President Nelson Announces Resignation

by Andy Pieper
Times News and Photo Editor

R. Paul Nelson, President of Aquinas College since 1990, announced on March 20 that he will be resigning from office in the summer of 1997. President Nelson is the fourth president of Aquinas, and has been here in various capacities for 27 years.

In a press release, Nelson said, “My wife and I have been discussing this for almost a year, and now is the time. All the components are in place to take the college to the next level.” He added, “We have an outstanding Board of Trustees, an excellent faculty and administration, and the finest student body anywhere.”

Generally, the reaction to the announcement around campus was one of surprise. “I was shocked,” said St. Joe’s resident Molly Caldwell. “I am sad to see him go because he is a wonderful guy. But,” she added, “I am sure they will find someone to replace him who will lead us as well as he has while he was here.”

“I was quite surprised,” said student Judy DeWitte of the resignation. “I think he did a good job and always made it a point to say hi to the students and try to get to know them better. He is a really friendly person.”

Charles Pyszynski, Chair of the Academic Assembly, and astronomer, said “The first thing I thought of was that in the Middle Ages people thought a comet meant the fall of a king or a change in the governmental leadership, and right now, we have a comet passing us. But on a more serious note,” he added, “what President Nelson sup­plied to Aquinas was a figure who people trusted at a difficult time in its his­tory. It is a true testament to his character that people felt this way. He was certainly the right person at the right time. I am sorry to see him go, but I understand the reasoning for it.”

President Nelson will be filling a difficult position, as well as understanding for the search process will take place. They have not yet made any concrete decisions, but will be meeting in April to develop more plans.

For further coverage of President Nelson’s retirement and an interview with the man himself, see page 2.

Scott David “drives his car” and amuses Carlus Henry (right) while under hypnoti­sis during Dinner Night Club festivi­ties on March 29.

The State of the College...

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

For the first time, a residence hall was the setting of one of President R. Paul Nelson’s State of the College addresses. On Sunday, March 24, about 75 students gathered in the St. Joseph Hall lounge to hear the presenta­tion and have their questions answered.

In the President’s half hour presentation he focused on his resignation in the summer of 1997, the tuition, room and board increase, tenure and promotions, and the college business plan.

Questions and concerns from the students were then presented to President Nelson.

A common concern was the renovation or rebuilding of the field house. “I would like to see a bigger training room to help athletes, a remodeled track, and a remodeled weight room in a new field house,” said Matt McWilliams. “As it is, three or four sports are trying to practice at the same time in the small area.”

“I would like to see a swimming pool because I feel it would benefit the whole college,” said Angie Batey. “Anyone could use it.”

Along with tentative plans for a new field house, the college is contemplating the addition of a track around the soccer field. President Nelson passed around the students the blueprints of the possible project.

For other students, technology has a higher priority than athletic facilities. “I would love to see technology in the residence halls,” said Josh Hedy. “This would include up-to-date word processing and access to the Internet.”

Other student concerns included technology in the science department, the number of multi-cultural staff needed for growing ethnic enrollment, the possibility of a pedestrian campus, new residence halls, students with learning disabilities, North Central Accreditation, the College’s relation to the Catholic Church, a new library, Wilcox Park renovations and relations, and an interim study period.

Students were also asked to voice their opinions on response sheets.

In the past, the President has addressed the students at the general Senate Meeting and the faculty and staff at a different meeting. This year, due to a hectic Aquinas College Community Senate schedule, it was decided to have the students’ address given in a residence hall.

“Senate meetings have been full with proposals and voting matters lately,” said former Senate Chairperson, John Niedzielski. “Having President Nelson in the residence halls was an unexpected change of pace. It was also beneficial, a change of setting, and more informal.”

“This is the first time I have done it this way,” said President Paul Nelson of the change of settings. “I like it.”

Students also seemed to like the change. “I am really honored that he would take the time to do this,” said Alcinamir Bolchak. “Mark Lyon, who helped bring the President to the residence hall, hopes the visit is the first step in getting faculty and staff back into the halls.” He hopes in the future to bring other faculty members to the residence halls to speak on topics of interest to the students.

The State of the College Address was also presented to faculty and staff on Wednesday, March 27.
Tuition Increases 5.75% for '96-'97

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

The cost of a college education increases every year and is a concern for college students. Only the percent increase and the reasons for the increase seem to change from year to year. At this year’s State of the College Address, President R. Paul Nelson announced the tuition, room and board rates for the 1996-97 school year.

The Board of Trustees of Aquinas College on March 19 approved a comprehensive increase for full time traditional aged students living on campus of 4.74%. Tuition will be raised 5.75%, from $11,852 to $12,534. Room will be raised 4%, from $1,864 to $1,939. Board will stay at $2260.

This translates into a total increase of $757.

For part-time regular students with 1-6 credit hours, there will be a 4% or $10 per credit increase. For 7-11 credit hours there will be a increase of 5.75% or $21 per credit.

Continuing education and Masters of Management tuition will increase 4% or $10 and Arts in Teaching will increase 7% or $17 per credit. In addition, a 55 per course technology fee will be charged for all students.

The percent of tuition increases was identical to last year’s increases, according to figures from Michael Keller, Vice President for Enrollment Management. Though room rates increased this year, board costs have not increased since 1993.

The process of setting tuition rates is a lengthy process that weights enrollment projections against the cost/benefits of a tuition increase.

This year’s increases, Nelson pointed out, were partly due to declining enrollment. Though admissions for the incoming class are 25% ahead, the college will be losing a large graduating class this year. In addition, continuing education is down due to people working longer hours, traveling more, and competition from other area colleges. There has been a steady decrease in this area since 1986.

Furthermore, the funds are needed for improvements around campus.

"The needs for technology, the needs for refurbishment, renovation, and enhancement of facilities, and the needs for faculty and staff salaries, all cry for revenue," said Nelson.

From the students point of view, however, the increase is a little intimidating.

"I am scared of it," said Alicia Marie Belchak. "Yet it is necessary since we are no tuition dependent. As long as the money is being used wisely and benefiting the students, financial aid will cover it."

"I know it has to go up," said Josh Heddy.

"My tuition is paid for with scholarships, so hopefully they will go up with it."

On March 26, Times News Editor Andy Pieper had the privilege of personally interviewing President Paul Nelson about his recent resignation. This is a summary of that interview.

Why is now the right time for you to resign from Aquinas College?

"Well, it was a convergence of events. I really made the decision primarily based on what I thought was best for Aquinas College. What I think Aquinas needs now is someone with new ideas, new energy, and new enthusiasm. I have not held anything back. What happens after you have been somewhere for any significant amount of time is you begin making assumptions, and those assumptions become your reality. This causes you to miss opportunities that someone else may see and make into something great. Also, my gifts are more student centered rather than management oriented. I have recently become excited about the ideas of teaching, research, writing and especially pursuing a growing interest in moral theology and biography. Peter Sengi said, "Learning organizations will be the most powerful because each person is empowered with developing his or her own thoughts." If organizations and people do not take time to reflect, no learning takes place. I think I need a time to reflect."

What would you consider the low point of your presidency?

"I think that uniting the college community, which includes faculty, staff, students, board and alumni, into believing that Aquinas College is really a special place! I feel that was as hard as when I became President. People now better appreciate the uniqueness of this college. They appreciate the uniqueness of this college. They appreciate the uniqueness of this college."

What would you consider the high point of your presidency?

"I really want to see enrollment enhanced, and for us to bring in a bumper freshman class. We are currently up 25 percent in new applications. We also need to address our capital needs and infrastructure. Those include our major technology transition, adding the Internet and our connected campus."

President Nelson has seen many changes during his tenure. He feels the biggest accomplishment has been playing up another notch. That would be the finest tribute anyone could give me, or any other leader, to say that they helped every-one else perform better than they otherwise would have."

AQ Students "COOL" Off in D.C.

by Erin Flynn
Times Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, March 20, Aquinas students Lia Brower-Mix, Janelle Borden, Dar-riet Dodde, Colleen Gilginas, Stephanie Langstaff, Aaron Lardie, Patti MacDonald, Brian Mateke, Renee North, Andy Pieper, Nancy Timmerlake, Angela Walden, John Krajewski, and coordinator Eric Bridge hopped on a bus and headed for Washington D.C.

Their destination was the annual Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL) conference. The conference was a collaboration of many colleges and universities across the country. The basic focus was on the political aspect of volunteerism. The students set out on Thursday, and due to some unforeseen problems, they were all forced to get ready in crowded bathrooms for their trip to Capitol Hill. After visiting the Capitol, Janelle Borden got the opportunity to represent Aquinas by participating in a volunteer clean-up project, much like Aquinas' own Project Unite.

The students spent the remainder of their time visiting sites such as Arlington Cemetery, listening to speakers, and attending volunteer program sessions. These sessions included 125 workshops, of which students could attend six. Colleen Gilginas and Aaron Lardie took their turn in presenting a plastic workshop entitled "Stand by Me." Lardie described the workshop by saying, "The entire presentation is several skits put together. Each one is about how AIDS affects people overall, and it details how AIDS destroys the social aspect of life." Look for their workshop to be presented noon in the Grand Rapids area.

Finally, the students experienced a visit to the Holocaust Museum. Stephanie Langstaff said, "I think the Holocaust Museum was the biggest, saddest experience we had."

Eric Bridge felt similarly, and reflected, "The museum was very powerful and very inspiring in the sense that we can't sit passively by, we need to respond to such future acts of injustice."

From justice in volunteerism to extreme injustice, these Aquinas students experienced it all and will have the memories of the 1996 COOL conference with them for a lifetime.
Internet Information Shared in Session at Woodhouse Library

Chuck Frydrych expounds upon the benefits of the internet.

April 25 in the Woodhouse Library. Dr. Chuck Frydrych and Professor Russ Pitts led the discussion on what to expect when Aquinas College joins the information superhighway next fall.

About 25 people attended the session, which was followed by Vice President of Operations Barry Kants and Director of College Computing Joyce LaFleur giving a presentation on the future goals of Aquinas College's technology programs and some of the specifics which the college has in mind.

Dr. Frydrych began the session by informing the present of some of the pluses of being on-line. Things such as E-Mail, access to various information for research, chat rooms, bulletin boards and other opportunities such as updates on your favorite TV show are all available through one little phone line and can be brought into your room.

Within the last couple of months, Aquinas has set out to provide students with their own home sites on the world wide web and more changes to it are in the making. "When the Aquinas home page develops," said Dr. Frydrych, "it will contain links to all of the departments, whereas now it only contains Financial Aid, Admissions, and Catalog information."

When Joyce LaFleur took the stage, she brought with her a wealth of information regarding some of the programs Aquinas hopes to implement as soon as the funds become available. Already, as most of you know, funds have been acquired to hook Aquinas College up to the Internet by next fall. One thing that LaFleur noted, however, was that only the computer lab would have access to these facilities. Students would still have to pay for direct service to their room. In order to accommodate the expected demand for the computers in the lab which have access to the net, plans have been developed and are in the final stages to have the lab open from noon on Sunday until 5 p.m. on Friday. This requires lab assistants 24 hours a day, which is part of the increased cost.

Future plans are for advanced programs which would link area businesses up for classes, connect the entire campus to one network, increase the mobile computer program and add more docking stations.

"With the laptop program and commuters bringing in their own laptops," said LaFleur, "we are in need of more docking stations to access the network and the internet."

Also in the immediate future are plans for updating the Library card catalog so that it can be accessed from anywhere on campus. This includes a large processing station for the CD-ROM titles and reference banks.

The total cost for what has been divided into a three stage technology plan has been estimated at around 3.3 million dollars. This is a lot of hard work, but I am confident it will all be worth it in the end," he said.

Student Robert Dodde attended the session and was enthralled by the opportunities which await him on the Internet, as well as the other updates which are in Aquinas' future. "I am excited about the development and anxious to get involved and educated on these new technologies," he said.

It seems Aquinas has waited forever for these new and exciting developments to occur. However, the end of the road is just now coming into sight. How soon these technologies are actually realized will be determined when funding is secured to allow the implementation of these programs.

R.A. Staff Chosen for 96-97 School Year

Twenty-four students have endured long interviews, and are up to the challenge of being Aquinas' Resident Advisors for the 1996-97 school year. Beginning in the fall of '96, the following people will be the RA staff:

David Acvedo
Eva Benenam
Janelle Barden
Duffy Cavanaugh
Renee Gorsky
Carlus Henry
Brian Hillary
Amy Lee
Justin Maxwell
Tiffany Moore
Jamielle Ostrowski
Heidi Stephan

Nicole Almond
Felicia Buchanan
April Carpenter
Stephanie Fochman
Nikesa Griffin
Morgan Higginbotham
Gwen Johnson
Mark Lyon
Greg Muleski
Angela Newcomb
Andrew Peiper
Yvette Wright
Should Standardized Testing be the Cornerstone of Education?

By Andy Pieper
Times News and Photo Editor

So, would you like the local architect to decide the rules of conduct for your residence hall or apartment complex? "What kind of question is that?" you must be asking yourself. It is just another analogy to the way the business leaders of America think they should be able to decide how we educate our children. The expert position on education reform is similar to that of the average architect's knowledge of good residence life policy. They have proposed that we give a standardized test to all students in order for them to move on to the next level. Some have suggested only a test to receive a diploma, others insist we have one after every grade. That's every grade.

There are two types of reasons why we should or should not have tests like those proposed. One is that the tests will be, as all other standardized tests, unreflective of what the student really learned. The other is that, until the educational system is more equal to all students, regardless of sex, color or prosperity of the district they live in, the test will be discriminatory against those who are at a disadvantage in these types of situations. Right now, one of the tests at the forefront of the educational debate in Michigan is the MEAP test. This measures the reading, writing, science and mathematical skills of students in the fifth, eighth, and eleventh grades. Currently there is much debate over whether these tests are an accurate measure of how well the school is doing at educating our children. If the questions are worded differently than a teacher taught the students books, many students are doubting upon textbooks they may not take the book home with them. How conducive is that to studying hard? People from poorer districts should be given equal money and resources before being forced to take even more standardized tests. Also, what about some districts where low self-esteem and the feeling of ineptness overwhelm students? While I have not experienced this, I have read that many students in the inner city feel as though they can never get out. The self-fulfilling prophecy can certainly become reality, but it is all too easy to accept defeat. Finally, these tests do not take into consideration those students who do not learn as well in the traditional way. They are visual, hands-on learners, as opposed to lecture learners. They normally do not take tests well, and this does not make them less intelligent, only distinctly intelligent.

By Eric VanGessel
Times News Editor

When the CEOs of some of the U.S.'s largest and most influential companies met this past week in Palm Springs, New York, what was on their mind was the current state of America's defunct educational system. A primary concern was that if the state of the educational system stayed on its current path, the U.S. would essentially evolve into a country that was incapable of functioning in the highly competitive new world. What is sad is that the business leaders of this educational professionals that they were doing a bad job instead of realizing the problem themselves. In their meeting they came up with several proposals, one of which was the need for standardized test scores to qualify a student for each new grade. According to them, students should realize that without gaining adequate knowledge of the material in that particular segment of their education, they would not be able to advance to the next level. Essentially this says if you don't succeed you can't move on, a disadvantage. That is why these president and CEO's all tell stories of employees who don't have enough sense to follow directions well or even make a picture with much less words. Therefore they propose the following idea: do away with automatic advancement. Students should now be required to pass certain standardized tests before they are admitted to the next level. This idea was, for the most part, endorsed by President Clinton when he addressed the delegation earlier last week. This type of proposal puts a lot of responsibility on the student. If they don't pass the test they will be required to go to summer school or repeat that school year, but if that is what it takes to reform the system then so be it.

The next idea centers around the creation of higher standards, world class standards in fact. This equates into making both students and teachers accountable for their own responsibilities. We have already stated that students should not automatically proceed to a higher level of education, which is something that is sorely needed. In other words, it's time to put an end to tenure in public schools. The focus these days seems to be making students and parents accountable for their own education, which is sorely needed and is a positive thing. We can also go one step further, by making sure that the teachers are accountable for their actions. Tenure is a system where, after a certain number of years (in the public education system usually 2 to 3 years), teachers essentially become unemployable. Therefore there is no way to make them accountable for the type of job they do in the classroom. Many teachers have a professional ethic that drives them to go above and beyond the call of duty, and these people can be some of the most enriching influences in a child's life. But, unfortunately, some do not have this system of ethics and soon become complacent and simply coast along. Every student who has ever gone through high school can easily see the difference. What is important to keep in mind is that some, maybe all, of the recommendations made at this meeting might not be the right ones; but the concept of widespread failure in the US educational system is something that needs to be fixed. When we produce students who are incapable of writing one page report, cannot do basic math, and cannot analyze simple problems and arrive at acceptable conclusions then we are all affected by not just them. The business leaders of this nation have given us a much needed wake-up call, now is the time for us to heed their advice and do something about the problem.
A Long Hot Summer Ahead for U.S. Politics

by Maris Branchaud

The race for president is dominating print and broadcast media, and will continue through April. Political pundits are making predictions, rumors are surfacing about a Republican vice presidential candidate, and several big names from outside the parties have announced, or hinted at making a run for the oval office. Bob Dole is the hands down winner of the Republican nomination, most recently winning California, Nevada, and Washington state primaries to increase his delegate count to 1,198. Dole returning to his post significantly earlier than Al Gore, a candidate for President, and incumbent President Bill Clinton facing a mid-term election marks the first time in history when two candidates selected such roles at the same time. Some say it will be a nasty race in November, with Dole stressing, "adult leadership" and Clinton focusing on the need for a "future-oriented president."

Ross Perot is talking about making his "Pero in '96" bumper sticker (flashed after his '92 campaign ended) a reality. He hopes to get his Reform Party on the ballot in all 50 states, and vows to run if another candidate, Perot captured 19% of the vote in '92 and is credited with getting votes away from then President George Bush. GOP leaders say Perot has "raided on Dole's parade" by hinting about a run this year. Russell Verney, who is directing the efforts of the Reform Party, said that all the speculation about Perot running is taking away from the real message. "This is not about Ross Perot," he said. "It is about creating a new political institution and the opportunity for people to seek the nomination for president without going through the characterization and attacks of the Republican and Democratic parties."

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader also announced his intention to run for president. Rumors have surfaced that Nader's democratic presence in the race could take votes away from Clinton. Finally, there's Pat Buchanan looking over the shoulder of Dole like a pesky fly who won't go away. Buchanan has a say in who Dole chooses for a running mate and in the platform announced at the Republican convention. If denied such a role, Buchanan has also mentioned running as a third party candidate. But no matter who enters the race, the main focus will be on Clinton and Dole. The latest polls show that the Democratic nominee is significantly ahead of Dole. A Mason Dixon group poll found that in the key state of California, half of the GOP voters are not enthusiastic about Dole and half do not believe he can defeat Clinton in November.

It looks like the nation should be bracing for a politically long, hot summer.
Monday, April 1, 1996

Miller has reached a depth of cynicism that is truly appalling. Hatred is not something to be laughed at, period. There is nothing funny at all about Miller's statement, and people of his kind should be confronted with the warmth, steel fist of love. The American people are not the self-absorbed slimebags (who "have a personal agenda, and are totally unbending about that agenda") that Miller thinks they are. Throughout his "comedy" routine, Miller "poked fun" at gays and lesbians, and validated his comments by saying, "Relax. It's just a joke. Homosexuals deserve exactly what everyone in America deserves—my complete and utter indifference. They can be poked fun at just like everybody else." Later in his act, Miller even stooped to self-deprecating humor in a desperate attempt at being funny. How can we, as humans in general, have any sort of self-worth when people like Miller (who, by the way, has quite a large following) are constantly cutting down our self-esteem? Is there really anything funny about the apparent lack of self-confidence that a large majority of Americans share?

This is a serious issue—one that should avoid humor at any cost because "poking fun" has the potential to mis-educate. Everyone criticizes the political correctness movement as weak, wishy-washy, and potentially dangerous towards any sort of quest for truth. The basis of the politically correct philosophy is to avoid potentially damaging anyone's self-worth. What's wrong with being sensitive to others' feelings?

One of the things that causes the general lack of self-worth of Americans is a lack of true American identity. Sure, the idea that America is a melting pot of cultures, and that we are always open and welcome to new people and their ideas, is far too unrealistic a goal.

We should limit this American ideal, and, for Heaven's sake, we will set up a boundary in which we can conceptualize what a real "American" is. One of the steps toward this goal is to instigate Pat Buchanan's foreign relations program, which includes a giant wall along the border of Mexico. We should take this a step further and build a wall along the Canadian border as well; not only do the Canadian people lack a sense of identity (two national languages is absurd), and eliminating relations with them will inhibit their potentially damaging influence on the American person. (That, and it will keep undernourished Americans from venturing across the border for a night of "legal" drinking and debauchery.)

But why stop there? America should focus inward, and eliminate the influence of those who threaten the American sense of identity—such as rabble-rousers like Dennis Miller. Think about it. By following the lead of brilliant politicians like Pat Buchanan, we are only one step away from American freedom.

But, I don't think anyone out there in the good 'ol US of A really understands this concept, primarily because of the results of the Republican Primaries. Bob Dole far too often crosses the border of Truth over to the state of Liberalism. Why does America keep supporting people like Dole, and either slander or ignore true men of God like Pat Buchanan? I really, really seriously think that Americans must be led to the truth, because they will not find it themselves. Hence, they should follow Buchanan, who carries the blazing torch of Truth—the Bible—down the path of Truth—the Right Path.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Did anyone out there notice the date at the beginning of this column?)
The news spread around campus like the rumor of a Compound party, only it wasn’t news for celebration. Two weeks ago, Wednesday, March 20, the entire Aquinas community received the official announce­ment of Paul Nelson’s resignation as Presi­dent of the college. It was a huge surprise that has important implications in the com­ing years.

As Aquinas prepares for the next school year with the initiation of the Internet and several key fund raising campaigns which will extend the technological upgrade and begin the first stage of athletic facility im­provements, the Board of Trustees will also be charged with the duty of finding a new leader. Though the process will be diffi­cult, the final choice will be even more so, as it will be hard to replace Paul Nelson. President Nelson has been a very unusual presi­dent, as he has been both behind the scenes and yet also recognizable by nearly everyone at Aquinas. His self-admitted hands-off approach to leadership in some matters is contrasted with his love of visit­ing the cafeteria and wandering the paths simply to say hello to students.

It is no surprise to hear the comments from many students these past two weeks about their feelings for President Nelson. From the freshman who may only be able to recognize him to the seniors who call him by his first name, he has been well re­pected and well loved by most all students. I remember very distinctly fine moments of my Aquinas years that I shared with President Nelson. As a freshman, my room­mate and I felt the responsibility to person­ally apologize to him for pushing the ex­treme limits on dorm rules. After a discus­sion, the president forgave me and then pursued those dreams. Robert Kennedy once said, “...as the years pass and generations succeed, leaders will not be judged so much on the work that they did but the people and dreams they inspired.” From the vantage point of an Aquinas student, I think Paul Nelson embodies what Kennedy said. No other President in the country would hold a state of the college address in a dorm hall, but no other place seems so apropos for Paul Nelson.

If there was a book written on leadership by example, you should see Paul Nelson cited. Though without the talents of a Michael Jordan, the motivational skills of a Lou Holz or Rich DeVos, or maybe not the vision of a Bill Gates, Paul Nelson has what so few have: sincerity and unwavering dedi­cation. After 27 long years at Aquinas and seven hard years as President, he has earned the acclaim. As the years go by and Aquinas College grows stronger and stronger, the years be­tween 1989-1997 may soon be forgotten. But this school will be strong because of great individuals who have made profound im­provements on the qual­ity of Aquinas College. It is hard to imagine anyone better than Paul Nelson.

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On behalf of the sta­ff and countless other students, thank you sir. As President of Aquinas College you were terrific, and as a friend to this community, even better.

The VINEYARD CAFE
is a coffee house featuring live local talent in a homey atmosphere. Enjoy poetry read­ings, dance and a wide variety of musical styles Friday nights. The doors open at 8:30pm. The Vineyard Cafe’s new location is on Norwood behind Wolfgang’s Just Breakfast (near Wealthy and Lake Drive). Admission is $3.00 and includes a bottom­less cup of coffee.

This week’s featured artist is folk rock band GARDEN PARTY.
Other April performers include Marzuki (Celtic Rock) on the 12th, and the Dawn McIlhargy Dance Co. on the 19th.

The place where life’s questions are answered!
Tomcat Inhabits
Woodhouse Library

by Scott Bacon
Times Features Editor

A story was run in the January 31 issue of the Times explaining the plight of the Online catalogue in our own AQ library. This online database is used to search the whereabouts of all the book and periodical titles in the library. Dandy indeed, but the database lacked one important thing: a name. A "name that database" contest was held, and here are the results.

The Aquinas Woodhouse Library's Online catalogue is now officially known as...drumroll please...Tomcat - On Line Public Access Catalog. The Database is clearly marked with clever signs suspended over the Tomcat computers.

So if you need help finding something in the library, have no fear, use the Tomcat!! Also, keep your eyes open for the new "Woodhouse Library" sign that will be making its debut at the library entrance. Both the Tomcat and Woodhouse Library signs were designed by the talented Media department graphic artist Cathy Hochstettler, so when you see her be sure to praise her for her amazing artistic abilities.

Browsing AQ's Web Page...

by Scott Bacon
Times Features Editor

The old rumor mill hit me recently with the information that the Aquinas Admissions Department had a homepage on the Internet. That's right, our happy little home with all the trees occupies it's own place on the World Wide Web. Intrigued by this prospect, I called the AQ Admissions Department to confirm this wonderful rumor. A courteous person on the other end of the line said a "Yes it's true" and supplied me with the proper URL (that's an internet address) to all those new to cyberspace. I typed in 'http://www.aquinas.edu' and went home and fired up the ol ' Packard Bell and signed on to my favorite internet server. I then played the game of "boy, I wish that had this kind of stuff when I was in high school." Think about it. As quick as someone can be told of our school, they can be on line and seeing what AQ has to offer. It is also a good way of showing prospective students that Aquinas is not afraid of new technologies. Overall, a good showing for AQ and it's Admissions Department.

AQ Service Group Helps
High School Freshmen

by Eric Mullen
Times Contributing Writer

It's tough being a freshman in high school. Remember the agony of mastering a six hour schedule, ingesting horrible cafeteria food and trying to get through acne outbreak? It's a time of difficult adjustment. Now throw into the mix issues such as gang violence, guns in school, date rape, drug abuse and teen pregnancy and the adjustment becomes even more difficult, if not impossible. These issues ring loud within the halls of Grand Rapids Central High School.

An Aquinas service learning group, College Compact and Freshmen Company, in conjunction with the American Youth Foundation has formed a mentorship with this local high school to help freshmen not only adjust but to cultivate leadership skills and develop programs that promote positive change in their schools and communities. College Compact and Freshmen Company, in it's third year, has formed a very successful bond between Central High and Aquinas College. The group of college mentors consists of nine students; Laura Kohler, Tim Caswell, Josh Hedly, Chris Manning, Sarah Slezak, Mia Walker, Suzanne Eardley, Kim Mitchell, Eric Mullen, and Advisor Eric Bridge. The mentors are split into four teams and paired with four to five "at risk" freshmen from Central High School.

At the beginning of the semester, College Compact and Freshmen Company (CCFC) spent a weekend at Camp Minwawac with teams from the other Grand Rapids Public High Schools. While at Minwawac the college mentors introduced the freshmen to a leadership model (The Team Formula For Effecting Change) which was developed by the American Youth Foundation. The teams then applied this formula to an area of freshmen concern and developed a solution. Issues of concern ranged from gang violence to student-teacher relations. Once a comprehensive plan was developed by the freshmen the team headed back to Central High to implement their formula. The mentors meet with the freshmen on a weekly basis to keep the plan moving.

Although all the teams have encountered numerous roadblocks, optimism still propels the groups forward. Most groups have realized that their initial goal will not be completed. Yet, the students involved all take great pride in their efforts as they understand that this is a learning process in which they are gaining invaluable leadership skills. The mentor's role in the process has not been to structure the direction of the group but rather to be a participant observer. This is a difficult role to maintain as the mentors often witness their groups taking a wrong turn and must not directly intervene. Rather, the mentors role is to help the team find success in their failures and recognize growth in all their ventures.

Another component of the program is to familiarize high school students who are not usually termed "college bound" with a positive interaction with secondary education. Towards the end of the semester the Freshmen Company will be invited to Aquinas to acquire insight on the college experience and gain first hand information on how to get on the road to higher education. Although the program is young it has proven an invaluable experience for both the freshmen and the college mentors. If you have any interest in becoming a mentor in 96/97 contact Eric Bridge at extension 4112.

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The Academic Achievement Center in AB 320 needs to fill several volunteer/ for credit/ paid positions in the following areas: 1. Tutors in all subjects 2. Individuals to organize study groups in specific courses 3. Readers for the disABLED 4. Peer tutor coordinating internship If interested please schedule an appointment with Karen Broekstra at extension 3711.

$5,000-$8,000 Monthly Working distributing our product brochures. Get paid—we supply brochures. F/T or P/T. For FREE info write: DIRECTOR 1375 Coney Island Ave., Ste. 427 Brooklyn, NY 11230
Voices in the Crowd

Domestic Problems released its debut "Scattered Pieces" last weekend and has sold well over 500 copies in just the last week. Aquinas students were ecstatic to finally get their paws on a copy of the CD and some new DP merchandise.

Here's what students have to say about the disc:

Mary Kay McKenney, Senior:
They have come along way since their days playing in the dorms. I think that the disc sounds great and I'm really proud of them. I have played the CD for people who have never heard the band and they would instantly be turned on to it.

Greg Miskel, Freshman:
I think that the CD is awesome! It sounds just as good as the band does when they play live. They definitely have the talent to go away.

Timi Hough, Student Activities Director:
I remember seeing the guys playing in St. Joe as a three-piece, and now look at them. The CD sounds really good...we play it in the office every day — 24 hours a day! (No pun intended, huh, Timi!)

Mindy Martin, Junior:
I listen to it all of the time. It's the kind of music that you can listen to at any time, doing anything.

April Carpenter, Junior:
Awesome! I think the sounds and the tempos are very diverse. You can listen to this CD when you're studying, relaxing or just having fun!

CD REVIEWS

The Verve Pipe

Villains 

by Josh Newman
Times Entertainment Editor

After two successful independent releases, Michigan's own Verve Pipe has taken its music to the next level with the release of its RCA Records debut Villains. The release marks not only the first major label showing for the hometown boys, but it also takes a turn in a different direction musically.

Produced by Talking Heads' Jerry Harrison (Live, Crash Test Dummies), Villains veers slightly off course, providing an overall sound that is a bit darker at times, uses less vocal arrangements and more keyboards, and also features an overall meater and driving orchestration to the songs. Ultimately, listening to the Jesus Lizard is reminiscent of eating maggot-laden roadkill (while being dragged through the gutter...)—and actually liking it; thus, I can't recommend this enough.

the Jesus Lizard

"Thumper" single

by John Serba
Times Editor-in-Chief

Imagine being dragged by your ankles through a puke-infested gutter, your head occasionally bouncing off slimy sewer grates and rats nibbling at your ear lobes. Now, imagine what the man who is dragging you through that gutter would be saying: imagine what he sounds like. Finally, imagine all of this being done with some bizarre degree of tastefulness. Are you finding this difficult to conceptualize? Well, this is the best analogy I can come up with to describe what experiencing the Jesus Lizard is like.

For the young, foolish, or uninitiated, the Jesus Lizard is a Chicago-based outfit whose specialty is spittle-jarring rhythms (courtesy of bassist David Sims, guitarist Duane Denison, and drummer Mac McNeilly) and the drunken, stoned poetry of vocalist David Yow. This three-track single is just a taste of their upcoming album, Shot (due out April 16), and it promises to be yet another Jesus Lizard-style trek into the psychotic slop of backwoods Virginia.

"Thumper" is a fast-paced freakout typical of the band, complete with wack-o, syncopated rhythms and David Yow's garbled yowl, which is more disturbing (and nasal) than ever. "Good Riddance" glides along on one of Sims' trademark hypnotic bass lines, and Yow actually enunciates the story of a "clown who treated us as prizes...but he had a synaptic revolt...the clown drew into himself," and apparently started murdering people. The third cut is an appropriate and spunky cover of "Shoot Up" by the Stranglers. The Jesus Lizard performs at Welsh Auditorium on Sunday, June 2nd. Tickets went on sale last Saturday ($23.00) at Ticketmaster locations, or charge by phone at 456-3333.

TORI AMOS performs at Welsh Auditorium on Sunday, June 2nd. Tickets went on sale last Saturday ($23.00) at Ticketmaster locations, or charge by phone at 456-3333.

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**HOPS AND BARLEY**
Samuel Adams
*Cherry Wheat*

by Josh Newman
Times Entertainment Editor

As the spring and summer months are fast approaching, beer drinkers everywhere search for a new taste to please the ever-changing needs of their palates. And with that in mind, we at the Times feel that we have found a perfect suggestion to suit your needs.

Samuel Adams' latest installment in its long line of brews is a lighter fare called *Cherry Wheat*. This beer was in its trial stages last summer, but never caught on like it should have. But this summer should be different.

Cherry Wheat is a very light, golden beer with just a hint of cherry flavoring to give this beer a great soothing taste, yet staying away from the spritzer-like status. This beer, when served properly (ice cold and preferably at poolside, of course), is a definite treat for any time of the year. But as the weather warms, you will definitely warm up to this brew.

The only downfall is that drinking an abundance of this specific brew can become a bit monotonous, so (as always) drink in moderation.

Bars, pubs and alcohol retail stores across the state are starting to stock up on Cherry Wheat, so you should do the same. (**1/2)**

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**UNDERGROUND CHUCK**
by John Niedzinski
Times Contributing Writer

You know, I've been to at least a couple dozen of the hundreds of restaurants in Grand Rapids, and I've always experienced the same processed foods, the same service, and so on. That is, until now.

Do yourself a favor, as did, and explore the unique offerings of *Osta's* (2228 Wealthy S.E. in Gaslight Village). You'll find the food and atmosphere a refreshing substitute for the usual fare, mainly because Osta's specializes in authentic Lebanese Cuisine. That's right, you won't find any greasy cheeseburgers on this menu.

The food here is prepared fresh daily and has that special home-made taste. I know what you're thinking, with a name like Niedzinski how do I know what home-made Lebanese food tastes like? Well, to be honest, I don't. That's why I asked AQ junior Laura Anthony, who was born and raised on the stuff, what she thought of Osta's. Her reaction? "I love it. It's the next best thing to my family's traditional recipes." Her favorites include the meat grape leaves, seasoned beef and rice rolled in grape leaves and steamed in a light lemon sauce, and the Cucumber Laban, a creamy Lebanese yogurt blended with diced cucumber, garlic, and mint leaves.

My personal favorites are the cheese bread and the shish tawook sandwich, which is a grilled chicken breast marinated in lemon garlic sauce. I even liked the vegetarian entrees, especially the falafel.

At first glance, the beer selection seemed limited, but with Heiniken, Amstel Light, and Almaza (imported from Lebanon), who needs more choices! The restaurant is clean and comfortable with friendly service, which is no surprise: it's owned by AQ alums Nikki Cassis, class of '87, and Diane Aoudad (Cassis), class of '88. (******

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**By John Serba**

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Fargo**

Ah, jeez. If venturing to the local cineplex was an ice-fishing expedition on a frozen lake in the middle of Minnesota, the latest Hollywood productions have been nothing but a waste of good bait. But, if you threw in a juicy nightcrawler and pulled out Fargo, you would have the equivalent of a decent-sized trout.

Which is not to say that Fargo isn't a prize catch—if you took it home and fried it in a little bit of flour, you'd find it full of flavor and immensely satisfying. (To further drag out this analogy, a monster pike that is only good for taxidermy and whose meat even a starving rat wouldn't eat would be the equivalent of, say, Batman Forever or Waterworld.)

What makes the latest expedition from the Coen brothers (Raising Arizona, Miller's Crossing, Barton Ford) so damned tasty, you may ask? Well, everything.

The fresh story and unique characters provide laughter as well as a distinct view of life.

Supposedly based on a true story, Fargo finds Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy), a pathetic liar who is in deep financial doo-doo, hiring a couple of thugs (Steve Buscemi—a.k.a. Mr. Pink from Reservoir Dogs—and Peter Stormare) to kidnap his own wife so he can extort money from his granite-headed father-in-law. This absolutely ridiculous scheme (one of the absurdities that is a trademark of the Coens) goes wildly awry, and ends up in a triple homicide.

Which brings in the folksy and utterly lovable (seriously) chief of police in Brainerd, Minnesota, Marge Gunderson (Frances McDormand), who tackles the case. Seven months pregnant, Marge waddles through snowy crime scenes (another absurd sight) and sniffs out clues in between visits to Arby's and the local all-you-can-eat buffet; she is smart, actualized, and content with her often boring small-town existence. McDormand is gut-wrenchingly hilarious in her role, partly because of her avalanche of understatement, and partly because of her ludicrous interaction with her duck-portrait-painting husband and the dullard townsfolk.

However, over the top of Buscemi's (and a wonderfully creepy) Stormare's slimy-ridden antics is a layer of nitwit humor within the dialogue, which is peppered with loads of "yah's" and "real fine's." The Coens' comic portrayal of the Minnesotans leaves one wondering if everyone in the cruddy-snowy land of the Upper Midwest has a stupid grin displaying teeth jutting out at all angles and conversations riddled with idiotic colloquialisms.

Fargo has a curious charm to it, and this charm overpowers the bursts of violence that are not quite enough, and completely unnecessary in the context of our lives (and give a 15-yard penalty to Stormare for illegal use of a wood chipper). The film shows ordinary people who have the strength and patience for ordinary things (like ice fishing) claiming a small victory over the general ugliness of the world. Yah, life in Brainerd is real fine.
No Respect for the Red Wings?

by Robert Labarre

Times Contributing Writer

As I sit in the Knappe Hall living room watching my beloved RedWings skate to yet another victory I cannot help but feel a bit disgruntled at the treatment that this very motivated group of athletes has gotten from the press throughout this season. With the exception of the slight support that they receive from some of the local media and the more ardent support of play-by-play man Dave "Don't Mess the Trooper" Strader and his learned sidekick, color commentary guru, Mickey "Rednosed" Redmond, Detroit has been downplayed by nearly every media agency in the country.

I cannot help but laugh at people like ESPN 2's Barry Melrose, cohost of the show NHL 2-Night and ex-NHL player, who has shown two faces in his coverage of the Wings this year. One is the reasonable, and the other is the one who does not know the truth.

The Saints baseball team is red hot. The team got off to a fast start and has not looked back. The team started the season going to Florida and were about as hot as the Florida sun.

They ended the trip with an 8-1 record. Their only loss was to Calver Stockton College (located in the heart of Missouri) and they blew the game away, 13-7, in only 5 innings due to the implementation of the "mercy rule" (down by 10 or more runs in 5 innings).

In the nightcap, sophomore Dan Doherty gave up three runs in four innings, improving his record to 3-0. Jeremy Enard pitched the fifth inning and finished the game for the Saints. Meanwhile, the hitters exploded for 15 runs, including 11 in the bottom of the fourth inning to ensure the victory. Chad Addicott and Chris Yenich exploded in three runs for the home team.

In case you haven’t gotten a chance to see the high-flying, red-hot Saints, they will be hosting Spring Arbor at 2:00 on Friday and Kalamazoo College at 4:00 on Sunday. Come on out and watch AQ’s hottest team play ball.

Saints Baseball: Hotter than the Florida Sun

by Brian Manzke

Times Sports Editor

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Snow Can’t Stop Lady Saints

by Alan Plum

Times Contributing Writer

After beginning the season in sunny Florida, the Aquinas softball team was eager to showcase their talents back in Michigan. Unfortunately, they would have to wait for Mother Nature to cooperate. After enduring cancellations this past Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Saints (5-5) got the opportunity to take the diamond Friday for a non-conference doubleheader against the Ferris State Bulldogs (8-17).

After discovering that some- one had literally stolen first and second base, many of the Saints were wondering if this season was really just poised. Thankfully, after scoring one run in the fourth, the Saints’ Jenny Jolin stalked the Saints to a two-run lead by belting a solo homerun in the fifth. The Bulldogs would have had the last laugh however, as they exploded for four runs in the seventh. Nikki Moegenborg got the win for Ferris, while Shannon Frenholing (1-3) took the loss.

Pitcher Summer Brady. After falling behind 2-0 in the top of the third, the Saints rallied in the bottom half of the inning to knot the score at 2-2. After scoring one run in the fourth, the Saints’ Jenny Jolin stalked the Saints to a two-run lead by belting a solo homerun in the fifth. The Saints would have had the last laugh however, as they exploded for four runs in the seventh. Nikki Moegenborg got the win for Ferris, while Shannon Frenholing (1-3) took the loss.

Melissa Brady at the plate.

Aquinas. Eager to rid themselves of the taste of defeat, the Saints were determined to gain a split. After falling behind 2-1 after three innings, it was Aquinas’ turn to clear the docks off the pond. The Saints would rally in the fourth, blazing the Dawgs for five runs. Jenny Jolin again provided some offensive spark for the Saints by adding a two-run single which would turn out to be the margin of victory. Summer Brady increased her record to 3-1 and took the win for Aquinas, striking out two along the way. Further standouts on the day for the Saints included Jen Smith, who cracked out three hits on her way to collecting two RBIs.

AAQ’s victories since coming away with the City Championship were against Calvin (7-2), Grand Valley (6-3), and Alma (5-4). These matches were a reflection of Aquinas’ desire to keep the State Championship trophy.

"You Can Sleep On Them - Period." Pat Doherty said.

The Saints’ win over Calvin is what 5th year coach Jerry Hendrick called "The best match this team has played since I’ve been here." Doug Dooley, John Proulx, and Scott David led the way in that match with two wins a piece.

AAQ also had two tough losses. The losses came against Division II nationally ranked Ferris State, 8-1 and Division III nationally ranked Wheaton College, 7-2.

Despite the setbacks, Aquinas has reason to be optimistic. The hardest and busiest part of the schedule is over, and the team played well in these matches.

The remainder of the schedule has AAQ playing opponents from Junior College, Division III schools, and NAIA conference foes whom the Saints should be favored against. AAQ feels confident in their up and coming matches, but takes nothing for granted. "We just can’t go out there and expect to win, we have to play hard. A lot of the teams we still have to play are improved from last year, so we have to be ready," said Junior Scott David.

AAQ should be ready, working towards another WHAC title and justifying their claim that they are the best team in the area.
the wHOLE story IN ONE view

brian matzke on sports

Athletes: Out of Touch With Reality

It has come to my attention that athletes are out of touch with reality. While this is not a profound statement and I am sure that not many people are going to disagree, I would like to give you some examples. In working the CBA route, I run across many athletes. For the most part when talking with these guys they seem pretty down to earth. At this level the players are just trying to make a living and accomplish a goal, namely of playing in the NBA. However, once they get to the big time, something seems to happen: greed takes over. Matt Fish was in the CBA two weeks ago. He just got his call up to the Denver Nuggets. When he got there, he was alarmed by the ego of the NBA players. Apparently when they got off the chartered flight (many minor league and CBA teams take the bus), they had to pick up their own luggage. There was no bellhop to carry it around for them and the players were disgusted. Mr. Fish could not believe what he had seen, but these players are so spoiled that they never had to worry about things like taking care of their own luggage before this incident, and they let it be known that they did not want to have to do it again. Fish, for his part went to the press and got a chuckle out of it. See, when you have to work for a living, you carry your own bags with you on a bus, but I guess multi-millionaires do not understand this.

Another short story—when asked about why there was low attendance at major league baseball games last year, a certain player (whom I will not identify) was confused. "I don't understand it," he said. "It only costs a family of four $110 to come to the ball park for a game." I think he hit the nail on the head. The only problem is that, to most, $110 for one afternoon or evening of baseball (or any sport for that matter) is a heck of a lot of money. But, when you're making millions of dollars, I guess that you lose touch with reality as well as your roots. This is what is turning me off even more to professional sports.

However, college sports are getting to be the same way. Athletes, especially basketball players, see college as the necessary time needed to get to the professional league and CBA teams take the bus). Yet, when players go on the road (as when minor league baseball players go on the road) they have someone handling their luggage. There is no bellhop to carry it around for them and the players are disgusted. This is what is turning me off even more to professional sports.

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There is hope, though. All these stories make people like Grant Hill, who stayed in school all 4 years even though he was good enough to leave early, stand out even more. Hill has grown up and matured. His family and his schooling both have a lot to do with that. Hill has become a different player, which leads to a lot of growing up. These are the people who are athletes do not understand this.

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