Eleven Aquinas students made the annual trip to Fort Benning to crusade for social justice, end to violence in Latin America

by Abby Triebel
Contributing Writer

The trip to the School of the Americas protest is a 16-hour drive that students from Aquinas College are making for the last five years. On November 15th, eleven students and their faculty advisor climbed into a van and traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia, to continue the tradition.

"I came for the experience and to learn more about the school," said freshman Tom Cole.

For senior Jessica Nelson, attending the event was a moral issue. "I have seen first hand the atrocities of the massacre of the Jesuit priests in El Salvador. I was called to show my support for the Jesuit priests in El Salvador. I was attending the event was a moral issue. "I have seen first hand the atrocities of the massacre of the Jesuit priests in El Salvador. I was called to show my support for the Jesuit priests in El Salvador.

The School of the Americas is located in Fort Benning, a military base in Columbus that teaches South and Central American soldiers in commando operations, psychological warfare, and counter-insurgency techniques. These soldiers then return to their home countries and practice the skills they have learned. Often this new training is used on the activists who speak out against the oppressive governments and in many cases, their innocent children.

When this happens in some countries, the United States calls it terrorism. In this case, however, the U.S. is financially supporting the education of the "terrorists."

The School of the Americas was founded in 1990 to instruct the military in counter-insurgency techniques.

Students who went this year got to experience some things new to the event. First, a counter-protest was organized for the first time just outside the street corner of Columbus. Although the protest was not very large, it attracted only 20-25 people. Senator Abby Paterka observed that the counter-protestors seemed to think the rally was against Fort Benning. "We gathered to protest the SOA, not Fort Benning. I was surprised that the counter-demonstrators were not aware of our cause."

The counter-demonstrators were not subject to a police search, but for the first time this year, the SOA demonstrators were having to subject themselves to metal-detecting wands before being allowed in the area.

The police said that it was a precautionary measure, but the protestors felt that the violent purpose of training South American soldiers in terrorist-like activities remains the same.

A sea of protestors marches outside of Ft. Benning to protest the School of the Americas. Although the name of the school has changed to Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, the protestors feel that the violent purpose of training South American soldiers in terrorist-like activities remains the same.

Glória Jones, also a senator, said "Safely should always come first, but SOA protestors have never had a history of violence, so the searches seemed unnecessary."

The students that went also had the opportunity to attend the annual protest of School of Americas.
Police shoot and kill two individuals in separate incidents around Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS and COOPERSVILLE — In the past month, police have had to use deadly force in two different altercations with suspects.

The first incident on November 10 took place when officers were responding to a call of shots fired at 349 Highland SE. As the officer approached the location, he encountered the suspect with a handgun in the 1100 block of Prospect Avenue SE. The officer stopped and told the suspect, Jabbar Walton, to drop the gun, but the suspect kept advancing toward the officer while waving the weapon. The suspect then pointed the 38-caliber handgun at the officer, who then fired three shots at him with a 12-gauge shotgun, mortally wounding the suspect. Walton continued his advance, getting a shot off at the officer. The officer then connected with two shots, mortally wounding the suspect.

The Kent County Prosecutor said that the officer was justified in the shooting.

The other shooting took place November 19 in Cooperville. The state police fugitive arrest team was serving a warrant for Robert Ohart, who was wanted for criminal sexual conduct involving a preteen girl.

Ohart’s girlfriend let officers into the residence. Supposedly, the suspect was cooperative at first, but things turned when Ohart lunged at officers with a folding knife. He was shot three times from two different guns by state police officers when he was 5 feet away.

Ohart was taken to a local hospital where he declared dead on arrival.

Man suffers near-fatal poisoning from rattlesnake kissing incident

VANCOUVER — Twenty-one-year-old Matthew George was taken to the Legacy Emmanuel Hospital and Health Center near Vancouver in critical condition, the result of a bite from a pet rattlesnake he was attempting to kiss.

George was airlifted into the hospital by helicopter once the responding paramedics observed that George was swelling rapidly as a result of the venom, which was quickly hampering his breathing.

None of the emergency medical technicians carry antivenin, the antitoxin used to combat the effects of snake venom, officials said.

Luckily for George, the hospital carried enough of the antivenin Croft to treat him for the snakebite, a hospital spokesperson said.

According to reports, George was showing off to friend Jim Roban the snake that he had brought home from a recent trip to Arizona when the potentially deadly interaction occurred.

The snake bit George on the upper lip, but the venom soon traveled through victim’s facial blood vessels, and George began to slip in and out of consciousness within a couple of minutes.

According to reports, his lip had swelled to about five times the normal size and the swelling in his cheeks had forced his eyes shut when the paramedics arrived.

The snake purportedly met its demise when Roban decapitated the reptile.

Hey business majors, want to make some money?

The Agnus Times is currently interviewing for the position of Business Manager. To make an appointment, give us a call at ext. 4106

PROTEST, from page 1

annual Jesuit mass. After the mass, they kept the spirit alive by eating dinner together in a local Mexican Restaurant.

The waiter there was glad for what they were doing. “A lot of people here think the school is closed because they recently changed the name. The protest is important,” he said.

The official name of the school was changed last year to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC).

The students and their advisor had the satisfying experience of protesting injustice, worshiping together, and building community.

Professor Dan Brooks, the faculty advisor, said “I really enjoyed the protest, but also enjoyed the camaraderie and the music. I felt I really got to know the students in a way professors rarely do.”

INFECTION, from page 1

INFECT, from page 1

The Klez worm often arrives as an e-mail attachment. The worm makes changes to the Windows registry file and attempts to send an infected file to every e-mail address in the infected system’s Address Book.

Also the worm creates infected text and batch files with random names and copies these infected files to local, mapped, and system’s Address Book.

The worm only affects computers that run on Windows operating systems. Linux and Macintosh computers cannot be infected by the worm.

However, due to the large number of infections and the damage of the payload, Symantec chose to rate the Klez worm a “4” on their Security Ratings system. According to Symantec, None of 1,000 sites have been infected by the Klez worm.
Students for Life aim to inform student body, put an end to abortion via prayer, demonstration

By Sarah Heckman and Stephanie Fierce

Where is Dr. Death? Michigan Right to Life Education coordinator David Malone spoke to students in the Louv Room about issues involving euthanasia, such as doctor assisted suicide. He also touched on the topic of passive suicide, the practice of refusing crucial medical care.

Peaceful prayer demonstration Members of Students for Life gathered to pray outside of Heritage Clinic for Women, an abortion clinic located at 72 Ransom NE in Grand Rapids. Students who gathered outside talked to patients headed to the clinic about life related issues and abortion alternatives. Information about Project Rachel, a post-abortion reconciliation program that preaches healing for all involved with abortion, was also on hand for those who wanted it.

Cross out abortion Marie Halhnenberg, left, and Monica Tyler place crosses in the ground in front of the statue of Mary to represent children who died as a result of abortion since the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, in which the court ruled that abortion was a woman’s privacy issue.

The only people I have advised so far are the gung-ho students who have initiated the process. I think the truly busy students might put off advising just because it’s another brick in their load, and I’m afraid I will have to cajole a few of my advisees to hurry up and get it done.

—Dr. Michael McDaniel

ADVISING, from page 1

no more than the normal confusion. When you make a big institutional change like this, there are inevitably some confusions and mix-ups,” said Gary Eberle, Chair of the English Department. “The biggest challenge for most of us has been learning the Colleague system which is something of a computer nightmare.”

Colleague is the software program that stores students’ information as well as class schedules.

“I think it was invented about the same time that computer geeks were playing Pong. But, it is workable. At the time I say about computer, ‘It runs,’” Eberle said.

Some faculty expressed a concern that the program shared too much information about students, since even Social Security numbers were available to those that had access to the system. Since then, some measures were taken by ITS that blocked the Social Security numbers from being accessed by all users of the program.

Cecilia Messler, the Director of Academic Advising, has overseen the changeover in the advising process. “My initial impression has been very good. There is bound to be some confusion when the change is affecting hundreds of students and full time faculty, but the process will smooth out more and more as time goes on,” Messler said.

Students enrolled in the School of Education have a slightly different advising system than traditional students, one that, according to Advisor Gayle Holswit, could be much more involved and might take longer than students expect.

“Students seeking teacher certification need to complete a major, minor and education courses. If the faculty advisor is not knowledgeable or comfortable enough to approve courses for the minor and certification requirements, the student may need to see 2 additional advisors,” Holswit said. “In my opinion, more advisors are needed for the School of Education. Not only do we have to advise current graduates, continuing education and undergraduate students, we are also required to meet with potential students interested in becoming teachers.

“Unfortunately, students who are calling today to set up an appointment will have to wait for 3 to 4 weeks to meet with an advisor, but I was the only one advising after completing 6 credits,” Messler said.

The key for Education students, according to Holswit, is to begin in the advising process as soon as possible.

Most students in other majors seem to agree that the changes for them are for the better.

Said senior Chris Boguslaski, “I think that having faculty advisors is good because it gets the professors more involved, though.”

Students who have initiated the advising process are for the best.

“Getting it done is important and it will happen.”

Senior Brian Mikita did not wish to remain unidentified, “I made the appointment to Eberle. It was not pleased with the advising change. I just had my schedule ready and took it to my advisor,” Mikita said.

“I do like the idea of getting the information as well as class schedules to the involved parties will be taken in hand. That has taken a lot of pressure out of advising,” McDaniel said.

The advising sessions for this semester draws to a close, the involved parties will be taking a look at what did and did not work as well as proposing plans for potential modifications.

Many people do not realize that this style of advising is not really new to Aquinas – a faculty-run process was in place up until the early 1980’s, according to Eberle.

McDaniel remembers, when, as a student, he was advised by a faculty member. “Advisors were extremely influential in my life. Honestly, when Sr. Ann Mainson talked me into taking Calculus, she was literally turning my life’s direction.

“Those involved in the transition accept that such unfortunate situations will occur, but remind students that mistakes and confusion are just a part of the initial phase – things will get better as everyone gets more experienced.

“Advising is a natural role for professors. At a school like Aquinas, where small classes and easy access make it possible for students to actually work with professors directly, such involvement seems logical. Most of my students have arrived with a sketch of what they expect to take in hand. That has taken a lot of pressure out of advising,” McDaniel said.

The only people I have advised so far are the gung-ho students who have initiated the process. I think the truly busy students might put off advising just because it’s another brick in their load, and I’m afraid I will have to cajole a few of my advisees to hurry up and get it done.

—Dr. Michael McDaniel

Photo story: Prolife Awareness week at Aquinas

Students for Life aim to inform student body, put an end to abortion via prayer, demonstration

by Joe Boomgaard

The Valenti Handbell Choir will be spreading some holiday cheer to patrons of the Corner Cafe in the Wege Center. The performance will start at 12:00 p.m. on December 4.

The Aquinas Percussion Ensemble will perform December 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kretschmer Recital Hall. Admission is free.

The Aquinas College Music Department will hold a “Collage Concert” on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. in the Kretschmer Recital Hall. The event will feature ensembles and soloists from the Music Department.

Through December 6, The Jane Hibbard Idena Women’s Studies Center will be hosting events about the White Ribbon Campaign. See Features (pgs 6-7) for more information.
Guest Column
Where have all the good bands gone?
by Sarah Kommer

I have a complaint and, unfortunately, I'm fairly certain that my issues with the West Michigan local music scene are shared by more than just a select few. My grievance stretches back at least a year ago and extend to immemorable lengths.

My dismay? A definite lack of a good local music scene and now, thanks to a grossly relocated Intersection Lounge, a lack of every level outlets for beginning musicians. Let's examine the facts. The most upturning event for the Grand Rapids music scene as of late is the aforementioned relocation of the Intersection Lounge.

Once just a stone's throw from campus, the Eastown-friendly, popular bar venue has been relocated to a too-chicy downtown location. Anyone who knows anything about the sort of music the Intersection is known for will observe that a business that thrived on a Yesterdog-eating, relaxing-at-Billy's-shopping-at-Smithy's sort of crowd won't turn any substantial following to the "updated" downtown Grand Rapids.

Personally, I know that I always looked forward to the too-small, too-noisy ambience of the old Intersection simply because it was, well, the border-line-dirty Intersection.

Now, I'm faced with a ten minute drive down Fulton to hassle with parking with a $5 cover at the B.O.B. If I wanted to go downtown for music I could just as easily go see an overpriced show at the VanAndel Arena or stop at Bistro Bella Vita for jazz and a martini. The Intersection doesn't belong down there; period.

I am certain that many of the venue's regulars will feel the same way, that the thrill of the "updated" downtown brings with it the same excitement as the "updated" downtown Grand Rapids.

During my sophomore year at Aquinas, I had a few band obsessions that I was nearly religious in following. Among those few, few defunct musical efforts is a great band called Mission Orange that, like many bands in the area, just couldn't seem to rally up the troops of support.

Now, without a Mission Orange-esque band to follow, I, along with many other local music fans, am left with only overplayed radio crap to deal with. I think a lot of great talent in our area goes unappreciated relocation of the Intersection Lounge, a lack of entry level outlets for new, pretty barstools. venue's regulars will feel the same way, that the thrill of the "updated" downtown brings with it the same excitement as the "updated" downtown Grand Rapids.

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Book Review: True History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey

by Patrick Hurley

About a month ago, novelist Peter Carey visited Aquinas to give a talk on writing and to read a bit from one of his books. I had the great fortune to be at this event and listen to Carey read, in a thick Australian accent, excerpts from his novel True History of the Kelly Gang.

While America has Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Abe Lincoln as some of its national heroes, Carey said, Australia’s national hero was a famous outlaw bandit by the name of Ned Kelly. I was so intrigued by the real Ned Kelly, that I bought a signed copy of the book from him that night, and I don’t regret it.

True History of the Kelly Gang was a great piece of historical fiction. The book is the supposed collected works of Ned Kelly that he wrote during his adventures to his daughter who had moved to America. The protagonist and leader of the gang, Ned Kelly is a man’s man. He is tough, honest, willing to fight and work to protect his family, and also able to fall in love. There is something in the book for everyone. Throughout Kelly’s life we hear about an infamous boxing match, several gaslights and bank robberies, a nice romance, and his own view on fatherhood. Interestingly enough, all of the episodes that Kelly writes about actually did occur, although not always in the manner reported by the press, according to Kelly’s fictional memoirs.

The book reminds me of Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt in more ways than one. We have a tale of a poor Irish family shown with a gritty realism and the hardships and unfairness they must endure in Australia at the hands of the English aristocracy.

The parallels of both frustration and an urge to protect and fight for his mother are apparent in both Frank McCourt and Ned Kelly. Although, in Ned Kelly’s case, when he fights his mom’s new boyfriend, he wins.

Most notably, the style in which the novel was written reminds me of McCourt in that it relies heavily on the local vernacular. While McCourt uses an Irish voice in his book, Carey sticks with the Australian accent of his character to give this fictional account authenticity and uniqueness in a way that was neither faked nor contrived.

Sometimes I forgot that I was reading a fictional memoir - it felt like these were the infamous outlaw’s actual written words. I’m not saying that he copied McCourt’s method in prose - but the two are comparable.

Those who enjoyed Angela’s Ashes might want to try True History of the Kelly Gang.

Overall rating: 8 out of 10

Concert Calendar

compiled by Joe Boomgaard

Assistant Editor

The Vines will be performing at the Orbit Room on Wednesday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m.
The Sights will play the Intersection on December 4 at 9:00 p.m.
Dio with special guests King’s X and HammeRFall will play at Harpo’s in Detroit on December 7 at 7:00 p.m.
Joe Satriani will be playing on Sunday December 8 at the Orbit Room at 8:00p.m.
Primer 55 will play at the Intersection on December 9.
Doors open at 7:00p.m.
Sevendust with opening acts Closure, Stereomud and Cinder will play at the Orbit Room on December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

U$ed will play at the Intersection on Friday, December 13.
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Bliss 66 will play the Intersection on Saturday, December 14. Doors open at 8:00 p.m.
Aerosmith will play at Van Andel Arena on Sunday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Stone Sour will perform Monday, December 16 at the Orbit Room. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The show begins at 8:00 p.m.
The White Ribbon Project Events

November 25th, 12:30pm, Loutit Room, Wege Center
"Treatment of Domestic Violence"
A presentation on how men can help in the fight to stop domestic violence.
Featuring: William Edwards, M.S.W., Therapist at the YWCA Counseling Center and co-facilitator of "Men Choosing Alternatives to Violence" Treatment Groups

November 26th and December 4th, 11am-3pm, AB Lobby
"These Men Want to Put an End to Violence Against Women" Petition Table
Male members of the Aquinas Community will show their commitment to ending violence against women.

December 2nd-December 6th, Lower Level Wege Center
The Clothesline Project
24 shirts that are a representation of the courage and strength of women who have survived acts of violence and provide a testimonial to those who did not survive. Each shirt has been carefully made to express the sorrow and triumphs of a unique individual.

December 3rd, 12:30pm, Loutit Room, Wege Center
"Celebrating the Courage and Strength of Women Who Have Freed Themselves and Their Children From a Life of Violence"
A presentation of one woman's strength and courage to survive domestic violence
Featuring: Raquel, Survivor of Domestic Violence Cindy Cranmer, Family Advocate for the YWCA Project REA L.

A Monumental Event
The national Clothesline Exhibit is shown in Washington D.C. The Washington Monument is visible behind the shirts.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
While some shirts express healing and survival, some shirts express anger.

Beware... Be Aware
One purpose of the Clothesline Project is to raise awareness of the amount of violence against women that occurs in the United States.
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The Clothesline Project

The idea for the Clothesline Project began in early 1990 when the Cape Cod Massachusetts Women's Agenda wanted a way to demonstrate the extent of violence against women. The group was deeply upset by a statistic that contrasted the 58,000 deaths of American soldiers during the Vietnam War to the 51,000 women who were murdered in the United States by a husband or lover during the same sixteen-year time frame.

When the group visited the Vietnam Memorial, the idea for a display took hold. The idea of the clothesline represents airing the "dirty laundry" of violence against women. No national monument commemorates the loss of women to violent acts, and victims of the "war against women."

The project continues to grow every year. In 1991 there were 40 chapters, today more than 500 chapters display shirts at any given moment.

The purpose of the project is four-fold.

1. To bear witness to the survivors as well as the victims of the war against women.
2. To help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or are survivors of this violence.
3. To educate, document, and raise society's awareness of the extent of the problem of violence against women.
4. To provide a nationwide network of support, encouragement and information for other communities starting their own Clothesline Project.

See the display The Clothesline Project will be on display in the lower level of the Wege Center from Dec. 2nd through Dec. 6th.

Compiled by Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief
Open letter to the Aquinas College community by President Knopke

As I am sure you are aware, there has been a good deal of discussion, debate, and activity on campus following articles in recent issues of the Aquinas Times concerning topics that impinge on matters of faith and morals as articulated by the Catholic Church. I have not interjected myself in these discussions because, as a Catholic college, we strive for an environment where free and vigorous discussion of ideas and issues is encouraged. At the same time we work to ensure free discussion, however, we are also responsible for ensuring that Catholic teaching is clearly presented. Thus, I wish at this time to prefacing clarification of the College’s long-standing positions on some of the topics recently discussed, and, without examining our policy handbooks in detail here, to reiterate that our campus policies and standards are rooted in Catholic teaching.

Given contemporary social mores, complications and issues related to sexual activity are likely to be a major concern of health services on Catholic college and university campuses, including ours. Our Health Center personnel are charged with designing and implementing interventions that help our students maintain healthy lifestyles and morally appropriate behavior. As a Catholic college we adhere to the teachings of the Church and thus do not encourage or facilitate abortion, nor do we dispense artificial contraceptives.

We have what I believe is an exceptional Health Center, staffed by outstanding, committed professionals who provide primary care services of the highest quality, including house calls when needed by students who reside on campus. As with any other health care organization, the integrity of the physician-patient relationship is valued and respected in all our services.

A hallmark of Aquinas is our encouragement of free and vigorous discussion of ideas and issues among students and, indeed, all members of the community. The college has always been mindful of the guarantees of free speech, including those as warranted by the First Amendment and its recognition on college campuses. It has also always welcomed informed discussion and debate on controversial issues and expects opportunities to be provided for both sides of a specific issue to be vigorously presented. It is in light of Catholic teaching the College anticipates that a better understanding and appreciation of that teaching can be obtained. Discussion aimed at communicating and learning truth is hindered, should be always in mind as we join our fellow Catholic colleges and universities in our nation’s highest quality, including house calls when needed by students who reside on campus. As with any other health care organization, the integrity of the physician-patient relationship is valued and respected in all our services.

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Our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, said that a thing is more perfect if it is not only good in itself but is also a cause of goodness in others. This principle should be always in mind as we join our fellow Catholic colleges and universities in this country in pursuing our common good, the intellectual, personal, spiritual, and moral growth and development of our students.

Harry J. Knopke, Ph.D. President

How private is your personal information?

by Curtis Burdette

Many institutions, including Aquinas, use your SSN as a form of ID or authentication.

Aquinas College has a record in a database the name, address, phone number, and Social Security Number of every student.

Take a look at an Aquinas College Telephone Directory and you will find the entire Student Identification Number and e-mail address of almost any Aquinas students. You’ll find the home address and phone numbers, and even the Social Security Numbers of roughly half of the faculty and staff.

Perhaps most of this information could be obtained from an internal phone book, or an Internet search, yet there’s something more dangerous than address and phone number.

Aquinas College records your Social Security Number (SSN). Those nine digits hold a wealth of personal information. Originally the Social Security Administration (SSA) created SSNs to provide a unique record of the work history of every American citizen and track contributions to the SSA. SSNs were implemented because employees change jobs and a unique number was needed to ease the process of identifying how much Social Security tax an individual paid.

Forty years ago, a SSN only represented a citizen’s federal employee ID, and official taxpayer ID. However, because it requests my SSN or Student ID Number. To my recollection, they request my SSN or Student ID Number, would they have been in a better position to safeguard student SSNs or Student ID Numbers. To my recollection, they request my SSN or Student ID Number, would they have been in a better position to safeguard student SSNs or Student ID Numbers.

Whenever a member of the Aquinas College faculty or staff needs to check your record, they will need to verify your Student Identification Number. To my recollection, no one in Admissions, Advising, or Financial Aid has ever accessed the database. By not displaying student SSNs, the risk of identity theft is much lower, but there are other risks.

Take a look at the online “Application for Admission” on the Aquinas College web site. This form requests the applicant’s SSN. Notice that there is no field for a telephone number or Social Security Number. If you were to enter your Student ID Number, you would submit those valuable nine digits across the Internet without any encryption to an unseen receiver.

Aquinas College allows you to use your SSN or your Student Identification Number as your verbal password to access your Financial Aid information or your class schedule. The possibilities for abuse are endless. When I setup an advising appointment I had to provide my SSN or my Student Identification Number. How many times could someone with those precious nine digits that I revealed? What if I had called from my cell phone and my Student ID Number, would they have wanted me to verify my Social Security Number just to ensure “security?”

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Aquinas College allows you to use your SSN or your Student Identification Number as your verbal password to access your Financial Aid information or your class schedule. The possibilities for abuse are endless. When I setup an advising appointment I had to provide my SSN or my Student Identification Number. How many times could someone with those precious nine digits that I revealed? What if I had called from my cell phone and my Student ID Number, would they have wanted me to verify my Social Security Number just to ensure “security?”

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Hunters must take aim at disease threatening Michigan deer

With Chronic Wasting Disease coming increasingly closer to Michigan, both hunters and wildlife lovers must do their part to help the herd.

by Joe Boomgaard

As sportsmen and women across the state go afield in one of the most hallowed times of the year, hunting season, many are oblivious that imminent danger looms on the horizon for our natural resources. Those partaking in outdoor recreation are not the ones that are endangering the animals, however; the hazards are in the form of a fatal disease.

White-tailed deer are one of the most revered animals in Michigan by both hunters and non-hunters. However, most people do not realize that the state deer herd is facing a critical situation.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a devastating ailment similar to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) that can rapidly infect entire local populations, is inching ever closer to our state's borders.

The transmissible neurologi- cal disease causes infected animals to develop lesions on the brain and eventually leads to death in species like deer and elk.

For several years, Wisconsin has had to deal with the horrendous effects of CWD. This summer, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) embarked on a plan to eradicate CWD from the most concentrated area to which the disease had spread. That meant attempting to kill the entire herd in given areas to prevent the infected animals from spreading the disease.

Michigan is attempting to prevent the disease from crossing state lines, but there really is not much that wildlife managers can do.

The largest potential for introducing CWD into the wild population comes from diseased animals from private game farms. Michigan has placed a moratorium on the transport of all captive deer and similar animals into the state.

Should the disease be found within 50 miles of any of Michigan's land borders, all baiting and feeding of deer will be banned in the adjoining peninsula. Currently, several areas in northern Wisconsin within 100 miles of the Upper Peninsula that have been found with infected deer.

A more extreme plan that was discussed earlier this year called for a massive herd reduction within 70 miles of any deer found with CWD.

Of course, no one wants to see things come to that point. However, if deer in a certain area must be eradicated to protect the general health of the herd, then the deed must be done.

I'm sure many of the PETA disciples will insist that hunters will be looking for incidences of CWD just so they can embark on a mass slaughter. While it is true that hunters would do the bulk of the deed, such undertakings do not fall under the realm of sport hunting in the best bit; rather, it would be an attempt to do what is right for the health of the herd.

True hunters take no joy in mercy killing. That being said, hunters must also play a part in the prevention of CWD. Mandatory game checks should be required by the state.

In other words, any harvested deer should be taken to one of the deer check stations around the state to be tested for the disease. That way, the Michigan DNR could better monitor the health of the overall herd and hopefully catch the disease early on if it does eventually spread to Michigan.

Much to the disagreement of many hunters and wildlife watchers, all baiting and feeding of deer should be banned.

While banning baiting and feeding is not a perfect solution, it does act as a preventative measure that would eliminate one possible transmission point of CWD and bovine tuberculosis, another disease that has been plaguing deer herds in some northern parts of the lower peninsula.

Whenever animals come into close contact with one another, like at a feeding station, they become susceptible to transmissible diseases, like both CWD and bovine tuberculosis.

While some people feel the need to maintain supplemental feeding programs especially during the winter, the possible benefits are outweighed by the risks. All parties should err on the side of caution in this case, given the seriousness of the issue.

Every precaution should be taken to ensure that the health of Michigan's deer population is maintained. As hunters take to the woods for one of Michigan's greatest traditions, they should not lose sight that they are stewards of the resources and be willing to do their part to ensure the resource's safety for years to come.

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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.

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

Letters to the Editor are accepted Thursdays by noon in The Aquinas Times office, located in lower Wege Center or via e-mail to: aqutimes_editor@aquinas.edu.

The phone number of the writer must be provided. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit based on content, length and libel. Letters may not exceed 300 words.


Curtis R. Burdette
Assistant Editor
Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Entertainment Editor
Illustrator
Advisor

Pat Hurley, junior

“I love Christmas once the day after Thanksgiving comes, however, yesterday I turned on the radio and they were playing Christmas songs already. As much as I love Christmas, I feel that our society is overdoing it just a tad.”

Marie Hahnenberg, senior

“Patience, my friend.”

Gabrielle Monaco, freshman

“I love celebrating Christmas every year! Christmas is a very meaningful time of the year and no one should put it off.”

Gabrielle Monaco, junior

“The traditional start of the Christmas season was the Friday after Thanksgiving; nowadays, you can see holiday commercials and Christmas lights as early as the beginning of October.”

Pam Howe, junior

“I hate walking into a department store and seeing a Christmas tree in October; however, I love listening to Christmas music throughout the year.”

Veronica Beiter, staff

“Get an opinion? Share it with us!”

We want to hear what you have to say about anything and everything. Send your staff to The Aquinas Times, 1607 Robinson Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Please sign your article. You must also include a phone number or extension where you can be reached. Printed submissions will be paid. Questions? Give us a call at 616-459-8281, ext. 4106.
On uncertainty is uncertainty in this NFL season
by Shaun Markwart
Sports Editor

The first half of the NFL season is in the books, and there is one thing I am sure of: I have no idea what is going to happen in the second half. The initial half season has proven that anything can, and pretty much will, happen. There have been plenty of surprises around the league. Last year, the Carolina Panthers were a woeful 1-15. This year, two teams behind ancient quarterback Rodney Peete. Of course, they haven’t won since. The San Diego Chargers lost their final 12 games last season. However, new coach Marty Schottenheimer has turned them into a legitimate playoff contender, leading the team to a 7-3 mark. The Chicago Bears were the Cinderella team of a year ago, winning their division thanks to many fantastic finishes. Now they are winners in an eight game losing streak and are dropping the type of games that they won a year ago.

Then there are the new divisions, which have created some very bizarre scenarios. After last season, the NFL realigned to eight-four-team divisions, instead of the previous six-division setup.

For instance, the Green Bay Packers have all but wrapped up the NFC North at midseason. At 8-2 and in a poor division, they have a whopping five game lead over the second place Lions and Vikings. Just when it looks like Green Bay was the team to beat, they were defeated by the woeful 2-7 Vikings last week.

Under the old system, the Pack would be neck and neck with Tampa Bay, the Bucs, by the way, are in the NFC South, which as of now would send three of its four teams to the postseason (including New Orleans and possibly the New York Giants). Things are just as muddled in the AFC. Miami leads the East by 6-4, and the other three teams are 5-5. The 5-4-1 Steelers are in first place in the weak AFC North, while the 5-5 Chiefs reside in last place in the loaded AFC West.

The anomalies don’t end with the division races. Seattle’s Shaun Alexander rushed for five touchdowns in a game against Minnesota and has done little else before or since.

Three of Buffalo’s first four games went to overtime. Speaking of overtime, Pittsburgh and Atlanta recently played to the first tie in five years.

Tommy Maddox has gotten from a former first round bust, to XFL MVP, whatever that’s worth, to leading the resurgence Steelers, to a hospital bed. Last week, he suffered a very serious spinal injury, and Stewart was back at the helm. Maddox has since recovered, but his return is unlikely for at least a couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, the fate of NFL teams seem to change from week to week as drastically as the stock market. Perhaps the most surprising example was the Carolina Panthers, which had many people comparing Tom Brady to Joe Montana. It seems as if any team can beat any other team on any given week, except maybe the Bengals.

Men’s Cross Country takes regional title
by Jackie Hurley
Contributing Writer
Two down. One to go. The men’s cross-country team achieved the second of three major season goals by winning the NAIA Regional Championships held at Indiana Wesleyan University on November 9th. A tight pack of Aquinas runners secured the victory to beat out rival Siena Heights by 16 points. James Jones placed fifth in the race, leading the pack with an 8k time of 26:21, followed by Leo Foley (26:47), Nate Kaiser (26:49), Josh May (26:59) and Craig Potter (27:03). “Team wise, we’ve been packing run a lot this season; we’re close in races. That helps. We’re all pretty relaxed and confident with one another. We trust each other. We run really well together in a pack and that makes it easier to run, with the pack of guys that close to you.” Potter said.

Head men’s coach Mike Wojciakowski was satisfied with the team’s effort. “The strategy for regionals was to continue to run as a whole team. We wanted to shoot for five runners in the top 15 and that’s what we did,” Wojciakowski said.

After the race, Wojciakowski was named NAIA coach of the year.

“The team won for me. It’s a credit to how great the team did, with everyone on the same page. We all bought in to the same principles and ideas. That sets this team apart from past years,” Wojciakowski said.

Having won the conference and regional meets, the team, currently ranked ninth in the nation, hopes to achieve their third major season goal by placing among the top four teams at the national meet in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on November 23rd.

“The first half of the NFL season is in the books, and there is one thing I am sure of: I have no idea what is going to happen in the second half. The initial half season has proven that anything can, and pretty much will, happen.
Women's basketball team off to a 4-3 start in promising season

by Annie Scott

The winter sports season at Aquinas started with women's basketball on November 10. The Saints started the season winning two of their first three games.

Last week, the Saints did battle with three non-conference foes. The opener was a 70-66 victory over Purdue-Calumet at home on November 10. Trailing at the half by six points, the Saints picked it up in the second half, outscoring the Lakers 42-32 for the victory.

The Saints made 16 of 21 field goal attempts in the second half. The win came in the last eight seconds of the game when senior Amanda Elliot scored two points on a reverse lay-up. Sophomore Heather Orr secured the win with a lay-up at the buzzer.

Senior Chris Koselansky paced the Aquinas attack at both ends of the floor with 22 points and 19 rebounds. Orr added 16 points, and Elliot picked up 11.

Coming off the victory the Saints traveled to Goshen to take on the undefeated Leopards on November 13. The Saints led by four at the half, but the Leopards came back to clinch the victory. They outscored the Saints 37-26 during the second half to pull out a 70-63 win.

The Saints played the middle game of a basketball tripleheader on November 16 against the Kendall Vikings. Sophomore Leslie Hoffman came off the bench to sink four three-pointers, helping the Saints to a 31-28 lead after the first half.

In the second half, the game continued to be close. Eventually the size and strength of Aquinas's inside players, especially Koselansky and fellow senior Katie Green, wore down the visitors from Kendall. Green, who started for the injured Elliot, led the Saints with 26 points and also picked up eight rebounds. Koselansky netted 19 points and pulled down 10 boards. The Saints pulled away and defeated the Vikings 72-60.

After a week off, the Lady Saints dropped their first game in the Aquinas Classic against Grace Bible 57-56. They rebounded and won against St. Xavier 66-57. Koselansky led all scorers with 22 points, followed by Orr with 19.

The Lady Saints next took on Calvin Knights in the Calvin Thanksgiving Tournament, a game they lost 68-56. However, the Lady Saints took home third place, beating Cornerstone 82-76. Orr scored 24 points in the game, including five three-pointers, to help the Lady Saints to a 4-3 record.

This season will be Coach Linda Nash and Assistant Coach Ray Fron's seventh with the Saints. Coach Nash is Coach Ray Fron's seventh with the Saints.

The Lady Saints won the game 70-66.

Men's soccer loses to Spring Arbor in suspenseful overtime

WHAC playoff matchup

The Saints dropped a close overtime shootout game 3-1 to Cougars despite out-shooting them 25-13 in regulation play.

by Shaun Markwart

Fate worked against the Aquinas men's soccer team on November 6. For the second time in a week, Spring Arbor won a playoff game on a penalty kick shootout.

Spring Arbor beat Aquinas in the shootout after playing to a 1-1 tie after regulation and two overtime periods. The underdog Cougars went 4 for 4 on penalty kicks, while the Saints could muster only one score in their first three attempts. Four days earlier, Spring Arbor was successful in all five penalty kick attempts in a shootout win over Tri-State.

Senior Tommy Zink provided the lone successful Aquinas attempt after the Saints had already fallen behind 3-0. Senior Jon Mees got the shootout off to an ominous start by hitting the goalpost with the first Aquinas attempt.

Aquinas controlled much of the game through regulation and the overtime periods. The Saints out-shot Spring Arbor by a 25-13 margin, but it was the visiting Cougars who emerged with the halftime lead. Spring Arbor reserve player Jordan Meyersbeck left a left-footed shot into the goal from 15 yards out after receiving a nice kick pass from Pete Royse.

Aquinas's closest call in the first half was a free kick by Zink that was deflected off the crossbar by Cougars goalkeeper Cliff Orr.

The Saints did manage to tie the game 1-1 after 16 minutes into the second half. Forward Chris Koselansky, who emerged with the halftime lead, scored a dramatic 72-71 victory.

The 3-1 Saints will play Grand Valley on November 26 in the first round of the Select Bank Hall of Fame Classic at the Field House on November 15. They will be led by captains Schuba and Angle.

The Saints defeated Michigan-Dearborn in the opener by a score of 77-53 at home on November 11. The Saints clung to a narrow two-point lead at the half, but put the visiting Wolves away with a 47-25 scoring advantage in the second half.

Senior guard Chuck Schuba picked up 19 points on eight of 11 shooting from the floor and was the only Saint in double figures for the balanced Aquinas offense.

The Saints welcomed Marygrove College to the Aquinas Field House on November 16. The Saints prised out to a 20-4 lead in the first five minutes of the game and never looked back. The Saints led by as much as 30 in the second half and held on for a 92-78 victory.

Sophomore David Bush led the Saints with 22 on the afternoon, while teammate Anthony Swall was close behind with 20. Schuba had another solid game with 14 points, while sophomore guard Aaron Algstad netted 11.

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Survey says: Cafeteria dishes out great meals
by Pat Hurley

apparently caught up in a flashback of the delightful cuisine and the laughter resulting from the time we spent at the table.

"It's like they take the leftovers of dead squirrels and feed it to us," said another senior, Mark Hoffman, who apparently believed that the miracle was real. Many workers in the Wege Cafeteria could make even a rotting squirrel carcass taste great. Well, maybe they could. Mark, or maybe they couldn't.

"It sucks," said Junior Joseph Lynn, who seemed to mean that it was unfortunate that the cafeteria is open 24 hours a day.

Would rather kill myself than eat there, said sophomore Maura Taffield, referring to eating at another restaurant after experiencing the perfection that is Wege.

All of the above students left an unsigned letter in my mailbox saying, "Wege cafeteria produces the absolute worst food in the history of mankind. The meals there are the summation of the gods' usually come to mind. In my opinion, the chef of the Plainview Cafeteria, whom I compared to most medical surgeons, can do no worse. But I always thought I was alone in my opinion until I was able to conduct a small survey of our new Aquinas students and I was amazed at the results. Hard as I looked, I could not find a single student anywhere who had anything bad to say about the place. They all love the food served at Wege. "Oh yeah, I'd eat there all the time if I could," said senior Kerry Lynch as she rolled her eyes and laughed, her mind apparently in the process of thinking about something else. Who is to blame for the epidemic of obesity in the United States? Is it the fast-food restaurants in our society with ballooning belts?)

The 1950s, when the Cold War was in full swing. This was a scary time for our country because the Soviet Union wanted nothing more than to see the demise of the United States. Now, one thing the Soviets had learned from their neighbors to the south, the Chinese, was patience. If the Soviets in the West came up with a long-range plan to slowly dehydrate our enemy? Suppose the plan involved planting a mole into the heart of America. Once entrenched, they se- curity would be able to control our master plan, which was to attack the children of the 50's and 60's, who are now facing their middle years. You can see the damaging effects on our society with ballooning belts on our boys and bloated and hungry girls in our society with ballooning belts. Obesity has become a public health crisis with alarming numbers of overweight and obese children and adults. Today, more than 34 percent of American adults are considered obese, which is an increase from 31 percent in 2003. The rates of obesity and overweight among children and adolescents have also been on the rise.

Children who are overweight or obese at a young age are more likely to remain overweight into adulthood. This increases their risk of developing chronic diseases later in life, such as heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers, and joint problems.

The Aquinas Times

LITERARY/HUMOR

Prose
Conclusion of the Short Story: The Faery Story
by Pat Hurley

She was the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Her hair was long and black as midnight. She had hazel eyes, deep brown pools that one could sink into. Her skin was as white as the moon, and smooth as a marble statue. She had full lips, which were upturned in a small smile. As you have come to know, she whispered. She looked into my eyes. How I loved her gaze? She then turned slowly, yet you are not her, for whom I was waiting.

What did she mean? I felt a sense of loss that I could not explain, like I had missed out on some great gift by only a little bit, though I did not know what she spoke.

She looked long, then smiled at me again and I experienced a flush of pleasure.

I see now, she said. You prove the one who was foretold. You shall show him who may cross over who can see beyond. Again I must confess I had no idea of what she was talking about. I was only happy that she was smiling.

I now see what I must do. She said aloud, I can feel it. I was only finger over the cut in my palm. Realizing that I no longer felt its pain, I looked down at my hands and amazement. The deep gash was healed, leaving only a faint scar were immediately before. "Wow. It's hard not to admire that kind of beauty and dedication. All I have to do is keep doing what you're doing Wege cafeteria, because you know you're doing it all right.

In desperation, the defense has decided to plea temporary insanity, insisting that Mrs. Pumpkinizer was completely out of her head.