Learning About Leadership

by Janelle Burden
Times Contributing Writer

Is your career goal to become a servant leader? Aquinas is now offering a program of study that will allow the achievement of that dream. For those who are not familiar with the term “servant leader,” the concept describes people who lead a community, company, or other organization by working within its target community rather than above it.

Aquinas is preparing to cultivate such leaders through its new Community Leadership Program. Community Leadership is an interdisciplinary major created for students who want to be effective servant leaders. The goals of the program include providing perspectives on leadership and community, developing student organizational skills and creating a sense of civic responsibility through service.

The concept of the Community Leadership program stemmed from the recognition that a significant number of people working in social justice, non-profit organizations, and the government are people who lead in the role of servant leaders.

The program is modeled after the Community Leadership Program of the University of Michigan, have already denounced the economic sanctions against Iraq. SAC encourages students to attend the 21 Aquinas Community Senate meeting to show their support for the measure.

Student Information Session Lacks Attendance, Not Info

by Angela Bergman
Times Campani News Editor

The average Aquinas student wouldn’t be able to name the long distance rates the college charges, the cost to hook up to the Internet from the newly renovated dorms next year or describe the plans for a new field house. The purpose of the Student Information Session on March 31 at 12:30 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom was to inform students of these very issues. Unfortunately, the event was not well attended by the students it was intended to serve. The session was organized by Dave Misirliu, Student Affairs and Public Relations Chair of the Student Senate.

Maureen Maher, Director of the Aquinas Telephone Services Department, Joyce LaFleur from Information Technology Services (ITS) and Bill Shefferly, Vice President for Operations and Finance were the available sources of this new information. Maher explained that the AQ Tel long distance rates were that of AT&T: weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 26 cents per minute, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. at 18 cents per minute and 11 p.m. - 8 a.m. and weekends (Friday 5 p.m.- Sunday 5 p.m.) at 14 cents per minute.

Students opting to choose their own long-distance carrier should obtain the carrier’s 1-800 number. Maher warned against selecting outside carriers citing the various “hidden charges” these companies impose.

The telephone services that Aquinas provides, according to Maher, involve no connectivity charge, no fee for voice mail, no additional fees for new equipment, free maintenance and call forwarding for R.A.s.

LaFleur gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the initiatives of the Technology Council, technology priorities and 1999 projects. The newly renovated residence halls will be wired so that students can hook up to the Internet from their dorm rooms via RenNet. The college is negotiating a contract with Compaq to provide support for the project. It is forecasted that Compaq will charge a standard $100 fee to individual students for a Network Interface Card and approximately another $50 in labor to assure a safe connection to the Internet.

Next year, students will not have access to their Aquinas e-mail accounts in individual rooms. There will be mini-labs within the halls and Aquinas should have a web-based e-mail system by the second year of the project, LaFleur explained. Shefferly highlighted the Master Plan and Construction Projects. This fall, he expects the $6 million Jarecki Center completed, the $3.3 million apartment project finished and renovation of Regina Hall to include two elevators, new furnishings and Internet wires ready for use.

The seemingly endless parking dilemma should be alleviated somewhat by the expansion of parking lots in East Area where Burftirnd Hall and the Bridge’s house stand. Shefferly said. Hruby and Mayfield lots will be temporarily paved. The administration projects that parking complaints will be in place - possibly in the

Praying for Peace in Iraq

by Mindy Smith
Times Contributing Writer

Some say that the power of prayer can make a difference. On Wednesday, March 31, a group of students gathered outside Wege Student Center to pray for the end of the economic sanctions on Iraq.

Social Action Committee (SAC) member Jennifer Perry began the vigil by reading some poems written by the oppressed people of Iraq. Following this, all in attendance took turns reading facts about the situation in Iraq and a new creation story. Martha Girard, sophomore, said “In praying and listening to the Iraqi feelings, I feel that I become more aware. It is vital for us to be aware and work from there spiritually and politically.”

The purpose of the vigil, which was sponsored by SAC and the Women’s Studies Center, was to show support for the innocent Iraqi people who are being effected by the economic sanctions. Opponents of the sanctions say that the situation is not well known because the silent victims are not represented by the U.S. media. Since the sanctions have been acknowledged by the U.S. government as causing more harm than good, SAC is trying to educate the Aquinas community about the seriousness of the situation.

SAC attended the Aquinas Senate meeting on April 7 and will attend the April 21 meeting to ask Senate to pass a resolution condemning the sanctions. The resolution stated that the sanctions have “demonized citizens of a food-deprived, water-starved, and in many cases, the government’s people.”

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services do not have adequate business skills, while others in the business field need to develop their social skills. This major will allow students to develop both business and social skills through a variety of courses, including a strong emphasis on field involvement. Program Advisor Mike Williams notes that, "This is a unique program because of the truly interdisciplinary nature."

Although there is a core program of community leadership, other courses within the major come from departments as varied as economics, political science, psychology and theology.

Clement Chiwaya, the first appointed Community Leadership major at Aquinas, hopes that the program will allow him to develop his organizational skills as he prepares to be an advocate for the disabled. Williams points out that this major is directed at students who are looking to serve in the non-profit business sector or local government. However, he recognized that the skills developed will be applicable in careers ranging from management to religious vocations and will serve as valuable preparation for those seeking graduate studies in public administration, social services.

In essence, the program will "watch students be leaders in whatever setting they find themselves in," Williams said.

Williams expressed a great deal of excitement regarding this fresh major and the new opportunity for the Aquinas community. One of the strongest elements of the program is its service field component.

He said that the Community Leadership major "takes all of the service opportunities that Aquinas offers and gives them an academic face."

Through focused coursework, students will not only serve their communities, but will partake in the essential process of reflection that turns service into service learning.

The base course of this program, Introduction to Community Leadership, will be taught by Williams and George Heartwell. Heartwell currently serves as an assistant commissioner and pastoral director at Heartside Ministries. Both bring with them years of experience as servant leaders in their communities.

Students interested in learning more about their potential as a servant leader can sign up for CL 100, an essential process of reflection that students will not only serve their community for the Aquinas community.

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The eight students and two sponsors of the Haiti group ran into a few obstacles. Their original plan was to hold the car wash at the Wal-Mart on 28th street, just east of I-96. The donations received would help offset the cost of the students attending, and would provide additional funds to donate to the Haitian people.

While organizing the car wash, the Haiti group ran into a few obstacles. Their original plan was to hold the car wash at the Walmart on 28th street, just east of I-96. The donations received would help offset the cost of the students attending, and would provide additional funds to donate to the Haitian people.

When April 10 arrived Flak had raised over $100 toward his trip to Haiti, and was committed to dressing as a woman for the day.

"We need to be intentional about being diverse, it doesn't just happen," Robbins said.

In other words, this process means both recruiting a diverse student body and making Aquinas a welcoming environment for diversity. In addition, the Woodrick Institute will work with the Aquinas students to prepare them to work in a diverse environment, while encouraging the Grand Rapids community to become more diverse. Robbins is disturbed by the fact that companies are not reflective of ethnic population statistics, especially at the management level. The institute faces the difficult task of combating racism and promoting equality as it addresses the changing realities of the workplace.

The office of the Woodrick Institute will become apparent as the program continues to develop. Robbins hopes to see an increased level of participation in cultural activities, especially those meant to combat racism, such as the Healing Racism Institutes. He hopes that Aquinas will become an environment that embraces diversity and prepares its students to work and live in a changing world.

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RA's, Program Houses, and Ireland Announcements for 1999-2000

As the end of the semester approaches, students are finalizing plans for next year. Where are they going to live? What classes are they going to take? What activities are they going to be a part of? Here are a few groups of people who have special plans for the 1999-2000 academic year.

1999-2000 Residence Life Staff

Resident Assistants
Rick Mills
Mykola Bartikw
Amanda Micetic
Sarah Champagne
Brian Meassee
Lisa Forner
Meghan Mooney
Dana Fioretti
Monique Nadon
Jen Galletly
Wade O'Boyle
Renee Garby
Mark Flinman
Lauren Ivory
Mandy Schneider
Stephanie Izodziki
Kien Tran
Cheryl Kaszprzyk
Greg Vaughns
Ann Leen
Josh Mardeveld
Apartmant Managers
Heidi Marks
Lanae Gill
Aubrey Marunowski
Xavier Jaramillo
Erin Miller
Tim Stafford
Lanae Gill
Heidi Marks
Nathan Cheek
Aubrey Marunowski
Xavier Jaramillo
Erin Miller
Tim Stafford

Program House Results

1999-2000 Residental Service Volunteer Programs
Project Andy: Dominican Delta
Project Play: Knape
AQ Image (Female): Dominican Beta
SAVE: Mueller
AQ Image (Male): Dominican Alpha
AURA: Dominican Gamma
Habitat for Humanity (block program): Woodcock

Ireland Program Participants
Mary App
Amy Holdwick
Michelle Barnes
Terry Kallie
Merna Boelum
Dawn McWilliams
Kevin Cook
Sarah Ricks
Kacey Corcoran
Aaron Riley
Elizabeth Dadek
Timothy Ryan
Katalin Enders
Lauren Treitzler
Damar Flores
Ahn Lin Tran
Julie Fiedrick
Ryan Vansverick
Kaze Girard
Susan Webster
Beth Goyette
Ryan Westvield
Catherine Gross
Sara Wojtkowiak
Cheryl Harpeanu

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form of stickers that are location specific.

The 30,000 square foot multiple-story Circle Theater will also be a new addition to the campus. The college has hired an architect and is speculating three different locations near Albemarle, in the ravine off of Fulton or by the Carriage House. The project is estimated at $5 million.

Plans for a new Student Recreational Center are underway—though with no swimming pool.

Shelford stated that eventually the softball field will be moved to a city park, Hillcrest or Wilcos. Even the roadways and main entrance will take a new form. The entire project is estimated at around $15 million.

Although a substantial amount of information related directly to student and the campus was provided, fewer than 20 students attended the information session, and most of those were members of the Aquinas Community Senate.

Date Rape

Date Rape. The subject has just begun to surface in the past few years, but many people remain uneducated. What exactly is "date rape"? Loosely defined, date rape is any unwanted sexual advance by an acquaintance or even a friend. The statistics overwhelmingly warn that no one is immune to the violence of rape—including the students at Aquinas. It's too easy, especially to college, to fall into a potential date rape situation.

Sexual Assault Awareness month is intended to educate everyone—mainly young women—on how they can protect themselves from the hazards of date rape. In addition to preventive measures, awareness also included the fight for tougher laws and counseling for those who have experienced date rape.

Penny Avery, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts, is writing her dissertation on the subject of date rape. At the Aquinas Lecture Series on April 6 at 12:30 p.m., Avery highlighted some significant findings from her extensive research in her talk entitled "Date Rape and Compliance-Gaining Goals and Messages from the Female Victim's Perspective."

According to a survey of Michigan State women, 56 out of 100 had experienced unwanted sexual experiences—17 of those reported actual, forced intercourse. The stories Avery shared were horrifying.

The research presented by Avery showed that most instances of sexual assault occur in the contexts of alcohol, loud music, private dwellings, parties and generally at the beginning of the academic year. Victims of sexual assault commonly react with self-blame and a lack of trust in future relationships. Most victims and assailants are between 14-24 years of age, Avery said.

The focus of Avery's research is on the communication in attempting to stop unwanted sexual advances. To illustrate this point, she highlighted five areas that we analyze to make decisions about what to do in a situation where assertiveness is constrained. Identity goals (the personal values one holds), interaction goals of whether to embarrass the other person, relational goals, personal safety goals and arousal management goals (such as how to deal with perceived anxiety)—are all constraints when acting assertively.

Although Avery's study focused only on women victims, she said that one of ten men report being victims of heterosexual rape.

Men, women, college students and children rallied in support of Sexual Assault Awareness at the annual "Take Back the Night" 5k run/walk fundraiser on Friday April 9. The event was held at the YWCA on Sheldon Street downtown Grand Rapids, an organization whose mission is "To empower women, eliminate racism and advocate for equality."

Pati Haist, Director of the YWCA Sexual Assault Program, said that she hoped the event would raise about $9,000, all of which will directly benefit the Sexual Assault Program "Take Back the Night".

"Self-defense is intended to educate everyone—mainly young women—on how they can protect themselves from the hazards of date rape."

A sexual assault survivor drew a standing ovation from a very touched audience when she presented her account of date rape at 22 years old. She explained the mental, emotional and spiritual trauma of the experience and the effects of low self-esteem and mistrust of men. She said that she was currently in the healing process and was learning to forgive.

Programming Board and Community Senate, along with additional funding from President Knopke, have sponsored Katie Koester to speak on April 14 at 7 p.m. in Wege Ballroom. Koester was a victim of date rape and will share ways in which to prevent becoming a victim of date rape.

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State Senators in Lansing are considering a bill that would reverse the way Michigan residents change their address for the purposes of driver's license and voter registration. Senate Bill 306 was introduced into the State Senate on February 16, 1999, by several senators, among them Grand Rapids State Senator Glenn Stahl.

The bill reads: "If the person's residence address (on their driver's license) differs from the person's residence address on the qualified voter file established, the Secretary of State will change the person's residence address on the qualified voter file."

The plan will reduce a step in the process for changing legal residence and voter registration that is currently in place. Now, if a person moves before his or her driver's license expires, the person must return the license to the local examining board or the Department of State, which is required to write the new address on the back of the license. The new law would allow the person's voter registration to be automatically updated to the district that corresponds with the new address.

The process would also work in reverse under the new law. If a person changed his or her voter registration address, the new system would automatically initiate the process to update the driver's license as well.

Much of the law deals with new driver's license regulations and penalties. However, some Michigan residents believe that the new address regulations will have serious repercussions for people who have different current and permanent residences, like college students. They fear that students will no longer be able to vote in their home districts while living at college.

A controversial point of the bill is its definition of "residence" used in section 11 of the 1954 Michigan Election Law. According to this definition, a residence is any place where, "a person habitually sleeps, keeps or his or her personal effects, and has a regular place of lodging." Under this definition, many college students, who live in a college dormitory away from home, would be required to change their legal addresses on both their driver's license and on their voter registration card.

"The reason for the for using this definition of residence was that the prior definition was very loose. Laws would refer to residence without defining it. This bill helps to define it," said Bill Nowling, Press Secretary for State Senator Mike Rogers, who authored the bill.

This bill makes it a crime to vote at a nonexistent address or use another person's driver license. This bill will limit a student's choice in voting, now many students still have legal residences at their home, but register at college. Now they won't have that option unless they change their legal address to their college address," said Laurie Noall, President of Aquinas College Democratic group, that has been a basic premise to stop the passage of this bill.

However, the Secretary of State's office doesn't use the aim of the bill effecting college students' voting rights at all. Rather, the bill's intent is to simplify the Qualified Voter File (QVF) system, to make sure that each person is voting at only one address.

"College students will have the option to have their home address of their school address to be their legal address. The state does not intend to enforce where the legal residence is, simply that each person has one only," said Elizabeth Boyd, Assistant for the Secretary of State's office.

According to the office of Mike Rodgers, the intent of the bill was not one aimed at limiting people's ability to vote, but the bill was one to make the change of address process easier, while updating the current QVF, which is a database, designed to keep accurate information on registered voters.

"The original intent of the Qualified Voter File plan is to provide a current and up-to-date database of registered voters," said Nowling.

"The bill will not affect absence ballot voting, which many students participate in. Some see the QVF as serving as a catalyst for enhancing and efficient absentee voting, because the file of a single address will allow for ballots to be sent out more efficiently. In addition, many in government see the new processes as springboard in utilizing technology."

Eventually people may be able to vote by mail, Oregon already has such a system, and several other states are considering it, but before something like that can take effect, there needs to be an accurate legal addresses in place," said Nowling.

Although the bill passed the State Senate in 1998, it was never passed by the State House. Currently the revisited bill has been referred to the Transportation Committee of the State House of Representatives for revision. A vote is expected on the bill sometime later this year, and, if passed, the bill will take effect on October 1, 1999.

### Day of Silence Builds Awareness of Gay and Lesbian Rights at U. Michigan

by Jennifer Sterling
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
04/08/1999

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- A gay activist living at the University of Michigan wrote a powerful message Wednesday, leaving on a message board encircled by gay pride stickers. Despite the fact that her stickers had been torn down before, her message read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. I believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations." The Day of Silence Project draws attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What can you do to end the silence?"

LSA sophomore Naomi Baum copied the quotation off of a yellow card she carried with her yesterday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., along with several other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender organizers, students and supporters.

Participants remained silent and wore black clothing during the day, handing out the yellow cards to explain their silence. At 5 p.m., only about five participants gathered on the Diag to break the silence together.

At this time participants intended to make as much noise as possible for a full minute but due to a low turnout, an informal gathering took place instead.

LGBT Commission chair O'Neill Xiante said in a written statement, "We're looking for a lot of people to do something simple for us: keep our mouths shut. April 7 is the Day of Silence, a day where we're saying our silence about the voices you are not hearing today. What can you do to end the silence?"

"It's so ironic that I was being silent on the day that was commemorating other people being silenced," said Baum. "Every time they alter something of mine—two more stickers are coming up! I won't be stopped by that!"

### Senate Bill Aims to Improve Voter Records

Some fear it may limit rights of college voters

by Joshua D. Cochran
Times Local/National Editor

State Senators in Lansing are considering a bill that would reverse the way Michigan residents change their address for the purposes of driver's license and voter registration. Senate Bill 306 was introduced into the State Senate on February 16, 1999, by several senators, among them Grand Rapids State Senator Glenn Stahl.

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The plan will reduce a step in the process for changing legal residence and voter registration that is currently in place. Now, if a person moves before his or her driver's license expires, the person must return the license to the local examining board or the Department of State, which is required to write the new address on the back of the license. The new law would allow the person's voter registration to be automatically updated to the district that corresponds with the new address.

The process would also work in reverse under the new law. If a person changed his or her voter registration address, the new system would automatically initiate the process to update the driver's license as well.

Much of the law deals with new driver's license regulations and penalties. However, some Michigan residents believe that the new address regulations will have serious repercussions for people who have different current and permanent residences, like college students. They fear that students will no longer be able to vote in their home districts while living at college.

A controversial point of the bill is its definition of "residence" used in section 11 of the 1954 Michigan Election Law. According to this definition, a residence is any place where, "a person habitually sleeps, keeps or his or her personal effects, and has a regular place of lodging." Under this definition, many college students, who live in a college dormitory away from home, would be required to change their legal addresses on both their driver's license and on their voter registration card.

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"The National Day of Silence is a day to show the world how silent our world really is without the input of LGBT people and their allies, not only in aspects of sexual identity, but in our daily lives," according to the event's website.

Baum thought the silence was successful, "My silence was a protest in class," she said.

When Baum returned to her residence hall room later, she found a big, black "X" across the quotation on her message board.

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Ann Arbor City Council Challenges U.N. Sanctions

by Yael Kohen
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
04/07/1999

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The City Council voted unanimously last night to support a resolution "Commending Bishop Tho­mas Gambline's Challenge to the Sanction on Iraq." The resolution salutes the humanitarian efforts of Gambline, who worked directly with the people of Iraq after the United Nations-imposed sanctions were implemented.

The council plans to send letters of its approval of the resolution to federal representatives, senators and the president.

Several organizations, including the Middle East Task Force of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and Prevent, brought atten­tion to the issue of Iraqi sanctions.

"This is the first of several pos­sible requests we'll make to the city council," said Ann Arbor resi­dent Bill Thomson.

The resolution is based on a simi­lar resolution passed by the Detroit City Council.

"I think it's a very complex prob­lem... but it's an issue of the heart," Ann Arbor Mayor Ingrid Sheldon said.

Ann Arbor residents are not the only community members work­ing to end Iraqi sanctions. In Feb­ruary, the Michigan Student As­sembly passed a resolution in sup­port of ending the sanctions.

"When I spoke to them (City Council members) they were re­ceptive" to the fact that MSA had passed a similar resolution and they know they have the support of the University community, said Business junior William Youmans, an MSA representative and activist working to end the sanctions.

Residents of Ann Arbor said they feel the situation deserves local, as well as international, attention.

"I think this is a city issue," Ann Arbor resident Elizabeth Barlow said, adding that while she does not support sanctions, her tax dollars are still going to the defense budget for this purpose.

Philosophy Prof. Eric Lormand said he also opposes the sanctions.

"Our income taxes go to the mili­tary," Lormand said. "My rights are being violated as a resident of Ann Arbor."

This is a democracy and "citizens at the local level need to speak up on issues of national policy," said council member Tobi Hanna-Davies, also a member of the Inter­faith Council.

Several city council members who spoke in support of the resolution referred back to a visit by former UN assistant secretary general Dennis Halliday, who served as chief UN relief coordinator for Iraq. Halliday came to the University last month to speak about the sanctions. Halliday said then that he resigned in protest of the Iraqi sanctions, explaining they are immoral and are destroying people.

Hanna-Davies said that Halliday's resignation is a strong statement against the sanctions. Hanna-Davies said that Halliday made recommen­dations that "would be a much more sane and more humane way" to deal with Iraq.

Council member Chris Kolb said he was voting to pass the resolution on a personal note. Kolb, who has friends in Ann Arbor with family in Iraq, said that during the Gulf War he saw the pain his friends had to suffer through.

Now that local groups were suc­cessful in getting their resolution passed, they will be working to fur­ther their campaign. Organizations will be "trying to build grass roots support among religious, medical, veteran and educational community to support the overall campaign against the sanctions," Thomson said.

Attempts to Release U.S. Soldiers Continues

The acting speaker of Parliament of Cyprins, Spyros Kypranou, blamed the continuing NATO airstrikes for a failed attempt in bringing U.S soldiers being held as prisoners of war in Yugoslavia home. Kypranou flew to Belgrade to arrange for the release of the U.S. soldiers to Cyprus. Kypranou met this past weekend with Yugoslav officials to no avail.

Report on Kyprianou's mission was leaked. Staff Sgt. Andrew Ramirez, Spec. Steven M. Gonzalez, and Staff Sgk. Christopher J. Stone were captured March 31, near the Yugoslav-Macedonian border.

Churches Close Over Sectarian Dispute

Uprotted Christians closed churches in Nazareth, Israel on April 6 to protest assaults against themselves. Some individuals patrolled streets armed with clubs in response to weekend disagreement with Muslims. Sectarian violence has broken out in Nazareth, where the town of 42,000 Muslims and 18,000 Christians it still riddled with fear and suspicion. Tourists visiting Nazareth's major attraction, the Basilica of the Annunciation, were disappointed to find the gates locked along with a notice posted on the doors explaining the closure. At the center of the problem is the half-acre plot next to the Church of the Annunciation. The Christian mayor, Ramez Jerasti, wants to build a plaza for millennium pilgrims there. Muslims are demanding a large mosque be built on the site.

Reports Question Validity of On-line Classes

Hundreds of universities are launching courses online, but two reports question whether a seat in front of a computer is as good as a seat in a college classroom. The reports' complaints range from whether the programs' effectiveness is evaluated properly to whether they cost too much or are unfair to certain students. The College Board warned that Internet courses could hinder the progress of poor and minority students who arrive at college with less exposure to computers than white or more affluent students. A second report, by the Institute for Higher Education Policy, says colleges still lack enough knowledge about Internet learning to justify its rapid growth. There are 26,000 courses online, and about 750,000 students to take them.

U.S. Plans to Airlift Refugees Out of Kosovo

When refugees from fighting and genocide in Kosovo end up in the confines of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, they will be following the paths of the two other refugee groups housed there this decade. The White House said that an airlift of up to 20,000 refugees from the Serbian province will begin shortly, and the Pentagon continued preparations to move the refugees and house them at the base. The United States previously opened the gates of the base to tens of thousands of refugees from political and economic turmoil in Haiti and Cuba. These previous experiences offered lessons for the United States. Whereas most of the 17,000 Haitians housed there between 1991 and 1994 went home when conditions were safe, nearly all of the 34,000 Cubans housed there in 1994-95 ended up in the United States.

Governments Discuss U.S.-China Relations

President Zhu Rongji of China began a nine-day United States tour with remarks on the spyng and trade issues that have hindered Chinese-American relations. The premier, China's number three leader, noted U.S. concerns about this country's $60 billion-a-year trade deficit with China. Zhu met with President Clinton on April 8, discussing topics such as the trade deficit, admission to the World Trade Organization, human rights and Chinese opposition to the bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

classifieds

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Should America Support Airstrikes in Kosovo?

**Point**

by Angela Bergman  
Times Campus News Editor

Even the most ardent Clinton adversaries won't directly oppose the administration's decision to use military force against Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic. Since the military was already deployed by our commander in chief, everyone feels that this support and rally behind the actions of this administration. There is a serious problem with this scenario in a nation as powerful and democratic as the United States. Immediately, the issue at stake is that U.S. and N.A.T.O. involvement in Kosovo must cease. Furthermore, the unbridled power of the President in the area of foreign policy is quickly approaching that of a dictatorship.

Diplomacy has failed to solve the conflict between Serbian nationalists and Albanian nationalists in Yugoslavia's province of Kosovo. Both ethnic groups stake claim to this land. The Kosovo Liberation Army, KLA, has signed a peace treaty which largely benefits them. The Serbs refused to sign, so our administration and N.A.T.O. bombed them.

The justification for this military action is to make Kosovo an autonomous nation, to end ethnic oppression and to protect U.S. and N.A.T.O. allies from the threat of aggression. None of these reasons warrant our intervention in Kosovo. The Clinton administration has convinced our troops to Somalia, bombed Bosnia, occupied Haiti and attacked Iraq. And now there is Kosovo.

The Constitution allows the commander in chief the responsibility of being the highest military authority in the nation. However, Article I Section 8 gives the Congress the ability to declare "war." War is only declared when vital U.S. interests and security are at stake. Though the United States is not formally at "war" with Serbia, 450,000 American and N.A.T.O. aircraft are committed to bombing Yugoslavia. We have committed between 6,000 and 8,000 troops to Albania to provide aid to refugees. Ground troops may be deployed and American lives are at stake. We are at war ... and the majority of the country still isn't sure how we got there.

The President cannot continue making arbitrary, dictatorial decisions about when U.S. military intervention is justified. Authentic support from the representatives in Congress must be demonstrated before the chief executive takes action. The American people must know why they or their children are called to serve the American interest overseas. Assuming that the Kosovo conflict doesn't spark World War III, what's safer for Serbia? In the present situation, anything the Clinton Administration deems justified for U.S. military action.

**Counterpoint**

by Heather Young  
Times Assistant Editor

Remember the lessons you learned when you did your first service learning trip? You felt the urgency of need in the world. You knew that the help you did provide was only a drop in the bucket—but it was needed. N.A.T.O. and U.S. intervention in Kosovo is a response to that world need, and finally for humanitarian reasons—not economic or political ones.

We've all seen video clips and photos in magazines and papers filled with the tears of burning villages and random killings of the ethnic Albanians. In them same breath, many news sources make the argument that we shouldn't be there. Do critics of the war underestimate the powers of a truly evil leader? Unless the world community steps in, Serb President Slobodan Milosevic will continue with his ethnic cleansing. Milosevic is trying to extinguish an entire people. This is a dangerous and very serious concept. Ethnic cleansing—remember the Holocaust? It's here again, and apparently we didn't learn from last time that outside help is necessary.

Intervention isn't just a whim on the part of the United States. The alliance is made up of all 19 N.A.T.O. nations. And all are playing an active part. The Alliance first attempted to get both the Yugoslav government and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) to sign a peace deal. The KLA signed, even though the deal would only grant them autonomy and not the independence that they would have ideally. In efforts to end the situation, N.A.T.O. warned Milosevic that he wouldn't sign the deal, the Yugoslav forces would be bombed. He still wouldn't sign. If N.A.T.O. didn't bomb in response to Milosevic's defiance, their word would mean nothing. Their warnings would be empty and never again taken seriously. N.A.T.O. and the United States would enter into a policy of appeasement with this man who is both randomly and systematically killing a nation of people. Sound familiar?

Recall now that violence in the Balkan area sparked World War I. President Clinton and his advisors fear that the war there will spread into neighboring N.A.T.O. allies, Greece and Turkey. Could there be potential here for sparking a huge international war? Let's not wait and see.

Some critics of the war worry that it will add tension to U.S.-Russian relations since Serbia is generally their turf. Despite the main dispute, however, Yeltsin and Clinton agreed that their overall relationship would not suffer as a result. Right now the situation appears bleak. More involved action might be required before it gets over. If we drop our arms, however, and give up on the Albanians in Kosovo, what kind of message are we sending to the world? It's okay to exterminate humans? It's fine to silence a majority? If we give up on the Albanians who only want the right to exist, we give up on our own morals and our concept of human dignity.

**Summary:**

Americans are divided in their support of N.A.T.O. military action in Kosovo. The agitation began when the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo wanted to break free of the province of Serbia (within the federation of Yugoslavia). When members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) signed a peace agreement with N.A.T.O., the Serbs refused.
An Editorial Comment

The trees.

of history that has been with the college from its very beginnings:
campus they can be proud that the college has maintained a piece
progress and preserving the integrity of the college.

of the college will ensure that our trees will remain a legacy for
at what cost? In the rush to be progressive, it would be easy to lose
campus.

planting efforts have already saved many trees that would have to
future generations of students to enjoy.

progress versus preservation admirably. Replanting and trans­
sisible for the planning of this addition are handling the issue of

clearing and cutting of many trees. On the up side, those respon­

off Fulton Street on the cast side of the parking lot in the ravine next
to Hruby Hall. The other site is just north of the Plymouth parking

sites for construction are being narrowed down. Two sites are being
considered for the Circle Theater. The preferred site would be just

Preliminary plans for the Circle Theater and a new library are
currently in the first stages of fruition. Plans are being drawn up and

to be silent in the face of this war.

We denounce the trade sanctions against the people of Iraq as immoral, illegitimate and contra­

fundamental principles of humanity and human rights. We demand that Congress and the President
immediately end the ongoing sanctions war against the people of Iraq.

We call upon all students dedicated to peace to join the growing movement to end the war against Iraq.

Get more information on how you can help end the war by sending an e-mail to studentinfo@leb.net.
Check our website at http://leb.net/aquinas.html.

We must once again issue the wake up call to the conscience of our nation.

Sincerely,
Harry Knoepke, Aquinas College President
Fr. Daniel Davis, Campus Chaplain
Mary Clark-Keiser, Campus Ministry Director
Michelleen Kelly, Women's Studies Center Director
Erin Mullen, Student Activities Director
Stella Ferris, Multicultural Director
Terran Auston, JAMMIN President
Martha Krzyzowski, SAC Director
John Lee, International Student Union President
Molly Huber, S.A.V.E. President
And over 200 Aquinas Faculty, Staff and Students who signed a petition calling for the lifting of
economic sanctions against Iraq

To the Aquinas College Community:

For more than a century, student movements have had an important place among the agents of social
change. From the Vietnam War to the South African Apartheid, students have a history of fighting for
peace and justice. Now, in the 1990s, there is another war we must end; another struggle for peace and
justice in which we, as students, must make our voices heard.

For more than eighty years, our government has been waging a silent war against the people of Iraq. This
month, the U.S.-led sanctions will kill 4,500 infants and toddlers, according to reports by the United
Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Today, this policy will kill 250 people in Iraq, as it did yesterday.

And what is our government's response? When asked on "60 Minutes" about the death of half a million
children in Iraq—more children than died in Hiroshima, Madeline Albright responded, "We think the
price is worth it."

We say NO! The death of any innocent child is one death too many.

As Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Edward Herman and Edward Said recently stated, in their national
call for action, "The time has come for a call to action to people of conscience. We are past the point
where silence is passive consent—when a crime reaches these proportions, silence is complicity."

We refuse to be silent in the face of this war.

For more than eight years, our government has been waging a silent war against the people of Iraq. This
war, which has become increasingly clear is that no significant movement towards food security can be achieved
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We refuse to be silent in the face of this war.
Fun Things to Do

Compiled by Elizabeth Dudek
Times A & E Editor

The year is drawing to a close and soon will be over. As exams loom around the corner and students begin to plan for the summer, I sit here compiling a list of some great activities here at good, old Aquinas College—you'll never have these days again. Go out! Be free! Have Fun! Enjoy these last few weeks of college with zest and excitement. If your life is "Fun Things to Do" is short, try a few of these, I don't think you'll be disappointed. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed."

4/15-5/1 The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre presents the play, "The Foreigner," a comedic play, about a stranger, literally, in a strange land. This stranger finds himself in the backwoods of a Georgia fishing lodge, with residents who don't hesitate to tell their secrets in his presence since they believe this visitor doesn't speak English. Much to the dismay of these residents, the stranger understands everything and allows the audience to watch a hilarious ending. Curtain times are Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m. Tickets range from $5 to $17 and are available at the Tickets Plus Outlet inside the Civic Theatre Lobby or by calling Tickets Plus at 222-4200.

4/17 The Cook Carriage House will host Pat Amy with special guests Merry Bomb as part of the "A Taste of Everything," a sampling of local music talent. This event is sponsored by WACQ FM 1590, Community Senate and the Student Activities Office.

4/22 Blues harmonica/vocals/songwriter Gary Primich will celebrate the release of his new Black Top Records recording, "Botheration" with a live performance at the Rhythm Kitchen at 9 p.m. Tickets for this event are $5. For more information call (616) 774-4199.

4/23 Kid Rock will play the Intersection with the band Staind. For more information call 459-0931. Doors open at 8 p.m.; showtime is 9:30 p.m. You must be 18 or older with a valid state picture ID. Sugar Ray and Oxy will be playing at GVSC as a part of MTV's "Campus Invasion Tour." Tickets are $16 for the general public and went on sale April 15. Papa Vegas and Kent will also play the Shelter in Detroit.

4/24 The UICA will present its second annual Spring Dance Showcase, a sampler of some of the best local groups at the Meijer Theater of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids. The Showcase will feature the debut of the UICA Dance Collective as well as performances by iSync Dance Theater and guest artists from the University of Michigan.

5/8 The Tragically Hip plays Calvin College. Call the college for more information. Take a break from exams and go to the show.

4/4/99 by Joe Theurekauf
Times Contributing Writer

The word "meshuggah" is Yiddish for someone who has "flipped out" or gone insane. Appropriately, the album is titled Chomikuj. But don't get the butterfly nets just yet. Meshuggah, who call Sweden their home, are currently on tour opening for Slayer (their Grand Rapids stop was Monday, April 12). The band is excited to be touring the United States after so little time in the States-side metal circuit. They were invited to play the Milwaukee Metal Fest and have gained a steady, loyal following since.

Their breed of uncommercial thrash music and cerebral, unwaveringly intelligent lyrics have given listeners more than one reason to explore foreign shores for good metal music. While the sound itself is a unique experience in grit, there's an unshakable sense of serenity; as if the entire CD were a bizarre mantra to some greater purpose.

This is proven in the untitled song following the disc's final track, "Elastic." At the end of the song, the track progresses into a full of ambient noise and seemingly random sound effects. The result in itself is worth the entire disc. Suddenly the track re-explodes into a nightmare-filled twilight zone. The disc jolts to life again in an amalgamation of rhythms, vocals and guitar solos being slammed into each other. This lasts for about six minutes, and the careful listener can sense a spiritual quality to the noise. Rhythms of completely different measure overlapping with at least four different voices screaming different lyrics and a guitar solo that could easily have been played blindfolded by a three-year-old. But it works. The "Chomikuj" becomes reality.

The band's lyrics proclaim and warn against the total waste of life that apathetic people are and how ignorant it can be to have a closed mind. They also speak (read as growl, yell and holler) to the current age of technology, how debasing it can be and how much worse things can get if we don't retreat control of ourselves. Many bands are saying similar things, but Meshuggah has no qualms about making their point blunt and irrefutable.

Chaosphere seems to emphasize a shift in paradigm for metal music. Death metal's focus, it seems, has shifted away from death. So, the genre is gaining a more common and appropriate moniker, "black metal." There are more encouraging messages, but the reminder that all is not well. The total insistence that death is the only solution in a world so full of pain and hatred has been replaced by the idea that we have a choice. We can make a difference or sit back and let our lives be controlled. Meshuggah seems dedicated to making a difference. They give fans of that re-Tooled style of music the chance to release pent-up rage in the mosh pits, but also to think and open themselves up to possibilities.

Writers Series Brings Humor, Passion

by Brudie Kent
Times Contributing Writer

The Wege Ballroom was filled with the sounds of techno music, mockingbirds and Starinsky's "Firebird Suite" last Thursday, as Aquinas College wrapped up its Contemporary Writers Lecture Series with poet Mark Doty. Doty, a professor of the University of Houston, read poems and excerpts from his new collection of poetry, "Atlantis," as well as his upcoming second memoir, "Firebird." The readings included such diverse topics as street life, club music, friendship and the death of his partner. The readings were too long, but Meshuggah's new album, "Chomikuj," has a vast gay community.

"I couldn't write poetry without the AIDS epidemic in his former town of Provincetown, MA, a haven for many artists, which has a vast gay community," Doty says much of his work comes from feeling overwhelmed. He said he tried to "negotiate a path and make a little bit of sense out of experience through music, birds, street life, club music, friendship and love." Doty's first memoir, "Heaven's Couch," is about the death of his partner and the ensuing year.

"I couldn't write poetry then," said Doty. "It was too hard.

He thinks of the book as an honest portrayal of a state of the gay world. "It's not a self-indulgent book that tries to offer the consolation of religion," the subject of this memoir and other poems shocked some Aquinas students.

Freshman Melissa Fein said, "I was surprised at the controversial subject matter. It was really refreshing to see how open Aquinas was to a less conservative speaker. I think a lot of people were really pleased with Doty's lecture."
by Elizabeth Dudek
**Times Arts & Entertainment Editor**

How many of us want to forget our high school experiences? While it was a memorable time for some, it was hell for others. Who can forget clumsy moments like walking down the hall with toilet paper stuck to a shoe? Or tripping and falling down in front of the coolest clique in school? For Josie Gellar, played by actress/producer Drew Barrymore, this was an average day as a high school student.

Barrymore stars in the new Fox 2000 Production “Never Been Kissed.” Her character is a young copywriter working for the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper, determined to become a reporter. Josie gets her wish when she is assigned an undercover story to report on today’s teenagers. The only catch is that Josie must go back to high school and pretend to be a student.

The second installment in the “Taste of Everything” concert series hosted local talent Nectar played at the Cook Carriage House on April 10 as a part of the first annual “Taste of Everything” concert series. “Never Been Kissed” concert series. “House on April 10 as a part of the first annual “Taste of Everything” concert series. "Local talent Nectar played at the Cook Carriage House. "

**Film in Review...**

**Never Been Kissed**

by Elizabeth Dudek
**Times Arts & Entertainment Editor**

by Elizabeth Dudek

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**Times Arts & Entertainment Editor**
**Women's Tennis Team Proves Size Isn't Everything**

by Jessi Cleveland

Times Contributing Writer

Bigger isn’t always better, and the Aquinas women’s tennis team is living proof. Though the Lady Saints have only eight members this year, they haven’t lowered their goals, and many feel that the size of the team has been beneficial.

“It’s kind of hard when someone gets sick or hurt, but for the most part I think it’s good because it allows us to get to know each other better. I think we’ll become even more unified as the season goes on,” junior Stacy Dugan said.

Junior Julie Lausch added, “Having a small team is helpful in a way because everyone feels like a key player, so no one has any hostility. We’re not quite as cohesive as last year, but I think that’s because we weren’t able to spend Spring Break together like we were before. We’re starting to come together more. So far, we’ve done pretty well with what we’ve had, although we didn’t get much time to work together.”

The women are coached by Jerry Hendrick and Steve Greene, who are also in charge of the men’s team. Hendrick, despite his short time with the lady Saints, had great expectations for the team.

“Unfortunately, I haven’t been able to get to know the women as well, since I only began coaching them in December. We were able to put together a season of about a dozen matches, and we hope to do well. We have a solid team. They lost some good players last year but they should be able to be quite successful,” Hendrick said.

The Saints are currently 2-2, and still have a shot at winning the WHAC, after defeating Spring Arbor 8-1 at the match on April 5. In addition to their goal of taking first in the conference, the women also hope to place at Regionals and hopefully move on to NAIA Nationals.

“I think we should do really well throughout the season, especially within our conference. Regionals are in Lexington, Kentucky this year, and there are 10 new teams. Last year there were only four, and we went on to Nationals, but this year it will be a little tougher. We’re hoping to still make it to the National level, though.”

Lausch said Aquinas’ women’s tennis team is made up of four returning players, two rookie sophomores, and two freshmen. Dugan is currently the number one singles player, and Hendrick also looks for leadership from Lausch and Sancia Reljic, a senior international student from Croatia.

Rounding out the team are junior Anne Sommers, sophomores Katie and Kristen Thompson and freshmen Melissa Connelly and Chrizy Duba. Duba, who felt the pressure of making the adjustment from high school to college athletes, credited the Saints’ success to teamwork.

“We have a lot of strong players on our team. Personally, I’m hoping to improve my game. I know I’ve got a long way to go to really compete at the college level. We’ve had some tough matches, but the team has been great. Everyone has been really supportive of each other,” Duba said.

Tonight, the Saints travel to Angola for a match with Tri-State, and on the April 17, the Saints will have the home court. Lausch felt that the matches against Tri-State could be the most important of the season, particularly in terms of conference play. On April 30, they head South for the NAIA Regionals, and if all goes well, from there they will go to Nationals.

**Women’s Tennis Team**

**Score Card**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Spring Arbor</td>
<td>22-3, 9-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Saginaw Valley</td>
<td>5-7, 6-8</td>
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<td>Siena Heights</td>
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<td>4/2</td>
<td>Madonna</td>
<td>3-4, 5-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Indiana Tech</td>
<td>6-3, 5-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Huntington Invitational</td>
<td>Team 70, 5th Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Spring Arbor</td>
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**A View from Beyond AQ**

A Guest Sports Editorial by Andrew Pieper

As Aquinas students bask in the last stretch of school before their summer vacation, anxiously waiting to see if winter will drop one more load of annoying, spirit splitting snow, I am at the University of Connecticut finishing up my 25th and 26th books of the semester, almost in the bright, month-old sunshine and 60 degree weather. If you are as all conscious in this media driven world of modern athletics, you know that UCONN recently defeated heavily favored Duke for the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. The excitement level on campus was beyond imagination for this AQ alumnus. A brief description of Final Four weekend is in order.

Saturday night, after defeating Ohio State, immediately one heard the hooting and hollering from Lausch and Sancia Reljic, a senior international student from Croatia. Rounding out the team are junior Anne Sommers, sophomores Katie and Kristen Thompson and freshmen Melissa Connelly and Chrizy Duba, who felt the pressure of making the adjustment from high school to college athletes, credited the Saints’ success to teamwork.

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**Baseball**

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**Softball**

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**Men’s Tennis**

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**Women’s Tennis**

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<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Northwood Univ.</td>
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<td>Spring Arbor</td>
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**THE AQUINAS TIMES**

April 14, 1999

Page 10

**A View from Beyond AQ**

A Guest Sports Editorial by Andrew Pieper

As Aquinas students bask in the last stretch of school before their summer vacation, anxiously waiting to see if winter will drop one more load of annoying, spirit splitting snow, I am at the University of Connecticut finishing up my 25th and 26th books of the semester, almost in the bright, month-old sunshine and 60 degree weather. If you are as all conscious in this media driven world of modern athletics, you know that UCONN recently defeated heavily favored Duke for the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. The excitement level on campus was beyond imagination for this AQ alumnus. A brief description of Final Four weekend is in order.

Saturday night, after defeating Ohio State, immediately one heard the hooting and hollering from Lausch and Sancia Reljic, a senior international student from Croatia. Rounding out the team are junior Anne Sommers, sophomores Katie and Kristen Thompson and freshmen Melissa Connelly and Chrizy Duba, who felt the pressure of making the adjustment from high school to college athletes, credited the Saints’ success to teamwork.

“We have a lot of strong players on our team. Personally, I’m hoping to improve my game. I know I’ve got a long way to go to really compete at the college level. We’ve had some tough matches, but the team has been great. Everyone has been really supportive of each other,” Duba said.

Tonight, the Saints travel to Angola for a match with Tri-State, and on April 17, the Saints will have the home court. Lausch felt that the matches against Tri-State could be the most important of the season, particularly in terms of conference play. On April 30, they head South for the NAIA Regionals, and if all goes well, from there they will go to Nationals.

**Baseball**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Siena Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Madonna</td>
<td>8-19, 8-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>12-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Spring Arbor</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td>Indiana Tech</td>
<td>6-3, 5-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Saginaw Valley</td>
<td>5-7, 6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Siena Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Cornerstone</td>
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<td>Tri-State</td>
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The writer is a Times Emeritus Assistant Editor, Class of 1998 and currently a graduate student in political science at the University of Connecticut.
Track Seasons Off to Swift Start
with National Qualifiers, New Record

In only the second meet of the still young outdoor track season, the men’s track team is qualifying runners for National Championship.

Jason Carver leads the way as he surprised himself by qualifying for nationals in the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, and the 400 meter relay last Saturday at the Ferris State University Invitational. Carver placed second in the 100m with a time of 10.5 and first in the 200m with a time of 21.44.

“I knew there was going to be a lot of good sprinters so I got myself hyped up,” Carver said. “I did not think I would do that good, but I am happy I did this well.”

Joining Carver on the 400 relay team are freshmen Riccardo Workman, Robert Hann and Adam Jaszurek. The team ran the race in only 41.84 seconds, a time which finished second with a margin of 1.34 seconds, an even stronger团结.

“We had a rough start, but lately we’ve been winning some good matches. I think we have a really good team chemistry. All the guys on the team are buddies, and we all get along great.”

Sophomore Brian Wallis added, “We struggled in Florida, but lately we’re starting to turn it around. We hope to conference champs and go on to Nationals. We only have three returners, and we lost three seniors last year, but I think with the addition of the freshmen we’ll be successful. They’ve stepped in and done a really good job. We’ve also gained some transfers this year.”

Coach Jerry Hendrick has high expectations that they will qualify.

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Coach Jerry Hendrick has high hopes for his team. This is Hendrick’s eighth year as head coach for the men, who have a highly successful past. Last season, the Saints finished first in the WHAC and made it to Nationals, and Hendrick looks to repeat that performance this year.

“I think we should be able to take first in the conference. Our main goal right now is to beat Spring Arbor. We play them next Tuesday (April 13), and if we can win that we will win conference. So far we beat Calvin, Cornerstones, Grand Valley and GRCC. We lost Hope, but they also lost or GRCC, so I think we still have a chance to finish as the best team in the area. We have a really strong team this year, lead by sophomore Justin Crain, who is our number one singles right now. We lost a couple really good players, but we’ve seen the addition of the freshmen we’ll be successful. They’ve stepped in and done a really good job. We’ve also gained some transfers this year.”

Another returning runner for the men is Kristin Jones, a sophomore outfielder for the Aquinas Baseball Team has a seven-game hitting streak and completed 11/13 last Thursday. He homered four games in a row while playing Madonna. Hope and twice against Spring Arbor. This gave Lasita a batting average for the week of .344 for the week of April 4 and is currently the week of April 4 and is currently the season average of .461.

Aquinans Men’s Tennis Team Serves Up Success

by Josie Cleveland
Times Contributing Writer

In a sport where individual performance is essential, the Aquinas men’s tennis team has proven that, while they work well alone, they are better known for their unity. And so far it’s working. The Saints, who currently have a record of 11-5, have strong hits and an even stronger coherence.

With only three returning players, the team bonded quickly, thanks to a Spruce Brook trip, which proved challenging and rewarding.

“We had a rough start, but lately we’ve been winning some good matches. I think we have a really good team chemistry. All the guys on the team are buddies, and we all get along great,” freshman Tom Huising said.

Sophomore Brian Wallis added, “We struggled in Florida, but lately we’re starting to turn it around. We hope to conference champs and go on to Nationals. We only have three returners, and we lost three seniors last year, but I think with the addition of the freshmen we’ll be successful. They’ve stepped in and done a really good job. We’ve also gained some transfers this year.”

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Finding Light at the End of a Stigma

A Bend in the Road to Self-Discovery

by Chris Manning
Times Features Editor

For all that is said of the gay stereotype, very little is mentioned of the gay experience. It's more than a sexual orientation, it becomes a part of one's life that influences lifestyle, work and social experiences.

One of the most important times in the life of any homosexual in society is the "coming out" stage. Suddenly the individual is vulnerable and fears that he or she might be hurt.

One member of the Aquinas community shared his experience during this critical point in his life. Before much else was mentioned, the individual first stated, "I accept it and who I am, I deal with it but it is not a preference, it is an orientation. Why would I want to put myself into an arena where people are persecuted since the beginning of time?"

The subject of his orientation was avoided at work until a co-worker brought it up. Once word spread among the department, the boss called the individual into his office and finally worked his way to the question. The supervisor then stated that he wanted to "maintain a good environment for them to work in."

"No one cares at work, in fact, they are very accepting of it. They are a very mix of people with very different backgrounds, so I've become very tolerant," explained the individual.

In fact this person, who would rather remain anonymous, has had very positive support from friends, his heterosexual roommate and co-workers. Still, while there haven't been any serious negative experiences, conflict will come and when it does he says he 'll deal with it.

While his friends have known for some time, the individual still has to tell his parents about his sexual orientation.

He notes how important the college experience was in forming his identity both sexually and as an individual. "Parents shape our thinking when we're young and college students get a foundation of themselves at home but when you go to college you can establish your own self."

For him, part of the process of understanding his experience was to read about the experiences of those that have "come out." Another step was joining a support group called As We ARE, or AWARE, established specifically for young people who are learning to deal with their homosexual orientation.

He also found strength and a struggle in his faith and his church. He's found a church, St. Roberts in Ada, and a philosophy he can live with. He explains, "God doesn't make mistakes. I believe there is nothing fundamentally wrong with two people loving each other, straight or gay."

Early in realizing his sexual orientation, he thought of moving to a new place and starting over. He ultimately decided, however, that he stood to lose too much if he did leave. While a future move is possible, it would be several years away.

He also couldn't ignore the change in his lifestyle. "My lifestyle has changed. Early on when I was going out to [gay] clubs, I said I wasn't going to change, but in every experience where you grow you don't continue doing all of the same things."

One stereotype that worries him is one of the feminine, promiscuous homosexual man. While the stereotype is prevalent it is far from being the truth. In fact, in his group he said most had college degrees, ambitions and friends just as he would expect. They also have the same goal of happiness just as anyone else. However, he believes they all share a "pre-natal orientation" that they had no choice in.

For those considering coming out he has this advice, "Be sure you are gay, not just curious. Once you take that step and then realize your not, you really can't turn back. Talk to someone like a counselor before you make the choice."

He also adds, "Surround yourself with people that are positive and open-minded."

Despite fighting stereotypes and coming to terms with a very important part of his life he says he's "struggling for young people who are learning to deal with the same things."

The certain views of the "religious community may still meet a great deal of opposition. A Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall spokesperson stated they, "believe what the bible says..." They cited Corinthians 6:9 as well adding, "since the bible states [this] we believe people practicing these things will not inherit the earth."

Dr. Russ Palsbrok of the Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church held a very different view.

"We hold the same position as our church. We welcome any gay person and try to be understanding and caring toward them while holding on to the doctrinal practices of the church. We accept the person, not the practice of homosexuality."

"No one is perfect. We don't focus on the struggle in one person's life as any more difficult or immoral as anyone else's struggle."

For the Grand Rapids churches contacted, there was a consistent position taken that homosexual "acts" were indeed a sin. Even Dr. Palsbrok only promised that the congregation would "try" to accept and understand gay members of the congregation.

While some churches very openly accept all people regardless of their orientations and backgrounds, the debate centers on those that want to remain in the church they choose, not the ones that will accept them.

Two Converging Journeys to the Self

by Chris Manning
Times Features Editor

Pat Robertson said the spread of homosexuality will eventually "bring about terrorist bombs," it will change the "rules" are often broached. The acceptance of gays in our society is the "coming out" stage. The certain views of the "religious community remains: where can one "maintain a good environment for them to work in."

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While some churches very openly accept all people regardless of their orientations and backgrounds, the debate centers on those that want to remain in the church they choose, not the ones that will accept them.

Finding a church in a city full of churches is more difficult than spotting a cross for those of same-sex orientation. They must consider how the church and its teachings views them. For all that is said of the gay community may still meet a great deal of opposition. A Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall spokesperson stated they, "believe what the bible says..." They cited Corinthians 6:9 as well adding, "since the bible states [this] we believe people practicing these things will not inherit the earth."

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