Aquinas delegations take awards at Model Arab League

by Angela Bergman

Aquinas students participated in Model Arab League at GV SU on March 2-3.

Aquinas delegations take awards at Model Arab League

It's one thing to debate - another to be diplomatic, according to Dr. Roger Durham, the faculty advisor for Aquinas' Model Arab League Delegations.

This year, all four Aquinas delegations placed in the top five overall. The Libyan delegation placed first, while the Kuwaiti delegation was third, Sudan fourth and Morocco a tie for fifth. A total of 13 Arab League countries were represented by students from Aquinas, Spring Arbor, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan Dearborn and Kalamazoo College.

Model Arab-League participants must represent their country by playing the role of a delegate. Durham emphasized the importance of knowing the actions an Arab country would take in various issue areas: political, economic, security, social and Palestinian.

Dr. Kahlid Abdalla, Chief Representative of the League of Arab States in Washington, D.C., presented an overview of current Arab issues to begin the program on Wednesday night. The Arab League met from March 1-3 at GV SU. Participants drafted resolutions in committees, negotiated with other countries, debated in a general assembly and passed resolutions.

Aquinas alumna Maris Branchseau, who is currently the Marrow Donor Program Coordinator for the Grand Valley Blood Program, will be conducting the bone marrow drive.

"The goal is to get people signed up for the donor registry and to educate people about being a [bone marrow] donor," Branchseau said.

Branchseau explained that students are not being asked to actually give bone marrow at the event, but to have blood drawn to be tested and to sign up to be a potential donor in the event that a match is found. Students will fill out some papers and one vial - about a tablespoon - of blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary. Then the blood will be drawn from the arm. If a student is already giving blood at the event the vial can be taken from that supply so that a second needle is not necessary.
Alternative Spring Break trips

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

Like many Aquinas students, senior Mary Fournier headed south in search of warmth during Spring Break last week. But unlike many sun-seekers, she found warmth by putting her hands into action.

During one of Aquinas’ Service Learning Trips, Fournier and nine other Aquinas students renovated a house and tutored children in Selma, Alabama. “It was an opportunity to do service where I was involved with the people I was serving,” said Fournier. “At the same time I was serving them, they were serving me.”

The students also heard President Bill Clinton, Coretta Scott King and Jesse Jackson speak at a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. In 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. led a group of civil rights activists across the Edmund Pettis Bridge. The 600 marchers were met with police resistance and violence broke out. This year, over 20,000 people took part in the Bridge Crossing reenactment.

“There was a feeling of unity, of people coming together,” said freshman Elizabeth Bamiro. “It was symbolic for our group as well, that everyone working together can make a difference.”

At the same time, seven Aquinas students joined college students from across America to make a difference in eastern Kentucky. As part of the Christian Appalachian WorkFest 2000, the students spent the week repairing houses.

Students were assigned to work groups that focused on one house for the week. Though few students had prior carpentry experience, they gained skill along the way.

“I’ve never really held a hammer before, but the first day I volunteered to help tear off the roof,” said Wick. “When I got up there, I was shaking. After awhile, though, we were all working away.” Christian Appalachian Project helps the people of Appalachia help themselves by providing a number of services, including house repair assistance. Supplies for the projects are often donated and volunteers make up much of the labor force.

Aquinas has been volunteering with the Christian Appalachian Project for more than 10 years. Near the end of spring break, a third group of Aquinas students attended the COOL (Campus Opportunity Outreach League) National Conference in New Hampshire to learn how to promote community service back at Aquinas.

As Aquinas students head back to classes this week, many will recall the past week with fond memories. But for those who volunteered their time, the experience has provided continued warmth.

MODEL ARAB LEAGUE

Aquinas students Elizabeth Bamiro and Madeline Wizgird cut lumber for to help renovate a house in Selma, Alabama during a Spring Break Service trip.

Eric Zeemering-A potential Truman Scholar

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

Public service can be a grueling job, but a few people are willing to take on the challenge. Aquinas junior Eric Zeemering, however, is ahead of most people in this venue. His career in public service began in November 1999, upon being elected to the Rockford City Council. Zeemering has been nominated for the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship. If selected, Zeemering would be one of 75-80 scholars nationwide to receive $3,000 for undergraduate work, plus $27,000 for graduate studies.

The scholarship is a memorial to President Truman, funded by the federal government. Associate Professor of English and Director of the Insignis honors program Gary Eberle and Dr. Glenn Barkan, Chair of the Political Science Department, encouraged Zeemering to apply. One of the requirements to apply was the completion of a public policy analysis. Zeemering chose Brownfield Redevelopment, which discussed urban revitalization through the development of environmentally contaminated industrial sites in the city. Zeemering described the Environmental Protection Agency’s role in establishing new commercial and industrial buildings on the formerly contaminated sites.

“It [Brownfield Redevelopment] goes along with the whole focus we’re seeing right now [a focus on the city] instead of urban sprawl,” Zeemering said. The final decision will be based on interviews of all the finalists. March 17 is the big day for Zeemering, who will travel to University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, along with 12 other regional nominees. Official Truman scholars will be announced on March 24.

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Annual Poppell lecture promotes unity among Christians through ecumenism

by Eric Vander Ley

"Ecumenism is unity as a gift and calling from God," said Reverend Michael Kinnamon, who was the guest speaker at the Seventh Annual Poppell Lecture held at Aquinas College on Sunday, Feb. 27. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) and Nassau County Center for Ecumenism. Reverend Kinnamon, a professor of Theological and Ecumenical Studies at Lexington Theological Seminary, emphasized the Biblical principle of "Welcoming the Stranger" in his 45-minute address, which he described as "preaching to the choir."

Kinnamon stressed the notion that welcoming the stranger is not merely tolerating them, but wholeheartedly embracing them and their differences before making any judgements about them. He urged those present to "Welcome others...not as a possibility for conversion, but as those that are already welcomed by God." He referenced the doctrine of welcoming others a biblical principle in contrast to a liberal or conservative agenda, as it is often perceived because, "For God, no one is a stranger."

Responding to the issue of common communion, Kinnamon discussed the different traditions that each "faith tradition" has regarding the sacraments. Carla Johnson, an Aquinas freshman, said, "Ecumenism is a movement that I've taken to heart...I'm realizing how much misunderstanding exists between Catholics and Protestants. Great commonalities emerge when I spend time listening to Christians who outwardly practice their faith differently than I do. Building relationships paves the way to successful ecumenism."

BONE MARROW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Blood will be tested and the information will be entered into a computer of registered bone marrow donors. Branchau became involved with bone marrow donors when her niece, Mollie, was diagnosed with leukemia in 1998 at age one. Chemotherapy put the cancer into remission for a short time, but it appeared again in the spring of 1999. At this time the doctors and the family decided to attempt a bone marrow transplant. This procedure requires that a close genetic match of the blood system be killed off before it is replaced by the healthy transplant.

Mollie survived the transplant, but tragically died in August 1999 at the age of two due to an infection during recovery.

Branchau was deeply affected by the loss of her niece & 1998 Aquinas graduate with a dual major in Business and Communications, Branchau had been admitted to the law school of Northeastern University in Boston for the fall 1999, but when Mollie died, Branchau decided to postpone law school for a time. "I haven't come to terms with the fact that she's gone yet," Branchau said. "This job is like my grief therapy."

I also get to see people who match up, donors who are willing to help and survivors of cancer." Although the receiving a bone marrow transplant is complicated and risky, the procedure for donating is relatively simple. The donor is admitted to the local hospital for the outpatient procedure and is put under anesthesia. The only effects are a bruised feeling on the pelvic bone for about a week. The bone marrow begins regenerating immediately. "We tell all of our donors that it's a pain in the butt, but it's worth it if you can save someone's life," Branchau said. "It's something that they would do for someone they love."

The process of matching a cancer patient with a potential donor involves matching six antigens that are found in the blood and bone marrow cells. Because there are few matches on the registry for persons with African American, Asian American or Native American backgrounds to find an acceptable transplant.

"While leukemia and cancer are hitting everybody, ethnic minorities are less likely to find a donor than a white person because there are fewer minority people on the national registry," Branchau said.

The project of getting people on the registry is expensive though; each test costs $50.50. Because of the need, the federal government funds the test for any person who is of an ethnic minority, but the Grand Valley Blood Program has raised money to target the college population in an effort to get more donors. They already visited Cornerstone College where they registered 48 donors, and after visiting Aquinas College they plan to seek donors at Reform Bible, Grace Bible and Calvin Colleges.

CDC MOVE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when there are on-campus jobs that pay isn't as enticing," said Schaefer.

"My kids will miss out on many benefits," said Banta. "Reading books from the library, going to the science building, visiting people in the campus offices, sitting on the cement lions outside of Holdmene -- these are all things the children love and things that cannot be experienced anywhere else."

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**March 15, 2000**

**Fed. Reserve Chairman keeps investors guessing**

by Nick Occhipinti  
Times Local/National Editor

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has been hailed by some as the greatest economic mind America has ever seen and criticized by others as one man crushing America's economy and preventing even greater economic prosperity.

Greenspan is currently the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, the government agency which controls various aspects of the economy, such as deciding when to raise interest rates. Often they decide to do this when the board believes that the economy is growing too fast or when they see inflation as imminent. But many Americans feel that Greenspan and the board keeps the country and its investors in constant wonder and flux as he ponders when the next hike will be.

To his credit, Greenspan has been at the helm during the longest period of economic growth in American history. The Dow has reached record heights and the NASDAQ has been off the charts. However, Greenspan has raised the rates four times since June 1999, and a year of gains in the Dow have been wiped out in a few weeks.

In a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, Sen. Jim Bunning (R-Ky) told Greenspan, "I am very concerned with the indications that the Fed continues to pursue a policy that is based on the assumption that higher interest rates, which in itself, could become more of a threat to our economy than inflation will ever be. Mr. Chairman, please don't try to fix an economy that isn't broken. Don't become so frightened by success that you wet blankets on a fire that isn't burning."

Greenspan said that the problem lies with America consuming more than it can continue to produce. America has been increasing production, but also has been consuming what it produces at a much larger rate. The result will not be good and America can not continue on its current pace. This situation, in which the demand for goods and services exceeds the increase in supply, cannot continue indefinitely, the Fed chairman said. The "wealth effect" resulting from the huge increases in stock prices has exacerbated the situation, he said.

Greenspan said the Senate Banking Committee during his semiannual appearance to review monetary policy.

**Technology called upon to help control gun violence**

by Nick Occhipinti  
Times Local/National Editor

Columbine, Littleton and now Flint, Michigan have all been struck by school killings. The latest tragedy is the closest to home in a series of shootings that have swept across the nation.

The tragedy in Flint was compounded by how young the killer and the victim were. Both the boy who fired the gun and the victim Kayla Rolland were the same age—six years old. Although the boy is the youngest perpetrator in school shootings that have rocked the nation over the past three years the others haven't been much older. In 1998, two boys, 11 and 13, opened fire at a school Jonesboro, Arkansas, killing five of their classmates.

To many, the Flint case was a clear example of a situation that could have been prevented with gun control. Being only six years old the boy cannot be expected to know fully what he has done and there is evidence that he didn't. The boy told police that Tuesday's shooting was an accident and that he had only been trying to scare the girl. A fierce debate has been left in its wake.

Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie is tired of talk and not action. Logie feels that Tuesday's case is a catastrophe that warrants the passage of his gun control legislation proposed in his January State of the City address.

"The missing link has to be keyd to concern about children. While we continue to debate, children are dying everywhere in America," Logie said, as quoted by the Grand Rapids Press.

Gun control locks have long been available and dealers sell them all the time; the problem is that they hinder the protection of a home, the reason why most hand guns are purchased in the first place. Traditional devices place a lock around the trigger of the gun, which has to be opened with a key. The system is cumbersome and may render the gun useless during a break in.

Technology may soon enable gun protection systems to be much more effective. Gun producers have developed guns that use a variety of techniques to be shot only by the owner. One of these guns has three sensors that read the holder's fingerprint to activate the gun. The gun can be fired only if the fingerprints match the gun owner's. Other ideas include requiring the owner to wear a special bracelet that will activate the gun. While the new technology won't stop all shootings many believe that it would certainly cut down on accidental firings, and shootings by children who are not the gun's intended owner.

In an interview by NBC Today Show's Katie Couric, President Clinton was asked, "What policy of the Federal Reserve has been increasing production, but also has been consuming what it produces at a much larger rate. The result will not be good and America can not continue on its current pace. This situation, in which the demand for goods and services exceeds the increase in supply, cannot continue indefinitely, the Fed chairman said. The "wealth effect" resulting from the huge increases in stock prices has exacerbated the situation, he said.

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Greenspan said the Senate Banking Committee during his semiannual appearance to review monetary policy.

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Hundreds of Yale students rally to protest labor policy

by Robert K. Silverman
Harvard Crimson (Harvard U.)
03/01/2000

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. --In one of the largest anti-sweatshop demonstrations to date, about 400 Yale University students rallied Tuesday to demand that their administration withdraw from the Fair Labor Association (FLA) and join the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC).

Both the FLA and the WRC are organizations designed to monitor overseas sweatshops, but activists said clothing manufacturers have too great an influence on the FLA.

"We think the FLA is a sham," said Yale senior Amanda E. Bell, one of the organizers of Tuesday's rally. "We think it's a public relations ploy by corporations. We would like to see Yale take a moral stand [by withdrawing]."

Harvard Attorney Allan A. Ryan Jr., the administrator responsible for sweatshop policy, said he supported the students' right to rally, but that the action would not affect Harvard's support of the FLA.

"I'm glad to see the first amendment exercised in New Haven," he said. "This clearly is a matter of concern to students, administrators, everyone. If they can get students together for a rally, then more power to them."

Yale students protested for an hour yesterday in front of Woodbridge Hall, a major administrative building.

More than 300 students signed tiny blue paper T-shirts condemning the FLA.

The action at Yale continued a two-week flurry of anti-sweatshop activism on campuses across the country. Protesters have staged sit-ins at four schools, including the University of Pennsylvania. A two-day sit-in at Johns Hopkins University is still ongoing.

Two schools -- the Universities of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin -- have withdrawn from the FLA, and have joined the WRC. Total membership to the organization is about 130 colleges.

At Harvard, members of the Progressive Student Labor Movement (PLSM) have been urging the University to withdraw from the FLA and join the WRC for almost a year but have met with little success.

The Yale administration has also remained steadfast in their support of the FLA.

Yale President Robert C. Levin met with protesters in the fall, but then broke off all contact until this month.

Levin did not issue a response to yesterday's demonstration. A staffer in his office said Levin was on an alumni outreach trip yesterday and probably was not aware the rally was taking place.

Yale protesters said they have given the administration an ultimatum for taking action.

If Yale does not withdraw from the FLA by March 27, student activists pledged to continue their public protest campaign.

PLM has not issued such a direct challenge to the Harvard administration.

"There are certainly people here who will listen to us, but the question is what's going to happen because of it," said PLSM member Benjamin L. McKean '02. "As long as Harvard's in the FLA and not in the WRC, [direct action] is possible."

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Sentences for drug offenders decline

Average sentences for federal drug offenders declined during the 1990s due to softened the sentences for certain types of defendants, reported the Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearhouse. Primary beneficiaries of the shorter sentences were nonviolent, first-time offenders and criminals who saved the government the cost of a trial and helped catch fellow lawbreakers. A Justice Department spokesman cited "enactment of the 'safety valve' provision for first-time, nonviolent offenders; the trend among drug defendants toward more guilty pleas and fewer trials; and the increase in the number of drug defendants providing substantial assistance" to investigators as some of the reasons for decline.

Census forms to be mailed this week

With 98 million census forms being mailed to city and suburban addresses, starting Monday, the Census Bureau is again urging people to respond to the once-a-decade enumeration. Most of country's 115 million households should receive questionnaire packages by the end of the week, Census Bureau director Kenneth Prewitt said. About 83 million homes will get short forms, which contain seven questions, and a randomly sampled list of 15 million homes will get long forms, which have 52 questions. Prewitt warned the public to beware of deceptive mailings. The official census form comes in an envelope with a department of Commerce return address and the Census 2000 logo.

Options considered to relieve gas price burden

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said Sunday he opposes temporarily lifting a 4.3 cent-per-gallon gasoline tax because of high fuel prices, but said the president "will consider all options" to bring to consumers. Lawmakers have begun gauging whether there is enough support in Congress to suspend the federal excise tax imposed in 1993 until prices at the pump recede. The proposal has received a cool reception among lawmakers involved in writing tax legislation, but some Republicans in Congress have embraced the idea, noting that the tax was imposed when Democrats held the majority -- and that Vice President Al Gore cast the tie-breaking vote. Richardson, appearing on Sunday television talk shows, said that he didn't think suspending the tax would help because the problem is scarcity of oil.

Clinton, NRA duke it out

Charges of dishonesty and scare tactics flew Sunday in a brawl between President Clinton and the National Rifle Association over tougher gun laws. Clinton accused the group of having a "knee-jerk reaction to any gun safety measure." NRA executive vice-president Wayne LaPierre, who responded by saying that the president exploits gun deaths for political purposes. At issue was a new, controversial advertising campaign by the NRA, which criticizes president's characterization of the group as an impediment to sensible laws and public safety. Info Provided by USA Today.

Secretary of Defense visits Vietnam

This past Monday, Secretary of Defense William Cohen became the first Defense Secretary to visit Vietnam since the American defeat 25 years ago. Cohen is expected to meet with Vietnamese officials and lobby for increased efforts to find, identify and return remains of U.S. soldiers who died during the conflict. In addition the visit is an attempt to further normalize diplomatic relations, which were severed after the war until 1995.
Homosexuality is a sin, an abomi-

nation before God and man. The
American legal code, which has its
roots deeply entrenched in Scriptural
teaching, has reflected that through
the recent past. In 1986, Bowers vs.
Hardwick arose before the Supreme
Court as an argument over homo-
xual rights. In this case, the statute
that authorized Hardwick’s arrest defined
sodomy as an instance when, “A person
performs or submits to any sexual
act involving the sexual organs
of one person and the mouth or
anus of another.”

And the second section of the statute
provided an authorization for a court to
impose a prison sentence for up to 20
years for a single private, consen-
tual act of sodomy.

In his decision, Chief Justice
Burger stated, “To hold that the
act of homosexual sodomy is somehow
protected as a fundamental
right would be to cast aside
millennia of moral teaching.”

The world’s three most influen-
tial religions, Judaism, Islam and
Christianity all recognize the nega-
tive consequences of the unnatu-
al act of homosexuality and con-
demn it.

Homosexuals have no bases, le-
gally or otherwise, to support their
pursuit of a justified legalization of
sodomy.

The most controversial cases of
the twentieth century have dealt
with child rearing, family relation-
ships, procreation, marriage, con-
traception and abortion. For
homosexuals to claim that the
decisions from these cases apply to
their situation is, at best, face-
tious. Over 30 states have either amended their constitution or
passed laws against homosexual
marriage. Sodomy is the most ex-
treme perversion of the sexual act;
it has no basis in reproduction, only
gratification.

Until 1961, no state legalized sod-
omy; every state held strict pun-
ishments for these actions. Still in
Idaho, which has the greatest con-
sequences for sodomy, the penalty
is a minimum of five years and a
maximum of life imprisonment.

Even today, the majority of America
holds that sodomy is justi-
fiable as a criminal offense. In
Colorado, a referendum for an
amendment to the state Constitu-
tion was passed that denied any-
one of homosexual “orientation”
protected status. The amendment
was struck down in the Supreme
Court (Romer vs. Evans), which
ruled that it violated the Equal
Protection Clause of the Fourteenth
Amendment. In the majority opin-
ion, Justice Kennedy quoted Jus-
tice Marshall’s dissent from the
1986 Pleasy vs. Ferguson case.
The Constitution neither
knows nor tolerates classes
among citizens.” It is one thing
to tolerate the “equality of all
people” and quite another to
translate that into the “equality of all
lifestyles.”

Following this line of thought,
“equality of all lifestyles” would
proscribe inability to prosecute
criminal actions such as child
molestation and adultery; the de-
fendants could just claim a natu-
ral propinquity to those actions.
We, the people of the United States,
must not allow this to happen.

The Holy Roman Catholic Church
declared homosexuality a sin. Are Catholics now in
rational in public claims of such?
Does a fundamental right, such as
religious freedom, extend only to
the church doors?

Homosexuality has been touted
as a “genetic disposition.” How-
ever, no unbiased connection be-
tween homosexuality and genetics
has been discovered. Claims
such as these solidify the myth that
homosexuals have a rational jus-
tification for their actions. Homo-
xuality is a choice, and all choices
have equal weight.

Let’s begin with a definition. The
homosexual act is any sexual con-
tact between the genital organs of
one person and the mouth or anus
of another person of the same sex.

As a form of sodomy, it is regarded
as a sin in the doctrine of several
major religions and is illegal in
many states. Homosexuality, how-
ever, is the tendency to be sexu-
al attracted to persons of the
same sex. This orientation is not
regulated by religion or law, and to
discriminate against a person
because of this sexual orientation
violates their rights as an Ameri-
can and an individual.

Although the Catholic Church
considers sodomy a sin, it states
that homosexuals must not be dis-
criminated against (Catechism of
the Catholic Church 2358). To
fulfill this means to afford homo-
sexuals the same rights as hetero-
xuals, including the controver-
sial rights of adoption of children
and inheritance of property.

Such rights issues are handled by
state and federal governments.
Often supporters of legislation that
limits the rights of homosexuals
state that the homosexual act is
immoral according to most major
religions, usually giving specific
reference to Christianity. However,
we cannot legislate religious mo-
rality because that would require
the nation to give preference to a
particular set of morals and reli-
gious beliefs.

The U.S. Supreme Court case of
Bowers v. Hardwick (1986) is
probably the most frequently
cited case to defend anti-sodomy
and anti-gay laws. Yet, the case
may be one of the worst decisions
in U.S. Supreme Court history.
In this case an officer at Hardwick’s
residence observed him engaging
in sodomy with a man. The court
ruled five to four in favor of
the state of Georgia’s right to uphold
a sodomy law.

This came after the 1969 case
of Stanley v. Georgia concern-
ing use of pornography in the
home, which upheld Americans’
right to pri-
vacy. In this case, Justice Stan-
ley Marshall stated, “The
state has no business telling a
man, sitting alone in his house,
what books he may read or films he
may watch.” Hardwick hoped that
the court would extend this
right to prohibiting the state from
regulating what two consenting
adults do in the privacy of their
home.

This case, “There is no ques-
tion that the majority opin-
ion referred only to "consensual
homosexual sodomy" and stated
that it offered "no opinion ... on other
acts of sodomy." If a state has
defines sodomy illegal, it must enforce the law
equally for homosexuals and het-
osexuals who engage in oral or
anal sex. Otherwise there is discrimi-
nation based on sexual orientation
and is unconstitutional. I believe
it will not be long before the dec-
sion of the court in Bowers v.
Hardwick will be reversed.

After all, why should the gov-
ernment regulate actions between
two consenting adults where no
person’s rights are being violated
and no property is damaged? If
the purpose of the law is to protect, it
should protect everyone equally.

With respect to whether homo-
xuality is a choice, research sup-
ports the belief that homosexu-
alism has a physiological
basis. Homosexuality has a concurrence
rate similar to other genetic
traits, and re-
search shows a high corre-
lation be-
tween homo-
xuality and the long arm of the X chro-
mosome. Also, there is evidence that
the prenatal presence of hor-
mones known to facilitate the de-
velopment of sexual organs, have
brain organizing effects that may
control sexual orientation.

Moreover the mounds of evidence supporting
homosexuality’s physiologically
basis is the fact that there is no
available evidence that sexual ori-
entation is malleable or that homo-
xuality is a choice.

The source of homosexuality
within a person remains unclear.
What is unmistakable is that it must
not be grounds for discrimination.
Opinion

March 15, 2000

And you can quote me on that...

Has the delay in graduation audits become a problem?

"If students are curious or haven’t heard by now in to the Registrar, I don’t think there is a problem at this juncture."

• Lois Kalman, Registrar Director

"I filed for my audit last semester and I just got it back. I don’t understand why it took as long as it did but I’m glad I got it back-I have to graduate.”

• Shannon Holmes, senior

"Ideally students should turn in their applications for degree early. However, student lives are very busy, and the Registrar has an obligation to return students’ graduation audits before last quad so students can plan accordingly."

• Lisa Farmer, senior

They [Registrar] should have a set amount of time that it [the audit] will be completed by. Also, if it should be done [by the student] a semester ahead of time it should be more widely publicized. It was in the graduation mailing, but that was the first time it was made known.

• Autumn Haskin, senior

Opinion

The impact caused by one bad apple can be negative for the neighborhood of 500 audits to be completed, the registrar must be allowed a considerable amount of time to process them. They are also not always delivered in an orderly fashion. They are presented in large stacks as well as individually and are processed as they come. Each and every one of them are done by hand, instead of a computer system that could do it in a fraction of the time. But that still leaves many seniors who have been clueless for months now about their graduation status. Some of these are students who turned in their audits before the end of the fall semester and have yet to receive word from the registrar. Although staff in the Registrar’s Office stated that students who were concerned could come to check the status of their audit, some students who tried to do that were dismissed without assurance. Many have come away with vague answers or were just told that the audits are being worked on presently or that staff simply don’t know when they will be completed. This is not a good enough answer for those who have already made concrete plans for after May 6 and do not have the time or money to stick around and take one or two more classes.

Starting next year, a computer system will be implemented to speed up the audit process. Obviously then, there has been a realization somewhere. However, we must ask ourselves this question, was this practice of discrimination right? The answer to this is also no.

This is why having a month to celebrate women’s contributions to history is vital to serve as a reminder books to build up the accomplishments of women? Perhaps not, one cannot deny the fact that women were regarded as second-class citizens, and limited by society’s beliefs. However, this month serves as a reminder that everyone regardless of sex, class, race, religion, or sexual orientation ought to have an equal chance to persevere and accomplish great things.

Often we hear only about women who did exceptional things, things that rival the greatest accomplishments of their male counterparts. While women who don’t quite reach this level, are often bypassed for men who accomplish things of equal stature.

Should we rewrite the history books to build up the accomplishments of women? Perhaps not, one cannot deny the fact that women were regarded as second-class citizens, and limited by society’s beliefs. However, we must ask ourselves this question, was this practice of discrimination right? The answer to this is also no.

This is why having a month to celebrate women’s contributions to history is vital to serve as a reminder books to build up the accomplishments of women? Perhaps not, one cannot deny the fact that women were regarded as second-class citizens, and limited by society’s beliefs. However, we must ask ourselves this question, was this practice of discrimination right? The answer to this is also no.

This month functions as a mirror to allow us, as a society, to reflect on those past mistakes and barriers, and hopefully ensures that similar prejudices and discriminations will not occur in the future. Perhaps this is the most important function of history.

This month serves as a reminder that everyone regardless of sex, class, race, religion, or sexual orientation ought to have an equal chance to persevere and accomplish great things.

March is recognized as Women’s History Month, a month where the contributions of women throughout history, which are frequently overlooked, are celebrated and remembered. This is an important month, as it remembers the significant achievements women have made, despite being confronted by numerous obstacles and perceptions throughout history.

To Whom It May Concern:

The next time you are watching SportsCenter on ESPN and they are showing highlights from the games, do me a favor. Count how many times they show bench-clearing brawls and players getting in others’ faces, taunting and getting ejected for being unsportsman-like. Now compare that number to how many times they show a player congratulating another player up, or demonstrating good sportsmanship. The numbers will be in favor of the first scenario.

Why, you ask, is that important? I’ll tell you why. Being a bad sport draws crowds, creates entertainment and makes a greater impact on others. Is that a good thing- making an impact? Not necessarily. To have the atmosphere and credibility of sportsmanship, it must be exemplified at all instances. When the routine is broken, it is nearly irreparable. One instance of unsportsman-like conduct can ruin a good reputation in a heartbeat. That sort of impact is extremely negative for many.

The impact caused by one bad apple can be negative for one student (me), a group of students (AQ Rowdy), a whole sports program (AQ basketball), an entire school (Aquinas College) and the community at large (every-
Life in General duo has eclectic sound

by Heidi Stanley

"Lyrics and style coming straight from the heart," that's one way to describe Life in General. This duo of free-spirited, musically gifted men made its way to the Moose Cafe on Thursday, Feb. 24. Life in General was a "What the Heck Night" performance brought to Aquinas by Programming Board. Life in General has the sound of several talented musicians playing together. Yet, only two men - Jason LeVasseur and Jerry Chapman - make up this band. From the opening song, Life in General drew in the crowd. The actual musical style, with its eclectic instruments and vocal compatibility, has a fresh and high-energy expression that's sometimes pop, sometimes folk. Some students compared the music to A.Q.'s own Domestic Problems, while others thought it had a Counting Crows sound.

During the performance, Chapman and LeVasseur incorporated such instruments as bongos, maracas, a mandolin, tambourines, a chaotic percussion confection and even a toy piano. The band purchased the toy piano at an antique store while on tour. It added a music-box-like sound to the atmosphere during the song "Eagle." The Grand Rapids show is the only Midwest date scheduled for this leg of the tour.

The Toronto-based Our Lady Peace formed in 1993 and has gone on to release three albums on Columbia/Sony Records. "Naveed" (1995), "Clumsy" (1997) and "Happiness..." (1999) have all spawned hit singles and sold millions of copies worldwide. "Naveed's" title comes from a Middle Eastern term meaning "bearer of good news." The album's single, "Starseed," recently re-mixed for the Armand van Helden Soundtrack. "Clumsy" sold over two million copies and launched the Top 5 Modern Rock hits "Superman's Dead" and the album's title track, "Clumsy." The album also won the band two of Canada's Juno Awards in 1998. The first single from "Happiness..." "One Man Army," topped the Modern Rock charts this past summer and helped send album sales soaring. The latest single off "Happiness..." also boasts the first time Our Lady Peace has collaborated with legendary jazz drummer Elvin Jones.

"Wow, what an experience," said Coutts. "Who am I to get to play with this legend? It's actually kind of intimidating." Jones is featured on the song "Stealing Babies."

The covers of the three Our Lady Peace albums have one key ingredient in common: the same elderly gentlemen grace them all. Seventy-eight-year-old Sol Fox Toronto is the man on each of the covers. Never a band close to being ordinary, the Our Lady Peace albums feature Toronto, shirtless and serving as a roost for pigeons on "Naveed," and hanging from a trapeze by his teeth for the cover of "Clumsy." "Happiness..." has Toronto in a more subdued pose: standing in a black suit on a beach holding a huge red snapper fish. Known for touring non-stop, Our Lady Peace has played as many as 200 dates worldwide in a single year. In 1998 they created and headlined the Summersault Tour. The 18-month tour also featured Garbage, Harvey Danger and Crystal Method. According to Coutts, plans are in the works to resurrect the tour. "We're trying to do that this year. It's all about getting the right bands, having fun and making music together."

They've headlined sold-out arena tours and have shared the stage with the Rolling Stones, Third Eye Blind and Better Than Ezra. Yet, tomorrow night Our Lady Peace goes back to its roots, playing to intimate crowds in small clubs.
Student Art Show at the AMC

by Karen Smith
Times Contributing Writer

For those of eclectic taste, Aquinas College’s student art show offers a sampler of artistic treats to please any visual appetite. The works displayed feature an assortment of art mediums including drawings, sculptures, and photography that were created by students during classes last semester. The combination of pieces presents a collage of colors and textures that can be felt from the warm, soft hues and lines in Lindsay Fleming’s painting “Still Life With Peppers” to the jagged coolness of Black Steel, a welded steel sculpture by Judy Huycx.

Of the works exhibited, the experience of the artists ranged from beginners to those studying art as a major. This was the first show for senior Tran Tran, a Biology major, who took Photography I to fulfill a general education requirement. To his surprise, Tran found the class much more enjoyable than just something he had to do to graduate. Tran explained that photography gave him a chance to branch out into new areas. “It’s the freedom of doing things . . . to explore creatively,” he said.

As for junior Jennifer Gally, a Business and Communication Arts major and French minor, doing her work was the challenging part of class. “Sometimes you find that a piece of expression came from your head, out your hands and voice and a part of you that you don’t understand is discovered, that your subconscious had premeditated, but the meaning of which your conscience is unaware.”

Located in the Art and Music Center Gallery, the show is currently on display and runs through March 24. The AMC Gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Weekend hours are from 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Who’s Coming to Dinner?
Black History Month play addresses interracial couples

by Cristina Venditelli
Times Contributing Writer

On the weekend of Feb. 25-27, The Black History Month Players performed Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?, a humorous and informative play about an inter-racial couple breaking the news to their parents and the situations that result from it. Despite the length of the play at only 45 minutes, it was able to enthrall the audience.

The cast featured sophomore Janelle Sumner and junior Justin Orlík as the couple. Freshmen Elizabeth Jimbo, family Hollingsworth, Clare Avery, Selena Dorn and Jeannette Pierce gave hilarious performances as the family members. Freshman Cristina McKeown was an entertaining priest, and freshmen Ebonie Smith and Amanda A. Killian, sophomores Vicki Hargenrader, Vicky Wright and Nate Peck, and junior Schanti Dixon highlighted the play with their dancing.

While the play was funny, it offered a serious message about the acceptance of interracial couples. There was never a dull moment, even between scene changes excerpts from the movie version of the play were shown on a large screen over the stage.

Sophomore cast member Wright said, “As books can implant information in a person’s mind, the play implanted a more diverse realization not only to the audience, but the cast members’ too.”

According to cast member Selena Dorn, “I had a great time being an actress in the Black History Month play. The people that I worked with really made the play special. We were trying to get across the message of ‘love has no color,’ and I believe we accomplished that.”

LIFE IN GENERAL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

After performing their original tunes, Life in General played a crowd-pleasing rendition of Simon and Garfunkel’s, “Mrs. Robinson.” The audience grew increasingly energetic as small drums, tambourines and other percussion instruments were given out for students to play.

Part of the reason for the band’s originality is that they are signed to an independent record label. Freshman Trisha Charbonneau said, “It’s amazing that they are an independent band and aren’t signed to any major record label, they were so talented.”

In addition to college tours, Life in General, is spending time at home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina producing their fifth CD (in five years), So Long, True Love.

Life in General has performed in 45 states as well as headlining 24 shows in Australia. The National Association of Campus Activities recently named them “Contemporary Music Artist of the Year 1999.” This recognition was the result of students’ votes across the country. Life in General has also had the opportunity to play with such bands as the Barenaked Ladies, Bryan Adams and the Dave Matthews Band.

The Bloodhound Gang
Hooray for Boobies

by Katy Moore
Times Art & Entertainment Editor

Who they are: Jimmy Pop - lead singer, songwriter, techno wizard; Lupus Thunder - guitarist; Jared Hasselhoff - bass; D.J. Q-Ball - turntable; Willie - drums
Where they’re from: (both) Philadelphia, PA and Los Angeles, CA

How you know them (current single): “The Bad Touch”

Lyrics worth repeating: “She was hotter than the sun but she just wasn’t that bright ... I think a wooden clothespin has been much better company,” from the song “Three Point One Four.”

My thoughts on “Hooray for Boobies”: Quite often, late night radio gets scary. More often than not, the music played has been deemed “inauthentic” for daytime airplay. When The Bloodhound Gang released its first single from “Hooray for Boobies,” “The Bad Touch,” I heard it once on college radio and assumed I’d never hear it again - much less on commercial radio. I was wrong. (Local radio station WSNY is happy to play the B.H.G. at 10:43 a.m., 12:56 p.m., 2:08 p.m., 4:27 p.m., and any other time they please. Why does this surprise me? Because “You and me ain’t nothing but mammals, so let’s do it like they do on the Discovery Channel.” These are the lyrics to the chorus of “The Bad Touch.”

The Bloodhound Gang’s songs are offensive, often disgusting, and completely hilarious. From the album’s artwork and photos to the lyrics themselves, nothing is sacred. The Bloodhound Gang insults women, Hindus, Catholics, homosexuals, popular television shows, and everyone who’s ever worked for minimum wage. Not to mention the abuse they hurl at themselves. They even turn Pink Floyd’s “Another Brick in the Wall” into lyrics not fit to print. “I Hope You Die” starts out with the statement “You must die, I alone am best.” According to the band, the song was written for all the people whom you secretly wish would just drop out of your life. During “Three Point One Four,” Pop self-indulgently asks: “You know what I really want in a girl?” before answering “Me?” They write letters to a porn star. They have lyrics about anything and everything - turning it all into sex. As if all that’s not enough, they record themselves hacking up fur-balls and throwing up. Yum.

There are two incredibly annoying things about “Hooray For Boobies”: 1.) all the lyrics are set in rhyming couplets and 2.) they incessantly use similes and metaphors: “Deader than the parents on Party of Five.” “Like the last catacombs of Egypt.” “Like Elton John with his 'candle in the wind.'” “The Bloodhound Gang is schizophrenic - bouncing through techno-laced dance (“The Bad Touch”), punk-influenced tracks (“I Hope You Die”), an alternative/pop sound (“Three Point One Four”), bad country music (“A Lap Dance Is So Much Better When The Stripper Is Crying”) and everything in-between. They sample Metallica’s “For Whom the Bell Tolls” and immediately follow it with Frankie Goes To Hollywood’s “Relax.”

The Bloodhound Gang has been around since 1993. “Fire Water Burn,” the major single from 1996’s “One Fierce Beer Coaster,” skyrocketed sales of the album to two million worldwide. How is it no one knows of them? “The roof, the roof, the roof is on fire,” is the repetitive line to “Fire Water Burn” that we all know, but who knew the same band would come back four years later with a dance track?! With a cover featuring shots of naked breasts, “Hooray for Boobies” is raunchy, disgusting, insulting and hysterical. The disc isn’t designed to be taken seriously, so don’t. Take it with a grain of salt, and laugh your head off. The sound clips on the CD alone makes it worth the purchase.

Visit them at: www.bloodhoundgang.com
AQ baseball riding solid pitching, defense
by Jason Vogel

Times Sports Editor

There is good reason to believe that Aquinas' baseball team will not stray far from their 37-8 performance in 1999 season. Aquinas returns seven of nine starters from a year ago, as well as the six top pitchers and 20 letter winners for their 2000 campaign. The Saints kicked off their season with an annual trip to Florida for seven days of scheduled games.

With the loss of senior leaders Jason Hill and Travis Haadin from the 1999 team, the Saints will look for experience to lead the way this season, experience that is rich at several positions for the 2000 Saints.

The most notable talent pool the Saints will turn to this season is their pitching staff. Aquinas has all the major components back from a pitching staff that finished the 1999 season ranked 17th in the nation in earned run average. Shawn Veenstra (9-2), Scott Dekock (8-3), Sean Ford (5-2), and Brandon Bailey (7-1) will lead Aquinas on the mound this season.

The outfield also returns all three starters from a year ago including Chris Laska who led the Saints with his .431 batting average and 13 doubles. Laska's .431 average will return as the Saint's short stop with the return of Brock Place at first base and John Perko at third base. Place batted .354 last season with 3 home runs, 20 runs scored and 20 runs batted in. He also led the team with a .990 fielding percentage. Perko batted .359 with 10 home runs and a team leading 52 runs batted in. Sophomore Chris McCann will return as the Saint's short stop with the second basemen under Ben Varnessteel, redshirt freshman transfer Kyle Kracht, and freshman Matt Bocien.

The void left as the catcher position will be filled by seniors Trey Kubizna and Brian Osborn.

Coach Bocien will have several options at the designated hitting position including back-up outfielders John Pike, Brent Backing, and Chad Hansen.

"In my mind we overachieved last sea- son," Coach Bocien said. "We were a young ball club that pitched and played solid defense. The question that has to be answered is who has improved more, us or our opponents?"

The Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference will provide Aquinas with strong competition once again for the 2000 season. Aquinas comes into the season ranked 25th in the nation and will meet the number of See BASEBALL, page 11

Bring the NAIA Championships to Grand Rapids
by Jason Vogel

Times Sports Editor

It is that time of year again. March madness is upon us and colleges all across the country watch as their basketball teams head to the national tournaments.

This season, March madness hit close to home for fans of Aquinas College Basketball. Their women's basketball team traveled to Iowa to participate in the NAIA Women's National Championship game. Making their first appearance under Coach Nash, the Saints fell short in the first round of play.

The NAIA tournament is a one game playoff for the NAIA conference title with the tournament taking place over spring break. If it was not a tournament at the national level, colleges joined their conference to do battle in a berth to the 64 team tournament beginning tomorrow.

One of those conferences was the Big Ten, gathered together for the Big Ten title that week. The Big Ten Conference came to Grand Rapids again for the Women's Big Ten tournament. The conference title of their own at the Delta Plex. This tournament gained a lot of coverage because it gave the NCA a chance to look at Grand Rapids as a possible site for bigger tournaments, namely NCAA Division II and III, or even an NAIA championship. Hopefully those who attended the tournament saw what a great setup Grand Rapids has to host such a tournament. Think about it. Not only can games be hosted at the Delta Plex, but there is the Van Andel Arena and the Ford Fieldhouse as possible sites as well. In terms of the NAIA, the conference that the tournament must be held at a member college. Grand Rapids has two members, Aquinas and Cornerstone, who could host the tournament.

So maybe the national committee would have to bend some of the rules but with a few minor changes what is stopping the NAIA from coming to Grand Rapids instead of the College of the Ozarks in Missouri or Sioux City, Iowa? I am sure there are just too many wonderful things to do in Branson, Missouri, or Sioux City, Iowa. However, Grand Rapids has a lot to offer in terms of hosting a basketball tournament. Here is the way I envision it.

The NAIA championship takes 32 teams including the host school. Thus, to make the national committee's decision, the first two rounds could be held at Aquinas and Cornerstone, colleges less than five miles apart. Both are also colleges who will host new or renovated gymnasiaums in the near future.

Send 16 teams to each sight (Aquinas and Cornerstone) early in the week. The first two rounds could be played at Cornerstone and Aquinas. Then the Delta Plex or the Van Andel Arena could come into play for the Final Four and the championship game.

Not only would the visiting players enjoy the top notch facilities, but they would also have a chance to play in a very nice (and large in comparison to the past sites) arena. Fans also would not be a problem. Grand Rapids has no Division I college, but several smaller colleges who have gained a large following.

And why not award a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference bid? Would Grand Rapids be able to host a NAIA member's campus. Aquinas and Cornerstone may not be able to house such an event, but with help the city, the tournament would be a success.

Location may be another problem that will hinder the success of a national tournament in Grand Rapids. Yet the men's tournament was held in Idaho last season and then Missouri this year. Michigan is not centrally located but then again, is Idaho?

Once they see the possibilities Grand Rapids may not think it would be hard for NAIA officials to bend the rules a little. Grand Rapids has been waiting for this opportunity like this, and it could become a reality with a few rule changes and some renovations to existing facilities.

Blind, Sackett, Gummere achieve "All-American"
by Jason Vogel

Times Sports Editor

Aquinas' men's and women's indoor track teams traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska to test their skills against competition from across the nation. Each of the teams experienced rather different results, as the women's team finished 8th overall in the nation and the men's team did not score any points.

"There was a lot more competition than any other year before," said senior Carl Blind. "Our training really paid off, everybody really stepped up to the competition and a lot of personal records were set." Blind led Aquinas as one of only two seniors on Coach Dave Wood's women's squad. Blind, who sets school records for a hobby, did not let the competition bother her. She finished second in the 1000 meter run, only 0.21 seconds out of first place, a race she lost at the finish line. Blind was also a member of two relay teams that earned themselves All-American honors with their performances in Nebraska.

The distance medley team won the school record with their time of 12:10.6, a time that would place them in 4th place by 0.61 seconds. Nichole Gumere led off the race for Aquinas, followed by Kerry Lucas, Vickey Sackett, and then Carl Blind. Blind was also the final leg for the women's 4X800 relay team that placed fourth in the nation with a time of 9:15.39. This time Sackett led off for the Saints followed by Allison Turnbull, Nichole Gumere, and once again Carl Blind.

Vicky Sackett, like Blind, was also named an All-American three times throughout the days events. Sackett was not only a member of the two relay teams, but she also ran a 60-68 place finish in the 600 meter run with her time of 1:40.14, a time slower than the school record time she recorded in the preliminary race (1:34.54). Like Sackett and Blind, Nichole Gumere was also named an All-American three times with the help of the two relay teams and her 3rd place finish in the 1000 meter run.

"We put in the training and we put in the time, but it wasn't exactly what we hoped for," Sackett said. The Saints received their other top ten finishes from field events. Mary Meier placed 10th overall in the women's pole vault with a vault of 10'-06". Holly Sixmore placed 9th in the women's long jump with a time of 48'-02". Jenetta Merritt made it to the semi finals in the 55 meter hurdles and placed 19th in the long jump, while Liz Koerner placed 20th in the pole vault.

[The NAIA championships] definately put Aquinas down as a team that others will worry about in the future," said Blind. Sackett also said, "in the three short years that I have been here our team has grown in size, depth, and talent. We are now recog-
Aquinas softball looks to overcome setbacks in 2000

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

The Saints will look to improve on last season's record of 29-27, including a 16-4 WHAC record this season. However, in order to do so they will have to overcome injuries and conflicting schedules.

The Saints made their annual trip to Florida over the week-long spring break to get their year underway. With only 11 players able to make the trip, Aquinas had to put people in positions they do not regularly play.

"With the twins (Ronda and Renee Bolito), we'll be good," said junior third baseman Lyndsay Szczepanec. "Since they are not going to be there, everything is screwed up. People are just so moved around."

Bolito has become a name commonly associated with Aquinas athletics. Not only are Ronda and Renee two important pieces to Coach Ray Shieler's softball squad, but they are also key components of the women's baseball team who played in NAIA tournament in Iowa at the same time the softball team was in Florida.

This season was any indication, both Ronda and Renee will play a vital role in the Saints' success. Renee Bolito led the Saints last season from the plate with .370 batting average recording 54 hits and 24 runs batted in from the shortstop position. Ronda started at catcher for Aquinas and led the Saints in stolen bases on the season. She was also named one of the captains for the season.

Another member of the softball team who will be called upon for both her experience and ability is junior outfielder Aaran Bush. Bush started in all 56 games last season, one of two members on this year's team that accomplished this statistic. In the 56 games Bush racked up a .319 batting average including 23 runs batted, and 10 doubles.

Holding down the hot corner for Aquinas is junior Lyn ndsay Szczepanec who was also the Saints' power-hitter from a year ago.

BASEBALL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

baseball powerhouse in conference play, including Indiana Tech, who is ranked 8th in the nation and comes into the season as defending WHAC champions and national qualifiers. Spring Arbor and Madonna also return a large portion of last season's teams.

"We were the only team to beat Indiana Tech last season in the conference," Coach Bocian said. "The key in the WHAC this season will be beating one another so you don't have to do it all yourself."

The Saints look to extend hall of fame Coach Terry Bocian's 30 win seasons to 32 this season and at the add to his total of 1,000 career victories at Aquinas. Aquinas is also in the hunt to improve on last sea-
A Good Run of Bad Luck

Gambling proves to be more than amusement for some, often becomes addiction

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

From rolling the dice to stacking the deck, the terminology surrounding the gambling industry is known almost universally. Or perhaps it should be referred to as the gaming industry, as those involved in the promotion of such activities prefer to call it. Some might in the promotion of such gaming industry, as those involved know almost universally. Or performing the deck, the term inology surprises.

As so many games until someone gets hurt -

As so many

From rolling the dice to stacking the deck, the terminology surrounding the gambling industry is known almost universally. Or perhaps it should be referred to as the gaming industry, as those involved in the promotion of such activities prefer to call it. Some might argue, though, that it’s all fun and games until someone gets hurt - as so many have been hurt by taking their chances and placing their bets.

For anyone wishing to gamble, the possibilities are nearly endless. Legal gambling includes such options as the horse and dog tracks, state and regional lotteries and those institutions approved by the government such as casinos located in specified areas like Native American reservations, waterways and newly authorized zones such as those in Detroit.

Anyone wishing to seek the shadier side can surely do so with their friendly local bookie, or a variety of milder options such as Super Bowl betting grids and loose change games of blackjack.

With a name like the gaming industry, it has to be fun, right? Maybe not, some argue. The recreation and revenues used to advocate the benefits of gambling can be answered with strong opposition, including the losses suffered by those who are seduced by the life of a speculator.

These changes are not only financial or material, though those can be great enough to inflict bankruptcy or the breaking of a household. There is a new category of obsessive-compulsive behavior, known as gambling addiction. Much like alcohol or drugs an addict seeking to overcome these changes must first admit a problem and then seek professional help from such a group as Gamblers Anonymous, based on the same principles as its parent organizations Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Such groups have become commonplace and much sought after in target gambling areas such as Mount Pleasant, home of the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

According to the U.S. federal government’s National Gambling Impact Study Commission there are currently 7.5 million adult problem or pathological gamblers and about an equal number of adolescents with gambling problems in the United States. The report also estimated that there is a $5 billion annual cost to society as a result of this problem.

In terms of financial gains, Mount Pleasant has gained much more in the business world than it ever bargained for. In addition to the four-star hotel, bingo hall, multi-faceted casino and concert hall, the casino was largely responsible for the erection of several new restaurants and convenience stores. How many other cities of 30,000 can boast five McDonalds? Or two pawn shops, for that matter? Not only did the casino attract legitimate franchise and chain corporations, but also an arena for the losers to ease their debts. All for a price, of course. Wedding bands, varsity jackets, cars and cars are sold dirt cheap in the hope of some compensation for compulsion. Even shadier than that are the rings of prostitution and drug sale that suddenly popped up in an otherwise quiet college town in the midst of the Midwest.

Who’s to say, though, that gambling is inherently bad? Perhaps this too, is just another aspect of the utilitarian way of life, a means by which we shall indulge in the behaviors of our choice, winning some, losing most, but in the end, gaining a greater knowledge of good decisions. After all, it’s only money.

"Overall, I don’t think it helps the economy because it replaces industry type of jobs with service jobs."

-Wade O’Boyle, senior

"Unfortunately, gambling has become a cornerstone for many cities’ economies. Fast cash and expensive fun – what will be next?"

-Monique Nadon, sophomore

*First of all, I do not gamble. The odds are always against you, and that is the only reason that casinos are still in business.*

-Chris Wessely, sophomore