Freeze implemented to ease budget strain, departments affected
by Tonia Schaefer  New Editor

Aquinas officials have issued a temporary hiring freeze in the hopes of easing financial strain on the school’s budget for the 2000-2001 school year.

“T he hiring freeze allows additional time to review the operational budget,” said Director of Human Resources Kim Thomas. “It allows departments to re-examine their structure and to determine whether or not they are efficiently organized.”

The position freeze doesn’t mean that, except in certain circumstances, no new positions can be created or hired for while the freeze is in effect. Departments currently functioning with employment vacancies as a result of the freeze include the Physical Plant, Career Development, Information Technology Services (ITS), Human Resources, Campus Ministry and the Copy Center.

Vacancies in the Development Department, Admissions Office and Financial Services Office that were deemed essential to college function have been filled in spite of the freeze’s institution.

According to Vice President for Finance and Operations Bill Shefferly, the freeze is an attempt on the part of administrators to ensure that the school’s budget deficit remains less than $1.5 million for the 2001 fiscal year.

“Enrollment in the Masters of Management program and continuing education have not met their stated goals for fiscal year 2001. The reduction of expenses must be looked at in the hopes of easing financial strain on the school’s budget for the 2000-2001 school year.”

According to Shefferly, the temporary dearth of employees resulting from this policy may be better than the alternative.

“The process of critically evaluating each position that becomes vacant … just makes good business sense,” said Shefferly. “Gain ing savings through attrition, where appropriate, is a much better solution than having to lay off employees.”

Some departments have been affected more than others. According to Shefferly, the temporary freeze is an attempt on the part of the administration to re-examine their structure to ease the strain on the department.

“Departments currently functioning with employment vacancies as a result of the freeze include the Physical Plant, Career Development, Information Technology Services, Human Resources, Campus Ministry and the Copy Center,” said Shefferly.

Vacancies in the Development Department, Admissions Office and Financial Services Office that were deemed essential to college functioning have been filled in spite of the freeze’s institution.

New system to update security on campus in review
by Amy-Elizabeth Kayes  Contributing Writer

Returning Aquinas students may have noticed some changes taking place on campus this year. One of the most obvious changes was in the security system. Many questions have been raised as to why the new security system was implemented. Residence Life Director Randy MacGeorge stated that the new security system came out of a need for change.

A study was done last fall comparing security systems of neighboring schools, which led to the realization that the previous policy was “dangerously outdated.”

The new policy was put into action as a means of prevention.

Higher security measures became an issue of consideration last year, when a survey was taken asking students living on campus whether or not they felt safe. According to MacGeorge, an overwhelming number of students indicated that something needed to be done to change the methods of security present on campus.

In response to the new system, sophomores Seth Peters, Brad Veder, and Amy Westphal composed a letter to MacGeorge. One of the main issues addressed in the letter was the impact increased security will have on the Aquinas community. One aspect of this is decreased interaction between residence halls. Peters stated that the lobby of Regina Hall used to be a common ground for Aquinas students. “The lobby used to be bustling at 1 a.m. and now it is dead,” said Peters.

Another concern raised is whether East Area residents will feel excluded now that Regina Hall remains locked at all times. MacGeorge stated that East Area residents are still allowed access to Regina Hall by signing in at the front desk and leaving their ID card with the front desk worker.

One asp ect of the new system that students have adjusted well to is the new security system. “I feel spoiled. At first I was worried about missing out on ‘the freshman thing.’ But residence halls doesn’t mean that I’m not still in residence halls. Parke says, ‘I am very pleased with the new security system. It’s so much quieter over here than in the other dorms so it’s been a good experience for me living here. A blessing really.’

The majority of those students who began the semester with temporary living accommodations have now been moved to permanent assignments for the year. One exception is Rachel Parke, a freshman who received a placement in Dominican Hall. She has very positive feelings about living in a dorm that is not generally open to freshmen. Parke says, “I felt spoiled. At first I was worried about missing out on ‘the freshman thing.’ But really, just because I’m not in the freshman dorms doesn’t mean that I’m not still involved. I’m still a freshman. Actually, I feel lucky. It’s no much quieter over here than in the other dorms so it’s been a good experience for me living here. A blessing really.”

The new security policy has also affected some departments. The process of critically evaluating each position that becomes vacant … just makes good business sense,” said Shefferly. “Gaining savings through attrition, where appropriate, is a much better solution than having to lay off employees.”
Delayed Firestone recall results in at least 88 deaths

Tiremaker Bridgestone/Firestone said Thursday it was not quick enough in recalling 6.5 million defective tires whose use resulted in at least 88 deaths, U.S. lawmakers determined Sept. 6.

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During a congressional hearing, several politicians berated the company for not issuing a recall until August when evidence of deficiencies in the tires trends became evident over months in advance.

Ford officials state that the company tested the tires, which came standard on most Ford Explorers, when the problem first became known and that no defect became apparent during their studies.

However, officials pledged to continue investigating the problem until they discovered the cause of the tread defect.

Radioactive material affects workers in New England

The federal government employed over 200 private companies to handle radioactive material left over from experiments during the 1940s and 1950s, a report issued by USA Today alleged Sept. 5.

Workers from the companies, located mainly in New England and the Midwest, subsequently suffered cancer rates 200 percent higher than those of the general population, according to The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

The workers had been told by the government that their jobs posed no health risks. They were told they could not be fired unless they submitted their evidence to the government.

In 1982, USA Today examined over 100,000 pages of government documents dealing with radioactive waste.

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Some workers, such as Fernanda Murphy, a photography assistant in Sydney, are a bit miffed that they will be working overtime during the two-week span of the Olympics and won’t have time to attend events.

“With the Olympics in town, it’s a lot more,” said the 22-year-old Murphy said. “I wish I could go to an event, I really do, but it’s just not possible. Someone has to keep the stores open.”

Murphy even said that she would still make more money during the Olympics than she did before.

The cost of studying abroad at AQ

Students who are interested in the international study programs at Aquinas may be wondering how much it will cost.

There are a number of students expected to study abroad this year visiting Ireland, Costa Rica, Peru, Germany, and Japan, with more than 10 students going to Spain, France, and Canada.

According to Kris Lou, Assistant Dean of International Programs, students participating in the program can expect to pay the regular program fee for a semester at Aquinas plus a program fee that varies greatly from country to country.

For example, a participant in the Spain program can expect to pay up to $4,150 in addition to tuition costs, while a participant in the Ireland program pays a comparatively low $2,800.

For the past two years, the German program did not have a program fee and was subsidized by the school in an effort to build interest.

However, a $1,500 fee has been added this year.

This fee is lower than most because it includes only housing, school-related excursions, and incidentals, such as international student ID cards. In most cases the fee is used to cover airfare, excursions, room, and board, and incidentals.

Sara Spetsky, a student who plans on studying abroad, said the program fee is not a big discriminator.

"It think it's a good program," she added. "It bothers me that you pay extra if you extend your stay in the food, airfare, and tuition.

Others who have participated in the programs in the past still encourage their classmates to go abroad.

Beth Laux traveled to Costa Rica last semester and maintained that "it was worth the $3,000 fee by far. I would recommend the (Costa Rica) program to anyone interested in the Spanish culture. The families we lived with were genuinely interested in helping us learn."

One good strategy to reduce program costs, according to Lou by "aggressively pursuing awards and scholarships," is reducing the cost of staying on campus.

Study abroad trips without additional Aquinas program fees include Japan and Korea.

Except for incidental expenses (airfare, international ID card, and transportation fees during semester) fees are all included in the costs of the programs.

Vatican document in opposition with religious leaders

Theological controversy ensued following the Sept. 5 release of a Vatican document stating that the Roman Catholic Church was supreme among the world’s religions.

Both Catholic and non-Catholic religious leaders expressed dismay over the release, believing the efforts to establish harmonious dialogue among the world’s religions should be kept separate from the notion that fundamental "defects" existed in non-Catholic beliefs.

Freshmen

Aquinas is a small college that allows students to be involved.

The cost of attending Aquinas College, one of the top private Catholic colleges in the country, is $26,800 in addition to tuition costs.

Freshmen are those students who are still living in the floor lounges of Holy Hall.

By Tonya Schaefer

Freshmen are those students who are still living in the floor lounges of Holy Hall.

As with any new operation, there are going to be problems and adjustments. Some suggestions that have been made are...
Clinton promises aid to halt drug trafficking

by Andrea Williams
The Lariat (Baylor U.)
09/00/2000

(U-WIRE) WACO, Texas - For the past few months, the media have in­undated the news with stories of brutal conflict in Colombia and President Clinton's promise of $2.1 billion in anti-drug trafficking aid to Colombian President Andres Pastrana.

Clinton, in the first United States presidential visit to Colom­bia since President Bush's visit 10 years ago, is struggling to balance U.S. interest in eliminating the sup­ply of illegal drugs and supporting profes­sionally concerned in Colombia's human rights violations.

On the surface level, the situa­tion is simple. The United States has difficulty keeping illegal drugs outside of its borders. Colombian coca and poppy growers, in conjunc­tion with narcotics traffickers, sup­ply roughly 90 percent of the co­caine and heroin smuggled into our country. Stifling the supply is a pos­sible solution to the U.S. drug prob­lem.

Dr. Joan Supplee, Director of Baylor's Latin American Studies program, said as long as demand re­mains and drug trafficking is prof­itable, someone will provide the supply.

"The problem is not the supply. The problem is the demand," Supplee said. She said American money would be more effectively spent on education and rehabilita­tion programs to reduce the pop­ularity of illegal drugs in the United States.

Reduced demand would de­crease profits for suppliers, making illegal drug export less attractive. Supplee said legalizing cocaine and heroin in the United States, and the consequent reduction in the price of drugs, would also reduce narcotics traffickers' profits and encourage drug suppliers to pursue other sources of income.

"But that won't tell (American) planes, guns and helicopters," Supplee said.

Supplee said efforts to encour­age Colombians to grow cotton for the textile industry and flowers in­stead of coca and poppies would not succeed unless there is an open mar­ket for their products. Dropping U.S. import regulations for flowers and textiles might hurt American businesses unable to compete with inexpensive Colombian prices.

The United States is not the only market for Colombian narcot­ics.

Dr. Janet Adamski, Assistant Director of Latin American Studies, said Colombians are "acting like smart entrepreneurs" and finding new drug markets in, for example, Eastern Europe and China.

Colombia's unstable political situation and worldwide reputation for human rights violations add yet more layers to the problem.

Supplee cited Colombia's hu­man rights reputation "hideous." Adamski spoke of rampant rebel killings of Colombian civilians, kidnapings for profit and airplane hijackings.

Rebel groups against the Co­lombian government, primarily the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Co­lombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), control about 40 percent of the country. Adamski, who is also a political science prof­essor, said "death squads" kill civilians because they fear the people are harboring or in some way aiding the rebels, but no one seems to know who controls the squads.

"Who is behind all this and why?" becomes the central question. The death squads may be asso­ciated with the Colombian govern­ment. The rebel groups may receive funding from drug traffickers. Al­legations are many, but answers are few. Colombia's complex and sticky situation is divided about United States in­volvement in Vietnam, but I don't think there are many govern­ments that would be on the side of drug dealers," Adamski said.

Clinton, who has expressed concern in Colombia's human rights violations, is only the icing on a cake that has been bitter­sweet for Hoosier fans.

"Someone grabbed the gold chain while I was walking down the street in Colom­bia with her mother as a child. I thought Coach Knight was a sweet for Hoosier fans."

"I still believe we had to give him one last chance. He failed to live up to that. That was his decision. His unacceptable behavior not only continued since then, but increased," Brand commented.

Knight was known nationally for his temper and misconduct. Even those not fully integrated in the uni­versity were aware of it, and the status of his em­ployment was a favorite topic of speculation for many.

Freshman recruit Jared Jeffries expressed his initial shock, then acceptance of the situa­tion.

"Disbelief," said Jeffries. "I came to In­diana, I thought Coach Knight would be around as long as I would. When I heard about it, I thought there was no way this could happen. The university was so strong on its zero-tolerance policy and I knew that if something like this happened he could be in trouble."

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Aquinas students will travel to Stratford, Ontario in order to attend the annual Stratford Festival of Canada’s production of “Titus Andronicus,” starring James Blundell as well as “Hamlet,” starring Paul Gross.

**Students to visit Stratford Festival**

by Laura Knack

“To be or not to be: that is the question . . .” This famous line from William Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” is only a small piece of what a group of 15 Aquinas students will experience at this year’s Stratford Festival of Canada. The Stratford Festival was founded in 1952. From May 3 through Nov. 5, The Avon, Festival, and Tom Patterson Theaters showcase 13 productions by Shakespeare, Molière, Oscar Wilde and other playwrights. Highlighlights include “The Three Musketeers,” “The Diary of Anne Frank,” “Tartuffe,” “As You Like It” and “The Importance of Being Earnest.”

The Aquinas students, accompanied by Assistant Professor of English Michelle Delhoe, will be traveling to Stratford, Ontario, on Friday, Sept. 22, returning the next day. While in Stratford, they will see William Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” and “Titus Andronicus.”

Senior Lupita Garcia-Granada, one of the students who will attend, says, “I’m looking forward to seeing the plays. The last time I went to Stratford, I didn’t get to see a Shakespearean play, so I’m excited about seeing one live.”

Freshman Jessica Savino also expressed her anticipation by saying, “I love Stratford and every part of it, and so I’m just excited in general about the trip.”

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**CD Review**

**Return of Saturn**

by Jacqueline Flory

Gwen Stefani wants a husband. Badly. As the main lyricist and songwriting force for the group, songs such as “Marry Me” reflect Stefani’s role as the Americanized Bridget Jones. A majority of Saturn’s 14 songs describe the ups and downs of the unmarried 30-something female mind.

This disc is a strong departure from No Doubt’s ska-filled days of “Tragic Kingdom.” Part of Tragic Kingdom’s success came from the fact the songs were danceable, moshable, and singable while Saturn relies more on traditional pop ballads similar to “Simple Kind of Life.”

While I have less positive feelings toward their new direction, Saturn was certified platinum less than two months after its release earlier this year.

There are, however, some exceptions to the humdrum. The standout track “Six Feet Under,” with its catchy chorus, philosophizes about seizing life for every moment. In addition, “New,” a single from the “GO!” movie soundtrack released earlier this year, is energetic and easy to sing along to.

While females will definitely relate to Stefani’s insecurities, one must question the limited musical input of the three males in the band. Even the album’s pink cover art drops with girliness comparable to that of YM Magazine.

If you’re looking for the CD that will complement your collection of Britney Spears and ‘Nsync, this album is recommended.

Renee Zellweger stars in the new movie “Nurse Betty” along with Morgan Freeman and Chris Rock.

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**Movie Review**

“Nurse Betty”

by Lindsay Sprapansek

Contributing Writer

Nurse Betty” has much to offer. It’s ability to heart a Cannes Film Festival Best Screenplay award and other reviews drew me into the theater. Expecting to see a phenomenal screenplay, I left thinking the movie was a confusing attempt at an offbeat comedy.

The plot is certainly original; I’ll give it that much. Betty Sizemore (Renée Zellweger) plays a waitress with a dead-end life, thanks to her worthless husband. Her only escape is through the soap opera “A Reason to Love,” in which she engrosses herself. After witnessing the unnecessarily gruesome murder of her husband, she immediately slips into a form of shock that leads her to believe that she is destined to marry Dr. David Ravell (Greg Kinnear), a famous heart surgeon. The only problem is that Dr. Ravell exists only on television, as a soap opera character. Meanwhile, the drug dealers that killed her husband (Morgan Freeman, Chris Rock) follow her across the country to retrieve the stash of contraband that is hidden in the trunk of her car. Confused yet? Precisely.

Oddly enough, I actually enjoyed “Nurse Betty.” It is a bit dark at times, but it is entertaining enough to hold my attention through the jumpy plot and eccentric twists and turns. Would I recommend it? Not necessarily. Was I impressed by it? Not really. But did it keep me amused for two hours? Most definitely.

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**SECTION C**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

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Steel scraps shine at AMC art exhibit

by Amorena Newman

A large gray sculpture displayed outside the Aquinas College Art and Music Center (AMC) only gives students a taste of the artwork created by Steven G. Peters, displayed through Sept. 22 in a full exhibit.

Peters attended Ball State University where he originally planned on becoming an art teacher. Like many college students, he changed his major and began to concentrate on fine arts. Upon graduating from Ball State University, he obtained his Master’s of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Peters now resides in Grand Haven and works to create sculptures made mainly of welded steel, like those seen in the show. On average, it takes him approximately 24 hours spread out over the period of a week, to complete a sculpture.

Peters points out that because many of the sculptures are human-sized, they give an aura of human presence.

One student, Mary Ann McDonald, was attracted to the elements of design incorporated into some of the sculptures. In pieces such as "Ascension," the sculpture is off center and asymmetrical, causing it to attract the viewer's eye.

She also noted many of the pieces easily engage the viewer because they are three-dimensional and one can fully move around them.

"Tic Tac Hmmm," a piece created by Steven G. Peters, is currently on display along with his other works at the AMC through Sept. 22.

Another student, Mary Ann McDonald, was attracted to the immediacy of the work. He intends for the viewers to identify with the pieces personally and find their own significance.

Peters says the most challenging aspect of creating the sculptures is finding pieces of steel cast away by people in scrap yards and turning them into art. Recently, he was commissioned by Governor John Engler to recreate the Liberty Bell using only car parts and pieces of furniture. These items represented two of Michigan's largest industries.

He had only four days to carry out the project. Upon completion, it was auctioned at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

His show at the Art and Music Center opened on Aug. 31, with students, professors and community members attending the opening reception to view his work. Jennifer Flanders, a student, was drawn to a piece entitled, "Shield III." While looking at it, she said, "It contains the typical definition or imagery associated with a shield. The lively tentacles give it a feeling of life, possibly representing the soldier who held it."

Aquinas Art Professor Ron Pederson noted that as a viewer he responds to the immediacy of the work. He pointed out that because many of the sculptures are human-sized, they give an aura of human presence.

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The exhibition contains 27 pieces that range in price from $150 to $6,000.

The symphony for morons: a how-to guide

by Trisha Charbonneau

Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Dvorak. Who the heck are these guys? While their names are enshrined to some for their development and impact on what we know today as classical music, to you this major pteron may seem foreign and off limits. But don't let that keep you out of DeVos Hall this season. Read on to find out how to conduct yourself at the symphony.

Go to the source.

Check out the Grand Rapids Symphony's 2000-2001 season. To kick off, they hosted pianist virtuoso André Watts on Sept. 8 and 9. Watts was only 16 years old when chosen to appear with the New York Philharmonic in their "Young People's Series" by Leonard Bernstein. He will be appearing as a part of the Grand Rapids Symphony's Classical Series lineup.

Music Director David Lockington will lead the Classical Series concert lineup, beginning with "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" from composer John Adams. It is also scheduled to include Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9.

The Grand Rapids Symphony will be performing both concerts and symphonies this season. What's the difference? A concerto is a work for a soloist and typically has three movements, or large, independent sections of a composition. An orchestra also accompanies the work.

In contrast, a symphony is an extended, multimovement orchestral work.

Get the tickets.

Ticket prices range from $15 to $50 and can be purchased at any Ticket Master outlet or at the Symphony box office, located in DeVos Hall.

Know the lingo.

Largo- This means the tempo is very slow.
Adagio- Not quite as slow as largo, but leisurely.
Andante- Think of a moderate walking pace.
Allegro- Music on a sugar rush. It's fast.
Agitato- Just like it sounds. Agitated.
Animato- Not exactly Mickey Mouse, yet animated.
Poco a poco- Little by little.
Grazioso- Musical equivalent to a ballerina's grace.

Ditch the jeans and sneakers.

It is important to dress appropriately. No need to spend $150 on a tuxedo or ball gown. Men, think suit and tie. Women, think nice dress or pant suit. Jeans, sneakers, and athletic apparel are considered inappropriate.

Now, act like a pro.

Be sure to arrive early enough to pick up a program, locate the seats, look over the program, and recognize the terms above to understand it. It's common courtesy to turn off pagers, cellular phones, and watches that beep.

Also, know when to clap. When in doubt, wait until the majority of the audience begins to applaud. However, there are basic times when audience members should applaud:

• when the concertmaster takes the stage
• when the conductor takes the stage
• when a soloist(s) enters
• when the orchestra concludes an entire piece
• when the conductor gives the orchestra to stand
• when the conductor or any soloist returns to the stage
by Allison Lindemeyer

Culture Shock

Outside the borders of the United States, beyond the places where the "Stars and Stripes" can be seen, and miles away from the echoing chime of the Liberty Bell are other countries much different from our own. These countries have different symbols for freedom, or maybe have no freedom at all. The people of these countries have a different set of morals; they value different things and have customs unlike ours. Experiencing these new cultures for the first time can create a feeling of disorientation and generally causes what many call culture shock.

The world can seem huge when you suddenly find yourself unfamiliar in an unfamiliar place. The assumptions you once held about the world and the operating principles you once lived by are no longer valid. The things once considered common sense are null and void and this is when that "far away from home" feeling sinks in. This is culture shock.

Omar Flores, who was a part of Aquinas' study abroad program in Ireland, said the hardest part about living in Ireland was "living in a jar," under the watchful eyes of Tully Cross locals. Flores explains that living in a village of 50 is difficult because, "Whatever you do is observed, and like in any small town, scrutinized. You find yourself saying, 'Well maybe I shouldn't do that.' That is good though. It forces you to be a better person."

Flores said that due to the language barrier (the Irish accent), it was also hard retracting or starting conversations with the locals partly due to the language barrier. He admitted that sometimes, "The only thing you could do was nod and act like you knew what they are saying. You could be agreeing to marry their dog, and you would not know any better. It was awkward."

Adjusting to a new lifestyle and interacting with new people isn't the only form of culture shock people experience. Sometimes it is just the everyday things like mailing a letter, trying to figure out how to use a pay phone, or ordering off a menu that leave you frustrated and longing for something familiar. Tricia Markovich epitomizes this saying that, "Culture shock is fighting for over three hours as to who is going to order a pizza because it's hard interacting or starting conversations with the locals partly due to the language barrier. He admitted that sometimes, "The only thing you could do was nod and act like you know what they are saying. You could be agreeing to marry their dog, and you would not know any better. It was awkward."

Those who travel to third-world countries experience an extreme level of culture shock. After leaving from Detroit Metro Airport and arriving in a rural city in Peru (or any other impoverished country), it may feel like you have stepped back in time. Going from a country like the United States with its booming technology business, five-star restaurants, massive cities, and glamorous lifestyle to a place where toilet paper, running water, and television are things that no one has ever heard of is unimaginable for many.

Despite the discomfort of readjusting your life to fit the mold of the country you are spending time in, traveling the world and experiencing new things is a worthwhile experience for most. Many say that culture shock is not always a bad thing, and it can offer a new outlook on life. Flores, who grew up in one of the worst neighborhoods in Detroit says, "While growing up there, you learn to experience the fragility of life and you find ways to not mind so much if a friend, or you, dies. Because of the frequency of death, it is the only way to cope; but while I was standing at the cliffs of Moher in St. Peter's Basilica on spring break, singing all of the words to a pub song for the first time, or waking up every day and seeing the twelve Bens, you learn that dying for a trivial cause is, well, trivial. You want to drag all of those people that say that they don't care if they live or not and say 'Look at what you are missing! Don't be stupid; find a way to really live, not just be living.'"

While those who have traveled across the globe can share their stories and newfound wisdom about the way the world works, most would agree that it is impossible to fully explain to others what culture shock truly is. Flores comments, "They have to (find out) for themselves, and then make it into an experimental learning experience. As alienated as it makes you, it is worth every raised eyebrow (and that is a lot!)."
Here and there
How do the following locations of Aquinas study abroad programs differ from the United States?

Tubingen, Germany
- Every German town has its own signature brew.
- Stores close at 8 p.m. on weekdays, 4 p.m. on Saturdays, and almost nothing is open on Sundays. Meijer and 7-11 do not exist in Germany.
- Germans observe many more holidays. For example, Wandering Day, May 1, is a day set aside simply for walking.
- Almost every city boasts a castle, several times older than our country.
- Many German universities require fluency in at least one foreign language in order to attend.

Peru
- When using most public bathrooms in the market place, you pay for toilet paper by the square.
- Peruvians make shrines for everything, usually a decorated cross. The shrines are either male or female (a male or female group will make one), and as soon as a male one goes up, the females start on one so as not to be behind or beaten, and vice versa.
- In small rural towns, taxi drivers ride bikes; their passengers ride in a basket hooked to the back.
- Stop lights are prime shopping areas. When you’re stopped, people will try to sell you anything from candy bars to underwear.
- In the markets, they sell live animals ... and they’re not being sold as pets.
- There are no traffic laws. Stop lights are merely suggestions.

Tully Cross - Ireland
- The Irish consider the pub to be a community living room of sorts.
- A Roman Catholic Mass has no songs and can be as short as 30 minutes.
- Technology is not as evident.
- Few people have a car. Irish people either walk or use the bus or train.
- In general, Irish people are very welcoming.
Reality Television:

Americans have been bombarded with what critics are calling “reality television.” From MTV’s “The Real World” to the CBS flop “Big Brother,” people are either glued to the television set or yawning with boredom.

Why the hype over filming the motions of ordinary life?

Aquinas Times Assistant Editor for Content and Sports Editor

debate whether or not these

types of shows invade privacy,

types of shows invade privacy,

cause people to emulate the

“characters,” and promote stardom.

by Liz Dudek

Assistant Editor, Content

Have Americans learned to live vicariously through reality television?

No. The American public views reality television as a simple means of escape from the monotony of life. Reality TV is something of a “fish bowl phenomenon” because people are going to watch a show that is intriguing and can somehow captivate them. Even if you are watching a show like CBS’s “Survivor” or MTV’s “The Real World” for just five minutes, something caused you to want to view the show in the first place, be it curiosity, channel surfing, or being an avid fan. Reality television is a tool merely for entertainment and to get the public talking. Let’s be honest with ourselves, there are some of us who will sit and debate for hours about why certain characters on “The Real World” are annoying or how we wished that a certain “Survivor” cast member didn’t walk around the island in his birthday suit. I will admit that I will watch a reality TV show from time to time and find it entertaining after a long day of class. Sad to say, I have yet to miss an episode of “The Real World: New Orleans” and can name each season’s location.

by Jessi Cleveland

Sports Editor

Does reality television cause an invasion of other peoples privacy?

No. If you have seen enough episodes of “Big Brother,” then you know that the living situation is anything but private. If you are not comfortable with millions of people hearing about private information, personal opinions, your character flaws, or even what you look like first thing in the morning, why go through with it? Be aware, people should know what they are getting themselves into when they decide to send in an audition tape. Here’s an obvious tip. Reality TV is not for people who like to keep to themselves and live an ordinary life. It is an opportunity to have the viewing audience and your roommates either love you or hate you (and discuss such things as your personal hygiene over coffee and Danish at breakfast).

Yes! Instead of participating in the daily grind, complete with the ebb and flow of chores and challenges, Americans can opt to view from afar a life much like their own, the life of a so-called ordinary citizen. “So-called” because the vast difference between reality TV and real life lies in the fact that one set of characters is paid to live while other people work to make a living. Taking on the role of peeping toms, we no longer have to sneak out to spy on our neighbors; now, voyeuristic entertainment comes complete with a cable subscription. Anxious teens, yuppie accountants and frustrated housewives alike can escape the mundane hours of “reality,” or more aptly described, 60-minute segments of life, complete with commercials and a hefty dose of sugarcoating. When faced with this view of the way life should be, Americans have been supplied with ample fuel to feed the fire of apathy. How long will it be before everyone is demanding Hollywood pay for cleaning the kitchen? Such a skewed version of reality is not healthy for our waistlines or our work ethics.

Indirectly, yes. Out of boredom with our own living routines, we pry at the lives of others for entertainment. This is a classic case of generation gap. When Kennedy was in office, not a word was leaked of his infidelity. Thirty-some years later, William Jefferson Clinton’s record of military service seemed trivial when compared with that of sexual service. Cigar jokes ran rampant as televised hearings rated higher than many sitcoms. By giving Americans the ability to view the every move of an entire household, it destroys the very definition of privacy. Thanks to the influence of reality TV, the phrase “behind closed doors” no longer holds weight, but rather serves to separate Gen-X from the rest of the world. Who would have thought Show and Tell could ever reach this point?

Are people doing reality television shows to gain fame?

No. I like to think of reality TV as a way to alter what could end up being a boring living situation since roommates are surrounded by cameras and microphones all day long. The chance of anyone actually gaining fame is rare. Those who do obtain fame were probably out to get it in the first place. Those people ending up in the spotlight by chance, well, maybe it was just a lucky break.

Definitely. Many participants use the shows as a launching pad for a more lucrative career; a Hollywood proving ground. One example is the young woman on MTV’s “The Real World” who will be unable to re-enter Brigham Young University after the show. The decision to sacrifice her education in order to live it up with a handful of strangers could not have been made without ulterior motive; in this case, the life of a star.
September 13, 2000

OPINION

Decision 2000: How and why to get involved

The millennium is upon us ... and it is time for change. The question is where to start and how to make it happen. It has been eight years of the Clinton Administration, filled with one scandal after another. Now the time is fast approaching to elect a new Commander-in-Chief. The election of the president is a very important issue, one which affects all of us in many different ways. For most of us, this is the first presidential election in which we will be able to vote. This is a tremendous right that past countrymen waged a hard fought battle to gain for us. It took many years, many speeches, many long battles, and finally Amendments for white men, black men, and eventually women to obtain the right to vote. We all have the right to vote, so why not exercise that right? Many people do not like to take the time, or they think it might be too much work. In reality, the process is quite easy. However, before going into the voting booth, there are two major steps necessary to generate what you will feel to be an informed decision.

Step One: Getting Registered

If you are already registered, then skip down to step two. Getting registered is simple. The Michigan Voter Registration form can be downloaded from the web at www.beavoter.com. Included on the form is the address of every City and County Clerk’s office in the state of Michigan. Contacting Tim Lowe, POLIS Prime Minister, at extension 6499 is also an option, because POLIS (the non-partisan political studies club on campus) will initiate a campus-wide push to get the college registered. Another option is going to any Secretary of State Office. In Grand Rapids the local Secretary of State Offices are located at:

- Central: 350 Ottawa NW (downtown)
- Northeast: 3472 Plainfield Ave.
- South: 3311 S. Division
- Southeast: 3643 28th St.
- 24 hour info: 363-8778

One last note on getting registered: you must apply 30 days before the election, so the deadline is fast approaching. So do not wait, get a free moment and do your duty.

Step Two: Getting Informed

There are many ways to become informed without it consuming your life. First, look up information about the candidates on the web, newspaper coverage pertaining to the candidates, watch TV — good information stations are CNN, MSNBC, the nightly news and special newsmakers. Be sure to analyze the information sources for credibility as some may be slanted. Above all, think about what you believe in, what you think is important, what do you want to see changed, and what needs to be changed. If you so inclined, make a list of your beliefs and find out which candidate is in favor of your belief. This could be a good start. Our democracy holds that there is a major two-party system, in this case, Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore. However, when election time comes around, there are more than just these two candidates running for office. Minor party candidates are also represented on the ballot such as Ralph Nader of the Green Party. Many different parties will put up a candidate, but the two or three major contenders will be who you hear about on the news, in the papers, or even on billboards along the highway. The most important thing to remember is to not necessarily vote for the most popular candidate, but for the candidate you believe in. This should not be a popularity contest, none of us personally know any of the candidates. This is a position for our leader and for one of the most powerful offices in the world. This should be a vote on issues and principles. If you feel uncomfortable voting for someone, then don’t vote for them. You have the freedom to vote, the right to vote, and that vote should be exercised. You have a right to have your voice heard. And yes, one vote does make a difference.

You have the freedom to vote, the right to vote, and that vote should be exercised.

The Aquinas Times polled 74 students about their knowledge of the upcoming presidential election. These are the results.

1. Who is running for president? Bob Dole 1%
   George W. Bush 99%
   John McCain 0%

2. Who is running for vice president? Joe Lieberman 91%
   Al Gore 9%
   Hillary Clinton 0%

3. Are you registered to vote? Registered 64%
   Not registered 31%
   Under voting age 5%

4. How interested are you in American politics? Very interested 11%
   A little interested 66%
   Not at all interested 23%

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 19 years to produce an informative, entertaining, and academically-accurate student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Our goal is to continue to provide students with the ideas, views, and concerns of the Aquinas community. Signed editorials reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of The Aquinas Times. The Times View represents the view of the Editorial board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

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"I really feel a need to be informed about the elections. They are extremely important and will affect everybody’s lives, whether you know it or not. I would rather know. I subscribe to MSNBC and the New York Times website is good for checking the candidates and the election. Also, it is sometimes very hard to get a correct picture of what is really happening because the media can really slant a story- so a lot has to do with instinct."

- Chris Miller, senior

"I read as much as I can about the candidates, I watch political debates, and I look at the histories of the candidates and their experience."

- Professor Roger Durham, Political Science Adjunct
It's late in the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 26. Sitting back with a bag of popcorn and a cold can of soda, it becomes apparent that the only television program not technically a re-run is the Dream Team vs. Honduras, not a live broadcast, but rather 12 hours after the fact. Realizing that the Russian and Swedish teams have swept the event once again, you are disposed to find that the next event is none other than table tennis. Not only does this fail to fulfill many of the requirements of a "sport," it also fails to attract an audience.

In the early 1970s, the Nixon administration managed to break the ice in an international table tennis tournament, giving the Chinese the advantage with a political tactic that came to be known as Ping Pong Diplomacy. Since the inception of table tennis as an official Olympic sport during the 1988 Seoul Games, China has dominated on the small court. Surrounded by a complex and old-fashioned set of rules and regulations, table tennis is one of the more formal or polite sports at the Olympics. It is also one of the most tedious or, at some might argue, downright boring games. It is simply that, a game. Something played at rainy-day family gatherings in basement recreation rooms or to pass the time in college lounges. Far from the original docket of Olympic games, sports which required agility, strength and endurance. When challenged, even the Olympic motto "higher, faster, stronger," is more than a little difficult to place table tennis in relation to the more physical aspects of the Games. Rhythmic gymnastics, weightlifting, sailing and track and cycling. Just a handful of other sports on the schedule for the upcoming Olympic round, scheduled to start on Sept. 5 at time-delay from Sydney, Australia. Brand new to the Games this year are the triathlon, trampoline gymnastics and women's weightlifting. Also recently introduced are kayaking, beach volleyball, and the infamous bathroom dancing competition.

Few sports, the above included, are able to present the viewer with an accurate reflection of the original Games, whose participants competed in a variety of sports designed to demonstrate the abilities of the perfect soldier. The modern pentathlon, arguably the noblest and most noteworthy event of the Olympiad, symbolized all those qualities held in high esteem at the time of the first torch. Competitors in the modern pentathlon run the gamut of target shooting, fencing, swimming, riding and running, proving their mettle in a one-day contest for bragging rights as the world's ultimate athlete. An event, not only timeless, but priceless in demonstration of strength, flexibility and focus, both mental and physical. The same cannot be said for many sports newly inducted into the Olympic agenda. Kayaking, for example. After a 20-year hiatus, kayaking returned to the 1992 Barcelona Games. Those partaking in the sport were sorely disappointed when introduced to the course. Unlike Atlanta 1996, which featured Tennessee's Ocoee River as a well-planned and ultimately natural setting, those testing the Spanish waters were delivered to their starting point via an underwater lift bearing a strong resemblance to a moving sidewalk. That's just not natural.

Not only are many of these "new and improved" Olympic events geared toward an X-Games crowd, many require venues or knowledge not available to teams from all regions. How is Lesotho to have a fair shot at weightlifting? How about Indonesia compete in ballroom dancing? Based on the swell of interest in Olympic sports, if currently winning centers, especially customers of socio-economic status, it is nearly impossible for many countries to grasp the concept of these new sports, much less field a winning team, if a team is to be found at all. Because while it was once argued that baseball and basketball also lent an air of accessibility and Americanism to the Games, China has dominated on the small court.

Women's soccer aims to capture WHAC title

The team looks to newcomers for strength in their upcoming games against three conference giants, Spring Arbor, Siena Heights and Concordia.

by Jessi Cleveland

These days focus is difficult, finding a common goal for a group as young and diverse as the Aquinas women's soccer team, it is simple task.

Senior-heavy and looking down the ladder for freshmen leadership, the team has a goal: recapture the WHAC Championship. Though the team will still see competition from conference giants Madonna and Siena Heights, they've already made a step in the right direction. Sitting atop the WHAC after a 3-1 speaking of Tri-State University in a Sept. 3 road trip, the Saints have success well within reach.

But without a fit, fit. Plagued with pre-season injuries, they refuse to believe the old cliché that they "have their work cut out for them." Even the lone of junior goalkeeper Melissa Button was not enough to keep the team down.

"This season is really reminding me why I played sports in the first place," said McGahey. "The team this year is full of extremely talented women. I'm hoping that as I become more comfortable with the game, everything will come together for me. The leadership on the team is incredible, and everyone has been so accepting. This season is really reminding me why I played sports in the first place," said McGahey.

Six-year Head Coach Shannon Besette, accompanied by returning Assistant Coach Justine Winters, look to newcomers like McGahey to make significant contributions to the team. Aquinas talent such as Junior Melissa Button makes a move to pass her GVSU opponents, as sophomore Christine Gwinn follows.

Aquinias moves up in WHAC rankings at quad meet last Friday

by Brooke Murphy

Living up to their pre-season rankings, the men's and women's cross country teams wasted no time in making a bid for the WHAC trophy as they chalked an early win to their record. Friday, Sept. 8 marked the first home meet for the Saints as conference rivals Concordia University and Tri-State University gathered at Riverside Park for a quad meet with Grand Valley State University.

Coach Dave Wood looks to many first-year runners to carry on his nationally-renowned tradition. One such newcomer, Leo Foley, said, "It was a good experience for a first college race." Faced with competition for the first time in the season, it soon became apparent that it was not going to be easy as the efforts of the weather were felt by the team. Senior Sarah Carter said, "The heat got to us; it was a warm, muggy day. We ran as well as we can. We've got some improvement to do, but overall it was a good meet."

On Friday, the Saints travel to Big Rapids for the Bulldog Invitational before hosting another meet at Riverside on Sept. 22.

Non-traditional sports not worthy of Olympic status

It's late in the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 26. Sitting back with a bag of popcorn and a cold can of soda, it becomes apparent that the only television program not technically a re-run is the Dream Team vs. Honduras, not a live broadcast, but rather 12 hours after the fact. Realizing that the Russian and Swedish teams have swept the event once again, you are disposed to find that the next event is none other than table tennis. Not only does this fail to fulfill many of the requirements of a "sport," it also fails to attract an audience.

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Former USC sprinter finds peace of mind in Olympic comeback

by Aaron Burgin

Daily Trojan (U. Southern California) 09/06/2000

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES - After her incredible victory in the Canadian 100-meter Olympic trials, former University of Southern California standout Esi Benyarku could only express herself one way.

"When I finished, I just let out a scream," she said. Benyarku, the 1999 Pac-10 Conference 100-meter champion, has a lot to scream about after she resurfaced on the track scene this year, completing a two-year comeback from a devastating patella injury.

With a determination matched by few, and a strong belief in both hard work and God, Benyarku breezed through Canadian competition and is hoping to take Sydney by storm. The going definitely has not been easy for the 23-year-old Toronto native. Benyarku made major sacrifices in her social and vocational aspirations in order to live a dream.

For the past year, she has been working with world-class personal trainer Fred Jones. The two have embarked on a rigorous workout schedule that has consumed virtually all of her free time.

"We worked out twice a day, in the morning, and then weight training in the evening," Jones said. "The workout is very physically demanding, and a lot of sacrifice was necessary on her part." But she was willing to comply.

"I wasn't able to do a lot of the things that I wanted to, like hang out with my friends, or go out with them. I missed my family terribly, too. But I had to stay determined and stick to my schedule," Benyarku said.

The regimen also temporarily stifled her community service goals, which she plans to pursue after the Olympics.

"I am a fervent believer that faith in God reaps rich rewards," Benyarku said. "But in order to get this far, some things had to wait." Her sacrifices and desire to come back from a near career-ending injury fueled Benyarku into the Sydney Games.

As a junior at USC, Benyarku bruised her patella, an injury that often devastates sprinters' careers. After winning the Pac-10 100-meter individual championship her sophomore year, Benyarku was forced to sit out most of her junior year and all of her senior year.

"(The knee) would swell up almost two times its size," Benyarku said. "It hurt me to watch the other girls run because I wanted to be out there with them but I was physically unable to."

Benyarku with the help of Jones has fought back valiantly, and the rewards couldn't be any better. "For the past year, Benyarku's devotion to her Olympic dream has been astounding," Jones said. "A lot of times, she's practiced through aches and pains that any normal person would have said 'I give up,' but she kept going and that's the reason she's going to Sydney." Now that Benyarku is in Sydney, she awaits the challenge that looms ahead with confidence.

"I definitely look forward to the challenge, and I feel that the competition will bring the best out of me," she said. Benyarku's "best" will not be gauged on the performance of others. Jones maintains the goal for him and Benyarku is based on reaching her personal best time, not beating personalities.

"I feel that Esi can run an 11.1 (in the 100m) on any given day, and be one of the top four or five sprinters in the Sydney Games," Jones said. "Eleven-point-one seconds is usually considered the world class benchmark, and with the aura of spirituality encompassed with the Olympics, I know she'll reach that goal."

Even if Benyarku reaches her time goal, she feels that the competition will bring the best out of her, she said. Benyarku's "best" will not be gauged on the performance of others. Jones maintains the goal for him and Benyarku is based on reaching her personal best time, not beating personalities.

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Even if Benyarku reaches her time goal, she feels that she has not reached her peak, and with hard work and more sacrifice, she will be able to get that Olympic medal. "I am a fervent believer that faith in God reaps rich rewards," Benyarku said. "If I continue to have faith in Him, I haven't scratched the surface of how far I can go."
WHAC Attack: Who's hot & who's not around the conference this season

by Jessi Cleveland

For an entire team to be good and know it is a dangerous thing. When this team manages to play together in a way that reflects excellence, it is amazing. And when everyone else knows just how good that team is, the story becomes that of the Aquinas Men's Soccer team. Sitting on the season at 2-1-2 (0-0 WHAC), the men have proven their worth, working to ensure that next year they will be even more than a vote-getter in the NAIA pre-season poll.

In a program based on tradition, the team is a refreshing combination of veterans and freshman, welcoming six fresh to its ranks. Coach Abraham Shearer, former Aquinas standout, in his third year leading the team, has taken under his wing Josh Bollier, Steven Dobs, Evan Duran, Tom Faul, Chris Klousowski, and John Schubert.

While Shearer has already seen steady contributions from freshmen Ramsey Luna, Leo Stella and Jeff White, it is the returning players that he will look to for leadership. Sean Fischbach, Damian Niecey and Tom Siwek, three All-WHAC performers, are co-captains of the team in their senior year. Under strong leadership, the team will also rely on Scott Eden, Jon Mies, Nathan Rose, Andrew Wilkinson and Andrew Fearman for repeat showings.

Starting the season with a 5-1 thumping of Hillsdale College, the Saints shut out the Scots last Wednesday in a 1-0 home turf victory.

MEN'S SOCCER: After the first round of play, leaders emerge in the conference in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference as well as a peek at what's to come.

Sitting on the season at 2-1-2 (0-0 WHAC), the men have managed a #21 ranking in the NAIA pre-season poll after a strong finish in 1999. In his third year leading the team, has taken under his wing Josh Bollier, Steven Dobs, Evan Duran, Tom Faul, Chris Klousowski, and John Schubert.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER: Clamoring for the WHAC title, early-season winners include Aquinas, Siena Heights and Spring Arbor, with Madonna leading the pack at 3-1-1 overall.

The Crusaders make a surprise run after collecting only a handful of votes in the NAIA pre-season poll, while Madonna holds the Saints to a 1-0 victory over Alma College with help from Jon Mies and Charles Ovalle.

Though the men have yet to face conference competition, the upcoming schedule is stacked. Today, the men play host to conference-mate Indiana Tech, before taking a trip down to the Beltline to Calvin College on Sept. 15. Spring Arbor comes to town for a WHAC match up on the Sept. 16, while Siena Heights hosts the Saints on the Sept. 19. Rounding out a three-game conference series, Concordia is slated for the Sept. 23 Homecoming men’s and women's doubleheader.

WOMEN’S GOLF: With no WHAC teams ranking in the NAIA pre-season, the standings from the 2000 spring finish are the only indicator of anticipated finish for the fall. Tri-State looks to make a re-bid for the title with Spring Arbor not far behind. Cornerstone falls in the middle of the pack, while Aquinas looks to a solid returning team. Siena Heights continues to build its program with the trophy in mind.

WOMEN’S GOLF: Though Tri-State University appeared as the solo WHAC team receiving pre-season votes, they may have a run for their money. Aquinas, finishing the 2000 spring season with only three members on the team, emerges with a full squad of 12. The Aquinas Saints, in an effort to make up for the lost season, look for young contributions as well as repeat performances from Shannon Gurzynski, Kelli Sattler and Kristin Wisnieski.

VOLLEYBALL: The only team in the WHAC to field a team on the gridiron, Tri-State nonetheless manages to make a name for itself. Consistently finishing above .500, the Thunder managed a #21 ranking in the NAIA pre-season poll after a strong finish in 1999.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: Entering the first week of competition, Aquinas and Siena Heights emerged in the top 25 selected in the NAIA. The Saints, who consistently produce national champions, found its way to the rating board at 16, after a season without ranking.

While Shearer has already seen steady contributions from freshmen Ramsey Luna, Leo Stella and Jeff White, it is the returning players that he will look to for leadership. Sean Fischbach, Damian Niecey and Tom Siwek, three All-WHAC performers, are co-captains of the team in their senior year. Under strong leadership, the team will also rely on Scott Eden, Jon Mies, Nathan Rose, Andrew Wilkinson and Andrew Fearman for repeat showings.

Starting the season with a 5-1 thumping of Hillsdale College, the Saints suffered their first loss to Walsh College before tying with both Bethel and Rio Grande at the recent Kelme Tournament in Rockford, MI. On Sept. 6, Nathan Rose led the team to a 1-0 victory over Alma College with help from Jon Mies and Charles Ovalle.

Though the men have yet to face conference competition, the upcoming schedule is stacked. Today, the men play host to conference-mate Indiana Tech, before taking a trip down to the Beltline to Calvin College on Sept. 15. Spring Arbor comes to town for a WHAC match up on the Sept. 16, while Siena Heights hosts the Saints on the Sept. 19. Rounding out a three-game conference series, Concordia is slated for the Sept. 23 Homecoming men’s and women's doubleheader.

WOMEN’S SOCCER: Clamoring for the WHAC title, early-season winners include Aquinas, Siena Heights and Spring Arbor, with Madonna leading the pack at 3-1-1 overall.

The Crusaders make a surprise run after collecting only a handful of votes in the NAIA pre-season poll, while Madonna holds the Saints to a 1-0 victory over Alma College with help from Jon Mies and Charles Ovalle.

Though the men have yet to face conference competition, the upcoming schedule is stacked. Today, the men play host to conference-mate Indiana Tech, before taking a trip down to the Beltline to Calvin College on Sept. 15. Spring Arbor comes to town for a WHAC match up on the Sept. 16, while Siena Heights hosts the Saints on the Sept. 19. Rounding out a three-game conference series, Concordia is slated for the Sept. 23 Homecoming men’s and women's doubleheader.