Knopke Inauguration Kicks Off with Symposium Today

New AQ President Honored with Grand Events

by Angela Bergman
Times Staff Writer

Aquinas College is blossoming with a fresh fervor and zeal. This is due not only to the arrival of spring, but to the reviewed "evolutionary" spirit in the air.

Chairperson Danielle Johnson, a consensus. "They are trying to reach a decision," said Senate advisor Dana Hebrard. "They are trying to work together."

Chairperson Danielle Johnson, who serves as the University of Alabama's Dean for their College of Communication, recently has released "Lift Every Voice," an anthology of African-American oratory. Clark has presented a speech, "Facing the Challenge: Living with a Disability," is free and open to the public. Do not miss it.

Dr. Harry J. Knopke, will be officially inaugurated as the fifth President of Aquinas College this Friday.

Senate Committee Chairs Remain Undecided

Executive Board Grapples with Important Task

"We have different styles and different methods of communication," said Johnson. "We're really trying, but it's a little difficult. We're working hard to do the best we can."

As the board learns to work together, the Cabinet decisions remain undecided. In the meantime, Cabinet candidates and the Aquinas community are growing impatient. "It's a little discouraging that the Executive Board can not come up with a Cabinet decision as their first action in office," said one candidate, who preferred to remain nameless. "The Civic, Educational, and Social Aspects of Diversity in America will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Ballroom of Wege Center. The featured speaker is renowned author E. Culpepper. Clark, Ph.D. Panelists slated to comment are Mayor John H. Logue, Patricia E. Newby, Ed.D., Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools, Virginia Moralez, Director of Clinica Santa Maria, and Levi A. Rickert, Executive Director of the North American Indian Center.

Clark has published various books dealing with race relations and currently serves as the University of Alabama's Dean for their College of Communication. Recently he has released "Lift Every Voice," an anthology of African-American oratory. Clark has presented a speech, "Facing the Challenge: Living with a Disability," is free and open to the public. Do not miss it.

See "Knopke," p. 3

AQ to Welcome Ted Kennedy, Jr. For Ability Awareness Week

by Amy Briggs
Times Contributing Writer

"I know he'll help us make a difference!" That's the warm enthusiasm of the Aquinas community as we prepare to welcome Ted Kennedy, Jr. to Grand Rapids. He will be speaking at the Aquinas Fieldhouse on Monday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. Kennedy will speak as a kick-off for Aquinas's Third Annual Ability Awareness Week which runs April 20-23. His speech, "Facing the Challenge: Living with a Disability," is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted for special academic provisions for Aquinas students with a disabling condition. In addition, an inter...
Hunger and Homeless Week Raises Consciousness for Students

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Campus News Editor

College students sometimes find themselves starved for a late-night pizza or homeless for a night, having to stay at a friend's house instead. But real hunger and homelessness are situations few have ever experienced first-hand.

Hunger and Homeless Week gave Aquinas students a week full of activities to not only experience hunger and homelessness, but opportunities to make a difference for those that live day to day in such situations.

Sponsored by the Student Action Committee (SAC), the week of April 19 through Saturday, April 4.

To launch the week, a speaker from Degage visited Aquinas during lunch on Monday to share his experience of homelessness in Grand Rapids.

"He said people treated him differently when they found out he didn't have a residence," said Kristin Sobjak. "He doesn't think it's right that people are scared to come downtown, for that's his home, his friends, his family."

At the same time, S.A.V.E. collected the food waste from lunch to promote awareness of the amount of food wasted by students in the Wege Cafeteria.

"People felt bad about what they hadn't eaten, saying 'I usually eat everything,'" said S.A.V.E. member Tami Orendorff. "For me, it was an eye-opener. You don't really realize students sat on the floor and ate rice.

During the meal, some middle income 'missionaries' shared some of their leftovers food with the low income, but the high income never appeared on the other side of the curtain.

"I couldn't see the poor, so I didn't feel guilty," said high income guest Lisa Mundera. "I thought they were doing fine."

A discussion followed to relate the simulation to the real-life situation that exists today. But for some, the simulation was more real than they expected.

"I'm still hungry," said a low income person as they picked at the last few grains of rice in their bowl.

Despite empty stomachs after the sparse meal, some students choose to extend the Hunger and Homeless simulation further by becoming homeless for the night.

With cardboard boxes for shelter and an open fire for warmth (and to roast marshmallows over) about ten people spent the night on the Wege Mall.

"Hopefully it raised consciousness as students saw the boxes," said Campus Ministry Director Mary Clark-Kaiser, one of the homeless for a night participants. "Homeless people don't have options, a home to go back to or a network of people to support them. Our playing acting was not even a taste of what it's like."

Along with simulations, Hunger and Homeless week was about helping those whose lives students simulated. Activities of service included volunteering at God's Kitchen, collecting funds for Degage, tutoring the Heartside neighborhood, and helping out at the House of Prayer with M.A.Y. Team.

At the conclusion of the week's events, SAC coordinator Martha Kryzewski reflected on the issues of hunger and homelessness. "It can happen to anybody. This could be me in ten years," said Kryzewski.

"Hope students realize that [the homeless] are people, too."

and we're trying to do what's best for Senate and the student body." Vice Chairperson Krajewski had hoped that the selections would be "cut and dry." But he is still optimistic that the Board will make the right decisions.

"I personally hope the Executive Board can fulfill their duty as elected officials by selecting the most experienced, competent, and qualified applicants for the positions they are best suited for," said Krajewski.

To run for Cabinet positions, senators submit their application with rankings of the positions they are interested in. The Executive Board then conducts interviews and reviews the applicants. The final decision is then in the hands of the three Executive Board members.

"The by-laws don't specify exactly how the cabinet is chosen, only that the three executives will make the decision," said Johnson. "We'd like to reach a consensus. It's going to take some time for we haven't reached a consensus, yet."

Secretary-elect Kwiatkowski said that the delay is due to different perspectives.

"There's obviously going to be a compromise, we just have to make sure that the decisions do not compromise cabinet or Senate as a whole," she said.

The Executive Board is meeting again today to discuss Cabinet member assignments, but there is no set date for the final decisions.

Resident Assistants and Program Houses Announced

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

REGINA HALL
1st East: Justin Orlick, Greg Mileksi
2nd East: Ellen Kozlowski, Gwen Johnson
3rd East: Renee Geyte, Lamee Gill
1st West: Bridget Bulger
2nd West: Charity Schaefer
3rd West: Damon Bouwkamp, Carlus Henry
4th West: Darlene Grein, Michele Kossey

ST. JOSEPH HALL
SJ 1: Wade O'Boyle, Josh Maurevej
SJ 2: Andy Hollander, Stephanie Fochman
SJ 3: Jon Galletty, Stephanie Izedeki

HRUBY HALL
HH1: Janelle Burden
HH2: Brian Moran

EAST AREA

Dominican Hall: Amy Ashmore, Elizabeth Martin
Knape Hall: Aubrey Manurowski
Burfeindi Hall: Mark Pitman

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE PROGRAM PLACEMENTS

Burfeind Hall - MATARY (Mentoring and Tutoring At Risk Youth)
Big Brothers and tutoring volunteers
Knape Hall - SAVE (Students Against Violence of the Environment)
Environmental Education and Campus Recycling
Meijer Hall - AURA (Aquinas United in Revitalizing Activity)
Health and Wellness education and promotion
Woodcock Hall - YO! (Youth Oriented)
Big Sisters through Wedgwood Christian Family Services

Dominican Hall

Alpha and Beta - AQ Image
(Individuals Motivating and Generating Enthusiasm)
Instill motivation, spirit and pride for Aquinas
Delta - Project Andy
Vice Tutoring at St. Andrews
Gamma - MAY (Motivating Aquinas Youth)
Juvenile Tutoring and Promotion of Art and Music
2nd West - Habitat for Humanity
Housing improvement projects in the Grand Rapids Area
"Knopke," Con't from p. 1

worked with Knopke extensively, contributing a chapter to President Knopke's book: Opening Doors — Perspectives of Race Relations in Contemporary America.

Thursday, solemn evening prayer will be held by founding Dominican sisters at the Dominican Chapel of Marywood at 7 p.m., followed by reception. Students are invited to an inauguration concert at 10:00 p.m. in the Cook Carriage House featuring The Ledge.

Inauguration day will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the celebration of the Eucharist at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. A buffet luncheon will be held in the grandside room of Wege Student Center, with the official ceremony held at 2:00 p.m. in the Aquinas Field House. All classes are canceled for Friday.

The ceremony is previewed by a procession from the Kreschmier Art and Music Center to the Field House by faculty and staff in traditional academic dress. Aquinas Trustee Marty Allen is the Master of Ceremonies. Friday evening, an exclusive reception will be held in the Donnelly Center for faculty and staff. The reception will include a performance by the Bruce Early Quartet.

Previously Vice President for Student Affairs and Provost of Behavioral and Community Medicine at the University of Alabama, Knopke was the unanimous decision of the Board of Trustees to replace retiring President R. Paul Nelson.

The implementation of Knopke’s business plan has been noticeably underway since he assumed the office of president in July 1997. The plan initiatives include the construction of the Jarecki School of Advanced Learning, new technological course delivery systems, innovative and service-based curricula, student housing, and a new fitness center. Long term plans also include an Academic Resource Center with traditional library materials and cutting edge research technology.

"Aquinas enjoys a long history and a top-notch, innovative, liberal arts institution that consistently graduates students of competence, conscience, compassion, and commitment," said Knopke.

"Our goals and initiatives are intended to build on our traditions of excellence and allow us to achieve our vision of becoming the premiere Catholic liberal arts college in the United States."
Trying Kids As Adults: Just Punishment or Just Wrong?

**Point**

by Angela Bergman

Times Staff Writer

The nation remains stagnant in disbelief, questioning how the Jonesboro children could have devised such a plot to ambush Westside Middle School. We still cannot fathom the ability of boys aged 11 and 13 to premeditate and efficiently take-out five people in less than a minute with sophisticated weaponry.

Our first question a long time ago ought to have been, "what should we do with juveniles, who have the capacity to kill indiscriminately?" But naturally, we are still embarrasseed with analyzing why and how. If the kids are smart enough and cold enough to commit the brutal and capital crime of murder, undoubtedly, they know that they have us fooled.

In civilized society, there ideally exists one reassuring fact understood by the young and old. This fact is that one does not intentionally murder others and then get away with it. When our society is trapped into analyzing the criminal before we take action, kids know that they can essentially do anything and hide behind the system's incompetence. While we remain stagnant, public safety is in serious jeopardy. Juveniles who commit "adult" crimes must be tried and treated as adults.

**Counterpoint**

by Heather Young

Times

Local/National News Editor

Innocence is not lost, it is taken. Because of the decedent climate of these past few decades, U.S. children have been shocking their nation with some ugly "firsts," setting records for criminal behaviors that Americans thought only adults capable of.

The shooting murder of four Jonesboro, Arkansas schoolgirls and a teacher coupled with other recent violent crimes by juveniles are testament to the culture which produces two brands of victims: those who die and those who go free.

An article in Newseum cited a quote from James Fox, dean of criminal justice at Northeastern University in which Fox stated, "A decade ago, the idea of shooting up a schoolyard wouldn't even cross anyone's mind."

Fox referred to the Arkansas law that set the age of 14 as the point where children offenders can receive an adult felony conviction. The question is, should the age be lowered since the crime of a schoolyard shooting is especially heinous?

It must not be ignored that the two young boys responsible for the crime were still two young boys. Regardless that the crime they committed was especially hurtful, they remain two young boys. A life sentence entails a lot more time for an 11 and 13-year-old than for someone in his/her forties. In having separate penal strategies and processes for juveniles, we admit that children who do horrible things should be dealt with differently than their adult counterparts because they are more easily influenced, confused, simple, and have more time to atone and rehabilitate themselves.

I am not saying that these two boys are blameless or asserting that they ruthlessly take away our constitutional rights, even if the offender happens to be 11 years old.
April 2-4 kicked off the “Festival of Faith and Writing” at Calvin College, with both readers and au-
tors coming together to share ex-
periences of victim of an over-
wrought, fame-seeking woman? That argument has finally been
decided, at least from a legal stand-
point, since the President was dis-
missed of the charge of sexual assault that allegedly took place on May 16, 1998, while he was still
serving as governor of Arkansas.
U.S. District Judge Judy Wright rele-
sed a statement on Wednes-
day, April 1, which stated that even though President Clinton's behavior was indeed offensive, it didn't constitute sexual assault. Wright ruled that Jones had to prove that she had suffered "un-
gible job detriment" when she re-
fused to have sex with the presi-
dent. Jones never produced any
hes. Can human beings be saved wi-
thout an increase in payroll taxes. Clinton wants a year-long
and an unseasonably warm winter for America.
America. The cost of unleaded regular gasoline this summer will average about $1.10 a
gallon, which is about ten cents lower than last summer. Prices will be low due to depressed petroleum prices. The low average is expected to stand despite recent attempts by world oil producers to cut produc-
tion. A decrease in gas prices is good news for those on a budget, but motorists can expect the nation’s roads and highways to be crowded
during the summer months.

Predictions in for Strong Winds

William Gray, a weather scientist known for his hurricane season predictions, recently said a weakening El Nino and other conditions indicate there will be six hurricane storms in the Atlantic this year. As predicted by the U.S. Energy Department April 8, this will be the sharpest increase in hurricane travel in over a decade. The cost of unanted regular gasoline this summer will average about $1.10 a

gallon, which is about ten cents lower than last summer. Prices will be low due to depressed petroleum prices. The low average is expected to stand despite recent attempts by world oil producers to cut produc-
tion. A decrease in gas prices is good news for those on a budget, but motorists can expect the nation’s roads and highways to be crowded
during the summer months.

Predictions in for Strong Winds

William Gray, a weather scientist known for his hurricane season predictions, recently said a weakening El Nino and other conditions indicate there will be six hurricane storms in the Atlantic this year. As predicted by the U.S. Energy Department April 8, this will be the sharpest increase in hurricane travel in over a decade. The cost of unanted regular gasoline this summer will average about $1.10 a

gallon, which is about ten cents lower than last summer. Prices will be low due to depressed petroleum prices. The low average is expected to stand despite recent attempts by world oil producers to cut produc-
tion. A decrease in gas prices is good news for those on a budget, but motorists can expect the nation’s roads and highways to be crowded
during the summer months.

Predictions in for Strong Winds

William Gray, a weather scientist known for his hurricane season predictions, recently said a weakening El Nino and other conditions indicate there will be six hurricane storms in the Atlantic this year. As predicted by the U.S. Energy Department April 8, this will be the sharpest increase in hurricane travel in over a decade. The cost of unanted regular gasoline this summer will average about $1.10 a

gallon, which is about ten cents lower than last summer. Prices will be low due to depressed petroleum prices. The low average is expected to stand despite recent attempts by world oil producers to cut produc-
tion. A decrease in gas prices is good news for those on a budget, but motorists can expect the nation’s roads and highways to be crowded
during the summer months.

Predictions in for Strong Winds

William Gray, a weather scientist known for his hurricane season predictions, recently said a weakening El Nino and other conditions indicate there will be six hurricane storms in the Atlantic this year. As predicted by the U.S. Energy Department April 8, this will be the sharpest increase in hurricane travel in over a decade. The cost of unanted regular gasoline this summer will average about $1.10 a

gallon, which is about ten cents lower than last summer. Prices will be low due to depressed petroleum prices. The low average is expected to stand despite recent attempts by world oil producers to cut produc-
tion. A decrease in gas prices is good news for those on a budget, but motorists can expect the nation’s roads and highways to be crowded
during the summer months.
A ban sprawl isolates voters again. There are short on classrooms. Urban blight is decaying, and the students built mostly in the 1930s and 40s, those voters only see their schools, crouching idea is caused by the fact that defeat was merely the idea among last 20 years. decisions the city has made in the most embarrassing and destructive physical construction projects in the district.

For all the hoopla about the revitalization of downtown and the rebirth of Grand Rapids (perpetuated by yours truly) the City of Grand Rapids has taken a vital hit that may offset much of that progress. Two weeks ago, the voters in the city rejected a $396 million bond proposal to renovate and rebuild several schools, as well as other physical construction projects in the district.

This failure is probably one of the most embarrassing and destructive decisions the city has made in the last 20 years.

It seems the largest cause of the defeat was merely the idea among some in the city, especially by those on the outer edges, that the repairs simply aren’t needed. This ludicrous idea is caused by the fact that those voters only see their schools, built mostly in the 1930s and 40s, which are still standing tall. They neglect to see that in the inner city, schools that were built at the turn of the century are crumbling to pieces, and the students there are short on classrooms. Urban sprawl isolates voters again. Ignorance seemed to loom in the minds of those who voted no. In the Grand Rapids Press the day after the vote, one elderly woman from the West side said she voted no because “Kids can learn no matter what environment they are in. If they think they need beautiful schools to learn, then that’s just wrong.”

Her companion voiced one of the largest problems facing millage elections in Grand Rapids. “Why should the senior citizens pay for this? If the young ones want it, let them pay for it.” Lamont wanted to call that woman after reading that and ask her who paid for the schools she graduated from. That is the entire point of having “public” schools. They belong to the public. When she was young, she was given a good education, aided by money given by senior citizens.

If contemporary seniors think that because their children are grown they don’t owe anything to the school district, then they essentially freeload off from the senior generation who supported schools while their children were being raised.

Most importantly, think of how those attitudes will affect the children of Grand Rapids. Right now, the message students are getting is “You aren’t worth what the generation before you was worth.” “Kids must feel that there is absolutely no hope for them.

The city is willing to finance huge sports arenas and Grand River revitalization, but never mind teaching their kids how to read. If we don’t show the kids they are important, how will they ever want to be important?

And the effects ripple beyond just the kids. Last week it is likely that some company, looking to build a new factory or start a new business in Grand Rapids, decided to go to Rockford or Kalamazoo instead. Businesses need educated people and a community that supports their children as an investment in the future.

There is no sense in coming to a city whose biggest draw is that you are undereducated.

Businesses need educated people and a community that supports their children as an investment in the future. It wasn’t just the kids who lost last month, but all of Grand Rapids.
This week marks the official beginning of a new era at Aquinas College. Dr. Harry Knopke will officially be sworn in as President of Aquinas College. It is an important time, and the College has made a wise decision in choosing to create an entire week of festivities to commemorate the occasion.

There are several turning points on which the Administration and Board of Trustees should be commended. First, having such an "Inaugural Week" is a very grand and appropriate way to create a sense of pride and tradition at Aquinas. Second, the renovation of the Wege Ballroom is a brilliant idea whose time had come, and the construction has proceeded in a fashion which minimally affected the day to day lives of students, but will enhance the feeling of importance that events in the Ballroom should have. Third, the varied types of events taking place during the week shows Aquinas' commitment to different needs of different constituencies.

Unfortunately, it seems that the most important constituency has been somewhat overlooked. If one looks closely, it seems students are getting shorted during this all important week. It is true, students are invited to the Symposium tonight, the prayer and concert tomorrow, and the Mass and inauguration on Friday, but a more critical look will show why the college may not have planned properly.

Primarily, the students who will want to attend such events are students leaders. It is those most involved in college clubs, organizations, and academics that have a more keen interest in Dr. Knopke's inauguration. Many of them will be attending, but unfortunately, they will be volunteers. Evidently, students are to be used to cater to others attending the events—faculty, staff, Board and community members.

Additionally, there is one event, Friday night in the Donnelly Center, that students are not invited to. This is a cocktail reception for faculty, staff, and guests only. Not only does this exclude students (one would be hard pressed to find a student event that is not open to all of the AQ Community) but it takes place during Spring Fling, which is open to faculty and staff.

It seems Spring Fling would be a perfect opportunity for faculty, staff, students, and even Board members, to interact on a more personal level. Instead of segregating the Aquinas "Community" into a "adult" cocktail party and a "student" cocktail party, perhaps the school would have been wiser to combine the two. This would truly make the students feel that the college exists for them, and not the other way round.

There is an inspiration that hits a writer at 3 am on the Saturday morning before Easter. For me this inspiration was seeing, for the first time, in the Times office on a de­teriorated campus doing, of all things, reading back issues of the Aquinas Times.

This isn't my normal weekend activity, but here I find myself just the same. Sometimes when I stay up late in the middle of the night I will find myself searching for meaning in this position. Tonight I was doing just that.

So I stumbled rather sleepily over to the micro­film reader and began searching through the last few years of this rag in quite good order. Almost int­uitively, I turn to Milwaukee, my favorite portion of the paper during the 95-96 school year when I was just a freshman, and Aquinas was just that—fresh.

This column, Milwaukee, was penned by Assistant Editor, Doug Dooley, who has since left Aquinas but who once upon a time failed to inspire me to continue working at 3:30 in the morning. This may seem ironic to anyone familiar with the Times. You see, Dooley never held my teedious position. This top dog po­sition went from many others to John Serba, to Curt Wozniak, to me. Dooley was the equivalent of what Andy Pieper is to the Times, and he probably did less than Putter does now.

But still, his columns are the one thing that can get my mind re­focussed, and so I read. It's a funny thing this school, we are so small and so connected. As I was looking through issues of from two years ago, I had a revelation. This paper doesn't change much. Here we are still covering the same stuff, only the names have changed. And place­ments, point-countpoint, softball, all the same articles from two years ago are reborn this issue.

And I'm amazed for not having any originality to say in my com­mentary. Hell, Aquinas doesn't have much originality to reflect upon. Dooley talks about the car­riage house being empty, and two years later I'm writing about it being full. Dooley writes about Aquinas acquiring Blodgett Hospital's site for advanced learn­ing, and I report on President Koopke's new outreach healthcare initiatives. I remember once when I was a writer for the Local/National news section and Dooley read one of my articles. He left a phone mail saying what a great job I did. It's a funny thing when you can go back and look at how things have changed rest of the year with only four open spaces in your phone mail system, and still survive. A bunch of different factors have brought me to this office tonight, to this memory, to this task. Do you ever stop and look around and just think... how did this come to be? It's a bit eerie, I mean one more point on my ACT and I would be a Wolverine. Or just a bit more schol­arship money and I would be at Ohio State. But this is where I am, and this is where I belong.

There is nothing quite like the calmness of Aquinas College dur­ing the middle of the night. When all I can hear is the hum of the computer and my heart beating slowly to its rhythm. Sometimes I think the tapping of the keys is the very pulse that is keeping me awake.

I smile at the memory of Editor­in-Chief Wozniak sleeping peace­fully with his hands on this very keyboard, and his apprentice next to him too shy to stir him awake. There is something about this pa­per that causes insomnia. But it's the kind of insomnia that is quickly reversed in a swift moment when the editor's eyelids drop and you realize that you have just fallen asleep over a halfway complete­ed sports section.

There is joy in this work. My hands are grey from reading the old ink of Dooley's columns. I sit wondering if anything I write here will reach out to a future editor. Anyone on my staff could prob­ably tell me that you and I are both in quite different jobs than we were when the Times was reborn this issue.

It's 4 am and I am home. There is an inspiration that hits a writer at 3 am on the Saturday morning before Easter. For me this inspiration was seeing, for the first time, in the Times office on a de­teriorated campus doing, of all things, reading back issues of the Aquinas Times. I remember once when I was a writer for the Local/National news section and Dooley read one of my articles. He left a phone mail saying what a great job I did. It's a funny thing when you can go back and look at how things have changed rest of the year with only four open spaces in your phone mail system, and still survive. A bunch of different factors have brought me to this office tonight, to this memory, to this task. Do you ever stop and look around and just think... how did this come to be? It's a bit eerie, I mean one more point on my ACT and I would be a Wolverine. Or just a bit more schol­arship money and I would be at Ohio State. But this is where I am, and this is where I belong.

There is nothing quite like the calmness of Aquinas College dur­ing the middle of the night. When all I can hear is the hum of the computer and my heart beating slowly to its rhythm. Sometimes I think the tapping of the keys is the very pulse that is keeping me awake.

I smile at the memory of Editor­in-Chief Wozniak sleeping peace­fully with his hands on this very keyboard, and his apprentice next to him too shy to stir him awake. There is something about this pa­per that causes insomnia. But it's the kind of insomnia that is quickly reversed in a swift moment when the editor's eyelids drop and you realize that you have just fallen asleep over a halfway complete­ed sports section.

There is joy in this work. My hands are grey from reading the old ink of Dooley's columns. I sit wondering if anything I write here will reach out to a future editor. Anyone on my staff could prob­ably tell me that you and I are both in quite different jobs than we were when the Times was reborn this issue.

It's 4 am and I am home.
Compiled by Joe Thuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

"May the best person win" has become an ideal in this culture that many are neglecting in recent time. It is so common to see people looking more for what will make them comfortable and bring them closer to their friends. What kind of business/nation/anything can be run in any advancing capacity if people all get along, but they were poorly chosen for the job?

(4/16) Cook Carriage House: Inauguration concert featuring The Ledge. This is, of course, in preparation of the actual ceremony to inaugurate President Harry Knopke as the fifth President of Aquinas. GOF Starts at 10:00pm.

(4/16) Intersection: Stuck Mojo with Skinlab. These bands are both pretty rough and promise to cause many bruises. Skinlab was awesome last time, and Stuck Mojo's new CD is killer. See Mojo review, next page. Must be 18.

(4/17) Intersection: Stuck Mojo with Skinlab. These bands are both pretty rough and promise to cause many bruises. Skinlab was awesome last time, and Stuck Mojo's new CD is killer. See Mojo review, next page. Must be 18.

(4/17) Van Andel Arena: Mary J. Blige with Usher. I actually saw Usher perform on MTV's "Fashionably Loud," and I'm sure even though it was cool, it didn't come close to the real thing. If you have cash-- attend.

(4/17) Intersection: Go back for 19 Wheels with Fat Amy. Tune down from the previous night with some more care-free tunes from Grand Rapids' new favorite band. Must be 18 and so on.

(4/17) Stuggo's Down Under: Drovers. Celtic rock from the established trailblazers of one of the coolest (and most under-appreciated) music genres. Good tunes to drink to, I guess. Must be 18 and you know the rest.

(4/21) Orbit Room: Joe Satriani with Chris Duarte Group. Hey, Satch is one of the original soloists, and I refuse to believe he has dried up. Go see what kind of stuff he's up to lately. $19.50 through Ticketmaster (456-3333).

(4/23) Kalamazoo State Theater: Foghat. Huh?? Yeah, Foghat. Prepare yourselves for a comeback as big and bad as Fleetwood Mac. Bad as in good or bad as in stupid remains to be seen...

(4/29) G.R. Intersection: Drill Team. With sounds that vary from Teenage Pinclub to Oasis, this band might be more surprising live than on their CD, which has high points of liner notes.

BFA Exhibit Displays a Variety of Work in AMC

The opening reception for the Aquinas Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibit was held on Sunday, April 5. Artists on display are Tim Priest and Brian Bennink. Their combined work holds a wide range in media as well as style. From pencil sketch drawings to oil and canvas to bronze casting, there is no doubt that these two artists are among the finest at Aquinas. Each a condensed display is hard to find. There is so much work between these two that it seems the pieces are nearly jammed into the AMC gallery as tight as possible. There is so much work that these two artists are among the finest at Aquinas.

"Self Portrait" by Tim Priest is on display now in the AMC. Priest was a painting major, so I had a lot of the color theory behind me," said Priest of this aspect of his work. "I started out penciling the work and filling in it, but after a while I started going straight for the color, drawing with the paint."

"He (Priest) was doing approximately one complete piece per studio session," said Dana Freeman, painting professor. "His work is very prolific, and he doesn't need much time to do touch-ups or refining."

Scultpures by Priest demonstrate straightforward high-energy work. Seemingly incomplete, most of the pieces are human figures that seem to be emerging from the clay as you watch. His bronze piece "Emptied" looks as if he were still working on it before putting it in the show, but still looks whole in a sense. Brian Bennink has his own paintings on display, most of which geometric shapes that come together to give the viewer an almost uncanny feeling that the painting is coming out of the canvas. But his greater accomplishments come in sculpture.

"Almost With You" is a clay sculpture that brings about a real sense of drama that is so often missed in free-style sculpture. "Legions" is a very attention-grabbing piece as well.

"It was supposed to be a wall hanging," said Bennink, "but after working with it, I decided it looked just as well laying down. I just begin working the clay and these figures begin to emerge."

With such a wide variety of art on display, and such well-developed talent creating it, this show is definitely worth seeing. Get to the AMC and witness the opened talent creating it, this show is definitely worth seeing. Get to the AMC and witness the greatest potential, this show is definitely worth seeing. Get to the AMC and witness the opening of these two guys are receiving their degrees in Fine Arts.

"King of Dis" by Brian Bennink. Photo by Katy Tucker.

All photos by Katy Tucker.

"BFA Exhibit Displays a Variety of Work in AMC"

by Joe Thuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

The opening reception for the Aquinas Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibit was held on Sunday, April 5. Artists on display are Tim Priest and Brian Bennink. Their combined work holds a wide range in media as well as style. From pencil sketch drawings to oil and canvas to bronze casting, there is no doubt that these two artists are among the finest at Aquinas. Each a condensed display is hard to find. There is so much work between these two that it seems the pieces are nearly jammed into the AMC gallery as tight as possible. There is so much work that these two artists are among the finest at Aquinas.

"Self Portrait" by Tim Priest is on display now in the AMC. Priest was a painting major, so I had a lot of the color theory behind me," said Priest of this aspect of his work. "I started out penciling the work and filling in it, but after a while I started going straight for the color, drawing with the paint."

"He (Priest) was doing approximately one complete piece per studio session," said Dana Freeman, painting professor. "His work is very prolific, and he doesn't need much time to do touch-ups or refining."

Scultpures by Priest demonstrate straightforward high-energy work. Seemingly incomplete, most of the pieces are human figures that seem to be emerging from the clay as you watch. His bronze piece "Emptied" looks as if he were still working on it before putting it in the show, but still looks whole in a sense. Brian Bennink has his own paintings on display, most of which geometric shapes that come together to give the viewer an almost uncanny feeling that the painting is coming out of the canvas. But his greater accomplishments come in sculpture.

"Almost With You" is a clay sculpture that brings about a real sense of drama that is so often missed in free-style sculpture. "Legions" is a very attention-grabbing piece as well.

"It was supposed to be a wall hanging," said Bennink, "but after working with it, I decided it looked just as well laying down. I just begin working the clay and these figures begin to emerge."

With such a wide variety of art on display, and such well-developed talent creating it, this show is definitely worth seeing. Get to the AMC and witness the opening of these two guys are receiving their degrees in Fine Arts.

All photos by Katy Tucker.

"BFA Exhibit Displays a Variety of Work in AMC"

by Joe Thuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

The opening reception for the Aquinas Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibit was held on Sunday, April 5. Artists on display are Tim Priest and Brian Bennink. Their combined work holds a wide range in media as well as style. From pencil sketch drawings to oil and canvas to bronze casting, there is no doubt that these two artists are among the finest at Aquinas. Each a condensed display is hard to find. There is so much work between these two that it seems the pieces are nearly jammed into the AMC gallery as tight as possible. There is so much work that these two artists are among the finest at Aquinas.

"Self Portrait" by Tim Priest is on display now in the AMC. Priest was a painting major, so I had a lot of the color theory behind me," said Priest of this aspect of his work. "I started out penciling the work and filling in it, but after a while I started going straight for the color, drawing with the paint."

"He (Priest) was doing approximately one complete piece per studio session," said Dana Freeman, painting professor. "His work is very prolific, and he doesn't need much time to do touch-ups or refining."

Scultpures by Priest demonstrate straightforward high-energy work. Seemingly incomplete, most of the pieces are human figures that seem to be emerging from the clay as you watch. His bronze piece "Emptied" looks as if he were still working on it before putting it in the show, but still looks whole in a sense. Brian Bennink has his own paintings on display, most of which geometric shapes that come together to give the viewer an almost uncanny feeling that the painting is coming out of the canvas. But his greater accomplishments come in sculpture.

"Almost With You" is a clay sculpture that brings about a real sense of drama that is so often missed in free-style sculpture. "Legions" is a very attention-grabbing piece as well.

"It was supposed to be a wall hanging," said Bennink, "but after working with it, I decided it looked just as well laying down. I just begin working the clay and these figures begin to emerge."

With such a wide variety of art on display, and such well-developed talent creating it, this show is definitely worth seeing. Get to the AMC and witness the opening of these two guys are receiving their degrees in Fine Arts.

All photos by Katy Tucker.

"BFA Exhibit Displays a Variety of Work in AMC"
I really liked Species. The sequel left me less than satisfied. In Species, H.R. Giger's artistic genius gave us "Sil," whose human aspect was played by Natasha Henstridge. In Species II we face Eve (a clone of Sil played by Henstridge), and Patrick Ross, a human astronaut who becomes a host for the alien DNA. It's all very complicated and intriguing—if you have the intellect of a toddler.

The U.S. space program goes to Mars to extract soil samples that may contain evidence of former life on the red planet. The first groaning was seeing that the mission was sponsored by such groups as Reebok, Pepsi, Sprint, and Miller Lite. It doesn't improve much from there. Everything in the film revolves around a sex quarantine, so we see early on where this film will strike its terror (read as "cheap thrills"). Plenty of jokes and wisecracks turn this into a self-parody.

Patrick Ross (Justin Lazar) is our dashing young astronaut who discovers that he is somehow killing women he has sex with. The cause of death for these women? Impregnation. The gestation period for this alien race is a matter of minutes. The infant then eats the womb in a gore-loving castrator explosion. In this manner, Patrick begins spawning children of the proposed apocalypse. Too bad it only goes that far. Eve is kept through most of the movie, serving as a token player and trump card to fans of the first movie, but there's no telling you that a third movie is in the works. It's all very simple.

This film was so crazy, I couldn't resist," said Pederson. "It was spontaneous, at times frivo­rous and pretentious but all in all fun. Fun.

The only scene that gave the impression of effort on the part of production was seeing the actual aliens mate and then fight the good guys. And in imitation of the first movie, there is a suspenseful ending telling you that a third Species is eminent. That may be the scariest part.

Magical Era Returns for One Night at the CCH

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer

The Gift Event III: A Sixties Happening...It was on in the historic Carriage House on April 1—literally with a bang. A renactment of the original Gift Event III that took place in 1968, students read poetry, both their own and impromptu, while musicians played anything they could get their hands on.

The Aquinas College Rhythmic Percussion Group brought a new musical sound to the building. The music flowed from every corner of the room as students tapped, banged, stomped, and hummed by Elizabeth Dudek

played anything they could get their hands on. "It was spontaneous, intuitive, human magic—which is poetry," said Sara Mieras, an Aquinas alumn. "Miriam asked me and I was glad to do it. I was always involved with this sort of stuff." Jeff McCrystal played the part of Rothenberg, stopping the music with a cane and allowing the poets to read their work. "This was an opportunity to perform po­etry, an opportunity for growth. It was so crazy, I couldn't resist," said McCrystal.

According to Miriam Pederson, Gift Event III originally took place in 1967 featuring Jerome Rothenberg, a beatnik poet. He documented a lot of these happenings (the poetry and music) in his book, Technicians of the Sacred. Gift Event III was based on Seneca Indian dances. "We were working from a loose script. Rupert Keule and I did this in 1966 and we were able to get Rothenberg to come and join us. It was just right, we all talk to each other. This hope­fully will be happening again soon," said Pederson.

Randy Marsh and Rupert Keule helped make music for the percussion portion of event. Marsh said, "It was spontaneous, at times frivo­rous and pretentious but all in all fun. Fun. Interaction is cool.

Rupert Keule, director of the Percussion Group, said, "This was a very neat idea. This originally happened in 1967 as Miriam said. This was a shorter version, there was more structure and it flowed right along. On April 23, we will be having a percussion concert, featuring a piece by Erin Flynn.

Musician and poet Andy Fleser summed up the evening. "It was a great way to spend a Wednesday evening. There was no cover charge; musically it was an artistic­ally sound way to trash school property." (read as "cheap thrills"). Plenty of jokes and wisecracks turn this into a self-parody.

This film was so crazy, I couldn't resist," said Pederson. "It was spontaneous, at times frivo­rous and pretentious but all in all fun. Fun. Interaction is cool.

Rupert Keule, director of the Percussion Group, said, "This was a very neat idea. This originally happened in 1967 as Miriam said. This was a shorter version, there was more structure and it flowed right along. On April 23, we will be having a percussion concert, featuring a piece by Erin Flynn.

Musician and poet Andy Fleser summed up the evening. "It was a great way to spend a Wednesday evening. There was no cover charge; musically it was an artistic­ally sound way to trash school property." (read as "cheap thrills"). Plenty of jokes and wisecracks turn this into a self-parody.

This film was so crazy, I couldn't resist," said Pederson. "It was spontaneous, at times frivo­rous and pretentious but all in all fun. Fun. Interaction is cool.

Rupert Keule, director of the Percussion Group, said, "This was a very neat idea. This originally happened in 1967 as Miriam said. This was a shorter version, there was more structure and it flowed right along. On April 23, we will be having a percussion concert, featuring a piece by Erin Flynn.

Musician and poet Andy Fleser summed up the evening. "It was a great way to spend a Wednesday evening. There was no cover charge; musically it was an artistic­ally sound way to trash school property." (read as "cheap thrills"). Plenty of jokes and wisecracks turn this into a self-parody.

This film was so crazy, I couldn't resist," said Pederson. "It was spontaneous, at times frivo­rous and pretentious but all in all fun. Fun. Interaction is cool.

Rupert Keule, director of the Percussion Group, said, "This was a very neat idea. This originally happened in 1967 as Miriam said. This was a shorter version, there was more structure and it flowed right along. On April 23, we will be having a percussion concert, featuring a piece by Erin Flynn.

Musician and poet Andy Fleser summed up the evening. "It was a great way to spend a Wednesday evening. There was no cover charge; musically it was an artistic­ally sound way to trash school property." (read as "cheap thrills"). Plenty of jokes and wisecracks turn this into a self-parody.
Track Season Underway as Saints Run in Home Meets

by Ryan Smith
Times Contributing Writer

After months of indoor-outdoor trips, the Aquinas College track and field team finally got to enjoy the friendly confines of home last Saturday, as they hosted the Aquinas College Open at nearby Houseman Field. Besides the obvious enjoyment of playing close to home, the Saints also enjoyed success against some quality teams.

The women finished second to a strong Calvin squad. Freshman Jenna Shook led the Lady Saints in the field events as she set school records and finished first in the shotput, discus, and hammer throw. Gisela Classon also set a school record and finished first in the triple jump.

The field events were not the only bright spot for the Lady Saints, however, as the women's 1600 meter relay team set a school record and finished second behind Calvin. Audrey Remsberg finished first in the 1500 meters winning by almost 30 seconds and Vicky Sarkett set a school record in the 400 meters. "We did really well. Calvin is a very tough team and we had a strong showing," Coach Dave Wood said of his team's performance.

Even though the Aquinas men finished behind the Calvin men, the Saints did well considering the circumstances. Freshman Jason Carver continued his dominance in the sprints as he set school records more than 15 seconds. The only problem for the Saints comes in the field events. With very little personnel in this area, the Saints had to compete in few events by not even entering anyone. "The guys ran really well. There were five events that we didn't even compete in. We're looking to fill those spots next year," Coach Wood concluded.

Sudden Impact: Aquinas Soccer Helps to Set Off the Explosion

by Alan Plum
Times Sports Editor

Watching the Grand Rapids Explosion this summer may give Aquinas soccer fans a feeling of deja vu. That's because Grand Rapids' USISL (United States Independent Soccer Leagues) franchise has four players with Aquinas ties on the roster.

Current juniors Andy Williams and Mark Stockskis, along with former Saint Nate Richardson, are being recruited by universities and colleges around the Midwest. The midwest, Explosion's website, will host a women's soccer tournament in the future. West Michigan's best soccer team, the USISL, operates as part of the 30-team Premier Development Soccer League, which functions as the developmental league for MLS (Major League Soccer).

In the 9-7 Boston Red Sox win today in baseball, in fact, many fans don't think that all the run scoring is a problem. It's not because the teams with better pitching usually have more success come October.

Hitter's Delight Takes Over MLB

There's a recent trend in all levels of sports that's kind of disturbing. It's not the all too common scenarios of athletes committing crimes, or complaining because they're making $89 million over 7 years instead of $100 million over 5 years. It's actually the lack of fundamental defense, more specifically pitching.

In watching Sports Center and reading the sports section the past few days, I've come to the conclusion that some Major League Baseball pitchers might as well be throwing slow-underhand pitches. Some scores from April 7, Orioles 11 Royals 7, Yankees 13 Mariners 7, Phillies 9 Marlins 8. Some scores from April 10; Yankees 17 A's 13, Red Sox 9 Mariners 7, Reds 18 Rockies 7. Pathetic. Where has the pitching gone? You can claim that league expansion (there are two new MLB teams this season) spreads out the pitching, thus thinning quality rotation. This in turn forces many teams to call up young pitchers from the minors who aren't fully developed. In other words, baptism by fire.

While expansion years have been labeled "hitter's years," you could also argue that hitters are becoming bigger and stronger these days. After all, shouldn't players like Frank Thomas and Mark McGwire, who are both about 6'5" and 250 pounds, be able to hit baseballs to Mars? These theories are only partly true when you consider some recent story lines.

In the Yankees 17-13 win, the starting pitchers were David Cone for the Yankees and Jimmy Haynes for the A's. Okay, I'll give Haynes the benefit of the doubt, I've never heard of him. But David Cone? He's won twenty games at least twice, a World Series, and the CY Young Award several times. He gave up nine runs in four and one third innings.

In the 9-7 Boston Red Sox win over the Seattle Mariners, Randy Johnson was the starting pitcher for Seattle. Johnson was relieved after eight innings. His stats included two runs, two hits, three walks, 15 strikeouts, and the Mariners up 7-2. That means that the Seattle's veteran bullpen gave up seven runs in the bottom of the ninth, including a grand slam. To pour salt in their wounds, Seattle's veteran bullpen gave up seven runs in the bottom of the ninth, including a grand slam.

There were more hits, runs, and pitches in the single Yankees' and A's game than in two Phillies and Braves games. Even more amazing, the single Yankees' and A's game took four hours and seven minutes to play. The two Phillies' and Braves' games took only four hours and six minutes.

There are a lot of factors that play into the excessive offense today in baseball. In fact, many fans don't think that all the run scoring is a problem. When it comes down to it, though, the teams with better pitching usually have more success come October.

Hitter's Delight Takes Over MLB

There's a recent trend in all levels of sports that's kind of disturbing. It's not the all too common scenarios of athletes committing crimes, or complaining because they're making $89 million over 7 years instead of $100 million over 5 years. It's actually the lack of fundamental defense, more specifically pitching.

In watching Sports Center and reading the sports section the past few days, I've come to the conclusion that some Major League Baseball pitchers might as well be throwing slow-underhand pitches. Some scores from April 7, Orioles 11 Royals 7, Yankees 13 Mariners 7, Phillies 9 Marlins 8. Some scores from April 10; Yankees 17 A's 13, Red Sox 9 Mariners 7, Reds 18 Rockies 7. Pathetic. Where has the pitching gone? You can claim that league expansion (there are two new MLB teams this season) spreads out the pitching, thus thinning quality rotation. This in turn forces many teams to call up young pitchers from the minors who aren't fully developed. In other words, baptism by fire.

While expansion years have been labeled "hitter's years," you could also argue that hitters are becoming bigger and stronger these days. After all, shouldn't players like Frank Thomas and Mark McGwire, who are both about 6'5" and 250 pounds, be able to hit baseballs to Mars? These theories are only partly true when you consider some recent story lines.

In the Yankees 17-13 win, the starting pitchers were David Cone for the Yankees and Jimmy Haynes for the A's. Okay, I'll give Haynes the benefit of the doubt, I've never heard of him. But David Cone? He's won twenty games at least twice, a World Series, and the CY Young Award several times. He gave up nine runs in four and one third innings.

In the 9-7 Boston Red Sox win over the Seattle Mariners, Randy Johnson was the starting pitcher for Seattle. Johnson was relieved after eight innings. His stats included two runs, two hits, three walks, 15 strikeouts, and the Mariners up 7-2. That means that the Seattle's veteran bullpen gave up seven runs in the bottom of the ninth, including a grand slam. To pour salt in their wounds, Seattle's veteran bullpen gave up seven runs in the bottom of the ninth, including a grand slam.

There were more hits, runs, and pitches in the single Yankees' and A's game than in two Phillies and Braves games. Even more amazing, the single Yankees' and A's game took four hours and seven minutes to play. The two Phillies' and Braves' games took only four hours and six minutes.

There are a lot of factors that play into the excessive offense today in baseball. In fact, many fans don't think that all the run scoring is a problem. When it comes down to it, though, the teams with better pitching usually have more success come October.
Lady Saints Overcoming Growing Pains

Aquinas infielbers huddle around #24 pitcher Crystal Lubbers, catcher Ronda Bolitho, and #7 Sarah Hamilton.

Aquinas entering the season with only six freshmen. Head Coach Ray Sheler agrees that his team's performance at the plate has been the deciding factor in a lot of games. "An obvious strength this season has been our hitting, but we've also played exceptionally good defense. The problem is that we haven't put them (the offense and defense) together until recently. When we put them together, we win a lot of ball games."

This year's team is also largely composed of freshmen and sophomores. This has its good points and bad points. "At the beginning of the year, we got down on ourselves a lot," said freshman Lindsay Szczepanek. "I knew what to expect when I came here."

"I'm pleased with our freshmen," said Sheler. "For the most part, they've been strong, but they still have to mature. Our older players have been carrying us when our younger players falter. The freshmen are still getting used to playing 10 to 12 games a week in cold weather, as well as other rigors of college softball. They're learning though." It's apparent that the Lady Saints are beginning to gel together. "This is a bright bunch of kids, and they're fun to be around," commented Sheler. If the last five games are any kind of indicator, there should be a lot of bright and fun times ahead for the Saints.

AFL 101: Rampage Rules

Here's what the Rampages' Remy Hamilton will see when he lines up a 40 yarder inside the VanAndel Arena.

Only 16 players (compared to the NFL's 53) will be hitting each other at the same time. As a result, counting for too many men on the field will be much easier. These men will be scaring lots of points, which means more kickoffs. Kick-offs take place from the goal-line. There will be lots of passing, but punts hitting the rebound nets are also in play. Plays will, at least six players from each team will play defense and offense. Other than those and a few other things, its just like normal football. For more rules or information on the Rampage or arena football, go to www.arenafootball.com or www.aquinasfootball.com.

Strike Two: Aquinas must fill second coaching vacancy

Outgoing coach, Pat Houatin.

There will be more than one face roaming the sidelines at Aquinas College, as the Athletic Department is now looking to fill two vacancies. In addition to replacing former volleyball coach Sharon Schatz, Aquinas Athletic Director Terry Bocian is now looking for a new men's soccer coach, following the resignation of Pat Houatin on April 6.

"I'm gonna miss everybody," Houatin said. "I'm gonna just keep on practicing and see what happens." Members of the Exploision do not earn salaries, but the team covers all travel expenses and meals. The Exploision began their fourth season of competition in the USFL on Saturday May 2, at Lansing. The team plays its home opener on Saturday May 9 at 7:30 pm. All the team's home matches will be played at Calvin College.

"Explosion," Cont'd from p. 10

"I was just standing there, and then the coach came over to me and gave me a contract to sign, but then he said that nothing is guaranteed," said Richardson. "I'm just gonna keep on practicing and see what happens." Members of the Exploision do not earn salaries, but the team covers all travel expenses and meals. The Exploision began their fourth season of competition in the USFL on Saturday May 2, at Lansing. The team plays its home opener on Saturday May 9 at 7:30 pm. All the team's home matches will be played at Calvin College.

Explosion Players

Abraham Shearer
Mark Stockoski

Aquinas
Andy Williams
Nate Richardson

by Justin Smith
Times Sports Editor

If you could use only two words to describe the 1998 Aquinas Softball team, they would be "offense and youth." This goes a little further beyond the facts that the team has five players batting over .300 and that they consistently start six freshmen.

Through April 13, the Lady Saints had compiled a 15-12 record (7-5 in the WHAC). More importantly, Aquinas has won its last five games. A big part of the Saints' recent success has been their hitting and overall consistency. "Our hitting allows us to come from back if we fall behind," said freshman Lindsay Szczepanek. "This is especially true because we have consistent and dependable players all throughout the lineup." Incidentally, Szczepanek leads the team in several offensive categories.

Another reason for the strong showings of the younger players thus far is that many of the freshmen have played for Coach Sheler before. Very active in Grand Rapids area little league softball, Sheler has coached many of his current players in summer leagues.

The list of players that Sheler has previously coached includes Szczepanek, who is a Jenison native, "It has definitely helped that I've played for Coach Sheler before," commented Szczepanek. "I knew what to expect when I came here."

"I'm pleased with our freshmen," said Sheler. "For the most part, they've been strong, but they still have to mature. Our older players have been carrying us when our younger players falter. The freshmen are still getting used to playing 10 to 12 games a week in cold weather, as well as other rigors of college softball. They're learning though." It's apparent that the Lady Saints are beginning to gel together. "This is a bright bunch of kids, and they're fun to be around," commented Sheler. If the last five games are any kind of indicator, there should be a lot of bright and fun times ahead for the Saints.
Senior Retreat Provides Reflection for Anxious Alums-to-Be

Far away from the pressures of sending out those 40 resumes or trying to get those two official transcripts to the right address on a graduate school’s campus, nine Aquinas seniors took time out to reflect on their four years at Aquinas through Campus Ministry’s Senior Retreat. Participants, led by Mary Clark-Kaiser, Director of Campus Ministry, went on the retreat in search of a clearer understanding of their future, as well as to share their apprehensions about that future with those in the same situation.

Senior participant Rosie Stempky said the retreat was different from other retreats because it focused “not on our entire lives, but on our time at Aquinas.”

“We shared some good memories about Aquinas and each other, as well as some thoughts on the future,” Stempky said.

Senior Stephanie Langstaff releases some senioritis tension while chopping wood on the retreat.

Photo by Magali Ramirez

We're Outta Here: Post-Graduation Plans Differ for Each AQ Saint

Of course, upon nearing graduation, the big question running through seniors’ minds is a college educated derivative of “What do I want to be when I grow up?”

Patrick Krueger approached his after-Aquinas life from a different perspective by asking himself “Where do I want to be?”

“I picked places that I thought I’d like to go and then applied to a nice school in the area,” Krueger explained.

That process landed him a teaching assistantship at the University of Colorado, Boulder. A sociology major at Aquinas, Krueger has been accepted to the university’s sociology doctoral program. He will be grading papers, working with professors, and leading a seminar discussion.

After he finishes his Ph.D., Krueger said, “I think I’d like to go into research. And I kind of like the academic world.”

Krueger appreciates his Aquinas experience. “It was nice to be here. And it’s nice to have something definite to look forward to (after graduation). That gives you a more positive perspective of your Aquinas experience.”

While most of her classmates will be getting jobs in the area or going on to graduate schools, by next fall, Aquinas senior Anne Tyler will have relocated to another continent. Tyler is joining the Peace Corps.

As an International Business major, Tyler will be serving the Peace Corps by doing small business consulting in Eastern Europe.

“Eastern Europe is a huge emerging market,” Tyler stated. She explained that this will be excellent experience that will help her in future business endeavors.

While in Europe, the Peace Corps will provide Tyler with enough money for food, housing and other essentials, but it is mostly a volunteer position. This is a large part of the reason that she chose to work with the Peace Corps.

As a student here, she has been a very active volunteer within the Aquinas community.

“I’ve always gotten a lot out of service activities,” she remarked.

“And I also love to travel.”

Tyler’s specific destination has not been determined yet. She will find out in two or three months where she is going. Shortly after that she will leave for three months of training and then two years of service to the Peace Corps.

Like Tyler and Krueger, many seniors talk about leaving Aquinas College and going on to bigger and better things. Ryan O’Neill is fulfilling that aspiration with distinction. He will be spending his next few years in Boston, where he will be enrolled as a guest taking classes in Harvard University’s Humanities Department.

Although he is a General Education major, O’Neill has taken six upper level English classes at Aquinas which qualified him to take graduate level classes in preparation for formal acceptance into Harvard’s English Doctoral program. Yet, his courses were only a part of the criteria for acceptance.

O’Neill submitted to Harvard 20 pages of his writing for their review as well as a list of his published works. Those works include publication in the National Library of Poetry, Sparrow Grass Poetry Forum, and in two smaller magazines.

O’Neill explained that the Harvard doctoral program takes approximately 11 years to complete. He is looking forward to living in New England during that time, and he intends to publish a great deal more.

In reference to his lifetime goals, O’Neill stated, “What I hope to do is write and do editing.”

While these three seniors have set their sights on different goals, as have their fellow soon to be graduates, each alum will be a representation of an Aquinas College education wherever life may take them.