Students feel parking pinch as construction, underclassmen fill available spots

by Chris Epplett

It's 9:24 Monday morning. Freshman Laura Brizzolara pulls into Aquinas' Fulton parking lot, frantically searching for a space.

In six minutes, Brizzolara will be late for her 9:30 a.m. Inquiry and Expression class. Yet, she cannot locate a parking space.

Just as Brizzolara is about to give up, a student leaving from an 8:00 a.m. class pulls away.

"If I don't get there early, I can't get a parking spot," Brizzolara says. "It's pretty annoying."

Brizzolara is not the only student who thinks finding a parking space at Aquinas is irritating.

While a majority of students are unhappy with the situation, director of Campus Safety Tony Nolan believes the complaints are unmerited.

"There isn't a college in the state that doesn't have a parking problem," Nolan said, adding that the problem is minimal and mostly exists on two days—Monday and Thursday.

Sophomore Gillian Rabbit, a transfer student from Western Michigan University, agreed with Nolan.

"Western was awful," Rabbit said. "It was a hassle. I don't have that anymore."

According to Rabbit, WMU charged $225 for a parking ticket and planned to raise the price this year. While she says she realizes there were 28,000 spaces. And everyone could bring a car, Aquinas is not nearly as bad as Western.

"Western was awful," Rabbit said. "It was a hassle. I don't have that anymore."

Nolan argues that selling permits doesn't have a parking problem, according to Nolan. Over the years, campus safety has received many suggestions including eliminating freshmen parking, selling permits and building more parking lots.

However, none of these solutions offer a "total answer" to the dilemma, according to Nolan.

"If you eliminate freshman parking, you go from one extreme to the other," Nolan said. "We have too many empty spaces."

"The designated boundaries of the Mayfield Lot cannot accommodate the number of drivers trying to park there. Many drivers resorted to parking on the grass areas, a practice that could lead to a ticket and a fine. In response to complaints and actions such as this, Campus Safety officers have been cracking down on those illegally parked in the designated lots."

Nolan said. "They need to designate an area for them."

Despite criticism, Nolan still believes campus safety has done its best in limiting parking problems.

"We endeavor to keep parking efficient," Nolan said. "If everyone parks where they're supposed to, we will have fewer problems."

AQ Club Night focuses on fun, prevention

New grant allows AQRAAAD to throw drug and alcohol free party

by Chris Epplett

Adorning the campus with strategically placed signs, the newly formed Aquinas Residence Assistance Against Absusive Decisions (AQRAAAD) has struck the curiosity of Aquinas students.

"What makes you break the rules?" "It's my life," and "Special tent, must be 21 to enter" are just some of the messages being voiced by the group.

"I saw the signs and thought, 'I wonder what that means,'" sophomore Mari Doremire said. "I figured it was probably something big."

According to AQRAAAD adviser Randy MacGeorge, it is all part of the organization's plan as it readies for AQ Club Night—a free, fun night open to Aquinas students.

"We want to show students that there is more to college than drinking or drugs," AQRAAAD member Kristi Pavlak said. "We also feel Aquinas is not that type of school and this is a way to prove it."

The event, scheduled for Friday, October 11, will take place at East Hills Country Club. Its main attractions include inflatable devices, basketball, volleyball, swimming and live entertainment, among others.

A local restaurant will cater food for the event. In addition, AQRAAAD will hand out door prizes.

Transportation will be available as well.

"It sounds like it's going to be a pretty fun and exciting night," Doremire said. "I don't see why a student wouldn't want to go. You can't beat the price."

Pavlak and members of AQRAAAD hope students are as receptive as Doremire.

"We really want to go all-out on this event," MacGeorge said, adding that AQRAAAD has a $5,000 budget to host two events.

The first part of the event was held last Friday with AQRAAAD's low budget questionnaire tent. This means most of the money will be spent on the October 11 event.

According to MacGeorge, Aquinas does not normally have such a large budget for an event like AQ Club Night. However, thanks to a check from the Prevention Network of MCRID (Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking), a large event could be planned.

The Prevention network, which gave AQRAAAD official notification of its award on September 13, is a statewide program that coordinates efforts to reduce underage drinking and destructive behavior.

AQRAAAD received the grant through the efforts of Pavlak and members of AQRAAAD who quickly devised a plan after hearing of Prevention Network's grant this summer. By the start of the school year, Pavlak sent Aquinas' application, hoping for a positive response.

"We were both surprised and excited to find out we were getting the award," Pavlak said. "We were really lucky."

In its award letter to AQRAAAD, Prevention Network encouraged the organization to "survey students" during AQ Club Night, and "use the information to inform students about the truth of Aquinas College student alcohol, tobacco and other drug use."

While AQRAAAD does plan to give surveys, members believe the night is more about having fun than gathering statistics.

"The survey is really only a small part of the event," MacGeorge said. "We just want to students to have a good time."

Since the grant is renewable, AQRAAAD hopes to gain future growth and through this year's event. Meanwhile, grant renewal is based on AQRAAAD's success in its program, largely measured by student receptiveness of the event.
AQ Community Leadership Institute director announces candidacy for GR mayoral race

by Joe Boomgaard
Assistant Editor

One of the Aquinas College community has thrown his hat into the ring for the 2003 Grand Rapids mayoral race.

On Monday, George Heartwell, the director of the Aquinas Community Leadership Institute, officially announced his intention to seek office at a conference in the Loutit room. A crowd of more than 50 people showed up to hear the announcement.

Before opening the floor to questions, Heartwell, 53, outlined the main points of his campaign, which included improving enrollment in public schools, attracting new industry to Grand Rapids, and giving equal opportunity for all people.

"Whether in the area of public health, public education, or public transportation, I believe that the mayor must speak out boldly as a strong advocate on behalf of our children, senior citizens, and all residents who are entitled to the quality public services that enrich public life," Heartwell said.

Heartwell, a former Third Ward City Commissioner and Heartside minister, has a deeply rooted connection to Grand Rapids.

Having been a part of numerous groups like the Interurban Transit Partnership, the Grand Rapids Housing Appeals, Habitat for Humanity, Grand Rapids Urban League, and Women's Resource Center, Heartwell was confident in his qualifications.

"I am experienced (and) my roots in this city as a community leader are deep. I am bold enough to lead us where we have not been and careful enough to avoid pitfalls along the way. "Grand Rapids needs strong leadership now more than ever before. I offer that leadership," Heartwell said.

Heartwell said Grand Rapids to continue to strengthen as a community while still fostering a strong industrial base.

"We are a fully developed urban center surrounded by rapidly growing cities and townships. We have to find ways to reverse the trends of urban sprawl that have a negative impact on our city while looking for meaningful ways to be a good partner with our neighbors," Heartwell said.

In 1994, Heartwell was named "Civil Libertarian of the Year" by the West Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was also recognized as "Newsmaker of the Year" by the Grand Rapids Business Journal in 1999.

Thus far, Heartwell is the only officially declared candidate for the nonpartisan election for the mayor of Grand Rapids, although declarations by several other people are rumored to be forthcoming.

Both current Third Ward commissioner, Scott Brown, and State Senator Glenn Stil, R-Grand Rapids, have already started exploratory committees but have made no official statements as of press time.

The mayoral seat is being vacated by John Logie, who said he would not seek reelection when his term expires in December 31, 2003. Logie has been the mayor of Grand Rapids since 1992, having served four terms.

Heartwell told Grand Rapids Press reporters that he did not want to go up against Logie.

"He's been an exceptional mayor and a very popular mayor," Heartwell said.

By announcing his candidacy now, Heartwell said that he hopes to establish momentum for himself in the mayoral race.

"I'm doing exploring," Heartwell told the audience. "I'm ready to jump in and swim."
Grant named new student activities director

by Annie Scott

Have you ever wondered who comes up with the events on campus?

There is someone behind them - the director of campus activities. As of July, Aquinas has a new director, Jesse Grant, at the helm.

Dean of Students, Brad Winkler, believes there is no doubt that Grant will bring much enthusiasm to the job. Students, faculty and staff interviewed all of the applicants for the director of campus activities in June. Of the candidates, Grant seemed to fit the bill.

Grant, formerly of Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, also worked at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Kent State and Oberlin College—all there in Ohio. Grant graduated from Kent State with a degree in sociology and ethnic studies, and received a Master's degree in student development and higher education administration from University of Iowa.

There were certain qualifications for the job. Grant qualified for his position by bringing to Aquinas at least two years of direct experience. Experience in both the multicultural department and campus life was also a must. A Master's degree was another job requirement.

Grant had all of the necessary job skills and education needed for the job. According to two interviewers' notes, Grant was "enthusiastic" and "understood Dominican tradition." His personality was described as a "go-to guy," "approachable and fun." All the interviewers had the same positive outlook on Grant taking the reins of director. After passing the interviews he was offered the job.

"Aquinas is rooted in the Dominican tradition. I believe that hospitality and serving others is a great thing. When I read the mission statement and what we work toward, I knew that AQ was the place for me," Grant said.

"An ironic twist was the day I offered Jesse the job, it was his birthday," said Winkler.

Perhaps a birthday wish come true, a new job with the possibility of making a major impact on the Aquinas campus and the students, faculty and staff. As his first business, he was responsible for running orientation. Grant also worked with Resident Advisors and the Orientation Group Leaders prior to everyone arriving to campus.

"He has a lot of energy that is good for a campus like this. He came in with concerns about what the students wanted," sophomore Mandy Hendrickson said.

According to students, this energy has had a positive impact on the Resident Advisors which has been passed down to the dorm residents and other students.

Grant has also stepped in to teach an inquiry and expression class.

"His energy is the best part of his teaching. I think he stresses multicultural literature, in a good way. He also provokes diverse thought," freshman Marcy Bennett said.

"Jesse has a great sense of humor. He brings to the position a wide range of experience, in both multicultural and campus," Winkler said.

Anti-War Discussion

by Curtis R. Burdette

On September 16, several dozen students and faculty converged on the Wege Mall to listen to three Aquinas College faculty members and a community leader join forces to share their message, "You Know Why We Shouldn't Go to War, But Do You Know Why We Should?"

Jeff Smith—Director of the GR. Institute for Information Democracy, George Heartwell—Director of the Community Leadership Institute, Dr. Roger Durham—Associate Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Kris Love—Asst. Dean of International and Cultural Studies, each presented an argument opposing an attack on Iraq.

Their arguments presented two main reasons not to start a war in Iraq: because innocent Iraqi citizens would be killed and Americans would die without changing the Iraqi regime.

Speakers criticized George W. Bush, the United States President, for seeking political gains by attacking Iraq. They claimed most Americans lack awareness of the brutality of war, and encouraged students opposed to war to contact representatives of Congress.
Famous pianist visits Aquinas

by Megan Andres

Contributing Writer

Leon Fleisher visited Aquinas College in September 12, 2002. While originally billed as a performance by the pianist, the event became an educational lecture entitled "Introduction to the Grand Rapids Symphony" by the Emeritus College. Rabbi Al Lewis, Director of the Emeritus College, credited Tourangeau, the General Manager of the Grand Rapids Symphony, for such occasions so as to preserve their primary, more expensive instruments. Fleisher agreed saying that the event was billed as a performance by the piano director of education, with bringing Fleisher to speak for the Emeritus symphony class entitled "Introduction to the Grand Rapids Symphony." "This is such a wonderful opportunity," Lewis commented about the luck that Fleisher was available to speak while preparing to perform with the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Fleisher's presentation was accompanied by an educational lecture by Melia Tortugarcía, the General Manager of the Grand Rapids Symphony. Tourugarcía focused on the behind-the-scenes operation that keeps the symphony running. She touched on a range of topics such as rehearsals, union contracts and the collaboration between the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Grand Rapids Ballet and Opera Grand Rapids.

While some lack of a performance was delivering, the educational value of the lecture that followed was quite high. Tourugarcía spoke about the preparation a symphony musician needs to become adept at their craft. "Pianists begin during the age range of 3 to 5 years," Tortugarcía informed the group. Fleisher agreed saying that the formative years were very important. "A 20 hour-a-week practice routine to become accomplished musicians," she joked.

Fleisher emphasized that "to play an instrument is an extraordinary activity." He cited the physical, emotional and mental focus that a musician needs to have as integral to their success. When an audience member asked about the length of a "average" piano section, Fleisher cited several Brahms pieces that last from 45 to 50 minutes. Concerertos last between 25 and 35 minutes, and a short piano piece is usually 17 minutes long. The length of the pieces, he seems justified that a soloist is only able to practice with an ensemble once or twice before a performance. But Fleisher stated that such a feat is actually very difficult. "Soloists play something with a certain expression," he said. Lack of practice with an ensemble can affect the "feel" of the piece. The lecture ended with a mention by Rabbi Al Lewis of another lecture/performance slated to be held in the Brown Center for the arts. Fleisher also covered the responsibilities of her job as the General Manager of the Grand Rapids Symphony. "We spend money to develop marketing," she joked. A manager serves the musicians while managing the orchestra. Such management is important to preserve both the musicians and the instruments they play.

Tourugarcía spoke about the musicians' union and the kinds of contractual agreements that they have with the symphony. "The indoor temperature of the symphony must be held to 81 degrees. The humidity must fall within 30 to 50 percent." Tourugarcía clarified that these rules were in place to protect and preserve the instruments from wear and damage. When asked about the outdoor temperature range, Tourugarcía answered, "The outdoors extreme was informative yet slightly disappointing. The event was billed as a performance to all Emeritus classes as well as the faculty and staff of Aquinas College through ACORN, the online campus news service. No explanation was forthcoming at the lecture, but Marty Fehery did make an announcement on ACORN on Friday, September 15. "Emeritus wishes to extend an apology to faculty, staff and students," Fehery began in his announcement. "Fleisher decided at the last minute that he would be unable to perform for the Emeritus class."

Book Review: Confessions of a Shopaholic

by Katie Jensen

Contributing Writer

In this hilarious novel by Sophie Kinsella, Rebecca Bloomwood is a London financial journalist who just can't stop shopping. When she realizes that she is way over her credit card limits and her bank account's overdraft limit, she decides that she must follow her father's advice: cut back or make more money. This book tracks Rebecca's adventures as she tries one scheme after another to solve her own financial problems. Kinsella has created a delightfully human character in Rebecca Bloomwood. Rebecca is not perfect and she manages to get herself into trouble. A good book has a determined spirit that encourages her to keep trying anything and everything to get her life back on track. From trying to cook herself exotic Thai food to writing for "Fleish in Flemish" on her resume, Rebecca's jokes are so laughable at once. Pick up this book if you need to lift your spirits or as a gift for a shopaholic friend.

Band Review: Sparta

by Mark Hofmann

Contributing Writer

With so many new bands forming these days, it is no wonder that many great artists are largely unheard of, both in the press and on the radio. Thus many listeners are constantly looking for new music that challenges them to focus beyond sounding like every other band on the radio. Enter the four-man El Paso-based group Sparta.

Sparta's origins came after the breakup of another El Paso band called At The Drive In (ATDI). Three of Sparta's four members, Paul Hinjosa, Jim Ward and Toni Hazel, have played together since 1994 when Ward co-founded ATDI. However, after the band's breakup, they began playing with their friend Matt Miller. So was the beginning for Sparta. The band started from scratch and released a five song EP entitled "Anter" in March of 2002. After the EP, the band continued recording and released their first full-length album "Wontam Scars" on August 13, 2002.

So what does Sparta sound like? This is always the most difficult thing to describe, so the best thing a listener can do is go and check them out. Sparta sort of a more socially aware emo/punk band. That is the way to "kaboom" them. The band members also worked with the division of Fleet and Third world living conditions by a chain-link fence as a facet of daily reality. Clearly Sparta's influence is very far reaching. But what does Sparta's influence mean to a listener? In their eyes, it becomes a sort of a more socially aware emo/punk band.


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Concert Review: Sparta's "Wontam Scars"

In this hilarious novel by Sophie Kinsella, Rebecca Bloomwood is a London financial journalist who just can't stop shopping. When she realizes that she is way over her credit card limits and her bank account's overdraft limit, she decides that she must follow her father's advice: cut back or make more money. This book tracks Rebecca's adventures as she tries one scheme after another to solve her own financial problems. Kinsella has created a delightfully human character in Rebecca Bloomwood. Rebecca is not perfect and she manages to get herself into trouble. A good book has a determined spirit that encourages her to keep trying anything and everything to get her life back on track. From trying to cook herself exotic Thai food to writing for "Fleish in Flemish" on her resume, Rebecca's jokes are so laughable at once. Pick up this book if you need to lift your spirits or as a gift for a shopaholic friend.

Club Review: Sparta's "Fleish in Flemish"

On one's first visit, how easy is it to make an announcement on ACORN on Friday, September 15. "Emeritus wishes to extend an apology to faculty, staff and students," Fehery began in his announcement. "Fleisher decided at the last minute that he would be unable to perform for the Emeritus class."

What about the prices? A ticket to Saturday Night Live was the goal. But Fleisher also covered the responsibilities of her job as the General Manager of the Grand Rapids Symphony. "We spend money to develop marketing," she joked. A manager serves the musicians while managing the orchestra. Such management is important to preserve both the musicians and the instruments they play. Tourugarcía spoke about the musicians' union and the kinds of contractual agreements that they have with the symphony.

"The indoor temperature of the symphony must be held to 81 degrees. The humidity must fall within 30 to 50 percent." Tourugarcía clarified that these rules were in place to protect and preserve the instruments from wear and damage. When asked about the outdoor temperature range, Tourugarcía answered, "The outdoors extreme was informative yet slightly disappointing. The event was billed as a performance to all Emeritus classes as well as the faculty and staff of Aquinas College through ACORN, the online campus news service. No explanation was forthcoming at the lecture, but Marty Fehery did make an announcement on ACORN on Friday, September 15. "Emeritus wishes to extend an apology to faculty, staff and students," Fehery began in his announcement. "Fleisher decided at the last minute that he would be unable to perform for the Emeritus class."

And what about the prices? A ticket to Late Night with Conan O'Brien was the first goal. Upon choosing the show from the drop down menu, one is taken to a site that offered links to a biography, books and videos, email, frequently asked questions, and, finally, tickets.

Getting tickets to great shows at great prices.

by Megan Andres

Contributing Writer

So, you're going to New York City. On your schedule you've planned for the trip of a lifetime! Yeah, right! But have you made some time for seeing a few of the great television-based entertainment of the Big Apple? No? For some people, the concern comes from a fear of the drop down menu, one is taken to a site that offered links to a biography, books and videos, email, frequently asked questions, and, finally, tickets.

A website called New York TV Show Tickets offers your one-stop-shop for television show tickets. Also offered on the site are ways to search for Broadway show tickets and Hollywood television show tickets and Chicago television show tickets. While the site focuses more on the tickets for television, they also offer links on free guided tours of New York and half-priced Broadway tickets.

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On one's first visit, how easy is it to find tickets to different television shows? And what about the prices? A ticket to Late Night with Conan O'Brien was the first goal. Upon choosing the show from the drop down menu, one is taken to a site that offered links to a biography, books and videos, email, frequently asked questions, and, finally, tickets.

Get tickets to great shows at great prices.

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The Count of Monte Cristo makes decent transition from print to film

by Pat Hurley

Recently, a friend recommended that I see the movie The Count of Monte Cristo, which had just come out on video and DVD, suggesting that it was the type of movie I liked. I was somewhat reluctant to do this.

When comparing books to movies based on the books, it is almost inevitable that the book will win out as a more enjoyable experience than the movie. Although this proved to be the case with The Count of Monte Cristo, I found that I was pleasantly surprised by what the movie had to offer.

The movie is based on Alexandre Dumas' famous, and in my opinion excellent, novel The Count of Monte Cristo. It tells the story of an honest sailor named Edmond Dantes played James Caviezel, who, on the verge of marrying his love Mercedes played by Dagmar Domincyzk and becoming captain of a ship, is unjustly imprisoned for life.

He finds out later that it was his own friend Fernand (Guy Pearce), along with an associate Danglars (Albie Woodington), and an aristocrat Villefort (James Frain) that set him up, each with their own purposes of moving up in the world.

Some 15 years later, Dantes escapes and revenges himself as the Count of Monte Cristo, dedicating himself to get revenge against his enemies.

The movie, directed by Kevin Reynolds, keeps the basic plotline, but little else, taking creative liberties to give the story a happier or "Hollywood" ending.

Although we glimpse the conflict and self-doubt that Dantes undergoes when he finds that Mercedes is married to Fernand, it is nowhere near the depth that Dumas' novel gives it. Nor do we see how Dantes views himself as an instrument of God by enacting his vengeance and the inner conflict there.

However, aside from lacking the depth and beautiful prose of the original novel, the newest version of this film is for all intents and purposes a very fun movie. It has something for everyone: romance, action, mystery, and redemption.

In cinematography it is beautiful; the sword-fighting scenes are fun, and the costumes elegant and entrancing.

If one rents it with having fun in mind, then you won't be disappointed. If you expect The Shawshank Redemption, which actually makes reference to this story, sorry folks.

The actors do an adequate job, especially considering the lines they are given, but it is Guy Pearce who steals the show as a particular cold and callow Fernand. His aunts do a deft job, but it is Guy Pearce who steals the show as a particular cold and callow Fernand. His performances do this. His aunts do a deft job, but it is Guy Pearce who steals the show as a particular cold and callow Fernand. His performances do this.

The Count of Monte Cristo...
Homecoming weekend at Aquinas was once again a hectic, fun-filled, and successful event. Alumni and students gathered on campus for the numerous activities and events over the three days of festivities. Thursday evening kicked off the entertainment of the weekend with comedian Billy Burr at the Carriage House and Friday night featured the comedy of Eric Nieves. Early Saturday morning, tents representing Aquinas College clubs and organizations lined the lawn south of Holmdene. Music Club, Math Club, AQCLAIM, Casa Hogar, were among many groups selling items and seeking donations. Campus Ministry sponsored selling sweatshirts for the Service Learning Program and also sold Salvadoran crafts to raise money for poverty-stricken citizens of El Salvador. Among the student club tents, an inflatable obstacle course and a dunk tank provided hours of fun and entertainment for all ages.

At 11:30 am, students arrived in costume for the traditional “Centipede Shuffle,” also known as Ernie’s Run. Madonna look-a-likes, students donning hot pink wigs and pleather pants, chained inmates, and life-size fruits paraded down the sidewalks of Aquinas College. Ernie’s Run continued its success as an Aquinas Homecoming tradition.

Saturday afternoon featured Homecoming games for Aquinas Women’s and Men’s Soccer teams. Both teams secured a victory before a crowd of several hundred avid fans. The Women’s Soccer team beat Concordia 4-1 in an intense match. The Men’s Soccer team shut out Concordia 9-0.

The 2002 Homecoming Court ceremony honored an excellent group of Junior and Senior representatives. Court members for 2002 included: Seth Peters, Tom Eggleston, Josh Friedrichs, Mike Lerma, and Matt Krevda representing the men and Jennifer Giddings, Gloria Jones, Pam Howe, Monique Nadon, and Kerry Lucas representing the women. Krevda and Lucas were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

Saturday evening alumni and students had the pleasure of listening to five local bands perform in The Battle of the Bands. Music Club organized the event, and awarded two hours of studio recording time to Dogs of War, a heavy metal band based in East Lansing.

Music was a big part of Homecoming not only because of the Battle of the Bands, but also the performances by the Jazz Band and the Sunday Jazz Brunch that brought an end to all the weekend’s events. The Jazz Brunch featured music the direction of Dr. Paul Brewer. Money raised from the Brunch will support the Dr. R. Bruce Early Memorial Jazz Scholarship.
Homecoming at Aquinas was once again a great weekend that was made possible by the supportive students, alumni, and faculty of Aquinas College.

Above: The inflatable climbing wall provided entertainment for many youngsters.

Below: Several popular Crayon colors escaped the captivity of the 64 Color Box to support the Centipede Shuffle.

Above: Rainbow Bright fans joined forces to create a colorful team of heroes. After participating in Ernie’s Run, the infamous cartoons stars took a moment for a photo opportunity.

Above: Who are you gonna call when the Stay-Puff Marshmallow Man haunts the Aquinas campus? Aquinas’ finest Ghost Busters were in hot pursuit of the sugary creature and finally caught up to him in front of the Fieldhouse Saturday morning.

Left: Among other Homecoming activities, the dunk tank provided a chance to soak a fearless volunteer into a pool of cool water.
Letters to the Editor

Church teachings misrepresented by writer

Dear Mr. Nate Peck,

While I disagree with your stance on Aquinas's Catholic Identity (see Point/Counterpoint May 1, 2002), I'm more concerned with your misrepresentation of Church teaching when you made the comment concerning Darwin, creationism, and evolution. You stated that creationism is the Church's official teaching. However, you are incorrect. The Church does not teach creationism nor does it teach evolution. It does leave the door open for evolution.

The Church does not consider the first and second chapters of Genesis to be accurate, historical accounts of creation. The Church teaches that God "created" and as long as God is the component to how the universe came to be, theories such as evolution and the Big Bang are acceptable and not at odds with Church teaching.

I suggest that you read Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"). This encyclical addresses the complimentary roles that the Church and Science have with one another.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Matthew Bamum
Oblate School of Theology

School of Ed. does prepare students for diversity

Dear editor,

I read with mixed emotion the unsigned editorial opinion about the preparation of students for careers in teaching in the 1 May 2002 edition of the Aquinas Times (see "Lesson learned").

Any basic research into the history of employment of Aquinas College students recommended for certification as teachers and the current teacher education program would show that students spend a considerable amount of time in the field working with veteran teachers in public and private schools, urban, suburban, and rural schools.

For years we have served as the center for education and support services in the Midwest for applying the concepts of "learning styles" or "multiple intelligences" in everyday instruction of all children. K-12 educators have identified Aquinas College as the only higher education program that takes multiple intelligences and learning styles seriously.

Our job in the School of Education is to prepare people to be the best teachers they can, whatever student group they wish to work with. No one is lesser for choosing to work where they believe they can be most successful. Teaching about the diverse aspects of American is not limited to teachers in the urban schools; it is the responsibility of all teachers everywhere.

V. James Garofalo, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education

By-lined opinion

Selective logging protects forests, people

In reaction to a surge in the number of wildfires in recent years, Congress is considering a controversial bill that would make it easier for officials to scientifically manage forests.

by Joe Boomgaard

Congress is currently considering a bill that aims to counteract years of mismanagement of the national forest system that has been responsible in part for the deadly "super" wildfires of the past few years.

The existing policy is one that has been highly influenced by emotion, rather than science. The so-called "tree huggers" have succeeded in putting their unscientific agenda to work in the agencies that control the use of forest resources.

To save the trees is a noble cause, but not always a scientific one. Those people who refuse to condemn any cutting of trees and demand that any forest fire be immediately suppressed are actually causing more harm than good to the overall health of the forests that they aim to protect.

The large fires of the past few summers that burned millions of acres are a clear example of the negative effects of this extremism. The recent dry conditions coupled with years of mismanagement as a result of the extremists' lobbying are to blame for these fires.

There is no doubt that forest conservation is an important crusade. Trees are vital to our existence and should be protected. However, protection of the resource does not mean a totally hands-off approach to forestry management. On the other hand, clear-cutting national forests does not do any good either. Selective use is key to maintaining a healthy balance.

Without removing the dense underbrush in a forest, the forest becomes a dangerous accident in the making. Tinderbox conditions result, and one careless cigarette butt or lightning strike can put thousands of people in danger.

Therefore, some logging is a good thing. The logging practices of today are much more environmentally sound than in days past. The much-maligned practice of clear-cutting is a rarity, having been replaced with select cutting, which targets the smaller trees and allows the mature forest to continue to grow. That type of use acts as a man-made alternative to fires.

By eliminating extremism from forest management, a healthier, more natural balance can be achieved. If fires are not allowed to burn the underbrush, then it must be removed. Sometimes a bit of human intervention can be for the greater good of nature.

With good logging procedures in place, the huge and uncontrollable fires can be somewhat prevented. Removing the dense undergrowth and leaving the mature forest intact would be a benefit both to the ecology and to the people around it.

The bill that the national legislature is currently considering would make it easier to log certain areas that had previously had moratoriums on logging, causing the forests to become overgrown. However, another part of the bill calls for a suspension of the environmental laws in certain serious cases.

Herein is the dilemma for lawmakers. While the bill would bring science to the forefront of forestry management, it could also pose a serious threat to the surrounding ecology should currently forbidden logging practices be used.

A similar rider was placed on another forestry bill in 1995 that resulted in abuses by the timber industry. The more commercially viable mature trees were harvested in places where just the underbrush was to be removed. However, if the current bill could make safeguards to prevent that from occurring, then Congress should strongly consider adopting this bill.

One thing that is often lost in these debates about forests is that trees are a renewable resource. A logged forest will grow back over time, given that the area is left undisturbed. In some areas where development is unstoppable or is already present, forestry officials must pay special attention because the lives of people in the area are at risk when forest growth goes unchecked. It is only logical that people's lives and safety must take precedent over trees regardless of the PEA-like extremists' claims of the contrary.

The improper management of the forests surrounding them has endangered people's lives long enough. Any reasonable effort that would help prevent huge fires from occurring needs to be taken seriously.

That being said, Congress must not act blindly either, and any provision that suspends current environmental law must be carefully scrutinized.
Hallowed ground

The parking issue once again becomes the hot topic for commuters and residents alike. What is the answer? The Times staff weighs in on the debate.

Perhaps the college should find an off-campus area to construct a permanent parking lot. Students who have cars would likely use this lot for off-campus parking. However, something has to give, and it is high time that the college acts to remedy the situation.

Class scheduling would cause the problem? Maybe. The number of students expected to be on campus at a given time should dictate when classes are scheduled. The number of students registered for classes at a given time should be compared to the expected amount of available parking spaces. It seems logical that these numbers should be similar to that students are not inconvenienced. If the classes were spread more throughout the week rather than in clusters on certain times and days, then the rush for parking could possibly be reduced.

Another idea would restrict some students' abilities to park cars on campus. Having cars on campus could be reserved as a privilege for all commuters and for upperclassmen that reside at Aquinas. Resident underclassmen (freshmen and sophomores) would be greatly restricted from having cars on campus. By limiting resident underclassmen's car privileges, the strain on parking could be greatly reduced.

While this may not be a popular plan, it would be the easiest to enact and would not involve any investment by the college. Most other schools have some sort of policy to underclassmen that live on campus; perhaps it is time for Aquinas to do likewise.

The aforementioned plan would not make it impossible for underclassmen to get around. Grand Rapids, given the extensive public transportation systems, is a prime target for an in-depth session about the Rapid and provide students with maps and bus schedules. If students knew more about the program, perhaps they would feel confident to use it more often.

Yet another way to alleviate the current parking stress is to charge for parking. No one wants to pay another fee, but a guaranteed spot might be worth the price and the reduction in commuter hassle. Certain lots would be reserved for students who bought the special parking permit. Also, the number of permits sold should not exceed the number of parking spaces, thus guaranteeing the students who bought the permit a place to park. The monies generated by these permit fees could go toward funding an alternative parking system and lot maintenance.

Aquinas has many commuter students, the college must consider parking a high priority issue. Since prospective students might look at parking as being an important consideration when choosing a school, Aquinas would certainly benefit from improving the parking facilities. At least using better planning when scheduling classes.

Aquinas is a great place to be, but students' choices to stay on campus during their breaks should not be limited by the hectic rush. A protective instinct one has for a parking spot might be worth the price. What their schedules are like, and finally, would they be willing to share rides to and from campus. This would also conserve gas and wear and tear on cars.

How should Aquinas deal with the current parking problem?

"I think there should be a one-to-one parking spot to car ratio. Or at the very least, a one-to-one parking spot to parking permit ratio. Enlarging the Mayfield Lot a few feet on the east side would help towards that goal."

Johnathon Pohl, freshman

"The parking situation with the new Freshman has been giving me lots of problems. Maybe if they limit the number of freshman that can bring and park a car on campus, since we can build another parking lot.

Casey Browne, sophomore

"We need to create a better parking situation. Space on campus is limited and we don't use the space we have very efficiently. Having freshman who can get better parking spots than me is annoying."

Liz Szewczyk, junior

"I advocate building a library with a parking structure underneath to create more parking, or building a parking structure over an existing parking lot and build a library on top!

Seth Peters, senior

Getting 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. Please sign your article. You must also include a phone number or an address where you can be reached. Printed submissions will be paid. Questions? Give us a call at 616-459-8281, ext. 4106.

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 22 years to produce an informative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Our goal is to continue to provide a forum for the ideas, views and concerns of the Aquinas community.

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Sports

Lady Saints soccer start slow, hope to build
by Shaun Markwart
Sports Editor
Although their record may not indicate it, the Aquinas women's soccer team is not discouraged by recent results. With just one win in their first seven games, the record is not ideal. However, the team is quite young and has many new players who are battling for playing time.

Last weekend was a bummer for the Saints to see just where they stood, as they took on Grand Valley State and St. Francis University. Saturday, Aquinas dropped a match to Grand Valley 3-0.

The Saints tried playing a conservative, defensive game to slow down the high-powered Lakers attack and were not disappointed with the outcome. "They're Division Two, we hold our own," freshman defender Jayme Murray said.

On Sunday the Saints narrowly dropped a 2-1 decision to a St. Francis team ranked in the NAIA top 25 poll. Sarah Pennington set the goal for Aquinas who almost tied the game on a late penalty kick but were denied.

Despite the two losses, the team is not getting down on themselves. "Each game we're learning more about each other, pieces are falling into place," Murray said.

Prior to the Grand Valley game, the Saints had struggled out of the blocks this season, dropping their first three games before earning a 1-0 victory over Hope.

Sophomore Anne Crocker delivered the long goal and fellow sophomore Tracy Gunderson posted the shutdown as Aquinas natched their first win of the season. The Saints returned for their home opener against Trinity International on September 14th, but fell by a score of 7-1.

The team enters this season with a very young squad; there are just two seniors and two juniors on the roster. Sophomore Tracy Gunderson and senior Meghan McGilvery will handle the goaltending duties, while the defense will be anchored by sophomore Kim Ridge.

All-American sophomore Kalee Schwarz is the team's leading returning scorer and could play a variety of positions this season. Other upperclassmen expected to make big contributions to this year's team are senior EJ Giess, juniors Jen Wilkins and Julie Roy, and sophomore Anne Crocker and Sarah Pemberton.

The large freshman core will be led by midfielders Sarah Foltz and Katie Lautner, as well as forwards Sarah White and McKenzie Cole.

"Everyone has something positive to contribute," White said. The team hopes that their efforts will soon be seen in the results on the field. Even though they are young, the players believe they are skilled as well.

"We're individually talented, we just have to mesh together as a team. Once that happens, we'll be pretty good," Julie Roy said.

Loosing tends to eat away at players but to their credit, the team is still upbeat. The Aquinas women's soccer team may be taking their lumps now but, they hope it will pay off when conference play begins.

Softball coach Sheler suffers stroke; outlook "positive"
by Annie Scott
Contributing Writer
Coming into his seventh season at Aquinas, head softball coach Ray Sheler suffered a massive stroke at his home on September 17. He was taken to Spectrum Hospital Downtown. Sheler has since been moved to Mary Free Bed Hospital for his recovery.

According to Athletic Director, Terry Bocian, Sheler is responding "extremely well" to the medication to break blood clots in his arteries. On Sept. 20th, Sheler was able to move fingers, toes and walk with assistance.

"The outlook is far more positive than a week ago," Bocian said.

In his six seasons, Sheler has had an impressive list of accomplishments. He's put together a win-loss record of 121-42. In 2000, the team placed first in the WHAC.

Sheler was also named coach of the year in 1997 and 2000.

Prior to coming to Aquinas, Sheler worked for an area high school in a coach, as well as coach girls little league.

Sheler is also well-known in the area as a pitching instructor.

"At this point, we are just waiting to see how Ray is doing. Assistant Coach Konda Boliho has taken over the fall workout. Nothing has changed for the program so far; the girls are still working on their fall schedule.

"Right now we are just praying for his recovery," Bocian said.

Attention sports fans! Do you really enjoy following sports? Why not share your wealth of sports knowledge with the Aquinas Sports Times writing team? Give us a call at x4106 for more information.

October 7, 2002

'Sea of red' brings home hardware for Saints
Men's and Women's cross country teams off to a strong start by Pat Hurley
Contributing Writer
Those in attendance at Riverside Park on September 13 for the Aquinas College Cross-Country Invitational saw the so-called "sea of red" lead the pack. From the beginning of the men's race until the finish, the red-clad Aquinas runners staked their claim at the front of the field.

The AQ men's Cross Country team won their first invitational, beating Lansing Community College, Spring Arbor, and Hope College. The team finished ahead of second place Lansing Community College by an impressive 27 points. Twelve of the top 15 finishers in the race were from Aquinas. The top three finishers for Aquinas were senior Dave Kasprowicz in second place overall, freshman James Jones in third place, and senior Nate Kaiser in fourth place.

Head Men's coach Mike Wojciakowski knows his runners as "Woj," was happy with the "great team effort" and a "great starting point for the year." Wojciakowski said he was really impressed with the teamwork that his runners showed, using a pack strategy and staying together to give the younger runners more confidence in the race.

Wojciakowski is very optimistic about the make-up of his team this year: "They have a younger bunch of guys balanced out by a good mix of experienced runners," Wojciakowski said.

Wojciakowski said that he has a good core of about 15 runners, all of who have it in them to be in one of the top seven spots on the team, positions that comprise the varsity traveling squad. He feels that this type of competition for the top seven spots is good for the team since it allows the guys to push themselves during every practice and race.

With an increasing variety in positions, Wojciakowski said, "The team will only get better." Many on the Men's cross-country team agree with him. Junior Joe Ziegler said, "If we keep running with the intensity and emotion that we have now, come mid-November this will be a very dangerous team." Expectations are high for the men's team to bring home more hardware this season, according to Joe Lynn. "This isn't the last time that people will see the 'Sea of Red' in a race this year. You can count on that.

Dan Kasprowicz, one of the "sea of red," is on the move during the AQ Invitational.

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Kaliee Schwarz makes a move toward the ball during a recent home game.

Contributing Writer
Attention sports fans! Do you really enjoy following sports? Why not share your wealth of sports knowledge with the Aquinas Sports Times writing team? Give us a call at x4106 for more information.
Saints soccer aims to repeat last year’s success

Men’s team hopes to continue solid play
by Shaun Markwart
Sports Editor

The Aquinas men’s soccer team beat cross-town rival Cornerstone in a rare non-conference battle last week. Both teams had early chances but could not score, as each took its turn controlling the play. Aquinas finally took over the game in the last 15 minutes of the first half, scoring three times.

Sophomore midfielder Matt Garner opened the scoring in the 37th minute by scoring a penalty kick, a rebound off a free kick after the Cornerstone goalie could not control it. The Saints got a second goal in the 42nd minute when Junior forward Jon Mies rose above the defense to head the ball into a three-goal victory.

Ultimately, wins and losses are what it’s all about. “This year has been going very well. As long as we keep winning, the season will continue to be a success,” van Lier added.

The Aquinas men’s soccer team is indeed off to a fine start in a season that could see the Saints win their fourth consecutive WHAC regular season championship. Fifth-year coach Abraham Shearer lost some key players off last year’s team that went undefeated in WHAC play for the first time in school history.

However, it is no longer looks like the team rebuilds, they simply reload. Sophomore Brad Smith transferred from Western Michigan to become to team’s starting goalkeeper. “Brad has the athleticism and knowledge of the game to lead this team to the next level,” Coach Shearer said.

Freshmen Ryan Fitzsimmons, Christian Hodigecar, Chris Graham, and sophomore transfer Asim Pilec are among the other newcomers looking to make big contributions to this year’s squad. Key holders from last year’s team include senior defenders Eddie Wierzbiect and Zink as well as senior forwards Mies and Nathan Rose.

The Saints began the defense of their WHAC championship when conference play commenced on the September 28 homecoming game against Concordia which the Saints won 9-0.

The next men’s soccer game will take place today at 4:00 p.m. when the Saints take travel to Madonna.

Volleyball team hopes for championship season
by Jon Bieneman
Contributing Writer

With another volleyball season well under way, the Lady Saints are looking for another successful season of volleyball play under fifth year Head Coach Marc Schultz.

The Lady Saints are looking to continue the success and the improvement that has allowed the team to move up one spot in the final WHAC standings in each of the last three seasons.

The captains, Tamara Hardren, senior, and Jacylin Schettine, a redshirt junior provide the team with solid leadership.

In addition, 2001 All-Re-

gion selection Terra Miller, junior, and teammate and fellow junior Carie Domagalski will be counted on to make big contributions, although Miller will be a bit more of the early season with a knee injury.

The sophomore class of Amanda Slyszaniski, Becky Bar-

ter, Heather Baker, and Kate Bialaska add a great deal of depth to the team and are expected to make major contributions to the program.

The team also has wel-

come new faces to the squad this season. Stephanie Roberts, a transfer student, provides a great deal of experience and versatility to the team.

Along with Roberts, Fresh-

man Adri Buckner, Ashley Boosack and Megan Holst are aiming to make solid contributions.

“We have a lot of potential. Our goals are to play as a team and play dynamically. If we do that, then we’ll get some victories,” Heather Baker said.

The Saints have begun to show the competition what they are made of. They have already compiled an 11-8 record overall and a 2-2 record in conference play.

The next home game will take place October 10 when the Lady Saints take on Palm Beach Atlantic at 7:00 p.m.
Squirrels: The Truth Behind the Menace
by Pat Hurley

It was a Wednesday in most places on Earth. Some places, including Aquinas College, changed into Thursday, but whatever day it was called, it was a day not unlike the last few trillion days before it. The Earth was locked in a cosmic embrace with the Sun; the humans had once again built something to be sent into space. They’d been doing this ever since that one fateful day when two regions were scientifically competing to claim outer space, outshowing the other in a misguided attempt to promote which government was superior to the other. Then out of the blue marble they called “Earth” came a fiery ball. But unlike the usual bullets made by people, this one did not kill. It released a small metal ball with a few rods connected to it. To the people below, watching on their cameras screens and TVs, they had accomplished something.

Since then came the piloted rockets. The men brought with them to build stations and outpost in space. They landed on a their moon and drove around in little go-cart moon vehicles. Then they stopped competing and realized that there was so much space that everyone could share it. More satellites, better rockets, bigger stations followed. People paid their wages off to the countries that had lost that foolish game, in order to catch a glimpse of what only a few men and God had ever seen. The humans built their heavenly homes and scientific gizmos in space for many years before they visited another planet nearby, it colonized the moon and the two moons of Mars. It wasn’t long until they and their families moved across the solar system. That was no longer an organization. Now they were a nation, they had a claim to every part of the solar system. Thiers colonies, which had no habitable planet in the solar system left to discover, let alone explore. NASA was no longer an organization. Now they were a nation. They had a claim to every part of the solar system.

The Earth was now a nation, but their children did. Soon there was no place to hide from the Earth. The nations eventually joined up and formed a single nation, Earth. The new nation, the Earth, was the largest nation in the solar system. The Earth was the eighth test-flight of the new ship. It was the eighth test-flight of the new ship dubbed The Centurion. The first one never made it off the ground and dug straight down through the soil for a mile. The engine exploded at the wrong end and the propulsion went into cockpits instead of the rear. The second and third just didn’t go fast enough, but they did break a speed record making it to Venus in eight minutes. The fourth and sixth were all crashed inside the propulsion ring that was supposed to bring them up to the speed of light. All it took was a loose tile to fall off and bounce around at near light speeds to put holes through everything in its path, including the ship. The seventh was thought to be perfect. It had nothing loose that could fall off. Hundreds of families volunteered to go aboard. There was never a turn out since the WWIV scare happened and hundreds fled to Mars. The ship took off from Earth and entered the ring. It looped inside the propulsion ring in a perfect circle. It was released in a perfect straight line toward Proxima Centauri at forbidden speeds. Its matter stabilizing system worked flawlessly as it kept the ship from increasing in mass. Then something went amiss. It kept going faster and the passed the star completely. It couldn’t stop. Nothing could stop it. From Hubble XV they saw it fade away. It didn’t shrink, it got fainter, it passed before the star completely. It couldn’t stop… Nothing could stop it… From Hubble XV they saw it fade away. It didn’t shrink, it got fainter, it passed before the star completely. It couldn’t stop… Nothing could stop it… From Hubble XV they saw it fade away. It didn’t shrink, it got fainter, it passed before the star completely. 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