AQUINAS
TIMES

1607 Robinson Road SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

AQ outstanding women receive awards

By Emily Johnson
Times Writer

In honor of Women's History Month, the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center at Aquinas hosted its second annual Outstanding Aquinas Women Awards to recognize the achievements of Aquinas faculty, students, and members of the community who have contributed to women's issues at Aquinas.

"It just made sense to honor women in our community," said Nanette Clatterbuck, assistant professor-in-the-college, "especially women who really do help us fulfill our mission here at Aquinas."

The event was held at Holulden on March 26. About 50 guests, mostly women, attended in support of all the nominated Outstanding Women. Before the winners were announced, all nominees were recognized and given a rose in honor of their nomination.

The first award went to Sr. Yvonne Greiner, associate professor of theology. She has promoted feminist spirituality, peace, and non-violence. "What a pleasure it is to think of the beginning of women's studies and to see the young faculty who are so excited about it and about her. They have made it twice, three times, four times better than it was before," said Greiner in her acceptance speech.

Dee Wagner, assistant to the dean of student affairs, was another recipient of the Outstanding Women award. "Wagner's wealth of knowledge about the college as well as her support for the ideas and principles surrounding women's studies."

It was a tearful moment for senior Gail Gromaski as she was announced this year's recipient in the student category. Kati Gross, assistant professor of German, who nominated Gromaski, emphasized her outstanding qualities, including her compassionate and dedicated work at the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center, her interest in cross cultural education, global and local politics, the environment, service learning, and her humanitarian efforts.

Gross recognized that Gromaski uniquely engages and motivates others, has always been a well-prepared student and involved in many extracurricular community service activities. She also continuously receives the highest grades and evaluations possible, as a student and a language tutor.

"Gail's level of maturity and professionalism puts her in the top ten percent of any student I have ever taught in my ten plus years of teaching," Gross said.

Gromaski was touched by the award and thanked Gross as well as Susan Haworth-Hoeppner for contributing to her success at Aquinas.

The event concluded with an invitation for everyone to attend next year's ceremony honoring more outstanding women at Aquinas.

Award-winning author to read at AQ

By Katie Jensen
Times Writer

The Aquinas community will have the opportunity to hear insights from a brilliant mind right after Easter break.

Michael Onada, award-winning author of "The English Patient," will be giving a reading of his literary work in the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, April 13.

Onada's visit is a part of the Contemporary Writers Series, in which notable published writers are invited to Aquinas to read and speak about their work. Because of this series, students have had the opportunity to hear readings from nationally and internationally recognized writers, including Joy Harjo, Peter Carey, and Leslie Ullman.

Aquinas is especially fortunate to host Onada as a part of this series because he is currently involved in many extracurricular community service activities. She also continuously receives the highest grades and evaluations possible, as a student and a language tutor.

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Jessie Grant resigns

By Lisa Gast
News Editor

Jessie Grant quietly packed his things and left last week, unbeknownst to many in the AQ community.

Grant, the director of campus life at Aquinas, was offered a full scholarship to Western Michigan University to pursue his doctoral degree, according to Brad Winkler, dean of student affairs and the person who originally hired Grant.

With his classes starting in a few weeks, Grant decided to resign immediately to attend. He notified Provost Ed Balog last week that his last day would be Friday, April 2.

"Jessie left of his own personal resignation. He wasn't being pushed out or anything else. It was his personal decision," Winkler said.

While Grant's quick exit was unexpected, it wasn't a complete surprise. When Grant was hired in July 2001, he said he was only looking for a two-year commitment at Aquinas, after which he planned on pursuing his doctorate, Winkler said. "We always thought it was a possibility, we just didn't think it would come to fruition so quickly." His resignation stands just short of that two-year mark.

Both Winkler and President Harry Knopke stated Grant had plans to write a letter to the Aquinas community explaining his resignation sometime this week.
"I have a (street) dream..."

Someday, when I’m dead and famous, I hope some city names a street after me. A nice, bumpy road that’s full potholes in the springtime. Or, better yet, an ill-kept cobblestone one with a few bricks missing; even a pretty side street with plenty of speed bumps would do just fine, thank you. I guarantee you’ll never forget me then. I’ll have a street sign, and I’ll be a hero.

After all, I can’t think of a better way to commemorate a hero than with a nice stretch of pavement in his or her name.

Seriously though, when the issue of renaming Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard turned into such a controversy in Grand Rapids recently, I was both slightly amused at the arguments and slightly ashamed that I actually live here. From everyone changing their names, to accusations of racism thrown around, what should have been a small debate turned into weeks of unnecessary mudslinging.

Those in favor of changing the street name to honor the civil rights leader argued that King has been an inspiration to many in the city, and should be honored with a street. They said almost all major cities have a street named after King and also pointed out that an anonymous donor offered to pay the cost to the city for changing the name.

Opponents said that both businesses and residents along the road would be inconvenienced by having to change their address information, business cards, etc. Some said they would be in favor adding commemorative signs to the street in honor of King, similar to those on Cesar Chavez Way on Grandville Avenue, so addresses would not have to be changed. Others argued that a city park already in King’s name was an adequate tribute to him.

I think both sides, though they made legitimate points, went too far. Yes, King was a great civil rights leader. Yes, we should honor him. But...it’s a street. The thing that caused such a ruckus, and divided many members of the community, is really unnecessary. King was an important civil rights leader, and I’m sure he’d be ok if he didn’t have a street in his name. I’m pretty sure he’d be ok if he didn’t have a street in every major city in the country named after him.

The uproar got me thinking. What’s in a street name? Or, more specifically, who cares?

Contrary to what some residents of the city may believe, changing street names to honor heroes, such as King, is not something that “absolutely necessary.” King was an important civil rights leader, and I’m sure he was an important inspiration for many civil rights activists today. Remembering the cause he fought for is important. However, I’m pretty sure he’d be ok if he didn’t have a street in every major city in the country named after him.

Ultimately, having a street named after you is not going to make or break your status as a hero. It’s not going to change anything. It’s just a street.

In addition to the awards presentation, several rooms in the Janecke Center were filled with area college students reading their submissions from a wide-array of subjects ranging from Muslim women to women in Gothic writing.

To cap off the day-long conference, monologuist Allison Williams performed her popular one-woman show “True Story,” in the Performing Arts Center. In “True Story,” Williams takes on the roles of six different ordinary women and tells their extraordinary stories of life.

Women’s conference a success

By Jamie LaDronka

The 2004 Women’s Student Resourceful Women Conference occurred Monday, April 5, under the banner of “Women’s stories.”

Talks of the conference, the Women’s Studies club presented Jennifer Sikora with the “Most Outstanding Essay Award” for her work titled “A deconstructivist reading of feminine imagery in Milton’s Paradise Lost.” Stacey Danovez received an honorable mention for her submission.

Dean of education announces return to teaching, Williams to succeed

V. James Garofalo announced that he will step-down from his position as dean of education at Aquinas. His resignation will be effective at the end of the semester.

Garofalo has decided to return to teaching after serving 25 years as dean.

During his tenure as dean of education, Garofalo was a major force behind Aquinas’ highly-acclaimed conductive education program, which started in 1998.

Conductive education helps motor-impaired children and adults become functional members of society. Aquinas’ program focuses on infants and adolescents.

“James Garofalo did a wonderful job as dean of education, and implemented many new programs,” said Provost Ed Balog.

Mike Williams, currently a professor-in-the-college at Aquinas, will succeed Garofalo at the end of the semester. Williams said he is looking forward to serving as the next dean of education.

“At a tremendous opportunity,” he said.
The truth behind the Moose’s money crunch

By Katrina Kelly Times Writer

Recently, rumors have circulated around campus concerning money problems with the Moose Cafe. Many students are unaware of the facts, and mistakenly blamed the blame where it is not due. Here are the facts.

The college makes the meal plans. The way it is set up, HDS receives a per diem per student fixed rate on the meal plan from the school. For example, if the rate was one dollar and a student went to all three meals and spent $3.00 at the Moose in one day, HDS would receive exactly one dollar. No matter how much money students spend in a day using their meal plan or flex, HDS receives a set amount.

Aquinash’s contract with HDS lets the company run all the food services on campus because they are Aquinash’s primary food service. Though HDS provides the food for the Moose Cafe, the business side is run by students. Under the food service contract, HDS and the Moose cannot directly compete against each other for business.

Though some may think otherwise, relations between the student-run Moose and the other campus cafe, the Corner, headed by HDS, have always been good. “It’s never been us against them [the Moose]; we’ve always been really supportive of them,” MaryBeth Jones Stuart, director of HDS Services said. This support can be visibly seen with the flex cash. Though HDS collects the fixed per diem rate on sales, in order to promote business at the Moose, HDS gives back 30 cents for every dollar spent using flex money at the cafe. Additionally, Stuart and her associates have always offered student managers at the Moose personal aid and advice concerning how to run the cafe as a business. Also, HDS and the Moose use the same food supplier so the cafe can secure the same prices that the Corner uses. By receiving the same prices, the Moose is able to save money. Students have recently noticed a change in the baked goods. The Moose focuses more on muffins, scones, and other baked goods.

Using flex cash at the Moose hurts the business because the business only receives 30 cents for every dollar spent. If the cafe runs a deficit, the college knows it’s due to the use of flex. For the past year, the deficit has reached $14,370. The total deficit since the Moose opened in 1997 is $86,700. However, “If we take it [flex] away there would be no business... It’s a known situation,” said Sara Frees, assistant director of student activities.

Many changes have been made recently in attempting to lower the deficit. First, the Moose increased prices of many items because they hadn’t raised prices since the cafe opened. By comparing prices to nearby businesses, the Moose was able to accomplish its goal of staying below the prices of area coffee shops for the majority of products. Also, as many students have noticed, the hours of the cafe are open were cut. Managers took a detailed look at every day of the week to see which times were the busiest and the slowest. Hours were cut on the weekends because business was primarily slow in the mornings and even cover the worker’s salary.

A popular new program has also been implemented. “The Moose on the Loose” has been up and running for several months now. Students sell coffee, iced tea, and other drinks during exams in the Academic Building. This program has been done tremendously well at bringing in more money. Customers must pay in cash, giving the Moose every cent of the profit. Students, faculty, and staff seemed exceedingly satisfied. The library has even expressed an interest in working with the cafe for more exam week toll products in its facilities.

The juice and soda products in the cafe have also changed. By switching from Jones Soda to Faygo and making other adjustments, the cafe has been able to save money. Students have responded positively to the changes. Frees reported that “our customers are happy,” despite the loss of Jones Soda.

Besides drinks, customers may notice a change in baked goods before too long. The Moose is looking into trying some new items through HDS.

Making a difference

On Wednesday March 25, Senate went to Congress Elementary School. Senators read to students for two hours as a service project and for National Literacy Month. Here, sophomore Jonathan Tinger enjoys a book with a Congress student.

Paralympian speaks at AQ for disability awareness week

By Lisa Gast News Editor

“We spend a lot of time labeling people to make them different, and then spend too much money so they can be included,” said Duncan Wyeth, executive director of Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns and former paralympian.

Wyeth was the guest speaker for Project Open Heart’s celebration of disability awareness week March 21-27. Wyeth stressed that while disabilities can make life difficult, many disabled people turn that adversity into an asset.

Wyeth stressed that while disabilities can make life difficult, many disabled people turn that adversity into an asset. He also said they may figure out new ideas on how to save money and lower the deficit.

With a challenge to the audience to examine their language when talking about disabled people, and to realize that they are often able to live fulfilling lives by turning their adversity into an asset.

“Adversity is a human experience that takes all of us outside our comfort zone. It’s that adversity that motivates us to change...in the process of doing that we develop skills that serve us well in our individual pursuits, but also the larger community.”

Residence Life also celebrated diversity awareness week with two “wheelchair days” on March 31 and April 1. Students were given the chance to use wheelchairs for most of the day to experience the challenges that many chair users face every day.
Shakespeare is ... OK

By Laura Knack

Ladies, bring out your inner 13-year-old, there's a handsome prince coming to town. "The Prince and Me," a flawed and largely clichéd take on the love-equals-happily-ever-after movie format, is the stuff of teen-daydreams. Rather than make an exhaustive list, I'll just name a few people: James Joyce, Geoffrey Chaucer, Dr. Seuss, Jane Austen, Judy Blume, and Toni Morrison. All of those people can write a lot better than me.

The thing with Shakespeare is that he writes plays. He wrote some pretty poems too, but those were his bread and butter. He wrote a bunch of them too — almost 40. Wow. The only problem with plays is that they kind of need to be seen in action. If you ever have a chance to see one of his performed, don't pass it up. It's a really neat thing to do. I'm going to see one this month at Navy Pier in Chicago. It's not a very good play ("King John"), but it should still be a good time. Sitting in a big theatre is always a great way to feel good about how far you've come. Everyone goes to see plays. No one ever goes to see a Shakespearean play. I think it will make me feel pretty smart.

In order to make this discussion a little less daunting and complex, let's look at matters from a pro and con perspective.

Pros:

• Shakespeare wrote in iambic pentameter. Anyone who claims that he was not a poet is a complete schlump. P. Diddy is a schlump.
• Shakespeare was a multifaceted guy. He wrote comedies, histories, tragedies, and sonnets. We're not always a great way to feel good about how far you've come. Everyone goes to see plays. No one ever goes to see a Shakespearean play. I think it will make me feel pretty smart.

Cons:

• Shakespeare probably didn't write all of his plays himself. Also, he tended to borrow much of his material from other sources. That puts him alongside of such company as P. Diddy. Bad.
• Shakespeare was a bit of a one-trick pony. "Ten Things I Hate About You," which also starred Julia Stiles, Stiles played a similarly emotionally unavailable character in that film, and was also wooed by a man pretending to be someone other than his true self. Comparing the two movies, "Ten Things" is more believable and entertaining, and features a wittier script.

Other problems and oversights get in the way of the audience's enjoyment, such as the fact that it never snows in the movie's version of Wisconsin, despite several scenes taking place in December. Oops! Viewers also don't get much time to actually see the relationship between Eddie and Paige, giving little justification to Paige's mad dash to Denmark midway through the film.

"The Prince and Me" is probably best suited to teen girls, who will be most willing to overlook the mistakes in favor of looking for a good love story. However, if one doesn't expect too much, this is an enjoyable and mildly funny movie that should appeal to most women and some men. The acting is fairly good given the clichéd storyline, and Luke Mably's Edward is great eye candy for the female audience. A large part of the comedic moments come from the obvious prince-in-the-real-world-goes-to-see-movies bit. Edward's attempt to order beer in the campus bar. Eddie's visit to the Morgan family's farm is a highlight of the film, yielding some of the most genuine interaction between the characters, as well as a very original use for Eddie's knowledge of cars.

If you're longing for a safe, happy tale where opposites attract, "The Prince and Me" fits the bill. Those set on getting their money's worth should skip it at the theater, but for audiences prepared to be forgiving of the many mistakes, this is a film worth renting.

You're a good play, 'Charlie Brown'

By Julie Anne Long

Anyone who has an infatuation with a redhead can relate with poor little Charlie Brown's dilemma.

AQT's production of the Tony-award-winning musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" was charming and heart-warming. A musical such as this, with cartoons for characters, can easily come off as overplayed and, well, childish.

AQT avoided this possible pitfall by stylizing. Multiple aspects of the performance were impressive, though the first thing that we catch anyone's eye was the set. The stage itself has been designed to resemble a cartoon page out of "The Grand Rapids Press."

Some of the cartoon on the page had moving parts — such as Schroeder's piano and Snoopy's doghouse — that popped up to form two-dimensional structures. This added an element of authenticity to the presentation, and also allowed the actors to show how flexible they were in their performance. A long with memorizing lines, songs, and dance moves, the actors also used those onstage props with commendable ease.

Jason Dobb did Charlie Brown justice, portraying the poor, lovelorn schlump with just the right amount of Earnestness. The highlight of his performance was definitely his confession to Lucy that he had always wanted to be called "FLASH!" Each time he said the word "flash," he assumed a slow motion running pose that was hilarious to behold. Nina Croll, as Snoopy, was excellent. Her "Mad Snoopy" was quite convincing, though her shining moment of the night was definitely the musical homage to supertime that led to all the other characters in the play donning chalk robots and singing a supertime spiritual.

Justin Nardecchia nailed the Linus direct expertly, as well as the blanket-appointment self. His indignation at losing the favor in his thumb was eerily convincing.

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The audience, a mixture of children and adults, were equally pleased by the performance.

The cast, as a whole, had obvious energy and drive throughout the entire performance, which was handled quite well. The large amount of screen time given to Eddie resulted in a film with many mistakes, but it's still pretty good. That wasn't that hard to figure out; just take it a little time. If you're the type of person who doesn't always believe what the critics say, then go check out one of Shakespeare's plays. At the very worst, it will be OK.
Muse borrows and inspires in 'Absolution'

By Jamie LaDronka
Assistant Editor

If there were a rock-opera adaptation to any music ballet, British Alt-rockers Muse latest album, "Absolution" would and should get the nod.

Instead of staying true to its creator, this rock-opera would take its categorization to heart — using synthesized backgrounds and piano melodies that hark back to its Radiohead inspiration and going through an unlikely musically nudonic fusion process with Filter, Slipknot, and Gravvy Kills. It doesn't seem like it would come off as audial to eardrums as say, "Falling Rain" would, but the fusion works extremely well.

Although the musical fusion managed to work right, the pacing of "Absolution" seems to have suffered. Granted, it is a rock-opera of sorts, but the album takes on the effect of a rollercoaster — it-heightens with fury and speed, then pulls right back into a slow, symphonic melody and jerks right back down into the fury.

"Absolution" causes listeners into the album with "Apocalypse Please," a piano-laden ballad of sorts which will leave old-time fans scratching their heads because of the seemingly awkward change of heart of the normally harder, heavier, guitar rock for which Muse is known. Fast-forward through a pair of forgettable light-hearted romps through Bellamy's "swimming of life"— "Time is Running Out" and "Sing for Absolution" — and into material that's the typical fast-paced rock of Muse, "Stockholm Syndrome," and then retreat back into "Falling Away With You," a track that suffers an identity crisis between being slow and soulful or a typical alternative-sounding song. Muse picks up the rollercoaster with the heavy "Hystronia," but burns out with follow-up "Backout." "Butterflies and Hurricanes" provokes worthy of its title — a seemingly soft techno-layered ballad finds its chaotic nature in a pull between Bellamy's vocals and a dominating bass and soaring piano. "Small Print" pulls no punches and opts for straight-up guitar rock, tagging cardtrades with Bellamy's angelic-ridden vocals that sound like a vengeful and spiteful Thom Yorke screech.

"Endlessly" lives up to its name, using a synthesized loop to provide a steady beat throughout the song, the perfect accompaniment to the whisper-soft voice of Bellamy. Perhaps the best track on the album, "Thoughts of a Dying Atheist," goes for a pop-rock vibe, but pulls it into the Muse Machinum, and it comes out as an eerily dark song with a wicked light-hearted feel that would cause anyone to tap their toes along too — until they realize their jamming to a song about someone scared of death. The album closes with "Ruled by Gravity Kills." It doesn't seem like it would come off as a domineering bass and chaotic nature in a pull between Bellamy's vocals and a menacing bass and doom piano. "Small Print" pulls no punches and opts for straight-up guitar rock, tagging cardtrades with Bellamy's angelic-ridden vocals that sound like a vengeful and spiteful Thom Yorke screech.

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Muse borrows and inspires in 'Absolution'

By Wes Creager
Times Writer

Can you smell what the Rock is starting in? If you could it probably smelled like his used wrestling spandex costume. But this was no wrestling contest — the acting wasn't nearly as good. While the movie "Walking Tall" starring none other than The Rock may have had some humorous and fast-paced action scenes, it certainly did not have any plot. One can only assume that all of the actors were hired from the reject pile in the soap opera casting files. The Rock would be pitiable if he hadn't made a lot of money on this piece of uninteresting dribble. At least in his last movie he got to star alongside Christopher Walken. This time around he is not nearly so fortunate. This time around the closest they got to an actual actor was Johnny Knoxville of "Jackass" fame. Ouch. The basic premise of the movie is that The Rock is a recently discharged "special forces" sergeant who has returned home to his peaceful little hometown. He returns to find the once clean and wholesome example of small-town America replaced with a struggling little berg of unhappiness complete with a shiny new casino. Of course it is soon determined that all of the town's problems are the result of the owner of the casino. He is a man who, up until The Rock's homecoming, had run a mill that had been the town's main source of revenue. But in typical heartless villain fashion, he decided that a casino would make more money so he shut down the mill and opened one. So for the duration of the movie, The Rock must find a way to clean up his once peaceful and clean little town. Can he do it? Will The Rock triumph over the forces of evil? Will he get the girl? Is this movie that cliché and wretched?

Yes. "Walking Tall" is only highlight is watching The Rock beat up on the bad guys. Oh yes, and they stick in a fun little scene with his shirtless former-stripper girlfriend firing a pistol just for good measure. This is an example of a movie whose ending could not possibly be spoiled. By having watched the preview and knowing the general premise, the viewer knows exactly what is going to happen from start to finish. With that said, it might be in your best interest to miss "The Most Electrifying Man in Sports Entertainment," just this once.
With the as Included in tl and white req Aquinas spor design (botto design and in the change w signs (right). color scheme
assistance of an independent contractor, Aquinas received a new identity. One of the changes was a new color scheme in which the colors maroon, sage, and red replaced the red, white and blue of the previous scheme. Additionally, the Aquinas website received a face-lift, modernizing the layout and functionality as well (below). Also included in the re-design was a re-design of the Aquinas logo (bottom), and three new banner designs. New stationery was also included, utilizing the new logo and updated logo as well.
Why do you need a degree?

What does the future hold for college students in the United States? As the cost of attending college in higher education decreases, the discrepancy challenges the value of academic degrees. The rising cost of higher education could soon reduce the number of students who enroll in college. Even for those who do go to college, earning enough to earn a Bachelor's degree, let alone a more advanced degree, is a determining factor in hiring employees.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job workers with a Bachelor's degree or more advanced degree enjoy the lowest rate of unemployment, 2.9 percent, although they often compete for positions that do not make use of their higher education. Thus, those who make the world of work who are college graduates make $800,000 to $1 million more than those without a diploma had the lowest earnings.

Next year at Aquinas College will increase 3.6 percent. That a deadly arsenal of complaints. Normally, when a violation of this kind occurs, the FCC would impose fines on the companies in charge. For example, around the same time as this occurrence, the FCC imposed a fine on Infinity Broad-casting for a Howard Stern broadcast in June 2001. In the same streak, the FCC proposed fining the operator of Clear Channel (nation's largest radio station) the maximum fine of $55,000. In this case, the FCC did not fine. The blame eventually accrued with them, so they had to redefine the regulations. No fines were given for this instance due to the fact that they never stated that any use of the "F word" under any and all conditions was unacceptable and violated its regulations.

Kerry stands on his Vietnam War record. He trumped his four months of service on a patrol boat in Vietnam as major proof of his heroism to lead. Kerry's proponents have taken great pains to force the White House to release Bush's war records, creating a major issue out of Bush's service. Unfortunately, Kerry is unwilling to offer the public the same degree of disclosure regarding his own time in the military.

Kerry served in Vietnam for a mere four months, yet received three purple hearts, a bronze star and a silver star. A purple heart signifies a wound incurred in battle, yet surprisingly none of Kerry's three wounds caused him to miss time from duty. Three purple hearts was a ticket home, and Kerry jumped on the plane as soon as he could. Serious questions remain about the nature of his injuries and just who submitted the paperwork for the medals. In time, this information will become public, and the effect on the Kerry campaign will be profound and the public outcry will be heard. Of course, Kerry hasn't always been proud of his service in Vietnam. When he returned home from the war he became very active in the anti-war movement, and used this to jump start his political career. He was even seen at a protest throwing away his medals. He now states that those were his medals, as his medals hang "proudly" in his Senate office.

In response to the award, Kerry is equally mis-guided by core principle. In October 2002, Kerry introduced a bill that would effectively gut the intelligence agencies on pre-war intelligence. This is an extremely important considering the fact that Kerry has voted multiple times to cut into intelligence agencies.

In fact, as a freshman senator in the mid 1980s, Kerry introduced a bill that would have effectively gutted the intelligence agencies that exist today. I fail to see how one can claim to support the war on terrorism (if not the president), but continue to vote against military and intelligence spending.

Kerry's checkered past will catch up to him before the election. Right now sports are a major distraction, but matters such as Kerry's checkered past will be important. It is indeed unfortunate, but it is clear that this sort of political waffling is what we can expect from John Kerry. He has offered a confusing front on the issue of gay marriage. Kerry was one of only 14 senators to vote against the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1996, yet now he is on the record supporting a Massachusetts constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Kerry is equally mis-guided on the use and funding of intelligence agencies. He has specifically stated that he believes accurate intelligence is a core component of the war on terrorism. He has also chastised both the president and the various intelligence agencies on pre-war intelligence. This is an extremely important considering the fact that Kerry has voted multiple times to cut into intelligence agencies.

By Daniel Bagley

Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)
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The Female View

Diversity is almost non-existent at Aquinas despite a multi-cultural curriculum and events sponsored by various campus groups and departments to promote diversity awareness. The Aquinas student body consists of 4 percent black, 2 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Asian-American, 83 percent Native American. The rest — 92.97 percent — are white students.

According to Aquinas' Diversity Statement, the college believes diversity is a blessing, which enriches our perspectives intellectually, culturally, socially and spiritually. Aquinas believes in the merits of diversity, appreciating the different gifts God has brought to this community regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or disability.

It's not uncommon to hear derogatory statements made about students. For example, every time the Women's Studies Center posts a question regarding a current women's issue on the board outside its office, there are often insulting remarks written about women in response.

Racial diversity is not Aquinas' only issue. In order to attract a more diverse community, The Aquinas administration needs to make increasing acceptance among students a priority. Hosting a gay awareness event is trendy, but would Aquinas allow a gay and lesbian club to attract a more diverse community, the Aquinas administration needs to make increasing acceptance among students a priority. Hosting a gay awareness event is trendy, but would Aquinas allow a gay and lesbian club to attract a more diverse community, the Aquinas administration needs to make increasing acceptance among students a priority. Hosting a gay awareness event is trendy, but would Aquinas allow a gay and lesbian club to attract a more diverse community?

Continuing to offer multi-cultural and diversity awareness events helps, but increasing diversity at Aquinas begins with acceptance.

By Emily Johnson

The Aquinas Times

What can Aquinas do to attract a more diverse community?

The Male View

Aquinas College accepts students of all ethnic backgrounds. So, what can Aquinas do to attract a more diverse population of students? The Multicultural Office, located in the Moose, is a place on campus where counselors provide students of different ethnicity with an orientation of the various features that Aquinas has to offer for foreign students. Therefore, they become adapted to Aquinas quickly.

The Admissions office has a prominent role in enrolling foreign students. They can also post more scholarships so that students from low-income families can apply for scholarships, loans and grants.

Aquinas could host a special orientation for foreign students who come to Aquinas from overseas, such as an icebreaker stating where the students are from and how they found out about Aquinas from their hometown overseas, therefore, the students will be familiarized with one another and have knowledge of where they are coming from. Based upon the student's race, foreign students could live together as roommates so that they will get to know each other better. This is especially important because maybe the student who you are rooming with will be your new best friend throughout college and beyond.

By Mike Gussey

The Female View

According to Aquinas' Diversity Statement, the college believes diversity is a blessing, which enriches our perspectives intellectually, culturally, socially and spiritually. Aquinas believes in the merits of diversity, appreciating the different gifts God has brought to this community regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or disability.

It's not uncommon to hear derogatory statements made about students. For example, every time the Women's Studies Center posts a question regarding a current women's issue on the board outside its office, there are often insulting remarks written about women in response.

Diversity is not Aquinas' only issue. In order to attract a more diverse community, the Aquinas administration needs to make increasing acceptance among students a priority. Hosting a gay awareness event is trendy, but would Aquinas allow a gay and lesbian club to form at Aquinas? Permitting them to have a club here on campus would be a good step of eliminating one diversity discrepancy at Aquinas.

Continuing to offer multi-cultural and diversity awareness events helps, but increasing diversity at Aquinas begins with acceptance.

By Emily Johnson

The Aquinas Times

A pledge for all Americans

By Joy Schaefer

Times Writer

A free country's patriotic pledge should represent as many of its citizens as possible. Atheist Michael Newdow undoubtedly agrees with this sentiment — he convinced the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that his 8-year-old daughter should not be coerced into reciting the words "under God" at school.

On June 26, 2002, the court declared that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because the words "under God" amount to an endorsement of religion. This decision upheld America's most important founding principle — the separation of church and state.

On March 24, the U.S. Supreme Court heard Newdow's arguments and will decide by June whether or not to omit the words from the pledge. The court should decide in favor of omitting "under God" from the pledge.

The original 1892 version of the Pledge of Allegiance, which has been altered three times, did not contain the words "under God." The Congress inserted the words in 1954 after religious leaders lobbied to have them added as an affront to atheistic communism. Proponents of the new phrase said it would help prevent communism, a practice based on intolerance and fear.

The First Amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

When Congress inserted "under God" into a pledge that is meant for all Americans, it was establishing monotheism as America's religion.

The removal of the words "under God" will not loosen morals — on the contrary, it will strengthen the American community. Aside from those students whose religion prohibits reciting the pledge, every American student will have the opportunity to recite their patriotic pledge without hesitation. Young Americans will be united by a common thread.

However, if the Supreme Court decides in favor of retaining the words "under God," students who do not believe in the Christian God will have to choose between acknowledging that diety or refusing to recite the pledge. Children should not have to deal with the negative consequences of either choice.

The Pledge of Allegiance will live up to its words, "with liberty and justice for all," only when "under God" is removed. The pledge should be restored to its original, secular text because, while America is one nation, not all Americans live under one god.

There is no justifying murder

By Katrina Kelly

Times Writer

On Apr. 1 President Bush signed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. According to the law, when a pregnant woman is victimized by a violent federal crime harming the unborn fetus is considered a separate offense.

This legislation fueled the debate among political figures regarding the issue of abor­tion. If the law now recognizes the fetus in a woman's womb as living human being, then they can not continue to ignore this fact and continue to debate the issue of abortion.

If it is not illegal for an assailant to harm an unborn child, then it should be illegal for the mother to choose to terminate the fetus. In Michigan, the state house and senate were not able to over­turn a veto by Governor Granholm on a bill concerning minors and abortions. Presently, Michigan law allows girls under 17 the choice to undergo an abortion procedure without parental consent.

This is like giving a minor adulthood and its corresponding responsibilities without one of the most important aspects: that concerning another human life.

Teenagers lack the maturity necessary to consider the decision of terminating an unborn child, even if conception was due to rape or incest?

Today, abortion is legal across the U.S., but only until the fetus has been deemed viable, or capable of living outside the mother's womb. This occurs during the third trimester, from 20 to 24 weeks after conception. After that point, the baby is a threat to the woman's health, including psychological well-being, then the fetus can legally be killed.

Luckily, one late-term abortion technique has been banned: partial birth abortion. Last November, President Bush signed the bill banning this grotesque form of abortion.

However, across the U.S., the law is being challenged by opponents who claim that the ban is unconstitutional.

Today, many respectable adoption programs exist, and also allow contact between biological mother and child.

Abortion is a black and white issue, either you are willing to kill your child or you aren't. Humans should not be able to decide the fate of unborn children, as humans do not have the right to terminate these innocent lives.

Abortion means taking innocent lives. If pre­meditated murder is illegal, then abortion should be illegal as well. Unborn children deserve protection.

The Aquinas Times

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 23 years to produce an informative, entertaining and accurately correct student publication. Our goal is to continue to provide a forum for the ideas, views and con­cerns of the Aquinas community.

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April 7, 2004

Gender Corner

What can Aquinas do to attract a more diverse community?

The Male View

The Aquinas Times office, located in the Wege Student Center or preferably via e-mail to: aquinas_admissions@aquinas.edu or call: (616) 612-2975


The Aquinas Times is also available online at:
http://www.aquinas.edu/aquinas
**Necessary Roughness**

by Leah Herland

The Frozen Four and Minnesota's love for ice

Minnesota is a wonderful state. It has the thriving metropolises of Minneapolis and the grandeur of St. Paul. Everyone has a cabin on the lake and an ice house that has more amenities then my apartment. Minnesotans celebrate the Twins, Vikings, T-Wolves, and of course the return of pro hockey: the Wild. But most of all Minnesota has an undying love for ice.

Growing up in Minnesota, I grew up on skates...ice skates. After school we would grab our sticks, skates and winter wear, and head out to the nearest lake or the TV, that made it so important to Minnesotans. Maybe we’re just waiting for the Wild to get their skates on straight, who knows, but Minnesota loves college hockey.

I have told me going to a Michigan game is the greatest hockey experience ever, but I disagree. Going to a Minnesota Golden Gophers game is the greatest hockey experience ever. Unless it was last year’s frozen four semi-finals, when Minnesota beat Michi­gan. That game I would have given my favorite pair of skates to determine what team was better.

It was a rough day this year when the Minnesota Gophers lost here in Grand Rapids and gave up their opportunity to win the NCAA Frozen Four title for a third consecutive year. Many of my closest friends were also upset at not being able to riot yet another year...but that is another column for another day.

But it’s hard for me to be too sad, because they went to another Minnesota team, the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) Bulldogs. Both Michigan teams being out has eased my personal pain as well. UMD has been kicking ice and taking names this season and has a solid chance of winning this year. They had a breakout season, winning 21 of their last 25 games. They are also second only to North Dakota in scoring. The Bulldogs beat Michigan State before taking down the Minnesota Gophers and are facing Denver next weekend.

However, the Bulldogs are the definite underdogs this tournament. They have only seen three other Frozen Four Appearances, the last being 19 years ago. They have lost to Denver in post season play all 11 times they have met. The are faced with an uphill battle.

Still, don’t doubt a bunch of kids who spent their formative years on skates. 15 of the Bulldogs are homegrown Minnesota boys. And the rest, they are mostly Canadian. When it comes to having ice in the blood, these guys are it..."yah, don’t cha know." We are talking about a whole lot of hockey hair here, in all its matted glory.

So the Bulldogs are my bet to win this season. And since all you Michigan fans have nobody to cheer for this year, I suggest backing the UMD Bulldogs. You are going to cheer for someone, why not pick the underdogs, your Midwest buddies and a team that knows more about cold then you will ever experience in Grand Rapids. GO BULLDOGS!

By Jared Flick

Times Writer

It's been nearly a month since the men's tennis team have been threatened to drop a match. After returning from Florida with a 7-4 record the Saints have gone on a six-match winning streak while only losing five of a possible 54 flight matches. Juniors Matt Garner, Jason Walsh, and Justin Karasinski as well as senior Roger Lourido and freshman Patrick Grashorn have all been unbeaten since the Florida trip.

The closest match came in Ohio while facing Walsh University. Walsh was able to take wins in a tight three-set match and one singles and at one double. The rest of the flights were taken by Aquinas with ease. This win proved to be an important win for the Saints because Walsh University is ranked 28th nationally.

Since the match with Walsh University the Saints haven’t come close to facing a loss. The Saints took on two local colleges Calvin and Hope, beating both with only losing 1 flight out of a possible 11. The Saints were upset by Hope the previous year, but spent little time in regaining superiority, defeating the Flying Dutchmen 8-1.

In a recent NAIA poll the Saints have improved to a national ranking of 18, in­creasing the chances of making another mark at na­tionals in Mobile, Alabama.

The Saints next match will be played against fellow NAIA school Spring Arbor University on April 10. The Saints will conclude their season with five matches, including rival Kalamazoo College, who beat the Saints last year 5-2.

In the post season the Saints will travel to Indian­apolis for the regional championship. Here the Saints will once again face the 14th ranked Wildcats of Indiana Wesleyan Univer­sity.

The Saints will have a rematch against the Wildcats to determine what team will travel to the national tournament. Last year the Saints topped the Wildcats 5-4 with Roger Lourido pulling out a heroic 7-5 in the third set victory. Despite being ranked lower than the Wildcats for the past two years, the Saints are very optimistic, having never lost the Wild­cats.

“We’ve proven every time we have faced the Wild­cats we are the better team despite desperate attempts by the Wildcats coaching staff. It’s funny that every year they are somehow con­sidered a better team when they have done nothing to prove it,” states junior Ja­son Walsh.

The Saints are prepared going into regionals losing only 36 flight matches out of 162. Despite the outcome of the regional tournament the Saints will likely make an appearance at the National Tournament and will prove once again to be a national NAIA powerhouse of the Midwest.

**Saints of the Week**

For March 14-20

Kristen Jager

Softball

In the Sunshine State of Florida, Jager led the team to a 7-5 record while batting .378.

Ark Schenborn

Baseball

While in Florida, Schenborn led the team offensively with a batting average of .490 through 11 complete games.

For March 21-27

Emily Corcoran

Women’s Tennis

Corcoran helped led the Saints to a victory this weekend with a 9-0 win over Oliver. Corcoran hit her singles record to 5-2 on the season and a doubles record to 5-1 overall.

Mike Rose

Men’s Tennis

Mike finished the week with an unbeaten record in singles and doubles. With singles victories against Calvin, Malone and Walsh, Rose increases his record to 11-3 in singles play.

**Men’s tennis continues unbeaten streak**

You meet the most interesting characters in English classes.

Name: Sir John Falstaff

Age: "Inclining to three score"

Occupation: Reveler, roisterer, thief, consort of princes

Quote: "The better part of valor is discretion."

For more information about becoming an English major, or earning a minor in litera­ture, writing or journalism, visit the English department web page at: http://www.aquinas.edu/english or call extension 2829.

**Saints of the Week**

For March 28-April 4

Sarah Mietiva

Softball

Despite the Lady Saints finishing the week a mere 1-3, Sarah led the team offensively with a .429 average. On the week, Mietiva had two hits, two RBIs, three sac­rifices, three stolen bases and one strikeout on the week.

Travis Van Hultsma

Baseball

Van Hultsma finished the week with a .308 batting average. He compiled four hits on the week in thirteen at bats. Van Hultsma amassed five RBIs, four of which came from a grand slam against Lansing CC.

**Saints of the Week**

For March 28-April 4

Herbert Woodward Martin

performs the poetry of

Paul Laurence Dunbar

Monday, April 19 at 12:30

In Kreischer Recital Hall

This event is free and open to the Aquinas Community. Sponsored by the Humanities Program.
April 7, 2004

By Tony Puzzuoli
Times Writer

This past weekend was a tough one for the Aquinas Saints baseball team. The Saints came into Saturday's action on a two-game winning streak and were looking to keep up strong play. That didn't happen as the Saints got rocked by Indiana Tech by scores of 19-1 and 15-4. They lost again to Indiana Tech on Sunday by scores of 10-4 and 4-3.

In the first game on Saturday, the Saints got rocked by Indiana Tech by scores of 19-1 and 15-4. They lost again to Indiana Tech on Sunday by scores of 10-4 and 4-3.

The rest of the Aquinas offense put on a weak display, combining for 9 strikeouts in 16 at-bats and was clearly overmatched.

Junior first baseman Matt Bocian got both hits and also scored the lone Aquinas run on a throwing error.

The lack of offense wasn't the only problem for the Saints. The Aquinas pitchers struggled as well. Senior starter Shaun Hambleton got the start and lasted three innings and giving up 12 runs as 15 were earned. He strugged with his control all game, hitting six batters and walking another two.

He was replaced by Matt Bocian, who finished off the final two innings and didn't fare much better, surrendering another seven earned runs and hitting another three batters.

Indiana Tech's offense was led by shortstop Dario Whittington who was 3-for-4 with 6 RBIs, Tyler Green who homereduns and Brady Garrick who was 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

In the second game, it was much of the same as Tech pitcher Pete Byrum held the Saints to three hits in seven innings and struck out six in the shutout.

Junior pinch hitter Ryan Roberts, sophomore Craig Anteleece and freshman Chris Graczyk accounted for the Saints' hits in another weak offensive showing. In the doubleheader, the Saints hit a combined 12-15 with 15 strikeouts.

It is tough to win ballgames with three batters and it's even tougher to win ballgames when pitching poorly. The starting staff struggled against the overpowering Indiana Tech offense.

Junior starter Kyle Finch lasted 4 innings, giving up 14 earned runs on 13 hits, hitting two batters and walking three.

Finch was replaced by Freshman Jake Martin, who in relief pitching the ball to finish off the game while striking out three and not allowing a run.

The Tech offense was led again by Glass who went 3-for-4 with two RBIs. He got help from freshman Chad Henderson who had four hits and five RBIs and Jake Stambrazze who had two hits and three RBIs.

On Sunday, the Saints played better but the outcome was the same. Freshman Justin Kleinfield pitched a tough game, giving six innings and allowing seven earned runs.

The offense started to come alive as well as Roberts had two hits and drove in two.

Tech's starter, Jason Knowling, pitched six innings, striking out seven and allowing two earned runs. Matt LaMaster had three hits and Ryan Tyler had four hits for Tech.

These comments and also comments discussing that if we're going to compete, are what led to the controversy.

With the split, Aquinas stands at 13-3, 3-1 and led for first in the WHAC. The Saints' next home game is on Tuesday April 20 against Siena Heights.

Casey Schweitzer advances to second.

Softball splits games against Spring Arbor

By Tony Puzzuoli

The 2004 Aquinas Saints softball team played a big doubleheader, against WHAC rivals Spring Arbor on Saturday April 1 and came away with a split. In a thriller of a first game, Aquinas came away with a 3-2 victory.

The game remained deadlocked 0-0 until the seventh inning that saw Aquinas fall behind and then come back and win in their last at bat.

Aquinas got the scoring started in the second inning when sophomore Tarin Foster scored again on a single by sophomore Sarah Melo and Schweitzer.

Aquinas pitcher Alex Rodriguez started on April 5. The Aquinas pitchers struggled as well. Senior starter Shaun Hambleton went 4 innings giving up two runs and striking out three. Holly Davidson suffered the loss.

The Aquinas bats were much of the same as the previous game, with 12 hits and three RBIs. Junior Patrick Kleinfelt homereduns and Brady Garrick who was 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

In the second game, Spring Arbor's bats came to life and they pounded out 12 hits, scoring 13 runs in route to a 13-7 victory. Hulst received the loss for the Saints, giving up eight innings and allowing eight runs, four earned. Jenna Klassen got the win for Spring Arbor, allowing four runs, only one of which was earned.

The Aquinas bats were also hard at work in the second game as the Saints had 14 hits. Seniors Lindsey Schab and Bonnie Spiegelberg each had two hits for the Saints and Melo.

The Aquinas Saints' next home game is on Tuesday April 20 against Siena Heights.

SCORING
Sunday, Apr. 3
Indiana Tech L 1-9, L 1-15
Sun., Apr. 4
Indiana Tech L 4-10, L 3-4

Baseball
Thur., Mar. 25
Lawrence (Wash) W 13-1, W 12-2
Sat., Mar. 27
Central Michigan L 5-6
GRCC (Jv/esh.) L 9-6, L 3-4
Sun., Mar. 28
Rochester L 12-10
Tues., Mar. 30
Saginaw Valley W 5-1
Wed., March 31
Muskegon CC (SG) W 11-9

Softball
Sat., Mar. 27
Hope W 2-1, L 6-4
Tues., Mar. 30
Indiana Tech L 10-1, L 4-3
Wed., Mar. 31
Ferris State L 14-1, L 2-10
Sat., Apr. 3
Spring Arbor W 4-3, L 7-3

Men's Tennis
Fri., Mar. 26
Hope W 8-1
Sun., Apr. 4
Wheaton (Ill.) W 7-2
Sat., Apr. 3
Alma W 9-0

Women's Tennis
Mar. 25
Adrian W 9-0
Sat., Mar. 27
Tri-State W 9-0
St. Mary's L 1-8
Sat., Apr. 3
Michigan State (Club) W 9-0

LOC. SCHEDULE
Outdoor Track & Field
Sat., Apr. 24
WHAC Outdoor Championships 3 p.m.

Baseball
Sat., Apr. 10
Macomb P M p.m.
Mon., Apr. 12
Olivet 4 p.m.
Tues., Apr. 13
Calvin 4 p.m.
Apr. 17
Spring Arbor 1 p.m.

Softball
Fri., Apr. 10
Cornerstone 4 p.m.
Mon., Apr. 12
Calvin 3:30 p.m.
Tues., Apr. 20
Siena Heights 4 p.m.

Women's Tennis
Thurs., Apr. 8
Calvin W 13-1
Tues., Apr. 13
Grand Valley State@ W 6-3

MLB opens in Japan

America's National Pastime began the 2004 season in Japan. The Chicago White Sox and Tampa Bay Devil Rays kicked off the baseball season in a special two-game series in Japan. The games taking place on March 30 and 31 were played in the Tokyo Dome. The Devil Rays came back in the 9th inning, scoring two to win the game 8-3 in the Tokyo Dome. The Devil Rays had 12 hits and the White Sox had 9.

The story is the Yankee offense that didn't come to life and the Bronx Bombers destroyed the Devil Rays in the second game to start their season.

The series in Japan was a homecoming for Yankee slugger Jeter, who was traded to the Yankees last year. Matsui gave hit a huge home run in the second game.

The series was the Yankee debut for Alex Rodriguez. Rodriguez struck out in his first two at bats before hitting a single in his third.

The rest of the Major League Baseball gets the regular season started on April 5.

Homming comments stem controversy

Former Heisman Trophy winner and Notre Dame football star Paul Hornung has found himself at the center of a controversy stemming from comments he made in an ESPN radio interview about how Notre Dame could improve its financially lackluster football record.

According to Hornung, Notre Dame needs to recruit more African-American athletes if they are going to compete. "We gotta get the black athlete. We must get the black athlete if we're going to compete," Hornung stated.

These comments and also comments discussing that if we're going to compete, are what led to the controversy.

Notre Dame has issued a statement saying that they in no way agreed with Hornung's views. Hornung has since apologised for the comments.

In the original interview, Hornung also noted Notre Dame's difficult schedule as another reason for struggles. In addition, Hornung noted the lack of talent available.

In the final entry, Hornung noted Notre Dame's difficult schedule as another reason for struggles.

Final Four wraps up

The NCAA men's basketball tournament wrapped up Monday night with the University of Connecticut Huskies defeating Georgia Tech 82-73. UConn controlled the game early on, leading Georgia Tech 41-26 at the half. The Game lacked the excitement of Saturday's match up between UConn and Ohio State.

The Huskies out performed the Yellow jackets in a game with over a 10,000 lead for the majority of the game. The Huskies made a strong drive in the last minutes of the game, but it wasn't enough. UConn had an 18 point lead over Tech at 386. This is UConn's second NCAA championship title.
AQ Times benefits from an evening of fine music

Aquinas got a sample of the local musical talent in Grand Rapids at the AQ Times Benefit Concert on April 2. For an admission price of just $3, students could listen to over six hours of an eclectic mix of musical genres, including acoustic rock, alternative rock, and jazz.

Nate Mehren, Aquinas College senior, was the primary organizer of the event. Upset by the possibility that the Aquinas student newspaper would stop running because of a lack of funding, he came up with the idea of having a benefit concert. He contacted all of the featured bands and also performed with his own band, Buckwheat Penny.

"It's important that the students have a voice," said Mehren. "I wanted to help."

The result was over $300 raised for the AQ Times and an evening of amazing local music that often goes unrecognized.

Acoustic Chan kicked off the evening when Aquinas professors Dr. Dan Brooks and Dr. Chad Gunnoe entered the stage wearing their acoustic guitars - and matching outfits. Dr. Brooks swore that the costume of khaki pants and pale blue work shirts was "not intended."

Regardless of the outfits, Brooks and Gunnoe displayed their versatile technique as they performed acoustic classics from the sixties, including hits by James Taylor and the Beatles.

Christy King, another acoustic artist, followed Acoustic Chan's performance. She played and sang her original folk rock songs, reminiscent of Jewel in her early years.

The concert shifted from acoustic to electric with Small Space, a band that has recently received attention from The Grand Rapids Press. Their unique use of electronic synthesizers in combination with traditional rock instruments created a compelling, original sound.

One member of the audience categorized their music as "Nirvana meets R.E.M meets Pink Floyd." In response to such a description, drummer Chris Morse and lead vocalist Jon Faber replied, "Yeah, that sounds good."

The group will be releasing a CD at the end of April. Next on the line-up was Buckwheat Penny, with Nate Mehren on lead vocals. The band played original contemporary rock songs that were well-rehearsed and full of heart. They are also coming out with a CD, entitled "Greatest Hits Volume One." They're even having a CD release party on May 7, at Slaggo's in Walker.

"We were dismayed that the AQ Times was struggling financially," said Young Salter. "We wanted to help preserve the student voice."

After some mellow classic jazz tunes from Second-hand Smoke, alternative rock came back to the stage with XU (pronounced "zoo"). This three-man band from Ionia has been playing together for almost four years. They've already produced an EP of original songs and hope to produce another one "some day."

Finally, years of experience came to the stage in the form of Fancy Thermos. This band features three members of Domestic Problems: Bill Kenny, Reggie Ness, and Matthew Fouts, with the addition of Bill's brother, Sam. Bill is also an Aquinas graduate.

The band played original, upbeat contemporary rock songs, or, if you prefer, "nerd-core honky bop," according to guitarist Sam. They played a short set, but their well-rehearsed songs, energy, and humor were a great finale to the evening.

"It's good for the Times to realize that we may need to seek other sources for funding in the future," said Dr. Brooks.

It is admirable that students pulled together this event to support the AQ Times, bringing local talent to our campus in the process.

Reviewed By Katie Jensen