A Q alum Hardin joins New York Mets as Minor Leaguer

by Nate Thomas
Times Contributing Writer

Dave Gumpert, Paul Assenmacher and Travis Hardin are all Aquinas alumni who have one thing in common. All three went on to the professional baseball status.

Gumpert is a retired Detroit Tiger. Assenmacher has traveled around pitching for several different professional teams, and is currently back where he first started, with the Atlanta Braves.

The most recent Saint to make the jump from the Aquinas college baseball ranks to the professionals is Hardin. Hardin was signed to the New York Mets for this spring and will begin playing in their Minor League teams in the Northern League.

"I had been talking to pro clubs all through my college career," Hardin commented. "I am now signed through the pro program of the New York Mets in their Northern League."

Aquinas' Head Baseball Coach Terry Bocian had the opportunity of coaching both Hardin and Assenmacher. Bocian, however, sees Hardin's chances differently from the opportunity Assenmacher had when he signed with the Braves in 1983.

"Paul signed with the Braves after his college career when Atlanta was desperate for left-handed pitchers and he worked his way up through the system quickly," Bocian said. "There is a lot of fate about making the pros, if you get signed and when you do it, is how you do when people are watching."

Like many children, Hardin started his sports career hoping he could make the professional ranks in his favorite sport, baseball. After many years of practice Hardin is getting his chance.

"It has always been a dream of mine to play in the pros," Hardin said. "I just kept working and got my team to keep working, and the opportunity came up."

Hardin heads into spring training in a few weeks and hopes to move up through the Mets program as either a second baseman or a shortstop, both of which he played in college.

"I think from a pro standpoint second base would be his best position," Bocian said. Bocian has high expectations of Hardin and his ability to make it in the big leagues.

"I think he has the ability to get the opportunity, but it is what he does with the opportunity that will get him to the majors," Bocian said. "He's got some things that would be considered strength, good foot speed, a good arm, and he's an athlete."

Hardin thinks his chances of success are high. "It is just all in me and my self determination," Hardin said. "With my work ethic, and as long as I live up to my own expectations, the sky is the limit."

Bone marrow drive registers 49 from Aquinas College

On March 21, Aquinas held a blood drive and bone marrow donor registry sponsored by the Grand Valley Blood Center. The center had a goal of registering 50 bone marrow donors from Aquinas, including as many minority students as possible. They registered 49 people, one of whom was an ethnic minority.

Aquinas alumna and Grand Valley Marrow Donor Program Coordinator Maris Brancheau submitted a proposal to Senate requesting a contribution to cover the cost the tests. "I think that if Senate sponsors the registry it would really set an example for the community and corporations," Brancheau said.

Upcoming city bus millage crucial for some

by Nick Oceipinti and Joshua Cochran
Times Local/National Editor and Assistant Editor

The six cities in the GRATA service area: Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Grandville, Walker and Wyoming have agreed to form an Act 196 Authority called the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP). This proposed body would have the authority to ask for and collect property taxes to fund the region’s transit system. On April 11 voters in the six cities will decide on a .75 millage proposed by ITP. If voters approve, and the millage passes, the former transit authority, GRATA will be dissolved, paving the way for the new ITP. GRATA will pass all of its assets, liabilities, contracts and powers to ITP, which will then serve as the new governing body for area mass transit.

According to the GRATA website, "If the millage passes, significantly more service will be put on the street. It will also allow for more comprehensive, long-range regional transportation planning and development. Increased local funding will raise the amount of state transportation money the Grand Rapids metro area is eligible to receive. Millage revenue will add the services outlined below. Federal and state grant money will be used to fund the new vehicles needed."

In addition, to the .75 millage, the following proposals will be implemented by the new transit authority. Weekday evening service would extend until 11:30 p.m. on nine of the most traveled routes. GO! Bus will also extend its service hours until 11:30 p.m. Sunday service, not previously-offered by GRATA, would run from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m on seven main routes. Also in the works are proposals to implement a route running along 44th street from the airport to the newly opened Rivertown crossings Mall.

Many see the millage as important to lower income groups because buses is their only form of transportation. Aquinas alumna Janelle Burden of Homeless Youth Services deals with this issue first hand, "I am not sure how many [AQ] students use the bus system, but many of my clients at Homeless Youth Services do. Many of my kids are in the 16-20 year old range and were kicked out of their

See MILLAGE, page 5
Ireland participants reminisce at St. Patrick's Day reunion

by Angela Bergman and Ellen Harburn
Times Campus News Editor and Contributing Writer

St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, was ideal for a typical Irish celebration with food, drink and conversation. An Ireland Reunion party was held at the Donnelly Center at 5-30 p.m. with cocktails, salmon, potato pancakes, lamb in mint sauce, sweet potatoes, squash — and, of course, old friends.

The Aquinas Ireland Program at Tully Cross began in 1973. An alum from that initial year, Mike Zagaroli, commented, “My Friends in Tully Cross have remained my friends for the last 27 years.” The reunion is an annual celebration that allows Aquinas Ireland Alumni to reminisce about their experience in and love for Ireland.

“The most beautiful place on earth is the beach Glassilaun Strand,” said former faculty advisor Ron Pederson about the Irish beach. “Turning toward Inagh Valley feels like coming home.”

Seniors Holly Huitzman, Andrea Schaub, Leslie Palmer and Emily Green, members of Cottage #9 in the 1999 Ireland Program, all agreed that “green pancakes, green beer — can’t get better than that!”

Molly Huber, a 1998 alum, commented, “Once it [Ireland] gets in your blood, it never goes away.”

Ryan Eardly thought that the program was fun, and appreciated that he thought the classes were easy. “You let me get four credits for this class!” Eardly said in disbelief.

“It was the best time in my life so far and I would not change it for the world,” said 1997 alum Ann Walsh.

“Once it [Ireland] gets in your blood, it never goes away.”
–Molly Huber

Moose "pub" a bit o' Irish fun
On March 17, the Aquinas Carriage House was packed with students participating in the St. Patrick's Day festivities sponsored by the Student Activities Office. Students arrived at the Carriage House decked in green. Some donned festive hats with shamrocks on them or painted faces. The evening included live music by the Irish band Smash the Windows, which was well received by the crowd. Some students danced to the tunes as others socialized and enjoyed the show. There were also two other popular Irish traditions present: a darts competition and beer (for those age 21 and over).

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John Cabot University and its neighborhood Trastevere
March 29, 2000

Noted historian, Sklar stops at Aquinas during GR visit

by Tonya Schafer
Times Contributing Writer

Noted historian Kathryn Kish Sklar visited Aquinas March 16 and chatted with students and faculty members as the guest of honor at a tributeary reception before delivering a speech about female reformers of the early 20th century at the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

Sklar’s visit coincided with the Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council’s celebration of Legacy 2000, a month-long affair honoring March’s status as Women’s History Month with a series of more than 100 events sponsored by community organizations and educational institutions throughout the Kent County area.

“The Legacy program recognizes the contributions women have made to society, institutions that have not previously been highlighted,” said event co-chair Susan Shannon. “It brings the community together in support of the female experience.”

“We take a diverse approach,” added co-chair Toni Turner, referring to the array of events the program sponsors. “No area or approach is left uncovered or unused.”

As her contribution to Legacy 2000, Sklar, a Distinguished Professor of History at the State University of New York, Binghamton, delivered a speech entitled “Women Reformers and Ethical Origins of Modern America 1900-1930” to dozens of audience members at the Ford Museum. Sklar had previously attended an afternoon reception at the Aquinas Women’s Studies Center where she discussed her research and her views on the current state of women’s issues with students and faculty members from Aquinas and other area colleges.

“We wanted to have an informal get-together with Sklar, to provide students with an opportunity to talk to her,” said Women’s Studies Advisory Board member Rebecca Coogan, who also serves on the Legacy Program’s Higher Education Sub-Committee, which helped to plan Sklar’s visit. “She was more than willing to participate.”

During the discussion, Sklar outlined the nature of her speech, which focused on the ambitions and impacts of the National Consumer’s League, an organization composed largely of middle-class women who campaigned for the passage of labor legislation in the early days of the twentieth century.

“The League provides an example of the ways in which women exhibited political power, especially before the 1920s when they didn’t have the vote,” said Sklar. “During this era, companies drove wages below the standard of living, which forced people to make a choice — to either die or to find support somewhere else. These women [members of the league] were thus able to identify the problem, intervene, and become powerful within the political context.”

Sklar also stated the reasons she believes the study of women’s history is so important to society.

“The type of history previously studied was made possible only by leaving some information out. Women’s history demonstrably illuminates aspects that haven’t been studied before,” said Sklar.

The Legacy program’s celebration of Women’s History continued after Sklar’s visit with an assortment of events, including art shows and book discussions, and will close with a speech delivered by Washington Post Corps dean Helen Thomas at Grand Valley State University’s Cook DeWitt Center on March 30. Previously-sponsored events included a March 1 breakfast tribute to former first lady Betty Ford and the performance of a one-woman play written by Aquinas Professor Emeritus Norbert Hruby and starring Assistant Professor of Communication Penny Avery.

Sklar herself expressed appreciation at being invited to participate in the Legacy 2000 program and commended its efforts to promote women’s history.

“This event is a wonderful thing, a way of appreciating the lives of women who have lived before us,” said Sklar. “It’s such an enriching way for the community to come together.”

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McCain supporters to be factor in 2000 presidential elections

by Erin Sherbert
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin) 03/24/2000

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore are vying to gain Arizona Sen. John McCain's supporters and independent voters, who could determine the final outcome in the November elections, political analysts said Thursday.

Political analysts said it is uncertain who the McCain voters, composed of independents, Democrats and moderate Republicans, will support when it comes time for the general election.

Kirk Overbey, a Texas Republican executive committee member, said both the Republicans and crossover Democrats who voted for McCain will probably split up: half will vote for Bush and the others will support Gore.

Although it is too premature to predict who the McCain voters will support, Robert Stein, a political science professor and the dean of social sciences at Rice University, said they will most likely not move to one party or the other.

"The bet is that McCain voters are not going to break one way or the other, but it's too early to tell," he said. "McCain is still trying to prove that he is an important player. The impact of independent voters will vary from state to state," Stein said.

"Independent voters are more prominent in smaller states," Stein said. "If you're an independent voter in Delaware you will not have much impact, but in New York, where there are more electoral votes, you're a more valuable [voter]."

Stein said now that the primaries are over, Bush and Gore will target the independent voters, the most influential group of voters in the general elections.

Colleges forced to face dangers of alcohol abuse

by Dana Klinek
Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Pennsylvania) 03/24/2000

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA - The alarming headline swept across colleges and universities throughout the country one November morning in 1997 - a Massachusetts Institute of Technology freshman had died from alcohol poisoning.

Eighteen-year-old Scott Krueger, who died after spending three days in an alcohol-induced coma, had a blood alcohol level about five times higher than the state's legal limit for drivers while drinking heavily at a fraternity pledge event.

Krueger's death was just one in a string of high-profile alcohol-related incidents that have struck colleges nationwide over the past few years - incidents that have pushed the issue of alcohol abuse to the forefront at hundreds of schools.

At Penn, the death a year ago this week of 1994 Penn alumnus Michael Tobin after a night of drinking at a Phi Gamma Delta annual reunion weekend hit close to home.

The incident prompted officials to re-examine the University's social climate - temporarily enforcing a mostly dry campus and ultimately overhauling the policy altogether.

Many institutions are engaged in similar battles against excessive drinking, and even schools untouched by alcohol-related catastrophes are, like Penn, examining and revamping their alcohol policies and beefing up non-alcoholic social options.

Yet administrators agree that the problem of alcohol abuse among college students cannot be solved easily.

"As much as we're doing, it's conceivable that another tragedy could happen, if not here, then somewhere else," said Noah Bartolucci, a spokesman for Duke University.


Following Krueger's death, MIT expelled the fraternity he was pledging and established a system of progressive sanctions on alcohol violations, ranging from calling a student into the dean's office about a minor first infraction to fines of up to $1,500 and expulsion.

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Classes

General Labor- Part Time $8.50/hr. Full paid benefits after 30 days. Up to $450 bonus after 90 days. Phoenix Personnel 249-0044.
John Paul II has prayed for the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Fragile health and political conflicts have long hampered efforts to bring the pope to Jesus' birthplace. But some Jewish leaders question if this is enough. The 1998 "We Remember" Vatican document on the Holocaust drew criticism for not emphasizing the wrongdoing of Church leaders. The pope's March 12 public apology for the sins of the Church did not mention the Holocaust specifically.

Signer explained, however, that the actions can be seen as positive steps towards reconciliation of past conflicts.

"The victims of the Holocaust are dead. No one can apologize to them," Signer said. "And it's not easy for anyone to look at the errors and sins of their tradition. So much discussion, I think, is the next necessary step."

The most powerful aspect of the pope's visit, said Signer, would be the visual gesture of John Paul II visiting Jewish sacred sites. But more than relations between Christianity and Judaism are under scrutiny.

To further complicate matters, Israel is the site of the conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians, who have endured 50 years of Israeli occupation. John Paul II supports a balanced approach, recognizing both Jewish rights to security in their homeland and the Palestinian people's legitimate claims, explained Signer.

"The pope is perceived by many in the Middle East as a friend of the Arab world, and of the Palestinians in particular," McBrien said.

The pontiff will meet privately with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and tour the Deir al-Harith refugee camp. Both McBrien and Signer cautioned against impossibly high expectations for the pope's travels.

The trip is foremost a personal pilgrimage. "It will be a spiritual journey for him — one filled with great meaning, given his age and state of health," McBrien said. "I do not expect any major breakthroughs of a religious or political kind."

The extensive attention the visit is receiving creates an impression that the visit will erase centuries of conflict. Nonetheless, the pope cannot work miracles.

"This man is a religious pilgrim whose desire is for peace," Signer said. "But it's really up to all the parties involved to make the peace."

MILLAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

homes. Too many have been forced to also drop out of school to work due to limited bus hours. The proposal would extend bus hours to 11:30 p.m. on weekdays and add Sunday service and really help the kids.

Burden also feels that this issue goes beyond the practical implications. "Passing this millage is an important step in putting people on equal levels and giving them equal opportunities."

However, many believe the new proposals are not needed, as the buses are even rarely half-full on the routes currently run. According to opponents, expanding a service that is not used is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Countering these claims, proponents of millage stress that the importance of bussing in Grand Rapids has increased lately because the tremendous gas prices and the construction of the s-curve, GRATA is already overburdened, it is also possible that the existing service may be cut. Under the current local funding agreement, GRATA has been operating at a deficit. This means that GRATA has been using its capital money to pay for the city contract.

The new bags are cheaper for the mental and economic reasons. The new bags are cheaper for the city and are much friendlier to the environment because they decompose much faster. The new bags will hold the same amount of yard waste as the old bags and will be able to handle rainy conditions for about three weeks. Only one composting hauler accepts plastic bags, limiting competition for the city contract, Roy Shmidt told the Grand Rapids Press. The new bags are accepted by many more companies and should increase competition for the city contract.

City of GR to switch to paper

The City of Grand Rapids is switching its yard disposal bags from plastic to paper. For years the city has sold the clear plastic bags used for yard refuse, and it is now switching for environmental and economic reasons. The new bags are cheaper for the city and are much friendlier to the environment because they decompose much faster. The new bags will hold the same amount of yard waste as the old bags and will be able to handle rainy conditions for about three weeks. Only one composting hauler accepts plastic bags, limiting competition for the city contract, Roy Shmidt told the Grand Rapids Press. The new bags are accepted by many more companies and should increase competition for the city contract.

Mozambique faces flooding disaster

Recent heavy rains have caused massive flooding in Mozambique and other African countries.

The rains have left hundreds of thousands in the without food, clean water, homes or medicine. Reports from the area say that conditions are worsened by clouds of malaria-carrying mosquitoes spawned by the surging floodwaters. These waters have also destroyed bridges and roads that were crucial in the relief process. With 10 of her 11 brothers and sisters living in a tent city near their home in the southeast African nation's capital of Maputo, Irene Solomon, a Consolata nun attending classes at Grand Rapids Community College has felt the disaster hit home. The Knights of Peter Claver and its ladies' auxiliary each presented Sister Solomon with $500 in hopes of sparking awareness of the tragedy in Mozambique and hopefully appealing to the giving spirit of West Michigan. Donations can be made at any Huntington Bank branch in the name of the Knights of Peter Claver, c/o Sister Irene Solomon.
A new era for the Tigers?

Will the player trade have promise for Detroit's team?

**Point**

Spring is in the air. With the weather getting warmer and summer approaching it means only one thing for those who support the boys of summer; the Tigers are about to begin their first campaign of the new millennium. Will the 2000 season be a repeat of the last 13 years of sorry Detroit Tiger baseball, or has General Manager Randy Smith made the right changes in his off-season to make a mediocrity team tops in the American League Central?

Expect the Tigers to be battling with the Cleveland Indians come September with the rest of the A.L. Central in the dust left by the two teams. Why? The big change from a team that lost 92 games last season?

For one, the Tigers just finished one of the biggest off-seasons in franchise history with a nine player deal with the Texas Rangers. Yes, the Tigers lost some good young talent that may turn out to be very good players in the Major Leagues. For young, unproven players Justin Thompson, Francisco Cordero, Gabe Kapler and Frank Catalanotto Detroit gained two middle of the line-up players Justin Thompson, all for an overrated pitcher Justin Thompson, all for an overrated pitcher. The rest of the pitching staff, the Tigers have not had a staff, the Tigers have not had a

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Expect the Tigers to be batting with the Cleveland Indians come September with the rest of the A.L. Central in the dust left by the two teams.
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**Counterpoint**

The acquisition of Juan Gonzalez, combined with the inaugural season of the new Comerica Park, has many baseball fans in Detroit, as well as the state of Michigan, believing that a new era of baseball has dawned on the Detroit Tigers. This new era, many fans believe, will culminate with the Tigers at the pinnacle of Major League Baseball.

I hate to shatter this lofty idealism, like a baseball through a window on a warm summer afternoon, but remember that we are talking about the Detroit Tigers.

This is the same team that finished in the middle of the American League (AL) Central division last year with a 69-92 record, and hasn't finished higher than third in their division since 1991. In addition, the Tigers haven't had a winning season since 1993, when they managed an 85-77 record, finishing just over 500.

These are the sort of numbers which can take years to turn around. It would be nearly impossible for such a turnaround to occur in one season. Rather than setting their sights on the top this season, the Tigers should just view this as a rebuilding year, the first step toward recapturing the crown they once won sixteen years ago in 1984. This year the Tigers will feature Juan Gonzalez in the outfield, and the Tigers as well as their fans are hoping that he will aid them in their quest for the AL crown.

While Gonzalez is respected as a star in the major leagues, his career batting average is a mere .294. Although this is a solid batting average for the major league, it is certainly not of superstar quality. The trades the Tigers made to obtain Gonzalez were absurd. They traded some good, young kids like pitcher Justin Thompson, all for an overrated player from the Rangers. The trade for Gonzalez appears to be nothing more than a desperation move to hopefully get some exposure and wins for a lagging club.

If we turn our attention to the pitching staff, the Tigers are lacking here as well. The rotation features Hideo Nomo as one of the Tigers' best pitchers. Have I failed to mention that Nomo, has already been waived by two other major league teams - the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Milwaukee Brewers - failing, more than living up to expectations? With the Brewers last year, Nomo only managed an ERA of 4.54, too high to be a team's ace pitcher. The rest of the pitching staff is young and unproven in the big leagues.

Outside of the Tigers organization, the AL is already shaping up to be a tight race, too crowded for the likes of a pretender like the Tigers. The Cleveland Indians seem to have a lock on the central division, especially if Kenny Lofton is healthy. Many experts are predicting the New York Yankees to three-peat, the first team to achieve this since the 1972-74 Oakland A's. Other AL teams that will probably perform far better than the Tigers include Seattle Mariners, the Boston Red Sox, the Texas Rangers and the Toronto Blue Jays.

So my advice to Tigers fans: enjoy the new Comerica Park, but don't get your hopes up while attempting to endure another season of Detroit Tiger baseball.

Of course, although the odds seemed stacked against the Tigers' favor for the upcoming season, the joy and amazement of sports is that the outcome is always in doubt, as Yogi Berra once stated; "It ain't over until it's over," and the season has hardly begun. Play ball.
Legalizing abandonment may save infants’ lives

Should three eastern Michigan counties implement a program that would legalize abandonment of newborn infants? Yes, absolutely.

The question sounds dreadful, and the answer seems even more frightening, but the program under consideration is logical and, if successful, will certainly produce more harm than good.

Currently, Wayne, Washtenaw and Macomb counties are planning to initiate a program that would permit new mothers to drop off unwanted infants at county hospitals - no restrictions, no questions asked.

Under this program, which is scheduled to begin April 1, leaving an infant at the hospital would not make the woman liable for the current neglect and abandonment penalty of ten years in prison.

This idea was developed in response to last year’s more than twelve incidents in the counties in question in which newborn infants have been left in trashcans, dumpsters and alleyways.

One infant was even left of a grocery store shelf between packages of disposable diapers with its umbilical cord still attached. The abandoned children were usually not discovered until after they had died.

When considering the gruesome circumstances of these unwanted newborns, suddenly leaving them in a hospital under the care of professional staff who can offer medical attention and refer the infants to adoption agencies seems like a sane and humane option.

This program is based on the theory that the mothers - and perhaps also the fathers - of the unfortunate abandoned children were either uninformed about how to put a child up for adoption or were unwilling to go through the paperwork-laden process and supply their personal information to an adoption agency.

The program through the hospital would be affiliated with a potential adoption agency so that the child could be placed into a new home as soon as possible. With the number of potential parents in this country on waiting lists to adopt infants, the child would likely be easy to place. Perhaps easier because, without records of the biological parents, the adoptive parents would run less risk of the legal nightmare involved when a biological parent tries to reclaim a child put up for adoption.

Opponents accuse the program of encouraging parents - especially impressionable teenage girls - to dismiss responsibility for their actions. They say the program advocates degradation of the value of human life and demonstrates society’s immoral treatment of children.

Yet, it potentially will save the lives of innocent children. Is that really such a bad idea?

The news stories and police reports already show that some desperate mothers will leave their children for dead without this program.

The program will not start a trend, but will, hopefully, minimize unnecessary casualties. To hear some of the opposition’s arguments, one might think the hordes of recent mothers were going to storm the hospitals, leaving hundreds of infants in their care. It sounds as though there are many mothers waiting for an opportunity to get rid of their children.

But, I have to wonder if the program will really increase the number of abandoned children at all. It seems unlikely that a mother - even an impressionable teenage mother - who carries a child to full-term and is not already considering options for getting rid of the child will decide to abandon the newborn simply because the option legally exists.

In the pro-life vs. pro-choice argument, this program answers the demands of both. First, it preserves the lives of infants who might otherwise have died from neglect, and it offers another, even convenient, choice to women who are unable or unwilling to raise a child that they have conceived.

And you can quote me on that...

March 29, 2000

Is the parking proposal a positive step towards solving the parking problem at AQ?

"I think it will have a positive impact. In fact, I think it will rock the student’s world. It is just a parking proposal and it isn’t going to dramatically change student’s lives, but it will help. We’re always looking for ways to improve things on campus."

"I think it’s a good idea if it helps to solve the parking problem. I can support any change to make the parking problem better."

Justin Crain, Junior

"I think it’s completely fair. As a senior I’d want a parking spot where I live. If I had to park in Donnelly, fine but I don’t want to get stuck in Mayfield."

Katie Strufer, junior

"It’ll clear up any points that weren’t clear to students as to where they could park. We won’t have to deal with all the appeals. It takes away their gripe’s and arguments about where they can park."

Mark McCann, Campus Safety Shift Supervisor

"I think one way to do it is to cut the freshmen permits. The color system can work, but there’s still a question of safety. What if there’s a freshman who has to park far away?"

Tom VanHortwyck, grad student

Tell us what you think of the Times. Send questions, comments, criticisms, letters to the editor, etc... to:

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So you're bored...

No Excuses.
Here's what to do.

Compiled by Katy Moore
Times Art & Entertainment Editor

The numbers you need: Ticketmaster (TM): 456-3333
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Where to go:
Tue 3/28 - 4/2: RIVERDANCE is at Devos Hall (TM)
Wed 3/29: DREW NELSON, NECTAR & MICHAEL CRITTENDEN are at the B.O. B.
Thu 3/30: WYCLEF JEAN is at the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor (TM)
Thu 3/30: TROLL FOR TROUT is at Founder's Alt House
Fri 3/31: POPAWRELY is at Old Peninsula in Kalamazoo
Fri 3/31: MUSTARD PLUG is at JR's Warehouse in Traverse City
Sat 4/1: GUSTER is at the House of Blues in Chicago (TM)
Sat 4/1: INSANE CLOWN POSSE is at the Riviera Theatre in Chicago (TM)
Mon 4/3: CREED & SEVENDUST are at Wing's Stadium in Kalamazoo (TM)
Mon 4/3: BUSH & MOBY are at Ryder Center in Saginaw (TM)
Tue 4/4: STAIND & KORN are at the Van Andel Arena (TM)
Thu 4/6: DREW NELSON & DOMESTIC PROBLEMS are at the Whitecaps Home Opener at Old Kent Park
Thu 4/6 (10:30pm): JUDE is at the Moose Caf_ (TP)
Fri 4/7: DREW NELSON is at the Moose Caf_,
Fri 4/7: DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, HELLO DAVE & THE NADAS are at the Intersection

Start looking for tickets to:
Sat 4/15: SMASHING PUMPKINS are at the Areango Ballroom in Chicago (TM)
Tue 4/25: NINE INCH NAILS & A PERFECT CIRCLE are at the Van Andel Arena (TM)
Thu 4/25: STROK8 is at the House of Blues in Chicago (TM)
Thu 4/27: PAT McGEE BAND is at the Ark in Ann Arbor (TM)
Sun 5/7: BLOODHOUND GANG is at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac (TM)
Tue 5/16: TRAIN & GAS GIANTS are at the Orbit Room (must be 18+) (TM)
Sun 5/7: COUNTING CROWS & CRACKER are at Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo (TM)
Wed 7/5: RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS & FOOFIGHTERS are at the Van Andel Arena (TM)
Wed 7/5: DAVE MATTHEWS BAND is at Comerica Park in Detroit (TM)

movie review

Erin Brockovich
Starring Julia Roberts and Albert Finney

by Katy Moore
Times Art & Entertainment Editor

In a small town in California, a woman searches for work. In a low-cut tank top, short skirt, three-inch pumps, gold press-on nails and hair that would put a clown to shame, she sits smiling brightly as she's being interviewed for a job she's nowhere near qualified for. After being turned down, the single mother of three has a twist of fate and ends up in the small-time law office of middle-aged lawyer, Ed Masry (Albert Finney). With little more than a high school diploma, a sharp tongue, and a wardrobe filled with short skirts and tops cut to reveal her bra, Erin Brockovich (Julia Roberts) bullies Masry into giving her a job.

After flipping through a real estate file she's supposed to be putting away, Brockovich discovers medical records among the documents inside the file. Partially out of curiosity, she launches into an investigation of her own. She learns that corporate giants Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) have been knowingly using poisonous chemicals for cleaning their tanks. The chemicals have seeped into the earth through their unlined holding ponds and have since contaminated the ground water in the surrounding community of Hinkley, CA. The contamination has led to serious health problems for hundreds of Hinkley residents: tumors, numerous cancers, constant nosebleeds and organ failure have been the result of the poisoned ground water.

After bringing the case to Masry, Brockovich begins working on collecting the evidence the firm needs to file suit against PG&E. She goes door to door to visit and talk to residents. She collects their signatures to help advance the settlement deal. She learns all 600-plus clients' names, faces, symptoms, addresses, phone numbers and every other semi-important detail that makes the residents of the town even more important to her.

Based on a true story, Erin Brockovich is funny, touching, inspiring and highly entertaining. The movie follows Brockovich as she hunts for truth and justice against corporate giants and big-time lawyers. She's a tireless, compassionate and resourceful young woman who comes to know and love Brockovich, there's nothing to fear except giving up. Going up against corporate giants and big-time lawyers doesn't hinder her determination to fight for the victims she's come to know and love.

Brockovich has the determination, courage and bold sense of self that most people can only dream about.

The annual Jazz Festival took place on March 25-26 in the Art & Music Center. This was the 27th edition of the Festival. Some 17 high schools, colleges and universities performed during the weekend's extravaganzas.

The Festival began in 1973 as the brainchild of Dr. Bruce Early. "It was his baby, starting out small and growing year after year," said Music Department Chairperson Barbara McCargar.

Dr. Early's death in 1998 left the Festival in the very capable hands of Aquinas' Music Department. 1999's Festival was a tribute to Dr. Early. His influence is still felt throughout the festival.

"The posters and t-shirts still carry the same logo that he had designed over 27 years ago," said McCargar.

"Bruce Early's spirit is very much alive. Sometimes I think I hear an 'I told you so' when I talk to residents. She collects their signatures to help advance the settlement deal. She learns all 600-plus clients' names, faces, symptoms, addresses, phone numbers and every other semi-important detail that makes the residents of the town even more important to her. Based on a true story, Erin Brockovich is funny, touching, inspiring and highly entertaining.

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Farerra plays Spanish songs, rhythm

by Heidi Stanley
Times Contributing Writer

A very intimate crowd gathered as the sounds of Latin classical guitarist Irene Farerra played her musical genre. The cool spring evening of March 23, brought about a passionately dedicated woman with a love of music. As part of the Women’s History Month, Farerra provided a wonderful atmosphere with her music at the Moose Cafe, which was sponsored by the Programming Board.

The rich voice of Farerra, accompanied with her Venezuelan guitar called a cuatro, and the gait rhythm started the evening with a fantastic heart-pounding beat. A passion to represent her culture is easily visible when watching Farerra perform. Aquinas sophomore Vicky Wright felt that “in addition to her vocal variety, she had good nonverbal facial expressions, really let her emotions play a part in the performance.”

Emotions are very important to musical quality, they let a person realize that this musician has a real conviction to her work. Farerra’s style is the type of music that makes the audience want to stand up, close their eyes, and let their emotions take them away with dance.

The Spanish lyrics may have seemed confusing to some people, but for others, it allowed them to drift off to another world where the language spoke to the tapping of their feet. Deeply rich in culture and roots Farerra used different techniques to produce her native Venezuelan traditional music. Throughout the performance Farerra produced an amazing energy for a solo act. Many times her hand was strumming the guitar faster than the eye could focus, and still she kept an eclectic beat with perfect rhythm.

After a performance of Latin music, many may be inspired to explore different ethnic music styles. After the performance Aquinas student Tanya Schafer remarked “It’s good that we bring women who introduced the speaker, gushed simply, “Nancy Willard does it all!” Willard began her speech by reading two short poems by Emily Dickinson and Michael Dennis Brown to set the mood for her works. In the chorus of her original song called “The Little Bird” she said, “We all live by the same sea, the same sun, the same heart, the same blood.” Farerra’s latest CD entitled “Soy de Ti,” or “I Am Yours,” can be found on the Internet at http://www.farrera.com.

Newberry Award winner reads at AQ

by Jacqueline Flori
Times Contributing Writer

Newberry award winning poet and fiction writer Nancy Willard failed to create much of a stir during her reading at Aquinas’ Wege Ballroom on Thursday, March 16.

Aside from writing, the University of Michigan graduate teaches English at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY and has also studied in Paris and Oslo, Norway. Aquinas professor Vicki McMillan, who introduced the speaker, gushed simply, “Nancy Willard does it all!”

Willard began her speech by reading two short poems by Emily Dickinson and Michael Dennis Brown to set the mood for her works. The rest of the night’s reading consisted of several short poems separated into themes for the audience, such as animals, the natural world and poems of journey. Her words used imagery to describe things that most people would find mundane. One of her nature poems described moss as a “green sky underfoot.” Many pieces rhymed and were perhaps created for children to appreciate, such as the silly rhythms of “Pish, Posh Said Hieronymus Bosch.” Another piece touched on silly questions and answers between a mother and her son, such as “Who tied my navel?” Although some of Willard’s works were catered to children of a young age, a few pieces philosophized about deeper issues. “Coming into the Depot” described the contrasting opinions of men and women in new relationships. It begins with “They are just married and he is surprised.” The poem “When There Were Trees” tried to reach out to the many Aquinas students who claim they come here because of our vast variety of nature. It asked the audience to think of a time when “the trees were a myth.”

Another poem that Willard geared towards the Aquinas community dealt with Willard’s son leaving for college for the first time and the advice she gave him. “The roads that spider off of towns I know are like arteries that serve the heart,” Willard emphasized.

Despite the fact that much of Willard’s work could be tied to the Aquinas life, the students in attendance were less than receptive to the poet. The audience of mostly Inquiry and Expression students seemed bored, and several students were seen sleeping or occupying themselves with other homework.

“She seemed to throw a lot of random adjectives together and call it a poem,” remarked freshman Sarah Kommer.

The final event in this year’s Contemporary Writers’ Series will take place on April 17 when Michael Steinberg, a writer from Michigan State University, takes the stage in the Wege Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Visit him at: www.AngieAparo.com

MARCH 29, 2000

FARRELLA PERFORMS AT AQ

Latin guitarist Irene Farerra performs at the Moose Cafe as part of Women’s History Month.

Photo by Chris Waid

Angie Aparo

The American

by Katy Moore
Times Art & Entertainment Editor

Who he is: Angie Aparo
Where he’s from: Atlanta, GA
How you know him (current single): “Spaceship”

Lyrics worth repeating: “There’s a moment lost in time when she says, ‘Hush, I’m on your side, it’s just the two of us. Though they might try, you know I’ll never say good-bye.’” from the song “Hush.”

My thoughts on “The American”: In the early 1990s we saw a rise in popularity of male singers. Bryan Adams, Rod Stewart, Sting and even Michael Bolton all had tremendous success in that decade. Last year saw a small number of male singers surface with both Edwin McCain and Shaun Mullins garnering one hit single apiece. Now Angie Aparo has arrived on the scene and is ready to take over where others have left off.

“Spaceship” is the first single from The American, and it is sitting pretty. The song is one of the most requested in West Michigan and, as a result, is played incessantly. “If you get tired of satellite flyers and fame has let you down, under the wire and over the moon, I’m around,” sings Aparo in the chorus of “Spaceship.” The rest of the CD sounds absolutely nothing like “Spaceship” — it’s ten times better. The mixing and overlaying sounds on “Spaceship” are stripped clean on the other songs on The American, leaving a beautifully written and produced CD.

There’s something very familiar sounding about many of Aparo’s songs. Though all are originals, you’d swear you’ve heard them a hundred times before. “Hush” is a radio-friendly song filled with powerful lyrics and a heartfelt performance. “I’m foolish and grown, I should’ve known, hers was a world made for just one throne.” The pain in Aparo’s voice is extremely apparent and compelling in “Cry.” “Could you cry a little, lie just a little. Pretend that you’re feeling a little more pain. I gave, now I’m wanting something in return, so cry just a little for me.”

Each song on The American is chock full of powerful lyrics — lyrics that are reflective and easily applicable to anyone’s life. “You’ve only so many roads to choose, sooner or later the ones you use — they all look the same,” from the song “Free Man.” In “Gravity,” Aparo points out, “Maybe happiness is coming but you don’t know when. When the gravity of whether you were meant for me came crashing down with sovereignty in someone else’s tragedy.”

“Made up for everyone else happy and horribly well, the girl with her soul of the shell,” sings Aparo on “Swell.” “Memphis City Rain” was inspired by Aparo’s outage at the suggestion of some southern politicians to change the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. “I am a song, I’ve been here all along. I’ll be here when the hatred’s gone. Hey, can you recognize me? I am the light of the sun,” he sings. In “Third Time Around,” Aparo points out “Another day, another stain on your mat of regret. No world can look like it did before, but this one comes pretty close to the swinging door.” He sings of fatherhood in “Wonderland”: “I’ll live forever dark and damned to see you spend one minute in swinging door.”

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Visit him at: www.AngieAparo.com
by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

It looked like another day at the office for Coach Terry Bocian and the Aquinas College baseball team. Despite opening their Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference play with a very tough Spring Arbor team and playing on a day with extremely high winds, the Saints were able to improve their record to 15-1-2.

"It is very difficult to pitch on a day like today," said Coach Bocian referring to the winds blowing directly out of Kimble Field. He then smiled and said, "We did play a little long ball though."

Long ball is right, as Aquinas out hit Spring Arbor on the day 26-10, three of those Saints hits being home runs. In the first game, Spring Arbor showed some life early in the contest scoring 4 runs. Aquinas' defense would tighten though, as the Saints went on to score 11 runs in the day, highlighted by a 4th inning home run over the right field wall by junior Doug Austin. Austin’s home run extended Aquinas’ lead to 8-4, a lead they would never look back from. In the second game, pitching was the story of the game, as Sophomore Brandon Bailey took the mound to throw a one-hit game. Aquinas had no problem with base runners as they mercied visiting Spring Arbor in 5th inning by a final score of 10-0. The win improved Bailey’s record to 2-0 on the year in his 4 appearances on the mound.

The Saints traveled to Indiana on Sunday to take on Indiana Tech in yet another WHAC contest. Aquinas was expecting to take on a very tough Indiana Tech team that was ranked nationally in the top ten before faltering early in the season.

Coach Bocian spoke of the importance of the Indiana Tech game to the Saints’ season. "We need to steal a couple of games on the road to help us out," Bocian said. "You have got to win your home games."

Aquinas will travel north today to take on Northwood University, a division II school. The Saints will also play Hope College at Old Kent Park on Thursday, and finish the week off on Saturday in Detroit against Division I University of Detroit Mercy.

"We are capable, when we play," Bocian said. "Some days you are diamonds, some days you are the stone."

Aquinas track meets success in first outdoor competition

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

Aquinas’ men’s and women’s track teams traveled to Indiana on Saturday for their first competition outside in the new year. Building from the success they had in the indoor season both the men’s and women’s team found much team success at the Huntington College Relays. All of Saturday’s events, except for the 400m hurdles and the 5,000m run, consisted of a relay team or three field event participants competing with the average of their best throw or jump.

Freshman long jumper Scott Coafter liked the way the meet was set up. "It was fun to watch everyone come together to win the meet," Coafter said. "That is what it is all about."

The coming together is exactly what the men’s team did on Saturday as they started the 2000 outdoor season 1-0 outdistancing second place Indiana Wesleyan by 18.0 points on the day. The men received several first place finishes. Aquinas’ sprinters led the Saints throughout the meet, bringing home a 1st place finish in all three sprint relays. Aquinas’ sprinters won the 4x100 meter relay, the 4x200 meter relay, and the sprint medley relay. Junior sprinter Jason Carver, whose basketball season recently ended, led the Saints in his first meet back. Others on the three were Andy Thalan, Brian Venera, Jon Turner, Mike Appel, Steve Taylor and Adam Jauriqui.

Aquinas also received an outstanding showing from its long jumpers. Scott Coafter, Derek Sundahl, and Harry Holmes out jumped second place Alma by 5 feet. The men’s shuttle relay also finished in first place with John Semeyn who won the men’s 400 meter hurdles by .15 seconds. Aquinas also received second place finishes from the discus team, the distance medley relay, the men’s shot put, the 4x400 relay team, and the men’s triple jump.

The women’s track team also made the journey to Huntington, Indiana, but did not come away from the meet victorious. Instead, the women’s team finished second to the host, Huntington College, by 13 points. Aquinas did receive several outstanding performances from its athletes. See TRACK, page 11

Bring NCAA sports back to the students

March Madness brings madness in so many shapes and forms. Michigan State players and fans are finding out first hand the implications of participation in an NCAA tournament. The Spartans have had the opportunity to represent their college on the national scale rather close to home giving them a slight edge on their journey to Indianapolis, but I really think they would be in Indy no matter where they played.

What is interesting about Michigan State playing so close to their own campus is the way the university and the community have reacted to the Spartans’ success. Michigan State is what we would classify as a university, a place students go to learn and excel. Not just traditional academics either, like other colleges Michigan State attracts great athletes, artists and thinkers alike to come and study year in and year out.

This community of students grows to know one another, or in Michigan State’s case get to know a few of those around them, and in some cases, the members of the final four brought Spartans together.

That why Michigan State officials should have awarded nearly all of their 1,200 tickets to the Palace of Auburn Hills allotted by the NCAA to those who make up the fine college – its students. Sadly, the students were able to put their name in a lottery for a measly 16 percent of the tickets that Michigan State was awarded for their trip to the Palace. Sixteen percent, that is 200 tickets.

Instead who received the 1,000 tickets leftover for the university? That is right, administration, donors and other important people who support Michigan State. Yet, if students did not support the school, attend the school or choose Michigan State as the college to continue playing athletics at, what would the campus but a bunch of old, unused classrooms.

Donors could pay money all night and the administration could ad­ministrate until they went blue in the face, but there still would be no Michigan State if it were not for the students. That is the nation­paying students.

Let the students have fun. Administrators need to remember that students are who a college is.

Without them there would be no one to learn, play sports or (Oh no!) pay tuition. When the NCAA allows 1,200 tickets to a sweet sixteen game less than an hour away from campus why are the students forced to watch the game on tele­visions from their dorm rooms? Give the students at least 1,000 of the 1,200 tickets. They are the college and the only reason the tickets are available in the first place.

Problem one is solved, now I must pose another question. Why were there only 1,200 tickets allotted to the schools? The Palace of Auburn Hills holds 24,000 people, and 2,400 of those in at­tendance were students. Why does the NCAA even bother putting commercials on television promoting their commitment to student athletes?

The NCAA tournament and the New Year’s Day football games are just two examples of the large check NCAA officials dream about every year. To get a tick­et to last year’s New Year’s Day football game, one of the 26,700 tickets left over for general admis­sion, a person had to fill out an application last year. Then when their number was picked, $90 dollars was the price for two days of college basketball at the Palace. Rumor has it that people on EBAY were trying to buy tick­ets to the game for up to $1,000. The college game has turned into a money making event in which the students put on a show for the rest of the world to watch.

The athletes deserve more than just the promise of a free educa­tion and a pat on the back. A lot of college students have jobs, but not an athlete during his or her season. She or he must be at prac­tice everyday, in the weight room, and conditioning. On top of that add homework and studying, not to mention long road trips or an NCAA tournament six hundred miles of miles away. It sounds like work to me.

What do these student athletes get for the thousands of hours they put into their team and their uni­versity? A free education and a chance to play in front of the thou­sands of fans. The improvements made up of 16 percent of those who pay to go to school and 84 percent of those who are important to the college.
Saints win and lose defensive battle with GVSU

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

The Aquinas College softball team was a little frustrated because of a poor showing at the Alma College Tournament on March 24 and 25. Sunday, Aquinas took their frustrations to the field as they took on Grand Valley State.

Junior Lyndsay Szczepanek said, “Everyone really wanted to win so much. When we are all focused we are really, really competitive.”

The Saints and Lakers found themselves in a pitching battle the first game of the double header as freshman Melinda Rose took the mound, giving up only five hits in seven innings of work. Grand Valley’s pitcher Emily Edlund was also having similar success, but Aquinas’ hitters finally prevailed in the bottom of the 3rd inning when the first run crossed the plate.

Edlund was able to sustain the Saints for one inning, but in the fifth inning Aquinas would unload four runs on the visiting Lakers, the last runs either team would score in the game. Aquinas improved their record to 15-7 with the 5-0 win.

After the game junior center fielder Aaron Bush talked of the importance of the win for the Saints. “This game was really good for us,” Bush said. “We had to be positive about playing today because we had such a bad weekend. It really gave us confidence.”

In the second game of the double-header, pitchers and defense were again the story. Cassi Gragg, a freshman from Grant, pitched a two hit game against the Lakers. Two hits would be all GVSU would need as the Lakers scored one run in the 6th inning. Aquinas’ chance to light up their portion of the scoreboard was gunned down as the Lakers’ center fielder fielded a Gragg single and threw out Aaron Bush at the plate to keep the game scoreless.

The Saints were led on the day by defense, but several Saints had very good days from the batter’s box. Bush would lead the way for Aquinas racking up 4 hits on the day and 3 runs batted in 6 appearances at the plate. Lyndsay Szczepanek was right behind Bush with her 3 hits in 6 appearances at the plate including one of the other RBIs the Saints recorded in the two games. Renee Bolluth, Lisa Ringenberg, and Gragg all recorded two hits in a piece in the games.

The Saints finished in 3rd place at the Alma Invitational losing to both Lake Superior State and Alma-1 and 9-11 respectively. Aquinas beat Capital, Ohio two times, 5-0 and 9-4 over the weekend.

Aquinas will defend its 15-8 record against another division II school when the Bulldogs from Ferris State travel to Grand Rapids today. The Saints will play against Madonna here on Friday and against Tri-State on Saturday.

Men’s Tennis starts season with a winning streak

by Jennifer Brown
Times Contributing Writer

The men’s tennis team has wasted no time this season, reeling off a 9-0 record before suffering their first loss to Ferris State last week. Junior Lyndsay Szczepanek said, “We are playing with a lot of confidence as a team, and we are finding a way to win. It’s a long season, and we are hungry after a disappointing end to last season.” The team is very experienced with five of their top players returning from last season.

TRACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Aquinas took home a first place in every running relay except the distance medley and the shuttle run. In the 4x100 and the 4x200 meter Kerry Lucas, Mandy Schneider, Audrey Duerkson, and Kristin Zaydel brought home the gold for the Saints. The 4x800 and 4x400 relay teams were made up of all of the same runners except one spot in which Sarah Carter ran a leg in the 4x800 and Allory Kricunas ran in the 4x400. The other three runners in the 4x400 and 4x800 team were Vicky Sackett, Allison Turnbull and Nicole Gummere.

“We did really well,” said Vicky Sackett. It was tough because of the windy conditions though. Every step we took forward it felt like the wind was blowing you back a step. Even though our times did not reflect it, we ran real well.”

The women’s team also received some first place finishes from the throwing crew. Aquinas’ women won the javelin by 41 feet, the shot put by 10 feet, and the hammer throw by 95 feet. Holly Sizemore, Kim Beechuk, and Shandy Atwood brought home the first place finish in the javelin. The Saints also finished second place in the discuss.

Catch Aquinas’ outdoor track teams in action this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at Houseman Field for the Aquinas College Open.
sugar, spice &
everything nice

Questions still surround gender issues

by Jesi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

Only rarely anymore is a woman questioned regarding her motives for being in college. Unlike the 1960s, it is not suspected that females continue their education solely for the pursuit of a husband, or Mrs. Degree, as it was dubbed. With these degrading days behind us, equality must have been achieved. But is that really the case?

In a somewhat liberal college where all dorms are co-educational and very few restrictive policies have been made separating sexes, men and women seem to share the campus in peace and tolerance, if not friendship. Even in our safe and close-knit community, though, it would be hard to miss the catcalls and whistles that are heard when a woman walks by. Equally hard to miss would be the taunts aimed toward those suspected of alternative sexual orientation.

College is a place where adolescents come in, some unsure of their sexuality, and almost all unsure of how to handle relationships with the opposite sex, and emerge, hopefully, as adults. Experimentation is a natural part of the process, as is flouting. Provided, of course, that it doesn't cross the line. Flattery is one thing, but as so many men know, there's a fine line between a compliment and a court case.

In fact, between 20 and 25 percent of undergraduate women experience sexual harassment at least once during their college careers, according to a resource book on women's studies (Andersen 2000). In the workplace, as many as 50 percent of women say that they are currently being harassed, and 80 to 90 percent report having been harassed at some point during their careers.

With lawsuits on the topic emerging daily, a new question coming to light: has the envelope of sexual harassment been pushed too far? Many cases rely primarily, if not solely, on the personal testimony of plaintiff and defendant, with no outside witnesses or sources of evidence. One study showed that fewer men were entering the field of education for fear of being sued, or worse. On a lesser scale, some feel that young men grow up reluctant to express their feelings because of the dangerous manner in which their words could be interpreted.

Throughout the United States, there remains discrepancy of distribution of wages and power within the workforce. According to a 1997 study by the U.S. Department of Labor, secretaries - now of course called legal assistants - are 98.6 percent women, while men make up 95.4 percent of engineers. And in the field of engineering, men make more than $100 more per week than women in the same positions.

Though gender tension at Aquinas are not nearly as high as elsewhere around the world where women are still denied such basic rights as education and voting, the issues surrounding sexual equality have recently come to light. Within the semester, the Gender Studies club was established for the examination of such topics.

The Women's Studies Center has been more active than ever, hosting speakers, publishing a newsletter and inciting many a sneer, leer or smile with their ever-changing displays in the lower level of the Wege Center. One especially popular exhibit featured a scantily clad and slender model seated on a toilet in an advertisement for Candies shoes, immediately followed by a similarly posed photograph of a bold campus employee.

Recently, an equality bake sale was held to demonstrate the wage discrepancies that are still present in our workplace. A variety of items were available, at a variety of prices. A man wishing to purchase a brownie, for example, would have to pay the listed price of $1.00, while a woman's cost for the same item would be 75 percent of the man's.

“Men's Retreat offers time for examining issues

"Are you the man you want to be?" Walking across campus these days, this question might present itself to any observer. In response to the equality movements of women, some verging on male-bashing, men across the country have banded together to better understand themselves and each other. Far from the stereotypical concept of "male bonding," these conventions, made famous by the controversial Christian male group Promisekeepers, are an effort to make men more comfortable in their masculinity, while promoting the concepts of family, friendship and feeling.

One such retreat is coming to Aquinas under the direction of Father Dan Davis, Eric Mullen, and Ric Underhile. This weekend, March 31-April 1, the three will be taking a group to Camp Miniwanka, located on Lake Michigan. Any interested males can sign up by calling the Student Activities office at extension 4126 and paying the program fee of $10.

"It seems that with so much emphasis on diversity and women's issues, men are being made to feel inferior and filled with a sense of guilt. I think that now is the time to fill our young men with a sense of empowerment. They have lost the feeling for who they are. This retreat will be outstanding, not only to educate on men's issues, but to erase this guilt they are feeling."

-Dr. Marguerite Walter

"Yes... gender inequality still exists, but in subtler forms. I read an article about women scientists at MIT whose findings concluded that in order for them to receive the same promotions than men, they had to publish more work and raise more money... I think that this happens any time an assumption is made about capacities. We have all been brought up in a system that bases intelligence on gender."

-Dr. Marguerite Walter

"I think it [gender inequality] still exists, but more as a psychological phenomenon. Girls start to feel like they are worth less than boys, and it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

-Bridie Kent, sophomore

"Men's Retreat offers time for examining issues

"Typically, women make up a majority of our retreat groups, and seeing that, we wanted to make a format in which men felt comfortable to discuss male issues and develop a sense of community and spirituality."

-Eric Mullen, Student Activities Director

"It should be interesting and entertaining just to hang out with the guys for a weekend. I'm really curious about some of the issues, and I want to see what the people I respect have to say about things like marriage, the priesthood and mature relationships. I'm going into this retreat with a lot of questions and an open mind."

-Pat Hurley, freshman

March 29, 2000

Features Editor

Photo by Eric VanderLey

An Aquinas male dresses as in woman's clothing to challenge gender inequalities that exist in society today.