AQ governance bodies discuss reaccreditation

By Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief

On Wednesday Dec. 3 the Aquinas College board of trustees, faculty assembly, staff assembly, and student senate came together for a joint luncheon and meeting in the Wege Ballroom. The annual event sponsored by the senate combines the various governance bodies to discuss important issues affecting the campus.

This year the event focused on the reaccreditation of the college. Provost and Dean of Faculty Dr. Ed Balog

By Emily Johnson
Times Writer

Sister Santa came to Aquinas wearing her best dress. At an annual event sponsored by the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center, a female Santa greeted partygoers as they sat on her lap and shared their Christmas wishes with her. Sister Santa passed out candy canes and presents to about 50 people in the Wege Student Center on Friday, Dec. 5.

"What if Santa Were a Woman?" was the creation of Dr. Susan Haworth-Hoepner, Director of the Women's Studies Center, to get people to think about how traditional gender roles frame their perspective. "If it's possible for a woman to be Santa, then why not the president?" said Haworth-Hoepner.

While party guests pondered this issue over food, Christmas carols (which were slightly altered to fit the occasion), fortune telling, and just plain fun, Sister Santa determined who was naughty and nice.

"Sister Santa loves everyone, but we're all at least a little bit naughty. Only most won't admit it," Sister Santa said with a grin.

AQUINAS TIMES

Stress and holidays cause seasonal depression

By Leslie Camody
Kentucky Kernel (U. Kentucky)

(E-WIRE)LEXINGTON, Ky. - With the holidays fast approaching, many college students are sucked in by the winter blues.

"The holidays can be a sad time for some students, particularly if they have recent losses such as the death of a loved one, or parents divorcing or a move away from the family home," says Mary Bolin-Reece, director of the University of Kentucky Counseling and Testing Center.

Depression is a very serious illness that can cause a person to struggle in his or her social activities, work or daily life. The National Institute of Mental Health states that there are nearly 18.8 million Americans over 18 years old who suffer from major depression.

The traditions surrounding the holiday season can also place undue pressure on students, Bolin-Reece says. "Our culture places so much value also on purchasing or receiving the "perfect" gift, which places a great financial burden on students and others with limited financial and time resources," she says.

"Some students may worry about disappointing someone, or about being disappointed." There are many different forms of depression, but around Christmas time, some students are affected by a form of depression known as seasonal affective disorder.

"Some people have depressive symptoms in a seasonal pattern, with greater prevalence in higher latitudes, among females and among younger persons,” Bolin-Reece says. Some UK students agree and say the holidays can bring on the blues.

"(They) make me feel worse; everyone else is so happy and I can't keep that frame of mind," says Dyan Tiggard, a theater junior. "The winter weather also drags me down; nice weather is a good motivation key." Symptoms of depression include loss of interest in pleasurable activities, significant change in appetite, sleep disturbances, feeling either restless or slowed down, fatigue or loss of energy, feelings of worthlessness, having a hard time thinking and concentrating and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide, Bolin-Reece says.

Even too much to do can stress students out and cause depression. "Finals really bring me down, because not only do I have to be inside, I have to be inside to study," says Nick Kild, an English and psychology junior.

Treatments are fairly easy for a person with mild seasonal depression. One can always seek professional help, Bolin-Reece says, but there are other alternatives.

"Non-therapy approaches to managing depression include exercise, good nutrition, meditation, yoga, making decisions to include positive and pleasant activities to one's day and bibliotherapy, which is done through the use of books."
Pederson fulfills hunger for poetry

by Emily Johnson
Times Writer

The Aquinas book-store was as packed Tuesday, Dec. 2 with as much traffic as the day before semester begins. But instead of protesting students, the place was filled with faculty, staff, alumni, students and many others.

A crowd not gathered for a giant highlighter sale, but in hunger for some good poetry.

Good poetry is just what they received as Miriam Pederson, Associate Professor of English, read aloud from her newest poetry book. The collection is a selection of poems from over 25 years of writing. First things first, however, she began with a poem not included in her book, "A Tribute to the MalrIoom Women," thanking them for all their advice, wisdom and accommodation.

Pederson continued with various selections from her book about maternal love, raising children, family, and even the act of dying.

"She takes ordinary life and reveals the mystery, meaning, spiritual and structural context of it all, almost like an X-ray," said Aquinas Associate Professor of Art, Kurt Kaiser. Pederson noted that her poems are usually written with themes of family, celebration of birth and the mourning of death.

Pederson's poetry has been displayed in various top 10 political news events of 2003

While some of them may not seem as exciting as a Paris Hilton sex video or a Britney-Madonna kiss, most of them have more relevance in your life. Here they are, the ten top political news stories of 2003.

1. SARS: Severe acute respiratory syndrome affected the entire world earlier this year, leaving almost 800 dead. Now there are fears it could return again this winter, and public health officials are warning the U.S. is not adequately prepared for another outbreak.

2. Columbia disaster: On Feb. 1, 2003, the shuttle Columbia broke apart on its return to Earth, killing the entire crew. This set off a political battle when investigators suggested continual budget cuts to NASA contributed to the decline in safety of the space program.

3. Affirmative action upheld: The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of race as a factor in admissions at colleges and universities in a case brought against the University of Michigan. Though it struck down the use of "point systems," giving students a certain number of points for their race, it allowed the use of race as a more general factor, leaving many worried about the lessened accountability of admissions decisions.

4. The coalition invades Iraq: The Bush Administration chose to invade Iraq and brought down Saddam Hussein's regime. Though supported by various countries, the war in Iraq drew serious criticism from the international community about underlying reasons, such as oil, for the invasion.

5. Death of Quay and Uday Hussein: In a victory for the coalition, troops killed Saddam Hussein's two sons, Quay and Uday, on July 22 after receiving an intelligence tip on their location in Mosul. The coalition continues to look, but has yet to find Saddam Hussein.

6. Pope condemns gay marriage: The Vatican denounced homosexual marriages as deviant and a threat to society on July 31, as it launched a global campaign to persuade Catholic lawmakers to vote against any legislation permitting gay marriage.

This caused political outcry in the United States, where same-sex civil unions were permitted in Vermont, and just became legal in Massachusetts.

7. Arnold wins California: In the first recall in the state of California's history, citizens chose to recall Grey Davis and install former bodybuilder and movie star of California's history, citizens chose to recall Grey Davis and install former bodybuilder and movie

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This caused political outcry in the United States, where same-sex civil unions were permitted in Vermont, and just became legal in Massachusetts.

9. Arnold wins California: In the first recall in the state of California's history, citizens chose to recall Grey Davis and install former bodybuilder and movie star of California's history, citizens chose to recall Grey Davis and install former bodybuilder and movie

10. Rush Limbaugh, drug addict: In a blow to his conservative fan base, political radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh admitted he was addicted to prescription painkillers and temporarily left his show to undergo rehabilitation. He returned to his talk-show, but an investigation into his activities continues.

Pederson reads from her new chapbook, "This awaiting crowd."

"People seemed to be more interested in it last year. This time, the show was not a hit and there was not a lot of interest," said Emily Davis, Aquinas junior. The enthusiasm last year was also higher and they offered more exciting events such as Flamenco dancing. Look for Chirkindelmarkt for diverse foods and activities next year.
Gettin' Down with Santa at the Christmas Dance

Students enjoyed a visit from Santa while dancing the night away during the annual Christmas Dance held in the Donnelly Center, Saturday night, Dec. 5.

The Clothesline Project comes to AQ

Lisa Gast
News Editor

From Monday, Dec. 8, until Friday, Dec. 13, the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center and the Grand Rapids YWCA will show The Clothesline Project in the lower level of Wege.

The exhibit honors the strength and courage of women who have survived acts of violence and sexual assault and is also a tribute to those women who did not survive. "If you're not a victim of this type of violence, you may not really think about it. But if you see it out here like this, it's hard to ignore it. It's a good way to make people more aware," said senior Amelia Cypert.

Senior Amelia Cypert pauses to look at The Clothesline Project exhibit.

Aquinas College BRIEFS

BRIEFS

Study finds students maintain strong religious views

By Virginia Zigwego
Badger Herald (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. - A recent study conducted by the Higher Education Research Center at the University of California-Los Angeles found the majority of college students hold strong, positive views about religion and spirituality. The study examined responses from 3,600 college students at 46 public and private universities across the nation.

The Higher Education Research Center annually administers a survey to incoming college freshmen that covers a wide variety of topics. The researchers decided to conduct a separate survey about spirituality and religion after the freshmen survey respondents rated being "very well off financially" as their top goal in life, while "developing a meaningful philosophy of life" was rated eighth.

The study asked about religion and spirituality and revealed that more than two-thirds of the respondents, most of whom were juniors, cared strongly about the subject matter. Seventy percent of the respondents said they had attended religious services in the past year, and 79 percent said they had discussed religion or spirituality with friends or relatives. Seventy-three percent said their spiritual or religious beliefs had helped develop their identity.

Students cheat for variety of reasons

By Jennifer Marie Bear
Oregon Daily Emerald (U. Oregon)

(U-WIRE) EUGENE, Ore. - The whys of cheating are plentiful — there are almost as many reasons for cheating as there are students who do it. And according to national statistics, there are a lot of students doing it.

In 1999, Donald McCabe of Rutgers University, one of the nation's leading researchers on academic integrity, directed a national survey of 2,100 students on 21 different college campuses to determine the extent of cheating. More than 75 percent of student respondents admitted to cheating in some form.

According to Director of Student Judicial Affairs Chris Loschilao at the University of Oregon, the University has not participated in any of the recent studies on academic integrity.

However, the number of students who own up to cheating in surveys is in sharp contrast with the number of academic dishonesty cases that are processed through the Office of Judicial Affairs. From 2002 to 2003, there were 202 academic dishonesty cases at the University, while enrollment totaled 18,421. That means only 1.1 percent of the student population was caught cheating.

EPA proposes new clean air requirements

By Natalie J. Mikhail
Badger Herald (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. - The Environmental Protection Agency proposed new clean air requirements recently to cut chemical pollutants produced by factories and power plants in an effort to curtail air pollution traveling across state borders.

The "Interstate Air Quality Rule" requires coal-burning power plants to upgrade their facilities to reduce the amount of mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released into the air. This proposal would make the "steepest emissions cuts" in over a decade.

"These actions are the largest single investment in any clean air program in history," EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt said in a statement. "We are committed to working with our congressional sponsors to move this landmark legislation through Congress."

Leavitt added that pollution reductions will help states meet tougher federal air-quality health standards, mainly for smog prevention, that were issued in 1997 and are just now being implemented after years of litigation.

Their plan will be finalized after a comment period and looks to cap sulfur dioxide emissions at 3.7 million tons, a cut of 40 percent from current levels, by 2010 and another 2.3 million tons when the rules are fully implemented after 2015, a cut of nearly 70 percent. Smog-causing nitrogen oxide would be limited to 1.7 million tons by the same date.
Bizarre moments of 2003

As we witness the passing of another year of our all-too-short lives, let's take a moment to reflect on 2003's most bizarre—lesbian acts between pop stars, criminal charges, and everything else that made us happy, disgusted, or just a little annoyed.

Ah, serenity.

Let the stress of finals fall away like so many autumn leaves, an exciting new year on the horizon. Look at the tree. Yeah, the tree has the idea. Go on, hug the tree.

Let the nature clichés used by your friendly AQ Times art editor wrap you in a cocoon of comforting stillness. Light some candles, draw a bath, add some lavender oil, and allow your weary, achy mind some warm reminiscence. You've earned it. You are o.k. You are home.

And now for the sake of convention, if not mindless commitment to a ten of the year's most quirky, shocking, appalling, and sickening in the world of entertainment as comprised by someone who never tunes in and who prefers showers. And you thought you had a friend.

Try not to take offense to the ordering by the way. It's not really that scientific.

Dr. Brooks goes beardless. It doesn't always have to be: Hollywood you know. Done in the interest of AQ Theatre's presentation of "Our Town," Director of Humanities Dr. Daniel Brooks made a sacrifice worthy of recognition. No, that wasn't a substitute professor—that's Dr. Brooks.

Paris Hilton's pornographic film: The tragic tale of innocence lost. The hotel magnate's daughter is featured in a pornographic movie, supposedly against her wishes. It just goes to show you money cannot buy you true love.

R. Kelly charged with possession of child pornography: The hip-hop icon is currently facing 21 charges of child pornography. That's right, he's in the interest of AQ Theatre's production of "Our Town."" What? You can't be serious please.

Arnold runs for governor: Yes, the same Madonna who made out with Britney Spears on cable television. Can we just stop? Dr. Sues please.

Suicide band: Unquestionably a cry for help from the head of a bull. Hell on Earth, a Tampa, Fla. band, decides that it would be entertaining to have someone kill themselves during one of their shows. Sick. Period.

Britney and Madonna: The kiss that shook the world, or at least made it watch the reruns. Publicity stunt or not, that honestly saw one coming.

Madonna turns children's writer: Yes, the same Madonna who made out with Britney Spears on cable television. Can we just stop? Dr. Sues please?

Carrabba's: a fresh Italian taste
carrabba's.com

Walking into Carrabba's Italian Grill, you could tell the restaurant was a recent addition to 28th Street. Seating was not immediately available in spite of several empty tables. The 10-minute wait seemed unnecessary.

The table arrangement offered little elbow room. Patrons can hardly walk through the dining area without bumping into a table or chair. The atmosphere was rather noisy due to the conjesting seating.

The server explained that Carrabba's makes everything on the menu with fresh ingredients. Once the order had been placed, the drinks took about 10 minutes to arrive. The appetizer bread served was warm and soft, but the herb oil was quite strong. The server was very cordial as he explained the menu and then politely allowed time to make choices. I ordered the traditional spaghetti with meat sauce and a Caesar salad. My date selected the Parmesan chicken served on fettuccini alfredo and the Caesar salad. The Caesar salads had fresh greens and a pinch of Parmesan cheese. A条 of garlic in the Caesar dressing offered a unique flavor. The main course arrived. The spaghetti was wonderful. The tomato sauce had a smooth consistency without chunks of meat or tomato. Each bite was an enjoyable mix of pasta and sauce.

The Chicken Parmesan offered sautéed chicken topped with bread crumbs, mozzarella and tomato sauce. My date enjoyed the entree and particularly liked the combination of the Pomodoro sauce on the chicken with the alfredo sauce on the noodles.

The portion sizes were enough for dinner with plenty of leftovers and the prices were reasonable ranging between $8 and $14 for most entrees.

The quality of the food was excellent and the service was superb.

Arrrggh matey, 'tis a DVD to see

Pirates' loaded with enticing features, extras

By Gabrielle Monaco

Business Manager

Orlando Bloom and Johnny Depp star in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," a Disney movie that is a smashboarding success.

William Turner (Bloom) was rescued at a young age and grows up to be a blacksmith who makes swords. He is in love with his daughter's, Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightly). Swann, scheduled to marry the commodore, is fond of Turner, but is forbidden to be romantically involved with him. Swann possesses a golden pirate medallion that the pirates want back, and hence, is eventually kidnapped. Captain Sparrow (Depp) is a marooned pirate locked up in jail. Turner, hearing the news of Swann's kidnapping, helps Sparrow break out of jail to rescue her for Captain Barbossa, the captain of the Black Pearl played by Geoffrey Rush. Swann is a clever one, having had an interest in pirates since an early age. She manages to trick and outsmart the pirates holding her captive on several different occasions.

Sparrow, a daring and wiry expert in trickery, outsmarts the commodore and his troops. Sparrow promises to align himself with Turner and help rescue Swann as long as Turner helps him win back the Black Pearl. After overcoming many obstacles, Captain Sparrow earns the title of the "most skilled pirate" anyone has ever seen. Sparrow gets his ship back, and Turner gets the girl, but the pirates of the Black Pearl are still cursed.

"Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl" has lost of amusing highlights and some unexpected plot twists. This DVD, if not worth buying, should be rented. If you want to see it for yourself, you'll have to watch it yourself matey.

Casino Royale: Pierce Brosnan a better Bond

By Wes Creager

Times Writer

"Bad Santa," starring Billy Bob Thornton, adds a little innocent obscenity to the Christmas spirit. Within the first minute of the film already has the entire theater laughing and shocked.

The movie begins with Willie T. Stokes (Thornton) drinking himself stupid, dressed in his beaten-up red Santa suit. We soon find out that Willie has a very colorful background and is currently not just a department store Santa, but a safecracking thief as well. His partner in crime is a wacky cranking midget named Marcus (Tony Cox). The gang is rounded out by Marcus' oddly dressed girlfriend/getaway driver Lois (Lauren Tom).

Every year this strange gang of crooks gets together in the month of December to set up its heist. They infiltrate some unsuspecting department store store. After all, who would suspect a foul-mouthed Santa? They even have an affinity for robbery? Once the crime is complete, they live on the money for the remaining 11 months of the year until the following December when they do it all over again.

Now throw in Bob Chipska (John Ritter), an uneasy store manager, and you have the cast of this strange and dark, yet incredibly funny holiday tale. At this point you may be thinking that this movie is incredibly stupid, too much so to be even remotely funny. However, to see is to know better.

One of the film's more amusing highlights involves a drunken Willie stumbling into work and deciding to pick a fight with the Christmas display and the fake reindeer. Another involves Willie's second conversation with the boy in which the boy seems very concerned about Santa's real height. These are just two of a long list of incredibly funny and sometimes raunchy gags and jokes that make the viewer very glad that the words "politically correct" were obviously not part of the filmmaker's vocabulary.

"Bad Santa" is a dark comedy in a season when every other movie is trying to be a feel-good. The Christmas season can really use a film like this. So proceed with your holiday shopping and know your local department store department store.
Christmas concert makes a joyful noise

By Emily Johnson

The 2003 College Chorus and Collage Concert filled the auditorium with a collection of voices, instruments, humor and even Jolly Old St. Nick. The Collage Concert included performances from the AQ Band, Chamber Choir, College Chorus, Percussion Group, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Sweet Harmony and the Valenti Handbell Choir.

A highlight of the show was a solo by Amy Taylor. She awed the audience with her soft, soothing voice during her performance of "Singing Child of Love" by Sarah Groves. She was accompanied by Dave Doppel on the guitar and Ryan Engemann on the cymbols, creating the perfect trio of voice, rhythm and strings.

During "A Jubilant Christmas" the College Chorus performed "Carol of the Bells." The traditional Christmas melody sounded unaffected by the allusion overpowering the sopranos. The trio of Mary Harwood, Nina Croft and Janae Woody offered a touching rendition of "Mary Did You Know?" However, the theater acoustics did not complement their vocal harmonies.

Solo in Style: Patrick Earl sings a verse solo during "Riu Riu Chiu!" with the Chamber Choir.

Tilley admitted her apprehension before the show to do with the thought of conducting for the first time in front of an audience.

"It was the biggest crowd ever. I was sort of nervous, but excited too because it seemed like we were the last ones to perform here," said Tilley, referring to the new Performing Arts Center.

Santa made an appearance after the last song, passing out candy canes while guests joined all of the members of the Collage Concert in a Christmas carol singalong.

A Winning Christmas Combo: "Call of Duty" singer and composer Jennifer Mayer sang a duet with the College Chorus, with the latter providing the backdrop for her performance.

A.a.i.—they hide behind buildings, peek from around corners and take shots at diving Germans who do the same. Not only is the enemy A.a.i. surprisingly well done, but so are the designs of the levels. Many of the American missions take place in small French villages, forcing you to take cover in multiple buildings, as well as use them as passageways to find alternate routes. Instead of just stepping here, however, developer Infogrames decided to go the extra mile—ranks crash through various stone walls, run over unsuspecting troops and seize many of the building passageways while you are inside of them.

The most memorable scene, however, was the storming of Stalingrad during the Russian sorties. Move over D-Day, there is something new in the mix. The screams of men, whether the are laying in agony, barking orders, or yelling for help, add to the cornucopia of sound and a completely new experience. Playing "Call" online is beautiful—you can play in games with 15 other players with little to no delays. However, dial-up users should abstain from playing online. Game play sticks to standard fare—deathmatch and team deathmatch, until "Behind Enemy Lines" shows up.
## 2003 Aquinas College Report

### Grades Summary

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATHLETICS</strong></td>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>A field house that resembles a dingy high-school gym, the weight-room with little equipment which doesn’t work all too often, and a home baseball team field in Wyoming. Though plans for a new field house are promising, they do not help today.</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>After winning their sixth consecutive WAC ALL-SPORT trophy, Aquinas’ athletic performance is top-notch. Let us not forget the Men’s Cross-Country team going to nationals, a strong volleyball season and a promising basketball season thus far.</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fans</td>
<td>For the amount of success the Aquinas sports teams have seen, there has yet been a game that has come close to filling the stands in the field house or on the soccer field. Fans need to be more outgoing with their support.</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMICS</strong></td>
<td>Class Sizes</td>
<td>With a cap on class sizes around 22, classes at Aquinas are small enough to develop relationships with classmates and professors.</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Availability</td>
<td>Some classes are offered on certain rotations, causing an inconvenience on the student’s side. However, the rest of the classes are generally easy to get into.</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Classes vary from easy to challenging—both of which are dependent on class and professor. As a whole, Aquinas classes rank average in terms of quality.</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSING</strong></td>
<td>Dorms and apartments</td>
<td>The apartments are the best and most frequently updated living arrangement on the Aquinas campus—which leaves the dorms in the shadows of sporadic, not to mention far-between, updates.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-ed hours</td>
<td>Do adults really need coed hours? With Aquinas being a Catholic-centered campus, the answer could go either way. The bottom line: we are adults—and adults do not have hours to be with one another.</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Building Access</td>
<td>It’s extremely annoying to have to let in a commuter into an Aquinas dorm because their card does not work in dorms. All the cards should work for every building, not just certain ones.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TECHNOLOGY</strong></td>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>Most of the main computer laboratories on campus have newer computers. The dorm-lab computers, however, are more than two years old: slow and unreliable. This is a hassle for late-night projects when the AB building is locked.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>The Internet has been anything less than unreliable this semester. In addition, constrictive ports do not allow games to be played and the net is very slow for a college campus.</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>The equipment in the science building tends to be outdated, and the resources needed cannot be used sometimes because it is too costly to purchase more. A new grant will hopefully change this.</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACULTY</strong></td>
<td>Availability</td>
<td>Although office hours can be scarce among the faculty, they are usually more than willing to help a student who is upstream without a paddle. They never hesitate to go above and beyond their normal call of duty.</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>Absent teachers are rarities at Aquinas. Professors are generally punctual and prepared for class. They tend to provide a good atmospheric balance between formality and fun. There are those, however, who take their job too seriously.</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enthusiasm</td>
<td>Sometimes yes and no. Each member has their own personality, ranging from one who is excited about their subject, or ones who make you want to take a nap during class. It tends to be more of the latter.</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>It is rare to not find a computer in the lab when you are in need. Additionally, the abundance of online databases provides many materials for that “midnight special” paper.</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Campus Safety</td>
<td>Wherever you go, you can’t escape the Campus Safety staff—which is a good thing. They’re willing to give rides within a mile of campus, and they’re quick to respond.</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Campus Ministry</td>
<td>Campus Ministry has a fantastic outreach to the Aquinas community. They’re regulars on The Moose message board, and have several bulletin boards and flyers throughout campus.</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONEY</td>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Even though Aquinas costs $2,000 more than Cornerstone, it is less than Calvin and far less than Hope. It is almost $2,000 below the national average of tuition at private colleges.</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Aquinas is very liberal with their scholarships, which means that many students are paying only part of their tuition through other sources.</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Books</td>
<td>The College bookstore charges outrageous prices, and the used textbook store in Grand Rapids does not cater to Aquinas students. But a popular solution—buying online—allows students to purchase books at a discounted price.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND</td>
<td>The City</td>
<td>Aquinas offers some unique experiences not found in some larger metropolitan areas. Even though Grand Rapids lacks a skyline, it offers some big city excitement. East Grand Rapids and Eastown cater to those who prefer a small town atmosphere.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPIDS</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Even though D&amp;W is across Fulton and there are several coffee shops within walking distance from the dorms, most off-campus activities are limited to students with cars.</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>The Rapid gives students an inexpensive way to travel the city—regardless of its speed or ease of use. The recent millage increase will give the Rapid more money, allowing it to improve services.</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACILITIES</td>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>The Lacks Center leads the bathroom race because they are the newest and cleanest facilities. Each bathroom is appropriately stocked and clean, but the floor-drain smell that plagues some could be taken care of.</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Cleanliness</td>
<td>Every day, the janitorial staff cleans the campus buildings, making sure they do not have the appearance of a “day-after” frat-house party.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Building Temperatures</td>
<td>The Academic Building has a problem regulating temperatures because of students and professors adjusting the temperature all the time. It should remain a steady temperature and let things go from there.</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>The cafeteria provides plenty of room to enjoy a meal, and it is decorated during holiday seasons. It can, however, become rather cramped during popular times.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>The food quality is extremely low considering the amount students pay for meal plans. It is never good to have bathroom slang named after the cafeteria.</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Availability</td>
<td>The hours of the cafeteria do justice to accommodate a student’s busy schedule. Weekend hours, however, hurt on-campus students.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATMOSPHERE</td>
<td>Atmosphere</td>
<td>Aquinas attracts new students partly because of the friendly environment—students, faculty and administrators tend to be in a cheerful mood. It is not easy to walk across campus without a wave, smile or a ‘hello’.</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>The administration offers a mix of experience and backgrounds, making them approachable and willing to solve problems. Pre-existing relationships between faculty and administration can create some difficulty for students.</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Environment</td>
<td>The Dominican tradition offers a rich heritage for Aquinas students. However, as a liberal arts school, there is a secular attitude, but sometimes non-christians are alienated due to the Catholic Dominican roots.</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLUBS and ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>Offerings</td>
<td>Aquinas offers an excellent array of clubs and organizations. The Aquinas Thespians, Music Club, WAQU, Philosophy Club, Senate and SAAVE represent a fraction of available clubs and organizations on campus. Most are open to students year round.</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>Most students on campus are active in at least one organization and many are involved with several. These opportunities allow students to serve in any way, shape and form.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>However, due to the large quantity of clubs, many members are overloaded with projects and many fail to follow through with commitments due to lack of penalty.</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender Corner

Do you feel safe walking alone at night on campus?

The Male View

The administration, along with Campus Safety, had their work cut out for them trying to make Aquinas exert a feeling of safety. However, they came through and successfully made the campus of Aquinas a safe place. This September, residents of St. Joseph’s Hall learned that several muggings occurred near Wilcos Park, which is right in front of St. Joe’s. After the first reported incident, there were flyers posted that warned residents of the occurrences. After the second and third incidents, a police cruiser was in the St. Joe’s cul-de-sac for at least three hours every night. This response reinforced the feeling of security among students. Additionally, most of the paths around the campus are—how well remem¬ber a debate topic? Trails such as the ‘rape trail’ (the lone trail that connects St. Joe’s to the rest of the campus) can be intimidating to new students at first, however, mid-way through, a Campus safety call-box is hung on a light pole for any emergencies. This scenario happens a few other times around campus; however, the solution is the same: Campus safety emergency phones and call boxes.

Campus Safety patrols the campus 24 hours a day. Officers check buildings, monitor the grounds, provide escorts and work hard to keep the campus secure. All in all, it’s an idea of walking throughout campus at night. Thanks to the ingenuity of Campus Safety and the administration, several safety implementa¬tions keep students feeling safe during the night time hours. However, students should remember that it is always best to travel with a friend at night, just in case.

The Female View

In today’s society—where anything can happen, including muggings, robbery, and rape—safety is a big concern, no matter where you are. This is especially true on college campuses, where students are often out at late hours, traveling through isolated areas. Overall, I feel pretty safe walking alone at night on campus.

Although Aquinas has quite a few forests for trees, many well-lit paths are available for students walking home alone from quads or a friend’s dorm room. Emergency call boxes are also strategically placed throughout campus, with wires tied back to Campus Safety if trouble should arise. In addition, Campus Safety officers patrol the campus several times a night.

However, there are a few areas on campus that are quite secluded, and therefore seem to be a bit more of a safety risk. The paths leading to St. Joseph and Bruty halls can be particularly daunting, as well as the wooded paths between the Academic Building and Regina Hall and near the Gatehouse. Some of the perceived risk comes from the fact that several of these paths are not lit at all. The obvious and best solution would probably be to simply stay off them at night. Although the until path may be the quickest way home, it is worth students walking a little farther to be sure of their safety.

The other paths to St. Joe and Bruty seem a little dangerous because of all the trees surrounding them and hiding potential danger. Since Aquinas is unlikely to cut down these trees, probably because students to travel in groups if possible. Another option available is calling for an escort from Campus Safety.

The statistics in the October 2003 Campus Crime Awareness report issued by Campus Safety seem to indicate that Aquinas has a very safe campus. According to the report, there were no instances of murder and robbery from 2000-2002, the three years that the report covered, and the number of sexual offenses was very low. Personally, I believe that the Aquinas campus is safe, and I feel just as comfortable walking alone at night here as I do anywhere else.

OPINION

Where is Christ during Christmas?

By Curtis R. Burdette

Editor in Chief

Most retailers prepare for Christmas long before Thanksgiving. As soon as Thanksgiving arrives, retailers are preparing for the mad dash of sales that begins the next day. It happens every year and has been a tradition for decades.

Every year, Americans complain about how commercial the celebration of the Jesus’ birthday has become. The voice of the Christian churches reminds them that the holiday is about the birth of Christ; but most of them are too busy trying to think about what gift to get for that fuzzy relative who already has everything.

By the second week of December, parents are complaining that there is too much to do and not enough time, while college students are writing to Santa for one final exam or an extra hour to study. So what happened?

Can anyone remember Jesus when there is no extra time to reflect? Because the holiday season is too busy and no one else has as much to do as you? Jesus understands. What if you have two exams and three papers to write and somewhere you have to find time to call home just to say hello? Your room¬mate refuses to shut up and won’t let you sleep until you’ve cleared out his/her problems and God doesn’t seem to be giving you any help to pray. Then it’s okay to neglect Him, isn’t it?

Christ is neglected at Christmas. Traditional holiday activities have overloaded Christians so much that they can look at Christmas without seeing Christ. They can blast their horns and give the finger to the old man driving in the fast lane, slowing down traffic and causing delays in the holiday season. However, through a few dozen overburdened Christians. Tradition means a lot during the holiday season. But it pays to remember that Christ¬mas tradition is based on joy, faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Murer sanctioned by the state

By Joy Schaefer

Times Writer

On November 24 in Virginia Beach, VA, jurors in the trial of convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad decided that he should be executed for terrorizing the Washington D.C. area during the fall of 2002. Prosecutors presented evidence of 16 shootings, including 14 in Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana and the District of Columbia. Muhammad was sentenced to death on two counts: multiple murders within three years and murder as part of a terrorist plot.

Muhammad’s Jurors, the federal government, and all but 12 U.S. states have overruled the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states, “Cruel and unusual punishments [shall not be] inflicted.” Not only do 38 states purposely murder their citizens; many still use horrifying methods to do so. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, Utah and Idaho continue to use the firing squad as a method to murder inmates; Washington hangs its citizens; and Nebraska uses electrocution as its sole method of execution.

Only twelve days before Muhammad’s sentence, the American Civil Liberties Union released a study on Virginia’s death penalty system entitled “Broken Justice: The Death Penalty in Virginia.” According to the ACLU’s study, Virginia’s capital punish¬ment system is so flawed that it cannot ensure a reliable determination of guilt or innocence. This is the most sickness affecting a defendant. If a defen¬dant is pronounced guilty and is sentenced to death, but later proven innocent, there can be no just compensation. The inmate is dead, and he will be dead forever. Whereas the state is able to compensate financially for the loss time of an innocent inmate who was sentenced to life in prison, the state cannot afford money to a victim of a wrongful execution. Humans are biased and imperfect and therefore should not be able to perform such definitive acts as sentencing people to death. Racism often occurs in cases dealing with capital punishment. According to DPIC, the rate at which eligible black defendants were sen¬tenced to death in Phila¬delphia between 1983 and 1993 was nearly 40 percent higher than the rate for other eligible defendants. Furthermore, it is illegal to murder, so why should the state be able to kill people? State law often regards first-degree murder as the worst kind of murder because the crime is deliberate and premed¬itated. There is no act more premeditated than sentencing a person to die. There is no act more deliberate than pulling a handle that sends between 500 and 2000 volts of electric current through another person’s body. Nor does the threat of the death penalty deter crime. According to the FBI’s Preliminary Uniform Crime Report for 2002, the murder rate in the South increased by 2.1 percent while the murder rate in the Northeast decreased by almost 5 percent. The South accounts for 82 percent of all murders since 1976 while the Northeast accounts for less than 1 percent. Some conservative Christians who advocate the death penalty support their beliefs with the Bible citing God’s words to Moses: “you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth” from Exodus 21:23-24 and “Anyone who kills a human being must be put to death” from Leviticus 24:17.

Many Christians, in studying the seemingly verveful God of the Old Testament, overlook the nonviolent God of the New Testament. In Matthew’s 5:39, Jesus states, “If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.” Though Jesus defined Christianity with pacifism and forgiveness, some Christians fail to recognize these fundamental characteristics of their religion.

On November 19, Illinois lawmakers altered the state’s death penalty system, putting a risk of executing an innocent person. In a 110-0 vote, the House approved a series of changes to a system that led to the wrongful conviction of at least 17 men.

When a capital punish¬ment system is so imper¬fect that it causes the mistaken convictions of 17 men, the system should be put to an end. People make mistakes. Death cannot be undone.
Housing developments destroy communities

By Rob Antecki
Times Writer

The face of Grand Rapids and the Western Michigan landscape is changing and experiencing much needed improvements. The importance of our cities and the urban state and the Midwest is demonstrated by the continued economic growth. Transportation routes are expanding; the population of the city is rebounding; new shopping, entertainment and religious options are emerging. New institutions such as the Frederick Meijer Gardens are gaining in prominence and international attention; and an entire medical and research industry is growing along Michigan Street in downtown.

However, a disturbing trend is emerging in which new housing developments are sprouting up in the suburbs of Grand Rapids. Driving through the older parts of Grand Rapids, Wyoming and Kentwood offers a view of character neighborhoods of homes. Most houses differ greatly from each other and the streets and yards are generally filled with trees that offer shade, added privacy, homes for wildlife and other benefits.

A drive further from the city would offer an unappealing change of scenery. An explosion of new housing developments has sprung up in the past five to ten years in the older suburbs of Grand Rapids. Some are built over acreage once used for farmland, but in many cases, sections of forests are bulldozed to make way for homes and roads. It is cheaper for developers to simply take down all of the trees in a plot of land than to selectively clear areas so that new homeowners may have the benefits of mature trees.

In a sick twist of irony, tiny trees are then planted along sterile sidewalks next to bright green street signs that indicate roads named "Elm Grove," "Maple Woods," or something similar.

Of course, the benefits of the young trees will not be enjoyed for at least 40 to 60 years. I cannot comprehend how someone could destroy an organism that has taken generations to grow and thrive and which provides innumerable benefits for the environment. Could it possibly be worth the few dollars more profit to recklessly tear down an entire section of forest and replace it with a series of identical houses?

Needless to say, most of the home designs are quite sterile, poor in quality compared to older homes and almost identical to each other. Equally frightening is the observation that people seem to have abandoned the idea of a traditional neighborhood, connected to the rest of the city, local businesses and schools. Instead of the traditional idea of one or two entrances, most developments are confusing mazes of dead ends and seemingly endless curving streets.

I sincerely hope that before people continue purchasing homes in these developments they stop to give a thought to what the city will look like in the future when the majority of it is devoid of real neighborhoods with character, mature trees and wildlife. The homebuyers are the ones spending incredible amounts of money that developers are asking for these overpriced homes, and the buyers have the right to demand more.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parents target Jackson; the children are victims

In response to your article regarding the allegations against Michael Jackson, I don’t know Michael Jackson personally and neither do you. The allegations against him look bad, but you seem to be of the opinion that you are guilty until proven innocent.

You made the statement that it does not take a parent of the year to realize that Jackson might not be the best guy to chaperone your young children or sleep in his bed. Could it be that his past charges, though cleared, are mere figleafs? He is making a one man get-rich-quick scheme!

I agree with you that the children are being dealt a terribly unjust, but shouldn’t the parents of these children be held accountable? The 1993 investigation showed that his money is an attractive placation tool, but I don’t believe money alone would placate a parent whose child is or could be emotionally scarred or physically hurt.

Jackson has been accused of plastic surgery, aspiring to be Caucasian, as well as daling his baby from a balcony. These things do not make him a pedophile. I would be the first to admit that he has some issues, but he has maintained a career three decades being in the public eye. I just don’t believe that getting old has made him stupid. Pedophilia is an uncontrollable sickness and if Jackson is guilty then why not just go to jail for committing this crime?

Jackson is a very wealthy man with a fondness for children and that does not make him a pedophile but does make him target for every scheming mama with a plan. Children will suffer whether it’s the parents scheming or Jackson being guilty. Children are molested every day and because nobody has anything to gain their molesters will go unpunished and free.

DETRA BODDY Aquinas senior

Writer speaks for underrepresented students

I was so disappointed when I saw not one, but six separate letters from pro-life students included in the Letters to the Editor section of the Nov. 26 issue. I celebrated Joy’s article in the last paper, and was so proud that the Aquinas Times sought to include the voice of so many pro-choice students on campus who are shut out of this college and its blind catholic following.

I protested pro-life week openly, wrote to my senator and began to wonder if I am reading unbiased news or propaganda. I agree with Joy Schaefer but I have to say kudos to her for having the courage to write her honest and unfiltered opinion against so much adversity.

AMY IVARES Aquinas junior

AQ Times should avoid conservative bias

I am appalled at the Aquinas Times for your lack of support of Joy Schaefer and her opinion pieces. Both of these things should be told as they are and when you start altering them or disregarding your own reporters to start altering them or disregarding your own reporters to begin to wonder if I am reading unbiased news or conservative propaganda. I admit that I may not always agree with Joy Schaefer but I have to say kudos to her for having the courage to write her honest and unfiltered opinion against so much adversity.

DON'T APOLOGIZE OR DISTANCE YOURSELVES FROM A GREAT PUBLICATION

I am appalled at the Aquinas Times for your lack of support of Joy Schaefer and her opinion pieces. I agree with Joy Schaefer and her opinion pieces. Both of these things should be told as they are and when you start altering them or disregarding your own reporters to begin to wonder if I am reading unbiased news or conservative propaganda. I admit that I may not always agree with Joy Schaefer but I have to say kudos to her for having the courage to write her honest and unfiltered opinion against so much adversity.

DETRA BODDY Aquinas senior

To Our Readers

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 23 years to produce an informative, entertaining and professional newspaper. Our goal is to continue to provide a forum for the ideals, views and concerns of the Aquinas community.

The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Signed editorials reflect the opinions 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.


Corrections

The article "Seniors granted additional funding to student club" in the Nov. 26, 2003 issue of The Aquinas Times mentioned that senate by-laws were changed regarding fundraisers. The by-laws were not changed rather the budget committee now requires clubs to fundraise before being considered for an additional senate.
**Western cuts all track sports due to budget**

The cuts affect over one hundred athletes and three coaches. The decision left 100 athletes without a team. Most of them went to Westem because of the opportunity to compete in their sport.

The blow was softened by guaranteeing the student-athlete's scholarships for the remainder of their time at Western. Also NCAA rules allow any of those athletes to become automatically eligible for competition.

Most likely any of the student-athletes with significant amounts of eligibility remaining will transfer to another school as soon as they can.

"We fought the good fight. We said and did all the right things but the cards were stacked against us," said WMU head track coach Mike Turk.

**Newspaper's staff**

Everyone is a little stressed out right now. The holidays seem to stress most people out. But as college students we even worry less often than most. With finals just around the corner, and masses of papers and projects due too soon, everyone around here seems a little on edge. Getting this column written has been stressing me out. Jobs, classes, relationships and responsibilities all can be stressors in our lives. If we don't find ways to relieve some of these, life can seem unbearable at times.

Stress can lead to fatigue, weaker immune systems, all things that don't make finals any easier, and with the heightened risk of influenza this winter, the idea of being too stressed could even be stressing you.

So what do I'd like to say skip finals and head for the warmer weather, but that isn't an option, unfortunately. A lot of our stressors are unavoidable, but one way to lessen their effect is to stay active. Sports or any kind of exercise has been known to reduce levels of stress.

If you are not into the idea of lifting, participating in any aerobic or anaerobic exercise can help reduce stress. Many sports offer aerobic exercise. A twenty minute pickup game of basketball can release a significant amount of endorphins, which relieve stress and reduce pain. Open gym offers a chance to work off some of the stress of exams, basketball, and plenty of free space to run around. Fitness centers offer facilities to play tennis, racquetball and fitness equipment.

Now that the winter weather is upon us it is harder to find activities to do in the cold. There are still things to do. Running and biking are still options, just be sure to bundle up properly. Skating rinks are beginning to open as well. Ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle downtown is a great activity to get you off of finals for a night and relieve some stress. And its fun! As long as there is still no snow on the ground you can still make it outdoors to kick or throw a ball around. After the snow falls skiing, snowboarding and sledding are fun activities. Sledding isn't just for kids, and it can give you a good anaerobic workout depending on how many times you climb back to the top of that hill.

You may be saying you don't have time or are too tired to go work out. A quick run or even doing a few pushups can make you feel a bit better. I took a run half way through writing this piece and it cleared my head.

Whatever you do, try and get away from your books and computer for an hour and get moving. It will do you more good than you know. Good luck on finals and try to stay sane.

**Sweat your holiday stress away**

by Leah Herland

**U of M heads to Rose Bowl**

It is shaping up to be a nice holiday season for the Univeristy of Michigan football team. With Alabama losing the win by LSU and USC, Michigan, who was already slated to play in the Rose Bowl, will get to face the number one team in the country in USC, who won the Pac-10 championship. USC defeated Oregon State 32-28 in the Pac-10 title game to claim the number one ranking.

Besides getting a chance to beat the number one team, Michigan could also see star running back Chris Perry take home some hardware. Perry, a senior is one of the finalists for the Heisman trophy, given to college football's top player. Perry was one of the best running backs in the country finishing with 1,589 yards rushing, 146 yards receiving and a combined 19 touchdowns. The award will be presented on Saturday, Dec. 13, and the Rose Bowl game will be played on Jan. 1, 2004.

**Big trades in MLB**

With Major League Baseball's winter meetings set to begin this coming Saturday, the Hot Stove is heating up. One of the biggest deals so far has been the Boston Red Sox tradying for Arizona starter Curt Schilling. The Red Sox are also looking into trading for American League MVP Alex Rodriguez in a deal that would send Manny Ramirez to the Rangers. The Yankees traded for Expos pitcher Javier Vazquez. Vazquez was the Expos last year and will give the Yankees a solid starter behind Mike Mussina should Andy Pettitte decide to sign elsewhere. The Yankees are also on the verge of signing slugger Gary Sheffield who was with the Braves last year.

Another big deal was the Arizona Diamondbacks acquiring pitcher hitting first baseman Richie Sexson from the Brewers. The New York Mets signed Japanese shortstop Kazuo Matsui, who is one of Japan's best players. The Tigers have been in the running for 2002 American League MVP Miguel Tejada.

LeBron James leads NBA rookies

One of the most highly anticipated events of the 2003-2004 NBA season was seeing whether number one draft pick LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers would live up to the hype that has followed him since his days in high school. James has done nothing to give any reason he isn't worth the buzz. He is averaging 16.5 points a game and 6.4 assists per game that rank him second and first among NBA rookies.

While the Cavaliers have struggled with a 5-15 record as of Dec. 8, they have been one of the NBA's biggest attractions because of James.

WHAC recognizes Pomeroy

While the season thus far has been a struggle for the Aquinas women's basketball team, Kim Pomeroy has provided a bright spot. Pomeroy, a senior forward, was named WHAC player of the week for Nov. 24-30. In the two games this past week, she averaged 17.5 points and 10 rebounds in a game winning 78-70 victory over Eastern Michigan and a 74-70 win over Central Michigan. Pomeroy scored 26 and 15 points respectively in those games.

For November 30-December 6 are:

**Heather Orr**

Women's Basketball

Orr was the leading scorer for the Saints in an 62-2 week. The West Catholic grad scored a team-high 11 points in a loss to 7th-ranked Taylor University and added 10 points in a loss to Trinity Christian this past Saturday.

**Kim Pomeroy**

Women's Basketball

Pomeroy led the Saints in two hard fought losses this past week. The Traverse City West grad scored a career high 24 points and pulled down 14 rebounds in a 94-86 double overtime loss to Huntington College, and then scored 16 points and added 9 rebounds in a 72-57 overtime loss to Kalamazoo this past week.

**Damien Mayo**

Men's Basketball

Mayo led the Saints to a second place finish at the Holland Kentmunity Tournament this past weekend. Mayo tallied a double-double with a game-high 21 points and 10 rebounds in opening round action against Rochester College. In a championship game loss to Hope College, Mayo scored 15 points and added six rebounds.
Let it snow, let it snow

I am not ashamed to admit, that as the first few snowflakes fluttered down on the Friday before Thanksgiving, I felt a Grinch-esque smile shape my lips. I was not smiling about the numerous students in the AB who curved the slippery roads or the doomsayers who claimed the six months of hell had arrived under the guise of snowflakes. No, I was smiling because this snow provides us a wonderful opportunity to engage in another sport – skiing!

After I threw my ceremonial snowball and white washed my roommate. I wondered where the Cannonsburg Ski Area would open. As the night went by, and the blizzard continued I began to rummage through my closet for my skis.

I threw on the red flannels, packed the skis and hit the slopes. The combination of the falling snow from the heavens and manufactured snow from the machines quieted the ground in a wonderful shade of white. Although the lifts were not in operation I decided to make my ascent up the eastern face to the lung wrenching elevation of 900 feet. When I reached the top I stood for a moment to admire the Cannonsburg Valley, Breath-taking.

After I clipped into my skis I pondered the legalities of the adventurous activities. I quickly remembered my immunity of a trespassing charge under the Product Analysis of 1850. I was merely assessing the capabilities of the slopes.

As I placed pressure toward the front of my skis and felt gravity begin to pull I heard a shout from behind, "Hey, what are you doing?" I replied "I am skiing!" I figured this answer sufficed and took my first powder hop to inject momentum, I surged down the mountain. The hybrid surface produced by man and God reminded me of the 'Ski-n-Slide'. I had a blast. It certainly wasn't the fresh powder I had thirsted for but it was a sick ride. The snow machines blasting their convection, the workers cheering and the sheer exhilaration one can only feel while barreling down a mountain is an exuberance I cannot wait to taste again.

December 10, 2003

Fresh Air
by John Ebers
Featured Columnist

Tony Puzzolli
Times Writer

With their best start since 1999 at 4-1, the Aquinas Saints' basketball team went into the Holland Sentinel Community Classic last weekend with high hopes. In the first game which took place on Friday, the Saints defeated Rochester 62-44 to improve to 5-1. The Saints were lead in scoring by Damien Mayo who scored 21 points and also grabbed 10 rebounds. JeffJayson and Kevin Murphy added to the score with 5 points apiece and Tom

Kuslikis added 18. Mike Blicher dished out 8 assists to lead the Saints in that category.

In the second game, Aquinas fell to Hope by a score of 87-64. Kuslikis led the Saints with 17 points in the losing effort. Mayo also played strongly with 15 points and 6 rebounds. "Although the Saints' were disappointed with the loss they pull some positivity from it. "The back to back games of the tournament will prepare us for the national tournament, " said Mayo.

In other men's basketball

54 schools fight for changes to BCS

Nick Houser
The Lantern (Ohio State)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — Out on the gridiron this season, teams like TCU, Bowling Green and Illinois have fought to slip into the forbidden landscape of college football by playing in a BCS bowl game. While each of the attempts eventually fell short, the fight for inclusion has moved from the field to conference rooms and Capital Hill.

Officials from the 54 schools not part of the BCS have formed the Coalition for Athletic Reform to make a case for an open market system in which the conference contracts end in 2006. They met twice with representatives of the BCS in the last three months.

At stake is a major slice of the revenue generated from the major four bowl games and the television contracts.

Leading the charge in Washington is Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who held hearings before the Judiciary Committee. He is fighting to balance the payouts between the conferences.

Each of the six BCS conferences (Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big 10, Pac-10 and SEC) receive $13.9 million to split among its members for having one team in a BCS game and $17 million if two qualify. None Dame, who competes as an independent, is also a member of the BCS.

On the other end of the spectrum, the non-BCS conferences (Conference USA, Mid-American, Mountain Western, Western Athletic and Sun Belt) are given $1 million each.

"Where BCS conferences stand to receive more than 20 times what the non-BCS conferences receive, the resulting competitive disadvantages are unmistakable," Hatch said.

Since 1998, the BCS programs have shared $450 million, while all the other teams were given just $17 million. "It is sad that a team in a BCS game and $13.9 million should get more than two teams in a BCS conference," Hatch said.

Nick Houser
The Lantern (Ohio State)

Myles Brand said the talks between the BCS schools and coalition members said some progress has been made in the talks, but the biggest portion of the coalition remains on the sides that make the greatest commitment. He said the current structure was the free market at work.

Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany testified before the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee that last year's national championship shows the system is working to create a game between the top two teams in the country.

"Miami and Ohio State both finished the season undefeated and were ranked No. 1 and No. 2 respectively in the polls," he said. "They paired off in the Fiesta Bowl and gave us one of the greatest college football games ever played."

Parity has started to descend on college football in the last 20 years since the NCAA started reducing the number of scholarships each program could offer. Former BYU coach LaVell Edwards said the change also means it is time for a new system. He was the first coach to be spurned by the Bowl Alliance, the pre-cursor to the BCS, in 1996. "Despite going 13-1 and being ranked fifth in the polls, the Cougars were left out of the four big bowls and sent to the Cotton Bowl."

"Every person in our country has the opportunity to turn dreams into reality. It's the reason every year there is here," Edwards said before the Senate committee. "The reason I'm here is that be cause of this flawed system, talented young athletes are denied an opportunity to make their dreams come true, and I believe it's wrong."

Men's Basketball

Dec. 6 vs. Rochester Holland Sentinel Comm. Win 69-67
Dec. 6 vs. Hope Holland Sentinel Comm. Loss 64-67

2nd Place

Men's JV Basketball
Dec. 2 vs. Alma Loss 61-86
Dec. 5 vs. Hope Loss 63-93

Women's Basketball
Dec. 2 @ Taylor Loss 55-77
Dec. 2 @ Trine Christian Loss 59-67

Women's Basketball
Dec. 6 vs. Calumet of St. Joseph Brann/Aquinas Classic 8 p.m.
Indoor Track
GSU Holiday Open Allendale 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 13 Women's Basketball vs. Goshen 12 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Men's Basketball Brann/Aquinas Classic Finals

Sat., Dec. 20 Women's Basketball vs. Trinity 1 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 9 Indoor Track @ Taylor Early Bird Inva tional Allendale 4 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 10 Men's Basketball vs. Madonna 3 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 14 Women's Basketball vs. Indiana Tech 5 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Indiana Tech 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 16 Indoor Track Eubanks Open Allendale 4 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 17 Women's Basketball vs. Concordia 1 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 21 Men's Basketball vs. Spring Arbor 7:30 p.m.
Aquinhas hooks Radial Angel

With the darkness of winter fast approaching, Aquinas College is planning to "Enlighten" students' spirits, hosting its first concert in the newly constructed Circle Theatre.

Sponsored by Programming Board and R.H.A., the "Enlighten Concert Event — Version 1.04" will offer an eclectic mix.

"I think we have a very good combination of bands," Resident Life Director Randy MacGeorge said. "This is something Aquinas students will like and want to go to. If it's successful, it's something we'd like to do every year."

The concert, featuring local talents Sons of Caleb and Amanda Vernon and nationally-known recording artist Radial Angel, is scheduled for January 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets went on sale December 8 at a special student rate of $2.

"It's really exciting to see we're having a concert at Aquinas," junior Kathleen Streng said. "I've heard both Amanda Vernon and Radial Angel and have to say this is going to be an exceptional line-up."

With Sons of Caleb following Amanda Vernon, Radial Angel will be featured in the main stage act.

"We think this may be the Switchfoot of two years ago," MacGeorge said. "They're just waiting to break-out."

Initially comprised of high school friends Jared Taber (vocals, guitar), Tommy Perkins (drums), and Daniel Buckmaster (original bassist), the group formed in 1995 when they, along with friend Jeremy Dolezel (lead guitar), decided to begin playing music together. By 1999, the band found a clear direction and the name Radial Angel was officially chosen. Friend Eddie Jones (bass) joined to form the current band.

"Our name Radial Angel came from an epiphany one day," the band says. "Daniel was thinking about how we could capture the heart of what we want to be. The January concert is expected to give rise to even bigger bands as it becomes more successful, MacGeorge said. "I think our students will respond because the concert has a lot to offer and will be a good time."

Advance tickets will be available at the Circle Theatre Box Office and during lunch hours outside Wege Dining Room at the reduced price of $2 until January 9. General admission is $7 in advance and $10 at the door.

The album compares to those produced by modern artists such as Bush and Jeremy Camp both vocally and musically. "I just wanted to write honest lyrics about true struggles," lead vocalist and chief writer Jared Taber said. "I feel like this album ultimately points you to God, through every experience."

A combination of electric guitar-driven rock songs with persistent and electrifying vocals, the album presents an original combination. Poetic and candid, the lyrics provide a fresh approach to aggressive Christian rock. The band says the album is "a dream that we hoped would come true, and are so glad that it is."

"We always wanted to branch out, and let God use us to the fullest extent and however far he wanted to take us," drummer Tommy Perkins said. "We are really excited to have this opportunity."

Currently, "One More Last Time" is being played at both the Regina and St. Joseph front desks. It is also being played on WYFU and will see increased airplay on WAY FM and WAOU.

Students have early support of opening bands Sons of Caleb and Amanda Vernon as well.

"I've seen Amanda Vernon perform live a couple of times and I'm so enthralled by her talent," junior Megan McGrath said. "Anyone who has heard her wants to hear her again."

With the already apparent early support, organizers are hoping the concert is well-attended by Aquinas students.

"We'd like to see a good turnout so we can continue to do this event each year and bring out bigger bands as it becomes more successful," MacGeorge said. "I think our students will respond because the concert has a lot to offer and will be a good time."

The concert is expected to rise to much interest as it is the band's first concert in the West Michigan area.

The Oklahoma-based Radial Angel has continued to gain popularity since their first nationally released album — "One More Last Time."

The album, released last March, is an aggressive project that, in some ways, parallels the work of Stone Temple Pilots and Our Lady Peace.

"I remember the first time I heard the album, a friend played it for me and I thought 'wow this is really original and edgy,'" Streng said. "I immediately went out and bought the CD and still love it."