Homecoming Court selected from largest nomination pool

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

Amira Lama and Mark Pittman were named the 1999 Aquinas Homecoming Queen and King. The announcement came at the conclusion of the women’s soccer game Saturday, Sept. 18. Damon Bouwkamp and Danielle Johnson, the 1998 Homecoming royalty, crowned the new King and Queen.

“It was a great way to end a great game,” said Lama, a member of the Aquinas women’s soccer team. The women won 8-0. “Homecoming has always been a big deal for me because of soccer.” (For details of both the men’s and women’s Homecoming soccer games see the stories on bottom of this page and page 10.)

Lama is a senior majoring in Spanish with a minor in English. “I’m honored to be singled out,” said Pittman after being named King. “They are the ambassadors of the Homecoming activities,” said Pittman. “It’s an honor bestowed on them for their commitment and involvement at Aquinas.”

The announcement came at the official ceremony took place on the Aquinas Soccer Field. Penny Avery and Mullen announced each Court member and their involvement in the Aquinas Community. With alumni, faculty, staff and students looking on, President Harry Knopke announced the King and Queen. Lama received a crown and bouquet of roses while Pittman received a medallion.

While their reigns ended with the crowning of the new King and Queen, Johnson and Bouwkamp still feel connected to Aquinas. "I’m excited to be back and see all the changes around campus," said Johnson. "Homecoming means a lot, especially now that I’m an alum. Aquinas will always be home for me.”

Lady Saints out run IN Tech

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

Aquinas women’s soccer team was much quicker than the visiting Indiana Tech team in Saturday’s Homecoming contest. In fact, they were so much quicker that it took only forty-three seconds for junior Amy Panse to put the Saints on top of the Warriors 1-0.

After the fast start, Aquinas’ women never slowed down. It was a first half highlighted by an Amy Panse hat trick, two goals by Dawn Wierzbicki and a goal by both Megan Luckett and Megan Villiminot. At half time, Aquinas was ahead of Indiana Tech, 7-0.

The Saints finished the game with goal by Bambi Olsey at 72:45, making the final score 8-0. The Saints were led by Amy Panse who recorded 5 shots and 3 goals. Following Panse were Megan Luckett who had 5 shots, 1 goal and 1 assist; Dawn Wierzbicki who had 2 shots and 2 goals.

See LADY SAINTS, page 10

Mission Orange at WAQU

Men’s Soccer Starts Strong

Volleyball Opening

Vintage Trends

Wege Elevator Meets Needs

Texas Church Shooting

GR mayoral Primaries

Point/Counterpoint

Page 3

Page 4

Page 5

Page 6

INSIDE

the TIMES

September 22, 1999

http://www.waqu.net/aquinas
Saints' celebration
Homecoming Weekend offers inflatable fun, food and injury

by Mindy Smith
Times Contributing Writer

Homecoming weekend 1999 was kicked off last Friday night with a student talent show in the Wege Ballroom. The ballroom was packed as various bands played and many students showed off their talents. The show was hosted by Mike Rayburn, who performed between the various student acts.

Highlights of the evening included Calvin Webb and Amy Dargis's rendition of "Endless Love" as well as the "AQ TV Music Awards" put on by members of the Residence Life Staff.

Junior Julie Frederick said, "It was really fun. I thought it was neat how the R.A.'s got together and did that thing. I also really liked that Janet and Michael Jackson thing that those four girls did." Saturday morning started bright and early with the annual Centpeke Shuffle, which was renamed Ernie's Run this year in honor of the late Ernie Romine. Many people showed up to take place in this annual event and to honor the memory of Romine. A pancake breakfast followed at the Fieldhouse.

Many events took place during the afternoon on Saturday. The new Jarecki Center was open for tours as well as Regina Hall and the Ravine Apartments. Inflatable fun included the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot with various inflatable activities such as a rock climbing wall, an obstacle course and sumo wrestling. Student organizations set up food booths in the parking lot to raise money for their groups. Later in the day, cafeteria workers put on a picnic buffet for dinner. At night, the Andy Paul Band played in the tent. A Homecoming Dance took place in the tent starting at 10:30 p.m. but was ended early due to a student disturbance.

The weekend wound down Sunday morning with Mass in the Bukowski Chapel followed by brunch at Wege.

Aquinas gains new faculty members, new perspectives

by Claire Waltman and Angela Bergman

Aquinas gains new faculty members, new perspectives and early with the annual Centpede Shuffle, which was renamed Ernie's Run this year in honor of the late Ernie Romine. Many events took place during the afternoon on Saturday. The new Jarecki Center was open for tours as well as Regina Hall and the Ravine Apartments. Inflatable fun included the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot with various inflatable activities such as a rock climbing wall, an obstacle course and sumo wrestling. Student organizations set up food booths in the parking lot to raise money for their groups. Later in the day, cafeteria workers put on a picnic buffet for dinner. At night, the Andy Paul Band played in the tent. A Homecoming Dance took place in the tent starting at 10:30 p.m. but was ended early due to a student disturbance.

The weekend wound down Sunday morning with Mass in the Bukowski Chapel followed by brunch at Wege.
Aquinas Assistant Professor of Management Joe Ryan helps as benefactors Peter Wege and Clare Jarecki "plug in" the new Jarecki Center of Advanced Learning during the facility's dedication ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 16.

New elevator in Wege Center gives disabled students dignity

by Karen Broekstra

Times Contributing Writer

What does a school do when a single man shows compassion so selflessly? How do you repay such a man when his donations make life for students much more bearable? These are questions entertained by the Aquinas Community because of one man, Mr. Peter Wege. About three Homecoming days ago, as Karen Broekstra explains, Project Open Heart was working a food booth when Wege came up to the booth and began to carry on a conversation with the students. He was completely at ease with the students despite their disabilities and the rainy and gloomy weather, stated Broekstra. Wege talked with those students for two hours and who would have known that the products of that conversation were going to change Aquinas. As Wege was talking to the students, he asked them about what it was like to have a disability and how accessible Aquinas was to their needs. The students, senior Jill Straub, graduate Stacy Addis and others, answered honestly that there were many barriers on Aquinas's campus. Some of these barriers included: few handicap door openers, few curb cuts (ramps from street to sidewalk), and the most unbearable barrier, no elevators in Regina Hall, St. Joseph's Hall and Wege Center (which only had a freight elevator that students could use). When the students had finished, Wege told them to write him a letter that would describe what would make it easier for students with disabilities to be on campus. This letter became a wish list. The following Monday, Broekstra received a phone call from Wege. He called to tell her about the conversation he had had with the students and the letter he wished to receive. Broekstra said that she was overwhelmed by Wege's generosity. He appeared to be genuinely concerned, he could have easily told those students to write a letter and then when he left, completely forget about the promises. But not the case; he wanted to help as much as he could. Addis and Straub wrote the wish list letter that would make Aquinas better for the disabled and submitted it to Wege. According to Broekstra, by Christmas that year, Wege had told her that those things were going to change, and he was not lying. Peter Wege pledged a $5 million donation to make Aquinas more accessible to those with disabilities. With this money, the wish list was going to be fulfilled. Handicap door openers, curb cuts and, most importantly, elevators were to be installed and almost three years to the date Aquinas can now look around and see the benefits of this generous donation.

New elevator in Wege Center gives disabled students dignity

by Monique Nadon

Times Contributing Writer

"Peter Wege has been very empathetic and supportive and we (the Aquinas community) feel very fortunate," -Karen Broekstra

Jarecki Center of Advanced Learning dedicated

by Eric VanderLey

Times Contributing Writer

It was a bright, beautiful day on the Aquinas College campus. It was a day that held much anticipation of the future. It was also the day that the Jarecki Center, built to house the School of Management, was formally dedicated on Thursday, Sept. 16. Present for the dedication ceremony were the two major patrons of the building, Clare Jarecki and Peter Wege. Jarecki, the namesake of the building, is a successful businessman in the Grand Rapids area. He has been credited with the idea for U.S. 131 through Grand Rapids. Wege, after whom the Wege Student Center is named, is a longtime benefactor of Aquinas College. Fr. Dan Davis, Aquinas College chaplain led the blessing of the facility. Jarecki and Wege concluded the ceremony by "plugging in" the new center.

The Jarecki Center was designed to become a part of the college landscape. Inside and out the building incorporates the newest technologies. The photovoltaic cells, located in the roof, will help to power the building. These cells are expected to provide energy for 20 percent of the center's energy needs. Inside the Jarecki Center, classrooms of varying shapes and sizes can be found. Inside these classrooms, the seating layout is easily changed because the furniture is on wheels. This ability to configure the room into different arrangements allows it to be more productive to learning. In classrooms, computers will be highly accessible. Wherever students go in the building, they will never be further than a few feet from a network jack for their laptop computer.

The newest technology incorporated in the interior of the Jarecki Center is in the Distance Learning Rooms. These rooms have been equipped with the technology to videoconference with people around the globe. Designers of the Jarecki Center have taken this even further by creating special portable media units that can be shipped anywhere in the world. These units were designed to become a conferencing studio for individuals who do not have access to a videoconferencing device. "I think both the faculty and educational experiences are virtually limitless," said Aquinas President Harry Knotke of the videoconferencing equipment in Jarecki. He illustrated this point by saying that President Gerald R. Ford has already expressed an interest in becoming a visiting professor for some of the political science classes. This is just one of the many options that will become available to Aquinas students through the new technologies incorporated in this building.

Parking for the Jarecki Center should not be a concern. The Woodward parking lot was double in capacity over the summer to 150 cars. Just a short walk away is the Plymouth parking lot that can hold over 300 cars. The Jarecki Center is just part of a larger plan to incorporate the campus in a central network that provides computer access for all students. ResNet was another step in this process. "ResNet is designed to run in tandem with the videoconferencing equipment here in Jarecki," said President Knopke.

Once the hardware arrives from Dayton, Ohio, which will be set up in the Jarecki Center to complement the videoconferencing installation, the possibilities will be limitless. A lecture by nationally known author John Naisbitt was planned for the weekend, but unfortunately, Naisbitt was unable to attend due to hurricane Floyd.

In Correction

In the Sept. 8 issue of the Times, an article regarding parking regulations (Parking restrictions create confusion on campus, Page 2) was unclear regarding the lots in which residents are permitted to park. Although the Mayfield, Donnelly, Brownes Center extensions and Dominican lots are all reserved for residents, students should see the Parking Regulations, Campus Regulations and Campus Safety Services handbook for which residents are permitted to park in each lot. The Woodward lot is not a resident lot and may not be used for overnight parking. We at the Times apologize for the misinformation.
afford it. There are still many im-
tax cut until they're sure they can
of the rest should be given back
feels that Congress should slow
Security, but they feel that most
agree that the
Republicans
Local/National
afford it. There are still many im-
tax cut until they're sure they can
of the rest should be given back
feels that Congress should slow
Security, but they feel that most
agree that the
Republicans
Local/National
Supporters gather in Bush’s absence
by Heather Young
Times Assistant Editor
Governor John Engler addressed an
audience of West Michigan George W. Bush supporters includ-
ing 22 Aquinas students (hosted by the College Republicans) for
a luncheon last Thursday. Engler was a last minute replacement for
Texas Governor Bush who was kept from attendance due to the
Baptist church shooting in his state
last Wednesday. Engler assured sup-
porters that Bush will resched-
ule another meeting.
As part of Bush’s campaign for the
presidential election in 2000, he
was supposed to have stopped
in Grand Rapids at the Grand Val-
ley State University DeVos facil-
ity where the luncheon took place.
As part of the “Building for the 21st Century” theme that Engler
mentioned, the facility, still under construction, will be filled with sup-
porters wearing souvenir construc-
tion hats, provided an appropri-
ate setting.
After an invocation by Amway
C.E.O. Dick DeVos, Lieutenant
Governor Dick Posthumus intro-
duced Engler, speaking briefly on
his “boldness” as governor.
"I don't think there should be a
bill for presi-
dent," said Engler. "He's a man of
integrity, great leadership. He's not
only a wonderful [Republican]
candidate, but he would be a wonder-
ful president." Engler further commented on the
integrity of Bush when he said, "You remember what it's like to have a
president you're really proud of," alluding to President
Clinton’s exploits. Finally, Engler encouraged sup-
porters to think beyond the slo-
ing Cameron-Gore: no more and to speak positively, and prepare
for the GOP primaries on Feb. 22.
Students at the Aquinas were
mo-
taneously paired by former U.S.
Ambassador to Italy, Peter
Soccia; Joan Soccia, Aquinas
College Board member; Michigan
Senator and Aquinas Alumnus Glen Stil and Governor Engler.
Laurie Noall, president of Aquinas College Democrats also
attended. "I like to see the other side of the story," commented
Noall before the speeches. "I'm not so narrow-minded."
Church shooting hits close to home
for some Baylor University students
by Leslie Blank
The Lariat (Baylor U.)
09/17/1999
(U-WIRE) WACO, Texas -- Trag-
edy struck close to home Wednes-
day as shots rang out in a Fort
Worth-area Baptist church. Thoughts of those who were killed
or injured were with many Baylor
students and faculty who were af-
focky the event.
Wednesday night a man stormed into
Wedgepod Baptist Church in
Fort Worth, shouting epithets against the Baptist church and
shooting blindly into the crowded
sanctuary.
Dallas junior Courtney Gehring’s
boyfriend is in the band that was
leading worship when the gunman entered the
sanctuary.
Gehring said her boyfriend told
her that people in the audience be-
gin laughing, thinking that it was
a joke that had been planned.
"Then they realized it wasn’t [a
joke]. The guys [in the band] were
the only ones in the light. The man
was shooting their instruments.
They got off the stage really quick,"
Gehring said.
After killing seven and injuring
eight, the man took his own life
with a shot to the head in a back
pew.
Police ordered the crowds to take
refuge in a nearby school and the
injured were rushed to hospitals,
one dying in transit.
The crowd of 150 consisted of
youth group members and leaders
from all over the city, who were
gathered for a “See You At The Pole”
ceremony in observance of the
annual day of prayer.
Suspict Larry Gene Ashbrook is
reported to have been a troubled
man in his late thirties. Many of
the writings police recovered from
his home contained both religious
and sacrilegious material.
Amanda Gartner, a Fort Worth
freshman, said her sister’s friends
called Wednesday evening and
asked her to go to the Wedgepod
baptist church, but she had opted to
attend her own church’s choir prac-
tice.
"They [Wedgepod] have a really
active outreach at my high school,"
Gartner said. "A lot of people from
my school went there… a girl I was
in band with was shot in the arm." Gartner said she has received
word that two of the dead attended
Crowley and North Crowley High
Schools in Fort Worth.
"It really hit close to home," she
said. "To have religious persecu-
tion at Crowley was bad enough,
but this church was down the street… it’s very sad. To top
it off, it was Southwest’s home-
coming weekend." Garner said she has been receiv-
ing endless e-mails from friends
and family regarding the shoot-
ing.
Garland junior Josh Flynn is
friends with the band members, one of whom was his high school
counselor years ago. He said he was
shocked upon hearing about the
shooting.
"You never know when the Lord
will call you home," Flynn said.
"I immediately called my family
to make sure they knew I loved
them." He was relieved to learn his
friends were safe and uninjured.
"My prayers go out to the fam-
ily and friends of those killed; I
can’t even imagine," Flynn said.
"In Columbine, the students
waited to see what would happen;
they were numb for awhile, and
they needed help coping later,"
said Cheryl Tucker, Baylor
Chapel Program coordinator.
Tucker said a prayer service has
not yet been planned, as the sur-
vivors are currently seeking sup-
port in small groups.
First Baptist Woodway youth
pastor Bob Johns and the high
school group were meeting when
they received word of the shoot-
ing.
"It was eerie because we were in
the same kind of setting," he
said. "We went into a prayer time.
It was very emotional and mixed
with a lot of fear… the students
were legitimately afraid," said
Johns.
"We live in a post-modern time
that has become very anti-Chris-
tian. There is evil in our
world, but there is also good,
and that goodness is God. Our faith
in God is going to help us make
sense of what seems like insan-
ginity. In a time like this, what else
is there to do?"
Femi Omoni, a Fort Worth se-
jior, is from the same Dallas sub-
urb as Ashbrook and is thankful
his younger brother decided not
to attend the “See You at the Pole”
ceremony Wednesday night.
"These things happen, like the
Columbine shootings, and it re-
ally hurts to see it all again.
Surplus causes Congress to vote on bill
by Nick Ochepipliti
Times Local/National Editor
A few weeks ago, the House of Representatives and the Senate
passed bills offering large tax cuts
back to the “American public.”
The money will be given back out of the budget surplus resulting from the
most prosperous economy in the
history of the world and the
balancing of the federal budget.
A decade has arisen in Congress about what to do with this money.
Generally, Democrats feel the vast
majority of the money should be kept for Social
Security, Medicare and other
government programs.
Republicans
agree that the surplus should
help save Social
Security, but they feel that most of
the rest should be given back
to the people.
Aquinas College Political Science
Department Chair, Dr. Barkafr,
feels that Congress should slow
down a little and think.
"I don’t think there should be
a tax cut until they’re sure they can
afford it. There are still many im-
portant issues to pay for like pub-
ic education and health care,” said
Barkafr.
He also pointed out that we still have a lot of problems that
cost a lot of money that haven’t
been solved yet.
Tim Lowe, a political science
major at Aquinas College agrees with Barkafr. "If we, in fact, have
a budget surplus, then we should
keep it to secure Social Security
and improve education," he said.
Senator Carl Levin voted against the
Republican proposed $800 bil-
lion tax cut for several reasons. He
told us that it feels it is unfair in
that 80 percent of
it would be given back to the
wealthiest 20 per-
cent of Americans, and he feels it
would be irresponsible to spend
money that doesn’t
even exist yet because the surplus
is projected over the next ten years.
Levin believes that the surplus will
not be nearly as large as predicted
and that any of innumerable things
could happen to the economy be-
tween now and then.
Levin said, "If we do work a
sizeable surplus, instead of using
it for an unfair tax cut, we should
 principally use it to protect So-
cial Security and Medicare and to
down the federal debt which stands at more than $5 trillion."

On the other side of the issue
Michigan Senator Spencer Abraham voted for the tax cut bill.
In an article on his web page
Abraham explains why.
"This legislation will give back
almost $800 billion in overpay-
ments from American taxpayers,
at the same time preserving all
of the Social Security surplus and
keeping over $500 billion avail-
able for Medicare and Social Se-
curity reforms.
And, if that’s not
enough, this legislation guaran-
tees that we pay down the national
debt. It responsibly provides real
benefits to Michigan’s working
families." The article also explains that
the bill would greatly help married
couples.
The American public tends to fa-
saving the money to help with
limping programs and for possible
future use, yet some in Congress
still feel the cuts should be made.
And they’re willing to pay to try
and sway our minds. Television
advertisements have been running
for over two weeks favoring tax
cuts.
Americans grip cell phone explosion

by Nick Occhipinti
Times Local/National Editor

Today, cell phones are everywhere, and everyone seems to have one. Business people, moms, dads, teenagers and even children seem to have their own cellular phone. Cell phone ownership has increased threefold in the past year alone in the United States, and that rate is climbing.

It seems like only the rich or the serious business associate could afford to carry one, but it seems that capitalism has worked its magic again, drastically shrinking the prices. omnipotent Nokia, next Century Tel—these names of wireless phone companies have flooded the market. Despite the recent wireless revolution in the U.S., we aren’t seeing the cell phones used for more than just communication. The phones are used by the vast majority of people in Finland as their primary phone, and the phones are used for a lot more than just communication. The phones double as a credit card, a key to a house, a garage door opener and a debit system. Finns who want to buy a Coca-Cola can dial a vending machine’s cell phone number, enter in their number and a coke pops out.

Entrance to houses is often done through cell-phones. If a person wants that new sweater, he or she can just dial it up, and it will all be charged to the phone bill that doubles as a debit card.

The wireless phone revolution is upon us and its implications are unknown; but everyday we are learning a little more. Everyone saw how useful they were in the Columbine High School disaster as kids called their parents and emergency numbers from hid­den, including in the Columbine High School disaster as kids called their parents and emergency num­bers from hid­den. However, on the other side, many people have been in a meeting or a quiet movie when someone on the phone has gone off. More importantly, if we haven’t done it ourselves, we have all seen people driving down the road talking on one or looking down dial­ling the numbers.

Aquinas has a large commuting population and is certainly at risk for a cell phone related accident. Jennifer L. Day, a student at Aquinas said, “I do not talk on my cell phone while driving, only be­cause I don’t trust the other driv­ers that do, and if I am gabbing away, I can’t watch out for the ones who do talk on their cell phones while driving.”

“Why I have a cell phone, but I never use it while driving. That’s just not safe.”

-Meghan McMullan

The Times emailed the Aquinas community asking people, “If you own a cell phone, do you drive while talking on it?” In one day over 100 people responded to the question. 70 percent of respondents who own a cell phone say they talk while driving. Many of the respon­dents who answered yes also men­tioned that they were very care­ful and tried not to do it often. Others answered that driving and talking was pretty much the only reason to have a cellular phone. Respondents answering “no” of­ten had strong feelings to go along with their no answer.

“No, I don’t drive while talking on it unless it is absolutely necessary. I always hate when I see other­ers driving while they are talking on their cell phone. They totally do not pay attention to what they are doing, I find it rather annoy­ing,” said Holly Sizemore. “I don’t have a cell phone, but I wouldn’t talk on one while driving because I almost got hit by a guy the other day while he was talking on his cell phone, so I guess you can see my reasons.”

“Now, I can’t stand it when people drive and talk on the phone at the same time. I never talk on the phone while I am driving. I can’t talk and pay attention at the road at the same time,” Tiffany Albro agreed.

John Roger felt differently. “Yes I talk and drive, all the time. They are useless as time savers if you don’t,” he said.

G.R. election ends in primary

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

Election time already? Will the fate of the keys to the city of Grand Rapids be decided in September or must the community wait until November? Thanks to a mere 14 percent of Grand Rapids voters, these questions have answers.

The main competition for the race is between current mayor John Logie and mayor hopeful County Commissioner Paul Mayhue. Also running were Todd Keseling, an Aquinas College employee, and Christopher Michael Mabie.

The primary election was held Tuesday, Sept. 14. In order for the winner of the primary to take over the office he must win at least 50 percent of the vote. Mayor Logie exceeded this when, after 13 hours of polls being open, it was tallied that his election totals accounted for 62.5 percent. His closest com­petition was Mayhue who ended up with 31.5 percent. Keseling and Mabie finished with 3 percent each.

Although Mayhue was not the winner he was able to capture the popular vote in 20 of Grand Rapids 100 pre­cincts.

County Commission­er Mayhue blames his loss in part on the arrest of his campaign manager, Maurice Fayson, and his wife, Denise. Mr. Fayson was arrested due to un­paid child support, while his wife had an outstanding fine from the city.

Mayor Logie will pre­pare for his third four-year term. As he looks forward to his future in of­fice the Grand Rapids Press quoted Logie saying that he “wants to make the city a good place to live and work and raise and educate children.”

Women denied access to submarines

The U.S. Navy doesn’t want women to serve on submarines. Crammed living conditions and huge expenses are the reasons this branch of the service will not allow women into its last major ves­sels. Naval officials feel that submarines are just too cramped for men and women to be living in such close proximity. Allowing separate and equal facilities for women could cost the Navy about $400,000 per person. In recent years, women were allowed to serve on aircraft carriers when it cost the Navy about $40,000 per per­son to make such facility adjustments. Plans were considered to phase women into the Trident class of nuclear submarines, but the Naval officials felt that doing that wouldn’t offer women enough submarine career options and would raise more problems.

The video game industry has been moving fast for several years now, and it is only getting faster. The astounding rate of improve­ment and production seems to be increasing exponentially. This rate is thrilling to those who look forward to each new system’s marvels and torture for others whose pocket books quickly force them to suffer with yesterday’s system. The newest release is called Sega Dreamcast, and it is miles beyond anything on the market now. Released on 9/9/99, Sega Dreamcast features a chip that is ten times more powerful than anything on the market. It also sports a 56.6k modem that allows for usage on, off and with the internet.

Fans would be well-advised not to blink because they may miss Sony’s new Playstation and a new system being produced by Mi­crosoft due out next March that features networking and unfath­omable amounts of media possibilities not yet possible.

CBS/Viacom merger creates a colossus

CBS and Viacom merged recently to create a media powerhouse. Viacom, owner of popular cable channels such as MTV, Nickelodeon, TNT, Showtime and VH1 as well as studios such as Para­mount Pictures and Spelling Entertainment merged with CBS. The merger looks viable on paper. CBS needed Viacom’s studios and vast production resources while Viacom found CBS’s advertising capabilities to be its perfect compliment. The merger will allow the new company to produce, broadcast and advertise its television shows, movies and other productions from the ground up.
Should women be priests?

**Point**

Women have achieved successful roles in many vocations of modern-day society. They excel and hold leadership positions in business, the arts, science and mathematics, education, law and politics. Away from the secular realm, however, no one day have women encountered clashing beliefs and traditions.

The Catholic Church continues to restrict the ordination of priests strictly to men. The reasons for this are traditional, legitimate and meant to preserve the foundations of Catholic faith.

Every institution has a structure for decision-making processes. The Church is a highly centralized structure with an evident hierarchy of priests and bishops whose highest worldly authority is currently Pope John Paul II. This structure is meant to create order and preserve the Catholic faith, which is widely dispersed throughout the globe. Change is only accomplished slowly and deliberately in this framework. Several arguments must be convincingly made to change the status quo.

With this understanding of how the Catholic Church was intended to make decisions, one can see that the priestly ordination of women would not be embraced without careful and deliberative consideration. The Church is simply not ready to accept women priests—still especially not without guidance from a higher authority.

The Catholic Church gives several legitimate reasons for reserving the vocation of priesthood for men. First, the Church claims to have no authority to extend the vocation to women. The Church is committed to following the tradition begun by Christ when he selected men as the 12 apostles to carry His word throughout the world. If Christ really wanted to extend the apostolic mission formally to women, then he would have done so given that he did not hesitate to break several other cultural traditions at the time.

The commitment to Christ’s tradition is evident in the Catholic Eucharist. Bread and wine would always be used, for the logical reason to be consistent with the tradition begun by Christ. Even if other food were more culturally or locally symbolic, unleavened bread and wine would always be used to celebrate the Eucharist.

The Church also encourages women to pursue traditional vocations that do remain open to them by tradition, or in general, the universal call to holiness. Holiness can take the form of religious vows such as in the sisterhood, or even as a lector or participant in an individual’s parish and celebration of the Mass. It is not that women have a lesser role to play in the church, simply a different one.

Women are being treated equally, the Church insists. Not extending the offer to women to become priests does not hinder their call to holiness. Ordination is not necessary for salvation or fulfilling the mission of the Church, and women may choose other roles that the example of Christ supports.

Although the reservation of priestly ordination of women may appear to be unfair or even unjust in the modern-day world, the Church has made a commitment to preserving the traditions of Christ. It must be understood that this preservation is achieved through a highly centralized decision-making structure that is not subject to frequent cultural change. Women must realize that this stance will not obstruct their calling, it simply guides them in the range of opportunities and roles open to them. The traditional roles of women are important, greatly valued and encouraged in the Catholic Church.

"Not extending the offer to women to become priests does not hinder their call to holiness."

**Counterpoint**

In 1994, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops met and, among other things, decided that the Church has no authority to ordain women as priests. Was their decision communicated directly from God? Was their decision based solidly on scripture? Did their decision have any practical basis? The answer: a resounding no.

The Church’s official and most compelling scriptural “evidence” that prevents the ordination of women is that Christ chose 12 men for his apostles. This allegedly signifies that men only should follow in the footsteps of these first 12. Certainly, Christ’s meaning in this choice can be guessed at, but why isn’t our guess that the apostles were chosen for their individual characteristics—not their gender? If gender was a factor in the selection, could it have indicated that only men were available for such following at the time? Perhaps women had not been allowed by their families to follow around a man who wasn’t their husband or father. Perhaps women of the time wouldn’t have been taken seriously by listeners. Were these possibilities considered?

Another argument for reserving the priesthood for men is tradition, that early Church leadership was male. This assertion is only partially true. In the earliest years of the Catholic Church, women were not priests, but they could be deaconesses, the next best thing. Unfortunately, women deacons eventually dropped out of the picture, but to say that they were not early Church leaders is a falsity.

When we deny women ordination, we are doing so mainly in adherence to tradition. A tradition of male dominance and misogyny, that is. It is always argued that early Church leadership was primarily male—of course it was. Think about governmental, literary, academic and artistic leadership during the years of the early Church. That was traditionally male as well. Does tradition make it right? Remember that during the time of the early Church, tradition also allowed men to abuse the wives that they considered property. And when is “because that’s the way we’ve always done it” ever a good reason to maintain such a tradition of denial?

One unfortunate aspect of the Catholic Church’s failure to see its women as capable seminarians is the reality of the worldwide priest shortage. It is difficult for the priesthood to attract enough young men to fill all of the parishes. These young men have to be willing to give up on possibilities of marriage and family (yet another issue). Meanwhile, resources among female candidates remain un tapped.

Practically speaking, women have all the same tools that men do to perform the duties of priesthood. These duties include teaching, sanctifying and governing parishes. Given the modern physiological and sociological understanding of women, it is a stretch to imagine them rendered incapable by their estrogen and lack of other distinguishable male parts. As far as I’ve been led to believe, these distinctly male differences play no part in administering the sacraments.

 Granted, it is difficult to imagine attending Mass held by a female priest. Difficult, but not impossible. I’m sure that before Vatican II convert ed women to be priests, it was difficult to imagine Mass said in any but Latin. That change turned out for the best. Why can’t this one?

When it boils down to real motivations, I think that people are just afraid of the change involved in ordaining women.

"When it boils down to real motivations, I think that people are just afraid of the change involved in ordaining women."
The honor system isn't always enough

In an era where so many nations in the world have or are striving for nuclear capabilities, it is frightening to think what the cost of a nuclear attack could be. That said, it only makes sense that the federal government would want to have in place as many security measures as possible surrounding nuclear weapons technology. In particular, after the accusations that employees in the U.S. government leaked nuclear secrets to China earlier this year, it is logical that some security measures are focused on ensuring the loyalty of employees who work in those sensitive nuclear weapons areas. So, it should come as little surprise that the government has proposed using lie detector tests, or polygraph, to monitor employees in those areas.

I spoke with hundreds of workers who have loyalty done their jobs and honored the confidentiality of the information they are privy to. This suggestion might be a bit offensive. In fact, some government nuclear weapons employees feel threatened by the government's right to privacy. However, when someone works in a sensitive government position — weapon's technology of any kind, higher military ranks, FBI or CIA positions or literally any job that brings them employment into the White House on a regular basis — they accept a certain level of intrusion into their personal lives. These intrusions usually include measures such as a background check and psychological evaluation. A lie detector test regarding whether an employee has committed treason or espionage is no further an intrusion than security measures that they have already faced.

It's understandable that some nuclear weapons employees are concerned about the accuracy of the validity of the lie detector tests. After all, the results of the polygraph could result in serious criminal consequences or loss of employment. The tests rely on factors such as variation in stress levels and voice strain to determine truth from lie. The results can be significantly affected by the attitude of the person taking the test and the method by which the test is administered. Furthermore, there several books available regarding how to beat a lie detector test, one of the most recent written by a former police polygraph specialist.

When many of us picture lie detector tests, we likely think of the courtroom or polygraph specialist. The reason for using polygraph tests on nuclear weapons employees is to protect the security of the nation. Although the individuals who are applying for or working in these positions might feel uneasy about how much their employer knows about them, most people don’t aspire to work in the government without accepting a certain level of intrusion into their private life. That is the price they pay when they take a government job. Nuclear weapons technicians hold the knowledge and means to destroy life as we know it. And, unfortunately, the honor system just isn’t enough to protect the nation or the world from the possible threat of misuse of that knowledge. Only, the use high level security measures have any hope of doing that. And it lets the rest of us live our lives knowing that every possible measure was taken to prevent individuals with criminal intentions from having control of the fate of the country.

Let’s review what being in college is all about—aside from getting an academic education. The majority of college students are 18 and older, therefore considered legal adults. Legal adults vote, Legal adults can get married. Legal male adults are eligible for the draft. In other words, becoming an adult comes with a wealth of new responsibilities.

Being a legal adult means that an 18 to 20 year old individual is caught by state or city police drinking alcohol in a non-college setting that individual would face criminal charges. The police would have the right to arrest him/her. The police would not call Mom and Dad. This is because college-age students are recognized by the government as adults who are responsible for their own actions.

Likewise, the fun and freedom of college life comes with obligations. Most colleges and universities have in place as many security measures as possible surrounding underage drinking. They do this in order to protect the students knowledge and honor the confidence that some security measures as possible surrounding underage drinking on campus.

Granted, there is often one or two parents at home concerned for their college son/daughter’s well being while pursuing higher education. However, their jobs and honored the confidence that some security measures as possible surrounding underage drinking. They do this in order to protect the students knowledge and honor the confidence that some security measures as possible surrounding underage drinking.

The transition from high school to college is like riding a rollercoaster; kind of scary at first but a total blast at the same time. It has its ups, its downs, it twists and turns — we may even get the urge to scream once in a while, but in the end most of us come out okay. Likewise, it is also one of the most turbulent and changing times in a person’s life. Along with a brand new school and new friends come new responsibilities, hence the metamorphosis from a kid to an adult. However, some colleges are not nurturing this momentous change. After several alcohol-related accidents and fatalities in American colleges and universities, two Michigan schools are cracking down on the problem. Central Michigan University and Ferris State University are implementing a segment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, collectively known as H.R.6, which includes a provision that college administrators can call parents if their underage son or daughter is caught drinking on campus.

Mom and Dad aren’t here to make your decisions. Why go to college if you’re not allowed to make your own decisions? You need to be responsible for your own consequences.

"I think that’s a bad idea because when you go to college you’re over 18. You’re supposed to be on your own and making your own decisions. Why go to college if you’re not allowed to make your own decisions?

"When I set my kids off to school I sent them with hope that they had sense to do things right. I think it’s too high schoolish. Unless it’s a chronic problem, a lot of bad stuff, we don’t need to call mommy and daddy.”

"Robin Hill, continuing education student"

"I think that’s a student's own personal right because when you're 18 you're an adult. It should be the student’s own responsibility with your own mommy and daddy there.”

"Kelly Homb, senior"
Joy Drop, local talent take the stage

by Elizabeth Dudek

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The concert proved that Grand Rapids knows how to rock. Sounds flowing from the Intersection on Sept. 9 left listeners tapping their feet and invigorating their souls. The intersection hosted Toronto's Joy Drop and local bands South Venus and Marvel.

South Venus is the stage, and the crowd appeared to be drawn to the voice of lead singer Torey Wolfe and the band's obvious chemistry. With a shy charm, Wolfe and other band members, Brent Cavanaugh (rhythm guitar), Adam Gautlin (drums), Joe Kline (bass guitar) and Steve Krauss (guitar) introduced a musical intimacy to the Intersection. Their music featured not only lyrics, but also harmonies, guitar riffs and sonorous drum groups.

South Venus has played the Intersection before, receiving excellent response from the crowd at the recent show and in the past. Cavanaugh enjoyed the crowd's response to the show. "I like playing just for the excitement. It's fun to show off our music and to get people in here that dig our music."

We love it. The band introduced Toronto's Joy Drop at the recent show at the Intersection. "After South Venus, Marvel took the stage. Lead singer Mea Leech and her fellow band members took the audience on a wild ride of edgy music and with an outrageously hip look to complete the equation. Leech was pleased with the band's appearance. "We were really excited to be playing in front of Joy Drop. It is giving us a chance to play and grapple with some of our new songs," said Leech."

With the backing of a full band and a voice like a 90's style Janice Joplin, Marvel will be sure to rock the Intersection in the near future. In between sets, it was exciting to see Grand Rapids' own Nec-tar and Brian Vander Ark of the Verve Pipe. Nectar, still active in the local music scene, is looking to record some new material. Vander Ark enjoyed the show and looked forward to hearing the sounds of Joy Drop. "I think Joy Drop is a great band, and I've seen their video—it is excellent. We are looking to have Joy Drop play with us. To the lowest common denominator, you really have to be a good unit to be a band."

Joy Drop played to a pumped up crowd. With their CD, Metasexual on 97.9 WGRD, Grand Rapids welcomed this Toronto band with open arms. Their look is similar to that of rock band Garbage, but once listeners hear their sound, the comparisons stop. Lead singer Tara Sloane, a sexy rock vixen, leading the pack, the band (also consisting of guitarist Thomas Payne, bassist Tom McKay and drummer Tony Rabalao) sang selections from their new CD including "Beautiful" (receiving extensive air time on WGRD) and "Spider." Listeners hear a quieter, side of the band and Sloane in songs like "Strawberry Marigolds."

The album's title, Metasexual, comes from the term 'metasexis,' which was coined by writer Marco Vassi. In a recent press release Payne said Vassi was "a daring sexual explorer with a philosophical edge. He used the term to encapsulate the idea of sex for pleasure, not for procreation. But we like the idea of 'meta,' of going beyond, of going to extremes. We wanted a word that was powerful and captivating but that would allow people to come up with their own meaning."

On Joy Drop's webpage (http://www.joydrop.com) curious listeners can find song lyrics, tour dates and a band biography.

Mickey Blue Eyes: Not a movie for the mob

by Elizabeth Dudek

Arts & Entertainment Editor

What do you get when you cross a British art dealer with a mobster's daughter? A romantic comedy entitled "Mickey Blue Eyes," with a star-studded cast and a story line that will leave audience members smiling, but that's about it. Hugh Grant plays dashing Englishman Michael Felgate, who runs an auction house in the bustling world of New York City. Grant's character is slightly dry and might remind the audience of other characters he has played in past films such as "Four Weddings and a Funeral" or "Notting Hill."

If one can overlook this similarity, the film still is good. Felgate is in love with girlfriend Gina (played by Joan Tripplehorn) and proposes marriage. Although Gina would like to say yes, the couple cannot marry Michael simply because she wishes to protect him from her father, a well-known mob boss. Michael decides to find Gina's father and ask for his blessing in marriage.

While trying to convince Gina's father of the proposed marriage, Michael is also introduced to his future in-laws, a band of mob bosses and loan sharks. Gina wants to protect Michael from this terrible lifestyle, and so the two lovers embark on a mission to prevent the mob family from interrupting their future together. Tripplehorn is tremendously witty throughout, potentially leaving some viewers with headaches by the end of the film. The misadventures of both Tripplehorn and Grant are charming, but not funny enough to cause any rolling in the aisles.

Unfortunately, the only way to truly enjoy the film would be on home video, this way one can fast-forward over the silly parts of the film that might insult the intelligence of the viewer. The movie also features James Caan as Gina's mobster father, but his acting abilities are the only quality that manages to shine through this cloudy mess of bad acting and British accents.

For more info on this film, visit: http://www.mickeyblueeyes.com.
"Pleasant" evening at Moose Cafe

by Sara DeKildeer
Times Contributing Writer

Wally Pleasant, singer and songwriter of such hits as "Dead Rock 'n Roll Stars," rocked the Moose Cafe Thursday night, Sept. 9. Pleasant also led a game of Bingo, which shocked the audience by picking out numbers between songs.

The set began with "The Post-Graduate, Overeducated, Out of Work Blues," which struck a chord with numerous audience members. Next, Pleasant asked the audience to behave like "bratty 5-year olds" for his song about a bad talk show host for children. Pleasant also performed "The Day Ted Nugent Killed All the Animals."

Freshman Seth Williams thought Pleasant was the perfect folk musician, "He's like a folk musician for college students. I never thought that was possible," said Williams. "I loved how he interacted with the audience." Pleasant also sang "Denny's at 4 a.m.," followed by a medley of popular songs from the eighties, which included ZZ Top's "Legs" and Bruce Springsteen's "I'm on Fire." Pleasant encouraged audience participation.

Freshman Christina Ventatelli enjoyed Pleasant's performance. "I laughed so hard it hurt!" she said.

After performing some new material, Pleasant wrapped up the first set with "Psycho Roommate," and "Small Time Drug Dealer." Pleasant asked the audience to write lyrics on the back of the Bingo cards. When he began the second set, a member of the audience gave him one of the lyrics. Nearly everyone contributed a line. He performed the audience's song, with the chorus of "And I don't know whose underwear I'm wearing, but I'm pretty sure it's not mine."

Pleasant performed "Stupid Day Job," which included an impression of the singer Morrissey, followed by a cover of "Joker," by the Steve Miller Band.

Several songs later, Pleasant gave his rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," in which Ted Nugent attacks and kills the lion. After several of his older songs, including "Alternateen," and "Cool Guy with a Car," Pleasant performed a new song about the experience of being a folk singer these days.

At the audience's request, Pleasant performed "That's Evolution." His last song was "Lost Weekend, Las Vegas," lyrics set to the tune of Pachelbel's Canon. Pleasant had the audience hum along with the song.


With questions ranging from seagulls to his home and friends Dean Moroney drinking Mission Orange." A highlight of the evening was hearing a live version of "Black Vinyl Pant's" sung in a sonorous tone by Wilson and basiefully backed up by Mueller, Moroney and Wallace. The song is based on a true story about a young woman who attended numerous Mission Orange shows wearing sexy pants.

"I actually dated this girl, and the song was eventually written about her," said Mueller. The band also discussed spirituality within their music. "I get inspiration through things I listen to, especially to get feedback from the other guys. There is a lot of joint song writing as well," said Moroney.

"Personally, I find myself being inspired by my favorite bands such as Pink Floyd and Phish," said Wilson.

The band played Friday night at the Intersection Lounge and Saturday afternoon at the Eastown Street Fair. For more information about Mission Orange, log onto their webpage at http://www.missionorange.com.
Men's soccer off to best start in history

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

Aquinas College men's soccer team is off to the best start since the school began playing. Yet on Saturday, it was a slow start and a strong finish that propelled Aquinas over visiting Indiana Tech.

After one half of play the Saints and visiting Warriors were tied at 0-0. Each team had opportunities to score in the first forty-five minutes, but their attempts failed. A.Q. fired 12 shots in the first half against Indiana Tech goalie Will Bedard, while Aquinas goalie Sean Fishbach saw five shots from the Warriors. Both goalies recorded two saves, but it was Indiana Tech who benefited by a couple of Aquinas' missed opportunities.

Assistant Coach Bob Cole spoke of the team's first half performance after the game. "As a team, we missed on several chances in the first half." Of the several chances, the Saints watched one shot ricochet off the goal post, as well as a score nullified by an off-sides call. The second half brought a whole new game for both teams. Indiana Tech jumped out to a 1-0 lead four minutes into the second half when Curtis Lockwood scored an unassisted goal. After the score Fishbach played a perfect game, recording two more saves on the five shots that were attempted.

With Fishbach stopping all but one of the Warrior's shots in the second half, the Saints were able to put a substitution strategy to use to score four goals. Coach Cole also explained Aquinas' strategy, "We have three sets of forwards who substitute in sets of two." Cole said, "We wear them down first, then we put them away."

Put them away is right, as Indiana Tech saw the flood gates open fifteen minutes into the second half when Aquinas' Sanel Faicic scored to tie the game at 1-1. From here on out it became the Andrew Fearman show. Fearman, a freshman, recorded a hat trick to put the Warriors away. All of the goals came within fifteen minutes of the Faicic's first goal, putting Aquinas on top 4-1.

After the game, freshman forward Andrew Fearman talked of Aquinas' team effort. "The best part of this team is we have given each other good celebrations." Fearman responded, "We'll just do the best we can."

Let them dance
by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

Jarious Jackson rolled to his right and floated a softly thrown pass to a wide open Bobby Brown in the end zone for the two point conversion. A score that silenced the record crowd of 111,523, and put Notre Dame on top of Michigan, 22-19. Immediately after the goal, the referees penalized wide-out Bobby Brown in the end zone for "excessive celebration." The penalty was assessed on the kickoff giving the Wolverines an excellent field position and the opportunity to drive the ball 58 yards down the field to win the game 26-22. I think Michigan probably could have scored from 73 yards in the waning moments if the yards gained due to the "excessive celebration" penalty were added to the length Michigan had to drive the ball. In fact, Michigan probably could have started from their own 10 and full the entire 99 yards for a score at that particular moment. How far away Michigan started from is not the question at hand. The question I am asking is why penalize a college athlete for having fun after catching the biggest pass of his career in front of a crowded record breaking in number?

Was Bobby Brown taunting a Michigan player? No. Was a player from the other team harmed by his "excessive celebration"? Absolutely Not. Did Bobby Brown draw attention to himself in the back of the endzone? He most certainly did. Did he have good reason to celebrate? This question reminds me of a 1997 movie about a sports agent Jerry Maguire (played by Tom Cruise) and his single client, an N.F.L. wide receiver Rod Tidwell (played by Cuba Gooding Jr.). At one point in the movie, Maguire questions Tidwell, asking why he began playing the game of football in the first place.

Maguire says to Tidwell, "Show them the pure joy of the game. Bury the attitude a little bit," Tidwell returns, "Wait, your telling me to dance." And Maguire, who is trying to open Tidwell's eyes to real meaning of sports replies, "I'm saying, to get back to the guy who first started playing this game, remember? Way back when you were a kid. It wasn't just about the money? Was it? Was it??"

Aquinas College athletes surely know the meaning of hard work and dedication. I believe if I were to ask any of A.Q.'s athletes if they work hard and make sacrifices to participate for the Saints on the playing field, I am almost positive I would find that almost all do. Let's take the Aquinas men's basketball team for example. Their first game is not until Nov. 9. They have already been meeting and working out together as a team. Three days a week, the Saints get together at 6 a.m. (yes, in the morning) and condition on their own. On Sundays, the Men's team has open gym in addition to three one-hour team workouts each week. And when the season starts it only gets harder.

Their season is nearly two months away, yet the basketball team is already intensely working out. When the season does roll around, wouldn't you think they deserve some celebration and fun when the time they have put in rewards them with W's in the win column?

I will say that I admire soccer for the pure entertainment that is generated after a great play. If I were to decide what sport athletes had the most fun playing, I would pick soccer. The great thing about it is they do not get yellow or red cards for their exhibitions. When Brandi Chastain hit the game winning shot in the World Cup finals to put the United States over China, she represented what sports should be to all those who play them. She was so wrapped up in the intensity of the game and the joy of hitting the winning shot that she literally ripped her shirt off while being mobbed by fellow United States players. Should Chastain be penalized for her "excessive celebration" after winning the World Cup for the United States? Should Bobby Brown? College athletes put themselves on the line in every contest they participate in. They go through grueling practices every day to get them the chance to represent the school, yet when they try to have a good time playing games that were meant to be fun, they run the risk of being penalized. If this is the case, there is something wrong with the system and its values.
Volleyball season has begun wasting no time in finishing 10 games already and limping out so a 2-8 record with a 1-1 record in league play in the WHAC. After a rebuilding period last year, the Saints are trying to get back to the playoffs.

Returning ten players from a squad that finished 14-28 under the tutelage of first year coach Marc Schulz, the Saints look to challenge the powerhouse of the WHAC in Madonna University and Cornerstone University.

Six newcomers look to help the Saints, including junior transfer from Mot Community College Becky Romberg, who will join her sister, sophomore Andrea Romberg, in the Saints ranks. This year's squad includes Tracy Sniederman, a graduate of Grand Valley State University and Tim Wieringa, a veteran AAU coach who will assist Schulz in coaching this team. With a year of coaching experience at Aquinas under his belt and two new assistants under him, Schulz is excited about the upcoming year. "Our off-season training and commitment to one another has been outstanding," stated Schulz.

The Saints received outstanding performances from several runners. "The real big meets for us are in the early part of the season," stated Wood. "These first couple of races give us a chance to learn about ourselves." -Coach Dave Wood

The men's team did not finish in a such a "tight pack." Instead, the Saints top seven were Christine Gow in twelfth (20:07). Rounding out the top seven Saints' runners were Shawn Gasi in twelfth (20:07), Brett Bigorowski in sixteenth (21:03), Marcus Marek in eighteenth (21:09), John Wojciakowski in fourteenth (21:14), and Brett Bigorowski in seventeenth (21:19). Wood spoke of the men's performance as a team after Friday's Invitational. "We had a couple of veterans who didn't do as well as we thought they would," Wood said. Wood also praised his young runners. "Our young runners ran real well." Wood and the men's and women's cross country teams are looking ahead to the upcoming months. "The real big meets for us are in October," said Wood. He also added, "These first couple of races give us a chance to learn about ourselves."

Aquinas College's cross country teams spring into action again Saturday when they are scheduled to run at the Cornerstone Invitational, as well as the Tower Trail Classic in Allendale on the same day.

*Courtesy Photo

Shannon Hickman

Shannon Hickman, a sophomore from Fremont, has shined for the Saints at the setter position. Hickman has started the season leading the Women's volleyball team with 139 assists. Watch Shannon in action on September 28, when Spring Arbor comes to Aquinas.

*Courtesy Photo

Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith, a junior from Dowagiac, has led the men's cross country team in each of their first two invitational events. On September 10, Smith took home first place honors in the 8,000 meters at the Aquinas Invitational in a time of 26:48. See Kevin and the rest of the cross country teams in action on Saturday at Cornerstone.

*Contributing Writer

Kevin Smith
Twice-over Treasures
Students scour deals at vintage shops

By Jessi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

From glass slippers to leopard print carpet remnants, it doesn’t get any better. Old is new again as vintage takes center stage in the fashion forefront. Originally popularized by uniqueness and eccentricity, secondhand is in by demand among college students. Across the nation, bell-bottoms, platform shoes and threadbare button-downs grace campus paths. You may not find it at the "trendier" stores, but secondhand sets its own agenda and for many reasons.

Chief among these, the cost. Stories of five-dollar down coats, jeans for a quarter and prom dresses in a single digit are not uncommon among those with the drive to dig. Vintage shopping requires patience, persistence and a whole lot of sorting, but many secondhand fans will tell you, the extra time and energy are more than worth it at the end of the sale. Secondly, the look is unique. The perfect solution for anyone who’s ever pranced across campus in a brand new ensemble only to show it off to a classroom of closet clones, or forgotten where a certain article of clothing was at the mall simply because every store wore them, which can be either negative or positive. Some- thing else is attached to them besides the material. If you look at the clothes at the big retail stores, they are all just copies of all the old styles.

-Hanh Nguyen, senior

"I love vintage clothes because they’re already broken in. You can find a lot of old retro styles and get creative. Then there is the fact that someone else wore them, which can be either negative or positive. Sometimes it is a different story. Ever since the trend has reached far beyond the cyclopedias, this trash to treasures approach set is a low priority in comparison to the price tag. But is all this junk really just junk underneath all the hype? Or is the price tag.

-Aquinas Community

I’ve gone everywhere in Grand Rapids...basically ValueLand, Goodwill, Salvation Army, and then the specialty shops like Scavenger Hunt. They (specialty shops) are kind of pricey because they are more picked over. I usually go to Valueland because they have better deals. It’s fun because you have to do a lot of searching, but the con is that a lot of times you’re not gonna find anything. It is more for fun...it’s good if you’re looking for quantity over quality.*

-Hannah Dooley, freshman

"I go vintage shopping to get cheap clothing, mostly for Hal-loween, but sometimes I get lucky and find good stuff. You don’t have to wear expensive clothes all the time. Anything works as long as it looks good."

-Josh Chan, freshman

"I think it’s great. If you get clothes from somewhere like Abercrombie you’ll see five other people on the same day wearing the same shirt you are. With vintage clothing you’ll be the only one. It’s an inexpensive way to appreciate the old styles while being creative.”

-Rene Rasmussen, sophomore

"I think it’s cool. It’s a great way to reuse other people’s clothes. It is interesting to see how cycles in clothing repeat. When I was in high school, bell-bottoms were definitely out. Now though, bell-bottoms are okay. I think whatever makes you comfortable is cool.”

-Eric Mullen, Director of Student Activities

"We get not only the traditional low-income customers, but also a lot of wealthy people who I suppose are treasure-hunting. Right now, we’re getting ready for Halloween. We have even more stock in the back that’ll bring out close to the time. Last year Channel 8 came out and did a segment on everyone in the fancy dresses and making their own costumes. We’re in pretty good shape right now despite the awesome polyester shirts are only fitty cents.”

-Jacob Calleca, freshman

"I shopped at Goodwill to find clothes for pamp week in high school. I stopped shopping there because I don’t know where it is in Grand Rapids. Alan, I don’t have much money since I’m in college, even though the awesome polyester shirts are only fitty cents.”

-Sarah VanWienen, owner, Nobody’s Sweetheart Vintage Store

We’re in a different story. Ever since college started again, it’s been pretty picked over. They love it because they get an additional 10% discount with their regular ID.”

-Karen Raxter, Assistant manager, Goodwill Retail Outlet

"I like vintage clothing because it’s passed the test of time. If it’s lasted this long, it should last forever.”

-Andrew Feaman, freshman

"I don’t wear vintage clothing, but I think it’s interesting and eclectic. More power to the people who do wear it.”

-Lauren Tetzler, junior

"It (Goodwill) is a fun place to go if you really like to dig for things and you have the time.”

-Molly Carroll, freshman

"It’s a fun place to go if you really like to dig for things and you have the time.”

-Rene Rasmussen, sophomore

"Secondhand fans will tell you, the extra time and energy are more than worth it at the end of the sale. Secondly, the look is unique. The perfect solution for anyone who’s ever pranced across campus in a brand new ensemble only to show it off to a classroom of closet clones, or forgotten where a certain article of clothing was at the mall simply because every store wore them, which can be either negative or positive. Sometimes it is a different story. Ever since the trend has reached far beyond the cyclopedias, this trash to treasures approach set is a low priority in comparison to the price tag.

-Secondhand Store Employees

"One big seller is the vintage eye-wear; people like buying the old glasses and then getting their own prescriptions put in. Also, with the return of swing-dancing, clothing from the forties is selling well. Fodoras and pinstripe jackets are very popular right now. Also, in terms of fashion, the fifties are coming back with a lot of cardigan sweaters and two-tone shoes. I get quite a wide variety of customers. The younger people come in for the clothing and the housewares generally sell to the older crowd. Then I have a separate section for religious ar- ticles, so there really is something vintage for everyone.”

-Bethesda VanWienen, owner, Nobody’s Sweetheart Vintage Store

"As long as it looks good, feels comfortable, and is cheap, you’re getting a good deal.”

-Pat Hurley, freshman

*Quotes compiled by Andrea Covert, Laura Eilar and Sarah VanWienen. Photos by Chris Waid.