AQ Faces $10 Million Lawsuit

by Heather M. Karal
Times Editor-in-Chief

Resulting from a chain of events during last semester’s Montana program and actions since the trip regarding property used for the program, Aquinas College is currently involved in pending litigation of a civil suit for ten million dollars.

The lawsuit is being filed by Harold E. Gray, known to the students who attended by the name Long Standing Bear Chief. Gray was the Co-Director of the Montana Program along with Aquinas Professor of Philosophy Michael Denty. In the suit, Gray states that Aquinas lays claim to over $90,000 of property belonging to Gray, as well as seriously jeopardizing Gray’s health by putting him through stress and hardship.

The property in question includes items used by the Montana program participants such as a log cabin, a tent, two wood stoves, a large wood heater and a chain saw as well as various other tools and equipment. The cabin was built and the supplies were purchased with funds from Aquinas College and funds paid to Gray for room and board. In the lawsuit, Gray states that he has proof of ownership for all of the items in question.

"Aquinas College purchased room, board, academic services and administrative services—that stall," Gray said. "I have proof of ownership of all of the items in question."

In a press release regarding the lawsuit, Aquinas administration stated that, "We believe the suit to be without merit." Aquinas administration claims that Gray did not fulfill his role as an administrator of the program. As Co-Director, Aquinas expected Gray to arrange for room and board during the semester program as well as provide administrative and academic services. Upon arriving in Montana, the Aquinas students and Denty found that construction of the cabin had not been started, ground transportation had not been arranged for and staff, such as a cook, had not been hired.

"Gray was supposed to provide room and board, ground transportation and arrange for the service learning programs...None of which he did," Denty said.

The group stayed in teepees while the cabins were being built until Nov. 7, when winter weather forced them to find more protective shelter. At that time the Aquinas faculty arranged for the group to stay at a local Boys and Girls Club and with another Blackfeet Indian, Leon Veilleux. When asked why the cabins were not ready as promised Gray said, "It’s difficult to find qualified help around here." He also explained that materials to build the cabin were delivered late. In response to the cook not being hired, Gray stated that, "All available cooks were gone fighting fires when the Aquinas group arrived."

Gray added, "If Denty, Knopke or the students were dissatisfied with the conditions when they arrived, then they should have turned around, gotten back on the train and went home, and refused to do the program until adequate accommodations were available."

Though Gray admits that students and faculty complained about the conditions of the trip, he claims that he asked repeatedly for desired changes to be put in writing. Because written documentation was not provided regarding such complaints he believes that his lack of action is justified. He also stated that he made every effort to accommodate the needs of the group.

Due to the unsatisfactory results of working with Gray during the program, Aquinas administration and faculty have decided to find a new Co-Director for next year’s program. Being dismissed from See “Lawsuit” Page 3

College Democrats Bring Blanchard to AQ, New Club has Big Plans for More Events

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

In their first campus event, the College Democrats hosted former Democratic Michigan Governor James Blanchard on March 17. The former U.S. congressman, Governor and Ambassador to Canada was visiting Grand Rapids for a political fundraiser. Only one week prior to his visit, Blanchard announced that he would not be running against Republican Spencer Abraham in the upcoming 2000 U.S. Senate Race.

Blanchard said to a group of about 25 students in the Cook Carriage House, "I like campaigning and I like people." But he added that the time to raise $7.8 million to run for the seat would, "take the fun out of the campaign."

Blanchard plans to stay involved in politics, however, and doesn’t rule out running again. On the issue of campaign finance, Blanchard commented, "It is corruption, but not in the sense of changing someone’s viewpoint on a key issue."

Blanchard supports Vice President Al Gore in a presidential bid for 2000. He said, "Gore has been a real visionary on many issues," and cited Gore’s accomplishments related to the environment and technology.

In reference to Engler’s educational plan, Blanchard stated, "Public education has received the short-end of the stick." He added that the plan “is demoralizing the teachers.”

Blanchard was generally against term limits, arguing that they take away cooperation among elected officials vying for political positions and that term limits strengthen the power of lobbyists.

Sophomore Laurie Noall, the president of the College Democrats, commented after the speech.

"James Blanchard was a very friendly and warm person. He was just the person that should run against Spencer Abraham for U.S. Senator."

See "Democrats" Page 2

Women’s Study Conference Includes Diverse Topics

by Angela Barrows
Times Contributing Writer

Women’s Studies. Some people shudder when they hear these words and imagine a group of militant feminists blaming men for women’s oppression. Quite the contrary. On Saturday, March 27 in the Donnelly Center, during the Women’s Studies Student Conference, a group of women gathered to discuss issues that are pertinent to women today without blaming anyone. In fact, even men’s issues were acknowledged, but the conference kept its attention mainly focused on women’s studies.

The morning began with a keynote address by Sue Williams Silverman, author of "Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You." She discussed her own personal story of abuse and incest and expressed the need for advocacy to stop child abuse. According to Silverman, the most important thing an individual can do to stop a child from being abused is to learn the mute language in which an abused child cries out for help. A child uses visual signs to cry out for help when being abused, such as wearing clothes inside out, not wanting to attend school or becoming emotionally detached and withdrawn. Learning this mute language is the duty and responsibility of every citizen. Today, approximately one in eight male children, and one in four female children will be sexually abused before reaching age eighteen. Upon consideration, these startling statistics reveal that the chances of knowing someone who has been sexually abused are greater than never meeting an abuse survivor.

The student presentations began with a paper entitled "Human Bridges Over Rivers of Blood: Weavers of Peace" by Aquinas Sophomore Laurie Noall, the president of the College Democrats.

See "Women’s Studies" Page 2

INSIDE

Wild Life in Repose
Son of Adam Concert
Softball Season Preview
Corporate America
On March 16, the Board of Trustees announced that tuition would increase by 1.5 percent for the 1999-2000 school year. Instead of the current full-time tuition fee of $13,168 for the year, students will be charged $13,336 next year. In 1997, the Board of Trustees committed to holding annual tuition increases at least through the year 2001 to the rise in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3 percent, whichever is lower. The CPI for 1998 is 1.6 percent. “This minimal increase underscores Aquinas’ commitment to providing a top-quality education at a competitive price,” said President Harry J. Knopke, Ph.D. “It also demonstrates that the many enhancements to Aquinas’ campus, some currently underway and others planned for the future, are funded not through tuition increases, but rather through other funding and private gift sources.”

Kyle Baldwin, a senior and Budget Director of the Community Senate, commented, “If you could show me a private school that is growing as fast as we are that had a tuition increase lower than 1.5%, I’d be quite impressed.”

Secretary of the Senate Joelle Kwiatkowski is a sophomore. She said, “It’s a small price to pay with how fast the campus is growing...it should be expected. The small increase is advantageous to Aquinas’ future.”

Junior Amanda Spitzley, Business and Communications Major and Vice-Chairperson for the Senate, said, “Although it is always difficult for students to have a tuition increase, this is a moderate increase in comparison to other schools and prior years.”

“Democrats” Continued from Page 1

Senate...and unfortunately he is deciding not to run,” Noall said. “I was also very pleased with the turnout, and I hope that we have an even better turnout with future speakers.”

Sophomore Marquise Blakeslee attended the lecture and the fundraiser at the Kent County Democratic Club. St. Patrick’s Day dinner that Blanchard attended and a resounding success. “He was especially impressed by the bass player Paul Carter. The bass player, Paul Carter from East Grand Rapids, was terrific,” Jefchak said. “He makes the bass come alive and plays it with such dexterity that it almost looks like he’s playing an electric.”

Helping bring the 26th Annual Jazz Festival to life were Tom Froncek, Bob Nixor, Sr. Catherine Williams, Diana Dixon, Barbara McCargar, Erin Flynn, Melissa Helman and Miriam Lynch.

AQ Tuition Increase Below CPI

By Angela Bergman

March 31, 1999

Festival "Jazzes Up" the AMC

By Katy Moore

AQ’s Art and Music Center was alive with the sounds of America’s musical invasion March 20 and 21 for the 26th Annual Aquinas College Jazz Festival. The festival featured a variety of both college and high school bands and ensembles from across the state. The weekend was well attended and a resounding success. Aquinas’ own Shanti Dixon took the top honor for Outstanding College Vocalist.

"I enjoyed volunteering and performing at the festival," said Dixon. "I was pleased that I received such a prestigious award from the judges.”

Judging the festival were Jim Cooper, Brian Cole and John Shea. WGVU-FM sent over two of its finest, Michael Packer and Scott VanderWerf, to serve as the Masters of Ceremonies.

Central Michigan University’s Percussion Section received the award for Outstanding College Ensemble. CMU also received Outstanding College Big Band as well as an Outstanding "Big Five" least award going to John Dixon, an Outstanding College Co- Aw ard going to James Gagna for his Big Band composition. Alma High School took first place for Outstanding High School Section with Sara Lunec receiving the Outstanding High School Vocalist award.

Sunday’s performance by Aquinas’ Night Band commenced with a welcome from Aquinas President, Dr. Harry J. Knopke. There was also a special tribute to Dr. Bruce Early, given by his daughter Meghan Early.

Aquinas Professor of Humanities Andrew Jefchak stated that he greatly enjoyed the Sunday evening program. He was especially impressed by the bass player Paul Carter. "The bass player, Paul Carter from East Grand Rapids, was terrific," Jefchak said. "He makes the bass come alive and plays it with such dexterity that it almost looks like he's playing an electric.”

Helping bring the 26th Annual Jazz Festival to life were Tom Froncek, Bob Nixor, Sr. Catherine Williams, Diana Dixon, Barbara McCargar, Erin Flynn, Melissa Helman and Miriam Lynch.

"Women" Continued from Page 1

Junior Heather Young. Next, two students from Michigan State University, Tara Dowd and Ellen Swanstrom, presented a discussion about women on prime time television. Then freshman Bridie Kent explored images of women in "Good Housekeeping" magazine. Both accounts gave the conference some comic relief, allowing participants to consider the lighter side of women's issues.

Then, Silverman offered a workshop on writing one's own personal story. She suggested that the key to writing creative non-fiction is to find something that one feels "urgent about," and begin recording it. She had participants either write about a secret or compare their inner and outer selves. From these exercises short stories could be started.

After the workshop, Aquinas senior Meadow-Rose Snyder presented the last student paper. Her paper entitled, "Identity and Conflicts in Kingston’s 'The Woman Warrior and China Men," explored a Chinese-American woman’s search for identity in her two books. Wendy Marty of the Academic Achievement Center remarked that "the quality of student work, along with a terrific guest speaker made the conference successful.”

CLASSIFIEDS

Happily married couple wish very much to share their love with a baby. We are financially secure and will pay expenses legally and confidentially. Your act of unselfish love will ensure that your child will grow up in a loving home surrounded by a devoted family. Call collect, Steve and Diana (616) 949-6970.

EXTRA INCOME FOR '99

Earn $500 - $1000 weekly stuffing envelopes. For details - RUSH $1.00 with SASE to: Group Five 6547 N. Academy Blvd., Dept. N Colorado Springs, CO 80918

We Need ENTHUSIASTIC Individuals to Earn Big $$$ Selling Advertising in Your Official Campus Directory and on the Internet! We Provide Training Support and FLEXIBLE Hours! Excellent Experience in Advertising/Sales/Public Relations.

Call COLLEGE DIRECTORY PUBLISHING 1-800-466-2221 x296 WWW.CAMPUSDIRECTORY.COM
New Task Force to Improve Campus Communication

by Carrie Hartman

Times Contributing Writer

In recognition that Aquinas Col­lege has encountered some obstac­les in the interchange process, President Knopke has formed the Internal Communication Audit Task Force.

This group consists of repre­sentatives from the faculty, ad­ministrators, students, and other per­sonnel who deal with the college. The committee's primary role is to determine how the college's communica­tion processes can be improved. The committee is also charged with looking into the question of how the college can better respond to student concerns.

The task force, which is made up of faculty, staff, students, and administration, will meet regularly to discuss the college's communica­tion processes. The committee is expected to make recommendations to the college administration on how to improve communication processes.

The task force is currently working on a plan to improve the college's communica­tion processes. The plan includes a number of strategies, such as conducting a survey of students, faculty, and staff to determine what they think is working well and what needs to be improved.

The committee is also working on developing a communication audit, which will be used to assess the effectiveness of the college's communica­tion processes. The audit will be used to identify areas where improvements can be made.

The task force is expected to make its report to the college administration by the end of the year. The college administration is expected to take action on the recommendations made by the task force.


ļ

New Study Abroad Programs to Begin in 2000

by Janelle Burden

Times Contributing Writer

In recognition that Aquinas Col­lege has encountered some obstac­les in the interchange process, President Knopke has formed the Internal Communication Audit Task Force.

This group consists of repre­sentatives from the faculty, ad­ministrators, students, and other per­sonnel who deal with the college. The committee's primary role is to determine how the college's communica­tion processes can be improved. The committee is also charged with looking into the question of how the college can better respond to student concerns.

The task force, which is made up of faculty, staff, students, and administration, will meet regularly to discuss the college's communica­tion processes. The committee is expected to make recommendations to the college administration on how to improve communication processes.

The task force is currently working on a plan to improve the college's communica­tion processes. The plan includes a number of strategies, such as conducting a survey of students, faculty, and staff to determine what they think is working well and what needs to be improved.

The committee is also working on developing a communication audit, which will be used to assess the effectiveness of the college's communica­tion processes. The audit will be used to identify areas where improvements can be made.

The task force is expected to make its report to the college administration by the end of the year. The college administration is expected to take action on the recommendations made by the task force.


ļ

New Study Abroad Programs to Begin in 2000

by Janelle Burden

Times Contributing Writer

In recognition that Aquinas Col­lege has encountered some obstac­les in the interchange process, President Knopke has formed the Internal Communication Audit Task Force.

This group consists of repre­sentatives from the faculty, ad­ministrators, students, and other per­sonnel who deal with the college. The committee's primary role is to determine how the college's communica­tion processes can be improved. The committee is also charged with looking into the question of how the college can better respond to student concerns.

The task force, which is made up of faculty, staff, students, and administration, will meet regularly to discuss the college's communica­tion processes. The committee is expected to make recommendations to the college administration on how to improve communication processes.

The task force is currently working on a plan to improve the college's communica­tion processes. The plan includes a number of strategies, such as conducting a survey of students, faculty, and staff to determine what they think is working well and what needs to be improved.

The committee is also working on developing a communication audit, which will be used to assess the effectiveness of the college's communica­tion processes. The audit will be used to identify areas where improvements can be made.

The task force is expected to make its report to the college administration by the end of the year. The college administration is expected to take action on the recommendations made by the task force.


ļ

Hunger and Homelessness Week at AQ

by Mindy Smith

Times Contributing Writer

When you return your tray at Wege, do you ever really think about how much food you are wasting away? During the week of March 21-27, students were given the opportunity to realize how much food is wasted each day. Monday through Wednesday, volunteers from SAC (Social Ac­tion Committee) and CAVA (Community Action Volunteer Association) collected unfinished food and weighed it.

It was discovered that in a single day 111.5 lbs. of food were wasted. Based on these results, approximately 780.5 lbs. of food are thrown away each week, and in a year Wege cafeteria throws away 40,697 lbs. wasted.

At Weanas don't really think about how lucky we are to have so much food available to us. We forget about the homeless right here in Grand Rapids, who often go hungry. The purpose of Hunger and Homelessness week was to raise awareness of the problem.

Many different events took place during the week to accomplish this purpose. On Monday, Marge Palmere and others from Degage Ministries spoke in the Louit of Room. Students learned about the Food Pantry Co-op which provides food to low income people, at extremely low prices. The Co-op is set up like a grocery store and those who shop there must sign up through Westminster Church and live in the Heartside neighborhood.

At this time there are approximately 130 individuals on the list. The available food, mostly cereals and pastas, comes from Second Harvest Gleaners. It is very rare for the Co-op to receive dairy products or meat.

Other events during the week were a movie night in the CCH, donating the money from Wednesday night dinner to the hungry, and a sleepout at Western Michigan University on Friday night. The sleep out was followed by a Hunger Walk Saturday morning at WMU. Some students volunteered at God's Kitchen both Friday, March 19, and Friday, March 25.

Kacy Miller, freshman, said that "By volunteering at places like God's Kitchen, it reminds us to be thankful for what we have and gives us an awareness that Hunger and Homelessness are very real problems in Grand Rapids."

"Lawsuit" Continued from Page 1

his position is one of the reasons that Gray said he filed the suit. "They are slandering my name and damaging my professional reputation," Gray said. In response to Aquinas' claims that he did not fulfill his duties as Co-Director, Gray said, "I was not paid to be a highly visible counselor...I was paid to be an administrator, and I did that."

Gray attributes recent health prob­lems to the stress he has endured as a result of conflict with Aquinas. Gray has been hospitalized twice since the end of the Monar­ra Program. In December he was hospi­talized for a heart attack, and in February he was hospitalized again for "flu and a severe heart condi­tion." A majority of the money that Gray is suing for is to compens­ate him for medical bills and an­guish suffered.

Gray attributes recent health prob­lems to the stress he has endured as a result of conflict with Aquinas. Gray has been hospitalized twice since the end of the Monar­ra Program. In December he was hospi­talized for a heart attack, and in February he was hospitalized again for "flu and a severe heart condi­tion." A majority of the money that Gray is suing for is to compens­ate him for medical bills and an­guish suffered.

Gray attributes recent health prob­lems to the stress he has endured as a result of conflict with Aquinas. Gray has been hospitalized twice since the end of the Monar­ra Program. In December he was hospi­talized for a heart attack, and in February he was hospitalized again for "flu and a severe heart condi­tion." A majority of the money that Gray is suing for is to compens­ate him for medical bills and an­guish suffered.

Gray attributes recent health prob­lems to the stress he has endured as a result of conflict with Aquinas. Gray has been hospitalized twice since the end of the Monar­ra Program. In December he was hospi­talized for a heart attack, and in February he was hospitalized again for "flu and a severe heart condi­tion." A majority of the money that Gray is suing for is to compens­ate him for medical bills and an­guish suffered.
Proposed Bill Would Impose Mandatory Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients

by Laura Wick
Times Contributing Writer

Governor John Engler has been waiting a long time for mandatory drug testing of welfare recipients, and now Michigan's Republican-controlled Congress is about to pass a bill which will do just that.

The bill, which is still awaiting final approval by the House, will make Michigan the only state to require drug testing in order to receive welfare.

The bill, which still needs some final revamping, includes utilizing three unnamed pilot sites -- one urban, one rural, and one in Wayne County -- where welfare recipients will be given mandatory drug tests. They will be required to pass the test in order to stay on the Family Independence Program, formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The results of the test at these pilot sites will help develop a drug testing standard policy statewide. However, if the results from the pilot sites indicate that very few welfare applicants or recipients use illegal drugs, then the state might back away from the routine testing of all new applicants.

Republicans are optimistic about the bill, which is designed to make Michigan the only state in the nation to cast the lone opposing vote Thursday as the proposal passed the Senate 36 to 1. With the 28th annual Hash Bash on the Diag scheduled to take place next Saturday, the bill cannot affect this year's event because the House of Representatives began a three-week recess yesterday.

Senate Bill 386, sponsored by Sens. Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) and Mike Rogers (R-Howell), would prohibit cases in Michigan from enlisting penalties for marijuana use that are less than what the state mandates.

A legislative loophole currently allows Ann Arbor to be the only city in Michigan to classify marijuana possession as a civil infraction punishable by a $25 fine for a first offense. State law makes it a misdemeanor and attaches up to a $100 fine and 90 days in jail.

Rogers said he expects to see little opposition to the bill. "I think you're going to see as strong of support in the House as you did in the Senate," Rogers said.

Bill Targeting U. Michigan's Hash Bash Passes State Senate

By Nick Bunkley
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
03/26/1999

(MU-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- Calling a state Senate bill that would toughen Ann Arbor's marijuana laws a "sham," Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith (D-Salem Twp.) cast the lone opposing vote Thursday as the proposal passed the Senate 36 to 1.

With the 28th annual Hash Bash on the Diag scheduled to take place next Saturday, the bill cannot affect this year's event because the House of Representatives began a three-week recess yesterday.

"If I thought for a minute that this bill would help to end the use of marijuana ... in Michigan, I would have supported it in a heartbeat," Smith said in a written statement.

Rogers, whose district borders Ann Arbor, said the problems caused by Ann Arbor's marijuana law affect the communities he represents. Rogers said one of his constituents from Brighton testified before a House committee last week that he attended Hash Bash at 13 years old and began selling drugs at the event the following year.

Rogers said he expects to see little opposition to the bill. "I think you're going to see as strong of support in the House as you did in the Senate," Rogers said.

Thinking About Graduate School?

Attend the Inaugural

GVSU Graduate School Fair

March 31, 1999
Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

No appointments necessary! Stop by at your convenience!

Representatives of Graduate Schools and Professional Programs from the following Institutions will be available to share information about their programs:

Andrews University
Ball State University
Central Michigan University
Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Thomas Cooley School of Law
DePaul University School of Law
Eastern Michigan University
Illinois School of Professional Psychology
Indiana State University
Grand Valley State University
John Marshall Law School (Chicago)
Madonna University
Michigan State University
University of Notre Dame
Oakland University
Roosevelt University (Chicago)
Rush University
University of Detroit - Law
University of Michigan
University of Toledo
Valparaiso University
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

For further information contact:

John Zaugr at 895-3266
Paul Stephenson at 895-3081
Neal Rogers at 895-2447

GMAT Preparation

Don't let test anxiety keep you out of grad school.

This four-part course is for the serious graduate school candidate preparing to take the GMAT exam for entry into any graduate program. It includes in-class review and practice, and focuses on question types, exam format, and strategies to enhance test performance.

Home study materials are provided to reinforce skills learned in class.

Dates
Session I: Thursdays, 6-10 pm, April 15, 22, 29, May 6
Session II: Saturdays, 8 am noon, April 17, 24, May 1, 8

Location
Academic Building, Davenport College
415 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids

For more information or to register, call 616-732-1128, or click MBA at www.davenport.edu

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Davenport College
Graduate Programs

Morgan Owen
Robert Sheden
Michigan Legislation Will Amend Campus Crime Reporting

by Dan Austin
The State News (Michigan State U.)
03/26/1999

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. -- The Michigan House passed an amendment Wednesday, March 24, attempting to make campus-crime statistics at Michigan State University more readily available to the general public.

Currently, all public colleges and universities are already ordered to submit similar reports to the federal Department of Justice, but the amendment’s sponsor, Rep. A.T. Frank, D-Saginaw Township, said the reports are not easy enough to obtain.

The legislation amended the state’s Higher Education budget by requiring all Michigan public colleges and universities to provide an annual report of campus-crime statistics to the Michigan Department of Education. The Department of Education would then publish the statistics in a report.

Frank said parents and students have easier access to the statistics, they make better informed choices when it comes time to select a college or university. “I just want to make sure the information the universities are reporting (in regards to crime) are accessible to students and their families,” he said.

However, Frank assured his legislation is not designed to deter students from going to a college, but to try to make the issue of safety into consideration.

Steve Webster, MSU’s vice president for governmental affairs, applauded the amendment and said MSU has always participated in the project.

“It is federal law and we do comply, and we were one of the first to fully comply nationwide,” Webster said.

He said every incoming student gets a copy of MSU’s crime statistics in their admission material. Webster also said that when MSU continually rolls out low crime numbers, it is positive for the university’s image.

On campus, Sr. Weber works part time at Emeritus College and full time in the Development Department. Walking into her Holmdene office, it is not uncommon to find her on the phone talking to either current or potential donors.

So-called “friend raising” and fund raising to pay for Aquinas projects, such as the Jarocki Center and the Circle Theatre project.

“Don’t mind asking for money. I believe in Aquinas College very deeply,” Sr. Weber said.

Sr. Weber and co-recipient Bettye Clark Cannon of Muskegon will be recognized for their contributions to their communities May 25 in the Ambassador’s Room at the Amway Grand Hotel. The Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame induction will also be held at that time.

The Frey Award was created to honor those that serve in the areas of education, philanthropy, religion, social service, arts, sciences and professional areas. Named for the West Michigan Junior Achievement founder, the award is given every two years.

The bill will now go to the Senate and will be discussed after the Legislature returns from its two-week recess.
**Summary:**

This spring, the Aquinas seniors will be sent off into the "real" world to seek out the careers that they have been preparing for during the last four years or more. Will the degrees they earned at Aquinas make them competitive with other graduates?

---

**Point**

Anticipating graduation in a few short weeks has seniors preparing for parties, relaxation and an end to rigorous course work. Excited to take a break from studying, many seniors are looking forward to focusing on Nzo Wrestling instead of a Monday night quad. Or perhaps a majority of Aquinas graduating seniors find themselves in quite a different situation.

Frantically drafting and sending resumes, perusing classified ads and anxiously searching the Internet for leads already has, or will soon, overtake the graduating seniors. The reality quickly sets in that the career world is much more competitive than you thought. So, exactly how marketable is your degree outside of the Aquinas "bubble"?

Although Aquinas is growing and spreading its international influence by implementing overseas programs, the college has a long way to go. "Quick Facts" on the college's public relations Website of the Aquinas "bubble"?

The final and probably most persuasive piece of evidence that Aquinas grads are competitive is the success of the ones we know who have already made it work. I know that I am not alone in being familiar with many individuals who have been accepted into top-rate governmental jobs, prestigious graduate schools, medical schools, law schools—and the list goes on. The key for all of these success stories is that the students were hard-working, motivated and importantly developed, thinking individuals. The fact that they were all these things is a credit to this college. Like them, I'd rather work toward shaping myself, not just getting something impressive to frame. Aquinas creates people, not just degrees.

---

**Counterpoint**

In a competitive global climate, it's simply not sufficient for individual graduates to be competitive. The college must be competitive too.

There are several areas that the college could improve in to make degrees from graduating seniors more marketable both locally and nationally.

The first area is name recognition. In the Grand Rapids area, Aquinas generally has a good name. What if graduates want a position in California, for instance? If employers in California recognize "Aquinas College" as a prestigious liberal arts college with career orientation, graduates would have a considerable edge.

To further increase national name recognition, the college must institute research projects and programs and require faculty to publish academic works.

The second area the college must examine is the Career Services Department. Although the department has contacts listed in the Grand Rapids area, contacts need to be established on a national (and international) level. The department could be more proactive in referring outstanding graduates to various national corporations. Recruiters from national companies need a department that will give them the most current information on graduates so that they can seek out Aquinas graduates. A place to begin would be to place all students' resumes on a national database and continuously updating and monitoring this database.

Right now, an Aquinas graduate's degree is not as marketable as it could be. In a competitive global climate, it's simply not sufficient for individual graduates to be competitive. The college must be competitive too.
"Aquinas College aspires to be the college of choice for increasing numbers of students who seek a diverse, but inclusive, learning community that will enable them to increase their knowledge, hone their competencies, develop their character, and answer God's calling to use their gifts and talents to make a positive difference in our world through their lives, work, and service. Aquinas strives to graduate students of competence, conscience, compassion, and commitment."

Does this sound familiar? It's the vision statement of Aquinas. It is the foundation and basis of this institution. However, in the past couple of years it seems that the student body at Aquinas College has a different vision in mind, "...to use their gifts and talents to make a positive difference in our world through the lives, work, and service of a handful of students, while the rest fade apathetically into the background."

There is an element of strong student leadership at Aquinas. However, it seems that we see the same small group of dedicated students take on these positions again and again. Ironically, the select group of students that do get involved at Aquinas are the target of lectures about student apathy. Any effort to bolster student participation should be aimed at those who aren't putting forth any effort to become active members of the Aquinas community.

Aquinas offers a plethora of opportunities for student involvement to suit a wide variety of interests. On this campus we have roughly 40 established clubs and organizations to participate in. But an alarming epidemic of student apathy threatens to render many of these organizations into a state of token existence.

An obvious example of lack of student involvement was demonstrated at the last Student Senate elections. The three candidates ran unopposed. Another example of student apathy is reflected in the AQ Times View: An Editorial Comment.

"Be heard!"
aqtimes_editor@aquinas.edu
send questions, comments, criticisms, letters to the editor, etc.

The Road

by Heather M. Karal

Your mother always told you good manners were very important—she was never so right. Now, being polite can get you off the hook of suspected drunk driving. I suppose this is good news if you plan to drive drunk, but it's pretty frightening for the rest of us.

Recently, the Michigan state Court of Appeals upheld the ruling that a Michigan man, who was pulled over by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for driving the wrong way on an expressway ramp had the right to repeatedly refuse to submit to a breath alcohol content (Breathalyzer) test or a blood alcohol test. The reason cited for protecting that right is simply that the man was not disrespectful to the police officer and was not interfering with police duty. In other words, his actions were pardoned because he was polite. The biggest problem with this is that the man's 'right to refuse is seemingly not protected by Michigan state law. When Michigan drivers sign their license, they are signing an "implied consent" agreement. The implied consent legislation states that simply having and using the license is an agreement to take a Breathalyzer or blood test if the officer "develops reasonable grounds to believe that the person was operating under the influence of a controlled substance." Then, if a driver's blood alcohol content is over the legal limit, the officer can remove the driver from the vehicle. With the implied consent law in mind, the court's ruling seems very limited. The officer needed reasonable grounds to believe that the Monroe driver was drunk. Simply being a polite drunk doesn't make him safe to have on the roads.

The court's decision sets a dangerous precedent in drunk driving incidents. If a police officer cannot administer a test to determine a person's blood alcohol content, then the officer has no means of determining if the driver is too drunk to driving. It's a scary kind of circular logic: don't make anyone take the Breathalyzer or blood test unless you are certain that they are legally intoxicated and dangerous, but you can't be certain that someone is legally intoxicated and dangerous until you administer a Breathalyzer test or blood test. Is anyone else getting dizzy? The decision is certain to upset the police officers and prosecutors throughout the state who now have to prove that a person is not simply potentially intoxicated, but being disruptive to the legal process in order to insist that a test for blood alcohol content be administered. Some officers even believe that it will be necessary to "invent a brawn" in order to prove that someone is too intoxicated to operate a motor vehicle. In some cases, they may be forced to release people to continue driving while they are under the influence of alcohol and are potentially dangerous to themselves and others while they are behind the wheel.

If one of my friends is injured by a drunk driver, I don't think that I'll take much comfort in knowing that the driver was polite when an officer pulled him over shortly before the accident.

In an article in the Detroit Free Press, the Monroe county Prosecutor said that he expects the appeals court's decision to be appealed. Let's all pray that he's right.

Until then, remember to say 'please' and 'thank you' if an officer asks you for your license and if you've been drinking tonight.
As many students and faculty members on campus poured over text books, papers and homework on a Tuesday evening, a small group of curious individuals locked the Art and Music Center to see Roberta Nobleman’s play depicting the life of the “Spanish Mystic” St. Theresa of Avila.

Nobleman, an English born actress and author, created this play in 1991 for the Carmelite Nuns. She has studied theater both in London, England, and at the Sorbonne in France. Nobleman was the youngest person to direct the Manitoba Theater in Canada at the age of 25. She told the audience that for her “the play was her greatest experience of prayer.” This event was sponsored by Aquinas College’s Women’s Studies Center and endorsed by Mary Clark-Kaiser, Director of Campus Ministry.

The play began with singer Kathryn Christopher singing songs based on scripture and on the women mystics of the church. The songs, such as “Beautitudes” and “Gather Me under Thy Wings,” set the stage for a peaceful environment. When finished, Christopher received praise from the audience and Nobleman explained the purpose of the play.

Mary Clark-Kaiser was happily surprised by the play. “At first I didn’t want to participate, rather just watch the play. But I decided to join in because I love reading aloud and I love the works of St. John of the Cross. It was wonderful, and I wasn’t the least bit disappointed. It was moving and spiritually uplifting.”

Dressed as St. Theresa of Avila, Nobleman asked for audience participation, explaining that, “If we have seven people on stage, I then can describe to you the seven mansions of the soul. A soul is not a little apartment, rather it is a spacious castle and Christ is at the center. Although there are times when we are interrupted by our serpents, things that do not allow us to pray.”

The seven mansions of the soul are the levels of prayer life St. Theresa believed in.

Sophomore Susan Webster thought the play was well done. “It was open to the Holy Spirit. I felt I learned a lot and it wasn’t fast paced. It kept you hooked the entire time. God kept you there,” said Webster.

The participants acted out each mansion with a specific prop. Each mansion, represented by an audience member had its own symbol. For example, at the first level of prayer are the interruptions we must endure in order to pray, and the symbol was a rabbit. The second level is simply where your body goes to pray, symbolized by a donkey. The third level, where most people stay their entire lives, contains the hardships and sins that we wish to be taken away, symbolized by Christ’s Cross. The fourth level is the idea of eternal rest and letting God quench our thirst. At this point in the play, both participants and audience members received a cup of water to drink. The fifth level is the idea of renewal and being born into a happy prayer life, symbolized by a cocoon and butterfly wings. The sixth level is struggle with a prayer recited from the works of St. John of the Cross. The last level, the seventh mansion, is the interior castle, otherwise known as Jesus Christ.

Nobleman not only played St. Theresa, but at certain points of the play it would put on an ornate “Christ Mask” to symbolize Jesus Christ. Sophomore Tim Ryan enjoyed the play. “I thought it was awesome. There was so much peace in the theater, you didn’t have to be ashamed at all to express yourself through prayer.”

The play was intriguing and an interesting way to celebrate the faith life of Christ.
Filmmaker Stanley Kubrick Dies at Age 70

by Elizabeth Dudok
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hollywood, along with the rest of his fans, mourned the death of the compelling director Stanley Kubrick March 7, 1999. Directing such films as "A Clockwork Orange" and "Full Metal Jacket," Kubrick was a mentor to budding filmmakers.

Born in the Bronx in 1928, this young New Yorker would forever change the way the world viewed cinema. With a talent for creating movies that raised awareness and a few eyebrows, Stanley Kubrick made his first movie in 1950. This movie, shot with a used movie camera, was titled "Day of the Fight." The movie was a fifteen-minute sketch of boxer Walter Cartier in his final hours before a boxing match. Kubrick based this fledgling movie on a photograph he took for "Look" magazine.

Kubrick has amazed his audience and critics. Prior to his death, he had been working on a new film called "Eyes Wide Shut." This new movie featured husband and wife mega-stars Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as two psychologists who cheat on one another with their own patients. "Eyes Wide Shut" has been under wraps since its production began in London. According to Newsweek, Kubrick had wanted to make this movie for years. Both Cruise and Kidman are now scheduled to attend the funeral of his death. The film is set to be released in July, with some steamy movie trailers to introduce it to the world.

Making controversial films like "Lolita," the story of an old man's love for a teenage girl, Kubrick gained fame and fans. His movies were cult classics, such as "Dr. Strangelove," where the audience was brunch with the bomb, and "A Clockwork Orange," where the audience was in awe of its brilliance. Kubrick summed up film in this quote: "Before a movie can retain interest as that no other art form can hope to do, it conveys emotions and moods. It has such a magic medium. It has such a power that it can retain interest as it conveys emotions and moods that no other art form can hope to tackle."

First Taste of Talent

by Elizabeth Dudok
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

Son of Adam and acoustic guitarist Rallson Bowles kicked off the "A Taste of Everything: A Sample of Local Music Talent" at the Cook Carriage House on Saturday, March 27.

Bowles opened the set with acoustic melodies, playing both covers and original songs. Between songs, Bowles joked with the audience. Then, Son of Adam made their entrance with their own brand of rock music, including songs from their CD "Our Friend Jessica," which incidentally sold out at the show. Band members, playing songs like "13," "Fuglee" and "Chasing the Wind," had the crowd on their feet and dancing.

The Son of Adam show was part the concert series sponsored by WAQU AM 1500, Community Service and the Student Activities Office. All shows begin at 8 p.m. in the Cook Carriage House. On April 10 Nectar will be playing with Lucy Webster, April 17 will host Amy with Merry Bomm, and April 24 will conclude the series with Wireless Green and Dave Molinar.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle as a Music Industry Theme

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

It seems that the music industry has turned the 1990's into the decade of reducing, reusing and recycling. "New" songs have begun to sound more and more familiar, and for good reason. Musicians have hopped onto the bandwagon of reusing prior hits by sampling and re-mixing other artist's previously recorded material. Rap superstar Sean "Puffy" Combs continues to hit after hit after hit, while reusing other artist's material to create his own. The Offspring's latest single, "Why Don't You Get a Job?" borrows riffs from the Beasties! "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da," while Metallica's "Garage Inc." features covers of other artist's material.

Then the recycling comes into play. There's no doubt that the sugary, bubble-gum pop music of the 80's has surfaced once again, and this time branding new teenage faces. With a sweep of sugar and teenage hormones, New Kids on the Block have been recycled onto the Backstreet Boys, N'Sync and Five. The formula to create a boy-band-teen-age success seems fairly simple:pretty faces + music with a beat + choreographed dance moves = thousands of teen and pre-teen fans. The guys also cook up harmony and lyrical style to add to the magic number of lead crooners. Recycling hasn't been limited to male bands. Debbie Gibson and Tiffany have also been re-created into Britney Spears, and even the Spice Girls. Spears is just the latest teenage sensation to take the too-sweet pop music world by storm. Spears follows the female quintet the Spice Girls into the world of female bubble-gum pop. The Spice Girls, who have lost a member and more than a few fans over the past couple of years, headed the U.S. pop invasion in 1996 with their first single "Wannabe." The Backstreet Boys found U.S. success later, and since then, the teen and pre-teen market has fully embraced the pop music that once reigned in the eighties. The frenzy caused by these new pop bands is evident in any city or country the artists travel to. Throes of teenagers scream, cry and faint as they run to the band members and wave their arms in the air. The whole experience is exhausting but entertaining to watch. However, as the Spice Girls and Britney Spears continue to dominate the music biz, people are left to either enjoy the music or turn to either enjoy the invasion or turn away from it entirely. However, one can bet that these artists are taking the criticism to heart (and all the way to the bank). Eventually, as with all things recycling, the world will tire of something so close to the original. Until then, people are left to either enjoy the invasion or turn away from it entirely. However, one can bet that these artists are taking the criticism to heart (and all the way to the bank).

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle as a Music Industry Theme

Ladies of INTRODUCING

Gentleman Marvelous 3

Hey! Album...

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are: Butch Walker - singer, songwriter, and guitar; Jaye Caffer - bass; Fugg - drums

How you know them (current single): "Freak of the Week"

Where they're from: Atlanta, GA

Lyrics worth repeating: "Every once in awhile, you should scream and let her out into the light. Every once in awhile, you should tell yourself that it's alright." from the song "Indie Queen."

My thoughts on Marvelous 3: Having caught Marvelous 3 live, I can say that they are extremely entertaining to watch. Marvelous 3 played at the Intersection on Friday, March 19, with DeVore Joint and local favorites, Papa Vegas. The guys of Marvelous 3 seemed to be having a blast on stage and interacted well with the mostly-paid-off audience. In a world full of toned-down stage shows and performers who show little emotion, it was refreshing to see Marvelous 3 having fun onstage. Usually after I've seen a band live, hearing a recording of them can transport me back to the show. However, this isn't the case with Marvelous 3. Their stage performance definitely gives them life.

Their first single, "Freak of the Week," sits at a number nine on Billboard's "Modern Rock Chart and continues to dominate radio airwaves. If the tunes they performed live were any indication of what their album stacks up - don't rule out for nothing originality. They do have some highly amusing lyrics, though nothing deep and meaningful. If you love the single, then catch them live. They're definitely worth the ticket price, which is considerably cheaper than the cost of a CD.

Visit Marvelous 3 at http://listen.to/marvelous3
March 31, 1999

Starting Off On the Right Foot

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Contributing Writer

It was a long, sunny day, and at the end of it, the Aquinas College Track team returned home red-faced and smiling. On Saturday, March 27, the first meet of the outdoor season, the team traveled to Indiana for the Huntington College Relay Invitational.

In addition to the long trip, the men’s team went the distance, winning both the 400 and 400 meter relays. The 400m relay team set a new school record with a time of 41.7 seconds. Freshman Ricardo Workman, a member of both relay teams, along with Jason Carver, Adam Jauregui and Rob Hahn, was pleased with their performance.

“We made little mistakes, but overall we did well. With such a strong showing in our first meet, we have a good outlook for the rest of the season and should win conference easily,” Workman said.

The 3200m team also took first place at 8:09. Freshman Lars Petzke said that he felt that while the team’s accomplishments were not to be overlooked, it was too early in the season to declare a winner.

“I don’t see any weaknesses right now. We are a really deep team, which for some teams is a weakness, but for us will be a strength,” Teaker said.

According to Hardin, heart and pride are the main strengths that will lead to team success.

“First through last man, everyone is willing to give 110 percent every time so coach doesn’t have to hesitate about putting anyone in,” Hardin said.

Today, the team plays Rochester at 3 p.m., and on Saturday they travel to Sienna Heights.

Baseball Team Returns from Spring Training with 8-2 Record

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

Coming back from spring break, many Saints were showing off their tans, but the Men’s Baseball team was showing off an 8-2 record and the beginning of what they expect will be a monumental season.

“It is hard to tell how this season will go. The way it is shaping up, if guys keep chipping in, things will be fine,” senior Travis Hardin said.

According to freshman Scott Teaker, the AQ pitching staff helped lead the team to many victories during the spring break pre-season and should help lead the team to success.

“So far we are doing really well,” Teaker said. “If our pitching keeps holding up like it has, we should do well.”

Florida was not only a place to prepare for the season, but also a place to bring the team closer, and according to Hardin, it worked.

“The Florida trip was positive,” he said. “We went down as a team and came back as a family.”

With 13 wins, the team needs only 23 more this season to get Coach Terry Bocian his 1000th coaching career victory. According to Hardin, the team is more than just a family now, and he would like to see the head of the family reach the 1000 mark.

“We want to see him get it,” Hardin said. “Not only as a father figure, but also as a mentor.”

Many of the players feel that the team has no big weaknesses and sees it being a big help in getting 36 wins this season.

“I don’t see any weaknesses right now. We are a really deep team, which for some teams is a weakness, but for us will be a strength,” Teaker said.

According to Hardin, heart and pride are the main strengths that will lead to team success.

“First through last man, everyone is willing to give 110 percent every time so coach doesn’t have to hesitate about putting anyone in,” Hardin said.

Today, the team plays Rochester at 3 p.m. and on Saturday they travel to Sienna Heights.

“A View from the Bench

In Retrospect...

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

“I can’t believe you picked Miami of Ohio.”

Since last issue came out this is the kind of greeting I have been receiving from fellow AQ students as I walk around campus, but after watching the NCAA tournament, I don’t know if I can believe my pick either.

Although basketball is, admittedly, not my favorite sport, I always enjoyed my local paper’s “Pick the winners” contest growing up. I’ve made it a practice to pick underdogs and follow some of what the scouting reports said about each lowly seeded team. This year was no exception.

Many people were on my case from the beginning because I picked Miami of Ohio to win the title. My reasoning was based on the Larry Bird-Wally Szczerbiak comparisons. Most people know how good Larry Bird was in the NBA and how before Jordan, he dominated. Miami of Ohio was a 10 seed, led through the season by their dominating scorer, Szczerbiak. After reading most of the scouting reports, the outlook was the same: Szczerbiak leads his little known school from Ohio to the title. Bird did it in 1979 with Indiana State, his little known school from Indiana.

With this comparison it was hard just to pick Miami. Bird led his team to the championship game, only to lose to Michigan State in that game.

I don’t remember that year, mainly because I was not born yet, but I am pretty sure Bird had some help scoring points from his teammates in making it that far. Not even Michael Jordan scored every point when the Bulls dominated the NBA. So I figured there had to be some other players on Miami that could help out Szczerbiak when he was having an off night or when he was being double- and triple-teamed, but to my surprise there was not.

It was the last Miami game of the season and the first one I was able to watch. I watched the first half as Szczerbiak scored 15 of his team’s 23 points by halftime. Those eight points scored by the rest of the team made up 34.8 percent of the total at halftime. This was right down the alley of the RedHawks’ first game of the tournament when the rest of the team scored 16 of 59 points—accounting for 28 percent of the team.

With Szczerbiak scoring as many points as he did in the first game, percentage wise, I figured either he was having an “on” day, not being covered or the rest of the team was off.

When Miami beat Utah, Szczerbiak kept his scoring down and got help for it with Ensinger scoring 18 points to go with Szczerbiak’s 24. This game led me to believe that maybe there were some other scoring threats on Miami. Boy was I wrong. In their final game, Szczerbiak went in at halftime shooting five of ten, while the rest of the team was a horrible two of 13 with a few free throws to add up to their eight points.

After the putiful first half I was still in denial about how bad Miami really was outside of Szczerbiak, I thought somewhere on the bench there was a player who would ignite the team.

Wrong again. The rest of the game went the same way, Wally made one in two shots. The rest of his team missed nine in ten shots. Now that I know the real Miami, I wish that I could go back and change my pick.

If I could I would be like most normal people and have put the number one seeds, Duke, Connecticut, Michigan State and Auburn near the finals and left off the bad teams like Miami and Gonzaga who by some degree of luck made it to the sweet 16. Gonzaga had a little more luck as they coasted into the elite eight only to be pounded by Connec­cut.

I like underdogs, and I thought Miami was a good one to go with; but not even Jordan could lead the Bulls to a win every game.
The Grand Rapids' Hoops game Saturday, March 20 was well over an hour away, but two teams from Aquinas came to warm the gym up before the CBA took over. And warn it up they did, in a way, sometimes shooting the lights out and other times showing the results of college on the body. For the most part, the display put forth by both the Saints' men and women's intramural champions was an exhibition of great athleticism and grace. At one point in the men's game, a representa­ tive from the Grand Rapids Hoops and the Rockford Lightning, prior to their own games, videoed watch­ ing the event. They too found the game interesting, especially two dunks by former Aquinas College standouts Troy Wilbon, that brought smiles of approval to their faces. The smiles the two enjoyed as Wilbon hung from the rim after dunks by former Aquinas College players, a returning outfielder, a right handed pitcher, returned to the Saints. The junior class consists of two sophomo­ more class that will suit up in Aquinas' women's intramural champions were Julie Salmonson, Danielle Johnson, Mary Fournier, Tracey Smith, Pam Bezruczyk, Holly Wanstead, Andrea Dykgraaf and Tera Terry. Stacey Carthles and Cinalise Kirkwood also played on the team during the regular season but were not present at Van Andel Arena. GVSU's women proved to be a very good match for the Saints. The game went back and forth between the two teams the entire time, with Aquinas' women managing to hold this scor­ ing lead throughout the first and second half, fending off the Lakers until the waning moments of the second half. With five minutes left on the clock, Grand Valley State got the score within the two teams the entire time, with Aquinas' women managing to hold this scor­ ing lead throughout the first and second half, fending off the Lakers until the waning moments of the second half. Multilosophers Lead Aquinas Into 1999 Softball Season by Jason Vogel Times Contributing Writer

The Aquinas College Lady Saints' Softball team does not understand the concept of vacation. While the rest of the campus was away for their spring breaks enjoying some rest and relaxation, the Lady Saints headed south for a week, kicking off their 1999 campaign in Florida. Maybe it wasn't all work down south, however, as their record during the week, 7-5 re-emphasizes that hard work came first while touring the Sunshine State. This performance was a good indicator of the success to come for Aquinas in the upcoming season. Last year's team, which graduated five seniors, finished with a 27-21 record overall, including an 18-6 record in the Wolverine Hoo­ sie Athletic Conference. Future Lady Saints will look for leadership from a sensational sophomore class that returns seven women who, as fresh­ man, contributed greatly to the Saints' cause. Coach Ray Sheeler gave his outlook for the season. "We are looking to move up one more notch this year. Last year we took second place in the WHAC conference," he said.

Nicole VanGeest, a senior out­ fielder from Hudsonville, batted .288 last season while stilling all 46 games she appeared in for AQ. She earned special praise from Coach Sheeler. "We have one senior this season, but a senior who is an outstanding center fielder," he said. "The senior class, it was a very strong class of two players, a returning outfielder, Autumn Haskins, as well as transfer student Look Overholser, who is ex­ pected to play first base."

The real story for the Saints should prove to be the sensational sopho­ more class that will suit up in Aquinas red coming this year. Leading the way for the sophomores is Lyndsay Szczpanek, a returning third baseman from the 1998 sea­ son who led the Saints in every hitting category last season with her exception of plate appearances. Szczpanek started 46 games, had a .355 batting average, including team leading runs in 30s (39), hits (49), doubles (10), triples (4), home runs (3), RBIs (26) and steals (14). Szczpanek is not the type of person who wastes time. Coming home from the Florida games, she has already scored three home runs to get the season underway.

Kristen Jones also looks promising for this season as she looks to hold down a starting position at second base. Jones, who batted .323 last year, started 37 games for the Saints and was second in on-base percentage at .376. Jones is very optimistic about the future for herself and her team­ mates. "We have a very strong sophomore class and numerous freshman who look very good," she said. "The future looks very bright for Aquinas softball." Sarah Hamilton will also return this season after a freshman season that included a .299 batting aver­ age in 47 starts and a team leading .986 fielding percentage. Hamilton has been quick in showing her power, homering twice while down south. Finishing out the returning infielders, Renee Bolitho, a utility player last season will look to start at shortstop this year after starting 39 games for the Saints. The catcher position finds yet another sophomore with a name that may be familiar to the Aquinas sports fanatics, Ronda Bolitho, who doubles as a starter on the women's basketball team. Bolitho returns with the most experience at the plate with 150 at bats in her 4-5 games that she started last season. Her plate experience paid off as she recorded a .287 batting aver­ age in 1998, with 43 hits which placed her second among this year's returners.

Pitching should also be a bright spot for this year's Lady Saints. Sophomores Crystal Lubbers and Mary Saposkevsky come in this sea­ son with excellent experience. Lub­ bers, a right handed pitcher, re­ corded an 11-8 record last season, and also led the Saints with a 1.86 earned run average including a team leading 61 strikeout. Lubbers took her consistency to Florida where she compiled a 5-2 record her first seven starts of the year. Saposkevsky, a left-hander, returns to the Saints with a 6-3 record from 1998 and a 2.46 earned run average.

Two freshman who are reported as having good springs are Katie Madsen and Lisa Ringenburg. Both girls are looking to spend some time in the outfield. The Lady Saints played the season's first games in Michigan at a round robin tournament at Alma College on March 26-27. On Fri­ day they won 8-0 against St. Francis of Indiana and 9-1 against Lake Super­ inate State, but lost 2-6 against Alma. Saturday's games also were a mix of victory and defeat with a 3-2 win over Lake Superior State and a 0-6 loss to Alma. The Lady Saints travel to Ma­ donna University this Friday for their next game of the season.
Bittersweet Ending to an Industry Original & a Bygone Era

by Chris Manning
Times Features Editor

Signs of the changing times aren’t always the buildings seen popping up along the highway or the return of bell-bottom pants. Sometimes our nation wakes up and an institution that gave its best to a bygone era is being caught in the homogenization of corporate America.

Big business took another bite out of America’s creative spirs in January when a music industry artistic haven, A & M Records, merged into the PolyGram music label which is part of the Seagram’s Universal Music empire.

While the label will continue in name, there is concern among the artists. They fear the pioneering, open-minded approach of founders Herb Alpert (himself a musician) and Jerry Moss will be lost to pressure for big profits by the larger corporation. The list of artists includes Sting, Sheryl Crow, Eric Clapton, Chris Cornell (formerly of Soundgarden), Abba, Cat Stevens, Squeeze, the Beasties, Blues Traveler, Cream, Amy Grant, The Carpenters and James Brown.

Universal Music acquired seven labels, Interscope, Geffen and A & M along with Island, Mercury, Warner Bros. and Atlantic. These labels were pivotal in launching the alternative rock movement in the early ‘90s with such groups as Nirvana, Counting Crows and the Cranberries who gave U2, John Mellencamp, R.E.M., Beck and numerous other artists the chance to record their unique sounds. The concern of the artists is that the opportunities that established them in the music industry won’t be available for the next generation of music artists.

From the location, a set of bungalows used by Charlie Chaplin in the 1920’s, to the persistence placed behind selling Sheryl Crow’s first album, A & M was an artist’s label. The label, which enjoyed considerable success in the ‘90s and early ‘80s, seems to have outlived the flying span of time when rock ’n roll was young and relatively untainted.

Sheryl Crow is one of the many artists who will come under the PolyGram music label after the recent merger with A & M Records.

"That whole era is missed in the record business," said Moss in a January interview with Rolling Stone Magazine. "There was openness and fairness and a sense of family. You went to all the gigs, and you barbecued with the artists and hung out. It was a whole lot of fun. Basically, the difference in running a company in those days was surviving — the fact that we did have to get real jobs was the driving force."

Most prevalent among those working for and recording with A & M Records is the sense that too much will be lost in the transition. While artists like Sheryl Crow and Sting will most likely find new homes in the record industry, talent waiting for its chance in all seven companies may not be picked up by another company. Among the new A & M names are Dishwalla, God Lives Underwater, Patty Griffin, the Dap Kins and Public Announcement who may or may not be able to find a label willing to take a chance on them.

The artists aren’t the only ones that could end up on the street after the merger. As Universal consolidated the labels, they also took the opportunity to downsize and, in the process, cut out 500 jobs between the seven labels.

Moss, always concerned with the music, said of today’s music industry, "The music then was saying something, and the country was in a different grip — there was more awareness and appreciation for music than today. In those days you took your time, wanted it to be perfect." But while former owners seem optimistic about the future of A & M Records as part of the conglomerate, the rest are skeptical about the label’s future.

Most employees feel past artists will remain part of its rich history, they also fear the A & M future will be very different from its glorious past.

Even Moss, whose new project, Alamo Records, is distributed by Interscope Records, can’t help but point out the impersonal nature of big companies like Universal re-marking, "When you have a convergence of labels like this, there are less opportunities for artists like this, there are less opportunities for artists like this, there are less opportunities for artists like this, there are less opportunities for artists like this, there are less opportunities..."