Save the Earth, get a T-shirt

by Andrew Kill

Contributing Writer

Live music, trees, and T-Shirts. Stress balls, pamphlets, and popcorn. What do these seemingly unrelated items have in common?

Each one will be provided free during the Earth Day Festival at the Moose Cafe April 27.

The festival will run from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. with Students Against Violation of the Environment (SAVE) as host. Briana Asmus, a sophomore and second-year member of SAVE, says the main goal of the festival is "to raise awareness about the environment."

Enter the arboret element. Asmus and her fellow SAVE members will be giving away small trees during the event. Asmus hopes recipients will not only help their trees mature, but also realize the purpose behind the giveaway.

"Hopefully people will take the trees and plant them," Asmus said. "We're just trying to get people to appreciate their environment."

SAVE also will be distributing information about environmental awareness. See Earth Page 2

By Tonya Schafer

Editor in Chief

When Multicultural Director Stella Ferris died in January after a yearlong battle with leukemia, her friends gathered together to write an obituary. Indecision arose as to where they should suggest people send donations in Ferris' name. Her friends considered Hospice or the Leukemia Society of America.

"Stella called Hospice the 'death squad.' She wasn't actively involved in the Leukemia Society either," recalls longtime friend Amy Goethal.

"A scholarship seemed the perfect solution."

Goethal has been soliciting funds to establish a scholarship at Aquinas College in Ferris' name. Goethal believes a scholarship would be the most appropriate means of paying tribute to what she says was one of Ferris' passions: dedication to the student affairs department.

"People also need to be aware of strangers hanging around - people who aren't friends," Nolan said.

"You're leaving for home. It makes your car high-profile," he advises.

"Keep it low-key," he adds.

"You want to keep it casual. Don't make it obvious what's in your car."

"This whole thing has made me a lot more careful about locking up my car and apartment," Nicolau said. "I don't leave things unattended anymore. I am a pretty trusting person and that has changed."

"Students should not be afraid to notify Campus Safety about people who seem suspicious. I know no one wants to snitch on friends. All students have to do is call and a Campus Safety officer will show them away," Nolan added.

"This is just one of the many things that are happening on campus right now. It is a reminder of how we need to be more cautious when packing and leaving campus." See Break-ins Page 3

By Nathan Peck

News Editor

A spate of stolen items has Campus Safety advising students to be cautious when packing for summer vacation.

Scholarship to honor former multicultural director

by Tonya Schafer

Editor in Chief

Students, faculty, community jazz it up at weekend event

Sophomores Jenny Wallace (from left), Nate Aareas, and Kelli Tilley take to the stage during the 29th Annual Aquinas College Jazz Festival, held April 13 and 14 in the Art and Music Center. Participants from dozens of schools and music combos spent two days honing their skills, competing for prizes, and soaking up some of the best music the area has to offer.

"Aquinas is an open, friendly place and fairly safe, but we don't want to get too complacent," Nolan said. "I don't want to cause people to panic, but if crime is coming toward us, students need to know and protect themselves."

"I was only a few minutes away," Nolan added.

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New Mel Trotter camp to benefit inner city kids

Mel Trotter Ministries hopes to raise $2.8 million to refurbish a camp it has purchased near Hopkins and to make it ready for inner city kids this summer, and ultimately house 120 of them to do manual labor at his horse farm. Laymon said. "For most of the kids we're dealing with, this is the first time they've seen their eyes on something outside asphalt and city streets," Laymon said. "We are going to be opening up the doors for these children so we can make inroads for the drastic problems of the inner city. It may be the first time they've come as close and touched something as large as a horse." Laymon expects the camp to host 40 to 60 kids a week this summer, and ultimately house 120 a week when the improvements are finished. The camp will replace Camp Mel-Tro-Mi, an aging retreat Mel Trotter has operated near Belvid for more than 30 years.

Volunteer work and travel will replace lectures and meetings for college's longtime faculty member

By Sandy Hines

Many history majors at Aquinas undoubtedly are familiar with the office of Professor of History Bill Graff. His desk, covered with the books and papers of academia, is centered in the middle of the room. It divides sitting space from the work area. One turn to the right from his desk chair gives access to a computer placed on a counter that is angled toward the back corner of the room. Swivel to the right one more time and one finds themselves in a large, old, black Royal manual typewriter. Current and not so current books are filed together on shelves that occupy all of the remaining wall space. "I've got a lot of stuff on Asia and the Middle East. And US foreign policy is over here," Graff said, describing his mini-library. A couple of metal file cabinets are squeezed in, as is the remaining floor space in the little alcove area boxes and boxes that are stacked two and three feet high. "These are records and excuse books that I haven't got any other place to store," Graff explained. Stuck among the boxes is a turquoise parrot - its head poking between the bars - stands guard. "He's very quiet," Graff says, smiling.

Earth

continued from page 1

According to Asmus, the information details what people can individually accomplish to better protect the environment. Along with trees and information, SAVE has a limited supply of T-shirts to give away. Because of the restricted quantity of merchandise, only early birds to the Festival will have a chance to commemorate their Earth Day trip to the Moosor with free clothing. Competing with SAVE in the free-goods giveaway will be members of the Psychology and Sociology Club, along with members of the Geography Club. The former will be passing out Earth-shaped stress balls, while the latter will hand out environmental facts as well as information about the club.

Besides raising environmental awareness, SAVE members want students to supplement their education with entertainment. Enter the live music. SAVE has lined up three bands - Bump, Freil, and Glass Rembrandts - and is hoping to schedule Domestica Problems as a fourth. Asmus describes Bump as having a funky sound, while Freil lends itself more to rock and roll and Glass Rembrandts is reminiscent of the Baroque Ladies.

The eclectic musical mix was premeditated. "We want there to be something for everybody," Asmus said. While enjoying the bands, people at the festival can munch on popcorn compliments of SAVE, which hopes Aquinas students won't be the only ones taking advantage of free food and music.

"We do not only want on-campus students to attend, but people from the off-campus community as well," Asmus said. To accomplish this goal, SAVE hasn't simply settled for the Aquinas bedroom publicity provided by the St. Paul Street Journal. SAVE has also advertised the event by passing out flyers at other area schools and stores. Asmus is hoping the complimentary combination of music, popcorn, information, and trees will make the event a "way people can enjoy Earth Day and become more environmentally aware."
Father Ron moving on, Father Charles to take his place

by Erica Schaefer

Father Ron Kreul will be leaving Aquinas at the end of this semester after a two-year stay. Father Charles Santoro, who has an extensive background in campus ministry, will take his place.

Departing college chaplain may be using his experience in family therapy at Wisconsin’s Edgewood College

by Nathan Peck

Aquinas will say goodbye to Chaplain Ron Kreul at the end of this year. “Father Ron,” who has served the college for two years, is interviewing at various places to determine where his service is needed next.

Father Charles Santoro is set to take over Kreul’s duties starting next school year. Director of Campus Ministry Mary Clark-Kaiser said the reason for Kreul’s departure is his background, which is not directed toward campus ministry.

“I spent some time in nylons [during the Best of Show event],” Durham said. “It was not pleasant, but for many women it is a necessity. It’s discouraging that women have to wear nylons to get work. Women have to do much more specific things — apply makeup and put on nylons, for instance — than men do. It ends up being much more costly.”

On April 11 the Women’s Studies Center teamed with River City Improv for the “Help Women Get a Leg Up” benefit.

“Rather than remaking the wheel regarding community projects to work on, we can rely on the expertise of local women’s organizations who devote their time and efforts to determining what the needs of local women are,” Haworth-Hoeppner said.

“I have a great experience working with Father Ron this year and I will really miss him,” Goodell said. “But I think Father Charles will be a great addition to Aquinas.”

A little leg meant a lot of cash for charity

by Erica Schaefer

Rainy weather didn’t dampen the mood of last week’s Crazy Legs Benefit for the YWCA Women’s Resource Center. The event raised $250 and $150 for the Clothes Closet, which provides professional clothing for poor women who want to return to the workforce.

“I did not realize nylons were cost-prohibitive,” women’s basketball Coach Linda Nash said. Nash helped organize the event.

“Our goal was to raise money for the Clothes Closet,” Nash said. “We do not get a lot of donations of nylons, according to Susan Haworth-Hoeppner, who is director of the Jane Hibbard Idema Women’s Studies Center. “The fundraiser...was a big success in raising awareness on campus as well as in the larger Grand Rapids community about the needs of the Clothes Closet and its efforts to help its clienten reenter the workforce,” Haworth-Hoeppner said.

“I spent some time in nylons during the Best of Show event,” Durham said. “It was not pleasant, but for many women it is a necessity. It’s discouraging that women have to wear nylons to get work. Women have to do much more specific things — apply makeup and put on nylons, for instance — than men do. It ends up being much more costly.”

On April 11 the Women’s Studies Center teamed with River City Improv for the “Help Women Get a Leg Up” benefit. Two dollars or a pair of pantyhose admitted for the event.

“We intend to continue expanding our efforts to participate in these community-based projects.”

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No parking...

It's 9:30 a.m. and you're late for class. Peeling around the Fulton lot, you can't find an open parking space. You hit the Albertus lot -- still no luck. As you trek to campus from the spot you have finally found a few blocks away, you stew over the lack of parking. Yet is the situation at Aquinas really so bad when compared to that at other schools? After all, we don't pay for parking like students at other schools do. Might there, in fact, be some other positive aspects to the parking situation as well? Read on as two Times staffers debate the pros and cons of parking on campus...

by Tonya Schafer

Is the amount of parking available on campus enough to meet student needs?

Yes. With a limited amount of money available to fund services and programs, the school must focus its attention on projects that will increase enrollment and that will provide the highest quality education possible. As much as we might hate to admit it on cold winter mornings when we're trudging through ice and snow from half a block away, parking cannot be high on this list of priorities. Only a few times during the day are lots filled to capacity. The rest of the time they sit empty or half full. To spend money on more parking at this point, then, seems wasteful, especially in light of the fact that projects like the Circle Theatre and the proposed new library and Fieldhouse would do more to attract students and to make a name for the college than would a new parking lot. In fact, beginning these large-scale capital projects before turning to the parking situation would be advantageous. The number of students they would draw to Aquinas would mean more money for the school and, thus, more money to fund a viable, long-term solution to the parking problem. The school should wait until it has sufficient resources and then do the job right the first time.

by Joe Boomgaard

Should the college hand out more parking permits than spaces available?

No. Not by any stretch of the imagination are the current parking facilities available at Aquinas adequate enough to meet the needs of the student population. An old adage says that one cannot put 10 pounds of crap in a five-pound bag. The veracity of that statement is applicable to the parking situation at Aquinas. Some students are forced to park off-campus because of the lack of spaces. Those who do find the last remaining parking spots end up fighting over them with several other motorists. This is not how the situation should be. If a student is supposed to be on campus for a class, he or she should not have to hike in from Eastown. The student pays to be guaranteed a place in his or her classes, so why should there not be a parking space for him or her as well? That "right" seems to be inherent in the whole process or, in any case, it should be. With the new Circle Theatre being built, even more people will be on campus at any given time and even less parking will be available. Aquinas ought to either improve the existing parking lots or upgrade them to more modern facilities that would not require any more "green space" to be altered.

Should the college let people park for free when they attend events on campus?

Yes. Think of all the times you've wanted to eat dinner downtown but were stopped by the fact that you'd have to shell out $5.00 for parking. Visitors would stay away from Aquinas for the same reason. The college is not an entertainment venue on par with Taps or the Van Andel Arena, but community relations are an important part of keeping it in the public's good graces. People who are able to visit campus without having to pay for parking are more likely to walk away with a favorable impression of the school. That impression could pay off down the road should those people decide to demonstrate their affection by making generous donations. Aquinas should be looked at as a school, not as a business. Collecting for parking would make the college seem opportunistic, like one of those people who charges a few bucks to park in his or her driveway during whatever major event is in town. It's not the sort of image a school priding itself on a strong liberal arts tradition wants to project and to avoid that possibility the school should continue to offer free parking for visitors.

No. The recent fiasco that occurred during the Jane Goodall visit shows that parking during special events can be a nightmare. Literally hundreds of people were bused in or drove individually to attend the event, causing severely cramped parking for the entire afternoon. Whenever Aquinas is fortunate enough to attract big name speakers, it should have a management plan in place to accommodate the influx of visitors to campus. Perhaps such events would best be held at "off-peak" hours, when the number of students needing to park is less. Perhaps certain lots should be designated for use by those commuters who must drive in from farther distances. Just as the college has designated resident parking areas -- which, by the way, are also cramped -- it should designate exclusive commuter parking places. If added fees are necessary to guarantee parking, so be it, especially if there were to be an exclusively commuter parking facility. In that case, at least those people who commuted would have some reassurance that they would have a place to park on arrival.

April 17, 2002
A never-ending war
Israel and Palestine both claim the moral high ground in their recently-renewed conflict, but thousands of years of strife can't be summed up quite that easily.

As the world watches the prospects for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians crumble in a cycle of attack and retaliation, it must ask itself: “Can there ever be peace in the Middle East?”

Yet, it is not without both sides making concessions—something the Palestinians and Israelis have been reluctant to do in recent history.

At issue is Palestine’s desire to reclaim the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, lands it believes were unjustly taken away from it by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967.

Israel has returned much of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestinians, but has recaptured these lands on the grounds that it believes Palestinian civilians have had nearly everything taken from them by the relentless warfare. American news organizations, traditionally sympathetic to the Israeli cause, lose sight of the fact that land dealt with by the Palestinian Authority are not self-sufficient by any means. Although the lands taken in the 1967 war have been recently returned, they are underdeveloped.

The economy of these regions relies on the ability of the Palestinians to move in and out of Israel and thereby to bring money to the underdeveloped West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians are being starved beyond submission by the fact that Israel is blockading passages to Israel proper in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

So what is the solution? Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat must rein in organizations that solicit suicide bombers. These organizations attempt to convince young Palestinians that their lives as students, sons, and daughters are hopeless and that they can find meaning only by killing innocent Israelis and themselves. Arafat has signed peace agreements, but when it comes time for his government to rein in terror suspects he lets those agreements lapse. That must change.

Israel must come to terms with the fact that the West Bank and Gaza Strip must ultimately be handed over to the Palestinian state. Starving a region through economic blockade does nothing but force a struggling people to adopt more desperate means of resistance. Israel must be willing to stand up against the radical members of society who still move Jewish settlers into that volatile region.

Both sides must be willing to make sacrifices. Palestinians and Arabs must establish that they can oppose Israeli occupation in Palestinian areas while also opposing the suicide attacks against Israel.

The future of the region lies not in tanks and martyrs but in peace and prosperity for all people. The moderates must stand against the extremists on both sides of the conflict and rescue peace from the maw of war. They must not lose sight of the fact that while thousands of extremists may take to the streets shouting for the demise of Israel or Palestine, those extremists are but a small minority when compared to the many others huddled in their homes, praying for peace.

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And you can
Quote me on that
What are your thoughts on the situation in Palestine and Israel?

“I don’t really support either side in the conflict. But [the fact that] Israel is combating terrorism” will help the United States’ own war on terror.

Jeremy Marshall, freshman

“I don’t approve of the way things are going in Israel. People are dying on both sides, Palestinians as well as Israelis.”

Meghan Porubsky, sophomore

“A lot of history is in that region. No side is necessarily right or wrong. We can’t expect one side to suddenly concede and end the conflict. A new generation of people will have to step up to bring peace to the region.”

Avery Jones, junior

“Most homicide bombings are secular demands for an independent, self-sufficient homeland. The roots of terrorism do not lie in the Palestinian Authority, but in the vast and aggressive spread of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.”

Niki Warchola, senior

“It’s a terrible tragedy and both Israelis and Palestinians are culpable. The situation just gets worse and worse. More people die and a solution, or even a cease fire, seems completely hopeless.”

Shellie Jeffries, Information Literacy and Electronic Services Librarian

Got an opinion? Share it with us!

We want to hear what you have to say about anything and everything. Send your stuff to The Aquinas Times, 1607 Robinson Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Or email it to aquinas@aquinas.edu. We will consider all material but cannot guarantee publication. Questions? Give us a call at 616-459-8281, ext. 4106.
“Love” is always too strong a word until one finds it, and then it’s not strong enough. Conversely, “pain” can be too weak a word until one has lost a love, and then it’s nowhere near strong enough.
When you’re just broken up...

Songs, Soundtracks, Singers:
Gloria Gaynor, “I Will Survive”
Nazareth, “Love Hurts”
Prince, “I Want U Back”
REM, “ Everybody Hurts”
Megadeth, “1000 Times Goodbye”
Slayer, “Bitter Peace”
Lee Ann Womack, “The Fool” and “Dance”
Barry Manilow, “Where Do I Go From Here?”
The Beatles, “Yesterday”
19 Wheels, “Broken Guitar”
Domestic Problems, “Untitled”
Nickleback, “How You Remind Me”
Godfather soundtrack
Sleepless in Seattle soundtrack
Jimmy Eat World
Counting Crows
Rage Against the Machine
Jo Dee Messina
Harry Connick, Jr.

Movies:
Forces of Nature
National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation
Shakespeare in Love
The Burning Bed
Dumb and Dumber
War of the Roses
American Psycho
Ghost
Beaches
Hope Floats
First Wives Club
Waiting to Exhale
Rainman
Love in the Afternoon
And my personal favorite:
Big Daddy – “Adam Sandler’s ex works at Hooters in the end!”

Books/Authors:
Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea
Billie Letts, Where the Heart Is
T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land
David Guterson, Snow Falling on Cedars
Danielle Steele
Judy Blume
Nicholas Sparks
Stephen King

When you’re in love...

Songs, Soundtracks, Singers:
Coldplay, “Yellow”
Kylie Minogue, “Can’t Get You Out of My Head”
Duchess, “Caledonia”
Four Tops, “ Ain’t No Woman Like the One I Got”
Pantera, “This Love”
Lionel Richie, “ My Love”
Barry Manilow, “Weekend in New England”
Paul McCartney, “ Maybe I’m Amazed”
Dave Matthews Band, “ Crash”
Lifehouse, “ Hanging by a Moment”
Hope Floats soundtrack
City of Angels soundtrack
Dashboard Confessional (“the ultimate breakup album”)
Alison Krauss
Van Morrison
The Beatles
N’ Sync
James Taylor

Movies:
Shakespeare in Love
Sleepless in Seattle
The Wedding Singer
City of Angels
Far and Away
Boys and Girls
In Love and War
Ever After
Never Been Kissed
Down to You
An Officer and a Gentleman
Love Story
Autumn in New York

This response really made me think. Is unrequited love more painful than lost love? I’m not so sure... Can you know if you really, truly love someone if you can never be with that person in any kind of intimate way, emotional and physical? Is it really even love if that person never knew and never reciprocated? Doesn’t love only grow and intensify and transform into something more as you stay and grow with a person? And if it does, and if you find your very being intertwined with this other person, and if you have changed because of his or her presence in your life, doesn’t losing this person also mean you ultimately lose a part of yourself? You almost have to break apart completely before you can regroup the pieces so that they stay together. Pieces are lost, broken, fractured, and splintered and they need to be healed – if they ever can be. But with unrequited love, it’s possible those pieces never existed and therefore can never be destroyed. We’re always told that it’s better to have loved and lost then never to have loved at all, but is it? The happiness and intense beauty found when you’re in love – is it really worth it in the end?
Gourmet cooking on the cheap

A college-aged chef tells students how to whip up Martha Stewart-worthy dishes for next to nothing

by Tonya Schafer

When asked to pick the top five cooking shows on television, Andrew Hart, a Grand Rapids Community College culinary arts student who also works at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, says “You’re not here to party, so why are you here?”

Andrew is king of the headbang, something he learned as a pianist as a child. One would never guess.

And how does one get the top five cooking shows on television? Read on.

Hart says that while he is a hard rock enthusiast, he loves gourmet cooking as well. He loves the idea of what he calls “mise en place.”

He defines “mise en place” as “getting all your vegetables cut, all your liquids measured and ready, all your utensils set. Andrew says that after the chef has completed mise en place, he can get on with his cooking.

The key, he insists, is to stay away from packaged food. “That is not a problem,” says Steve Peck, a Grand Rapids College culinary arts student who also works at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids. “Of course, there was only one choice of this brew and would definitely opt for it again. Of course, there was only one choice of this brew and would definitely opt for it again. Of course, there was only one choice of this brew and would definitely opt for it again. Of course, there was only one choice of this brew and would definitely opt for it again. Of course, there was only one choice of this brew and would definitely opt for it again.
MTV is not usually associated with quality television. The network can be blamed for producing some of the trashiest shows on basic cable.

This time of the year any of the network's spring break programs immediately springs to mind. The network also has the knack of taking something good and turning it into mainstream mediocrity.

Watching Dissonant move its studio to Times Square in 1997 it began MTV Live, a highly entertaining mix of music videos, guest interviews, and three brand new VH.

Fast-forward five years and what remains is one boring video jock (Carson Daly), a room full of screaming 15-year-olds, and the same 14-old videos shown on a three-month rotation.

But the network should be given some credit for letting its creative juices flow. MTV provided the ultimate audition for high school students of Chicago. The series lasted a surprising five seasons.

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The network also has a morphing hair color, so much so that her hair is hot pink. Continuity does not mean to be an important feature with the show's editors, though, as Kelly's hair morphs between a bubblegum pink and red mahogony in mere seconds.

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This time of the year any of the network's spring break programs immediately springs to mind. The network also has the knack of taking something good and turning it into mainstream mediocrity.

Watching Dissonant move its studio to Times Square in 1997 it began MTV Live, a highly entertaining mix of music videos, guest interviews, and three brand new VH.

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Picasso exhibit an exclusive at the GRAM

by Stephanie Pierce

Contributing Writer

From fashion and nature to mythology and storytelling, Pablo Picasso has painted it all. Most people just a chance to see his works only in textbooks, but now those in the Grand Rapids area can see Picasso's works up close and personal.

The exhibit "Landmarks of Modernism: Picasso and the 20th Century" is on loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts. The exhibit is at the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) until June 9 and, since it is not a traveling exhibition, will be in the area for this time only.

Picasso is best known for cubism, a form of painting he created and perfected with his friend, Georges Braque, from 1908 to 1912. Cubism is the use of broken outlines and planes in creating images that appear shattered and transparent.

"One of the most interesting things about Picasso," said GRAM tour guide Ruth Stubbins, "is that he is always interested in relationships between people."

This is certainly true, especially in the print "Man and a Woman," in which the two subjects appear as though they are arguing and are turned away from each other. The woman has a smile on her face that makes the viewer wonder what she is up to.

"Bust of a Man" also stands out. The work is a combination of characteristics possessed by a male model and by Picasso himself. Their contrasting features give the picture a shock value that cannot be found in any other painting. This is part of what makes Picasso different from other artists. He has a way of shocking the viewer. Picasso sometimes creates these "shock values" by using contrasting colors. This quick is seen in "The Striped Blouse," in which Picasso mixes neon orange and green into what was originally a black and white print.

"When I first came to this exhibit," patron Kelly O'Conner said, "I thought it was going to be abstract. I expected the paintings to be busy and confusing. I've never seen some of these pictures before and the ones I have seen I've seen only in a textbook. It was a great learning experience for me. I would recommend taking the tour."

The English language had a huge influence on Picasso but, interestingly, the artist could not even read English.

One example of these paintings is "L'Estocin," a cubism version of a scene in which a woman beckons people toward her. It has a wonderful sense of motion that cannot normally be captured within a two-dimensional environment.

"It is fascinating to see these paintings in real life and up close," said exhibit patron Jennifer McFarland. "Picasso has this sort of enchantment in his paintings. They are so sensual and I just love to look at them. It's a break from everyday life."

Movie Review:

High Crimes

by Mark Robbins

The Stanford Daily (Stanford, U.)

U-Wire

For Ashley Judd, the bad luck all started with 1997's Kiss the Girls, in which her character is kidnapped, drugged, and imprisoned by a sadistic serial killer. In 1999's Double Jeopardy, her character is beaten savagely and stuffed alive in Kiss the Girls, Judd - who has been Hollywood's equivalent of a crash-test dummy - finally a black and white print.

High Crimes proves yet again that nobody looks better with a black eye than Judd. In this passably entertaining military courtroom thriller, Judd - who has become Hollywood's equivalent of a crash-test dummy - finds her bad-luck streak showing no signs of letting up.

In High Crimes, Judd picks up right where she left off as Claire Kubik, a hotshot San Francisco attorney who happily resides with husband Tom (Jim Caviezel) in a picturesque Marin County cottage. One night when the Kubiks are out Christmas shopping, the FBI arrests Tom, charging him with the cold-blooded murder of nine innocent Salvadoran villagers back in his secret life as a Marine.

High Crimes is a military prison; the case is deemed one of national security. Dissatisfied with the unproven counsel assigned to Tom, Claire spearheads the defense. Claire finds she is out of her element in the ethnically flexible and intimidating world of military justice, however, and decides to enlist the aid of washed-up military attorney Charles Grimes, played with sardonic gusto by Morgan Freeman. The two quickly discover military high-ups do not take kindly to covers-up allegations. Needless to say, there are a couple of good beatings and a hospital stay in store for Judd.

Crimes is buoyed by the performances of Judd and Freeman. Judd is a rare gem, with enough charm and fire to enthrall an audience, even when her roles look nearly identical. In another signature performance, he is independent, smart, brave, and ready to stick the big lines right in the faces of unsavory and powerful men.

Freeman, who teamed with Judd in Kiss the Girls, shines as his cool and endearing self. Though disguised behind a wild streak, a drinking problem, a motorbike, an entourage of prostitutes, and a clip-on courtroom tie, it's still good old Morgan - calm and dependable, outwitting the bad guys and loving every minute.

The rest of the cast serves a functional role. Amanda Peet makes an appearance as Claire's flaky younger sister and is a waste of a perfectly good actor's talent. Peet's character is painfully unnecessary and manages to detract from each of her scenes, consistently undermin­ing the film's urgency and dramatic momentum.

Part A Few Good Men, part The General's Daughter, with just a touch of Presumed Innocent, High Crimes is a well-acted and stylishly made, if not altogether original, suspense thriller. Director Carl Franklin (Devil in a Blue Dress) is handy with his hard flashbacks but has to work with a storyline in which all the evidence doesn't quite add up.

At worst, the film is a trucy vehicle for the always-stellar Judd and Freeman. It's surprising just how far their likability can go.
BAD LUCK CAN'T STOP SOFTBALL TEAM

by Shaun Markwart

It's the midpoint of the softball season and the Aquinas team is gearing up for a second half charge. After a first half marred by rainouts and inconsistent play, the Saints find themselves in third place in the competitive Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. The Saints have got a chance to measure just where their game was headed when they played host to Grand Valley State University in a non-conference battle April 11.

The Saints showed they were at least capable of playing with the visitors from Allendale in the first game of the doubleheader. The game was scoreless heading into the sixth inning. Neither team could muster much offense against starting pitchers sophomore Lenna Tompkins of Aquinas and Amber Castonguay of Grand Valley. The inning started promisingly for the Saints as they allowed the leadoff batter to reach base on an error. After a stolen base and a fly out, GVSU's Kelly Burt lofted a shallow fly into right that looked like it would be caught. However, the ball had eyes and got down just in front of the right fielder, putting runners on first and third.

"We were doing well, one bad hop and a blooper, but I was still confident we could get out of that inning scoreless," Tompkins said. However, a wild pitch allowed one run to score and an infield single brought home a second run. Aquinas could not recover and never threatened to score after that. Grand Valley added a run in the seventh for a 2-0 victory.

Grand Valley went on to win the second game as well, 8-1, dropping Aquinas to 18-8 overall. Prior to the Grand Valley match-up, the Saints split two games with last-place Indiana Tech after sweeping both Madison and Spring Arbor. The Saints know they have to play better if they are to get back into the WHAC race. For them to be successful, the offense needs to come out of its slump. "The bats are what have hurt us on the past few games," sophomore outfielder Alissa Jackson noted. To repeat as champions, the Saints must take a great second half of the conference season. Corrections finds itself out front with only one loss (8-1). The Saints know they have a tough challenge in front of them. "We've been solid. We just have our ups and downs and unfortunately we haven't been able to get into a groove," Tompkins said.

With over a dozen games left, Aquinas still has an opportunity to make its move. The Saints will get a chance to get on a much-needed roll today with a huge home game against Concordia, which sits in second place in the conference. The Saints are confident they can pull it off. "We've just got to keep working hard and playing our game. We've got to get a little lucky because we are already good," Tompkins said.

ACROSS THE NATION: POLE VAULTING DEATHS ON THE RISE

by Samantha Robinson

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Baseball team looking to improve after recent losses

by Nathan Peck

Sports Editor

Warming temperatures unfortunately did not convert into WHAC wins for the baseball team last week. The Saints split a doubleheader with Madonna April 13 and lost both games against Siena Heights April 14. As of press time, the Saints are tied with Tri-State for second place in the WHAC with a 7-6 conference record. They are chasing Indiana Tech's 11-1 conference record.

"The (Saints) game was a huge disappointment," said freshman infielder Scott Miller. "I don't think we've lost two games against Siena Heights at home in the last several years."

The recent losses have the Saints surprised that rather than competing for the top spot in the WHAC, they're fighting to stay in the top three. The late cold spell forced practices inside and Miller believes that this, combined with injuries, has caused the mid-season collapse.

"Now all of the league games are important. We can't lose any more," Miller said. "The conference race matters." The bad luck started during game one of an April 7 doubleheader against WHAC-rival Kalamazoo College and Alma College.

"We expected to win against Mod­donna. That pitcher just shut us down in the first game. We almost came back in the seventh inning but came up short," Miller said.

The Saints play at WHAC oppo­nents Tri-State (12-14) and Spring Arbor (11-16) April 17 and 19 respectively.

force to be reckoned with among smaller Midwestern conference teams. The AQ men have dominated their matches, posting a 17-2 overall record and successfully climbing the NAIA rankings until, at press time, they were comfortably seated at the No. 18 spot.

With the NAIA Regionals just around the corner on May 2 and 3 in In­dianapolis, Head Coach Jerry Hendrick hopes to add to his collection of four NAIA Great Lakes regional titles with Aquinas.

He administers that team members must remain focused on the immediate and tough opponents who still await them. Sophomore Nate Price agrees. Price stated that "though the season is winding down and we're practicing a lot more playing less matches" those matches should consist of "pretty good competition." The men appear to be ready for the challenge. "We really have an excellent tennis team this year," Hendrick said, "about as good a team as we have had here at Aquinas."

The AQ women have also been mak­ing a name for themselves, quickly becom­ing "one of the teams to beat in the area," according to Head Coach Gerard Adams. "Right now we are 6-2 and going re­ally strong," said freshman Gaatie Krafft, who currently is undefeated.

The women are winding down their season with a last few matches and are looking forward to the NAIA Regionals, held in Indianapolis May 3 and 4.

The women are – for the most part – optimistic about how their remaining matches and the regional tournament will turn out.

"[As a team] we've gotten much bet­ter from last year. It should all be uphill from here," Krafft said.

"We've just having a good time," added sophomore teammate Sara Peterson.

Recent wins indicate that the Saints show their opponents no mercy. The AQ men defeated Albion 8-1 and shut out Tri­State 9-0. Similarly, the AQ women beat Defiance 8-1 and held Adrian scoreless 9-0.

If the Saints continue with this cur­rent trend, a few more regular season wins and a good placement in the regional tourna­ment should be no problem.

The women take on Spring Arbor at 3:30 p.m. April 23 and the men face Tri­State at 4:00 p.m. Friday.