with a portfolio of $587,791, a gain of 12.6%. A close third was sophomore Joe Stimac, who had $572,144 in his account.

The Investment Challenge is an exciting learning experience and is a must for every student. A knowledge of the capital markets is essential in today's competitive marketplace. The game was just introduced to students by Professor Susan Murphy three years ago. Those interested in the competition should contact Ms. Murphy in the fall, as the competition begins on November 1 and goes through February 28.

The following are the results for all the team members:

1. Joe Trybiski—$657,217
2. Jayant Agarwal—$587,791
3. Joe Sirica—$572,144
4. Edmund Karas—$557,588
5. Kelly Laskey—$546,643
6. Dave Hysen—$540,029
7. John Cusale—$539,859
8. Faustenia Morrow—$504,706
9. Lome Neff—$498,121
10. John Woodruff—$493,083
11. Susan Murphy—$485,553
12. Thomas R. Huseby—$483,935
13. Rob Romano—$471,325
14. William Crowther—$460,860

By Karen Neff

A grisly hand smoke settlement Protective non-smokers and administration free campus at U.S. college. The E. Respirator; Passive Smokers and Other best evidence of the school's breathing days as dead calm.

"It's a blow to those around us. We have to be as dead calm as possible," said the President of the University Health and Safety Control Authority. "This will not only help the non-smokers, but also those who merely breathe the air around them."

The results of the recent settlement between the school and the non-smokers have been hailed as a major victory for the non-smokers. The settlement was reached after a long and bitter斗争 between the school and the non-smokers, who had been fighting for years to have the school go smoke-free.

The settlement calls for the school to implement a comprehensive smoke-free policy, which will be enforced in all buildings and on all campus grounds. The policy will be enforced by a team of trained smoke-free enforcement officers, who will be charged with the task of enforcing the policy and ensuring that it is adhered to.

The settlement also includes a provision for the payment of damages to the non-smokers, who have been suffering from the effects of secondhand smoke for years. The damages will be paid in the form of a lump sum payment, which will be distributed among the non-smokers who have suffered the most.

The settlement has been met with widespread support from the non-smokers, who have been fighting for years to have the school go smoke-free. The settlement has also been met with support from the school's administration, who have been looking for a way to resolve the long-running dispute.

The settlement has also been met with support from the school's students, who have been divided in their views on the issue. While some students have supported the non-smokers' demand for a smoke-free campus, others have opposed the demand, arguing that the school's administration has the right to make decisions about the campus.

Nevertheless, the settlement has been met with widespread support from the non-smokers, who have been fighting for years to have the school go smoke-free. The settlement has also been met with support from the school's administration, who have been looking for a way to resolve the long-running dispute.

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A grim report on secondhand smoke by the Environmental Protection Agency has armed non-smoking students, faculty and administrators with new information to fight for smoke-free campuses, a growing trend at U.S. colleges and universities.

The EPA report, titled "The Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Diseases," has confirmed what the medical profession has long suspected—that breathing secondhand smoke can be as deadly as lighting up.

"It's very alarming," said Timothy Hensley, spokesman for the Office on Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. "The report provides ammunition for students and for administrators to strive for smoke-free regulations in educational settings to protect the non-smoker from hazardous exposure to secondhand smoke, which can lead to lung cancer."

Among to EPA's findings:

- Secondhand smoke is responsible for 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually among adults in the United States, and is associated with an increase in ailments of the lower respiratory tract, such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

- From 15,000 to 30,000 cases of respiratory ailments in infants and young children up to 18 months can be attributed to secondhand smoke.

- Secondhand smoke causes an increased severity of symptoms in children with asthma. The report estimates that 200,000 to 1 million children annually get sicker because of exposure to secondhand smoke.

"Only about 25 percent of Americans are smokers, so it is the majority of Americans who are victims of passive smoke," Hensley noted.

Since the EPA report, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has declared the White House smoke-free for the first time in history, and corporations such as McDonalds and Chuck E. Cheese are experimenting with smoke-free restaurants.

"Colleges should be in the lead, because smoking is lowest in areas where education is highest," said John Banzhaf, executive director of the Washington-based Action on Smoking and Health and a professor of law at George Washington University in Washington.

"People form attitudes at the college level," he said. "Ten or 15 years ago, they picked up the habit of smoking in college; now they are picking up the habit of not smoking."

Banzhaf counsels campus anti-smoking activists to go all the way to President of the college or university with their demands.

"Tell him, 'You wouldn't put us in a building with asbestos,'" he said. "Tell him we now know that passive smoke is a class A carcinogen."

While many campuses have been cracking down on smoking for the past several years, administrators say the EPA report will most likely expedite even stricter policies than had existed before. Many colleges ban smoking entirely in classroom and administration buildings, while smoking and non-smoking rooms have been designated in residence halls.

At Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa, beginning July 1, smoking will be banned in all university buildings with only exceptions. Private rooms at the university will not be covered in the ban, although residence halls will try to phase out smoking completely over the next five years. But smoking will not be allowed in the Iowa State Center at university-sponsored events, including basketball games.

At the University of North Alabama in Florence, Ala., as a result of the EPA report, a resolution was passed by the faculty senate on Jan. 21 calling for a campuswide ban on tobacco in university facilities, and the elimination of its sale anywhere on the campus.

At George Washington University in Washington, D.C., a large area in the cafeteria that was designated smoking was just made smoke-free, and smoking on campus has been severely restricted to designated areas. A restriction on smoking in lobbies was recently mandated because people at information desks would be exposed to passive smoke.

After 18 months of intense discussion and debate, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, decided to go completely smoke-free last year. There is no smoking allowed in any building anywhere on the campus.

Had the change not been mandated last year, the EPA report would have decided the issue this year, a school official said.

"Of course, there are those who are not happy with that decision," said Ron Ronnenberg, financial aid director.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a recent survey showed that 31.1 percent of men and 28.1 percent of women ages 20-24 smoke. There has been an overall decline, however, in smoking among people with some college education from 42 percent to 26 percent between 1965 and 1987, according to the American Lung Association.

The National Center for Health Statistics data says that smoking is the single largest preventable cause of premature death and disability in the United States and kills more American each year than cocaine, heroin, alcohol abuse, drugs, auto accidents, homicide and suicide combined.
Elections
Continued from front cover

dents, started officially on February 10th after interested students submitted a petition with 100 signatures to get on the ballot.

Part of the campaign included two debates coordinated by Doug Dooley and the Political Affairs Committee. The debates were held in Kretchmer Recital Hall.

The first debate featured the chairperson candidates who were asked questions from a panel consisting of Professor Glen Barkan, Dean of Students Brad Winkler, Multi-Cultural Director Stella Ferris, and student Lorne Neff.

The second debate included all candidates who took questions from the audience.

The election booth was run by Senators. Ballots were counted afterward by two teams consisting of students and school officials.

According to several observers, this year's election was one of the best run, hardest fought campaigns. Dooley felt that the debates made the candidates more open to discuss the issues which made the election "less of a popularity contest."

Timi Hough, Director of Student Activities, agrees saying that: "I'm happy to see so much interest. We got away from popularity and on to the issues."

Brad Winkler, added that, "It forced candidates to really define their position and we will see a lot of quick action."

Financial Aid

By Lorne Neff

Most students returning next year have sent in the financial-aid forms that are required for attending college each school year.

The purpose of the forms is to determine the EFC (Effective Family Contribution) and then tailor a student aid package based on the remaining "need."

Traditionally, this package aid include scholarships, grants and loans to help students pay for the rising cost of tuition.

According to Dave Steffee, Aquinas Director of Student Aid, funding for the Federal Grant Program ( Pell ) has fallen short of projected goals. Students are supposed to be eligible for up to $3,700 dollars from the program. However, the amount appropriated by Congress comes out to $2,300 per student based on projected national student enrollments.

To make matters worse, the government's pre-1992 projection of student enrollment fell short, creating more than a billion dollar shortfall for the program.

The government's solution has been to "borrow"appropriations from each coming year's budget to cover most of the previous years shortfall.

Still, the government has had to cut funding for grant recipients after the final student enrollment numbers are counted.

But there is some help.

One new program, started in January, is the creation of Federally "unsubsidized" loans which are different from traditional Stafford Loans.

The Federal government pays the interest on loans to banks until students graduate or leave college. Subsidized loans are used on the portion of tuition based on "need" after family contribution is deducted.

Unsubsidized loans, are still part of the Stafford Loan Program but will be applicable to either part of a student's tuition based on need or from family contribution (EFC). The only catch is that students must begin paying interest immediately.

Also, according to Steffee, if President Clinton's financial aid package is passed by congress the Federal shortfall for the grant program will be corrected. The package includes $1.3 billion dollars to make up for the shortfall from previous budgets and $650,000 million in additional funding for next years budget.

If passed, students will receive the 2,300 currently allocated per student without further cuts.
By Kathy Klozik

This has been a slow semester for the Social Action Committee. It seems that whenever it comes time to begin a major project, something happens to get in the way. Take Peace and Disarmament Week for example. It was supposed to be a major event, with 1,000 Japanese peace cranes hanging in Wege as a wish for world peace. Unfortunately, it did not go as well as planned, and I would like to apologize to the Aquinas community because things did not work out.

With this aside, I want to inform you of up-coming and on-going SAC events. First of all, there is an Amnesty International group beginning to form. So far, the group has met every other Tuesday at 3:30. The group has been small and we would like to see it grow even slightly; therefore, I invite anyone interested in joining to call me at extension 4108 and let me know when it is convenient for you to meet. Amnesty is an international organization dedicated to human rights around the world. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call me at the above extension or at extension 6800.

SAC, along with CAVA, will be bringing a group of students to a COOL conference on March 25-28. COOL stands for Campus Outreach Opportunity League, and they are an organization that works to promote community service on college campuses. As of right now, there is one more opening for any student interested in learning about how they can be more involved in community service. Again, if you are interested, give me a call.

The two major events coming up are in April. The first is a musical drama titled “All That I Am” (see article in this paper). The play is cast with two actresses, and it uses women from church history to tell “historiy.” Its focus is on the struggles of women in the past helps us examine the struggles of today, and brings about a greater awareness. The musical will be held in Wege Ballroom on Wednesday, April 7th at 12:30. There is no change and you can bring your lunch. Off campus students, and non-Aquinas persons are welcome and encouraged to join the fun.

The second April event, sponsored by SAC and the Programming Board, is a T.G.I.S. Festival (Thank God It’s Spring). The theme is “Celebrating Earth,” and the festivities include live, day-long music from area bands, art displays and sales, food vendors, and state-wide/nation-wide environmental groups selling/distributing information and paraphernalia. The festival is set for Saturday, April 17th (the day after Spring Fling), and will run from 12 noon until 8 p.m. Some of the groups to be featured include Domestic Problems, Gang of Squirrels, All Those Fatal Flowers, and Theresa.

This has been a slow semester for the Aquinas community because things did not work out.

By Lorne Neff

What was your reaction to the flyer passed around campus that began “Attention all Americans!”? Is there racism on Campus? What should we do about it?

These were the questions asked members of the Aquinas Community at an assembly in the Wege Ballroom Wednesday, March 10th in response to the anonymous newsletter.

The assembly was called by Faustenia Morrow and Andy Holtgreive of the Community Senate and President Paul Nelson in response to the newsletter. Approximately 220-250 students, faculty, and staff attended out of concern for the views expressed in the newsletter and to express their own.

The letter that sparked the meeting begins by addressing “African Brothers and Sisters” saying “You have had your chance to voice your opinions and now it is our turn.” The general letter goes on to address points made in the African-American newsletter and asking African Americans to “put your narrow minded ideas to rest and be equal with us.”

The meeting began with Morrow, Holtgreive and Nelson addressing the assembly. The audience was asked the three questions and directed to form small groups to discuss the questions. Each group was provided paper and pencil and asked to record the discussion. Student spokespersons reported to the assembly what was discussed in the small groups.

There was general agreement in the small groups that the letter was poorly written and uninformed. However, it was noted that there are many people who agree with the letter and that the subject it discusses needs to be addressed openly.

Everyone agreed that racism exists on campus. Many suggestions were made to address the issue in the future.

President Nelson listened to the spoke-persons and gathered the small group reports and compiled 6 points that he says were most brought up. They are:

1. The Freshman Humanities course should have a greater multicultural emphasis.

2. Full-time African-American (as well as other minority) faculty and staff are essential—especially an African-American male presence.

3. Courses on diversity and diverse cultures are needed.

4. Multi-cultural programs, activities, newspapers, plays and entertainment should be encouraged.

5. Diversity training should be part of every orientation.

6. Greater representation of diverse cultures should be promoted on the Community Senate, Aquinas Times, and sports teams.

President Nelson said that these topics will be brought to the Board of Trustees meeting March 30th. President Nelson also said that several of the points are already being addressed by various groups on campus.

In General, President Nelson felt that the meeting was good, stating, “reaction was positive— one of reaffirmation and support for African American Students.”

When asked about Racism on campus, President Nelson said there definitely is racism on campus but he felt that, “Racism on campus is based on ignorance, not prejudice— by not knowing.” President Nelson feels the answer will be education.

March 24, 1993

SAC

March 24, 1993

News

Is There Racism On Campus?

By Lorne Neff

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Slater Steps Into New Movie Role

By Jeff Schnaufer (CPS)

LOS ANGELES—Christian Slater has had a change of heart. After years of starring as the ultra-cool, rebellious youth in films like “Heathers” and “Pump Up The Volume,” Slater has gone against convention and taken on the vulnerable, romantic lead in the new MGM film, “Untamed Heart.”

Slater stars as Adam, a shy busboy in a Minneapolis diner with a weak heart and a crush on Caroline (Marisa Tomei), a waitress who’s always falling for the wrong guys.

Speaking at a Hollywood press conference, Slater talked about his decision to do a film about love when “kiss and kill” films like “Fatal Attraction” and “Basic Instinct” are the trend.

“This break with convention, in fact, is what the film is all about. From the casting to the dramatic ending, Bill is trying to rejuvenate the message-lined love story in a film industry where sex and murder get top billing.”

Even the climactic love scene in “Untamed Heart” goes against Hollywood convention. No breasts, butts or any other body parts are exposed. In fact, viewers do not see any sex at all. But for Slater, it was one of the most satisfying love scenes he said he had ever done.

“I’ve done a few love scenes. This one was definitely the most intimate. It wasn’t about nudity. There are feelings involved. I definitely care a great deal about Marisa,” said Slater, who once dated Tomei.

Bill is hoping his formula of shyness, tenderness and passion will work to attract audiences beyond the teen-age fans of Slater.

“It’s going to be an interesting and basic experiment...to see if there is room for a film like this,” Bill said.

For Slater, making the movie has already sent him a message.

“I learned a lot. Sometimes it takes an outside force or an outside person to help you see inside yourself,” Slater said. “I realize these are not such bad things— to be vulnerable, to be nervous.”

In the future, Slater hopes to continue to play characters with heart— as long as the heart works well.

“What I’d like to do is play somebody who does not have some sort of internal problem,” he said laughing. “Every character I’ve played has had mind trouble or heart trouble. I’d like to play one who has a good mind and is able to talk.”

Civic Theatre

Provides Fun Entertainment

By Holly Kent

Are you tired of the same old thing on Friday and Saturday nights around here? Are you looking for something fun and different to do this weekend?

Well, you are in luck because “Anything Goes” at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre this weekend. The award winning musical that has been running since February 25 has been held over for one more weekend.

The story is set in the 1930’s and tells of Hope Harcourt, Billy Crocker, and a shipboard romance that is filled with surprises. Familiar songs featured in the musical are, “I Get a Kick Out of You,” “Anything Goes,” “Let’s Misbehave,” “Blow, Gabriel, Blow,” and “Friendship.”

This show makes for a delightful evening, the acting is wonderful and if you have never seen this performed, the story is full of hilarious lines and surprises.

Tickets are $11.00 this Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27, with upper balcony seats $4.00, and curtain is at 8:00.

Also coming up at the Civic Theatre is “Lettice and Lovage,” a story about Lettice Duffet, Elizabethan cuisine and medieval weaponry “expert.” This show runs April 8-24. “A Few Good Men” opens May 27 through June 12 and is a “cracking courtroom drama” over the trial of two officers in the military who were accused of the death of a fellow officer.

Call Civic Theatre for tickets to any of these productions.

Wild Kingdom

Sung to the tune of the theme from Gilligan's Island.

Whatever the Howells had a lotta cash, but what did they need it for?—And why did Ginger bring her whole wardrobe on a three-hour tour...?

If the professor could make a radio with a stick and some coconut—then why didn't he just build a boat to save their ship-wrecked butts?

And Gilligan would thwart their plans in almost every last scene—they should have killed and eaten him, they could have used the protein.

Now the show's in syndication, and has been for a while...
3rd Annual BHM Production

By Faustenia Morrow

The weekend of February the 26th through the 28th, marked the third annual Black History Month Play Production entitled “Deprogramme.” This year’s production consisted of a cast and crew of over 58 members. The hidden message, which required the audience to “deprogram me” was well received by approximately 600 people in the community. Along with Faustenia Morrow and Rosalind Sample two new writers were added to the team, and they are Shatonla Daniel and Cara Williams.

“Deprogramme” spoke to the individual, asking each person to acknowledge certain stereotypes and perceptions that have plagued the African-American race for years, and to stop believing the myths in order to open all minds to change. The play began with a slavery scene in which the slave master was searching for two runaway slaves in order to take their newborn baby boy and sell him (Lester) into the chains of slavery. As the horrors of slavery continued it began to affect the minds of the slaves and in scene two, the children are shown locked together in chains, but separated and divided by color. This suggestion that being light-skinned was superior to being dark-skinned was clear. This along with other factors would chain the minds and separate African-Americans for many years to come. The progression of blacks was revealed through a succession of dances, ranging from African dance to “hip hop” dancing now seen in the present. This led to a live party scene in which various relationships were displayed and the new found feelings about certain relationships such as “jungle fever” surfaced. In the next scene, a group of politically correct students discussed their heroes and dreams. Two male students began to argue about the difference between their heroes Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. The ghosts of Martin and Malcolm X appear in the classroom and show that there truly was no grave difference between the two, they both had the same mission but they were just two different messengers. There is also a stereotypical class clown who realizes that education is the only way to really be free. The play comes to a close with an outburst of chaos and screaming of various perceptions all over the audience. An anchor woman is shown filming live on the set, as she tries to find out what is going on. Unable to understand the actions of the people, she leaves. The cast appears dead but actually their minds are being deprogrammed and they awake “alive and free!” which allows a new beginning to surface.

The play was a great success, it left some people confused, questioning but most people left with the idea that they need to self deprogram their minds. A congratulations goes out to the entire cast and crew of “Deprogramme.” If you did not see the play or have any questions, the play was video taped and will be shown eventually.

Aquinas Student Assists In Blockbuster

By Michele Holtvluwer

The movie "A League of Their Own," recently released on video, is "very close to reality," according to Rosemary Stevenson, a former member of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Stevenson, an Aquinas student pursuing her degree in ministry, played as an outfielder for the Grand Rapids Chicks in 1954.

Stevenson grew up on a farm in Stalwart, Michigan, 35 miles from the Canadian border. She began playing organized softball when she was eleven years old for the Sault Lockettes, which was part of a Canadian league. She was seventeen when she tried out for the A.A.G.P.B.L. Stevenson was one of six girls out of 106 hopefuls to make it into the A.A.G.P.B.L. at the try outs in Battle Creek, Michigan. With only a few weeks to prepare for her first game, she returned to Stalwart and played with the high school boys baseball team. She only recently learned that the coach of the boy's team had wanted her to play on his team, but the High School Athletic Association didn't feel she was strong enough.

Stevenson graduated from high school in Stalwart on a Thursday, and played her first game for the Grand Rapids Chicks two days later. The Chicks played at South Field in Grand Rapids, which is now vacated and overgrown by trees and weeds.

The girls in the A.A.G.P.B.L. wore uniforms exactly like the ones worn by the movie stars in "A League of Their Own". "It was difficult to slide in them, and we often had scrapes and bruises like the girl in the movie," says Stevenson, "but they were supposed to provide the image of a woman playing a man's game... even though we sometimes felt half-dressed."

When the league formed in 1943 to provide entertainment while the men were away fighting in World War II, the girls had to prove themselves to skeptical baseball fans. By 1954, however, they no longer had to deal with the jokes, although there were men who hung out at the games to gawk at the girls. "Our chaperones were great...we didn't have to deal with that too often."

The A.A.G.P.B.L.'s last year was 1954. "We didn't know until winter that we wouldn't be coming back." Stevenson moved back to Stalwart for awhile, but in 1955 she returned to Grand Rapids where she worked first for Keeler Brass, and then for Michigan Bell. She retired from Michigan Bell in January of 1990.

The A.A.G.P.B.L. was brought back to life thru "A League of Their Own." Stevenson and many other former members of the league had the opportunity to assist with the film. They all met in Chicago for three days to teach the stars of the film to play baseball. "When we first started Madonna was one of the only ones who had even played the game before. Since then they've all come a long way!"

The former members of the league continue to communicate with each other through a newsletter and reunions. They even have their own baseball cards. "It has really boomeranged. We never thought anything like this would ever happen. Now they're even talking about a television series."

In November of 1988, all the former members of the league were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Stevenson was also inducted into the Upper Peninsula Hall of Fame in April of 1990. She now lives in Nunica, Michigan, near Grand Haven, and attend Aquinas College. She hopes to graduate in May, 1994. Stevenson feels the greatest benefit of playing professional baseball was the opportunity to fulfill her dream, "It's a shame that young people today don't have the opportunity to participate in activities after college to fulfill their dreams."

"Miami" Visits Kretshmer Auditorium

By Alec Hosterman

On Tuesday, March 16th Aquinas College welcomed Ricky Walter and his band "Miami" to Kretshmer Auditorium for a free concert. The concert, sponsored by the Programming Board, was a part of Diversity Week. The week was designed to bring speakers, performers, and a variety of foods to the Aquinas community. The board hopes to make this an annual event.

Ricky's show was packed full of traditional gospel favorites like "Amazing Grace" to performances of Amy Grant and Luther Vandross. Even though his music was very diverse and spread out, his message was very clear and concise. Ricky wanted everyone at his show to be, and to reach for their fullest potential, regardless of race, sex, or sexual preference. Throughout the show he would continually boost the audience's morals by different songs or stories he shared. He also introduced his mother, father, sister and two nephews to the audience, telling them of his deep love for the family unity.

Ricky Walter's background in the college circuit has just recently begun in the past year, and all of the colleges that he has attended have asked him to come back next year. Ricky has also been director of music at several parishes, currently in Florida. His band "Miami" consists of Marcus France, the music director, Jerald Dorsett on keyboards, Caesar Griffin on drums and Gordon Smith on bass.

Ricky Walter's show was one of soul, inspiration, vibration and warmth. He puts a lot of time into picking songs that will inspire his audience to achieve their dreams and goals. If Ricky and his band keep going to way they are now, then their possibilities seem endless. The Aquinas College community welcomed Ricky open arms and looks forward to when he returns.
Poetry Contest Warms Hearts

By Aquinas Times Staff

Two Aquinas resident advisors came up with the idea that a poetry contest would spark some Valentine’s warmth during a cold West Michigan winter. The result of their inspiration was an outpouring of creative activity on campus that produced cash prizes as well as literary art.

Sandy VerHage and Kathy Stys proposed the contest as one of their R.A. programming projects. The only rules for the contest were that the subject must be “love” and that the poem (which could be written in verse or prose) be no more than 14 lines in length. The winners were chosen by a panel of judges made up of VerHage, Stys and professors Leon Raikes and Dan Brooks of the English Department.

First prize ($50) went to “Cold Mozart,” by John Casaletto; second prize ($25) to “Her name is Ama,” by Amy Marsh; third prize ($15) to “Be Mine” by Julie Williams. Two other entries, “Accepting the Thorns,” by Abby Elliot, and “Fallen Faith,” by Jodi Zimmerman received honorable mention, and their authors received free movie tickets. All prizes were provided by the Aquinas College Programming Board.

The judges were impressed not only with the number poems entered in the contest (23), but with their quality. It made the judging process, according to Raikes, a difficult process.

“I was pleased, but not surprised, by the high quality of the poetry handed in,” said Raikes. “I have two hopes: that Aquinas students and faculty will keep demonstrating an interest in poetry, and that the campus community will continue to recognize that normal, living people know and like can write good poems.”

VerHage and Stys were also delighted with the response: “We both were extremely pleased with the turnout,” said VerHage. “All the entries showed a lot of thought and talent.”

Cold Mozart
by John Casaletto

Her every glance struck a chord in my heart
Now I’m an unwilling student of a modern Mozart
Picture a piano player, precision on the keys
Her quick hands would never flinch or freeze
Numb with discipline, a song died in the cold
But resurrected fingers refused to do as they’re told
It hailed from the heart, a symphony of need
A mighty orchestra, reborn from a single seed
Whose strings are being played now?
Passionate prisoner of a musical trance
And guilty bystander of the diabolical dance
Freed from beneath the ice of her eyes
The rhythm gained wings and now it flies

Her Name is Ama
by Amy Marsh

Her name is Ama.
She wanders through the maze of my soul,
sometimes hiding, as if not even there,
sometimes laughing and torturing me with her tickling.
She holds my hand and opens my eyes.
She shows me the faces of children
and teaches me their pain.
Laying a hand on the cheek of an old man,
kissing the lips of a young girl afflicted with AIDS,
She embraces the unlovable.
She is a waterfall for the parched,
She is the flicker of connection in a disconnected world.
Her name is Ama. She is Love.

Be Mine
by Julie Williams

Proclaim your wish with a price tag...

Stale candied hearts with the “no way”’s sorted away roses red stripped of thorns in order to avoid bloodshe of a new diamond ringed finger unadmittedly gripping tight

teddy bears stuffed with sawdust torch well in the fireplace helium balloons shining drift light years beyond the stars pink cards saturated with gagging poetry can easily be ripped to shreds
Romanticize me real and forever.

Touring Drama Tells 'Herstory'

By Kathy Klozik

The original script, All That I Am, will be performed as luncheon entertainment on Tuesday, April 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom. This entertaining drama is a musical tribute to six of the unsung women of church history whose experiences in patriarchal church stirs echoes in the lives of women today. All That I Am explores women in relationships, in church and in society. It offers audiences the opportunity to experience these women’s wisdom and courage as their stories illuminate many issues still relevant in our time.

All That I Am was written by Irene Mahoney, OSU with original music and lyrics composed by Kathey Sherman,CSJ. The performance is sponsored by the Aquinas Social Action Committee and the Programming Board, in cooperation with Call To Action’s Performing Arts Ministry.

The play begins with Mrs. Simon Peter, Jewish wife of one of the early Christian disciples, who watches the events drawing her husband away, and wonders aloud: "And what about me?"

It culminates with an American Ratican Catholic—a battered wife who apologizes for failing to live her mother’s dream and then suggests: “Perhaps it’s time to dream another dream.” In between, we are introduced to St. Augustine’s nameless mistress, the wife of a 12th century priest forced to leave her home as Rome enforces mandatory celibacy; Anne Donroe, married to the 16th century Anglican minister/poet; and Maria Von Wedemeyer, fiancée of the Lutheran theologian imprisoned in Nazi Germany.

Call To Action is a Chicago-based, independent social justice organization whose Performing Arts Ministry programs have appeared in more than 40 states across the country since 1985. Audience response in all states has been "exceptional with comments ranging from, "inspiring and powerful," to "compassionate and timely! All That I Am is a powerful testimony to the wisdom, strength and perseverance of these women and, in the words of one of its songs, "many others like you" who face the hardships of their time with love and hope for the future.

For more information about the performance contact Kathy Klozik at X4108.
Renting Tips For First Timers

By Michele Holtvluwer

This spring, many students will begin searching for off-campus housing. Renting an apartment or house with friends is exciting for students who have always lived with their parents in dorms. At the same time, however, renting can be confusing for the student. Students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities before they seek off-campus housing.

Many students will experience discrimination based on their age. While it is illegal for a landlord to refuse to rent to a student because of age, he can set an income requirement. An income requirement usually requires that every occupant of the rental property make $15,000 per year or more. Of course, this is a difficult standard for a college student to meet. Even if a student is able to meet this requirement, it may be wise to stay away from landlords who make it difficult to rent from them. “If a landlord doesn’t want students living on his property, he will inevitably make the entire experience unpleasant,” says Joy Vonk, property manager for American Preferred Management Company.

When renting a house or apartment, a student should always sign a lease, even if the landlord is a friend. Most landlords will insist on this, but if a lease is not offered the student should demand one. A lease provides details about the rental amount, the security deposit, rules regarding noise, pets, late fees, and also lists the landlord’s obligations to the tenant. Patty Barendse, an Aquinas student, rented a duplex from her mother-in-law’s friends. Because they were acquaintances, the landlords didn’t feel a lease was necessary. However, when Barendse moved out her landlord claimed that she was responsible to pay $180.00 to clean the carpets. This would not have been a surprise to Barendse if she had signed a lease.

By signing a lease, tenants commit themselves to living in that apartment for a certain block of time. Tenants are responsible to pay rent to the landlord for the full length of the lease, unless both parties agree to something different. The landlord is, however, not required to release the tenant from the lease.

A tenant is always required to give a thirty-day written notice before moving out of a rental unit, even though the lease already indicates the final day of the agreement. If a thirty-day notice is not given to the landlord prior to moving day, the landlord has a legal right to charge the tenant for an additional thirty days.

Most landlords will require a security deposit from the tenants before they move in. The security deposit is kept by the landlord until the tenants move out to cover any damages the tenants might inflict on the rental property. The tenants must give their forwarding address to their landlord within four days after moving out to assure the return of the security deposit. In turn, the landlord must return the security deposit, or provide detailed explanation for not returning it, within thirty days. According to Vonk, “If the landlord does not return the deposit, or written indication of why the security deposit will not be returned, within thirty days, the tenant can sue for double the amount of the original security deposit.”

Occasionally, a student renter may experience serious problems with the upkeep of the apartment. Marc Staal, another college student, hasn’t had heat or a working oven since September. “We’ve called our landlord several times. Usually our calls aren’t returned, and sometimes they tell us it will be fixed but then it never gets done.” In a case like this, Vonk suggests setting up an escrow account, “You need to first advise your landlord, in writing, of your intention, then you should set up an escrow account. You cannot simply withhold your rent.” The Landlord-Tenant’s Bureau can provide tenants with legal advice regarding escrow accounts. “Any communication between landlord and tenant should be handled in writing,” says Vonk, “This written correspondence protects both parties in case there is ever a need to go to court.” If questions of legality arise, Vonk suggests that students contact the Landlord Tenant’s Bureau.

Students should prepare themselves when looking for off-campus housing. If students are aware of state laws, which are designed to protect both landlords and tenants, they can prevent misunderstandings and rental disasters.
Kurt Schmidt
Takes 7th Place
At Nationals

By Erin Irwin

In his fourth bout at the NAIA National Track Meet, Aquinas senior Kurt Schmidt turned many heads as he easily pounced on his competition, taking 7th place in the 600 yard run. Schmidt was named an "Honorable Mention All-American" for his finish. Asked about his performance after the meet, Schmidt was excited about his performance. "This was my best performance in the four years that I have been to Nationals", commented Schmidt. "In such a tactical race experience pays off." Schmidt also competed in the 440 yard dash preliminaries.

Terry Bocian, Aquinas' Athletic Director, was happy with the performance of the five at Nationals. "I'm personally pleased with how the track team has progressed over time", says Bocian. "There is so much personal dedication in track...the runners have the longest commitment among all the athletes at this school, because they are running most of the year. It is extraordinary."

Also competing at Nationals for Aquinas was Lesley Lake, Matrina Cook, and Scott Haid. In the 440, Haid pulled a hamstring halfway through the race. The injury prevented him from competing in the long jump. Lake ran in the 440 preliminaries, and along with Cook ran in the 60 yard dash. They are credited with running one of their best races of the season at Nationals, yet it wasn't enough against their tough competition to advance to the finals.

Summing up the performance of the other runners, Schmidt, who is the team captain and in his last year at Aquinas, said "It was unfortunate that Scott was hurt because he was ready to race. It's frustrating for Matrina and Lesley because the 60 yard dash was probably the most difficult race to advance in due to the competition."

The Bottom Line

Hello, people.

Well, another grand season of the big AQ sport (basketball) has come to pass. Proudly, I can say that I went to 99% of the games, for once, breaking my previous record of 2% over the past two years. Then again, being a cheerleader, it is kind of a given that it would happen.

This brings me to my topic for the month. One thing I have noticed first hand about the relationship between Aquinas-goers and the sports program is NO SPIRIT!!

Now hear me out on this before you burn me in effigy. As a matriculating young adult, what do you think of right away when names like MICHIGAN, U.N.L.V., and NOTRE DAME are mentioned? The law school? NO! The sports teams! Unless you are an academic obsessive, you are going to think about football, basketball, etc., —FACT!

And why? For one, the schools are big and publicized and have developed the resources available to hone their teams into champions. However, if these schools had spirit like Aquinas, you would say "Notre who? U.N.L.V.? where's that?" Thus, the BOTTOM LINE: SUPPORT!

The reason these schools have grown and developed said resources is because people, fans and students alike, have shown increasing interest in them and have supported the growth potential. One cannot expect to draw attention to one's school by sitting like a couch potato at games, or not going or not caring. Sure, homework, school and other noble pursuits have priority here (Yeah, right!). But if you care about something, you make time for it. FACT!

Now, I'm not claiming any "holier than thou" attitude just because I have make a little effort, heck, a LOT of effort to be more spirited, but the point is, if we want to be proud about our school and its teams, we have to get involved and stop griping about how bad everything is. And I do not mean "in spirit" or lip-syncing along with the crowd. I mean school-color-face-painting-getting-rowdy-cussing-at-the-refs! It's similar to patriotism. If Aquinas spirit was World War II patriotism, we would all be speaking German now. College is more than just academics!

So, people, just go to one game, or one more game, or cheer for once because a lot of people put forth a lot of effort to make these SPECTATOR SPORTS.

Not boob tube reruns.