Community Senate pushes for primacy of new library

by Joe Boomgaard

Contributing Writer

Citing concerns about the "academic reputation" of Aquinas College, the Community Senate passed a resolution in support of making a new library high on the list of the college's priorities in the coming months.

The resolution was inspired by the recent petition drive that received overwhelming support from the student body.

Junior Bridie Kent, Chairperson of the Petitions Committee, spearheaded the petition as well as the drive to get the resolution passed.

"Senate has only done a few resolutions this year, and I thought that this would help in getting students' support of a very important issue," Kent said.

Junior Chris Helm, Senior Chair-elect, agreed, "In the past, plans for a new library have just slipped lower and lower on the list of priorities.

More than a decade ago, plans for a new library failed because of a lack of funding.

Library officials were impressed with the students' efforts.

"This is the first time that the students, as a unit, have come out and backed a proposition to build a new library," said Pam Luebke, Public Service Librarian.

Sr. Rose Marie Martin, Head of Technical Services, agreed. "I'm very impressed on how the Senate conducted itself. It made me want to cry to see that level of student support for this year, and I thought that passing this would be the first time in my almost 25 years here; it was just so overwhelming."

To keep in touch with the progress of the plans, the motion also calls for the establishment of a "no less than four person committee" that would "gather information about such a project and maintain correspondence and active participation with the development department."

President Knopke, the current Woodhouse Library staff, those in charge of the trustees during the acquisition of a "new library," said Pam Luebke, Public Service Librarian.

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Assembly votes cognates to become minors

by Tonya Schafer

News Editor

What's a cognate?

For years, Aquinas students have been facing this question during interviews for jobs and graduate school admissions. The idea of cognates - which are programs requiring students to study different aspects of a topic specific to one discipline by taking courses in a variety of academic areas - seems to be unique to Aquinas.

This usually results in alumni having to explain to confused employers that the field of study reported on their resume is, for all intents and purposes, a minor. So why not just call it that?

Soon the college will. On March 14 the Academic Assembly voted to change the official designation of cognates in such areas as Journalism, Business Administration, Women's Studies, and Theology to minors for the 2001-'02 school year.

According to Professor Daniel Brooks, coordinator of the Journalism cognate, the revisions will be mostly in name only.

"While these new minors may initiate changes, there is no need to do so," said Brooks. "They were already doing the same amount of work that would be in a minor. It is merely a change of name."

However, it is a change of name that could prevent needless confusion during interview and graduate school application settings.

"Too many students and potential employers do not know what a 'cognate' is," said Professor Rebecca Coogan, coordinator of the Women's Studies cognate. "According to the Aquinas catalog, a cognate is an interdisciplinary minor. The term is not used in this way widely elsewhere."

Students currently enrolled in cognates will be able to switch over to minor designation with no difficulty, according to Provost Ed Balog.

"They may simply declare the minor with
by Tonya Schafer

News Editor

A Chinese fighter jet accidentally collided Sunday with the U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane it had been sent to intercept, according to a report from CNN.com.

The American plane made an emergency landing on the Chinese island of Hainan, no injuries were reported.

American officials insist that the flight had been routine and that it had been flying over international waters when the incident occurred.

However, aviation specialists in Hong Kong report that the plane could have been carrying equipment used to monitor electronic communications and air traffic.

No information about the status of the Chinese aircraft had been reported at press time.

Same-sex couples marry in world's first legal ceremony

Four same-sex couples in Amsterdam legally married Saturday, minutes after the world's first law permitting homosexual unions went into effect, according to a report from CNN.com.

Amsterdam mayor Job Cohen presided at the ceremony, during which three male couples and one female couple became beneficiaries of the Netherlands' recently-passed law giving homosexual marriages the same legal status as that given to heterosexual unions.

Statistics seem to support this. According to a 1999 study conducted by two University of Chicago law school professors, between 1977 to 1995 multiple victim murder rates dropped from 0.25 per 100,000 people to 0.0028 per 100,000 people in 14 states that instituted right-to-carry laws during this period.

Opponents of the petition drive state that the bill cannot be challenged because it contains an allocation of $1 million to enforce the law. Budget measures are not subject to referendum.

At press time, Attorney General Jennifer Grisham had not yet issued her decision as to whether the petition drive was valid.

Recent survey finds students add to Eastown's economy

Aquinas students pump approximately three-quarters of a million dollars into the Eastown economy each year, according to a study conducted by Associate Professor of Geography Richard McCluskey and the spring 2000 Advanced Cultural Geography class.

McCluskey will discuss the study's conclusions during a presentation at the Aquinas College Lecture Series on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in Wege Hall. The event is free and open to students, faculty members, and the general public.

According to McCluskey, approximately 300 Aquinas students spend approximately $222,000 on food, $179,000 on retail goods, $165,000 in bars and clubs, and $14,000 on services in Eastown for a total of approximately $375,000 per year.

Approximately 60 percent of students surveyed visited Eastown at least once a month, and approximately 7 percent visited Eastown at least once a week. Four percent of undergrads stated they live in Eastown.

"Overall, Aquinas students do not frequent Eastown as often as I expected. However, their spending does add up to a modest amount and Eastown certainly benefits from our close proximity," McCluskey said.

Research conducted by the Advanced Cultural Geography class during spring semester 2000 provided the basis for McCluskey's study. McCluskey began his research after the Aquinas students spent in Eastown two years ago.

"When I came, I assumed that Eastown was sort of a 'college town' for Aquinas students," McCluskey said. "After a few inquiries with students and faculty, it appeared that Aquinas students did not have a very close relationship with the area. I conducted the study to prove my anecdotal evidence was correct."

Class members surveyed approximately 300 Aquinas students, asking them if and in what ways they spent their money in Eastown. The class then extrapolated the students' weekly expenditures into an estimation of how much money per year each student spent in Eastown.

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Up 'til Dawn brings music, magic and games

Senior Justin Ortik, left, senior Emma Willman, sophomore Donna Coote and freshman Jaisen John participate in the game show "Think Fast" for the opportunity to win $500 during Aquinas' first annual "Up 'til Dawn" program held on March 23 in the Moose Cafe. Senior Mark Pittman and junior Tim Lowe shared the prize and donated $100 back to the charity. The event raised approximately $6,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

Dozens of students visited the cafe between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. and watched performances by illusionist Steve Bannichek and local musicians The Rachel Leep Band. Up 'til Dawn is a nationwide program that serves as a fundraising tool for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 19 years to produce an alternative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1887 Mountain Rd., Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Our goal is to continue to provide a forum for 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 views of the Editorial Board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

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The Aquinas Times
April 4, 2001
Renowned neurosurgeon keynote speaker at conference

by Joe Boomgaard
Contributing Writer

After a year-long hiatus, the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center once again hosted the Renowned Women's Conference Saturday. This, the fourth such event since 1997, was held in the Donnelly Center. The event was co-sponsored by women's studies programs at both Calvin College and Grand Valley State University.

The conference included faculty and student presenters at this year's conference on varied women's issues. Students were required to submit papers that were then selected by a committee.

"Each student selected to participate in the conference was assigned a mentor, who worked with them on editing their paper or project," said Susan Haworth-Hoeppner, Director of the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center.

"The conference is intended to give students an opportunity to present their papers or projects on gender-related topics in a professional conference setting," she said.

Students from Aquinas, Calvin College, Grand Valley State University, Kalamazoo College and the University of Pittsburgh participated in this year's event.

Canady holds offices in several professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the American Society of Pediatric Surgery. Canady has been published in The Journal of Pediatrics and The Detroit Medical News.

She gave a presentation entitled "Forging New Territory: Alexia Canady, Neurosurgeon, Reflects on Breaking Racial and Gender Barriers" chronicling her rise to respect as one of the top neurosurgeons in the United States.

Affirmation and empowerment," Kelly said. During her childhood, Canady spent summer vacations with her grandmother in the segregated south in the 1950s.

"I think that the fees are good if students who are not science majors ought not subsidize the education for many years, during which they have seen children play these games. Erly admits that the games usually lead to isolation of certain children.

"Not everyone gets chosen unless a teacher intervenes," Erly said. "There are kids that aren't socially acceptable, in the eyes of their peers."

Although Erly agrees that some games can result in isolation, she said it is an unavoidable reality of education. She pointed out that children are usually able to deal with the discrimination. Williams compiled a "Hall of Shame" list of all games that are played in recess. According to the list, dodge ball is played with an intent to harm, playing kickball and Duck Duck Goose.

According to Brooks, the Committee on Studies had investigated the situation and subsequently suggested that the cognate system be eliminated. This led the Academic Assembly to vote on and pass the measure at its March meeting.

"People have been signing up for the Theology minor, but no one was taking the Theology cognate. Why have it in the course book if no one wants it?" Fabbo said. According to Brooks, the Committee on Studies had consulted with the Department of English to learn that the changes will also help streamline course offerings by getting rid of cognates very few students took.

"Students...may finish their cognate requirements as part of their major," said Professor Gary Eberle, Chair of the English department, in whose department the journalism cognate resides.

"I'm not particularly pleased with the faculty member who wishes to increase the financial burden to the students," said Trachtman. "But it's hard to avoid these situations."

"The (games) may cause us to be vindictive," Erly said. "But it is important to minimize the effects (of isolation)." Rosengren said the trend in education over the last 15 years has been on building self-esteem. He relates the push to eliminate certain types of games to the elimination of tracking (grouping students based on academic ability) in many school districts nationwide.

Canady is currently chief of neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Canady, the first African-American woman to practice neurology, has been the recipient of many commendations from her peers. Included in her list of honors are awards from the Women's Medical Association as well as the Detroit chapter of the Association of Negro Business Professionals.

The keynote speaker at this year's conference was nationally-renowned neurosurgeon Alexia Canady, who is currently chief of neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Canady, the first African-American woman to practice neurology, has been the recipient of many commendations from her peers. Included in her list of honors are awards from the Women's Medical Association as well as the Detroit chapter of the Association of Negro Business Professionals.

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Duck Duck Goose promotes cliques, and participation in the conference was national-re-
Aquinas thespians to present selections from four plays

by Liz Dudek
Assistant Editor, Content

A simple set with few props. A small cast of characters. A different location for each play. Four directors helping to put on four separate plays. The Aquinas College Thespians are preparing to showcase excerpts from “The Jeweler’s Shop,” “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “No Exit” as part of its Spring Festival. The festival is scheduled for April 18-21.

The idea to perform four plays was conceived by Assistant Professor of Communications Arts and A.C.T. advisor Penny Avery and A.C.T. founder and senior Dania Fiorito.

“I was talking with Penny Avery, our advisor, and we were discussing the fact that we want to continue the tradition of A.C.T. producing full-length plays on this campus. Since I am graduating, the issue was raised concerning who was going to be around that knew how to do everything and to do the next play,” Fiorito said. “I spoke with Penny and Gary Kowon and proposed the idea of doing a workshop with four producers and directors.”

The workshop consisted of teaching participants vocabulary and theatrical techniques, which included directing and producing. In the end, producers and directors were paired with one another to work together.

“It was literally a crash course of how to be a director and producer in one day, localized to the campus giving a hint of what it is like in the ‘real’ theater,” Fiorito said. “It’s not an easy task, but in a pressure situation it is really teaching students how to get what they need to get done quickly.”

These plays are giving students a chance to also have a hands-on experience in costume and set design in addition to directing and producing. Each director has limited resources for production; A.C.T. gave each director a small budget of $35 to use for the play, while costumes and props had to be procured by people in the show.

Also, the stage sets are minimal, consisting of a few boxes. Unlike A.C.T.’s performance of “Oedipus” held earlier this year, the plays will not have light or sound cues.

Fiorito is directing excerpts from “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead,” with producer and freshman Liz Szewczyk.

Freshman Bridg Todish, left, sophomore Josh Schipper, freshman Ryan Dodd and sophomore Laura Elfer prepare for their scenes.

Todish chose to do selections from Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” planning to utilize nature for the play’s set. “Touchdown Mary works well for the show. The scene we are performing takes place in the woods, and so we can utilize the natural surroundings as long as it doesn’t rain,” Todish said.

Todish was limited to the number of actors and scenes she could do in order to keep it in high school and I wanted to do it,” Todish said.

See Festival, Page 5
Miles to Mars makes its mark on local scene

Former members of Papa Vegas create new "Indie" group, seek Grand Rapids fan base

by Kasey Miller
Contributing Writer

Miles to Mars has arrived and is making a cracker-sized impact on the Grand Rapids music scene.

The origins of Miles to Mars date back to 1996, when Papa Vegas morphed into Miles to Mars, retaining only two original members, Ferguson and drummer Scott Stefanski. Ferguson and Stefanski recruited bass guitarist Marty Heyten, keyboardist Jon Victor and guitarist Curt Hines to start Miles to Mars.

As a former member of the band, Ferguson believes he had always admired Ferguson and Stefanski when they were involved with Papa Vegas. As the newest member of the group, Hines revealed he has to have the chance to play with this band.

"I get a chance to play music with my heroes," Hines said.

Miles to Mars has a sound similar to rock, but band members associate their music with a different genre.

"We identify with indie bands, but we still keep a pop (music) sensibility," Hines said.

"Indie" bands are groups that are big nationally but do not get airtime on radio stations such as WGRD.

Miles to Mars has just finished recording a demo CD that was recorded at Station C Studios in Grand Rapids.

A.C.T. plans to continue the tradition of the Spring Festival. Current co-chair and sophomore Laura Eill will be spearheading the club next year and hopes to involve the group in community service.

ütterings department. This was evident when the group put several MP3s on the band's Web site for fans to pick the first radio single.

It seems that they have struck to some of the same elements of music on the new CD that they had on Rubberneck. Though there are still angst-ridden vocals that come across as angry punk rock music, the band does exhibit somewhat of a Soundgarden-esque bass and guitar sound. The Toadies concentrate on several key elements that, in my opinion, need to be regarded as pure rock music.

Although this CD has great lyrics and good production value, it is somewhat punk-infused alternative. The album runs through seamless from end to end, from the gritty "Plane Crash" all the way to the desperate and macabre-sounding "Dolliskin," which in the beginning sounds like Weezer's single "Buddy Holly" and ends like something of seven years of silence.

Although they aren't saying exactly why they left the public eye, the band members plan to promote the heck out of the new album. The Toadies have instilled a new policy about how the music will be promoted. Though this is something new, the idea does have merit. The band wants fans to create the hype around the new CD by helping them with putting up posters, asking local stations to play the new CD, and basically becoming a do-it-yourself promotion department. This was evident when the group put several MP3s on the band's Web site for fans to pick the first radio single.

While I'm sure the movie sounds like a good paper, the plot of "Someone Like You" seems to be lacking. For one thing, so much time is spent on Jane whining and bouncing her breakup that no time is spent on developing the character of Eddie (Hugh Jackman), an interesting new love possibility.

While Jackman is clever and charming in the film, Judd is not as great. Most of the time she is just pathetic in a not-so-funny way. If there really are women out there that find it so necessary to deeply analyze actions of men in order to blame them, I pity them -- but not Jane. She takes her research so seriously. I'm almost afraid of her.

"Someone Like You" has the beginnings of a clever romantic comedy, but unfortunately the character of Jane Goodale is simply bad writing.

Men are rotten, and it's always their fault when a relationship goes wrong. At least that's what Jane Goodale thinks. As the main character of the new movie "Someone Like You," played by Ashley Judd, Jane is the typical loser in love that has a strong urge to blame it on the problems of the opposite sex. But she takes it to a new psychotic extreme when she creates a scientific courtship theory to explain why men can't commit.

When Jane first meets her new coworker Ray (Greg Kinnear), she thinks it's love at first sight. They have a fast and wonderful courtship, and then out of nowhere, he dumps her. Jane doesn't take the breakup too lightly. One day she discovers a "new cow theory" in the newspaper, leading her to research about men and relationships. With the help of her journalist friend (Marisa Tomei), Jane makes up a fake psychologist Dr. Tony Goldwyn.

During the third act of the film, "Someone Like You" proves itself to be a truly different romantic comedy. It is something that I never thought I would admit a love for, but it is just that good. As Jackman is clever and charming in the film, Judd is a wonderful actress with the ability to charm a man to do anything for her. While I'm sure the movie sounds like a good paper, the plot of "Someone Like You" seems to be lacking. For one thing, so much time is spent on Jane whining and bouncing her breakup that no time is spent on developing the character of Eddie (Hugh Jackman), an interesting new love possibility.

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like most football fans, i was initially reeled in by the marketers of the xfl by promises of new and unique camera angles, aggressive commentary, sneak peeks into the locker rooms (complete with raging coaches, a staple in the nfl) and of players who were playing for the love of the game. along with all of these involving aspects of the xfl, west michigan fans received a special incentive to watch as the chicago enforcees featured former western michigan university quarterback tim lenter at the helm. despite the looming theory that the over-stylized and scripted showsmanship of the wwf would seep into the game and naïvely thinking that the xfl just may provide some of the aspects lacking of the nfl, i excitedly tuned into the first game. this game featured the new york/new jersey hrimmers vs. the las vegas outlaws. it didn’t take more than a few minutes to realize that this league wasn’t going to make it. almost immediately the football fans is greeted by wwf-esque antics as the players on the starting lineups of both teams enthusiastically announce their names (usually a stage name) accompanied by grunting and some other top tough guy threats. ‘he hate me’ appears on the back of one player’s jersey. not only is it bad enough that we don’t know his real name, but this athlete can’t even put his fake one into a complete sentence. then there is the matter of the well-meaning commentators. they were supposed to provide a new perspective of the action, but all they do is somehow make the game seem less real. the angles actually appear to slow the action because the camera travel with the players, as opposed to being static. the viewer has nothing to compare the speed of the players to as everything is moving with the camera. and not only is the xfl already insulting to traditional fans, it creates even more muck for a profession known for its muckraking. i’m talking about politics. the xfl has managed to persuade the gov. of minnesota jesse ventura into trading taciturn bars with an angry, egotistical head coach. however, ventura is a tuna tuner and thus and in his natural element on the xfl. not all of the blame can be put on the producers of the xfl. in fact, the biggest disappointment has nothing to do with the business people or marketers or camera angles; it has to do with the players. what surprised me the most of any aspect of the new league is the sheer lack of talent and the ability of the players to consistently create blunders after blunders. i’ve turned the television on and the ability of the players to consistently create their names (usually a stage name) accompanied by grunting and some other top tough guy threats. ‘he hate me’ appears on the back of one player’s jersey. not only is it bad enough that we don’t know his real name, but this athlete can’t even put his fake one into a complete sentence. then there is the matter of the well-meaning commentators. they were supposed to provide a new perspective of the action, but all they do is somehow make the game seem less real. the angles actually appear to slow the action because the camera travel with the players, as opposed to being static. the viewer has nothing to compare the speed of the players to as everything is moving with the camera. and not only is the xfl already insulting to traditional fans, it creates even more muck for a profession known for its muckraking. i’m talking about politics. the xfl has managed to persuade the gov. of minnesota jesse ventura into trading taciturn bars with an angry, egotistical head coach. however, ventura is a tuna tuner and thus and in his natural element on the xfl. not all of the blame can be put on the producers of the xfl. in fact, the biggest disappointment has nothing to do with the business people or marketers or camera angles; it has to do with the players. what surprised me the most of any aspect of the new league is the sheer lack of talent and the ability of the players to consistently create blunders after blunders. i’ve turned the television on and the ability of the players to consistently create throwing in by the clever marketers of the xfl by promises of last year’s squad. the intramural committee will be delivering pamphlets and free t-shirts to every dorm. if you have any questions, contact mary ann klooster at ext. 3108.

hating the xfl: who doesn’t?

by brandon lacic

soccer intramurals to get underway sunday

the aquinas intramural program will be holding a co-ed soccer tournament on sunday, which will be the last event of the season. the event was originally slated to be a league, but due to low turnout the directors of the intramural program decided to downgrade the event to a tournament.

"the tournament might last only one game, or it may last all day, depending on how many people show up," said senior aaron bush, one of the directors of the event.

the initial league was expected to run for two or three weeks. the intramural committee will be delivering pamphlets this week stating the time, place and general rules. rosters for the soccer teams are due today to the intramural office, located in the fieldhouse.

because the league was changed to a tournament, admission is now free; everyone who plays will receive a free t-shirt. if you have any questions, contact mary ann klooster at ext. 3108.

fabulous 50: griffins glide into playoffs

by brandon lacic

the grand rapids griffins won their 50th game on sunday against the cleveland lumberjacks in an 8-0 trouncing. the griffins are currently at 50-26-4, reaching the 50-win mark several games before last season’s achievement of the same milestone. this year’s griffins are no strangers to milestones, however, as the athletes have set many others this season.

if one was to take a look at the scoring leaders of the ibl, they would find five griffins players, the most of any team. derek king (25-42-67, 5th), stava butsayev (27-29-56, 10th), todd white (22-32-54, t16th), dave roberts (24-36-54, 10th) and ivan ciernik (24-28-52, 120th) all make this list. also, in each of the griffins’ first four seasons, three players reached the 30-point plateau. this year, however, five players – king, butsayev, white, Roberts and ciernik – have already hit the mark. the griffins are also touting the second-highest winning percentage of any team in hockey, distinguishing the team as the leaders above 135 teams. out of the 105 minor league franchises, the team boasts the sixth-highest attendance of 7,980 people per game.

the griffins also have 11 players with double-digit goal totals, setting a team record and tying them with cincinnati, chicago, minnesota and orlando for most in the ibl. the griffins had nine players with at least 10 goals in each of the last three seasons. in addition, the griffins have tied their franchise mark, set in 1998-99, for the most 20-goal snipers. butsayev (27), king, roberts (24), ciernik (24) and white (22) have already achieved this milestone, while ed paterson (19) is on the threshold.

it is clear the griffins have no shortage of talent in the slot, but their success may not have been possible without the gap between the pipes, goaltender mike fountain. in saturday’s game against the cincinnati cyclones, fountain tied former griffins goalie pokey redick’s single-season franchise record of 30 victories. fountain proceeded to break it with 31 victories with the win over the lumberjacks, a feat that brought fountain’s personal win-loss record to 31-9-5.

the griffins have long since clinched a playoff berth and will be looking to defend their eastern conference championship against the next-closest orlando solar bears, a team that was 11 points behind the griffins at saturday’s game. the orlando solar bears will be played tonight and friday in utah, the team’s last regular-season home game will be saturday against their michigan rival, the detroit vipers.

sunday, april 1, 2001
Women's tennis coached in right direction

by Brandon Lacic

SPORTS

Women's tennis coached in right direction

by Brandon Lacic

Watching his Women Saints Tennis team play under the bright lights of Riverview Athletic Club from the "aquarium" is not exactly what coach Gerard Adams thinks of when he pictures an ideal tennis environment. In fact, it's far from it. After several seasons with an unstable coaching situation, the women's program is now finding solid ground under Adams.

"The biggest thing for Aquinas in women's tennis is the stability aspect," Adams said. "I'd really like a place near campus where we can play for them, they'll come and play for you." So far the team's record, which stands at 6-3, has been the best evidence of its newfound stability. This marks a huge turnaround from last year's 2-7 finish. This year the team's only losses have been to nationally-ranked Palm Beach Atlantic College, Calvin College, a perennial women's tennis power in the MIAA; and St. Mary's College.

"The biggest thing for Aquinas in women's tennis is the stability aspect. If they know that a coach is going to be there for them, they'll come and play for you." Gerard Adams, coach

The Saints then traveled to St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. on Saturday for a meet against Adrian and St. Mary's. Adrian put up little struggle as the Saints defeated them 7-0. The Saints' next match will be on the road against Tri-State University on April 12.

Overall: 6-3
March 28: Tri-State, W 5-4
March 20: Hope, W 6-3, L 5-10
March 18: Tri-State, W 6-4, L 4-7,
Aquinas captured the top spot in four field events Saturday at its first meet of the season
by Ryan M. Schmidt
Contributing Writer

In contrast to the cold weather, the Aquinas College outdoor track team had a dazzling performance in its first meet of the season, held on Saturday at Housenfield Field. The six-team non-scoring meet was attended by host Aquinas College, Calvin College, Lansing Community College, Grand Valley State University, Cornerstone University and Northwood University.

The field events teams fared well for Aquinas, with outstanding performances for both the men and the women.

Sophomore Melissa Gomez jumped 5-4 in the high jump for the victory. Gomez, who has a personal record of 5-5, stressed her desire to both qualify for Nationals and jump a personal record this season. She also spoke highly of the team's unity. "We have a real strong jump team this year. Everyone is doing really good, and we should all set personal records," Gomez said.

Junior Matt First took second place in the men's high jump with the height of 6-7 as well.

In addition, sophomore Henry Holmes jumped 22-7 to place first in the men's long jump. Holmes, who qualified for Indoor Nationals this past indoor season, had a personal best in the long jump of 23-4.1/2. Holmes looks to better that in coming weeks. "This year, I'd like to jump 24. It would take a miracle, but I am hoping to hit it," Holmes said.

Along with the jumps team, the throwers also had a successful meet on Saturday.

Senior Holly Szemore brought home a victory in both the hammer throw with a distance of 145.7 and the shot put with a throw of 40-2.1/4. Szemore, who has qualified for Nationals multiple times, is looking for All-American honors in her final year as a Saint.

The women throwers took four of the top seven places in the hammer throw as well as the top two spots in the shot put.

Also throwing well on the men's side was junior Greg Vaughn. Vaughn, who earned All-American honors during the Indoor Track season, placed third in the hammer throw with a distance of 157.7-1/4 as well as earning fourth in the shot put and sixth in the discus.

Senior Jason Carver, who decided to not play basketball this winter, is batting .400 (8-20) with six RBIs, and is averaging .435 at the plate, with three RBIs on average. The WHAC chose Spring Arbor senior Eric Johnson, a utility player from Siena Heights University. Russell had four hits in six at bats as Siena downed Adrian College 8-2 on March 19. His .667 batting average included a double, one run batted in, and a steal of home. Siena went 1-0 on the weekend and is 5-10 overall.

Tri-State was able to protect its first-place status last week by blanking Siena Heights 8-0 and 11-0 in back-to-back games, as well as defeating Madonna 6-3 and 4-0 Sunday.

Baseball:
Earning Player of the Week honors for March 19-25 was senior Eric Russell, a utility player from Siena Heights University. Russell had four hits in six at bats as Siena downed Adrian College 8-2 on March 19. His .667 batting average included a double, one run batted in, and a steal of home. Siena went 1-0 on the weekend and is 5-10 overall.

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Softball:

Aquinas Downed Madonna 6-3 and 1-0 on the weekend as well. Senior Jason Carver leads the 200-meter dash as sophomore Henry Holmes runs to an eighth-place finish. Carver won the 200 and contributed to the Saints victory in the 4x100 relay.