Women’s Studies Center names Outstanding Women

Sarah Mundy congratulates Pat Anderson on winning the staff category for Outstanding Aquinas Woman Award.

by Claire Waltman

On March 28 in the Holmdene Board Room, the Woman’s Studies Center presented four women from the Aquinas community with its first Outstanding Aquinas Woman Award.

Selected by the Woman’s Studies Programming Committee, the winners represented three different categories. The Faculty Award went to Sr. Marie Celeste Miller, Associate Professor In-the-College; the Staff Award went to Pat Anderson, IIDS Food Service Manager, and the winner of the Student Award was senior Amanda Caldwell, International Studies and Spanish Major.

The award was conceived by the Women’s Studies Programming Committee, accepted nominations from the Aquinas community for the award throughout the month of March. A total of 32 women were nominated as candidates for the award.

Planners said that they hoped by honoring women in the Aquinas community that people could see that there are exceptional women within our own community.

Women’s Studies Center celebrates 10 years of programming

The Center hopes to begin an annual tradition of honoring an Outstanding Aquinas Woman Award in order to recognize the accomplishments of women with an influence on Aquinas College.

The award was conceived by Assistant Professor In-the-College, Nanette Clatterbuck.

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Ice storm rocks West Michigan

by Claire Waltman

News Editor

After an unsual ice storm on the evening of Friday, Apr. 4, more than 350,000 Michiganians were left without power.

In the Grand Rapids area, roughly 89,000 homes and businesses lost power, including Aquinas College, which remained in the dark until about 7:30 Sunday night.

Because of the volume of customers without electricity, Consumers Energy was unable to restore some customers’ power until as late as Tuesday, Apr. 8. As many as 8,000 customers were without power as of Tuesday morning.

East Grand Rapids was hit especially hard, with a large number of downed trees and power lines.

Aquinas tuition to increase by five percent next year

by Lisa Gast

Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, students received yet another familiar pale yellow envelope, bearing the green trees logo, in their mailboxes. This envelope contained a letter from President Knopke announcing a tuition increase of 5.5 percent, to $16,400, for the upcoming school year.

Board rates were increased two percent, though room rates stayed the same, making the comprehensive tuition room and board $21,894, a rate increase of 3.9 percent.

According to Keller, a committee of Aquinas staff “put together a committee that has been in the process for a few weeks, and was able to come up with a number that reflects the current market, including all those variables together...and essentially came up with a figure that the Board can accept.”

Comprehensive Tuition Costs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>2003-2004</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cornerstone</td>
<td>$19,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquinas College</td>
<td>$21,984</td>
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<td>Calvin College</td>
<td>$22,615</td>
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<td>Hope College</td>
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* Includes room, board, and tuition costs.

Aquinas regulations not decided by Aquinas staff, but is a contractual agreement with the Food Service.

Once the committee reaches a consensus on the lowest possible increase that will still cover costs, it recommends its plan to the Cabinet. If the Cabinet agrees, the plan is presented to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

If the Executive Committee approves the increase, it moves on to the full Board of Trustees. At each level, the original committee has to demonstrate their case and defend the recommendation.

“We’re constantly looking to see that we’re not pricing ourselves to the point where students are not going to be able to have an Aquinas education,” said Keller. “We’re seeing an increase in applications, but if students can’t afford to come, then the number of applications you have doesn’t matter.”

In this issue...

Marie Wilson speaks at Aquinas

AQ chaplain discusses the Church’s stance on war

Benefit concert at AQ features rising star

Students learn Taekwondo basics from Mark Good

U.S. soldiers deserve support for protecting the freedom of all citizens

AQ softball team wins first four games of the season

Every American should perform this important civic duty

Master’s golf tournament draws attention to host club’s exclusion of women

Steelhead lure fisherpeople

Aquinas Jazz Festival 2003 goes all out to bring great music to AQ

Enjoy Grand Rapids “after the storm”

Restaurant Review: Louis Benton Steakhouse

Look for the next issue of the TIMES on April 30, 2003
White House Project president points need to educate people about women's issues

by Thora Wease

Marie Wilson, president of The White House Project, provided a double feature on the Aquinas campus March 26, beginning with a luncheon lecture entitled, "Who's Talking: Where are the Women?" an analysis of Sunday morning talk shows.

In the evening, Wilson spoke on The White House Project, a non-partisan, non-profit women's leadership organization dedicated to increasing women's leadership in all sectors of society, up to and including the U.S. presidency.

Wilson explained that the greatest problem in securing acknowledgement for women’s contributions is the "no-name problem," a misconception by 61 percent of Americans that women already run everything. The problem arises from the fact that the past century was one of movements — women’s suffrage, civil rights, and gay and lesbian movements, making it easy to overlook the inequality in leadership roles.

"If you want to lead anywhere in this country, it is still an issue for women because it is hard to convince society there is a problem if they think it has already been solved," said Wilson.

Therefore, The White House Project addresses the issue by pointing out that there has never been a woman president, and that equality will not take place until there is equity in the number of women in leadership roles.

Wilson, who herself has run for office, recounted the disappointing reality that whenever she spoke, the media first addressed the three H’s: Hair, Hemline and Husband.

The fact was brought even more to the forefront when someone commented that she had "great politician hair," evidencing that most of America has internalized how a woman looks matters first and what she says matters second. According to Wilson, attention to a man is immediately focused on his words. The irony, Wilson pointed out, is that "women usually get started in politics by attempting to solve some problem in their community."

Even as far back as the turn of the century, she said, it was noted that women learn to lead by building community collaborations—a technique that builds better organizations.

It is a "triumf of women to be better informed in, communicate and clarify." But the resistance was made evident to Wilson when she was working with women—re-working the workforce and her colleagues called them "ne-trioles."

Wilson believes that "women will [some day] share power side by side with men," and that "it will be powerful and very personal for our democracy.

She pointed out that, in terms of the number of women in office, the United States ranks 58th in the world. She then told the promising story of Rwanda, once ranked 141st in the same category, which has moved to 9th through a nationwide concerted effort. Allowing for the differences in political systems, Wilson said that this shows the kind of power women wield when working together.

Church's stance on Iraq war discussed at chaplain's forum

by Lisa Gast

On Monday, March 31, in his weekly presentation, Fr. Charles Santoro presented the Roman Catholic Church's stance on war, and responses from Church leaders on soldiers fighting in Iraq.

He also reinforced the view of the Church that Catholic worship is the same as in many other religions, using the example of Muslim adoration of the Qur’an as nearly parallel to Catholic beliefs, and therefore should not use difference in religion as a pretext to unfairly judge Iraqis.

Regarding the role of Catholics in the armed forces, Fr. Santoro explained that before the time of Constantine, Christians did not take part in wars. However, under Constantine's Roman Empire, they were expected to fight, bringing up a tough moral dilemma. This led to the idea of the conscientious objector.

Today, those in the armed forces who believe it is against their religious principles to fight can declare themselves conscientious objectors and be moved to a non-combat role. "Many people don't know that a large number of conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War were Catholics," Fr. Santoro said.

According to Santoro, U.S. bishops declared 'soldiers' roles in Iraq, whether combatant or not, not immoral. He said the Church as a whole, including his own, believes that conscience tells them to fight in the war or become a conscientious objector, one is assured salvation.

In a statement on war with Iraq, March Bishop Willems Gregory acknowledged that while "war has serious consequences, so could the failure to act," and therefore, under the words of the Catechism, "those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations. If they carry out their duty honorably, they truly contribute to the common good of the nation and the maintenance of peace."

Fr. Santoro also talked about Chaldean Catholics currently in Iraq. Though not Roman Catholic, the Chaldeans are still recognized as united within the Church. He said that while the current war, prejudice against Catholic Iraqis within the country is still an issue, the Chaldeans are in the United States to offer the Ms. President patch, and with Mattel to ship roles are possible. WHP collaborated with the Girl Scouts to offer the Ms. President patch, and with Mattel to produce Ms. President Barbie, who came complete with diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Fr. Santoro said, "I found myself moving toward problems," and she gave her own philosophy: "We can't control what happens in the world, but we do what we do about it."

Wilson identified four keys to improving equality: (1) Local communities should elect conventions to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. (2) Clean elections. (3) Institute more ways to identify women for public office and finance them. (4) Instant run-off voting.

The presentation took place in the Wegs Ballroom.

The White House Project forms three functions. The first is educating people about leadership: in a survey, Wilson reported, "92 percent... said they would vote for a woman president but didn't know if their neighbor would like it!"

The WHP also educates women who often defer their ambition and desire for power, while we value a "powerful man" in office.

Second, the WHP is devoted to cultural change—the installation of ideas in young girls and women that leadership roles are possible. WHP collaborated with the Girl Scouts to offer the Ms. President patch, and with Mattel to produce Ms. President Barbie, who came complete with diverse ethnic backgrounds.

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On March 31, the Gender Studies Club hosted a basic self-defense class, taught by instructors from Tae Kwon Do. The main instructor, Mark Good, demonstrated several basic self-defense moves. Good is a Senior Master and head of the Good Institute.

Dr. Anna Bates, assistant professor of History, was instrumental in bringing the class to Aquinas for the Gender Studies Club. She attends classes at the Tae Kwon Do under Randy Wrons, another instructor at the self-defense class.

"I signed up for a Tae Kwon Do class to learn some self-defense techniques," said Bates. "Once in the class, I realized that there are lots of other benefits to practicing Tae Kwon Do. The physical exercise is good, the ability to focus and learn new moves is good, the practice is relaxing and, believe it or not, spiritually rewarding.

"I felt that the class was important because it's so easy for people, such as those in the Gender Studies Club, who are always focused on peace and nonviolence, to realize that we need to defend ourselves sometimes," Bates added. "This is a sad fact, but with all the violent crimes and child abductions that we hear about nowadays, I think basic self-defense is a good thing to learn. I don't expect that everyone who attended the self-defense class will pursue Tae Kwon Do, but if they do, I think it will enrich their lives."

The thirty-three students who attended the class came for several different reasons—some to earn extra credit in a class, others to learn something new. Freshman Paul Osbourne said, "I came because I am in another style of martial arts, and I am trying to broaden my horizons by learning Tae Kwon Do."

The class taught several different moves in which to defend oneself. The instructors showed different ways to escape an attacker's hold as well as different parts of the body to attack when attempting to escape. The students paired up and gently practiced the moves on their partners.

Both males and females attended the class to learn different ways to defend oneself. The partners would "attack" each other from different angles so that the other could practice the different moves. At the close of the session, students practiced different kicks against a punching bag held by one of the instructors.

"I feel the class help me learn different defense methods to help me defend myself in high crisis situations," said sophomore Chelsea Urbanowicz.

Both males and females attended the class to learn different ways to defend oneself. The partners would "attack" each other from different angles so that the other could practice the different moves. At the close of the session, students practiced different kicks against a punching bag held by one of the instructors.

"The most important thing to remember about self-defense is to keep your composure— if you freak you lost it," said Good.

The BFA program typically has only 10-12 students at a time. By the time students reach junior status, they pay special attention to "what direction they are going with the program."

"There are many classes taught in Tae Kwon Do in addition to the self-defense class. The exhibit will run through May 10.

The exhibit will run through May 10.
**Third annual Up 'Til Dawn a success despite weather problems**

by Abby Paterka  
Contributing Writer

Ice storms and power outages could not keep Aquinas College students from helping raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital on Friday, April 4. Up 'Til Dawn, a program in its third year at Aquinas College, hosted an evening full of fun, food, and festivities, all in the name of a good cause.

Up 'Til Dawn is an annual event on Aquinas's campus, which raises money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The college has provided for this cause.

The hospital has a daily opening cost just above $834,000. Ninety percent of this cost is covered by public contributions. This year Up 'Til Dawn was able to raise around $2000 above $834,000. Ninety percent of this cost is covered by public contributions. This year Up 'Til Dawn was able to raise around $2000 above $834,000.

A variety of performers entertained the participants. Whether it was a magician showing off card tricks or a hypnotist per­forming in the dark, dull moments were never bad. As always, some of the most entertaining parts of the evening occurred when Aquinas students took the stage.

While an ice storm raged outside, Se­nior Staci Cowell battled the "Blizzard of Bucks" inside of the Cook Carriage House. Standing inside an enclosed自身对称空调 were 30 seconds to grab as many of the five-hundred $1 bills swirling around her. In the end, Cowell was able to earn $100, which she promptly donated to St. Jude.

The Aquinas College Thespian (A.C.T.) took the stage to season ticket holders with their improvisational skills. A.C.T. de­lighted the audience though the actors were "dressed-up" when the power went out mid-way through the performance. The actors rolled with the punches and kept performing, taking the audience away from the lack of heat or lighting.

A hypnotist was the last entertainer of the evening. "I've never had to work under those kinds of conditions before," he joked with the audience knowing the flashlights were the only lighting available. After demonstrating the power of mind over matter by spinning a metal trap upon his hand, he called members of the audience up on stage to be hypnotized. Though the evening was cut short due to the power outage, it still proved a lively time and a great way to give to a charity that helps so many others.

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**Archbishop Desmond Tutu brings message of hope to Grand Rapids**

by Patrick Hurley  
Entertainment Editor

On Tuesday, March 25th Archbishop Desmond Tutu met the citizens of Grand Rapids at the Van Andel Arena to deliver a message. Archbishop Tutu was the first Black Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches and instrumental in ending Apartheid that was rife in South Africa. He is the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and an internationally regarded human rights advocate.

After receiving a key to the city from the mayor of Grand Rapids, Tutu began his speech by saying, "Thank you for the key to the heart of a beautiful city." He then said that he was bringing us a "message of love." After telling some humorous anecdotes, Tutu went on to tell the story of his country.

"I come from South Africa," he said, and he proceeded to tell how South Africa, more than 10 years ago, was ravaged by violence and oppression. The apartheid govern­ment was very oppressive, he said. Violence was so com­mon that when hearing of five murders on the daily news, Tutu would sigh in relief and say, "only 5." He added that there were many times when those in South Africa asked, "Is there anyone else out there?" or "did God care?" South Africa was, Tutu said, on the verge of the most awful catastrophe.

"It didn't happen," Tutu said with a smile. Instead, the apartheid was overthrown, Nelson Mandela was elected president.

"You can't compute to someone what it means to be free," said Tutu, describing how wonderful it felt. He compared it to trying to explain to a blind man the color of a room.

While it may be popular for other countries to speak out against the U.S., especially now, Tutu thanked us for our prayers and help. Most Tutu, said we were surprised by the peaceful revolution in his country.

He asked, "why were people surprised by the miracle? They prayed, didn't they?"

"You can't compute to someone what it means to be free."  
---Desmond Tutu

**Second Club Night proves as fun as first**

by Leah Herland  
Contributing Writer

The return of Club Night this semester was huge success. Aquinas hosted its first East Hills Athletic Club on March 28 as Aquinas students and staff alike took part in the variety of activities the evening had to offer.

Over 200 students entered the Club Night, participating in activities from trivia to swimming to X-box.

"Club Night is the reason I love life," joked Sam Garrar, who ran the X-box tournament. "It's a great thing that so many different organizations can come together to provide an activity that so many students enjoy," said Garber, who is the current Vice Chair of the Aquinas Student Senate. Over $450 in prizes were raffled off that evening. The top prize of the evening was a DVD player, but prizes ranged from gift certificates to palm pilots to toys.

As he had promised to his students, Professor John Hogan showed up to work the basketball courts, as well as challenge students in other activities, including wrestling.

Pankey has written five collections of poetry. His first book, "For the New Year," was the winner of a National Hispanic Literary Award from the Academy of American Poets. Pankey has taught creative writing at several colleges, including Washington University in St. Louis, and University of Iowa. He currently teaches at George Mason University.

He talked about how rewarding teaching was and claimed that, "every week, I wouldn't be the best poet in the class... That's very heart breaking, but also encouraging."
Avoid the mistakes of the past...
The aftermath of the Vietnam War was a prime example of how not to treat our armed forces upon their return home from the battlefield.

by Joe Boomgaard
Assistant Editor

American men and women are engaged in armed combat with a sworn enemy of the United States. Some will never return home to their families — that is an inevitable fact of war. War kills, pure and simple. However, a vast majority of the soldiers will make it back to the homeland alive and well — or will they?

As the situation in Iraq unfolds, I'm reminded of the brilliant novel penned by Vietnamese veteran Tim O'Brien called "The Things They Carried." In this collection of stories set during the Vietnam War, O'Brien tries to capture the mindset of the soldier before, during, and after the combat.

I can see similarities in the two conflicts. Both the Vietnam War and the current Gulf War are very loosely defined. In Vietnam, the goal of the U.S. forces was to prevent the spread of communism, while in Baghdad, the coalition aims to topple the tumultuous regime of Saddam Hussein.

Similarly, because of these loose definitions of the intent of the combat, the public questions the real impetus of the combat, hence all of the war protesters both then and now. In both cases, the protesters called for a clear explanation of why combat was warranted. Then and now, many people are still unsatisfied as to the real motives of the leadership.

Of course, the people that are really being affected by the conflict are the thousands of soldiers. They have to see the grotesqueness of war — the death and the destruction.

As O'Brien says in the chapter "How to Tell a True War Story," "At core, perhaps, war is just another name for death, and yet any soldier will tell you, if he tells the truth, that the promise of death brings with it a corresponding proximity to life." In other words, as a soldier at the end of a day on the battlefield, when you’re still alive, you have a heightened conception of the value of life because you are still alive — you have made it through another day.

But, repeated exposure to this "proximity to death" also has its consequences. Because death is ever-present in war, people are surrounded by death change. They can become jaded by the repetition of death, a condition that has all sorts of emotional ramifications. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder is a common thread among veterans, and the malady can be as destructive as the war itself, with many lives being devastated by suicide, homelessness and substance abuse, for example.

O'Brien talks about the nature of being at war in the same chapter. Says O'Brien, "For the common soldier, war has the feel — the spiritual texture — of a ghostly fog, thick and permanent. There is no clarity. Everything is a blur. The old rules are no longer binding, the old truths no longer true. Rights spill over into wrong. Order blends into chaos, love into hate, ugliness into beauty, law into anarchy, civility into savagery. ... You can’t tell where you are, or when you’re still alive, you have a heightened conception of the value of life because you are still alive — you have made it through another day."

The event last week in which the seven Iraqi civilians were killed at a vehicle checkpoint would seem to fit into this description. As O'Brien states, nothing is certain in war, and the U.S. soldiers were not certain whether the van was full of suicide bombers or just unaware civilians. Of course, once the details were reported in the media, people jumped on the incident, making the soldiers out to be some trigger-happy punks.

But that is likely not the case. By our nature, we are inherently self-preserving creatures. There is a fight or flight instinct deep within us. All the soldiers who fired on the van were no different, I assume. They took all of the necessary precautions: they fired the warning shots mandated under the rules of engagement, and yet the van proceeded. I’m sure that if they had known that it was full of women and children, they wouldn’t have used lethal stopping power. However, who is to know what is behind the sheet metal? Hindight is 20/20, but in the heat of the moment, all clarity is lost.

The thing that remains to be seen from this conflict, however, is the aftermath. How will people back home treat the U.S. soldiers once they return from the Persian Gulf?

That question is not as easily answered as one might think.

Should the conflict in Iraq draw out for months and should more incidents like these happen, I’m afraid that people back home in the U.S. will take on a similar attitude as they did after the Vietnam War. No one welcomed the soldiers home, no one acknowledged their sacrifices. The soldiers were lost in the images of burned out villages and dead women and children.

The fact that they were lost back home is very saddening. They answered their country’s call and were ostracized for it. I’m sure that a vast majority of them would have much likely preferred to stay at home than travel to Vietnam. Similarly today, most of the soldiers say that they just want to get to Baghdad and get the mission over so that they can get back home.

Don’t blame the soldiers for what is happening in Iraq. They are simply acting as they are commanded.

Yet, humans that we are, we like to assess blame for the situation to someone, so who is to blame? That is not an easy question to answer either. Is President Bush to blame for sending the troops over to Iraq, or is Saddam Hussein the culprit for not having disarmed as promised and for being an all-around cruel leader?

The only certain answer to that question is that there is no certain answer.

The only thing that is certain is that the war is currently taking place. Beyond that, there is not much else we can know until we look back and analyze in the wake of the war.

However, to avoid the mistakes of the Vietnam era, we must rally behind the Americans who are currently serving in the Gulf. Their sacrifices must never be forgotten or misconstrued. I’m sure that they would rather not have to put their lives on the line every minute of the day, but the fact remains that they are the soldiers.

The soldiers simply answer the call of duty, and there is nothing more honorable than that — let’s not allow any of us to forget that.

April 11, 2003

Opinion

And you can

Quote me on that

What role should Affirmative Action play in the selection process for institutions of higher learning?

"I believe affirmative action shouldn’t be a process in the selection of students."

Natalie Berkobien, freshman

"Affirmative action shouldn’t play a role, it should be by academic standing and qualifications."

Ai Fukushima, sophomore

"I don’t agree with it, the best students should get into the institution."

Adam Voets, junior

"Affirmative action is a good thing, it allows minorities equal footing into institutions. Being able to create more diversity, and being able to make minority groups not feel under represented or excluded. Also making for a better learning environment."

Jennifer Giddings, senior

"Affirmative action is in selecting students is a great idea because it closes the gap between equal opportunities that has been caused by white privilege."

Annesha Freeman, staff

compiled by Gabrielle Monaco

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 view of the editorial board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

Letters to the Editor may be delivered to The Aquinas Times office, located in the Wege Center or via e-mail to: aquinas_editor@aquinas.edu. All letters must be signed. The name of the writer must be provided for verification. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit based on content, length and style. Letters should not exceed 300 words.


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Please sign your article. You must also include a phone number or extension where you can be reached.
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Annesha Freeman, staff
Dear Editor,

Reference is made to Martin J. Allen’s letter printed in your March 26 issue. Therein he took Aquinas Professor Gary Robertson to task for an attributed quote concerning the Warren Report: “There hasn’t been a public spokesman willing to defend the findings of the report.” Mr. Allen declares Professor Robertson’s statement is incorrect. Rather, he says, “President Gerald R. Ford...has frequently made public statements about the Commission’s report.” And that is correct.

However, Professor Robertson is incorrect only if he intended to “defend” to mean the willingness of President Ford, or anyone else, to endorse repeatedly, without factual support—the conclusions printed in the Warren Report. If, as is more likely, Professor Robertson intended to “defend” to mean “justification or support by speech or writing” (Webster’s New World Collegiate Dictionary, Fourth Edition, 1999, 378), then he is indeed correct, and Mr. Allen errs in his judgment of error by Professor Robertson.

Mr. Allen’s letter included a public statement of President Ford. That statement reads, “I endorsed these conclusions in 1964 and fully agree [with them] now.” That is simply irrelevant to Professor Robertson’s criticism, which remains unsustained. There hasn’t been a public spokesman willing to defend (e.g., justify or support by speech or writing) the findings of the report.” And until a public spokesman undertakes a convincing defense, the data/predmises/conclusions/methodology of the Warren Commission’s Report will remain subjects of legitimate criticism for evaluation by future historians.

Rodger Remington
Emeritus Professor of History

Get political! It’s your duty

by Lisa Gast
Contributing Writer

During a recent trip to Chicago, I encountered a loud old man wandering Michigan Ave. wearing a sandwich board proving the notorious threat of “true enemy,” Russia.

Probably due in part to curiosity, but mostly to my naïve Yooper upbringing, I approached this man and asked him to enlighten me as to why Russia was our archenemy, and what he proposed we should do about these “atro­cious” Russians.

He proceeded to explain that the US should shift its focus away from Iraq and North Korea, and instead start preparing a counter attack against the mass of Russian soldiers that have been infiltrating American society in preparation to overthrow our government. Though I decided in the end that this man had either escaped from his nice padded room in an institution, or just had a little too much fun back in the 60s, I realized that there was one trait he possessed that many Aquinas students could learn from.

This man, at least in theory, was politically involved. Politics affect your life everyday. From the money you work so hard to make that is taxed by the government, to the classes you sleep through which are funded in part by the state, political decisions shape your life.

The decisions we make today will form the realities we have to face down the road; by becoming politically involved now, you have the chance to brighten your future. Even better, political involvement is simple enough for Business or Sports Management majors, creative enough for Art majors, and won’t take up precious “study” time from the pre-med students.

Though a slight weary may find it addicting, politically involvement usually doesn’t come with any harmful side effects, either. Long hair, peace signs and marijuana, are of course, optional.

However, before you become politically involved, you may want to become politically aware — or you may end up sounding like a nutcase, like the guy I met in Chicago.

Becoming politically aware is not hard — it can usually be accomplished just by reading a newspaper, even if it is The Aquinas Times. However, this does involve actually reading the articles, not just the sports or cartoons (hint: start with the front page).

Additionally, although it probably won’t help your GPA, any class taught by Dr. Durham is guaranteed to enlighten you politically, and will also satisfy your PS/CN general education requirement.

Already politically aware? Congratulations. You’re ready to become politically involved. First, however, you need an opinion.

It’s not sufficient to merely read and listen to the news; you need to care about what is happening — mostly, a lot of it will be up affecting you either beneficially or adversely. Once you have formed an opinion, it is time to act.

This could be as simple as writing a letter to the newspaper or registering to vote, with the idea that you will actually think about voting in the fall.

Once you’ve accomplished any of the above, you might perhaps be considering other ways to become politically involved. A great way would be to drop in during a meeting of the Aquinas Republicans on Fridays at lunch in AB 153, or if you possess more liberal views, there is also a chapter of college Democrats on campus. Not a big fan of Republicans or Democrats? You could always start your own Green Party club (or Constitution Party, Libertarian Party, Communist Party, etc.), whatever way you happen to swing. Or, you could just join POLIS, the non-partisan political studies club.

Feeling down about the war on Iraq? Stage a peace protest! Are you mad because flamin’ liberals are invading the streets with their peace protests? Protest the protesters.

There are endless ways for college students to become politically involved. Write a letter to Congress. Put a sign on your lawn or in your window. Volunteer to help with a political campaign. Write for the Aquinas Times. However, this does not involve actually reading the articles, not just the sports or cartoons (hint: start with the front page).

Attention writers:

Are you interested in the Times? Are you interested in an editor’s position next year? Several positions are available for Fall 2004.

Inquire at s410@aquinas.edu or editor@aquinas.edu

Steelhead, anglers head to rivers as spring progresses

The chance to hook one of the prized game fishes draws hardcore fisherpeople out of the house as weather warms.

by Joe Boomgaard
Assistant Editor

The calendar says that it is supposed to be spring, but one glance outside at the ice and snow covered trees seems to suggest otherwise. Regardless of the weather, fishermen across the state are beginning to dust off their gear and seek piscatorial entertainment on the sprawling rivers of the state.

Their quarry? Why, that is none other than the ever-elusive steelhead, a type of rainbow trout that spends its life in the Great Lakes growing to maturity before returning to the rivers on a mating voyage.

Here, on the many of Michigan’s rivers, horde of anglers pursue the elusive game fish, braving every snow and weather swelled rivers for the chance of just hooking a steelhead.

Steelhead anglers—true steelhead anglers, that is—are a special breed of fishermen. They are a unique legion of usually anti-social men and women who find pleasure in the solitude of a flowing river.

Steelheaders are usually people of few words; yet, when they do speak, the result is often profound. When asked about the river, there is no need for flighty conversation. Thus, the chaty types really have no place in the world of serious steelheading.

No steelheader worth his bomber hat wants to hear about the weather—it’s Michigan, we know the weather sucks. The fewer things a neophyte angler says on the river, the better.

The serious anglers on the river will tolerate the greenhorn that asks direct questions, like the expert’s choice of line or bait. However, that being said, one should never expect the full truth from a died-in-the-wool steelheader.

Having endured years of frostbite, fruitless outings and thousands of miles, no accomplished steelheader will simply give up their secrets at will. In fact, the new steelheaders are best advised to be observant—that is the best way to learn from the seasoned anglers.

That enough about those who pursue steelheaders for fun? How about the fish? Everyone encounters with a steelheader will usually answer that question.

The steelhead is the dean of sportfishes, perhaps only because no other fish has been so studied, so written about, so poetically described. Not even the salmon, which could be considered the president. With their sleek chrome sides and torpedo-like shape, the steelheader could be described as the epicone of beauty and style. In spawing dress, the fish are adorned with olive backs and a red stripe on each side, with touches of purple and silver mixed. Steelhead are truly an artist’s dream.

Steelhead could be considered anglers in their own right. No man or woman, having encountered one via hook and line, can say that they have not been hooked as well. All it takes is one battle and the angler in question can be completely altered. Steelhead fishing, becomes much more than a hobby— it is a life-changing obsession.

A battle with a hooked steelhead often takes on mythical qualities. Average-sized fish have been known to take upwards of a half-hour to land, while truly trophy fish can battle for an hour before finally capitulating. While locked in the dance of the fight, steelhead have been known to jump out of the water more than five feet and reach speeds of 55 miles per hour during a quick run, often leaving the angler stunned and speechless. Adrenaline flows through one’s veins during such a battle, and the realization, the actual landing of the fish, brings about an indescribably intense high. The experience is downright spiritual.

As this ice storm passes and the temperatures warm, there’s no doubt about it. An addiction can never get enough of his or her poison, and, oh, what a sweet poison it is.

Let those who aren’t the faint of heart make an effort to try steelheading this spring. For those who never knew, it just might change your life. Good luck!
Lady Saints softball starts off strong in WHAC

The softball team has earned a 4-2 record in conference play.

by Annie Scott

Contributing Writer

The softball team played three WHAC opponents during the past two weeks, starting with Cornですね. They also had their home opener against Calvin College on March 27. The Lady Saints not only split the two-game series, but also the weather, which forced three postponements in the past two weeks.

On March 25, the Saints took on the Golden Eagles of Cornerstone University. They defeated them 5-3 in their first conference game. The off-season combined for eight hits. Cassi Gragg and Sarah Metiva each had two hits to lead the offense.

Lorna Brunton started the game and pitched three and one-third innings. Calvin got her for eight hits and seven runs, six of them earned.

The Saints went on to chalk up a pair of shutouts against WHAC rival Siena Heights on March 31. Gragg pitched the first game. The frisbee was tossed from teammate to teammate in order to advance down the field. Running with the frisbee is not allowed. Once a pass is dropped injury. Still, he echoed the sentiments of most of the competitors on this day. “It was worth it,” Hillary said, as he hobbled off on crutches.

In the end, a team comprised of Sara Koster, Ryan Schmidt, Pat Hurley, Brian Wallis and Lenna Tompkins won the tournament. Most of them have been playing the sport for a few years and they used their experience to score the first five points in the championship match, which was played up to nine points.

“A shotout wouldn’t have been good,” commented Tamara Harden, who led her team to the final game. Harden’s team did manage two points, but eventually lost 9-2.

The weather decided not to cooperate today, but that’s okay, everyone still had fun.”

— Dave Williams, tournament organizer

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The Master’s golf tournament, annually among the most anticipated sporting events, will be held this week in Augusta, Ga.

The main story line of the week will not be whether Tiger Woods can win an unprecedented green jacket, but rather the focus will be on the internal public battle over Augusta National Golf Club’s membership policy of excluding women. It didn’t have to be this way.

In case you’ve been living under a rock for the last eight months, here’s a refresher. Last year, Martha Burk, the leader of the National Council of Women’s Organizations, sent Hootie Johnson a letter asking for a change in the club’s all-male membership policy. Johnson’s response was both public and bold. He fired back at Burk saying, “Augusta would not be forced to have a female member at the point of a bayonet.”

The golf club has always been resistant to change. It was accused of bending the rules, so that an African-American didn’t compete in the Masters until 1975. Augusta then did not even accept its first African-American member until 1990. Women have been allowed to play at the course, but as of yet, there has never been a full-fledged female member.

Eventually, this issue would be addressed, but Burk and Johnson have brought it to the forefront.

Casey Schweitzer each contributed two hits and was one of the Saints’ runs as Aquinas cruised to a 4-0 victory.

The wins pushed the Saints conference record to 4-0 before they suffered their first conference loss at Spring Arbor on April 1. The offense was led by Angie Mullay and Blain with two hits apiece.

Blain also knocked in a pair of runs, but it was not enough as the host Cougars were victorious in the first game or the doubleheader 6-3. Gragg pitched a complete game in defeat, allowing 11 hits and six runs.

The Saints were also defeated in the second game 4-2.

Trailing 4-0 entering the last inning, the Saints rallied for two runs before coming up short.

The Saints broke the game open by scoring seven runs in the inning. Kim Huilip pitched six and two-three innings for the victory, her fifth of the season.

In the second game, Aquinas had 11 runs, but could only muster four runs. Tarin Foster, Kristen Jager, Gragg and Lindsey Schab each had two hits to lead the offense.

Lorna Brunton started the game and pitched three and one-third innings. Calvin got her for eight hits and seven runs, six of them earned.

Marina Foelner pitched the remaining three and two-three innings in relief, as the Calvin came away with an 8-4 victory.

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Looking for things to do around GR after the storm?

by Patrick Hurley

Entertainment Editor

Do you know what would really be great? What would really bring things back to normal? Getting things back and being able to take advantage of it.

That's right, oh it did happen. Thank you God, so much, for answering my wishes and for postponing everything that was supposed to happen this past weekend.

Yes that’s correct, all of Aquinas College was shut down for the weekend. Even though many students were not too pleased with the decision, many students plans, including mine, did not disapper. However, most things have been rechiselled and I’m here to let you know what’s going on around Aquinas, view to all and all, and what’s happening in Grand Rapids.

The two important Aquinas entertainment events that have had to be rescheduled are ACT’s Theater Festival and Music Department’s annual Student Recital Night. Both events were scheduled to take place last Saturday evening, yet nature seemed determined to postpone both shows.

ACT’s Theater Festival has been re-scheduled and opened yesterday and will play again for the last time tonight at 6 p.m. in the Meuse Caf. Admission is free and open to the public.

The festival consists of three one-act plays. The shows are only a portion, one act of a three-act play is shown. The three plays that will be shown are “Ordinary People,” “Don’t Send Messrs. Kretschmer,” and “The Odd Couple.” Each show is about an hour long.

The Student Recital Night has been rescheduled to follow the Music Department Branch and Spring Concert on Sunday, April 27. Wege Cafeteria serves brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and afterwards all of the Aquinas College vocal and instrumental ensembles will be performing in Kretschner Recital Hall located within the Art and Music Center.

One first performance forms at 2 p.m., and the second Recital Night performance will begin at 4 p.m. in Kretschner. Both events are free and open to the public. Also, if you’re interested in more information about the Music Department Branch and Spring Concert, you can find it on the Aquinas Web site.

And finally, on Thursday, April 24, the Aquinas College Jazz ensembles will perform at the Spring Jazz Night concert, free, starting at 7:30 p.m.

A week later, on Monday, April 28, the Aquinas College Jazz ensembles will perform at the Spring Jazz Night concert, free, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Want to improve your writing skills? The UICA Writer’s Group meets every Wednesday of this month from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and is free to join.

A highlight of the month of April and May is the Mouth Watering Poetry Slam! It will be on Saturday, April 26 at 8 p.m.

Finally, on Friday, April 18 at 7 p.m., the UICA will be hosting a reading of “McSweeney’s Mammoth Treasury of Thrilling Tales” for the first time in Grand Rapids.

If you’re a regular reader of the UICA, you know that every month, “McSweeney’s Mammoth Treasury of Thrilling Tales” is sent to your house by postal service. However, if you’re reading this article for the first time, you might be wondering what in the world is going on. Well, this month, the UICA is putting on a reading of “McSweeney’s Mammoth Treasury of Thrilling Tales” for the first time in Grand Rapids.

Have you ever heard of “Jurassic Park?” or “The Stand?”

In the fall of 1994, Brecker and his brother Michael decided it would be a great way to start. “McSweeney’s Mammoth Treasury of Thrilling Tales” was born. The first issue was published in 1995 and has been published every month since.

Stephen King’s story, “The Tale of Gray Dick,” is an excerpt from his upcoming novel “The Wolves of Calla,” the fifth in his Gunlinger series. This is a fan favorite of the series.

Have you ever heard of “Jurassic Park?” or “The Stand?”

Some of the stories are in the book the last time you left off. “McSweeney’s Mammoth Treasury of Thrilling Tales” is very exciting, fascinating, and easy to read.

Overall Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Louis Benton Steakhouse offers fine dining at reasonable cost

by Curtis R. Burdette

Editor in Chief

In February 2003, Louis Benton Steakhouse opened in downtown Grand Rapids to the delight of meat lovers throughout Michigan. On the corner of Monroe and Ionia stands the new restaurant, but beware that you will be overwhelmed by the menu. There are many ways to order.

I arrived with my colleague and expected to find the restaurant full of patrons, yet more than half of the tables were empty. As we walked to the entrance, the restaurant resembles a hotel lobby, especially with the ambient host behind the desk.

The takeout menu was the most exciting part of the night. A menu item that I really enjoyed was the windowed private room given a full view of a party of gentlemen in the adjoining room.

There was great in the hosting of the two of us before setting us on the edge of the restaurant. After a few minutes, I noticed that we were sitting in a high traffic area, right in front of the window. We were seated, and the server began to disrupt the experience by requesting to move. Despite a number of empty tables in the vicinity, the chatter of nearby patrons created a noisy ambiance.

As we waited a few minutes for our server, we twice promised to be with an order before the food came. After introducing herself and getting our drink orders, she apologized as we passed the table several times while we eagerly waited more than five minutes for our order.

One of the most overlooked options for steak as well as seafood, chicken and other non-steak items. Steaks varied in price from a 1-oz. Four-Perch River Strip Sizerl for $12 to a King Caraf Butter Fillet Mignon for $42 that weighed in at 12 oz. Along with the different steaks, the menu included a dozen choices of sauces. House salads came with the purchase of a steak, but we chose a salad of the other salads added $2.50.

The table was so large that we decided to order family portions only.

I ordered the Kansas City Strip, a 16-oz. piece of meat for $24, with the Bordelaise sauce and a House Salad. With a few minutes, the waiter delivered the salads. The salad was a light mix of vegetables including grape tomatoes and cucumber and a light dressing. Less than 10 minutes after finishing the salad, the waitress brought a Kansas City Strip cooked to perfection. After five minutes, the finish to taste. The meat was juicy and tender and I enjoyed the texture.

The crust is slightly crispy and has a bit of spice. The crust is delicious without the addition of a 生涯酱. The crust is so good that I ordered one by itself for the dinner. It was the perfect combination of the crust and the sauce. The crust was so good that I ordered another.

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Overall Rating: 4 out of 5

Louis Benton Steakhouse at Monroe and Ionia.

77 Monroe Cir NW Ste 100, Grand Rapids, 49505.