Students prepare to make some noise at annual 30 Hour Famine

by Erica Schafer Contributing Writer

Students from Aquinas will join over one million people from around the world in the upcoming World Vision 30 Hour Famine. The event, which kicks off at 6:00 p.m. Feb. 22, gives students the opportunity to learn about areas of the world where children are starving, while gaining an understanding of what it is like to experience hunger. More than 40 people from Aquinas have volunteered to sacrifice their time and appetite to help with the effort. This is the second year that a group from Aquinas has participated in the event.

Students who have signed up for the event cite many reasons for being part of the 30 Hour Famine. Sophomore Pam Howe, who was also involved with the Famine last year, said that she is looking forward to the event.

It is a challenge for myself," Howe said. "We are raising money for a good cause.

The event is supported by World Vision, a non-profit Christian relief and development organization. Participants in the 30 Hour Famine raise money by asking family and friends to sponsor them during their 30-hour abstinence from food. WorldVision uses the money to help needy children and families in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the United States. Junior Duffy Arter, one of the organizers of the event, hopes to exceed the amount of money collected last year.

"Last year, we collected about $2,000," Arter said. "This year, we hope to make around $3,500.

Many activities are planned for the event. Students will be involved in local community service projects, videos, games, and more. These activities provide participants with knowledge of the suffering experienced in other parts of the world while at the same time helping them obtain a fun and rewarding experience.

Howe says that out of all the activities during the 30 Hour Famine, she is looking forward to the service projects that take place on Saturday the most.

"Last year, we worked with Habitat for Humanity," Howe said. "It was great to work with families that we build the houses for.

"We are accepting participants up to the last minute," Arter said. "Students can also give a monetary donation to help the effort.

For more information, contact Arter at x6467.

Goodall speaks on campus to "sold out" crowd

by Jennifer Kotronko Contributing Writer

Jane Goodall, renowned environmentalist and humanitarian, visited Aquinas Feb. 13 to share some of her experiences and impart her reason for hope.

Hundreds attended the presentation sponsored by the Junior and senior Ray Galier. The 30 Hour Famine is an annual event meant to raise awareness of the conditions experienced by people in impoverished areas of the world.

Concerns from parents prompt look into the methods faculty use to evaluate performance

by Joe Boomgaard Staff Writer

Are high grades given out too easily at Aquinas?

Provost Ed Balog plans to look into just that possibility in a long-term evaluation of Aquinas's grading policy.

"The issue came up because a few parents approached me wondering why there were so many students on the Dean's List," Balog said. "They noticed that there seemed to be a high percentage of students that qualified for the Dean's List and wondered if that was normal. Their questions got me to thinking.

Students eligible for the Dean's List must meet a 3.5 GPA requirement.

In response to the parents and to his concerns, Balog approached the department chairs to decide what, if anything, should be done. "We've decided that the issue merits our attention. We thought that we should look into things just so we learn more about the situation," Balog said.

Michael McDaniel, chair of the mathematics department, also has drawn some criticism because a very high percentage of his students graduate with A's.

"I think that grade distributions of professors should be monitored," said McDaniel. "When these are revealed, then the grade inflation sources, if any, will stand out."

Regardless of what is determined, Balog urges students to remain calm about the situation.

"I'm going to take my time with this. I am in the earliest stages of trying to accumulate some data regarding grade distribution in conjunction with the registrar," McDaniel said.

Goodall tells of childhood love of animals

by Joe Boomgaard Staff Writer

Jane Goodall speaks Feb. 13; hundreds more were turned away due to the over­whelming turnout that packed the Wege Ballroom.

Goodall's mother once said, "If you really want something, you will find a way."

At the time, Goodall's mother was referring to her 23-year-old daughter's dream of living in Africa and working with chimpanzees.

How was a young, middle-class female in the 1950s with no college education or funding supposed to go and live in Tanzania with the chimps...and why would she want to?

"Goodall's reason was a lifelong fascination with animals."

At the age of 18 months, Goodall was discovered heading happily off to bed with a fistful of earthworms. At age 4, she sat patiently for four hours waiting for a Grand Rapids, MI • February 20, 2002
Retired general expresses over the ABM Treaty, other parts of President Bush’s foreign policy proposals

by Nathan Peck

Harvard expert on American/Russian relations speaks to Aquinas students

Bush declares Nevada site of nuclear waste depository

President Bush said Feb. 13 that a 57-year accumulation of nuclear waste from power plants and weapons should be buried in the Nevada desert at Yucca Mountain, according to the New York Times. First, though, the president’s action puts the issue before Congress after 40 years of Energy Department search and debate as to the location of the waste site.

The waste is currently at power plants and weapons factories scattered around the country, including some inactive industrial plants. Putting it on the road or rails briefly is better than leaving it as a sitting target, according to Energy Secretary Spence Abraham.

Opponents said Bush’s decision, coming less than 24 hours after the step was recommended by the Energy Department, represented a rush into a project that could have consequences for hundreds of thousands of years.

Local health care workers feeling vaccine pinch

Local health professionals are bracing for the worst as a series of immunization shortages forces them to prioritize patient needs to get vaccines to those who need it most. The shortages are linked to manufacturing problems at the four vaccine makers, including Merck & Co. The shortages began in September of 2000, expanding from the tetanus-diphtheria vaccine to infant pneumonia and chicken pox.

"If this continues much longer or worsens, we will have a major health crisis," Walter O cryn, chief of immunizations at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told the Wall Street Journal.

The shortage forced the local health-care system into a form of rationing—some patients are turned away or given fewer shots than the recommended sequence and experts fear this may backfire.

International aid workers target of Afghan violence

A senior Afghan employee with British aid group FOCUS was kidnapped Feb. 6, according to the New York Times. Officials at FOCUS said their Afghan program chief had gone missing while walking his usual route to work from his home, and that other kidnappings of wealthy people have taken place in the same area in recent weeks.

The upsurge in crime there has come in spite of the deployment last week of a special U.N.-backed police force in an effort to drive armed men out of town and calm tensions between rival factions.
Academic Assembly, Provost considers decreasing the number of credit hours needed to complete Aquinas's General Education requirements

by Nathan Peck

*News Editor*

General Education courses are a staple of liberal arts colleges' curricula. Provost Ed Balog and the Academic Assembly are looking at changes that would affect the core load Aquinas students would have to take in the General Education department.

"When I came in the fall of 2000, I undertook a full course review to determine what kind of staffing we needed in terms of curriculum, registrar, and advising," Balog said. "In the process of the review, I looked at how faculty assignments were made."

One of the areas Balog examined was the General Education program. Evaluating Aquinas's requirements against those of benchmark schools, Balog found that Aquinas's requirements were significantly greater than those of other private schools in Michigan and throughout the Midwest, as doing so with the online testing for computer courses.

"The National Organization for General Education found that the average percentage of hours in Gen Ed courses was 40 to 41 percent. Aquinas's percentage was 49 percent," Balog said. "That is a difference of five to six courses."

"I'm still talking about an area of internal weakness; it's just too big. The question is how we can reduce it and still maintain the quality of the program, giving students what they want," said Professor In-Residence Michael Williams, who served on the Program Review Committee.

Heinz-Ciullo said, "He held a radical cutback of the core and distribution of Gen Ed courses. He determined that Gen Ed should be cut by 15 to 16 credits." The current system doesn't allow much wiggle room for students' scheduling. The maximum an Aquinas student would have to take currently is 67 credit hours, Williams said.

"In my department, if students have no language coming in, there is no room for electives, and no room for exploration," said Associate Professor of Business Administration Kristel Heinz-Ciullo, chair of the Committee on Studies. "The liberal arts should allow students to explore local businesses run in a global economy. Last semester the league sponsored new opportunities for students to globalize for World Who, spoke on the show industry's growth and companies.

"Opportunities for students will grow as the league does. Right now, league members work with faculty, have taken a road trip for an insider's look at a major organization, and have had a holiday lunch with School of Management faculty," Heinz-Ciullo said.

While the cold wind blows...

Deciding whether to cancel classes in the face of winter snow and ice is not easy, says Provost

by Nathan Peck

In a winter season marked by long stretches of unusually warm weather broken by brief bouts of severe winter weather, students young and old look to the television for school closings. To hear Provost Ed Balog tell it, it is the quintessentially dilemma: darned if you do, darned if you don't. As the Michigan winter drops its load of snow and ice, the job gets a little messy.

"The process to decide whether to cancel school relies on sophisticated meteorology with my own really unsophisticated methods," Balog said. "In the event of a snowfall, I get up at 4:30 a.m. and go outside my house and check how much snow we've received and how slippery it is. If it is bad, I go inside and watch the Weather Channel to see if it has been canceled. I then call Campus Safety and Maintenance to see if they can open the snow in Aquinas for the time for students."

"My tendency is not to cancel school. We have nearly 700 students residing on campus who can make it to class."

"I am extremely reluctant to cancel classes if it would mean canceling evening quad classes. With their condensed format, students would miss a substantial amount of instruction," Balog said."

When the cold wind blows...

Acquinas student to face new challenges in the Peace Corps

by Lisa A. Brown

Julie Fredrick will soon close the door to the first in a series of challenges she has set for herself. The fifth-year Aquinas education student will soon leave her student teaching position at Southwood Elementary in Kentwood. This July, the next door she will open will be in the form of a formal invitation to enter the U.S. Peace Corps as a volunteer.

The U.S. government set up the Peace Corps in 1961 to train and send volunteers to live in and aid underdeveloped countries by helping citizens master techniques in farming, building, and teaching.

To become a Peace Corps volunteer, a person must meet specific education and work experience requirements. Just how hard is it to get into the Peace Corps? "In addition to filling out the 15-page application, I had to do an in-person interview conducted at Michigan State University by a Peace Corps recruiter," Fredrick said. "I was asked a series of questions pertaining to my life experiences to see how mentally equipped I would be handling situations in a foreign country."

After Fredrick received a recommendation from her recruiter, she faced the nomination step of the process. A recruiter recommends the candidate to a specific region of the world, along with a skill area. Fredrick received two nominations that centered on a possible teaching position in Asia. A nomination is not a guarantee, but it is a crucial step toward becoming a volunteer.

Once a person has been nominated, he or she still needs to pass medical and legal portions of the process. Fredrick received a set of medical forms in the mail from the Corps. Fredrick then had to take the forms to her scheduled exams and have a practitioner complete and return them to the medical office of the Peace Corps.

In regards to the legal specifications, the U.S. Peace Corps requires applicants to submit two years of character references. These must be on the cards a recipient sends in the standard nomination kit. Fredrick said that after ordering the six letters for applying for the Corps, she is more than ready for the commitment and time away from her family that the Peace Corps is demanding. Balog and the Academic Assembly, Provost Balog praised the spirit of the program, but questioned the allocation of so many faculty resources to Gen Ed classes. "There is a more effective way to reach the goals of the program. It is elegantly conceived but insufficiently run. I didn't want to cut programs, rather reallocate resources," Balog said.

The Peace Corps experience is definitely not for everyone. Fredrick said that this would be consistent for her, in both language and culture.

One aspect that she felt was comforting was the presence of other applicants. One-third of the volunteers who enter the Peace Corps will drop out. Statistically, the main reasons for drop out usually relate to being homesick. Fredrick said that the Peace Corps would pay for volunteers to meet their graduate or any other relevant issues comes up.

Those interested in enrolling in the U.S. Peace Corps can visit the site, www.peacecorps.gov, or call the Peace Corps toll free, at 1-800-424-8580.
"In check" or "Out of line?"

Since the Persian Gulf War, the United Nations has maintained economic sanctions against Iraq, banning all importation and exportation of goods. Many Americans have been reevaluating the policy, particularly in light of President Bush’s recent declaration in his State of the Union address that Iraq is part of an “axis of evil.” Opponents argue that the sanctions have devastated living conditions in that country, while proponents insist that they are a viable means of keeping Iraq in check. Read on to learn the pros and cons of this controversial and timely issue from two AQ Times staffers.

Are sanctions a necessary political tool?

Yes. Despite all claims that this is the only way to deal with Saddam Hussein, it has become unquestionably clear that the current sanctions do not work. This is because the United Nations — with intense political backing from the United States more than any other country involved — has implemented both military and economic sanctions. It is the economic sanctions that are destroying the entire Iraqi people and culture. Military sanctions alone could prove a necessary political tool in bringing about whatever it is the United States desires, but economic sanctions are simply cruel and inhumane methods of torture and political power. The United States has also continued bombing Iraq in the years since the end of the Gulf War — despite no knowledge of these actions by the American people and members of our own Congress, as well as no U.N. resolution authorizing force against Iraq. Our government has certainly not ignored the Iraqi people, but rather has worked to systematically make it impossible for civilians, who have no means to exercise so-called political revolution, to overthrow Hussein’s regime, to simply live. The economic sanctions must be ended, an idea that members of the United Nations have supported themselves. Former Head of United Nations Special Commission Richard Butler stated that the economic sanctions “simply aren’t working other than to harm the Iraqi people.”

No. Not that the U.S. relationship with the Middle East could ever have been classified as strong, but relations since the U.N. sanctions have been in place have not been unduly strained. The only real partnership that the United States has in the Middle East is with Israel. The surrounding, predominantly Muslim, countries are suffering more than we can possibly imagine. “If we bomb them, it will produce a backlash to the very people we’re trying to help.”

Are the sanctions such that the humanitarian condition of the country does not suffer?

Yes. Under their current wording, the “smart sanctions” aim to increase legal trade with Iraq. The restrictions on civilian product imports have been eased, while the ban remains on all military goods. A panel decides whether “dual purpose” products should be allowed to come into the country. In addition, the United Nations has set up an “oil for food” program with Iraq. Under this plan, Iraq can sell oil on the open market, but the revenue that those sales generate is placed in an escrow account held by the United Nations. This account can be used to purchase food and other goods from the open market. This program allows Iraq to bring those necessary humanitarian items into the country and prevents the government from tapping into those funds to use on military spending. Like it or not, illegal trading with Iraqi neighbors is a common practice. That unaccounted revenue provides the Hussein regime with plenty of money that could be used to help his people. However, most of that money likely funds his military ventures.

Absolutely not. Wording can suggest many things, but facts remain that the effects of the sanctions result in violations of basic human rights because of the destroyed infrastructure in Iraq. “There are to allow all foods and ‘dual-purpose products,’ including bleach and cleaning supplies which, because of the supposed chemical warfare component are banned, resulting in hospitals being forced to attempt sterilization using the only thing available, oil.”

Do the sanctions on Iraq hurt relations with other countries in the Middle East?

Yes. This fact is undeniable. U.S. relations with the Middle East have been good ever since the United States has in the Middle East is with Israel. The surrounding, predominantly Muslim, countries are suffering more than we can possibly imagine. Iraq is also a recognizable member of what President Bush called the “axis of evil.”

No. That the U.S. relationship with the Middle East could ever have been classified as strong, but relations since the U.N. sanctions have been in place have not been unduly strained. The only real partnership that the United States has in the Middle East is with Israel. The surrounding, predominantly Muslim, countries are suffering more than we can possibly imagine. “If we bomb them, it will produce a backlash to the very people we’re trying to help.”

The only real partnership that the United States has in the Middle East is with Israel. The surrounding, predominantly Muslim, countries are suffering more than we can possibly imagine. How would Saddam Hussein refuse to allow the inspections if he wasn’t hiding something? If he had his way, the rest of the world would just ignore his arms gathering and manufacturing activities. I think this nation learned that lesson all too well: ignoring a problem does not make it go away. U.N. sanctions make it impossible for nations, like Iraq, to function normally until they come into compliance. The sanctions also put pressure on Saddam Hussein from within Iraq. The Iraqis will eventually realize that their plight is the result of his stubbornness, an awareness that might induce political revolution and finally get rid of Hussein for good. All Hussein must do is allow the weapons inspectors into his country so that they can complete their investigation. Once the investigators verify that Iraq has desisted in the manufacture of weapons of various kinds, the sanctions will be removed. The obligation lies in his hands; he controls Iraq’s destiny. If his heart were really with his people, he would renge his staunchly uncooperative position.

No. Despite all claims that this is the only way to deal with Saddam Hussein, it has become unquestionably clear that the current sanctions do not work. This is because the United Nations — with intense political backing from the United States more than any other country involved — has implemented both military and economic sanctions. It is the economic sanctions that are destroying the entire Iraqi people and culture. Military sanctions alone could prove a necessary political tool in bringing about whatever it is the United States desires, but economic sanctions are simply cruel and inhumane methods of torture and political power. The United States has also continued bombing Iraq in the years since the end of the Gulf War — despite no knowledge of these actions by the American people and members of our own Congress, as well as no U.N. resolution authorizing force against Iraq. Our government has certainly not ignored the Iraqi people, but rather has worked to systematically make it impossible for civilians, who have no means to exercise so-called political revolution, to overthrow Hussein’s regime, to simply live. The economic sanctions must be ended, an idea that members of the United Nations have supported themselves. Former Head of United Nations Special Commission Richard Butler stated that the economic sanctions “simply aren’t working other than to harm the Iraqi people.”
The Gen Ed shuffle
Expanding intellect through General Education courses is all well and good, but does it come at the expense of professional marketability and career success?

At a recent Community Senate meeting, students learned about changes the school is thinking about making to its General Education requirements (see story, page 3). The changes amounted to a reduction in the number of credit hours required to complete Aquinas's "core" and "distribution" class requirements, and a rewriting of the requirements listed under the "co-curricular" section.

Whether or not the changes will be implemented, or whether they will be implemented in the version as listed on the sheet handed out during the meeting remains to be seen. The matter has been opened up for faculty to review and feedback.

However, the dialogue the proposed changes have created is a step in the right direction. Gen Ed requirements have been a source of student wrath for years. Granted, a bit of griping is inevitable no matter what system of requirements the college puts in place. After all, if there's one thing students love to complain about, it's academics.

Yet several of their criticisms are valid. These criticisms must be addressed if the college is to provide an education that adheres to the Dominican tradition (the expressed goal of the Gen Ed program) while staying marketable to potential employers (which is the reason most students attend college in the first place).

Aquinas is a liberal arts college, one committed to "helping students expand their knowledge" by fostering intellectual dialogue and inquiry." The school's goal is to produce scholars capable of independent thinking, and it's this goal that attracts potential Saints to campus year after year.

If Aquinas students wanted to learn about the bare-bones rudiments of what will get them in the work world — how to type, how to file, how to operate a computer or open pieces of heavy machinery — they would have gone to a school like Davenport College or ITT Tech. They would not have chosen to attend a school that prides itself on fostering a lifelong love of learning.

To this end, Aquinas introduces its students, through Gen Ed requirements, to an array of ideas they may not have encountered before. Students take classes in all areas of study, from science to math, language to career development, regardless of their majors and areas of interest. The students grapple with and study these things. In the end, they know it's good for them.

Yet they are correct when they say that the number of Gen Ed credit hours they are required to take is excessive. Having a core knowledge of such subjects as theology, philosophy, science, math, and other areas of study that are not part of the load of classes required to complete one's major or minor might spark a new interest. At the very least, it might come in handy during a cocktail party where one's intellectual prowess is being tested.

But let's be realistic. The time and money students spend fulfilling the extra credit hours listed under each section might well be used to finish additional minors that would prove more marketable than Gen Ed hours.

What are the benefits? An English major gains by taking new credits of science classes instead of six hours, or even three? Not much, if those credits could be freed up and used by the student to obtain a minor in a field of study that truly interested him or her, a minor that could be used to nab a job. Instead, the science classes become another source of irritation, just a few courses to make it through half-heartedly for the credits they offer — not exactly in keeping with the Dominican tradition.

More credit hours are frittered away by Inquiry and Expression classes. Freshmen grumble about having to take these courses that require them to speak to two semesters analyzing and writing compositions. It's a skill they're going to need, yet some students take advanced classes in high school for that very reason. They should not be forced to waste credit hours on what amounts to a review session.

Instead, students should be allowed to test out of the requirement if their written communication skills prove strong enough to do so.

The proposed changes to the Gen Ed requirements appear to be addressing these issues. The Ad Hoc Committee for General Studies is thinking about reducing I & E requirements to one semester instead of two semesters. Myth, Mind, Body, Spirit requirements would drop from six credits to three. Artistic/Creative requirements would also fall from six to three. Total reductions in the amount of credits required would drop from 51 to 67 hours to 37 to 50.

It's a good start. Life long learning is a desirable thing, but so is taking every opportunity to acquire the skills that will lead to occupational fulfillment and financial success.

If students find their schedules less cluttered by excessive requirements and more open to the pursuit of what truly interests them, a satisfying career path for them, and a string of successful graduates for the school, can be the only result. It's a win-win situation for all involved.

Looking for a way to get involved on campus?
Work for The Aquinas Times! Contributing writers and photographer positions are open. Call ext. 4106 for more information.

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And you can Quote me on that
What are your thoughts on the school's General Education requirements?

"Even for a liberal arts school, Aquinas has too many Gen Ed classes. Students should have more of an option to choose what they want to learn."
Nick Starck, freshman

"I think some of the requirements are helpful, like Humanities classes, which offer education in art and other things that some people probably wouldn't get. It's also good to get basic science and math classes in. But I do think that there are too many classes required, especially some of the technical requirements."
Michelle Blank, sophomore

"I came here for the education program, and it's been a lot more work than I'd expected. The Gen Ed requirements do put a strain on my schedule. I have to work hard to get everything else done for my education classes, with a lot of my classes at night, and then I have to worry about the Gen Ed classes on the side."
Danielle Young, junior

"We have a lot of hours in Gen Ed. I agree with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee [of Academic Assembly] to reduce the number of hours."
Michael Detty, Professor of Philosophy

"I think it is important to take some courses outside of your major. As for I & E, Humanities, and GEM, the courses have so many different teachers who teach them differently. Teachers need to stick to the same course structure."
Kate Krellwitz, senior

"I think some of the requirements are helpful, like Humanities classes, which offer education in art and other things that some people probably wouldn't get. It's also good to get basic science and math classes in. But I do think that there are too many classes required, especially some of the technical requirements."
Michelle Blank, sophomore

Get an opinion? Share it with us!
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As graduation day approaches, a fifth-year senior reflects on what works and what does not work in pursuit of that ultimate goal: a college degree and the fulfilling job that will hopefully follow it.

by Rhiannon Kritzman
Business Manager

Less than three months. Twelve and a half weeks. Only 86 more days. The countdown to graduation has begun, and mixed feelings about what this day means are in abundance. When graduating from high school, students found new freedom, and were told, “Good luck in the real world.” Little did they know that their high school graduation days were only small steps to what the “real world” actually means.

Graduation also brings a time of reflection. The many classes students have taken, the friends they have made, the times they have shared both in and out of class, are all things that begin to resurface when thinking about the future. For some people, graduation can bring mixed feelings of anticipation and nervousness, and the biggest question of all - “Am I ready for the ‘real world?’”

College is all about preparing students for the “real world,” as parents and teachers refer to it so ominously. But how much are students being prepared? There is a twofold solution to this potential problem, with both students and the school holding responsibility.

Most schools, not just liberal arts schools like Aquinas, offer a wide range of electives from which to pick, as well as certain “general education” classes that students are required to take for graduation. The reason? To make students more “well-rounded.” This is an understandable goal, but Aquinas goes one step further in the preparation of its future graduates with the Career Development (CD) curriculum. As with almost any academic area, CD classes raise many issues at Aquinas as to whether they help or hinder a potential graduate.

CD 401 is just one of the classes geared toward helping graduates begin life in the real world, offering hints on interviewing techniques, resume building, cover letter writing, and the like. For students who have never encountered such things, CD 401 can be beneficial. Will Lemanski, a fifth-year senior graduating in May, feels that CD 401 helped him greatly. “Only because I am a business major, though. I think the class is more aimed towards business majors, as opposed to students applying to graduate school or students from the school of education,” Lemanski said.

On the other hand, senior Aaran Bush feels differently. She believes CD...
classes are beneficial. "I loved my CD classes, and I'm graduating in the health/physical education and recreation area, not business," Bush said.

So if one thing works for one person, but not for the next, how can a student really be sure that he or she is prepared for the "real world?"

There is plenty that a student can do to prepare for graduation. Every opportunity needs to be taken advantage of. It is just a matter of finding those opportunities and then going after them. One of the largest parts of entering the real world after graduation is making oneself marketable — whether it be to future employers or to graduate schools. Students need to learn to sell themselves, and the best way to do this is by beefing up their resumes. Lemanski suggests that instead of going for summer lawn care jobs that pay $10.00 an hour, students should go for minimum wage office jobs. The effects may not be as desirable as the short term, but the long-term effects are excellent.

"You get to put all these terms on your resume that say you maintain all kinds of skills, which can help you get a better job," Lemanski said. Also, when looking for a job while working through school, one of the best things a student can do is analyze the job and say to himself or herself, "What can I learn and gain from working here?" This way, instead of having numerous odd jobs on a resume, students will end up with jobs that pave the way for the careers they are aiming for.

Another thing some students think about too late is applying for an internship. Okay, so they pay to work for someone while getting paid nothing back. Or so they think. "The one thing I wish I had more of was hands-on experience in my field, accounting," senior Jannelle Sumner, also graduating in May, said. Internships serve a couple of purposes: they let students see if that is the field they want to pursue a career in, and they give them valuable experience that employers love to see on a resume. Some students find them so valuable that they complete more than one during the course of their study. While students may not get paid while completing an internship, they can use them to avoid pursuing a career in the wrong field, as well as to get a foot in the career they really want to pursue.

Graduation from college is a special time for everyone. Students think about what has passed behind, and what the future holds for them. For those who have time before they graduate, take heed from this fifth-year senior and make the best of your years before graduation, academically, not just socially.

Career Resources

There are lots of websites to check out for hints on job-hunting and grad school application. A few of the better ones:

All About Grad School — Offers grad school directories, test-taking hints, opportunities for online degrees, and lots of links to information on financial aid, studying abroad, and job-hunting strategies.

College Grad Job Hunter — The job posting section is pretty weak, but the site does have an extensive array of information related to all aspects of the job hunting process. Lots of stuff on putting together a good resume, preparing for interviews, and what to do once you nab that job of your dreams.

Monster.com — One of the web's largest job posting sites. Over 1 million employers have submitted information about available positions, and the site offers candidates the chance to post their resumes, research major companies, and network on message boards. You can even find a job overseas with the site's Global Network.

What Can I Do With This Major/Degree? — This site lists all kinds of majors, from agriculture to theater, and offers information on potential employers that might be interested in hiring, say, a philosophy major who doesn't know what the heck to do with his or her degree after graduation. The site also offers strategies on making oneself more marketable and provides links to relevant organizations.

www.l1.wcu.edu/careerservices/majors/default.html

And how is the job market?

Pundits have been waxing doom and gloom about the economy for the past few years, but just how bad are things, really? Are recent college grads doomed to a life of flipping burgers until they find their dream careers? Not necessarily. A few facts:

Unemployment rates have increased this past year, from 7.2 percent among 20 to 24 year olds in January 2001, to 9.7 percent among that same group in January 2002.

Yet things look better in the Midwest, whose overall unemployment rate was only 4.9 percent in December 2001.

Over 22.2 million jobs are expected to be added to the market by 2010; industry analysts estimate, a 15.2 percent increase over the current situation.

Some of the fastest-growing occupations are: computer software engineering (100 percent growth estimated from 2000 to 2010); network administration (82 percent); home care (62 percent); physician assistant (53 percent); physical therapy (45 percent); and occupational therapy (40 percent).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Late Bloomers

Not everyone knows right away what his or her dream profession is. Read on and learn how it took some well-known people years to find success in the niches that ultimately made them famous.

Actor Harrison Ford worked as a carpenter until his big break as Han Solo in Star Wars (1977) propelled him to stardom.

At the age of 75, Anna Mary Robertson Moses, better known as Grandma Moses, began painting scenes from her childhood. She achieved critical success and the first showing of her artwork was unveiled in New York City in 1940, when she was 80 years old.

Sally Ride studied physics for three semesters in college before dropping out to pursue a career in professional tennis. She would later return and go on to become the first American woman in space.

Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States, was a mailroom boy, railroad construction timekeeper, bank clerk, farmer, and haberdasher (seller of men's clothing). It wasn't until 1922, when he was almost 40, that Truman campaigned for his first political office.
You say you want a revolution...

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz

Entertainment Editor

There’s nothing to ever ab around here!”

Hands up—who has said that before? I know I’m more than guilty of saying it all the time. But really, there is stuff to do in Grand Rapids.

The theater scene is incredibly active, and one can find a production to see year-round from one of the many theater companies in town. There are also more than plenty of movie theaters throughout the city, live music available at the Intersection and other bars, and a wide range of films is all interest areas available to rent from both chain and independent stores. Plus there are a plethora of interesting events at the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts, a resource that most people don’t take advantage of nearly enough.

And if top it all off, could there be any more coffeeshops in this city? On evening a friend and I walked through downtown and in maybe five minutes we passed seven coffeehouses. However, only two of them were open, and it was only 8:00 p.m.

And the problem exists: everything closes down way too early!

Coffeehouse often has hours past midnight, but that’s only the time I know of that stays open so late. And just today a college student as well as nocturnal person by nature, it drives me absolutely nuts that nothing is open! Just because I don’t have a job, it’s 5:30 a.m. doesn’t mean I don’t deserve to be entertained.

On a result, my friend and I have spent countless hours driving around Grand Rapids and its surrounding areas. This includes Lowell, Grandville, Rockford, and Walker. And let me tell you, if you want to let your hair down and rock out, just drive down Butterworth from John Ball Park to where 28th St. ends. Yeah or not.

So what’s my point? I say we start a revolution. Demand that these venues stay open late to provide for those of us who function on night schedules and don’t necessarily want to be in a smoky bar atmosphere every night.

But I digress, I’m not about to work such late hours, so why do I expect that other people will? Frustration, indeed. I guess I just want to see more entertaining things to do in my apartment.

But while I’m on the topic of revolu- tion, I feel I should take advantage of the fact that I can write whatever I want in this column to suggest another one. After a dis- cussion with friends last Thursday (that would have been Valentine’s Day) we came to the conclusion that if you think someone’s a fine piece of, err, I mean an attractive person, then really you should let them know! But in a classy way of course.

Come to think of it, this could prove to be a new and fascinating form of entertainment in and of itself. I know I tend to make a total idiot of myself in public and that has to be fun for other people to watch. So here’s my idea: let’s say there’s a really cute boy in your, oh, English class. Rather than staring obsessively at him, why not stop him after class one day and say, “Hey! I just couldn’t help but notice that you’re a good looking guy and...”

Oh goodness...I’m afraid it may sound like I’m advocating sexual harassment! But let me know what you think? About both the late-night activities and this whole tell-em-they’re-cute thing. Email me (wageneli@aquinas.edu) and we can see just what you, the students of Aquinas, think is most entertaining for yourselves for the entertainment purposes of your fellow pupils.

Who knows, you could get a date out of the situation as a result!

Entertainment

Eclectic offerings at Beat Goes On

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz

Entertainment Editor

On U2’s first American tour, back in 1981, the band played at the Fantastic Street Church in Grand Rapids.

Now students have the opportunity to view a signed poster of the band, along with an accompanying ticket stub from that concert!

Where? Not at the Gerald R. Ford Museum, but at the newly-opened Beat Goes On record store, located just minutes away from Aquinas at 1007 E. Fulton.

How can this be? Because the owner of Grand Rapids’ newest independent music store, Mario Leon, was in attendance at that concert that he himself was a senior at Aquinas.

Leon has been at many concerts and has a number of signed posters decorating the newly-renovated inside of the former Believe in Music store.

Leon was a buyer for that store, working for it for 22 years. But when the store had to close its doors in August of last year, Leon took the opportunity to open his own store.

Leon has always been interested in music, and that’s where his passion lies. He graduated from Aquinas with a degree in English and education, but knew that it was not where he belonged.

“I love this business,” Leon said. “What else could be more fun?”

And indeed, Leon has fun with his job. Because his interest in and love for music extends to all genres, Leon makes a point to include everything in his store.

He sticks to mostly used CDs and RareTies Live albums (his store is the perfect place to check if a person is looking for hard-to-find tracks), but browsing through the racks, a person can find offerings from all artists and all eras.

One incessant customer purchased two CDs that proved to be in impeccable shape, and she paid the same price for both of them that she would have paid for just one if she’d bought it at Best Buy.

Back to U2—Leon not only got to meet the band, but can also claim friendship with Bonnie Raitt (one of his personal fa- vorites). A quick view of the signed posters on the wall shows a range from Sonny and Cher to Ours.

These kinds of personal involvements—such as celebrity dolls and other music memorabilia—lend the store a unique and friendly feel.

And while the selection available (the store has been open since early January) might not yet be as large as at other places, patrons never know what great finds they might encounter. With a bit of time and some dedication, looking through the albums can be incredibly rewarding. What Leon hopes is to provide.

“I’m aiming for people who like to have fun at a record store, who like digging through stuff,” he explains. He also offers the option to listen to the store to any album on hand.

His hope is that a customer will find an album that looks interesting and will want to check it out, and he supports that as much as he can.

Review:

Radiohead Light Show, Chaffee Planetarium

by Jessica Vogt

Staff Writer

Grand Rapids is fast becoming the cultural capital of Michigan. In the past several years, the city has been host to the only North American show of Italian Re-

naissance maestro Perugio and the Meijer Gardens unveiled one of only two castings of the Da Vinci horse.

On Feb. 1., the Radiohead OK Computer light show opened at the Chaffee Planetarium. Oh yes, this is cause for ex- citation.

“Fitter Happier” is simply a honey- comb ceiling that slowly presses down on the audience, creating a feeling of claustro- phobia as it springs back and forth in an attempt to escape. It perfectly expressed the controlled environment of the “Fitter Happier” person.

Some of the songs were too literal in interpretation. “Let Down,” which is one of the best tracks on the album, featured motor vehicles and airplanes in reference to the opening lines, “Transport, motor ways, and tram lines...” There were also recurring bottles, possibly in reference to “furries flow- ing.” What is that? Bottles of juice? I was disappointed.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and amus- ing show. If you count yourself a Radiohead fan, you should have already been there and didn’t need to knock on the door. This show is one of the most exciting things to come along short of a real live concert.

This show was developed in part- nership with local rock radio station WKLQ. But then again, little else seems to be coming along these days.

“Music is meant to be experimented with. Everything’s got its place,” Leon says. “Music is a very personal thing,” he emphasizes. Leon recognizes the important part released in the show.

“This is precisely why he believes it is so important to provide for all interests. If the album a person is looking for isn’t in the store, he or she should ask Leon, who will try to find that song or record. He is willing to special order anything, at no extra charge.

Next time students are looking to buy a particular album and don’t want to spend upwards of $18 at a national chain store, or maybe they are trying to compile a col- lection of Whitney Houston LPs (yes, he carries vinyl, folks!) or perhaps they just love looking through music and get excited at the possibility of finding those rare live songs they’ve been dying to have—they might want to spend time at Beat Goes On.

With the friendly and knowledgeable staff, it’s more than likely that they will be able to find everything they’re looking for.
**Video Review:** Hedwig and the Angry Inch

by Gabrielle Kiellich
Contributing Writer

Ladies and gentlemen, whether you like it or not: *Hedwig*.

Just who is Hedwig? Why, she’s only the latest cult sensation to hit the shelves of your local video store. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is a fascinating story complete with complex characters. Originating as a stage production in New York City in 1994 and converted to film last year, the rock opera centers on lead character Hedwig Robinson, a struggling transgendered singer brilliantly portrayed by Michael John Cameron.

Hedwig’s story originates in East Berlin, right after the Berlin Wall was erected. Frustrated and bored, young Hedwig (born Hansel) is looking for a way out of this wicked little town. He meets an American soldier called Luther who wants to marry him and take him to America.

Seeing an opportunity, Hansel decides to pose as a woman, take his mother’s passport name (Hedwig), and obligate Luther.

There is one small problem: Hansel has never lived in Germany without proof of gender. In other words, there is no hiding what nature gave Hansel.

Out of desperation, a sex change operation is arranged for Hansel to become a woman.

What he is left with, after the devastating operation, is no less and no more than a one-inch mound of flesh.

As Hedwig sees it: “To be free, one must give up a small part of oneself.”

Upon arrival in Junction City, Kan., Hedwig experiences a stroke of bad luck. Her husband divorces her, she meets a young man named Tommy, and becomes something of a success with him, playing local clubs and writing songs. Until the day Tommy discovers that Hedwig is not all that she appears to be and leaves.

In a ménage rechristened by Hedwig with the stage name Tommy Gnosis, goes on to become the rock superstar that Hedwig trained him to be. And he does it by using the material that Hedwig wrote and by failing to give her even an inch of credit.

What’s a girl to do?

Go on tour, of course.

And show the world who really is behind this big star, Tommy Gnosis.

Hedwig puts herself on the road and realizes her shows in close proximity to Tommy’s huge stadium tour every night.

And, like the songs she wrote with Tommy (which are the same songs Tommy could be heard singing across the street to thousands of adoring fans), Hedwig, along with her band, The Angry Inch, tells her story to whomever happens to be lingering in the caft or hotel she might be playing in.

One fact, they both pile up a small following, causes a few fights, and becomes an underground icon.

One facteful evening, Hedwig and Tommy cross paths and the universe sets out to rect what has been wronged.

The two of them drive in a limousine, Tommy promises to give Hedwig the credit she deserves. Slightly intoxicated and argumentative, Hedwig loses control of the car and slams into a semi-truck.

The media go to town with the story: the ultimate rock star caught in a smashed-up limousine with a gay transsexual. Tommy denies it all.

Life gets better for Hedwig. She finally is able to tell the media that she authored Tommy’s songs. She receives her own taste of celebrity, appearing on magazine covers and national television shows, while Tommy’s career fades away.

The ending should not be spoiled, so know, you must rent.

If all this talk about sex changes, gender ambiguity, and any inches does not float your boat, there are more general aspects to *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* that may.

This story is not only about the above. The underlying themes are much deeper. It is a film about acceptance, about learning who we are, coming to terms with the self.

Understanding love, and where we come from.

Whether she shows it all the time or not, Hedwig struggles terribly to understand who she is and makes quite a poignant display of this during her show.

The music that tells Hedwig’s story is phenomenal, playing like one of the great concept albums of the 70s. The songs each offer insight into the complex workings of her mind.

The songs range from hilariously entertaining (“Sugar Daddy”) to heartfelt (“Wicked Little Town”) to completely punk rock (“Equestrian Horse”).

Whether you are seeking great music, an interesting storyline, or one just tired of the run-of-the-mill films being released, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* has something to offer everyone.

And you may learn something.

So now that we have learned just who this mysterious person called Hedwig is, is there anything she’d like to add?

“I’m the new Berlin Wall. Baby. Try and tear me down!”

Restaurant Review: Gaia

by Brigid Avery
Contributing Writer

Carnivores, beware. The unofficial motto at Gaia is, "If it has parents, we don’t serve it."

Gaia, a vegetarian and vegan restaurant located on the corner of Cherry and Diamond, has a clientele as eclectic and unique as its menu, which makes for interesting people-watching sessions, as well as a celebration for your taste buds.

My dear friend Martha and I ventured to 209 Diamond SE on a recent surprisingly spring-like day, and entertained our appetites with two dishes from the breakfast menu: Coban Eggs and a Buckwheat Pancake (with an added bowl of nuts and walnuts) and strawberries).

We shared, of course, so I was able to enjoy the spicy and sweet flavors and the joie de vivre of contrasting tastes that followed.

The Coban Eggs consist of two fried eggs stop a bed of warm beans and rice, which are complemented by a dollop of cool sour cream, salsa verde, and scallions.

Gaia is located at 209 Diamond SE. From AQ, head west on Lake Drive and veer onto Cherry, take a quick left on Diamond. Open 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., closed Mondays. Call 484-6233 for more information.

**Front Row**

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz
Entertainment Editor

Ah, yes, back again to find out “What’s the story, Morning Glory,” and what events there are to keep you occupied when you should be doing your schoolwork. If you’ll recall, the listed websites from the last issue are your best bets to find exactly what you heart desires, and because I’m just that nice I’ll include them again today, along with other fascinating tid-bits of fun for you to explore:

**Concerts and Shows**

Mission Orange is performing tonight at Billy’s in Grand Rapids – is there any better way to spend your Wednesday?

I myself have never heard of Randog, but you may have and would like to check out. Catch their Feb. 28 Kalamazoo show.

South and Ebro, two amazingly-good British bands, are playing in Chicago March 2 and Detroit March 3. Do check these bands out if you like mellow, soft, lush, and meaningful boys-with-feelings music. And holy cow, tickets are only $12. Jump right on that one, kiddies.

Finally, John Mayer (see article on page 10 for more info) is playing tonight at Calvin Coliseum and in Ann Arbor March 6 (but tickets for that show are sold out! Sad!)

For more, check out: www.pollstar.com

**Films and Movies**

Well, loads of films opening up in New York and Los Angeles this Friday, meaning that 1) they should be good and 2) they’ll soon be here. But since they’re not just yet, what we have to look forward to includes: *Big Bad Love, Draggin’, and Queen of the Damned.*

Next Friday offers: *40 Days and 40 Nights* (Josh Hartnett’s in this one and tries to avoid physical contact with girls for said amount of time. What a way to spend Lent?!?) and *We Were Soldiers.*


**Sports, Bars, Album Releases, Etc.**

Yep, no trite yapping from me in this section. I believe you’re all responsible young adults capable of researching this yourself. Put those i & skills to work!

www.localbars.com

www.greaterg.com/entertainment.html

www.billboard.com/billboard releas/index.jsp
Black History Month play: diversity is for everyone

Senior Emily Hollingworth (left), sophomore Liz Szweczyk, Central High student Justie Ross, and junior Valerie Schmitt enact a scene from He Shall Add Strength, the Black History Month play written by sophomore Brooke Murphy. Dozens of students, schoolchildren, and off-campus visitors attended two presentations of the play Feb. 9 and 10 in the Art and Music Center.

Participants advertised the performances through the public relations department, through fliers placed around campus, and through word of mouth.

Attendance for the first night was lower than anticipated but, according to Murphy, the second-day showing more than made up for it. "We practically filled up the theater," Murphy said. "We were surprised. We emphasized diversity was important and we wanted to make sure everyone was included."

When Murphy wrote He Shall Add Strength, she had two goals: demonstrating the importance of good decision-making and bringing Black History Month to everyone. The play's main character, Yusef, must choose between embarking on a college career or a life on the streets.

Murphy said that support from faculty and staff was excellent, but she admitted that she was disappointed with student turnout. "A lot of the people I talked to said things like, 'Oh, a Black History Month play, I can't go to that,'" Murphy said. "I was surprised. We emphasized diversity is for everyone, people of all backgrounds."

"You can't change people overnight," Murphy said. "But there's always next year."

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Men's basketball looks to WHAC tournament after emotional loss

by Nathan Peck

Although the "win-loss" column may not reflect it, the Saints are playing their best basketball, according to Head Coach Rick Alber. Coming off a 72-54 win against Spring Arbor Feb. 13, the men lost 65-57 in a hard-fought game against Siena Heights Feb. 16 in the Field House. "We played very well. We've overcome a lot of obstacles this season," Alber said. "Going into the tournament, no one will have guessed the efforts they're putting forth."

Aquinas squared up against the WHAC-leading Siena Heights Saints in the final game of the regular season. The loss dropped Aquinas to 4-10 in the WHAC and 19-20 overall for the 2001-02 regular season. With the win, Siena Heights (13-1) grabbed sole possession of the WHAC title from Cornerstone (12-2).

"We're playing our best ball right now," senior guard Kyle Verlin said. "Today was a very tough loss for us."

Verlin led the team with 17 points, one steal, and a rebound. Also putting a strong showing in the loss, senior guard Eric Wissell had 10 points and sophomore Tom Kaslowski had nine points and six rebounds.

Aquinas's strong defensive showing resulted in nine steals and 17 turnovers for the game. Aquinas faced turnover problems of their own, with 20 on the day. AQ headed into the second half trailing 35-32.

In the second half, Aquinas kept the game close, trailing the lead with Siena with five minutes left in the game. Final trouble would plague AQ late in the game when Siena converted on two fouls by freshman forward Johnny Angle to put Siena up 61-57 with 55 seconds left.

Alber noted two Saints as standing out late in the season, senior Kyle Pohja and freshman Kyle Weaver. A healthy Pohja came off a season ending high-knee sprain in the 2001 season to play a major role late in 2002. "We're as healthy now as we have ever been this season. Kyle Pohja has really stepped up his game lately," Alber said. "Kyle Weaver is not playing freshman basketball anymore. He's really stepping off the bench."

The team remains optimistic on its chances in the WHAC tournament, opening with sixth seed Aquinas at third seeded Indiana Tech.

"I want to give credit to my teammates and Coach Alber and the staff for continuing to play and coach hard at the end of the season," Verlin said. "We're going to be ready for the tournament, the underclassmen are playing their best basketball this season and the seniors aren't ready to end our season just yet."

Today's Griffins may be tomorrow's Red Wings, the terms of a deal recently brokered between representatives of both teams. The Griffins are simultaneously ending their 3-year affiliation with the Ottawa Senators after this season.

The Griffins will be charging of coaching and training. Detroit prospects, draft picks, and free agents signed by Grand Rapids will form the 1998-99 campaign.

"It is obvious that the Canadians were the better skaters that night. However, the Canadian team of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier think they should have won the gold. Sounds to me like a classic case of 'I got second and I'm mad' whining," said Bob Sack, senior vice president of sales and marketing. "The Russians have been first class throughout this process, and they were committed to winning in Grand Rapids with the players, prospects, draft picks, and free agents signed by Grand Rapids."
February 20, 2002

SPORTS

Track team heading to Tennessee
by Andrew Kill
Contributing Writer

The Aquinas track team is planning a late-winter getaway. The Saints will flee the cold clutches of Grand Rapids on Feb. 27 for a milder southern locale. Where are the Saints headed? Miami? New Orleans? Daytona Beach? Nope. These traditional hotspots have been eschewed for a lesser-known location: Johnson City, Tenn., home of the NCAA Indoor Track Championships.

With this destination on the horizon, the Saints treated last week’s non-scoring meet at Grand Valley State University as a dry run. Sophomore distance runner Phil Olson described the meet — which included teams from Grand Valley, Central Michigan University, Calvin College, and Lansing Community College — as a “springboard,” saying, “We’re looking to gain momentum to carry into Nationals.”

The momentum Olson was hoping for came in the form of freshman sprinter Jaime Anderson, who set a school record in the 400 meters with a time of 59.09. Anderson’s accomplishment came as no surprise to Jason Carver, as the senior sprinter remarked, “Jaime has really stood out this year. She can do it all, from long jump to sprinting.”

Carver also provided some momentum of his own, turning in the fastest 55 meter time of the meet, clocking a swift 6.16 seconds in the event. Other standout individual performances were turned in by sophomore Henry Holmes and junior Erik Thompson, who out-leaped the competition in the long jump and triple jump, respectively.

Before the Saints could begin to focus their complete attention on Nationals, they had to run at the conference championships, held this past weekend in Ann Arbor. Results were not available as of press time. Although the Aquinas men were three-time defending WHAC champs, and the women were seeking a fifth consecutive title, it was difficult for team members to temporarily couch thoughts of the national meet. “We don’t want to look past conferences,” Olson said, “but we’re really focused on Nationals.”

Carver’s thoughts resembled those of his teammate. “Conference is a big meet, but Nationals are the ultimate,” Carver hoped the WHAC championships will help the Saints sharpen their focus. “We need to come together at the right time, and hopefully this week at conference is when we’ll gel,” Carver said prior to the event.

This year’s Nationals are especially important for Carver, since the senior will be running in his final collegiate meet. However, Carver isn’t taking a self-centered attitude to Tennessee. “This is my last hurrah, but I want to help the team any way I can. I’ll run the mile if I have to. I want to show our younger guys what it takes to be a success.”

Reflecting on the past several days, Olson gave a positive assessment of the Saints’ chances in Johnson City. “We had a pretty good week of practice. We’re confident going into Nationals.”

Olson was bold enough to set a specific goal, saying, “We’re hoping to take a distance medal.”

Sophomore thrower J.T. Shimiek is equally confident. When asked if he and his teammates were prepared for Nationals, Shimiek responded quickly and enthusiastically, saying, “Oh yeah, we’re ready. Everyone seems focused.”

If Shimiek’s attitude is any indication, last week’s meet at Grand Valley was just the springboard Olson and the rest of the team were hoping for.

AQ women look for redemption in tourney
by Shaun Markwart
Contributing Writer

The Aquinas women’s basketball team is banking on a lesser-known location: Tennessee. “This is my last hurrah, but I want to help the team any way I can. I’ll run the mile if I have to. I want to show our younger guys what it takes to be a success.”

This year, the Aquinas women’s basketball team falls into the latter category. After dropping their last three decisions, Aquinas ended the regular season with a disappointing 4-10 conference record, which puts them in seventh place in the eight-team conference, and a 13-16 overall mark.

After defeating Tri State at home Feb. 5, the AQ women lost to Indiana Tech 86-55, and to Spring Arbor, 94-90. With a chance to win it, then I think we can do it. It’s been a tough season, so it’d be nice to end on a good note.”

Aquinas will have to win the tournament to move on to the national competition. To do this, they will have to likely win three straight road games within a week against strong competition. “We just have to play together,” Groeters said.

Strange things have happened. It’s not March Madness, but the AQ women are hoping for a little February Frenzy.

IM basketball heads into playoffs
Freshman Kelly Secord, above, looks for a teammate as sophomores Jamie Semyen and Aria Parker apply defensive pressure. At left, freshman Janel Hoogerhius looks to drive against Semeyin in the final game of the regular intramural season.

The regular season for men’s and women’s intramural basketball wrapped up Feb. 17 with four teams heading into the playoffs from each division. Playoffs begin Feb. 24 with the championship game determining who will win the coveted T-shirts.

It might not be March Madness, but the Wolverine-Hoosier Conference basketball tournament is slated to begin this week. The tournament offers the season’s top teams a chance to claim conference bragging rights, while affording those may have had a sub-par year a shot at redemption.

"We didn’t win any games, but I’ve had fun. We feel we are doing well, though the scores didn’t reflect that,” said freshman Heather Baker of the Sabers. “Some of the girls have never played basketball so it is fun to see them go out and see what they can do.”

The men’s field was more condensed than previous years due to fewer teams signing up.

"Usually there are two [men’s] leagues,” said senior Brendan Earl of the Wyld Stallions. “We usually play in the easier league. We were playing against ex-basketball players, but we still had fun.”

Contributing Writer

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After defeating Tri State at home Feb. 5, the AQ women lost to Indiana Tech 86-55, and to Spring Arbor, 94-90. With a change to steel sixth place from Siena Heights on Saturday in the regular season finale, the Lady Saints again hit a snag.

The game was close for a majority of the contest, as neither team looked particularly sharp. Each team shot poorly and turned the ball over often.

Still, Aquinas held a slim 26-25 advantage at the end of the first half. The game was tied at 48 with just 10 minutes left, but Siena Heights finally found its game, and Aquinas could not muster enough offense to keep pace.

Siena Heights went on a 34-point scoring binge over the last 10 minutes to ice the victory, 82-67. Junior forward Chris Kostelansky led Aquinas with 13 points, while freshman guard Heather Orr, coming off of a career high 36-point performance against Spring Arbor, chipped in an even dozen.

The WHAC tournament is set to begin Thursday. Aquinas will be the seventh seed, and will have to go on the road for its first-round game. Aquinas will face the second place Cornerstone.

All that is assured is that the Saints will face one of the top teams in the WHAC, which may not be such a bad thing for them.

"The three teams that we played so close with were the top three in the WHAC,” freshman guard Brittany Genovese said.

Indeed, Aquinas lost back-to-back nail biters at Cornerstone and Madonna less than a month ago. They would go on to handle defeat a then-singing Tri State team in the next game. It is these straight road games within a week against strong competition. "We just have to play together,” Groeters said.

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