Candidates stress better communication, increased student involvement

by Joe Boomgaard

Aquinas Community Senate campaigns are in full swing, and the candidates have wasted no time on the campaign trail. Though elections are scheduled for Tuesday, fliers popped up around campus right after spring break.

Two positions, Senate Chair and Secretary, are being contested. Candidates in the running for Senate Chair are the current Senate Budget Director Chris Hekman and the present Secretary of Senate Tim Lowe. The two, both junior Political Science majors, stress the need for Aquinas students to feel that they have a voice in Senate.

"I think it is important for students to feel comfortable in voicing concerns to the Senate," Lowe said. "I want to make sure that clubs and organizations and Senate work more closely together. The existence of one is improved by the existence of the other."

"We need to be proud that we go together. The existence of one is improved by the existence of the other." Hekman is concerned about the morale at Aquinas. "We need to work harder on Senate. I want to make sure that we go together. The existence of one is improved by the existence of the other."

In light of the grading discrepancy that occurred at the end of last semester, a problem addressed in the Feb. 7 issue of the Aquinas Times, candidates are vying for positions on the Senate to improve communication, increased student participation and increased student support for Aquinas. More students need to attend on-campus events. I think Senate can improve that," he said.

For Hekman, the future of several major Aquinas programs holds priority in his vision for the upcoming Senate. One such program Hekman is concerned about is the library. "I would like to see solid, concrete plans for a new library as well as a date to break ground by the end of the next school year," Hekman said.

In addition, Hekman wants to involve Senate in the "renegotiation of the food service contract with Sodexo Marriot or one of their competitors" and other events that will affect students "both present and future."

Sophomore Wes Braun is unopposed in his bid for Vice Chair. Braun, the current Chair of the Senate Political Affairs Committee, also stresses the need for better communication among all members of the Aquinas community.

"By supporting the clubs and organizations of Aquinas, Senate will be able to positively affect all the students," Braun said.

"Running in the other contested race, that for the position of Secretary, are Paul Wood and Mary Young." Wood, a sophomore, has held leadership roles in several Aquinas projects, including being president of East Area Residence Hall Council and Assistant Director of Project P.L.A.Y.

"I think it is important for students to feel involved in Senate. I want to make sure that clubs and organizations and Senate work more closely together. The existence of one is improved by the existence of the other."

"We need to work harder on Senate. I want to make sure that we go together. The existence of one is improved by the existence of the other." Hekman is concerned about the morale at Aquinas. "We need to work harder on Senate. I want to make sure that we go together. The existence of one is improved by the existence of the other."
Students spend break in service to others

by Brdie Kent
Contributing Writer

A diverse coalition of students made off with the Friday run of Brown University's student newspaper to protest the paper's inclusion of an advertisement denouncing the idea of reparations for slavery, according to a report from the Associated Press.

Outraged students took taking copies of The Daily Herald off the newsstands shortly after they were placed there Friday.

Officials from the college, located in Providence, R. I., backed the newspaper's decision to run the ad stating that African-Americans more than it owes them in back wages.

The newspaper's inclusion of an advertisement asking for reparations has issued warnings to residents, urging them to take precautions.

The disease had previously been whirled off the newsstands shortly after its 15-year foray into long-range space station will plummet to orbit since 1986.

The process for someone to receive aid is currently set in motion, with people in the country, Bridge learned

Bridge says that the poor of the country are suffering the worst reparations.

Junior Chad Buczkowski, who also attended the Williams trip, which was conceived by Instructional Coordinator of Service Learning Eric Bridge talk about the importance of the earthquakes has set El Salvador's development back more than its civil war that took place during the 1980s.

They also donated money to benefit victims of the earthquakes. The group raised $1000 prior to the group's travels, enough money to pay for reconstruction of more than two houses.

This is the inaugural year for the El Salvador trip, which was conceived by Instructional Coordinator and co-advisor Glenn Decker. She had visited El Salvador with the CRISP project, group that works for human and justice in Latin America, last year. She decided to return and bring a group of students with her.

The itinerary for the trip included excursions to such places as Divina Providencia in San Salvador, where Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated. In addition, the group was able to survey the area where the recent earthquakes occurred, leaving thousands of people homeless.

Co-advisor and Coordinator of Service Learning Eric Bridge said that the devastation from the earthquakes has set El Salvador's development back more than its civil war that took place during the 1980s. From his discussions with people in the country, Bridge learned that the earthquakes were not the real problem in El Salvador. The real problems lay in the structural and economic shortcomings that already existed in the country, but were not revealed until it came time to repair the damage.

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A little education about financial aid can go a long way, advises Steffee by Tonya Schafer

“On financial aid, a little education can go a long way,” advises Steffee, noting that many students are confused about the financial aid process. She believes that a little education can help students understand the process and make informed decisions.

The process of applying for financial aid can seem overwhelming, especially for students who are not familiar with the process. Steffee suggests that students should start by familiarizing themselves with the basics of financial aid.

The first step is to understand what financial aid is and how it can help students pay for college. Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and loans. Each type of aid has its own eligibility requirements and terms.

Students should also understand the different types of financial aid. Grants and scholarships do not need to be repaid, while loans do. Work-study programs provide opportunities for students to earn money while gaining work experience.

Students should also understand the application process. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the primary application for federal financial aid. Students who are interested in state financial aid should also complete the appropriate state application.

In addition to the FAFSA, students should research private scholarships and other forms of financial aid. There are many organizations that offer scholarships to students based on academic achievement, financial need, and other criteria.

Steffee encourages students to take advantage of the financial aid resources available to them. She suggests that students should speak to their financial aid counselors or visit the financial aid office at their college or university.

“Financial aid can be confusing, but with a little education, it can be much easier to understand.” — Steffee
OPINION

Internet filters: Shielding our youth or blocking the First Amendment?

The Internet is a vast resource for information pertaining to just about anything. With a simple keystroke or click of a mouse, anyone can stumble upon Web sites that may contain offensive material such as pornography or violence. A way to prevent people from accessing such material is with an Internet filter.

Filters, when loaded onto a computer system, act as electronic sieves that block anything considered remotely questionable. While parents hail the filtration system as a means to protect their children from the dark side of the Internet, groups like the American Civil Liberties Union find filters to be violating free speech.

By requiring filters to be in use in schools and libraries, the government is affirming to us that it values children and wishes to protect them from such obscene content. By requiring filters to be in use in schools and libraries, the government is affirming to us that it values children and wishes to protect them from such obscene content.

Definitely. It is our responsibility as caring citizens to require the use of filters in certain areas, such as schools and libraries. To say that every person using the Internet should be required to use a filter is nonsense. However, to require those who are under the age of 18 to use filters is simply showing that we care. This issue is not about whether or not some 40-year-old can view sexually-explicit sites at his house. The answer to that is quite clear. This issue is centered on the 10-year-olds in their elementary school computer labs viewing pornographic pictures.

Recently, the Grand Rapids Public Library system decided to leave the decision whether or not to use filters up to the user. They have instituted a "watchful eye" policy, trying to keep an eye on all users. However, this is not always possible. Through the enforced use of filters, this problem would be alleviated.

Internet filters give parents peace of mind by ensuring that children are not subjected to such obscene material as pornographic Web sites.

Should the government mandate filters for the Internet?

No. Schools and libraries are places of learning. They are used to access information pertinent to developing the mind and important academic skills. By using Internet filters on school or library computer systems, we are blocking students from gaining useful information that can help them to grow and learn as young adults. As children grow older, they learn to think for themselves and ultimately gain the ability to discern what is a notable Web site and which should be avoided.

In the mean time, parents and librarians should take matters into their own hands and pay attention to what children are doing on the Internet rather than have technology safeguard innocence.

Locally, The Grand Rapids Press noted in their Dec. 22 edition that the Grand Rapids Public Library is letting patrons decide whether or not they want to use an Internet filter when using a computer. Patrons who log onto the Internet will be asked whether they want their computer session filtered or unfiltered.

Yes. But only in educational or other publicly-funded facilities. The government should not have the responsibility placed upon it to regulate what a child views while on the Internet at home. That responsibility lies with the child's parents. However, when a child is at school or in the library, it is the government's duty to ensure that the child will not be confronted with such objectionable content. If the government does not step in and offer a solution to this problem, who will?

Governments allocate values upon a community through the actions it takes. By requiring filters to be in use in schools and libraries, the government is affirming to us that it values children and wishes to protect them from such obscene content. We should all be thankful that our government cares enough to take a stand to protect our children.
March 21, 2001

**OPINION**

**Aquinas Senate's future rests with student body**

Campaign promises are made. Endless fliers are plastered on bulletin board after bulletin board. Political discussion is in the air as debates are scheduled. It is election time once more. The future direction of the Aquinas College Community Senate and its Cabinet are pending as its elections are slated for next Tuesday.

There is an obvious emphasis that needs to be placed upon the student body to become familiar with the candidates running for office and to cast a vote. It is the voter's responsibility to make an informed decision about which person deserves to be placed into a political office. Although the bureaucratic arena at Aquinas is significantly smaller than what Al Gore or President George W. Bush faced, campus voters cannot be apathetic. Like any political campaign, voters are bound to be suspicious of the candidates. Despite misgivings some students may have concerning Senate and its governmental power or with the election's candidates, Senate truly has the power to influence and revamp the campus. But the only way this can happen is if students participate in the electoral process. Too many students complain about the campus government, but fail to do anything to facilitate change. In an ideal situation many students would join Senate. Moreover, they would attend the meetings because they want to have a role in changing the campus environment or at least be informed about such progress. But instead students gripe and complain about a stagnant Senate. These accusations will continue to have a presence on campus until students realize the best way to get their concerns addressed is to become involved. This means starting with the ballot box.

Since this ideal may never exist, students must do the next best thing. Paying attention to election happenings and who is vying for what Cabinet position is vital. The amount of influence the future Senators possess abounds with potential as each candidate will vow to alter the community in some way. Students, hold these candidates to their promises. Pay attention to their actions after the election has ceased, the ballots are counted, and plans for the forthcoming year are being made. These individuals are the leaders and decision-makers for our community – ensure that they fulfill their duty after election day has passed.

Audrey Reinsberg, member of the Aquinas Track and Field Team

**Reader criticizes lack of praise given to track and field athletes for recent WHAC championship**

Dear Editor:

I picked up the Feb. 21 edition of *The Aquinas Times* and was a little shocked to see that neither of the “Prime Time Players” honored as a WHAC Championship. There were several outstanding athletes who could have been recognized for their performances. These athletes include: Nichole Gummere, champion in the shot put and weight throw; Melissa Gomez, champion in the 200 meter and point scorer in two other events; and Vicky Sackett, champion in the 600 meter and point scorer in two other events. From the men’s side: Jason Carver, champion in the 55 meter, 200 meter and 800 meter relay as well as named Most Valuable Runner of the meet; Andy Thelen, champion in the 55-meter hurdles and 800-meter relay; Henry Holmes, champion in the long jump and triple jump; and Dan Wilkerson, champion in the 3000 meter.

It seems that track and field has traditionally been placed outside the spotlight, but an athlete we work just as hard, if not harder, than any other sports team. For the past three years, the cross-country team as well as the indoor and outdoor track and field teams have brought in the majority of the points to make it possible for Aquinas to win the WHAC All-Sports Award. I would expect that after these athletes perform in the NAIA National Championships, they would get the recognition they deserve.

Audrey Reinsberg, member of the Aquinas Track and Field Team

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**And you can**

**Quote me on that**

What is the most important issue that you feel the Aquinas Community Senate should cover?

“*I feel that Senate should focus on the attention on improving resources on campus open to students, meaning ATMs in places other than Wege, better lighting on the pathways (and) better paved path.***”

- Angela Macaire, freshman

“One very important issue that I have not seen or heard about is the awareness of rape. I think people don’t think it is an issue because this is a private Catholic college, but I do believe there are many victims that go to Aquinas living with a rape experience and live with it by themselves.”

- Amanda Smith, sophomore

“Very few people, like myself, know the true function of the Senate. ... For this reason the most important issue for Senate to cover would include how it could be more connected and a part of our Aquinas community. In doing so, the networking on this campus would be that much more strengthen.”

- Jacob Filbrandt, junior

“It should focus on the mishandling of grades and transcripts by the Registrar’s Office. Senator has passed a resolution that somewhat deals with this, but I think more can be done. Senate should notify Academic Assembly and get faculty input on solutions. Senate should ask the administration to implement a new grading system and a new process by which students get transcripts.”

- Robb Bajema, Assistant Professor of Biology
College Cash: Where it comes from, where it goes

With the rising cost of tuition, many students find themselves either looking to their parents for financial assistance or picking up odd jobs to pay for college. We asked 126 traditional-aged Aquinas students in Wege Cafeteria and the Academic Building for their takes on student spending and paying for college.

Do you use special student discounts (for example: student priced movie tickets, student travel discounts, etc.)?

- Yes: 86%
- No: 14%

Who pays for most of your living expenses right now (this includes tuition)?

- Parents Pay: 57%
- I pay myself: 32%
- Other: 11%

On average, how much do you spend on “entertainment” each week (includes things like movies, CDs, concert tickets, dance clubs, etc.)?

- $0-10: 46%
- $11-30: 41%
- $31-50: 10%
- $>50: 3%

Savings and

With the total cost of an Aquinas education, students depend on a variety of means to pay for college. Do you use special student discounts (for example: student priced movie tickets, student travel discounts, etc.)?

by Allison Lindemeyer and Danielle Walters

Looking on the surface level, one wouldn’t be able to tell that there is a huge difference between sophomores Scott Anderson and Eric Johnson. They both dress cleanly, carry approximately the same number of credits, and are involved in similar extracurricular activities. Yet, one crucial thing necessary for obtaining their education separates them: how they pay for school.

While Anderson is working his way through college, by taking up odd jobs and serving as a resident assistant in St. Joseph Hall, Johnson is focusing on his studies while his parents pick up the tuition bill. Both students agree that there are positive and negative aspects to the means by which they each pay for college.

Anderson is quick to spill his reasoning as to why paying your own way through college is beneficial. “When you pay for something on your own, you take more pride in it,” he said.

Anderson also notes that it wasn’t a surprise that his parents are making him work in order to pay his tuition. “It’s been an idea that has been instilled in me for a long time,” he said. “At 14 or 15, I was already paying for things on my own, so I never expected to go to college and suddenly have that change.”

Anderson’s view on whether parents should pay for college is also steadfast.

“I think that people whose parents pay for everything are a lot more restricted because their parents still have power over them — the power of money,” Anderson said. “But Anderson even he can’t go just said that back control. Both Anders...
Your two cents

Should parents help students pay for school?

"Yes, it is good if students help to pay for their education because it gives them a sense of achievement. But if you can't have enough time to focus on studies, then it defeats the purpose of going to college."

Heather Messing, freshman

"I think parents should help pay, but not for everything because I feel when you do it for yourself, you value it more."

Clement Chiwaya, junior

"Yes and no. I have seen students abuse their parents' gift of a paid education. Some students come to college and don't care about their classes, while other students work hard to save their money for an education."

Rick Mills, senior

"Students paying for a portion of their education have a sense of pride in earning a degree. When parents provide all of the tuition, students might take it for granted. They might not be serious about their education."

Kevin Schnell, senior

"Yes, parents should help students pay for school. The cost of living far exceeds a two-week pay period for working students. However, I think it is good for students to pay for as much as they can to help them fully appreciate their college education."

Mario Camilla, senior

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AQUINAS TIMES, the environment will be showcased

"Butterflies Are Blooming" is exhibited

Thursday: 8 p.m. The Dark Star Orchestra will recreate a Grateful Dead concert in its entirety at the Akram's Steakhouse, downtown Grand Rapids. However, MacNaughton reformed with his son Mark, who played the percussion. One such concert was held at Lowell High School, which he describes as a turning point in his life. 

Roger MacNaughton, an adjunct professor of music at Aquinas, has been musically inclined from a young age — he was seven when he began playing the piano. From there, MacNaughton went on to play in his Lowell High School marching band and belt out a riff or two with his buddies in various garage bands.

Originally intending to be a band director, MacNaughton received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Shortly after graduation, he found a job at RiverCity Studios, a small recording studio in downtown Grand Rapids. However, MacNaughton realized that he wanted to do more than just make music for others; he wanted to create music for himself and for his own audience. This began a six-year stint of writing, constant revising and rewriting, ultimately culminating in his own audience. This began a six-year stint of writing, constant revising and rewriting, ultimately culminating in his own audience. This began a six-year stint of writing, constant revising and rewriting, ultimately culminating in his own audience.

His deep voice of lead singer Raine Maida achieves life-long musical goal

by Brandon Lacie

Professor Roger MacNaughton performs at Akram's Steakhouse every Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m


**Concert Review**

**Matchbox 20**

The Palace

crystina Vendittelli

Entertainment Editor

Because the March 3 Matchbox 20 show sold out in approximately 15 minutes, there's no doubt that most everyone with a ticket had been counting down to the big night. But it's no wonder The Palace was filled with excitement. The band has a huge fan base of its own, proving that the group can still be exciting hundreds of miles away from the main stage. The second act was Everclear, a band that got the crowd to roar with upbeat, danceable songs. While the massive colored lights moved up and down above the stage and fog billowed in, all eyes remained on lead singer Rob Thomas.

The band played almost the entire set from its new album, including "Bent," "If You're Gone," and its latest "Ms. Mad Season." It was the new songs from their first album Yourself or Someone Like You that got the crowd to sing along. The concert was definitely one of the best I've ever attended. The bands were great, and each had an incredible stage presence that added to its live performance. It also helped that the crowd was so energetic and into the music. In the age of boy bands and pop music, it is good to know that there are still some rock bands out wowing their fans without even trying.

**Aquinas' Writers Series features Joy Harjo**

by Brandon Lacic

Contributing Writer

The Aquinas College Contemporary Writers Series will conclude on March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom with writer, singer and poet Joy Harjo. Harjo is a Native American born into the Muckleshoot (Creek) Tribe of Tustla, Okla. Borrowing from the Indian influences of her background, Harjo realizes the beauty of creating poetry, art and song. Harjo also learned that her work could convey a message to audiences that could be beneficial to them throughout their lives.

"Her work is simultaneously political and spiritual, and illustrates language's tremendous power to bring about change," said AnnLouise Keating, an associate professor of English who knows Harjo personally. "She explores issues relevant to the lives of all Americans, reminds us of the history of this country in all its terrible beauty, and invites us to transform ourselves and our world."

Harjo recently released the book of poetry, "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky." In addition to writing poetry, Harjo is a singer and a saxophonist, releasing a CD titled Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice. Harjo's work has won her much acclaim and many awards in the sphere of art. Harjo was the recipient of the Lillian Hellman Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas and of the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1997. She has also been published in such magazines as the Massachusetts Review, The Bloomsbury Review and Puerto Del Sol.

"She is, in my opinion, one of our greatest living authors," Keating said. "Aquinas is extremely fortunate to have this internationally-acclaimed author on campus. It's an event which should not be missed."

The series has been popular among both students and staff. In addition to the required attendance of many Inquiry and Expression students, the series has been well received by people outside of the campus. "We have a good attendance from not only Aquinas students, but the Grand Rapids community as well. It is always good to bring student writers in contact with writers who are either well-established or who are just getting known in their field," said Gary Eberly, Chairperson of English.

The Aquinas College Contemporary Writers Series is coordinated by a committee of members from the Friends of the Woodhouse Library, the English department, and the Student Activities department.

Along with speaking to the Aquinas audience, the artists hold creative workshops with student writers. The series is made possible by funds donated by Tony Foster and Linda Nemec-Foster; both graduates of Aquinas College. While attending Aquinas, both had wished that the school had a series that could attract good-willed writers to come and talk to the students, and now that they are alumni, they are making it happen.

**Aquinas' Writers Series**

by Laurie Noall

Contributing Writer

Senior recitals are a tradi­tion at Aquinas, yearly occur­rences that present the abili­ties of senior music students. The recitals are coordi­nated by one senior who picks the music and does the background work for the pro­gram. These events can also be very nerve-wracking ac­cording to senior Schianti Dixon, who performed on Sat­urday. Dixon said she put a lot of time into preparing for her recital.

"I put hours people wouldn't believe into (my per­formance)," Dixon finds the recitals to be good prac­tice for senior students because they find out about the work that takes place behind the scenes, like advertising, selecting music and creating flier designs. The reci­tals require more than time, they involve more than just learning the music. But primarily these recitals provide students with the opportunity to show off that they have accomplished in their four years at Aquinas. Barbara McGarrey, faculty mem­ber for senior music stu­dents and Chairperson of Music, sees the recitals as one way to focus on a student's abilities.

"They are a great opportu­nity to focus on music and to bring all their skills to­gether," McGarrey said. "A senior recital will take place on April 21 featuring senior Sara Jakubik. Jakubik holds the senior recital offers more than just music.

"It's a cultural experience. The lyrics and musical com­positions branch out into dif­ferent art forms," Jakubik said.

According to Dixon, the recitals are great cultural events for students to attend, citing the free admission and complimentary food during the receptions that follow.

Taking place in Kresge Auditorium, these events are free of charge and are open to the public. The Music Department in­vites all members of the com­munity to attend this year's remaining senior recitals. Laura Rzeszut's recital is scheduled for April 2, and Sara's recital will take place on April 21. Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m.
**Entertainment**

**March 21, 2001**

**Biggest Waste of $7**

"Little Nicky"

In this flick, Adam Sandler, boasting the title role, needs to save his father's home. Feel sorry for his old man? Then you should know that the home just happens to be the underworld and Nicky's father, none other than Satan himself. But the true hell of this movie is the misery endured by the poor souls who paid their seven bucks to see this flick. "Little Nicky's" slew of unfunny and downright annoying characters makes Sandler's previous work, "The Waterboy," seem like Oscar-quality. The only redeeming aspect of "Little Nicky," condemned by Nicky's offensive speech impediment, is the appearance by Ozzy Osbourne.

**Best Movie Title of 2000**

"The Virgin Suicides"

Questionable, maybe intriguing, definitely. Among the many bland movie titles of last year, "The Virgin Suicides" warrants a name sure to elicit curiosity and lend a long and happy Blockbuster shelf life.

**Worst Case of Miscasting**

George Clooney, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" George Clooney from the backwoods of Mississippi? Need, Tom Cruise will be cast as Jethro in an upcoming sequel to "The Beverly Hillbillies." Clooney stars as Ulysses Everett McGill in this Odyssey-based film tracking the loo-look-a-lookcameraphotographies of three escaped convicts during the Depression. However, the portrayal of Clooney as a slow-witted bluegrass performer just never truly fits. Clooney, strolling with charm suited to his breakthrough role as "ER's" Dr. Ross, should stick to the cadavers and toss the banjo aside.

**Most Overrated Star**

Julia Roberts

Julia Roberts stars as a sassy, underscored actress who, although surrounded by a mistreating society that looks down upon her, manages to climb the ranks via her charm and other endowments. So is this a referral to Roberts' performance in "Pretty Woman" or to her Oscar-nomination this year? "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" 10 years of her career have passed between the release of these two films; yet is there a distinguishable difference between Roberts' level of acting? The Academy should honor actresses who show growth and dimension in their performances with nominations for the "Best Leading Actress" category. And this time, Hollywood's favorite leading lady should not have made the cut.

**Move You've Probably Never Seen (But Should)**

"Best in Show"

In the spirit of "Best in Show's" title hints at its deserved success and acclaim. Sadly, "Best in Show" bombed at the box office and the academy ignored this pseudo-documentary. But any film about dogs that shows actual work is entitled to at least some recognition. "Best in Show" pulls together its upbeat plot and talented cast to produce a flick that leaves the audience sympathizing with the poor canines forced to put up with their strange breed of owners.

**Worst Catchphrase of 2000**

"Dude, where's my car?" from "Dude, Where's My Car?"

Admit it. How many of you, after seeing this movie, tossed this phrase around while searching for your own vehicle in the vast parking lots of Grand Rapids' theaters? Not only does this film tend pop culture a new "sleazy" catch phrase, but also offers the reciprocal, "Where's your car, dude?" as well. Sadly, this poor finishing of "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" also presents other contenders for this Nelson award; namely — the subjection to the "Dude." vs. "Sweeet" dual. Poor substitutes for "Excellent" and "Parly on, dudes." Indeed.

**Unbreakable**

Oh, the humanity. I had such high hopes for this film, being that it's from the guy who directed "The Sixth Sense" and all. But M. Night Shyamalan seems to be in cookie-cutter mode because his latest movie is basically a sub-par rehash of all the cool, quirky things that made "Sense" so great. Let's see, we've got 1) Bruce Willis as star 2) slightly disturbed preteen son with boy with facial hair 3) the supernatural 4) a "heat" ending that leaves viewers quivering when they leave the theater. However, in the case of "Unbreakable," the astonishment comes not from the ending's brilliance but from its utter stupidity. Stay far, far away from this film.

**The Eyes of Tammy Faye**

I've never seen this documentary about the mascara wand-wielding former wife of televangelist Jim Bakker, but the cheeky title (and the fact that it's narrated by RuPaul) really makes me want to.

**Most Overrated Star**

Drew Barrymore.

Yes, I know she's cute and perky and likes daisies and realizes that women rock whether they're size 8 or size zero or size 50. But the girl cannot act. Watching her in a movie is like being stuck in the audience of a middle school play. Awkward delivery, stilted emotion... I sway. I can see the gears turning in her head each scene as she ponders what expression to pull out of her limited range. Impardonably awful! Or absurdly impalpable? As long as she sticks to light fare like "Charlie's Angels" and "Never Been Kissed," she'll be fine. But let's play we never see her tackle another "Boys on the Side" again.

**Film That Will Make You the Most Oscars**

"Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon"

It doesn't require a psychic to foresee that "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" will be the film taking home the most golden statues on Sunday. Nominated for ten Academy Awards, this foreign film has been turning heads of critics and scoring its share of "Oscar buzz" since its release. But does it deserve such praise? Yip, this sweeping epic shines in all aspects of filmmaking. From its breathtaking special effects and majestic scenery to the strong performances and stunning art direction, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is a film worth watching the subtitles.

**Worst Catchphrase of 2000**

"Almost anything said by Hannibal Lecter from "Hannibal""

OK, the whole "I'm having a friend for dinner" thing was clever in "The Silence of the Lambs." But really. In this new sequel we hear the world's most famous fictional cannibal saying such bons mots as "deeky diexx" and "goody goody." I think the script was penned solely to give marketers a few ironic phrases to plaster across T-shirts, coffee mugs and beer can coasters. Imagine the comedic conversational possibilities: "You're going to grab me another brewski from the fridge? Oh, goody goody."

**Film That Will Make You the Most Oscars**

"Erin Brockovich"

It's been nominated for only four major awards, but reviewers across America are predicting that this story of a heart-on-gold mother will take home top honors in every category it's up for. So I am unabashedly jumping on the "Brockovich" bandwagon. The tired plot (普及y little guy vs. big, evil corporation) didn't exactly wow me, but why argue with a sure thing? Although I do think the film was shafted in one category — Best Supporting Actor (for Julia Roberts' Wonderbra, of course).
Men's tennis aspires to gain national rank

by Brandon Lacie
Contributing Writer

Coach Jerry Hendrick and his Aquinas Men's Tennis Team have four goals: beat all conference teams, beat all area teams (especially the big rival Hope College), qualify for nationals, and achieve a national ranking. So far, Hendrick's boys are on their way to accomplishing all of them. The tennis team now holds a 3-0 record, but Hendrick is quick to point out that all of the team's losses have been to nationally-ranked teams.

Fresh off of a crushing win over Calvin, 9-0, the team feels that is the best experience is farther away from the crowd. Such recreation is also quite accessible in a state in opportunity with friends and family that is difficult parties do? lower odds of actually landing one, does not seem the beginning of April, Hendrick and his Saints are confident they can achieve. "We are better than most of the teams in our conference. We have beaten them before, and many are struggling." In addition to this, the team must beat Taylor University and Huntington College, both of Indiana, in the Regional competition. Hendrick believes that getting to the Regional competition will not be hard, but playing Taylor and Huntington may be a test. Another yet-undetermined Michigan team will also travel to Indiana to play Taylor and Huntington.

Hendrick believes that much of the team's success has come from the efforts of veterans senior Justin Crain and junior Curt Brummel. Crain plays No. 1 singles and is the leader of the team this year. He holds the record for most wins at Aquinas and surpassed the 100-win mark last year. Crain will pass the torch at the end of the season to Brummel. Hendrick is quick to point out that all of the team's losses have been to nationally-ranked teams.

Every cast restores a tiny piece of sanity; every piece of trout on the hook is a victory. The cold, the damp, and the amount of time spent in pursuit of that sanity is immaterial. For a college student, an experience like early spring steelheading is one not familiar with the benefits of fly-fishing, especially fly-fishing. Zen fingers and toes, rain-soaked clothes, and long hours of repetitive casting, may seem laughable, even sadistic; but those who participate in the activity know otherwise.

Every cast restores a tiny piece of sanity, even for those with less experience like early spring steelheading can work wonders. As the plans become choked with looming assignments, research papers, and the drenched finals, most students are on the verge of mental overload. Perhaps the best prescription for that malady is a short distance from home and a few hours on the river away. Just enough reason might be restored to get one through the end of the semester.

Many college-aged people overlook the outdoors as a source of relief from the stresses of academia. Spending several hours casting for the possibility of hooking a fish, and even lower odds of actually landing one, does not seem to fit into the fast pace of college life, yet somehow parties do?

Outdoor recreation provides an interactive opportunity for friends and family that is difficult to accomplish in any other setting. In addition, such recreation is also quite accessible in a state in which one can fish from the shore. There are more than 100 streams on Michigan's west coast that support runs of the silvery fish. Such rivers are even closer than the proximity to campus, although the best experience is farther away from the crowd.

As March comes to a close, I'll be busy testing my new feathered lures and tying flies for the upcoming weekends, in addition to studying for classes. The way I see it, I can afford to take a few hours off from studying if it means that I can better concentrate on the material that I'm trying to learn.
Softball solid in preseason, falls short Sat.

by Brandon Lacic
Contributing Writer

The nationally-ranked Aquinas softball team began pre-season play over spring break in Florida. The Saints were definitely put to the test as they had a tough schedule consisting of mostly Division II teams. The team came out on top with a 10-1 record, thanks to what Coach Ray Sheler called “a solid team effort, good performance from the bullpen and good defense.”

Senior third baseman Lyndsay Szczepanek, who already has three home runs for the Saints, said, “Our hitting was good defense.” I don’t see how anyone can stop us if we keep hitting like we are now,” Szczepanek said.

Sheler said.

Third baseman Lyndsay Szczepanek, who already has three home runs for the Saints, said, “Our hitting was awesome down there. We shut out a lot of people on defense.”

One of the pleasant surprises was the stellar play of freshman pitcher Lenna Tompkins, of Wayland, who had 24 strikeouts in Florida and has an earned-run-average of .91. Sophomore Cassi Gragg also turned in a solid pitching performance in Florida with 19 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.00. Along with solid pitching, the Saints got productive batting from freshman infielder Angela Mays, who averages nearly .300, and Szczepanek, who is averaging over .400 at the plate.

However, the Saints must have been spoiled by the warm weather because a trip to the windy, cold softball field of Grand Valley State was another story entirely. The Saints dropped the first game of the doubleheader 8-2 due largely to an inning filled with blunders.

“We had a lot of errors in one inning, and that cost us the game. Other than that, I think we should have had that one,” Sheler said.

The Saints played the second game more cleanly, committing zero errors but fell short by one run nonetheless. 5-4. The Saints were behind early 4-2, but in the fifth inning Szczepanek hit a two-base hit deep to left to score a runner. Then the next batter, senior left fielder Aaron Bush, hit a double to center, again scoring a runner and bringing the score to 4-4. GVSU slipped through the defense in the seventh inning, however, when a Laker player hit a sacrifice fly to score a runner on third, bringing the score to 5-4, where it would stand.

But the Saints aren’t worried. “We have no where to go but up. Everyone can hit, and everyone is in their prime for defense. I don’t see how anyone can stop us if we keep hitting like we are now,” Szczepanek said.

The team played a doubleheader at Ferris on Monday, losing the first game 5-3 and taking the second 8-4.