AQ hosts political debate

Candidates address transportation and education issues

by Marquise J. Blakeslee
Times Contributing Writer

The debate between the candidates for Grand Rapids City Commission occurred in the Wege Ballroom at 7 p.m. on Oct. 28. The debate featured Rev. Dean and Bill Blickley vying for the third ward seat and Marge Byington and Rick Tormala seeking the seat for the second ward. Dean and Tormala won in the city-wide election Nov. 2.

The debate covered many issues that are important to the Grand Rapids community. Members of the audience had the opportunity to submit questions to Dr. Glenn Barkan, the debate moderator and Chair of the Aquinas Political Science Department, for the candidates to answer. The questions posed by the audience covered the entire political spectrum from education to transportation.

The issue of education was covered in an in-depth manner as members of the audience had several questions regarding this topic. Candidates expressed their feelings on the proposal for a millage to provide better transportation. Tormala stated, "Without transportation all of the other services are rendered useless." Rev. Dean discussed the economic impact that public transportation has on the city. Blickley called for the state to better support public mass transit. Byington elaborated on the point that the current system is not flexible enough and that it is not fulfilling the needs of the citizens of Grand Rapids.

On the question of education, the candidates held different views. Tormala felt that the citizens needed to look into what our schools presently need. He did not support vouchers as they are represented in currently proposed legislation. Byington stated that she is "a strong supporter of public schools." She also suggested that there needed to be greater cooperation between the city and the school board. Rev. Dean applauded charter schools, and he stated that he thought the competition was good for schools. But on the other hand, he said that he was "not sold on vouchers." He explained that he believes that it was "taking the funds out of the same pot." Some of the other questions posed were regarding issues including gay rights, the living wage and what specific changes the candidates would like to see in policy. The debate also had its heated moments between Byington and Tormala.

In all, there were approximately 60 people in attendance at the debate including Aquinas students and faculty members as well as Grand Rapids community members.

See EVALUATE, page 2

North Central evaluates AQ

by Amanda Smith
Times Contributing Writer

What assurances do students, benefactors, other institutions and the general public have that Aquinas actually follows through with its proclaimed mission and goals? The North Central Association's task is to be sure that there are several.

The assurance that Aquinas is living up to what administrators say, is maintained by accreditation visits from the North Central Association. From Oct. 18-19, Aquinas College underwent a focused evaluation by the North Central Association of colleges and schools.

The North Central Association of colleges and schools was founded in 1895 and is committed to developing and maintaining high standards of excellence. The organization grants membership and accreditation to colleges and universities in 19 states from the North Central region of the country. The affiliation status for Aquinas mandated the focused visit to

See CLASS CUTS, page 3

Aquinas departments plan class cuts for spring 2000

by Eric Vander Ley
Times Contributing Writer

Aquinas College plans to cut nearly $100,000 of classes for the spring semester. This comes after last year when the school had accumulated nearly $800,000 of unplanned debt. Consolidation of classes for the spring semester has begun early to identify any possible problems immediately.

Classes are likely to be canceled if they do not meet the minimum number of students required, especially if the class is taught by an adjunct faculty member. "Students will be notified of canceled classes starting this week," said Gary Kieff, the Associate Provost of Academic and Information Systems. Students will be notified by mail if any of their classes are canceled.

Uniformity in faculty class loads has also become an issue within the past months. When a class is canceled due to insufficient enrollment, faculty member will receive a two-fold effect: faculty will retain their full class loads while the college is pursuing sound financial planning.

These class cuts are part of an overall reduction in spending throughout the college.

"Right now we are looking at a whole series of issues to make sure that we are being as effective as possible," said Aquinas College President Harry Knopke. These cuts will come from many different sources. In addition to the money that the school is cutting for classes the academic administration has been required to cut an additional $100,000 in resources. This will be realized through limited spending and financial restructuring. The overrun in spending for the current academic year has two sources, unrealized continuing education and summer school tuition dollars and adjunct and overload classes. This year, accordingly, the faculty will receive a three percent pay increase rather than the six percent that was planned.

Nearly seven percent of the classes that are offered for the spring will be canceled or reassigned to faculty members. These canceled classes will be "non-required electives and low-enrolled courses," said Kieff. Nearly 30 of 550 sections offered in the spring were canceled according to Kieff. Dr. Lorraine Straw, Chair of the Academic Assembly as well as the Psychology Department said, "While efficiency is advisable in any circumstances, it ideally would be done as part of an on-going, system-wide review rather than as after-the-fact schedule changes. It is unfortunate that urgency due to budget issues has made the changes more sudden and disruptive. Such last minute shifts create difficulties for students, faculty and staff. Faculty and staff are doing our best to meet students' needs."

Kieff believes that class cancellations will not inconvenience the vast majority of the Aquinas College community. Either will they keep any student from obtaining all of their graduation requirements. "We do not want to put any student's educational program in jeopardy," said Kieff.

However, several students, mostly juniors and seniors, have reported that class cancellations have dramatically changed their schedule for next semester.

Over the past year disputes over the proper utilization of Steelcase stock that has been donated to Aquinas by Peter Wege had erupted to the point where the Board of Trustees had to disband the committee at their last meeting. This stock was given to the school to be used as an endowment. President Knopke describes the disposition of the stock as a "huge asset that has not been put into play the way it should be."

See CLASS CUTS, page 3

Budgeting at Aquinas

by Eric Vander Ley
Times Contributing Writer

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Dr. Gary Kieff, the Associate Provost of Academic and Information Systems, described the college's budget issues. He believes that it was "taking the funds out of the same pot."

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In all, there were approximately 60 people in attendance at the debate including Aquinas students and faculty members as well as Grand Rapids community members.

Baraka to visit GR

Cross Country 2nd Place

Prime Time Players

What Eastown offers

See EVALUATE, page 2
Bishop Gumbleton brings message against sanctions

by Angela Bergman
Timers Campus News Editor

When is the use of force justified? Professor Roger Durham commonly poses this question in his political science classes, but it is not a question people think about everyday. On Oct. 26, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in Wege Ballroom, Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton from Detroit addressed that very issue.

Gumbleton has been a long time activist opposing the U.S. foreign policy to enforce economic sanctions against Iraq. In 1956, Gumbleton was ordained to the priesthood and became a bishop in 1968. He is currently the pastor at St. Leo in Detroit. Gumbleton has served in several international peace organizations, including the Center for International Justice in Harlem.

The economic sanctions against Iraq were first initiated before the Gulf War that began in 1991 by a United Nations Security Council resolution. The sanctions, which restrict virtually all nations from trading with Iraq, have not been lifted since they were put into effect. The intent of the sanctions is to force Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein to cooperate.

"Iraq is totally isolated," Gumbleton said. He claimed that over 5 million Iraqi people have died since the sanctions began in 1990.

"What would justify that kind of brutality to innocent, defenseless children?" Gumbleton asked his audience.

Gumbleton stated that so many people have died as a result of the sanctions because the bombing of Iraq was "three times that of Hiroshima" and completely destroyed the Iraqi infrastructure. He mentioned the impact of weapons of mass destruction used on Iraq, such as chemical and radioactive weapons.

Many of the 75 people in attendance to hear Gumbleton speak were impressed by his personal knowledge of Iraq. Gumbleton visited Iraq in 1990 as a member of a "coming home" delegation for the release of American hostages. While he was in Baghdad, Gumbleton observed that Iraq was "well-developed," there were few poor people and that there was religious toleration and high standards for health and education. The bishop returned three times since the war and found children suffering from cancer and leukemia along with babies born with deformities from the chemical and radioactive weapons.

"The maintaining of these sanctions can have no moral justification," Gumbleton concluded.

He ended with a call to action, urging all in attendance to become educated and examine the options of what action they can take. Gumbleton referred to American children of Iraqi descent who have begun to collect postcards to influence the U.S. foreign policy towards Iraq. The mailing address is Koutahz and Marwa Al-Rawi, One Million Postcards to the President Campaign, P.O. Box 1141, San Pedro, CA 90733-1141.

Bishop Gumbleton was invited by the Social Action Committee at Aquinas as one component of a resolution passed by the Aquinas Community Senate April 21, 1999 with 18 senators voting in favor and 18 opposed out of 32 present and voting. The resolution denounced the sanctions against Iraq and called for student action to advance this position. Highly controversial and debated, the resolution included bringing in speakers on the Iraqi situation to educate and inform the student body. The POLIS political studies group also sponsored the Bishop.

The SAC coordinator, Martha Kryzowski, said that it was "interesting to hear the Bishop's personal experiences." She continued, "The bottom line is that innocent people are dying of curable diseases for no reason, and the sanctions are not acting any higher authority in the country... just common people.

SAC is not finished with their activism for this year. Emily Czikowski, from the East Timor Action Network (ETAN) will be speaking on East Timor's struggle for democracy. Czikowski has done a large amount of work in Iraq and will be visiting campus on Nov. 10. She will address this issue at 7 p.m. in the Bukowski Chapel.

SAC is also planning a trip to the School of the Americas in the Americas Nov. 19. in both financial and institutional planning that were suggested in the 1999 focused report.

Aquinas' report addresses changes in the administrative structure, physical facilities and academic programs. The physical

See EVALUATE, page 3

A.C.T. drama festival includes music, acting, fun

On Saturday evening, Nov. 6 the Aquinas College Thespians (ACT) sponsored a drama festival. The event was held in the Moose Café. Approximately 70 students came to the Moose to watch or take part in the event.

The night's seven different acts included demonstrations of talent in many forms as participants acted out short skits, segments of plays and recited monologues. Some students, such as Andy Hollander and Jeanette Sieb (picted above) performed Hollander's original song "Lonely Again" for the show.

Dr. Penny Avery, ACT Advisor said, "We did it because we wanted an outlet for people to share their creativity... It was great to see Aquinas students choose to come to an alcohol-free event and enjoy the variety of acts shared."

The Aquinas College Gourmet Espresso Bar!
Located in the lower level of the Cook Carriage House

Business Hours:
Monday & Wednesday, 7:45 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday, 7:45 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

$.25 off your next purchase at the Moose Café!
Not valid with any other offer or discount.
Good until December 17, 1999

Offering a full line of gourmet espresso drinks and house coffee blends, specialty sodas and juices, and an assortment of delicious bagels, muffins, scones and cookies!
Live entertainment featured every week.

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The visiting team thought that Aquinas had progressed since their last visit, but provided the recommendation that Aquinas submit their 2003-2004 comprehensive visit in the years 2003-2004. However, the evaluators did point out weaknesses, which outnumbered their recommendations for improvement. The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and Accrediting (NCA) must receive these recommendations as part of their assessment of the institution.

"Aquinas was able to document progress in these [concern areas] coupled with a plan to resolve any outstanding issues."

-Michael Keller

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Irish Heritage Society hosts Irish Counsel General

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

“This is a good time to be Irish,” the Counsel General to the United States from the Republic of Ireland told a crowd gathered at the Ford Museum on the night of Nov. 2.

Eason Hickey was invited by the Irish Heritage Society in Grand Rapids to speak on Ireland’s unprecedented economic growth and the continuing peace process with Northern Ireland. Hickey’s talk was an update to many Irish-Americans in the audience about what issues their relatives were facing back home. A few faculty and students from Aquinas’ Irish program attended the lecture.

Given Hickey’s status as an Irish diplomat, the Counsel General unsurprisingly painted a bright and optimistic picture of the Republic of Ireland’s position in the world today. Hickey has been a diplomat for over 20 years and has traveled in Europe and Africa. His main office is headquartered in Dublin, but he has been in the United States for over a year now.

Hickey’s economic position as improved significantly, Hickey said. He cited Ireland’s entrance into the European Union and acceptance of the “euro” monetary unit as a positive advancement. “Ireland, from the beginning, has been active in European integration,” said Hickey.

Although some feared that Irish culture would be sacrificed by integration, Hickey said that the EU has actually given the European Community a better awareness of Irish culture. The governmental policy towards the economy has progressed to an “enterprise economy” system where “the state fosters economic growth.” Hickey pointed out that the policy lowers corporate income taxes to attract foreign investment. The leaders of the Republic of Ireland are taking a “consensus approach” to dealing with economic stake holders and special interests such as labor and businesses.

The economic uplift in Ireland has caused the country to “reorient from an agricultural and rural society to an urban and technological society,” Hickey explained. In addition, the Irish have had to learn to get along with the entrance of several multicultural groups of people immigrating to Ireland in search of opportunity.

The Republic of Ireland is the larger area south of Northern Ireland and is independent from British rule, while Northern Ireland historically has been governed by British rule. The area of Northern Ireland is characterized by conflict and divided into basically two groups: the unionists, who favor union with Great Britain, and the nationalists, who advocate the independence of Northern Ireland. Violence and terrorism have continued between the nationalists, including The Irish Republican Army led by Sinn Finn, and the unionists.

The Republic of Ireland believes that the actions taken in Northern Ireland are “morally indefensible,” and has been active in the peace process. Along with the diplomatic and negotiated help of the United States, the relationships between nationalists and unionists — Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, the relationship between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and the relationship between Ireland and Great Britain have been examined.

Hickey said that “progress has not been easy ... the peace process has not advanced as quickly as we would like.” One of the challenges has been the “dem commisioning” (as Hickey put it) or disarmament of the IRA. “The issue here is one of trust, there are signs that they (the IRA) are beginning to trust us,” Hickey said.

The issue of Catholics versus Protestants was raised to Hickey. He responded that these terms were “short-hand for a long standing struggle of power between two groups of people,” and had little to do with religious differences.

Hickey assured the audience that the progress the Republic of Ireland has made in economics and in the peace process with Northern Ireland will be sustainable in years to come.

Study reveals obesity has become a U.S. epidemic

College students show 70 percent increase in weight problems

by Nick Orschisti
Times Local/National Editor

America is currently losing a war. This war is more deadly than those fought with guns and larger weapons and is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths each year. The powerful enemy is not another superpower or rogue terrorist nation. The enemy is obesity and weight gain.

In a study recently released by the JAMA, the results were blatantly obvious: Across the board America is getting fatter.

The prevalence of obesity, often defined by body mass index, which is found by dividing weight by height, increased from 12 percent in 1991 to 17.9 percent in 1998. A steady increase was observed in all states, in both sexes and across age groups, races, educational levels. It occurred regardless of smoking status. The greatest magnitude of increase was found in the following groups: 16- to 29-year-olds (7.1 - 12.1 percent), and those with some college education (10.6 - 17.8 percent).

The study was done between 1991 and 1998 and was particularly disturbing locally. During these years, obesity in Michigan increased from 15.2 percent to 20.7 percent over a 6-year period. This means that one out of every five people in Michigan is obese. Michigan is currently tied in its distinction as 3rd fattest state in the country.

The problem is even more prevalent among college students. Obesity levels rose for people ages 18 to 29 from 7.1 percent in 1991 to 12.1 percent in 1998 — about a 70 percent change. Obesity levels in people with a college education rose by 63 percent. No more numbers are needed to describe the problem: Americans are getting fatter fast.

Besides the obvious social problem with gaining weight there are many other physical hazards of which obese people more at risk than their thinner counterparts. According to the JAMA report, “increases will tremendously affect public health since obesity is strongly associated with many chronic diseases and conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Estimates suggest that obesity-related morbidity may account for 6.8 percent of U.S. health care costs.” The study concluded that national weight gain has become an epidemic and that public awareness must be kicked into high gear to reverse this trend.

Terrorist action takes toll on the Armenian parliament

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

Since the break down of the U.S.S.R. in 1991, the region has been full of violence. The latest happening took place in Armenia. Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian and seven other government officials were victims of terrorism Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Five attackers gained access to the parliament building when the entire cabinet was present for a question and answer session. No one can explain how the gunmen were able to hide their automatic rifles and enter the chamber. The terrorists were led by Nairi Unanian, a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF). The Armenian government has a history of trying to suppress this group. In exchange for a surrender, Unanian and his fellow attackers had a few demands. One was that he wanted President Rob ort Kocharian to promise that the terrorists would receive a fair trial and that his recorded statement would be aired on national television.

His statement revealed possible reasons for the murder of the Prime Minister. That statement also revealed that the peace process was not as advanced as quickly as we would like. One of the challenges has been the “dem commissioning” (as Hickey put it) or disarmament of the IRA. “The issue here is one of trust, there are signs that they (the IRA) are beginning to trust us,” Hickey said.

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Retreats draw area Catholics to Parnell

Relics by Heather Young Times Assistant Editor

Mount Carmel is a private drive, surrounded by rolling hills and fields, that winds its way to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Carmelite Monastery in Parnell, a town northeast of Grand Rapids. On Tuesday, Nov. 2, it was blanketed with parked cars and pilgrims—all waiting in an hour-long line in order to file past the relics remains of St. Therese of Lisieux.

St. Therese of Lisieux, the namesake of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, is known for the "little way" of spirituality that she believed everyone capable of pursing. She is called "the Little Flower of Jesus." And accordingly, many pilgrims visiting her relics brought roses and flowers pasted with prayers and intentions to lay before the relics. She was a lot like Mother Teresa. She emphasized loving God in the ordinary things of life—through doing little things with great love. I also learned that there are more miracles attributed through veneration of St. Therese than through any other saint." Ferris and Bridge joined the Aquinas Campus Ministry Department in a trip to visit the relics.

OCTOBER

November 10, 1999

Local/National News

Football legend passes on

Walter Payton, who died last week, disclosed in February that he had the rare liver disease called primary sclerosing cholangitis and needed a liver transplant. The famous running back also had cancer. Payton was sent home from the Mayo clinic and given a maximum of 48 hours to live. He astonished doctors by fighting for six days before his struggle ended. Payton is considered to be the greatest running back in his day, and is thought by some to be the greatest of all time. Payton rushed for 16,726 yards in his 13-year career, which is a mark that may live a long time, especially with Barry Sanders' retirement at the beginning of the season.

Egypt Air flight 990 kills 217

Egypt Air flight 990 crashed into the Atlantic killing 217 people. The crash has perplexed investigators based on what has been recovered so far. However, investigators have very little evidence, a few aircraft crafts and a some radar images showing Egypt Air Flight 990 dropping, pulling up to half its original height and then dropping down until it broke apart above the water's surface. There are many possibilities for what caused the New York-to-Cairo flight to crash, but the amount of evidence that has been recovered to this point is not lending itself to answers. Terrorist activity is still one among many possibilities. Divers have been hampered by weather and ocean depth in attempts to recover the black boxes and other pieces of evidence.

Shootings rampant across United States

Two new shootings in Seattle and Hawaii can be added to the increasing list of United States gun violence incidents. Seven were shot dead in Hawaii by a former Xerox warehouse employee, and another four were shot in Seattle leaving one dead. The shooting in Hawaii on Tuesday, Oct. 2, was the worst shooting in the history of the state of Hawaii which has one of the lowest murder rates in the country.

Internet hits cell phones

TV viewers might have begun to notice an explosion of cellular phone advertisements lately. While these commercials have been bombarding television shows for months, the new ones advertise something different that has crept into the market: the internet available on personal cell phones. This offers new possibilities—like buying and selling stocks while watching your child's soccer game or while sunbathing in Cancun on spring break.

Russia tests anti-ballistic missile

Russia recently reported that they have tested an anti ballistic missile (ABM) Tuesday, Nov. 2 for the first time in over six years. The test probably came in response to the United States test of its own and possible plans to build a small ABM defense system. The United States has made it clear to Russia that the system is trying to be built on is expected to deter a small nuclear attack from a terrorist organization or small country like North Korea or Iraq, not a major attack from Russia. Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned Clinton of "extremely dangerous consequences" if the United States kept going with its plans for an ABM defense system. Russia which already has an AMB defense system that is decades old will not allow renegotiation of the 1972 ABM treaty so the United States can build their proposed system. Yeltsin also warned that he may decide to deploy more nukes if the US did not comply.

U-WIRE BOSTON — The College Board—the company that administers the SAT—anounced last week it plans to focus more on preparing students for college than on simply measuring how well they are prepared. For students, this means colleges and universities nationwide will concentrate less on SAT scores than ever before. The change comes with new leadership in the College Board, an organization that was designed for to colleges to isolate the nation's brightest students but that now standardizes achievement levels for all college-bound students.

Gaston Caperton, who became Board president in July, is a self-made millionaire and former West Virginia governor pushing for reform in the group. The changes to the SAT come as the College Board is losing its former monopoly on the testing of college applicants. As many states, including Massachusetts, institute exams required for graduation, the SAT is being forced to become more sensitive to demographic and individual concerns.

Although the Board's shift of focus barely equates to hard policy changes, many Boston University students feel any decrease in the role of SAT in admissions decisions will be a smaller part of the picture.

School of Management senior Susan Duncombe feels colleges need to look harder at factors like grades and extracurricular activities when making admissions decisions. Although she knows the test needs to be used to standardize admissions criteria throughout the country, Duncombe said it needs to be a smaller part of the picture.

College of General Studies freshman John Lapat's test scores illustrate what critics cite as one of the key deficiencies of the SAT—unequal preparation opportunities. Lapat explained that his strong ACT score of 28 was probably due largely to the prep course he took before the exam. However, he said his 1130 SAT score is an inaccurate reflection of his abilities.

"I probably would have done a lot better on the SAT if I had a chance to take a prep course first," Lapat said. A critical concern is that the opportunities to take SAT preparation courses fall unequally through different demographic groups. This fundamental discrimination is what has pushed the College Board to begin trying harder to equalize preparation in all high schools, helping districts bring more Advanced Placement courses into the curriculum.

Some argue that the SAT is flawed because it puts too much pressure on students and discriminates against those who aren't good test-takers. Others feel the SAT is flawed because it focuses on the wrong skills. Duncombe suggested that a standardized test pay attention to things like computer literacy, which she feels is as necessary as verbal or mathematical skills today.

Part of the reason that the United States is such a prime target is due to the nation's stance against terrorism. Terrorist experts speculate New Year's Eve 1999 to be a prime time for a terrorist attack. An ever-present target is the famous Mall in Washington, D.C., which were huge political and social protests are often held.
Grade Inflation:
Are our grades (and futures) floating off in oblivion?

**Point**

The issue of grading in academia is broad, with many questions. By nature, the answers to those questions are usually quite subjective. What do grades measure? How accurately does this system reflect knowledge of a subject? Do grades predict success in applying what is learned in the classroom? There are no clear answers, which leads me to believe that grades are being interpreted uniquely by each student. Grades are proportioned relative to the conscientious student's main performance throughout the entire course.

The philosophy that grades are inflated must assume that grades are objective and measure explicitly how well a student comprehends a subject.

This is simply not a realistic expectation since grades inevitably are subjective. There are so many different determining factors of the grade that a student would receive in a class that it is impossible for grading to ever be uniform. Therefore, grades are rightly determined on an individual basis—that cannot be relative to everyone else in the class.

The real question is not about grade inflation. Students may find a better job or gain access to a better graduate school based on grades, but grades are only one component determining success. The real measure of success is how well a student can apply what he or she has learned to their job performance. Employers and graduate schools are ultimately looking for experience.

Formalized and highly structured education is overrated. Nobody really cares whether Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Albert Einstein or other "giants" gotAs in school—this information would be meaningless in comparison to their individual accomplishments.

Grades should not give rise to a power struggle between "smart kids" and "dumb kids." It's time to recognize that grades are an individual matter between students and professors and that there is no objective evidence as to what grades measure or even if they determine success. Conscientious students concerned about grade inflation should start paying more attention to actually applying knowledge in the real world instead of worrying about what grade everyone else is getting.

**Counterpoint**

What does grade inflation do? It tells students who are receiving the lowest grades on the scale slide through the system without finding the special help that they may need to improve. It leaves students who get middle-range grades thinking that they are doing much better than they are actually doing, preventing them from seeking improvement through tutoring or more focused study. Professors who give artificially high grades are also doing their higher-achieving students a disservice by sending them the clear message that improvement is not necessary. Students at the top know the level of work that will get them their As, and will do nothing to foster personal growth. Grade inflation is deceptive; all students (except the ones at the top) believe that they are performing at a much higher standard than they actually are. Their skills are not sharpened as they should be, and they exit college without the skills they need to succeed.

College athletes train constantly with the goal of improving their personal best at the forefront. When their performance needs improvement, their coaches don't say, "Hey, you know what, that was pretty good. You can be one of our starters next game."

"We need to make our letter grades stand for something."
November 10, 1999

Opinion

And you can
A quote on that...

Is consolidating classes the best way to deal with the budget deficit?

"From someone who had four of my five classes canceled, I don't think that it is a good way to reduce the deficit. Aquinas may lose students due to this. There is a fear that comes with class cancellations, and students may leave if they don't feel they can finish their degree in time."

Jannett Forster, junior

"I think it will inhibit students from getting the classes they need. The course rotations will be disrupted. Certain classes are appropriate for under ten students such as visual arts and writing workshops in which individual works are being scrutinized."

Miriam Pedersen, English Professor

"I think there are two problems. There were poor budget decisions made and the short-term solution to the budget problem is to cancel these classes as an extreme measure to cut expenses. If this becomes an ongoing policy I think it's a poor solution in the long run. The real solution will have to come from the faculty controlling curricular and enrollment working out a long term solution so we won't have to do this again." 

Gary Eberle, English Dept. Chair

"Yes, I think that it (class consolidation) is part of the solution. There are a number of things being done. This is one of them. It is a tedious, but I'm not happy about it, but I think it's necessary."

Dr. Renee Stahle, Chair, Art Dept. Chair

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Letter to the Editor

Kathleen Romine
thanks the Aquinas community

My dear friends,

After we are gone, we are what people remember about us. As we gathered to celebrate Erin's life, the things that distinguished us as human and give nobility and grace to our lives sustained me that day. Music, poetry; flowers, the gift of memories shared. I carry that day in my soul.

He was my friend and love. I often wondered if his great and good heart would reach a capacity for such as study abroad programs and doubling up on Humanities and I&E courses. In the meantime, many of the upper-level classes that typically have low enrollments were subject to the Floor of 10 rule: any class with less than 10 students would run the risk of being cut, especially those taught by adjunct professors. While it is true that classes necessary to graduate will not be cut altogether, they will be condensed and fewer sections of the class will be offered. In other words, the scheduling process may not be as flexible than it was in the past, which could result in delaying many student's graduation dates. The question now is, why must students, specifically upperclassmen, pay for the burden of a poor accounting mistake with their time and money?

Undoubtedly, it is important that this deficit be dealt with and cleared up as soon as possible. But in this situation, it is crucial to remember the most precious commodity to a school—its students. We, the students, are the prime investors of the college, therefore, having a workable schedule (i.e., a variety of classes offered a variety of times) is the best and most important way to not only keep these investors but attract more. The function of higher education is to not just to educate and prepare individuals for the workforce, but to do it in a manner that is at their pace and fits their needs. It would seem as though for the hefty price we pay in tuition, in addition to the prestige of Aquinas that our individual needs be met.

One of the biggest appeals to Aquinas is the small class size and one on one personal attention from professors. With the condensing of classes, we may not find as many of the small, intimate classes where many students feel genuinely comfortable and more eager to learn. Our limited class size is a huge draw for many who are uncomfortable in a large university setting. With so many things becoming impersonal today, Aquinas College's small-school atmosphere is a gold mine. Why risk throwing away one of our greatest assets to save a few bucks?

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Editor

Kathleen Romine
thanks the Aquinas community

I hate to be redundant. Really I do. But once again the news headlines display our state government's negligence in the area of legislating the care and protection of Michigan's children, so I feel compelled to comment. A Michigan woman is on trial for alleged abuse to her 9-year-old son. Reports cited in the Detroit Free Press state that she tied the disabled boy to a plastic bucket with a dog collar and leash in the basement of her home. Unfortunately, proving whether or not the woman committed this act is not the only issue in the trial. The other issue is whether or not these actions constitute abuse. Michigan's child abuse law states that to be considered abuse, the actions must result in obvious physical or psychological damage. This choice of words disturbs me— as I believe that it probably disturbs most compassionate individuals if you give it some thought. There are plenty of things that can be done to an individual without the victim showing "damage." I'm thinking here of the old movie "Mommy Dearest." Of course, the character in that movie could have qualified as abusive on any scale, but there are a few scenes that might not fall under Michigan's definition of abuse. For example, in one scene the mother locks the daughter in a dark closet for quite a long period. This is an act of cruelty to be sure, but would the girl have shown evidence of damage upon release from the confinement? Not necessarily. Many states define child abuse as any act of cruelty toward a child. Admittedly, the current wording of the law is convenient for courtroom purposes. No judge or jury has to make judgements regarding what constitutes cruelty. However, defining abuse in terms of cruelty of the act puts the action on trial. Defining it as "obvious damage" puts the victim on trial.

The court is not determining whether the child has been mistreated, but whether the effects of the misdeeds are significant enough. At one time laws surrounding adult sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape put the victim on trial in the same way that the current child abuse laws do. Victims had to prove that they tried every possible means of escape and that the effect of the actions was significant in violating the victim's rights. Thankfully, most of these laws have been changed because they focused too much on the victim rather than on the abuser. If we have changed the laws to advocate the rights of adults, don't we owe at least the same to our children?

There are many reasons to protect children from cruelty. With as much violence as we see in schools today, it seems that allowing cruel behavior to happen in homes only increases the likelihood of repeated school violence problems. But the most compelling reason for legislatures to enact laws that strictly define and convict child abusers are the millions of children who will suffer without the protection of such laws.

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Heard

Tell us what you think of the Times. Send questions, comments, criticisms, letters to the editor, etc. to: The Aquinas Times, 1467 Robinson Rd, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 e-mail of: aquinas_editor@aquinas.edu

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Letter to the Editor

Kathleen Romine
thanks the Aquinas community

My dear friends,

After we are gone, we are what people remember about us. As we gathered to celebrate Erin's life, things that distinguished us as human and give nobility and grace to our lives sustained me that day. Music, poetry; flowers, the gift of memories shared. I carry that day in my soul.

He was my friend and love. I often wondered if his great and good heart would reach a capacity for caring. It never did. I have struggled trying to sum up the words that express feelings for all that you did in this most difficult time, but what I feel transcends words. As Pablo Neruda said, "To feel the love of people whom we love is a fire that feeds our life." Erin lived life this way.

He is gone. He was not ours to have for long, but how he enriched our lives while he was here. We will miss him. Your gentle kindness and caring hearts will be with me forever.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Romine
November is often a cold, blustery month full of exam preparation and arguing with your family over eight-day old turkey croquettes and stale pecan pie. If you suddenly decide to escape from this realm of cold turkey and mushy peas, get in your car and drive to a turkey-free oasis, such as the intersection. Toledo Museum of Art or the UICA.

11/3-11/16 The Toledo Museum of Art is holding an exhibit entitled "Picasso: Graphic Magician. Prints from the Norton Simon Museum." The exhibit surveys the life of Pablo Picasso through his artistic endeavors in print making. These prints serve as a representation of his life and his thoughts. Certainly an exhibit not to be missed, call the Toledo Museum of Art for details at (888) 763-2485.

11/13 The AQ LITWRIT club is selling tickets to see Ismaam Amiri Baraka (the former LeRoi Jones) presented by the UICA. They are $5 per ticket and space is limited, call Miriam Pederson at ext. 4519 for details. Baraka is a prominent poet, playwright, novelist and essayist. Chicago jazz musician Malachi Thompson and the group Triad will be along for the wild ride of improv jazz music and spoken word. Taking place at the Wealthy Theatre at 8 p.m., the evening is guaranteed to be exciting. For more details, see "Post-activists to visit Wealthy Theatre," page 9.

11/16 The Counting Crows will be appearing at the State Theatre in Detroit. This is to be an amazing show! I have been told lead singer Adam Duritz gives a great live performance. Call Ticketmaster for more details.

11/17 Calvin College will host Juri of Clay, an incredible Christian rock band with great music and a strong message. Call Calvin for more information.

11/19 Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise will be appearing at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor. You have heard RBBS on the radio! The new CD, "Clapton Chronicles: The Best of Eric Clapton" released November 10, 1999, puts this man in everyone's collection, or at least in heavy rotation on the CD changer in the dorm room. With a song to match every mood or memory, fans who love Clapton or have heard a few of his classic tunes should enjoy the CD. This would be the perfect Christmas gift for anyone who has enjoyed classic rock n' roll over the years. From the slow songs to sassy rhythms of Clapton's classic guitar talents, this CD has much to offer.

Certainly Eric Clapton would be qualified as one of the best guitar players in the music industry, and this CD is proof that his talents have not wavered as the years have gone on. He has only gotten better. With a voice that can tame any equipment," said Lennon. "The band almost was unable to attend their Aquinas gig. During the show, they explained that their bassist "Stack" accompanied them on both original and cover tunes. Freshman Sara DeKilder enjoyed both the physical and musical aspects of the band's music, saying simply "Mmm ... yummy!"

Highlights of the show included covers of Cake's "Never There," Verve Pipe's "Hero" and a revamped version of Credence Clearwater Revival's "Down on the Corner." In addition, the band performed songs from its first CD, entitled "So There." The band even burst into a song they said was "requested more than any other" and sung "Happy Birthday" to an Aquinas student.

The band almost was unable to attend their Aquinas gig. During the show, they explained that their new 31-foot RV broke down for the sixth time on the way to Grand Rapids. In addition, "a car swerved off the road and destroyed half our equipment," said Lennon.

Band member Stack, who strummed a solo bass and drum number on his chest, said the band's vocal instruments came about out of a vocal improvisation class in college. The professor of his class invited the students to have "jam sessions" with their voices. Today, the band plays not only vocal versions of guitar and percussion, but also trumpet and trombone.

"We want to make music you can both hear and feel," said Lennon. "The band's unique style was developed over the past eight years, with more than 20 different members in its lineup. Stack said, "It's a miracle that we found each other." The band played also played shows at both Ferris State University and Wayne State University. For more tour dates, biographies, sound clips and fan comments, visit Five O'Clock Shadow's website at FOC5.com.
Much ado about the Stratford Festival

Aquinas students attend Stratford Shakespearean plays

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Arts and Entertainment Editor

What do you get when you cross 14 Aquinas College students, Dr. Dan Brooks, William Shakespeare and Canada? The annual trip to the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario. Blurry-eyed students waited on Friday morning, Nov. 5 in Wege parking lot to be driven to Stratford, not quite sure what to expect from the day. Returning on Saturday, Nov. 6, the group was happy and satisfied with their adventures involving the Bard.

The shows took place at the Festival Theatre, a beautiful theatre-in-the-round, similar to the Globe Theatre in historic England. The first afternoon performance was The Tempest, one of Shakespeare’s last plays.

Graduate student John Butler enjoyed seeing Shakespeare performed on stage. “I went for the challenge of the text, to see what Shakespeare meant in physical movement,” said Butler.

After the afternoon show, the group had a chance to enjoy dinner and explore the lively town before the final evening performance. The evening show was A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream, a playful forest comedy.

“I enjoyed Stratford because the excitement of the theater. You are seeing something you have been exposed to in word. It was exciting to see Shakespeare’s words being put into action,” said Johnson. A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream signified the end of an exciting theater season for the Stratford Festival. Junior Jeanette Shaibeh enjoyed the play.

Poet-activist to visit Wealthy Theater

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz
Times Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 13, 1999 at 8 p.m., poet, activist and influential civil rights leader Amiri Baraka will be giving a reading at Wealthy Grand Rapids at the Wealthy Theater, with Chicago jazz musicians Malachi Thompson and Triad. The event is sponsored by the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art (UICA). The Aquinas College LIT/WRIT club is selling tickets and providing transportation for students to attend the event.

Aquinas senior Moira Boehm, Events Coordinator for LIT/WRIT, said, “I’m excited. It’s going to be a good show, because I’ve heard he’s a great performer.”

Baraka was born in 1934 as LeRoi Jones in Newark, New Jersey and has degrees from Howard University and Columbia University. He served in the Air Force and upon returning home began publishing his work. In addition to twenty-plus books of poetry, Baraka has written more than 30 plays, 15 literary and political essays, and directed or contributed to numerous other projects. His works appear in more than seventy-five anthologies and have been translated into six other languages.

In addition to his prolific writing career, Baraka has taught at many universities and played an active leadership role in the Civil Rights movement and Black Arts movement of the 60s and 70s. It was during this time that he converted to Islam and changed his name to Amiri Baraka. Bakara was very involved in many political movements, particularly black nationalism, and was an outspoken political leader in the black community.

Baraka was very vocal in his feelings concerning black nationalism and came under intense criticism from opponents. He was arrested for helping to incite riots in New Jersey, has been outspoken in his feelings about racism and the mainstream American culture and has offended many people with his militant beliefs.

However, in 1974 Baraka publicly denounced his former involvement in black nationalism, changing his political views to Third World Socialism. Whereas earlier he was included among the radicalized and intolerant, his new political views instead encourage eliminating bigotry and antagonism. He has come to believe that “There is no realization of his ‘constructive form of racism’ and says “hated of non-whites...’is a sickness or criminality, in fact, a form of fascism.”

The pressures

Love feasts

the young man, hoisting sees it
only once. He expected it
to be, to the groaning flower
leafless of the poet’s book.
He expected less hurt, more light;
And not the slow affronts from
As a new dipping sun pushes
up out of our eyes.
And
HOPE the poor; and refuses
to inhale. "it was a green mist, spread
to lift and choke the town."

from the Dead Lecturer
Poem by LeRoi Jones

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Poem by LeRoi Jones

Visit Stroke 9 at: www.stroke9.com

Ladies introducing Gentlemen

Stroke 9

Nasty Little Thoughts

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are: Luke Esterky — vocals, guitar; Eric Stock — drums, percussion; John McDermott — guitar, vocals; Greg Guillette — bass.

Where they’re from: San Francisco, CA

How you know them (current single): “Little Black Backpack”

Lyrics worth repeating: “Sooner or later all the throngs of feelings we used to appreciate will come rushing back—when you wake you will see...” from the song “Letters.”

My thoughts on “Nasty Little Thoughts”: Pet-peeve number 152: decent bands release good music and a catchy single to radio, and they get absolutely no airplay. The radio stations will tell you its because no one is calling to request the song. Funny thing is that it’s a little difficult to request a song you’ve never heard. Playing the single at 2 a.m. isn’t going to help anything either—the only people listening to it then, besides the DJ, are those emptying out of the bars who probably won’t remember that a radio was even on. Let’s face it, the attention garnered by commercial radio puts a band into people’s daily lives. It also creates one-hit wonders. Bands like Splender, Lo-Fidelity Allstars, DDT and the Old 9’s have yet to duplicate their debut hits that local “modern-rockers” from WGRD drove into the ground this past summer. But now its fall, and we’re on to bigger and better things, right? Guess again. Meet Stroke 9 — the latest band in line to be squashed by commercial radio.

Altogether, Stroke 9’s songs are bouncy and catchy, with the majority sounding made for the radio. Their sound is easy to digest, and while it leaves no real lasting impression, it does keep you humming along. "Nasty Little Thoughts" is upbeat and overall thoroughly enjoyable. Stroke 9’s lyrics, while not memorable, are certainly honest and well-written. In "One Time," lead vocalist Luke Esterky sings, "My loss than large brain is containing the synapses sent from the ends of my darning nerves." The final song on the disc, "Tea Me In Two," offers up a "scar- lot sky, a silver moon is a veil before my eyes..." How can she be so in tune?" fitting neatly into the relational theme of "Nasty Little Thoughts." Because of the band’s anonymity, the disc is still priced well under the cost of most and is definitely worth picking up.

Stroke 9’s first single, "Little Black Backpack," was released to major commercial radio about a month ago, and while radio stations do have the single, they’re certainly not giving it much rotation. You can put Stroke 9 in the category of Far Too Jones, Vertical Horizon, Atheneaum, Jimmy Eat World and other bands who had potentially huge singles released that will never see the light of day. But then again, because stations played their songs only once, you’ve probably never even heard of them.

Visit Stroke 9 at: www.stroke9.com
Aquinas Men’s Soccer advances to WHAC Regional Semifinals

by Damon Bouwkamp
Times Contributing Writer

Rewriting the record book has become the obsession of the men’s soccer team. By extending Aquinas’ record winning streak to seven games with a 1-0 shutout of Madonna University in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) Tournament Championship game, the Saints advance on to the Regional Semifinals where they host the Regular Season Champion from the Mid-Central Conference today.

The game was the third matchup of Aquinas and the Crusaders of Madonna University this season. This third match was the rubber match as they split the season series with Aquinas winning 2-0 at Madonna on Oct. 6 and Madonna beating the host Saints 1-0 on Sept. 8. Aquinas was the regular season champion in the WHAC and Madonna finished third. Freshman Sean Smith scored late in the first half on assists from freshman Nathan Rose and junior Aaron Riley last Saturday as host Aquinas edged Madonna 1-0 to win the WHAC Tournament.

“We expected to win this game,” said Coach Abraham Shearer. “This was a hard game going in for both teams knowing that we both had already qualified for regionals,” he said.

The Saints made it to the Championship game by beating Tri-State 4-1 with Andrew Fearman collecting a hat trick running his team-leading scoring to 16 goals. Ma­

The deaths of four athletes proves a lesson in honoring our athletes

Over the past month, the world has seen four celebrated athletes pass away, the National Football League’s Walter Payton, Professional Golf’s Payne Stewart, National Basketball Association’s Wilt Chamberlain and Champion­ship Auto Racing Team’s Greg Moore. Payton and Chamberlain had been out of their sports for some time, but each contributed greatly to the record books.

In fact, these two men were rather similar when their careers are examined together. For instance, Payton is the all-time leading rusher in the NFL with 16,726 yards amassed in 13 seasons. Like Payton, Chamberlain also holds records, including a 100 percent point game and 23,924 career rebounds in his 14 year career.

Greg Moore, a member of Player’s Forsythe Racing, had not yet reached the fame of Walter Payton and Wilt Chamberlain. In fact, the Marlboro 500 marked the last race of Moore’s fourth season as a regular with the CART series. Over his first four years and 72 starts Moore won five races including the season opener in Homestead, Fla. this year.

Moore’s 72nd start on Oct. 31, 1999 in Fontana, California, would be his last. On the 10th lap of the race, Moore lost control of the car, sending the open-wheel machine skidding towards the infield where it went airborne and crashed hard into the retaining wall. Moore’s head made direct contact with the concrete. He was then taken to Loma Linda Medical Center and pronounced dead one hour later.

Payne Stewart died under similar circumstances, as the jet carrying the 42-year-old apparently lost cabin pressure 20 minutes into the flight. When contact was lost with the Lear jet, two Air Force F-16’s were dispatched to assess the situation, finding the window to be frosted over. This led offi­

Despite stopping the race, CART decided no post-race cel­

Winner Adrian Fernandez said it best in a press conference after the race. “This is a tragedy for all of us,” Fernandez said as he broke into tears. “When someone without a hat trick running his team-leading scoring to 16 goals. Ma­

and the Saints managed to run out the rest of time. The

Photo by Jason Vogel

The Saints will play their second regional game in school history today. Paul Legge also tied a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) with five assists in one game in the early season 18-1 victory over Concordia College. He tied the record first achieved by Shearer.

“We did not play particularly well,” said Shearer. “We were left out in the cold. Hey CART drivers would agree with Fernandez and not be disappointed if the race was stopped early or postponed to be run on another day.

Payton Walter and Wilt Cham­

berlain made their marks before their deaths to place themselves in the Hall-of-Fame, a much de­

eral recognition. The PGA tour recognized that Payne Stewart’s death was a huge loss, and thus planned his memorial service and their own events accordingly.

Greg Moore, on the other hand was left out in the cold. Hey CART officials, give Greg Moore, his family, and his friends (which should include yourselves) the respect they deserve. STOP THE RACE!! A friend and colleague dying during an event is much more important than any champi­

onship ring or the winning purse.
Cross Country teams finish second

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

On Saturday Nov. 6, Aquinas’ men’s and women’s cross country teams took advantage of the sunny autumn day, and went for a run in the park. At the end of their runs, both teams found themselves in 2nd place in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference. The Aquinas men ran tough, finishing second to nationally ranked Sienna Heights. Leading the way for Aquinas was junior Kevin Smith. Smith, who has led the Saints all season, got off to a fast start swapping the lead of the race with four other runners from Sienna Heights. The Sienna Heights runners showed why they are nationally ranked, though, as they slowly began to pull away from Smith and the rest of the field.

At the half mile, Smith had fallen behind Sienna Heights’ fourth place runner by 13 seconds, placing him in 5th place in a time of 26:59. Following Smith for Aquinas was Bob Thormeier in 7th (26:49), Alex Rossmann in 10th (27:16), Brett Bigoswki in 11th (27:16), Paul Barrons in 15th (27:24), and John Wojcikowski in 17th (27:30). After the race Smith, who has been bothered by a hamstring injury, spoke of Sienna Heights and running with an injury. “I knew they (Sienna Heights) were going to come ready.” Smith said. “I just had to suck it up and go.”

Senior Alex Rossmann, who could easily be spotted by the two spikes of hair on each side of his head, ran his last race as a Saint on Saturday. “I am somewhat relieved to be finished, but a little disappointed to point it out on this note.” Rossmann said. “As a whole, this season was pretty nice because I took on more of a leadership role.” As for his haircut, Rossmann laughed and then answered. “I did this last year too, I grew my hair out and one of the guys cut it last night.” Rossmann added. “Try to do the little things to give me a sociological edge when a physical one is not there.”

Coach Wood was happy with the performance. He credited Sienna Heights and their talented team, but also spoke highly of his own runners. “We ran tough today,” Coach Wood said. “It is real tough to beat Sienna.”

The women’s team was not as happy with Saturday’s 2nd place performance. For the women it was not Sienna Heights, rather Spring Arbor that they had set their sights on. Yet, when the race was over, Spring Arbor had outdistanced the Saints 22-50.

Leading the way for Aquinas was Senior Cari Blind who finished the 5,000 meter run in 6th place in a time of 19.27. Women’s Cari Blind earned all W.H.A.C. honors in her first season running for the cross country team. Blind spoke of the preparation for her first conference race. “I felt ready to run,” Blind said. “The hardest part is to stay focused and run your own race.”

Not far behind Blind was Veronica Quackenbush, finishing the race in 9th place in a time of 19:21, her best performance of the year. Following these two came a pack Aquinas runners including: Nicole Gummere in 10th (19:55), Beth Bonuta in 12th (20:01), Laurel Carter in 14th (20:07) and Christine Gow in 15th (20:13).

Sarah Carter spoke of the day’s events after her race. “Beating Spring Arbor was the focus of our whole season.” Carter said. “It was on everyone’s mind. They just showed they are a better team right now.”

Coach Wood thought his team should have made a better showing. “The women’s race was disappoiting.” Coach Wood said. “We just didn’t run very well, we didn’t compete very well as team.”

Women's Basketball third in preseason WHAC poll

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

The 1999-2000 women’s basketball team will get underway tonight as they travel to Rochester. What can be expected from a Saints team that returns four of the five starters from last season. What can be expected from a Saints team that returns four of the five starters from last season.

Leading the way for Aquinas was Bob Thormeier in 7th (26:49), Alex Rossmann in 10th (27:16), Brett Bigoswki in 11th (27:16), Paul Barrons in 15th (27:24), and John Wojcikowski in 17th (27:30).

Another returner from last year’s squad also led the team on the boards averaging 8.3 rebounds a game and was amongst the team leaders in scoring, averaging 10.1 points.

“Your not going to find a player as intense and driven as Nichole Gummere,” Coach Wood said. “She’s an All American.” Gummere, a senior member of the Saints, was named to the All-WHAC team last season as one of the starting five. Along with her 10.1 points a game, she also led the team on the boards averaging 8.3 rebounds.

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“One freshman from last season, Lindsay Simmon also received honors in the W.H.A.C., as she was named to the W.H.A.C. All-Rookie team. Simmon led the Saints in scoring with 12.0 points a game and added 6.5 rebounds.

The Saints will also have a newcomer running the show as point guard this season, as they welcome transfer student Brooke Millard.

AQ Women's Soccer bow out in WHAC Semifinals

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

The season had ended, but several of the Saints’ women’s soccer members found it hard to leave the Aquinas soccer field. To any onlooker, the sight told a story of a team that had an outstanding year stopped short in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) tournament by an upset Madona squad. A Madonna team that gave Aquinas trouble in the two meetings on its own field, recording a 1-0-1 record when they played at Aquinas.

Aquinas, who has gotten off to fast starts all year, received a goal from Amy Panse only 9:29 into the contest. After the Saints’ first goal, it looked like Aquinas would continue in a dominating fashion, as Panse, Eager and Lackey stayed on the offensive with outstanding passing to set up several open shots on Madonna’s goalkeeper Jenny Barker. Yet Barker held her ground in the goal-box turning all but one ball away from Aquinas.

The Crusaders were on defense much of the first half, but they went on the offensive to take advantage of a corner kick at 27:40. The goal tied the score 1-1.

Aquinas came out of half-time on the offensive. Several shots were close to the goal, but Aquinas did not find luck.

With an outstanding play by Barker, Madonna got back on the offensive, scoring the final goal of the game at 80:26. The goal put the Crusaders on top 2-1, a score Aquinas could not match in the final nine minutes of play.

The loss put the Saints’ final record at 17-3-1 overall and 12-2-1 in the WHAC. Before the Nov. 2 contest, Aquinas finished the regular season in second place behind Sienna Heights University.
It's only a walk away...

Eastown provides Aquinas students diversity without distance

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

From cobblestone streets to old-fashioned gaslights, the area offers a taste of a different time while catering to all tastes. When you first walk into Eastown, as is the popular mode of transportation among many “poverty-stricken” students, you may feel as if you’ve stepped into a different period, or even a different city, but a quick glance back will assure you that you’ve merely taken a step in a different direction.

Far from the neon strip that is 28th Street, Eastown offers a variety of restaurants, such as Yesterdog, Szechuan Garden, Pita House and Today’s Taco in a pedestrian-friendly environment. While some criticize the spicy ethnic cuisine as not being suitable for the faint of stomach, others find fault with the area’s atmosphere as not being safe for the faint of heart.

Is it really so pedestrian friendly after all? In recent years, the area has received its fair share of criticism regarding illegal activity, including drug dealing, armed robbery, public intoxication and aggravated assault. With all the bad media the area has received, how do students react to the prospect of shopping and dining in what some might consider a danger zone? Or do they even know about it at all? Eastown received some publicity this summer when it was proposed that a charter school be built in place of Wolfgang’s, a popular breakfast spot with lots of atmosphere. When plans for the school blew over, Eastown lost its share of the spotlight and became just another forgotten district.

Some students know Eastown for the intersection, a club featuring local bands, including Aquinas’ own Contemplating Jane and The Shuvits that also serves as a launching pad for big-name acts such as Third Eye Blind, Tonic and Train. However, a closer inspection of Eastown reveals that there’s more to it than some funky tunes and a good bite to eat. Time, courage and a comfortable pair of shoes are all anyone needs to walk to Wealthy and see that there’s more to Eastown than meets the eye.

Here’s what Aquinas students think:

“I haven’t gone there personally, but I believe that whenever there is a different cultural region within a city, it enhances the student mind by being exposed to a different environment.”
-Deve Williams, freshman

“I think that Eastown is a great place to go to take a break from campus.”
-Crystal Noonan, sophomore

“I think Eastown offers everything that makes a college student tick: entertainment, danger, diverse population, employment and munchies. And best of all, it’s all within walking distance – if you can avoid being mugged or shot on the way.”
-Valerie Schmitt, freshman

“I think Eastown and the surrounding area has more to offer than meets the eye.”
-Adam B. Fields, freshman

“I think Eastown is a great place to hang out, especially at places such as the Intersection and Smitty’s. You can always count on a good hot dog over at Yesterdog.”
-Paul Wood, freshman

“I think that Eastown is a great way for students to get out from Aquinas and shop and see the sights. It definitely is great for students without cars. I think it just needs more publicity.”
-Lisa Bush, junior

“I think that Eastown is a great area to visit and shop. It would benefit from students shopping in the stores. It doesn’t get the publicity and attention it needs. I think that it gives the students exposure to other cultures.”
-Laurie Noall, junior

“Eastown is a great place to hang out, especially at places such as the Intersection and Smitty’s. You can always count on a good hot dog over at Yesterdog.”
-Paul Wood, freshman