Aquinas mourns loss of Multicultural Director

by Nathan Peck

On Jan. 26, Aquinas lost a teacher-advisor, colleague, and friend when Stella Ferris passed away after a year-long bout with leukemia. Ferris, an Aquinas alumna, passed away among her family and friends in her home.

Ferris spent 13 years serving the Aquinas community as Multicultural Director, during which time she promoted diversity on campus. In addition to her responsibilities in the Multicultural Office, Ferris was highly involved in service learning programs, which took her to Appledoch, Haiti, and Mexico.

Ferris' contagious personality brought her passion for social justice to the campus community, whether through her involvement in Freshman Orientation, Healing Racism courses, or her work with students.

"Her passion became your passion," Assistant Director of Multicultural Services Stacey Jackson recalled.

Ferris had just filled St. Thomas the Apostle Church Jan. 29 to remember the life and work of Ferris. She was remembered for her friendly, welcoming attitude and her devotion to her students.

"She had no close family, so all of the Aquinas students were her babies," Jackson said.

Perhaps it was Ferris' ability to seek out the "underdog," to stop and take the time to get to know every person, that set her apart in the eyes of the Aquinas community. Through her outreach, Ferris developed her "diamonds in the rough," as she was fond of saying - that is, students whom she felt would not ordinarily become involved in events on campus.

"Stella reached out to people. You didn't need to be Chair of Student Senate, star of the team, or on Dean's List," Admissions Representative and Aquinas alumna Dana Samotis said. "Stella brought people together.

Jackson had an especially close bond with Ferris, through their similar experiences as "milky brats," the children of military personnel, and their time at MC Sports, where both had worked prior to being hired by Aquinas. Ferris was fond of saying - that is, students whom she felt would not ordinarily become involved in events on campus.

"Stella took people out when they didn't want to be sought out. She would take them out when they didn't want to be sought out. She would lower you when you didn't want to be. As a student, I used her services. She was there with me through two kids. She hired me in 1997, because I was organized, the opposite of her," Jackson said.

"Stella was an abundant resource. You would come up with ideas and she was the pitchwoman. She always knew who to call."

"She was always there for anyone. She was truly a gift from God," Public Services Librarian Pam Luebke said.

As for Ferris' legacy, many look to all of the lives she has touched and the friendships that have endured. Yet many of those who knew her best challenge the community to continue the work she began.

"I hope that each one of us keeps her spirit alive by doing simple things: taking a seat in the cafeteria next to someone sitting alone, volunteering for service learning trips, signing up for Healing Racism ( slaves), introducing two strangers, hugging another, and laughing until it hurts, Samotis said.

"Now it is time for us to do something of Stella's deepest passions that is, work toward building a more diverse Aquinas."

Student Activities Director leaves for GRCC, college weighs options in filling vacant position

Creation of new Director of Student Affairs position one of the possibilities being considered by Provost

by Joe Boomgaard

During Christmas break, Eric Mullen, the former director of the Student Activities Office, left his position at Aquinas to pursue similar employment at Grand Rapids Community College.

"It is a great opportunity for me. I just want to push forward and pursue other opportunities at this point," Mullen said of his move to GRCC.

However, before someone is hired to fill the Director of Student Activities position, Aquinas will first conduct a review process.

"The position will be filled after a review of collateral areas in the Student Affairs division," Provost Ed Balog said.

The aforementioned review could last until the end of the semester.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Shannon Besette was named Acting Director, until the college weighs some possibilities being considered.

"The Multicultural Office will be independent of the Student Activities Office," Balog said.

According to some reports, one plan being considered would create a Director of Student Affairs position. The Student Activities Director and the Multicultural Director and possibly some other positions would report to the Director of Student Affairs.

There has also been talk that the Moose Cafe would become independent of the Student Activities Office.

"The Multicultural Office was never lucrative. The past two years were in the red, but this year, after some restructuring and flexibility from the administration, it is starting to show a profit, although some debts still need to be paid off," Mullen said.

"No decision has been made about the specific responsibilities of the position or about any specific candidates," Balog said.

"I am currently in meetings with Stacey Jackson, the Acting Director of the Multicultural Office, and Shannon, regarding the long-range staffing needs of these areas, and hope to deliver a plan to Cabinet very shortly," Winkler said.

Until that decision is made, Besette will remain the Acting Director. However, when a plan is final, Balog said, "anyone from the college will be eligible to apply."

The Student Activities Office sponsors many on-campus activities.

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The Student Activities Office sponsors many on-campus activities.

Besette said that students should not see a decrease in Student Activites-sponsored events while Cabinet makes a decision.

"Eric was always the 'front guy,' but he was always a team effort between the both of us," Besette said.

"The reality of Eric's leaving is that we are just one less person to do the job," Besette said.

"There are still many activities coming up - the Labyrinth Walk and the Dominican Heritage Mass," Clark-Kaiser, director of campus ministry, said. "He was both an intellectual and a mystic."

The weekly Jan. 26 through Feb. 3 featured events that can light upon the life, times, and spirit of St. Thomas Aquinas.

The festivities began with Christian scholar Erik Matthew Jan. 26 in the Wege Ballroom. Campus Ministry distributed birthday cake while the Music Department sang the words of St. Thomas Aquinas Jan. 28. The Aquinas Family Picture, Jan. 29.

Another brought Project PLAY members, who painted "AO SAINTS!" across their chests.

The Dominican Heritage Mass Jan. 31 honored Coordinator of Adult Student Services Pat Kozal, Head of Technical Services Sr. Rose-Marie Martin, and Director of Academic Advising Ceelee Mesler, for 25 years of service to the Aquinas community.


That evening, host families entertained guests of the Medieval Banquet with a Reiters Theater. Clark-Kaiser was happy with the student response.

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NEWS

"The Moose" gives an online voice to Aquinas student body

Check out The Aquinas Times, online on The Moose! http://themoose.aquinas.edu

Jane Goodall returns to speak at Aquinas Feb. 13

Scientist will speak about her work with the environment; plans for a talk on campus last fall were cancelled due to Sept. 11.

by Nathan Peck

News Editor

The second time will hopefully be a charm as the Jane Goodall Idenma Women's Studies Center brings primatologist Jane Goodall to speak on campus Feb. 13.

Goodall's initial appearance, scheduled for Sept. 14, was cancelled when the Federal Aviation Administration ordered all domestic flights grounded following Sept. 11. As Goodall does not drive, she was unable to get out of New York City.

"I am delighted to give her a forum to speak," Women's Studies Center Director Susan Haworth-Hooper said.

Goodall is coming to Kalamazoo for the Roots & Shoots Festival Feb. 12. She will be traveling to Grand Rapids the next day to speak at Aquinas from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom.

In her discussion, "A Reason for Hope: An Afternoon with Jane Goodall," Goodall will be giving an overview of how she became involved with environmental issues and why she is now taking her message to young people.

Goodall is trying to promote awareness of habitat preservation through social action and education facilitated by the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots Program.

Goodall's study of African ecosystems began in 1957, when she traveled to Kenya to study the Olduvai Gorge with Louis Leakey and his wife, Mary Leakey.

Louis Leakey, a paleontologist and anthropologist, hired Goodall after she demonstrated her knowledge of the African continent and its wildlife.

In 1960, Louis Leakey decided that Goodall was the person he wanted to study the wild chimpanzees in Gombe National Park in present-day Tanzania.

Although it took months for the chimpanzees to become accustomed to the intrusion by Goodall, her work would shake what conventional anthropologists believed regarding the exclusive use of tools.

In Gombe, Goodall discovered chimpanzee making and using tools to catch termites. This challenged anthropologists' description of humans as "Man the Toolmaker." Her continued research led to her earning a doctorate from Cambridge University in 1965.

The study of wild chimpanzees in the Gombe National Park is the longest ongoing field study of any animal species in the world.

Goodall is one of many speakers the Jane Idenma Idenma Women's Studies Center is bringing to campus.

See Goodall Page 3
Coffee sessions bring state legislators to Aquinas

by Sandy Hines
Contributing Writer

Free coffee along with a dose of local politics was being served Monday mornings on campus.

The Monday Morning Legislative Coffee series begins Jan. 7 and runs through March 4. The Aquinas Emeritus College is host for the informal sessions in the Lacks Room at the Jarecki Center, from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m.

According to Sister Aquinas Weber, chancellor, the college is extending a service by providing a forum for area citizens to voice concerns and opinions to their legislators.

“It’s an opportunity for people to become acquainted with these elected officials who become more than just a name on a ballot when you go to vote,” said Weber, who was in an interview last week.

St. John’s Ken Sikirma and Glenn Steil, and state Reps. Steve Peska and Jeannie Voorhees are scheduled for the series in the next few weeks.

After being introduced, the legislator gives a 10-minute presentation on his or her current work in Lansing, the committees on which he or she serves, and/or his or her position on current legislation. At the conclusion of the remarks, the floor is open to questions or comments from the audience.

The college has sponsored the series for 20 years.

Sister Weber revealed that there have been humorous, heated, and touching moments during the sessions. One of the sessions that stands out in her recollections was the Monday morning after war was declared in the Persian Gulf. Congressman Paul Henry was the speaker.

“He told us how agonizing a moment that was when he had to vote in Congress on it,” Weber said.

Legislators are in their home districts on Mondays and the sessions are held in noon in the morning for the convenience of retired citizens connected to the Emeritus College who may find it difficult to travel in the evening.

Although the time for the sessions may be inconvenient for students, who are usually in class, they are encouraged to attend.

“We’d welcome that. Anybody can come,” Weber said.

“It doesn’t cost anybody anything to come. It provides an excellent lesson in political science.”

Circle Theatre in final stages of development, groundbreaking

by Nathan Peck
News Editor

Aquinas and Circle Theatre are finalizing the endowments that will fund the construction and operation of a theater to be built at Aquinas. The three-year partnership between the two institutions will afford Aquinas students many opportunities to be involved in the theater when it is completed in May 2003, according to Joe Dulin, managing director of Circle Theatre.

“The endowment is in place. The building endowment takes care of part of the operations,” Dulin said. “We are meeting to find a date for groundbreaking.”

The groundbreaking had been postponed while donors were solicited to raise the additional $2.5 million required for the building to proceed. Fundraising had been difficult until late in December, when donors stepped forward to provide the remaining funds.

“Af ter Sept. 11, everything stopped for two months,” said Aquinas Director of Special Gifts Kathy Fire. “Then, for whatever reason, everyone got fired up.”

“The ‘We’re Saving a Seat for You’ campaign, in which donors each contribute $1,000 for a plaque that will be inlaid on each seat’s arm and that will commemorate their donation, will go toward purchasing equipment and funding operations of the theater, according to Dulin.

The chair campaign for the theater has had an unforeseen effect in the eyes of Fore. “We have formed strong relationships with individuals in the Catholic community. Many of the people buying learning seats are first-time donors who have never given to Aquinas or Circle before. The first step [toward future giving] is bringing them on campus.”

The finalization of the fundraising could not come sooner for students involved in theater at Aquinas. For the last four years, students in the student theater group Aquinas College Thespians (ACT) used the Wege Ballroom to stage plays. This setting was less than ideal, freshman Erin Brierty, who participated in ACT’s Fall 2001 production of “The Diary of Anne Frank,” said.

“The fact that we didn’t have a backstage meant we had to move set pieces from one side to the other. Lighting was a problem; we had to set up light trees [for Fore].”

“Lack of space is a big problem,” Brierty continued. “That’s a tiny, tiny stage (in Wege Ballroom). We were limited in what plays we could put on in there.”

Dulin envisions students reaping benefits that go beyond the physical theater. “We are working with the Program Committee and the School of Education so teachers can work with our staff and performers to incorporate them into the classroom,” Dulin said.

Aquinas’ partnership with Circle Theatre began six years ago when Circle Theatre’s Board determined a new space was needed for its theater. Meetings began in 1997 between the two institutions’ Boards to determine what the partnership would be.

“The greatest obstacle initially was trying to have a meeting of the minds with a faith-based school and a secular theater,” Fore said.

“We told Aquinas that it would be practical for us to share not only the physical space, but also the resources. Aquinas will have access to resources to start running the theater. The building will be owned by Aquinas and leased to Circle Theatre for our performance.”

“We had an opportunity to do bigger and better shows,” Brierty said.

“The President, community members, and the Board of Trustees are creating a vision for the future of Aquinas. That vision includes Circle Theatre.”

“Cautiously, I’d say that I’m very, very excited,” Fore said.

continued from page 2

Classified Ads

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A most perilous game

On Dec. 13, President George W. Bush notified Russian President Vladimir Putin that the United States intended to pull out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. The treaty barred either nation from developing anti-ballistic missiles that destroy incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

What will be the implications of this decision on U.S./Russian relations? Two Times writers weigh the positive and negative impact Bush’s actions may have.

Yes. The ABM Defense Shield would provide the United States with an effective defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) from “rogue states” such as North Korea, Iran, and Iraq. While previous missile defense tests have had limited success, a Navy test successfully struck a target missile Jan. 26. Additionally, technological advances have dramatically increased the accuracy of “kill vehicles,” the payloads designed to destroy incoming missiles. The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization reports that in 1962, a Nike Zeus interceptor came within two kilometers of the target ICBM. These kill vehicles would have been armed with nuclear weapons. By 1999, interceptor accuracy was deemed to be within centimeters of the target. Whereas in the 1960s, kill vehicles contained nuclear warheads meant to destroy their targets, today’s kill vehicles are “hit to kill,” in that the incoming missile is destroyed by the impact of the interceptor. With the recent successful interceptor tests, the ABM Defense Shield will be an effective addition to the defense of the United States.

No. Past planned intercept tests of missile defense systems have yielded inconclusive evidence of the defense system’s efficacy. In 2001, then-President Clinton refused to authorize the deployment of a national missile defense system because of that very reason. Clinton said that he lacked “enough confidence in the technology” to proceed with the project. In little over a year since that decision, technological improvements for such an undertaking have yet to be announced. Besides, the anti-ballistic missile project does not take into account other, less conspicuous, threats, such as submarine attack or chemical warfare, that seem more plausible than a full-out foreign missile attack. Why, then, should the government dump billions of dollars into a plan that has not produced satisfactory results in controlled tests? If the technology were such that the missile shield could properly protect the United States from attack, then the program would warrant further investigation. In its current form, however, the government would do better by spending our money elsewhere.

Yes. As Michigan Sen. Carl Levin said, “Unilateral withdrawal will likely lead to an action-reaction cycle in offensive and defensive technologies, including countermea­ sures. That kind of arms race would not make us more secure.” Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced Bush’s decision as a “mistake.” In addition, many allies and other nations like China have expressed concern with the move. By backing out of the treaty, the United States has weakened relations with other countries at a time when the United States needs strong relations. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle said that he was concerned that pulling out of the treaty could “rupture relations with key countries around the world.” To continue in the War on Terrorism, the United States needs the cooperation of all the world’s powers. Reneging from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty would strain these relations with other countries at a time when they are the most crucial.

Is a missile shield program necessary, especially in light of the recent terrorist attacks?

Yes. Terrorism is just one of the many threats to our national security. Unfortunately, our nation’s leaders did not heed the warnings of our defense analysts when they named terror a major threat to our national security. Why then, should we stand idle while the number of members of the “nuclear club” increases? We know that rogue nations such as Iran and North Korea have pursued nuclear weapons programs with the intent of affixing these to ballistic missiles. Our intelligence is severely lacking in this department. A statement by National Intelligence Council (NIC) Vice Chairman John E. McLaughlin to the Senate Select Subcommittee on Intelligence in 1996 estimated that “we have no evidence that Pyongyang has begun or intends to begin a [ICBM] program.” The NIC estimated that there was no immediate threat of ICBMs before 2010. Yet, by August 1998, North Korea had already flight-tested the Taepo Dong-1 medium range ballistic missile in a provocative flight over the Japanese archipelago. We must remain prepared to defend ourselves against all threats, not just those that dominate the attention of the 24-hour news channels.

No. Not that rogue nations could not develop intercontinental ballistic missiles, but the threat of such nations developing ICBM technology is exaggerated. A missile shield, by design, would target a large-scale missile attack on the United States, something that a band of terrorists would not conceivably have the ability to assemble. Because of their nature, groups like al Qaeda could never mount a broad missile attack on the US. The project may not even protect the nation from obvious threats. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joe Biden called Bush’s policies “out of whack.” According to Biden, “September 11 indicated that our country is vulnerable. The thing we remain least vulnerable from is an intercontinental ballistic missile attack from another nation.” Perhaps individual terrorists with weapons of mass destruction should be the focus of national security rather than ICBMs. The government should take more measures to protect the nation from threats that are controllable, such as conducting better checks on international visitors and helping cities to develop security plans in the case of massive weapon or chemical attack.
Survival of the stupidest

“Reality-based” game shows provide a voyeuristic thrill. But their success has influenced the way TV Land thinks about its key demographic: young adults like you and me.

The big deal is that, translated, Zucker’s comments indicate that he thinks young adults are Neanderthals who don’t have the attention span to sort through the big words thrown around in NBC’s “reality-based” medical drama. He believes our minds are so shot by rapid-fire sound bites that we can’t even be bothered to straighten the intricacies of Ross and Rachel’s under-the-sheets action as “Friends” and the out-of-wedlock child it’s produced.

And who can blame him for thinking that way when shows like “Fox’s ‘24’” and ABC’s “Alias,” programs with fleshed-out characters, intricate plots, and finely-crafted suspense, fail — among the same audience? Not only in our reputation as persons capable of independent thought destroyed by our television viewing habits, the success of this small screen tripe means that we will be subjected to even more shows in which people clamor, doesn’t bode well for whatever bit of fish is dangled in front of their faces.

And trip it is. “The Chamber” forced competitors to sit in their shivvies in, well, a chamber, where the temperature dropped to either ten degrees below zero or swelled to 150 degrees above. They attempted to answer questions while having their attention distracted by blasts of cold air, soaring licks of flame, and a general atmosphere of physical torture. Contestants on “The Chair” are rewarded for getting out correct answers and for not having a heart attack. Literally. Anytime a contestant’s heart rate goes above a certain level, he or she must stop answering questions (read: start losing money) until the rate returns to a normal level.

Random fireworks and searing flames like a human version of Grandma’s Christmas goose. Still another chaser in sub-zero chill, sprays of ice-cold water hitting his frostbitten face. Scenes from the days of Biblical plague? Types of medical torture?

And the enthusiasm with which young adults have tuned in says some disturbing things to producers about what members of our generation really want in entertainment.

“The Chair” (ABC) and “The Chamber” (FOX) were the latest additions to a genre of “reality-based” game shows that NBC’s “Fear Factor” and CBS’s “Survivor” are forerunners.

These shows make their contestants perform all sorts of demeaning, even dangerous, stunts and dare them to stay with it, in pursuit of cash and prizes.

The quest for material gain has become so pervasive that people are willing to risk life, limb, and dignity on national television for the chance of getting hurt.

But the thing that is downright frightening is that young adults are responding.

The number of viewers who checked out the first few episodes of “The Chair” and “The Chamber” hit about 12 million and 10 million, respectively.

Most of those were 18- to 34-year-olds, who have become the target audience for this insanity. “This group has grown up with MTV and ESPN and the X Games. They are not as interested in watching ‘ER’ or traditional sitcoms,” NBC President of Entertainment Jeffrey Zucker said in an Entertainment Weekly article.

“So what?” you might ask. These game shows are entertainment. They provide a few insane thrills, an hour-long chance to become a voyeur in the lives of people who, admittedly, subject themselves to humiliation on their own free will.

They’re jumped from one racing speedboat to another. They’re even munchen on bull testicles. Previous generations had “Masterpiece Theater.” We have burns, bugs, and bovine genitalia. When will it end? “These shows will continue as long as the networks make money off of them,” says Chairperson of Sociology Michael Coutly. “They’ll ride that horse until it dies.”

So let’s bring on the glas factory. The Aquinas Times editorial staff is not to one to start canting stones at its peers, especially when members can count themselves among the worst offenders.

But it’s time to prove that young adults are not the mind-numbed beings Zucker makes us out to be. And if we are, it’s time to change.

How? By switching the channel whenever one of these shows comes on.

Avoiding them tells Studio City bigwigs that when it comes to entertainment, we demand more than mindless stats and humbug.

If we dial the remote to a drama that actually requires concentration — “Law and Order,” “The West Wing” — or to a sitcom with sophisticated jokes — “Frasier,” “Will and Grace” — maybe we’ll get more of those quality shows and raise television producers’ estimations of our intellectual capacities a few notches.

It comes down to this: they can broadcast it, but we won’t watch it. And if we don’t watch it, well, then, they won’t broaden it.

It’s already happened. FOX pulled “The Chamber” from their air after second episode ratings dropped to just slightly more than half of that five-episode ten million.

But don’t get too excited. The network isn’t ready to give up. To get attention, they’ve even tried with half of that five-episode ten million.

And you can Quote me on that

Would you ever go on a reality-based show? Why or why not?

“No, I would not be on a reality television show. I wouldn’t want people to judge me for what they saw on TV. Also, I believe that on reality shows, the producers tend to edit things so it looks like there is conflict. The viewers see only what is on TV and not both sides of the story.”

Maura Tardiff, freshman

“Letters to the Editor” are accepted Thursdays by “Editor.” We want to hear what you have to say about anything and everything. Send your stuff to The Aquinas Times, 1607 Robinson Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Please sign your name. If not included a phone number or extension where you can be reached. Printed submissions will be paid. Question? Give us a call at 616-459-8281, ext. 4106.

No, because I make a big enough fool of myself in front of my friends. I don’t need to do it in front of a national audience.”

Emily Dowser, junior

“No, I prefer to keep my life private. I think I would feel self-conscious knowing that people would see what I was doing.”

Katherine Kwiatkowski, sophomore

“T WAS the times

And you can Quote me on that

Would you ever go on a reality-based show? Why or why not?

“No, I wouldn’t participate because most of them require the participants to be isolated from their families, and that would be too difficult for me.”

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The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 21 years to produce an informative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Our goal is to continue to provide a forum for the ideas, views and concerns of the Aquinas community.

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The college environment affords many opportunities for separation from significant others. In the spirit of Valentine’s Day, read on to learn how three Aquinas students deal with the strain of being apart from their sweeties. Then, take a glance at the right for an alternative take on the nation’s most notorious “Hallmark Holiday.”

by Tonya Schafer

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder.”

To some, it is a trite proverb about departed love. To Eric Johnson, it is a saying that rings true.

Johnson spent last semester in Spain with the Aquinas Study Abroad program. He packed up his books, his belongings, and jetted away from junior Andrea Prisby, his girlfriend of seven months, to live on his own in one of the world’s most romantic countries.

He came back in December and spent a few weeks reconnecting. Then Prisby left for Ireland in January. She will be there with the Aquinas program until May, and the separation is killing him.

“I’m sick of writing in my emails, ‘I miss you,’” Johnson, a junior, says with a laugh and a groan. “Some days I just need a hug or to have her look in my eyes and say that everything’s going to be all right. All that is lost over the phone.”

Nowhere but in college do opportunities for both love and separation abound. Whether born in a classroom, a high school, or an off-campus kegger, the feelings of affection one experiences for a significant other somehow seem more potent in the independence of a university setting.

School dances and Friday night dates at the local Cineplex are no longer enough. College students realize that their relationships are heading toward levels of ever-greater commitment, perhaps for a lifetime.

Thus, when their boyfriends and girlfriends hail from different states, are planning jaunts overseas, or even are just stuck at home finishing their last few years of high school, students often find it necessary to make momentous decisions – and plenty of sacrifices – to keep their relationships intact in the face of physical separation.

Sacrifices not the least of which are money. Johnson says that both he and Prisby spent $400 or $500 keeping in touch by telephone last semester. He expects to spend about the same amount this semester. Internet connections, postage...it all adds up.

Airfare is the worst. Prisby had been saving for Ireland last semester and did not have cash for the ride over. “I felt like if we were going to make it, I had to see her while I was over there,” Johnson says. So he bought a ticket for her. He says he scraped the bottom of the barrel, money-wise, but in the end it was worth it.

“The minute I saw her touch down [in Spain], the first thing I thought was, ‘I have never seen her looking so beautiful,’” Johnson remembers. “I jumped over the railing and tackled her.”

Freshman Chase Osborn and senior Mandy Schneider have felt the money crunch in their long-distance relationships as well, but not as acutely as Johnson has. They are bridging distances of a few hundred, not a few thousand, miles.

Osborn’s girlfriend, Jennifer Fer, is finishing her high school senior year in Alpena. Schneider’s fiancé, Aquinas alumnus Mark Pittman, lives and works in Detroit. They both say they keep communication costs down by purchasing 1,000-minute phone cards from Sam’s Club. “It works out to about three cents a minute,” Osborn says.

Schneider and Osborn admit that the hardest part about being away from their significant others is that they have had to give up on lots of “together time,” missing out on holidays, birthdays, and other major events to pursue their degrees in a different city.
It often leads to feelings of separation, both from their friends who have boyfriends and girlfriends close at hand, and from their own boyfriends and girlfriends who are not around to share in day-to-day experiences. "At first, some of my friends would complain that their boyfriends were going away for the weekend, and I would be like, 'Shut up. I don't want to hear it,'" Schneider says, laughing. "This is the first time I've been at Aquinas without him. It's hard to be somewhere where you've had certain people around, and then they leave."

"It's like I have two lives: my Aquinas life and my home life," Osborn, who has attended major events, like the Homecoming dance, but who cannot make it because she can't hang out with her friends who have boyfriends and girlfriends who are not around to share in day-to-day experiences. "I know we're going to make it. It's been lots of hard work, but it's so worth it. Now his heart grow fonder.

Johnson agrees. "I can't explain it, but no one else has done it for me until now," he says. "There's just something about Andrea and the way she makes me feel."

Osborn says that when it comes to keeping his long-distance relationship together, patience has been key. "We both have to accept that we have our separate little lives right now," he says. But he is looking forward to the time when he will be home for spring break and can spend more time with her. During the summer, they will spend lots of time on the water.

Next school year, Jennifer Johnson will be heading off to college herself, and Osborn says their separation problems may be over. She is thinking of attending Grand Valley State University in Allendale, a 20-minute drive from Aquinas.

Schneider and Pittman have been spending their time together visiting brutal fires and planning their wedding, which will be next January. She says honesty and open communication is the most essential thing in maintaining a long-distance relationship.

"If one person isn't into the distance thing, it's not going to work," she says. "Both people have to have a sense of commitment."

Johnson says that's a given in his relationship. He is counting the minutes until Prisby arrives back in the United States. They normally live two hours away, but Johnson is thinking about staying in Grand Rapids over the summer to spend more time with her.

Even if that does not pan out, Johnson insists that having Prisby on the same continent will be more than enough for him. It has taken him until college to find the "right girl," he says, and in his case, being away from her truly has made his heart grow fonder.

"It's accelerated our relationship, instead of hindered it," Johnson says. "It's been lots of hard work, but it's worth it. Now I know we're going to make it. There's no doubt like there was before."

"Mark is my best friend," she says. "We've committed ourselves to each other, so putting up with distance is nothing."

Sadistic Sucrose

by Rhiannon Kritzman

Business Manager

Sadistic Sucrose

It starts two days after Christmas. Garland are taken down, mistletoe is put away, Baby Jesus and His family are put in boxes only to be taken out again next Christmas season. The bright lights and Christmas bells are taken away and replaced by something that for a lot of us, embodies all that is wrong in our relationships with other people. Yes, you guessed right. Holly Berry and evergreen are replaced by pink, red, and white, chocolate and flowers. That ominous holiday, Valentine's Day.

For some, Valentine's Day represents nothing more than an insulin-injected Hallmark holiday placed smack dab in the middle of the winter season to make us singles feel out of place. Sadistic, almost, how we must watch all the happy people frolic among the holly and hays. We are estranged from the magical land of happy couples, making our Feb. 14 into something that feels more like "Singles Awareness Day."

Even when in a relationship, the folly that is Valentine's Day can prove to be anti-climactic. Consumerism brings forth a frantic sort of anticipation, and the more that is built up, the easier it is to be broken down. So what can we do as victims of St. Valentine's? Plenty.

For those of you who do have someone special in your life, take a moment to collect yourselves amidst the flurry of roses and chocolates. If you truly love the person whom you are willing to put on a pedestal for one day, then you should be willing to put him or her on a pedestal EVERY day. Love doesn't need just one day to express how you truly feel. Avoid the expectation by making sure the other person knows how you feel all the time, not just on Feb. 14.

Along the same lines, for those of us who don't fall into the category of "taken," use that one day out of the year to tell your friends and family how much they mean to you. Granted, you don't have to wait and say "Happy" once a year, but take advantage of the hype and choose it up! Remember those silly valentines you got in grade school? Buy some, and give them to all your friends. For those of us who have to watch the endless stream of roses, cards, chocolates, and "I love you's," a Scooby Doo or Winnie the Pooh valentine can really brighten the day.

To avoid the cliché that is Valentine's Day, try something different, and this applies to everyone. If attached, ditch the romantic dinner and movie and try something like roller skating while holding hands, or watching the sunset at the beach. Familiarly breeds contempt, so if you plan something that is not expected, the feelings of anti-climacticism can be easily avoided. Single? Give your day of denial a-furntane. Last year, for me it was Black Wednesday, which also meant dressing up in all black clothes and visiting Victoria's Secret to give thanks that my friends and I didn't have to worry about looking outstandingly beautiful for one night out of the year. Of course, this doesn't apply to everyone, but that is where your creativity can come into play. Movie marathons with the girls, painting with the boys, whatever.

After having several years of bad Valentine's Days in a row, an old friend of mine and I decided that we were going to change that. Boyfriend and not. No one has power over you, and before your date, you have to take charge of your feelings and have fun on Valentine's Day, single or not.

The bottom line? Have fun. Make the day into what you want it to be, and you won't be disappointed. What am I saying, you may ask? I am putting my cynicism aside this Black Thursday and letting Winnie the Pooh do the talking.
A change of guard...

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz

Entertainment Editor

"Hi, I'm Elizabeth, and I have a problem. I buy too much music." Hmm...well if there were such a group (Music Addicts Anonymous?), and such introductions were to be made, I would most definitely have to be an involved member. But instead, the lovely people at The Aquinas Times have decided to embrace said issue and have let me be in charge of the Entertainment section. Yay!

So, with me, I bring a perhaps-disgusting interest in and wealth of knowledge of music, films, literature— you know, all the stuff we'd rather be doing than going to school. I guess it's only fair that I admit up front I have a bias towards what I like and what I really don't like. But I promise to do my best to provide fair and broad coverage of what I think you should like and do for fun and entertainment.

For instance, in this week's issue, we have a wonderful article detailing the brilliance of JJ72. I know this band personally—well, not really, I met them just once—and I can verify that they are, in fact, excellent and that you should buy their album and fall madly in love with the lead singer—er, I mean their music. Right.

I happen to believe that there are a number of other bands that also deserve more recognition than our current music situation allows.

Not that I'm going to debate about whether or not pop is good music, or about the validity of Nu-metal, or the importance of bubblegum pop must diversify our sound.

Many new and excellent songs are being released on the airwaves. But there are so many, and it's nearly impossible for lesser-known and 'non-mainstream' artists to break through.

And if anyone knows what song I'm referring to in the last sentence, you can be sure that I'm not referring to a top ten hit. What I really mean is, I've got sunshine in a bag, I'm useless, but not for long, the brilliance of JJ72.

Yet who are these magical, mystical, two-dimensional characters, and why should you bother caring that they will soon be performing live in a town near you? Nothing to fear, that's what I'm here to explain.

The Gorillaz consist of four very special, and unique performers: Murdoc, 2D, Russel, and Noodle. Together, they create songs that are just a bit different to categorize, combining hip-hop, rap, dance, pop, guitars, samples, and much more.

You're more than likely familiar with the song "Clint Eastwood," which combined rapped verses with a sung chorine you knew, I've got sunshine in a bag, I'm useless, but not for long, the future is coming on..." and has received a great amount of both television and radio airplay since being released here in May.

The video even made the number-one spot on MTV2 for 2001, and it was featured at number nine on Total Request Live.

That the band's music is something new and not easy to define is evident in examining the slew of awards it has been nominated for and won in the last 10 months since the album was released in the UK; it has been nominated for 55 awards, winning 22 so far, with 16 left to be announced.

These include a Grammy nom and six Brit award possibilities in such varied areas as "Best British Group," "Best Video," "Best British Touring Band," "Best Dance Act," "Best Album," the "Clint Eastwood" award, and "Best Dance Act." The self-titled album was released in the United States June 19, and has since gone platinum, selling more than 1.3 million copies. A small tour of the States was planned in the fall of 2001, but was cancelled because the album was selling much better than the group imagined.

And I think it is still being played far too frequently. There is no excuse really for a song over one year old to receive constant airplay and attention when there are so many new and excellent songs being released every week.

But these are passed over because there is no room in mainstream music for diversity of sound.

There is no reason why only hip-hop, Nu-metal, and bubblegum pop must dominate everything musically. Yes, everything's dictated by money, but it really shouldn't be.

Perhaps I'm too idealistic (or just biased towards my own musical preferences), but I'd like to think that in this design for music, there's room for everyone's likes to be recognized as they deserve to be.

And if anyone knows what song I'm referencing in that last sentence, you can be my best friend for life.

The Gorillaz may be America's most famous virtual hip-hop band, but there are some very big names behind their cartoon faces. From left, Noodle, Russel, Murdoc, and (foreground) 2D, rely on music talents like Colin Mee's Mike Hater, Blue's Demon Album, Dan "The Automator" Nakamura, and Del the Funkee Homosapien.

"I think ultimately the goal is to make [the show] so intense that people want to vomit when they come out."—Gorillaz spokesperson

"I think ultimately the goal is to make [the show] so intense that people want to vomit when they come out."—Gorillaz spokesperson

The Gorillaz hit the Wendy City with a revamped live show that is "like no other show out there.”

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz

Entertainment Editor

Aside from the extraordinary talents that are Destiny's Child, the Backstreet Boys, and Sum 41 on the latest and greatest of music compilation CDs, NOW That's What I Call Music 8, is a little song called "Clint Eastwood" by a musical group of cartoon members known as the Gorillaz.

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Vertigo Music: What “mainstream culture is not”

by Gabrielle Kiechel
Contributing Writer

Picture this: A frustrated music fan is looking for a 12-inch vinyl pressing of the latest album by his favorite band. To acquire such an item, he heads to the megastore-of-the-moment. Upon arrival, the fan discovers that the megastore does not carry vinyl. Even worse, the teen-aged salesperson has never even heard of this music fan’s favorite band. What’s a frustrated fan to do?

Simple. Head to his or her local independent music store. In Grand Rapids’ case, that would be Vertigo Music.

Here, amidst giant posters of The Cure and Radiohead, any frustrated music fan can be sure to find that sought-after 12-inch and much more, including the knowledge of store manager Herm Baker.

Baker, a 15-year veteran of the independent music store business and former owner of Vinyl Solution, says the reason he’s in this business is to cater to the needs of people. Specifically, people who “are everything that mainstream culture is not.”

“Some of my customers may have musical tastes that vary from my own,” he says, passing briefly to answer a customer’s question: “Yet they watch interesting films, eat interesting food, read good books. I enjoy interaction with like-minded people.”

Baker explains that most of Vertigo’s customers are college-aged people who have a diverse interest in music.

He says that some people—a core percentage—will always be disassociated with the current trends in music, hence the need for independent music stores.

“That core percentage,” he elaborates, “are our customers. They are looking for the truth in music, a richness, something life-affirming.”

Baker can provide what they are looking for.

His priority is getting to know all of his customers on a first-name basis and learning what type of music they prefer. He then is able to suggest other artists or musical groups that a customer could potentially enjoy. And if there is something that a customer is seeking that Vertigo does not carry, his staff will special order it.

That said, Baker is not driven by the number of units the store is selling. New releases by Britney Spears or the flavor-of-the-week pop sensation are not flying off the shelves at this store, nor is Baker encouraging it.

“He’s driven by something much more basic: a passion for music,” he says. “He says that what separates Vertigo—which has been in operation nearly two years—from the current trend of supersized music stores and galleries in Brussels and London is “The Art of French Cooking” lessons with professional chefs who can teach visitors to prepare trendy and delicious French recipes.

Also offered are tours of the exhibit in French, and a session with Professor of Art Steve Schousen as he sketches and comments about the exhibition.

A Sculptural Illustration of Dante’s Inferno, the divine comedy after which some of Rodin’s sculptures are modeled, helps viewers to better understand the inspiration Rodin got from Dante’s writings.

Vertigo is located at 71 S. Division Ave. in downtown Grand Rapids. Store hours are Mon. through Fri. noon to 9:00 p.m.; Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Sun. noon to 6:00 p.m. Call 742-5106 for more information.
**Entertainment**

**Band Review**

**JJ72**

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz  
Entertainment Editor

There's this "Simpson's" episode in which Homer becomes a food critic for the Springfield newspaper. He wants to put into words the deliciousness of the food he has eaten, to find the written equivalent of that drooling, guttural noise only he can make. The phrase he suggests: "goin'-grubbiestingly transcendent."

I must confess that's really the only proper way to describe the yumminess that is Brandywine's breakfast menu.

One recent Sunday morning, I visited the Eastown location so that I might satiate myself with really good food. Even though Wege is a gourmet dining establishment in and of itself, sometimes a person just has to find something new to eat.

And for those days, I highly recommend you check out Brandywine.

One breakfast item that is unique to Brandywine is the Sweet Potato Pancake. I was hesitant to try it, since I happen to really dislike sweet potatoes, but the waitress (who was absolutely wonderful, each time I've been there I've received excellent service) assured me the specialty was worth the risk.

And boy, was she right! I ordered a single pancake (all you'll need because the portion sizes are huge), and at only $2.25 a cake, anyone can afford to eat there, and it was excellent. As suggested by our waitress, I put sour cream and brown sugar on top — you might not think that would taste good, but, oh, it does. The overall effect is very close to a doughnut. Yummmm.

I also ordered the Cherry Valley Quiche. This quiche is made with basil, tomatoes, and Romano cheese, and served with fresh fruit. It was heavenly. I tried a bit of the Potato Scramble as well (American fries with tomatoes, green peppers, onions, mushrooms, co-jack cheese, and two eggs, any style), and that, too, was yum-tastic.

There are many other dishes that sound incredibly appetizing. You can build your own omelet if you like, or have one of their suggestions. There are breakfast enchiladas and burritos available, too. The best part? At the Eastown location, breakfast is served all day.

There can be some problems with seating. It's a seat-yourself basis, first come, first serve. I recommend you talk to the other people waiting to find out how many people are in each party, otherwise you might end up losing a table just because you wanted too long to claim it. I also suggest that if you're going for Sunday brunch, don't get stuck in the 11:30 - 1:30 after-church rush — though the food will undoubtedly make up for any wait.

**Restaurant Review**

**Brandywine Restaurant**

Check out Brandywine Restaurant, located in Eastown at 1345 Lake Dr. SE.

**Entertainment Editor**

**Contributing Writer**

**Elizabeth Wagenschutz**

**February 6, 2002**

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**Restaurant Review**

**Brandywine Restaurant**

by Jessica Vogt

Hailing from Dublin, Ireland, JJ72 is one of these bands. Many critics are not necessarily avant-garde and most definitely not trendy. The trio, comprised of vocalist/guitarist Mark Greaney, bassist Hilary Woods, and drummer Fergal Matthews, formed in 1998 when the members were 18 years old.


JJ72's unique sound comes mainly from the vocals of Greaney, vocals that range from choirboy falsetto to screeching howl. Influences like Joy Division, Nirvana, and the Smashing Pumpkins are also apparent in the angst-fueled lyrics. Band members are not necessarily pierced of vocalist/guitarist Mark Greaney, bassist Hilary Woods, and drummer Fergal Matthews, formed in 1998 when the members were 18 years old.


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Hanssen threw the weight 46 feet at the Findlay Invitational in Ohio Jan. 25 - 26. This throws right stands right now as the best throw in the conference. Hanssen is a sophomore who hails from Manistee.

SPORTS

Defending Indoor titles on the line

by Tonya Schaefer

Defending Indoor titles on the line

by Tonya Schaefer

Sports Calendar

Men's Basketball

Triton @ the Fieldhouse, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
@ Indiana Tech, Feb. 9, 5 p.m.
@ Spring Arbor, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Seneca Heights @ the Fieldhouse, Feb. 18, 3:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball

@ Indiana Tech, Feb. 5, 5:00 p.m.
@ Spring Arbor, Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.
Seneca Heights @ the Fieldhouse, Feb. 18, 1:00 p.m.

Indoor Track

@ GVSU, Feb. 8, 4:00 p.m.
@ Aquinas Indoor Championships, @ Ann Arbor, Feb. 15, 5:00 p.m.

COURT

Prime Time

ATH. AQ DEPT.

PLAYERS

TJ Shimek

At the Robert Eubanks Classic, Shimek threw the weight 50'1", the fourth best in AQ history. At the Findlay Invitational, he threw the shot 46'-4", the fourth best in AQ history. Shimek is a sophomore from Empire.

Sports Editor

Gabe Gagnon

What has our world come to? A man kills another man because their two sons were fighting in a youth hockey scrimmage. That just isn't right. When did parental evidence at children's sporting events become an issue? Or maybe a better question, why is it an issue?

I've been playing organized sports since I was seven years old. I've pretty much played it all when it comes to loud and obnoxious parents. I've seen parents so upset at a call in my pee-wee baseball league that my umpire left in the middle of a game. I've seen parents throw out of games on account of their words. But do parents really need to bring physical actions to their kids' games?

In case you haven't heard of Thomas Junta, let me bring you up to speed. Junta, a 44-year-old, 6'7, 270-pound truck driver, was at his son's hockey scrimmage in Reading, Mass. on July 5, 2000. Junta's son and Michael Costin, Jr. were engaged in altercations during the scrimmage. Following the scrimmage, Junta and Michael Costin, Sr. got into a verbal argument about their sons' actions. After leaving the arena and coming back, Junta met with Costin, 40 years old, 6', 154 pounds, again. Costin threw a punch at Junta. Junta claims his retaliation was in self-defense, but Junta then proceeded to hit Costin as many as five more times, putting him into a coma that lasted for a few days. Costin passed away in a hospital in Lynnfield.

Hold on, back the wagon up. Why was Junta angry at Costin for his son's violation of the rules? Because his own control that their parents were angry, shouldn't they be angry with their kids, not with the parents?

I know if I ever got into a fight with another player, I would not be going out to practice. First, my coach would pull me out of the game. Maybe I'm different, but my coaches never put up with taunting or unsportsmanlike attitudes during games. If a player acted like that, he sat. Bottom line. I knew tons of guys whose best friend during the game was the referee.

And after my coach would tear me a new one, my dad would be home waiting to sink his teeth in. I know exactly what he'd say. He'd say it to me before. "What were you thinking? Is that how the game is supposed to be played?" And my favorite. "Did I raise you that way?"

I wonder what Junta said to his son after that game? Maybe, "Next time pick a fight with someone whose dad is not at the game."

This isn't a rarity among youth sports anymore. In USA Today, Jan. 14, three instances were cited. In February 2001, in Fayetteville, Ga., a youth basketball coach received 17 stitches in his arm after he was stabbed by a referee — who was a minister.

In July, one parent and two coaches in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., were banned for life from a soccer league after a post-match melee that involved about 30 adults. The brawl led to three arrests, at least one bite, and a host of other injuries.

But is my favorite... A Las Vegas father was sentenced to six months of house arrest after taunting a youth football team's water with a nausea-inducing chemical to get back at his son's team's latest defeat.

I have the ultimate solution for the parental problems at youth sporting events. It's called thinking! You do it before you say or do anything. It may be a new concept to some parents, but it's a difficult lesson to learn. It's a way to succeed.
Lady Saints lose lead to Cornerstone

by Shaun Markwart

Aquinas took the momentum from a road victory over Sierra Heights into a WHAC confrontation with cross-town rival Cornerstone Jan. 29.

The Lady Saints came out of the gate firing, as senior Mary Bond picked up seven points in the opening two and a half minutes. Cornerstone eventually stemmed the tide, thanks to lethal three-point shooting by Amy Popielarz, who was five for eight from behind the arc for the game.

However, Aquinas would take control of the first half due in part to contributions off the bench. Freshman guard Brittany Groovers nailed two triples of her own, and junior forward Katie Green drilled in three huge baskets as the visiting Saints claimed a 38-31 lead at halftime.

“We came out with confidence and intensity, and we executed our plays very well,” sophomore guard Katie Hagen commented on the team’s hot start.

Cornerstone would not roll over on their home floor, and the Golden Eagles got the crowd back into the game with a 7-0 run to start the second half and tie the game.

AQ’s offense was kept off the scoreboard for nearly the first five minutes of the half. Cornerstone took over the lead and extended it to five, before the Saints mounted their final charge. Trail­ling 59-54 with under five minutes to play, freshman guard Heather Orr drained a huge three­pointer, and Hagen hit a jumper to tie the game on the ensuing possession.

When they needed a defensive stop, the Saints just could not find an answer for the inside game of Cornerstone’s Julie Vogelma, whose 29 points and eight offensive rebounds were the difference. Her offensive board and put-back with 1:40 left to go ended the game. AQ was held scoreless in the last three minutes. Cornerstone came out on top, 67-59.

Overall, the Lady Saints were not disappointed with their play. “We played a good game. It was our game until the last few minutes, and we just couldn’t pull it out,” Groovers said.

Indeed, the game was very evenly played statistically. Each team had exactly 41 rebounds, 16 assists, three blocked shots, 15 points off turnovers, and 21 bench points, an astounding statistical anomaly.

In the end, Cornerstone made the plays it needed in order to win. Hagen tried to explain their second half problems. “We let them dictate the play in the second half and we didn’t execute.”

Bond led Aquinas with 13 points in the game, all in the first half. Junior Chris Koselansky added eight points and seven boards. Green and Orr chipped in with eight and seven points apiece, while Hagen, whose wicked left­handed reverse lay­in was the Saints’ shot of the game, registered seven points and seven assists.

The Lady Saints took another road trip Feb. 2, when they traveled to Livonia and clashed with Madonna. The first­place Crusaders squeaked by Aquinas with a 66-65 victory.

Aquinas led by 12 points with seven minutes left to play. Madonna garnered a one point lead with 2:32 left. Aquinas registered a three­point advantage, but shots by Mahogany Fletcher and Cariusa Grzici clinched the victory for Madonna.

The losses drop Aquinas to a 3-7 record in conference and to 12-13 overall. Up next for the Lady Saints are two tough conference road games. Aquinas will visit Indiana Tech on Saturday and Spring Arbor on the following Tuesday.

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Improvement needed as WHAC tourneyNear

by Gabe Gagnon

With four regular season games left on the schedule, the Aquinas Men’s Basketball team is looking to gain some momentum as the WHAC tournament nears.

The Saints held their own Saturday with an 89-68 win over the visiting Madonna Crusaders. The win brings the Saints’ record to 8-18 overall, and 2-8 in the conference.

A hugefactor in the win Saturday was the offensive play of the Saints. Aquinas took a total of 71 shots, the most in the past eight games. The team also missed only one free throw, and scored 36 points from behind the three­point line.

Leading the way in points for the Saints was senior guard Chuck Schubas with 17, freshman forward Kyle Weaver with 15 - 12 of those coming from behind the line - and senior guard Tim Wueckl with 12.

Another outstanding effort came from senior guard Kyle Verlin. Freshman center Jon Aerts thinks the team is playing much better than before. “Before we had little confidence in our shots. Now we are hitting them and really playing well,” Aerts said.

Solid play is a must when the end of the season is near. “Schubas is really playing well. He’ll really help us out when the tournament starts,” Aerts said. “And there will always be Kyle Verlin.”

With the way the team played Saturday, any player could be the go­to guy when the WHAC tournament begins. “Everybody is just playing better,” Aerts said.

Saturday’s win ends a seven­game skid, the last win recorded back on Jan. 3. “We’re happy we finally won a game. It’ll give us momentum and confidence that will carry us into the tournament,” sophomore center Tim Konsik said.

Aquinas will continue with its conference battle with Madonna Feb. 9 at 3:00 p.m., when the team visits third­place Indiana Tech.