Is There Truth to Aquinas-approved Sororities?

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

Is there a real sorority at Aquinas? Some claim there is an "officially recognized" sorority at Aquinas and some disagree. This question has produced a mystery surrounding the organization which may or may not have Aquinas' blessing.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Sigma Beta Chapter, was chartered in 1994 by seven Aquinas women and one Calvin woman. The nationally recognized, predominantly black sorority, centered at Davenport, is committed to public service through five areas: Educational Development, Economic Development, Physical and Mental Health, Political Awareness and Involvement and International Awareness and Involvement. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in 1913 at Howard University and claims 200,000 members in the United States, Japan, Germany and Liberia. Membership is city-wide, including students from Aquinas, Calvin and Davenport.

The Sigma Beta Chapter raises money for Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society and the Red Cross, provides scholarships, sponsors cultural and educational programs for teens and mentors young disadvantaged women. The policy at Aquinas has historically refrained from granting official recognition to the Greek social system of fraternities and sororities. However, the college does officially recognize Greek honor societies. Membership to Beta Beta Beta, the National Biology Honor Society associated with the Lambda Alpha Chapter, Lambda Iota Tau, which meets with the Aquinas Writer's Guild and Phi Alpha Theta, an international fraternity of honor students who have taken at least 12 credit hours of history, is allowed on the basis of academic excellence, involvement and achievement.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has been only been granted "quasi-recognition" according to Bradford Winkler, Dean of Students. The college has agreed to submit academic information, such as G.P.A.'s, to allow Aquinas students to participate in the national sorority. However, the sorority is not allowed to receive funding or official recognition from the college since the criteria applied may be discriminatory and is at the discretion of each individual fraternity or sorority.

"Aquinas is willing to participate with Grand Rapids area colleges in providing access to a core chapter of the national sorority of Delta Sigma Theta. A number of our students have expressed interest in the sorority and are willing to cooperate in this joint venture so that interested students from Aquinas can participate," said Winkler, who identified the sorority as a "social" sorority. Chapter president of Delta Sigma Theta and Aquinas senior Regina Lungaro, advocates "non-academic" sororities such as Delta Sigma Theta, by stating that they do not duplicate efforts of other Aquinas organizations, they actually create elite organizations with exclusive membership.

"Membership requirements are not designed to dissuade nor exclude interested persons from getting involved," Lungaro said. "In See "Sorority" Page 2
"Sorority" Cont'd from Page 1

...ead, they are intended to imbue prospective candidates with the sorority's values of sisterhood and public service. Delta Sigma Theta membership is more than being a member of any other Aquinas organization because membership is lifelong. There are few commitments we will make that are lasting: religious affiliations, parenthood, marriage and membership in the Delta Sigma Theta.

Crystal Smith, charter member and Aquinas alumna, said, "Delta is unique in that sisterhood is its foundation. I experienced a depth of trust and intimacy with my sisters that no other Aquinas student organization provides nor promotes. With my sisters, we made sorority history in chartering a chapter. Through my sisters I became the woman of substance I had labored to become, and to be a part of my sisters, I am all that I am, with an open heart and willing spirit to do anything." Another alumna, Faustenia Morrow, said, "Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., through Sigma Beta Chapter, was life changing, for me. It's about bonding and sharing with sisters. It was one of the few organizations that gave African-American women the opportunity to participate in the spirit of our ancestry, bringing life to the essence of womanhood through bonding, sharing, supporting, networking, accessing people skills and working together as we stand on the shoulders of the ancestors who came before us."

Campus advisor to Delta Sigma Theta and Professor of Account­

ing at Aquinas, Betty Smith-Banks stated that when she was hired at Aquinas in late 1994 or 1995, about six sorority members were at Aquinas. Currently, Lungaro is the only Aquinas member. Smith-Banks believes that the sorority was "officially recognized" by the previous Nelson Administration at Aquinas.

"One of the benefits of membership is the fact that a sisterhood that exists within the group...another benefit is the ability to network," said Smith-Banks. "If there is something to be done in the community, a Delta will be in the mix. If a member is in need of help, there is someone within the organization to provide that assistance.""Delta women are women that are not for their strong sense of purpose and welcome any prospective new members that subscribe to the same ideals: a commitment to a moral and intellectual life where giving back to the community is the mantra," Smith-Banks continued.

So, is there a real sorority at Aquinas? The answer is uncertain. Nevertheless, the Aquinas students belonging to Delta Sigma Theta have clearly made a multicultural impact in the community and in their own lives.

For further information on participating in the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, contact Regina Lungaro at (616) 452-9368.
Cynthia Donnelly spoke to the Aquinas Community about Catherine De Huck Doherty, an escaped Russian Baroness and Catholic innovator as part of Campus Ministry Spirituality Lunchtime Lecture on Thursday, Nov. 5 in the Wege Ballroom.

Later that evening she performed the one-woman play she wrote about the 20th century Social Justice leader, a founder of Madonna House Lay Apostolate, a worldwide community of lay Catholics, at Kretschmer Auditorium.

Campus Ministry Director Mary Clark Kaiser, who found in Madonna House a freedom and wholesomeness she found lacking in many other religious communities, brought Donnelly to campus.

A 1970 Aquinas alumna, Donnelly took the time to share fond memories of Aquinas Theatre in the Carriage House with Academic Vice President, Dr. Gary Konow. She went on to a very successful career in theater and films in New York City, and now works on such films as Woody Allen’s, “Manhattan.” She first remembered when Catherin de Huck Doherty was awarded the prestigious Aquinas Award in 1966 by the college’s first president, Monsignor Norbert Bakowski, who referred to her as, “One of the most prominent Catholic women of her time.”

Doherty’s colorful and dynamic life began in Russia as a Baroness in the royal family of Czar Nicholas II. In 1917, when she was 21 years old, her entire family was largely destroyed by Bolshevik Revolutionaries before she escaped to Canada. During the Great Depression, acutely aware of the Western Community’s ability to serve the needs of the poverty stricken and unemployed, she, with her American counterpart, Catholic heroine Dorothy Day helped to found what became known as Catholic Action in Toronto.

Their primary motivation was to challenge Catholic apathy concerning the poverty that surrounded and actively serve the needs of the poor using the effective means of the Communists, but with a gospel-based orientation.

In the late 1930s and 40s Doherty addressed racial injustices in Harlem as the founder of a Catholic ministry known as “Friendship House,” decades before racial inequality came to the American stage. She went on to found Madonna House, a worldwide organization of lay Catholics that devote themselves to simplicity and service, known for its unique mixture of active service and Eastern Christian prayer and meditative techniques characteristic of Doherty’s Russian homeland.

As Aquinas students are now required to take three semesters of foreign language courses, students are becoming bilingual. The semester-abroad trips offer students an opportunity to test their new language skills. Further, the semester-abroad trips fill the NC 301 requirement. This experiential education requirement can be met in three ways: study abroad, service learning or internship.

While sending students off-campus, the new office also wants to expose students on campus to a variety of cultures. They hope to enroll more international students to create a more culturally diverse campus. Further, they are working to establish a summer-long English as a Second Language Institute for international students.

Durham said, “American tax dollars should not go to support Latin American death squads. Our goal is to educate the American public on how their tax dollars are being spent.”

SAC has worked to bring awareness of other major issues to campus, too. They sponsored “Take Back the Night” to bring about awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. The event included speakers and a candlelight march through campus and Eastown.

SAC also held a “Gay Awareness Day” in an effort to curb homophobia on campus.

Other SAC activities this year have included protest of Wal-Mart and Disney. They are asking Wal-Mart to close down the sweatshops producing some of their products. They want Disney to pay their workers in other countries sustainable wages so children will not have to work.

Upcoming events include “Make a Difference Awareness Week,” in which SAC will try to bring about awareness of the ways that mainstream media lies to the public. They are also planning to write letters to the parents of Matthew Shepherd, the gay college student who was killed in Wyoming recently.

SAC: Keeping AQ Aware

by Mindy Smith
Times Contributing Writer

On the way to lunch, Wednesday, Nov. 4, a popular student asked what appeared to be bodies covered with bloodstained sheets outside of Wege Student Center. They also would have seen Political Science Professor, Dr. Roger Durham kneeling with his hands tied while two men held guns pointed at his head.

No, Aquinas was not being attacked by terrorists; the Social Action Committee (SAC) was staging a demonstration as part of their efforts to shut down the School of the Americas.

The school is located in Fort Benning, Georgia. The original intent of it was to train South American soldiers about democracy and peacekeeping techniques. SAC has evidence that something different is happening. Graduates of the school have been accused of involvement in the killings of religious workers and anyone else who tries to educate, organize or help the people of oppressed Latin American countries.

Students from Aquinas, Grand Valley and Calvin will be traveling to the school Nov. 20-22 to participate in a peaceful demonstration asking for the school to be shut down.

Sample text for SAC: Keeping AQ Aware article

Freshman Erica Freshour says, “I’ve always been socially active. Involvement in SAC has helped me to realize that world issues do affect us locally. SAC has helped me to curb my own ignorance.”

Some students disagree with the methods that SAC uses to promote its agenda. “I believe the SAC has every right to stage a demonstration in front of Wege; however, I believe they are better issues they can take on to improve the Aquinas community,” said freshman Eric Zeenering. "Their ‘Take Back the Night’ rally was a positive event for the Aquinas Community and Grand Rapids. Attacking corporate giants and government organizations does nothing directly to benefit our community because these institutions are entrenched in the world around us. A demonstration in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is not going to change Wal-Mart’s labor practices in China or Haiti.”

The goal of SAC is to promote awareness and curb apathy at Aquinas. According to the coordinators, it is a very diverse group including Democrats, Republicans, pro-life, pro-choice, men, women and representatives of other groups. Anyone is welcome to attend their meetings and bring up any issue.
Residents living near the Kent County International Airport had the chance to review plans to ease traffic congestion around the airport in a meeting held by the Kent County Road Commission.

Four alternate routes, narrowed down from twenty-one, are part of the Road Commission's I-96 Airport Access Study conducted with the state Department of Transportation and other local agencies. The alternative routes are: Using traffic management programs to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, extending 36th Street SE to Thornapple River Drive, building an interchange at Patterson Avenue SE and I-96 and building an interchange at 36th Street and I-96 with a connection east to Thornapple River Drive and west to Patterson Avenue and 44th Street SE.

There is also the option of a "No Build" alternative which means nothing would be done about the problem right away and the Department of Transportation would continue to monitor traffic flow. About 13,000 cars pass in and out of the airport's terminals daily. This number, said Steve Warren, director of the Road Commission, will reach 20,000 by the year 2020. There is also a new airport cargo facility that will open next year and draw nearly 1,200 trucks per day.

Warren also said some improvements will be made, however, it is up to the residents living near the airport to decide which is best for them.

"I can't speculate on when construction will start," said Warren. "Each alternate route is different and on the basis of scope and complexity, people supported some improvement and we will examine the benefits and cost of doing something. It may look advantageous now but we don't want to get too ahead of ourselves."

Another meeting will be held before a final decision is made, Warren said.

Police Chief Addresses Issues of Minorities

by Erin Wojcik
Times Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, Grand Rapids Police Chief Harry Dolan met with several black community leaders to assure them that he will investi­gate "any abuse of authority" by officers toward minorities.

Dolan said in the Oct. 25 issue of the Grand Rapids Press, "I will investigate any complaint of a citizen who feels their rights were violated. They've got that confidence here."

Even though Dolan said the meeting was not brought on by any specific incident in Grand Rapids, he still wanted to discuss this topic with Grand Rapids Urban League President Lawrence Borom and Kent County Commissioner Paul Mayhue.

The Grand Rapids Press reported that Mayhue said, "We didn't have coffee and doughnuts, just good, fruitful conversation."

In the same interview, Borom said, "We think he [Dolan] is a good guy." He added, "We want him to understand, though, that some people in the black community are skeptical of the police."

In addition to creating more harmony in the Grand Rapids area, the police force has tried to create more safety. On the Southeast side of the city, a community policing team has been patrolling on foot and on bike since July.

Dolan acknowledges that some people believe that police sometimes target black men unfairly. He told the Grand Rapids Press, "I think there is that perception, based on my conversations." He continued, "At the same time, we've all got to support the officer on the beat, whether he's walking the streets or riding a bike or riding in a car... It goes a long way when I can say the president of the Urban League supports us."

New Plan to Reduce Airport Traffic Congestion

By Jaimie Winkler
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- Students across the country are coming together to hone their academic skills and demonstrate leadership.

The University of Michigan and Yale University head this movement with National Student Partnerships. Yale junior Brian Kreiter and Yale sophomore Kirsten Lodol founded NSF to combat the national unemployment problem using the academic skills of students.

The University came aboard at the second school in the nation to assemble an NSF office. Ann Arbor is the location for the Midwest Regional Office.

"It's important for adults and the government to understand we are a generation of leaders," said David Singer, an LSA junior and president of the University branch.

This past summer, NSF received the support of the national Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.

Members of that department as well as other Washington experts are expected to be a part of the NSF Advisory Board. Tim Barnacle, the director for the National Center for Education and Economic Development, is expected to head that board.

NSF garnered financial support totaling more than $260,000 in federal grants and is working to raise more. NSF also filed a 501 C3 tax form and gained non-profit status.

Since the Yale office began functioning a little more than a month ago, the staff has grown to 40, and 200 additional universities -- including the University of Michigan -- created chapters in the organization.

The group plans to work with Project Serve, the Center for Community Service and Learning and the Michigan Student Assembly, among other community groups.

"It'll be helping them out and supporting them as they get things started on campus," said Heidi Lubin, chair of the MS Community Service Board.

Lubin, an LSA junior, said her concern is for NSF to work with clients responsibly and to meet the needs of those clients.

The program, organized and run completely by students, will use University databases to compile names of unemployed people. Students then act as matchmakers, placing the clients in jobs that match their skills, Singer said.

For example, if a mother cannot work because she lacks the money for child care, NSF has a list of daycare agencies willing to reduce prices or donate services for NSF, he said.

"We want to direct [clients] to [existing] organizations that maybe they were unaware of," said Chris McIntyre, the Midwest regional director in the Yale office.

When it comes to finding a job, the unemployed fill out resumes, but no one is acting on their behalf, McIntyre said.

NSF plans to solicit their clients to local businesses. In exchange for accepting one of NSF's clients, the business will receive free advertising, Singer said.

Singer expects Ann Arbor placement to begin by winter semester.

New Student Group Headed by Yale, U. Michigan Fights Unemployment

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Some residents of the Northeast Side neighborhood worry that a new work-release site in the residential area will interrupt their domestic tranquility. Residents voiced their concerns at a meeting of the Kent County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

"I am very saddened," said Vicki Johnson, a Bradford Street resident according to the Grand Rapids Press. "When the meeting got started, you said, 'Sorry guys, it's a done deal.'"

Sheriff James Dougan requested the move up of the work-release site from the Salvation Army building on South Division to the former Mercy Commons/KenOakamen
tal health building at 1339 Bradford Street NE. The move and upkeep of the building will cost $930,000.

"It's a tragedy for the whole community," said university spokesman M. Peter McPherson called McCue's McCue's family declined comment through a family friend Thursday evening. The body was taken to the Aquinas 'Times would like to thank Jason Kantz, Cathy Lynch and Sylvija Visockis for their help with the Times webpage. --The Times Staff
There Goes the Neighborhood?

The former Mercy Commons/Kent Oaks mental health facility on Grand Rapids’ Northeast Side is now a facility for low-violent offenders in a work-release program affiliated with the Kent County Jail. The 15 members of the Kent County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of it, despite opposition from neighboring residents and in light of upcoming elections.

This is a classic case of NIMBY Syndrome—people will support building the facility anywhere, just “Not-In-My-Back-Yard.” The residents’ fundamental concern is that of increased risk to residents and the devaluation of property when an unfavorable structure is added to a neighborhood. Usually, the benefits from supporting the political initiative are widely distributed. However, the benefits from opposing it are much more concentrated. As a natural result, the opponents have more incentive to take political action against the initiative than do supporters.

Ironically, if a favorable structure—such as a mall or commercial shopping center—must be built in a neighborhood, communities are fighting to get it. Of course the Northeast community is not going to applaud what they perceive to be increased traffic, pollution, or other potential problems caused by the facility. But neither is any other community. Public officials must make the best decision about where to place the facility for work-release program participants. Clearly, the most logical place to put the facility is in the Northeast Side close to the Kent County Jail that already exists there. In effect, there will not be much increased risk of harm of residents or property value than there would be if the facility were located elsewhere—further from the jail.

The decision is even a difficult one for local government officials who are representatives of the people in their district. In these types of cases state public policy usually wins, leaving little choice in the matter to local politicians. The local officials have received a state grant of $300,000 and $630,000 in matching funds to renovate the building. Commissioners need to make efficient use of the funds to offset the increase in offenders being sent to jail as a result of the new truth-in-sentencing legislation that will be in effect as of Dec. 15. Or, officials can basically throw the funding away and be left to some how solve the jail overcrowding problem on their own later on.

The lesson to be learned is that what government and/or private residents do with the land in one’s neighborhood invariably affects one’s individual security, property value and residence. And many times the decisions being made are not in the hands of local public officials—they are in effect being made by the state government. The residents of the Northeast Side will have to be realistic enough to swallow their medicine and accept the new facility as a cure to the NIMBY Syndrome they are suffering from.

Northeast residents were told “it’s a done deal.” The work release facility would be built, and they had absolutely no say. Any guesses why their opinions were avoided? If I were given the choice of living next to a convicted criminal or not, guess what I’d choose. As far as I’m concerned, it’s not a matter of people just taking their medicine. Whenever it comes to an issue of having something “undesirable” placed in a residential area, there’s bound to be objection. It could be a landfill, a chemical plant or... any kind of penal facility. Certainly these things have to go somewhere if our communities are going to enjoy the quality of life that we’ve been accustomed to. However you slice it, though, the neighbors should have a say. (Even if they’ll likely say no.)

Convincing residents to take on something that will make their area more attractive is certainly an easier task for planners and officials, but that’s just stating the obvious. A special circumstance involving danger and property devaluation arouses legitimate concern. There are ways of getting apprehensive neighbors to say yes to such unlikely campaigns. Officials can make the bargain more worth their consideration by offering tax breaks and other incentives. Without incentives, it’s hard to picture any group of citizens willing to take on society’s burden. Why not just act nobly and accept the facility? People can be willing to compromise, but when the situation involves “new neighbors” like convicts in a minimal security facility, the negatives are sizable. In the particular situation in the Northeast Side, residents face, first of all, a significant increase in traffic to their area. More traffic means more accidents, longer travel time, and more danger to pedestrians. The presence of inmates entering and exiting the facility, will make residents feel more vulnerable to crime. This, in turn, will lower property values—devaluing what residents may have put their lives into making valuable. Although they will be informed of changes in the work-release’s policy, they will have to simply accept what comes to pass.

Neighbors will also have the worry about the possible change in use of the facility. As of now, officials have promised that it will not be used to house jail overcrowding, but what if? Not even officials can say what future demands will be placed on the penal system. Who’s to say that the promises won’t fade away once new people have been appointed and elected into those positions?

Ultimately, when it came time to decide, what the people wanted for their homes, their property, their lives was denied them. Removing the choice of the people most affected by this new “project” is and ugly matter.

It’s just a shame that the matter of placing something undesirable in their community goes to the decision makers not those who’ll live the decision out.

Summary:

Residents of a Northeast Side neighborhood are concerned with the shape that their neighborhood will take now that the Kent County Board of Commissioners voted to locate a work release facility in their community. The Board believes that the Northeast Side neighborhood is the best location for the facility.
Ben Stiller created an entire movie on the premise that "Reality Bites," especially when you belong to a generation labeled as apathetic, indifferent and excessive. Those of us born between the mid-1960s and the late-70s have been given the label "Generation X." The most common label placed on this group is "Generation X." A phrase coined by author Douglas Coupland in his 1991 book "Generation X," the term has been used synonymously with the X variable, meaning that its definition is entirely subjective. The term attempts to resist labels and categorization. Perhaps it is why many are so quick to define who we are. We have decided that we don't like this label, and we aren't a variable. We're simply another generation with a different experience, and our destiny is still our own.

As the curtain drops on the early youth of Generation X, the air remains hazy toward a generation weary of labels, categories, single-parent families, commercialized culture and, of course, gross consumerism. X-ers have grown up in an environment that can rape their childhood, and have struggled to survive despite it. We've been told we aren't thin enough, our hair isn't right, we need to smoke, that alcohol can only be enjoyed in excess and that we have to be competitive in a world where success is an equation that equals power and money. The last time we checked, this wasn't the society that Gen X-ers created. It was the one we grew up in.

Let's examine our past, which led to the Gen X labels. We've watched our parents' generation, the flower children of the idealistic sixties in their communities reveling in free love and mind expanding drugs, swearing they would never "sell out" only to see them do just that. Most bought suits, a house in the suburbs and bore children, namely us.

What has contributed to who we are and how we're defined? We grew up in an era of post-Vietnam and post-Watergate, where the disillusionment and the marks of any Gen X-er conversation with their parents.

One lesson that stays with each generation is that the past is irreparable, the now is indefinable and the future is limitless. We cannot destroy the songs of other generations just as we can't right our past. What we do is simply progress. We fight racism, we struggle with power and money. The last time we checked, this wasn't the society that Gen X-ers created, it was the one we grew up in.

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November 11, 1998

Domestic Problems Rock AQ

by Bridget Clark
Times Contributing Writer

Trees aren't the only thing that blossom and grow on the Aquinas College campus. Domestic Problems, a Grand Rapids band, have found each other and their starting point as students here at Aquinas. Having been together for five years now, they got their name from the Blues Brothers movie and have quickly gained momentum. Sunday, Nov. 1 at 10 p.m., they took the time to come hang out with some of their biggest fans in the Cook Carriage house.

The band played their biggest show as the headliners selling out the Kalamazoo State Theater and are playing Friday, Nov. 6 at The Intersection with Mission Orange. Presently DP is in the middle of recording in Grand Rapids, and is said to be releasing five new songs, some of which were previewed Sunday night. DP signed with their independent label, "Triple Rock," is managed by their financial and inspirational facilitator Scott Hammeont. The band has 3 albums on the shelves now including their debut, "Scattered Pieces," the follow-up "Play," and 97.9 WGRD's "Radio Active."

On their home turf at AQ, Domestic Problems have played for almost two hours and had the whole house dancing like mad. The energy in the room reflected the energy of the performers, as they wrapped up the Aquinas Halloween weekend with a bang.

"There is always a big surprise when you get these guys together. They give back what the crowd gives them and their bag of tricks knows no boundaries," said Regina Hall Resident Director and the show's sponsor and coordinator, Calvin Webb. Such was the case when DP's lead singer, Andy Hollodrive, continued to jam, even while starting to lose his voice due to his energetic performance (and their annual Traverse City Halloween show the night before).

Making a guest appearance halfway through the set was freshman and Woman's Soccer player Andrea Terry, who rapped on stage and received incredible feedback for her performance. Freshman Nikki Buhagiar, when asked what she thought of the show, said, "It was so awesome. I am really glad I came and skipped my homework. I think it's really cool being here at Aquinas and in Grand Rapids to be able to part of the whole "Domestic Problems" scene."

While checking out the music scene, Domestic Problems suggested that people watch for the band Mission Orange. "The show kicked, it was just perfect, with a capital "PHH," exclaimed sophomore and R.A. Justin Orl, the band enjoyed playing at Aquinas as one of stops on the road. When asked what life on the road is like, trumpet player Bill Kenny said that it "has helped them really grow as a band."

While AQ anxiously awaits the next performance of Domestic Problems, we're left with the happy thoughts of knowing that, when asked where the band's favorite place to perform was, the answer was a simple statement of "the Carriage House."

Faculty Art Uses a Variety of Mediums

What do floating letters on plexiglass, several small loaves of bread and a glowing teapot have in common? They're all part of this year's Department of Art Annual Faculty Exhibition. The display features the Aquinas faculty's latest work.

At the center of the Art and Music Center gallery stands Dana Freeman's "Learning to See the Air," a six sheets of plexiglass and black and white letters, all with a sombre animation of white letters all over them. The text of the sculpture is part of her poem of Miriam Pederson of the English Department. The imagery-laden poem suggests that humans take the air for granted and must learn to appreciate it.

In explaining the motivation behind the work, Freeman said that all air molecules have existed since the beginning of time in some form or another. In most cul­ tures, the air is a "conscious, living material," and must learn to appreciate it.

Dana Freeman's "Learning to See the Air" is a collection of floating letters and words on a plexiglass surface, creating an animation of white letters. The sculpture suggests that humans take the air for granted and must learn to appreciate it.

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For your listening pleasure:

11/31 Duncan Sheik plays at the State Theatre in Detroit
11/13 Mustard Plug plays the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor, get ready to Skal!
11/16 For a live rendition of "Iris," Geo-Groo Della and Buffalo Tom play Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac. 11/22 Days of the New, Finger 11, and Fibs 16 make a pit stop at the Orbit Room in Grand Rapids; this is an 18+ show.
11/18 For a taste in more local music: Fat Army, Swing Love, and Kung Fu Diesel play Sluggo's in Grand Rapids; this is an 18+ show.
Far Too Jones Gives Listeners an All New Sound

Movie Review: The Siege

Pandora Rice Recaptures Readers

Ladies & INTRODUCING Gentleman

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

Anne Rice, the much-loved author of The Vampire Armand, The Queen of the Damned, and The Sleeping Beauty Trilogy is back with her new book Pandora. Rice recaptures her readers with a new vampire tale, the first in what should be an exciting series.

Having been unfamiliar with Rice’s past work, it was a challenge to sit down and read Pandora. Readers who are worried that book focuses mostly on blood and gore, will be shocked to see this is not the case. Rather, Rice focuses on the main characters, detailed history and a chilling plot. Rice’s use of accurate historical background helps to introduce the main character, Pandora, with ease.

The book opens in present day Paris, as Pandora sits in a café. Meeting David Talbot, a newly created vampire, Pandora is intrigued with this other creature of the night. David begs Pandora to record her life prior to becoming a vampire. The downfall to this opening scene is that both David and Pandora make references to characters in Rice’s other books, a problem for those who have not read any of her work before. Pandora eventually agrees and her story begins in chapter two, as she records her life in a journal. The setting of the story progresses from ancient Rome to the 20th century, as Pandora shares her intriguing tale.

The book is fast-paced and will keep readers on their toes with its references to religion and spiritual characteristics. Pandora is a delightfully gothic novel. Along with her other novels, Pandora is highly recommended for readers who desire a taste of the unknown.
Men's Basketball Has Big Shoes to Fill

by Ryan Smith
Times Sports Editor

Replacing a three time All-American is no easy task. The task becomes even more difficult when trying to replace the fourth leading rebounder in school history. Well, this is the exact feat that the men's basketball team must try and accomplish.

Last year's team was led by All-American Brandon Lowe, rebounding machine Jim Richards and three-point threat Joe Crisendon. These seniors helped lead the Saints to the second most wins in school history with 21. They have all graduated, though, and some new players are looking to fill their shoes.

Two starters return from that team of a year ago. Senior Nathane Hickman leads the way, coming off a season where he averaged 16 points and 3.8 rebounds a game while playing point guard. "He gave up a lot of his game to play the point guard position," coach Rick Albro added. "The team is looking for him to lead the way in scoring while playing off guard. The other returning starter is senior Mike Jackson. He also is coming off a successful season where he averaged 10 points and 7 rebounds a game. He is looking to elevate his game and average double digits in points and assists. The talent does not stop there, however, as this year's team appears to be one of the deepest ever here at Aquinas. "I think our major strength will be our depth," junior Ross Willick commented. The depth starts with three other seniors, guards Shane Hinkle and Bernard Vannesteed and forward Chris Kreiner. Vannesteed and Kreiner saw plenty of action last year and look to contribute immediately this year. Hinkle is coming off a year of injuries, but appears to be healthy, and he is a serious long-range threat. Willick also is being counted on to drain some threes. Sophomore Joel Scott hopes to spell relief in the middle. The returnees are not the only players being counted on this year. With one of the best recruiting classes ever, many newcomers look to contribute. Leading the way is 6'5" junior transfer Courtney Norman. "He is an electrifying player that Saints fans could come to love," Albro stated.

He is joined by 6'3" sophomore Brian Rea and 6'6" freshman Brian Gould, both transfers. Sophomores Jason Carter and Pete Beachy are back, each with four years of eligibility after red shirting last season. Carter could cause problems for opposing teams with his quickness inside. Beachy also will hang his 6'7" frame around in the paint. True freshmen Kyle Verlin, Kyle Pohja and Bobby Miehlke are also being counted on to contribute, Verlin and Pohja in the backcourt and Miehlke in the post. With all of this new talent, the team is a quite different than last year. "We've got bigger, which we needed to do, and we'll be a lot deeper," Albro added.

The schedule will not be easy for the Saints as they play Division III powerhouse Hope and Calvin as well as Windsor, Carthage, and Roger Morris from Kewaunee Wisconsin and then travel to San Antonio, Texas for a tournament over Christmas break. They open the season Nov. 10 at Rochester and host their first game against Great Lakes Christian on Dec. 1.

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The Final Score

Media Lacks Respect for AQ Sports

by Damon Bouwkamp
Times Sports Editor

Media coverage is everybody's dream. Every athlete's fantasy is to see his or her name on the day the big game, a great race, and a record-breaking performance. Watching yourself perform on television would be another adrenaline rush for most of the athletes I know. You see it all the time, the "CNN Play of the Day," "Plays of the Week" and even Jack Deo's "Deo's Banana." But here at Aquinas College, what do we have to do to get noticed?

We have been surrounded by extraordinary achievements at Aquinas in the past few months on our fields, on our courts and on our courses. Our Saints have trounced the opponents and have competed for a number of conference championships and even in the national rankings. But, repeatedly we are shut out of the local media. Once in a while, we see a short little blurb on our soccer teams or cross-country meets or volleyball teams. But the majority of the local coverage is handed to Calvin, Hope, Grand Valley and even Western Michigan and Central Michigan. Why not Aquinas?

Our cross-country teams are both in the national NAIA rankings for the season. The teams are looking at possibly their biggest meet in the school's history in the next couple weeks with the WHAC championship around the corner. But will the press have more than a paragraph on the fact that our Saints are one of the best teams in the nation? Calvin's cross-country teams have both had lengthy articles in the past few weeks supporting their school's quest for national dominance at the Division III level. Is it because we are an NAIA school?

Our women's soccer team, until their recent season-ending loss to Tri-State University, has been ranked in the region. But where are the articles relaying this to the public? Instead, we in Grand Rapids are overloaded with tire advertisements. Why not add a few pages to the Press and cover the area sports fully instead of forgetting about a major player in the area?

A new basketball season is soon to be on tap, but will AQ get the recognition we deserve? With national points in the rankings for both the men's and women's squads, Bob Becker, the sports editor at the Press and company should be listening to our fieldhouse for the sounds of dribbling and dunking as our Saints look to capture WHAC championships.

Maybe it is our own fault. Does Aquinas promote itself enough? Do we leak the information to the area well enough? Is the Sports Information Department doing its job? Should we be the ones sending press releases to the area?

I think that is part of the solution. This might be a case of not being competitive for our neighborhood, the NFL. But, the tightly contested championship game showed that not all football needs to be seen from the Lions point of view.
Cross-Country: Are Nationals in Their Future?

by Nate Thomas
Times Contributing Writer

Ken Baginski led the men’s cross country team to a second place finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference meet finishing first for the second consecutive year. Baginski broke the course record by almost two minutes with a time of 25:36 breaking the course record by almost two minutes.

“We felt that Ken would win,” coach Dave Wood said. “He was the defending champion. He has been running well and we felt he could win.”

The team went into the meet ranked 16th in the nation, but seventh ranked Siena Heights was the favorite. The Saints almost pulled off the upset by one point 32-31.

The meet was up for grabs until the last runner from Siena finished and left all the spectators on the edge of their seat.

“It was pretty much a dog fight between us and Siena. Everyone was biting their nails waiting to see who would beat who,” sophomore Joshua “Jeney” Maalebeld said.

With conferences out of the way, the team’s season rests in the hands of the regional board who will decide whether or not the team goes to nationals. According to Wood, chances are very good the team will be in.

“I would be incredibly surprised if we did not get in,” he said.

Young Women's Basketball Team Looks for Strong Season

by Nate Thomas
Times Contributing Writer

Although this year’s women’s basketball team is dominated by underclassmen, expectations are high.

“I think we are going to do pretty well, but we’re young. Once we get going and someone steps up with leadership we’ll do fine,” freshman Mary Bond said.

“We have a lot of talent on the team. I don’t think our youth will hurt us. I think we’re smart enough and talented enough to play with the maturity of older teams,” Seniors Jolene Loomis and Carmen Brown are expected to be the team leaders. The rest of the team consists of two juniors, five sophomore and six freshmen.

“The seniors will be the leaders. Overall we have a pretty young group, but Jolene Loomis and Carmen Brown have done a good job supplying leadership so far,” Head Coach Linda Nash added.

Aiding the seniors in leading the team this season will be junior Nicole Mielhke. “Nicole Mielhke has come on strong. She was on the All-WHAC Defensive team last year and her offensive skill has improved,” Nash said. “Her offensive production became more consistent as the season progressed and she will be relied on this season for her leadership.”

The Lady Saints have graduated the last two Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) Players of the Year, but according to Nash, the team doesn’t give the ball to just one player.

“I respect our team’s depth. We have some tricks up our sleeves chances are very good the team will be in. We are hoping when they pick for nationals we are one of the 10 at large teams. I think we belong there. We were ranked 16th in the last poll so we should qualify,” Nash said.

Since making nationals is almost a given, the only question facing the Saints is how high they will place. The team is looking to get back to Siena and more.

“I think we have a real good chance to finish in the top 10,” Wood said. “We caught up to Siena and I think we can pass them.”

In the women’s half of the meet, the Lady Saints came away a little disappointed finishing second behind Spring Arbor.

Most of the players were disappointed because of the success of the season.

“Yes this was disappointing because the season was the best ever for Aquinas women’s cross country,” sophomore Audrey Remsberg said. “We had high hopes for conferences.”

Although the team did not run up top, they said that the chances of beating Spring Arbor were small.

Spring Arbor ran well, placing runners in third through eighth place, making competition tough.

Like the guys, the girls are waiting to hear if they qualify for nationals. Wood said the team deserves a spot in nationals and when there they will prove it.

“We are hoping when they pick for nationals we are one of the 10 at large teams. I think we belong there. We were ranked 16th in the last poll so we should qualify,” Nash said.

The seniors will be the leaders.

Both the men’s and women’s soccer teams did not end their seasons the way they had hoped. The men bowed out in the first round of the playoffs while the women lost a heartbreaker in the semi-finals of the conference tournament.

The men snuck into the tournament this year with the help of the expansion of the conference tournament to six teams. The Saints were seeded fifth and traveled to Cornerstone last Tuesday for the quarterfinal match.

Cornerstone scored first with a goal late in the first half. The Saints did not give up, however, and mounted a second half charge. It was to no avail, however, as the Saints could not find the back of the net.

“It was the story of our season. We just could not finish,” sophomore Eric Gebhard said.

Cornerstone added two late goals to make the final score 3-0 and the Saints season. The Saints finished with a conference record of 4-8-2 and an overall record of 5-13-3.

The men had a very successful regular season and were hoping to make some noise in the playoffs. They received a first round bye and awaited the winner of the Tri-State and Madonna match. Tri-State prevailed and set up a meeting against the Lady Saints last Wednesday at Aquinas. This was destined to be a great game as the two teams split their regular season series. Aquinas won at Tri-State 3-1 in September and Tri-State won at Aquinas 1-0 in October.

The Lady Saints needed no time getting on the score board as sophomore Amy Panse netted a goal in the first minute. The Thunder of Tri-State answered though, tying up the score at one in the middle of the first half. The Lady Saints went up again on a goal by junior Pam Bierzynski. Tri-State tied it up again in the second half and the halftime score was 2-2.

The second half was a fierce battle as Tri-State was the only team able to find the back of the net. The Lady Saints followed their opponent’s goal with chances of their own, but were not able to connect. After all of the heartache Tri-State came out victorious 3-1. The loss crushed the Lady Saints, but there was some hope.

“I’m very disappointed, but we tried the best we could,” sophomore Kim Eagar added. The Lady Saints have a good chance with a conference record of 12-2 and an overall record of 13-6.

The team is looking to win the conference and qualify for nationals, but the task is not easy. The team are looking for their talent to come out in the playoffs.

As the season starts, Nash and the team are looking for their talent to overcome their youth and lead the team to success.

“We have a challenging schedule with three NCAA Division II teams and two teams from California. We have always tried to play a tough non-conference schedule to prepare us for the conference,” Nash said. Nash added that the team’s goal is to play 40 minutes of solid basketball every game. “We play very aggressive defense, we like to switch things up and keep the other team guessing. We also have some tricks up our sleeves and we have good outside shooters,” she said.

The team is looking to win the conference and qualify for nationals, but the task is not easy. The first step on this path is winning the conference tournament at the end of the regular season.

“I think we have a good chance at winning the conference,” Bond stated.

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“It is the story of our season. We just could not finish,” Nash said. "We are looking for good things to happen." The Lady Saints open their season Nov. 14 in Chicago. Their first home match is Nov. 17 at 7 p.m against Tiffin.
On-Campus Housing

Apartment Life

Gina Mazzoni stretches across her housemates, (left to right) Trisha Clark, Kathy Dennys, Miriam Lynch, and Juliana Hilton. The ladies live in Woodcock Hall, one of Aquinas' East Area program houses.

Home Sweet House

Carolyn Willey, Tom Ferratt, Megan Elliott, Mike Goodrich, and Eric "Popper" Chisholm enjoy off-campus living in a house on Hope Street.

The Living Styles of AQ Students

Every year the hallways of Aquinas College are crowded with new faces, old faces and uncertain faces. And each year there is a similar dialogue taking place between them, one where people can't help but ask familiar faces what they're doing and where they are living. Where they are living isn't always a tough question, especially when one takes into account that Aquinas only has two large dorms (at the present time) and the program housing. Usually about half of the student population ventures into the larger world of monthly rent checks, loud neighbors and making their own dinner. The rest stay near prepared meals, classes and of course, their friends.

Whether on campus or off, one thing is absolutely required of everyone with a roommate or roommates: compromise. This goes beyond just sharing a bathroom, but also a kitchen, a television and a driveway as well. Senior Greg Vedders noted that right away he had, "to be more conscious of my roommates."

Another popular concern was roommates waking up. Often classes and work schedules differ greatly and one roommate's alarm goes off before anyone else's early in the morning. Gina Mazzoni, a junior and resident of Aquinas' Woodcock Hall, is one of the many roommates that wants to sleep in but can't because her roommates have to wake up early. She explained, "Since I don't have class on Monday and Wednesday I usually sleep in. Well, everyone here (Woodcock Hall) wakes up early in the morning and wakes me up early too. I guess its just one of those unavoidable roommate things."

While on-campus students tend to keep up with the campus news, off-campus students who have to rely on word of mouth, the Aquinas Times or Campus Correspondence may simply lose track. Vedders, who shares an apartment with another Aquinas student off of Leonard St., said, "For me it's a lot lonelier. I get home from work or school and there really isn't anyone around. Everything is pretty quiet, especially in my room."

Senior Mike Goodrich agreed with Vedders noting, "You miss the fact that there isn't always someone around like there was in the dorms."

Mazzoni also said she didn't see her friends as much even though she was on campus. "I don't really feel 'out of the loop' because I'm still on campus. But a lot of my friends live off of campus or in Regina Hall, and I don't see them as much. Sometimes they ask why I don't visit very much."

On a lighter note, students have to eat. However, with limited incomes the selection of food doesn't include steak dinners every night. Goodrich, who says he has a big appetite, manages pretty well. "I usually spend about 80 dollars every two weeks on groceries. I usually buy a lot of pizza and frozen food."

And for the off-campus lifestyle nothing is better than cheap and fast (and if your lucky, good). Mazzoni said she also tries to make quick meals. "I eat a lot of frozen foods or spaghetti and, of course, macaroni and cheese." Other students have been know to cook enough food for several meals and just reheat the food each time mealtime rolls around.

Once students move off campus they no longer eat their meals with dozens of other students on campus. Instead they are forced to eat alone and when it is convenient for them. Vedders, who also works for College Computing full time, finds that he rarely has time to make meals. "I eat out a lot and I usually eat a lot of microwave meals." While students may have to deal with a little loneliness and may be stuck in a semester long struggle for the remote control with their roommates, a majority say the experience is mostly positive and definitely one that forces them to grow up. Even those in the East Area program houses agree the experience of living on your own with other people is yet another step closer to the "real world."

"Now there's just more things you have to take care of. You pay rent every month, you pay for electricity, you have to make sure your roommates pay and you have to buy your own food. You have a lot more responsibility and it forces you to grow up faster," decided Goodrich.

One additional sentiment often voiced among Aquinas juniors and seniors living off of campus is the strange feeling that comes with not knowing new students. Even for those like Mazzoni who live on campus but have friends that know few new students or just don't spend a lot of time on campus anymore share the same feeling.

"I only know a few people on campus still and I really don't know any freshman," said Goodrich.

As Aquinas students settle into new homes and prepare for the next stage of their lives and lose touch with old, they still have the Aquinas College experience that we all share. Just so students will know where a few older students live and call home, here's a few pictures of where they live now—on the verge of what they will become.