Senate elections slated for next week

Three candidates are competing for the top seat; promising better communication, more student involvement

by Erica Schafer
Contributing Writer

Who will represent you?
Aquinas students will answer this question April 2 by casting their votes for the 2002-2003 Community Senate Executive Board. Community Senate, responsible for student activities on campus, also has a voice in issues facing Academic Assembly, the governing body of Aquinas’s faculty members.

This year three students are running for Senate Chair. Matt Blakely, Jeremy Marshall and Jose Orozco are vying for the top seat. The positions of Vice Chair and Sergeant at Arms are uncontested. They will be filled by freshman Jamie Toth (Vice Chair) and sophomore Kelly Nelson (Secretary).

Blakely, a junior, stresses the importance of making Senate a more student-recognized organization.

“I would like to put more power in Senate as far as student voices are concerned,” Blakely said. “I will try to strengthen communication between students and the Senate as well as communication between Senate and faculty and staff.”

Blakely hopes to put Community Senate online: “I’d like to put a Senate Web site on the Internet where we can get student concerns more directly,” Blakely said. Marshall, a freshman, said that he would like to be Senate Chair so that he can do more for Aquinas.

“I am proud of our college and I want to be more involved,” Marshall said. “I feel that being appointed Senate Chair will greatly promote my actions.”

In his campaign, Marshall emphasizes the importance of making sure that students’ voices are heard.

“I want to see Senate working for the student body,” Marshall said.

Orozco, a freshman, hopes to get more underclassmen to participate.

“I've noticed that most of the executive board is upperclassmen,” Orozco said. “I hope that more freshmen and sophomores get involved in Senate when they first get here because they can do more if they have experience in these positions once they are juniors and seniors.”

Orozco said that students often ask him what Community Senate does. In order to make Senate better known, he hopes to have the organization allocate more money to student activities.

No yawns for Aquinas students planning to stay “Up ’Til Dawn” during charity event

by Lisa Brown
Contributing Writer

Staying awake to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital will be the ultimate payoff at the annual Up ’Til Dawn benefit Friday, April 5.

Students, along with a representative from St. Jude, are hosting the all-night event that begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Cook Carriage House. It lasts through Saturday morning at 7 a.m.

The Up ’Til Dawn benefit will be a “lock in” where students rally together to help children with serious illnesses. The purpose is to reward student participants who raised money to benefit the hospital. This is the second year that Aquinas and St. Jude have joined together in raising money and awareness. This is when all the hard work comes together,” said Events Coordinator sophomore Jaisen John.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital owes its organization to a promise made years ago by up-and-coming entertainer Danny Thomas.

Thomas, who had reached a crossroads in his life, turned to St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of hopeless causes, for insight. Seeking guidance and reassurance, he vowed, “Show me my way in life, and I will build you a shrine.”

That vow led Thomas to achieve some of the most momentous careers in entertainment. Thomas later stepped down as Head Coach of the baseball team after a 30-year career. Bocian had loved the job, but resigned after the school deemed it advantageous for him to concentrate his efforts on heading fundraising efforts for a new Fieldhouse.

"The project is not happening as quickly as we would like," said Doug Greenslate, new head coach of the baseball team. "Upper administration wanted Coach Bocian to be a full-time athletic director so he could use his experience and contacts to help us realize what we see as a major need for our campus."

Bocian says he has seen Aquinas’s athletic drawing power. He attributes this to the fact that other colleges are able to woo prospective students away from Aquinas with multimillion-dollar capital projects.

"We are at a critical junction. Prospective students are choosing schools with more modern facilities," Bocian said. "Augsburg is dead last in the state of Michigan in terms of athletic facilities. Current students are becoming disillusioned. They were told there would be facility upgrades and they are not seeing them happen. The current facilities have been in use since 1969 without an upgrade."
News Blurs

Advocates boiling over water issue

Governing and environmentalists are debating the legality of a bottled water facility to be built in Mecosta County by Joe Boomgaard Staff Writer

Thirsty? Don't reach for an Ice Mountain brand bottled water. Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC). MCWC is spearheading a campaign against the water bottling operation that Ice Mountain's parent company, the Perrier Group of America, is building in Mecosta County, approximately 60 miles north of Grand Rapids.

The $100 million plant will pump water from wells several miles away. Perrier hopes to have the capacity to bottle as many as 260 million gallons per year. The plant will withdraw, (the Perrier plant) would not be the largest. There are several other industries that pump more water than Perrier proposes. Assistant Professor of Biology Rob Hagmaier.

"MCWC fears that the removal of the ground water will contribute further to decreased surface water levels and wants more studies to be done."

The controversy began in early 2001 when Perrier expressed interest in setting up a bottling operation somewhere near Big Rapids.

Governer John Engler and the involved local governments offered multi-million dollar tax breaks as an incentive for Perrier to build the plant in Michigan. Perrier needed to get a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to remove the land where the proposed plant would be constructed.

The company asked for re-zoning for lands in three townships. All three local governments approved the request. The DEQ issued the necessary permits in August.

However, the DEQ issued the permit while Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm of the office, in building in Mecosta County, approximately 60 miles north of Grand Rapids.

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In Monterrey, Mexico March 22, Bush began the second leg of his tour of Latin America March 23, arriving in Lima, Peru from Mexico on Air Force One. CNN.com reported that same day. Immigration and drug trafficking were some of the issues the president focused on.

In Monterrey, Mexico March 22, Bush told world leaders that he has proposed a 50 percent increase in "core development assistance" to poor countries over the next three years.

President Bush visits Peru

Compiled by Nathan Peck

News Editor

March 27, 2002
Academic Assembly to debate Gen Ed proposal

Change in program would impact students and professors alike

by Sandy Hines

Contributing Writer

Changes to the General Education requirements that have been under review for over one year will be announced. According to Provost Ed Balog, the Committee on Studies has a workable proposal that should be presented to Academic Assembly by April.

"It's very close to being put into finished form. The committee has identified the basic outline and there are still some final touches that need to be put on, but I think they will have it done," Balog said.

Without giving specifics, Balog said a reduction in the number of credits required, from the current 67 to about 50, is the direction the committee took in its effort to reorganize the General Education categories. The reduction in these required credits would put Aquinas closer to the norm of other Midwestern private schools and would also give students more flexibility in fulfilling their courses of study.

After Academic Assembly receives the finished form of the proposal from the Committee on Studies, debate will begin. This will allow everyone an opportunity to express his or her viewpoint.

"I anticipate a significant debate because it's a major change in the requirements and in the way the courses are distributed. There are people who will not want to make the changes for a variety of reasons. But there were many motives for making the changes. Some of them were programmatic, some were economic. Together they provided the impetus for the decision to cut the hours," Balog said.

"This is one of the most difficult issues any college ever faces. Everybody is involved and it affects everybody, the whole faculty. It has an impact on incoming students because it's the one common thing every student here has to deal with. I've been through this several times at other places and it's one of the more difficult tasks any college undertakes," Balog added.

"It's not clear what [the Committee on Studies] is going to do, but it is on the verge of doing something. The April meeting of [Academic Assembly] will be very interesting. There are many people who have a vested interest in the core because they've team-taught a lot of those courses," said Professor in the College Michael Williams, who served on the Program Review Committee.

How will changes made to the requirements affect current students?

"Students who see some advantage to changing should be given that option. That's going to be my recommendation to the Academic Assembly," Balog said.

Balog said freshmen who prefer to adopt the program that may be institution will be allowed to change, but students will not be able to switch back and forth. "Pick one and you're in it. Some people will want to opt for the new one. Others will see no advantage so they won't do it," Balog said. "Those current students who are far along and who have completed many of their assignments will just finish what they thought they were going to have to finish. We'll certainly provide the courses for them to do so."

Seder meal celebrates freedom, rebirth

by Tonya Schafer

Editor in Chief

Christians believe that Easter is the year's holiest feast day, a time to remember how Jesus Christ atoned for their sins by dying and then rising from the dead. Yet in Easter's shadow one of the most sacred holidays in Jewish tradition often gets overlooked.

On March 24, Campus Ministry and student organizations TARBQA and JAMMIN sponsored a Seder in the Loult Room. For a sixth year, students, faculty, staff, and community members took part in the Passover feast that commemorates Moses' delivery of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

"It's an interesting aspect to the Jewish culture," said junior Megan Saxis, a JAMMIN member who helped out at the event.

The Seder starts with the blessing of wine and moves on to the serving of foods that symbolize either the state of servitude the Jews escaped from or the freedom they found after their mass exodus.

These foods include matzah, or unleavened bread, which is served in remembrance of the fact that the Jews were forced to leave Egypt so quickly they could take no yeast with them. Some of the Seder food is dipped in salt water, which commemorates the tears and the waters of the Red Sea that Moses parted to allow the Jewish people to escape.

Charoset, a combination of almonds, apples, cinnamon, and wine, calls to mind the mud bricks Jewish slaves were forced to make in Egypt. Bitter herbs are also used. Their flavor alludes to the evil of slavery, while their green color commemorates the final meal the Jews would eventually enjoy. Karpas is a vegetable that symbolizes manual labor and eventual rebirth.

Similarities can be found between Passover and the Last Supper, the meal during which Jesus observed the first Eucharist, according to Director of Campus Ministry Mary Clark-Kaiser. The Last Supper is commemorated on Holy Thursday, which this year falls on March 28, the same day as Passover.

Yet Passover is a holiday with a tradition all its own. "It's the basis for the Catholic faith," Saxis said. "That's where our origins are.

"When students attend the Seder meal, they learn and experience an important ritual dinner of our Jewish brothers and sisters," Clark-Kaiser said. "They are broadened and enriched."

Circle Theatre approval opens door to other development opportunities

by Nathan Peck

News Editor

The Aquinas Board of Trustees has given the go-ahead for Circle Theatre construction to begin. This is allowing the Development Department to take a look at other projects aimed at expanding campus outreach efforts, according to Director of Special Gifts Kathy Fore.

"The board has approved the Circle Theatre project. We are just waiting on the last details, which we will be hashing out in the next couple of weeks," Fore said. "We would like Aquinas to be the premier Catholic college in the Midwest. Now we are asking the community what it will take to do that."

The Development Department, at the urging of the Office of the President, hopes to develop a plan that will meet Aquinas' varying needs. These needs range from strengthening the endowment to the initiation of capital projects such as a new library and field house. Fore estimates that the planning stage to raise money for the school's general needs will take roughly one year.

"This is a large undertaking. Without a good plan, it will be hard to get people to act. The best way to make money is to move by consensus, to have people move with you instead of dragging them along," Fore said. "We are looking to donors to invest in Aquinas."

Counting on alumni to help fund campus capital undertakings, the Development Department found that attempts to communicate with them had been spotty at best. According to Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Melvyn Tardy, who took over the position this year, the last alumni newsletter was mailed in the summer of 2000. The Public Relations Office has upgraded the newsletter to a magazine-length publication and is working to get the next issue out to 14,000 alumni and trustees.

"It lagged due to turnover in the office. There was not adequate staffing to continue the project," Tardy said. "If [alumni and trustees] don't know what's going on at the school, they are less likely to show support for the school.

"We realized we needed to do a better job of connecting to alumni. Many alumni are interested in supporting the school. We just haven't done a good job of keeping up with them," Fore said. "We have had alumni offering their homes to hold alumni meetings in. There is an interest in the schools."

The Development Department hopes to combine the needs of students, faculty, and departments with those of the school. Students will play a key role in assisting with research the department is planning to conduct in the coming months.

"We have been talking to Senate representatives on the planning council. [Vice President for Development] Julie Redenour and I want to speak to Senate and get any ideas students may have," Fore said.

"Right now we are in the planning stage. We are open to all suggestions because that is what is going to drive this project. It is how we will build consensus and move this forward."
A matter of life and death

Capital punishment is a hot topic, both here in Grand Rapids and across the nation. In Texas, Andrea Yates was spared the death penalty because doctors said she suffered from severe postpartum depression and mental illness at the time she drowned her five children. Locally, a jury said that convicted murderer Marvin Gabrion will be executed despite the fact that Michigan doesn’t allow capital punishment. Gabrion had committed his crime in a national forest, leaving himself open to a federal death sentence. Here, The Times discusses legal and moral issues revolving around this most controversial of topics.

Does the death penalty deter crime?

Yes. While Gandhi may have believed that "an eye for an eye" would serve only to "make the world blind," the Judeo-Christian religious tradition gives much biblical support to the use of capital punishment. From before the time of Moses, Hebrew tradition has upheld capital punishment. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image," says the Bible in Genesis 9:6. In fact, our very own St. Thomas Aquinas supported capital punishment. "[B]oth divine and human laws command such like sinners be put to death. Nevertheless, the judge puts this into effect, not out of hatred for the sinners, but out of the love of charity, by reason of which he prefers the public good to the life of the individual," said the college's patron saint. Philosopher Immanuel Kant supported capital punishment on the basis that because humans are able to make free and rational choices, every life is valuable and deserving of respect. Murderers violate this precept, so to maintain order in society, society must take the murderer's life.

Is the death penalty morally justified?

Yes. Marvin Gabrion murdered Rachel Tinnemann on federal land. Crimes committed on federal land are tried in federal court and federal law allows people to be subject to capital punishment. The idea that Gabrion should not be spared the death penalty because the crime was committed on federal land in Michigan is akin to saying that killing a federal agent in Michigan should not carry the same penalty.

Should the federal government be able to execute people in states that prohibit the death penalty?

No. While the federal government allows states to determine their individual murder sentences, those offenses against society, and that this form of punishment conforms to the biblical notion of "an eye for an eye." Yet handing convicted murderers life sentences with no possibility of parole achieves the former end and doesn’t violate the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel . . . punishment." Punishing people full of 2,000 volts of electricity or injecting them with chemicals that asphyxiate them certainly seems to fall into that "cruel" designation. Those who commit acts so horrendous they merit the death penalty are likely not the sorts of individuals we want to associate with. Yet who are humans to decide whether or not another one of their number should lose his or her life? By executing convicted murderers we stoop to their level of depravity, seeking to achieve our own selfish ends (in this case, retribution) through the taking of another life. An eye for an eye really does leave everybody blind.

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OPINION

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Should the federal government be able to execute people in states that prohibit the death penalty?

No. States that abolished the death penalty did so for a reason. They did not want their citizens to be subjected to the ultimate in cruel punishment. Therefore, the federal government should not be allowed to do so, even in cases in which the crime was committed on federal property and especially not when the consequent trials would be conducted in courthouses located within the state’s borders. Such situations make a mockery of the lengthy process legislatures have gone through to put anti-death penalty laws on the books. The federal government allows states to determine their individual statutes regarding capital punishment. It must respect these decisions once they have been made and forgo executing criminals in states that have expressly forbidden this action.

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Don't drink the water

Perrier's planned bottled water facility in Mecosta County is just one example of a disturbing trend: the sacrifice of our natural resources for the latest in consumer fads.

Welcome to the bottled water generation.

Not satisfied to sign up for regular water from the tap, we have to drink exotic-sounding bottled water like Deja Blue, Ice Mountain, and Dasani. It's probably nothing more than well water from New Jersey, Minnesota, or some other "exotic" place. The cost, unlike well water from New Jersey, is theirs for the taking. In no way can it be replaced. Unlike water, it is renewed from the state for taking the water. There may finally occur this November when Michigan gets a new governor. Engler remains adamant in his support of the Perrier deal, but many of the leading candidates, both Democrat and Republican, promise to change regulations regarding water resources in Michigan. After more than a decade of ambivalent policy under Engler, a strong, environmentally friendly governor could not come soon enough.

Yet we don't have to leave things up to the politicians. An even better solution on our part is to not rely so heavily on bottled water. As a civilization, we put too much energy into getting free-flowing water to our homes, schools, and businesses to give up on the water that comes from our faucets.

Both tap and bottled water are held to the same safety standards and tap water comes at a much lower cost. Besides, most tap water, unlike bottled water, contains fluoride to help prevent tooth decay and no fancy plastic container needs to be manufactured and eventually thrown to the curb.

Water is healthy, a necessity for life — but it is not an everlasting resource. Don't reach for an Aquafina. Reach for a glass and turn on the tap instead.

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.

Signed editorials reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of The Times. The "Times View" represents the view of the editorial board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

"Letters to the Editor" are accepted Thursdays by noon in The Aquinas Times office, located in lower Wege Center. All letters must be signed. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit based on content, length and style.

Place your bets...

Gambling on college sports is illegal, but everyone does it. You throw a few bucks into a pool your friends have started...it's harmless, right? Depends on who you ask.

As the NCAA Tournament heads toward the Final Four, we examine the issues, past and present, this question has raised.

by Nathan Peck

March Madness is upon us again, bringing with it Cinderella stories, buzzer-beating shots, and, of course, betting "pools." For an entrance fee, participants fill out a bracket and predict champions in the hopes of winning a pot. Whether they’re aware of it or not, this widespread practice is illegal. The only state in which betting on college sports is legal is Nevada. (Big surprise there.)

Yet across the United States, billions of dollars are spent on tournament gambling. During the 1998 Final Four, Cedric Dempsey, executive director of the NCAA, estimated that $4.5 billion would be wagered on the games. NCAA officials say that betting on college sports undermines the integrity of the games and leads to scandal. Gaming industry insiders say that most illegal gambling takes place in informal pools and that they have little, if anything, to do with it.

Despite the risk, students and faculty members alike participate in this clandestine activity. One Aquinas faculty member, who prefers to remain anonymous and who asked to go by the alias "Professor X," makes a distinction between betting that occurs among friends and money spent at the track or in casinos.

"It is not that we are betting against the house. In Vegas or at the horse tracks we know the odds that are against us. In my pools, we wager coffee," X said. "Actually, that’s a lie, we wager $20. But it’s just among friends and it’s the only time I do it. I don’t bet otherwise."

Senior Brendan Earl agrees. "If I don’t pay [my friend] $5 for the pool, I don’t think he’s going to break my kneecaps. I know technically it is illegal, but I don’t think it’s a big deal," Earl said. "Many people in offices and businesses do it. No one is going to prosecute people for taking part in a $5 pool."

Junior Kerrie Walker participated in pools during high school when her father bought spots for his family in an employee pool. She does not see the unlawful nature of informal pools as a problem.

"It gave me a team to root for. It was never like $1,000 was going to the winner," Walker said. "Sure it is illegal, but I won’t get arrested, will I?"

Yet some people believe that even informal betting leads to more scandalous behavior. The 1990s saw the tournament world rocked by several point-shaving scandals at schools across the United States, including Arizona State, Tulane, and, most recently, Northwestern. Point shaving involves players arranging for a game to come in under the point spread published by Las Vegas bookkeepers. Illegal bookkeepers at colleges have an interest in making sure a game’s spread falls within a certain range because that affects how much bookies will have to pay out.

The scandal that forced the NCAA to examine corruption in the ranks of college players happened in New York City in 1951. It resulted in 32 players from schools across the United States being implicated in what became the first point shaving scandal.

Henry Poppe and Jack Byrnes, co-captains of Manhattan College’s 1949-50 men’s basketball team, were arrested in January 1951. Another Manhattan player, Junius Kellog, had refused a $1,000 offer from Poppe to shave points in the tournament. Kellog reported the incident to his coach, who notified Manhattan College’s president and the police.

After Poppe and Byrnes’s arrest, the extent to which the fixing had spread became apparent. In the following months, four colleges from New York City were implicated in the scandal. Adolph Rupp, head coach of Kentucky at the time, boasted that his players were beyond the influence of...
the spreading scandal. "They couldn’t touch my boys with a 10-foot pole," he told reporters.

Rupp would be proven wrong. Three of his players were eventually convicted and handed suspended sentences.

When the dust settled New York City District Attorney Frank Hogan had arrested and convicted 32 players from seven schools for shaving points from a total of 86 games during the 1947 through 1950 seasons. The innocence of NIT and NCAA men’s basketball tournaments was lost.

Seven members of CCNY’s 1950 team, the only team ever to win both the NIT and the NCAA Tournament in the same year, were convicted in the scandal. The NCAA suspended Kentucky’s basketball team for the 1952-53 season.

Are the WHAC or the NAIA - the athletic conferences Aquinas is a member of - concerned about whether student athletes bet on college sports? It’s not an issue, says freshman basketball player Jason Aerts.

"To be honest, I couldn’t even say whether the WHAC or the NAIA has a policy regarding players gambling," Aerts said. "If I found out that I played with someone who was shaving points, I would want nothing to do with him. It’s hard to say what I’d do about it. I’d be pretty ticked."

In 2000 Congress looked into the issue of betting on college events. Its examination resulted in both houses drafting bills designed to ban legal wagering. Proponents argued that by allowing Las Vegas casinos to publish point spreads for college basketball games, the seeds for scandal were being sown. The College Sports Integrity Act never made it to the floor for a vote, so it seems, at least for now, legalized betting is safe.

"It makes the tournament more fun to watch when you have a little riding on the games. I like seeing how well I can analyze college basketball when I find out how well I picked my bracket," Earl said.

Problem Gambling

According to a Harvard Medical School on Addictions study, 4.67 percent of college students had "disordered" gambling habits. The 1997 study found that college students are three times more likely to develop life-long gambling problems than are members of the general population.

Recent Scandals:

Northwestern, 1998 - Two basketball players admitted to shaving points in three games in 1995 for $12,000. They were sentenced to two years in prison and two years probation.

Arizona State, 1997 - Two players pleaded guilty to shaving points in 1994. Fifteen of 22 Arizona State fraternities turned up in the gambling ring’s records.

Boston College, 1996 - The NCAA suspended 13 BC players for gambling on games. Investigators found that two players bet against their own team.

Maryland, 1995 - The starting quarterback and four other athletes were suspended for gambling on sports.

Maine, 1992 - Six football players and 13 baseball players were suspended for gambling.

* Information compiled from CNNSi.com

Betting on the Big Screen

Fixing games has never been limited to college basketball. Here, a few scandals that captured the public’s attention and that later resurfaced at a theater near you.

1921 - The Chicago “Black Sox”

Eight White Sox players were accused of throwing the 1919 World Series for $80,000. A grand jury was convened to investigate the conspiracy allegations. The only player convicted was Fred McMullin. The other seven were acquitted. Historians believe that, if the players really did throw the game, they did so as a form of protest against the tightfisted owner of the White Sox, Charles Comiskey. The players, including "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, were banned from baseball for life. Sound familiar? The "Black Sox" story set the stage for the 1989 baseball flick, Field of Dreams.

1979 - Boston College Fix

Boston College basketball players Rick Kuhn, Jim Sweeney, and Ernie Cobb agreed to fix nine games during the 1978-79 season. Henry Hill, a high-level member of the Lucchese Mafia family in New York, arranged for Kuhn and Sweeney to receive $10,000 each. Kuhn was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his part in the fix. Hill would later turn state’s witness in a 1981 federal trial in New York. He was central to Nick Pileggi’s novel Good Fellas and the subsequent movie based on the book.
The greatest living American writer?

Neal Pollack says he is.
The American reading public seems to agree.

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz
Entertainment Editor

Neal Pollack is, by his own declaration, the greatest Living American Writer. He is also the author of the first McSweeney's Books publication, The Neal Pollack Anthology of American Literature. That collection of McSweeney's Books is relevant for those who are familiar with McSweeney's and its editor, Dave Eggers. McSweeney's is both a quarterly literary journal and a Web site (www.mcsweeney.net) that publishes a great deal of current journalism, especially the ever-increasing self-importance journalists give themselves in reporting the events of and following Sept. 11.

For example, his piece “I am Friends with a Working-Class Black Woman” takes aim at those writers who purposely seek to write about the poor in the hopes of receiving a Pulitzer. As the fiction Pollack, he writes, “The first two books (I wrote) changed literature forever. Until my next book, which changed it again.”

Actually, the real-life Pollack is changeable. In those four years outside of McSweeney's, Pollack has written, produced, and promoted more books than anyone in the history of contemporary journalism. He is probably best known for his 71-year-old raging egomaniac “who believes himself to be the greatest Living American Writer. Except he is anything but. The Sec- tional Pollack is described by NPR as a sa- tirical amalgam of the self-important maga­ zine journalists who have been so popular since the 1950s: Gore Vidal, Norman Mailer, Truman Capote, and so on. The McSweeney's Pollack is more than aware of this. In fact, during an interview he was asked why he so often writes about frozen-food heroes. His response: “Maybe I just have a limited range. Actually here, I'll give you a Norman Mailer answer:** "Dawson's Creek" (yes, the TV show), audio clips of him from NPR and an audio tour documentary, and some more-than-spec­ ial pictures of himself. Go ahead and visit his Web home — he promises you won't regret it.
Fade 2 Shade rocks the Moose

The alternative rock band is just one of many acts being brought to campus by Programming Board in the next few weeks

by Jackie Hurley Contributing Writer

Over fifty students came out of hibernation March 21 to watch Fade 2 Shade perform in the Moose Cafe. Jazzy, upbeat rhythms permeated the air as the band entertained the audience with awe-some vocals and lively instrumentals. A national act, the group has opened for such performers as Johnny Lang and Sister Hazel.

The band feeds off the energy of the many colleges and universities it tours. "We started out playing for bars and clubs. However, it's really cool playing for college students because they appreciate the music," lead singer Craig Hettkamp said. "I think they had as much fun as we did in performing as the audience did listening." Playing at smaller colleges such as Aquinas is awesome because people are open and there is more interaction. At the larger universities, people tend to look over us," drummer Ryan Inselman said.

Programming Board sponsored the event and has planned numerous events for the remainder of the school year. On April 11, Jon Reup, one of the country's fastest-rising comedians, will host a night of high-spirited humor at the Moose. Reup has collaborated with such acts as comedian Anthony Clark and rap star Busta Rhymes.

The annual Spring Fling dance will be held April 19 at the Holiday Grand Crowne Plaza. And Oval Opus, recipient of the 1998 Cincinnati Entertainment Award for best new artist, is set to perform April 23 at 9:30 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom. The group has opened for such bands as the Doobie Brothers and Vertical Horizon.

We spend a lot of time booking these events for the enjoyment of the Aquinas student body. These national bands and comedians are great stress relievers. We are trying to fill the Moose," said Programming Board member sophomore Pam Hove.

"We try to bring events that will highlight the interests of many different types of people," added fellow Programming Board member sophomore Michelle Blank.

It's Survey Time!!

Ah, love! It's so wonderful and beautiful when you have it! The birds sing and they're doing it just for you! The sun shines and it's just for you! Everything is perfect and even classes are fun! But it's oh-so-devastating and depress­­ing when you lose it. So what do you do when you're on the intense high of being with someone or in the desperate low of having just lost him or her? Why, turn to art to find the perfect words to express the emotions bursting out of — or ripping out — your soul.

In the few next weeks you'll see survey forms and drop boxes in Wege, the Moose Cafe, and the Academic Building. The surveys will be asking for your answers to the following questions. Or feel free to e-mail your answers to wagner@aquinas.edu.

When you're in love:

What are the best movies to watch?

Songs/albums to play?

Books to read?

And when you've just broken up and had your heart destroyed by the one person you thought never would do that:

What are the best movies to watch?

Songs/albums to play?

Books to read?

Do feel free to include the "why" or to jot down any personal anecdotes. Of course, they will be kept anonymous and could prove to be entertaining for the rest of us!

ENTERTAINMENT

Front Row

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz

Entertainment Editor

Holy cow, Batman, we're al-most gotten to April.

That means only a little bit more than a month left 'til school is done, and that means we need to be studying and doing our homework more than ever. Or we can go to concerts! Yeah, that works too.

The Reel (indie-music faves who had a hit in the mid-90s with "Noo-vocals for the Soul") will be at Magic Bag in Detroit March 29.

That's the night after two, count 'em, two consecutive Dashboard Confessional shows at Clutch City Cafe in Detroit (March 27 and 28).

On April 6, Nelly Furtado will play at the State Theatre in De-troit. Tickets are only $26 through Ticketmaster.

Finally, for Detroit events: No Doubt is gonna kick it 'April 9 at the State Theatre.

Concert Review: Ryan Adams

by Jessica Vogt

Contributing Writer

Many people do not realize what hard work goes into concert viewing. Being that most of my musical heroes do not make stops in Grand Rapids, I have to take mini-roads trips to see them play in either Chicago or Detroit. In addition, the shows are often general admission.

The upside is that tickets are usually cheap, despite the "con­venience charge" from our "screaming fans" out of state. The downside is that we are often seated on the floor. We have to get in line at least an hour before the doors even open. Then there is another hour of standing too close to com­plete strangers before the opening act begins. These are true tests of the music fan as well as of the concert.

You have to ask yourself, "Is it worth it?"

For Ryan Adams I would have to say yes. My friend and I waited in the freezing cold, not eating in six hours and some­how ending up behind a very big boy. Even with this seat, the show was well worth it.

We traveled to the Majestic Theater in Detroit March 15 to see Adams. In the past year he's received a great deal of attention as a rising star and a fantastic musician. He has performed on "Saturday Night Live" and twice on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." He also recorded a VH1 show with Ethan John March 19. Currently he's touring the country with Leona Naess.

Naess proved a pleasant surprise. A singer-songwriter from England but now liv­ing in New York, Naess and her band played a two-hour 30-minute set. Most of the songs came from her second and latest album, A Man to Rock But You Only Roll. Mixed in a few old favorites, Naess re­ceived a warm reception.

Thirty minutes later Adams took the stage with his band, The Sweetheart Revolution, to the theme from Star Wars. They charged right into the opening song, "The Rescue Blues," from his latest album Cold. Adams is known for his intensity and for his penchant for playing until he just can't play anymore. By the end of the show, the front song Adams had already broken a sweat. This led into right into "Firecracker" and 11 more songs before the set ended with a 10-minute jam version of "Nobody Girl." The encore featured "Shadows on 9th Street" from his solo debut Heartbreaker and a cover of the Rolling Stones' "Brown Sugar."

Though Adams has been put into the category of alt-country, this most definitely is not rock concert. It was two hours of laid-back guitars and passionate vocals. Ryan Adams is considered one of the most talented and prolific artists around, and this concert only proved that these praises are well warranted. Check him out if you get the chance, but in the meantime be sure to pick up one of his albums.

The Elephant Man dealt with issues of acceptance

Freshman Paula Rosenberg, English Department Chair Gary Eberle, and junior Mark Hornbacher enact a scene from Bernard Pomerance's The Elephant Man, put on by The Aquinas Players in Wege Ballroom March 21 to 23. The play outlines the tragic life of John Merrick, played by sophomore T.J. Shimek. Merrick's grotesque facial deformities earned him the nickname "Elephant Man," yet masked an intense longing for acceptance. Surgeon Frederick Treves, played by Hornbacher, wants to help Merrick and convinces an actress, Mrs. Kendal (senior Nora McDonnell) to assume what would be the greatest role of her career — becoming Merrick's friend. She is able to see the man behind the monster and introduces Merrick to her social circle. His wit and charm make Merrick the toast of London, but he quickly learns that unconditional acceptance will never be his to enjoy.

For more information on the next play, which is The Elephant Man, check out the bar's Website (http://www.bar.aquinas.edu). Tickets are only $15. Also check out the theater's Website (http://www.aquinas.edu/plays) for more on the upcoming show.

Following will be a blowout Aftershow Party at The Intersection. Check out the bar's Web site (http://www.bar.aquinas.edu) for more information.

One final show that I hope to at­tend is Jimmy Eat World at the Emer­ald Theatre in Mt. Clemens April 12. Tickets are only $15. Yay! Fun times with the emo, kids.
Blue, "If You Come Back," Sounds like Take That. Another boy band pop number. Yasawwww. I forget how much I "miss" British pop boy bands. It's like they all take five lyrics and then mix them up in a song-generating machine (possibly under the pseudonym "Max Martin") to create songs for all 983,423 rhythm (as hard as it may be for some of the Brits) as beauties of British music and a very different chart scene.

This means she's getting a lot of exposure to the gorgeous queen of the pop world I guess you gotta work whatever you can get to attention.

Kaci, "I Think I Love You." Will the Partridge family never die? Yeah, she's like 16 or something. Scary. Scary? Nah, just blab. This holds nothing to the original genius that was David Cassidy. You may think I'm joking but I'm not. I have the biggest crush on David Cassidy circa the "I Think I Love You" era, and this song in its Partridge Family form is very close to my heart.

"Muder on the Dance Floor" by Sophie Ellis Baxton. Are you familiar with this catchy little number? At first I was like, "What is this?" Now I sing along, and we hope to be lucky enough to hear it! Oooh. Sophie. She is posh. About a gazillion times more posh than "Posh Spice" Victoria Beckham could ever hope to be. This is a fun song. I particularly enjoy the "I knew I knew I knew I knew" part.

Dj Alligator's "Whistler Song." Ahhh...scary. "Now Blow Your Whistle..." Shudder. Hmm...finally got around to downloading this song after hearing about it for nearly six months. Yes, it's very scary.

Finally, "I'm a Bad Babysitter" (by Princes Superstar featuring High & Mighty). Horrid, HUMOROUS song! Dear sweet God, I must agree with you here. Horrid is an understatement: The chorus of "I'm a bad babysitter/ Got my boyfriend in the shower/WOOG/Makin' six bucks on an hour/ Horrid. Horrid. Horrid/" is a lyrically unacceptable (ahem), leaves too much to be desired. Wow. I am actually celebrating the American music charts right now simply because we do not have to suffer through this song.

A music update from the Emerald Isle...

by Kristen Kaniewski and Elizabeth Wagenschutz

Contribution Writer and Entertainment Editor

Junior Kristen Kaniewski, The Times. Illustrator last semester is currently in Tally Cross, Ireland with the Aquinas study abroad program.

This song is torture! So dumb.

Okay, I disagree. I heard this when I was in Scotland after hearing about it for nearly six months. Yes, it's very much to be desired.

There's a bit of "Back For Good" in this song during the "I found myself wanting to really hurt her. And what's the point of the three guys in the band anyway? I eye candy! Not very successful if that's the goal...

She's getting down at the disco to Colin Copey's amazing DJ skills, watching the music videos at Sammon's Pub (with the channel dictated by the owner's son, Niall Sammon), and listening to 2FM on the Michael Nea bus into Galway.

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A music update from the Emerald Isle...
Greg Skiba

Skiba batted .541 in nine games to help the baseball team to a 7-4 record on the week. He climbed 19 hits in 32 at bats, recorded doubles and home run, and knocked in another eight runs. In addition, he scored 12 runs. Skiba is a senior from Alpena.

Griffins soar. Force stumbles

Local sports teams approach season
ends with top and bottom standings

By Gabe Gagnon
Sports Editor

Grand Rapids Griffins

The Griffins retook sole position atop the American Hockey League with an overtime win against the Milwaukee Admirals March 22. The win put the Griffins three points ahead of the Utah Grizzlies for the number one seed. With only six games remaining on its schedule, Grand Rapids is in a position to earn home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs. Two of the team’s games will be played at Utah. Three two games should decide which team will get the number one seed.

The Griffins have announced that goaltender Martin Prusk has been recalled to the Griffins from the Utica Comets. Prusk has been playing well and has a 1.89 goals against average and a .939 save percentage in his travels. With this move, the Griffins are looking to solidify their position in the standings and make a run in the playoffs.

Grand Rapids Hoops

The Hoops slipped in their last game of the season March 24, losing to the Gary Steelheads 138-112. The team had hoped for a trip to the Continental Basketball Association playoffs, but ended the season third in the American Conference with a record of 30-26. The Rockford Lightning usually compete closely with the Hoops, but their success isn’t made because it has a few All-Stars. It is leading the pack because everybody on this team can flat-out play.

The Pistons have arguably the best bench in the league. It’s a good thing in just under nine points a game, but he makes this team what it is. He runs around the floor like a middle school kid and is in the stands for the first time. Why’s this team so fun to watch.

One of the most exciting players to watch on this squad is the middle child of the Barry brothers, Jon. Coming from a very athletic family, this guy can light it up. In the 1999-2000 season he ranked ninth in the NBA in three-point field goal percentage. Currently he is fifth in that same category with 45 percent. The Pistons are looking to get the ball in his hands in just under nine points a game, but he makes this team what it is. He runs around the floor like a middle school kid and is in the stands for the first time. Why’s this team so fun to watch.

One of the different areas surrounding former Arkansas State University baseball coach Nolan Richardson, one of his former players is now making a name for himself in the NBA. One of the best players Arkansas, leading the Razorbacks to a title in 1996, is Corliss Williamson. This may be the first time a player has been in the league awhile, come to Detroit, and then become popular. It backs up my theory that hell has indeed found over. Usually a player will spend some time in Detroit, do nothing, and then go somewhere else and become an All-Star. Examples are Allen Houston and Grant Hill.

Not Corliss. He was drafted by the Kings in 1996 and didn’t make a difference. Now he brings 13.5 points and 4.4 rebounds a game to the Pistons. And like Wallace, he’s also a brother. He’s a big boy, 6’9” and 245 pounds.

If the Pistons can keep these guys around for awhile, an NBA title is the next step. The team has a few players who have made this team what it is. He runs around the floor like a middle school kid and is in the stands for the first time. Why’s this team so fun to watch.

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Softball team's spring in Florida a success

The Saints rack up a record of 11-1 during spring break play

by Shaun Markwatt
Contributing Writer

If you're scoring at home, chalk up an early season win for Mother Nature. Wintry conditions during the first days of spring postponed the softball team's Michigan debut last week. However, the team did get in a dozen games in Florida over spring break and came away with an impressive 11-1 record.

The Saints got things underway March 9 with a 9-2 victory. Junior pitcher Clay Gugger shut out St. Joseph's of Maine in the opener, as Aquinas got its two runs on a Krista Maranello sac fly and a wild pitch. Sophomore hurler Lenna Tompkins followed up Gugger's performance with a one-hitter in the second game. The Saints could muster only three hits between them, but were able to turn those hits into two runs in a victory against Pasco Hernando Community College.

Aquinas won a number of exciting matchups, including a pair of extra inning battles. The first occurred March 10 against Marycrest International. With the score deadlocked in the first extra frame, senior Lisa Ringerman got the game-winning hit off of junior Juli Winteringham from third on a sacrifice fly for a 5-4 Saints win. Tompkins went the distance for her second victory as Aquinas moved to 4-0.

The Saints' best victory may have come March 13 against Judson of Illinois. Aquinas found itself trailing 6-2 in the fifth inning. However, Aquinas bats heated up in the bottom of that inning as they pushed across three runs on three hits. Ringerman brought home two runs with a double and junior shortstop Randy Blain knocked in the third with a sacrifice fly.

Still, the Saints trailed 6-5 entering the bottom of the seventh and final inning. With one out, Ringenberg drilled a home run to right-center to tie the game and to send it to extra innings.

With two outs and a runner on third in the bottom of the eighth, Wrenthingham got the winning run home with a pinch-hit single. The Saints earned their eighth straight victory in dramatic fashion.

Aquinas' late inning heroics were not finished. Later that same day, the Saints trailed St. Mary's of Indiana 1-0 and were able to come from behind with a pinch-hit single. The Saints earned their eighth straight victory in dramatic fashion.

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