Students meet with administration, discuss racial issues
by Tonya Schafer
News Editor

A coalition of Aquinas students is working with school officials to resolve issues relating to ethnic diversity on campus.

On April 16, members of Student Concerns met with President Harry Kroopke, Provost Edward Baling, Dean of Student Affairs Assistant Director of Multicultural Services Stacey Jackson. During the meeting the students discussed four areas of concern.

“We have issues with the general education requirements with a focus on the global community section; with training for faculty and staff, with recruitment and retention of minority students; and with the location of the Multicultural department,” said Student Concerns spokesperson Jannelle Sumner, a junior.

According to Sumner, the group believes that the global community section of the general education requirements places an emphasis on the study of European countries that comes at the expense of the study of non-European cultures.

“There are nine classes offered for the global community credit, six of which are European-based. None of these allow students to gain a broader understanding of one’s own and other cultures,” said Sumner. “Classes like Latin American History, African-American History and Women’s History are available only for credit under the history major. Since the general education program is supposed to give a broader understanding of one’s own and other cultures, it’s not consistent.”

“The courses that are offered are limited by two basic factors,” said Baling. “One is an academic department’s application to have a particular course satisfy the requirements and the other is the expertise of faculty to teach those courses. The problem is that there are a maximum number of classes allowed for the global community credit. If some courses are entered, then others have to be deleted. We’re engaged in a program to determine if students are interested in taking those classes.”

The group also believes that minority students are sometimes singled out by instructors in Inquiry and Expression classes.

“There are so few minorities in these courses — usually only one or two per class. The first couple of weeks, these classes deal with race, gender and culture issues. As a consequence of having few minorities in the freshman class, their learning opportunity is limited,” said Sumner.

See Racial issues, Page 2

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Earthfest offers camaraderie for environment supporters, educates those not so savvy
by Sarah Van Hall
Assistant Editor, Design

Amidst kaleidoscopic guitar ballads and handouts of paper buttons maintaining “Earth Day is every day,” Aquinas students mingled with a few new faces on Saturday. The day’s Earthfest, an environmental awareness event sponsored by Students Against Violation of the Environment (S.A.V.E.), hosted nearly as many Grand Rapids community members as students in its second year.

“I thought it was a cool event because it brought people from the city and campus together,” sophomore S.A.V.E. member Michelle Swift said.

Students meet with administration, discuss racial issues

Kennedy to speak on his fight for the environmental cause
by Tonya Schafer
News Editor

As an environmental lawyer, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has fought for the little guy, helping to reclaim New York’s Hudson River and Long Island Sound from pollution by filing and winning legal actions against organizations that fill these bodies of water with municipal and industrial refuse.

The son of slain senator and former Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy will visit the Aquinas Fieldhouse tomorrow to speak about his work with the environment. Following the 4 p.m. presentation, which is free and open to the public, Kennedy will sign copies of his book “The Riverkeepers” and attend a reception held in his honor.

“We do not have the specifics as to what Kennedy will address, as he speaks off-the-cuff and does not normally fabricate a ‘formal’ lecture,” said Aquinas Director of Media Relations Jill Wallace. “Most likely he will focus on his work pertaining to environmental issues such as the ‘Riverkeepers’ project.”

Hudson Riverkeeper is an organization that works to halt contamination of the Hudson River by relying on citizens to monitor corporations and governments that may use it as a receptacle for pollutants. Kennedy joined the group in 1984 and is now its chief prosecuting attorney. He oversees Riverkeeper’s involvement in currently-pending investigations and negotiations with such groups as the U.S. Coast Guard and the New York state Department of Transportation.

“The most recalcitrant party so far has been government,” said Kennedy in an interview with the Natural Resources Defense Council. “Governmental agencies charged with the enforcement of environmental law are extremely reluctant to prosecute other government agencies. Enforcement now occurs only when citizens bring lawsuits against agencies to force compliance.”

In addition to his work with Hudson Riverkeeper, Kennedy is F. F. Crow Professor of Environmental Law, in the Fordham University School of Law.

See Kennedy, Page 3

Earthfest, courtesy photo

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will speak at Aquinas’ Fieldhouse tomorrow.
Trip into the final frontier beats $80 million price tag

American Dennis Tito will become the first tourist in space this week when he joins crewmembers aboard the International Space Station, Reuters reported Friday.

Tito paid Russia $20 million for the opportunity to board a 10-day cargo run that will leave for the station on Saturday.

Officials from the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which runs the station in conjunction with space agencies from Russia, Japan, Canada and Europe, initially objected to the plan on the grounds that Tito would be a hindrance to the crew. NASA officials have since stated that they will not interfere with Russia's right to send Tito into space.

South Africa keeps right to import and make low-cost drugs

Thirty-nine drug companies dropped a lawsuit on Thursday that had sought to prevent South Africa from importing and produc-
ing cheaper versions of patented prescription medications meant to fight HIV and AIDS, according to reports from The New York Times and the Los An-
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The withdrawal lawsuit al-lewig that a 1997 South African law allowing the manufacture and import lower-cost drugs interfered with established patents.

Responding to public criti-

complied by Tonya Schafer

Confederate symbol will still fly for Mississippi

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April 25, 2001

**NEWS**

**Server replacement promises off-campus e-mail access**

by Torrey Schafer and Joe Boogaard

News Editor and Contributing Writer

Students will be allowed unlimited off-campus access to their Aquinas e-mail accounts following installation of a new student mail server this summer.

The decision is the first phase of a two-phase plan that will eventually offer faculty and staff members complete off-campus e-mail access as well. Following this summer’s server replacement, students will be able to send and view both new and saved messages from off-campus, but faculty and staff will only be able to send new messages and view new mail from off-campus.

“Students are on an Internet-based e-mail server, which makes it easier to provide off-campus access,” said Director of Information and Technology Services Joyer LaFleur. “Faculty and staff are on a local server application, and there are more complications in making it available off-campus.”

The new student mail server will take the place of the current Sycamore server, which has overloaded in the past and will not be able to accommodate the added strain off-campus e-mail access would inflict on the system.

“We hope to replace Sycamore with a new machine that has more memory. We would migrate existing data from Sycamore to the new server,” said Network Systems Administrator Greg Vedders. “Basically, it would be the only students, but we would consider faculty on a case-by-case basis. Also, conductive education programs may have access. We would try to accommodate like we would a student’s.”

The second phase calls for installation of a new version of the faculty e-mail server, which would provide faculty and staff members with complete control over their e-mail accounts from both on and off campus.

Vedders states that this phase cannot be carried out until a new version of Pegasus is created.

“The version of Pegasus does not support the messaging protocol Aquinas would use to allow off-campus e-mail access,” Vedders said. “Phase two will be delayed, but we don’t know for how long.”

According to LaFleur, the new server is being obtained on a three-year lease and will be funded through the ITS budget.

“The leasing plan allows us to keep equipment up-to-date on a regular basis,” said LaFleur.

LaFleur also states that installation of the new server will be arranged to accommodate student and faculty needs.

“The cut over to the new system will involve some down time, but that will be kept to a minimum and coordinated with users,” said LaFleur.

**Judge allows family and survivors to watch McVeigh’s execution**

by Torrey Schafer

News Editor

With the May 16 execution of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh quickly approaching, Aquinas students are weighing in on whether or not they approve a judge’s recent decision to allow survivors and family members of the victims to view the execution via a closed-circuit television.

“Some people may need it in a close-up, but many of them may not,” said junior Leanne Borek. “I don’t agree with the death penalty, but the bombing was such a horrible thing. I don’t know if I could watch that myself, though.

Other students, like senior Eric Zeemering, feel the execution should not be viewed by an audience.

Earthfest

to, though,” junior and Secretary of S.A.V.E. Bridie Kent said. “I’m disappointed more people from Aquinas didn’t show up.

Along with S.A.V.E., other Aquinas groups such as WAQU, T.A.B.G.H.A and AQCLAIM set up information tables at the event; the East Area Residence Hall Council sponsored a tug of war contest across the creek near Mack Center.

Freshman Kenenese Hennessey said it was the phone mail advertisement that brought him out to the event.

“Tied to do it (tug of war) back in elementary school,” Hennessey said of his prior tug of war experience.

Members of the winning team, which included Hennessey’s roommate freshman Andrew Dancer, each received a $10 Best Buy gift card.

His roommate’s victory Hennessey said, “I was bitter for a while, but I guess I’m over it now.”

As one of Earthfest’s key organizers, Kent is already planning for a similar event to be held on campus next fall.

“I want to do this again, sort of as an end of the summer thing,” she said. “Except it will not be just for the sake of having a fun event, but also to have even more of a mission behind it.”

Kent hopes to get more environmental organizations and businesses involved in the future; junior Renae Roed, Co-Chairperson of S.A.V.E., proposed the possibility of food and palms at next year’s festival.

“We tried to have a local health food food store come this year,” she said. “But next year we really want to make this happen.”

The West Michigan Environmental Action Council, a group S.A.V.E. works closely with, Sierra Club, and the new Grand Rapids bus system, the Rapid, all manned information tables at Earthfest from 12-5 p.m., passing out literature and answering questions.

Taking place one day before international Earth Day, the event lasted until dusk.

Continued from Page 1

**Kennedy**

a professor of environmental law at Pace University in White Plains, N.Y. and Co-Director of the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, which provides representation for Riverkeeper in the organization’s legal actions.

Kennedy’s talk is being held in conjunction with the Wege Speaker Series, sponsored by local businesswoman Patti Dieke Wege. Each year the series brings to Aquinas speakers whose expertise fits into one of six areas: economics, environment, ecology, ethics, empathy and education.

“We hope Kennedy will speak in Traverse City last year and was so impressed he wanted to bring him to Aquinas to share his environmental work with the greater Grand Rapids community,” Wallace said.

These thoughts may very well prove to be provocative, according to Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies Matthew Tye.

“Kennedy would be interesting to anyone wanting to hear a fairly mild-mannered perspective on the environmental cause in the U.S.,” said Tye. “His rhetoric in interviews is often political, confrontational and intense. His views and actions are more extreme than many others concerned with the environment.”

Kennedy is not the first member of his family to stop in at Aquinas. In 1998 his first cousin, Ted Kennedy, Jr., visited campus during Disability Awareness Week.

At age 12, the latter Kennedy had his leg amputated below the knee following a bout with bone cancer. During his visit to Aquinas, which was sponsored by the Aquinas Community Services, Project Open Heart and President Harry Knopke, Kennedy spoke about his experience as a disabled person in America and encouraged the audience to act with sensitivity in its treatment of those people who live with a physical disability.

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Deli style
Conforming to modern thought or confined to the past:

Should the Roman Catholic Church change its teachings regarding birth control?

by Liz Dudek
Assistant Editor, Content

Is the Catholic Church's stance on family planning outdated?

No. The Catholic Church's stance on family planning is not outdated. Based on the Humanae Vitae document, the Catholic Church holds marriage, children and procreation in the highest regard. The document was issued by Pope Paul VI in order to reaffirm and strengthen teachings on conjugal love and parenthood. The church's stance on family planning is not obsolete, especially since it emphasizes the use of natural family planning, a rather scientific birth control method which couples can use with the help of their physician. Moreover, with such documents as the Humanae Vitae, the church is constantly re-examining its beliefs on family planning and is confident with its current doctrine. Catholics are not simply following a stance that dates back to the time of Christ. The Catholic Church has made its statement against artificial birth control for a reason; it is making the attempt to teach couples the importance of love and commitment as well as to focus on the spirituality that marriage and raising children can bring. How can this be thought of as outdated?

Yes. I imagine the church would argue that moral standards and natural law simply cannot be changed in the name of convenience; however, I find it extremely difficult to understand how the Catholic Church can insist on something when such an overwhelming number of members oppose it. A 1992 Gallup poll showed that 80 percent of U.S. Catholics disagreed with the statement "Using artificial means of birth control is wrong." If Catholics are not agreeing with the church on this issue, I believe that speaks to the fact that the church's stance on birth control has become outdated. By continuing this absolute belief regarding artificial birth control, the Catholic Church is simply alienating more of its members. This issue was not as prevalent when marriage consisted of the husband working to support the family financially while the wife stayed home to raise the children. Now, however, women are often required to work full time to support their families. This leads to even more difficulty in trying to make this outdated teaching work in today's society.

Does the stance place a strain on married couples wishing to not have children?

Certainly not. If married couples are not ready to have children, the church presents other options that it deems acceptable. It suggests natural family planning, better known as the Sympto-Therm method. This practice teaches a married woman how to be better aware of her fertility patterns. The church is against artificial birth control because it deliberately prevents a woman from becoming pregnant, it is also concerned that some forms of birth control like the pill can cause early stage abortions. People must realize that artificial birth control, such as the intrauterine device, completely alters a woman's natural cycle of fertility and is not as safe as natural family planning. While artificial contraception can potentially harm a woman's health, there is evidence that it may also hurt a marital relationship. According to the Couple to Couple League, the rising use of artificial birth control since 1933 has been accompanied by an almost 500 percent rise in U.S. divorce rates. By heeding the church's suggestion of natural family planning, couples will have a more positive relationship with one another.

Definitely. Consider this situation: A young Catholic couple marries before they are done with their education. The birth of a child would present an obstacle preventing or at least postponing the wife's completion of her educational goals. In this case the couple becomes alienated by their church, which explicitly does not allow its members to use artificial contraceptives as a means for birth control. As stated above, it is much more difficult for one member of a marriage to stay at home with children than it was in the past. In order for women to be able to achieve their educational, or personal goals for that matter, they must be able to use whatever form of birth control that fits them best. The couple may decide to use natural family planning techniques according to the will of the Catholic Church, or they may opt for other artificial forms of birth control such as the use of condoms or contraceptives. But the choice should be theirs. The strain placed on Catholic couples by the church could easily be avoided if the church would acknowledge the couple's ability to make such a decision.

Should the Catholic Church include artificial contraception in its definition of family planning?

No. Birth control should not be included in the Catholic Church's stance regarding family planning. We should respect the church's authority and not demand that it compromise its beliefs for the sake of its followers' convenience. Artificial birth control contradicts the traditional church teaching that every sexual act must be open to the possibility of procreation. By using artificial birth control, we are ignoring God's intended natural cycle of life; we are giving ourselves the power to dictate the creation of a new life. Pope John Paul II has said, "The basic moral law is written in the human heart because we're created in the image and likeness of God." We are created in the image of God and should adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church concerning God's plan for marriage, love and bearing children. If the church would consider artificial birth control to be acceptable, it would cease to stress that intercourse is primarily for having children and raising a family. The church will always emphasize the importance and sacredness of life, especially when there is the possibility of having children. By including artificial birth control into the definition of family planning, we take away the chance to create new life and ignore God's plan to "be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

Yes. Between 1963 and 1966, 35 individuals consisting of theologians, priests, bishops, cardinals and laypeople from a variety of professions came together as the Papal Commission on Birth Control established by Pope John XXIII. After much prayer and research including sending surveys to Catholics worldwide, this commission concluded in its report to the Pope that Catholic couples ought to be given the liberty to decide for themselves concerning methods for family planning. The report was given to the Pope in June of 1966. The Pope, however, did not agree with the commission and in Humanae Vitae essentially denied the recommendations of the commission. An interesting point to note is that the documents of Vatican II encouraged consultation of the laity in matters where they have expertise. This process was successfully used by the U.S. Catholic bishops in their pastoral letters on war and peace and the economy. However, when the issue is birth control, the church has refused to listen to the experience of the laity. If such highly-respected individuals within the Catholic Church had recommended such changes, why were they ignored? These individuals knew what was best for Catholics worldwide, and their report should have been taken more seriously.
In between moans, groans, and maybe the occasional gripe about the classes not being offered for credit, it’s not hard to get a student to talk about Career Development classes. Ask for an opinion and chances are individuals will give mixed reviews about these required courses. While some might find them to be beneficial, many other students will complain they are a waste of time; after all how could writing papers or learning the proper handshake in CD 201 be important in trying to find a job? The basic premise of the Career Development classes is a good one, but it needs to be revamped for students to truly gain important insight from these courses about their future careers.

Four years of Career Development at a glance

Students are introduced to the Career Development classes as freshmen. CD 101 is designed to help students discover their goals and to slowly develop ideas about the type of career possibilities they might want to explore. Following CD 101 is CD 201, which aims to encourage sophomores to put together a resume and create an employability portfolio. It is also within this class that students begin to discover how students would like to fulfill the requirements for CD 301. This can be achieved via a service learning trip, foreign study experience, or internship. The final class, CD 401, takes the information seniors have learned in prior Career Development classes and applies this knowledge to finding a job or being accepted into a graduate school program.

Introducing freshmen to CD 101 is a good idea, but what if students already know what career they would like to have after graduation? If this is the case, the student should be exempt from taking the class—but only if this person can demonstrate sufficient knowledge concerning finding a career including the ability to write a resume and endure an interview.

The paperwork and research: pertinent or pointless?

The assignments appear to be relevant to the classes themselves, but are they conducive to the actual goal of Career Development courses—preparing students for the work world? In CD 201 students write research papers about potential careers. Students are required to complete the CD 300 requirement via an internship; must complete 12 papers focusing on their impression of the work world, while those choosing the service learning route to CD 301 completion also must write numerous accounts of their experiences. Students in CD 101 are supposed to take a final exam that encompasses what they have learned in their pre­viable Career Development classes. It’s doubtful that this endless paper trail will help a student find a job. It would be beneficial if these classes focused on what life is like in the work world rather than trying to establish personal goals or administering standardized tests to figure out potential careers. Program coordinators could arrange a question-and-answer session about how to write an effective resume or perfect interview skills. Such an approach would convey more about careers to the student body than the current curriculum, which includes learning proper dinner etiquette in CD 401 and placing magazine cutouts on a paper bag in CD 101.

Paying the price for success

While the assignments are in question, the price of the materials also leaves students wondering if the Career Development classes are really worthwhile. Why should students have to pay up to $45.35 for course packets of photocopied paper? Certainly there must be a way to cut costs. Perhaps in the future the course materials could be put online and made available as a Web course. In doing this, students could not only access the materials they need at anytime, but save money in the process. Aquinas College stands out amid Calvin Col­lege, Grand Valley State University and Cornerstone University as the only one of the four schools to offer mandatory Career Develop­ment classes, so why not put ourselves on the “cutting edge” of technology? By giving the classes an online format, we would be allowing our students to access class work whenever they are near a computer and complete such assignments as their individual sched­ules allow.

Researching for the future

If students need research for a paper, they go to the library. If they have a question on a career, they should be content in going to the resource library in the Career and Counseling office. But anyone who has ever tried to obtain information from this library probably found it to be a large disappointment. While the concept is an excel­lent idea, the sources themselves need to be updated as some yearly texts are only as recent as 1998. These yearly books and binders contain information ranging from how to find the perfect summer internship to how to write the perfect cover letter. But in order to be of use to prospective career finders, this information must be up-to­date. The more recent the subject matter, the more applicable the research will be — especially in the work world is con­stantly evolving with each passing year.

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And you can quote me on that

What has your experience been with the Career Development classes?

“It didn’t help me at all. The tests (such as) the Myers-Brigg did not give me a good indica­tion of what I want to do (with my life) be­cause I have so many interests.”

—Casey Faber, freshman

“My experience has been that I haven’t re­ally enjoyed the course too much; since the courses do not offer credit, it makes stu­dents, as well as my­self, apathetic about the whole thing. The idea is a good one, but they should make it into a regular class of­fering credit to people don’t think they are wasting their time.”

—Rens Weddell, sophomore

“I’ve taken five years to decipher why Aquinas wanted me in the Career Develop­ment program. Answer: It boosts post-college employment statistics. The lucky part for the students is, in fact, the same thing. We’re here to find them, folks, and to get the knowl­edge to earn money and help people. CD gets us closer to that objective in a practical manner.”

—Brian Rozema, junior

“Career Development is wasting your time if it is not worth any credit. It is a good idea, it just needs to be set up differently, per­haps having it be op­erational and the experi­ence be more personal­ized. It can help point you in the right direc­tion if you don’t know what you want to do with your life.”

—Adam Jaurregui, junior

“We have many stu­dents take the classes, they come in at vary­ing levels and with varying needs, but I feel most leave having had an overall positive ex­perience. The biggest criticisms we get about the classes are These classes should be for credit.”

—Loretta Simpson, Career Specialist

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A HIGHER POWER

by Allison Lindemeyer and Danielle Walters
Features Editor and Contributing Writer

Sophomore Sarah Theien, front, listens to the discussion with senior Lauren Ivory during a Christian Fellowship meeting last Thursday. Thelan meets with the ecumenical faith group nearly every week to discuss religious topics with other Christians.

"It hit me one day that I should go... to church. There was something missing in my life," Carla Rothenthaler, senior

A new survey reveals that most Americans feel it is their responsibility to find a higher power to reflect on how the idea of a higher power relates to and affects my life," Nicolaou said. Nicolaou doesn't see religion as something

Students make faith a cornerstone

"I think once an individual attends college the structure of their lives changes," Rothenthaler said. "The things that were once familiar to them are different now and there are new ways to live. They tend to forget what's important. They are more busy and things change. They don't remember what it means to be faithful.

Theien feels that the ability to decide whether or not to go to church on her own was beneficial. "It made it (going to church) much more personal, not to go to church on her own was beneficial. "It hit me one day that I should go... to church. There was something missing in my life," said Nicolaou.

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A new survey reveals that most Americans feel it is their responsibility to find a higher power to reflect on how the idea of a higher power relates to and affects my life," Nicolaou said. Nicolaou doesn't see religion as something

Students make faith a cornerstone

"I think once an individual attends college the structure of their lives changes," Rothenthaler said. "The things that were once familiar to them are different now and there are new ways to live. They tend to forget what's important. They are more busy and things change. They don't remember what it means to be faithful.

Theien feels that the ability to decide whether or not to go to church on her own was beneficial. "It made it (going to church) much more personal, not to go to church on her own was beneficial. "It hit me one day that I should go... to church. There was something missing in my life," said Nicolaou.
IS IT DIFFICULT TO REMAIN RELIGIOUS/FAITHFUL WHILE AT COLLEGE?

"It can be harder, especially because kids are thrown into the college scene and it is hard to continue your faith. It's not really that difficult for me because I had my own set beliefs before I came here. Sometimes it can be hard, but overall I am usually pretty good about it."

Mark Hoffmann, sophomore

"It's something I feel obligated to do. I feel like there is a calling for me to go to church. I don't think I have to be religious or if I don't go. I was brought up attending church and continue to maintain those practices."

Adam Williams, freshman

"It's harder in the sense that there is no real community or connection. I'm not used to that. I think that if you surround yourself with positive people with the same morals and beliefs, it's a lot easier. It's been a challenge (to remain religious), but a good challenge. I've grown from it."

Libby Hees, sophomore

"It's not hard to remain religious, but it is hard to find time to go to church because I have a lot of other obligations like studying, clubs and working."

Erin Williams, junior

"We believe in God. But we're not trying to convert other people. I think people figured that out. Now we get letters asking us to give ourselves to Jesus."

Scott Stapp, lead singer of Creed

-as quoted by Rolling Stone

MOST AMERICANS STILL PRAY

Most Americans pray regularly and believe that God answers their appeals — to God when they are alone rather than with others.

- Those aged 18 to 24 were half as likely to have a daily prayer life as middle-aged and older Americans.
- Seventy-one percent believe God "definitely" answers their prayers; for 15% it was "probably," and only 4% think "definitely not."
- Sixty-six percent think that schools should encourage children to pray in the classroom; 3% were undecided, and 31% opposed the idea.

Sources: Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University researchers

DISCUSSING STUDENT SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

"Ron Kreul, Aquinas College Chaplain, offers advice for students about listening to God, facing challenges, and keeping faithful practices."

What, if any, difficulties do students face when trying to be faithful to their religion while at college?

The students would be far better answering this question than I. However, being confronted with many other faiths, religions and beliefs can cause one to easily question one's own religion. Anyone can cause a person to dismiss the validity of what they have believed and practiced because of the illusion of perfection elsewhere.

A difficult undertaking is to examine the limitations/inconsistencies of the new belief as well as that of their own faith/religion.

What advice would you give to students who are having a difficult time maintaining their relationship with God?

First and foremost, ask someone for help, especially those trained to teach the faith. It is helpful and necessary to be part of the community of worship and prayer. This allows for the faith of the community to support you when your faith is wavering or your relationship with God appears to be going downhill. The opposite of this is true as well. When all of a student's peers dismisses faith and the practice of religion, the student may do likewise. Thus friends either encourage or discourage faith or relationship with God not only through words, but by example.

We can also expect to hear basic relationship counseling. All good relationships need time, effort and communication skills — even our relationship with God. It is good to know that God waits for us even when we are not giving our relationship sufficient time and effort.
Tonight: Check out Daddy 0's Punk Festival in Grand Rapids. Bach Thursday: "The Best of Bach" with Bach. For information, call (616) 459-0977.

The performance will mark the close of the Bach section; the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets range from $10-46. For information, call the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra box office.

April 29-May 5

Sunday: Get your tickets for the Grand Rapids Rampage home opener against the Milwaukee Mustangs at the Van Andel Arena. This event begins at 3 p.m. and will be nationally televised on TNT. Tickets available from Ticketmaster.com.

Wednesday: Go see Progressive Wednesday at the Orbit Room. The show features an alternative and electronic music collage night with music spun by DJ Prime Minister. The show starts at 9 p.m. Entry is free before 10 p.m., $1 from 10-11 p.m., $2 from 11 p.m. to midnight, and $3 anytime after midnight. For information, call the Orbit Room at (616) 942-1328.

Thursday: The Mark Kahny Quartet will be performing at The B.O.B. in downtown Grand Rapids from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Keyboardist and vocalist Kahny is promoting his newly-released CD, "The Universe of Two," which features a "mixture of Methany-style jazz, smooth grooves and luxurious ballads." For information, call The B.O.B. at (616) 356-2000.

Thursday: The wildly-popular rock band U2 will be performing at Van Andel Arena in Ohio at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from $94-135. For info, visit ticketmaster.com.

May 6-12

Tuesday: Bon Jovi will be performing at the Van Andel Arena; the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from $95-45. For information, visit ticketmaster.com.

Friday: The long-awaited sequel to the 1999 summer blockbuster "The Mummy" opens today. Check out "The Mummy Returns" with returning stars Brendan Fraser and Rachel " The Mummy Returns" opens today. Check out "The Mummy Returns", with Brendan Fraser and Rachel Scorpion King. Portraying the villain known as the Scorpion King, Fraser portrays the villain known as the Scorpion King. The show starts at 9 p.m. Entry is free before 10 p.m., $1 from 10-11 p.m., $2 from 11 p.m. to midnight, and $3 anytime after midnight.

For more information, visit ticketmaster.com.
**Students share their off-beat “common interests” on Mascot**

by Kary Miller  
Contributing Writer

Dstanced from campus buildings, people can often be seen puffing on cigarettes. Little is it known that many of these smokers are members of an unofficial Aquinas club. The AQ Smokers Club, one of the common interest groups on the Mascot Network, was founded to unite those Saints who frequently light up. The club’s meetings are held randomly—when a member feels like having a cigarette and happens upon fellow AQ Smokers. Despite the club’s lack of structured organization, AQ Smokers manage to have a specific agenda—complaining about the unfairness of campus smoking rules.

Club president, senior Justin Orlik, says that the large group of Aquinas smokers is discriminated against since they must be 100 feet away from the building before lighting up. Orlik formed the group to support those Saints who frequently light up. The club’s meetings are held randomly—when a member feels like having a cigarette and happens upon fellow AQ Smokers. Despite the club’s lack of structured organization, AQ Smokers manage to have a specific agenda—complaining about the unfairness of campus smoking rules.

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Men's golf striving to reach potential
by Brandon Lacie
Sports Editor
The NFL draft has come and gone with few surprises. Tiger Woods, the "Master of Golf," was crowned. The Stanley Cup will be claimed soon, as will the NBA Finals. Baseball is just starting again, which is great, but didn't it just get over a few months ago? As Americans our lives are inundated by these sports on a daily basis. This is itself certainly not bad. It gives us a distinctively American cultural identity and something to do. However, there is a thin line between a sport that isn't as closely associated with the American culture? Maybe we should take a closer look.

Domestically, the United States offers a plethora of energetic new sports. One of these is windsurfing. Windsurfing is a legitimate (and patented) sport that was created in the garage of two southern California guys, a sailor named Jim Drake and a surfer, Hoyle Schweitzer. They combined their two loves to create quite a unique sport. The concept of windsurfing is taking a surfboard and mounting a sail on a universal joint in the center of it. This requires the sailor to support the rig and allows the rig to be tilted in any direction. This tilting of the rig by the sailor allows the board to be steered without the use of a rudder — the only sail craft able to do so.

Windsurfing can get pretty expensive, but street luge is something anyone can enjoy. This popular northern European sport is called a "street luge." At the conclusion of eight ends, the team will be awarded one point for that stone. If the opposing player going for the ball. Both men and women are allowed to check one another. The rules differ slightly between men's and women's games.

If Gaelic football doesn't sound like your cup of tea, perhaps hurling, which is a popular European sport, may sound more appealing. These may sound like sports for drunken weightlifters, but hurling and hurling are currently two of the most popular Northern European sports.

Wangling is a sport in American field hockey in that it is played with a small ball and a curved stick. It is one of Europe's oldest games and has been a distinctly Irish pastime for the last 2,000 years. Hurling is similar to hockey, but a significant difference is that the player is allowed to carry the stick (hurley). Hurling is very valuable in the sport of hurling to be able to carry the ball on the hurley for a long period of time, as that allows the player to get the ball closer to the opponent's goal without having to hit it along the ground. A hurling team is made up of 15 players, as in hockey, hurling players are allowed to check one another.

The hurling game consists of four players who are armed with brushes or brooms; however, unlike hockey, the players don't use them on each other. Each player takes turns hurling the ball at the opposing team's goal. The two of the four players can guide the stone down its path by "swinging" in front of it with their brooms. If the stone is deemed to be out of bounds on a predetermined spot, the team will be awarded one point for that stone. A team then tallies a score for each playing period, which is called an "end." At the conclusion of eight ends, the team with the most points wins.

I've only included a few examples of alternative sports. The world of athletics doesn't stop at the borders of Europe. There are literally hundreds of sports around the world. The question of what a "mainstream" sport would love to see tradition come to mind can be asked. This means that as a lover of sports, it is your job to get out from in front of the television in order to seek out and enjoy them.

"If they play to their capabilities, they can be very competitive."
Tom Gunn, Coach
The loss of Znekyd and Andruz will prompt Gunn to recruit freshmen that he believes will be quick contributors in the fall season. Cavanaugh will also be expected to fill the leadership role.

The Saints golf team off their trend on Egypt Valley on April 9 for the Grand Rapids Community College, which featured four schools: Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids Community College, Calvin College, and Aquinas College. Cornerstone finished in first place with a team score of 317, followed by GRCC with 321. Aquinas finished in third place with 332, and Calvin brought up the rear with 334.

Junior John Cavanaugh's score of 77 was enough to lead the Saints, followed by Peter Znekyd's 83 and senior Jeff Andruz's 86. Aquinas didn't finish much better at the A.C. Eddy Tournament in Angola, Ind. Aquinas finished the match in eighth place out of 11 teams. Andruz and freshman Andy Merzwick tied with 76 to lead Aquinas.

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The loss of Znekyd and Andruz will prompt Gunn to recruit freshmen that he believes will be quick contributors in the fall season. Cavanaugh will also be expected to fill the leadership role.
Freshman infielder Angela Mulray dives for a ball at second base as a Siena Heights runner slides in and is tagged out.

**Softball ranks first in WHAC, No. 25 in NAIA**

by Brandon Lacic

The softball team has been successful so far this year, posting a record of 30-10. The Saints’ record has earned them a No. 25 spot in the NAIA national rankings and the top spot in the WHAC.

According to head coach Ray Sheler a large part of the credit for this success belongs to the senior leadership.

“Our infield and catchers are all seniors, so we have a matured team from that standpoint,” Sheler said. “Our out-ﬁelders are all juniors, so they’ve played together for a few years.”

The Saints softball squad also boasts a potent offense. Senior All-Conference and All-American third baseman Lyndsay Szczepanek also leads the team in homeruns with seven.

Senior Kristen Jones has also contributed a great deal to the success of the team. Jones averages .372 at the plate and leads the team in runs with 36. Freshman Angela Mulray has been a valuable addition to the team, averaging .339 at the plate.

The Saints also draw strength from their pitching staff. Freshman Lenna Tompkins and sophomore Cassi Gragg have proved to be a powerful one-two combination for Aquinas this season. Gragg, currently the starting pitcher, has an ERA of 1.28 and an 18-4 record. Gragg has also pitched 63 strikeouts and has only allowed four homeruns to be hit off of her. Tompkins’ ERA is 2.97; she currently possesses a solid 10-6 record.

Although next year will be a “reloading” season, Sheler is conﬁdent that the team will continue to be strong, citing the impressive play of his young players.

“The freshmen have really stepped it up,” Sheler said. “Katie Breeze was a DH (designated hitter) for a while, Lindsey Schub has played catcher for us and has been a DH. Angela Mulray has been a starter for the entire season. Anna Parker does a real good job at third base.”

The Saint softball team will play at home today against Tri-State at 4 p.m.

**WHAC Attack: Concordia’s Perez breaks 17-game skid with a no-hitter**

by Brandon Lacic

The WHAC baseball and softball seasons are coming down to the wire, and teams are vying for a spot at the top. The WHAC tournament is only 12 days away, with the NAIA Regional tournament close behind on May 11.

**BASEBALL:**

The Indiana Tech Warriors continue to stay on top of the WHAC, posting a 17-4 record in the conference so far this year. Overall, the Warriors are 29-16, with the Aquinas Saints close on their heels with an overall record of 27-9.

Junior outfielder Ronald Peas contributed to Spring Arbor’s week by batting .474 as well as adding three doubles and two homeruns.

Tri-State University is struggling at 20-20, but two players are trying to improve this. Senior pitcher Craig Nevels batted .338, hit two doubles and batted in four RBIs. His teammate, junior infielder Aaron Eberhard, averaged .538, hit two doubles and batted in four RBIs.

The Aquinas Saints produced two notable players this week as well. Senior infielder John Perko contributed to the Saints’ performance on the week with two homeruns and a solid batting average of .444. Perko also hit six RBIs.

Senior catcher John Pike was recognized by the WHAC as an outstanding player.

Other notables from around the WHAC include Siena Heights’ senior outfielder Eric Russell, who hit .438 and had two steals, as well as Madonna’s sophomore outfielder Mark Spence, who batted .556 with two doubles, one homerun and five RBIs.

The WHAC bullpen was active as well. Freshman Tony Perez of Concordia broke the Cardinals’ 17-game losing streak as he pitched a no-hitter to beat Aquinas 1-0. Perez’s no-hitter was also the first in Concordia’s history. Perez currently holds an ERA of 4.50 and a 1-3 record.

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**Tennis:**

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Aquinas men, women repeat as WHAC outdoor track champions

by Brandon Lacic

Sports Editor

The Saints outdoor track teams put forth a solid team effort Saturday as the men's and women's teams took home WHAC championship titles for the second year in a row.

Aquinas boasts some of the NAIA's best talent with athletes such as senior Travis Bailey and sophomore Justin Smith. However, head coach Dave Wood believes that the team's success lies in the collective self-sacrifice of the athletes.

"A lot of the team effort comes from the fact that a lot of people aren't necessarily in their best events, but in events that will help us place higher," Wood said.

On Saturday the men and women's teams utilized their strengths and depth to stylishly defeat their opponents. With a score of 239, the men finished 100 points ahead of second place. The Saints were followed by Tri-State with 139 points and Cornerstone University with 124.

Aquinas sprinters contributed heavily to the Saints overall score. Carver across the line in the 200-meter and took first place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.56 seconds and in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.04 seconds. He also won the 4x100-meter relay.

Sophomore Tyler Yasko and sophomore Jon Yasko finished first and second in the 10,000-meter run, respectively. Senior Stu Wilkerson also took first place in the 1,500-meter run. Junior Shawn Debski took third. Junior Veronica Wojciakowki took second place in the shot put.

The women Saints finished the day in first place, earning 256 points. Crossmen followed with 156 points and Spring Arbor College with 97.

Sophomore Terry Bocian's file cabinet reads "Saints Baseball: We don't build; We reload!" "Even though the team score resembled more of an easy win, we know that the next team is gearing up for the individual races. Cornerstone represents the NAIA National finals. Bocian believes that they have fulfilled the expectations that he has set forth."

"On certain days we've been on our 'A' game and other days we've been disappointed, but I think that our best baseball could be ahead of us," he said.