AO launches science initiative
Program receives donations from alumnus, Pfizer, and Kresge Foundation

By Emily Johnson
Times Writer

The Aquinas College Science Advisory Committee plans to revamp the Natural Science and Mathematics Division. The committee’s main focus is to attract more students into the field of science and inspire them to widen their knowledge base in their work on specific research projects. In order to achieve this, the NSF Division needs to obtain new equipment and update its facilities.

Thanks to Dr. Robert Boguslaski, a 1962 Aquinas graduate in Chemistry, the committee’s vision is closer to becoming a reality. His gift of $50,000 to the Aquinas College Science Initiative, the idea of the Science Advisory Committee, will help create a cutting edge science program.

"Science affects every area of life," said Boguslaski. "To be an informed person, one needs to understand science." The Science Initiative stemmed from concerns voiced by faculty about science education at Aquinas. National trends show a decline of science performance by high school students. General decline in the number of students taking biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences has also been documented.

"Life is becoming more complicated today and calls upon us to have a strong background in science and technology in order to function," said Bill Weitzel, Director of Planned Giving at Aquinas.

Ironically, fewer and fewer students are taking science courses. Most students who are taking science courses are foreign born. They come to school here and take that knowledge back to their country once they graduate. "The subjects are generally very different and there are problems with teachers not engaging the students. Science courses are not as popular as some of the other offerings in high school and college," said Weitzel, who sits on the committee. "We think we need to change that around."

Also on the advisory committee are physicians, dentists, science teachers, and other graduates working in the science field, along with Aquinas trustees and alumni. The committee meets twice a year, raising money and developing a strategy to improve the NSF Division by improving science education with an interactive approach. More hands-on projects will occur in and out of the classrooms, sometimes including two or three different disciplines.

"We need to have new laboratory equipment and supplies," said Weitzel. "We also need some greater flexibility in faculty that can work with smaller groups of students."

"We don’t believe that we will always produce research scientists, but what we will do is give students a sound foundation in the physical sciences," said Weitzel, citing that a high number of students do go on to the medical and research fields, veterinary practice, dentistry or biomedical occupations. "Liberal arts colleges have always had a high rate of success putting students in graduate schools after graduation."

"One of the things that we always appeal to our students for is small class sizes. Close contact with faculty and other students facilitates learning," Weitzel said. "Every Aquinas student has to take at least two science courses to graduate. "Our hope is that students will find these classes appealing whether they are going into the science field or not," said Weitzel. "Our goal is to show students that these are not dry subjects."

According to Weitzel, plans to involve Aquinas faculty with promising high school students are developing as well. "It’s a very competitive environment out there. There are fewer science teachers and fewer students taking science classes."

The Aquinas College Science Advisory Committee applauds the new equipment.

Senate approves Club Night IV allocation

By Mary Harwood
Times Writer

The Aquinas College Student Senate met in full assembly for the first time this year on Wednesday Jan. 14 in the Wege Ballroom. After several housekeeping details, Political Affairs Chairman Justin Meyers announced to the Senate that the federal government recently funded the Pell Grant Program at current rates, instead of increasing it as planned.

Many students at Aquinas receive their federal grant. Meyers also mentioned that the debate in Washington of completely eliminating federal student aid funding for higher education.

"We the Political Affairs Committee are informing students that money for higher education is planned on being cut this year — that it will be cut this year unless students make their voices heard." Meyers also informed those planning to become teachers that the budget for "No Child Left Behind" will be unfunded $2.5 billion. He encouraged students to contact their senators and representatives in Washington regarding these issues.

In other Senate business, Aquinas College Residents Against Abusive Decisions brought a $3,000 funding request to the floor for Club Night IV expenses. AQRAD is the group that has organized all three of the previous Club Nights. Club Night is an annual event that offers a wide variety of activities including basketball, volleyball and receive donations for its attractions such as laser tag. Previously, the group had received a state grant that had covered the entire cost of the event. However, because of budget cuts, the grant is no longer available.

The Senate Budget Committee recommended that AQRAD receive only $2,000 because of the need to conserve money across the board. The Senate backed the Budget Committee’s recommendation and approved a $2,000 allocation to AQRAD for Club Night IV.

AQRAD Representative Jose Orozco said that, because of the reduced budget, some things such as t-shirts and door prizes will be cut. However, there is no plan to charge students for events. Letters have been sent to different departments and organizations asking for donations to help fund the event. Anyone who would like to contribute can contact Orozco at 632-1085. Club Night IV will be held on Friday, Feb. 27, from 10:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. at East Hills Athletic Center.

The next Senate meeting will be an Open House, held on Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in Senate to find out about the group and its various committees.
A few more options...

If today's Democrats and Republicans are a little too mainstream for you, there's no need to worry — according to Project Vote Smart (a non-partisan, non-profit voter information organization) there are over 40 third party or independent candidates currently running for president this fall.

Since candidates don't receive much press coverage, I decided to brieﬂy introduce some of these obscure, yet determined, individuals. To best describe each candidate's platform, I consulted their policy areas, general issues, taxes, health care, defense/war on Iraq, and foreign policy.

Mr. Michael T. Witort: Health Party candidate.

Tax: Witort would eliminate the income tax for some, but would keep rates steady for those earning over $150,000.

Health Care: Witort believes that while providing health care is not a responsibility of the federal government, he would nonetheless implement a universal health care plan to guarantee coverage to all Americans. He would also be in favor of a large funding increase in the area of alternative medicine.

Defense/War on Iraq: He would eliminate defense and homeland security funding. Witort also believes that America should pull out of Iraq immediately and cut off any American support for the country.

Foreign Policy: Witort is in favor of withdrawing from the United Nations. He also believes the U.S. should signiﬁcantly reduce the amount of international aid it provides, except in the areas of worldwide AIDS relief, where he would promote ozone therapy as a cure for the disease.

In his free time, Witort, a Capricorn, enjoys trap shooting, deer hunting, and reading medical journals.

Mr. Brian Springfield: Menorah-Thor Party candidate.

Tax: Springfield would completely eliminate the gasoline tax, the retiree income tax, and personal income taxes for those earning $150,000 or less.

Health Care: He would greatly increase funding for medical research with an emphasis also in favor of a universal health care plan.

Defense/War on Iraq: Springfield is in favor of substantially increasing defense spending in all areas.

Foreign Policy: As President, Springfield would eliminate the trade embargo against Cuba and would promote a Palestinian state as a peaceful solution to the conﬂict in the Middle East.

Two more principle goals in Springfield's platform are to promote world peace and make Pepsi the ofﬁcial beverage of the United States.

Mr. Walter Brown: Socialist Party candidate.

Tax: Brown is in favor of slightly decreasing income taxes for those in the lowest tax brackets. He would signiﬁcantly increase alcohol, cigarette, corporate, and inheritance taxes.

Health Care: He would implement a universal health care program similar to the program in Canada, and would greatly increase funding for medical research.

Defense/War on Iraq: Brown would greatly decrease the defense budget and would eliminate research and develop of new weapons.

Foreign Policy: Brown opposes taxes to aid any country with a dictatorship. He believes the U.S. should withdraw all troops from Iraq, replacing them with a U.N. peacekeeping mission instead, paid for by the U.S.

Brown has six kids and co-founded the Socialist Party of Oregon.

Mr. Michael Bay: National Burking Spider Resurrection Party candidate.

Tax: Bay would eliminate the income tax and inheritance tax. He is in favor of establishing a national sales tax.

Health Care: He believes health care is not the responsibility of the federal government.

Defense/War on Iraq: Bay would slightly increase the defense budget for modernized weaponry and equipment and increased pay for active duty personnel. He believes the current administration is on the right course in Iraq and would continue in that direction.

Foreign Policy: Bay is not in favor of U.S. support for the creation of a Palestinian state as a solution to the conﬂict in the Middle East. He would instead restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Bay, an Aquarius, enjoys bowling and golf.

Though November is still quite a few months away, one's voting decision for should not be taken lightly. These four people represent just a small selection of the many candidates running. More information on all candidates can be found on the Project Vote Smart website: http://www.vote-smart.org.
The first “Max Payne” only had one real flaw: there was no replay factor. After one time through the grippingly bloody bullet-time battles and an entertaining story of drugs, violence and revenge, there wasn’t any gas left in Payne’s tank to capture a player’s interest the second time around.

Thankfully though, Payne tries again with this second incarnation, “Max Payne 2: The Fall of Max Payne.” Back again are the bullet-time battles, dead bodies by the dozen, and Payne’s manic-depressive-mixed-with-pessimism-mixed-with-a-lust-for-death personality to create one of the best storylines in a videogame. The narratives, drawing from the original, also return in the form of voice-overs and gritty drawings.

The graphics seen in “Payne 2” are absolutely amazing. Mouths on the models move in accordance with the words assigned them. Faces have a photo-realistic quality that is marvellous. The scenery includes dilapidated warehouses as well as, my personal favorite, a run-down funhouse that is more dark and twisted than, say, the locations in a “Silent Hill” game.

The biggest boost to the exemplarily graphics seen in “Payne 2” is the Havok physics engine, made famous for its incorporation in “Half-Life 2.” Objects react realistically to whatever they come in contact with. In one scene there are chemical barrels resting on a table, and if you dispatch the front two legs of the table, the barrels will tumble into the room below, bouncing off the floor and finally blowing up.

The Havok engine can also be seen at work in the way enemy deaths are displayed. Enemies fly backward after being dispatched in Payne’s bullet-time, reminiscent of a “Matrix” movie.

Speaking of dispatching enemies, gamers can kill according to their style. Whether that style involves dual 9 mm pistols or Dual Desert Eagles, dual Uzi’s, a Minigun, machine pistol, M-1 carbine assault rifles, and even a Kalashnikov AK-47 rifle, “Payne 2” tickles the fancy of any gamer. For those who really want to see the bodies fly, the trusty hand grenade is back and better than ever. And for those who want to make an entrance, the Molotov cocktail joins in the fun to light things up.

The only fall that “Payne 2” takes has to do with its brevity — it took me a mere eight hours to beat it the first time through. However, in considering the price, “Payne 2” was definitely worth the money I spent. The content of the game is absolutely amazing and provides one of the best storylines I’ve ever experienced. “Payne 2” is definitely a must-have game.

Reviewed by Jamie LaDrinza

Retail

Half.com

For a limited time, first-time buyers Save an additional 5% on purchases of $50 or more. Simply use this code: AQUINAS

Natural selection.

How smart is this: All the textbooks you need for up to 50% off retail prices. New or used, all you have to do is go to half.com and type in the book titles, or ISBN numbers. Then let nature take its course.

half.com
by eBay
Same textbooks. Smarter prices.
Tigers in 2004: Do they have a chance?

The Tigers didn't really surprise anyone last year with three less than stellar performance in 2003. They were the worst team in the League, but also managed to beat the the once proud franchise. The team was playing better than the once American League team and were one game away from being the worst major league team ever. The Tigers can thank the Twins for losing a few of those last games to save them that misery.

All we saw it coming, year after year after year the Tigers have gotten more and more pathetic. They have no defensive catcher in the game, which wasn't a great season anyway. The last winning season in Tiger history was over 10 years ago. They haven't seen the playoffs since the late 80s.

So what's in store for 2004? Can we get any worse? The Tigers hit rock bottom in 2003, so there is nowhere to go but up. I'm not predicting a playoff game this year but with some of the new additions to the roster there may be a chance at turning a season we think of as a rebuilding year into a season we think of as an improving year.

Rortficial White and Fernando Vina both signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired for Pudge Rodriguez. The Tigers are currently flirting with Pudge, but haven't seen the playoffs since the late 80s.

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

For December 14-20 are: Jackie Braspenninc and Kevin Murphy

Indoor track competes in Eubanks meet

The Aquinas indoor track and field team competed in Bob Eubanks open Friday, Jan. 16 at Grand Valley State University, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Aquinas. Jason Johnson was signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.

White is a quality player and quality hitter. He made the all-star team while playing for the Padres and then was traded. White will provide offense as well as protection to Dmitri Young in the lineup.

Vina was with the Cardinals last year but was injured. He will provide solid defense and a spark at the top of the order.

Guillen is just entering his prime as a hitter, with his batting average improving steadily over the next 3 years but become expendable to Seattle when they signed with a $7 million contract for two years. Guillen was acquired in a trade.
**Sports**

Indiana Tech beats Saints

Tony Puzzuoli
Times Writer
The Saints finished with a 4-3 record over winter break. The team began their break in Chicago for the St. Xavier Tournament where they beat Barat College 78-69 in the first game but lost to Ohio Dominican 80-73 in the overtime loss to St. Ambrose 80-71.

Against Barat, the Saints were lead by Jayson who scored 19 points and Kuslikis who added 13 points and 12 rebounds. In the overtime loss to Ohio Dominican, the Saints couldn’t hold their four point halftime lead and the game went into overtime tied 62-62. The Saints were then outscored in overtime 16-11. Damien Mayo led the Saints with 14 points. In the loss to St. Ambrose, Jayson scored 20 points and Mayo 18 to lead the Saints.

After Christmas, the Saints got back on track down in Dayton in the Bahama House Classic. The Saints defeated Berry College in a close game 61-58. Jayson led 4 Saints in double digits in scoring with 15 while Kuslikis added 11 in rebounds to go along with his 11 points and Mike Blicher added 10 assists. In the second game, the Saints lost their second overtime game of the break 80-75 to Embry-Riddle College. Johnny Angle scored 16 points to lead the Saints and Kevin Murphy multiplied 15.

The Saints traveled back home to Michigan and took on UM Dearborn where they defeated the Wolves 88-83. Kuslikis led the Saints with 18 points and 13 rebounds.

After cruising to a 95-70 victory in the WHAC opener against Madonna, Aquinas’s two game winning streak was snapped when the Saints lost to Indiana Tech 79-76 at home on January 14. The Saints fell to 11-7, 1-1 in the WHAC while the number 21 ranked Indiana Tech Warriors improved to 14-4, 2-1 in the WHAC.

Kevin Murphy and Damien Mayo led the Saints offensive attack against Indiana Tech with 19 and 18 points. Mike Blicher contributed 10 assists to the effort as well. After falling behind 50-41 at halftime, the Saints clawed back and outscored the Warriors by six, 35-29, in the second half but it still wasn’t enough.

As the score would suggest, Aquinas fared much better against Madonna. The Saints built a 16 point halftime lead which balloons to 28 points in the second half. The Saints had five players in double-digit in scoring with Tom Kuslikis leading the way with 19 points. Jeff Jayson added 17; Kevin Murphy 14, Damien Mayo 12 and Aaron Alisgard came off the bench to score 12 points, nine of them coming on 3 of 4 point shooting.

The Saints will be in action at home on January 24 against Spring Arbor and again on January 31 against UM Dearborn.

**LADY SAINTS TRAMPLE CONCORDIA**

Leah Herland
Sports Editor

The Lady Saints have started to turn their season around with 6 wins in the last 7 games, including a 90-49 home win over Concordia on Jan. 17.

The Saints came back from behind, ending the first half 33-31, and then plowed through the Cardinals in the second half. Leading the Saints in this game was sophomores guard Cassie Chan with 18 points and freshman center Jackie Brunsenmiller with 16 points.

This win came after another home victory earlier that week 56-50 against Indiana Tech.

The Saints again trailed at the start, but sloppy play by Tech and an abundance of free throw opportunities for the Saints gave them the edge at the half with a score of 30-28. The second half remained close, with Aquinas building leads and then Indiana shortening them to within a few points. Aquinas pulled out the victory with a score of 74-68. Leading the Indiana Tech game was junior forward Heather Orr with 17 points.

Aquinas women’s basketball had an impressive four-game winning streak to start out the break beating Trinity International, Palm Beach Atlantic, Southern Wesleyan and University of Michigan-Dearborn. The Saints ended with a loss at Madonna 48-67.

Coming up the Lady Saints will meet WHAC favorites Spring Arbor and Cornerstone, both are undefeated in conference play. Aquinas heads to Spring Arbor on Jan. 21 and the Golden Eagles travel to Aquinas on Jan. 24.

**SPORTS SCORES**

**Men’s Basketball**
Fri., Dec. 12
Brens/Aquinas Classic vs. Cabrini of St. Joseph
W 76-64
Sat., Dec. 13
Brens/Aquinas Classic vs. Marygrove
W 83-63
**Men’s Basketball Tournament Champions**
Fri., Dec. 19
vs. Barat College
W 78-69
Sat., Dec. 20
vs. Ohio Dominican
L 73-80 (OT)
Sun., Dec. 21
vs. St. Ambrose
L 71-80
Fri., Jan. 2
vs. Berry College
W 61-58
Sat., Jan. 3
@ Embry-Riddle
L 76-50 (OT)
Wed., Jan. 7
v. U of M/Dearborn
L 78-63
Sat., Jan. 10
vs. Madonna
W 95-70
Sat., Jan. 14
vs. Indiana Tech
L 76-79
Sat., Jan. 17
vs. Concordia
W 68-53
**Women’s Basketball**
Sat., Dec. 13
vs. Goshen
L 56-63
Sat., Dec. 20
vs. Trinity International
Fri., Jan. 2
@ Palm Beach Atlantic
W 68-60
Sat., Jan. 3
vs. Southern Wesleyan
W 72-52
Wed., Jan. 7
v. U of M/Dearborn
W 88-61
Sat., Jan. 10
vs. Madonna/Livonia
W 68-67
Wed., Jan. 14
vs. Indiana Tech
W 74-68
Sat., Jan. 17
vs. Concordia
W 90-40
**Sports Calendar**
Wed., Jan. 21
Men’s Basketball
vs. Spring Arbor
7:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 24
Women’s Basketball
vs. Cornerstone
1 p.m.
Men’s Basketball
vs. Cornerstone
3 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 31
Women’s Basketball
vs. U of M Dearborn
1 p.m.
Men’s Basketball
vs. U of M Dearborn
3 p.m.
One nation... deep in debt

By Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief

George W. Bush must be from Mars if he wants to spend more money on outer space travel. Bush plans to increase funding to NASA by $1 billion in 2004, when the federal and state governments are making major cuts in other areas. The plan to send manned trips to the moon and Mars is expected to cost around $170 billion between now and 2020 according to preliminary estimates. The construction of the International Space Station was estimated to cost around $8 billion and the final bill was more than $32 billion. This is an organization whose motto seems to be: Set the estimate well below the expected cost, because no one will ever approve the actual figures. Meanwhile, industry experts have suggested that the final price tag could near $1 trillion.

At the same time federal funds allocated to the Pell Grant have lost significant value in the past 30 years. When the grant was first initiated for low income students in 1972, it paid an average of 40 percent of college tuition costs. However, in 2003 the Pell Grant helped students with only 15 percent of tuition costs. It would take $12 billion to increase the value of the Pell Grant to its previous levels. That would be less than the money brought in annually from dividends and capital gains taxes that were eliminated in the recent tax cuts. Bush hoped that other adults will remember the first moon landing and vote to re-elect him because he has signed a scientific bill.

Space travel is dyin' a great deal faster than the space program.

If this is an eleventh hour, George W. Bush is promising a future of space exploration and greater investment in the space program? Perhaps it's because he's following President Kennedy's promise to put a man on the moon within ten years back in 1961. That promise was fulfilled and it added another footnote to the legacy of JFK. Perhaps Bush hopes that older adults will remember the first moon landing and vote to re-elect him because he has signed a scientific bill.

Still, Bush refused to write another footnote to the legacy of JFK. Perhaps Bush hopes that older adults will remember the first moon landing and vote to re-elect him because he has signed a scientific bill.

The operation of the Student Senate satisfies the need of college students and as a result, those institutions are forced to cutbacks? How will the 30 million students a taste of the real-world political process on a level that is most likely, free and complex than they have ever experi-

The Senate fund is a part of the academic world of almost every secondary school. This connects students to colleges where it takes on a greater prominence and role than at any other time in a student's educational career.

The Student Senate mirrors the larger and more complex democratic processes of our national government. It allows students a taste of the real-world political process on a level that is most likely, free and complex than they have ever experi-

Conflicts and interactions are played out and mirror experiences that will come later in life. The Senate fund is a part of the academic world of almost every secondary school. This connects students to colleges where it takes on a greater prominence and role than at any other time in a student's educational career.

The Student Senate mirrors the larger and more complex democratic processes of our national government. It allows students a taste of the real-world political process on a level that is most likely, free and complex than they have ever experi-

Senators, students and as a result, those institutions are forced to cutbacks? How will the 30 million students a taste of the real-world political process on a level that is most likely, free and complex than they have ever experi-

Conflicts and interactions are played out and mirror experiences that will come later in life. The Senate fund is a part of the academic world of almost every secondary school. This connects students to colleges where it takes on a greater prominence and role than at any other time in a student's educational career.

The Student Senate mirrors the larger and more complex democratic processes of our national government. It allows students a taste of the real-world political process on a level that is most likely, free and complex than they have ever experi-

Cutting out the female clitoris

By Joy Schaefer
Times Writer

It is estimated that over two million girls and women will undergo female genital mutilation this year, according to the World Health Organiza-
tion. Between 10 and 14 million living women have already been mutilated.

FGM includes a variety of procedures involving partial or complete removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. The most common type of FGM is the removal of the clitoris and the labia minora. The most extreme form is the removal of part or all of the external genitalia and the stitching of part of all of the vaginal opening, a procedure termed infibulation. A traditional prac-
titioner often performs FGM with objects such as broken glass or scissors, without anesthesia.

I have encountered many different reactions to the practice of FGM. Oftentimes, I have heard young Caucasian women declare that we, as a "white people," should not judge the people in Africa and other parts of the world. These particular women say that we should be tolerant of different cultural prac-
tices. While tolerance is necessary to a diverse and peaceful society, not every action is morally permissible. A line must be drawn somewhere.

FGM is not a racial or religious issue demanding tolerance; rather, it is a human rights issue. From a purely medical perspective, FGM is an extremely harmful procedure.

While numerous cultures and religions continue to endorse the destruction of the female clitoris, activists such as Molly Melching and her staff of Tostan, a non-governmental organization based in Dakar, which has taught health and human rights classes in Senegal for over twenty years. Because of the knowledge learned in these courses, most Senegalese have decided against their long-held custom of FGM.

The members of Tostan never forcefully prohibited anyone from performing FGM. Rather, they cultivated respect for women. Women, it is also a human rights issue. From a purely medical perspective, FGM is an extremely harmful procedure.

While numerous cultures and religions continue to endorse the destruction of the female clitoris, activists such as Molly Melching and her staff of Tostan, a non-governmental organization based in Dakar, which has taught health and human rights classes in Senegal for over twenty years. Because of the knowledge learned in these courses, most Senegalese have decided against their long-held custom of FGM.

The members of Tostan never forcefully prohibited anyone from performing FGM. Rather, they cultivated respect for women. Women, it is also a human rights issue. From a purely medical perspective, FGM is an extremely harmful procedure.

While numerous cultures and religions continue to endorse the destruction of the female clitoris, activists such as Molly Melching and her staff of Tostan, a non-governmental organization based in Dakar, which has taught health and human rights classes in Senegal for over twenty years. Because of the knowledge learned in these courses, most Senegalese have decided against their long-held custom of FGM.

The members of Tostan never forcefully prohibited anyone from performing FGM. Rather, they cultivated respect for women. Women, it is also a human rights issue. From a purely medical perspective, FGM is an extremely harmful procedure.

While numerous cultures and religions continue to endorse the destruction of the female clitoris, activists such as Molly Melching and her staff of Tostan, a non-governmental organization based in Dakar, which has taught health and human rights classes in Senegal for over twenty years. Because of the knowledge learned in these courses, most Senegalese have decided against their long-held custom of FGM.

The members of Tostan never forcefully prohibited anyone from performing FGM. Rather, they cultivated respect for women. Women, it is also a human rights issue. From a purely medical perspective, FGM is an extremely harmful procedure.
Gender Corner
How does the male to female ratio affect the academic environment at Aquinas College?

The Female View
by Laura Knapp

Look around Aquinas' campus, and it won't take long to notice that most of the students are female. This makes the odds of finding a girlfriend a lot better for the men, but it also has implications in the classroom. In my opinion, the ratio of men to women at Aquinas has several effects on the academic environment.

Having a majority of female students can be a good thing. Many women feel more comfortable expressing themselves in the company of other women than in a largely male environment. Thus, female students feel more at ease in class and contribute to discussions more than they would otherwise. This sharing of knowledge benefits the entire class, not just the women.

Also, a college with a largely female population is probably more likely to offer particular classes that appeal mainly to female students, such as Women's Studies courses. Aquinas, we have a minor in Women's Studies, and the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center as a resource, probably because of the high number of women on campus. These are opportunities for both men and women to learn about gender issues, but they probably would not exist or at least be as accessible to them at colleges with a majority of men.

On the other hand, having mainly women in the classroom may put students at a disadvantage. There are some issues where opinions seem divided along gender lines, with women agreeing with other women, and men with men. When these topics arise, fewer men in the class can mean that not all points of view are given equal weight in the discussion. Even the most macho man can be intimidated by an estrogen-laden environment.

Thus, not only are the opinions unbalanced, but the few men in class might not be speaking for their gender as a whole.

Overall, I feel that the female majority at Aquinas has a positive effect on academics as long as care is taken to ensure that the men have an equal voice in class.

The Male View
by Jamie Farquhar

I can't help but notice the number of females on the campus here at Aquinas. Maybe it was just the fact that I lived in Regina Hall last year where there were four and a half floors of girls and only two and a half floors of guys or that in almost every one of my classes, the point is that there is more girls than guys here, 62 to 38 percent overall and that fact alone will create a unique academic environment.

While this ratio creates a unique academic environment it does not necessarily affect the environment? From my own experiences, I would say that in most instances the answer is yes. I'm not saying that I sit in my classes unable to concentrate because of the number of females or that I am at some kind of disadvantage. It's not a negative effect. In fact, having more females than males is a good thing.

Since there are more females than males, we as a student body are given a more well-rounded academic experience. Females bring a different perspective and unique insights to classroom discussion.

In many classrooms across the campus where males may hold the majority, the female opinion and view may be heard; however, at Aquinas it thrives.

Also, because female students outnumber their male counterparts, Aquinas offers a unique educational experience for females who might be less likely to participate in class if there were more males in the classroom.

Overall, I believe the gender ratio at Aquinas that favors females can only be considered an asset to the academic environment. I consider myself lucky that I go to a school where the female opinion is heard. Female students at Aquinas should consider themselves lucky that they attend a school where they have a distinct advantage in numbers. Not only does it provide male students with a better academic experience but female students as well.

The Female View
by Emily Johnson

It's not uncommon to hear of studies on male to female ratios on college campuses. At Aquinas, female students make up 62 percent of the student population. Initially, I did not believe I was affected by this, as I am not of traditional college age.

I am 32, married and have three children, including a teenager who is probably closer in age to Aquinas students than myself. Paying attention to the number of males on campus just isn't an issue for me. However, I am indeed affected by the presence of more women than men.

Being a Continuing Education student, I attend more classes in the evening than during the day. In most evening classes, the majority of students are adult women who are returning to school, which allows me to easily develop camaraderie with them. Most of my balance school work with raising children, managing the household, and maintaining meaningful relationships with significant others. Yet, we are all motivated to achieve our personal academic goals, despite our existing responsibilities.

Often times, I find sympathy among the women when I am running late for class, turning in less than perfect papers, struggling to stay awake in class, or feeling a little awkward and out of place among the younger students. The other adult female students are having the same experiences and they understand and encourage each other in a way that most traditional age students might not fully appreciate.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the company of males here at Aquinas. Most male students have been polite and respectful of my opinion, which differs from other environments where males are predominant, and I struggle with measuring up or being taken seriously. However, it is the number of female students that makes Aquinas a safe, comfortable learning environment for women.
January 21, 2004

The
Ogg
Show
by Aaron Ogg

Visual arts at Aquinas should not be overlooked

Perhaps the thriving visual arts programs at Aquinas do not get the recognition that they deserve. Perhaps the fact that Kendall, one of the premier arts schools in the nation, is no more than a hop, skip and a jump away allows many to overlook the flavor and quality that exists at our small liberal arts school with a student body of roughly 2,500.

Perhaps it’s time to take a closer look.

If you’ve ever had the opportunity to take a walk through the AMC, you have seen that there is real talent here. From sculptures, to paintings, to collages, the caliber of art seen at Aquinas makes one recognize the diversity and skill of art majors and minors of various degrees and shapes. In order to steer this talent in the right direction, Aquinas offers about 40 different courses between art history and studio, everything to give the up and coming art major or minor the skill necessary to succeed in whatever artistic field or area of expertise about which they are passionate.

In many instances, the Aquinas faculty is given the opportunity to shine as well. Just recently, husband and wife tandem Ron and Miriam Pederson presented a stunning collaboration of word and image in which one could hear the music of pen and clay walking side by side, hand in hand. Every spring the couple offers a class for art students entitled “Artists and Writers in Collaboration,” showing how harmoniously these two expressions can be wedded.

Aquinas has attracted an abundantly talented, experienced, and well-rounded faculty. Chairperson Kurt Kaiser, graduate of the University of Colorado Art, has experience presenting wood sculptures all across the U.S. Sister Marie Celeste Miller, another truly multi-faceted member of the Aquinas arts team, is currently instructing courses in both the humanities as well as courses in art survey, modern art, and art appreciation. Sharon Sandberg, an Illinois native with experience abroad in France, has also painted and exhibited in London. These are just three of the people who epitomize experience and worldliness indicative of the Aquinas standard.

One definitely need not consider oneself an artist or critic in order to be touched by a moving piece. You don’t have to know how to draw a straight line. Art is the critic in order to be touched by a moving piece. You don’t have to know how to draw a straight line. Art is the

Grzegorski which will be on display until Feb. 13.

It’s never too late to acquire an interest in visual beauty, one that will last you the rest of your life. If you’ve ever had the opportunity to take a walk through the AMC, you have seen that there is real talent here. From sculptures, to paintings, to collages, the caliber of art seen at Aquinas makes one recognize the diversity and skill of art majors and minors of various degrees and shapes. In order to steer this talent in the right direction, Aquinas offers about 40 different courses between art history and studio, everything to give the up and coming art major or minor the skill necessary to succeed in whatever artistic field or area of expertise about which they are passionate.

In many instances, the Aquinas faculty is given the opportunity to shine as well. Just recently, husband and wife tandem Ron and Miriam Pederson presented a stunning collaboration of word and image in which one could hear the music of pen and clay walking side by side, hand in hand. Every spring the couple offers a class for art students entitled “Artists and Writers in Collaboration,” showing how harmoniously these two expressions can be wedded.

Aquinas has attracted an abundantly talented, experienced, and well-rounded faculty. Chairperson Kurt Kaiser, graduate of the University of Colorado Art, has experience presenting wood sculptures all across the U.S. Sister Marie Celeste Miller, another truly multi-faceted member of the Aquinas arts team, is currently instructing courses in both the humanities as well as courses in art survey, modern art, and art appreciation. Sharon Sandberg, an Illinois native with experience abroad in France, has also painted and exhibited in London. These are just three of the people who epitomize experience and worldliness indicative of the Aquinas standard.

One definitely need not consider oneself an artist or critic in order to be touched by a moving piece. You don’t have to know how to draw a straight line. Art is the critic in order to be touched by a moving piece. You don’t have to know how to draw a straight line. Art is the

Grzegorski which will be on display until Feb. 13.

It’s never too late to acquire an interest in visual beauty, one that will last you the rest of your life. If you’ve ever had the opportunity to take a walk through the AMC, you have seen that there is real talent here. From sculptures, to paintings, to collages, the caliber of art seen at Aquinas makes one recognize the diversity and skill of art majors and minors of various degrees and shapes. In order to steer this talent in the right direction, Aquinas offers about 40 different courses between art history and studio, everything to give the up and coming art major or minor the skill necessary to succeed in whatever artistic field or area of expertise about which they are passionate.

In many instances, the Aquinas faculty is given the opportunity to shine as well. Just recently, husband and wife tandem Ron and Miriam Pederson presented a stunning collaboration of word and image in which one could hear the music of pen and clay walking side by side, hand in hand. Every spring the couple offers a class for art students entitled “Artists and Writers in Collaboration,” showing how harmoniously these two expressions can be wedded.

Aquinas has attracted an abundantly talented, experienced, and well-rounded faculty. Chairperson Kurt Kaiser, graduate of the University of Colorado Art, has experience presenting wood sculptures all across the U.S. Sister Marie Celeste Miller, another truly multi-faceted member of the Aquinas arts team, is currently instructing courses in both the humanities as well as courses in art survey, modern art, and art appreciation. Sharon Sandberg, an Illinois native with experience abroad in France, has also painted and exhibited in London. These are just three of the people who epitomize experience and worldliness indicative of the Aquinas standard.

One definitely need not consider oneself an artist or critic in order to be touched by a moving piece. You don’t have to know how to draw a straight line. Art is the critic in order to be touched by a moving piece. You don’t have to know how to draw a straight line. Art is the